



Susie
and the
**Blue Roof
Witch**

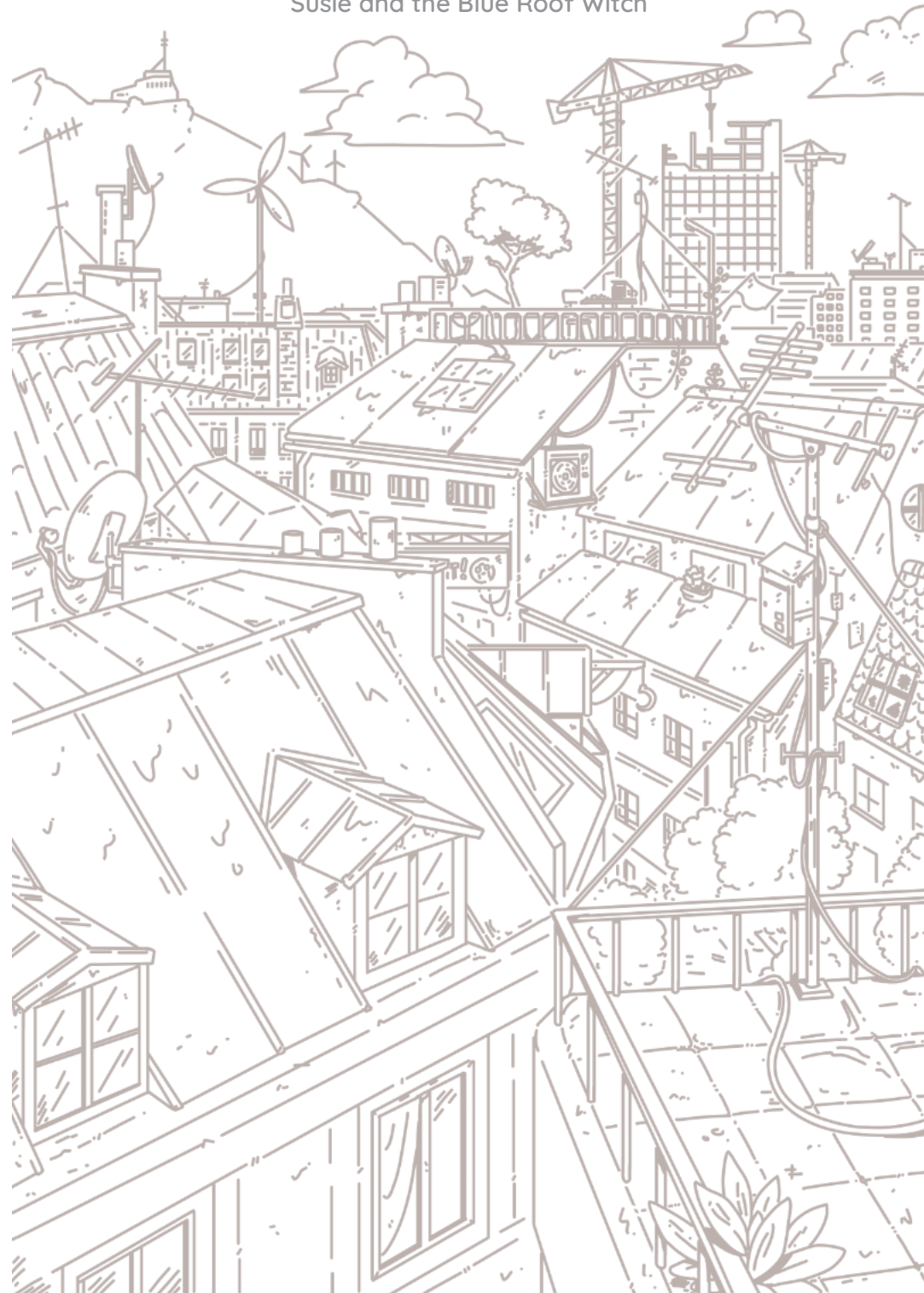
Hi there! :)

Thank you so much for reading this first preview of my little book, I appreciate you giving it a try!

Please keep in mind that none of the illustrations are final, and that you will see many improvements in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, I'm open to all your feedback and question, so don't hesitate to shoot me an email at contact@nighten.fr or by just answering one of my newsletter issue!

Take care,
- Nighten





In a sprawling city of vibrant blue roofs and antennas stretching toward the sky, life carried on as usual.

