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**E D I T I O N**



# BOOKS FROM TAIWAN

<http://booksfromtaiwan.moc.gov.tw/>



## Published by Ministry of Culture (MOC)

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**Issue** | Asian Edition No.2, 2025

**Publication Date** | March 5, 2026

**ISSN** | 2410-0781

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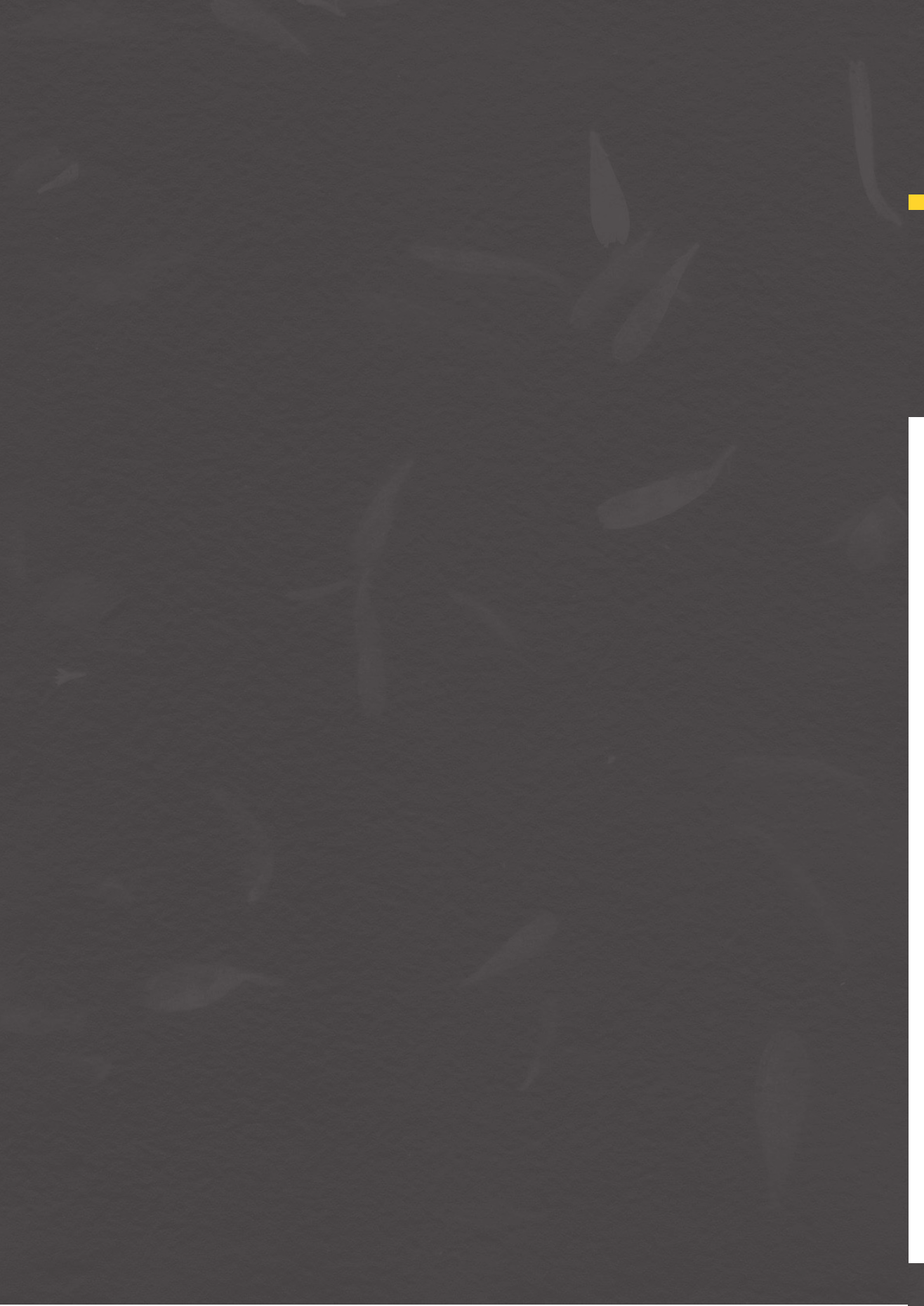
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# ABOUT MOC & BOOKS FROM TAIWAN

## About Ministry of Culture

The Ministry of Culture of Taiwan (Republic of China) was established on May 20, 2012.

As a member of the Executive Yuan, the Ministry oversees and cultivates Taiwan's soft power in the areas of arts and humanities, community development, crafts industry, cultural exchanges, international cultural participation, heritage, literature and publishing, living aesthetics, TV, cinema, and pop music.

The logo of the Ministry is an indigo-dyed morning glory. The indigenous flower symbolizes a trumpet heralding the coming of a new renaissance, in which cultural resources and aesthetics permeate all corners of the nation. The morning glory also represents the grassroots tenacity of Taiwan's diverse culture, a yearning for the positivity, simplicity, and warmth of earlier days, and a return to collective roots and values.

## About Books from Taiwan

Books from Taiwan is an initiative funded by Ministry of Culture to introduce a select list of Taiwan publishing titles, ranging from fiction, non-fiction, children's books, and comic books, to foreign publishers and readers alike.

You can find information about authors and books, along with who to contact in order to license translation rights, and the related resources about the Grant for the Publication of Taiwanese Works in Translation (GPT), sponsored by the Ministry of Culture of Taiwan.

# GRANT FOR THE PUBLICATION OF TAIWANESE WORKS IN TRANSLATION (GPT)

MINISTRY OF CULTURE,  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
(TAIWAN)

GPT is set up by The Ministry of Culture to encourage the publication of Taiwanese works in translation overseas, to raise the international visibility of Taiwanese cultural content, and to help Taiwan's publishing industry expand into non-Chinese international markets.

- Applicant Eligibility: Foreign publishing house (legal entity) legally registered or incorporated in accordance with the laws and regulations of their respective countries. A maximum of 2 applications can be submitted per period.
- Conditions:
  1. The so-called Taiwanese works must meet the following requirements:
    - A. Use traditional characters;
    - B. Created by a natural person holding an R.O.C. identity card or by a foreigner holding a work permit issued by the central competent authority of the R.O.C. (unless otherwise stipulated by the Employment Service Act);
    - C. Has been assigned an ISBN in Taiwan.  
i.e., the first 6 digits of the book's ISBN are 978-957-XXX-XXX-X, 978-986-XXX-XXX-X, or 978-626-XXX-XXX-X.
  2. Applications must include documents certifying that the copyright holder of the Taiwanese works consents to its translation and foreign publication, and detailing the rights and obligations of both parties, such as the term and renewal, royalty and advance, etc.
  3. A translation sample of the Taiwanese work is required (no restriction on its format and length).
  4. In principle, the translation of application should be directly translated from the original language. The translator's CVs must state whether he or she has mandarin translation experience.
  5. If applications use the fully translated English version of the book selected into "Books from Taiwan" to be published directly, or uses its excerpt translated

English version to translate the entire text into English for publication, please state it in applications. It is still necessary to provide documents certifying that the copyright holder of the Taiwanese work consents to its translation and foreign publication.

6. The translated work must be published within two years, after the first day of the relevant application period.

• Grant Items:

1. The maximum grant available for each project is NT\$600,000, which covers:

- A. Licensing fees (going to the copyright holder of the Taiwanese works);
- B. Translation fees;
- C. Promotion fees (limited to expenses related to R.O.C. writers participating in overseas promotional activities, not including advertising fees; applicants for this funding must propose a specific promotion plan and complete the implementation before submitting the grant project results);
- D. Book production-oriented fees;
- E. Tax (20% of the total award amount);
- F. Remittance-related handling fees.

2. Priority consideration is given to books that have received the Golden Tripod Award, the Golden Comic Award, the Golden Picture Book Award, and the Taiwan Literature Award, books written in endangered languages of the R.O.C., books on Taiwan's culture and history, or series of books.

3. Applicants who have a record of winning international awards for translated and published Taiwanese books will receive more grant.

4. Grant recipients who use the fully translated English version of the book selected into "Books from Taiwan" for publication, the grant does not cover translation fees; for those who use the excerpt translated English version, the translation fee is limited to the length of the book that has not yet been translated, and its grant amount will be adjusted based on the length of the entire text.

• Application Period: Twice every year, from April 1 to April 30, and from October 1 to October 31. The MOC reserves the right to change the application periods, and will announce said changes separately.

• Announcement of successful applications: Winners will be announced within three months of the end of the application period.

• Application Method: Please visit the Ministry's official website ([https://grants.moc.gov.tw/Web\\_ENG/](https://grants.moc.gov.tw/Web_ENG/)), and use the online application system.

