

ON HAPPINESS ROAD: THE DAYS OF CHILDHOOD

幸福路上：童年時光

* Full-length animated film *On Happiness Road* received prizes at Tokyo Anime Award, the Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film, Seoul International Cartoon and Animation Festival, and the Ottawa International Animation Festival

Following on the international success of animated film On Happiness Road, writer and director Sung Hsin-yin teamed up with comic book artist Lo He to create this graphic novel prequel about everyday life during Sung's childhood in 1980's Taiwan.

Taiwan in the 1980's is gradually opening up after decades of authoritarian rule. An atmosphere of hope permeates the country as manufacturing and small and medium-sized businesses flourish, and big ideas like freedom and democracy become mainstream.

Though elementary school student Lin Shu-chi is growing up on a Taipei street called Happiness Road, she doesn't consider herself particularly happy. The Barbie doll she received on her birthday is nothing like she imagined, the goose she raised on her own was almost cooked and eaten by her family, and she stumbled during a talent show, ruining her dreams of becoming a star. In fact, her troubles are so many they seem beyond counting. Yet, precisely because of these everyday struggles, her childhood is transformed into a stream of touching memories that will last a lifetime.

In these two volumes of six stories each, readers will make the acquaintance of a variety of vivid characters: Lin Shu-chi's magical grandmother, who remembers the old ways of the Amis aboriginal group, a local mixed-race girl with natural curls, a boy who is forced to leave school to work in a temple....



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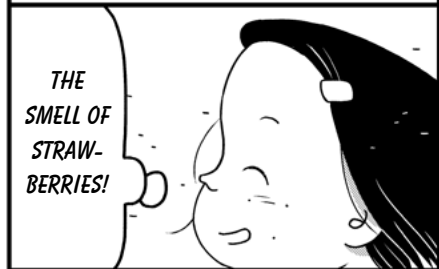
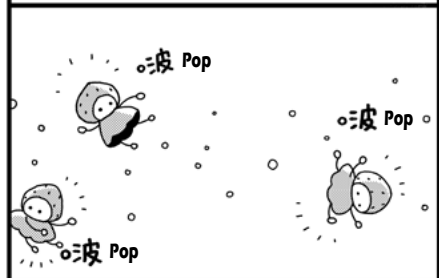
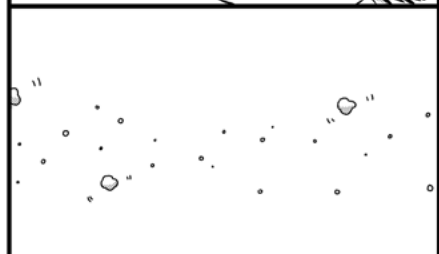
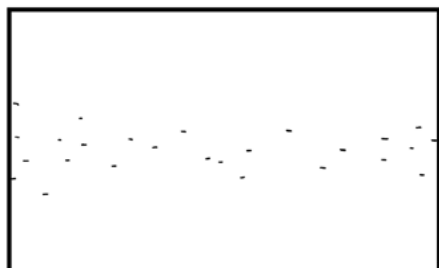
The stories gain an additional layer of depth from background details that conjure atmosphere of the era as well as its controversies, from racial discrimination to political power struggles. Simple line drawings by artist Lo He imbue the story with childlike warmth and energy, perfectly matching the tone of writer Sung Hsin-yin's work. Readers will be transported straight to Happiness Road, where they can experience everyday tragedies and wonders side-by-side with strong-willed, bumbling, and eternally day-dreaming Lin Shu-chi.

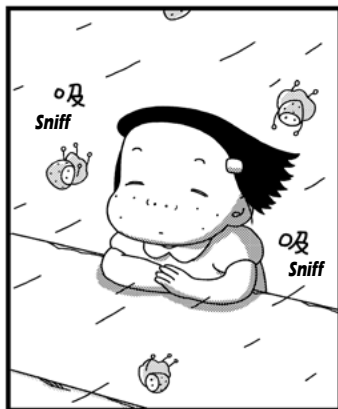
Comic by Lo He 羅荷

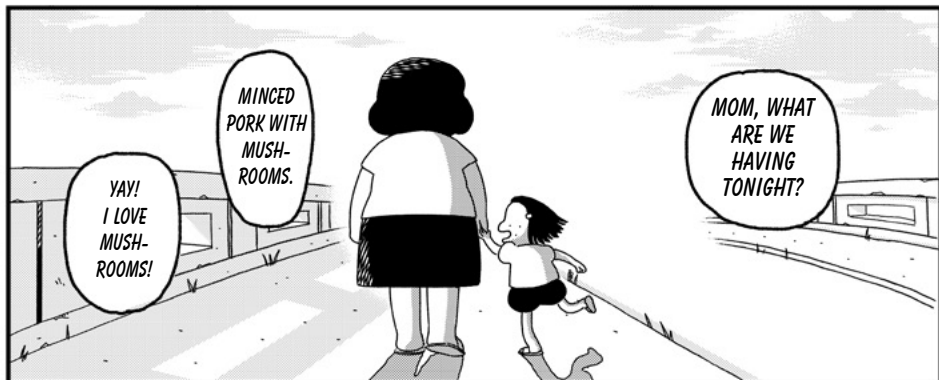
Comic book artist and 2D animator Lo He toured the international festival circuit with her first animated work, *Remember Me for a Day*. Her short comic *The Gift* received special commendation at the Tottori International Comic Art Contest. Her works include the animated music video *Rabbit Hole* and the *Wishing Pool* mini-comic.

