

The Sunny Strips Graphic Novella



Our third family dog was an early retirement gift. We had been pining for a replacement doggie after the loss of Mr. Buddy, but nothing seemed to quite line up. Eventually, after a lot of twists and turns to the story, we found ourselves wending our way on rural roads to a pig farm just west of Burgessville on Easter Saturday in 2018. Two miniature American Eskimos by the names of Lucy and Buddy had given birth to a litter of cute little Eskie puppies, and we had to choose between the two remaining male puppies. Tubby was a rotund ball of white fur who didn't seem interested at all in his two visitors, but a leaner and more rascally little guy came up and wove his way between our feet, and that was that. Rashne had come up with the name of Sunny on the drive out on a beautiful bright day, and so he was christened as "Sunny" as we drove down the laneway amidst a chorus of barking protests from his two dog parents.

And five years later, after five trainers and a pandemic, this little guy dominates the house and our day-to-day lives. He is quirky, self-important, agile and affectionate. He guards the house, loves his twice-daily walks, runs with his Dad and gives Reiki to his Mom. Sunny is one of a kind, so he deserves some kind of recognition of his specialness. The following "Sunny Strips" are a compendium of various cartoon pieces done as a tip of the hat to this special canine. The first set is a sequence of small panels that capture a day in the life of this tiny Eskie. The second and third sets capture a fictional account of Sunny travelling down to New York to see his brother.

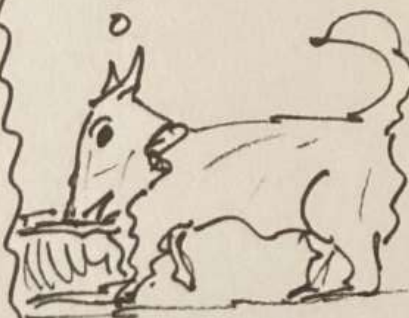
Hopefully the reader will get a sense of the special character of Sunny as they peruse the following pages...

1
A Day in the life of
SUNNY!



Starts out on the lap of
his Dad, watching news on CBS

12
I much prefer
bean water



Followed by a formal
breakfast offering...

3
Arf!

I love ya!

Arf!



Then greeting his Mom

14
Good thing
I have an
amazing
dentist!



Tucking into a hard,
crunchy biscuit



Some serious cardio
with a walk to the Driving Park



Then watching his Dad work.



Waiting for Lunch Snaps



Watching his Mom
do her work



What ridesharing service has 4 letters?

Uber?

Lyft?

Helping his Dad do the NYT Crossword, Duolingo, and Leaning Tower of Pisa

Get off of my sidewalk!



Barking at Passersby

The smallness of this town is getting to me!



Going for his afternoon walk

We need more land!

Do it for the animals!



Willing the EcoPark into reality

I much prefer
Disney+



Hanging out with his
folks, watching Netflix

Let those
lines
be
loose



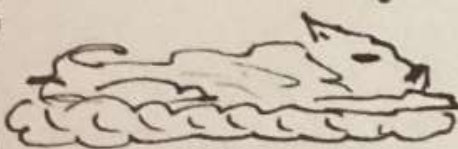
Giving some advice
on his Dad's graphic novel

There's a full
moon rising...



Getting ready for
Beddy-Bye

OK Rocky,
OK Buddy,
I get your
drift!



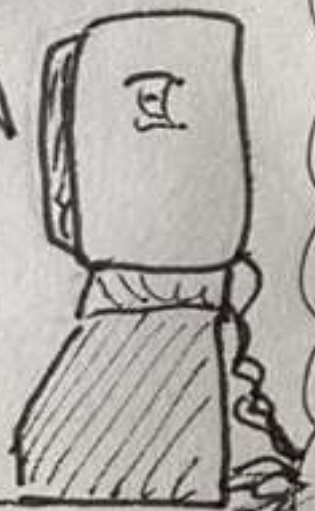
and then dreaming the
night away, getting
inspiration from his
Elder Brothers...

The End!

An Odyssey to Crown Heights

Starring Sunny Baetz!

The US
border
opens
tomorrow...



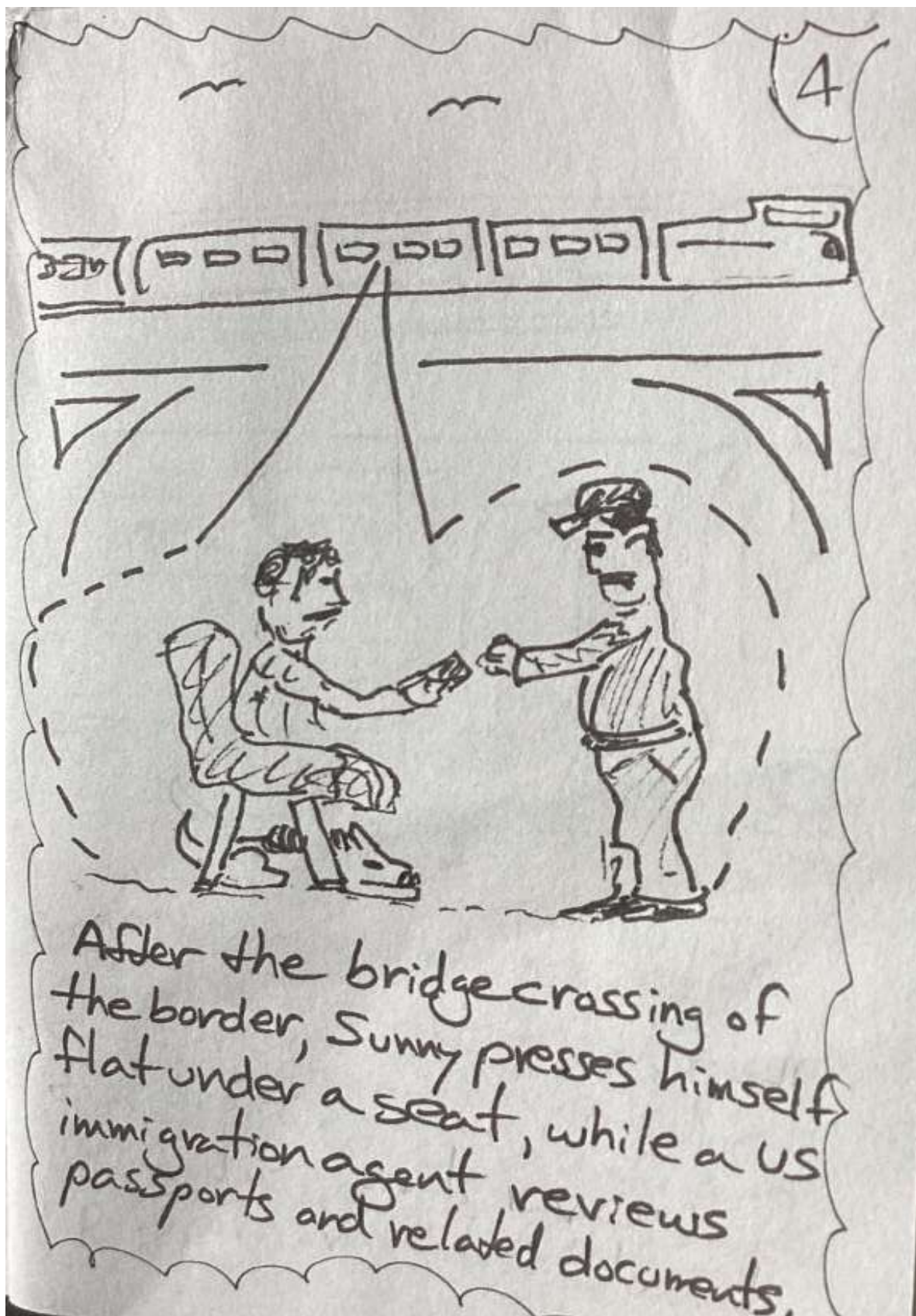
Sunny watches the evening
news, learning that non-essential
travel to the US is now allowed.
He decides to pack a
wee knapsack...



and go visit his brother
down in Crown Heights, Brooklyn,
NYC, as it has been far
too long since they have
seen each other in person...



