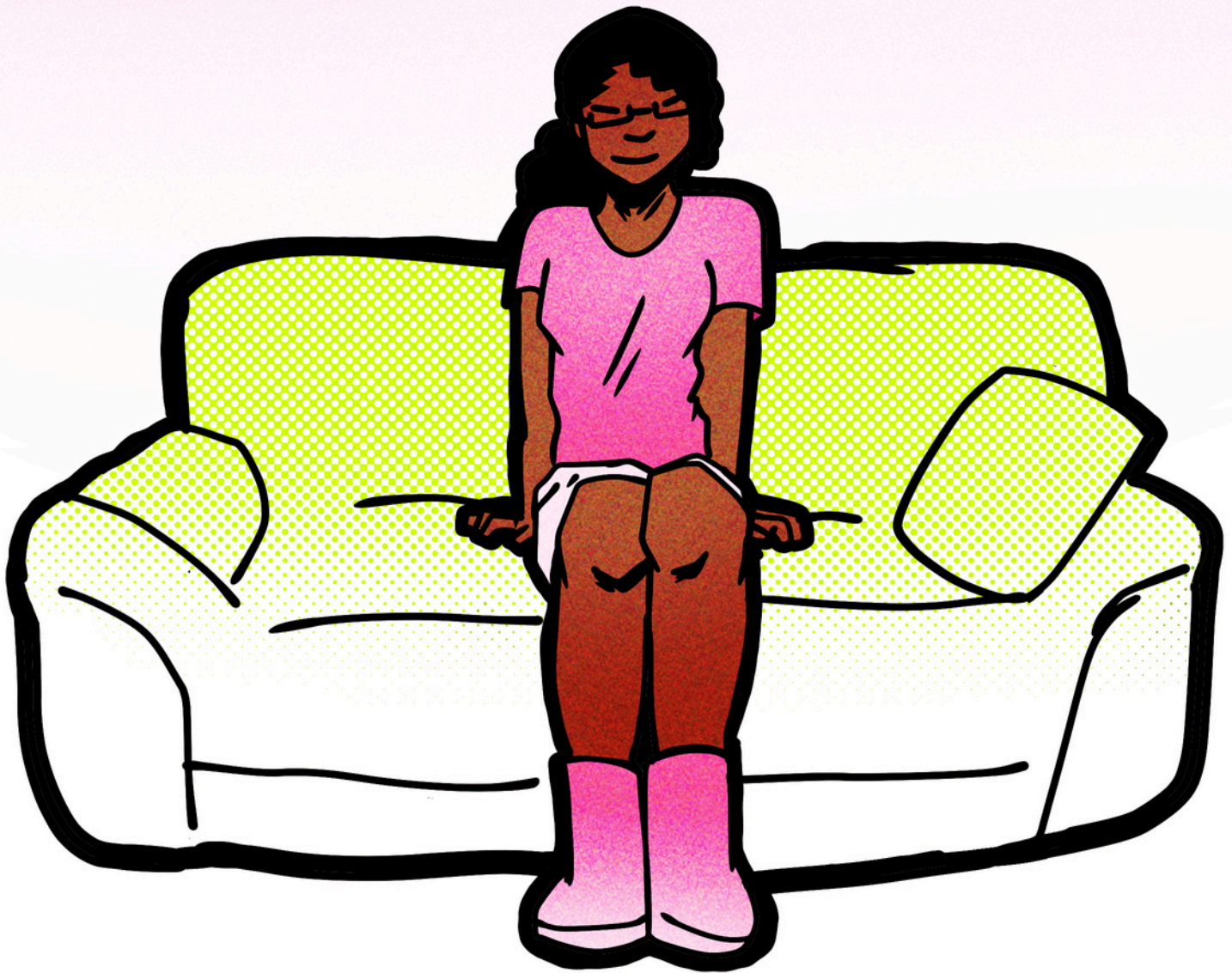
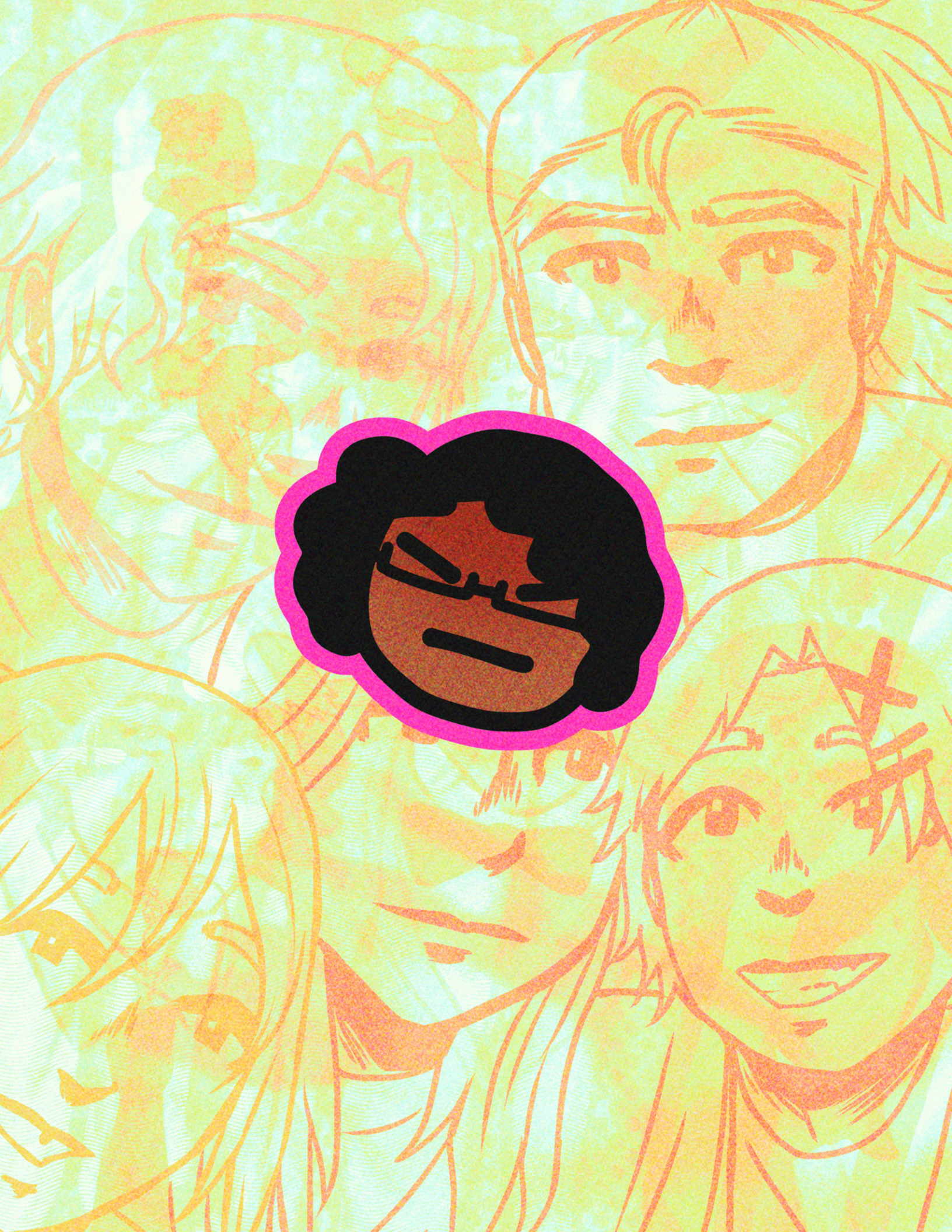


YOU KNOW ME TOO WELL



an interview and HANNIE'S masters thesis

If there is an existence to escape from the harsh realities of the real world, Hannie is there. Taking inspiration from nostalgia, internet culture, and the inner reactions to society around her, she creates paracosms that focus on the importance of mental health, ephemera, friendship, and the okayness with being "weird". Their biggest work, *Big Miskates*, is an experimental graphic novel that takes facets of their identity and projects it onto the lives of five friends. Her other work exists in the real world as sculptures that take on the fangirl experience, the crushing weight of individualism and subculture, the permanence of the words we speak, and more. As she continues to grapple with what the weight of these identities and experiences mean to her, she turns to the only people who truly understand: **her own characters.**



FIO: ON BODY AND MIND

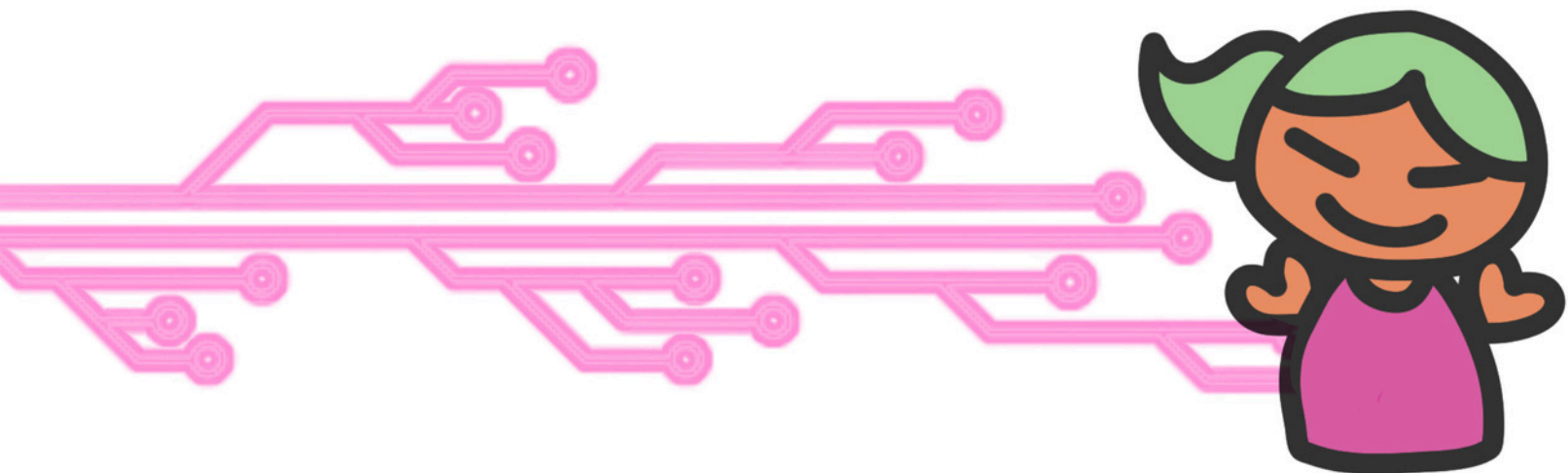


Fio: This is so cool, I can't believe we actually get to talk to each other for once.

HANNIE: Yeah, I'm excited. It's like closing the barrier in an exceptionally weird way.

Fio: So first off I want to ask, how has being in grad school affected you? Both physically and mentally.

HANNIE: I feel stronger. Like I'm able to roll with the punches a lot more. Whether I'm mentally in a not-so-good place or I've hurt myself making a piece it's a lot easier to get back up and keep going. You would know about that wouldn't you?



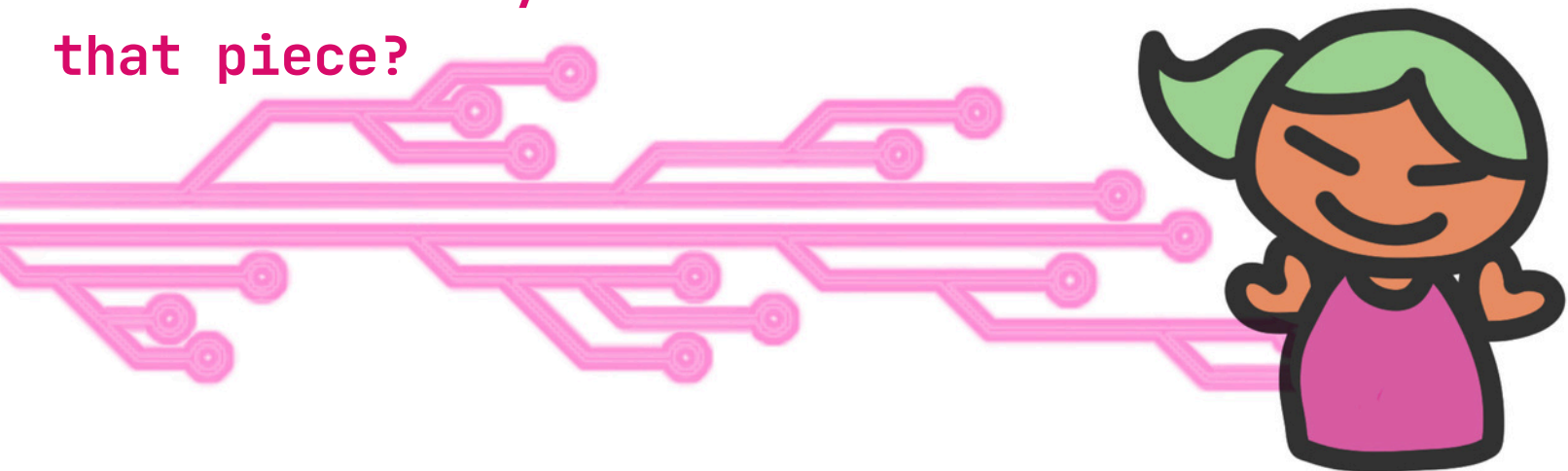
Fio: Oh yeah. I picked up rollerskating last year and...man I don't think there was a month where I **WASN'T** injured.

HANNIIE: But you got back up and kept going right?

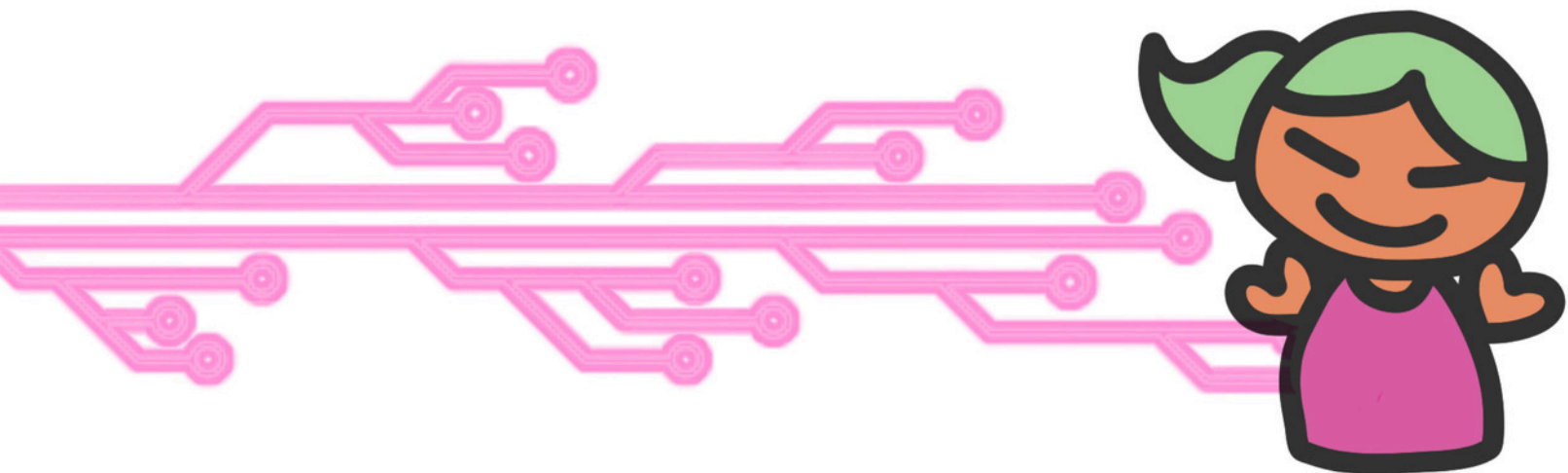
Fio: Sure did. I haven't hurt myself in a whole three months!

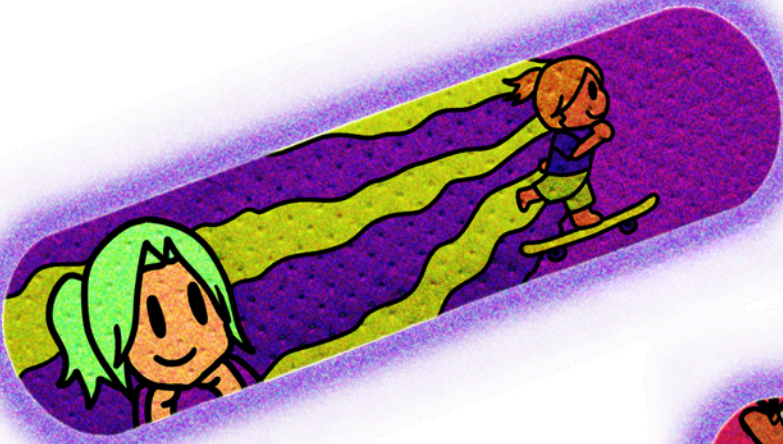
HANNIIE: I love that for you. I wish I could say the same...sculpture is an aching process. I love it though, and it's nothing a BandAid or two can't fix.

Fio: BandAids are my best friend for sure. And you got to make some big BandAids! Can you talk a little about that piece?



HANNIE: Yes! *BandAid Miskates* is a giant set of canvas fabric BandAids featuring...well, you guys. The idea came from my obsession with the amount of pretty designs BandAids have. And I wanted to take an object so small and make it huge. It was actually my reintroduction back into sculpture. I grew up only dipping my toes a little into the medium and once I decided to take a "break" from comics I used this piece to fully dive in. I got to break out the cardboard and the hot glue and my heaps of fabric again. It was so fun. Recently, the piece has become a personal representation of how working on *Big Miskates* has saved me a lot of times.





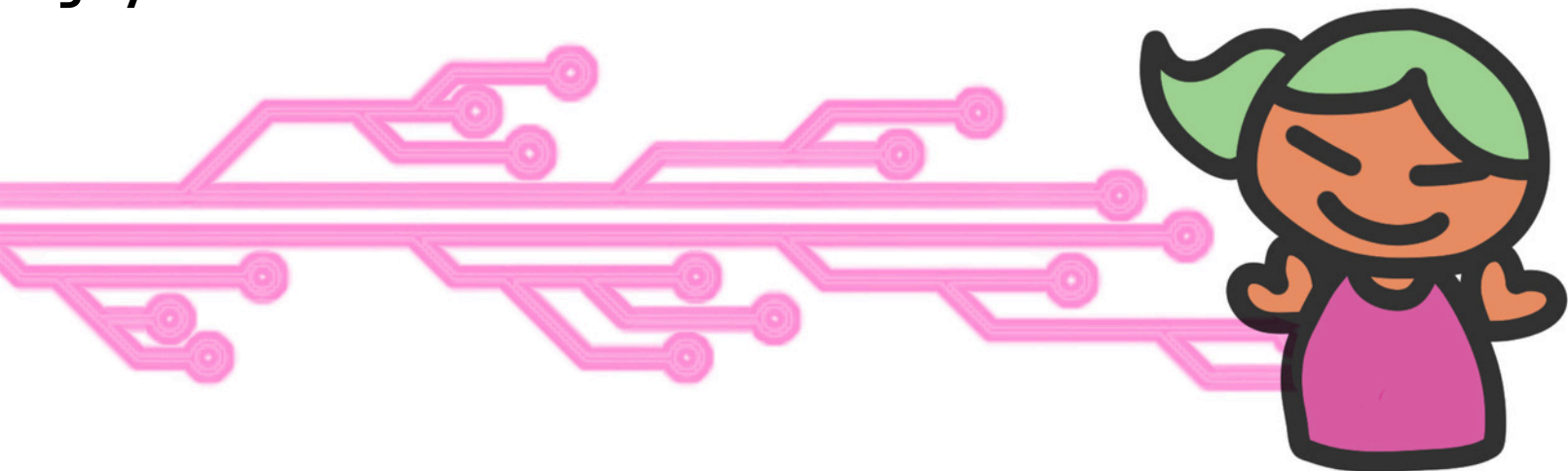
band-aid
miskates



HANNIIE: When I lost motivation for comics due to burnout, you guys were there and I was able to keep drawing and experimenting and I'm in a much better spot now.

Fio: Do you think you'll ever go back to making comics the old-fashioned way?

HANNIIE: Right now, I think being experimental is my wheelhouse. It keeps me in a sane place mentally, especially because now I'm as much of a sculpture artist as I am a graphic novelist. I don't think drawing panels in the same style over and over again is of any interest to me but we don't know what the future holds. And y'know, it's working. People are really liking you guys.



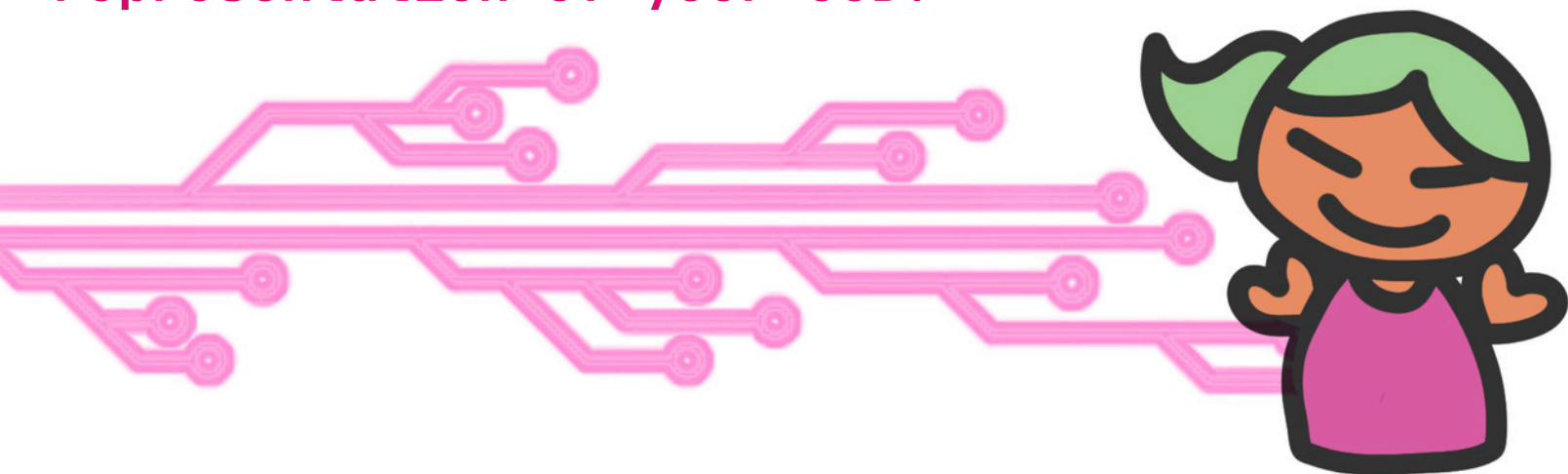
Fio: I like to think I'm what's making *Big Miskates* popular.

HANNIE: Well I haven't heard anyone mention their favorite character but when I do, I'll let you know.

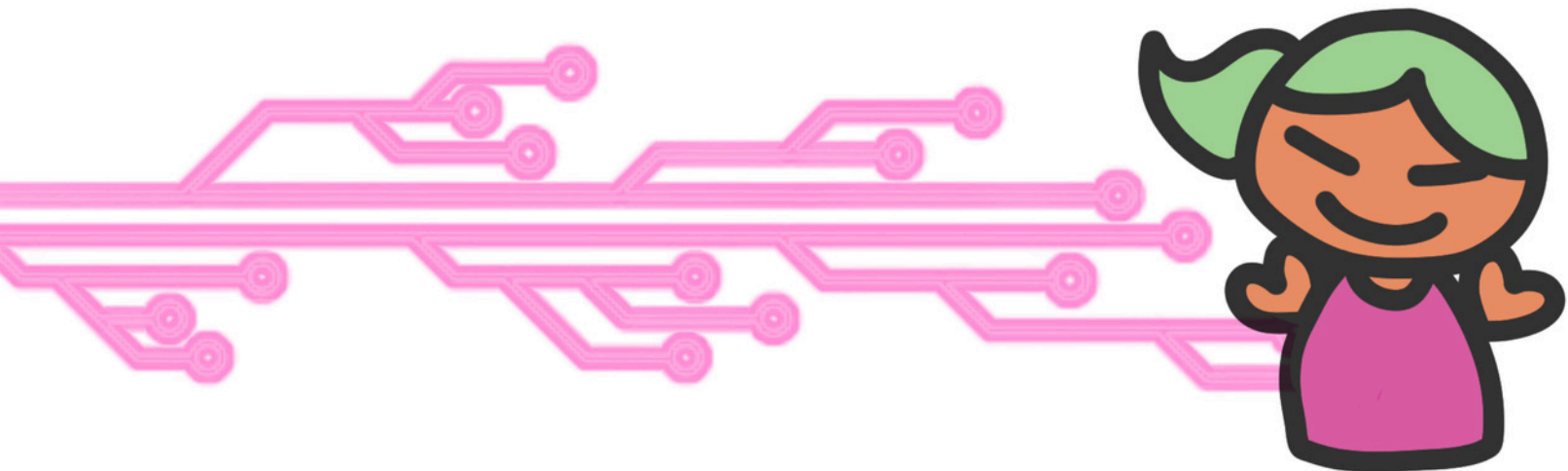
Fio: You don't have to, I already know. But I actually want to dive deeper into the mental health side of things, and how you've been using it to characterize your work. Should we talk about the figurine concept you came up with?

HANNIE: Let's do it!

Fio: So what I want to know the most is are the figurines, like, a physical representation of your OCD?



HANNIE: Hm...I don't think so. I think they're little guys who are going through the same things we are. A physical representation of something like OCD or anxiety would look a lot scarier, while my intention with the figurines was to take the concept of having intrusive thoughts—and the act of remembering being sometimes a painful act—and contrast it with cuteness. The first one I made, *Moody*, delved on themes of rapid changing of emotions that almost felt manic, which is unfortunately how I was feeling at the time. And because I can't help being nostalgic, the visual concept was based on those old crappy mood rings you'd find in stores.





Sometimes it hurts to remember...



Sometimes it hurts to remember...



Sometimes it hurts to remember...



Sometimes it hurts to remember...



Sometimes it hurts to remember...

