## A S I A N E D I T I O N



#### **BOOKS FROM TAIWAN**

http://booksfromtaiwan.tw/

#### Published by Ministry of Culture (MOC)

Minister | Yuan Li Deputy Minister | Ching-Hwi Lee Director | Ting-Chen Yang Deputy Director | Yu-Ying Chu Organizers | Wen-Ting Chen, Yu-Lin Chen, Shi-Ze Weng, Lun-Hui Lin Address | 14 F., No. 439, Zhongping Road (South Building), Xinzhuang District, New Taipei City, Taiwan Website | https://www.moc.gov.tw/en/ Telephone | +886-2-8512-6000 Email | bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw

#### Editorial Team of Books from Taiwan Managing Director | Gray Tan, Jade Fu Editor-in-Chief | Mary King Bradley Production Manager | Itzel Hsu, Shao-Chi Lin Copyeditor | Agnes Hsiao, April Ma, Chia-Hsun Lu, Maja Liao Editorial Consultants | Gi Liu, Itzel Hsu, Kim Pai, Sandy Lin, San Lin, Ting-Chen Yang, Yu-Ying Chu Cover Design | FLICCA Studio Design and Layout | Wei-Jie Hong

Issue | Asian Edition No.2, 2024 Publication Date | November 10, 2024 ISSN | 2410-0781

#### © Books from Taiwan, Autumn 2024

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without prior permission in writing of Books from Taiwan, or as expressly permitted by the law. Inquiries concerning reproduction should be sent to MOC (+886-2-8512-6000).





About MOC & Books from Taiwan	7
Grant for the Publication of Taiwanese Works in Translation	8

#### **Books from Taiwan**

Lifestyle STREET CORNER FOODIES by Leslie Wang • published by Inno-Fair	12
Lifestyle EAT A SNACK, TASTE TAIWAN by Shen Tzu-Ya • published by Morning Star	14
Parenting THE POWER OF INQUIRY by Lan Wei-Ying • published by CommonWealth Education	16
Parenting WHO DO YOU WANT YOUR CHILDREN TO OUTDO by Chang Yu-Chia • published by Aquarius	18
Health THE SLEEP YOUR BODY WANTS	20
Politics CHAIN POWER by Li Shih-Hui • published by Crystal Press	22
Reportage A FIRST IN ASIA by Chen Chao-Ju • published by SpringHill	24
Memoir GAZA DIARY by Hung Shang-Kai • published by Taiwan Interminds	26
Design 1996-2022: YANG CHI-SHUN COLLECTION. Text by Yang Chi-Shun • published by Dala	28
Design CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS OF CLASSIC ARCHITECTURE FROM POSTWAR TAIWAN Text by Shyu Ming-Song, Shao Wen-Cheng, Huang Wei-Ting • published by Ecus	30

Heartwarming MY DEAD FATHER JUST WON'T REINCARNATE by Boringseed • published by Sharp Point	32
Spy THE TRAITOR by Lee Chih-Te • published by Mirror Fiction	34
Crime THE SPECTER IN SAMAJI by Sha-Tang • published by Showwe Information	36
Crime WHEN THE FAITH IS GONE by Forneus • published by Sharp Point	38
Sci-fi I LOVE YOU TO THE META AND BACK by Peggy Chiu • published by Kadokawa Taiwan	40
Sci-fi CONTACTLESS INTIMACY by Lin Hsin-Hui • published by China Times	42
Sci-fi SYNC: THE STOLEN PROTOTYPE by Hsu Li-Heng • published by Narrativesaw	44
Horror ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE by Zuiliuli • published by Gaea	46
Short Stories CALL ME AT THIS NUMBER AND OTHER STORIES by Huang Yin • published by Ink	48
Short Stories WITH FULL FLOWER by Lin Wen-Hsin • published by Yuan-Liou	50



#### ABOUT MOC & BOOKS FROM TAIWAN



#### **About Ministry of Culture**

The Ministry of Culture of Taiwan (Republic of China) was established on May 20, 2012.

As a member of the Executive Yuan, the Ministry oversees and cultivates Taiwan's soft power in the areas of arts and humanities, community development, crafts industry, cultural exchanges, international cultural participation, heritage, literature and publishing, living aesthetics, TV, cinema, and pop music.

The logo of the Ministry is an indigodyed morning glory. The indigenous flower symbolizes a trumpet heralding the coming of a new renaissance, in which cultural resources and aesthetics permeate all corners of the nation. The morning glory also represents the grassroots tenacity of Taiwan's diverse culture, a yearning for the positivity, simplicity, and warmth of earlier days, and a return to collective roots and values.

#### **About Books from Taiwan**

Books from Taiwan is an initiative funded by Ministry of Culture to introduce a select list of Taiwan publishing titles, ranging from fiction, non-fiction, children's books, and comic books, to foreign publishers and readers alike.

You can find information about authors and books, along with who to contact in order to license translation rights, and the related resources about the Grant for the Publication of Taiwanese Works in Translation (GPT), sponsored by the Ministry of Culture of Taiwan.

#### GRANT FOR THE PUBLICATION OF TAIWANESE WORKS IN TRANSLATION (GPT)

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) GPT is set up by The Ministry of Culture to encourage the publication of Taiwanese works in translation overseas, to raise the international visibility of Taiwanese cultural content, and to help Taiwan's publishing industry expand into non-Chinese international markets.

- Applicant Eligibility: Foreign publishing house (legal entity) legally registered or incorporated in accordance with the laws and regulations of their respective countries.
- Conditions:
  - 1. The so-called Taiwanese works must meet the following requirements:
    - A. Use traditional characters;
    - B. Written by a natural person holding an R.O.C. identity card;
    - C. Has been assigned an ISBN in Taiwan.

i.e., the author is a native of Taiwan, and the first 6 digits of the book's ISBN are 978-957-XXX-XXX-X, 978-986-XXX-XXX-X, or 978-626-XXX-XXX-X.

- 2. Applications must include documents certifying that the copyright holder of the Taiwanese works consents to its translation and foreign publication (no restriction on its format).
- 3. A translation sample of the Taiwanese work is required (no restriction on its format and length).

- 4. The translated work must be published within two years, after the first day of the relevant application period.
- Grant Items:
- 1. The maximum grant available for each project is NT\$600,000, which covers:
  - A. Licensing fees (going to the copyright holder of the Taiwanese works);
  - B. Translation fees;
  - C. Marketing and promotion fees (applicants for this funding must propose a specific marketing promotion plan and complete the implementation before submitting the grant project results; those whose plans include talks or book launching events attended by authors in person will be given priority for grants);
  - D. Book production-oriented fees;
  - E. Tax (20% of the total award amount);
  - F. Remittance-related handling fees.
- 2. Priority consideration is given to books that have received the Golden Tripod Award, the Golden Comic Award, the Taiwan Literature Award, books on Taiwan's culture and history, or series of books.
- Application Period: Twice every year, from April 1 to April 30, and from October 1 to October 31. The MOC reserves the right to change the application periods, and will announce said changes separately.
- Announcement of successful applications: Winners will be announced within three months of the end of the application period.
- Application Method: Please visit the Ministry's official website (https://grants.moc.gov.tw/Web\_ ENG/), and use the online application system.

