

# SLEEPING BRAIN

## 陷眠者

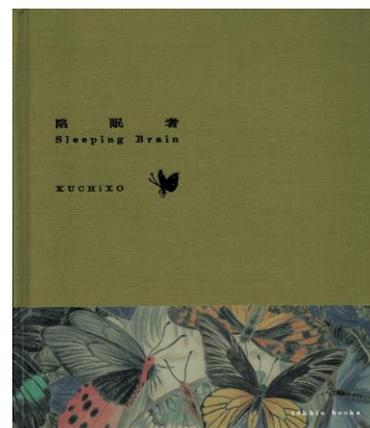
*An ethnically Chinese entomologist enters a forest deep in the mountains of Taiwan, searching for the unique Dream Butterfly. After joining up with a Japanese photographer and a mute girl, a series of bizarre events begins to unfold, hinting at a mysterious secret hidden within the forest.*

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The goal of entomologist Gong Wei-Hua, a second-generation Chinese living in Taiwan, is to bring a specimen of Taiwan's rare Dream Butterfly back to his "motherland" China. After entering the Taiping Mountains he meets an amateur photographer from Japan, Aramura Kiichi, who loves to photograph butterflies. On the basis of their common interests, the two continue their quests together.

Soon, they encounter a mysterious mute girl who maintains a living menagerie of rare butterflies deep in the forest. Overcome with excitement, Gong Wei-Hua suggests that she join their search as well, unaware of the significance of this simple act. For as soon as the girl joins them, the atmosphere in the forest changes, and a series of bizarre events begins to unfold: through his camera, Aramura Kiichi can see armed Japanese soldiers in the forest; and explosions, like the sound of crashing planes, can be heard in the distance. What is the connection between the mute girl and these strange events? Why was she living alone in the forest? And what other secrets does this forest hide?

This highly-crafted graphic novel uses the forest setting, and the varied backgrounds and motivations of its three protagonists, to construct a magic-realist fable of Taiwan, conjuring the history of the island's frequently contested status, the lingering shadow of the White Terror, and the ethnic identities of its inhabitants, ultimately leading readers into a dream-like space that will spark the imagination and invite a wealth of interpretations.



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**Rights contact:**

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## KUCHiXO

Comic book writer/artist KUCHiXO has self-published the graphic novels *The Golden Room* and *Do You Realize??* in addition to a number of shorter works.



光も通さぬ霧の中  
(In this thick fog that blocks out the sun,)

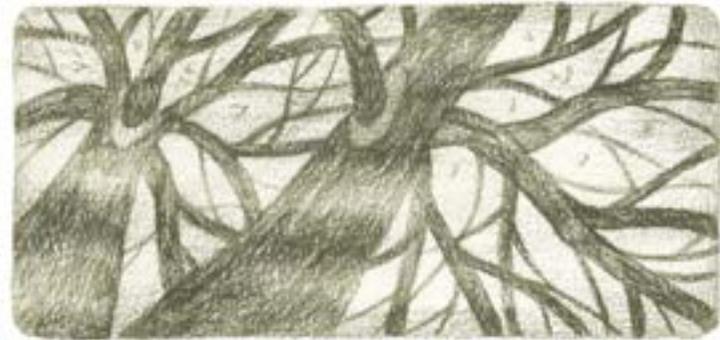


我々が夢見鳥に見る美しさは  
(I can no longer discern the butterflies' beauty.)



その羽ばたきゆえか

(Are they beautiful because they flutter their wings?)



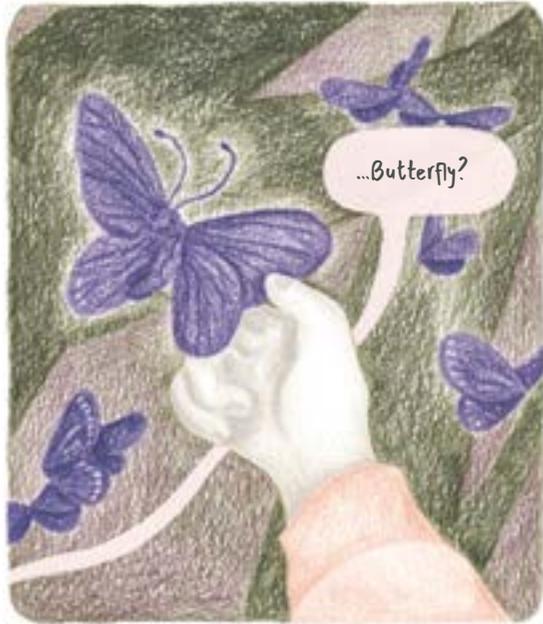
はたまた、霧の間に浮かぶ影ゆえか  
(Or is it because of the misty shadows I'm seeing?)

