



The Zuo Family (Prequel)

A Full English translation is available.

最後的魔術家族 (漫畫版)

Author: Gene **Illustrator:** YAGI **Publisher:** Mirror Fiction

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BFT 2.0 Translator: Eunice Shek

Born into one of Taiwan's four great magic families, the Zuo brothers each possess extraordinary abilities. The eldest, a high school senior, has already earned a modest reputation as a magician and is preparing to shoulder the family's future. The twins could not be more different in temperament or power: one is carefree and uses his magic to escape any problem, while the other, gifted with the power to hear others' thoughts, is tormented by self-doubt. The youngest has yet to learn to control his temper, yet already displays astonishing magical potential.

As each brother faces his own challenge, how will they deal with the family's magical trials? Magic that brings joy to others but suffering to oneself—can such a gift truly be called a blessing?



Author Gene

Gene is a comic artist and illustrator from Tainan, Taiwan. She won the Grand Prize in the Manga Category at the 2020 Kyoto International Manga Awards for her comic *The Guardian of the Scarecrow*, and also received the Grand Prize in the Illustration Category the same year for her work "On the Way to the Festival," achieving a rare double win and earning wide recognition as well as international acclaim. Her published works include *The Wanted Magic Girl!*, *I Want to Be with You Even at the End of the World*, and *The Shimmering Summoner*, among others. Her work *The Wanted Magic Girl!* earned a nomination for Best New Talent at the 2019 Golden Comic Awards. That same year, she also served as the illustrator for IP character designs for the Patriotic Women's Association.

Gene has been actively involved in doujin activities, and her work spans a wide range of styles. She enjoys weaving playful, humorous elements into her stories, often drawing laughter from otherwise serious situations.



Illustrator YAGI

YAGI is a thoughtful person who seeks to draw beautiful comics that make the heart flutter.

A Family Farewell in the Realm of Magic

by Wen-Chien Hsu

The four Zuo brothers are born into one of Taiwan's great magical families. Each is endowed with a unique power from birth. The eldest, Zuo Po, assumes a father's role within the household. No matter how severe his wounds, he can heal himself—an ability that mirrors the burden he has long borne and the quiet strength with which he protects his brothers. Meanwhile, the youngest, Zuo Chi, displays astonishing magical talent, but has not yet learned how to control the volatile power within him.

Finally, the middle children are twins, Zuo Chung and Zuo Shu. They could not be more different in temperament. The former is playful and optimistic, tending to avoid pressure and possessing the power of instantaneous movement: he can escape any situation in the blink of an eye. In contrast, the calm and perceptive Zuo

Shu can hear the thoughts of others. Yet because he cannot choose what he hears, he struggles with doubt about his ability and his own emotions.

As midterm exams and a family trial approach, Zuo Chi's longing for their deceased mother overwhelms him. His emotions spiral out of control, and his magic erupts, pulling his three older brothers into a magical realm shaped by his subconscious. In their search for their younger brother, the other siblings must overcome a series of obstacles. In so doing, they must also confront the grief their family has long tried to seal away; they'd collectively decided to cope with loss by forgetting her.

On the surface, this is a fantastical adventure through a world of magic. At its core, however, it is a poignant story of how a family grapples with the loss of

a loved one. Years earlier, Zuo Chi had attempted to resurrect his mother using forbidden magic, drawing the wrath of the entire clan. Wanting to protect him and the rest of the family, Zuo Po persuaded him to erase their mother from everyone's memory—effectively wiping away all traces of her existence from the world.

Their shared forgetting leaves them isolated from one another. But when Zuo Chi's yearning erupts once again into uncontrollable magic, the four brothers are compelled to recover the memories they had buried: the handmade certificates their mother crafted to encourage Zuo Chung when he faltered, and the gentle spells she used to soothe Zuo Shu in moments of sadness. These fragments become warm, tangible symbols within the magical realm, embodying the family's longing.