For full details, please visit: [https://grants.moc.gov.tw/Web\\_ENG/](https://grants.moc.gov.tw/Web_ENG/)

Or contact: [books@moc.gov.tw](mailto:books@moc.gov.tw)



**A S I A N**  

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**E D I T I O N**

# TIMELESS RAILWAY ADVENTURES FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

## 青春不只 18： 大人的鐵道旅行

Drawing on twenty years of author Peter Lee's personal experience, this book on Japanese railway travel culture helps readers rediscover the romance of travel by rail: leisurely explorations of the world that allow contemplation of one's own inner landscape. The book explains the history of the Japanese Railway's "Seishun 18" ticket and argues that age shouldn't be a barrier to adventure - anyone can enjoy their own youthful rail journey, anytime, anywhere, so long as they embrace it with enthusiasm.

The author guides the reader across seasons and cities, exploring Japan's iconic railway routes. These include Enoshima's summertime seaside electric railway and the literary landscape of Dazai Osamu's stove-heated trains, as well as the Yokai "ghost" and Wakayama cat-themed trains, designer luxury trains, and even railway experiences on trains designed by internationally renowned architects Kazuyo Sejima and Kengo Kuma. In fact, the author's detailed descriptions of train car aesthetics and local customs along each route paint a picture of trains as "mobile architecture". Literary allusions and stories about history and culture abound, immersing readers in each railway's unique atmosphere.

While looking at the trend of railway companies inviting cross-disciplinary collaborations with designers and architects, the author also observes the ways in which Japan's regional revitalization efforts have taken care to create links between railways and tourism, thereby reviving local economies and culture. With its romantic, lyrical tone, this book will satisfy railway enthusiasts' passion for detail, yet will also fascinate intellectual readers with a love of design, aesthetics, and culture. Embark on a railway journey and rediscover the meaning of travel!



**Category:** Travel  
**Publisher:** Locus  
**Date:** 11/2024  
**Pages:** 256  
**Length:** 38,403 characters  
(approx. 24,900 words in English)  
**Rights contact:**  
bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw

Scholar, professor, columnist, and radio show host Peter Lee is dedicated to educating and elevating public awareness about architecture and metropolitan culture. He holds a master's degree from University of Michigan, and serves as an associate professor of architecture at Shih Chien University. He has been awarded two Golden Bell broadcasting awards, one for Best Cultural Radio Show, and one for Best Host of a Cultural Radio Show.

Peter Lee

李清志



“

*An architecture scholar and railway enthusiast, the author of this book suggests sixteen ways to get the most out of Japanese railway travel, hoping to awaken in adults everywhere their long-buried desire for adventure. Youth is a state of mind with no expiration date.*

”

# THE FLAVORS OF SALT: SEVEN LOCAL PRODUCTS, EIGHT EXPERT TIPS, AND TEN TAIWANESE SALT FIELDS

## 鹽選島滋味： 7 種鹽漬風土物產 × 8 位職人用鹽心法 × 10 處鹽場在地故事

This book is a comprehensive look at the history of Taiwan's salt industry, documenting its culinary culture and artisanal spirit. Co-authored by Tsai Chiung-Chiao, Lin Chia-Chi, Shen Meng-Mei, and Chen Ching-Yi, it combines extensive field research with historical and cultural references to showcase seven of Taiwan's representative salt-cured products. Featured alongside these are in-depth conversations with eight artisans who have mastered the art of salt and ten local salt fields' stories.

This book's appeal lies not just in its scientific and culinary perspectives, but also in the cultural and historical charm radiating from its pages as it explores Taiwan's geography, communities, and craftsmanship, with salt as the common thread. From southern Taiwan to eastern Taiwan and the outlying islands, we follow the authors as they visit the artisans who produce, process, and use salt. We see the remarkable transformation salt undergoes as various processing techniques turn it into a range of products, including open pan sea salt, algae salt, and bamboo salt. We explore Taiwanese ethnic groups' brining expertise in its many forms, such as Hakka dried vegetables, Tainan pickled clams, and the Amis' silaw (pickled pork). We then go behind the scenes of the restaurant industry to discover how chefs, salt stewards, and other artisans are exploring new possibilities for salt on our tables and in the industry.

Through stunning images, a wealth of information, artisan profiles, and historical anecdotes, this book captures the many layers of Taiwanese salt culture, making natural connections between the ways in which salt permeates food, the land, and even people's hearts. A comprehensive picture of Taiwan's complex and nuanced cultural landscape, this is an excellent guide to Taiwanese salt culture that invites readers to experience the many flavors of salt.



**Category:** Lifestyle  
**Publisher:** Yuan-Liou  
**Date:** 8/2024  
**Pages:** 240  
**Length:** 85,000 characters  
(approx. 55,200 words in English)  
**Rights contact:**  
[bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw](mailto:bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw)

“

*This comprehensive look at Taiwan's unique salt culture, traditional craftsmanship, and innovative artisans of today covers salt pan ecology, fermented sauces, and local cuisines, showcasing Taiwan's diverse cultural history and culinary arts, where salt and locale meet to the benefit of both.*

”



## Lin Chia-Chi 林嘉琪

Lin Chia-Chi is an independent journalist, winner of numerous news reporting awards, and a food-themed curator who has long focused on regional production, food, and sustainability issues. She specializes in combining field research with historical and cultural narratives for in-depth explorations of Taiwan's regional cuisine and locals' life stories.



photo © CHEN, YU-MIN

## Chen Ching-Yi 陳靜宜

Chen Ching-Yi is a veteran food culture writer and food journalist with considerable influence in Taiwan's food industry. She is known for her detailed field research and warm, engaging writing style, which she uses to write about the multicultural cuisines enjoyed in diverse ethnic communities.

## Tsai Chiung-Chiao 蔡炅樵

Tsai Chiung-Chiao is executive director of Taiwan's Zhou Nan Salt Field in Budai Township, Chiayi County. Long dedicated to the ecological restoration and cultural promotion of Taiwan's salt fields, he focuses on traditional salt industry techniques and sustainable development, actively connecting with local salt artisans to promote innovation and the preservation of salt field culture. He is the author of several works about Taiwan's salt industry.



## Shen Meng-Mei 沈錕美

Shen Meng-Mei holds a master's degree in cultural heritage preservation from National Yunlin University of Science and Technology and works at Zhou Nan Salt Field. Specializing in local cultural and environmental research, she has long focused on Taiwan's industrial transformation and culinary culture, combining a humanities-based perspective with environmental awareness and fieldwork with community education to promote the preservation of Taiwan's salt culture.



# THE DAYS I WASTED MY TALENT: HEALING JOURNALS FOR THE DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL

## 浪費才華的日子： 靈魂暗夜修復記

*The Days I Wasted My Talent* lays bare the difficulties of midlife, telling a journey of self-healing with heartfelt illustrations and prose. In clean, straightforward prose, the author shares zir pain and zir epiphanies: It's okay to waste your talent. There's no such thing as falling behind in life. You can allow yourself to fall, and even if you hit rock bottom, life will naturally catch you. Sensitivity isn't a burden; it's the gift of being able to feel, waiting to be reclaimed.

This book chronicles the author's long struggle with extreme sensitivity, physical and mental health, a breakup, and a long, dark period of being in a creative slump. It explores how alternative therapies allowed zir to get back in touch with zir body and accept life's challenges, and describes the support yoga and counseling provided, as well as the companionship of cats and friends. During this journey of midlife healing, the author slowly regained a sense of security and meaning in the midst of life's many rough spots. The book's narrative is simple yet profound, while the generous white space in the illustrations creates a breathing space that offers those struggling a moment of respite.

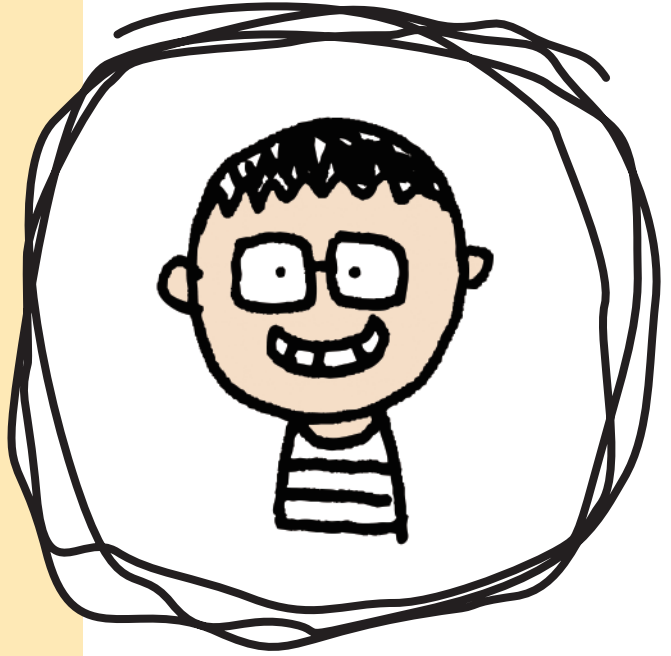
Emotional burnout and self-healing are common themes of our time. This illustrated book for adults reminds us that simply to exist and breathe is valuable. We can allow ourselves to drop the ball, to lag behind, and to fall, all of which require time for recovery and enjoyment of life's beautiful imperfections.



