



Fuzz 'N Bunny and the Jellybean Tree



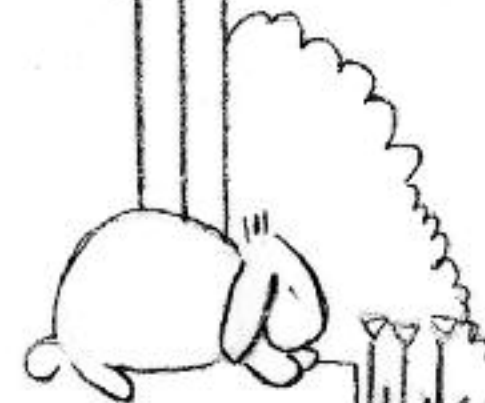
For Evan, K.R.

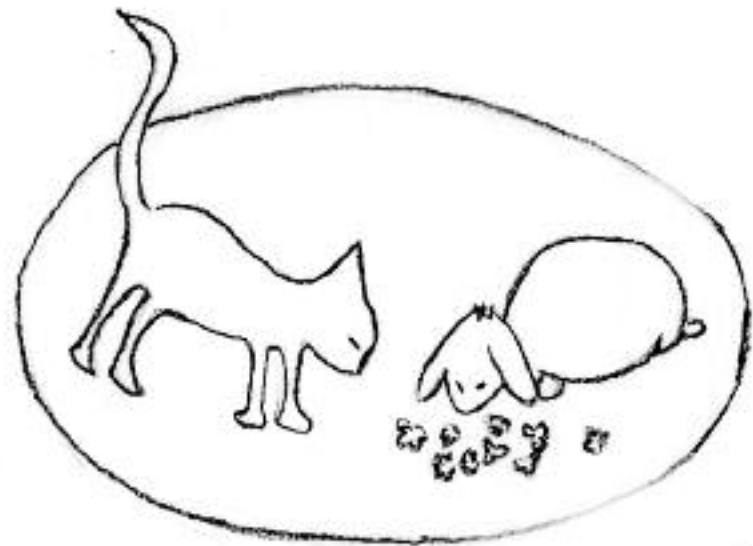


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Fuzz and Bunny lived next door to each other, but they had never met.
Little did they know what was about to happen...





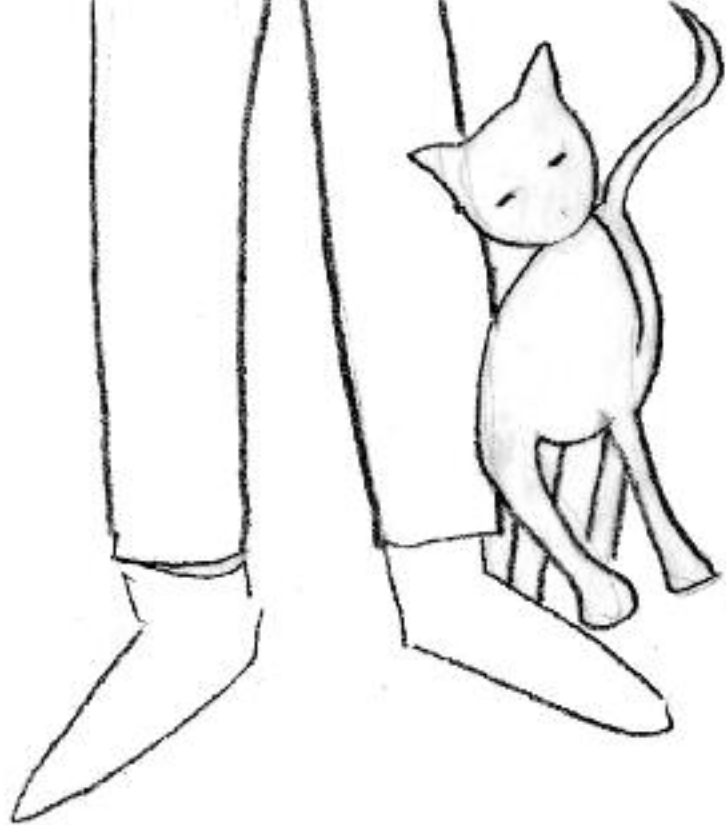
Fuzz went outside to play and saw Bunny chewing on some clover. The tabby cat walked up to the lop-eared rabbit and sniffed him ever so gently and courteously.



Eager to meet his neighbor, Bunny lunged towards Fuzz, coming only a few inches from her face.

Scared and shaken, Fuzz ran home. She thought, "Who is this black and white fur ball? And why was he trying to scare her?!"

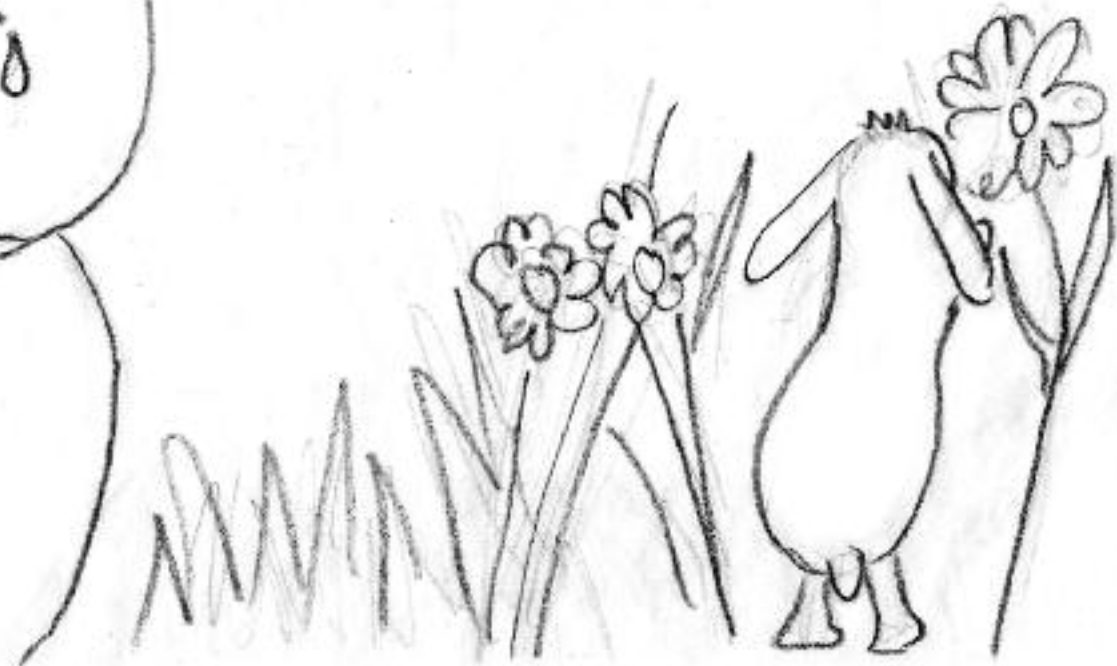




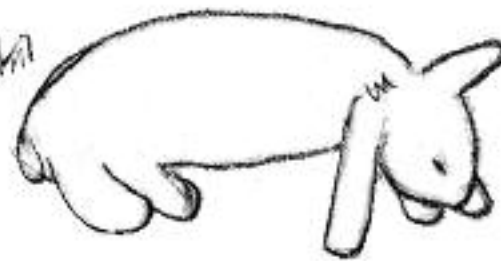
Fuzz loved to be petted and often rubbed her face and body against trees, legs, and just about anything. But she wasn't used to somebody jumping right in her face! She liked to watch and chase things, too, but *she* liked to do the chasing! She didn't know that bunnies moved very quickly and she didn't know why wanted to scare her!



