

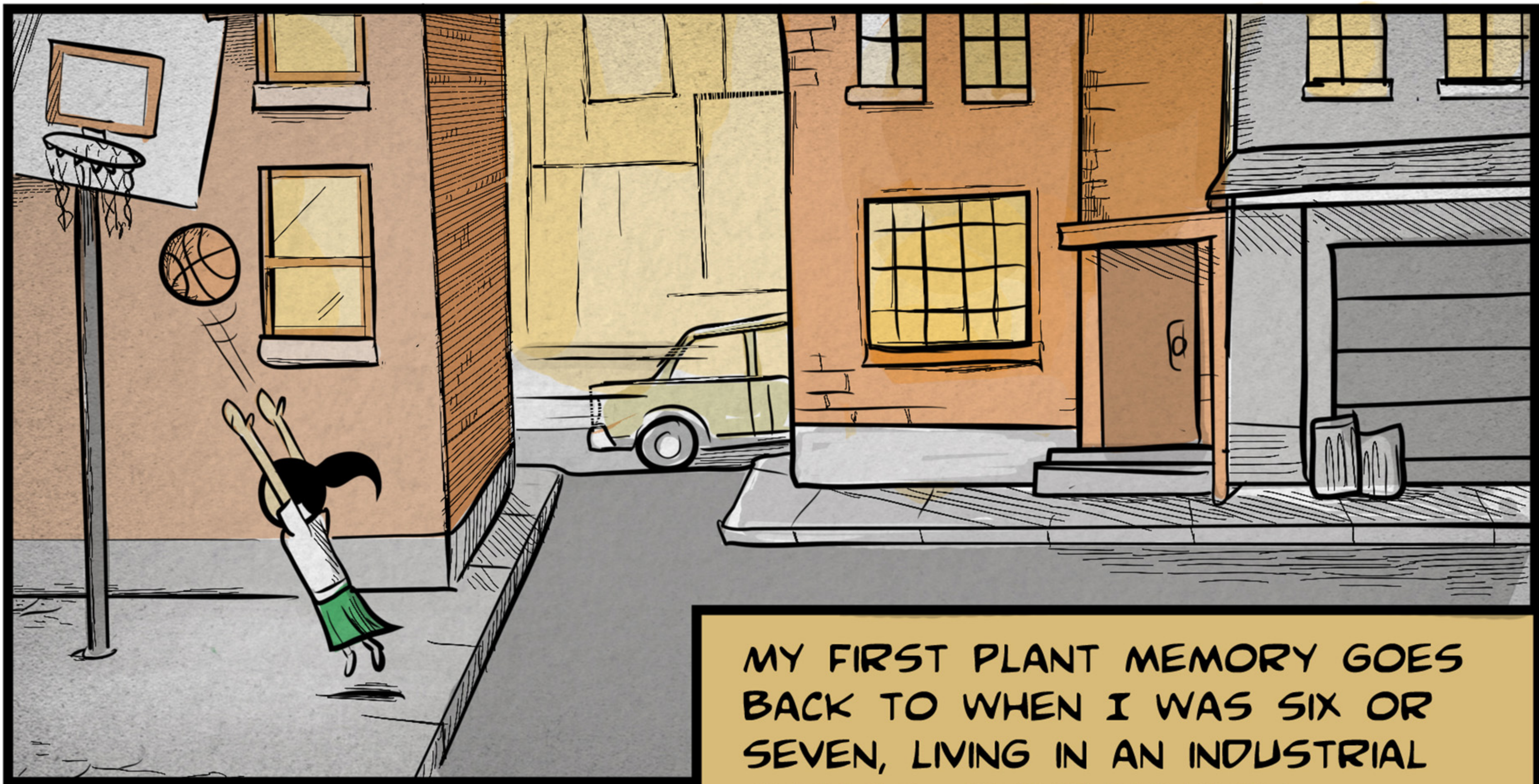


# DINA

## THE CONSERVATION ADVOCATE

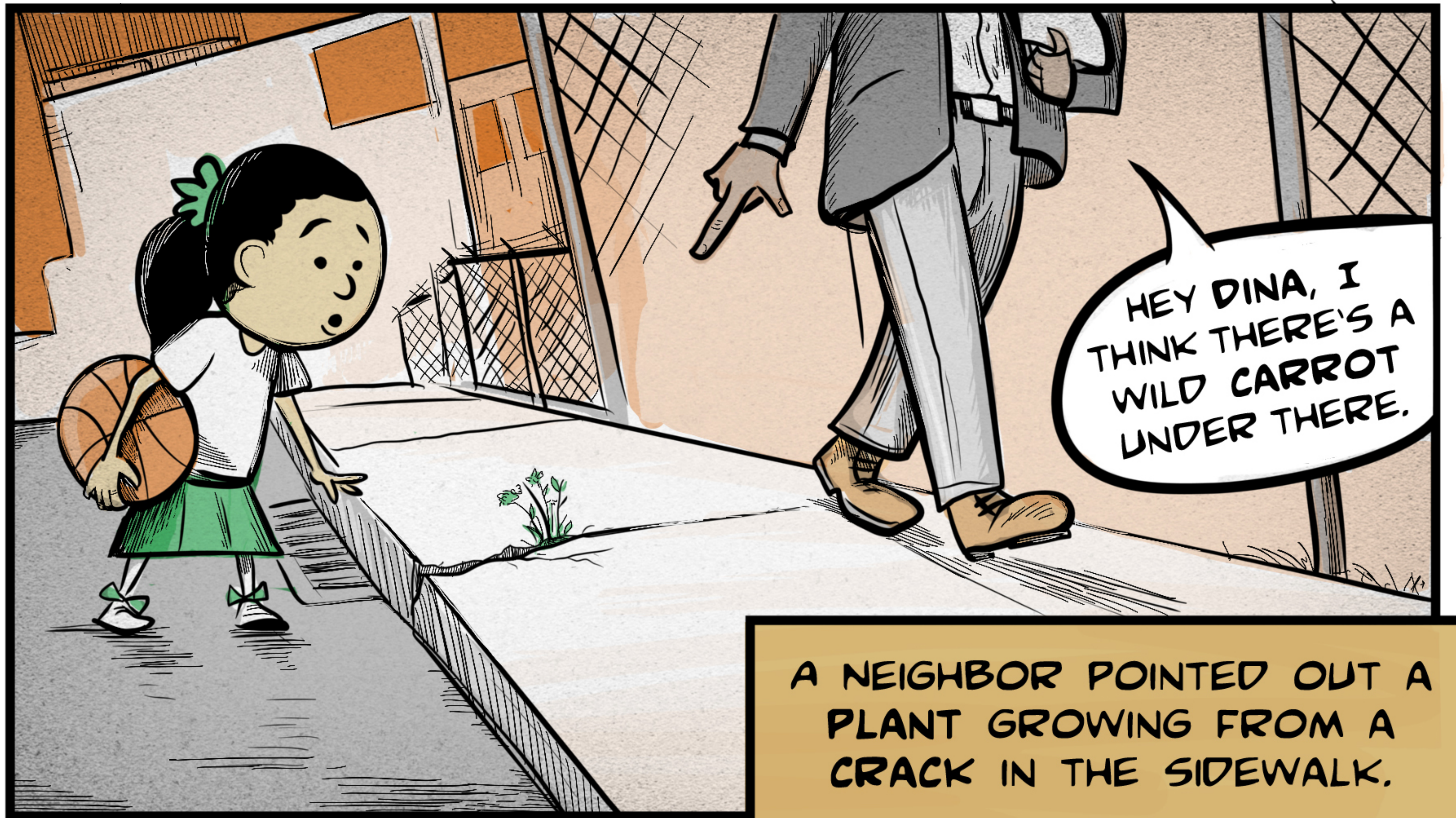
FINDING A PLACE FOR YOUR  
ROOTS TO GROW





