



Left Hand

A Full English translation is available.

左手

Author: SALLY **Illustrator:** SALLY **Publisher:** Gaea Books

Date: 07/2015

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180 pages | 14.8 x 21 cm **Volume:** 1 (Three-books series)

Awards: 2018 Japan International Manga Award Silver Award

BFT2.0 Translator: Lya Shaffer

Kuo Yueh-Lin, a quiet high school sophomore, gains entrance to a top public school to meet his parents' expectations. All he wants is to stay under the radar and make it through unnoticed. But ever since he swapped his left hand with a childhood classmate at piano school, life has been anything but ordinary—the hand seems to have a will of its own, pulling him into trouble both good and bad.

When a new transfer student arrives and quickly becomes the target of vicious bullying, Kuo is stunned to discover that the student is none other than the original owner of his left hand.

This coming-of-age graphic novel captures the struggles of Taiwanese youth—caught between academic pressure, the search for friendship, and the awakening of love.



Author **SALLY**

Based in Taipei, Sally is a graduate of the Department of Architecture and a member of CLUB ZIP. Sally works on both original doujin (self-published) projects and commercial manga. Published works include: *Left Hand*, *Going My Way?*, *Colorful Dreams*, *Butler's Groove*, and *The Matchmaker Agency*.

Left Hand: When We Can't Explain Ourselves, the Body Speaks in Our Place

by Wen-Chien Hsu

Do you remember what you were like as a teenager? Did you ever act out in ways you couldn't explain—even to yourself? Sudden anger, inexplicable withdrawal, overwhelming impulses, and long silences? And when someone asked, “Why did you do that?”—maybe all you could say was, “I don't know.”

For Yueh-lin Kuo, his left hand never listened to him. That was his childhood struggle while learning the piano—and also the beginning of a strange, lonely journey. The story opens with what seems like a childish, whimsical exchange: a boy named Chun-yu Lin, a gifted pianist, offers to “lend” him his left hand. In that moment, it was as if a secret pact had been sealed. From then on, Yueh-lin's playing improves dramatically—but so begins a silent entanglement neither of

them fully understands.

The “borrowed left hand” begins to develop a will of its own. It acts without Yueh-lin's permission, doing things he dares not do, refuses to do—yet perhaps secretly wants to.

He once said: “*My left hand never listens. It always does what I don't want it to do... but sometimes, it does what I want to do but don't have the courage for.*”

It is not merely a hand—it's the embodiment of his subconscious: the emotions he suppresses, the longing he can't express, and the thread that still ties him to the boy who once lent him a hand.

But he never gave the hand back. That summer, Chun-yu left the country without warning, without even a goodbye. Yueh-lin had no way to return what he had borrowed, and so the hand stayed

with him as he grew. Years later, in high school, when the two meet again, Yueh-lin believes this is his chance—to finally return the hand, and maybe fix what's been broken inside him. But Chun-yu doesn't remember any of it.

This time, Chun-yu is the one being bullied. Yueh-lin freezes, unsure of what to do—until the left hand acts on its own, lashing out in protection. The blow drives away the aggressors, but also isolates both of them further. This isn't a heroic victory. It's one of those messy, painful, and ambiguous moments that come with growing up—a moment of defense that brings no resolution.

