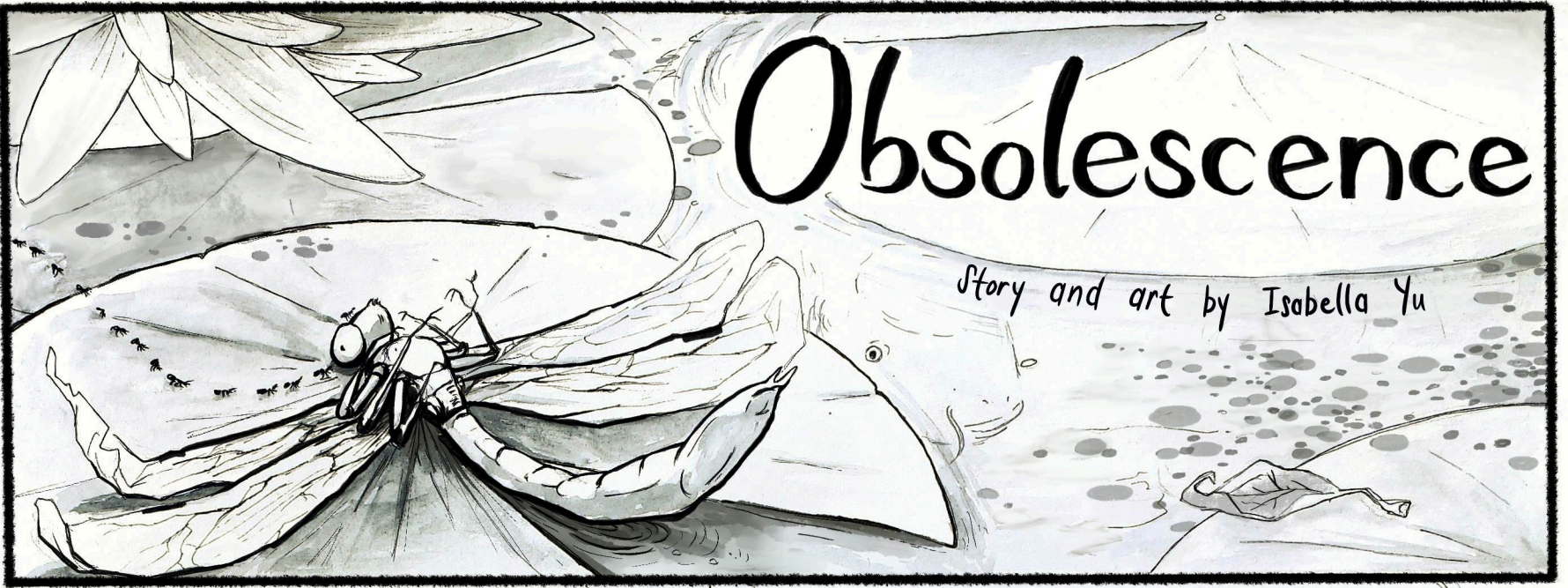


Obsolescence

Story and art by Isabella Yu

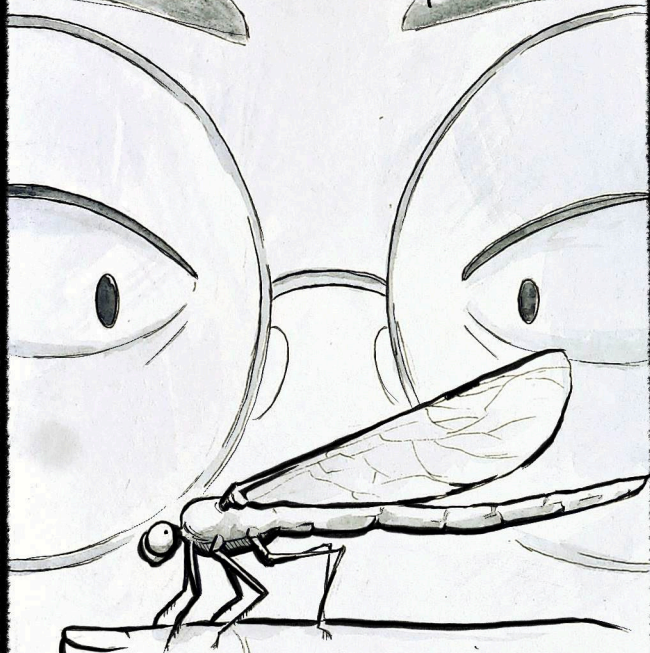


