



# The Cats' House

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**BFT2.0 Translator:** Michelle Kuo

*Grandma misses Grandpa and feels lonely without him. While he always loved cats—she never did—she slowly begins to open up to them.*

This picture book delicately addresses themes of grief, dementia, stray cats, and the challenges of elderly people living alone. Despite its heavy subject matter, the story is filled with warmth, conveyed through loving language and imagery.

Upon its release, the book quickly topped the bestseller lists for children's books at both Books.com.tw and Eslite within its first week. It was selected as Eslite Recommends and received widespread acclaim from readers.



## Chih-Hao Yen

Chih-Hao Yen holds a Ph.D. in Children's Literature and is known for his imaginative storytelling. He has received awards such as the Mudi Award, Chiu Ko Modern Children's Literature Award, Showwe Youth Literature Award, and the Ministry of Education's Literary Creation Award. His works span various formats, including novels, fairy tales, bridge books, children's songs, and picture books. Yen's works include *Plug Pig 1: The Power Outage Planet*, *Singing Children's Songs to Learn Zhuyin*, *A Fool Sells Fragrant Farts* and *Ghost Game*, *Sleepwalking*, and the *Shen Jump Wall* novel series.



## Hui-Yin Hsueh

Hui-Yin Hsueh is an illustrator and occasional pottery artist who often draws inspiration from people, plants, and everyday landscapes. She is the author of *One Mom*, *Two Big Heads*, *It's Great to Live Here Together*, and *Big and Small: Everyday Battles Between Mothers and Children*. She has illustrated books such as *Mr. Alzheimer*, *Seven Ways to Eat Carrots*, *Sleepwalking*, and *Phonetic Practices*. Hsueh has received the 11th and 13th Book Design Golden Butterfly Award Honor Awards and was selected for the 2021 Bologna Children's Book Fair Illustration Exhibition.

# If the One You Love Disappears, Does Your Love Disappear Too?

Written by MEET.eslite (<https://meet.eslite.com/tw/tc/article/202403120005>)

What happens when the person who once loved you deeply is no longer there? Would you be consumed by their absence or struggle to forget the memories of their departure? In the picture book *The Cat's House*, Chih-Hao Yen and Hui-Yin Hsueh gently remind us that even when our loved ones leave, love itself endures.

The story follows a grandmother who dislikes cats. Her late husband adored them and would often feed the strays, which is why she now lives in a house

perpetually surrounded by cats. Each day, she spends time shooing them away.

*As she chases the cats off, she mutters, "But Grandpa wouldn't agree—he loved cats most of all." What sounds like a complaint also reveals her longing for her late husband.*

Subtle and expressive, *The Cat's House* speaks directly to the reader, using childlike descriptions and illustrations to craft an emotional world. Each passage, and the hidden longing within the dialogue, guides readers into the depths of memory.

As the grandmother's yearning for her husband grows, so does the emptiness inside her. No one wants to dwell in painful memories, but how can anyone truly accept the loss of a loved one? Even though she knows her anger toward the cats is misplaced, the grandmother can't find another way to cope with her overwhelming loneliness.

Watching her journey from appearing strong in her husband's absence to suddenly feeling the solitude of an empty home brings to mind the film "Goodbye Grandpa". In the face of loss, people often find themselves unable to express their grief.

Even though she has lost her memories of her husband's presence, love still

remains. The cats, left behind by the grandfather, reflect it. Caring for them, even if only for a moment, is worth experiencing with an open heart. If such love can be preserved, why not hold onto it?

*This excerpt has been condensed and edited for this booklet.*



While Grandma cooks, she mutters to herself,  
“It’s a good thing we don’t have cats, or else I wouldn’t be able to cook in peace.  
But Grandpa wouldn’t agree—he loved cats most of all.”





While Grandma's watching television, she mutters to herself, "It's a good thing we don't have cats, or else it would be noisy and I wouldn't be able to relax and watch TV. But Grandpa wouldn't agree—he loved cats most of all."







Today, the weather is lovely,  
and all the cats go out to soak in the sun.  
Grandma's the only one left in the house.  
Suddenly it feels so empty and so lonely.