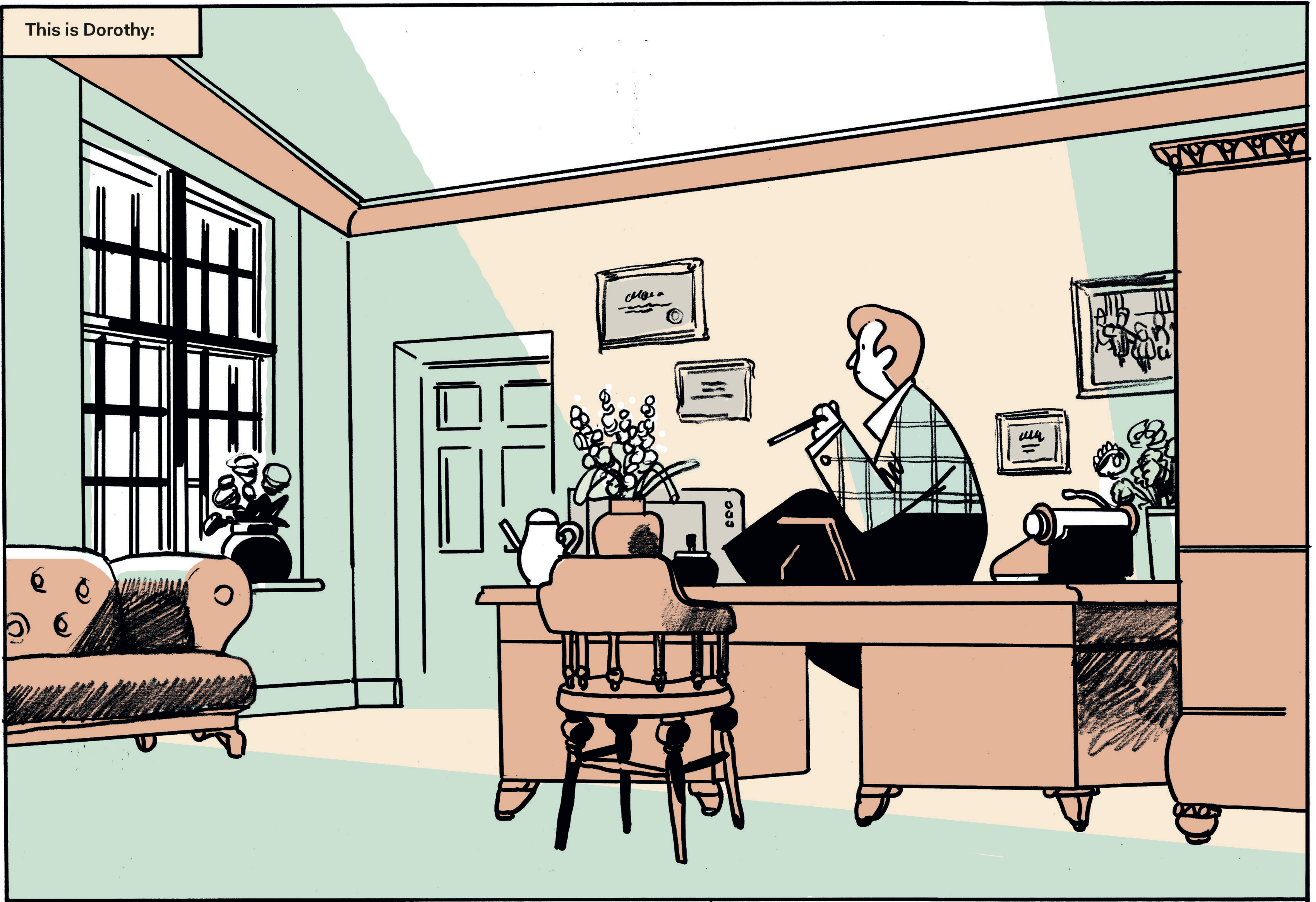


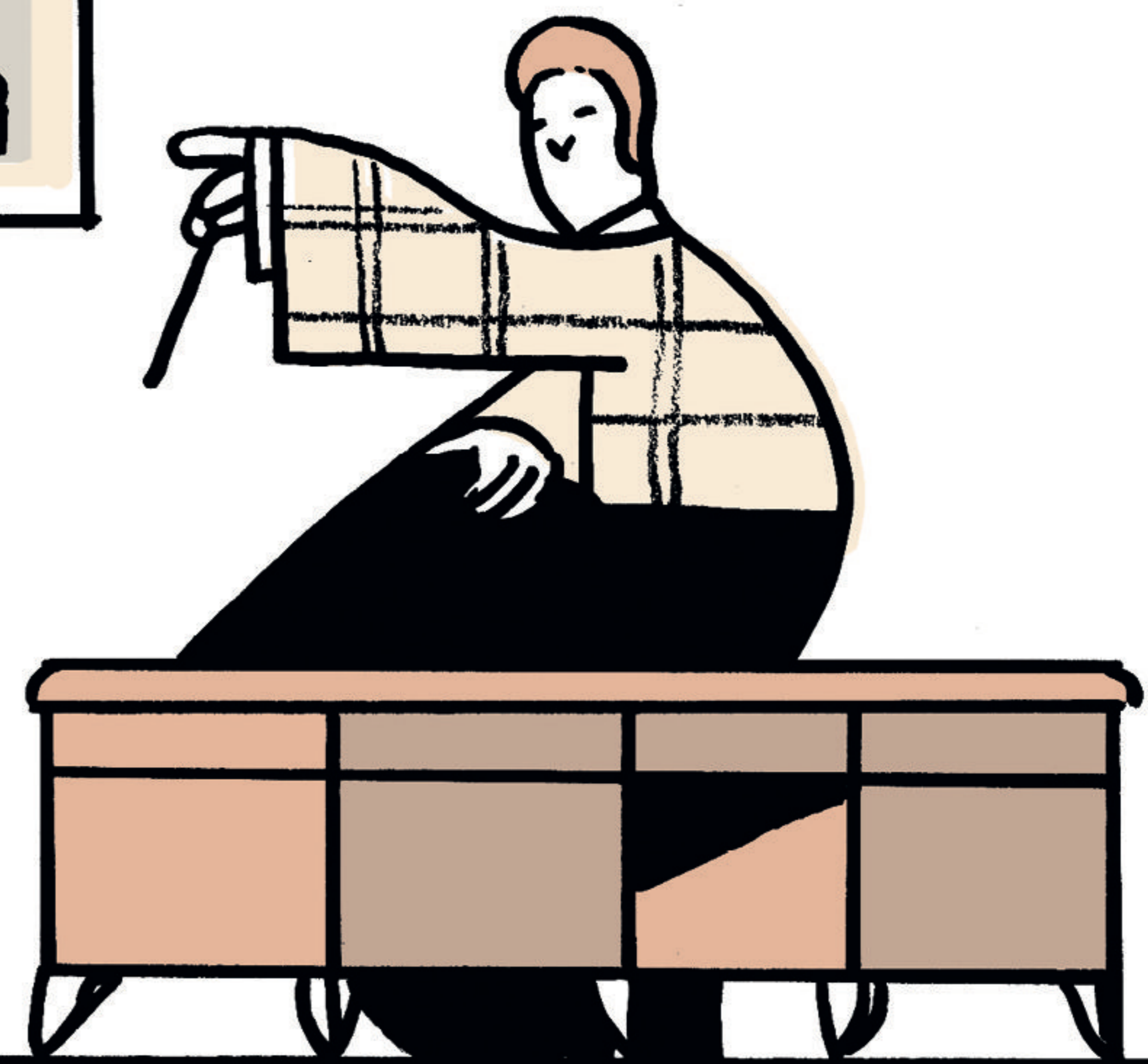
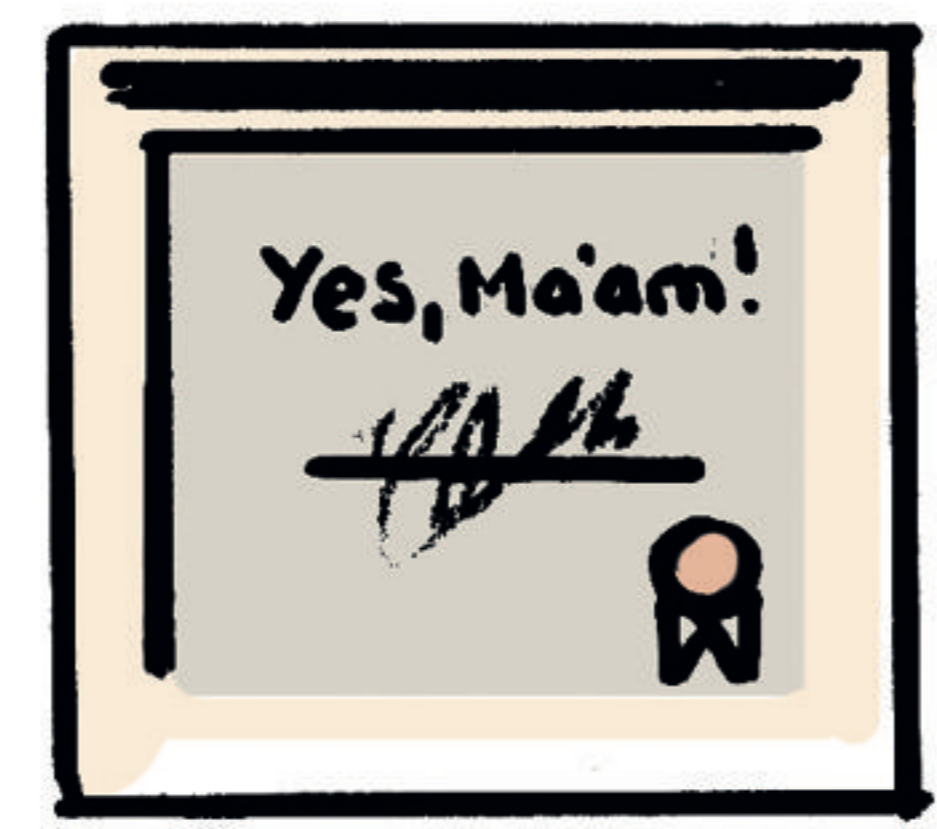
This is Dorothy:



Dorothy Swaine Thomas is the first woman to hold a professorship at the Wharton School Pennsylvania.



She's a Doctor of Sociology..



