

PRICELESS: A TAIWANESE PAINTER IN PARIS

無價之畫：巴黎的追光少年

* 2022 Golden Comic Award

A young man in early twentieth century Taiwan decides to relocate to the mecca of the international art: Paris. Despite the hardships of travel and the challenges of living in a new culture, Yang San-lang refuses to abandon his artistic ambitions.

Paris at the beginning of the 20th century called to painters from around the world. Van Gogh, Monet, Cézanne, and other European painters had all spent time in Paris absorbing the rich artistic atmosphere of the city. Among those that arrived to follow in their footsteps was a young painter from a small island in the far East who would one day become the most revered oil painter of his homeland.

After graduating from a Japanese art school in Taiwan in the 1930s, Yang San-lang begins entering his works in various art exhibitions in hopes of proving himself to his family. When an untimely rejection forces him to reflect on the artistic limitations imposed by living in Taiwan, Yang San-lang decides to relocate to Paris to further his studies and expand his horizons.

Acclaimed comic book artist HOM teamed up with the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts to produce this two-part graphic novel that tells the story of master oil-painter Yang San-lang's artistic development in Paris. From his initial anxiety and lack of direction, to the hardships of travel, to the shock of living in another country, the story unfolds in parallel with discussions of Yang's artistic vision and profiles of the influential painters of the time. Diligently researched and enchantingly told, this story carries readers right along beside Yang San-lang as he pursues his artistic dreams.



Publisher: Gaea Books

Date: 3/2021

Rights contact:

booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com

Pages: 176 / 176

Volume: 2 (END)

HOM

Literally a “homegrown” talent, HOM began her manga career as a hobby while she was working in media and game design. Her science fiction manga *The Searcher* won a Golden Comic Award for Best Up-and-Coming Artist in 2011. Meanwhile, HOM had been posting comics about real life and real people on her Facebook page, gradually amassing a fan base. Those comics eventually became *Big City, Little Things*, the series which has come to define her style and artistic acumen.

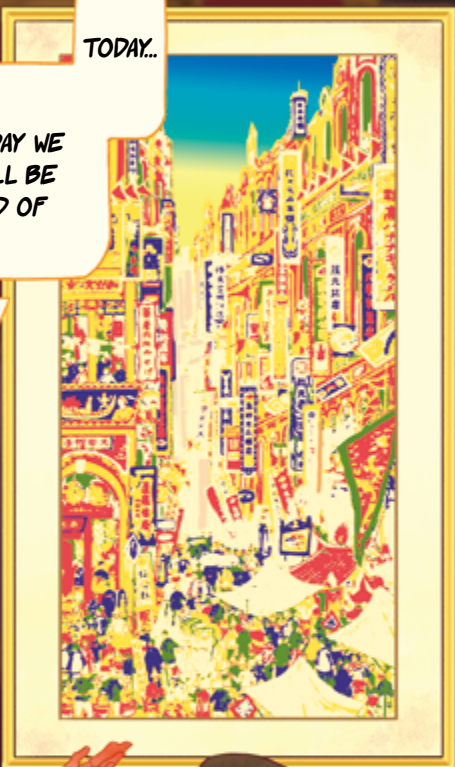


Chapter.

01

*“Painting is a faith,
and it imposes the duty
to disregard public opinion.”*

—Vincent Van Gogh



TODAY...
... IS A DAY WE
CAN ALL BE
PROUD OF

THE OPENING
OF THE
FOURTH TAIWAN
FINE ARTS
EXHIBITION!

ALL OF YOU
JOINTLY
SHARE IN THIS
GREATEST OF
HONORS!

OVER
THESE
PAST
FEW
YEARS,

WE HAVE
GATHERED
TOGETHER
THE ELITES
OF TAIWAN'S
ART WORLD.