PODS

RELAX MYSERIOUS POWERFUL

GOLD

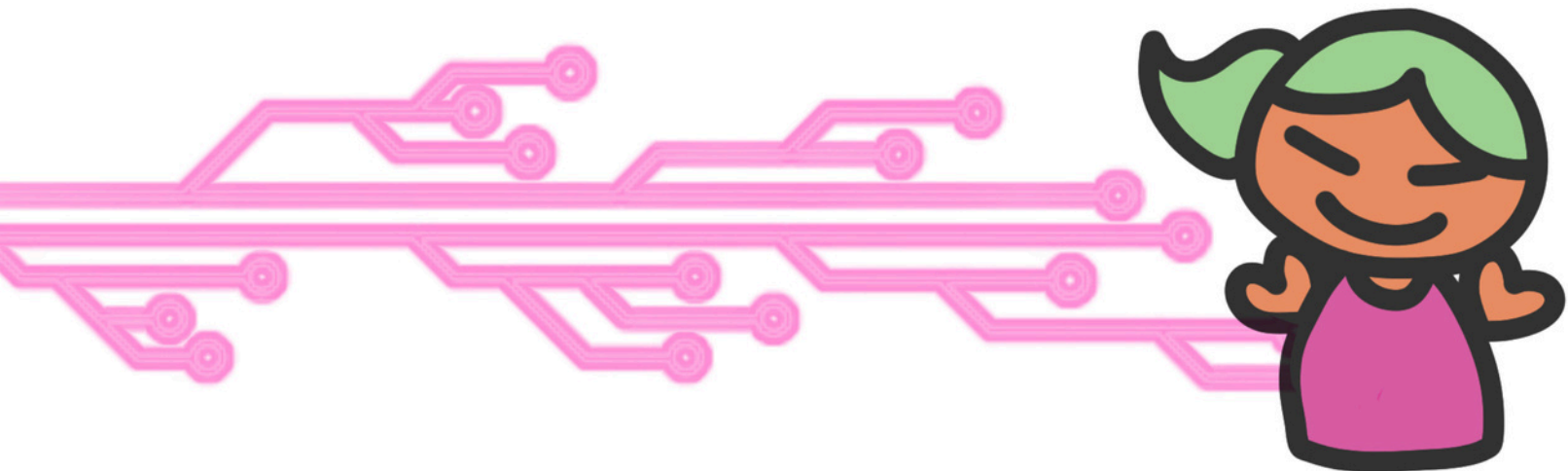
Fio: I like that a lot. If I had to think about what my anxiety looked like, it would probably be me but invisible. And he'd be like an evil version of me, and carry a sick ass blade and be chasing me around forever.

HANNIE: Oh, wow. That's interesting. For me it always felt like a bunch of sparks that spread throughout my body, like a disease.

Fio: Yeah?

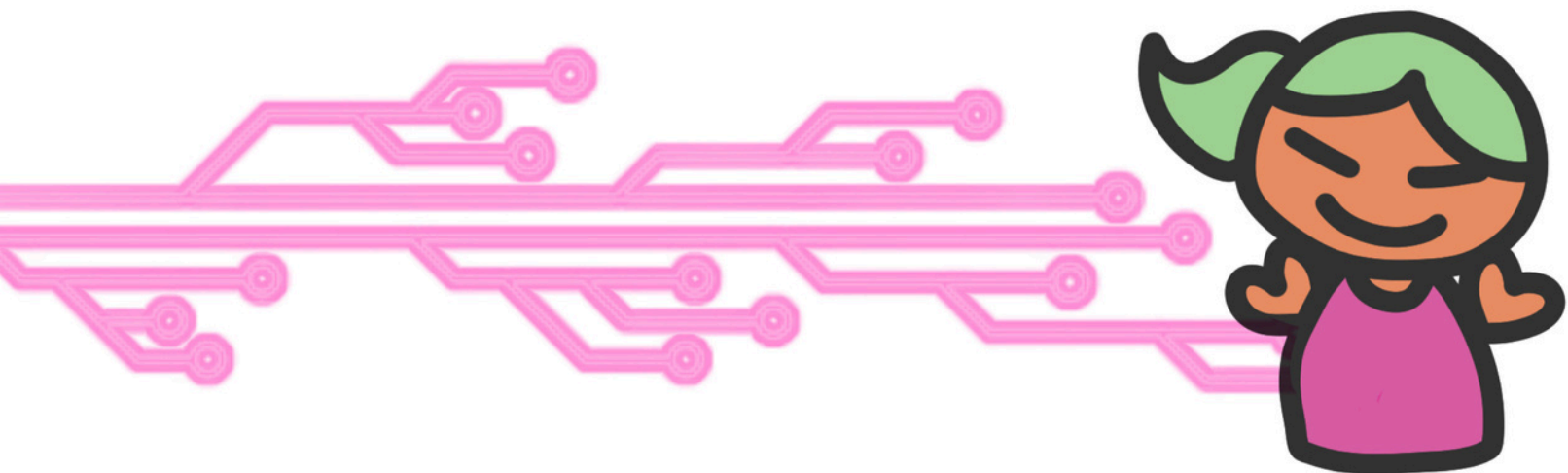
HANNIE: Yeah...

Fio: Well, not to get too off-topic, what was your inspiration behind the making of these guys?



HANNIE: I did a lot of research on what people like combined with my own feelings. People like cute, and y'know I like cute as well, but it also had to be personal to me or else I was just throwing out another generic cute thing into the world. I think working with my identity as a person with OCD and anxiety benefited me in that way. It's cute and commentary at the same time, which is also the crux of my work in general. I was super inspired by brands like Tokidoki and Gloomy Bear. Gloomy Bear especially, as it was meant to be in "opposition" to the idea of cuteness and about animal rights. The creator, Mori Chack, is an activist.

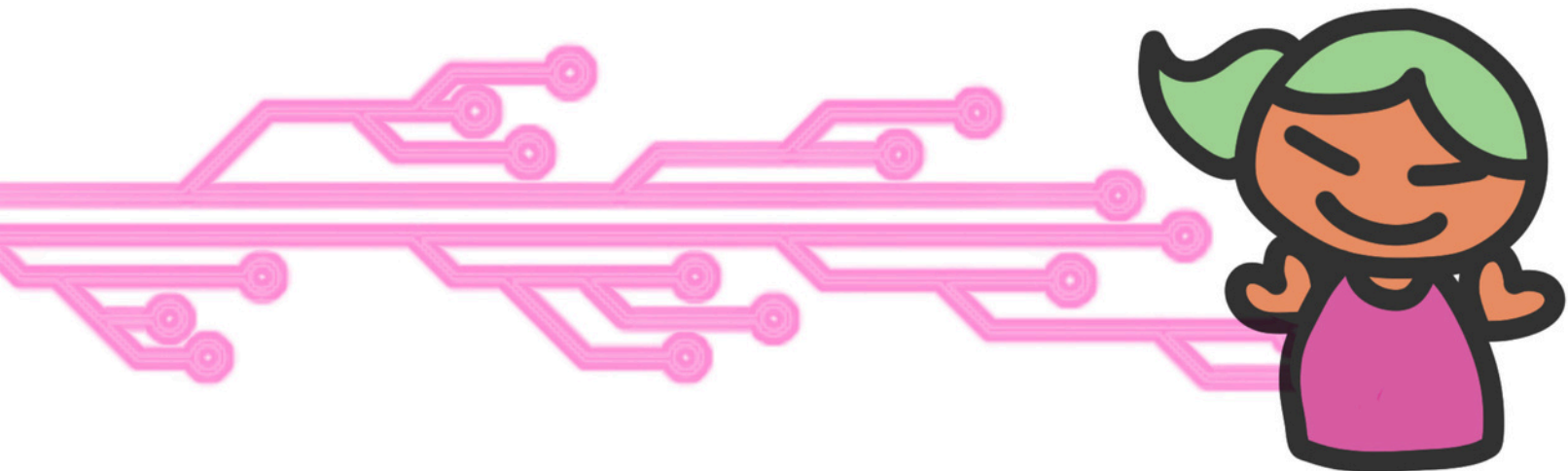
Fio: And will you make more?



HANNIIE: I hope so. I tried coming up with more concepts however I ended up getting burnt out and putting it away for a while. Mental illness will rear its ugly head no matter how many "cute little guys" you make. But I'm really satisfied with how *Moody* turned out, so I'm not worried. I'll have more in the future that are just as good.

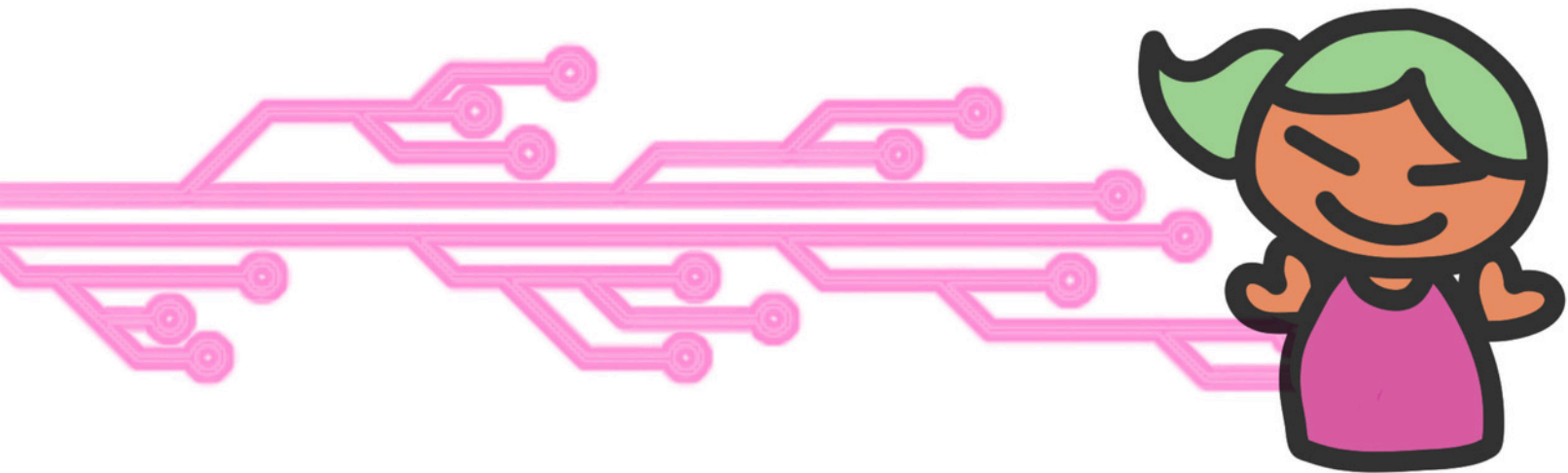
Fio: I love how you've been able to capitalize off of something originally an obstacle to you. I hope I'm able to find my own way of getting over the stuff I have going on too.

HANNIIE: I think you will. Don't give up!



Fio: I had a lot of fun talking to you, Hannie. Last question, can you tell the guys I'm your favorite? We have a bet going and I don't want to be out of fifty dollars. Please?

HANNIE: *[laughter]* I'll see you around, Fio.



KAEMIN:

ON IDENTITY



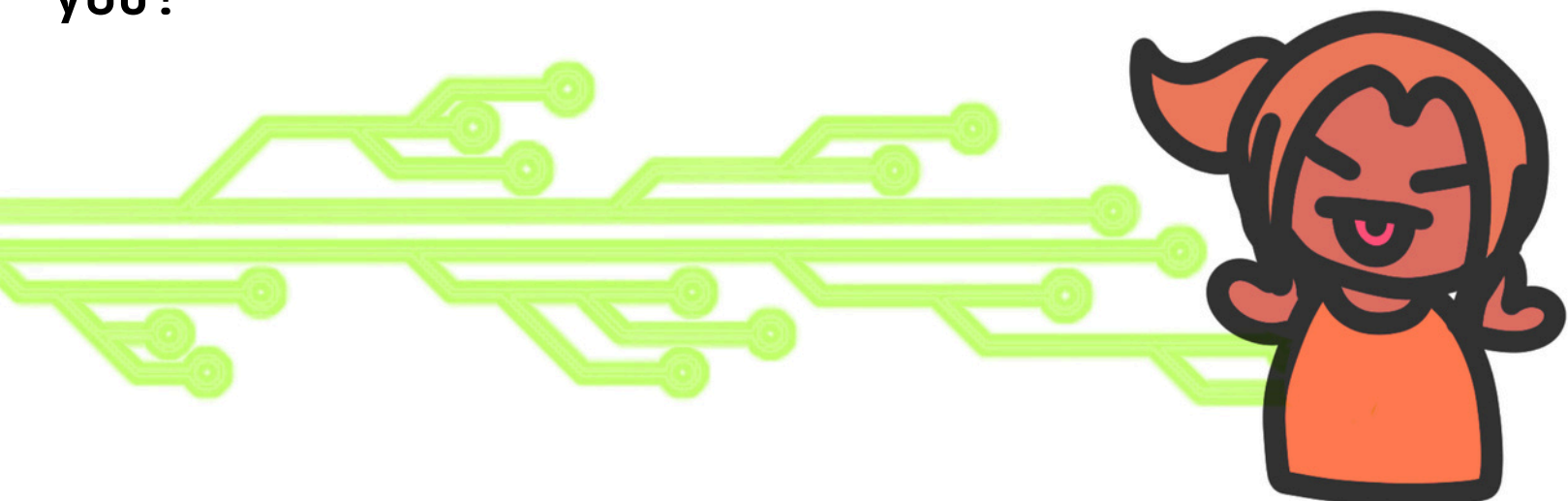
Kaemin: So before we get this thing started I have to know, what are you wearing right now?

HANNIE:



Kaemin: Oh. Is...is that the style over there? Seriously?

HANNIE: It's comfortable to me. Not everyone can be a fashion mogul like you!



Kaemin: I'd probably be an even better one if you weren't doing the drawing.

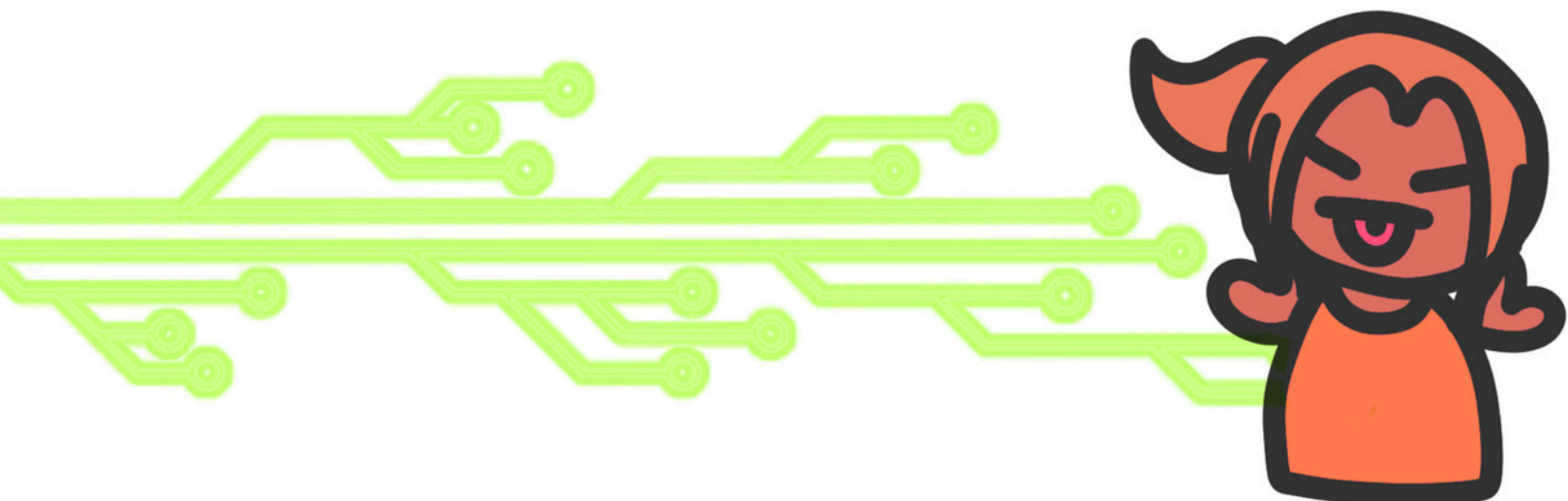
HANNIIE: Oh haha, don't you have some actual questions for me?

Kaemin: Right, right. So, you've had a really big year with identity haven't you?

HANNIIE: Yup, in my work and my personal life. I realized I'm asexual in January 2024, which I never thought would be a part of my identity.

Kaemin: Right, except I had always been that way.

HANNIIE: Exactly.



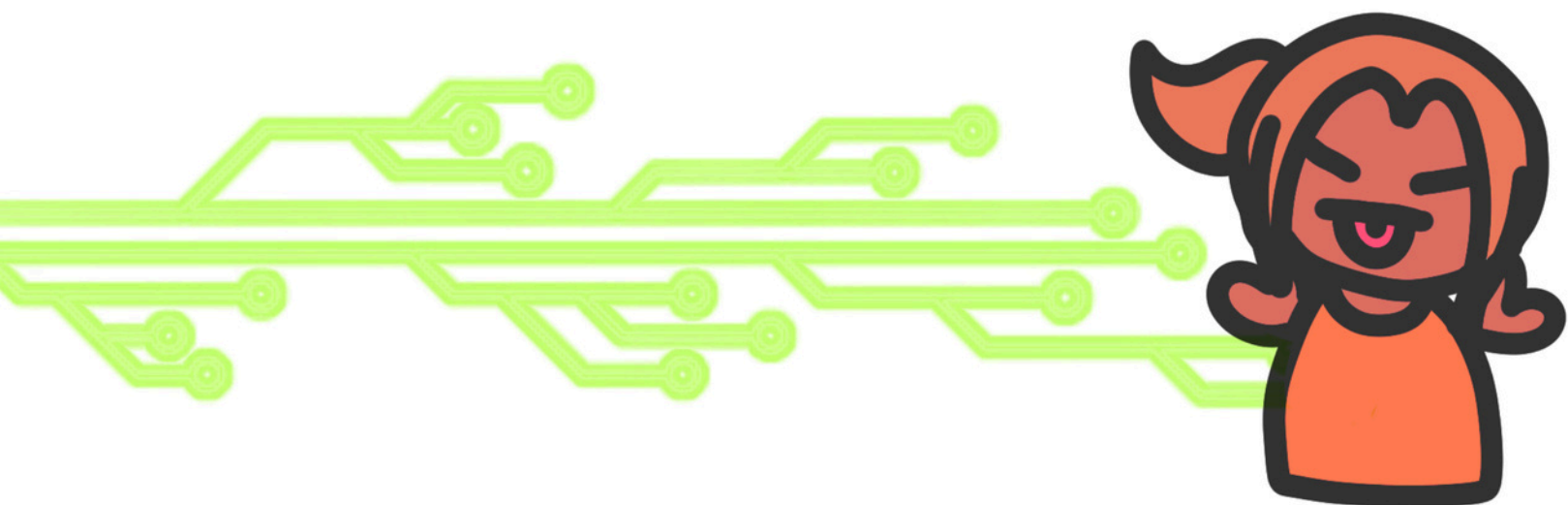


HANNIE: And now I look at you and I think, "Wow, I guess those feelings were always there. He's always been me." Except you're also aromantic and I'm not.

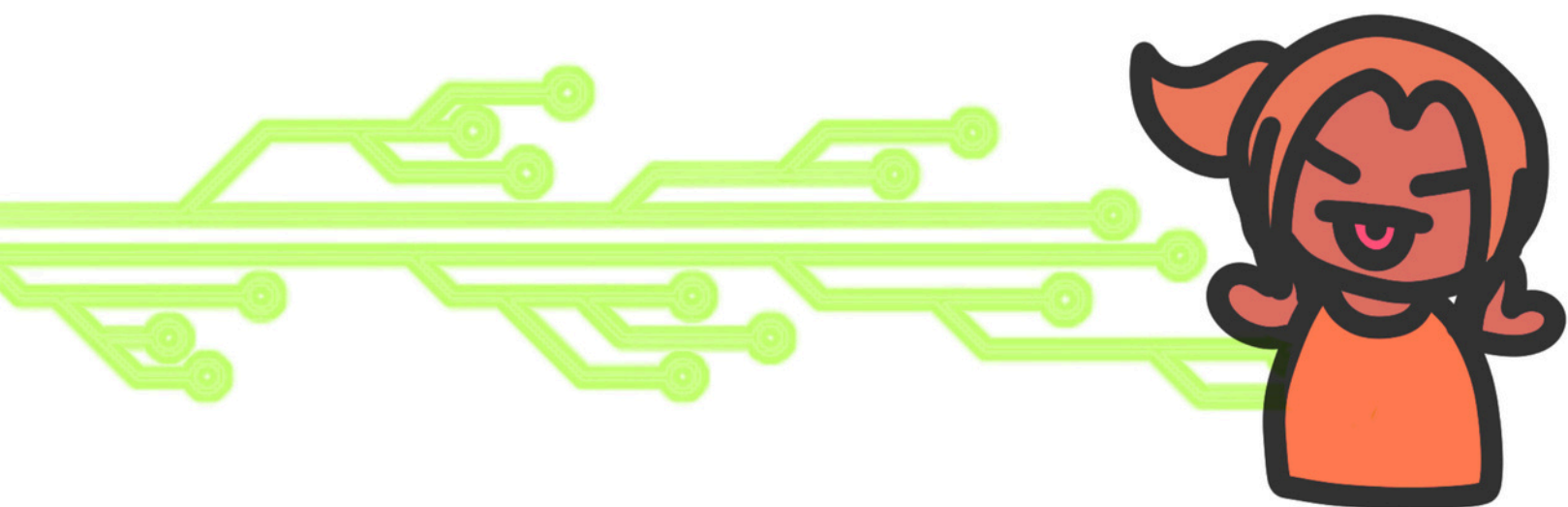
Kaemin: Eh, we'll see how we feel in a couple years.

HANNIE: *[laughter]* Oh my god, don't say that.

Kaemin: Do you think this revelation is going to affect your work? Do you think it's any different from how you treat being bisexual?



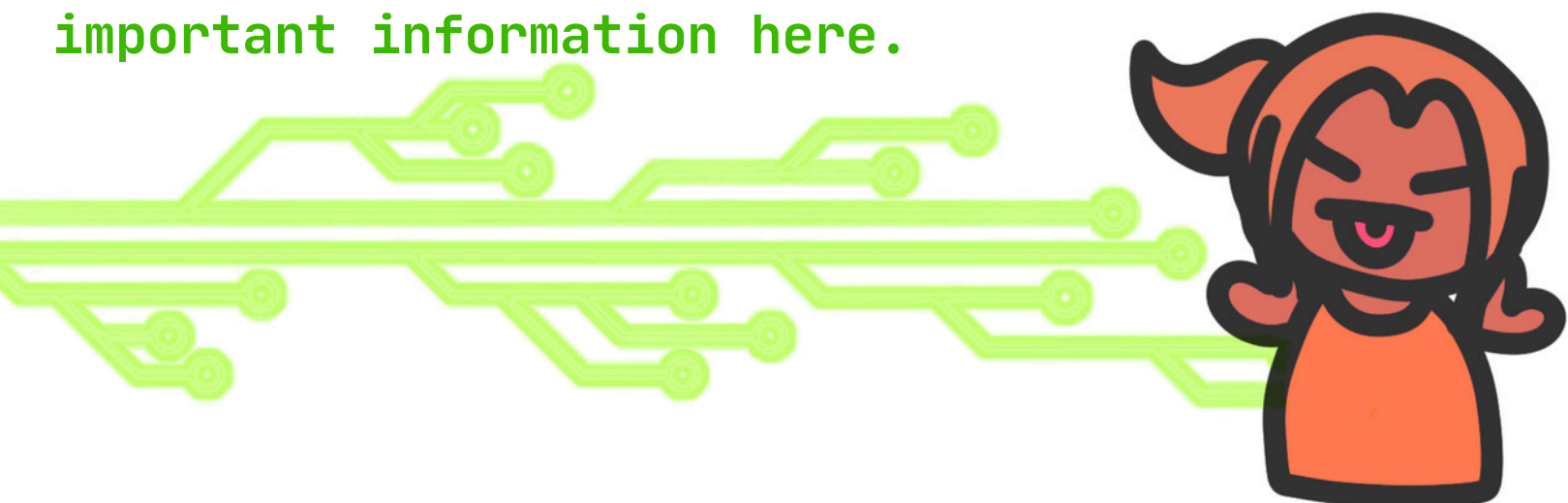
HANNIE: 100%. I feel more inclined to make work about being asexual than I do about being bisexual because there's such a severe lack of representation that comes with being ace. Only 1% of the entire world identifies as asexual, and because it's also a spectrum it's hard not to question myself and my experiences everyday. There's also a lot of misconceptions that come with being ace, and I feel like making work about it and ending those expectations would make me feel good about it. Of course, I'll always have you, and I'll always have Fio as bisexual rep but...I feel like I need to do more.



Kaemin: I think you've already done a lot. You made a lot of pride-based fan art when you were a teenager, right? And you recently revisited that in your thesis...care to explain yourself?

HANNIE: Okay okay, I'll embarrass myself a little here. I was a huge fangirl back in the day, and for my thesis I've been reimagining those experiences I had by replacing those "fandoms" as the object of desire with you guys. The work is a series of pillows, and I'll go more into detail about that with Mark, but one pillow references fanart I drew of characters with their "pride flags", which wasn't ever canon by the way, but the redraw with you guys is canon.

Kaemin: I feel like you're leaving out important information here.



Everyone is important.



oh no...



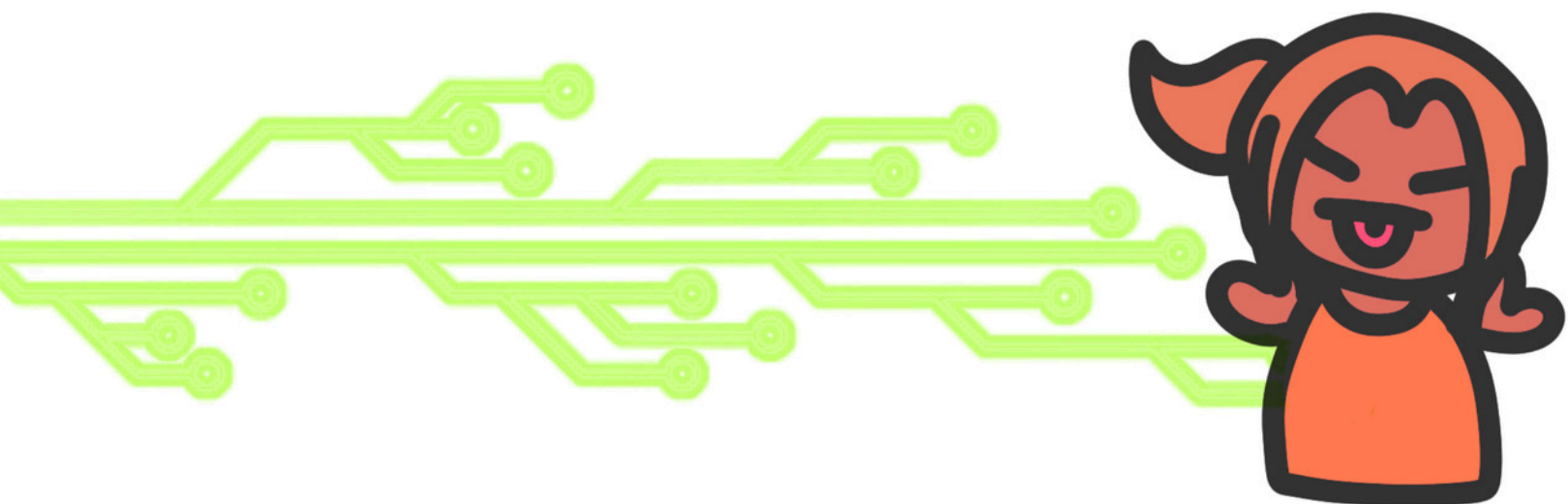
HANNIIE: [sigh] And it does include the "straight" flag.

