



The Projected Girl from the Underground Street

A Full English translation is available.

地下街的透明少女

Author: Ding Pao-Yen **Illustrator:** Ding Pao-Yen **Publisher:** Dyna Books

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248 pages | 14.8 x 21 cm **Volume:** 1 (Ongoing)

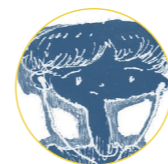
Awards: 2025 The 16th Golden Comics Awards, Comic of the Year

BFT 2.0 Translator: Jenna Tang

In a world where technology can project dazzling illusions of anything—from street signs to people—Ming-Chi drifts through life, haunted by the loss of Li-Zhi, the girl he secretly loved. She was meant to leave Earth to start a new life, but her ship exploded during launch.

Rumors of a “projected girl” appearing in an underground arcade reignite his hope. The apparition resembles Li-Zhi and carries her high school consciousness, yet she has no memory of their shared past. As they reconnect, the two are drawn into a mystery that blurs the line between memory and simulation. Who revived her in this form? Who controls her projection? And if she exists only as light and data, is she still the same Li-Zhi he loved?

Blending melancholy with suspense, *The Projected Girl from the Underground Street* explores what it means to exist in a world where reality can be copied and emotions digitized. Ding Pao-Yen’s raw linework contrasts nostalgia with futurism, giving the story a fragile texture. This story asks whether love can survive when only a projection remains.



Author **Ding Pao-Yen**

Originally trained in painting, manga creator Ding Pao-Yen began producing manga primarily for print. Fascinated by science fiction and dreamlike themes, he explores the medium’s imaginative possibilities with a unique vision. His works have been translated into French, Italian, and Spanish.

Mirages and Memories: Exploring How Love Survives in *The Projected Girl from the Underground Street*

by Wen-Chien Hsu

Ding Pao-Yen's *The Projected Girl from the Underground Street* portrays a world that is both futuristic and melancholic. In this world, archaeology coexists with projection technology, and people chase after virtual light and shadow. From street signs to virtual lovers, everything can be projected and replicated. In this world, people are lonely and gradually lose the courage to face reality.

The story follows Ming-Chi, an ordinary part-time worker who once served as the president of his high school archaeology club. Back then, he shared a quiet affection with Li-Zhi, a fellow club member, though neither dared to confess.

On the eve of graduation, Li-Zhi discovered a rare "salmon roe fossil" and gave it to him as a farewell gift—a relic so precious that even professional archaeologists could hardly find one. Its rarity mirrored the secret bond between them.

Shortly after graduation, Li-Zhi boarded a spacecraft bound for another planet. Their parting was meant to be temporary; she was supposed to return. But as the ship ascended, it suddenly exploded. What should have been a bittersweet farewell became an irreversible tragedy. Unable to move on, Ming-Chi drifts through the neon haze of the city, clinging to the fragments of a love now lost to the void.

Years later, rumors spread that a girl resembling Li-Zhi has appeared in the city's underground arcade—a "projected girl." Ming-Chi discovers that the projection indeed carries her consciousness—but only as it existed during high school. She remembers nothing of their shared past.

