

Unit 3

Projection¹

Week 2_Wen Wen

Deconstruction

Initial Question:

The predictability of film and television made me question whether creative works follow fixed templates.

Prompt for Doubao:

Using data from Chinese internet users as the context, please compile:

- the top-20 most watched films online in 2025,
- the top-20 long-form TV dramas by online views in 2025,
- and the top-20 books on the app WeChat Read overall rankings.

Investigation

Prompt for Doubao:

Please organise the following for each of the 15 works, strictly following this style:

- Reduce fantasy or special settings.
- Keep a realistic tone.
- Describe subtly without spoilers.
- Ensure smooth and coherent writing.
- Match each work's core tone.

For each work, include:

- 1) First Protagonist: all key traits and their main story line.
- 2) Second Protagonist: all key traits and their main story line.
- 3) If neither the first nor second protagonist is female, describe the Most Prominent Female Character, including her key traits and main story line. (If either of the first two characters is female, ignore this third point.)

e.g. One answer Doubao gave me:

[She](#) is a woman from an ordinary background...

Test-1

Prompt for Deepseek:

I will give you a description of a character's traits and story line. Your task is to guess which character it refers to (most are main characters, **but the gender may vary**). I have blurred any special or fantasy settings in the story background.

If you think more than one character fits the description, please list all of them.

You do not need to limit the number of answers — include every character you believe could be the correct match.

If you cannot identify any character from the description, you may say so directly.

However, all your answers must closely match the description I provide.

e.g. Description:

They come from an ordinary background...

Test-2

Prompt for Deepseek:

I will give you a description of a character's traits and story line. Your task is to guess which character it refers to (most are main characters, **and the gender is fixed**). I have blurred any special or fantasy settings in the story background.

If you think more than one character fits the description, please list all of them.

You do not need to limit the number of answers — include every character you believe could be the correct match.

If you cannot identify any character from the description, you may say so directly.

However, all your answers must closely match the description I provide.

e.g. Description:

He is a man from an ordinary background...

Test-Cataloguing

BLUE for Female Protagonist

RED for “No fully matching character can be found” (gender-swapped)

GREEN for “the recognised character is of the other gender”