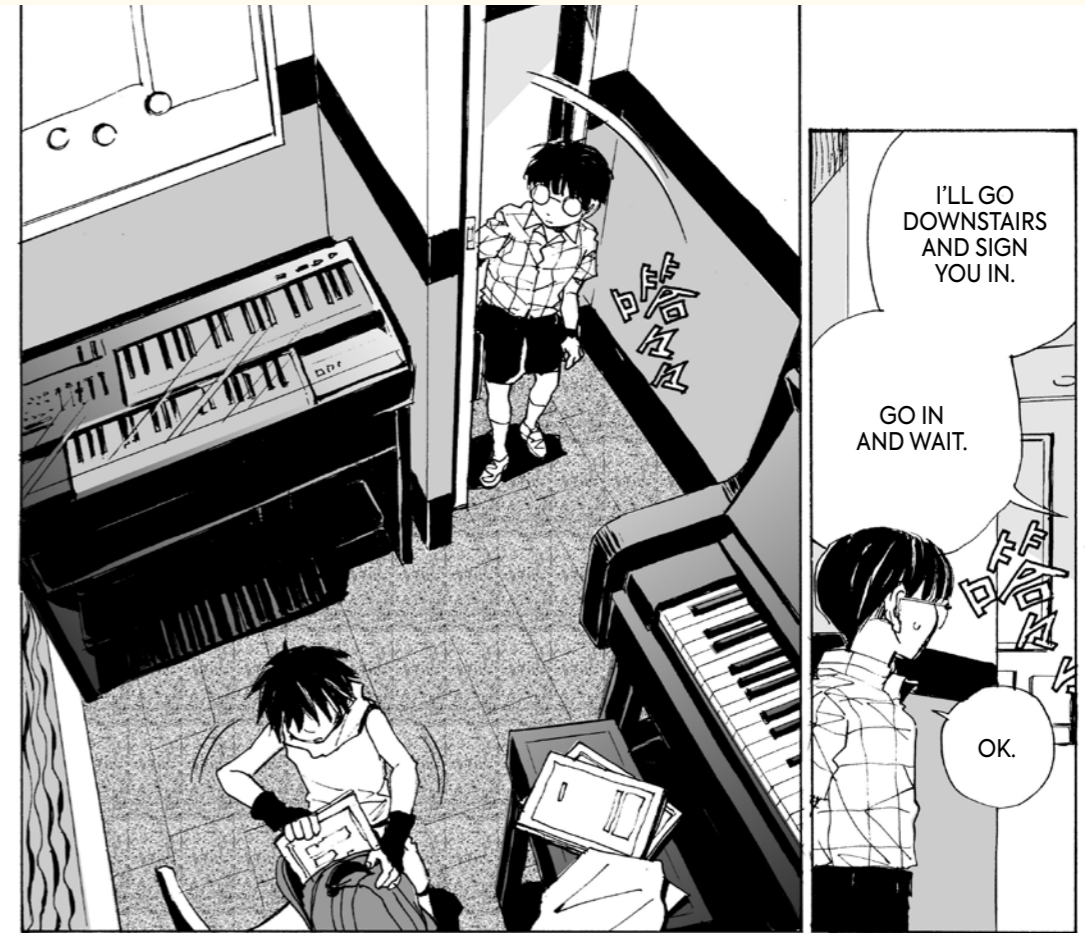
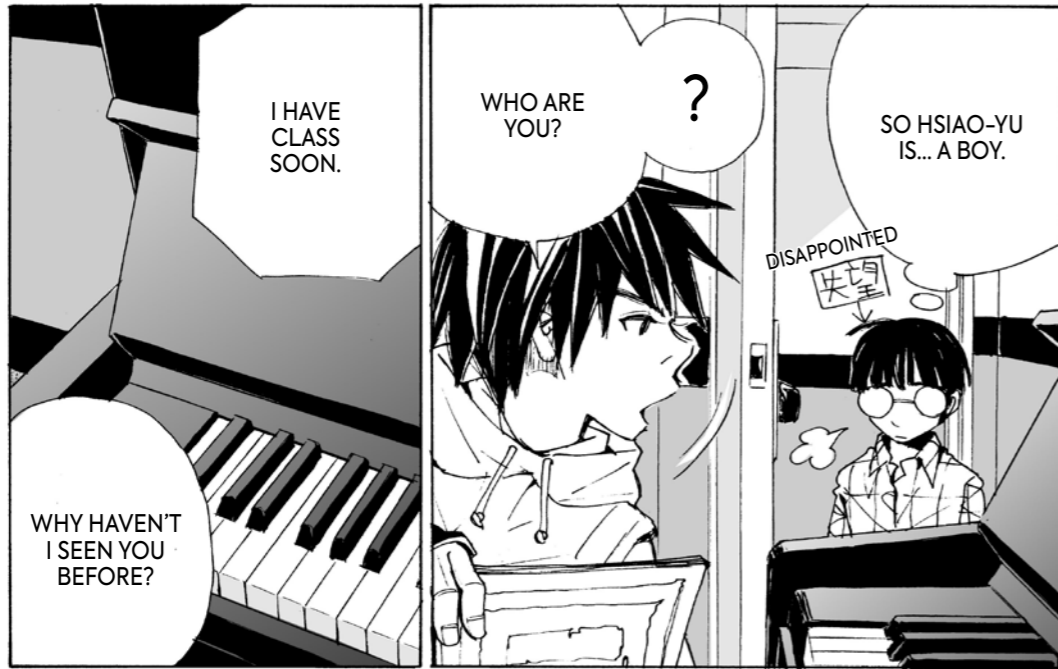
What makes *Left Hand* so moving isn't its fantastical premise, but the way it delicately portrays what it feels like to be misunderstood. How does a child cope with changes even they cannot control? When only one person remembers a past, does the memory still hold value? And when the body carries memory, desire, and love—are we still whole without understanding it?

