



Reignited

by Oran Guthrie

Author's Note

This graphic novel was made as a college final year project but the story is something I've been working on gradually for about 6 years. I conceptualised it during a repeat year of a different college course that I eventually failed out of. When tasked with thinking of an idea for my final project I knew I wanted to do something with this story as it would be the perfect end to my college experience, having initially failed only to succeed in the end with something I brought with me from that failure. It exists as a reminder of my hard work and determination, and I'm very proud of it.

Thank you for giving it some of your time.



In the midst of a dark, sprawling forest, a little girl huddles a dying fire.

Her body is cold and wet, but the flames provide no warmth.

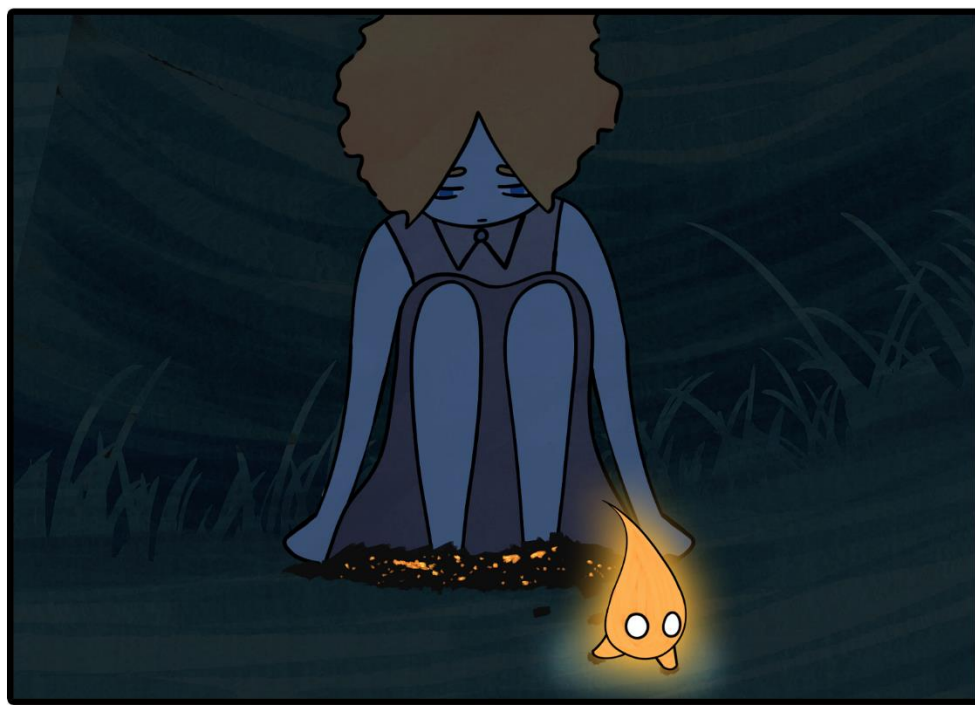


As the fire fades, so too does the life from her eyes.

She succumbs to the elements and falls still.



As her soul leaves her body it is inhaled by the embers.



A small flame spirit stumbles out of the ashes on two stumpy legs.




It gazes around at its unfamiliar surroundings and the ashes from which it was born.



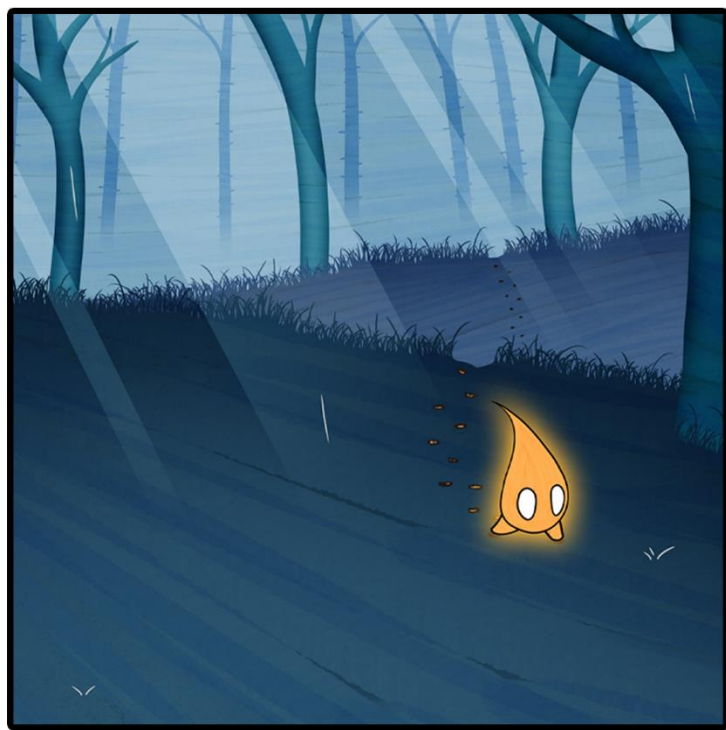
As it does so, strange images flood its mind.

Each of them a fragment of something like a memory.

A dark, misty forest at night. The trees are silhouetted against a light blue mist. In the center, a glowing orange creature with a teardrop-shaped body and two small legs stands on a path of light. The path is made of several small, glowing orange spots that lead away from the creature. A speech bubble is on the left, and another is on the right.

That was weird, I wonder what that was.

