

CAT & MERINGUE

The Saga of Starboy

Cat and Meringue get shrunk down to miniscule size, meet an ancient race of Star-People, fly in a bottle rocket and escape a waterfall of drool, all in ONE book! Can you even imagine?

Get lost in the daft world of Cat and Meringue with this short story collecting all 31 illustrations from their Inktober challenge in 2018!

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Nich Angell



CAT & MERINGUE

The Saga of Starboy

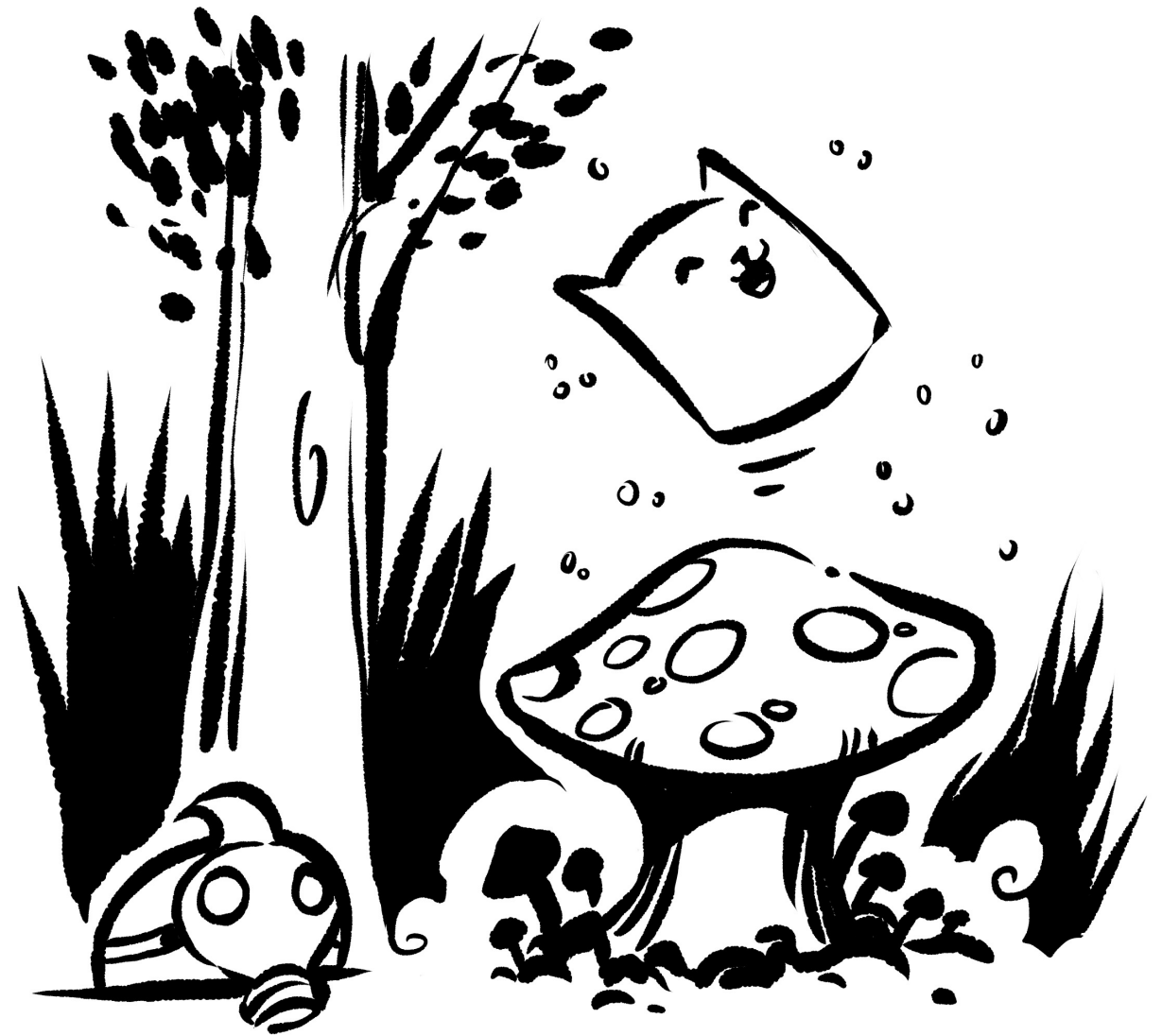
The illustrations that make up this story started life as an Inktober challenge in 2018. Inktober is a drawing challenge for artists online. Each October, a list of prompts is created, one for each day of the month, that are used to create daily inked artworks. All the artists used the same prompt list but create wildly different things!

I decided to create a story, attempting to link these wild words together into one continuous narrative. As you're about to find out, it turned out rather weird! Hope you enjoy!

'Cat and Meringue' and 'The Saga of Starboy'
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It was a day like any other in the
poisonous forests of Spore Shores...
springy mushrooms, toxic spores,
the very-real, ever-present spectre
of death looming around every
bacterium covered branch and trunk.

Cat and Meringue were just having a
laugh! Well, Cat was, Meringue was being
very sensible...



- POISONOUS -

But it also turned out that Meringue was being very clever. Always keen for a bit of peace and quiet, Meringue had allowed Cat to frolic unprotected in the poisonous forest knowing that he would have to spend 22 minutes in quarantine afterwards, to be cleaned of all the horrible toxins.

That was 22 minutes Meringue could have to himself!



•TRANQUIL•

Cat only coughed up mushrooms for a few days after that and they were mostly small and tasteless.

But then he coughed up one that was at least as big as him, maybe even bigger! Don't ask me how that's possible, I'm not writing this story!

They cooked the big one and they decided they would feast on it as a big hearty evening meal!



- ROASTED -

But before the daft duo could take even one bite, a Mushroom Wizard appeared!

Now I know what you're thinking: You can't just say 'Mushroom Wizard' and assume everyone will know what you're talking about.

Well actually, my degree says otherwise.

The Mushroom Wizard shrank our heroes down to miniscule size as punishment for eating a mushroom!



-SPELL-

(To be clear, the mushroom Cat and Meringue ate wasn't a Mushroom Person. It was more like a piece of furniture to the Mushroom Wizard. But a piece of furniture he really liked!)

Cat and Meringue found themselves very small indeed! Even a simple chicken was a big problem for our tiny chums!



-CHICKEN-

When the daft duo stumbled across a
lake the first thing they realised was
it was actually more of a puddle.

Then they realised it was pouring
down from above.

Then they realised it smelt a bit
like dog food.

Then they realised it was drool from
a dog's mouth.

Then they ran away.



-DROOLING-

They had no idea what to do or where to go. They trekked for hours, travelling probably only a very small distance, hoping they were heading back towards their boat where they could think of a way out of their predicament.



- EXHAUSTED -

Then, when they were at their very lowest, they saw a majestic sight.

Over the hill, a parade of Star People on their nightly walk over the land.

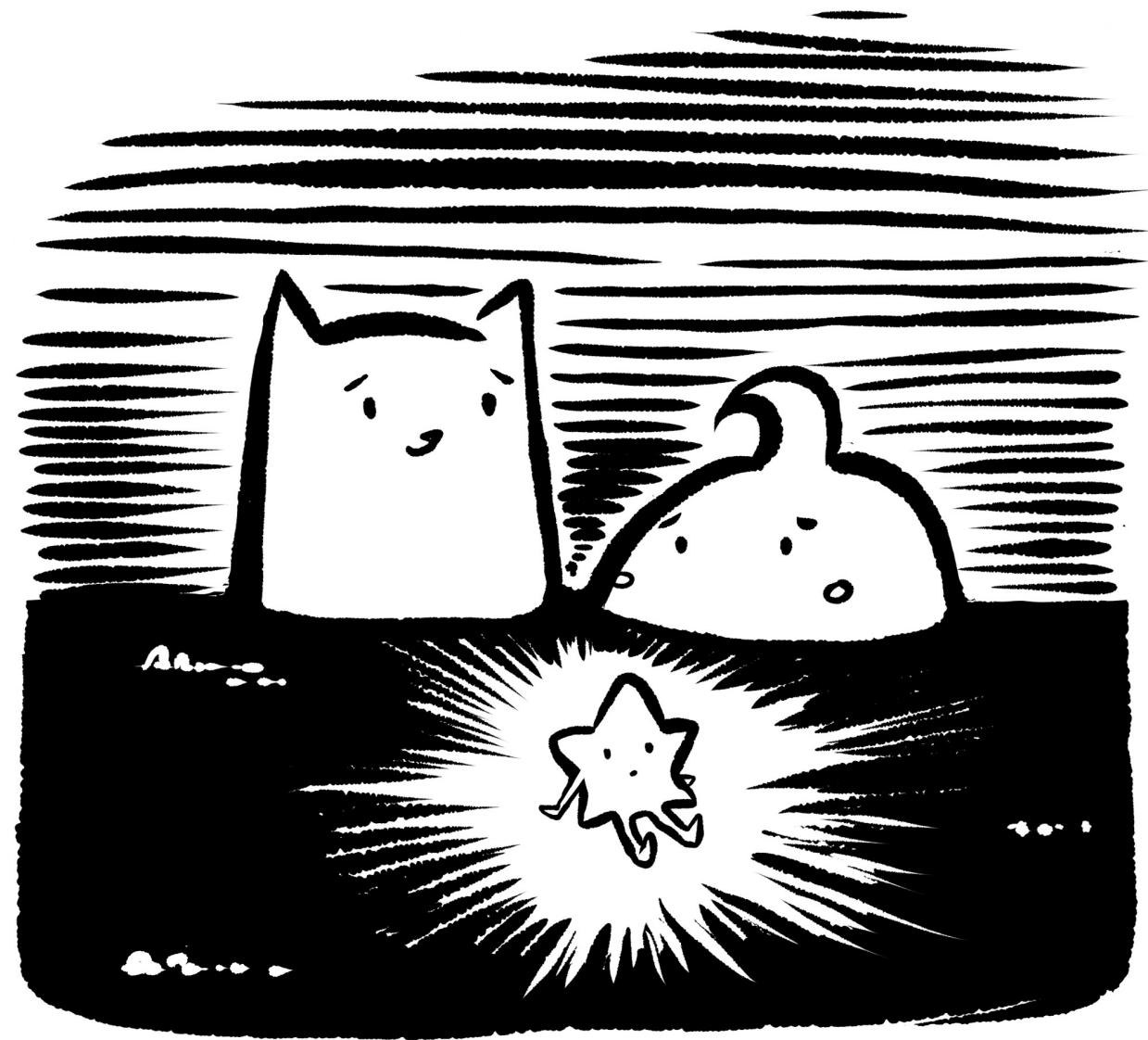
Cat and Meringue had heard of Star Parades before, but they had never seen one. The valley was filled with a glorious warm light and the colossal forms of the glowing creatures filled our heroes with a calm and relaxing warmth.



