

Beware of Traffickers

By Radio Free Asia

English Version



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This is the story of two young women from Myanmar whose families fell on hard times and who all too easily became prey to human traffickers.

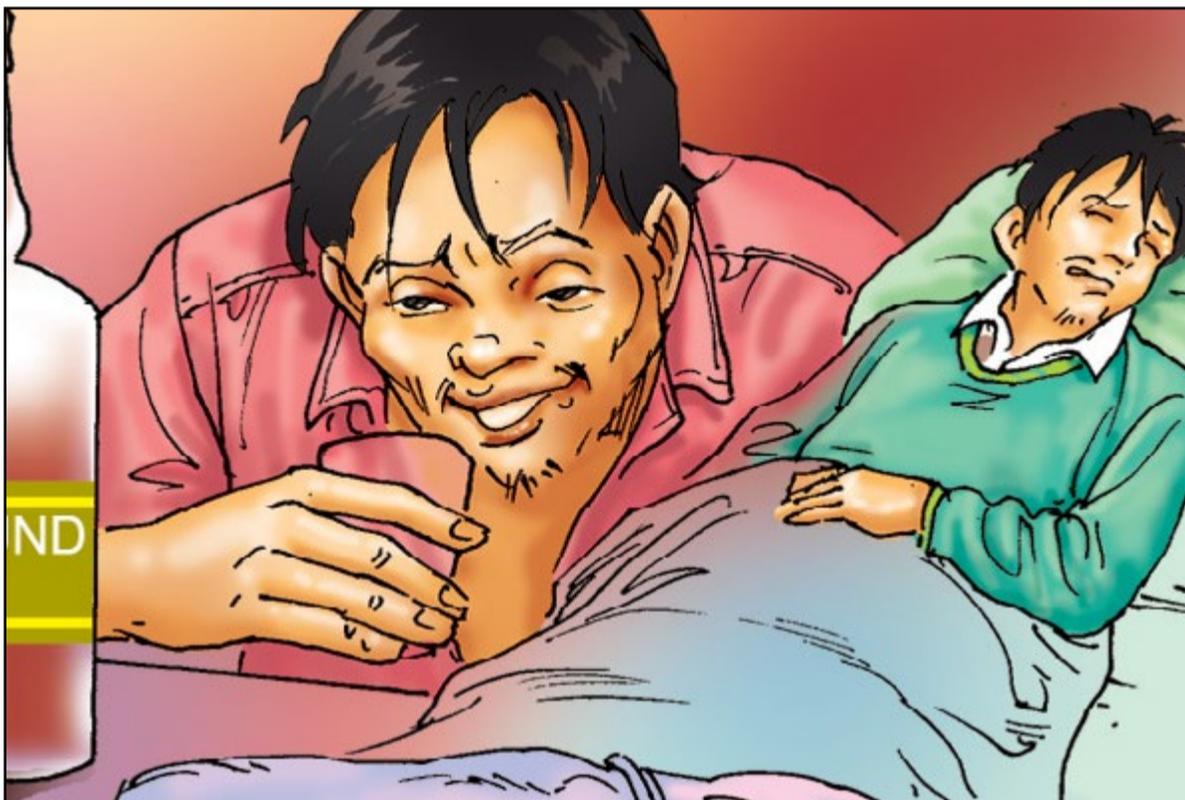
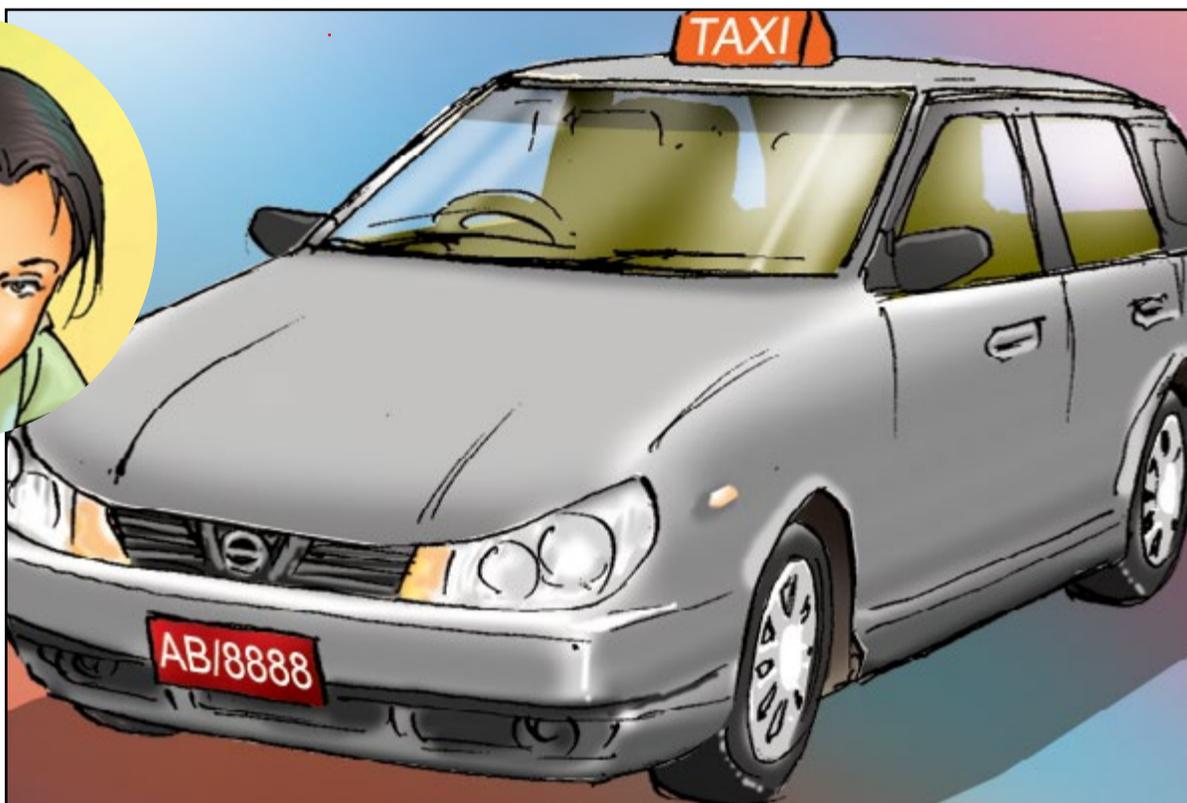
The names are fictitious, but the stories are told as a warning to help others from being exploited.