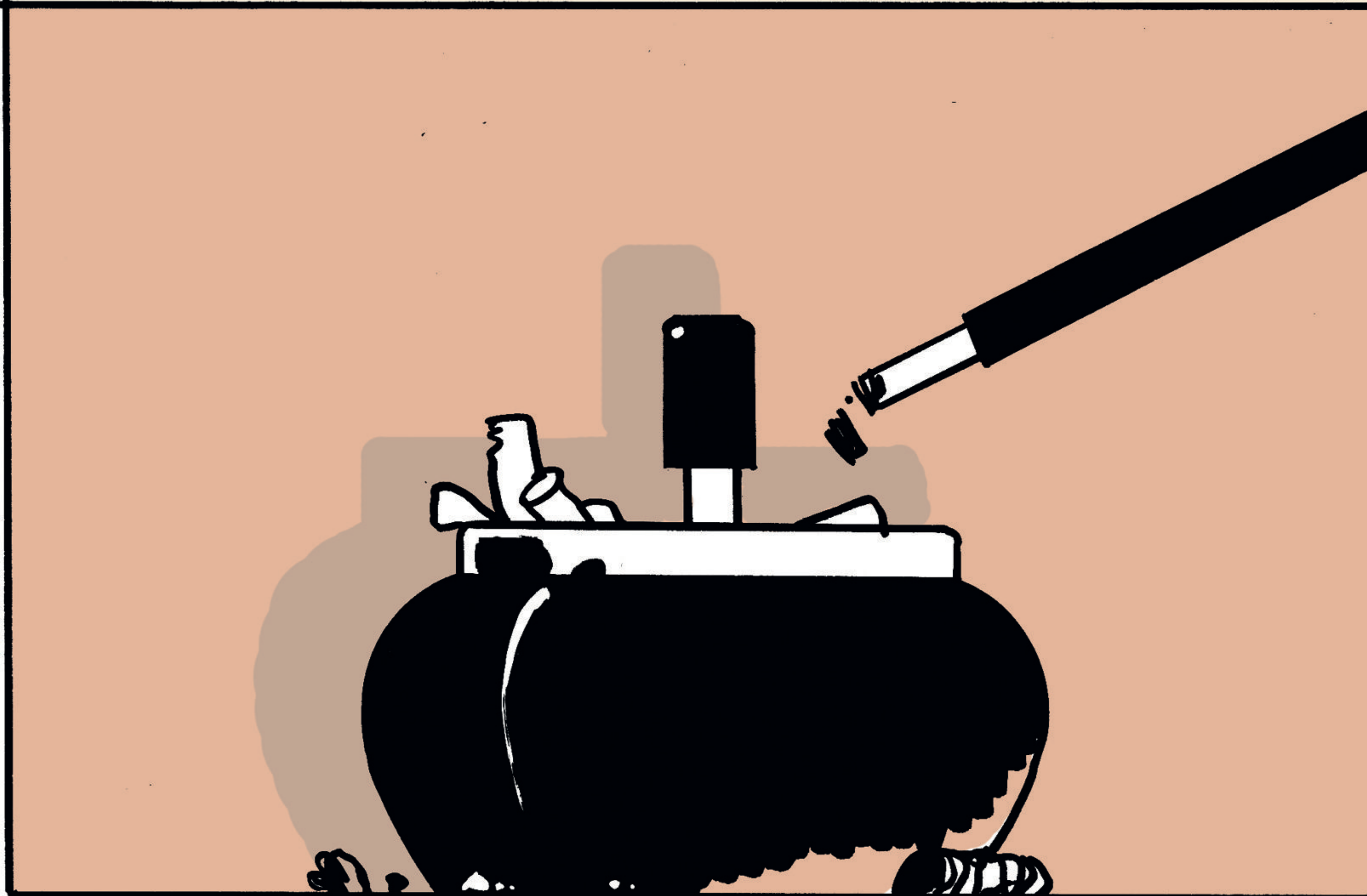
..and the first president of the American Sociological Association.



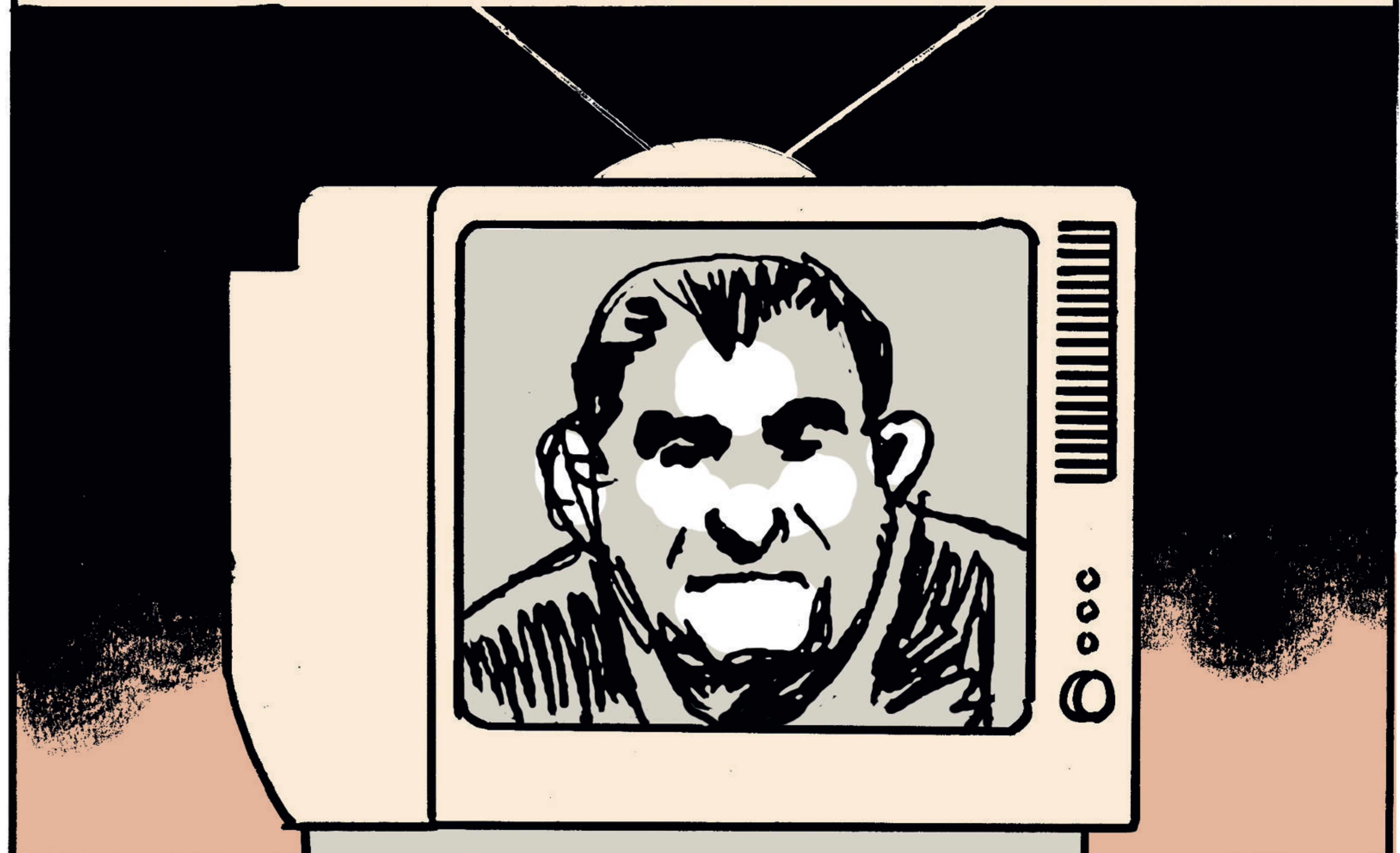
She stands up for friends and students.



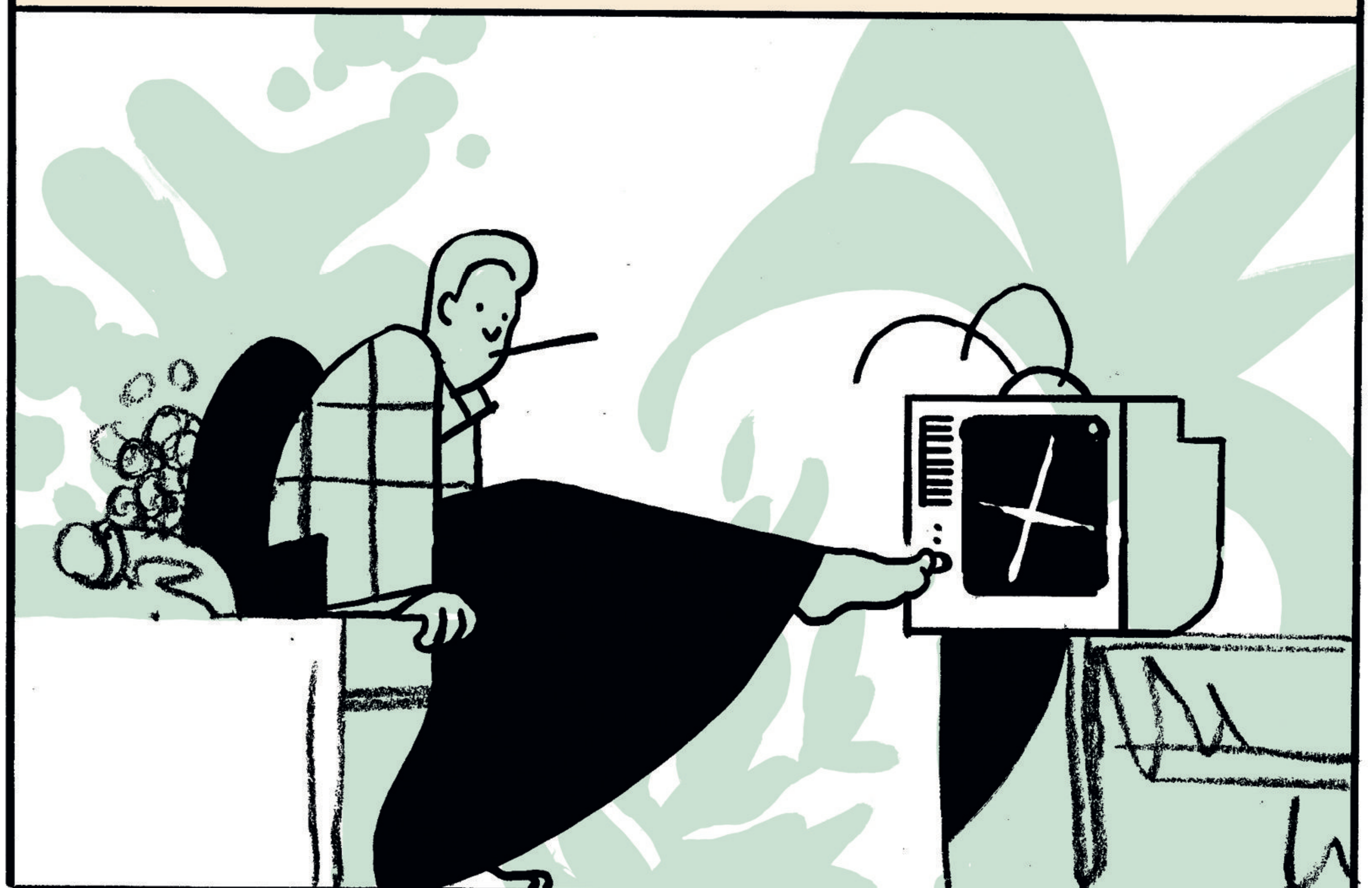
A moody and fierce worker.



