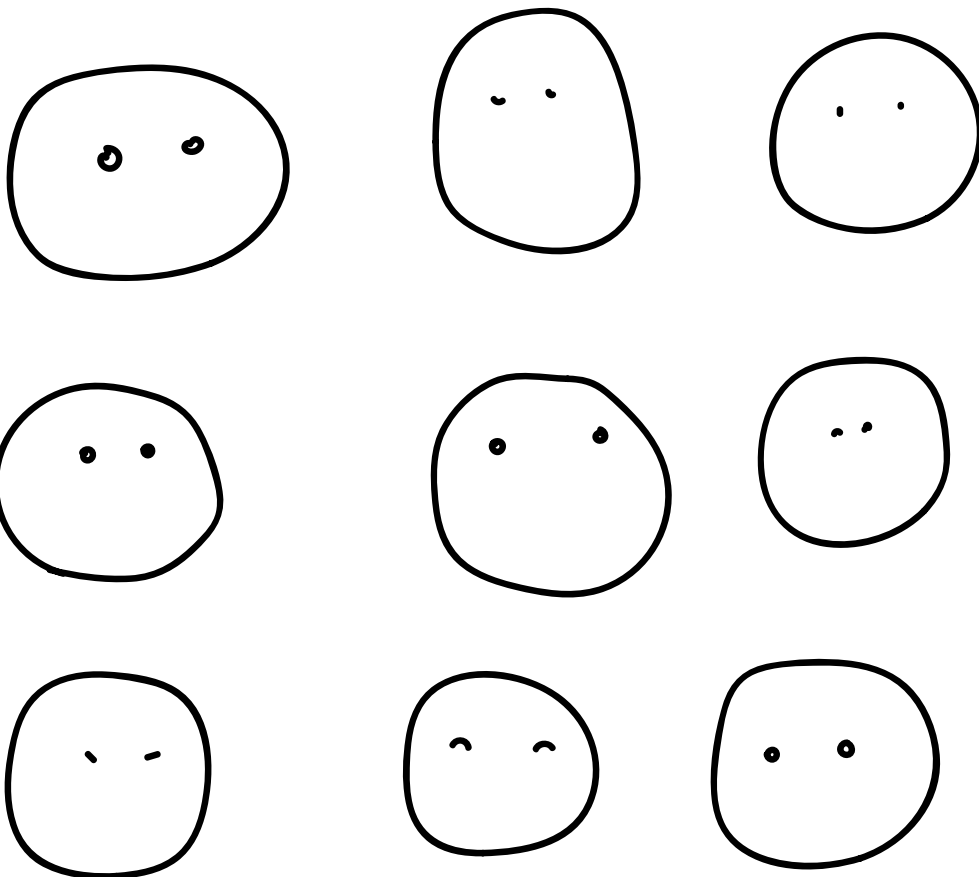


# *The Circle With two Dots*



*Illustration and Story by Katy Chen*

For all those

*self doubt,*

*imposter syndrome*

*and insecurity*

*that hold you back from being the*

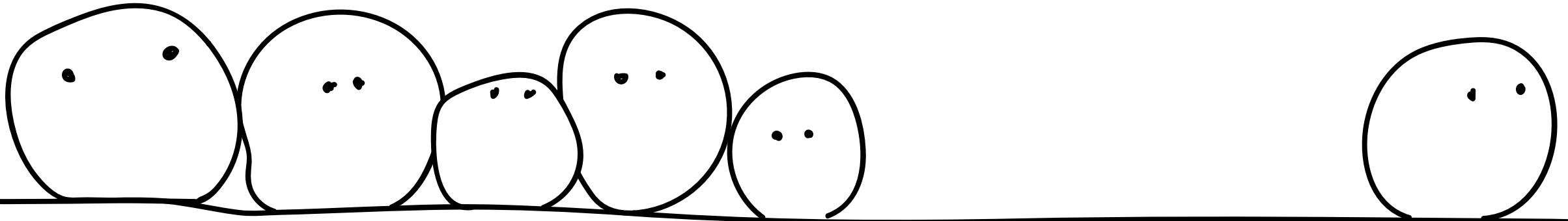
*best of you,*

*ROLL THEM OFF A CLIFF.*

*There was once a circle with two dots.*

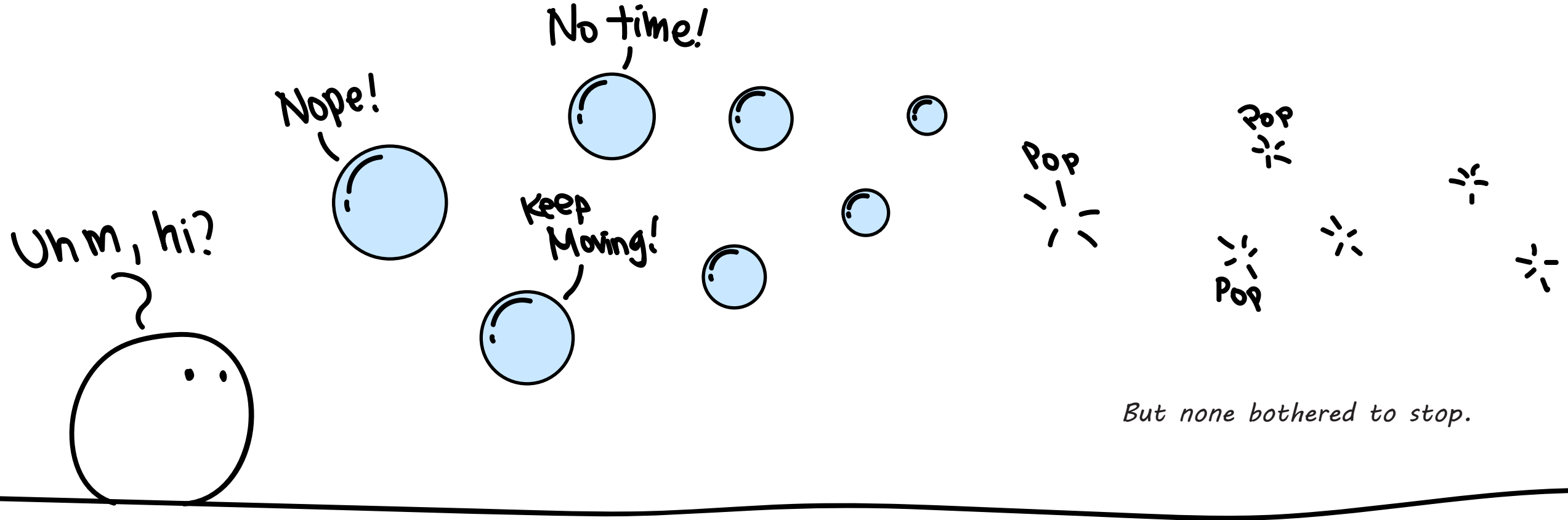
*It looked like any other circle with two dots.*

*It wanted to be more than a circle with two dots.*