Aye Aye and Cho Cho were young, beautiful, and smart, but not smart enough to see the danger of false promises.





When Aye Aye was in the 8th grade her father, a taxi driver, had a stroke.

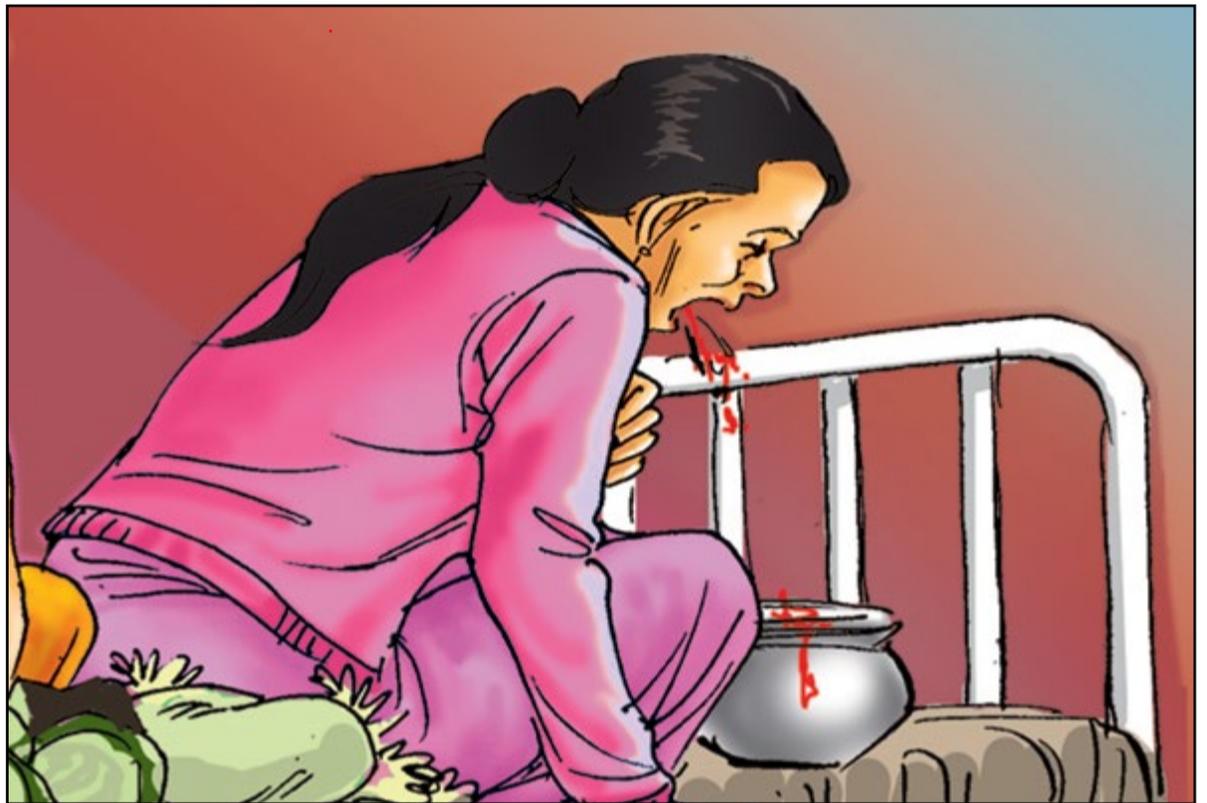


Aye Aye's father drank heavily and became bedridden.

The family had to sell their house and Aye Aye's mother had to go to work as a vegetable seller.



But she caught tuberculosis and was hospitalized.



Aye Aye dropped out of school and went to work at the market to support the family.





Cho Cho also fell on hard times. She was in 8th grade when her father died.



Cho Cho's uneducated mother married a con man.



Cho Cho's stepfather tried to take advantage of Cho Cho behind her mother's back, but he was caught.



Things went from bad to worse. The stepfather drank, gambled, and was finally arrested for selling drugs.



He had pawned the house where they were living, so Cho Cho and her mother were evicted and had to rent a new place.