Original Story by Sung Hsin-yin 宋欣穎

A former entertainment columnist, screenwriter and director Sung Hsin-yin has produced a diverse body of work in film and television ranging from drama to animation to documentary film. She is known for stories with roots in Taiwanese culture that have the power to move international audiences. Her film *On Happiness Road* was recipient of the best cartoon and audience choice awards at the Taipei Film Festival, best animated feature award at the Golden Horse Film Festival, and various other awards at the Seoul International Cartoon and Animation Festival, Tokyo Anime Awards, and the Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film.

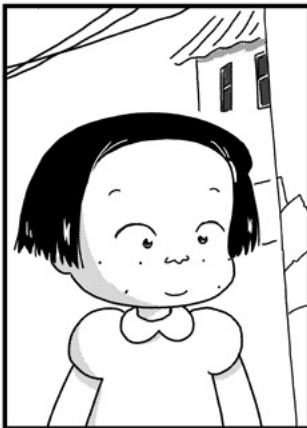


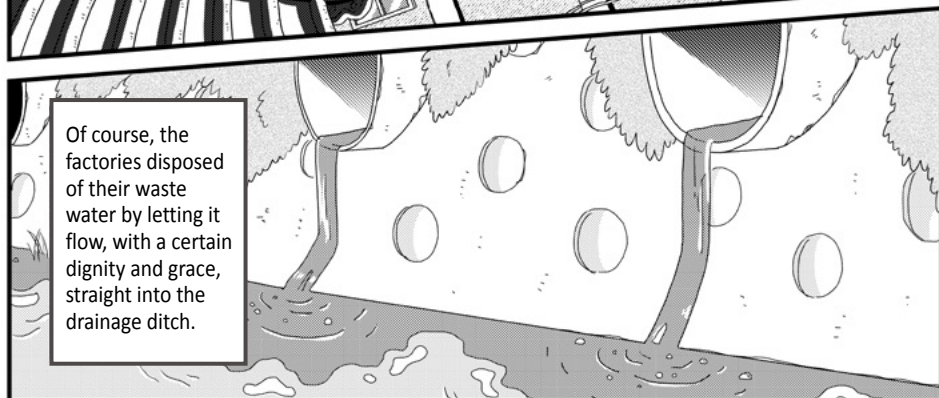
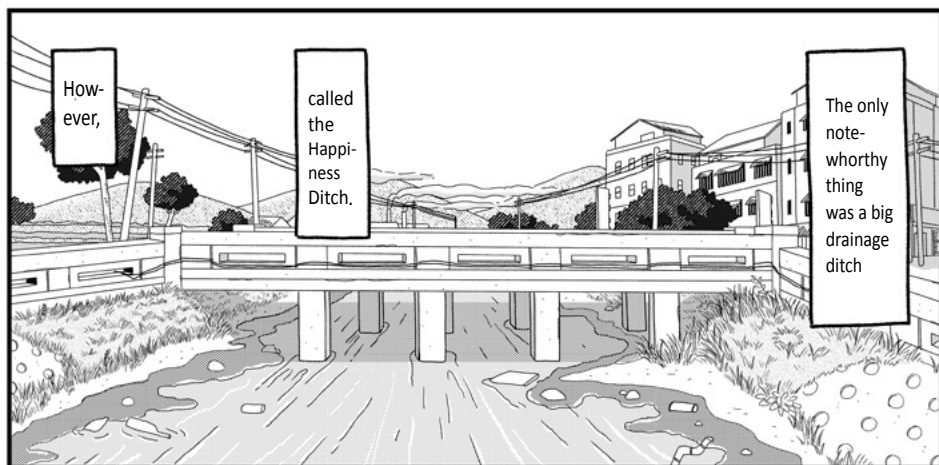


