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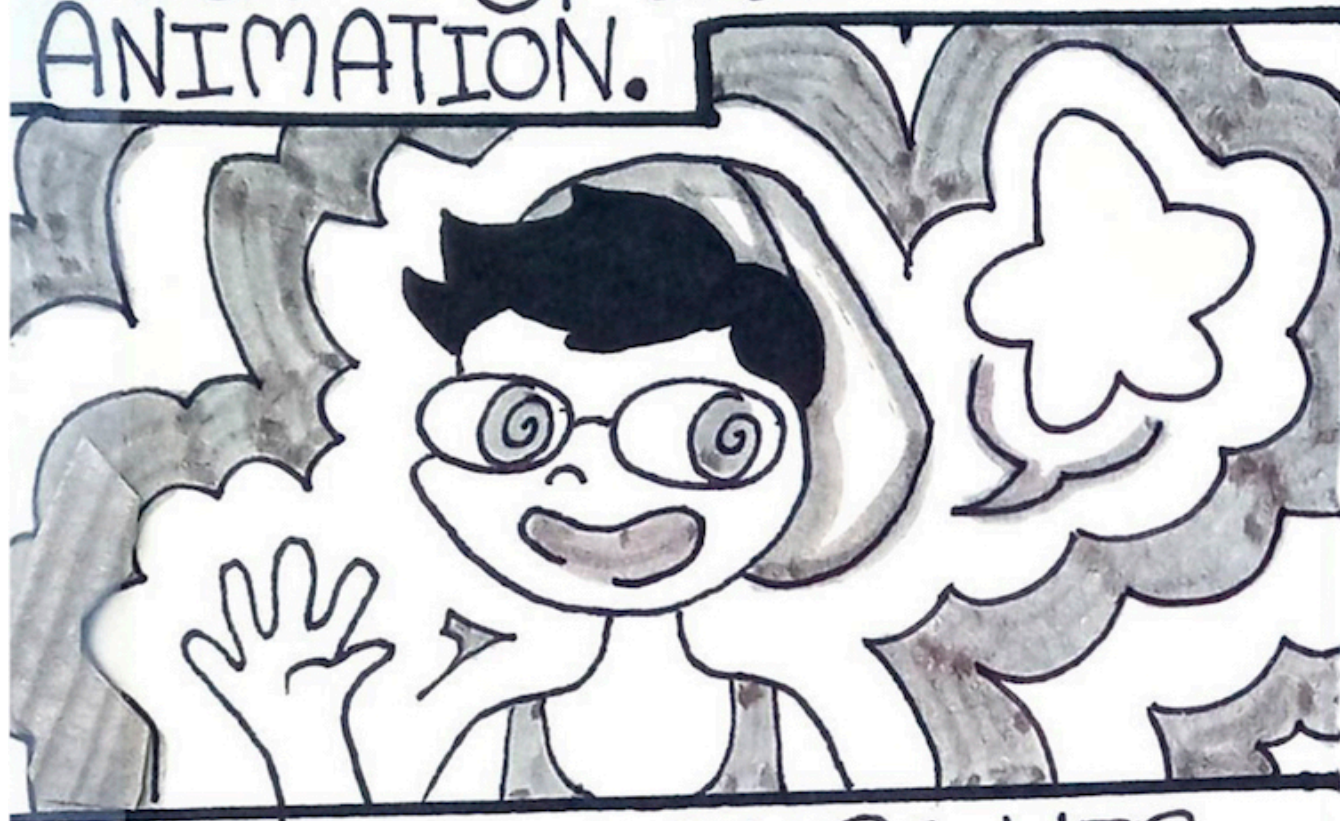
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Comic Feature by Mercury-Marvin Sunderland

Advice for Setting out on Your Unique Path

Artist's Note: At the end of 2020, I met with animator Rebecca Sugar (she/they) for advice on how to pursue a future in animation. She offered advice about networking at comic cons, reading and drawing comics, and following your dreams. I've decided to draw this comic in order to share their wisdom for anyone else who wants to accomplish this dream.