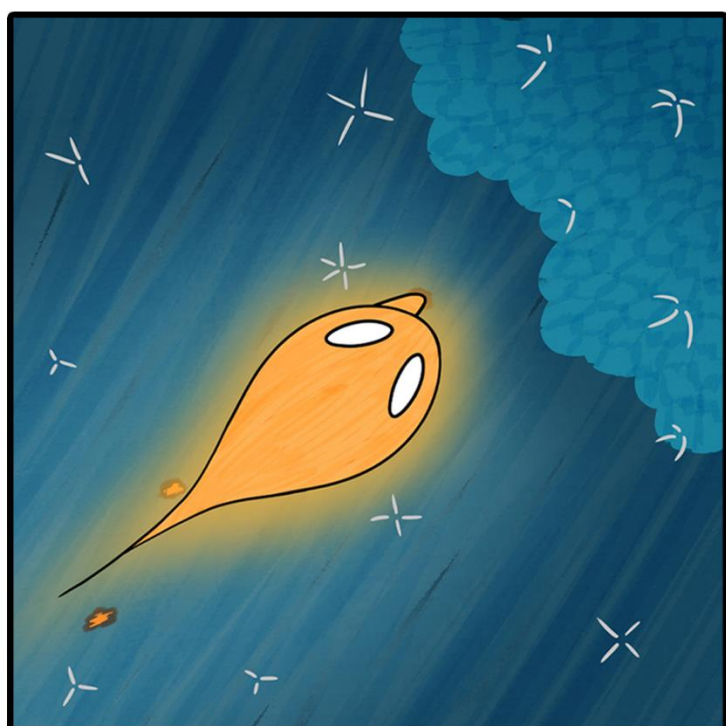
Maybe I'll find out if I go over here...



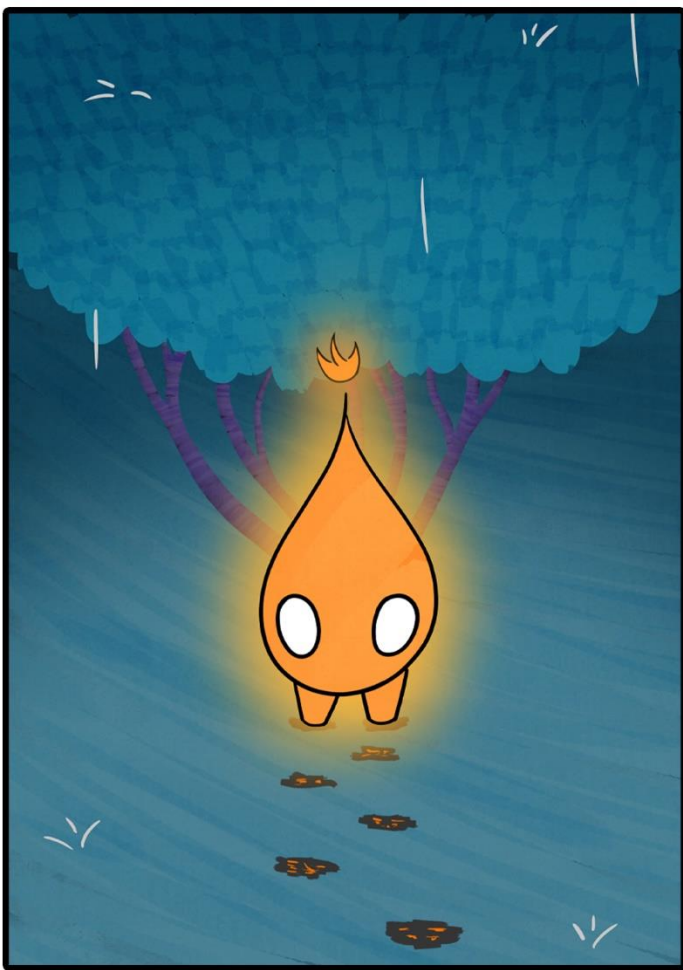
Soon after the spirit began wandering through the forest, light droplets of rain started splashing around it.



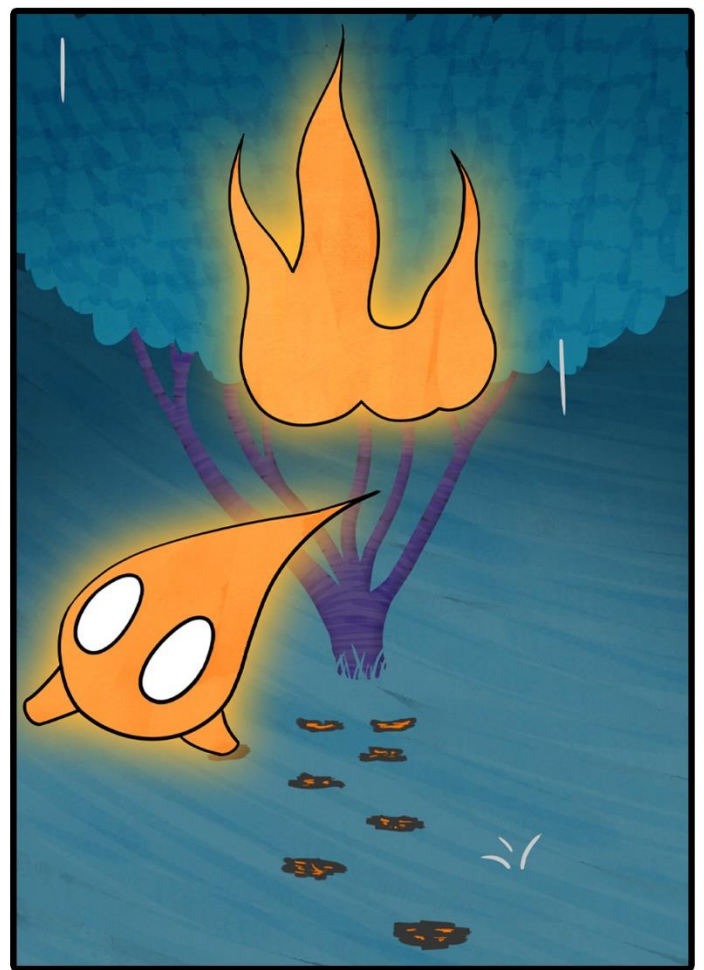
One such droplet landed right in its eye and sizzled away instantly.



