

WHAT SHE PUT ON THE TABLE

五味八珍的歲月

What She Put on the Table is a vivid description of social conflict and everyday life in 50s and 60s Taiwan, as viewed through the lens of the culinary culture of the time and capturing the warmth of the era.

Despite diplomatic setbacks, Taiwan's economy boomed in the 50s and 60s. Living standards rose and televisions became more widespread – and well-known chef Fu Pei-Mei was the host of *Fu Pei-Mei Time*, television's most popular cooking show.

This book follows Fu Pei-Mei from her start as an apprentice cook unable to even select vegetables to a teacher in her own right and famous television chef. But Fu herself is not the heart of the book – that is Lin Chun, a young maid in Fu's home, and it is through her eyes we see Taiwanese society.

Country girl Lin Chun has, after many setbacks, arrived in Taipei, where she is taken in by the Fu family. She witnesses Fu Pei-Mei's meteoric rise, the gap between city and village, bloody social conflict and comes into contact with the socialist ideas which were forbidden at the time. And this expands our story – it is not merely the tale of a woman who learns to cook, but also of Lin Chun's successes and failures, and through her the culture and class structure of Taiwan.

In 2017 a new Taiwanese TV production project, Qseries, adapted Fu Pei-Mei's autobiography into a TV series available on Netflix and a graphic novel of her story produced in cooperation with Dyna Books. Zuo Hsuan's art is detailed and clean, taking the reader back in time and reminding us that there are heart-warming stories being told even in times of affluence.