ON NOVEMBER 3, I HAD
A ZOOM MEETING WITH
REBECCA SUGAR (SHE/THEY),
THE CREATOR OF STEVEN
UNIVERSE, TO DISCUSS MY
DREAMS OF WORKING IN
ANIMATION.



I'M GOING TO SHARE HER
WISDOM, SUPPLEMENTED WITH
SOME OF MY OWN.

WRITE FICTION COMICS.
PRINT THEM OUT AND MAKE
ZINES OUT OF THEM. THEN
GO TO LOTS OF CONS AND
TRADE THEM AROUND.



THIS WAS HOW SUGAR THEM-
SELF WAS ORIGINALLY HIRED
TO WORK ON ADVENTURE TIME

SUGAR'S FIRST CONS WERE
AWKWARD AND DIDN'T GIVE
HER MUCH ATTENTION, BUT SHE
DID HER BEST AND DIDN'T
GIVE UP.



HAVING A BOOTH WORKS, BUT
ONE MEETS MORE PEOPLE BY
WALKING AROUND.

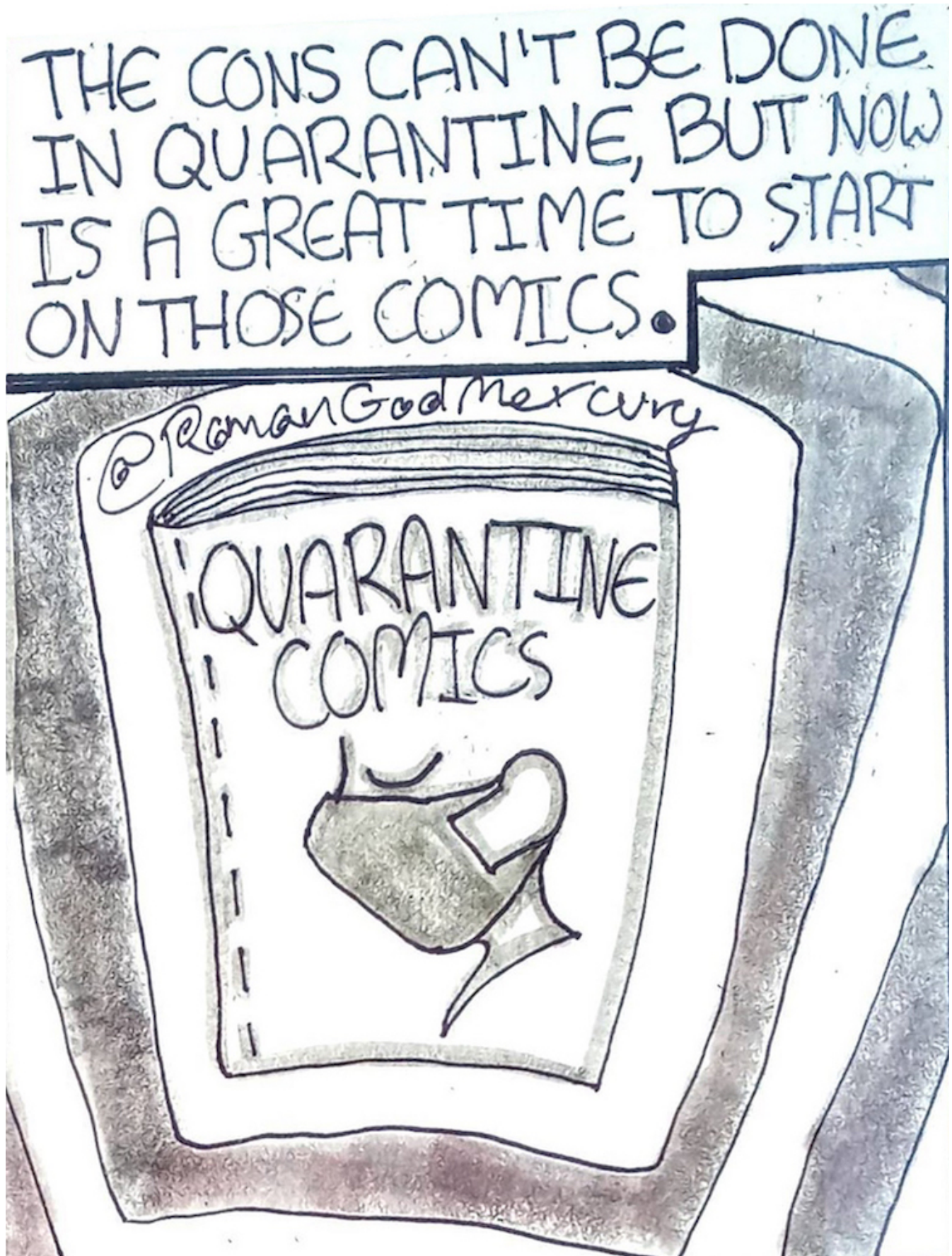


THE CRITICS ARE *REALLY*
HARSH, AND WILL JUDGE
YOUR TECHNICALITY INSTEAD
OF EMOTIONAL CONTENT.
HOWEVER, IT'LL BE USEFUL,
AND TECHNICALITY WILL
ENHANCE THE EMOTION.

IF THIS SOUNDS EXPENSIVE,
DON'T FRET — GET A ONE-
-DAY JOB AT THE CONS.
THEY'LL GIVE YOU A FREE
ALL-DAY PASS.

