

# STICK

# CATS



NUMBER FOUR: ACT II

BY PICK MARINO

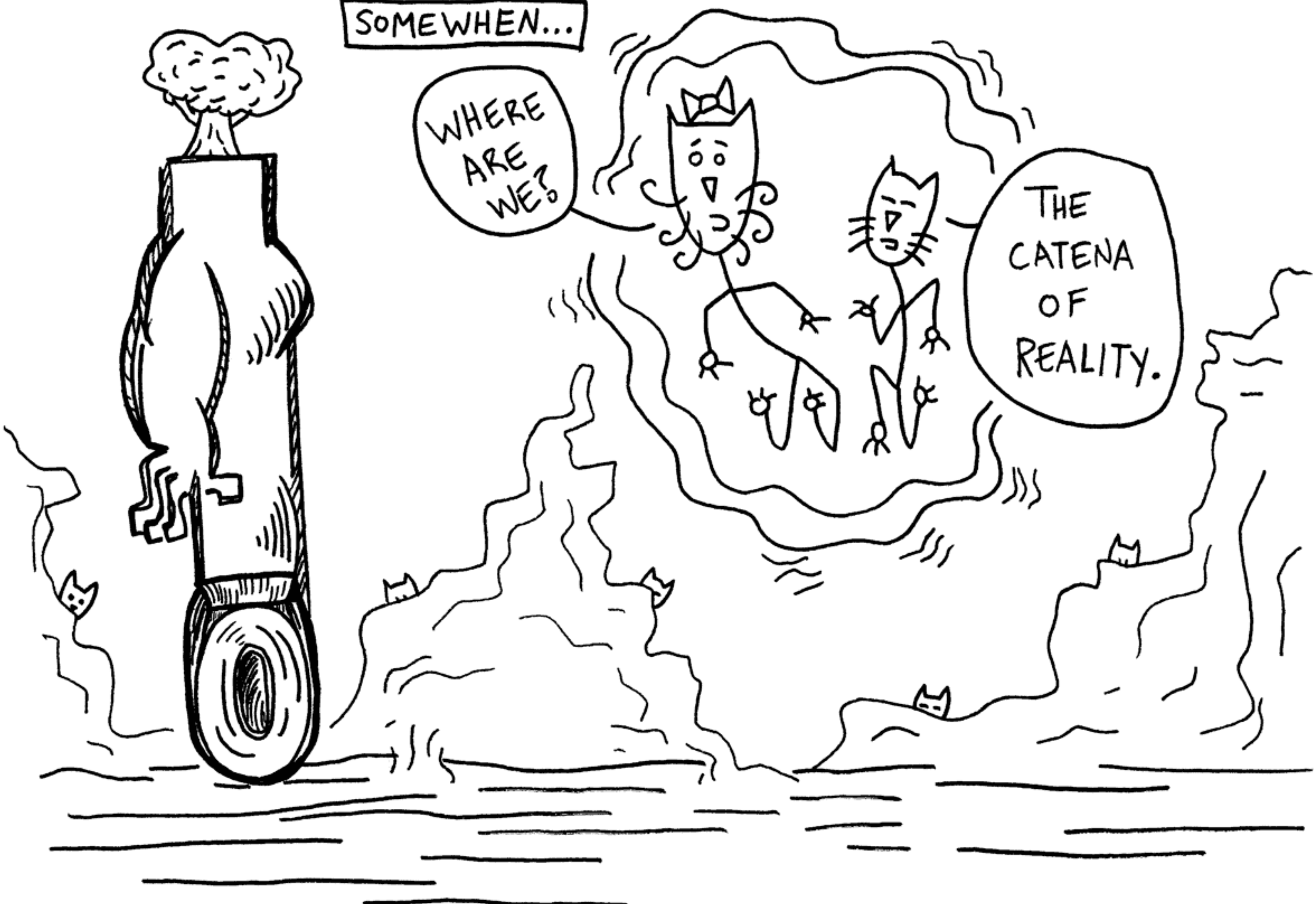
THEY DON'T KNOW  
THAT I KNOW WHAT  
I KNOW!



SOMEWHEN...

WHERE  
ARE  
WE?

THE  
CATENA  
OF  
REALITY.





SO...  
WHAT  
HAPPENS  
NOW?

HONESTLY, WE  
CAN'T STAY HERE  
FOR VERY LONG...

THE LONGER WE CONTINUE  
TO EXIST BETWEEN MULTIPLE  
REALITIES, THE GREATER  
CHANCE WE STAND OF  
DISCORPORATING.

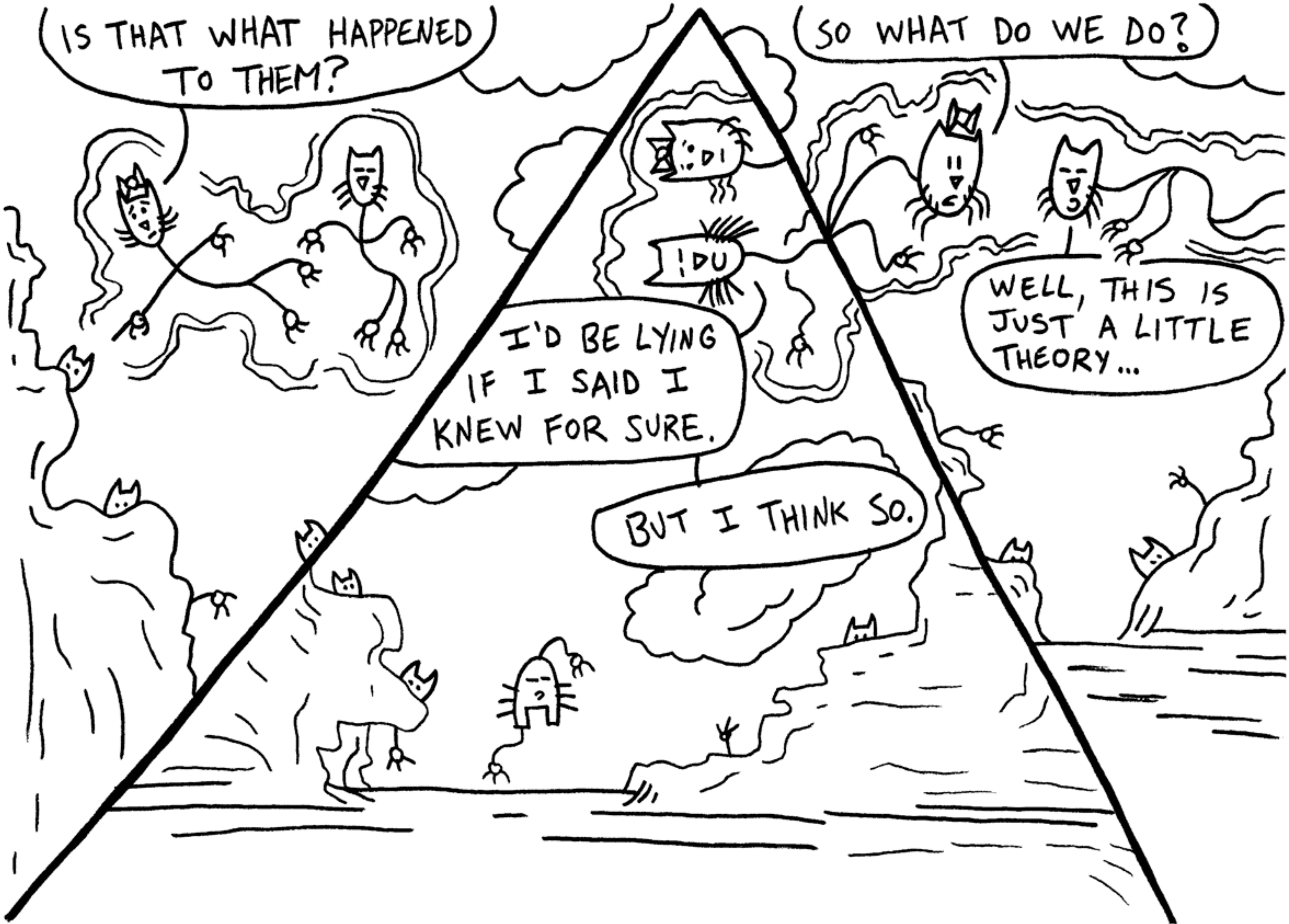
(IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED  
TO THEM?)

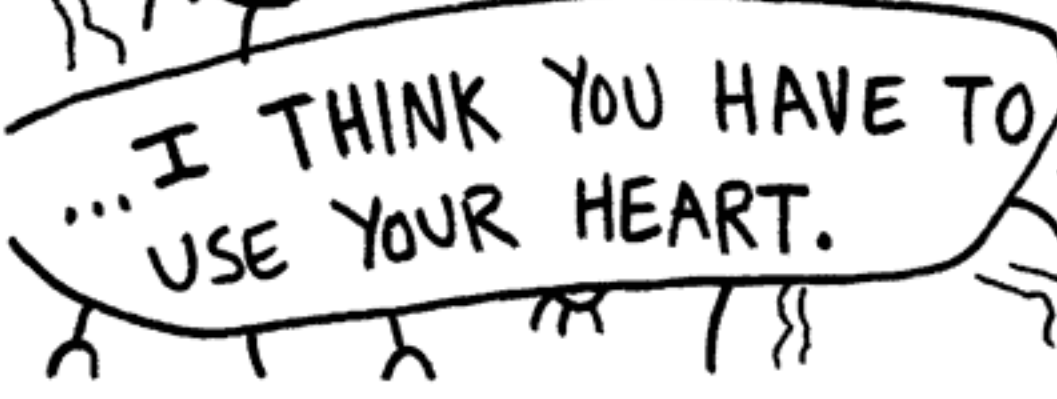
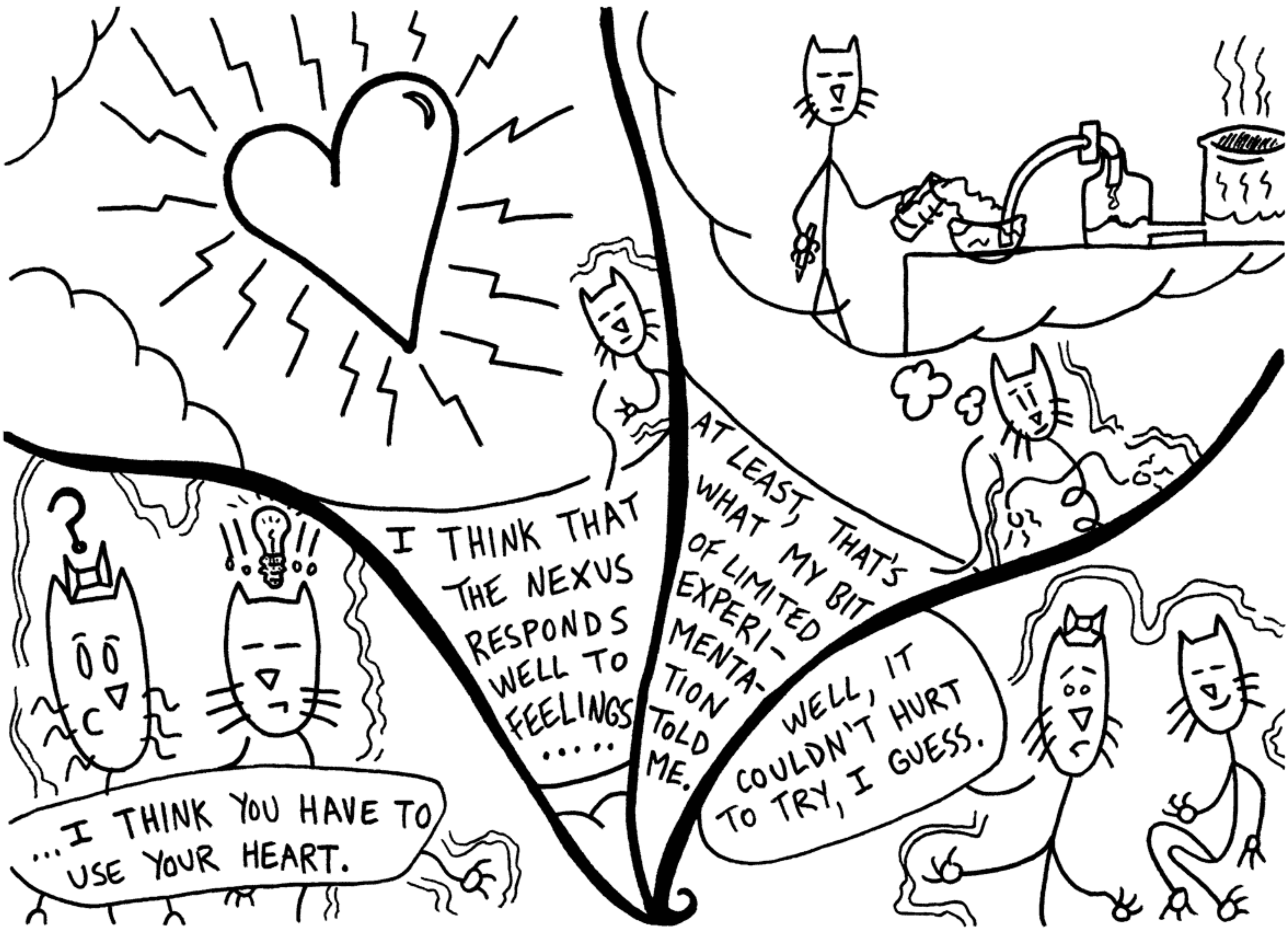
(SO WHAT DO WE DO?)

I'D BE LYING  
IF I SAID I  
KNEW FOR SURE.

BUT I THINK SO.

WELL, THIS IS  
JUST A LITTLE  
THEORY...





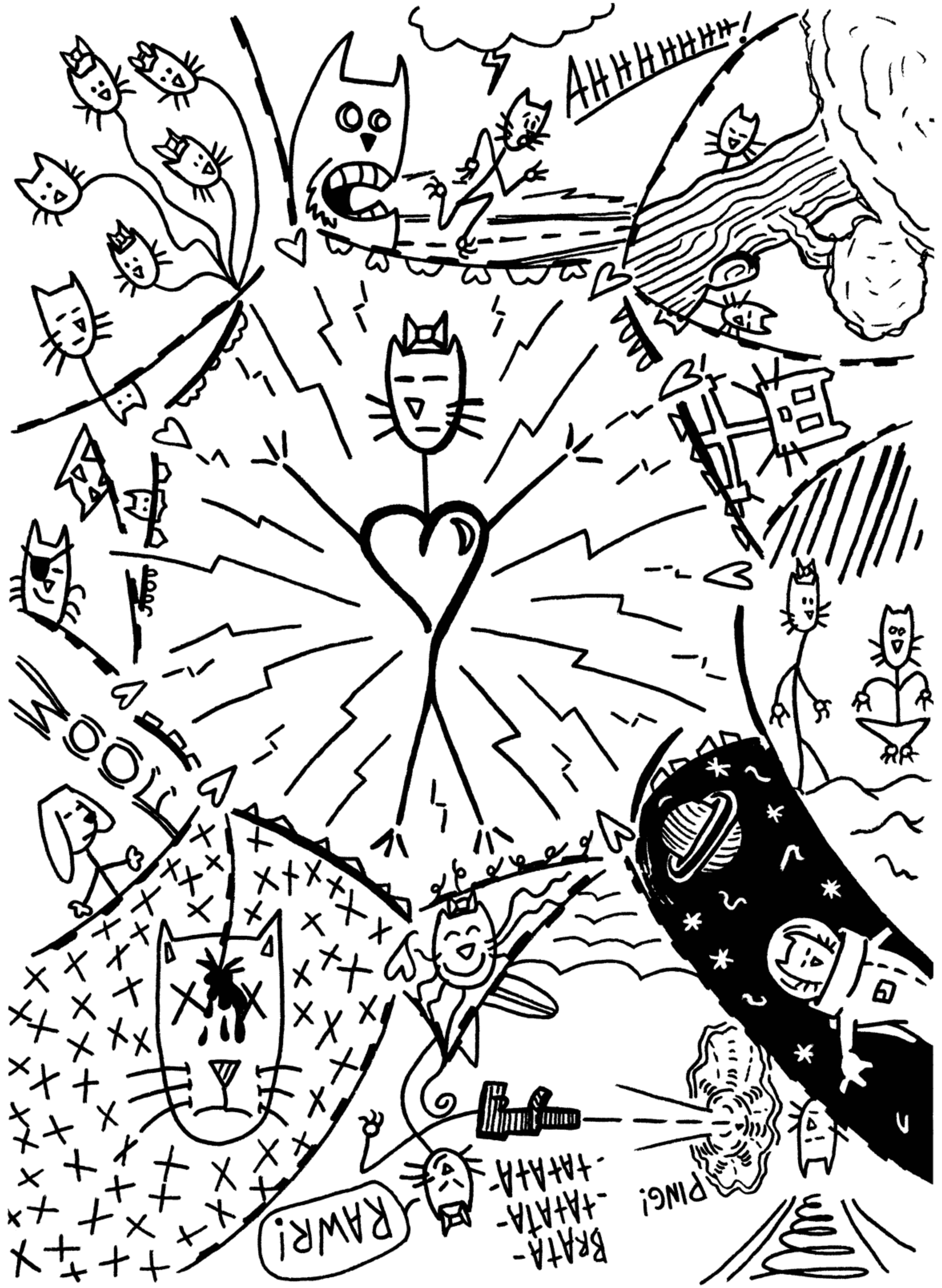
I THINK THAT  
THE NEXUS  
RESPONDS  
WELL TO  
FEELINGS  
.....

AT LEAST, THAT'S  
WHAT MY BIT  
OF LIMITED  
EXPERI-  
MENTA-  
TION  
TOLD  
ME.

WELL, IT  
COULDN'T HURT  
TO TRY, I GUESS.



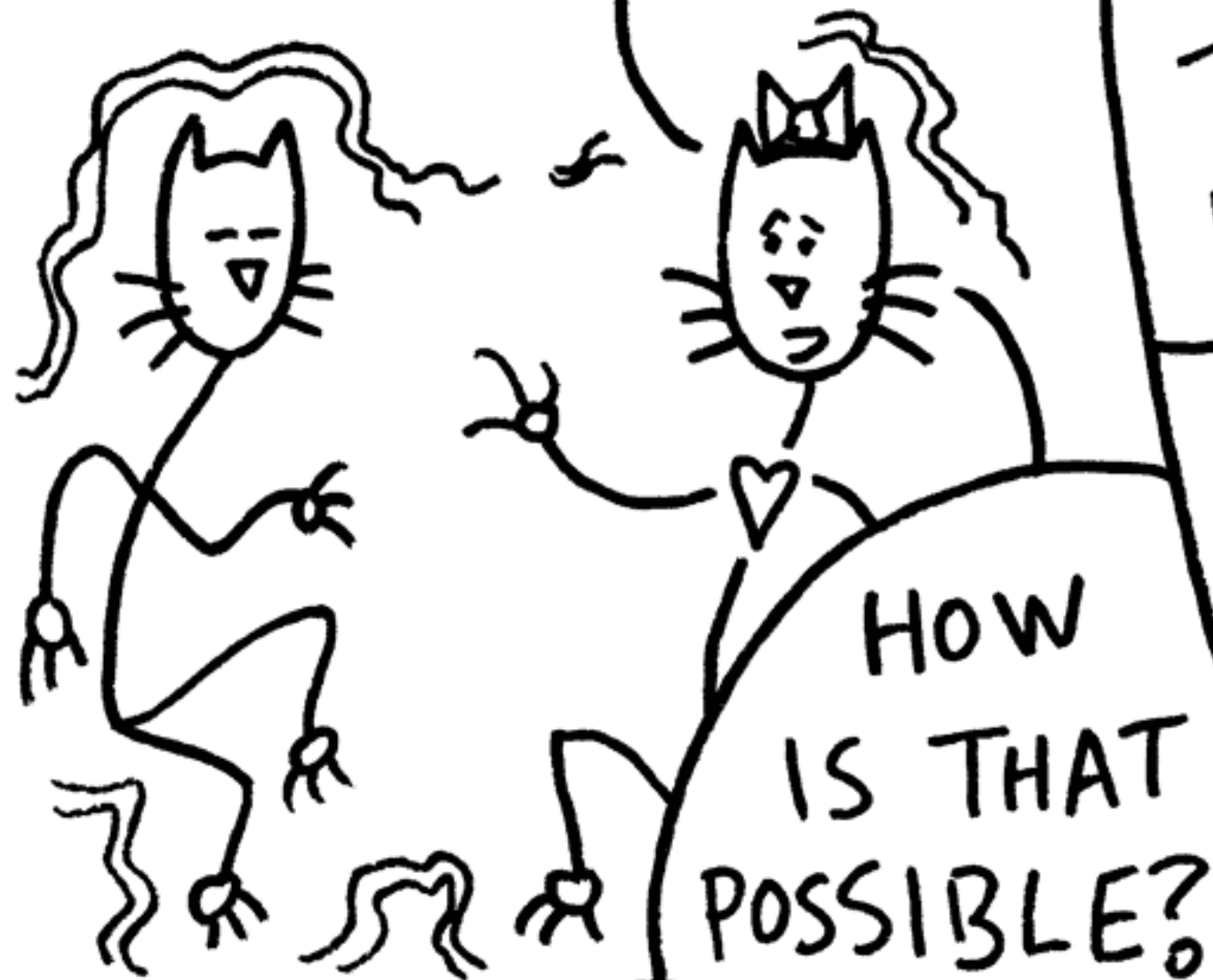




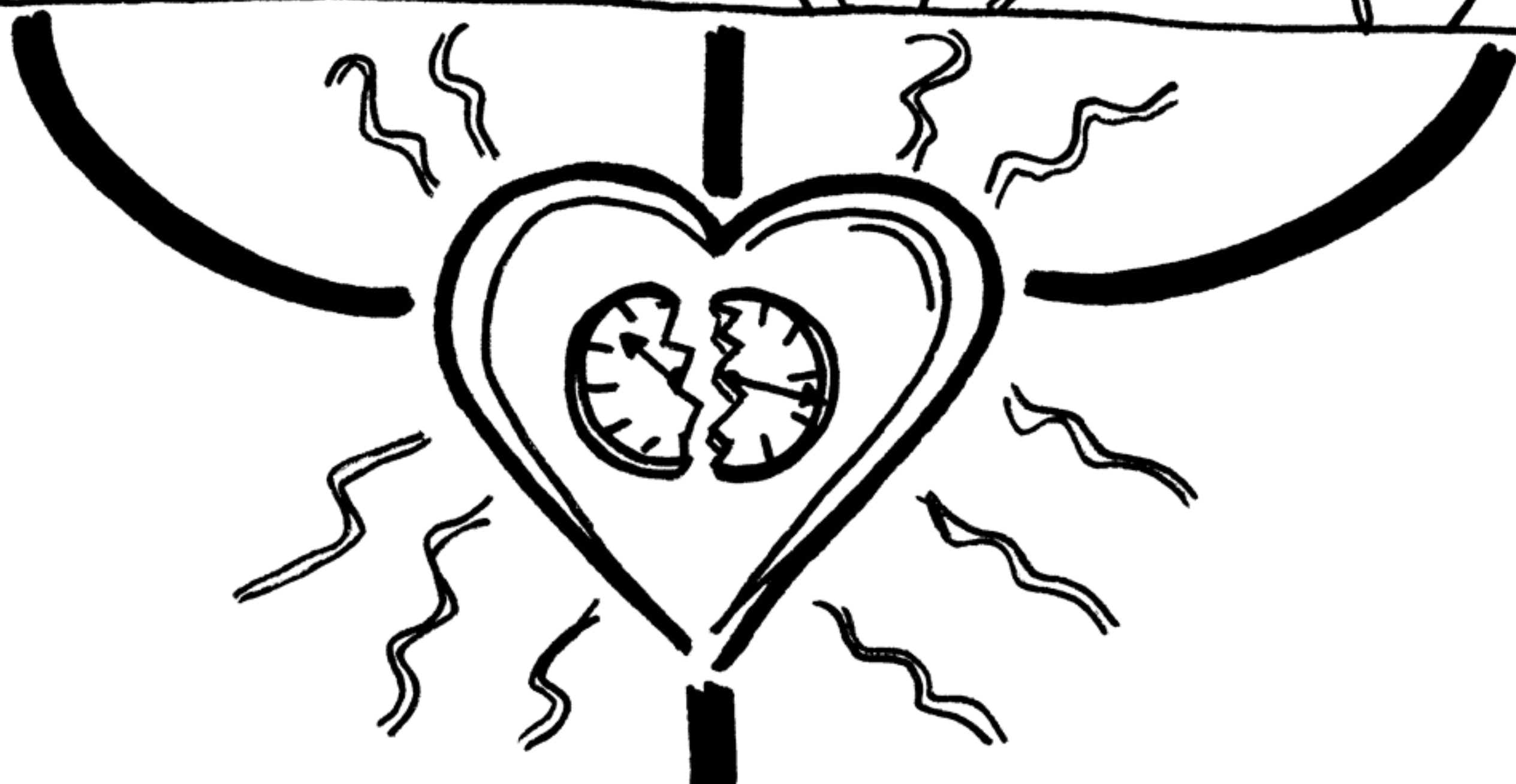
THERE! I FOUND  
MY REALITY!!



BUT WAIT...  
THAT'S THE PAST!



IT MUST BE YOUR HEART  
SIGNAL! ITS STRENGTH HAS  
TRANSCENDED THE BOUN-  
DARIES OF TIME!!!





GO! NOW! BEFORE  
IT'S TOO LATE

BUT WHAT  
ABOUT YOU??



I'LL BE  
FINE. JUST  
HURRY!!

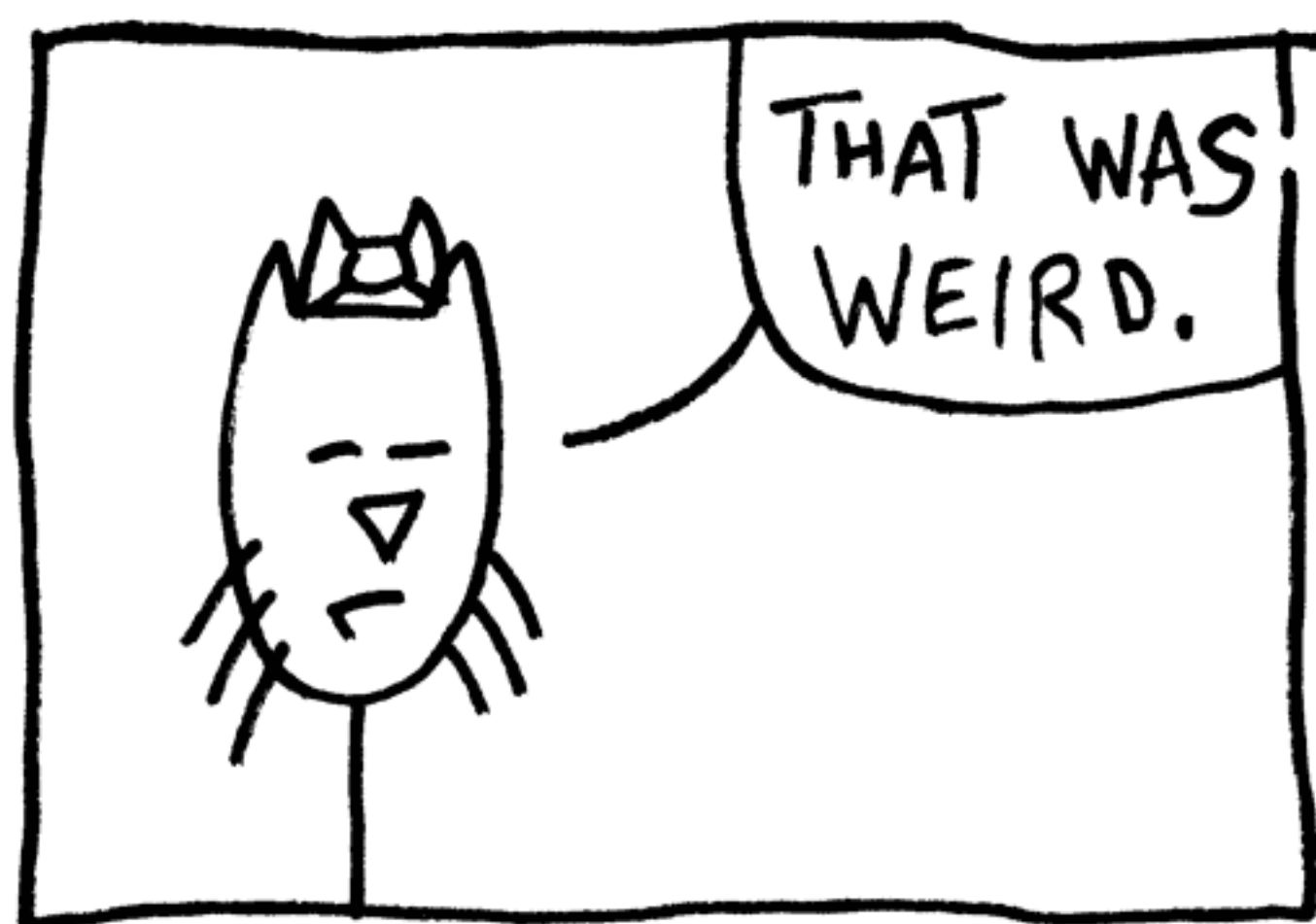
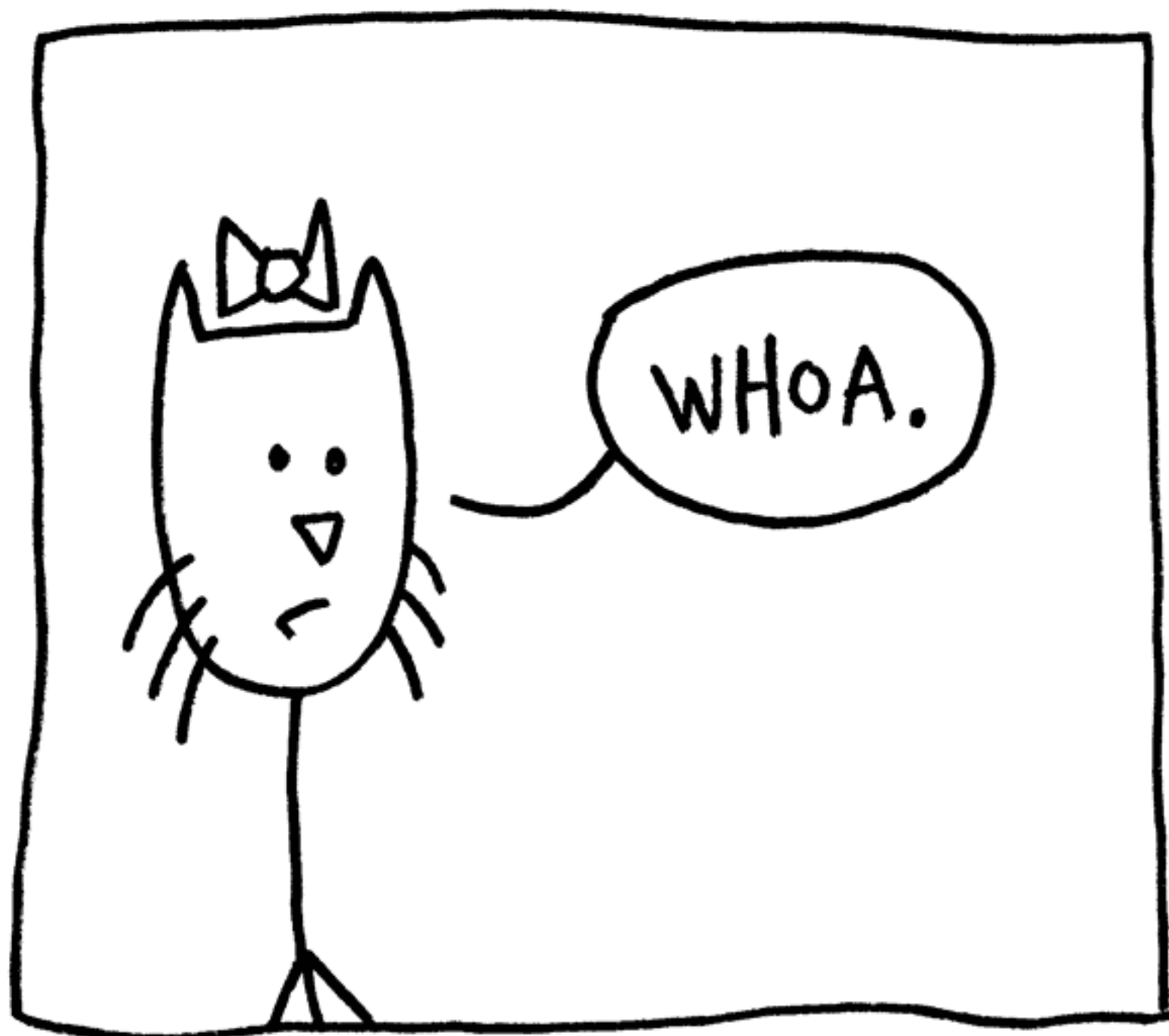
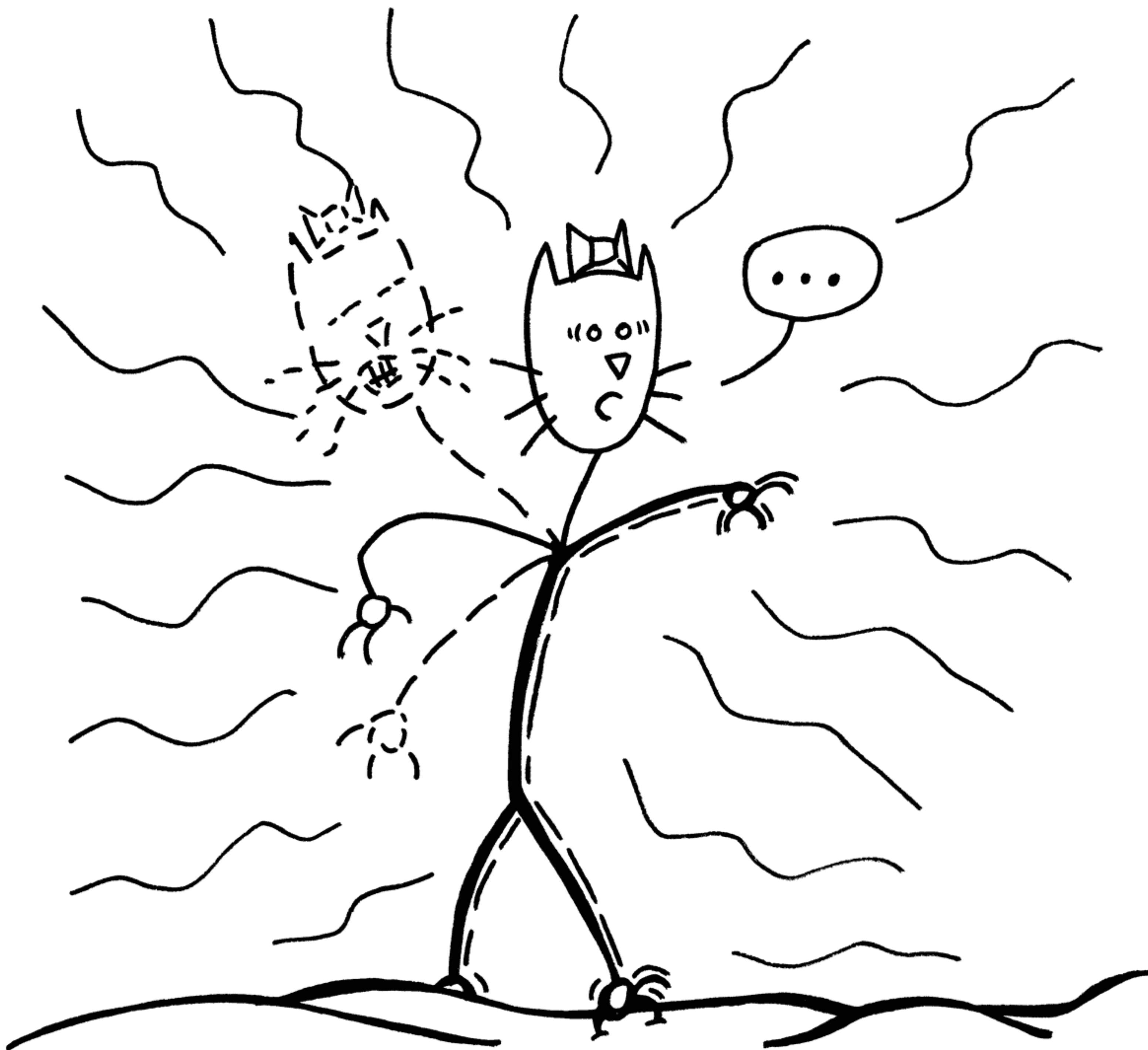
AND GOOD LUCK,  
MARMALADE. YOUR  
REALITY IS  
COUNTING ON YOU.