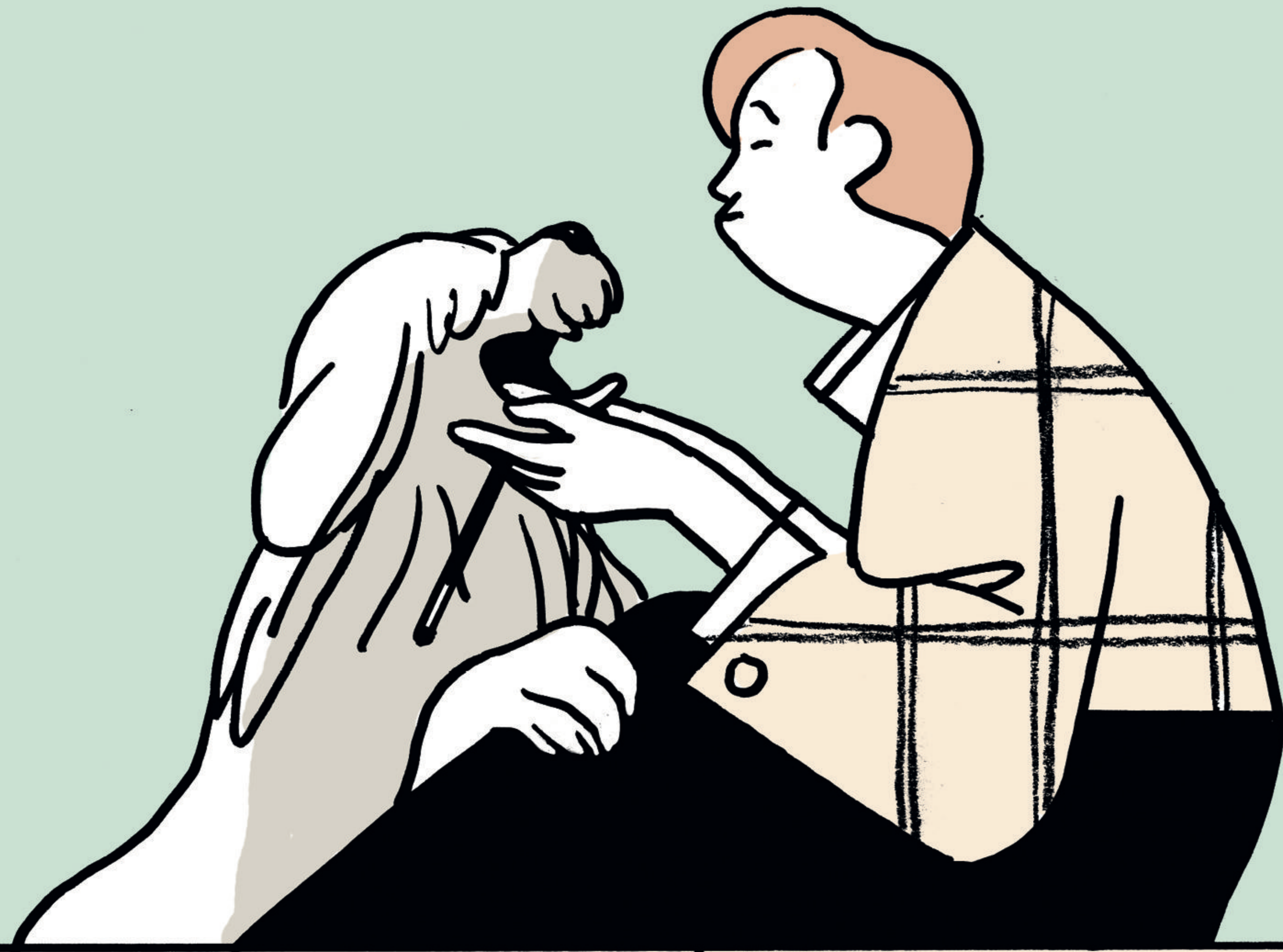
And when much of the academic world was wary of McCarthy fearfully held back, ...



... she stood up to it all the more.

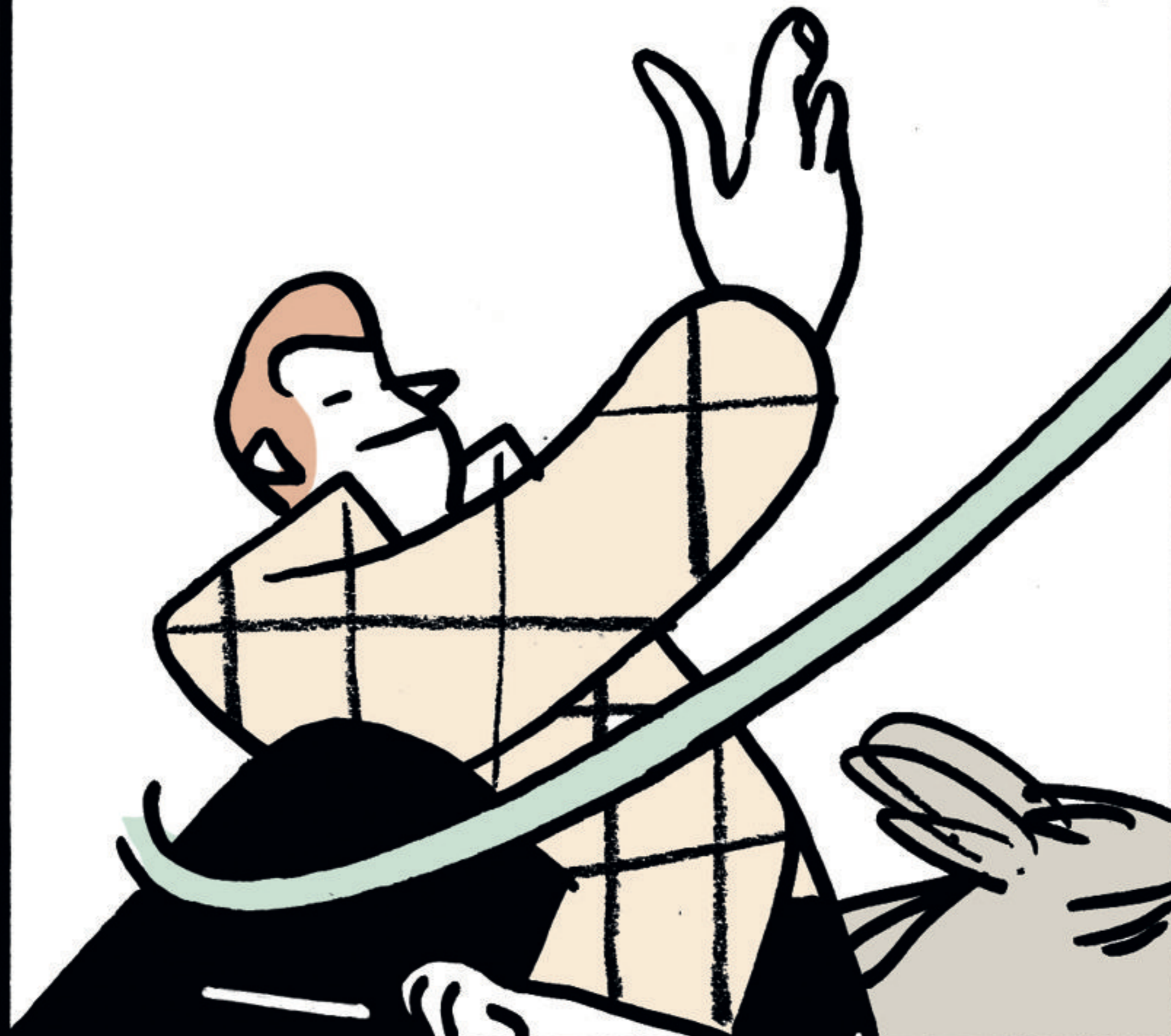


As she herself wrote, she also procrastinated terribly.

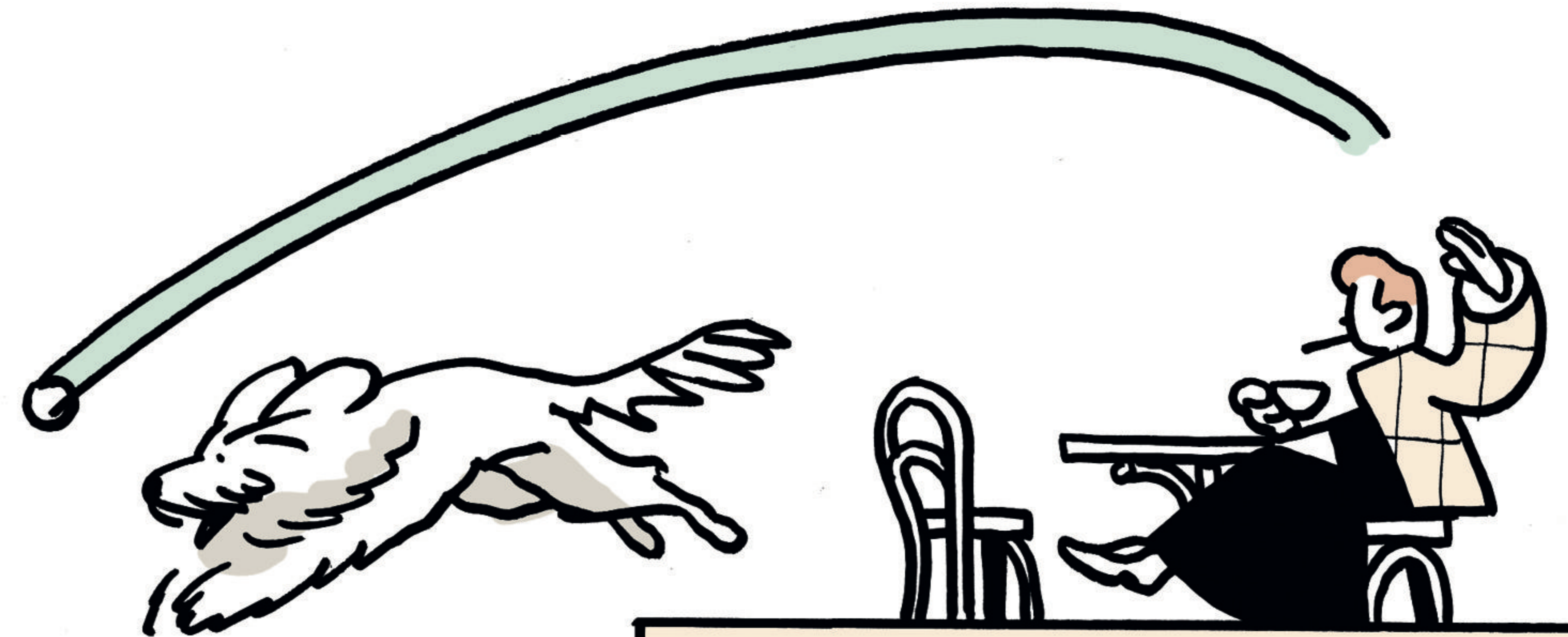


She was volatile.

Unpredictable.



