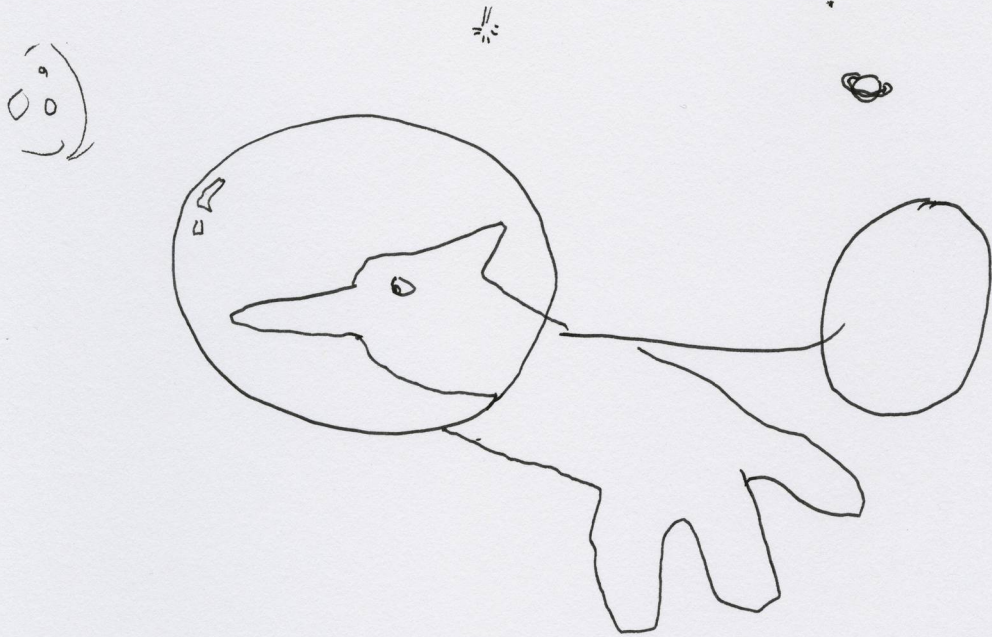
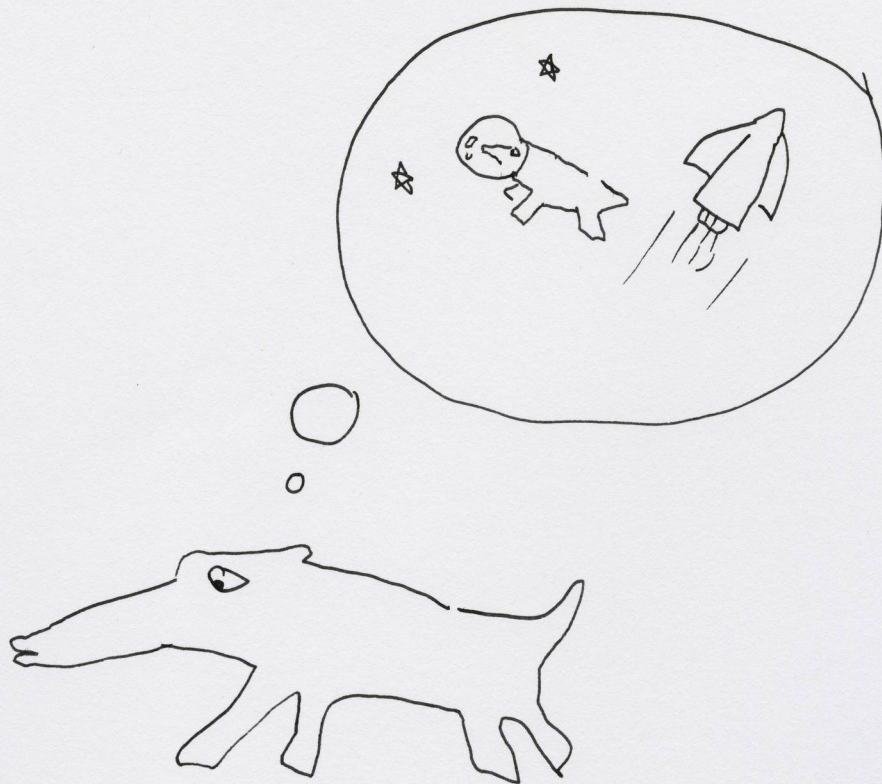


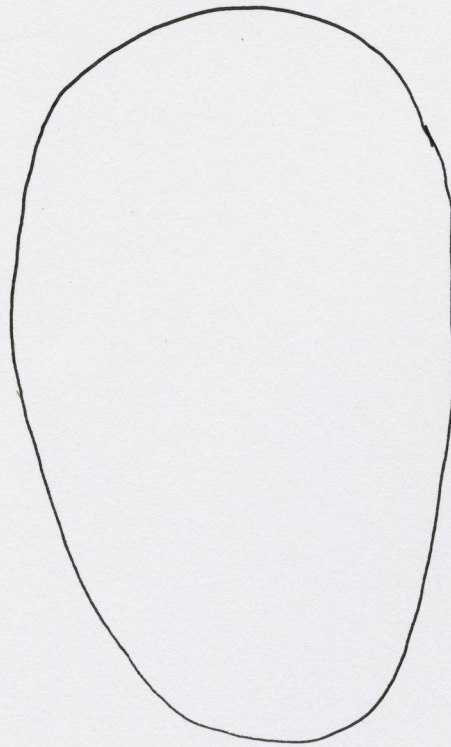
The Hyena and the Golden Egg in Outer Space



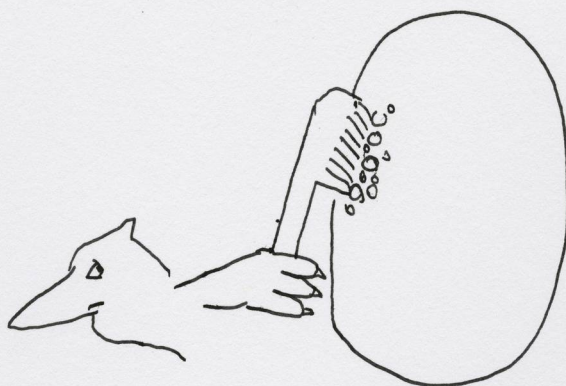
by Hyena Smith



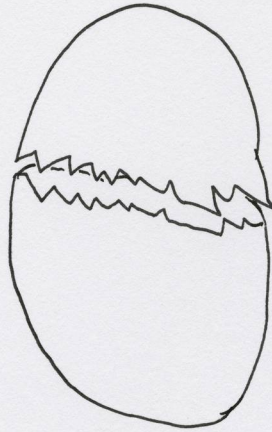
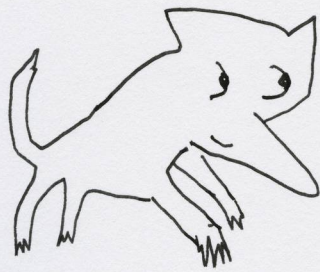
There once was a hyena. He was tired of Planet Earth and he wanted to live in Outer Space.



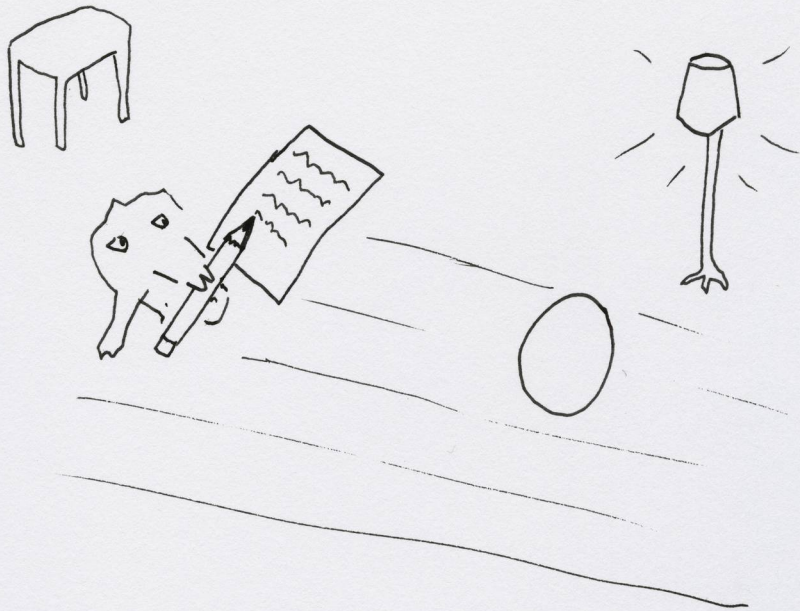
He wished he could sign up to be a cosmonaut but he had a pet golden egg that he needed to look after.