ALMOST...

...THERE







MEANWHILE IN THE  
MANX MOUNTAINS...

MOVE YOUR  
PAWS!!

C'MON, KITTENS!  
THIS AIN'T NO  
VACATION!!!



WE'VE BEEN ON THE MOVE  
NON-STOP FOR TWO DAYS!!

I NEED A CATNAP.

AWW!  
POOR  
KITTEN!!

YOU CAN SLEEP WHEN YOU'RE DEAD.

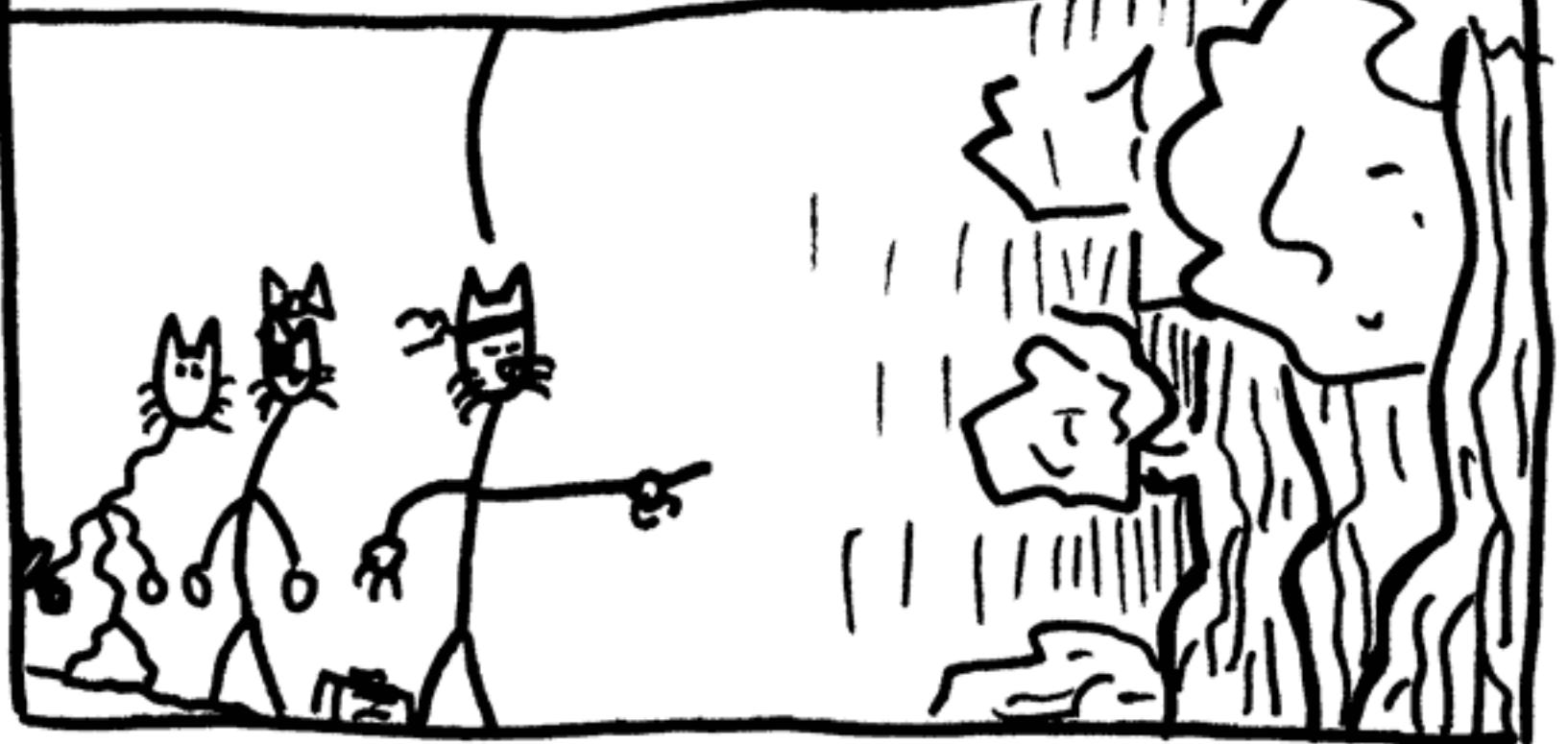


WHOA! AMAZONIA, TAKE  
IT EASY!! HUBERT IS  
NEW TO THE CREW.

HISSSS!



LOOK... THE MIDNIGHT  
FOREST IS ONLY A  
FEW PAWS AWAY.  
WE'LL REST THERE.







ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, ROCKY?

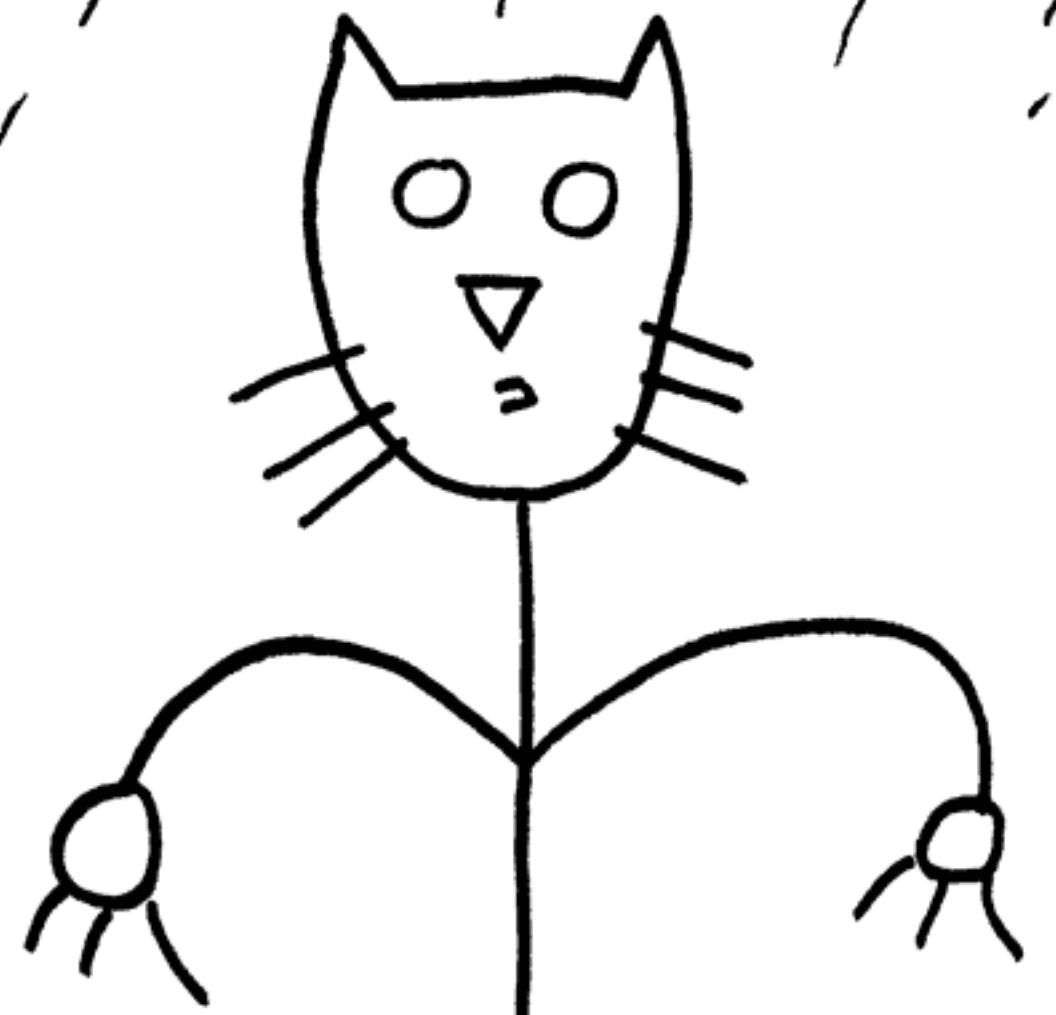
NO. I'M REALLY NOT.

BUT WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO WE HAVE?



WHAT THE CLAW AM I  
SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?

RAWR



HOLY CATS! STEVE IS  
COMING OUT OF HIS  
ASTRAL TRANCE!

MEOW

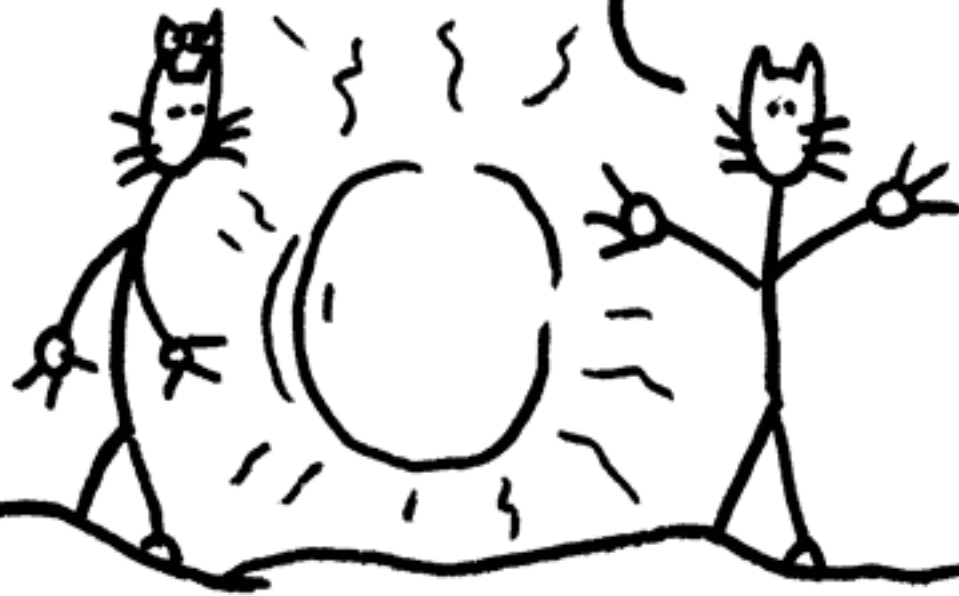
AHH! WHAT DO I TELL HIM?







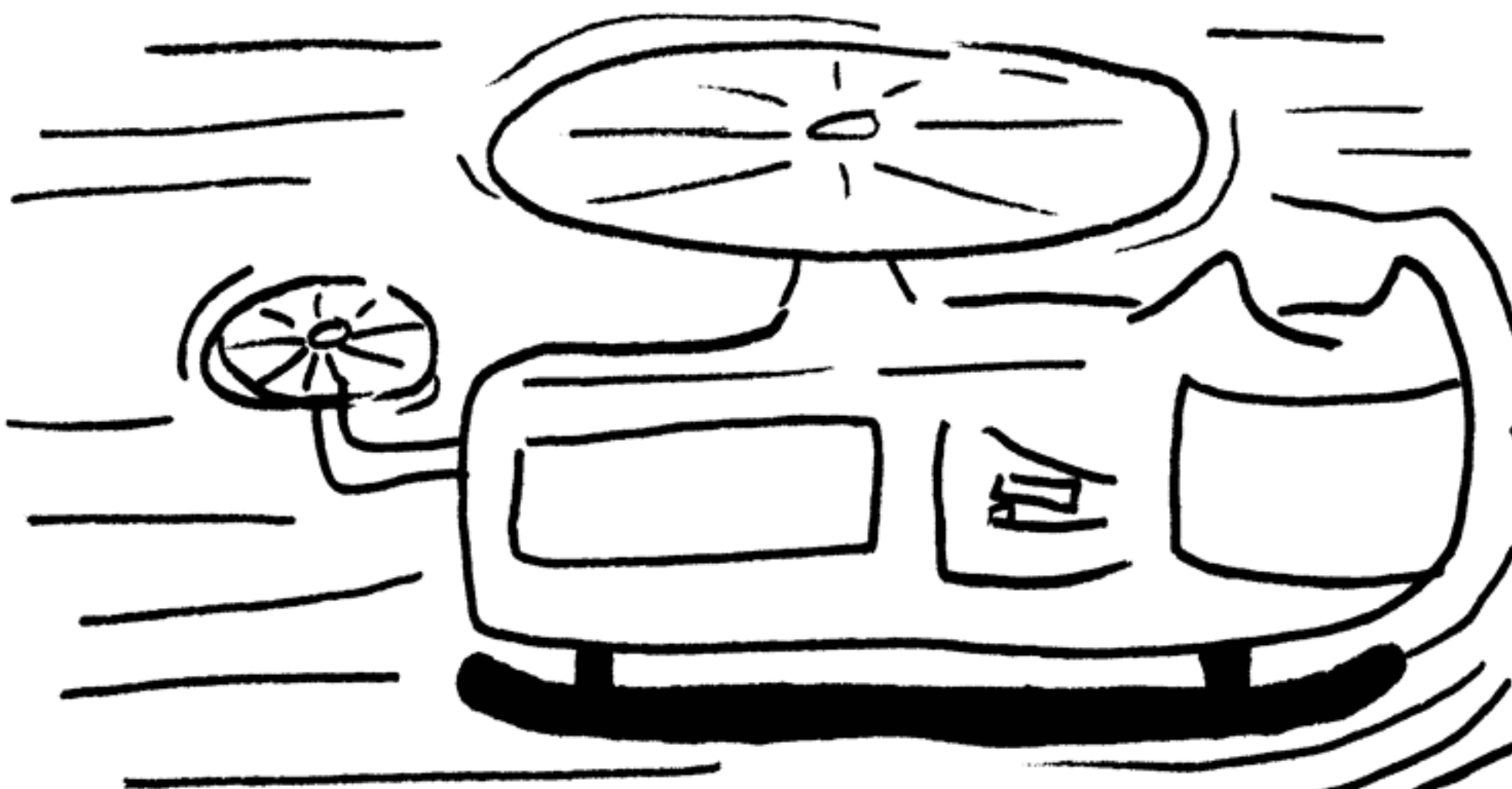
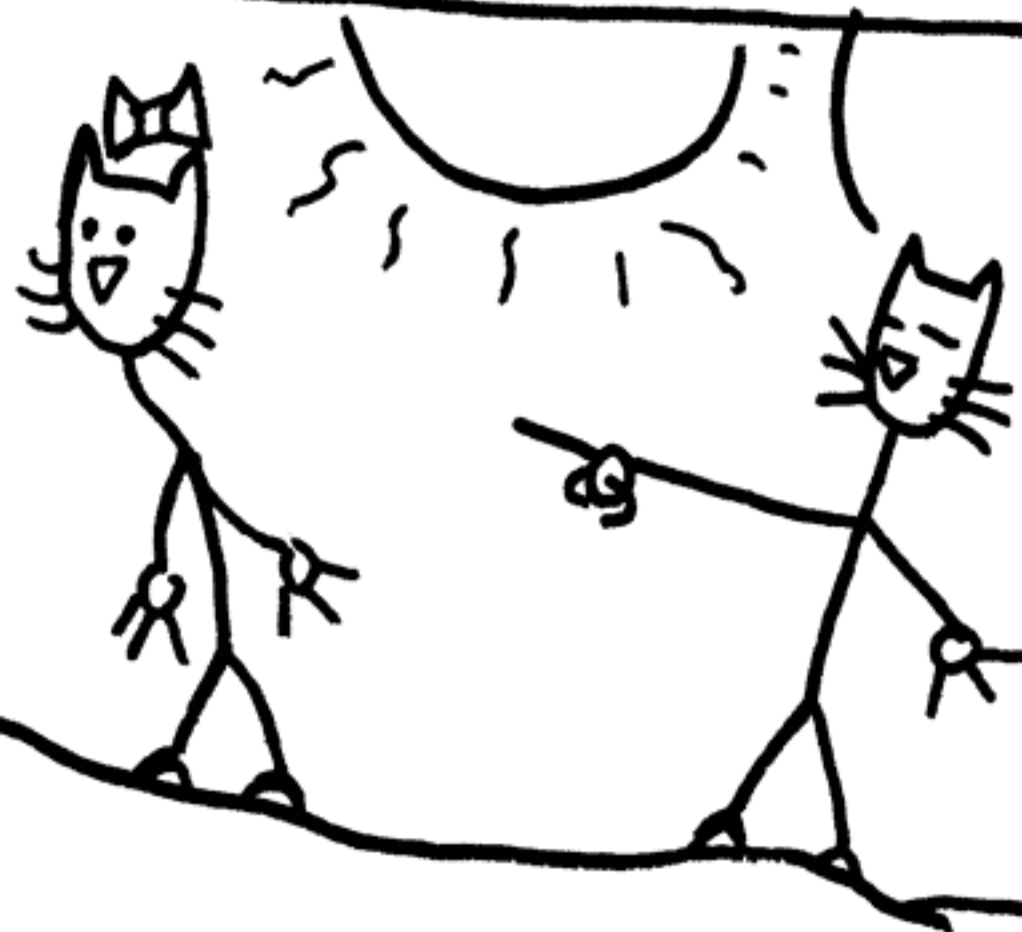
YES!!! HOW'D  
YOU KNOW?



UM... A GOOD  
GUESS?



LOOK, WE'VE GOTTA ACT FAST! LET'S HOP IN  
THE WHISKER COPTER.



I'VE GOT A  
FRIEND IN PAWBURGH  
WHO CAN HELP!!



I DON'T  
LIKE THIS.  
AT ALL.





I'VE HAD ENOUGH  
OF YOUR LITTER  
CLUMPS, AMAZONIA!

WHAT YA GONNA  
DO A BOUT IT,  
TOUGH CAT?



RELAX, YOU TWO! REMEMBER WHY WE'RE HERE?





WE'RE HUNTING THE OCTO-KITTY!

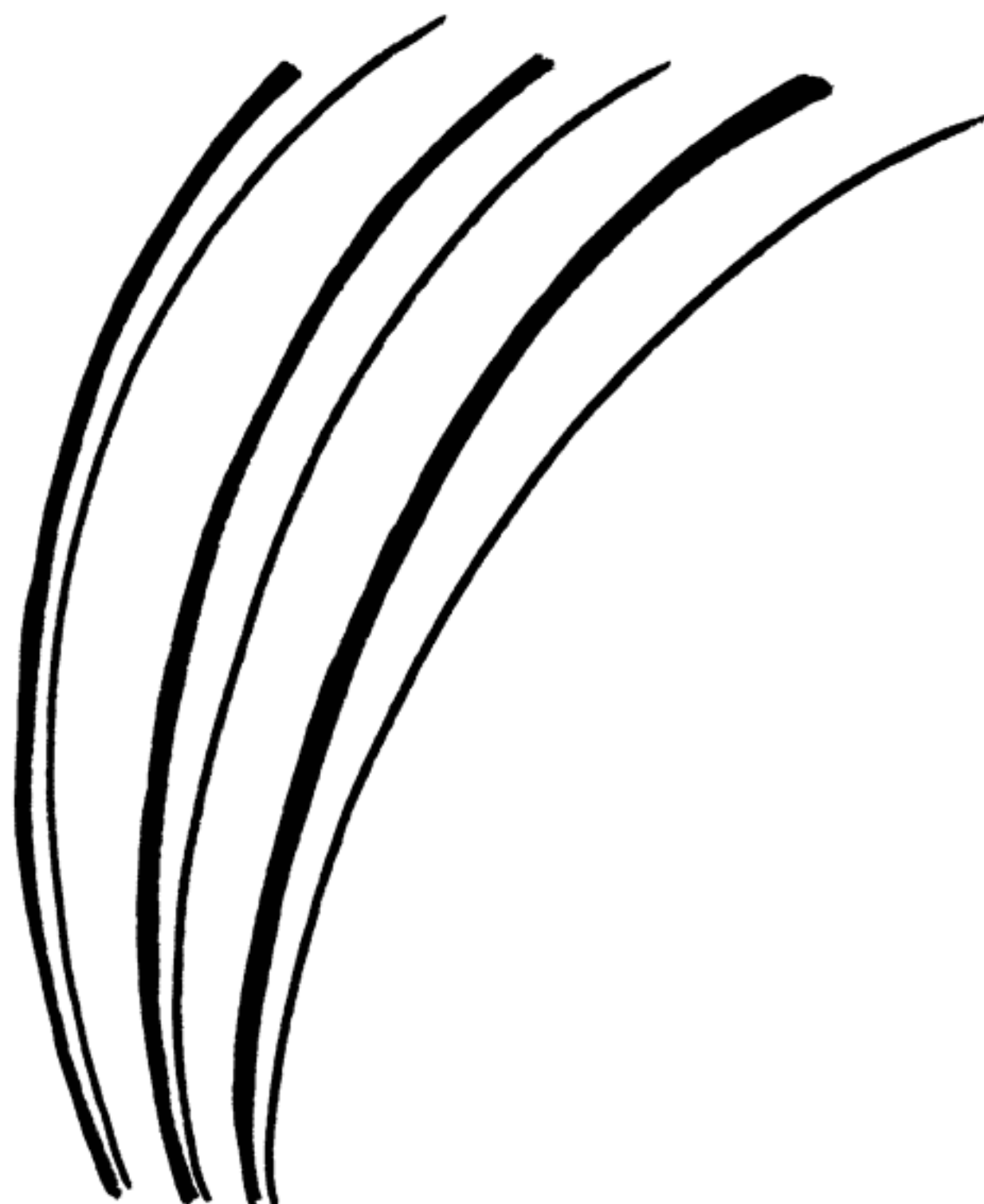
SO SIT DOWN...

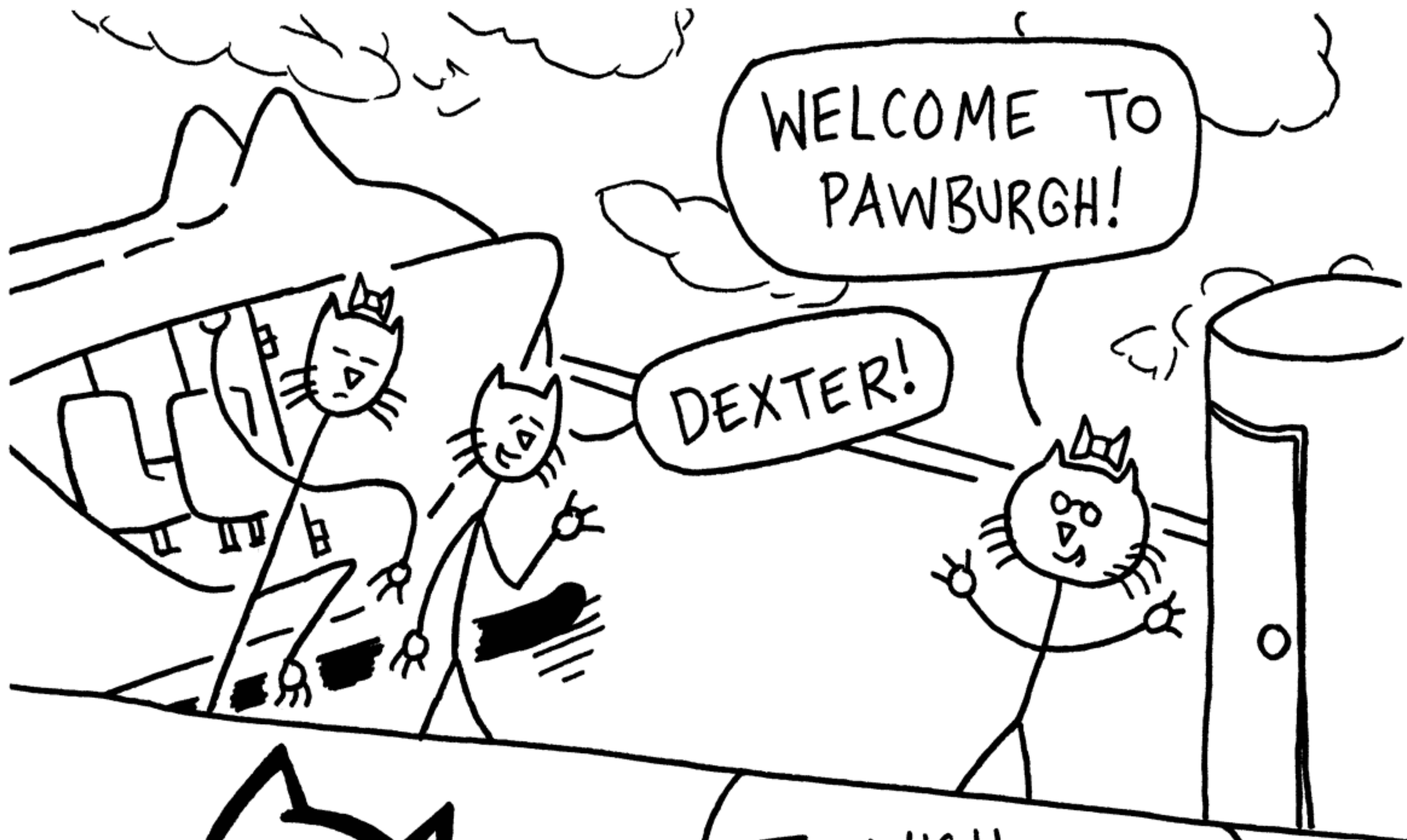


...AND KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPEN.



AAAAHHH

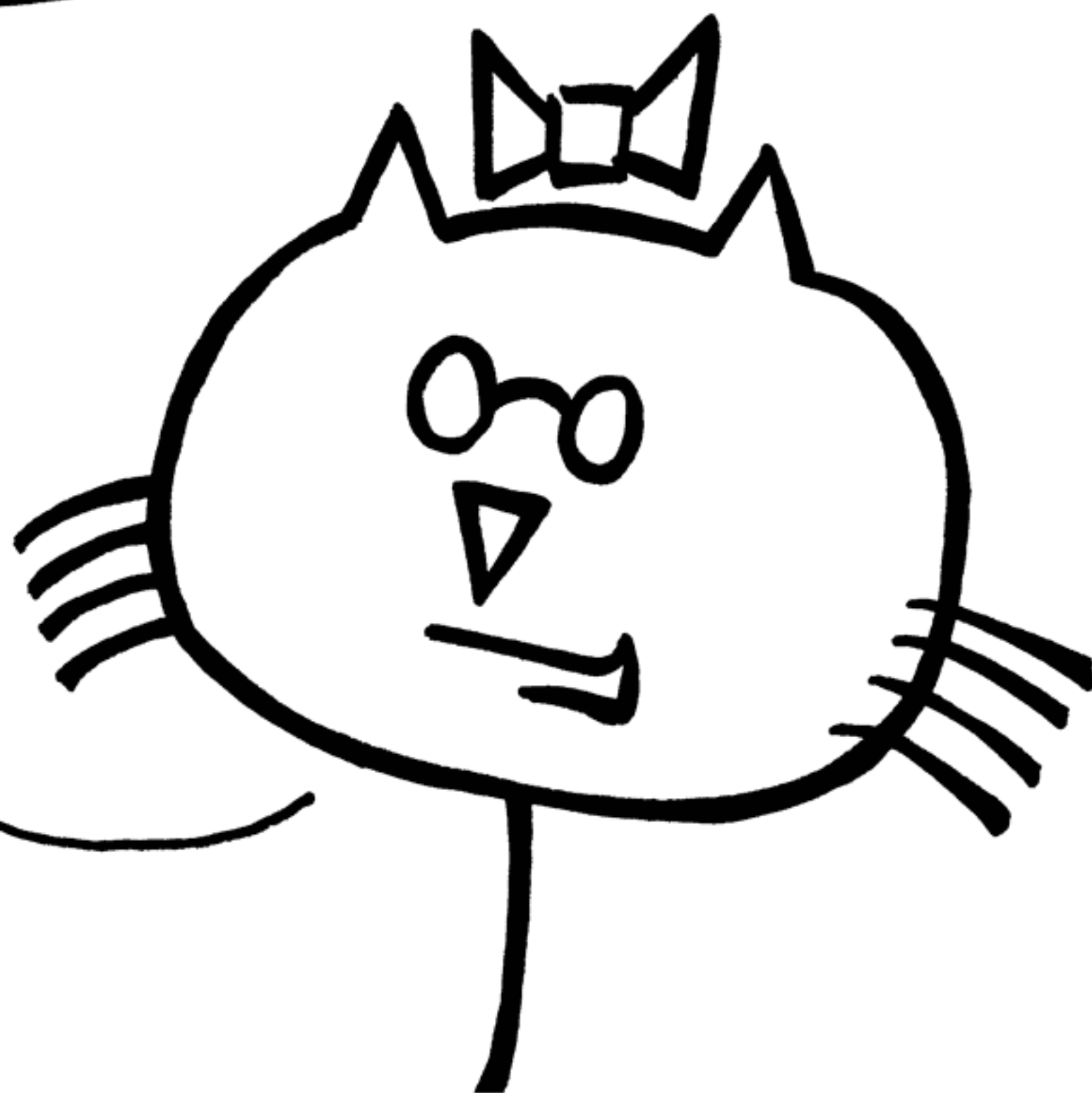




I WISH  
WE WERE HERE  
UNDER BETTER  
CIRCUMSTANCES...

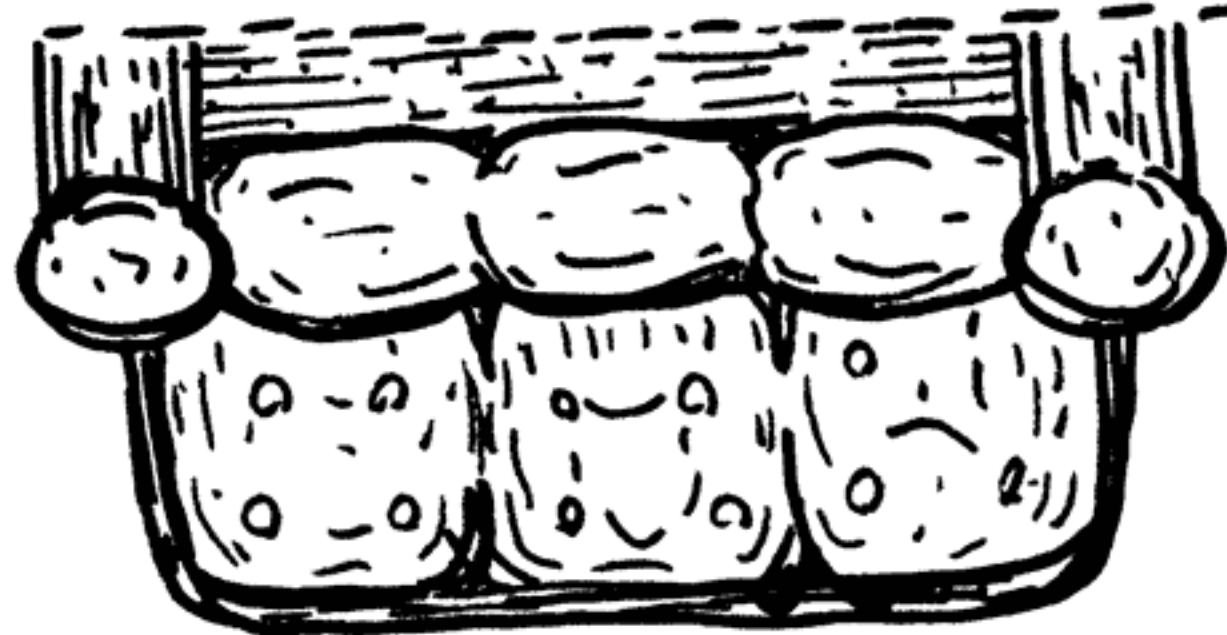
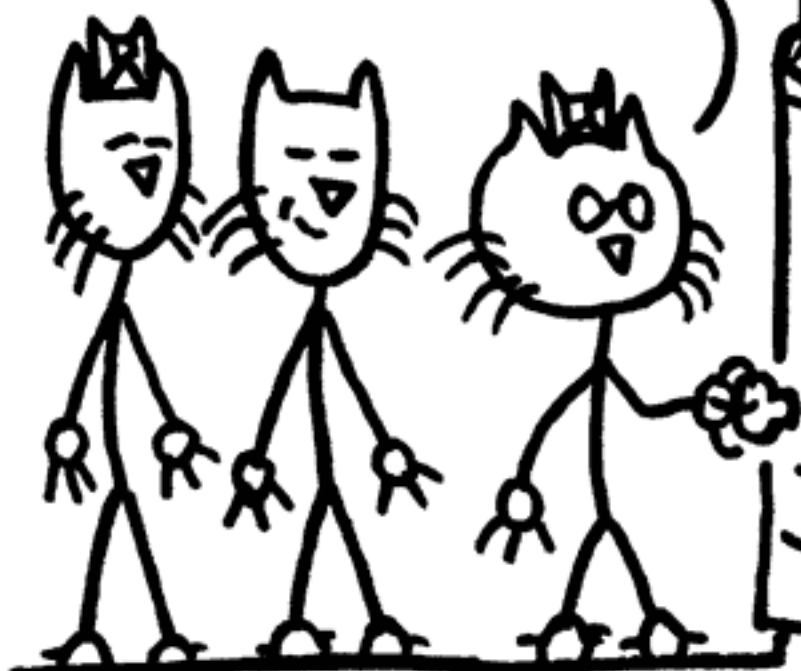
DON'T FRET,  
MY FRIEND.