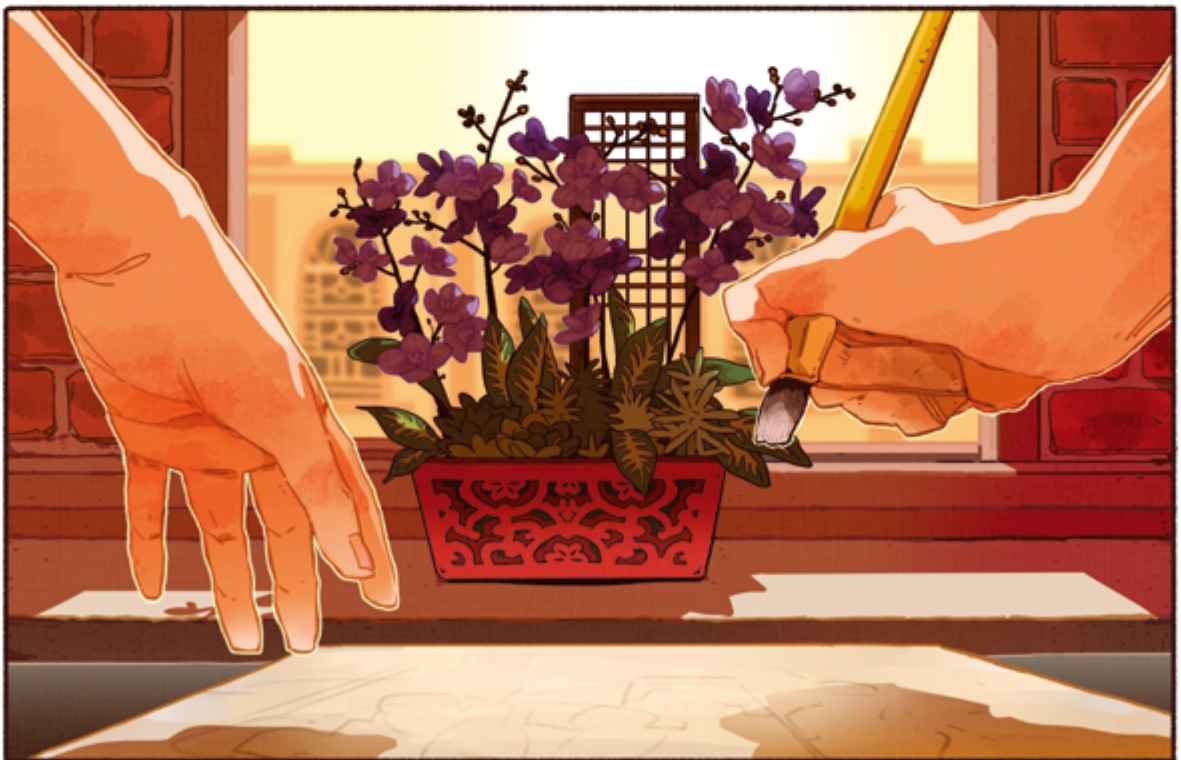
昭和六年

6th Year of the Showa Period

1931

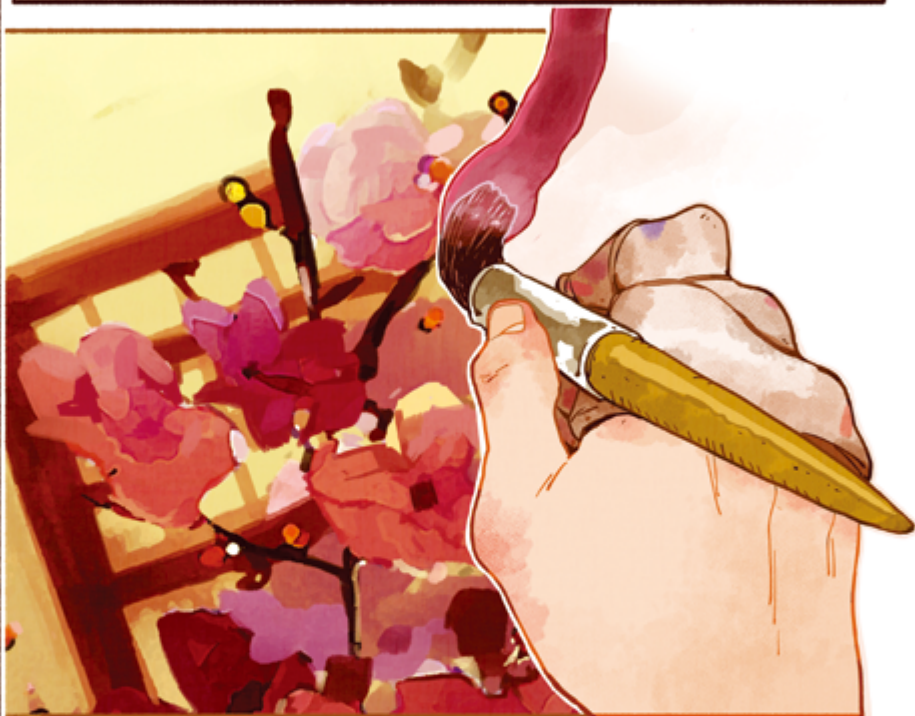
台北大稻埕

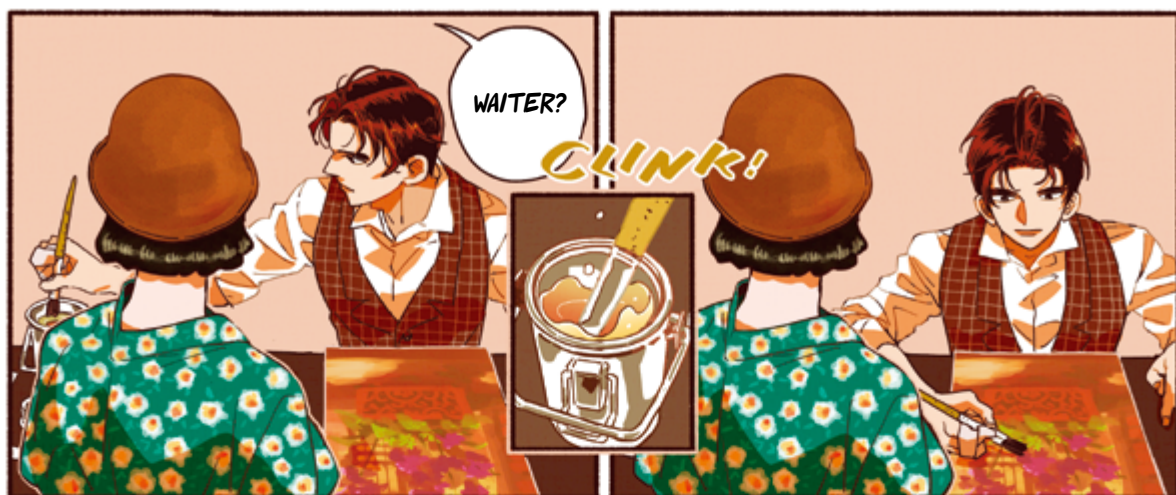
Dadaocheng, Taipei

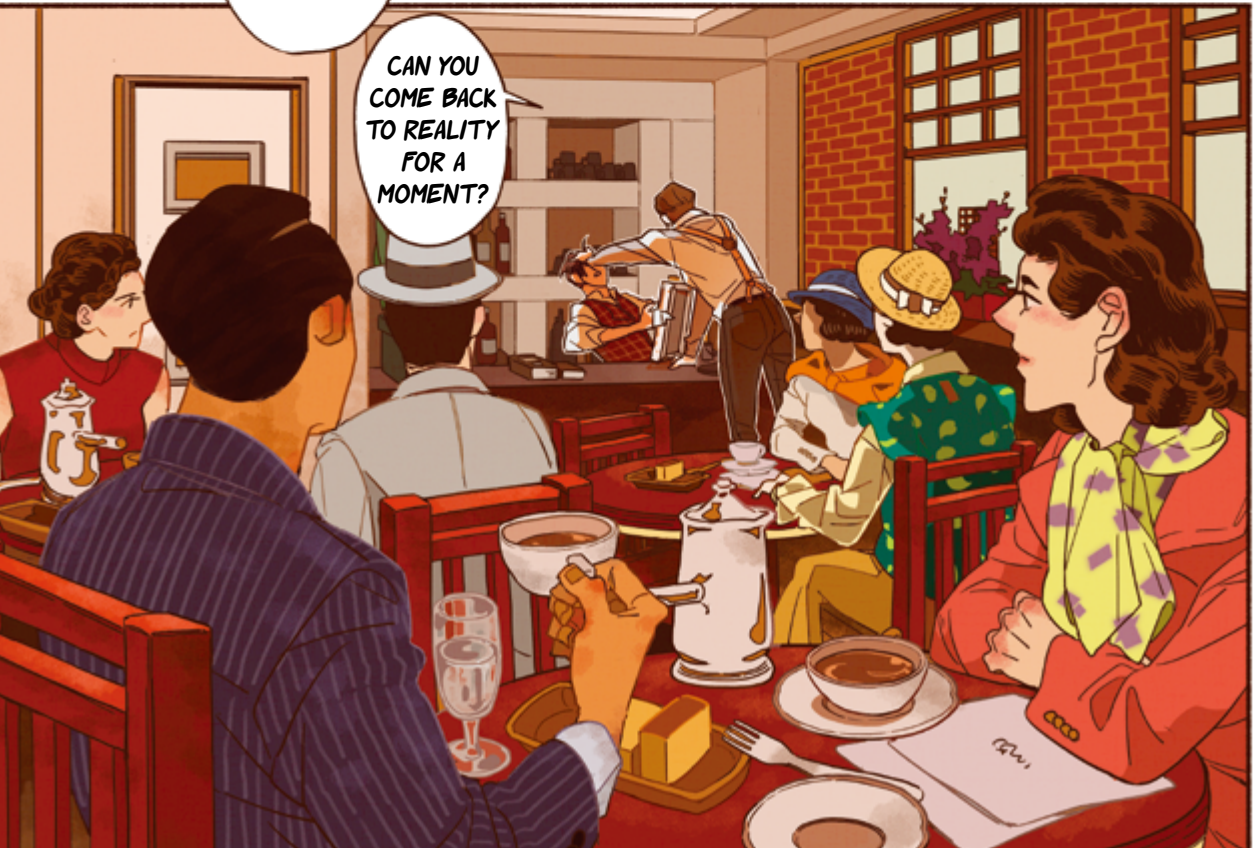


* Taiwanese oil painter Yang San-lang was born Yo Sasaburo, only changing his name to its current form after Taiwan was returned to the Republic of China at the conclusion of World War II.











BRAVO!



I'M SORRY, BROTHER.



GO COLLECT YOUR THINGS AND GET OUT OF HERE.

WITH THEIR COFFEE AND CAKE.

