

BOOKS FROM TAIWAN
COMICS



BOOKS FROM TAIWAN COMICS

<http://booksfromtaiwan.tw/>

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MINISTRY OF CULTURE, REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) TRANSLATION GRANT PROGRAM

Books from Taiwan supports the translation of Taiwanese literature into foreign languages with the Translation Grant Program, administered by The Ministry of Culture of Taiwan. The grant is to encourage the publication of translations of Taiwan's literature, including fiction, non-fiction, picture books and comics, and help Taiwan's publishing industry to explore non-Chinese international markets.

- Applicant Eligibility: Foreign publishers (legal persons) legally registered in accordance with the laws and regulations of their respective countries, or foreign natural persons engaged in translation.
- Conditions:
 1. Works translated shall be original works (including fiction, non-fiction, picture books and comics) by Taiwanese writers (R.O.C. nationality) in traditional Chinese characters.
 2. Priority is given to works to be translated and published for the first time in a non-Chinese language market.
 3. Applicants are not limited to submitting only one project for funding in each application year; however, the same applicant can only receive funding for up to three projects in any given round of applications.
 4. Projects receiving funding shall have already obtained authorization for translation, and be published within two years starting from the year after application year (published before the end of October).
- Funding Items and Amount
 1. The subsidy includes a licensing fee for the rights holder of original work, a translation fee and a production fee.
 2. The maximum funding available for any given project is NT\$ 500,000 (including income tax and remittance charges).
- Application Period: From September 1 to September 30 every year.
- Announcement of successful applications: December every year.
- Application Method: Please apply via the online application system (http://booksfromtaiwan.tw/grant_en.php) after reading through the Translation Grant Application Guidelines (available online).

For full details of the Translation Grant Program, please visit

http://booksfromtaiwan.tw/grant_en.php

Or contact: books@moc.gov.tw

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

THE PIVOT SOUTH TRANSLATION AND PUBLISHING PROGRAM

The Ministry of Culture has formulated these guidelines to encourage the publication of translations of Taiwan's literature, in the territories of South Asia, Southeast Asia and Australasia (hereinafter referred to as the Pivot South nations), as well as to fund exchange trips for publishers and the publication of original titles that deal with the cultures of Taiwan and the Pivot South nations, as well as the topic of cultural exchange between them.

South Asia, Southeast Asia and Australasia will be taken to mean: Cambodia, the Philippines, Laos, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, Australia and New Zealand.

The program is split into three different strands, which are:

1. Translation and Publication Grant Program
2. Publisher Exchange Program
3. Original Book Program

- Applicant Eligibility:
 1. Citizens of the Republic of China (Taiwan) or civic organizations and legal persons registered in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of China (Taiwan).
 2. Citizens of the aforementioned Pivot South nations or civic organizations and legal persons registered in accordance with the laws and regulations of their respected country.
- Funding Items and Amount
 1. Translation and Publishing Grant Program: The maximum funding available for any given project is NT\$ 500,000 (including income tax and remittance charges).
 2. Publisher Exchange Program: The maximum funding available for any given project is NT\$ 500,000 (including income tax and remittance charges).
 3. Original Book Program: The maximum funding available for any given work is NT\$ 500,000 (including income tax and remittance charges). For a series, the funding will be multiplied by the number of books in the series, but total funding will be limited to NT\$2,000,000 (including income tax and remittance charges).
- Application Period: From September 1 to September 30 every year.
- Application Method: Please apply via the online application system (<https://nspublication.moc.gov.tw/en/>) after reading through the Pivot South Translation and Publishing program application guidelines (available online).
- Announcement of successful applications: December every year.

For full details of the The Pivot South Translation and Publishing Program, please visit:

<https://nspublication.moc.gov.tw/en/>

Or contact books@moc.gov.tw.

BOOKS FROM TAIWAN
COMICS (From Right to Left)

LEGENDS OF ASSASSINS

刺客列傳



- Publisher: Dala
- Date: 5/2017 (first published in 1986)
- Rights contact:
booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com
- Pages: 192

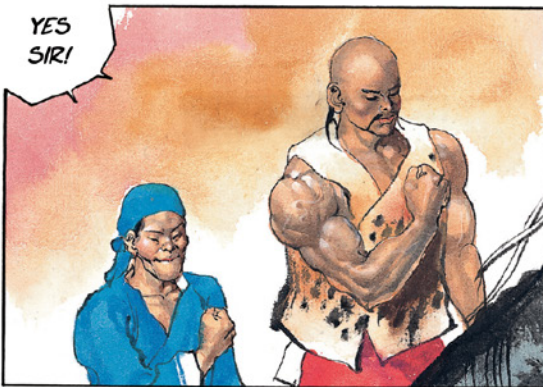
The greatest assassins in all of China's history – Cao Mo, who kidnapped a king to get his country back; Yu Rang, who killed to demonstrate his loyalty; Jing Ke, martyred in his attempt to kill the hated First Emperor, and others – all live on in the annals of historian Sima Qian's *Legends of the Assassins*. Here they come alive once more, in a series of beautifully illustrated manga first published in the *China Times Weekly* in 1986. Feats of strength, tests of endurance and of strategy explode on the page as the stories of some of the world's most famous killers and patriots unfold before your eyes.

Artist Chen Uen merges an ink-and-brush style characteristic of Chinese traditional art with the hues of Western painting to capture the power of strength, brutality, and passion that surges through these tales. The veteran illustrator takes care to ensure that each face is original and expressive, granting the story even greater emotional force.

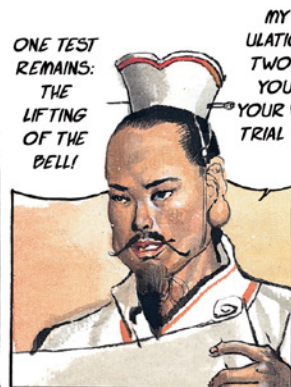


Chen Uen 鄭問

Published extensively both in Taiwan and Japan, Chen Uen was a veteran of Taiwan's manga and illustration scene. His work won him several awards, including an award from the Japanese Cartoonists' Association, making him the first non-Japanese recipient of such in the Association's history. He was involved in online game design on the highest levels in China, Japan, and Taiwan, and represented Taiwan at the Angoulême International Comics Festival in 2012, five years before his passing.

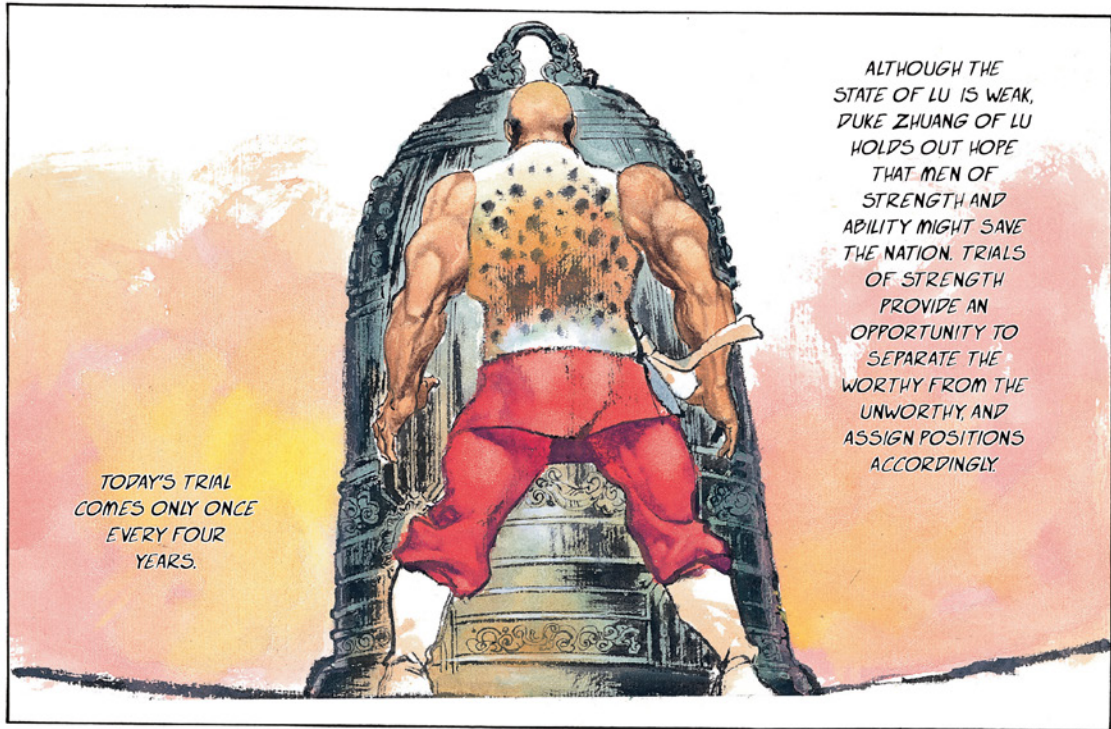


YES SIR!



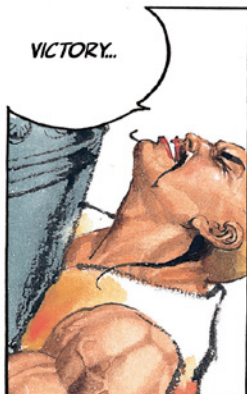
ONE TEST REMAINS: THE LIFTING OF THE BELL!

MY CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TWO CHAMPIONS. YOU'VE PROVEN YOUR WORTH IN THE TRIAL THE HUNDRED



TODAY'S TRIAL COMES ONLY ONCE EVERY FOUR YEARS.

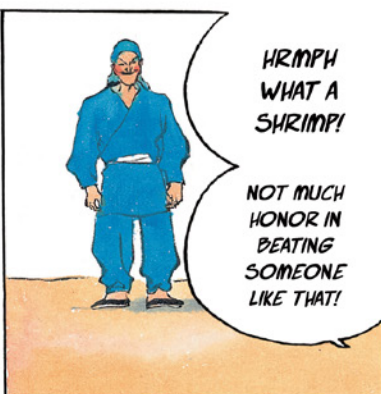
ALTHOUGH THE STATE OF LU IS WEAK, DUKE ZHUANG OF LU HOLDS OUT HOPE THAT MEN OF STRENGTH AND ABILITY MIGHT SAVE THE NATION. TRIALS OF STRENGTH PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEPARATE THE WORTHY FROM THE UNWORTHY AND ASSIGN POSITIONS ACCORDINGLY.



VICTORY...

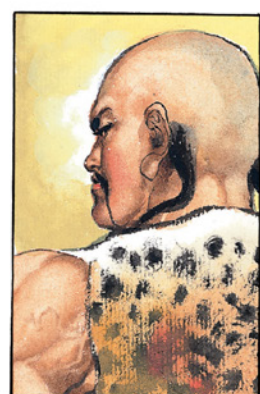


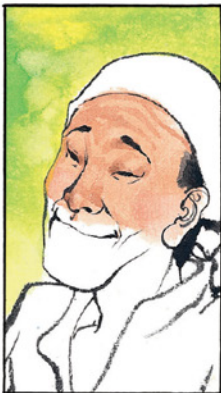
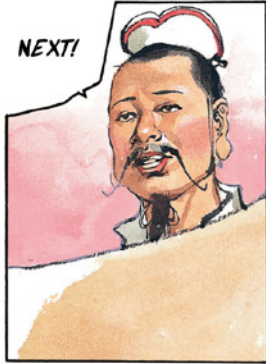
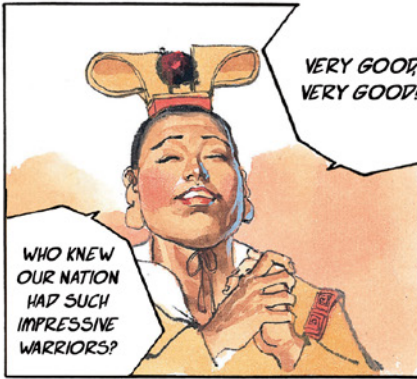
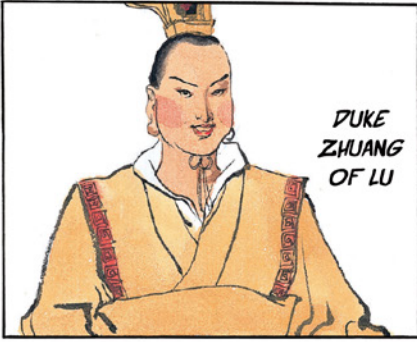
BUT...

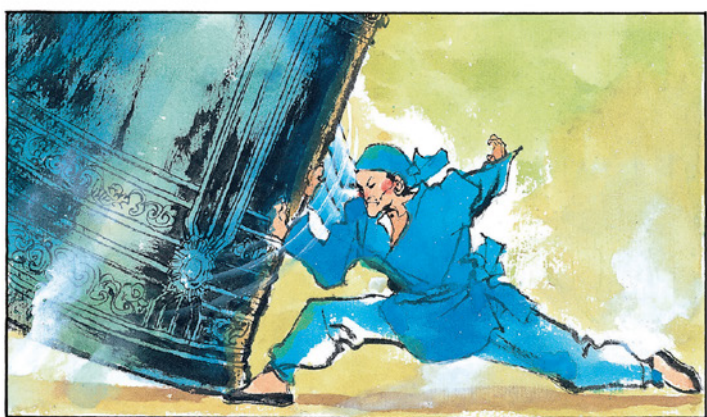
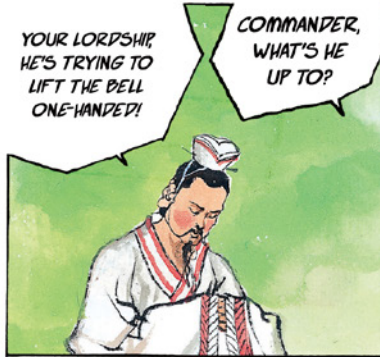


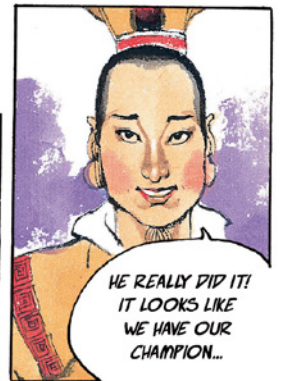
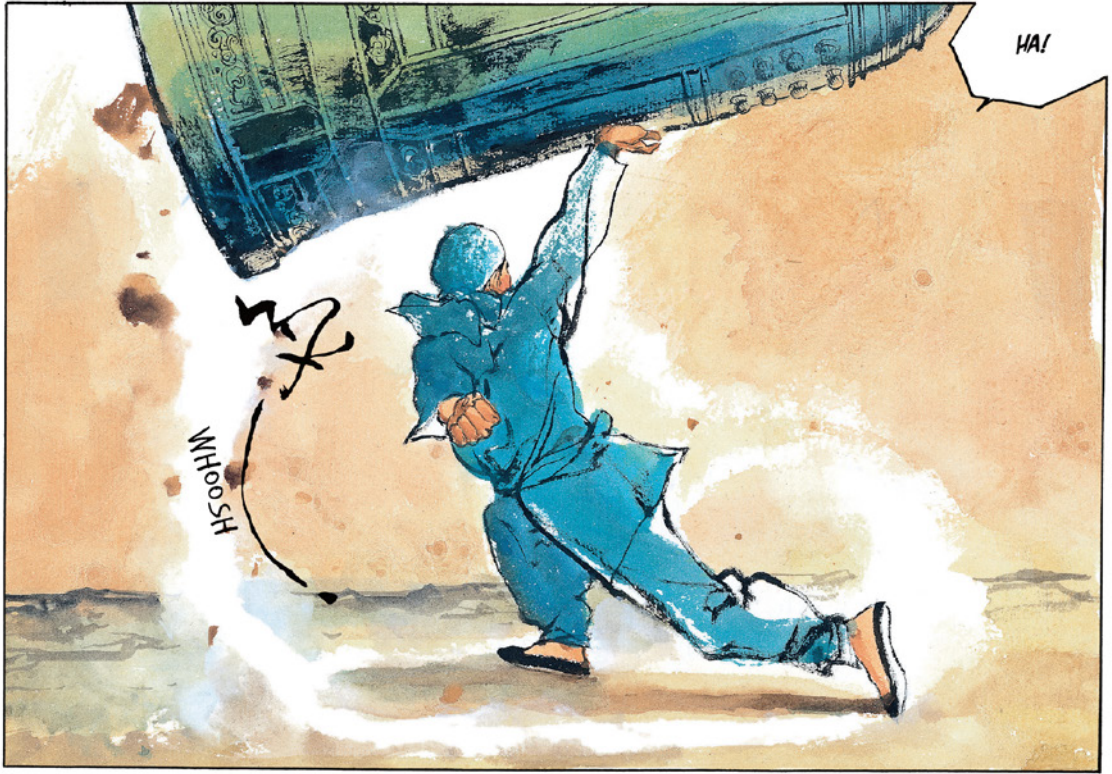
HRMPH WHAT A SHRIMP!

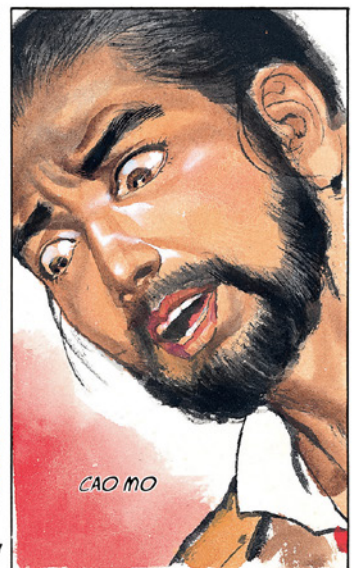
NOT MUCH HONOR IN BEATING SOMEONE LIKE THAT!