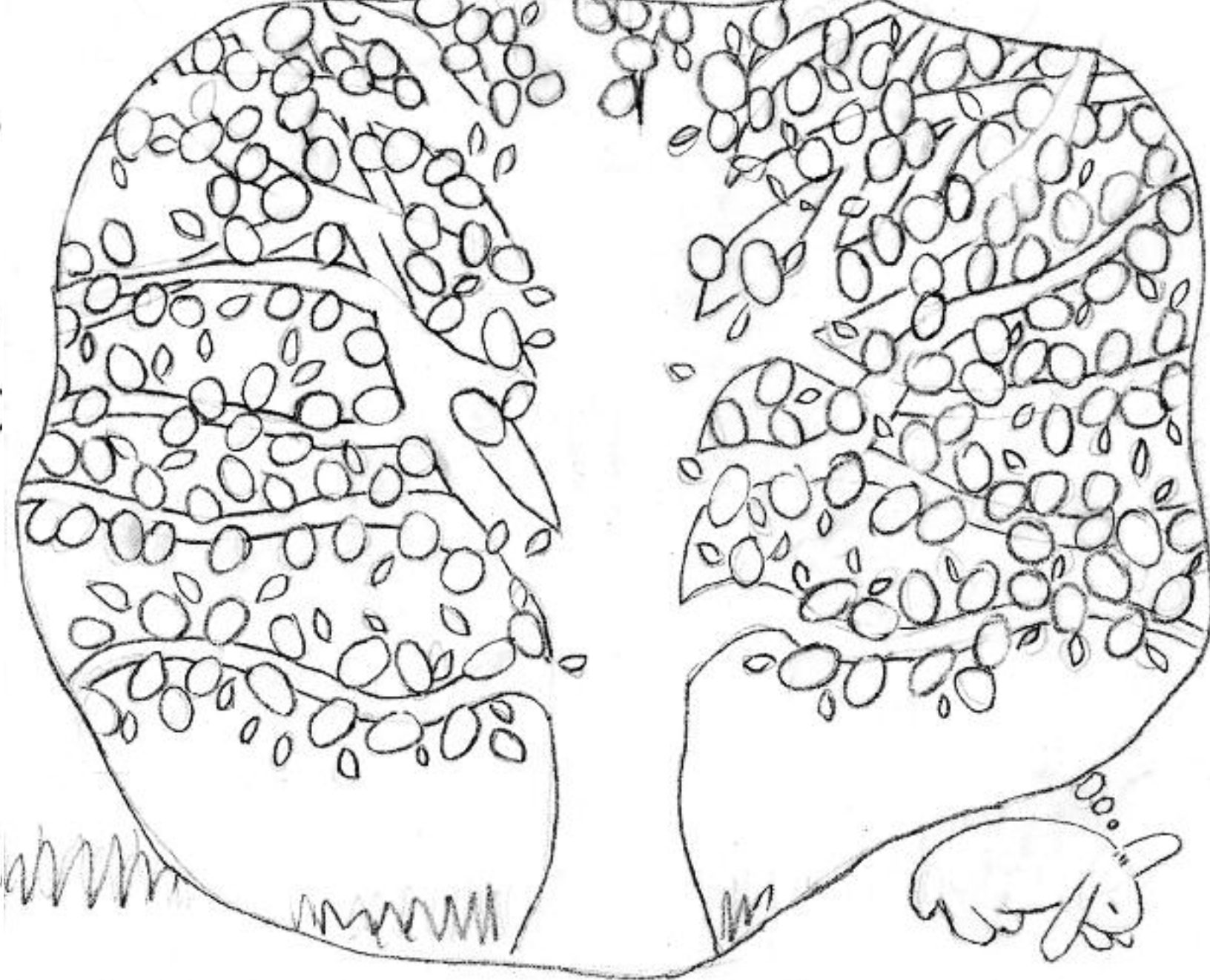
Bunny was sad. He'd never seen a cat before and was very excited to make a friend. He was just a little bunny and lunging is something little bunnies do! Bunny liked to chew on plants and flowers, and he was smart and playful—like a puppy. Actually, he was more like a “bun-dog” than a rabbit. He'd never heard the term, “scardey-cat” and if he did he would know that cats can be very skittish, or in this case “scattish”.

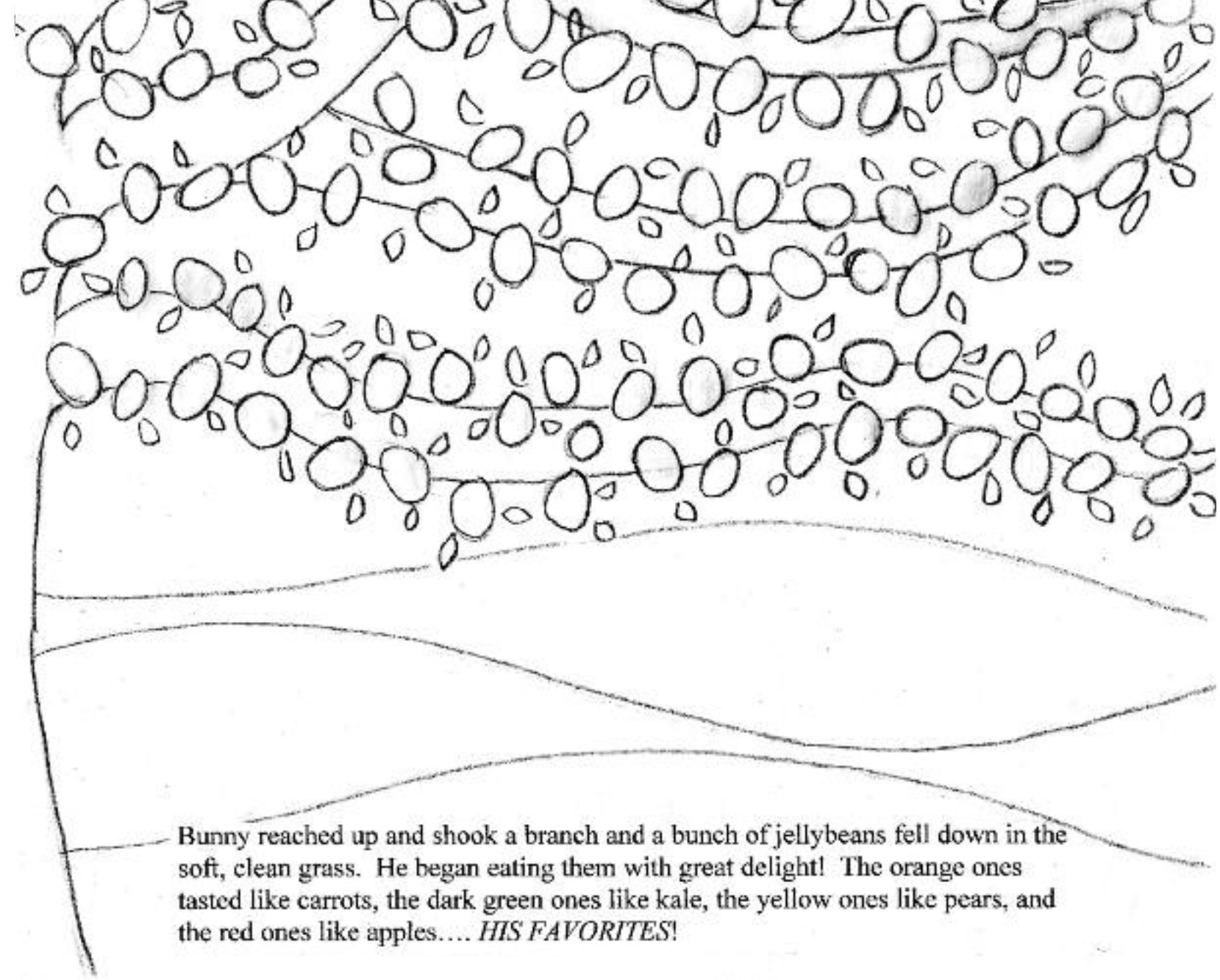
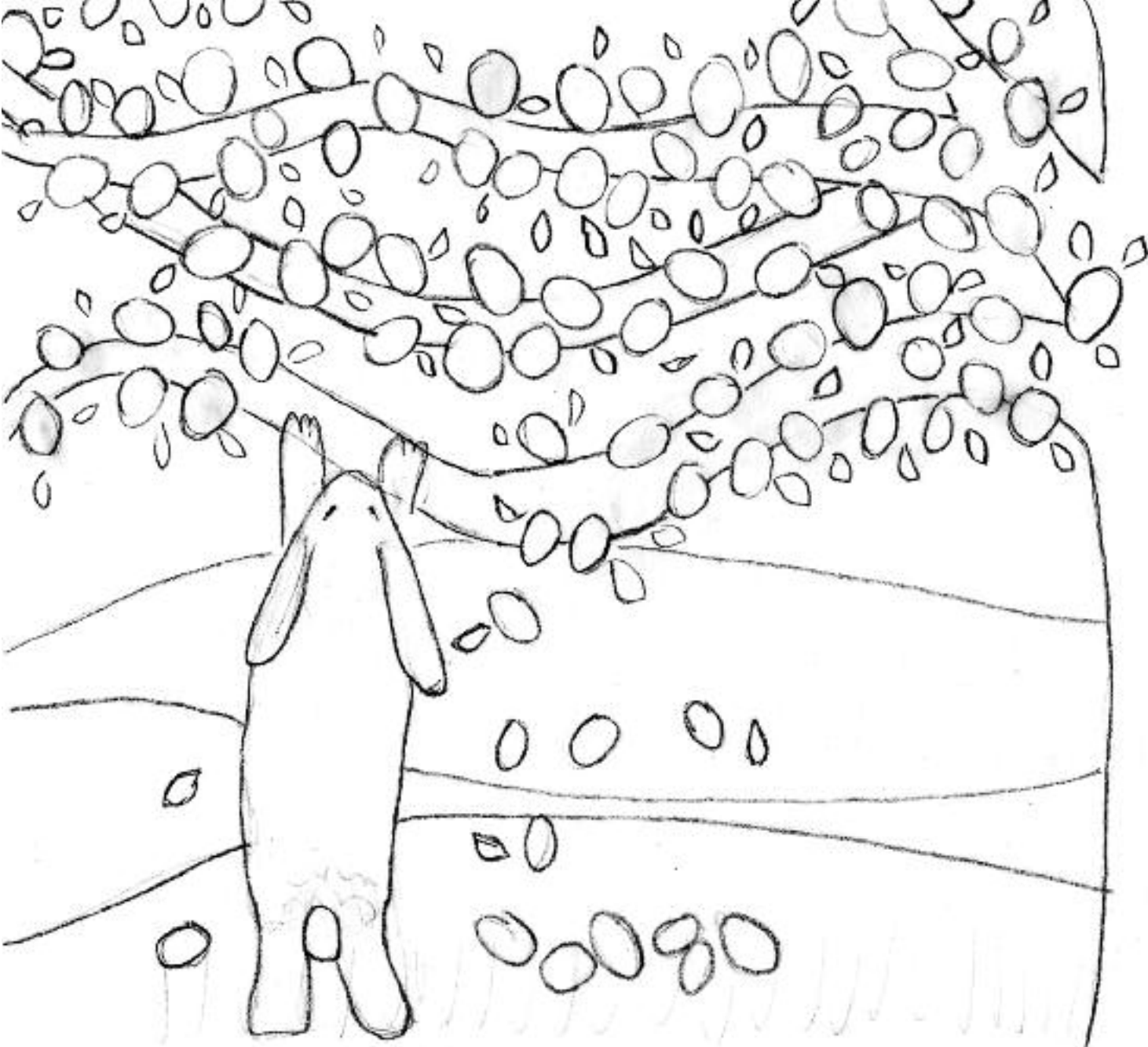