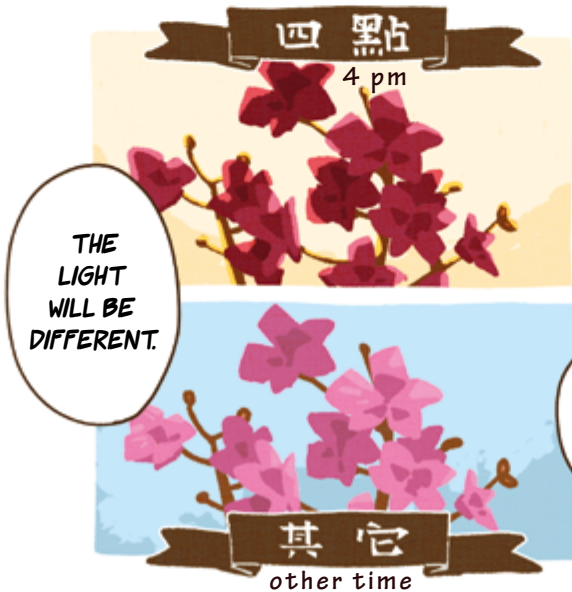
SIGHS-
ONLY WHEN YOU'RE ON DUTY CAN OUR GUESTS ENJOY THE SCENT OF OIL PAINTS

Yang Cheng-chi

楊承基



PUT ANOTHER WAY...

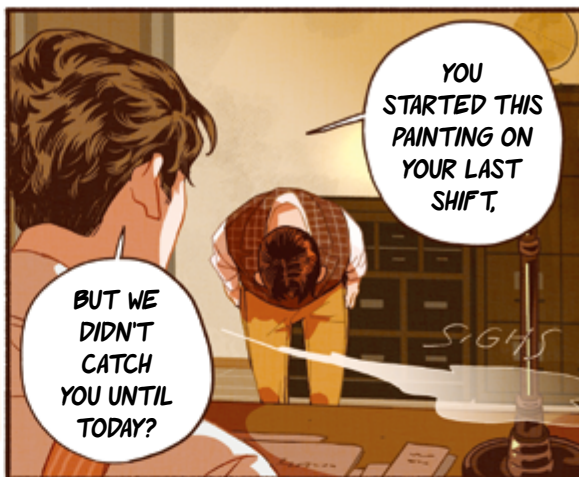


THE LIGHT WILL BE DIFFERENT.

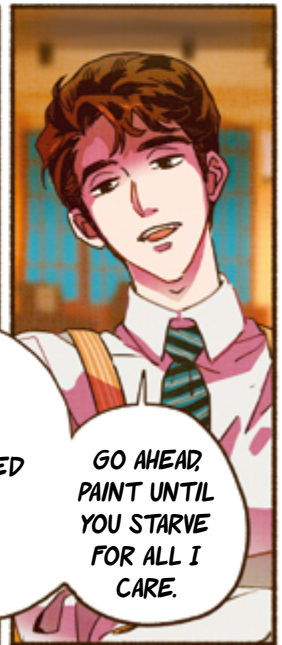


IF IT'S NOT EXACTLY THE SAME TIME, I'M SORRY... IT'S JUST THAT I HAVE TO PAINT AT FOUR IN THE AFTERNOON.

其它
other time









THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME MY BROTHER EVER LOOKED ME STRAIGHT IN THE EYE: WHEN I QUESTIONED THE VALUE OF HIS WORK.

DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOT YOUR PROBLEM.

I STEPPED OUTSIDE BUT I DIDN'T SEE HIM ANYWHERE. I'M SORRY, MR. YANG.



HOW WILL HE EVER BECOME A GREAT ARTIST?

IF HE CAN'T EVEN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF,







ARE YOU PAINTING THE GARDEN?

YES, I'M PREPARING FOR THE TAIWAN EXHIBITION CONTEST.



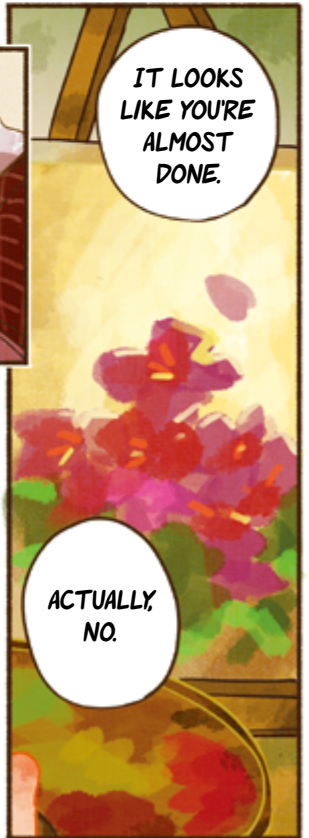
MOTHER. FATHER.



RIGHT NOW.

I WON'T SEND ANYTHING OFF UNLESS I'M 100% SATISFIED WITH MY WORK.

I'M JUST PRACTICING. I WANT TO CAPTURE THE TONES CREATED IN THIS LIGHT.



IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALMOST DONE.

ACTUALLY, NO.

