

# What Can You Do With a Cardboard Box?

A Full English translation is available.

洋洋的紙箱子

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**BFT 2.0 Translator:** Kathy Cheng

Yang Yang's family has just bought a new oven. After it's delivered and installed, one thing remains: a huge cardboard box seemingly destined for recycling. But Yang Yang sees something else entirely. "May I have the box?" she asks.

In her hands, the ordinary turns extraordinary. The box transforms into a little train, a secret hideout, a pretend office, even a miniature garden. With each new invention, Yang Yang reveals the fantastical yet surprisingly logical way children build worlds through play. Children test ideas, make adjustments, and turn scraps into stories.

A joyful celebration of creativity and open-ended play, this charming picture book invites young readers to explore, invent, and make something magical out of almost nothing.



Author **Angelina Tsou** (Tsou Tun-Ling)

Angelina Tsou is a retired elementary school teacher, language textbook author, and children's writer. With over one hundred books published and numerous literary awards, Tsou's work is driven by a love of storytelling and the hope that engaging, meaningful stories will become shared memories. Her books include *Mimi and His Mysterious Friend* and *Learning Idioms Through Jokes*.



Illustrator **Croter** (Tian-Hsien Hung)

Croter is an illustrator and designer whose work blends imagination and everyday life. With a versatile style, he creates visual stories across books, exhibitions, and public art.

# May I Have the Box?: How Children Make the Ordinary Extraordinary

by Fu Kuo

If you had a big cardboard box, what would you do with it?

A little girl named Yang Yang asks a delivery man if she can keep a box that he intends to recycle. He's startled; he couldn't have expected that this ordinary box could become the most wonderful toy in a child's eyes. For Yang Yang, a cardboard box is far more than layered paper—it is a stage for adventure, a magical container of imagination. It can transform into a tiny train, a secret hideout, a castle, delivery van, or even a miniature garden. Throughout the story, the delivery man repeatedly asks, "And then?"

Meanwhile Yang Yang eagerly shares one idea after another, each transformation more playful and surprising than the last.

A child's world of play is often limitless. Tea parties, castle balls, racing tournaments—once imagination is set free, a cardboard box can hold countless adventures and endless laughter. The story not only illustrates Yang Yang's inventive mind but also reminds us that every seemingly ordinary object hides infinite possibilities. With nothing more than simple materials, imagination can open a world filled with exploration and delight.

The celebrated Taiwanese illustrator Croter does more than depict scenes; he expands the story beyond what the text alone describes. Yang Yang's toy companions—a giraffe, a bear, a dinosaur, a panda, a rabbit, a pig, a robot, and even the family cat—appear from the cover to the endpapers. Across

every spread, they accompany her on her cardboard-box journey. With lively colors, delicate lines, and playful compositions, Croter fills each page with motion and imagination. Readers not only follow the storyline through words but also feel Yang Yang's joy through the artwork, as if joining the children in their games.

The book also inspires engaging moments of parent-child interaction. Many families have experienced real-life "cardboard box transformations": a father turning a refrigerator box into a tiny playhouse complete with windows and a door, or a mother cleverly refashioning a shipping box into a small bookshelf or storage bin. With the simplest materials found around the home, children can unleash their creativity and craft their own toys—developing aesthetic awareness, scientific thinking, problem-solving skills, and concentration along the way.

*What Can You Do With a*

*Cardboard Box?* is ideal for parents and children who love hands-on challenges. After finishing the book, children may rush to find a box of their own, ready to begin a grand transformation. Parents can participate as well, enjoying the shared joy of building, creating, and playing together. This is a story about imagination, observation, and creative expression. Through the magic of words and illustrations, the most ordinary cardboard box becomes a world of possibilities, a playful space that activates the capacity for wonder.

*Fu Kuo is a graduate of the Department of Japanese Literature at National Taiwan University. Deeply fascinated by the endless charm of children's literature, she has worked as a bookstore clerk and children's book editor. Her translations include The King of Bread Bundle series.*

I can fold the cardboard box into a little nest  
and tuck a soft quilt inside.

My kitty Banban will definitely love this soft  
and cozy new home.