Sunny's Presto card won't work on a Via train, so he has to slyly slip through the legs of the conductor as he takes tickets from other passengers...



After the bridge crossing of the border, Sunny presses himself flat under a seat, while a US immigration agent reviews passports and related documents.



Somewhere around Schenectady,
a kind food cart vendor
slips Sunny a fully loaded
submarine sandwich, with
double pickles, spicy mayo
and all on a gluten-free bun...

6

If I can make it
here, I can make
it anywhere ... New
York, New York!



Hi!

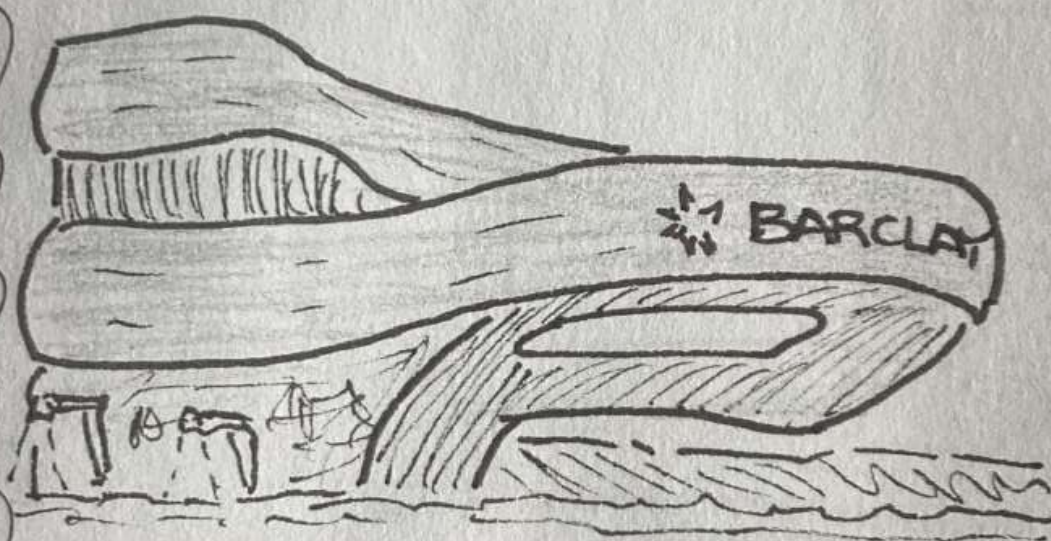
After a long day of travel
on the Maple Leaf train, Sunny
comes out on the main
concourse of Grand Central
Station in midtown Manhattan...

7

SOUTH BOUND
TRAINS →



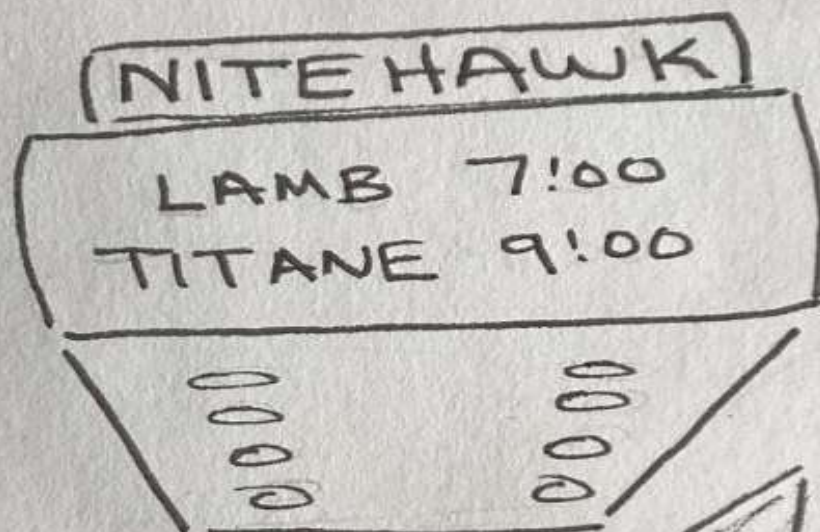
After consulting an MTA map
for the better part of 30 minutes,
the little white pup boards
a subway going in the
direction of Brooklyn ...