**Category:** Lifestyle  
**Publisher:** Locus  
**Date:** 2/2025  
**Pages:** 144  
**Length:** 13,967 characters  
(approx. 9,000 words in English)  
**Rights contact:**  
bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw

# beat

beat is a graphic artist known for zir clean lines and concise prose who excels at capturing sensitive inner experiences and transforming them into healing narratives. Zir work includes social media graphics, animation, brand illustration, and documentary filmmaking. Ze also occasionally teaches adult painting and videography classes. Zir published illustrated books including *Retired Cat's Guard* and *The Days I Wasted My Talent*.



“

*As we enter middle age, health problems arise, relationships suffer setbacks, and creative motivation falls by the wayside.... Popular illustrator beat uses heartfelt illustrations and prose to record a journey of healing from the darkness. Accepting oneself and one's vulnerability are the start of a new life.*

”

# WHEN THEY WERE NOT WRITING NOVELS: PORTRAITS OF NOVELISTS FROM TAIWAN UNDER MARTIAL LAW

## 他們沒在寫小說的時候： 戒嚴台灣小說家群像

Part of a new generation of writers, Chu Yu-Hsun has devoted significant time and energy to educating people about literature in addition to writing fiction and criticism. Among his most important projects are books introducing authors and works from Taiwanese literary history. Representing the culmination of six years of work, *When They Were Not Writing Novels* focuses on nine significant writers active during the martial law period. The book takes a unique approach: rather than analyzing the writers' works, it explores how they helped to make Taiwanese literature more diverse and viable.

Chung Chao-Cheng, a prolific author known for his tireless support of friends and emerging talent, is by necessity the first author introduced, as so many others' stories involve him. Similar generous assistance to other authors came from Lin Haiyin, former editor-in-chief of the *United Daily News* literary supplement, who dedicated herself to discovering and promoting new writers; Chen Qian-Wu, who founded a poetry society and pioneered new horizons for modern poetry; and Hualing Nieh Engle, who co-directed the International Writing Program in the US.

The other five writers featured in the book carved out more individual literary paths: Yeh Shih-Tao left a wealth of peer criticism and reference materials for later generations; Chung Li-Ho, victim to the era's hardships, poverty, and illness, vomited blood as he revised his manuscripts prior to his death; Guo Songfen's politics forced him to live in the US after studying abroad; Chen Yingzhen firmly supported leftist and anti-localist positions and moved to China in his later years; and Chi Ten-Shung chose a modernist writing style, breaking with his literary friends.

The author's accessible prose shows both the literary constraints of the times and the creativity they fostered. In pages interspersed with anecdotes from the writers' lives as well as the author's experiences as a reader and researcher, the great names in Taiwanese literary history are given new life, their stories of survival in adversity sure to inspire.



**Category:** Narrative Non-fiction

**Publisher:** Locus

**Date:** 9/2021

**Pages:** 312

**Length:** 111,802 characters

(approx. 72,600 words in English)

**Rights contact:**

bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw

“ During Taiwan’s period of martial law, the political atmosphere was conservative and speech was restricted. Taiwanese literature, however, surmounted all restrictions to develop in very different directions. This book introduces nine of this period’s most representative writers and their legacy to Taiwanese literary history. ”

## Chu Yu-Hsun 朱宥勳

Chu Yu-Hsun’s writing has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Lin Rung-San Foundation Prize and the National Student Literature Prize. He has received funding from National Culture and Arts Foundation, and is a member of the Keng Hsin Youth Literary Association. He is currently a writer, a popular literary educator with over 150,000 YouTube subscribers, and a current affairs commentator. His published works can be divided into the following categories: essays on personal growth, writing, and teaching writing, such as *Surviving as a Writer* and *Body Pilot*; popular books on Taiwanese literary history, such as *Novels They Dare Not Teach in Schools* and *When They Were Not Writing Novels*; and novels that reflect social reality, combining contemporary issues and thought experiments, such as *The Ducks in the Lagoon*, *Secret Testimony*, and *Islands in Peril*. His official website is: <https://chuckchu.com.tw/>



# SIXTEEN NIGHTS IN THE EAST

## 東海岸十六夜

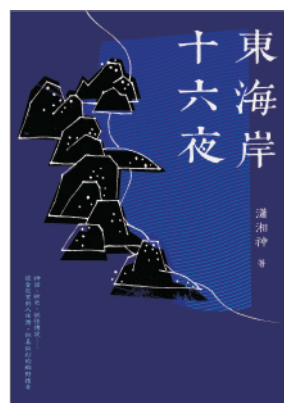
\* 2025 Readmoo Readers' Choice Award

\* 2025 Openbook Award

Taiwan's east coast, which entered modern development relatively late in comparison to the west coast, is renowned for its natural beauty. Its history and culture, however, are often ignored, despite archaeological evidence that eastern Taiwan has engaged in maritime trade with other regions since prehistoric times. Xiao Xiang Shen took note of the relative scarcity of historical and cultural books about the east coast and wrote this book to address the gaps in readers' knowledge and understanding. Combining his interest in folklore and legends with his expertise in fantasy and mystery writing, he leads readers on an in-depth exploration of eastern Taiwan from the perspective of a "western Taiwan" traveler.

This book follows the author's journey from Taipei to sixteen regions along the east coast over sixteen nights. Staying in a different region each night, the author recorded local legends and knowledge, often starting with the origins and evolution of place names. "Cape Santiago", for example, a place name from night three, has Spanish associations but also suggests the presence of Indigenous people at the time of the Spanish conquistadors. The author next takes a closer look at the stories of these Indigenous people and introduces readers to legends and artifacts left behind in the area by Chinese and Japanese conquerors. Along the way, the author also indulges in seafood, ponders his observations amidst beautiful scenery, and contemplates the possibility of historical truth.

Despite its sixteen-night structure, the book compiles the findings of multiple expeditions and compares multiple perspectives, although its blend of narrative and commentary combined with the author's casual, romantic writing style could cause some to overlook his meticulous reasoning and extensive expertise as a scholar of detective fiction and folklore. This book gives readers not just an entertaining bedtime story but also a deeper understanding of eastern Taiwan's diversity, as well as insights into how colonialism's legacy has shaped the landscape and influenced historical interpretations.



**Category:** History

**Publisher:** Locus

**Date:** 11/2024

**Pages:** 456

**Length:** 197,773 characters  
(approx. 128,500 words in English)

**Rights contact:**

bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw

“ This alternative travelogue combines folklore with history and field research to tell the stories of sixteen regions on Taiwan’s east coast. Both speculative and imaginative, it reveals the gaps in the reader’s understanding of eastern Taiwan’s history and culture. Perfect with a glass of wine or as bedtime reading. ”

Novelist and VR game designer Xiao Xiang Shen is a member of Taipei Legend Studio and an avid researcher of local folklore whose work brings the mystical side of urban spaces to life. He has written multiple novels set in Taiwan during the Japanese occupation, as well as a reference manual of creatures from Taiwanese folklore which became the basis for a well-known virtual reality game. His most recent representative work is the fantasy novel *Man-Made Gods*, shortlisted for several awards including the Golden Tripod Award. And *Chopsticks*, his fiction collaboration with Mitsuda Shinzo, Xerses, JeTauZi, and Chan Ho-Kei, has been translated into English, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Thai editions.

Xiao  
Xiang Shen  
瀟湘神

# A WORLD HISTORY OF TAIWAN

## 世界的台灣史

Taiwan has had many names: “Dongfan” was one of several used by the Chinese in the sixteenth century. After Portuguese sailors passed through the island around 1542, the most common name on world maps became “Ilha Formosa”. In the seventeenth century, the Dutch used “Tayovan”, while “Kōzankoku” appears in Japanese documents of the same period. To this day, scholars remain unsure of the origin of “Taiwan”, each theory indirectly confirming the complexity of Taiwan’s history, with the only certainty being that the island has had a role in world history from very early on. This book provides a fascinating historical account of Taiwan’s global interactions.