It was Sunday. Adults were busy shopping, kids were busy playing...

Nothing strange ever happened here. Not usually.

But today, behind one of those windows, in a small apartment perched above the city noise, two sisters were in the middle of an argument.

“No Susie, I told you already, I’m not gonna fill out your stupid survey!”

Susie shuffled through a stack of papers, visibly frustrated and running out of options.

"But, Deb, look at all the ones I have! I need at least 20 responses for tomorrow!"

"Mm-hmm..."

Deborah murmured without paying attention, lying on the couch. Susie's big sister just wanted some peace and quiet, and young girl's school project wasn't her problem.

Susie had a big task ahead. Her teacher had assigned everyone to ask 20 people about their jobs, but so far, the only person she'd interviewed was their mom.

"Pleeease, can't you help me?"

"Susie!"

A voice boomed from the next room. Mom.

"Leave your sister alone for once. Why don't you just go to the park and ask people?"

Susie hesitated:

"I... I can? But I don't know anyone there."

"It's fine, just be careful and you'll be done faster than you think. But please girls, no more fighting."

Deborah sighed with relief and returned to scrolling on her phone, grateful for the moment of silence.

Susie hesitated, glancing at the door nervously, before stepping outside.

"Okay... I think I'll go, then. See you soon!"

Susie stepped onto the bustling city streets. The street was crowded with people — more than enough, she thought, to get her answers.

“If I just ask them, I should have 20 in no time!”

But as she approached the grown-ups, nobody seemed to notice her.

“Hey, excuse me—”

People brushed past, too engaged with their shopping bags, phone calls, and weekend plans. To them, Susie and her survey was just an insignificant piece of the big city

“That’s not fair... How am I supposed to finish if no one will even look at me?”

Adults felt so tall, so busy—and a bit scary too.

But suddenly, amongst the crowd, something caught her eye. A small black cat walked between the legs of the pedestrians.

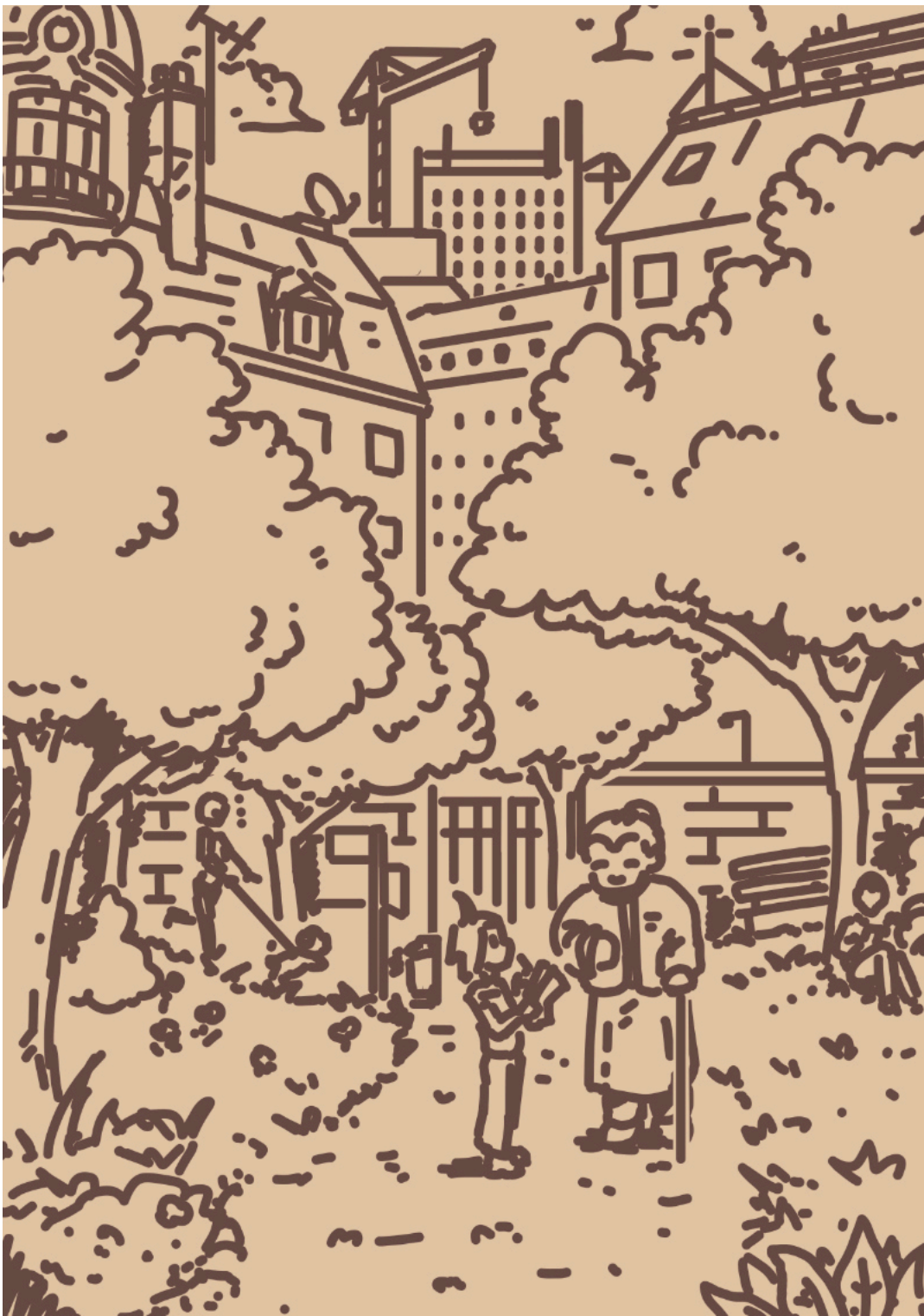
“Finally someone my size! Kitty, kitty, come here!”