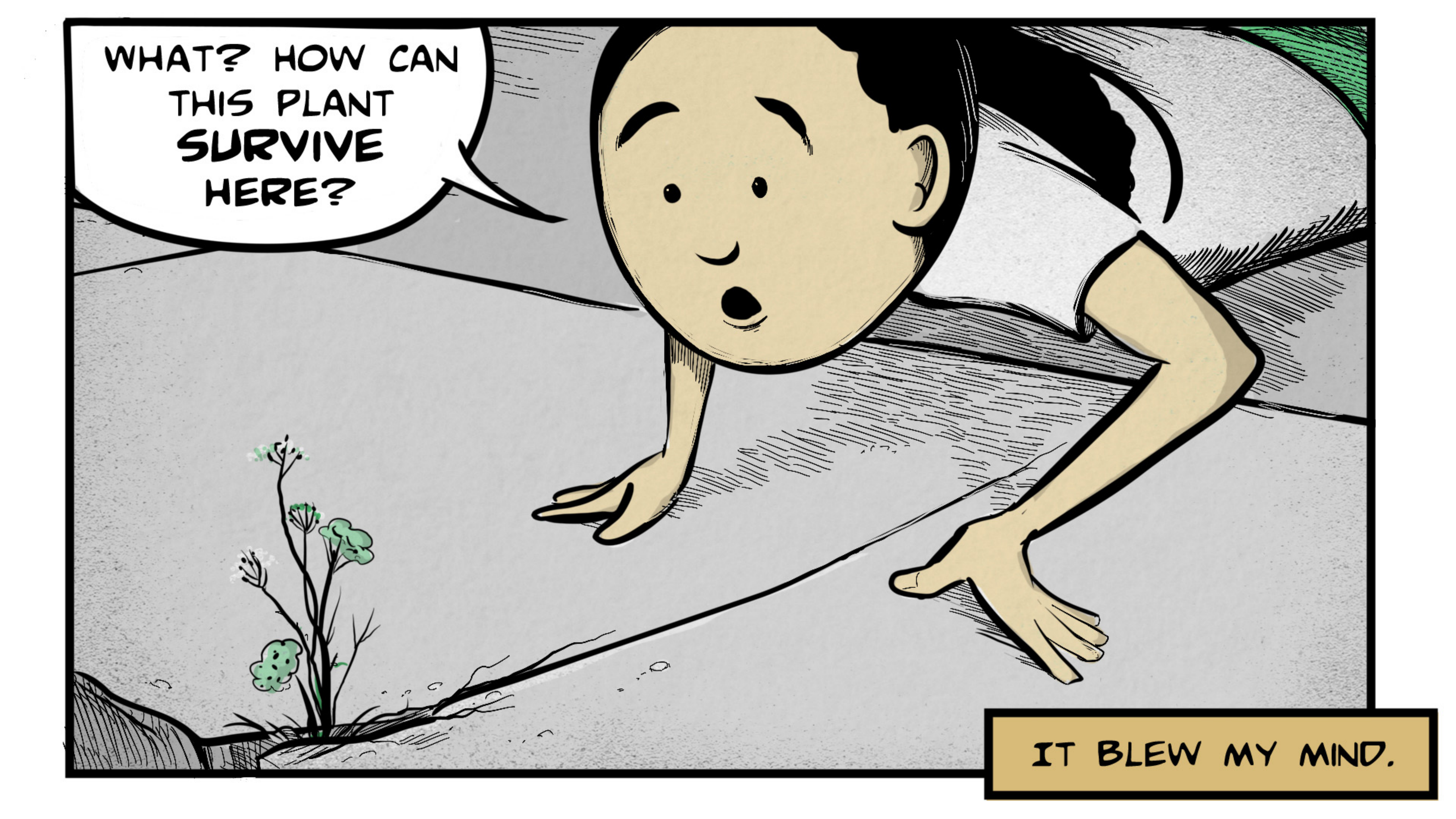
MY FIRST PLANT MEMORY GOES BACK TO WHEN I WAS SIX OR SEVEN, LIVING IN AN INDUSTRIAL CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOOD.





A NEIGHBOR POINTED OUT A PLANT GROWING FROM A CRACK IN THE SIDEWALK.



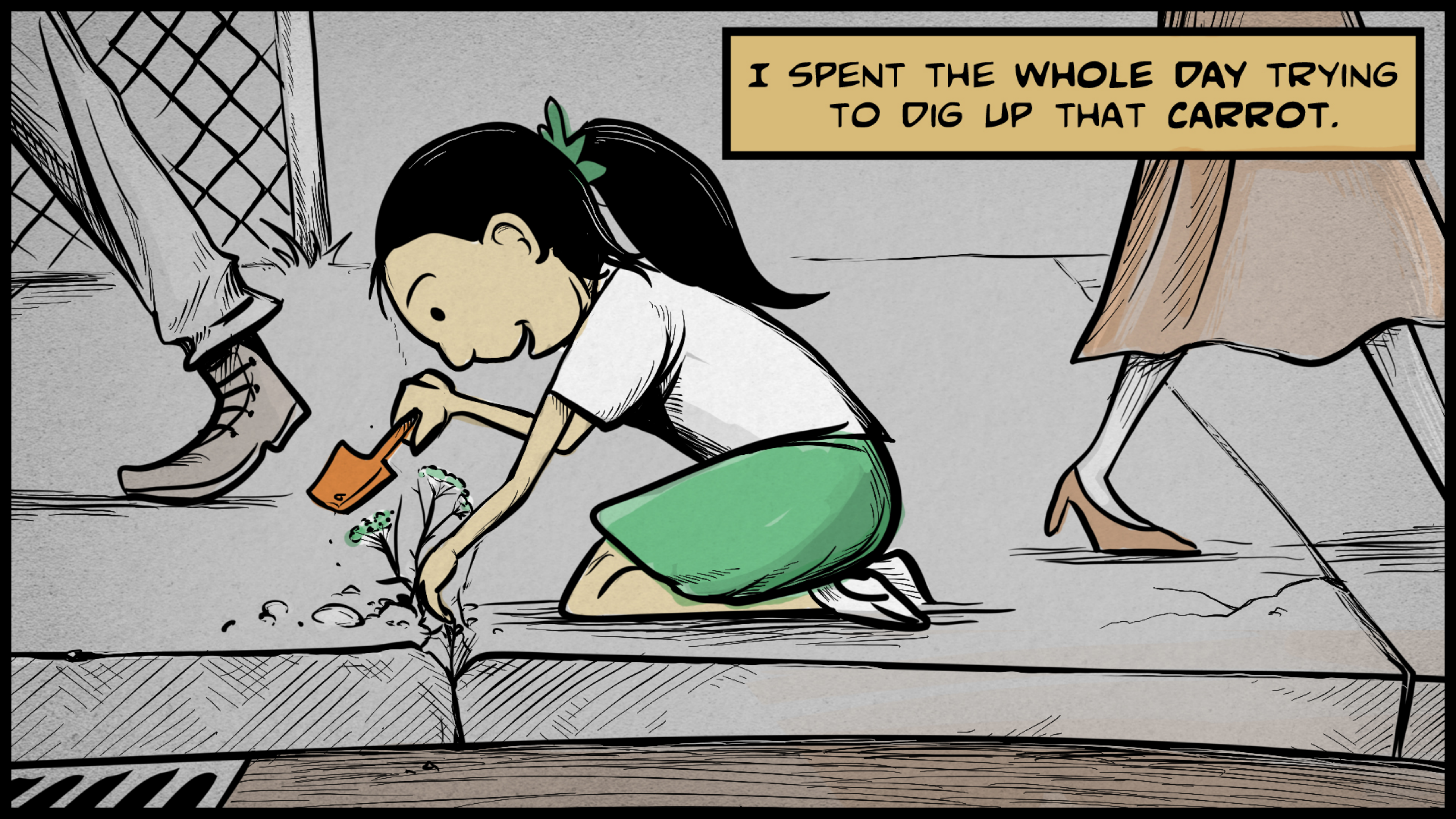


WHAT? HOW CAN  
THIS PLANT  
SURVIVE  
HERE?

IT BLEW MY MIND.

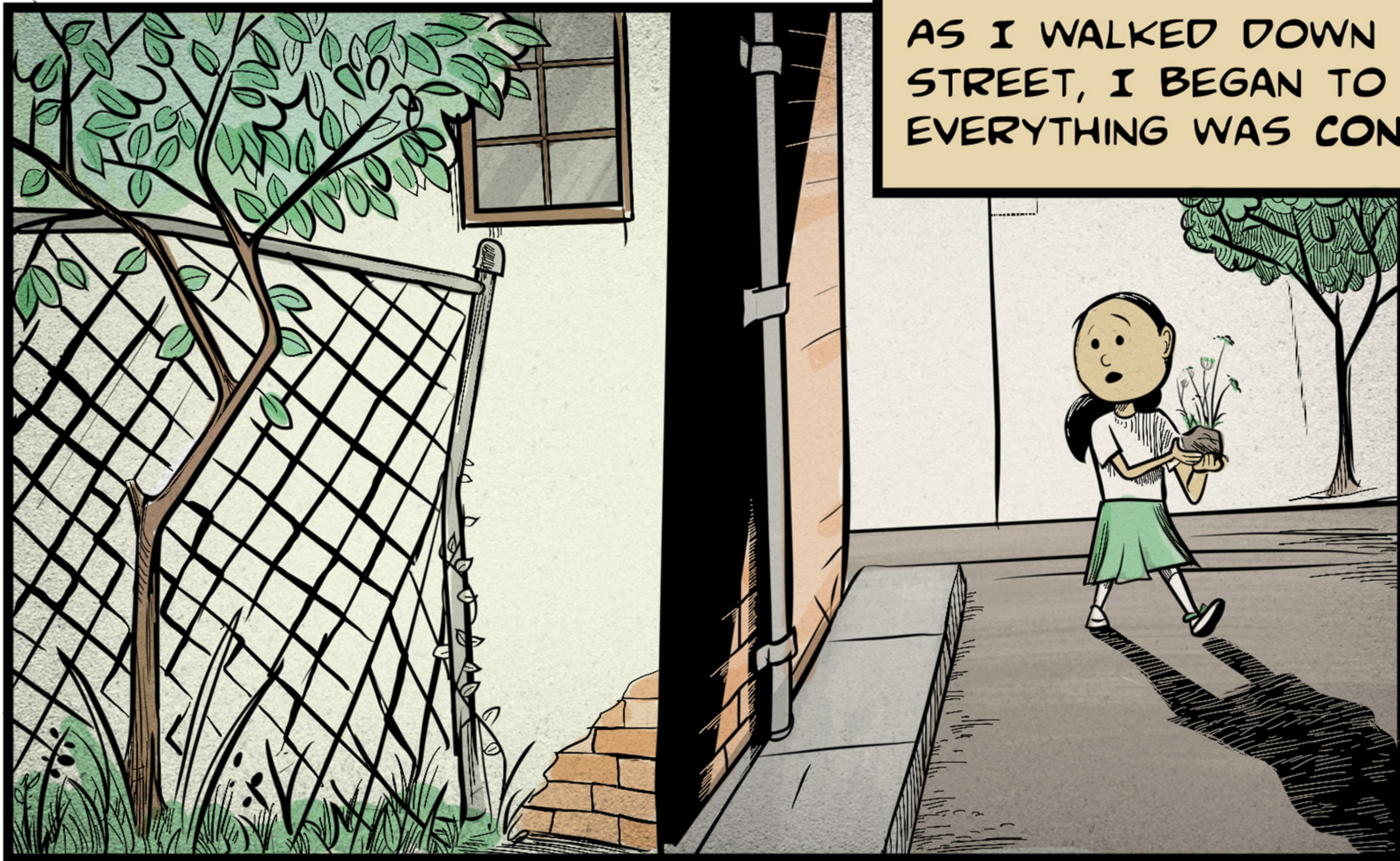


I SPENT THE WHOLE DAY TRYING  
TO DIG UP THAT CARROT.