SEURAT

DIVIDED
SUNLIGHT
INTO SEVEN
DIFFERENT
COLORS,
THEN
PAINTED
USING SMALL
DOTS OF
THESE BASIC
COLORS.

AT A DISTANCE
THE VIEWER'S MIND
AUTOMATICALLY
BLENDS THEM
TOGETHER, AND THE
PICTURE COMES
INTO FOCUS.



MONET

CAPTURED
THE
INFINITELY
VARIABLE
NATURE OF
LIGHT...

IN HIS 25
PAINTINGS OF
HAYSTACKS.

THEY
ARE
BEAUTI-
FUL.

IS THIS WHY
YOU'RE SO
SERIOUS ABOUT
STUDYING
DIFFERENT
TONES?



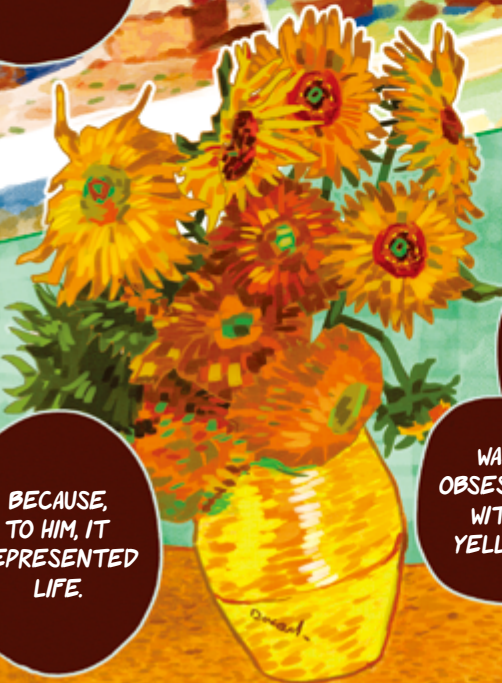
VAN GOGH

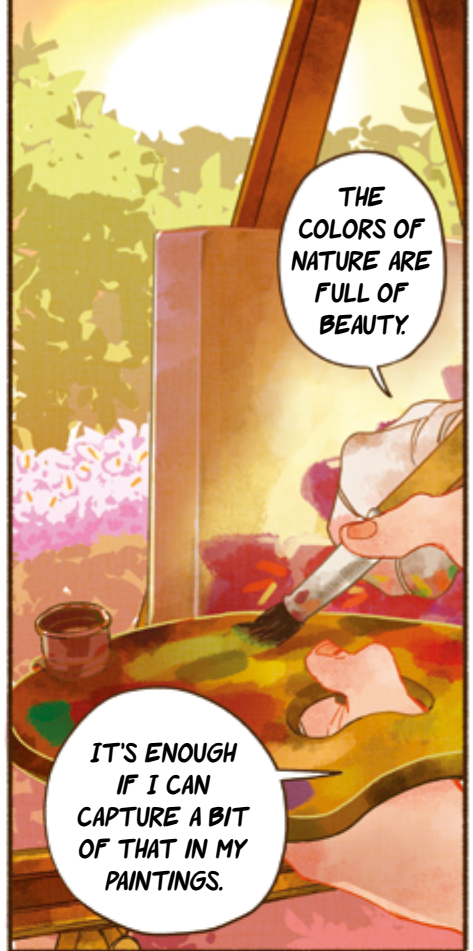
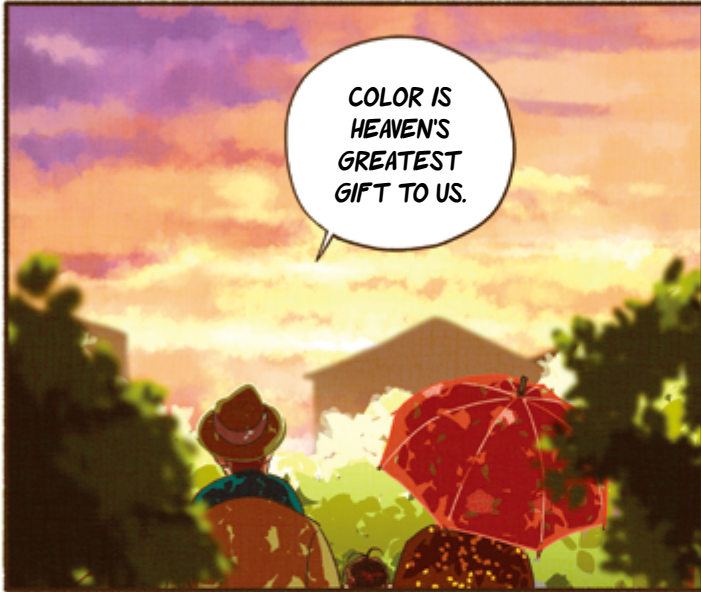
WAS
OBSESSED
WITH
YELLOW.

BECAUSE,
TO HIM, IT
REPRESENTED
LIFE.

