

THE HUMAN BUN

人肉包子

* The first Taiwanese comic book creator to sell rights to Casterman

While escaping from local hoodlums, a young boy, A-Chi, and the elderly owner of a curio shop find themselves transported to ancient times, where they take refuge with a woman who sells steamed buns. Little do they know that the woman will soon stand accused of selling steamed buns stuffed with human flesh!

There's nothing A-Chi loves better than listening to Mr. Chien tell stories. Every day after school he heads straight to the Mr. Chien's curio shop in hopes of hearing more. One day, the elderly shop owner comes into conflict with a local gang collecting protection money. A terrified A-Chi flees into the depths of the shop to hide, only to discover the winding corridors have no end, forever twisting and turning and leading to an infinite number of worlds.

Exhausted from his flight, A-Chi follows an enticing scent to a restaurant that sells steamed buns. When he regains his senses, he realizes that he, Mr. Chien, and the hoodlums have all been transported back to antiquity, and the gateway back to the curio shop has disappeared!

A-Chi and Mr. Chien become lodgers with Sun Erniang, proprietress of the steamed bun shop, while the gangsters, after giving an impromptu rock concert, are mistaken for a trio of gods and become guests of a local dignitary, Lord Xiao. Outwardly known for his generosity, Lord Xiao is in fact a great schemer. When he spreads a rumor that Sun Erniang sells steamed buns stuffed with human flesh, he ignites a conflict that pits Lord Xiao and the three hoodlums against A-Chi, Mr. Chien, and Sun Erniang.

Recently re-issued in a thirtieth anniversary edition, the story of *The Human Bun* remains as fresh and original as ever. This fast-paced,



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Rights contact:

booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com

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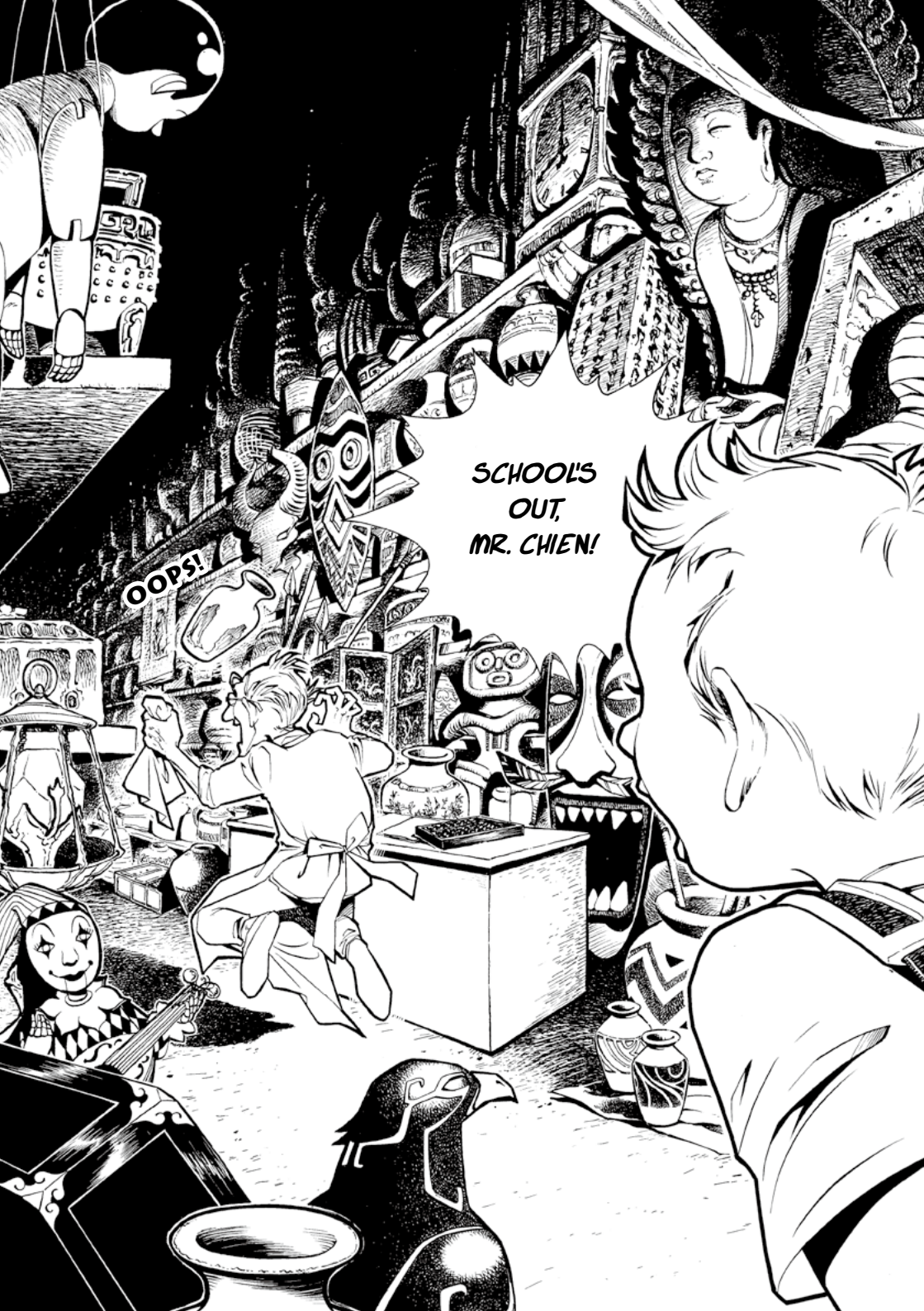
tight-knit tale from artist Ren Zheng-hua sprinkles in references to contemporary film and art and irreverently questions the nature of truth and reality. Modern readers are sure to appreciate this multi-layered masterpiece of comic humor.