AS I WALKED DOWN THE STREET, I BEGAN TO REALIZE EVERYTHING WAS CONNECTED.





MY FAMILY FED MY GROWING CURIOSITY WITH CAMPING TRIPS...



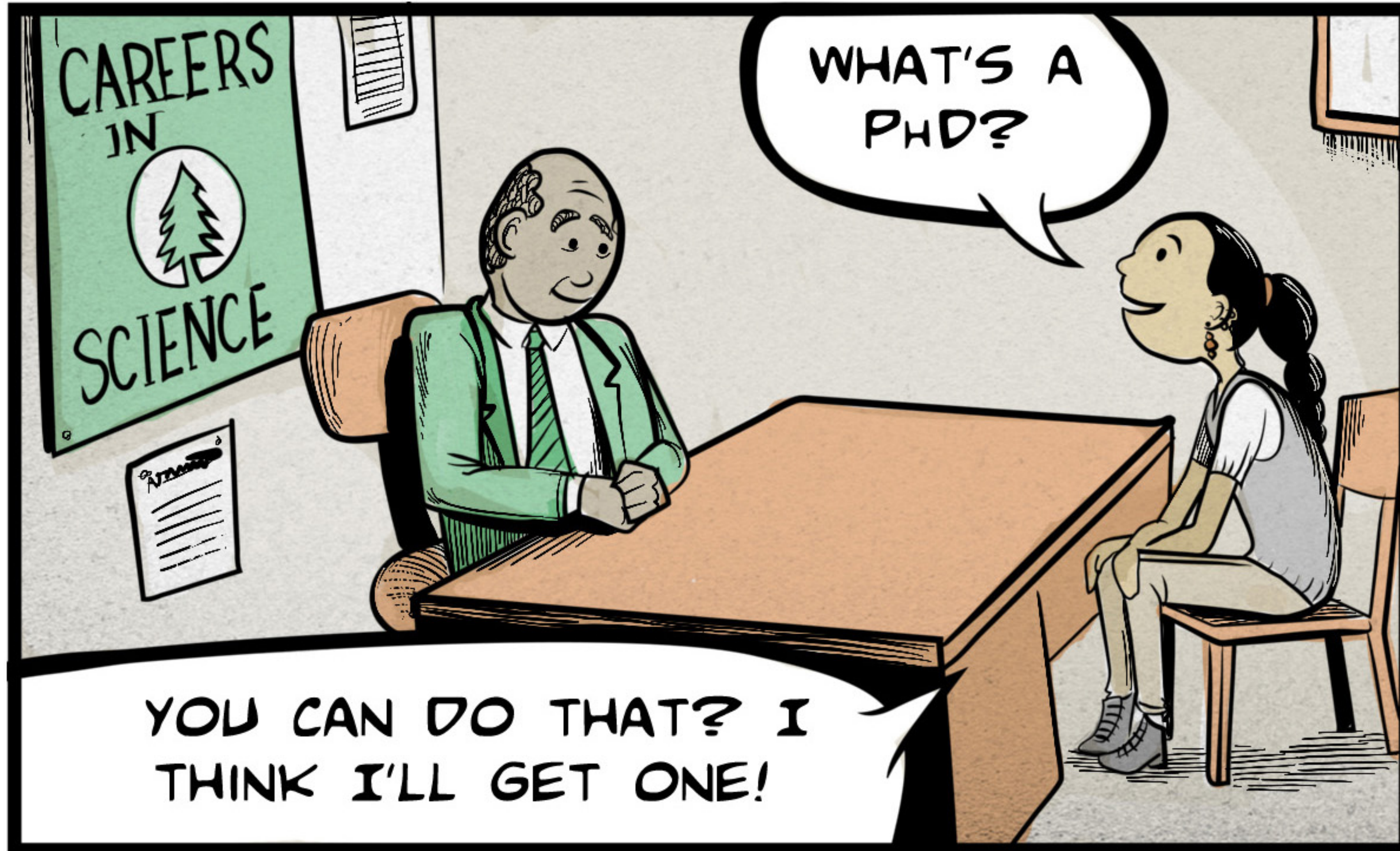
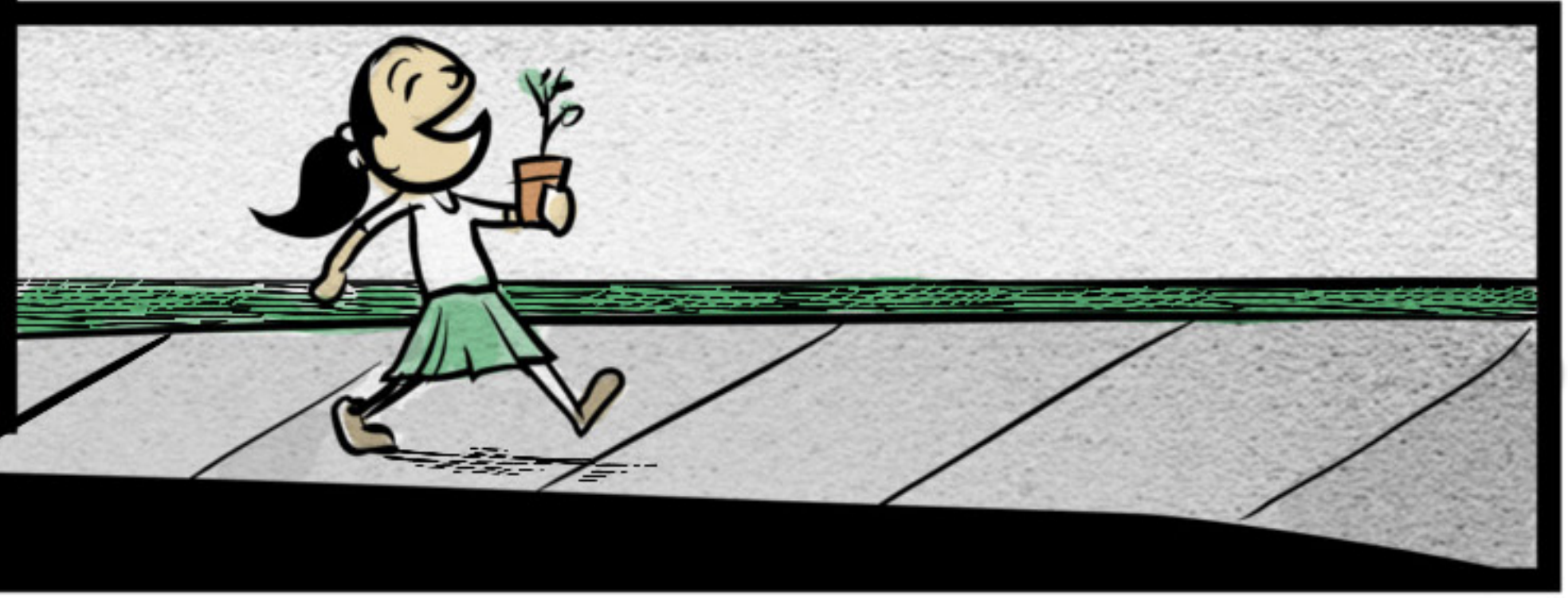
I'M GOING TO BE A SCIENTIST!



...AND I IMMERSED MYSELF IN SCIENCE CLASSES.



I STARTED TO SEE MY EDUCATION, MY CAREER, AND MY LIFE EXPERIENCES ALL TAKING SHAPE. I WAS ON A PATH.



WHAT'S A PHD?

YOU CAN DO THAT? I THINK I'LL GET ONE!



BUT AS I GOT FURTHER AND FURTHER DOWN THAT PATH, DOUBTS STARTED TO SURFACE.



WOULD I BE SATISFIED FOCUSING ON ONE TOPIC FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD?





I BEGAN TO REALIZE I  
WAS A  
JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES.  
RESEARCH MIGHT NOT  
BE THE RIGHT FIT  
AFTER ALL.