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Comic by Zuo Hsuan 左萱

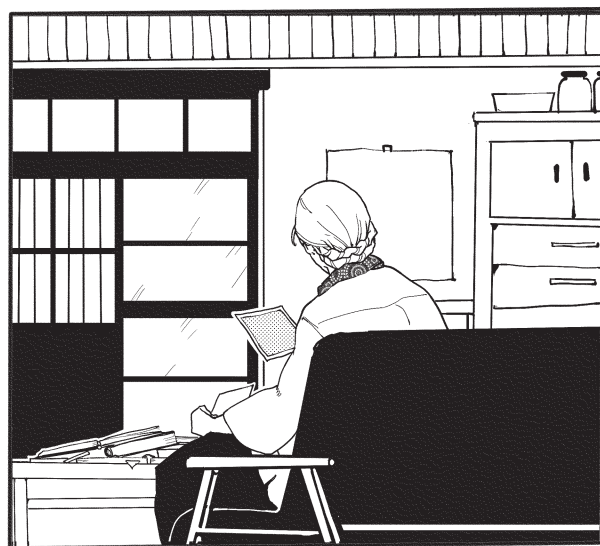
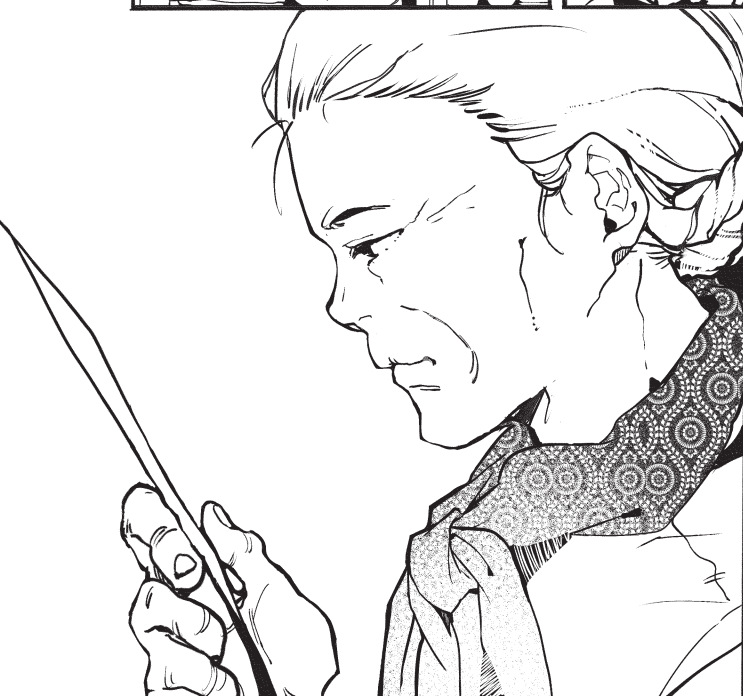
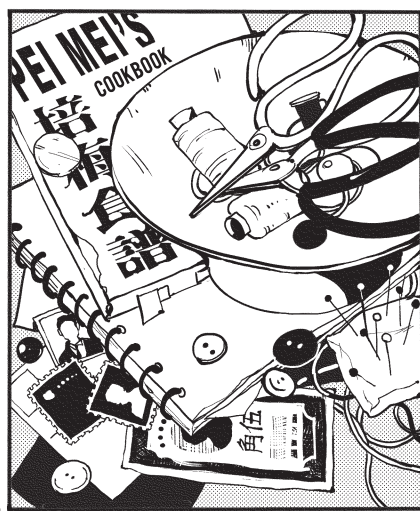
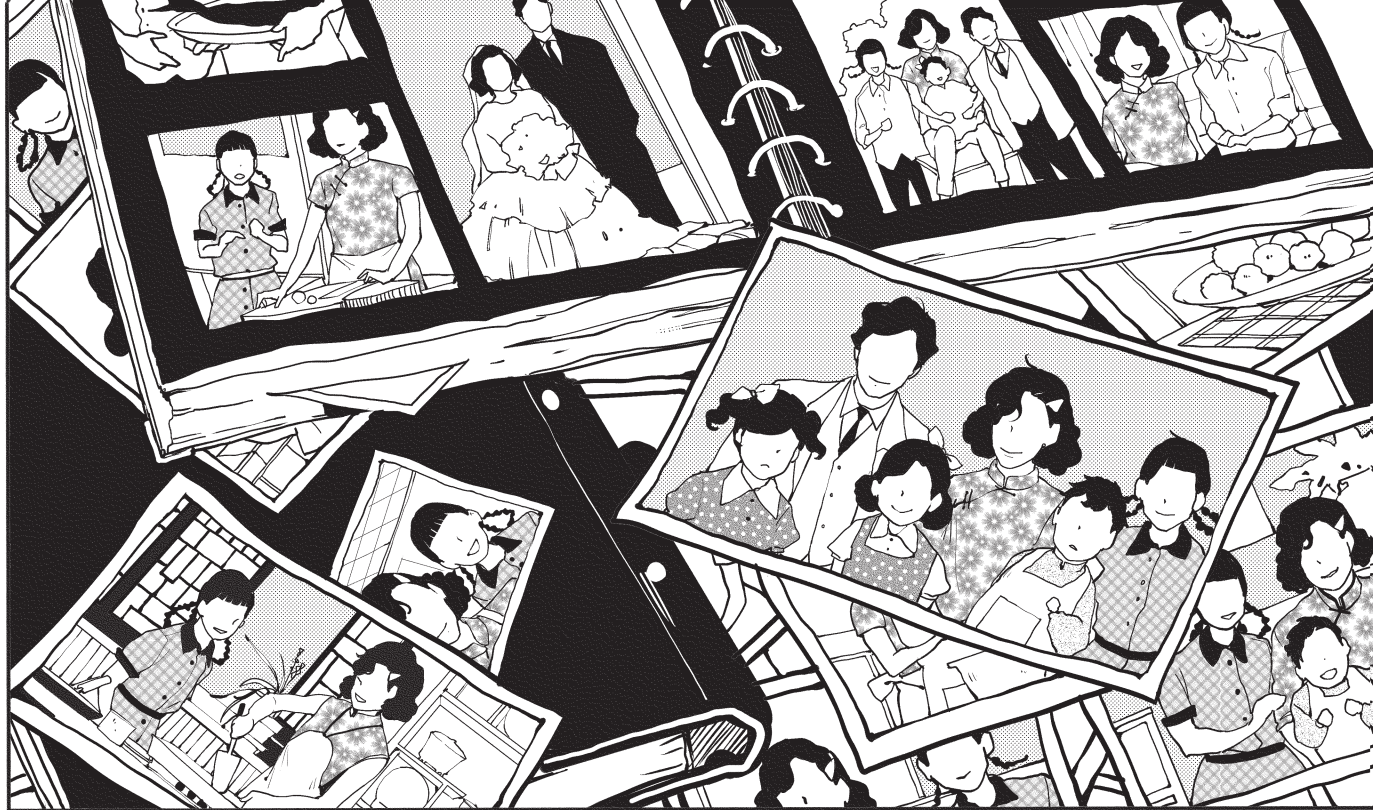
Design student Zuo Hsuan has already become well-known as a cover illustrator for works of light fiction. Her first published manga, *Rites of Returning*, won her the Bronze Award of the 2015 International Manga Award in Japan. She has represented Taiwan at the 2017 Angoulême International Comics Festival and Frankfurt Book Fair.