The cat paused, its yellow eyes flicking towards her. But as soon as it noticed Susie, it ran off.

Susie’s heart sank.

“Oh no... even the cat doesn’t want to hear about my survey,”





Susie arrived at the park, a bit demoralized. The trees and open green space felt a little less intimidating than the street.

Susie hoped she'd never grow up to be like those adults.

But as she was beginning to lose hope, she spotted a kind-looking elderly woman walking in the park. She smiled as she saw Susie approaching with her questions.

"Me? My job? Oh, my dear, I haven't worked in years!"

Susie squinted her eyes in curiosity.

"Oh... so what do you do all day?"

"Well, let's see. I take walks here in the park, I watch my favorite shows on TV, and I bake cookies for my grandchildren when they visit. That's how I keep myself occupied."

Susie's eyes lit up as she listened carefully, scribbling down the woman's answers.

"That sounds way more fun than grown-up jobs. Why don't adults just do stuff like that instead?"

The grandma laughed softly, making Susie feel at ease.

She said goodbye with a big smile. Susie felt a spark of confidence return as she was looking for the next person to interview.

Maybe some adults weren't that bad after all.

As she made her way through the park, she noticed someone unusual perched on a bench, wearing a long pointy hat. Intrigued, Susie approached her carefully.

"My job?" Asked the woman while adjusting her hat.

"Well, as you can see, I'm a witch."

Susie blinked, then frowned, unsure if it was a joke.

"A witch? For real? I thought you just had a funny hat. What does a witch do, exactly?"

"Oh, lots of things. I help people, brew elixirs, cast spells and prayers... I can also make very good tea!"

Susie tilted her head skeptically. She'd never seen a witch before, especially not in the city. She noted:

"But you don't have a broom, and think that's pretty important to qualify as a witch."

The woman threw back her head and laughed.

"That's true! But here I don't need one. I just hop on the tram when I need to get somewhere."

She winked at Susie, who giggled despite herself.

"That's... strange, but okay. Thank you for answering my questions, Miss Witch"

"You're welcome, little girl. If you ever need anything, you know where to find me."

She tipped her hat, jumped off the bench and left with a grin. Strange, Susie thought.

But her stack of surveys was growing, almost done!



Eighteen... nineteen... twenty!

Susie's face lit up. She did it — she's finally collected all the answers she'd needed for her school project!

Feeling proud of herself after such a long day, she decided to take a detour to buy herself a hot chocolate in a store.

She thought about all the different jobs she's heard about: doctor, police officer, electrician, park attendant...