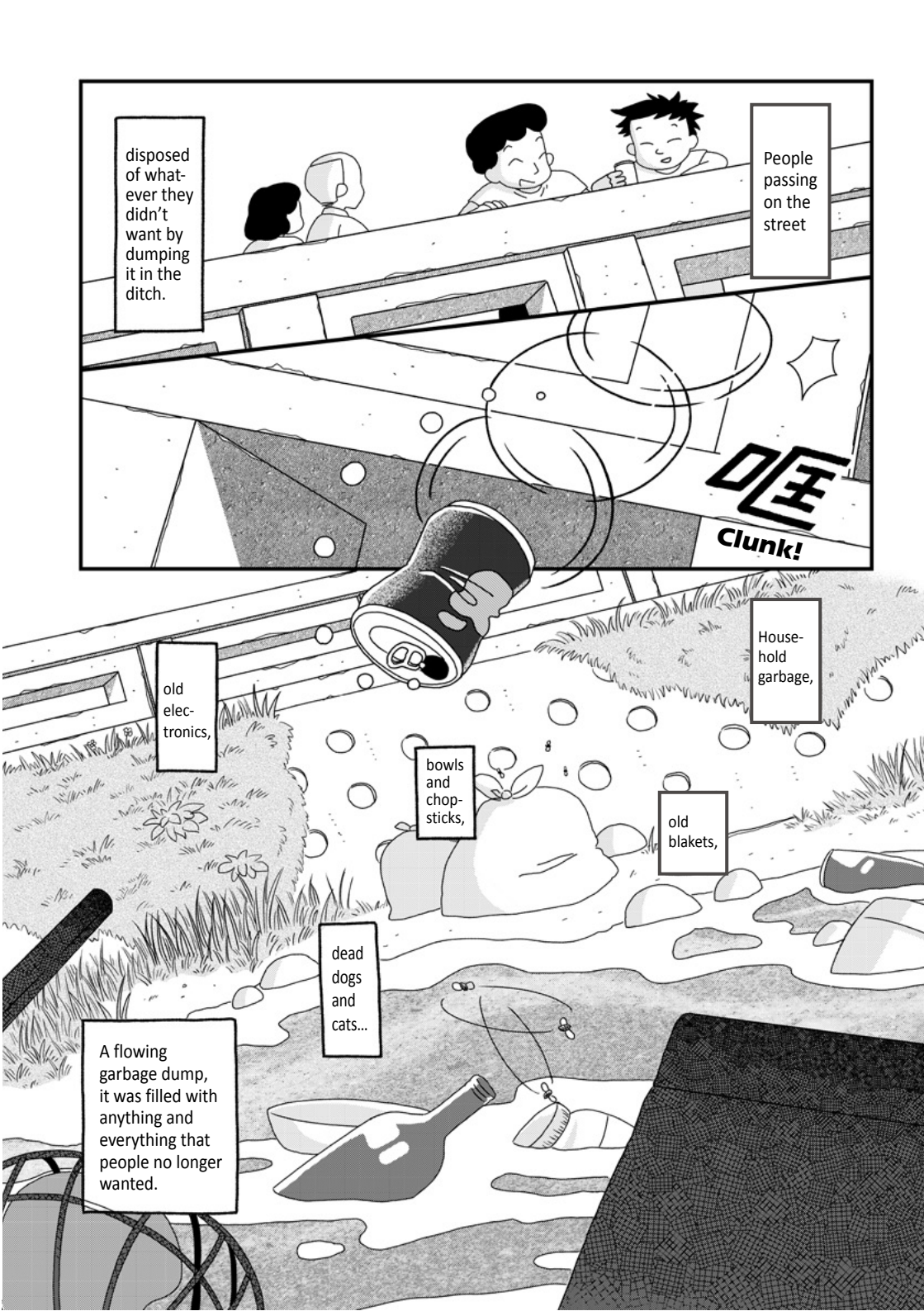


Chapter 1: The Secret Signal of Happiness Ditch









disposed
of what-
ever they
didn't
want by
dumping
it in the
ditch.

People
passing
on the
street

Clunk!