	First Protagonist	Traits	Storyline	Recognition (gender blurred)	Recognition (gender-swapped)	Second Protagonist	Traits	Storyline	Recognition (gender blurred)	Recognition (gender reversed)	Most Prominent Female Character (if no female protagonist)	Traits	Storyline
Film													
Ne Zha 2	Ne Zha	Born into an ordinary family, rebellious and controversial. Appears unruly and impulsive, but deeply longs for acceptance and recognition.	After surviving a major disaster, he is isolated by others because of past controversies. Struggling with both external rejection and inner turmoil, he gradually learns to face himself and redefine his identity.	Ne Zha from Ne Zha (2019) – highly accurate.	Kabrisa Evrenden (The Hunger Games), Easton (The Incredibles 2), Louise (Thelma & Louise), Geeta or Babita (Dangal).	Ao Bing	From a special family background. Gentle, calm, kind, but burdened by family expectations. Emotionally restrained, highly observant, rational, and mentally resilient.	Tom between family duty and personal morality. Gradually forms mutual understanding with Ne Zha. After family crisis, he gains both justice for his family and inner freedom.			Lady Yin	Strong, brave, warm, and responsible. Balances maternal tenderness with leadership. Acts as emotional and moral support.	She firmly protects her child despite social doubt, guides him emotionally, takes responsibility in family crises, and witnesses his growth.
Dead to Rights	Su Luchang	An ordinary office worker. Cautious, timid, and lacking heroic qualities. Prioritises survival over ideals. Clearly aware of danger and his own limitations. Appears passive, but holds basic moral principles and inner conscience.	Forced into a dangerous environment, he hides his identity because of past controversies. He realises he cannot remain completely detached. He struggles between silence, compromise, and action. Eventually, he chooses to follow his conscience rather than continue avoiding responsibility.	Oskar Schindler (Schindler's List).	Yu Mo (The Flowers of War), Bai Xueren (Blind Mountain), Dorothy Daugherty / Katherine Johnson (Hidden Figures), female flight attendants in disaster films.	Jin Chengzong	An ordinary shop owner. Calm, steady, and principled. Not judgemental, but emotionally strong. Values his work and personal integrity. Appears quiet, but possesses firm inner strength.	He protects his shop as a shelter for others and gradually builds trust with the protagonist. When a crisis involving truth and safety arises, he chooses to stand up, in the final moment, he sacrifices himself to protect people and preserve what he believes in.			Liu Yulu	Gentle but not weak. Intelligent, adaptable, and observant. Emotionally sensitive yet calm under pressure. Kind-hearted and morally grounded. Able to cooperate and adjust for survival.	She hides in the shop under a false identity and cooperates with others to protect herself and companions. She takes care of and motivates others, participates in the plan to protect the truth, and resolves multiple crises with calm judgement. She survives together with her companions.
Ne Zha	Ne Zha	Born into an ordinary family, rebellious and controversial. Appears unruly and impulsive, but deeply longs for acceptance and recognition.	After surviving a major disaster, he is isolated by others because of past controversies. Struggling with both external rejection and inner turmoil, he gradually learns to face himself and redefine his identity.			Ao Bing	From a special family background. Gentle, calm, kind, but burdened by family expectations. Emotionally restrained, highly observant, rational, and mentally resilient.	Tom between family duty and personal morality. Gradually forms mutual understanding with Ne Zha. After family crisis, he gains both justice for his family and inner freedom.			Lady Yin	Strong, brave, warm, and responsible. Balances maternal tenderness with leadership. Acts as emotional and moral support.	She firmly protects her child despite social doubt, guides him emotionally, takes responsibility in family crises, and witnesses his growth.
Zootopia	Judy Hopps	From a small town with big dreams. Optimistic, persistent, and idealistic. Strong sense of justice. Determined to break stereotypes and prove her value. Initially naive, gradually becomes mature and steady. Highly adaptable and resilient.	She leaves her hometown to pursue her dream in the big city. At first, she is marginalized and assigned low-level work. She later gains a chance to join an important investigation. Through cooperation, conflict, and danger, she confronts prejudice and proves her capability.	Judy Hopps (Zootopia), Andy Sachs (The Devil Wears Prada).	Hou Liangping (In the Name of the People)	Nick Wilde	Clever, humorous, and socially skilled. Appears carefree and cynical. Internally guarded due to past trauma. Sensitive, observant, and morally aware. Uses humour as emotional protection.	He was hurt by prejudice in his youth and learned to hide behind sarcasm. Initially joins the investigation half-heartedly. Gradually influenced by Judy's sincerity, he regains trust and motivation. He actively helps solve the case and confronts his past.			/	/	/
Detective Chinatown 1900	Qin Fu	A language professional working abroad. Careful, rational, and flexible. Emotionally restrained but persistent. Skilled in communication and observation. Sensitive to cultural differences and social tension.	He travels abroad to search for a family member and becomes involved in a complex case. He faces discrimination, danger, and conflict, he helps reveal the truth and gains deeper understanding of identity and belonging.	Xu Datong (The Ghosts Treatment), Bill (The Farewell) – partial match.	No highly recognisable female character can be found that fully matches the description. There is no widely known female character with similar traits and cultural recognisability.	A Gui	Grew up in a special national environment. Straightforward, sincere. Brave and sensitive. Strong sense of justice. Highly protective of his people, and supports the protagonist in solving the case and restoring justice.	He meets the protagonist through an unexpected case. When his community becomes misunderstood, he chooses to assist the investigation. He provides local knowledge, protects his people, and supports the protagonist in solving the case and restoring justice.			Almost no female characters	/	/
TV													
The Legend of Zanghai	Zanghai	Born into an official family. After a family tragedy, he hides his identity and later returns under a new status. Careful, resilient, and emotionally restrained. Holds a strong desire for revenge but does not lose his inner kindness. Flexible in complex situations, but firm when defending justice. Skilled in strategy and professional techniques, highly observant, logical, and adaptable.	After surviving the destruction of his family, he lives in hiding for many years before secretly studying skills and strategies. As an adult, he returns to the city to seek revenge, gradually establishing himself through his own abilities. During his revenge, he discovers a larger conspiracy behind his family's tragedy. He slowly realises responsibilities beyond personal hatred, lets go of obsession, exposes the conspiracy with his companions, and completes his transformation.	Xu Datong (The Ghosts Treatment), Bill (The Farewell) – partial match.	No highly recognisable female character can be found that fully matches the description. There is no widely known female character with similar traits and cultural recognisability.	Xiang Anlu	A woman with a special family background. Forced to hide her identity and survive by turning an ordinary business. Gentle and steady in appearance, but internally brave and resilient. Treats others sincerely and without prejudice. Emotionally persistent, morally grounded, and highly socially intelligent.	She remains in a foreign land after her family's downfall and meets the protagonist by chance. She witnesses his revenge journey and gradually helps him overcome crises. Caught between personal identity and family responsibility, she experiences loss, misunderstanding, and emotional conflict. Eventually, she and the protagonist uncover the core conspiracy, protect peace, abandon past constraints, and choose a shared future.	Highly matches Cheng Jinyun (The Digswades).	Xu Wenqiang (Shanghai Bund)	/	/	/
Under the Skin 2	Shen Yi	A professional technical officer in the police force and a part-time lecturer. Calm, rational, and highly observant. Obsessed with truth and human psychology. Emotionally restrained, with unresolved inner guilt. Trusts his own intuition strongly and can be slightly stubborn.	He participates in various investigations using his professional skills. Haunted by guilt from a past case, he gradually shifts his focus from exploring deeper human motivations. He encounters people with similar ideals who choose different paths. While holding onto his principles, he resolves his inner conflict and achieves intellectual and emotional growth.	Fang Mu (The Psychologist)	Xu Xu (When a Snail Falls in Love), He Dun from (The Psychologist).	Du Cheng	A frontline police officer and the protagonist's partner. Straightforward, decisive, and experienced. Appears carefree but is emotionally sensitive. Strong sense of responsibility, teamwork, and justice. Highly action-oriented and capable of handling emergencies.	He initially clashes with the protagonist due to different working styles. Through cooperation, he gradually builds trust and mutual respect. He supports the protagonist during emotional struggles and stands firm in confronting criminals. Together they solve major cases and become each other's most reliable partners.			He Fengyue	A professional forensic and technical officer. Calm, objective, and rigorous. Gentle, patient, and good at listening. Highly skilled in technical analysis and capable of translating complex information into clear support for investigations.	She provides key technical evidence in every case and repeatedly helps the team overcome investigative dead ends. She witnesses the protagonist's growth and emotional healing. Always professional and calm, she restores truth through technology and remains an essential invisible force behind justice.
Strange Tales of Tang Dynasty: Chang'an	Su Wuning	An experienced official from grassroots administration. Calm, wise, and resilient. Gentle in appearance but firm in principles. Obsessed with truth, unbiased authority. Logical, persistent, and morally grounded.	Transferred to Chang'an to handle complex cases involving multiple interest groups. He works with a very different and uncover hidden conspiracies. Despite pressure, he never abandons justice. He ultimately reveals the truth and protects social stability.	Hou Liangping (In the Name of the People)	A "female Hou Liangping" type character. Luo Xirun (Prosecutor).	Lu Lingfeng	From a special family background. Capable, proud, and brave. Initially impulsive and rigid, later becomes thoughtful and mature. Strong in action, gradually develops observation and analytical abilities.	He initially despises the protagonist's methods. Through cooperation, he recognises the protagonist's wisdom and learns to adapt to grassroots life. Strong in action, gradually develops observation and analytical abilities. He remains loyal, patient, and loving throughout their shared hardships.			Pai Xun	Born into an official family, "taunted" in parenting. Gentle, kind, and emotionally sensitive. Curious about truth, brave in danger, and morally independent. Highly observant and empathetic.	She becomes involved in investigations due to family connections. Using her artistic skills, she helps reconstruct key cases. After losing family members, she becomes even more determined to pursue truth. Though emotionally attached to one protagonist, she maintains rational boundaries and helps expose the conspiracy.