*It came up to a group of floating objects.*

*The Circle With two Dots greeted shyly.*

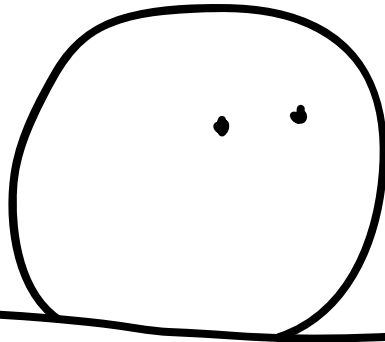


*But none bothered to stop.*

*“Good day!”*

*“Hello are you a circle with two dots?”*

*“I am a giant wheel of cheese,  
call me Queso!”*

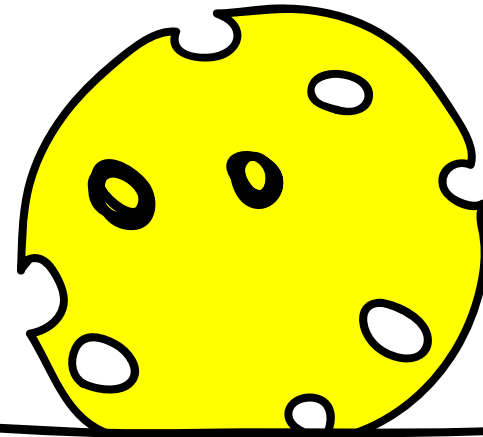


*“Oh. Queso.”*

*“Ok, so what? Get it?”*

*“Hm...No”*

*“When you say ‘oh queso’ it sounds like ‘ok,  
so.’ You know, never mind; you can’t explain a  
joke, it’s not funny.”*