Bunny wondered how he could be friends with Fuzz. He thought and thought, and thought some more. Then eventually, like bunnies do, he fell asleep.



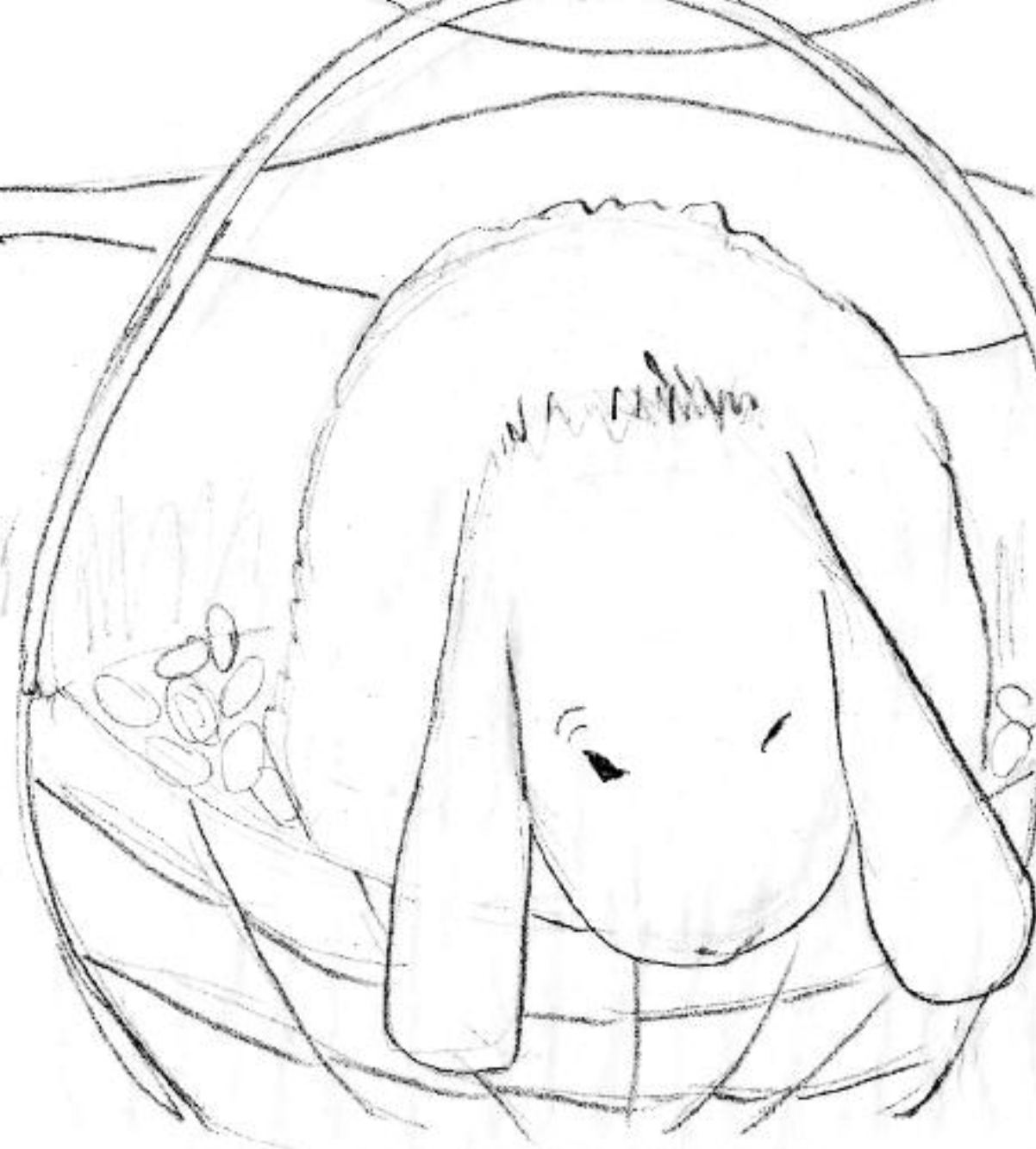
During his nap he dreamed about jellybeans. He saw a large, beautiful tree, with all different color jellybeans. Red, orange, purple, green, yellow, black, white, pink beautiful, delicious jellybeans!





Bunny reached up and shook a branch and a bunch of jellybeans fell down in the soft, clean grass. He began eating them with great delight! The orange ones tasted like carrots, the dark green ones like kale, the yellow ones like pears, and the red ones like apples.... *HIS FAVORITES!*

Bunny often slept
in a chicken-like
position. To his
surprise when he
awoke, he was
roosting on a
basket full
of jellybeans!



Hmmm...

