

Sex Education, panel by panel

性教育，一格一格來

By Ashley Yang

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There's nothing unusual about a fifth-grade kid reading a comic book that mentions condoms and pre-marital sex, unless, of course, that comic is published by the government.

五年級的小孩在看有關保險套、婚前性行為的漫畫，別大驚小怪，這本漫畫是官方版的。

Taiwan's first official sex education comic, "Gender Express for Teenagers," was published by the Taoyuan County government in early March, and it's said to have been a big surprise for students.

台灣第一本官方版的性教育漫畫書「青春的性別快報」三月初由桃園縣政府出版，據說對學生們而言，這著實是一個大驚喜！

Secondary schools and colleges previously depicted sex as a fearful monster, **admonishing** you against doing this and going there, and **rehashing the cliché** of the tearful girl deep in shame and **regret** for having lost her "purity" to her boyfriend. This comic, on the other hand, promotes "safe sex," provides girls with information about abortion, and reminds boys to "wear a condom as long as your penis is out of your pants."



中學和大學以往總將性描繪成可怕的猛獸，警告你/妳這不可做、那不可去，陳腔濫調的故事一再重提：女孩「委身」男友、失去「貞潔」後，淚眼汪汪覺得既羞恥且悔恨。這本漫畫不是這樣喔！它大力倡導「安全性行為」，提供女孩們關於墮胎的資訊，還提醒男生們「小弟弟一出了褲子，就要拿保險套套起來！」

"Gender Express for Teenagers" also includes realistic and practical **know-how** for kids dealing with possible situations such as sexual harassment on the bus and date rape. An example: when on a date, bring a mousetrap along to prevent your boyfriend from becoming overly passionate. Cartoon-style exaggeration, but not a bad idea!

「青春的性別快報」當中也包括了實際、實用的方法，教導兒童處理公車上的性騷擾或約會強暴等可能發生的狀況。舉例說吧！約會時隨身攜帶個捕鼠夾，保證妳男朋友不會過分熱情。當然是卡通式的誇張，不過這點子倒不賴！

Josephine Ho, the comic's chief executive creator and a well-known feminist, said that the 128-page book is not meant to **forward** knowledge, but is for solving problems. "We want our children to be brave enough to fight back if they are

invaded," said Ho. "They'll have that ability with courage and with each other's cooperation."

負責策劃這本漫畫、知名的女性主義者何春蕤表示，這本一百二十八頁的書不是教導一種知識，而是用來解決問題的。何春蕤說，「我們希望我們的小孩在受到侵犯時勇敢反擊，勇氣和互相幫助會給他/她們這樣的能力。」

Probably even more significant, this comic is trying to bust myths surrounding masculinity and femininity. The characters are not those so-called "good students" but rather, as Ho says, "they haven't had all the energy sucked out of them by our education system." Therefore, "lady-like" is not the adjective to apply to the school beauty, and a boy who is interested in cosmetics and knitting is, of course, more popular than a brute.

然而更重要的或許是這本書試圖打破長久存在的男性氣概和女性氣質迷思。這些主角們不是所謂的那種「好學生」，而是何春蕤形容的「精力還未被我們教育制度榨乾的孩子們。」所以在這本書中，校花的形容詞不再是「淑女的」，而對化妝品與編織有興趣的男生，當然比粗魯郎更紅。

Ho suggests teachers and students compare what they read in the comic to their own lives, share opinions with each other, and even create their own story.

何春蕤建議老師和學生將他/她們讀到的內容與自己周遭的環境做比較，分享彼此的想法，甚至自己來創作。

to admonish [əd'maniʃ] 告誡

His mother admonished him again and again to carry an umbrella but he didn't listen, so now he has caught a bad cold.

他母親一再警告他要帶傘，但他不聽，所以現在患了重感冒。

to rehash [ri'hæʃ] 換湯不換藥

If he rehashes that boring story about his operation one more time, I'm leaving!

如果他再重複一次他那次手術的無聊故事，我就要走人囉！

Words & Expressions

cliche [kli'ʃe] 陳腔濫調

That movie's plot is such a cliché that everyone can guess how it will end. 這部電影的情節真是陳腔濫調，每個人都猜得到結局是什麼。

know-how ['noʊhəʊ] 技術、竅門

He has the know-how to run every aspect of his business without any help from anyone. 他自有一套經營事業的訣竅，不需別人幫忙。

regret [rɪ'ɡret] 後悔

If you live your life honestly and lovingly, you should have no regrets in your old age.

如果你誠實地過日子，並珍惜你的生活，那麼老了就不會後悔。

to forward ['fɔrwəd] 傳達

Ellen quit the job several days ago, so please forward this letter to her new address.

艾倫幾天前離職了，所以請將這封信寄到她的新住址。