Divided into thirteen chapters and a conclusion, the book begins with prehistoric artifacts from trade exchanges. It next moves to the Age of Exploration, a period of recorded history in which commerce flourished, and then to the nineteenth century, when European and American powers competed for an Asian presence and established bases in Taiwan. It continues with the Japanese colonial period, which introduced the basic education and infrastructure of today, and concludes with the diplomatic and economic activities that enabled participation in international affairs after the lifting of martial law. These chapters show how the island’s residents gradually transitioned from passive acceptance of outside influence to active engagement with the world.

Professor Lin condenses Taiwan’s history into a compact book that is both concise and extraordinarily informative. *A World History of Taiwan* explains how the Taiwanese people have been able to embrace their diversity and limitations to turn their island home into a place full of opportunities, despite its small area and the frequent external challenges it has had to confront.

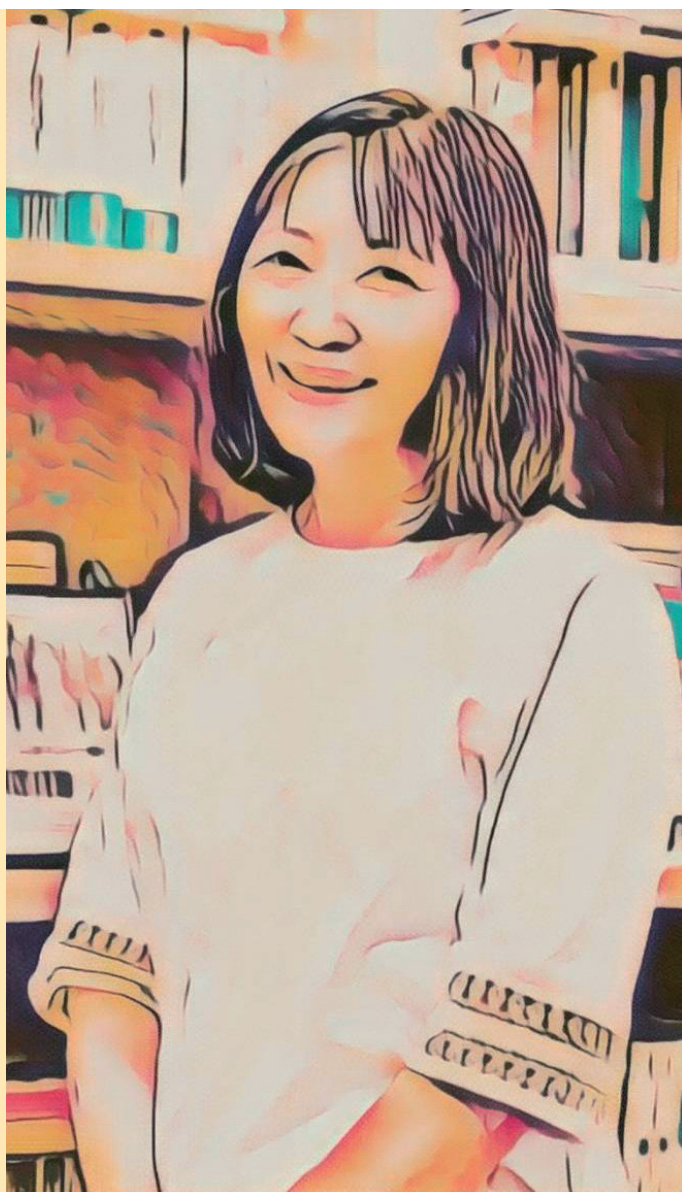


**Category:** History  
**Publisher:** Taiwan Interminds  
**Date:** 11/2024  
**Pages:** 460  
**Length:** 210,000 characters  
(approx. 136,500 words in English)  
**Rights contact:**  
bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw

# April Chen-Jung Lin

林呈蓉

April Chen-Jung Lin holds a PhD in humanities from Ochanomizu University, Japan, and is currently a professor in the Department of History at Tamkang University. Her areas of academic expertise are the history of Japan's foreign relations and Taiwan during the Japanese colonial period. Her recent book-length publications include *A Brief History of Taiwan's Foreign Relations*, *Taiwan in the Great Power Struggle of the 19th Century*, *Witnessing 1895: The Formosa Republic*, and *A World History of Taiwan*.



“ Situated on a key shipping route, Taiwan has been a hub for the exchange of people and goods since ancient times. This book looks at Taiwan's role in world history from a maritime perspective, as well as the historical reasons for Taiwan's current multifaceted society and influence on world affairs. ”

# GEOPOLITICS: SOUTHEAST ASIA

## 地緣政治：東南亞利多交會

強權 × 商機 × 競合，在海陸布局中炙手可熱，  
勢力湧動新核心

Home to five strategic straits that affect one-third of global maritime trade, Southeast Asia lies at a geopolitical crossroads. It is also a stage for the power struggle between major players such as China, the United States, India, Japan, and Australia. Drawing on a combination of geography, history, and analyses of international relations, this book guides readers through the defining features of Southeast Asia's geopolitics and current political landscape.

In the first of its seven chapters, the book looks at Southeast Asia's geographical features, explaining why the area is strategically important. It next discusses Southeast Asia's history, analyzing how the area's past influences present politics. Chapter three delves into Southeast Asia's natural and cultural geography, outlining its frequent territorial disputes. Chapter four examines how the United States, China, India, Japan, Australia, and the European Union view Southeast Asia and their interactive strategies. Chapter five describes the current challenges facing Southeast Asia and proposes possible solutions. Chapter six explores Southeast Asia's developmental advantages from the perspectives of international relations, political economy, and national defense. The final chapter presents Taiwan's multiple perspectives on Southeast Asia.

This book, accessible and insightful, combines precise analysis with an abundance of visual aids to provide readers with a comprehensive strategic map of Southeast Asia. It is suitable not only for political studies and business decision-makers, but also for anyone interested in international relations.



**Category:** Politics  
**Publisher:** Crystal Press  
**Date:** 10/2024  
**Pages:** 228  
**Length:** 104,000 characters  
(approx. 67,600 words in English)  
**Rights contact:**  
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“

*An understanding of global politics requires an understanding of Southeast Asia, which has become a focal point in the competition for global power. This book gives the reader a solid grounding in Southeast Asia's geography, history, economy, and international relations, leading to a clear understanding of this strategically key region.*

”



明白

## Geopolitics Editorial Department

### 地緣政治編輯部

**E**dited by former media professional Lin Chi-Bo, the book brings together eight famous international relations experts (Liu Bih-Rong, Tang Chih-Mao, Albert Chiu, Chen Shang-Mao, Li Shi-Hui, Fang Tien-Sze, Matteo Chang, and Chen Hui-Min), two authorities on national defense and security (Huang An-Hao and Chai Wen-Chung), one financial expert (Wei Xi-Bin), one geography community moderator (Wu Yang-Jui), and five senior international current affairs observers (Tao Yu-Jung, Ko Pi-Chen, Lin Chun-Yu, Yang Wen-Li, and Li Chong-Xiang) to provide authoritative and comprehensive analysis.

# THE SATIR APPROACH: UNDERSTAND YOUR INNER ICEBERG

薩提爾的對話練習：  
以好奇的姿態，理解你的內在冰山，  
探索自己，連結他人

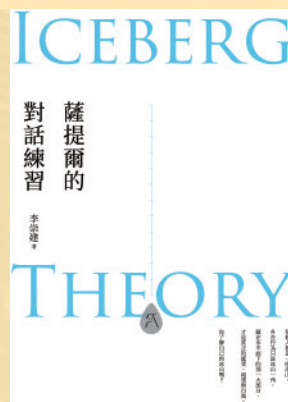
\* Over 130,000 copies sold

The superficial behaviors we encounter in our daily interactions often mislead us, showing us only the tip of the iceberg rather than the true source of a problem. American family therapist Virginia Satir created her iceberg metaphor to illustrate a person's inner and outer selves: what we see is only a small part of the whole; far more lies hidden beneath the surface.

Satir's collaborator, Dr. John Banmen, has actively promoted her model for many years; educator Lee Chung-Chien, a disciple of Banmen with extensive experience in teaching, consulting, and conducting workshops, has developed a practical framework based on Satir's metaphorical iceberg – a cross-shaped structure with the iceberg as its vertical axis and personal life experience as the horizontal axis. Using this framework, readers will learn to sort through their past, connecting with feelings, expectations, yearnings, and their core being (self). This helps them to break away from habitual defensive stances (blaming; placating; computing, or being super-reasonable; and distracting) and move instead towards one that consistently cares for the inner self and connects authentically with others.

