

her



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2024

created in London

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I behold her

I cling to her

I recall her

I lose her

I despise her

I overlook her

I abandon her

I forget her

I rediscover her

I love her

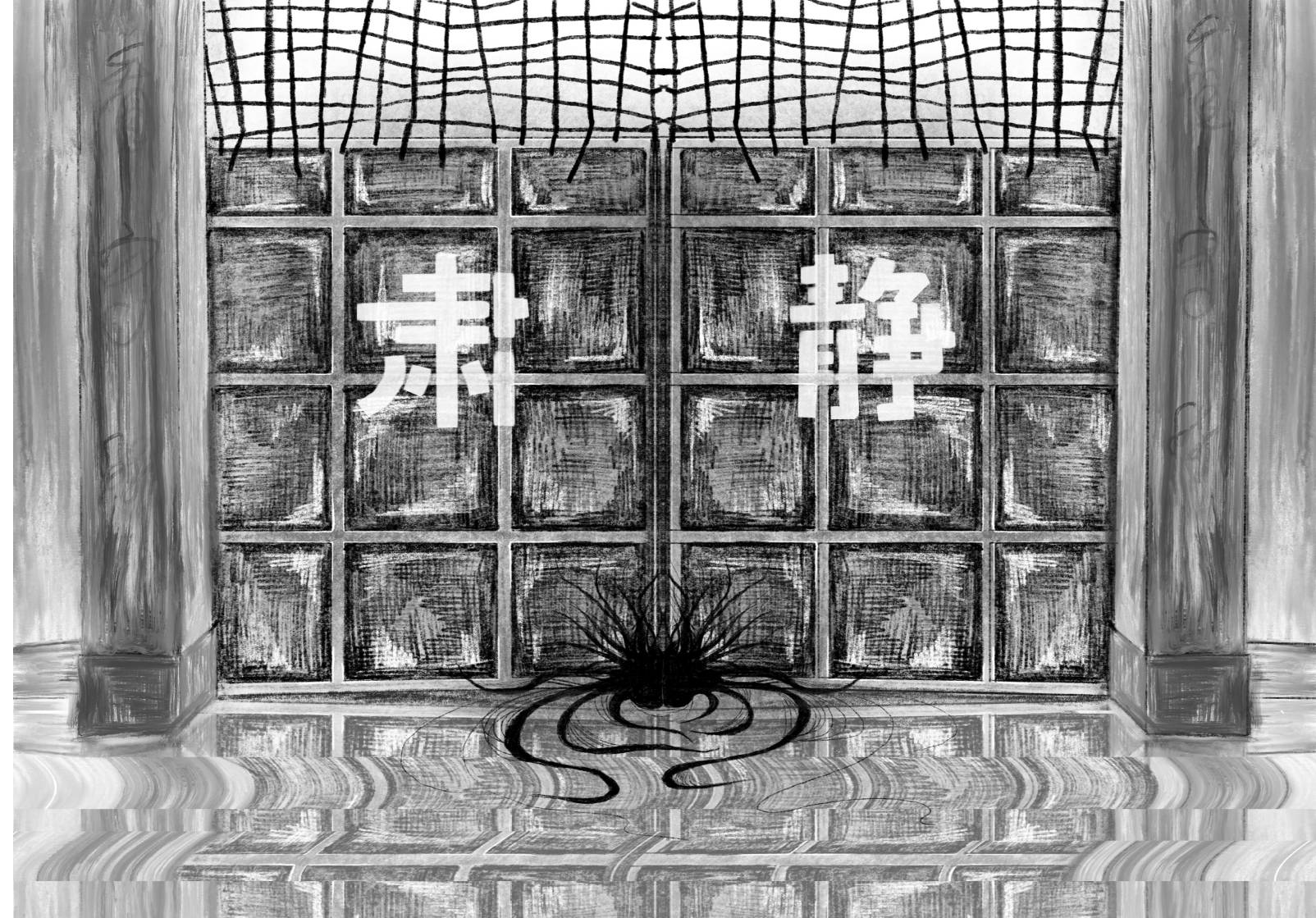
She is a wildfire burning in the heart of the ocean

year 2009 8 years old

her father kidnapped her, locked her in the basement,
and held a knife to her throat, forcing her mother to
come forward.

then, he sent her mother to detention for a month.

she melted through the cracks of the detention center door.



year 2012 11 years old

she sat in the passenger seat beside her mother, waved at the man outside the window, but was ignored.

he was her mother's former lover during their marriage. after her mother divorced and got together with her stepfather, he was left behind, and now he had come to negotiate with her mother.

she melted into the leather seat.



year 2019 18 years old

she sat bored in the crowd and noticed a strange glowing girl, and she was asking everyone around for a cigarette.

she handed her one cigarette.

she melted into her heart.

