



Do Something Amazing

A Full English translation is available.

做一件很棒的事

Author: Shu-Fen Cheng **Illustrator:** Shu-Fen Cheng **Publisher:** The Eastern Publishing

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BFT2.0 Translator: Kirsten Han

Little Monkey notices that the shared stairwell is getting dirtier and dirtier. Worried that its condition will get worse, he goes door to door asking his neighbors if they might help repaint the stairwell wall.

Mr. Crocodile says it has nothing to do with him. He lives on the first floor and never uses the stairs. Grandpa and Grandma Goat say they're too old to paint, and they can't afford to hire someone. Manager Pig is willing to hire a painter—but only if everyone else chips in. And Mrs. Fox doesn't think the wall looks that dirty. She says, "Let's wait until it gets worse."

What now? Everyone has a different opinion. Little Monkey wonders, "Am I being too difficult?" The more he thinks about it, the more he feels that having a clean wall is an inherently good thing. So he makes a decision: He'll repaint it himself!

Will Little Monkey be able to finish the job? And how will the neighbors react? If it were you—what would you do?



Author **Shu-Fen Cheng**

Shu-Fen Cheng graduated from the Department of Fine Arts at Chinese Culture University. She is an illustrator and picture book creator, as well as an educator in children's art and picture book workshops.

Her published works include *Traffic Jam*, *Sorry*, *Little Black*, *Knock Knock Knock*, *Who's at the Door?*, *The Fox Had 11 Teeth Pulled*, and *Dragons Emerge on the Fifth of May*. She has received the Golden Tripod Award for Best Children's and Youth Adult Books.

Taking Action Is the Best Kind of Advocacy

by Shan-Chung Yang

There is a Chinese saying: “Sweep your own doorstep first; don’t worry about the frost on someone else’s roof.” It means that people should focus on managing their own affairs before criticizing or interfering in the affairs of others. In today’s busy society, this mindset has become even more common. Work leaves most people exhausted, and it is difficult to carve out extra time or energy for someone else. Among the most tragic news reports are stories of passersby failing to notice an elderly person has collapsed by the roadside or hesitating to help after witnessing a traffic accident. When the issue at hand is not a matter of life or death but simply a small problem woven into everyday life, people’s willingness to take action wanes even further.

A similar situation unfolds in the story’s animal apartment building.

This modest five-story building houses a young monkey, a crocodile shop owner, an elderly goat couple, a pig manager, and a Madam Fox. Each resident keeps their home spotless and comfortable. But the moment you shift your gaze to the shared staircase between floors, the scene changes entirely: the walls are dusty, stained, and marked with all kinds of smudges.

When the little monkey tries to gather the neighbors to repaint the stairwell, he is met with excuses at every door. The crocodile on the first floor says he never uses the stairs anyway. The goat couple cite their age and the expense as reasons to decline. The pig manager insists that everyone must contribute first. The fox lady shows little interest at all.

Through these reactions, we see the common challenges of getting people involved in public affairs. Daily life feels

manageable enough, and everyone has more urgent worries to occupy their mind. Asking people to invest effort in something beyond their private home—especially something for which they owe no clear responsibility—becomes a daunting task.

Yet the author Shu-Fen Cheng does not attempt to burden young readers with complex lessons about homeowner associations, civic engagement, or public advocacy. Instead, the story focuses on the monkey’s quiet initiative, willingness to act, and uncomplaining attitude. Through his example, children see that change can begin with one person. They learn that even small acts can gently push the world toward improvement. And perhaps most importantly, they are encouraged not to lose heart in the face of others’ indifference. They need not become the sort of people who look away from public matters altogether.

The book also invites adults to reflect. Public affairs often fail not because people are inherently uncaring, but because initiative feels burdensome, and personal comfort feels safer than shared responsibility. But meaningful change rarely begins with collective enthusiasm. It starts with one person who chooses to act—someone who paints the

first stroke on the wall, picks up the first piece of trash, and says, “Let me try.”

Taking action is the purest form of advocacy. It does not require speeches, authority, or grand strategies. It simply asks for a beginning. And beginnings, no matter how small, create momentum—momentum that others may eventually follow.

This story gently encourages everyone, child or adult, to take that first step. Participation does not have to be perfect or large in scale; what matters is the willingness to care about the spaces we share and the people who share them with us.

Taking action is the best advocacy. Taking action is, in itself, something wonderful. May each of us hold onto that spirit as we move through our communities and contribute to the world we live in.

Shan-Chung Yang graduated from the Department of History at National Taiwan University and has worked as a teacher and a literary event planner. Born in the subtropical winter of a humid island, she loves the trees and climate of the temperate zone. She is a devoted bear enthusiast, and her life idol is the Adélie penguin.

