

MY FORTY-NINE DAYS WITH THE CHENGHUANG

我與城隍的 49 天

After an Underworld administrative error ends her life, youthful spinster Chen Chih-Yao is eventually allowed to return to the mortal realm. However, her once simple life is upended by the appearance of Chenghuang, an Underworld deity with a bone to pick. Exactly what kind of sparks will fly when this mismatched pair begins living under the same roof?

Abandoned by her mother as a child, Chen Chih-Yao grew up in the countryside with her grandmother. Now, as a young woman, the local matchmaker persistently arranges dates for her, but Chen Chih-Yao refuses all suitors, preferring instead to lead a simple life with her grandmother. After a fatal car accident, Chen Chih-Yao arrives in the Underworld only to discover her life was taken prematurely due to an administrative error. But before she can return to the mortal realm, she offends Chenghuang, the Underworld deity who took the blame for her premature death.

Having finally returned to her former life, Chen Chih-Yao's hopes of resuming a normal existence are dashed when she discovers she now has the ability to see ghosts. Even worse, the disgraced Chenghuang has been temporarily exiled to the mortal realm, where he appears as a distant relative who will be staying with Chen Chih-Yao and her grandmother. In the face of all of these supernatural disturbances, will Chen Chih-Yao ever return to the familiar rhythms of her former life? Or, is this just what she needs to push her out of her comfort zone, face the hurts of the past, and finally start living to the fullest?

Best known for rom-com comics with themes of personal growth and healing, this is artist/writer Ebi's first foray into the realm of the supernatural. An opposites-attract love story colored by elements of fantasy and traditional folklore, *My Forty-Nine Days with the*



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Chenghuang ignites romantic fireworks from the odd-couple pairing of a headstrong mortal and a haughty deity.

Ebi 蝦米

A creator of *shoujo* manga, Ebi got her start drawing simple four-panel comic strips. Her full-length comic books are mostly romantic comedies, illustrated in a style that is both cutesy and elegant. Her previous works include *Candy Girl Kaka*, *Half of a Good Day*, *Please Stay with Me*, *Autumn in Summer*, and *Nice to Meet You Again*.

欣興冰菓

I'M SORRY FOR ASKING YOU TO COME ALL THE WAY SOUTH FROM TAIPEI, MR. CHIU

NO, NOT AT ALL! IT'S ABOUT TIME I CAME HOME FOR A BREAK.

SHE'LL DEFINITELY MAKE A GOOD WIFE YOU'LL SEE!

DON'T JUST TAKE IT FROM ME, BUT CHIH-YAO IS SO OBEDIENT AND THOUGHTFUL.

I'M SURE CHIH-YAO WILL BE HERE SOON!

THE TWO OF YOU WILL MAKE A GREAT MATCH!

I SEE.

OH DEAR, I'VE MADE YOU BLUSH!

RELATIONSHIPS ARE ALL ABOUT GIVING IT TIME—

OF COURSE OF COURSE!

THERE'S REALLY NO RUSH— I'M HOPING WE CAN BE FRIENDS FIRST

BANG!

OH MY!

'CHIH-YAO, HOW COME YOU'RE ALL DIRTY?'

I WAS HELPING OUT THE MAYOR'S WIFE WITH HER RADISHES.

LOOK, SHE EVEN GAVE ME A BOX!

運
紅四梅香紅四
菓
牛 牛 牛 牛 牛 牛
奶 奶 奶 奶 奶 奶
冰 冰 冰 冰 冰 冰
35 20 35 30 20 30 30 30 where were you?
无 无 无 无 无 无 无 无



THIS IS MR CHU HE CAME ALL THE WAY FROM TAIPEI!

HELLO, MISS CHEN.

HAHA... LET ME INTRODUCE YOU THIS IS CHEN CHIH-YAO!

HERE, HAVE A SEAT!

特選



CHEN CHIH-YAO! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? MR. CHU'S FAMILY LIVES IN THE NEXT VILLAGE!

I... HMM...

DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY HERE FOR A BLIND DATE?

HUH?