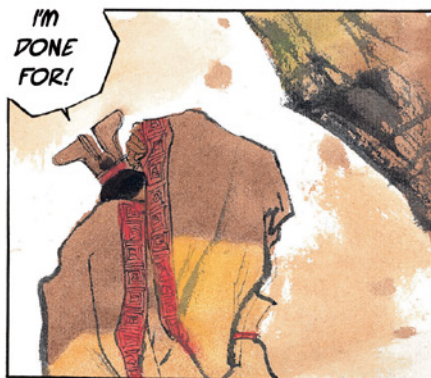
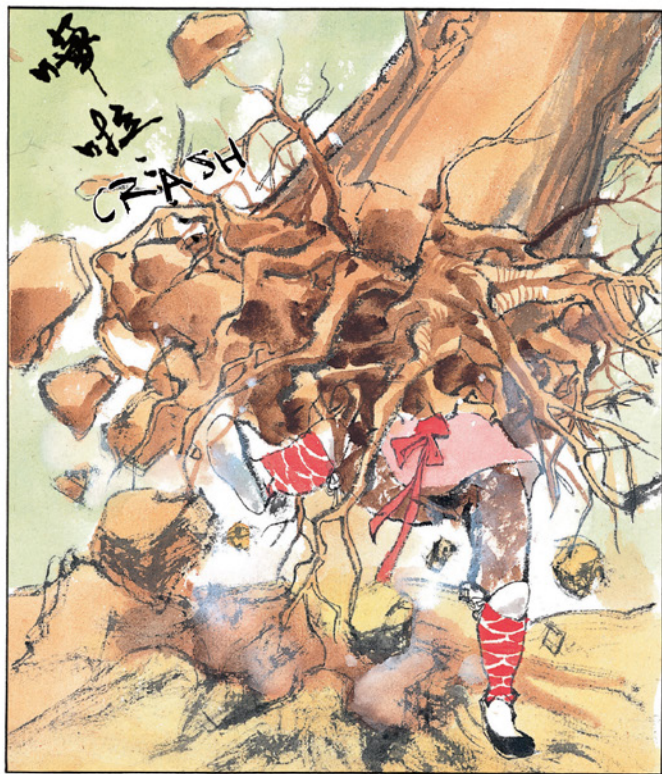
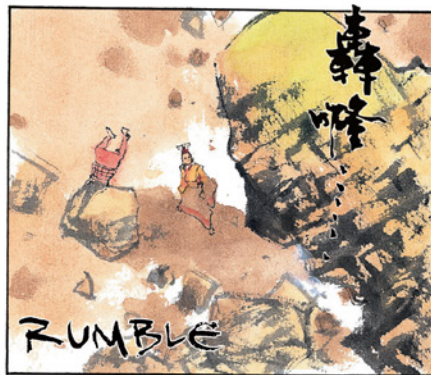












1661 KOXINGA Z

1661 國姓來襲



- Publisher: Gaea
- Date: 4/2017
- Rights contact:
booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com
- Pages: 304

By the late seventeenth century, the East India Company has reached a monopolizing hand around half the globe, and left bloody fingerprints wherever it met resistance. Yet in 1661, a force comes south to the paradise island of Formosa (the Dutch name for Taiwan) that faces the Dutch imperialists, and drives them away forever.

Manga artist Li Lung-Chieh recreates the character of Frederick Coyett, last Dutch governor of Taiwan, who attempted to create a multi-ethnic community in Taiwan while maintaining control over the island's resources, yet would live to watch twenty-five thousand Chinese troops destroy his forces and drive him off the island. Facing Coyett from across battle lines is Koxinga, the young Ming loyalist and son of a pirate who would eventually found his own kingdom on Taiwan.

Tempers rise and blood is spilled as a war for resources deepens into a struggle for self-determination and freedom from oppression. Li Lung-Chieh's aggressive illustrations create the perfect energy for telling a story so charged with ferocious energy.



Li Lung-Chieh 李隆杰

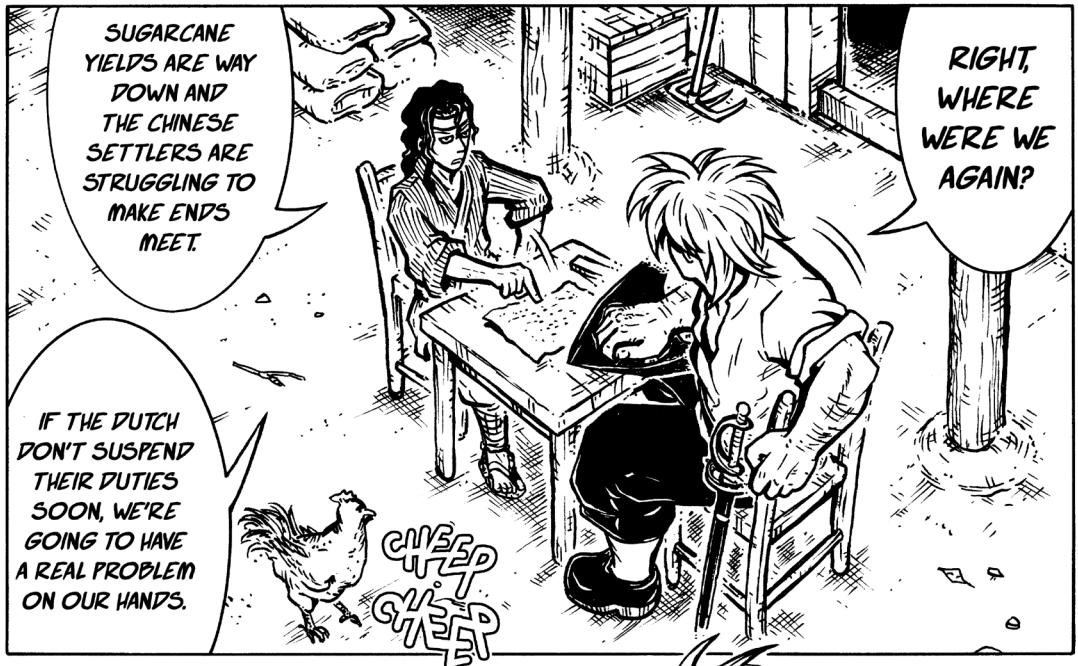
Li Lung-Chieh has been wowing readers (and even judges) of his illustrated stories since he was fifteen years old. His most popular recent work, *Ichthyophobia*, won him an International Comic Award in Japan and a Golden Comic Award in Taiwan in 2016. He has represented Taiwan twice at the Angoulême International Comics Festival.



FORMOSA...

QUIT
CHANGING
THE TOPIC,
LET'S FINISH
WHAT WE
STARTED
ALREADY.

'BEAUTIFUL
ISLAND' ...
IT REALLY
IS, ISN'T
IT?



SUGARCANE
YIELDS ARE WAY
DOWN AND
THE CHINESE
SETTLERS ARE
STRUGGLING TO
MAKE ENDS
MEET.

RIGHT,
WHERE
WERE WE
AGAIN?

IF THE DUTCH
DON'T SUSPEND
THEIR DUTIES
SOON, WE'RE
GOING TO HAVE
A REAL PROBLEM
ON OUR HANDS.

CHIEP
CHIEP
CHIEP



HRMPH.
SORRY TO
TROUBLE
YOU!

I'M
GOING
BACK TO
MEET
WITH
THEM.

RIGHT,
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT,
FAJIT...
I'LL MAKE SURE
THE COMPANY
KNOWS YOUR
CONCERNS.



FAJIT...

DO YOU
REALLY THINK
THE CHINESE AND
THE DUTCH CAN
LIVE SIDE BY
SIDE?

FRED...



YOU, I TRUST

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT YOUR MEN THOUGH!



HERE ON FORMOSA...

...ALL CAN BE FORGIVEN, IN THE END!



I SWEAR I'LL BE THE NEXT GOVERNOR OF FORMOSA!

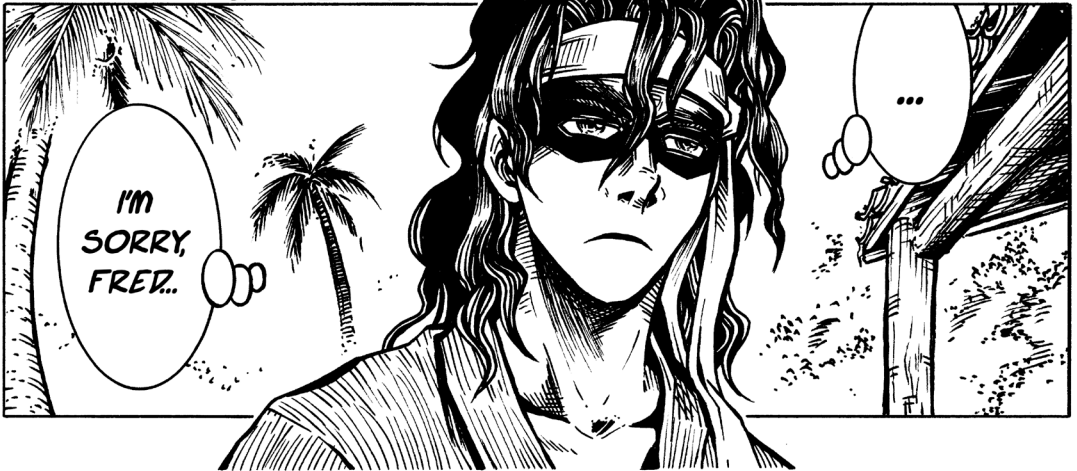
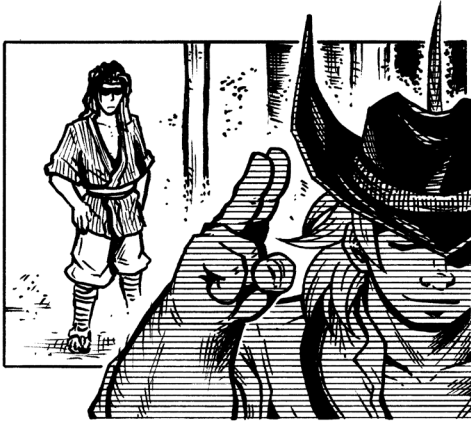
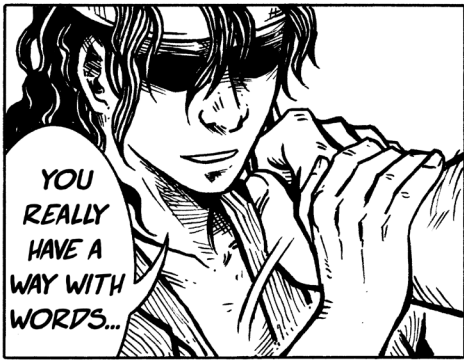
AS LONG AS I HOLD THE COURSE AND REMAIN LOYAL TO OUR PEOPLE AND OUR LAND..

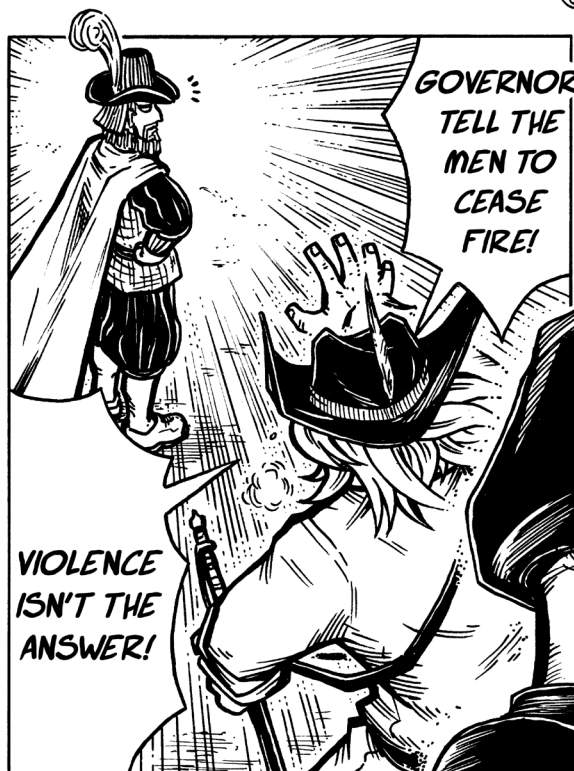


I MIGHT NOT BE WHERE I WANT TO BE YET...

BUT...

CHEEP





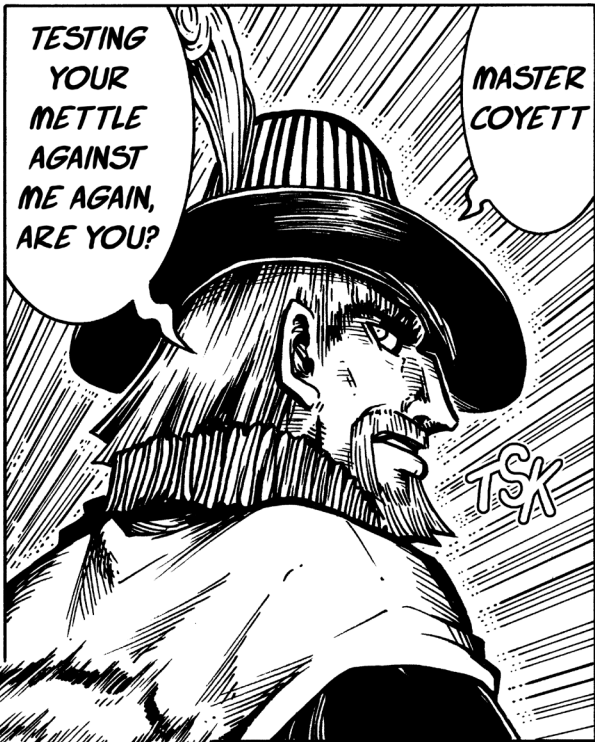
GOVERNOR,
TELL THE
MEN TO
CEASE
FIRE!

VIOLENCE
ISN'T THE
ANSWER!

HOW...
HOW CAN
THIS BE?!



THIS
ISN'T A
GAME!



TESTING
YOUR
METTLE
AGAINST
ME AGAIN,
ARE YOU?

MASTER
COYETT

TSK

FUNGUS I

刺角（上）



- Publisher: China Times
- Date: 5/2017
- Rights contact:
booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com
- Pages: 192
- Volumes: 2

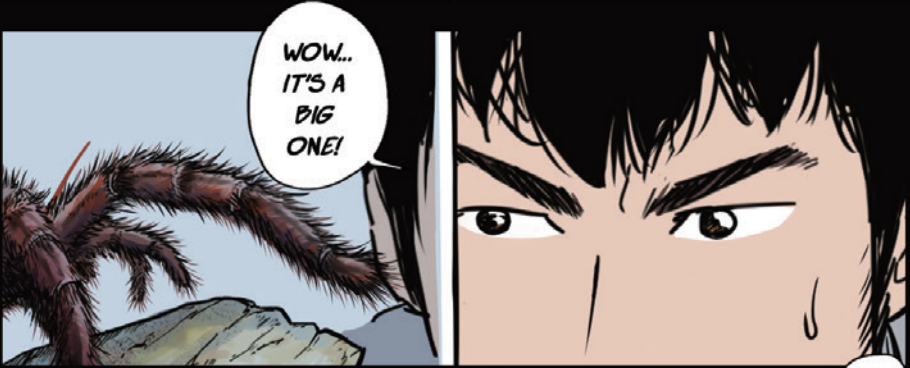
Fatty was an anti-mainstream guy who loved collecting weird objects and animals. And then, as they say, along came a spider – a red tarantula, in fact, bought at a pet store, but clearly collected from someplace unknown. The animal displays uncommon strength and ferocity; by the time Fatty’s best friend, Cheng, comes by to pick it up (Fatty’s roommate just can’t deal with it), the bite it gave Fatty has started to itch and raise blisters. Days later, an emergency call sends Cheng back to Fatty’s place. He finds his friend covered in blisters and slowly going insane. While the fungus causing the blisters spreads throughout Fatty’s apartment building, Cheng returns home to find that the tarantula has sprung its cage.

Destruction walks on eight legs and spread at the speed of air in Nim’s dystopian *Fungus*, a dark, fast-moving tale of desperation and horror that topped the horror and men’s manga genre charts of Comico, one of the most popular online manga platforms in East Asia. In a plot line that threads its way between and beyond many well-known tales of apocalypse, Nim develops a small group of well-rounded characters, each looking out for themselves and theirs, while keeping one eye aimed over their shoulder. Cheng, a bite on his palm, escapes hurriedly with his girlfriend, hoping to outrun the disease, but where and who can they run to?

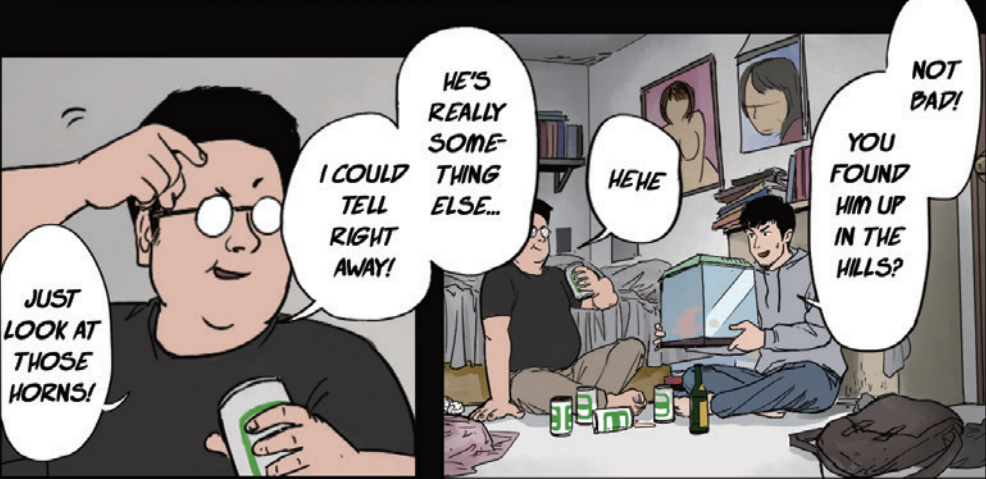


Nim 黃踮

Nim is a full-time manga artist whose work has been featured in print and online in several different regions. Her work can be found on Comico, the widely popular online manga platform, with *Fungus* sitting at the top spot in several different genres in Japan and Korea.



WOW...
IT'S A
BIG
ONE!