old
elec-
tronics,

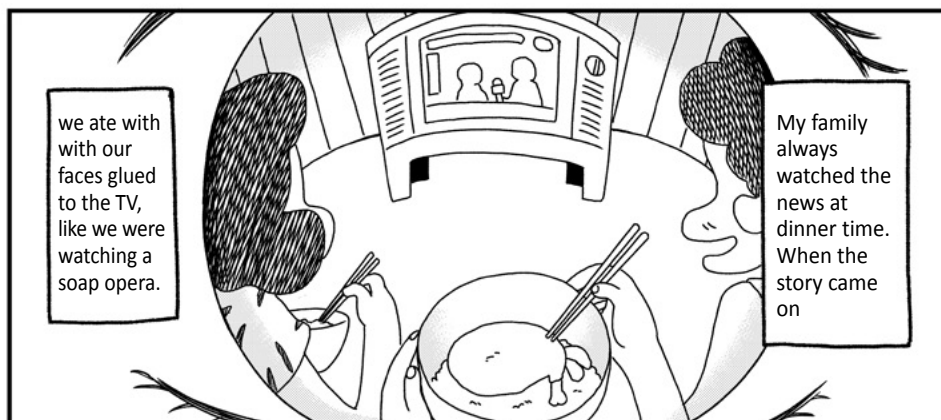
House-
hold
garbage,

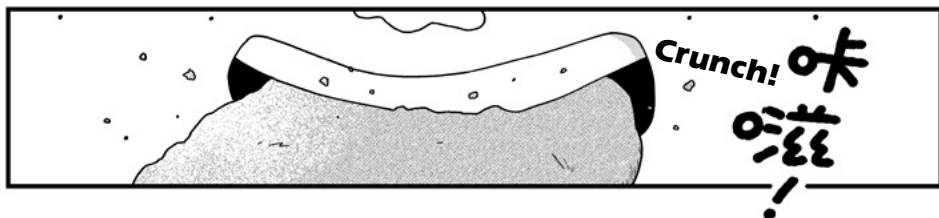
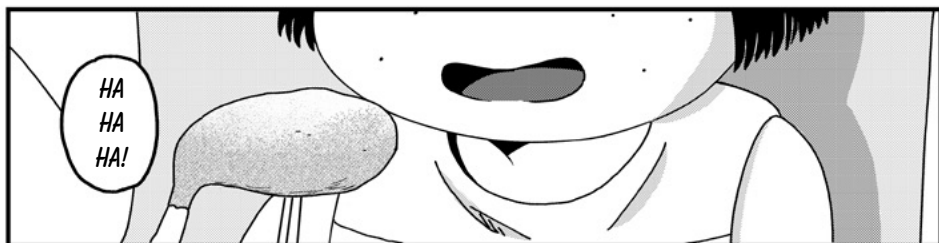
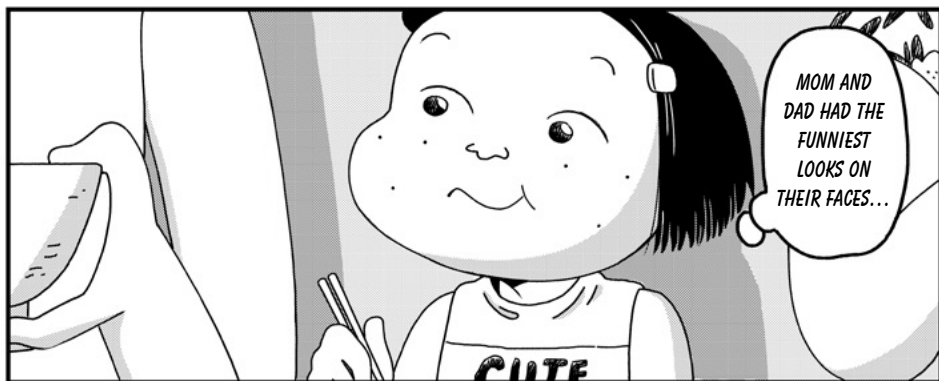
bowls
and
chop-
sticks,

old
blankets,

dead
dogs
and
cats...

A flowing
garbage dump,
it was filled with
anything and
everything that
people no longer
wanted.





I saw a follow-up story about the man who fell into Happiness Ditch.