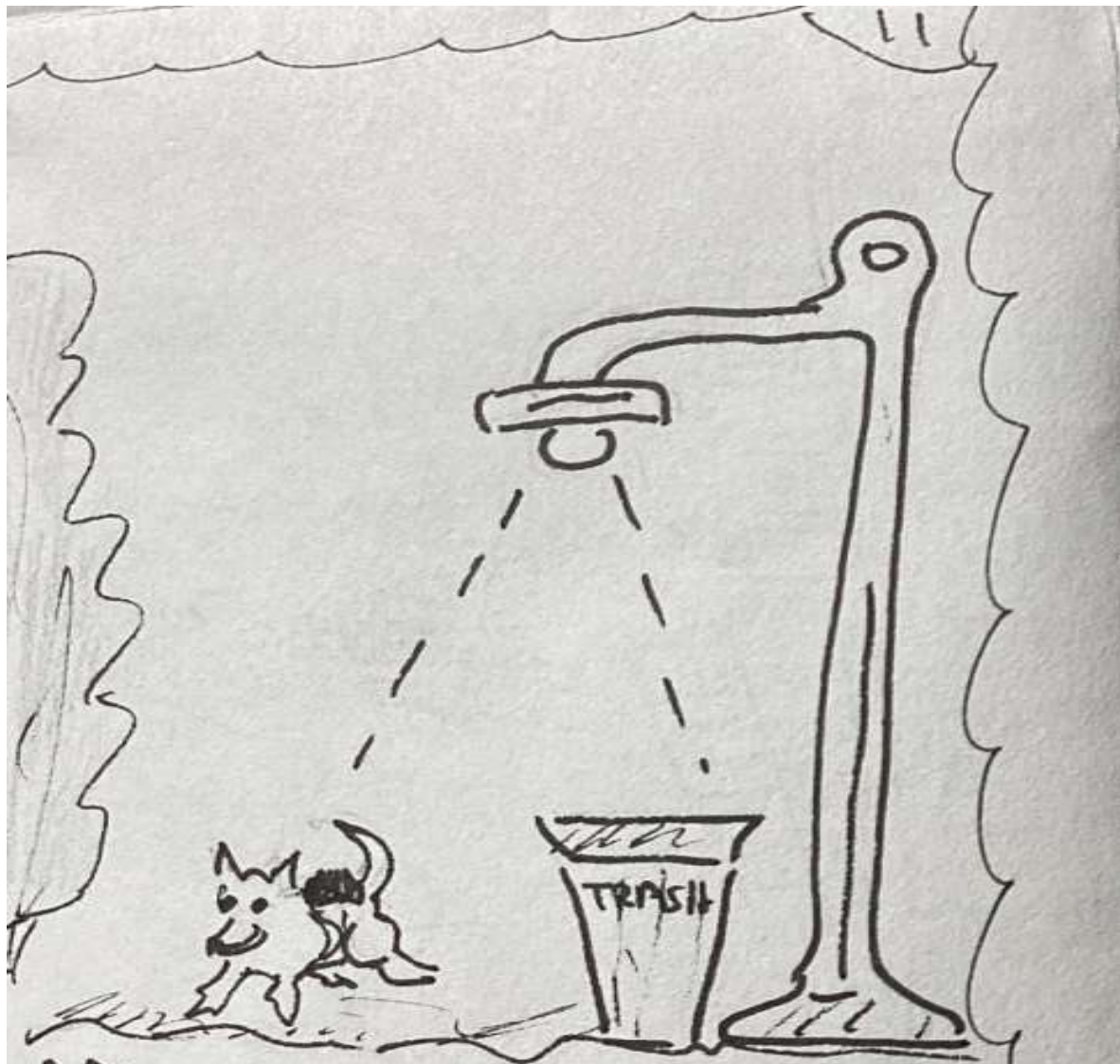
He jumps out at the
Barclay Centre stop, as he
heard someone on the train
saying the Raptors were in
town to play the Nets...



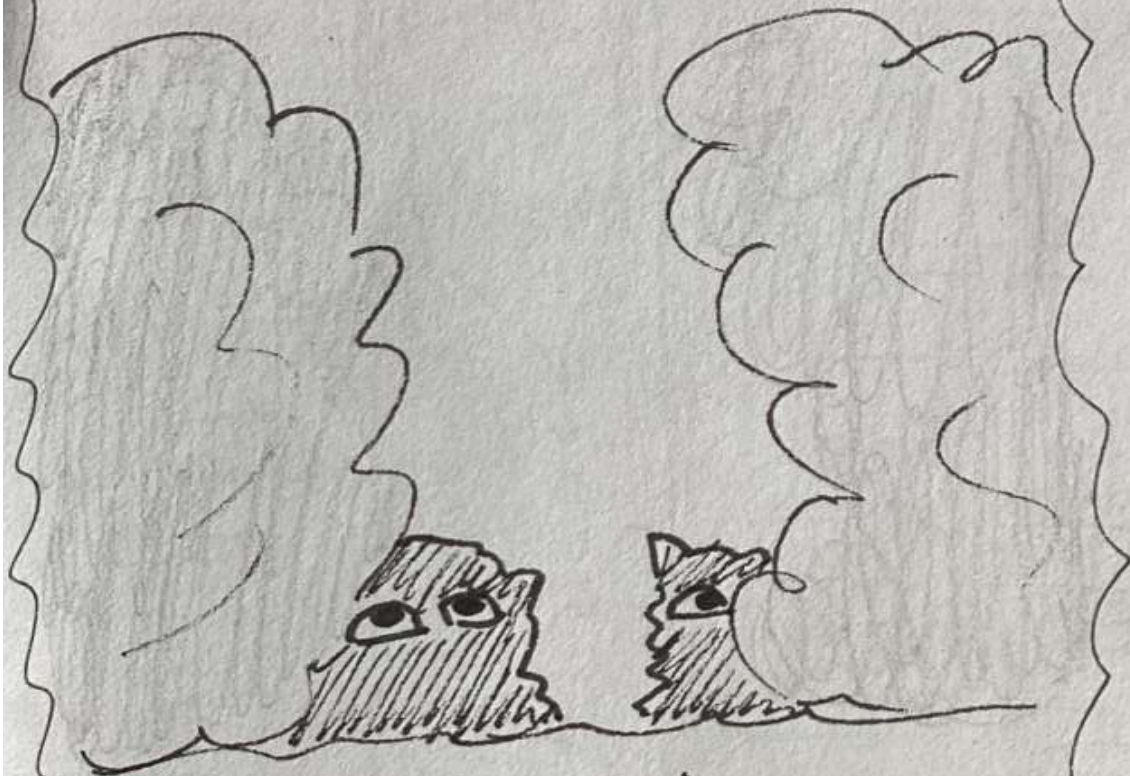
After getting into a bit of fisticuffs with some over-zealous scalpers outside of Barclay, Sunny retires to Sky Ice on 9th Street for some cooling mango ice cream...



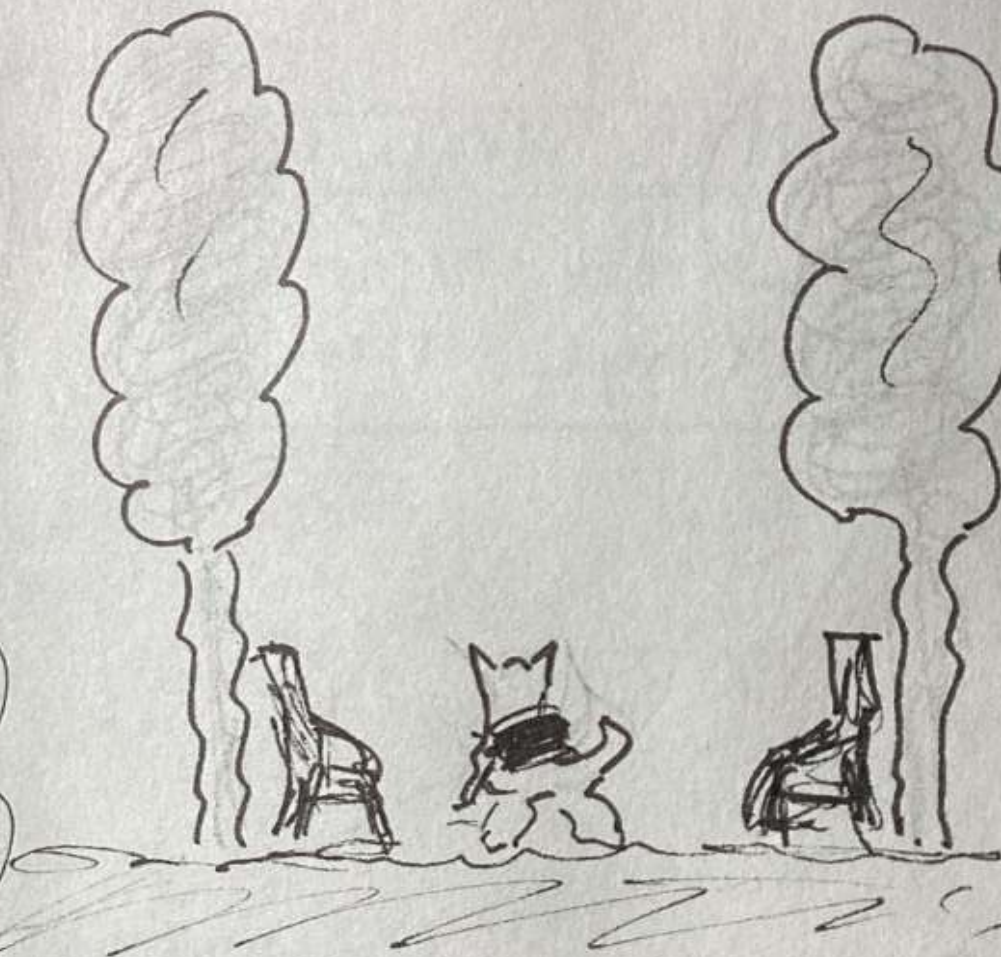
Soaking up the Brooklyn vibe,
Sunny decides to take
in a 9:00 showing at the
Nitehawk Cinema ...