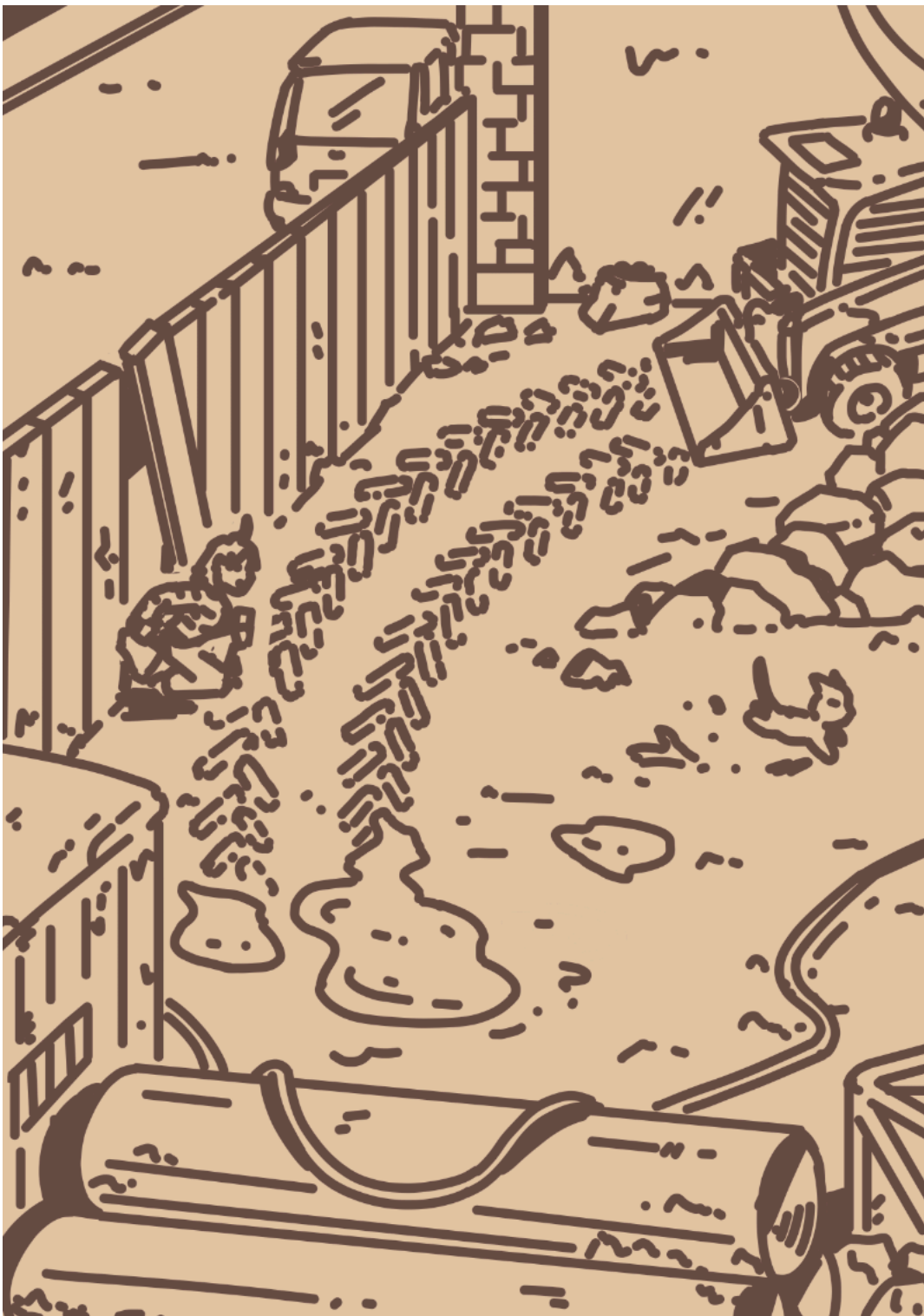
Every job sounded so important, so different.

But as Susie waited for her drink to cool down, she realized something: She had absolutely no clue which one she'd want to do.

She walked down the street, sipping her cup. If only there was one that would allow her to just have fun, Susie would not complain.

Then, as she was passing next to a wooden fence, something familiar caught her eyes... the cat!





Susie's eyes widened in surprise, and she couldn't help but smile.

"Well, look who's back... Kitty, kitty"

She whispered, carefully stepping closer.

But as soon as the cat noticed, it sped up, disappearing on the other side of the fence.

Susie rushed and sneaked through the fence by the same hole the cat went through. There, she found herself in a gigantic construction site, full of various materials, machinery, and mud.

