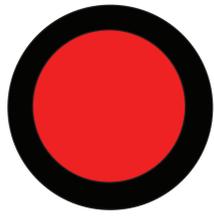
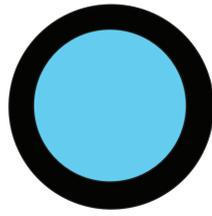
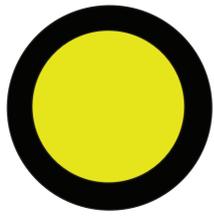


Legend of the Girl and the Condor
storyboard v1

by Artemio Morales
AltSalt Media, LLC

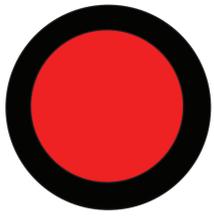
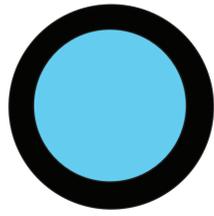
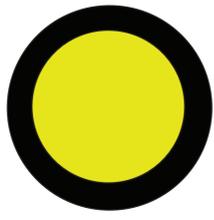
I.

PRESS THE BUTTONS!!!



YOUR SCORE: 20090

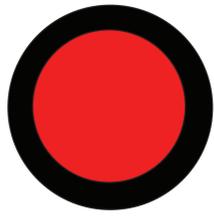
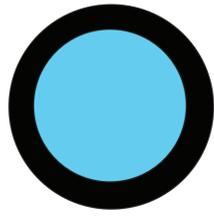
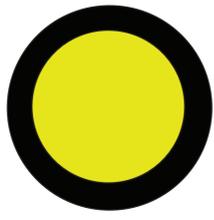
HIGH SCORE: 20120



YOUR SCORE: 20090

HIGH SCORE: 20120

“ELLIE!



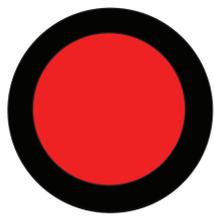
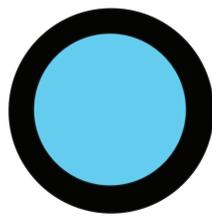
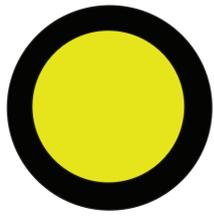
YOUR SCORE: 20090

HIGH SCORE: 20120

“ELLIE!

Get off that cell phone

PRESS THE BUTTONS!!!



YOUR SCORE: 20090

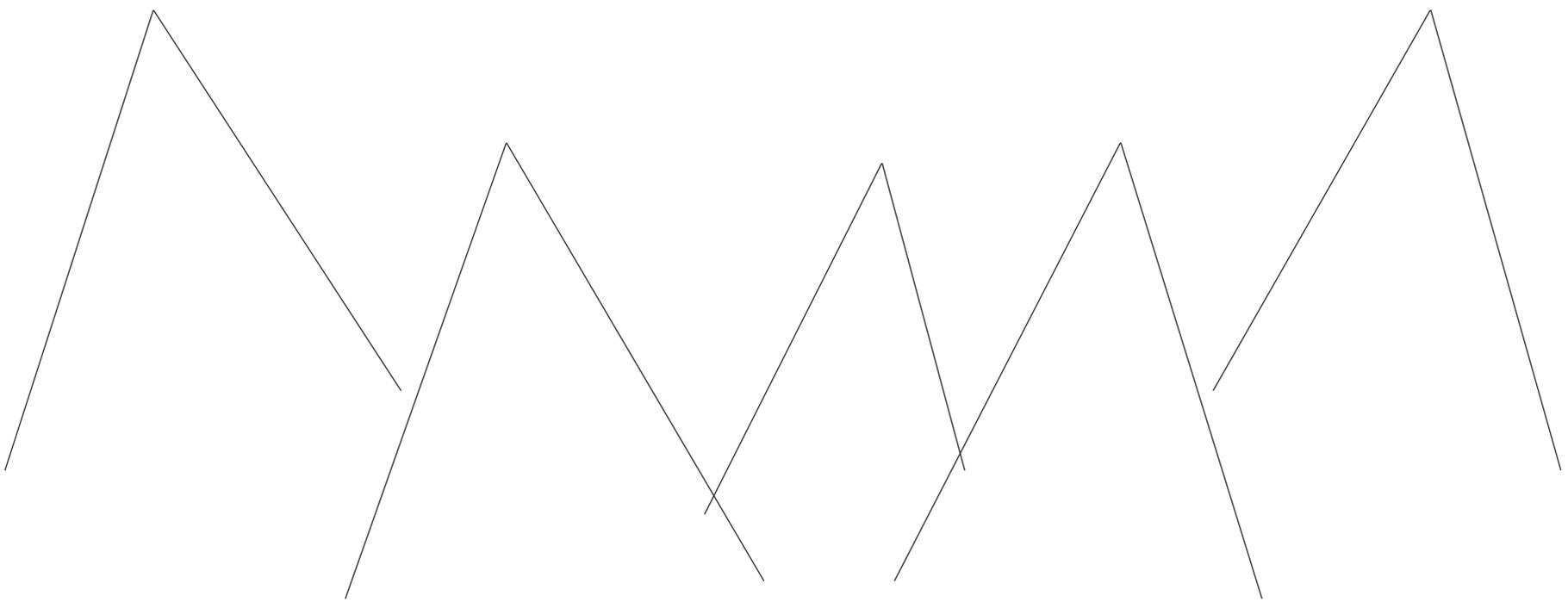
HIGH SCORE: 20120

“ELLIE!

Get off that cell phone

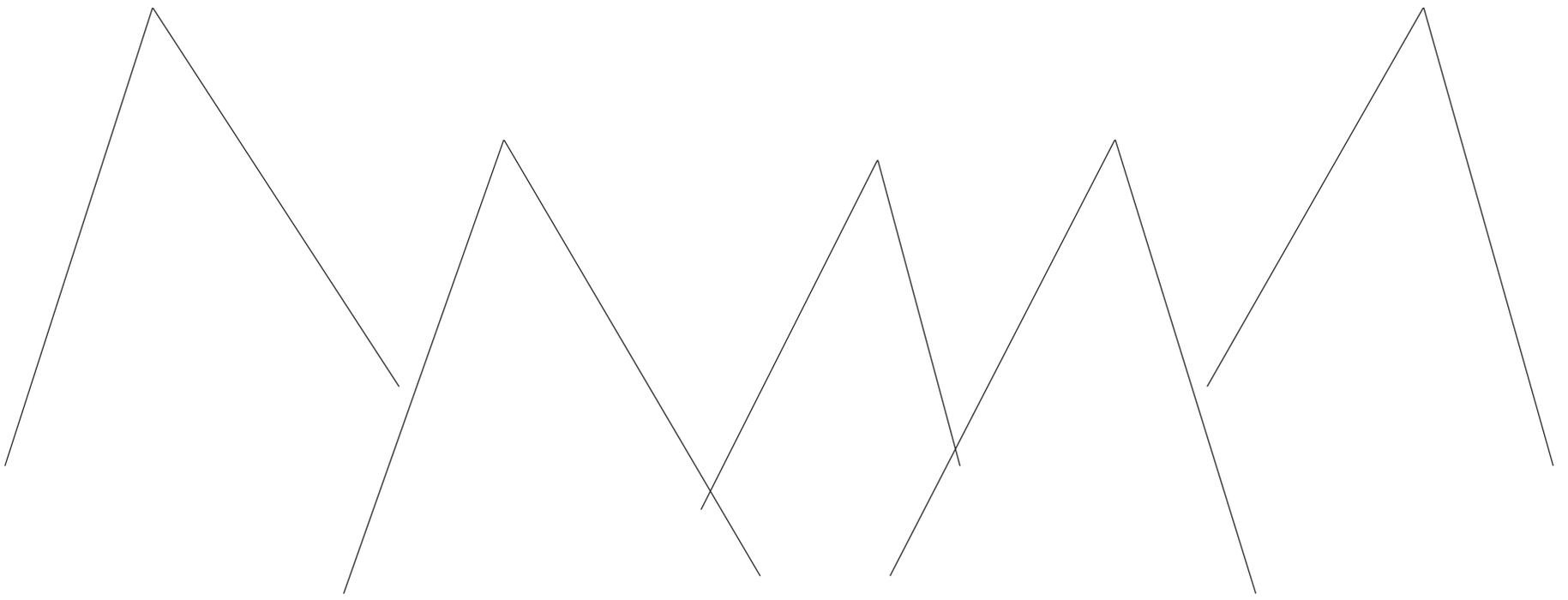
“ELLIE!

**Get off that cell phone
NOW!!!”**



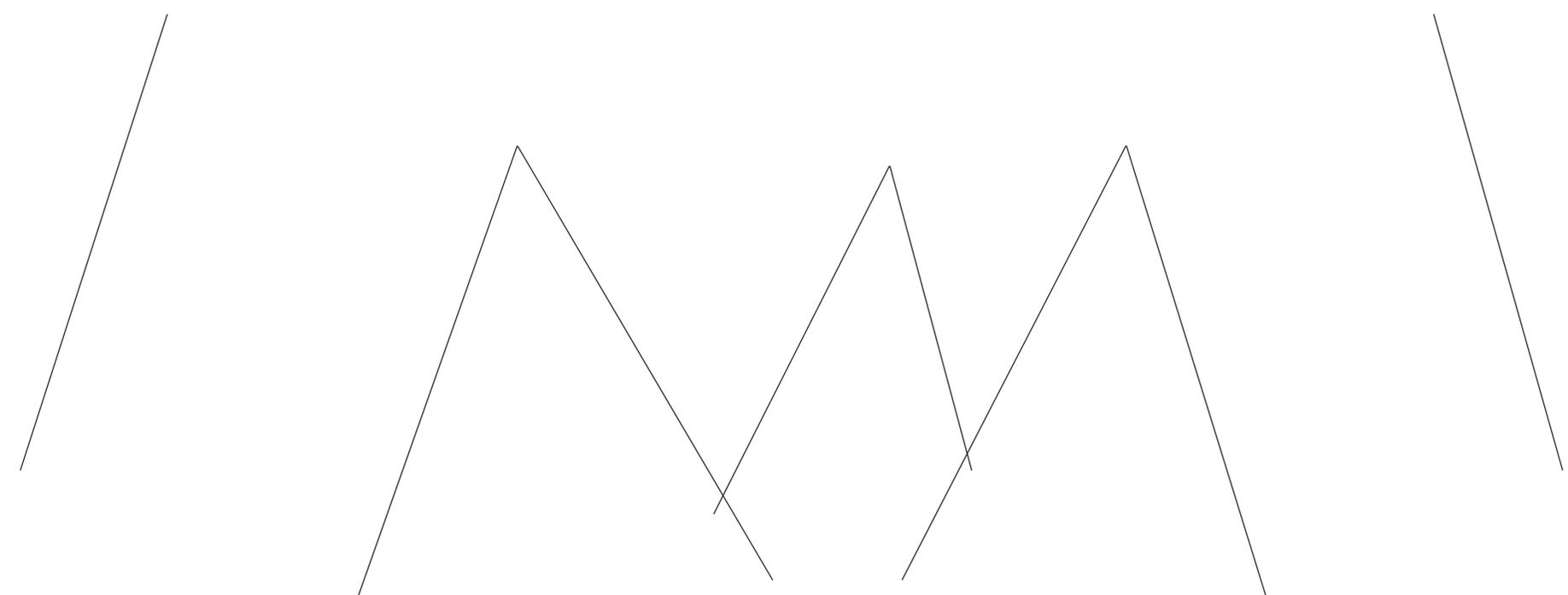
Ellie looked up. The tour group was moving ahead, further up the mountain. And Mom was on her case... again.

NOW!!!”



Ellie looked up. The tour group was moving ahead, further up the mountain. And Mom was on her case... again.

“Ok, Mom, I’m coming.”



Ellie looked up. The tour group was moving ahead, further up the mountain. And Mom was on her case... again.

“Ok, Mom, I’m coming.”

“How is it possible...” Mom began, “for you to be on your cell phone this entire trip?”

Ellie had rejoined the group now.

Dad was looking over the side of the cliff. “It’s a loong way down.” he said, then peered through binoculars at the distant snowcapped mountains.

The tour guide said, “And that mountain there, is the great Apu Wakachinchay. Very sacred to the Andean people...”

“Ok, Mom, I’m coming.”

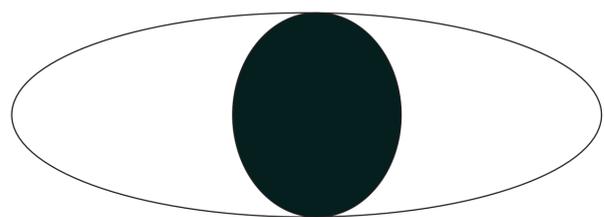
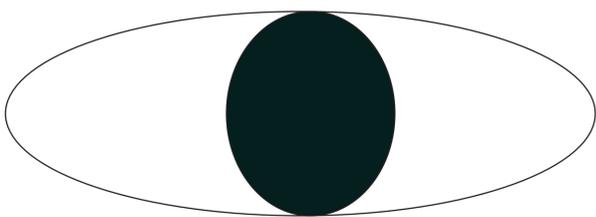
“How is it possible...” Mom began (in Spanish),
“for you to be on your cell phone this entire trip?”

Ellie had rejoined the group now.

Dad was looking over the side of the cliff. “It’s a loong way down.” he said, then peered through binoculars at the distant snowcapped mountains.

The tour guide said, “And that mountain there, is the great Apu Wakachinchay. Very sacred to the Andean people...”

Ellie put the cell phone into her satchel. Pretended to be over it. “Sorry Mom, I’ll stop.”



Mom, giving her the evil eye, said, in Spanish,
“Take it out one more time, then you’ll know who I REALLY am...”

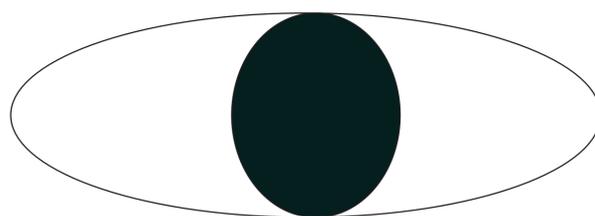
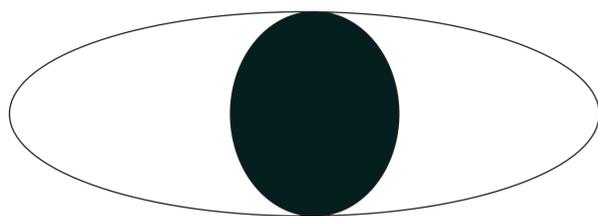
“How is it possible...” Mom began (in Spanish),
“for you to be on your cell phone this entire trip?”

Ellie had rejoined the group now.

Dad was looking over the side of the cliff. “It’s a
looong way down.” he said, then peered through
binoculars at the distant snowcapped mountains.

The tour guide said, “And that mountain there, is
the great Apu Wakachinchay. Very sacred to the
Andean people...”

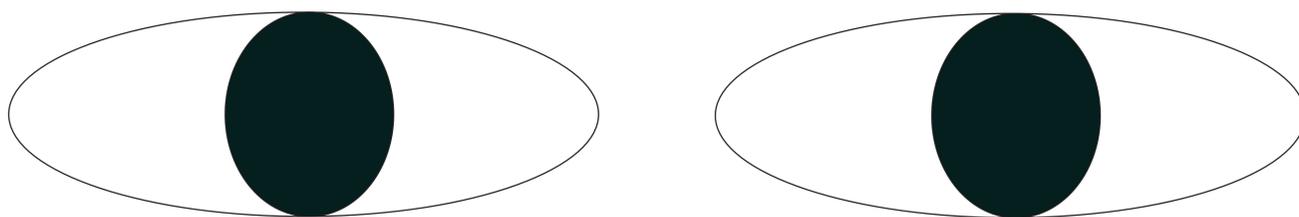
Ellie put the cell phone into her satchel. Pretend-
ed to be over it. “Sorry Mom, I’ll stop.”



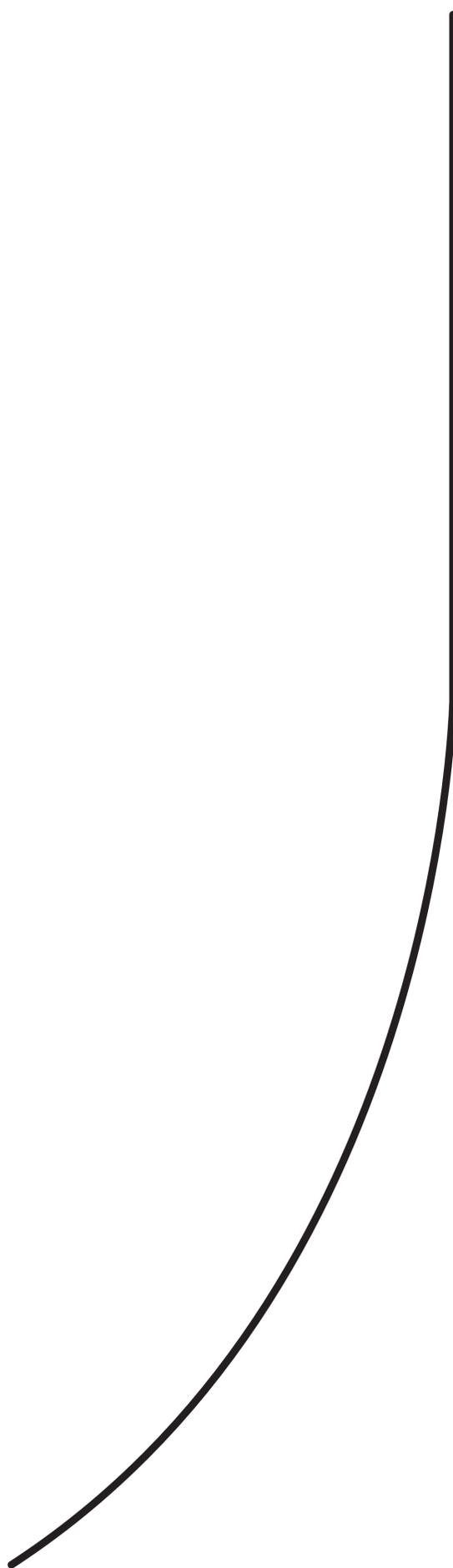
Mom, giving her the evil eye, said, in Spanish,
“Take it out one more time, then you’ll know
who I REALLY am...”

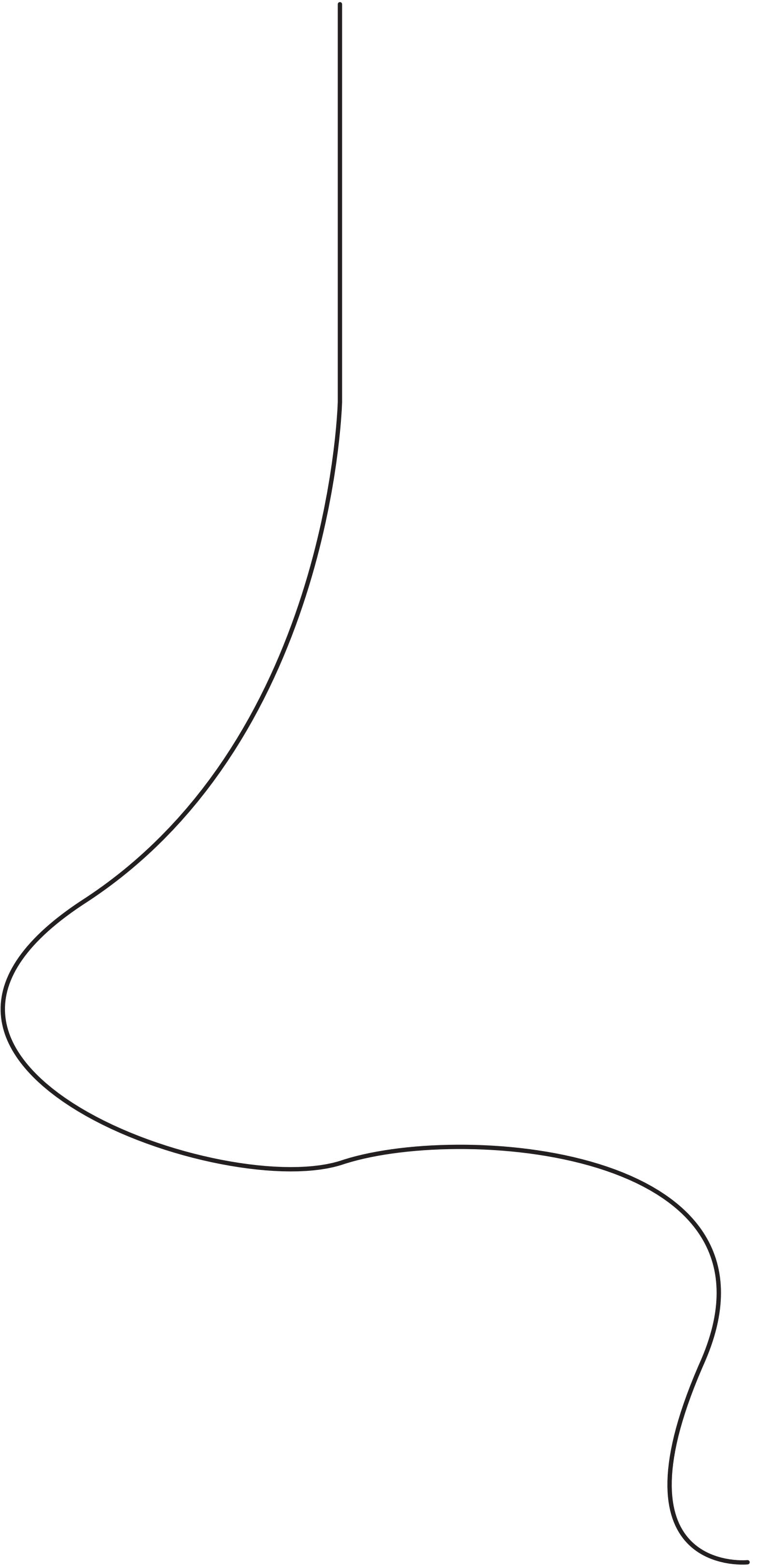


Ellie put the cell phone into her satchel. Pretended to be over it. “Sorry Mom, I’ll stop.”



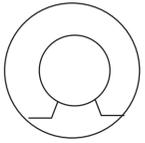
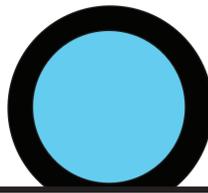
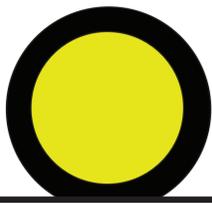
Mom, giving her the evil eye, said, in Spanish, “Take it out one more time, then you’ll know who I REALLY am...”



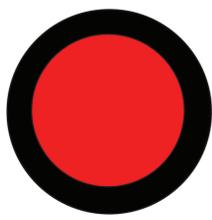


Eventually, they came to a rocky outcrop, where the tour guide lay some fabric on the ground. And just then...

LIMITED TIME OFFER
DOUBLE BONUS POINTS



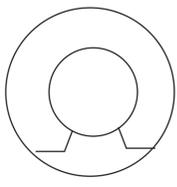
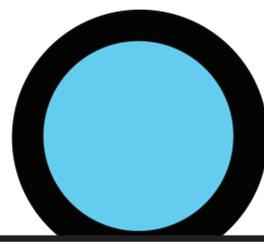
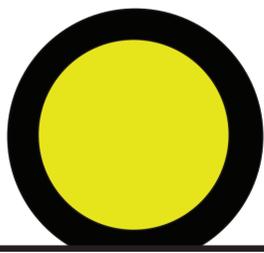
ELLIE! BONUS POINTS! Let's do this :DD



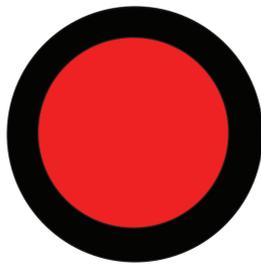
YOUR SCORE: 20090

HIGH SCORE: 20120

LIMITED TIME OFFER
DOUBLE BONUS POINTS

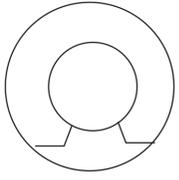


ELLIE! BONUS POINTS! Let's do this :DD



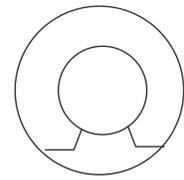
YOUR SCORE: 20090

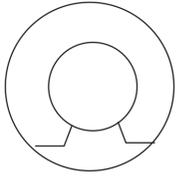
HIGH SCORE: 20120



ELLIE! BONUS POINTS! Let's do this :DD

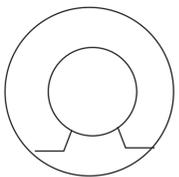
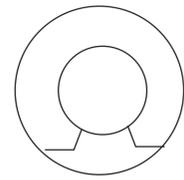
Can't, there's like this ceremony going on...



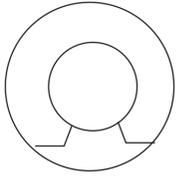


ELLIE! BONUS POINTS! Let's do this :DD

Can't, there's this ceremony going on

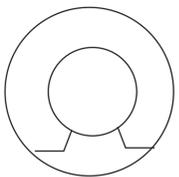
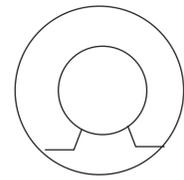


Oh come on... I'm soo bored, and it's like 4x points with a friend :-P



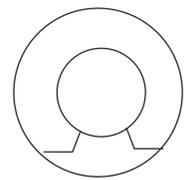
ELLIE! BONUS POINTS! Let's do this :DD

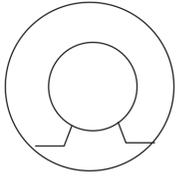
Can't, there's this ceremony going on



Oh come on... I'm soo bored, and it's like 4x points with a friend :-P

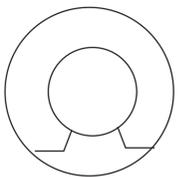
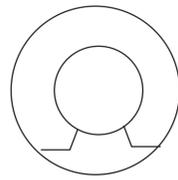
5 mins





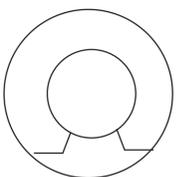
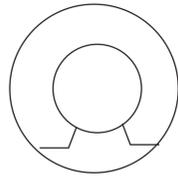
ELLIE! BONUS POINTS! Let's do this :DD

Can't, there's this ceremony going on

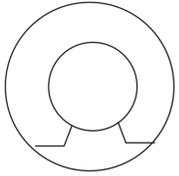


Oh come on... I'm soo bored, and it's like 4x points with a friend :-P

5 mins

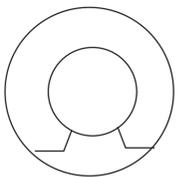
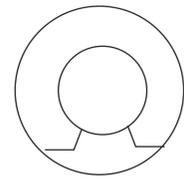


Ellie



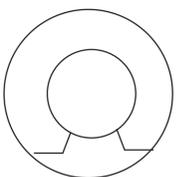
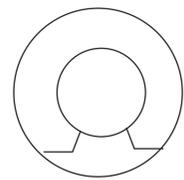
ELLIE! BONUS POINTS! Let's do this :DD

Can't, there's this ceremony going on

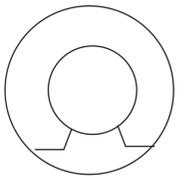


Oh come on... I'm soo bored, and it's like 4x points with a friend :-P

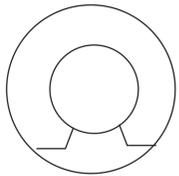
5 mins



Ellie

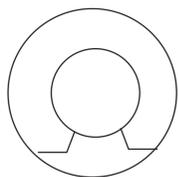
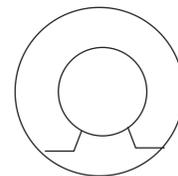


this is life and death



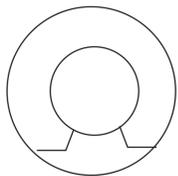
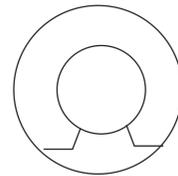
our team NEEDS youuuu

Can't, there's this ceremony going on

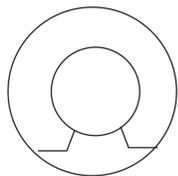


Oh come on... I'm soo bored, and it's like 4x points with a friend :-P

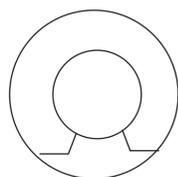
5 mins



Ellie

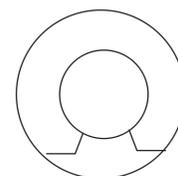


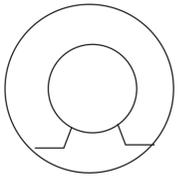
this is life and death



our house NEEDS youuuu

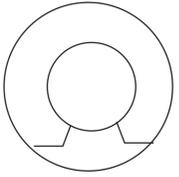
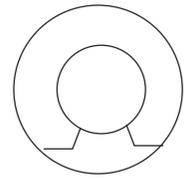
fine



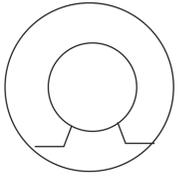


Oh come on... I'm soo bored, and it's like 4x points with a friend :-P

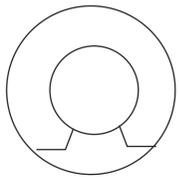
5 mins



Ellie

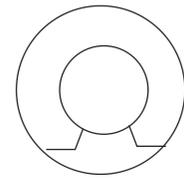


this is life and death

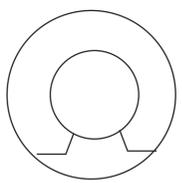
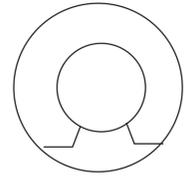


our house NEEDS youuuu

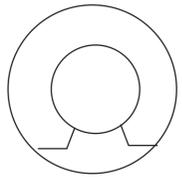
fine



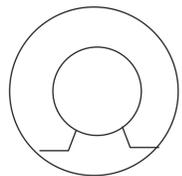
5 mins



Ellie

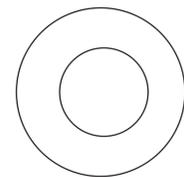


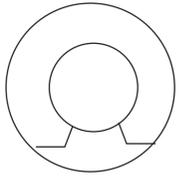
this is life and death



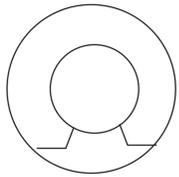
our house NEEDS youuuu

fine

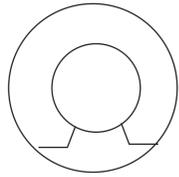




Ellie

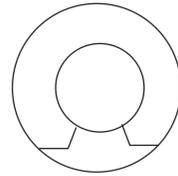


this is life and death

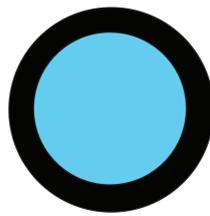
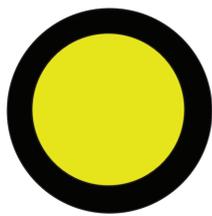


our house NEEDS youuuu

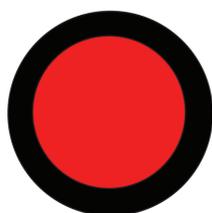
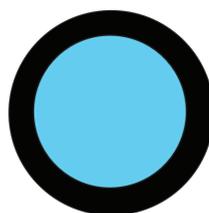
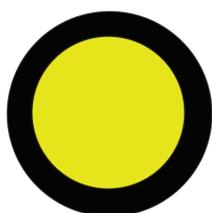
fine



PRESS THE BUTTONS!!!



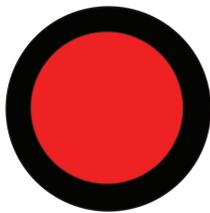
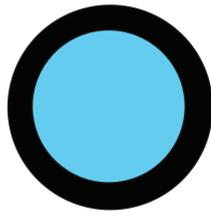
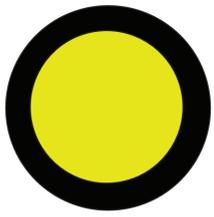
LIMITED TIME OFFER
DOUBLE BONUS POINTS



YOUR SCORE: 20090

HIGH SCORE: 20120

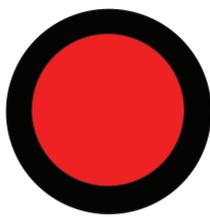
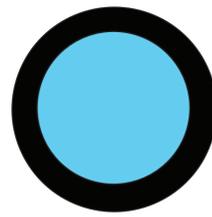
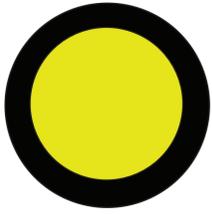
LIMITED TIME OFFER
DOUBLE BONUS POINTS



YOUR SCORE: 20090
HIGH SCORE: 20120

Ellie began backing away from the group,

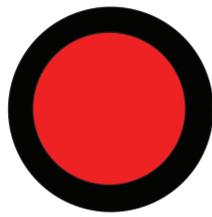
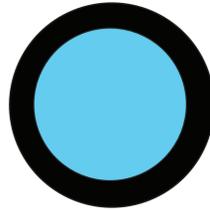
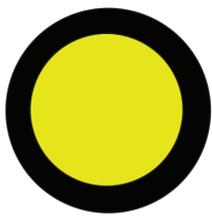
LIMITED TIME OFFER
DOUBLE BONUS POINTS



YOUR SCORE: 20090
HIGH SCORE: 20120

Ellie began backing away from the group,
to keep herself from being seen as the ceremony.
Just a few more points... then I'm done for the day.

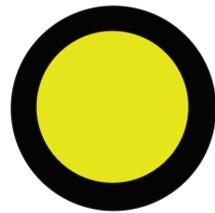
LIMITED TIME OFFER
DOUBLE BONUS POINTS



YOUR SCORE: 20090
HIGH SCORE: 20120

Ellie began backing away from the group,
to keep herself from being seen as the ceremony.
Just a few more points... then I'm done for the day.

LIMITED TIME O
DOUBLE BONUS P



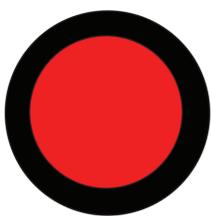
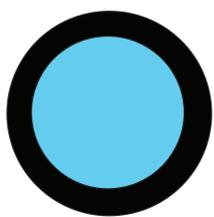
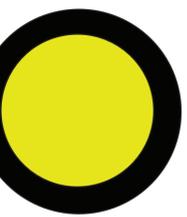
YOUR SCORE: 20090
HIGH SCORE: 20120

Ellie began backing away from the
to keep herself from being seen a
Just a few more points... then I'm d

Just a few more, and.....

ANNND.....

LIMITED TIME OFFER
DOUBLE BONUS POINTS



YOUR SCORE: 20090
HIGH SCORE: 20120

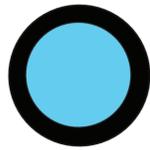
Ellie began backing away from the group,
to keep herself from being seen as the ceremony.
Just a few more points... then I'm done for the day.

Just a few more, and.....

ANNND.....

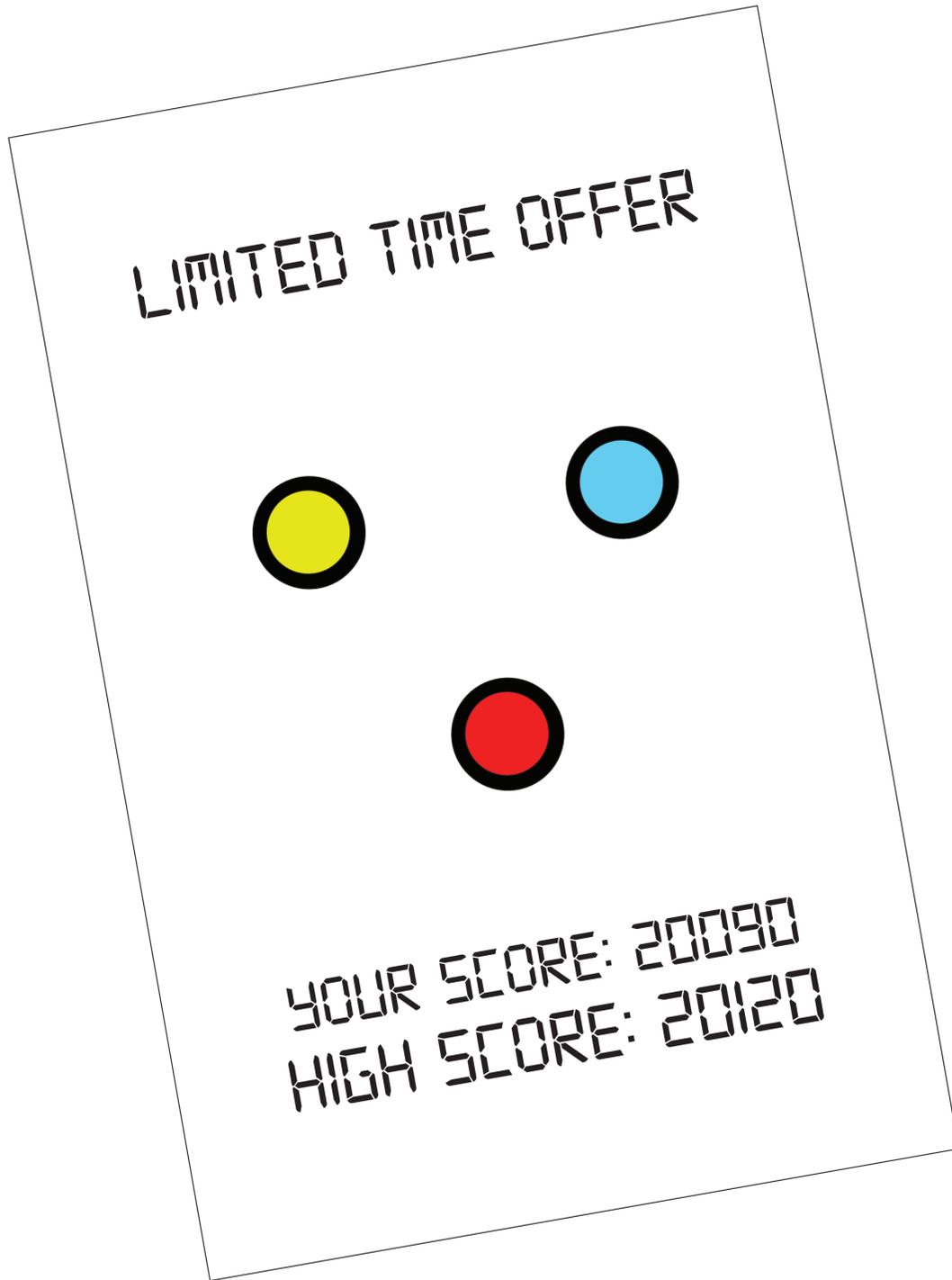
agghhh!!!

LIMITED TIME OFFER

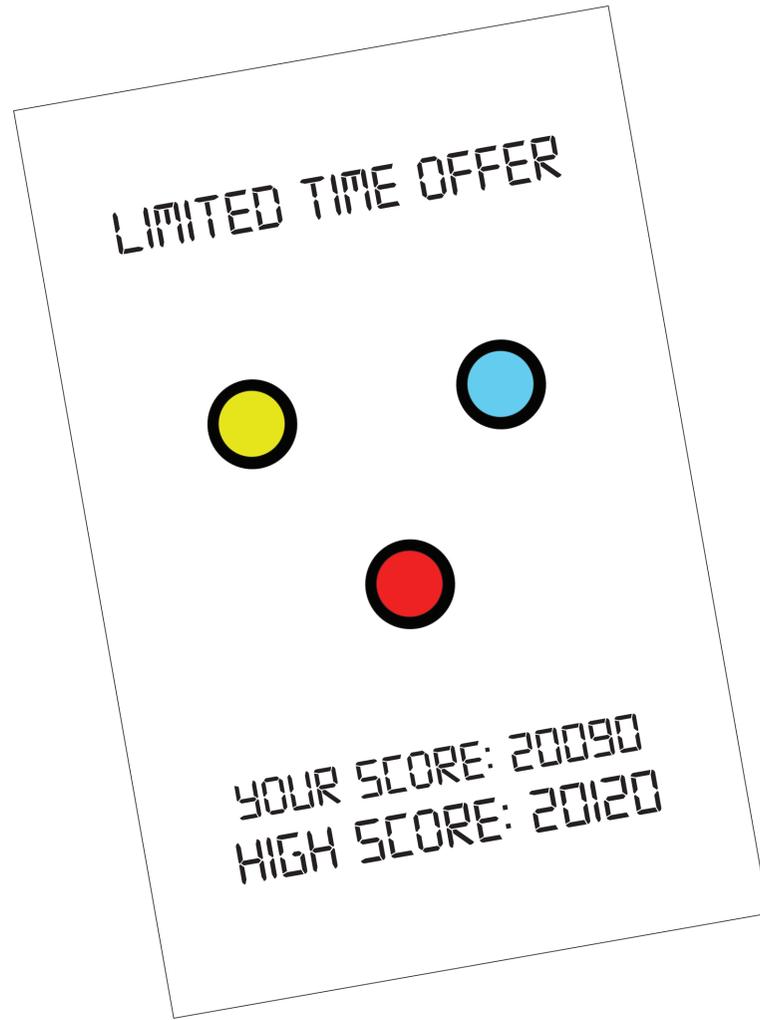


YOUR SCORE: 20090
HIGH SCORE: 20120

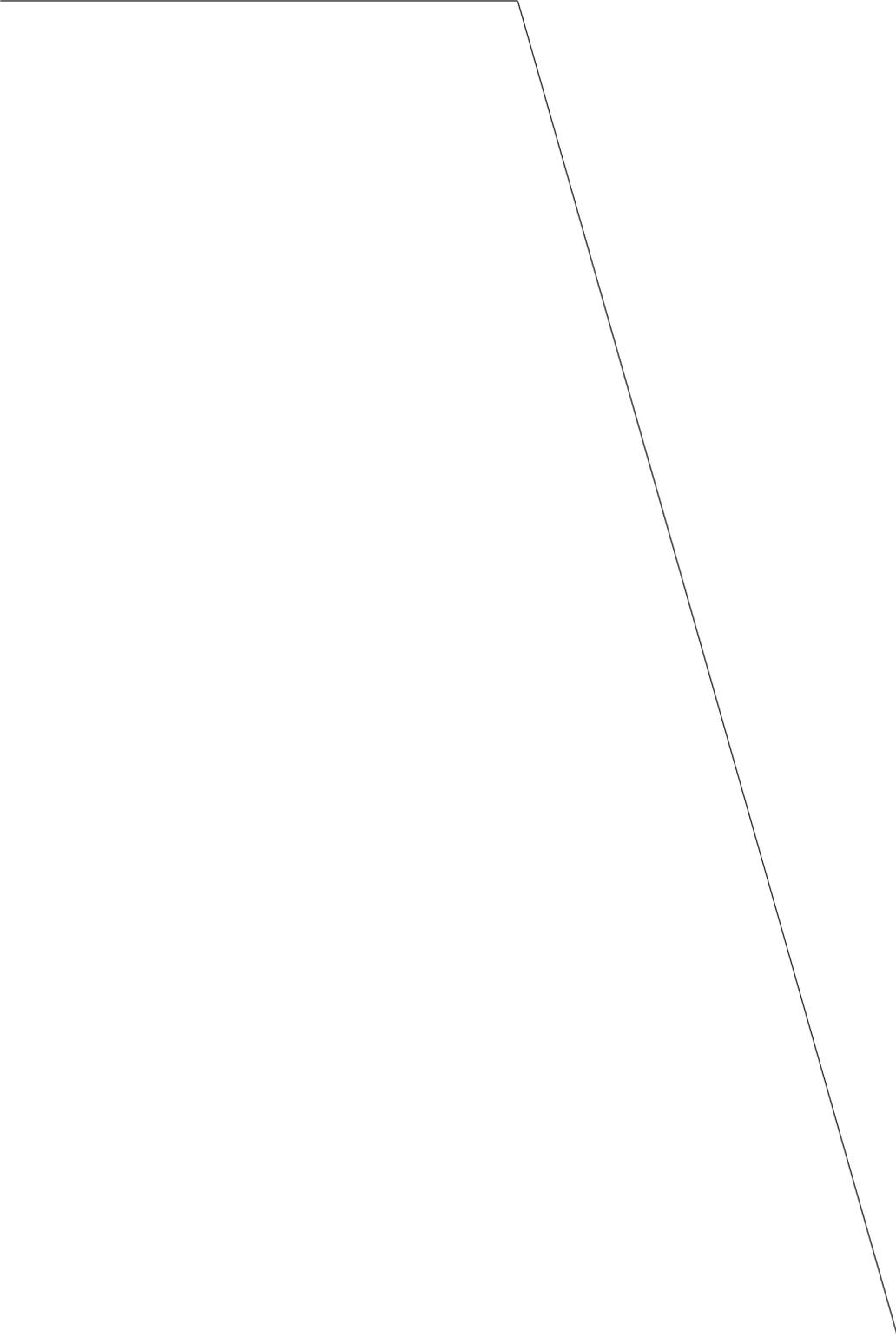
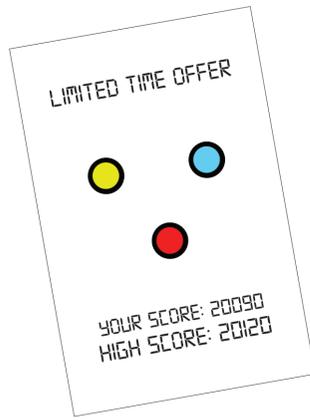
agghhh!!!



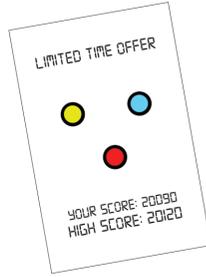
agghh!!!



agghhh!!!



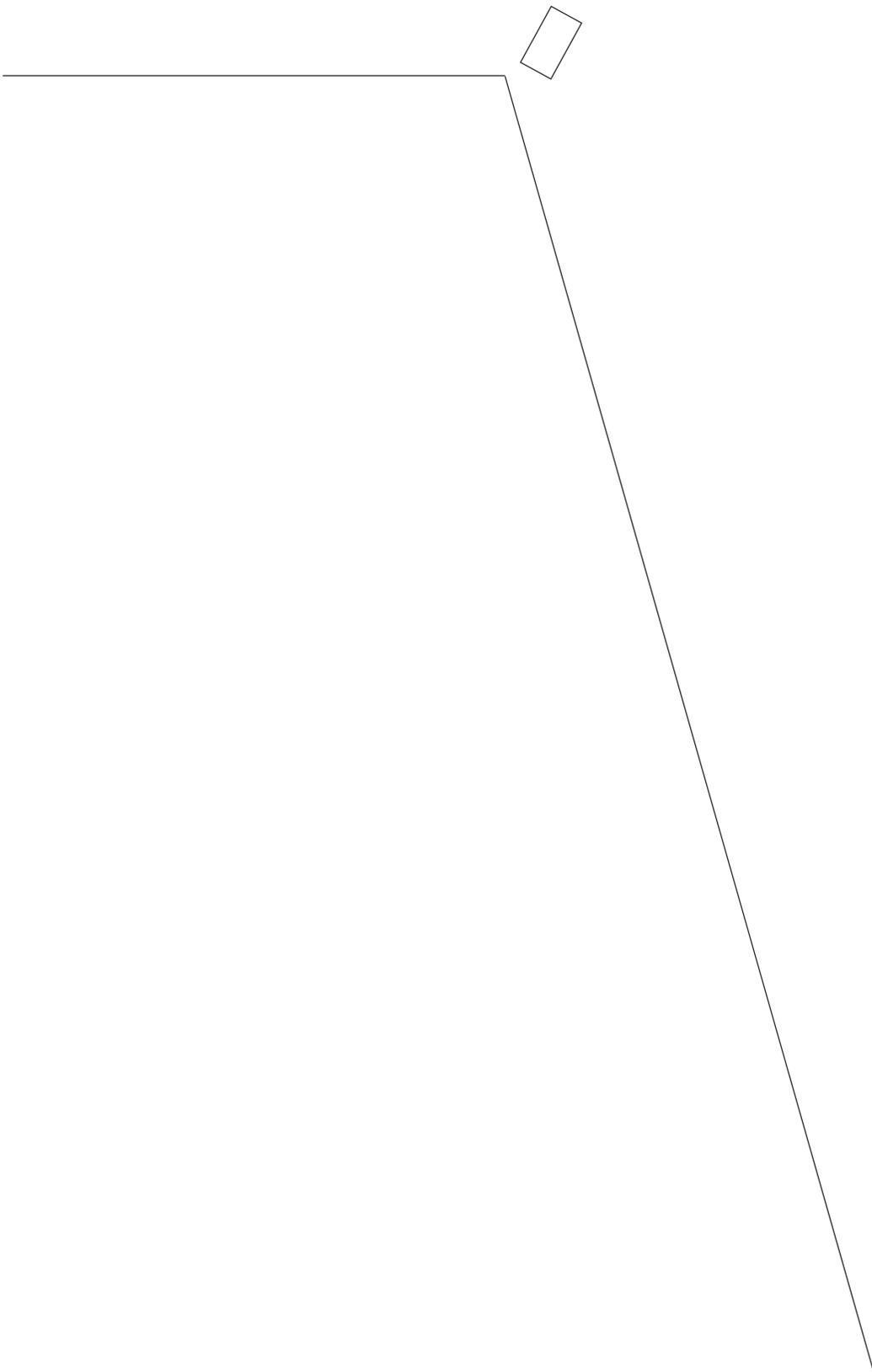
agghhh!!!



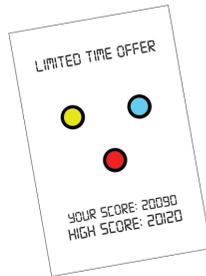
A sudden rumbling.

The earth shook.

Ellie was thrown off balance, lost her footing,
nearly fell off the mountain.



agghhh!!!



A sudden rumbling.

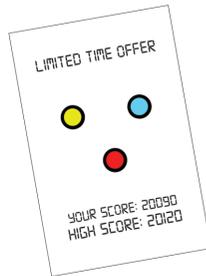
The earth shook.

Ellie was thrown off balance, lost her footing,
and nearly fell off the mountain.

She caught herself.



agghhh!!!



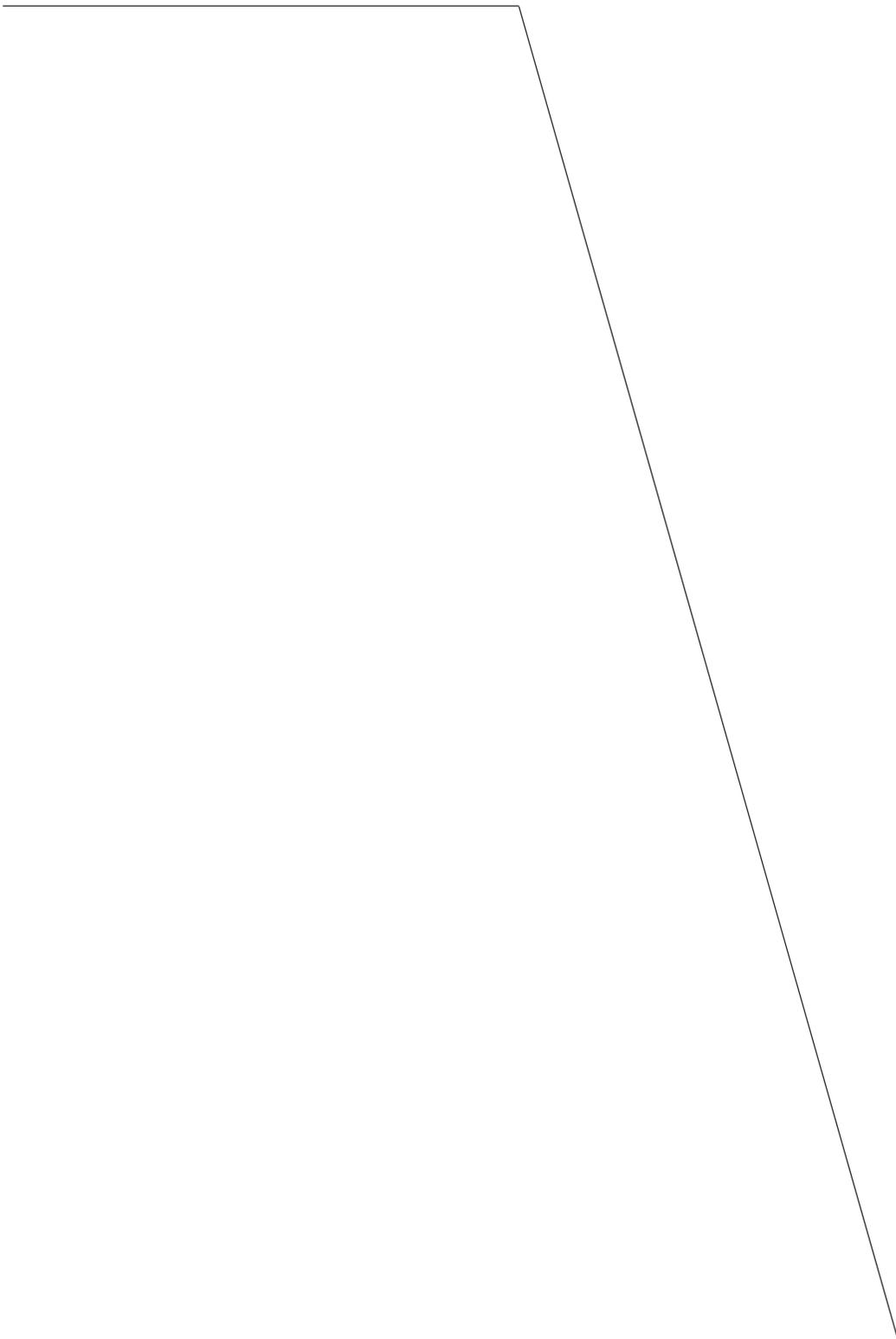
A sudden rumbling.

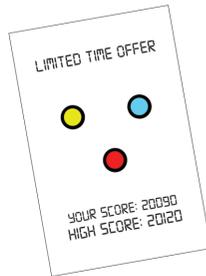
The earth shook.

Ellie was thrown off balance, lost her footing,
and nearly fell off the mountain.

She caught herself,

but the cell phone...





A sudden rumbling.

The earth shook.

Ellie was thrown off balance, lost her footing,
and nearly fell off the mountain.

She caught herself,

but the cell phone...

“Yeah Dad, I’m okay.”

Mom pulled her into a hug. “Oh my god, that could have been bad.”

The other tourists were shaken, too. But it’d been a minor tremor. Nothing bad had happened. Nothing bad, except...

“Ellie, what’s wrong?”

“...I lost my cell phone.”

II.