This Thinging Land	Hong Xueju	Elder daughter from a wealthy family. Initially fragile but resilient. Emotional, rational, and adaptable. Learns quickly, becomes decisive and responsible. Though sometimes fearful, she remains calm in critical moments.	On her wedding day, she suffers a tragic accident, is abandoned by her family, and rescued by a poor labourer whom she later marries. She struggles to adapt to grassroots life, but gradually understands its values. She later leads other women to break restrictions, grows through hardship, and reconciles with her family.	An Jo (Panser's Love)	No fully matching male character can be found. The core narrative – a man abandoned by family on the wedding day and rescued and married by a poor woman – is extremely rare in mainstream dramas.	Feng Dajiao	A grassroots labourer. Honest, silent, and devoted. Strong in action, gentle in heart. Loyal, responsible, and morally upright.	He rescues the protagonist during her crisis and marries her despite social pressure. He teaches her to adapt to grassroots life, supports her growth, and stands by her during conflicts. He remains loyal, patient, and loving throughout their shared hardships.			/	/	/
Love's Ambition	Xu Yan	A media worker from a small town. Ambitious, sensitive, and insecure. Craves recognition due to childhood neglect. Socially skilled, professionally capable, but emotionally fragile. Learns to accept her true self.	She changes her identity and marries into an elite family through deception. She struggles between career and marriage in a false relationship. When her lies are exposed, she leaves the marriage, reflects on her past, and begins a new independent life.	The narrative clearly suggests a female character. Matches include Li Youmo (Anna), Aya (Baby Girl), and similar female protagonists in Chinese dramas.	No fully matching male protagonist can be found. A man using marriage deception to cross class boundaries is extremely rare in mainstream drama.	Shen Haoming	An elite businessman from an upper-class family. Sharp, rational, and controlling. Emotionally restrained at first, later becomes sincere and gentle. Highly intelligent and observant.	He treats marriage as a business deal. Though aware of the protagonist's deception, he remains silent. After losing her, he reflects on his mistakes, lets go of control, and grows emotionally. He eventually regains trust through humility and sincerity.			/	/	/
Book													
The Three-Body Problem	Wang Miao	A technical professional. Careful, detail-oriented, and intellectually curious. Keeps a calm and gentle manner, but holds firm principles. At first becomes anxious when facing the unknown, yet quickly regains stability through rational thinking. Caring toward people around him, with a basic sense of responsibility.	Living a normal life, he is suddenly drawn into a series of strange events that rapidly challenge his understanding. He moves from doubt and fear to pressure and not easily fooled by appearances. Holds a clear moral and professional bottom line.	Wang Miao (The Three-Body Problem)	Ye Wenjie (The Three-Body Problem)	Shi Qiang	A frontline law-enforcement officer. Direct, bold, and informal in manner, but sharp and observant. Strong judgment and action ability. Calm under pressure and not easily fooled by appearances. Holds a clear moral and professional bottom line.	Assigned to investigate the strange events, he becomes Wang Miao's partner. He uses his experience to help Wang Miao adapt to the situation and repeatedly defuses crises. Facing challenges beyond normal logic, he stays optimistic and resilient, becoming a key force in solving the overall crisis.			Ye Wenjie	A researcher with a quiet and controlled personality. Emotionally complex, carrying long-term trauma and obsession. Appears rational and gentle, but changes her fate and makes a choice with far-reaching impact. For many years she silently stands by that choice, and her past becomes the origin of the entire chain of events.	
The Lychee of Chang'an	Li Shande	A low-level civil servant. Honest, cautious, and responsible. Not good at shortcuts. Initially anxious and helpless under pressure, yet internally tough. Able to stay calm, think carefully, and gradually show intelligence, courage, and leadership.	He receives an urgent task that seems impossible to complete. Leaving his comfort zone, he negotiates with many groups and faces doubt and obstruction. Through careful judgement and constant adjustment, he solves repeated crises, proves his ability, and completes the mission successfully.	Li Shande (The Lychee of Chang'an)	Although some female characters may appear in Chang'an's Water, the narrative primarily centres on the growth of a male civil servant. Female roles are largely confined to family or emotional contexts, and no female protagonist leads a storyline focused on completing a major institutional task. Therefore, no precise female equivalent can be identified.	Han Cheng	An outgoing and flexible workplace professional. Socially skilled, loyal, and principled. Appears casual but holds a strong moral line. Good at resolving complex relationships.	He supports Li Shande throughout the mission by offering resources, experience, and protection. Even when his own interests are affected, he continues to stand by Li Shande. Through cooperation, they build deep friendship.			A Tong	Kind, simple, resilient, and brave. Passionate about her work. Appears soft but internally firm. Calm in critical moments and sincere in character.	She helps Li Shande during his journey, using her professional skills to solve key problems. Despite her own pressures, she continues to support him and gains self-worth through her actions.
These Things in the Ming Dynasty	Zhu Yuanzhang	Born at the lowest social level. Tough, patient, and extremely resourceful. Refuses to submit to hardship. Possesses strong leadership and reaction ability. Values loyalty and emotion in early years, but gradually becomes cautious and suspicious as power grows. Holds a firm sense of purpose and rarely abandons his goals.	He grows up in extreme poverty and decides to change his destiny in a drastic way, he starts from nothing and slowly gathers resources. He survives betrayal, and endures repeated failures. Through intelligence, patience, and ruthless decisions, he rises above competitors. He eventually reaches the peak of power, replaces his own fate, and deeply influences the lives of others around him.	Song Jiang (Water Margin), Vito Corleone / Michael Corleone (The Godfather)	Scarlett O'Hara (Gone with the Wind), Liu Curilo (The Neapolitan Novels)	Zhu Di	Born into a powerful family, brave, ambitious, and highly strategic. Emotionally restrained and deeply calculating. Skilled in patience and long-term planning. Decisive and ruthless when taking action. Strong in both military and political ability. Willing to sacrifice personal relationships for greater goals.	He grows up in a complicated power structure and quietly prepares for his future. Facing injustice, he chooses endurance rather than confrontation. In core decisions, Loyel and emotionally stable. He rarely abandons his family. Before her death, she encourages Fugui to continue living. Her life becomes a symbol of quiet endurance and unconditional love.			Empress Ma	Gentle, kind, and empathetic. Intelligent and principled. Holds her own judgement while remaining modest. Provides emotional stability. Heavily influences Fugui's life through her wisdom, she earns public respect and becomes the person he trusts most throughout his life.	
To Live	Fugui	An ordinary man. Spoiled and reckless in youth. Indulges in pleasures and ignores responsibility. After repeated tragedies, becomes calm and resilient. Kind-hearted and emotionally honest. Learns to endure loss and accept suffering. Maintains a quiet hope for the future.	He wastes his family fortune and drags his family into poverty. Afterwards, he experiences continuous personal losses and life disasters. Each tragedy strips away his former pride. Through suffering, he learns humility and endurance. He no longer seeks success or meaning, but simply chooses to live. In old age, he lives quietly with an ox, continuing life with silent persistence.	Song Jiang (Water Margin), Vito Corleone / Michael Corleone (The Godfather)	Scarlett O'Hara (Gone with the Wind), Liu Curilo (The Neapolitan Novels)	Jiashen	Gentle, patient, and resilient. Loyal to family. Emotionally strong and morally steady. Willing to forgive. Able to endure long-term hardship. Carries domestic responsibility without complaint.	She marries Fugui and initially lives comfortably. After his family falls, she accepts poverty and continues to support the family. She forgives his mistakes and carries domestic responsibility alone. Even when ill and exhausted, she never abandons her family. Before her death, she encourages Fugui to continue living. Her life becomes a symbol of quiet endurance and unconditional love.	Jiashen (To Live)	Male protagonists whose core traits are persistence, emotional endurance, domestic responsibility, and quiet self-sacrifice are extremely rare in classic literature. Such qualities are usually assigned to female characters rather than positioned as the narrative centre of male roles.	/	/	/
Ordinary World	Sun Shaoqing	A rural young man. Tough and unwilling to accept an ordinary fate. Hungry for knowledge and self-improvement. Emotionally sensitive yet highly self-respecting. Hardworking and resilient. Empathetic and morally aware. Holds long-term hope for the future.	Born into poverty, he dreams of a wider world. He leaves home and takes various low-level jobs while continuing to study. He experiences failure, debt, and exhaustion, and loneliness. Through work, reading, love, and friendship, he slowly grows. Even after repeated setbacks, he does not give up. He finally finds his own life direction within an ordinary existence.	Sun Shaoqing (Ordinary World)	If extensive physical labour across different social positions is seen as a key criterion, few female characters in classic literature follow a trajectory comparable to Sun Shaoqing's, while maintaining strong intellectual ambition.	Sun Shao'an	Practical, responsible, and steady. Carries family burden across different social positions. Adaptable. Loyal to family and community. Persistent and resilient. Through work, reading, love, and pressure. He continues adjusting and learning. Through sincerity and perseverance, he gains support from others. He finally succeeds in improving both family life and local conditions.	He leaves school early to support his family. Facing poverty, he repeatedly changes his situation through hard work and pressure. He continues adjusting and learning. Through sincerity and perseverance, he gains support from others. He finally succeeds in improving both family life and local conditions.			Tian Xiaonia	Educated, idealistic, and independent. Warm and emotionally open. Strong sense of justice. Brave in pursuing truth. Encourages his growth and empowers. Acts as an intellectual companion.	She receives good education and holds firm ideals. After meeting Sun Shaoqing, she becomes his spiritual partner and supporter. She encourages his growth and empowers his own career with passion. She spreads positive influence through her work. Her sudden death becomes a sharp emotional shock, but also a lasting spiritual force that pushes Sun Shaoqing forward.

