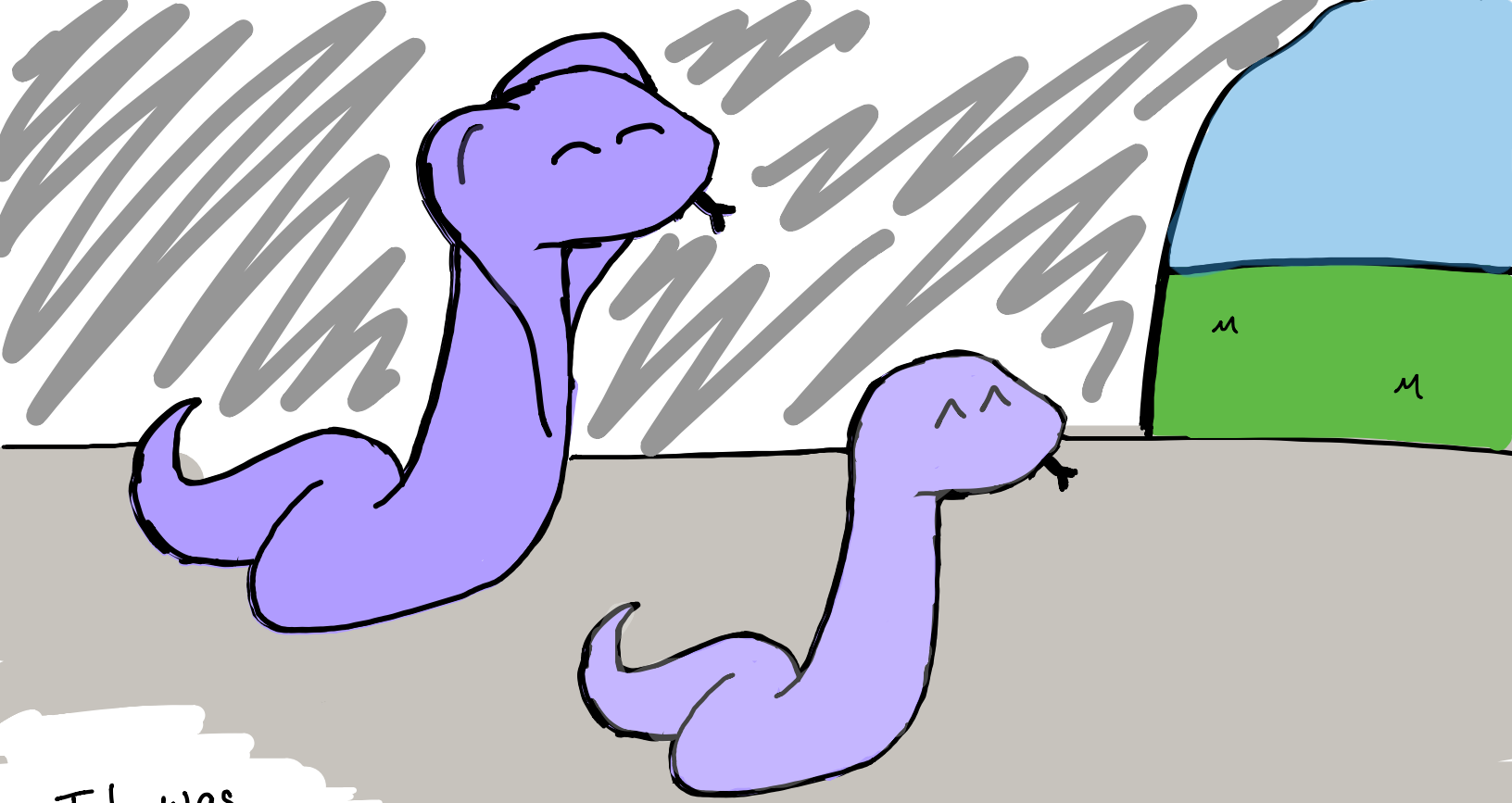


Who'd Wanna be  
Friends  
With  
a  
Snake?