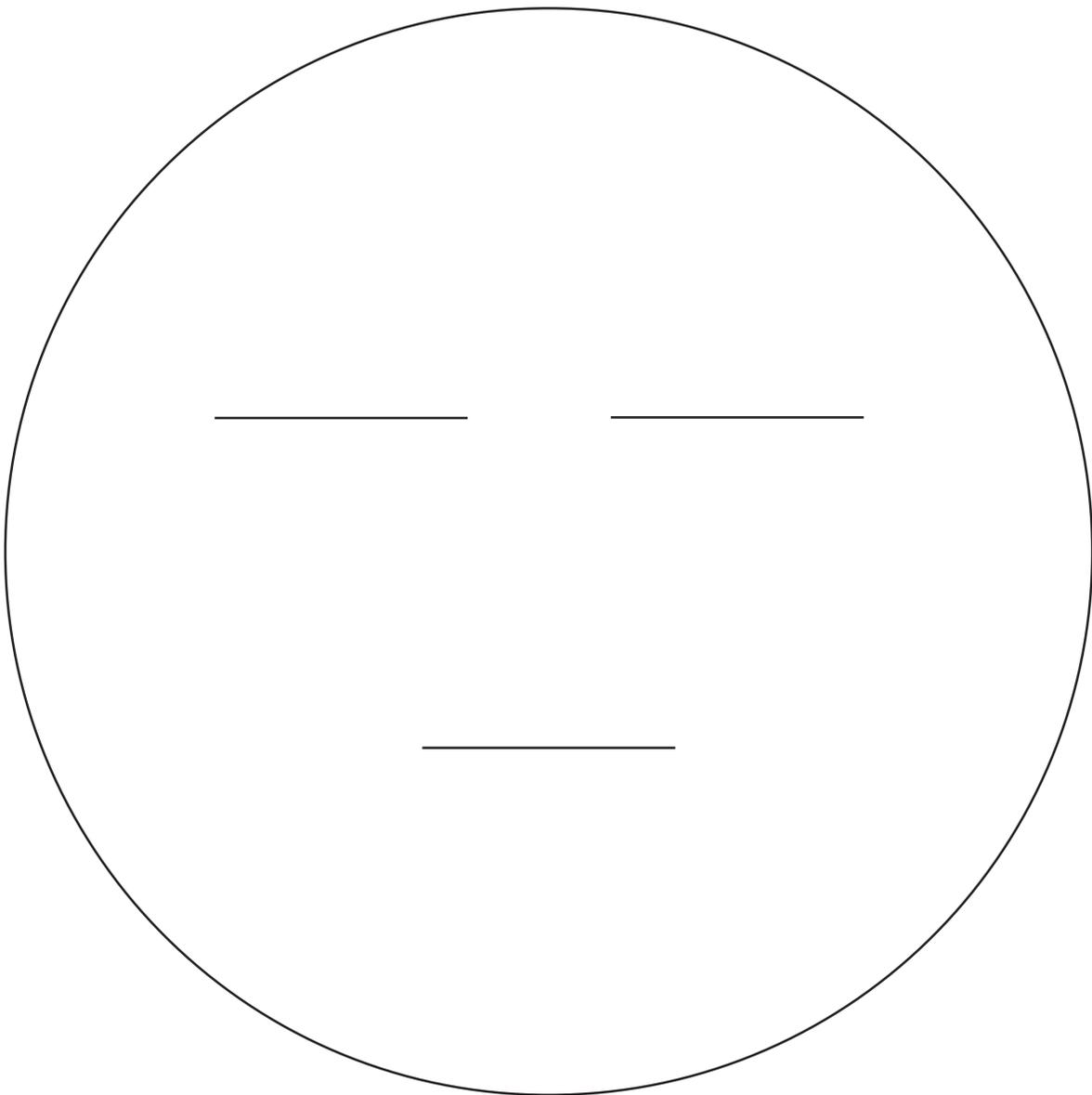
II.

On the way back down the mountain, Ellie kept looking over the edge, at the trees and foliage below. “Don’t worry, we’ll get you a new phone when we get home,” Dad had said.

“But that’s days from now. And my team... they *need* me.”

“Not while you’re on vacation,” Mom said. “Plus, it’ll be better like this. You don’t come to Peru everyday.”

So... no cell phone. No connection. No vida.



I have forsaken all of my technological possessions. I am...

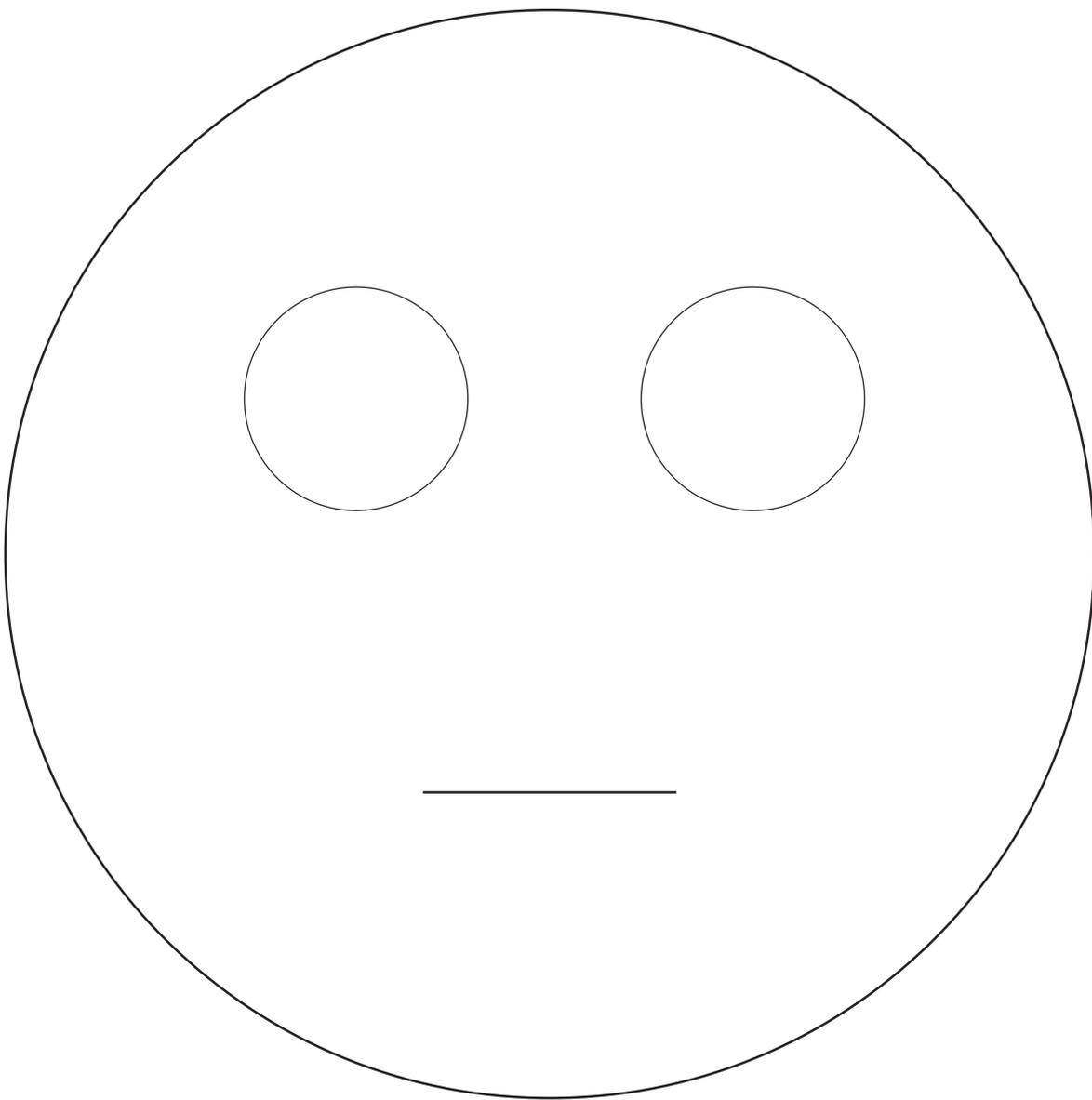
II.

On the way back down the mountain, Ellie kept looking over the edge, at the trees and foliage below. “Don’t worry, we’ll get you a new phone when we get home,” Dad had said.

“But that’s days from now. And my team... they *need* me.”

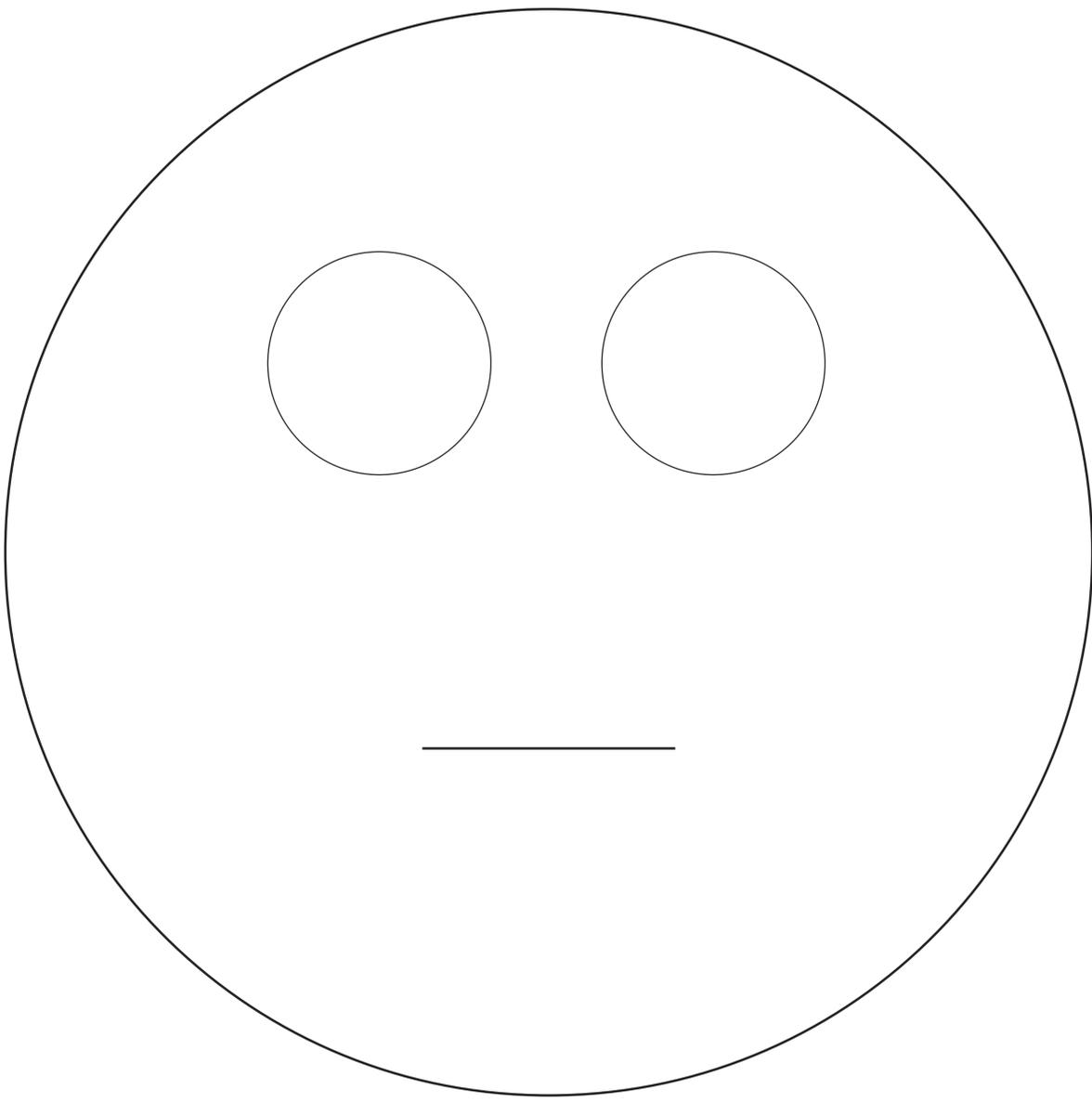
“Not while you’re on vacation,” Mom said. “Plus, it’ll be better like this. You don’t come to Peru everyday.”

So... no cell phone. No connection. No vida.



I have forsaken all of my technological possessions. I am...

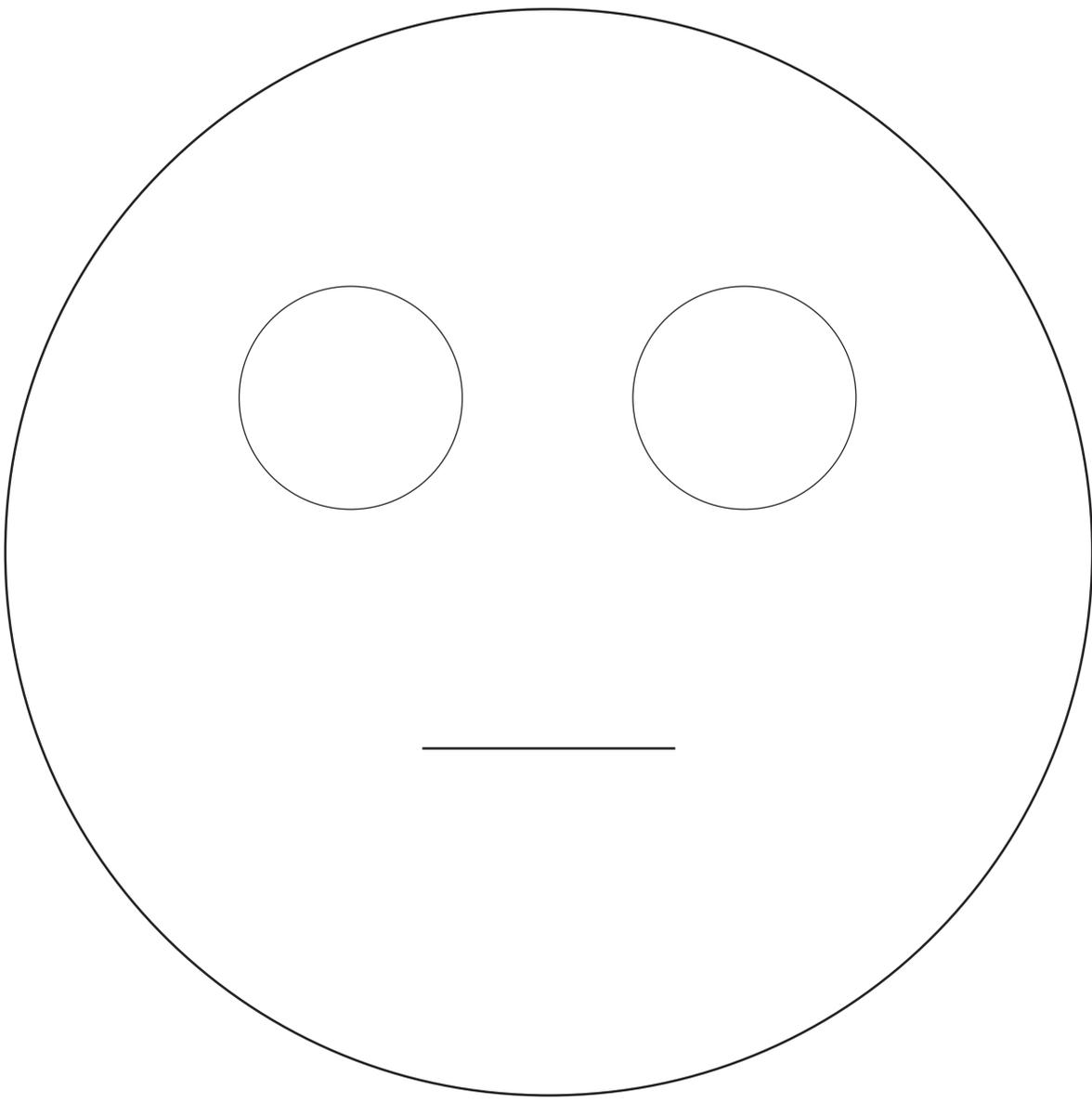
enlightened.



I have forsaken all of my technological possessions. I am...

enlightened.

They eventually reached an overlook point, where the tour guide said they'd be able to see the condors.



I have forsaken all of my technological possessions. I am...

enlightened.

They eventually reached an overlook point, where the tour guide said they'd be able to

see the condors.

see the condors.

see the condors.

see the condors...



Mom leaned out over the railing. “They’re beautiful.”

The landscape stretched on forever, the slopes leading down to a river. Could her cell phone have even survived? It was said the new zPhone model was indestructible.

Cupping her hands around her mouth, Ellie called out...

Mom leaned out over the railing. “They’re beautiful.”

The landscape stretched on forever, the slopes leading down to a river. Could her cell phone have even survived? It was said the new zPhone model was indestructible.

Cupping her hands around her mouth, Ellie called out,

“Hellooooo....”

Have any of you seen a ceelllll phone??”

“Ellie,” Mom said. “You’re still on that?”

“I’m just kidding, Mom.”

Was she thought?

“Hellooooo....”

Have any of you seen a ceelllll phone??”

“Ellie,” Mom said. “You’re still on that?”

“I’m just kidding, Mom.”

Was she thought?

“Keep this up and we’ll never get you
a cell phone again. I don’t want to hear
another word about it. *Me entiendes?* Do
you understand?”

.....

“Hellooooo....”

Have any of you seen a ceelllll phone??”

“Ellie,” Mom said. “You’re still on that?”

“I’m just kidding, Mom.”

Was she though?

“Keep this up and we’ll never get you a cell phone again. I don’t want to hear another word about it. *Me entiendes?* Do you understand?”

.....

.....

.....

“Yes, Mom.”

“Keep this up and we’ll never get you a cell phone again. I don’t want to hear another word about it. *Me entiendes?* Do you understand?”

.....

.....

.....

“Yes, Mom.”

As they continued watching the condors, as they kept moving down the mountain, Ellie didn’t mention it. Yet all she could think about were her friends, back in the States, and the summer she was spending without them.

summer

summer

summer

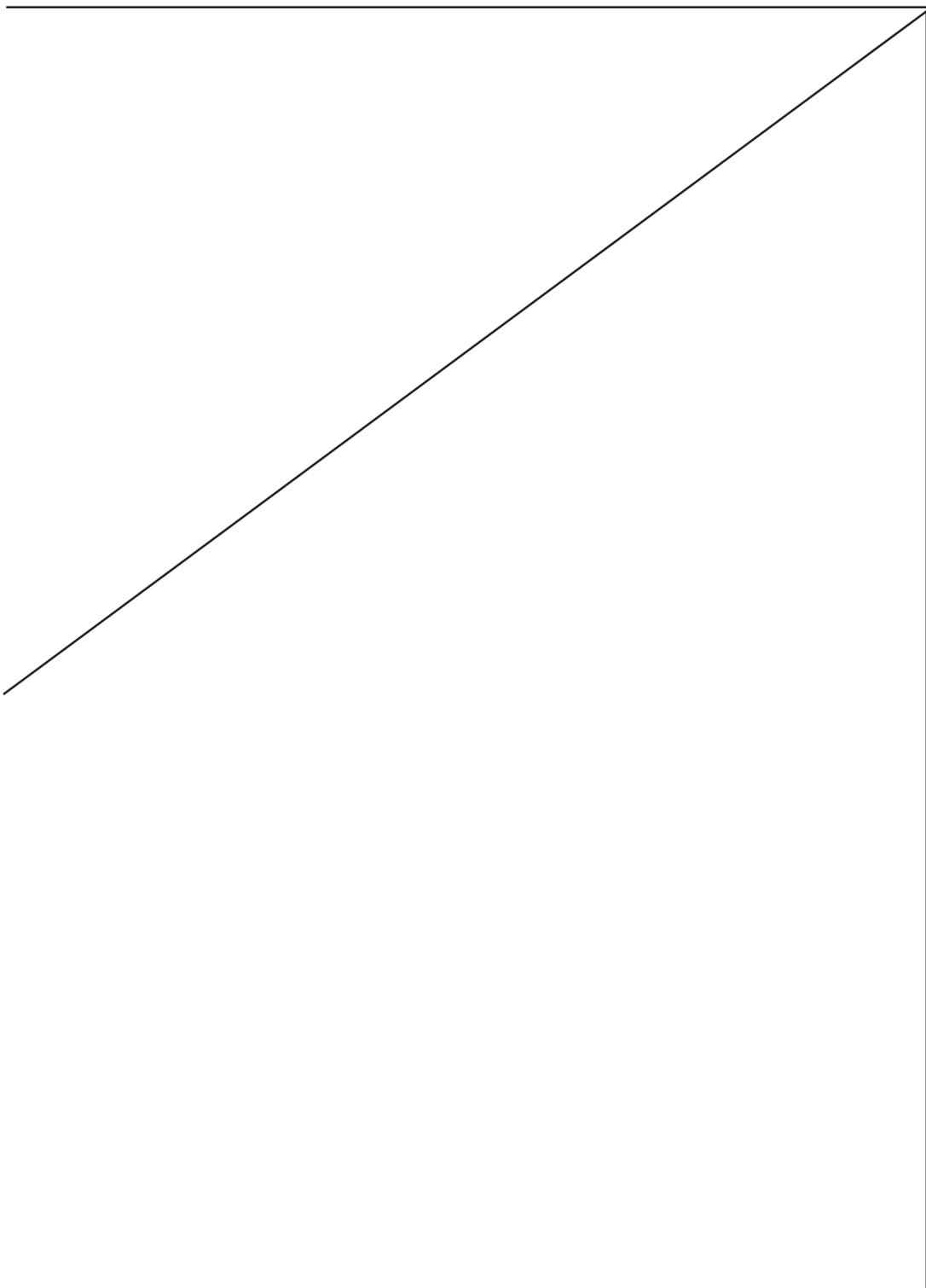
III.

That night, back at their hotel, Ellie's parents had confiscated their cell phones and gone to bed early. She couldn't watch TV. She hadn't brought her laptop. And she couldn't sleep. So there was nothing to do but go onto the balcony, feel the cool breeze, and watch the nighttime.

summer

III.

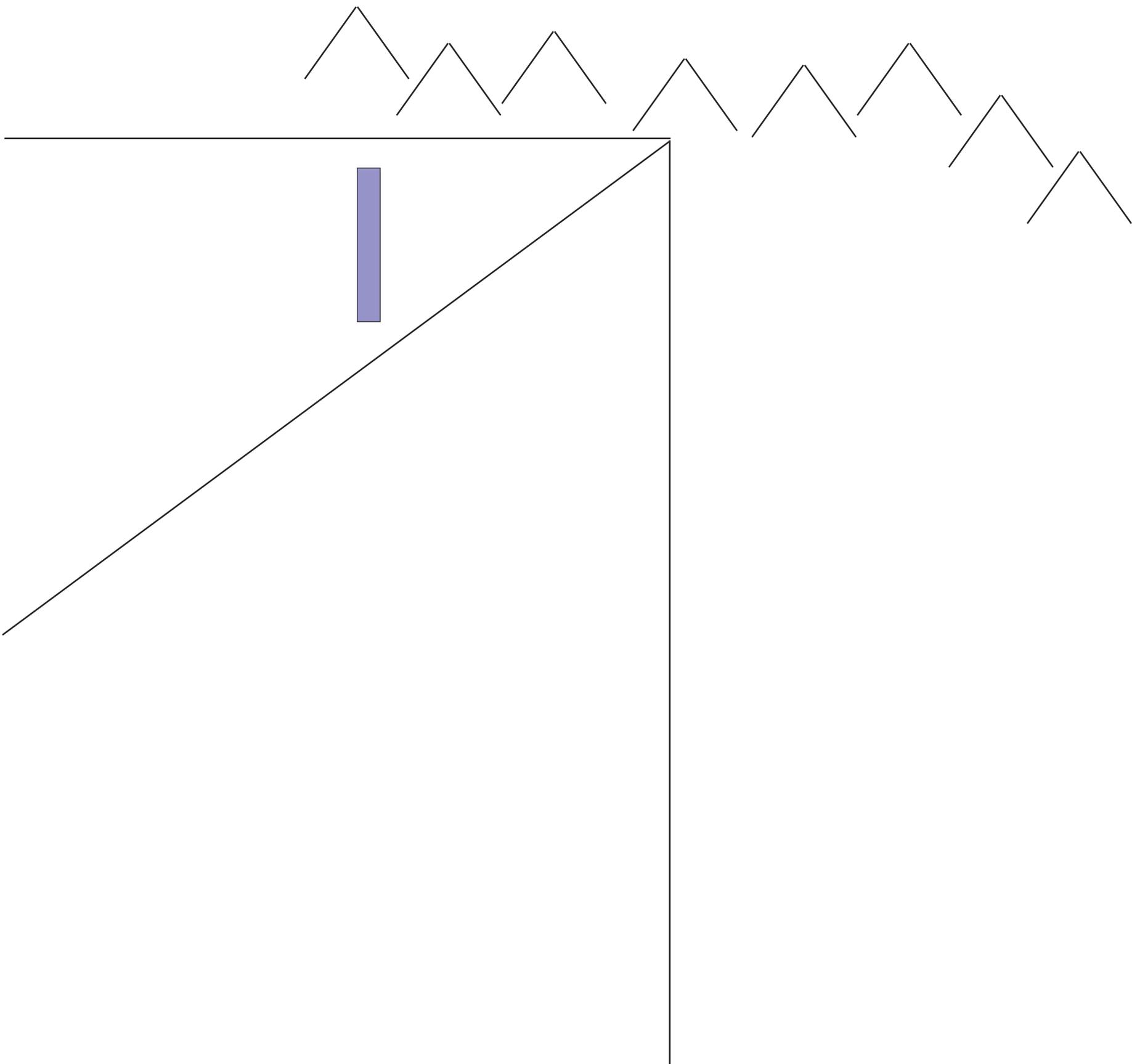
That night, back at their hotel, Ellie's parents had confiscated their cell phones and gone to bed early. She couldn't watch TV. She hadn't brought her laptop. And she couldn't sleep. So there was nothing to do but go onto the balcony, feel the cool breeze, and watch the nighttime.



III.

That night, back at their hotel, Ellie's parents had confiscated their cell phones and gone to bed early. She couldn't watch TV. She hadn't brought her laptop. And she couldn't sleep. So there was nothing to do but go onto the balcony, feel the cool breeze, and watch the nighttime.

And see the mountains in the distance.

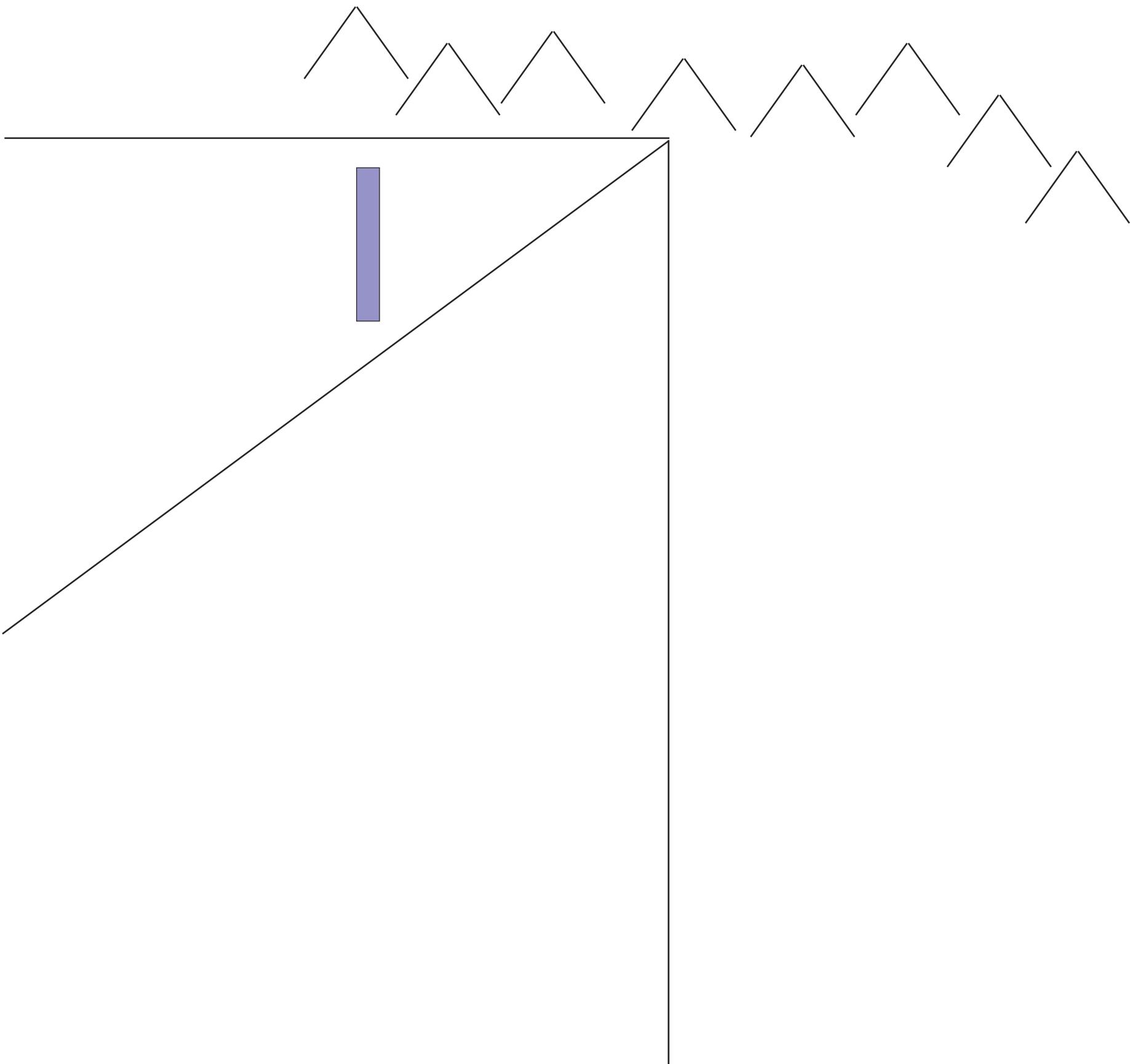


III.

That night, back at their hotel, Ellie's parents had confiscated their cell phones and gone to bed early. She couldn't watch TV. She hadn't brought her laptop. And she couldn't sleep. So there was nothing to do but go onto the balcony, feel the cool breeze, and watch the nighttime.

And see the mountains in the distance.

At first, she'd been so excited to be on this trip. But now she missed home. She'd missed two pool parties. The WIFI was spotty. And there were only so many mountain ruins you could visit before it started to get... old.



That night, back at their hotel, Ellie's parents had confiscated their cell phones and gone to bed early. She couldn't watch TV. She hadn't brought her laptop. And she couldn't sleep. So there was nothing to do but go onto the balcony, feel the cool breeze, and watch the nighttime.

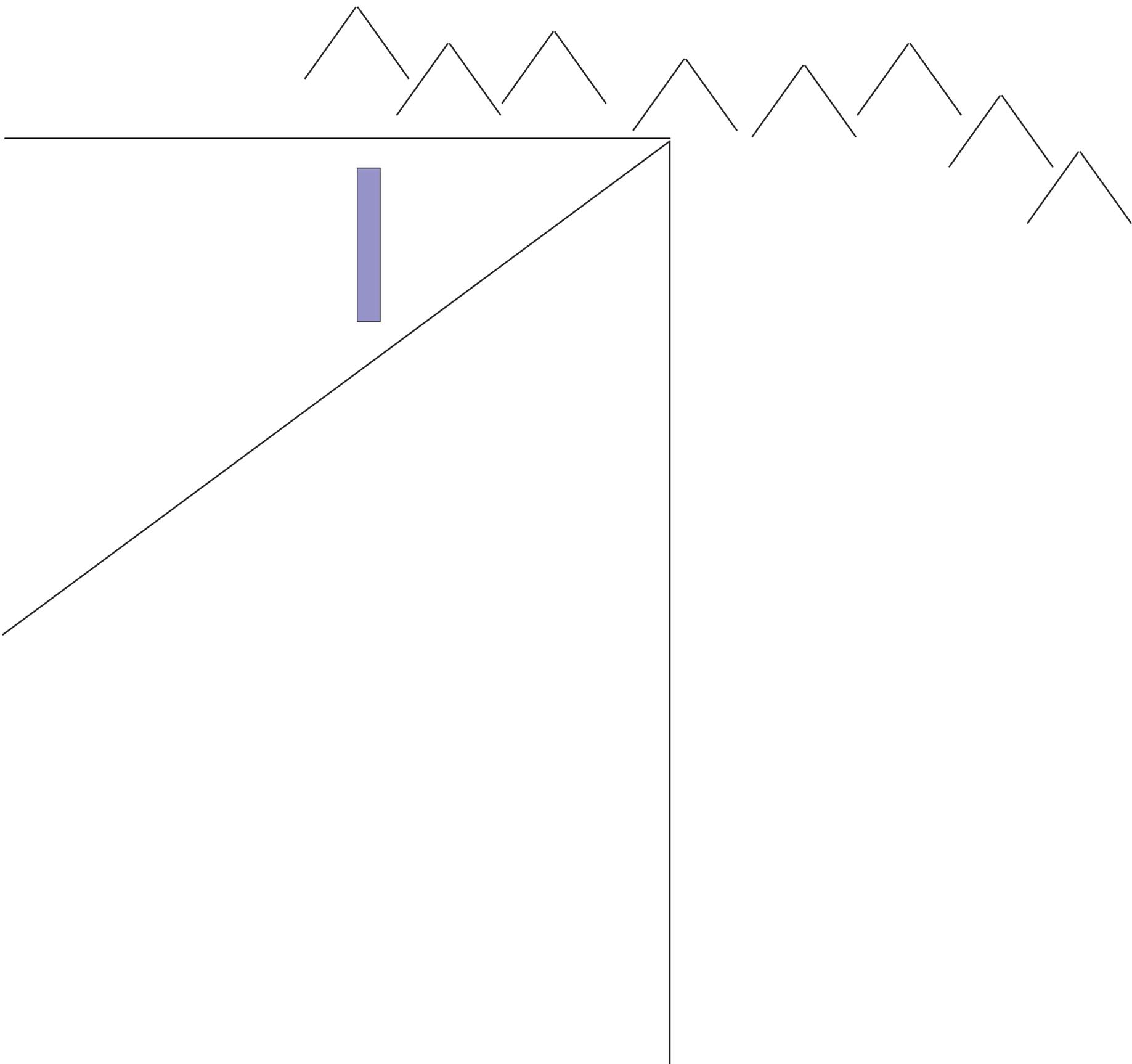
And see the mountains in the distance.

At first, she'd been so excited to be on this trip. But now she missed home. She'd missed two pool parties. The WIFI was spotty. And there were only so many mountain ruins you could visit before it started to get... old.

feel so disconnected.

just want it back.

to be back.



She hadn't brought her laptop. And she couldn't sleep. So there was nothing to do but go onto the balcony, feel the cool breeze, and watch the nighttime.

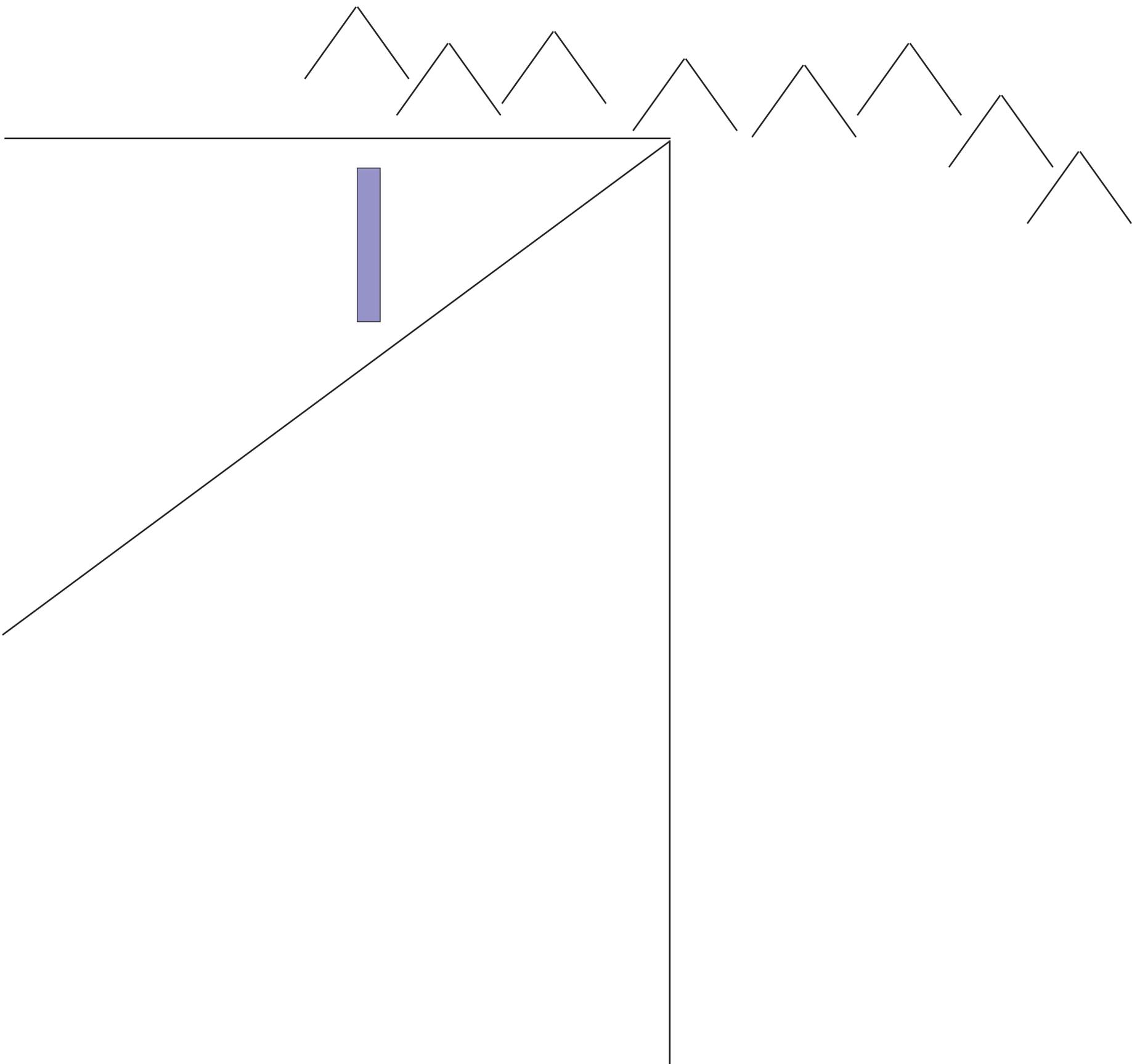
And see the mountains in the distance.

At first, she'd been so excited to be on this trip. But now she missed home. She'd missed two pool parties. The WIFI was spotty. And there were only so many mountain ruins you could visit before it started to get... old.

feel so disconnected.

just want it back.

to be back.



She hadn't brought her laptop. And she couldn't sleep. So there was nothing to do but go onto the balcony, feel the cool breeze, and watch the nighttime.

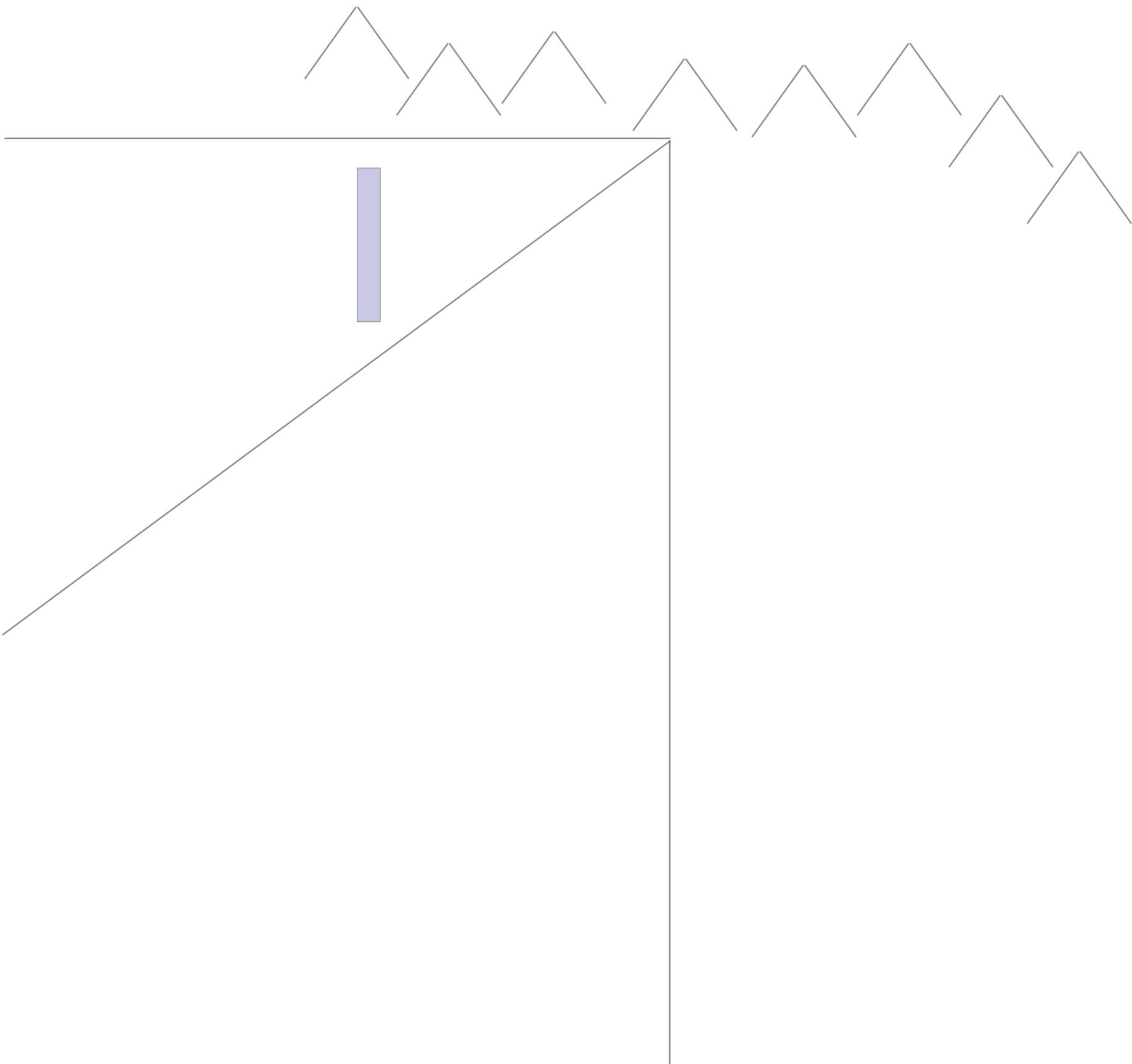
And see the mountains in the distance.

At first, she'd been so excited to be on this trip. But now she missed home. She'd missed two pool parties. The WIFI was spotty. And there were only so many mountain ruins you could visit before it started to get... old.

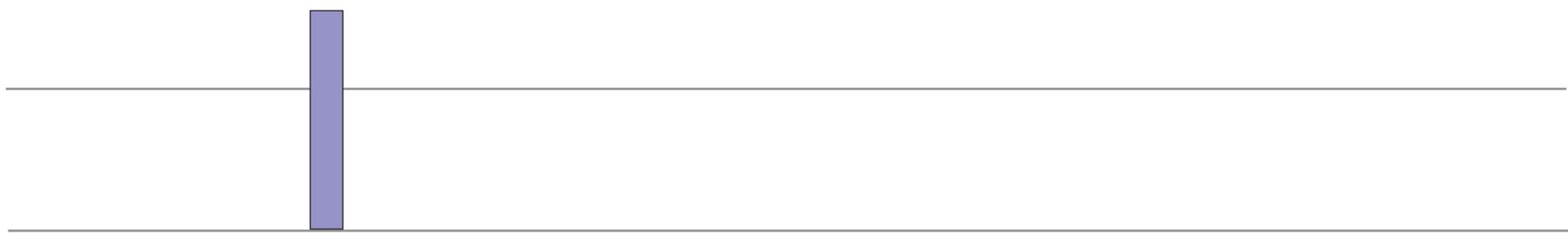
feel so disconnected.

just want it back.

to be back.



Then,



Then,
Ellie noticed,



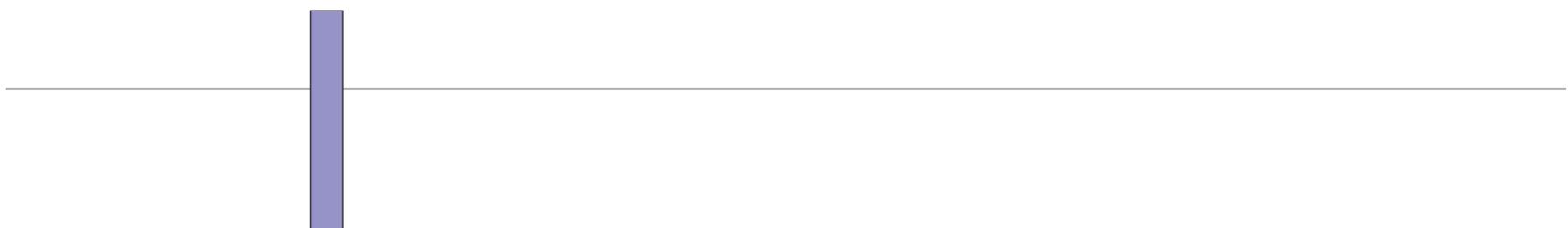
Then,
Ellie noticed,
getting closer and closer,



Then,
Ellie noticed,
getting closer and closer,



there was a condor.

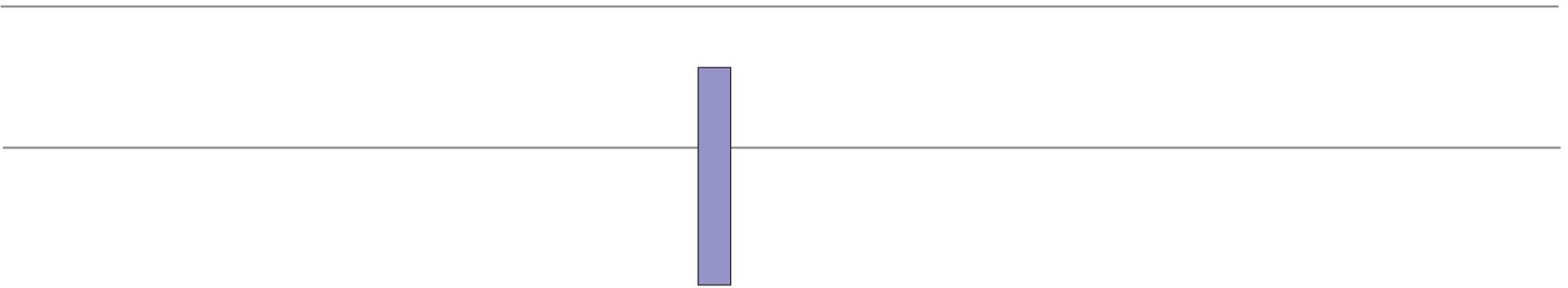


Then,
Ellie noticed,
getting closer and closer,

there was a condor.



Scared, Ellie began scrambling



Then,
Ellie noticed,
getting closer and closer,

there was a condor.



Scared, Ellie began scrambling
to get back inside.



Then,
Ellie noticed,
getting closer and closer,

there was a condor.

Scared, Ellie began scrambling
to get back inside.

“WAIT!!!



Then,
Ellie noticed,
getting closer and closer,

there was a condor.

Scared, Ellie began scrambling
to get back inside.

“WAIT!!!



*Did the condor say that?
No way....*

Then,
Ellie noticed,
getting closer and closer,

there was a condor.

Scared, Ellie began scrambling
to get back inside.

“WAIT!!!

I have news about your
cell phone...”

*Did the condor say that?
No way....*

Then,
Ellie noticed,
getting closer and closer,

there was a condor.

Scared, Ellie began scrambling
to get back inside.

“WAIT!!!

I have news about your
cell phone...”



Did the condor say that?

No way....

!!!





“You can talk?”



“I’m talking, aren’t I?
I heard you, earlier today at the
mountain. I think we may be
able to make an arrangement...”

“You can talk?”



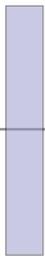
“I’m talking, aren’t I?
I heard you earlier today at the
mountain. I think we may be
able to make an arrangement...”

“Arrangement?
What kind of arrangement?”



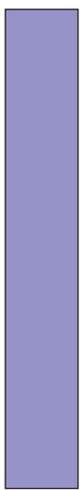
“I’ve seen your cell phone at a solstice gath-
ering. If you’d like child, I can take you
there, in exchange for human food.”

“You can talk?”



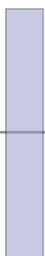
“I’m talking, aren’t I?
I heard you earlier today at the
mountain. I think we may be
able to make an arrangement...”

“Arrangement?
What kind of arrangement?”



“I’ve seen your cell phone at a solstice gathering. If you’d like child, I can take you there, in exchange for human food.”

“You can talk?”



“I’m talking, aren’t I?
I heard you earlier today at the
mountain. I think we may be
able to make an arrangement...”

“Arrangement?
What kind of arrangement?”

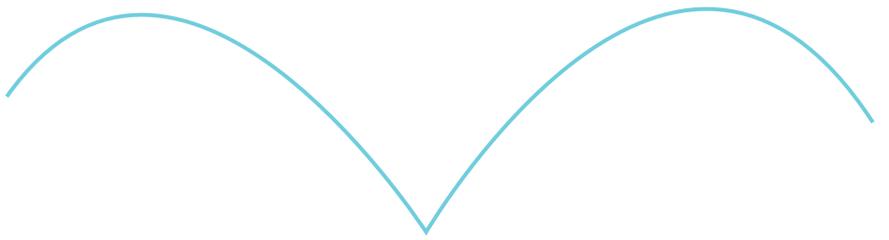


“I’ve seen your cell phone at a solstice gathering. If you’d like child, I can take you there, in exchange for human food.”

“Umm, let me think about this.”



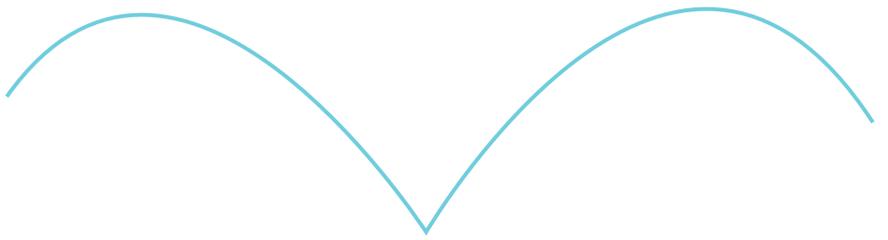
Let’s see, creepy talking bird.



“Umm, let me think about this.”



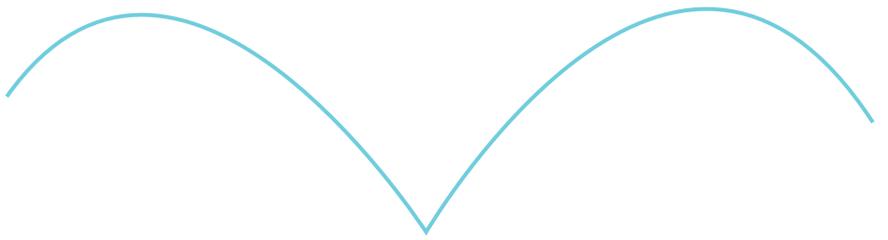
*Let's see, creepy talking bird.
Chance to get my cell phone back.*



“Umm, let me think about this.”



*Let's see, creepy talking bird.
Chance to get my cell phone back.
This is probably a dream?*



“Umm, let me think about this.”

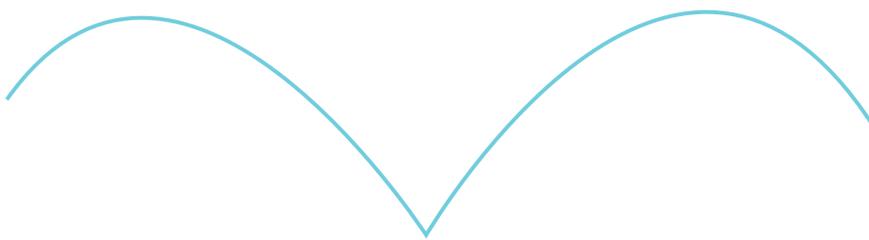


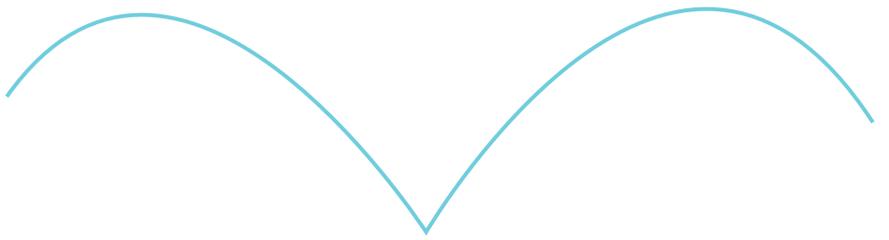
*Let's see, creepy talking bird.
Chance to get my cell phone back.
This is probably a dream?
Oh, what the hey.*

“What kind of food do you want? I’m not a great cook.”



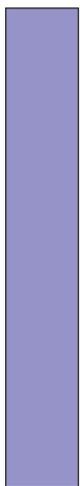
“I’m craving a *lomo saltado* (Peruvian sirloin stir fry). Do you have that?”





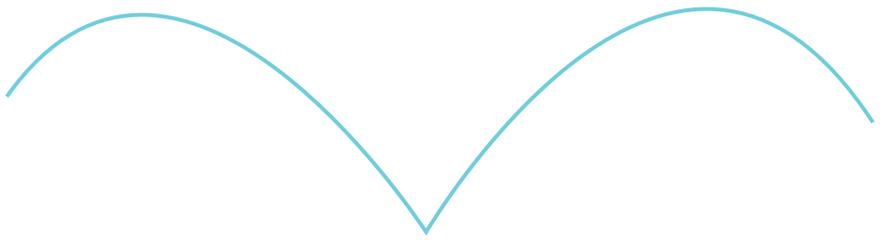
“What kind of food do you want? I’m not a great cook.”

!!!



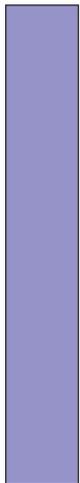
“I’m craving a *lomo saltado* (Peruvian sirloin stir fry). Do you have that?”

“Yes, we have leftovers.”



“What kind of food do you want? I’m not a great cook.”

!!!



“I’m craving a *lomo saltado* (Peruvian sirloin stir fry). Do you have that?”

“Yes, we have leftovers.”

“Perfect, my child, that will do.”



“What kind of food do you want? I’m not a great cook.”

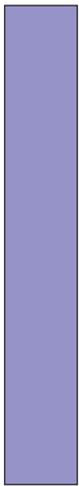
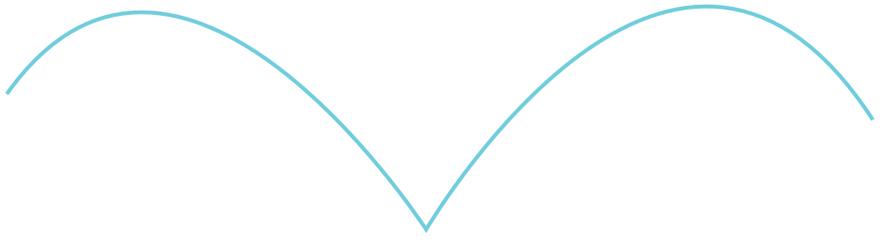
!!!