Kaemin: Which is INSANE. I didn't even know that existed!

HANNIIE: Give me some grace, I was 14! I was trying to be inclusive and not ruffle any feathers. I thought if I included the straight flag in a pride post I wouldn't get harassed because I included everybody. Online spaces were pretty brutal.

Kaemin: And did you get harassed?

HANNIIE: Surprisingly, no. It actually went semi-viral in the fandom I was in, people really liked it.

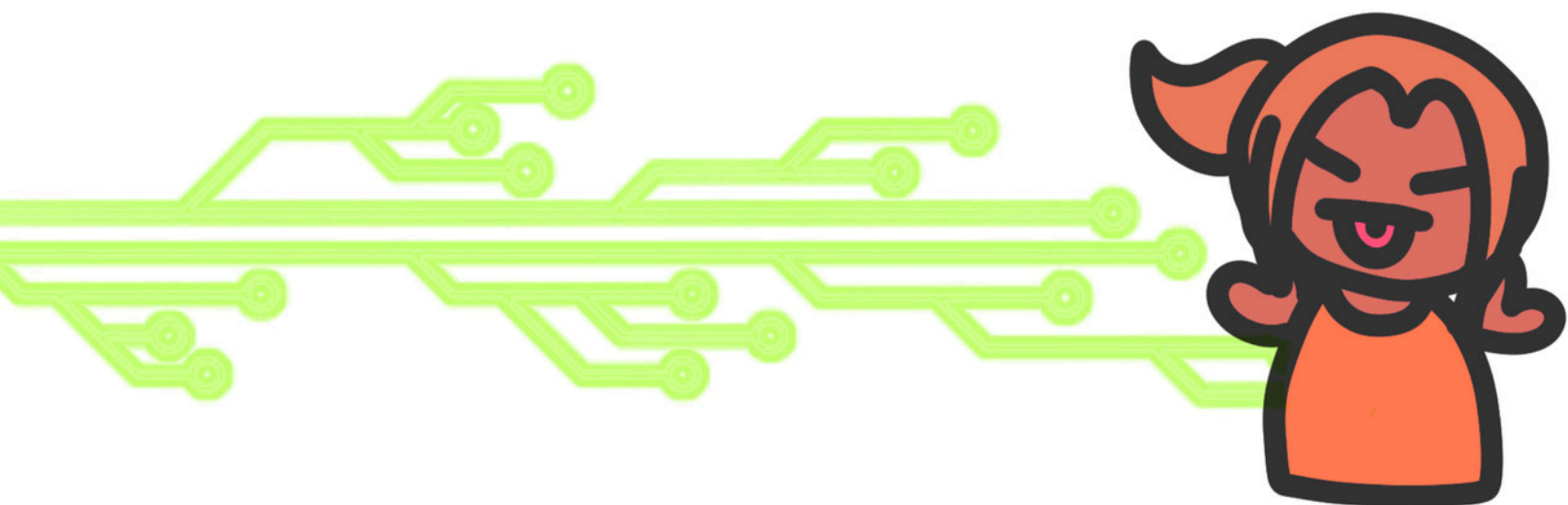


HANNIIE: So yeah, I remade it with you guys and I felt extremely cringe doing it. But pride in fandom spaces has always helped me out when it came to discovering myself, and is definitely a key player in the creation of *Big Miskates* in general.

Kaemin: Cringe is dead.

HANNIIE: Cringe is dead! It's important for me to make pieces that poke fun at myself but also promote the representation I deeply desire. I did the same with *Tattoo Flash*.

Kaemin: *Tattoo Flash*? I haven't heard about this one.



LABELS ARE A SELF-FULLFILLING PROPHECY!!

THERE ARE SO MANY OF US TO REBRAND. THERE ARE EIGHT BILLION PEOPLE ON THIS EARTH.



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YOU CAN ALWAYS START OVER. ALL IDENTITIES COME WITH THE GRAB TOOL. DISPOSE AND MOVE ON TO THE NEXT.



MICROLABELS ARE FREE AND FLEETING. DON'T YOU WANT TO BE? GROUNDLESSNESS BECOMES UNFULFILLING. SOUL SEARCH IN THE SKY. SOUL SEARCH IN YOUR SO NEW LIVES. CATEGORIZE.

CORE CORE CULT CORE CORE CORE CULT CORE CORE CORE CULT CORE CORE CULT CORE CORE CULT CORE



Say hello to your top artist, Pierce The Veil



i can only grasp the weight of my asexuality through the purchase of a redbubble sticker

hannii33

imagine you broke up with jimmy fallon weeks ago and its the opening night of your show, you think he wont show up but when you turn around you see him dressed like this 😏



I HAVE O.C.D



if you think i'm annoying to be around imagine how annoying i am to be



don't forget to check your weather app



ITOP

FLASH



When I think I miss you, I realize
I'm not missing you at all. I'm missing
myself.

When you break up, I'm sorry. I'm sorry
you and not the opening night of your show.
You think he won't love her but when you meet
someone you see him die. All the time.

Don't forget to check
your weather app



I can only grasp the weight of my
soul, only through the hands of
a red-lipped witch.

you
cannot
go
back

Say hello to your favorite artist,
Pierce The Veil

LABELS ARE A SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY!
THERE ARE SO MANY OF US TO BE HONORED
THERE ARE SO MANY BILLYGAY PEOPLE
DO THE MATH.

IF YOU ARE TO
REINVENT
YOURSELF (I'M
SAYING IT FOR YOU)
CONSIDER YOUR LABELS
AS THE ONLY WAY TO
IDENTIFY YOUR
IDENTITY IN 90 DAYS!

YOU ARE YOUR BRAND.
BEFORE THE CITY OF
MORNING APPROXIMATES
YOUR LABELS
TO GIVE THE USER
A REAL LIFE
EXPERIENCE.

COKE	COKE
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COKE	COKE
COKE	COKE

YOU CAN ALWAYS
HAVE A LABEL THAT
ISN'T YOURS. BUT
YOU CAN'T HAVE
ONE THAT ISN'T
YOUR OWN.

VI



I miss you
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS
AND SHUT THE HELL UP

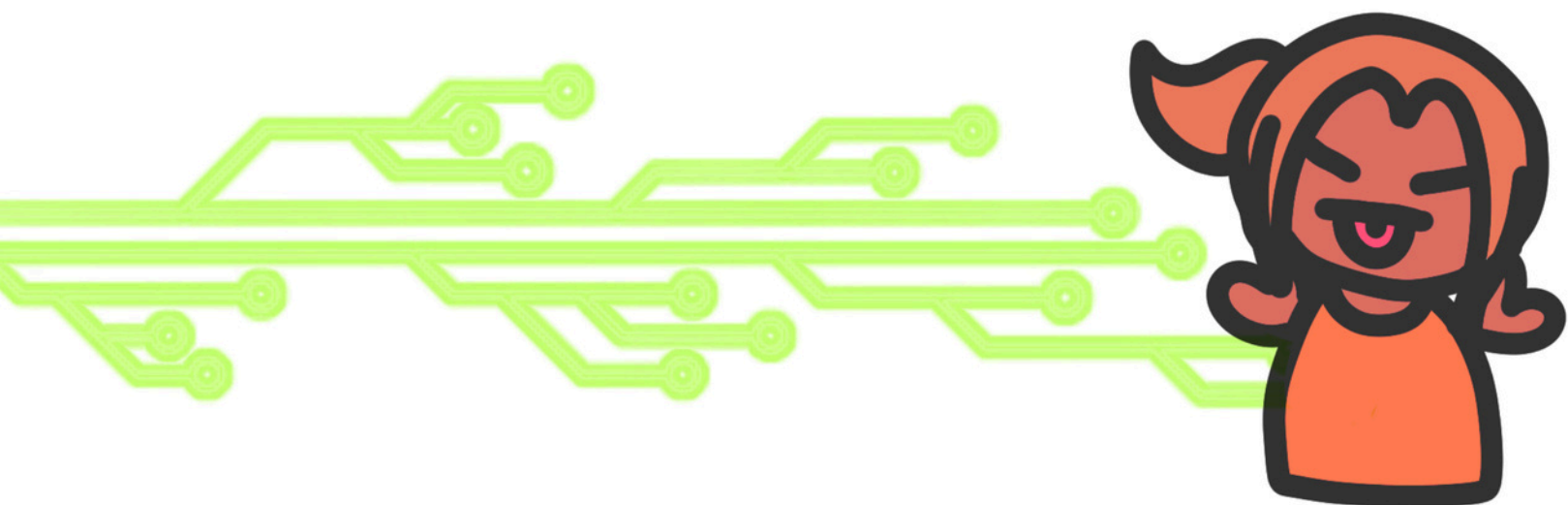
IT'S 2014. I MAY HAVE HUNG
BACK PIECE ON MURRAY
COMPLAINS ABOUT OUR FRIDGE
SUBSCRIBER & GORG UP BY 200.
TRY WEE PIER ON A RESPIRATOR.
PLEASE TO GO WATER OUR PLANTS.
LARK UNUSUAL MURRAY HUNG HER
TWIN'S MURRAY MURRAYED. THE PLANT
IS GONE.



HANNIE: It's fairly new as well, it's a welded structure featuring fourteen tattoo designs printed on sheet metal. Each design is a testament to some part of my identity, including two designs about being asexual. A lot of the designs are deteriorated and messy, which requires you to spend more time with the piece.

Kaemin: Do we understand the "lore" behind it immediately, or are we meant to come to our own conclusion about what each design means to you?

HANNIE: You're definitely meant to come to your own conclusions, but I'm also willing to explain the meaning for those who ask.



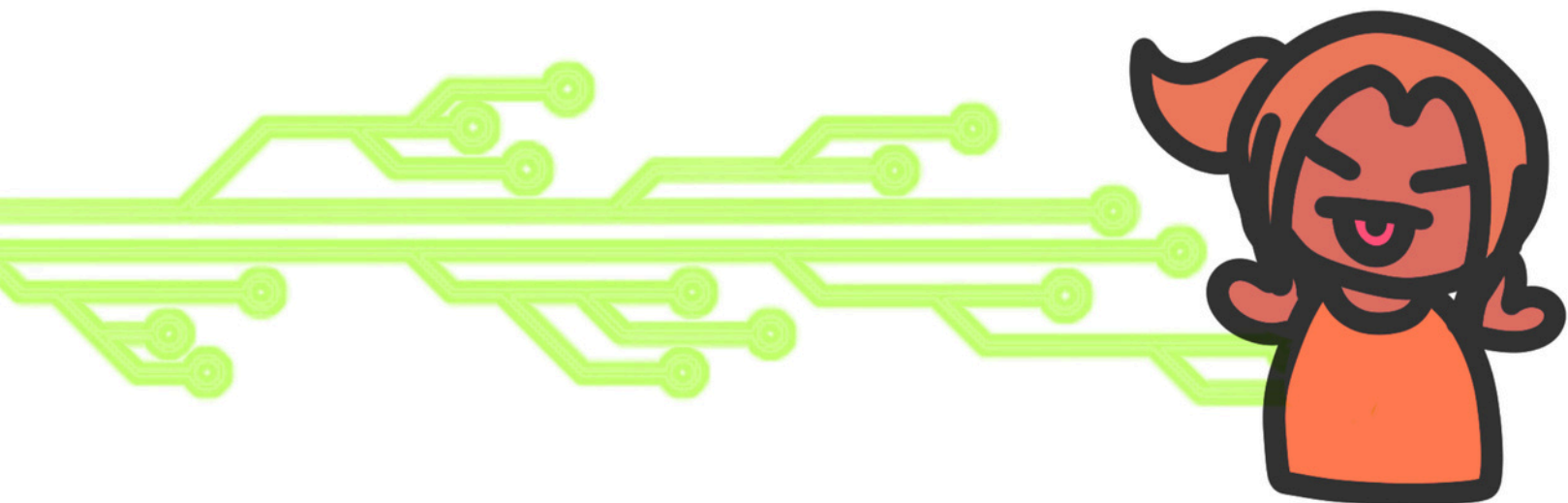
HANNIIE: It's similar to getting an actual tattoo on your body, the meaning is meant for only you to understand but you're also inviting others to get a glimpse into your world.

Kaemin: Will you ever get any tattoos?

HANNIIE: I want some, but I also have perfection bias so I'm afraid to take that leap. I couldn't deal with tattoo regret, it would affect me mentally. But we'll see. Would you get one?

Kaemin: Oh god no. I don't mind other people getting them but me? My skin is too perfect. No tattoos, ever.

HANNIIE: So you say now.



Kaemin: Don't do that.

HANNIIE: Kidding! Just kidding!

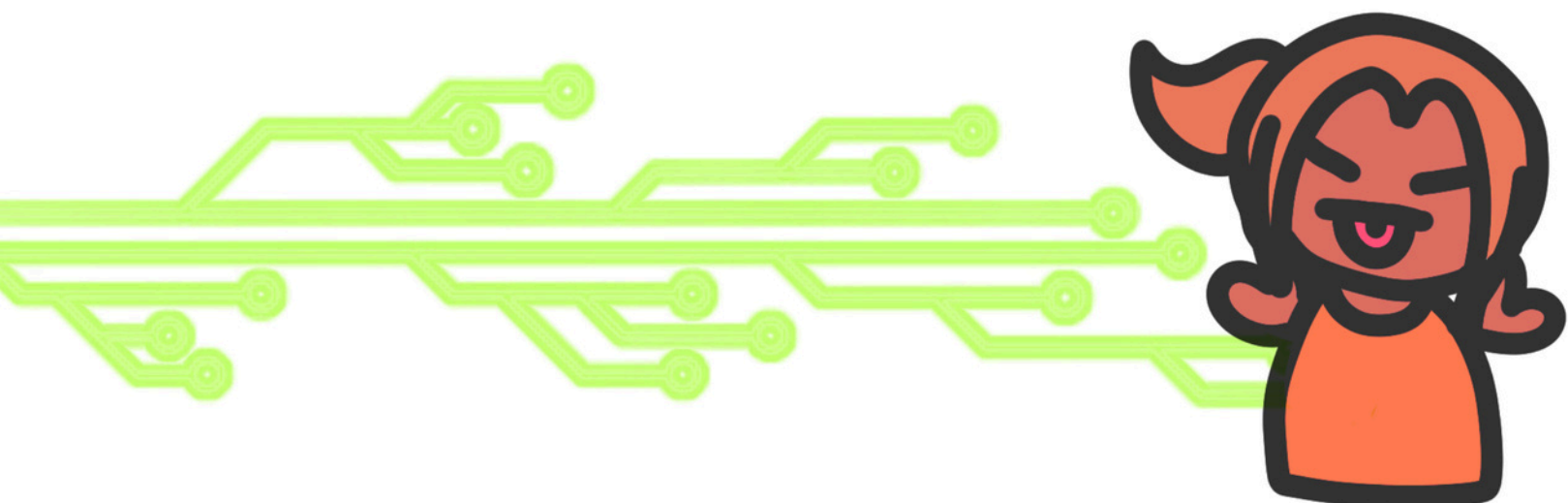
Kaemin: Well, you seem to be really comfortable and in your element making identity-based work. I'm happy for you.

HANNIIE: Thanks, I'm happy about it too.

Kaemin: Final question, what's your go-to clothing piece right now?

HANNIIE: My "Nerdvana" shirt! I've been tapping into the 2010's nostalgia lately.

Kaemin: Love it!!



MAC:

ON FRIENDSHIP



Mac: HANNIIE!!!

HANNIIE: MAC!!!

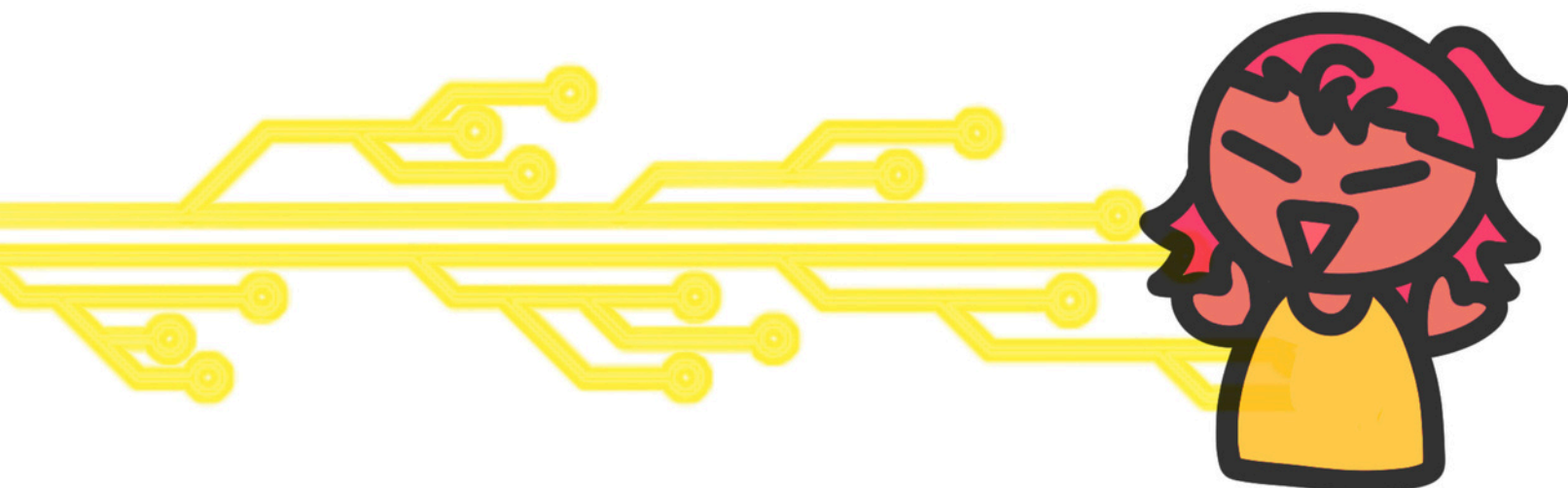
Mac: Are you ready for my totally awesome questions?!

HANNIIE: Oh I'm ALWAYS ready for your totally awesome questions! Hit me!

Mac: Okay, my first question. Do you have friends?

HANNIIE: *[slight laughter]* Yes I have friends. I have a lot of friends, most are very far away though.

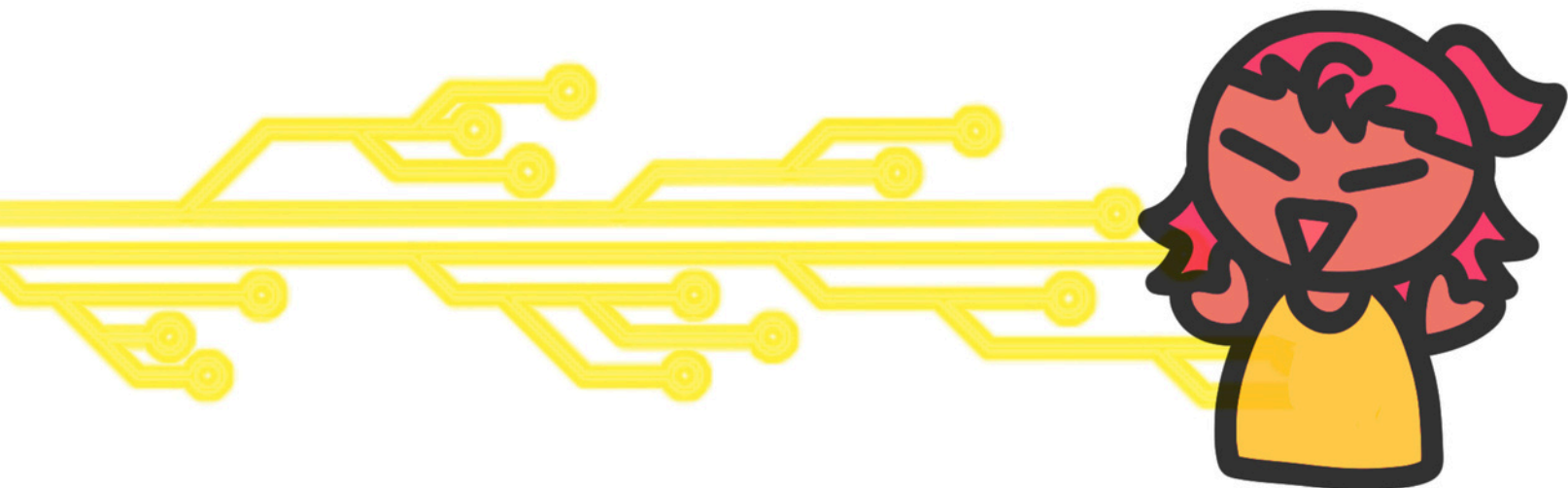
Mac: Do you feel close to your friends?



HANNIIE: I wish we were closer, geographically and personally. I definitely have close friends but they live elsewhere so a lot of my time outside of school is spent by myself. I definitely wish I still had a close-knit friend group that I could go out with still. And I think overall I'm definitely craving a close companionship I currently don't have. I guess that comes with growing up and becoming an adult.

Mac: Huh, well, that's never gonna happen to me and the guys. We're too close to ever drift apart.

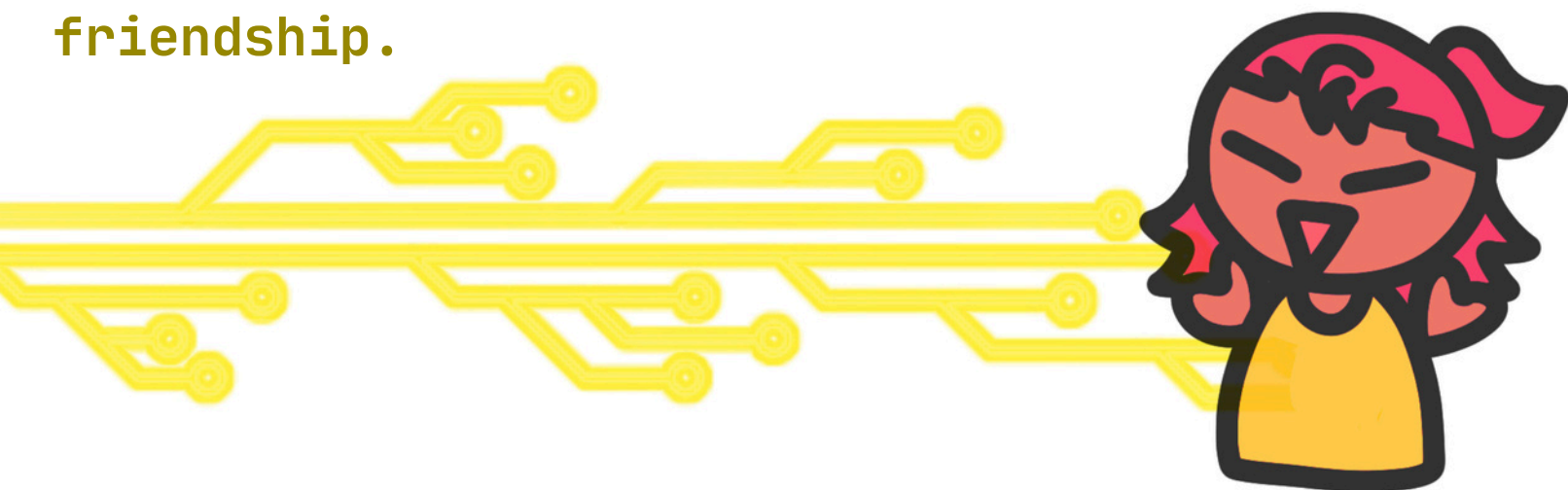
HANNIIE: I hope it doesn't, but it's common.



Mac: Did your profound loneliness cause you to make *Big Miskates*?

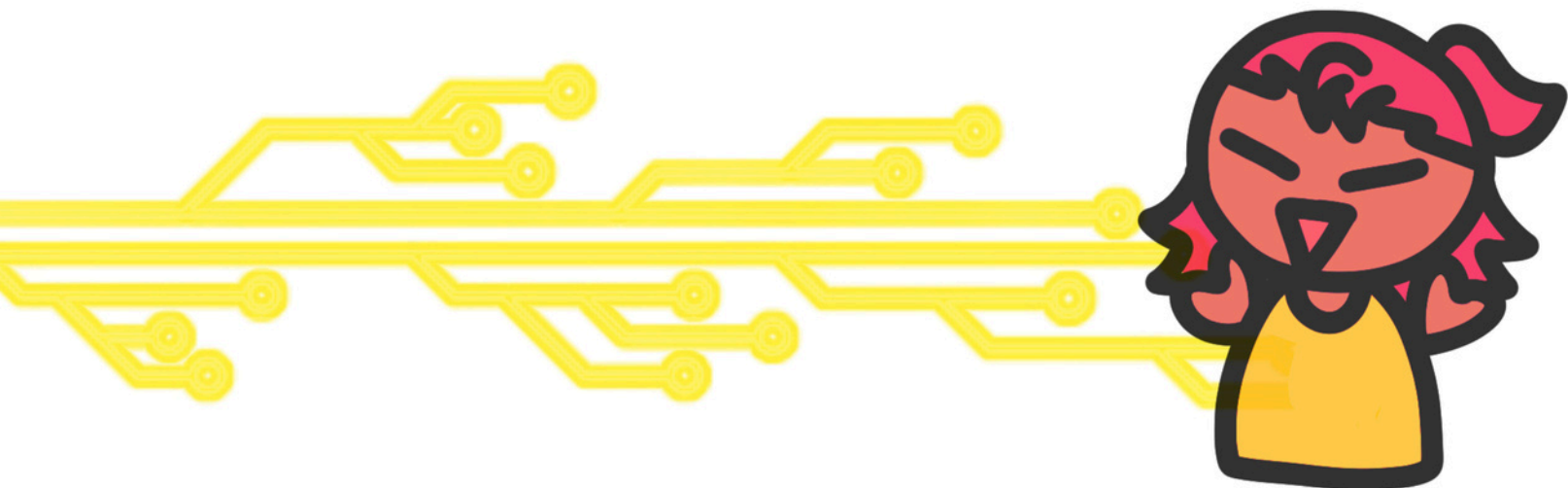
HANNIE: Yikes, extremely blunt today are we? No, my “profound loneliness” didn’t cause me to make *Big Miskates*. You guys were created when I was a teenager myself, and since then I’ve gone through waves of friendship highs and lows. I think *Big Miskates* was created out of a deep love for the concept of friendship, that no matter what happens there will always be those around you to get you back on your feet. Especially now that I reevaluate the concept of a “relationship” in the wake of my asexuality. I think friendship can be as deep as love, perhaps even more so.