I often dream of dragonflies,

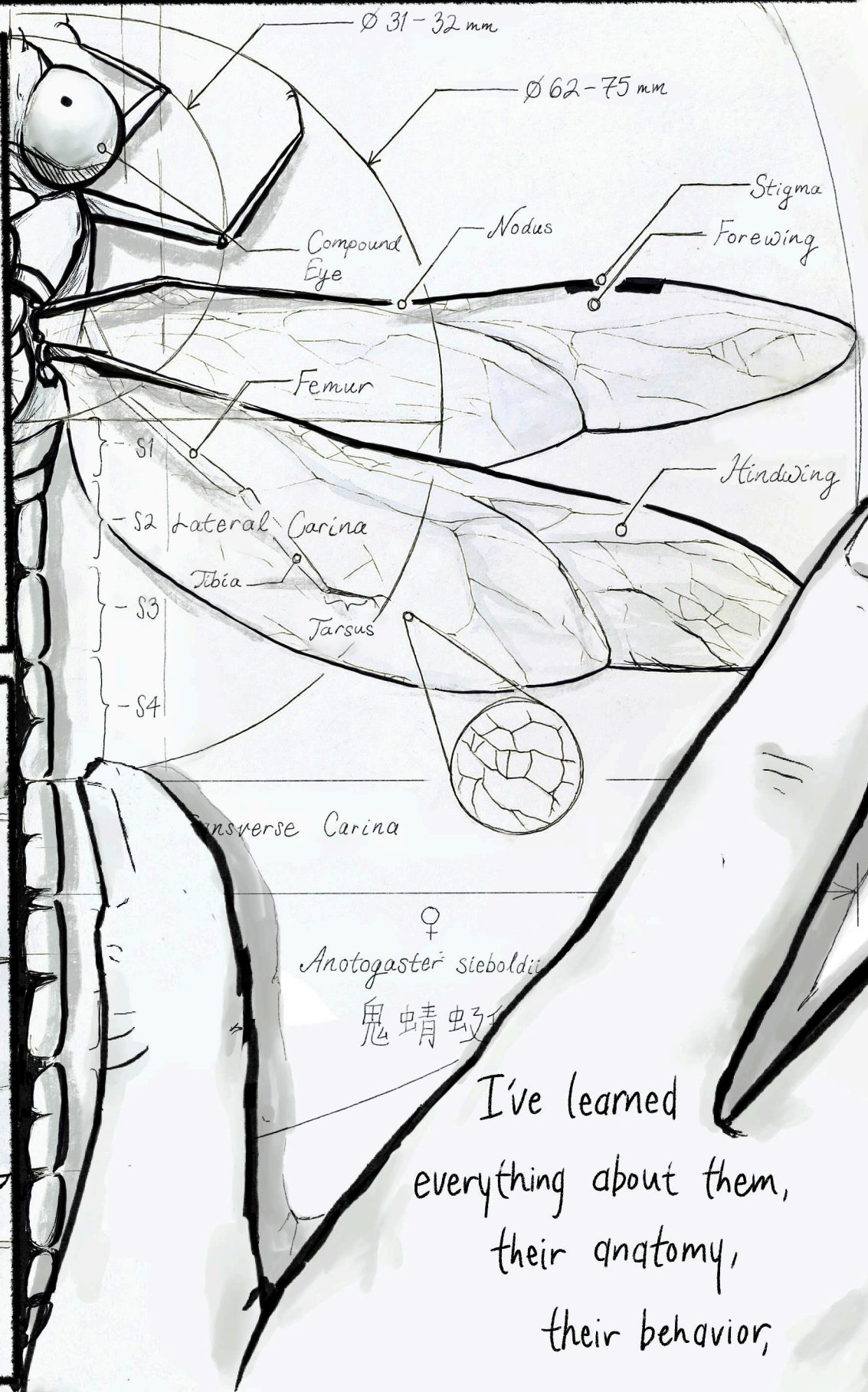


of how they glitter and dance like living gemstones.