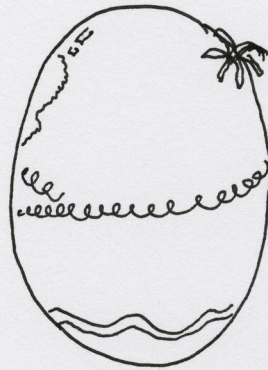
Golden eggs don't look after themselves, least of all this one.



How did a hyena come to be the owner of a golden egg? Well, he wasn't the owner. He had met the Golden Egg long ago and had become its mother once it hatched. Much to his surprise, the Golden Egg ~~hatched~~ unhatched and now they were stuck with each other as partners. It was just your run-of-the-mill Hyena/Golden Egg partnership.



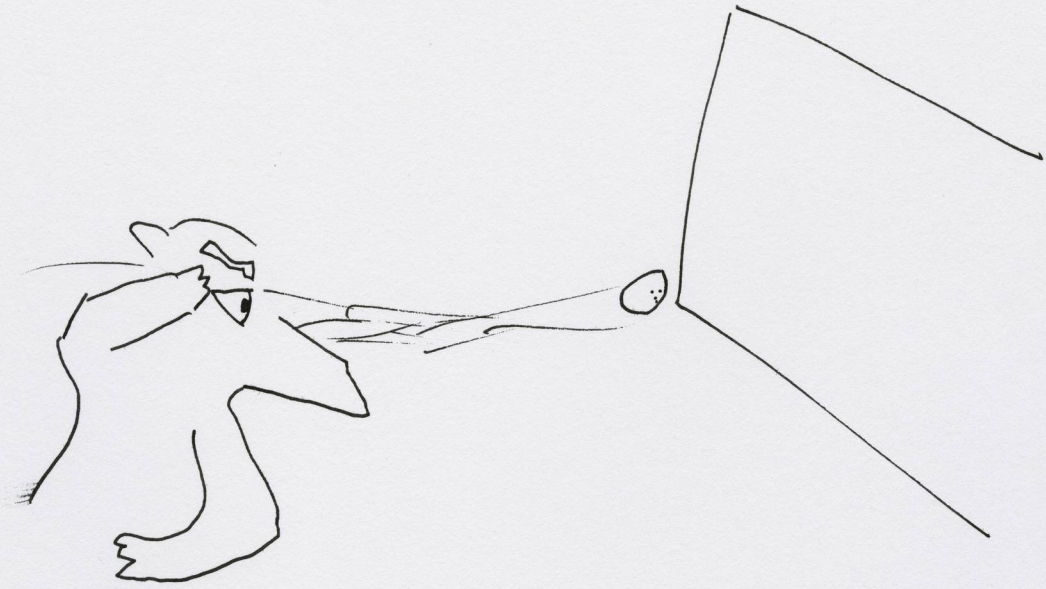
Hyena decided to sign up to be a cosmonaut whether or not it was the right thing to do.



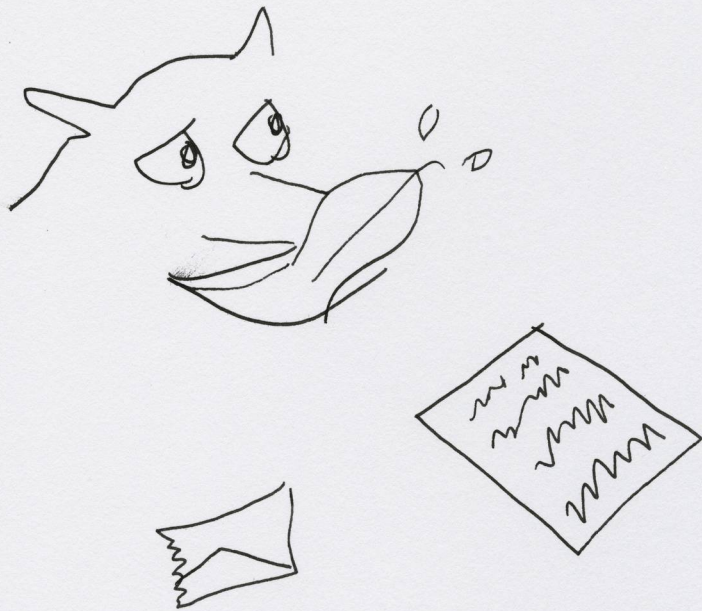
He dressed up the Golden Egg in finery and painted a white outfit on it.



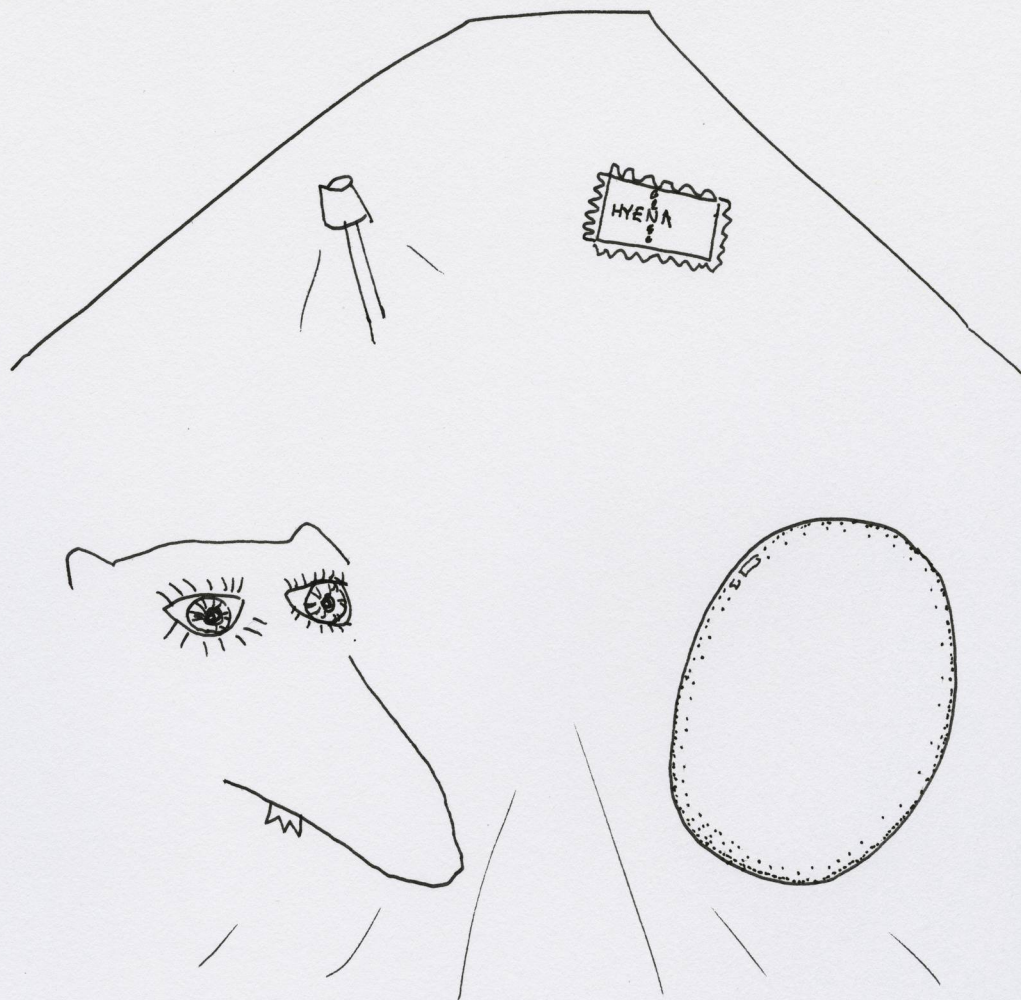
At the cosmonaut audition the judge asked, "Is that an egg?" Hyena blushed and said, "No, it is a pebble."