Mac: Yeah! I love my friends. And I love that there’s a real life archive of our friendship.



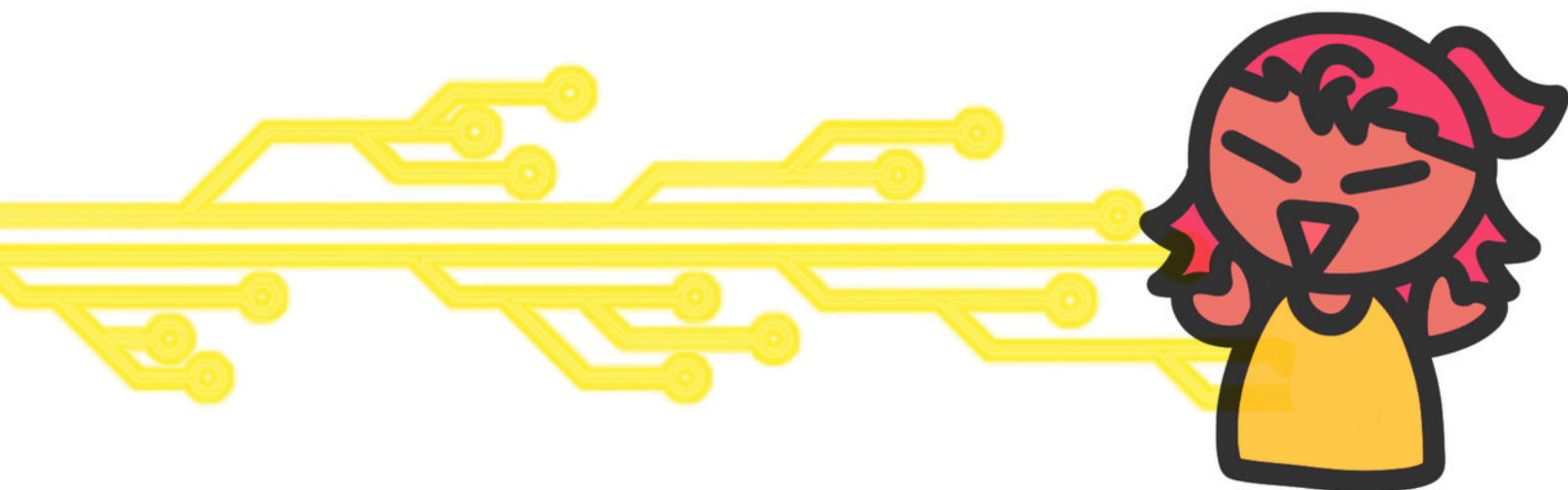
Mac: Can you talk about how *Big Miskates* came to be?

HANNIE: Would love to! Like I said, the first concepts came when I was a teenager. I had a huge obsession with 80's culture and wanted to create a friend group going through that period of time together. In hindsight it was kind of naive, your outfits and hair were definitely too modern and I had absolutely no bandwidth to talk about LGBT identities in the 80's. So in 2021, I modernized it. I was a junior in college, during the point in my degree where we were making pitch packets to send to publishers and hoping for book deals straight out of college. Again, still naive. But that's when *Big Miskates* first got its name.



Mac: And it was in the traditional style of comics then wasn't it?

HANNIE: Yes, which was a huge pitfall. It was a fully colored, panel-by-panel YA graphic novel in the style of all those graphic novels that are published by huge publishers. And of course graphic novels are successful that way, but the process wasn't enjoyable for me. I adopted a more manga-inspired style, which was more fun but still hard to push through without getting burnt out. Not to mention, I was not getting those book deals. Like at all. I made maybe three pitch packets of Big Miskates before I decided to take matters into my own hands. It was summer of 2023...

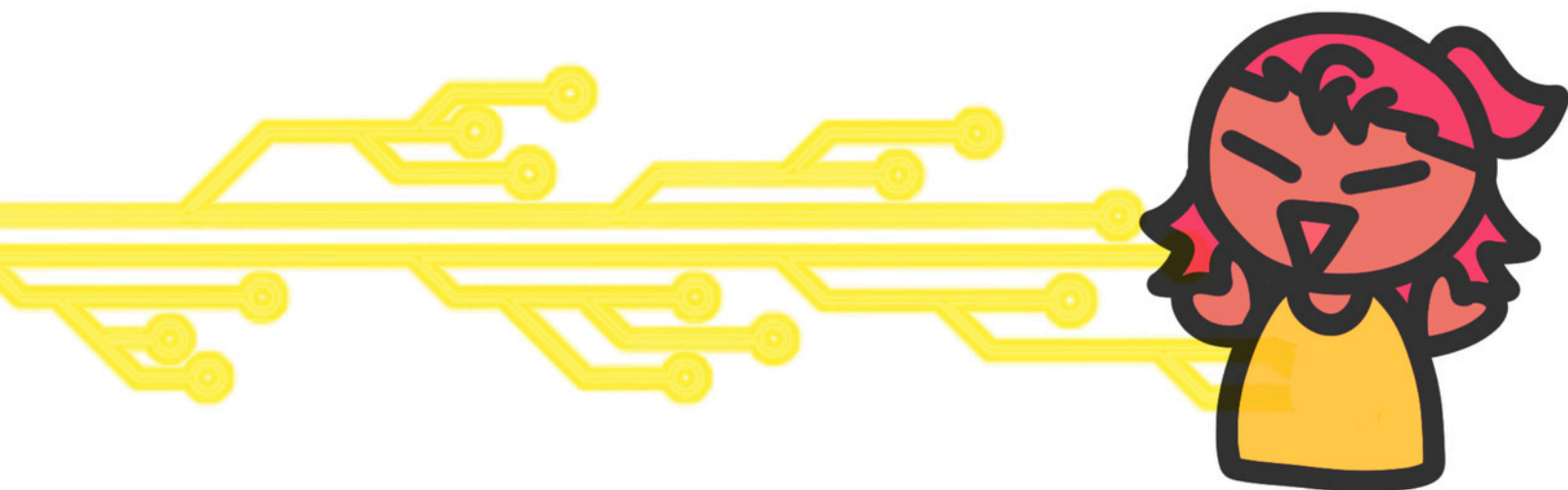


Mac: What a time.

HANNIE: Oh it was. I was a couple months away from starting grad school, I was an unemployed loser in my grandma's house looking at Tiktok all day...

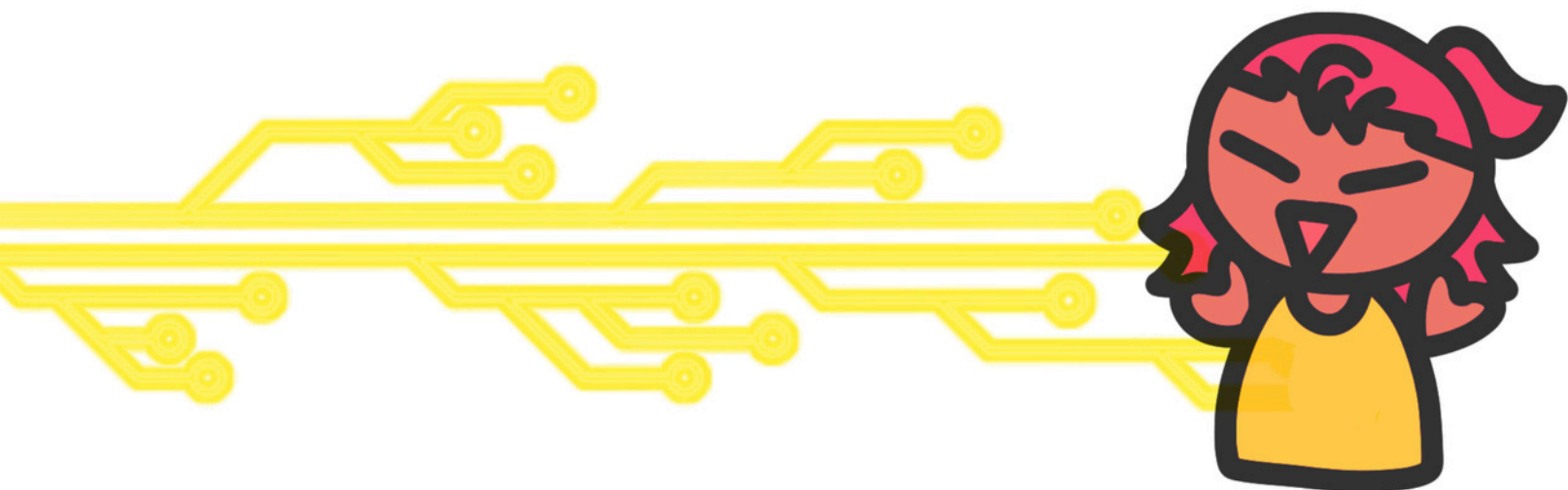
Mac: *[laughter]* Don't call yourself a loser!

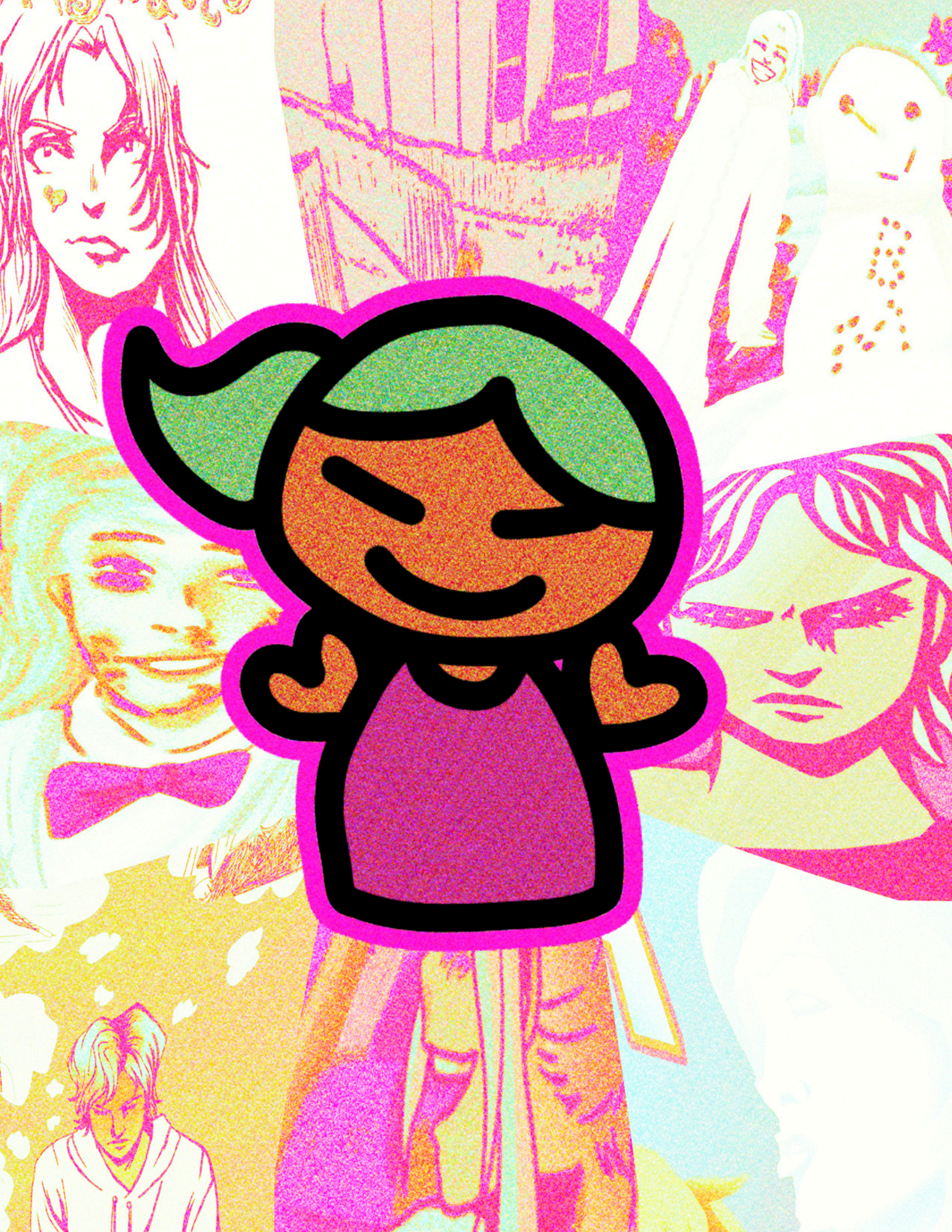
HANNIE: But I was! And I say that with pure endearment because I was also cooking something up. I had written a couple scripts before but my main question was, "How can I make something tangible with these characters while also getting my MFA and working on a whole other graphic novel?", because at the time I was still planning to make my racing story the actual thesis.

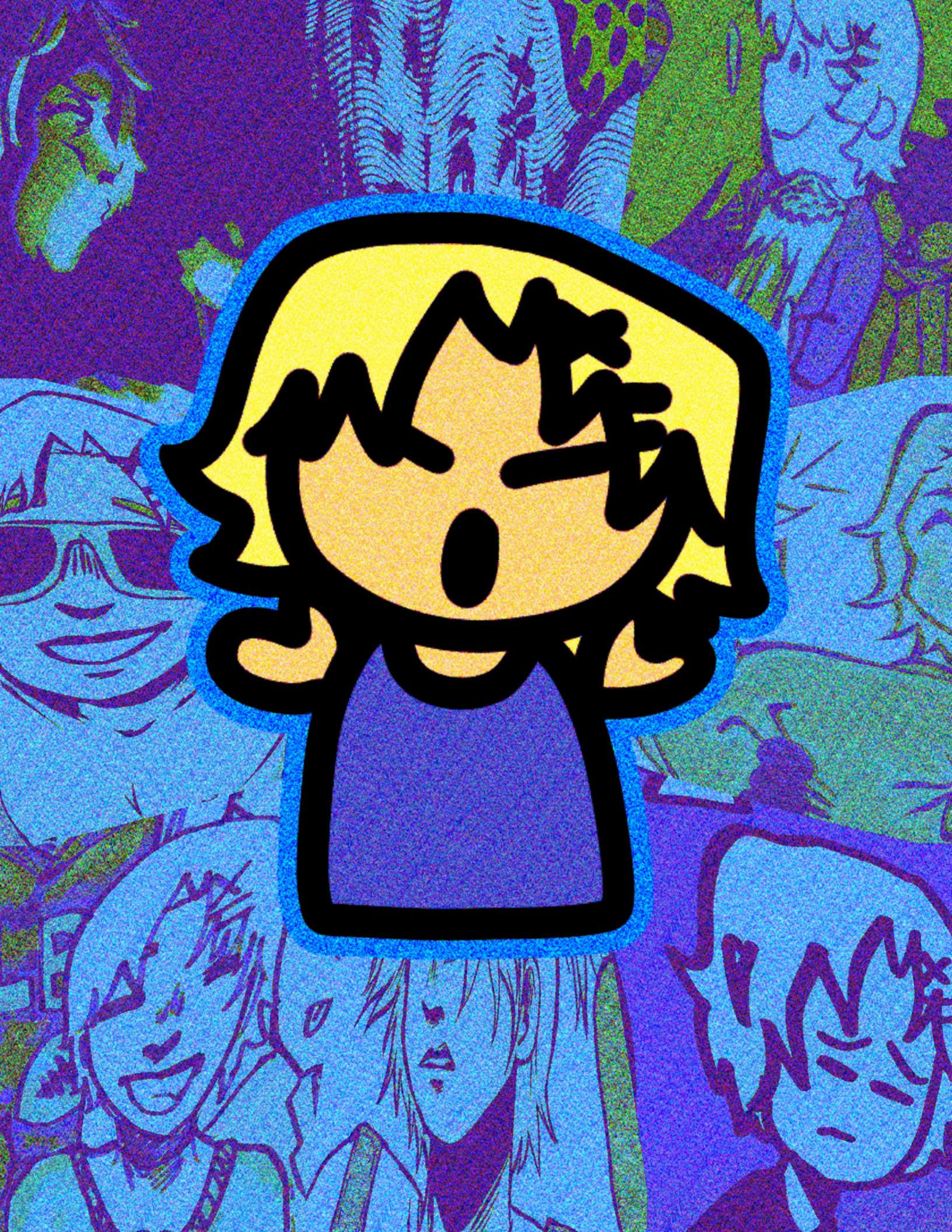


HANNIE: It's crazy to think about because now *Big Miskates* is the thesis instead. I was very inspired by this one artist, Paperbeatsscissors who had this series called "Vibe for the Week" on Instagram. Each week was an illustration that told its own story, but was also a part of a larger thing. And I thought, "What if I made weekly illustrations, with the same five characters, that also told a cohesive story?".

Mac: And *Big Miskates* was born!







ir letters to!

t to write for





Holiday
When: Dec. 26th
@Bora

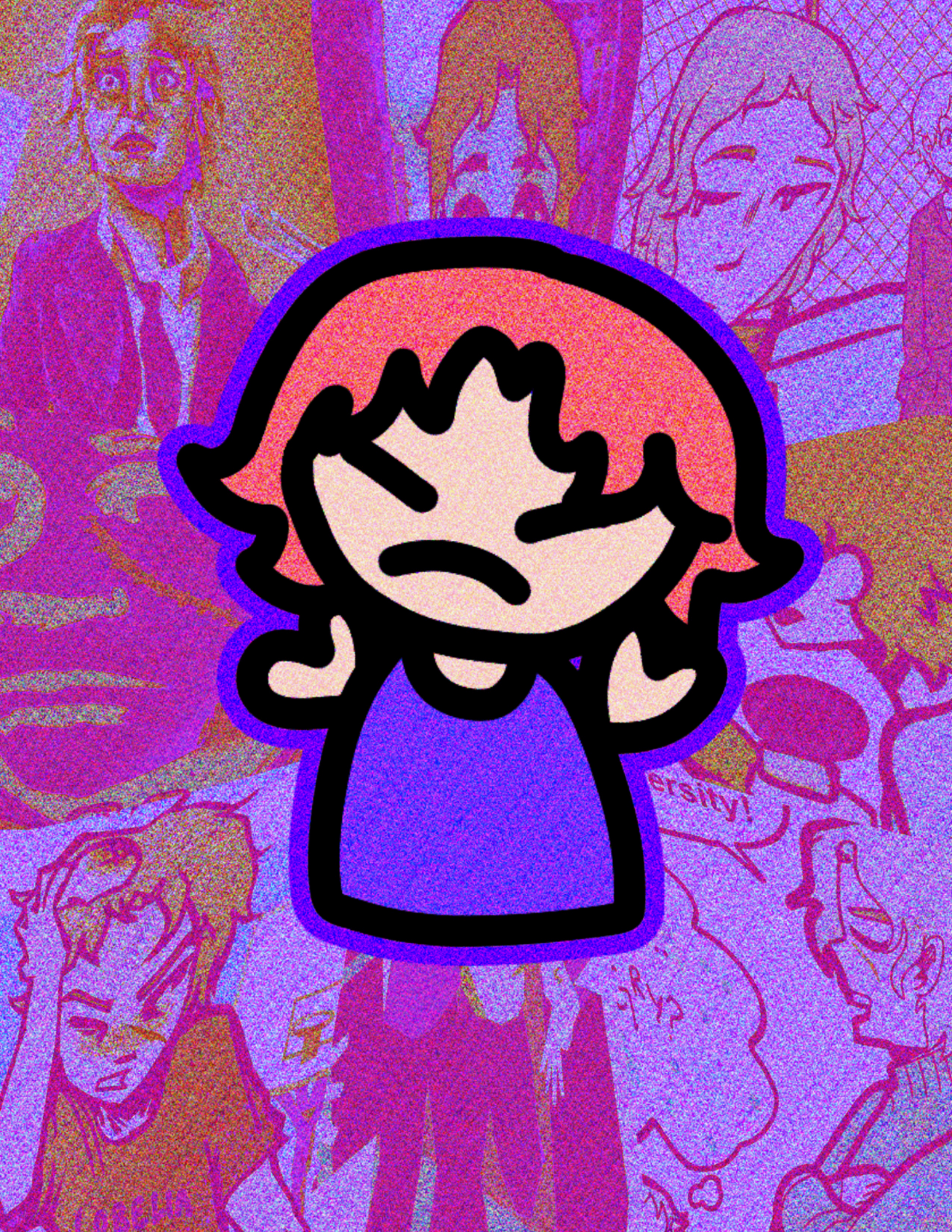
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(099)125-2119

Food, fashion, & games

LOBELIA

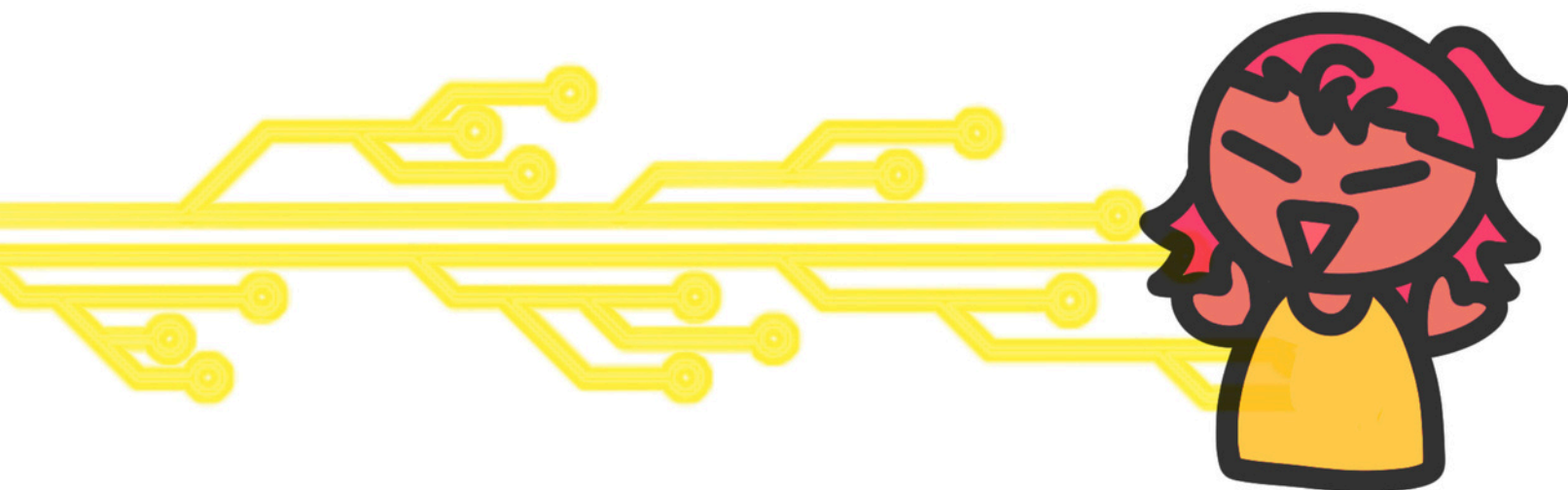
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BM



HANNIE: *Big Miskates* was born! And it was very loose at first, I told myself I wouldn't tie myself down to it, and I could quit whenever I wanted. But I could never abandon you guys, and now it's getting bigger and we already have the first book done. It's fun, it's experimental, and it's so important for me to have something that focuses on the importance of friendship and companionship. And when that other graphic novel fell through, it didn't hurt because at the end of the day I had you guys, and things were going to be okay. *Big Miskates* is one of the best decisions I could've made for my practice.

Mac: And you've made the series bigger than just the comic right?

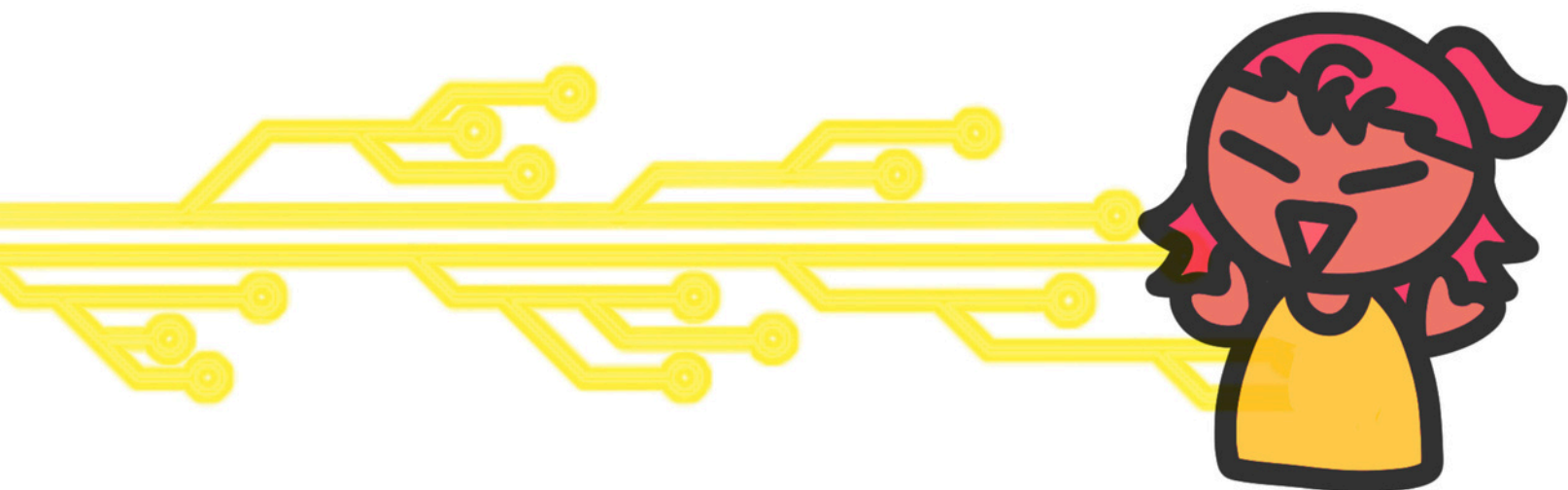



HANNIIE: Oh yeah. I made posters, pamphlets, clothing, and a bunch of patches for the First Year Show. It's included in many of my sculptures as well...

