



The Forgetful Granny Wanda

A Full English translation is available.

健忘的汪達奶奶

Author: Weichuen You **Illustrator:** Weichuen You **Publisher:** Yuan-Liou Publishing

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Rights contact: bft.children.comics@moc.gov.tw

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BFT2.0 Translator: Michelle Kuo

Granny Wanda, with her pink, curly hair, often misplaces things. But her grandchildren turn every search into a joyful “treasure hunt”—whether it’s finding her pen in the bathroom or spotting her pearl hair clip perched right on her head.

They also love playing hide-and-seek, especially since Grandma always hides in the same tree hollow and is genuinely surprised each time she’s found. Though she sometimes forgets recent events, Grandma vividly recalls the distant past—like the rule that every crab they catch must be returned to the sea. Still, the children can’t help but wonder: Will there come a day when Grandma forgets even us? And what will Granny Wanda, who loves them so very much, say then?

Told with warmth and humor, this tender story offers a fresh, child’s-eye view of aging and the deep bonds between generations. Playful collage-style illustrations expand from cozy interiors to wide, whimsical outdoor scenes, echoing the story’s themes of memory, love, and joyful intergenerational connection.



Author **Weichuen You**

Weichuen You is fascinated by the imaginative world created through words and illustrations. She loves children, mountains, and the sea. Creating picture books is a source of light in everyday life. Her works have received the Hsin-Yi Children’s Literature Award, the New Taipei City Literature Award, selected by Taiwan’s dPICTUS competition, and won the Picture Books Sprouting Awards by the Kaohsiung Public Library.

Every Act of Forgetting is a New Discovery: *The Forgetful Granny Wanda*

by Fu Kuo

When we hear words like “dementia,” “memory loss,” or “aging,” adults often associate them with heaviness, sorrow, or even anxiety about the future. But in *The Forgetful Granny Wanda*, author Weichuen You tells a story full of warmth and childlike wonder, inviting readers to rethink what it means to be forgetful.

Granny Wanda, the main character of the story, is someone who often forgets things—her hair clip, her pen, or even her favorite card. But rather than feeling annoyed, her grandchildren treat these moments as part of an exciting treasure hunt. They search the house high and low to help Granny find her missing items, and their reward is always a delicious drink lovingly prepared by her. This daily routine

is filled with playfulness and affection, turning small mishaps into cherished memories.

Granny Wanda defies the typical stereotypes of elderly characters in children’s books. She doesn’t nag, discourage, or scold. Instead, she is a free-spirited, playful companion—someone who loves playing hide-and-seek and going on beach adventures. Her youthful heart and spontaneous nature bring joy to her grandchildren, and to readers as well. Through her, the book gently suggests that aging does not mean losing one’s vitality.

Visually, the book is just as special. Its illustrations creatively combine real photographs with digital drawings, seamlessly blending Taiwan’s coastal

scenery into the story’s setting. The result is a visual experience that feels both realistic and dreamlike—something rarely seen in picture books. This layering of media adds richness and emotional depth to the narrative.