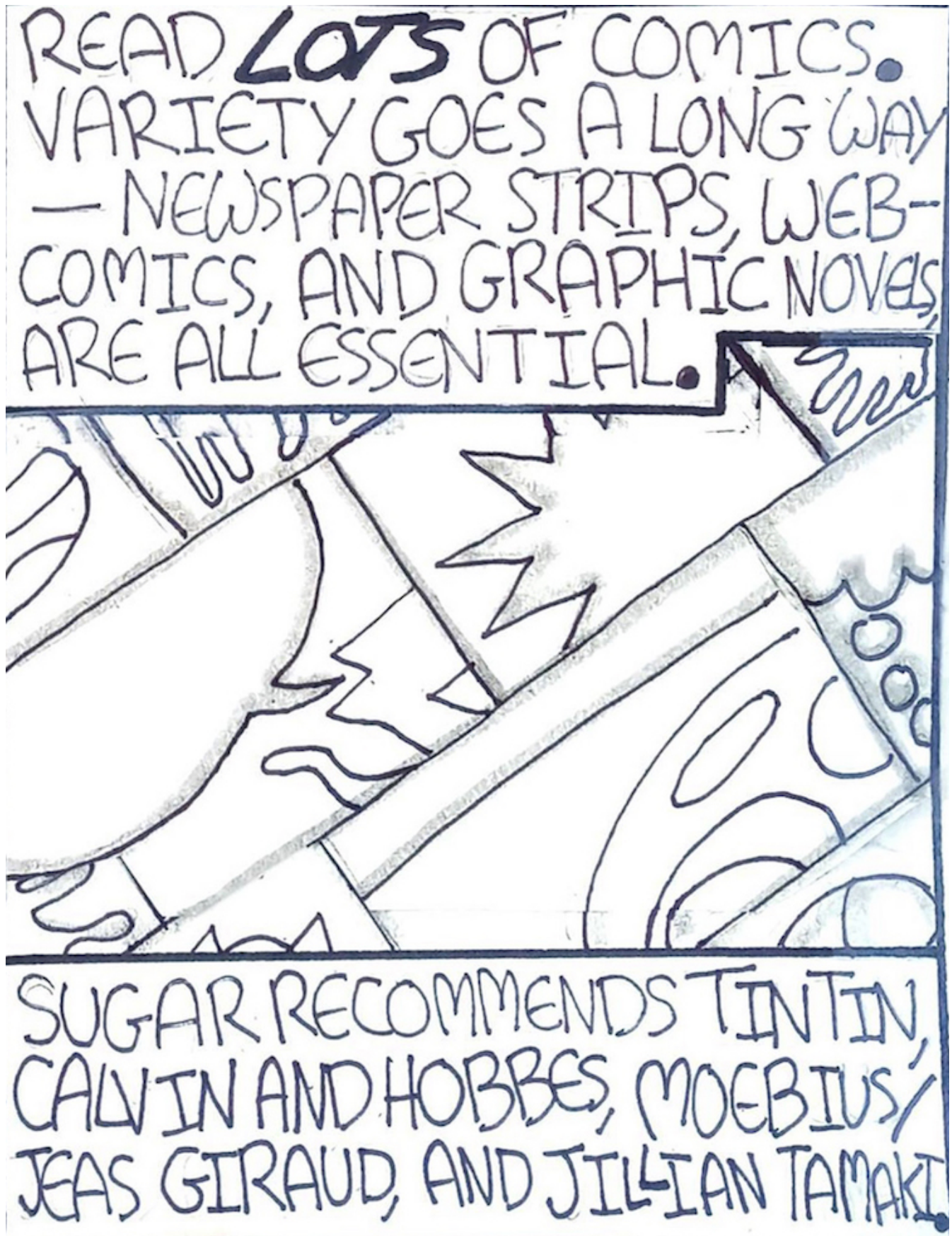


MY ROOMMATE MADE BACK
ALL THE MONEY SHE SPENT ON
CON MERCH BY DOING THIS.



SUGAR RECOMMENDS
PERSPECTIVE FOR COMIC
ARTISTS BY DAVID CHELSEA,
UNDERSTANDING COMICS: THE
INVISIBLE ART BY SCOTT
MCCLLOUD, AND FIGURE
DRAWING FOR ALL IT'S
WORTH BY ANDREW LOOMIS.





SOCIAL MEDIA GOES A LONG WAY. KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFO ON YOUR PROFILES. FLASH AND A DRAWING TABLET WILL HELP FOR POSTING ANIMATIONS.



WATCH **LOTS** OF CARTOONS, AND DRAW FANART. DRAW BOTH REALISM AND SIMPLE STYLES.

ART SCHOOL HELPS, BUT
STUBBORNNESS AND PASSION
FOR LEARNING ARE VITAL.
SUGAR HIRES LOTS OF
PEOPLE WHO NEVER WENT
TO ART SCHOOL.



MATT GROENING IS A GREAT EXAMPLE. HE MAJORED IN COMICS AT THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE (WHICH IS MY SCHOOL!), AND NEVER WENT TO ART SCHOOL OR GRAD SCHOOL.