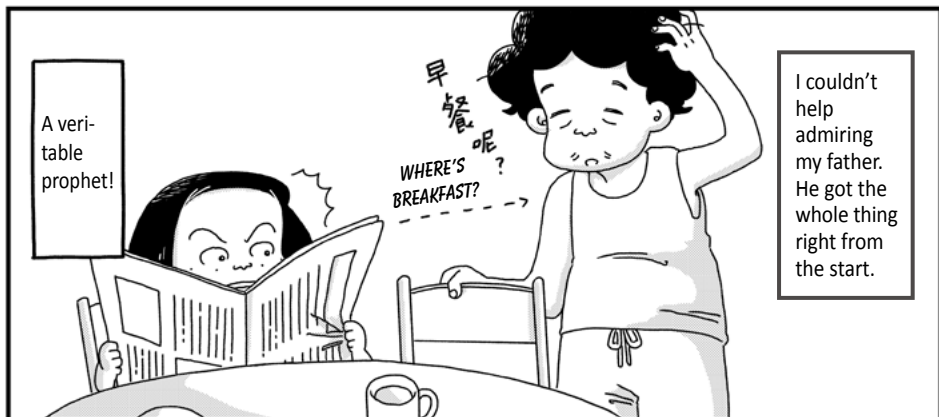


as I was practising reading the paper,

A few days later,

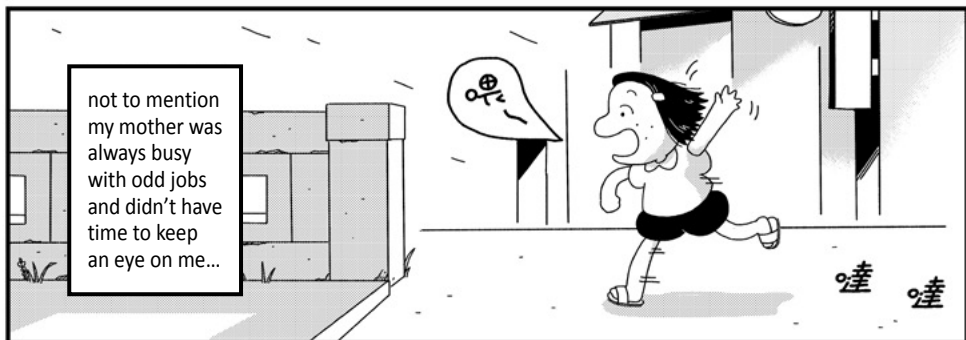
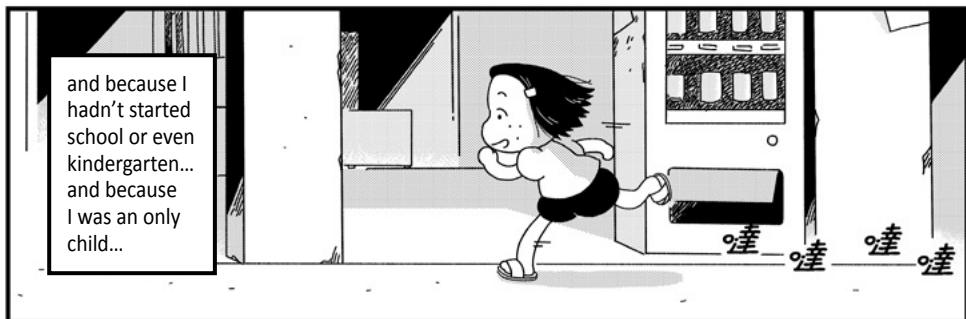
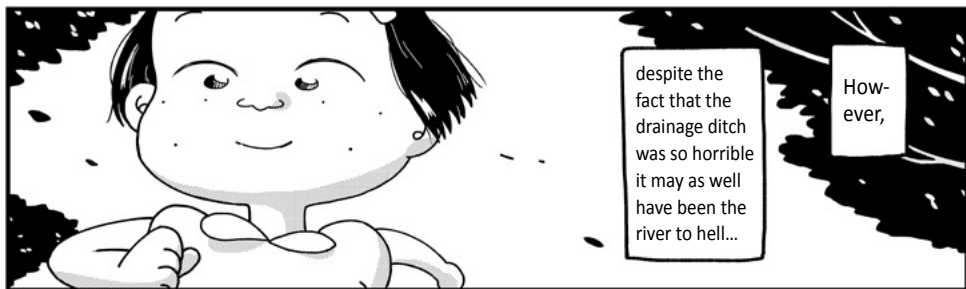


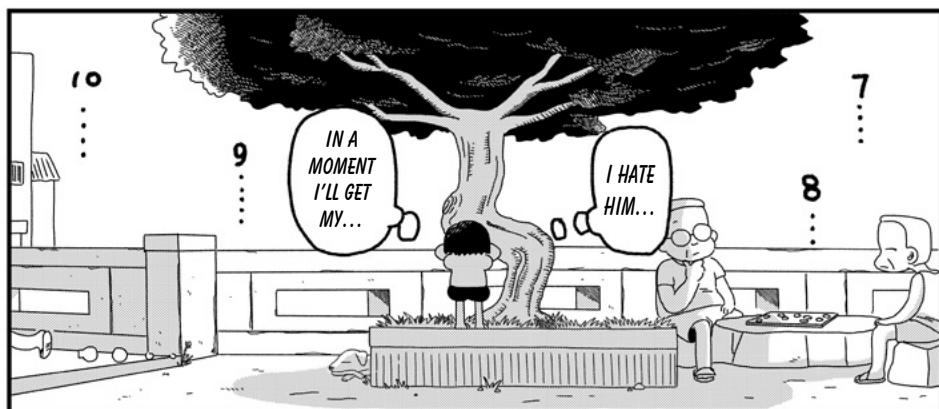
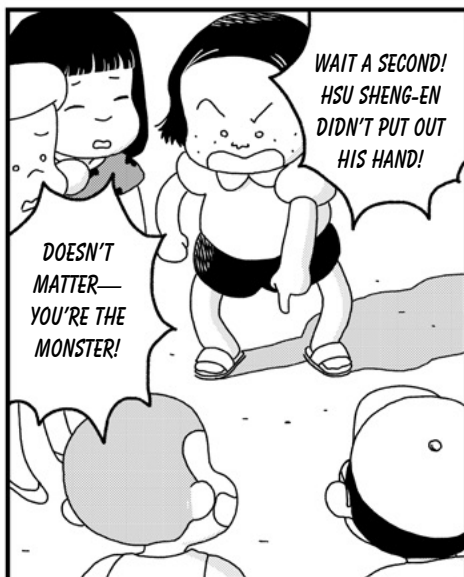
A veritable prophet!