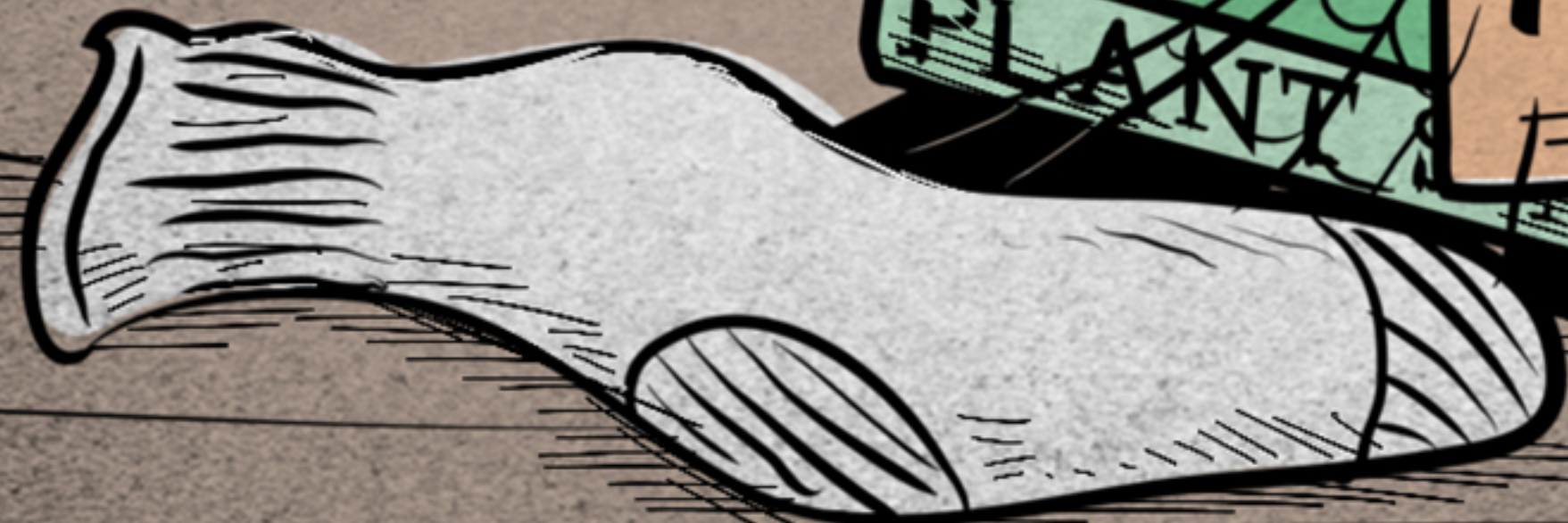


SO I ABANDONED MY DREAM.

Advanced Cytogenetics  
volume 3

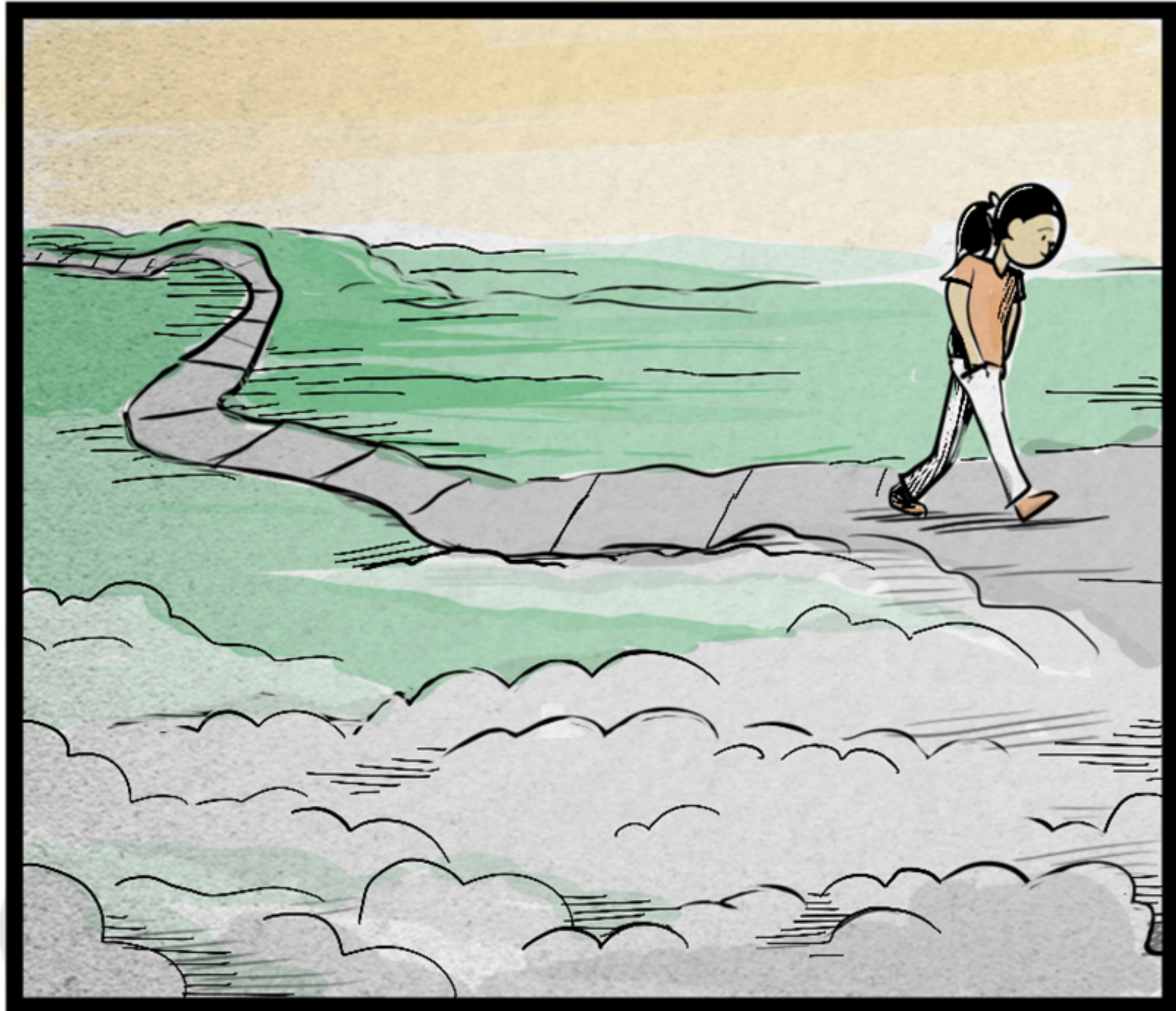
PLANTS

SYSTEMATICS



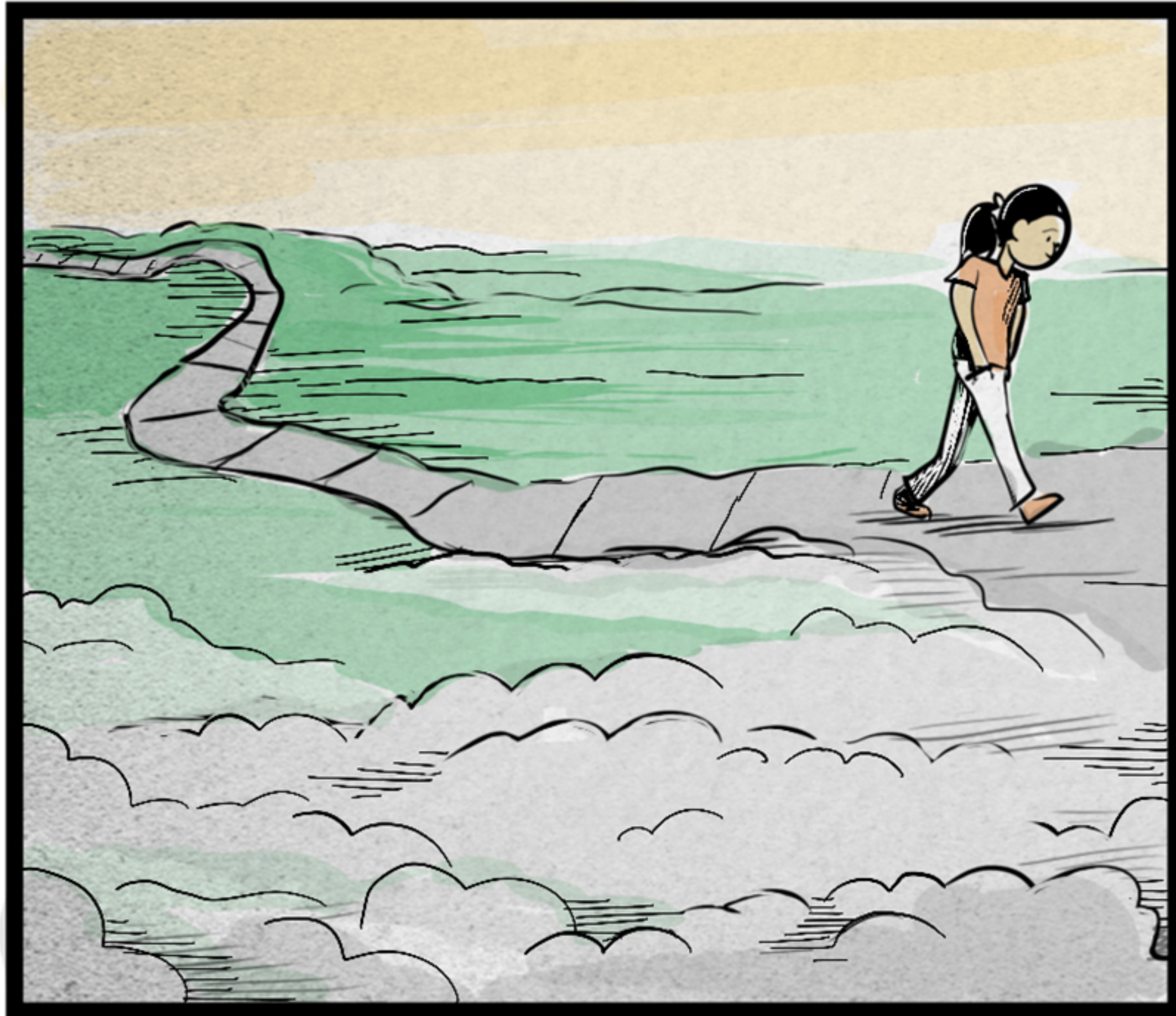


I WAS CONFUSED.  
I WAS SAD.