Hyena picked up his pebble-egg and threw it at the wall.



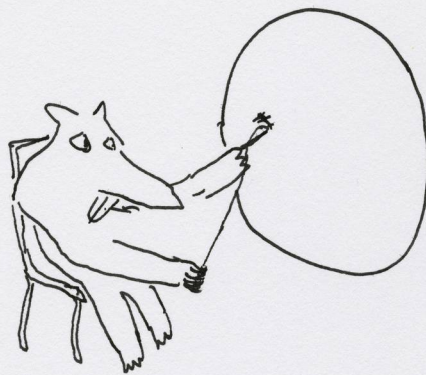
Not long after, while sitting in his treehouse, he got a letter. He had won the contest to be a cosmonaut!



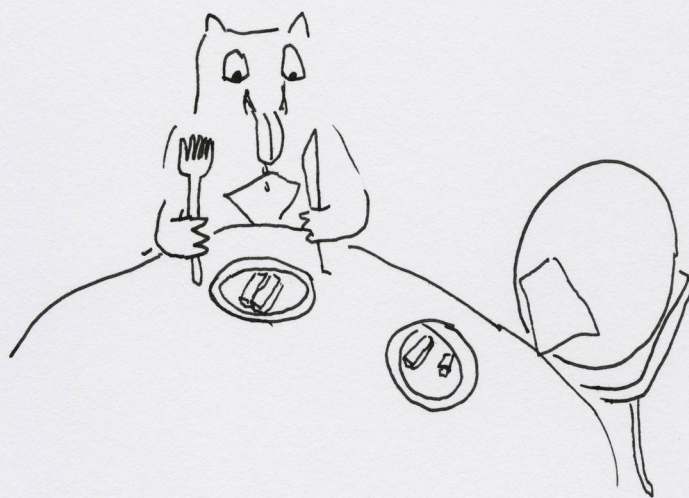
But what had become of his golden egg thrown against the wall? It was just the white costume that Hyena had thrown against the wall and so was still its mother.



The cosmonaut training began. Hyena did pushups, situps, crunches and yoga until he was ready for outer space. You didn't need to do yoga in outer space, but they said he could if he wanted to.



When cosmonaut training ended, Hyena took a long, invisible thread and sewed it onto the Golden Egg's shell.



Launch Day came and before he knew it he was eating one last breakfast of pastries with the GE.

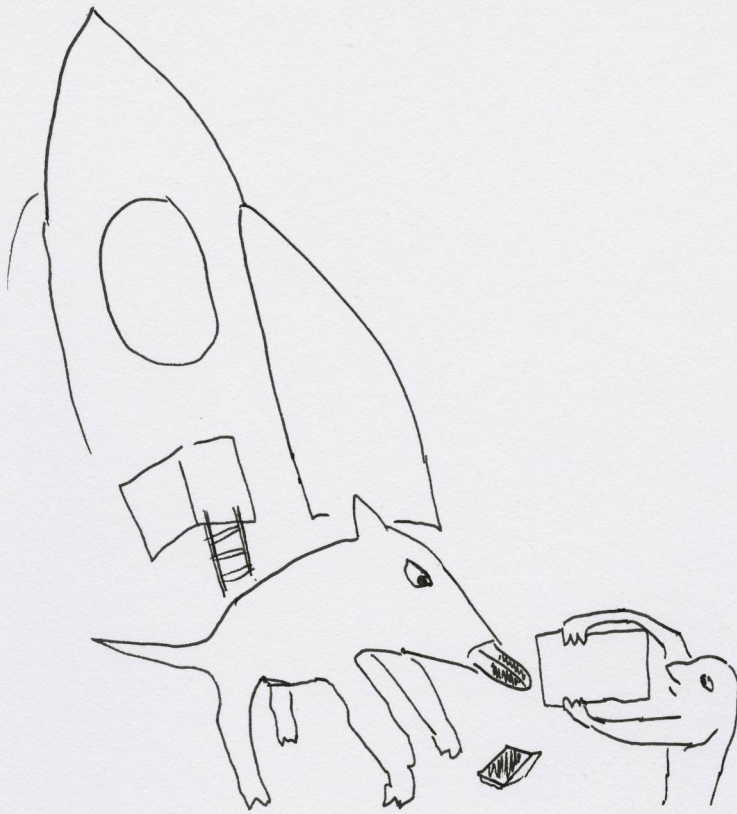


If you have ever wondered how a combination of pancakes and french fries tastes, then you have wondered about panfries.

LAUNCH
DAY
HERE



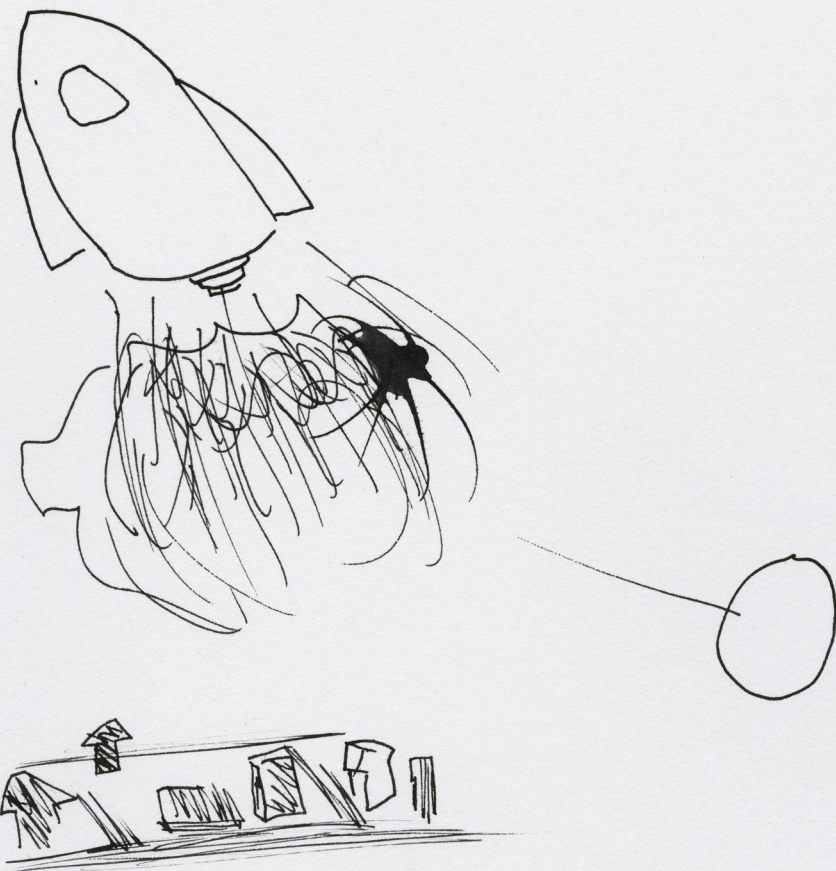
On his way to the Launch Day Ceremony and Blastoff, Hyena secretly held in his fingers the other end of the invisible thread. Hyenas have fingers, or at least they think they do.