But they never stay for more than a moment in my dreams,

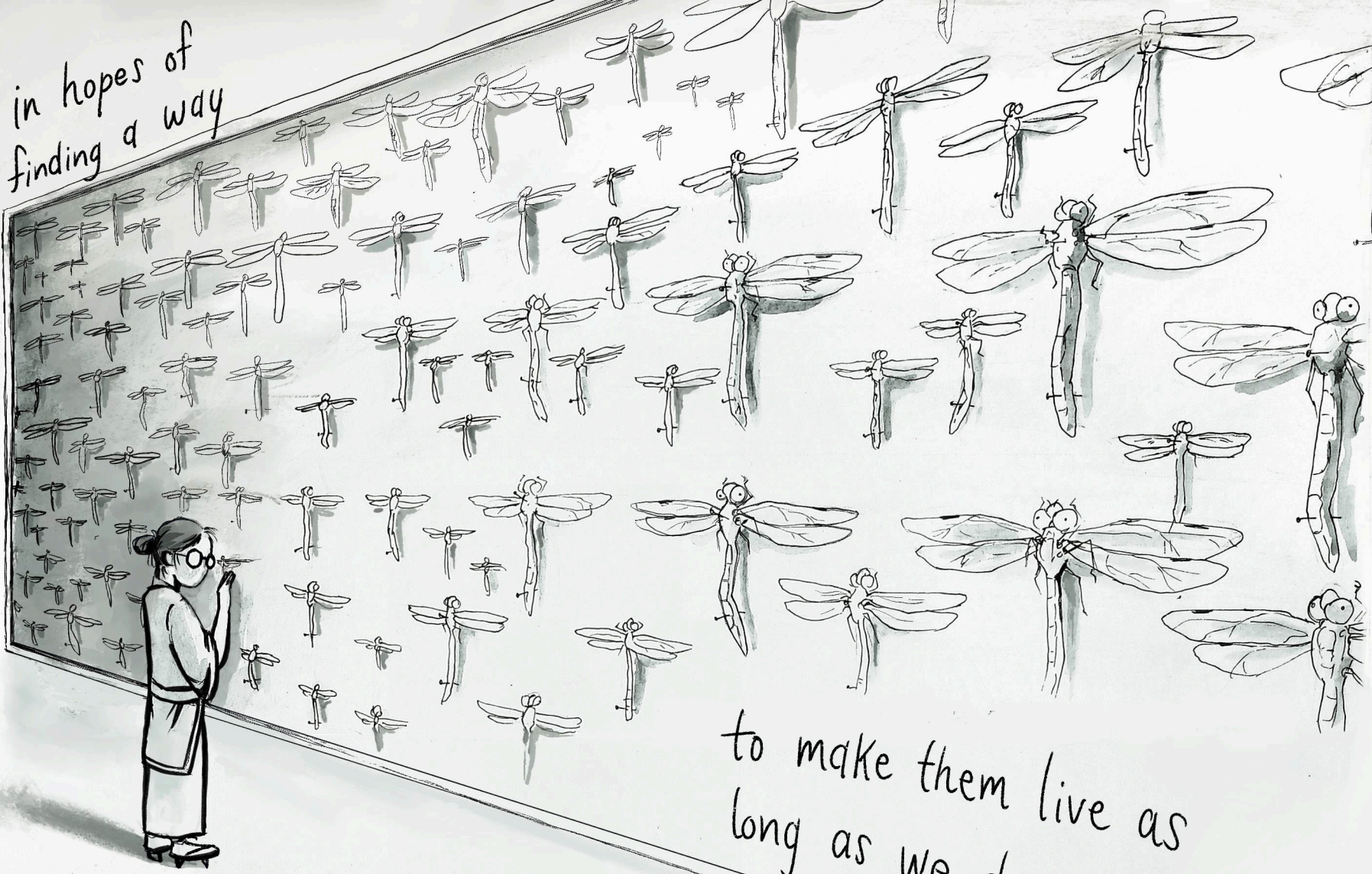


just like in real life



I've learned everything about them, their anatomy, their behavior,