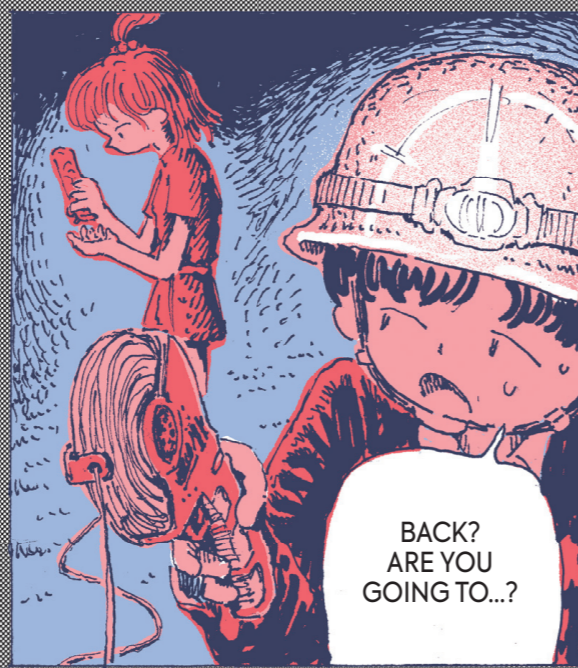
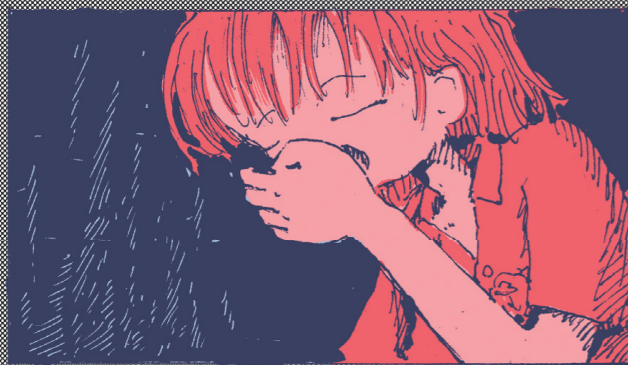
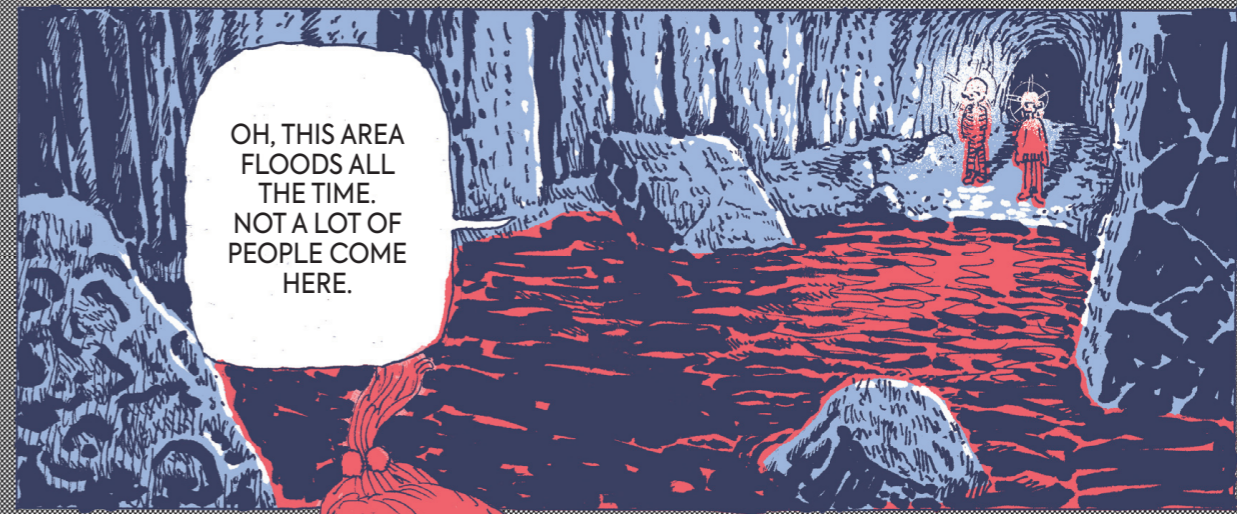
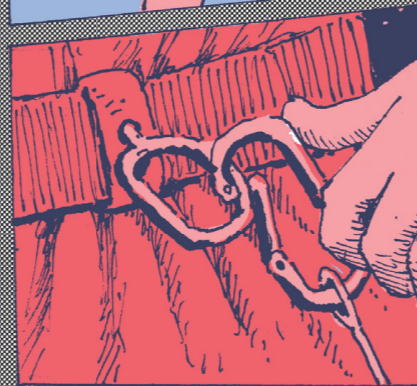
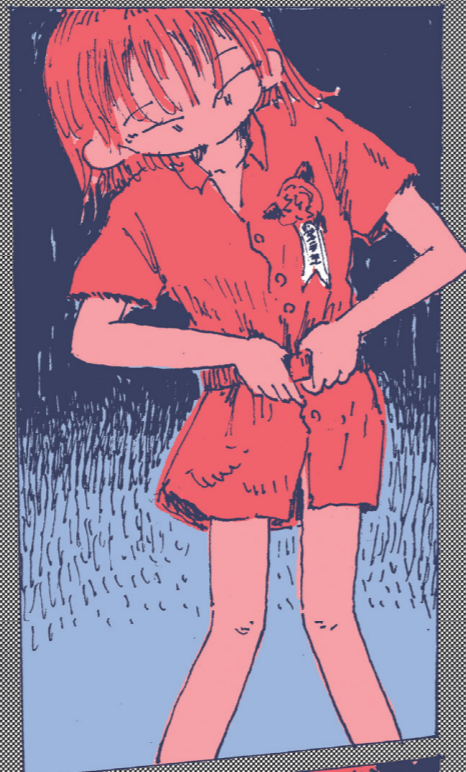
Together, they embark on a journey that crosses the boundaries between the real and the virtual. Slowly, they rebuild their connection while uncovering the mystery surrounding her return. Why was she "revived"? Who is controlling her projection? And if this being made of light and data is not flesh and blood, can she still be the same Li-Zhi he once loved?

