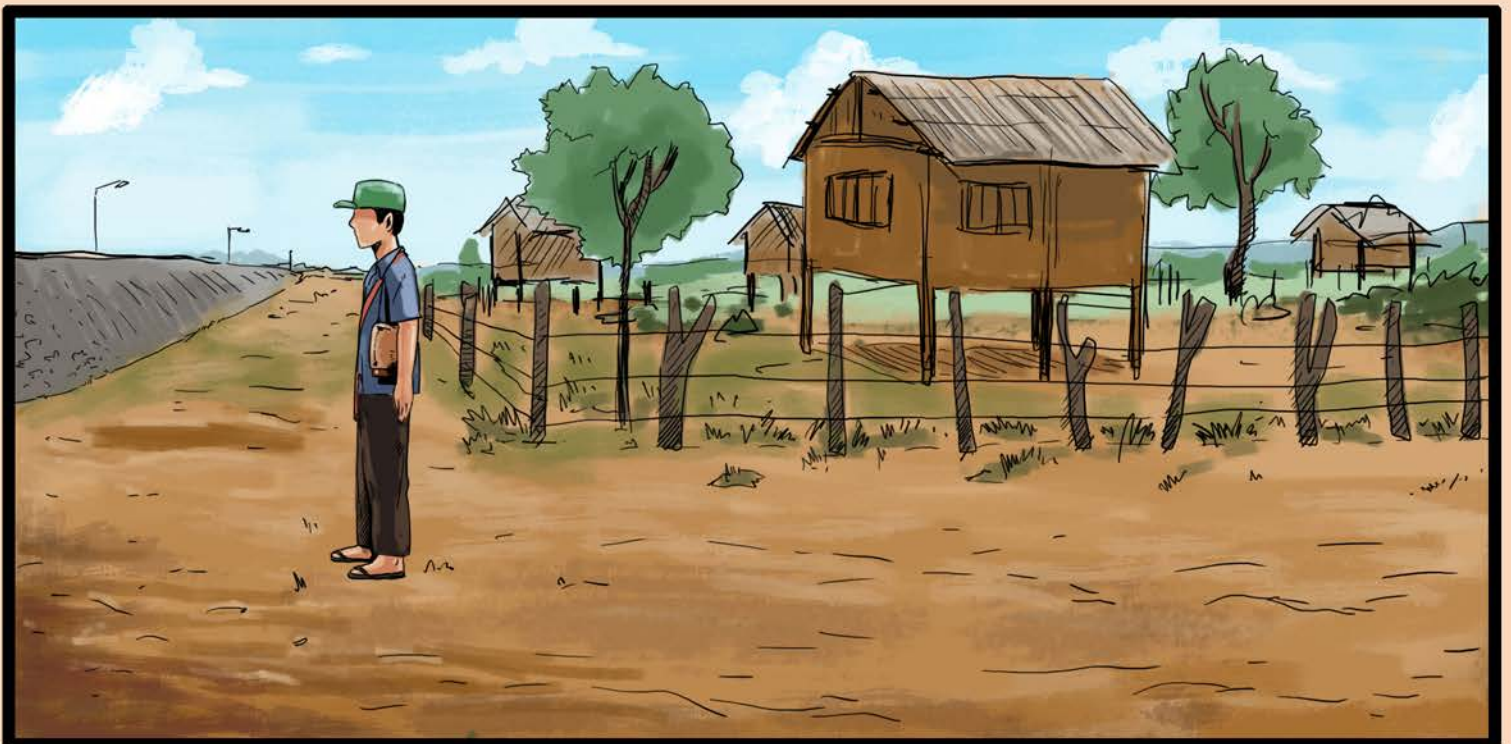
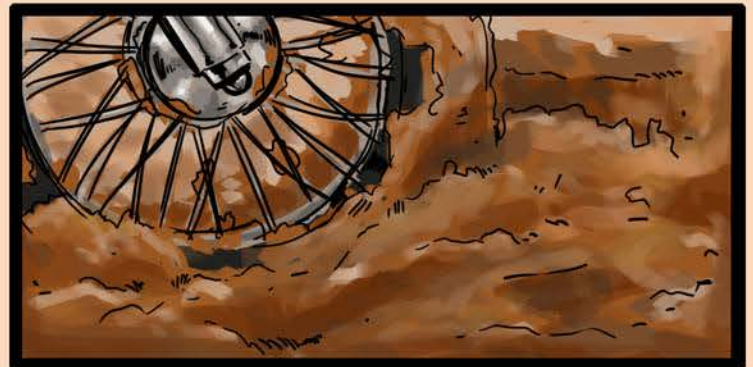
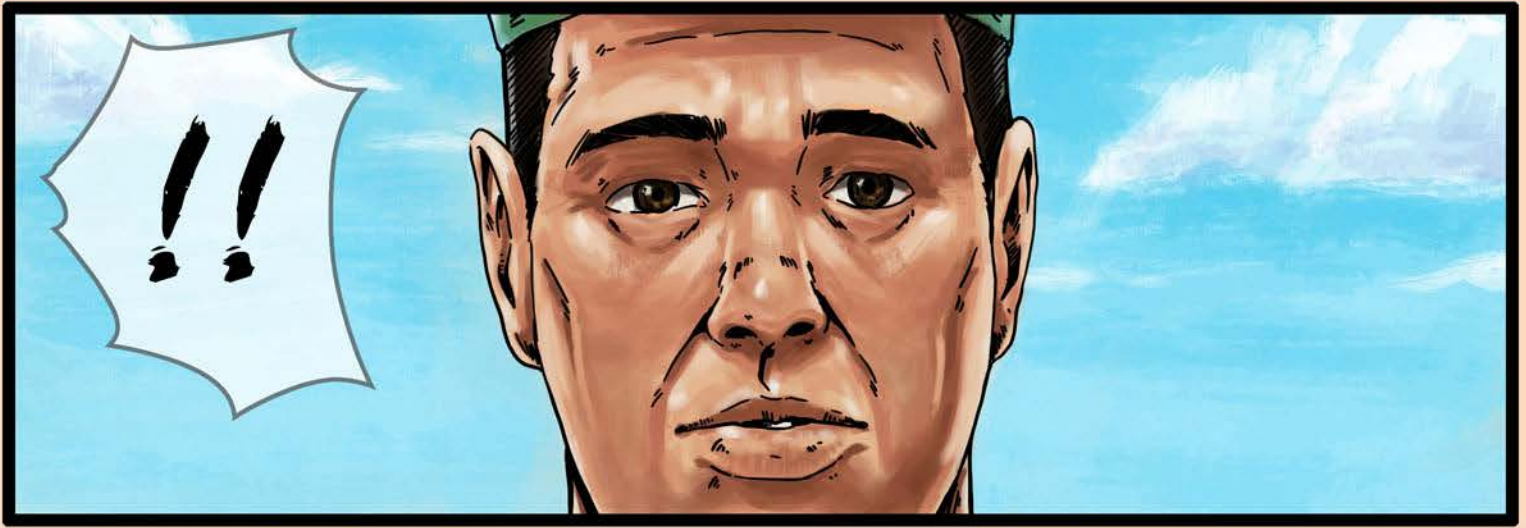


