

# THE EYE OF SARUTAHIKO

## 海龍改改：消失的猿田彥之眼

\* Animated film adaptation of the source novel currently in production

*A jaded youth sent back to his hometown, a military history geek, a pretty freshman Japanese major, and a precocious teen car mechanic are about to set off on the treasure hunt of a lifetime, following clues from a 75-year-old notebook left in Taiwan by a Japanese soldier.*

When he fails to get into college, 18-year-old Lin Hui-sheng returns to Laomei, the small fishing town on the north coast of Taiwan where he spent his childhood. One day while browsing a second-hand shop he inadvertently purchases an old notebook leftover from the Japanese occupation. Though he doesn't understand a word of Japanese, his curiosity is piqued by the drawings he finds inside, particularly the hand-drawn map of a seemingly familiar landscape. Believing he is on the verge of a momentous discovery, he resolves to crack the riddle of the mysterious diary!

Unable to read Japanese, Lin Hui-sheng enlists the help of his high school buddies. Starting from a map in the shape of a Tengu, a creature from Japanese mythology, the trio manage to locate an abandoned bunker. The bunker opens into an underground corridor, but all they find at the end is an empty cavern where they can hear the sounds of the wave pounding against the famous Laomei reefs. Is there really some kind of treasure to be found here? Exactly what was the purpose of the map?

*The Eye of Sarutahiko* is the comic book adaptation of Chang Kuo-Li's novel of the same name. While undertaking the adaptation, the team conducted a survey of the region around Laomei in order to more accurately depict the setting of the novel, and to better introduce



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readers to the beauty of the northern Taiwan coast. With its distinctive characters and humorous narrative style, *The Eye of Sarutahiko* will be loved by readers of all ages.

### Comic by Han Tsai-Chun 韓采君

Art director and illustrator Han Tsai-Chun has more than ten years of experience in comic books and related industries. Known for her exquisite sense of color and her ability to capture powerful visual effects in a freehand style, Han Tsai-Chun is currently art director of Pig Box Studio.

### Comic by Chao Ta-Wei 趙大威

Director, animator, and illustrator Chao Ta-Wei has dedicated himself to creating original animations and teaching his craft to others. His work has garnered major domestic and international awards and is characterized by images infused with the details of everyday life.

### Original Story by Chang Kuo-Li 張國立

Chang Kuo-Li, one time editor-in-chief of *China Times Weekly*, has won numerous awards for his writing. A linguist, historian, army expert, sports fan, food critic, as well as poet, playwright and novelist, he is truly a Renaissance man. He has published a dozen books over his career, including *Italy in One Bite*, *Birdwatchers*, *The Jobless Detective*, and *The Sniper*. His work *The Sniper* has been translated into Dutch, German, French, English, Russian, and Turkish.

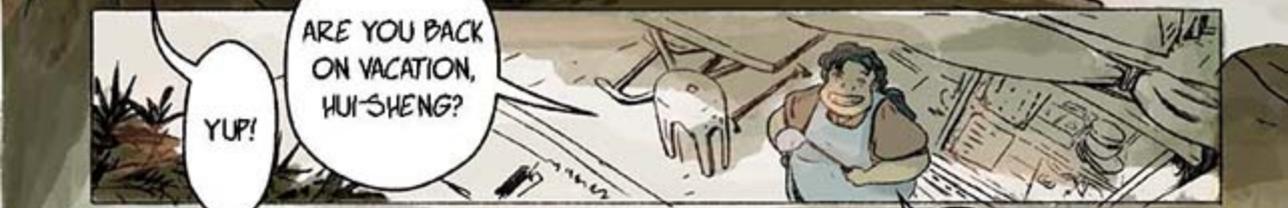


LIN HUI-SHENG!



AUNTIE,  
HAVE YOU  
SEEN MY  
GRANDPA?

My name is  
Lin Hui-sheng.  
I'm 17 years  
old, and I just  
graduated  
from high  
school two  
days ago.



YUP!

ARE YOU BACK  
ON VACATION,  
HUI-SHENG?



Every summer  
and winter  
vacation she  
sends me back  
to Laomei.