JUST
LOOK AT
THOSE
HORNS!

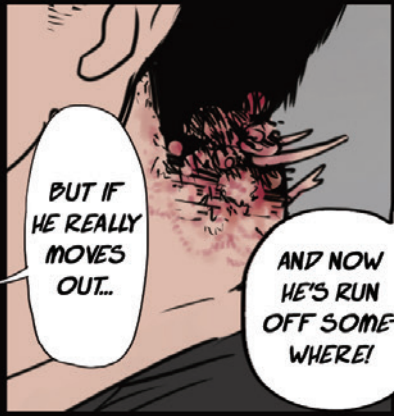
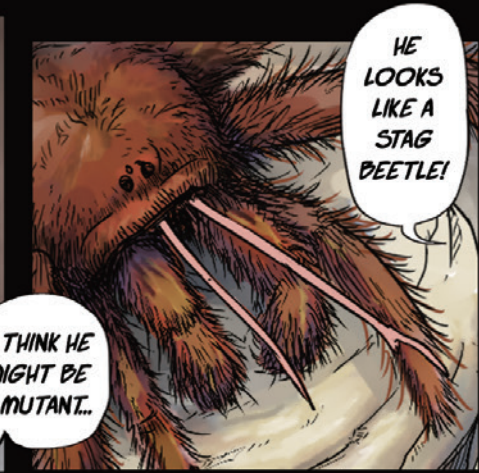
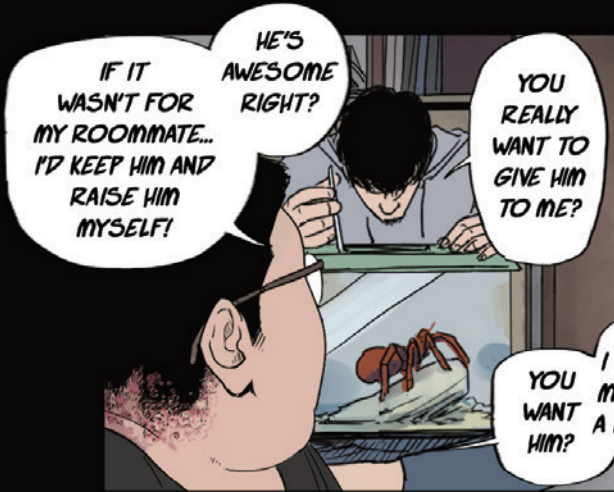
I COULD
TELL
RIGHT
AWAY!

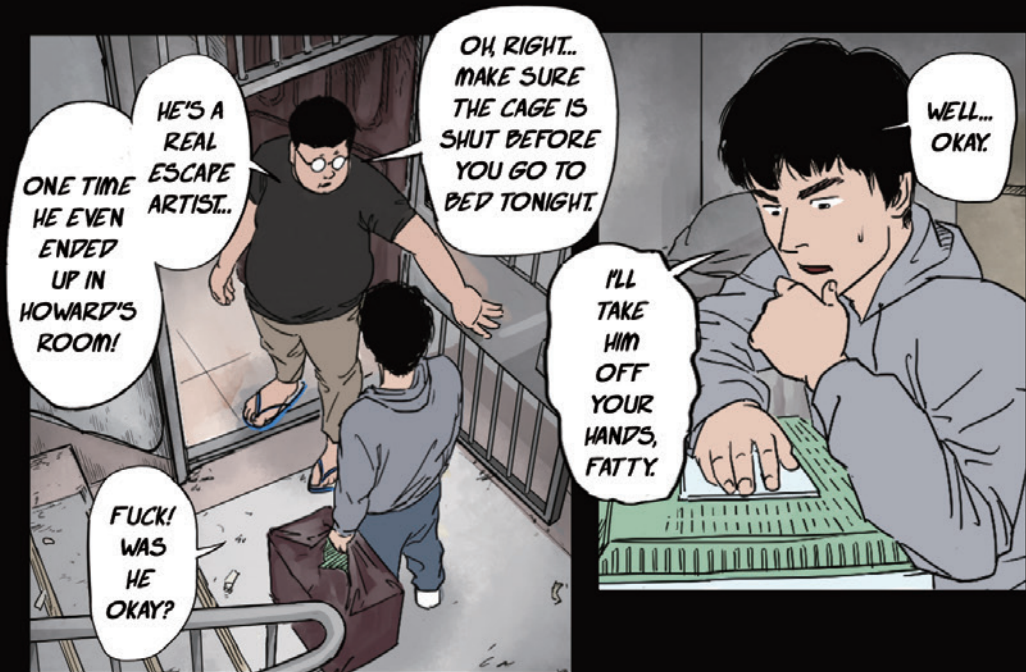
HE'S
REALLY
SOME-
THING
ELSE...

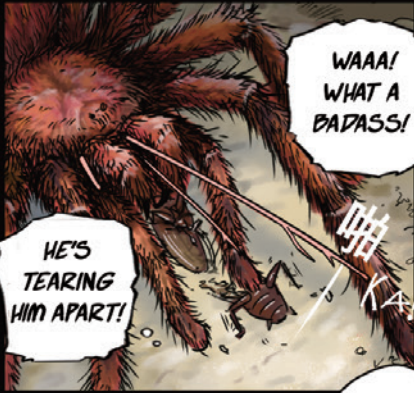
HEHE

NOT
BAD!

YOU
FOUND
HIM UP
IN THE
HILLS?

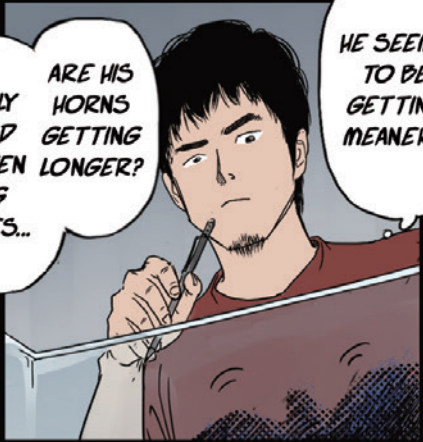






WAAA!
WHAT A
BADASS!

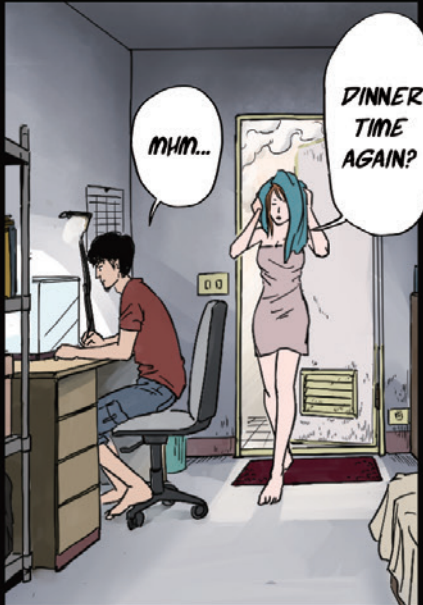
HE'S
TEARING
HIM APART!



I REALLY
SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
TAKING
PICTURES...

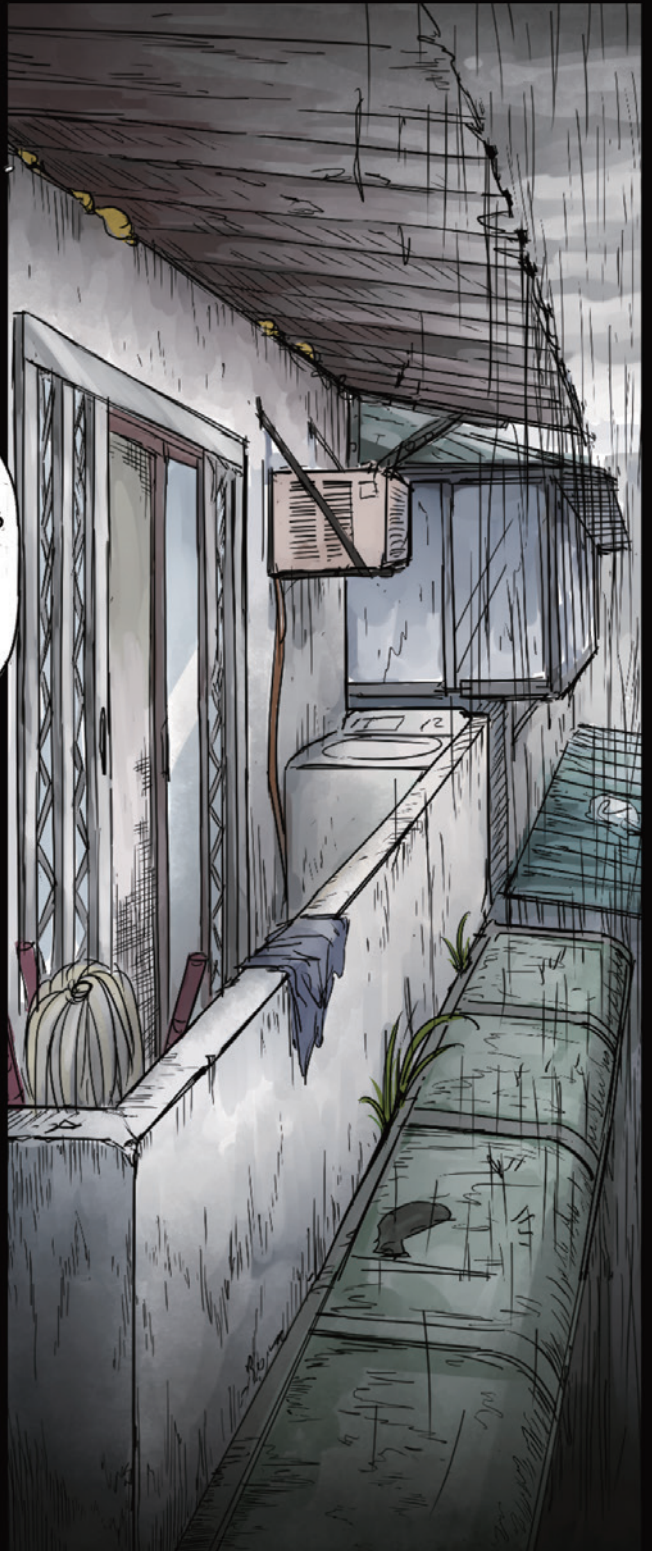
ARE HIS
HORNS
GETTING
LONGER?

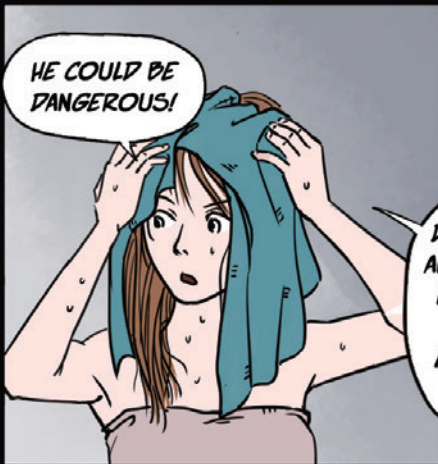
HE SEEMS
TO BE
GETTING
MEANER...



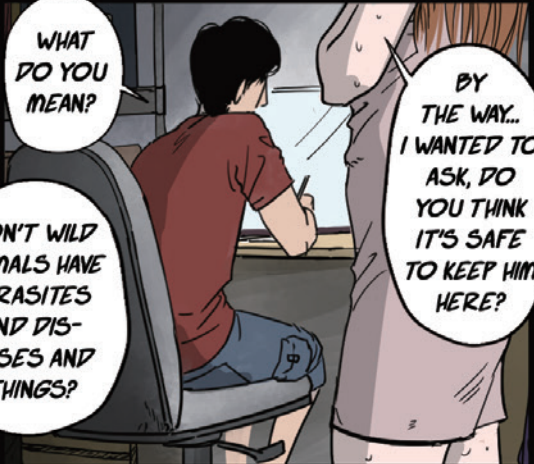
MHM...

DINNER
TIME
AGAIN?





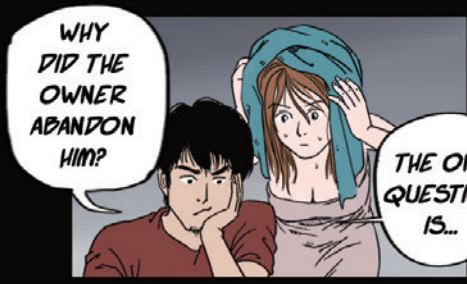
HE COULD BE DANGEROUS!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

DON'T WILD ANIMALS HAVE PARASITES AND DISEASES AND THINGS?

BY THE WAY... I WANTED TO ASK, DO YOU THINK IT'S SAFE TO KEEP HIM HERE?



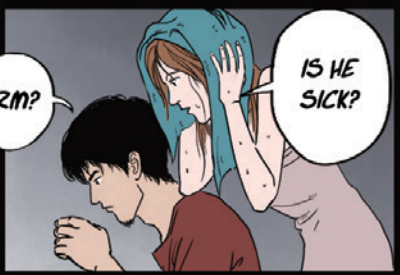
WHY DID THE OWNER ABANDON HIM?

THE ONLY QUESTION IS...



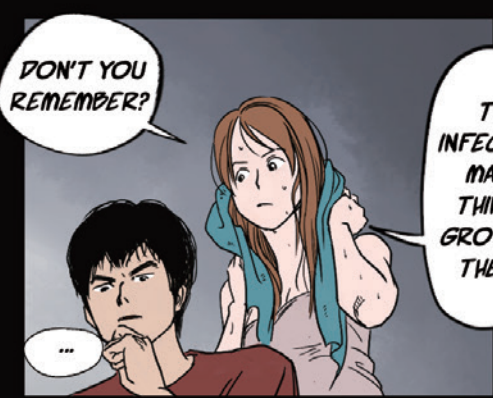
HE WAS PROBABLY ABANDONED THAT'S WHY FATTY FOUND HIM UP IN THE HILLS.

OH, PSHAW... PEOPLE KEEP SPIDERS LIKE THIS AS PETS ALL THE TIME.



HRM?

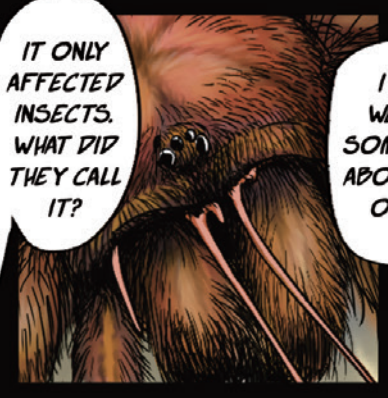
IS HE SICK?



DON'T YOU REMEMBER?

...

THE INFECTION MADE THINGS GROW ON THEM...



IT ONLY AFFECTED INSECTS. WHAT DID THEY CALL IT?

I THINK WE SAW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS ON TV...

THE POET SORCERER IV

大仙術士李白（四）



- Publisher: KADOKAWA TAIWAN CORPORATION
- Date: 12/2016
- Rights contact: booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com
- Pages: 176
- Volumes: 4 (ongoing)
- Rights sold: Japanese (KADOKAWA)

* 2015 and 2016 Golden Comic Award for Best Comic

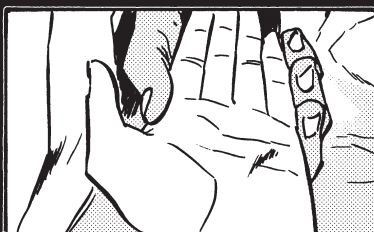
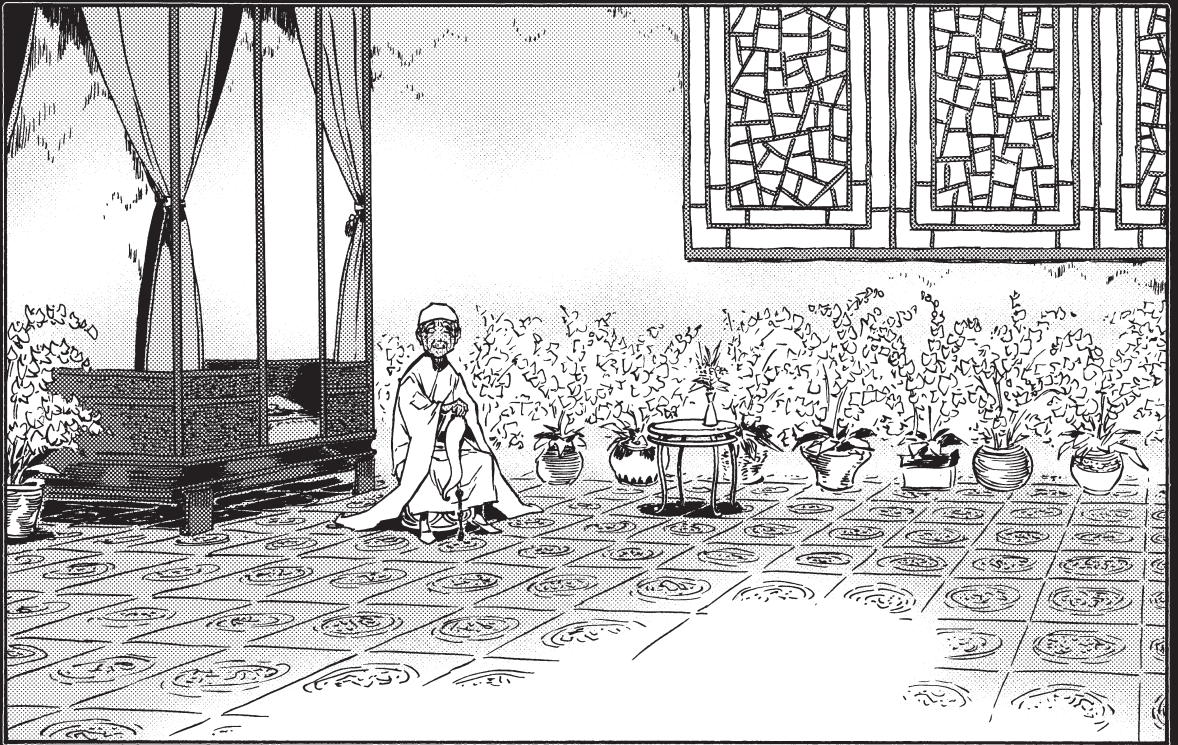
It is the Tang Dynasty, the zenith of Daoist magical arts in China. Low-ranking magician Li Bai travels to the shores of Lake Dongting to test his skills, harboring dreams of becoming a Sorcerer of the Realm. Yet disaster strikes when one of the examiners kills Li Bai's best friend, and poisons Li Bai.