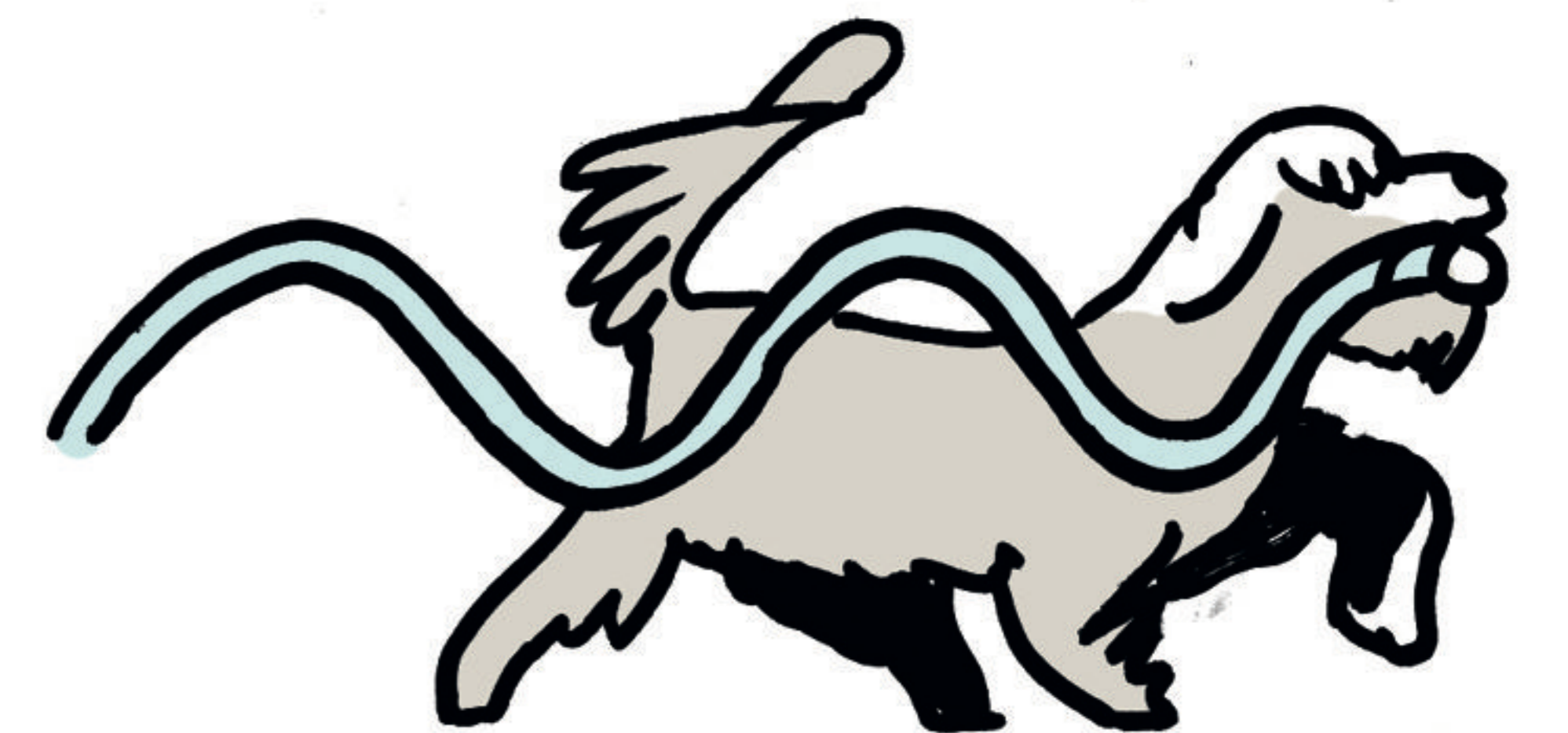
Preferred to read crime stories...



...listening to music, drinking coffee...



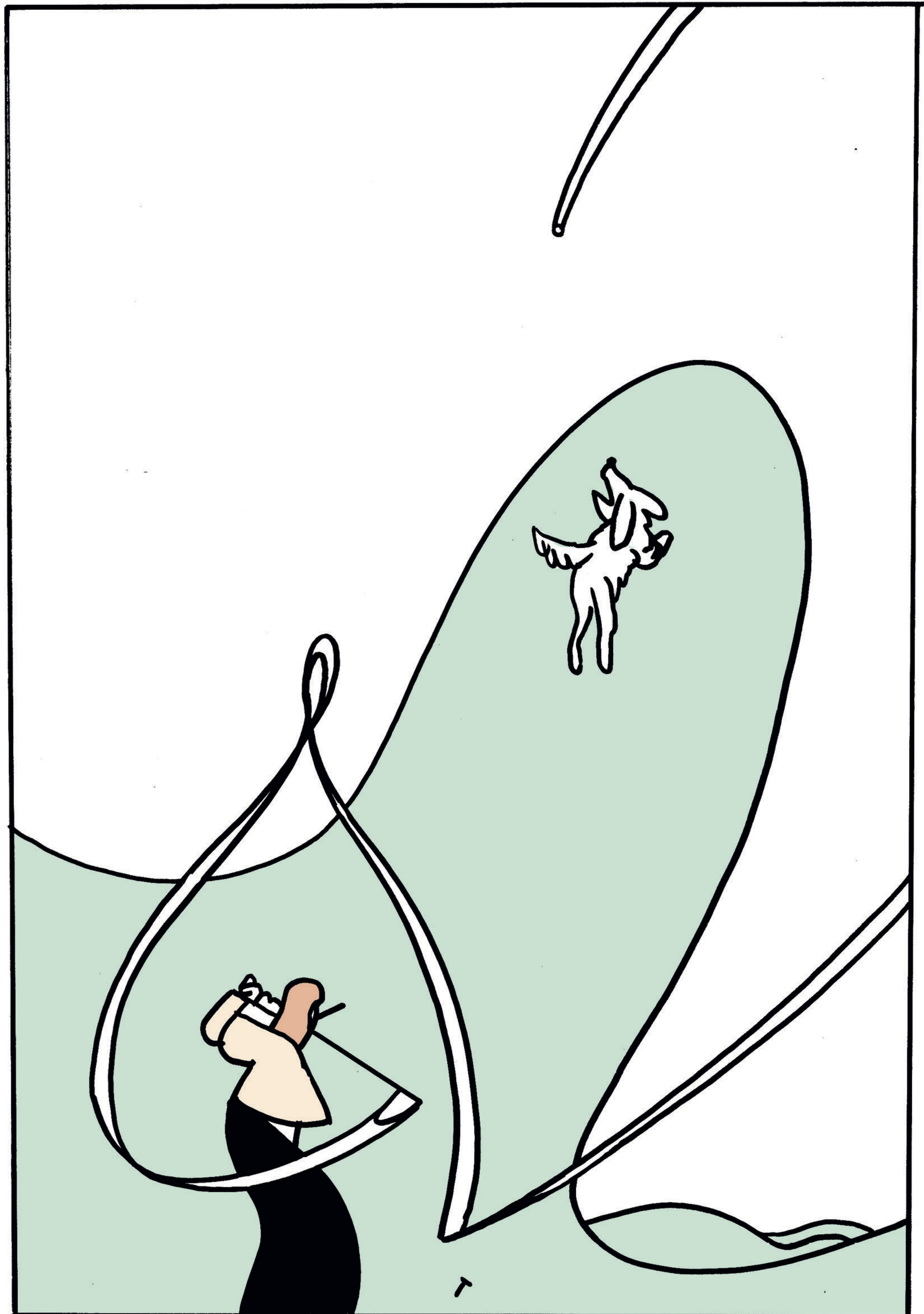
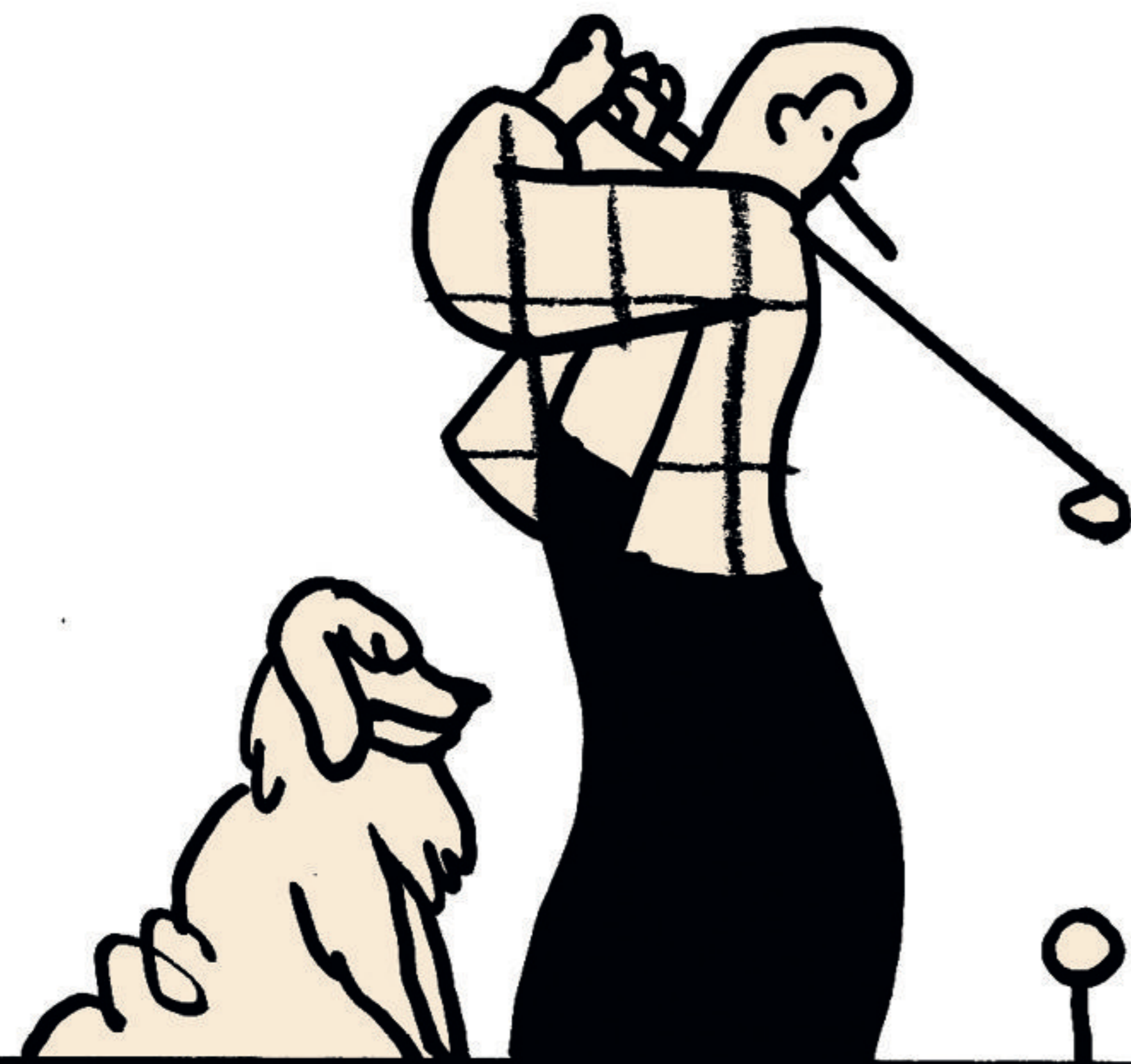
...or playing golf.