For full details, please visit: https://grants.moc.gov.tw/Web\_ENG/ Or contact: books@moc.gov.tw



## A S I A N E D I T I O N

### **STREET CORNER FOODIES:** AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO TAIWAN'S MOST ICONIC STREET FOODS AND LOCAL FLAVORS

The "copper coin" street foods Taiwanese are so proud of mean affordable prices and deliciousness that has no substitute. This book features street foods from towns and villages across Taiwan enjoyed at different times of day. In the warm strokes of colored pencil, it depicts the nostalgic foods beloved by Taiwanese people.

Readers are first introduced to Taiwanese food culture, which is characterized by an array of affordable options for dining out, the availability of local ingredients from land and sea, and the influence of multiple cuisines introduced under different political regimes. For each topic, the author includes illustrations of representative foods, extending the taste experience to visual enjoyment and allowing readers to understand the examples in the text at a glance.

The book's main content, organized by county and city, describes local specialties and explains the history and culture of each place. Taoyuan, for example, became home to the soldiers evacuated from Yunnan and the Thai-Myanmar border in the early 1960s, resulting in the local popularity of unique dishes such as Yunnan rice noodles; Chiayi turkey rice, a famous dish that has won over tourists and locals alike, is in fact historically connected to the US military stationed in the area after World War II; and Taiwan's famous "oyster omelette" supposedly originates from the early Qing dynasty, created from local ingredients as the solution to a food crisis caused by Koxinga's war with the Dutch. The foods in the book are arranged by type, a systematic presentation of Taiwan's food culture heritage that takes readers on a nostalgic taste trip full of flavor.

After many years living abroad, artist Leslie Wang finally returned to her native Taiwan. Combining her especial skill in colored pencil with travel and dining, she has created drawings of the local foods most recommended by locals during her food tour around the island.



Category: Lifestyle Publisher: Inno-Fair Date: 10/2023 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 288 Length: 78,000 characters (approx. 50,700 words in English)

#### 巷仔口的美食家: 200+台灣最在地的小吃速寫×老店尋味

eslie Wang, an artist with a master's degree in environmental graphic design from Lawrence Technological University in the United States, is a fan of food, travel, and nature. In 2016 she returned to Taiwan and established OUNCE studio to explore food culture from the creative perspective of illustration design. After founding the independent publication OUNCE Magazine in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2015, she went on to create 13 issues of this illustrated urban travel magazine, which won a Gourmand World Cookbook Award for best printed magazine design.

# Leslie Wang



66

The author followed locals' recommendations in her search for iconic foods from across Taiwan, and then drew over two hundred of them using colored pencils and kraft paper. Come on a Taiwanese food tour guided by the author's to-the-point, witty writing and fabulous illustrations!

#### EAT A SNACK, TASTE TAIWAN: 101 TAIWANESE SNACK DISHES AND

### **呷小吃,知台味:** 101 道台灣小吃,讓你知道在地古早味背後的故事

Taiwan is known as a food paradise. Its natural topography surrounded by the sea and unusual historical background have preserved the essence of its Chinese culinary heritage but also infused it with foreign flavors. Before Taiwan developed such a diverse food culture, its material economy produced little wealth. Many people were agricultural laborers who ate snacks to boost their energy levels between regular meals. Most of these easy-toeat, low-priced meals were small in size and high in calories.

As times have changed and cooking techniques have been refined, these affordable snacks eaten by ordinary people have transcended their original purpose of satisfying hunger. Incorporating elements of the past and present, they have become delicacies sought after by local gourmets and foreign tourists. As an explorer who loves food, the author explores the origins of Taiwan's local snacks from a perspective both historical and cultural.

Each of the book's six chapters covers a different category of classic Taiwanese snacks: "Rice & Noodles", "Soups", "Sweets", "Savory bites", "Drinks", and "Souvenirs". Each chapter gives detailed descriptions of the history, cooking methods, ingredients, and places to find these delicious dishes. Among them are beef noodles, a must-try for tourists coming to Taiwan; nutritious milkfish soup; stinky tofu, which is a favorite taste of home for Taiwanese living abroad; Jiufen's famous Old Street taro ball dessert; the popular frozen treat mango shaved ice; traditional teatime ox-tongue-shaped puff pastries, and many more. Each dish is accompanied by mouthwatering photos and a small "snack box" inset sharing more food facts.

*Eat a Snack, Taste Taiwan* systematically classifies these delicacies for everyday people, considering multiple aspects such as local culture and history, local connections, and differences in regional ingredients. Readers can explore the origins of classic Taiwanese snacks and taste the many flavors of a diverse food culture.



Category: Lifestyle Publisher: Morning Star Date: 10/2023 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 240 Length: 78,936 characters (approx. 51,300 words in English)

#### THE STORIES BEHIND LOCAL FLAVORS

#### 66

Geographical location and historical background have created a diverse food culture in Taiwan. This book pairs a historical-cultural perspective with a wealth of food photos to unravel the origins of Taiwan's local dishes.

## Shen Tzu-Ya 沈慈雅

Sabout culinary techniques, and discovering Taiwan's local foods.



# THE POWER OF INQUIRY: THE KEY TO UNLOCKING INQUIRY-BASED THINKING

**提問力:** 啟動探究思考的關鍵

Inquiry is a higher-order thinking skill that both unlocks deeper insights and promotes innovation. It is also a prerequisite for the accurate use of artificial intelligence and an invaluable tool for lifelong learning. This book is a comprehensive exploration of how to improve critical thinking and problem-solving skills through effective inquiry. It combines concise, clear theory with examples for its practical application, providing educators, parents, and other individuals with the tools to cultivate inquiry-based thinking and more meaningful, deeper learning experiences.

The book is divided into four main sections featuring question words commonly used in inquiry. First, the author asks "why" to analyze the connection between inquiry and thinking, as well as the importance of asking questions in interpersonal relationships. In the following section, the author introduces the circumstances, context, and methods for inquiry that take us to the next step of answering "what" inquiry is. In the third and longest section, the author explains in greater detail "how" students use inquiry in everyday learning, and "how" teachers and parents use it to teach and communicate. Finally, the author makes some cautionary points to take note of when asking "who" and "when".