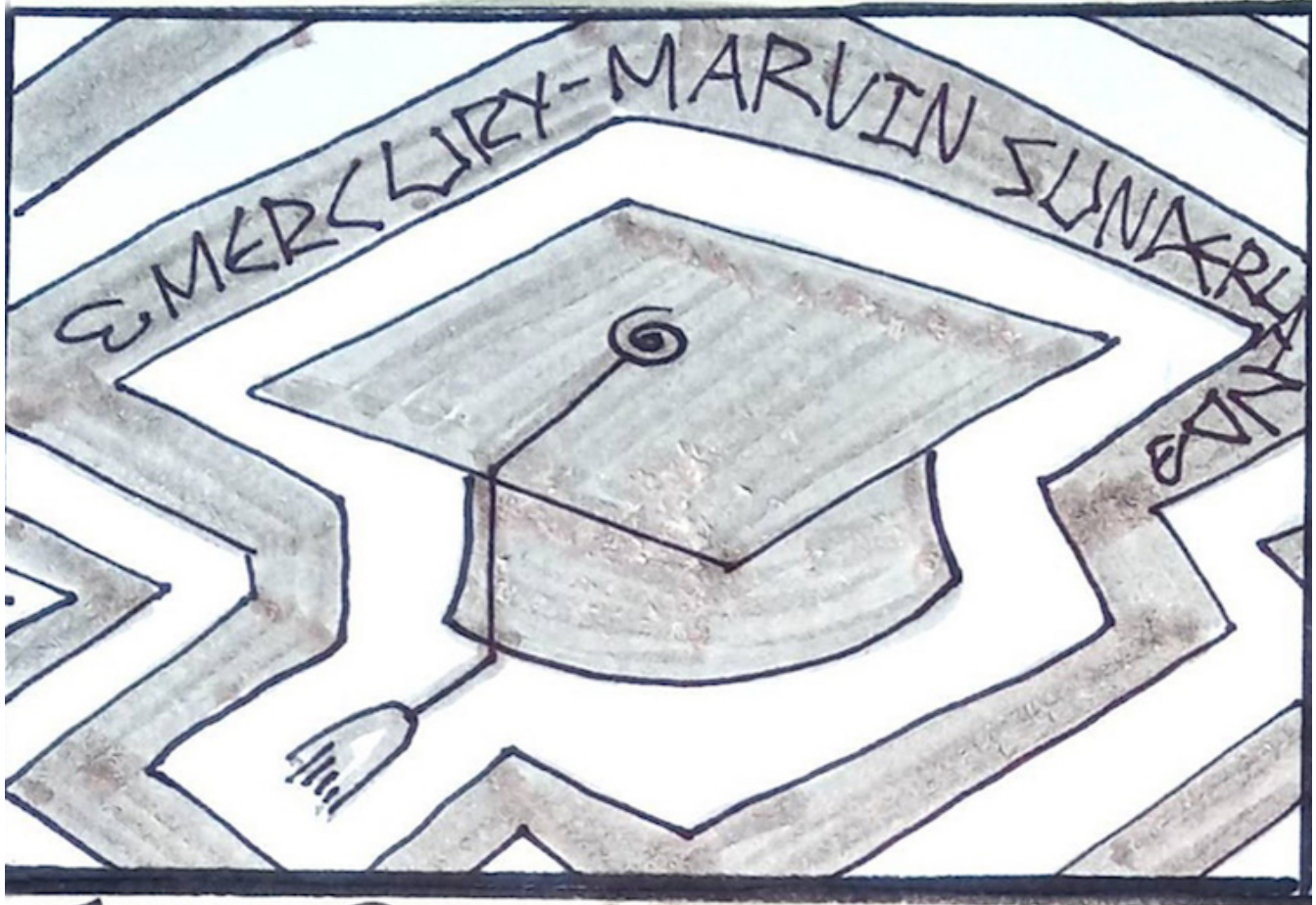
HE FIRST BECAME FAMOUS FOR HIS LIFE IN HELL COMICS.

HE WAS ASKED TO CREATE
A LIFE IN HELL CARTOON,
BUT HE INSTEAD CREATED
THE SIMPSONS, WHICH WAS
ORIGINALLY A SHORT ON THE
TRACY ULMAN SHOW.



HE LATER CREATED FUTURAMA
AND DISENCHANTMENT.

BOB'S BURGERS WAS CREATED
BY A HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT.



