

# PUPPY AND I

## 小白

\* 2016 Hsin-Yi Children's Literature Award

Kuo Nai-Wen's wordless story about love, companionship, and aging drags us along in spite of ourselves, as we watch an old man dream of the dog that lit up his life as a boy. As with every such friendship, grief comes in the end; and from that moment all the way into his old age, the man raises no other pets. But once the dream ends and morning comes, he puts himself together for a lonely walk in the park. Little does he know what chance awaits him there....

In variable panels of beautifully wrought black-and-white drawings, a boy and his puppy leap from one adventure to another, soaking up sun, rain, and the wonders of the natural world. Zhou Jian-Xin shows us how the wordless story can sometimes say infinitely more than the written narrative, as his images expand, contract, and shiver with a palpable sense of life.

Story by Kuo Nai-Wen 郭乃文

Storyline creator Kuo Nai-Wen is a long-time researcher of child development whose recent focus is children's art education. An experienced gardener and landscape artist, he currently serves as an artist-in-residence at the 321 Art Alley Settlement in southern Taiwan. The most notable of his previous works is *The Lost Cat*.

Illustrated by Zhou Jian-Xin 周見信

Zhou Jian-Xin has recently established himself as one of Taiwan's up-and-coming illustrators. His first illustrated title, *The Maroon Oriole*, won the 2014 Taiwan Golden Butterfly Award for Best Book Design and honorable mention from the International Design Awards. His collaborative works with Kuo Nai-Wen have also been very well received: their title *The Lost Cat* also won Honorable Mention in the Hsin-Yi Children's Literature Award in 2012, and *Puppy and I*, the story of a boy and his dog, won first prize for an Illustrated Publication at the 2016 Hsin-Yi Children's Literature Award, a position that has remained empty for eight years.



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