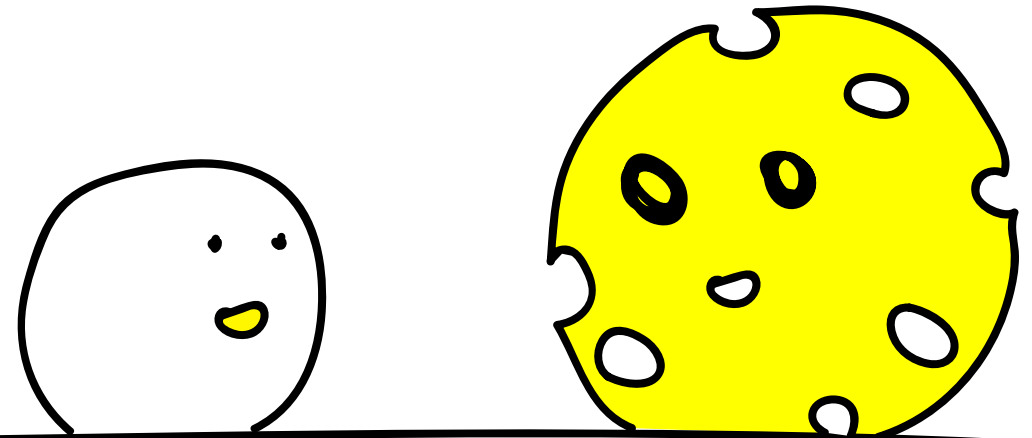
*“Wow! You are funny! Maybe you can teach me to be you.”*

*“Oh no, the art and humor of cheese cannot be taught; it comes from within. Just like my smell!”*

*“But I am just a circle with two dots, I have nothing within.”*

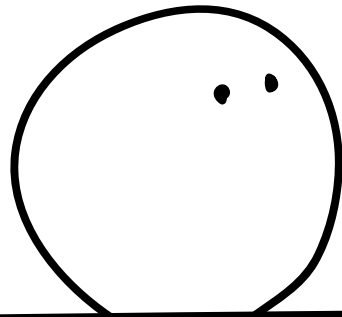
*“Here, take this. Maybe it can rub off on you.”*

*“Thank you.”*

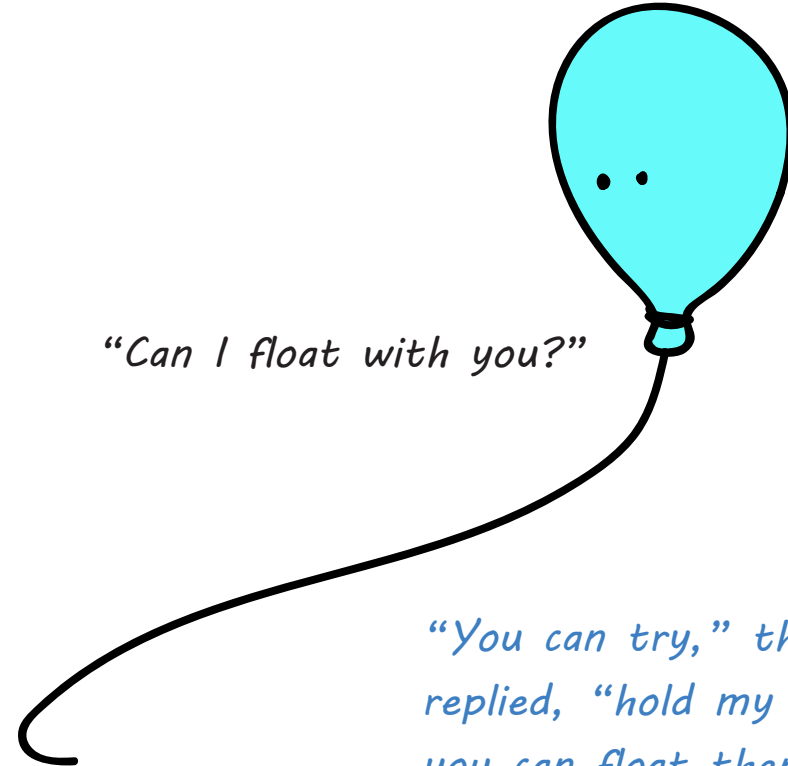


*"Hey! Why don't you touch the ground?"*

*"I'm lighter than air.  
I float and do not touch the ground."*



*"Can I float with you?"*

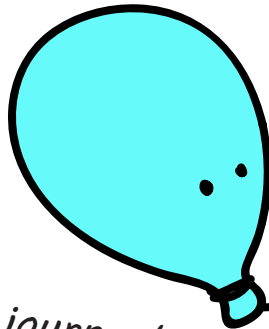


*"You can try," the balloon  
replied, "hold my string. Maybe  
you can float then."*

Sometimes the wind blew really hard

and the Circle would have

a hard time holding onto the balloon.