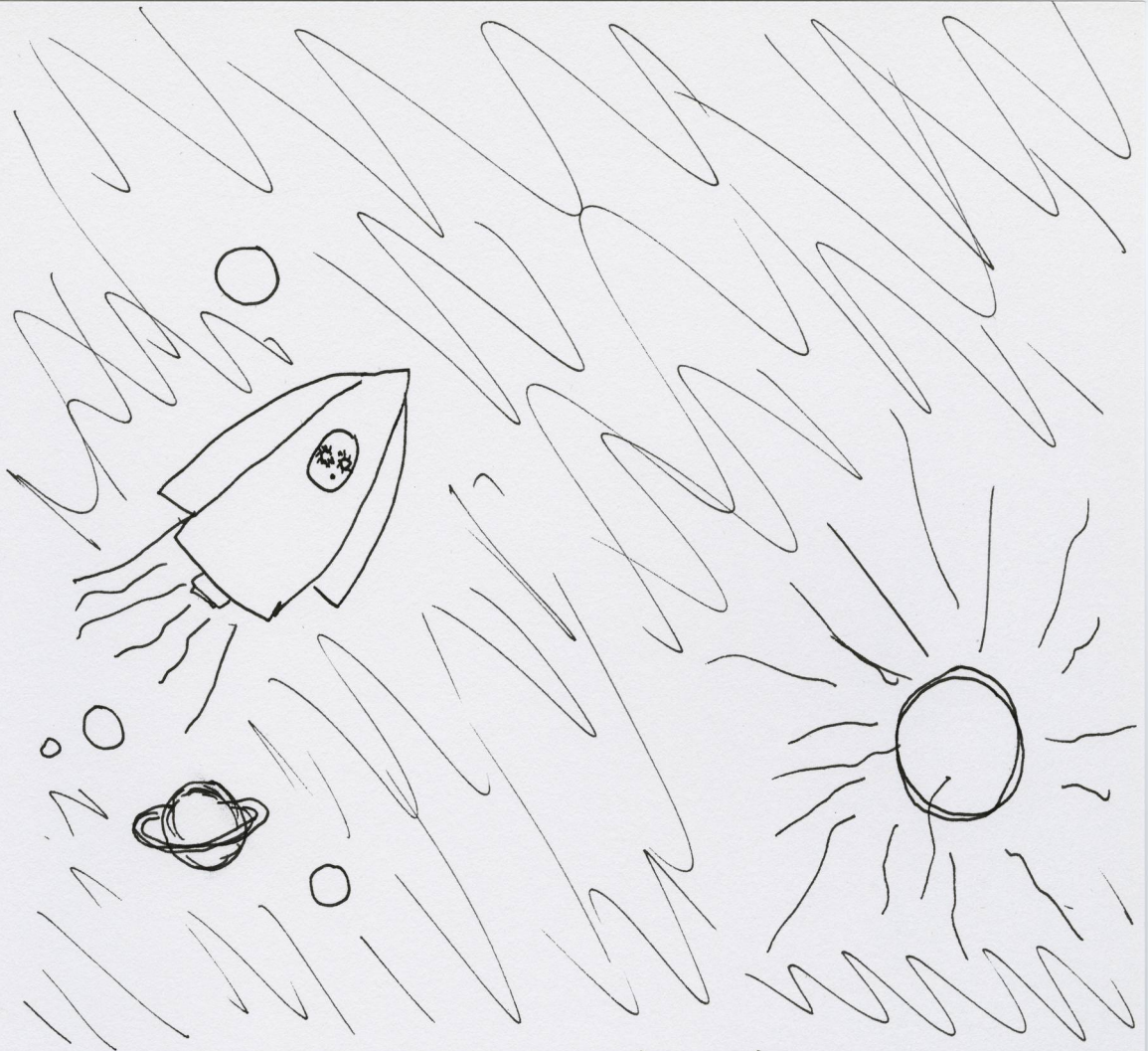
He had already become a celebrity, so before stepping into the ship, Hyena signed autographs by licking ink and then licking pieces of paper.



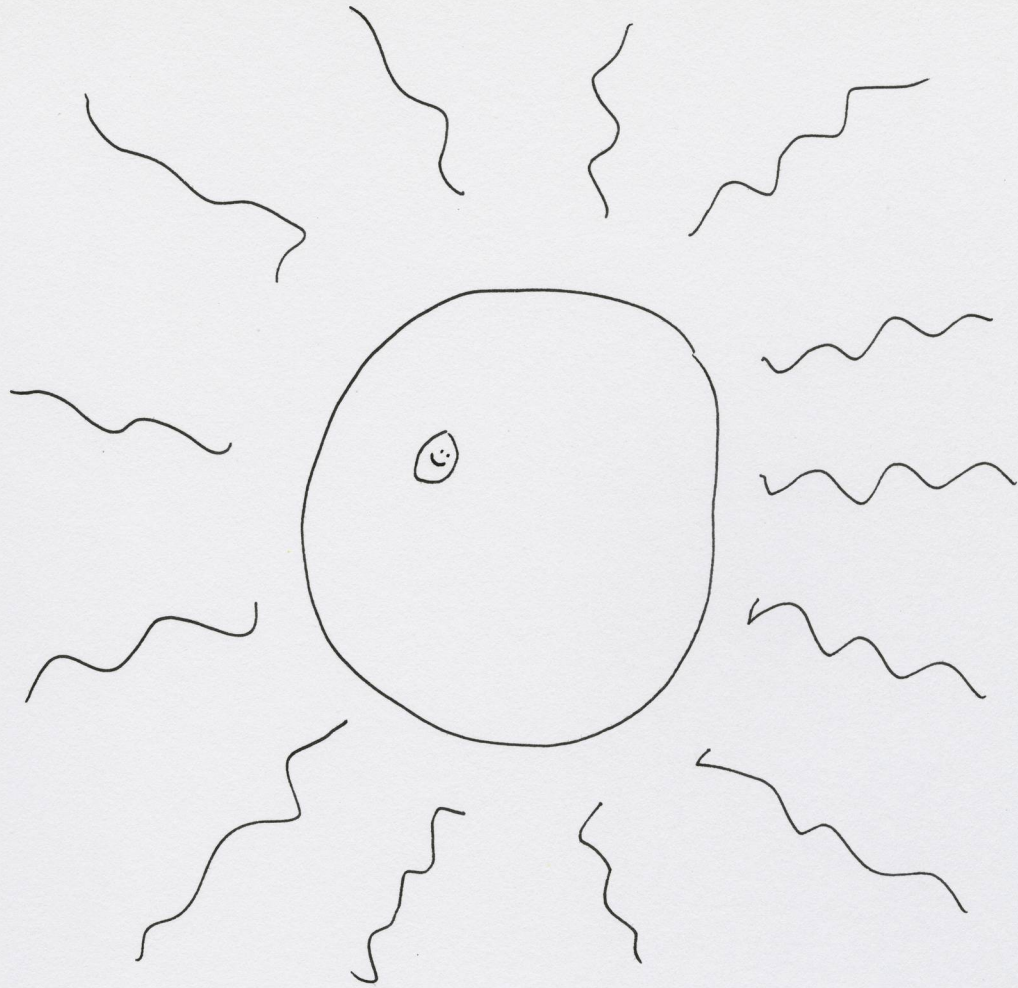
10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1! Hyena waved goodbye to Planet Earth, winking at the children whose autograph books he had just signed.



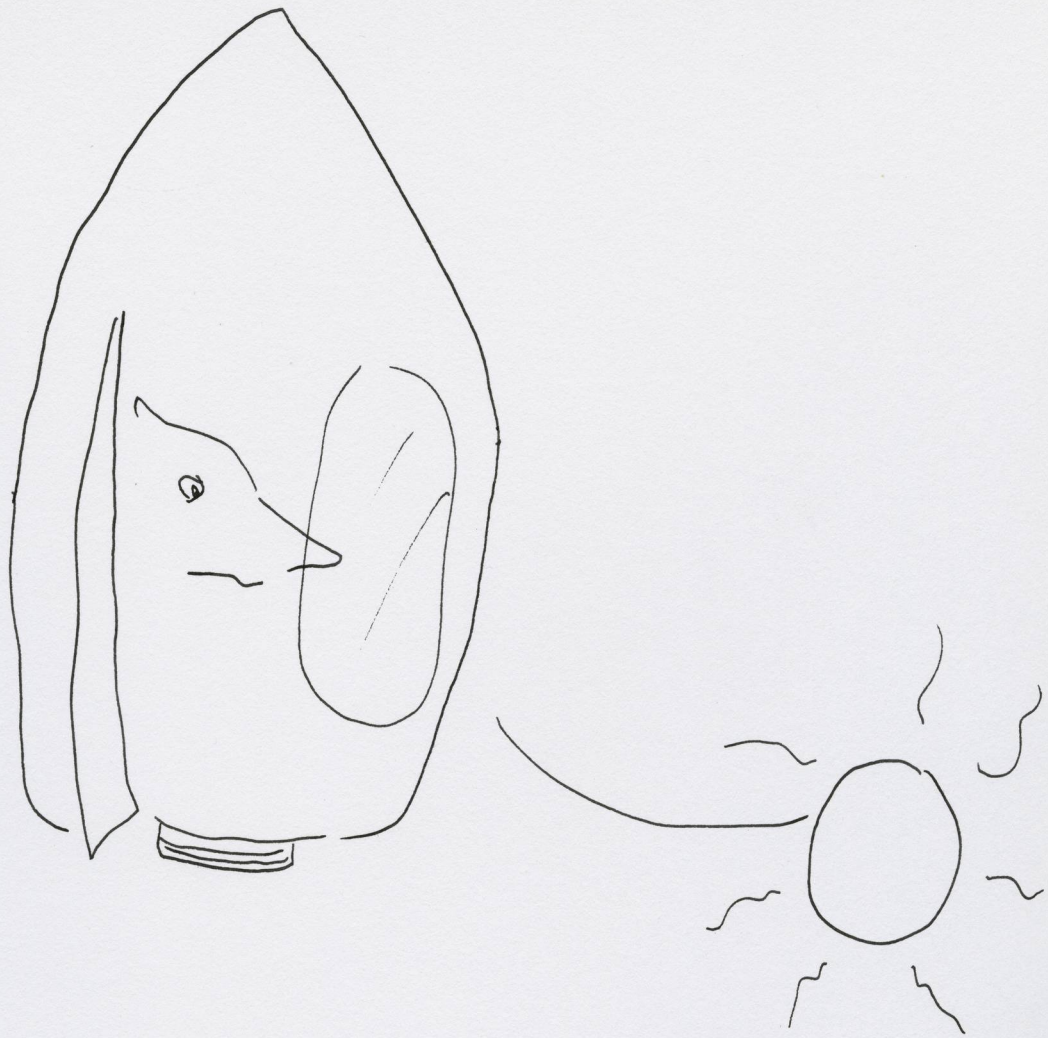
The rocket was speeding through the sky and meanwhile the Golden Egg was being pulled along into the atmosphere from across town. It was a good thing the GE was an egg and not a pebble.