Mac: And you made a sign...

HANNIIE: It sounds like you want me to talk about the Fio sign.

Mac: Yes, please!! It's my favorite piece of yours!





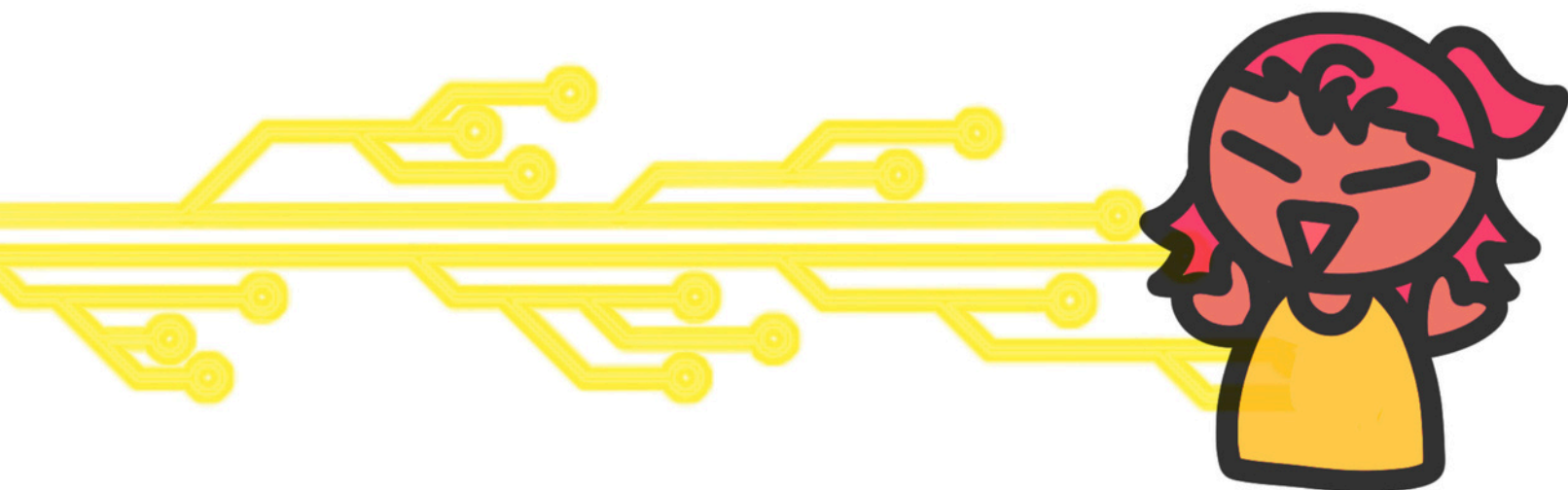
I'M IN A HURRY TO
SEE MY FRIENDS.
I MAY RUN INTO THE
ROAD.
YOU WOULD DO IT TOO,
IF YOU HAD FRIENDS
LIKE MINE.

i love to jaywalk...



HANNIE: Okay, okay. Yes, the Fio sign was another dive into learning sculpture. It was an assignment I gave myself while learning woodshop. I'm really into the concept of street signs and sending a message to the public. In this case I was really inspired by the concept of *Tobidashi Boya*, which are traffic safety awareness signs that appear in Japan near school zones. They're meant to warn drivers of children running into the road and to warn children not to run into the road. I thought it was really a really cute way to spread awareness and of course, I had to make a version with Fio.

Mac: Because he's accident prone or because he lacks awareness?

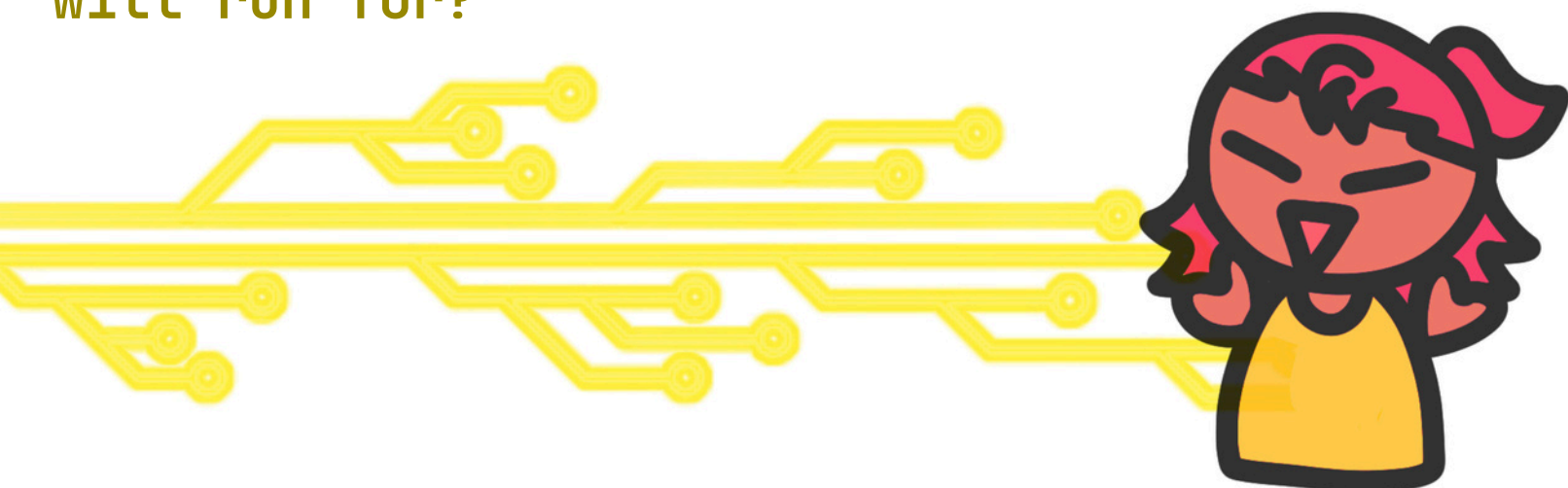


HANNIE: [laughter] I think it's because he skates, and he's more likely to be out in the streets than the rest of you.

Mac: I really like the text you added on his shirt too. "I'm in a hurry to see my friends. I may run into the road. You would do it too, if you had friends like mine." I think it really represents the whole concept of *Big Miskates*.

HANNIE: That was actually a last-minute addition, his shirt originally was going to be blank. But I'm glad I did it, the added text makes it a much stronger piece. And you're right, it really represents the whole concept of *Big Miskates*.

Mac: How long do you think *Big Miskates* will run for?



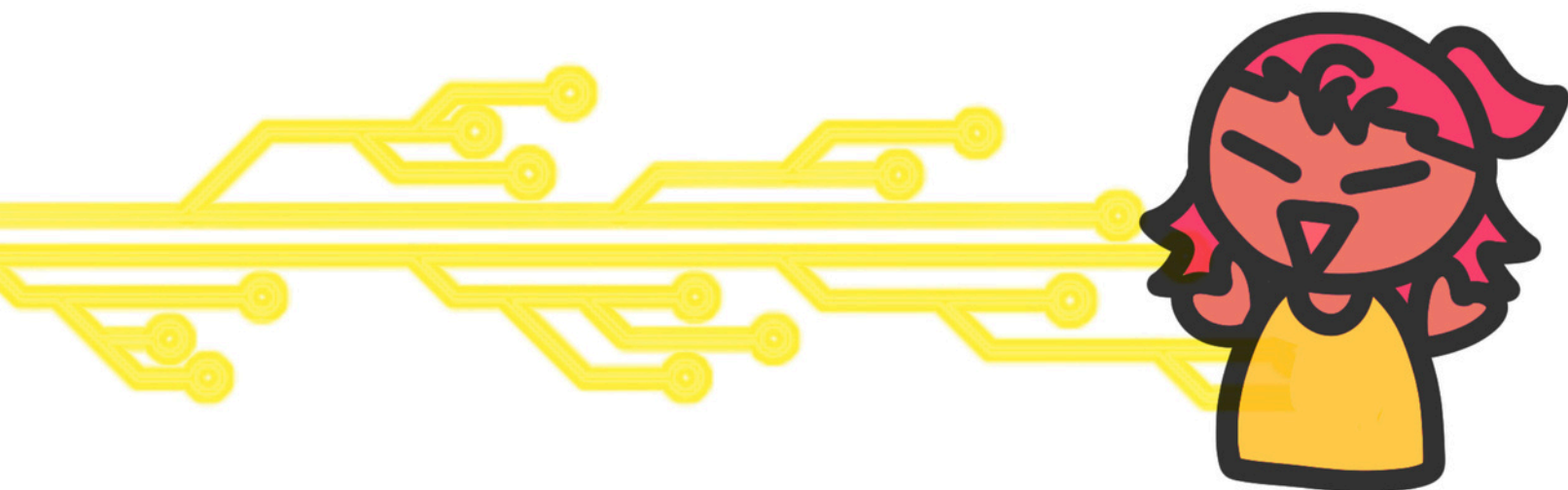
HANNIE: Hopefully until you guys graduate college, which is a six year plan. A lot can happen in six years, and I hope for there to be a lot of growth for both me and for you guys. And I hope people resonate with it, and find comfort in the companionship you guys have because I definitely do.

Mac: Awesome. Okay, I just have one more question.

HANNIE: Sure!

Mac: Should I quit football to become a journalist?

HANNIE: Huh?



NIKOLAI: ON OBJECTS AND NOSTALGIA



Nikolai: If you were a bug, what kind of bug would you be?

HANNIE: I'm not a big fan of bugs, but probably a caterpillar.

Nikolai: Does that count if it's the larval stage of another bug?

HANNIE: I think it counts.

Nikolai: Okay, what if you were a fish?

HANNIE: Are these the warm up questions you came up with?

Nikolai: Yeah.

HANNIE: I'd probably be a jellyfish. And don't say it doesn't count because that is its final stage.

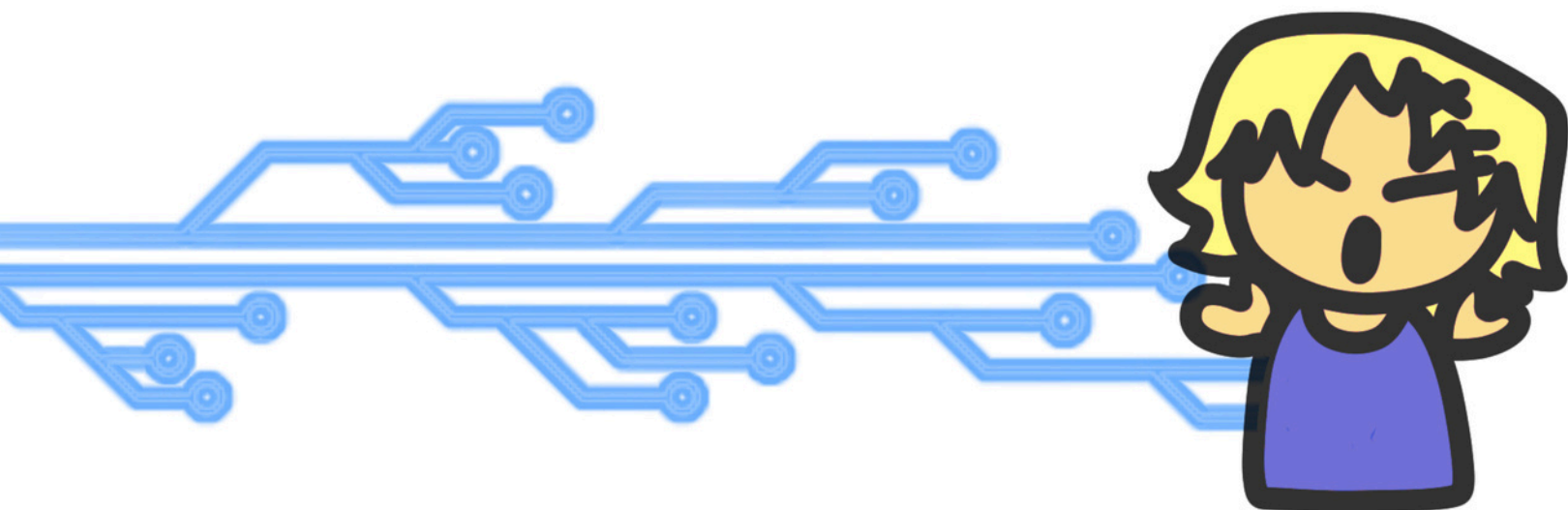


Nikolai: Okay okay, I think I'm warmed up now anyways. Are you ready?

HANNIE: Yep!

Nikolai: So what inspires your sense of objecthood in your artwork?

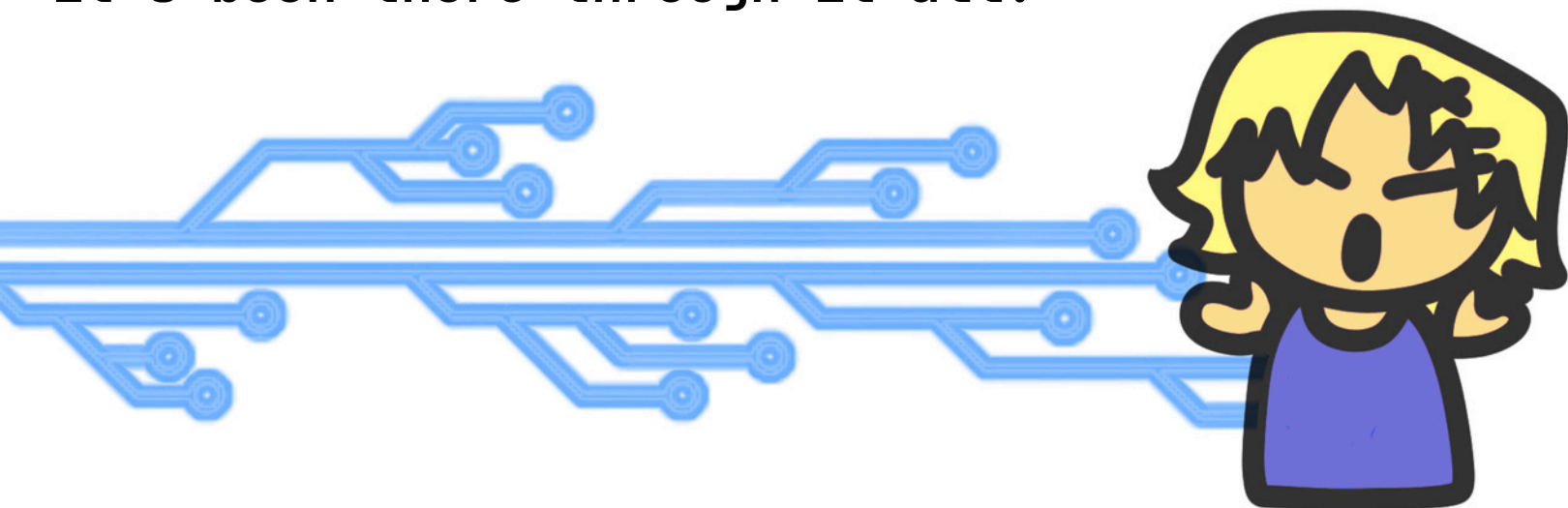
HANNIE: I think I'm really into trinket culture right now. Keychains, buttons, stickers, pins, all of it. I love the idea of collecting and the stories that come with it. Normally you wouldn't think twice of a trinket you're buying or a sticker that's handed to you in a public space but I think about it all the time. And it all comes back to the idea of identity, collecting these "insignificant" items is how I show others who I am.



HANNIE: The ephemerality of it all is really important too. Creating objects that aren't meant to last or have any type of value but do because I place the value on it.

Nikolai: Do you have any favorite objects or trinkets?

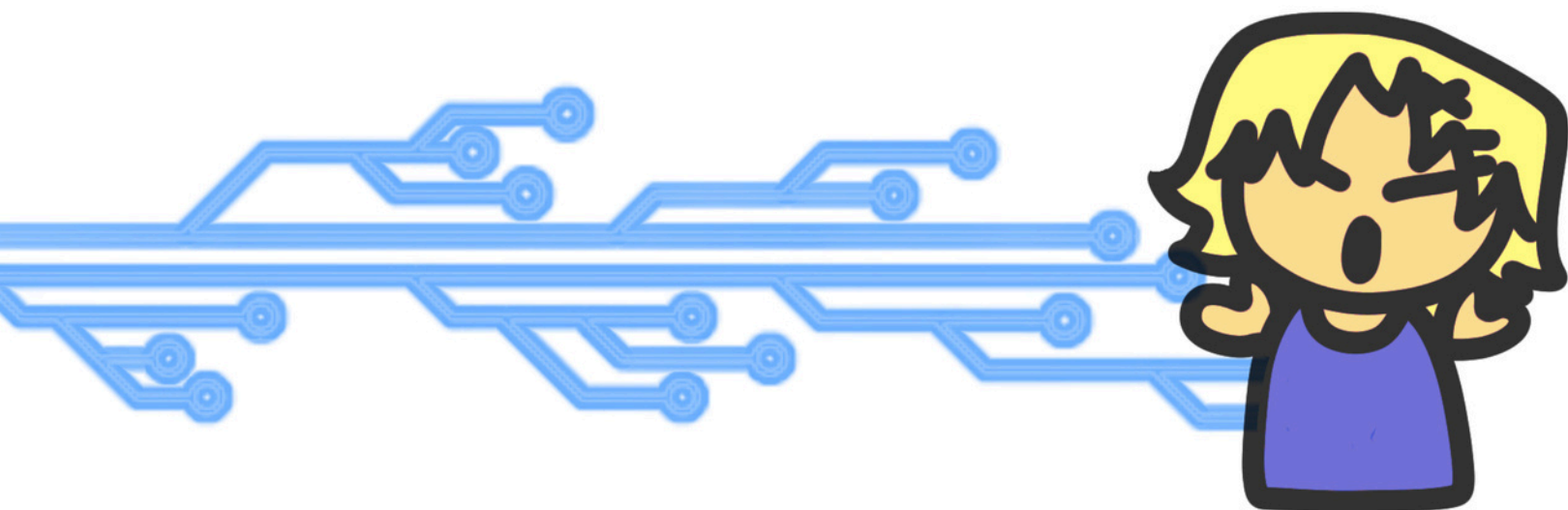
HANNIE: Of course! There's a *Big Miskates* themed business card keychain on my backpack. It has a drawing of Kaemin that says "asexual" under it so that's a favorite. Also the cat plush keychain that's been on my keys since I was a freshman in college. It's basically the epicenter of my keys, I've changed house keys, added and removed other keychains, added my car keys when I started driving, it's been there through it all.



HANNIE: It's also really dirty and hasn't been washed so it's definitely carrying all sorts of stuff.

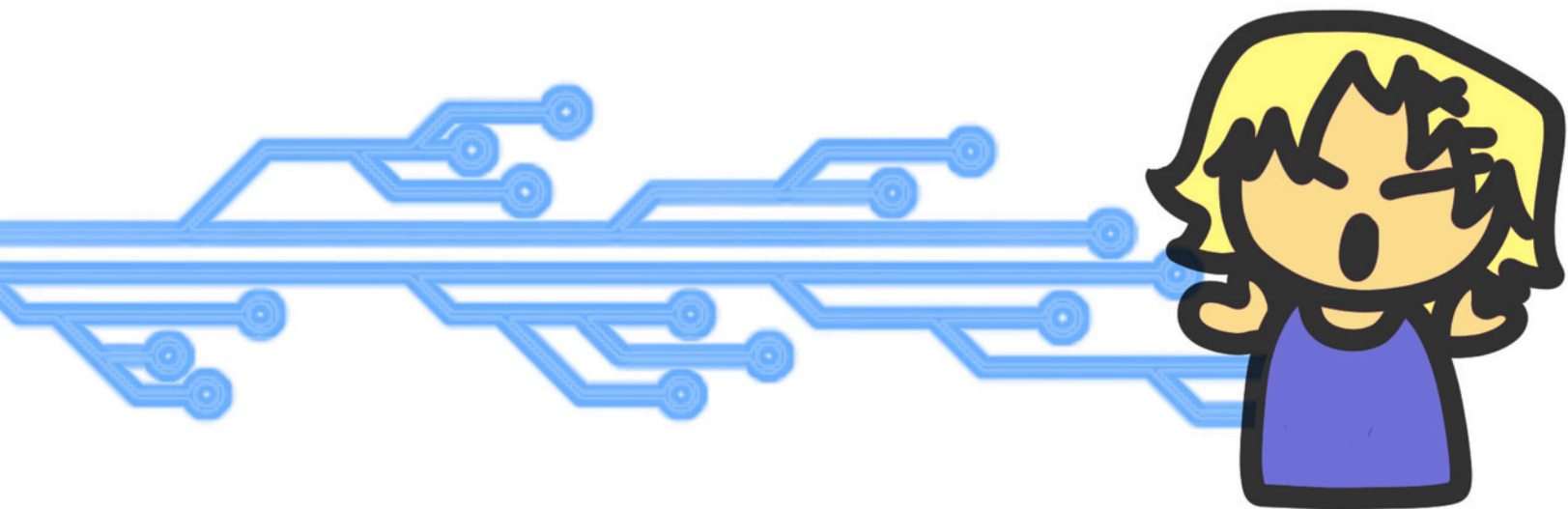
Nikolai: You should wash that, probably.

HANNIE: Probably! My most beloved object however is probably the Jolly Rancher plush I have at my house. I got it on my 17th birthday and I've slept with it legit every night since then. It came home with me during college breaks and even now every time I have to travel. She's all worn and warped now and very much an arm rest when I'm awake. I also have a blanket I got around the same time which is pretty much hanging by two stitches but to be loved is to be changed.



Nikolai: Is there any work you've made with these concepts in mind?

HANNIE: It's hard to tell right now. You never know what object is going to stick with you for years to come. I made a baby keys version of my actual keys that was meant to showcase ideas of security and time in a silly way but it's also not something I'd make again. However I did make an object that was self-aware of its own ephemerality and story. That's *The Soft Manifesto*.



THE SOFT MANIFESTO- Transcript

HEAD

This is my head.
 I celebrate a new day
 by looking up at the sky.
 Thankful to be alive,
 ignoring my insides
 are mush.

Where do I store
 my ideas? How do I
 enjoy? Would I prefer
 spaghetti or yogurt?
 Will I get lost under the
 couch? Will I react
 accordingly?

BODY

This is my body. Legs
 included. My heart is
 pure and my soul is free,
 as I am just a plush. I
 do not pay rent.

I don't know the
 sensation of touch.

But you do.

You who are holding me.
 Am I soft? Am I prickly?

To be described is to
 be loved. I will attempt
 to listen.

L
E
G
S

Who am
I to you



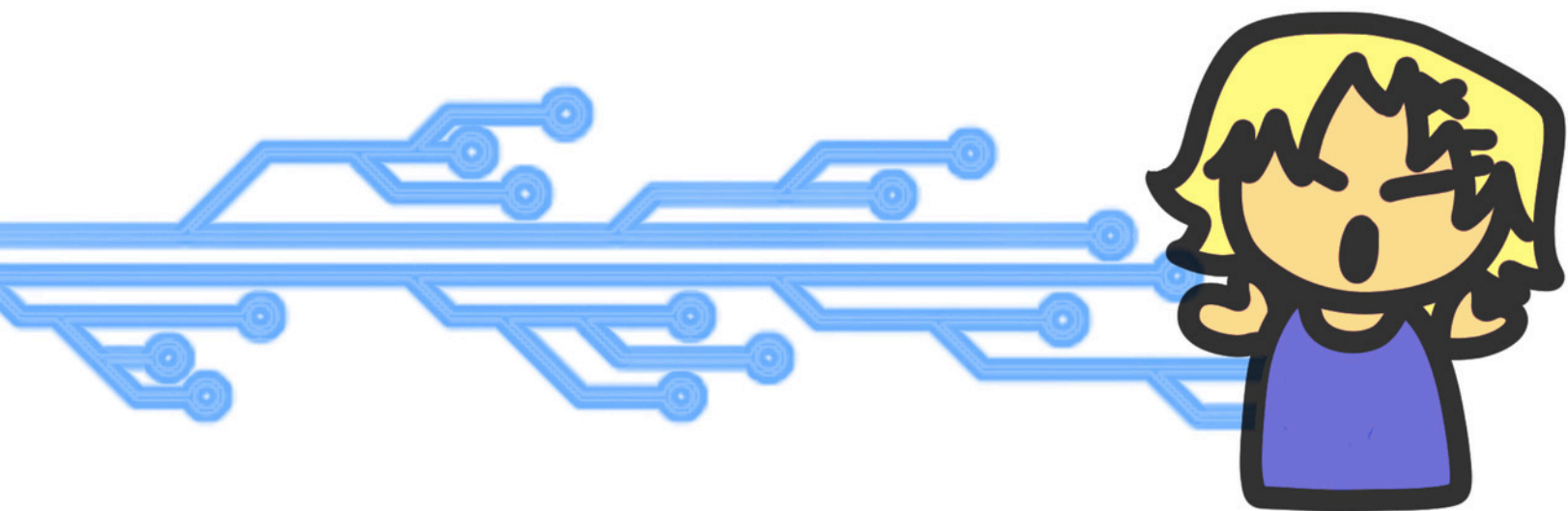
L
E
G
S

Who am
you to me?

Nikolai: "Where do I store my ideas? How do I enjoy? Would I prefer spaghetti or yogurt? Will I get lost under the couch? Will I react accordingly?" Pretty big questions for a plush to ask.

HANNIE: I know, right? And I think about it all the time. There's something about a plush knowing it's meant to be changed in all the good and bad ways, questioning its own identity, but still wanting to be loved and described by its maker. I seriously don't know what I was thinking when I made this. I was in such a completely different headspace then and I wish I could go back. But I can't.

Nikolai: Do you think that'll be one of your "forever treasures?"