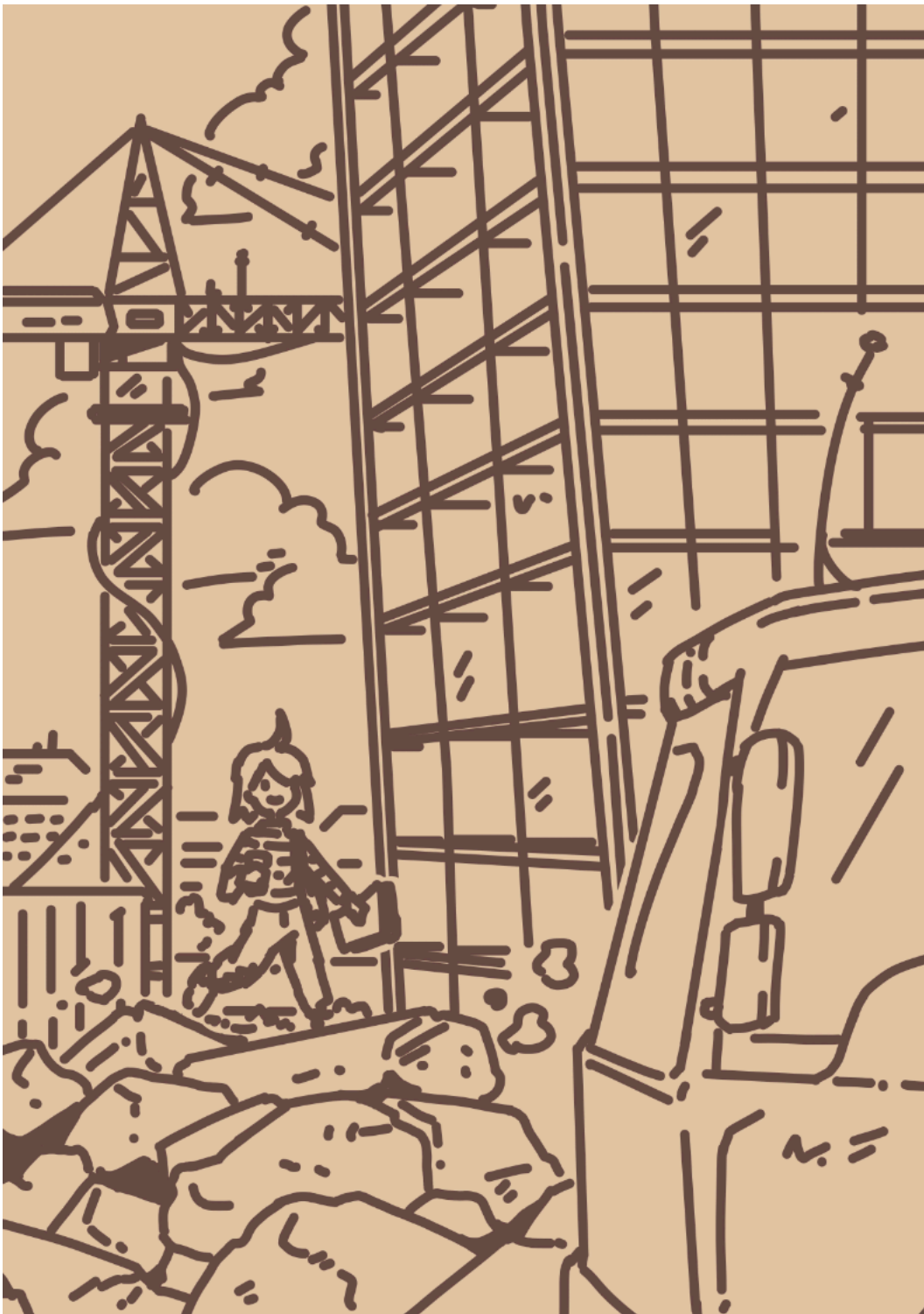
In the distance, the little cat sat on top of a stack of wooden planks, staring at her. For a brief moment, its yellow eyes seemed to study her—then it dashed off again.

"Wait! I just want to give you some pets!"

But the cat was already gone. Susie stood up in the middle of the site, looking around as she brushed her trousers of the mud.

The place seemed completely empty, no workers nor anyone else.

"Well... there is no one here, so there is probably nothing wrong if I take a look around."



Susie wandered through the construction site, her steps cautious at first. But as her curiosity grew, so did her confidence.

She began exploring more boldly, going around stacks of building materials, muddy patches, and the enormous, silent machines towering around her.