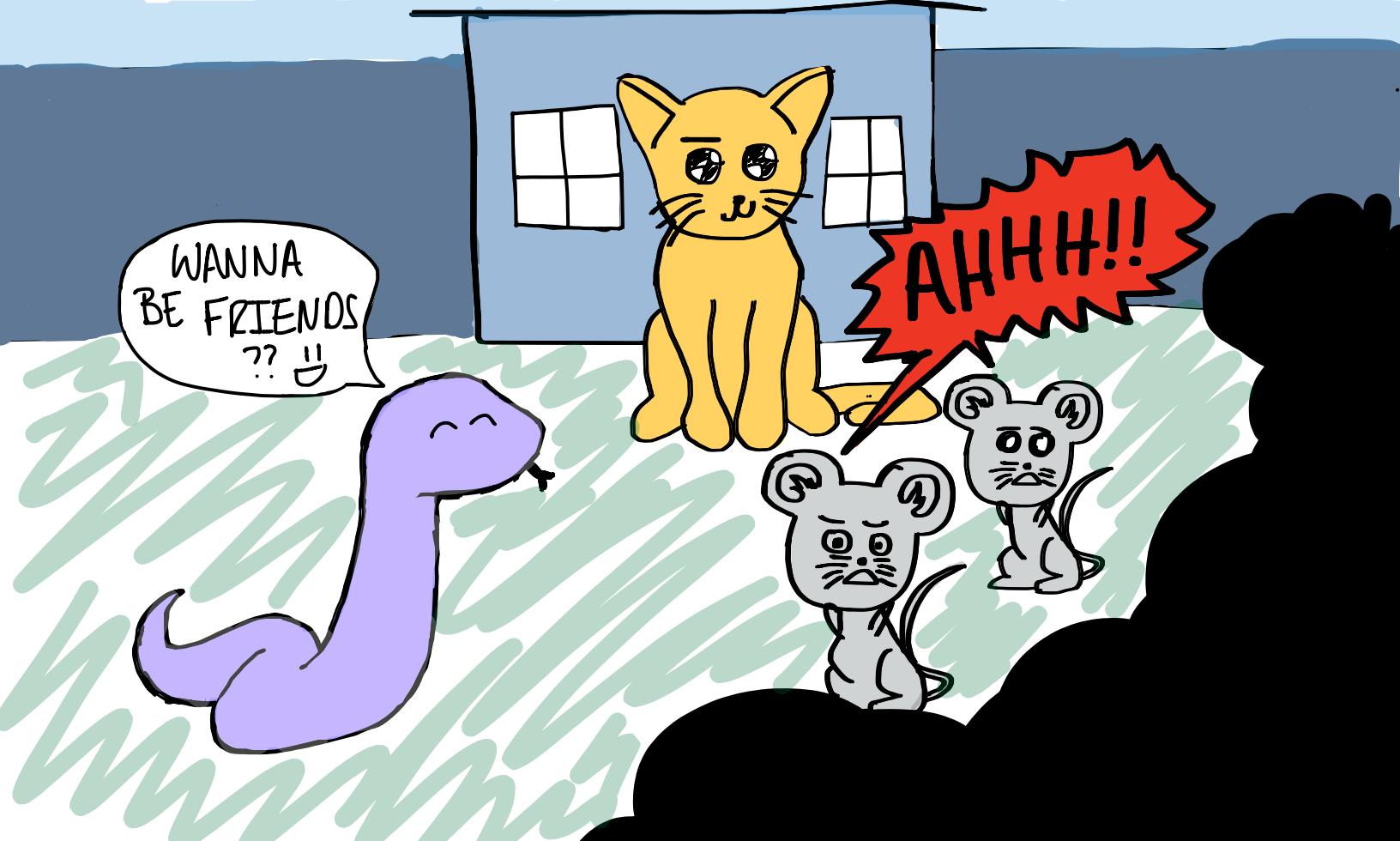


Written & Illustrated  
By:  
Xuan Lai



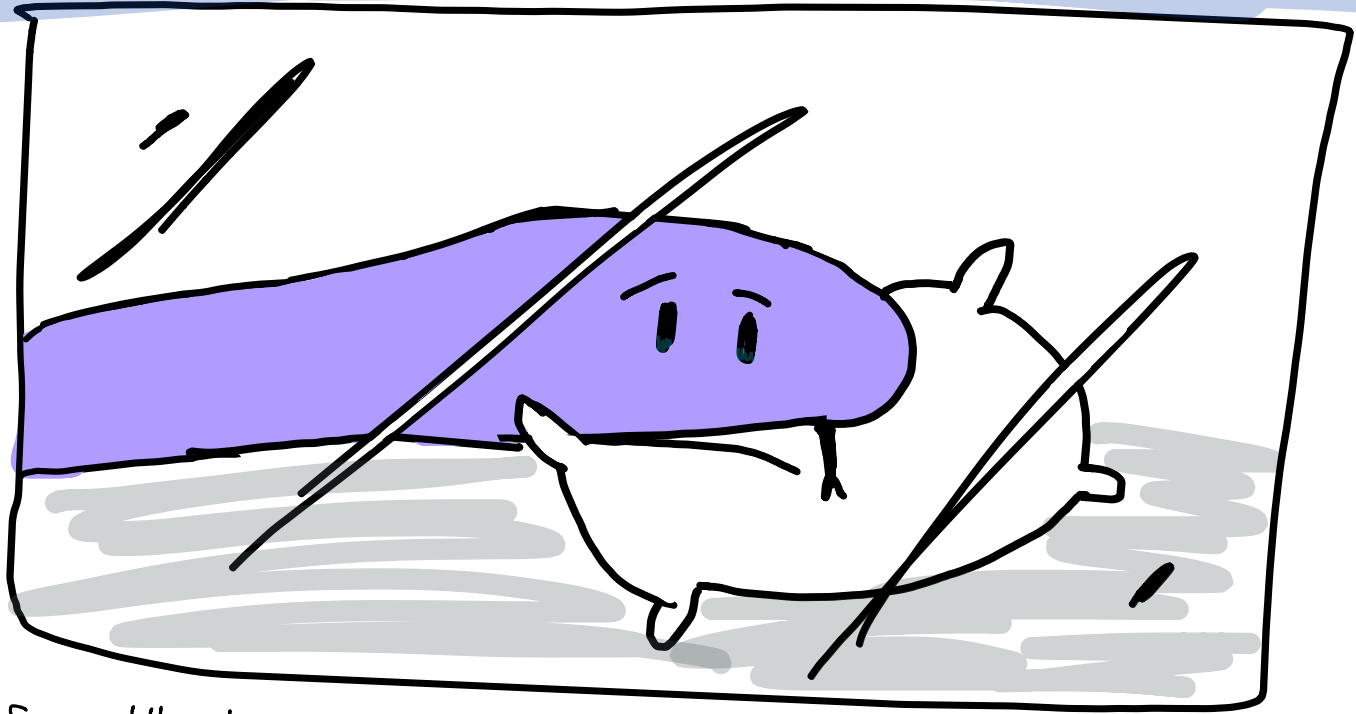
It was  
Sven the Snake's  
first day of School and he was  
very excited. "I can't wait to make new friends!" he exclaimed to  
his mother. "You will make many, have fun at school," she replied. And so  
he slithered away.