The spirit ran under a nearby bush to escape the rainfall.



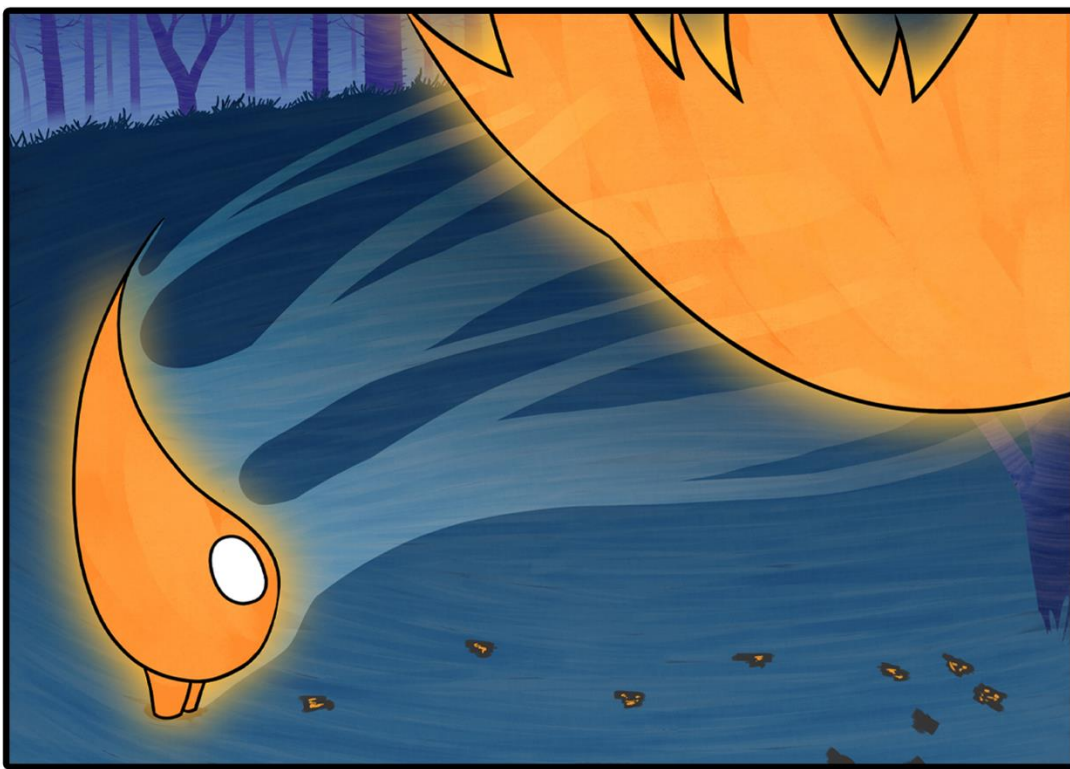
There it stayed until the brief shower ended.



Suddenly the leaves above it caught fire, startling the spirit.



It danced gleefully at the sight of the beautiful flames.



The energy from the burning bush began to flow into the little flame spirit.



This gave it more power, and with it, a new form.