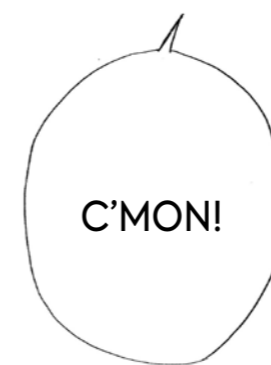
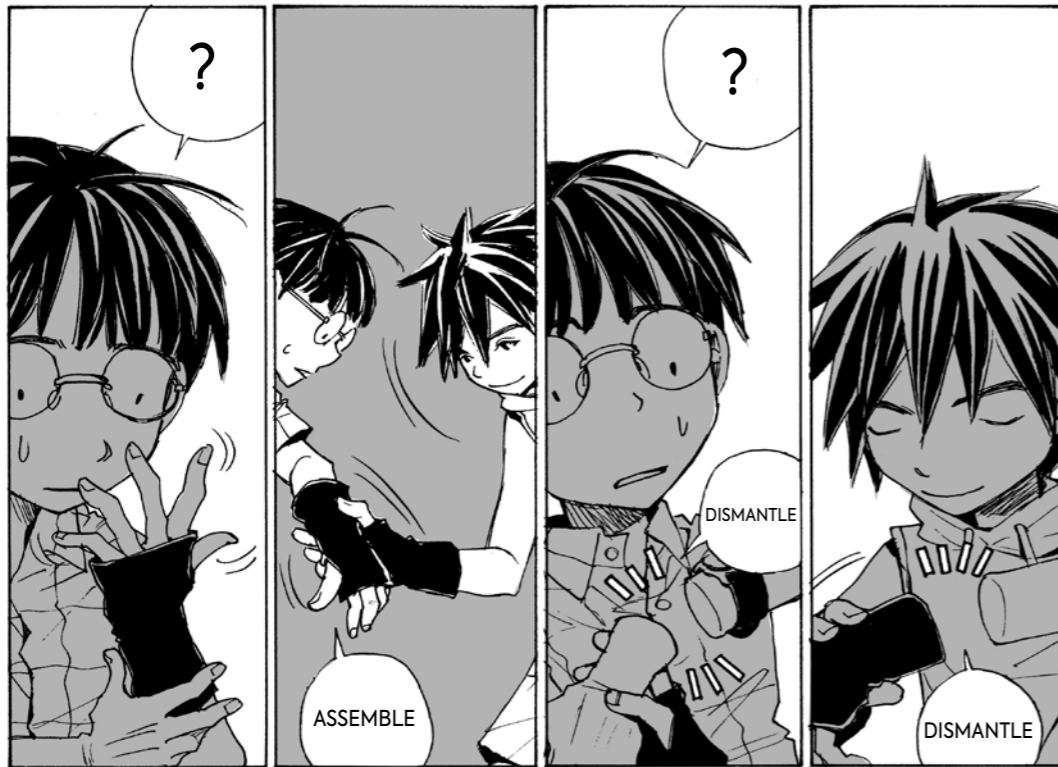
The “left hand” in this novel may

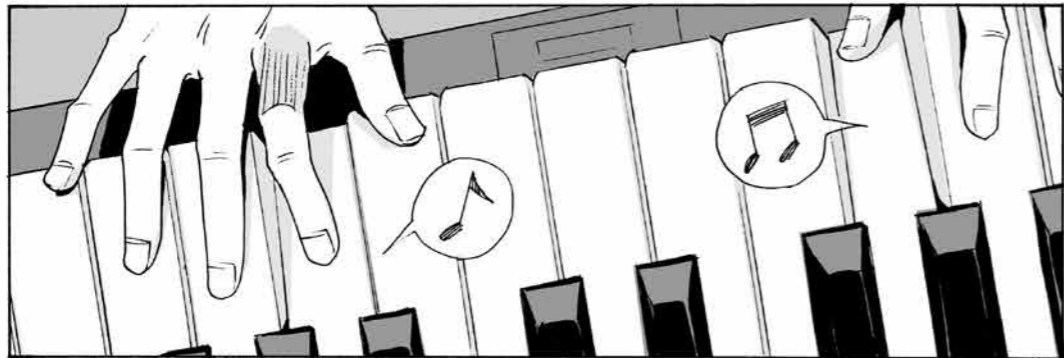
be magical, but it powerfully symbolizes something deeply real: the unruly emotions and nameless desires that swell inside adolescents. Yueh-lin's left hand doesn't just belong to him—it lives in every bullied child, every bully, every silent witness who acts out in ways even they can't explain. Adults ask, “Why did you do that?”—but rarely pause to ask, “What happened to you?”

Left Hand isn't a guide on how to stop bullying, nor a mystery to be solved. It reads more like a letter to teenagers—especially those who have no words yet, who speak through their bodies, their outbursts, and their silence. It tells them: When you don't know how to say it, maybe it's simply because you haven't yet met someone willing to listen.

Wen-Chien Hsu possesses a free-spirited soul. She has worked at LGBTQ+ organizations, the 113 Domestic Violence Hotline, and works as an editor of Books from Taiwan 2.0. She is dedicated to bringing Taiwanese comics and picture books to a global audience.







MIRACULOUSLY, TODAY MY LEFT HAND FOLLOWED ALONG WITHOUT TROUBLE.



WHAT IS IT? KEEP GOING.

RIGHT.



SMOOTHER THAN IT HAD EVER BEEN!



IF YOU AREN'T PLAYING BETTER—

I'LL LISTEN FROM OUTSIDE.

YOU CAN COME OUT AND YELL AT ME.

WHAT PIECE ARE YOU ON? PLAY IT FOR ME.



OK.