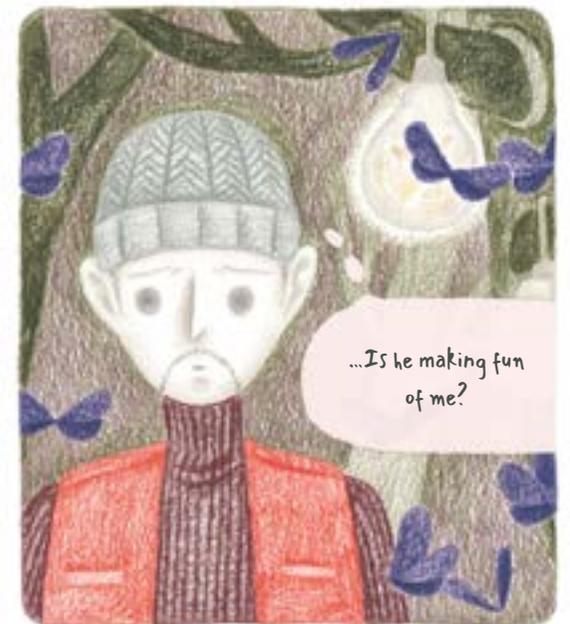
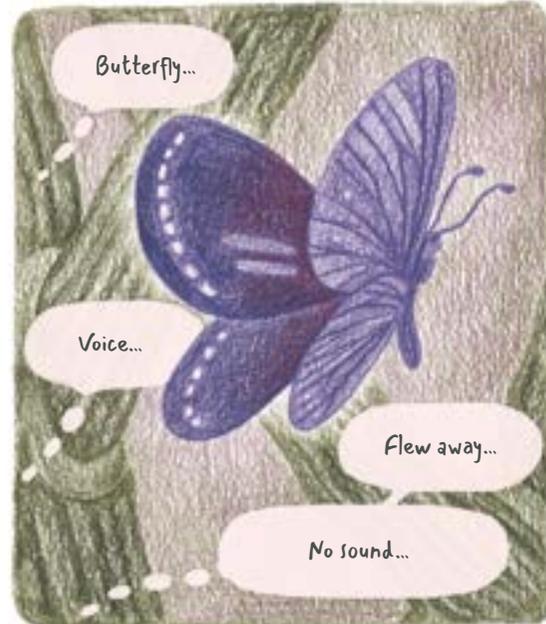








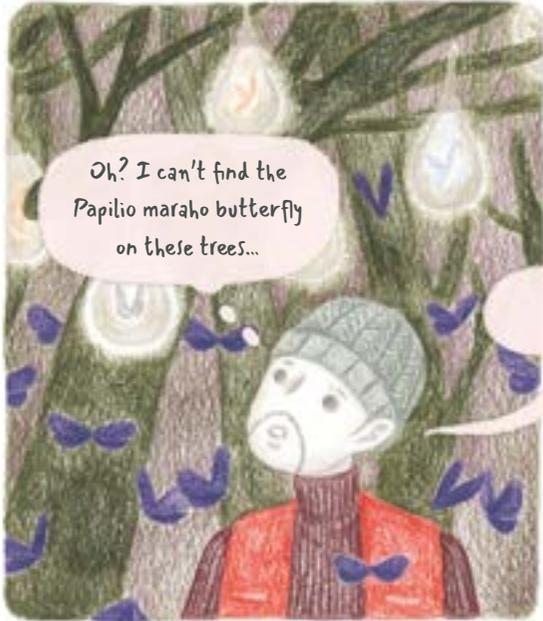






How can butterflies take away your voice? I don't believe it...

It can't be here, can it...



Oh? I can't find the Papilio maraho butterfly on these trees...



...Are you also here to look for butterflies?

Mm!



Looks like you've caught quite a few.



Let me guess,

are you also a butterfly collector?

...