CALAMITY IS  
MY CATNIP.





LET'S HEAD  
TO MY LAB.



ANTI-  
GRAVITY  
COUCH



SCIENCE  
JACUZZI



REPLICATION  
KITCHEN



INVISIBLE DINING ROOM



DETOX  
CHAMBER

RESEARCH CENTER

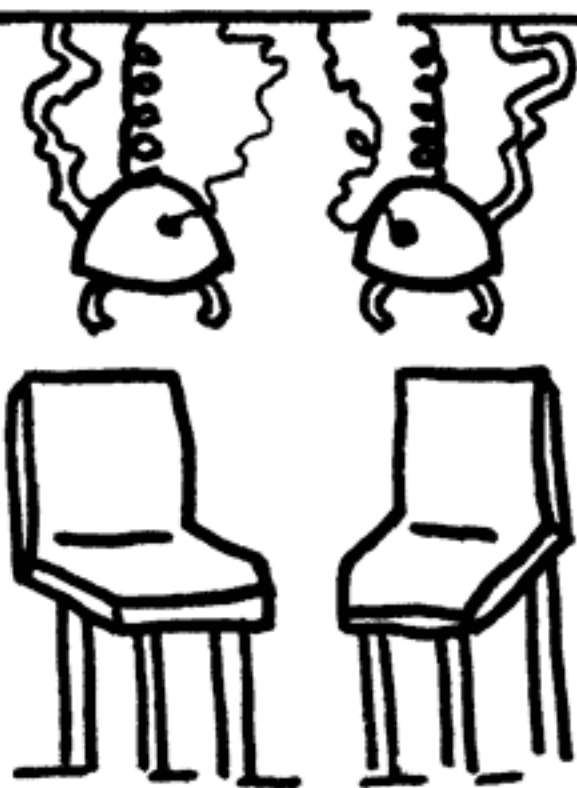


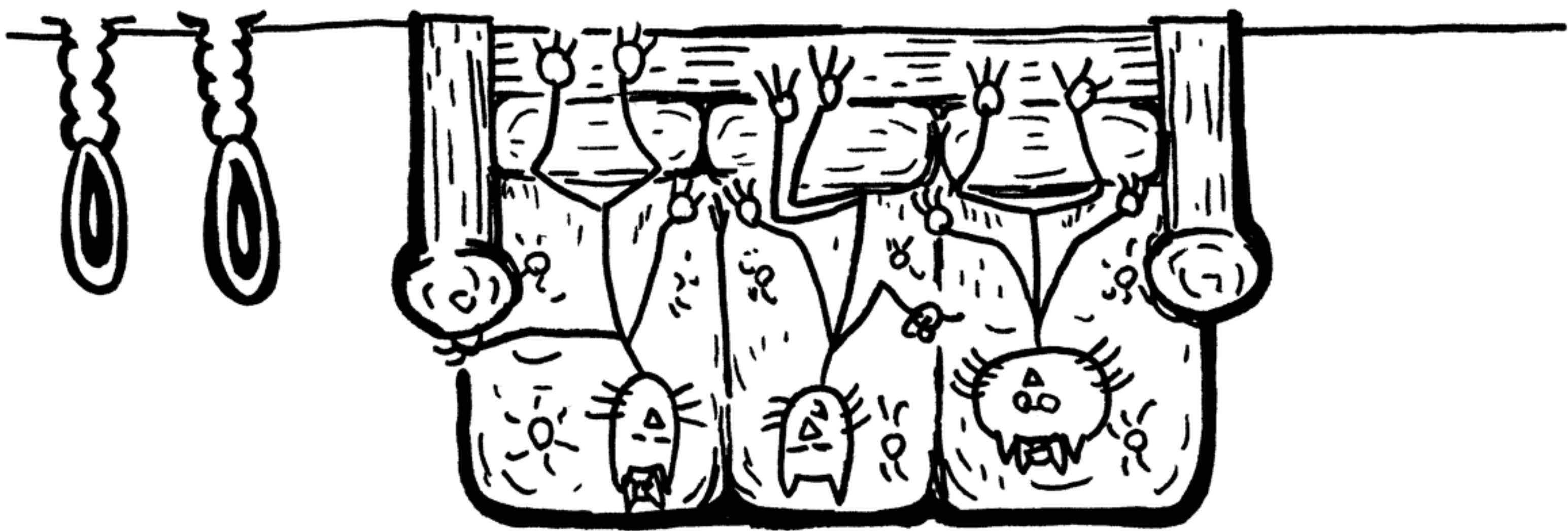
TOP  
SECRET  
MAGIC  
CRATE



LABORATORY

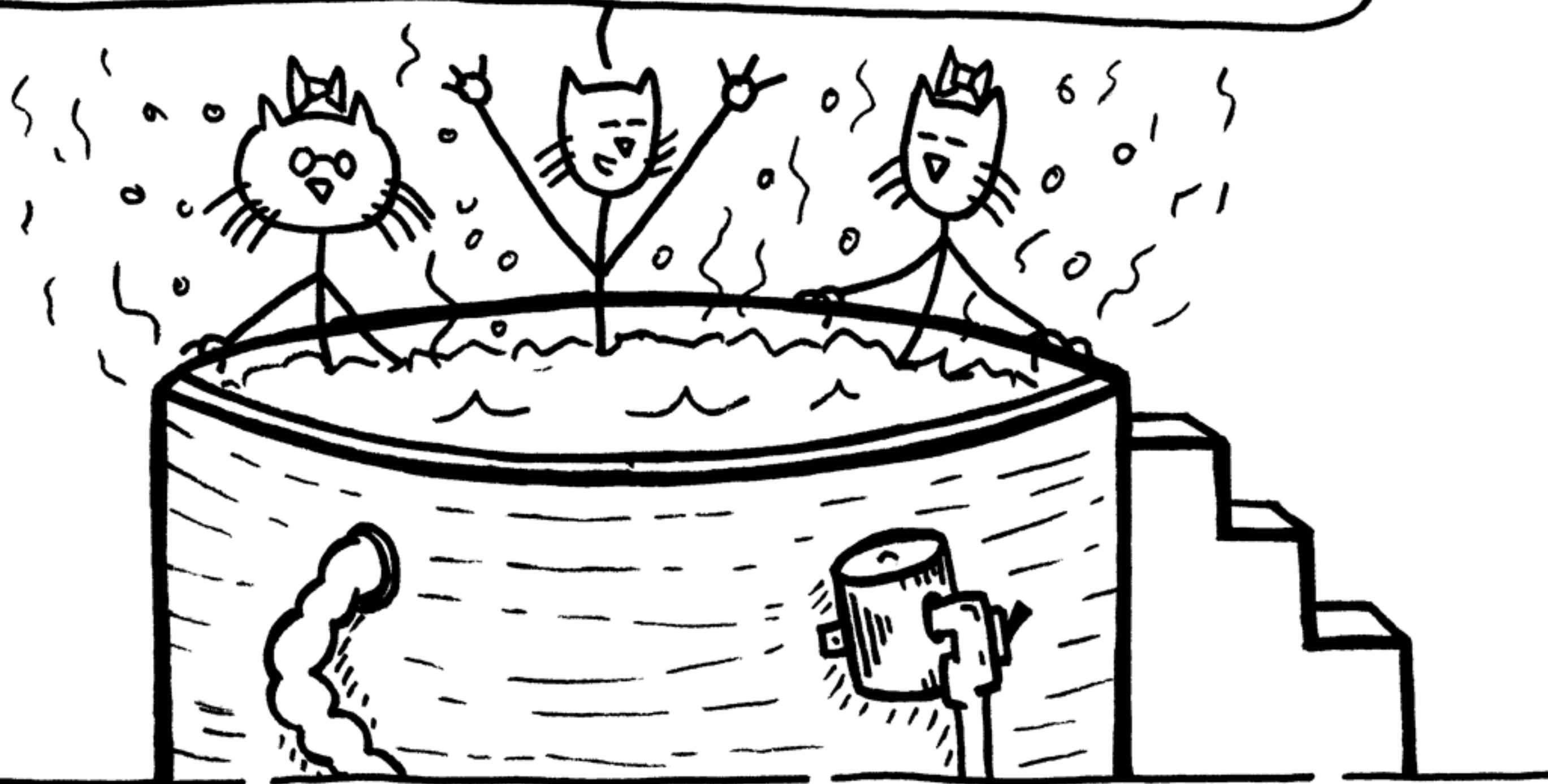
ASTRAL  
ALIGNMENT  
STATION





DEXTER HERE IS  
THE CHIEF  
ARCHITECT OF  
PAWBURGH.

HIS SYSTEMS HAVE MADE IT THE MOST  
SUSTAINABLE CITY IN CLAWORLD.



SO STEVE... TELL  
ME ABOUT YOUR  
PREDICAMENT.



IT'S SIMPLE -- THE  
OCTO-KITTY IS BACK  
AND MY SISTER IS  
WORKING FOR IT.



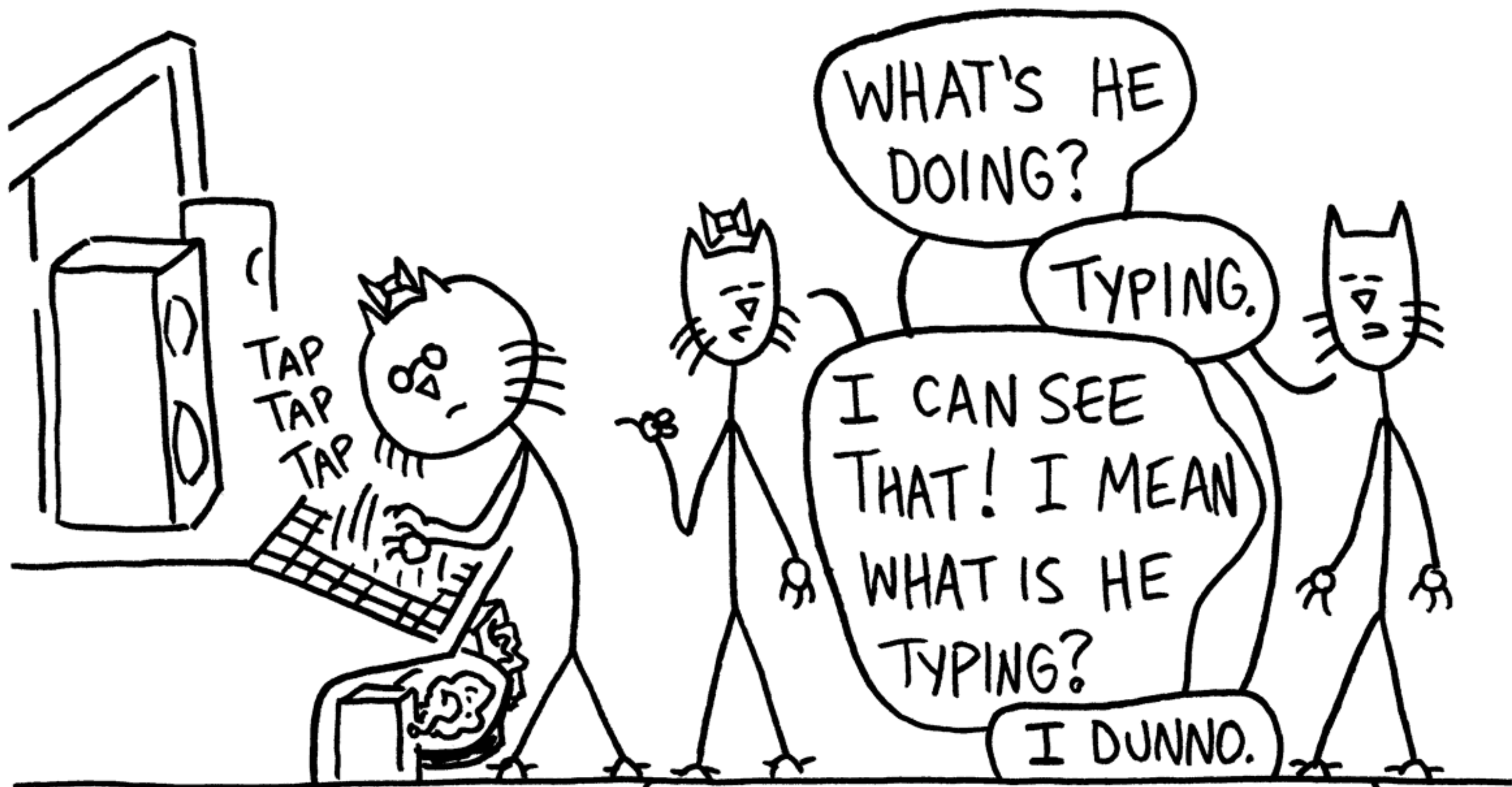
OH MY. THAT'S BAD.  
AMAZONIA IS FIERCE.

SHE MOST  
CERTAINLY  
IS.









I'M TRACKING THE  
MANX MILITIA VIA  
THEIR BIO-SIGNATURES.  
THE ONLY PROBLEM IS...

...THEIR HEART MONITORS  
HAVE ALL GONE SILENT!

CRAP! IT'S  
HAPPENING  
AGAIN!

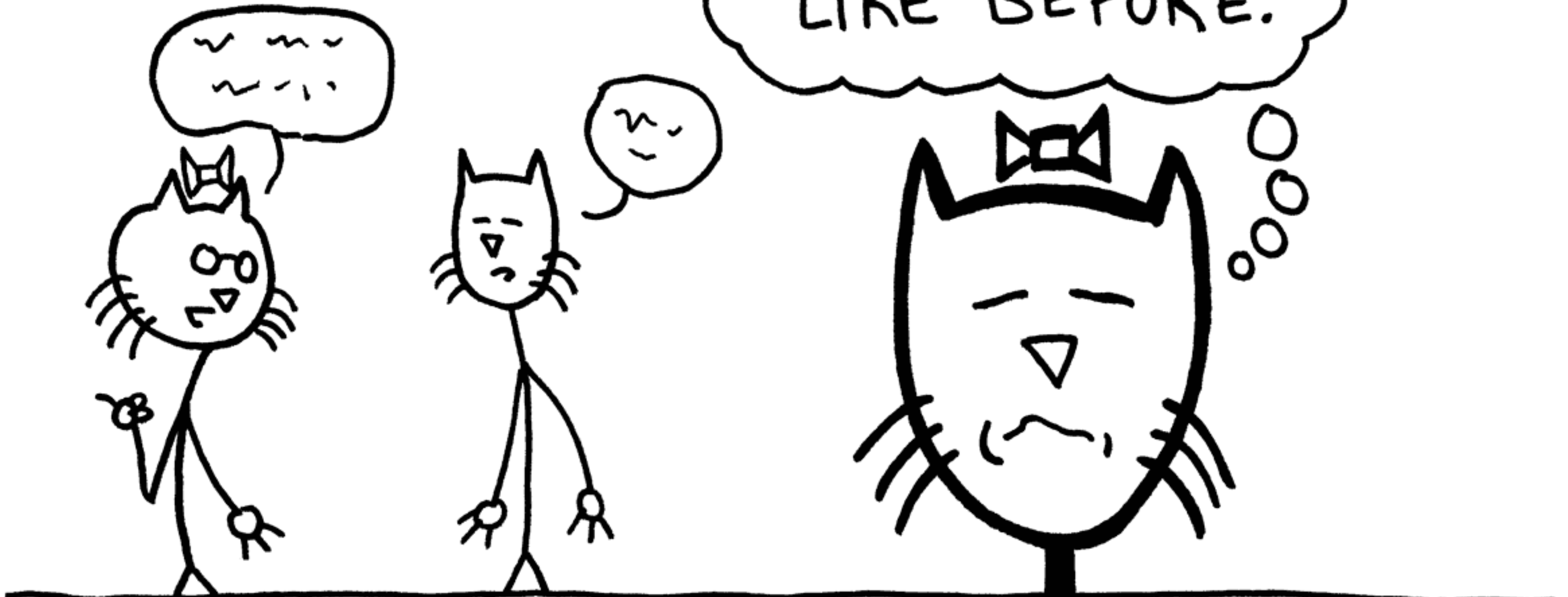
Gasp!

LUCIEN  
ROCKY  
GUY  
SPIKE  
HUBERT





I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE DIFFERENT  
THIS TIME AROUND! BUT IT'S JUST  
LIKE BEFORE.



DETOX  
TIME!

HEY, MARMALADE!  
C'MON, WE'RE GOING  
DOWNSTAIRS.



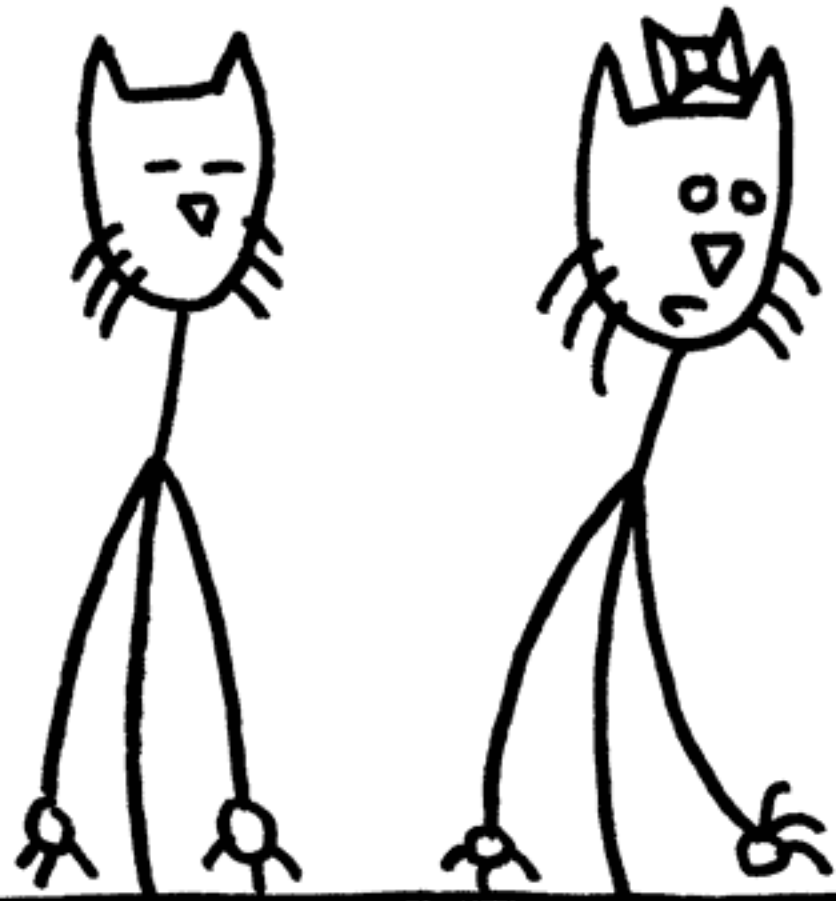
WELL, THAT WAS WEIRD...





MARMALADE, COME  
ALIGN YOURSELF!

UHH...



NO WAY, DEXTER! YOU'LL  
FIND OUT I'M AN  
ASTRAL ANOMALY!!

NAW, I'M  
GOOD. THANKS  
ANYWAY.



OH, C'MON!  
IT'LL BE FUN.

I SAID  
**NO!!!**



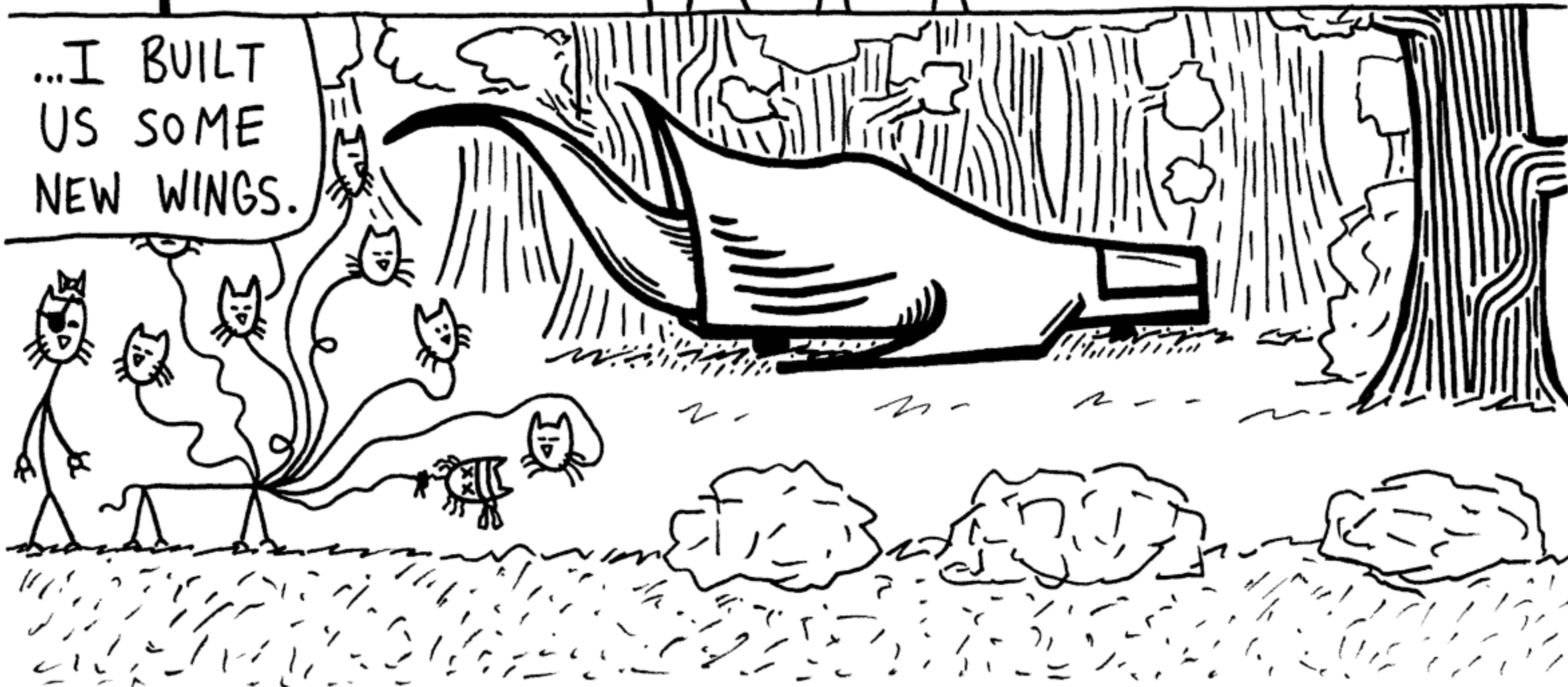


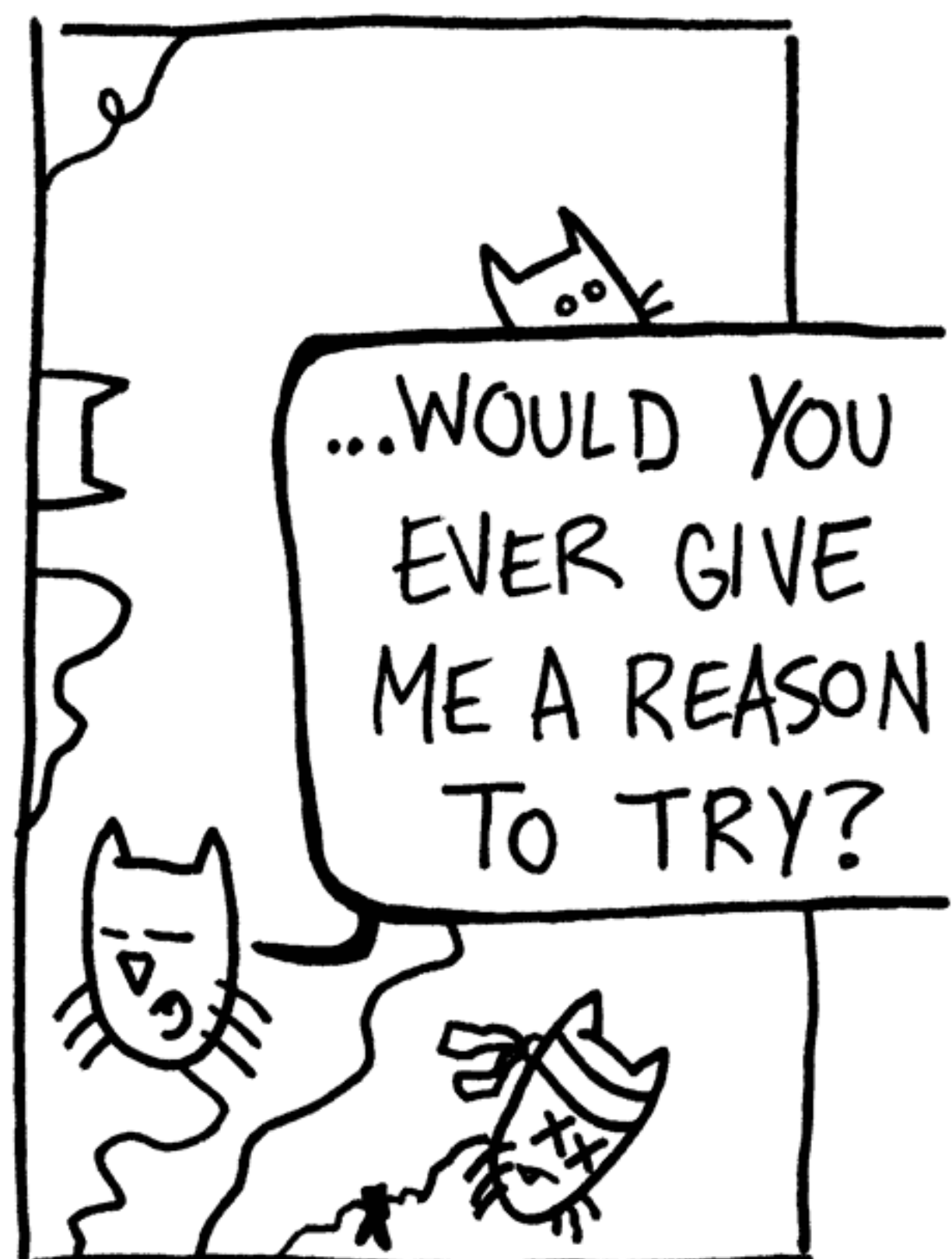
I SEE  
YOU'VE  
BEEN  
BUSY.



YES. WHILE YOU WERE  
DISTRACTING YOUR BROTHER  
AND HIS PETULANT PAL...

...I BUILT  
US SOME  
NEW WINGS.







MARMALADE, WHAT'S  
GOTTEN INTO YOU?!?!



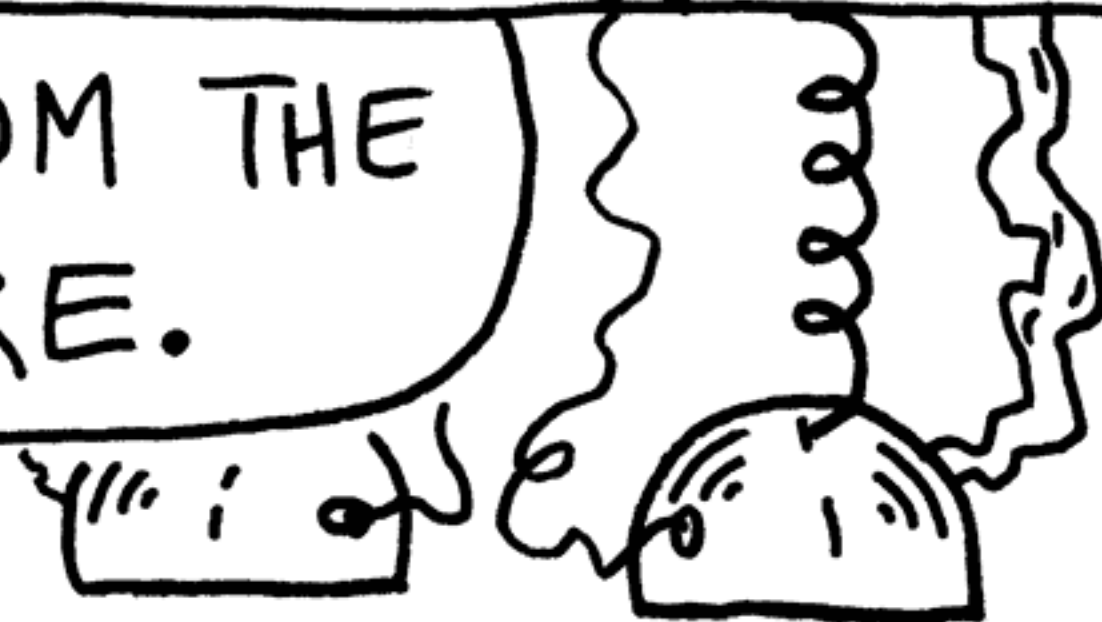
AWW, YOU'RE  
RIGHT! I'M  
SORRY.



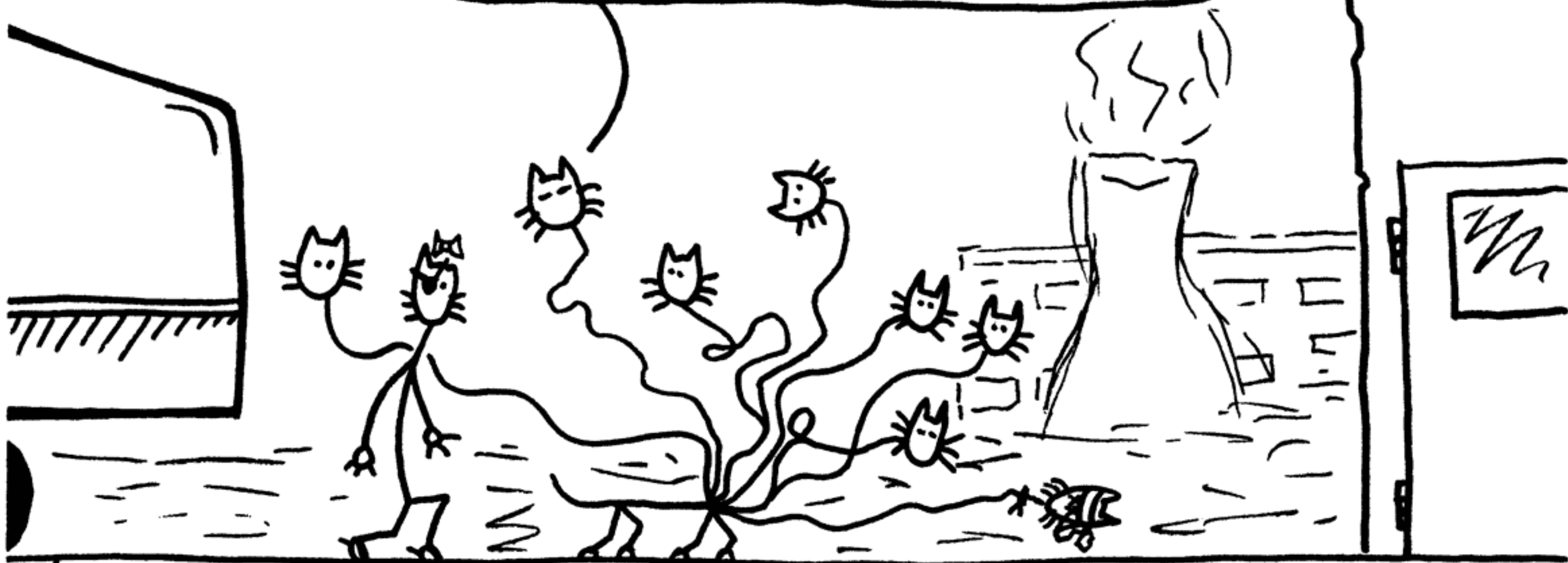
LOOK, I HAVEN'T  
BEEN TOTALLY  
HONEST WITH  
THE TWO OF YOU...



I'M FROM THE  
FUTURE.



HMM... THE WHISKER COPTER ISN'T HERE.  
I EXPECTED THE DECO-KITTY TO BE BACK  
IN NORTH NEKO BY NOW.



ME TOO. I DON'T  
LIKE THIS.



I REALLY STUCK MY  
NECKS OUT GETTING  
YOU THE RESOURCES TO  
CREATE THE DECO-KITTY.

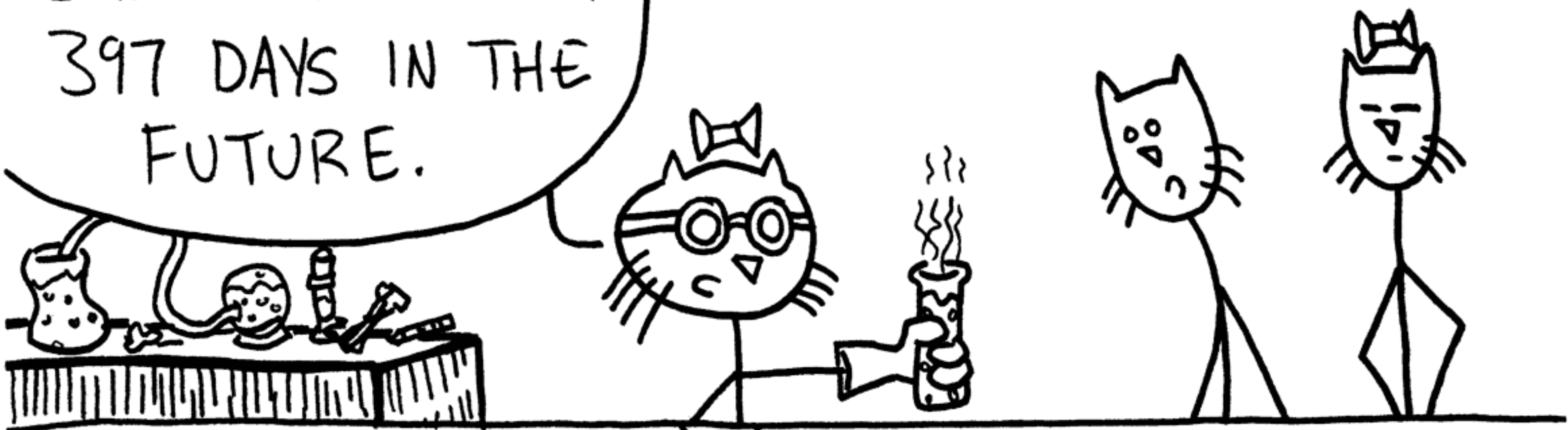


IF IT FAILED, THEN  
I'M HOLDING YOU  
ACCOUNTABLE!!



STEVE, I'VE CARBON-DATED MARMALADE'S MEMORIES. SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.

SHE COMES FROM 397 DAYS IN THE FUTURE.



DID YOU COME HERE ON PURPOSE? OR DID SOMETHING UNEXPECTED HAPPEN?