Ren Zheng-hua 任正華

Born in Taipei in 1963, Ren Zheng-hua began her comics career with the immensely popular *Sea of Devil*, serialized in *Sunday Comics* magazine, and later sold as a three volume graphic novel. Incisively witty with a touch of black humor, Ren masterfully weaves tales that run the gamut from ancient to modern, from mythic/fantastic to everyday reality, often satirizing the human capacity for both good and evil. Ren is also the founder of publisher BoHai Culture Co. and comics magazine *Lotto*. In 2007, her work was published in French under the title *Le Fils*, making Ren the first Taiwanese comic book creator to be published by Casterman, the renowned French comic book publisher.

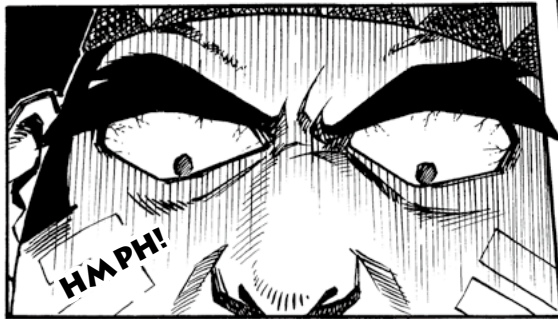
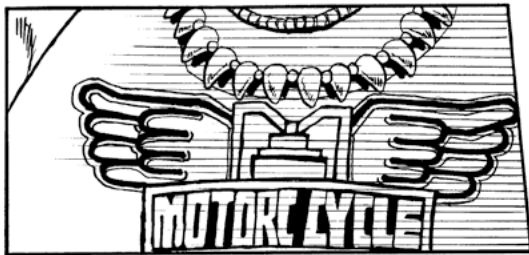
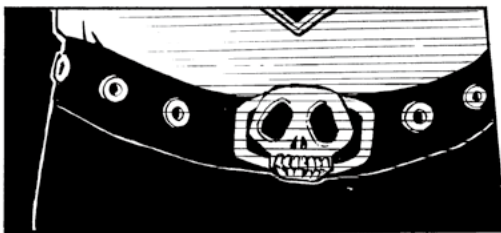
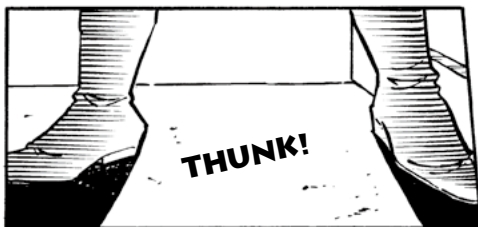


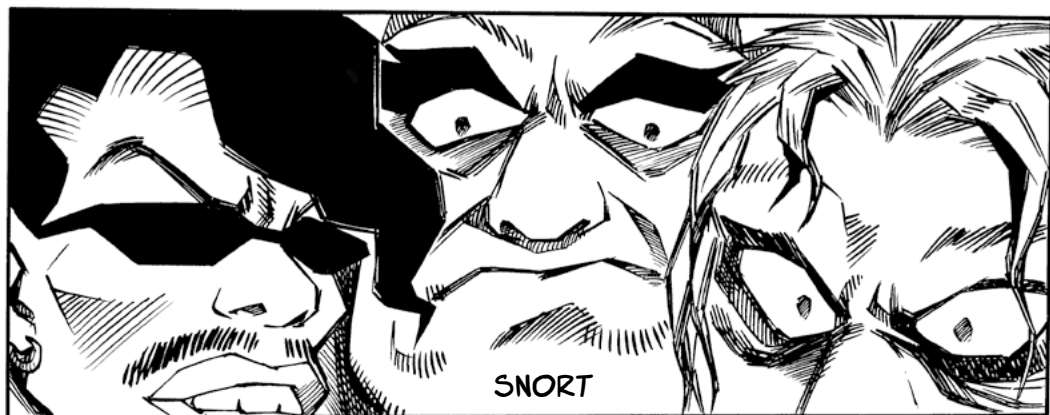




SCHOOL'S
OUT,
MR. CHIEN!

OOPS!





AH!

BOOM!

RUMBLE!

CREAK!

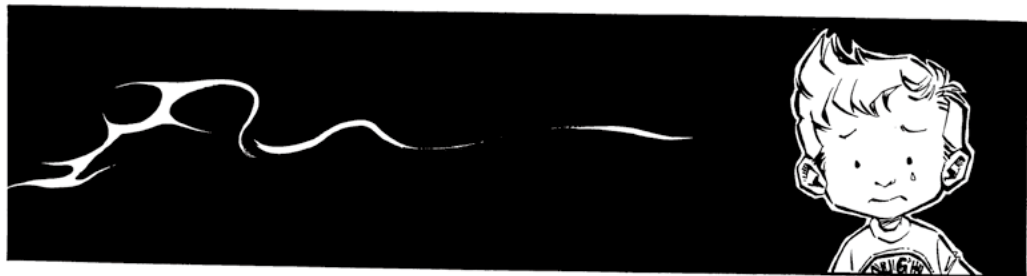
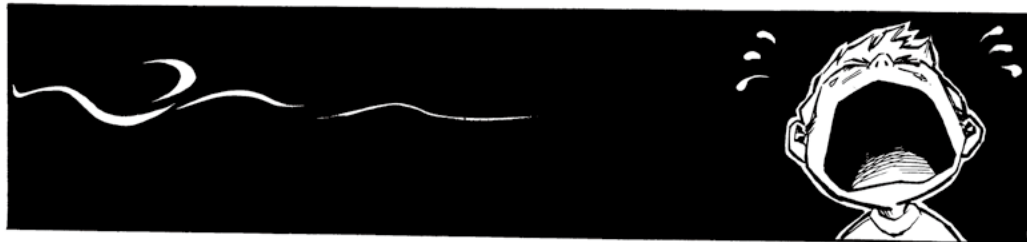
HELP!