The
Laotian
man
lost in
a city
he no
longer
knows

Art & Story by Anouphong Khounphithack & Palin Joehunt
Research by Local Community Partner









How irresponsible!
Those Chinese
developers didn't
come back
to fix the
problems
they caused!

It's been
like this
for a while
now.

Crk

Crk

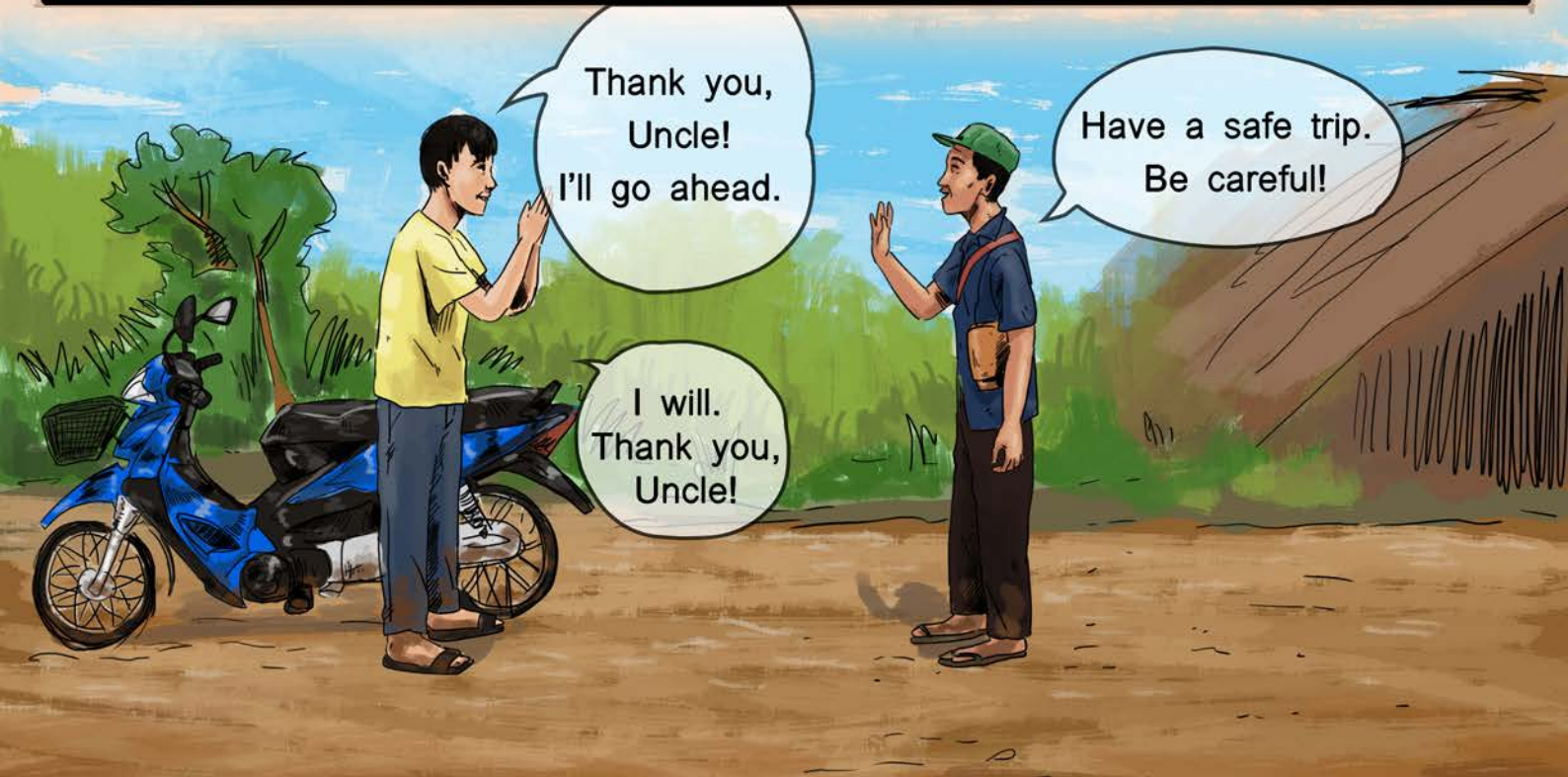


Whop



After they built the railway,
the road got dirty
and was destroyed.
But they never returned
to fix the damage
that has caused difficulties
for people here.

I have seen many roads
in the same condition,
including the one surrounding
my village.
They completed their task
and then they just left.
They didn't come back.
Who should be held
responsible now?



Thank you,
Uncle!
I'll go ahead.

I will.
Thank you,
Uncle!

Have a safe trip.
Be careful!