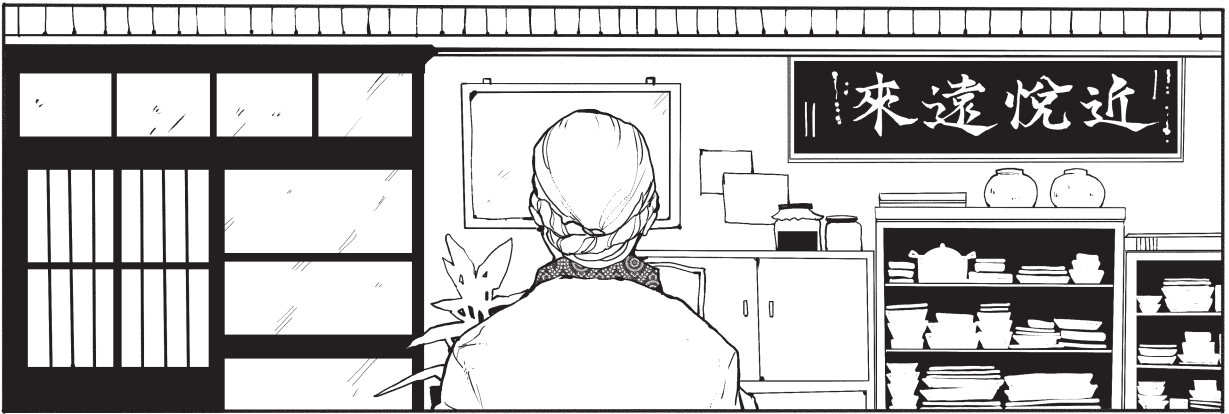
Original Story by Wen Yu-Fang 溫郁芳

Wen Yu-Fang is a professional scriptwriter, five times finalist for the Golden Bell Award, winning the Best Writing for a Television Series prize for *Wayward Kenting* in 2008 and *Falling* in 2013.

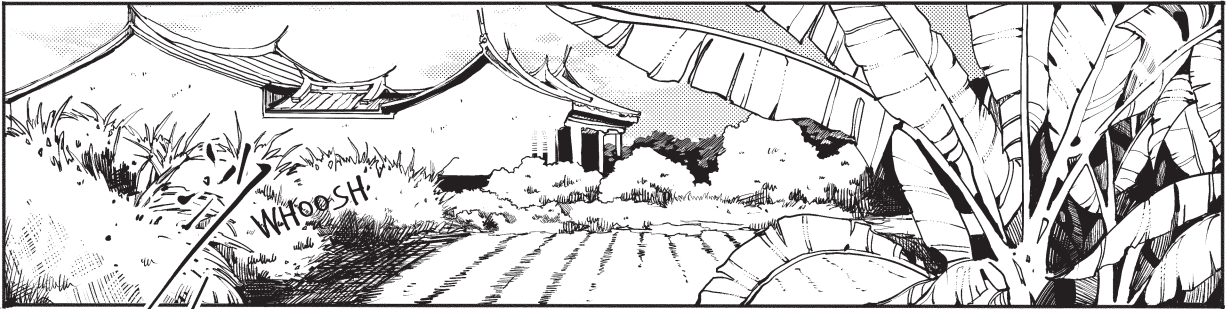
Original Story by Chang Ko-Hsin 張可欣

Chang Ko-Hsin briefly worked in television and movie production before becoming a freelance scriptwriter, working mainly on social realist projects such as *House of Blocks* and *Love of Sandstorm*. She now works for Rice Film and has worked on television series, movies, documentaries and the opening film for an international exhibition of children's movies. She has won the Golden Bell Award for Best Writing for a Television Series for *Wayward Kenting* in 2008 and for *Boys Can Fly* in 2014.





WELCOME GUESTS FROM FAR AND WIDE





CHAPTER ONE: VERMICELLI SOUP

