



While Waiting for Mama

等媽媽來的時候

Author: Hsiao-chi Chang **Illustrator:** Hsiao-chi Chang **Publisher:** The Eastern Publishing

Date: 3/2020

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24 pages | 20 x 20 cm **Volume:** 1

Rights sold: Korean

BFT2.0 Translator: Michelle Kuo

*While waiting for Mama to come,
I walked through the most dangerous crocodile pond,
helping Brother Postman to deliver a package on time.*

Why hasn't Mama arrived yet? Little Blue Elephant finds creative ways to make the waiting time fulfilling. Our playful hero evades crocodiles, directs traffic, discovers an island, befriends a chameleon, and makes parachutes out of leaves.

Many parents today often have no choice but to pick up their children after work. Reflecting on her own childhood, during which she often found herself waiting, author Hsiao-chi Chang says, "Although I often felt powerless, I somehow kept learning how to survive by finding fun ways to cope. The more I played, the more I forgot why I was frustrated."

Chang's whimsical illustrations and inventive storytelling suggest that a child's greatest superpower is their imagination.



Hsiao-chi Chang

Hsiao-chi Chang graduated from the Fine Arts Department at National Kaohsiung Normal University and the Illustration Program at the Academy of Art University in the U.S., where she majored in children's book illustration. She enjoys stars, fish, and drinking milk tea, spending much of her time observing people, events, stories, and the sky. When seeking solitude, she explores new places and hides in corners to draw, often finding great joy in talking to herself.

Chang has been selected for the 2020 Bologna Illustrators Exhibition, won the 78th "Good Books for Everyone" Reading Award as an Excellent Children's and Young Adult Book, and received the award for Excellent Publication in the Children's and Young Adult Book Category at the Golden Comic Awards. She has been a finalist in the 3x3 International Illustration Awards for picture books and has exhibited her works in San Francisco, New York, and Tokyo.

“As a Child, I Spent a Lot of Time Waiting for My Parents to Pick Me Up”: A Word from the Author

by Hsiao-chi Chang
(originally published on books.com.tw)

As a child, I spent a lot of time waiting for my parents to pick me up, always being the last one at the after-school care center. I often waited in the small area in front of the after-school care building, watching as my classmates were picked up one by one. I waited and waited until I was the only one left, often keeping the teachers from closing up and going home.

Waiting alone was really boring and often made me angry. But being bored and angry is rarely helpful, so I started to come up with games to play by myself. That was when I began to enjoy people-watching, stargazing, and looking at

the sky. When someone ran across the courtyard, I would imagine what had just happened to them or what they were hurrying off to do. This kept me so busy that, before I knew it, my parents would arrive.

This picture book is my first attempt to write a story from my own perspective and experience. Before writing it, several images kept popping into my mind. Among them were a giant leaf parachute and a peaceful mountain. While I was drawing, a few sentences popped into my mind. I'd think, Maybe I'm more suited to be a quiet mountain with a nose. But at the time, I had no idea what to

do with these images and sentences. Then one day, while riding my bike and worrying about what kind of story to draw, I stopped at a red light. The phrase “while waiting for Mama to come” suddenly came to me. And so, a story was formed.

Since my understanding of picture book creation came mainly from the U.S., I wanted to see what people were doing in Taiwan. I eagerly enrolled in a picture book course led by Tao Ledi and Huang Yuqin. As the course was ending, we had to complete a picture book project. The initial version of *While Waiting for Mama* was created with the help of teachers and classmates who supported me through confusion, obstacles, and uncertainties.