特選白蘿蔔



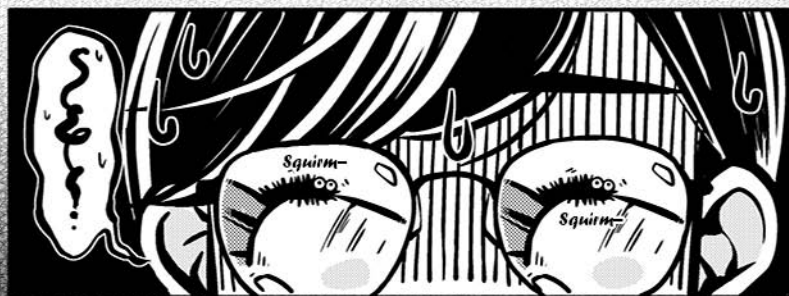
THESE RADISHES FROM THE MAYOR'S WIFE ARE SO DELICIOUS! TAKE A FEW!

THERE'S NO NEED.

開!

SINCE YOU CAME SUCH A LONG WAY, WE CAN'T LET YOU LEAVE EMPTY HANDED.

特選白蘿蔔



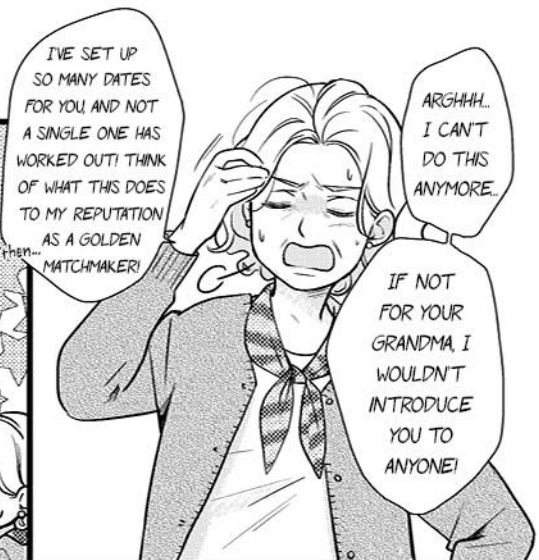




ALRIGHT
ALRIGHT!
AUNTIE
A-HAO YOUVE
ALREADY
DONE SO
MUCH!

I'LL
LEAVE
THESE
RADISHES
FOR YOU AND
LET'S CALL
IT A DAY!

And then...



I'VE SET UP
SO MANY DATES
FOR YOU AND NOT
A SINGLE ONE HAS
WORKED OUT! THINK
OF WHAT THIS DOES
TO MY REPUTATION
AS A GOLDEN
MATCHMAKER!

ARGHHH...
I CAN'T
DO THIS
ANMORE...

IF NOT
FOR YOUR
GRANDMA, I
WOULDN'T
INTRODUCE
YOU TO
ANYONE!



I'M
HEADING
OUT!



COME
BACK
HERE
RIGHT
AWAY!


CHEN
CHIH-YAO,
I'M NOT
DONE
YET!

特選白蘿蔔



I THINK THAT
WAS THE 13TH
TIME I'VE
RUINED A
BLIND DATE.

泰陽號



I'M 28 YEARS OLD,
I'VE NEVER BEEN IN
A RELATIONSHIP,
AND I DON'T WANT
TO GET MARRIED,
EITHER.

RATHER, I
SHOULD SAY,
THAT WAS THE
13TH TIME I
INTENTIONALLY
RUINED A
BLIND DATE...



I'M GOOD!
WE STILL
HAVE PLENTY
AT HOME



YAO!
NEED
ANY
FRUIT
TODAY?



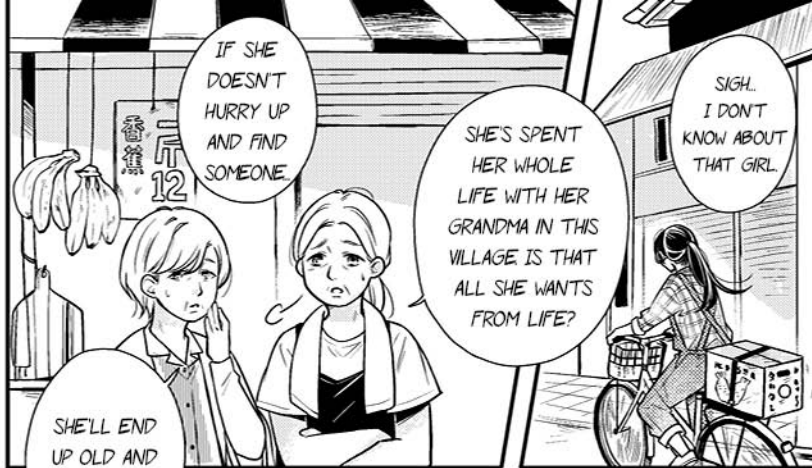
I'LL
BE ON
MY WAY
NOW!