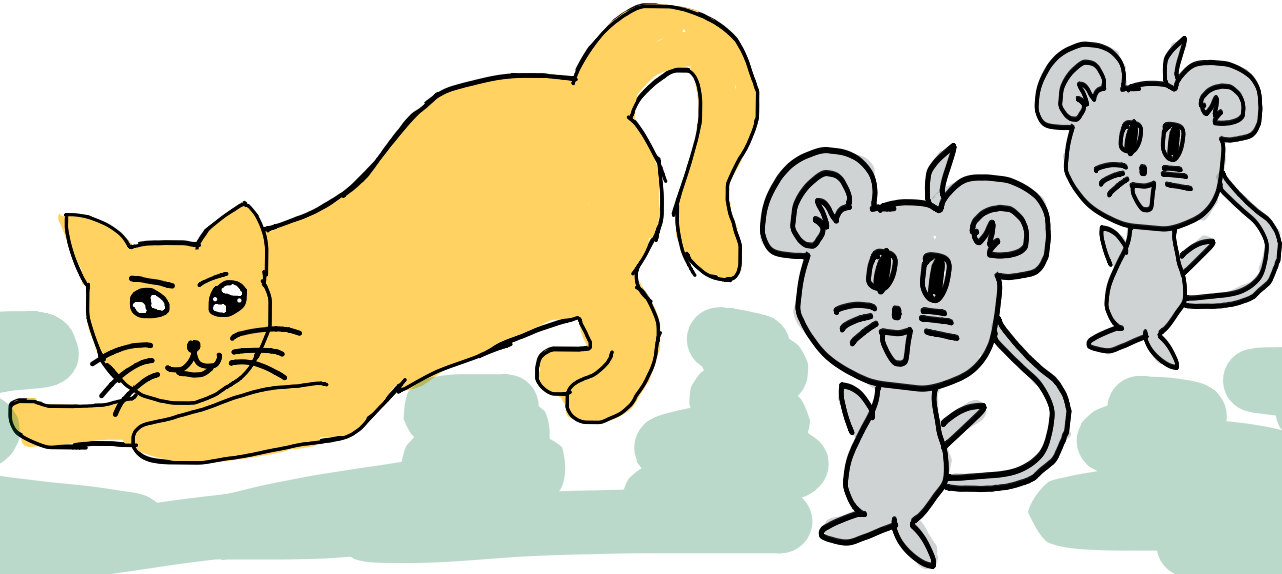
Sven saw a lot of interesting animals, but the most popular was the Karen the cat. After school he approached two lonely mice and asked happily, "Would you like to be friends?" "AHHHH!" they screamed. "It's a snake! He will surely eat us!" They ran and hid behind Karen the cat. "Yes, you should

never make friends with a snake..." said Karen, "Why don't you be MY friends instead, I will not eat you."