The book covers the communication issues that matter most to today's reading audience: marital disputes, sibling conflicts, and parent-child conversations. Each topic is accompanied by a wealth of real-world examples, demonstrating the transformative power of Satir's model, which transforms relationships from "persuading" to "understanding" and from "solving problems" to "building connections".

*The Satir Approach* has sold over 130,000 copies, helping countless readers to cultivate acceptance and rebuild trust. This is a guide that balances theory and practice for anyone seeking to improve the quality of their communication.



**Category:** Self-help

**Publisher:** CommonWealth Education

**Date:** 4/2021

**Pages:** 320

**Length:** 92,000 characters  
(approx. 59,800 words in English)

**Rights contact:**

bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw

**Rights sold:**

Thailand (Nanmeebooks)

Simplified Chinese (Goldmye)

“

*Lee Chung-Chien uses Satir's iceberg model to teach readers to see through superficial behaviors and understand their actual needs at the deepest levels, as well as to resolve conflicts, repair relationships, and reconnect with others through effective communication.*

”

photo © Chieh-Hsuan Liu



## Lee Chung-Chien 李崇建

Lee Chung-Chien is an author, educator, and advocate of the Satir Model. A former alternative junior high school teacher, he has dedicated his career to training others in communication skills, traveling widely in Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, China and North America. He is the author of books such as *Teaching with the Heart*, *Teacher in the Rye*, *Schools Without Walls*, and *The Satir Approach*. For many years, he has helped people repair their relationships and rebuild themselves through listening and questioning.

# I'M NOT A HERO: A TAIWANESE FIGHT FOR UKRAINE

## 我不做英雄： 一個台灣人在烏克蘭的戰爭洗禮

As a Taiwanese man with a childlike optimism, Chen Hsi-chose to join the French Foreign Legion. Five years later, when Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, he decided to shift to a new battlefield, joining the International Legion for the Defence of Ukraine to put his training and experience into practical use surrounded by the flames of war. With only a tablet and a silent keyboard, he documented daily life on the brutal Kharkiv front for eight months, capturing his actual experiences of war through text, photographs, and videos.

The book's first-person perspective gives readers a direct look at the brutal but precious moments of war: life-or-death moments of being targeted by the enemy, risky decisions to make a move that would save a squadmate, and the constant pain of losing comrades in battle that he could never quite get used to. As a memento and a reminder to himself to remain vigilant, Chen would take an item from the bodies of fallen comrades. But aside from the ruthlessness and precarity of the battlefield, he also depicts the joys to be found in the midst of frontline hardships: soldiers celebrating the birthdays of absent comrades with cakes conjured from their backpacks and the heartfelt welcome and gratitude of local residents reassured him that his choice was not in vain. Yet it was an unexpected deception and betrayal that forced him from the battlefield.

As a frontline soldier, Chen not only bears witness to the developments on the modern battlefield with this personal record of events, but also commemorates its heroes, both the dead and those who remain on the front lines, continuing to fight. "We're all going to die, but it won't be today," he tells us. By writing about those who put their lives on the line, Chen has turned anonymous individuals into more than just numbers in history, carrying the weight of their souls into readers' hearts.



**Category:** Military Memoir

**Publisher:** Walkers

**Date:** 6/2024

**Pages:** 288

**Length:** 88,000 characters

(approx. 57,200 words in English)

**Rights contact:**

bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw



## Chen His 陳晞

Chen His, a native of New Taipei City, Taiwan, served in the French Foreign Legion and later in the International Legion for the Defence of Ukraine. While fighting in the war, he recorded his battlefield experiences on X (formerly Twitter) using the anonymous account Bu Shi Lushan (a line from a poem by Su Shi meaning “I cannot know the true face of Mount Lu”). On the battlefield, he was called “Speedy”.

“ This isn’t the war you see in the news – it’s a soldier’s firsthand experience on the front lines. After five years in the French Foreign Legion, Chen His decided to join the International Legion for the Defence of Ukraine. His frontline diary captures eight months of battlefield realities through text, photographs, and videos. ”

# LIVE LIKE YOURSELF IN YOUR FINAL MOMENTS: THE MEANING OF HOSPICE CARE

## 生命的最後一刻，都活得像自己： 安寧照護的真義

Many people assume that hospice care is simply about ensuring a peaceful death, but they overlook a more crucial aspect: as the end nears, it's not just about passing away peacefully; it's also about living well as one's authentic self. Dr. Hsieh Wan-Ting, who has accompanied nearly 10,000 patients in their final moments, redefines the true significance of hospice care with poignant, real-life stories.

The book is divided into three parts. In part one, *The Challenges of Hospice Care*, the author uses six stories to share the questions from family members and societal misconceptions she confronts in her daily work. Part two, *There Are No One-Size-Fits-All Answers in Hospice Care*, explores the individualized support each case requires, whether it involves an elderly patient with dementia, a patient attempting suicide, or a family unable to see their loved one for the last time because of the pandemic. The third and final part, *What Hospice Care Teaches Us*, presents a diverse range of patients, including prisoners, entrepreneurs, and Indigenous tribe members, to demonstrate how the humane qualities of hospice care transcend race and background. Each chapter concludes with "Dr. Wan-Ting's Heartwarming Tips", providing professional and practical knowledge on hospice care drawn from the author's decade-plus of medical experience.

Dr. Hsieh records sincere, earnest interactions between doctors and patients with a warmth that shines through her writing - no preaching or difficult medical terms, just powerful stories. Whether the reader is facing a loved one's illness, has questions about life and death, or is working in medical care, this book will provide profound inspiration and practical guidance, helping people rethink how to live their lives to the fullest in life's last moments.



**Category:** Memoir  
**Publisher:** Aquarius  
**Date:** 3/2025  
**Pages:** 288  
**Length:** 79,098 characters  
(approx. 51,400 words in English)  
**Rights contact:**  
bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw



“

*Dr. Hsieh Wan-Ting draws on end-of-life experiences with nearly 10,000 patients to write about life in its final stage. With these true stories, she aims to help everyone not just to die with dignity, but also to live like themselves at the end.*

”

## Hsieh Wan-Ting 謝宛婷

Hsieh Wan-Ting is director of the Hospice Care Center at Chi Mei Hospital, adjunct assistant professor of humanities and social medicine at National Cheng Kung University's School of Medicine, and founder of the SüRüM Bookstore. She is a longtime promoter of hospice care education and social advocacy. The simplified Chinese rights for her book *To Die Means Living: A Hospice Care Physician's Reflections on the End of Life* have already been sold.

# ROVING IN THE ZONE

## 站在原地走了很遠

In this book, author Phoebe Jan gives a starkly honest first-person account of life as a sensitive introvert, transforming her observations and experiences into a psychological map and a unique narrative. In these short essays completed while she wrote her novel, she reflects on her time in Taiwan and travels in Japan, pondering the meaning of family, individuality, and community as she shows how life flows between solitude and dependence, drifting and settling down.

The book is divided into six thematic sections in which the author interrogates and contemplates time, unpacking the subtle emotions of an introvert who has struggled to fit into the world. In the process, she revisits her life's many minor hurts, which were so often impossible to express to others. In the opening chapters, she recounts the birth of her younger sister, when she was nine. Her observations on her sibling's development also allow her to contemplate habits formed in childhood. The daily interactions between the two sisters, who developed into very different personalities, mirror the author's emotional journey as she drifted at the margins of society yet remained deeply attached to her family. Subsequent chapters explore themes of misunderstanding, solo travel, and life abroad, depicting the psychological barriers and cross-cultural encounters that people experience today. Each section offers a nuanced exploration of self-awareness, reflecting the anxieties of the modern spirit while also serving as a profound act of self-healing through writing.

In deeply insightful prose, the author crafts a detached, unsentimental narrative that simultaneously captures a sense of alienation and warmth. This atypical look at a woman's coming-of-age allows readers to accompany the author on a journey through memory and place that ends with the quiet contemplation of her own inner landscape, feeling as if she has roved far and wide without taking a single step.



**Category:** Essay

**Publisher:** Gaea

**Date:** 1/2025

**Pages:** 256

**Length:** 77,095 characters  
(approx. 50,100 words in English)

**Rights contact:**

bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw

“

*This is million-copy bestselling novelist Phoebe Jan's first essay collection. With diary-like intimacy, her detailed, naked descriptions of a sensitive introvert show how she sought a place for herself in contemporary life and found a sense of belonging in simple, straightforward interactions with her sister.*

”

”



## Phoebe Jan 詹馥華

Phoebe Jan, born in 1979, is a writer, screenwriter, and director. Her most representative novel is the million-copy bestseller *Waiting for My Cup of Tea*, which she adapted and directed into a film of the same name in 2021. Her latest work is the essay collection *Roving in the Zone*, published in 2025.