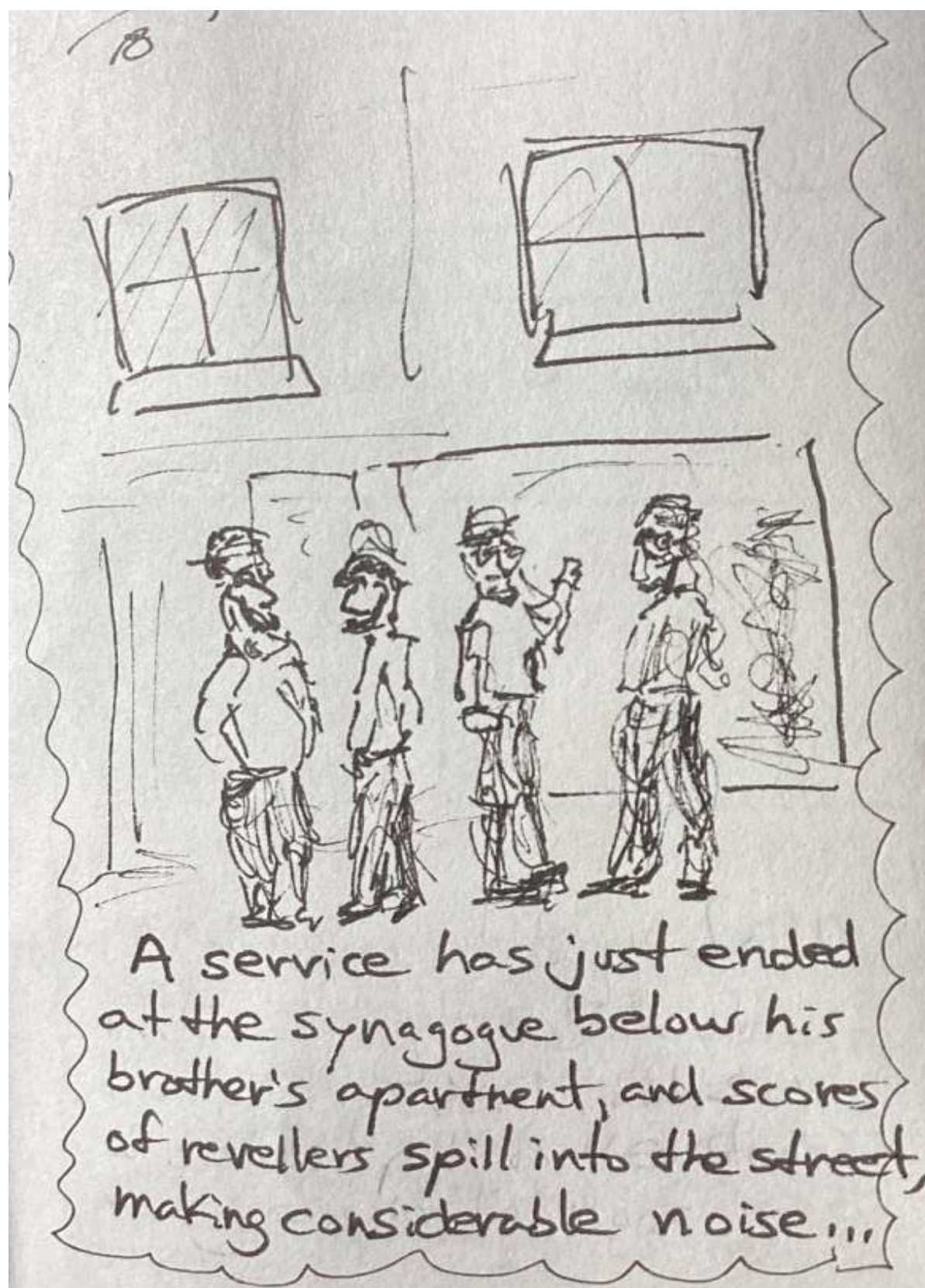
After the movie,
he runs through Prospect
Park, relishing the
night air and the
spooky shadows...