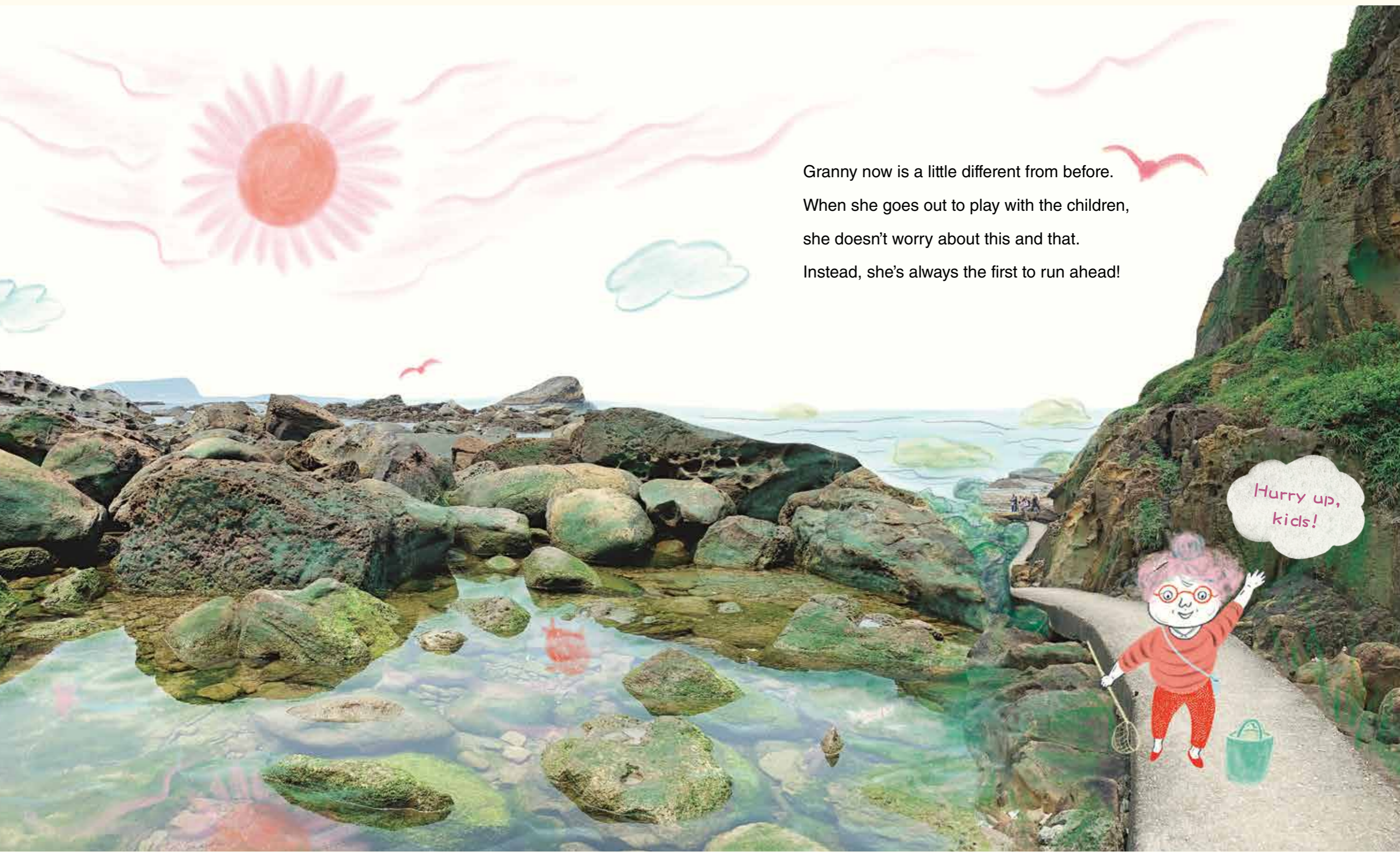
Although the book never directly states Granny Wanda’s medical condition, readers can sense, through both the text and illustrations, that her memory is slowly fading. This subtle and restrained approach allows children to process the story in their own way and at their own pace. As Taiwan enters an era of super-aged society, intergenerational understanding becomes increasingly important. Drawing on her own experiences with forgetfulness, author Weichuen You imagined what she might be like twenty years from now. She also took inspiration from her twin niece and nephew for the two lively children in the story. What she discovered is this: forgetting isn’t always a loss—sometimes, it’s the beginning of seeing the world with fresh eyes.

The Forgetful Granny Wanda was the winner of the second KPL Picture Books Sprouting Awards—an original

picture book competition hosted by Kaohsiung Public Library. With its strong storytelling and creative vision, the book doesn’t just entertain; it also addresses meaningful social topics. It gently reminds us that memory loss doesn’t need to be met only with fear or sadness. With patience and empathy, forgetfulness can become the starting point for connection, growth, and even joy.

For young readers, this book offers more than just a touching tale of grandparent-grandchild bonding. It opens up deeper reflections: *What is memory? How do we respond when someone we love begins to change?* These are the kinds of questions that will stay with children long after the last page is turned—and may just plant the seeds of wisdom for years to come.

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.



Granny now is a little different from before.
When she goes out to play with the children,
she doesn't worry about this and that.
Instead, she's always the first to run ahead!

Hurry up,
kids!



"This looks just like the crabs
I used to catch when I was little!
Could it be its great-great-grandchild?"
Granny says with a smile.

Even though Granny often forgets things
that happened recently,
she remembers things from a long,
long time ago!



Granny always remembers to put the fish and crabs she catches back into the sea. "That way," Granny says, "we'll still have friends to play with next time we come!"