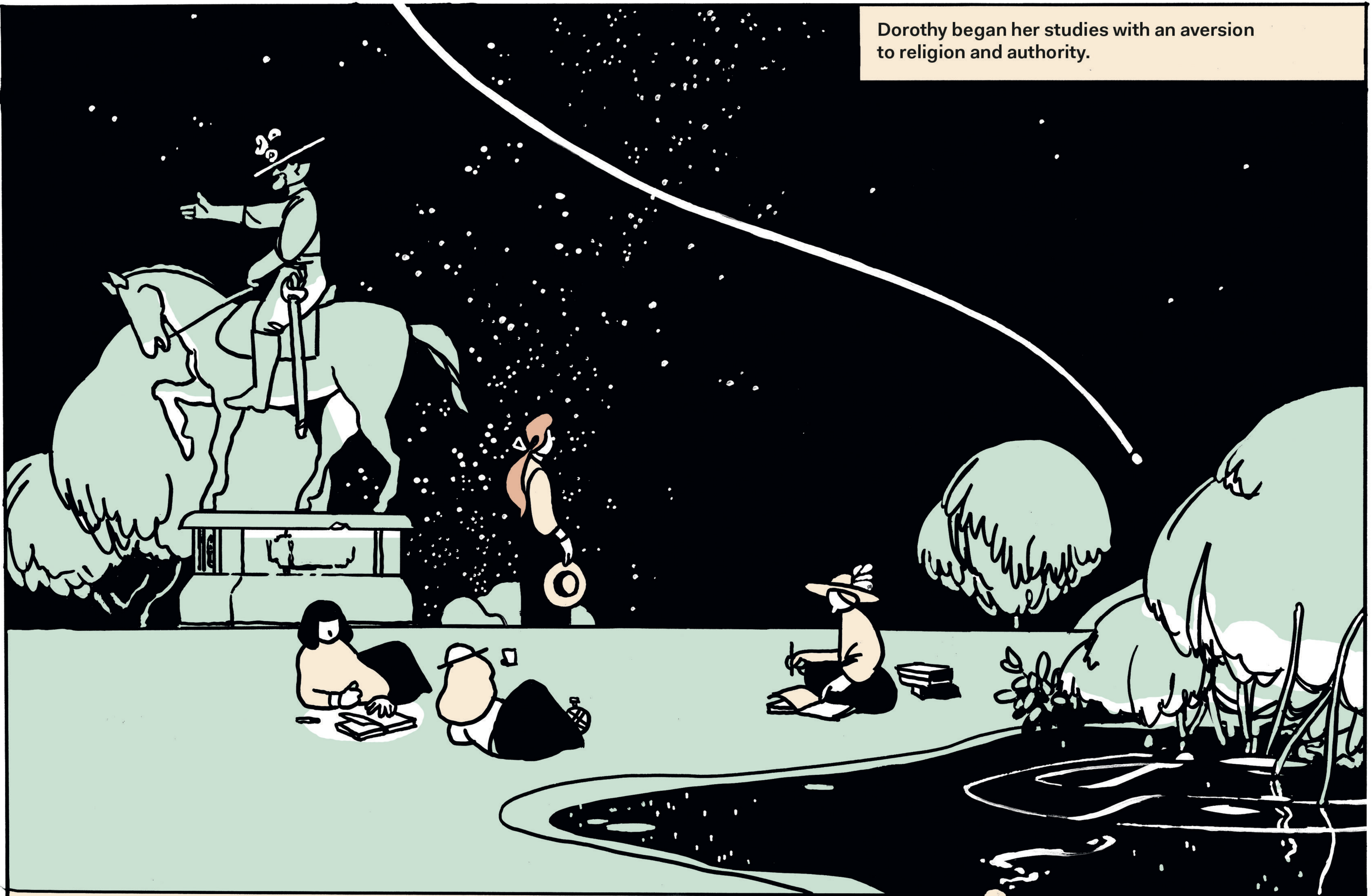
Guilty of the projects she has committed to.



True to herself.



Dorothy began her studies with an aversion to religion and authority.



She cultivated a radical social conscience. Wanted to do research on socialism.

Her mentor William F. Ogburn gave her a choice:



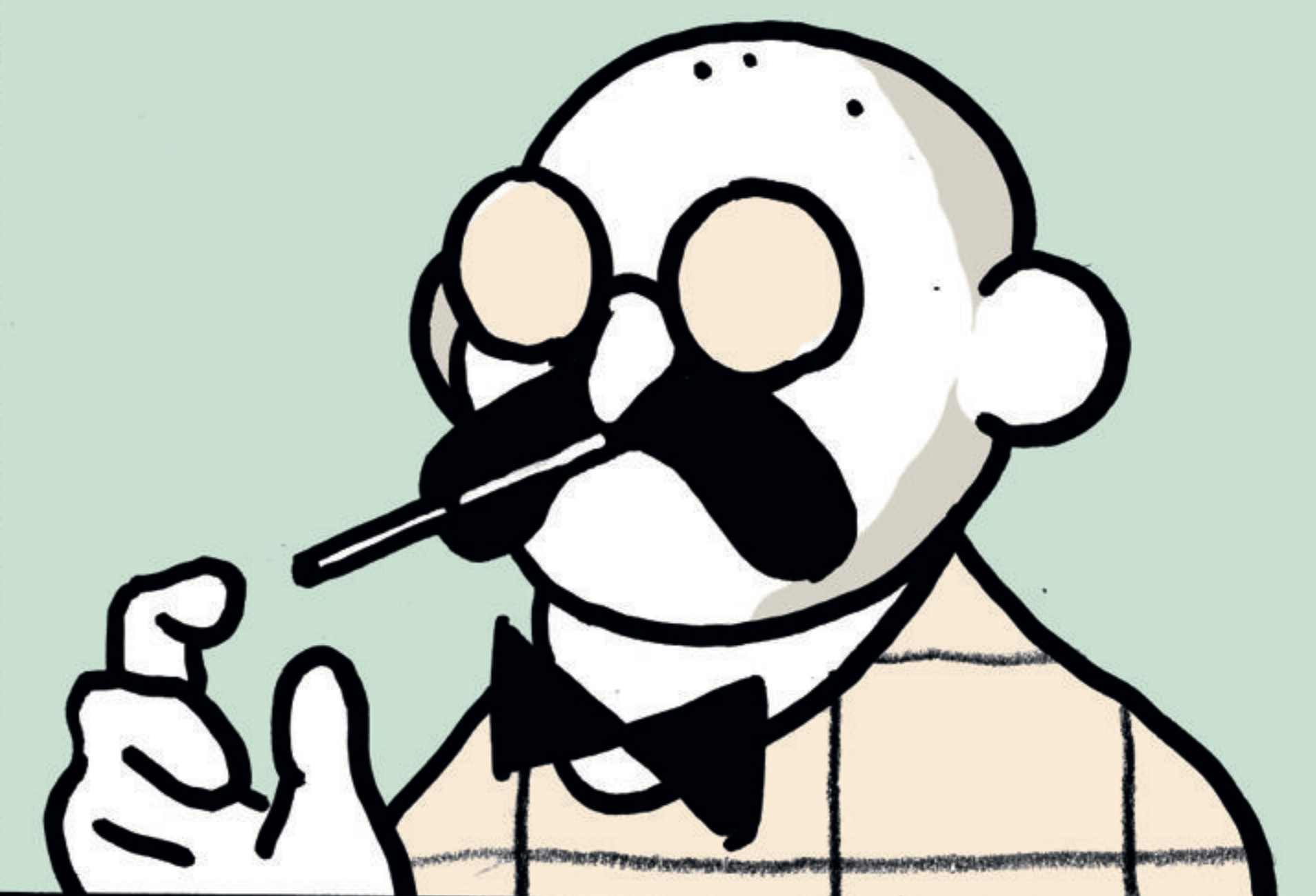
Activism.

Or science.



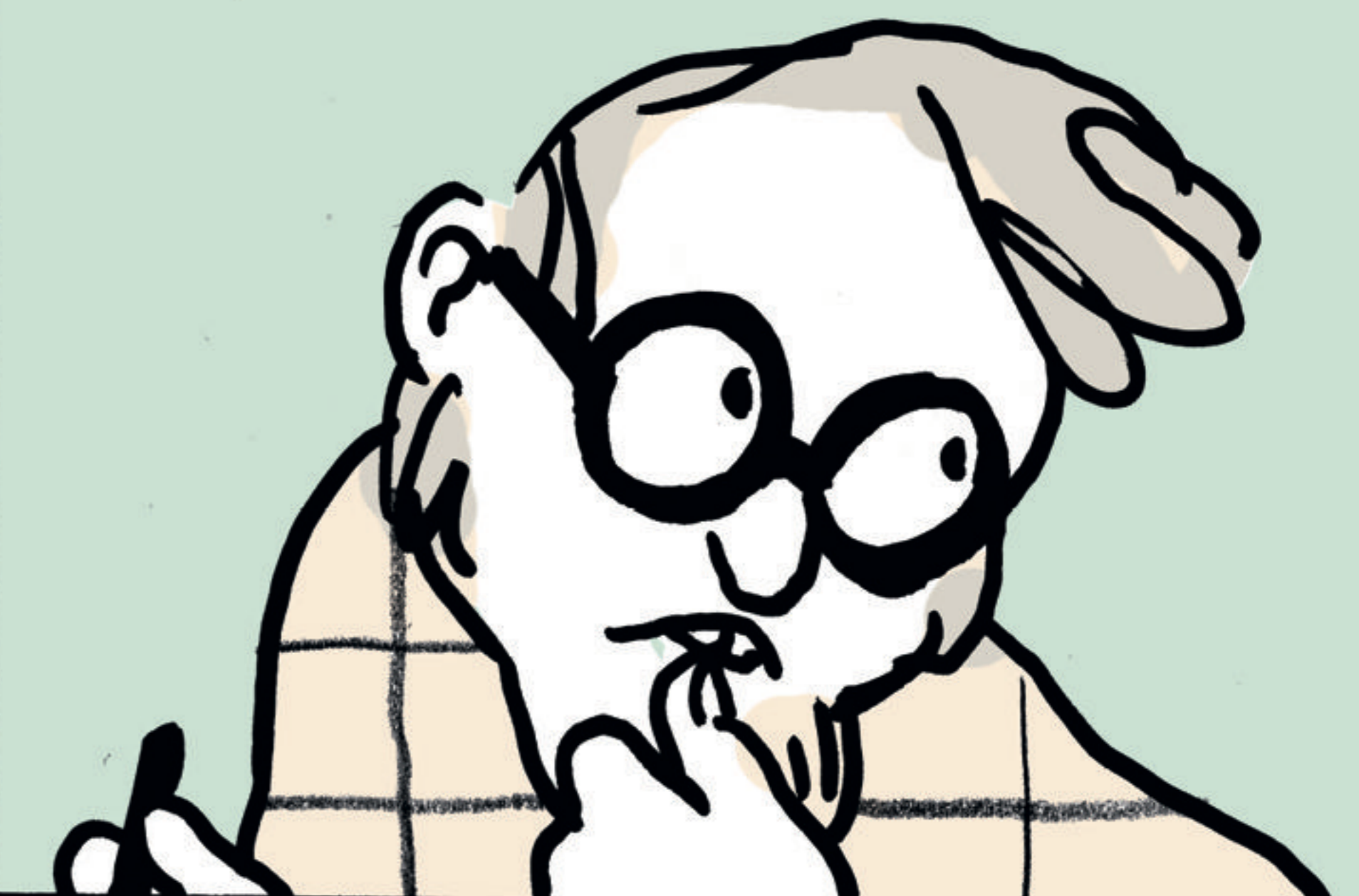
Sociology

Objective.