I WASN'T
A MATCH
FOR HIM.
HEH HEH



I THOUGHT
A-HAO WAS
SETTING YOU
UP WITH A DATE
TODAY? HOW
DID IT GO?

OH,
HEY!





GRANDMA?



GRANDMA!



WHERE DID SHE GO? SHE DIDN'T EVEN TELL ME WHERE SHE'S GOING.



?

CHEN
CHIH-YAO!

ARE YOU
HERE?!

嘩!

嘩!



GRANDMA,
TAKE A SEAT
FIRST I'LL
GET YOUR
MEDI-
CATION!

WHAT
HAPPEN-
ED?



YOUR
GRANDMA
JUST
FAINED
AT THE
MARKET!



Careful!



THERE'S NO
NEED, YAO.
WE CAN GO
TOMORROW.

I'LL GO
GET IT
FOR YOU!



CHIH-YAO,
I'LL DROP
YOU OFF!

THERE'S NO
NEED YOU'VE
GOT TO PICK
UP BAODY FROM
SCHOOL SOON!



I'M OUT
AND I HAVEN'T
PICKED UP
MY NEW
PRESCRIPTION
YET.



KUANG-CHUN AND CHIH-YAO ARE SUCH A PERFECT MATCH THEY GREW UP TOGETHER, BUT DIDN'T END UP TOGETHER.

HMM?

IT'S SUCH A PITY, MEI-CHUN!



Call me if you need anything.

Don't worry, I can take the bus.

KUANG-CHUN IS MARRIED ALREADY! DON'T TALK NONSENSE!
HE'S ALREADY A FATHER!



IT'S FOUR O'CLOCK. I'D BETTER PICK UP THE PRESCRIPTION BEFORE THE HOSPITAL CLOSES.



SINCE I
WAS LITTLE,
GRANDMA
HAS ALWAYS
TAKEN CARE
OF ME.

I BEG ALL OF
THE GODS
AND DEITIES
TO BLESS MY
GRANDMA WITH
GREAT HEALTH!




UNCLE
FU

CHIH-YAO!



UNCLE FU IS
IN CHARGE
OF THIS
TEMPLE.
HE WATCHED
ME GROW
UP.



WHY ARE YOU
STANDING IN
FRONT OF
THE TEMPLE?

I JUST
STOPPED TO
PRAY FOR A
MOMENT.



UNCLE FU, WHAT'S UP?

HUH?

...



YOU SHOULD'NT GO FAR FROM HOME TODAY!

CHIH-YAO, WHERE WERE YOU GOING?



WHEN DID YOU START READING FORTUNES?
Don't kid around!

SHEESH!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, UNCLE FU?

?

I SEE BLOODY PORTENTS.

BLOOD??



LET ME
TELL YOU..

WHY WOULD
I JOKE
ABOUT SUCH
THINGS, MY
CHILD?



BUT I HAVE
TO GET MY
GRANDMA'S
PRESCRIPTION
TODAY!

SHE'S OUT OF
MEDICATION.
WHAT IF SHE
NEEDS IT
TONIGHT?



OH,
THE BUS
IS HERE!

KUANG-CHUN
IS ON HIS WAY
TO PICK UP
BAODY FROM
SCHOOL.

HMM..
WHAT
ABOUT
KUANG-
CHUN?

GOODBYE

DON'T WORRY,
UNCLE FU,
I'LL BE
CAREFUL!

CHIH-
YAO!

WAIT A
MOMENT.

SIGH...
PERHAPS
IT'S HER
FATE...