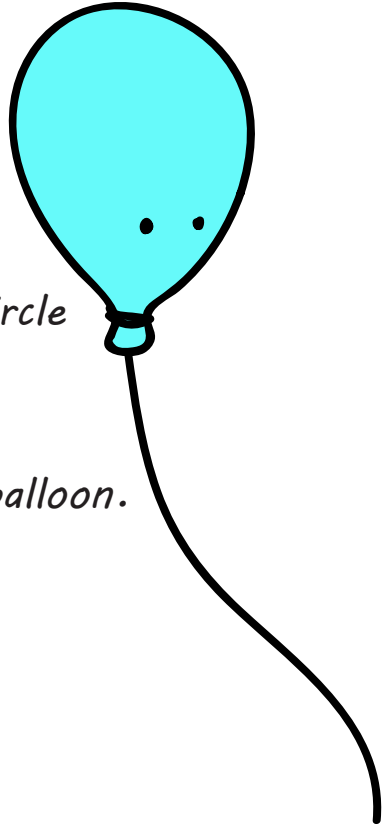


Off they went!

New partners on their journey!







*One day, the Circle*

*lets go of the balloon.*

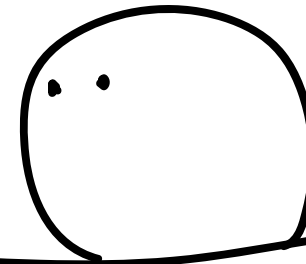
*They watch each other drift*

*farther*

*and*

*farther*

*away*



*and neither said a word.*

*"Hello!"*

*"Hey there?"*

*"You smell like my cousin."*

*"Cousin? What's wrong with you?"*

*"That is quite rude!*

*There is nothing wrong with me!"*

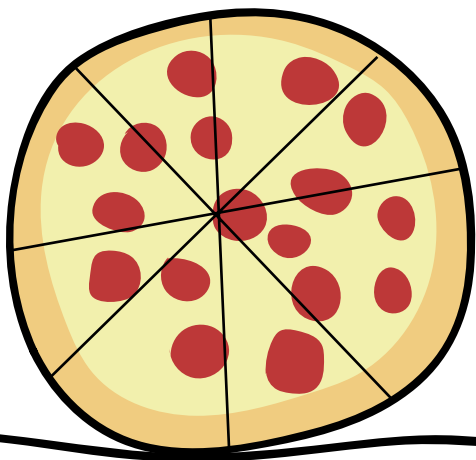
*"You are flat!"*



*“Yes, but I’m still round”*

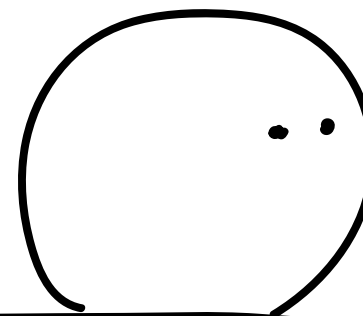
*“I suppose you are.  
Can you roll on your own?”*

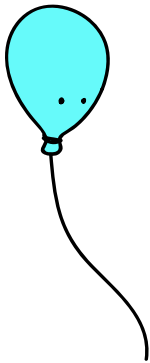
*“I’m flat. I cannot roll!  
I need someone to carry me.”*



*“But I don’t want to carry you. I want  
someone that can roll alongside me  
without my help”*

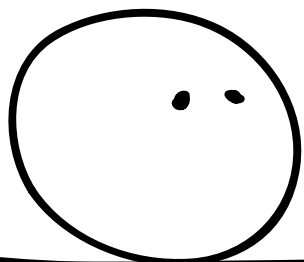
*“I didn’t ask you to.  
You’re not the one I’m waiting for.”*





*“WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?”*

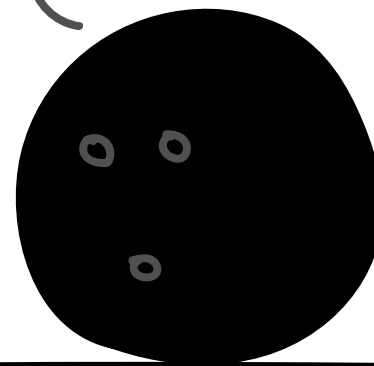
*“Nothing. I’m just strolling along,”  
the Circle answered, confused why this  
bowling ball asked such a question.*



*“GET OUT OF MY WAY!”*

*It hollers as it bumps into the Circle.*

*And stay  
out!*



*Still confused and hurt, the Circle continued on its journey.*

*“Let me help you,” said the Circle. upon a second glance, “What are you exactly?”*