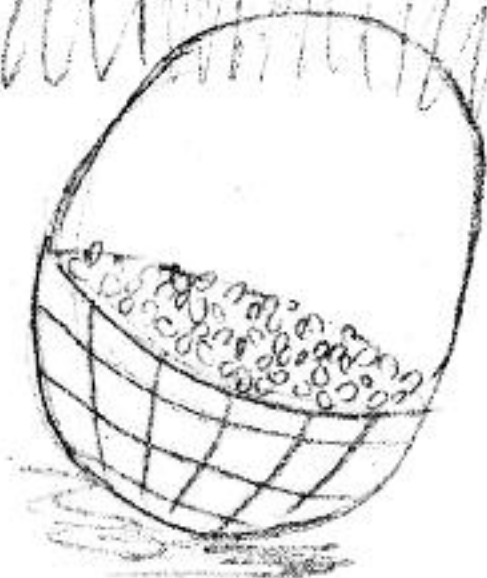
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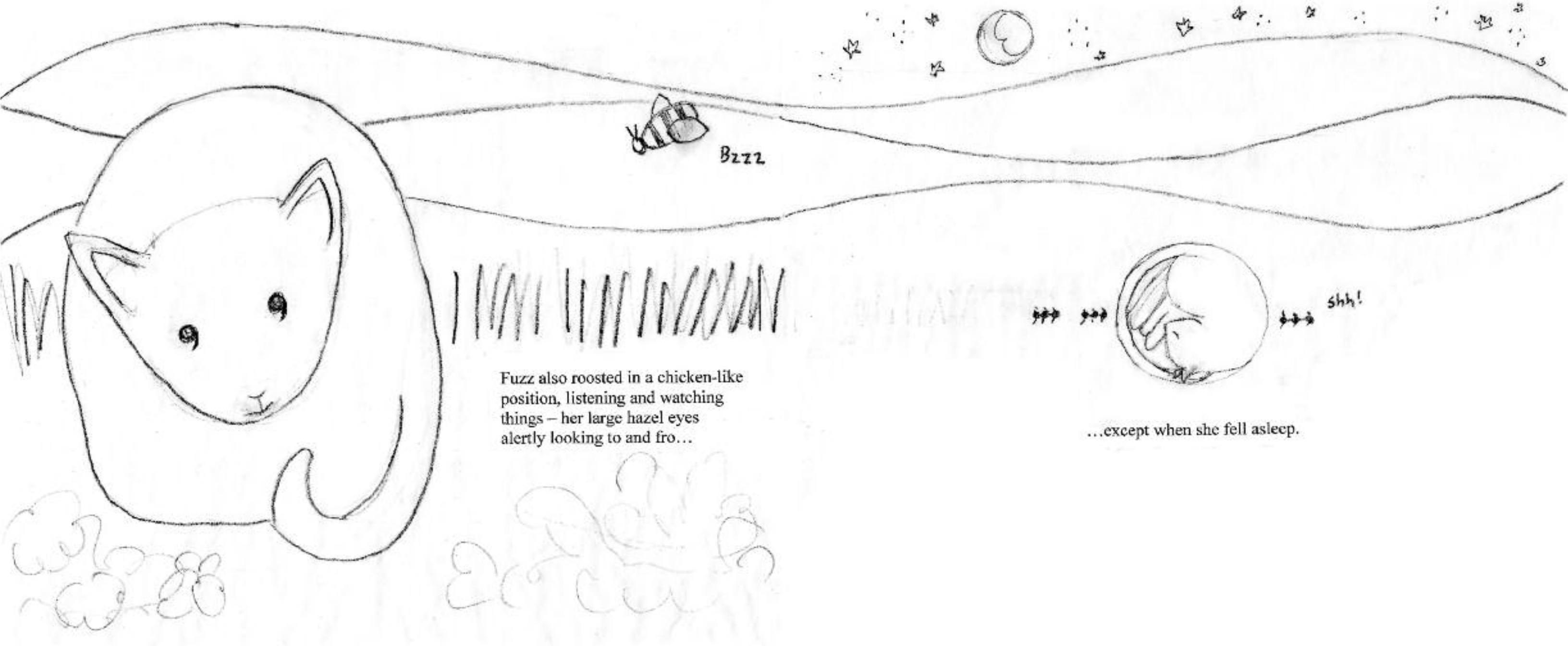


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WOW! He couldn't believe it! He wanted to eat them all!
He really, really wanted to, but a better idea came to his mind...
He would share them with Fuzz!