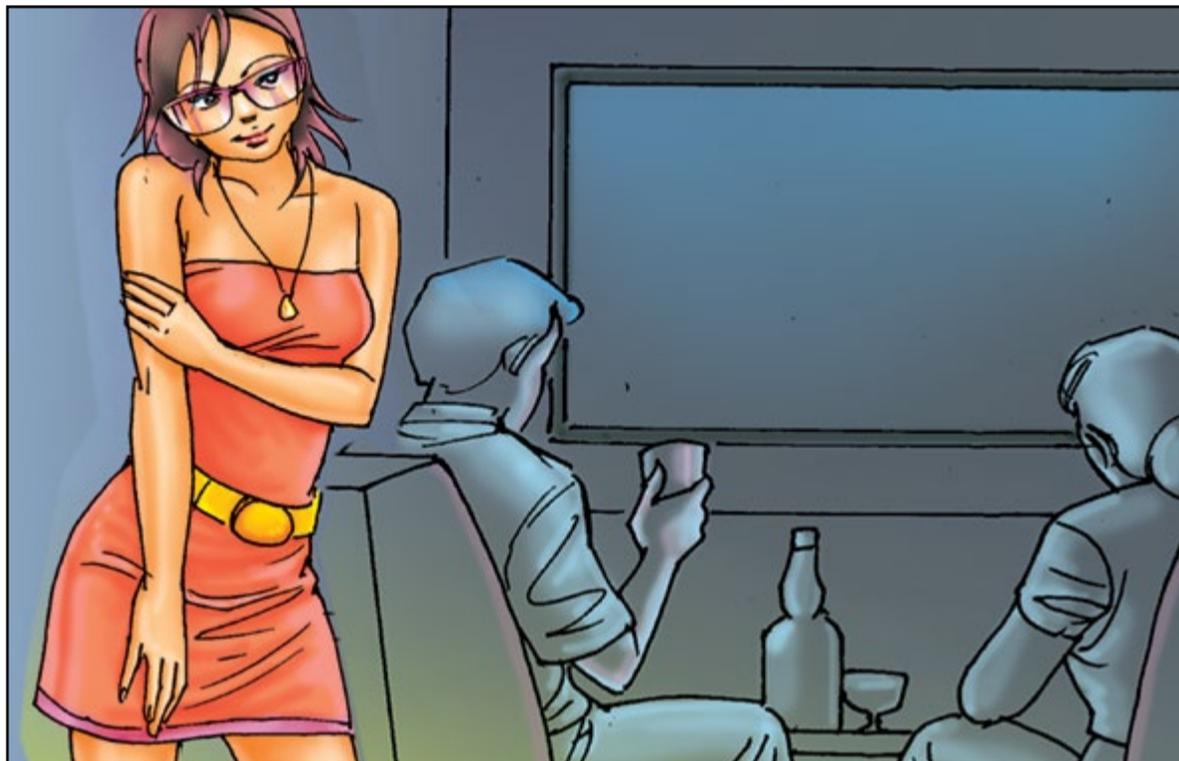


They both took jobs on construction sites.



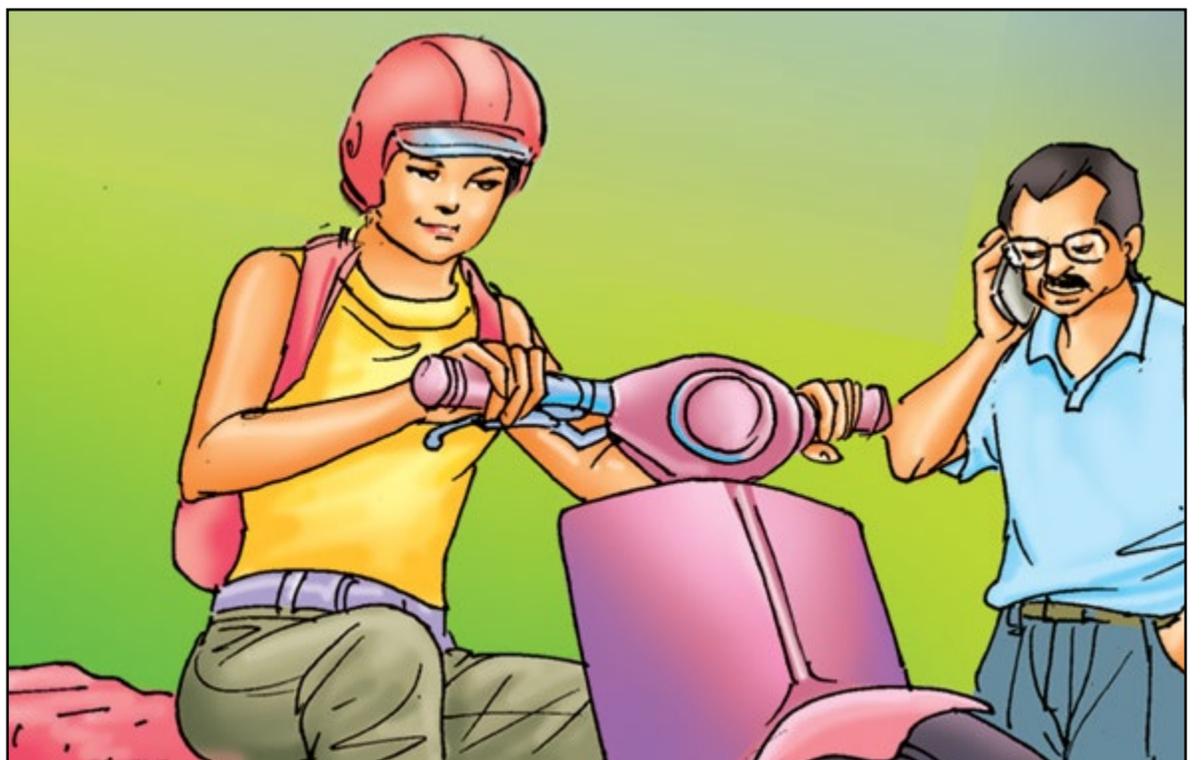
The Lure of Foreign Income

One day, Aye Aye and Cho Cho met a broker at a teahouse.



They saw on the KTV entertainment channel how the family of a girl called Zu Zu was living comfortably now because Zu Zu and her friends went to China to work.

Her family now rode motorcycles, bought huge televisions, and owned cell phones.





Aye Aye and Cho Cho were easily persuaded. They soon left for China.