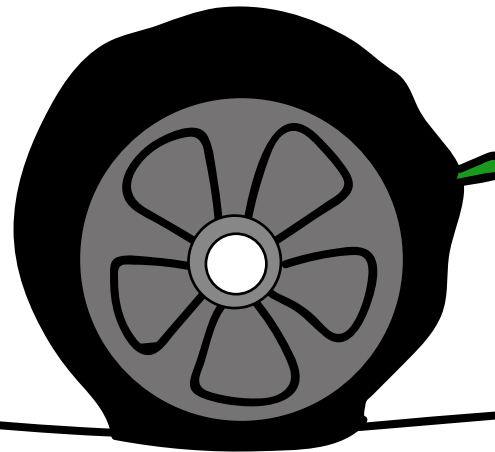
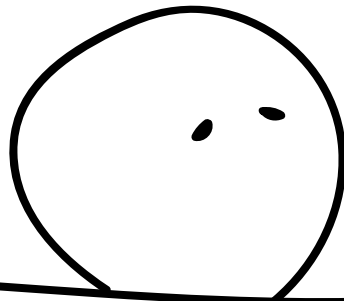
*“Move! Move!”*

*“Can’t you see? I am a part of something bigger!”*

*“Whoa! Where are you going?”*

*“Wow, that’s what I want to be!  
Can I come with you?”*

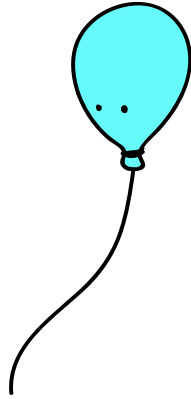
*“My team needs me, I have to get to them”*



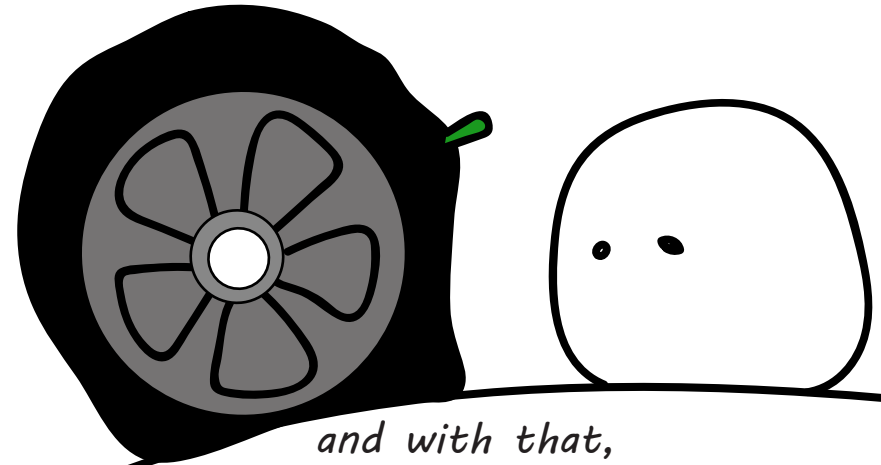
*"I don't know, I don't think you would fit in with us."*

