



# The Moon Wants to Sleep

A Full English translation is available.

月亮想睡覺

**Author:** Lin Ssu-Chen **Illustrator:** Lin Ssu-Chen **Publisher:** Hsin Yi Publications

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**BFT2.0 Translator:** Adina Zemanek

After sunset, the moon rises to light up the stars. As the faithful guardian of the Earth, he begins to grow tired. He longs to sleep alongside the bears, the flowers, and the children—but his glow is too bright. At last, he drifts toward the horizon, sinking little by little, wrapping himself in mountains and oceans as his blanket.

This enchanting bedtime tale blends lyrical prose with dreamlike imagery—moonlight in the starry sky, ripples of reflection on the water, and the gentle interplay of shadows and radiant beams. This is a soothing read for children and parents alike.



Author **Lin Ssu-Chen**

A graduate of the Department of Crafts and Design at National Taiwan University of Arts, Lin Ssu-Chen is a freelance illustrator and children's art teacher. She leads a carefree life, spending her days walking her dog, playing with her cat, drawing, making ceramics, and teaching. She loves sweets and enjoys daydreaming or wandering through places filled with plants and animals.

# Granting a Midnight Wish

by Lin Ssu-Chen and Lesley Liu  
translated by Sarah-Jayne Carver

## Creating Beauty and Loneliness: A Note from the Author

I came up with the story for *The Moon Wants to Sleep* by chance, after seeing a photograph. It showed a big, round moon on a dark night—shining brightly, yet somehow lonely. The image stirred something in me, and I knew I wanted to write a story. Then, one night, while walking my puppy by the river, I saw the moon again and thought: what if the moon were like a person, wanting to sleep at night just like everyone else? That's how the story came to me, naturally and all at once.

The moon in the story always hangs alone in the dark night sky. It wants to fall fast asleep like everyone else, but it can't—its light is too bright against the darkness. Anyone who has known loneliness understands that feeling: looking on enviously at the warmth and

beauty of everyday life around them. In trying to be like everyone else, the moon forgets its own beauty. And while the silence can sometimes be lonely, there is also a deep, quiet beauty in that silence.

I chose charcoal and graphite pencils to create illustrations that blend black, white, and gray. Without other colors, the space between black and white felt limitless, and the gentle shadings were perfect for capturing the soft halo of light around the moon.

## The Moon's Midnight Wish: An Enchanting Read

"Moon, what's the matter with you? Isn't it time to go to work? Why do you want to sleep?"

Doesn't a question like that make you want to ask: "What's the moon doing out in broad daylight?"

When the sun is out during the

day, the moon is in pitch darkness. Its only companions—the millions of planets and stars—sleep all year round. So what else can the moon do during the day but sleep? Imagine having to sleep until it's time for work, only to roll out of bed, look down at a cloud-filled sky, and see that everyone else is already asleep. It makes perfect sense that the moon would want to sleep at night. In fact, it might sleep best in the cold, solitary night sky, bathed in a soft halo of light. The moon's appearance can also stand for being wide awake at night when you wish you could sleep; this could be a comforting story for anyone struggling with insomnia.

For the book's illustrations, the design and composition are thoughtful and skillfully executed. Although Lin Ssu-Chen works only in shades of black and white, the images still feel warm. The full moon appears as a soft, plump sphere—so cozy the reader can imagine it snuggling into bed. Lin gives it just the right amount of expressiveness, even adding a pair of hands for dramatic

effect. Better still, when we see the moon from behind as it scuttles between city buildings, we discover it has...butt cheeks. (Never underestimate a single brushstroke.) Children love this kind of humor—it can leave them feeling happier and more relaxed. That single brushstroke might even influence how they see the world. I know it did for me; as a child, I adored funny drawings, and that humor ended up shaping my personality.

Doesn't the moon always seem a little aloof—close enough to draw you in, yet so serene you don't want to disturb it? Lin's book captures that feeling perfectly. Between the moonlight in the starry sky, the reflections in the water, and the interplay of shadows and brilliant rays—rendered entirely in black and white—this is a rich picture book filled with anticipation, making it a truly enchanting read.

*Lesley Liu is a veteran picture book creator.*

The night is so quiet, with all creatures deep in their dreams.  
The Moon wishes it could be just like them.