-STAR-

As Cat and Meringue headed over to
where the Star People had walked they
caught sight of a small glowing shape
in the long grass.

When they got closer they found a
tiny young Starboy, left behind
by the parade.



-PRECIOUS-

Just as Cat was about to say 'Hello'
the little Starboy burst into floods of
tears, making a surprising amount of
noise for someone so small and cute
and gorgeous and adorable and lovely
and sweet and cute and adorable...



-FLOWING-

'Don't worry little chap'

said Meringue comfortingly,

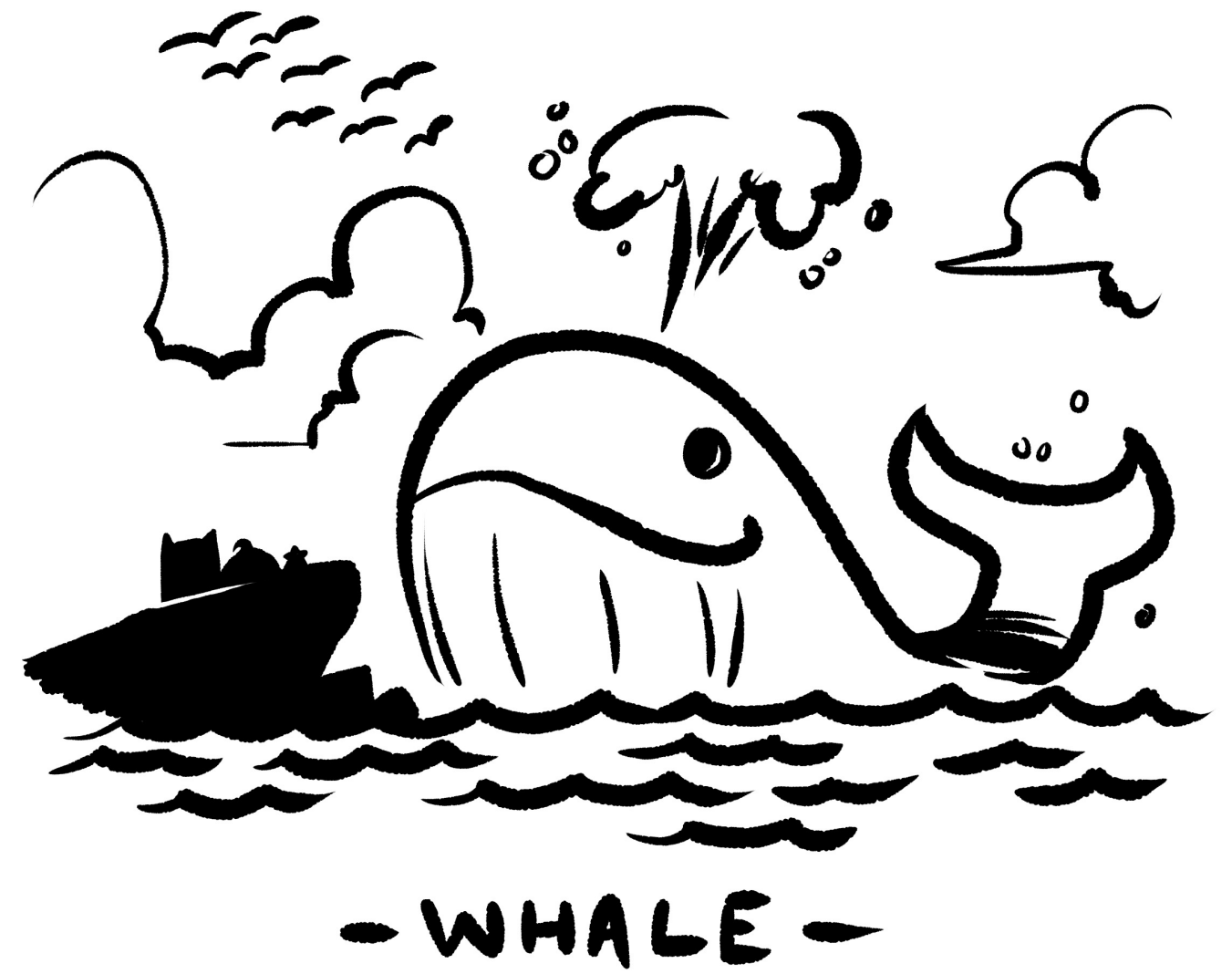
'Your family hasn't left yet, if we run up
this hill we can get you back to them
before they leave!'

But when they reached the very top
of the rocky outcrop at the crest of
the hill and reached out to hand little
Starboy back to his family, they just
turned their heads and kept walking.



- CRUEL -

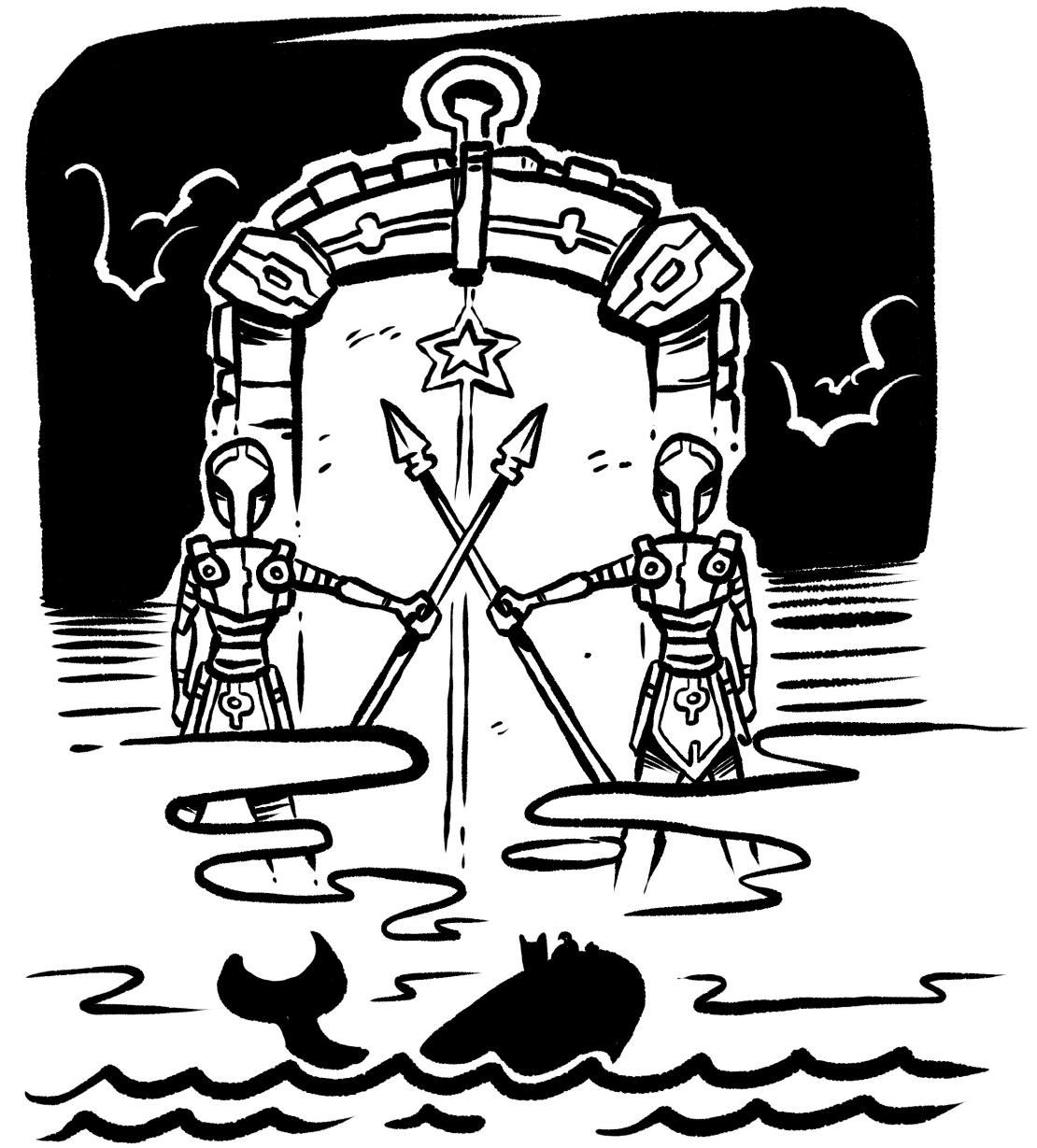
And then a whale came.