“I’m craving a *lomo saltado* (Peruvian sirloin stir fry). Do you have that?”



“Yes, we have leftovers.”

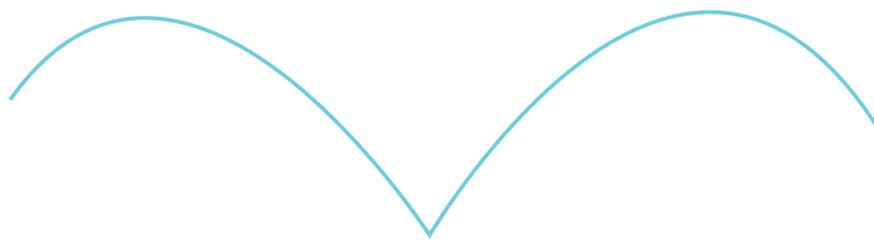
“Perfect, my child, that will do.”





“So, what’s a solstice gathering?
And how do we get there?”



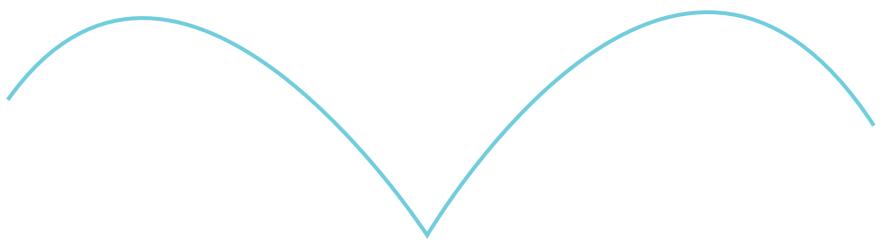


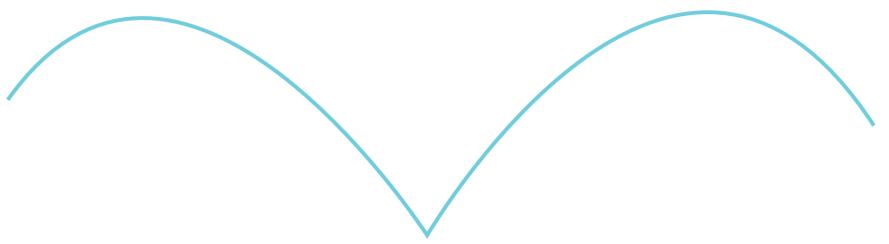
“Hop onto my back. I’ll take you there.”

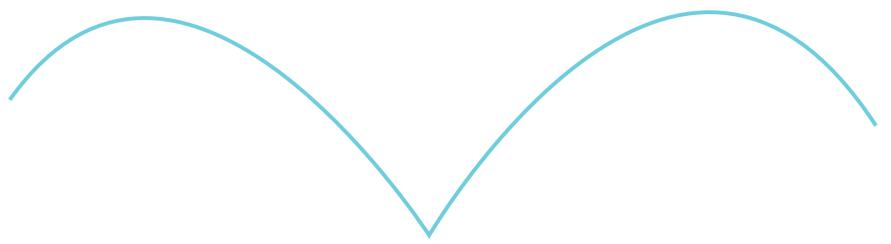
“So, what’s a solstice gathering?
And how do we get there?”

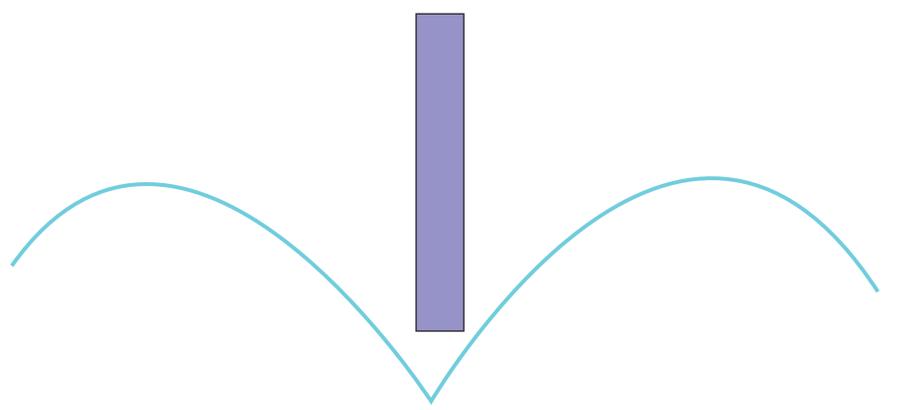
This doesn’t seem safe... but okay?





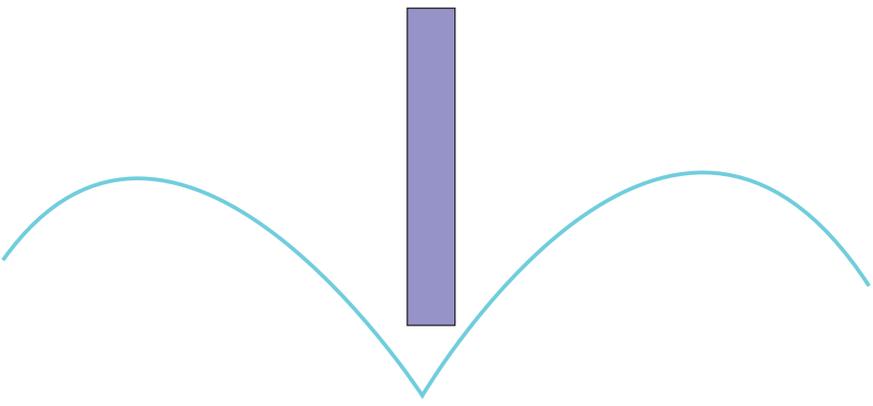






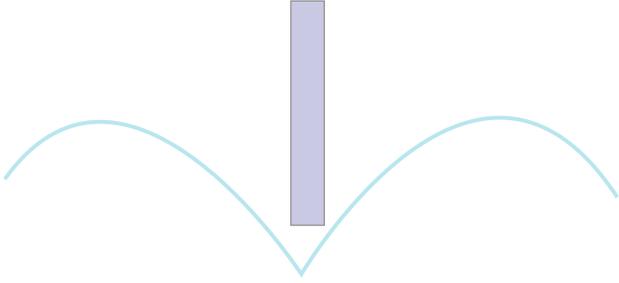
“Feeling comfortable?”

“I think so.”



“Feeling comfortable?”

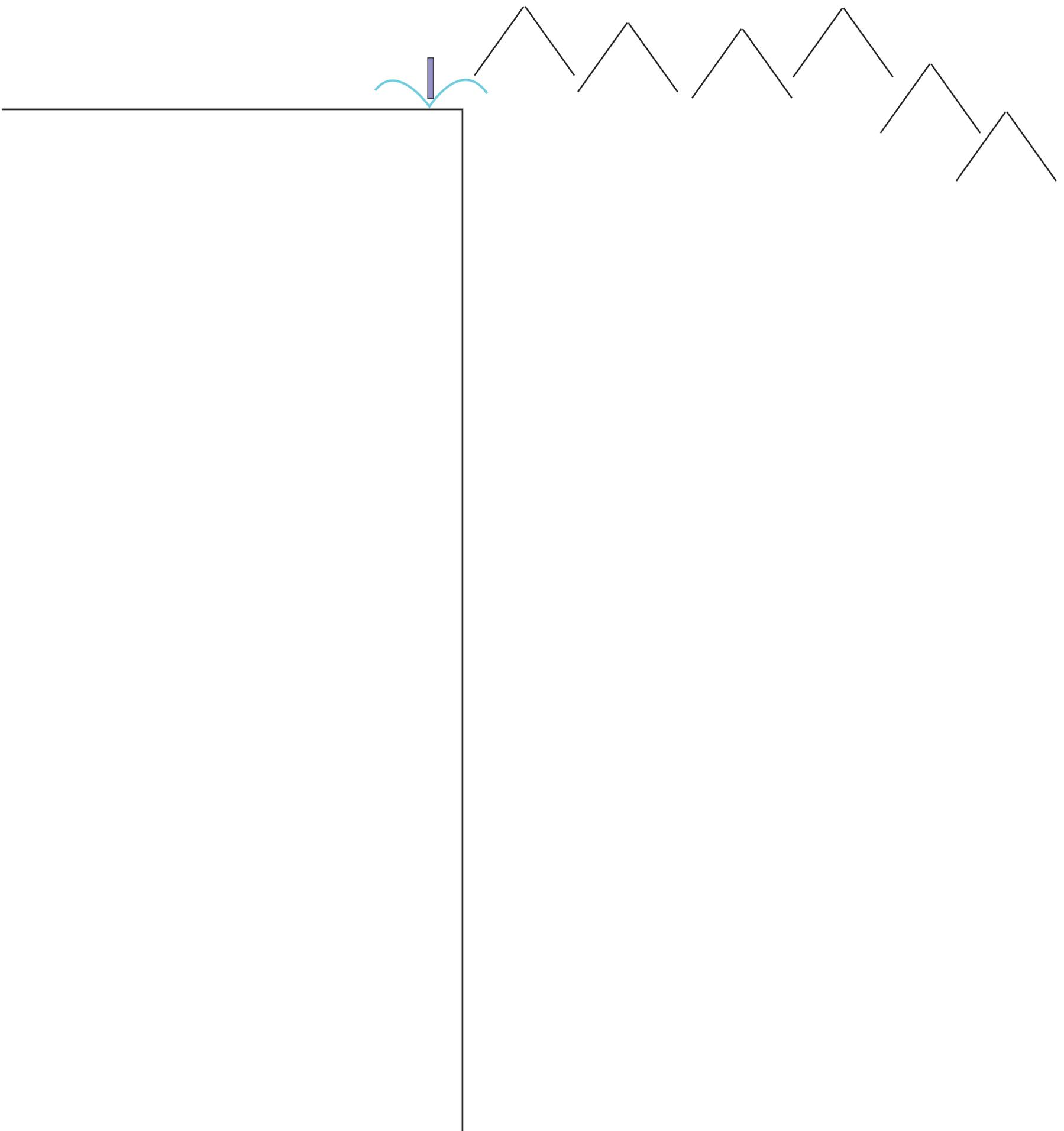
“I think so.”



“Then here...”

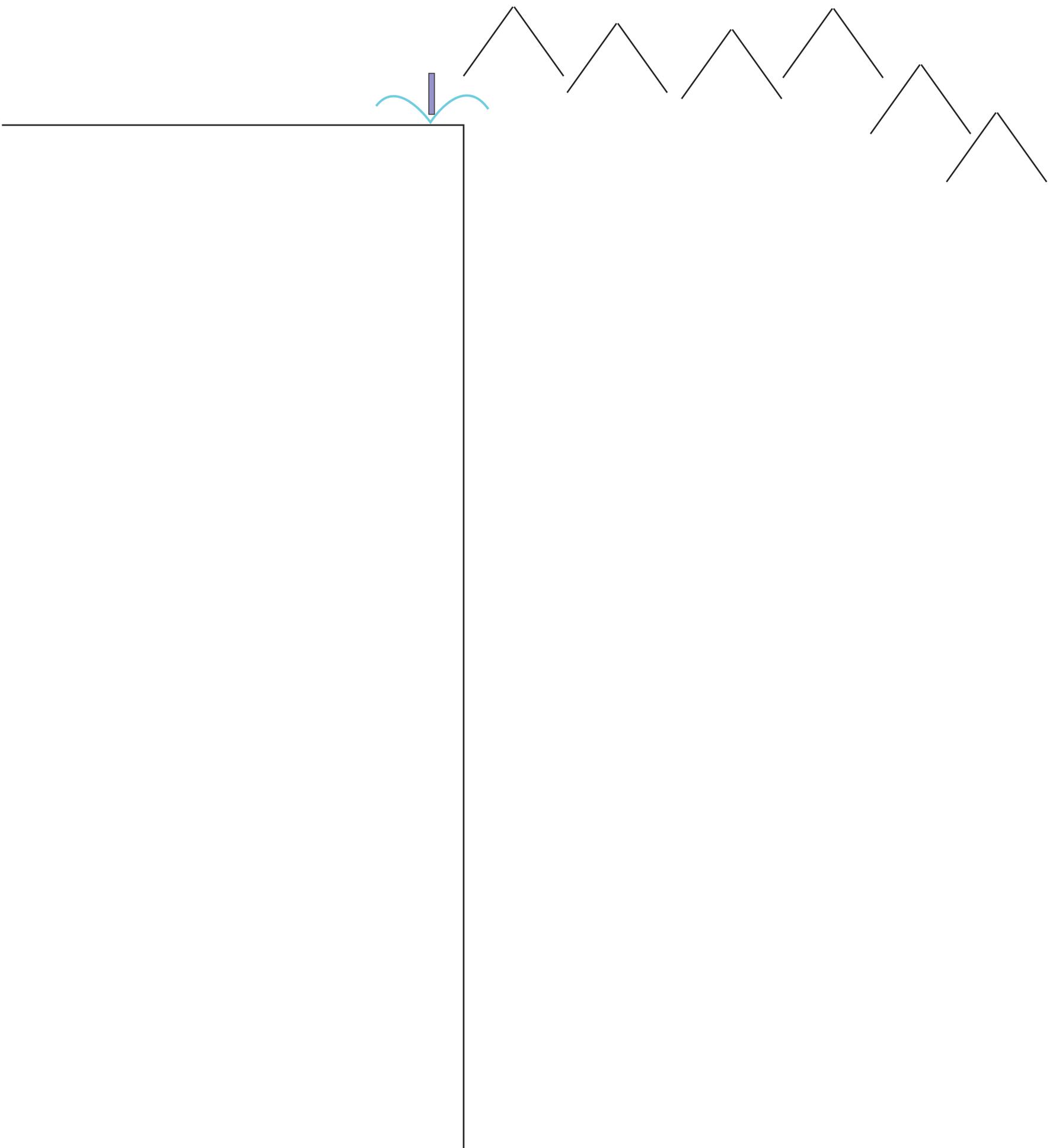


“Then here...”



“Then here...

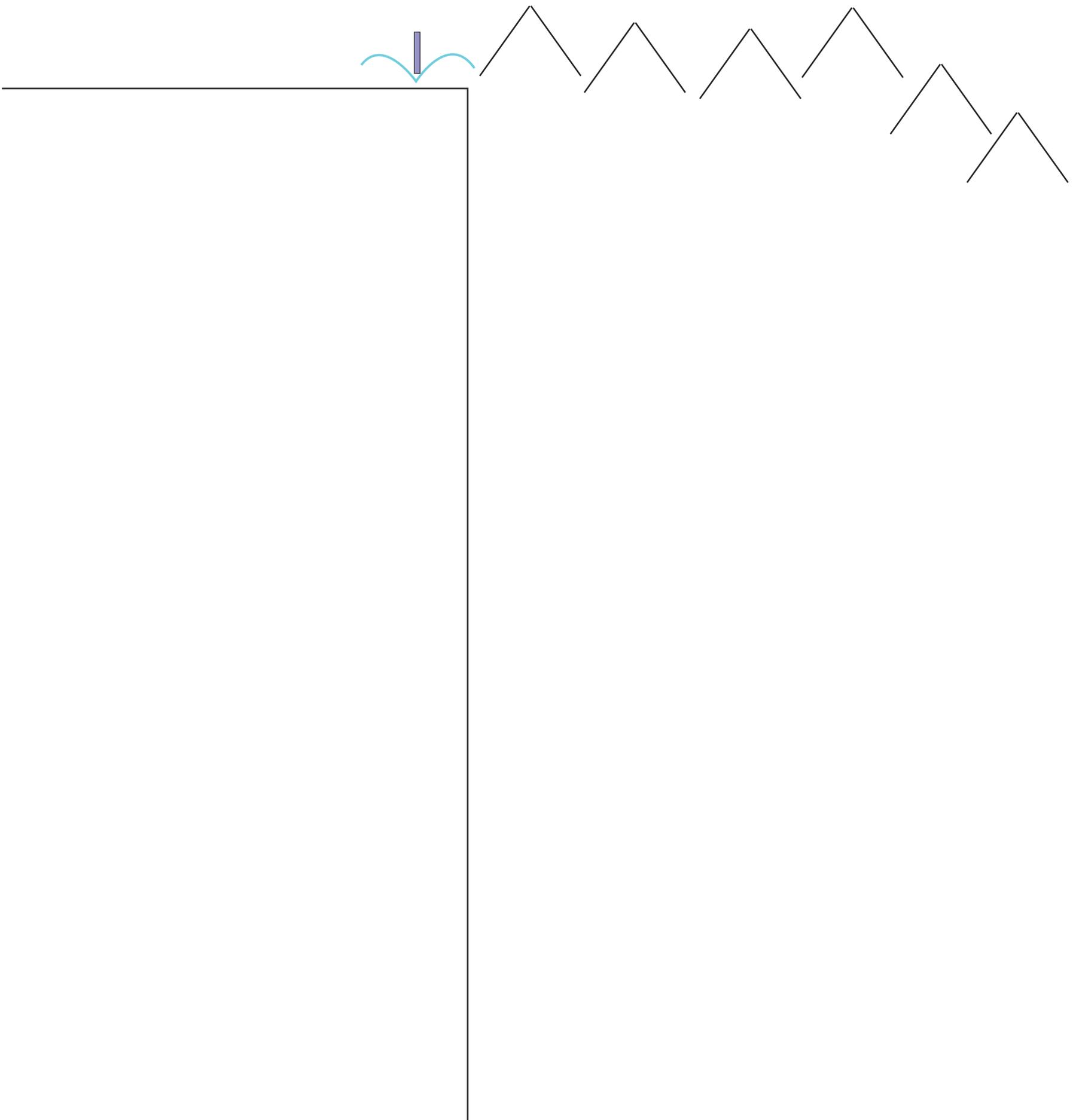
we...

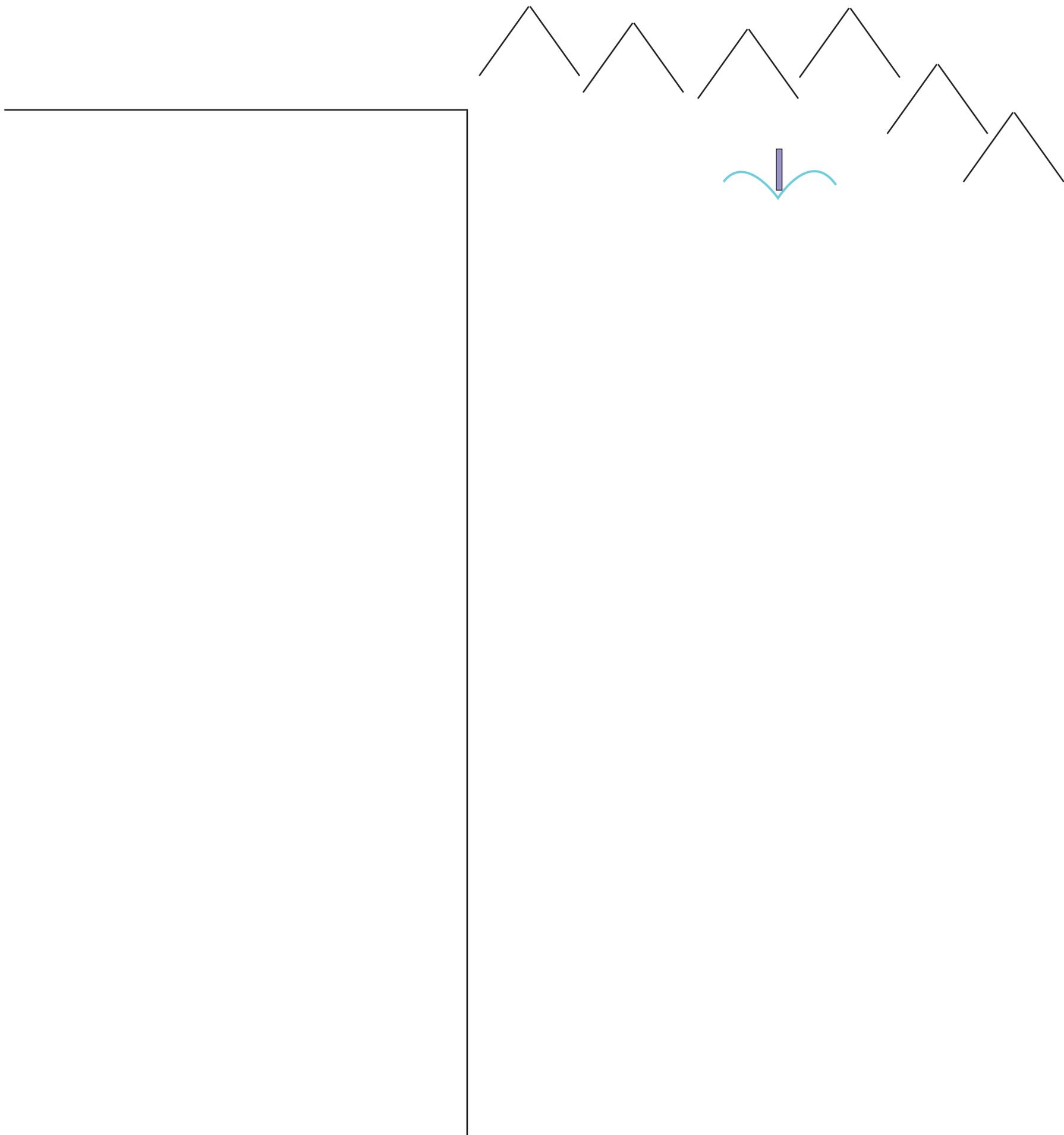


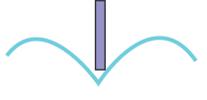
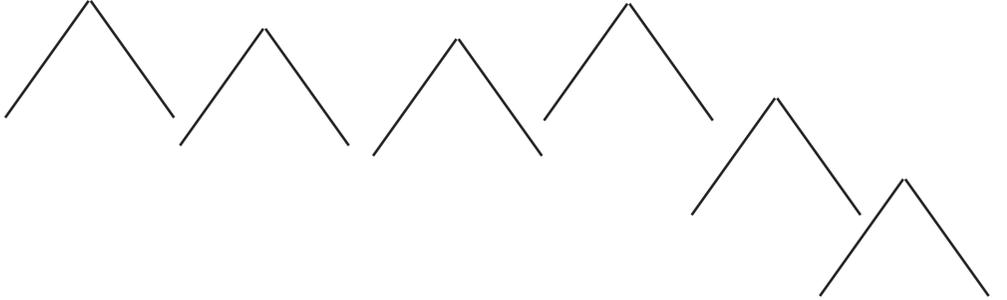
“Then here...

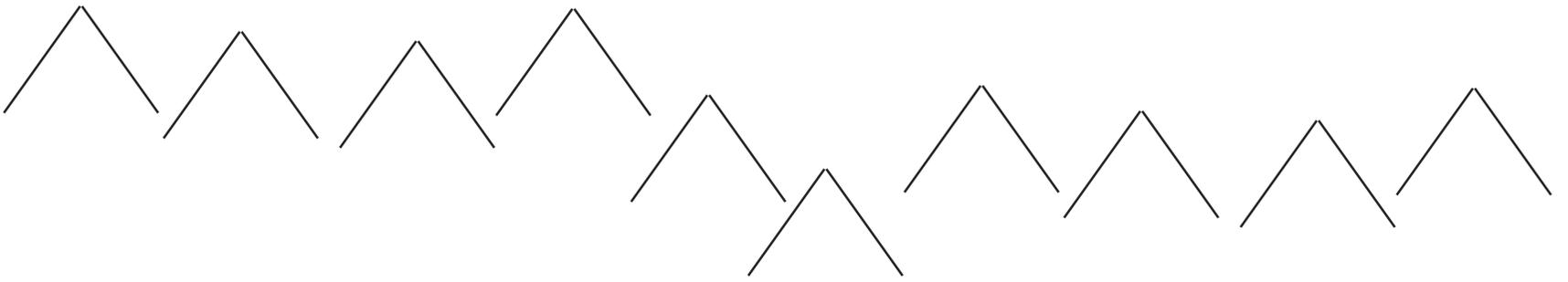
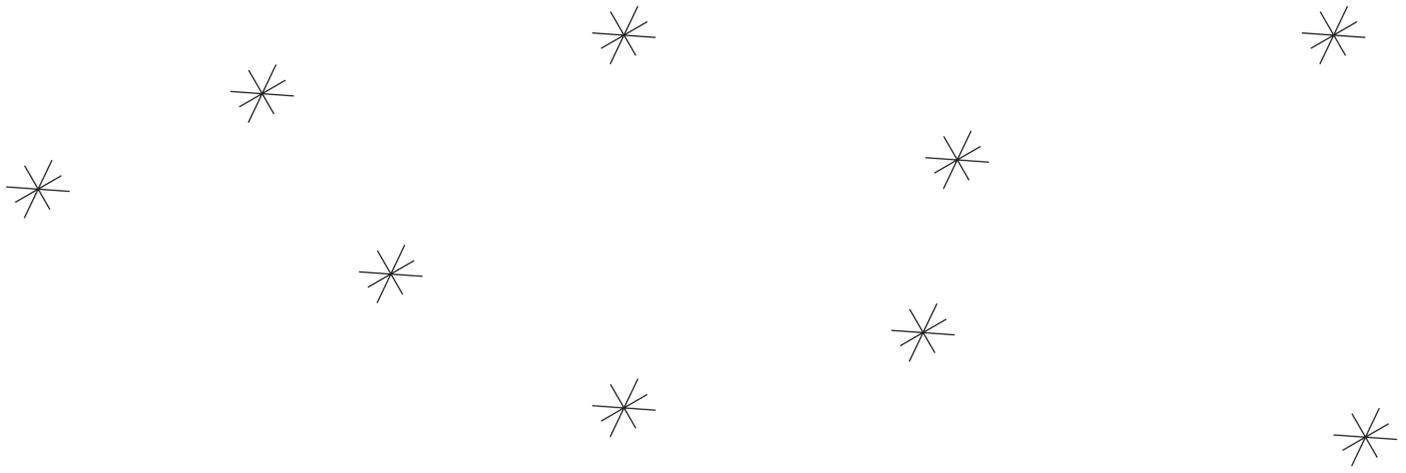
we...

GO!!!”

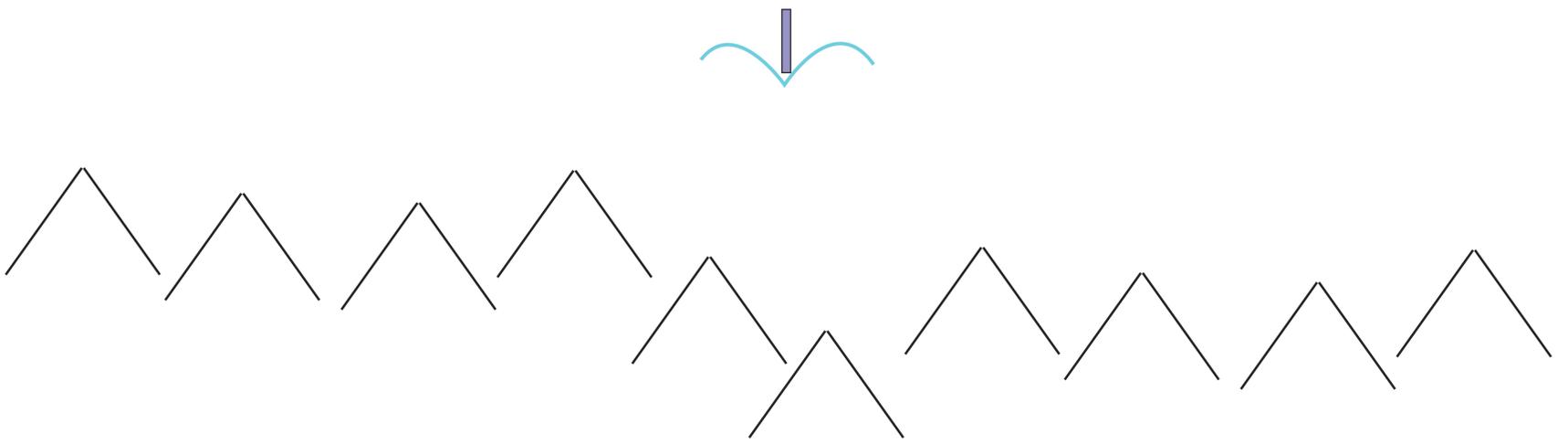
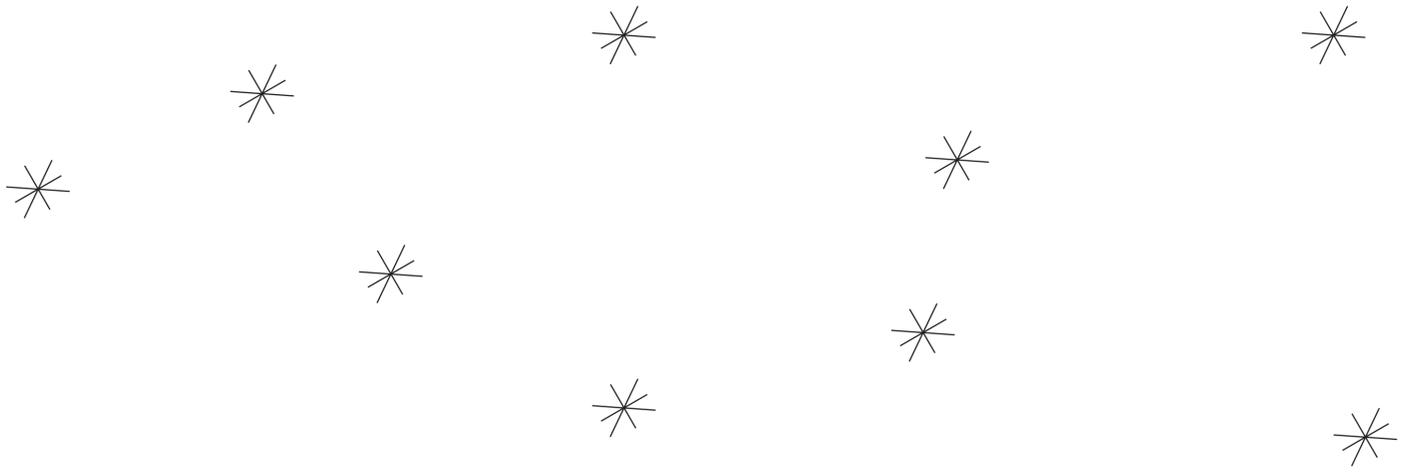






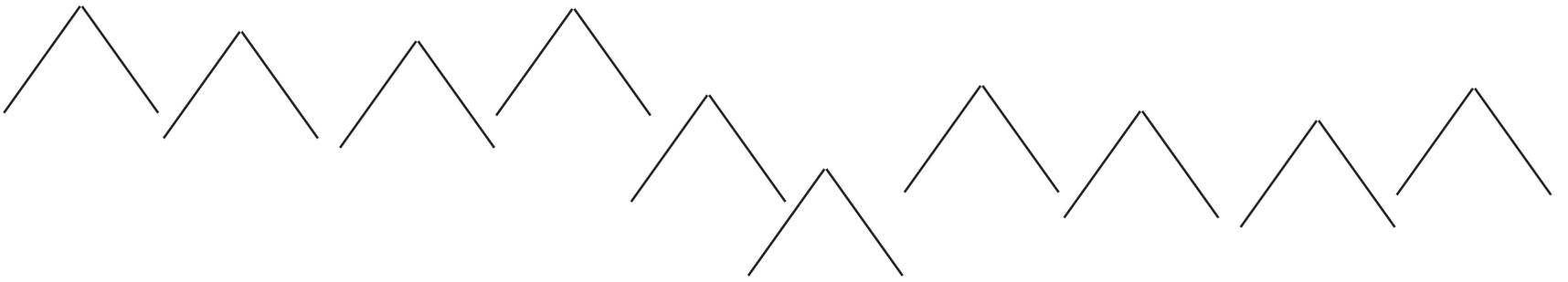
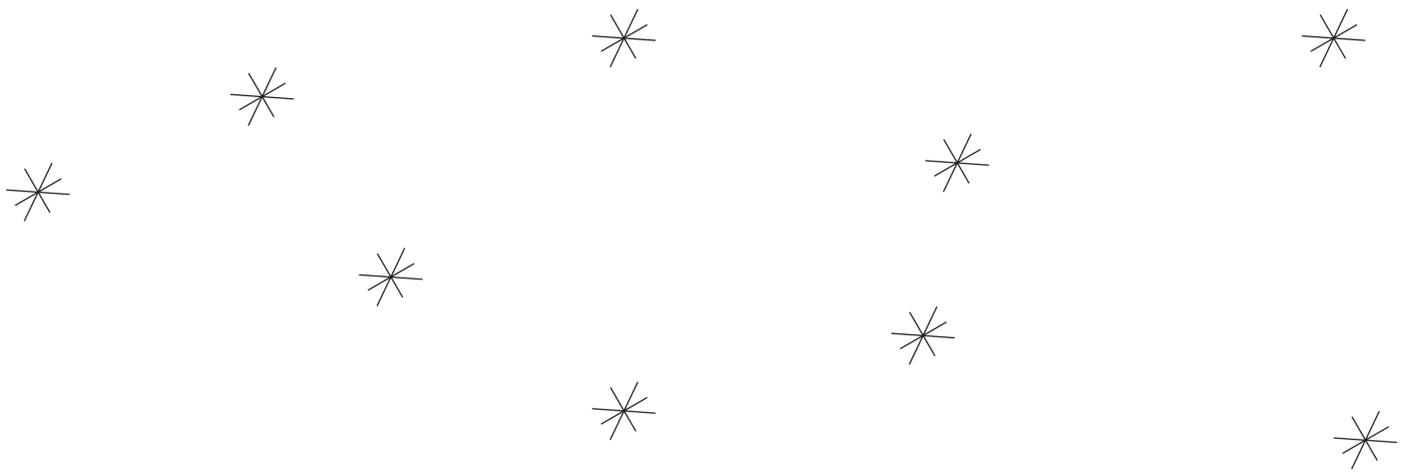


The drop in Ellie's gut, the wind rushing past her cheeks, then the sudden uptake as they were carried aloft into the air, out and away from the city towards the mountains... she'd never experienced anything like it.



The drop in Ellie’s gut, the wind rushing past her cheeks, then the sudden uptake as they were carried aloft into the air, out and away from the city towards the mountains... she’d never experienced anything like it.

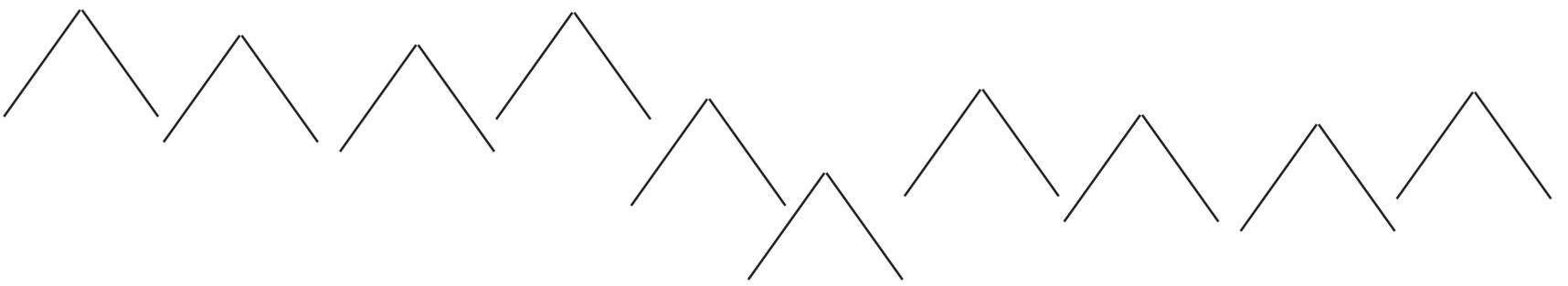
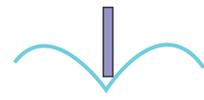
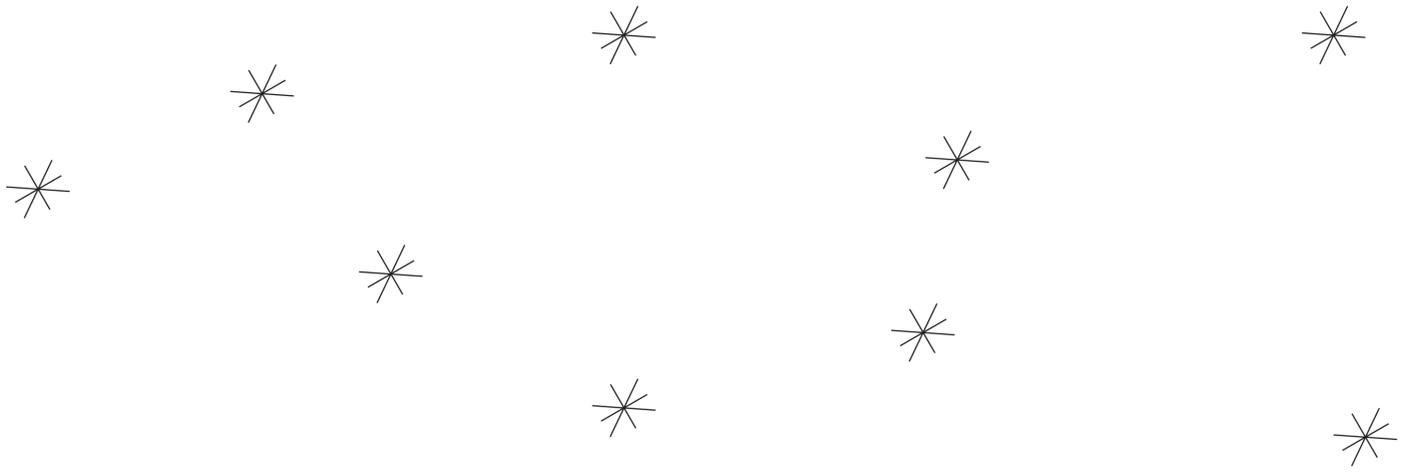
“This is incredible,” Ellie said, breathless.
“Am I dreaming?”



The drop in Ellie’s gut, the wind rushing past her cheeks, then the sudden uptake as they were carried aloft into the air, out and away from the city towards the mountains... she’d never experienced anything like it.

“This is incredible,” Ellie said, breathless.
“Am I dreaming?”

“All of life is a dream, child, even when you’re awake,” said the condor.

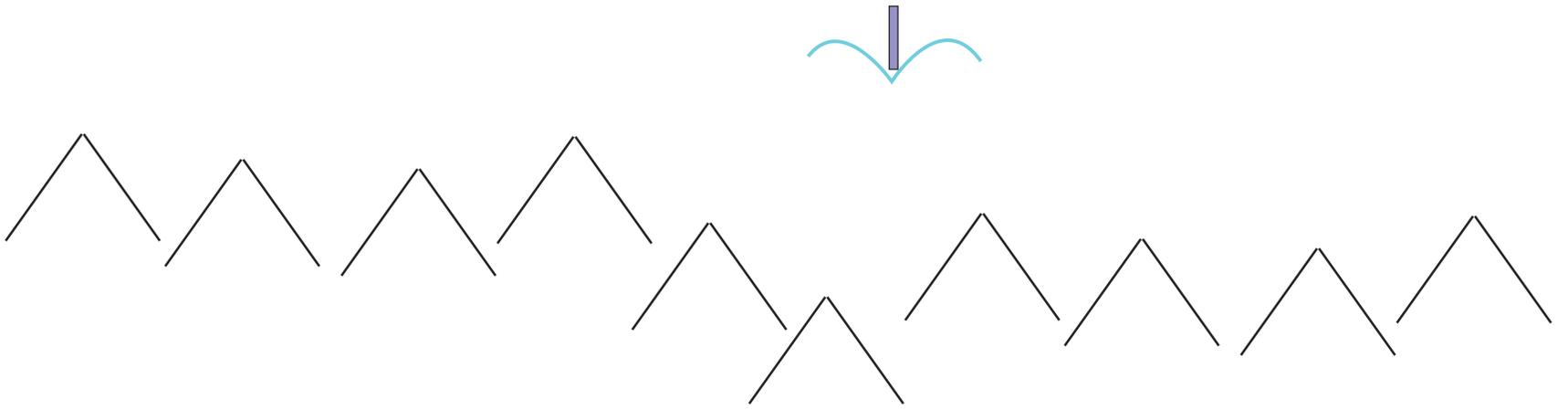
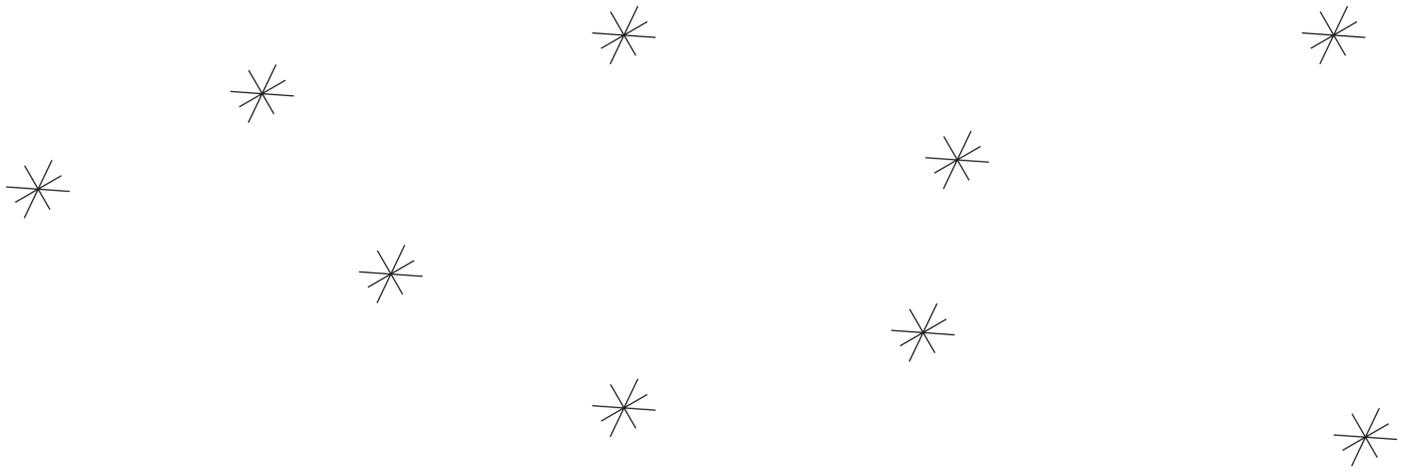


The drop in Ellie’s gut, the wind rushing past her cheeks, then the sudden uptake as they were carried aloft into the air, out and away from the city towards the mountains... she’d never experienced anything like it.

“This is incredible,” Ellie said, breathless.
“Am I dreaming?”

“All of life is a dream, child, even when you’re awake,” said the condor.

“What do you mean by that?”



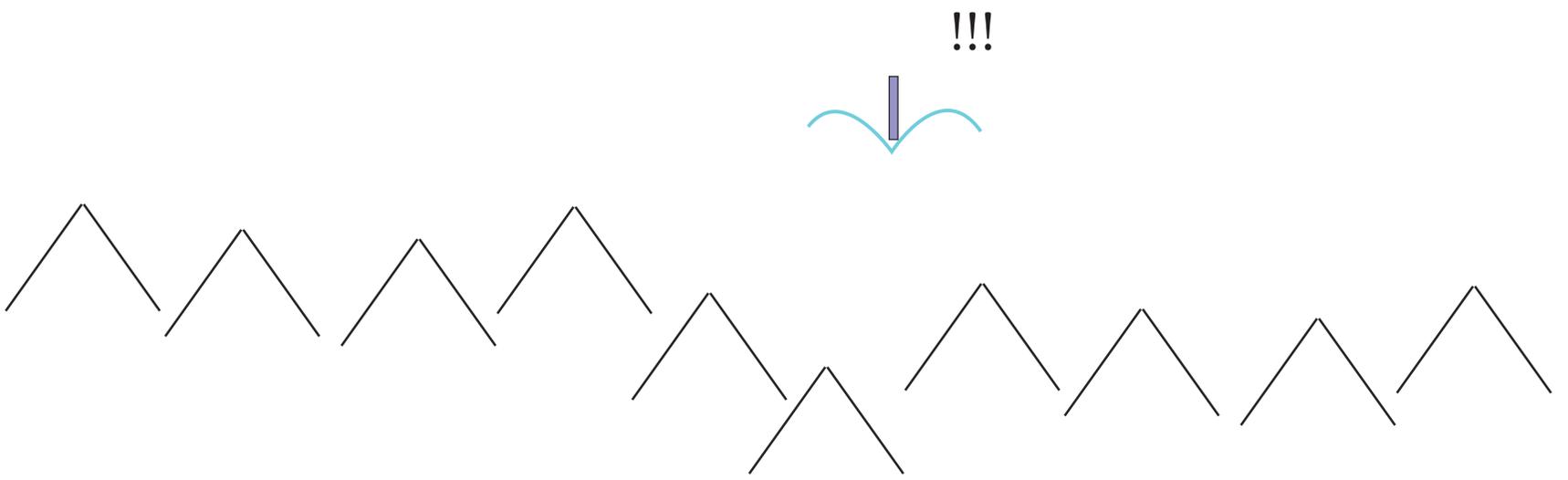
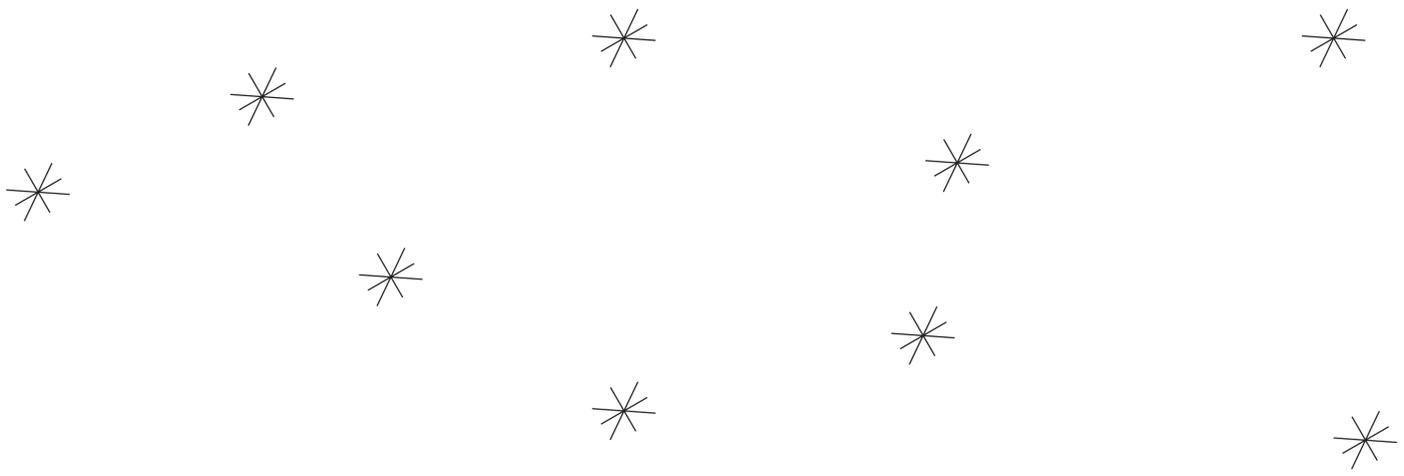
“This is incredible,” Ellie said, breathless.
“Am I dreaming?”

“All of life is a dream, child, even when
you’re awake,” said the condor.

“What do you mean?”

“Oh, that’s just a saying among old
condors,” the condor laughed. “Think
nothing of it.”

Ellie turned her eyes to the
passing landscape below.
So far down.

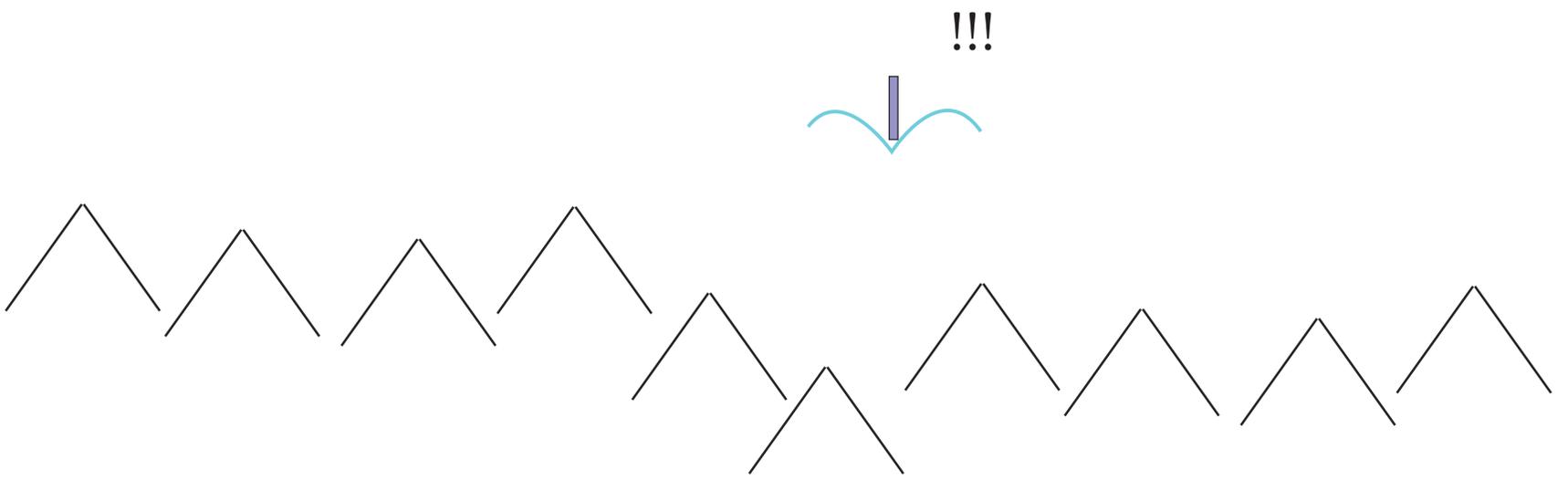
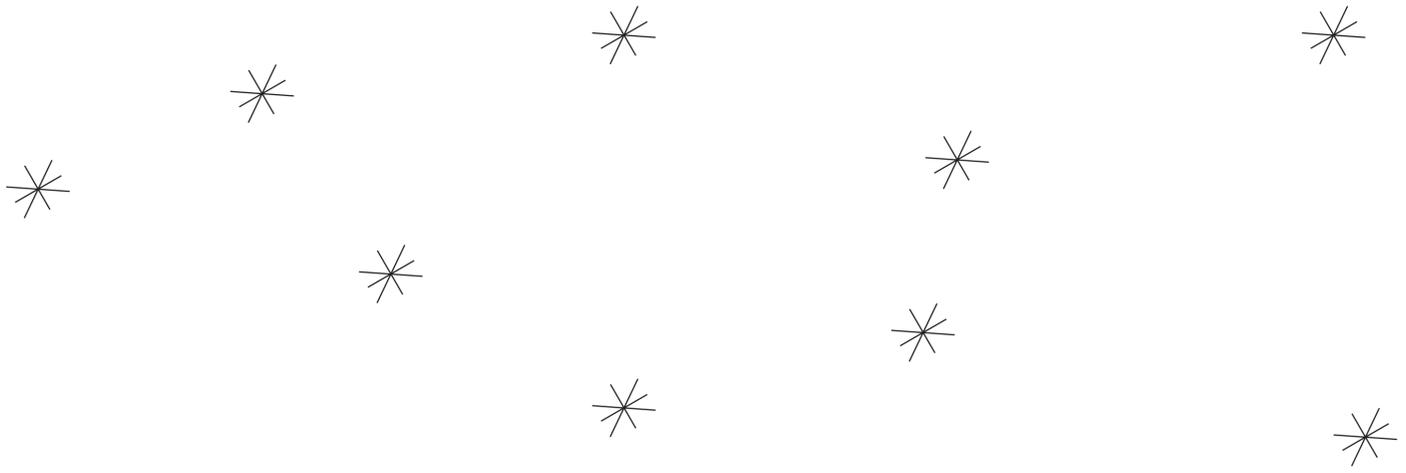


“What do you mean?”

“Oh, that’s just a saying among old condors,” the condor laughed. “Think nothing of it.”

Ellie turned her eyes to the passing landscape below.
So far down.

“It won’t take us long to get there,” the condor continued. “I can’t go with you inside the cave, but there’s a gathering of spirits there. You should be able to find your phone easily.”



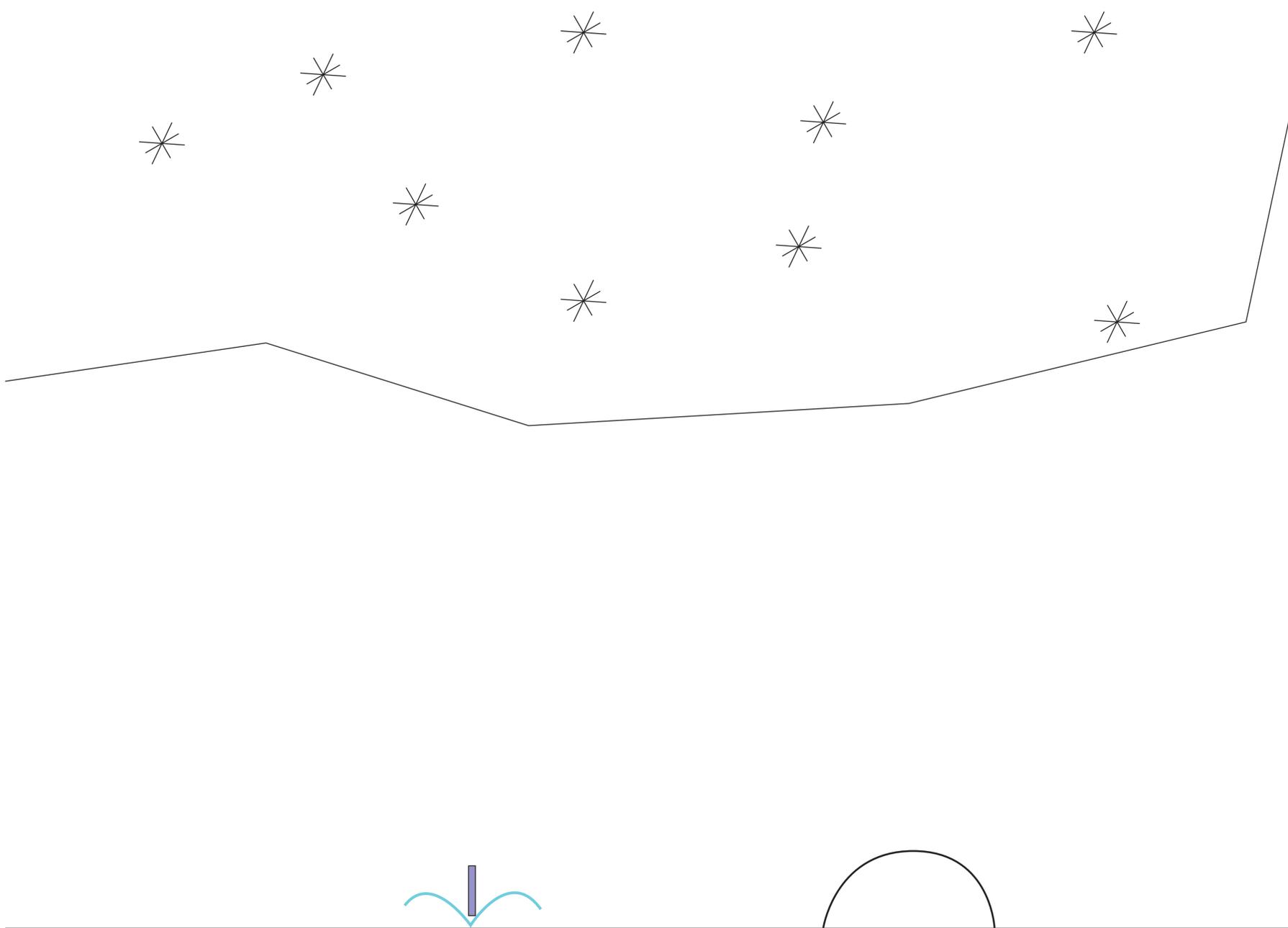
“Oh, that’s just a saying among old condors,” the condor laughed. “Think nothing of it.”