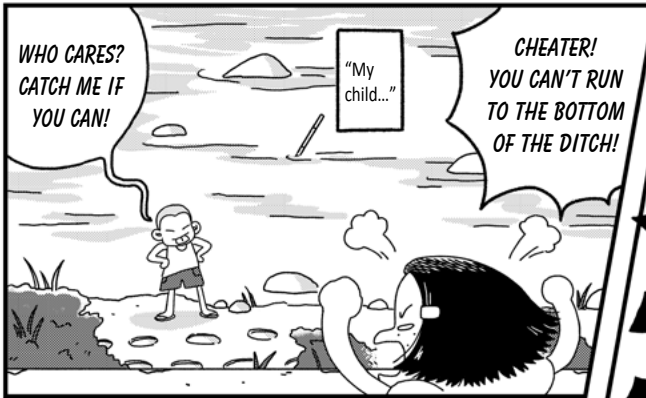
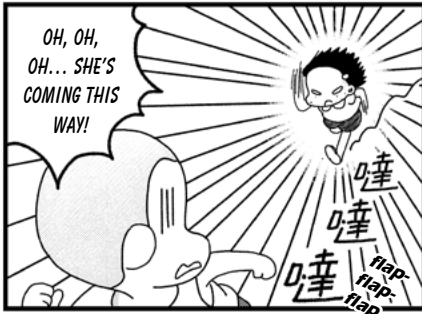


早餐呢?
WHERE'S BREAKFAST?

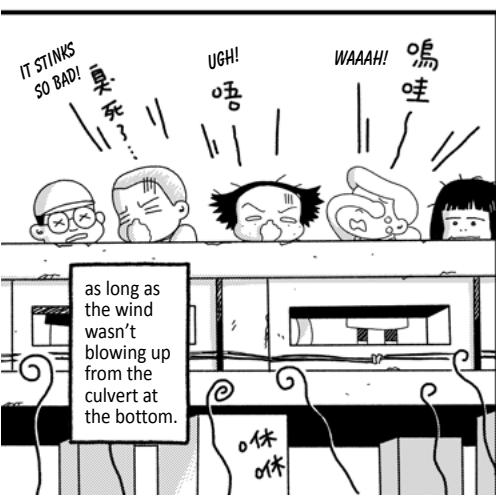
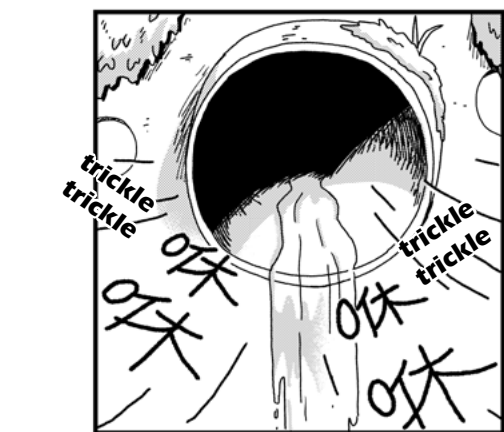
I couldn't help admiring my father. He got the whole thing right from the start.