THESE
WESTERN
PAINTERS

HAVE ALL
DEVELOPED
THEIR OWN
UNDERSTANDING
OF COLOR.







DON'T TELL ME YOUR BIG BROTHER IS GOING SOFT ON US!

ONLY ONE KICK? HE WENT EASY ON YOU!

HAHAHA

...



Vincent van Gogh, painter

Theo van Gogh, patron

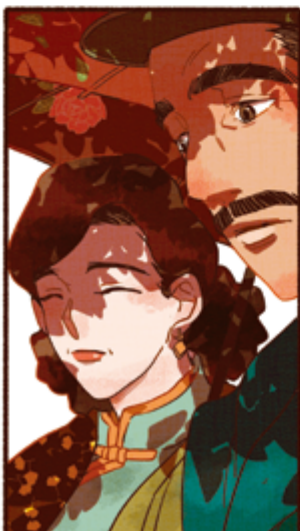
HA HA. REALLY NOW,

I CAN HELP OUT BY DOING SOME FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR STUDIO!

THE TWO OF YOU OUGHT TO DO WHAT THE VAN GOGH BROTHERS DID,

CHENG-CHI ISN'T GOING TO INVEST IN MY PAINTINGS.

AND FIND A WAY TO SELL YOUR PAINTINGS OVERSEAS!



BUT ONCE I AM, THE MONEY SHOULD COME, RIGHT?

I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH YET.





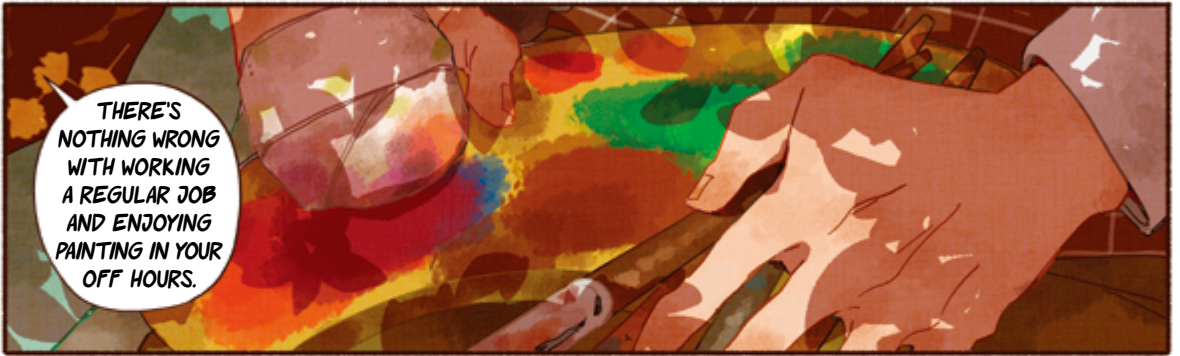


ARE YOU PREPARED TO FACE THAT?

YOU MIGHT PAINT YOUR WHOLE LIFE AND NEVER RECEIVE ANY COMPEN-SATION.

...

WHAT I MEAN TO SAY IS,



THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH WORKING A REGULAR JOB AND ENJOYING PAINTING IN YOUR OFF HOURS.





TAIPEI
HAS FEW
COLLECTORS,
OR EVEN
ARTISTS.

BUT WHAT
CAN I DO?

OF COURSE
I KNOW
THIS ISN'T
PARIS.