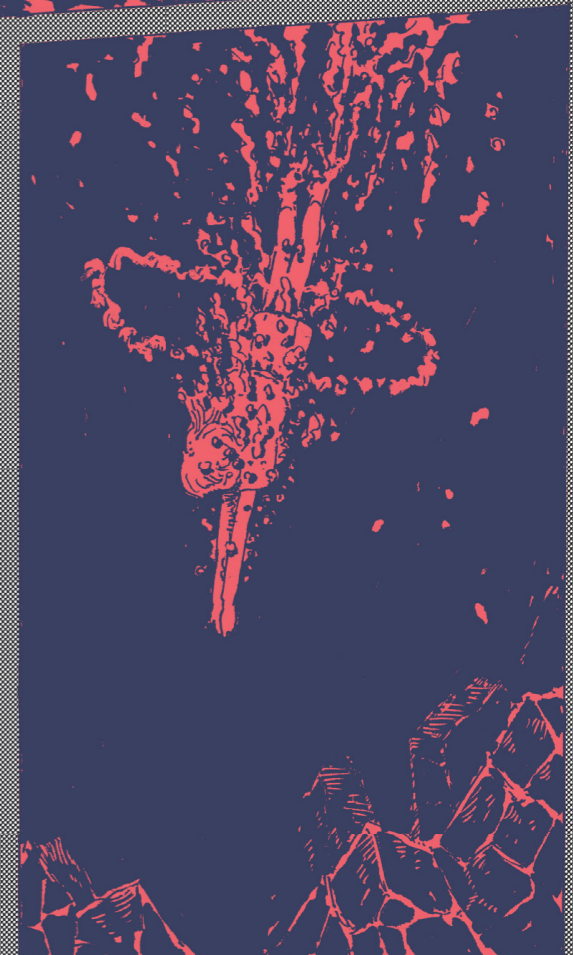
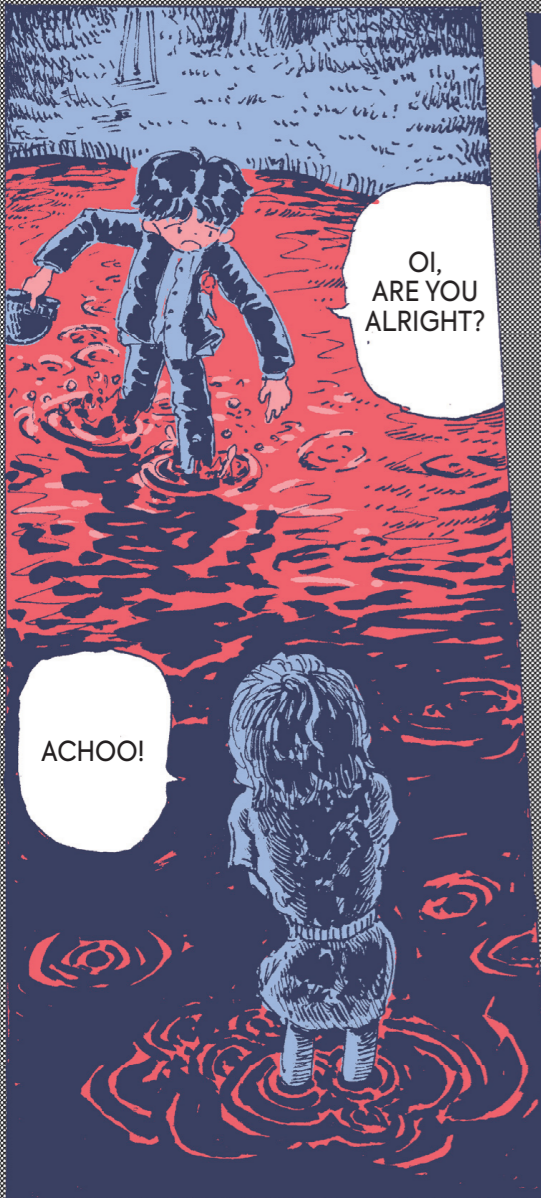
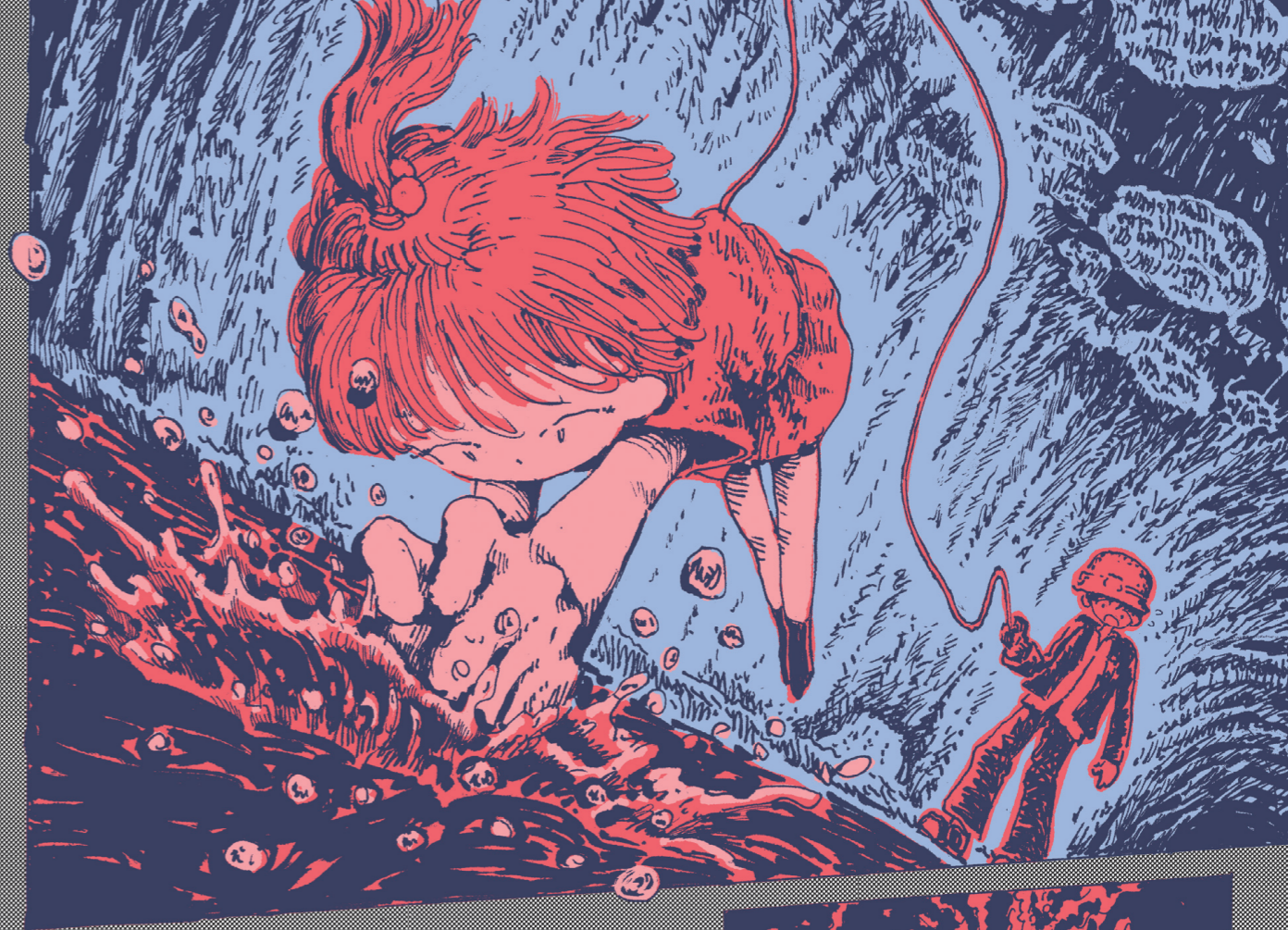
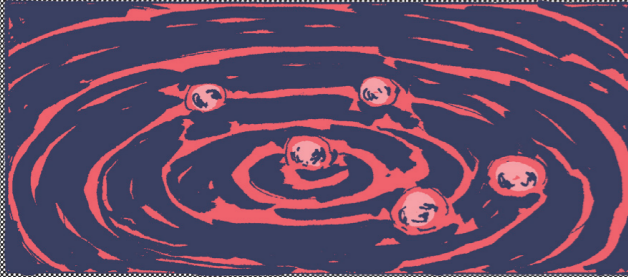
The first volume of *The Projected Girl from the Underground Street* intertwines tender emotion with suspense. Beneath its romantic surface lies an unsettling series of philosophical questions about existence and consciousness. When projections can replace people, how do we define what is truly real? The fossil