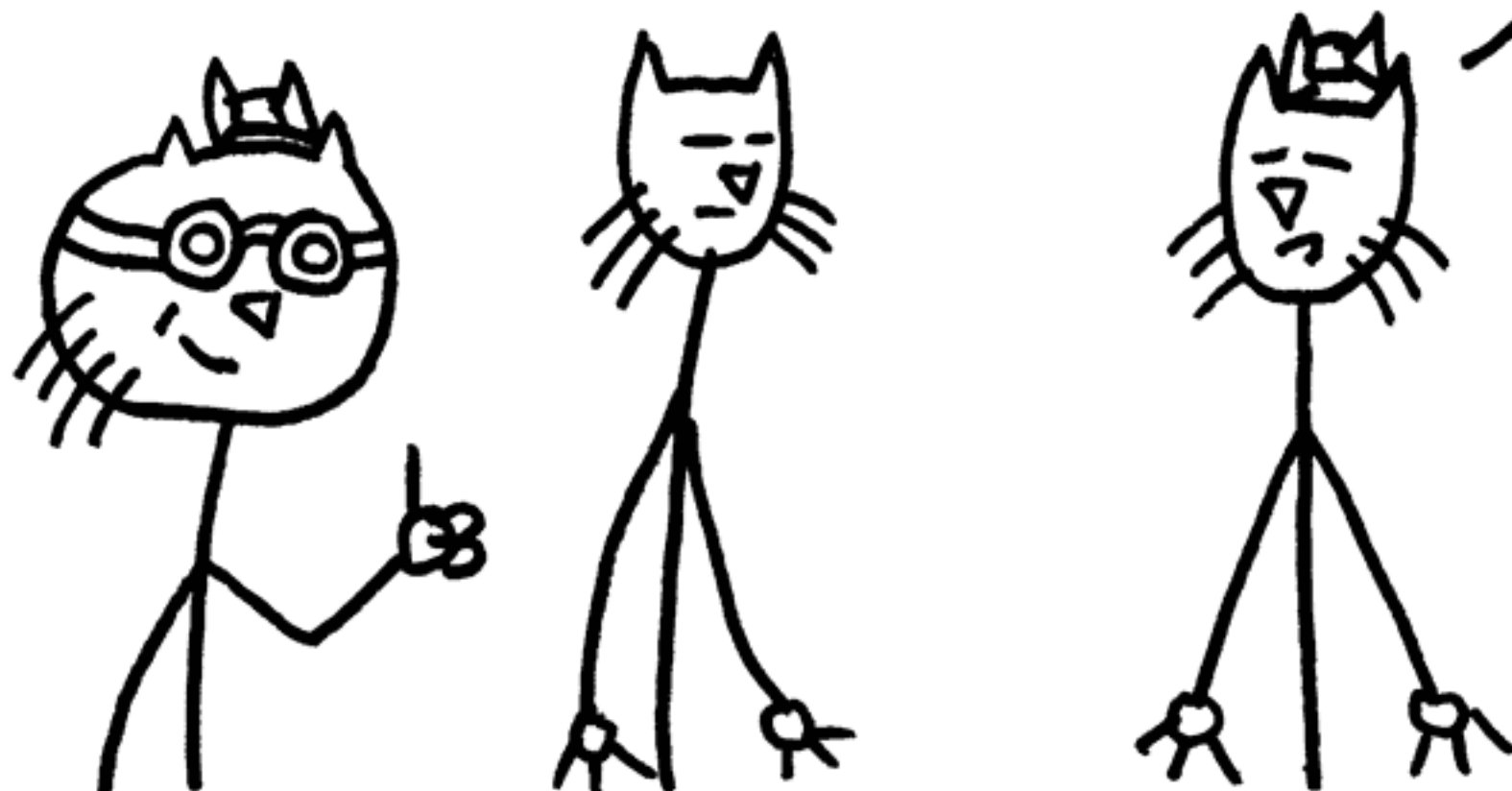
A LITTLE BIT OF BOTH.



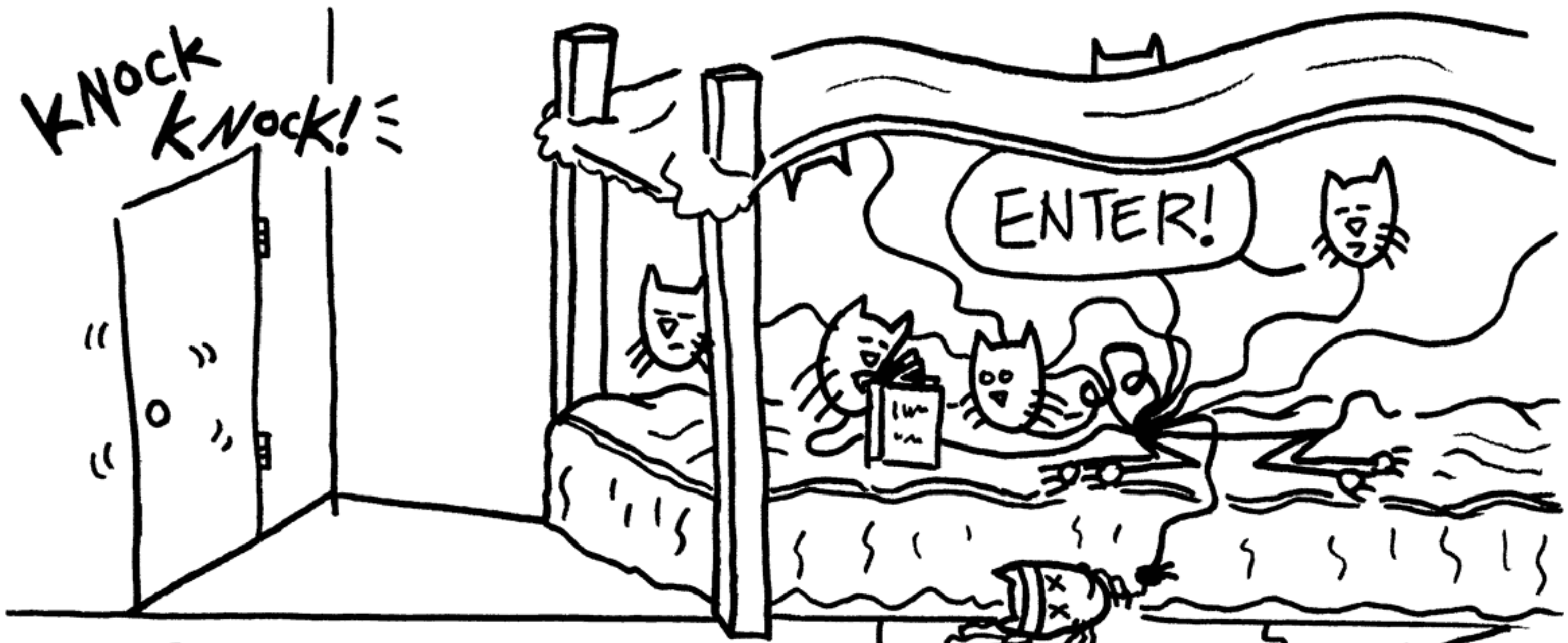
YOUR TIME TRAVEL OPENS UP COUNTLESS TEMPORAL POSSIBILITIES! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN...



HOW ABOUT I TELL YOU TWO MY STORY AND WE'LL GO FROM THERE...







I BUZZED DECO-KITTY'S COMMUNICATOR A BUNCH OF TIMES. NO ANSWER.

LET'S PREPARE FOR THE WORST.

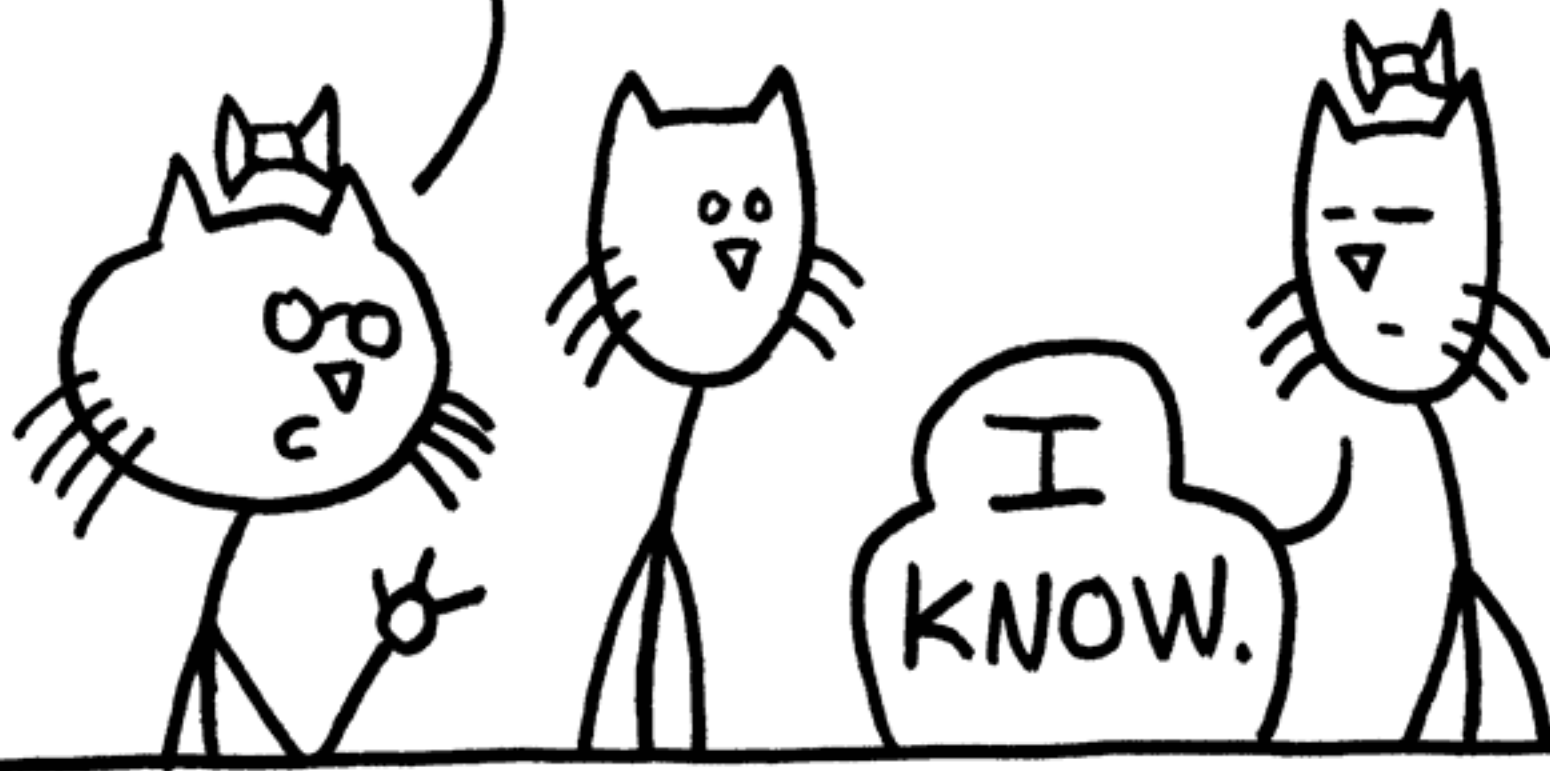


TAKE THE TAIL GLIDER AND FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DECO-KITTY...

... AND YOUR BROTHER.



DANG. THAT'S A HECK  
OF A STORY.



THAT'S MY COMMUNICATOR. I BETTER TAKE  
THIS CALL.



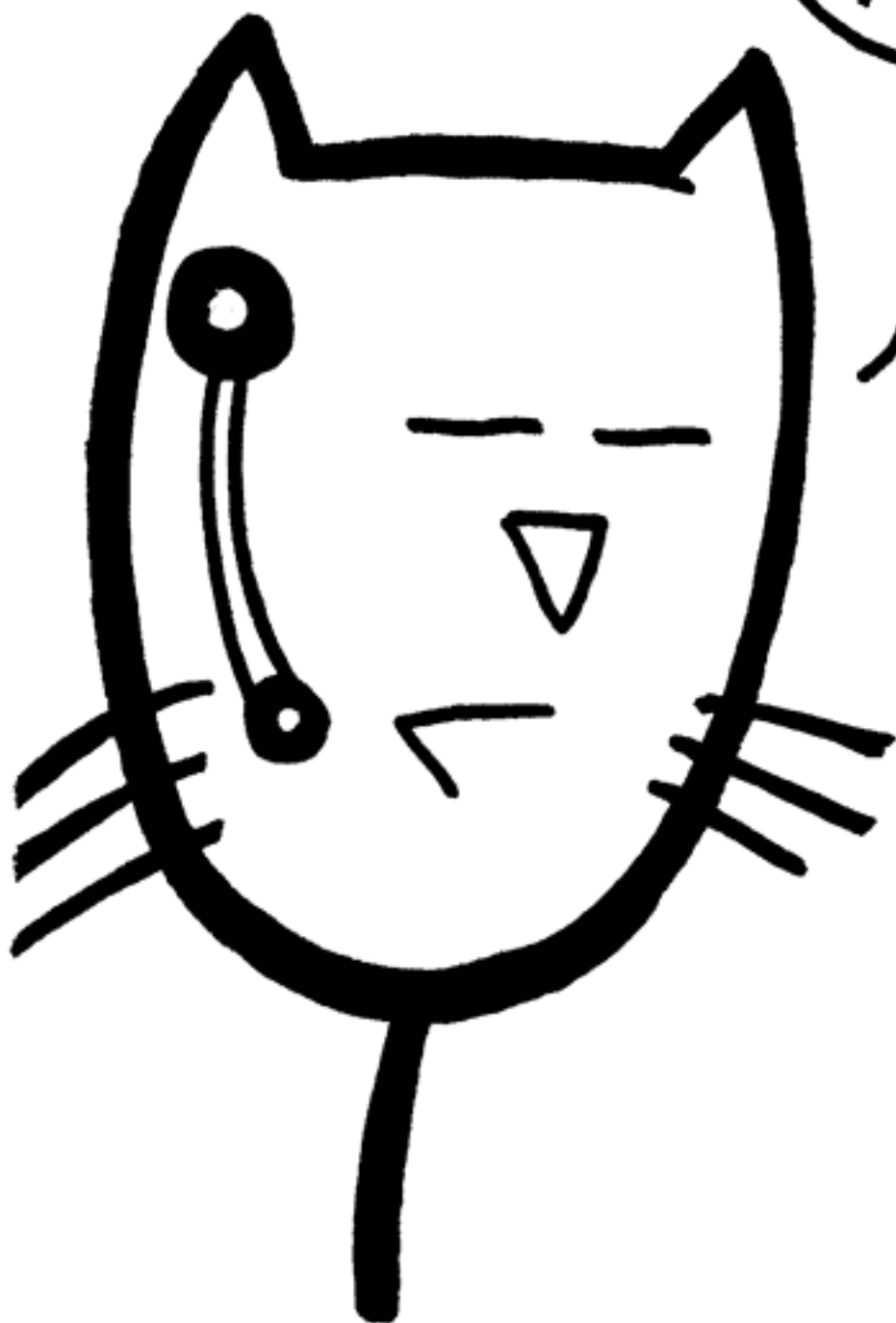
CLICHÉ



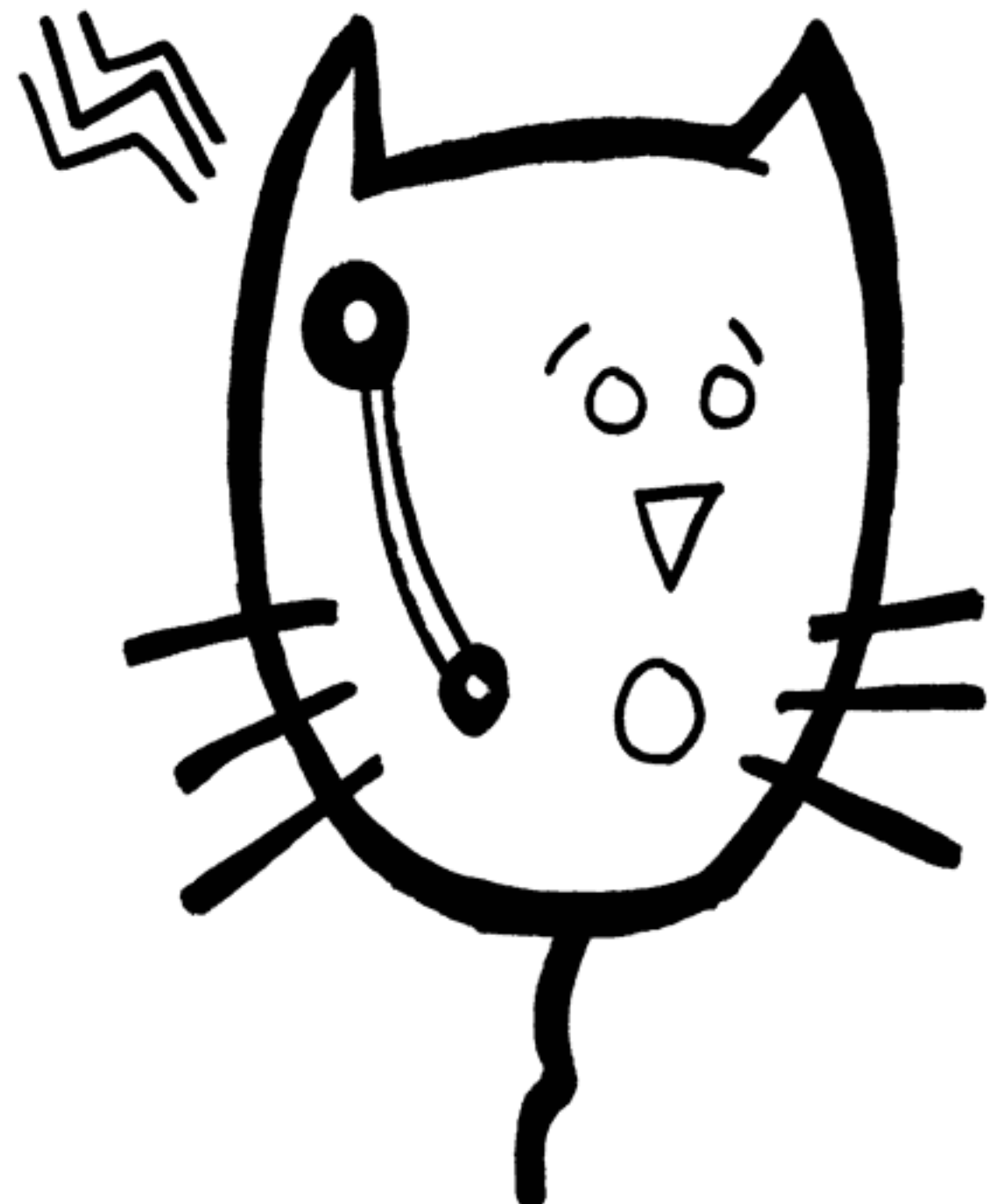
ZWEEP!

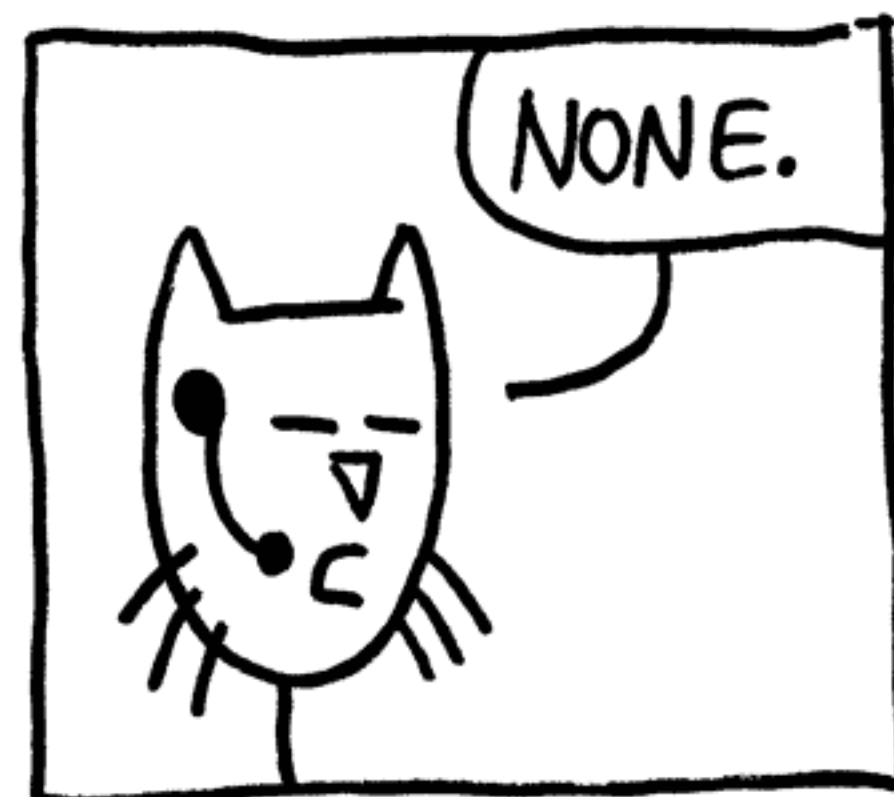
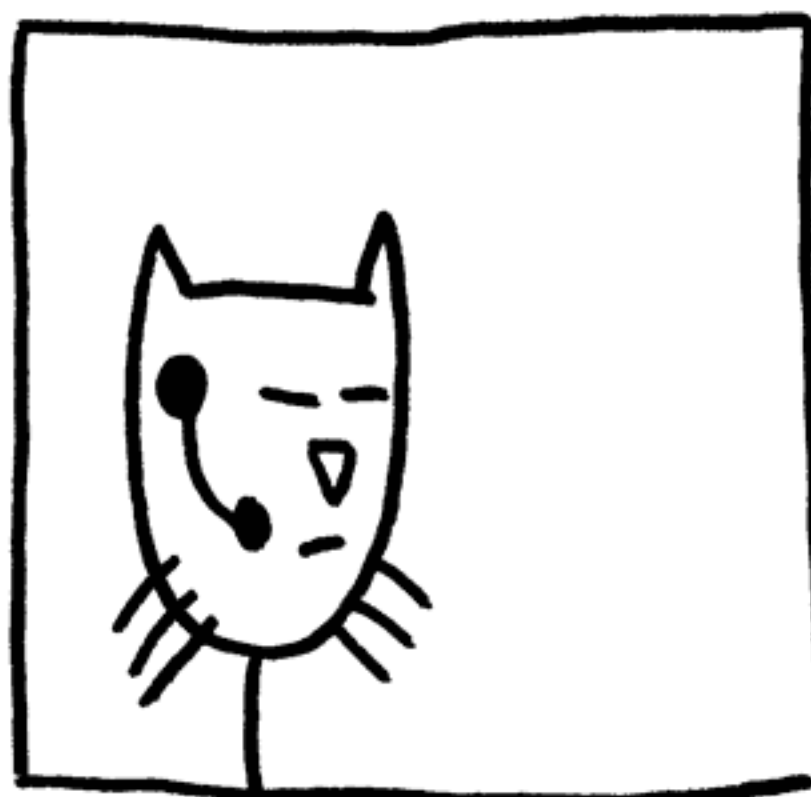
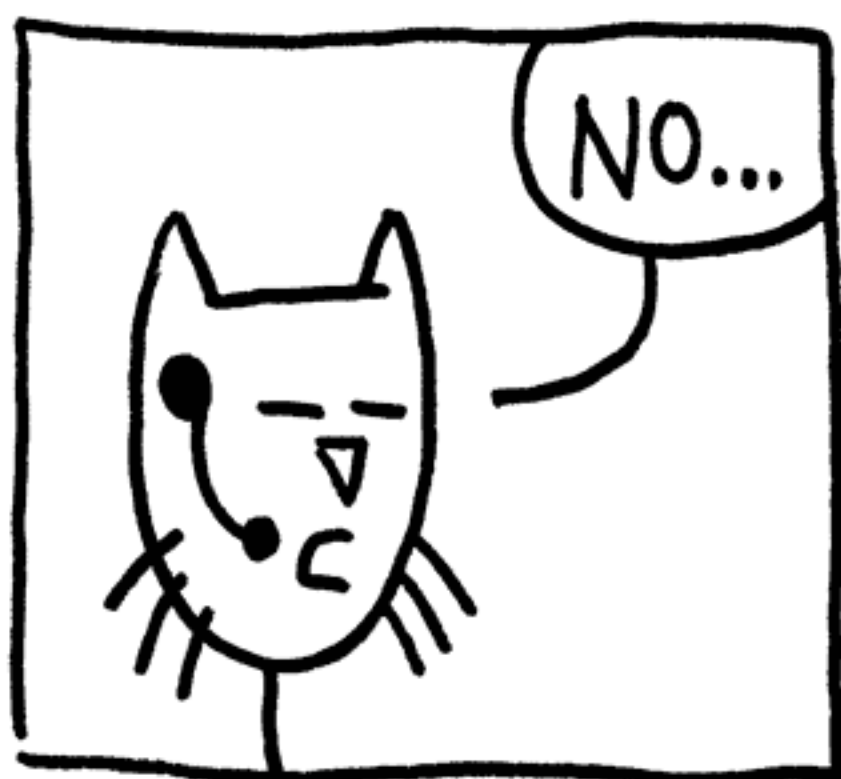


HELLO?



HEY, BRO. HOW YA DOIN'?







|| WANNA MEET ||  
UP? ||



SURE. SOUNDS GREAT.



|| SEE YOU AT THE OASIS IN AN HOUR. ||



CLICK



HEHE.  
SUCKER.

HOLY CATS! DEXTER, WE GOTTA GET TO WORK!



SOON.

DEXTER, THE  
WARP DECK IS  
AMAZING!!!

I'M MINUTES AWAY  
FROM THE LITTERBOX  
DESERT!!

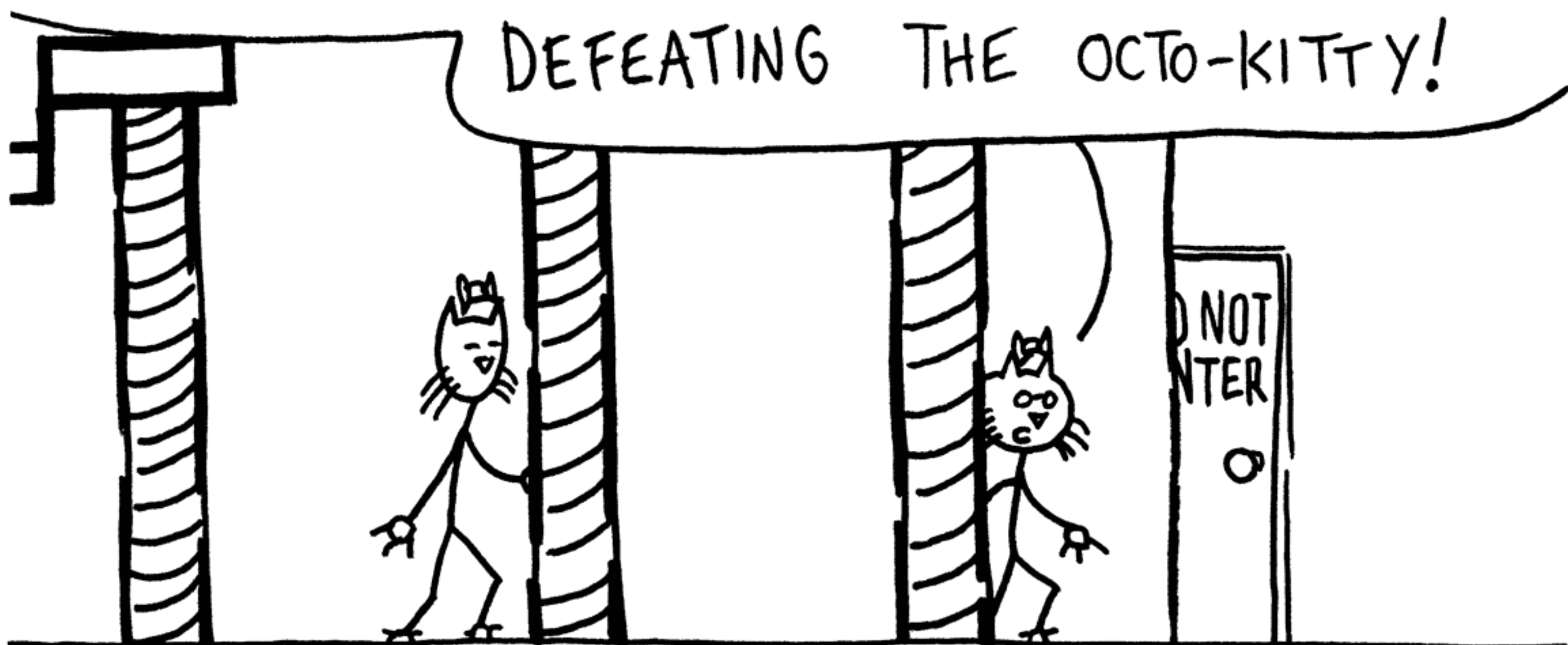
GLAD TO HEAR IT.  
GOOD LUCK!

CLICK

GRRR. I SHOULD BE  
THERE WITH HIM!

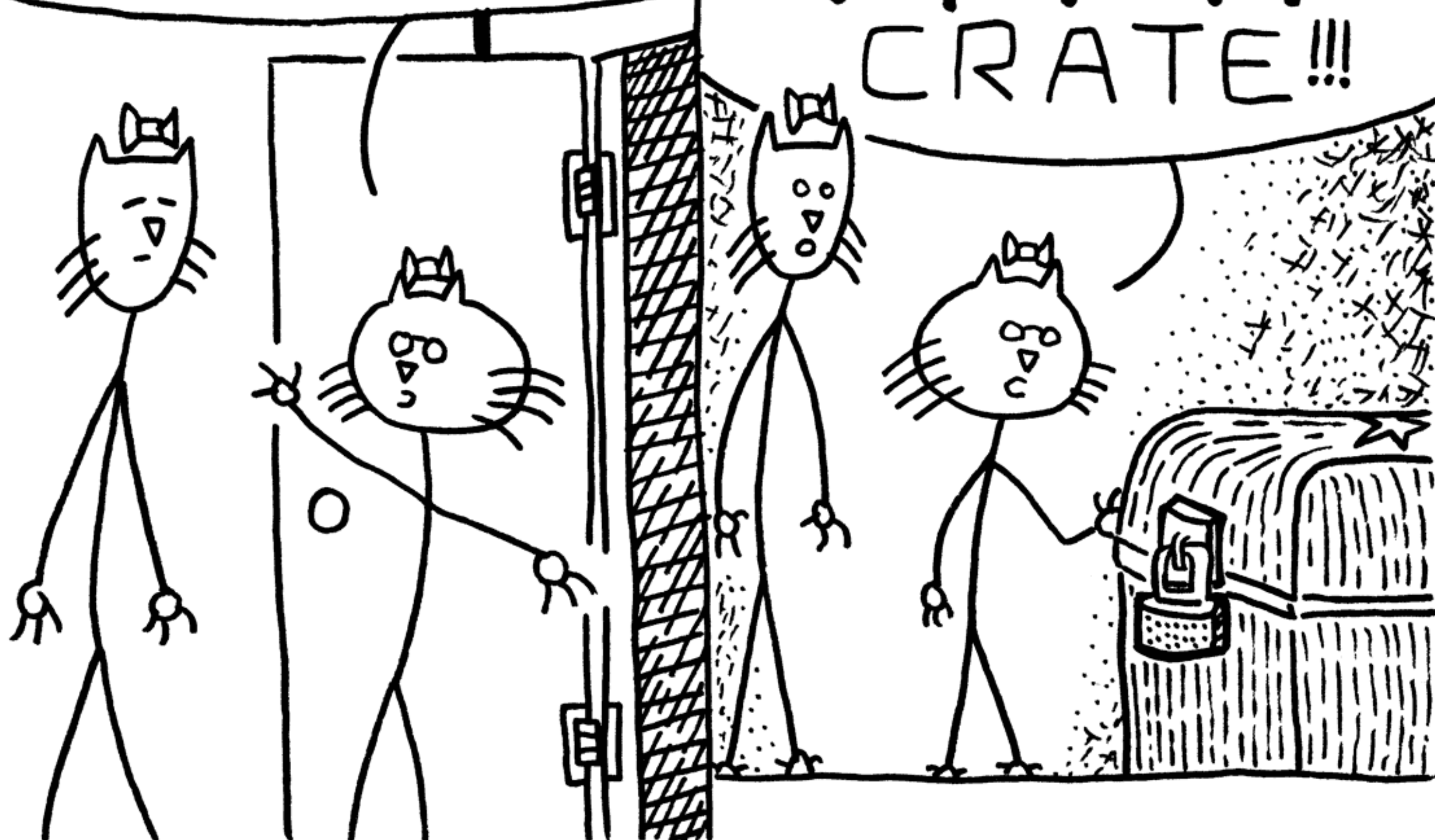
I UNDERSTAND  
HOW YOU FEEL.  
BUT WE'VE GOT  
THINGS TO DO.

MARMALADE, WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE  
FUTURE IS PRICELESS TO OUR PLAN FOR  
DEFEATING THE OCTO-KITTY!



I'M ABOUT TO SHOW  
YOU SOMETHING THAT  
NO ONE ELSE HAS  
EVER SEEN BEFORE...

...MY **TOP SECRET**  
**MAGIC**  
CRATE!!!