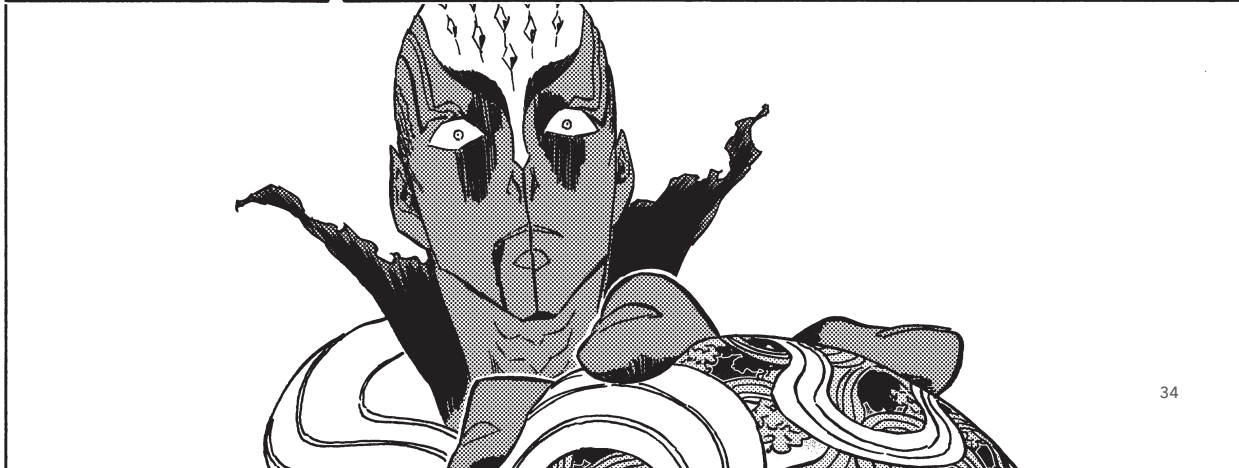
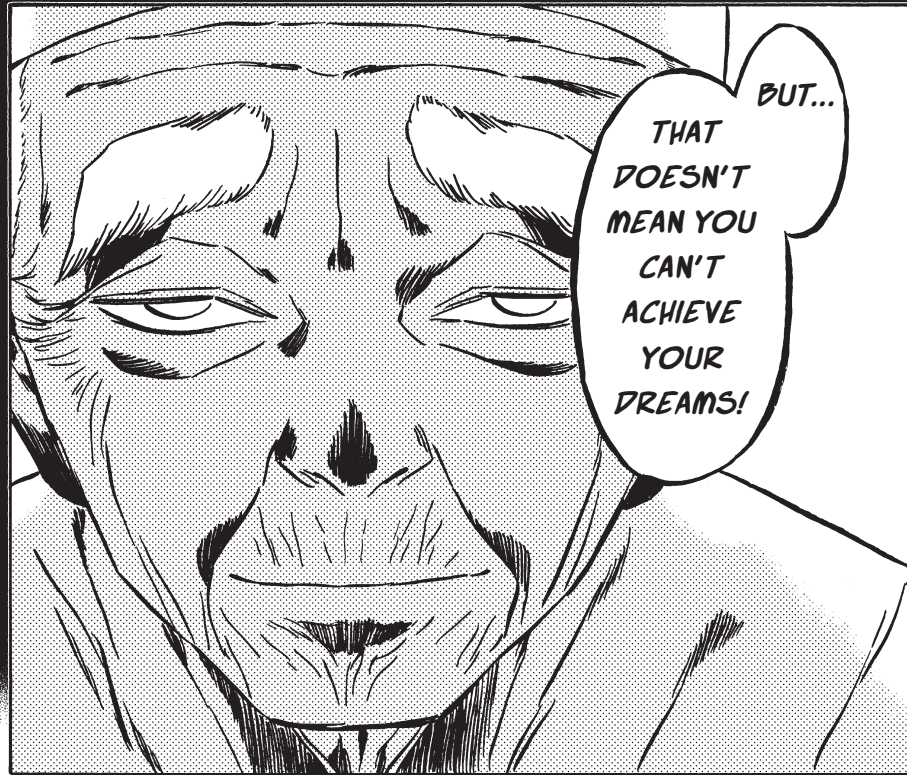
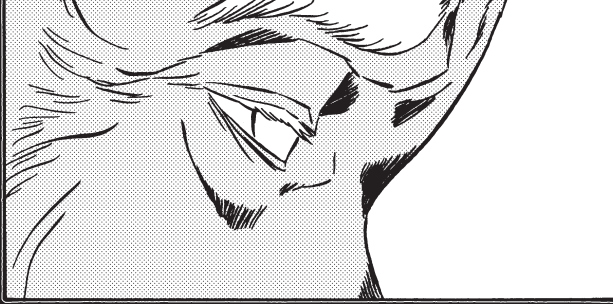
A poisoned Li wanders the countryside in a search for salvation, during which he composes poetry that will live on for over a millennium. Meanwhile, other literary luminaries like Wang Wei and Du Fu emerge from the shadows, one of them carrying secret orders from the emperor. In this age of chaos, bitter conflict and incredible power, from where will the next Sorcerer of the Realm appear?

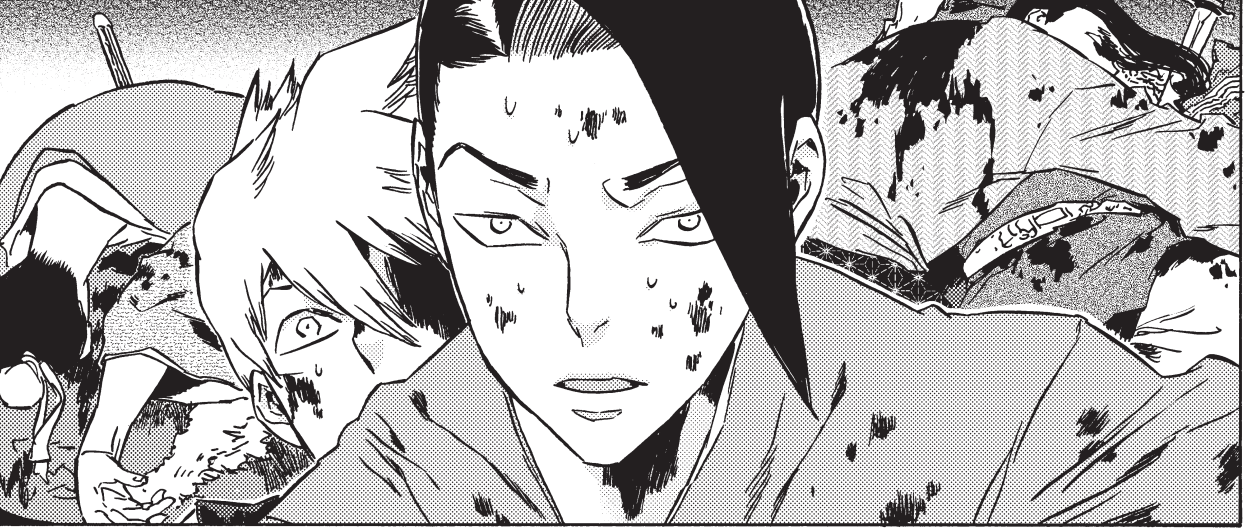


Yeh Ming-Hsuan 葉明軒

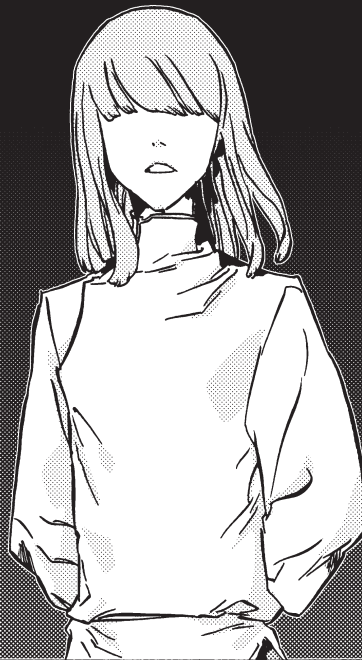
A well-known name in Taiwanese manga, Yeh Ming-Hsuan has been earning awards for his illustration since he was a young man. Recipient of multiple Golden Comic Awards, he was also invited to participate in the Angoulême International Comics Festival in France in 2016. His latest hit, *The Poet Sorcerer*, was published to great acclaim in Taiwan, and has recently been published in Japanese.







EVEN IF
YOU SPENT
TEN MORE
YEARS...
YOU STILL
WOULDN'T
HAVE ONE
TENTH OF
LI BAI'S
POWER.

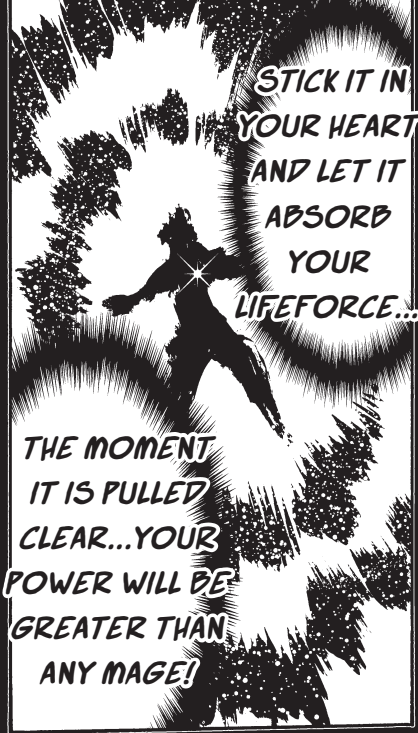


I'LL BE
HONEST
WITH YOU.
YOU'RE NOT
AS GIFTED
AS LI BAI...



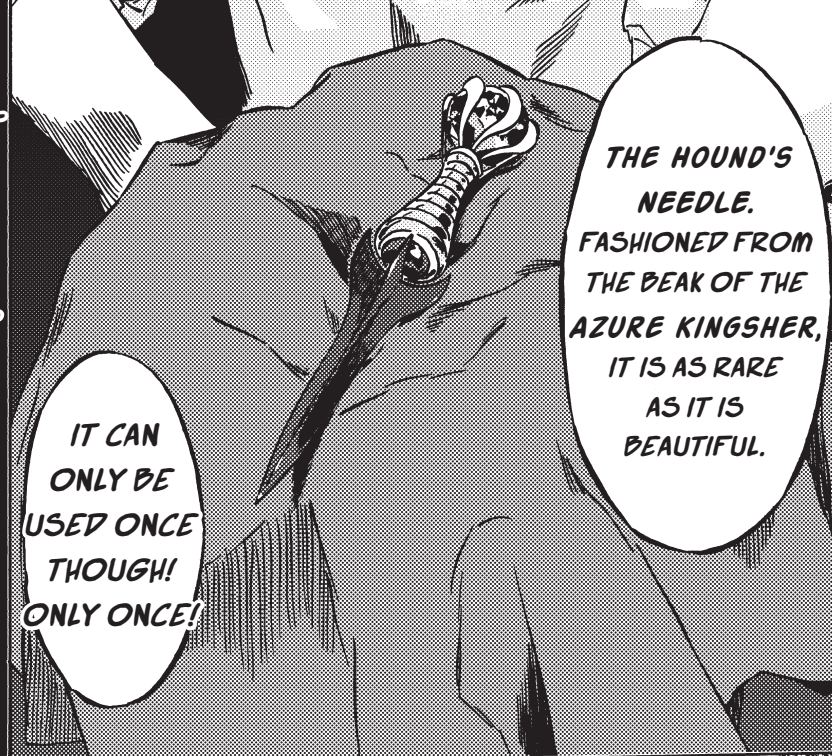
THIS...
MAKES LIFE
INTO POWER.

THERE IS ONE
WAY THOUGH...
YOU MIGHT
END UP EVEN
STRONGER!



STICK IT IN
YOUR HEART
AND LET IT
ABSORB
YOUR
LIFEFORCE...

THE MOMENT
IT IS PULLED
CLEAR...YOUR
POWER WILL BE
GREATER THAN
ANY MAGE!



IT CAN
ONLY BE
USED ONCE
THOUGH!
ONLY ONCE!

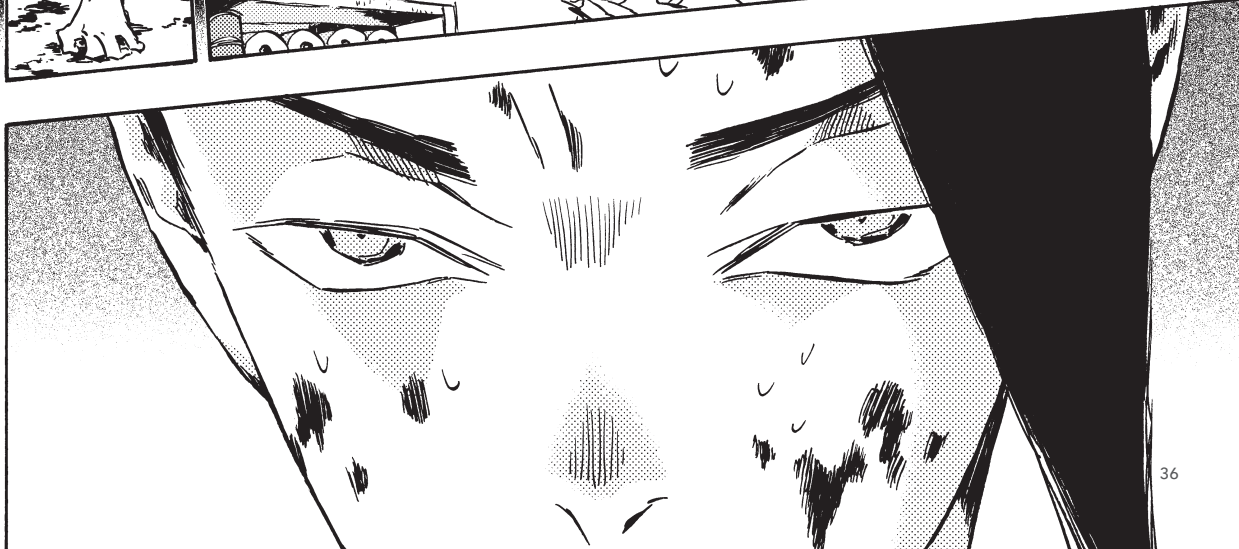
THE HOUND'S
NEEDLE.
FASHIONED FROM
THE BEAK OF THE
AZURE KING-SHER,
IT IS AS RARE
AS IT IS
BEAUTIFUL.



LET IT
REMAIN
A LAST
RESORT!



KNOW
THAT YOU ARE
TRADING YOUR
LIFE FOR POWER.
BEWARE THAT
DISTANT DAY,
WHEN YOU RUN
INTO DANGER
AND LI BAI ISN'T
BY YOUR
SIDE...



LI BAI...

YOU'LL
ALWAYS BE
MY HERO!

BUT THE
LAST THING I
WANT IS...

TO ALWAYS
BE IN YOUR
SHADOW!

唵
SCHWA

啦



THE CORNER STORE I

用九柑仔店（一）

* 2017 Golden Comic Award for Best Comic



- Publisher: Yuan-Liou
- Date: 8/2016
- Rights contact: booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com
- Pages: 240
- Volumes: 3 (ongoing)
- Rights sold: French (Kotoji)

Chun-Lung, a young real estate agent in Taipei, gets word that his grandfather is seriously ill, and returns to his hometown in the countryside to handle the closing of his family's old corner store, which his grandfather had been running for generations. As Chun-Lung prepares to shut the place down, he comes across names, faces, and words that have persisted in that place since he was a child, and his interactions with living locals and his own dormant memories pull him ever closer to his childhood. Moreover, he discovers that serving his community is as much an art as a business – an art that kept his grandfather's store going in an age of supermarkets and convenience stores.

Though the tale of *The Corner Store* is the direct product of the author's life experience, it is also a story the rest of us know all too well. Highly reminiscent of Zhang Yang's well-known movie *Shower*, it tells in simple, affecting language and images the story of returning to one's roots – or, at least, negotiating fairly with one's past.



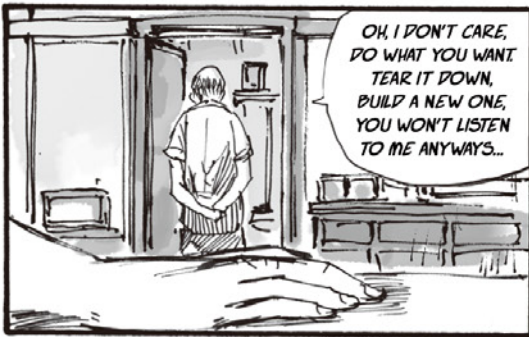
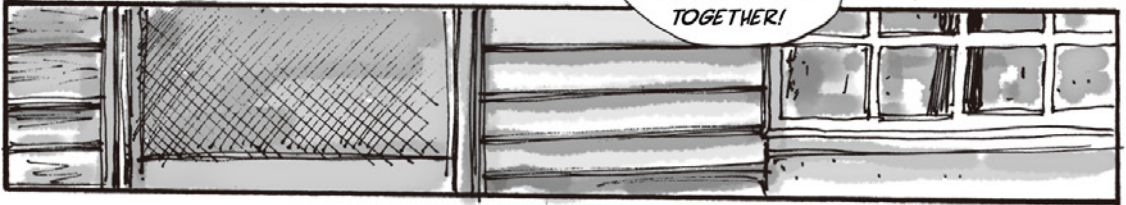
Ruan Guang-Min 阮光民

Ruan Guang-Min is a former advertising major and interior decorating major. After leaving the military he worked as an assistant to comic artist Lai Yu-Hsien. His first work to receive recognition was an adaptation of the TV show *Friends*, using the comic form to tell a moving story about a group of young people from the countryside struggling to make a living in Taipei. Conversely, his book *Dong Hua Chun Barbershop* was the first Taiwanese comic to be adapted into a television series. Representative works also include *Heaven Restaurant*, which touches on the relationship between food and memory, and a partial adaptation of Wu Ming-Yi's short story collection *The Illusionist on the Skywalk*. Ruan has been selected to represent Taiwan at the Angoulême International Comics Festival in 2012 and Frankfurt Book Fair in 2014.