YOUR  
MOTHER  
DIDN'T  
COME  
WITH  
YOU?

SHE HAD  
TO WATCH  
THE STORE.



JUST  
NOW.

WHEN  
DID YOU  
GET  
BACK?

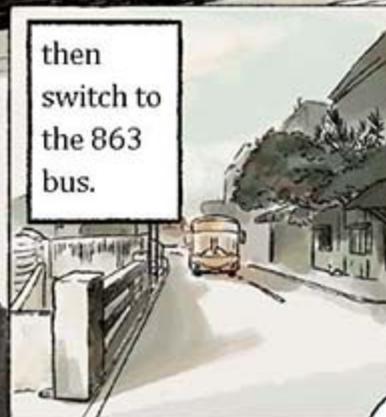
My mother  
and I  
moved  
to Taipei  
when I  
was 12.



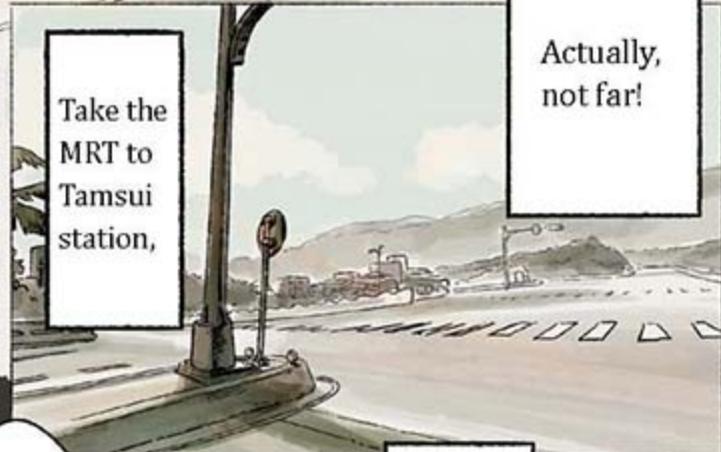
How far is  
Laomei?



Actually,  
not far!



then  
switch to  
the 863  
bus.



Take the  
MRT to  
Tamsui  
station,



HUI-  
SHENG,

YOU HAVE  
TO KEEP  
AN EYE ON  
GRANDPA.  
DON'T GO  
OUT RUNNING  
AROUND!

and  
you're  
there!



about the  
time it  
takes your  
butt to go  
numb,

Wait 53  
stops,







WHERE IS  
THE CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE?  
I'M SUCH A  
GENIUS I  
FORGOT TO  
ASK!