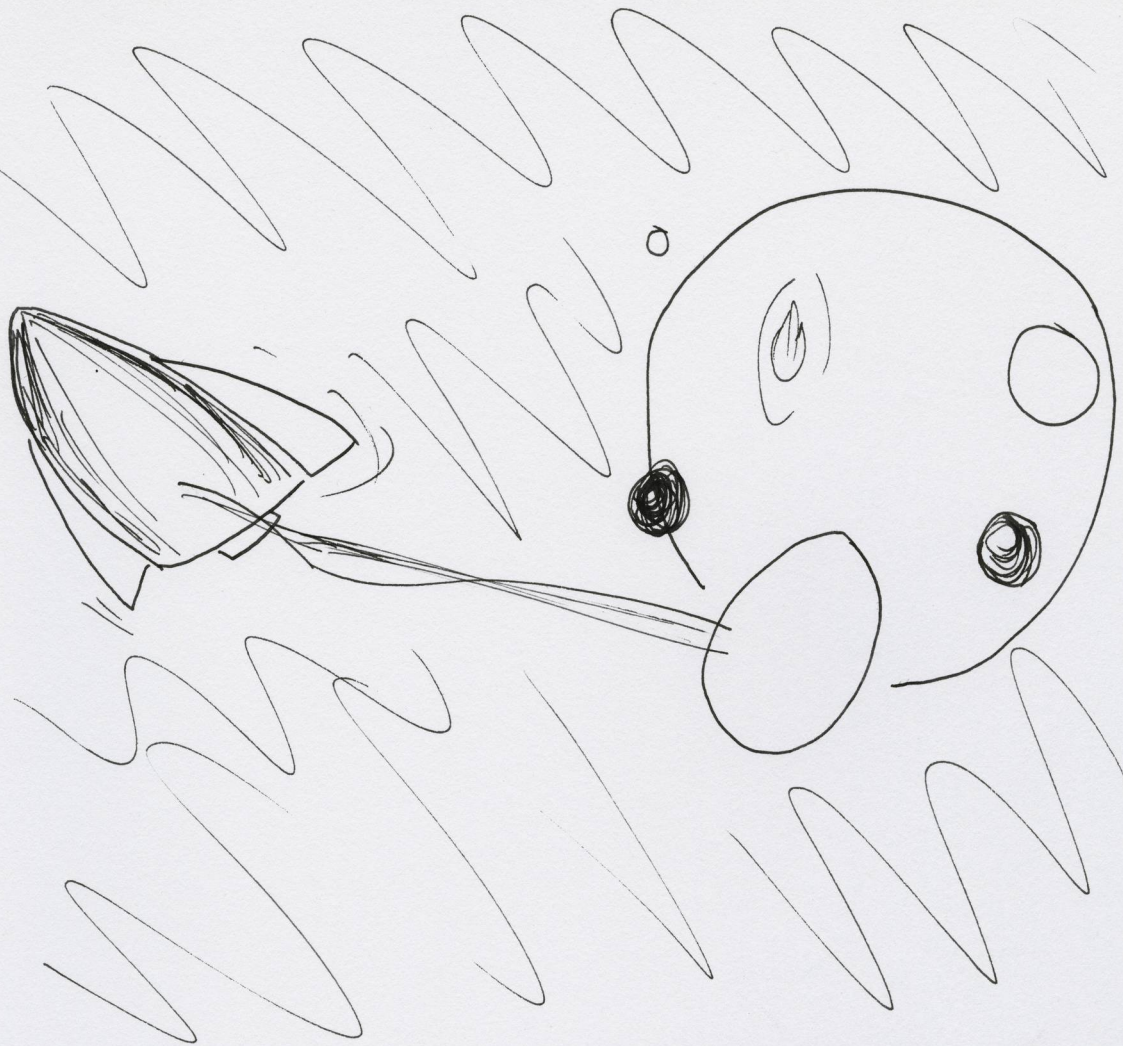
Hyena looked out his window and now instead of winking he was blinking in disbelief. He saw the Moon, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, Alpha Centauri and Proximus. And far away, he saw a golden planet pulsing with golden light.



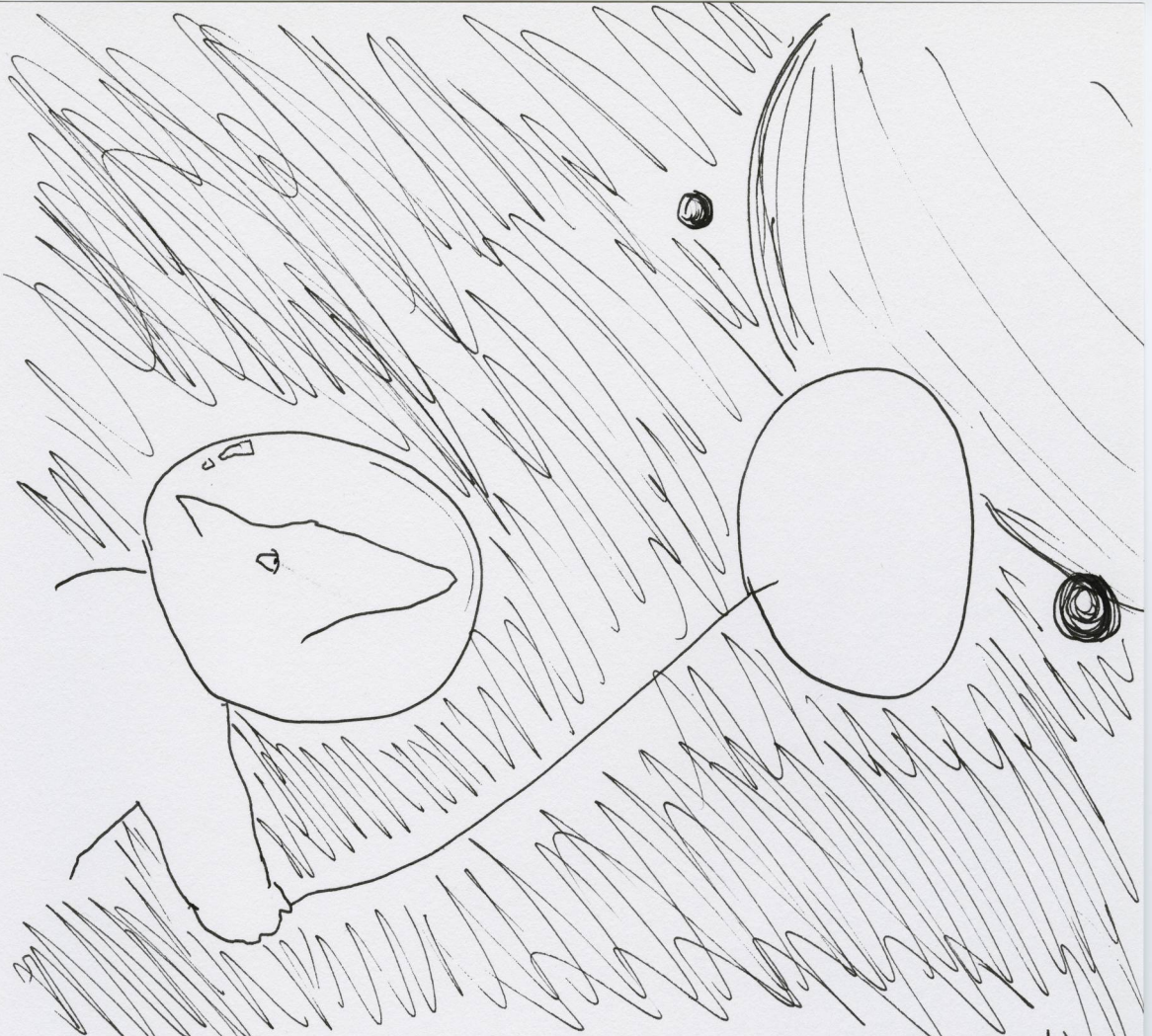
That was where he would take the Golden Egg! The GE could live among other GEs on the golden planet, and finally Hyena would not have to look after it.