As a child, I often found myself in

situations that I didn't like. Although I often felt powerless, I somehow kept learning how to survive. I found fun ways to cope. The more I played, the more I

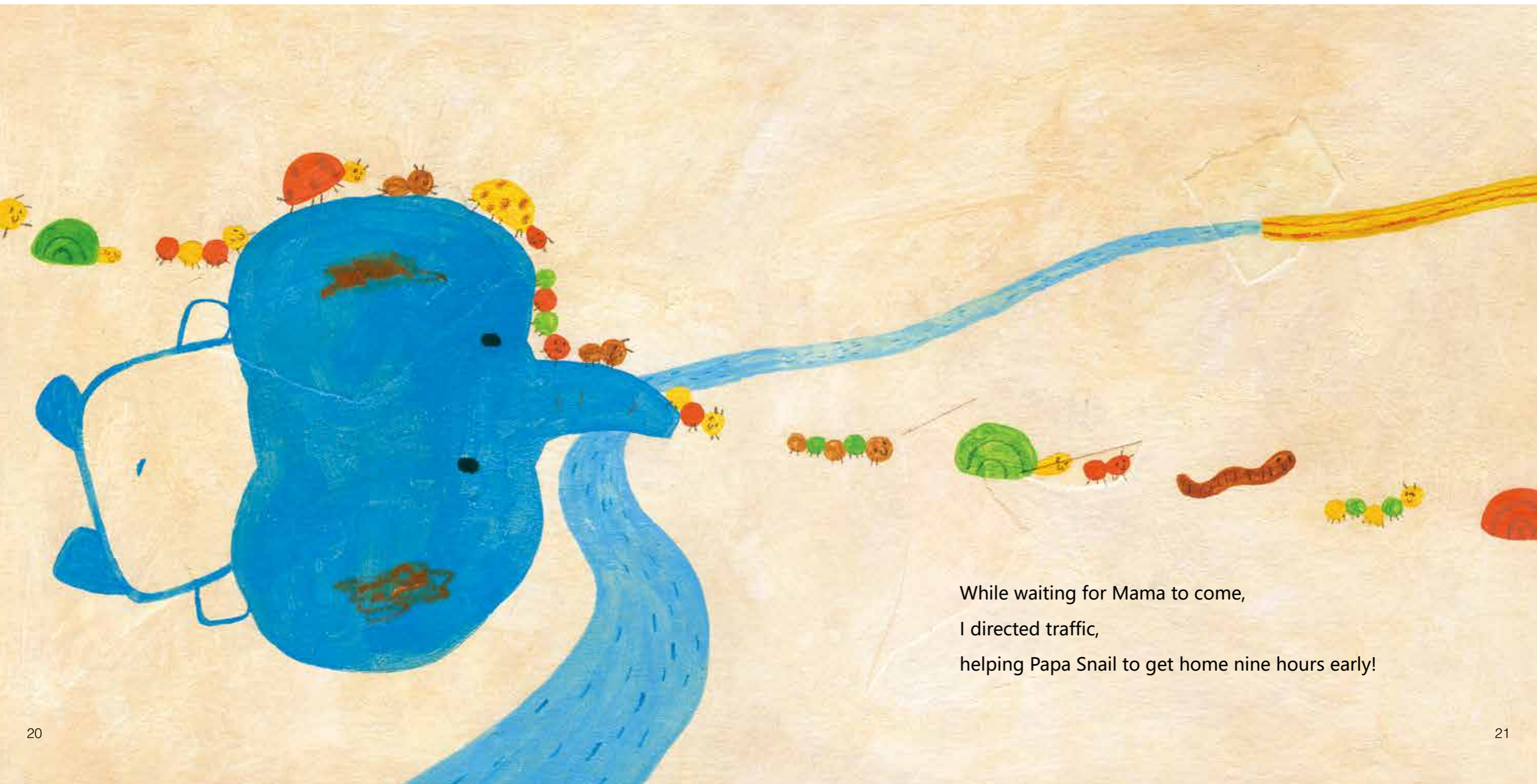
forgot why I was frustrated. This became a way of life that, even now, I'm still learning how to do.

In creating this picture book, I hope to offer young readers a way to find joy

when faced with feelings of helplessness. They can look around for a recycled egg carton, a small tree, a bucket, a leaf, a sofa, or a blanket. If they play with those things for just a little while, they might find themselves smiling again.

This essay has been condensed for this booklet.

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I directed traffic,
helping Papa Snail to get home nine hours early!

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I learned to be peaceful,
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Ah, Mama's here!



拜拜!

再見!

再見!

再見!

拜拜!

Bye!

Bye!

再見!

再見!

再見!

