



The Fallen Fruit

落下的果子

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Volume: This book is part of a seasonal series with *What's That?* covering winter and summer, with forthcoming spring and autumn volumes.

BFT2.0 Translator: Michelle Kuo

People often say that farewells are a necessary part of growing up. But is that really true? In the cycle of life, departure and return are intertwined. Using the metaphor of fruit trees, the story reflects on how small seeds hidden in sturdy trunks remain unsprouted. The tale captures the emotional and festive feelings evoked by fruits. This book is part of a seasonal series, covering winter and summer, with spring and autumn volumes forthcoming.



Yinalang Group

With “play” as the core of their spirit, Yinalang embraces a wide range of topics, performance venues, and artistic forms. True to their name, which means “children” in Taiwanese, they strive to preserve a sense of childlike wonder and curiosity. By experimenting with diverse mediums—such as objects, light, shadow, and puppetry—they transform everyday items into sources of creative inspiration, expanding the imagination and possibilities of these materials. Yinalang also incorporates local elements or participants’ memories into their workshops, using puppetry and objects to create interactive art experiences.



Wang Ying Ying

A graduate of the Visual Illustration Research Institute at the University of the Arts London, Wang Ying Ying centers her art on themes of food, environmental sustainability, and the natural seasons. She uses illustration and collage to convey these ideas. Her work has been shortlisted for the 2019 Victoria and Albert Museum Illustration Award and the 3x3 International Illustration Award in the U.S.

The Inevitable Farewells in Life: A Note from the Author

Have you ever stopped to think about the packages you've received in life? Some are expected, while others come as surprises; some bring joy, while others might cause a bit of inconvenience. So what kind of package comes from your old home? It's usually not an expensive gift—often just rice, oil, salt, soy sauce, vinegar, or tea—items you could easily buy in the city. Sometimes, there's no particular reason for sending it, just that it's "the right time (tsiànn-tiòh-sî)." These "right-on-time (tiòh-sî)" packages used to trouble me because they didn't fit into my busy work schedule. The delivery times never seemed to align with my availability, forcing me to make special arrangements to receive them.

The inconvenience of these "right-

time (tiòh-sî)" packages is a reflection of the city's demand for convenience and efficiency. Life in the city moves forward in a uniform rhythm, constrained by the clock, where each day blends into the next. This routine dulls our awareness of changes in our environment. Yet, it was this very inconvenience—one I used to complain about—that made me pause and realize: have I, in my constant pursuit of convenience, lost touch with the true flavor of life? And so, I began my search for ways to rediscover the essence of time.

The Seasonal Fruit Stories project explores the relationship between fruit and people, connecting fruit with emotions, events, and festivals. It captures subtle imprints in daily life that we often overlook, but which profoundly

shape us. In the first chapter, *What's That?*, the playful nature of watermelons serves as a reflection on our connection to the land. The book *The Fallen Fruit* and the accompanying theatrical work *Where Did the Fruit Go?* use winter tangerines to explore the inevitable farewells we face in life.

Comparing a child leaving home to the relationship between fruit and a tree might seem natural: the fruit grows, ripens, falls, and takes root elsewhere, continuing the cycle of life. But upon closer reflection, the marks left on the

fruit tell the story of events that shaped it, much like the experiences that shape a child as they grow and eventually leave to create their own life. It's a new phase, one that redefines the relationship between the individual and their family, as they move between different social roles, searching for their place in life.

It was only then that I realized: the fruit packages sent from home, though

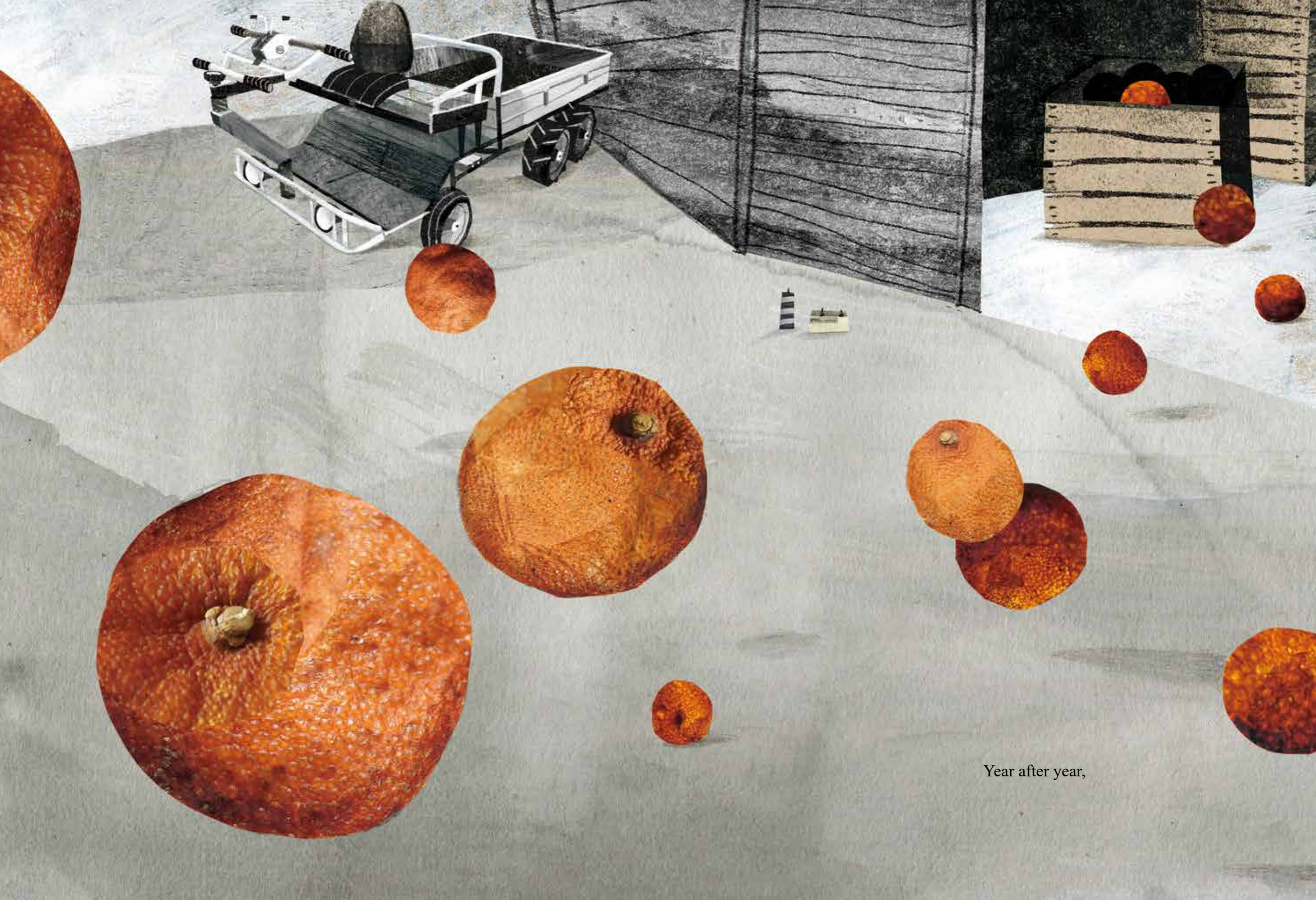
silent, are filled with care and the gentle warmth of being "right on time (tiòh-sî)."

This essay appeared in the afterword.

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Year after year,