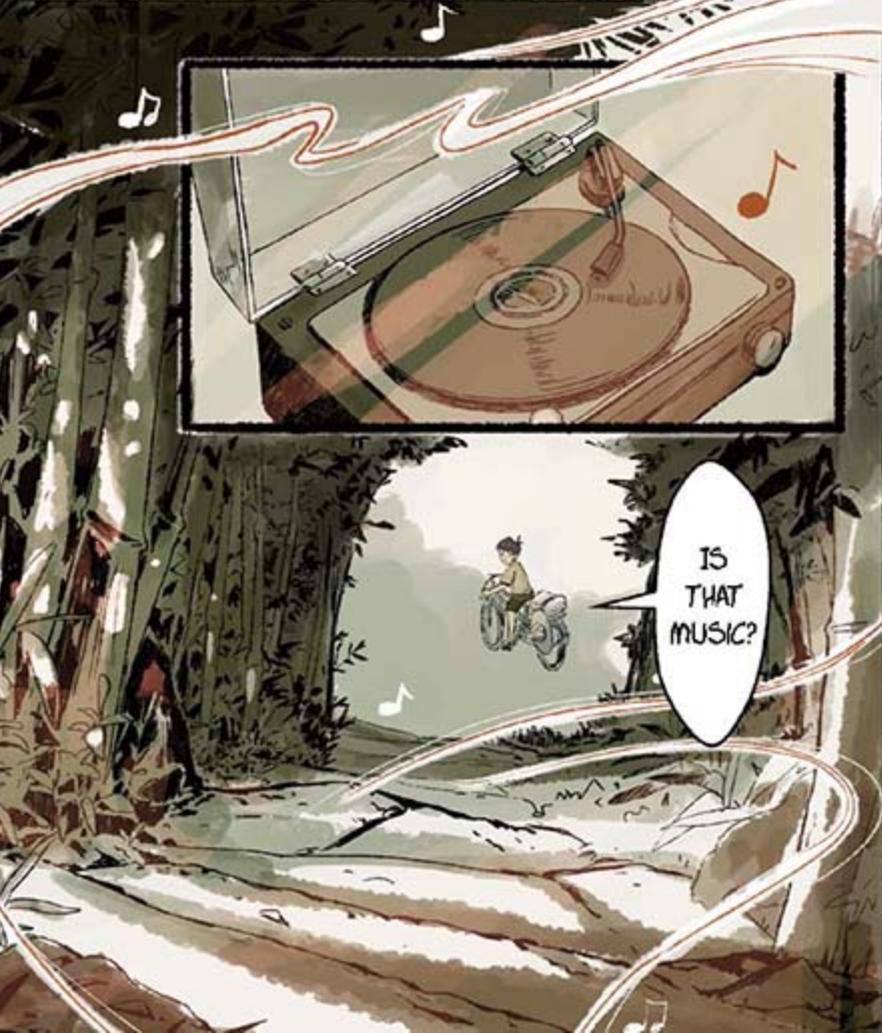
SO WHAT IF  
I DON'T GO  
TO COLLEGE?  
IT'S NOT LIKE  
I'LL SHRIVEL  
UP AND DIE.



YOUR  
GRANDPA  
WENT TO THE  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE  
FOR THE  
CONCERT.  
EVERYONE'S  
THERE.



HE MUST  
NOT HAVE  
PASSED HIS  
EXAMS!



IS  
THAT  
MUSIC?



WHAT  
A PAIN!





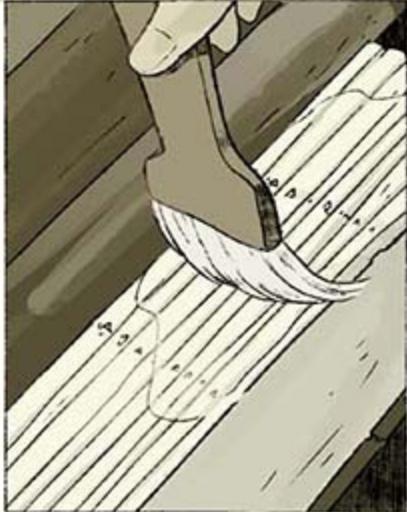
SINCE WHEN  
HAS LAOMEI  
HAD A JUNK  
SHOP?



HEY!  
LEON THE  
PROFESSIONAL



L. L. L.







LEON, YOU'VE GOT SO MANY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS. I BET YOU KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT WRITING LOVE LETTERS.

李旺舊貨店

His name is Li Wang, or Leon.

He can hold a conversation about anything.

I'VE ALSO GOT THIS.

"FOR LEI, RAINY EVENING MOOD, 1980"



THIS IS PRETTY GOOD.



HUH.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO WIN A GIRL, LOVERBOY, YOU'VE GOT TO BE A BIT ROMANTIC.



九記  
中馬  
Dumas





I DON'T  
LIKE READING  
MUCH.



A CLASSIC.  
TAKE IT.  
NO CHARGE.



THE  
COUNT  
OF  
MONTE  
CRISTO?



THE THING  
ABOUT  
BOOKS  
IS...



IF READ ENOUGH,  
YOUR PATIENCE IS  
REWARDED.

THEY  
REQUIRE  
PATIENCE.



THAT'S  
RIGHT. FREE  
WITH THE  
ANTIQUE  
BOOK  
YOU JUST  
PURCHASED  
FOR 150.



WHAT? I  
THOUGHT  
YOU SAID  
'NO  
CHARGE!'

ISN'T  
THAT 160  
YUAN?



200 YUAN  
AT 20% OFF ...  
THAT'S 150  
YUAN. CASH  
ONLY.

SO NO  
QUITTING  
TILL YOU  
READ AT  
LEAST 30  
PAGES.