*"Maybe," the Circle hesitated,  
"perhaps you can teach me."*

*"There's my group! Thanks for your help!"*



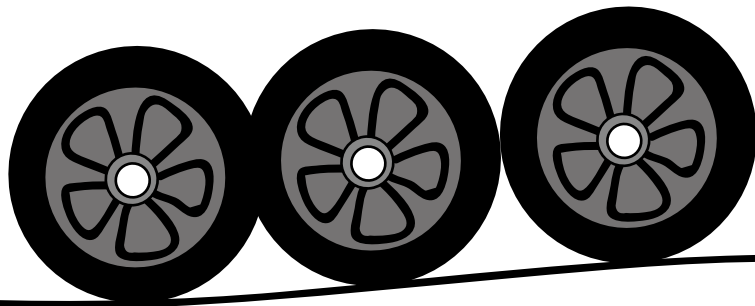
*"You're...welcome,"*



*and with that,*

*the Circle was alone*

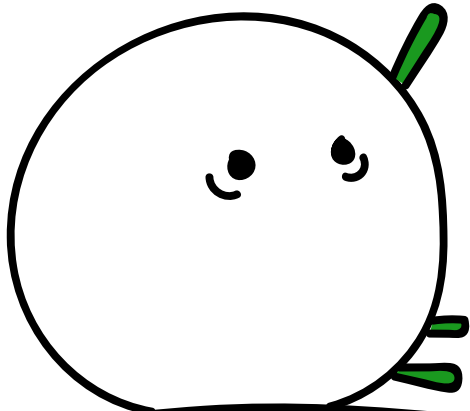
*again.*



*"Ouch!"*

*"Keep away at a distance!"*

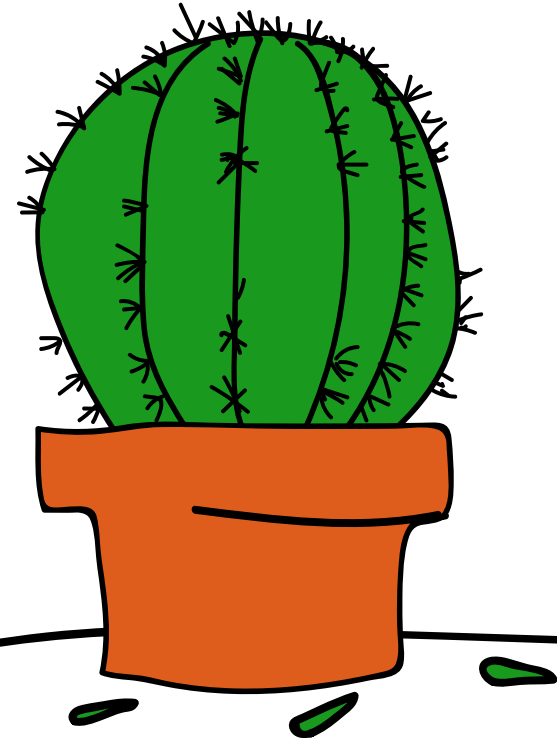
*"Ow, why are you so pointy?"*



*"Don't come close! I don't like others!"*

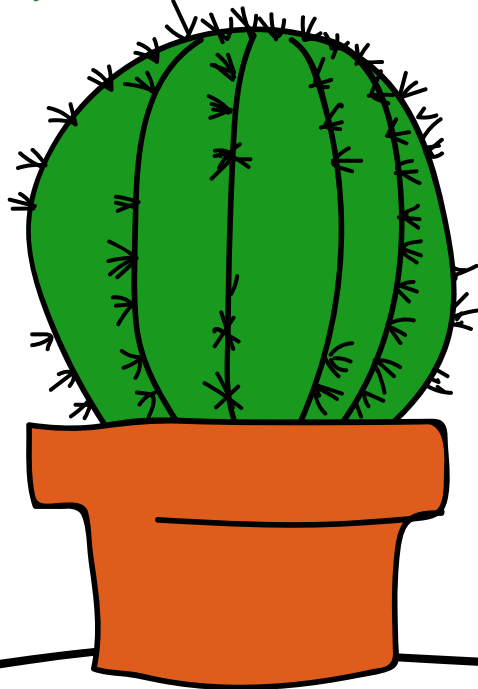
*"Why don't you like others?"*

*"Why would I? Especially not bowling balls!"*



*“Me too! I have been looking for something;  
maybe I don’t need anything too!”*