in hopes of
finding a way

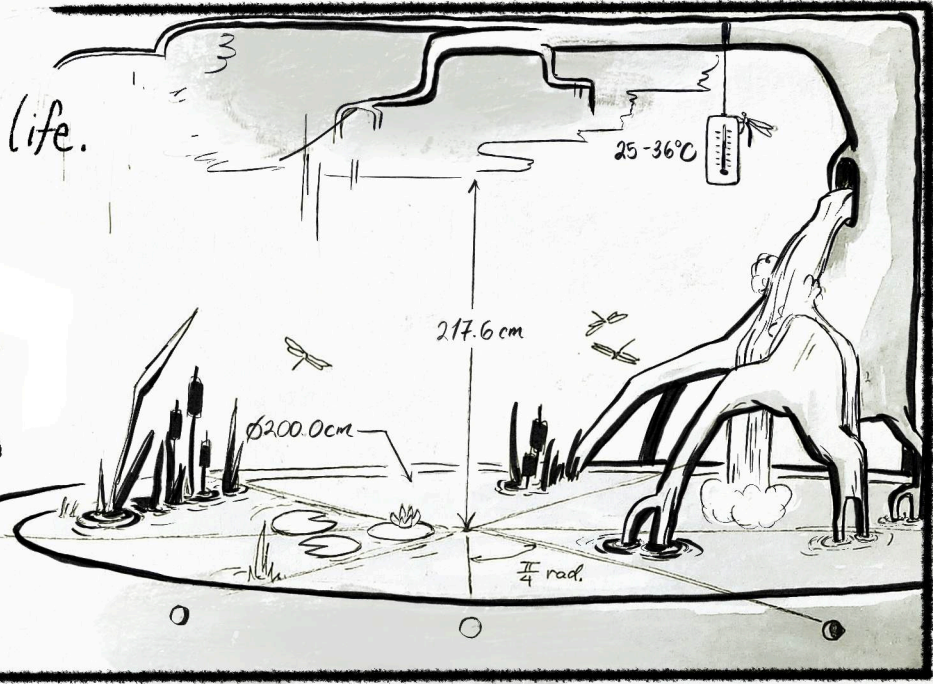
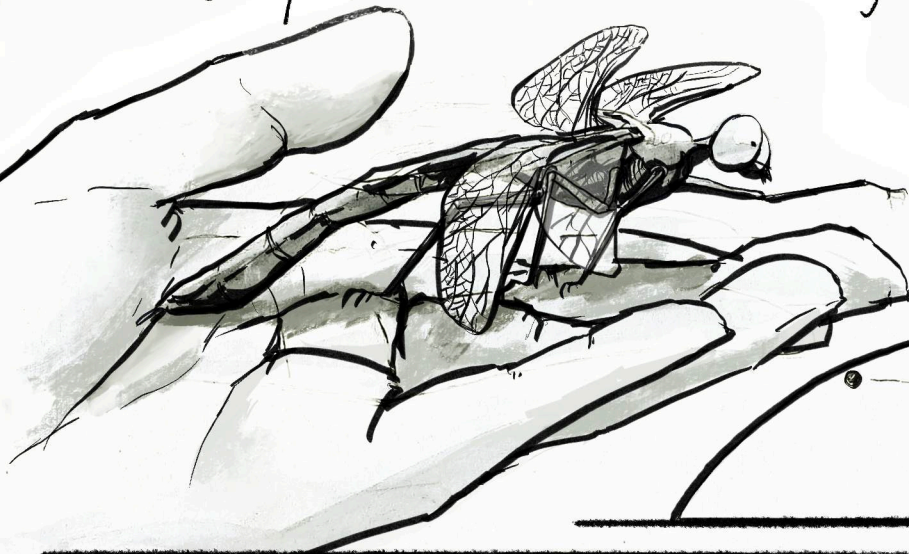


to make them live as
long as we do.