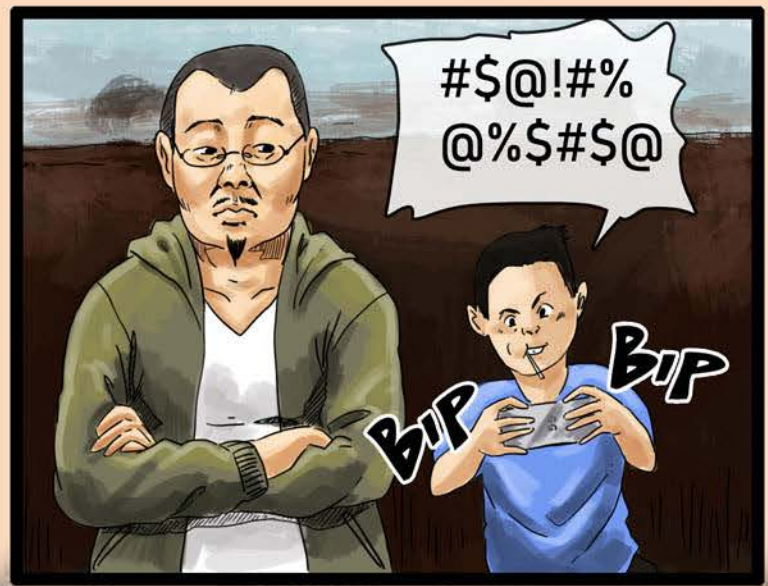


WRAP



WRAP

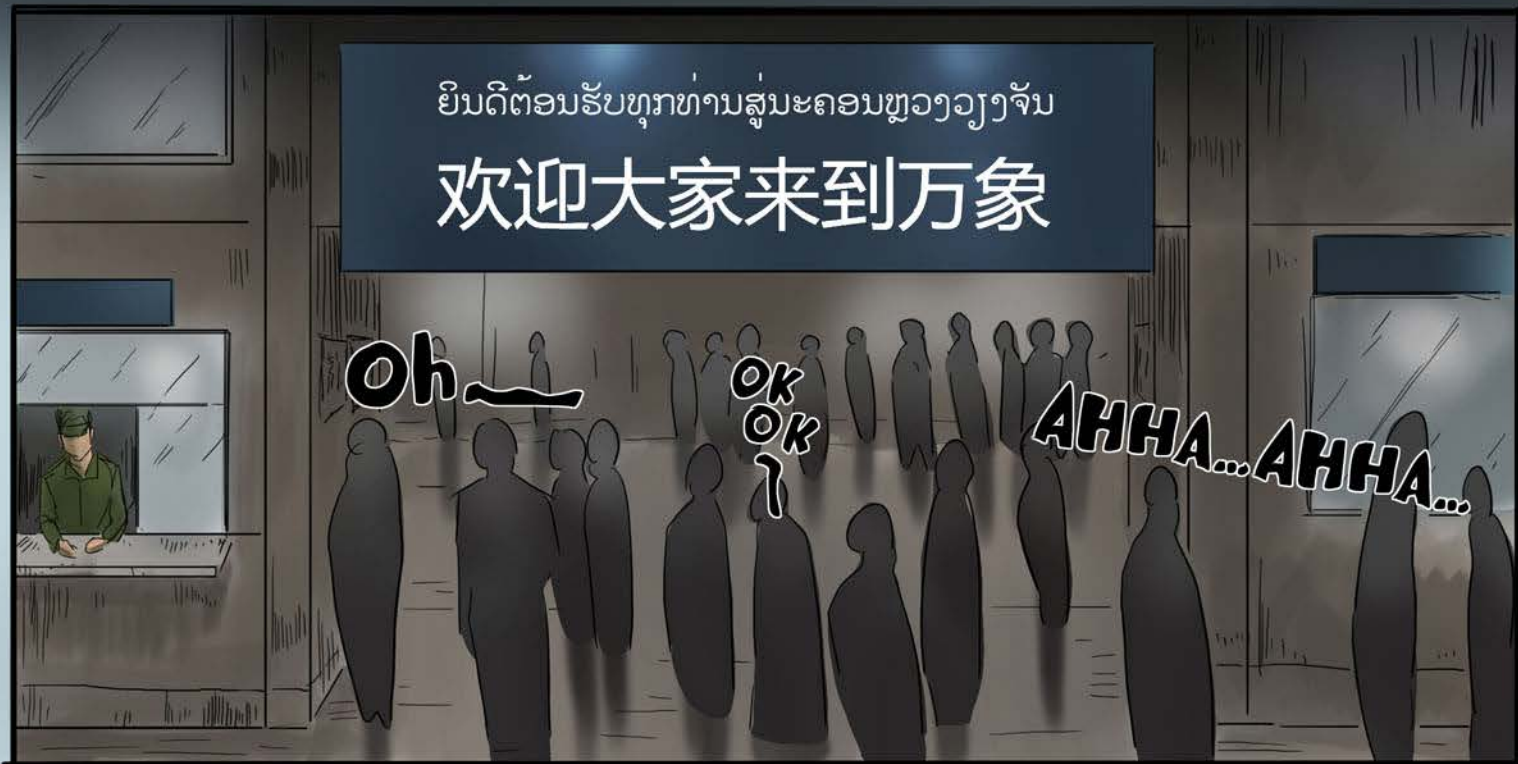
WRAP







ຍິນດີຕ້ອນຮັບທຸກທ່ານສູ່ນະຄອນຫຼວງວຽງຈັນ
欢迎大家来到万象





Oh, Uncle,
you will find
taxis when you go
outside.
You can ask
them to
take you
there.

Oh,
I see!
Thank
you.



Hello,
Uncle!
Where do you
want to
go?




Okay,
get in!
I know
the place.

I'm going
to Nakha
village.



OH

OH



What a surprise! It has changed a lot here. Now, I can only see tall buildings. You won't be able to see the moon anymore.

Uncle, you haven't visited in a long time, right? So many things have changed. Many foreign investors have been coming to do business here. We rarely see local Lao people anymore.

Really? And what are these things flying above us? Why are there so many of them? They're bothersome!

Ahh... those? They are called drones. They belong to the police. They're used for surveillance, so the police know where people are and what they're doing. So weird, right?

What a change! I have not been here in a long time, so now I can hardly recognize the place.

BEEP

BEEP



I am so happy that I met a Lao person today.

Usually, I don't speak Lao with passengers.



...