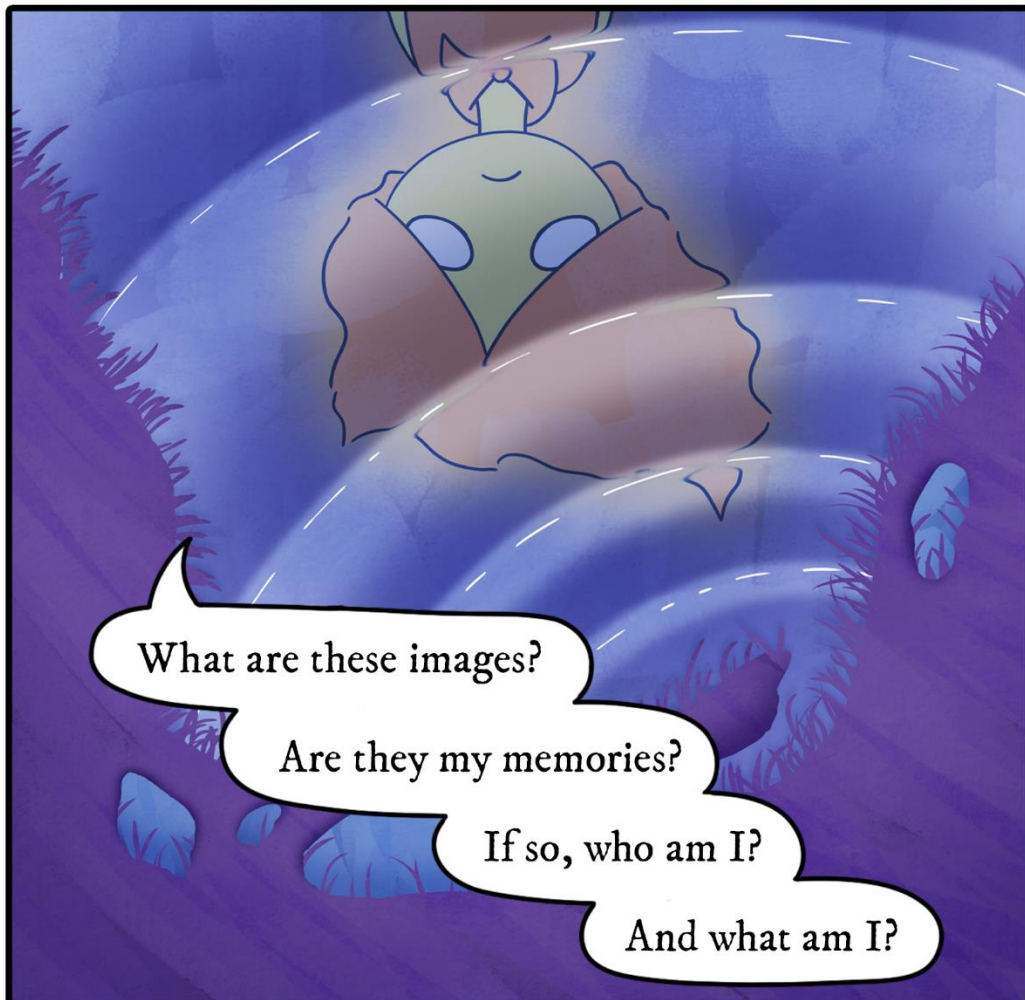


What's this?

How beautiful!



As she admired her new body, more images rushed through the spirit's mind, bringing with them feelings of sadness and regret.



Maybe that's what I was looking for from the start..?

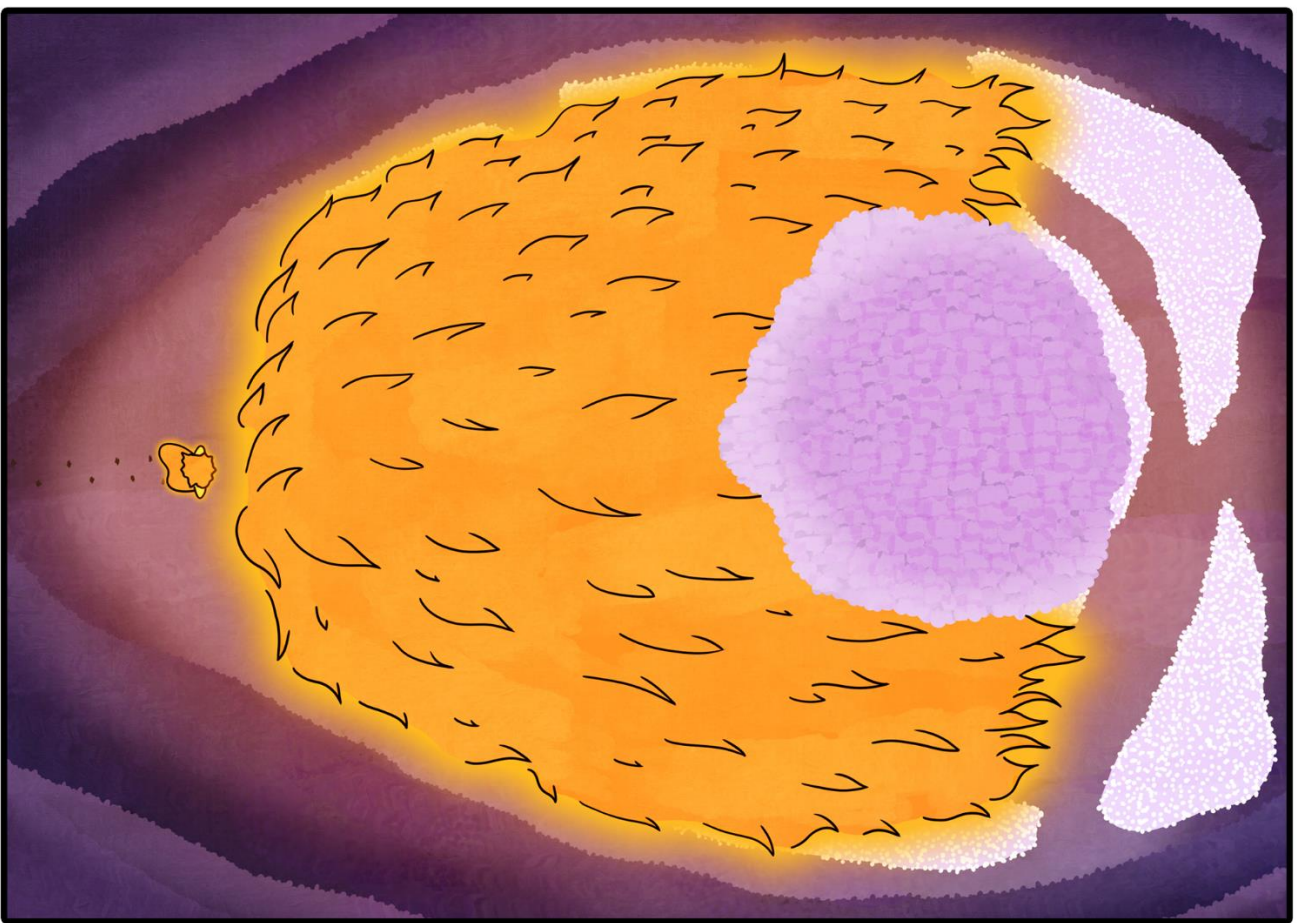




Before long, the spirit happened across a serene clearing full of daisies with a broad tree at its centre. Small animals and deer graze and dwell in this rare sanctuary.