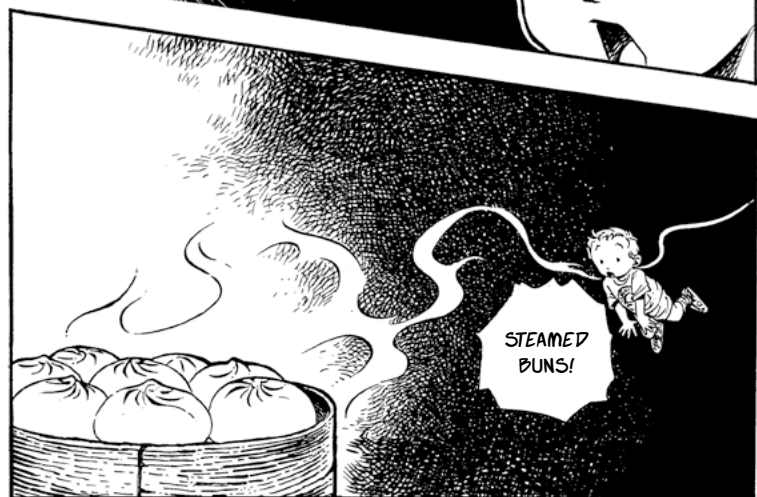
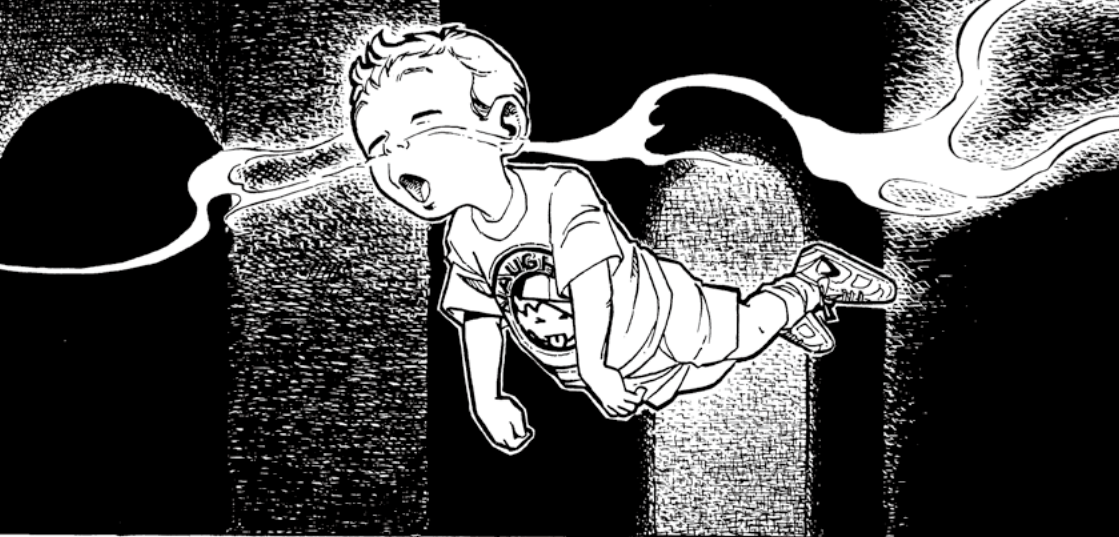
BOOM!