Cat and Meringue decided that despite Starboy's star-family being a bunch of no-good, nose-upturning losers, they would still get Starboy back to someone amongst his people who wanted him and would look after him.

Between sniffles, Starboy told the daft duo about the Star Temple, the only record of his people on the planet, and a place that might give some answers.

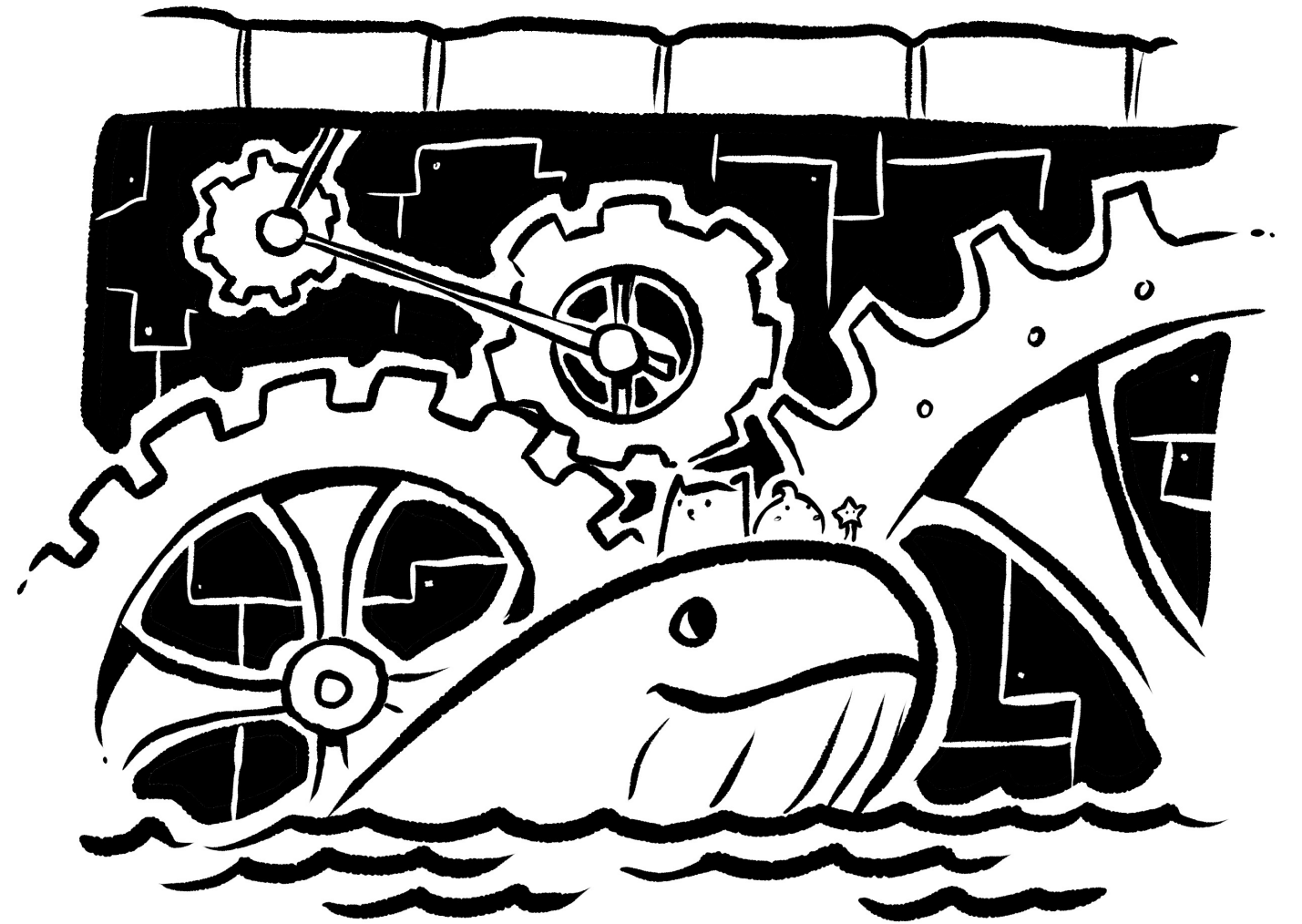
It was lucky this whale came along otherwise they would have had no way of getting there!



- GUARDED -

The Star Temple was incredible, one huge ancient machine of spinning cogs and whirling gears.

Cat took some notes for ideas for decor in the Catamaran. Meringue made sure he would never find those notes ever again.



- CLOCK -

Our heroes made their way through the labyrinthine corridors of the temple only to be faced down by a huge stone statue of one of Starboy's ancestors.

His dominating presence and mean attitude made poor little Starboy feel weak and small.

Cat and Meringue realised that courage was very important to the Star People and they had decided (perhaps a little prematurely) that Starboy was lacking in that department.



- WEAK -

Suddenly, little Starboy leapt at the statue with all his might! His speed and force were incredible.!

He'd had enough of being made to feel small and unwanted. He wanted to prove himself but not on their terms.

He wasn't going to be strong for them, he was going to be strong for him!



- ANGULAR -

As the smoke cleared and the chunks of rubble finished falling from the destroyed statue, Starboy was revealed, but he looked a little different.

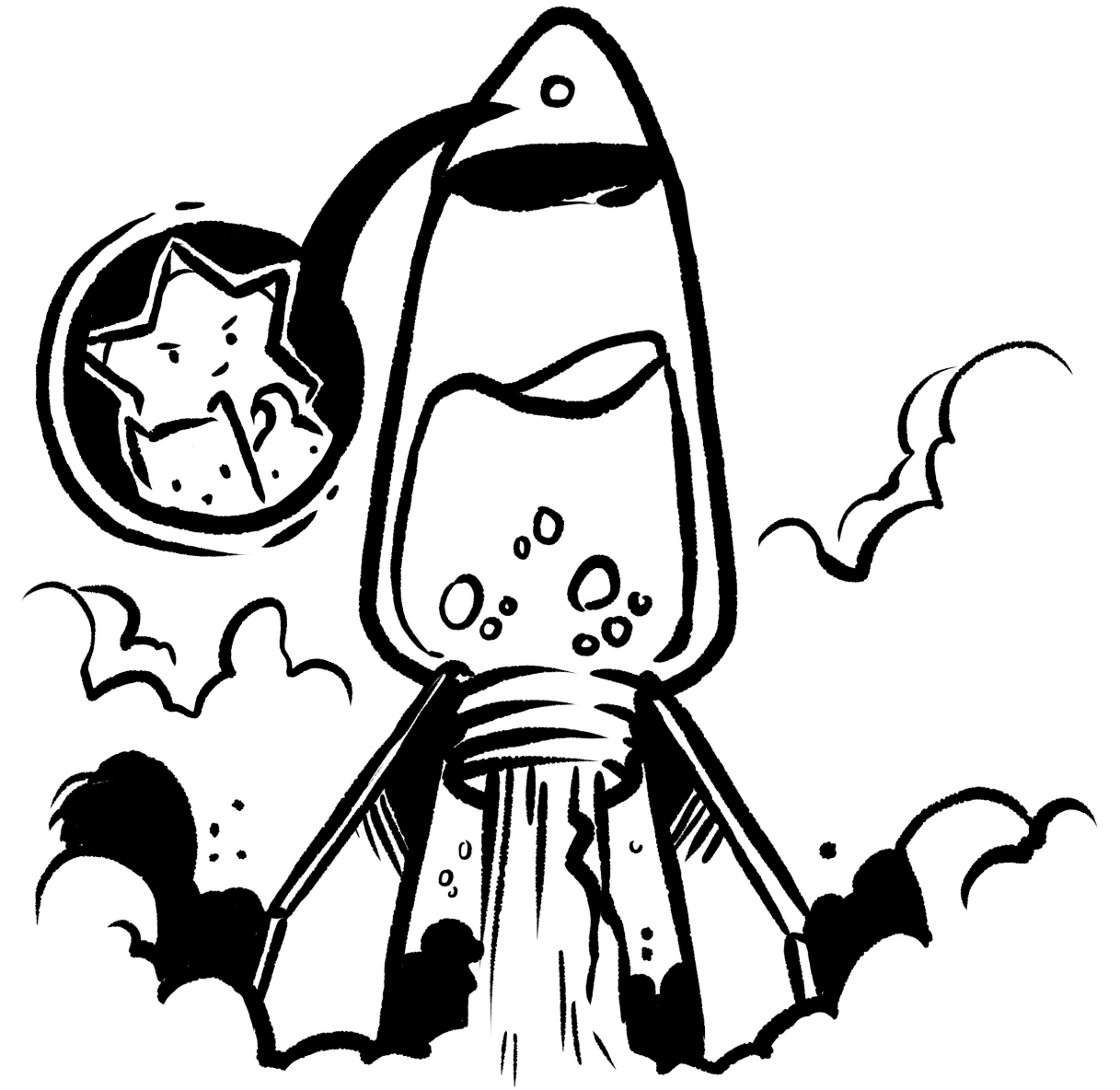
Overcoming the way his people had made him feel had levelled him up, and now he had some sweet gloves and some sweet sneaks!