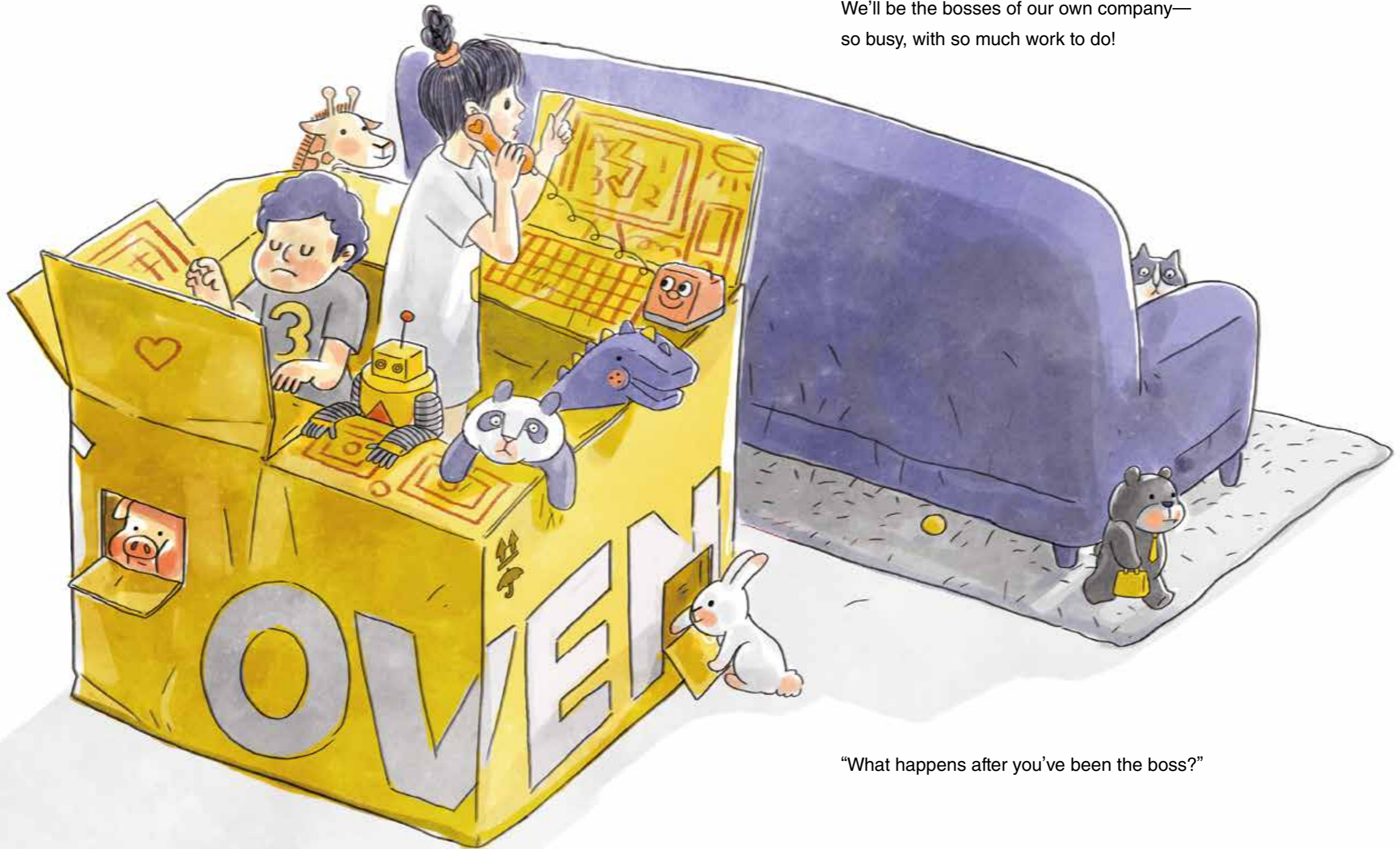
She can curl up into a tiny ball of fur,  
and I can snuggle beside her for a nap.



“What happens after the afternoon nap?”

I can draw a computer, a cell phone, a telephone,  
and a desk lamp on the lid.

This will be an office for my little brother and me.  
We'll be the bosses of our own company—  
so busy, with so much work to do!