This book provides a clear, methodical guide for learning and thinking about inquiry and our learning and thinking skills. Improving our powers of inquiry not only provides more possibilities for teachers and parents, but also fosters children's curiosity and motivation to learn. Asking the right questions helps us to understand the world and decide how we will change it, a seemingly simple thing that isn't really simple at all.



Category: Parenting Publisher: CommonWealth Education Date: 11/2021 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 286 Length: 105,000 characters (approx. 68,250 words in English)



In our information-rich age, the ability to ask the right questions is more important than ever. By developing a habit of daily inquiry, everyone can unlock the secret to inquiry-based thinking and endless innovation.

> an Wei-Ying is a well-known education expert, radio host, and writer who earned her PhD from the Graduate Institute of Science Education at National Taiwan Normal University. An important voice advocating learning communities to Taiwan's teachers, she has significant influence in the education community and is actively involved in the development and promotion of various Taiwan education policies. Her education and learningfocused publications include *The Power of Inquiry* and *The Power of Inquiry: A Practical Guide.*

99

Lan Wei-Ying 藍偉瑩

© Huanshin Yang

# WHO DO YOU WANT YOUR CHILDREN TO OUTDO

### 要讓孩子贏過誰—— 一位非典型補教老師的教育修羅場

In Asia, the huge importance placed on education and competitive rankings in school and social contexts frequently turns parenting into a social problem. Taiwan is no exception. In an era of intense academic pressure, many kids are addicted to their mobile phones and getting lower grades, while those considered "child prodigies" have become withdrawn, self-harming, and even suicidal. In two decades of tutoring high school students, author Chang Yu-Chia has had extensive interaction with students and parents. As a front-line observer, he raises vital questions: What is happening to education in Taiwan? Who do parents want their children to keep up with? If children have to win all the time, where's the finish line?

In the first of the book's three parts, the author discusses the various problems encountered by a new generation of kids. These include poor academic performance or dysfunctional family relationships, leading to mobile phone addiction as an escape from stress; parental pressure on their children to perform well that neglects their mental well-being; and the large number of students who give up their favorite subjects for the sake of social success. The book's second part explores the damage done to children when parent-child communication breaks down, using real cases to examine the underlying reasons parents attach so much importance to their children's futures. The final part, which features common parent-child conflict scenarios such as fault finding, belittling, or using comparisons to motivate, confronts parents with their children's dilemmas and heartbreak. Parents are patiently and systematically guided toward accepting their children as they are and learning to be a parent who is also a friend.

With keen insight, the author discusses education quirks and real cases encountered over two decades. A wake-up call for parents, this book will help them to sort out their emotions and connect with their kids, and also help kids who are shutting down to heal and feel understood.



Category: Parenting Publisher: Aquarius Date: 3/2024 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 256 Length: 77,687 characters (approx. 50,500 words in English) The author draws on twenty years of close observation as a teacher in high-pressure cram schools to explore students' addiction and anxiety problems, how they lose enthusiasm for learning, and parent-child conflicts during the school years.

### Chang Yu-Chia 張祐嘉 Chang Yu-Chia is a c

Chang Yu-Chia is a graduate of the Department of Computer Science at Soochow University and the Graduate Institute of Industrial Economics at National Central University. Originally in the finance industry, he has made a name for himself as an English cram school teacher and has spent almost 20 years observing the life experiences of all sorts of students. He is also a magazine columnist.

## THE SLEEP YOUR BODY WANTS: SLEEP PSYCHOLOGISTS' STEPS FOR GETTING A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

#### 身體喜歡你這樣睡: 睡眠心理師為所有人打造的好眠方案

S tatistics show that the global annual consumption of sleeping pills is on the rise. Taking note of the increasingly serious sleep issues affecting society, psychologists Wu Chia-Shuo and Yang Chien-Ming have applied their extensive clinical experience to write *The Sleep Your Body Wants*, an approachable text promoting improved sleep through lifestyle changes.

Starting with the basics of how and why we sleep, the book introduces readers to sleep stages and cycles, defines insomnia, and provides an overview of the arousal system (A system), circadian rhythm system (C system), and the sleep/wake homeostasis system (H system). Each chapter ends with homework intended to help readers observe, evaluate, and record the details of their sleep.

Aimed at those with insomnia, the book uses cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia as its frame of reference: as a first step, the reader completes an assessment questionnaire (case formulation) to determine which of the eight types of insomnia best describes them; they can then read the recommended chapters based on their result (customized plan). Once they have determined their type of insomnia, readers can find out about the sleep behaviors relevant to them and learn cognitive behavioral therapy techniques that will assist them in getting better sleep. For example, insomniacs with an overactive arousal system can establish personal bedtime rituals, whereas those with irregular wake/ sleep patterns may want to start by determining the amount of sleep they need and then use sleep displacement to reset their internal body clocks. Two to four weeks of practice and journaling with this approach addressing both knowledge and behavioral aspects will allow readers to find the best method for improving their sleep.



Category: Health Publisher: Business Weekly Date: 12/2023 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 176 Length: 62,000 characters (approx. 40,300 words in English)



With a simple and easy-to-understand assessment scale that helps to explain the types of insomnia, this book offers straightforward steps toward improving sleep quality and achieving a healthy, happy life.

> Yang Chien-Ming earned his PhD in psychology from the City University of New York. Certified in behavioral sleep medicine by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and a licensed clinical psychologist, he has extensive practical experience in cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia. He is currently a professor in the psychology department of National Chengchi University, where he conducts research and mentors new sleep psychologists.

# Wu Chia-Shuo 吳家碩

Wu Chia-Shuo is a clinical psychologist and specialist in cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia who has nearly 20 years of clinical experience in behavioral sleep medicine and treating insomnia. In addition to his work in research and clinical treatment, he is a vocal advocate for behavioral sleep medicine and the author of several books on sleep and psychology.

Yang Chien-Ming 楊建銘

## CHAIN POWER: ISLAND CHAINS, SUPPLY CHAINS, AND THE NEW GEOPOLITICS OF 鏈實力: 島鏈、供應鏈、民主鏈,新半導體地緣政治學

A t a moment when AI is taking off and semiconductors are rewriting geopolitics, Taiwan is receiving global attention for its pivotal role in the global semiconductor industry. *Chain Power* will help readers gain a timely and comprehensive understanding of how Taiwan's position in the semiconductor supply chain, its geographical location, and the unique contribution of its democratic values has made it a key player in international geopolitics and the global economy.

Explaining historical context such as the US-China tech war along the way, the author walks the reader through current international relations, showing how Taiwanese companies such as TSMC have played a key role in making Taiwan an indispensable part of the global semiconductor supply chain. Solid geopolitical theory informs the author's analysis of how Taiwan, a hub for Northeast and Southeast Asia, connects and affects the security and stability of these two regions. He also explains Taiwan's immense military strategic value as part of the first island chain defense strategy. The author next discusses the Cold War to explain the ideological conflicts between the global democracy and autocratic dictatorship camps, as well as the role Taiwan's that Taiwan will be affected by it.

