



The Strong Man on the Left Side of the Mountain

山左大力士

Author: TzeWei Yang **Illustrator:** TzeWei Yang **Publisher:** Hsin Yi

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BFT2.0 Translator: Brenda Lin

Is it wrong to avoid an impossible task? A proud gorilla is repeatedly asked to move a mountain, but instead of admitting he can't, he comes up with comical ways to dodge the challenge.

This funny and warm portrayal of a gorilla's fragile ego will help young readers laugh and admit their own fears.



TzeWei Yang

TzeWei Yang graduated from the advertising department of National Chengchi University. She has published picture books and served as a writer and director for multiple children's stage plays, TV shows, animations, and concerts. In addition to being involved in theater music design, composing, and street performances, she also performs with a small band formed with friends. The dream of making movies set in high school was ultimately fulfilled on the pages of picture books. TzeWei hopes to continue writing, drawing, telling stories, and finding satisfaction and joy in creation. Directed and written works include *The Observatory Boy*, *Lightning Monkey*, *Re-entering the Dark Forest*, *The Little Deer* and *Little Leaf Interactive Picture Book Concert*. Picture book works include *Suspiciously Beautiful*, *The Hee-Hee Ha-Ha Dark Party*, and *The Calm Crocodile Doctor*.

Parents and Children Reading Together Will Share Knowing Smiles

by Zou Junsheng

The title of this delightful children's book, *The Strongman on the Left Side of the Mountain*, cleverly merges the story's elements from the outset. The cover art highlights the book's dramatic tension, with a gorilla effortlessly lifting the mountain. Even the small birds on the endpapers are a clever touch, acting as silent witnesses to the entire event.

The book's style and theme convey the author's humor, especially through a vivid portrayal of the gorilla's prideful personality. When asked to move the mountain, the gorilla escapes by pretending to pee. Parents and children reading together will share knowing smiles.

The tightly structured, brilliantly executed humorous story never has a dull moment. From the main characters—the gorilla and the sheep—to minor figures like the little bird, all are crafted with flair. The ending, where even a newborn lamb easily lifts the mountain, humorously

suggests it's time for someone else to take the strongman's place. Meanwhile, the gorilla, now on the right side of the mountain, enjoys pumpkin pie and faces an enormous pumpkin mountain—prompting another comic escape. In this playful setup, the beginning and end echo one another.

The artwork also deserves praise for its rustic charm and rich colors. The author captures his characters' expressions and movements with marvelous detail. Both the text and illustrations flow, with concise writing that complements the art. With just a few strokes, the illustrations create a light-hearted tone that allows readers to relax.

Zou Junsheng is a visual artist and author of children's books.

This appeared in the book's afterword and has been edited for the purposes of this booklet.

A Humorous Story of Ego, Strength, and Vulnerability

by Guo Fu

On the left side of the mountain lives a mighty gorilla with incredible strength, able to lift entire flocks of sheep with ease, seemingly unbeatable. Yet there's one challenge he's never dared to face: the towering mountain beside him. The sheep watch in eager admiration as he prepares to tackle it, but to his shock, despite putting all his strength into it, he can't budge the mountain an inch—what an embarrassment! To cover his shame, he quickly tells a little lie, claiming he just needs a “bathroom break,” and makes a hasty retreat. Now, how can he restore his reputation as the strongest?

Author Tze Wei Yang, drawing on her background in children's theater and stage directing, uses the mountain as a stage for a hilarious and playful tale. Through whimsical events, she presents a humorous exploration of “ego” and its challenges.

Each character has a distinct personality: the gorilla is confident and

proud, yet deeply concerned about others' opinions and prone to tears when he fails. The sheep are easily impressed, idolizing strength and getting excited or frightened at the smallest provocation. The groundhog is a warm and thoughtful character who skillfully negotiates his own advantage by tactfully helping the gorilla save face.

In addition to its lively narration and humorous characters, the book's layout is dynamic, contrasting scenes across left and right pages while incorporating comic-style panels and playful font effects to create a vivid, immersive reading experience.

Guo Fu is a senior editor in children's publishing.

An illustration of a rabbit and a cat on a mountain at night. The rabbit is on the left, holding a large green leaf. The cat is on the right, looking up at a jagged yellow line on a dark brown mountain slope. A white wavy line extends from the cat towards the rabbit. The background is a dark blue sky with a crescent moon in the top left.