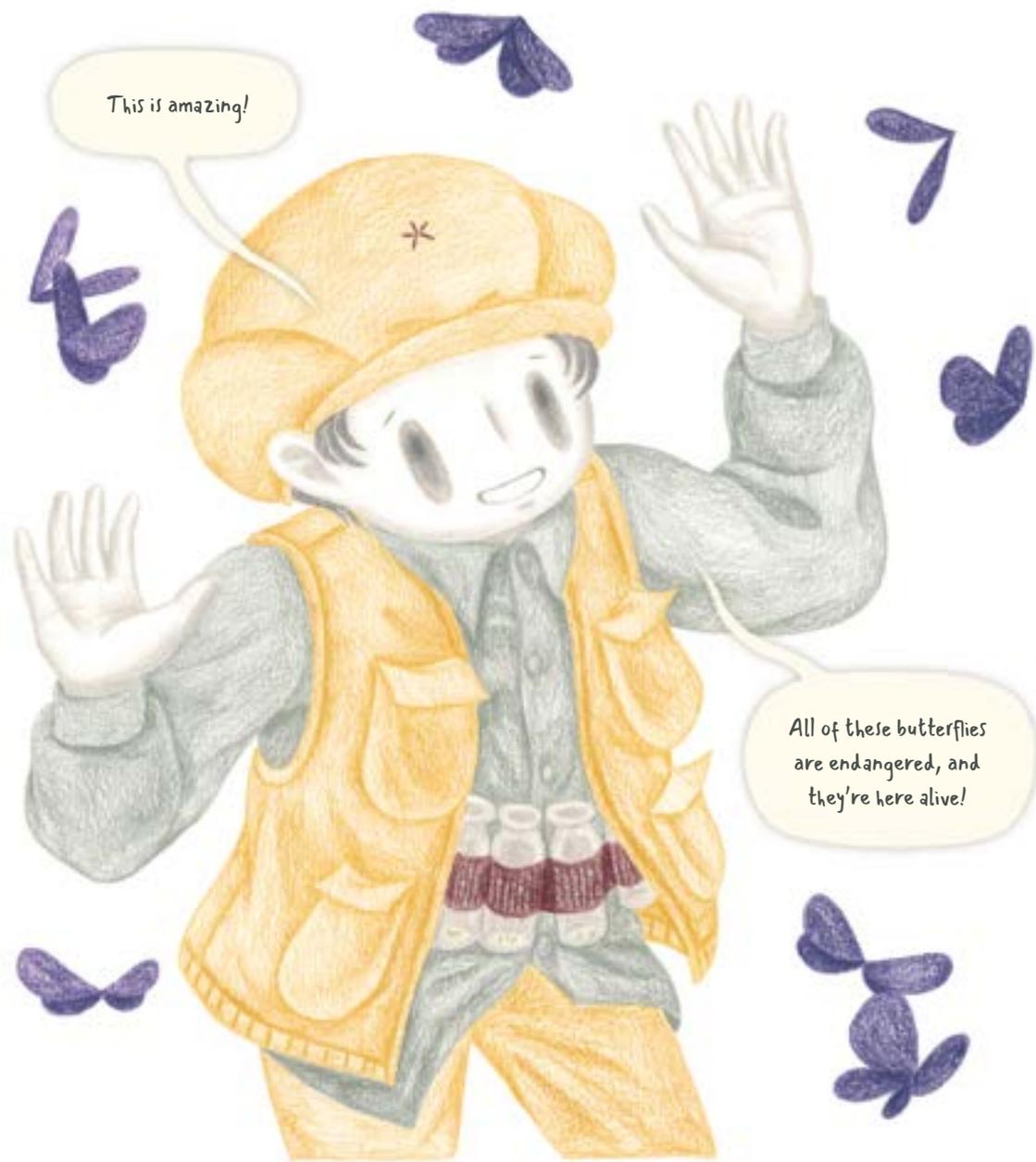


Iah... Iah-á...



Oh, no?









Iah-á...



It died?



This... Aren't we too careless?

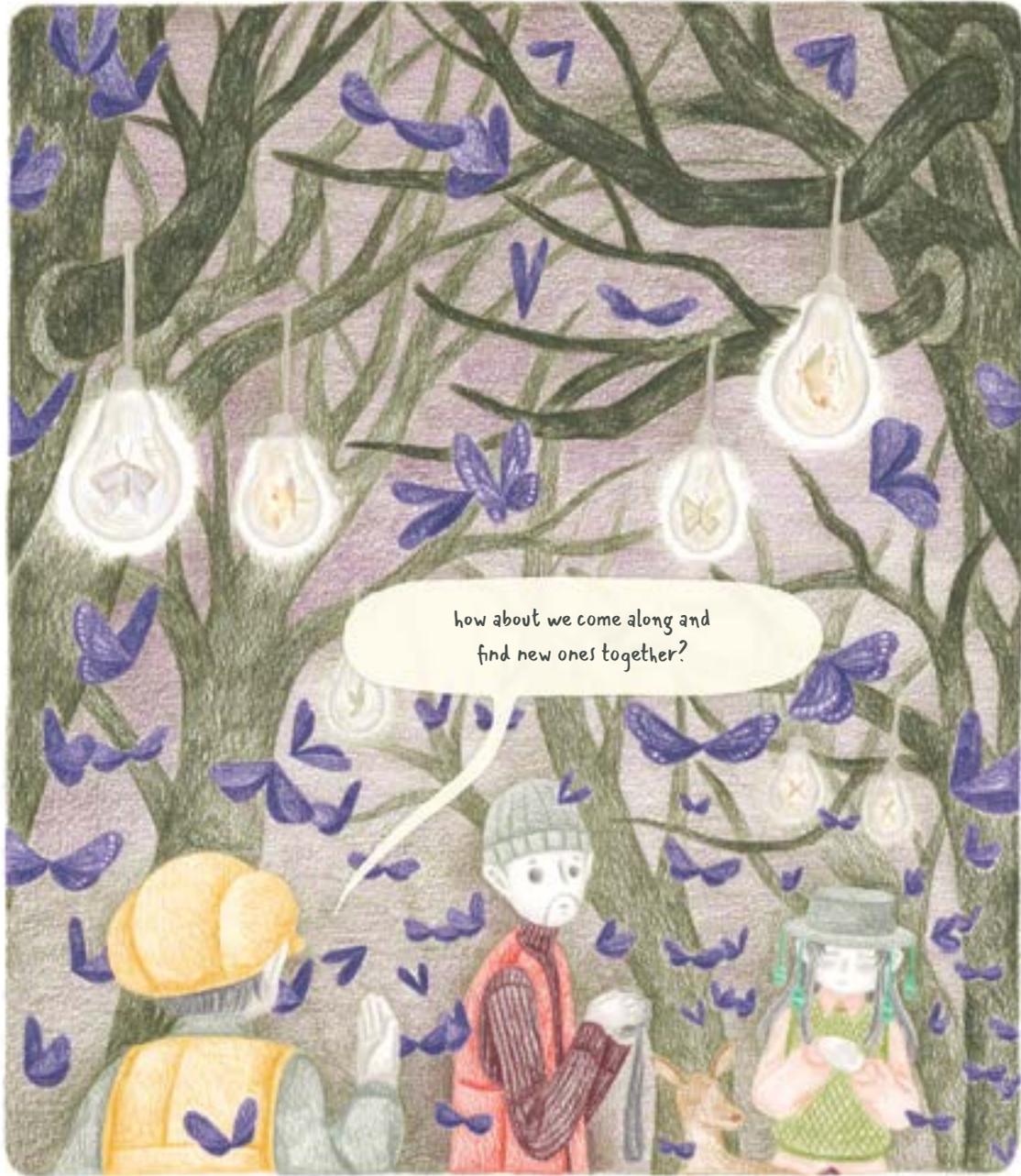


Ah...