When I was younger, I'd catch
a few each summer.



put them in a sanctuary I built with the perfect conditions for a long life.



They like a bit of humidity

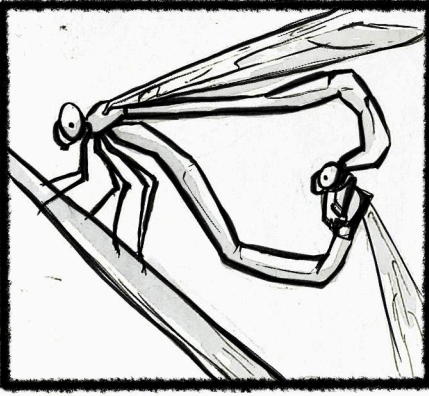


And the taste of mayflies.



I replaced their limbs more often than I wanted to.

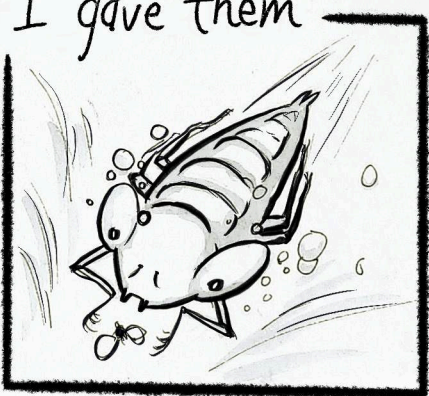
But even as I gave them