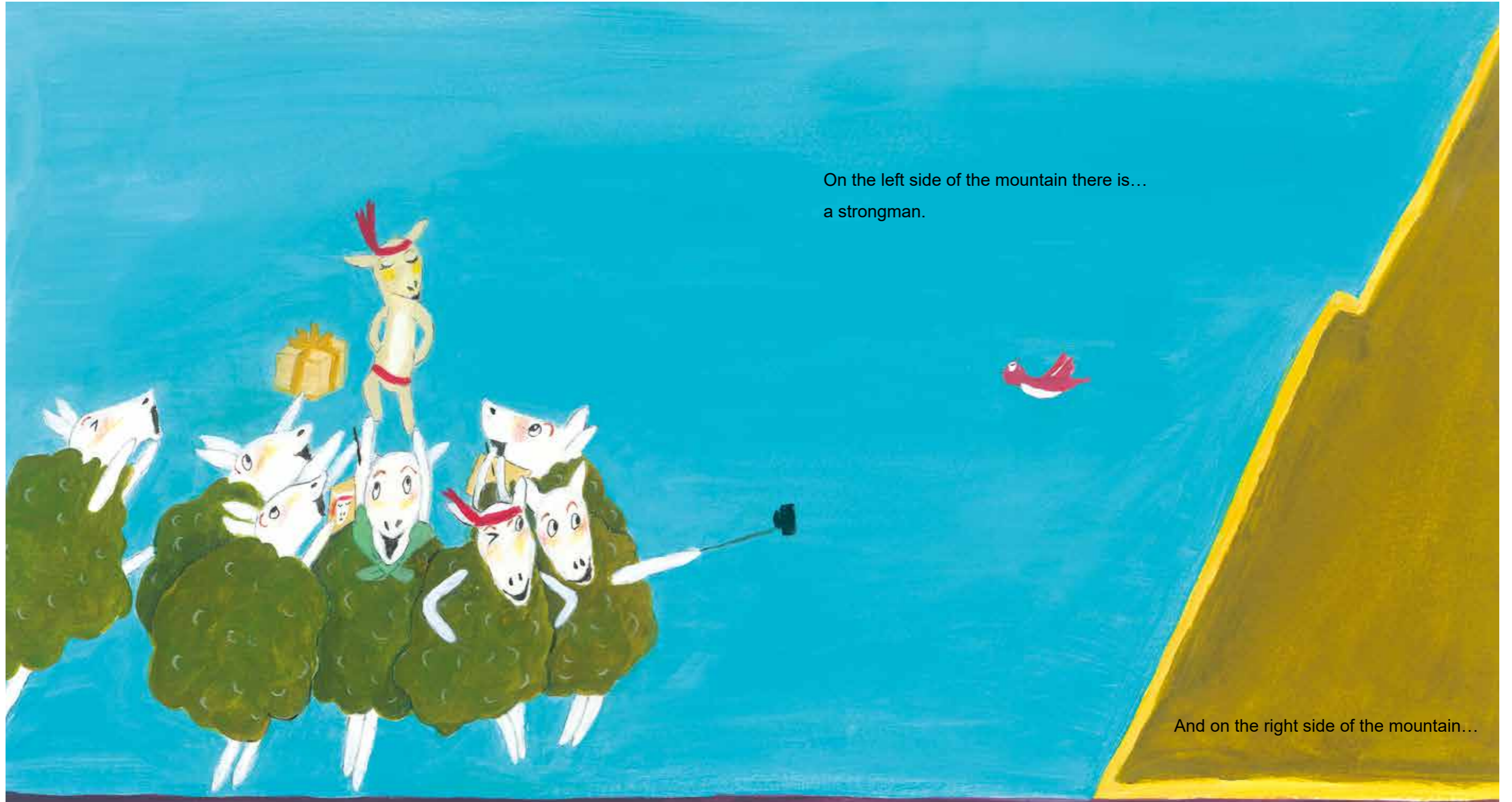
“When will the strongman return...?”

He’s only been gone for a day, but already the sheep are growing listless.

Without the strongman, the left side of the mountain has become boring—everything is...

“Wait...wait... Don’t touch it—it’s dangerous...”

啊
Ahh!



On the left side of the mountain there is...
a strongman.

And on the right side of the mountain...

嘘!!
Shhh!

“Is the pumpkin pie yummy?
When you’re finished, can you help us move our
pumpkins?”
“Ha! Leave it to me! I’ll move them, no problem!
They’re merely...”