# THE MAGICAL CHINESE MEDICINE PHARMACY: CARING FOR OUR HEALTH YEAR ROUND

## 神奇漢藥房

### \* 2025 Golden Tripod Award

**A**ngelica sinensis, red dates, deer antlers...the Magical Chinese Medicine Pharmacy was filled with hundreds of unusual herbal medicines. While growing up, A-Mei spent every day watching her mother make up prescriptions and slice, shred, and dice ingredients for customers. She also learned to help her mother assist the people who came to the shop: Mrs. Chen, who came to buy bone-strengthening prescriptions that would help her child grow taller; Mr. Chang, who bought medicinal wine for replenishing qi and blood; chain store owners who bought large quantities of tea egg spice packets; and neighbors who sometimes stopped by for tea and a chat. On busy days, A-Mei would sneak in a nap by the medicine cabinet. Although the Magical Chinese Medicine Pharmacy closed after she became an adult, these precious memories will always be with her.

The little girl A-Mei in the story is the author herself. Tân Tshian-lông's mother inherited her grandfather's traditional Chinese medicine business, which later closed due to major cultural and social changes and her mother's death. The author has infused this picture book with her experiences at the pharmacy, including her personal ties to it, memories of her mother's hard work, and casual conversations with customers, as well as her thoughts and feelings about the mother she greatly misses.

Written in Taiwanese with Chinese translations, this is the first picture book in Taiwan to have the Chinese medicine pharmacy as its theme. Tân Tshian-lông's heartfelt prose is paired with innocent, childlike illustrations that take readers back into the past, where they will smell the fragrant aroma of medicinal herbs and feel the warmth of human connection.



**Category:** Picture Book

**Publisher:** Azure

**Date:** 10/2024

**Pages:** 46

**Length:** 750 characters  
(approx. 400 words in English)

**Rights contact:**

bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw

Tân Tshian-lông is a native of Taichung, who started drawing and reading picture books after becoming a mother, and also began speaking her native tongue, Taiwanese, again. She enjoys documenting the details of her life through writing and drawing.

## Tân Tshian-lông 陳芊榕



“

*The array of herbal medicines on display in traditional Chinese medicine pharmacies is a feast for the eyes. Author Tân Tshian-lông has created drawings of her childhood memories from a traditional pharmacy, telling a story redolent with aromatic medicines and the neighborly warmth of times past.*

”

# THE LEGEND OF TONGKU SAVEQ

## 東谷沙飛傳奇

### \* 2025 Golden Tripod Award

On a small island, on a night when the constellation of a hunter aiming his bow at the moon appeared in the heavens, a boy was born in Kalibuan Village. Attacked by a crow right after leaving his mother's womb, he would have died had it not been for the timely rescue of a spirit incarnated as a white muntjac. The numerous omens at his time of birth caused his parents to name him Subali - "sun" - after his grandfather, hoping the future would bring him similar respect. The boy remained weak, however, so his parents renamed him Buan - "moon" - a name divined from a dream. Buan grew.

At that time, the tribe could cook half a grain of millet to make an entire potful, and when someone needed wood for a fire, a sang (red pine) would arrive at their door. Buan, who displayed an extraordinary talent for archery, had a happy childhood. Later, however, the people became lazy and squandered Heaven's favor. They even bullied a toad sent as a divine messenger. Disappointed, Heaven decided to withdraw what it had given. A fire demon then took over the moon. Buan and his people repelled an invasion of magical beasts, but life without any nighttime became increasingly difficult.

The spirits told Buan he must save the moon; otherwise, its death would mean the end of the world. To subdue the fire demon, they would have to travel to the holy Tongku Saveq, the one mountain that came nearest to the moon....

Bunun writer Neqou Soqluman, fascinated since childhood by the stories the Bunun tribal elders passed down, was inspired by *The Lord of the Rings* to create an ancient fantasy world based on his village, Kalibuan, and nearby Jade Mountain (Tongku Saveq in the Bunun language). His vivid descriptions and fertile imagination weave together familiar legends with the heroic journey of a young man and his companions.



**Category:** Fantasy

**Publisher:** Sacca

**Date:** 12/2024

**Pages:** 294 (Vol. 1), 324 (Vol. 2)

**Length:**

Vol. 1: 99,309 characters

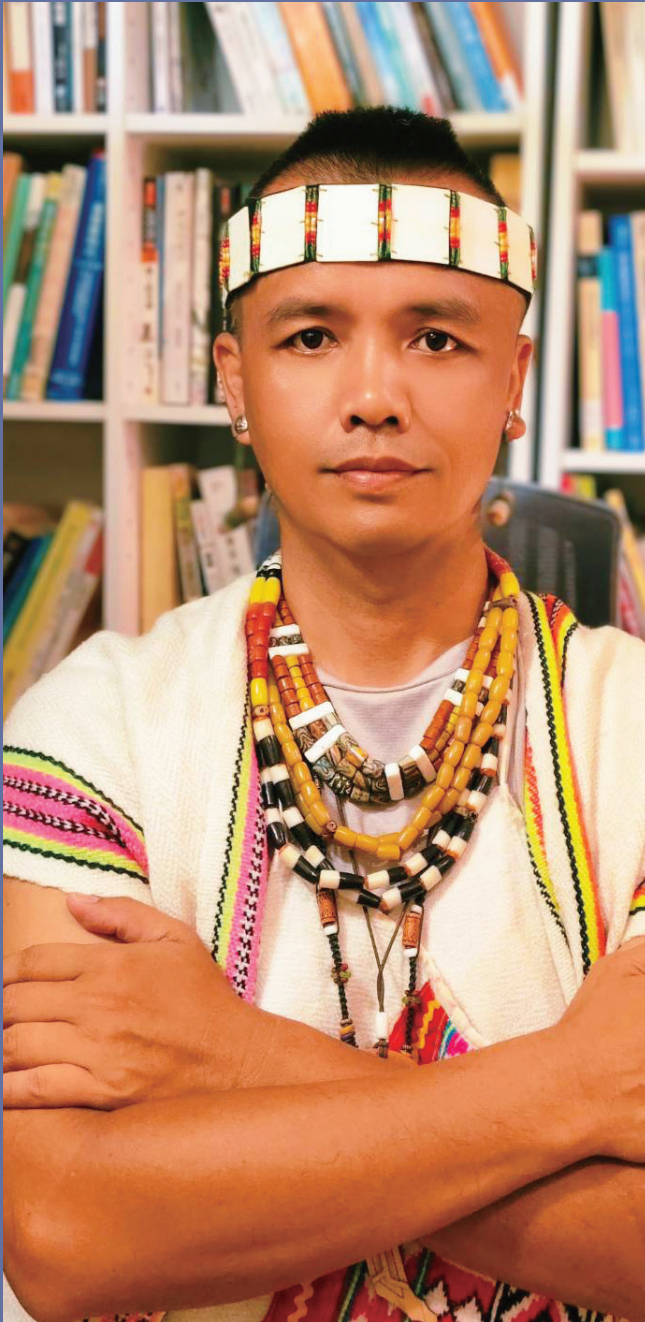
(approx. 64,500 words in English)

Vol. 2: 111,502 characters

(approx. 72,400 words in English)

**Rights contact:**

bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw



“

*In this fantasy novel incorporating the myths and legends of Taiwan's indigenous Bunun people, a young man and his companions set out to save the moon. This fascinating adventure story is also a modern myth that contemplates the relationship between humans and nature.*

”

## Neqou Soqluman

七寇·索克魯曼

Neqou Soqluman is a member of the Bunun people and the Kalibuan indigenous community, which has a direct view of the sacred Tongku Saveq (Jade Mountain). Exceptionally skilled at magical realism, he has written fiction and non-fiction novels, essays, poetry, and picture books. In addition to winning several local literary awards, his picture book *My Hunter Grandpa: Dahai and the Black Bear* was also included in an elementary school textbook. His most representative work is the two-volume fantasy novel *The Legend of Tongku Saveq*.

# DAYS OF THE DEAD SWANS

## 天鵝死去的日子

What if there were a near-future dystopian society reminiscent of *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, which enacted a law to discard the elderly, similar to *The Ballad of Narayama*? What kind of story would unfold if a group of those over sixty formed a revolutionary army of resistance, fighting with clenched fists like the music video for “Hoppípolla” by Icelandic band Sigur Rós? This is what young novelist Chiou Charng-Ting imagined one day on a train. The result is this book. Its twenty-four chapters depict a generational conflict between the old and the young, highlighting the life memories of the old and their fight to resist the established order.