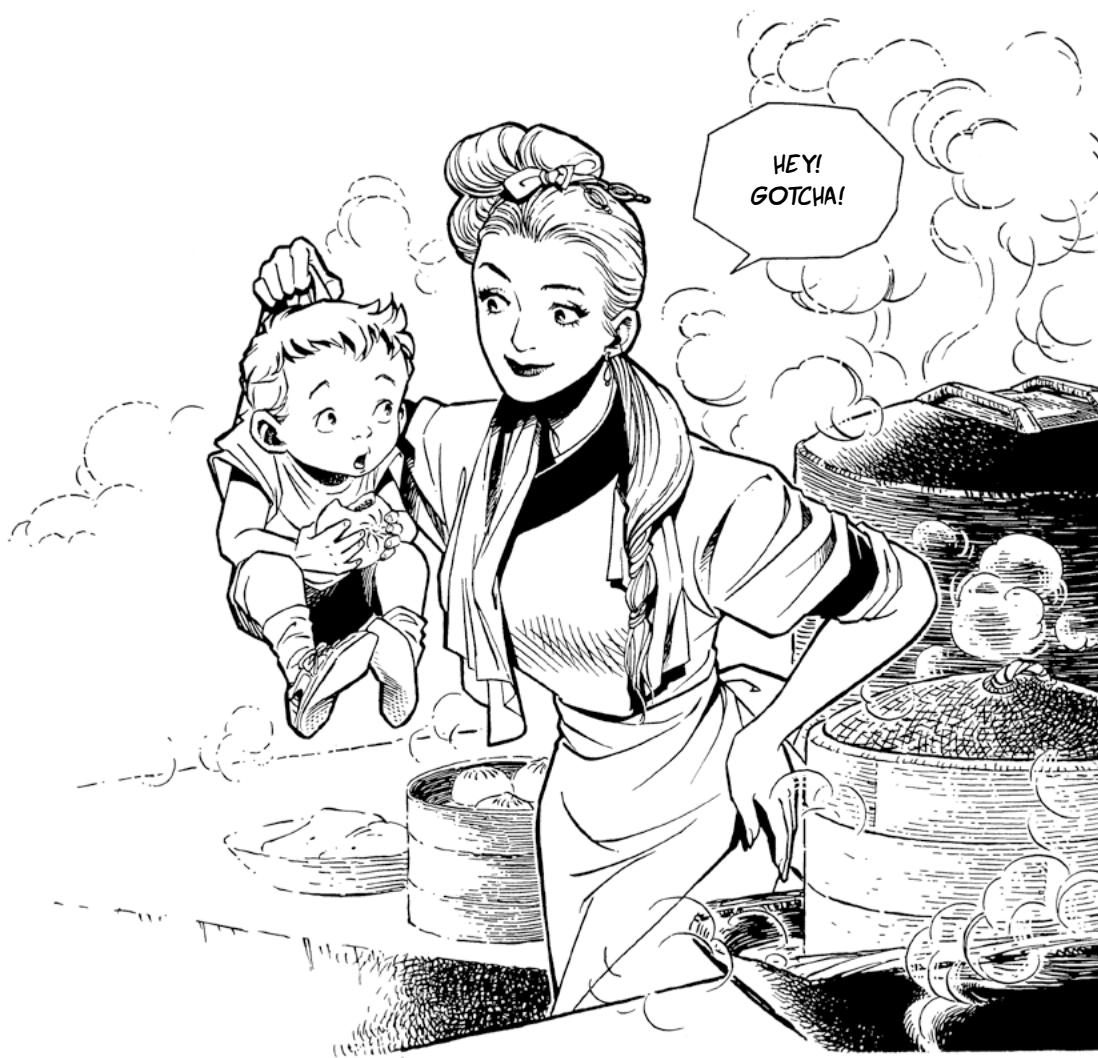
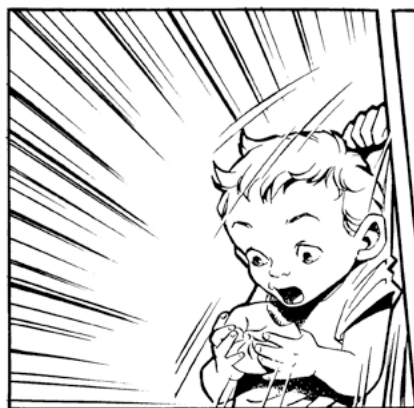


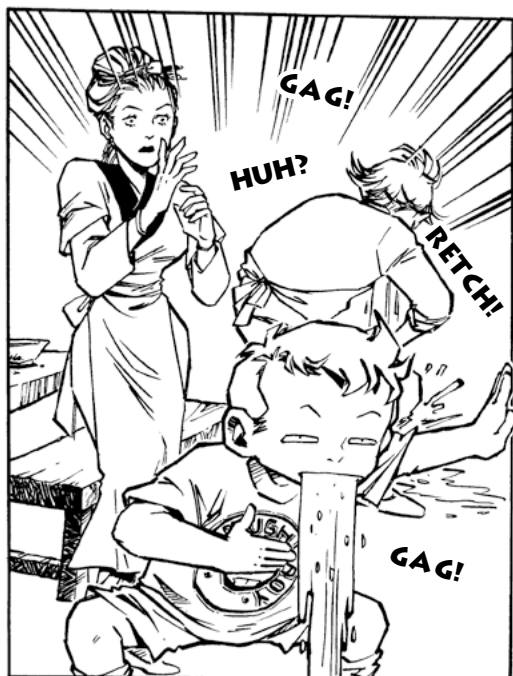
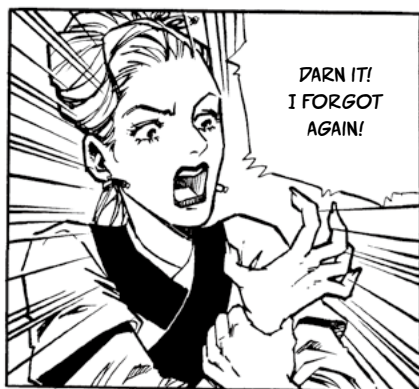
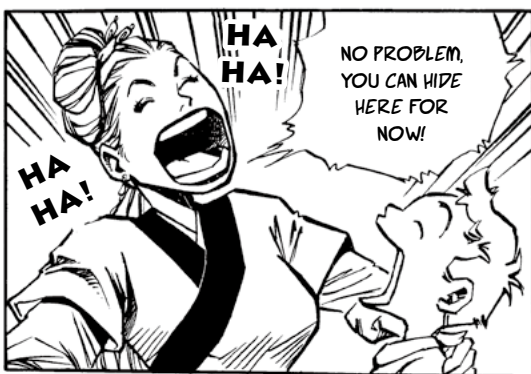
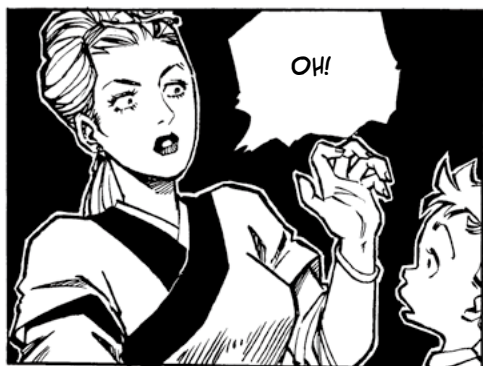


WHOA!