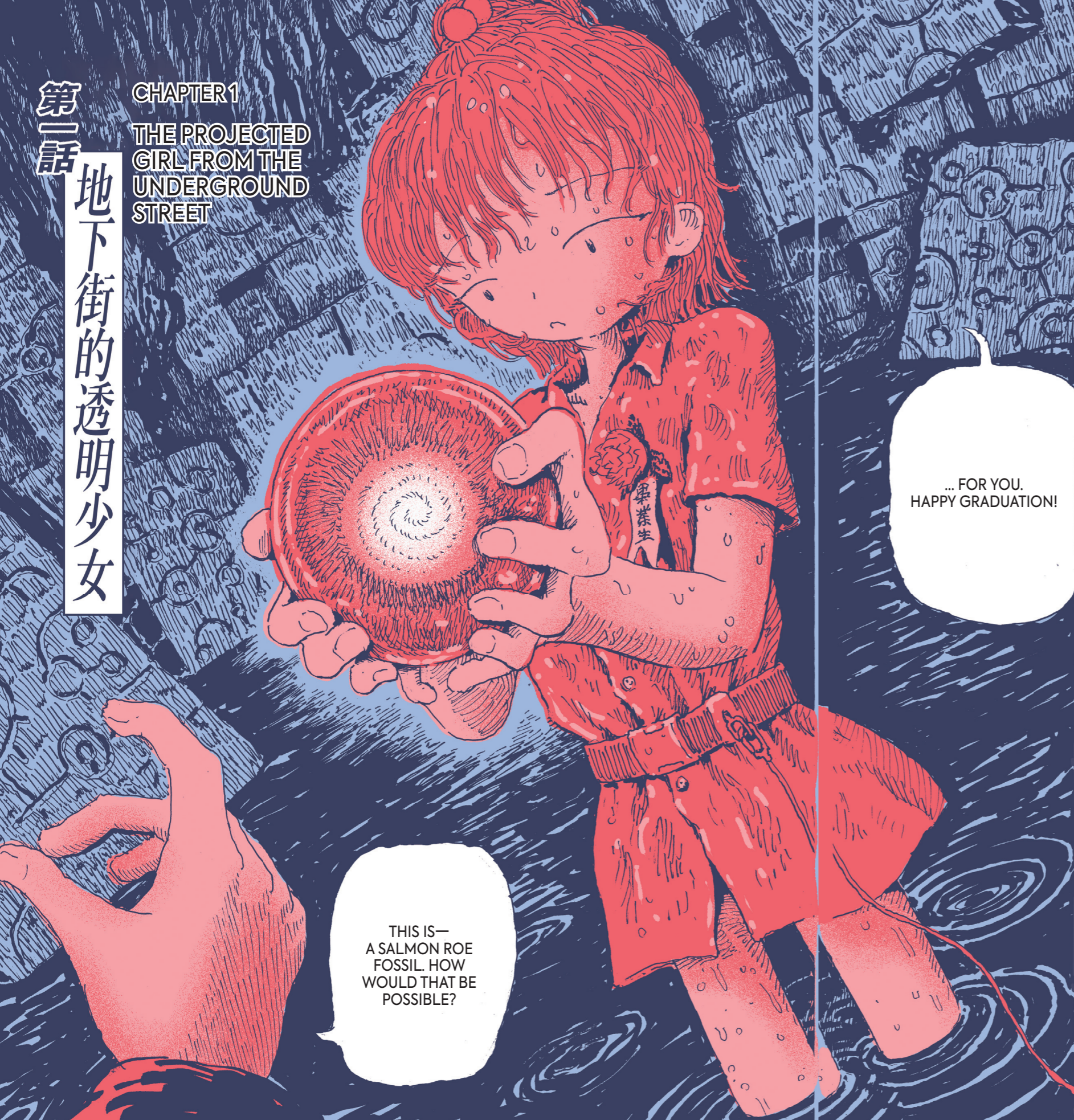
that Li-Zhi discovered may hold the key—an ancient trace of life hinting at the persistence of memory and its imprint of time.

Ding Pao-Yen's art carries a deliberate roughness. Unpolished lines, frayed edges, and textured strokes breathe with raw vitality. This distinctive visual style blends the nostalgic tone of classic manga with a metallic sense of futurism. Memory and projection flicker side by side on each page, as if the story itself were alive and unstable. The mystery remains unresolved, yet its light continues to project within the reader's mind long after the book is closed.

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.







THIS IS—
A SALMON ROE
FOSSIL. HOW
WOULD THAT BE
POSSIBLE?

... FOR YOU.
HAPPY GRADUATION!



CHI MING-
CHI, THIS IS...



NO WAY?
OI, THIS IS...?



I'M OKAY. I...