



The Magical White Drinks

神奇的白色飲料

Author: Wei-Yan Chen **Illustrator:** Wei-Yan Chen **Publisher:** Children's Publications

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BFT2.0 Translator: Kathy Cheng

The last library in the city has been demolished, and no one seems to care. In its place stand a series of unfamiliar vending machines. Curiously, someone drops a coin, and out comes a bottle of pure white drink labeled "Classics of Literature." To their surprise, drinking it has a magical effect. Before long, this enchanting white drink becomes immensely popular, with everyone eager to grab a bottle.

Designed for digital natives in the media age, this fun and ironic story introduces children to media literacy and the importance of critical reading. The entire book is illustrated by the author using hand-drawn images created with acrylic paint. The vibrant colors draw children into a fantastical world of reading and imagination.



Wei-Yan Chen

Wei-Yan Chen, a history graduate and freelance creator, is known for his distinctive focus on drawing dinosaurs. Through his artistic process, he has developed a deep appreciation for the colors, sounds, and tastes of the world. He hopes to continue drawing stories and living happily through his art. His work was selected for the iJungle Illustration Awards, and his piece *Discovery* won first prize in the third "Story of an Island: Human Rights Education Picture Book Selection Plan" from the National Human Rights Museum. Chen has earned notable recognition, including the Gold Award in the Social Group at the 7th Picture Book Creation Competition by the Douliu Picture Book Library.

A World Where Books Fade From Existence

by Una Tsao

The Magical White Drinks is the fourth picture book illustrated by Wei-Yan Chen, who won the first prize in the third Human Rights Education Picture Book Awards and the gold medal in the fifth Dianmei Illustration Awards. The story begins in a magical kingdom where libraries have been destroyed, replaced by vending machines that sell a “magical white drink.”

This drink, like the categorization of library collections, is labeled with terms such as “Humanities and Social Sciences,” “Language Learning,” and “Applied Sciences.” With just one sip, complex

cultural knowledge that would typically require considerable time to understand and learn is instantly infused into one’s mind. As a result, people become enamored with the drink’s magical effects, and books gradually fade from existence.

Chen narrates a captivating near-future fairy tale with a playful writing style, vibrant oil painting strokes, and imaginative, detail-rich illustrations. Simultaneously, the author embeds a cautionary message for readers who flip through the picture book. This “magical white drink” parallels contemporary

phenomena such as “three-minute explainer videos” and “TikTok book summaries,” where the experience of reading and listening is reduced to a crude, context-free, and fragmented form of knowledge. Without the process of appreciation and understanding, people lose their ability to digest, produce, and recreate knowledge, ultimately becoming controlled by those who produce canned knowledge.

Chen provides a profound and

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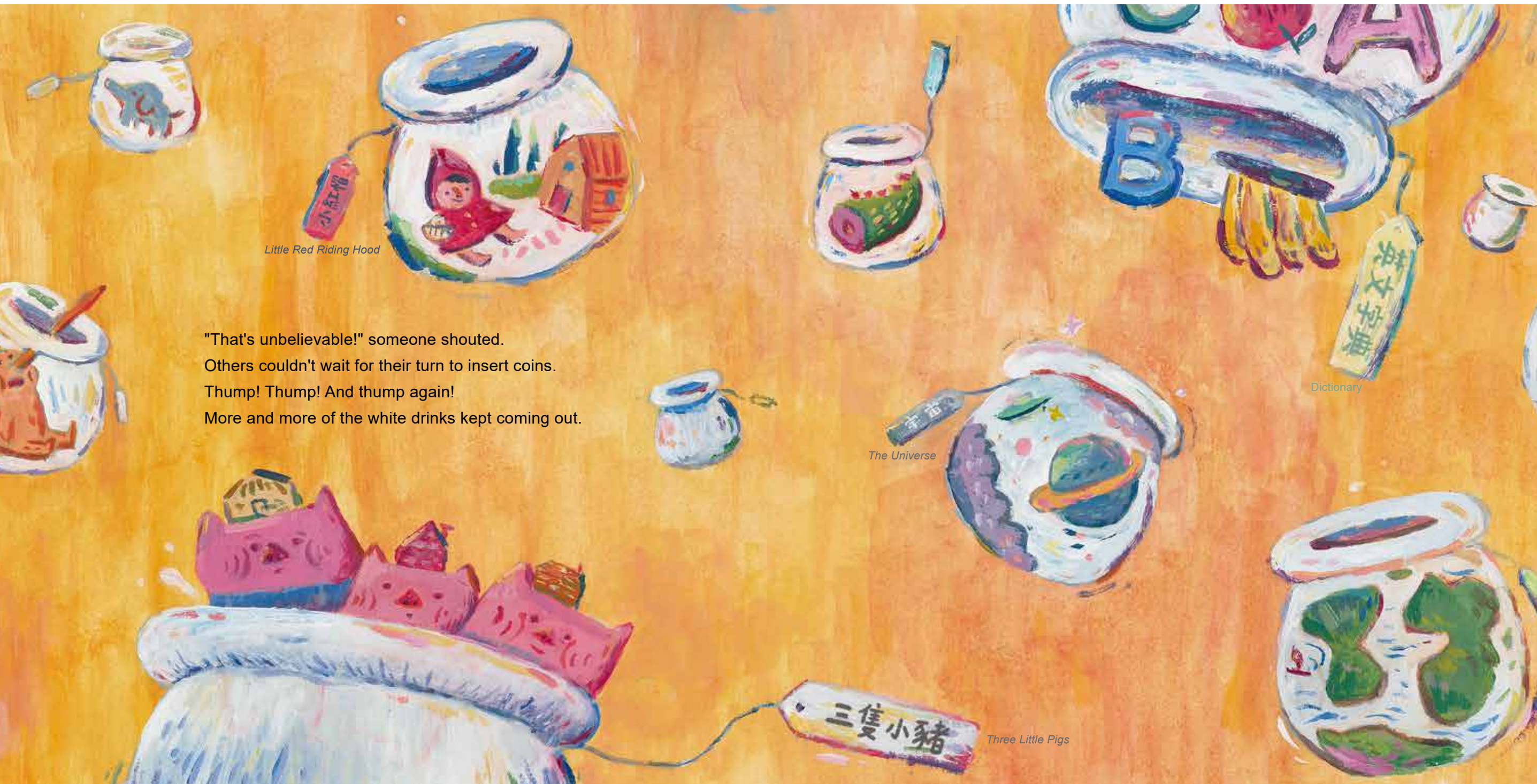
humorous contemporary fable for today’s readers and future young readers through this richly meaningful picture book.

Una Tsao is from Pingtung, Taiwan.

She is a cross-media craft artist and currently the founder of the jewelry brand Semicolon Weaving. She won the Jury Award in the high school category of the 17th Dawu Mountain Literary Award, and she enjoys drawing and writing.



As soon as he drank from the bottle, a particular story flooded his mind.
The highs and lows of the tale unfolded inside his mind like a play in a theater.
The story came to a perfect close when the last drop was drunk.



Little Red Riding Hood

"That's unbelievable!" someone shouted.
Others couldn't wait for their turn to insert coins.
Thump! Thump! And thump again!
More and more of the white drinks kept coming out.

Dictionary

The Universe

Three Little Pigs



Soon the drinks became very popular in the city.
Everyone held a bottle in their hands.