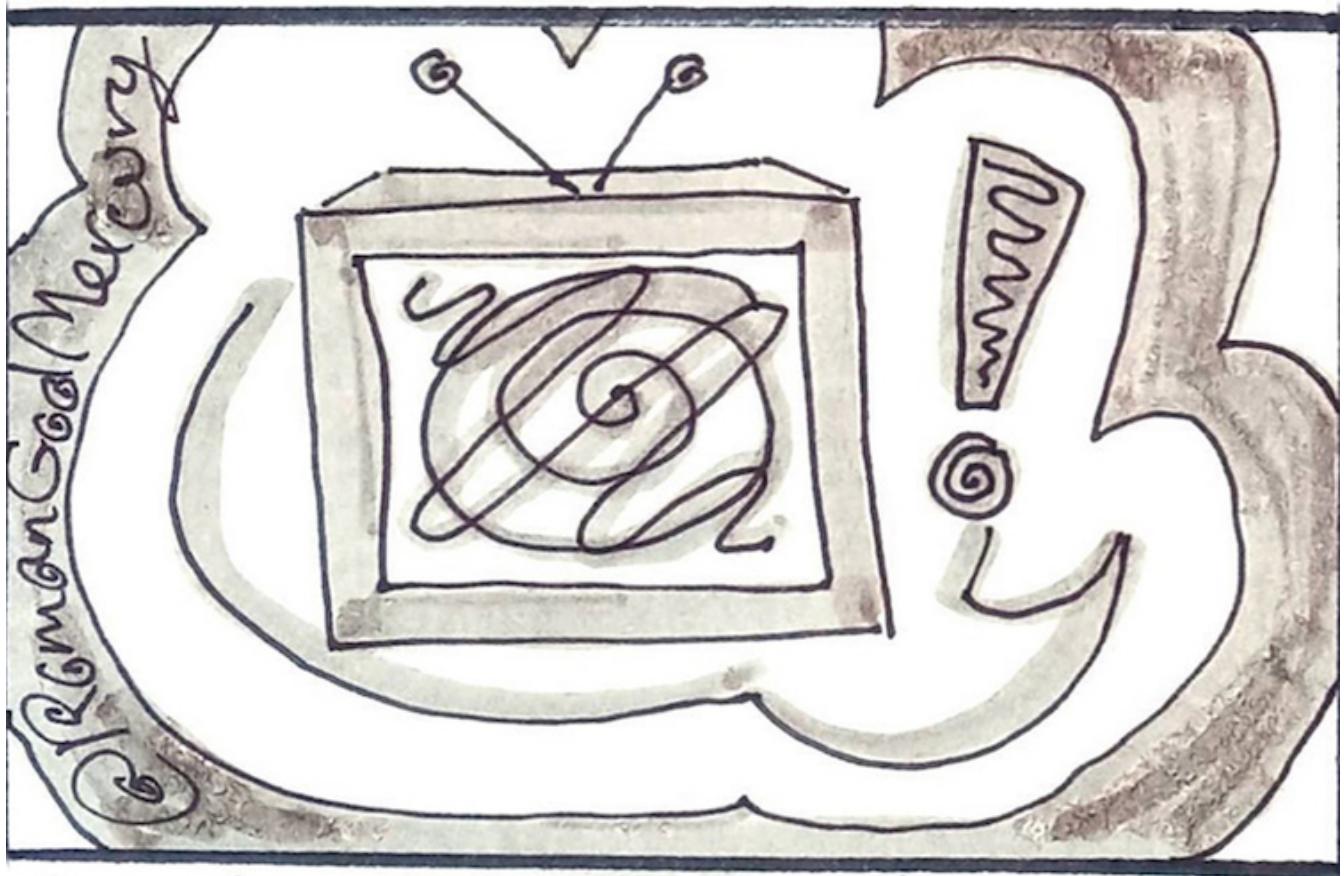
ZOOTOPIA, TANGLED, BOLT,
HEY ARNOLD, AND DINOSAUR
TRAIN WERE ALL CREATED
BY EVERGREEN ALUMNI WHO
NEVER WENT TO ART OR GRAD SCHOOL.

EVERGREEN HAS A 95%
ACCEPTANCE RATE. THE
TUITION IS REALLY CHEAP.
IT'S A FAMOUS SCHOOL WITH
ALUMNI SUCH AS MACKLEMORE
AND LYNDA BARRY.