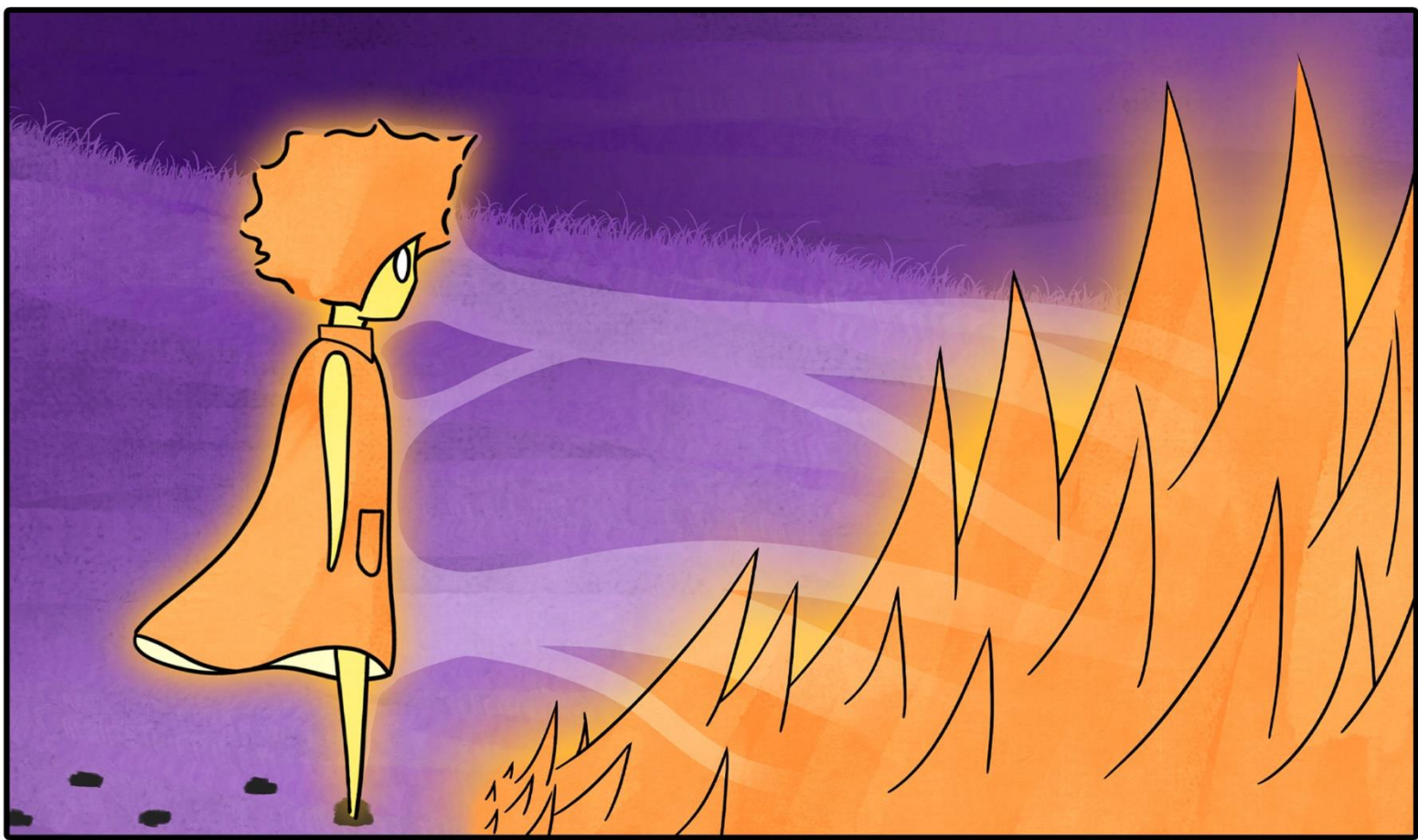


She waved her hand through the flowers, admiring the colours.



The fire spread quickly throughout the rest of the clearing, cutting off the path to escape for many of the animals and consuming everything within.





Too stunned to react, the spirit stood and watched as the energy from the inferno was absorbed into her.



that tickles!

silly fishies

come back!

Again, images poured through her mind. This time reminding her of a lost love for nature and wildlife.



Frustrated, the spirit tried to pat out her flames but her attempts spread them even more.



She tried to escape the forest so as to not damage it further, yet the more upset she got the quicker her flames spread.