Oh and probably some superpowers or something too...



-SWOLLEN-

With a determined glare from Starboy,
a reassuring nod from Meringue and a
small fart from Cat, the 3 tiny heroes
hopped into a bottle rocket
(left behind by a previous temple
explorer) and headed for the cosmic
home of the Star People, to tell them
what they thought of them!

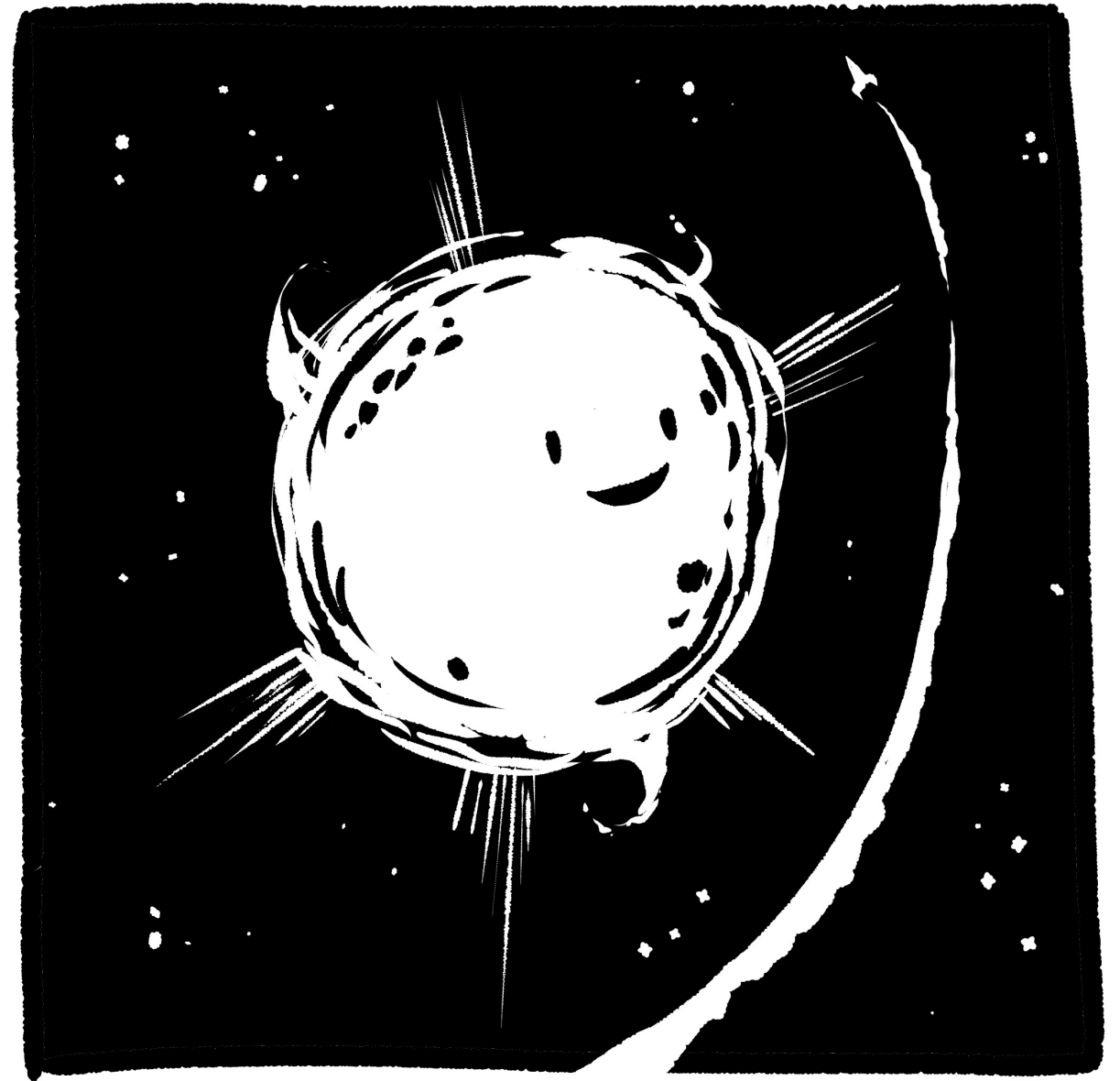


- BOTTLE -

On their journey through space, they
came close to a very dangerous but
very friendly sun.

She was called Elsbeth.

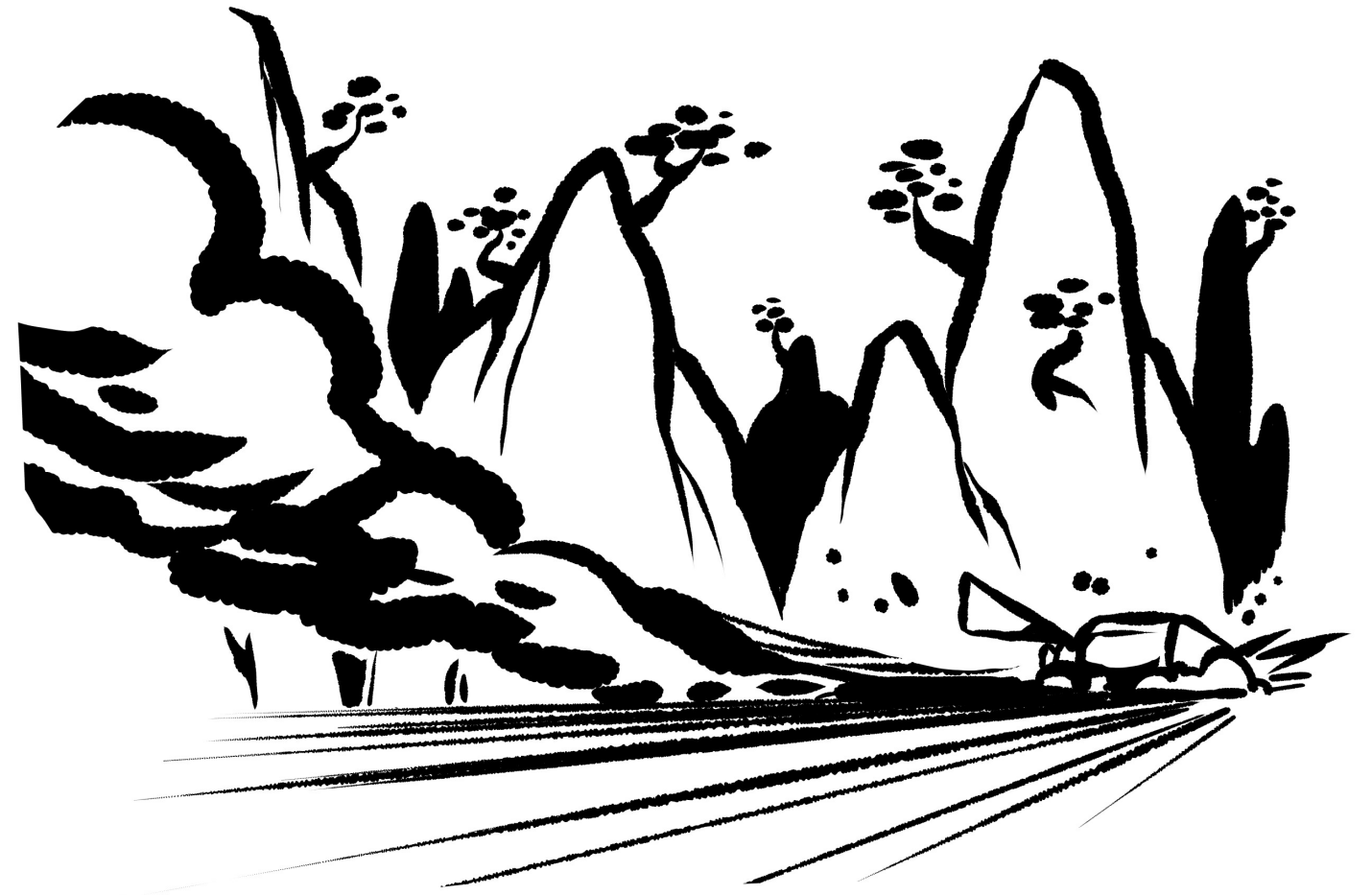
She was ace.