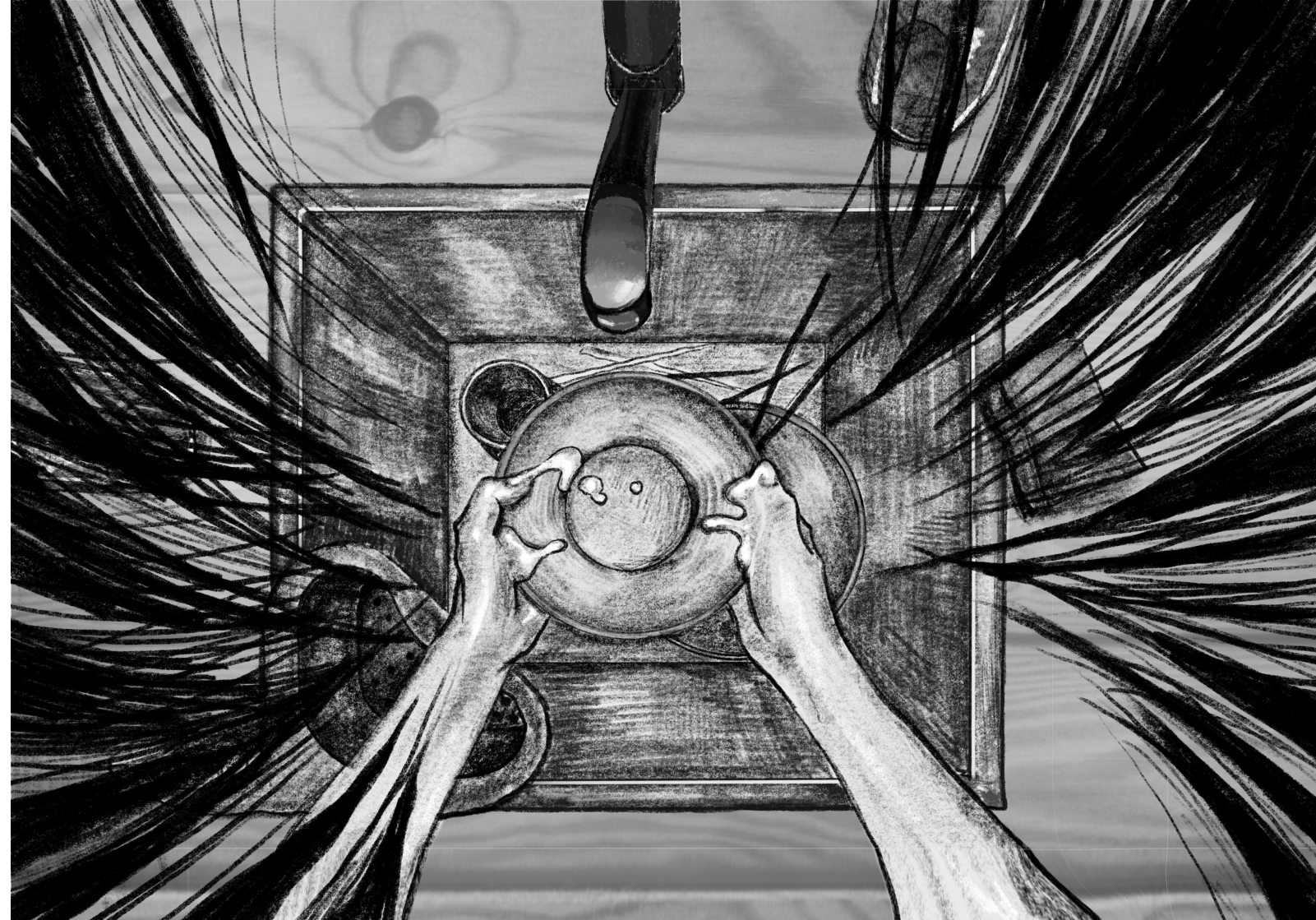


year 2023 22 years old

she thought she had met the best man in the world.

but his love was imbalanced, a self important, patriarchal
kind love that left her trapped in daily household chores.

she melted into the kitchen sink.



year 2024 23 years old

she's in the south of the world, and she's in the west.

her: I hate him.

her: it's fine.

her: we broke up, I can finally curse him out.

her: anyway, I love you, you know that.

her: I know, I love you.

she melted into the phone screen.



year 1963 17 years old

due to *her* family's poor social standing, *she* was unable to continue *her* education after graduating from middle school. *she* went to Hefei to seek help from relatives and find a job, but because of *her* rural household registration, *she* was barred from working in the city. left with no choice, *she* boarded a green train again, returning to *her* village.

trapped by *her* impoverished background, marrying far away became *her* only path to survival. *she* ended up marrying a man who was full of self importance and spend *her* married life serving his entire family day after day.

she melted on that green train.



year 1976 30 years old

she gave birth to her third son, and the whole family gathered
around the baby boy, full of joy.

but deep down, she longed for a daughter.

she melted on the hospital bed.



