



Good Night Giraffe

A Full English translation is available.

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In *Good Night Giraffe*, a gentle and extraordinary giraffe towers above the city—so tall that he can whisper “good night” to children from the rooftops. Sleeping by day and awakening at midnight, he begins his quiet journeys in the dark, moving softly through the world to comfort those who need him most.

From anxious children on the eve of life-changing journeys, to creatures of the ocean harmed by pollution, to lonely beings longing for reassurance, the Good Night Giraffe appears when they have just fallen asleep. With his kind words and calm presence, he promises them that they are not alone.

The giraffe’s nocturnal travels expand beyond the city—into the sea, the mountains, and even war-torn landscapes. Poetic and compassionate, *Good Night Giraffe* is a bedtime picture book that speaks to children and adults alike, offering comfort in an uncertain world. This story gently touches on themes of environmental destruction, war, and displacement. As readers, we learn that even though we cannot solve all problems and injustices, bringing a full presence and openness to the possibility of connection still matters.



Author **Chih-Hao Yen**

Chih-Hao Yen holds a Ph.D. in Children’s Literature and is known for his imaginative storytelling. He has received awards such as the Mudi Award, Chiu Ko Modern Children’s Literature Award, Showwe Youth Literature Award, and the Ministry of Education’s Literary Creation Award. His works span various formats, including novels, fairy tales, bridge books, children’s songs, and picture books.



Illustrator **Nan-Jun**

Born in Changzhi, Pingtung, Nan-Jun was inspired by the exquisite illustrations in picture books in his elementary school years. He enjoys starting his creative process with a cup of black coffee to awaken his soul. Then, he retreats to his own small studio, where he picks up his paintbrush and begins to dream on paper. Committed to drawing by hand, he cherishes how watercolor dances on paper in unpredictable ways.

The Door That Leads to Love and Presence: A Note from the Author

by Chih-Hao Yen

One day, while visiting my parents' home, I was flipping through television channels when a program about children living in slums unsettled me. Children survive by picking through garbage, selling whatever they can find, eating only a few mouthfuls a day, and living in makeshift shelters built from bamboo poles and torn tarpaulins. When wind or rain comes, everything inside is ruined. They have neither running water nor electricity. I was left deeply troubled.

A few days later, I saw news about war. The elderly, women, and children were left homeless, their faces filled with fear. It made my heart ache. I know that growing up in Taiwan, with the resources and abilities I have now, there is very little I can do. Many things are truly beyond my power. Perhaps the only thing I can do is write stories—stories that tell them that,

on the other side of the world, there are still people praying for them and wishing them well.

While writing this story, I found myself thinking back to my own childhood. In those days, I often carried worries I didn't know how to share—not with my parents, not even with friends. Unsure what to do, I kept everything locked inside, too afraid to ask for help, quietly letting the fear grow in the dark. I wished there had been something beside me to keep me company. Not like Santa Claus delivering gifts, not something that could fix my problems or fight my battles—just a presence. Just being there would have been enough. With this book, I sought to create that “something”: a companion for children in their most helpless moments, when all they need is someone beside them.

But what should it be? First, it had to be big—big enough to feel safe, big enough to stand firm against anything frightening. Second, it had to be made of love, so that within its embrace a child could feel warmth.

Then, one day during a walk, I spotted large giraffe statues in the playgrounds of kindergartens and elementary schools. I lit up with delight. That was it.

I've also loved the night ever since I was little. It's full of mystery and shimmering light. At night, after a long day's work, families and friends gather to share quiet moments of happiness. I've always been drawn to that feeling of warmth and celebration. And finally, the words *good night* resemble a star in the dark. This lovely phrase holds everything I long for: rest, peace, joy, safety, ease,

togetherness, dreams, and freedom. With this story I brought together the things I love most and created the Good Night Giraffe.

Whenever you need friendship, this picture book offers a key—the key that opens the door in the Good Night Giraffe's body. Beyond it lies a kinder world, a small paradise that will always welcome you.

My heartfelt thanks go to Kiki, the publisher at Sacca Publishing, for all the help, and to Nan-Jun, who helped build this incredible paradise with me, carrying that door that leads to love from my dreams into this world.

And now, welcome to this curious and magical story of imagination.

This originally appeared in the book's afterword.



“Why, aren’t you a battleship, little one?
How did you come to be here?”

“I was struck in battle,
and sank to the bottom of the sea.”

“War is so terrifying. Are you alright?”

“I am well. I would like to become
a friendly innkeeper,
offering safe lodging to little fish and shrimp.”

“May your dreams come true,
little battleship. Good night.”