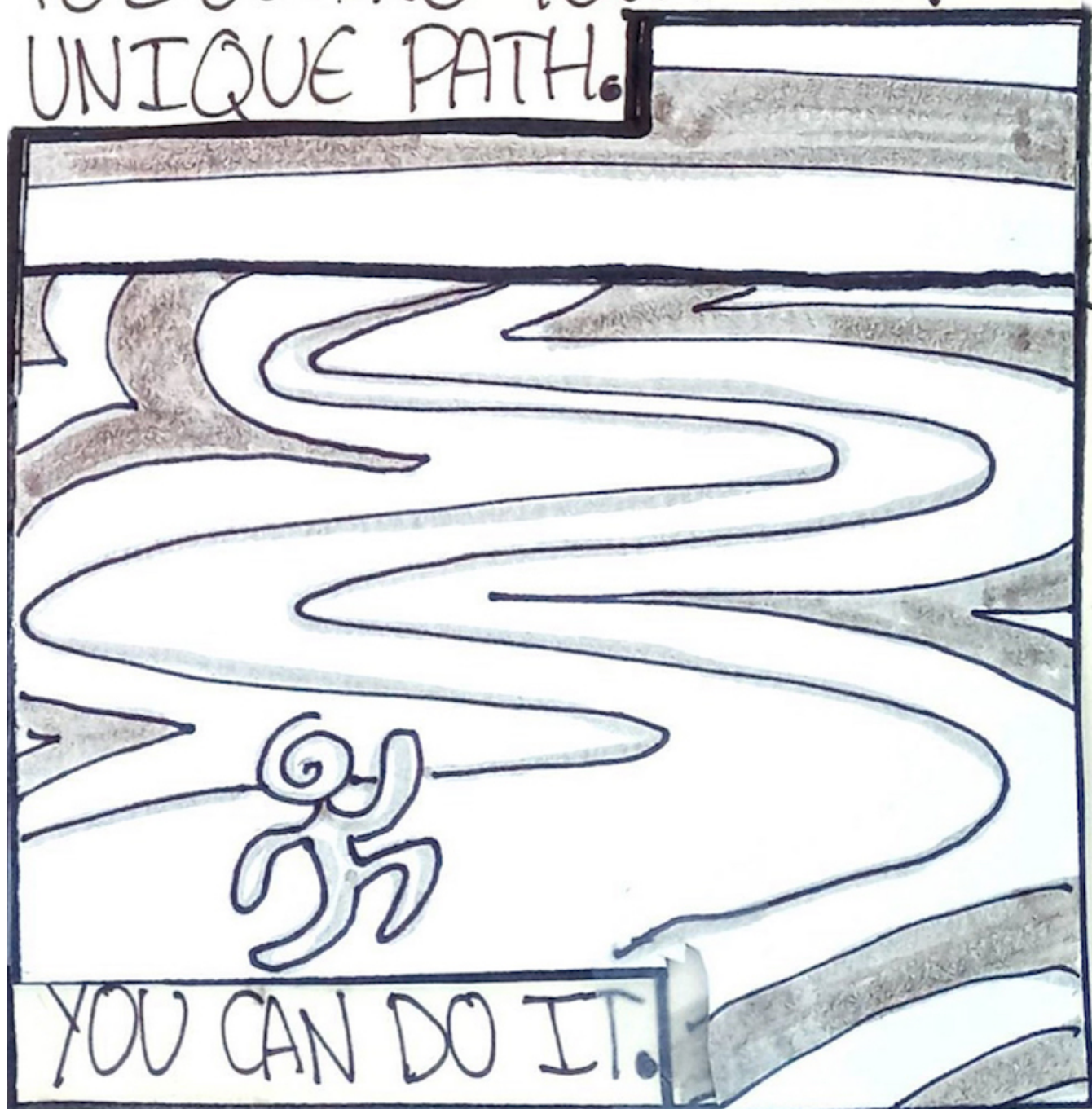
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE
RICH OR A STRAIGHT-A
STUDENT TO ACCOMPLISH
YOUR DREAMS.

SUGAR GETS LOTS OF PEOPLE
IN THESE MEETINGS WHO
DEMAND A SHOW BUT WON'T
DO ANY OF WHAT IT TAKES.



SUGAR TOLD ME THEMSELF
THAT I HAVE WHAT IT TAKES.
THAT'S NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY,
AND NEITHER IS THEIR ADVICE.

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY,
NEVER, EVER GIVE UP.
YOU'RE YOUR OWN PERSON
FOLLOWING YOUR OWN
UNIQUE PATH.



YOU CAN DO IT.

My Meeting with Rebecca Sugar

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Mercury-Marvin Sunderland is a Hellenist transgender autistic gay man from Seattle who uses he/him pronouns.

For more information, follow Mercury-Marvin Sunderland @Romangodmercury on [Instagram](#) [5], [Facebook](#) [6], and [Twitter](#) [7].

Source URL: <https://talkingwriting.com/my-meeting-rebecca-sugar>

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