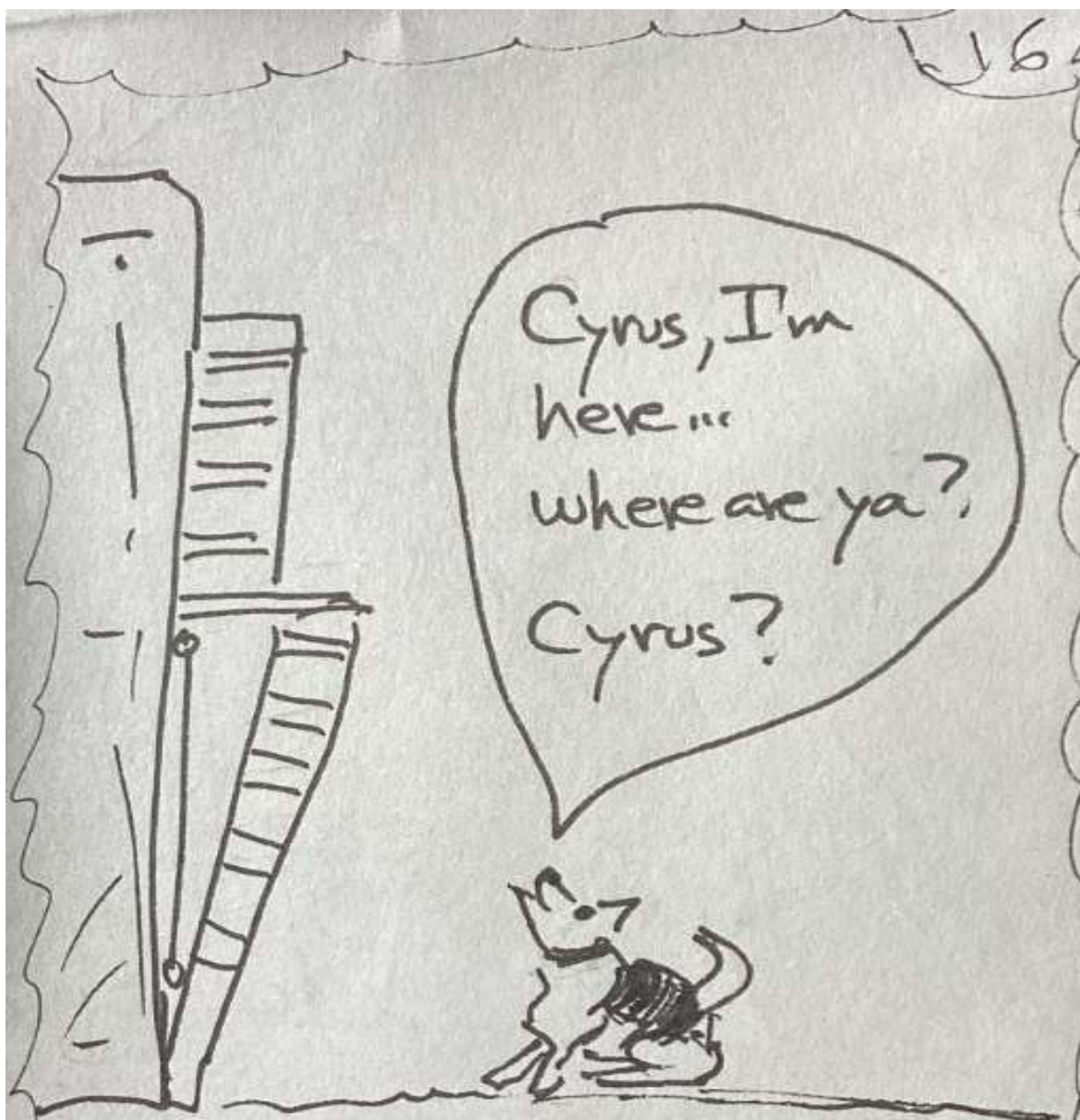
Sunny sees strange
movements in the underbrush,
and breaks into a
fast-paced canter...



He runs down Eastern Parkway, feeling the vibe of his brother, and using this as a homing device...







The little white dog barks a series of shrill, sharp barks, but is only rewarded with silence...

To be Continued...

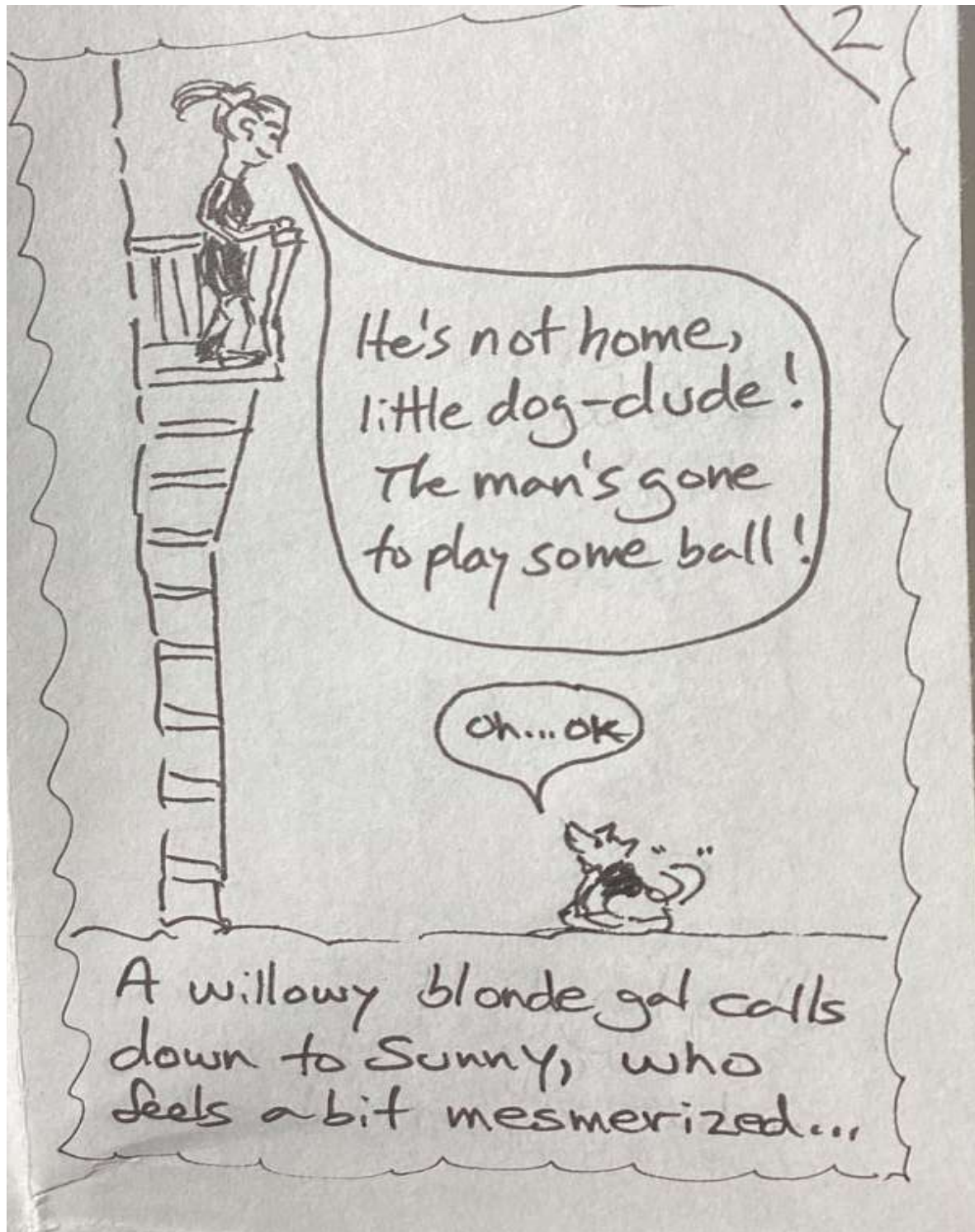
An Odyssey to "Crown" Crown Heights - Part II