The loss of a loved one is among the deepest wounds a family can suffer, one that may never fully heal. Far more than a comic about magic, *The Zuo Family* is a love letter to family, to mourning, and to reconciliation. It reminds us that sorrows cannot be borne alone. Through the bonds of kinship, shared remembrance, and companionship, we may find the desire and strength to take a breath. In this world of Gene and YAGI, the four brothers not only grow stronger in their powers, but also learn to face loss and say farewell.

Wen-Chien Hsu possesses a free-spirited soul. She has worked at LGBTQ+ organizations, the 113 Domestic Violence Hotline, and works as an editor of Books from Taiwan 2.0. She is dedicated to bringing Taiwanese comics and picture books to a global audience.

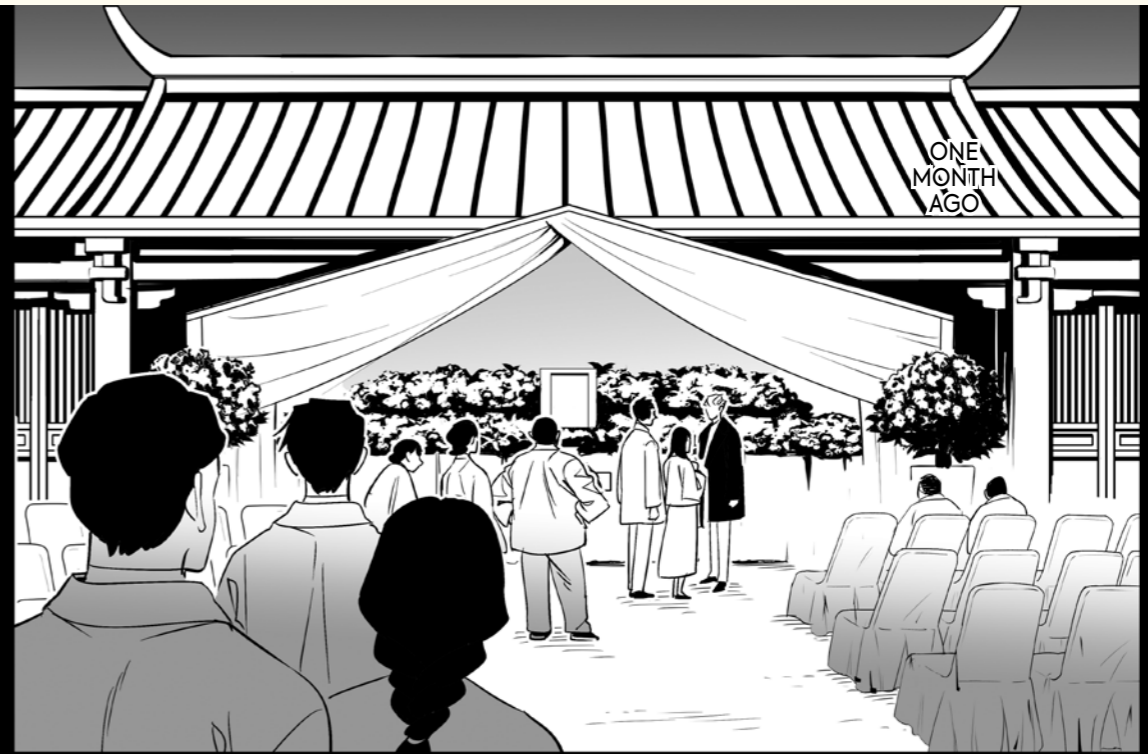


MAGICIANS BELIEVE THEIR MAGIC WAS BESTOWED BY THE GODS...

...BUT WITCHES' POWERS COME FROM DEALS WITH DEMONS.



...WE'D BE CELEBRATING THE WITCH'S DEATH.



ONE MONTH AGO



LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANYTHING.



OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES.

STAY STRONG.



...WOULD DEFINITELY NOT BE CELEBRATED.

A UNION BETWEEN A MAGICIAN AND A WITCH...



IF THE ZUO CLAN WASN'T SO POWERFUL...

IT'S TRULY ABSURD!

...I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.