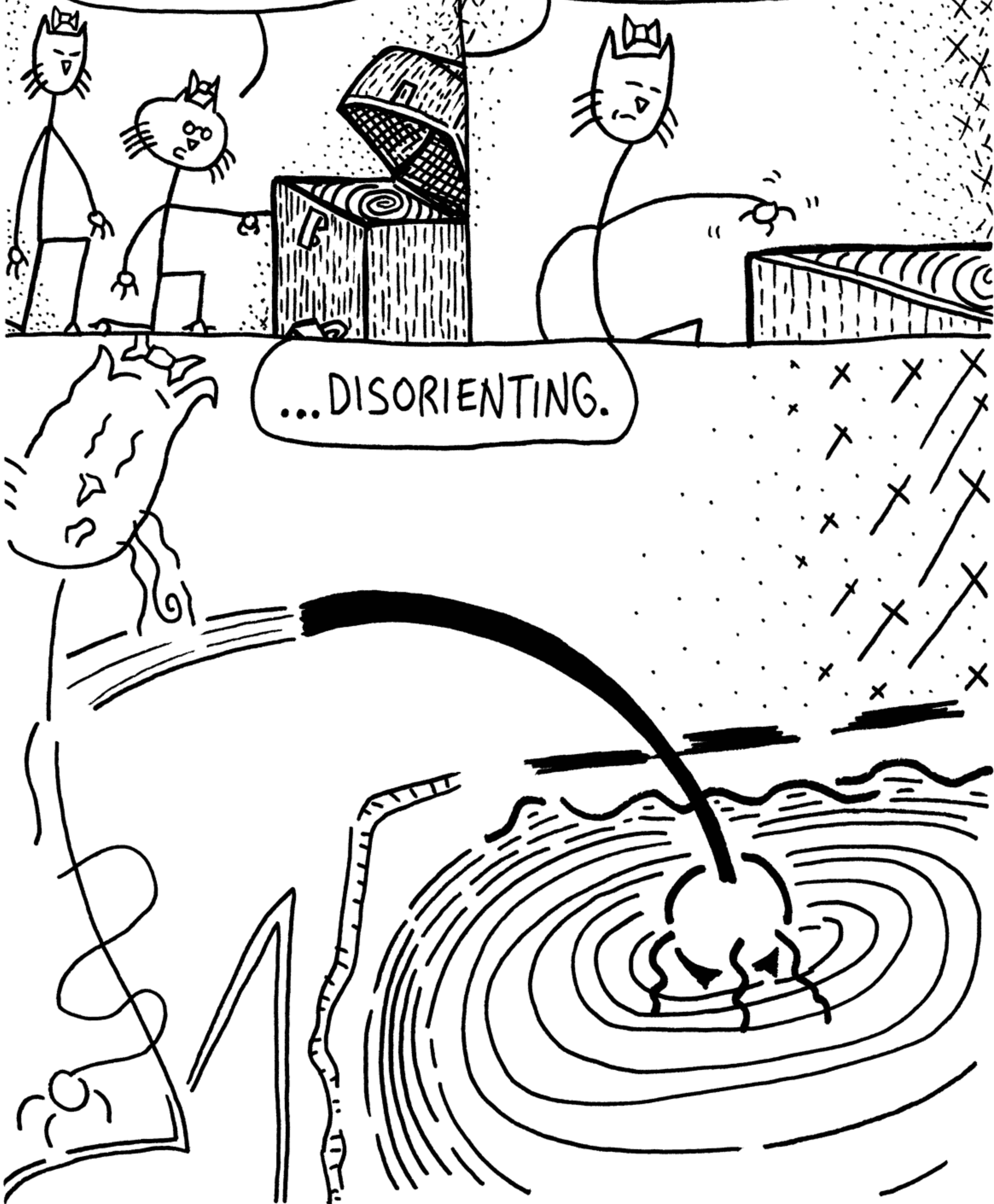


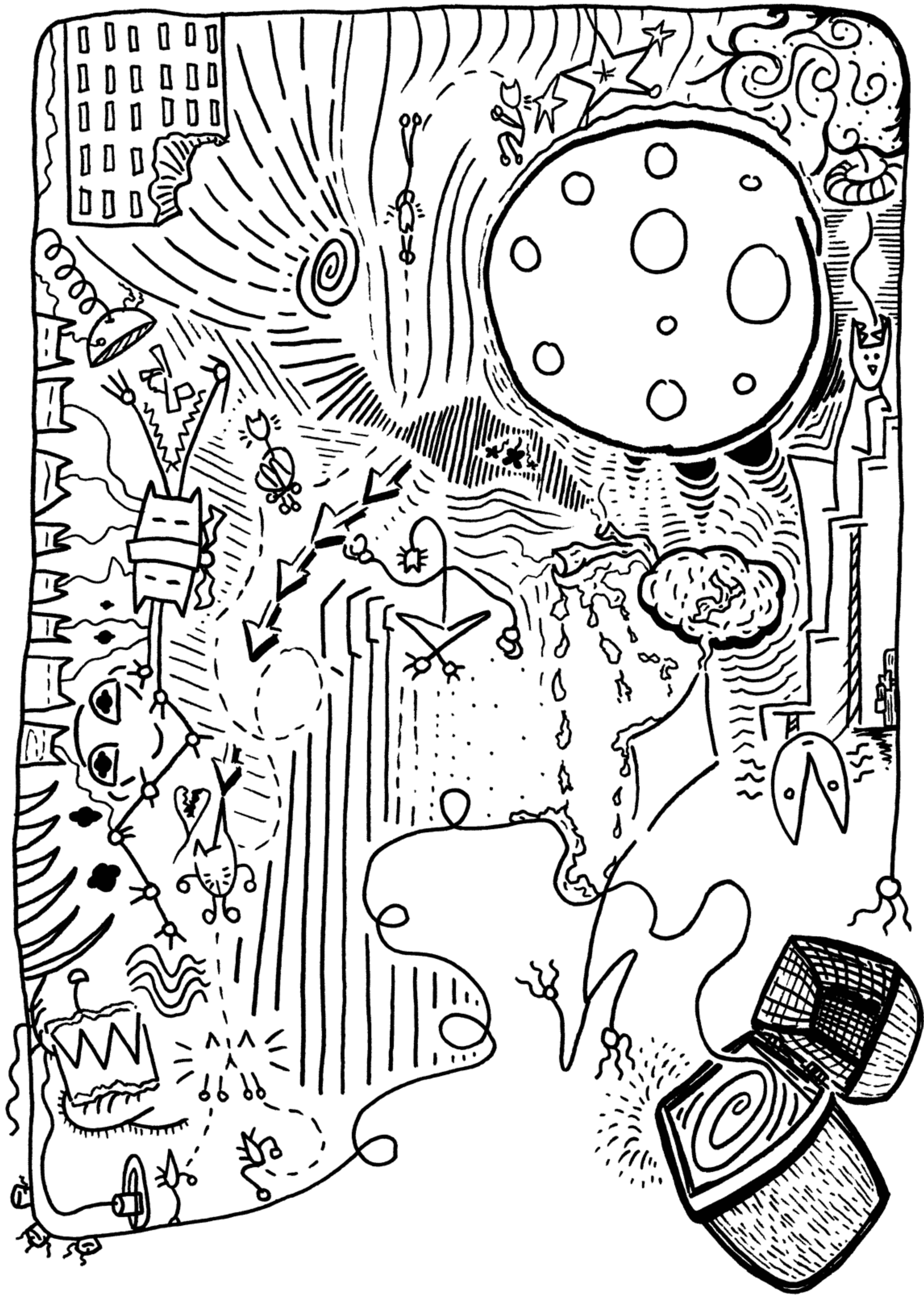


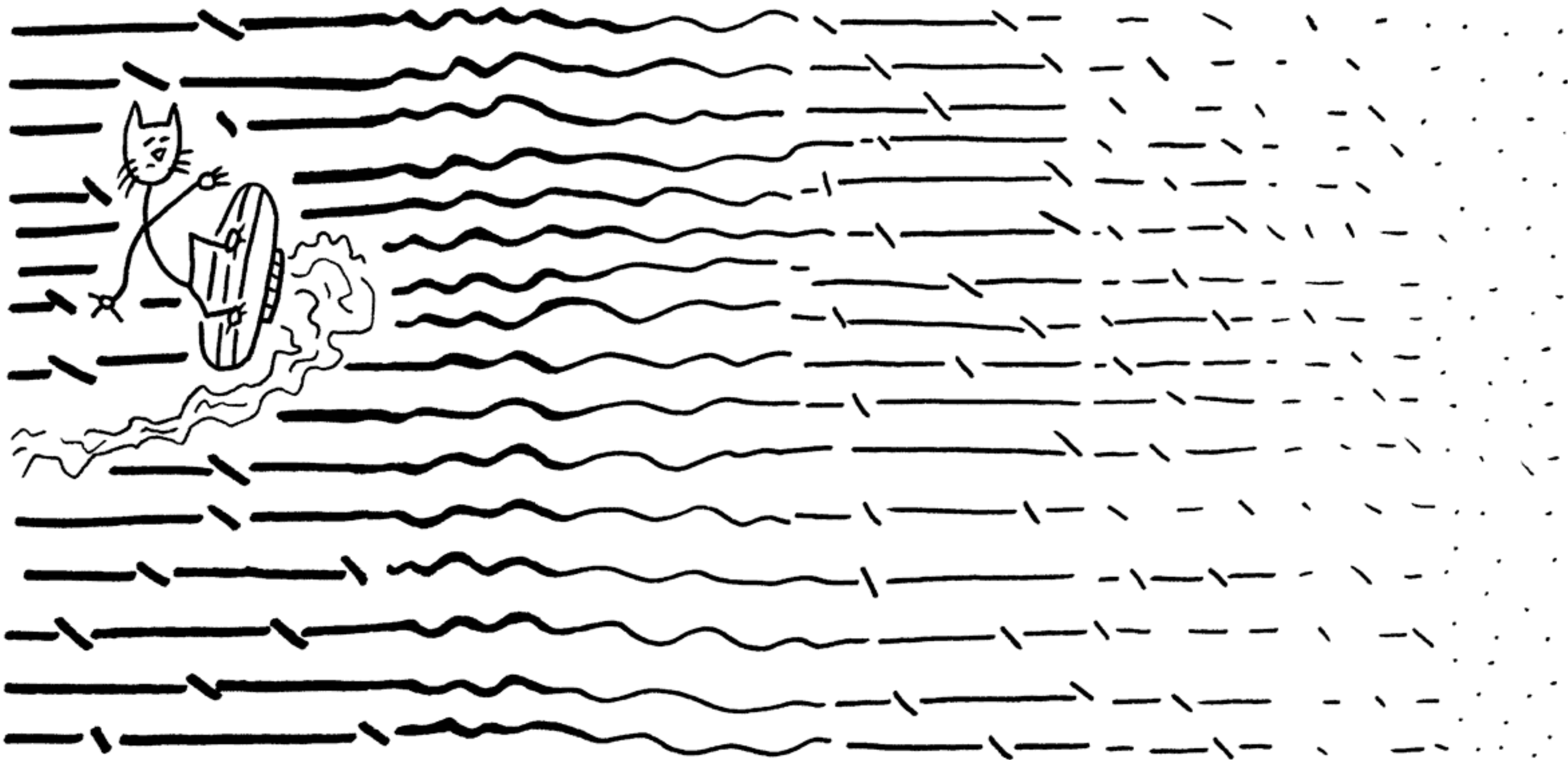
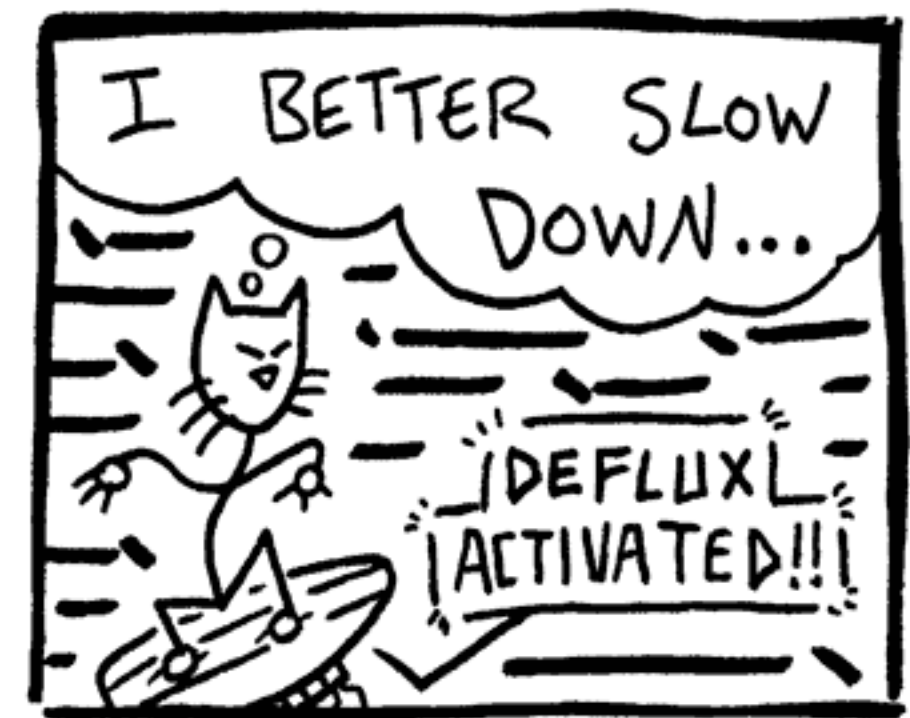
PLUNGE YOUR  
PAW INSIDE.

BEWARE. IT  
MIGHT BE A BIT...

...DISORIENTING.









WELL, WELL, WELL.  
LOOK WHO IT IS!

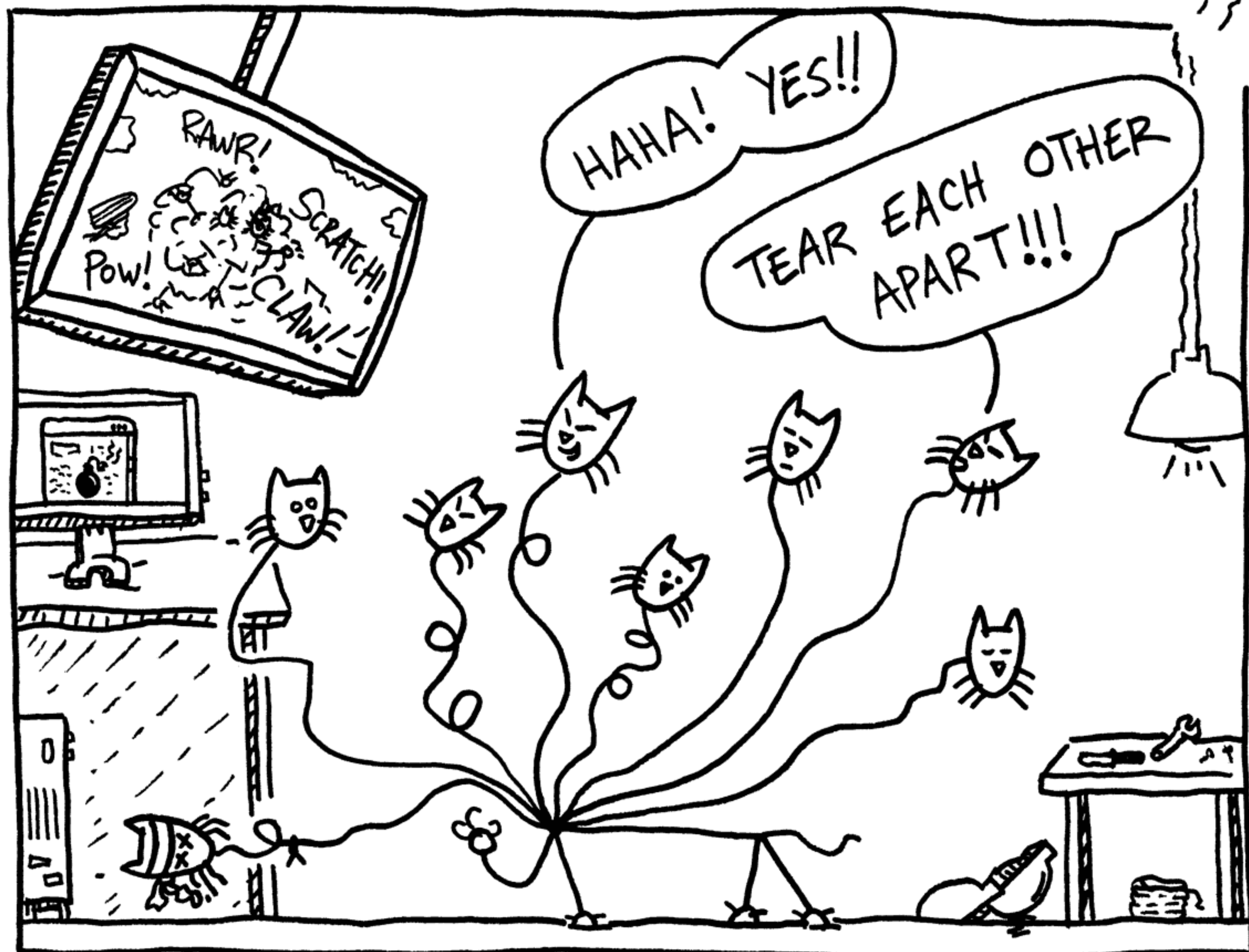
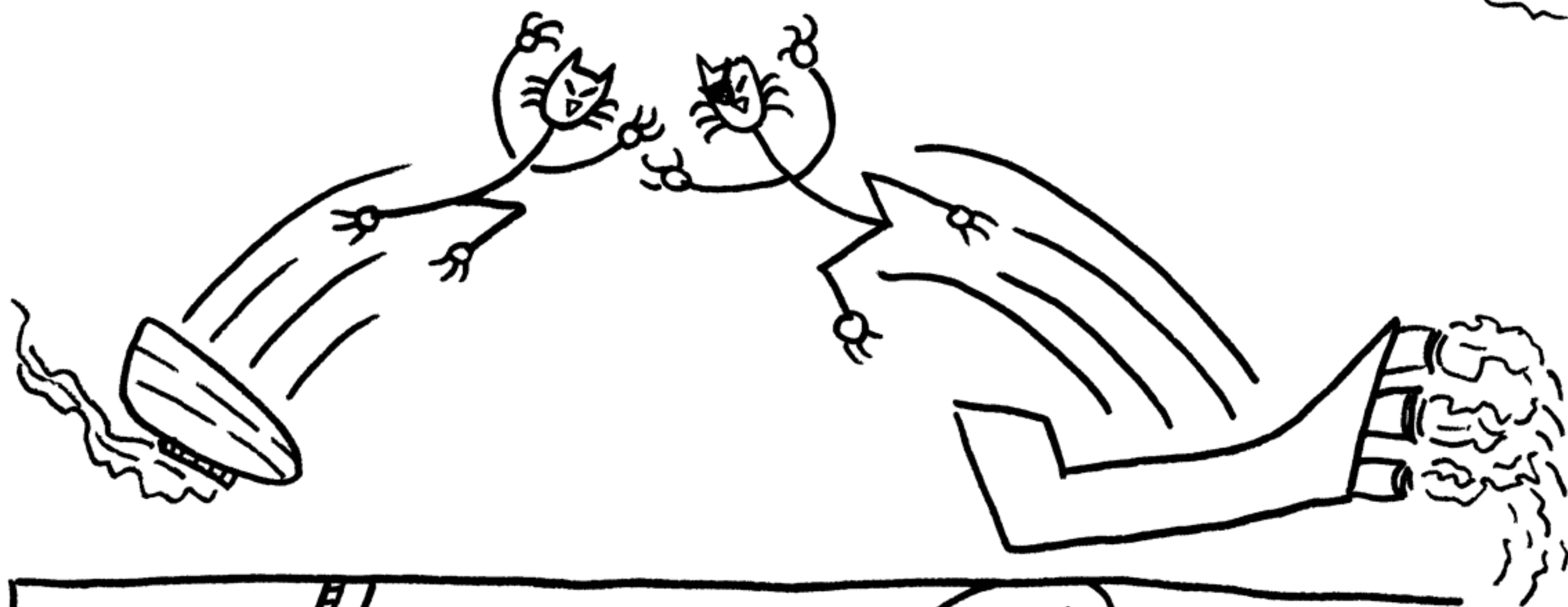


I KNOW YOU LIED  
TO ME.

THAT'S FUNNY... I WAS  
ABOUT TO SAY THE SAME  
THING TO YOU.



# RAWR!



SOCIAL BONDS  
BREAKING DOWN.

FIGHTING.  
DESTRUCTION.

I LOVE  
IT!!!

SPEAKING OF  
DESTRUCTION...

ONCE I COMPLETE THE  
TIME + SPACE BOMB...

...CLAWORLD  
WILL BE MINE  
TO DESTROY!!!





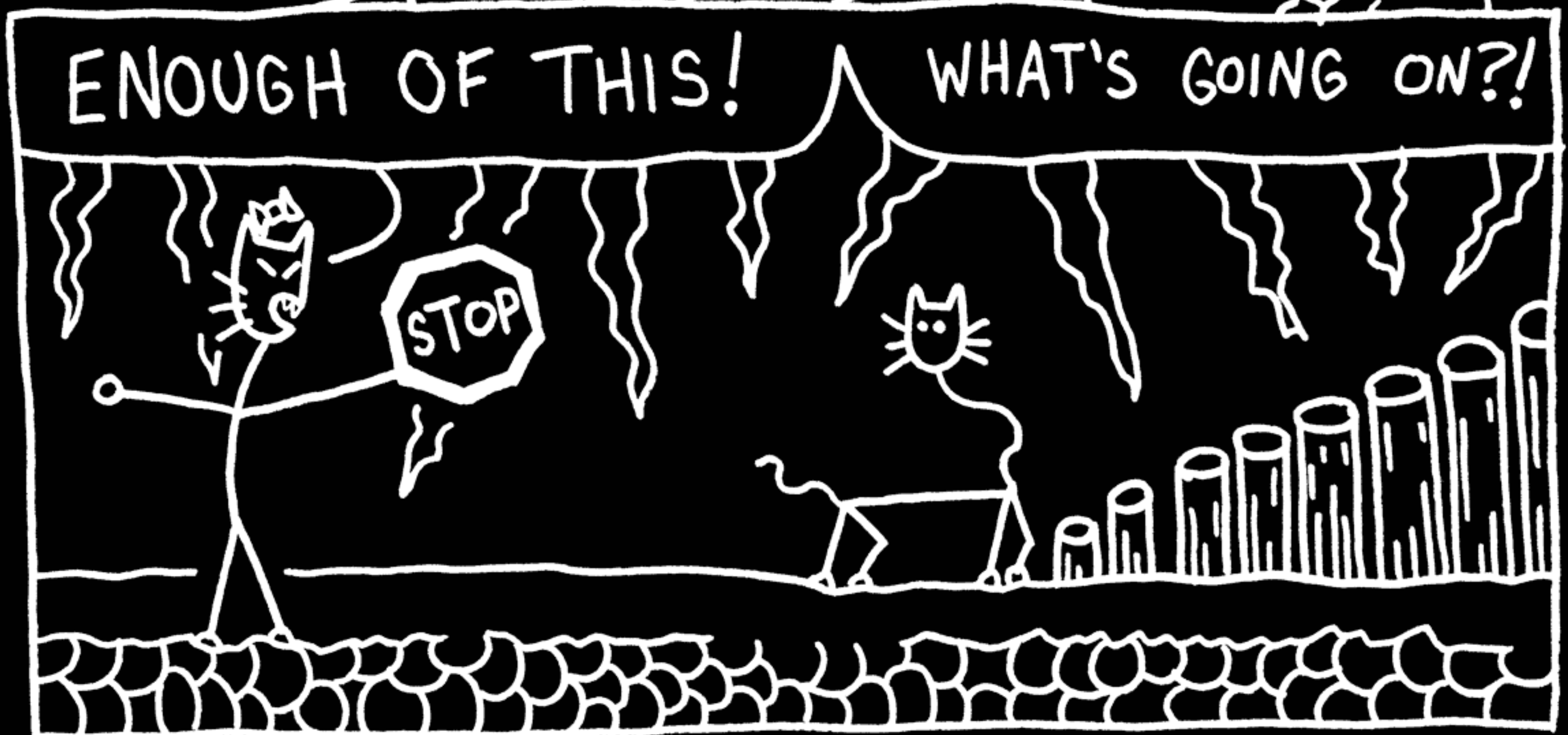
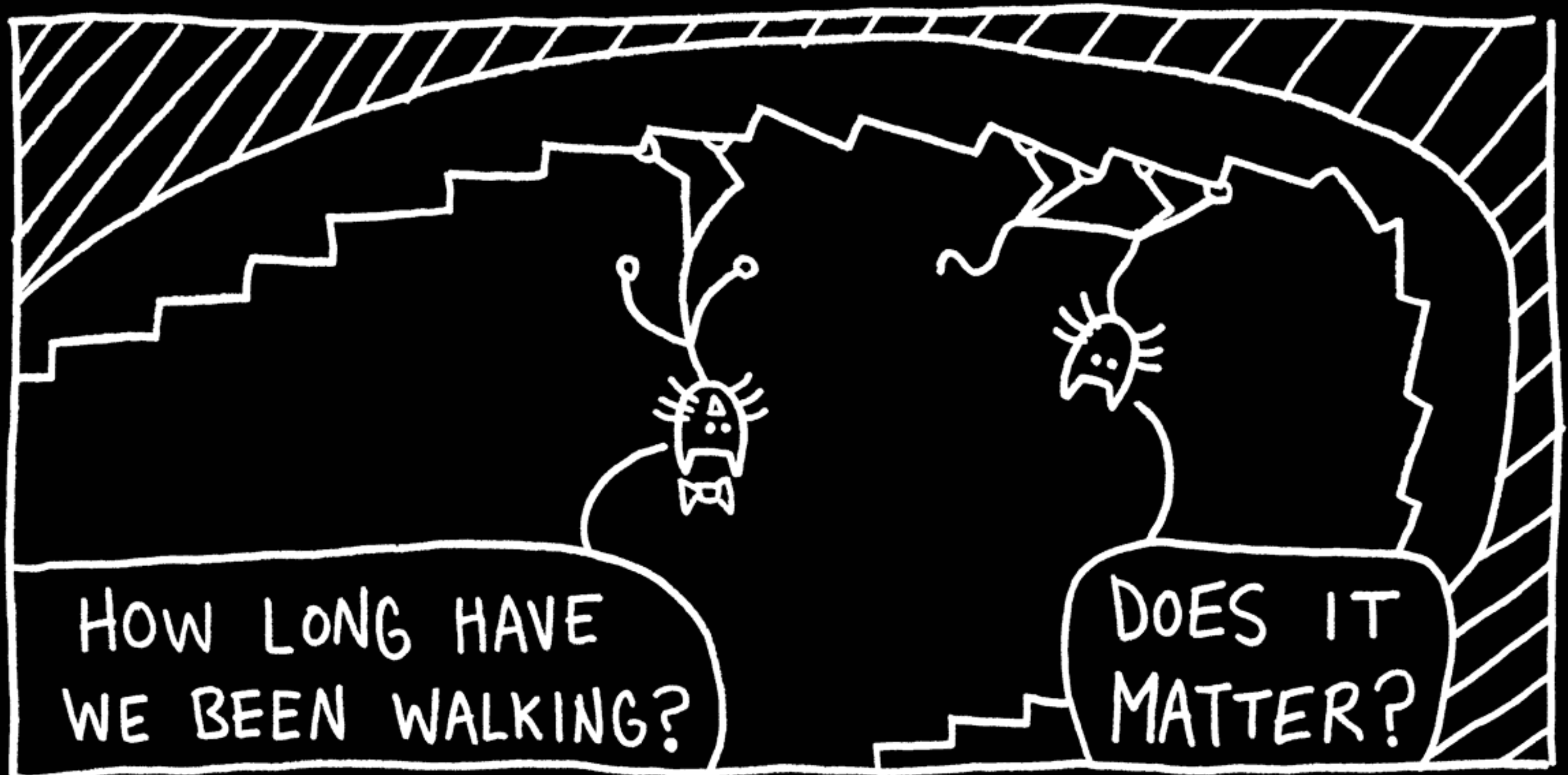
WHERE  
AM I?

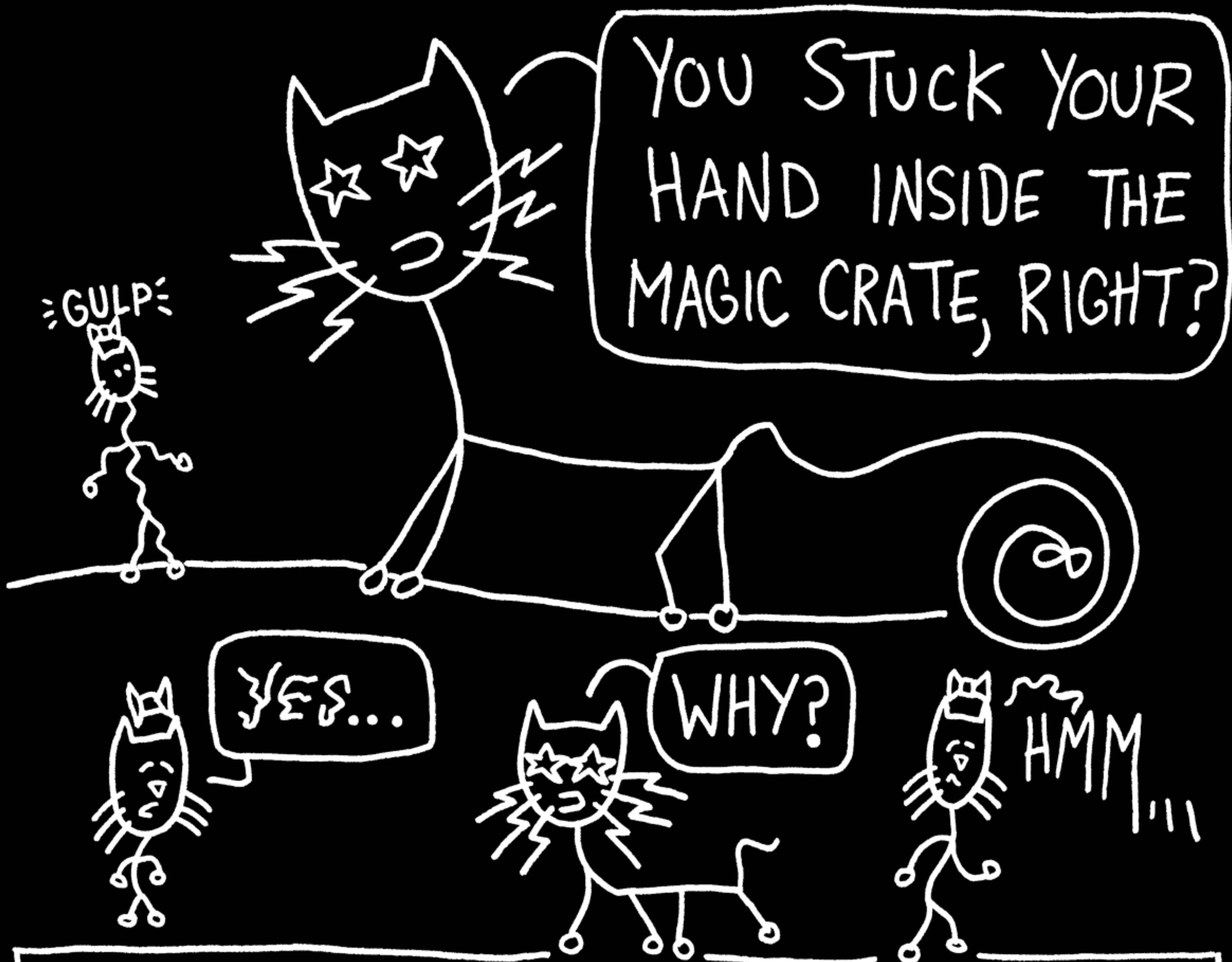


OH, HELLO THERE.  
WHO ARE YOU?

I'M YOUR  
SPIRIT  
KITTEN.  
FOLLOW  
ME...



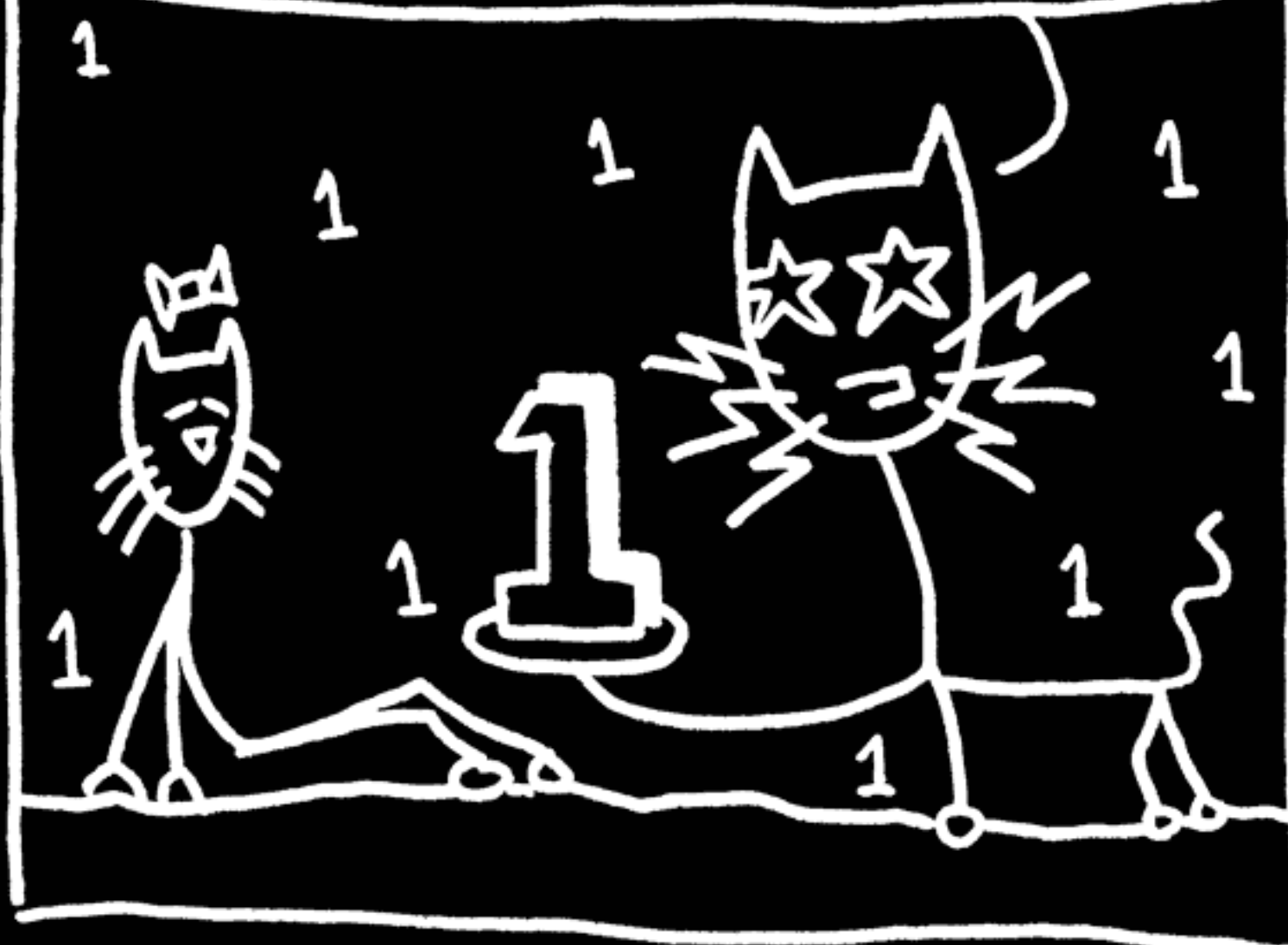




WELL, SEE, I'M FROM THE FUTURE-- I  
MEAN, IT MIGHT NOT BE YOUR FUTURE  
BUT, UMM-- ANY **SHIT** INTO  
THE PAST BECAUSE IT ALL  
MESSED UP BY THE ORTO-KITTY WHO WENT  
ON THIS CRAZY RAM AND SICKLY  
DESTROYED CLAWORLD. SO NOW I'M TRYING TO  
SAVE MY REALITY AND MY STAVE TOO.



IN ONE WORD, TELL  
ME WHAT YOU SEEK.