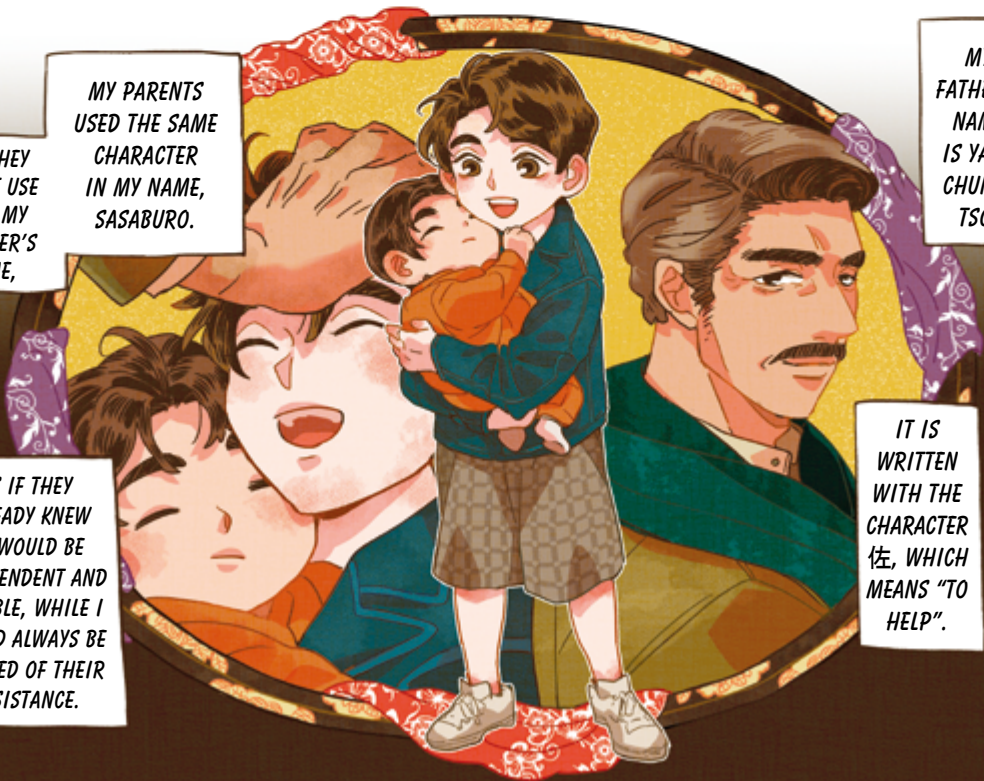
BUT THEY
DIDN'T USE
IT IN MY
BROTHER'S
NAME,

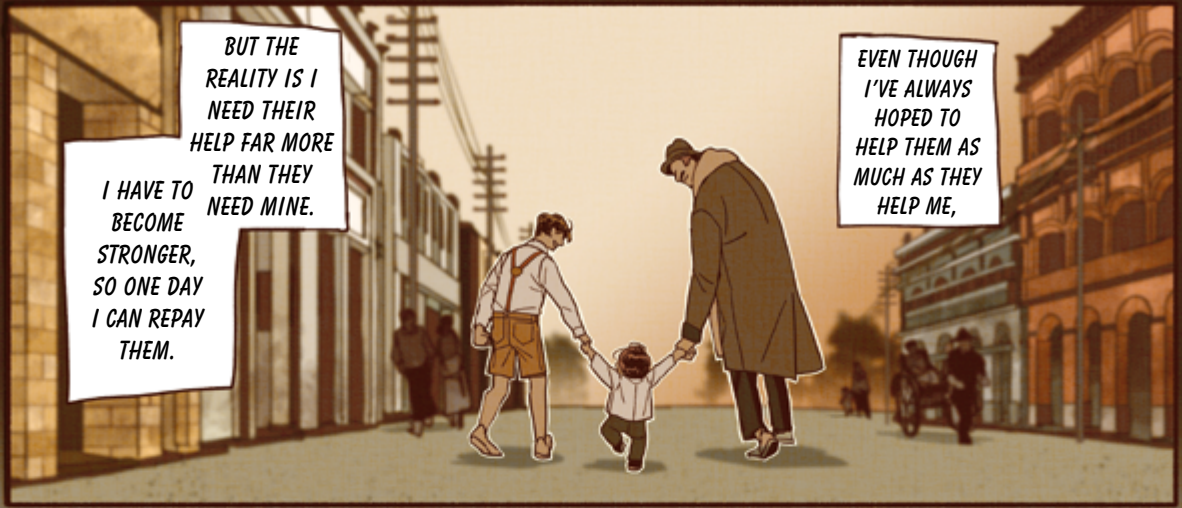
MY PARENTS
USED THE SAME
CHARACTER
IN MY NAME,
SASABURO.

MY
FATHER'S
NAME
IS YANG
CHUNG-
TSO.

IT IS
WRITTEN
WITH THE
CHARACTER
佐, WHICH
MEANS "TO
HELP".

AS IF THEY
ALREADY KNEW
HE WOULD BE
INDEPENDENT AND
CAPABLE, WHILE I
WOULD ALWAYS BE
IN NEED OF THEIR
ASSISTANCE.





I HAVE TO
BECOME
STRONGER,
SO ONE DAY
I CAN REPAY
THEM.

BUT THE
REALITY IS I
NEED THEIR
HELP FAR MORE
THAN THEY
NEED MINE.

EVEN THOUGH
I'VE ALWAYS
HOPED TO
HELP THEM AS
MUCH AS THEY
HELP ME,



THERE IS
NO CHOICE
BUT TO
CONTINUE ON
MY CHOSEN
PATH.

THE ONLY
THING I
DO WELL IS
PAINTING.
WHETHER
I DO IT
FOR THEM,
OR FOR
MYSELF,



...

OR AM I
THINKING
ABOUT IT
ALL WRONG?



IT REALLY
ISN'T
THAT
COMPLI-
CATED.