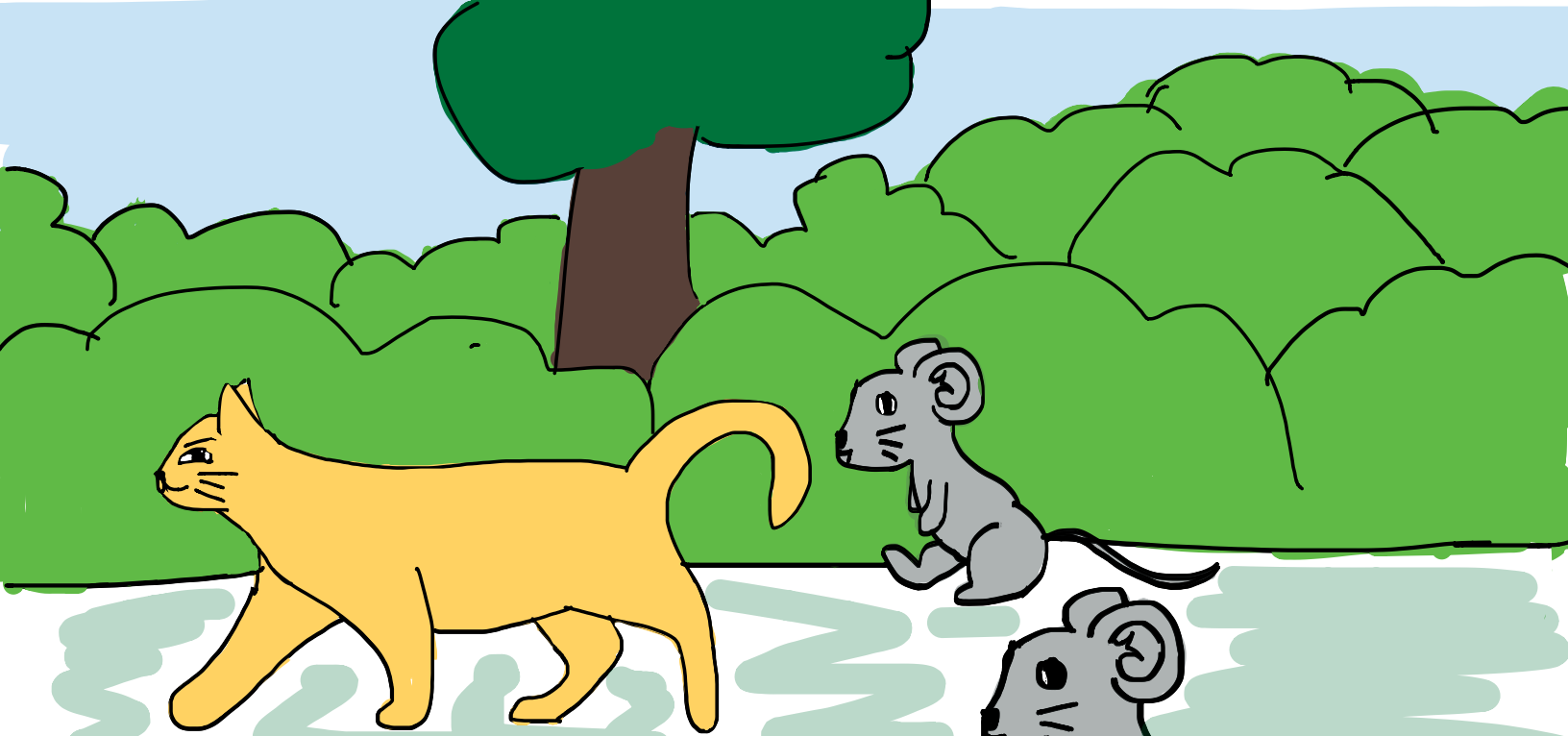
And so Sven slithered home sadly. 'Nobody ever wants to be my friend,' he thought, 'why is everyone afraid of me?' When he got home, he did not eat, instead laid in bed sadly.