Ellie turned her eyes to the passing landscape below.
So far down.

“It won’t take us long to get there,” the condor continued. “I can’t go with you inside the cave, but there’s a gathering of spirits there. You should be able to find your phone easily.”

caves are dark

Ellie’s heart sank. “You didn’t say anything about a cave!”



Ellie turned her eyes to the
passing landscape below.
So far down.

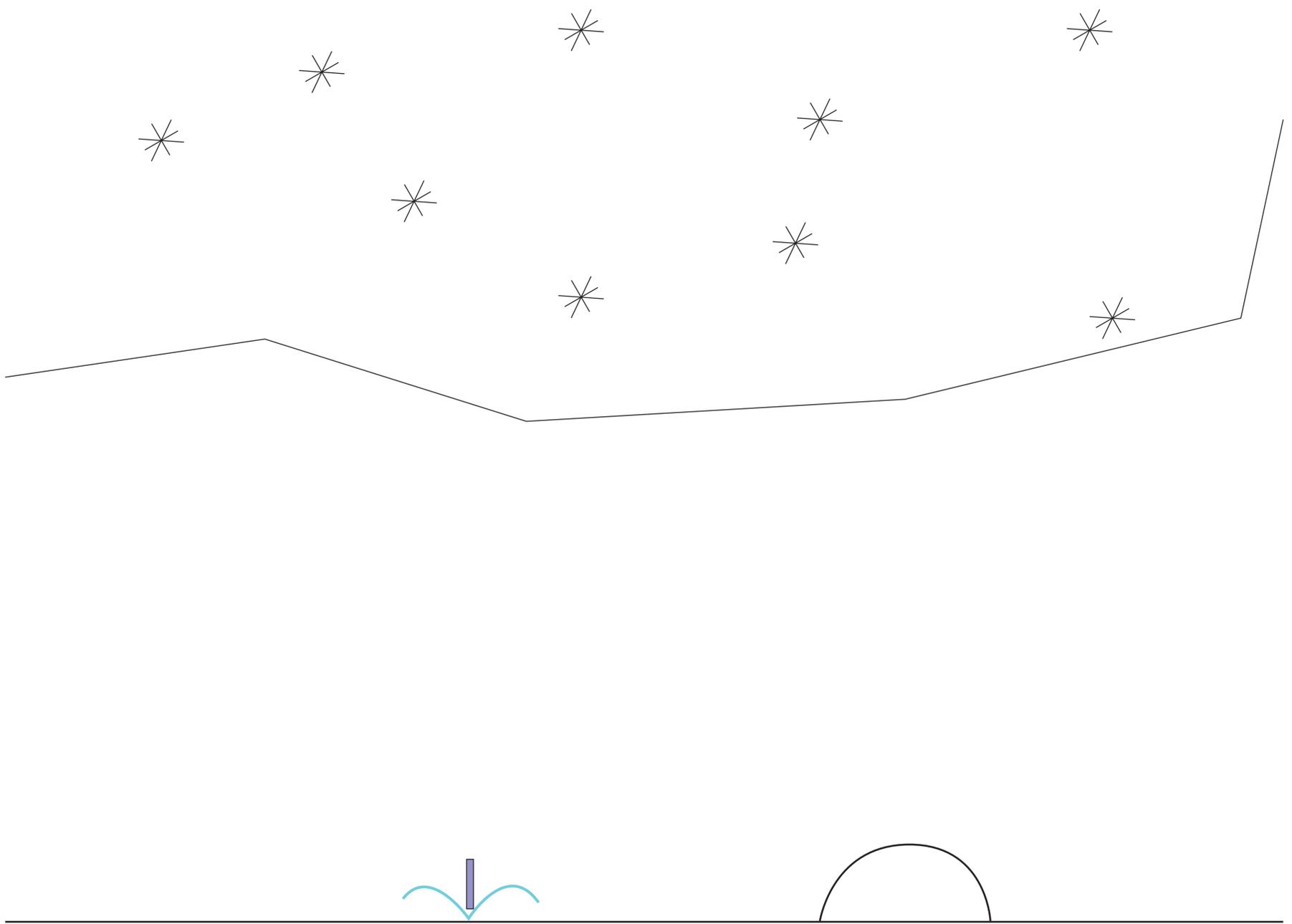
“It won’t take us long to get there,” the
condor continued. “I can’t go with you
inside the cave, but there’s a gathering of
spirits there. You should be able to find
your phone easily.”

Ellie’s heart sank. “You didn’t say
anything about a cave!”

caves are dark

caves are scary

“This solstice gathering always takes place
in a cave. That’s why I can’t go with you.”



“It won’t take us long to get there,” the condor continued. “I can’t go with you inside the cave, but there’s a gathering of spirits there. You should be able to find your phone easily.”

Ellie’s heart sank. “You didn’t say anything about a cave!”

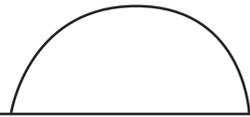
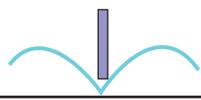
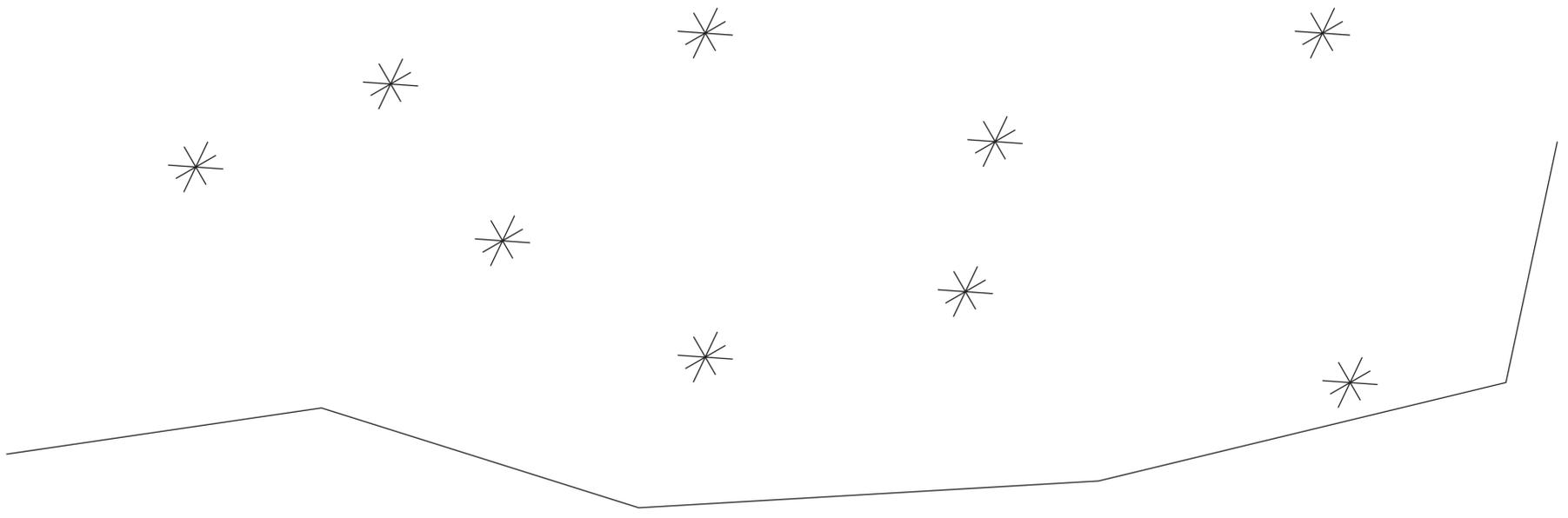
caves are dark

caves are scary

“This solstice gathering always takes place in a cave. That’s why I can’t go with you.”

“I don’t understand...”

“I am a creature of the upper realms. To go within the earth would be a violation fo the cosmos.”



Ellie's heart sank. "You didn't say anything about a cave!"

caves are dark

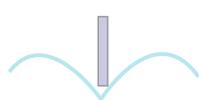
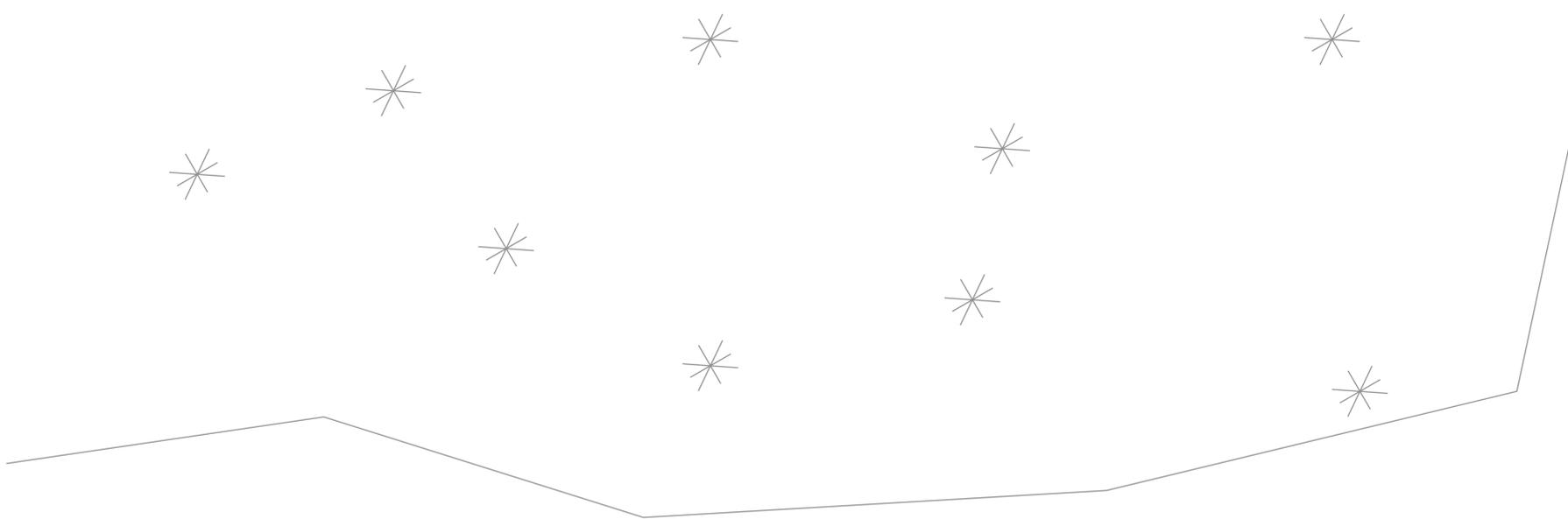
caves are scary

"This solstice gathering always takes place in a cave. That's why I can't go with you."

"I don't understand..."

"I am a creature of the upper realms. To go within the earth would be a violation fo the cosmos."

"Oh... okay."



Ellie's heart sank. "You didn't say anything about a cave!"

caves are dark

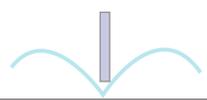
caves are scary

"This solstice gathering always takes place in a cave. That's why I can't go with you."

"I don't understand..."

"I am a creature of the upper realms. To go within the earth would be a violation fo the cosmos."

"Oh... okay."



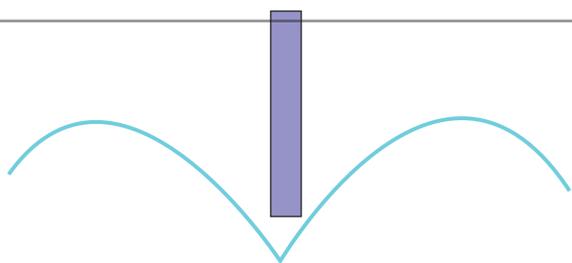
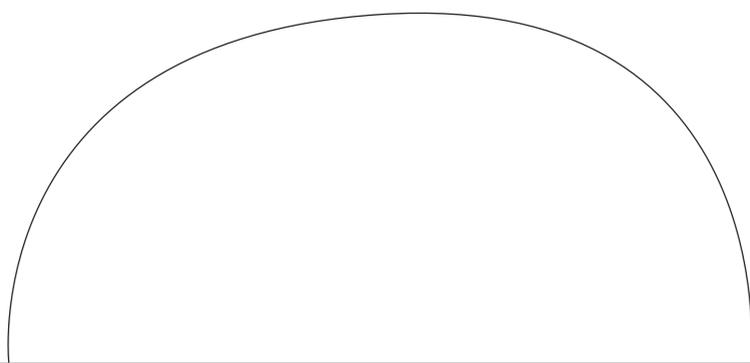
Ellie's heart sank. "You didn't say anything about a cave!"

"This solstice gathering always takes place in a cave. That's why I can't go with you."

"I don't understand..."

"I am a creature of the upper realms. To go within the earth would be a violation fo the cosmos."

"Oh... okay."



"Here we are."



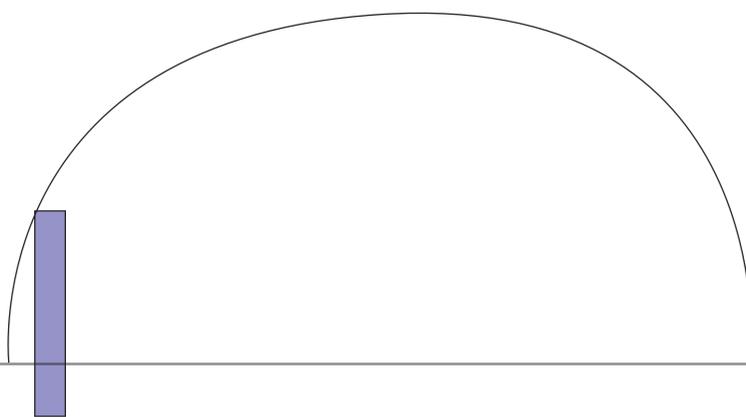
Ellie's heart sank. "You didn't say anything about a cave!"

"This solstice gathering always takes place in a cave. That's why I can't go with you."

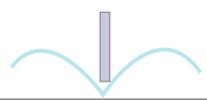
"I don't understand..."

"I am a creature of the upper realms. To go within the earth would be a violation fo the cosmos."

"Oh... okay."



"Here we are."



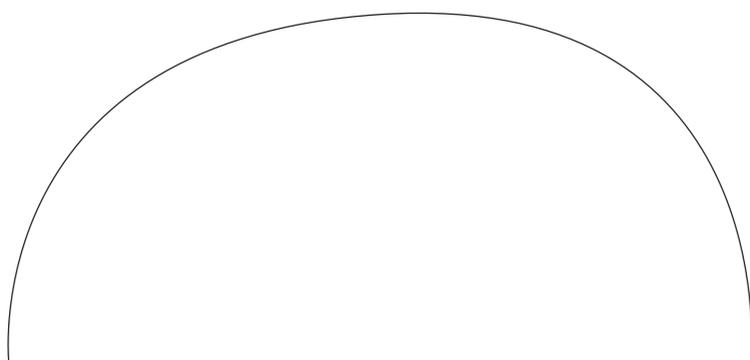
Ellie's heart sank. "You didn't say anything about a cave!"

"This solstice gathering always takes place in a cave. That's why I can't go with you."

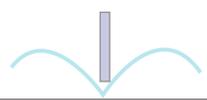
"I don't understand..."

"I am a creature of the upper realms. To go within the earth would be a violation fo the cosmos."

"Oh... okay."



"Here we are."



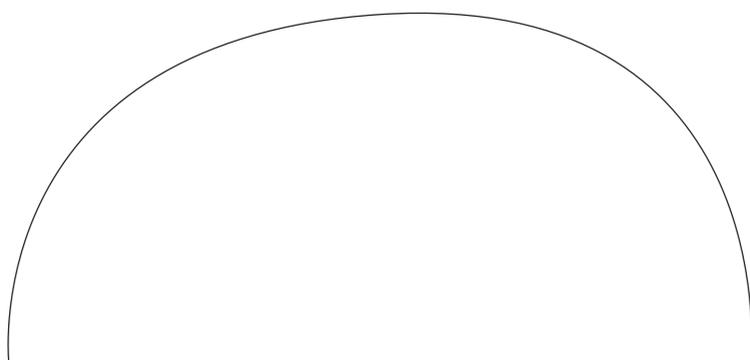
Ellie's heart sank. "You didn't say anything about a cave!"

"This solstice gathering always takes place in a cave. That's why I can't go with you."

"I don't understand..."

"I am a creature of the upper realms. To go within the earth would be a violation fo the cosmos."

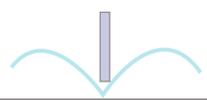
"Oh... okay."



"Here we are."

"It's so dark.

I don't want to do this anymore."



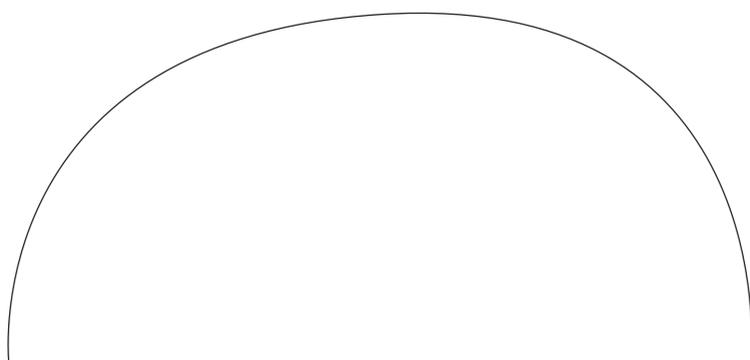
Ellie's heart sank. "You didn't say anything about a cave!"

"This solstice gathering always takes place in a cave. That's why I can't go with you."

"I don't understand..."

"I am a creature of the upper realms. To go within the earth would be a violation fo the cosmos."

"Oh... okay."

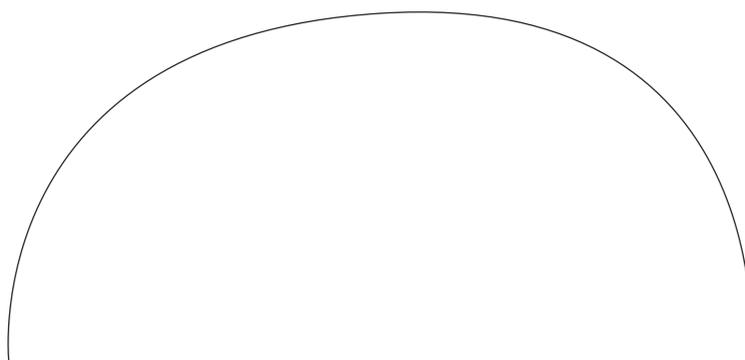


"Here we are."

"It's so dark.

I don't want to do this anymore."

"We have a deal."



“Here we are.”

“We have a deal.”

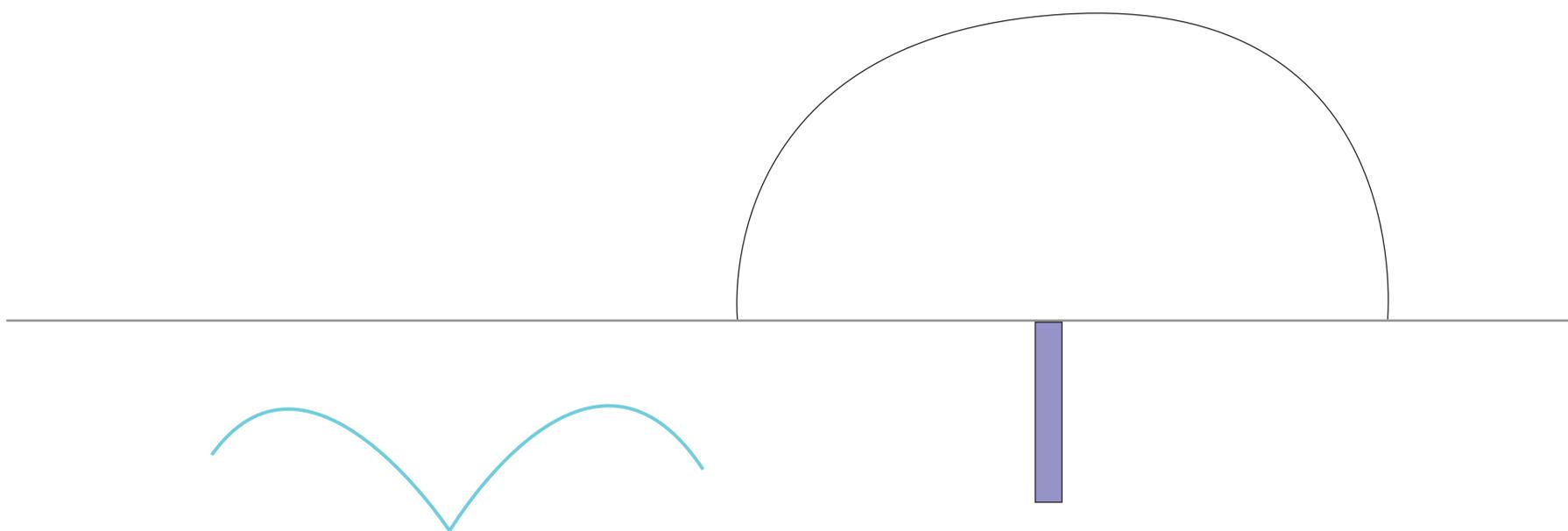
“It only looks frightening.
The dark is nothing to be
afraid of. Only the initial
passage is unlit.”

“It’s so dark.

I don’t want to do this anymore.”

“Can’t you take me back?”

*the dark... is nothing to be afraid of.
how much do I care about this phone?*

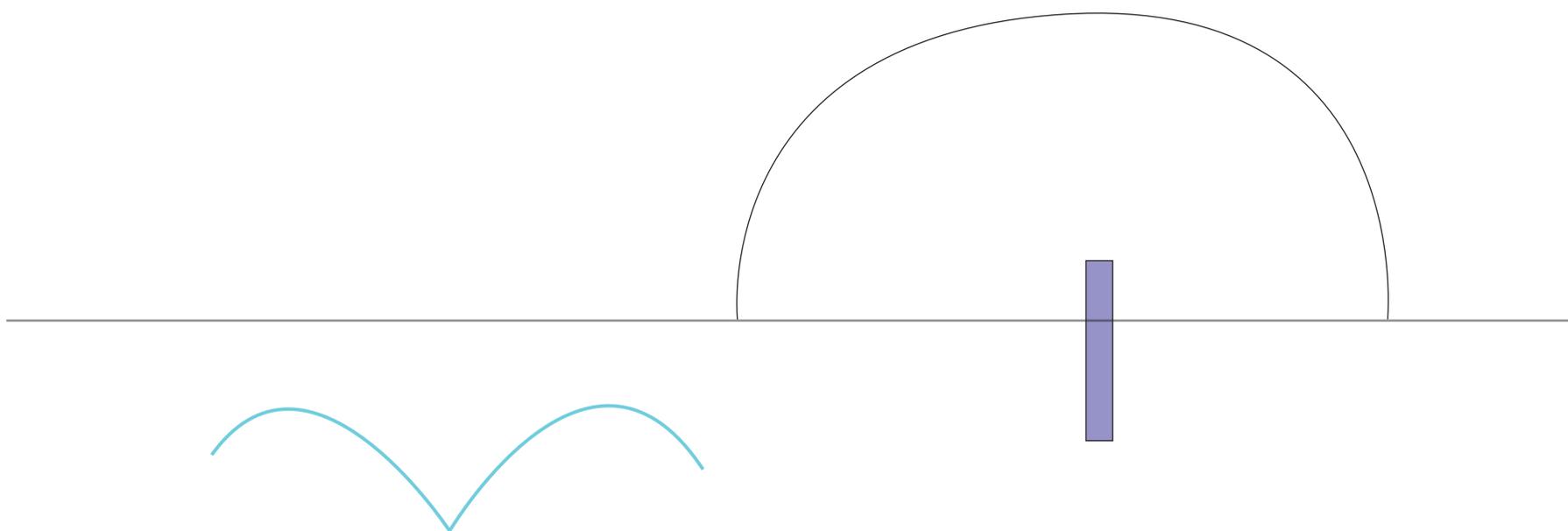


“We have a deal.”

“Can’t you take me back?”

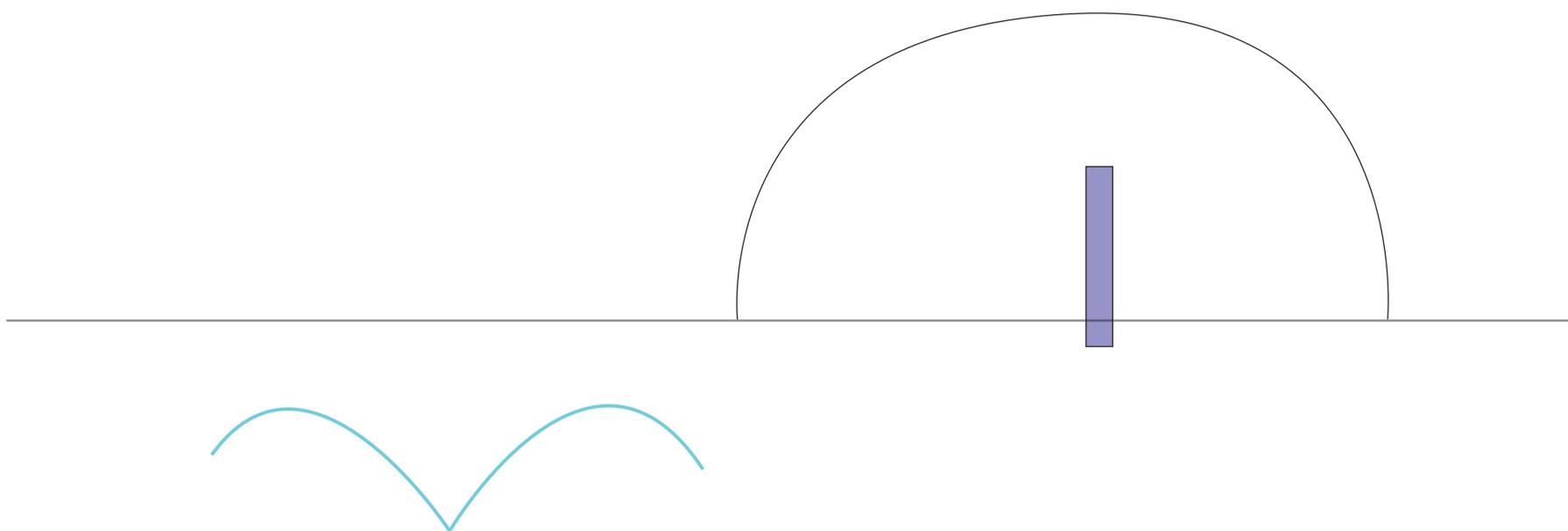
“It only looks frightening.
The dark is nothing to be
afraid of.”

*the dark... is nothing to be afraid of.
how much do I care about this phone?*



*the dark... is nothing to be afraid of.
how much do I care about this phone?*

“Fine. Let’s do this.”

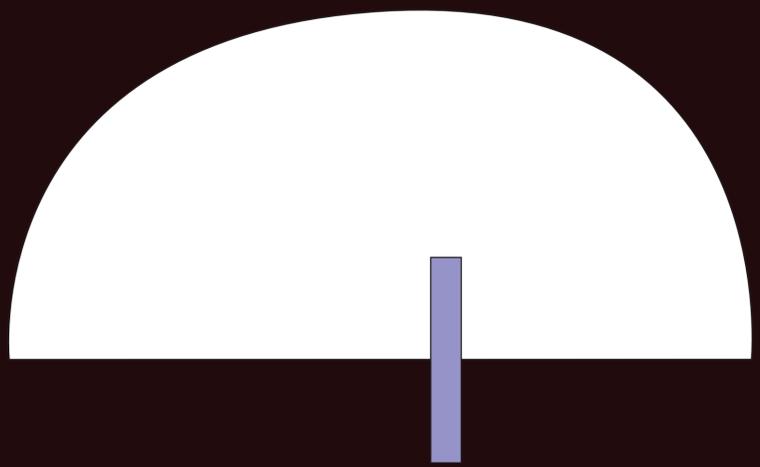


*the dark... is nothing to be afraid of.
how much do I care about this phone?*

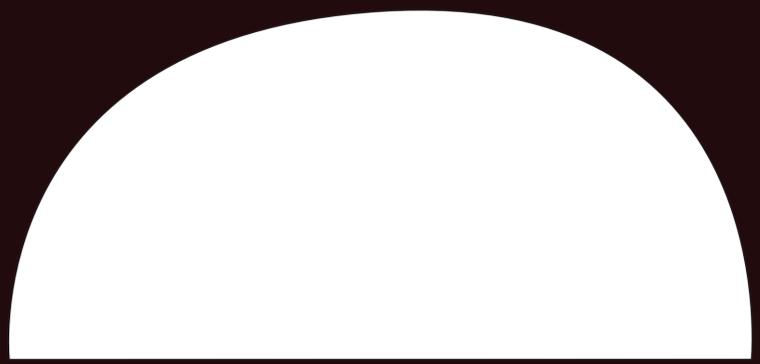
“Fine. Let’s do this.”

“I’ll be waiting. Just call
out if you need...”

“...anything.”

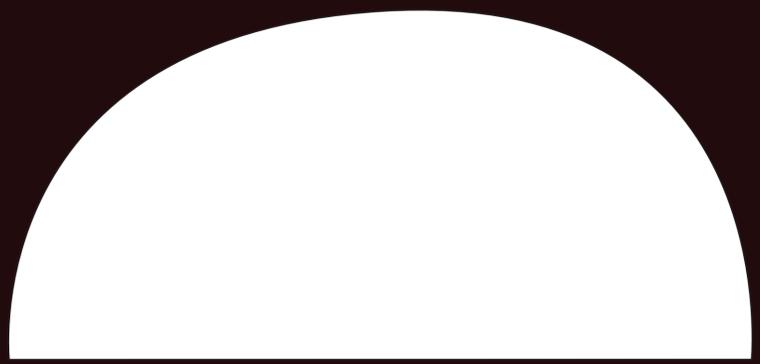


“...anything.”



don't be scared

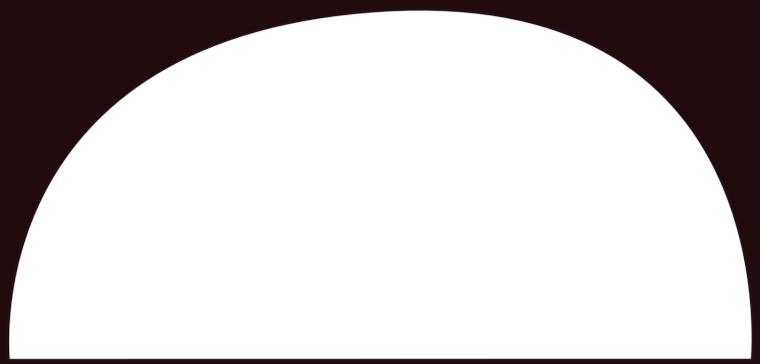
“...anything.”



don't be scared

don't be scared

“...anything.”



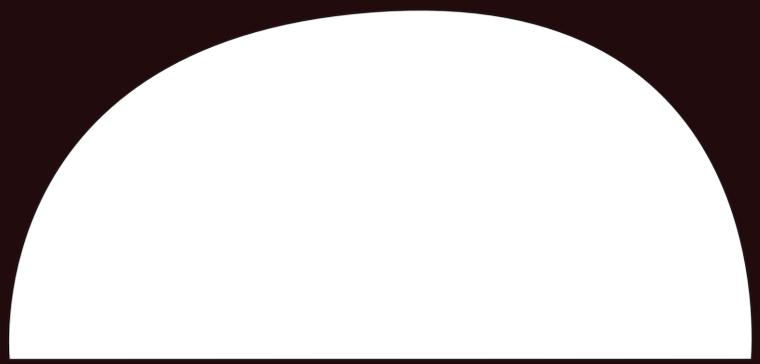
don't be scared

don't be scared

it's just a cave



“...anything.”



don't be scared

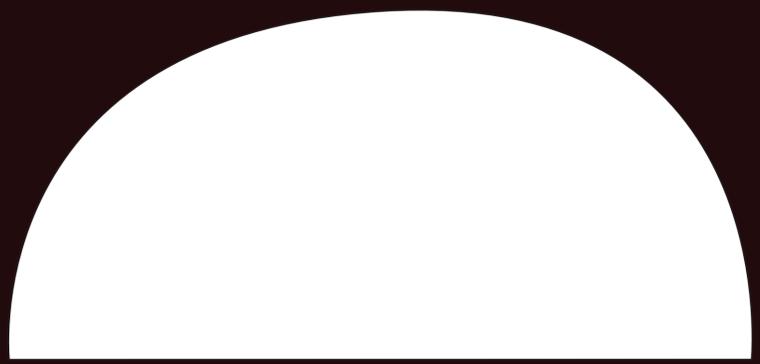
don't be scared

it's just a cave

pitch black



“...anything.”



don't be scared

don't be scared

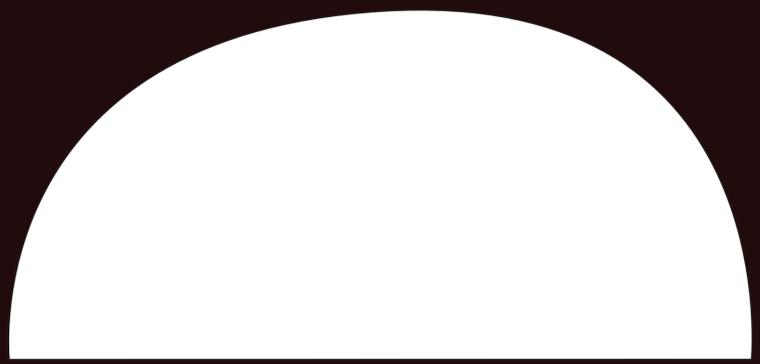
it's just a cave

pitch black

in a foreign country



“...anything.”



don't be scared

don't be scared

it's just a cave

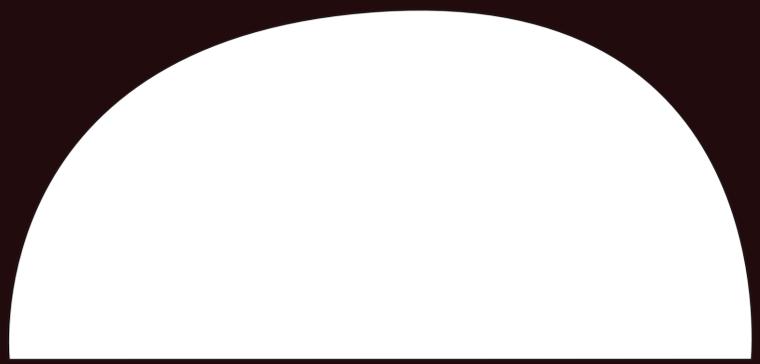
pitch black

in a foreign country

what could possibly go wrong?



“...anything.”



don't be scared

don't be scared

it's just a cave

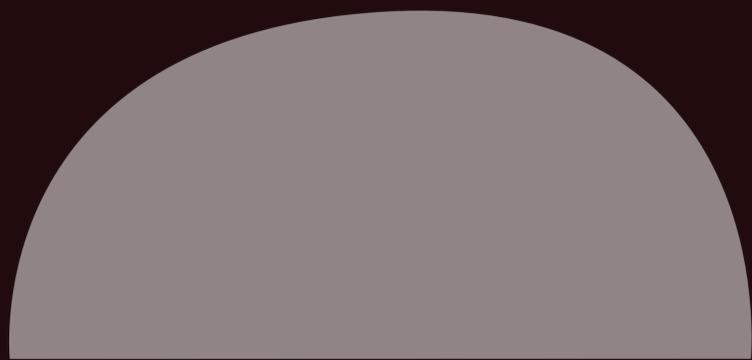
pitch black

in a foreign country

what could possibly go wrong?



“...anything.”



don't be scared

don't be scared

it's just a cave

pitch black

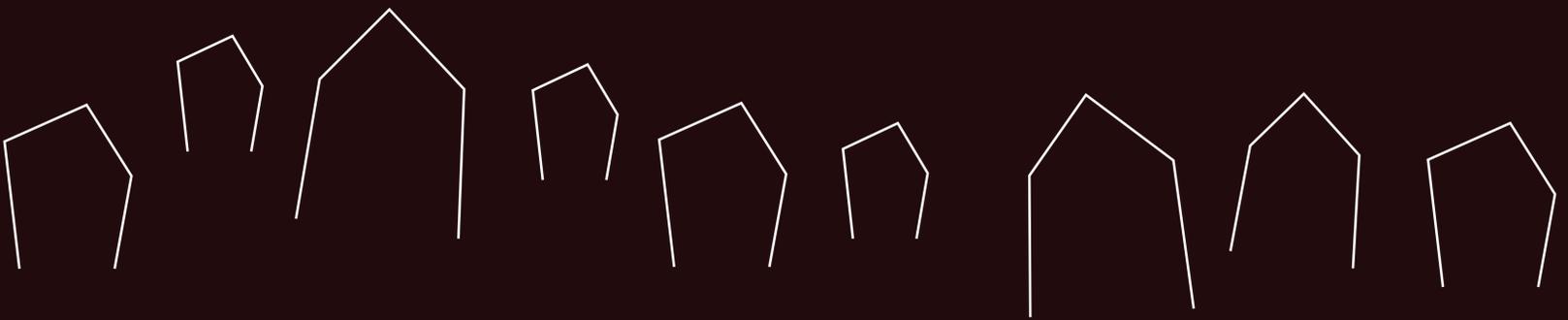
in a foreign country

what could possibly go wrong?

IV.

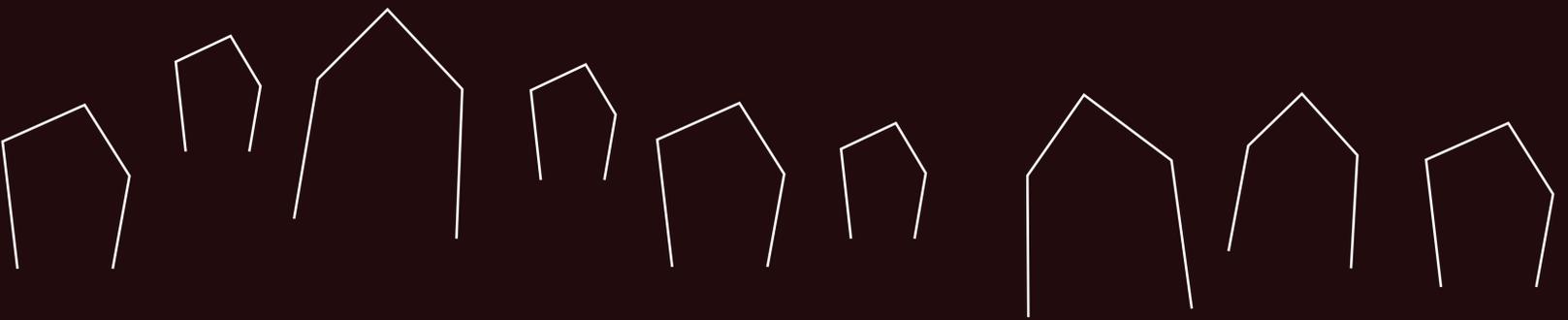
The clammy atmosphere.

Trying to not think of where she was...



I am being so dumb right now.

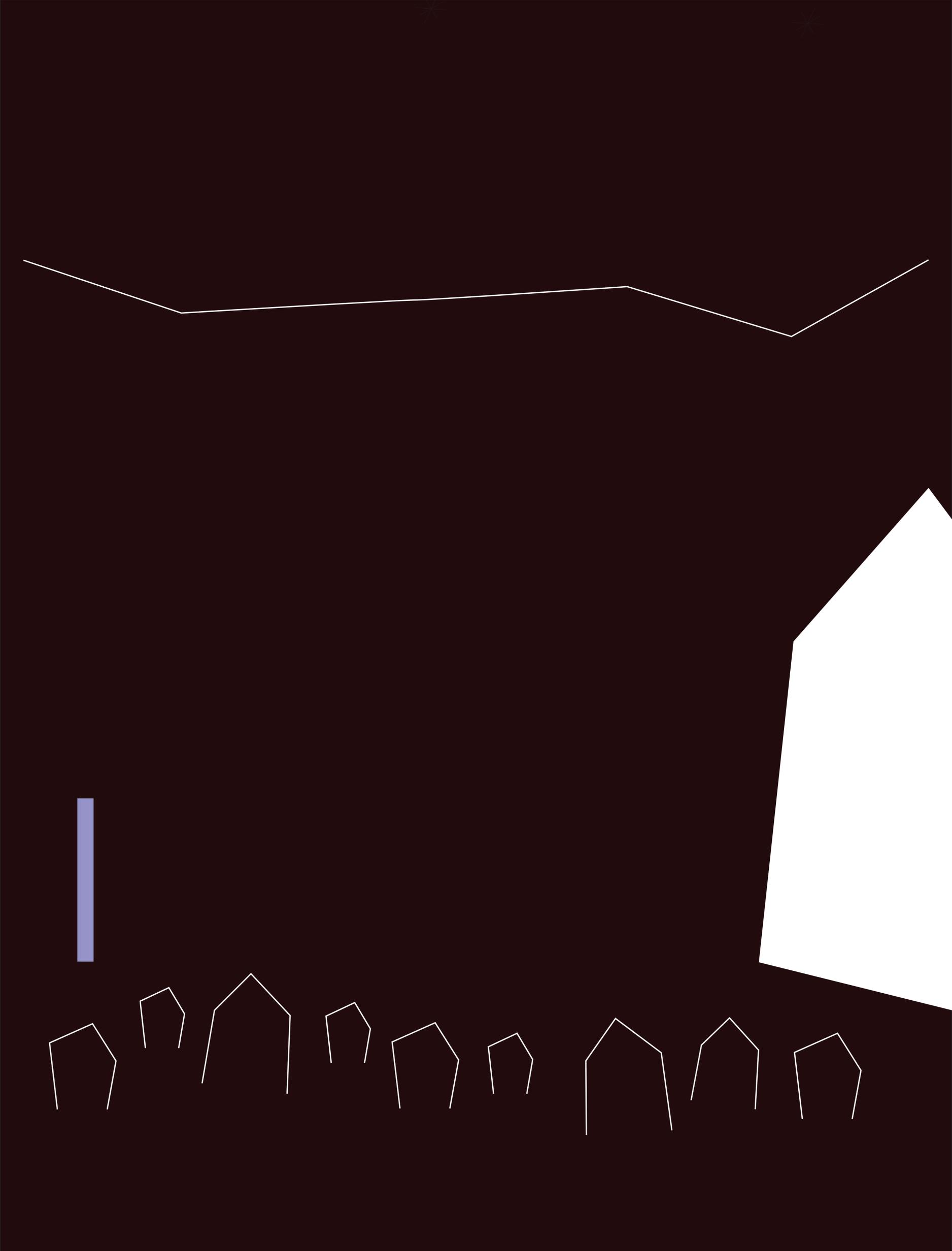
How long did he say this passage was?



*This is that part at the beginning of a movie
when that I get eaten by a monster...*

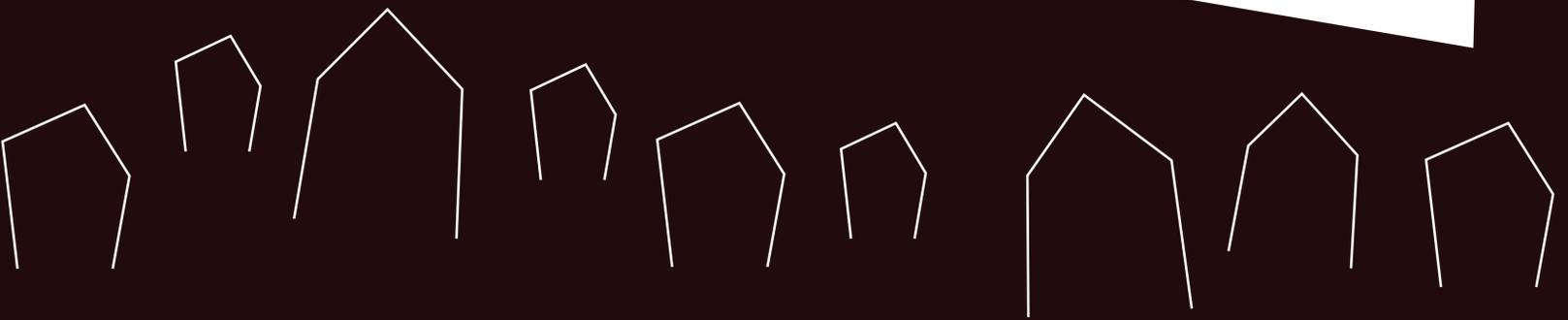
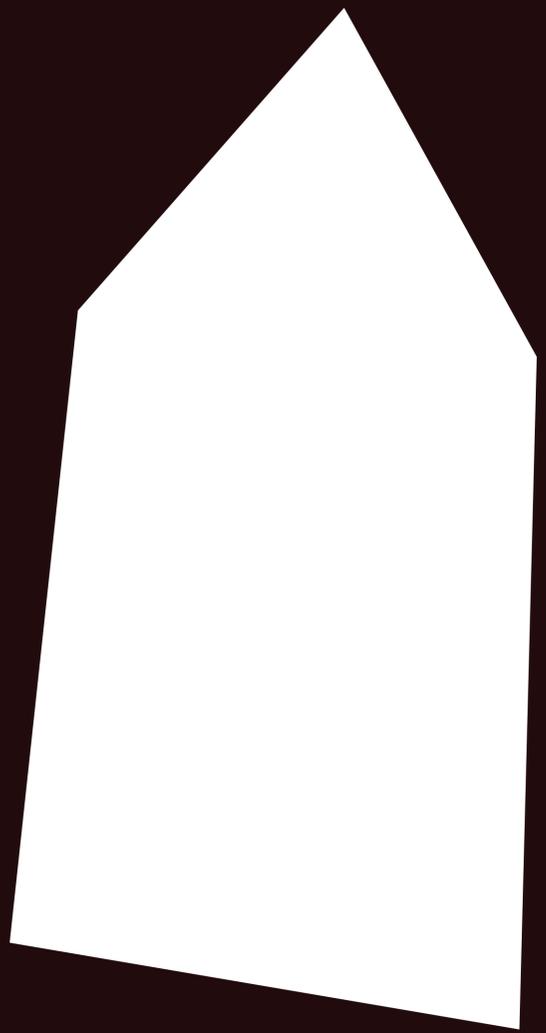
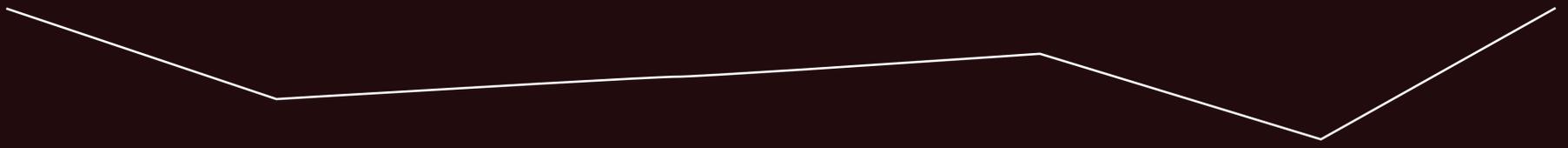
y this passage was?

Wait, I think the



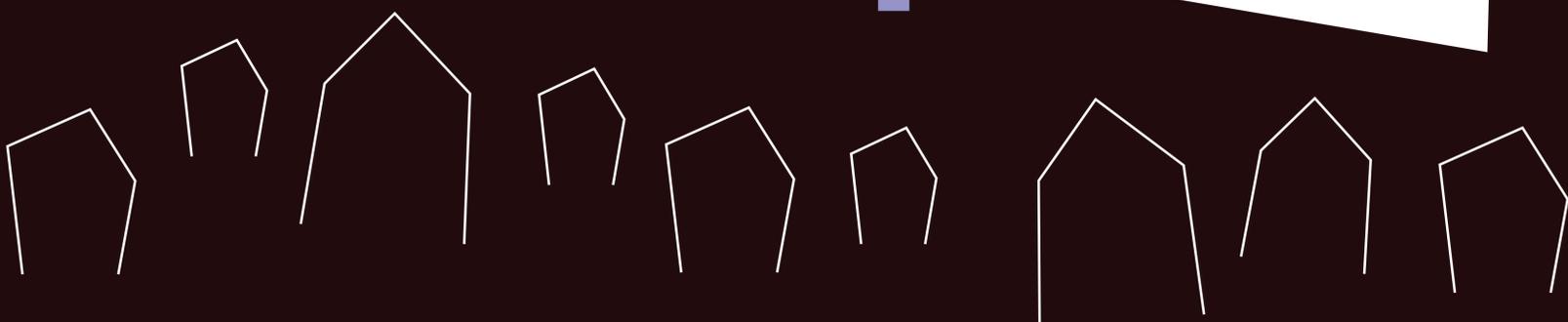
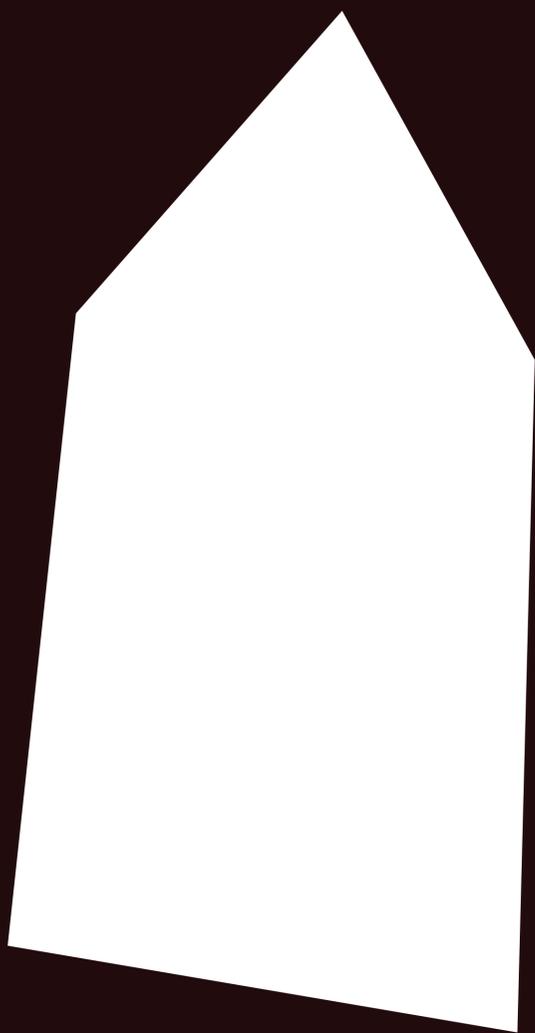
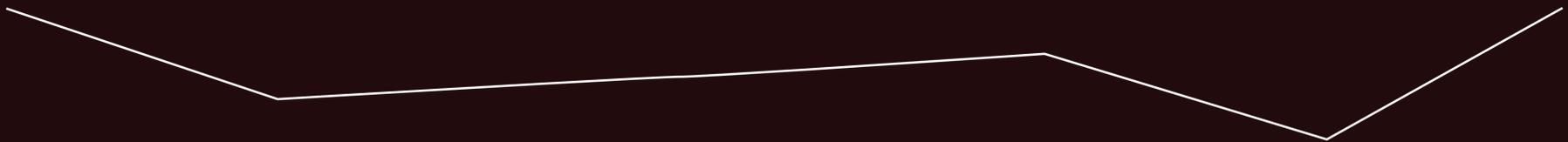
*is that part at the beginning of a movie
that I get eaten by a monster...*

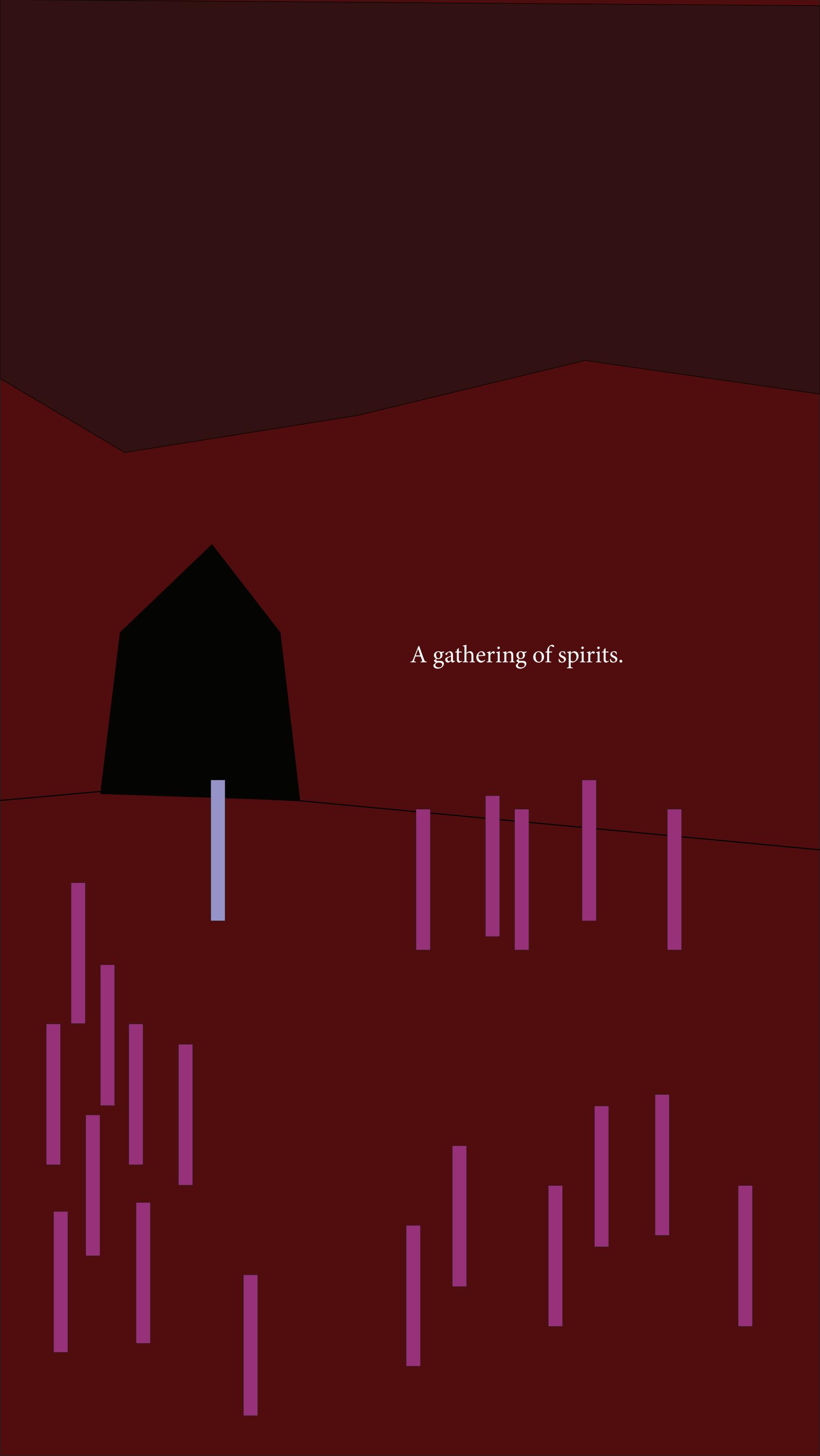
Wait, I think there's something up ahead.