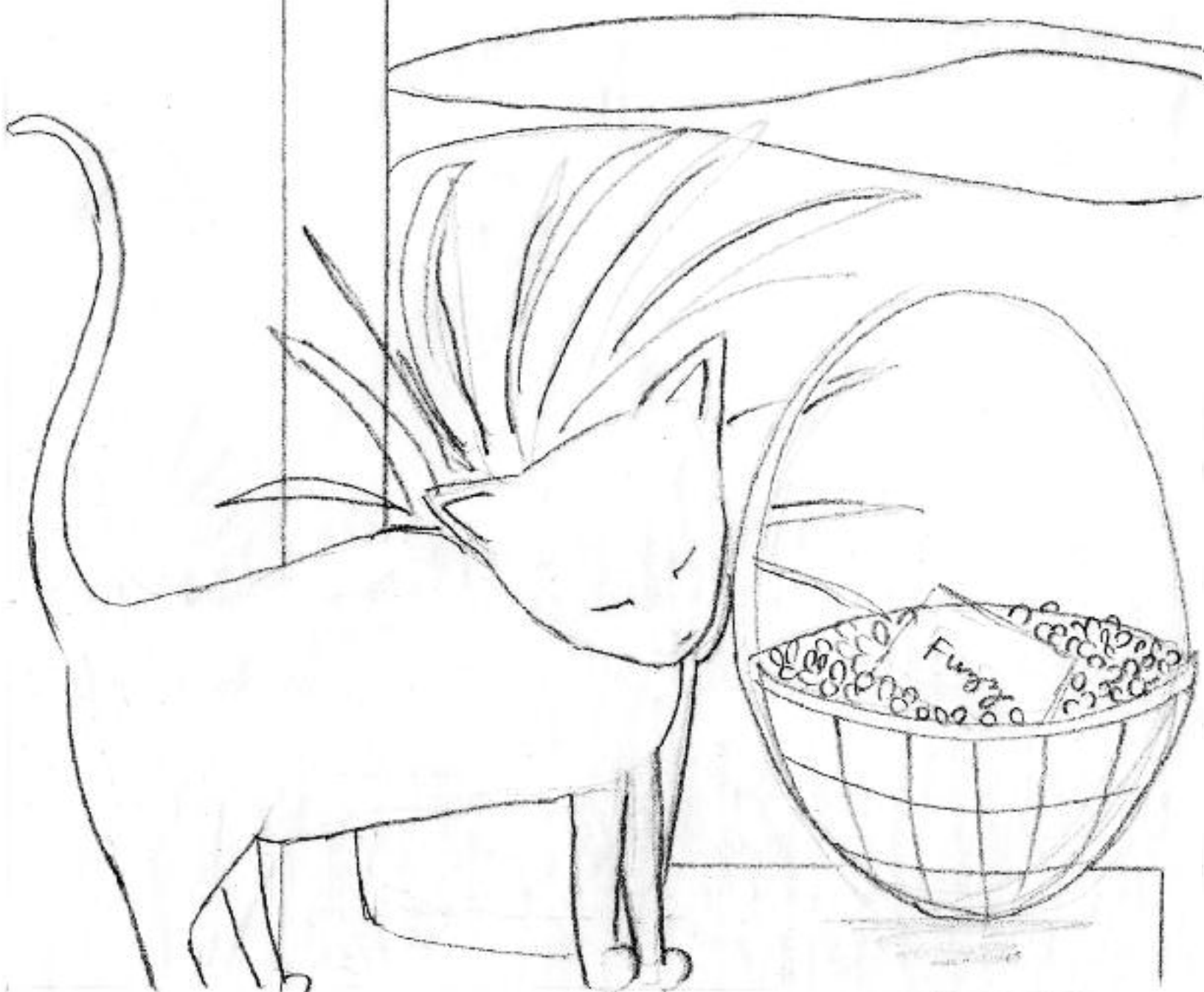


Bzzz

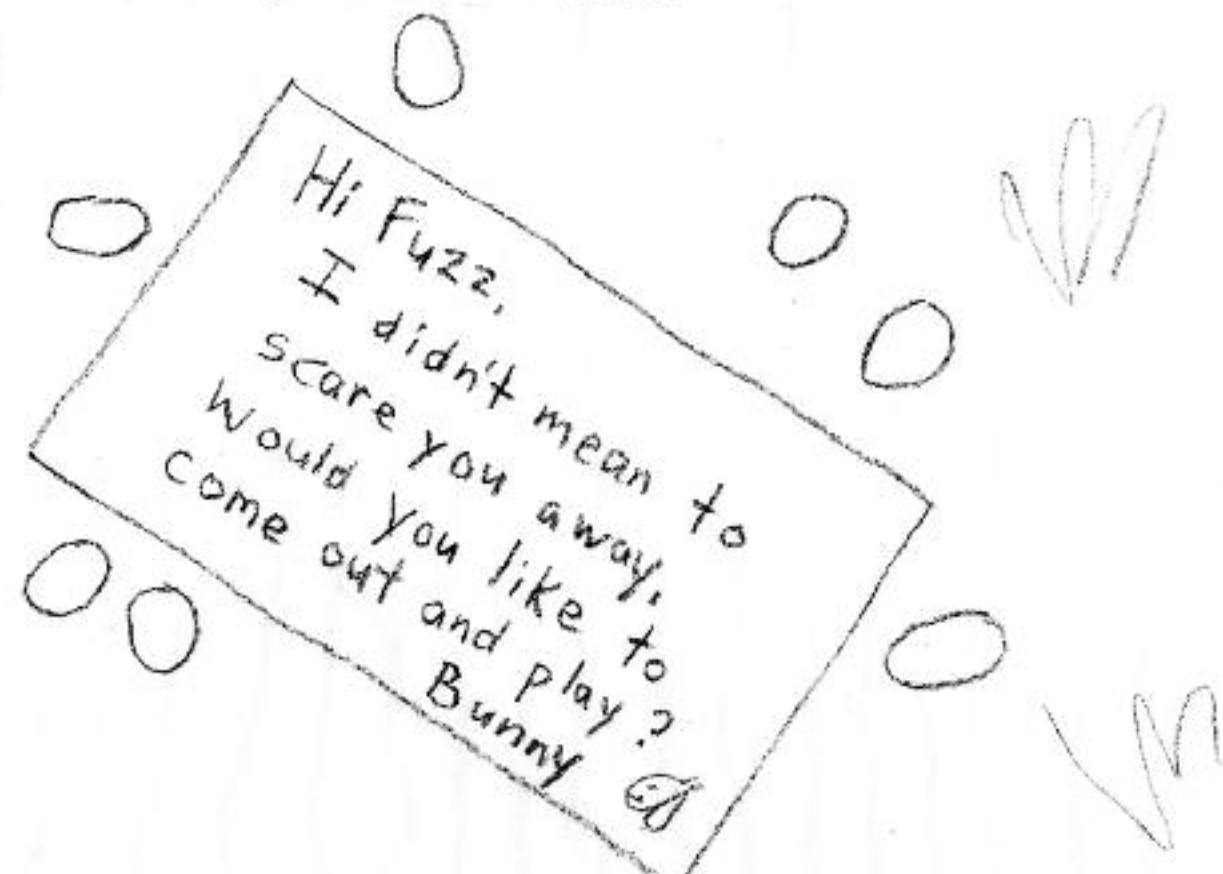
shh!

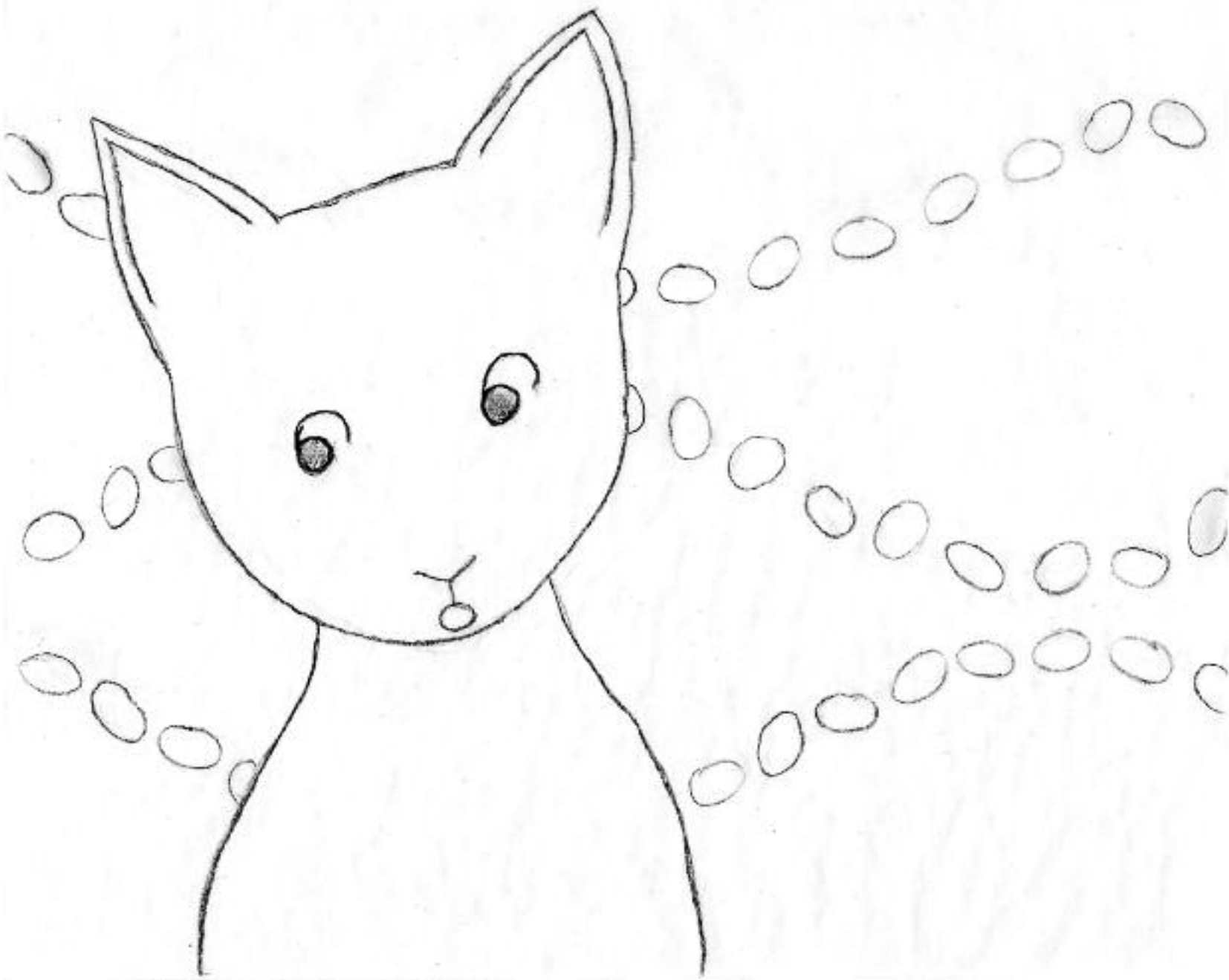
Fuzz also roosted in a chicken-like position, listening and watching things - her large hazel eyes alertly looking to and fro...

...except when she fell asleep.



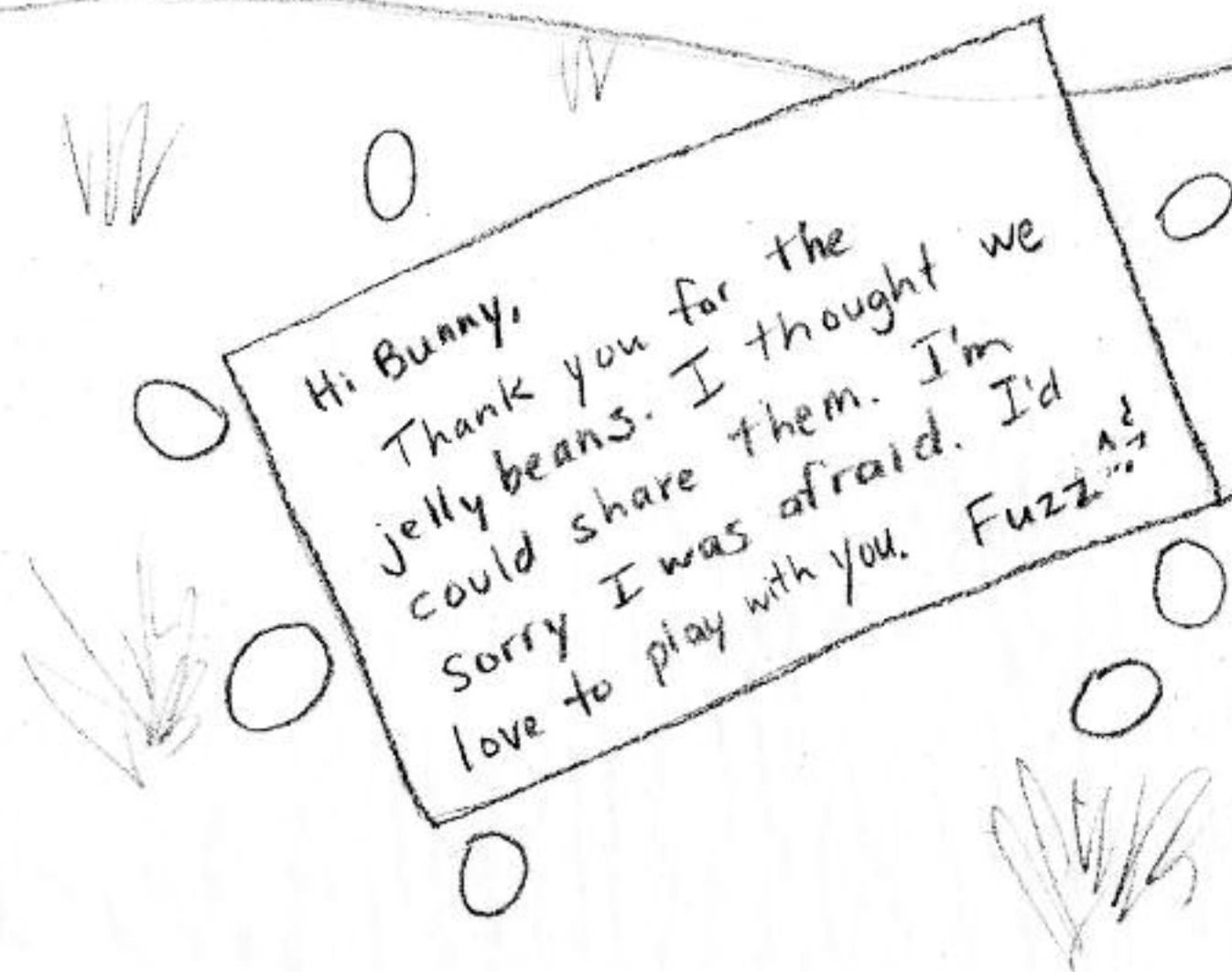
The next day Fuzz discovered a basket of jellybeans outside her front door! She looked around, but didn't see anybody. Were these for her? She loved jellybeans, especially the pink and green ones, that tasted like fish and hay! Oh, look, there's a note...