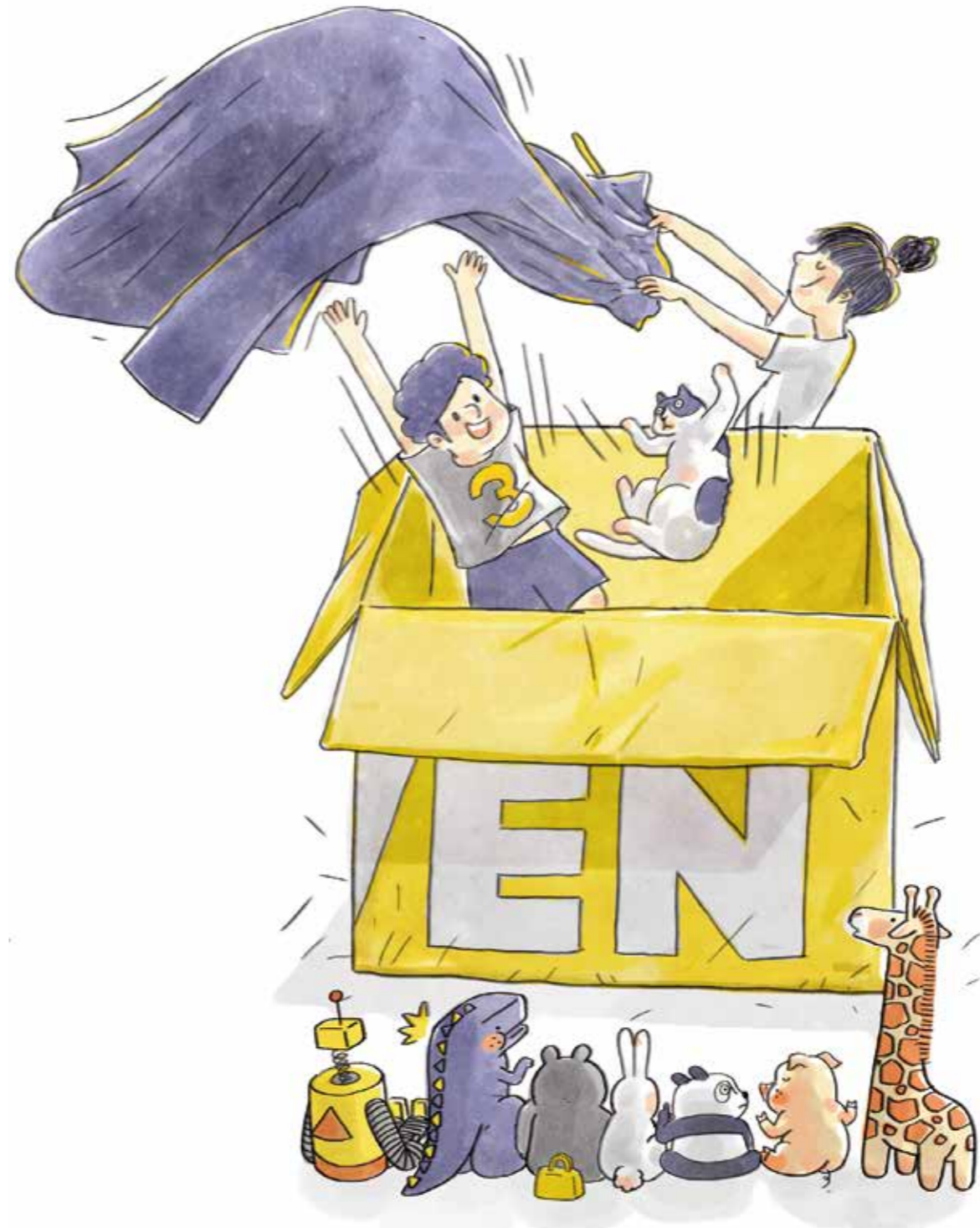
“What happens after you’ve been the boss?”



I can use this box to perform magic tricks with my little brother.

First, I'll ask him to hide inside.

Then I'll close the box and cover it with my big bath towel.



I'll shout, "One, two, three—change!"  
and out he jumps, like magic!

"What happens after the magic trick?"