From the island chain to the supply chain to the value chain, chain power forms from intertwined links. Taiwan's past and present have been determined by its position in the island and supply chains - accordingly, the author's in-depth analysis of the situation playing out with Taiwan at its center will help readers to understand the current international political situation and predict future developments in East Asia. For any reader interested in technology, economics, or international relations, an understanding of chain power is vital.



Category: Politics Publisher: Crystal Press Date: 1/2024 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 328 Length: 106,000 characters (approx. 68,900 words in English) Rights sold: Japanese (Nikkei BP)

#### DEMOCRATIC CHAINS, SEMICONDUCTORS

# Li Shih-Hui 李世暉

L i Shih-Hui earned his PhD in Leconomics from Kyoto University, Japan. He is currently the Chairman of the Taiwan Japan Academy and a professor at the College of International Affairs at National Chengchi University. An authority in East Asian geopolitical analysis, his research fields span international relations, geoeconomics, the semiconductor industry, security strategy, business management, and cultural trends.



66

An analysis of semiconductor supply chains, geopolitics, and value systems illuminates Taiwan's irreplaceable role and impact on complex international relations. 77

### A FIRST IN ASIA: THE STORY OF YU MEI-NU AND TAIWAN'S SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BILL

#### **亞洲第一:** 尤美女與臺灣同婚法案的故事

After an era of taboo, doubt, hostility, and homophobia, Taiwan at last officially passed the Marriage Equality Act in 2019, becoming the first country in Asia to legalize same-sex marriage. The turbulent and often painful history of the bill is not only of tremendous historical significance to Taiwan, but also serves as a valuable precedent.

A First in Asia focuses on Taiwanese legislator Yu Mei-Nu, a key sponsor of the same-sex marriage bill. A skilled and empathetic listener with a legal background, she has long been involved in human and women's legal rights. The book first describes her experiences with the women's movement, then systematically details her involvement with the LGBT movement and the ups and downs that accompanied her staunch support for the same-sex marriage bill during her tenure as a legislator. In the face of a particularly strong backlash from anti-LGBTQ forces, Yu Mei-Nu had to contend with government, legislative, and party pressure. She nonetheless did her best to communicate with all in a rational manner, successfully navigating various hazards along the way. Author Chen Chao-Ju's detailed narrative gives readers a close-up look at previously untold stories of conflict, coordination, and trade-offs that occurred to make this "first in Asia" bill possible.

This book provides both a historical summary of the same-sex marriage movement and tells the story of Yu Mei-Nu's personal involvement in supporting the bill. Despite the tears, conflicts, and confrontations she encountered on this journey to defend LGBTQ rights, for her, this is a story about remembering the lives and personal struggles of countless individuals. The legalization of samesex marriage is an undoubtable milestone in Taiwan's pluralistic democracy, granting all those who love one another a basic right - to marry and remain together for the rest of their lives.



Category: Reportage Publisher: SpringHill Date: 10/2023 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 280 Length: 94,000 characters (approx. 61,100 words in English)

Taiwan is the first country in Asia where same-sex couples can legally marry. The author of this book describes the personal experience of legislator Yu Mei-Nu, a key figure in the same-sex marriage movement who promoted the <u>marriage equality bill</u>.

66

Chen Chao-Ju is a graduate of the Department of Anthropology at National Taiwan University. She has worked for *The Capital Morning Post*, *Independence Morning Post*, EBC Super TV, and other media outlets. Currently a freelance writer, she is the author of numerous books.

Chen Chao-Ju 陳昭如

# GAZA DIARY 加薩日記

When Doctors Without Borders assigned Dr. Hung Shang-Kai to the Gaza Strip, his mission was to optimize the local emergency system. His work there came to a premature end, however, after the Israeli-Palestinian war erupted and he was forced to return to Taiwan. This book is his diary of that period, from two days before his arrival in Gaza to the two days after he left (July 9 to November 3, 2023).

Before Dr. Hung entered Gaza from Israel through the Erez crossing, he read books and watched videos to better understand Gaza's historical and cultural background. While working and living there, he found that on most days the conditions were not as dangerous or stressful as he had imagined. In addition to his interactions with work colleagues and patients, his diary records aspects of daily life seldom mentioned in the news, such as the rolling blackouts that limited the availability of electricity to only eight to twelve hours a day. The lack of electricity and shortage of medicines greatly restricted the local medical services that could be provided.

After the sudden escalation of events on October 7, many doctors in northern Gaza, including Dr. Hung, continued to do their best amidst the chaos and explosions. A few days later, however, Doctors Without Borders was compelled to ask their international members to evacuate to the Rafah crossing point in the south as the organization continued to carry out humanitarian relief. In his diary, Dr. Hung recorded a detailed account of the cruel reality he witnessed over the next three weeks, as well as his feelings of fear and helplessness.

After his return to Taiwan, Dr. Hung published what he saw, heard, and felt, hoping to call attention to Gaza's civilian victims - his book is not only a humanitarian appeal, but also conveys the suffering in Gaza that is now part of his own experience.



来自台灣的無國界醫生前線人員在加羅的第一手見聞

Category: Memoir Publisher: Taiwan Interminds Date: 3/2024 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 208 Length: 50,280 characters (approx. 32,600 words in English)



This book shares the first-hand experiences of Taiwanese doctor Hung Shang-Kai while he worked for Doctors Without Borders in the Gaza Strip. In a voice very different from news reports, he tells the unembellished, true story of the war.

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIER

99



ung Shang-Kai, a graduate of China Medical University, is currently an attending physician in the Emergency Medicine Department of Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Linkou, Taiwan. *Gaza Diary* is his effort to spread greater awareness about what is taking place in Gaza.

# 1996-2022: YANG CHI-SHUN COLLECTION

### 素直設計 Book Design—— 楊啟巽作品集 1996-2022

w does a designer create an eye-catching, compelling, and timeless cover that entices readers to purchase and keep it in their collections, yet also makes its creator feel understood, even valued?

Every author needs an "interpreter" - a book designer who takes into consideration the author's ideas, the readers' emotions, the editor's and printer's thoughts, and the many details involved, including the book's structure, physical dimensions, printing and binding, font, and font size. But wait! There's also the delicate balancing act between marketing and aesthetics. Of greatest importance, however, is the designer's ability to fully understand and absorb the text before they inject their own attitudes and ideas to produce a design that is both visually stunning and able to stand the test of time.