IS THIS  
JAPANESE?

SHOWA ERA,  
YEAR 20

IT'S PRETTY  
BEAT UP. MUST  
BE OLD



HUH?



GOOD  
MORNING!

GOOD  
MORNING  
GRAND-  
PA!

WHAT DID  
THEY SAY AT  
THE MEETING  
LAST NIGHT?

HAVE SOME  
BREAKFAST!



新老梅  
創新回收站

IT MEANS THEY  
WANT TO GET  
RID OF US  
RESIDENTS.

SOMETHING  
ABOUT WALLING  
OFF THE  
SEASHORE,  
BUILDING A  
RECYCLING  
PLANT.

ARE YOU  
GOING TO  
SELL THE  
HOUSE,  
GRANDPA?

OF  
COURSE  
NOT!

IMAGINE TAKING  
YOUR KIDS  
ALONG ON  
A DATE...

THEN WERE  
WOULD YOU TAKE  
A GIRL ON A DATE?  
WHERE WOULD  
YOU TAKE YOUR  
KIDS?

IF WE LET  
THEM PILE UP  
GARBAGE HERE  
IT WILL KILL THE  
GREEN REEF!

MAYBE I  
SHOULD  
TELL MOM.

WHEN IT COMES  
TO MY HOUSE,  
I CAN MANAGE  
ON MY OWN.

YOUR MOTHER IS  
A SMART WOMAN.  
SHE'S GOT HER  
OWN LIFE TO DEAL  
WITH.

DOES  
MOM  
KNOW?

BUT MOM  
TOLD ME  
I SHOULD  
KEEP AN EYE  
ON HIM.

YOU'RE  
YOUNG YOU  
SHOULD BE  
OUT WANDERING  
AROUND! DON'T  
SIT AROUND  
THE HOUSE ALL  
DAY!

I DUG UP YOUR  
OLD BICYCLE. A  
FEW REPAIRS  
AND IT'LL BE  
FINE.

DON'T  
YOU DARE  
TELL HER A  
THING!



AND THE  
BRAKES  
ARE SHOT

THIS  
THING'S  
JUST A 20  
INCHER.



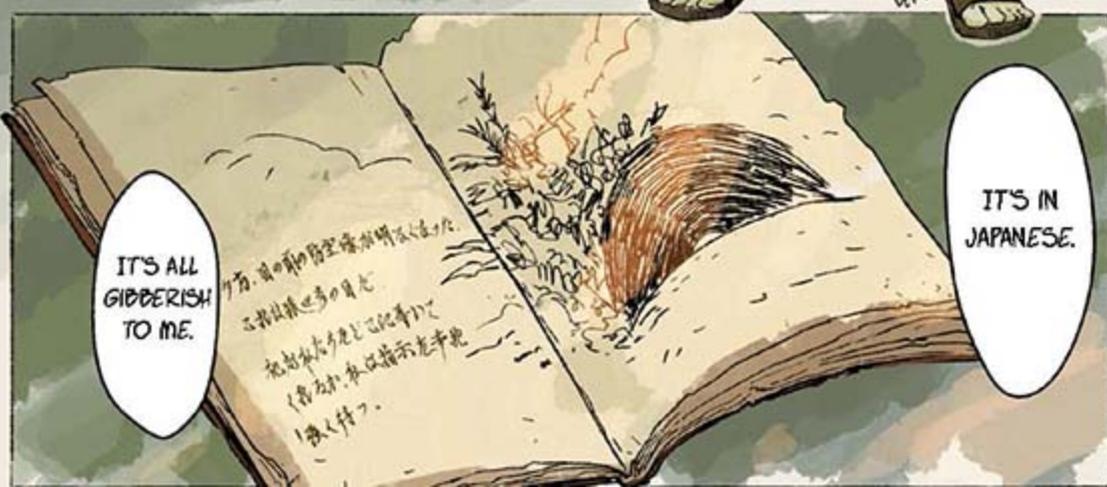
NO-  
THING  
TO DO.