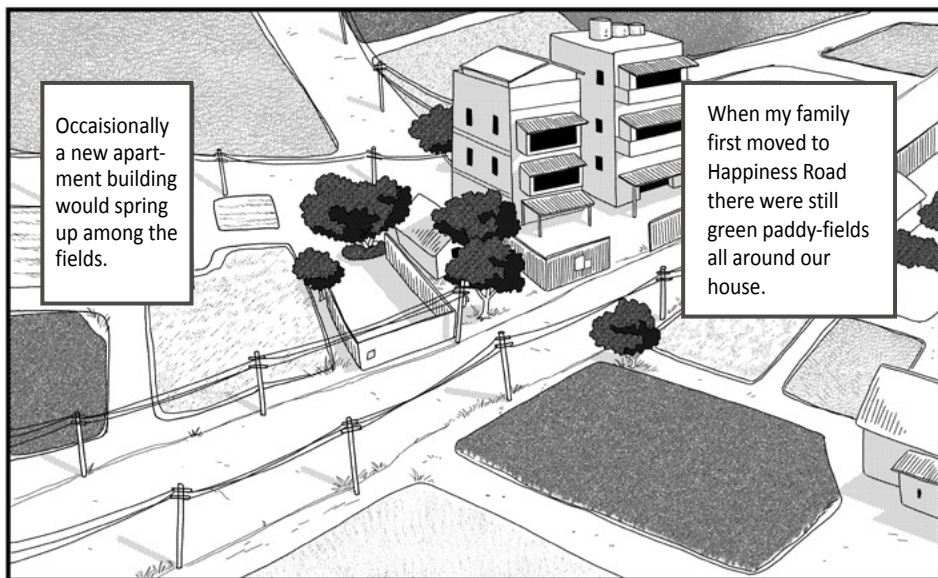






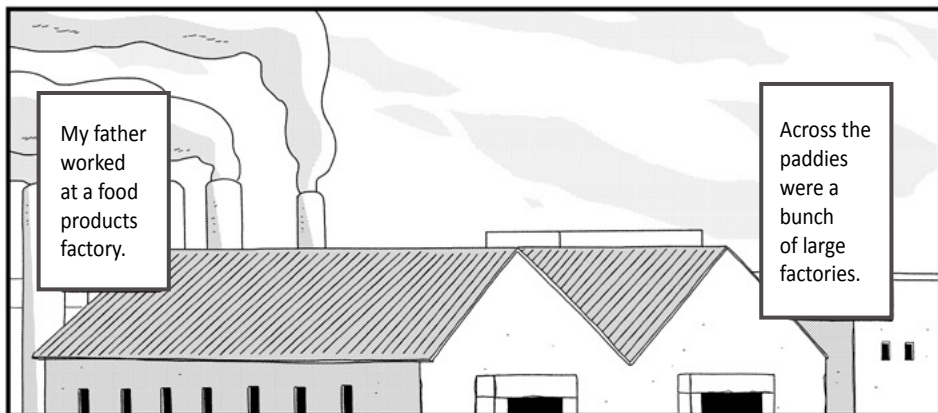






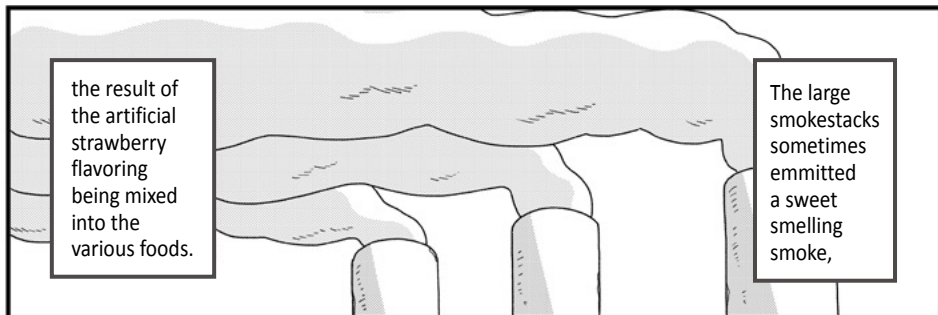
Occasionally a new apartment building would spring up among the fields.

When my family first moved to Happiness Road there were still green paddy-fields all around our house.



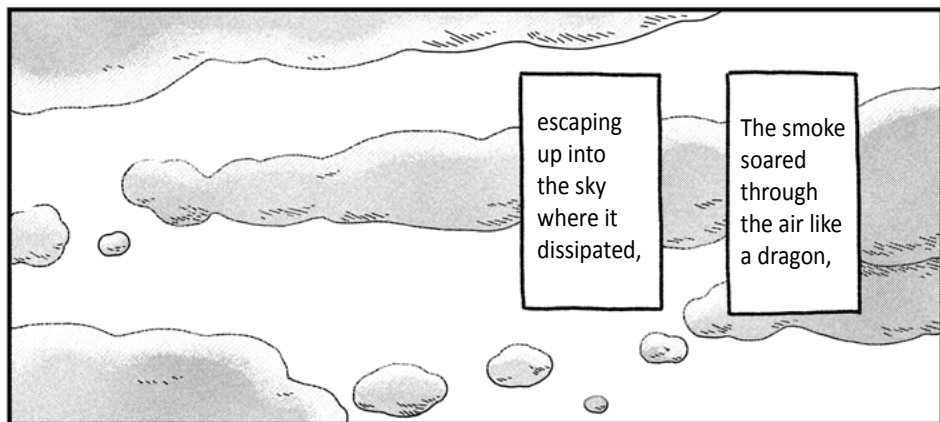
My father worked at a food products factory.

Across the paddies were a bunch of large factories.



the result of the artificial strawberry flavoring being mixed into the various foods.