The book’s characters include an old man who is dying and leaves home in search of his son, a young man who dreams of becoming a writer, a young prostitute, an old prostitute who survives by taking advantage of free food handed out at demonstrations, a revolutionary leader with a fear of flashing lights, and an eighty-year-old woman who believes she is an eight-year-old girl.... The chapter titles are dates, used to organize a nonlinear narrative that sometimes revisits a character’s past and parent-child relationships, sometimes reveals how the authorities have dealt with dissidents, and sometimes depicts the daily lives of the elderly revolutionaries. In “Sleep Day”, one of the book’s final chapters, the truth behind “purification” is at last revealed.

Chiou Charng-Ting’s lyrical prose often pays homage to the ingenuity of renowned writers like Plath and Orwell, yet she also bravely confronts the world’s cruelty. Although the novel’s ambiguous setting seems disconnected from reality, the story addresses common social issues such as pension reform and elder care. It reflects the intergenerational conflict between young people, who resent the elderly’s monopolization of resources, and the elderly, who long for care and dignity. As readers piece together the full story, they are also challenged to reflect on our own world.



**Category:** Sci-fi

**Publisher:** Showwe Information

**Date:** 1/2018

**Pages:** 200

**Length:** 69,105 characters  
(approx. 44,900 words in English)

**Rights contact:**

bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw

“

*In a near-future society, anyone turning seventy is sent to the gas chamber for execution, a practice the authorities call “purification”. Later, the government amends the law, lowering the age limit to sixty. Some older citizens decide to rebel....*

”

# Chiou Charng-Ting

邱常婷

Chiou Charng-Ting earned her literary MFA from Dong Hwa University, and she is currently pursuing a PhD in children’s literature at National Taitung University. Her work, which spans genre fiction, fantasy, children’s literature, and upmarket literature, has won the King Car Fantasy Prize, the Unitas New Author Award, and the Openbook Award. Her most representative work is the fantasy novel *Beastosis*.



# I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE A GAMBLE ON THIS

## 鞅與停時：賭徒機率概論

In this sci-fi story set in the future, a superpowered alien race called the Celestials has conquered humanity and AI. The new alien overlords have enacted a supreme gambling law, which requires all races to resolve everything by gambling. Before long, humans and AI humanoids, inferior to the Celestials in intelligence and physical ability, have become second-class citizens, unable to afford food or daily necessities, much less medical care or body modification.

Seventeen-year-old Fides, a human prodigy with exceptional gambling skills, lives a simple life, gambling in order to repay the slum orphanage that raised him. After he meets the AI humanoid Haller, he develops a grander goal: to overthrow the city's seven Celestial rulers and prevent a Celestial plot to exterminate both humanity and AI.

With the assistance of a Celestial female idol, their plan initially proceeds smoothly, but their enemies quickly discover their intentions and launch a counterattack. The human-AI duo's only choice is to face the challenge head on and take a gamble on fighting back. If they lose, they risk not only their newly won chips and their own lives, but also the lives of those they hold dear...

This book combines the thrill of the Japanese manga *Kakegurui* - *Compulsive Gambler* with the humanistic concerns of a dystopian novel. It also features a single-volume conclusion - a rarity in light novels. This is a lighthearted, entertaining read that also offers serious readers an opportunity to discover new perspectives on the real world.



**Category:** Sci-fi

**Publisher:** Ever Glory

**Date:** 12/2021

**Pages:** 352

**Length:** 151,964 characters  
(approx. 98,700 words in English)

**Rights contact:**

bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw

# Tian Qin

## 天琴

Tian Qin holds a degree in Japanese. He is the author of the *I Don't Want to Go to School* series and *Welcome to Join the Death Idol Trial Show Hosted by God*.



“

*In a world where gambling equals resource allocation, the rule-makers hold all the cards, enjoying easy access to everything while those unable to enter the game struggle to make ends meet. Two second-class citizens skilled at gambling join forces to change the playing field, despite the low chance of success....*

”

# THE SPIRIT MEDIUM DETECTIVE TRILOGY

## 乩童警探三部曲

The Spirit Medium Detective trilogy blends Taiwan's temple culture with the investigative work of prosecutors, police, and forensic experts, merging the supernatural and reality to create a world unlike any other in mystery fiction. Raised in a Daoist temple, Detective Lo Chih possesses the psychic abilities of a medium, enabling him to see clues others can't and uncover the secrets behind each case.

The trilogy's first installment, *The Death Row Oddity*, begins with an execution by firing squad. Despite his vehement denials of guilt, the killer in the Lin family mansion murder case is sentenced to death. Detective Lo Chih witnesses the execution but does not see the man's soul depart. He discovers that the condemned man had a rare condition: his heart was not located on the left side of his chest. As a result, he is still alive. How should those who enforce the law deal with this situation? Does this murder case conceal deeper truths? How will Lo Chih, the former vessel for a deified spirit, navigate this "dead man walking" investigation?

The second installment, *Duplicate Murder*, involves a series of murders. Seemingly unconnected victims are found stabbed with identical knives, a previous victim's fingerprints on the handles. Could the victims have returned from the dead to commit murder? Thanks to his extraordinary abilities, Lo Chih is once again called upon to investigate this bizarre series of deaths.

In the third installment, *The Deeps of Death*, Lo Chih investigates the disappearance of a female police officer, discovering that she participated in an online Ouija board séance before she vanished. As he delves into the case, he finds himself in grave danger....

The Spirit Medium Detective trilogy depicts Taiwanese society's religious beliefs, judicial system, and complex human nature with a suspenseful narrative style. The stories focus not just on figuring out "whodunnit" but also probe themes of evil and death, challenging readers' perceptions of justice and truth.



**Category:** Crime, Fantasy

**Publisher:** Mirror Fiction

**Date:** 1/2021

**Pages:** 320 (Vol. 1), 288 (Vol. 2),  
272 (Vol. 3)

**Length:**

Vol. 1: 118,466 characters  
(approx. 77,000 words in English)

Vol. 2: 114,276 characters  
(approx. 74,200 words in English)

Vol. 3: 110,100 characters  
(approx. 71,500 words in English)

**Rights contact:**

bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw

“

*A criminal case takes a spirit medium turned detective due to family misfortune back inside a Daoist temple. As the protagonist confronts razor-sharp knives, complicated messages from a corpse, and complex power networks, his investigation encompasses both the living and the dead.*

”

Chang Kuo-Li, one-time editor-in-chief of *China Times Weekly*, has won numerous awards for his writing. A linguist, historian, army expert, sports fan, food critic, as well as poet, playwright and novelist, he is truly a Renaissance man. He has published over sixty books over his career, mostly mystery novels, including the recent *The Otherworld Pawnshop* and *The Spirit Medium Detective* trilogy. His *Sniper* series has been translated into Dutch, German, French, English, Russian, Turkish, Vietnamese, and Japanese.



張國立  
Chang Kuo-Li

# EVIL WISHES CANCELED HERE

## 惡願清除居酒屋

The Wish Granter, an entity capable of making any wish reality, is hurt by human greed. To exact revenge, it bestows its power on a young girl, allowing her to fulfill any wish - but twisted to bring misfortune. To maintain balance, the Wish Canceler can nullify any wish. Made the Wish Canceler by the girl's yearning, his fate is to pursue her. Immortal, they traverse the centuries, arriving in modern times as Winter and Li Tai-Hsien. During their game of cat and mouse, a mysterious Japanese-style pub becomes the all-important stage on which the characters connect.

Any wish can be granted, from "get rich overnight" to "resurrect a loved one" and "lower house prices" to "destroy the world", but at a cruel cost. Winter grants the wishes; Li Tai-Hsien cleans up the mess. The two observe humanity's endless greed and the inevitable consequences it brings with indifference, until Winter's powers become the target of someone with ulterior motives: imprisoned, she discovers that all that remains of Li Tai-Hsien is his head. Devastated, she resolves to grant all the destructive wishes in the world. Without Li Tai-Hsien providing checks and balances, what will happen?

Fast-paced and full of colorful characters, this "murder romance" novel offers a fantasy setting unlike any other. Wishes can bring miracles, or destruction. The story's bloody brutality confronts readers with the truth about desire and its inevitable price. Yet in between the coldness and cruelty, occasional flashes of indescribable tenderness occur.



**Category:** Fantasy, Romance

**Publisher:** Mirror Fiction

**Date:** 12/2024

**Pages:** 320

**Length:** 134,847 characters

(approx. 87,600 words in English)

**Rights contact:**

bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw

Odiumer is an author phenomenon whose genre-spanning works include horror, thrillers, suspense, and mystery, as well as a popular hit series on the Marvel PTT board, one of Taiwan's largest online forums. His numerous works include *A Murderer's Home Cleaning Guide* and *Bullying Diary - Not For Teachers' Eyes*. *A Murderer's Home Cleaning Guide* has been licensed for Korean and Chinese film rights, attracting significant attention.