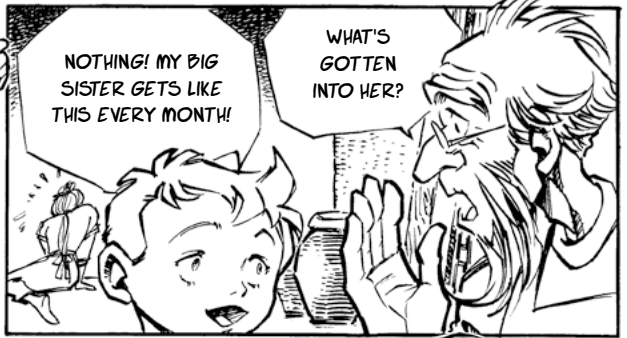








BASTARDS!



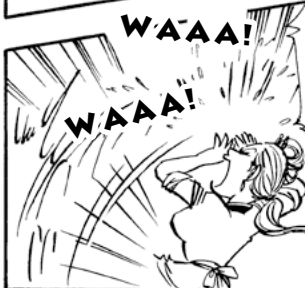
NOTHING! MY BIG SISTER GETS LIKE THIS EVERY MONTH!

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER?



DON'T PRETEND I DON'T KNOW THAT YOU'RE LAUGHING AT MY UNBOUND FEET!

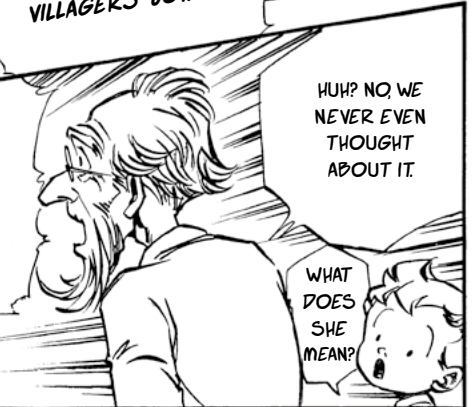
MY FEET ARE THE BUTT OF ALL THE VILLAGERS JOKES!



WAAA!

WAAA!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT
MY FEET WERE
NEVER BOUND
<SOB> <SOB>...
EVEN STRANGERS
PICK ON ME!



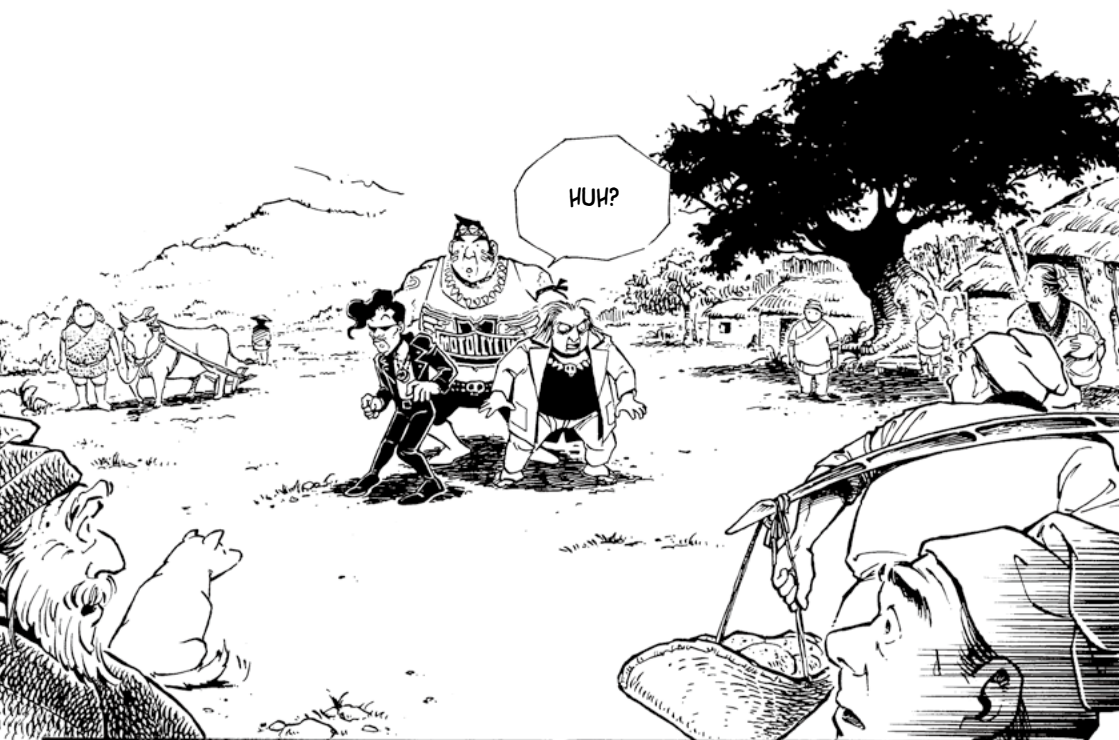
HUH? NO WE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

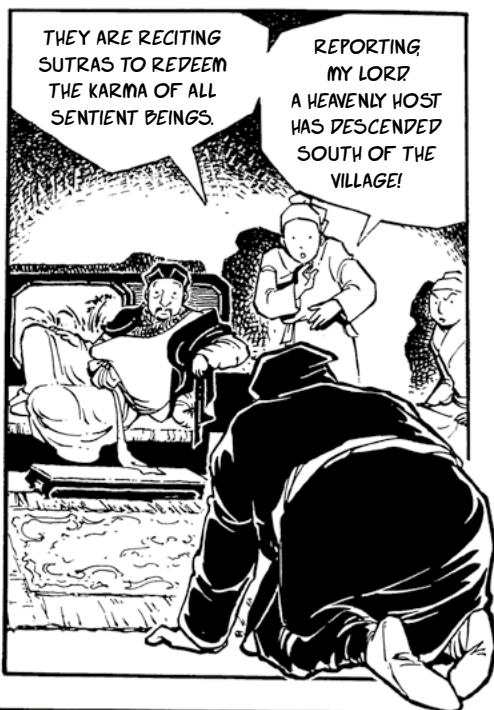
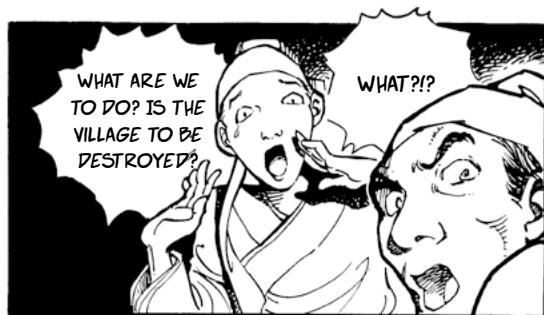
WHAT DOES SHE MEAN?