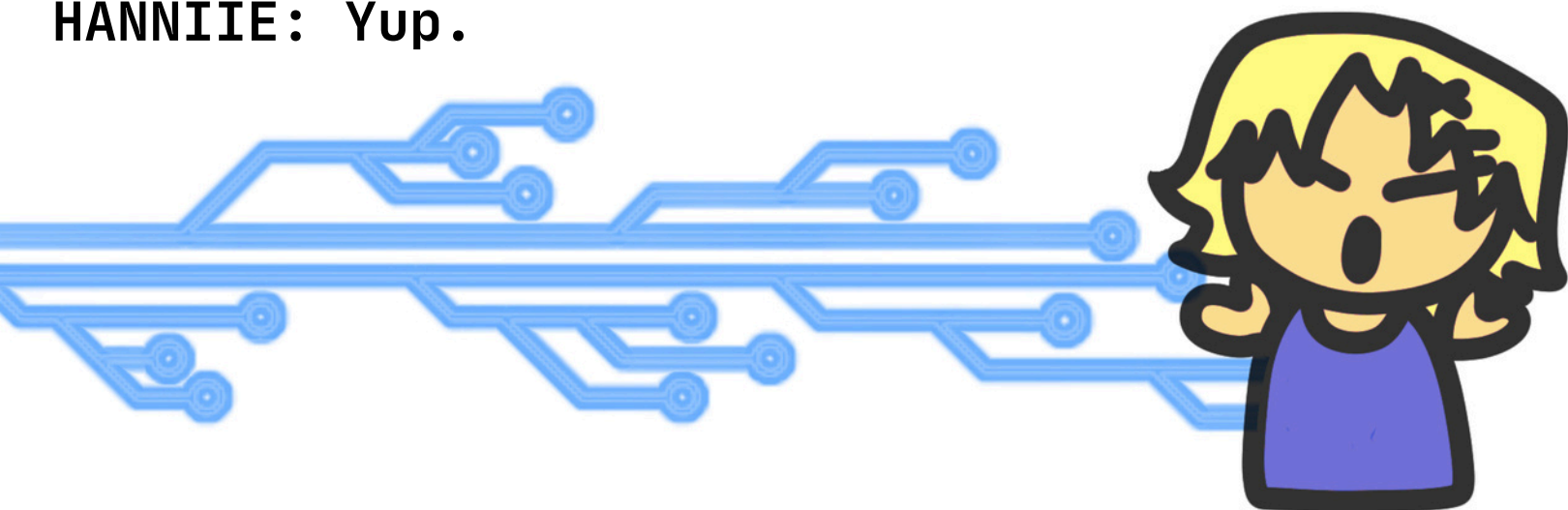
HANNIIE: Yes, but weirdly I don't see it attached to my backpack being dragged through the dirt or the floor of a bus, nor do I see it encased in my bed with the twenty other plushies I have. In fact, I see it on a bookshelf, being held and questioned by guests in my home. Maybe that's ephemeral in its own way.

Nikolai: Wow you've really dissected the meaning of objecthood.

HANNIIE: Have I? I don't think I'm saying anything profound here, but I guess when you're attached to these things it's bound to come off that way.

Nikolai: "To be described is to be loved."

HANNIIE: Yup.

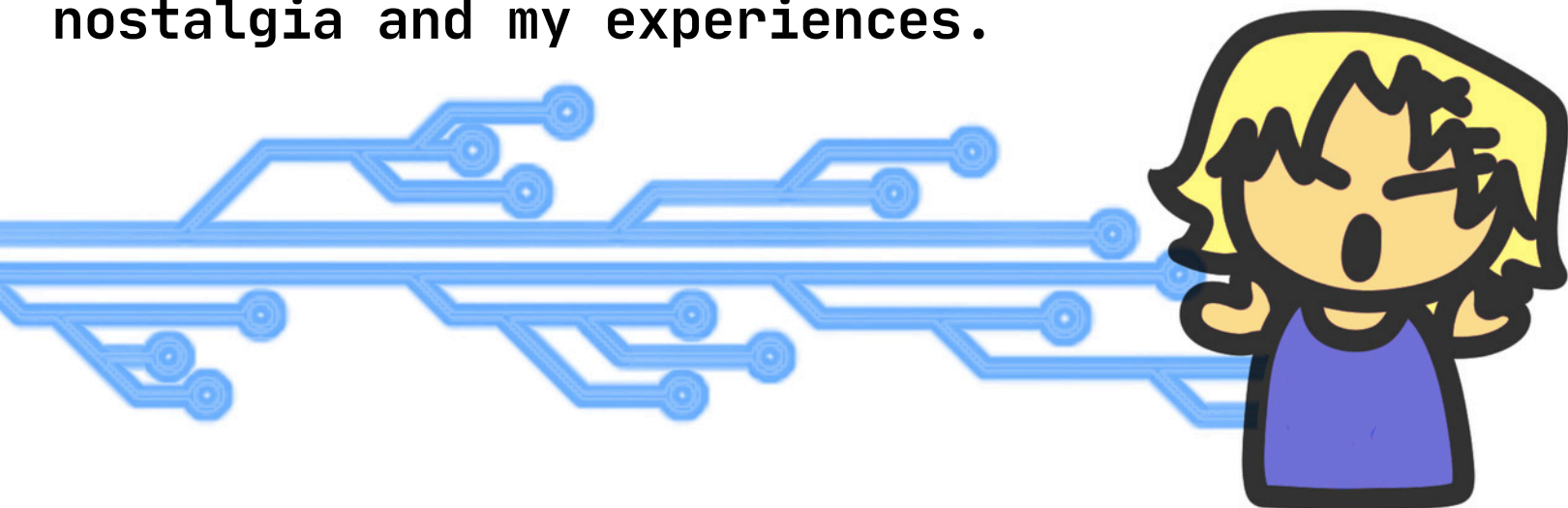


Nikolai: You've mentioned that you "wish you could go back" to that headspace, which I think is a perfect segue into the idea of nostalgia in your work. Just for reference, what year were you born?

HANNIE: 2001.

Nikolai: So I guess the culture of the 2000's and 2010's are big inspirations for you, huh?

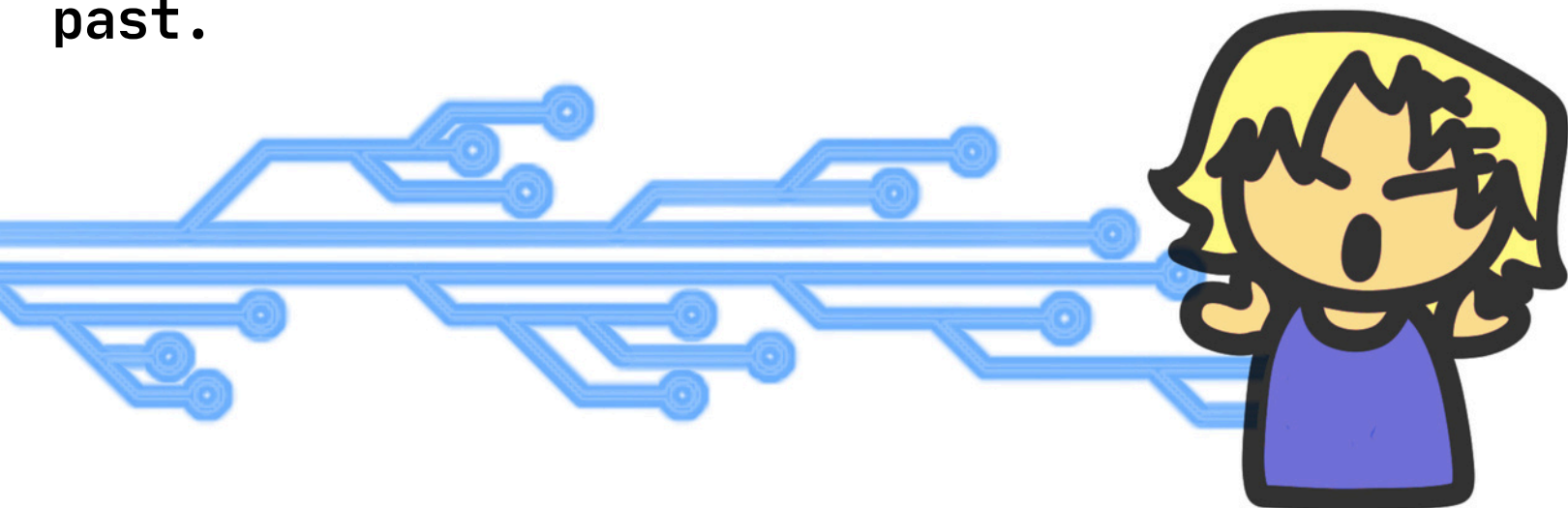
HANNIE: Oh you don't even know. A lot of my time is spent watching YouTube deep dives on 2010's internet culture, early 2000's marketing, the music, everything. Weirdly, I'm also very inspired by the 90's, 80's, and 70's as well. But recently I've only been calling back to my own nostalgia and my experiences.



Nikolai: What makes you nostalgic for a time you weren't alive for?

HANNIE: I think it's mostly about the idea of access. I will never be able to live through those eras because I wasn't born. I can't go back to the eras I was alive in because they're long gone.

They're like rooms I'm desperately trying to break into...except the 70s-90s rooms are more cliché and the 00s-10s rooms are just the rooms I lived in growing up. I designed a tattoo for *Tattoo Flash* that was Chris McLean from *Total Drama Island*, one of my favorite shows growing up with the text "You cannot go back," which packs so much meaning behind it. Because you really can't go back. You can only live in the present holding onto objects from the past.



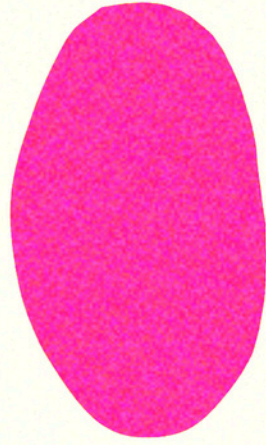
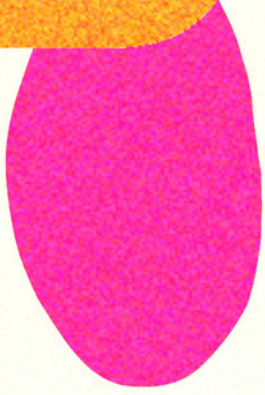
Nikolai: Getting deep today are we?

HANNIE: That's just how it is when talking about stuff like this. But I like to have fun with it! Which is why *TV Guide: Fall Preview* exists. It's a fake guide I made filled with a bunch of shows based on brands. All the shows are inspired by shows I grew up with. For example, "Bedtime Stories with Mr. Netflix" is based on *The Good Night Show* on Sprout, and "Apple a Day" is inspired by *My Life as a Teenage Robot* on Nick. And it speaks to the indoctrination of children, because my work is always a reaction to society, but we'll get into that with Mark.



SPECIAL STREAMING KIDS ISSUE!

**TV
GUIDE**



FALL

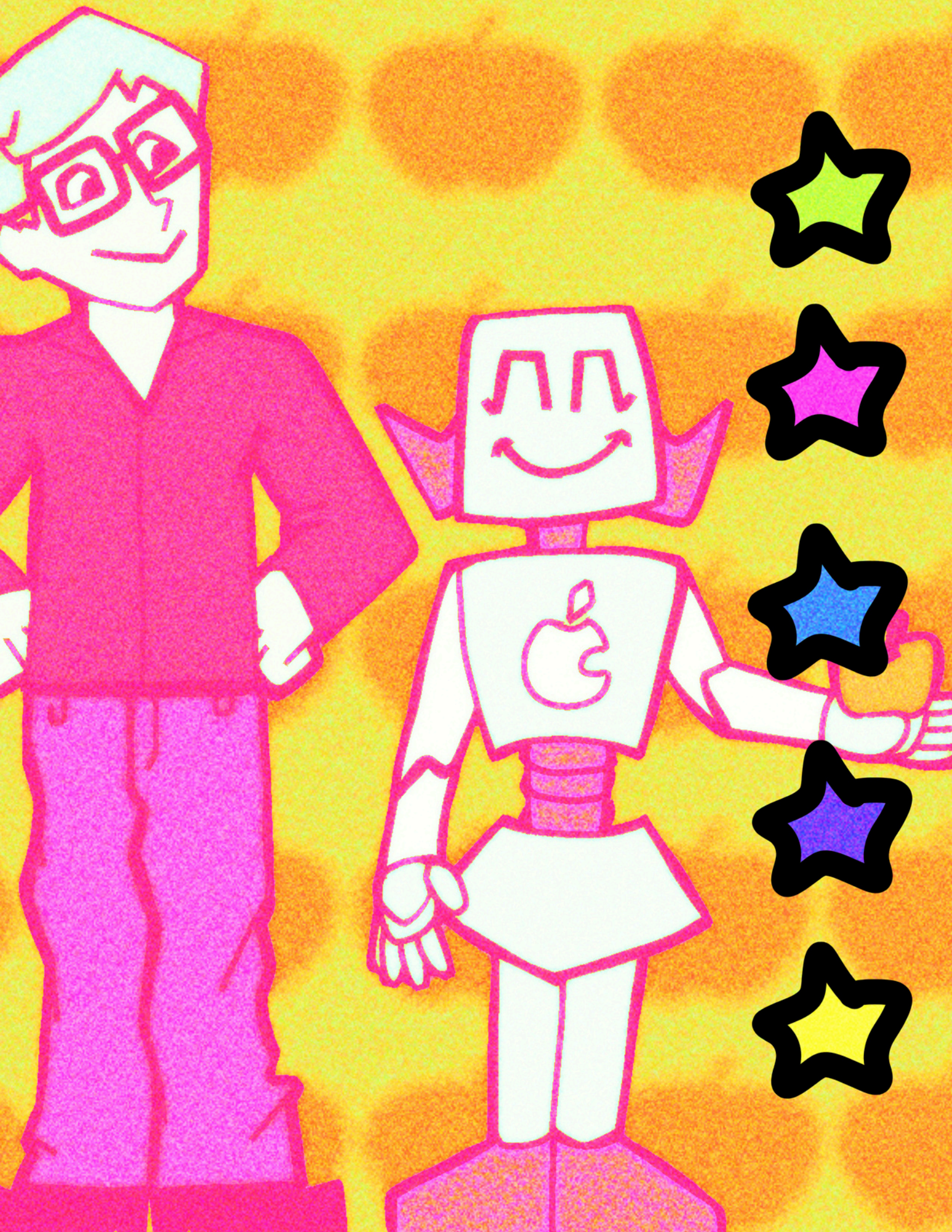


Preview



ISBN 978-0-9970254-9-1





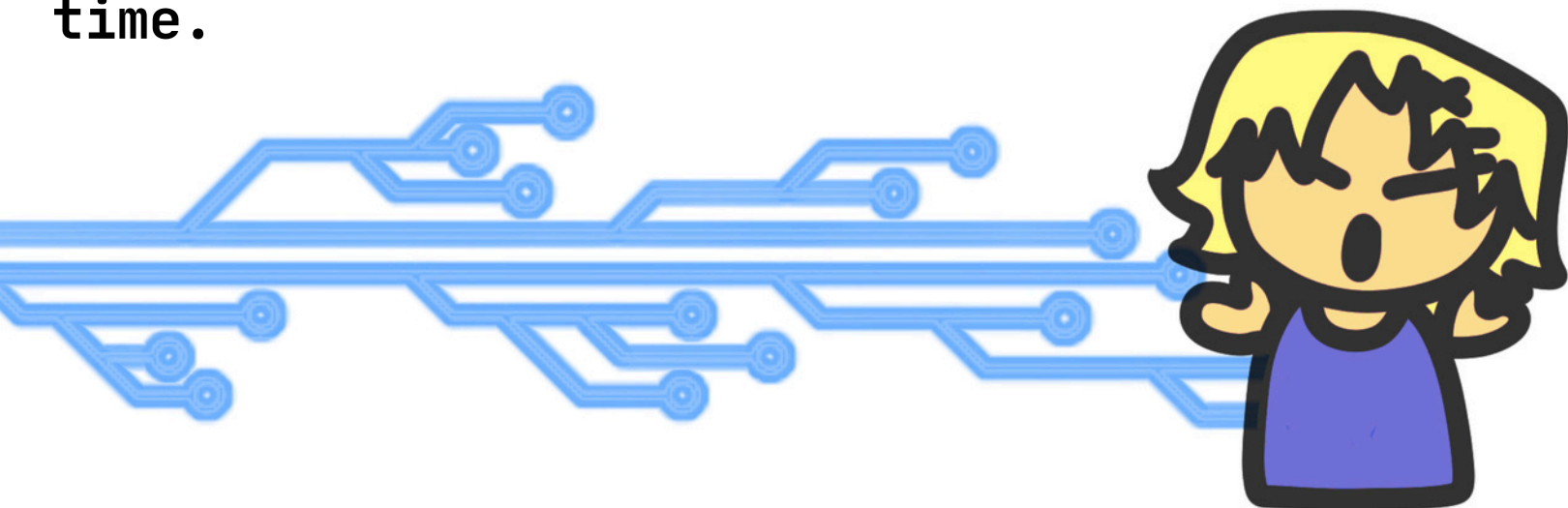


Nikolai: My favorite is "Camp Social." I wonder what that's inspired by?

HANNIE: [laughter] Honestly, I don't see a world where my work isn't inspired by Total Drama Island, I've seen the entire series over ten times. It's probably subconsciously in *Big Miskates* too.

Nikolai: The ads are so indicative of the early 2000s too. When I was researching for this interview I could tell how deeply ingrained "Got Milk?" and "You Wouldn't Steal a Car" advertisements were ingrained into the culture. You really nailed it.

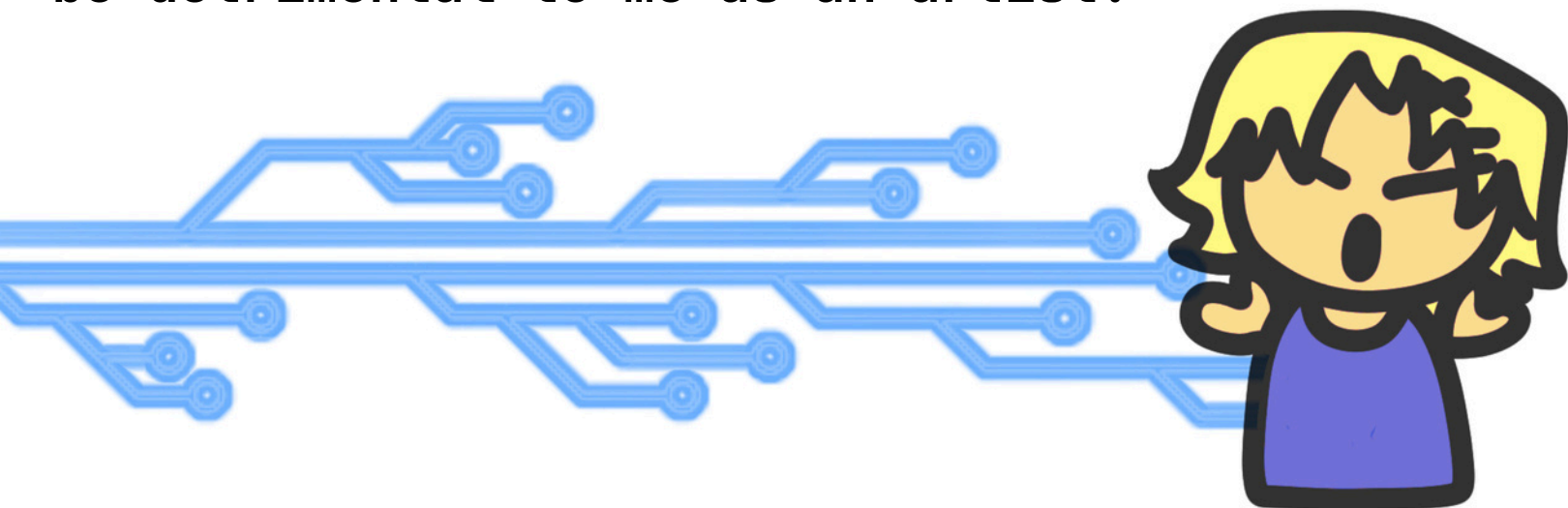
HANNIE: I'm so obsessed with 2000's marketing, and the "Got Milk?" campaign is probably one of my favorite ads of all time.



HANNIE: We used to be so creative and innovative with marketing and it felt like ads were actually trying to pull people in. The market is lazy now, it's all about shoving as many ads into your face in an attempt to get you to buy that way. And it feels like we get only one really creative campaign and then every other brand tries to copycat instead of being original. Quantity over quality creates apathy, at least for me.

Nikolai: Do you think you'll try to break into advertising to change that?

HANNIE: I've thought about it, but I don't think my services are wanted. Not saying it would be hard, but I'd probably have to conform to the current trends, which would be detrimental to me as an artist.



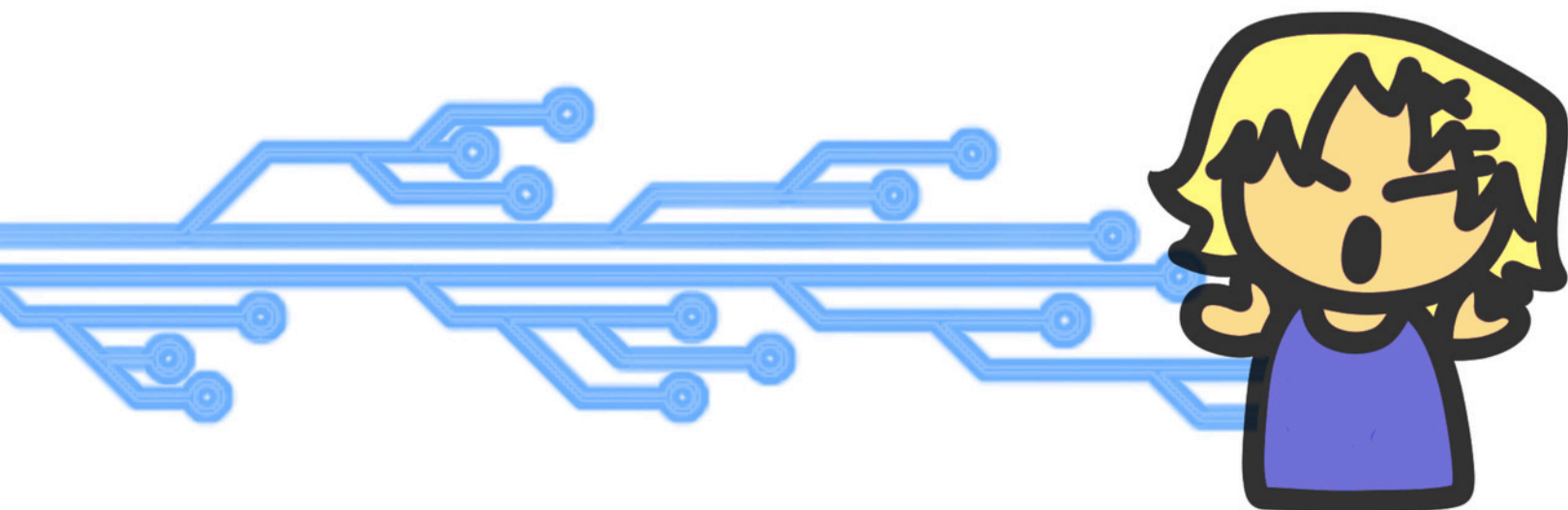
HANNIE: Unfortunately, I refuse to be contained.

Nikolai: Maybe one day we'll go back to originality. Nostalgia can be refreshing in that way.

HANNIE: God, I hope so. I hope I can be one of the people leading that charge as well.

Nikolai: Well, I had a really nice time talking to you, Hannie. One more question, if you could live in any time period, what would you pick?

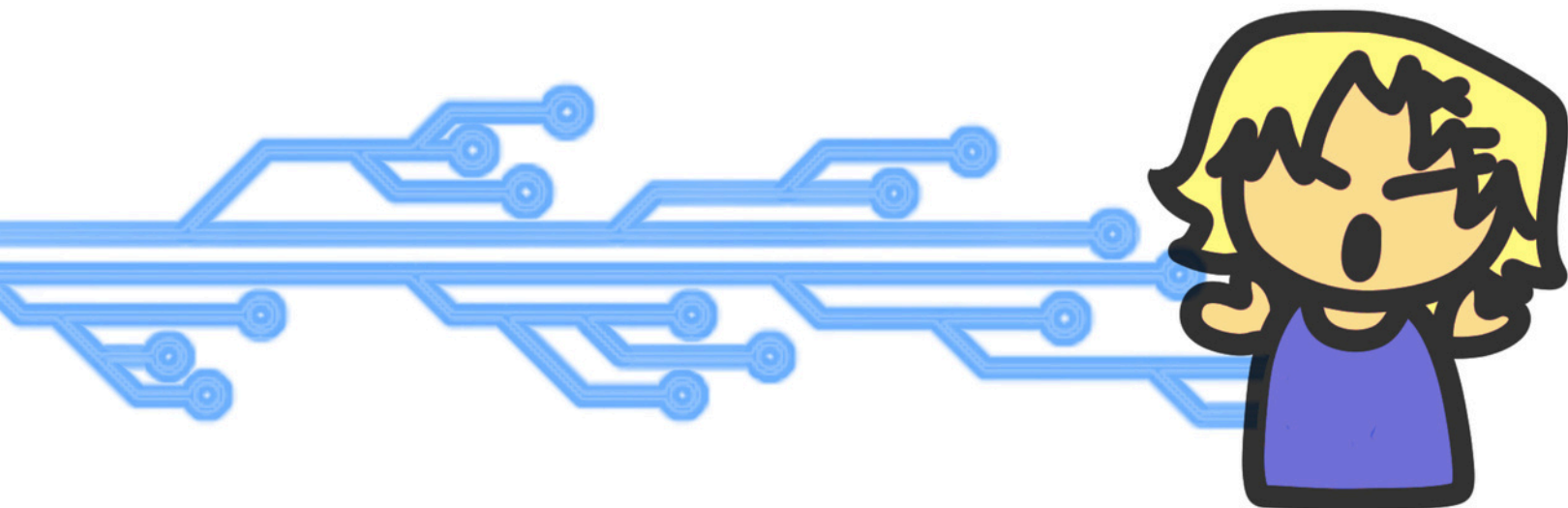
HANNIE: Hm...



HANNIIE: This used to be a really hard question, but now I think I've been really lucky to grow up in the 2000s as a child and experience teenagehood in the 2010s. It was an experience like no other.

Nikolai: And the 2020s?

HANNIIE: ...Let's move on.



MARK:

ON SOCIETY



Mark: May I ask where you are in *Big Miskates* currently?