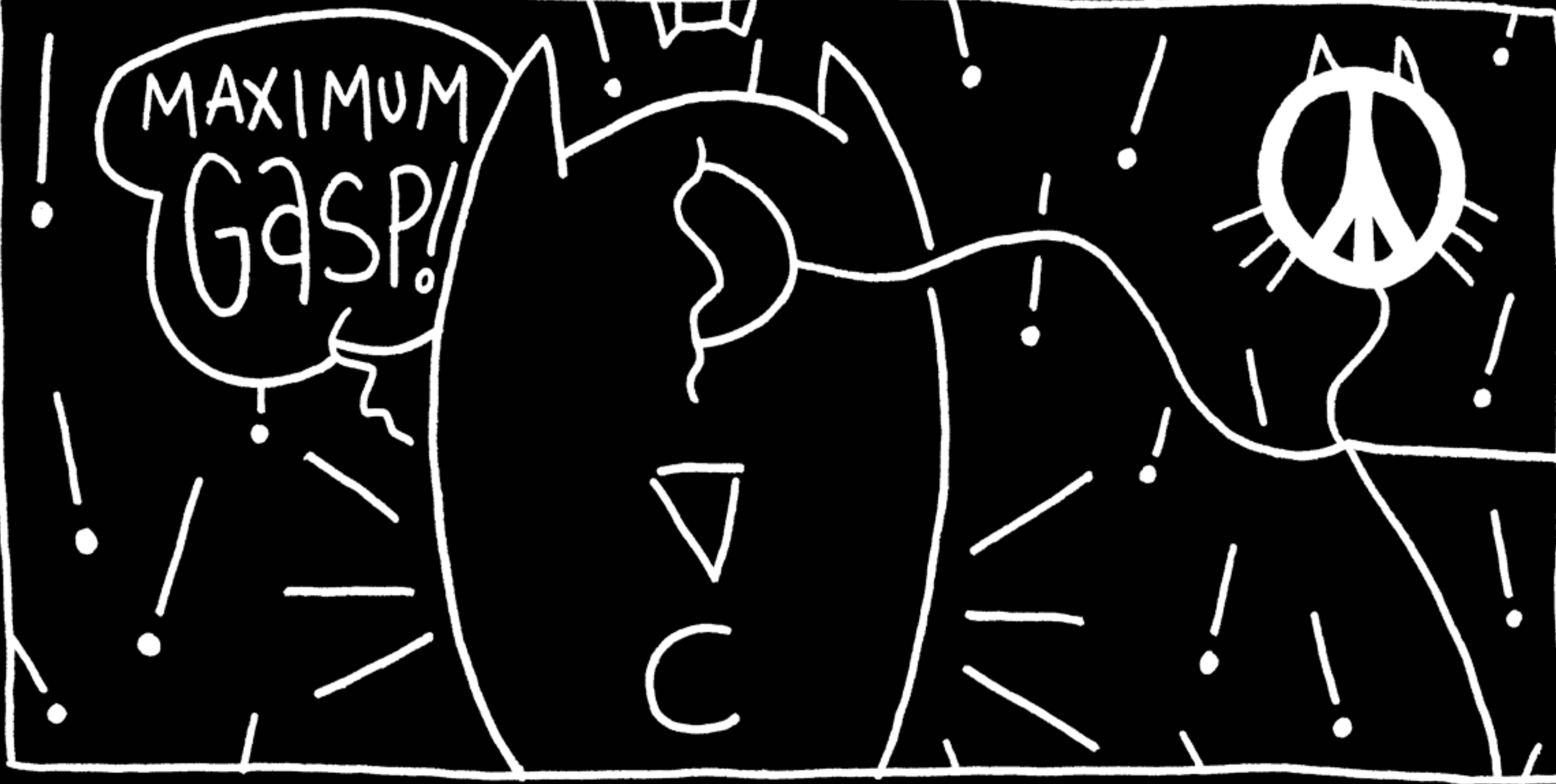
AHH! NOW WE'RE  
GETTING SOMEWHERE!



CLOSE YOUR EYES,  
MARMALADE. I'LL  
GIVE YOU PEACE.



MAXIMUM  
GASP!





WE'RE TOO EVENLY MATCHED. WE'LL NEVER SETTLE THINGS LIKE THIS.

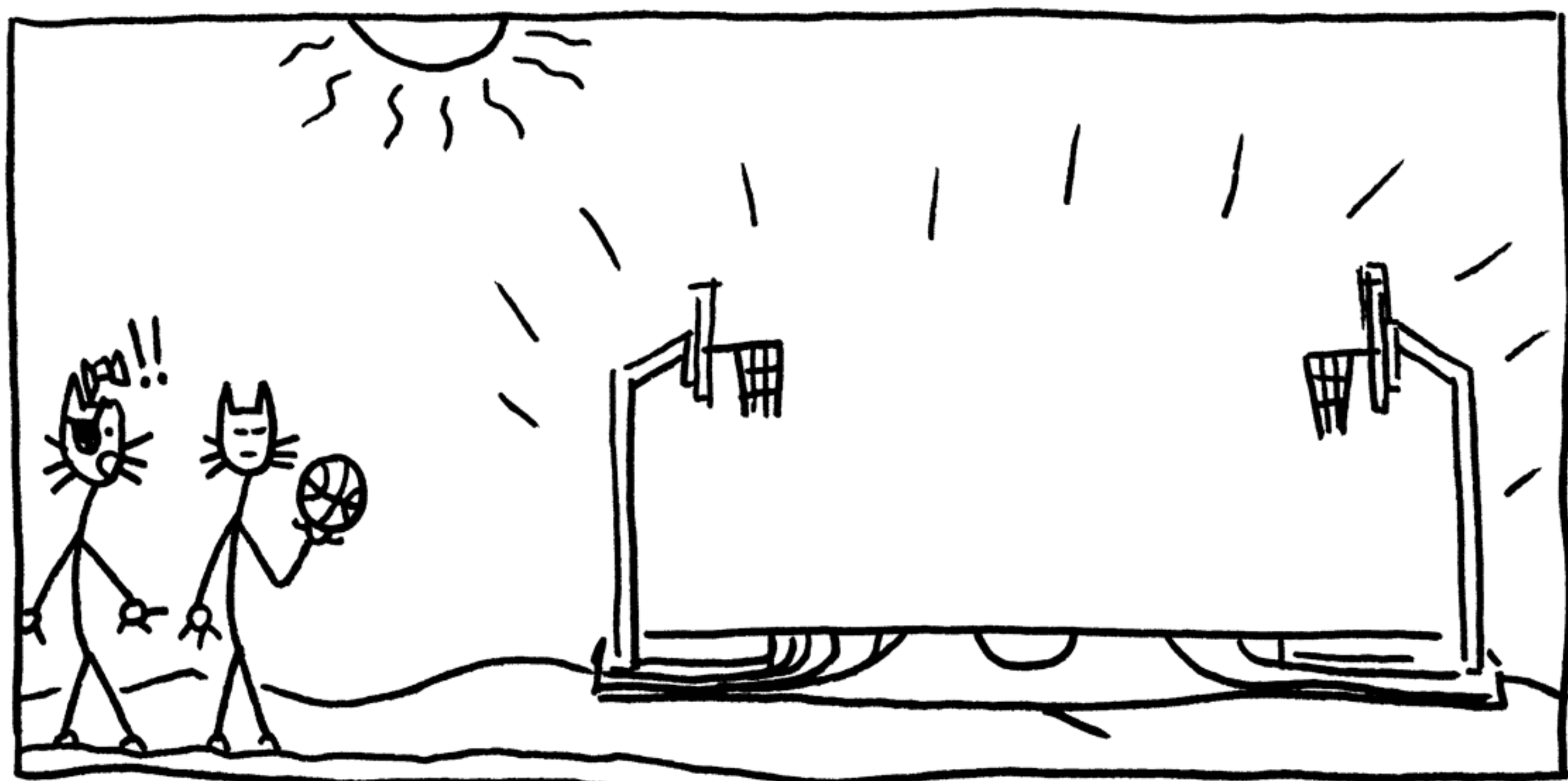
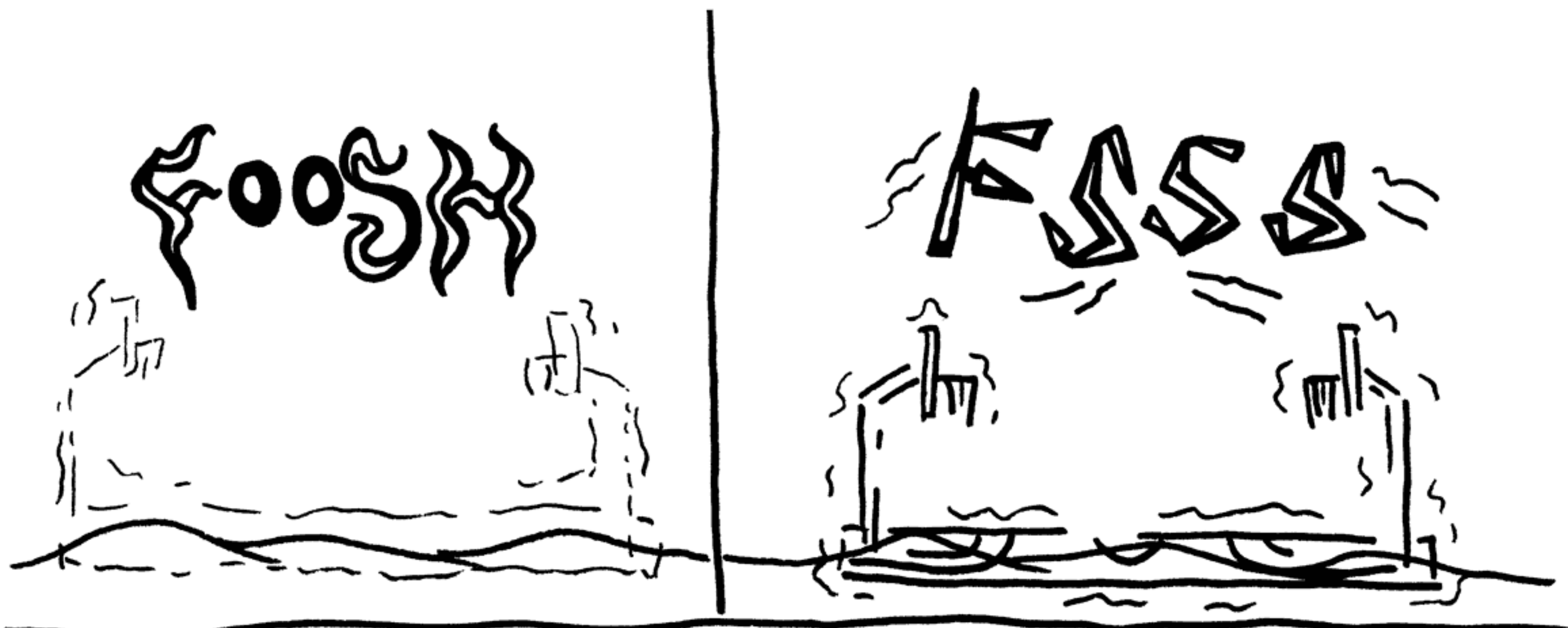


I THINK I KNOW WHAT TO DO...



PUSH!





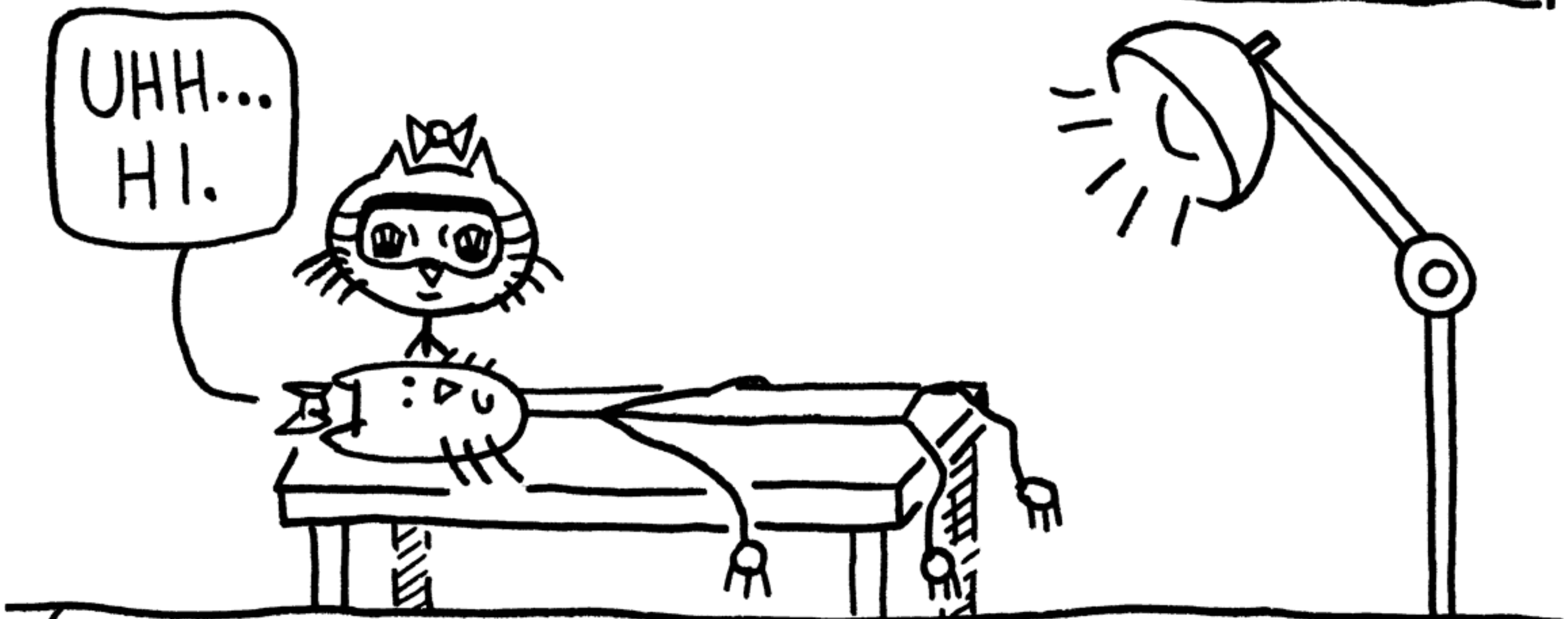
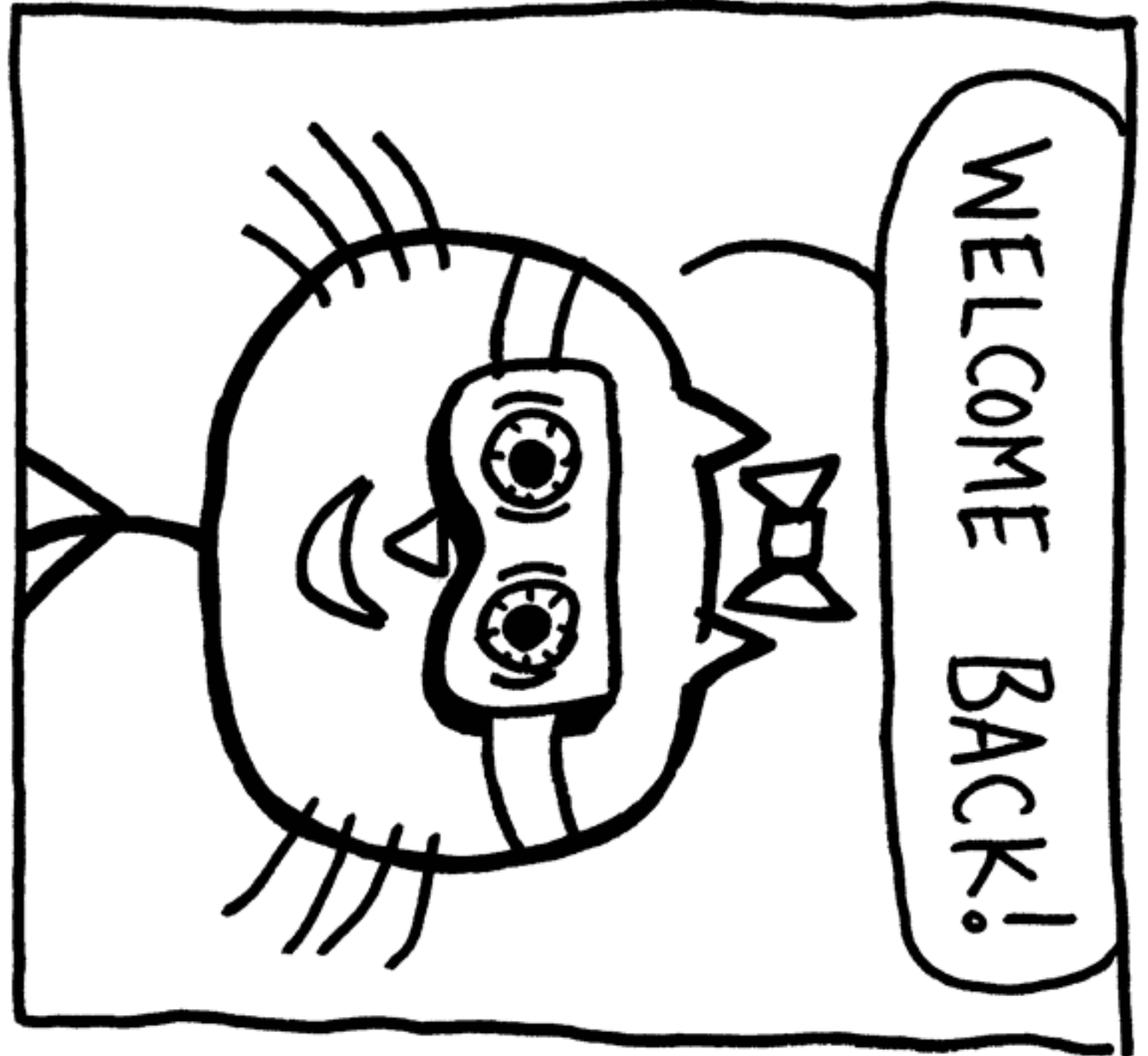
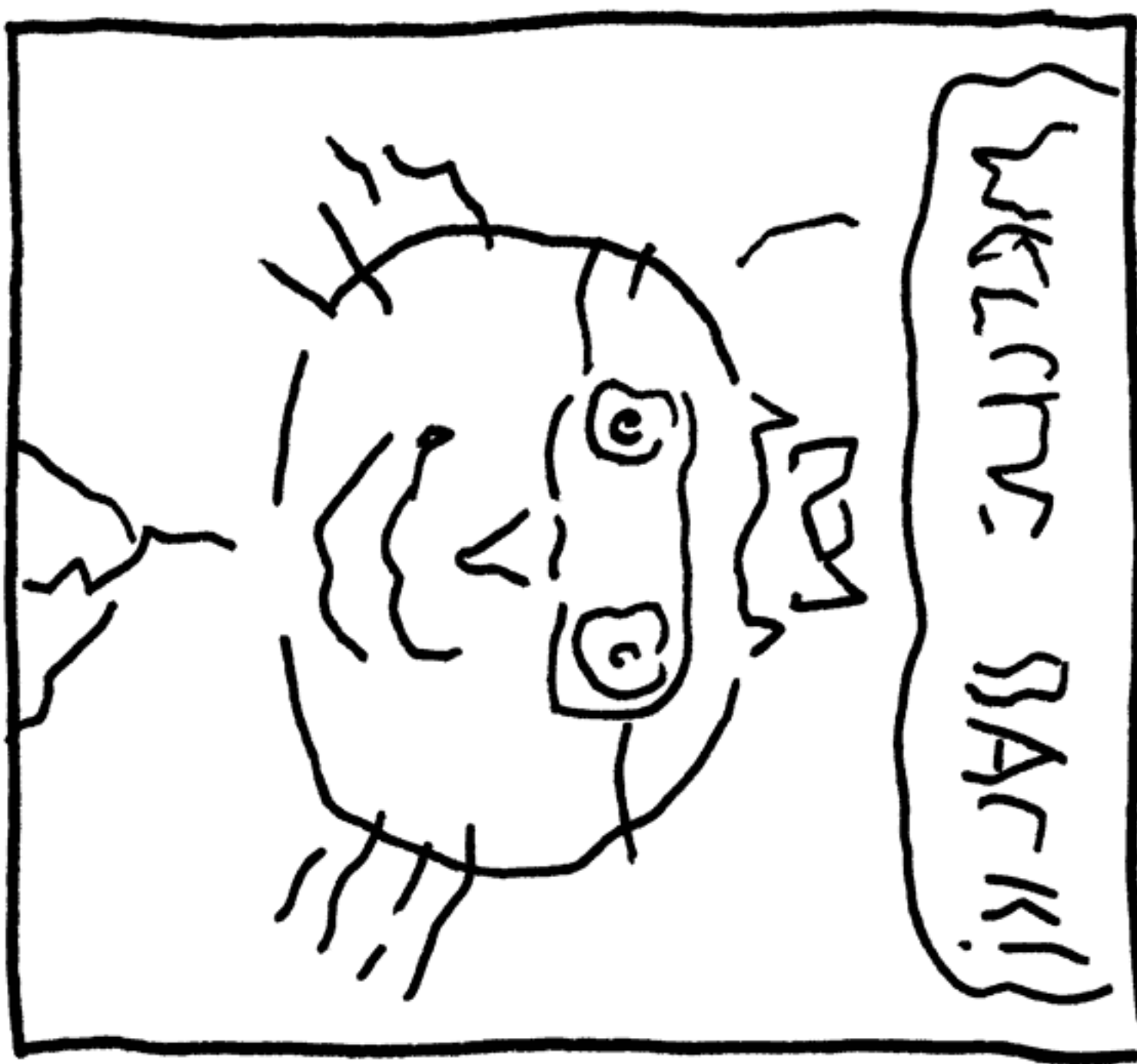
A HOLOGRAPHIC  
BAS**CAT** BALL  
COURT?!



YEP. WE'RE GONNA SLUG  
IT OUT LIKE WHEN WE WERE  
KITTENS... IN THE PAINT.



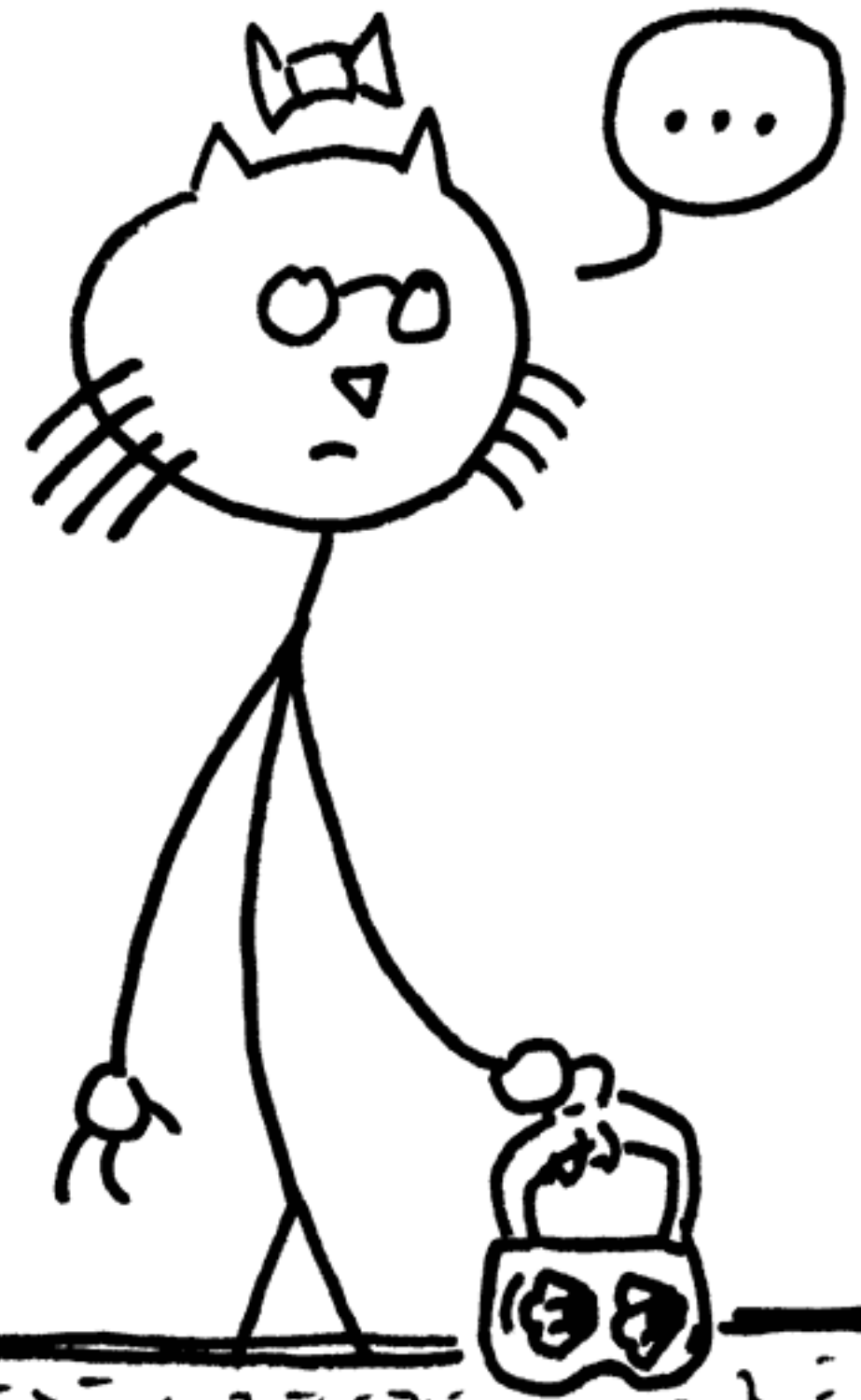
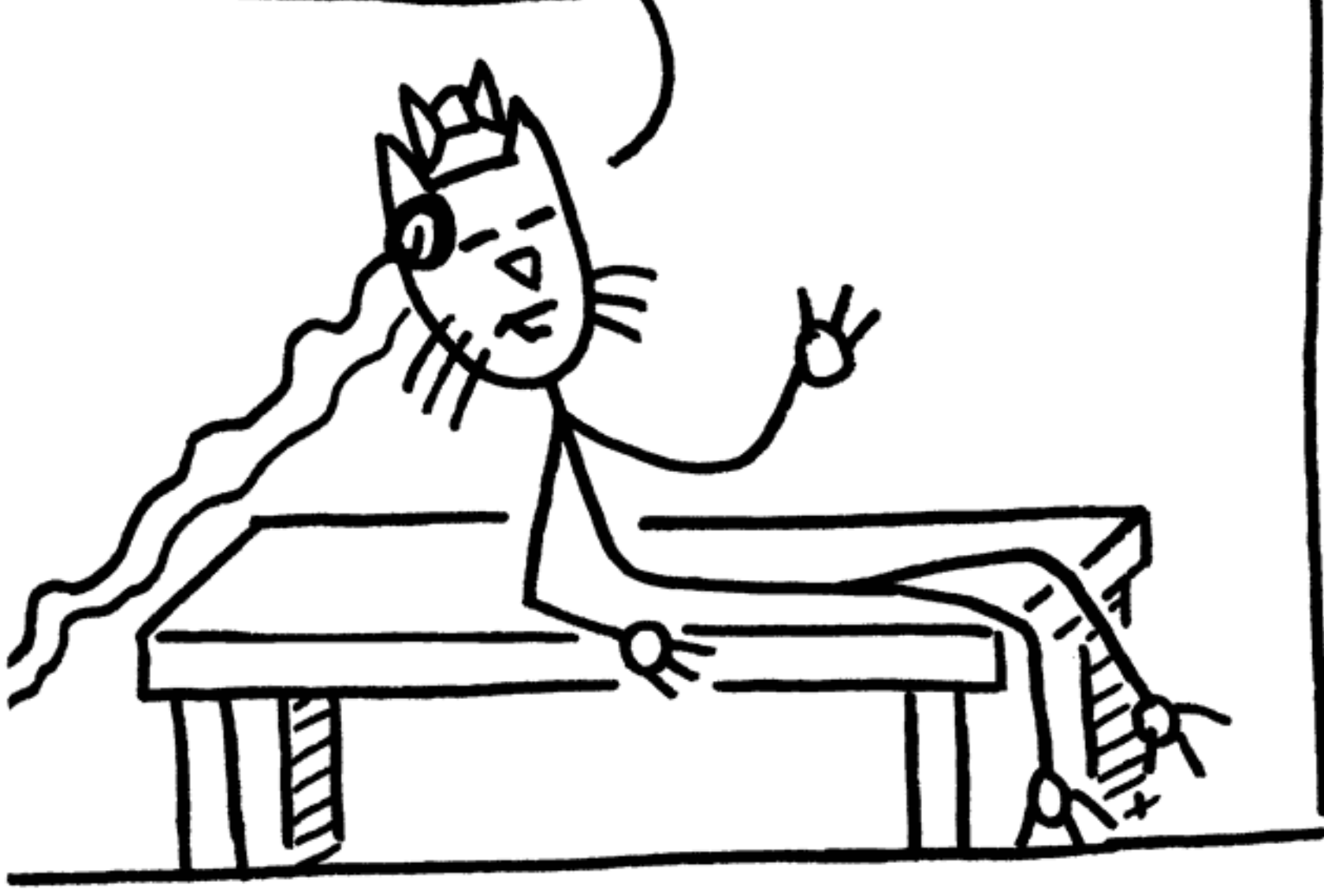




SO WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

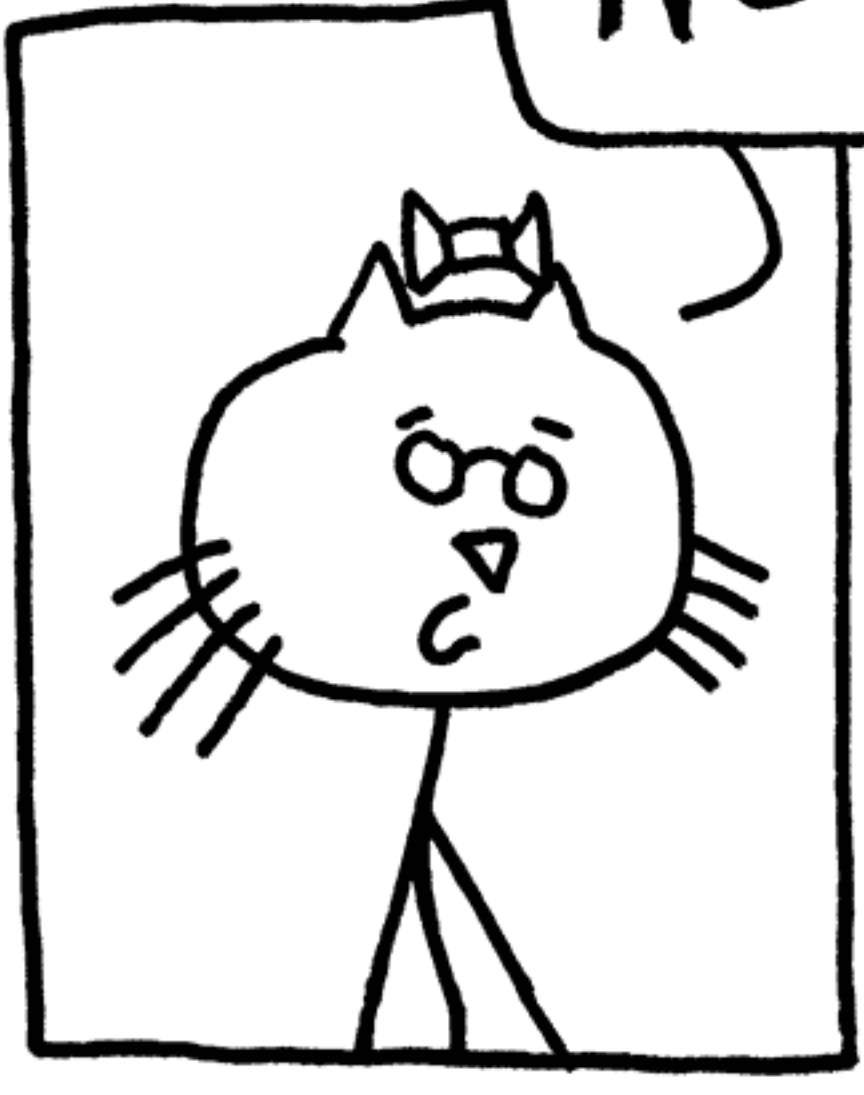


... WE NEED TO  
BEFRIEND IT.

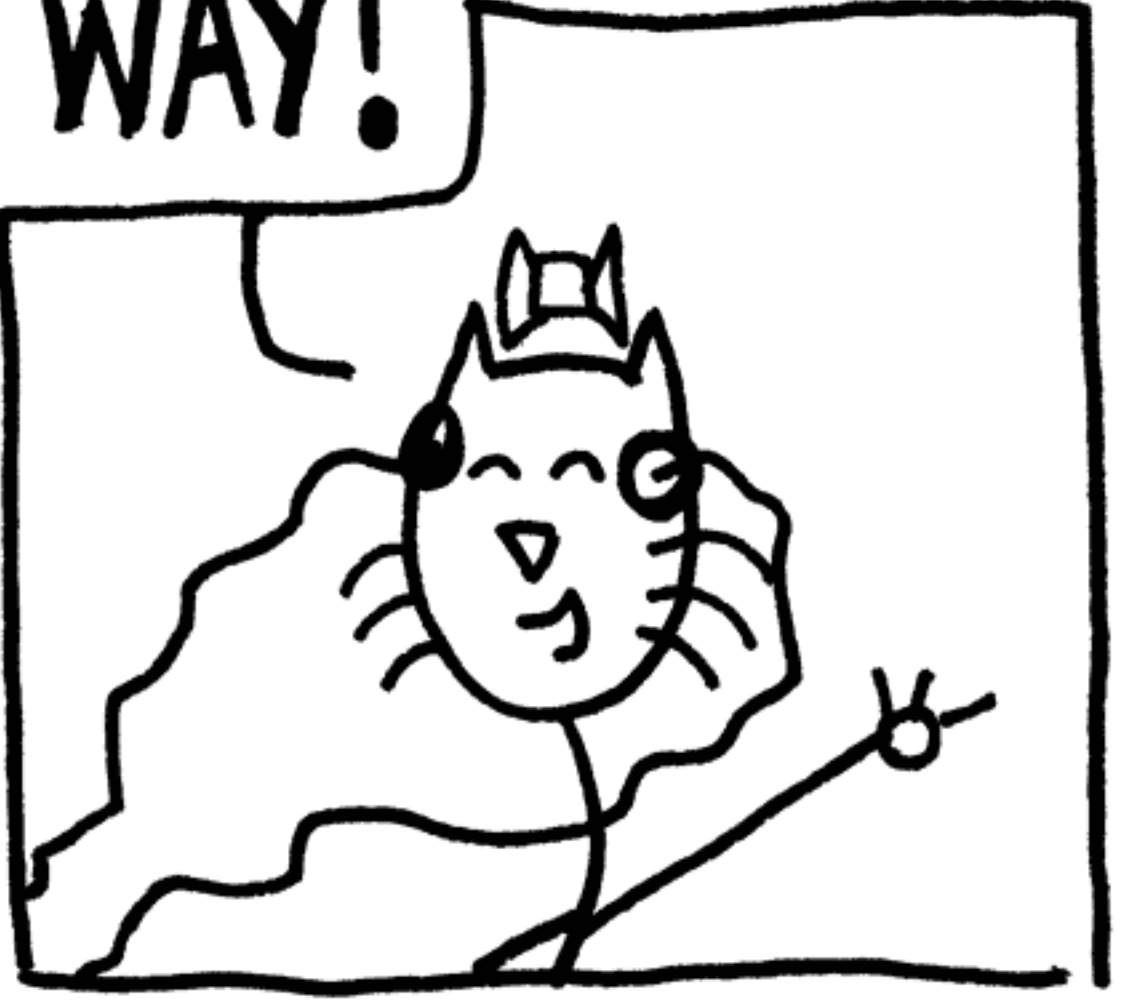


LONG AWKWARD PAUSE...