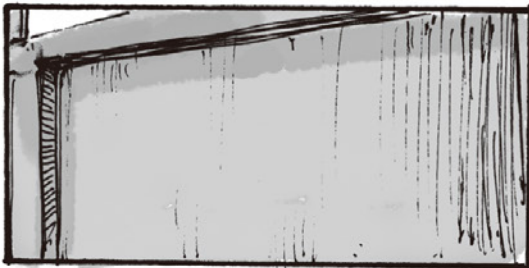
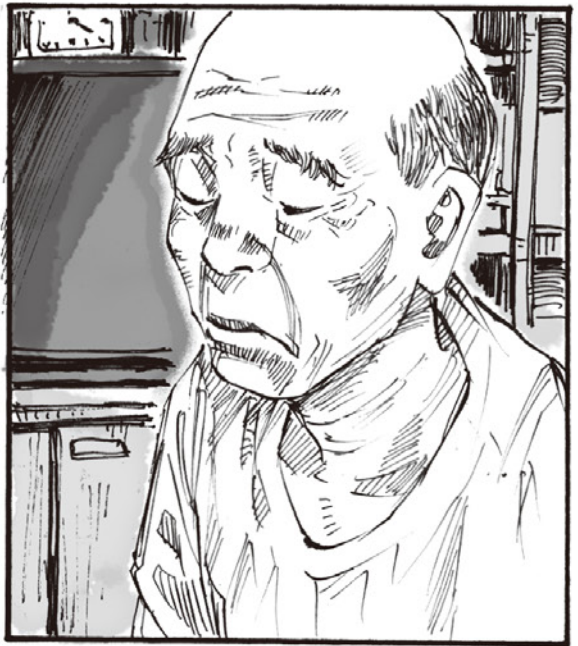


DAD!
COME ON
ALREADY!
THIS PLACE
IS A DUMP
ANYWAYS.

IF WE LET THEM
BUILD A NEW
BUILDING HERE WE
CAN ALL MOVE INTO
TOGETHER!

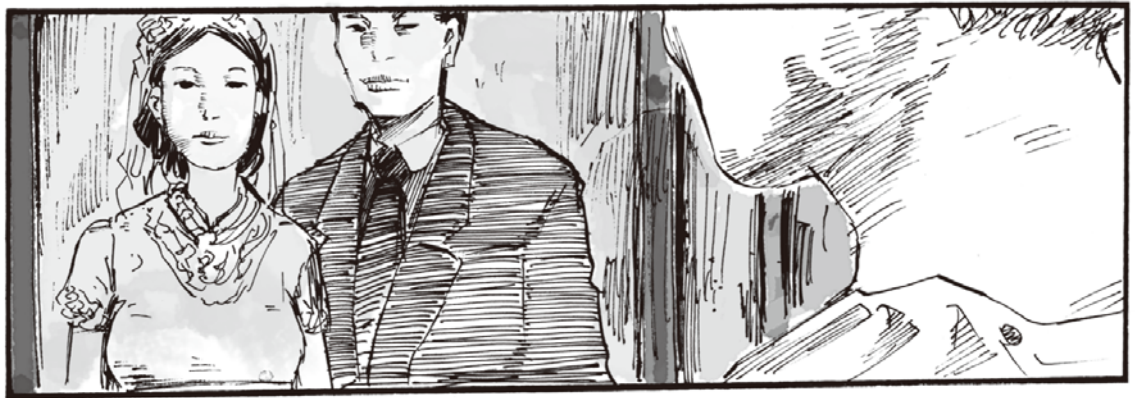
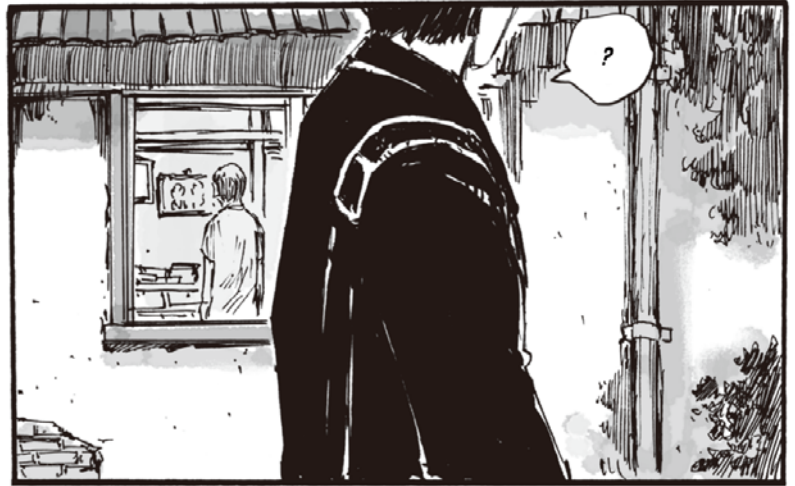
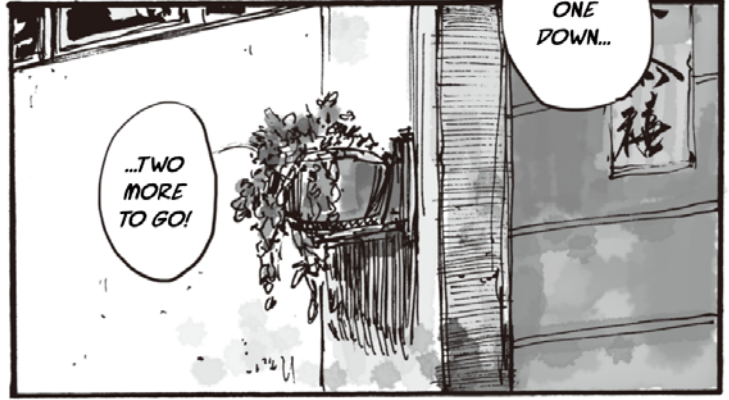
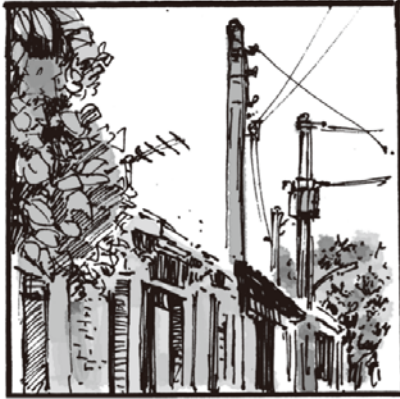


OH, I DON'T CARE,
DO WHAT YOU WANT.
TEAR IT DOWN,
BUILD A NEW ONE,
YOU WON'T LISTEN
TO ME ANYWAYS...



I'LL GET A
STOREFRONT
AND AN
APARTMENT ON
THE FIFTH
FLOOR...

LET'S SIGN
THEN,
MR. YANG



Was that
his wedding
photo?
I couldn't
make out the
the words...

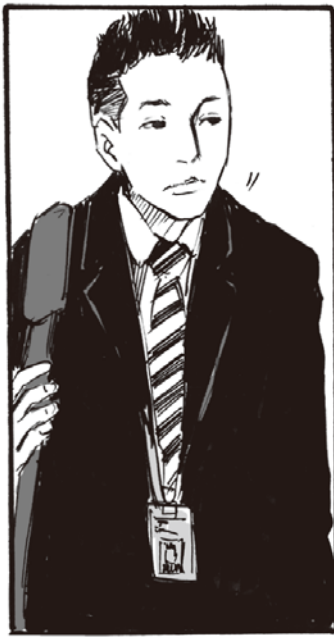
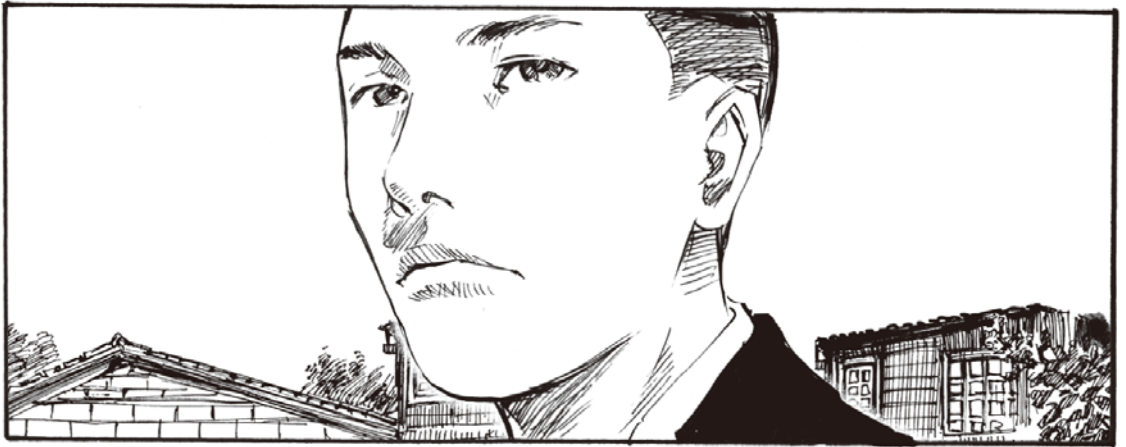


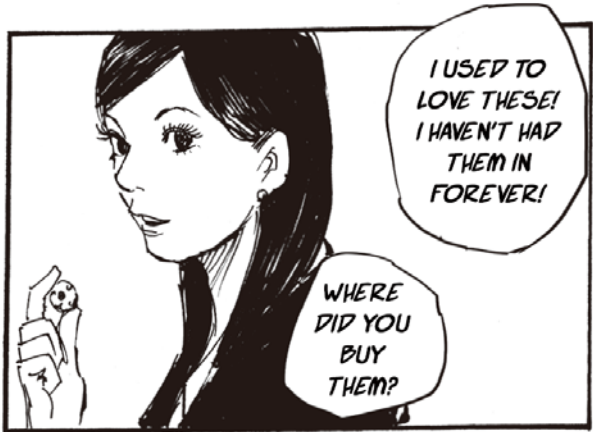
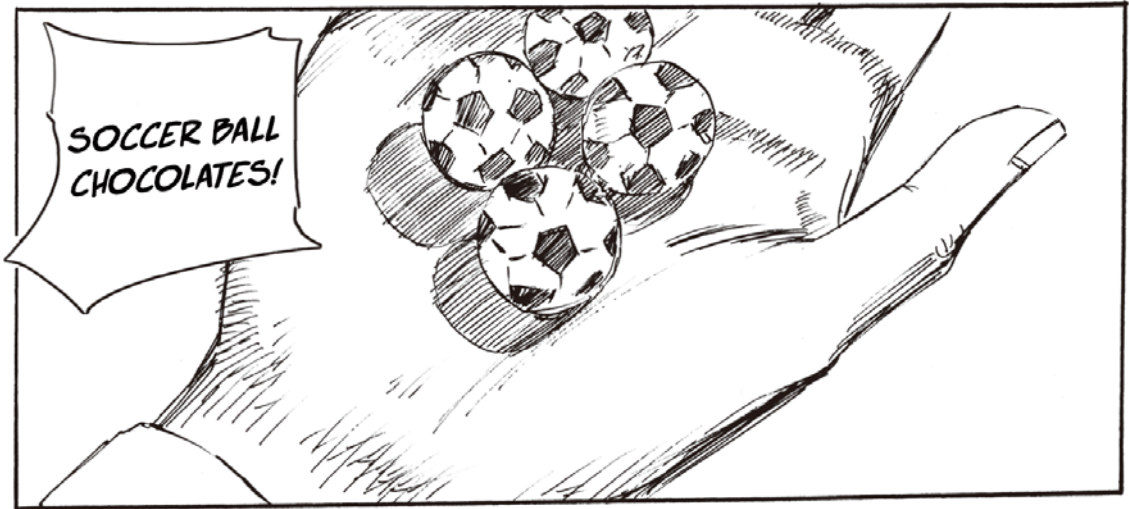
For the good of the
city, and public safety...

And to make money of course!



Whatcha
gonna do?
Work is
work...





LEFT HAND I

左手（一）



- Publisher: Gaea
- Date: 6/2015
- Rights contact:
booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com
- Pages: 180
- Volumes: 1 (ongoing)

* Nominated for 2016 Golden Comic Award

We often say “the right hand doesn’t know what the left hand is doing,” but what if that ever really came true? Kuo Yue-Lin is a young high-schooler with that very problem: his left hand is borrowed from a boy he met years ago at his piano lessons. But the five fingers that flew lightly over the piano keys frequently find their way into other places, too, like store shelves and fist fights, acting outside Yue-Lin’s control. But its original owner disappeared years ago, leaving Yue-Lin to rue the day they met. Until one day in high school, when everything changes....

Illustrator SALLY infuses this story of high school life and anxieties with whimsy, nervous energy, and a touch of irreality. Distraction and misdirection send the eye back and forth between faces and voices, mimicking the unsettled mind (or renegade left hand) of a changing young man.



SALLY

Originally a student of architecture, SALLY is currently a member of the manga collective Club Zip. Her work has been serialized in Taiwan and in Thailand.



It all happened when I was in the first grade...

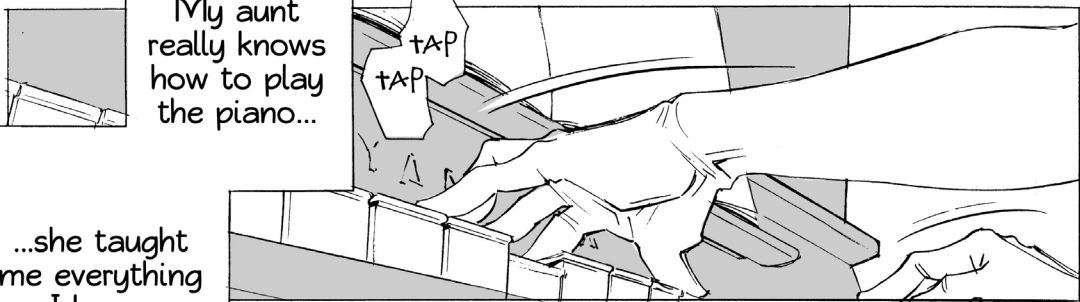


HOLD ON...

THE LEFT HAND IS OFF



LET AUNTIE PLAY A FEW BARS FOR YOU

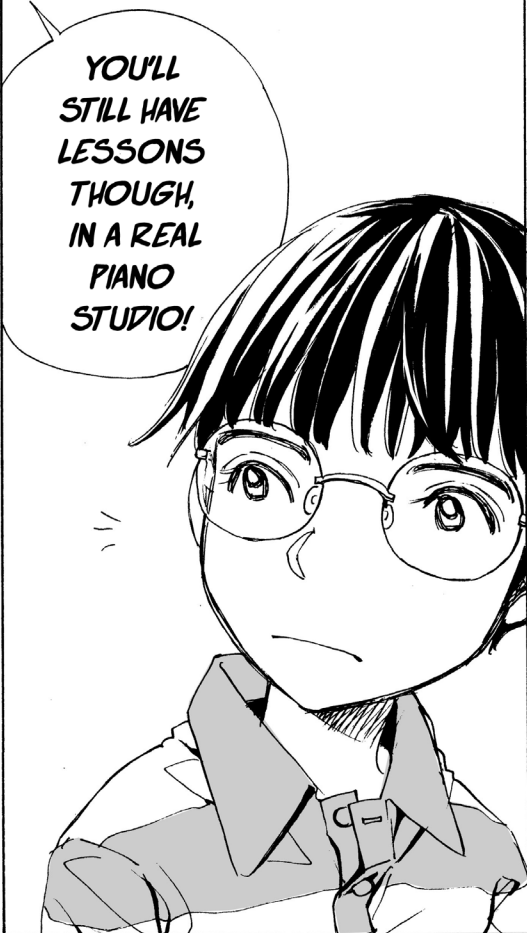


My aunt really knows how to play the piano...

...she taught me everything I know.



YOU HAVE TO SKIP A BEAT HERE



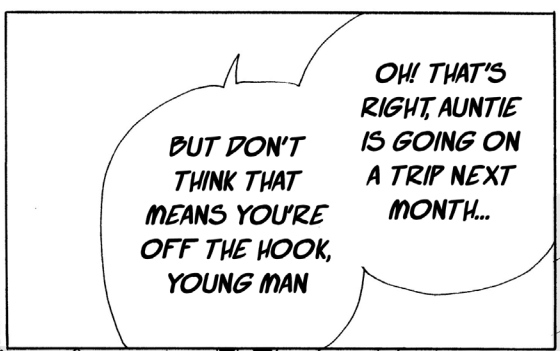
YOU'LL STILL HAVE LESSONS THOUGH, IN A REAL PIANO STUDIO!



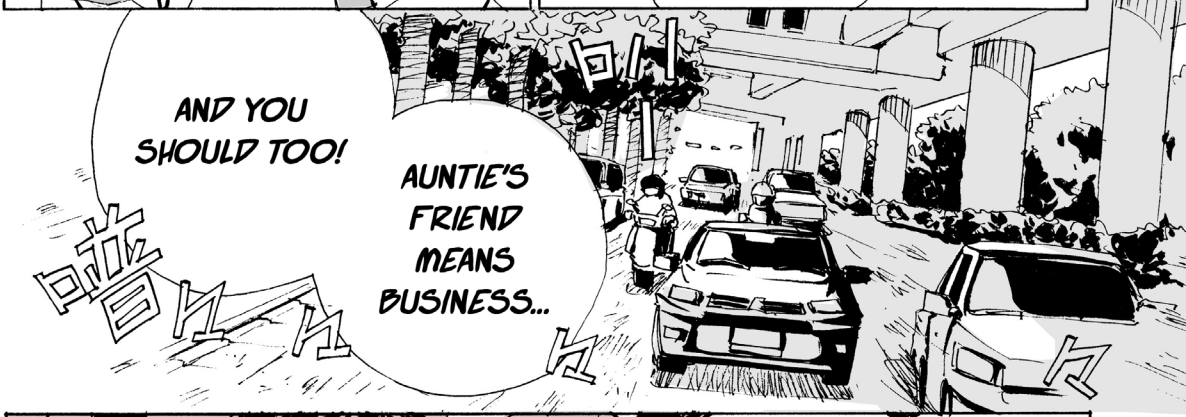
YOU'LL NEED TO CUT YOUR FINGERNAILS SHORT, LIKE MINE

OH, THAT WON'T WORK AT ALL!