Showcasing artist Yang Chi-Shun's thirty years of experience in book design, this volume of his selected works is divided into four parts: literary works, documentary photography/film, lifestyle, and graphic novels/manga & other. The artist has selected two hundred of his one thousand works - on topics including contemporary literature, manga, photography, wine tasting, love and sex, food, and lifestyle - each of which he breaks down for the reader, sharing his design concept, thought process, and production highlights. In the process, he strips the books down to their very essence.

In this must-have volume for any designer or editor, Yang Chi-Shun describes how he tailors the most suitable and beautiful "covering" for a book and offers expert advice on how to tell stories using design, sharing his self-reflections and thoughts. A visual feast for readers, the book provides insight into underlying concepts as well as an outstanding "to read" list.



Category: Design Publisher: Dala Date: 2/2023 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 492 Length: 73,000 characters (approx. 47,500 words in English)

# Yang Chi-Shun 楊啟巽

Ang Chi-Shun, born in 1969, established his studio in 1997. A graphic designer for thirty years, he has hand-designed and published a thousand printed volumes. A consistent winner of publishing and book cover design awards such as the Golden Tripod and the Golden Butterfly awards, he received the Golden Tripod Award for book design in 2014 for The Chapel by the Sea and in 2015 for The Writer's Room.

Yang Chi-Shun, an important book designer in Taiwan, explains in depth how he created the most appropriate and beautiful "covering" for 200 books personally selected from his 30-year career. A self-reflection as well as a sharing of his thoughts, this is a treasure trove of book design.

# CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS OF CLASSIC ARCHITECTURE FROM POSTWAR TAIWAN 臺灣戰後經典建築手繪施工圖選

n the 1950s, a period of rapid infrastructure development kicked off in Taiwan, giving local and foreign architects room to fully explore new ideas. This book features nine buildings completed between 1956 and 1984. Images of architectural models, historical photos, and current field surveys complement over 150 construction drawings, which include building elevations from various angles, and section, floor plan, and interior design drawings. Introductions for each architect and background information on the construction process give readers greater insight into these architects' ingenuity and exacting standards.

Among the buildings selected for the book are the Jingliao Holy Cross Church with its conical metal spire (Pritzker Prize winner Gottfried Böhm's first overseas commission); the Chapel of St. Joseph at Kung-Tung Technical Senior High School, which combines the functions of classroom, workshop, dormitory, and church (an early overseas project of the famous Swiss architect Justus Dahinden); Lingxiao Hall at Chih-Nan Temple, the first modern temple building in Taiwan, which brings together reinforced concrete and complex Chinese symbolic elements (designed by master architect Lee Chung-Yao, who restored numerous national treasures); and the cylindrical Fengshan Meat Market, which combines functional considerations with an interesting aesthetic (a public building that demonstrates local award-winning architect Chen Ren-He's superb mathematical skill).

Most of the buildings included in this book have blended into Taiwan's everyday landscape. Accordingly, they may not strike the viewer as particularly noteworthy, especially in respect to the latest design trends. From the perspective of architectural history, however, the wisdom of these architects deserves greater attention and awareness, as do their stories.



Category: Design Publisher: Ecus Date: 1/2023 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 204 + 40 Length: 36,800 + 19,600 characters (approx. 23,920 + 12,740 words in English)

# Shyu Ming-Song 徐明松



Surrealism, Poet of Timeless Architecture: A Guide to the Architecture of Wang Da-Hong, and Ecstasy and Restraint: The Architectural Art of Chang Chao.

## Shao Wen-Cheng 邵文政

Shao Wen-Cheng is an associate professor in the Department of Architecture at the National Taipei University of Technology. He is also the director of the Healthy Environment Lab and Studio, and Innovative Green Building Materials Research and Promotion Center. He has made green buildings a particular research focus for many years and authored the book Green Collar Architects Teach You Good Home Design.





## Huang Wei-Ting 黃瑋庭

Huang Wei-Ting is a doctoral student in design and a part-time lecturer at Chung Yuan Christian University. In 2017, she became interested in Taiwan's history of post-war architecture and has helped to plan several architecture-themed exhibitions. She is the co-author of Ecstasy and Restraint: The Architectural Art of Chang Chao-Kang.

66

This book showcases ten international giants of architecture and their construction drawings for nine buildings representative of Taiwan's postwar architecture, telling behindthe-scenes stories about their design and construction.

# MY DEAD FATHER JUST 男・吳阿明・投佛

Shan-Shan's father, Wu Ming, was a tour bus driver until he dropped dead on the job one day, exhausted from too much overtime. Six months later, Shan-Shan thinks she and her mother have finally gotten past their grief and are ready to start a new life when her father's ghost shows up in her room, wearing clothes better suited to a rock musician than a bus driver....

At first, Shan-Shan's childhood sweetheart Yen I-Ching is the only person she feels she can tell such a ridiculous tale, and the pair start brainstorming ways to help Wu Ming's ghost move on peacefully. Chou Tzu-Yao is Shan-Shan and I-Ching's high school classmate, a handsome and considerate class monitor who takes the same bus they do to school every day. As the trio grows closer, he joins the quest to help Wu Ming.

After a Taoist temple attendant explains that ghosts usually linger in the mortal world due to unresolved regrets, Shan-Shan attempts to fulfill her father's one-time dream of being a singer, but letting him possess her on stage at her school's anniversary celebration doesn't work. The trio then tries to sneak into the tour bus company late at night to take pictures of her father's attendance records, but their plan to receive compensation by proving in court that overwork caused his death is equally successful. What is still worrying Wu Ming? Meanwhile, the trio's relationship grows more complicated as their feelings become increasingly difficult to hide.

A look at regret and love expressed too late, this book depicts the deep bond between parents and children, as well as youthful feelings for love interests of either sex. The author's humorous, relaxed writing style makes this novel a touching and heart-warming coming-of-age story.



Category: Heartwarming Publisher: Sharp Point Date: 8/2023 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 288 Length: 83,114 characters (approx. 54,000 words in English)

# WON'T REINCARNATE

A dead father returns as a ghost to haunt his daughter's room, seemingly due to unfinished business. The quest to find the cause of his regret is a moving tale that sparkles with wit.

### Boringseed 無聊種子

B gifted, multi-genre writer whose work explores a wide variety of themes. She is the author of boy love novels as well as horror, suspense, and supernatural fiction.

# THE TRAITOR

叛國者

n the late 1980s, Cold War tensions gradually eased, and contact between Taiwan and China opened up for the first time. Cross-strait commercial trade subsequently created new possibilities for spying.