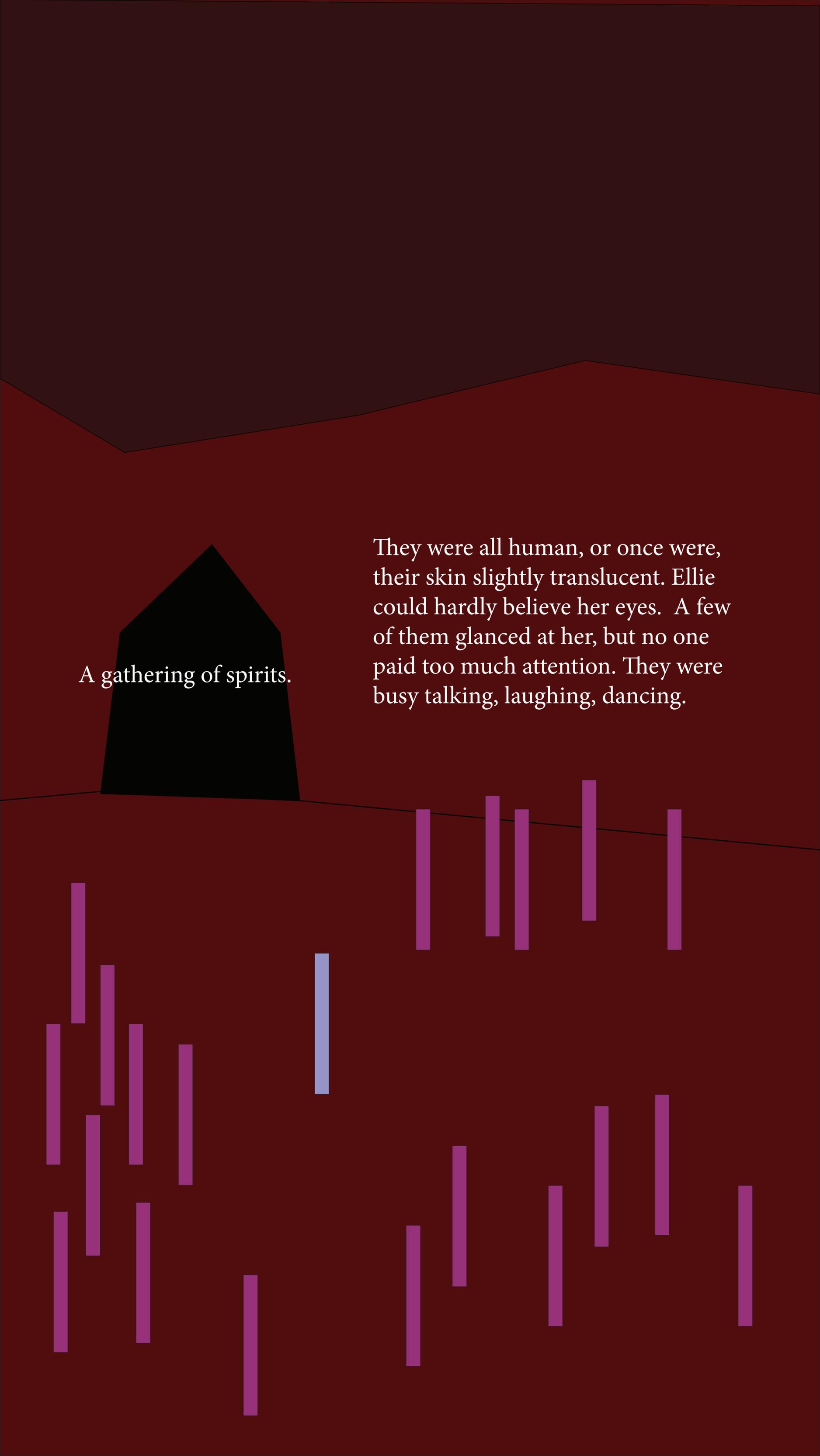
*ending of a movie
monster...*

Wait, I think there's something up ahead.



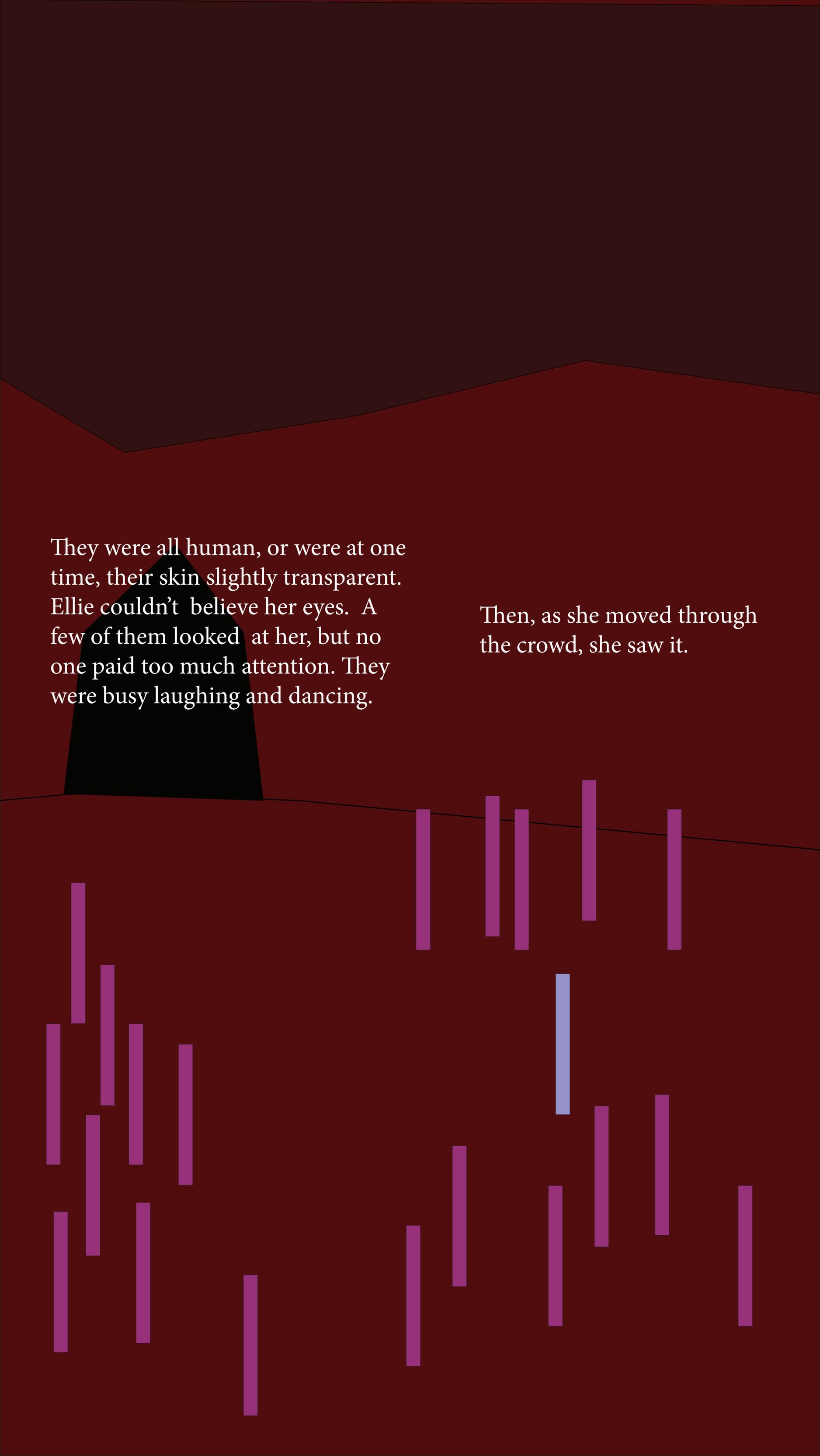


A gathering of spirits.



A gathering of spirits.

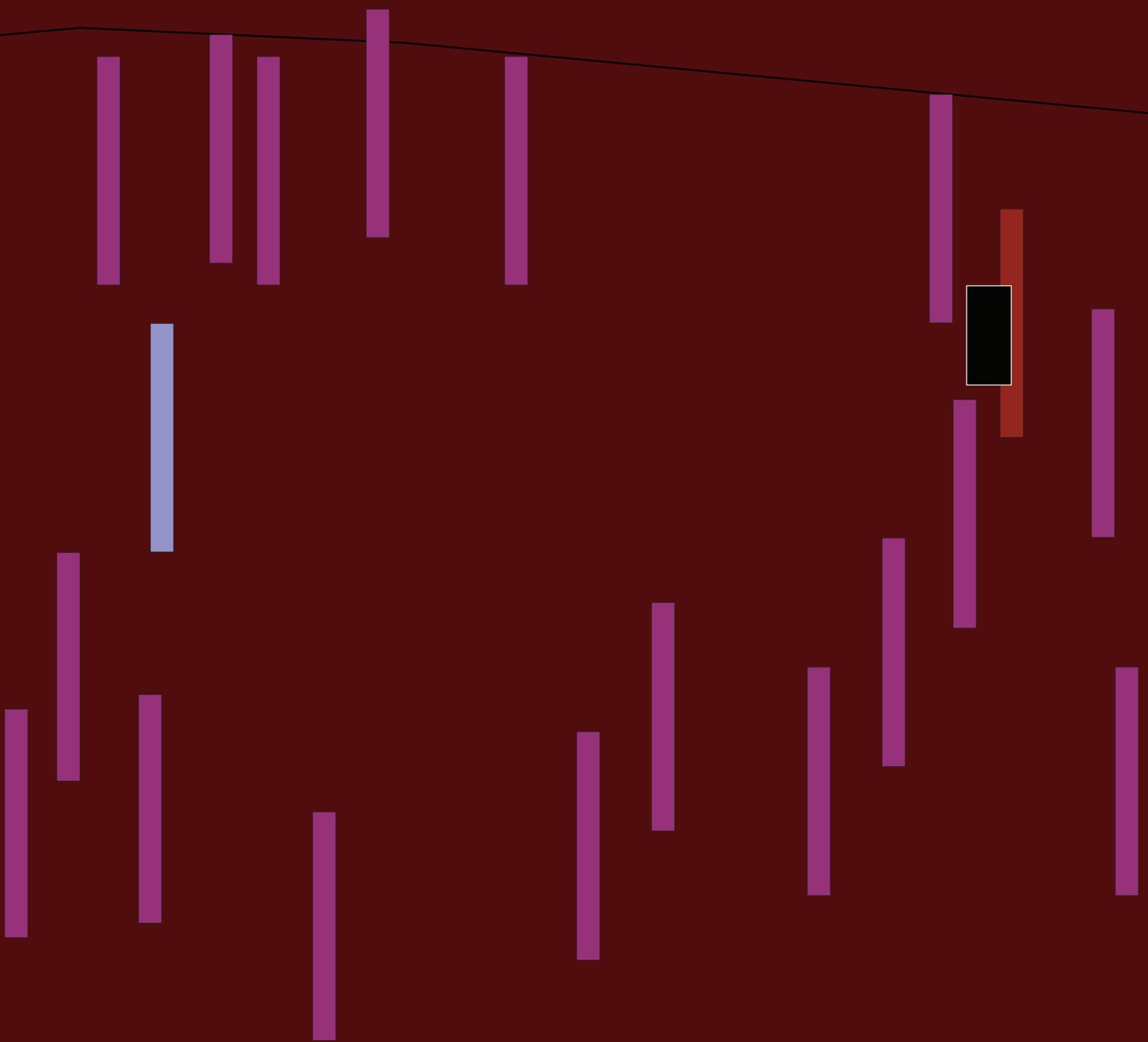
They were all human, or once were, their skin slightly translucent. Ellie could hardly believe her eyes. A few of them glanced at her, but no one paid too much attention. They were busy talking, laughing, dancing.

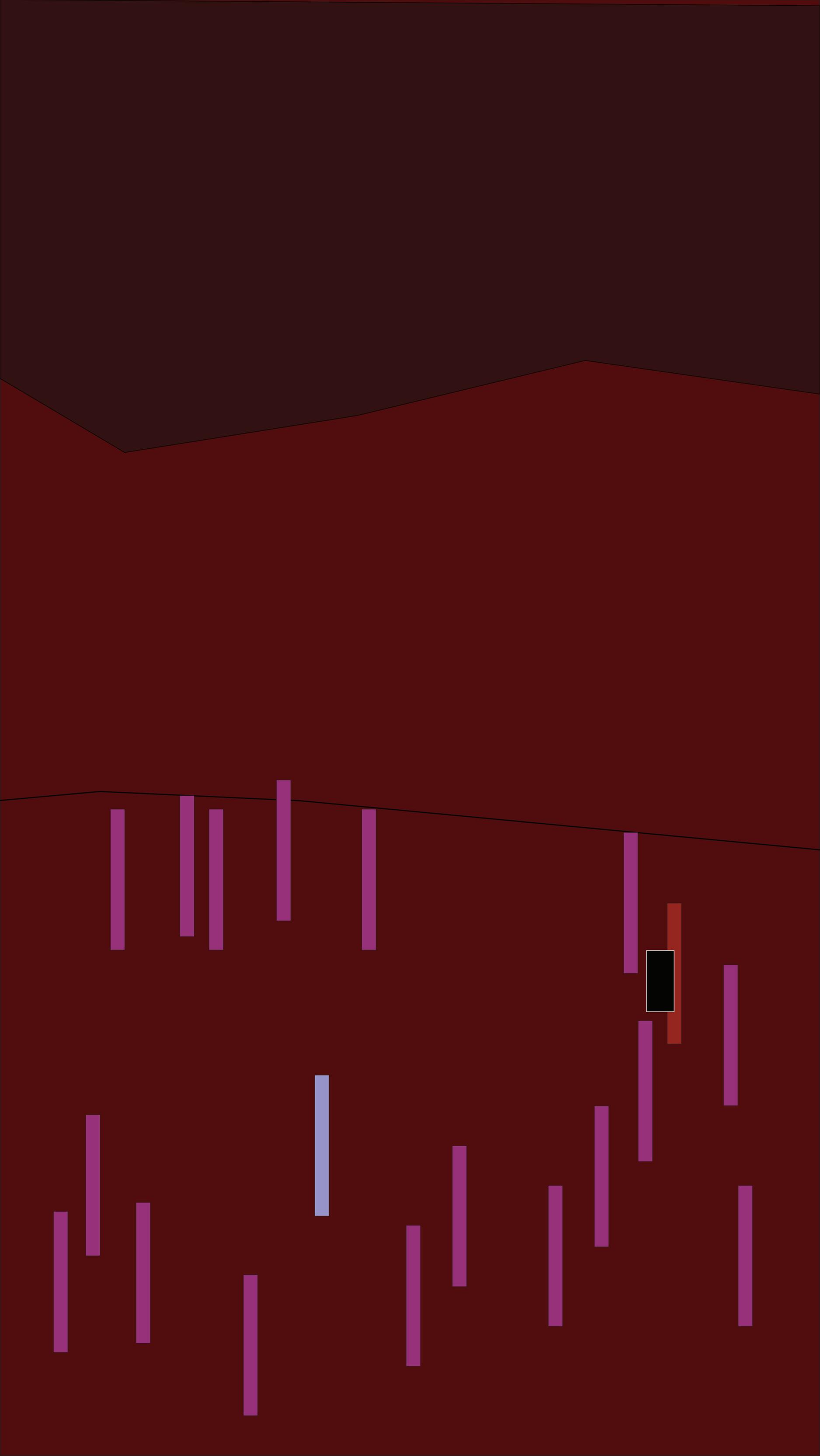


They were all human, or were at one time, their skin slightly transparent. Ellie couldn't believe her eyes. A few of them looked at her, but no one paid too much attention. They were busy laughing and dancing.

Then, as she moved through the crowd, she saw it.

Then, as she moved through
the crowd, she saw it.





It was being held by a young spirit. He was surrounded by others and hadn't noticed Ellie at all. She looked around to see if she might find clues in her surroundings, some way to get in and speak with him. But nothing.



was being held by a young spir-
He was surrounded by others and
n't noticed Ellie at all. She looked
und to see if she might find clues
her surroundings, some way to get
and speak with him. But nothing.

Okay, so he has your cell phone.

What are you waiting for?

Just go ask for it.

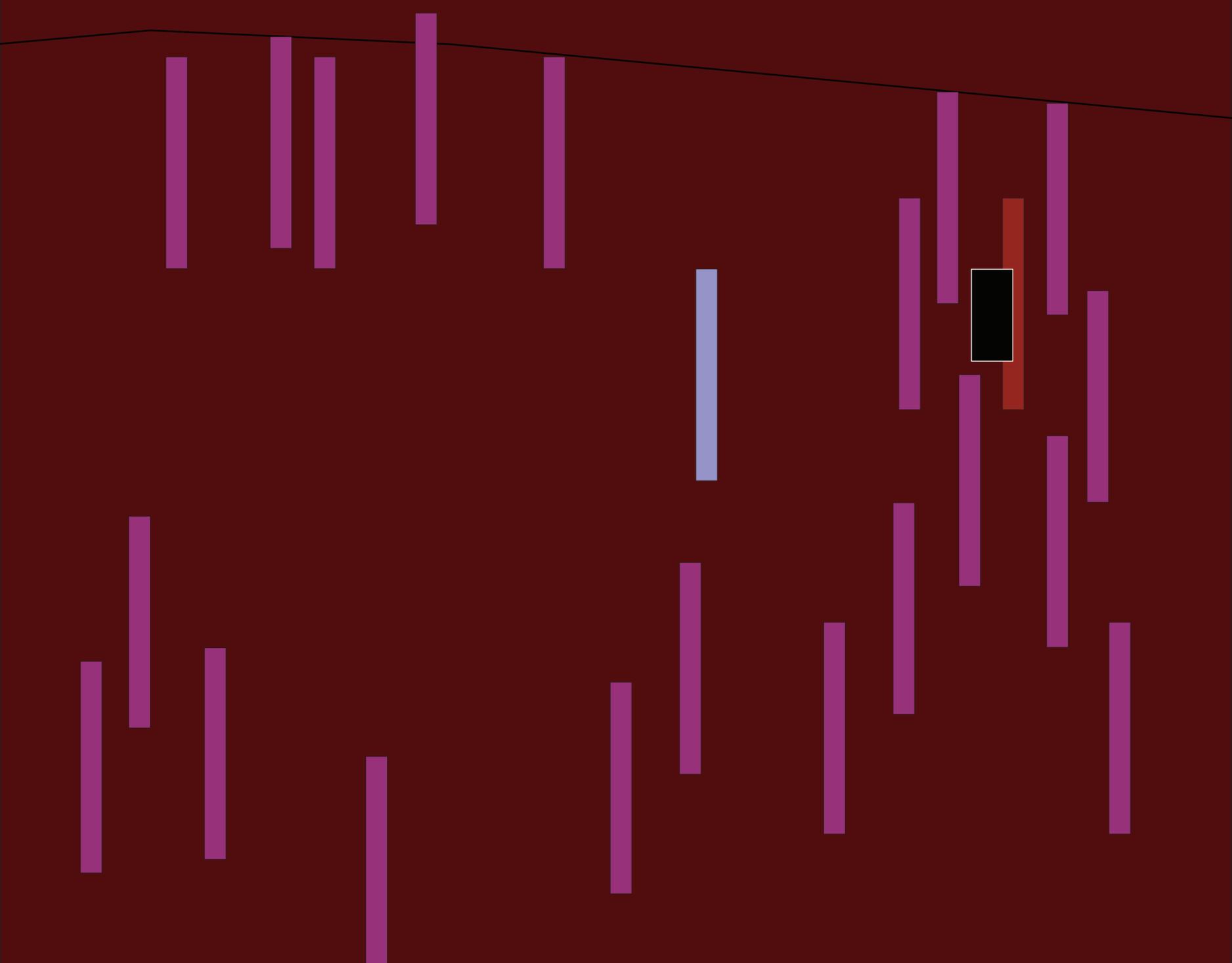


...so he has your cell phone.

What are you waiting for?

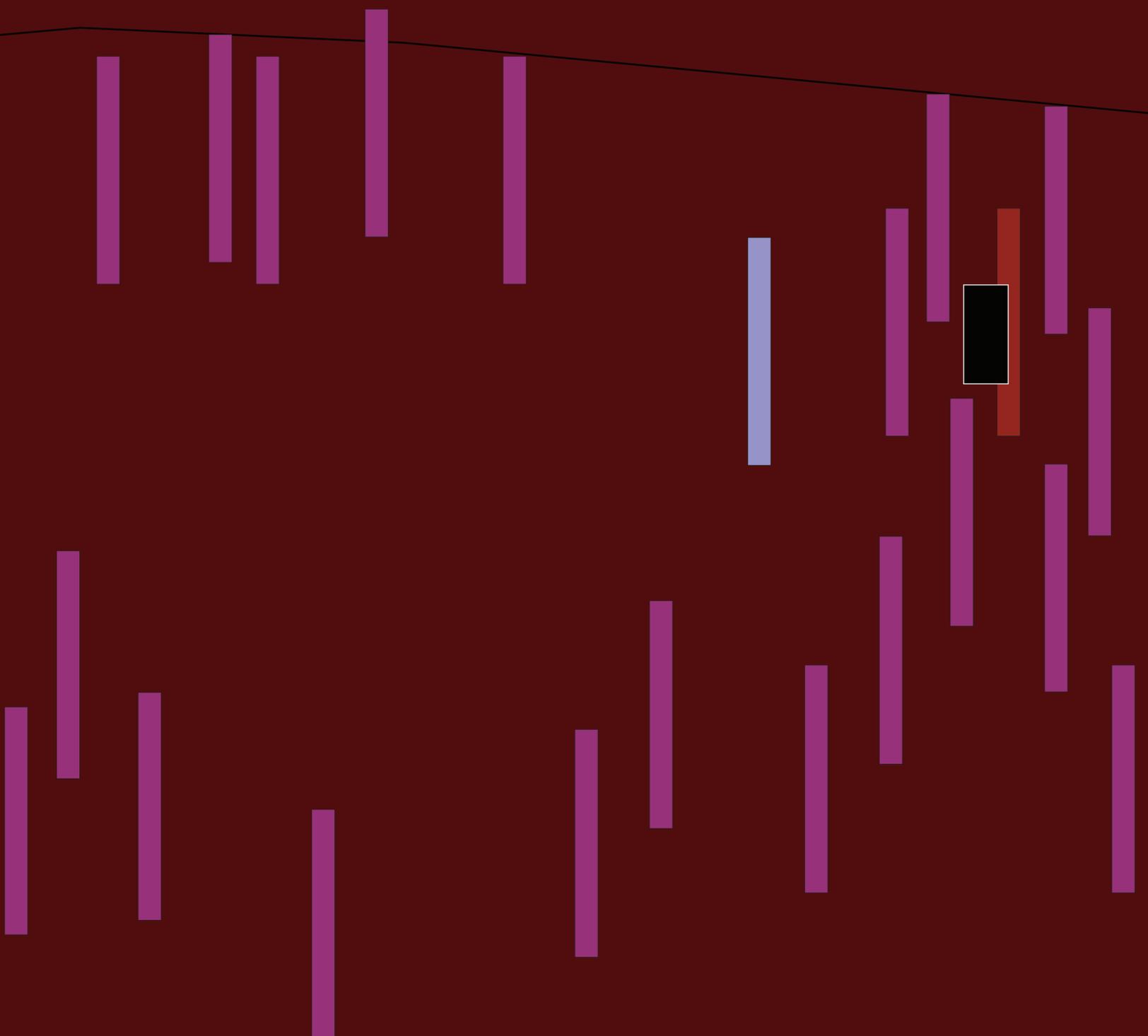
Just go ask for it.

“Excuse me.”



“Excuse me.”

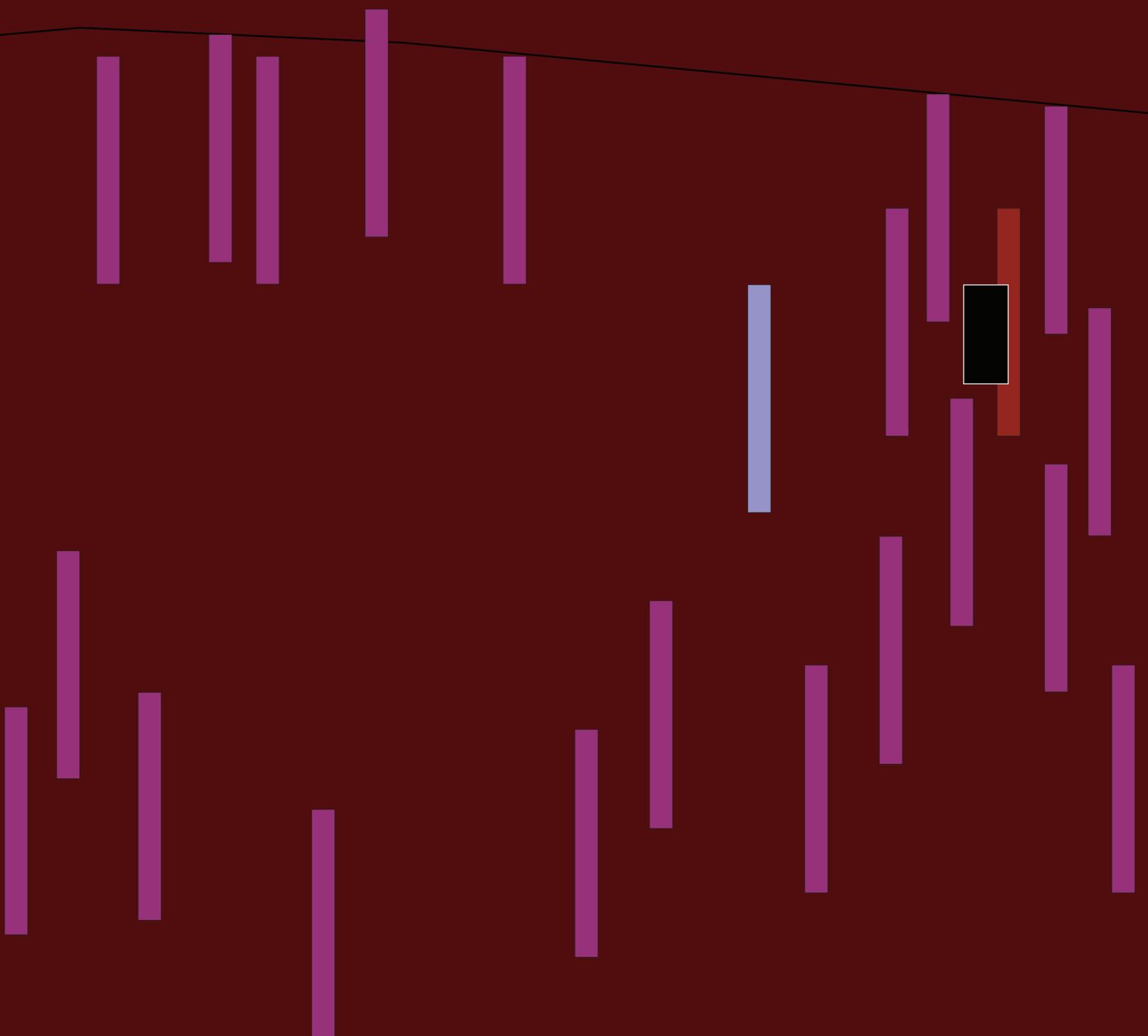
“Pardon.”



“Excuse me.”

“Pardon.”

“EXCUSE ME.”



“EXCUSE ME.

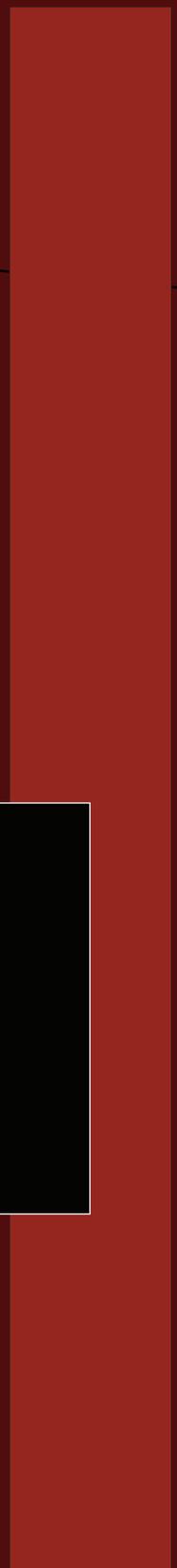
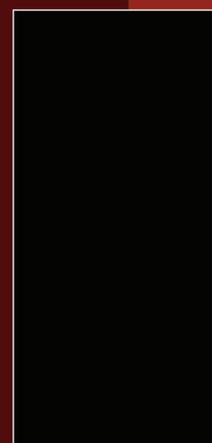
I think that’s my cell phone.”



ME.

I think that's my cell phone."

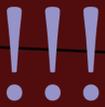
"Ahh, this cell phone was dropped
earliert today.."



“Ahh, this cell phone was dropped
earliert today..”

“YES. That was me!”

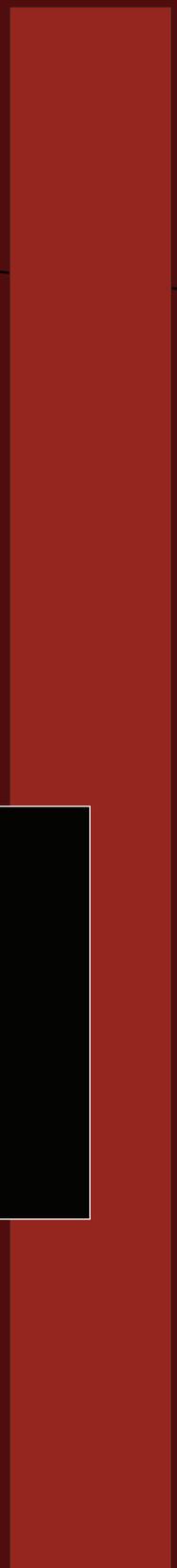
one.”



s me!”

“So, that means you were also the rude one who skipped the mountain ritual.”

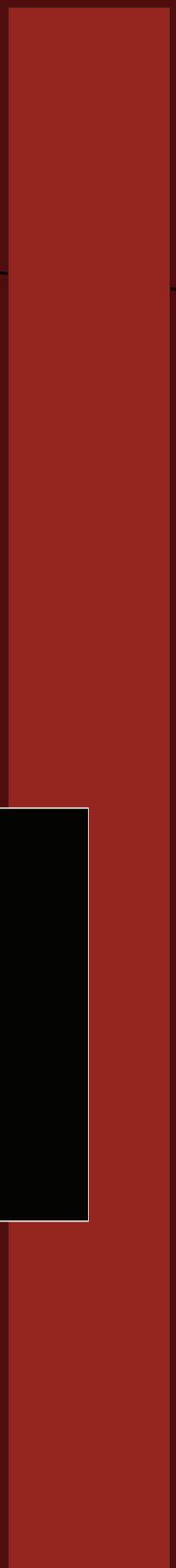
.....



“So, that means you were also the rude one who skipped the mountain ritual.”

“I was busy? My friend was playing this game, and I...”

.....



de
l.”

“I was busy? My friend was playing this game, and I...”

“This cell phone, which fell on *my* head this afternoon, is payment for your grave offense...”



was
I....”

“This cell phone, which fell on *my*
head this afternoon, is payment for
your grave offense...”

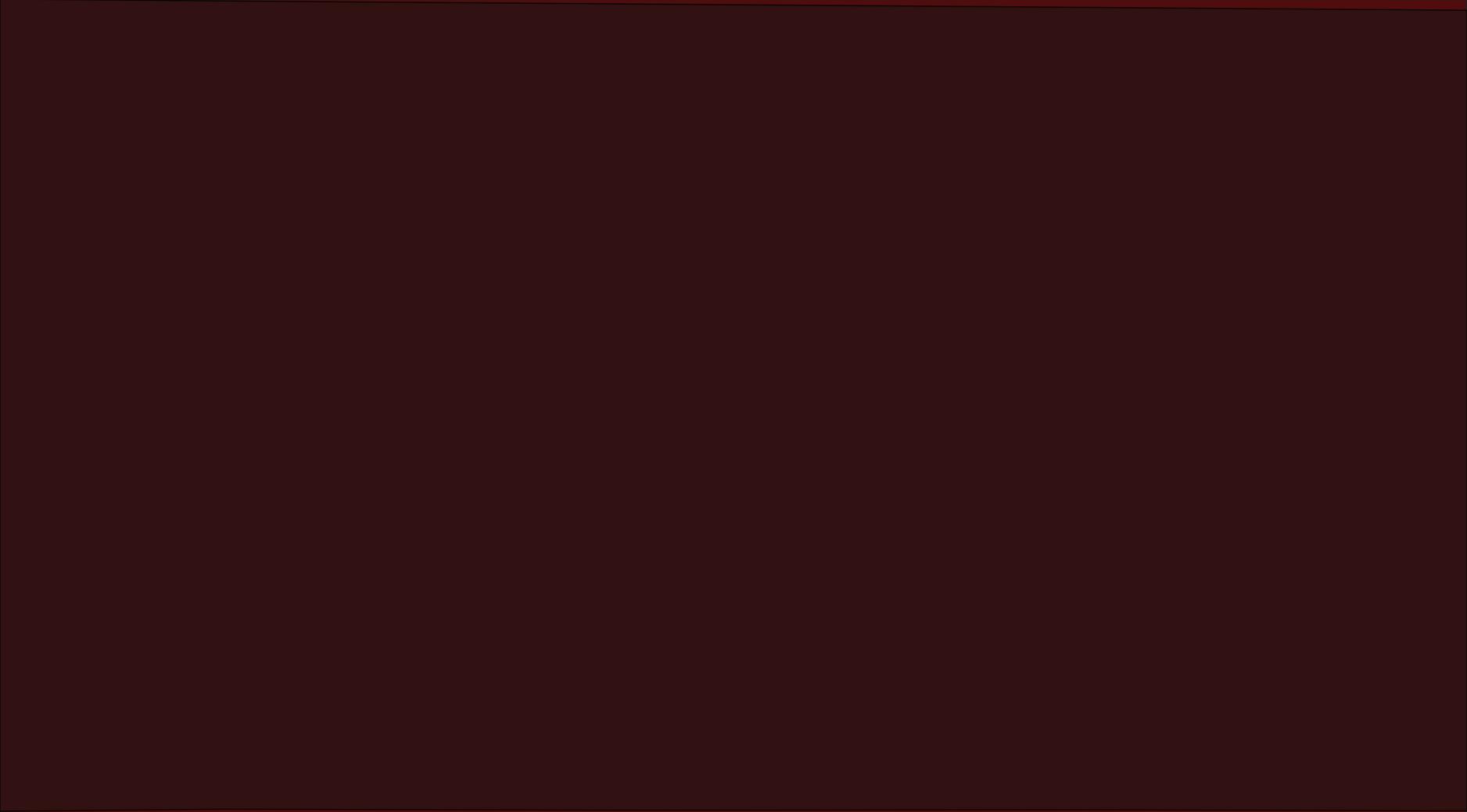
.....

it's mine, though

“I am SO sorry. I didn’t mean to offend. Can I just have one last look at it? There’s a photo of me and my mother I want to see... one more time.”

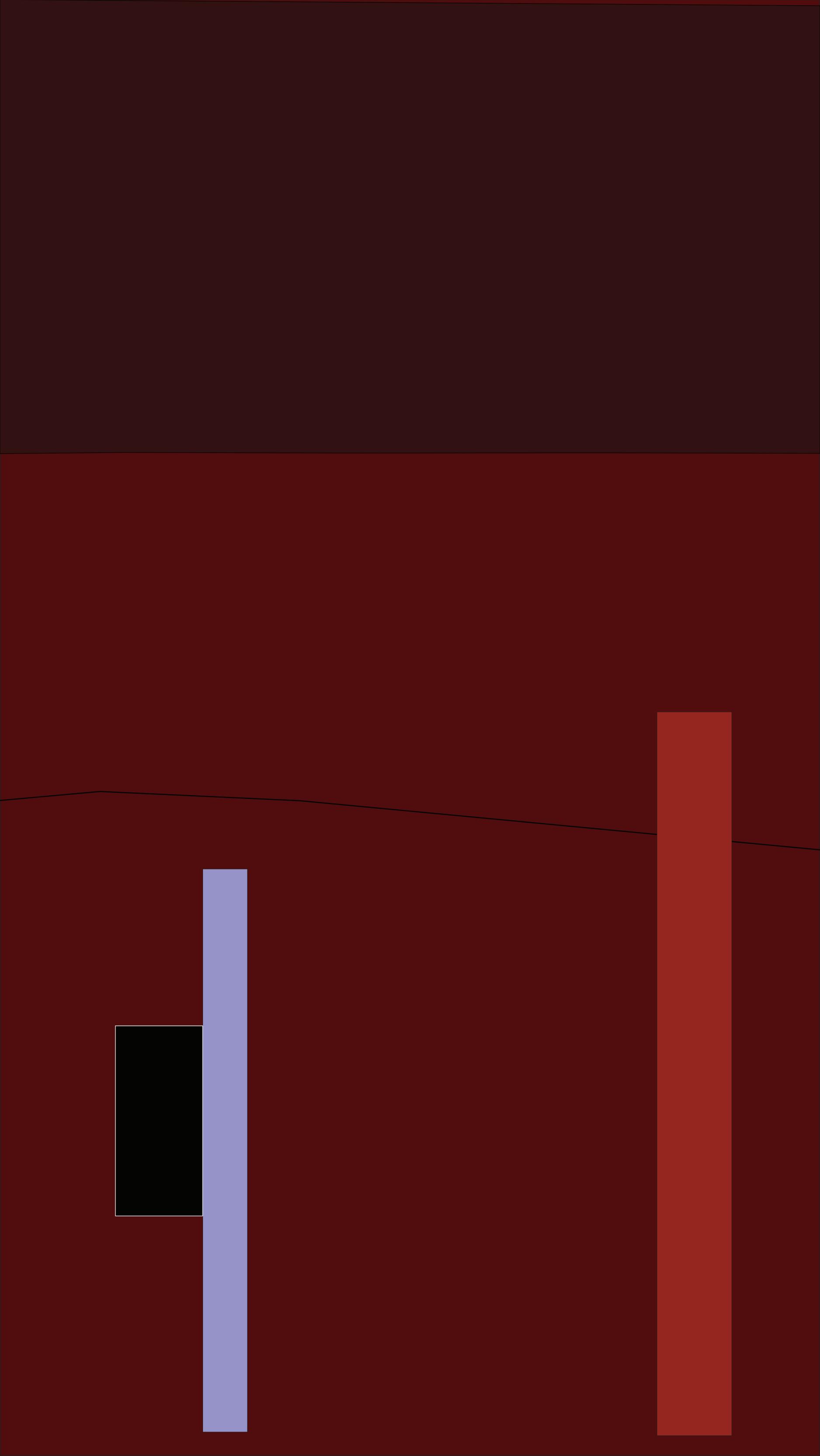
“I suppose that’s reasonable...”

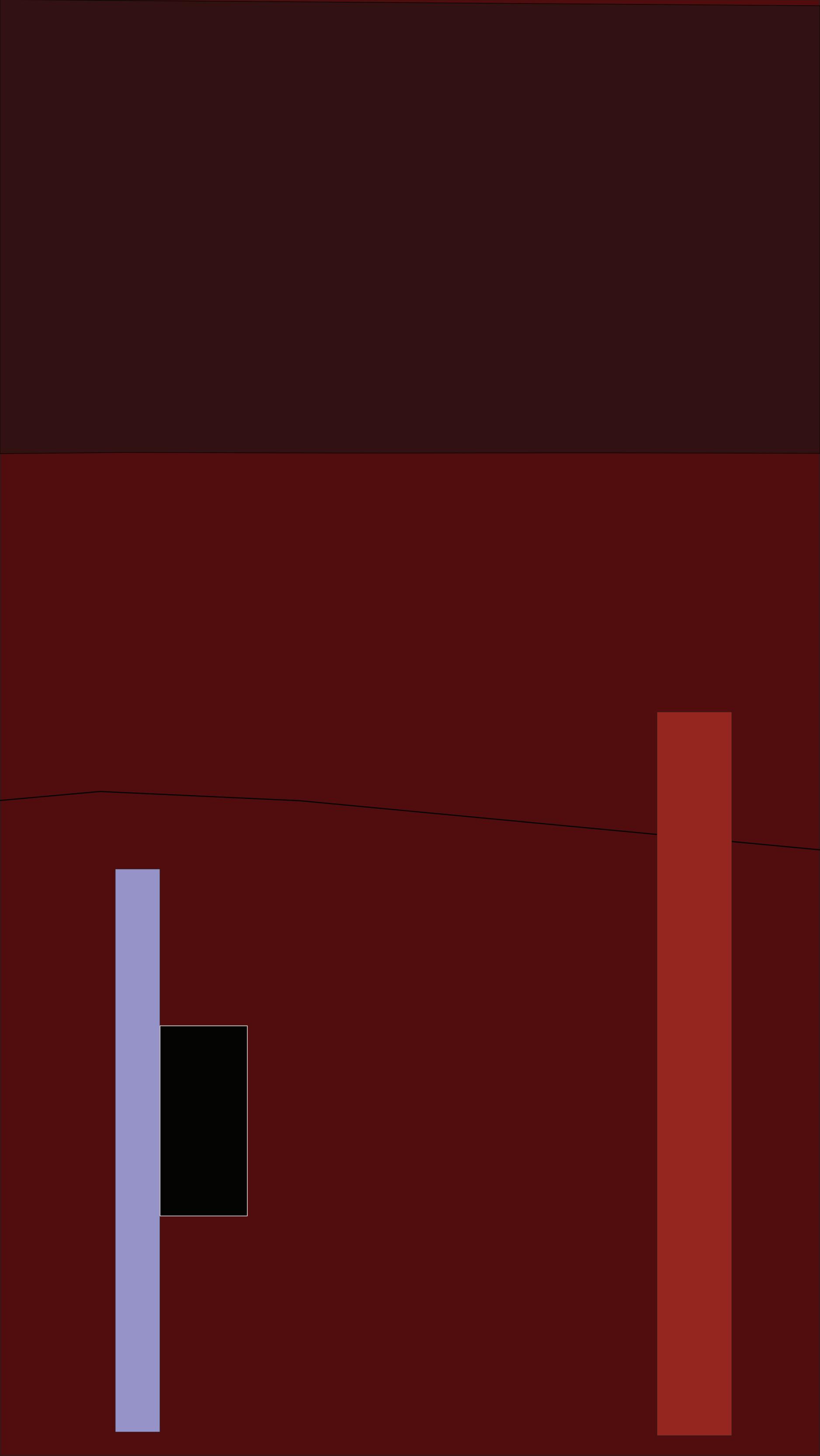


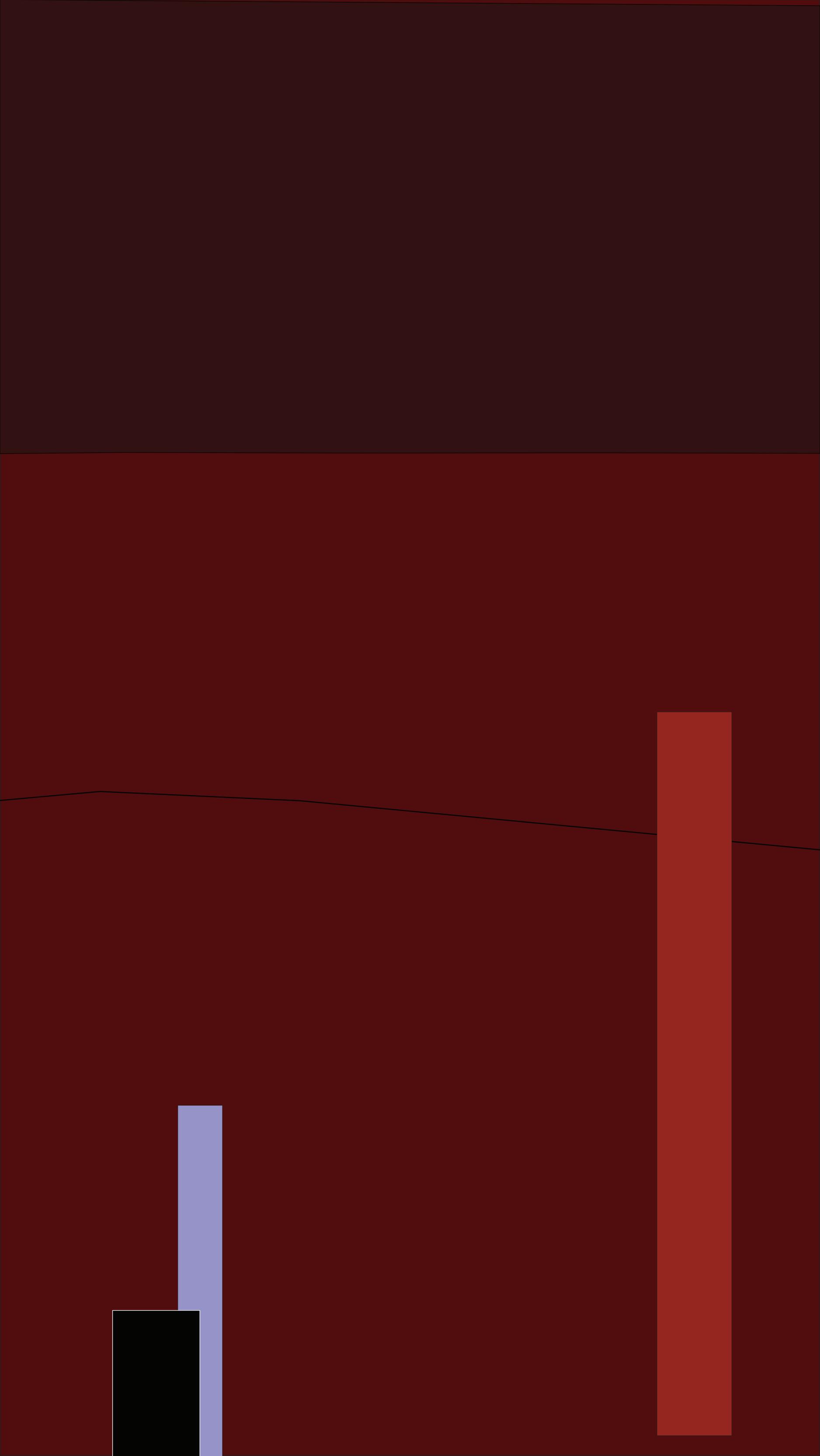


“I suppose that’s reasonable...”

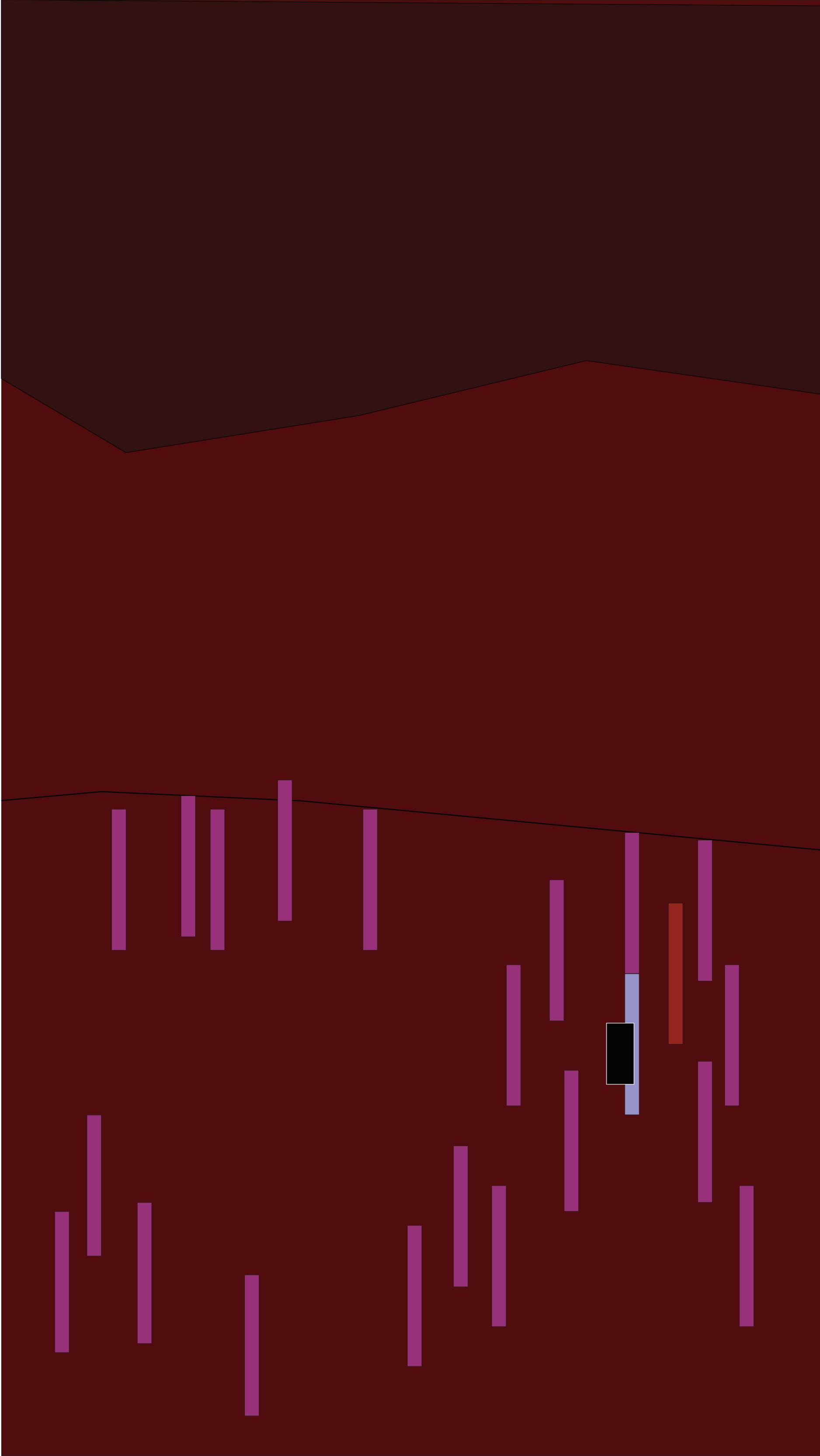


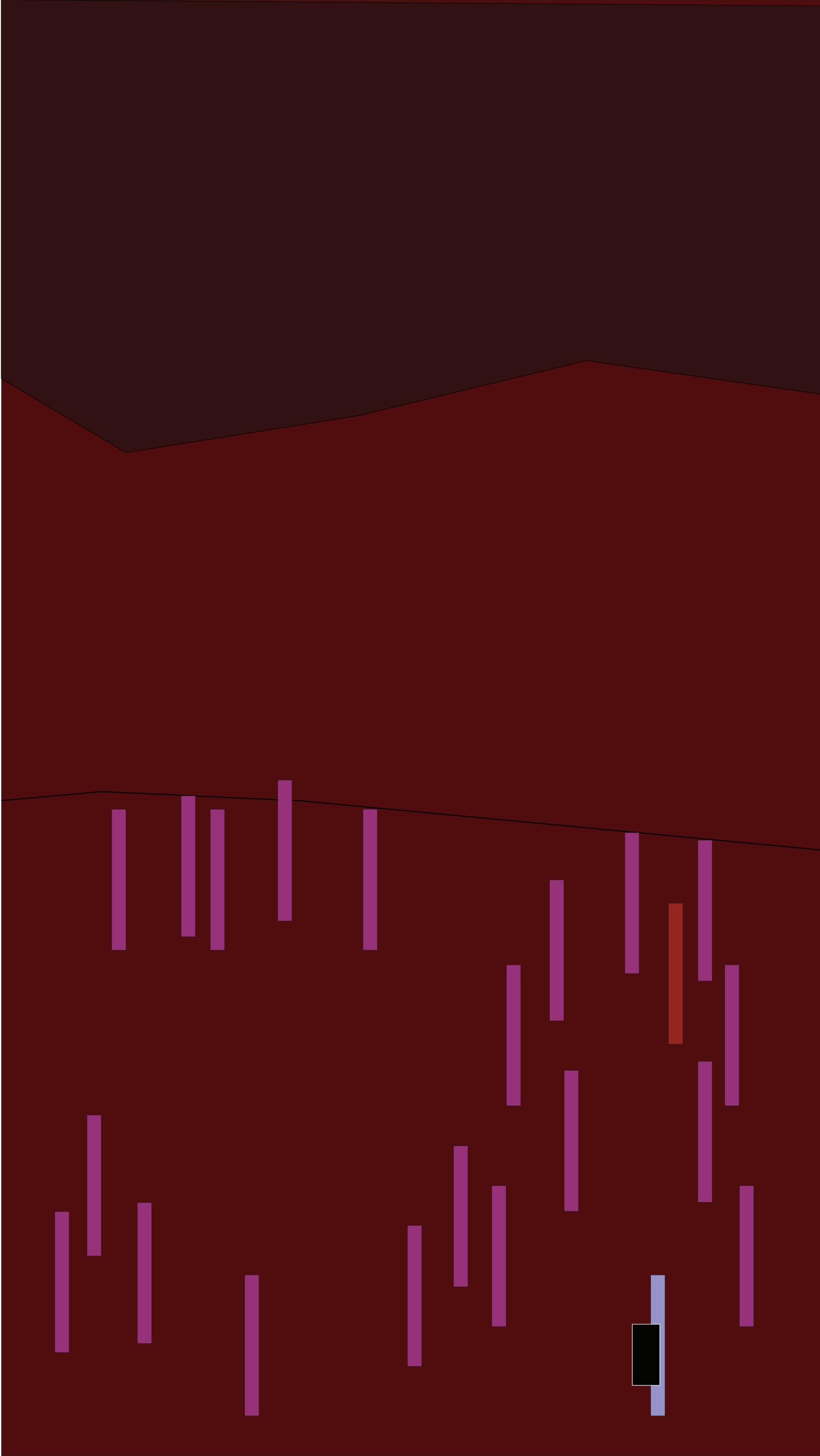




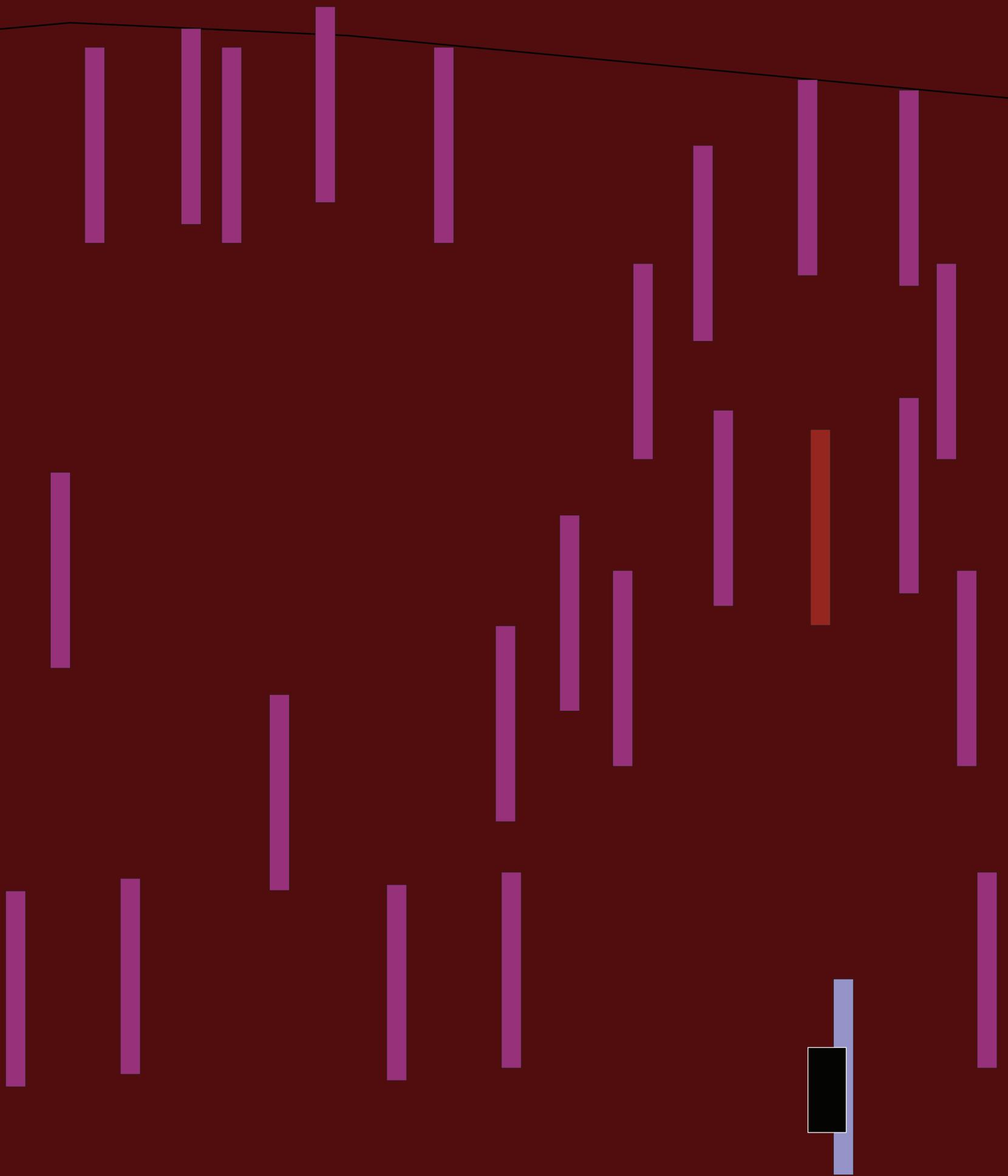


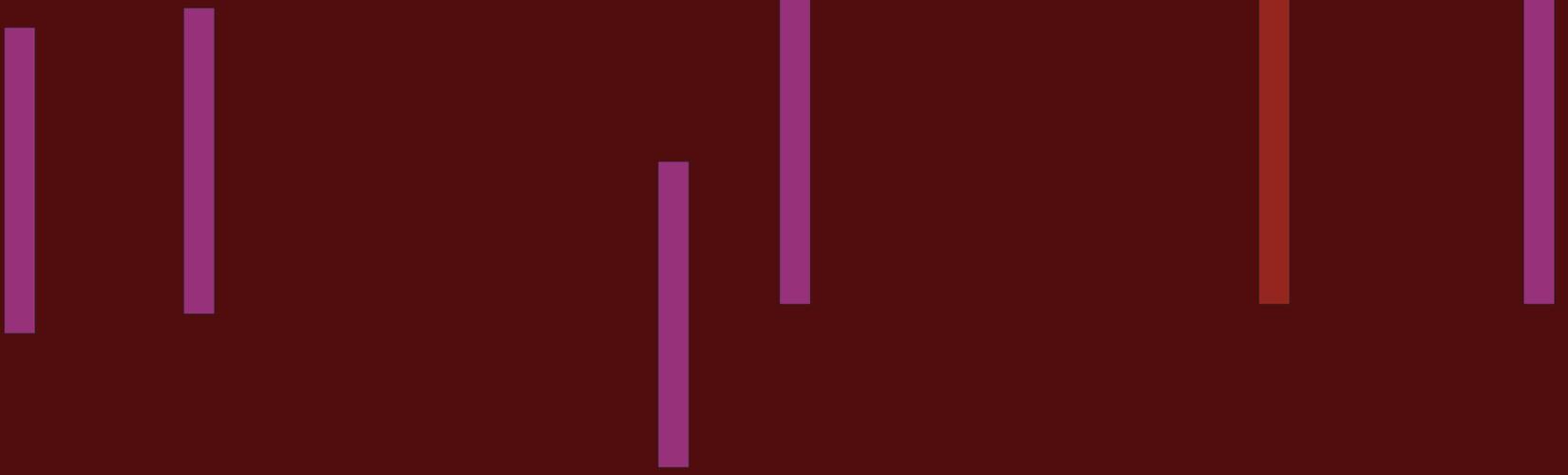
“Wait, where are you going??”