...



OH! THAT'S RIGHT, AUNTIE IS GOING ON A TRIP NEXT MONTH... BUT DON'T THINK THAT MEANS YOU'RE OFF THE HOOK, YOUNG MAN



AND YOU SHOULD TOO!

AUNTIE'S FRIEND MEANS BUSINESS...

咿呀

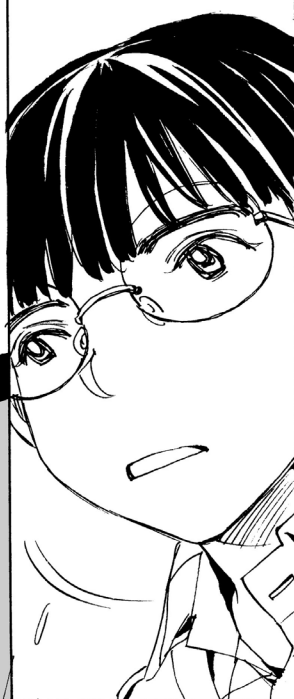


FIVE PAST, WE'RE ALREADY LATE!

WHAT TIME IS IT?

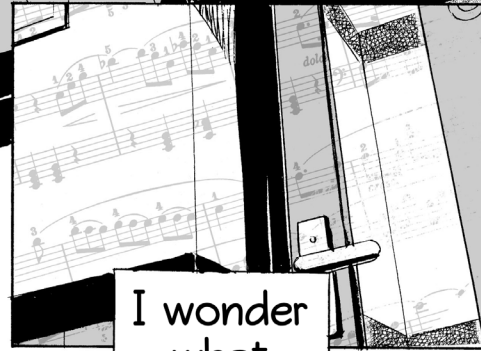






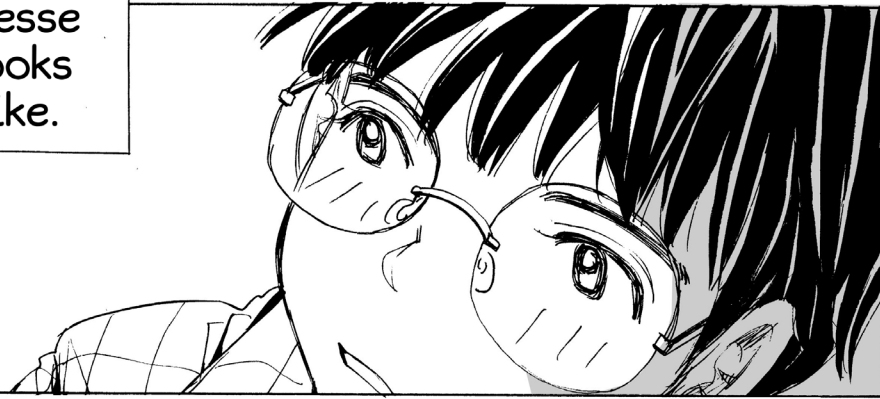
Jesse is really amazing!

Just like me.



I wonder what Jesse looks like.

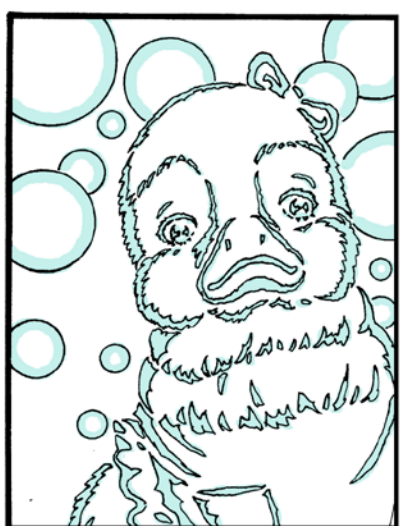
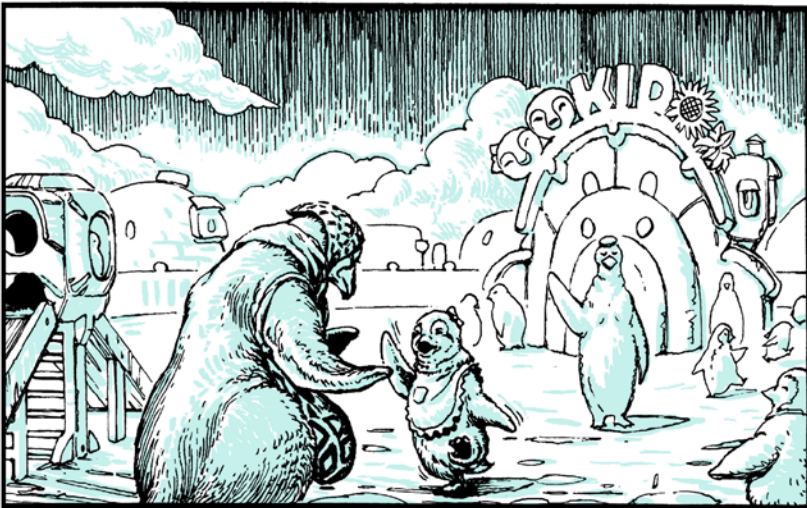
Sounds like...a girl's name?

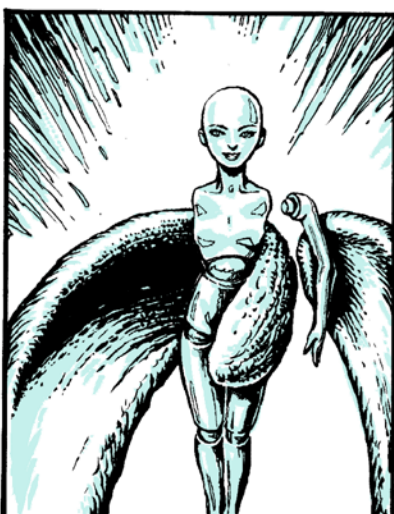
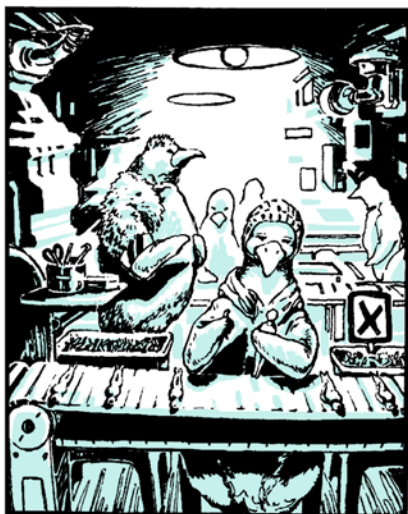


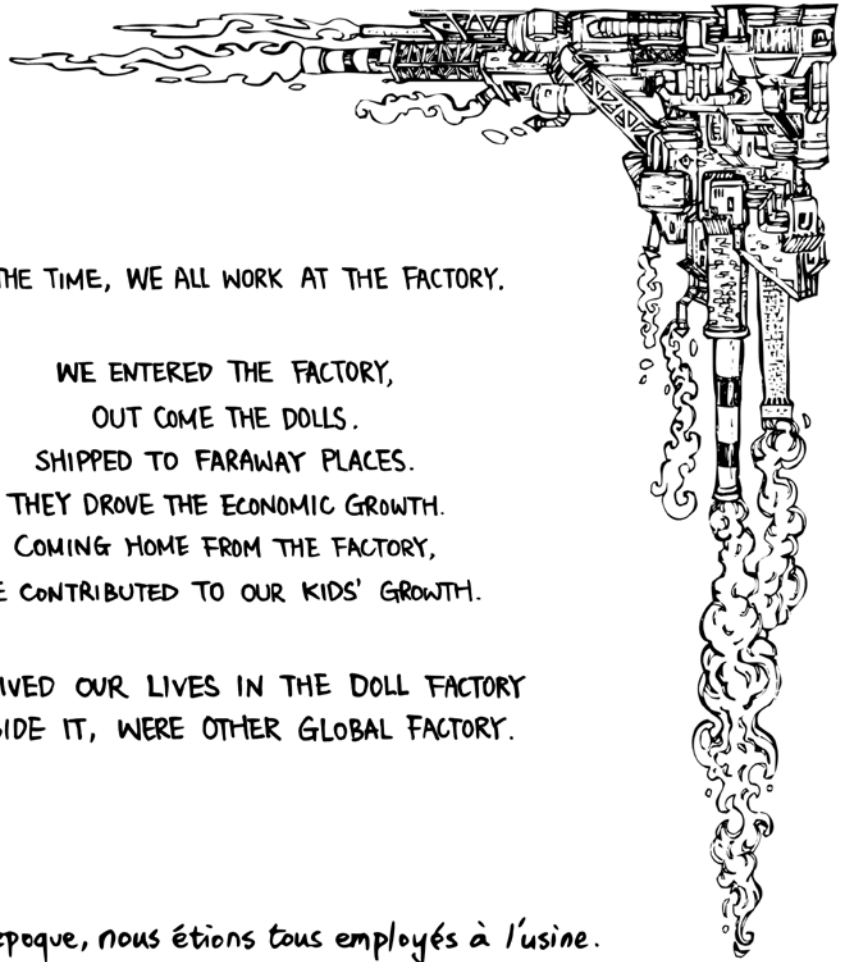
BOOKS FROM TAIWAN

COMICS (From Left to Right)

Please turn to the back to enjoy the four comics which are read from left to right.







AT THE TIME, WE ALL WORK AT THE FACTORY.

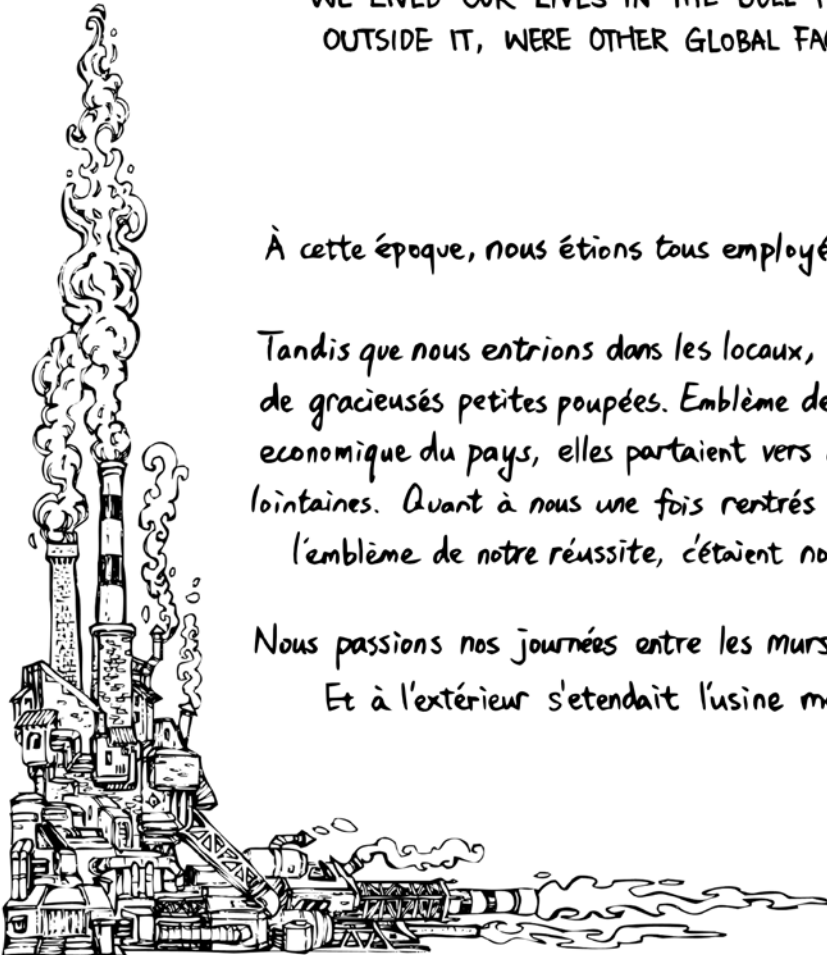
WE ENTERED THE FACTORY,
OUT COME THE DOLLS.
SHIPPED TO FARAWAY PLACES.
THEY DROVE THE ECONOMIC GROWTH.
COMING HOME FROM THE FACTORY,
WE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR KIDS' GROWTH.

WE LIVED OUR LIVES IN THE DOLL FACTORY
OUTSIDE IT, WERE OTHER GLOBAL FACTORY.

À cette époque, nous étions tous employés à l'usine.

Tandis que nous entrions dans les locaux, en sortaient de gracieuses petites poupées. Emblème de la réussite économique du pays, elles partaient vers des contrées lointaines. Quant à nous une fois rentrés à la maison, l'emblème de notre réussite, c'étaient nos enfants.

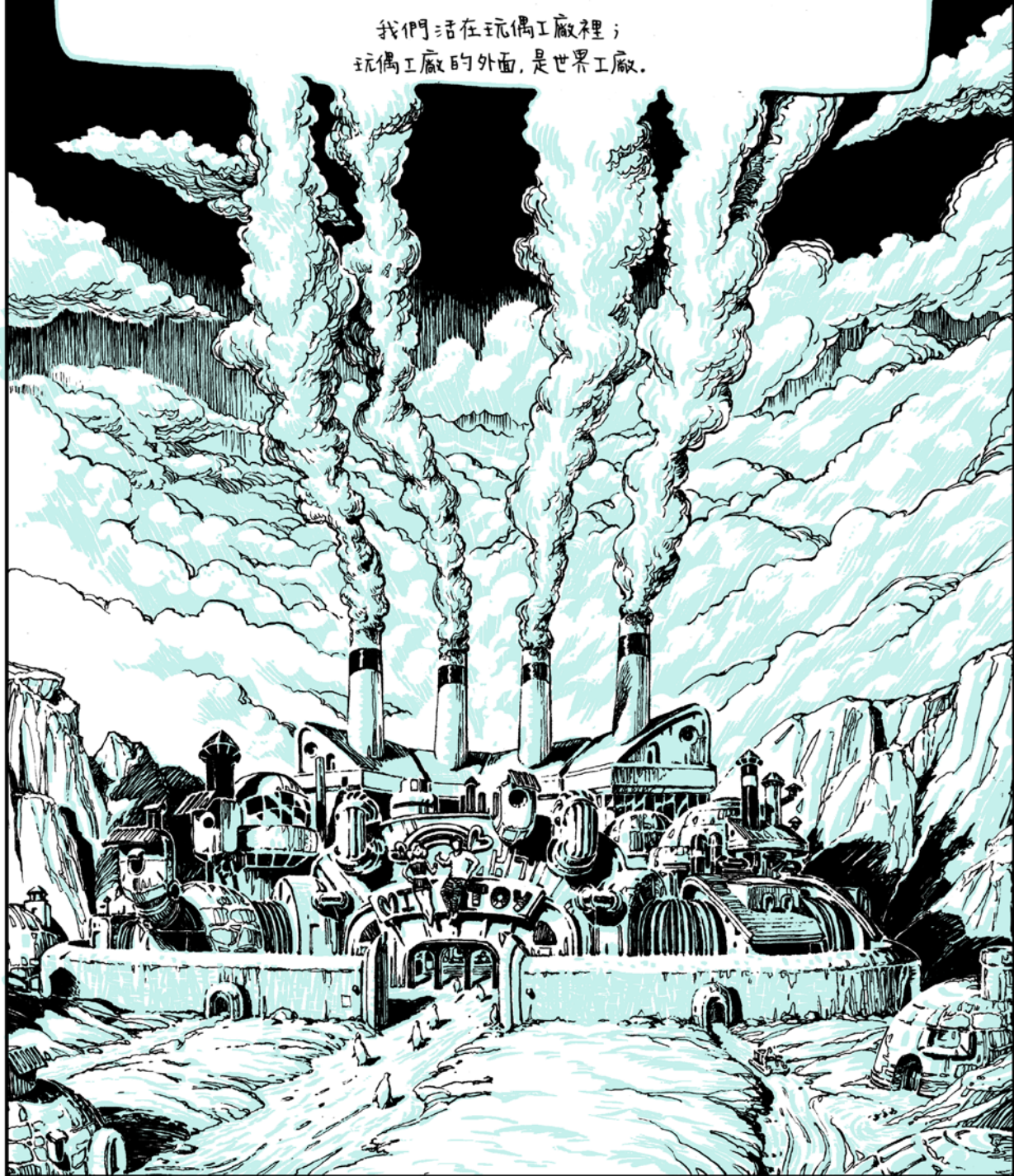
*Nous passons nos journées entre les murs de l'usine.
Et à l'extérieur s'étendait l'usine mondiale.*