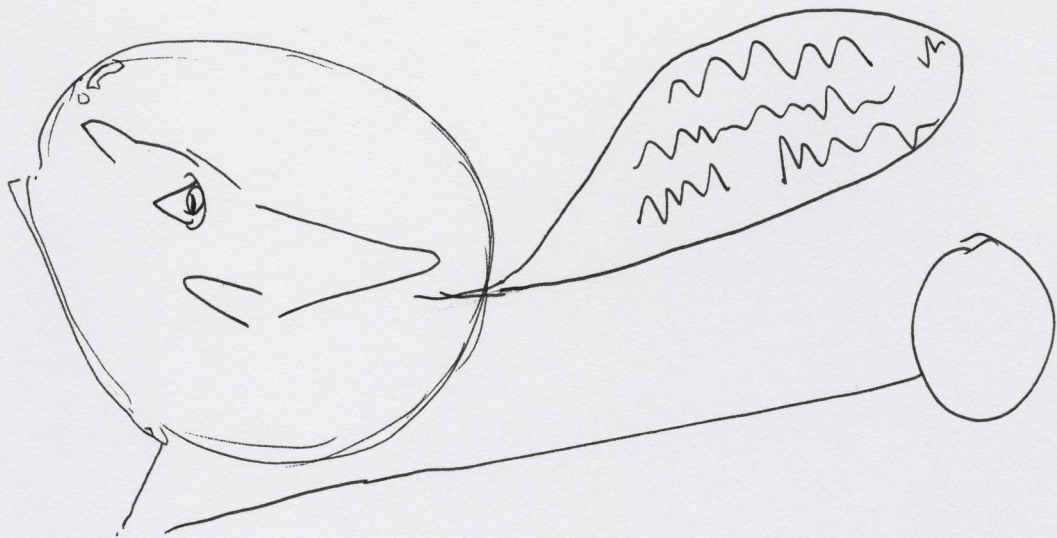
Then he realized the pulsing golden light came from the Golden Egg.
It wasn't a planet, nor a pebble nor a star.



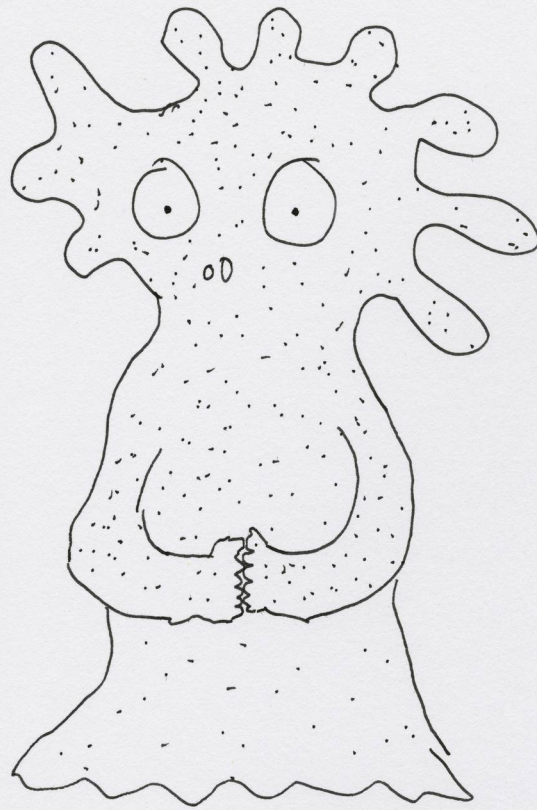
They were going faster than ever before when Hyena felt a tug.
The GE was pulling the rocketship back into the Solar System to
look at each of Jupiter's moons.



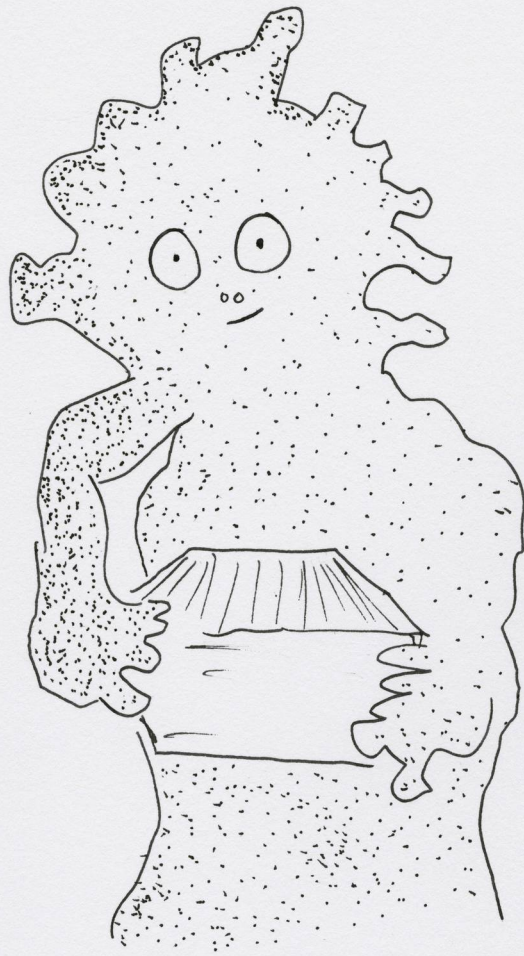
After inspecting each of Jupiter's moons, the Golden Egg started inspecting them again.



Hyena shouted, "GOLDEN EGG, WE DO NOT NEED TO LOOK AT THAT.
WE CAN SEE IT ON THE RETURN TRIP."



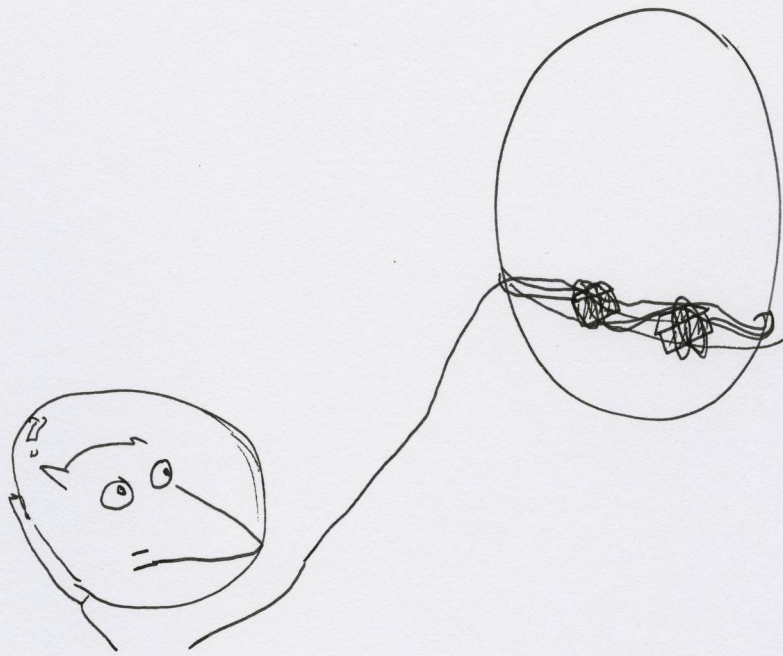
Just then, a moon alien came up to them.