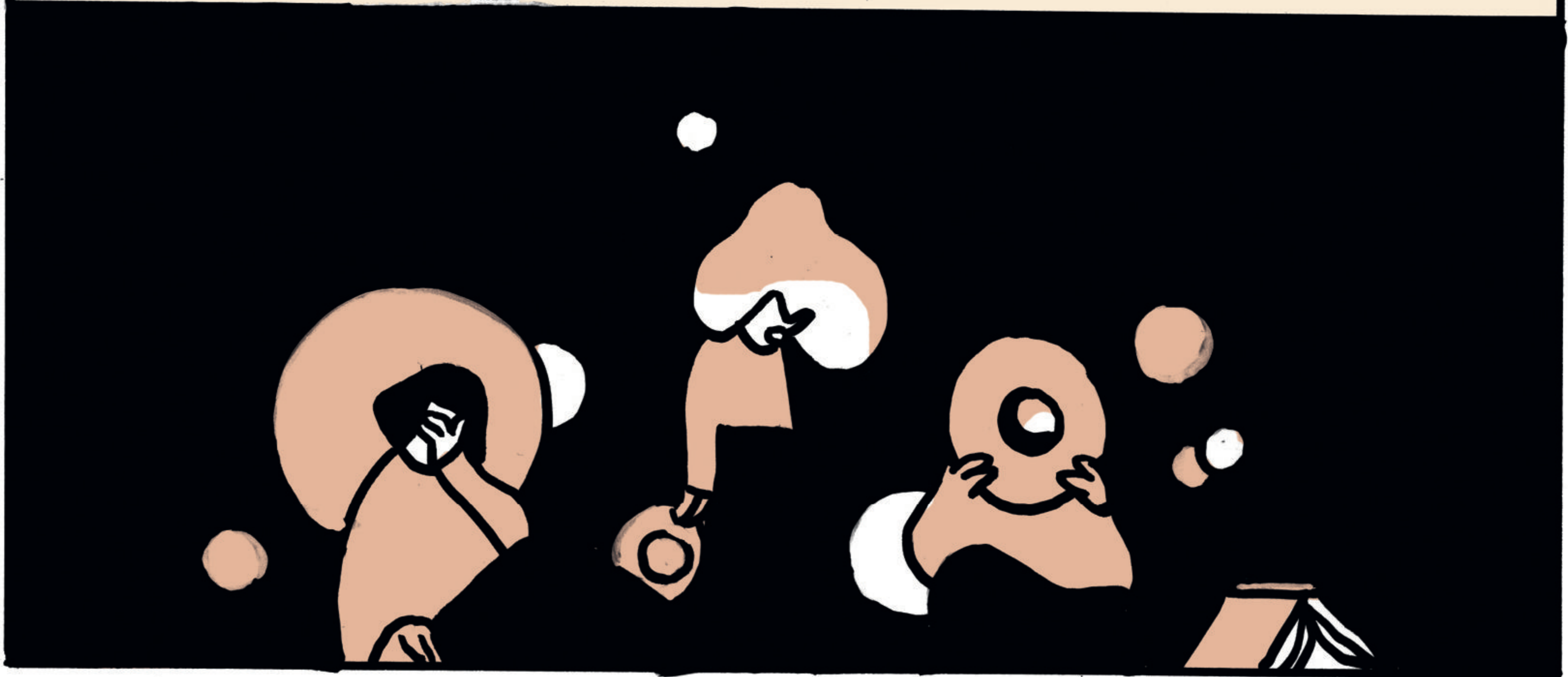


Rational.

Free of value.



And she chose the latter.

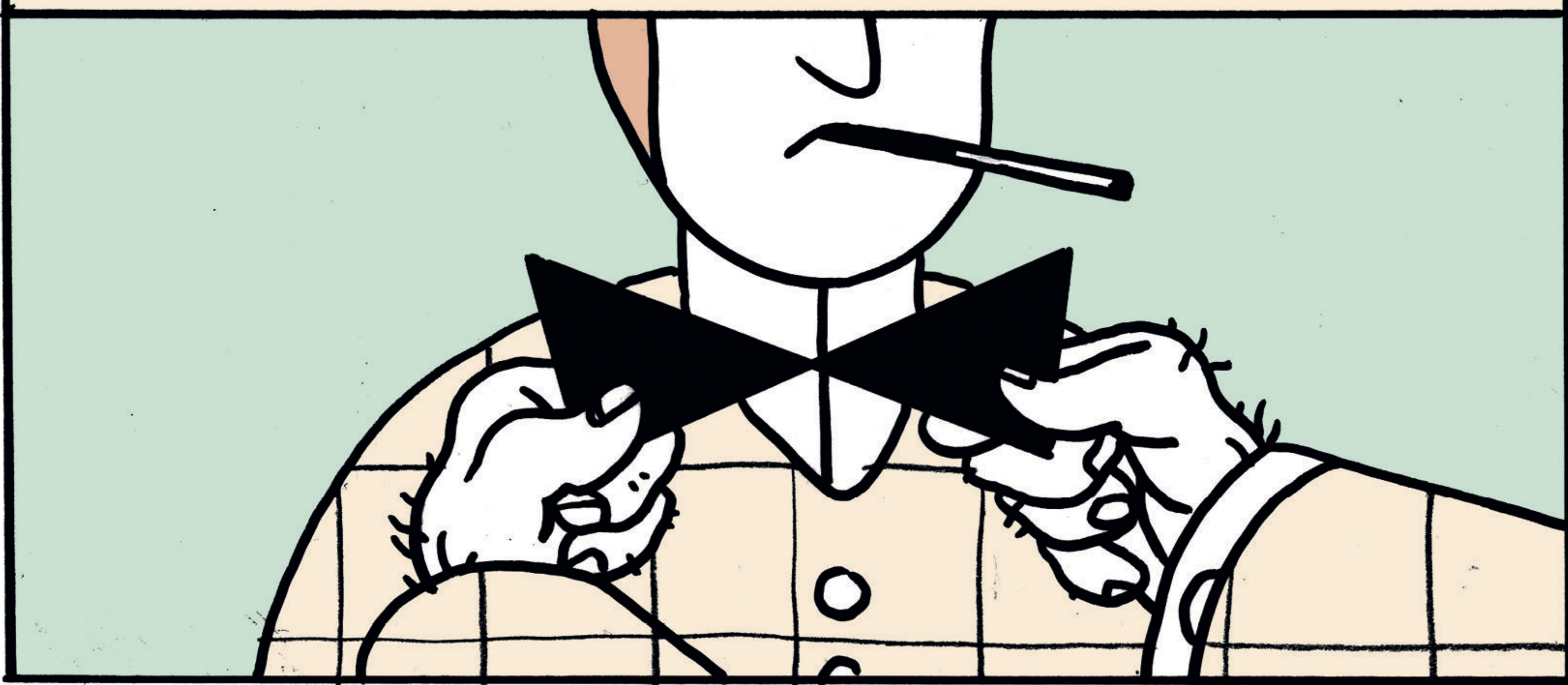


Dorothy adopts Ogburn's objectivist understanding of sociology.



Concentrates on statistics rather than interpretations.

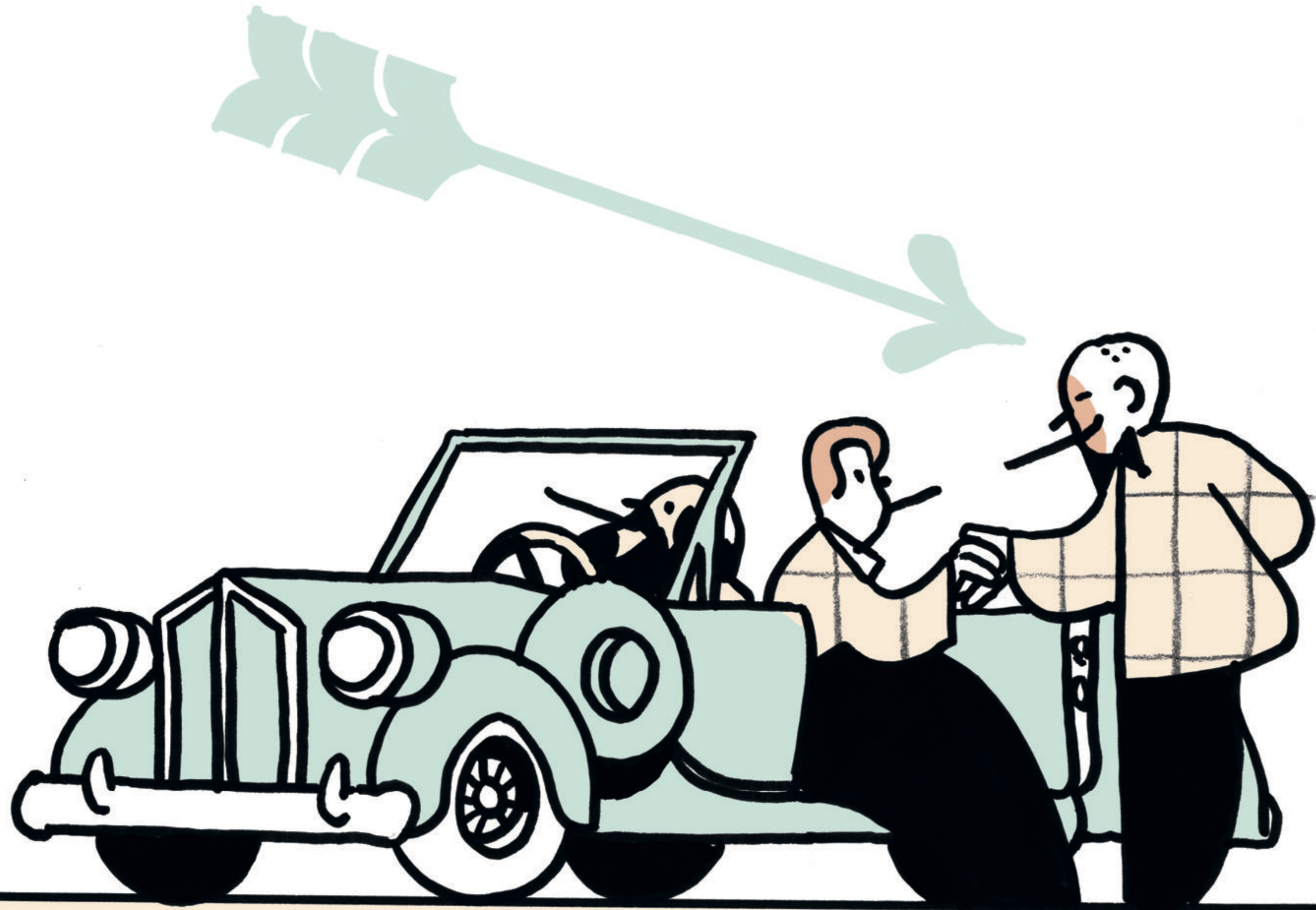
Gives up her focus on individual biographies.



But not without a focus on socially significant problems!