# Odiumer

崑崙



“

*A girl who can grant any wish uses her lovely face to unleash bloody violence. A man who specializes in canceling wishes by brutal methods at odds with his soft heart is on her trail. In a cosmic pursuit, cruelty and tenderness clash, ultimately revealing a pure love.*

”

# DESCARTES' EVIL DEMON & OTHER STORIES

## 笛卡兒的惡魔

Six short mystery stories feature philosophy professor Lin Jo-Ping, who both creates and solves puzzles. Not just a detective unraveling the mysteries, he is also a “Descartes’ Evil Demon”, manipulating the reader’s point of view behind the scenes.

The first short story, “Descartes’ Evil Demon”, is based on philosopher Descartes’ thought experiment: “If a demon existed that could create perfect illusions, how could you be sure the world you perceive is real?” In this story, after a student is hypnotized and loses the ability to distinguish between what’s real and illusion, he subsequently begins to question external reality. “The Dream Lake Villa Incident” uses a story within a story to propose multiple solutions to a case while simultaneously questioning the narrator’s reliability. “Lin Jo-Ping’s Deduction Throwdown” brings together mathematical puzzles and a TV competition for a thrilling puzzle-solving experience.

“The Fifth Avenue Murder” interweaves four layers of narrative describing a real-life cold case, each narrator deconstructing the assumptions of the previous one to infuse the story with new meaning. In “The Raincoat Killer” the moderator for an online mystery club reveals at a dinner gathering that he has recently been stalking a killer in a raincoat. Afterwards, the members are shocked to find the moderator lying dead in a park, the killer apparently lurking nearby. “Cherry Nights” uses Lin Jo-Ping’s elementary school memories to explore the simple pleasures of everyday deduction.

Both a brilliant collection of mystery fiction and a philosophical reflection on mystery as a genre, this book engages readers in the thrill of solving the puzzles even as they are drawn along with the characters into wondering “Do I actually exist?” Mystery enthusiasts, philosophy lovers, or those who are simply intrigued by the essential qualities of narrative are sure to find this book a captivating read.



**Category:** Mystery, Short Stories

**Publisher:** Omnibook

**Date:** 1/2024

**Pages:** 336

**Length:** 130,000 characters

(approx. 84,500 words in English)

**Rights contact:**

bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw



# Lin Szu-Yen

## 林斯諺

Lin Szu-Yen holds a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Currently an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Soochow University, he is a member of the Mystery Writers of Taiwan who has published fiction in simplified Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese. His short stories “The Ghost of the Badminton Court” and “Miracle on Christmas Eve” were both published in the prestigious *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine (EQMM)*; the latter story was also adapted into a television film in 2023. His short story “The Fifth Avenue Murder” won second prize in the inaugural Huawei Detective Writing Competition.

“

*A collection of short mystery stories, Descartes' Evil Demon & Other Stories features a philosopher detective. Each of the six stories explores one key question: can we be sure the world we perceive really exists?*

”

# IT'S FINE TO FLOAT ADRIFT

## 沐沐洄吧沒關係

This book's title is a reference to drifting aimlessly through life. Featuring a life drawing model, a photographer, a nursing home resident, even a scarab beetle and a fish, these twenty short stories appear at first glance to be unrelated. And yet, subtle points of connection link them, thus depicting life's intricate patterns as well as its vicissitudes.

The stories can be divided into four main themes: "Life Drawing" and "Crossing", for example, explore the perceptions and impressions of individual experience as life nears its end. In contrast, "Dress-Up", "The Weight of a Letter", and "You Are Not a Fish" use everyday moments to show different perspectives on the struggles and transformations that people and even animals experience after the death of a loved one. "Exchange" and "A Day Like Any Other" explore life's "losses", such as illness, guilt, and frustration, illustrating crucial life lessons beyond birth, aging, sickness, and death, while "Second Marriage" and "Nausea" offer lighter takes on the occasional upheavals caused by misunderstandings and life's turmoil, depicting the reality of everyday moments. The magical elements incorporated into many of the stories create not only a sense of the beauty in conflict but also highlight life's unpredictability.

Ultimately, these seemingly stand-alone stories interweave to form a flowing "river of life", allowing readers to witness both life's absurdity and its tender moments as the characters drift along, either floating or sinking. Hung Tzu-Ying's poetic yet restrained prose, combined with the warmth of Kuo Chien-Yu's illustrations, makes this a book of lasting impressions even when dipped into at intervals. Sure to resonate, these stories let readers feel as if they are glimpsing subtle reflections of themselves in the characters' worlds.



**Category:** Literary Fiction, Short Stories

**Publisher:** China Times

**Date:** 9/2024

**Pages:** 184

**Length:** 36,234 characters  
(approx. 23,500 words in English)

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Text by  
Hung  
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Hung Tzu-Ying is a novelist, screenwriter, and advertising creative as well as the author of three books, including *Loveless Practice*. She has received a Lin Rong San Literary Award and the Unitas New Author Award for Fiction. Her screenplay *Workers* was shortlisted for a Golden Bell Award, and *Red Tail* won the Cristal Award for the best VR work at the Annecy Film Festival. Her short story "Crossing" in *It's Fine to Float Adrift* has been adapted by the author into her directorial debut short film, *The In-Between*.



Illustration by  
Kuo Chien-Yu

Kuo Chien-Yu is an illustrator and graphic designer who holds a Master of Fine Arts in illustration from Edinburgh College of Art, United Kingdom. His work has appeared in various media outlets and independent publications.

郭鑒予

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*Twenty stories, thirty-plus characters, no obvious connections - but eventually these stories intertwine, flowing together into a "river of life". Interspersed with soft, dreamy illustrations, It's Fine to Float Adrift poetically depicts life's ordinary yet profound moments.*

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# A PROPHECY TO LOVE YOU

## 對你心動的預言

Seventeen-year-old Ke-hsun is dumped by her first love, kicked out of her gifted class, and to top it all off, is involved in an almost fatal car crash. Upon waking, she is shocked to discover a year has passed: her mother is remarried, she has made friends in a regular class at school, and she has even fallen in love with the aloof, straight-A student Shang-huan. With no memory of anything, Ke-hsun struggles to adapt, especially to Shang-huan's overt affection, so different from her past experiences. Thanks to Shang-huan's ever patient care, Ke-hsun finally comes to terms with her current life. But her efforts to move forward and rekindle their previous closeness are abruptly cut short when Shang-huan is struck and killed by a car. Cradling him in her arms and crying, she blacks out. When she opens her eyes again, she finds herself back at the beginning of the previous year.

Everything plays out like an inescapable prophecy. To avoid Shang-huan's death, Ke-hsun tries to distance herself from him, but the difficulty she has adjusting to her new class, coupled with constant provocation from her ex and his new girlfriend, keeps her off-balance. Meanwhile, Shang-huan's acts of tenderness, seemingly done without a second thought, repeatedly touch her heart. When she at last finds the courage to tell him about her prophetic "dream", the two decide to challenge fate.

*A Prophecy to Love You* is a love story that weaves together youth tried by fate: a hero whose cool exterior conceals his gentleness, a love interest who reveals his vulnerable side and deep affection only to the heroine, the charming contrast of a tough guy who loves cats...aside from these heartwarming details, the fantastical atmosphere of life do-overs, prophecy, and choice adds an additional layer of suspense to this campus romance. When the conclusion seems inevitable, will Ke-hsun still unhesitatingly choose love?



**Category:** Young Adult, Romance

**Publisher:** Cite Original

**Date:** 1/2019

**Pages:** 336

**Length:** 149,451 characters  
(approx. 97,100 words in English)

**Rights contact:**

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**Rights sold:**

Korean

TV Series

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*A high school student loses a year of memories after a car accident and finds she has new friends. When her new boyfriend dies suddenly, she wakes up in the past again. Was the blank year a dream or prophecy? As the year repeats, she must choose - love or fate?*

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## Liu Ying

琉影

Liu Ying is a popular contemporary Taiwanese writer known for her teen romance novels and the author of numerous books. Her representative works include *Seven Light Years of Summer Love*, *Rainy Season*, and *Right Here Waiting*. One of her short stories, “Seventh Day Confession”, was shortlisted for the POPO Chinese Writing Awards. Korean rights have been sold for her novel *A Prophecy to Love You*, which was shortlisted for the Books.com.tw TOP100 works of the year.



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