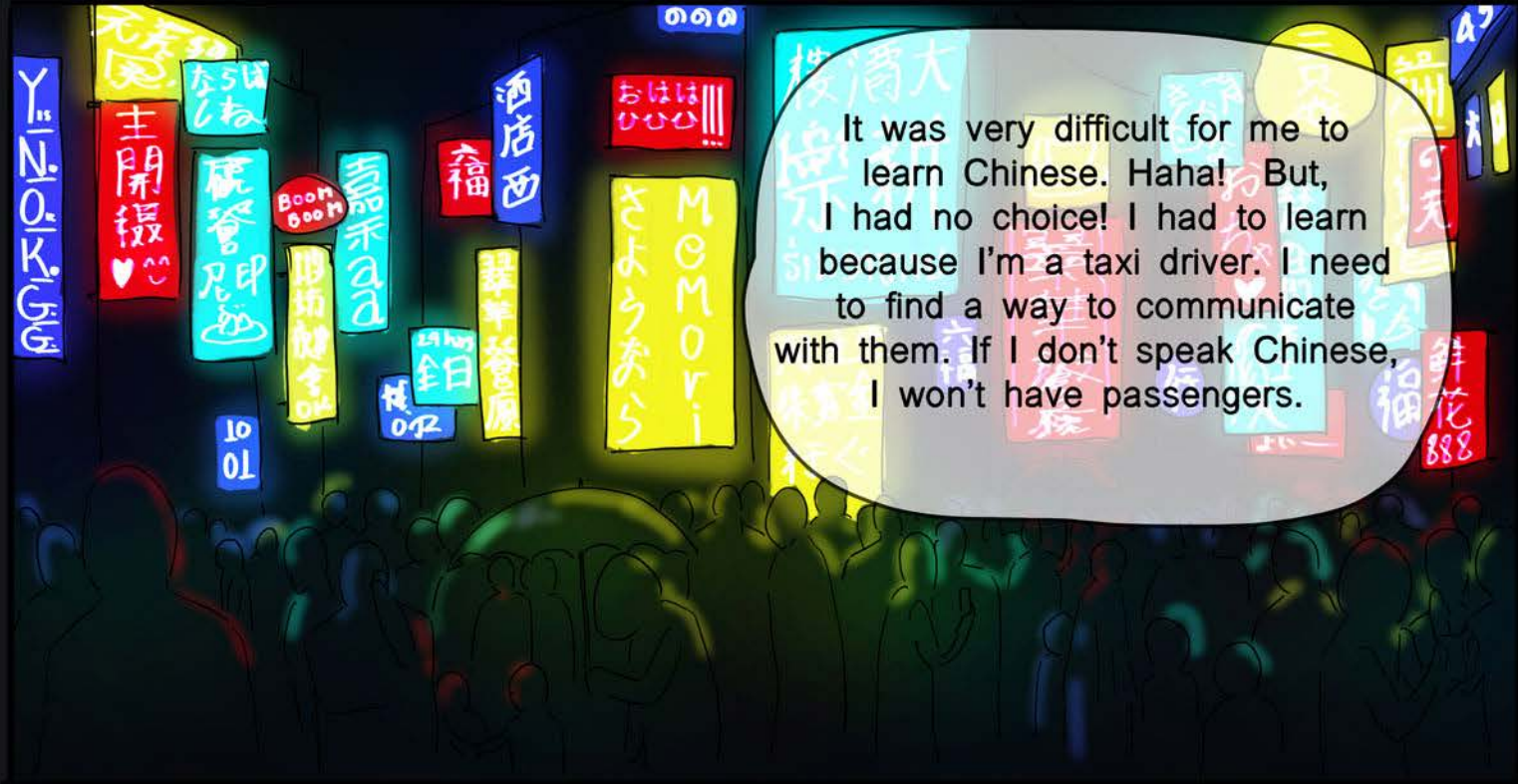


These days, there are Chinese everywhere and they only speak Chinese. I rarely see Lao people now. Guess what? Because I mostly speak Chinese during the day, I sometimes get back home and I also speak Chinese to my wife. Haha!

BEEP

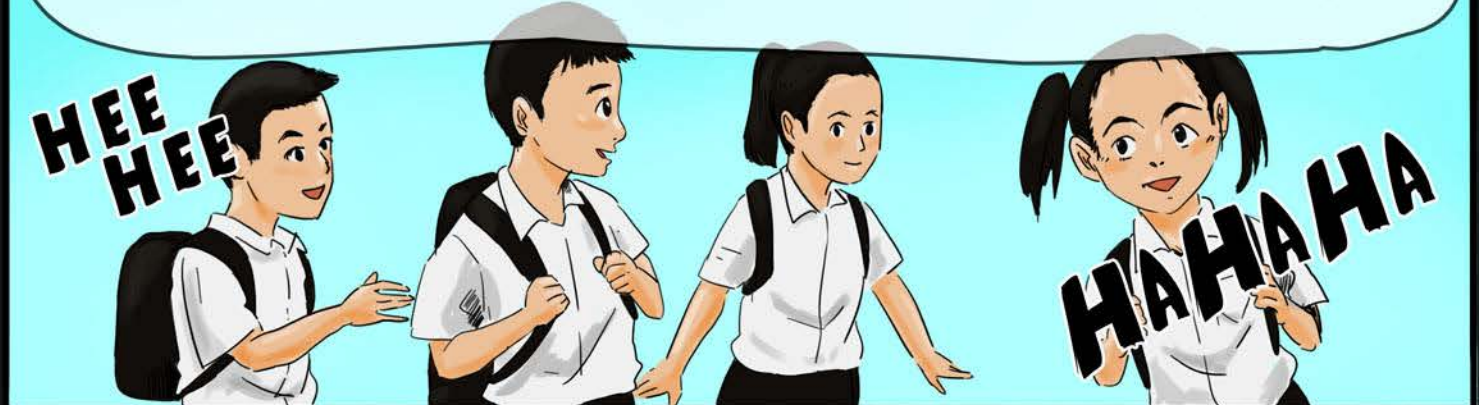
BEEP

BEEP



It was very difficult for me to learn Chinese. Haha! But, I had no choice! I had to learn because I'm a taxi driver. I need to find a way to communicate with them. If I don't speak Chinese, I won't have passengers.