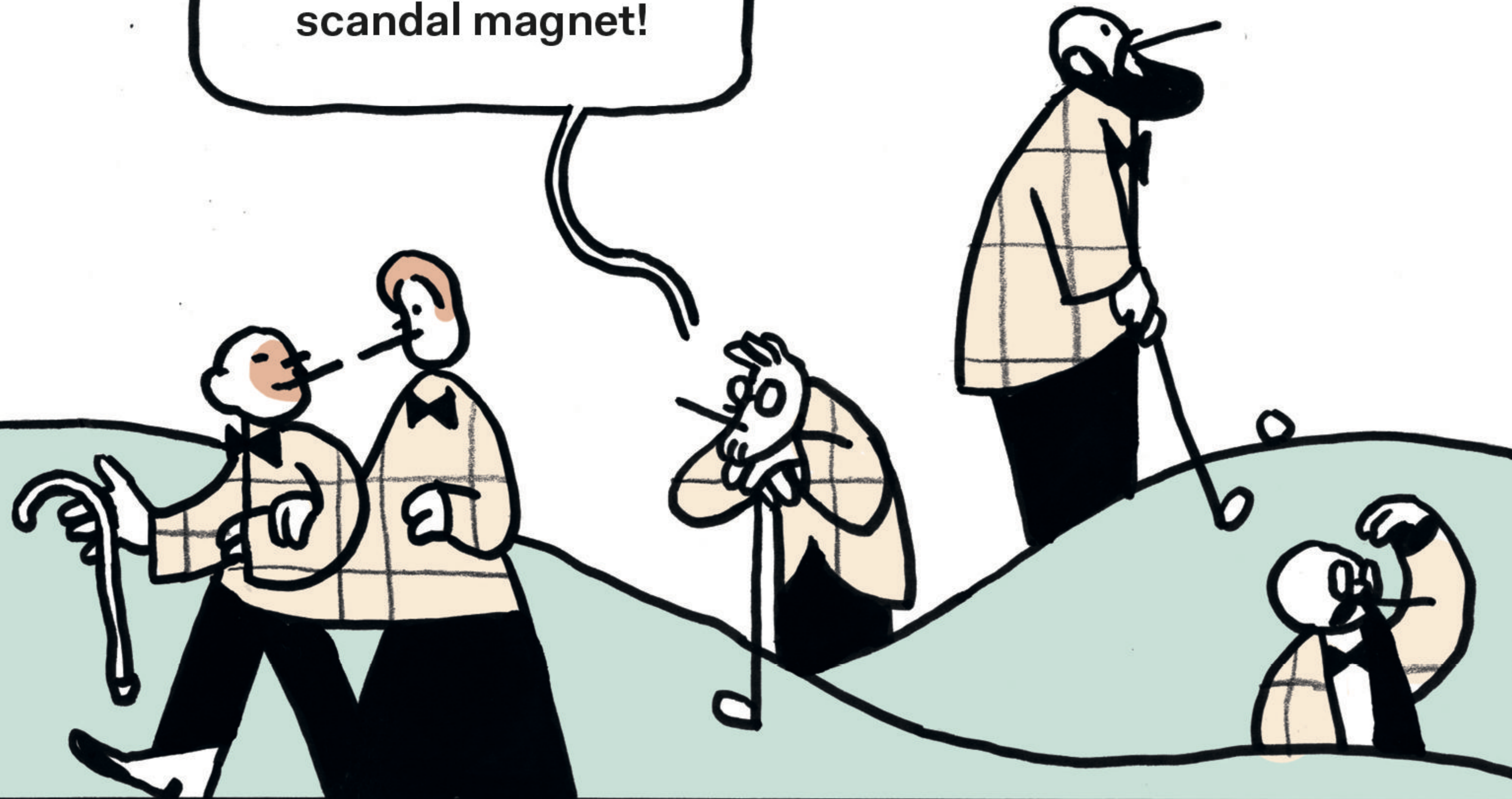


This is William Isaac Thomas. (not related)



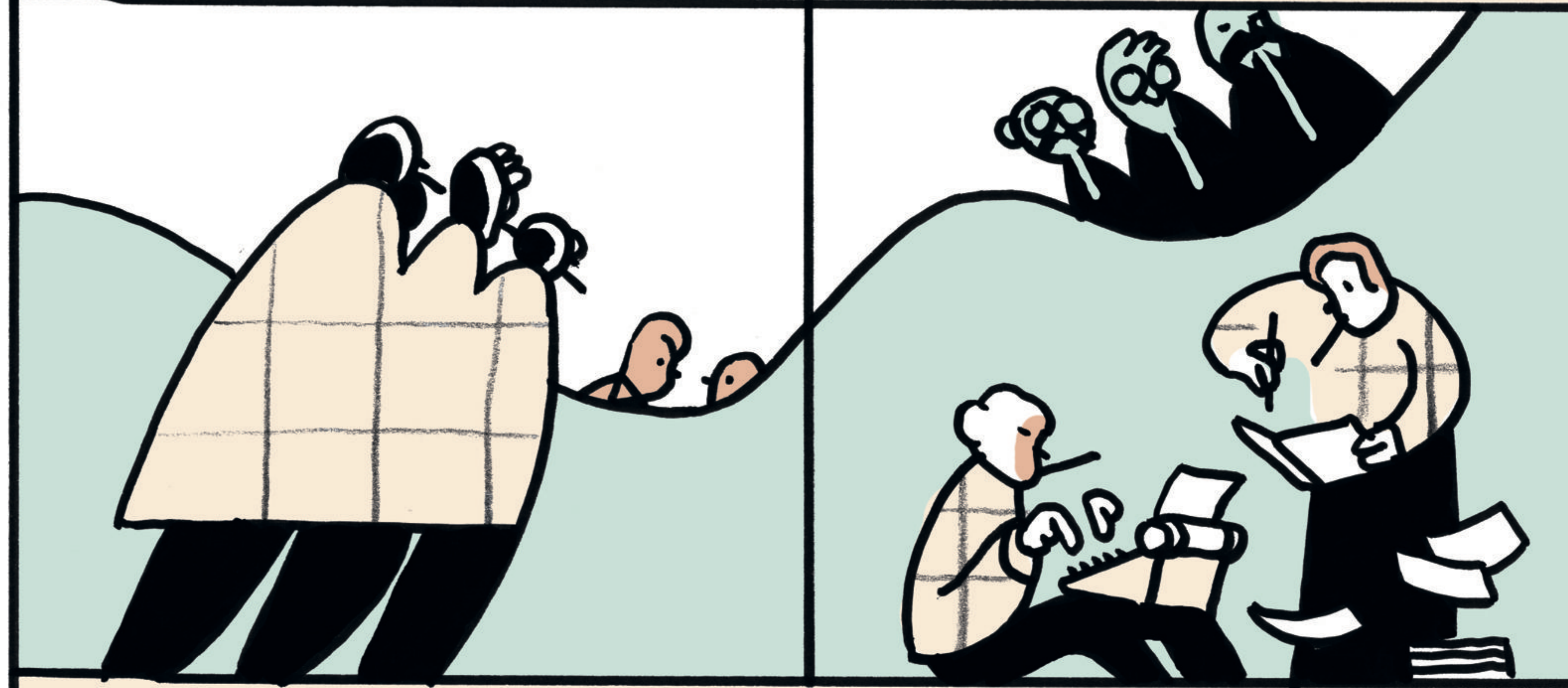
36 years older. Also a sociologist.

...and a well-known scandal magnet!

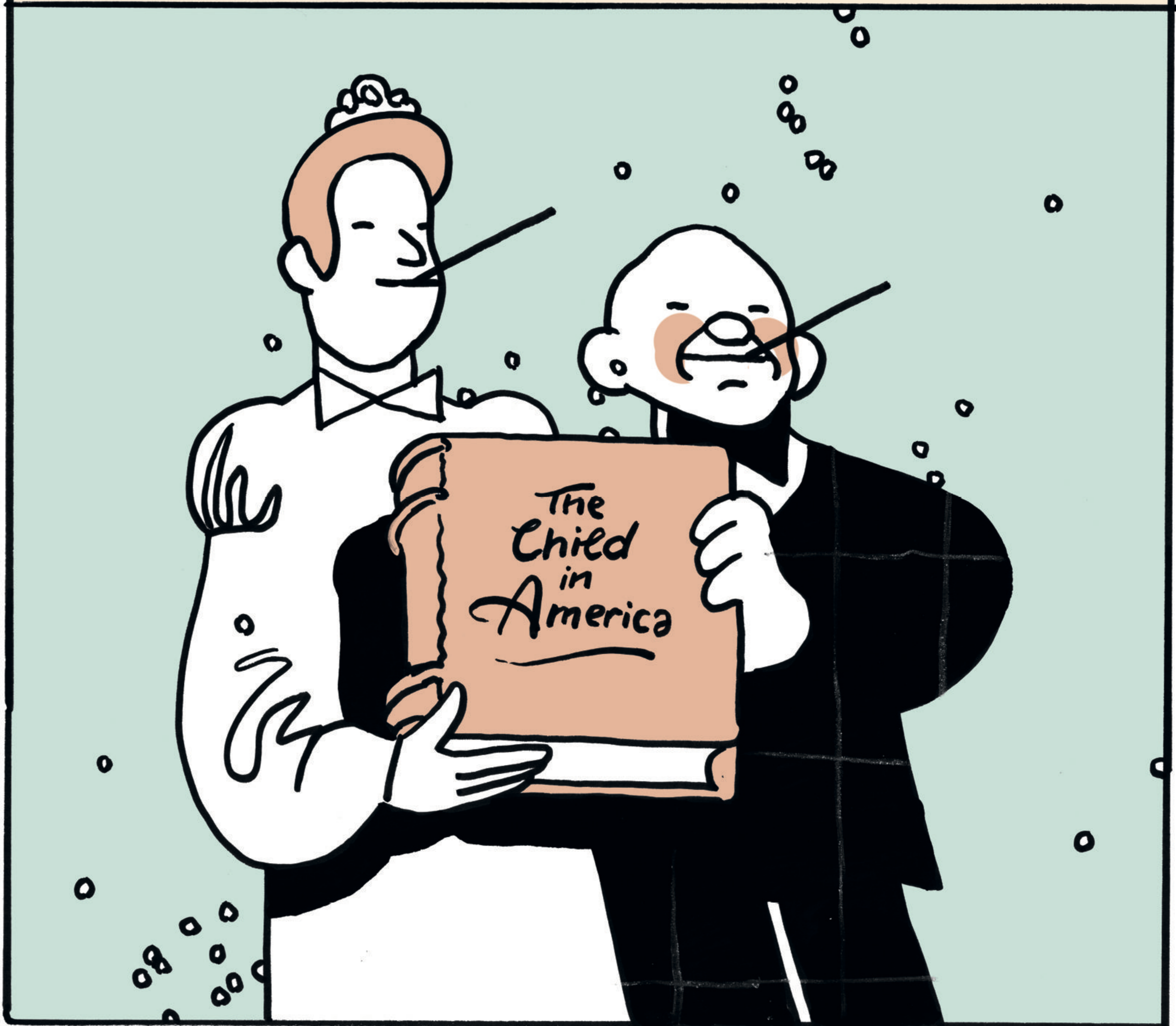


They have no children.