SIGH



EVERYONE'S  
GOT  
SOMETHING  
TO DO  
EXCEPT ME.

MOM AND  
GRANDPA  
HAVE LEFT  
ME ON MY  
OWN.



IT'S ALL  
GIBBERISH  
TO ME.

IT'S IN  
JAPANESE.





I KNOW  
WHERE  
THIS IS!



HUHP?



THIS  
PICTURE ...



I WONDER IF  
THEY'LL BE  
INTERESTED



私の友人、これだけ少くも  
一掃地出陣した旅ごき  
私たちが信じていること。  
一掃地出陣した旅ごき。



I HEAR YOUR MOTHER CAME TO SIGN YOU UP FOR THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

...



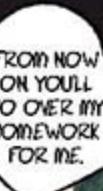
FOUR-EYES HSU..



SINCE YOUR BIG BUTT KEEPS BUMPING MY DESK, SHOULD I CALL YOU BUTT BUMP CHEN?



SINCE YOU WEAR GLASSES I'M GONNA CALL YOU FOUR-EYES HSU.



FROM NOW ON YOU'LL GO OVER MY HOMEWORK FOR ME.



YOU'RE FIRST IN THE CLASS, SO YOU OUGHT TO HELP US OUT.

哈!



HEY,

YOU JUST BUMPED MY DESK!



HEY DONT GET ALL WORKED UP.

IT'S JUST A LITTLE HOME WORK.

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART DONT YOU?



I'LL PUFF YOUR MOTHER'S HEAD IN!

IT'S LIKE PLATE TECTONICS.

YOU SEE THE DESKS ARE RIGHT UP AGAINST EACH OTHER.

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

NOBODY WAS TALKING TO YOU!

DO YOU EVER BOTHER SHOWERING? CAUSE SOMETHING STINKS BAD IN HERE!

ONE BUMP AND THERE'S AN EARTH-QUAKE.

KATHUMPI!  
KATHUMPI!



WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT?

NOT THREE DAYS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ALREADY YOU GOT INTO A FIGHT.

OH HEY MEI-CHAN!

LIN HUI-SHENG YOU IDIOT!

YOU'RE PRETTY FUNNY!

I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR HELP...

I NOTICED HIS BUTT IS ALWAYS BUMPING DESKS, TOO! ARE YOUR GRADES REALLY THAT GOOD?

TO ME GRADES ARE LIKE HAVING GAS. ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS PASS IT

Ha ha ha!

WHAT? YOU WANT HELP WITH YOUR HOME-WORK?

YOU COULD AT LEAST BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF!

After that, the three of us were together all the time.



YOU'RE PATHETIC, LIN HUI-SHENG!

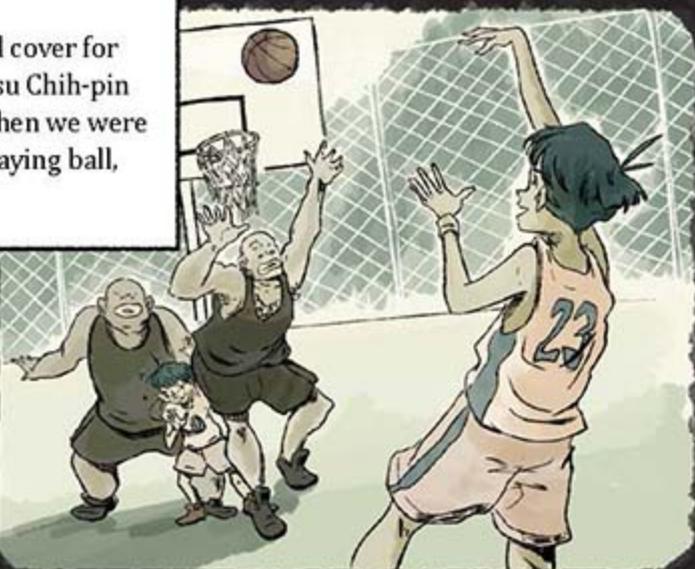


I had known Feng Mei-chin since elementary school.

I'd cover for Hsu Chih-pin when we were playing ball,



and he'd cover for me on tests,



until one day...