NO WAY.



YES WAY!



LOOK, IT'S PRETTY SIMPLE...



+



=



YEAH, WE COULD USE  
VIOLENCE TO SNUFF  
OUT THE OCTO-KITTY.



WELL...

I THINK  
YOU'RE  
CRAZY.

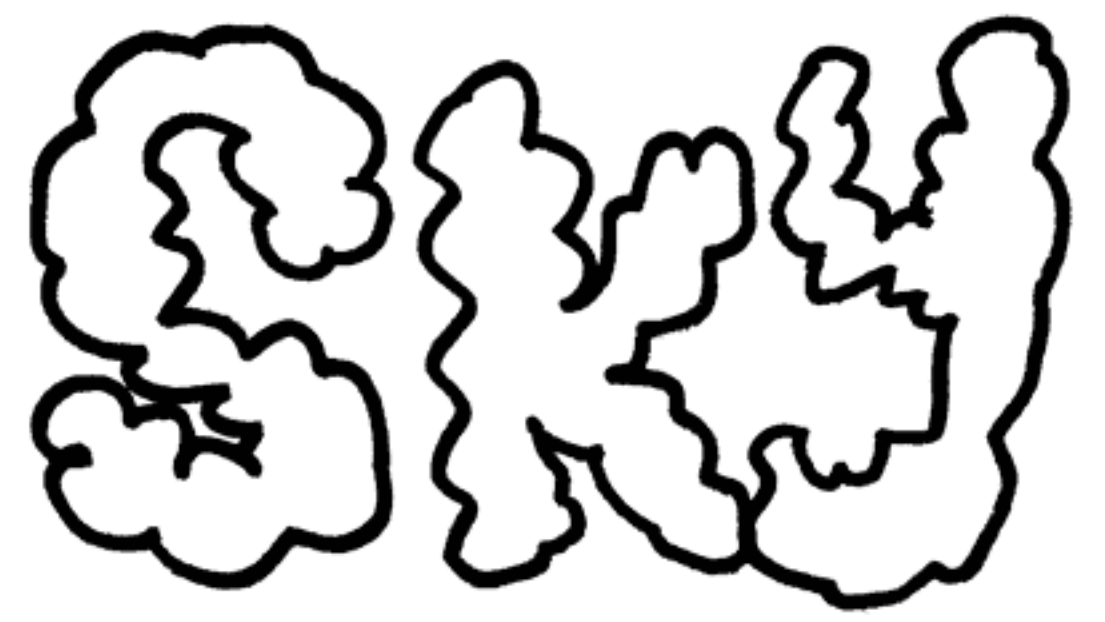
OR WE COULD  
FORGE A NEW PATH  
OUT OF COMPASSION.



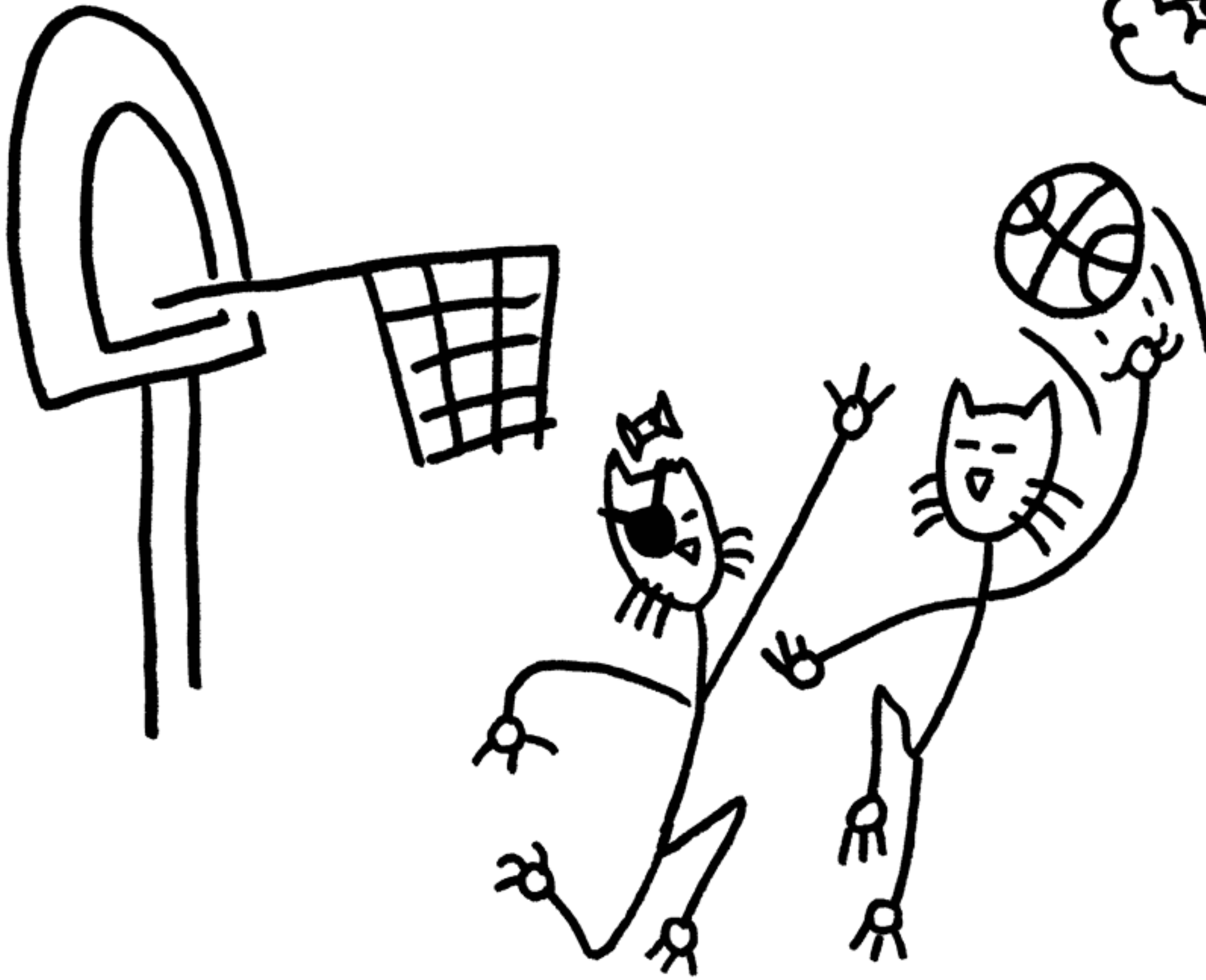
BUT YOU'RE  
MY KIND OF  
CRAZY!







HOCK

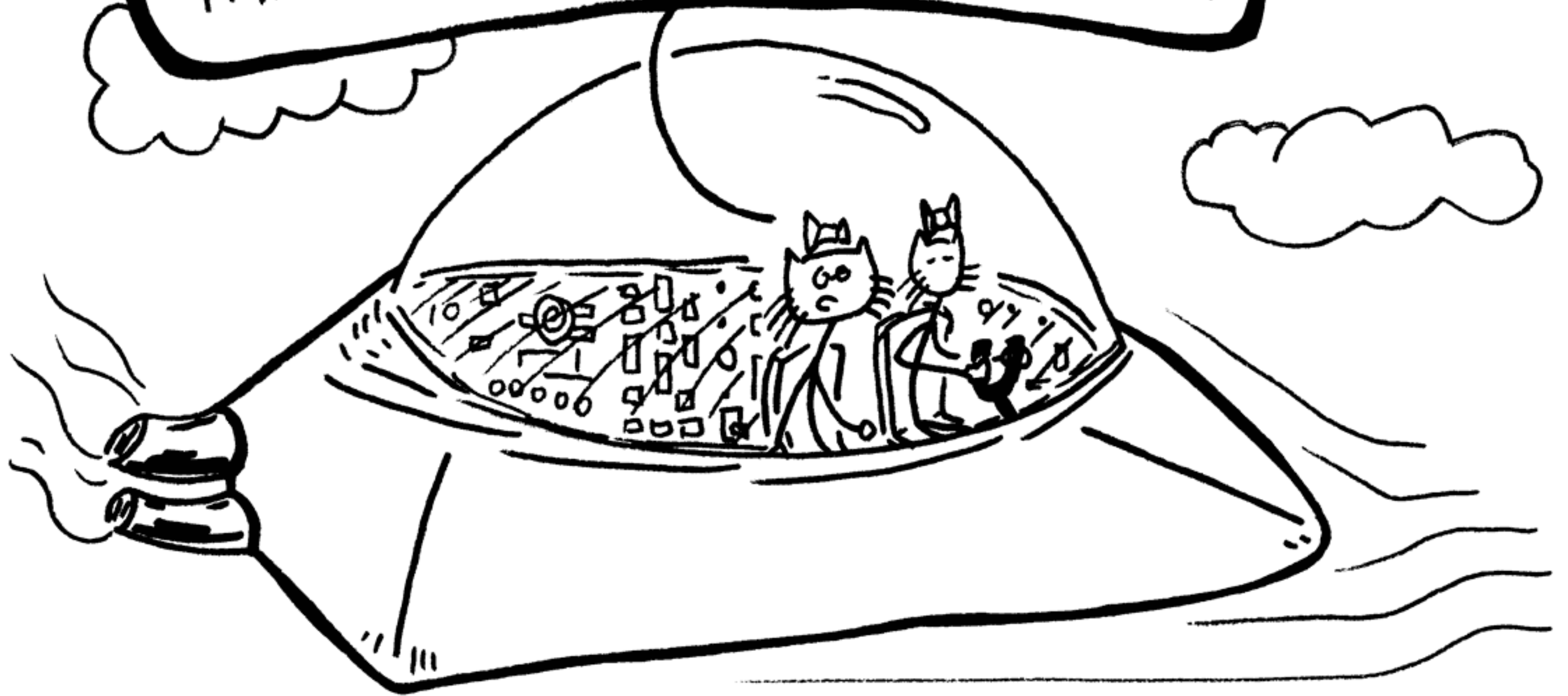


BEAVER





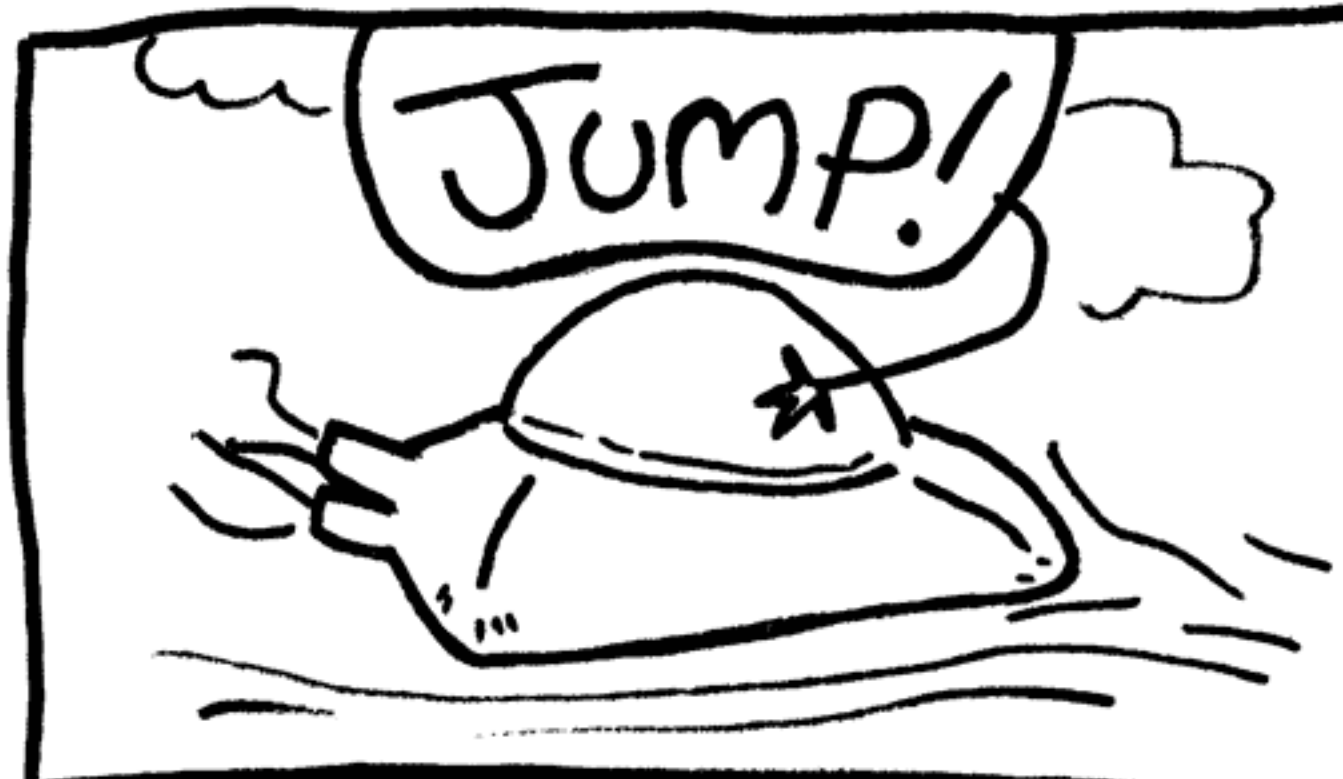
I'M HAVING A HARD TIME  
IMAGINING HOW THIS WILL WORK...



DON'T STRESS  
IT. IT'LL  
ALL WORK  
OUT.



JUMP!



FA BOO BOO BOO SH!



AHH!

WEEE!





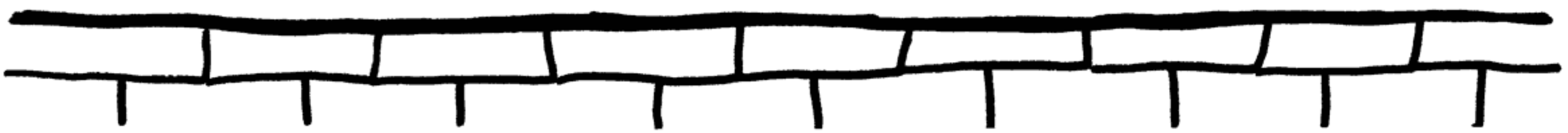
HEY! THIS ISN'T  
SO BAD!



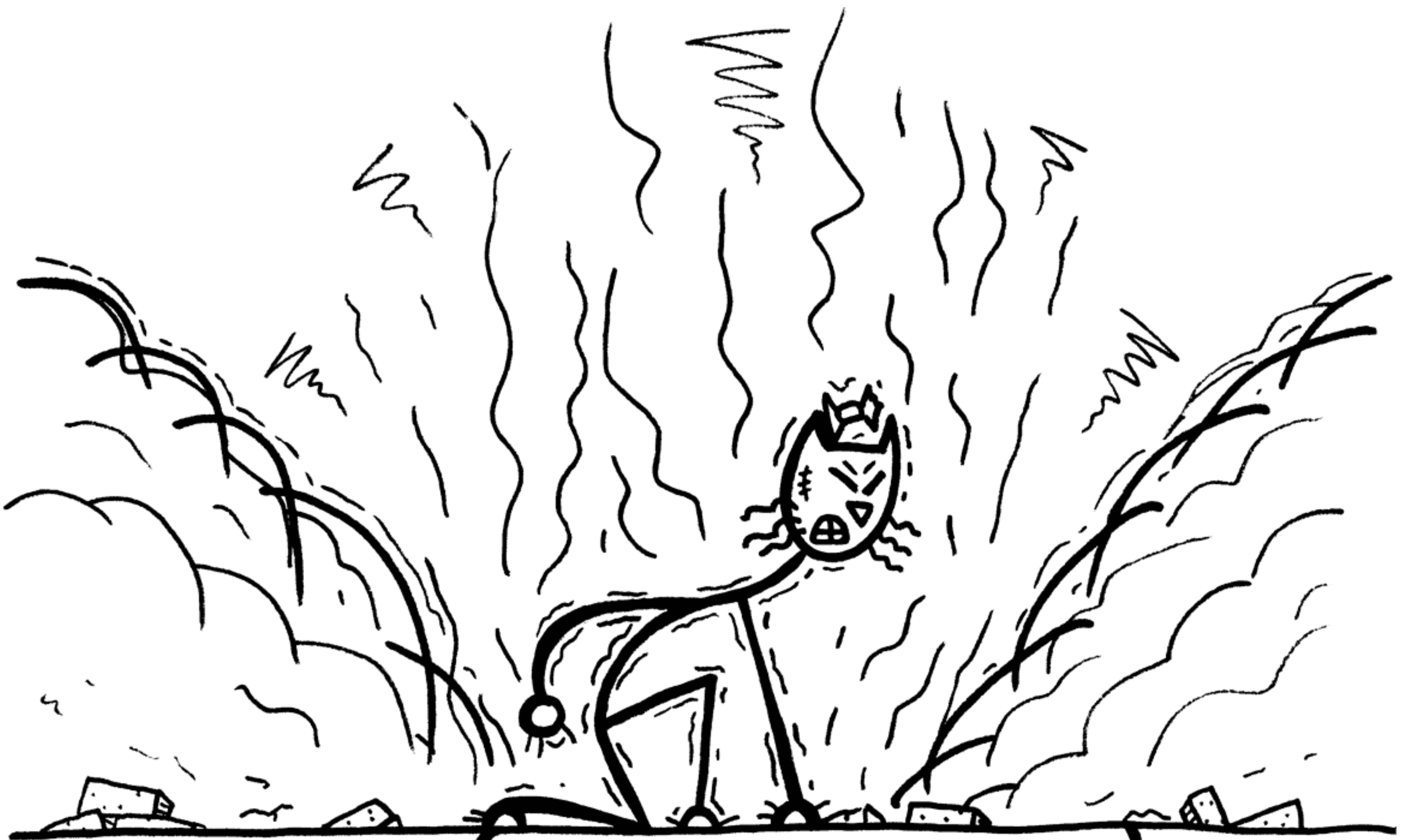
BRACE  
FOR  
IMPACT,  
DEX.

BZZ!

PERSONAL FORCE  
FIELDS ACTIVATED!







HOW DID YOU SURVIVE  
THAT FALL?!

A GOOD KITTY  
ALWAYS LANDS  
ON HER CLAWS.

OUCH.





**OCTO-KITTY:**

"ARE YOU HERE TO KILL ME?"

**DEXTER:**

"No."

**MARMALADE:**

"WE'RE HERE ON A GUERRILLA  
MISSION OF FRIENDSHIP."

**O:** "???"

**M:** "WE'RE GOING TO INFILTRATE  
YOUR DEFENSES AND SHOW  
YOU GENEROSITY, LOYALTY,  
AND ACCEPTANCE."

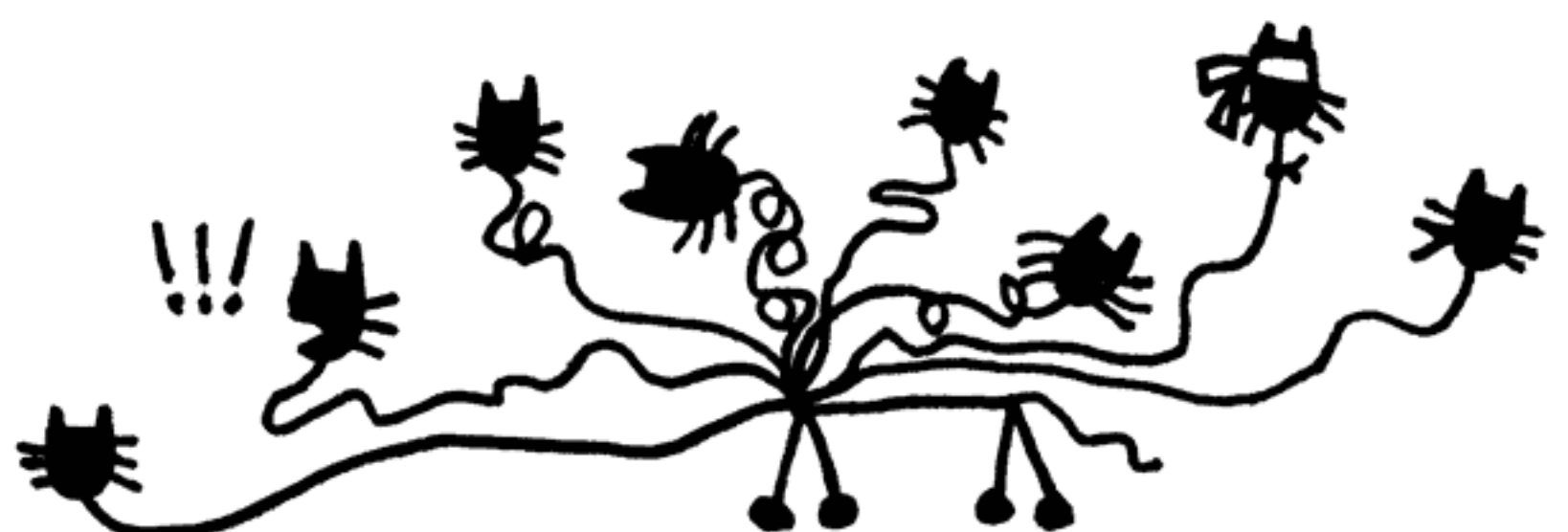
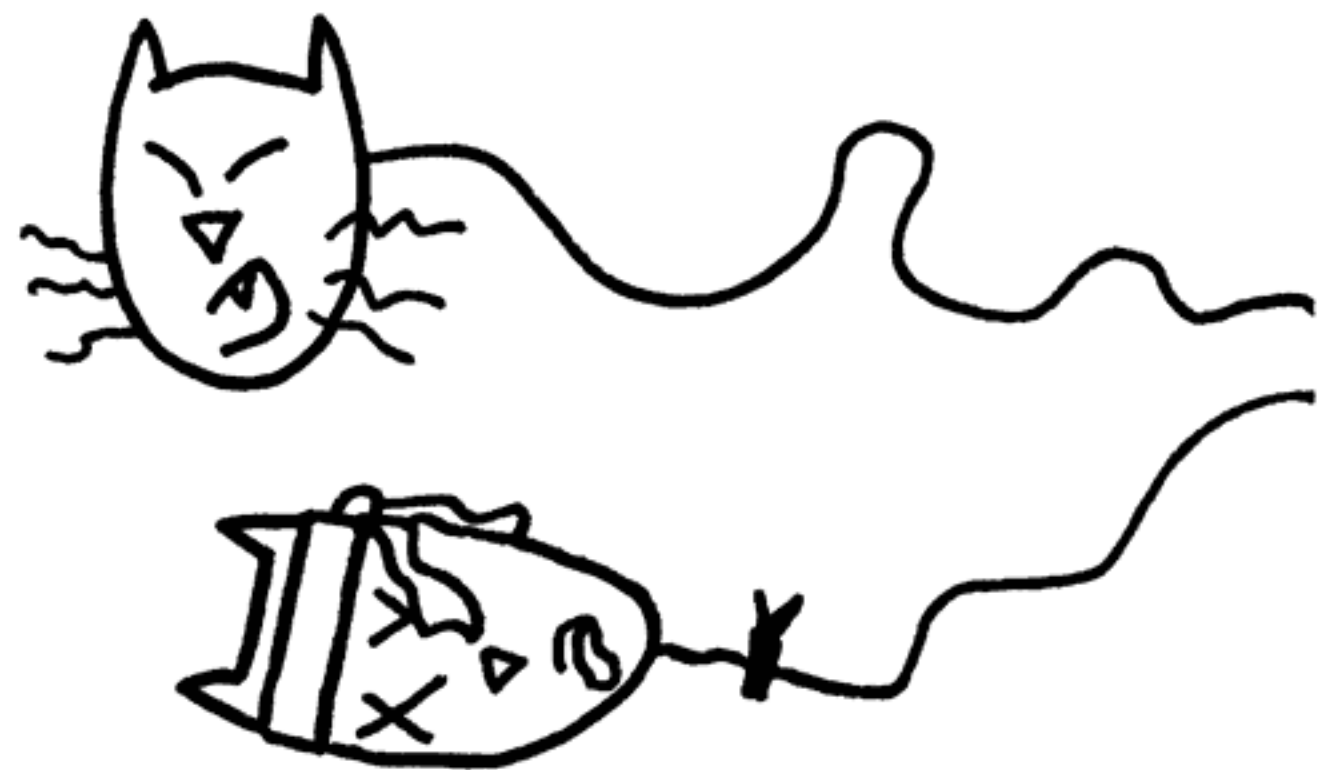
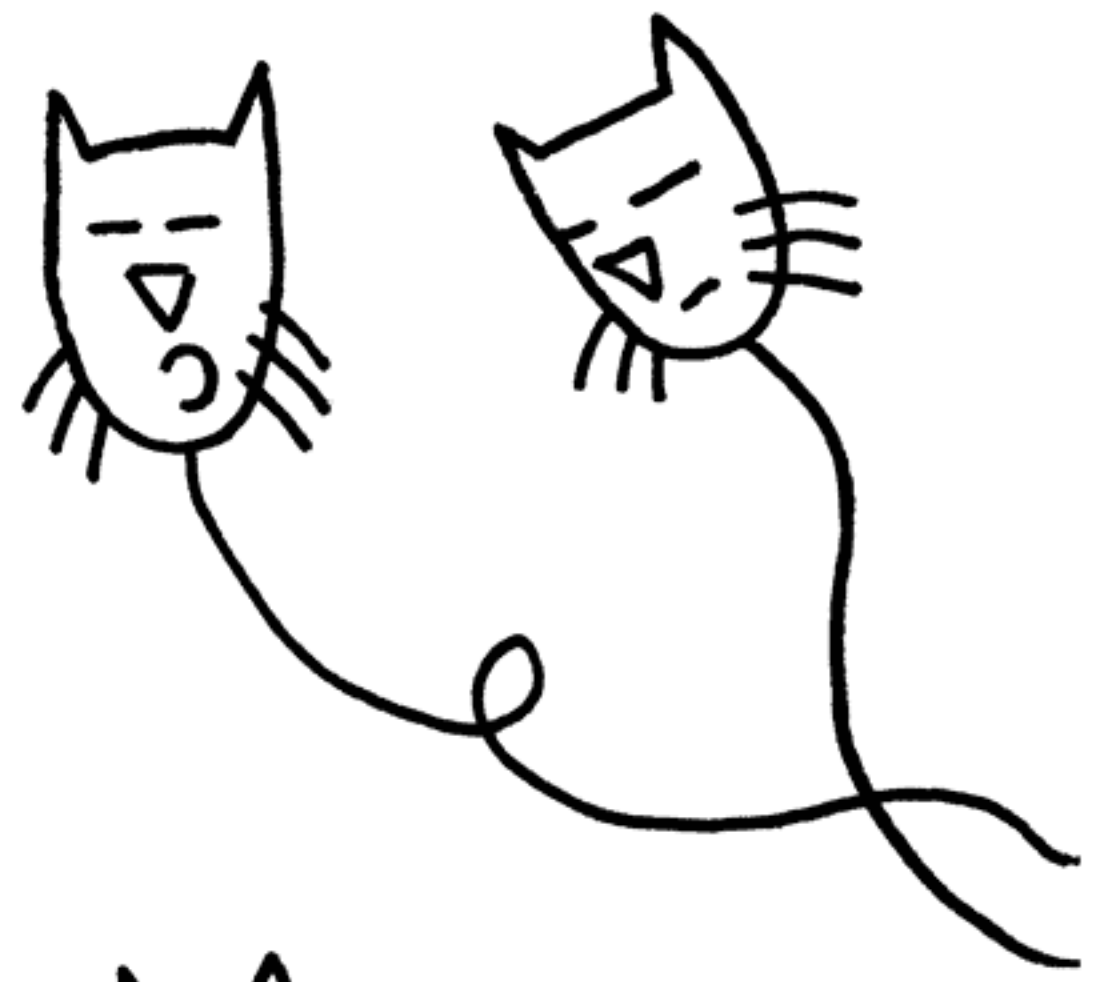
**O:** "NO! STAY BACK!!!"

**M:** "YOU'RE BRILLIANT AND  
RESOURCEFUL."

**D:** "THE ENERGY YOU'VE SUNK  
INTO DESTROYING OUR  
WORLD COULD BE USED TO  
REVOLUTIONIZE OUR CITIES!"

**M:** "WE WANT TO WORK  
WITH YOU."

**O:** "NEVER!"



D: "I'VE ALREADY BEGUN TO  
MAKE SPACE AT MY LAB."

M: "BUT UNDERSTAND THIS --  
**YOU WON'T BE FREE.**"

D: "YOU'LL BE MY WARD  
WHILE YOU WORK TO ATONE  
FOR THE WAYS THAT YOU'VE  
HURT OTHER CATS."

M: "MEANWHILE, WE'LL WORK  
TO CONVINCE EVERYONE  
THAT YOU CAN CHANGE..."

D: "...AND BECOME A FORCE  
FOR POSITIVITY."

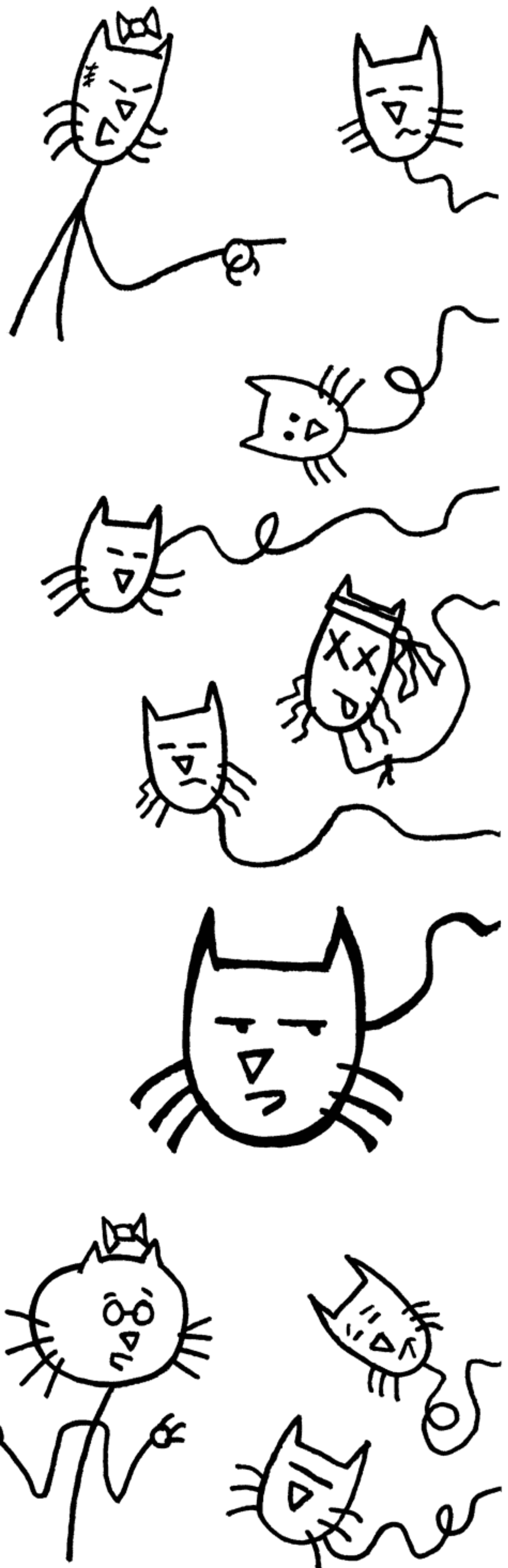
O: "THIS... DOESN'T MAKE  
ANY SENSE."