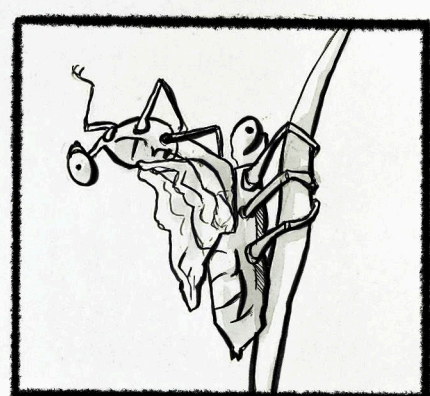
more food,



more water,

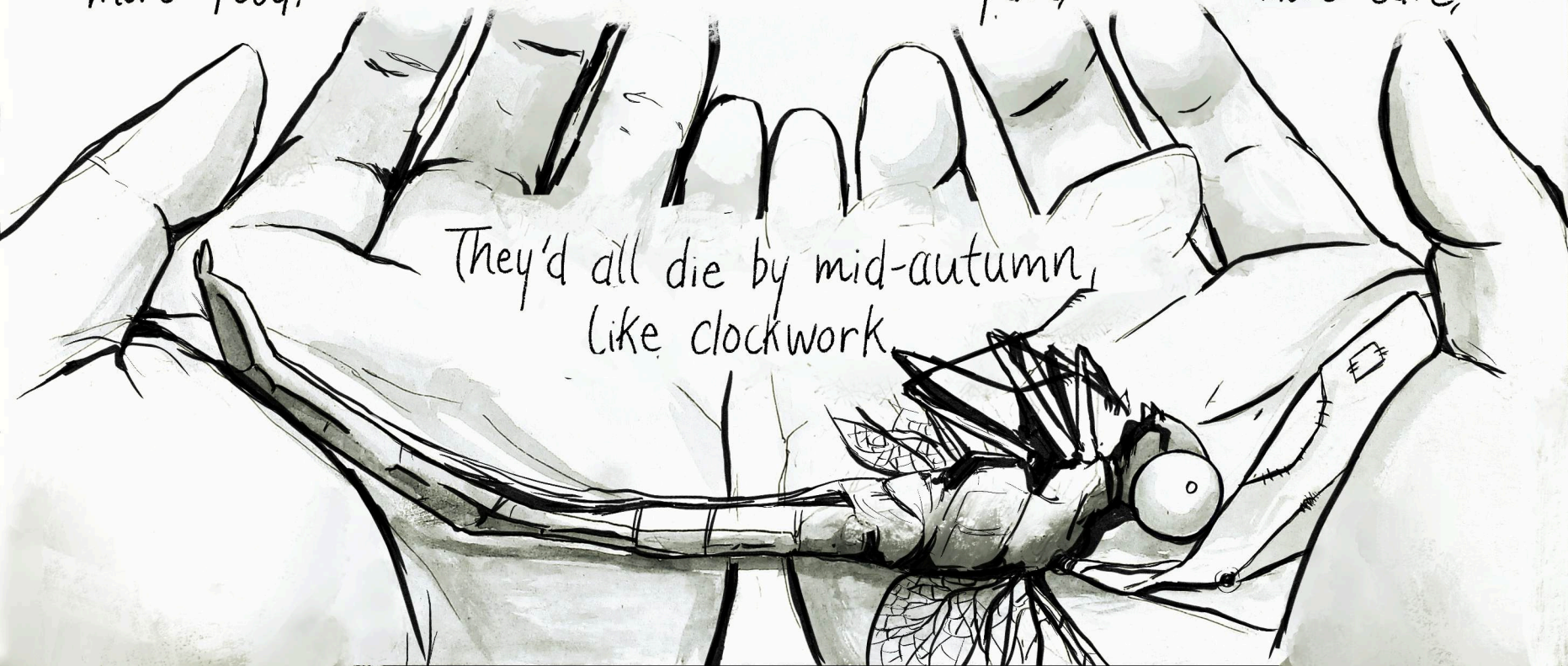


more space,

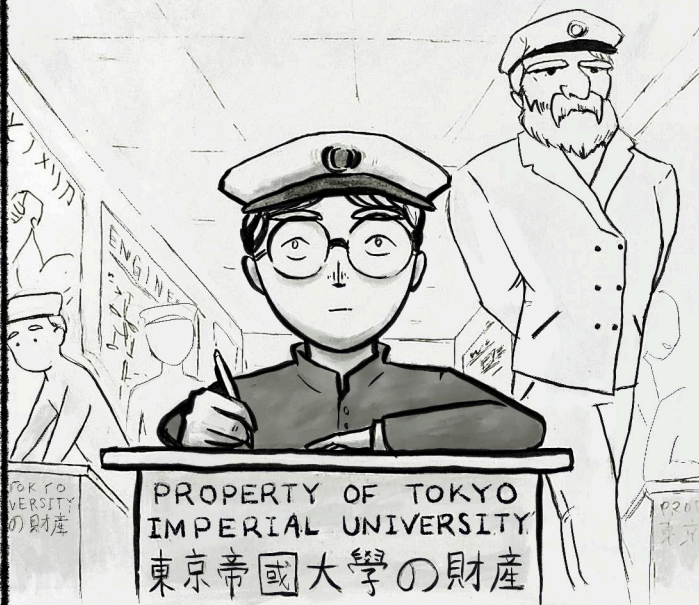


more care,

They'd all die by mid-autumn, like clockwork.



I gave up on that dream last year.



There were more important things to attend to, anyway.



At least I have time during summer break to visit home.