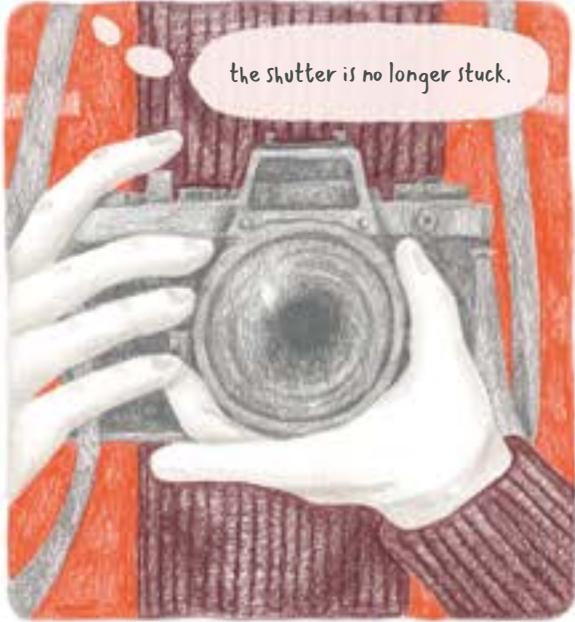
How about this?



Aramura and I, we're not familiar with these mountains. If you're going to look for such a rare butterfly,