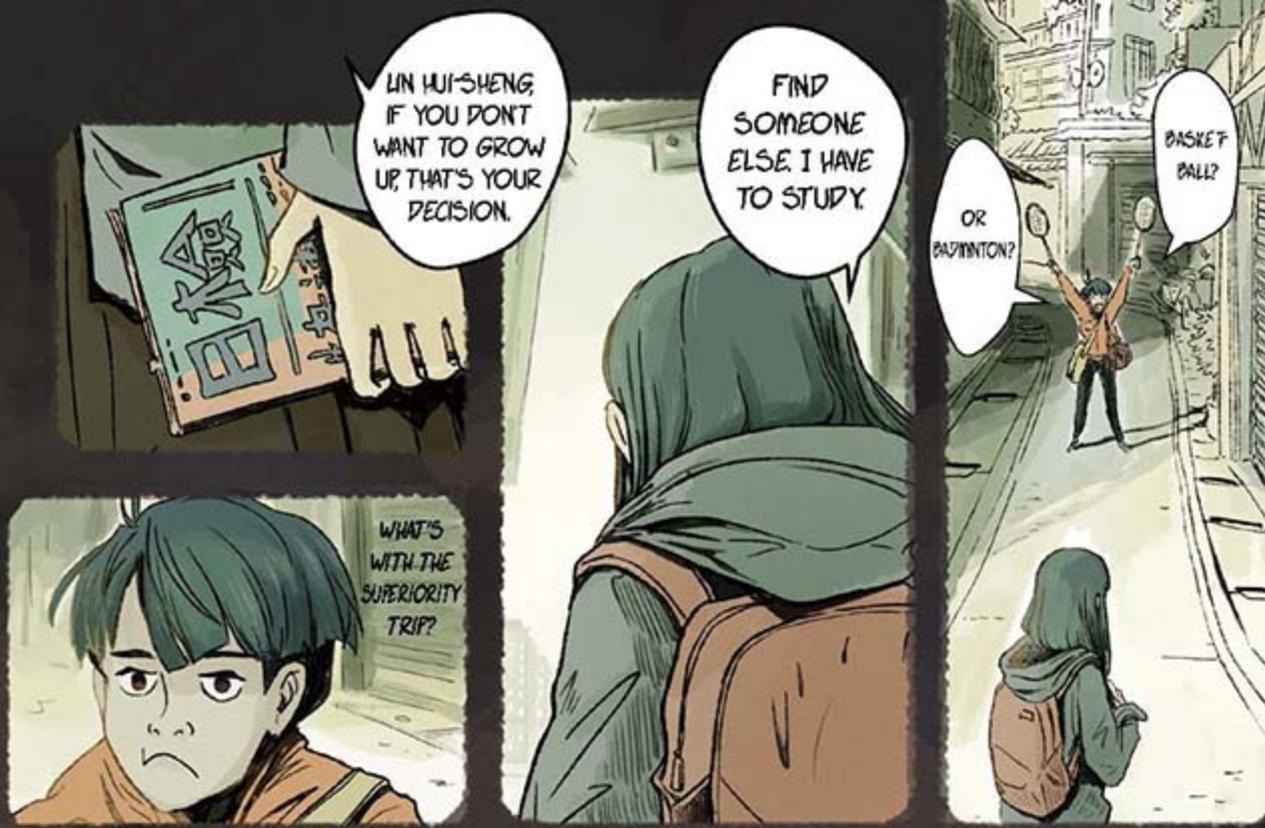
The summer after freshman year, Hsu Chih-pin transformed into a new person.

HEY, HUI-SHENG!



Sophomore year, Feng Mei-chin threw herself into her studies as if the world might end.





THAT LITTLE  
PUNK FINALLY  
MESSAGED  
ME.

Hui-sheng:  
<image>

DING!

DING!

DING!

DING!

Mei-chin: Where are you,  
Hui-sheng?



DING!

YOU'RE  
NOT A  
NAIVE  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOLER

阿生你在哪?  
畢業典禮沒看到人?