“Maybe it’d be fun to drive trucks when I grow up”

Thought Susie to herself. Maybe even the cranes would be nice; Susie was not the kind to be scared of a bit of height.

Spotting a pile of debris, Susie climbed up to the top, leaping from one block to another. Her giggles echoed in the empty site.

“But honestly, this place is way better for playing than working. And it’s all mine right now!”

But she wasn’t expecting that this place wasn’t in fact all for herself. Right as she was about to jump again, she froze.

A sound broke through the quiet... a voice...

“Ugh... is someone here?”



Susie's heart skipped a beat. She scrambled down the pile of debris, looking for a place to hide.

She found a pile of metal poles, and without a second thought, crouched down behind them. Holding her breath, she peeked behind the corner.

She definitely heard a man's voice, but now there were footsteps coming, and their sound was getting closer.

A security guard appeared, and his voice echoed through the half built building.

"Was that someone? Or just that cat again..."

Susie's pulse quickened. The guard wasn't leaving!

Her mind raced. She needed to create a distraction and get out of here, but how?

That's where she noticed the half emptied cup of chocolate on her right...

Maybe that could work...



Susie took a deep breath, then threw her cup as far as she could. The cup flew, hit a rock and splattered on the mud, creating a big echo.

“What was that?!”

The guard muttered, heading away from her hiding spot.

That was all she needed. She dashed in the opposite direction, grabbing her stack of surveys that she spent all day on gathering.

She could see an exit! There was an opening in the fence, leading back to the street.

She pushed herself to sprint faster, but her grip on the papers was slipping. Page after page flew from her hand, scattering in the air—but there was no time to go back.

“Hey!”

She heard the guard shouting once he realized that he had been tricked. Running on fumes, she burst through the gate and was finally away.

Safe.



Susie didn't stop running until she bumped into someone familiar around the corner.

"Ouch! Sorry!"

She apologized as she was trying to catch her breath.

"Oh my, you're in a hurry, aren't you?"

Said the witch with a kind smile; the same witch Susie had met at the park today. The girl stared at her, tears welling up in her eyes.

"I... I've lost everything. All the filled-out surveys —they're gone."

She pulled out a few blank forms from her bag; and made a sigh of despair, realizing that she will need to fill them all before school tomorrow.

The witch pondered, twirling her hair before announcing:

"Ah, what a shame. All that effort lost to the wind. But... but perhaps I could help you."



“R-Really? Does that actually work?”

Susie wasn't sure if magic was real, but she could take any help she had to save her school project.

“Of course it does, I'm a witch after all. But only on one condition!”

Susie stayed shut, waiting for the witch to continue. What would she have to do? Make an offering? Do the Witch's homework?

“The only rule is for you to close your eyes. No peeking, even just a little bit.”

“That's all? I think I can do that... but I hope it's safe.”

The witch laughed as Susie covered her eyes with the palms of her hands.

She stood there, waiting, her ears tuned to any sign of magic.

A car engine hummed down the street. A distant dog barked. But still, nothing happened. Susie grew impatient, How long does this magic take?

She even tried to peek through her fingers a little, but the witch immediately noticed:

“Not yet, little girl. Keep them closed.”

With a sigh, Susie squeezed her eyes shut again, fighting back her impatience.



Right before Susie was about to try to glance once again, she felt the witch's hand guiding hers towards something.

She opened her eyes and gasped. The blank forms were gone, replaced by a thick, neat stack of filled-out surveys.

"No way... that's all I need! My school project is saved!"

The witch put her hands on her hips and smiled, looking at Susie flipping through the pages.

"You... You actually did it! You really are a witch ... like, a real one!"