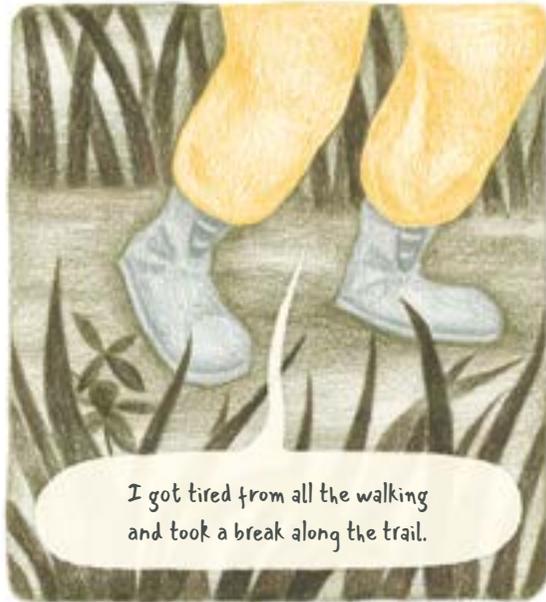


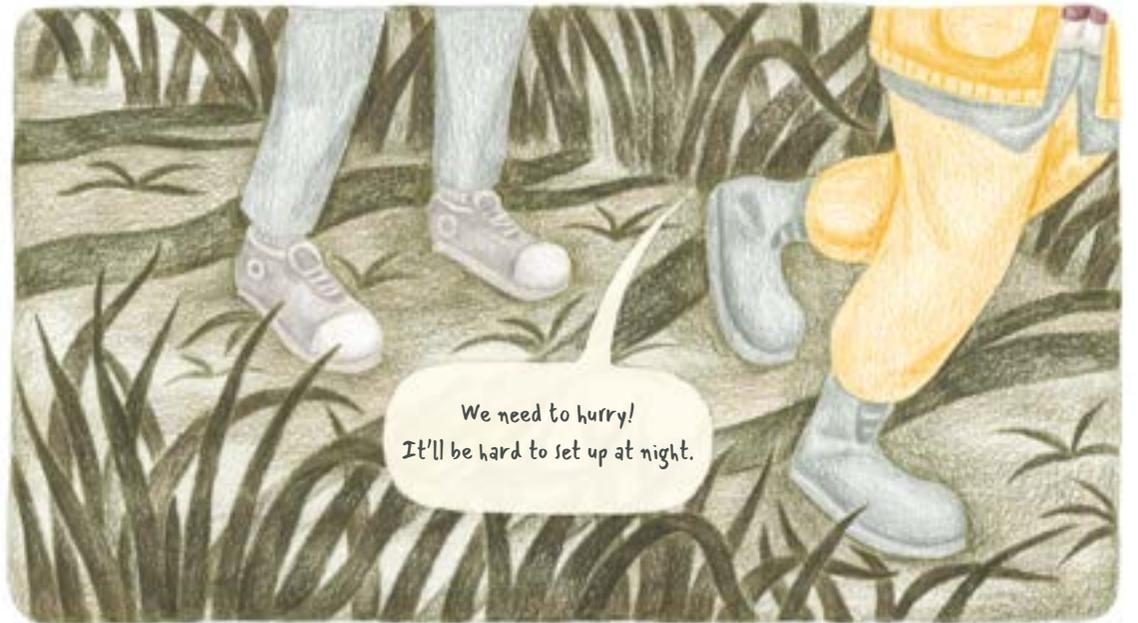


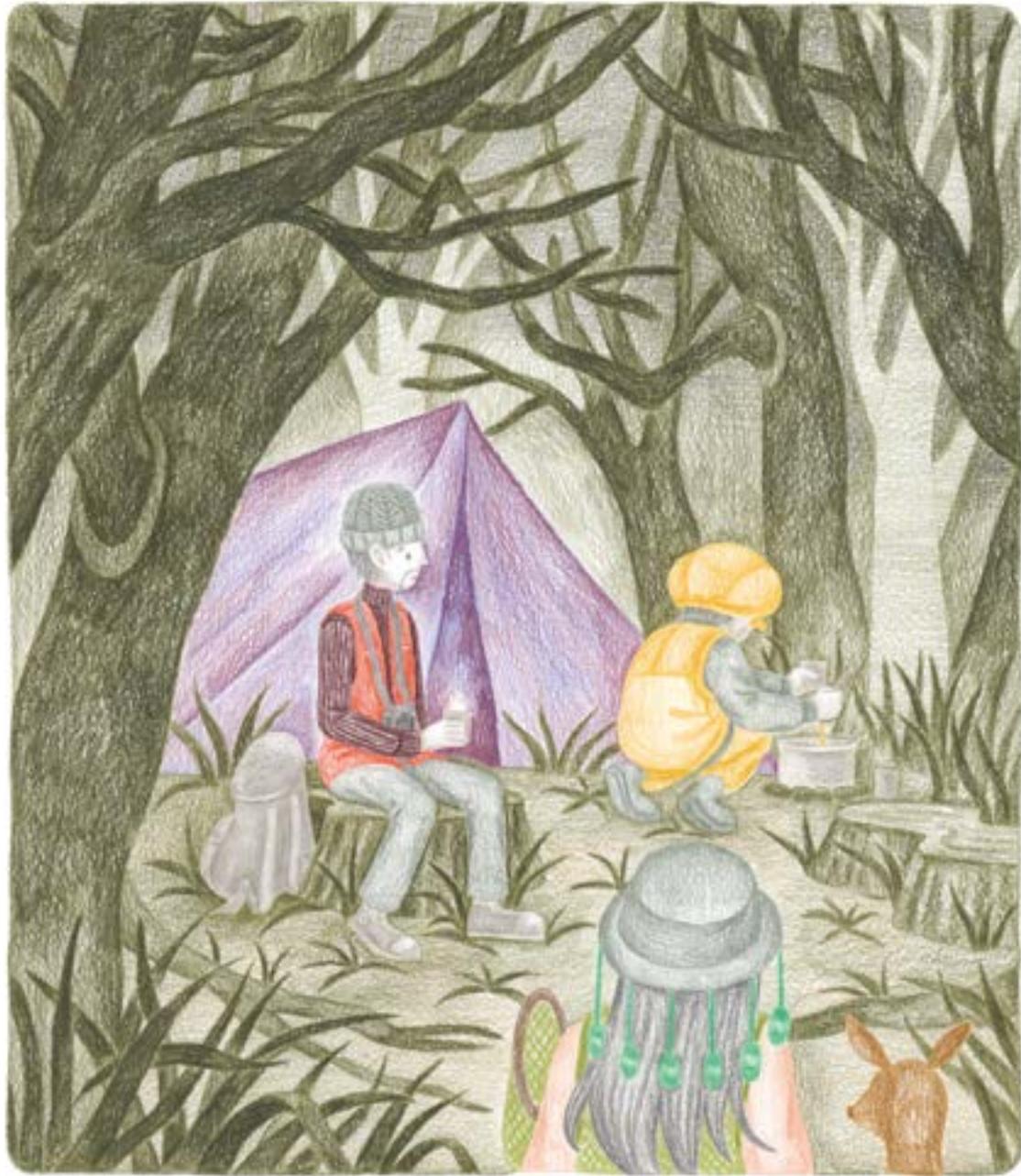


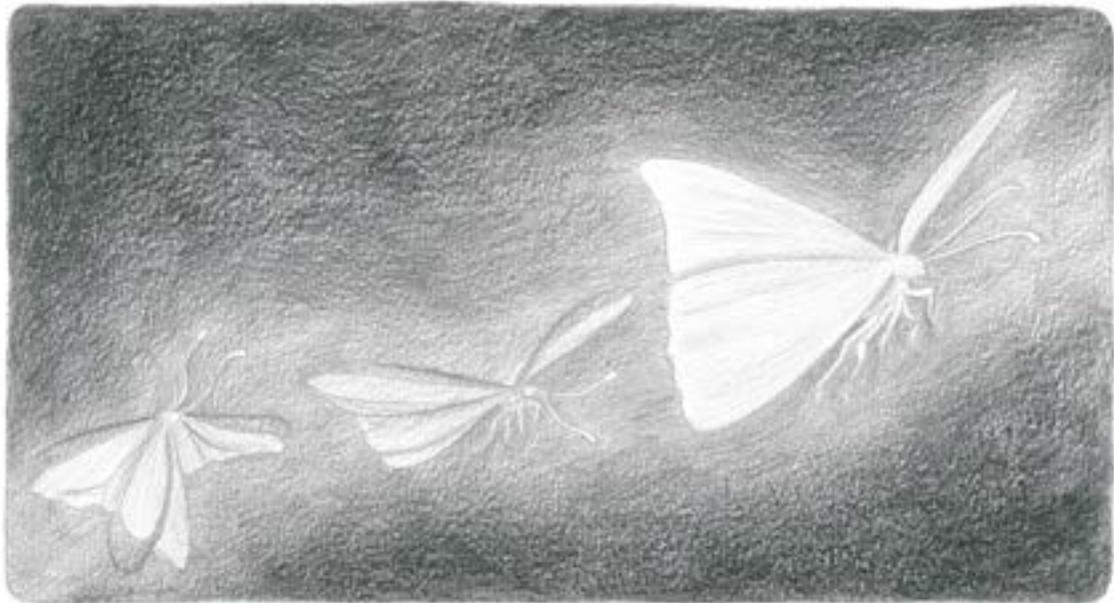




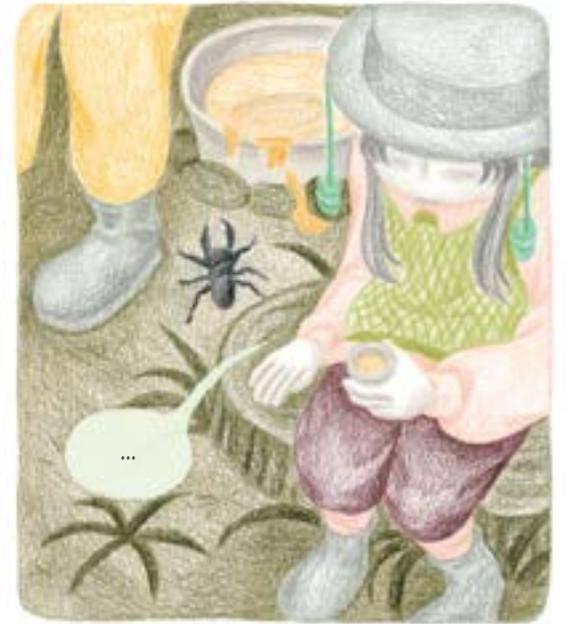