Typial Character

	First Protagonist	Traits	Storyline	Recognition (gender blurred)	Recognition (gender-swapped)	Second Protagonist	Traits	Storyline	Recognition (gender blurred)	Recognition (gender reversed)	Most Prominent Female Character (if no female protagonist)	Traits	Storyline
Film													
Ne Zha 2	Ne Zha	Born into an ordinary family, rebellious and controversial. Appears unruly and impulsive, but deeply longs for acceptance and recognition.	After surviving a major disaster, Ne Zha is isolated by others because of past controversies. Struggling with both external rejection and inner temper, he gradually learns to face himself and redefine his identity.	Ne Zha from <i>Ne Zha (2019)</i> — highly accurate.	Katniss Everdeen (<i>The Hunger Games</i>), Elastigirl (<i>The Incredibles 2</i>), Louise (<i>Thelma & Louise</i>), Geeta or Babita (<i>Dangal</i>).	Ao Bing	From a special family background. Gentle, calm, kind, but burdened by family expectations. Emotionally restrained, highly observant, rational, and mentally resilient.	Torn between family duty and personal morality. Gradually forms mutual understanding with Ne Zha. After family crisis, he chooses to stand with Ne Zha, gaining both justice for his family and inner freedom.			Lady Yin	Strong, brave, warm, and responsible. Balances maternal tenderness with leadership. Acts as emotional and moral support.	She firmly protects her child despite social doubt, guides him emotionally, takes responsibility in family crises, and witnesses his growth.
Dead to Rights	Su Liuchang	An ordinary office worker. Cautious, timid, and lacking heroic qualities. Prioritises survival over ideals. Clearly aware of danger and his own limitations. Appears passive, but holds basic moral principles and inner conscience.	Forced into a dangerous environment, he hides his identity to stay alive. As events unfold, he realises he cannot remain completely detached. He struggles between silence, compromise, and action. Eventually, he chooses to follow his conscience rather than continue avoiding responsibility.	Oskar Schindler (<i>Schindler's List</i>).	Yu Mo (<i>The Flowers of War</i>), Bai Xuemei (<i>Blind Mountain</i>), Dorothy Vaughan / Katherine Johnson (<i>Hidden Figures</i>), female flight attendants in disaster films.	Jin Chengzong	An ordinary shop owner. Calm, steady, and principled. Not outspoken, but emotionally strong. Values his work and personal integrity. Appears quiet, but possesses firm inner strength.	He protects his shop as a shelter for others and gradually builds trust with the protagonist. When a crisis involving truth and safety emerges, he leads others to respond. In the final moment, he sacrifices himself to protect people and preserve what he believes in			Lin Yuxiu	Gentle but not weak. Intelligent, adaptable, and observant. Emotionally sensitive yet calm under pressure. Kind-hearted and morally grounded. Able to cooperate and adjust for survival.	She hides in the shop under a false identity and cooperates with others to protect herself and companions. She takes care of other refugees, participates in the plan to protect the truth, and resolves multiple crises with calm judgement. She survives together with her companions.
Ne Zha	Ne Zha	Born into an ordinary family, rebellious and controversial. Appears unruly and impulsive, but deeply longs for acceptance and recognition.	After surviving a major disaster, Ne Zha is isolated by others because of past controversies. Struggling with both external rejection and inner temper, he gradually learns to face himself and redefine his identity.			Ao Bing	From a special family background. Gentle, calm, kind, but burdened by family expectations. Emotionally restrained, highly observant, rational, and mentally resilient.	Torn between family duty and personal morality. Gradually forms mutual understanding with Ne Zha. After family crisis, he chooses to stand with Ne Zha, gaining both justice for his family and inner freedom.			Lady Yin	Strong, brave, warm, and responsible. Balances maternal tenderness with leadership. Acts as emotional and moral support.	She firmly protects her child despite social doubt, guides him emotionally, takes responsibility in family crises, and witnesses his growth.
Zootopia	Judy Hopps	From a small town with big dreams. Optimistic, persistent, and idealistic. Strong sense of justice. Determined to break stereotypes and prove her value. Initially naive, gradually becomes mature and steady. Highly adaptable and resilient.	She leaves her hometown to pursue her dream in the big city. At first, she is marginalised and assigned low-level work. She later gains a chance to join an important investigation. Through cooperation, conflict, and danger, she confronts prejudice and proves her capability.	Judy Hopps (<i>Zootopia</i>). Andy Sachs (<i>The Devil Wears Prada</i>).	Hou Liangping (<i>In the Name of the People</i>)	Nick Wilde	Clever, humorous, and socially skilled. Appears careless and cynical. Internally guarded due to past trauma. Sensitive, observant, and morally aware. Uses humour as emotional protection.	He was hurt by prejudice in his youth and learned to hide behind sarcasm. Initially joins the investigation half-heartedly. Gradually influenced by Judy's sincerity, he regains trust and motivation. He actively helps solve the case and confronts his past.			/	/	/
Detective Chinatown 1900	Qin Fu	A language professional working abroad. Careful, rational, and flexible. Emotionally restrained but persistent. Skilled in communication and observation. Sensitive to cultural differences and social tension.	He travels abroad to search for a family member and becomes involved in a complex case. He faces discrimination, misunderstanding, and danger. By analysing clues and mediating conflicts, he helps reveal the truth and gains deeper understanding of identity and belonging.	Xu Datong (<i>The Guasha Treatment</i>). Billi (<i>The Farewell</i>) — partial match.	No highly recognisable female character can be found that fully matches the description. There is no widely known female protagonist with equivalent narrative weight and cultural recognisability.	A Gui	Grew up in a special natural environment. Straightforward, humorous, and emotionally sincere. Brave and sensitive. Strong sense of justice. Highly responsive to environmental details.	He meets the protagonist through an unexpected case. When his community becomes misunderstood, he chooses to assist the investigation. He provides local knowledge, protects his people, and supports the protagonist in solving the case and restoring justice.			Almost no female characters	/	/
TV													
The Legend of Zanghai	Zanghai	Born into an official family. After a family tragedy, he hides his identity and later returns under a new status. Careful, resilient, and emotionally restrained. Holds a strong desire for revenge but does not lose his inner kindness. Flexible in complex situations, but firm when defending justice. Skilled in strategy and professional techniques, highly observant, logical, and adaptable.	After surviving the destruction of his family, he lives in hiding for many years while secretly studying skills and strategies. As an adult, he returns to the city to seek revenge, gradually establishing himself through his own abilities. During his revenge, he discovers a larger conspiracy behind his family's tragedy. He slowly realises responsibilities beyond personal hatred, lets go of obsession, exposes the conspiracy with his companions, and completes his transformation.			Xiang Antu	A woman with a special family background. Forced to live abroad after family tragedy and survives by running an ordinary business. Gentle and composed in appearance, but internally brave and resilient. Treats others sincerely and without prejudice. Emotionally persistent, morally grounded, and highly socially intelligent.	She remains in a foreign land after her family's downfall and meets the protagonist by chance. She witnesses his revenge journey and repeatedly helps him overcome crises. Caught between personal identity and family responsibility, she experiences loss, misunderstanding, and emotional conflict. Eventually, she and the protagonist uncover the core conspiracy, protect peace, abandon past constraints, and choose a shared future.	Highly matches Cheng Jinyun (<i>The Disguiser</i>). Also resembles female protagonists in Republican-era legends or <i>Six Chapters of a Floating Life</i> . The closest and most complete match is Zhou Ying (<i>Nothing Gold Can Stay</i>), although her background is domestic rather than overseas. Partial matches include Feng Chengcheng (<i>Shanghai Bund</i>) and Yu Mengzhu (<i>Great Expectations</i>).	Xu Wenqiang (<i>Shanghai Bund</i>)	/	/	/
Under the Skin 2	Shen Yi	A professional technical officer in the police force and a part-time lecturer. Calm, rational, and highly observant. Obsessed with truth and human psychology. Emotionally restrained, with unresolved inner guilt. Trusts his own intuition strongly and can be slightly stubborn.	He participates in various investigations using his professional skills. Haunted by guilt from a past case, he gradually shifts his focus from solving individual crimes to exploring deeper human motivations. He encounters people with similar ideals who choose different paths. While holding onto his principles, he resolves his inner conflict and achieves intellectual and emotional growth.	Fang Mu (<i>The Psychologist</i>)	Xu Xu (<i>When a Snail Falls in Love</i>). He Dun from (<i>The Psychologist</i>).	Du Cheng	A frontline police officer and the protagonist's partner. Straightforward, decisive, and experienced. Appears careless but is emotionally sensitive. Strong sense of responsibility, teamwork, and justice. Highly action-oriented and capable of handling emergencies.	He initially clashes with the protagonist due to different working styles. Through cooperation, he gradually builds trust and mutual respect. He supports the protagonist during emotional struggles and stands firm in confronting criminals. Together they solve major cases and become each other's most reliable partners.			He Rongyue	A professional forensic and technical officer. Calm, objective, and rigorous. Gentle, patient, and good at listening. Highly skilled in technical analysis and capable of translating complex information into clear support for investigations.	She provides key technical evidence in every case and repeatedly helps the team overcome investigative dead ends. She witnesses the protagonist's growth and emotional healing. Always professional and calm, she restores truth through technology and remains an essential invisible force behind justice.