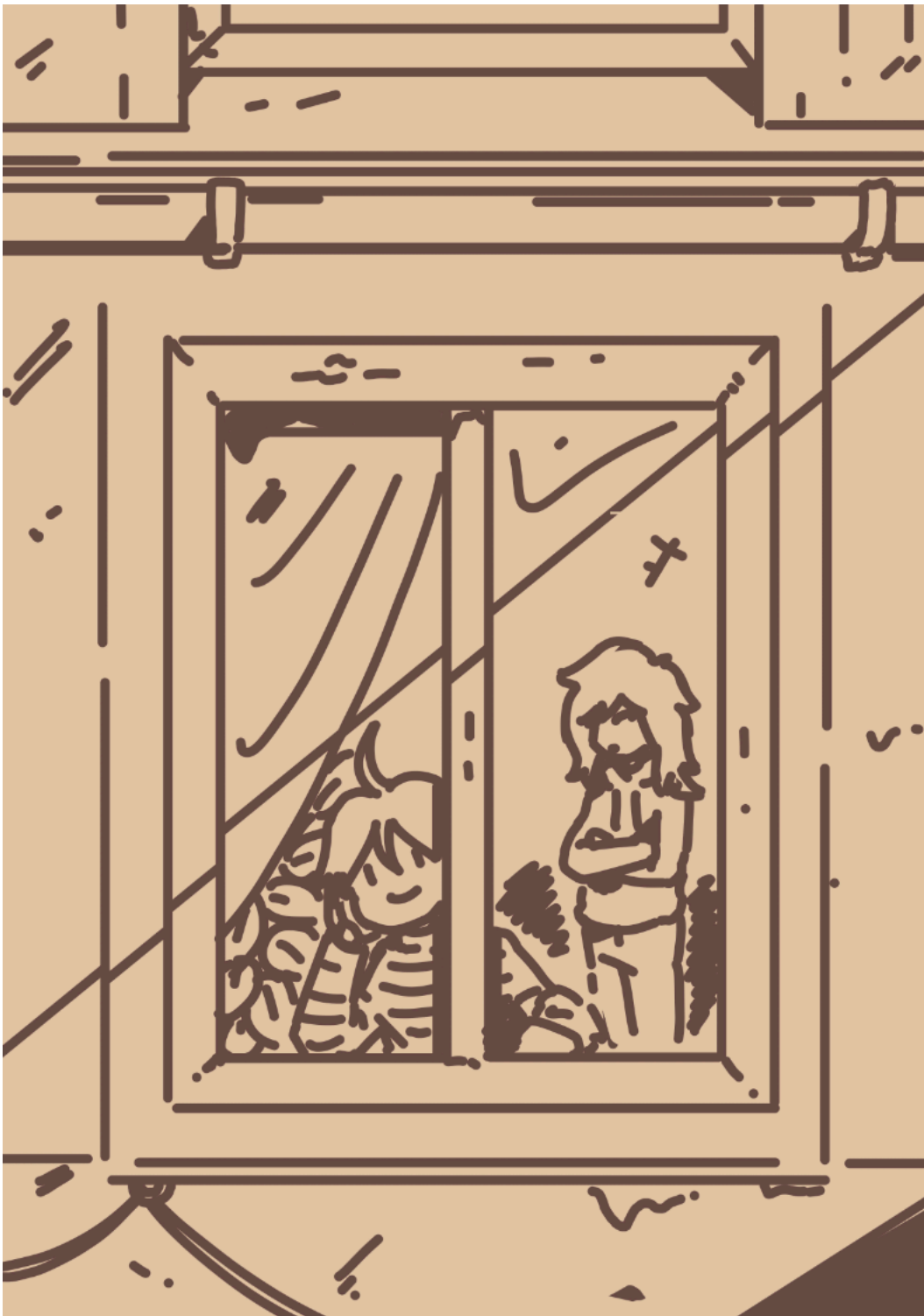
"Of course I am! Now you should go home, right? It's getting late."

Susie nodded, still filled with excitement.

"Yes, you're right! Thank you so much, Miss Witch, it was very cool to meet you!!"

Susie took a step back, then another, before finally turning and heading down the street.

She looked over her shoulder, but the witch was already gone, as if she'd vanished into thin air.



Susie climbed the stairs to her apartment, holding the stack of surveys tightly in her arms.

Her sister Deborah was still there, barely looking up from her phone when Susie crossed the front door.

"What took you so long out there? You've been gone all day."

Susie laid her forms on the table and quietly sat by the window.

"It's a long story."

Deborah glanced over her screen at her sister.

"Well, I sure hope it was worth it. You look like you've ran a marathon."