**I WAS CONFUSED.  
I WAS SAD.**



**I COULD NO LONGER  
VISUALIZE MY PATH.**



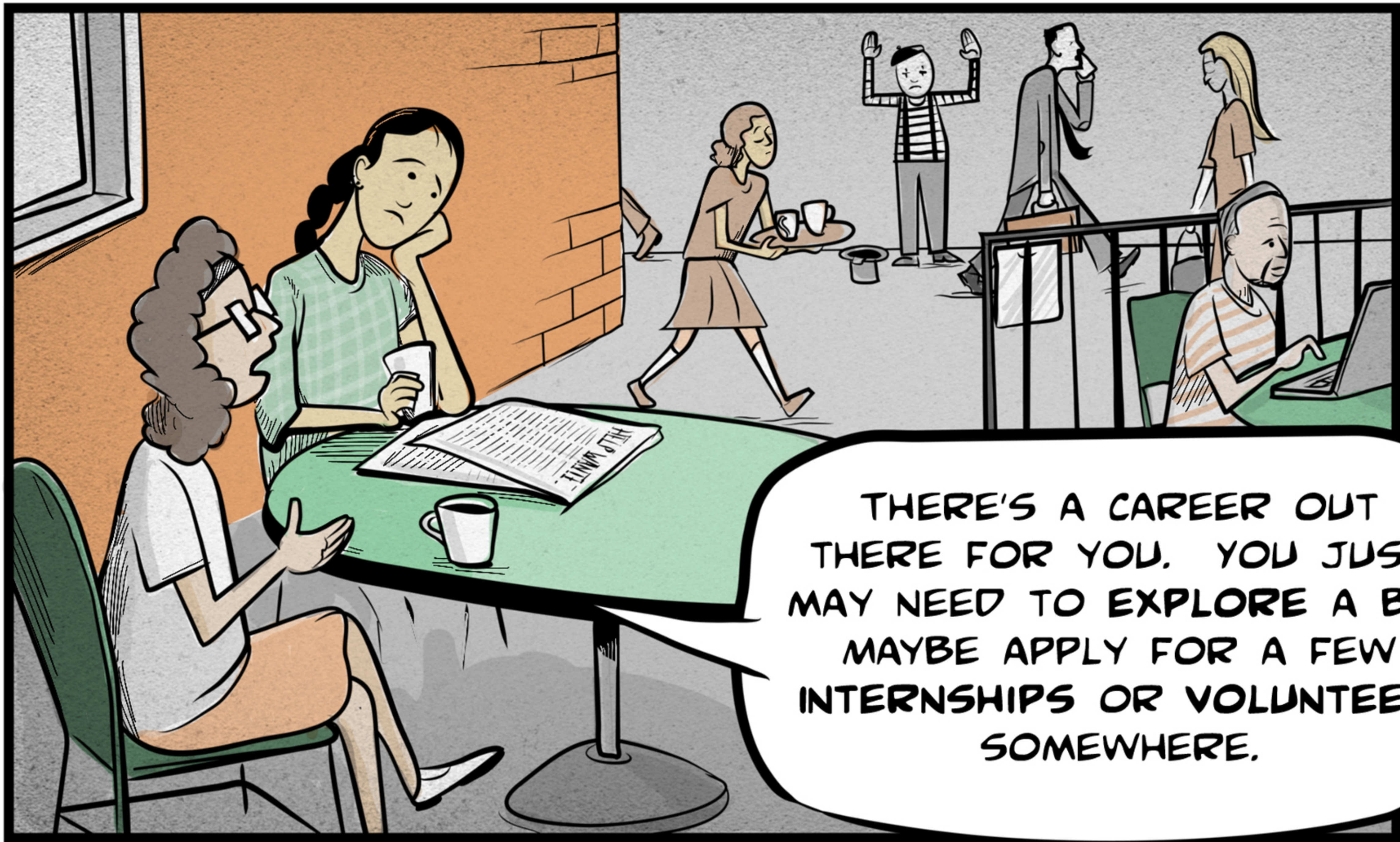


BUT EVENTUALLY, I EMBRACED THE IDEA THAT THE RIGHT CAREER WAS STILL OUT THERE SOMEWHERE. I JUST HAD TO FIND IT.



IF THAT LITTLE PLANT COULD GROW THROUGH A CRACK IN THE CONCRETE, SO COULD I!