LIN HUI-SHENG, YOU  
FOOL WHO ELSE  
CARES ENOUGH  
TO ASK YOU  
WHERE YOU ARE,  
BESIDES YOUR  
MOTHER?



DING!

DING!

DING!

DING!

DING!

DING!

DING!

SEPARATION  
MAKES THE  
HEART GROW  
FONDER, I  
GUESS.

WHAT ARE  
THEY SO  
WORKED  
UP ABOUT?





Mei-chin: Where are you, Hui-sheng?

I didn't see you at the graduation ceremony.

Hui-sheng: I'm back in Laomei.

Mei-chin: What is this? Where did you get it?

Hui-sheng: It's a secret.

Mei-chin: Are you going to tell me or not?

Hui-sheng: I think it's a treasure map.

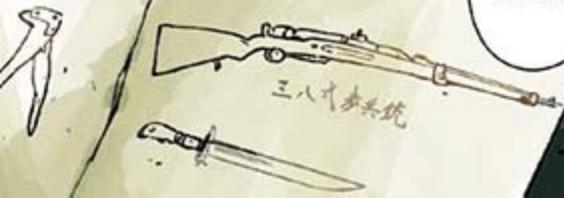
Hui-sheng: Calling all military history nerds!

Mei-chin: Chih-pin is packing. He's got a whole pile of stuff to take overseas. Is this a gun?

Hui-sheng: I'm going to go check out this spot tomorrow.

Mei-chin: You're right, that's the Fugui Cape Lighthouse.

A GUN?





Mei-chin: サルタヒコノ目 means  
“the eye of Sarutahiko.”



Chih-pin: You're right, the coastline looks  
just like Laomei. Are you there now?

A three-panel comic strip showing three anime-style characters riding bicycles. The first panel shows a boy with glasses and a backpack on the left, a boy in the middle, and a girl with a braid on the right. The second panel shows the boy in the middle speaking. The third panel shows the girl on the right speaking. The background is a simple outdoor setting with a tree on the right and a sun in the top right corner.

I'M SO  
HAPPY  
YOU  
GUYS  
COULD  
COME!

IT'S  
SO  
BEAUTIFUL  
HERE!

YOU'D NEED TO FIND A ROOMMATE, TOO.

THE DORMS ARE CONVENIENT, BUT IF I WANT TO COOK FOR MYSELF, I'LL HAVE TO FIND A PLACE OFF-CAMPUS.

I'M STILL THINKING ABOUT IT.

NOW THAT YOU'VE TESTED INTO JAPANESE,

IT'S NICE TO BE INDEPENDENT!

OR I COULD GET A PART-TIME JOB AND RENT MY OWN PLACE.

ARE YOU GOING TO MOVE INTO THE DORMS?

HEY, DIDN'T YOU TELL ME LAST TIME ABOUT EARLY APPLICATIONS FOR SOPHOMORE INTERNSHIP YEAR SHIPS? TOO EARLY?

IT'S FINE. THE ONLY DRAWBACK IS YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET A JOB DIRECTLY AFTERWARDS, AND REMEMBER, INTERNS DON'T MAKE ANY MONEY!

FREAKIN' CHAIN-RIDE ROPE ALL THE WAY HERE FROM TAPEI ON HIS BIKE.

THIS LITTLE BIKE IS CRAP.

HEY!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

齊



THERE'LL  
BE TIME  
FOR  
CHAT  
CHAT  
LATER!



I GUESS  
SOME-  
ONE'S  
FEELING  
LEFT  
OUT.



...

I CAN  
HEAR  
YOU!

BUT FOR SOME  
REASON HE'S  
OBSESSED WITH  
THIS NOTEBOOK  
FROM 70 YEARS  
AGO.



DON'T MIND  
HIM. HE CAN'T BE  
BOTHERED TO  
CRACK A FRESH  
NOTEBOOK FOR  
CLASS.

停!





IT  
LOOKS  
LIKE THIS  
IS THE  
PLACE!



THIS  
PICTURE  
HERE  
LOOKS LIKE  
A BUNKER.

THERE ARE  
A LOT OF  
BUNKERS  
AROUND  
HERE.