In the spring of 1999, Taiwanese intelligence agent Huang Min-Tsung enters China alone as a Taiwanese businessman, his goal to steal Chinese military secrets as part of Operation Black Tortoise. During the mission, he plans to meet with People's Liberation Army (PLA) Major General Feng Tong, codename Black Tortoise II, who has cooperated with him for many years in hopes of bringing democracy to China. When Huang attempts to make contact, however, he doesn't receive their established countersign. Feeling that something is very wrong, he makes a swift decision to pull out, only to be forcibly escorted from his flight by black-clad operatives. In the hands of Chinese intelligence agents, Huang is strong-armed into revealing intelligence assets that extend into the top levels of the PLA.

Operation Black Tortoise, which had been in operation for nearly ten years and recruited two senior PLA generals, is suddenly blown wide open. The news rocks Taiwan's Military Intelligence Bureau and National Security Bureau. Because the operation relied on assets and local contacts in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, others are inevitably dragged into the affair, including Hong Kong intelligence officer Kwong Kai-Cheung, former Hong Kong adult film star turned tech products importer Diana, and Diana's personal assistant Lai Yuet-Yee. The relationships connecting them muddy the waters of this situation involving cross-strait military leaks.

The action in *The Traitor* shifts between multiple locations, jumping from Taiwan, to Hong Kong, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and back again. The reader is engaged in a highly visual narrative that feels like watching a fantastic spy movie, while subtly rendered depictions of human nature and beautifully rendered three-dimensional characters suggest the delicate relationship between individual and country. Loyalty, patriotism, politics, or the people we love – which should be the first priority?



Category: Spy Fiction Publisher: Mirror Fiction Date: 5/2023 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 336 Length: 159,751 characters (approx. 103,800 words in English) Are spies who pass on sensitive information to avert war with enemy nations history-worthy heroes or criminals? The Traitor is based on the true story of espionage activities in the Taiwan Strait during the 1990s. The exciting plot is the Chinese equivalent of The Spy Who Came in from the Cold!



66

Lee Chih-Te is a media veteran, a descendant of intelligence workers, with more than 20 years of journalistic experience. He has previously held posts at a newspaper as editor-in-chief, a TV station, media platforms, and a magazine as associate editor, conducting in-depth interviews on Taiwanese politics and crossstrait relations.

# THE SPECTER IN SAMAJI 沙瑪基的惡靈

The Specter in Shamaji takes place on Liuqiu Island (formerly known as "Shamaji"), a popular island tourist resort off the coast of Pingtung. Many of the island's tourist spots are associated with hair-raising legends, among these a story linking the White Lighthouse to an executed Japanese soldier and his pet monkey, another that says the Dutch burned aborigines alive at Black Devil Cave over 300 years ago, and another that Beauty Cave was once called the Cave of Abandoned Babies....Sha-Tang combines fictional murders and these old legends to create a complex murder mystery.

A couple go for a nighttime stroll to the White Lighthouse and hear what sounds like a heavy object falling inside. Curious, they break in and are shocked to find a man who appears to be dead by unnatural means and water with no obvious source on the floor. They immediately call the police. Soon after, fishermen discover the body of a drowned man near Beauty Cave and identify him as a government official dedicated to promoting Liuqiu tourism. Then, a Buddhist monk is found dead at his monastery....

Police detectives Tang Yu and Li Wu-Ching happen to be on the island and on the case from the first murder at the White Lighthouse. Community speculation blaming an evil spirit for the deaths leads the pair to suspect that someone is using local legend as a cover story for murder, especially when further investigation reveals possible connections between several of the victims and a decades-old land expropriation case. Just when they think the motive is a flesh-and-blood murderer out for revenge, the case takes an unexpected turn....

A plot full of twists and turns features a locked-room murder mystery, a longstanding feud, ambiguous male friendship, and thrilling cave explorations against a backdrop of beautiful tourist sites. Readers who enjoyed the *Detective Conan* film series are likely to find this an interesting read.



Category: Crime Publisher: Showwe Information Date: 5/2016 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 312 Length: 138,940 characters (approx. 90,300 words in English) Rights sold: TV show (Darren Culture & Creativity)

A series of murders occur, scattered across a resort island at scenic spots linked with horrific legends. Although evil spirits appear to be at work, two police detectives, on the island by chance, discover that the murders are actually related to an old case few know about.

### Sha-Tang 沙棠

Sha-Tang is an author and script writer who has published novels in multiple genres, including romance, adventure, and fantasy. Her current writing projects focus mainly on travel murder-mysteries that combine tourist spots with detective work. Her bestknown works include The Specter in Shamaji, Kucapungane's Prey, and The Trick Box Code: The Lost City of Nine-loong.

#### WHEN THE FAITH IS GONE... 不能輸的賭局

#### \* 2024 ACFM Busan Story Market Selection

The story begins with a secretive interview. Rookie reporter Hou Kuan-Nien sits in a news anchor's seat, wearing a suit. A strange atmosphere hangs over the studio, in which he and Uncle Jung, an industry big shot holding a cane, are the only people present. Uncle Jung advises Kuan-Nien, "You must truly believe in the justness of whatever you do" – a key statement for the entire book.

So that the world's smartest stock trading platform can manage his investments for him, Kuan-Nien has opened a Plutus app account and copied the investment positions of Third Capital, its high returns derived from highly accurate market predictions. Like most young people, Kuan-Nien doesn't want to think much; he just wants to earn money, invest well, and live a good life. Market information shows Third Capital's success comes from drug development at Fu-Ke Biotech, but its new drug for treating vision loss is really just a legal form of gambling.

When the results for the new drug are announced, Fu-Ke's stock bottoms out for several days. Leaks about the drug and insider trading explode. A victim of this market disaster, Kuan-Nien decides to use an activist group to uncover the truth, but what seemed a matter of blind chance develops into a huge mystery, rife with corporate and political intrigue. Struggling with issues of justice, best interests, and personal ideals, Kuan-Nien gambles everything, including his conscience, on "an unlosable bet".

When the Faith Is Gone... is a mystery story about gambling and an exploration of beliefs and obsessions. The author also takes a hard look at stock market speculation and Taiwan's "media chaos", seamlessly incorporating well-known local fraud cases into a plot packed full of surprises and suspense. When the truth is far from straightforward, what do we really want the world to look like? This book has an answer: a world with more good people who stick to their ideals, whatever comes.



Category: Crime Publisher: Sharp Point Date: 12/2023 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 312 Length: 141,126 characters (approx. 91,700 words in English)

#### Forneus 楓雨

Forneus is a physician writer, moderator for the Taiwan Mystery Novel Promotion Facebook page, member of the Crime Writers of Taiwan, and highly dedicated promoter of Taiwanese mystery novels. A gifted writer of novels as well as short stories and New Poetry, he won the King Car Fantasy Fiction Prize.

66

A mystery novel of human entanglements and moral dilemmas, the story revolves around a biotech company's new drug for vision loss and shady stock trading. Human nature, a search for the truth, and the line where ideals meet reality are explored from a rookie reporter's point of view.