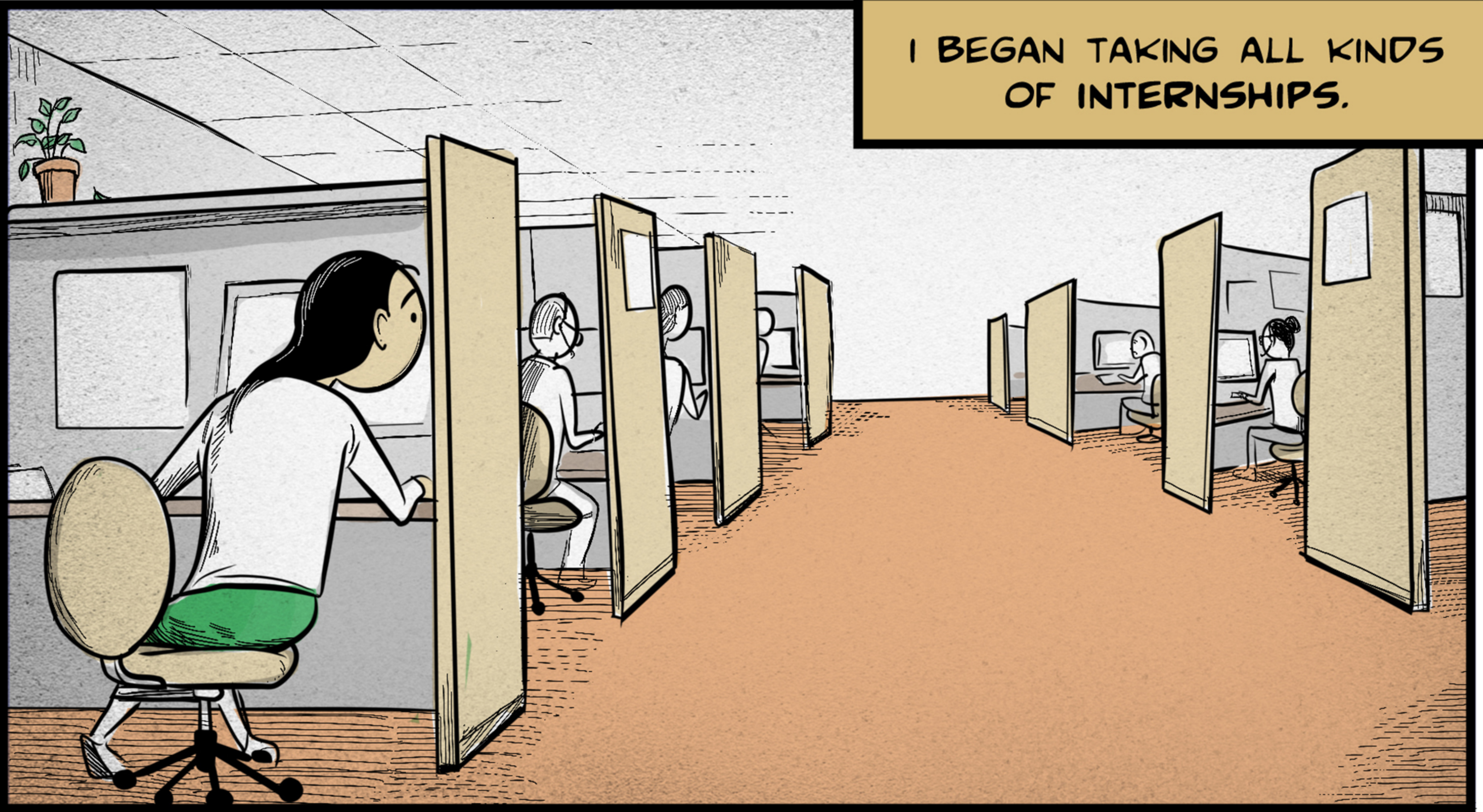




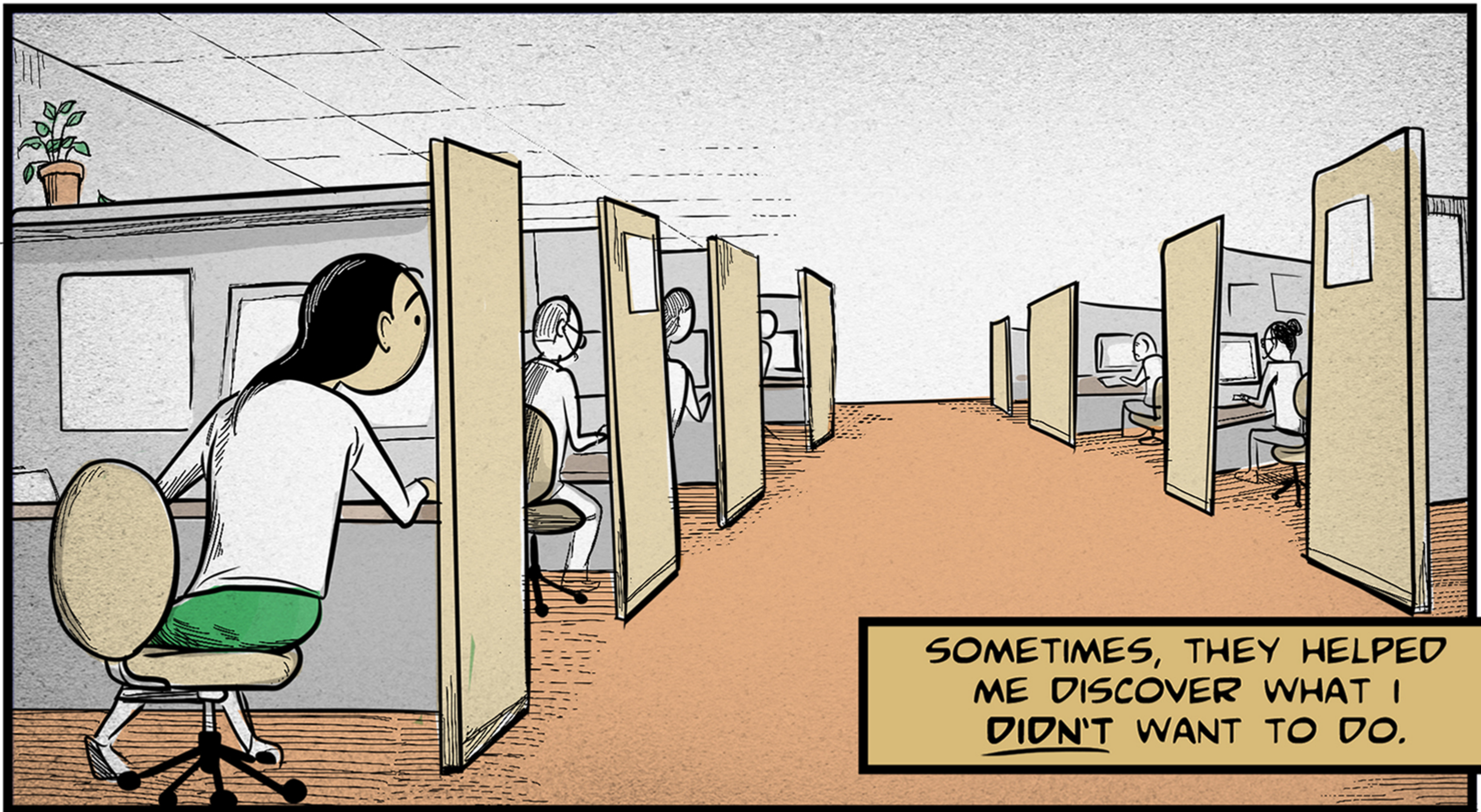
THERE'S A CAREER OUT THERE FOR YOU. YOU JUST MAY NEED TO EXPLORE A BIT. MAYBE APPLY FOR A FEW INTERNSHIPS OR VOLUNTEER SOMEWHERE.



I BEGAN TAKING ALL KINDS  
OF INTERNSHIPS.

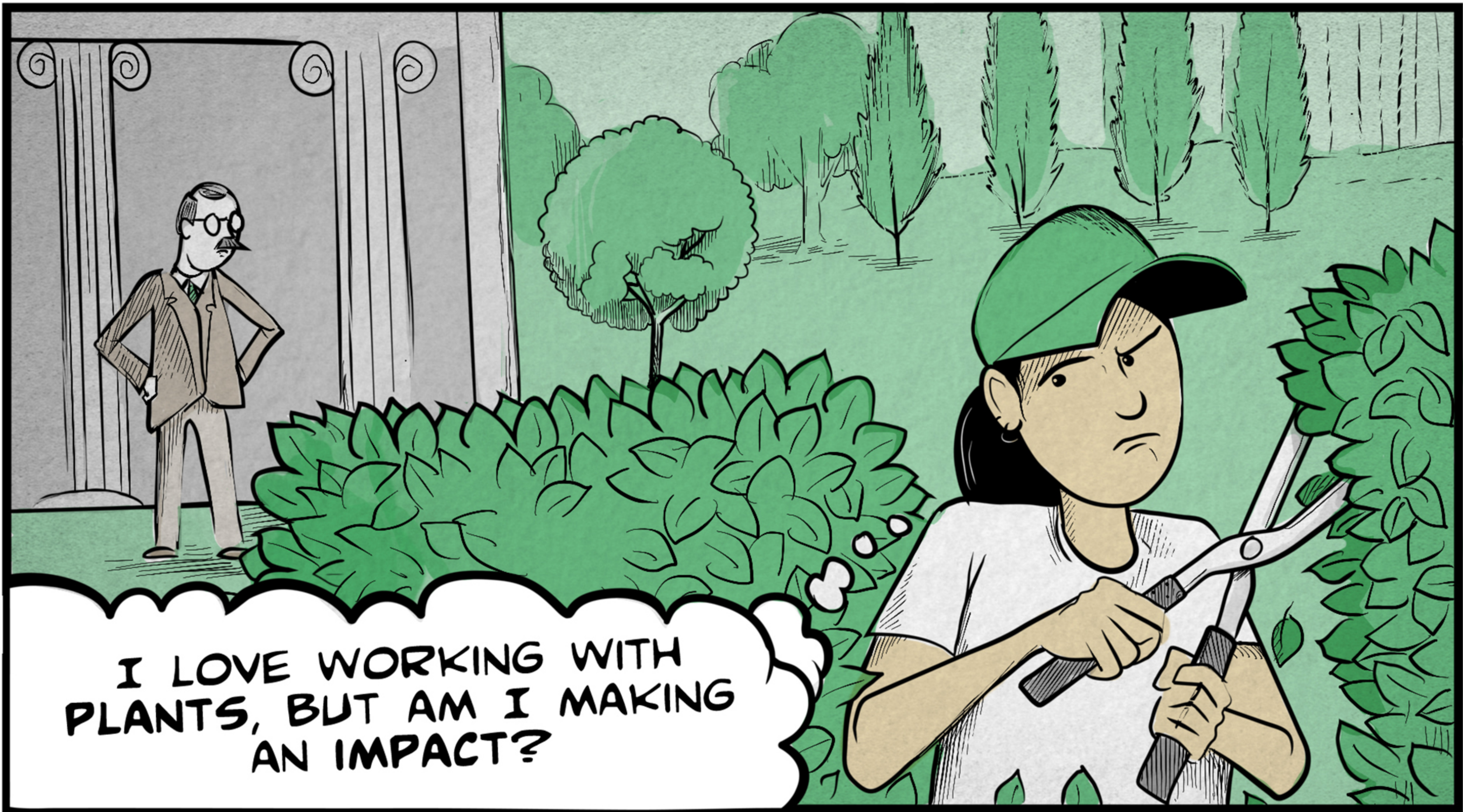






SOMETIMES, THEY HELPED  
ME DISCOVER WHAT I  
DIDN'T WANT TO DO.