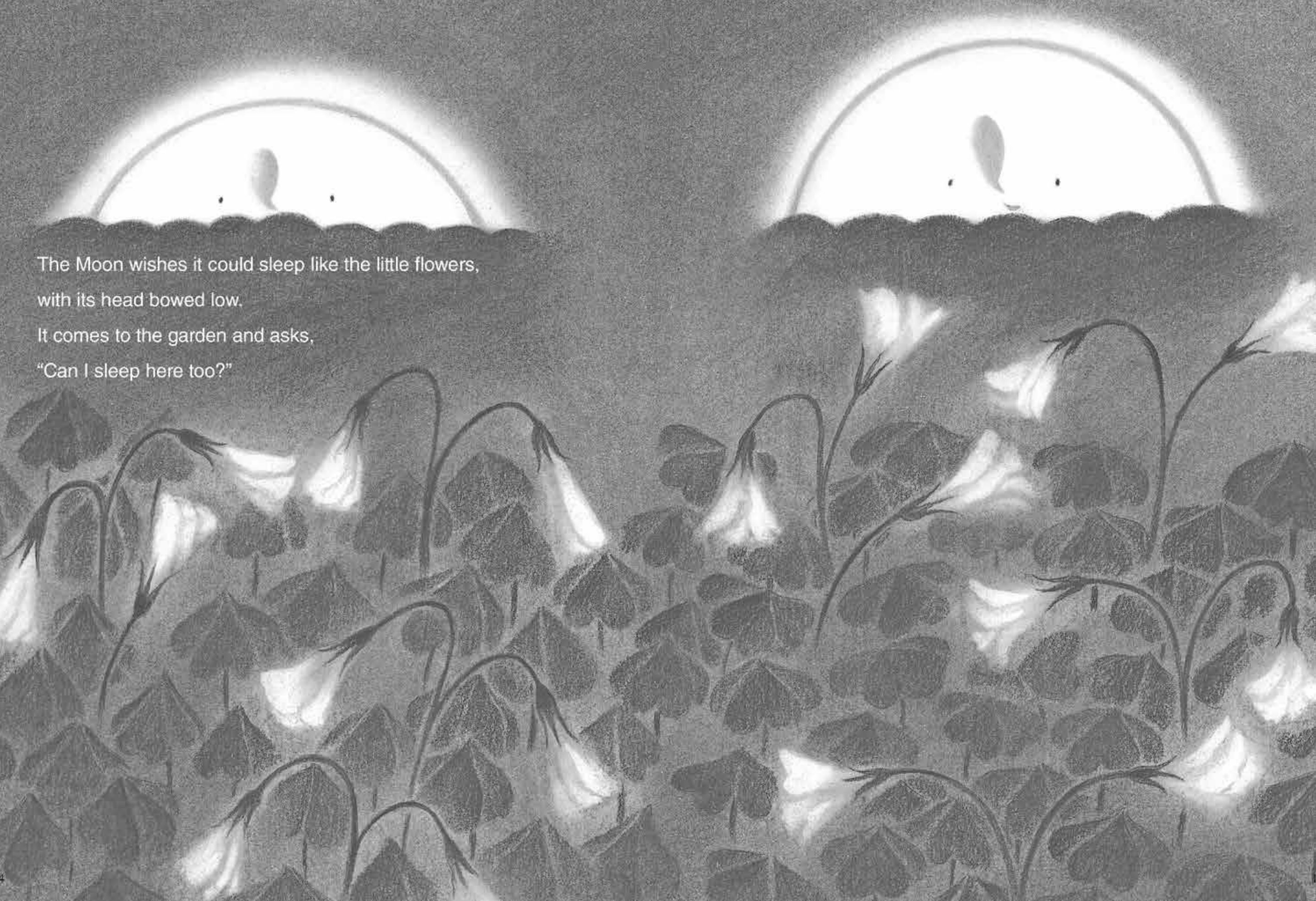
It wishes to be like Little Bear—warm and curled up,  
Drifting off to sleep together.

The Moon peeks into the den and asks:  
“Can I sleep here too?”





But the Moon shines too brightly.



The Moon wishes it could sleep like the little flowers,  
with its head bowed low.  
It comes to the garden and asks,  
“Can I sleep here too?”