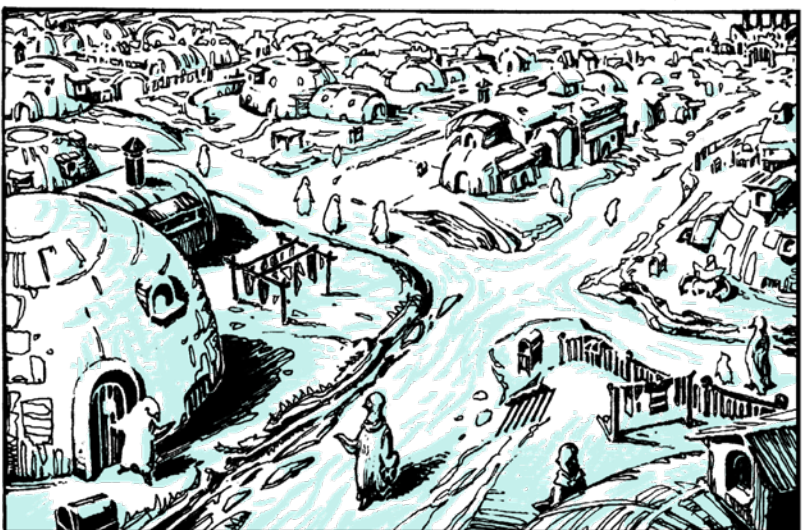
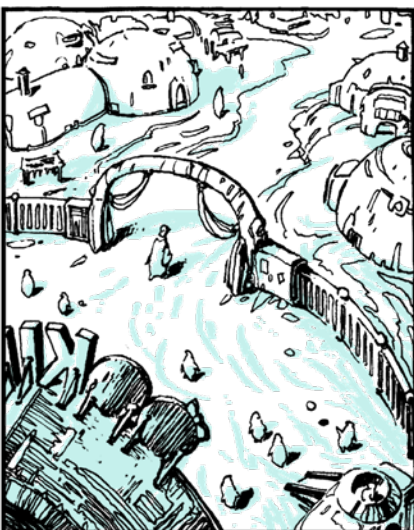
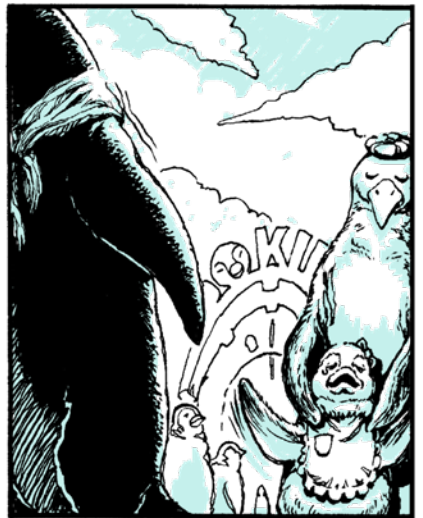


那時我們都在工廠。

我們進入工廠，精美的玩偶則從工廠離開。
它們前往遙遠的地方，成就了經濟；我們從工廠回家，成就了孩子。

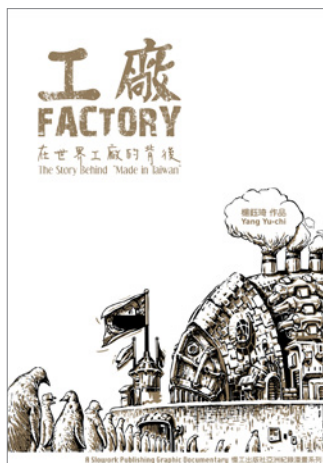
我們活在玩偶工廠裡；
玩偶工廠的外面，是世界工廠。





FACTORY: THE STORY BEHIND “MADE IN TAIWAN”

工廠：在世界工廠的背後

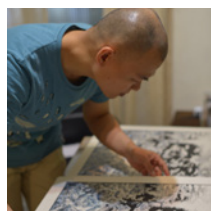


- Publisher: Slowork
- Date: 5/2014
- Rights contact:
booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com
- Pages: 32

In a wordless yet riveting work of social justice illustration reminiscent of Seuss's *The Lorax*, Yang Yu-Chi tells a tale of hard work and exploitation that rings true for readers all across the world. *Factory* is the story of Mama Penguin, who assembles dolls for export at a massive factory at the South Pole. Paid too poorly even to afford the dolls she makes, her greatest pleasure is assembling dolls from discarded parts to give to her daughter. Every day she gets closer to the twenty-year retirement cutoff, for which the company has promised her good retirement pay and a ticket to a restful old age.

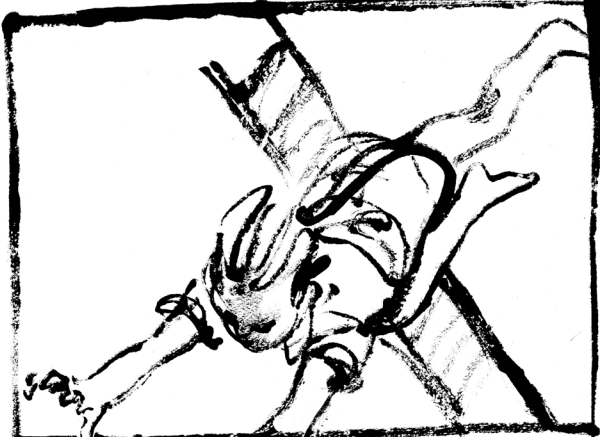
Yet a mere two weeks before her time is up, the factory owner shuts the place down and moves all operations abroad, where salaries are cheaper. Compensation is meager, protests are useless, and the only resource for many is to look for work in their old age, a bitter option only open to the lucky few.

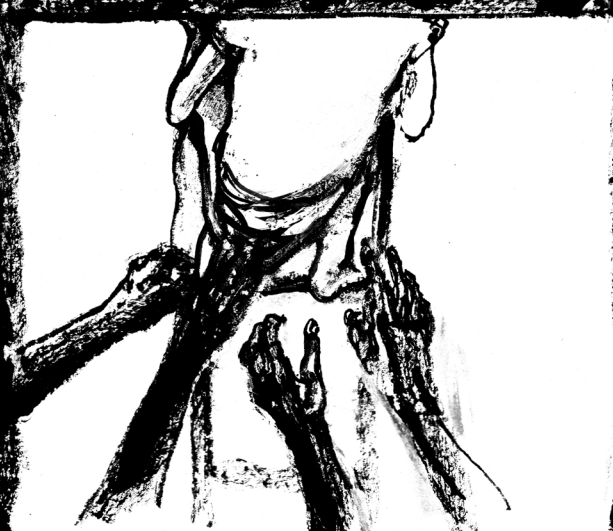
The silent despair of *Factory's* illustrated narrative intensifies when one learns that the story is true: the illustrator's mother experienced just such a misfortune after decades of factory labor. Now, her son tells her story.

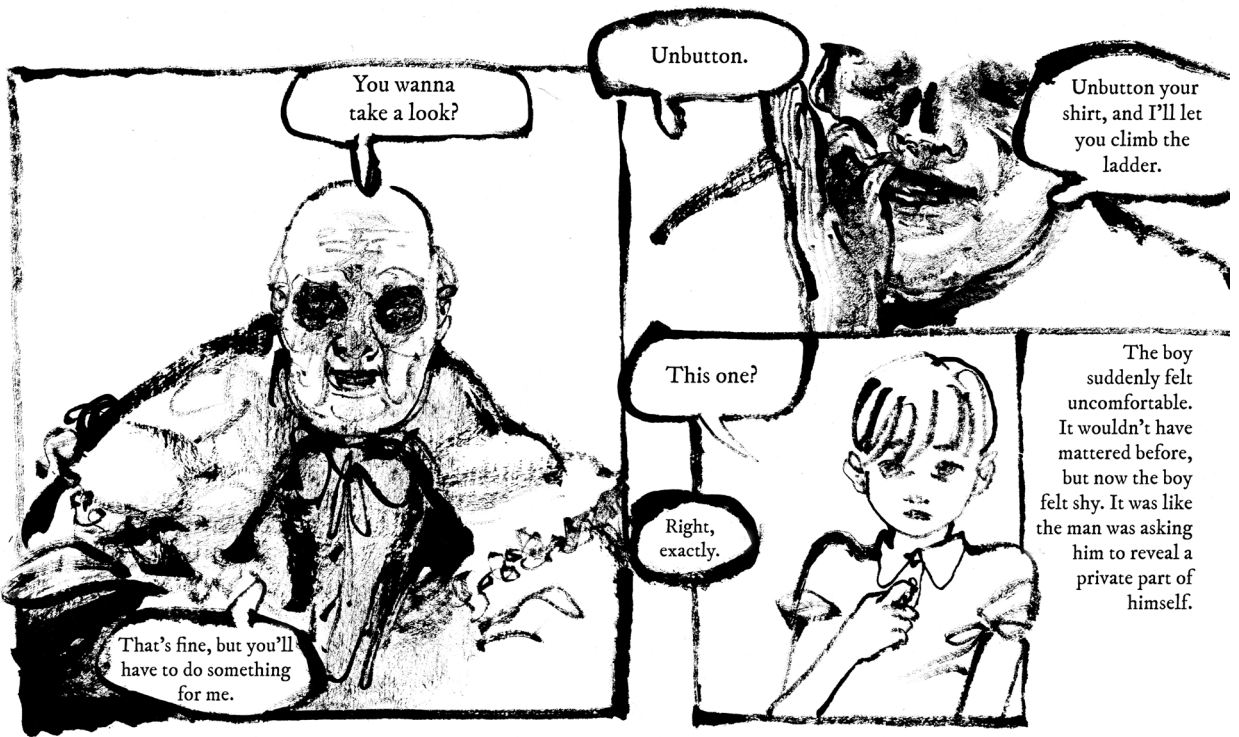


Yang Yu-Chi 楊鈺琦

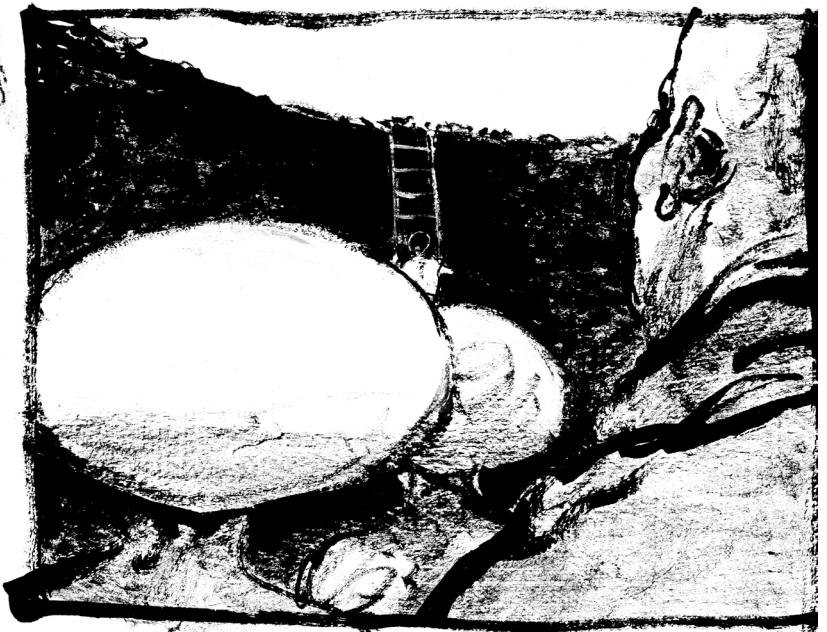
Yang Yu-chi is an experienced illustrator and video game designer who has always harbored dreams of becoming a manga artist. *Factory*, published by the new Taiwanese publisher Slowork, stands out as a brilliant first for both publisher and illustrator.



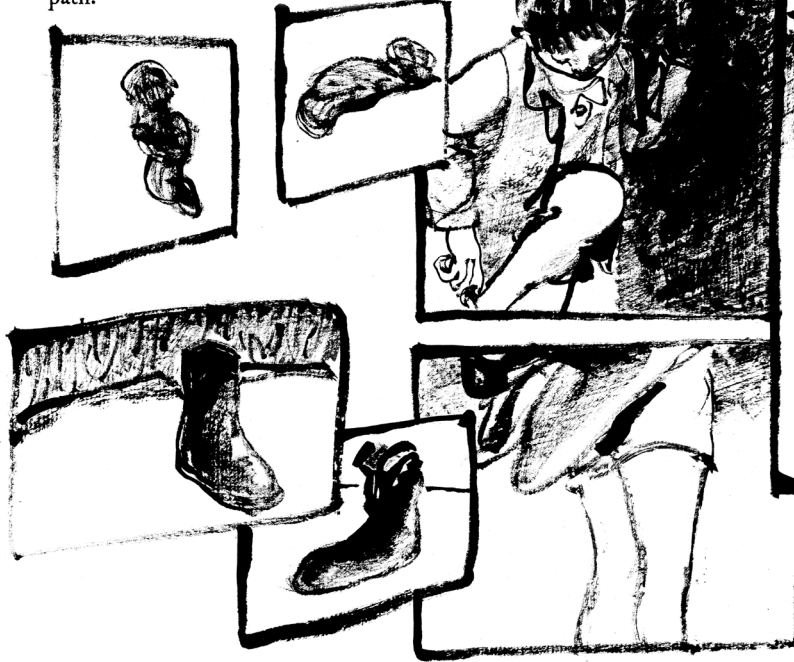




To climb the ladder, the boy unbuttoned his shirt.



Some parts of the labyrinth don't look like the other parts. But never enough to find his way. When he has walked long enough to feel nervous, the boy decides to take things off to mark his path.



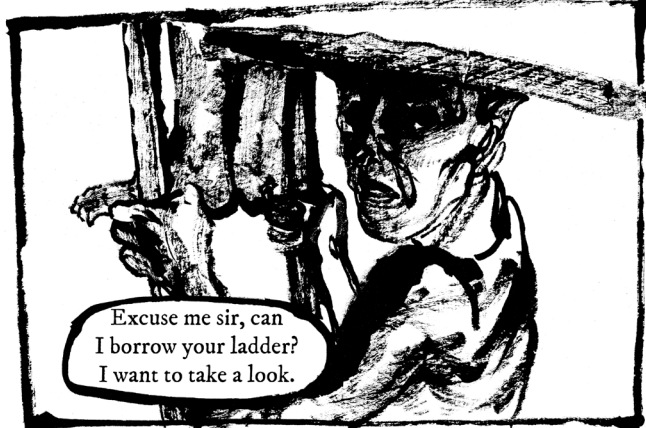
Finally, he takes off his jacket. It's brand new. His parents just bought it for him.

It's the last piece of clothing he wants to take off and the boy soon regrets his decision. He wants to go back to get it, but he's already walked too far. He doesn't find anything he was wearing.

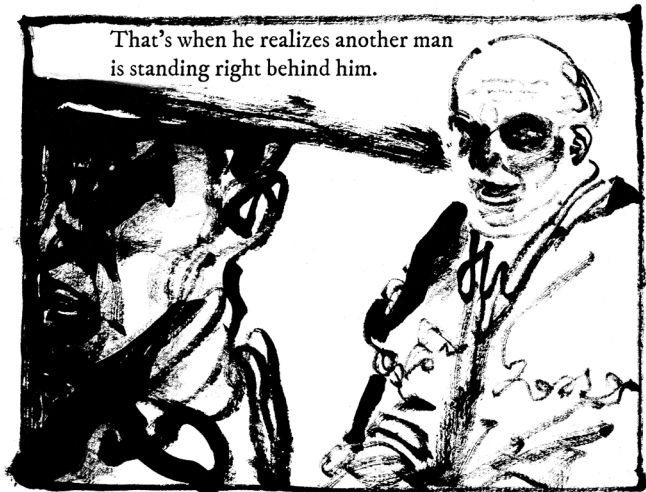
Down one path, the boy spots a ladder. A man is on the ladder, trimming the hedges.

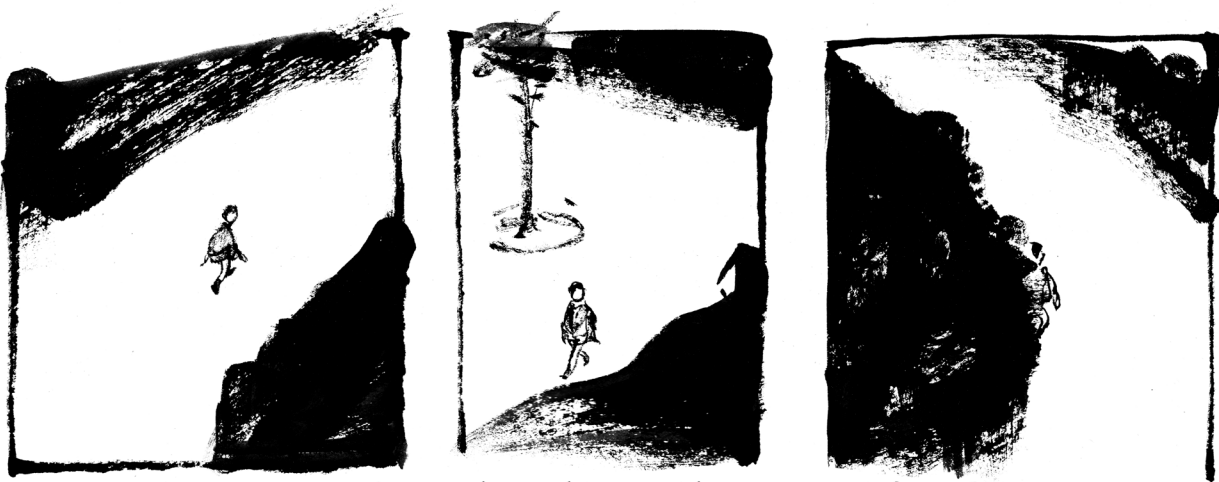


Excuse me sir, can I borrow your ladder? I want to take a look.



That's when he realizes another man is standing right behind him.

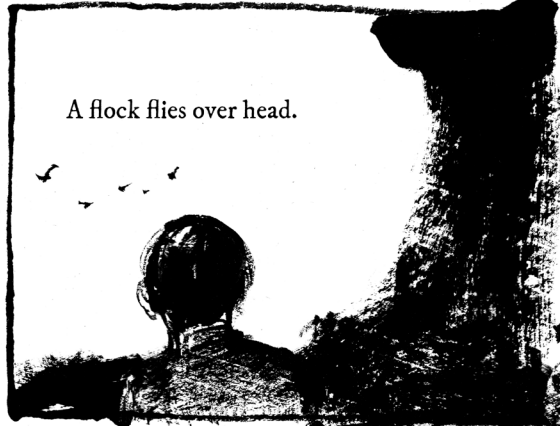




The boy runs into the park, getting lost in a labyrinth. A long time passes before he finds the exit.