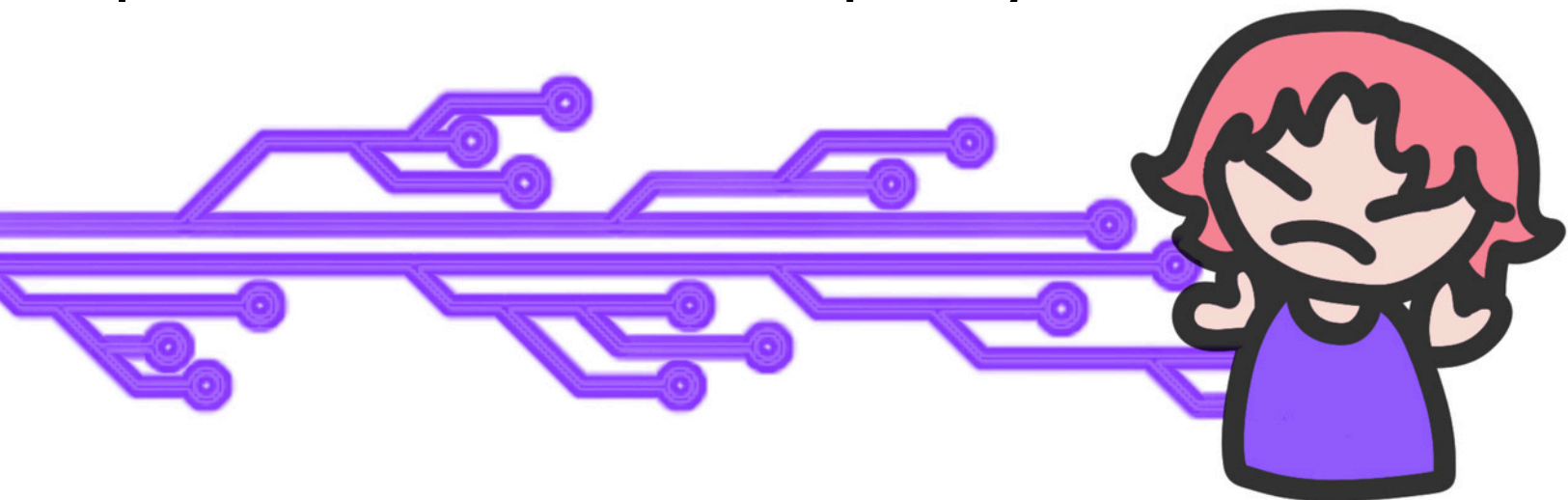
HANNIIE: Uh, you get hit with a basketball I think.

Mark: Oh, that's great. Real funny stuff you got going there.

HANNIIE: If you have a problem with how I'm progressing the story we can talk about it later.

Mark: No it's fine, it's fine. I just think you have your favorites and I'm not on that list.

HANNIIE: Oh come on don't do that. You all have your moments. I'm not giving anybody "special treatment." Except maybe Mac.



Mark: I knew it.

HANNIE: Hey, someone has to be the delightful person in the group!

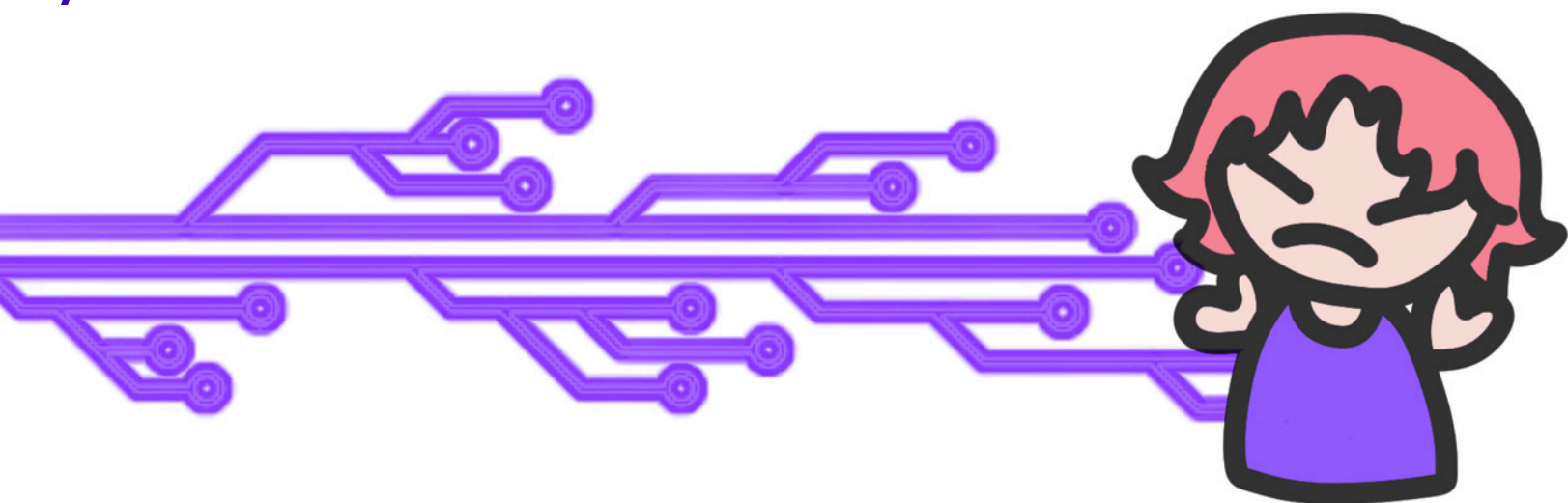
Mark: What about me?! Am I not delightful?!

HANNIE: Next question?

Mark: *[scoffs]* Fine. What are your feelings towards society and the culture you're surrounded by right now?

HANNIE: To be honest, I kind of hate it.

Mark: Really? That's interesting because with culture mostly coming from online spaces and the internet I would think that's the kind of culture that inspires you.

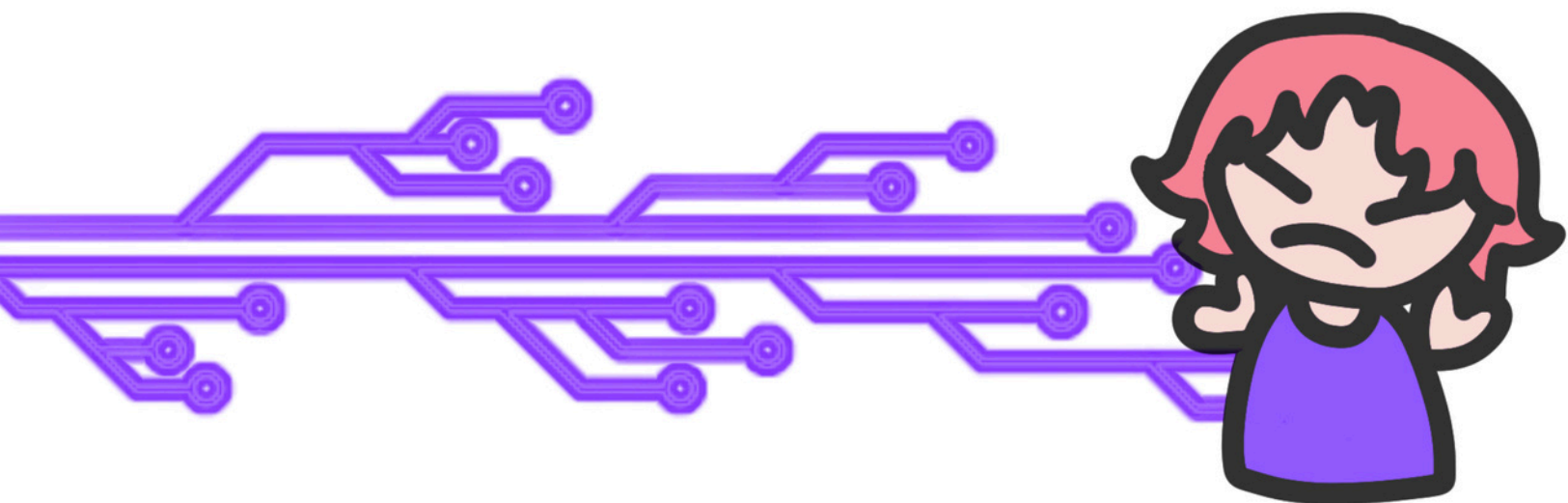


HANNIIE: Well, yes, but it's not the "fun internet culture" society is attaching itself to. We're not as community-based as we like to think we are. We're too obsessed with individuality, me included. Online bullying is back as well as a general lack of empathy and everything is an advertisement. I'm kinda tired.

Mark: And your solution was to...

HANNIIE: Make fun of it. React to it the best way I know how, which is through satire.

Mark: Which is how we ended up with those banners.



OMG UR SO

cottagecore
ratgirl
y2kcore
cure/g
gifs/g
coastal
grandmother
style
gothic
i-spy
2014
GIRLY
KINDERWHORE
CLOWNCORE
dark academia
coquette
CITY POP
GRUNGE
chic modernist
90's INTERNET
kiddo core
pleascore
80's HEART TEARDROP
50's
dark academia
faded
vintage
vintage

LABELS ARE A SELF- FULLFILLING PROPHECY!!

THERE ARE **SO MANY**
OF US TO REBRAND.
THERE ARE **EIGHT**
BILLION PEOPLE
ON THIS EARTH.



BE THE ONE TO
REINVENT
YOURSELF. IT MAY
CHANGE YOUR QUALITY
OF LIFE. IT MAY
CONSUME YOUR QUALITY
OF LIFE. MAKE THE
AESTHETIC A TOOL TO
CHANGE YOUR STYLE.
MONETIZE
YOUR IDENTITY IN
90 DAYS!



YOU ARE YOUR BRAND
BECOME THE **OPITOME**
AGAINST **AUTHENTICITY**.
CONSUME LABELS
WITHOUT THE NEED
FOR **REAL LIFE**
EXPERIENCES.

CORE CORE
CULT CORE
CORE CORE
CULT CORE

YOU CAN ALWAYS **START**
OVER. ALL IDENTITIES
COME WITH THE **ERASE**
TOOL. **DISPOSE** AND **MOVE**
ONTO THE NEXT.



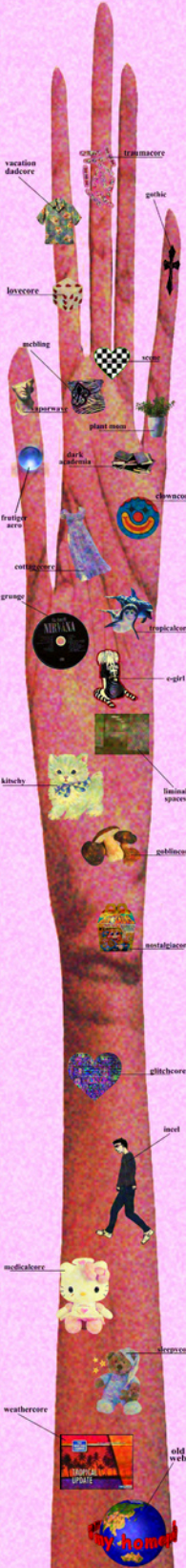
MICROLABELS ARE **FREE**
AND **FLEETING**. **DON'T YOU**
WHAT TO BE?
GROUNDEDNESS BECOMES
UNFULFILLING. **SOUL-**
SEARCH IN THE SKY.
SOUL SEARCH IN YOUR
80 NEW LIVES.
CATEGORIZE.

CORE CORE CULT CORE CORE CORE CULT CO
CORE CORE CULT CORE CORE CORE CULT CO

WHAT VIBES DO I GIVE OFF?



Hand of the Subculture Cosmos



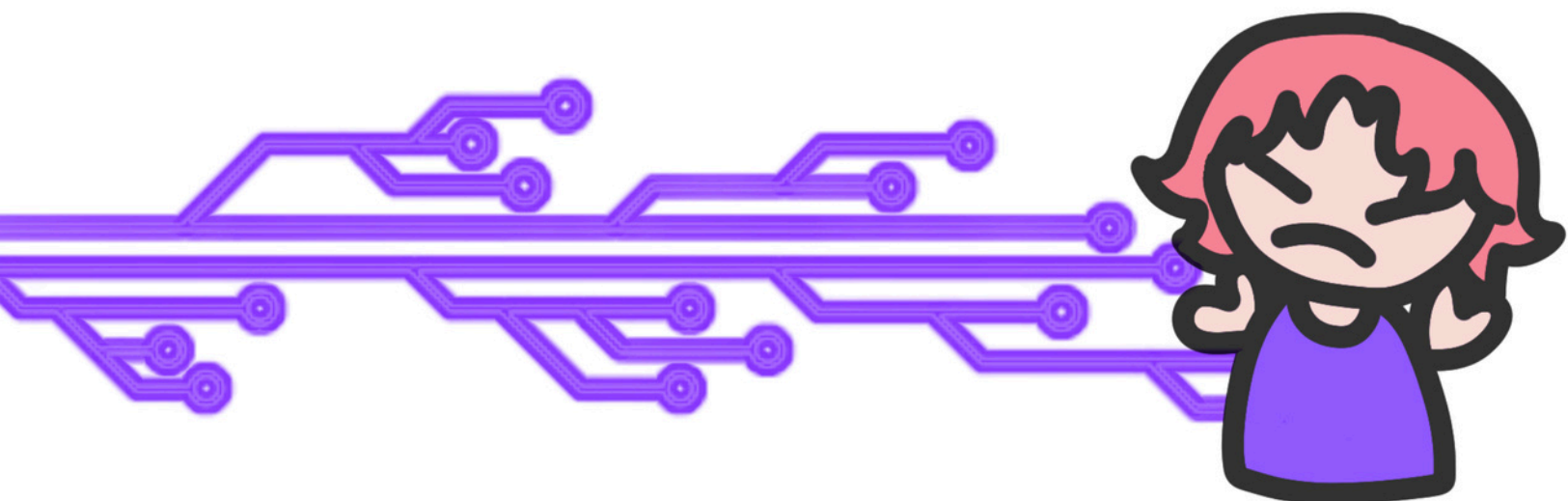
The Weather Channel Your Forecast



HANNIE: Yeah the banners, or their “official” name: *CORE CORE CULT CORE*. They were a set of banners calling into question the amount of labels we put on ourselves and that society is putting out into the world in order to maintain our individuality. It feels like we're all trying to have our own personal “brand” in order to seem marketable. But for what? It's an oversaturation of aesthetics and subcultures in our social media.

Mark: Tropicalcore, Weathercore, Vacation Dadcore. These can't be real, right?

HANNIE: Oh they are. The website I used to research this was called Aesthetics Wiki, and they actually have a really solid database for how uncanny the content is. I still browse it from time to time.

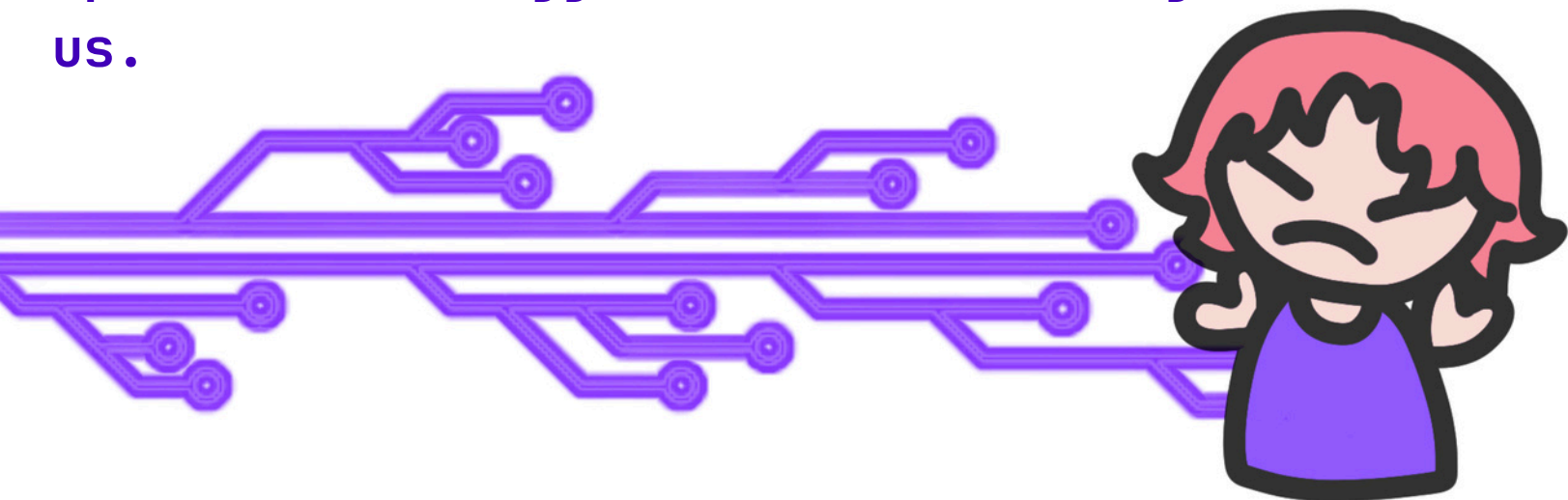


HANNIE: They literally have a page for an **"American Thanksgiving"** aesthetic. Like what even is that?

Mark: Would you attach yourself to any of these labels?

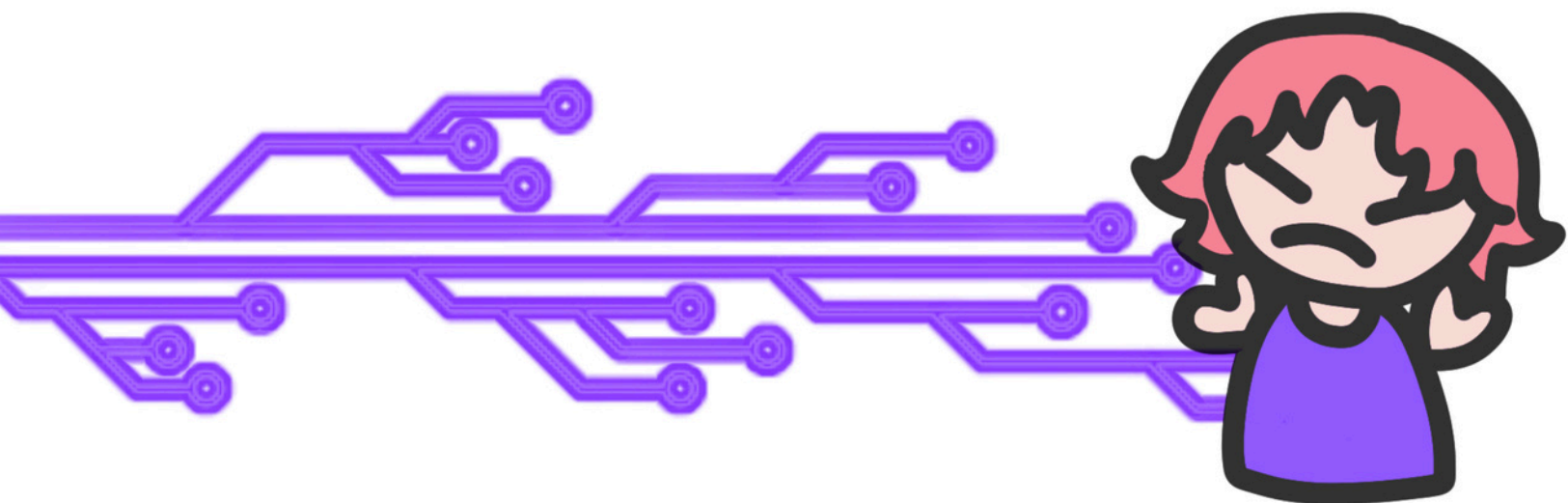
HANNIE: I used to, so the work is a critique of myself in that way as well. I still use the buzzwords when I'm searching for a certain style of clothing. I'm really into scene fashion right now, but overall I wouldn't label myself as a part of any subculture because my interests change so much.

Mark: Out of these banners I think my favorite is **"LABELS ARE A SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY!"** It makes zero sense but also speaks to how aggressive advertising is to us.



HANNIE: I really tried to be as nonsensical as possible with that one, and surprisingly I didn't take inspiration from regular ads but rather those nutty religious posters that are very indicative of the maker having spiritual psychosis. I feel like the constant labeling of yourself can have the same effect as spiritual psychosis in the sense that you ironically lose yourself to these abstract ideas. I mean, unless you're rich, you don't really have the time or bandwidth to become a new "aesthetic" every couple of months.

Mark: Wouldn't know. I am rich.



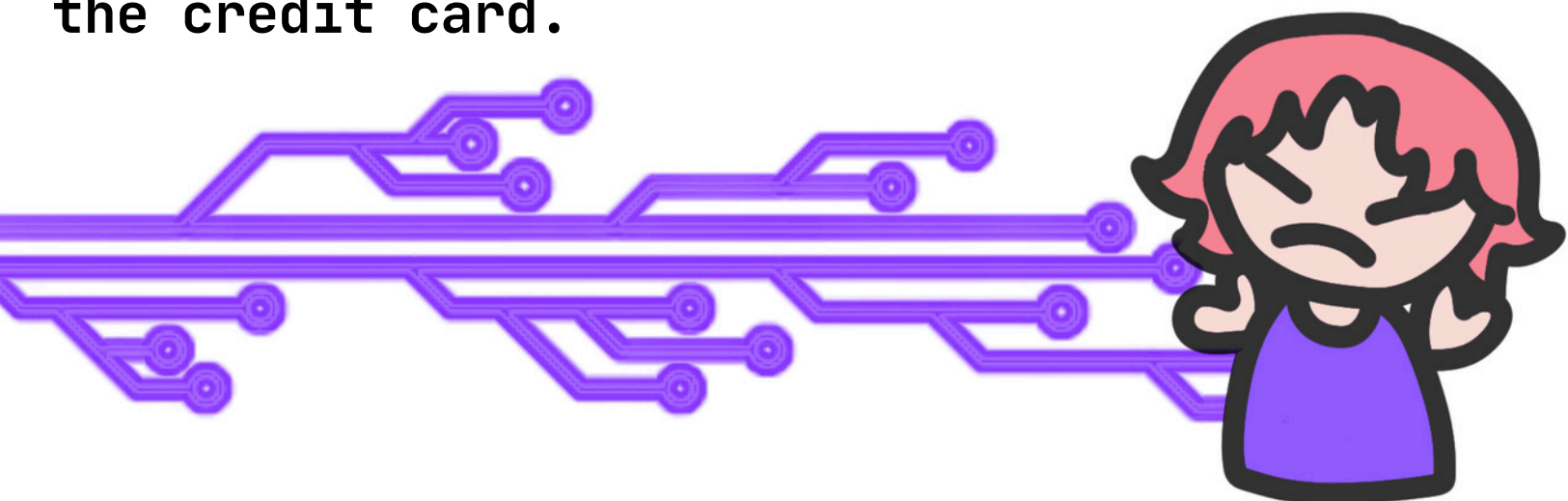
HANNIIE: Well, my favorite is the "WHAT VIBE DO I GIVE OFF" banner. It's performance art in the sense that you can look at it and ask your peers their opinions of you within the context of the objects.

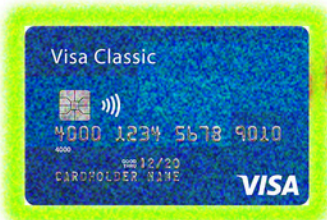
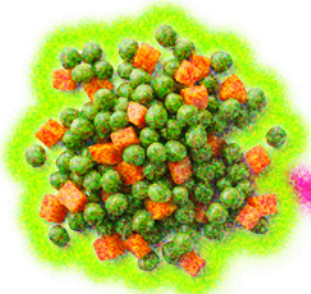
Mark: What have people labeled you?

HANNIIE: The inflatable frog, but I would label myself as the cleaning sponge.

Mark: I feel like you know what I'm about to ask next.

HANNIIE: Okay but really quickly so we can move on. Fio is the anxiety medication, Nikolai is the peas, Mac is the ketchup packet, Kaemin is the cloak, and you are the credit card.

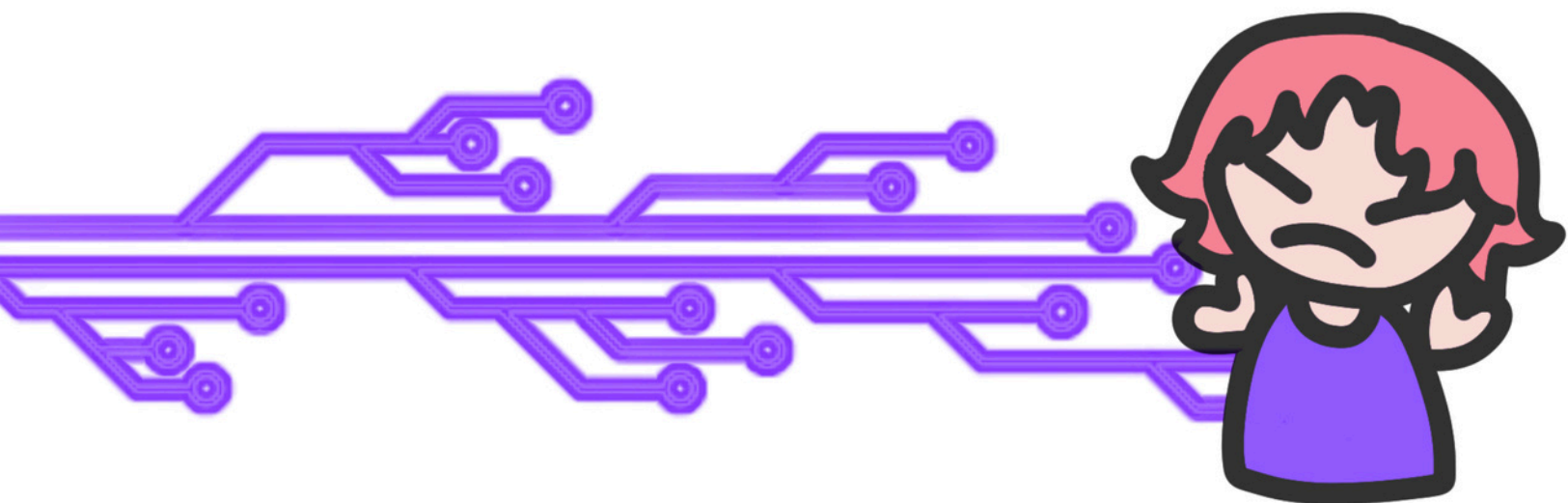




Mark: You bet I am. So this piece was made during your first semester in graduate school and then you seemingly took a break from those narratives before coming back in full force during your third semester. What happened?

HANNIE: Well after the downfall and indefinite hiatus of the graphic novel I came here to make I found myself very disillusioned with the work I was putting out. Everything felt very surface level and lacked the narrative voice I was known for. It came to a breaking point when I made those baby keys I mentioned in my interview with Nikolai.