# MEANWHILE...

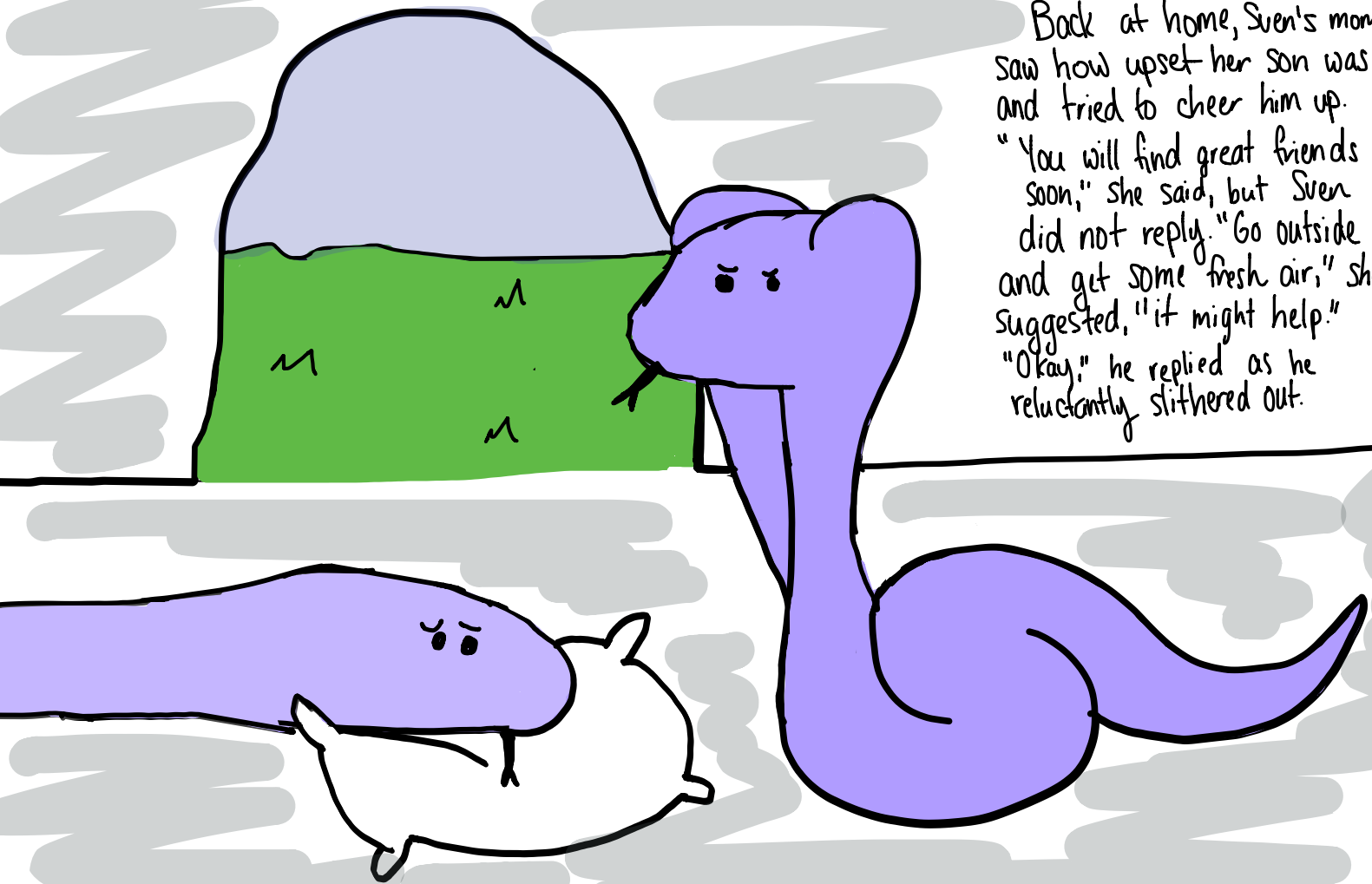


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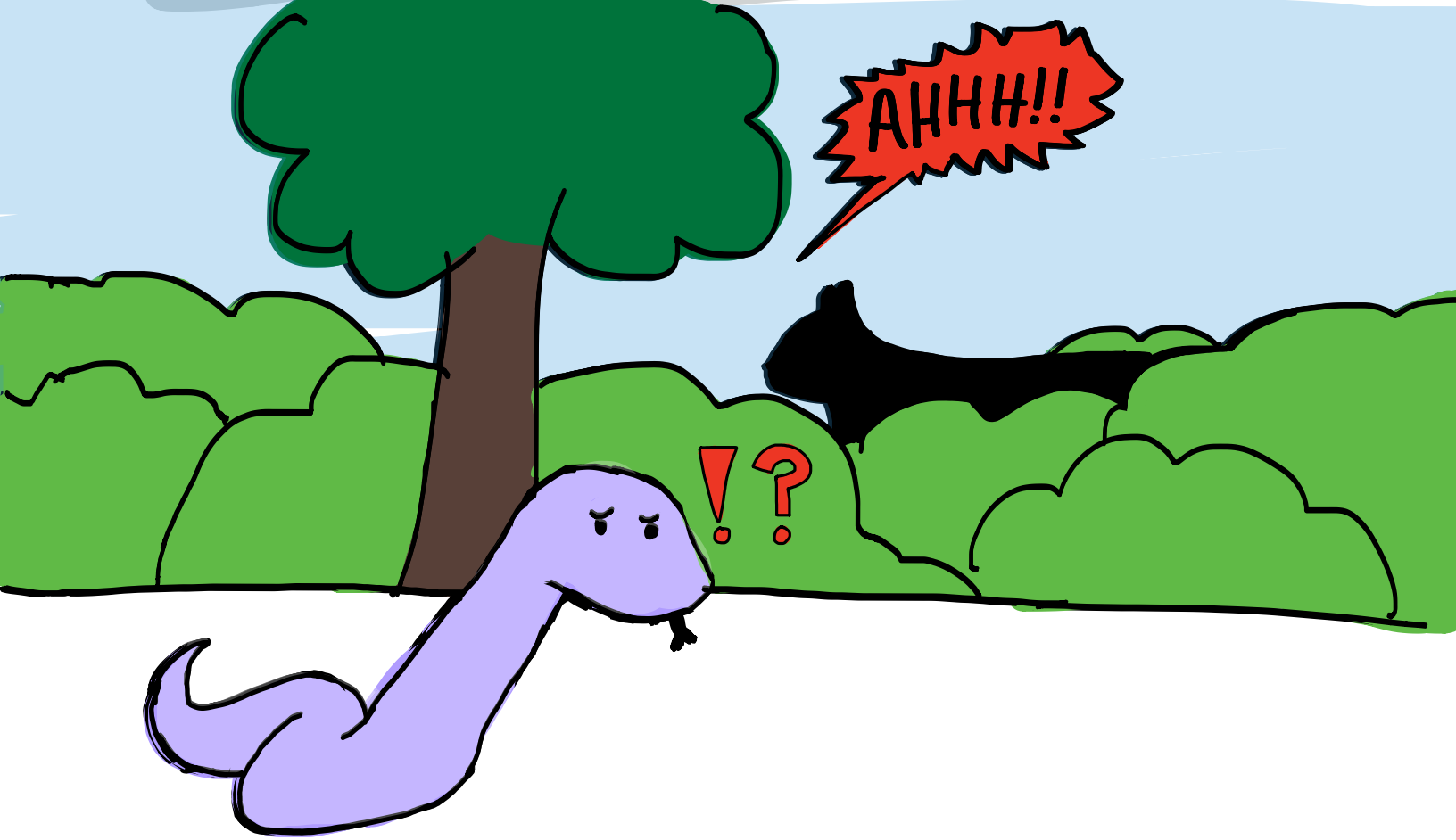
The two mice felt as if Karen had saved them from the scary snake so they happily agreed to be friends. "Come with me, I have a surprise for you," said Karen, "it is a special one for ALL my friends. Because she had saved them and looked so kind, the mice followed her.