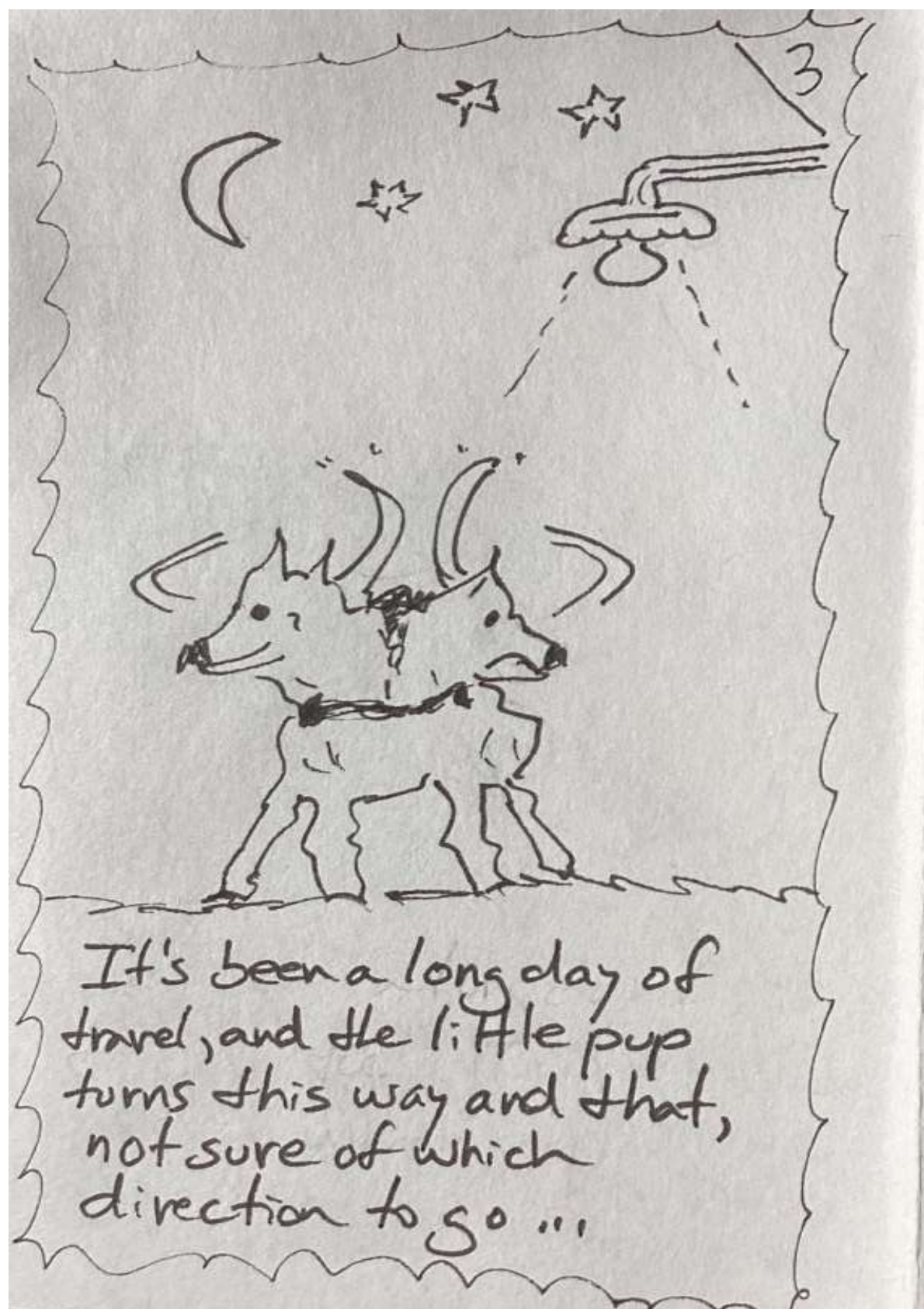
Starring Sunny Baetz

Cyrus - Bro,
are you
there?



The little dog peers up at the
rickety fire escape...



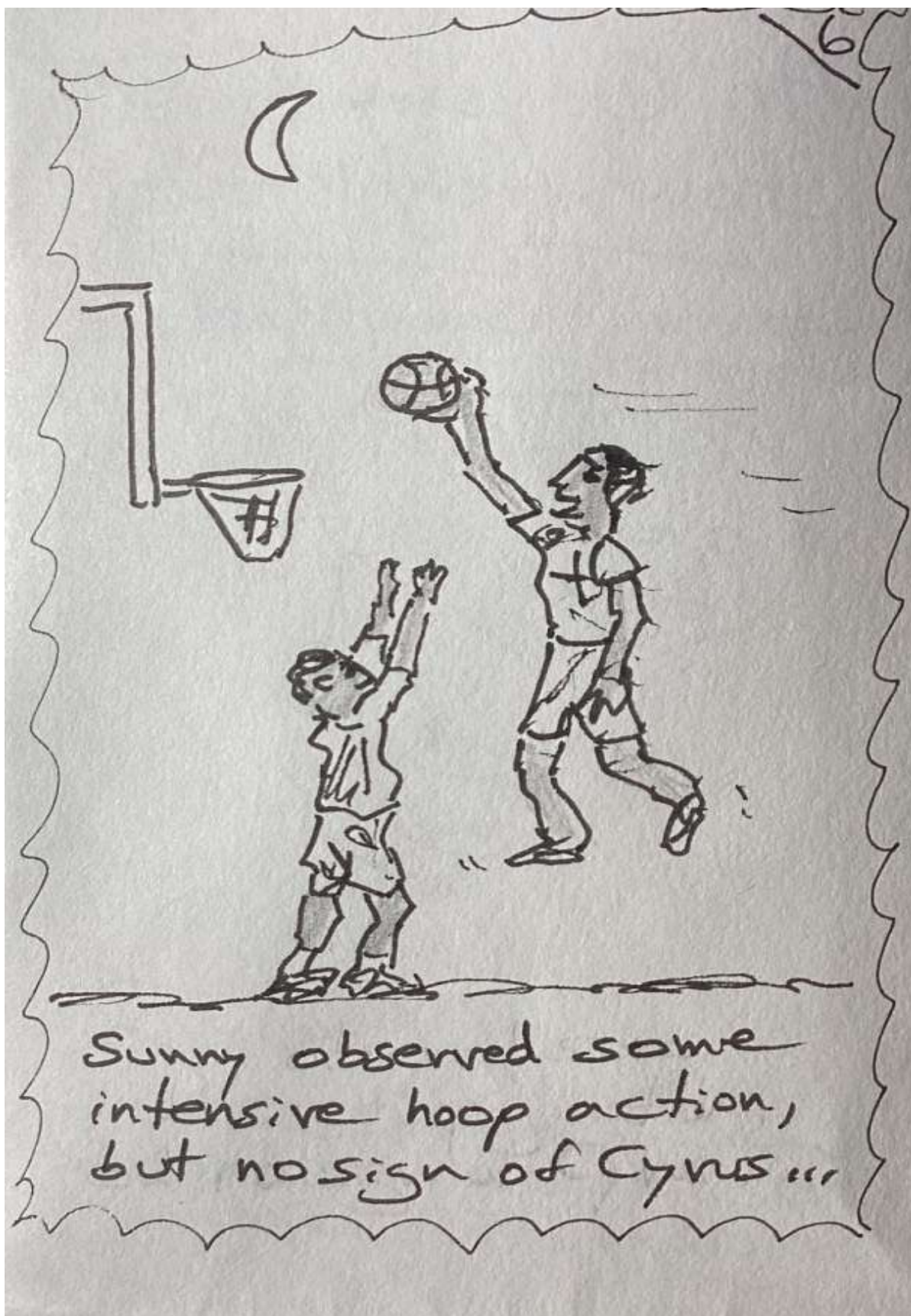


It's been a long day of travel, and the little pup turns this way and that, not sure of which direction to go ...





Coming into the park,
Sunny runs a gauntlet
of cool dudes and their
duelling boom-boxes ...