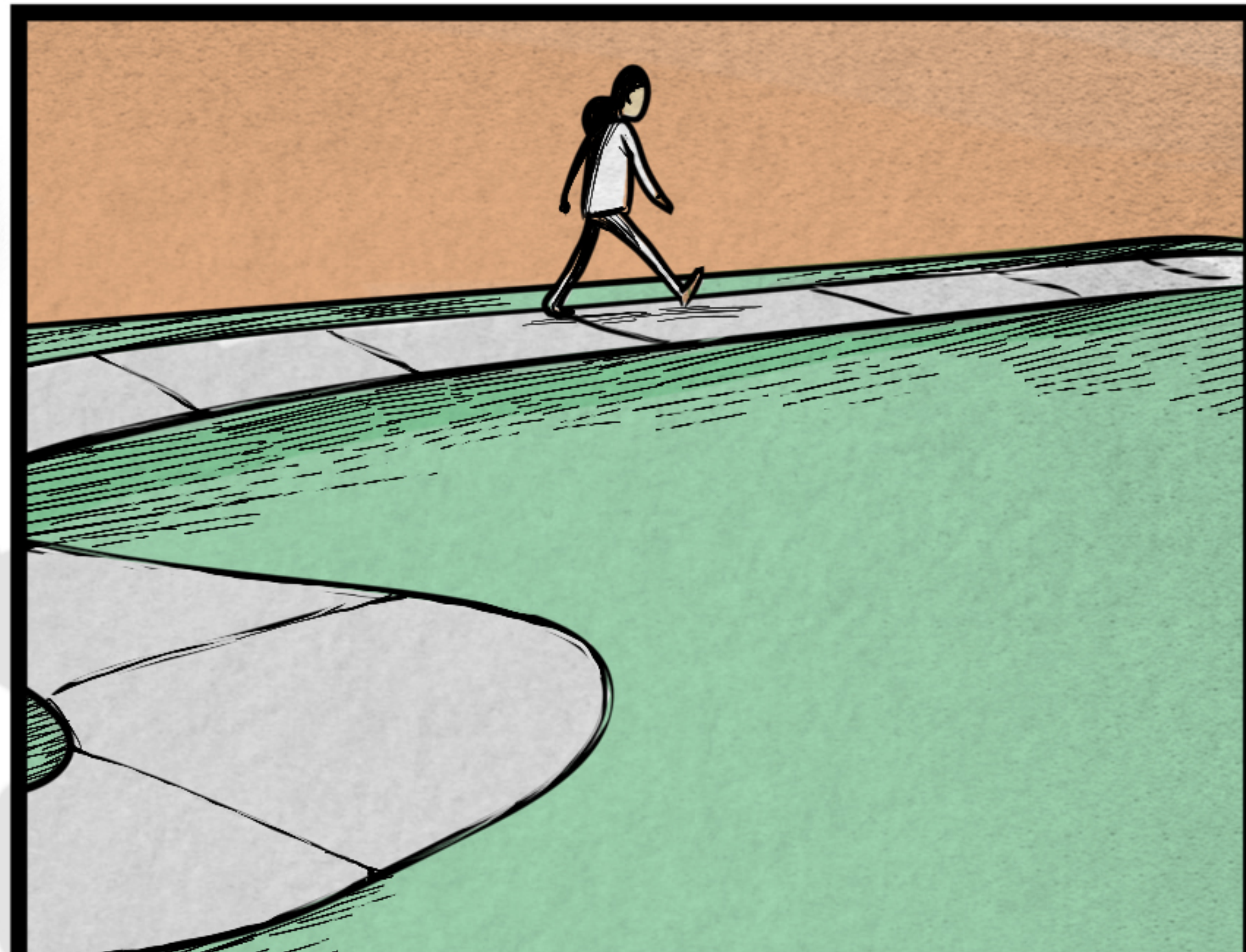
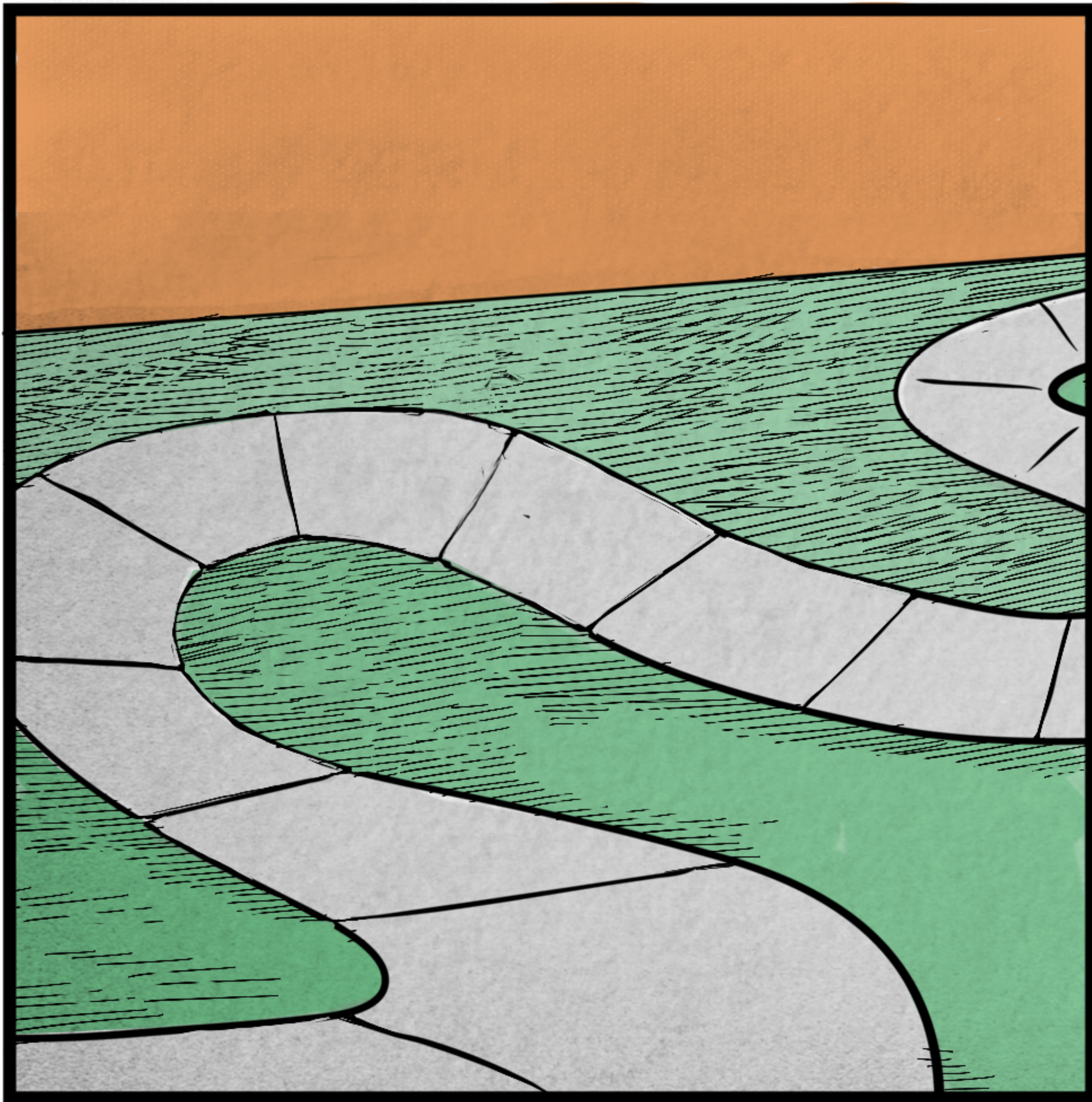
I LOVE WORKING WITH PLANTS, BUT AM I MAKING AN IMPACT?



AS MY PATH MEANDERED, I BEGAN  
TO MAKE FRIENDS, GAIN COLLEAGUES,  
AND SHARPEN SOME SKILLS.







SOON I DISCOVERED I WAS  
PART OF A COMMUNITY OF  
PEOPLE WITH SIMILAR  
PASSIONS FOR NATURE  
AND SCIENCE.

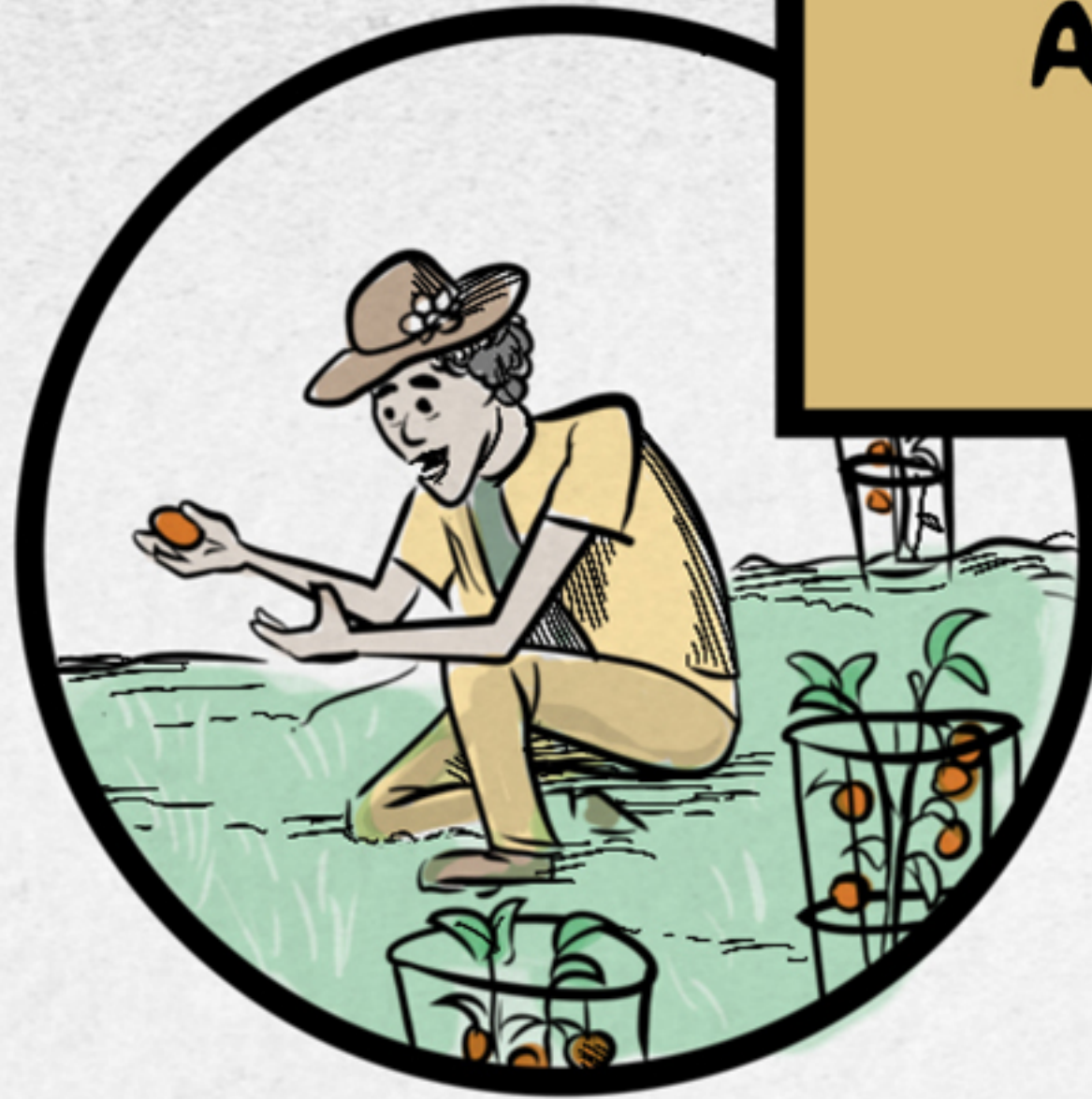


ONE DAY, A MENTOR FLAGGED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME.