99

# I LOVE YOU TO THE META AND BACK 失控的 AI: 我在元宇宙被判死刑

#### \* 2024 CCPA Best IP Awards \* 2024 ACFM Busan Story Market Selection

Xing, a psychiatrist, loses his wife and son in a fire. To fill the void left by their deaths, he builds Al avatars of them, attempting to resurrect his happy family in the metaverse. In real life, guilt prompts him to adopt a baby girl after a patient gives birth to her in the women's room. Later, he also rescues Yu Shan, the daughter of a wealthy family about to end it all when her company experiences a financial crisis. A life in which three unrelated people live under one roof changes Xing's definition of family but leaves him conflicted: If he falls in love with Yu Shan, does it count as cheating?

Xing's Al avatar system solves the crisis confronting Shan's company and leads to business opportunities in grief tech. The pair make a fortune. They also take several stabs at feeling each other out before finally confirming they care for each other. Xing decides to let go of his dead wife and son to start a new life, but when his Al wife finds out his plans, she not only starts lying, but also designs multiple scenarios that will exploit loopholes in the judicial process and force Shan to die. Realizing that the Al avatar he designed is increasingly out of control, Xing must risk his own life to fight back....

I Love You to the Meta and Back won the KadoKado Novel Award Grand Prize in 2022. Penned by senior practicing lawyer Peggy Chiu, it is also the first local Taiwanese novel to explore legal and ethical issues related to AI and the metaverse.



Category: Science Fiction Publisher: Kadokawa Taiwan Date: 7/2023 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 368 Length: 132,394 characters (approx. 86,000 words in English) Rights sold: Simplified Chinese (Kadokawa Gempak Starz Sdn Bhd)

## Peggy Chiu 官雨青

Peggy Chiu, a senior practicing lawyer and accountant, has published several serialized internet novels. Her first, *I Love You* to the Meta and Back, won the 2022 KadoKado Novel Award Grand Prize.

After losing his wife and son in a fire, Xing builds AI avatars to resurrect them in the metaverse. A few years later, his AI wife takes abrupt action when Xing finds a new family, forcing him to answer the ultimate question: Is there a right choice in love?

## CONTACTLESS INTIMACY

#### 零觸碰親密

In the future, a large-scale AI system assumes the role of government, collecting information from chips in human brains and exercising tight control over humankind. Upon discovering that touch causes unstable human emotions, transmits disease, and disrupts society, the AIs implement a "contactless" policy, shifting all human activity to virtual reality. Later, to satisfy people's longing for touch and interpersonal experiences, the AI government enacts the Human-Machine Mating Program, creating cybernetic organisms with chips implanted in their brains to give them human experiences. Humans are also given new bodies, giving them the freedom to be intimate with android partners and experience risk-free touch.

The nameless heroine, a recent recruit to the Human-Machine Mating Program, wakes up from surgery a sexless, emotionless, and far from self-aware "new" human. Full of confusion about herself, she surrenders to the technology. Her mother's generation was the last to experience touch. When she witnesses her mother's "age-appropriate death", will she choose her instinct to feel grief or programmed emotionlessness? What about the relationship with her android partner? When all individual differences such as skin color and sexual characteristics are erased, does it mean the end of human will?

Author Lin Hsin-Hui draws on her lifelong interest in technology and human cultures to explore human-machine relationships and the meaning of life in this novel that is also a reflection on gender coding and identity. The world she constructs is as chilling as it is amazing.



Category: Science Fiction Publisher: China Times Date: 5/2023 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 248 Length: 85,000 characters (approx. 55,200 words in English) Rights sold: Italian (ADD editore s.r.l)



#### 66

Cyborg culture has long interested writer Lin Hsin-Hui, whose novel explores human-machine intimacy. "Contact" is the key concept guiding her investigation of interpersonal boundaries, the limits to enduring alienation, and how new technologies dominate human lives. Is AI a turning point or a crisis?

# Lin Hsin-Hui 林新惠

Lin Hsin-Hui, born in 1990, is Currently a PhD candidate in Taiwanese literature at National Chengchi University and the former editor of *Unitas*, a literary monthly magazine. Her short story collection *Human Glitches* won the 2020 Taiwan Literature Award. Her works focus on science, technology, and the humanities, especially the ambiguous boundary between human and non-human beings. She regularly publishes literary reviews and research articles.

#### SYNC: THE STOLEN PROTOTYPE 同步戰紀: 失竊的原型機

She remembers only what's happened in the past year or so - all other memories of her previous life have disappeared, even her name. One day, several hoodlums show up at the bar and pick a fight. During the confrontation, she sustains heavy blows to the head that have the unexpected effect of restoring her shattered memory and her special ability to sync her consciousness with others.

After this incident, a man employed at a multinational tech company starts showing up in Kui's dreams and asks her to come find him. Meanwhile, she discovers that the bar owner, who has become a father-figure, is actually an intelligence agent, and the woman in frequent touch with him is a neuroscientist. Both are keeping secrets about her, and neither trusts the other. At this point, a group of mysterious people appear and chase Kui. While she evades her pursuers and searches for the truth about her memory, Kui can't help wondering what these people have to do with her new ability, about the man in her dreams, and who she can trust.

Virtual reality and AI are central features of this book, while contemporary social issues provide the foundation for a narrative setting in which a multinational corporate giant controls most of the resources. An exploration of humanity's struggles in the face of rapid technological development, the book shows us class conflict in a multicultural society of the future, each of the social issues explored being a present-day challenge. The author blends the near-future urban landscape with digital culture tropes found in cyberpunk novels such as *Neuromancer* and *Snow Crush*, while also interweaving the virtual and the real with cultural details specific to Taiwan, such as a hot, humid rainy season and immigrants from all over. Fans of this genre are sure to find something new to enjoy.



Category: Science Fiction Publisher: Narrativesaw Date: 1/2024 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 278 Length: 123,692 characters (approx. 80,400 words in English) H su Li-Leng is a native of Tainan who earned his master's degree in film and television from Falmouth University in the UK. Owner of the independent publishing platform Narrativesaw, he is a fantasy and science fiction enthusiast with multiple career identities, including author, film and television screenwriter, and filmmaker. He is currently writing more cyberpunk stories for his SYNC series.

#### Hsu Li-Heng 許立衡





Set in Taipei of the near future, this suspenseadventure story blends AI, cyberspace, and cyborgs into a hero's journey injected with Cyberpunk.



#### ASK AND YOU SHALL THREE TALES OF SUPERNATURAL 私廟

Taiwan's folk beliefs include temples dedicated to the spirits of children or wronged, forgotten souls, and privately-owned temples where professional shamans perform exorcisms and other rituals. The short story and two novellas in *Ask and You Shall Receive* center on these places of folk worship, describing how supernatural forces manipulate or turn twisted desires back on an individual.

