



# Delinquent's Guide to the South Airport Hood

A Full English translation is available.

## 南機場生存指南

**Scriptwriter:** Seal Hsieh **Interviewing Scriptwriter:** Ars **Comic Artist:** H. Chia

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

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**BFT 2.0 Translator:** Elizabeth Hsinyin Lee

A delinquent young man named Yao-yu is sent to the South Airport neighborhood to perform community service. There, he encounters Borough Chief Fang, who runs a daily meal delivery program for elderly residents living alone. Eager to finish his service as quickly as possible, Yao-yu strikes a deal: if he can satisfy the neighborhood's elders with his work, he will be allowed to complete his service early.

But the task proves far more complicated than he expects. The elders' requests are varied, demanding, and deeply personal. To succeed, Yao-yu must do more than complete each job correctly—he must learn to listen, observe, and respond with care.

As Yao-yu takes on one challenge after another, he begins to confront not only the elders' needs, but also his own assumptions and attitudes. To his surprise—and that of those around him—he discovers a gift for this work and a capacity he never knew he had.



## Scriptwriter **Seal Hsieh**

A full-time scriptwriter of comics, Seal Hsieh loves suspenseful thrillers and romcoms. Hsieh's representative works include *Seven Days to Live*, the comic series *BLOODY MAN*, and *Good Morning, How About Some Positivity?*



## Interviewing Scriptwriter **Ars**

Ars is a filmmaker and television professional specializing in humanities-focused documentaries. She received the 6th Purple Ribbon Award for documentary filmmaking. She also served as producer, director, and writer for the TaiwanPlus program *Welcome to Taiwan*, and is the interviewing scriptwriter and editor of the book series *South Airport Coffee Fragrance*.



## Comic Artist **H. Chia**

H. Chia is a sequential artist specializing in comics, illustration, 2D hand-drawn animation, and storyboarding. Blending European, Japanese, and American influences, her distinctive style brings warmth and vitality to everyday stories. She is the creator of *Bygone* and *South Airport Coffee Fragrance*.

Her work has been featured at the Angoulême International Comics Festival (France), BDFIL (Switzerland), the International Animated Film Festival ANIMATOR (Poland), and the Spark Animation Festival (Canada). She currently lives in Bern, Switzerland, where she swims in the river in summer, crunches through snow in winter, and posts short comics on Facebook and Instagram every week.

# Second Chances in South Airport: The Everyday Rhythms of Care at the Margins

by Wen-Chien Hsu

When was is the lowest point in your life? For some, it is the loss of a loved one; for others, financial hardship; for still others, the loneliness of having no one by their side.

In the South Airport area of Wanhua, Taipei, lively night markets coexist with illegal red-light districts, parks filled with unhoused residents, and impoverished elderly people living alone. It is within this landscape that the manga unfolds. Guo Yao-yu, a teenager repeatedly in and out of court, is ordered by a judge to perform community service under the supervision of the local neighborhood chief.

At first, Hsin-ping, the young social worker, has little faith in Yao-yu. With his

flippant attitude and careless manner, he seems like a sapling that has yet to take root—and one whom nobody expects to ever blossom. Yet drawing on what he calls his “prison connections” and his streetwise ability to read people, he quickly wins over the elderly with smooth talk and well-timed sympathy. Ironically, this leaves Hsin-ping, who has long devoted herself to the community, feeling both frustrated and unsettled.

As the story progresses, both Hsin-ping and the seniors begin to glimpse the diligence beneath the delinquent's rough exterior. Still, he is far from purely kind. Eager to complete his mandatory service hours as quickly as possible, he even deceives elders with dementia into

signing documents, hoping to bring his service to an end. Yet through repeated encounters, he gradually finds himself growing emotionally attached.

One of the elderly residents, widowed at a young age, turns to alcohol and eventually becomes estranged from his family. When he is rushed to the emergency room in critical condition, his children agree to sign consent forms but refuse to come see him. At first, Yao-yu looks down on the old man, believing his fate to be self-inflicted. This reaction, however, only deepens the distrust of the other seniors—because everyone who has ended up in South Airport has been shaped by failures and losses of their own.

Everything changes when Yao-yu

accidentally recovers a missing videotape belonging to the old man. Filled with recordings of his children's childhood, it reveals a life shaped by regret and longing—a man who has waited for forgiveness and dreamed of reuniting with his family. Defying court regulations and risking a return to prison, Yao-yu insists on delivering the tape himself. In that moment, he is no longer merely a delinquent fulfilling an obligation, but someone who chooses kindness of his own will. This decision not only earns him the elders' genuine trust, but also quietly opens Hsin-ping's heart.

*Delinquent's Guide to the South Airport Hood* is a poignant story. Readers may come away with renewed trust in

humanity, reminded that it is still worthy of hope. In this story, people on the margins learn to care for one another and, through mutual support, become each other's "chosen family." It suggests that what truly drains the will to live is the loss of human connection, the absence of love and care. And yet solidarity carries its own quiet power. Even when trust is scarce and a sense of belonging is missing at first, people can—just as they do in South Airport—slowly find their way back to one another through the rhythms of shared daily life.

I believe it is with this faith that the creators brought this moving work into being.

*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.*



Yeah, we're here anyway. At least we should visit Pop.



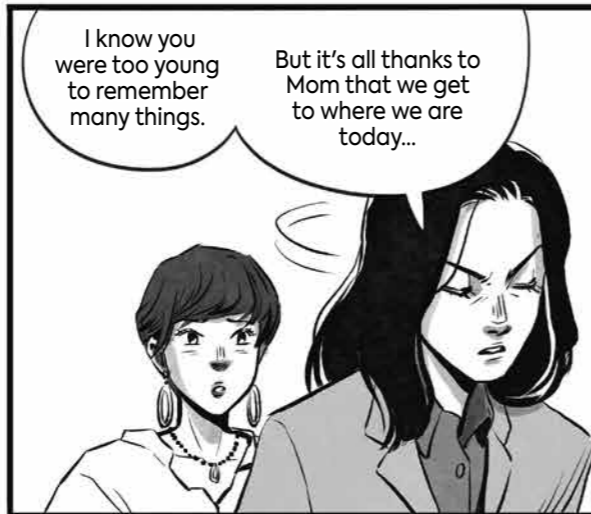
Don't worry. I have confirmed with the doctor that ligament surgery is not a major operation.

There's nothing for us to do here now. We should get back to our life and take care of our business.



Have you considered Mom's feelings?

Sis...



I know you were too young to remember many things.

But it's all thanks to Mom that we get to where we are today...



...After Mom died.

Definitely not the person who drank all day and only asked after school and grades...



Damn, it's so far. Didn't she say she'd stay "nearby" South Airport?





That's her!  
Uncle A-Chong's  
eldest daughter...



She's broken her  
word! Didn't she  
promise to stay until  
the surgery is over?!



Don't leave!!!



Green light!

Green light  
again!



Someone stops  
that damn car!



Please vote for  
candidate number 3, your  
next door big brother

