



A-Fei, A Little Girl Who Loves Drawing

A Full English translation is available.

阿非，這個愛畫畫的小孩

Author: Bei Lynn **Illustrator:** Bei Lynn **Publisher:** Hsin Yi Publications

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BFT2.0 Translator: Brenda Lin

A-Fei is a little girl who loves to draw. She draws all day and even dreams about drawing at night. But one day, in a burst of frustration, she says, “I can’t draw anything right!” Instead of offering hollow comfort, her friends simply invite her to join them in what they love—skateboarding, bug-watching, piano playing.

As A-Fei spends time with her friends, somehow the desire and confidence returns. This beautifully illustrated picture book explores the emotions behind creativity, showing that moments of doubt are part of the process. Without adult intervention or easy answers, it’s presence, friendship, and everyday joy that guide A-Fei back to herself—and her art.



Author **Bei Lynn**

Since publishing *Let’s Pretend We’re Fish* in 1999, Bei Lynn has immersed herself in the world of children’s books. She delights not only in illustrating but also in crafting words. Her works are both normal and strange, blending quirky charm with childlike wonder. She has received numerous accolades including the Hsin-Yi Children’s Literature Award and the Golden Tripod Award. Her favorite media include pencil, watercolor, markers, and digital collage, often resulting in a free-spirited, spontaneous style. Her stories often blend fantasy with everyday life, rooted in the belief that truly magical moments lie hidden in the ordinary—like a flower blooming or a chick hatching from its egg.

When Inspiration Pauses: A Gentle Picture Book for Creators

by Fu Kuo

A-Fei, A Little Girl Who Loves Drawing is the first-prize winner in the Picture Book category of the 14th Hsin-Yi Children's Literature Award. The book captivated the judges not only with its outstanding illustration style and well-paced storytelling, but more importantly, because it sincerely and delicately gives voice to a feeling many young creators experience: what happens when the flow of creativity suddenly stops? And more crucially—how do we move forward when we hit a seemingly unbreakable block?

The protagonist, A-Fei, is a little girl who draws all the time. She draws while she's awake, and even dreams of drawing while she sleeps. For her, drawing is a source of joy and self-expression. But one day, out of nowhere, she bursts out in frustration, "I can't draw anything right!" Her friends, though surprised,

do not rush to comfort her with empty reassurances. Instead, they simply invite her to join them in the things they love to do—skateboarding, observing insects, and playing the piano. These seemingly ordinary acts of companionship become gentle yet powerful forms of emotional support.

As A-Fei spends time with her friends, something inside her begins to shift. Gradually, colors, shapes, and scenes begin to return to her mind. The urge to pick up her pencil once again returns. At the end of the story, a beautiful double gatefold illustration reveals a series of drawings she made to capture those shared moments with her friends. Through it all, she remains at heart a little girl who loves to draw.

Illustrator Bei Lynn uses watercolor, colored pencils, and crayons to bring her

pages to life. Her artistic style is free-spirited, playful, and dreamlike, often resembling the whimsical and abstract nature of children's own drawings. A graduate of a fine arts program, Bei Lynn has devoted many years to creating children's literature. She has illustrated nursery rhymes and poems and continues to produce original picture books. She once remarked, "Drawing is like a field—sometimes you reap a harvest, sometimes you don't." That statement perfectly captures A-Fei's journey, and it's clear that this story was born from Lynn's own deep understanding of the creative life.

The book gently explores the emotional ups and downs that come with creating. Even children, it suggests, sometimes question whether their work is good enough, whether it meets expectations, or even whether they still enjoy what they once loved most. It offers a candid portrayal of those moments when nothing seems to go right—and affirms that even when passion falters, it doesn't mean we've changed. Rather, it's simply a natural part of the creative process.