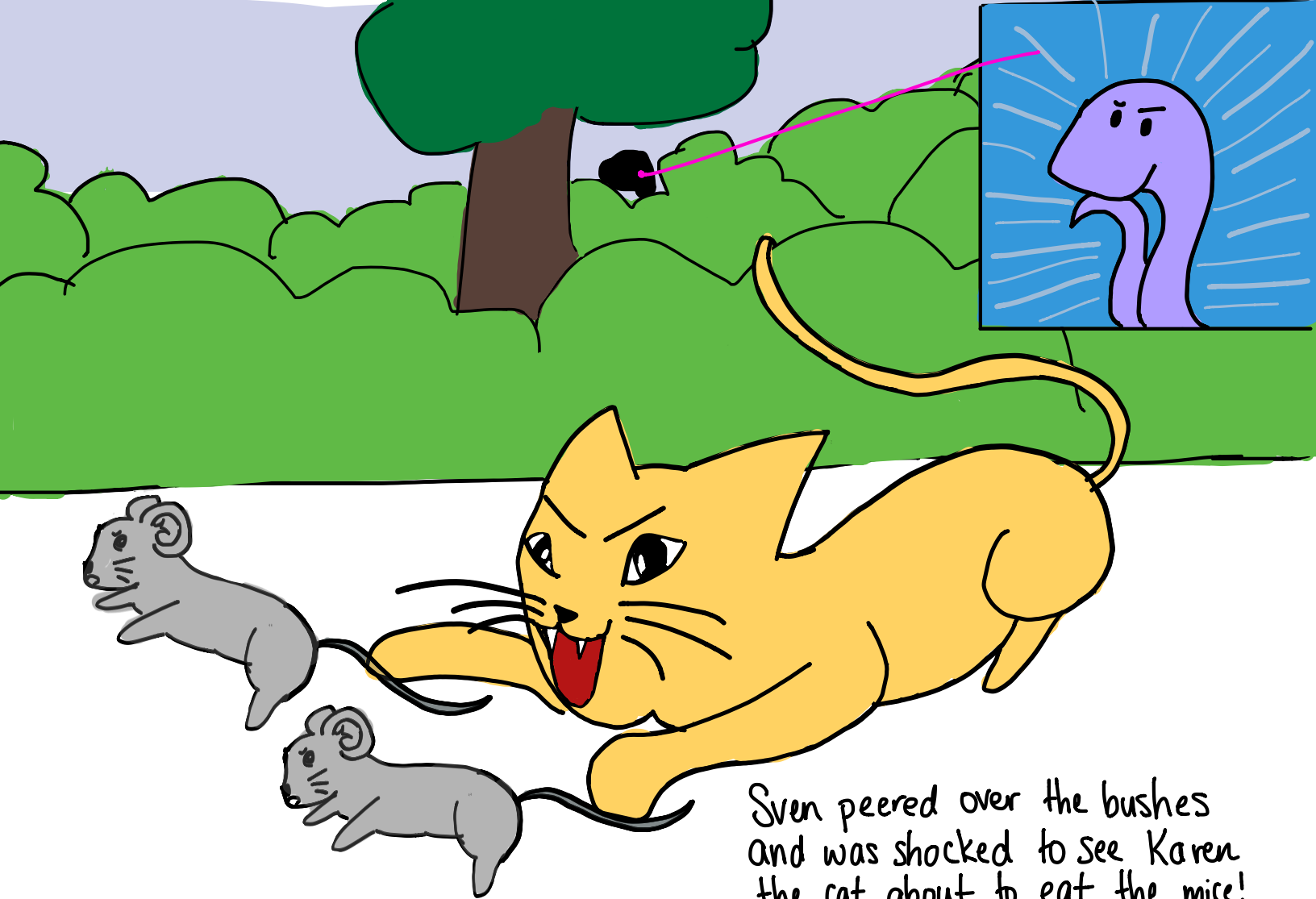
Karen lead them to a path in the woods and after a few minutes they wound up in an area with lots of high bushes. "Are we almost there," squeaked one of the mice. "Almost..." purred Karen.