- SCORCHED -

But a bottle rocket can only fly for as long as it has water in it! And that slingshot around Elsbeth had boiled off some of their valuable fuel.

The rocket crashed on a nearby world of mountains and valleys and was no good to our travelling dudes anymore.



- BREAKABLE -

Cat put his inventor hat on and used some of the parts of the engine, an old quiche from the rocket's fridge and a discarded crisp packet to make a boat!

With the boat parked in the fuel chamber and our heroes strapped in, Meringue blew the fuel valve and they rode the last of the water out...

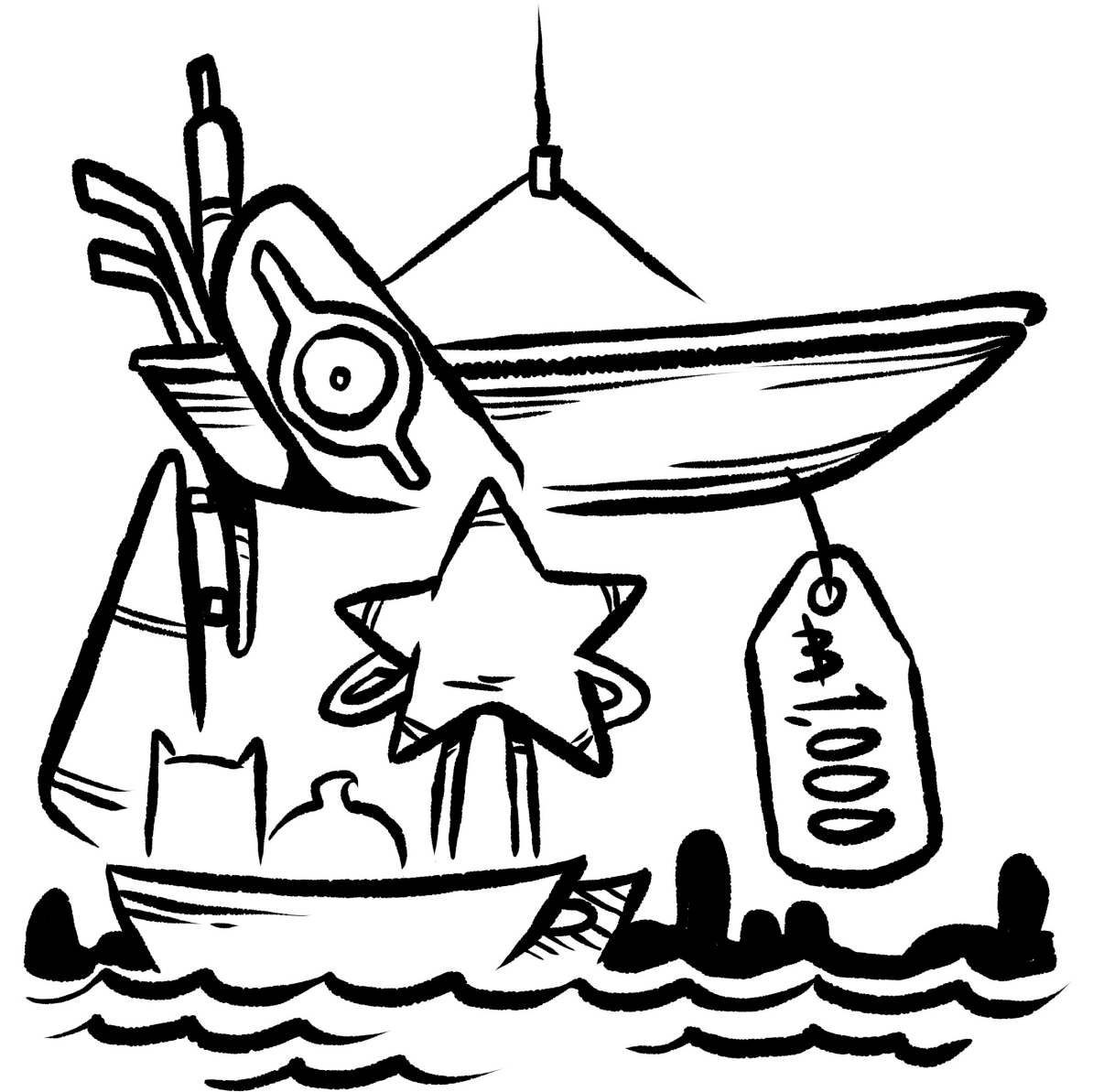


- DRAIN -

...which got them about 3 metres.

They then walked with the boat to a nearby harbour town and looked to buy a new space-faring vessel.

One that wouldn't break the bank too much. Because Cat wanted to save some money for sausage rolls.

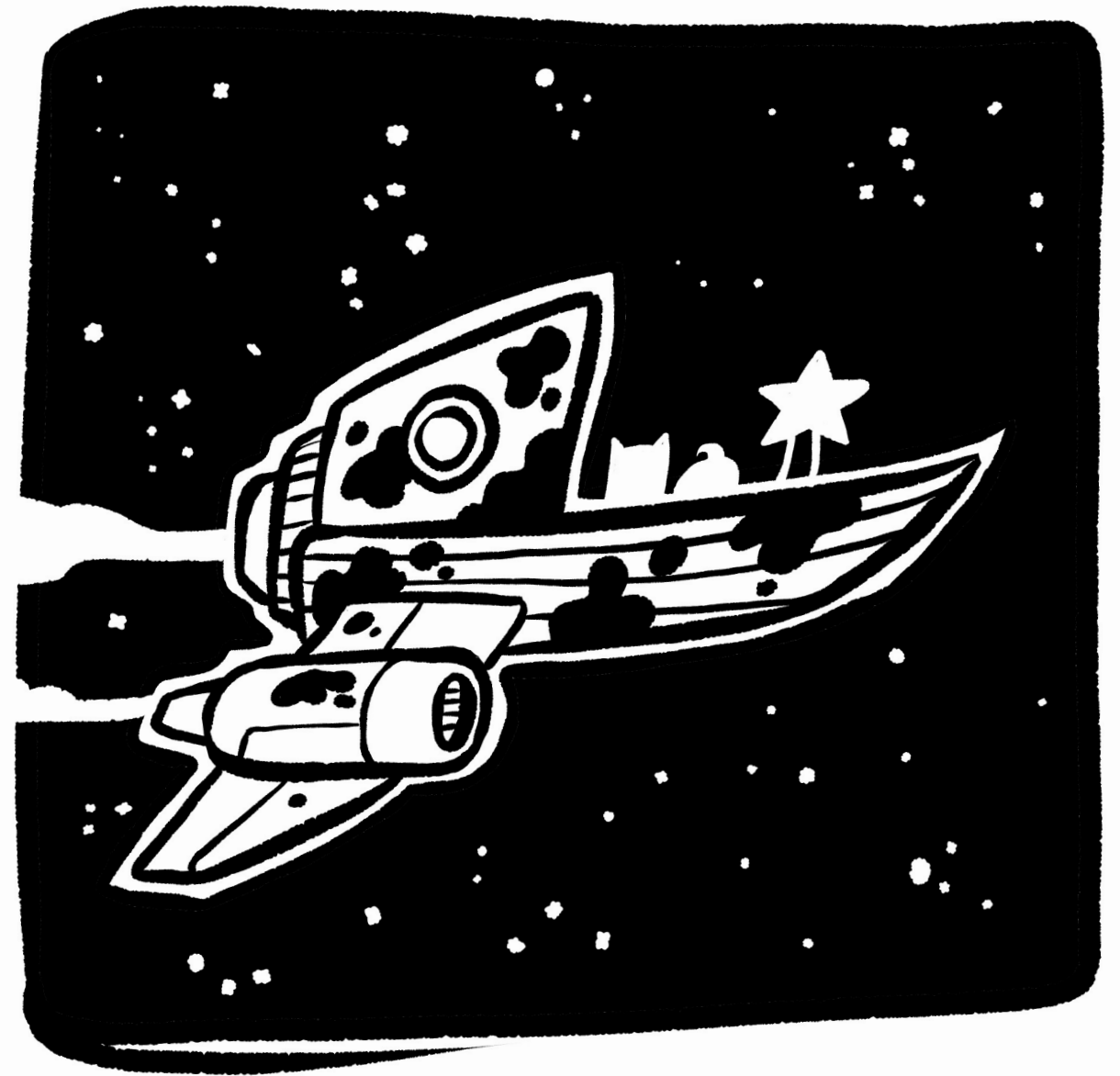


-EXPENSIVE-

Our heroes pooled their money. Cat would only give up 200 MowPounds, Meringue had a coupon for a Wet Breakfast (whatever that is), and Starboy offered up a small piece of the cosmic light that contains the wisdom of all things.