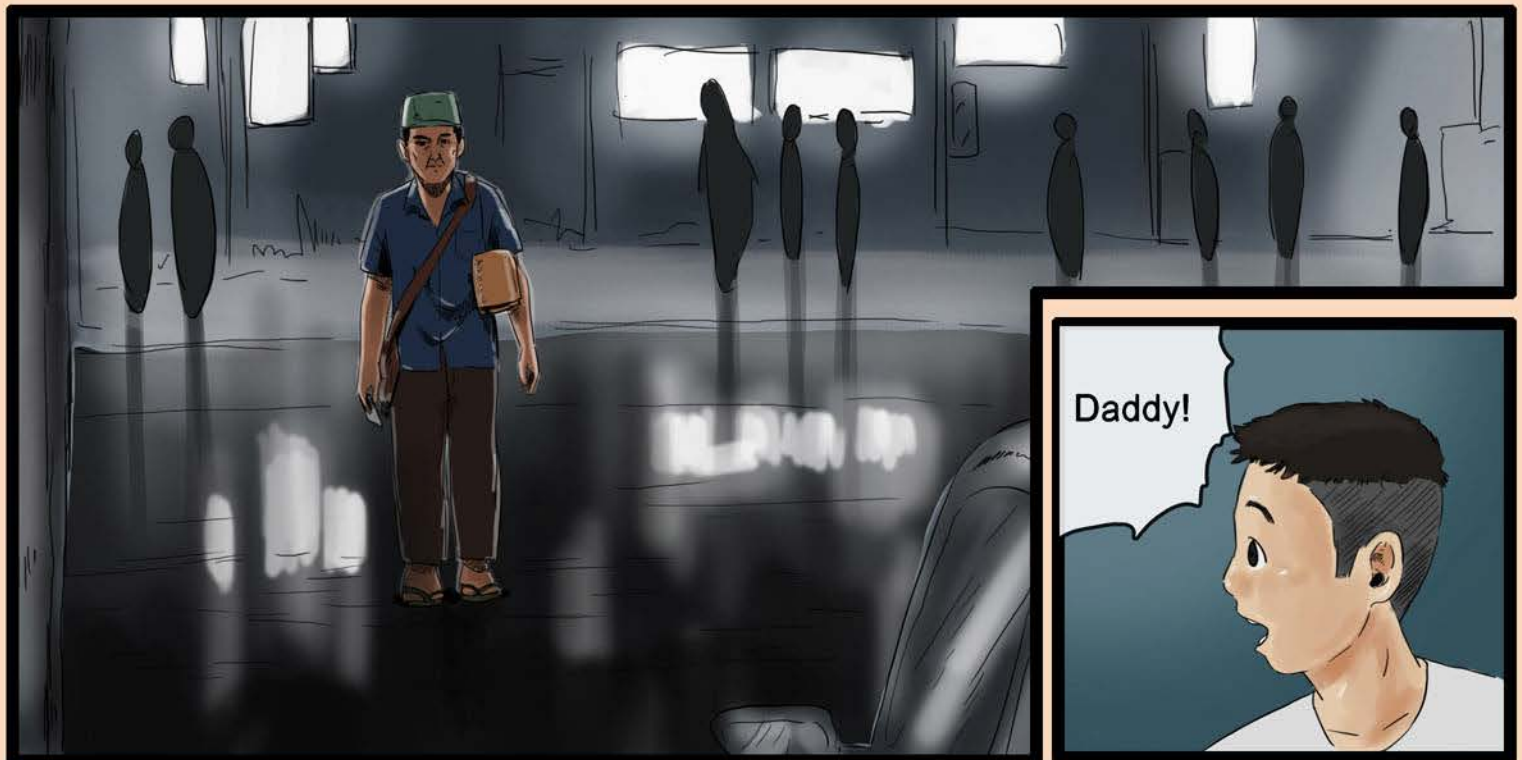
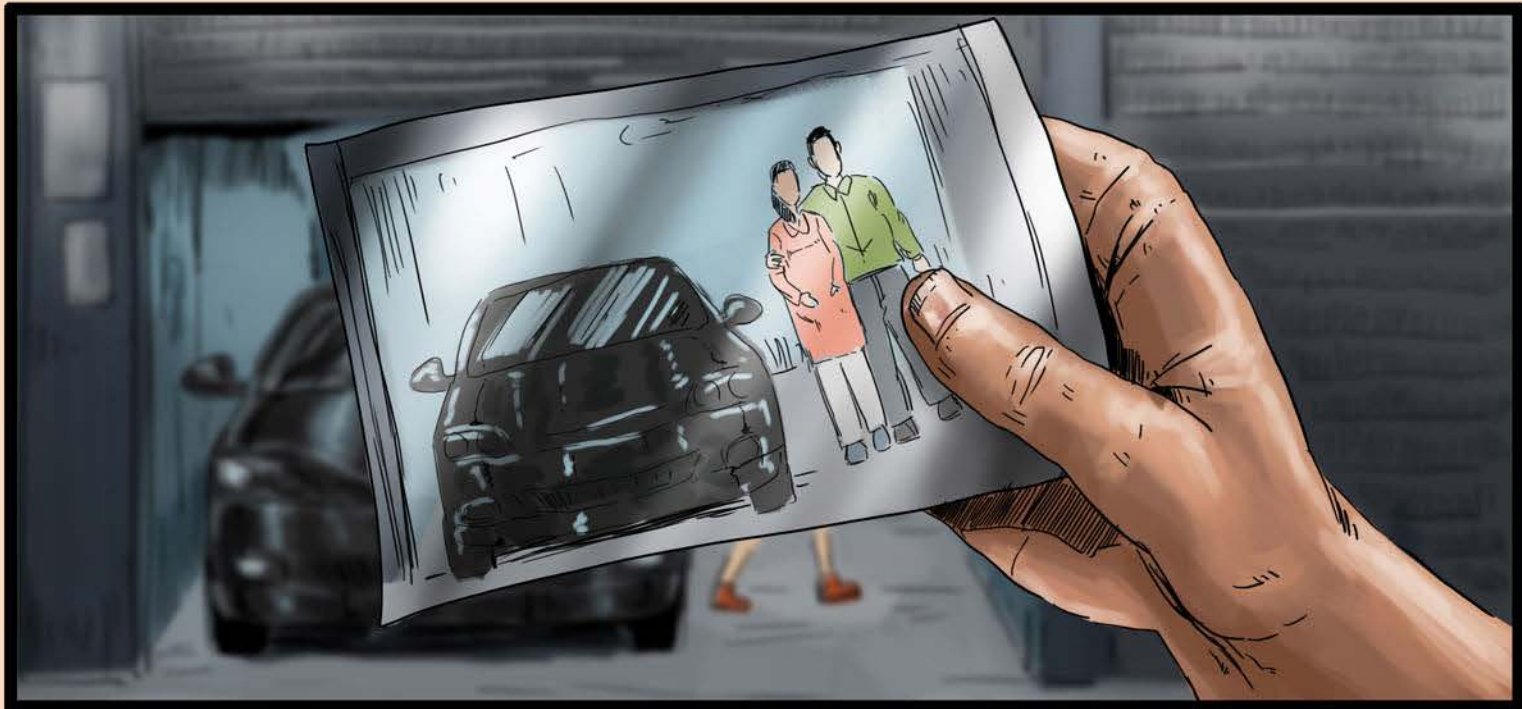
Uncle, do you know that they even have Chinese course in schools now? Lao students speak fluent Chinese! They're much better than me. I almost gave up learning. It was too tiring to learn the language, haha. Now, in some schools, they have an entire course taught in Chinese only.