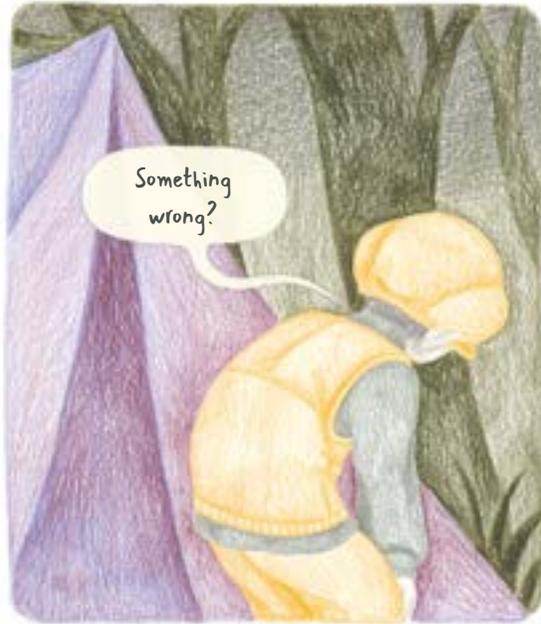








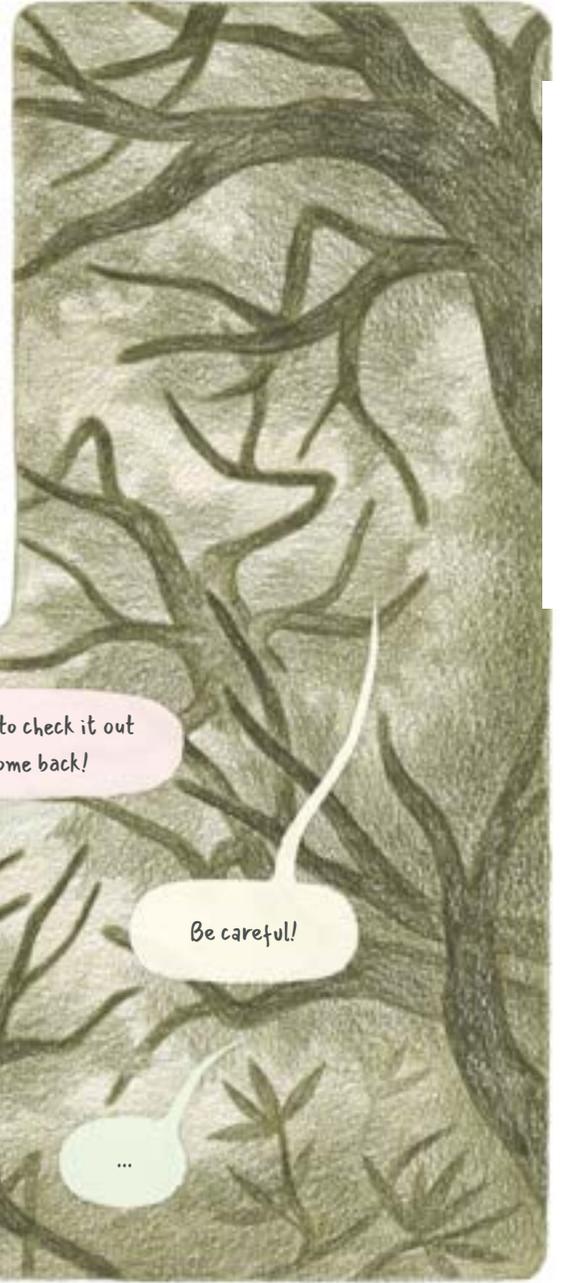
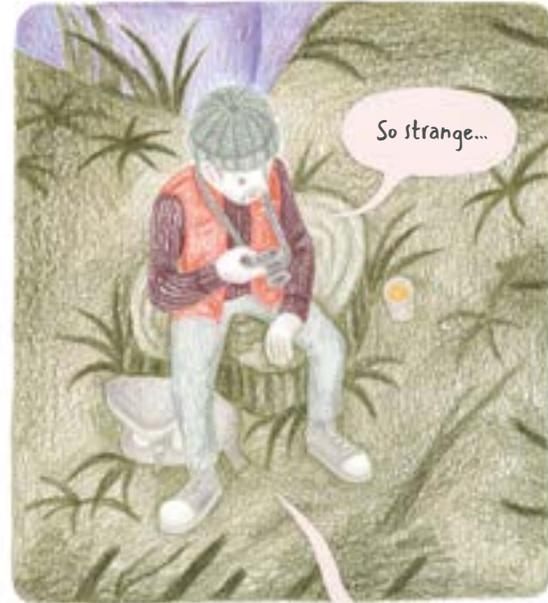
\*BOOM



\*BOOM



\*BOOM





This mountain  
sure is weird.