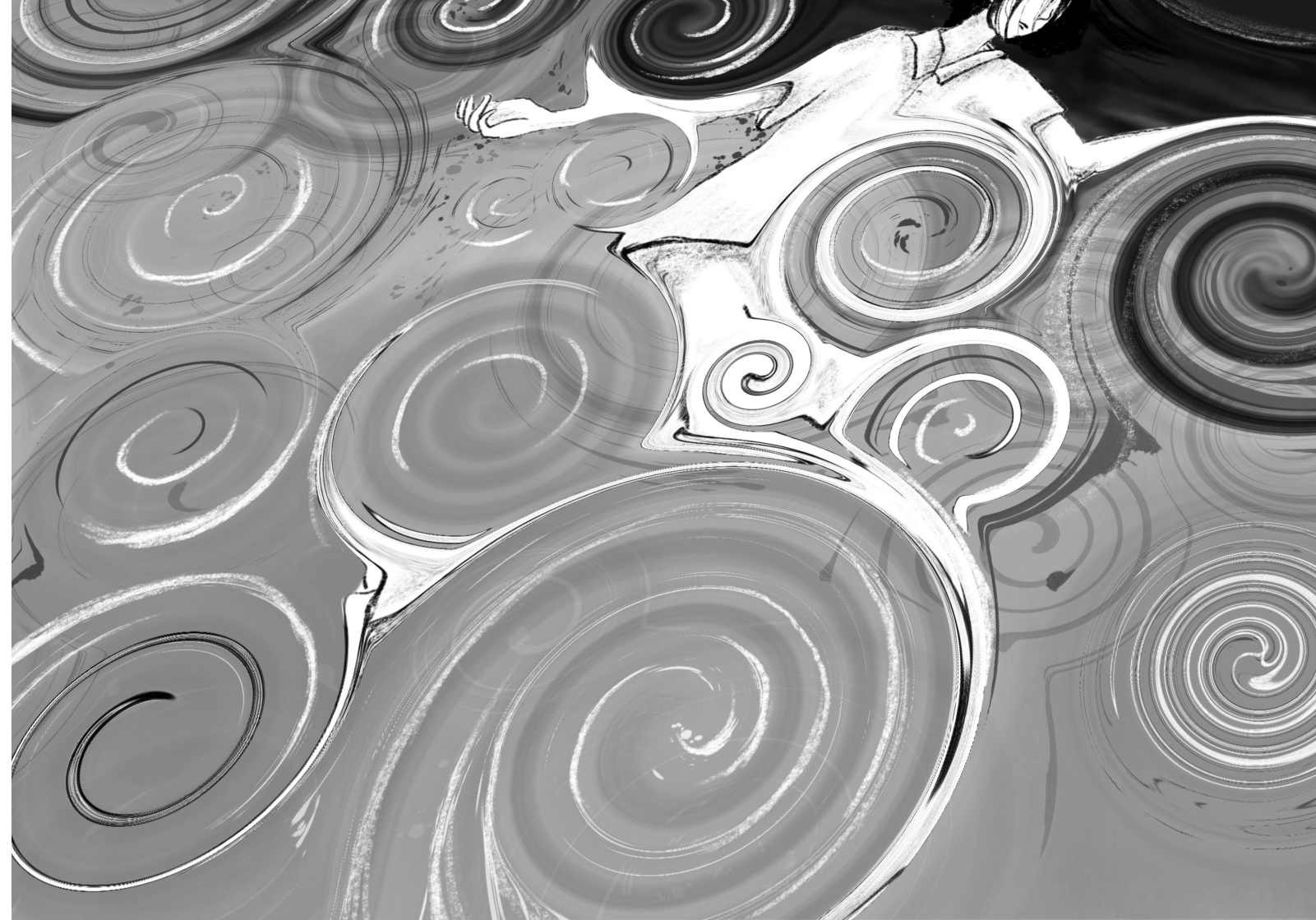
year 1978 32 years old

after the cultural revolution and before the reform and opening-up, policies had not fully changed, and many sent-down youths working in rural areas had yet to return home

her husband couldn't come back. lightning flashed, thunder roared, and heavy rain poured as their home leaked. along with 3 sons, *she* carried everything on *her* shoulders

the fear of that day stayed with *her* for the rest of *her* life, but no one even noticed *her* tears.

she melted into the rain



memory has fractured

year 2018 72 years old

years of hard labour and strained *her* body, *her* uterus pressed
against *her* diaphragm, leading to a hysterectomy

she melted into *her* womb



year 2024 78 years old

she wanted her granddaughter to be happy, so she kept urging her: find a wealthy boyfriend, go back home after graduation, get married with him, find a job close to family, have children, and become a mother.....

her granddaughter asked: what has marriage brought you?
are you happy?

she melted into her granddaughter's question.



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I am a wildfire burning in the heart of the ocean



she is my best friend, Yingmo Liu

she is my grandmother, Huizhi Shen

she is me

she is you