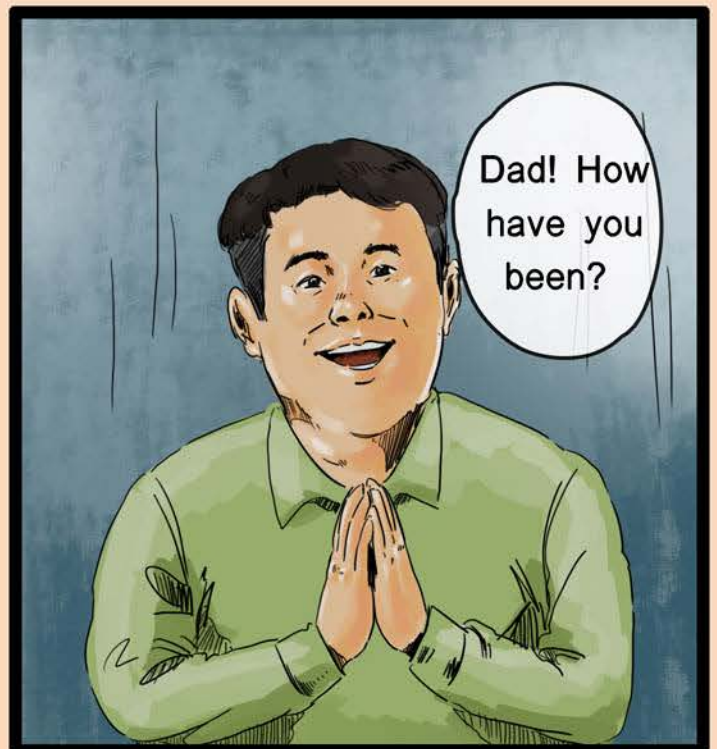


I was so afraid that if I had kids, I might have to communicate with them in Chinese only. Hahaha!













Two weeks later.....

Dad! Come sit with us. You see what I have today? We have Mekong fish again. I saw it in the market and bought it to cook for you.

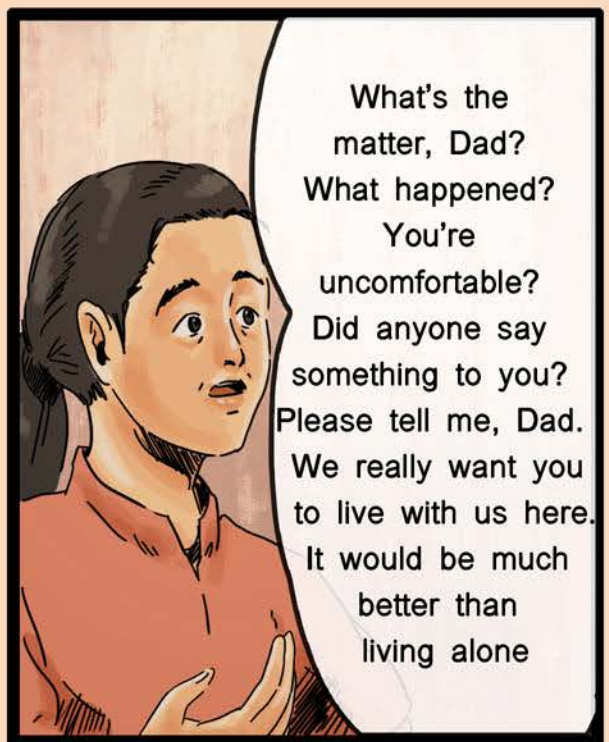


Thank you, my daughter. You always know what I want. By the way, I have something to tell you both