	First Protagonist	Traits	Storyline	Recognition (gender blurred)	Recognition (gender-swapped)	Second Protagonist	Traits	Storyline	Recognition (gender blurred)	Recognition (gender reversed)	Most Prominent Female Character (if no female protagonist)	Traits	Storyline	
This Thriving Land	Ning Xiuxiu	Eldest daughter from a wealthy family. Initially fragile but resilient. Emotional, rational, and adaptable. Learns quickly, becomes decisive and responsible. Though sometimes fearful, she remains calm in critical moments.	On her wedding day, she suffers a tragic accident, is abandoned by her family, and rescued by a poor labourer whom she later marries. She struggles to adapt to grassroots life, but gradually understands its values. She later leads other women to break restrictions, grows through hardship, and reconciles with her family.	An Jie (<i>Parents' Love</i>)	No fully matching male character can be found. The core narrative — a man abandoned by family on his wedding day and rescued and married by a poor woman — is extremely rare in mainstream drama.	Feng Dajiao	A grassroots labourer. Honest, silent, and devoted. Strong in action, gentle in heart. Loyal, responsible, and morally upright.	He rescues the protagonist during her crisis and marries her despite social pressure. He teaches her to adapt to grassroots life, supports her growth, and stands by her during conflicts. He remains loyal, patient, and loving throughout their shared hardships.			/	/	/	
Love's Ambition	Xu Yan	A media worker from a small town. Ambitious, sensitive, and insecure. Craves recognition due to childhood neglect. Socially skilled, professionally capable, but emotionally fragile. Learns to accept her true self.	She changes her identity and marries into an elite family through deception. She struggles between career and marriage in a false relationship. When her lies are exposed, she leaves the marriage, reflects on herself, and begins a new independent life.	The narrative clearly suggests a female character. Matches include Li Youmo (<i>Anna</i>), Aya (<i>Tokyo Girl</i>), and similar female protagonists in Chinese dramas.	No fully matching male protagonist can be found. A man using marriage deception to cross class boundaries is extremely rare in mainstream drama.	Shen Haoming	An elite businessman from an upper-class family. Elegant, rational, and controlling. Emotionally restrained at first, later becomes sincere and gentle. Highly intelligent and observant.	He treats marriage as a controllable relationship. Though aware of the protagonist's deception, he remains silent. After losing her, he reflects on his mistakes, lets go of control, and grows emotionally. He eventually regains trust through humility and sincerity.			/	/	/	
Book														
The Three-Body Problem	Wang Miao	A technical professional. Careful, detail-oriented, and intellectually curious. Keeps a calm and gentle manner, but holds firm principles. At first becomes anxious when facing the unknown, yet quickly regains stability through rational thinking. Caring toward people around him, with a basic sense of responsibility.	Living a normal life, he is suddenly drawn into a series of strange events that repeatedly challenge his understanding. He moves from doubt and fear to actively seeking the truth. Through meeting and cooperating with different people, he gradually pieces together the full picture. Facing danger and difficult choices, he contributes key support to resolving the crisis and achieves a major shift in self-understanding.	Wang Miao (<i>The Three-Body Problem</i>)	Ye Wenjie (<i>The Three-Body Problem</i>)	Shi Qiang	A frontline law-enforcement officer. Direct, bold, and informal in manner, but sharp and observant. Strong judgement and action ability. Calm under pressure and not easily fooled by appearances. Holds a clear moral and professional bottom line.	Assigned to investigate the strange events, he becomes Wang Miao's partner. He uses experience to help Wang Miao adapt to the situation and repeatedly defuses crises. Facing challenges beyond normal logic, he stays optimistic and resilient, becoming a key force in solving the overall crisis.			Ye Wenjie	A researcher with a quiet and controlled personality. Emotionally complex, carrying long-term trauma and obsession. Appears rational and gentle, but holds extremely firm beliefs. Deeply disappointed in human nature. Highly capable and decisive.	After a major personal tragedy in youth, she becomes increasingly disillusioned with her world. During her research, she encounters an opportunity that changes her fate and makes a choice with far-reaching impact. For many years she silently stands by that choice, and her past becomes the origin of the entire chain of events.	
The Lychee of Chang'an	Li Shande	A low-level civil servant. Honest, cautious, and responsible. Not good at shortcuts. Initially anxious and helpless under pressure, yet internally tough. Able to stay calm, think carefully, and gradually show intelligence, courage, and leadership.	He receives an urgent task that seems impossible to complete. Leaving his comfort zone, he negotiates with many groups and faces doubt and obstruction. Through careful judgement and constant adjustment, he solves repeated crises, proves his ability, and completes the mission successfully.	Li Shande (<i>The Lychee of Chang'an</i>)	Although some female characters may appear in Canglang's Water, the narrative primarily centres on the growth of a male civil servant. Female roles are largely confined to family or emotional contexts, and no female protagonist leads a storyline focused on completing a major institutional task. Therefore, no precise female equivalent can be identified.	Han Cheng	An outgoing and flexible workplace professional. Socially skilled, loyal, and principled. Appears casual but holds a strong moral line. Good at navigating complex relationships.	He supports Li Shande throughout the mission by offering resources, experience, and protection. Even when his own interests are affected, he continues to stand by Li Shande. Through cooperation, they build deep friendship.			A Tong	Kind, simple, resilient, and brave. Passionate about her work. Appears soft but internally firm. Calm in critical moments and sincere in character.	She helps Li Shande during his journey, using her professional skills to solve key problems. Despite her own pressures, she continues to support him and gains self-worth through her actions.	
Those Things in the Ming Dynasty	Zhu Yuanzhang	Born at the lowest social level. Tough, patient, and extremely ambitious. Refuses to submit to hardship. Highly observant and strategic. Possesses strong leadership and execution ability. Values loyalty and emotion in early years, but gradually becomes cautious and suspicious as power grows. Holds a firm sense of purpose and rarely abandons his goals.	He grows up in extreme poverty and decides to change his destiny. In a chaotic era, he starts from nothing and slowly gathers strength. He unites allies, survives betrayal, and endures repeated failures. Through intelligence, patience, and ruthless decisions, he rises above competitors. He eventually reaches the peak of power, reshapes his own fate, and deeply influences the lives of others around him.	Song Jiang (<i>Water Margin</i>) Vito Corleone / Michael Corleone (<i>The Godfather</i>)	Scarlett O'Hara (<i>Gone with the Wind</i>) Lila Cerullo (<i>The Neapolitan Novels</i>)	Zhu Di	Born into a powerful family. Brave, ambitious, and highly strategic. Emotionally restrained and deeply calculating. Skilled in patience and long-term planning. Decisive and ruthless when taking action. Strong in both military and political ability. Willing to sacrifice personal relationships for greater goals.	He grows up in a complicated power structure and quietly prepares for his future. Facing injustice, he chooses endurance rather than confrontation. When the moment arrives, he launches decisive actions to change his destiny. Through intense struggles and conflicts, he secures his position at the top. After gaining power, he continues to govern and reshape the political order in his own way.			Empress Ma	Gentle, kind, and empathetic. Intelligent and principled. Holds her own judgement while remaining modest. Provides rational advice without interfering in core decisions. Loyal and emotionally stable. Values ordinary people's suffering and moral integrity.	She meets Zhu Yuanzhang in his early difficult years and stays with him through countless hardships. While he pursues power, she maintains family stability and emotional balance. She comforts him when he is confused and restrains him when he becomes impulsive. Through kindness and wisdom, she earns public respect and becomes the person he trusts most throughout his life.	
To Live	Fugui	An ordinary man. Spoiled and reckless in youth. Indulges in pleasure and ignores responsibility. After repeated tragedies, becomes calm and resilient. Kind-hearted and emotionally honest. Learns to endure loss and accept suffering. Maintains a quiet hope for life.	He wastes his family fortune and drags his family into poverty. Afterwards, he experiences continuous personal losses and life disasters. Each tragedy strips away his former pride. Through suffering, he learns humility and endurance. He no longer seeks success or meaning, but simply chooses to live. In old age, he lives quietly with an ox, continuing life with silent persistence.			Jiazhen	Gentle, patient, and resilient. Loyal to family. Emotionally strong and morally steady. Willing to forgive. Able to endure long-term hardship. Carries responsibility without complaint.	She marries Fugui and initially lives comfortably. After his failures, she accepts poverty and continues to support the family. She forgives his mistakes and carries domestic responsibility alone. Even when ill and exhausted, she never abandons her family. Before her death, she encourages Fugui to continue living. Her life becomes a symbol of quiet endurance and unconditional love.	Jiazhen (<i>To Live</i>)			/	/	/
Ordinary World	Sun Shaoping	A rural young man. Tough and unwilling to accept an ordinary fate. Hungry for knowledge and self-improvement. Emotionally sensitive yet highly self-respecting. Hardworking and resilient. Empathetic and morally aware. Holds long-term hope for the future.	Born into poverty, he dreams of a wider world. He leaves home and takes various low-level jobs while continuing to study. He experiences humiliation, exhaustion, and loneliness. Through work, reading, love, and friendship, he slowly grows. Even after repeated setbacks, he does not give up. He finally finds his own life direction within an ordinary existence.	Sun Shaoping (<i>Ordinary World</i>)	If extensive physical labour across different social positions is taken as a key criterion, few female characters in classic literature follow a trajectory comparable to Sun Shaoping's, while maintaining strong intellectual ambition.	Sun Shao'an	Practical, responsible, and steady. Carries family burden early. Action-oriented and entrepreneurial. Persistent and adaptable. Loyal to family and community. Learns from repeated failure.	He leaves school early to support his family. Facing poverty, he repeatedly tries to change his situation through business. He experiences failure, debt, and pressure. He continues adjusting and learning. Through sincerity and perseverance, he gains support from others. He finally succeeds in improving both family life and local conditions.			Tian Xiaoxia	Educated, idealistic, and independent. Warm and emotionally open. Strong sense of justice. Brave in pursuing truth. Spiritually mature and empathetic. Acts as an intellectual companion.	She receives good education and holds firm ideals. After meeting Sun Shaoping, she becomes his spiritual partner and supporter. She encourages his growth and pursues her own career with passion. She spreads positive influence through her work. Her sudden death becomes a deep emotional shock, but also a lasting spiritual force that pushes Sun Shaoping forward.	