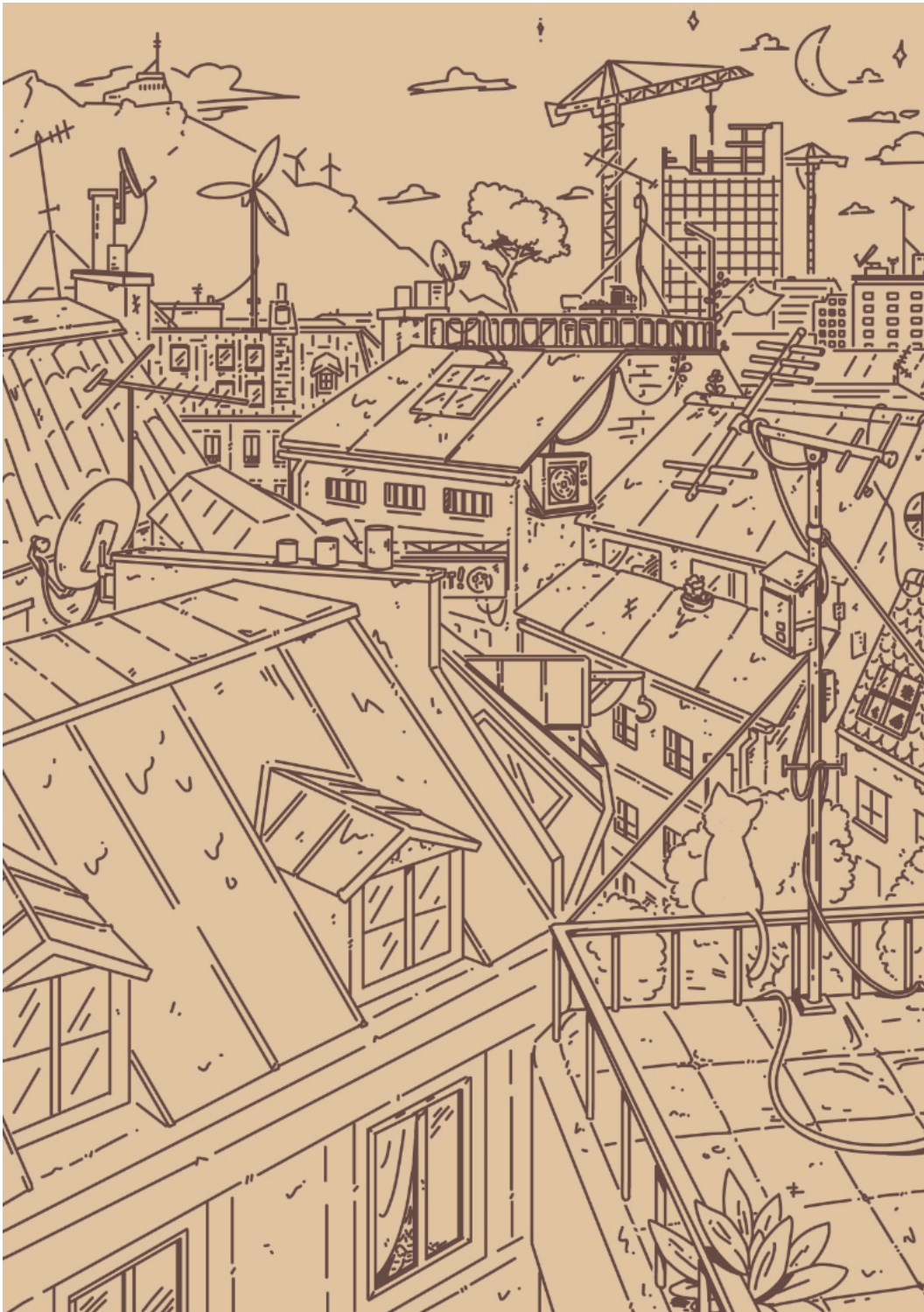
Susie smiled, her gaze fixed on the city sky as the sun was going down. She rested her cheek in her hand, thoughts drifting back to the witch.

"I think I know who I want to be when I grow up..."

"Ugh?"

Susie closed her eyes.

"I'm going to be a witch."



Deborah rolled her eyes and went back to typing.

“Right. Good luck with that.”



In a sprawling city of vibrant blue roofs and antennas stretching toward the sky, life carried on as usual.

It was still Sunday. Adults and kids were going home...

Nothing strange ever happened here. Not usually.

But tonight, behind one of those windows, in a small apartment perched above the city noise, a girl sat quietly by the window.

As the city lights flickered, she dreamed of magic and whispered to herself:

“Just wait. I’ll find a way.”

The end

Job name: WITCH

Occupation: WITCH

Job name: TROLL

Occupation: TROLL

Job name: Phoenix

Job name: FAIRY

Occupation: FAIRY

Job name: UNICORN

Occupation:

NEIGH!
(I GUESS)



Bar code