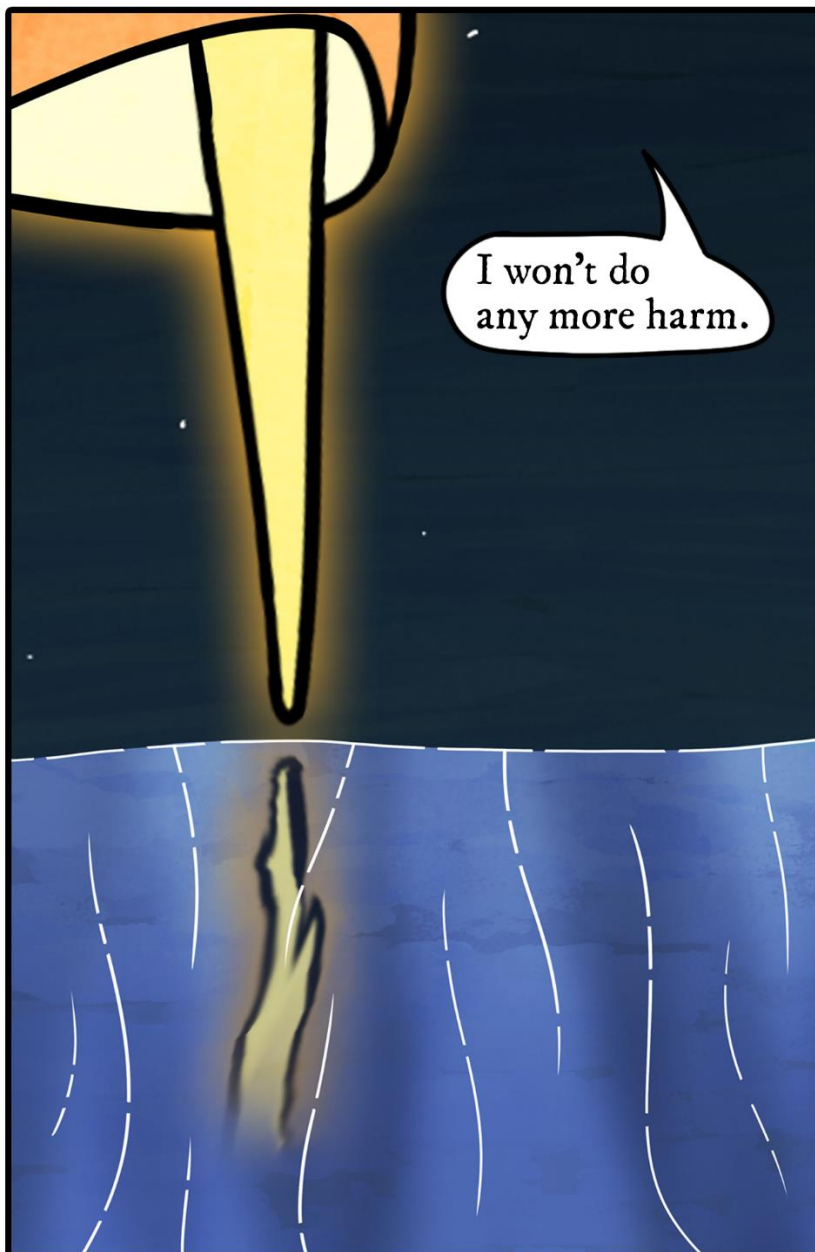


The spirit came to a stop at the edge of the forest. A shallow stream ran before her and beyond that was a vast openness like nothing she could recall.



If I just step in this
it'll end all my pain...

The gentle stream calmly reflected her
tormented form.



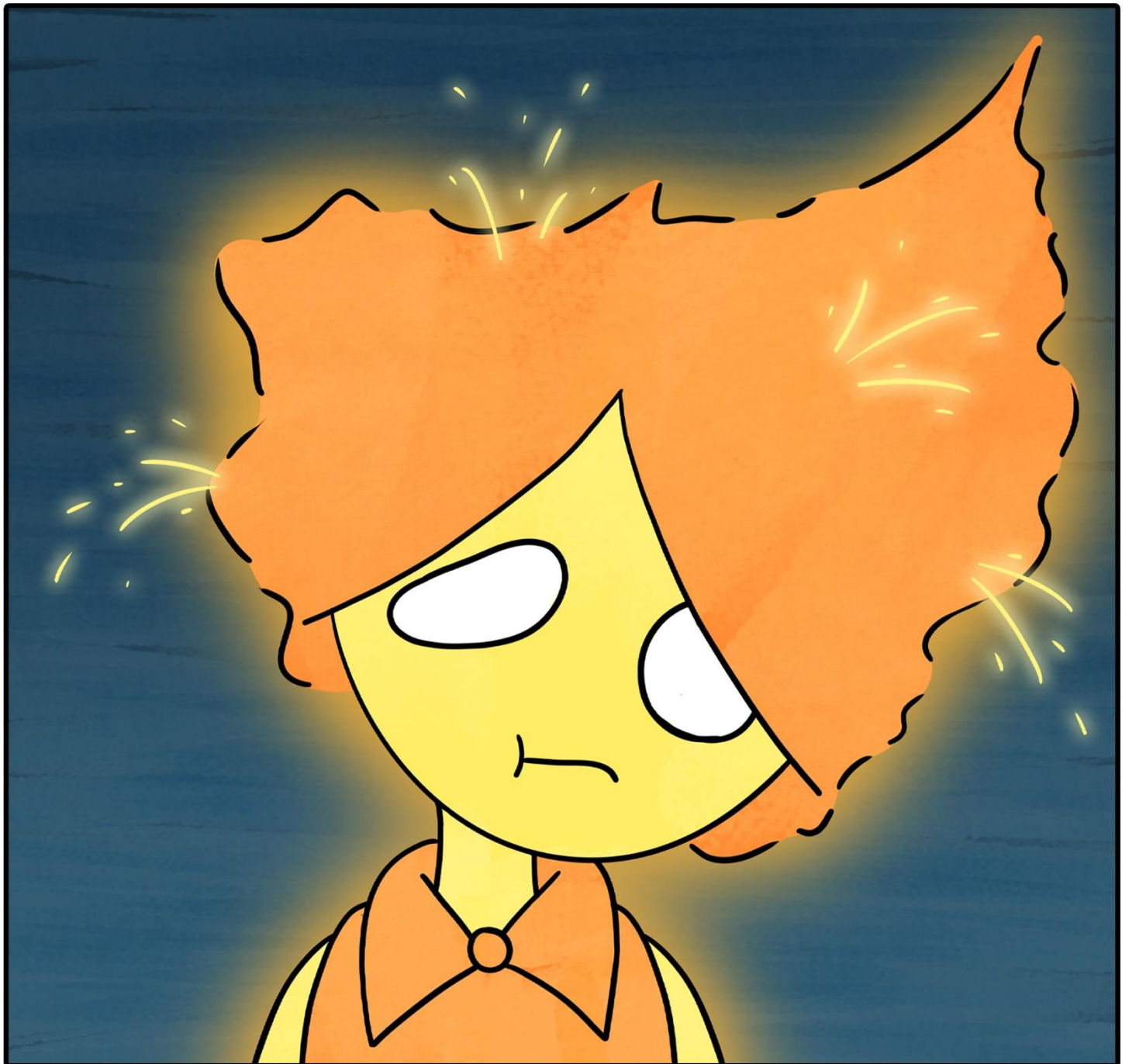
I won't do
any more harm.