Now it was Fuzz's turn to be surprised! She wanted to be friends with Bunny, too. And she wasn't afraid anymore! Fuzz happily batted a couple of jellybeans out of the bowl – a pink one and a green one – and began eating them with delight.

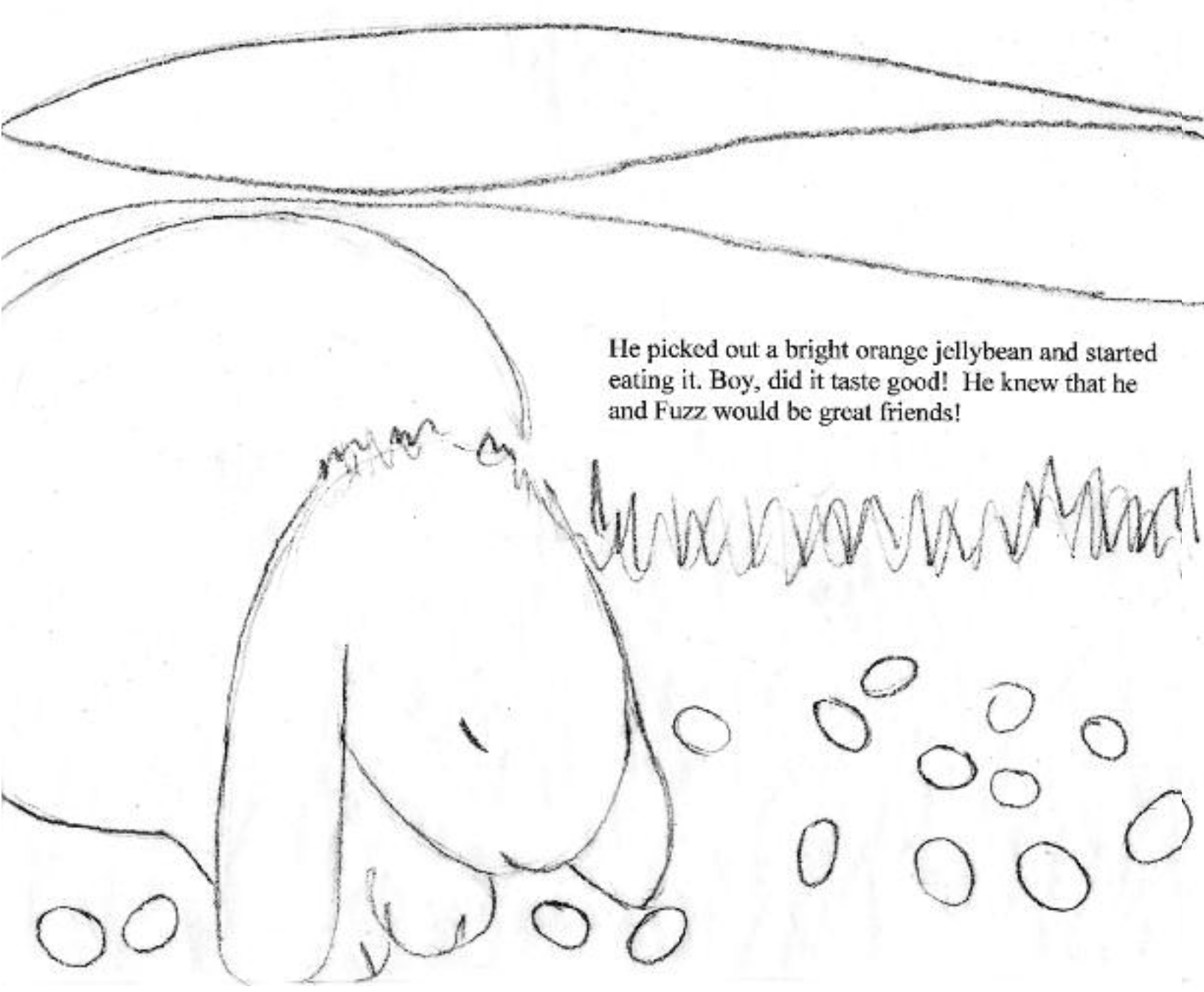
The next day when Bunny opened his front door he nearly knocked over -- that's right-- the basket of jellybeans. He looked inside and there was a note for him!



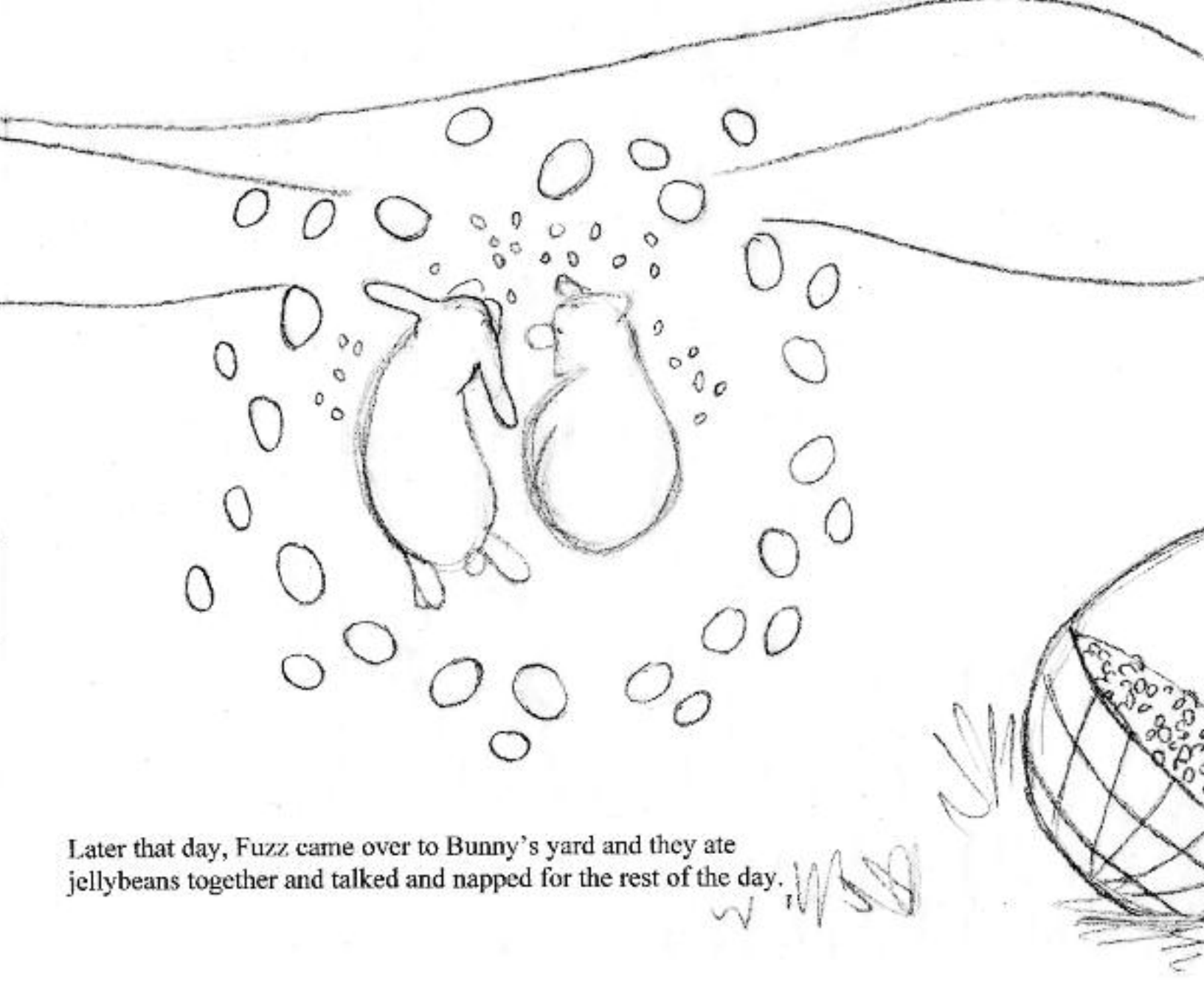
Hi Bunny,
Thank you for the
jelly beans. I thought we
could share them. I'm
sorry I was afraid. I'd
love to play with you. Fuzz^{AD}