“Wait, don’t go in
that direction!!”





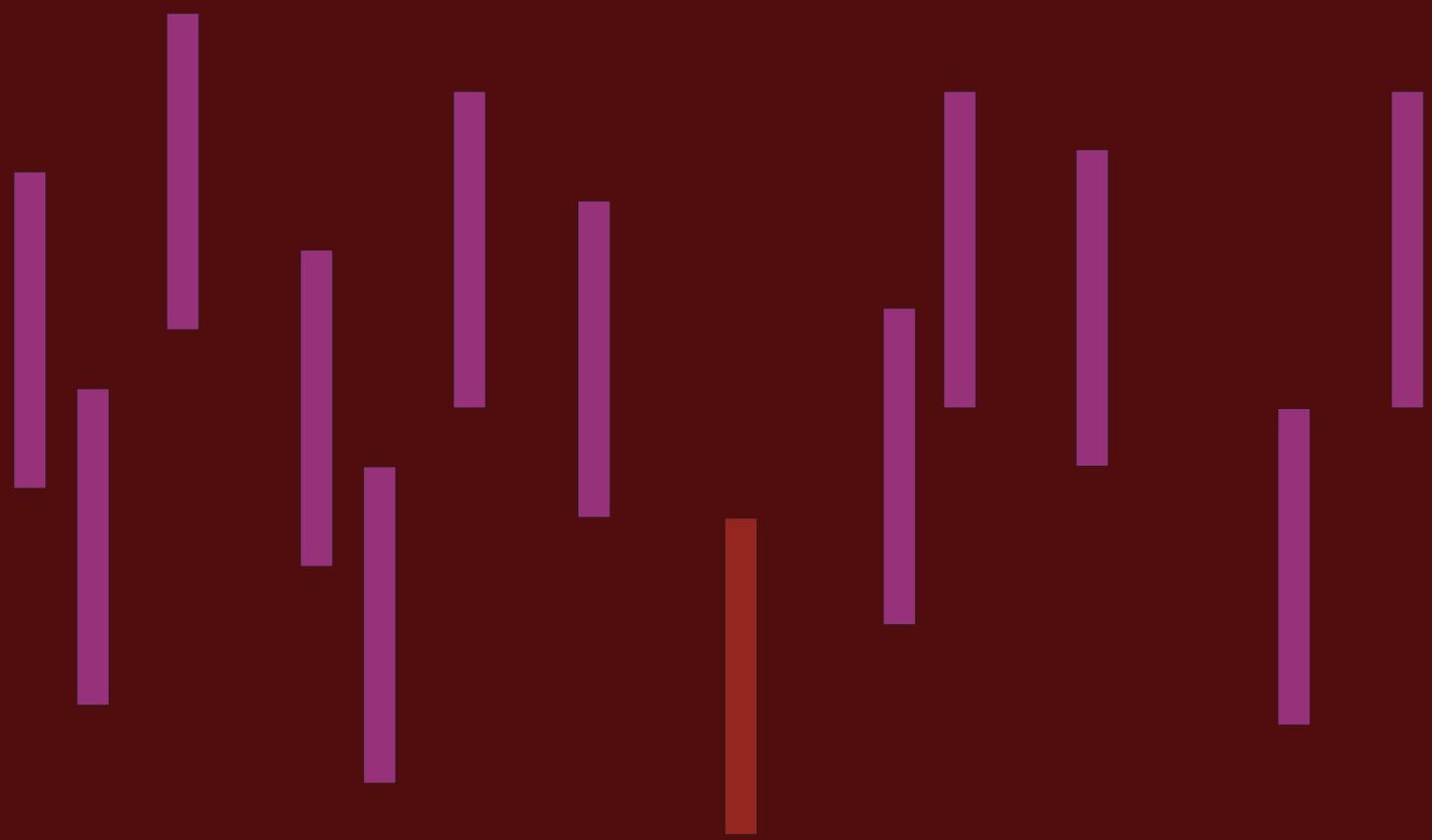
I'm pretty sure it was this way!

It's not that far to the condor...

Can't believe he was trying to keep it...





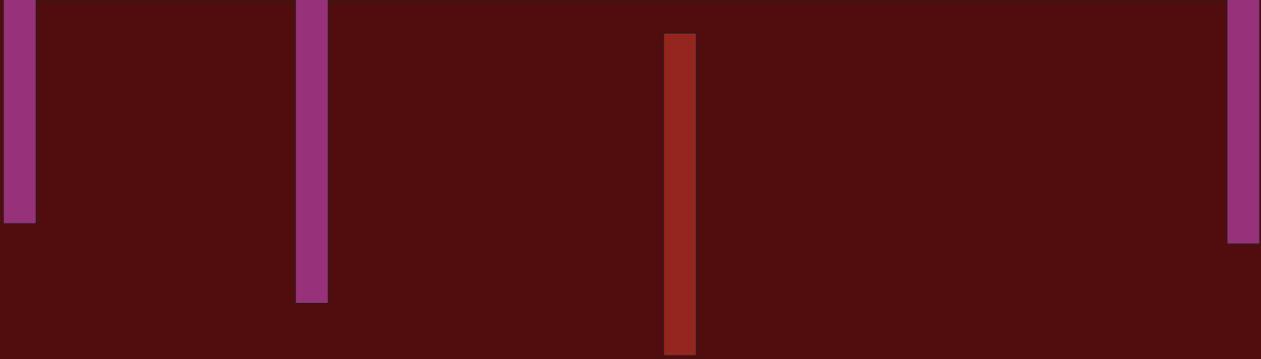


“Girl, be careful,
that’s not the exit!”



*I’m positive this is it.
All that cross country paying off now...*

There’s the exit. I can see...

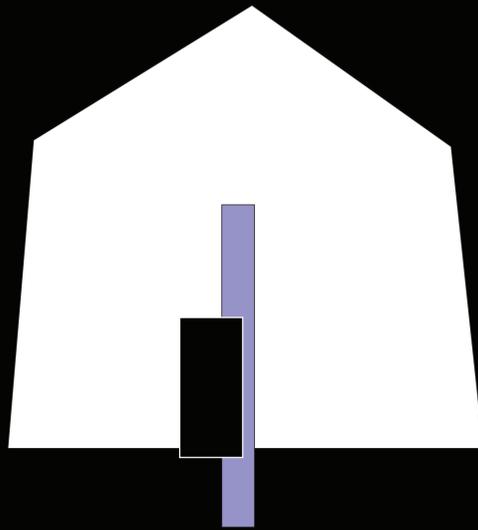


“Girl, be careful,
that’s not the exit!”

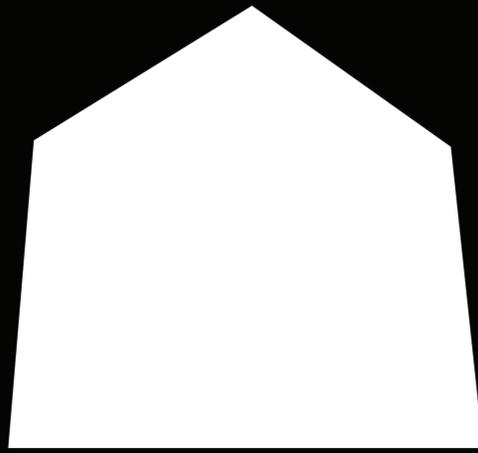
*I’m positive this is it.
All that cross country paying off now...*

There’s the exit. I can see...





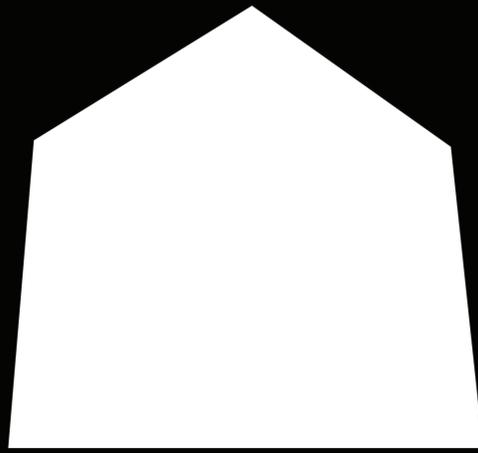
Plunged into darkness. Cell phone
and freedom in hand. This was
some adventure!



Plunged into darkness. Cell phone
and freedom in hand. This was
some adventure!



Adrenaline surging.

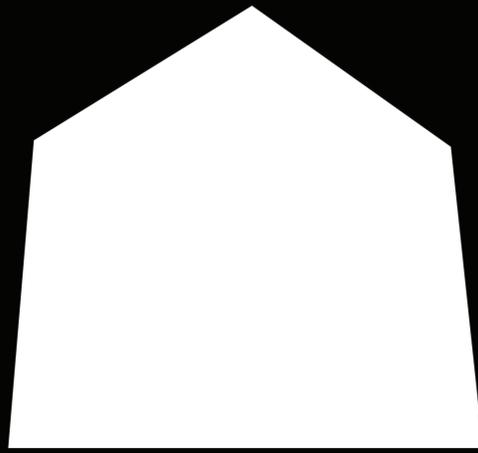


Plunged into darkness. Cell phone
and freedom in hand. This was
some adventure!

Adrenaline surging.



Justice served.



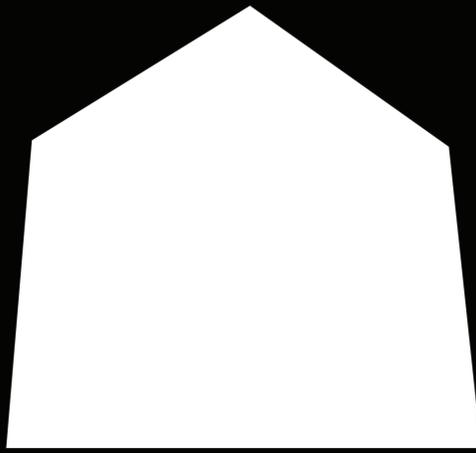
Plunged into darkness. Cell phone
and freedom in hand. This was
some adventure!

Adrenaline surging.

Justice served.

This would make a great —





Plunged into darkness. Cell phone
and freedom in hand. This was
some adventure!

Adrenaline surging.

Justice served.

This would make a great —

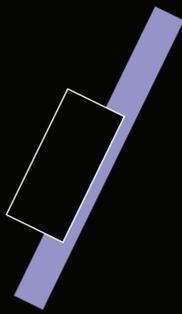


Plunged into darkness. Cell phone
and freedom in hand. This was
some adventure!

Adrenaline surging.

Justice served.

This would make a great —



Justice served.

This would make a great —



Suddenly the world fell out from
under her. She was sailing, sailing
into darkness.



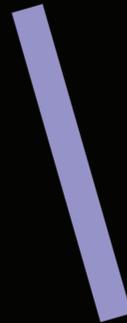
Suddenly the world fell out from under her. She was sailing, sailing into darkness. Ellie heard herself screaming....

AAHHHHHH!!!

this is how it ends

this is how it ends

Suddenly the world fell out from under her. She was sailing, sailing into darkness. Ellie heard herself screaming....



AAHHHHHH!!!

this is how it ends

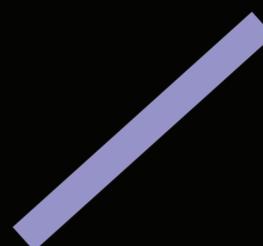
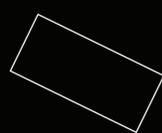
all for a dumb phone...

Suddenly the world fell out from under her. She was sailing, sailing into darkness. Ellie heard herself screaming....

AAHHHHHH!!!

this is how it ends

all for a dumb phone...



this is how it ends

all for a dumb phone...

Then abruptly, a soft landing. For a second, Ellie was too shocked to think. The surface she was on felt smooth. Slippery. Gross.

Were those... scales?



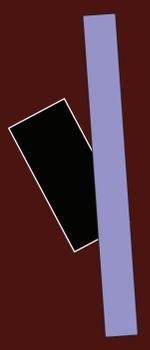
Then abruptly, a soft landing. For a second, Ellie was too shocked to think. The surface she was on felt smooth. Slippery. Gross.

Were those... scales?



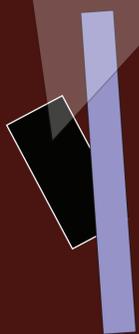
“Who daresssss
disssturb our
ssslumber???”







OH MY GOD.





OH MY GOD.

OH MY GOD.

*THAT'S A GIANT
TWO-HEADED
SNAKE.*



OH MY GOD.

OH MY GOD.

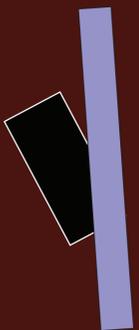
*THAT'S A GIANT
TWO-HEADED
SNAKE.*

The length of a few school buses, at least. With eyes as big as watermelons.



*OH MY GOD.
OH MY GOD.
THAT'S A GIANT
TWO-HEADED
SNAKE.*

The length of a few school buses, at least. With eyes as big as watermelons.



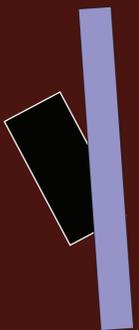
*“Whhhatt are you
doing heeeere,
chiiiild?”*



“Whhhatt are you
doing heeeere,
chiiiild?”

Its voice boomed. She could
feel the vibrations in her chest.

“Well, I lost my cell phone, and...”



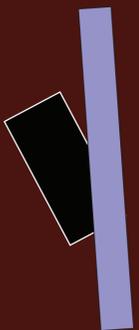


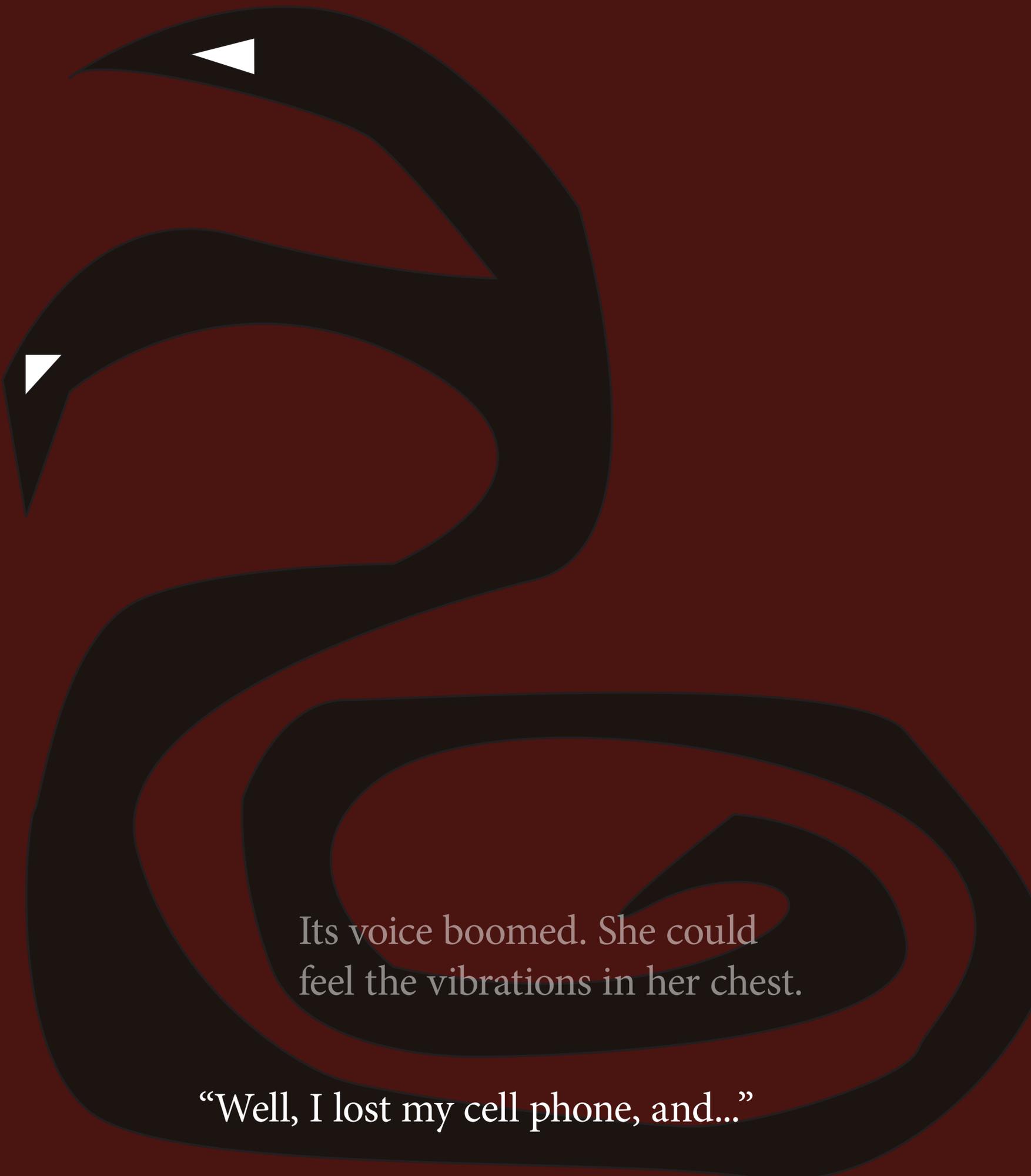
“Whhhatt are you
doing heeeere,
chiiild?”

Its voice boomed. She could
feel the vibrations in her chest.

“Well, I lost my cell phone, and...”

“Ahh yessss, you were
the one who ignorrrred
the mountain cccceremony”



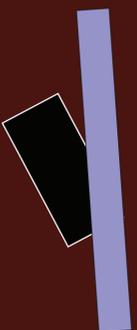


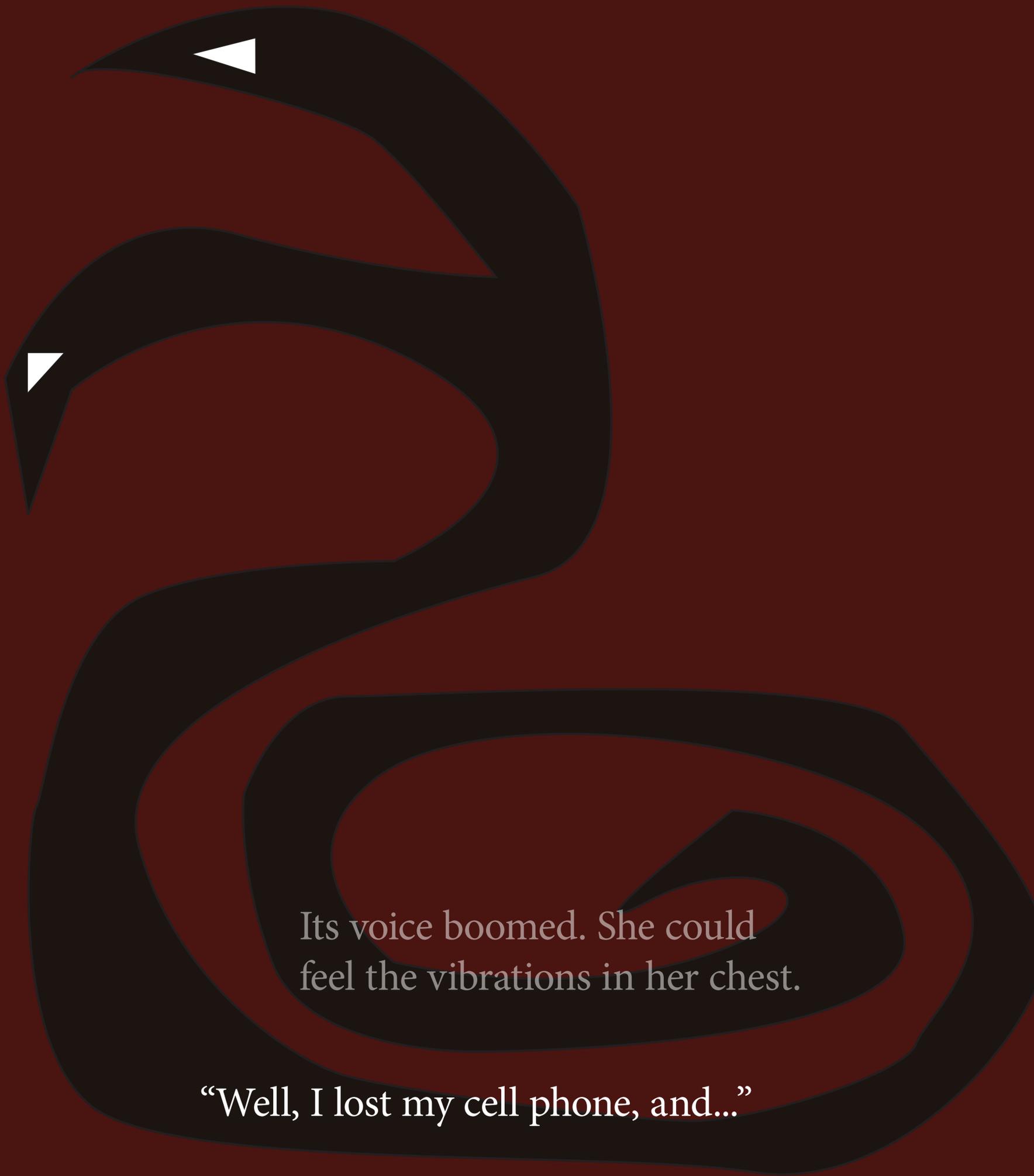
Its voice boomed. She could
feel the vibrations in her chest.

“Well, I lost my cell phone, and...”

“Ahh yesssss, you were
the one who ignorrrred
the mountain cccceremony.”

“Uhh, I was... busy?”





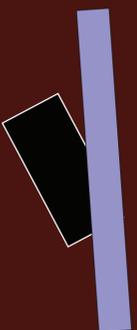
Its voice boomed. She could feel the vibrations in her chest.

“Well, I lost my cell phone, and...”

“Ahh yesssss, you were the one who ignorrrred the mountain cccceremony.”

“Uhh, I was... busy?”

The snake slowly advanced. Its eyes cold. Calculating.



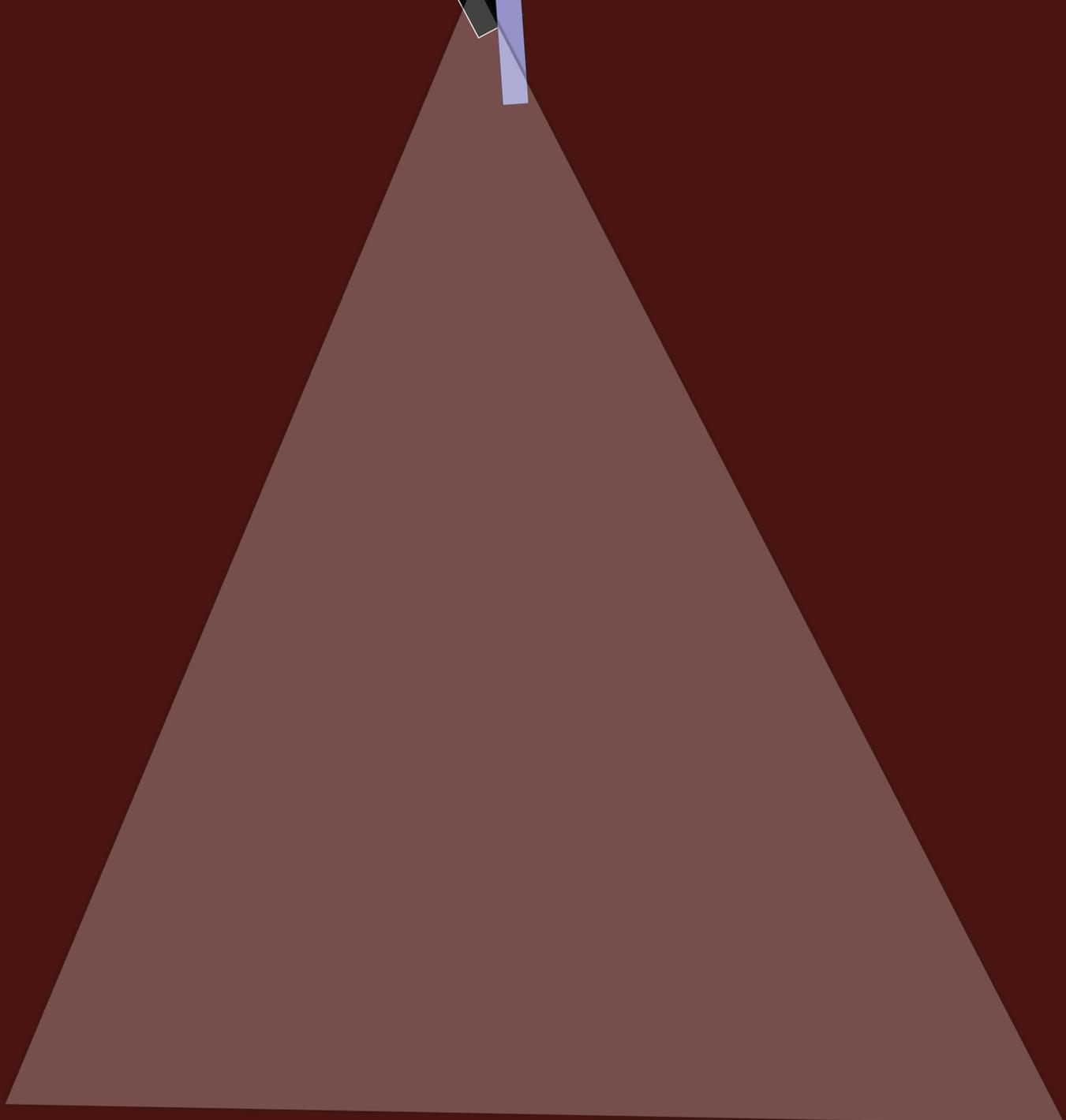
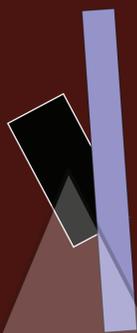


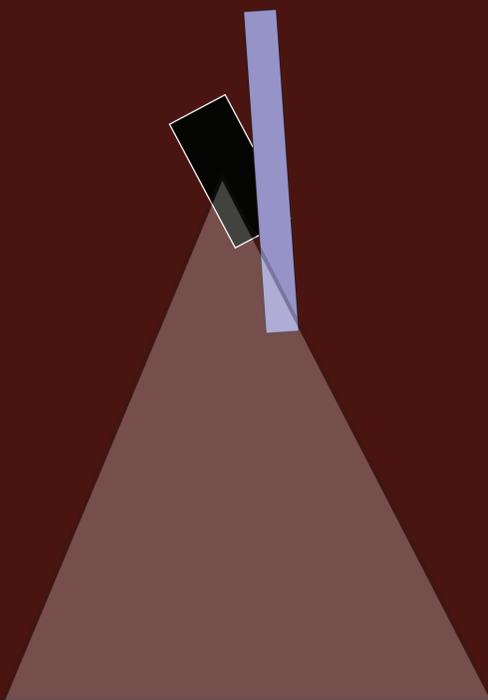
“Uhh, I was... busy?”

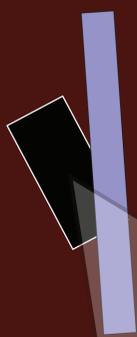
The snake slowly advanced. Its eyes cold.
Calculating.

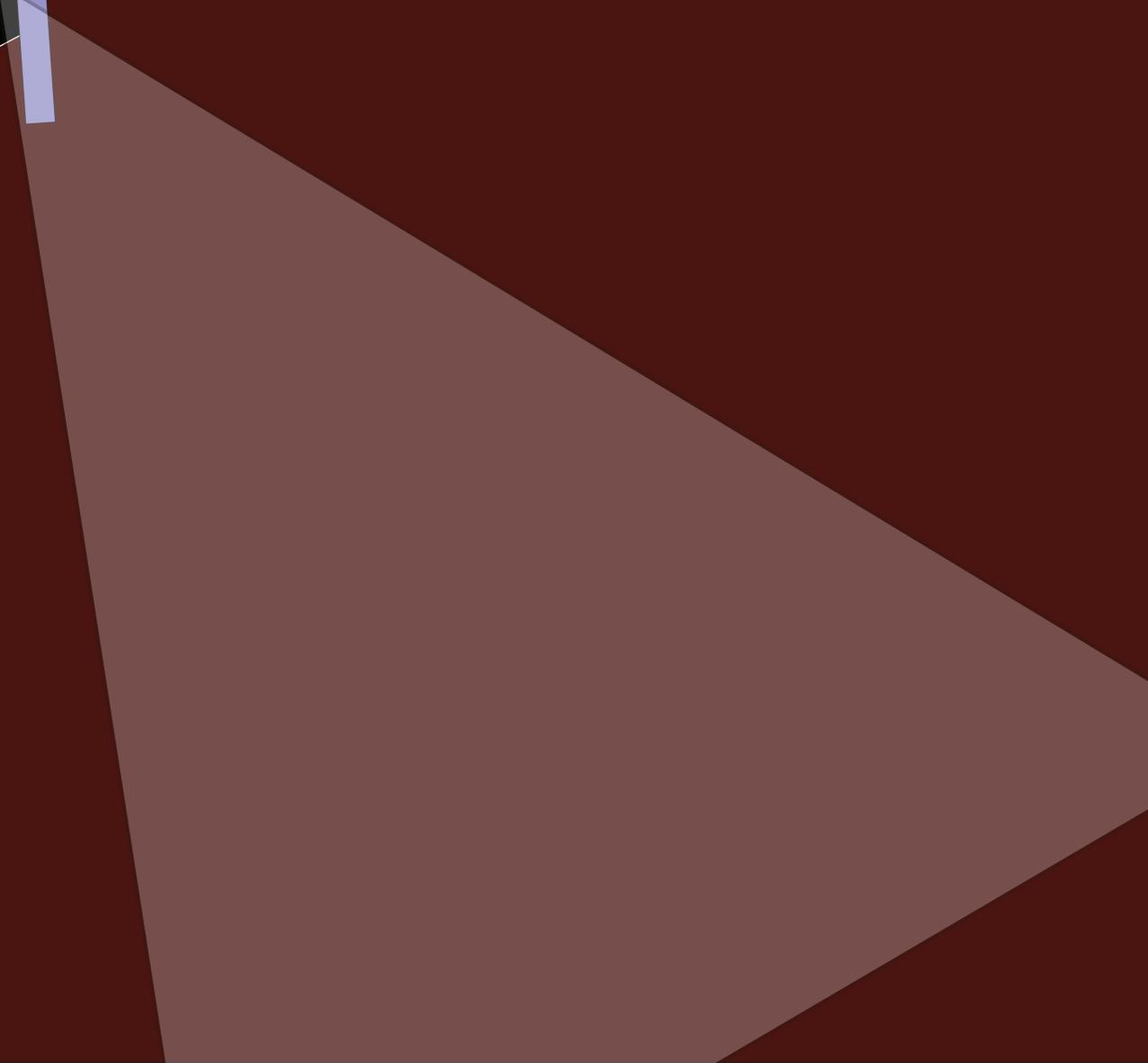
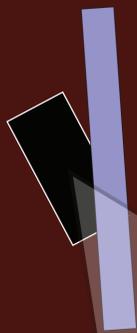
“You look...
delicioussss!!!”

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.





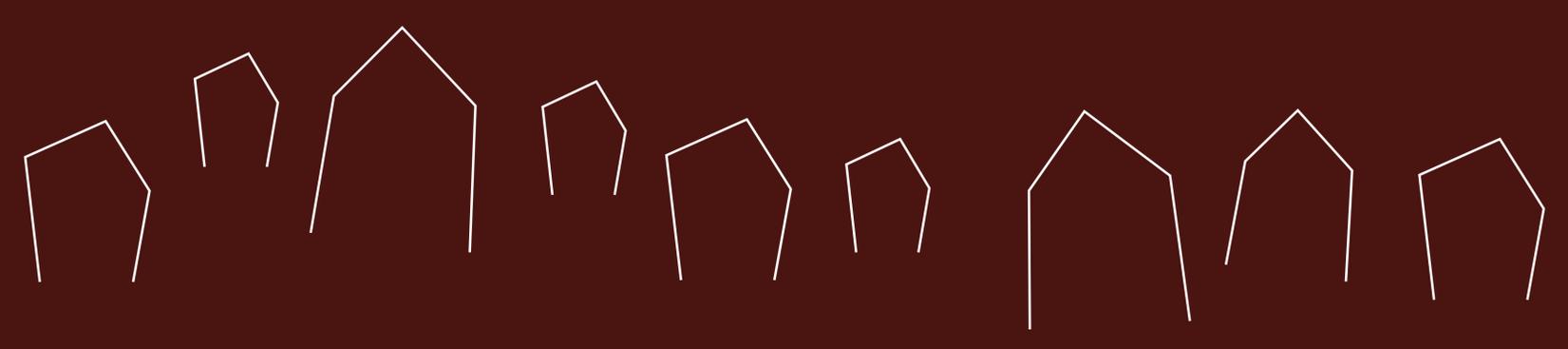
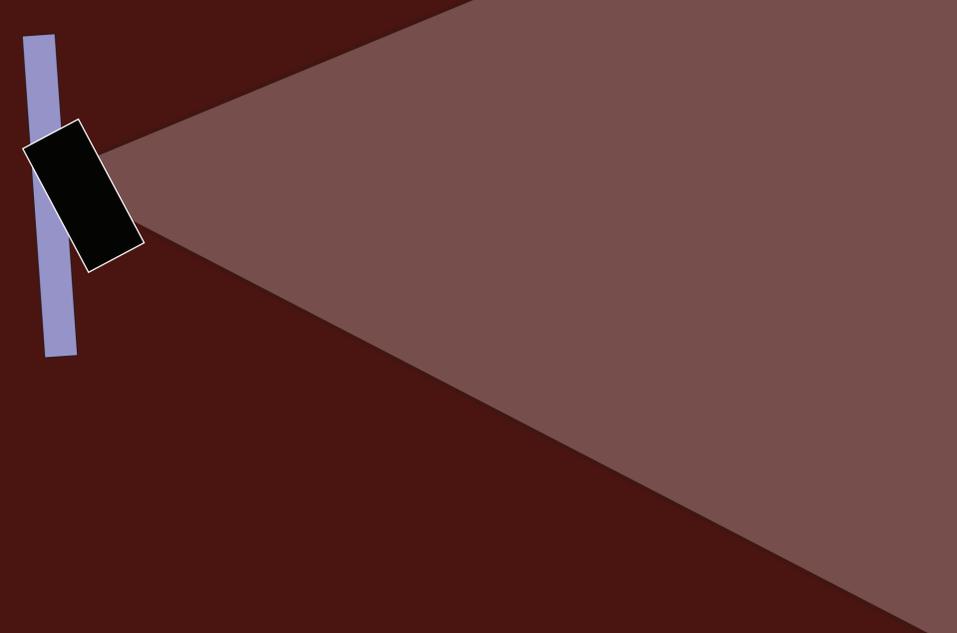
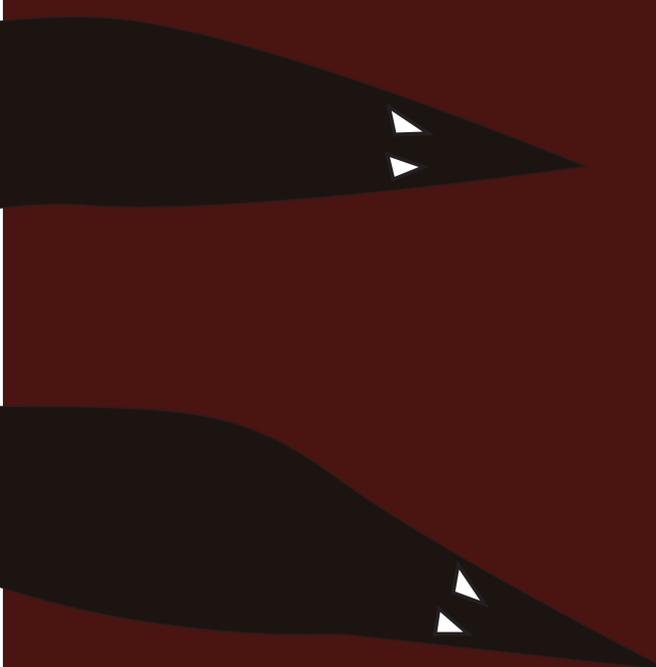




Ellie ran as fast as she could. Gasping from exhaustion. Heart beating like a drum.

Don't know how long...

...I can keep this up.

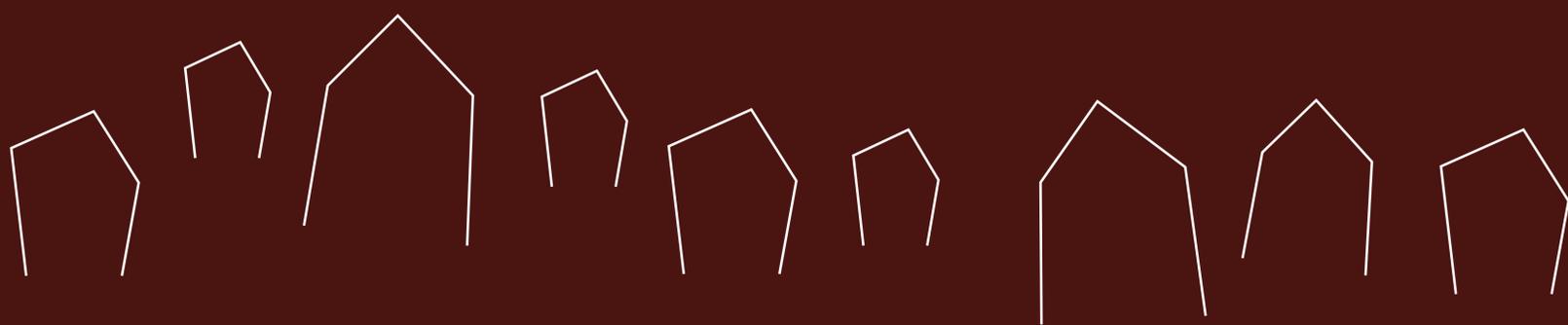
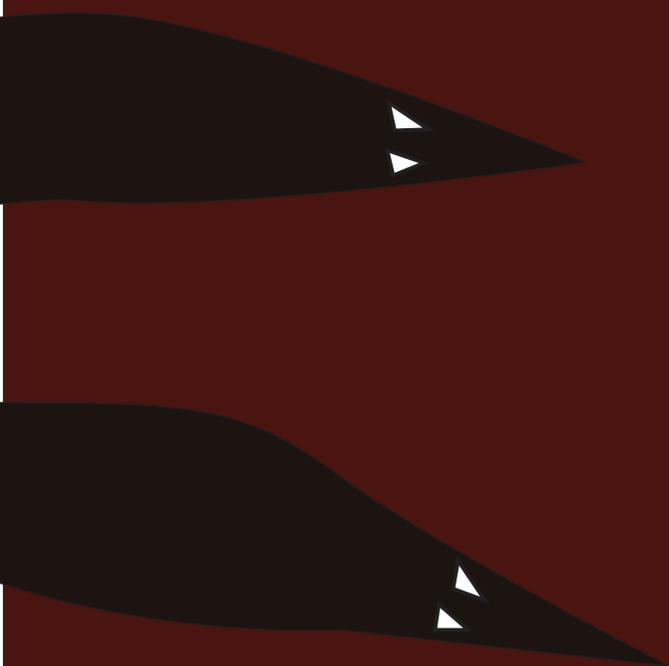


could. Gasping
heart beating like a

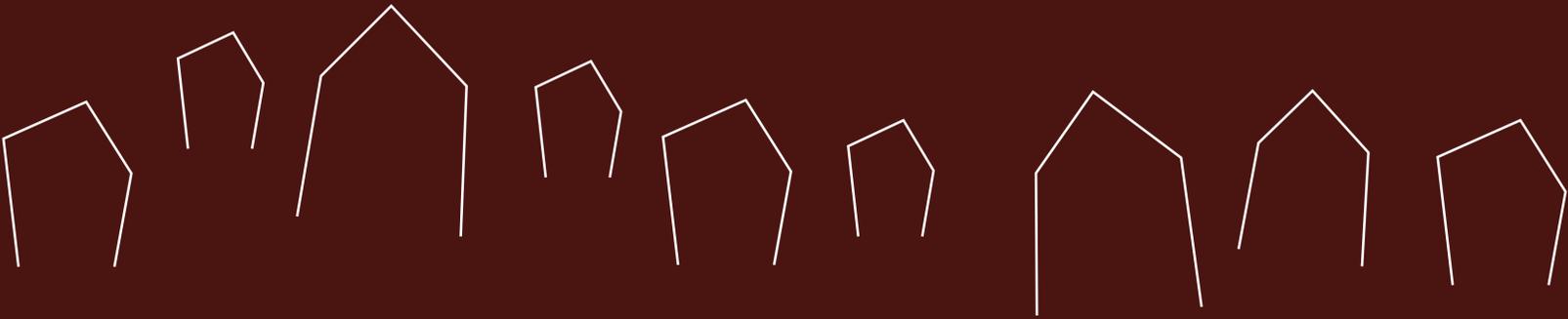
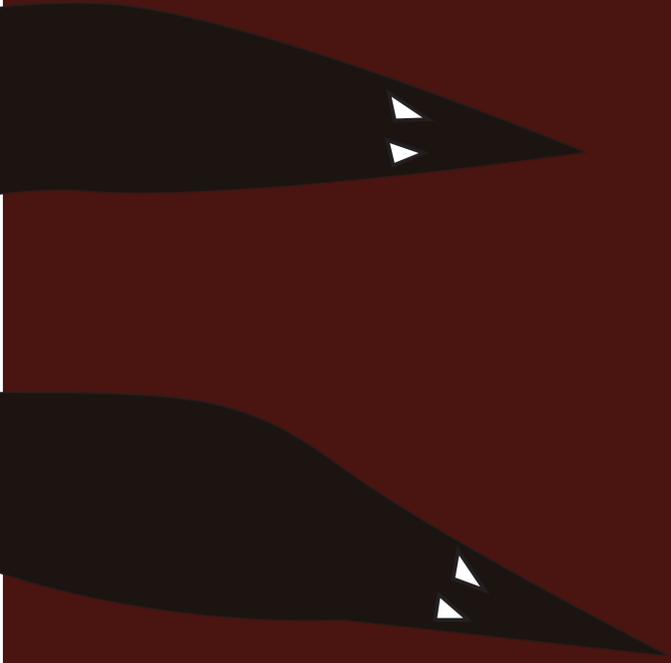
how long...

can keep this up.

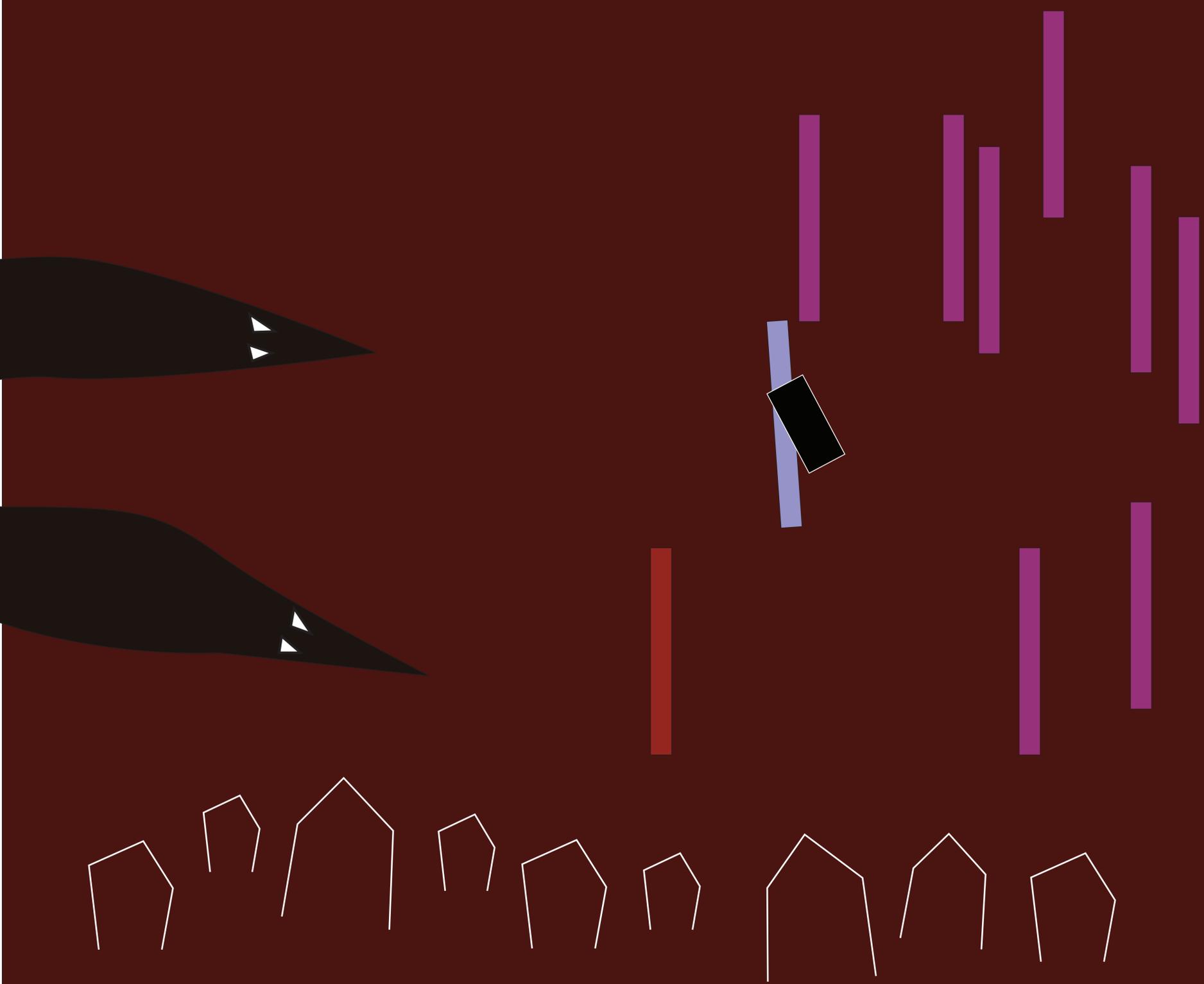
“There she is! She’s okay!
We need to kill the snake!”



“There she is! She’s okay!
We need to stop it before it’s too late!”

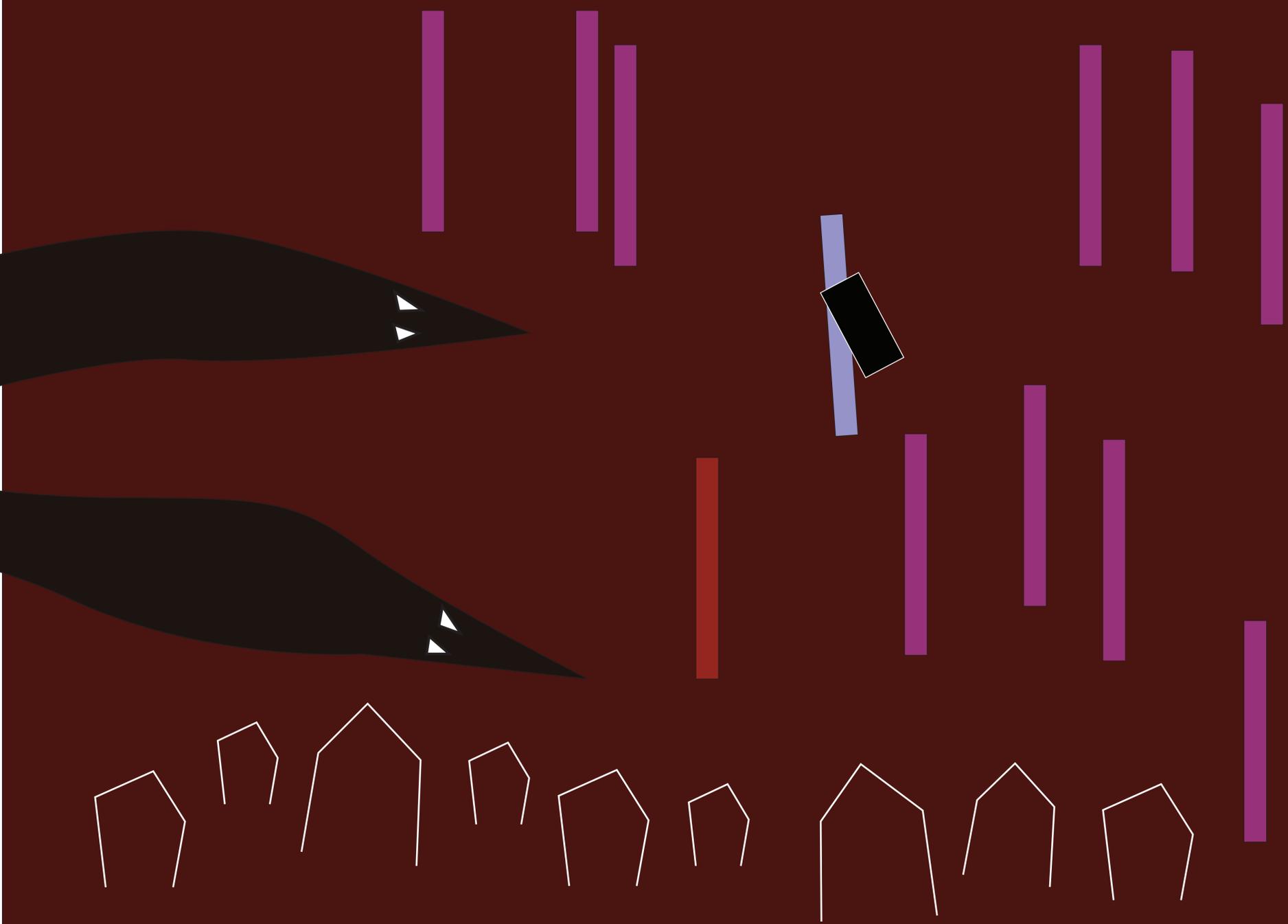


Ellie saw the spirits. They were wielding machetes, spears, assortments of other weapons — and they ran right past Ellie towards the snake!