With that they could afford a muddy old spaceship that no-one wanted.

But it would do.



- MUDDY -

CRACK!

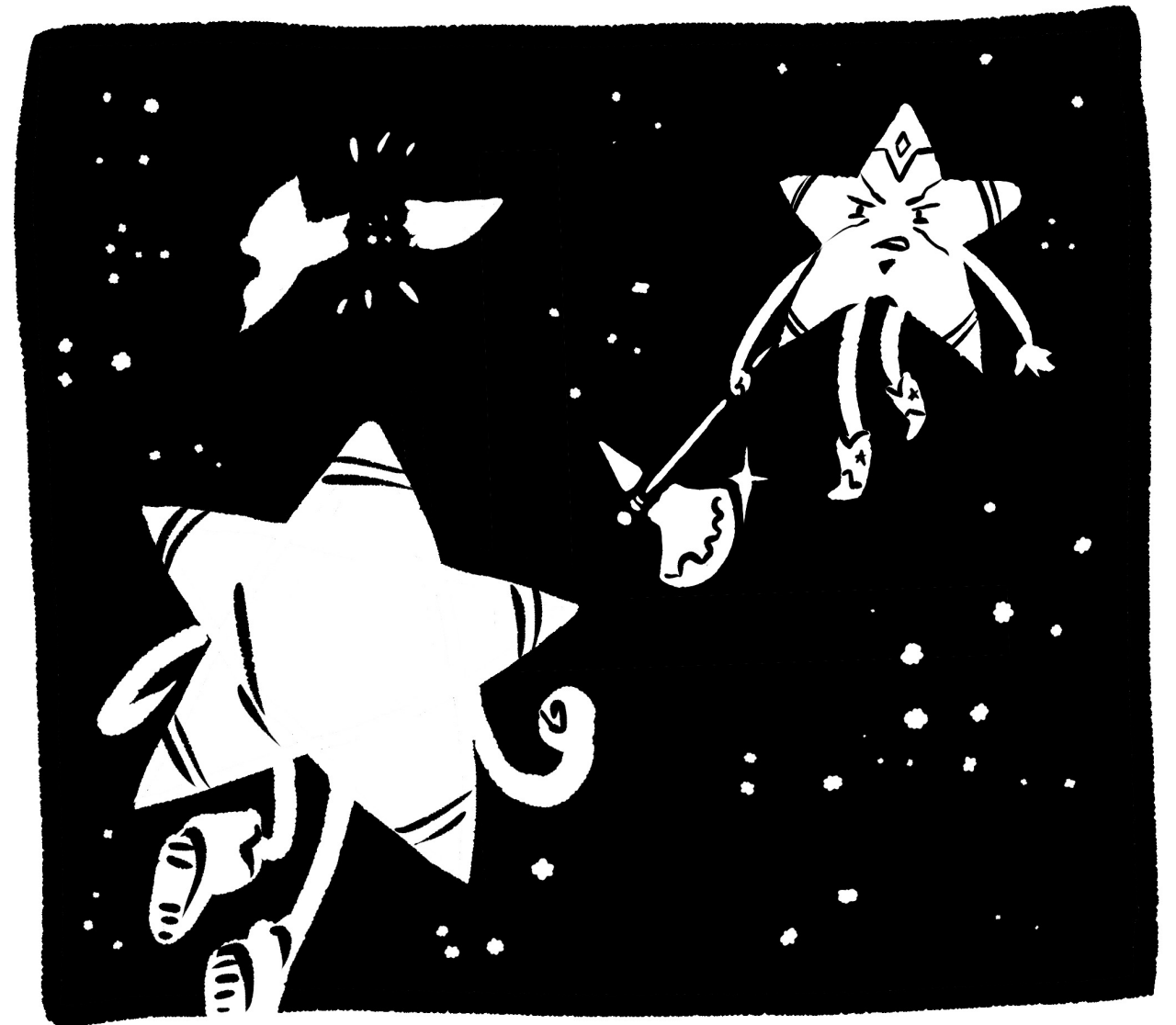
Their ship was suddenly
chopped in two!

And there floating outside in the
starry void, a Starman...
taunting Starboy.

'You're not welcome back here'

he yelled (though no-one could
hear him in space)

'We left you behind for a reason!'



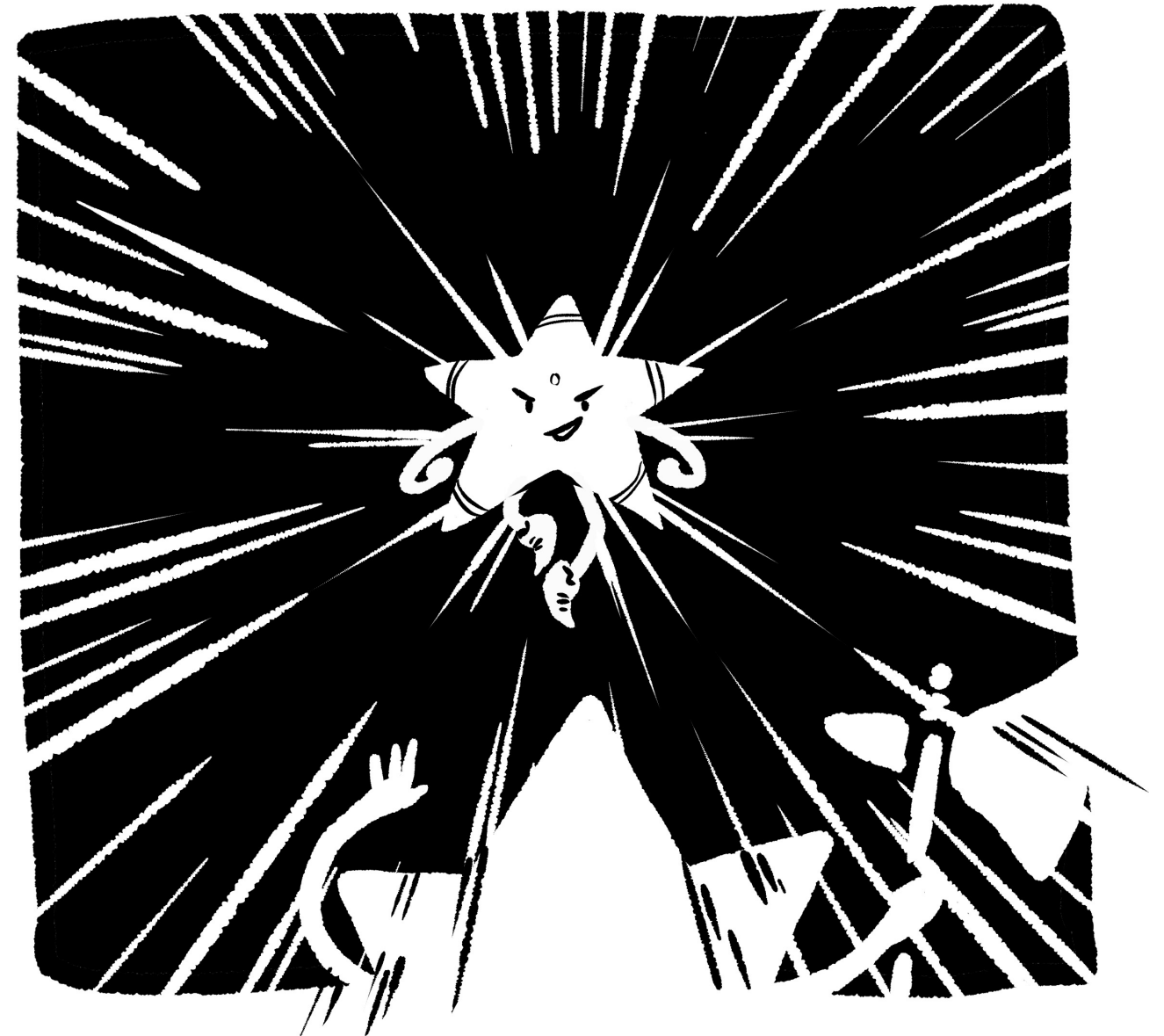
- CHOP -

'You judge people before
you know them'

yelled Starboy back at the Starman,

'I hate how the Star People treat their
little ones. I've come back to
change all that!'