A light suddenly flickers on within the darkness, giving form to two people.



As the spirit inspected the couple, a myriad of blurry images began to take shape around them.



The spirit looked at them, confused. Sparks of memories flickered in her mind.



She lept over the stream to join them on the other side, illuminating the small cottage they stood in front of.

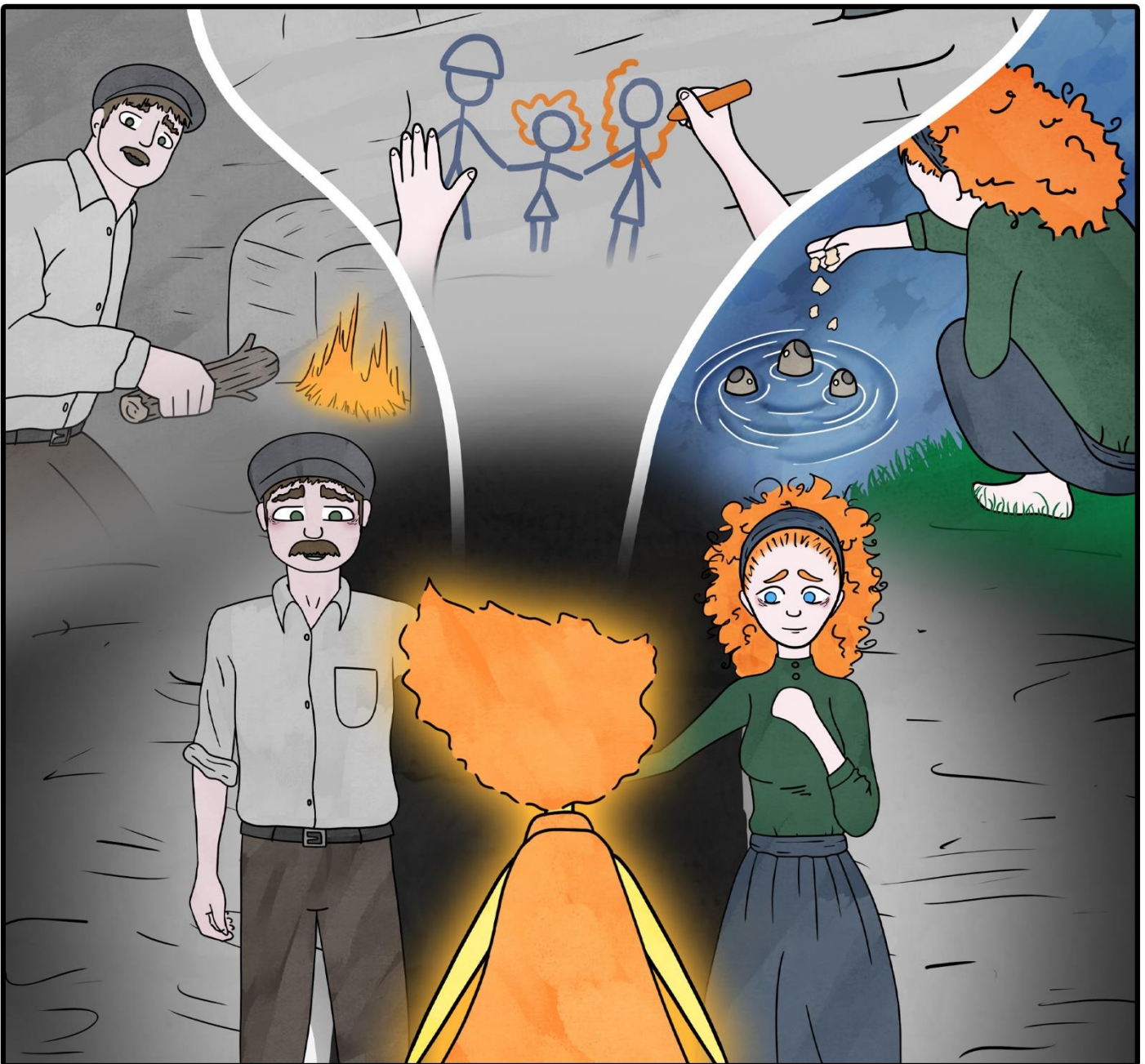


Her light revealed a child's drawing on the wall which depicted a happy family of three.



Dad?

Mam?