The large smokestacks sometimes emitted a sweet smelling smoke,

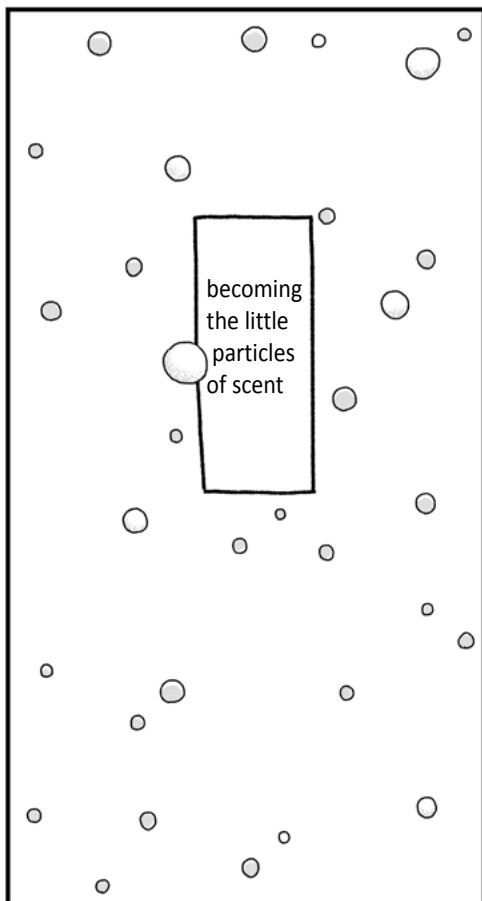


escaping
up into
the sky
where it
dissipated,

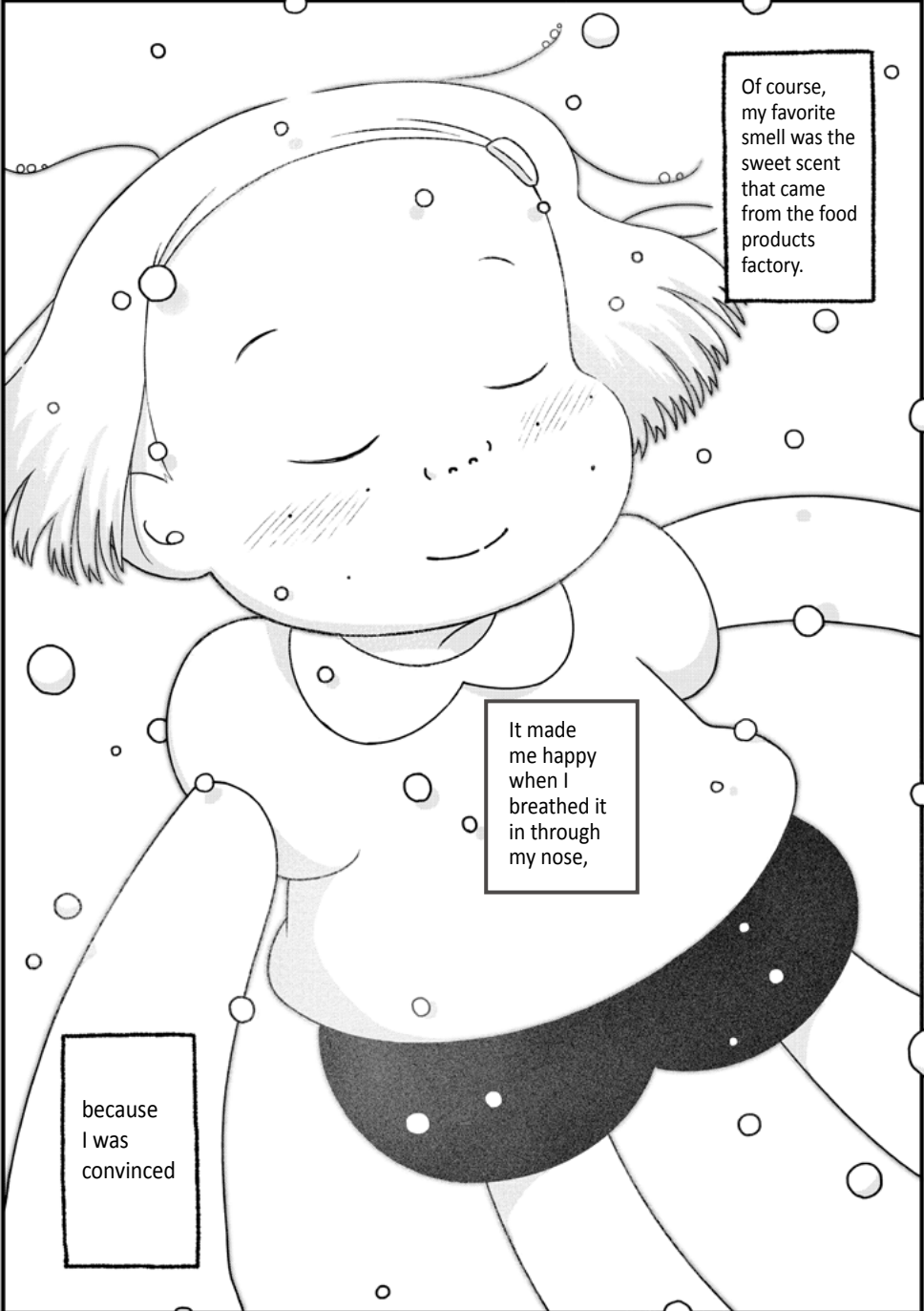
The smoke
soared
through
the air like
a dragon,



that
floated
over
Happi-
ness
Road.



becoming
the little
particles
of scent



Of course,
my favorite
smell was the
sweet scent
that came
from the food
products
factory.

It made
me happy
when I
breathed it
in through
my nose,

because
I was
convinced

How do you like it, Shu-chi?

I love it! Strawberry!

And
whenever I
received it

I was
sure to
send a
reply.

你
有
什
麼
好
意
思
嗎
？
有
！
草
莓
口
味
的
！

that this
sweet smell
was a secret
message sent
by my father.