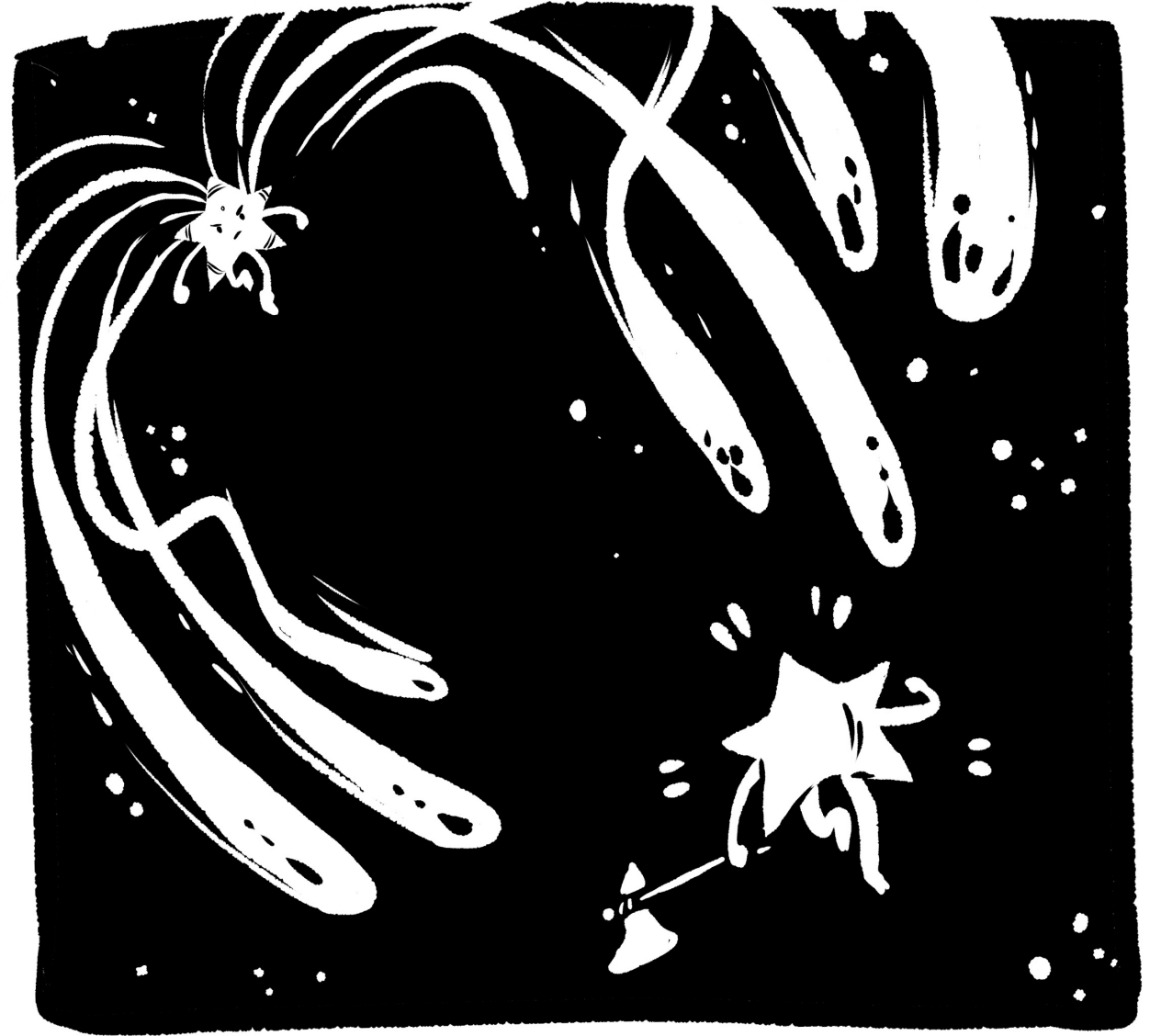
And with that, Starboy unleashed
an awesome array of white lights,
like hedgehog spines, from his back,
launching into the dark like a
million shining missiles!



- PRICKLY -

The white missiles weaved and elongated through the black void and headed straight toward the Starman!

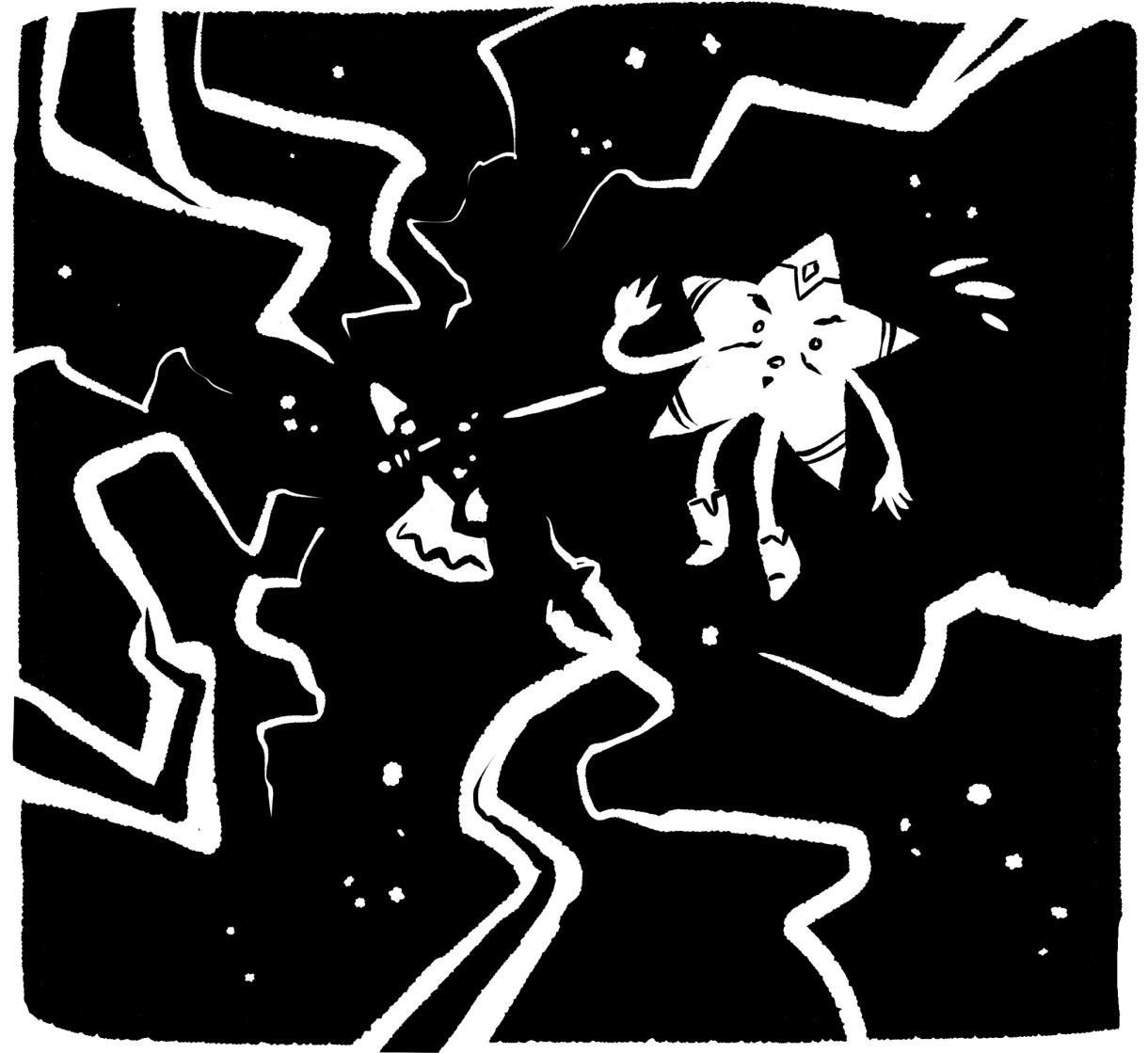
He had never seen anything like this before! How could he have been so wrong about this one?



-STRETCH-

Starboy's missiles converged on the
Starman's axe and shattered it!

As the energy contained within the
cosmic axe was released, it
arced lightning in a thousand
different directions!



-THUNDER-

Starman approached Starboy,
his head hanging low.

