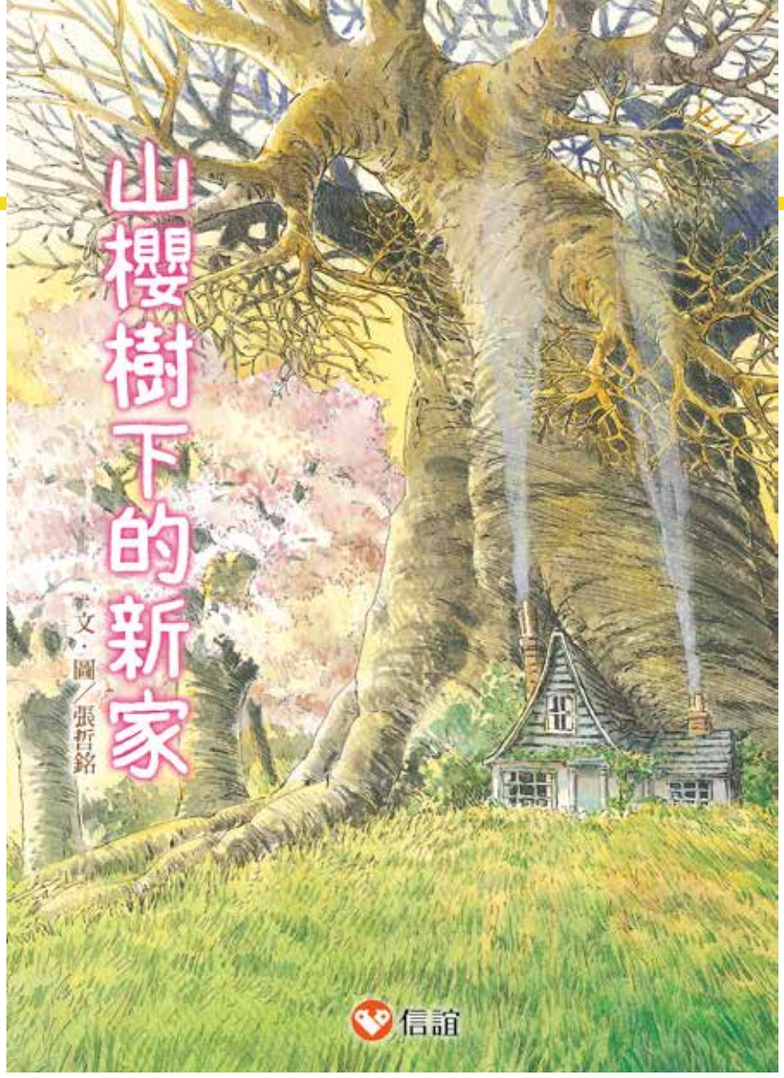

Good Morning, Forest: The New Home Beneath the Taiwan Cherry Tree

A Full English translation is available.

早安森林：山櫻樹下的新家

Author: Che-Ming Chang **Illustrator:** Che-Ming Chang **Publisher:** Hsin Yi Publications
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For the Wild Cherry family, the forest feels both thrilling and unsettling. They are leaving behind everything they know and stepping into a new life deep in the woods. When spring arrives, almost all the mountain cherry trees bloom—except the Taiwan cherry tree beside their new house. It remains bare, and the children are disappointed.

The family meets a "tree doctor," a guardian of the mountain forest who tends the trees with steady care. Beneath the shade of a Formosa sweet gum tree, he teaches them how flowers form and how pollination works. He explains that blossoms arrive in their own time, and the children begin to understand that waiting is not giving up.

Slowly, the Wild Cherry family settles into their mountain home, finding stability in daily routines. The story gently reminds both children and parents that cultivation means continuing to care and believe, even when change is not yet visible.



Author Che-Ming Chang

A picture book and visual arts creator, Che-Ming Chang is known for his delicate and graceful illustration style. Through the rich textures of natural and urban landscapes, he conveys the warmth of life and demonstrates a deep concern for Taiwan's local culture and traditions.

Finding a Home in a New Forest: Rituals of Care, Rhythms of the Seasons

by Chih-Hsuan Tu

Good Morning, Forest: The New Home Beneath the Taiwan Cherry Tree tells the story of the Wild Cherry family, who move into the forest and settle into an old house near a row of Taiwan cherry trees. As they cross a log bridge and walk deeper into the woods, the children's growing fatigue along the way mirrors the inevitable discomfort that comes with change. This "walking" becomes a metaphor for transformation itself—leaving the familiar and stepping into the unknown, where anticipation and unease arrive hand in hand. Through cultivation and patience, they gradually find strength in everyday life.

Beneath the Formosa sweet gum tree in the mountains stands a tree hospital, where a tree doctor tends to the forest's plants. The doctor's concrete actions include patrolling, pruning, maintaining, as well as the steady, day-by-day work of watering and protection. As children observe this care, they begin to understand that healthy growth depends on patience and quiet accumulation over time. Parents, too, are gently reminded that raising a child requires the same kind of labor and long-term commitment—no different from the tree doctor's daily guardianship of the mountain forest.

As spring arrives, cherry blossoms bloom across the forest, sending bright signals from every corner. Yet the Wild Cherry family's tree remains bare and silent, leaving the children—Little Apple and Little Chestnut—deeply disappointed. Children naturally compare themselves to others, and in those moments of "everyone has it except me," difference quickly turns into confusion: Why have other trees bloomed, while ours has not?

Rather than offering empty reassurance in exchange for the children's patience, the tree doctor invites them to look closely at the flowers themselves. Pointing out the calyx, petals, stamens, and pistil, he explains how pollination occurs and how fruit is formed. Through this sharing of knowledge, the children come to understand flowering as a precise and intricate life process. Their confusion over why the Taiwan cherry tree has not yet bloomed gradually turns into hopeful, patient anticipation.

In *The New Home Beneath the Taiwan Cherry Tree*, cultivation and waiting become tangible for children, transformed into everyday practices they can live out. The Wild Cherry family reestablishes their rhythm of life through embracing nature. The tree doctor also invites Little Apple and Little Chestnut to become helpers, joining him in caring for the forest's plants. In passing on methods of caring for plants, he also passes on the blessings that all living things bestow.

The process of waiting for the Taiwan cherry tree to bloom mirrors the Wild Cherry family's adaptation to mountain life. After moving into the old house, smoke from cooking rises slowly each day. The days may seem repetitive, yet within this rhythm, a sense of stability quietly takes root. The essence of cultivation lies in the willingness to continue caring and believing through days that appear unchanged. What you devote yourself to each day will, when the season arrives, return to you as a tree brimming with spring blossoms.

Chih-Hsuan Tu, formerly a market research analyst and online course programmer, now is a freelance writer. She reads to better understand the world, lives most days with enthusiasm, and occasionally retreats from the noise for solitude. A devoted cat person, she hopes to share a home with her better half and two cats, surrounded by bookshelves.