"Would you like to buy some Szechuan Moonfood Surprise?" asked the moon alien.



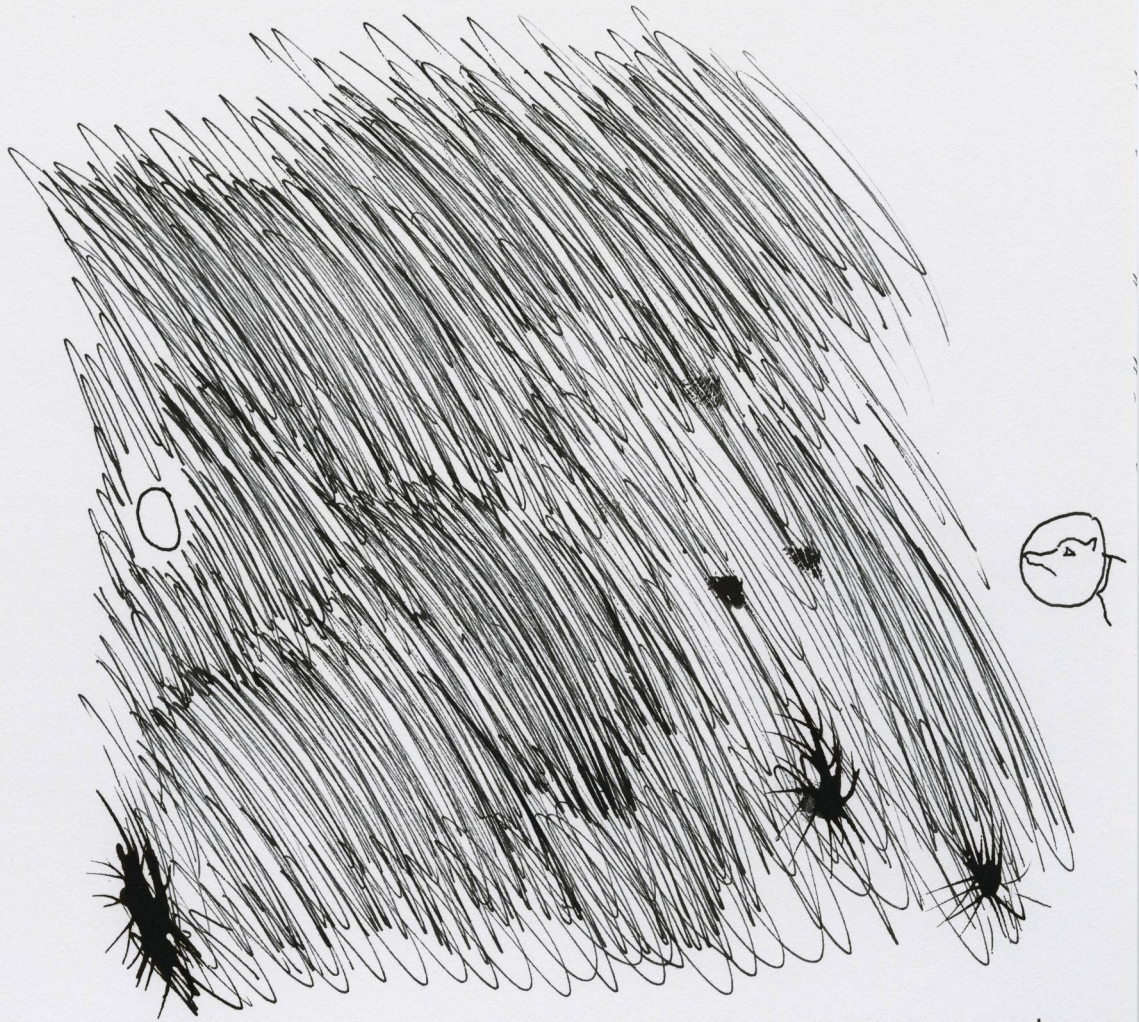
The GE bought two helpings of SMS.



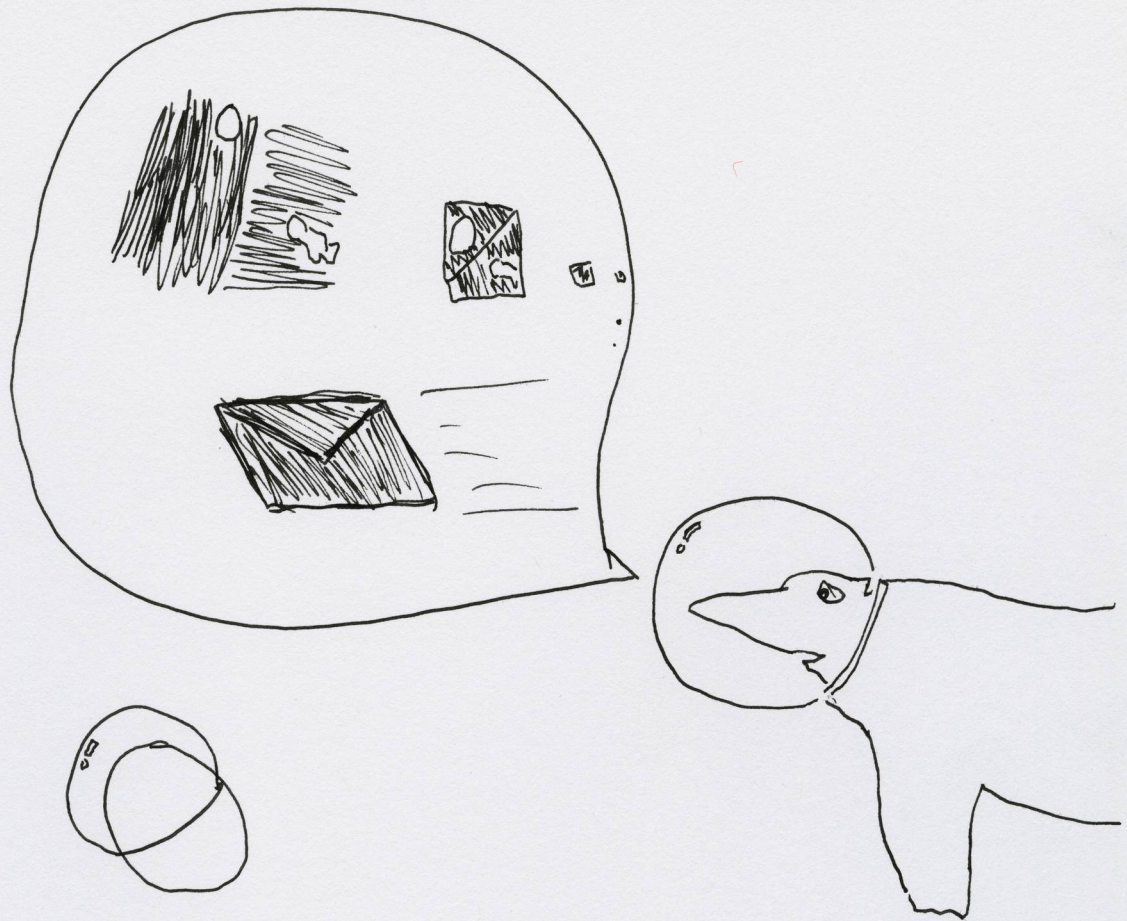
Hyena decided that the GE should have a new name: PP, which stood for "Pesky Pebble."