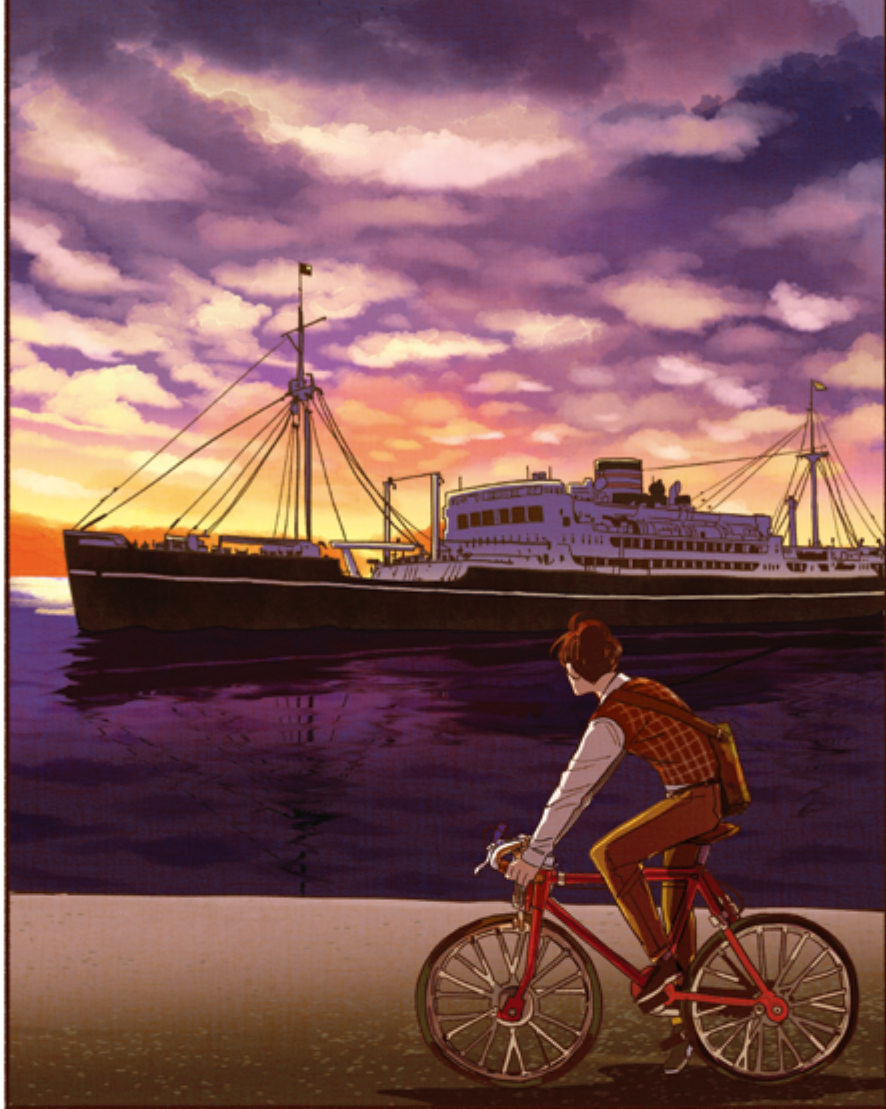
EITHER
I'VE GOT
TO WORK
HARDER...

... OR
I'M JUST
KIDDING
MYSELF.



KEELUNG
HARBOR?!





HOW DID
I END UP
BIKING
SO FAR?



WHERE ALL
OF THOSE
FAMOUS
ARTISTS
LIVED?

COULD
THIS
BOAT BE
HEADED TO
EUROPE,

NOT PARIS,
WITH ITS
LONG
HISTORY
OF APPRE-
CIATING
GREAT ART!"



"THIS IS
TAIPEI,

I CAN'T JUST
OBSESS OVER
ALL OF THIS
NEGATIVE STUFF.

I NEED
TO CALM
DOWN.



HE ALSO
FACED HIS
SHARE OF
PROBLEMS
IN LIFE.

HE HAD
LESSONS HE
NEEDED TO
LEARN, JUST
LIKE ME.

VAN
GOGH DIDN'T
LIVE IN SOME
FAIRY TALE. HE
AND WORKED WAS A FLESH
ON THE OTHER AND BLOOD
SIDE OF THE PERSON,
OCEAN.







SO,
LET'S GET
STARTED!



I'LL NEED
A LOT OF
YELLOW FOR
THIS ONE.

DAMN...
I'M OUT OF
PAINTS.



LATELY,
I'VE BEEN
PRACTICING
WORKING WITH
LIGHT. I THINK
I'VE GOT IT
DOWN, NOW.



PLEASE LET ME COME WORK AGAIN.

CHENG-CHI,



I SWEAR, I WON'T!

HOW DO I KNOW YOU WON'T PAINT WHEN YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING?



I THOUGHT YOU HAD STARVED TO DEATH.

TELL ME, WHICH ARE HARDER TO KILL, ARTISTS OR COCKROACHES?

DEFINITELY ARTISTS.

BUT RUNNING OUT OF PAINTS SCARES ME FAR MORE THAN RUNNING OUT OF FOOD.



BUT...



I CAN WORK EXTRA HOURS IN THE EVENING TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU!



I NEED TO PRACTICE CAPTURING THE COLORS PRODUCED BY NATURAL SUNLIGHT!

... COULD I HAVE THREE HOURS OFF EVERY AFTERNOON?



PLEASE!

JUST GIVE ME A SECOND CHANCE!

I'LL WORK AS LATE AS YOU NEED ME TOO!



BROTHER!

WHAT NOW?



HURRY UP AND WASH SOME CUPS, WILL YOU?