"CONSERVATION  
OUTREACH  
COORDINATOR."  
HMMMMM....





THIS ROLE IS PERFECT FOR ME. I WORK WITH ARBORISTS, SCIENTISTS, PLANNERS, AND VOLUNTEERS...







**...BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS, ORGANIZING  
WORK GROUPS, AND HELPING THEM  
IMPLEMENT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.**

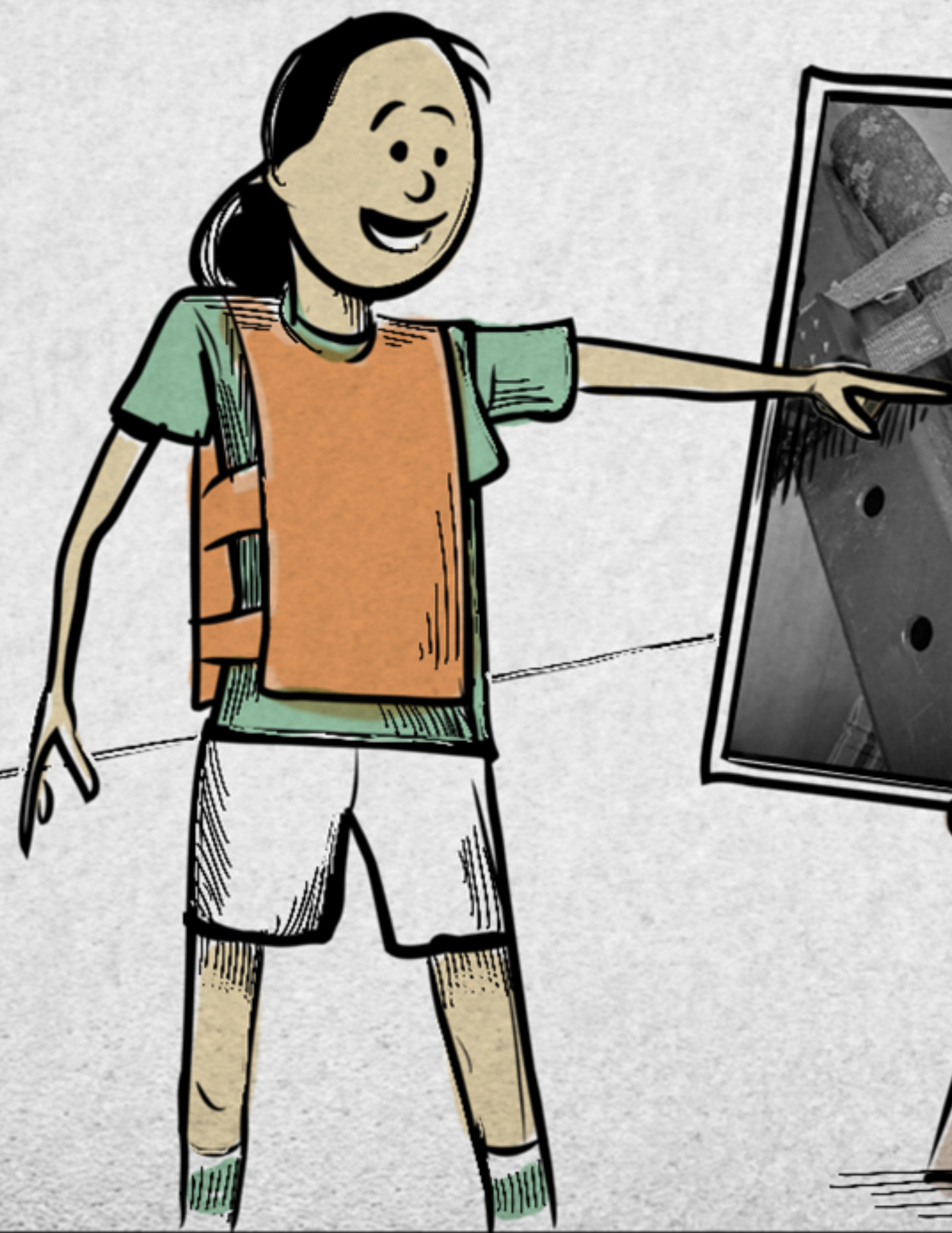




**I'M ALSO HELPING TO  
EMPOWER VOLUNTEERS  
WHO WILL BECOME FUTURE  
LEADERS IN THEIR  
COMMUNITIES.**



AND, I GET TO STAY CONNECTED TO SCIENCE,  
SHARING RESEARCH WITH PRACTITIONERS WHO  
APPLY IT TO THEIR WORK IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

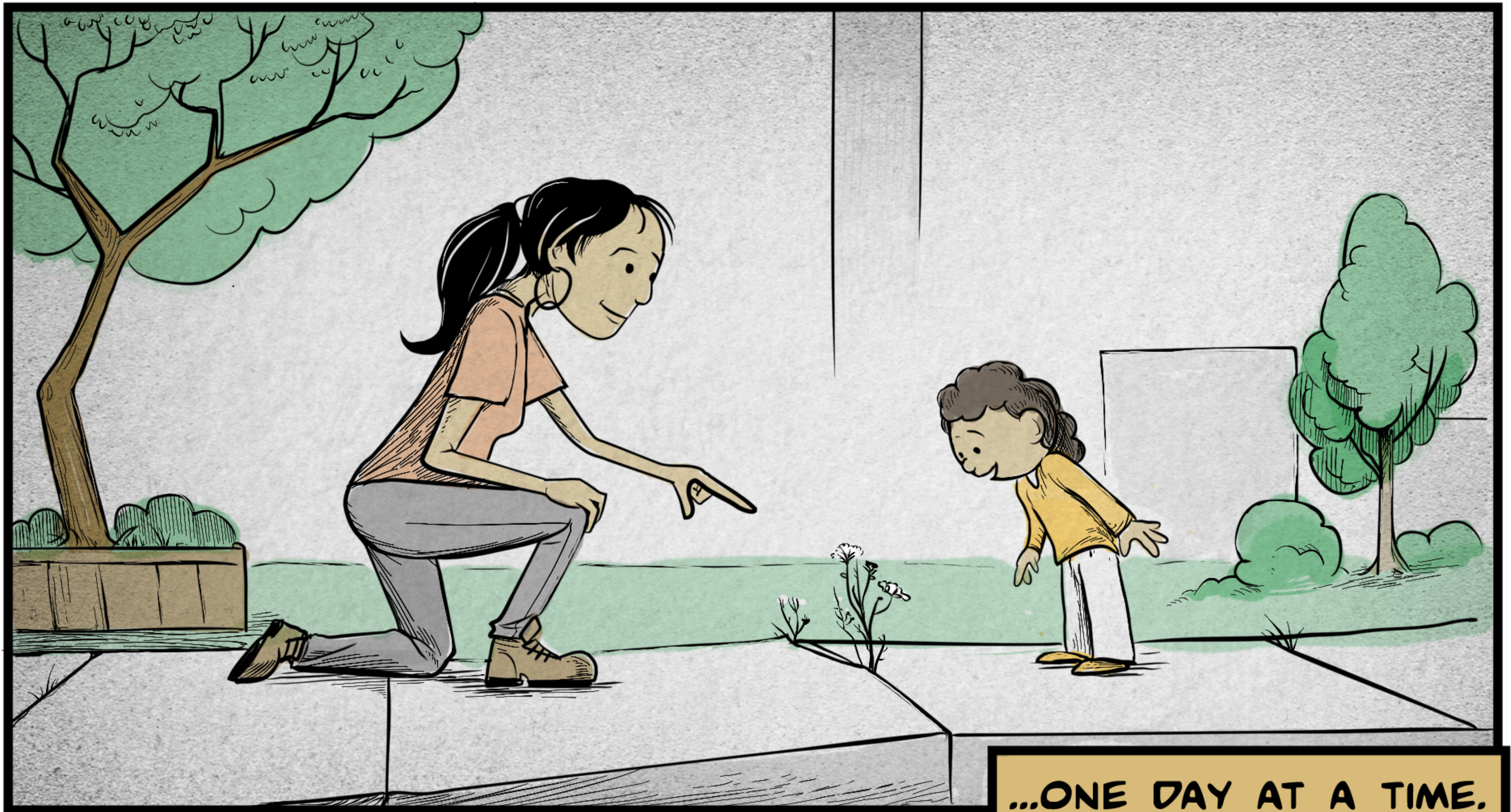




WE'RE FACING AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE, BUT I TAKE SOLACE IN THE IDEA THAT I'M HELPING OUR COMMUNITY MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT...







**...ONE DAY AT A TIME.**