

永無止息的哀歌

台灣作家陳雨航評論說：「作者企圖雄大，文字靈敏率直。以似乎是永無止息的哀歌，多面呈現並經營成一部女性的情感書寫，進而以這樣的女性視角刻劃近 20 年來的時代氛圍，在此氛圍裏，台北儼然已成慾望都市。」

台北的曖昧地圖---鍾文音的長篇鉅作（豔歌行），台北青春城近二十年的故事碎片

「在黑暗中摸索自我的層層內理」，台灣小說家鍾文音 2006 年出版的三十萬字鉅作《豔歌行》就是從這裡出發，也在這裡結束，小說家拼貼出一群女子，包括她自己，流離於台北城的青春紀事，而來來去去的男人，換來換去的工作，以及燃燒不滅的無窮情慾，正是這一段時光反覆播放的主題曲。

《豔歌行》究竟說了什麼樣的台北故事，其實似乎是「沒有故事」，沒有故事卻有無數讀過以後便難以忘記的情節：台北淡水墮落街的大學生同居風景。後來成為光碟片男配角的純真佛學社團社員。女職員撞見頂頭上司在大會議桌上和某個來台考察的業務總經理交疊在一塊。報社高層與女記者在電梯內口交。在聖瑪莉為作家端咖啡的小妹後來也成了小說家。共同租屋的女人衝至狂歡過後的轟趴廢墟去抬回昏茫茫的朋友，她臉上滿是男人射出的精液將乾未乾。被清倉到二手書店販賣的書中夾著小說家電話的紙片，於是小說家接到陌生男人約見的電話，男人取走紙片卻未帶走書。拉下鐵門的紅酒紅頂商人兼藝術鑑賞家把性器硬生生塞入他的獵物口中。打禪七的羅曼史作家與醫生情人做愛之前，醫生情人總會先檢查她的指甲是否乾淨。陽明山上的藝術家寂寞深深以致需要不同款式的女人提供慰藉……。

（豔歌行）有著著魔一般的無歡之青春吶喊，一整條路上布滿了閃亮而危險的碎片，只消取一個碎片，小說家鍾文音其實便可以另行發展出一段故事，繁殖出一部小說，只是《豔歌行》卻無意於此，它只是展示著有如是生命碎片的裝置藝術櫥窗，我們被逼使去注視，注視自己曾經凍結在哪一塊碎片中。

沉溺黑暗並不那麼可怕，因為除此之外，人生皆是光亮。而慾望，一直是台北這座城市的暗流，屬於青春人難以脫身的質素。

Sumptuous Feasting Song – a novel or fragments of ambiguous stories that happened in Taipei during the last two decades, by Chung Wen-Yin

The 300000-word novel begins with ‘fumbling different layers of the self in the dark’, and ends there. In the book the author paints the portrait of a group of young women –

including herself – and their adventures in the labyrinth of Taipei city. The events are accompanied by men and jobs that come and go, as well as inexhaustible, burning desire – these are the main themes that keep coming up in their life, like music in a film.

What kind of ‘Taipei story’ does the author want to tell? Perhaps, none – this is not a novel with cut-and-dry beginning and end. Rather it is a collage of disjointed yet unforgettable scenes: the life of university students living together in a degenerated street in Tamsui. An innocent student who participated in Buddhism-studying group later was involved in porn-film industry. A woman staff walked into a conference room to find her boss having sex with a visiting business manager. A high ranking newspaper staff had oral sex with a woman reporter in an elevator. Waitress who served coffee for a writer in a café became a novelist. A group of women rushed to a pub after a wild party, in order to pick up their drunken friend whose face was covered by half-dried semen. In a second-hand bookshop, a novel with a card on which the telephone number of the author was written. The novelist received an invitation from a stranger, who took the card but left the book. A top wine-merchant stuck his dick into the mouth of his prey. A doctor, before making love with a romance-writer who practices Zen, always examined her nails to make sure that they are perfectly clean. An artist living in the mountain was engulfed by his loneliness that he needed comforts from different women...

While reading the book, the reader could seemingly hear the frantic cry of these unhappy youth. Their path is full of glittering but dangerous broken pieces; if the writer took one piece out, she could develop another story, another novel. However the author does not intend to do that in *Sumptuous Feasting Song*. She only shows a series of broken pieces – the readers are made to look, and maybe they will find their own past frozen in one of the pieces.

To be indulged in darkness is not so horrifying, as apart from that life is full of light. Desire has always been an underflow of Taipei; it is an inevitable part of city life for young people.

Taiwanese writer Chen Yu-Hang commented about the book: “The writer has great ambition, and she realized her ideas excellently thanks to her sensitive, direct language. She uses long, elegiac verse to portray the multi-faceted female desire, meanwhile telling the story of Taipei in the last two decades seen through women’s eyes. In this way, the work is brought to a wider context.”

Sumptuous Feasting Song
Written by Chung Wen-Yin
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