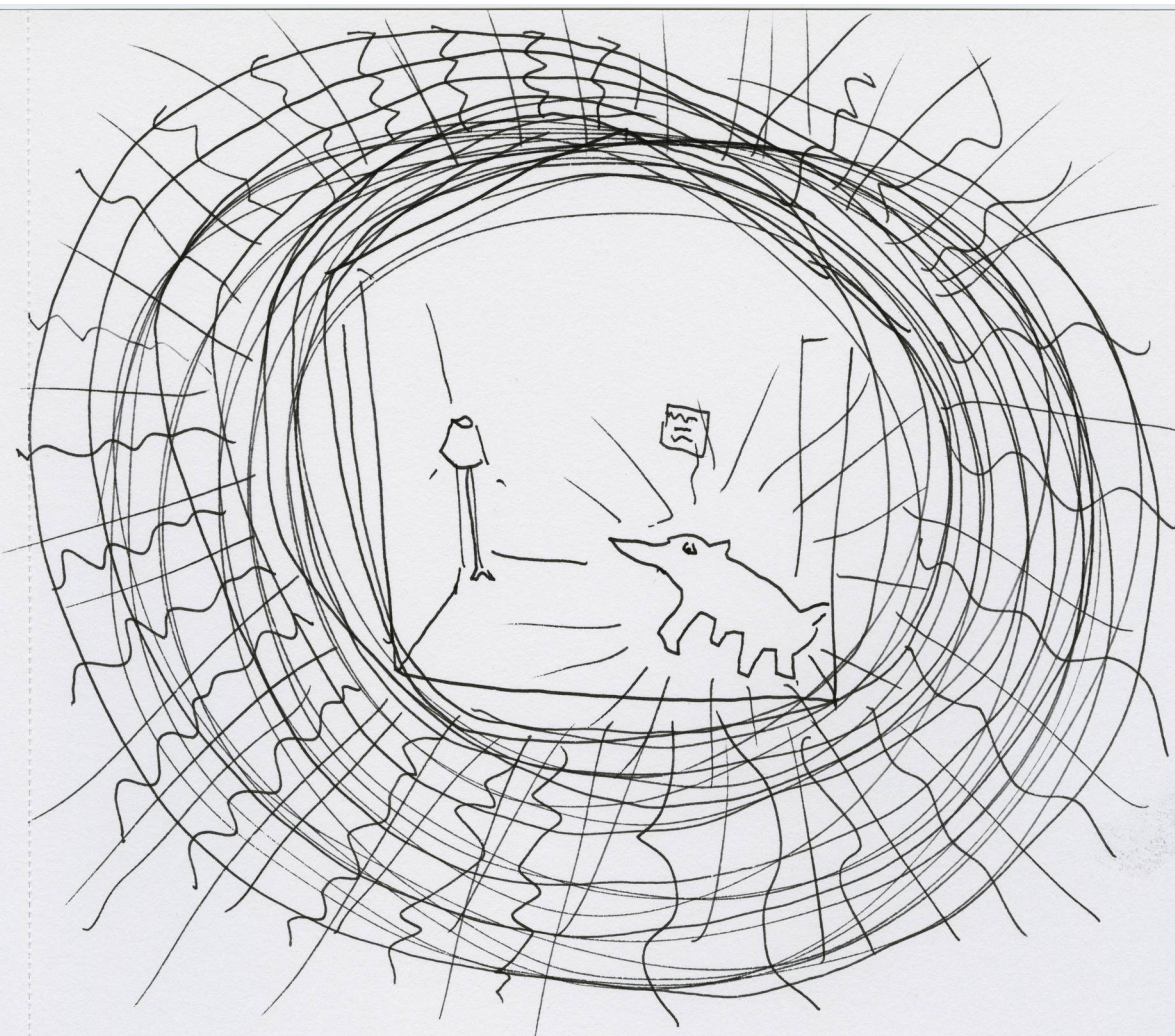
They continued on their journey, and eventually they reached the end of the universe.



It turned out that at one end of the universe the trick to get to the other end was to move the slightest bit outside of the universe.



Hyena instructed the Golden Egg to help him fold the universe six times, wrap themselves in it, and send the universelope to another universe.

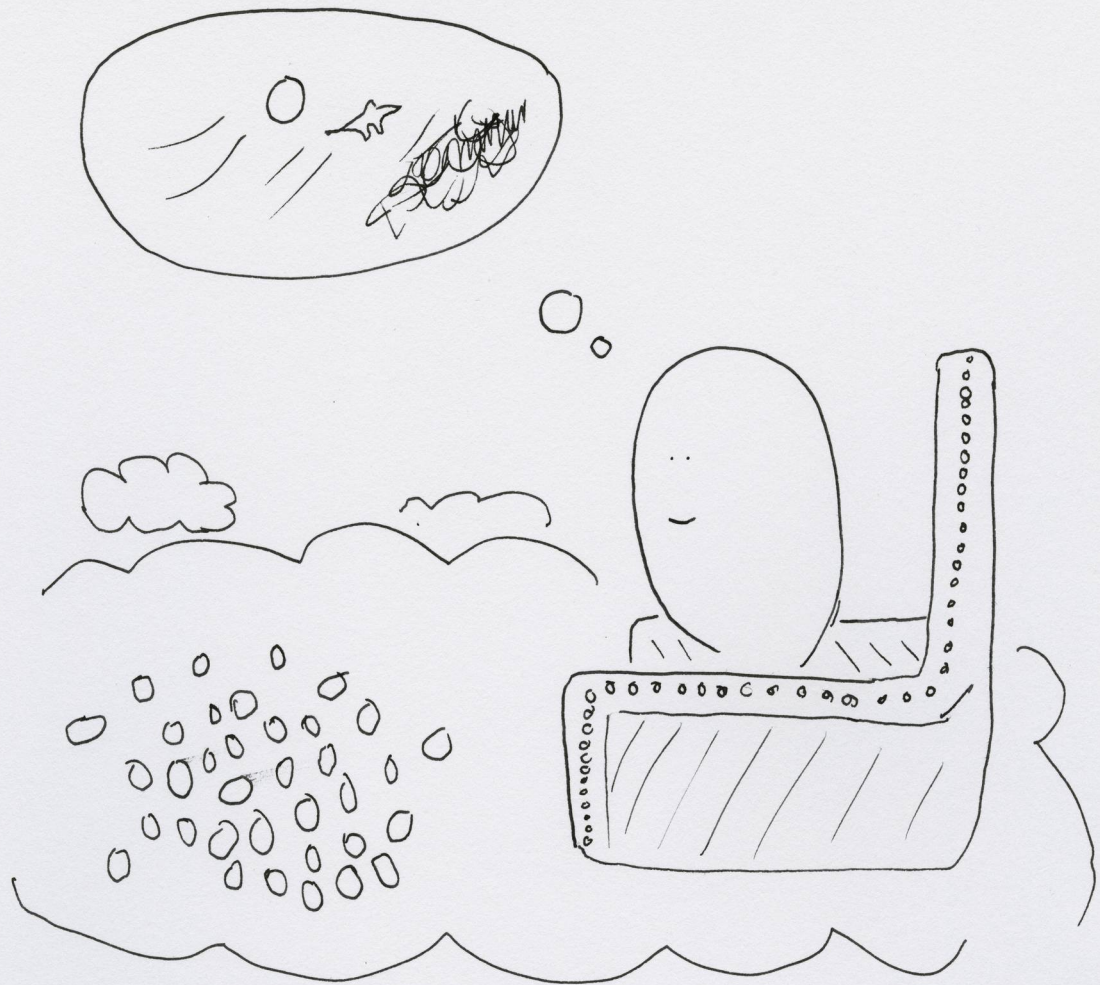


Lickety split ~~to~~ he was in his treehouse in the new universe.

TREAT YOUR
FRIENDS WITH
DIGNITY



Instead of the cross-stitch that said HYENA horizontally and GOLDEN EGG vertically (with the 'E' of 'Hyena' shared with the 'E' of 'Golden'), there was a needlework that said "TREAT YOUR FRIENDS WITH DIGNITY." It had been left by the ~~previous treehouse's~~ ^{previous treehouse's} ~~treehouse's~~ ~~previous~~ owner, and Hyena had never bothered to take it down. The truth is, he had never had a friend in this universe, and had no memory of the universe where he owned a golden egg.



Meanwhile, in the fluffiest clouds, the Golden Egg was sitting in a throne, ruling over baby golden eggs with a smile. But the Golden Egg longed to go on an adventure far from the comfort of a fancy throne. If only there were a companion somewhere, like a hyena, who could lead the way.