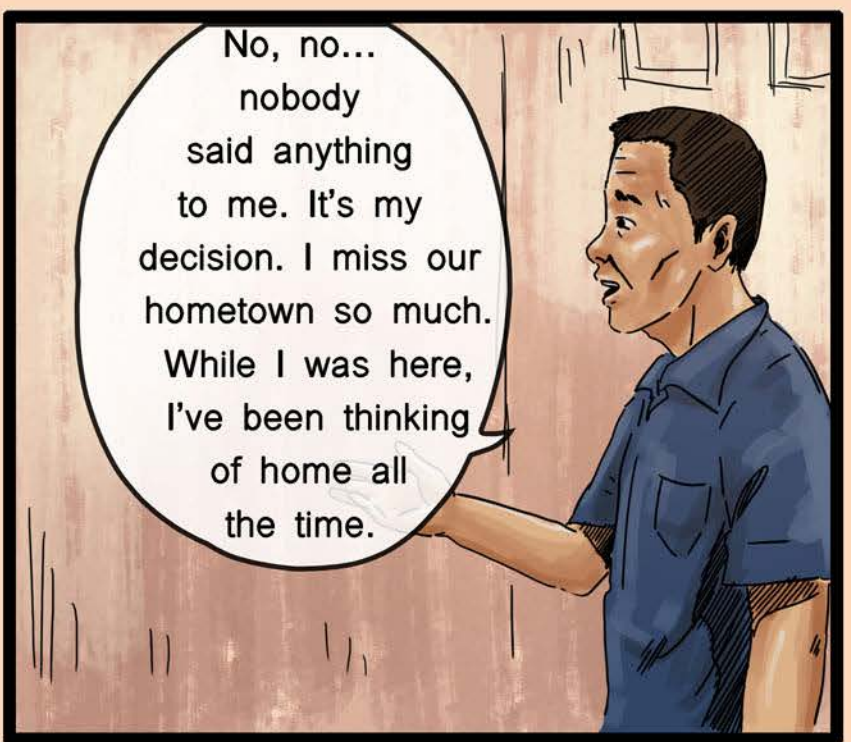
I want to go back home to the village now. I'm not comfortable here anymore.



And I really want to go back tomorrow.



What's the matter, Dad? What happened? You're uncomfortable? Did anyone say something to you? Please tell me, Dad. We really want you to live with us here. It would be much better than living alone



No, no... nobody said anything to me. It's my decision. I miss our hometown so much. While I was here, I've been thinking of home all the time.



Dad, I didn't think you would come here today! I missed you so much.



I also missed you, my daughter.



It has changed a lot here. How did you get here?

Oh, there was a kind person who brought me here.



Oh, that's good. Come and rest, Dad. And then we can have dinner together.

I am steaming Mekong fish. I remember this is your favorite dish, too!

But our hometown is a remote and undeveloped place. If you stay here with us, we can take good care of you. You won't be lonely. Dad, please stay.



Don't worry, my daughter. I'm glad and relieved to see that you are happy with your family here. Seeing you happy already makes me happy.



City life is not what I want. I haven't been away from the countryside for a long time.

This life style may be good for you, but I don't think I'll get used to it.



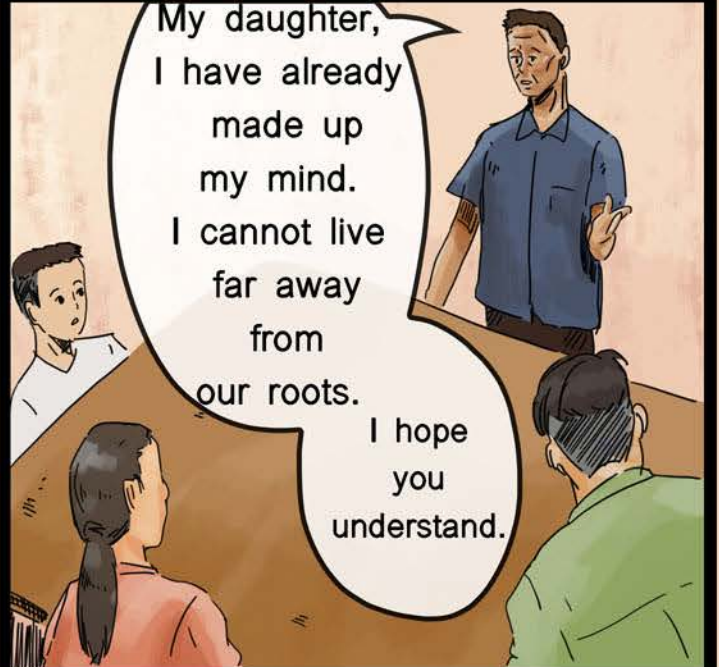
I was born and raised in our hometown, and I feel connected to the way of life there. It may seem inconvenient, but I am happy there.

Won't you try to stay a few more days, Dad? Maybe you'll get used to it here. I think it's better than living in the province.



My daughter, I have already made up my mind. I cannot live far away from our roots.

I hope you understand.







C.C.A.M.

C.C.A.M.

C.C.A.M.

7-1

NOM

C.C.A.M.

ACE

What?!

Ohhhh

!

Look...!!

Oh..!