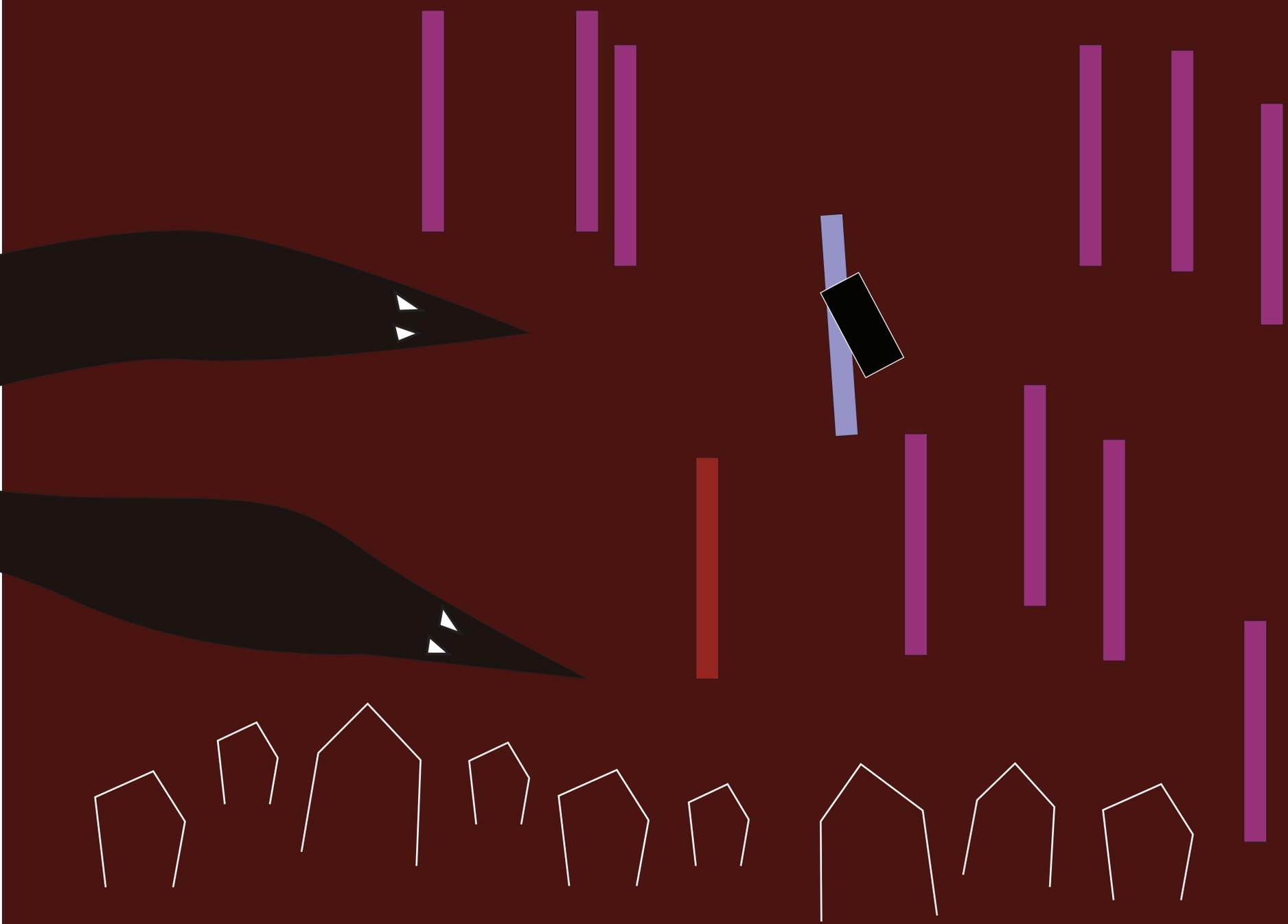


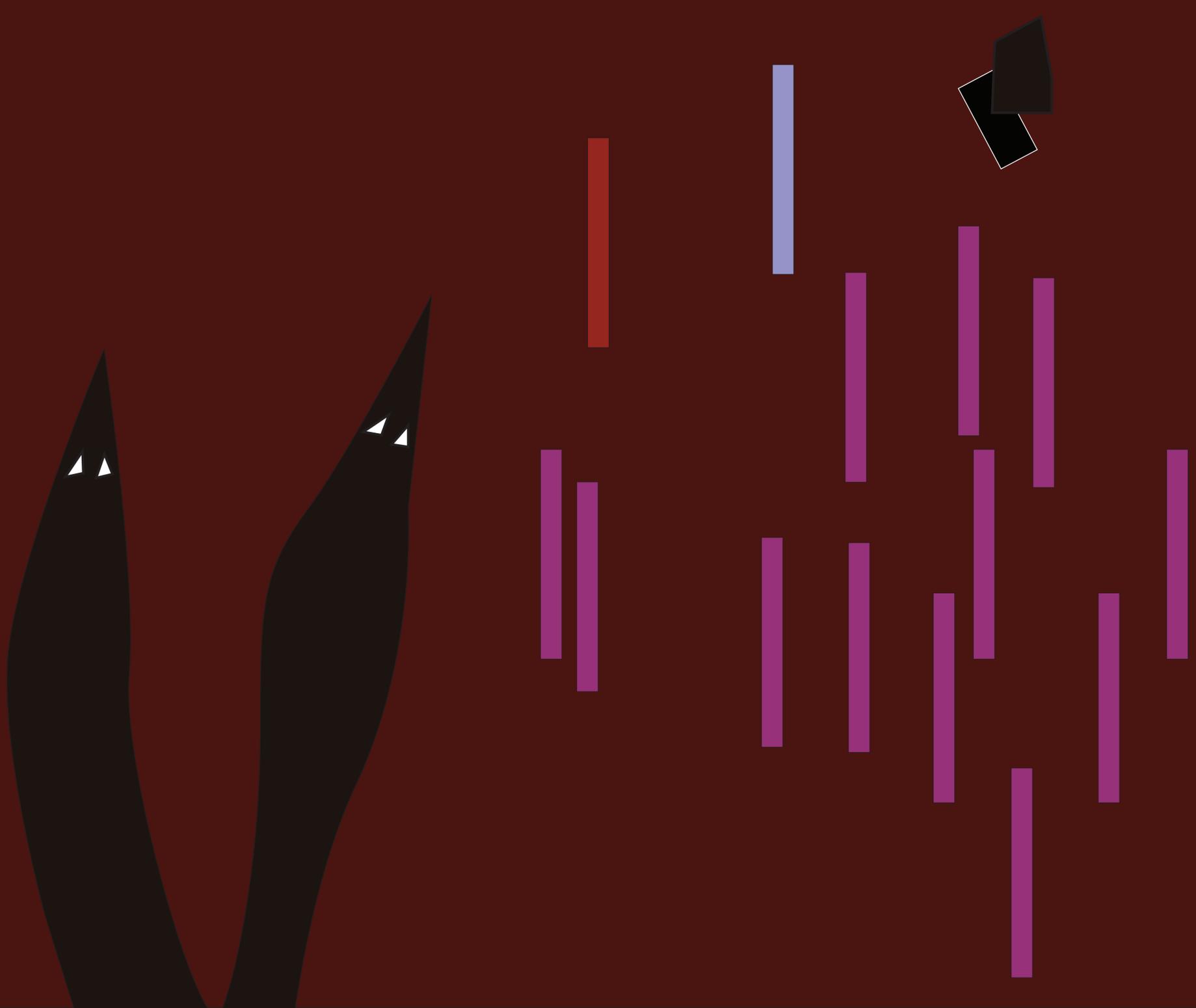
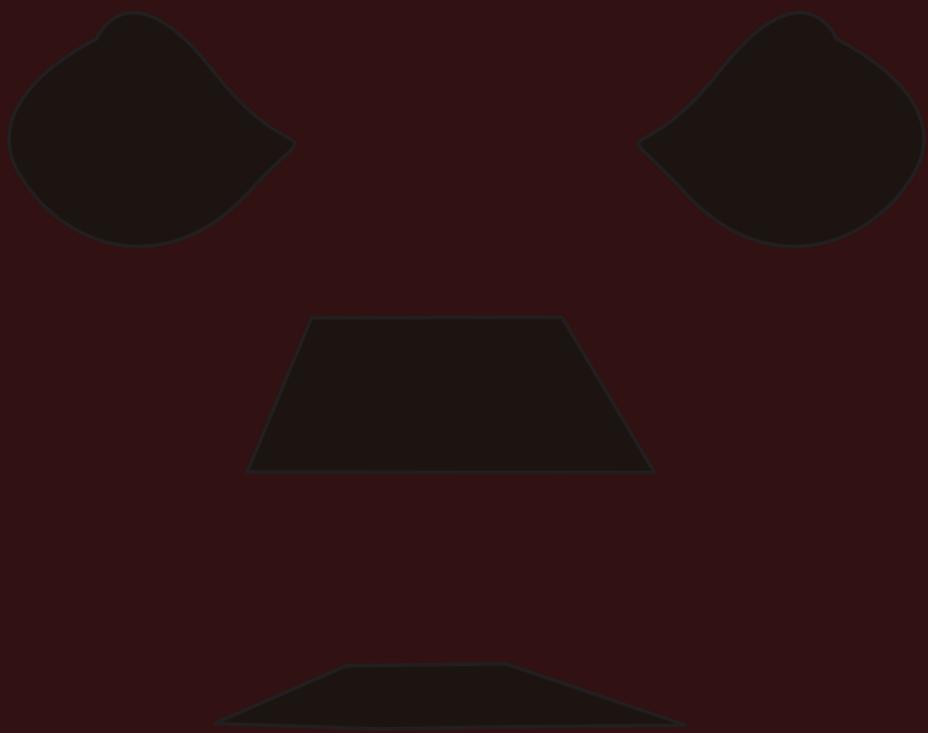
ts. They were wielding
assortments of other
they ran right past Ellie
e!

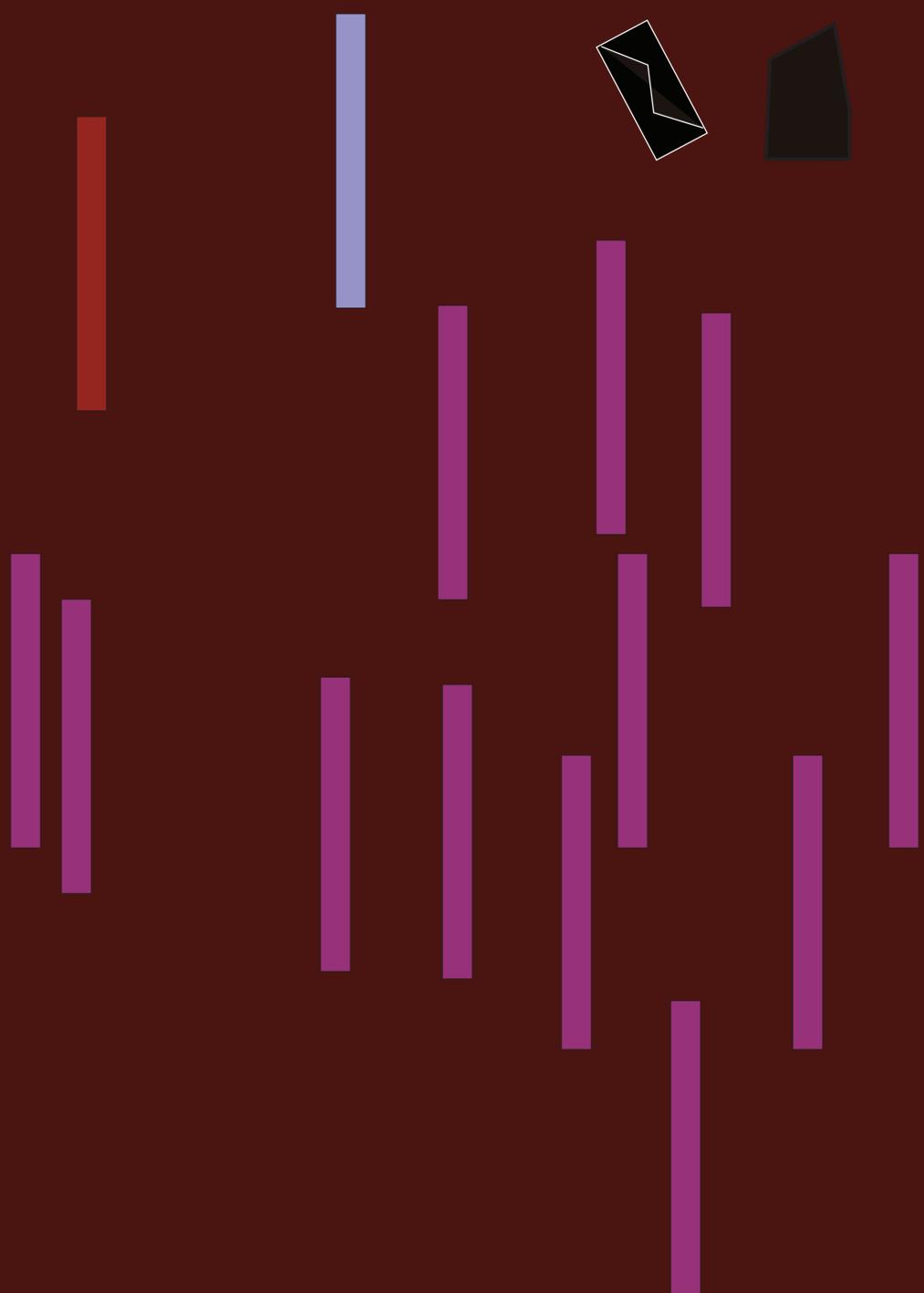
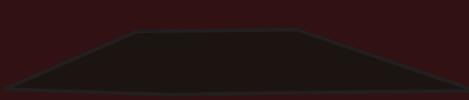
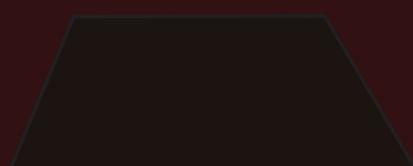
Just as they were about to clash...

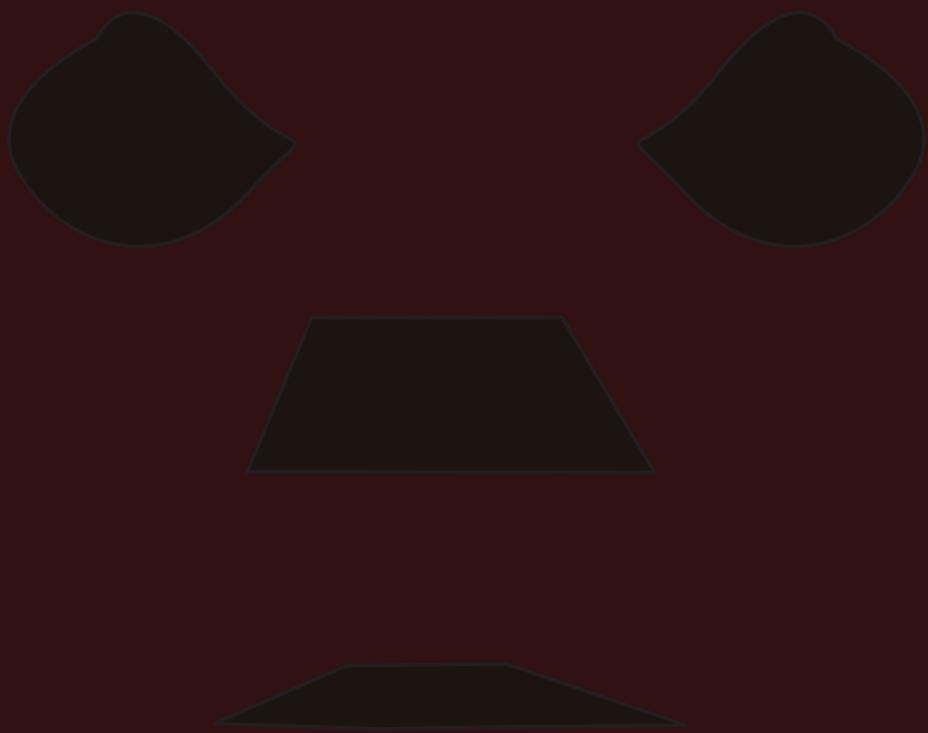


ENOUGH.

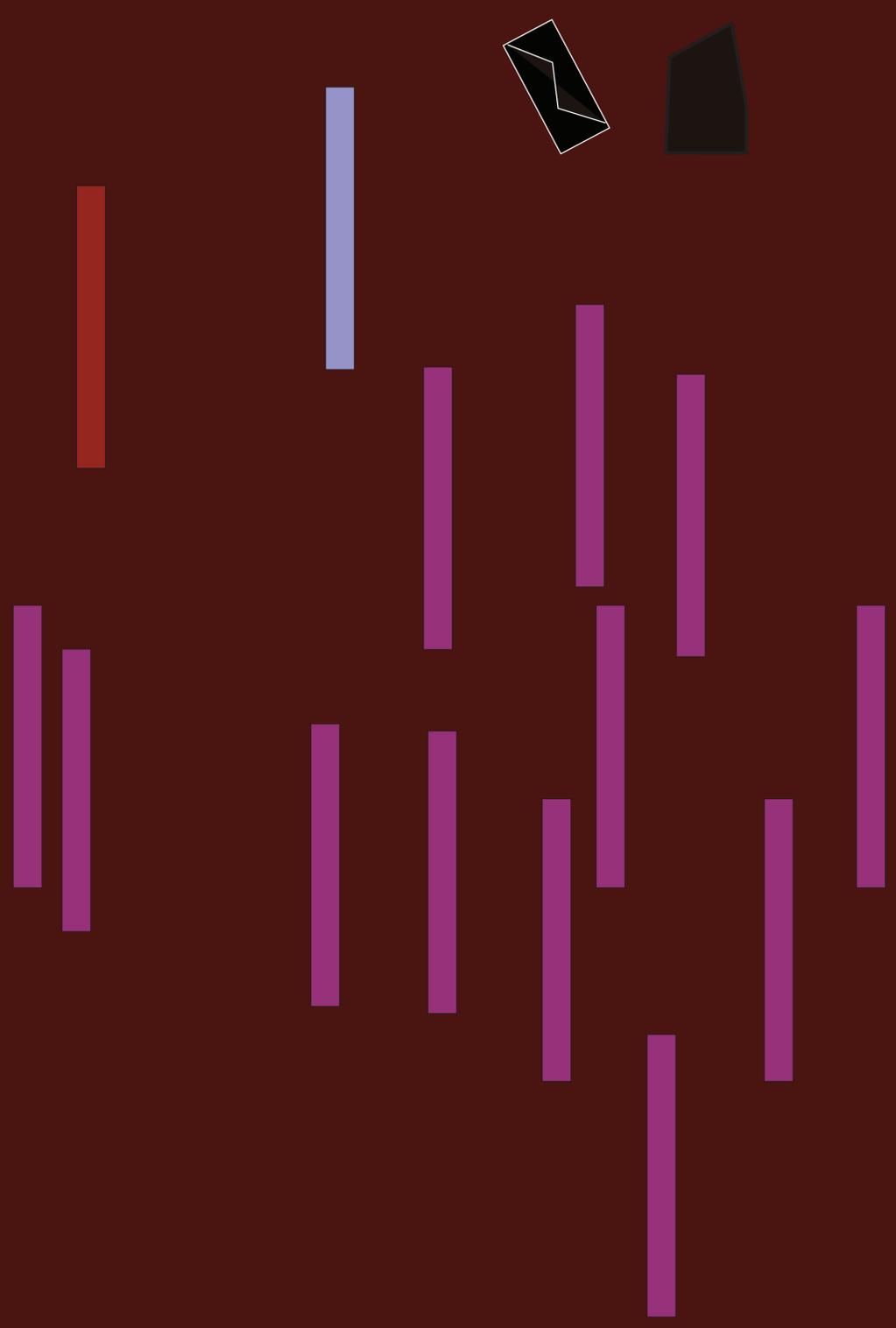


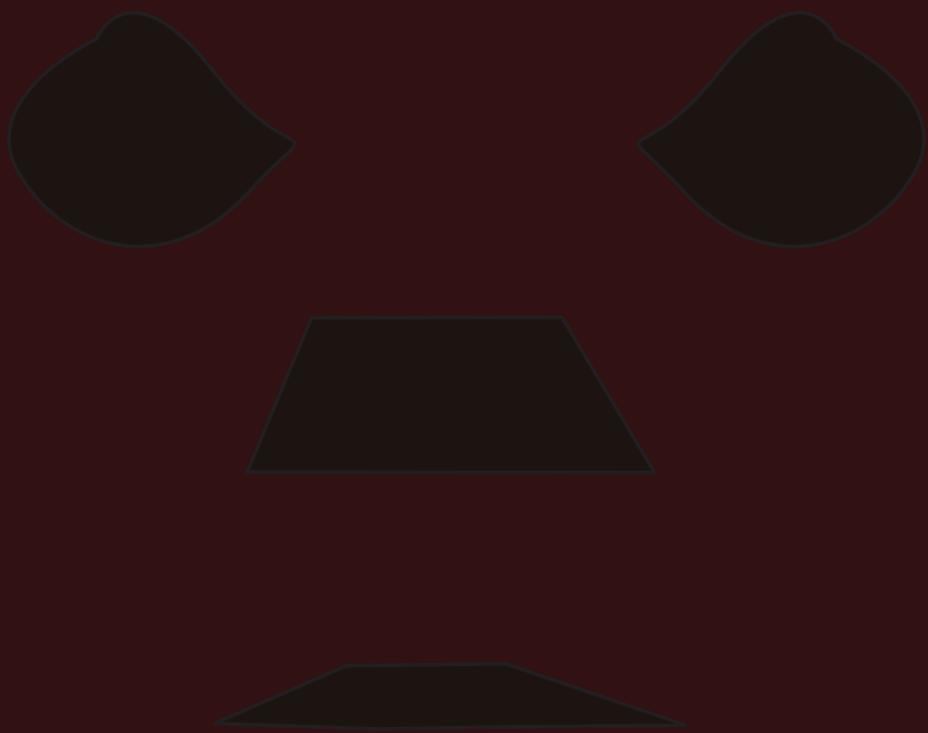




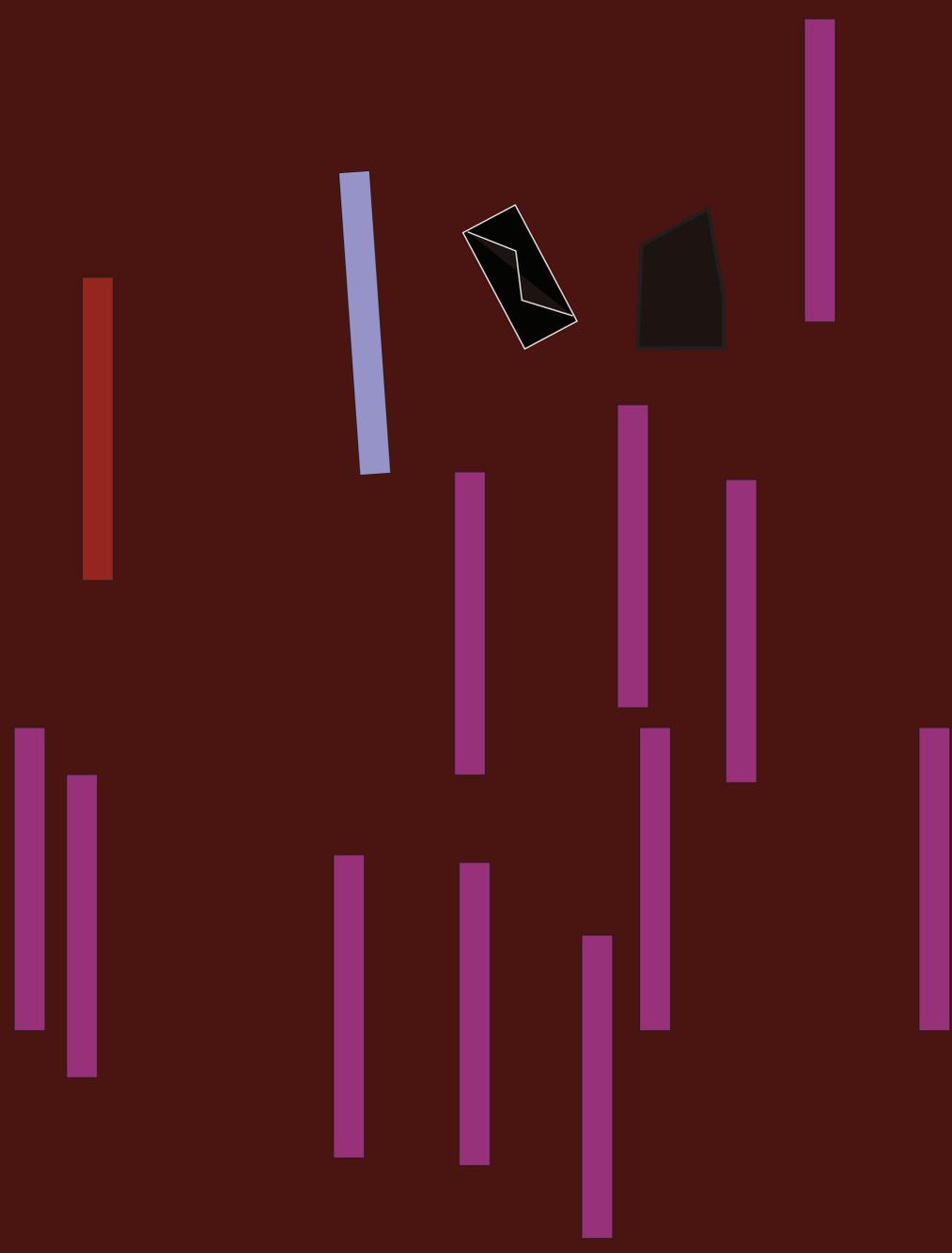


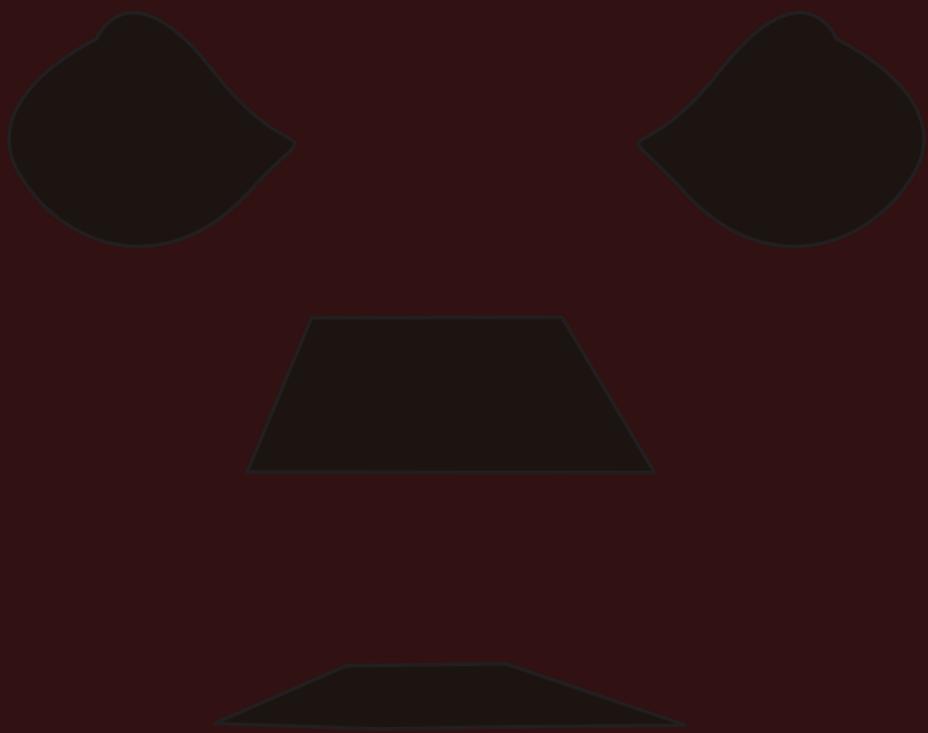
“It’s the...
god of the mountain.”





“What is the meaning of this?
And on solstice day, no less?”



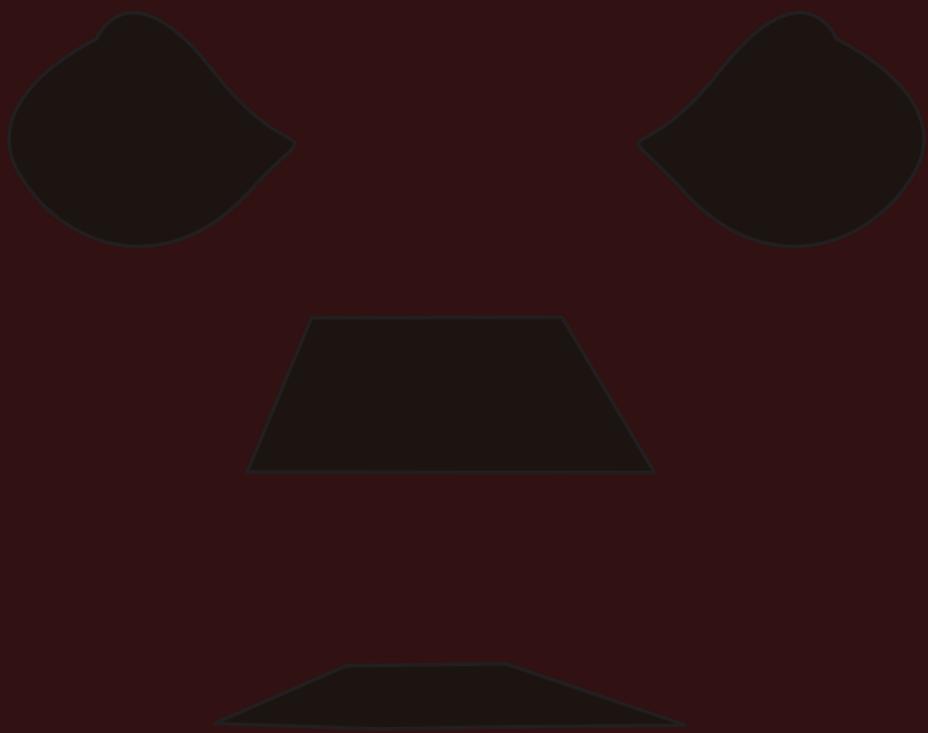


“I wasss hungry...”

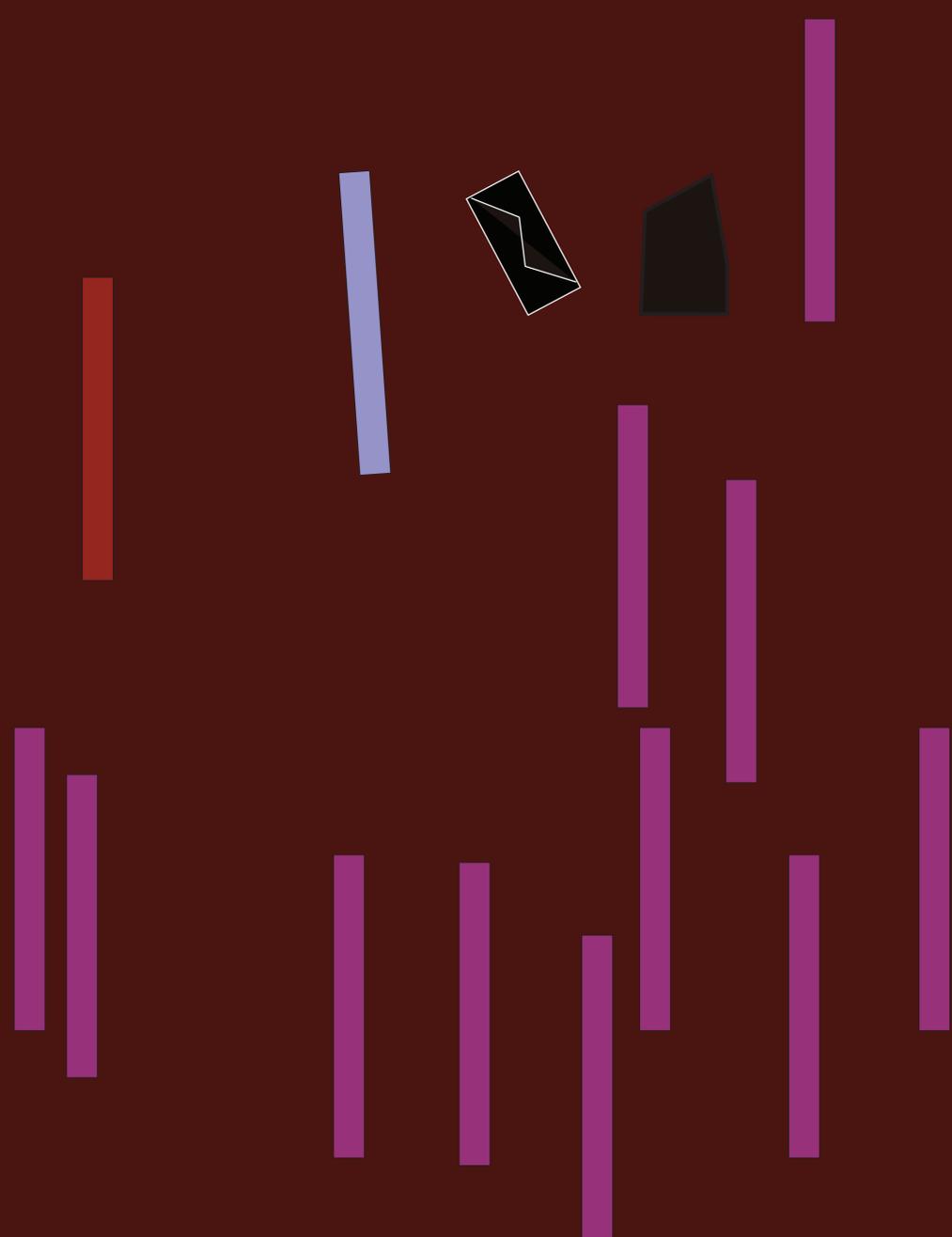


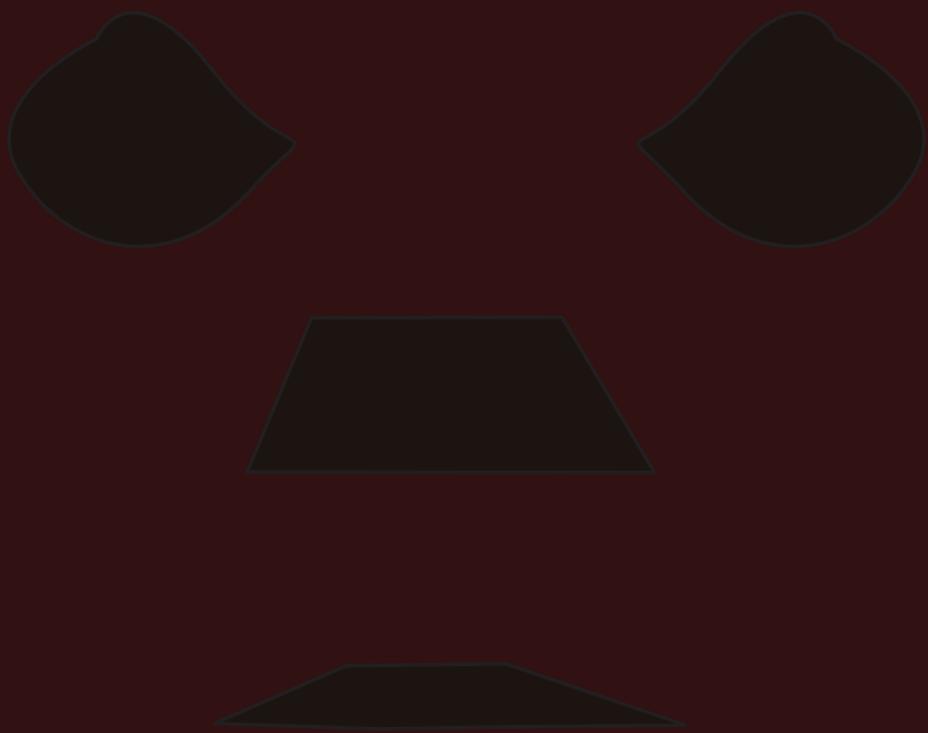
“Well, you see...”



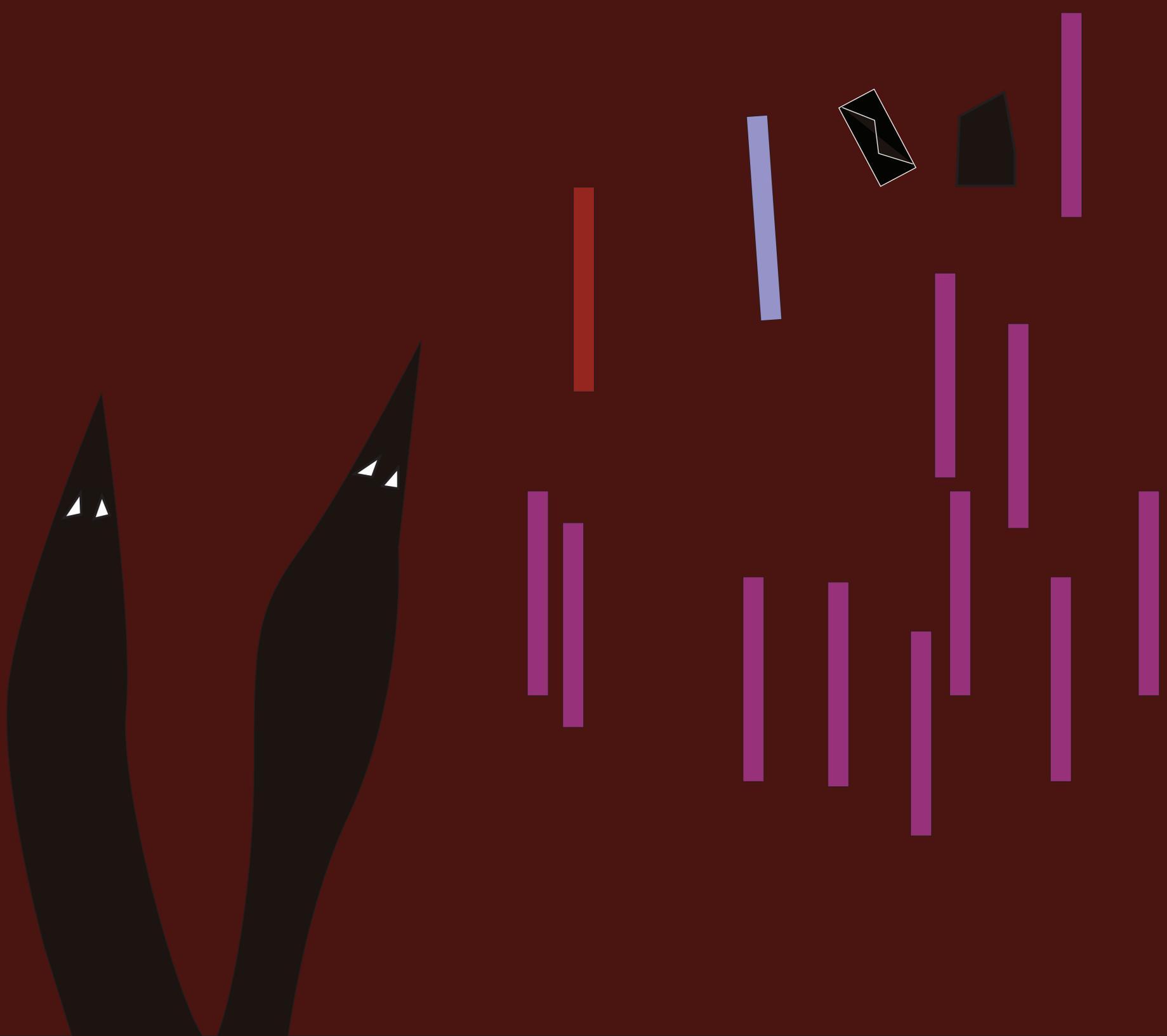


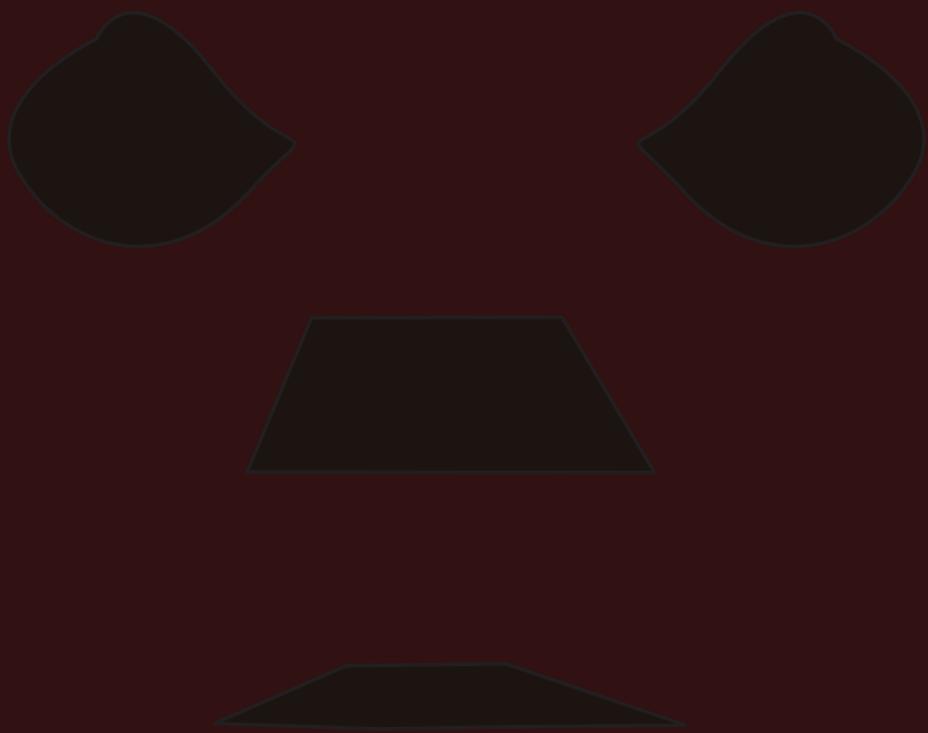
“SILENCE!!!!!!”



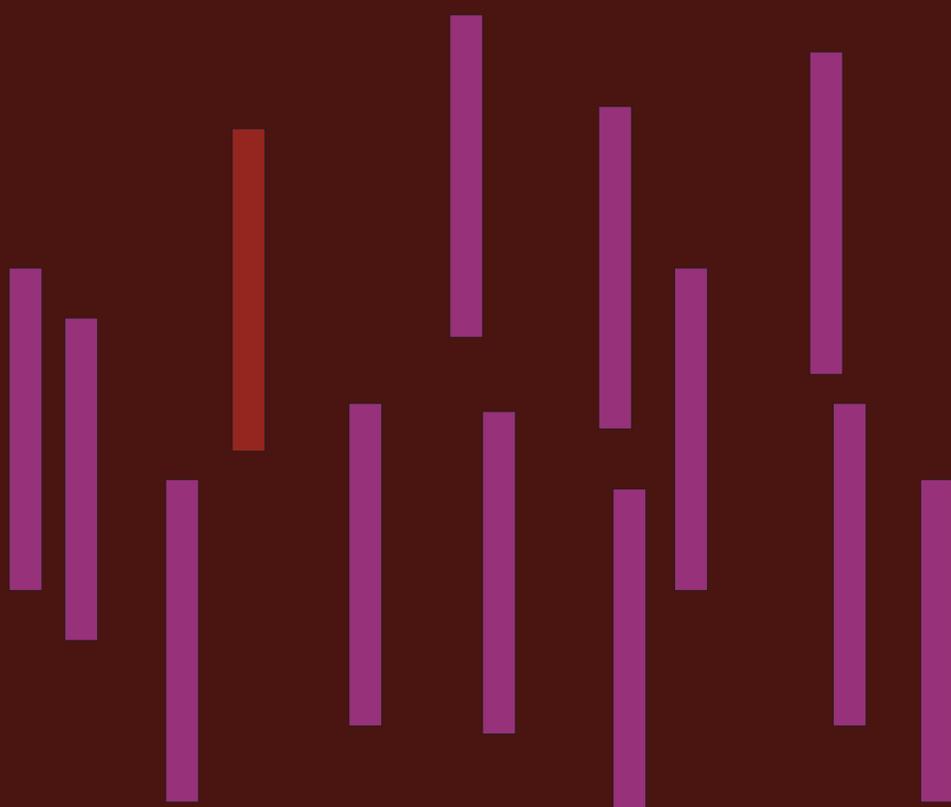


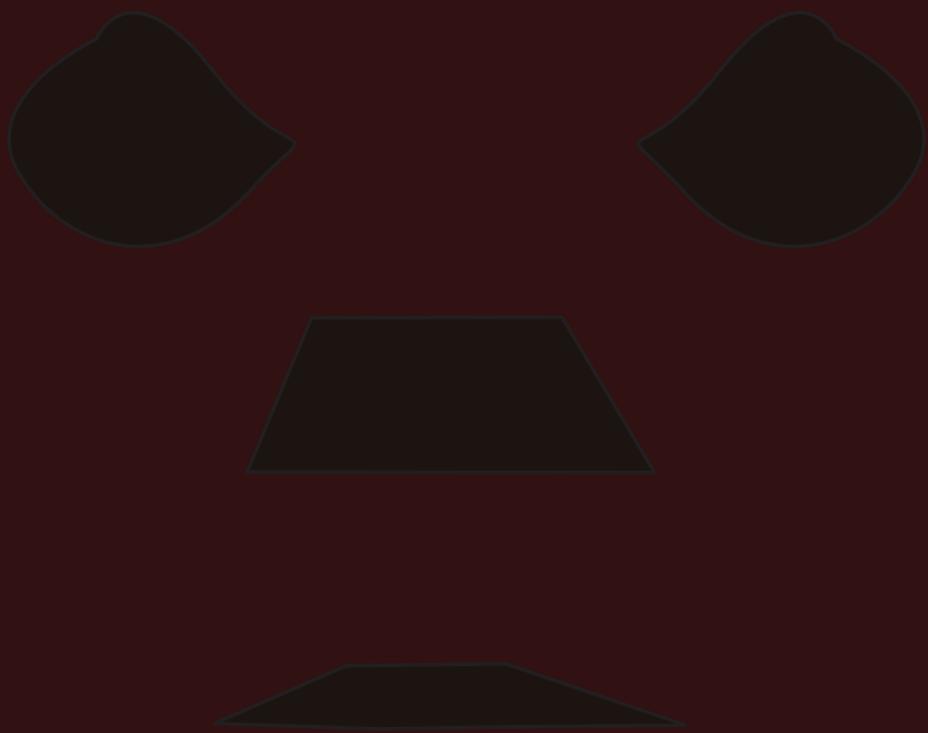
“I want to hear from the child.”





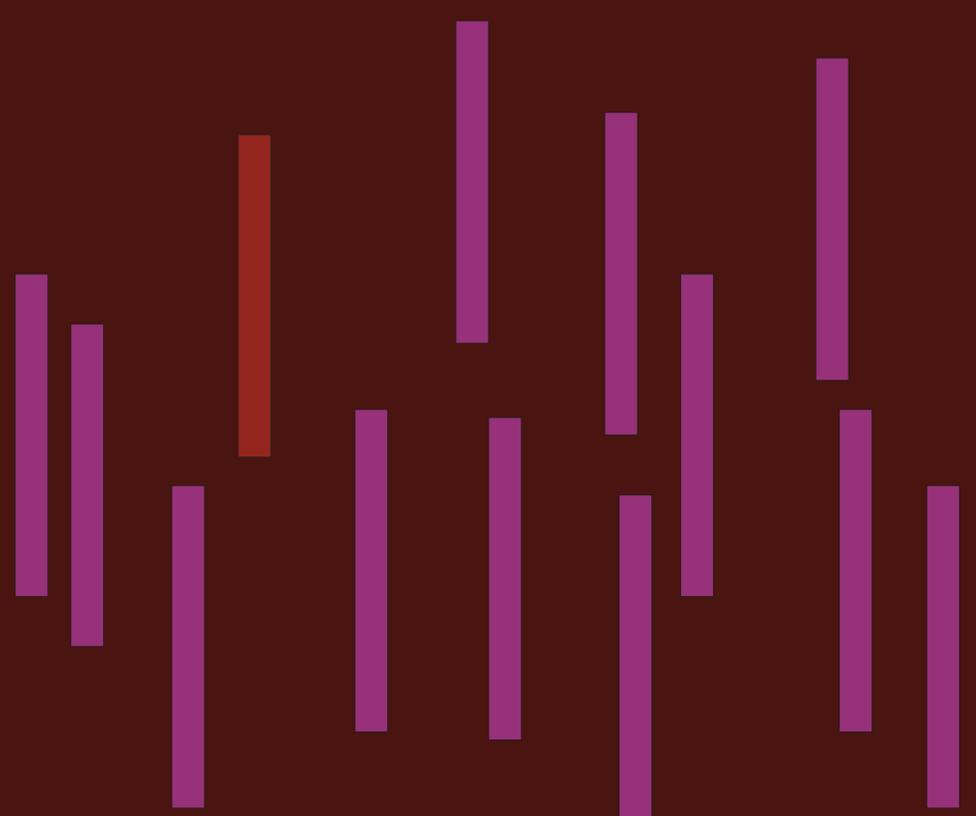
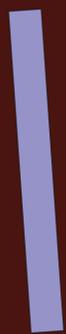
“Well, I lost my cell phone earlier today, and...” Ellie was crying now.

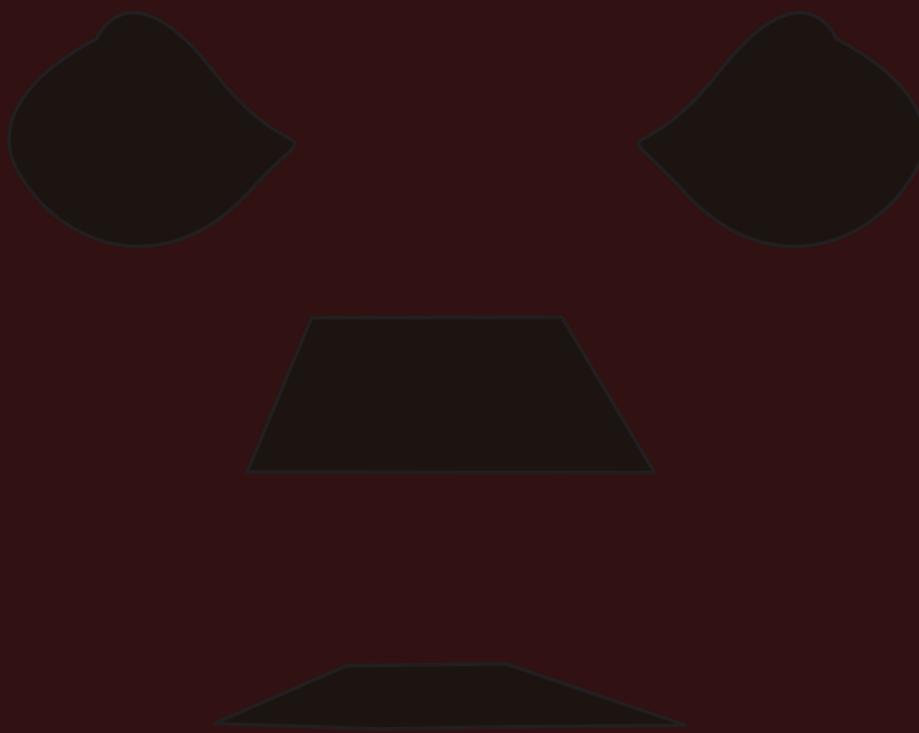




“Well, I lost my cell phone earlier today, and...” Ellie was crying now.

“I just wanted to talk to my friends... and play a game...”





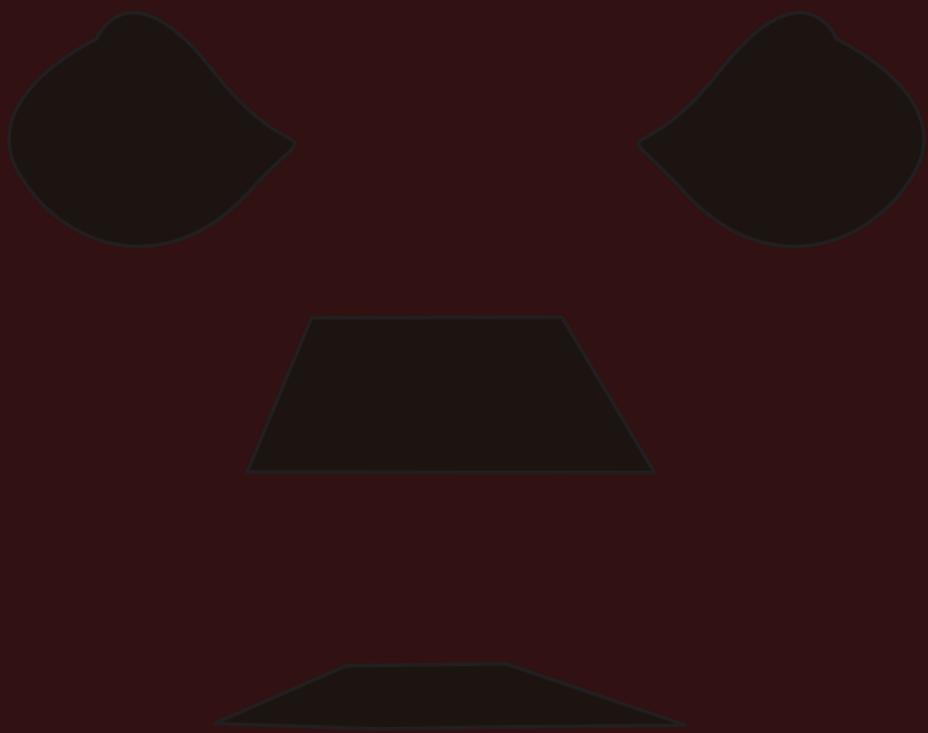
“Well, I lost my cell phone earlier today, and...” Ellie was crying now.

“I just wanted to talk to my friends... and play a game...”

“I see.