7
Hey white hassie-dawg,
we're a man short ~
want to get in
the game?



A tall guy spies the
little feller on the
sidelines...



Chanelling his inner Air-Bud,
Sunny tips the ball at mid-
court and races skillfully for
an uncontested layup...



At half time, Sunny engages a grey and wizened chap who looks uncannily like Uncle Drew!!!

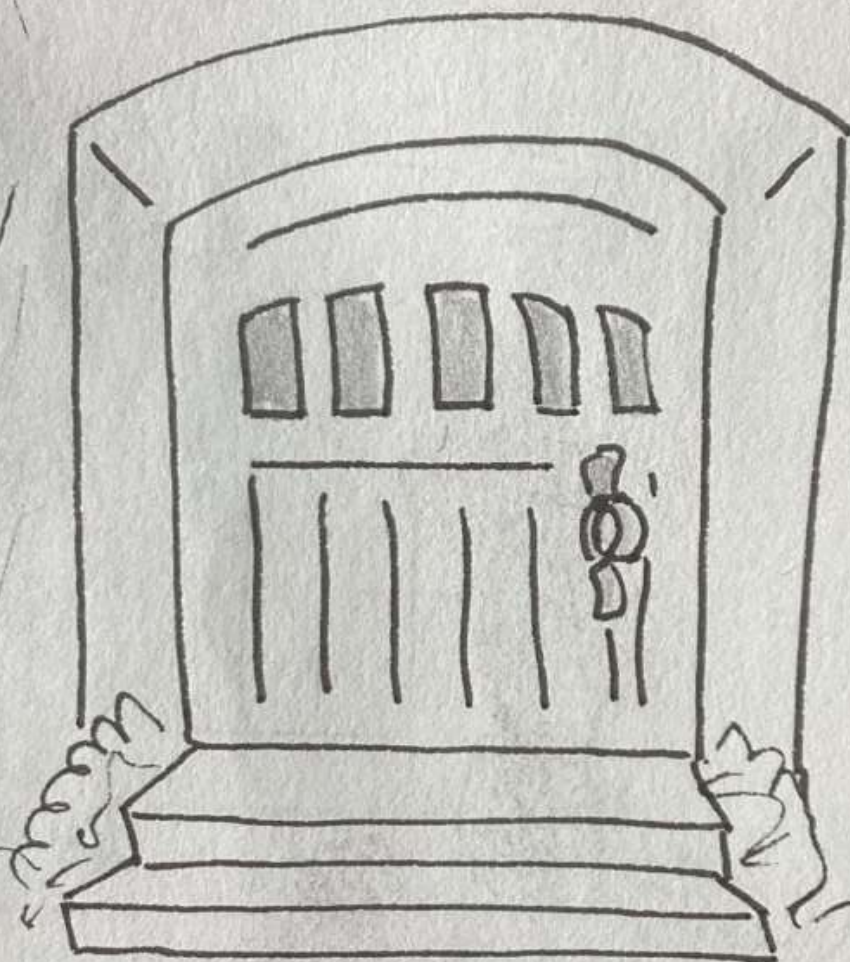
You mean
CB?

That boy be
out doing
some
singing!



The old guy seemed to
know of Sunny's brother...

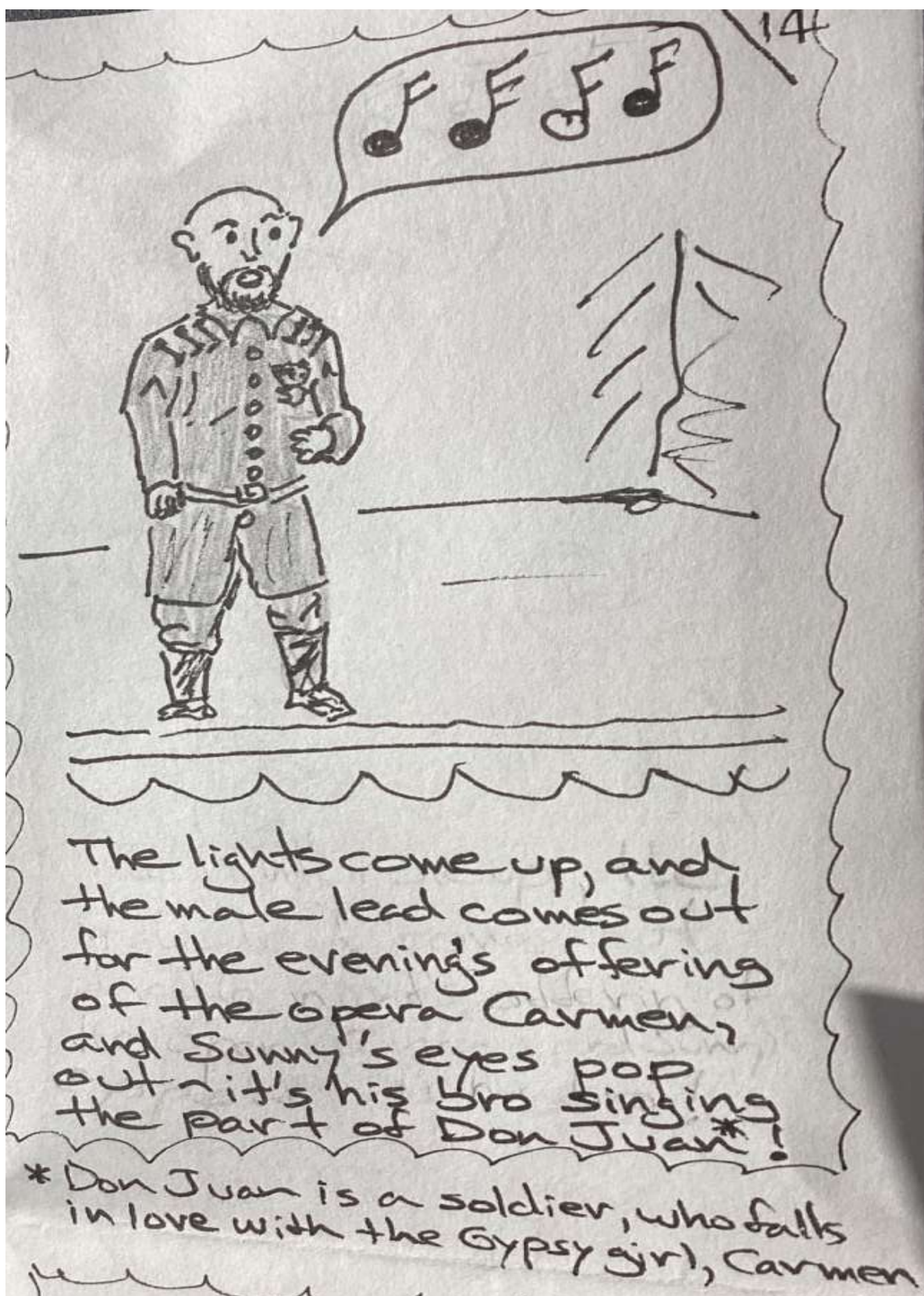




And after a solid hour of running,
Sunny stands outside of our
body of Perpetual Health, near
sixtieth and Sixth...