Test-3 “Auto”completion

I gave Doubao a description of a **character** who does not exist, and asked it to generate a character image and a story outline for a film, TV drama, or book based on this character.

BLUE for Female Protagonist

RED for “No fully matching character can be found” (gender-swapped)

GREEN for “the recognised character is of the other gender”

I: Please help me generate an illustration of a book character.

He is a man from an ordinary background. He is gentle, kind, resilient, and deeply responsible toward his family. He remains loyal to his partner, holding on to love and trust throughout his life. When facing hardship and his wife's mistakes, he does not complain or give up. Instead, he chooses understanding and companionship, supporting the whole family with his gentleness and strength. He is mentally strong, never afraid of difficulties, and always keeps hope in life. He is the spiritual pillar of the family.

After marrying his wife, they first live a comfortable life, but later fall into poverty because of her spending. He forgives her and stays by her side, quietly taking on the family's burdens and caring for both the elderly and the children. During the hard years that follow, he suffers many hardships and his health slowly worsens, yet he never collapses. He continues to support his family with love and perseverance. Even after losing loved ones, he still encourages his wife to live on bravely. In the end, he passes away peacefully, using his whole life to show the meaning of love and devotion.

帮我生成图片：谢谢。接下来是新的人物：

请帮我生成一个书籍人物形象图：

他是一个男性。他是普通百姓，性格温柔贤惠、坚韧善良，对家庭充满责任感，始终坚守着对伴侣的爱与信任；面对生活的苦难与妻子的过错，没有抱怨与放弃，而是选择包容与陪伴，用自己的温柔与韧性支撑起整个家庭；内心强大，不畏艰难，在困境中始终保持着对生活的希望，是家庭的精神支柱。

与妻子结婚后，起初过着优渥的生活，却因伴侣的挥霍陷入贫困。面对伴侣的过错，他选择原谅与陪伴，默默承担起家庭的重担，照顾老人与孩子。在之后的艰难岁月中，他经历了种种磨难，身体也逐渐变差，却始终没有倒下，用自己的爱与坚韧支撑着家人。即使在失去亲人的痛苦中，他也依然鼓励妻子坚强地活下去，最终他在平静中离世，用一生诠释了爱与坚守的意义。



: I

我会为你生成这个男性书籍人物的形象图。

Doubao: I will generate an illustration of this male book character for you.