I'M BEAT.

PANT





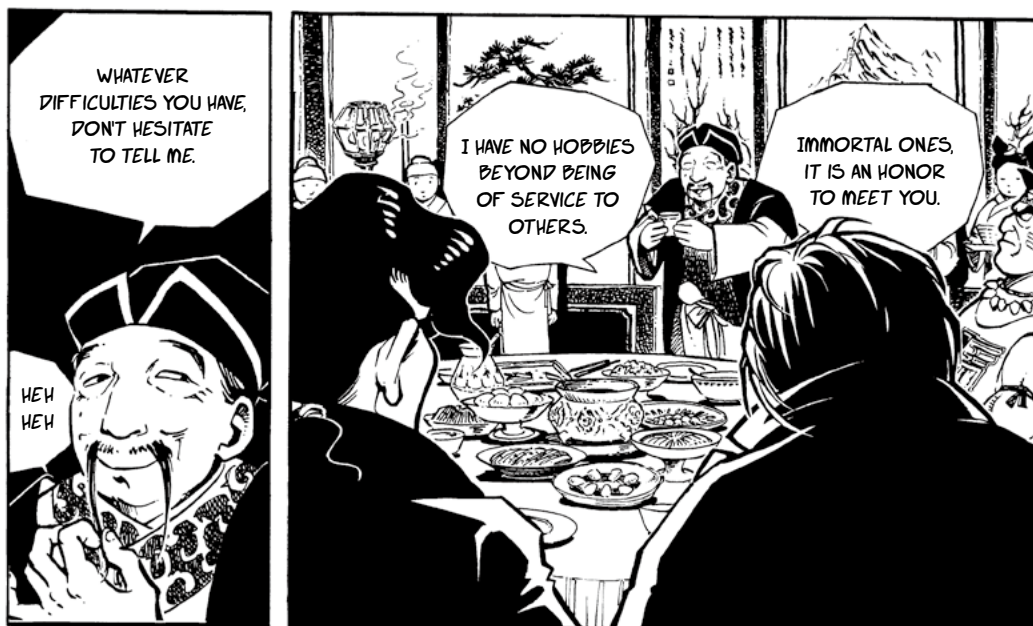






MY NAME IS XIAO
XIAOTIAN, AND I
EAGERLY AWAIT
YOUR INSIGHTS.

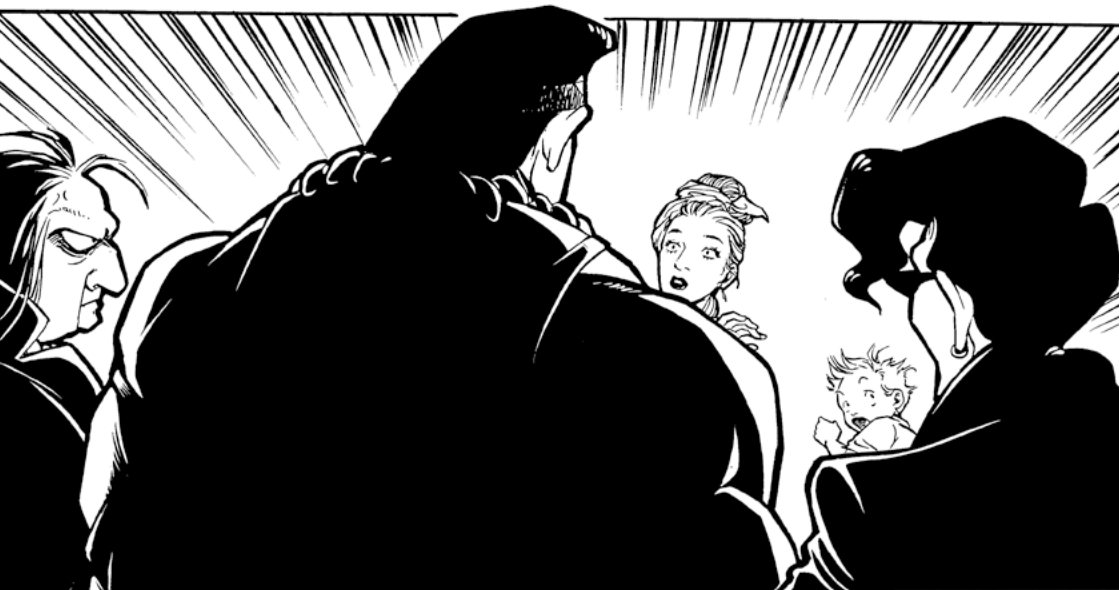
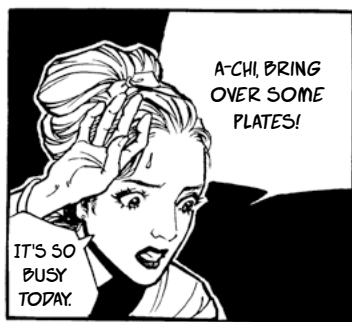
IF YOU HAVE NO
OBJECTIONS,
LET US GO
INSIDE TO TALK.