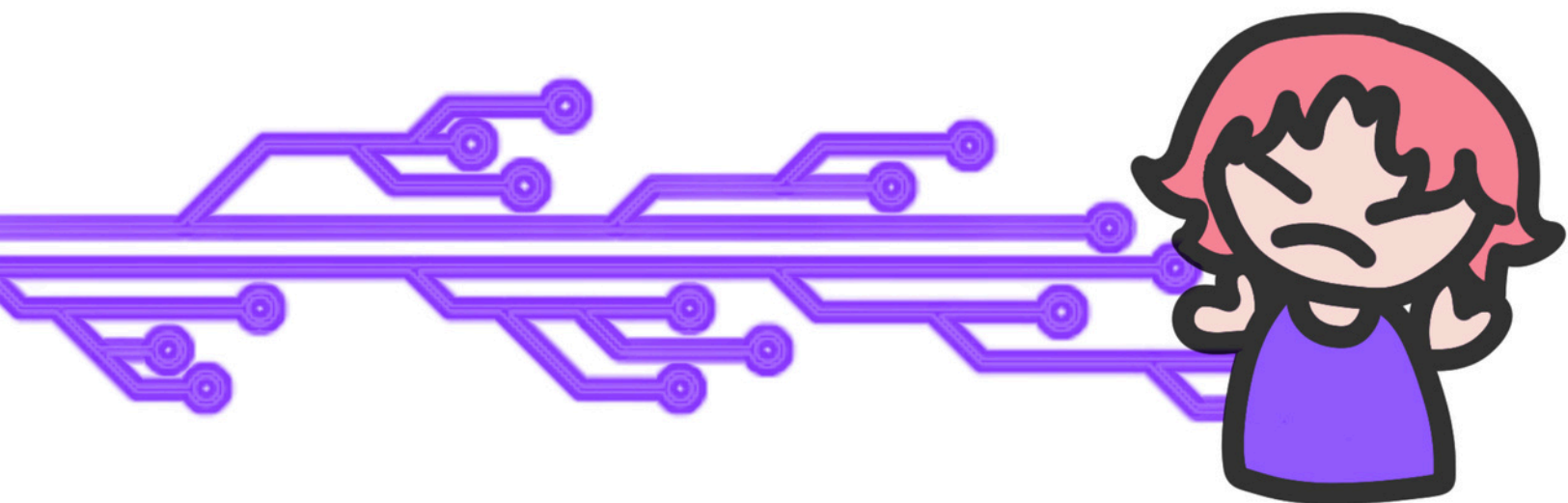
Mark: Well, those had meaning to you, didn't they?

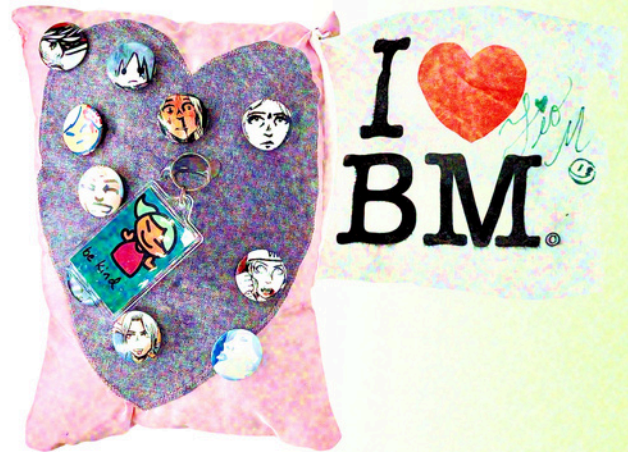


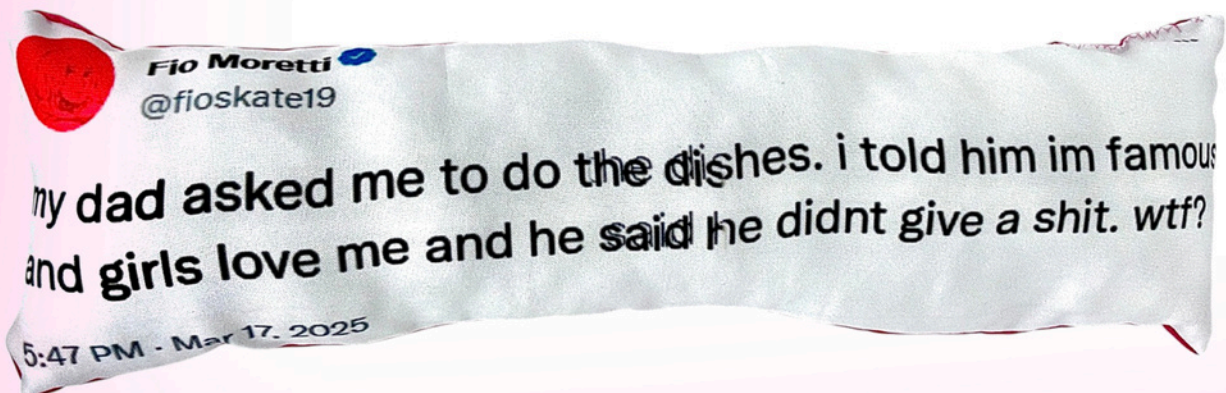
HANNIE: My actual keys have meaning to me, and the curation of the trinkets have meaning to me, but the piece itself felt like there was not much to say. And if you didn't know by now, I have a lot to say.

Mark: Which led you to your current thesis project which seems...very personal.

HANNIE: Oh it's very personal. *Vivat Fanatica* is a series of about 40 pillows that, like I mentioned with Kaemin, dives into my personal experience with fandoms and being a fangirl, while also struggling with loneliness and unrestricted internet access.









Hanniie posted a new photo
happy pride! enjoy this fanart i made!
hopefully i don't get kicked out of the
house for this one XD

Kaemin
is that the straight flag

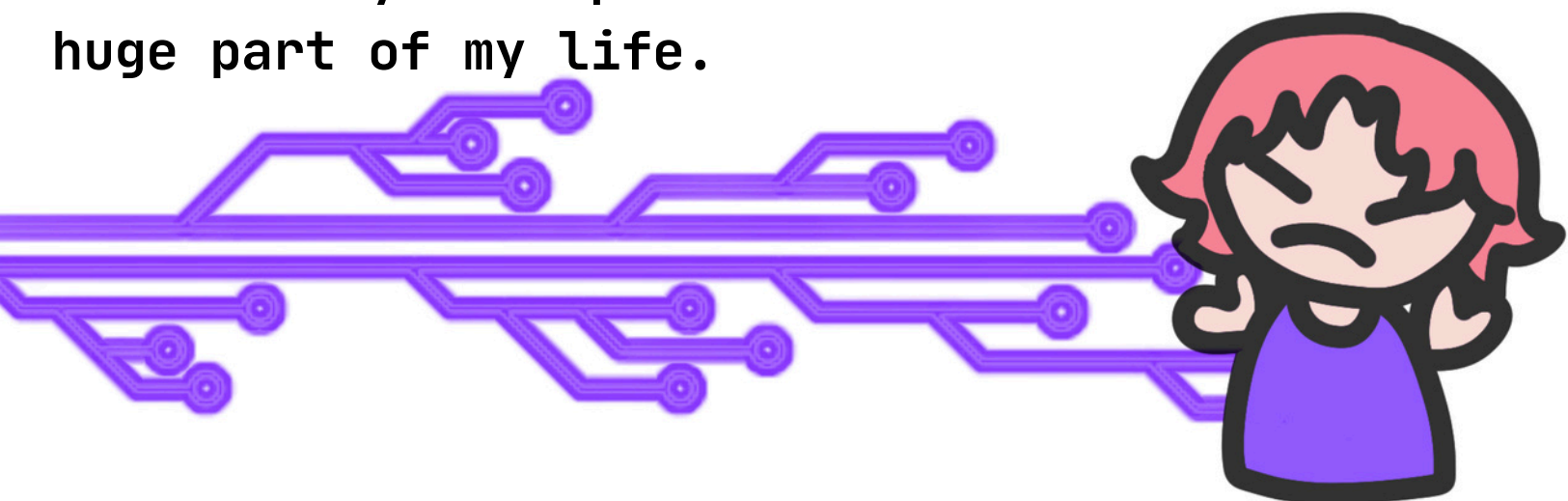


Mark: How old were you when you were going through these experiences?

HANNIE: I would say the pillows themselves span across the age of 12-15. Which I'm not nostalgic for, like at all. It was a very rough period of my life. I was suicidal, dealing with issues at home, and was getting bullied at school.

Mark: I'm sorry to hear that.

HANNIE: It's a weird time to think about because fandom truly did save my life. And I make references to that with the *Imagine* pillows, the *Don't Kill Yourself* pillow, and many more. I would often imagine myself running away to these "fandom worlds" to be with the characters and claim they were my real family. Escapism was and is still a huge part of my life.

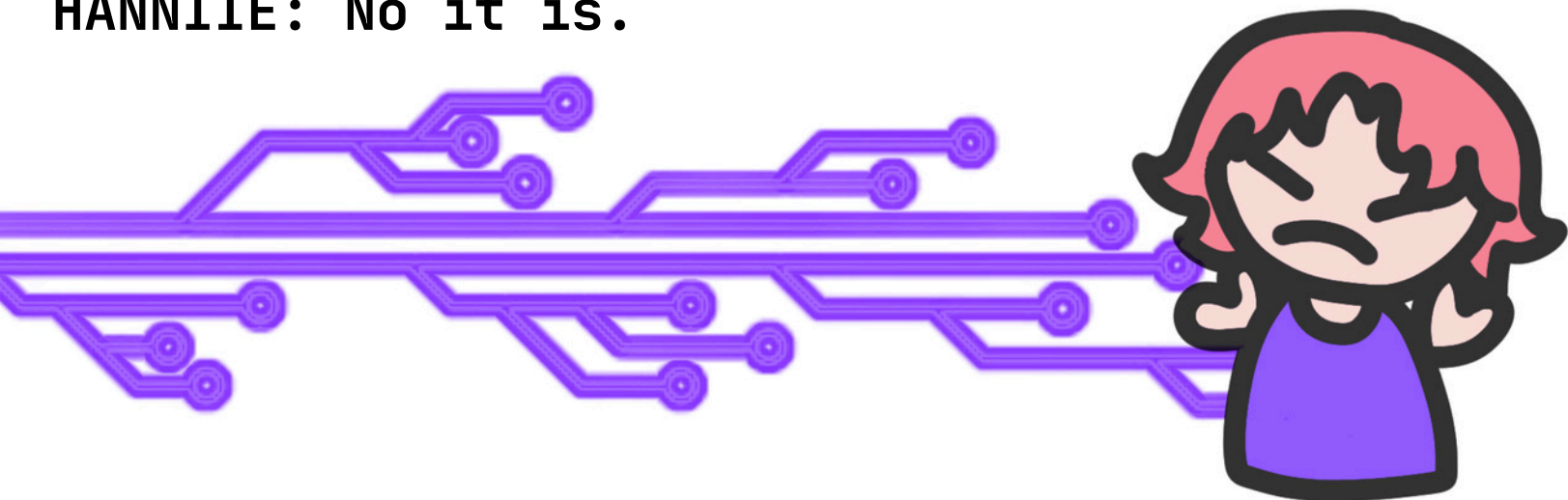


Mark: It's interesting you say that as it seems like it wasn't all sunshine and rainbows. I mean the *Kik* pillow? What's up with that?

HANNIIE: Oh yeah, that. Funny enough I can laugh about it now because I wasn't the one sending desperate nudes to children, but yeah I was exposed to a lot at a young age. It didn't really affect me as much as the stuff going on in my real life did. I'm surprised I didn't realize I was asexual sooner, every time I saw a penis I was like, "Whatever. Can we get back to doing character roleplay now?". I just wanted to escape.

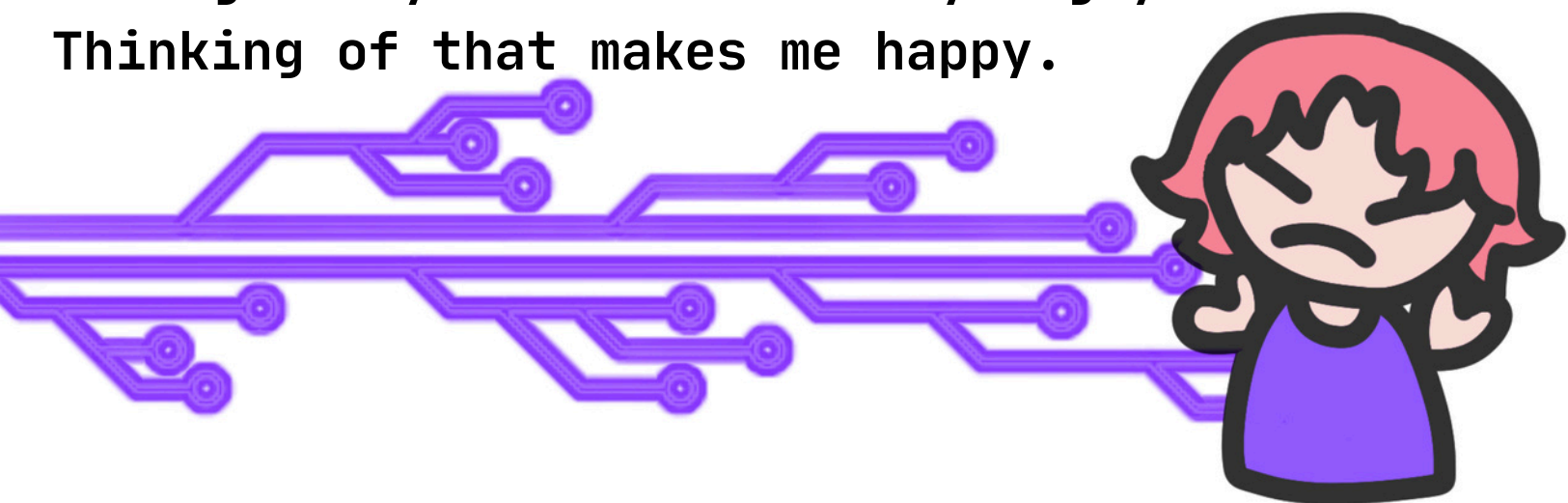
Mark: It's still gross.

HANNIIE: No it is.



Mark: And what was your reasoning for reimagining these experiences with us?

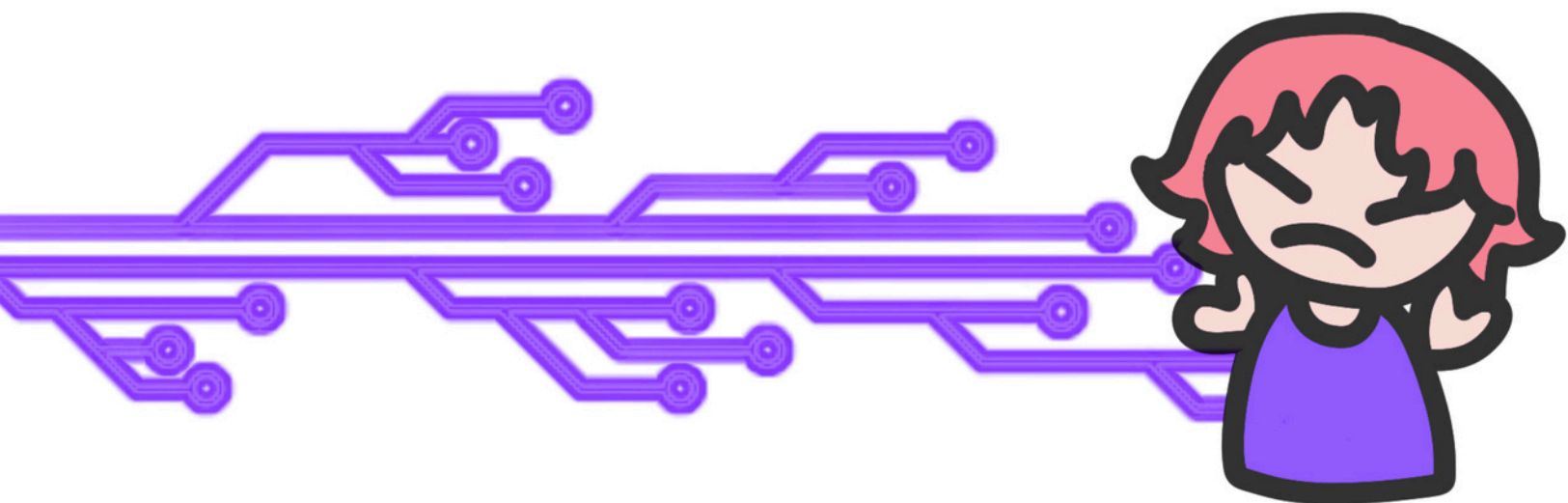
HANNIE: Simple, you guys wouldn't be here without these experiences. Fandom is the reason I created *Big Miskates*, why I created you guys. I wanted other people to have a space they could escape to, characters to see themselves in, to know that they aren't alone. It also helped me realize how really unique this time of my life was. Working on these pillows have dug up a lot of old feelings; **nostalgia, depression, cringe, and overwhelming happiness**. Even though I was struggling, I can't help but be grateful I have this archive of events that I'm able to look at through a different perspective. If *Big Miskates* ever gets popular, some lonely teenager may find solace in you guys. Thinking of that makes me happy.



Mark: I am really glad I get to be a part of that.

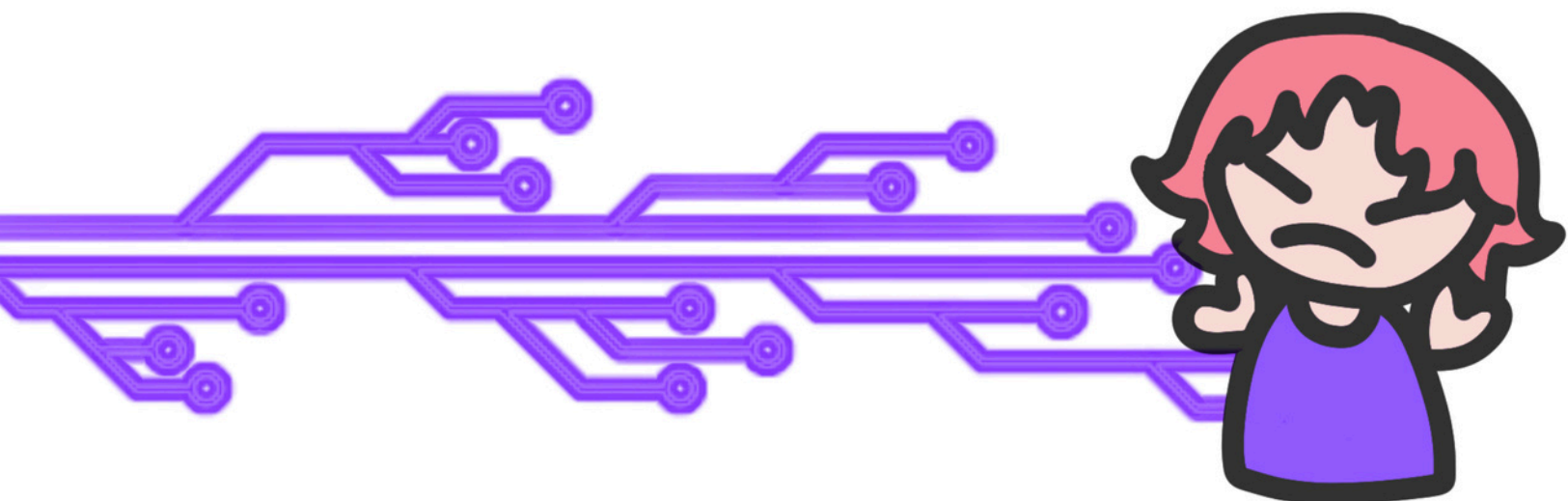
HANNIE: I'm glad, I love you guys a lot. You essentially saved me and my practice.

Mark: And on that note I have one final question. You spent a lot of time claiming that your work **"has no deeper meaning"** and what you make shouldn't be read into. Do you still feel that way now?



HANNIE: I had a feeling this question would come up. The answer is absolutely not. I've had the privilege to have other eyes on my work that are encouraging me to look deeper into why I make the things I do and the truth is there is so much meaning and lore behind it all that it's almost overwhelming. Yes, a lot of the time my reasoning for making things starts off simple, like making BandAids for the hell of it or just wanting a cool sign of my OC but at the end of the day I have a lot I want to say and things I want to explore. All of it has meaning, even if I haven't quite figured it out myself and that's the fun part of doing what I do. Discovery!

Mark: Discovery...



Mark: Well, that's a wrap.

HANNIIE: I love you guys to the moon and back. Thank you so much for allowing me to do this.

Fio: No thank you!

Nikolai: We really appreciate it.

Mac: And we love you too!

Kaemin: Good luck on your thesis!

HANNIIE: Thanks! And good luck with starting college soon!

ALL: OH YEAH!

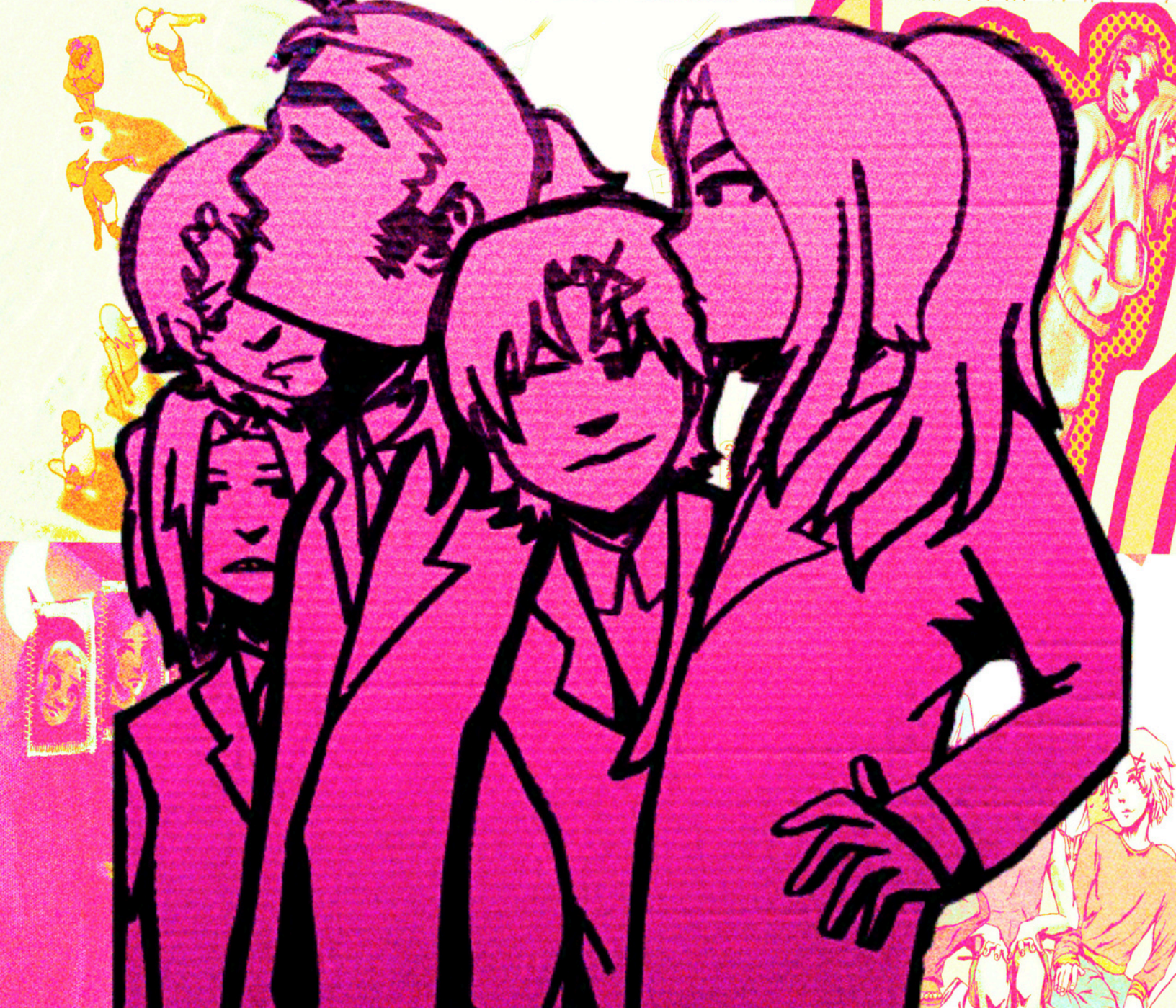
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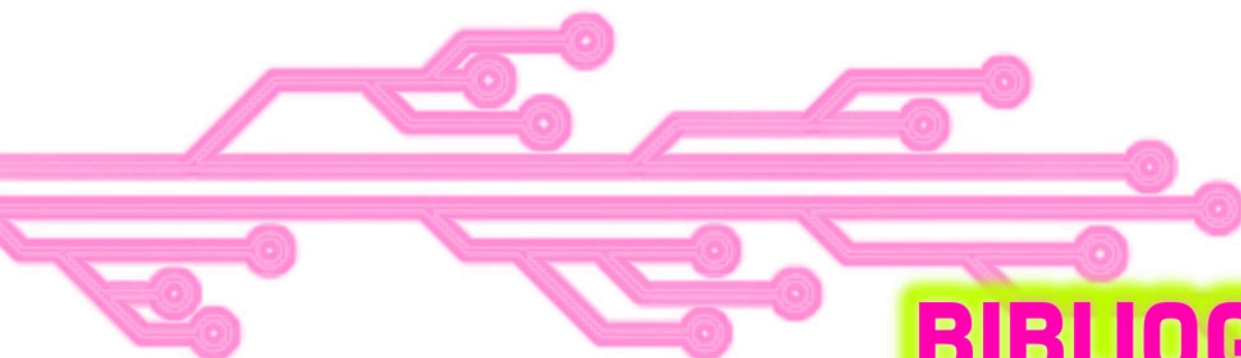
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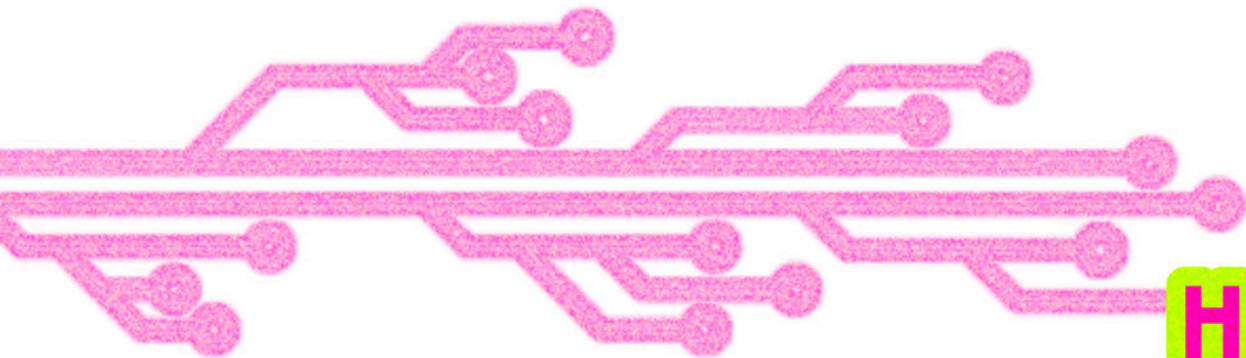
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HANNIE