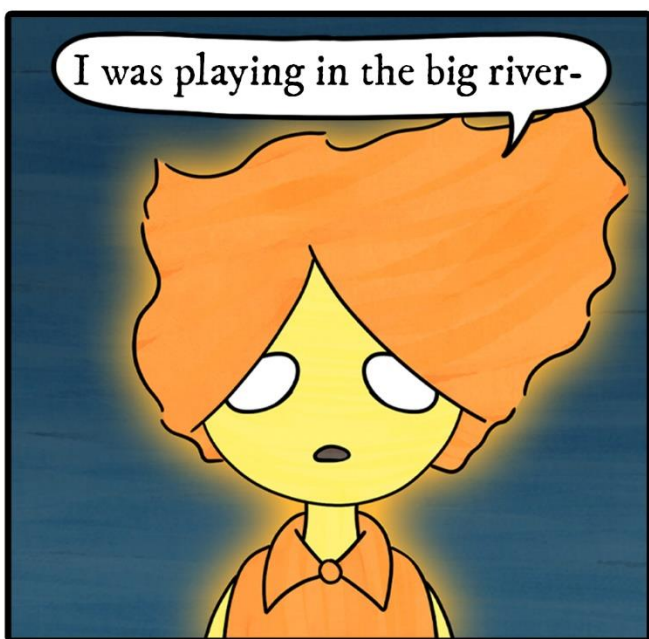


As the family reunited, joyful images flowed through Edana's mind. Treasured memories of times spent with her loving parents in their cosy home.

What happened to you, Edana? We searched for you for days!



I was playing in the big river-



-and even though you warned me to be careful-



-I fell in and got swept away really far... and when-



I finally reached ground I was so cold and tired-







Edana's eyes began to turn blue, just like they were were in life.



The blue spread across her body, pulsating with a gentle intensity.



She began to ascend into the air, slowly drifting away from her parents.



We love you, Edana!

You'll always be our little flame!



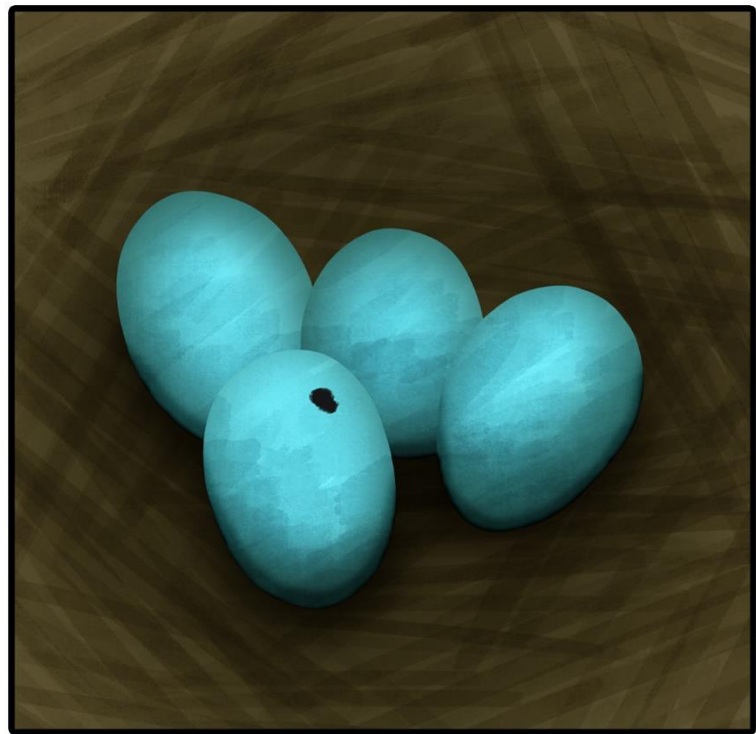
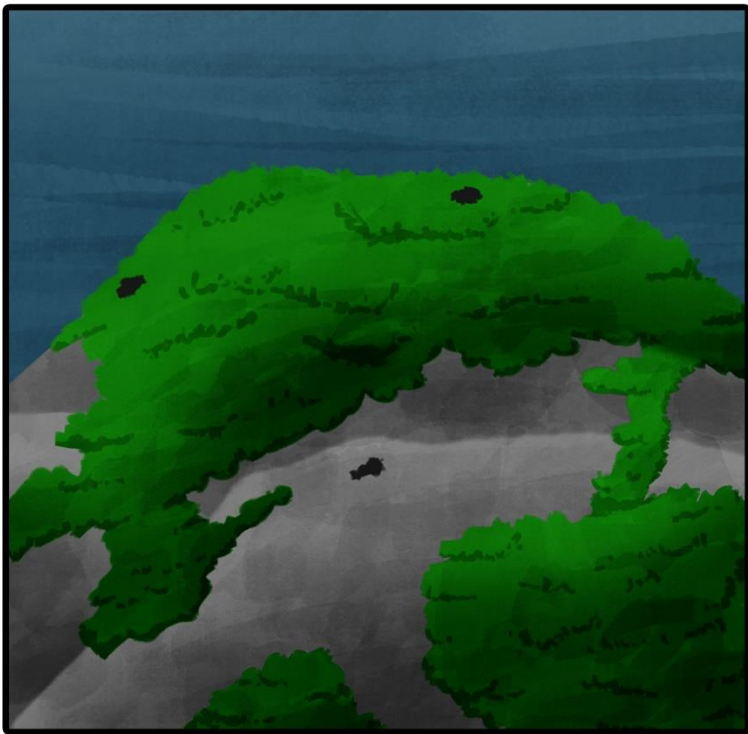
As she ascended, Edana's body quickly reduced to ashes, which floated away on the breeze.



She left this world again, but this time with the comfort of her parents' love.



Her ashes spread far and wide...



Resting amongst the nature she loved so dearly.



The end.

Special thanks to

My FYP mentors, Rosie Dempsey & Enda Grennan, for their feedback throughout the project.

To my friends and family who supported me on my long journey to this point in time. It wasn't always an easy road but I'm sure that from here it will lead to many great and fulfilling places.

And lastly, to you, for reading this story.

This project was submitted to MTU Kerry, in part fulfilment of the requirements for a BA in Animation, Visual Effects and Motion Design.



MTU

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Munster Technological University