Bunny's heart leaped with joy and he was so happy he jumped into the basket! Jellybeans scattered everywhere – off the porch, down the stairs, and onto the lawn. Bunny didn't care – he had a new friend!

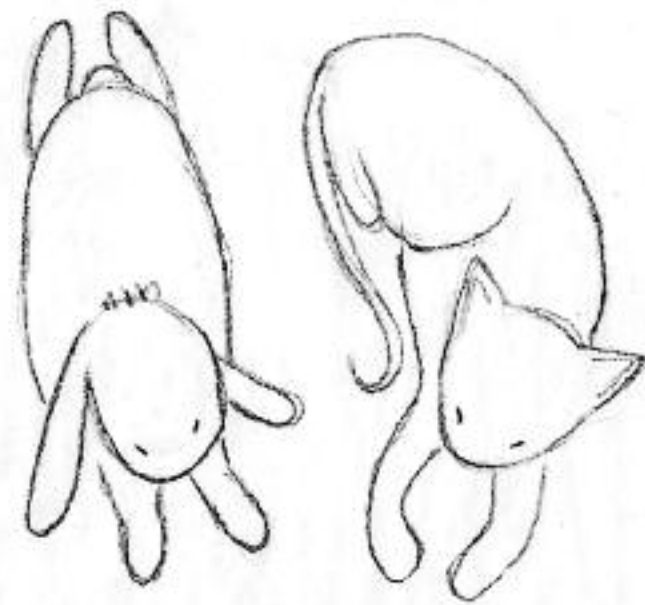
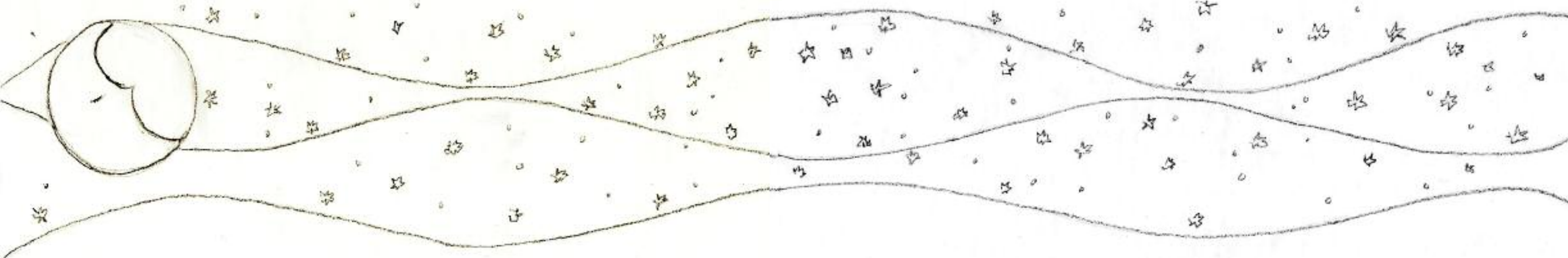




He picked out a bright orange jellybean and started eating it. Boy, did it taste good! He knew that he and Fuzz would be great friends!

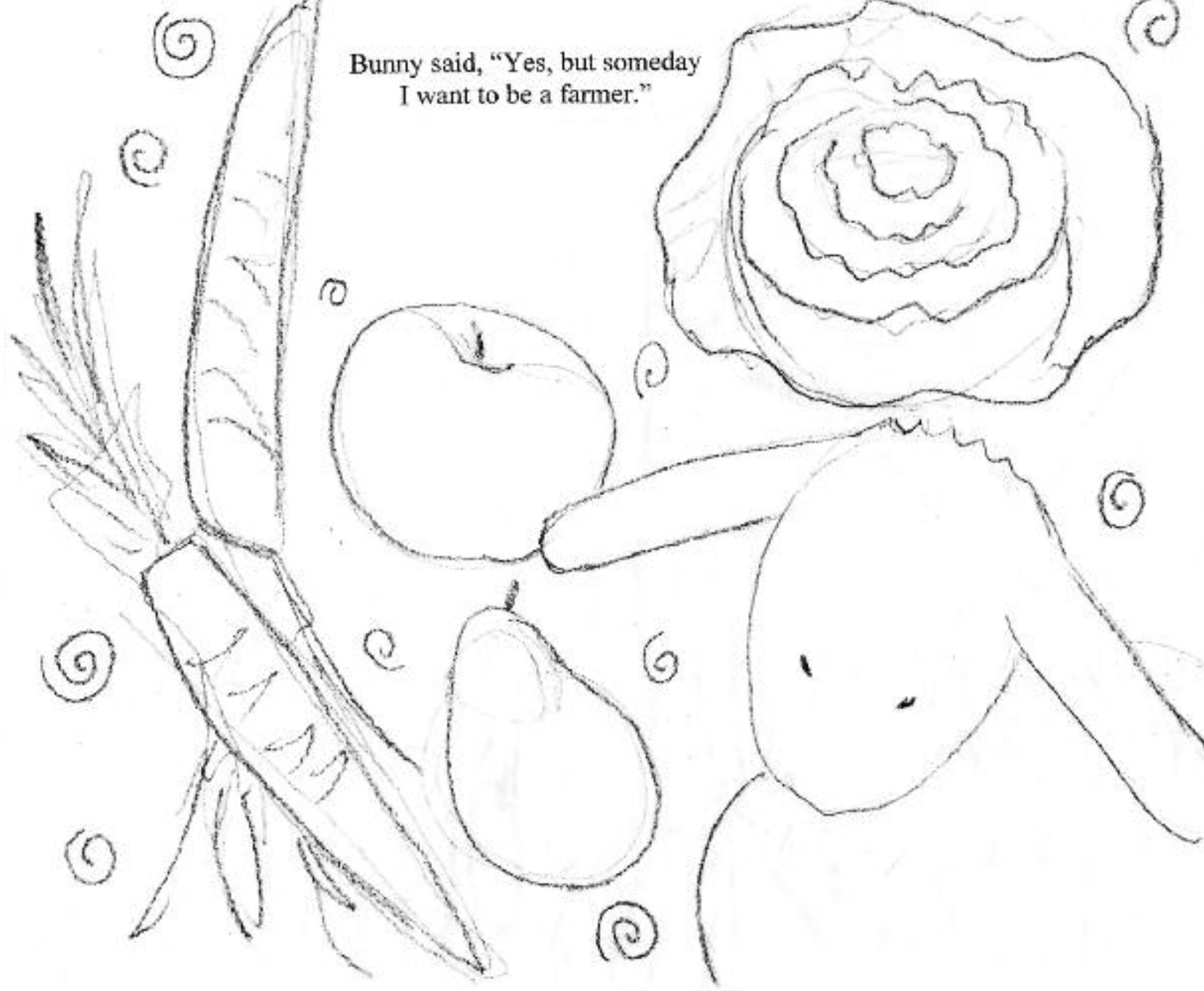


Later that day, Fuzz came over to Bunny's yard and they ate jellybeans together and talked and napped for the rest of the day.