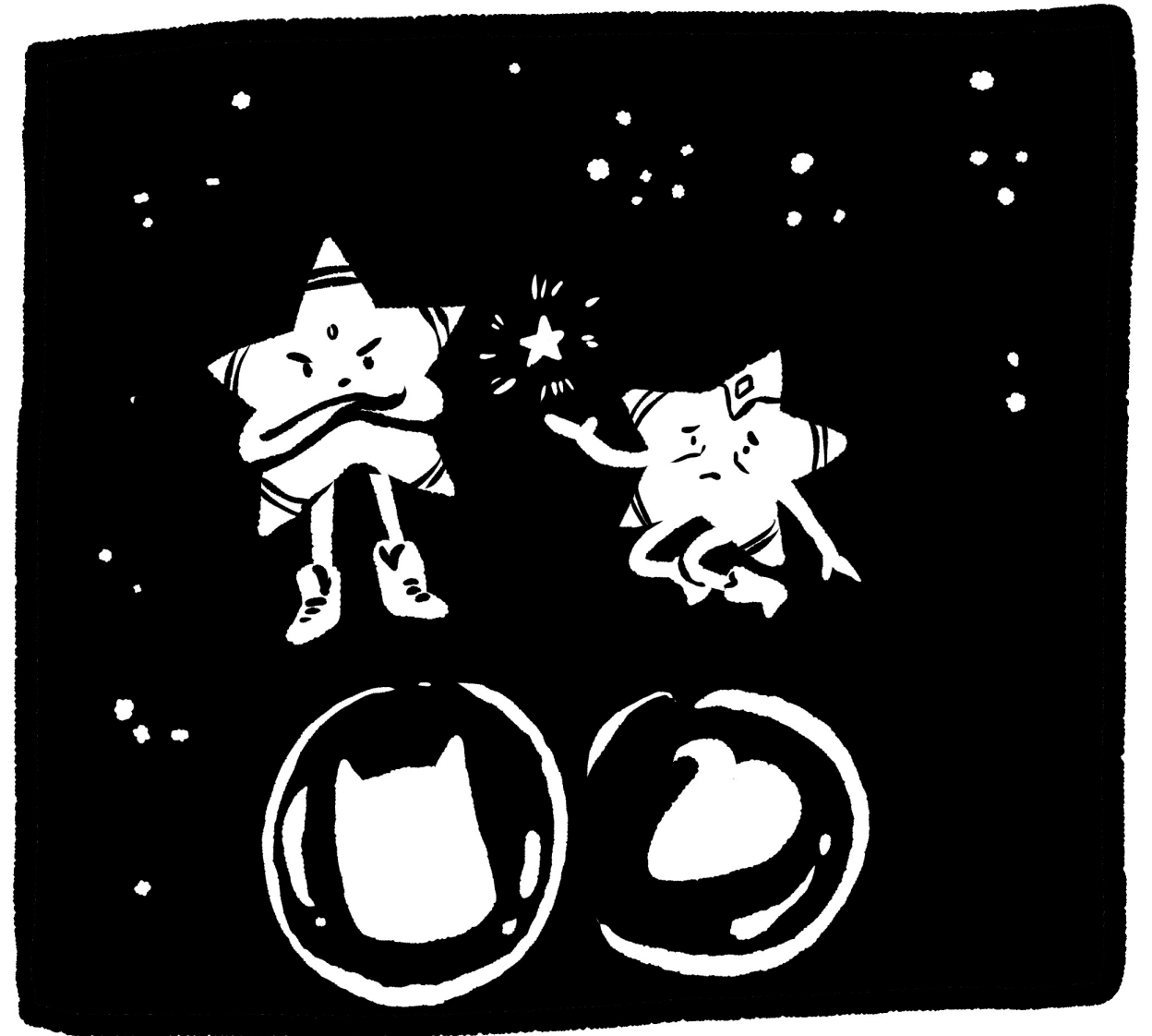
'I'm SORRY, we should never have
doubted your strength, please take
this portion of my light as a symbol
of my greatest apology'

'No.'

said Starboy.

'This was never about proving my
strength to you. It was about showing
you not to judge someone without
knowing them. This will happen no
more, from today I will change the
ways of the Star People!'

Cat and Meringue would have
applauded but they were in space, in
special air bubbles and had
no arms or hands.



-GIFT-

'Thank you Cat and Meringue'

said Starboy.

'You travelled with me and we became
rad friends. I had a really cool time
with you. Now let me use my final-act-
of-the-story powers to convert
you back to normal size'

And with that, a ray of light shot from
Starboy's hand and Cat and Meringue
felt their bodies start to grow!



- DOUBLE -

Starboy and Cat and Meringue said their goodbyes. Starboy gave a little cosmic light to Cat and said he could install it in the Catamaran's engine as an eternal fuel source if he liked.

Or he could eat it. It apparently tastes like fizzy aluminium.

Then, with the raise of an eyebrow, he teleported the daft duo back down to their world, where the Catamaran was parked.



'Well, that was a bit of an adventure,
wasn't it Meringue?'

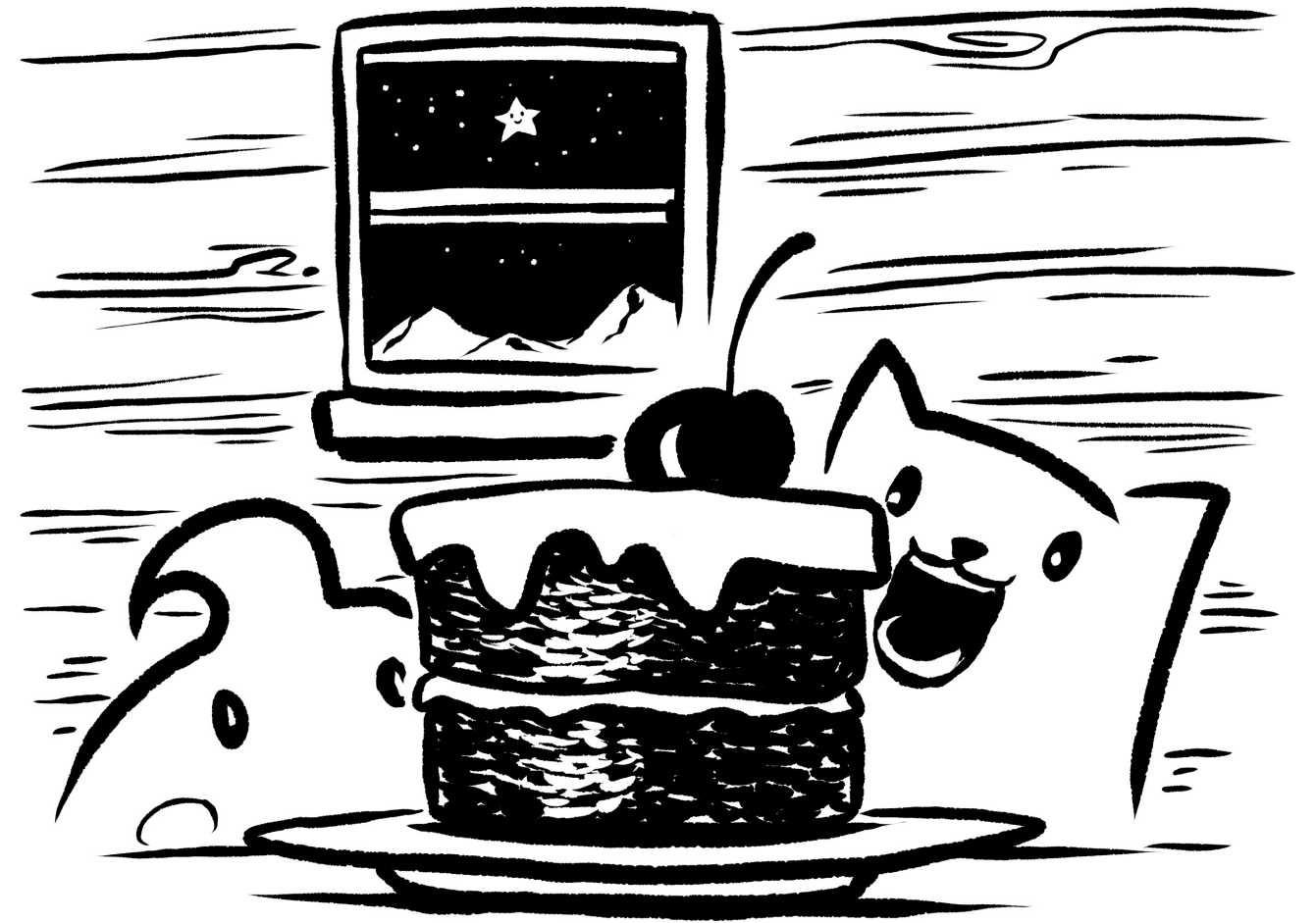
said Cat as they stepped aboard
their trusty floating home.

'It sure was'

said Meringue,

'but I could really do with a bit
of a rest now!'

And with that he whipped out a cake
that he had made earlier, made from
the fungus of the poisonous forest
and offered it to Cat, hoping for some
more of those sweet quarantine-
minutes he cherished so dearly!



-SLICE-

THE END

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