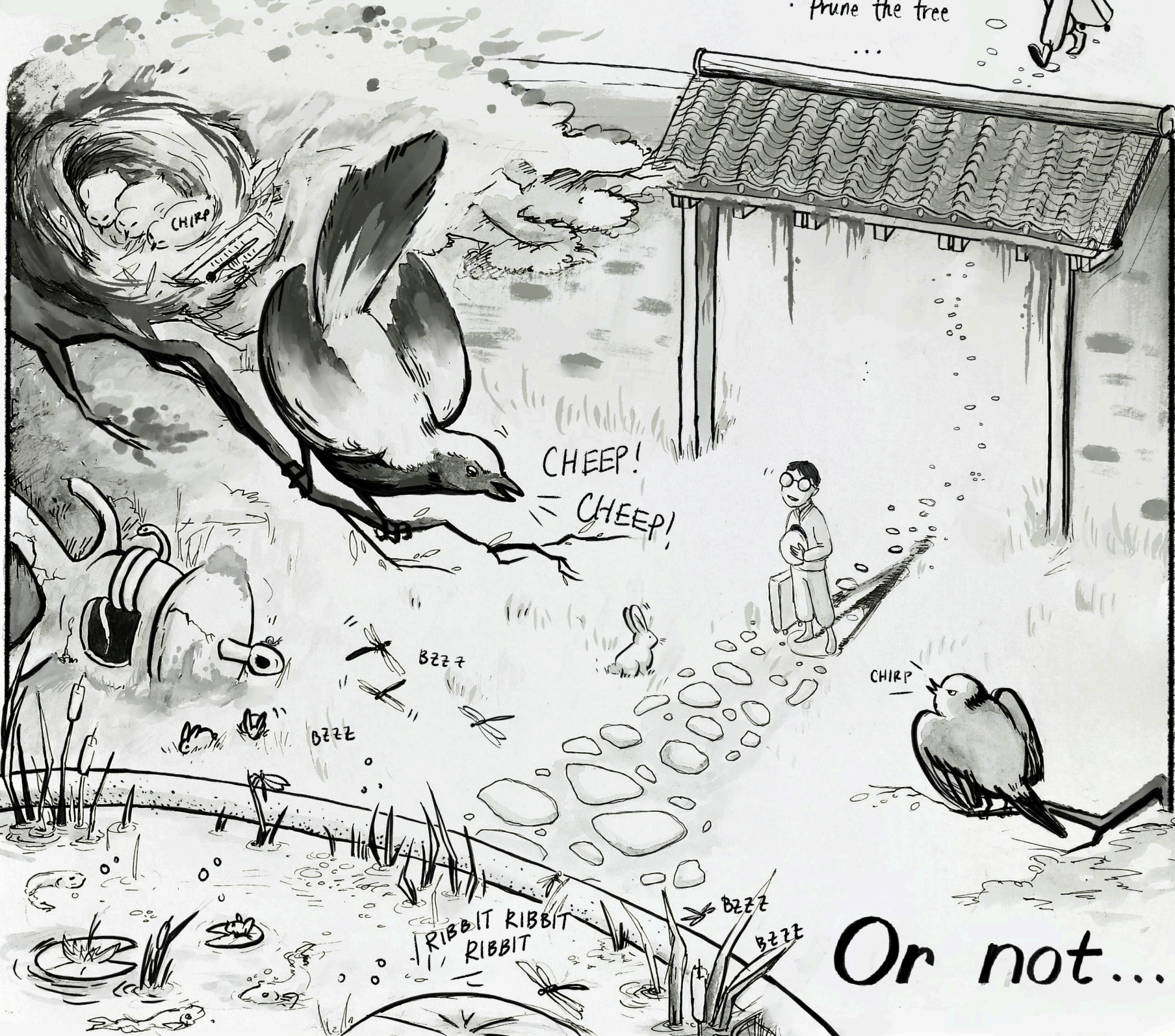
I wonder how the sanctuary is doing.



Is it even worth fixing now?

I'd have to...

- Repopulate the dragonflies
- Prune the tree
- ...



CHEEP!
CHEEP!

CHIRP

BZZZ

BZZZ

RIBBIT RIBBIT
RIBBIT

BZZZ

BZZZ

Or not...