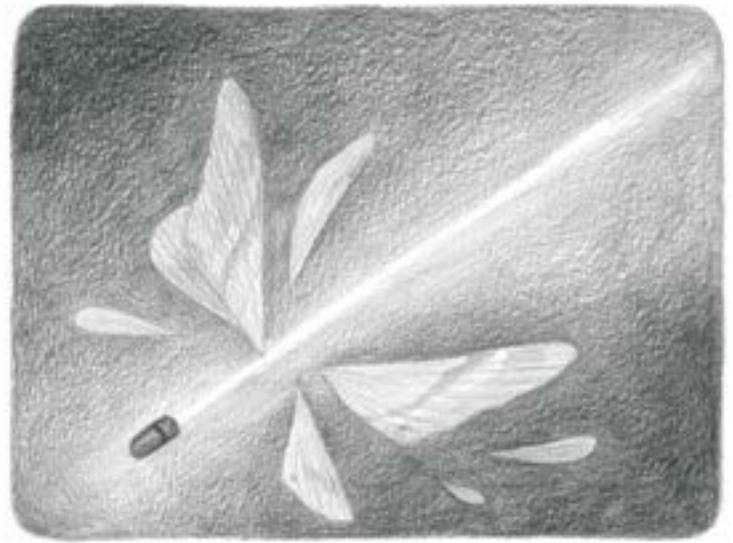
...

Full of butterflies  
all of a sudden,

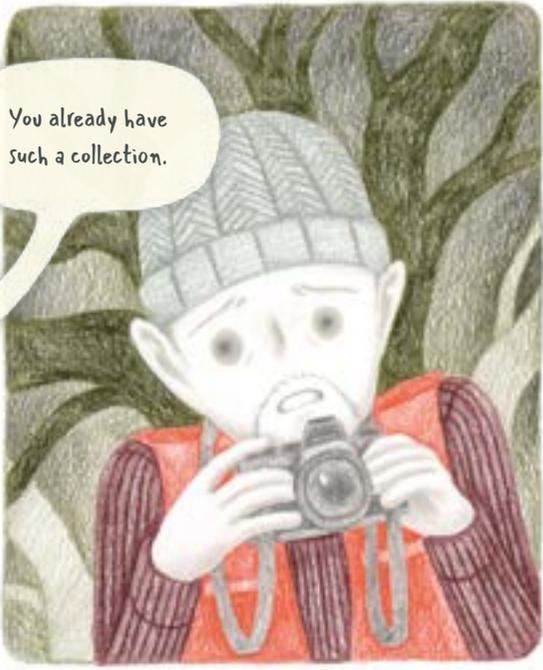


and now they're gone.

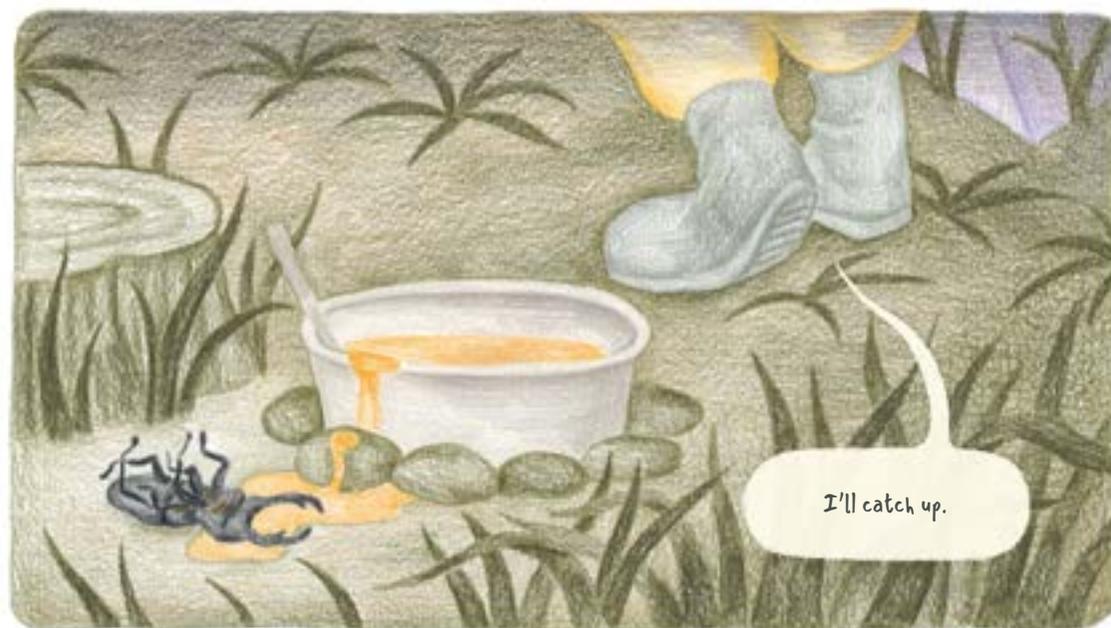
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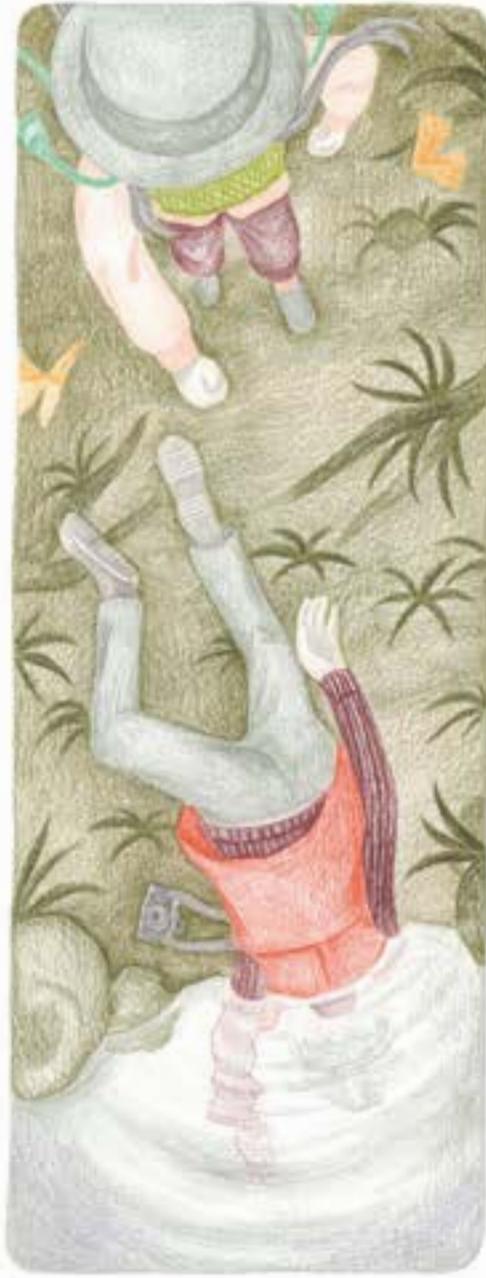