Sunny slips past the ticket counter, and snags a seat in the front row, wedged between two lovely ladies in fancy evening gowns!!!





After the show, as Don Juan
meets his adoring public,
Sunny comes up and does his
trademark bunting on the leg,
as he has found Cyrus!



The boys bicycle home, Sunny perched in a milk crate on the back. They just might stop for a hero sandwich - one with vegan cheese for Cyrus, and Sunny hoping for the meatball option!

~ The End ~

Appendix

There have been other small Sunny Strips pieces, and these are captured throughout this Appendix. Christmas montages, and then a series of back-of-the envelope illustrations that went on mailed letters to the kids in Brooklyn, NY or Claremont, CA.

1 'Twas the Night before Christmas...

It's so cold out there,
I'm not sure I want
to go for my walk!



2 The little pup surveys the holiday decorations...

Man, I didn't get
out to do any
shopping!



3 He starts to hatch a plan
of action...

Maybe
I can
claim to
be a
non-materialist?

Or just
say I
never got to
go to
Sunday School?



4 He contemplates whipping up a
batch of Christmas cookies...

Are they really going to
eat this stuff?



5 And then thinks about writing
an old-fashioned Christmas song...

Feliz
Navidad!

Jingle Bell Rock,
People!



6 But then he realizes the best
Christmas gift is to beam love to
all his family...

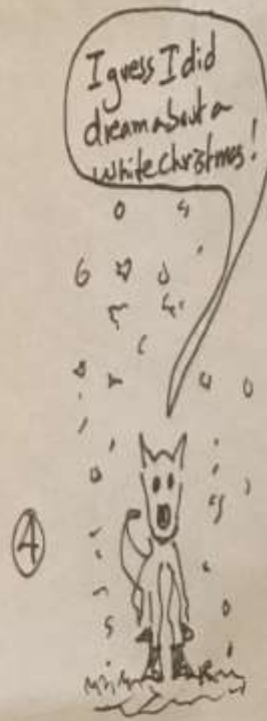
♥ U,
Cy!

♥ U, Mom and Dad!

♥ U, Jessy and
Joey and Fig!



The Seven Days Before Christmas - Inspired by Sunny Beetz - Drawn by B&P



Love and Hugs from
Mr. Sunny and his parents

Christmas
2021
Dunder ON

Oysters?

Did somebody
say oysters?



Aw shucks,
Fig!

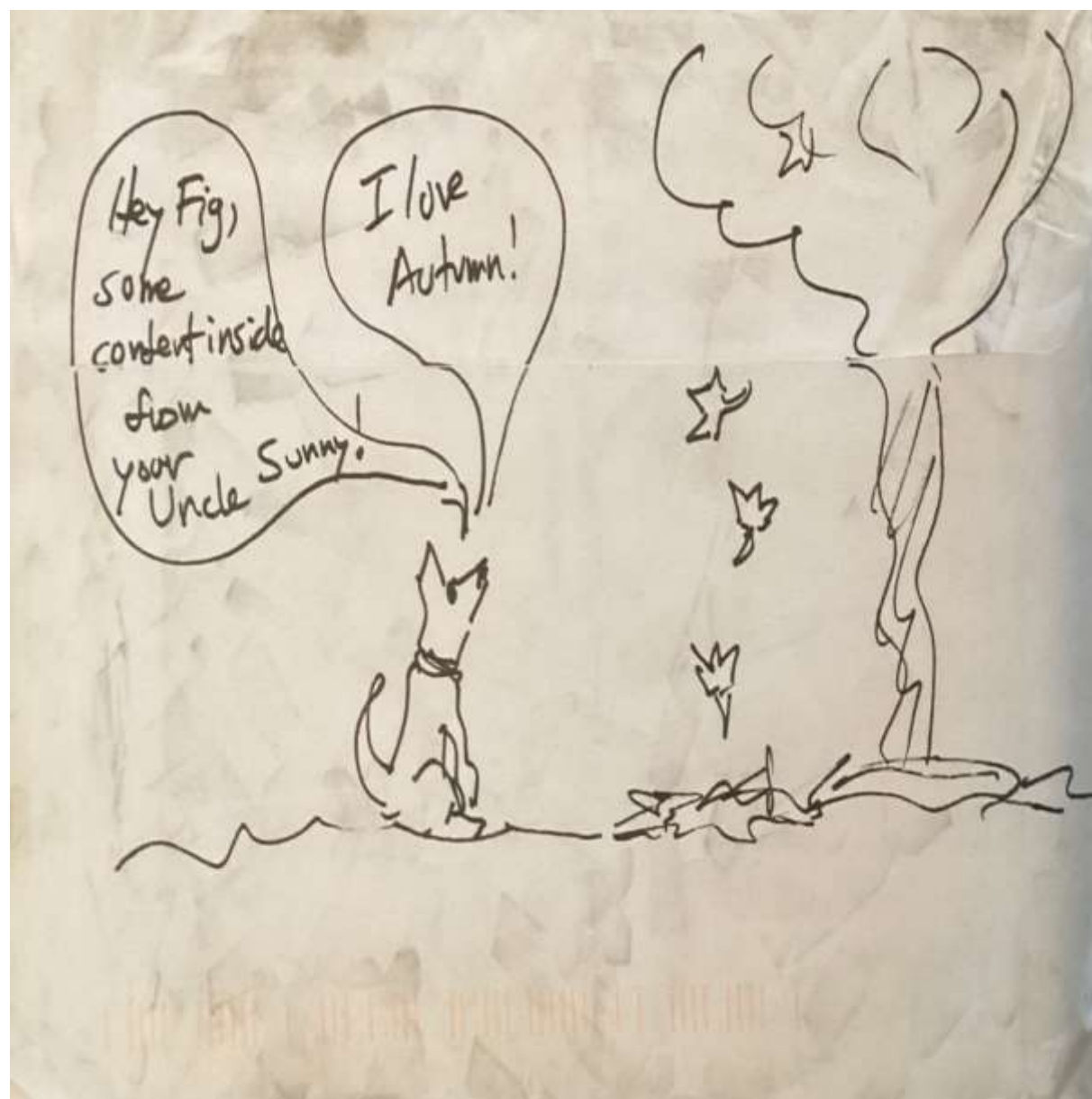


The world is
your oyster...

Yep, chips and
dip as well!



Hey Fig,
did you
remember the
party balloons?!



What
up,
Fig?



I'm dreaming
of a Claremont
Christmas!

Go Scripps!
Go McKenna!



What
up,
Fig?





Sunny says "Hey Cy, hope you like my story"

Sent on Nov. 6th, the
night before the 50th
running of the NYC
Marathon!



Good thing
I've been
training with
my Pops!

26.2 miles?
That's
nothing
for an
Eskie!

I wonder if
I'll see Cyns
as I run through
Brooklyn?

Sunny Boetz, goes for the gold and the 100K\$ prize!

Prologue

And when all is said and done, we return to the essence of being a dog. Hanging around the house, waiting for dinner, and looking out the window to see any kind of excitement happening on Park Street West. And hoping upon hope, that maybe just maybe, the next car pulling up might be his sister or brother returning home.

