



# PFFT!!!

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**BFT2.0 Translator:** Michelle Kuo

*This nearly wordless picture book features just one word: PFFT, capturing the sound of a fart. The gorgeous, distinctive illustrations reflect Taiwanese culture while also conveying the universal embarrassment—and humor—of passing gas.*

Today is a beautiful day, and Little Spring is heading to the zoo. But shortly after boarding the bus, he can't help but let out a PFFT, causing the surrounding passengers to cover their noses.

After getting off the bus, on a whim, he steps into an art gallery. But once again, he can't control himself and lets out a few more PFFTs and PFFBTTTs. This time, not only do the museum visitors flee, but even the plants wither, and the characters in the famous paintings shed tears or scream in horror.

Before even reaching the zoo, the protagonist continues PFFT-ing his way through a traditional grocery store, a barbershop, an ice shop, and a conveyor belt sushi restaurant. Even at the zoo, where he hopes to relax in a hot spring with the capybaras, his PFFT-ing drives them all out of the pool.

Back home, he tells his mother about his day. As he enjoys steamed sweet potatoes with her, he suddenly hears a PFFT—and it's not from him. At the story's end, he feels a warm sense of acceptance and love from his family.

This marvelous picture book, filled with sound, smell, and humor, revolves around a single word. With its surprising twist highlighting the warmth of family bonds, this story is sure to delight readers from all over the world.



## Lai Shin Hau

Shin Hau draws inspiration from everyday life and has a deep love for Taiwanese culture. His art aims to create a warm and inclusive atmosphere through a bold visual style, whimsical characters, and humor. His work often features elements of Taiwanese life, including flower tiles, roof tiles, nostalgia-inducing toys, street food, night markets, betel nut stands, traditional stores, and shaved ice shops. Shin Hau enjoys creating paper puppets, unbaked ceramics, and fabric dolls. At exhibitions, he encourages people to make themed paper puppet masks.

A graduate of the Department of Fine Arts at Tung Hai University, Shin Hau's works won the Silver Award at the 2019 Taoyuan International Illustration Competition. He served as the art designer of the animated short film *Dark River*, which was selected for the 2016 Taichung International Animation Festival's Outstanding Selection and won the Grand Prize at the Southern Film Festival. His online series *The Night Left the North Pole*, featuring polar bears, received enthusiastic feedback. In January 2023, Shin Hau published his first picture book, *Where Did the Sun Go?*, followed by his second picture book, *PFFT!!!*

# “Passing Gas is Completely Natural”: A Note from the Author

By Shin Lau  
Translated by Michelle Kuo

When I was a child, my mother often used a rice cooker to steam sweet potatoes for me. Every time I ate sweet potatoes, I couldn't help but pass gas. While walking down the street, people would give me strange looks, leaving me embarrassed, as if I had done something wrong. Looking back now, I find this rather amusing. There's no reason to be embarrassed; passing gas is a completely natural physiological reaction.

In the story, Little Spring leaves home and takes a bus to the zoo. Along the way, he passes gas in an art gallery, a barbershop, an ice shop, and a conveyor belt sushi restaurant. A single word ties the story together: PFFT, the onomatopoeic

word that captures both the sound and smell of passing gas.

*Throughout his journey, our young protagonist feels anxious about the odd looks he receives from people due to his constant farting.*

Throughout his journey, our young protagonist feels anxious about the odd looks he receives from people due to his constant farting. When he returns home and shares the day's events with his mother, he discovers that the rice cooker is steaming, and his favorite sweet potatoes are ready. As they enjoy the sweet potatoes together, he lets out several more PFFT! Then they both laugh. To me, this is the taste of happiness.

I enjoy using observations from daily life in my work and have a deep appreciation for Taiwanese culture. My works frequently feature elements such as Taiwanese

flower tiles, roof tiles, nostalgia-inducing toys, role-playing, street food, night markets, betel nut stands, traditional stores, fruit, and shaved ice shops.

This has been lightly edited from the author's afterword for the purposes of this booklet.

# What Word Describes a Fart Sound?: A Note from the Translator

by Michelle Kuo

This delightful book, in which a kid farts his way through Taiwan—on a bus, in an art museum, and at a dessert shop—contains just one word: the sound of farting. You'd think translating it would be easy, but there are countless onomatopoeic options in English. (In Mandarin, the sound is simply *pu!*). Is it TOOT? POOT? FRAPP? PFTTT FRTTT? THPTHTPHTH?

After consulting two literary critic friends—who graciously humored the question—I decided to stick to one stem,

PFFT, expanding it based on the size or style of the author's drawing of the Chinese character: PFFFBTBTT!!! PFTBHBB! This approach captured the diverse ways gas can be passed—some windy, some discreet, but all undeniably funny to a child, or anyone with a childlike spirit.

*Michelle Kuo is the editor of Books from Taiwan.*



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