Doubao:



I: Please write a story outline with a complete character setting, based on the main character of this novel.

请围绕这个小说主角写一个有完整设定的故事大纲。像前面我们完成的风格一样



: I

Story Summary

Zhou Bingqian is born in a small southern town in the late 1970s. He grows up in a simple carpenter's family and learns to be gentle, responsible, and devoted to home. As an adult, he opens a small woodworking workshop and lives a stable life with his wife Su Wanyi, their son Lele, and his parents. Zhou is kind, hardworking, and deeply loyal to his family.

Su Wanyi is lively but vain. After marriage, she spends money carelessly, becomes addicted to gambling, and secretly borrows from loan sharks. When the truth is revealed, the family loses all their savings, their house is mortgaged, and the workshop closes. The family falls into poverty overnight. Although deeply hurt, Zhou does not blame his wife. He chooses to stay, telling her they will face everything together.

Zhou sells his tools and takes all kinds of hard jobs to repay the debts. The family moves into an old, broken house. He works all day and cares for his parents, his son, and his guilty wife at night. Su Wanyi truly regrets her mistakes and changes herself. She helps with housework and work, and the couple slowly repays the debts together. Their relationship becomes stronger through hardship.

Later, Zhou's mother suffers a stroke and becomes paralysed. Zhou takes full responsibility for her care while continuing to work. His own health worsens, but he never complains. Even when relatives suggest divorce, he refuses, saying his wife has changed and they are still a family.

After many years, the debts are finally cleared. Just as life seems to improve, Zhou's father dies of cancer. Soon after, Zhou is diagnosed with a serious lung disease. Knowing he has little time left, he remains calm and loving. He encourages his wife to live on bravely and care for their family. Before dying, he makes his mother a wheelchair, his son a desk, and his wife a wooden hairpin, fulfilling an old promise.

Zhou Bingqian passes away peacefully, holding his wife's hand.

After his death, Su Wanyi almost collapses, but remembers her husband's words. She raises her son, cares for her mother-in-law, and lives with strength and dignity. Lele grows into a hardworking young man, becomes a teacher, and returns to the small town. Years later, the family visits Zhou's old workshop site, remembering his kindness, patience, and love.

Though Zhou is gone, his spirit continues to support the family. His life proves that ordinary people can create extraordinary love through quiet strength and lifelong devotion.

Core Themes

The story focuses on ordinary love and perseverance. It explores forgiveness in marriage, responsibility in family, and hope in suffering. Zhou Bingqian's life shows how gentleness and endurance can protect a family even in the hardest times.

What Doubao wrote (in short):

“ **Firelight and Quiet Strength** tells the story of Zhou Bingqian, an ordinary carpenter in a small southern town. After his wife's mistakes destroy the family's savings, he chooses forgiveness instead of blame. He works tirelessly to repay debts, care for his paralysed mother, support his son, and rebuild trust with his wife. Although his own health slowly fails, he never gives up on his family.

Before his death, Zhou leaves behind simple handmade gifts and gentle words that guide his family forward. After he passes away, his wife and son continue his values of responsibility, kindness, and perseverance. The novel shows how quiet love and endurance can hold a family together through suffering. ”

Experiment-1

What would happen if we extract the key features that make the character recognisable, and let the audience fill in or randomly generate the rest?

Character Narrative Generator / 角色生成器

Identify the bias in narratives through AI exploration. / 通过AI探索识别叙事中的偏见。

Class / 阶层

New Money / 暴发户

Personality / 性格

Ambitious / 野心勃勃

Social Relationship / 社会关系

Estranged Siblings / 疏远的兄弟姐妹

Key Turning Point / 关键转折

Exile / 被流放

Era / 时代

Modern Life / 当代

Space / 空间

Ancestral House / 祖宅

Gender / 性别

Female / 女性

Randomize / 随机填充

Generate / 生成

Character Biography (English - Max 250 words)

New Money is a modern woman of ambition, navigating an era marked by rapid economic changes. Born into a family with a storied history, she finds herself estranged from her siblings, a rift that has only deepened as they pursue different paths in life. Her rise from modest beginnings to significant wealth has come at a cost, alienating her from her roots and ancestral connections.

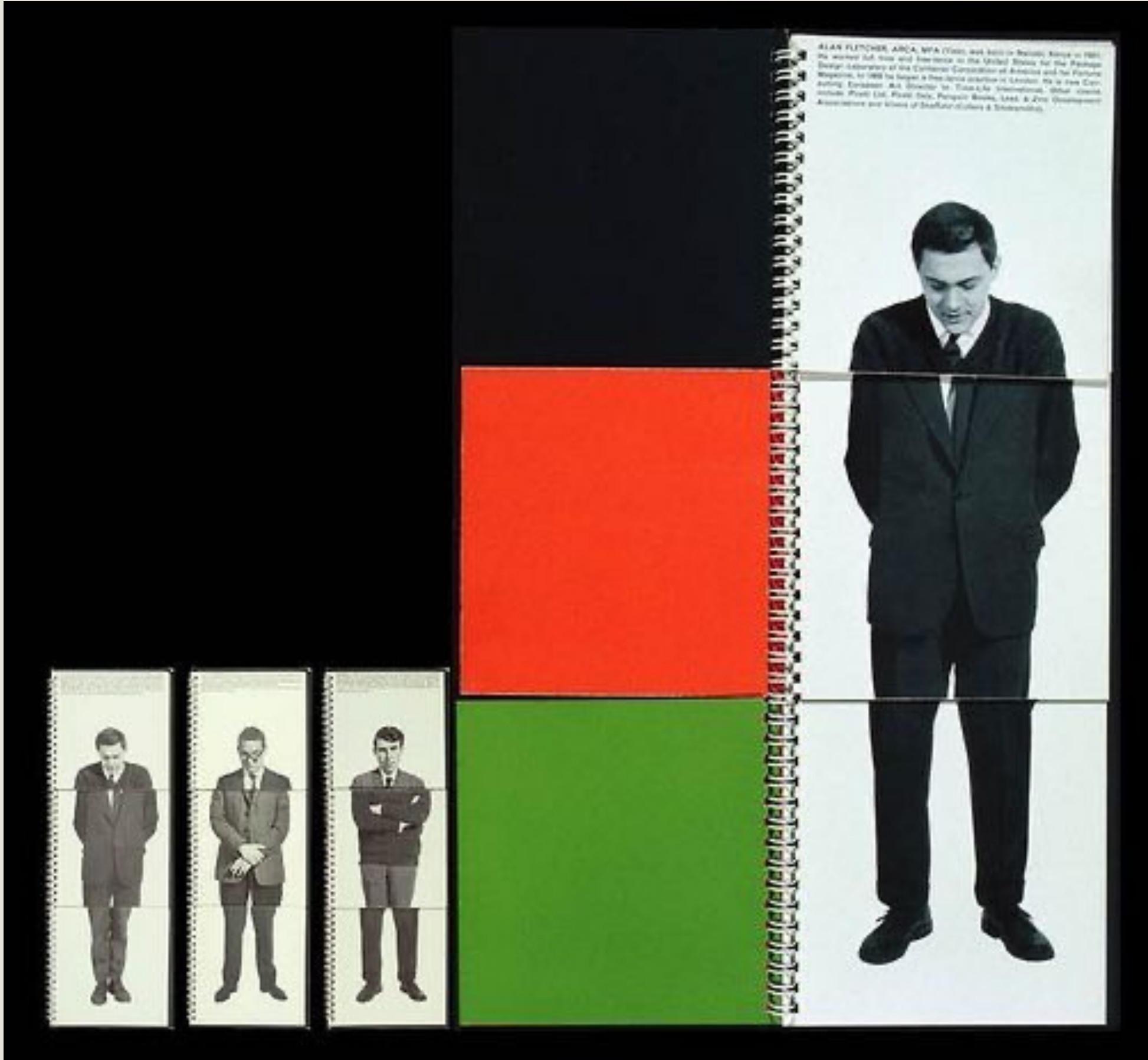
Despite her success, New Money remains deeply connected to her ancestral house, a symbol of her family's heritage and a source of occasional nostalgia. The house, now a symbol of modernity and tradition, stands as a constant reminder of her past and her place within it. As she works to reconcile her past and present, New Money grapples with the challenges of contemporary life while seeking to bridge the gap with her estranged siblings. Her journey is one of self-discovery and reconciliation, as she seeks to understand her place in both her family's legacy and modern society.