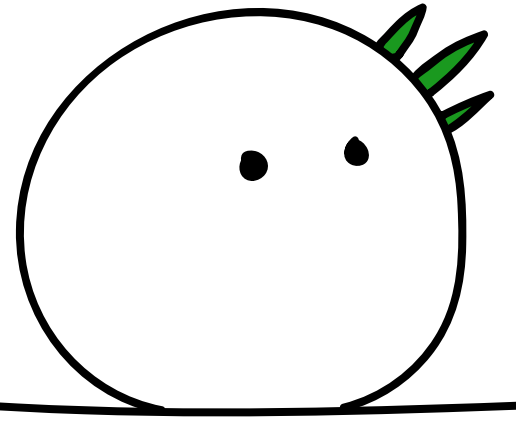
*“Good for you. Now leave me alone.”*



*“Wait, how can I grow thorns like you?”*

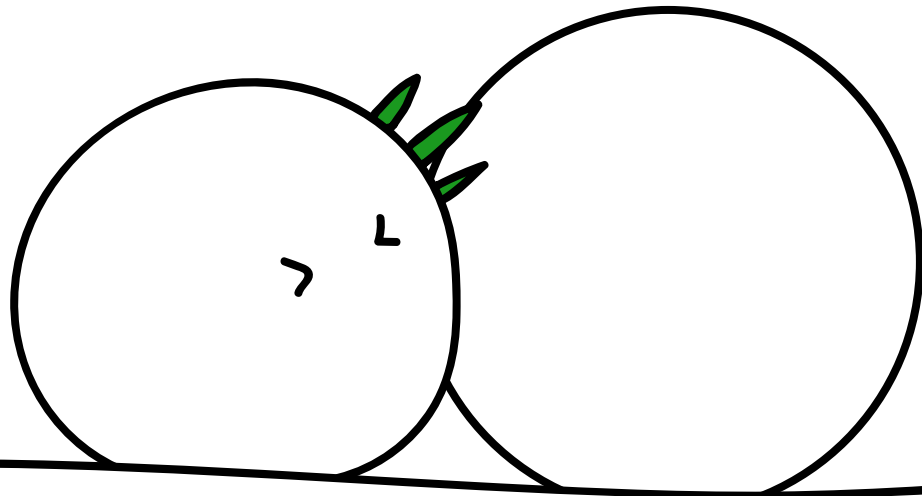
*“Just take those thorns and leave.”*

*“Thank you!”*



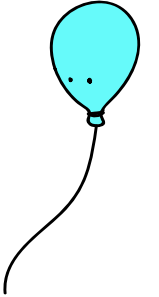


*One day, it bumped into a  
large round object.*



*Wait...*

*What's this?*

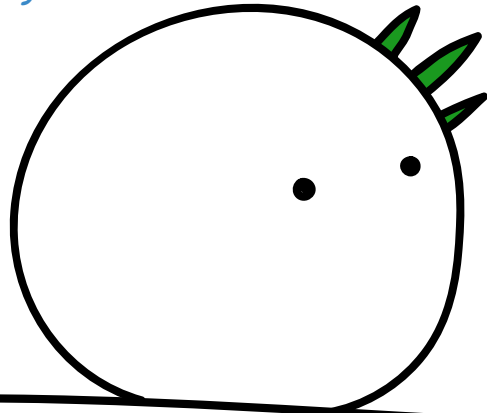


*"Hello," it greeted.*

*"Hi, but you are not what I am looking for," the circle starts to roll away,*

*"I don't need anyone."*

*"Aren't you just rude," it said, "if you don't need anyone, why are you looking for something?"*

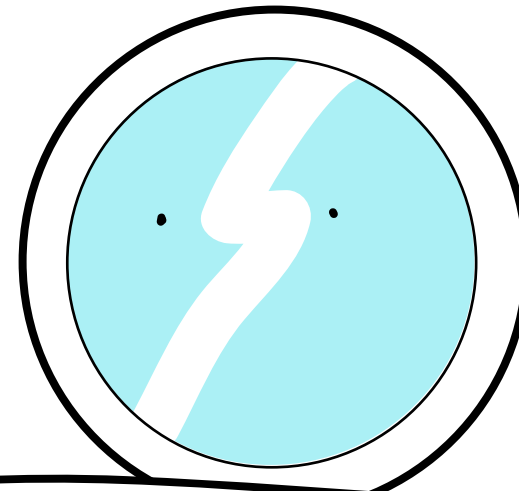


*"Well, I don't want to be me."*

*"What do you want to be?"*

*"Just," the Circle thought for a second,  
"I want to be anything but me.*

*I need to be more."*



*“What’s so bad about you?”*

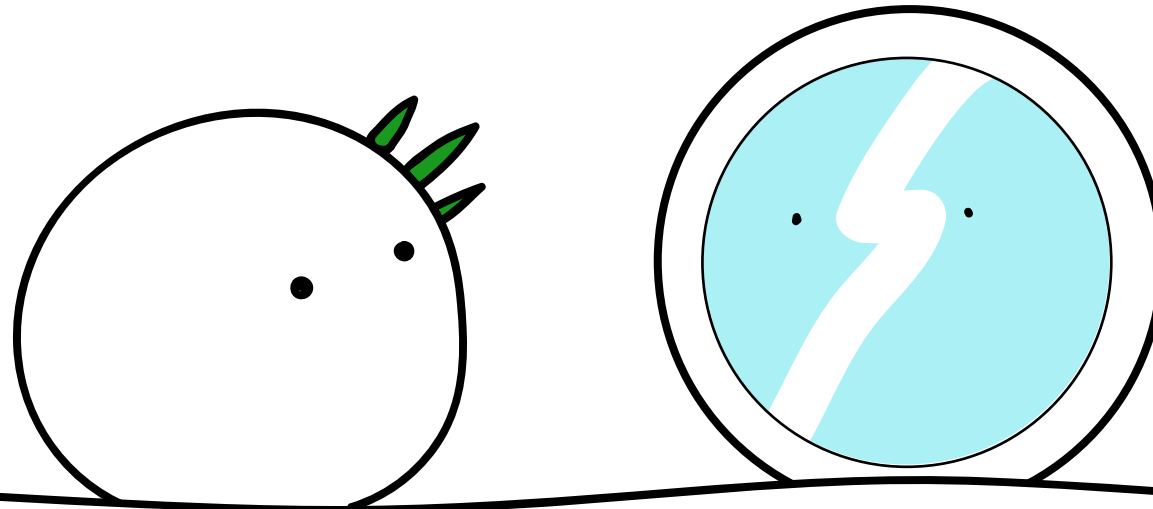
*“Just look at me,” the Circle meekly replied.*