Just when Little Monkey felt like he couldn't keep his arms up any longer...
the painting was finally complete!

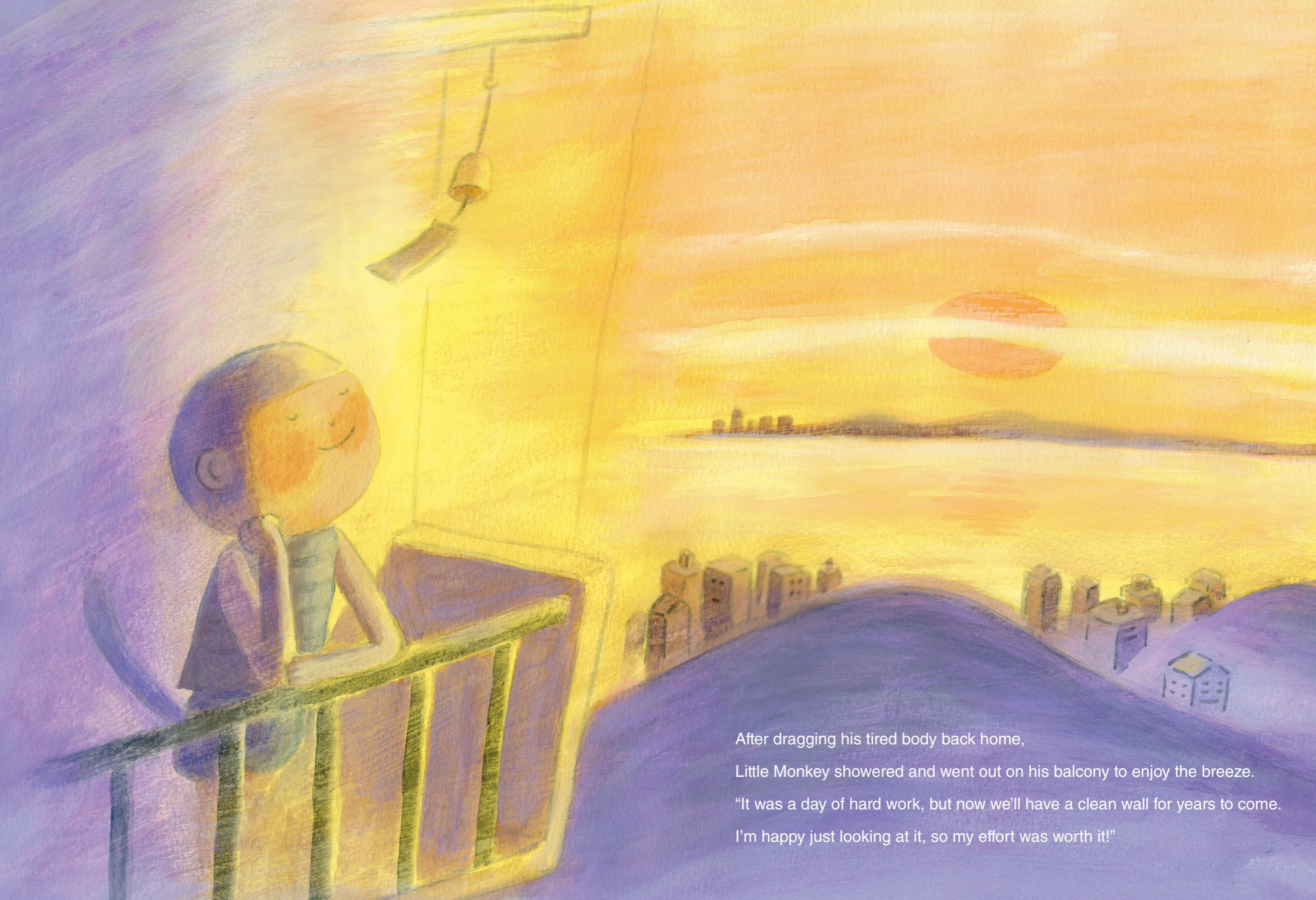
Panting, Little Monkey sat on the ground to rest.

Everyone gathered and exclaimed in unison,

"Wow... our wall looks so clean!

You're really amazing, Little Monkey!"





After dragging his tired body back home,
Little Monkey showered and went out on his balcony to enjoy the breeze.
“It was a day of hard work, but now we’ll have a clean wall for years to come.
I’m happy just looking at it, so my effort was worth it!”



Little Monkey went to sleep satisfied.
As they looked at the wall,
the neighbors thought...