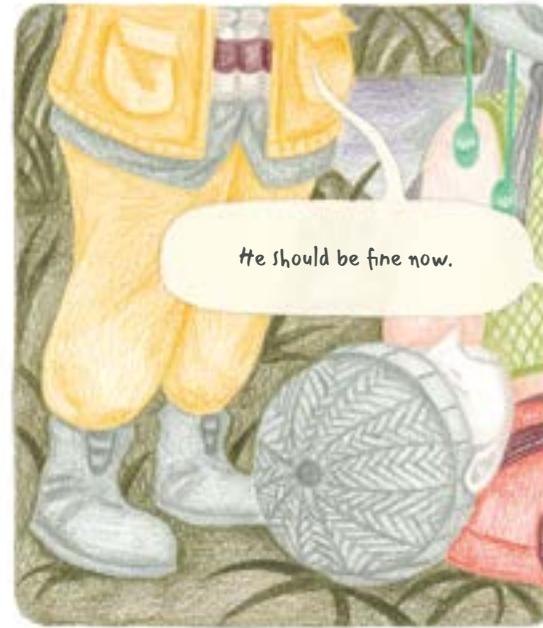
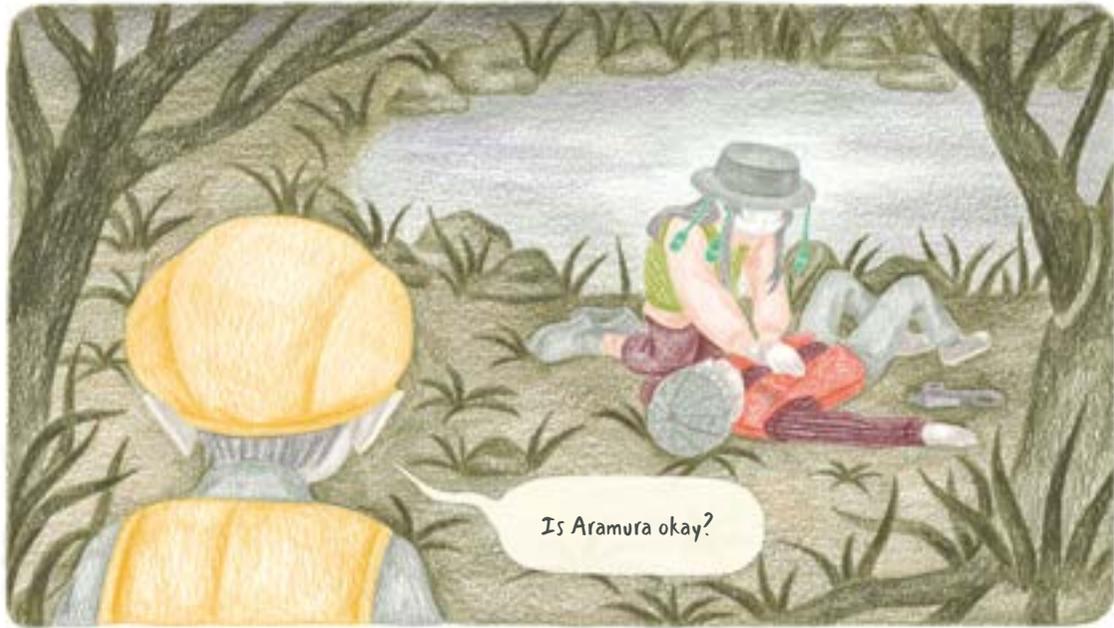
You already have  
such a collection.



Sorry for that shot just...









\*BOOM