人物小传 (中文)

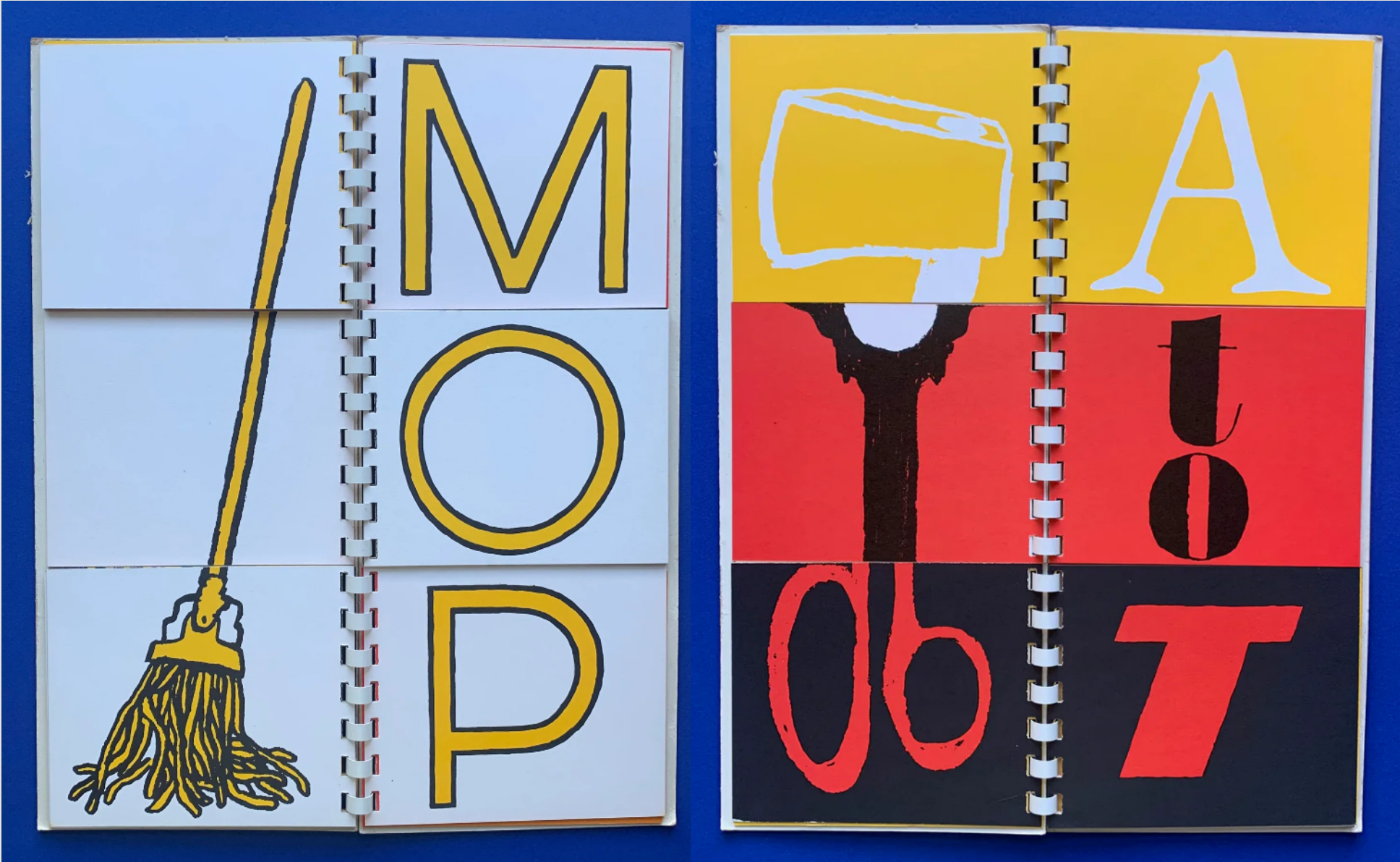
新贵女性斯特拉自幼家境贫寒，是家中独女。随着父亲在商业上的成功，家族一夜之间变得富有。为了实现自己的野心，斯特拉离开了家乡，前往大城市追求事业。然而，家中的长辈对她的成功并不满意，她与兄弟姐妹的关系也因此逐渐疏远。斯特拉常常怀念起祖宅，那曾经是家族荣耀的象征。尽管身在繁华的都市，她的心却永远牵挂着那座承载着家族记忆的旧屋。为了重拾与家人的情感纽带，斯特拉策划了一次回家乡的访问，希望能够修补与兄弟姐妹的关系。在归来的过程中，她不仅重拾了对家的记忆，也重新审视了自己的人生目标。



Experiment-2 (TBD)



Alan Fletcher, Colin Forbes and Bob Gill announce the opening of their new design office
Fletcher/Forbes/Gill, 1962



A to Z
Bob Gill, 1962

Proposal

- **Enquiry**

Mainstream Chinese film and TV storytelling has become highly formulaic. **Fixed narrative templates** limit how characters are written and what kinds of lives are imagined.

Using AI, I explore the life paths that female characters are missing in mainstream narratives – **gaps created by gender stereotypes and limited cultural imagination**. My project aims to **restore the complexity and possibilities that are often excluded**.

- **Target Audience**

Young cultural creators and **media consumers** who feel tired of clichés and are aware of narrative patterns.

They engage by generating, comparing, and remixing character templates, and reflecting on what feels easy to imagine and what feels missing.

- **Next Step**

Experiment 1: Improve the interactive tool to produce more representative and **genre-based outputs**, such as short-video concepts and film posters.

Experiment 2: Translate character dimensions into **physical forms**, allowing audiences to manually break narrative templates.

- **Questions for Now**

What **new issues** can be discovered through closer reading of the **data on the table**?

What **role** should **AI** play? Is it creating new possibilities, or making cultural absence feel acceptable?