

THE YOUNG BANNERMAN

小旗手

Peanut is a young herding boy from a village on the borders of the Golden Dragon Kingdom. His mother knit him a beautiful scarf, which he wears every day. One day, he spies the banners of an advancing army fluttering in the breeze, and imagines the clothing his mother might make from the cloth. But when Peanut approaches them, they conscript him and order him to watch the dragons that pull their chariots. They can't take his favorite scarf, though. Peanut's love for his scarf carries him through ambush and defeat into greater victories than he could ever imagine.

The Young Bannerman is a grand narrative that grows organically from the simplest form of love. This illustrated story, eight years in the making, will sweep readers along like banners in the wind.

Lee Ru-Qing 李如青

Born on Kinmen Island, Lee Ru-Qing came to the Taiwanese mainland to seek a better life. After art school, Lee worked in advertising for ten years, until he started writing children's books in 2007. His published works include *The Spearfish King*, *Because I Love You*, *Brave 12: The War Pigeons* and *The Last Bodyguard of Lion Barracks*. He has won many awards, including a Golden Tripod for Best Picture Book.



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The northern wind was picking up. Out on the grasslands, on the outskirts of a village close to the border of Golden Dragon Kingdom, Peanut was watching his herd.

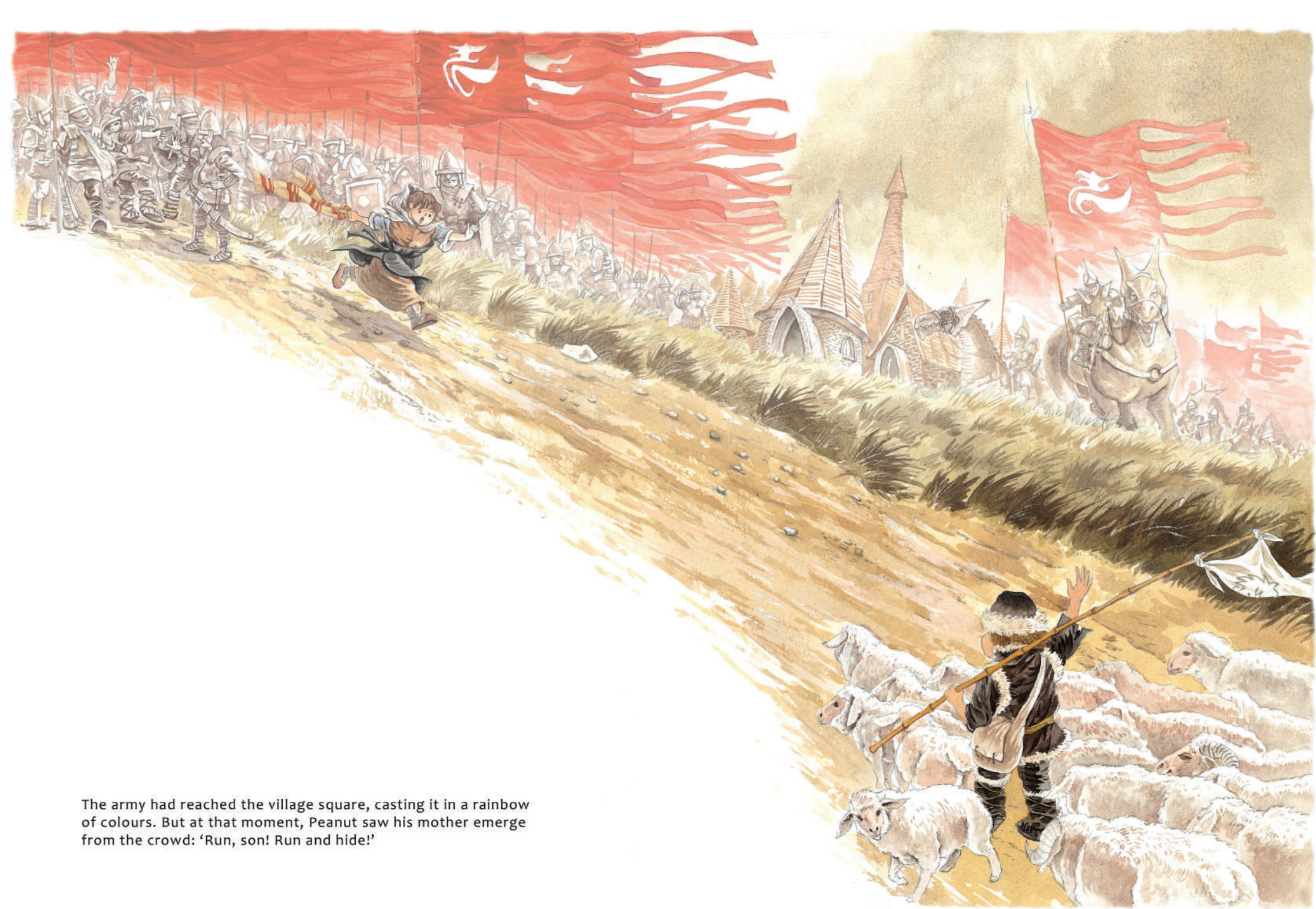
Just then, a ball of dust gathered on the horizon. An army was approaching.



‘What beautiful banners!’ The army may have looked weary, but their banner flags stood proud as they fluttered in the wind.



Mama has no cloth to sew with, thought Peanut. 'Mama could make something really beautiful out of those flags...' He started to follow them, his mood flying as high as the banners.



The army had reached the village square, casting it in a rainbow of colours. But at that moment, Peanut saw his mother emerge from the crowd: 'Run, son! Run and hide!'

Peanut made a grab for his mother's hand but only managed to grasp hold of her scarf.

Golden Dragon Kingdom's army had come to seize men to fight with them. Peanut was captured, along with lots of other villagers.