Fuzz asked, "Do you think we could sit here and eat jellybeans forever?"

Bunny said, "Yes, but someday
I want to be a farmer."



Months later, Fuzz was still startled when Bunny lunged at her, but
she just smiled and reminded herself that that's what little bunnies do.
Bunny understood now that cats don't like to be startled and he tried
to remember to slow down when hopping up to Fuzz.



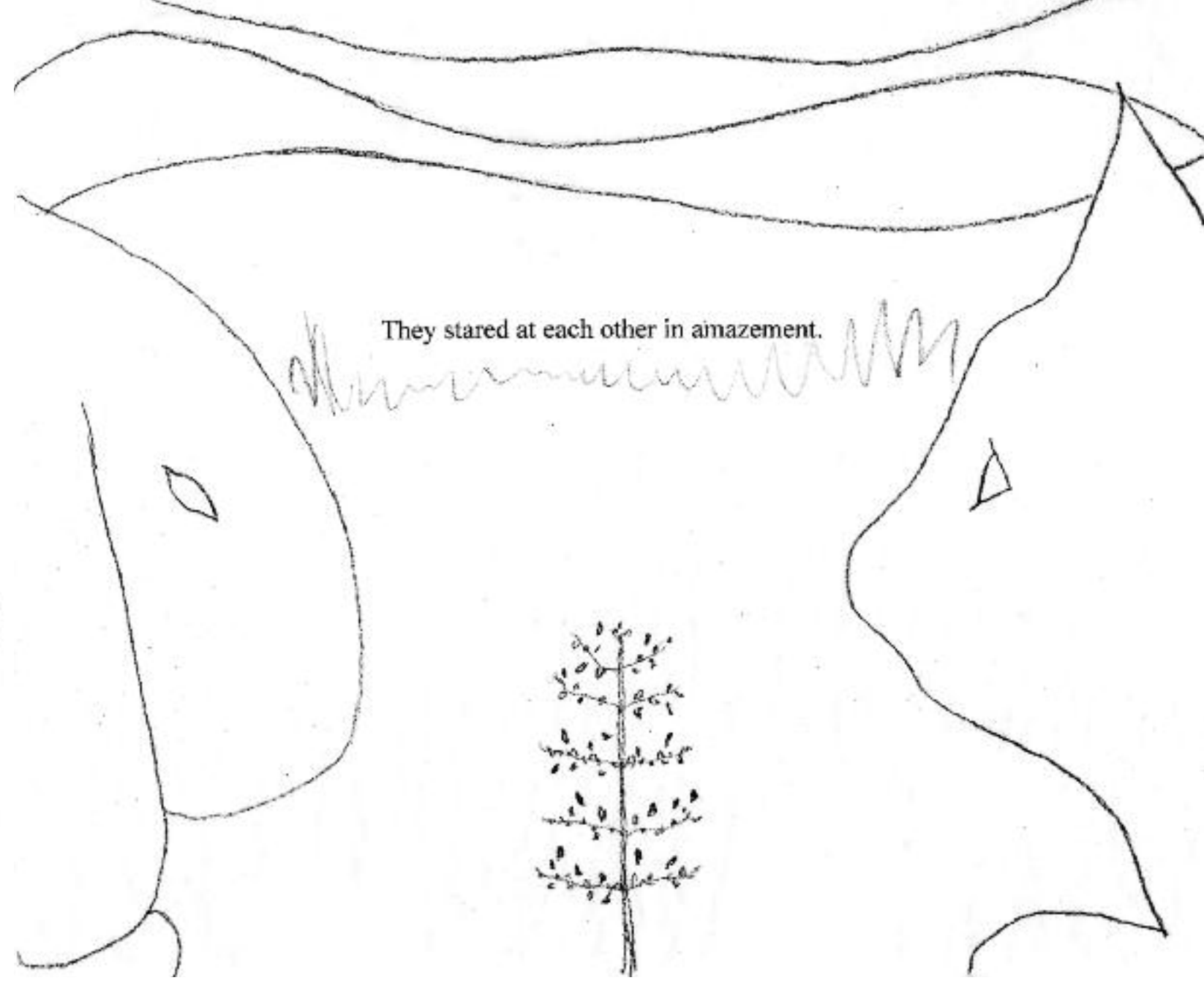
Whatever...

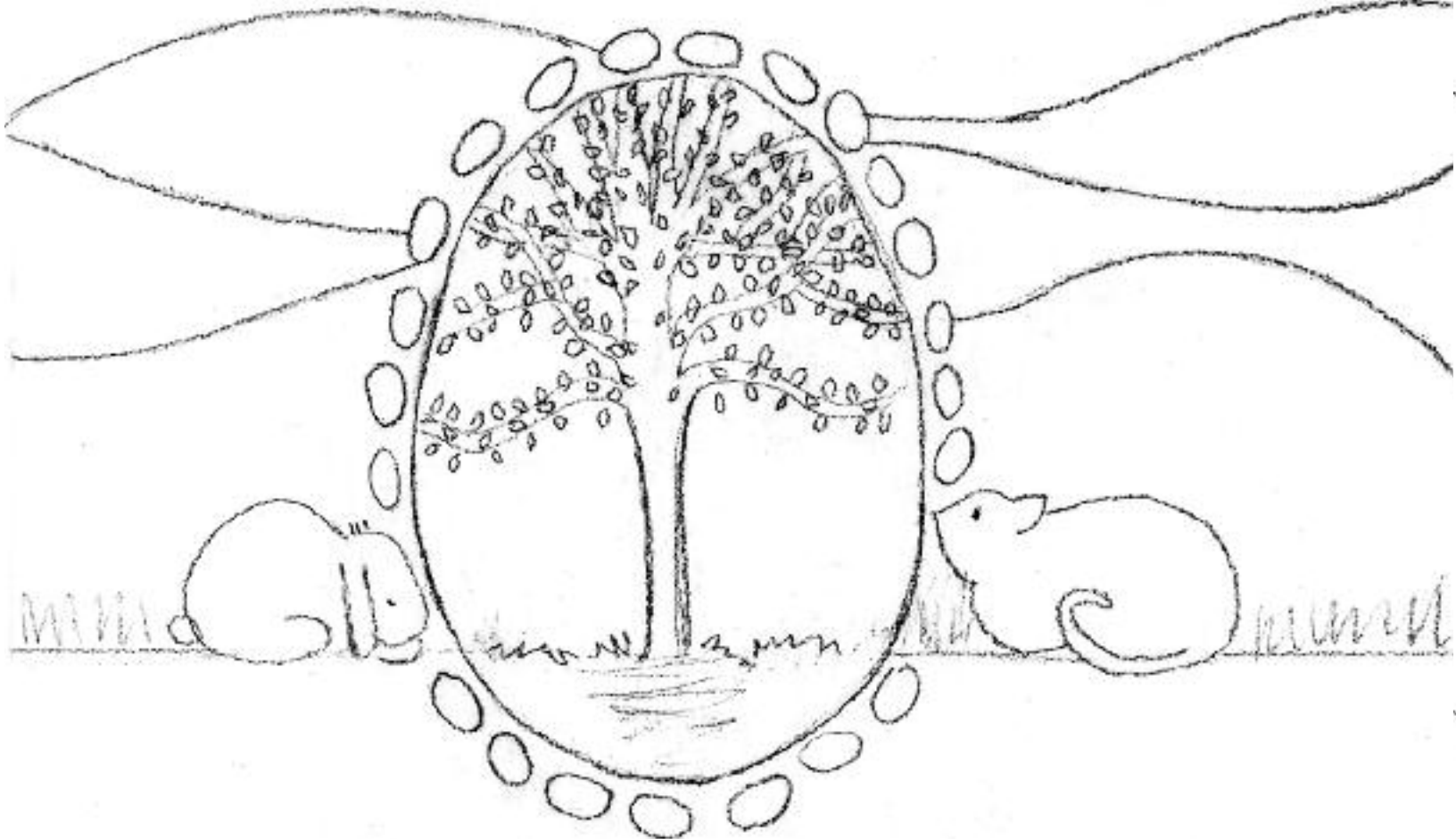


One day they were playing in the yard
when they came across a strange plant.
It was about a foot tall and had small green
leaves and tiny, multi-colored berries.



They stared at each other in amazement.





It was a jellybean tree!

