

THE SQUIRREL AND THE BANYAN TREE

小松鼠與老榕樹

A lone albino squirrel finds refuge in the branches of a banyan tree – an old, wise banyan tree that has watched the hope and heartbreak of life unfold beneath its branches. The young squirrel asks the tree about many things, but foremost in his mind is the question of love and attachment. Should we try to hold on to the things we love? How do we cope when they are gone?

As the old banyan tree begins to drop its leaves and shed its branches, the squirrel realizes he will have to find this out for himself. How will he live without the banyan tree, and who will he tell its story to?

Zhou Jian-Xin's wonderfully crafted ink-and-watercolor illustrations bring the reader into a world of emotionally charged imagery that intensifies the themes of this simple yet moving story.

Zhou Jian-Xin 周見信

Zhou Jian-Xin has recently established himself as one of Taiwan's up-and-coming illustrators. His first illustrated title, *The Maroon Oriole*, won the 2014 Taiwan Golden Butterfly Award for Best Book Design and honorable mention from the International Design Awards. His collaborative works with Kuo Nai-Wen have also been very well received: their title *The Lost Cat* also won honorable mention in the Hsin-Yi Children's Literature Award in 2012, and *Little Bai*, the story of a boy and his dog, won first prize for an Illustrated Publication at the 2016 Hsin-Yi Children's Literature Award, a position that has remained empty for eight years.



Category: Picture Book

Publisher: Sharp Point

Date: 4/2016

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Pages: 56

Size: 19×29 cm