

THE CORNER STORE I

用九柑仔店（一）

***2017 Golden Comic Award for Best Comic**

Chun-Lung, a young real estate agent in Taipei, gets word that his grandfather is seriously ill, and returns to his hometown in the countryside to handle the closing of his family's old corner store, which his grandfather had been running for generations. As Chun-Lung prepares to shut the place down, he comes across names, faces, and words that have persisted in that place since he was a child, and his interactions with living locals and his own dormant memories pull him ever closer to his childhood. Moreover, he discovers that serving his community is as much an art as a business – an art that kept his grandfather's store going in an age of supermarkets and convenience stores.

Though the tale of *The Corner Store* is the direct product of the author's life experience, it is also a story the rest of us know all too well. Highly reminiscent of Zhang Yang's well-known movie *Shower*, it tells in simple, affecting language and images the story of returning to one's roots – or, at least, negotiating fairly with one's past.

Ruan Guang-Min 阮光民

Ruan Guang-Min is a former advertising major and interior decorating major. After leaving the military he worked as an assistant to comic artist Lai Yu-Hsien. His first work to receive recognition was an adaptation of the TV show *Friends*, using the comic form to tell a moving story about a group of young people from the countryside struggling to make a living in Taipei. Conversely, his book *Dong Hua Chun Barbershop* was the first Taiwanese comic to be adapted into a television series. Representative works also include *Heaven Restaurant*, which touches on the relationship between food and memory, and a partial adaption of Wu Ming-Yi's short story collection *The Illusionist on the Skywalk*. Ruan has been selected to represent Taiwan at the Angoulême International Comics Festival in 2012 and Frankfurt Book Fair in 2014.



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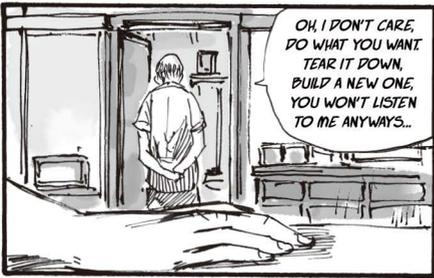
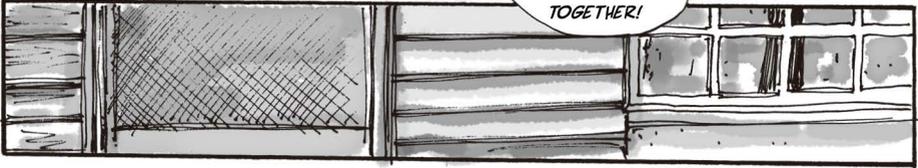
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DAD!
COME ON
ALREADY!
THIS PLACE
IS A PUMP,
ANYWAYS.

IF WE LET THEM
BUILD A NEW
BUILDING HERE WE
CAN ALL MOVE INTO
TOGETHER!



OH, I DON'T CARE,
DO WHAT YOU WANT
TEAR IT DOWN,
BUILD A NEW ONE,
YOU WON'T LISTEN
TO ME ANYWAYS...



I'LL GET A
STOREFRONT,
AND AN
APARTMENT ON
THE FIFTH
FLOOR...

LET'S SIGN
THEN,
MR. YANG



Was that
his wedding
photo?
I couldn't
make out the
the words...



For the good of the
city, and public safety...

And to make money of course!



Whatcha
gonna do?
Work is
work...