CHIH-YAO
IS A GOOD
KID

Next
stop -

I HOPE
FORTUNE
HAS
SOMETHING
BETTER IN
STORE



NOW THAT
I'M IN THE
CITY, I MAY
AS WELL PICK
UP SOME
STUFF AT THE
STORES,

AND SOME
SAVORY
WAGUI FROM
GRANDMA'S
FAVORITE
PLACE.



DON'T
WORRY THIS
IS THE
ONE!

WE NEED
TO BE
RIGHT
THIS TIME!

THIS
BUS?



HUH...?







...

— HURRY UP
CALL AN
AMBULANCE
—!!

HELLO,
IS THIS THE
POLICE?
WE'RE
AT —



... WHERE
AM I?



I THOUGHT...
I WAS ON
THE BUS?

A black and white manga panel showing a crowd of people from behind, walking away into a dark, misty environment. The people are rendered as simple line drawings. The atmosphere is mysterious and somber.

WHERE
ARE THEY
GOING?

A black and white manga panel showing a group of people in a dark, misty environment. In the center, a girl with a ponytail and a plaid shirt under overalls looks back with a worried expression. To her left, another girl in a white shirt looks on. To her right, a boy with spiky hair is partially visible. The background is dark and foggy.

SO STRANGE...
WHY DO
THESE PEOPLE
KEEP MOVING
FORWARD?

A close-up black and white manga panel of a character's eye. The eye is wide open, showing a circular pupil and a dark iris. The character's hair is dark and falls over the eye.

HUH...?



THE HELL
AM I...!?

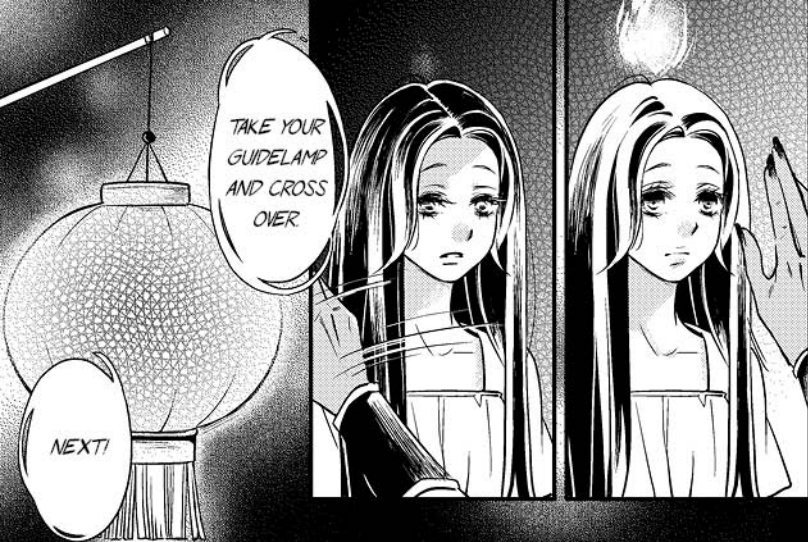
WHERE...



NEXT!

AFTER THE
SECURITY
CHECK, INCOMING
SOULS SHOULD
PICK UP THEIR
GUIDELAMPS AND
THEN CROSS
THE BRIDGE OF
THE ABYSS—

...!?



TAKE YOUR
GUIDELAMP
AND CROSS
OVER

NEXT!



WHAT ABOUT
GRANDMA!?

IT CAN'T BE!!

AM I DEAD?

IS THIS THE
UNDERWORLD?
BRIDGE
OF THE
ABYSS?!

BRIDGE
OF THE
ABYSS?!



STOP

I WANT TO GO
BACK!!! LET ME
THROUGH!!!



DON'T TURN
BACK! KEEP
MOVING
FORWARD!
REGISTER
YOUR
ARRIVAL!

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?



The Black and
the White..

They...
must be...



IF YOU
DON'T KEEP
MOVING I'LL
DRAG YOU TO
REGISTRATION
MYSELF!

WHAT
ARE YOU
STARING
AT!?



CAN I GO HOME?

L.L.



WHAT ARE THEY LAUGHING AT?

HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA...

HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA!!



OF COURSE,
BUT YOU HAVE
TO CHECK IN
FIRST!

OF COURSE,
LIKE ALL OF
THE DEAD,

YOU'LL HAVE
TO WAIT SEVEN
DAYS BEFORE
YOU CAN GO
HOME!