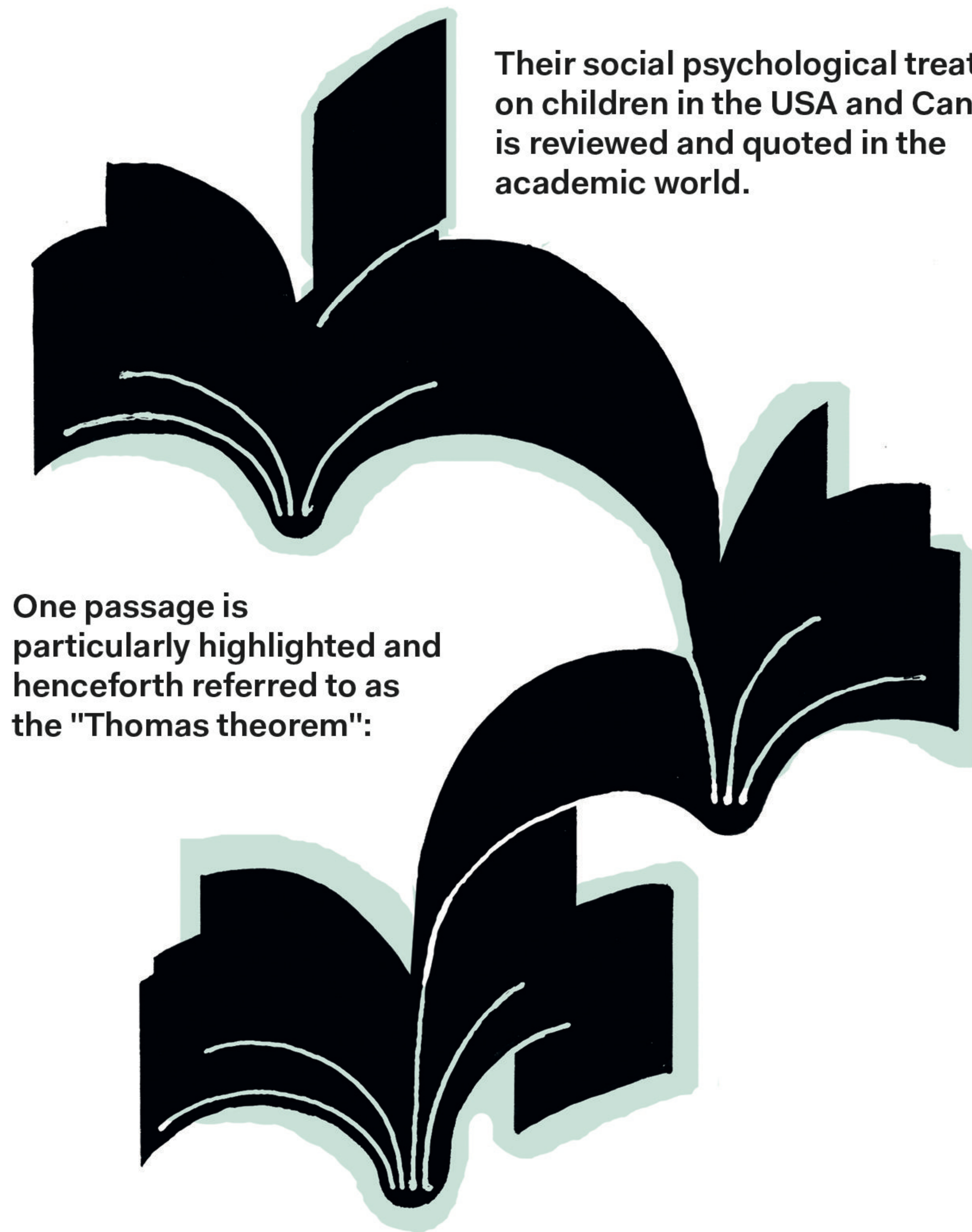
But a project.



And it is called:



Their social psychological treatise on children in the USA and Canada is reviewed and quoted in the academic world.



One passage is particularly highlighted and henceforth referred to as the "Thomas theorem":

WHEN PEOPLE DEFINE SITUATIONS AS REAL, THEY ARE REAL IN THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

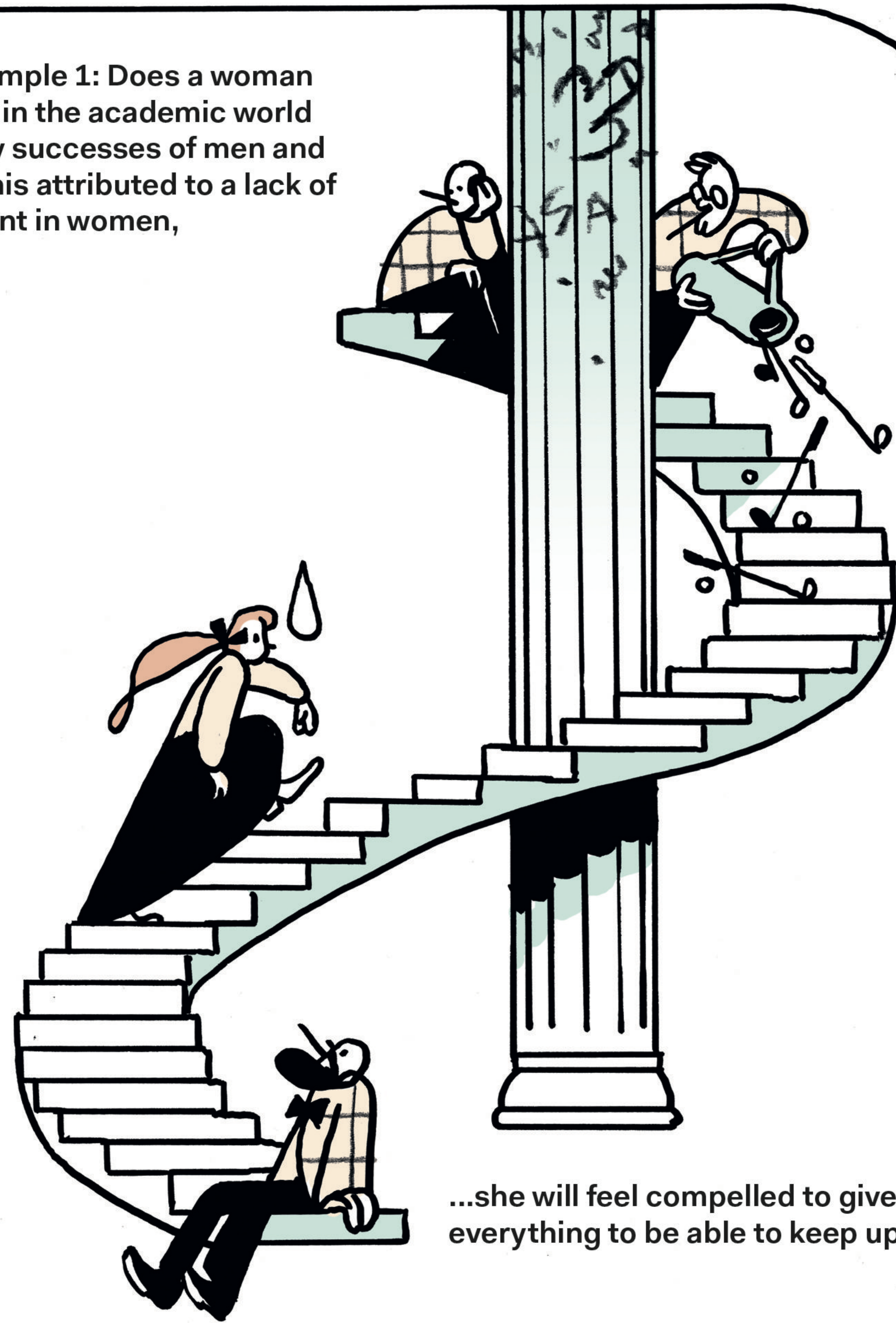


According to this theorem, people in everyday life should only rarely react to objective circumstances...



...but rather to their subjective interpretation of the situation.

Example 1: Does a woman see in the academic world only successes of men and is this attributed to a lack of talent in women,



...she will feel compelled to give everything to be able to keep up.

Example 2: If a man sees only male successes in the academic world and concludes a lack of women's talent...



...he's more likely to attribute a theorem to the male celebrity Thomas instead of his female namesake.



That disproportionate accumulation of recognition around celebrities is called the "Matthew effect".



The absence of fame for women as the "Matilda effect."



In fact, the Thomas theorem is sometimes quoted without a source...

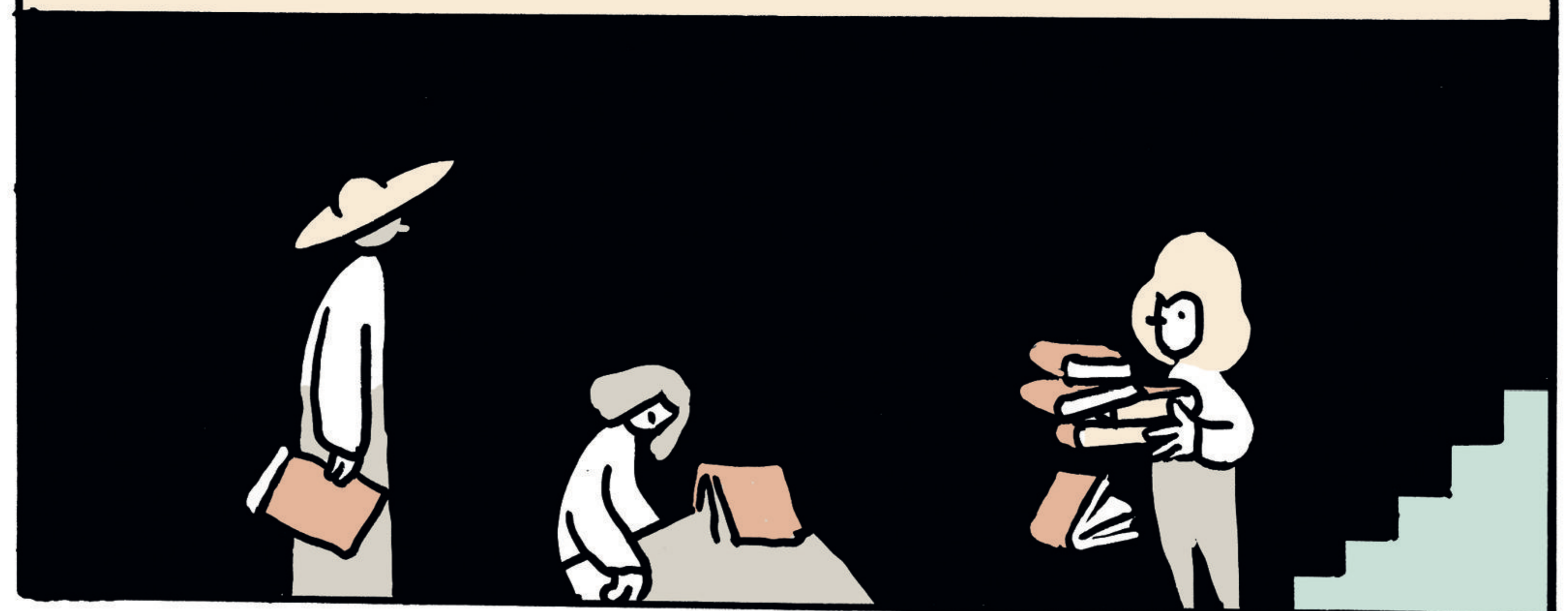


...sometimes with the wrong source...

... rarely referred to Dorothy and Isaac together...



...in almost three quarters of all cases, however, with reference exclusively to Isaac alone as its author.



It is debated whether the credit goes to him because of his much older age, his past achievements and position as president of the ASA.



Or for sexist reasons.



It was not until September 1973, 35 years after The Child in America published, she comments on the authorship in a letter.



Which was not published until 1991:

William Isaac hired me as an assistant.
The statistical part of the book is mine.

The idea of the theorem
originated exclusively
from William Isaac.