LOOK AT  
THIS MAP!



IT SEEMS LIKE THE KIND OF FIELD WHERE YOU COULD LIE DOWN AND DREAM ABOUT YOUR GIRLFRIEND!

AND THIS IS A BAMBOO GROVE.

THIS SQUARE IS A FIELD

AND A SUSHI RESTAURANT.

NEARBY THERE'S A SEED STORE.

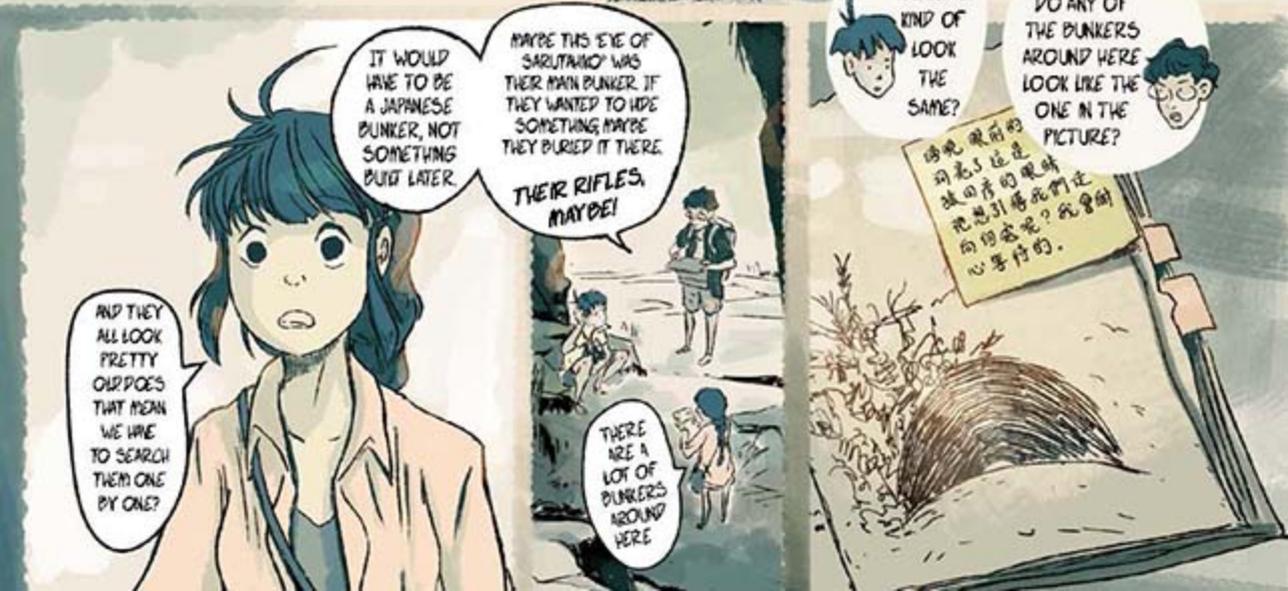


LOOKING FOR TREASURE BASED ON A NOTEBOOK YOU BOUGHT IN A JUNK SHOP SOUNDS PRETTY CRAZY

I'VE KNOWN HIM FOREVER, BUT SOMETIMES I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S THINKING



SO WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE LOOKING FOR?



IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A JAPANESE BUNKER, NOT SOMETHING BUILT LATER.

MAYBE THIS 'EYE OF SARUTANIO' WAS THEIR MAIN BUNKER. IF THEY WANTED TO HIDE SOMETHING MAYBE THEY BURIED IT THERE.

THEIR RIFLES, MAYBE!

AND THEY ALL LOOK PRETTY OLD DOES THAT MEAN WE HAVE TO SEARCH THEM ONE BY ONE?



THERE ARE A LOT OF BUNKERS AROUND HERE



DON'T ALL BUNKERS KIND OF LOOK THE SAME?



HUI-SHENG, DO ANY OF THE BUNKERS AROUND HERE LOOK LIKE THE ONE IN THE PICTURE?



昨晚眼前的  
向亮, 這是  
故四序的硬時  
把想引傷此們走  
向何處呢? 死會耐  
心等待的。