A little while later...





LET ME GO
BIGFOOT
LADY!

ARE YOU
BUYING
STEAMED
BUNS OR
NOT?

BOOM!
WHAM!

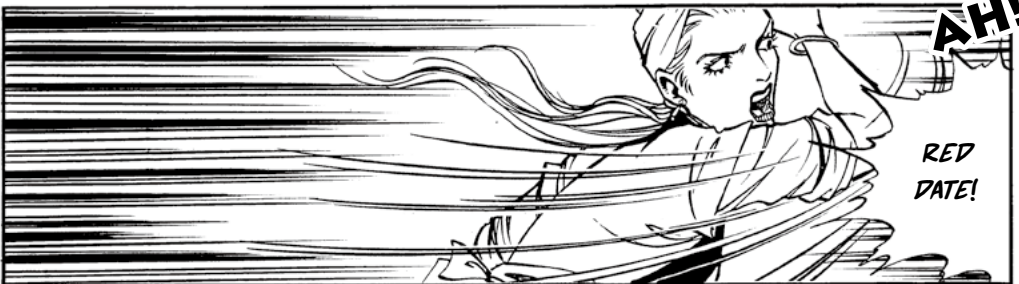
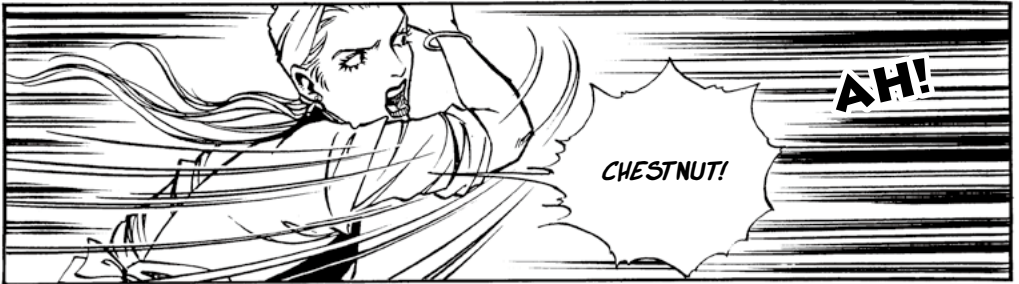
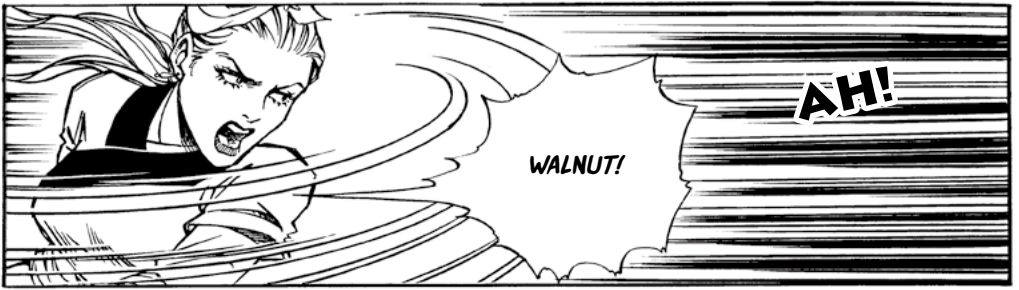
ARE YOU HERE TO BUY
SOMETHING, OR ARE YOU
LOOKING FOR TROUBLE?