In the title story "Ask and You Shall Receive", an unemployed man sets up a social media account for the small, unremarkable temple on his family's land. He then uses the account to spread fake reports of financial windfalls, drawing to the temple those who believe it responds to requests. He rakes in the cash with an incense money collection box, but then strange phenomena start to occur...

In "Change of Fate", a young man discovers that the colleague sitting next to him at his new job was his high school classmate. Now, even though he was once the better student, his colleague is enjoying far greater success at work, whereas he is not only regularly scolded by his supervisor, but suffers from frequent health problems. Upon learning of a private temple that performs fate-changing spells, he decides to pay the exorbitant fee in exchange for his colleague's good luck. What he gets is not at all what he expected, however...

In "Best Friends Forever", a woman tortured by a recurring dream attends her grandmother's countryside funeral and discovers that the scar-faced little girl in her nightmares is a stone statue in the forest. As a child, she and the little girl made a pact. Now the little girl and the grandmother's ghost will ensure she keeps her promise...

Zuiliuli builds an atmosphere of horror from everyday situations, her ironic endings full of dark humor. What leaves the reader shivering is not always the protagonist's fate, however, but the extremes to which the human heart will go for what it desires.



Category: Horror Publisher: Gaea Date: 8/2023 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 296 Length: 104,769 characters (approx. 68,100 words in English)

#### **RECEIVE:** SUSPENSE

#### Zuiliuli 醉琉璃

**7**uiliuli is a best-selling author Lof light novels that often incorporate elements of Eastern myths and legends. A gifted writer of supernatural thrillers, she writes in a broad range of styles, including lighthearted, humorous fantasyadventure stories set on school campuses. Her representative works include the popular series Agents to the Gods, Night Whispers, and I, the Elf King, Need Cash! Scarecrow, one of the books in her Night Whispers series, is currently being developed into a TV series by Eightgeman Ltd., a Taiwanese company co-founded by award-winning directors.

66

Three temples dedicated to lonely, wandering spirits change three troubled lives. In Ask and You Shall Receive, Zuiliuli's tales of supernatural suspense take eerie turns, reflecting the dark side of human nature.

# CALL ME AT THIS NUMBER AND OTHER STORIES 最多三八的那支

The nine short stories in *Call Me at This Number and Other Stories* paint nuanced portraits of life's little people, exploring various issues in contemporary society, including relationships, family diversity, migrant workers, female awakening, lies, false appearances, and dilemmas of all kinds.

The author's experiences living abroad have opened her perspective in looking back at her birthplace. In the title story, "Call Me at This Number", she depicts the Yilan of her childhood years, bringing to vivid life the dialect and local customs of decades ago. In "Esther", she draws on keen observations from her years in Southeast Asia to depict the mind games and defensive maneuvering of foreign workers and their employers. And in "Free to Be a Family", she compares the situations of women from different generations by exploring the incredible friendship between an older woman and the girls downstairs. Effortlessly conveying both girlhood innocence and middle-aged sophistication, the author has given us stories that seem to sum up all the evils of our times, leaving us to ask, in a world like this, do we still have love in our hearts? Is it still possible to be kind?

The author combines humor, criticism, and sensitivity in her work, using the details of daily life as her tools for revealing her characters' inner worlds. Her gaze, sometimes sentimental, sometimes cold, imbues her stories with more than just suspensefilled plots or love-hate relationship drama. They are also humorous mirrors satirizing modern social issues, bringing us the irreplaceable pleasures of literary fiction.



Category: Short Stories Publisher: Ink Date: 7/2023 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 296 Length: 97,930 characters (approx. 63,600 words in English)

### Huang Yin 黃茵

Huang Yin, a native of Yilan, has worked as a copywriter for an advertising agency, a reporter for a finance magazine, and a legislative aide. After living in Southeast Asia for many years, she now resides permanently in Taiwan and writes full-time. Her work has been recognized with numerous local literary awards. *Call Me at This Number and Other Stories* is her first short story collection.



66

This collection of short fiction features stories that dissect the complexities of human nature with minimalist prose and flashes of black humor. Readers will find themselves chuckling over these contemporary tales of adultery, lonely twilight years, opting out, and the lives of corporate slaves.

#### WITH FULL FLOWER 滿花

This book's title refers to flowers with an extra set of petals, generally called or "double-flowered" or by the Latin scientific name "flore pleno". Because some double-flowered varieties cannot be pollinated, new plants can be produced only from a piece of the old one. Here we have five stories, five varieties of "double-flowered" women - each has missed a chance at motherhood and must therefore examine complicated feelings about what it means to be a "mother".

First, we see a mother's descent into depression and despair from the perspective of her dead baby, now a ghost whose greatest wish is to know if his mother loves him. Next, a lesbian couple working in a yoga studio are busily preparing for a baby and an important performance when a car crash disrupts all their plans. In the only story to feature a woman with a child, the protagonist thinks she has kept her lack of maternal feelings well-hidden, until the pandemic forces their family of three into close proximity, triggering conflict. Then, a college student who has done everything possible to avoid pregnancy envisions a future with children in it after she hears her boyfriend's cat call her "mom", unaware that her relationship with her boyfriend has changed due to her affection for the cat. Finally, when a slip of the tongue causes the colleague of a postmenopausal single woman to think she has a son, she continues to make up stories about him but is unable to explain why, even to herself

From preparing for a new life role, to accepting or rejecting motherhood, to losing the right to choose, Lin Wen-Hsin's intricate psychological descriptions and exquisitely structured storytelling portray women's realities at different stages of life, allowing the reader to tease out the author's thoughts on women's right to choose, sexuality, maternal love, and family. Questions are posed but not always answered, giving us the pleasure of mulling them over.



Category: Short Stories Publisher: Yuan-Liou Date: 2/2024 Rights contact: bft.fiction.nonfiction@moc.gov.tw Pages: 272 Length: 77,000 characters (approx. 50,000 words in English)

### Lin Wen-Hsin 林文心

L in Wen-Hsin, born in Taichung in 1994, is currently pursuing a PhD in Chinese Literature at National Taiwan University. Recognized by local literary awards, her writing focuses mainly on the physical senses, emotional experiences, and private thoughts of women. A follow-up to her debut collection, *Playground, With Full Flower* is her second short story collection.

66

To have children...or not is the question explored by this short story collection, which uses a floral metaphor to describe the many possibilities women consider when answering it. It is the female characters represented by the most luxuriant blooms who best understand the emptiness beneath their beauty.

 $\mathbf{9}\mathbf{9}$ 



#### **BOOKS FROM TAIWAN**

http://booksfromtaiwan.tw/









#### A S I A N E D I T I O N