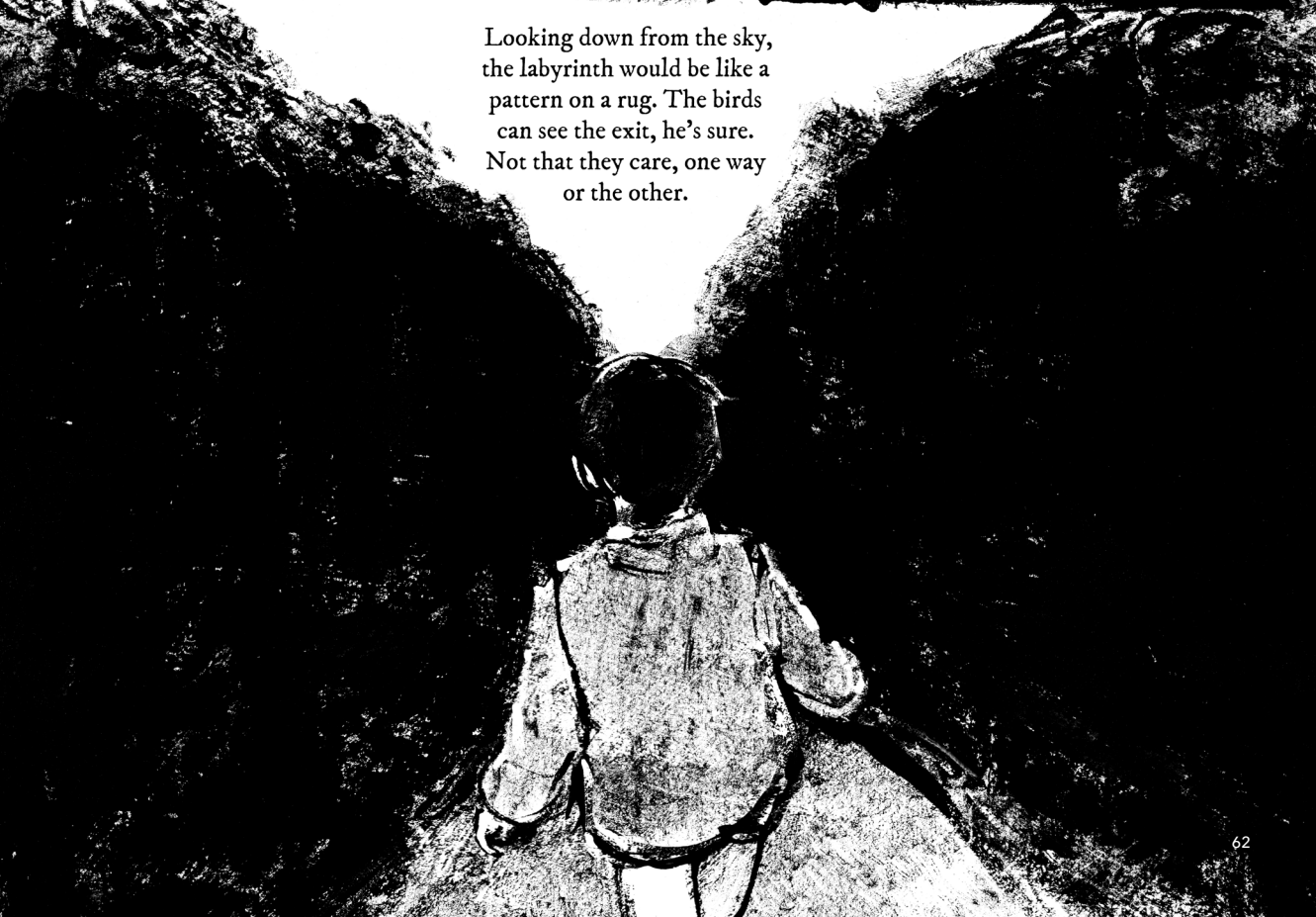


He's jealous of the birds.



A flock flies over head.

Looking down from the sky, the labyrinth would be like a pattern on a rug. The birds can see the exit, he's sure. Not that they care, one way or the other.



THE PARK

公園



· Rights contact:
booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com
· Pages: 150

A young boy finds himself lost in a public park, which is actually a labyrinth of tall hedgerows with no apparent exit. He knows he must get out, but the other denizens of the park will not give him accurate information. At the head of a bridge he finds a masked soldier; exit is prohibited, the soldier says, in advance of tomorrow's battle. The boy should go rest in the communal living quarters not far off. The only resident of those quarters is a young girl, who confides in the boy that she has placed bombs in every corner of the maze. The next morning, she is gone, and he is wakened by an explosion. He hears screams, witness panicked crowds. Stripped naked, he tries his best to crawl to safety.

This manga is literally and precisely the nightmare many of us have had about being lost in a crowded maze while wearing no pants. It is a black-and-white tale of subconscious horror. Disorientation is intensified a hundred times by vulnerability, and helplessness in the face of a dangerous unknown. Done with a Chinese calligraphy brush and ink, it is a piece worth keeping as art.



Tseng Yao-Ching 曾耀慶

Tseng Yao-Ching is a young illustrator and manga artist who creates images using a multitude of different tools, such as Chinese calligraphy ink, poster paint, and cotton paper. Tseng faithfully records dreams, and often makes them the subject of illustrations. Tseng was nominated for the 2013 Golden Comic Award for Best New Artist, and was invited to represent Taiwan at the 2018 Angoulême International Comics Festival.



So...



This is where I'm supposed to spend the next three months.





AND THE REST,
AS THEY SAY,
IS HISTORY...

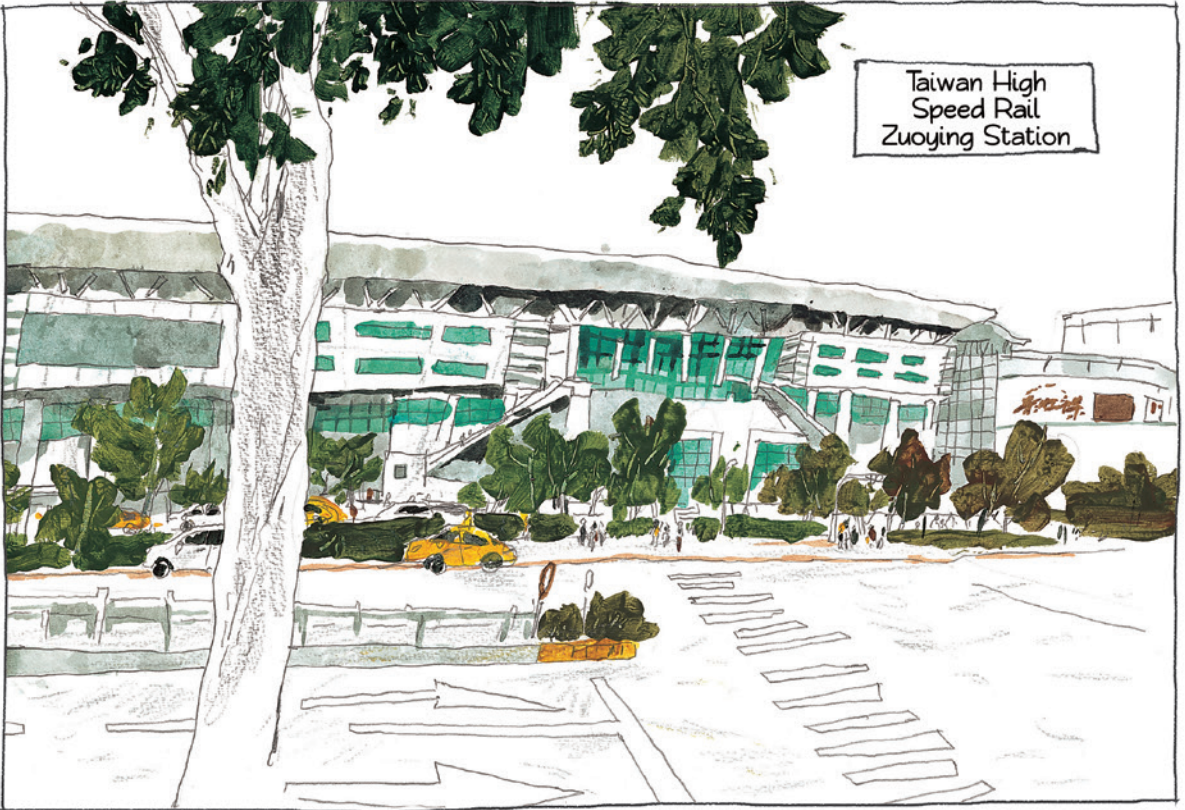


THIS IS
WHERE IT ALL
BEGAN!





Taiwan High Speed Rail
Zuoying Station



SMALL TOWN, SOUTHERN TIME: ZUOYING & ČESKÝ KRUMLOV

南方小鎮時光：左營·庫倫洛夫



- Publisher: Dala
- Date: 11/2016
- Rights contact:
booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com
- Pages: 156

We hear so much about well-known towns having “sister cities” far on the other side of the world, places where citizens from each seem fated never to go: Texas towns have sister cities in Germany and China, while even Portland, Maine is twinned with Yokohama, Japan. In this lovely graphic narrative, 61Chi tells her own story as both tourist and local in two regions that have never officially met: her home town in souther Taiwan, and the small hamlet of Krumlov in the Czech Republic.

If neither of these names are familiar to you, so much the better: there will be more to surprise and delight your eyes among these pages. The author and illustrator spent three months as a resident artist in Krumlov, a drive-by town in the green hills of the Czech Republic, and as she changed from tourist to familiar face, her pen and charcoal captured moments, expressions, and vistas that somehow brought her mind back to her old home.

Though these pages are not crowded with words, the activity and the color of their illustrations more than fills the silence. Sketches that seem the perfect work of an instant depict two towns as they really are, as well as the people who cross, meet, and part along their streets.



61Chi

61Chi has represented her art and her country at the Angoulême residency in France, the Krumlov Center for the Arts in the Czech Republic, and on the podium as winner of a silver medal for 2014 International Manga Award in Japan. Her illustrations have accompanied several published works over the years, with her first collection of illustrations appearing in 2007.

Quezon city, 1972

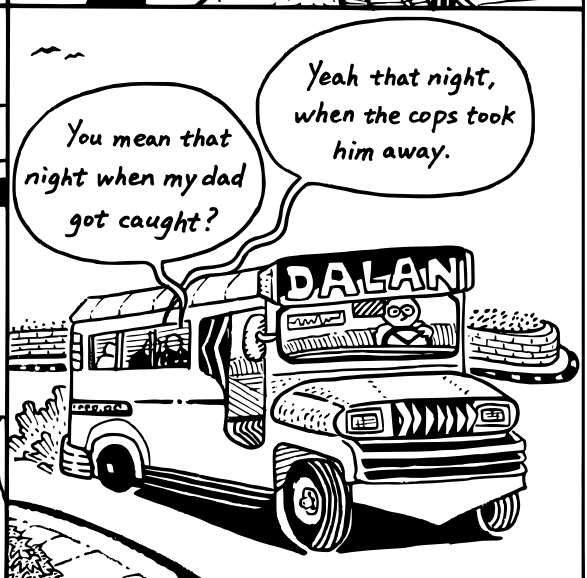
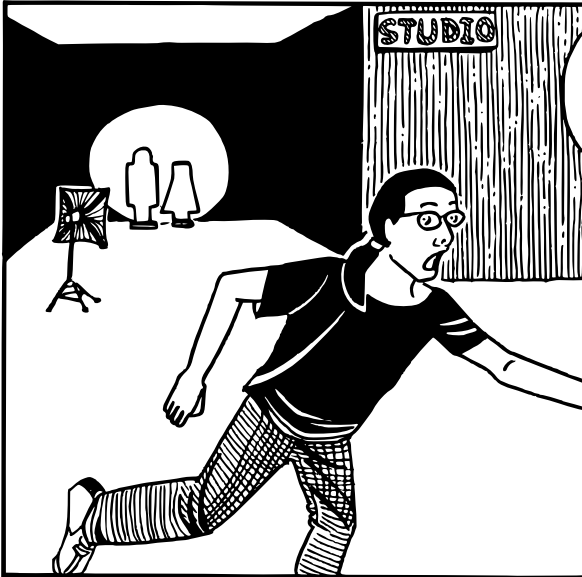


Quezon City, 2012

buzz

BAWAL
UMIHI
PITO!





Anyway, the story I'm telling now is about my parents-in-law.



First, my father-in-law, he's a typical intellect. He has an opinion on almost everything.



My mother-in-law, though, is different. She's passionate, optimistic, and maybe a bit naive. She has always been quite active.



He does plenty of thinking and may appear a bit cynical, but he doesn't ACT all that much, which must have saved him from some real trouble.



The contrast in personality makes it real fun to watch them quarrel. (Oh well, they fight because they love each other, ok?)



GET REAL, MY DEAR!

WHAT, WHAT... YOU'RE SO NEGATIVE.

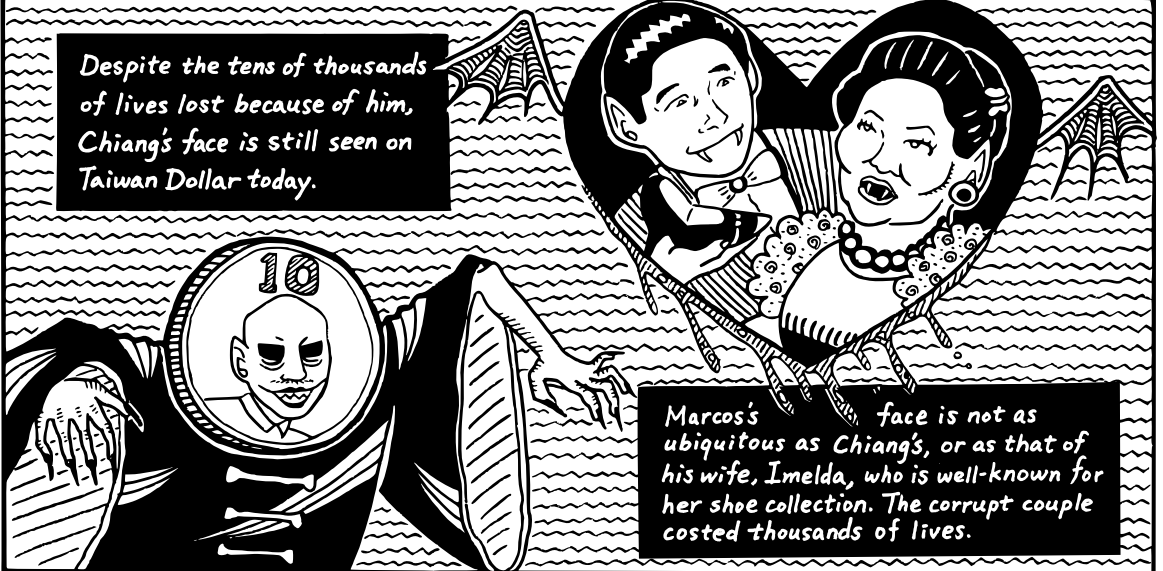


The two families do share something in common, though, thanks to these two men. The baldy is Chiang Kai-shek. His authoritarian govt put Taiwan under martial law for 38 years since 1949.

The sleek hair is Ferdinand Marcos, the late Filipino dictator. His martial law lasted from 1972 to 1981.



Despite the tens of thousands of lives lost because of him, Chiang's face is still seen on Taiwan Dollar today.



Marcos's face is not as ubiquitous as Chiang's, or as that of his wife, Imelda, who is well-known for her shoe collection. The corrupt couple costed thousands of lives.

I have relatives who suffered from Chiang's rule of White Terror, one of whom was "disappeared" in front of his child and never seen again. My wife's extended family has produced political activists. Some have spent time in jail and/or gone on exile.



This is my family. It's small & simple. My parents are from the humble part of Taiwan, the South. My dad is a retired businessman, and my mom, a former school teacher.

My sister studies birds in grad school.



My wife's family is quite the opposite: It's like the United Nations. My Filipino father-in-law is a retired college dean. He met my mother-in-law when studying in Paris. My wife's sister & her husband are doctors. He is Chinese Filipino. My wife's brother & his wife are scientists.

She is Japanese.



My wife's family is from Metro Manila, one of the infamous mega cities in the world. Some say its population has exceeded 25 million. Well that's more than the total population of Taiwan.



HALO-HALO MANILA

哈囉哈囉馬尼拉



- Publisher: Slowork
- Date: 7/2017
- Rights contact:
booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com
- Pages: 80

Halo-Halo, sometimes translated as “mix-mix” in Filipino English, is a multi-colored sweet treat made from scoops of ice cream, coconut jelly, sweet ube, flan, and other desserts over ice. This rainbow in a bowl is a native snack you can find on the streets of Manila, a city that is itself a melting pot of human colors and flavors.

The five stories of *Halo-Halo Manila* represent this complex place in astonishing depth using Jimmeh Aitch’s bold lines and fourth-wall-breaking narrative style. “A Martial Law Tale” tells the story of the illustrator’s father-in-law, wrongfully imprisoned and randomly set free during the Philippines’ period of martial law; “Dignaty on the Street” moves from the story of an unsolved murder into the complex ecosystem of the Manila Streets, while “Manila Lingo”, “Trash Story”, and “Metalheads” dive into local linguistics, trash problems, and the local heavy metal scene.

This collection of active, inquisitive, and frequently rambunctious stories represents one of the most hopeful evolutions of the manga genre as a whole, taking the reader on a bumpy yet fascinating ride through back alleys, crowded marketplaces, and the even more endless paths of human interaction.



Jimmeh Aitch 黃駿

A member of the Siraya ethnic group, one of Taiwan’s indigenous populations, Jimmeh Aitch has spent his life exploring and educating students about indigenous languages through linguistic science, while telling his own stories through the multi-lingual medium of manga illustration. His bold, almost luridly thick lines remind the reader of American cartoonists like Robert Crumb, or Joe Sacco, or the French cartoonist, David B.

BOOKS FROM TAIWAN
COMICS (From Left to Right)