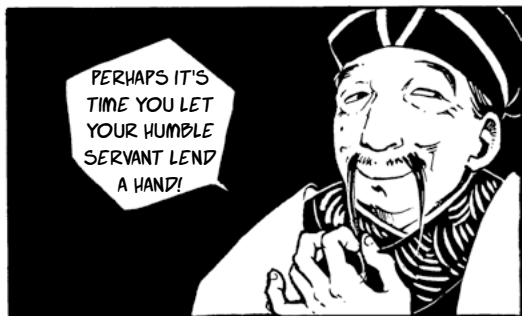
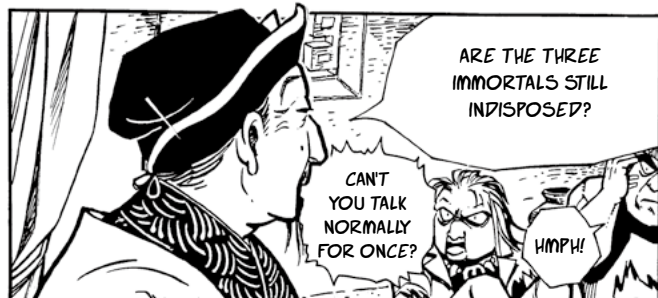
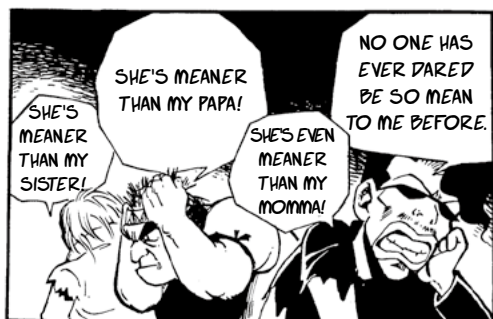
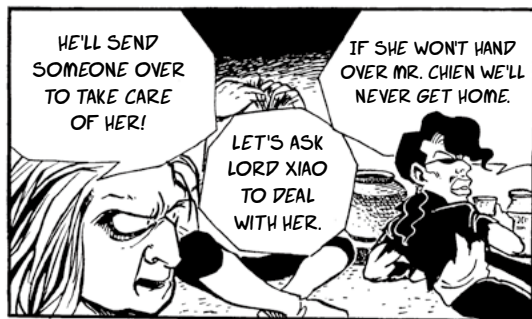
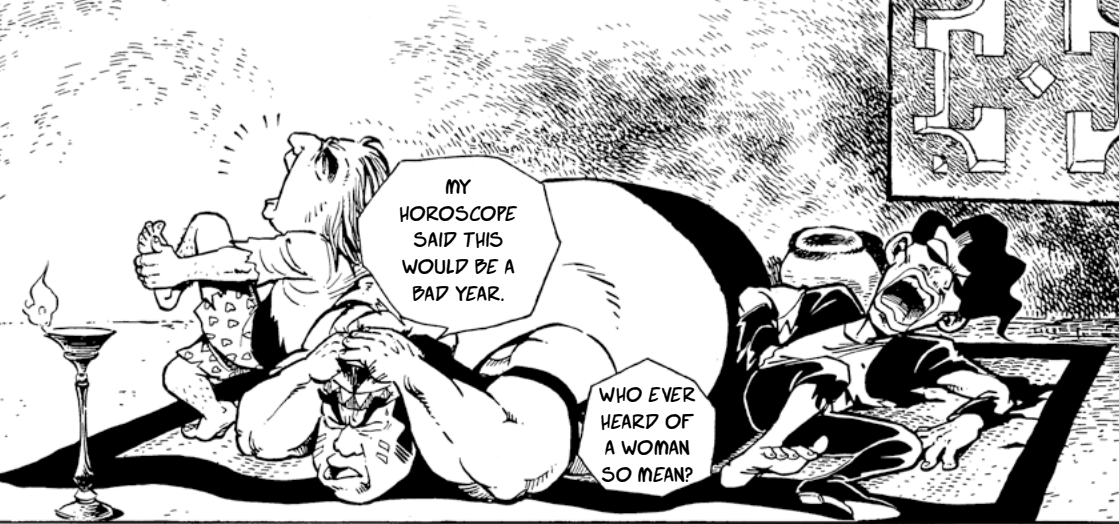
HEY, WHAT
WAS THAT
ABOUT?





*COME HAVE A
TASTE OF MY
FINEST DISH!*





WHAT WOULD
YOU LIKE TO HEAR, MY
LORD? ARGUMENTS,
DIVORCE, BRIBERY...
I KNOW IT ALL.

I KNOW ALL
THERE IS TO KNOW
ABOUT WHAT GOES ON
IN THE VILLAGE.

HUH?

WE GET OUR
STEAMED BUNS
FROM HER!

I THOUGHT
THEY WERE
MADE IN-
HOUSE.

SHUT
YOUR
MOUTH!
I WANT
TO KNOW
ABOUT
SUN
ERNIANG!

HAS MY LORD
PATCHED THINGS UP
WITH WIDOW CHO?

BUT HER STEAMED
BUNS ARE MOIST AND
FRAGRANT. THE FILLING
IS JUICY AND TENDER. ALL
MEAT, NEVER A TRACE OF
SKIN OR BONE.

NO ONE KNOWS WHERE
SUN ERNIANG CAME
FROM, NOR WHEN SHE
BEGAN LIVING HERE.

AND SHE
PRICES THEM
CHEAP. THE WHOLE
VILLAGE BUYS
FROM HER.

NO ONE
KNOWS WHAT
MEAT SHE
USES.

WE'VE TRIED
EVERY MEAT WE
CAN THINK OF...
CHICKEN, DUCK, BEEF,
LAMB... BUT WE
CAN'T MATCH HER
FLAVOR.

RUMBLE



BRILLIANT!
NOW YOU'RE
THINKING



COULD IT
BE HUMAN
FLESH?

IF IT'S
NOT ANIMAL
MEAT



AT YOUR
SERVICE,
MASTER!




PROSPERITY!
FORTUNE!
PEACE! JOY!




HERE,
SIR!

JOY!




CAN YOU TELL
EVERYONE WHAT I
EXCEL AT?

EVERY KIND
OF WICKED-
NESS!



PROSPERITY -ATTERS,
FORTUNE LIES,
PEACE BATTERS,
AND JOY SLANDERS

I CALL
THESE
FOUR
MY BIG
RUNNING
DOGS.



SPREAD A RUMOR.
TELL EVERYONE THAT SUN
ERNIANG FILLS HER STEAMED
BUNS WITH HUMAN FLESH. IF
SHE WON'T GIVE US THE OLD
MAN, WE'LL DRIVE HER OUT
OF BUSINESS!



GO!




WOOF!



NOW IT IS TIME
FOR THE THREE
OF YOU TO ASSIST
YOUR FRIEND
LORD XIAO.


ARE WE
SUPPOSED
TO BE IN A
PLAY?

WHY ARE WE
DRESSED UP
LIKE THIS?



IN ANY CASE, THESE
COSTUMES DON'T
INTIMIDATE ME.

I DON'T KNOW
WHERE YOU
BANDITS CAME
FROM, NOR DO I
INTEND TO ASK.



EVERYONE ELSE,
HOWEVER, WILL
BELIEVE YOU ARE
GODS, SO PLEASE
DO AS I SAY.



A HUNDRED
THOUSAND PEOPLE
COULDN'T PUSH
HER DOWN!

ONE MORE
STEP AND
SHE'S AT THE
TOWN HALL!

WITH ONE STEP
SHE CRUSHES
EIGHT BULLS!

BIGGEST OF
THEM ALL!

BIGFOOT,

BIGFOOT,



SHUT UP!