Abused in China



Neither girls understood Chinese, and upon arrival in China, Aye Aye was sold as a bride to a Chinese man, Ei Kaw.



In his house, Ei Kaw's mother treated Aye Aye as a servant.

Ei Kaw's mother increased Aye Aye's chores and punished her when she was not satisfied.



Aye Aye was beaten with sticks, her hair pulled, and her head bashed against the wall.

Aye Aye gave birth to a child, but her treatment didn't improve. She was not able to get in touch with her family back in Myanmar. She felt like she was in jail.





Cho Cho, for her part, ended up in a family working for a fishing business.



She worked hard every day with very little to eat.

And she was forced to become the mistress of the business owner's son.



The son turned out to be a womanizer, a drinker, and a gambler.



For three years, neither one of the two girls could get in touch with their families back in Myanmar. They both had two children who didn't speak Burmese. The girls were distraught.



One day, Aye Aye got a chance to escape. She ran to the police station to ask for help.

Escape from Slavery



She was placed in the care of an International group combating human trafficking.



She explained that she wanted to go home to Myanmar.

Aye Aye returned to find that her father had died and her family did not welcome her. She longed for her children back in China.



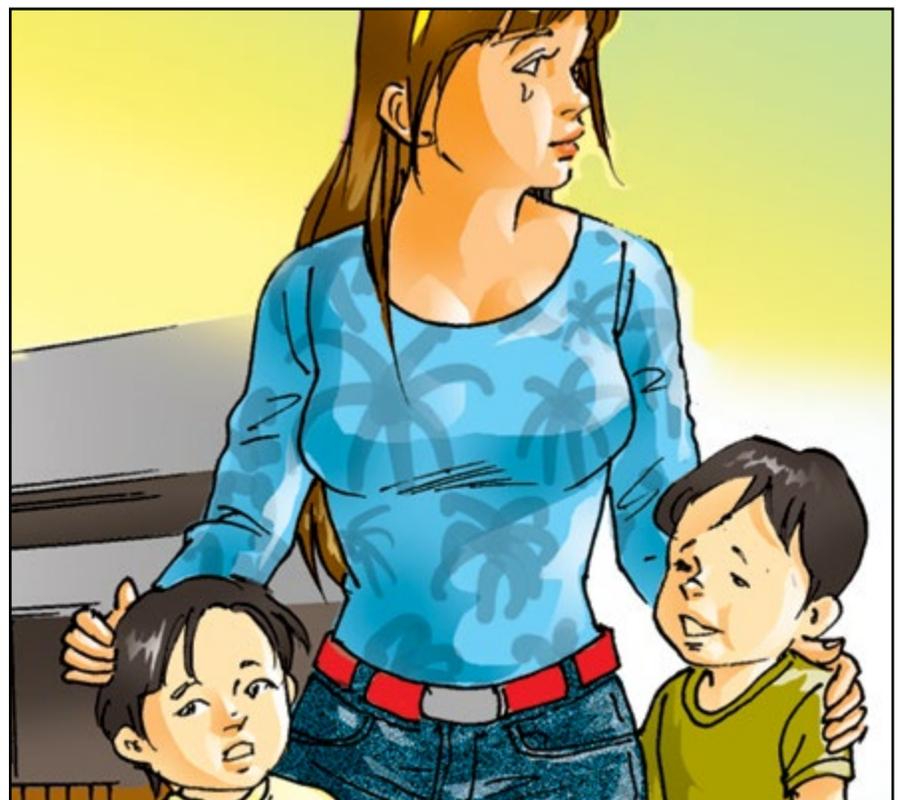


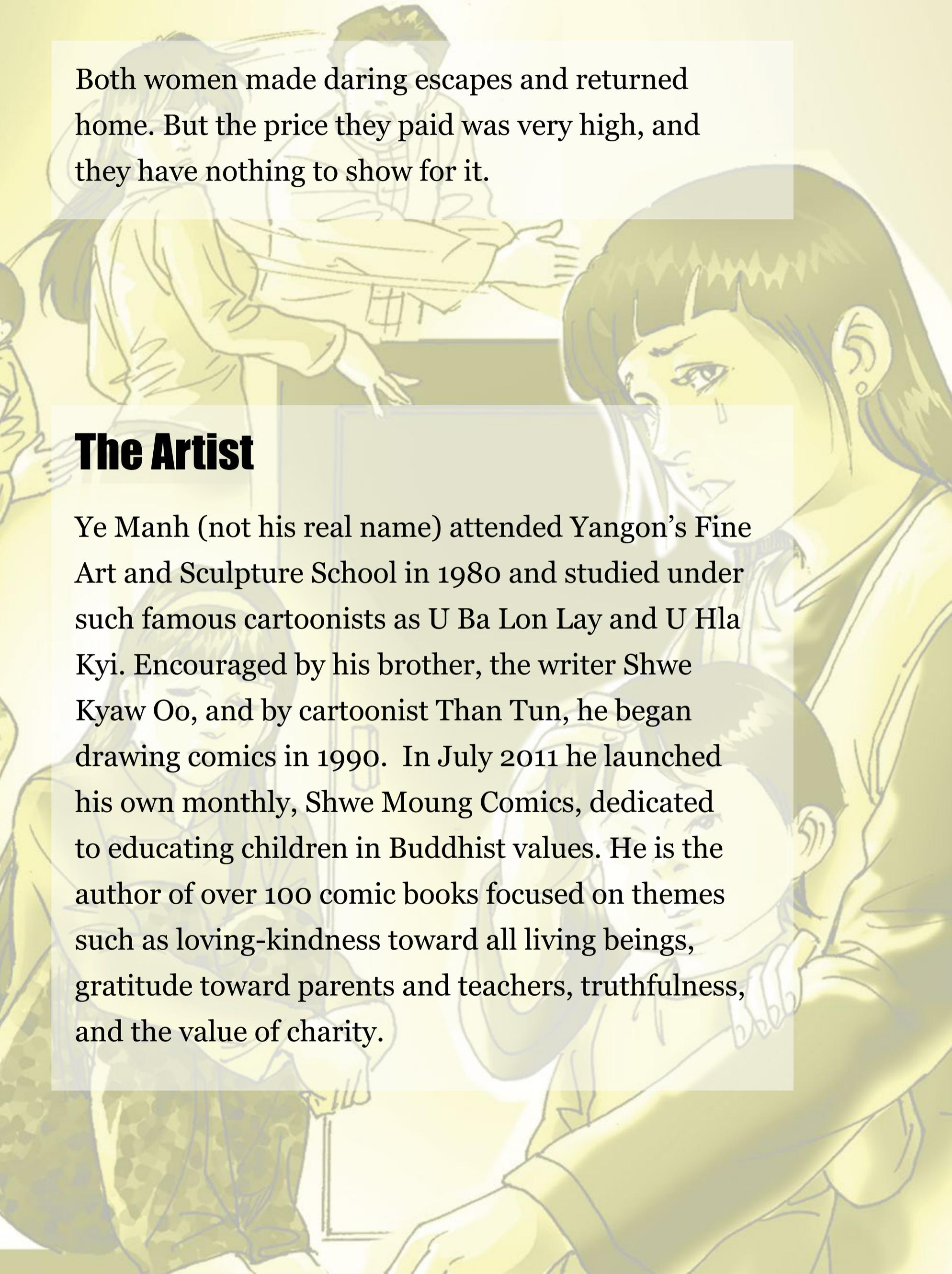
Cho Cho, with her two sons, also was able to escape, thanks to the help of a group combating human trafficking.



Cho Cho arrived home to find that her mother had gone insane. No one was welcoming to Cho Cho either.

With little prospect of a good life for her children in Myanmar, Cho Cho decided to return to China but this time with her own passport and a visa.





Both women made daring escapes and returned home. But the price they paid was very high, and they have nothing to show for it.

The Artist

Ye Manh (not his real name) attended Yangon's Fine Art and Sculpture School in 1980 and studied under such famous cartoonists as U Ba Lon Lay and U Hla Kyi. Encouraged by his brother, the writer Shwe Kyaw Oo, and by cartoonist Than Tun, he began drawing comics in 1990. In July 2011 he launched his own monthly, Shwe MOUNG Comics, dedicated to educating children in Buddhist values. He is the author of over 100 comic books focused on themes such as loving-kindness toward all living beings, gratitude toward parents and teachers, truthfulness, and the value of charity.