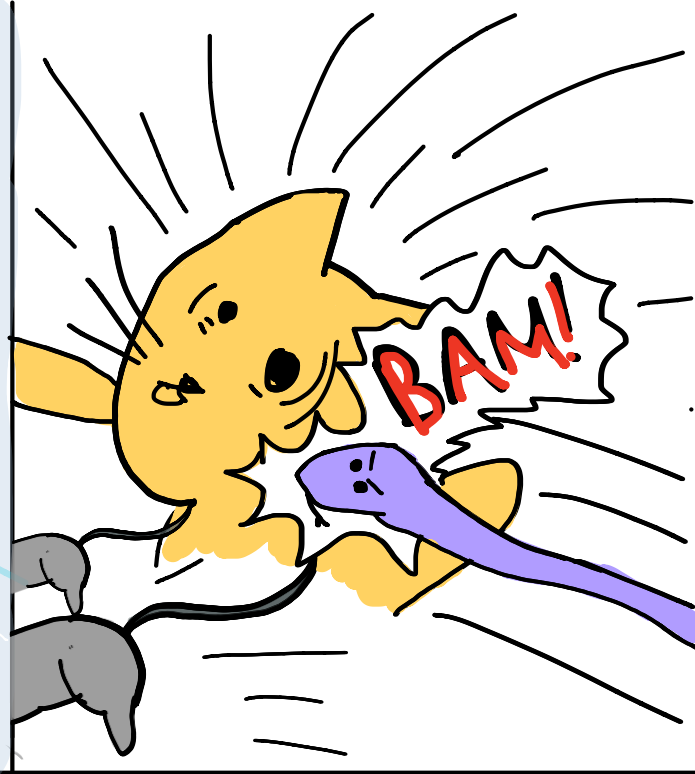
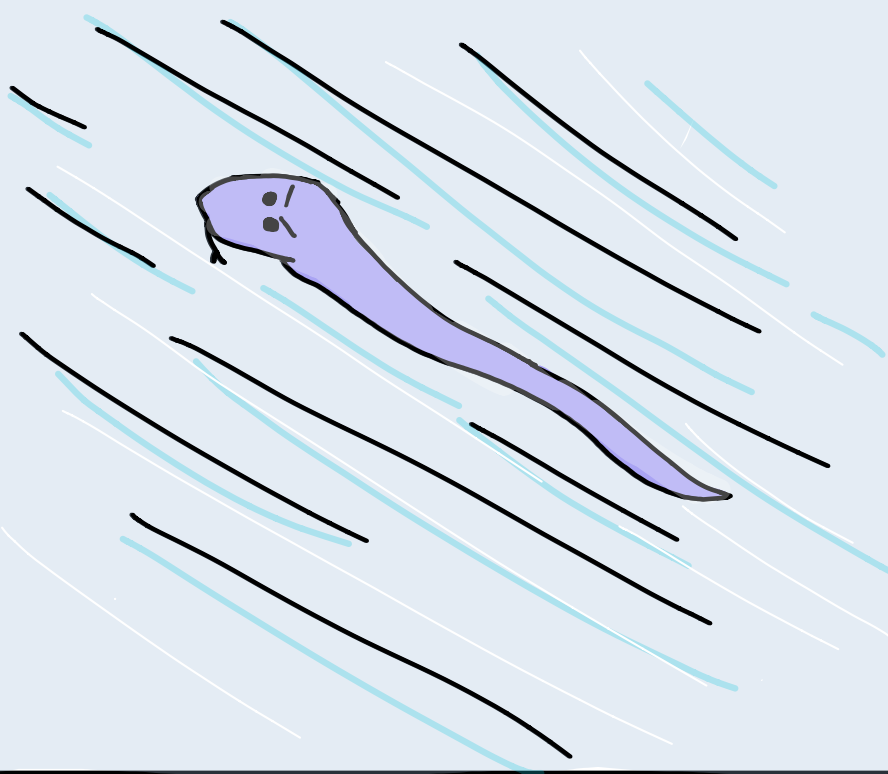
Back at home, Sven's mom saw how upset her son was and tried to cheer him up. "You will find great friends soon," she said, but Sven did not reply. "Go outside and get some fresh air," she suggested, "it might help." "Okay," he replied as he reluctantly slithered out.