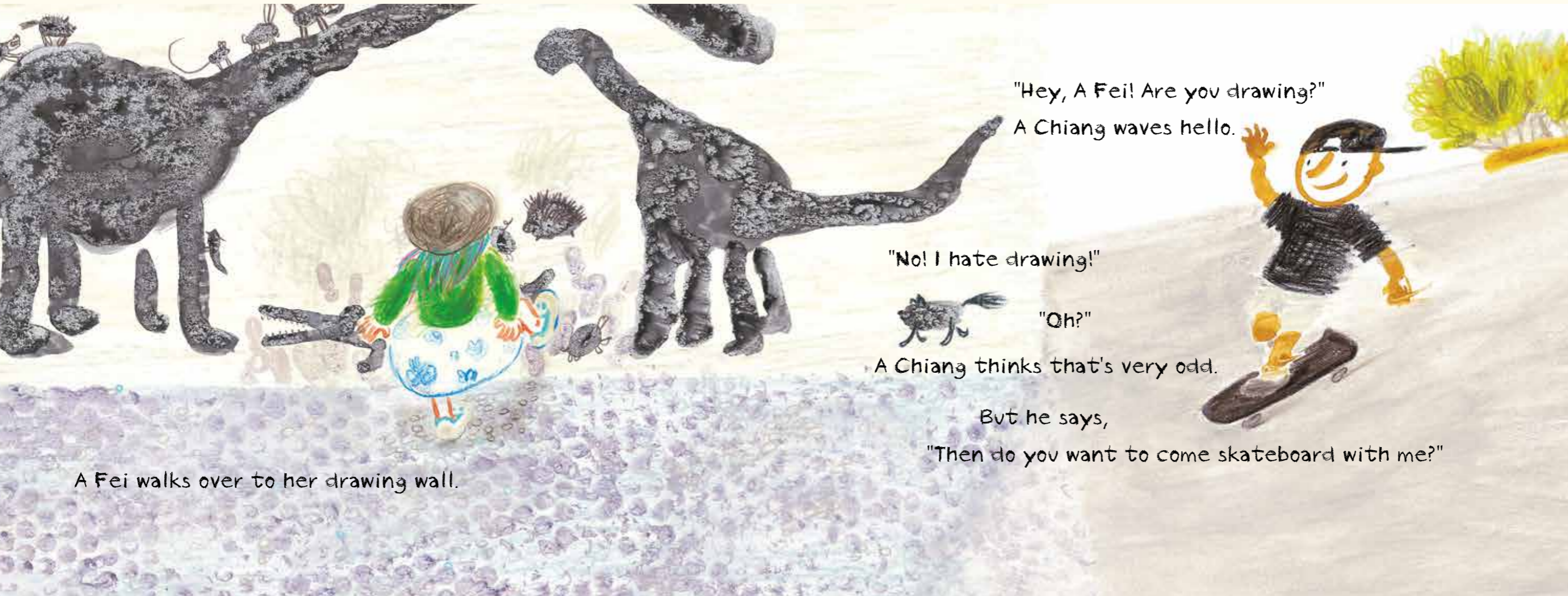
One striking aspect of this story is the absence of adults who offer solutions or preach wisdom. There are no guiding

hands telling A-Fei what to do. Instead, her three friends—and a dog—quietly stand by her. No lectures, no instructions—just presence, just companionship. It's through their diverse interests and shared experiences that A-Fei gradually reconnects with her senses and emotions. Her creativity is not forced back into existence. Rather, it returns naturally, through joy, through being present, and through simply living.

This picture book speaks to anyone—child or adult—who has ever felt lost on the path of creativity, who has ever doubted themselves, or put down their pencil in frustration, but found the courage to pick it up again. It is a gentle and powerful reminder that inspiration doesn't always come easily—and that's okay. What matters is learning to sit with the struggle, to lean on those around us, and to rediscover the joy of creating at our own pace.

Fu Kuo is a graduate of the Department of Japanese Literature at National Taiwan University. Deeply fascinated by the endless charm of children's literature, she has worked as a bookstore clerk and children's book editor. Her translations include The King of Bread Bundle series.





A Fei walks over to her drawing wall.

"Hey, A Fei! Are you drawing?"
A Chiang waves hello.

"No! I hate drawing!"

"Oh?"

A Chiang thinks that's very odd.

But he says,

"Then do you want to come skateboard with me?"



"Hello, A Fei! Are you drawing?"

A Fang beams at her.

"No. I hate drawing now."

"Really?" A Fang thinks that's very odd.

But she says, "Then do you
want to come look at bugs with me?"

