

'Cute but cruel', the crime drama hailed a Chinese TV milestone

In the hit Chinese web series, "Hidden Corner", a children's song **presages** the show's most violent moments.

presage 预感; 前兆

tremulously 发抖地; 震颤地

"Under the blue, blue skies, in the silver river is a small white boat, " three young children singing **tremulously**, looking into a camera propped up on the mountainside. In the background, a man taking a photo of his elderly in-laws adjusts their legs and hands, pauses, then pushes them off the cliff.

Since its release in June, "Hidden Corner" has quickly become one of the country's most discussed and watched shows — a tense crime drama, unexpectedly **poignant** in its exploration of childhood, family ties and the harsh realities of life for China's more vulnerable.

poignant 尖锐的; 心酸的

Fans have raved over its production values, the acting of its young characters and independent music score. The show has quickly become part of popular culture. The phrase "Let's go for a hike" has taken on **ominous** meaning.

ominous 预兆的; 不吉利的

genre 类型

Experts call it a new beginning for domestically made crime dramas, a **genre** dominated by the US that has been successfully localised in places like Korea but not China.

"In the past, criminal investigation dramas like 'CSI', if viewed by other audiences, would feel like it is far from their real lives and lacks connection," said Ko, a film critic. "'Hidden Corner' has opened a door and allowed the Chinese-speaking world to welcome a new genre."

A reviewer said: "Its **suspense** lies in the psychology of its characters. It is simple and pure yet terrifying, cute but cruel. It does not over complicate but shows human nature, step by step."

suspense 悬念; 悬疑