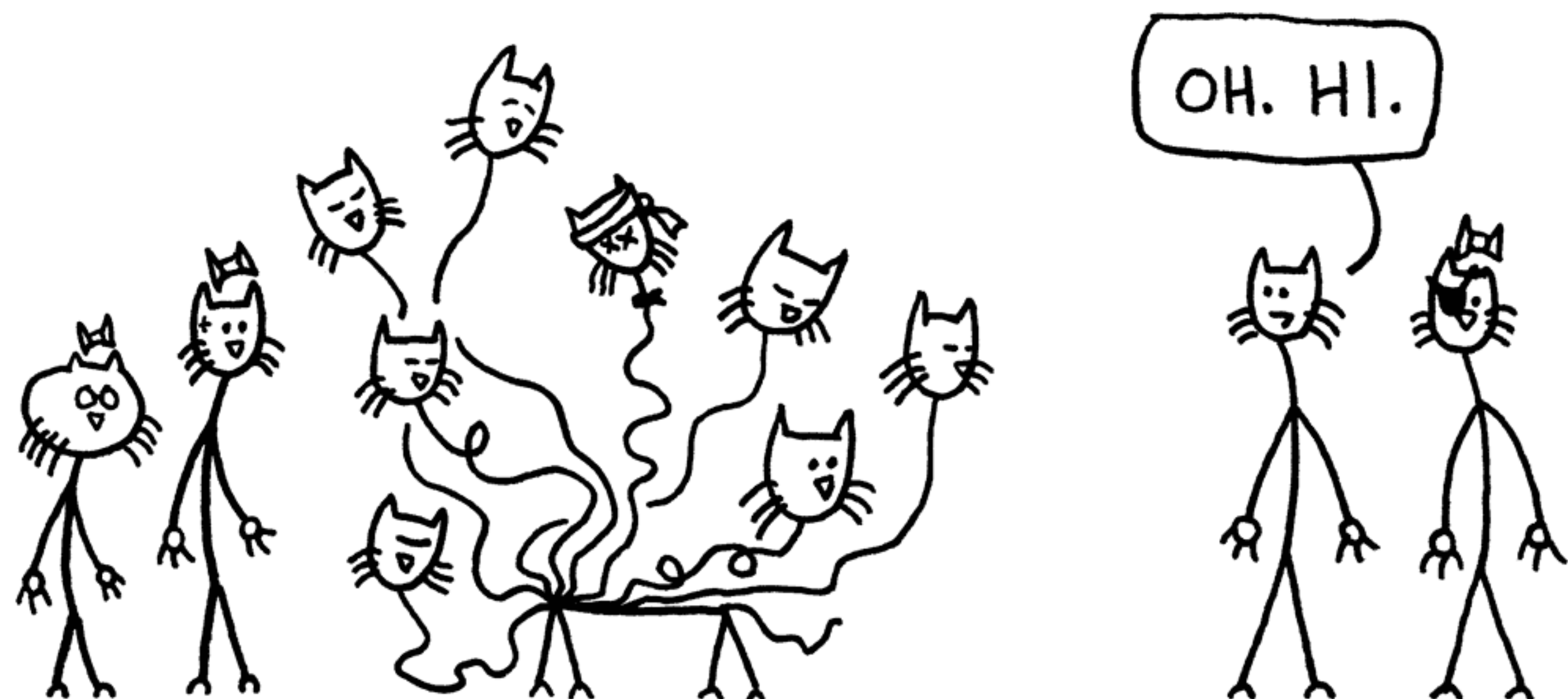
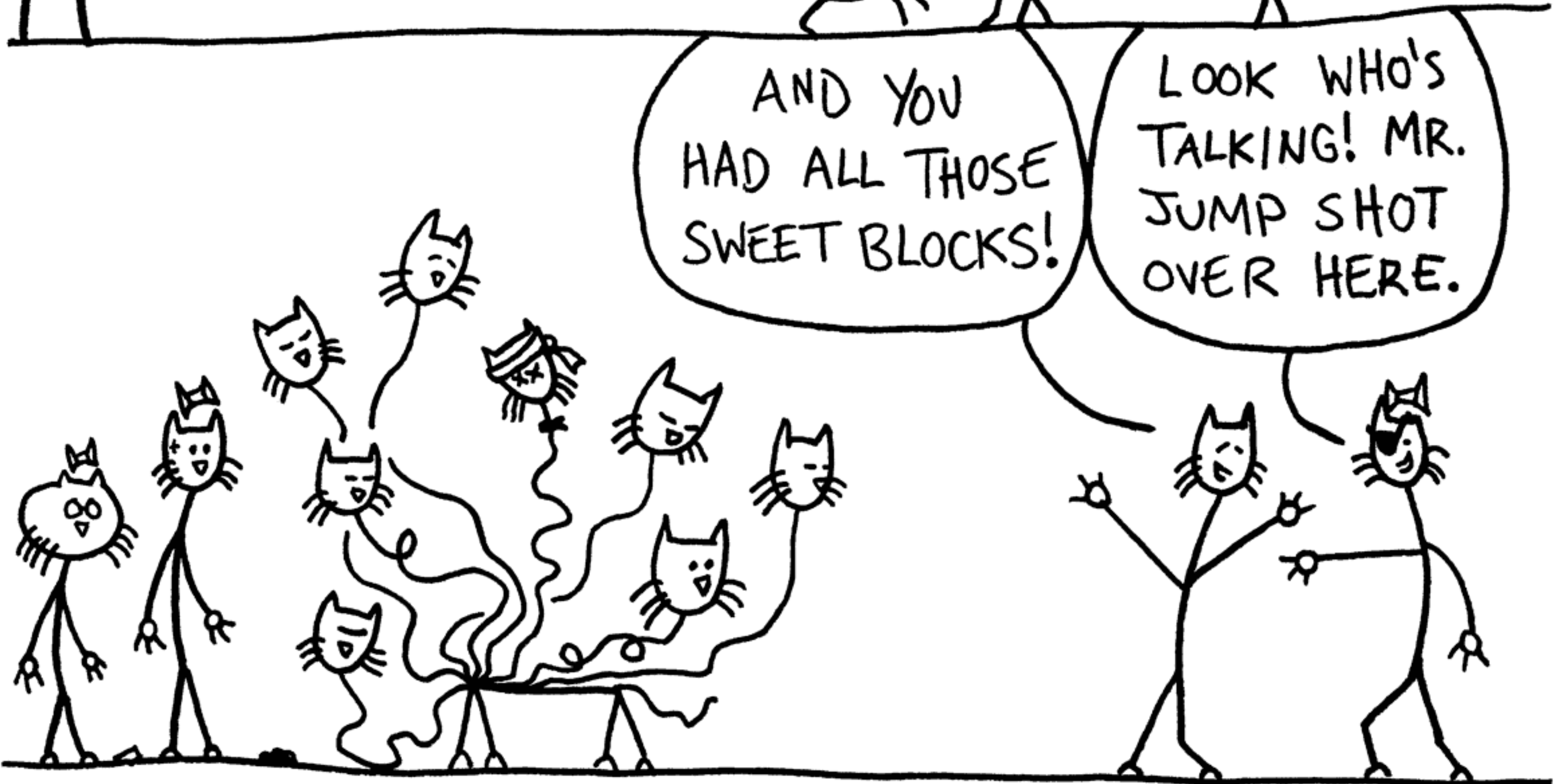
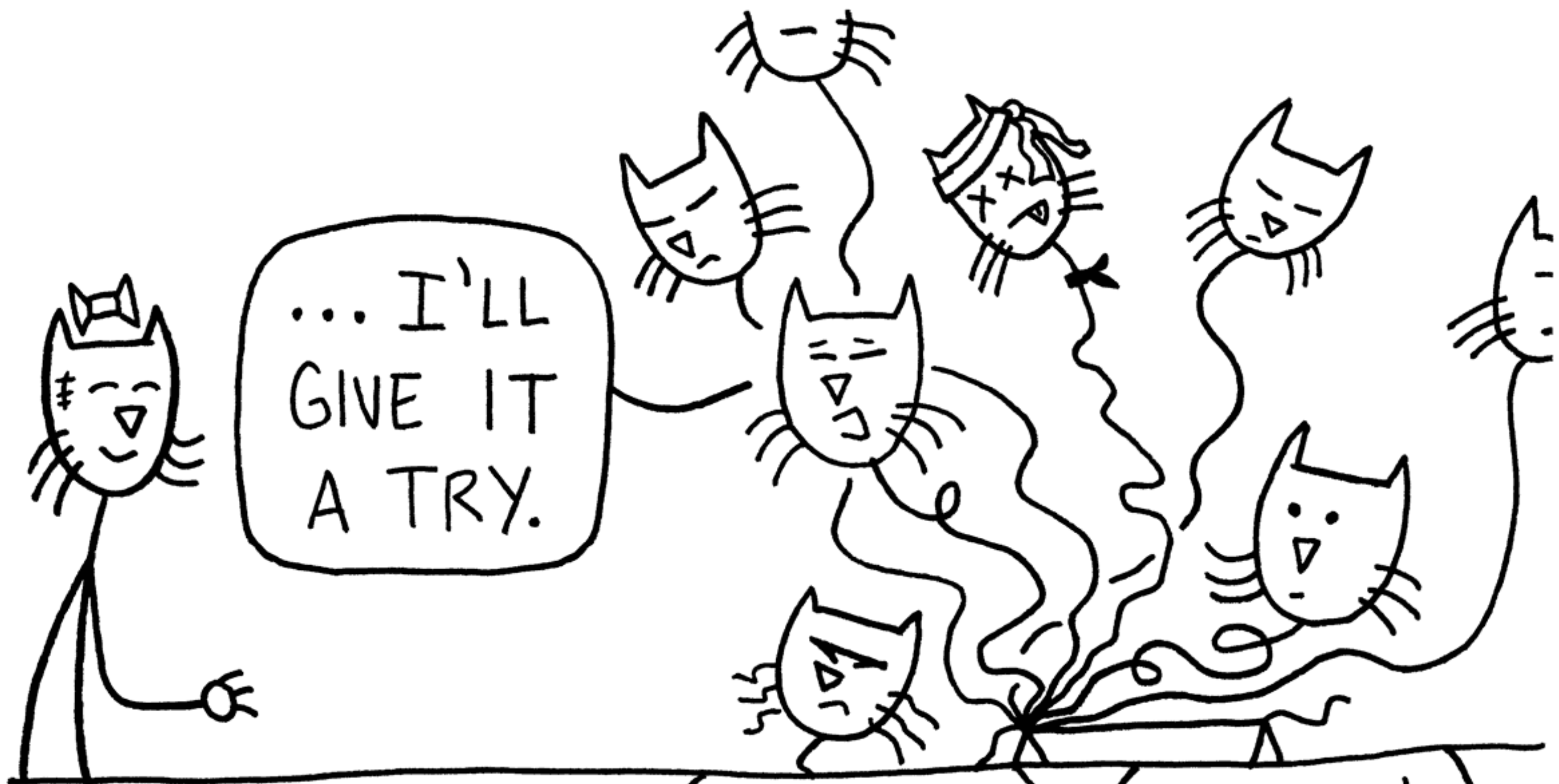
M: "YEAH, WE KNOW. BUT  
WE'RE DOING IT ANYWAY."

D: "SO WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?"

O: "I GUESS THAT..."

**[DRAMATIC  
PAUSE...]**







I DIDN'T  
EXPECT  
THIS...



YEAH, WE WERE  
JUST COMING  
HERE TO TELL  
THE OCTO-KITTY  
THAT I QUIT.



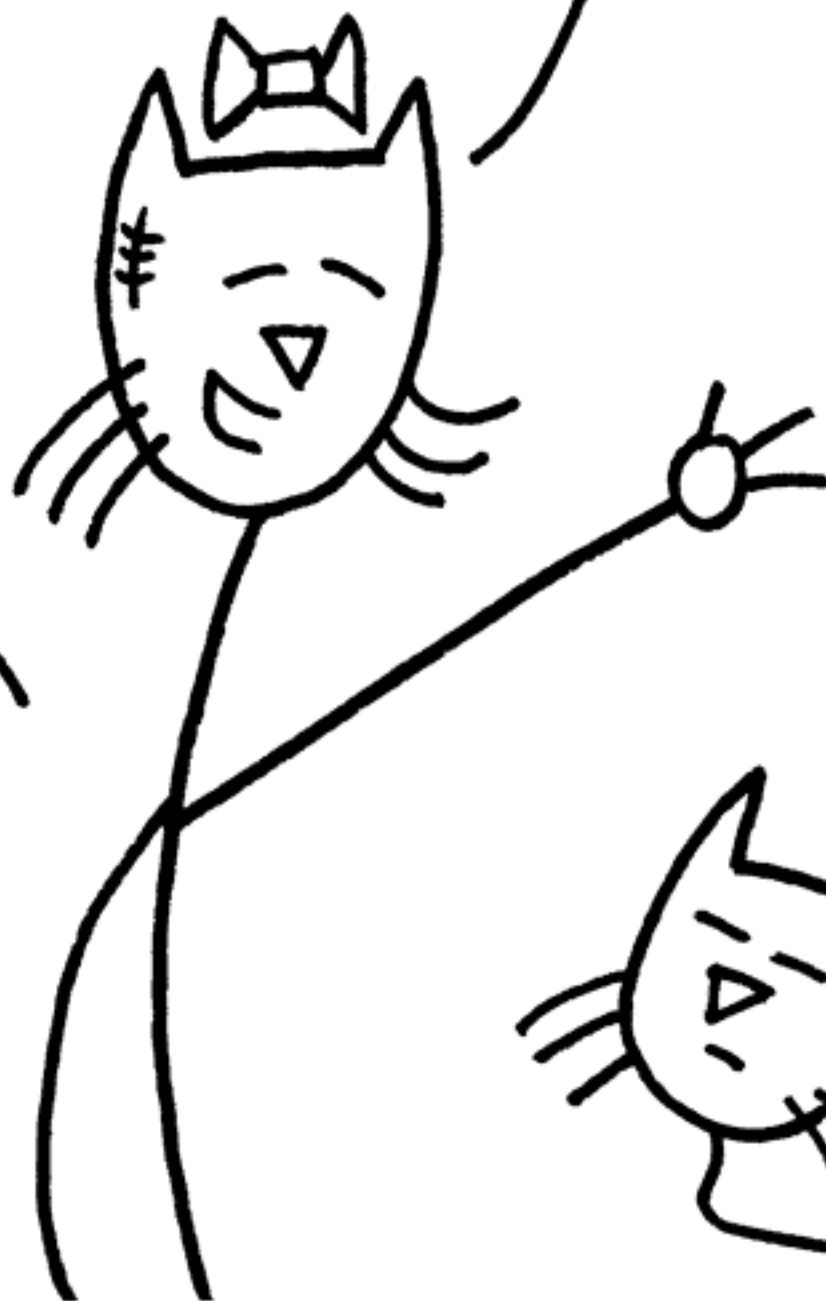
AND THEN I WAS  
GONNA COME SEE  
YOU, MARMALADE,  
TO TELL YOU I'M  
DONE HUNTING THE  
OCTO-KITTY.

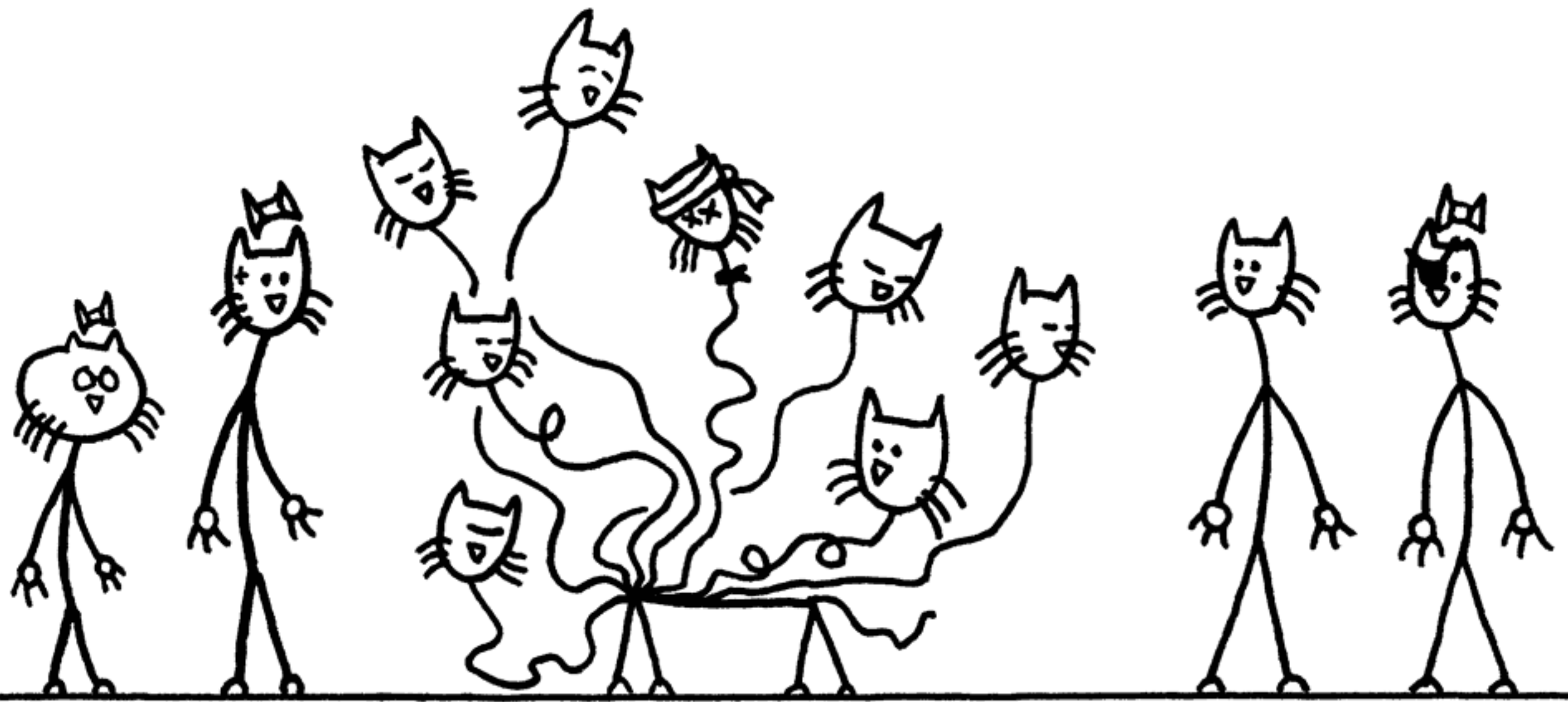
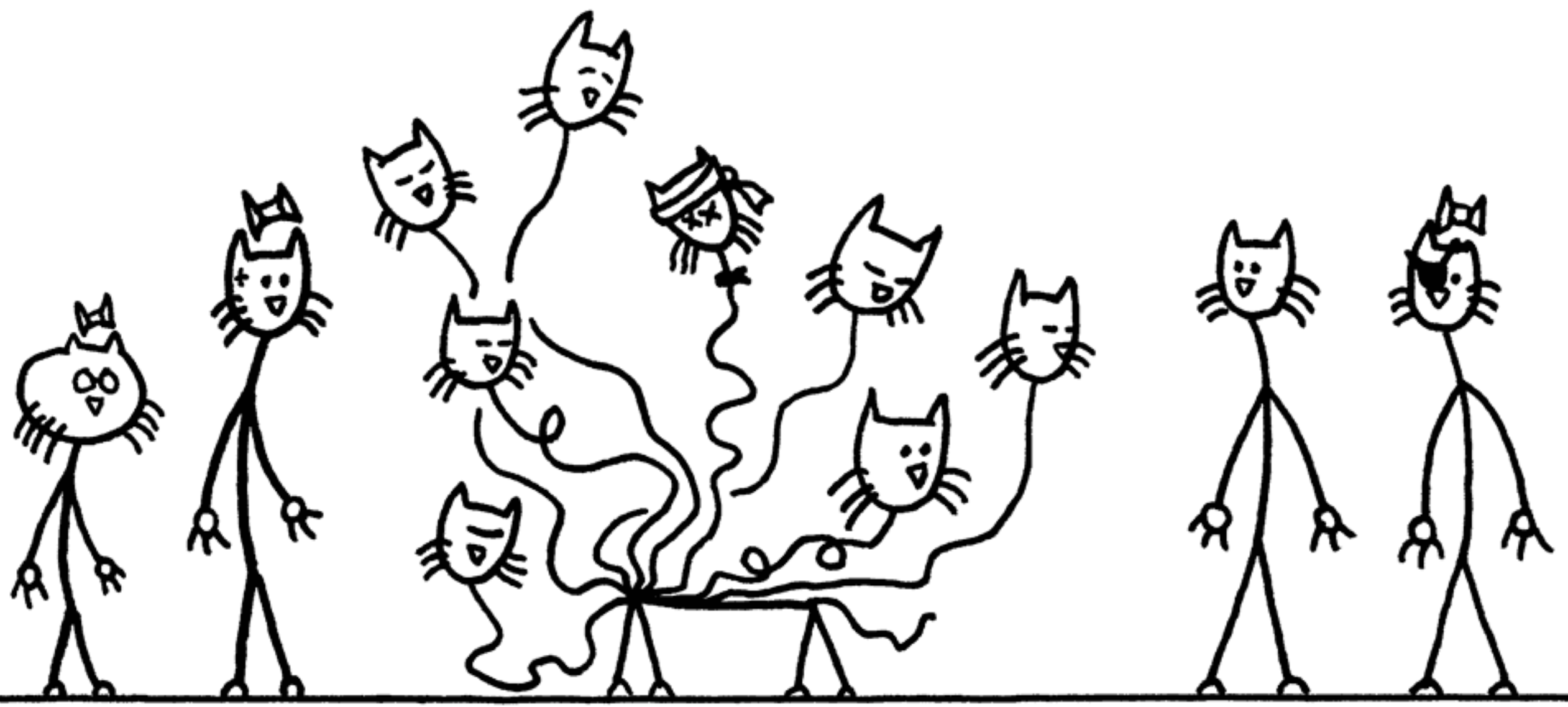


AMAZONIA AND  
I DON'T WANT  
TO FIGHT LIKE  
THIS ANYMORE.

THAT'S COOL.

WE'RE DONE  
FIGHTING TOO.



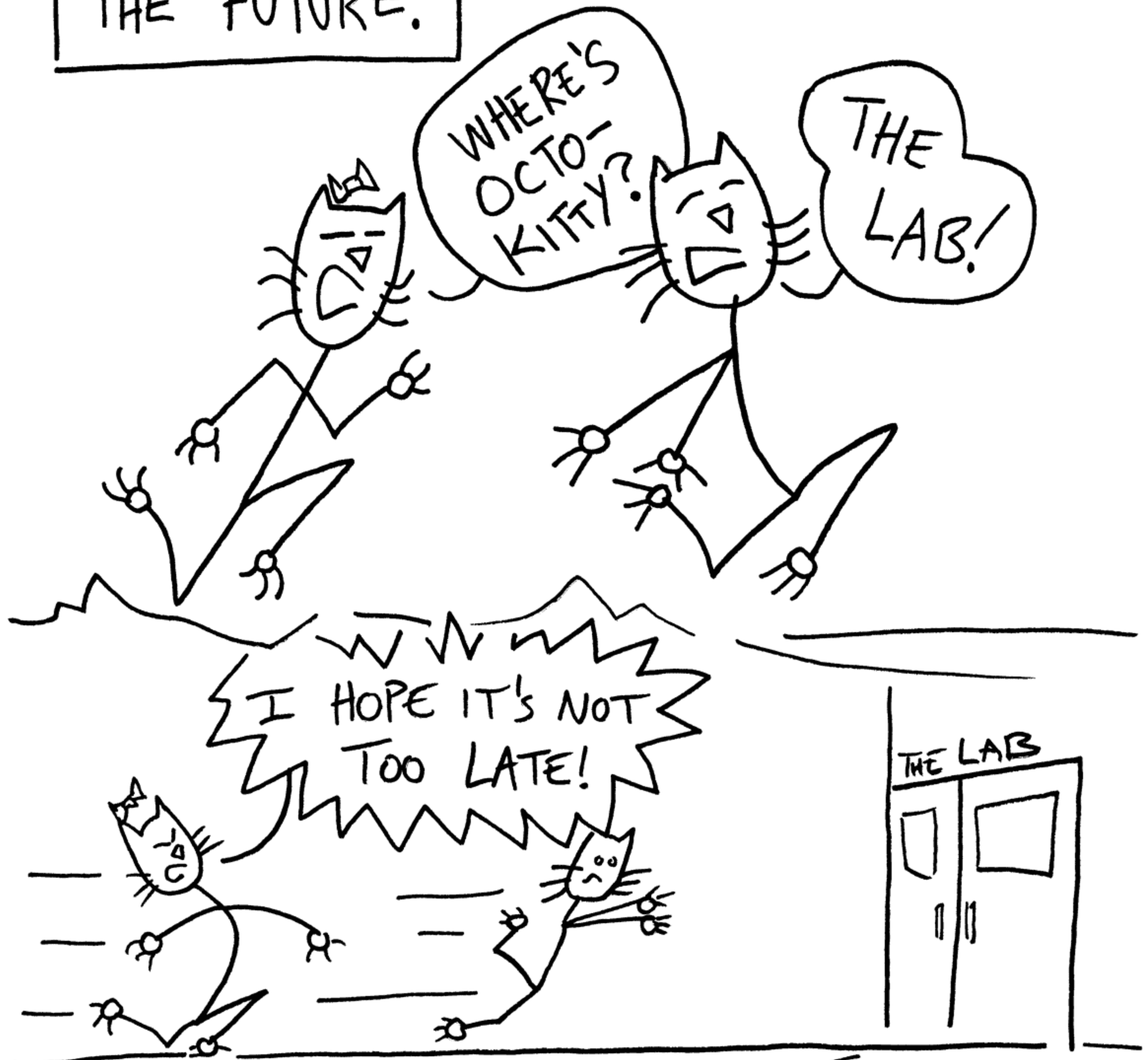


...THEN I  
GUESS IT'S...



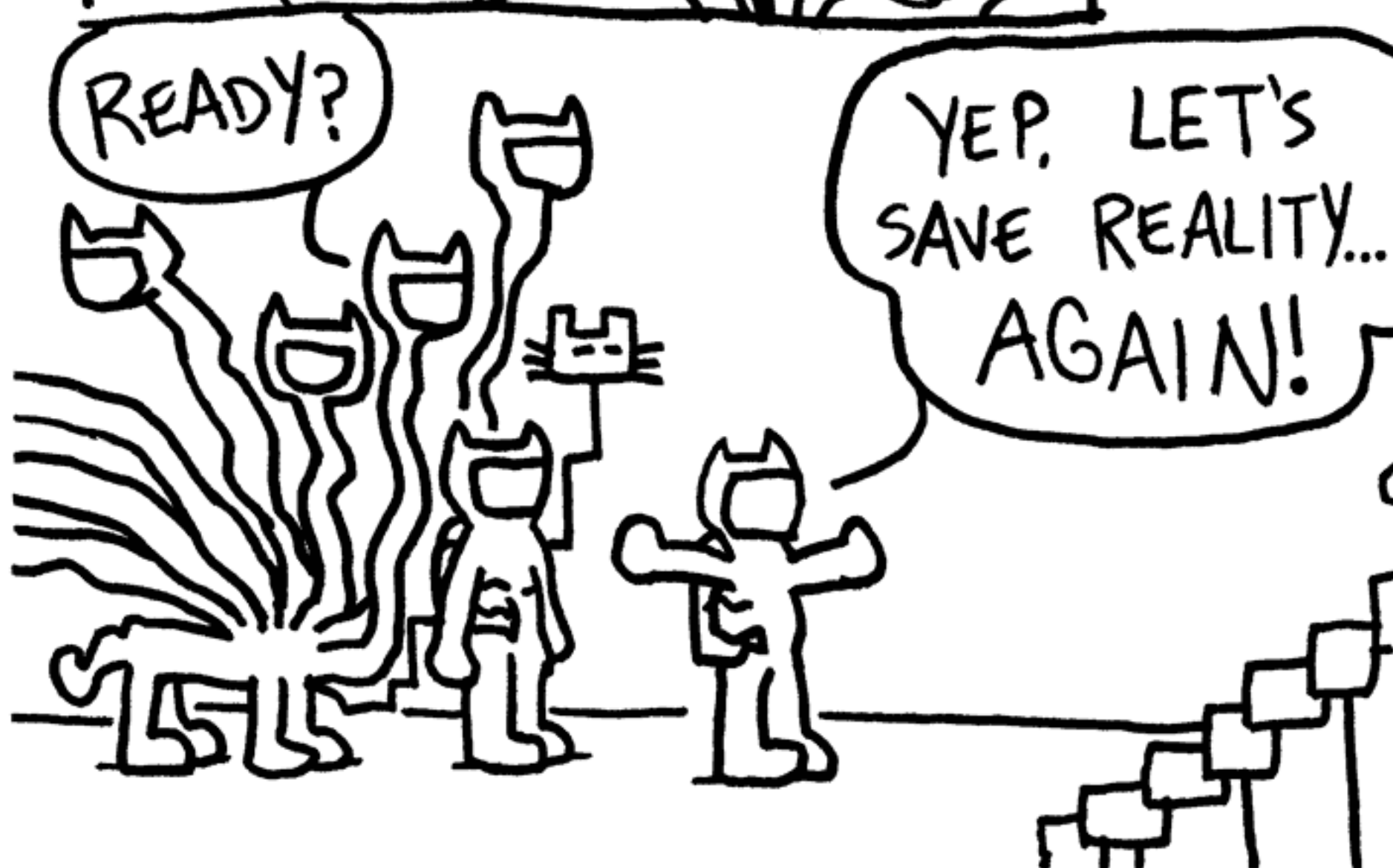
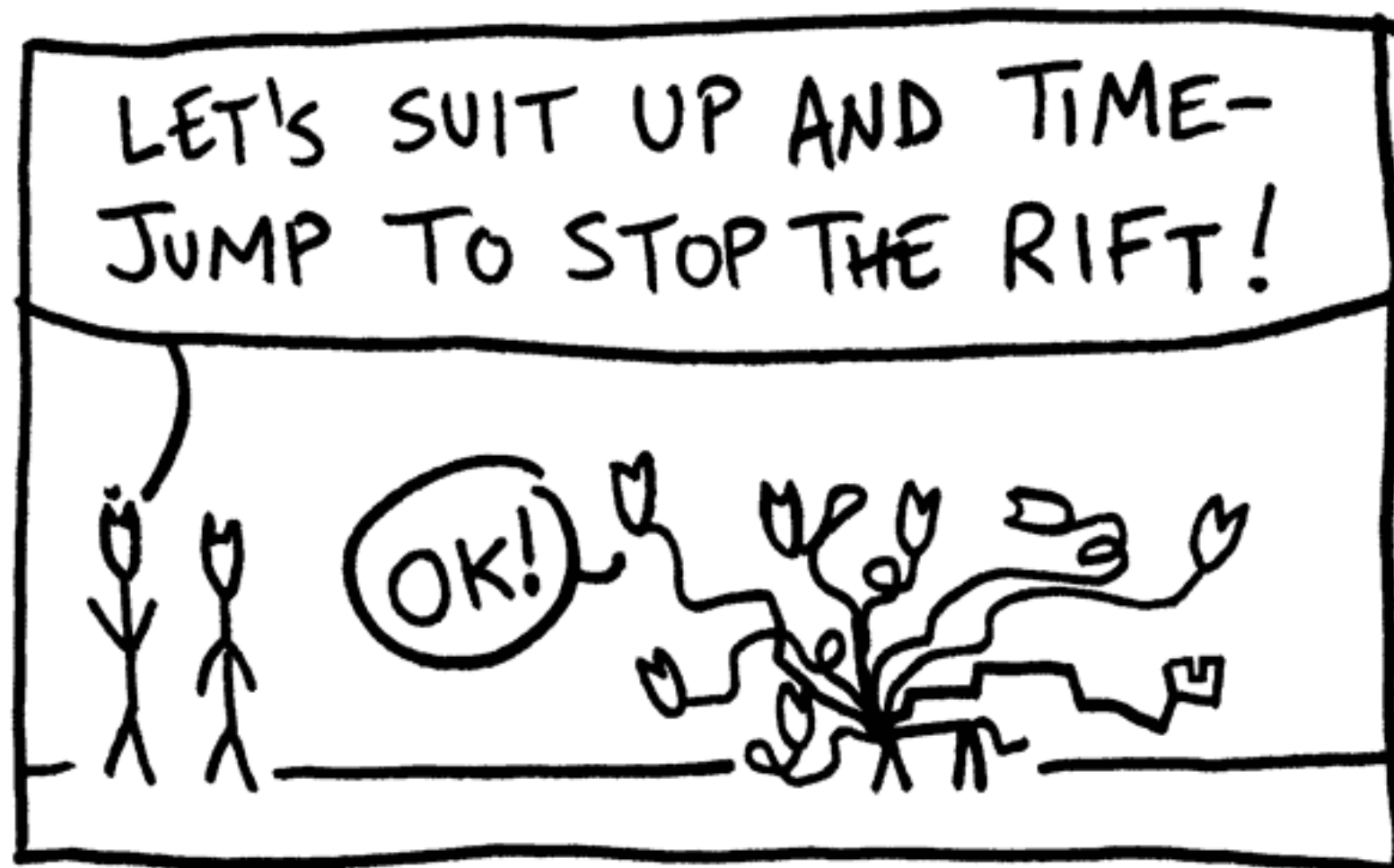
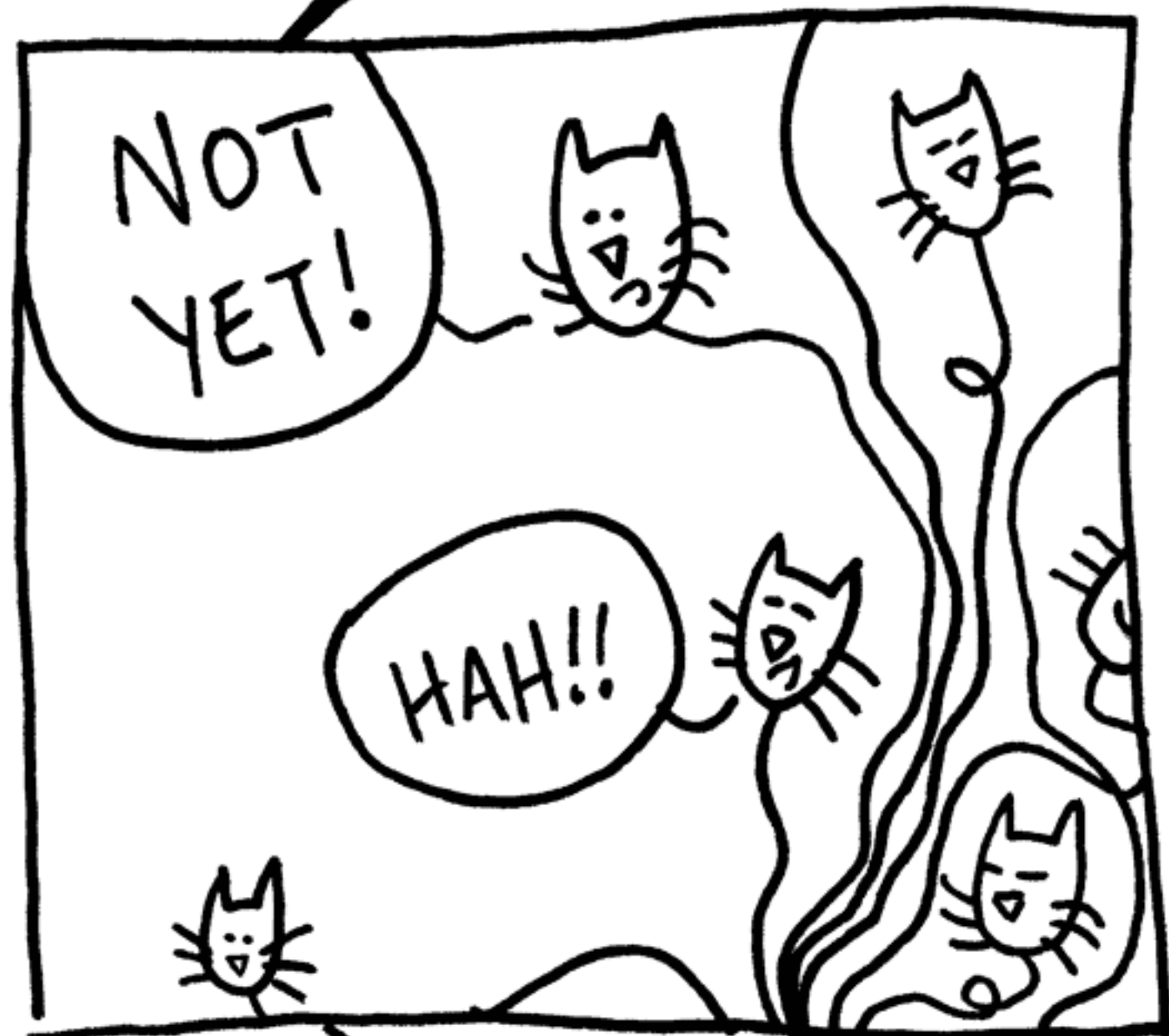


THE FUTURE.





A TEMPORAL RIFT IS ON ITS WAY. WE WERE WORRIED IT ALREADY GOT YOU!



C=TIME PORTAL=J



THE BEGINNING...

Stick Cats was made from 2011 to 2016. Mucho thanks go out to Katie Henderson, Shawn Atkins, Justique Woolridge, and the family of Travis, Nikki, and Ronin Halverson.



Nick Marino is a writer, cartoonist, and musician in Long Beach, CA. He likes tacos with extra cilantro, genmaicha, skateboarding, and Lifetime movies. He's made other weird comics including Time Log, Super Haters, and Holy F\*ck.

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