Sven slithered out into the woods until he reached an area with lots of high, thick bushes. Suddenly he heard a familiar shriek from behind the bushes.



Sven peered over the bushes  
and was shocked to see Karen  
the cat about to eat the mice!

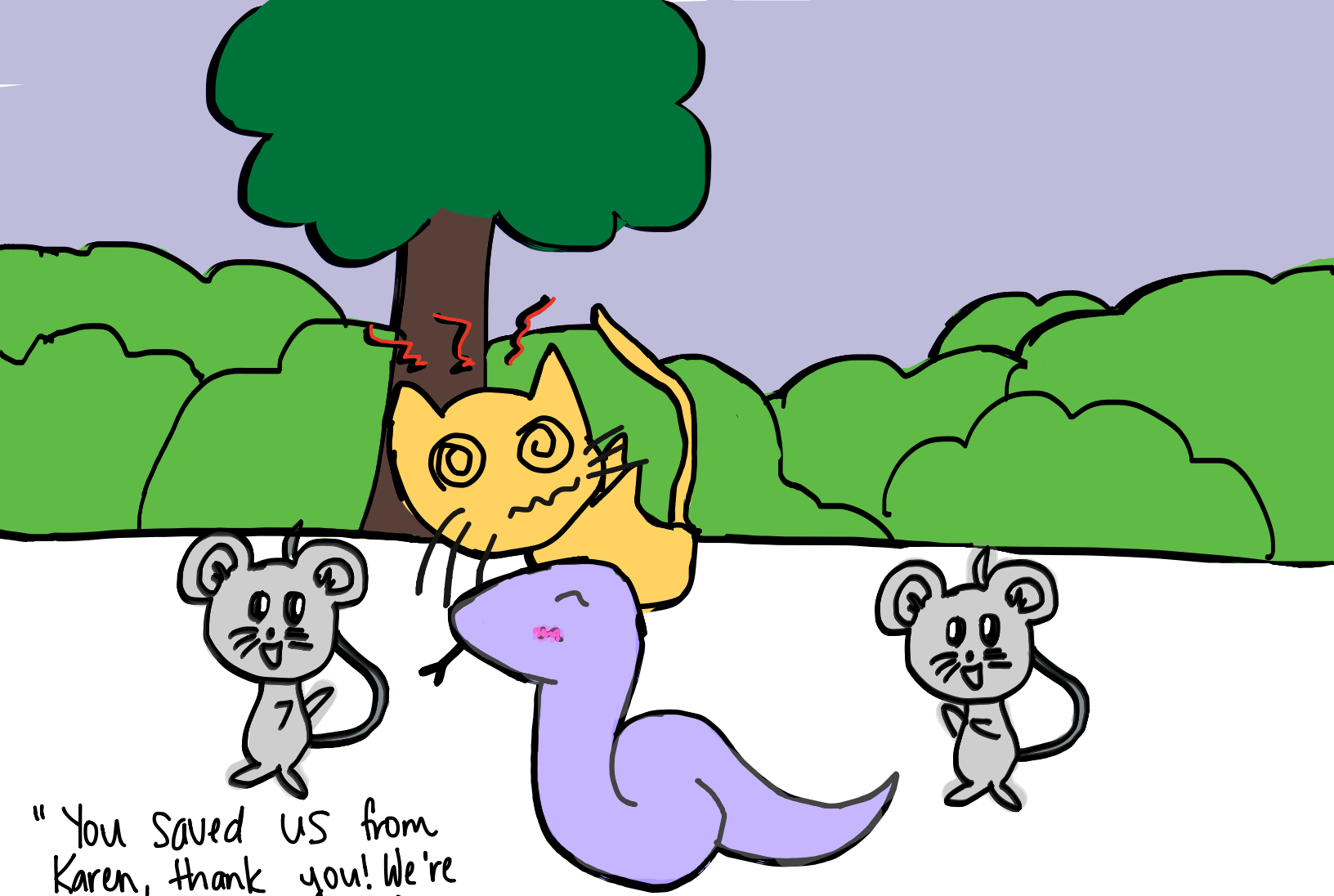


In an instant, Sven jumped up and launched himself at Karen...

Smacking her in the face! **BAM!**

The mice quickly scrambled out of Karen's paws. Karen was too shocked to react and flew backwards.





"You saved us from Karen, thank you! We're sorry we judged you before, let's be friends!" said the mice.

"Yay!" Sven cheered, "my first friends."

Moral of the Story:

Sometimes the real snakes don't  
look like ones.

THE END