*“I am,” replied the mirror,  
coming closer to the Circle.*

*“Have you seen yourself in the mirror lately?”*

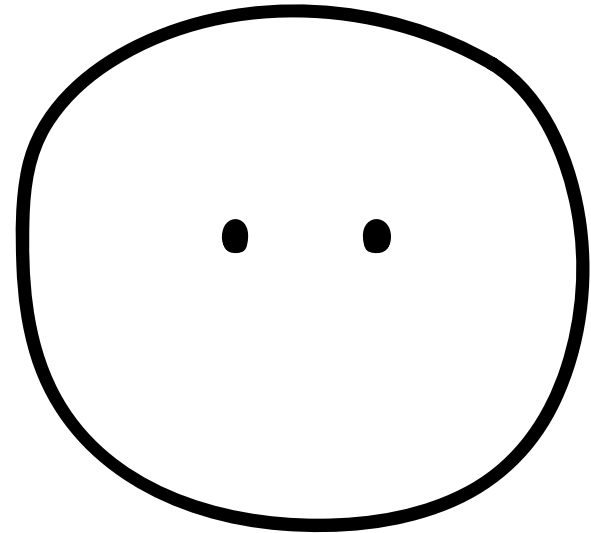
*“I see nothing,” the Circle stated,*

*“I am nothing.”*

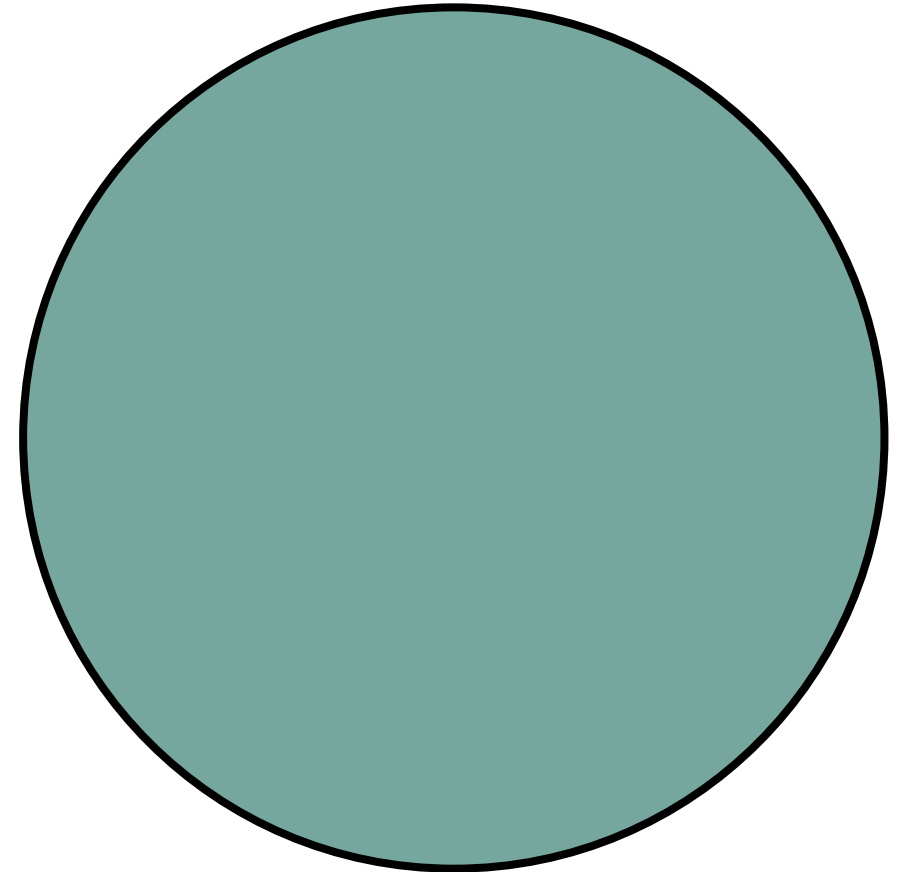


*“You’re right,” the Mirror sighed.*

*"I do see nothing."*



*“I see nothing wrong with you.”*



*(Placeholder for Reflective Material for the readers to see themselves)*

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