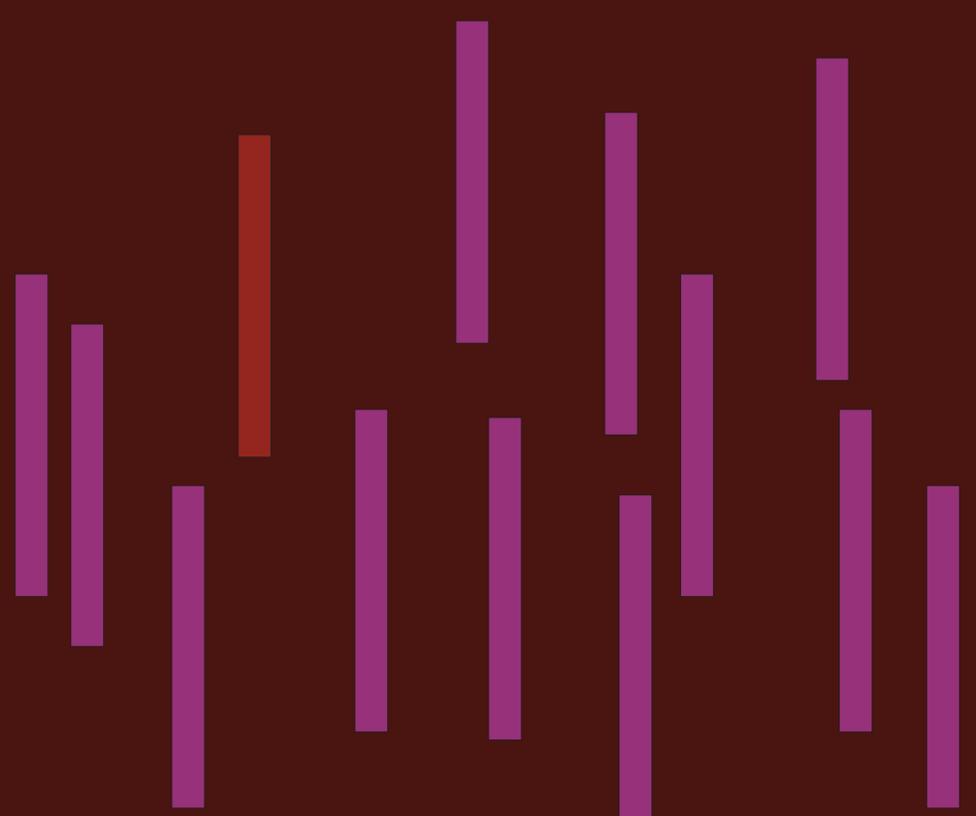
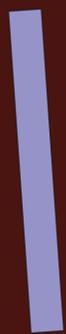
The rest of you, leave in peace.
I will handle this.

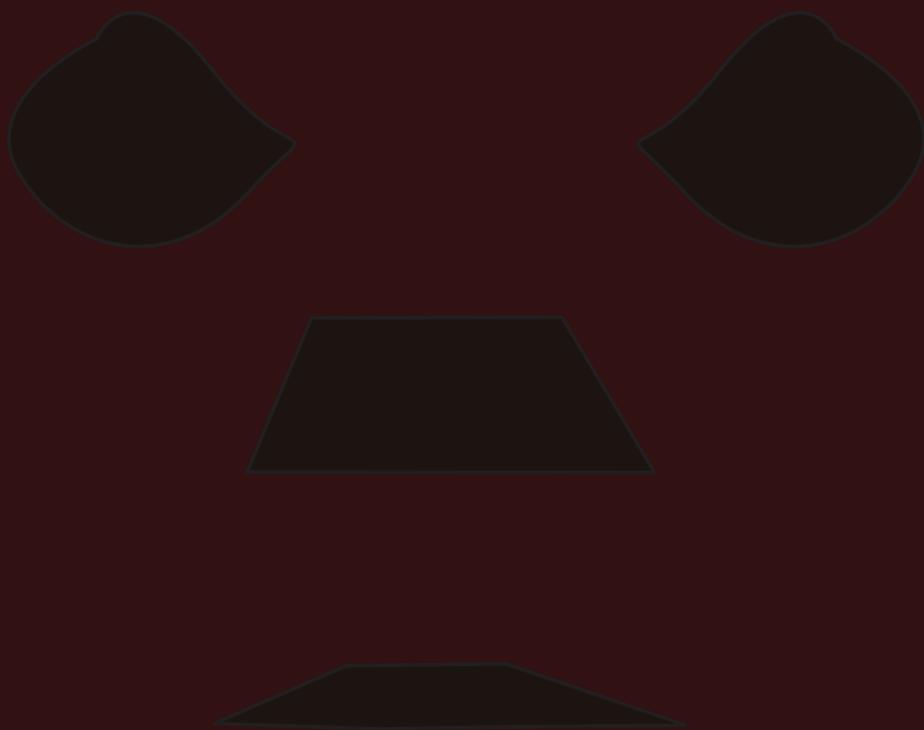




“I see.

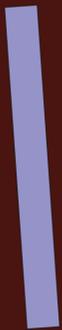
The rest of you, leave in peace.
I will handle this.

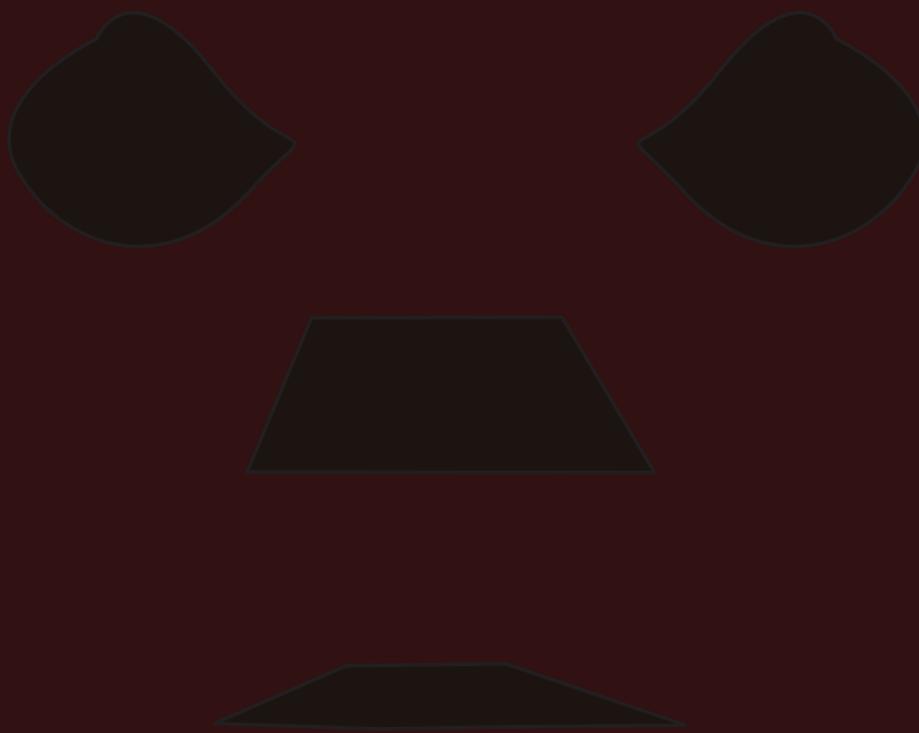




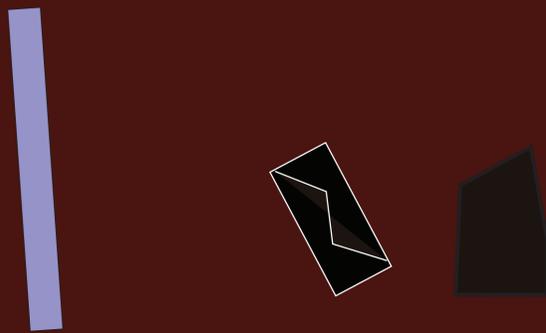
“I see.

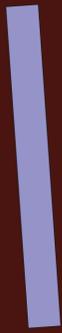
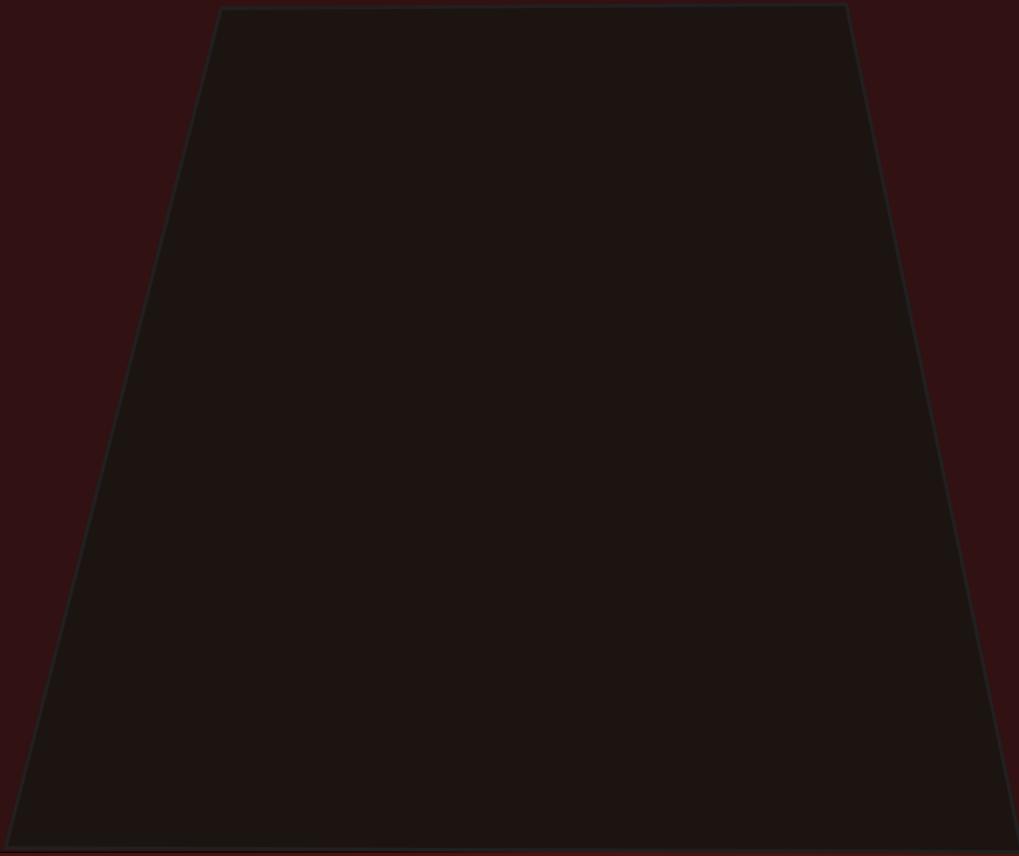
The rest of you, leave in peace.
I will handle this.

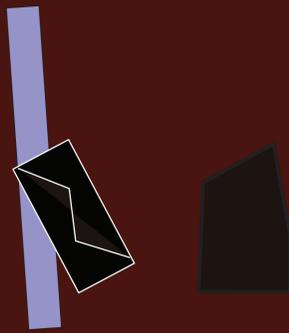
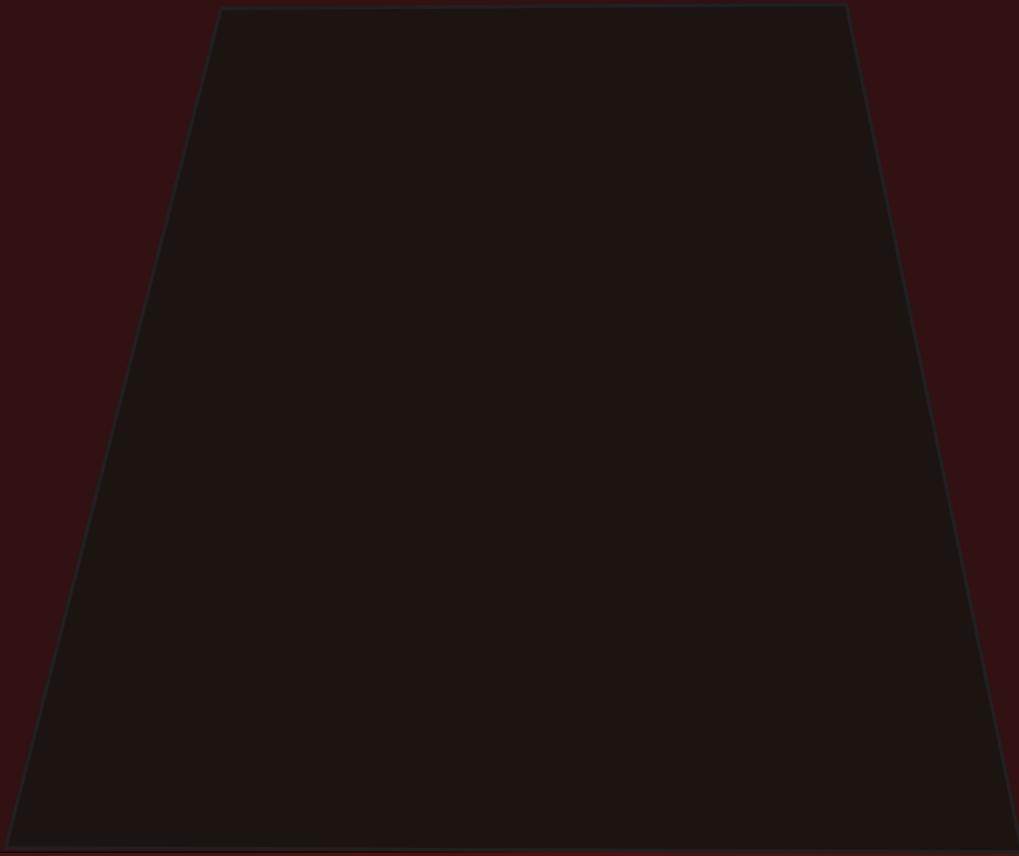


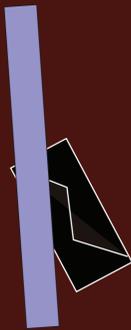
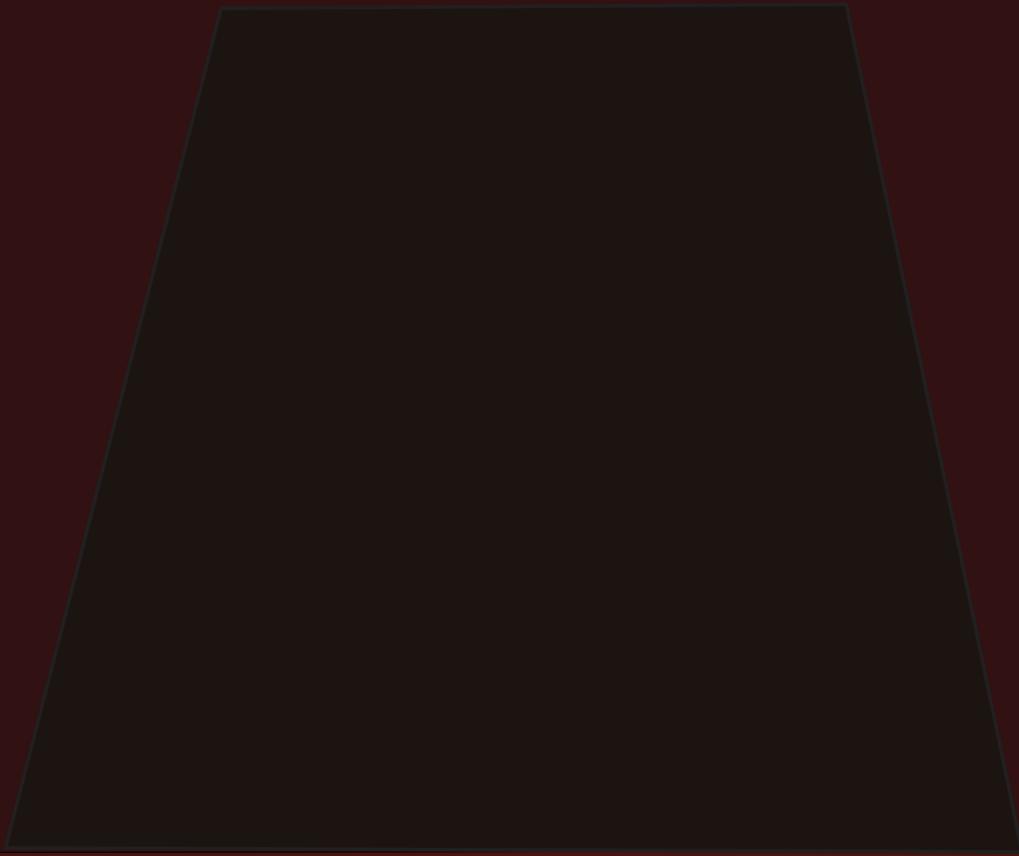


“Come, child.”

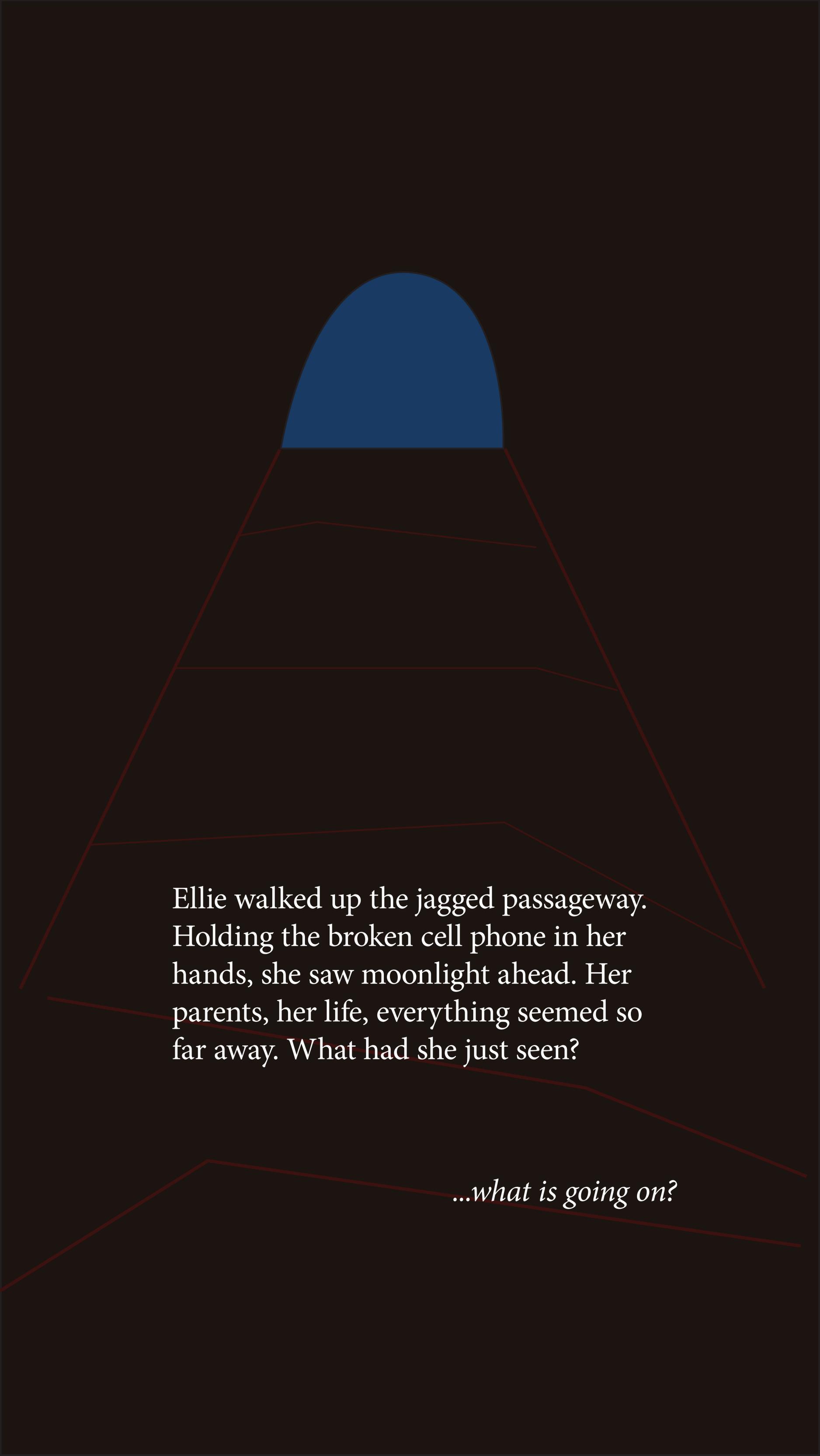






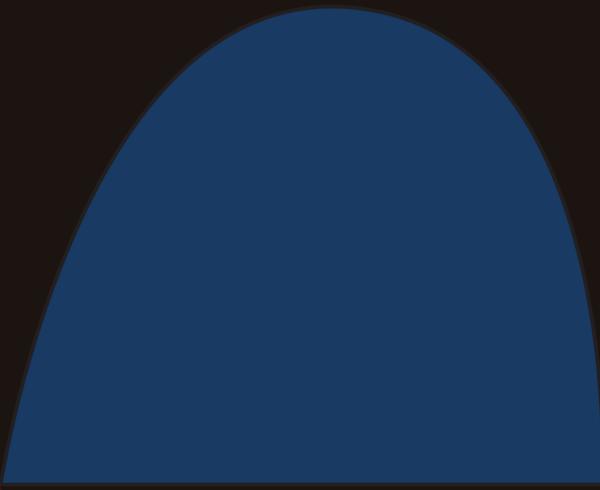






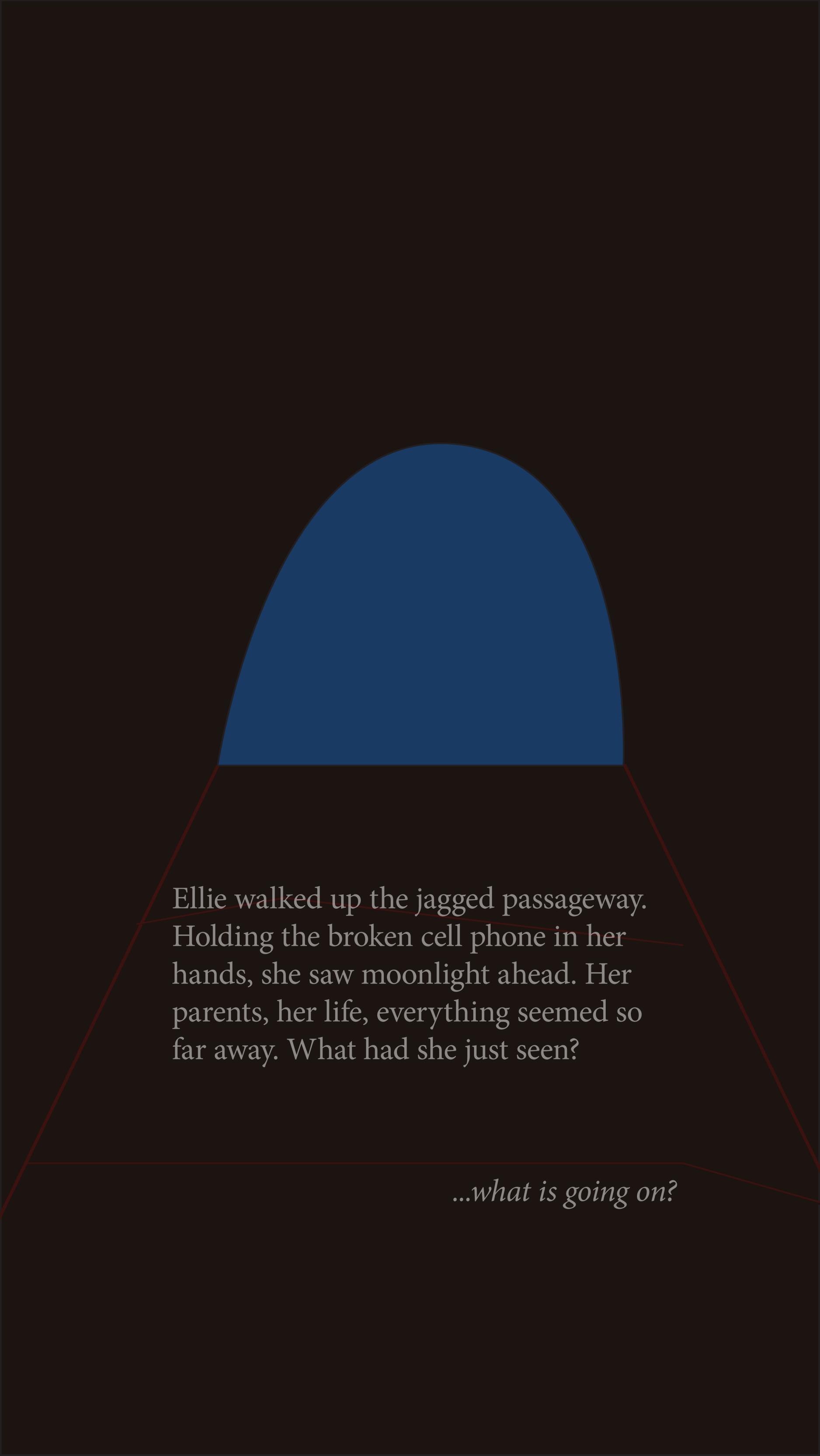
Ellie walked up the jagged passageway.
Holding the broken cell phone in her
hands, she saw moonlight ahead. Her
parents, her life, everything seemed so
far away. What had she just seen?

...what is going on?



Ellie walked up the jagged passageway. Holding the broken cell phone in her hands, she saw moonlight ahead. Her parents, her life, everything seemed so far away. What had she just seen?

...what is going on?



Ellie walked up the jagged passageway.
Holding the broken cell phone in her
hands, she saw moonlight ahead. Her
parents, her life, everything seemed so
far away. What had she just seen?

...what is going on?



There, on a plateau seemingly at the top of the world, the condor was waiting for her.

“So, you’ve made it out at last.”

“How did you know I’d be here?”

“My child, I am the spirit of the mountain.
Of course I knew you’d be here.”

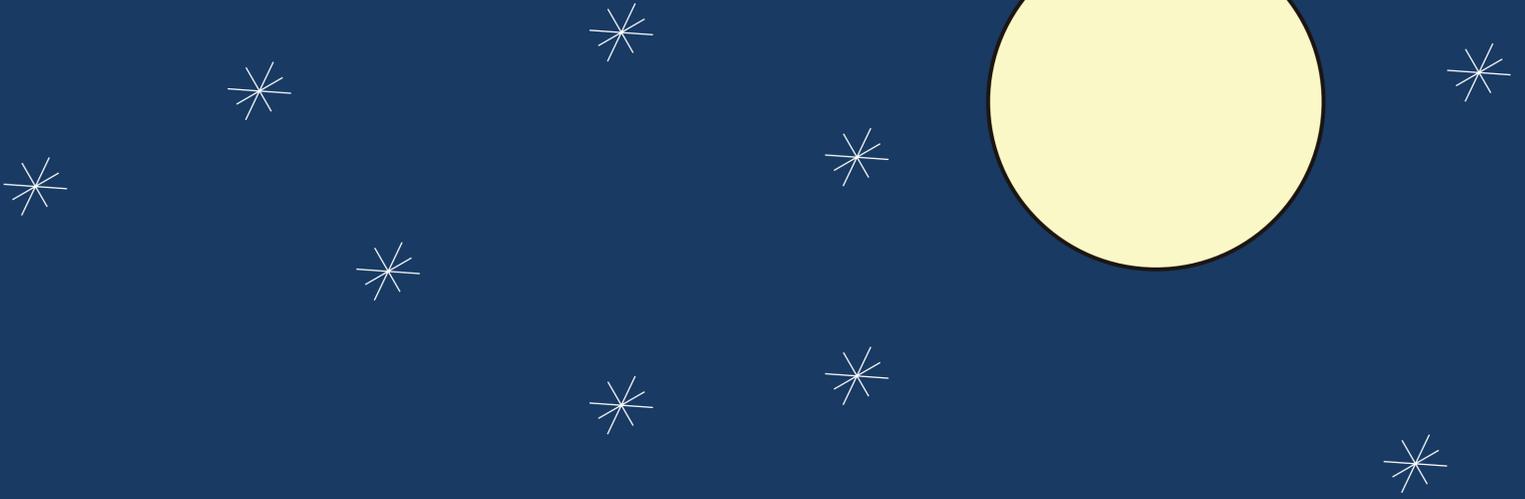
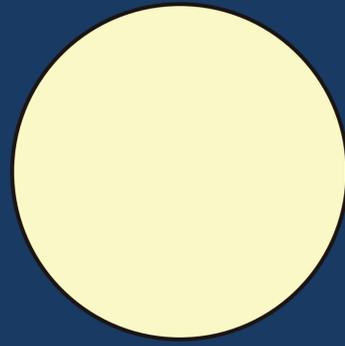




“Wait, so that means the earthquake this morning...?”

“A part of the plan, to be able to show you this...”

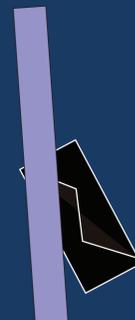


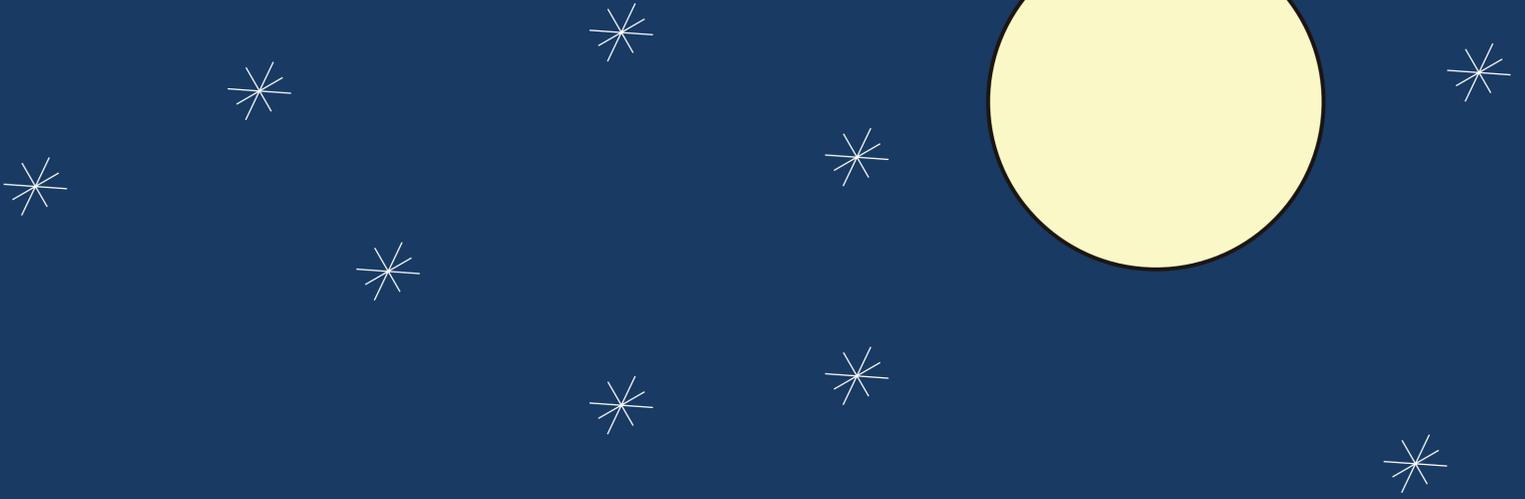
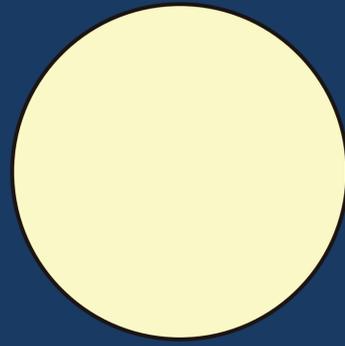


Ellie saw strands of light, first hundreds, then millions of them, rising from all around and into the sky.

“What is all this?”

“You see, every object, every person, everything on earth, even your cell phone, has a spirit.”



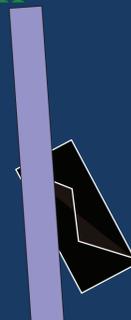


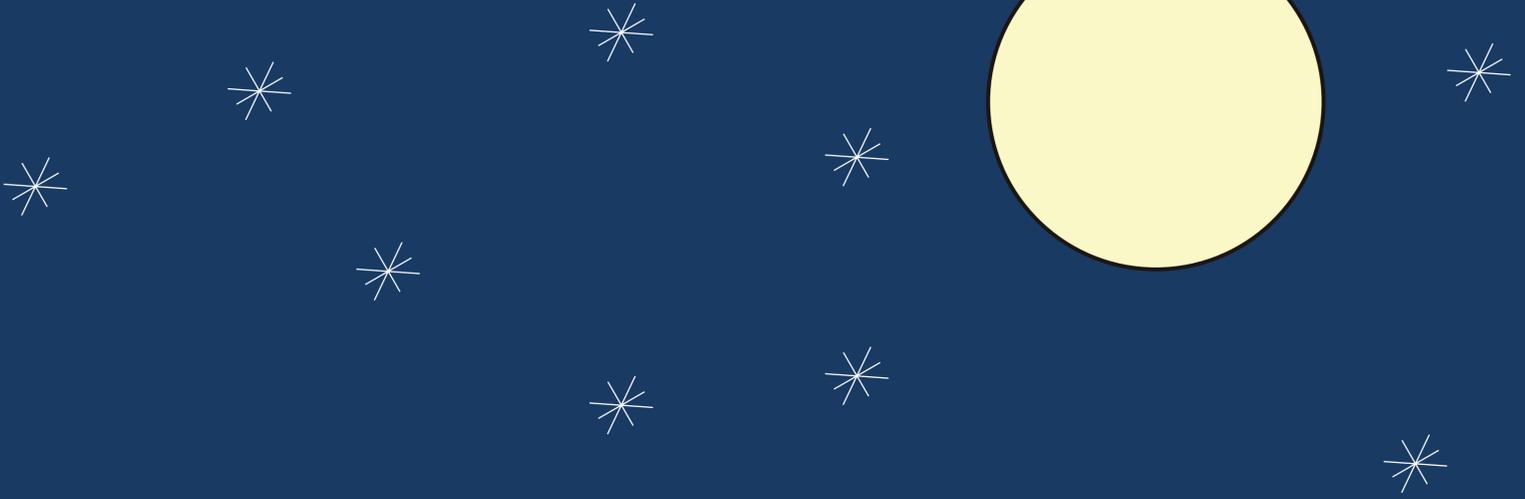
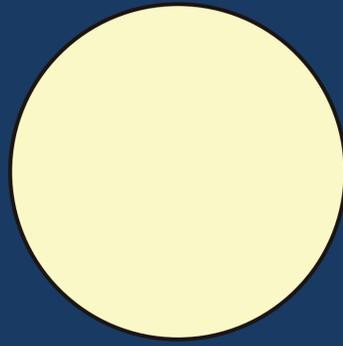
Ellie saw strands of light, first hundreds, then millions of them, rising from all around and into the sky.

“What is all this?”

“You see, every object, every person, everything on earth, even your cell phone, has a spirit.”

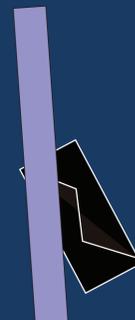
“All of these spirits are connected. And that’s why we celebrate the solstice, and why we have the mountain ceremonies.”

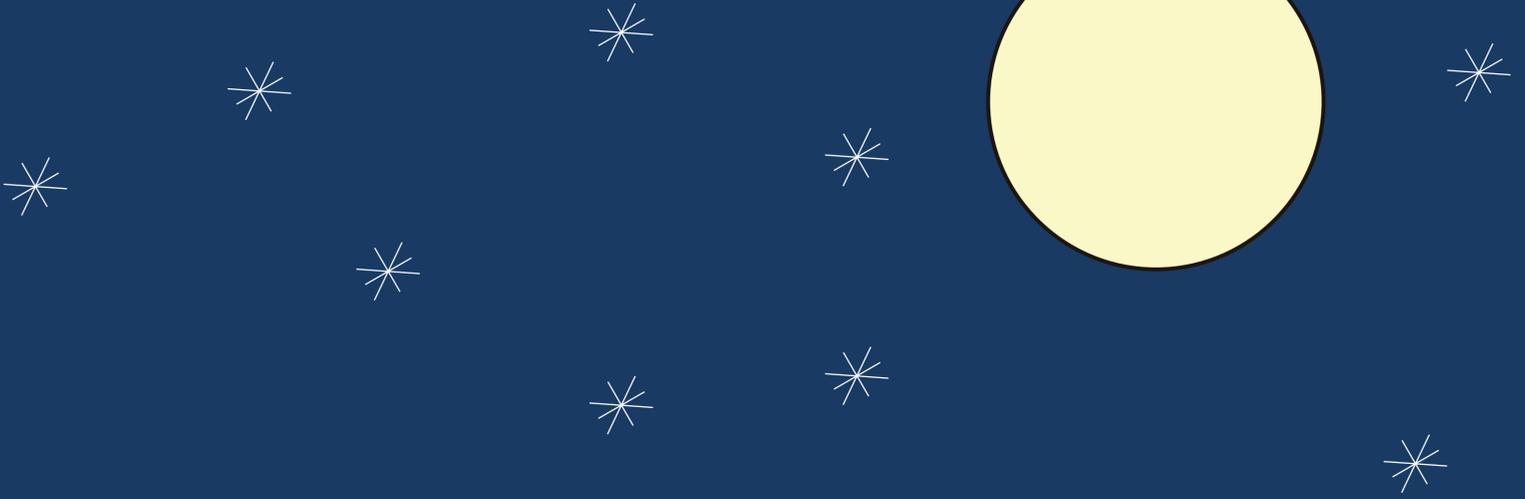
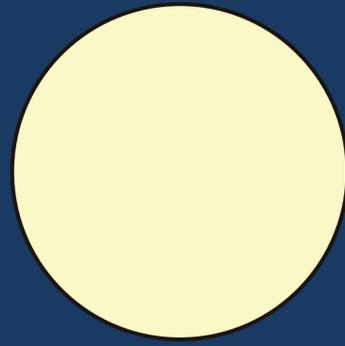




“All of these spirits are connected.
And that’s why we celebrate the sol-
stice, and why we have the moun-
tain ceremonies.”

“To remember and celebrate those
connections.”

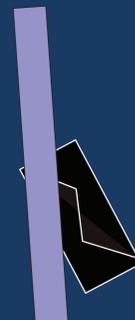




“To remember and celebrate those connections.”

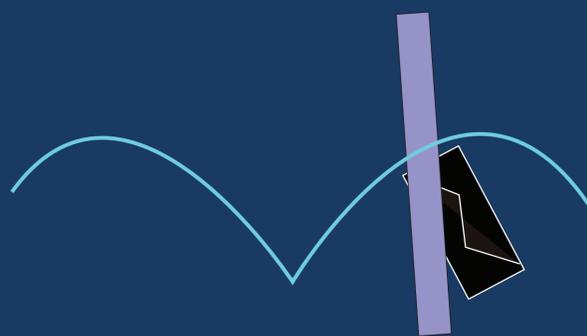
“I didn’t know all of this was here...”

“You shouldn’t ignore it! Just because you can’t always see, that doesn’t mean it’s not there.”





The condor nudged the cell phone,
and Ellie saw a strand of light
emerge from it...

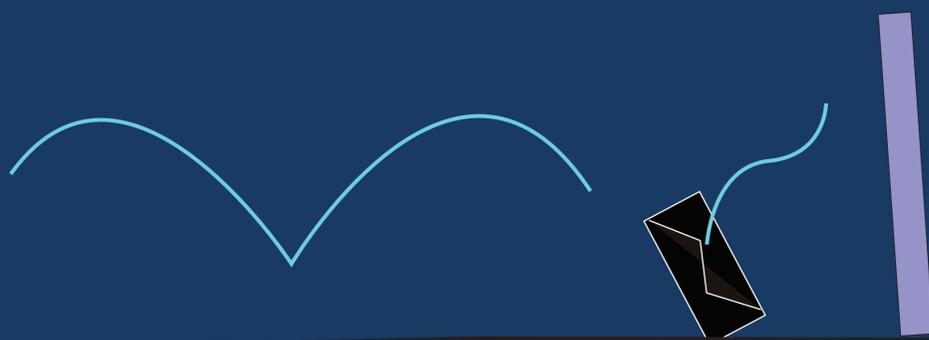


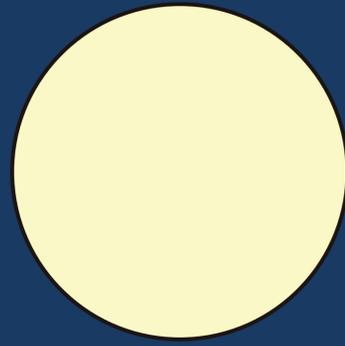


The condor nudged the cell phone,
and Ellie saw a strand of light
emerge from it...

“The cell phone isn’t bad. Like you,
like me, it has its own spirit. But the
cell phone, like anything, when used
too much, throws you off balance.

“You must learn to also acknowledge,
and appreciate the other forces in you
life, for they are part of the great cosmos.”



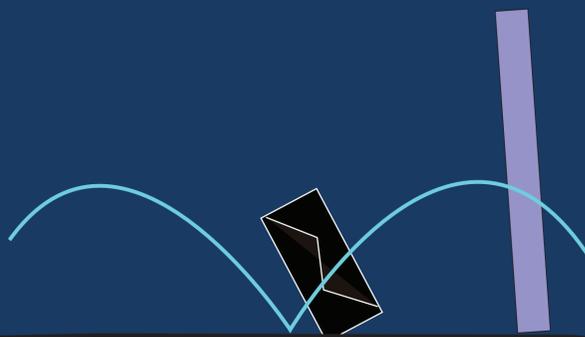


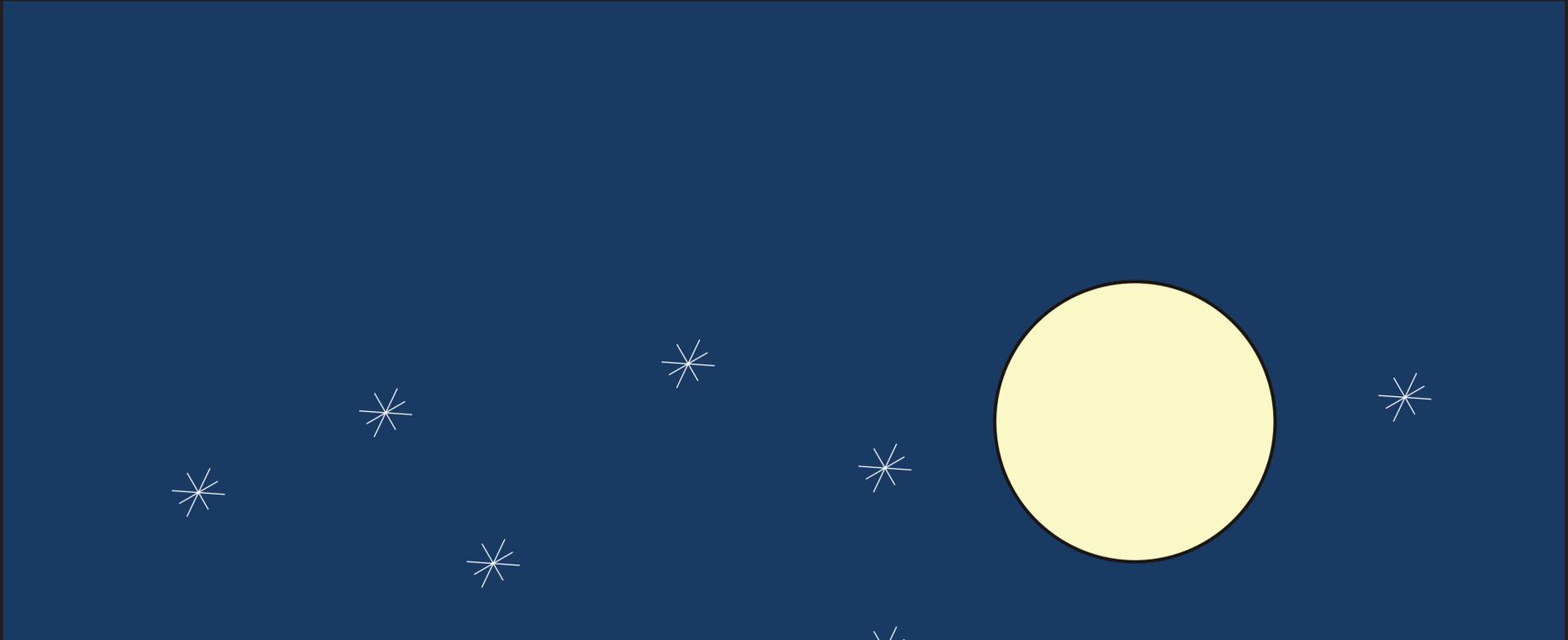
The condor nudged the cell phone,
and Ellie saw a strand of light
emerge from it...

“The cell phone isn’t bad. Like you,
like me, it has its own spirit. But the
cell phone, like anything, when used
too much, throws you off balance.

“You must learn to also acknowledge,
and appreciate the other forces in you
life, for they are part of the great cosmos.”

The condor then nudged the cell
phone again...





The condor nudged the cell phone,
and Ellie saw a strand of light
emerge from it...

“The cell phone isn’t bad. Like you,
like me, it has its own spirit. But the
cell phone, like anything, when used
too much, throws you off balance.

“You must learn to also acknowledge,
and appreciate the other forces in you
life, for they are part of the great cosmos.”

The condor then nudged the cell
phone again...

and it miraculously was fixed.



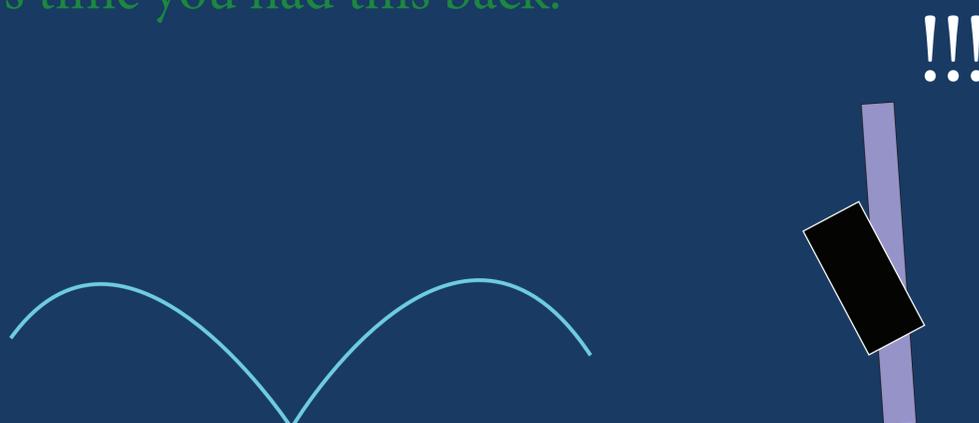


The condor then nudged the cell
phone again...

and it miraculously was fixed.

“You fixed it!”

“Yes, it’s time you had this back.”





The condor then nudged the cell
phone again...

and it miraculously was fixed.

“You fixed it!”

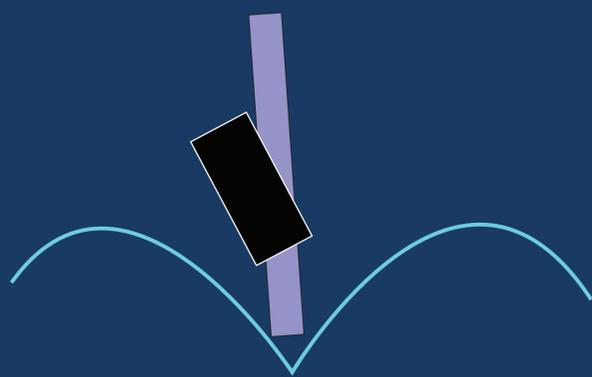
“Yes, it’s time you had this back.”





V.

They flew back to the hotel. At ease, Ellie breathed deeply and noticed for what seemed like the first time how fresh the air was. It was a beautiful night.

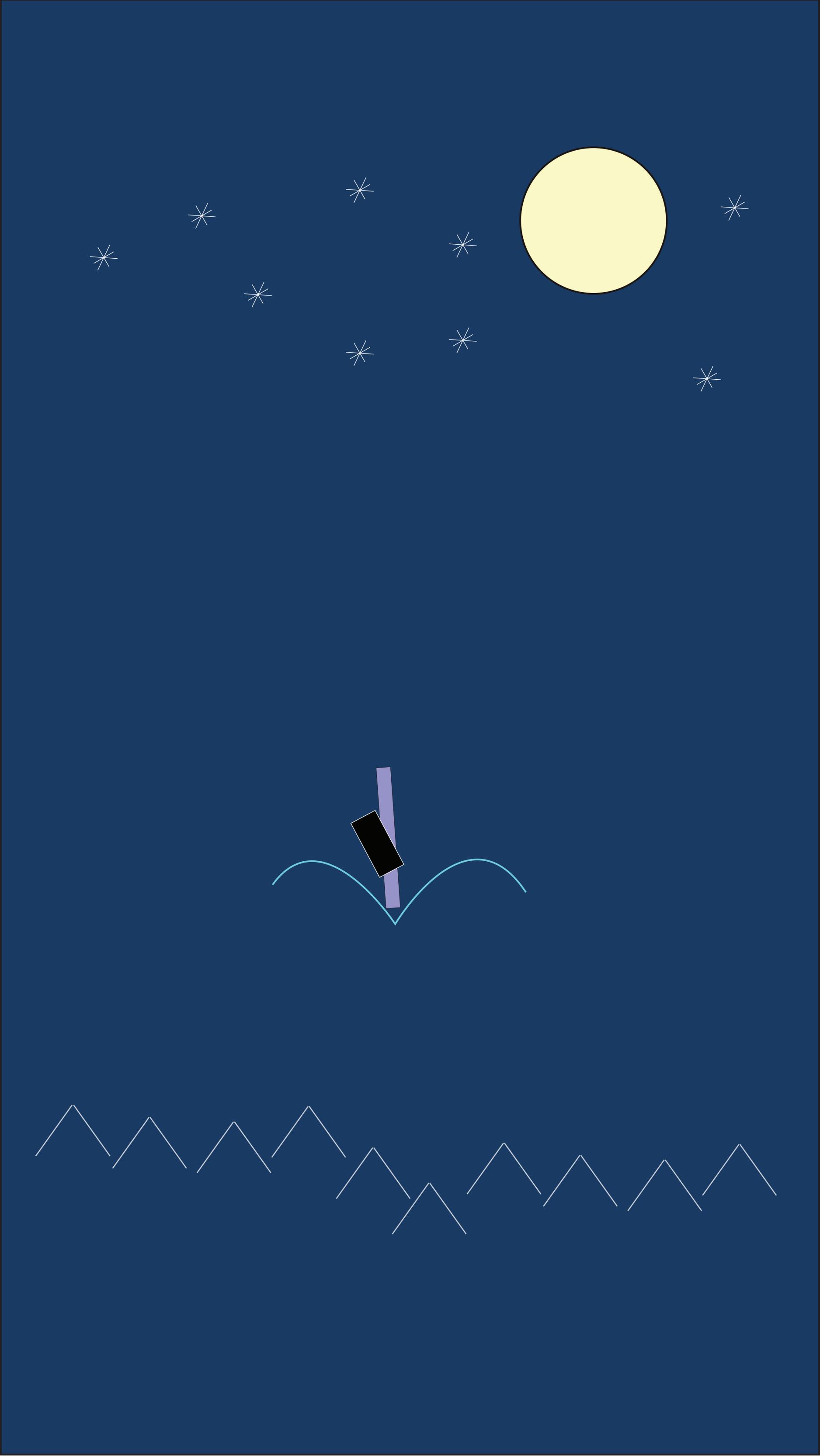


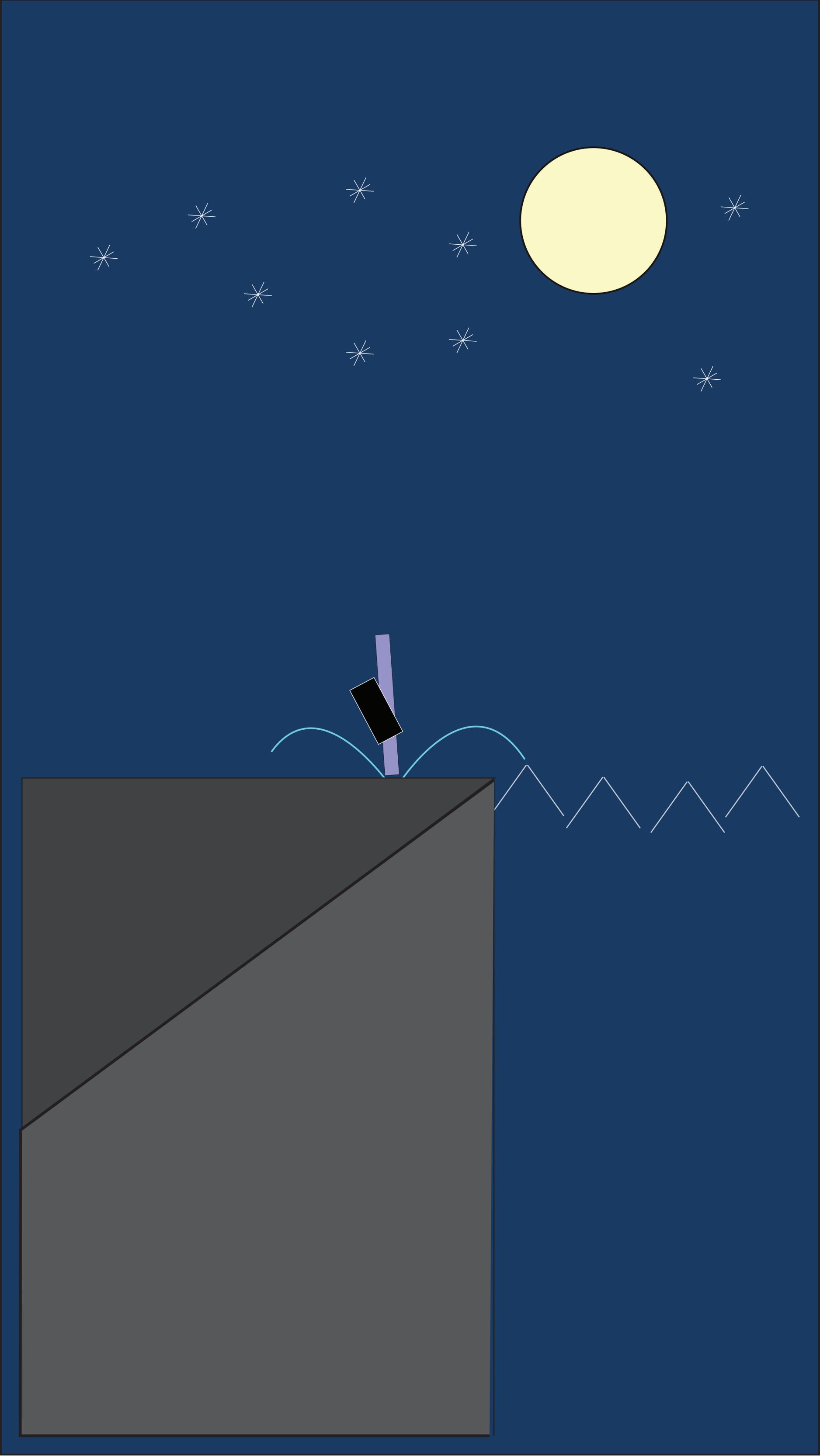


V.

They flew back to the hotel. At ease, Ellie breathed deeply and noticed for what seemed like the first time how fresh the air was. It was a beautiful night.



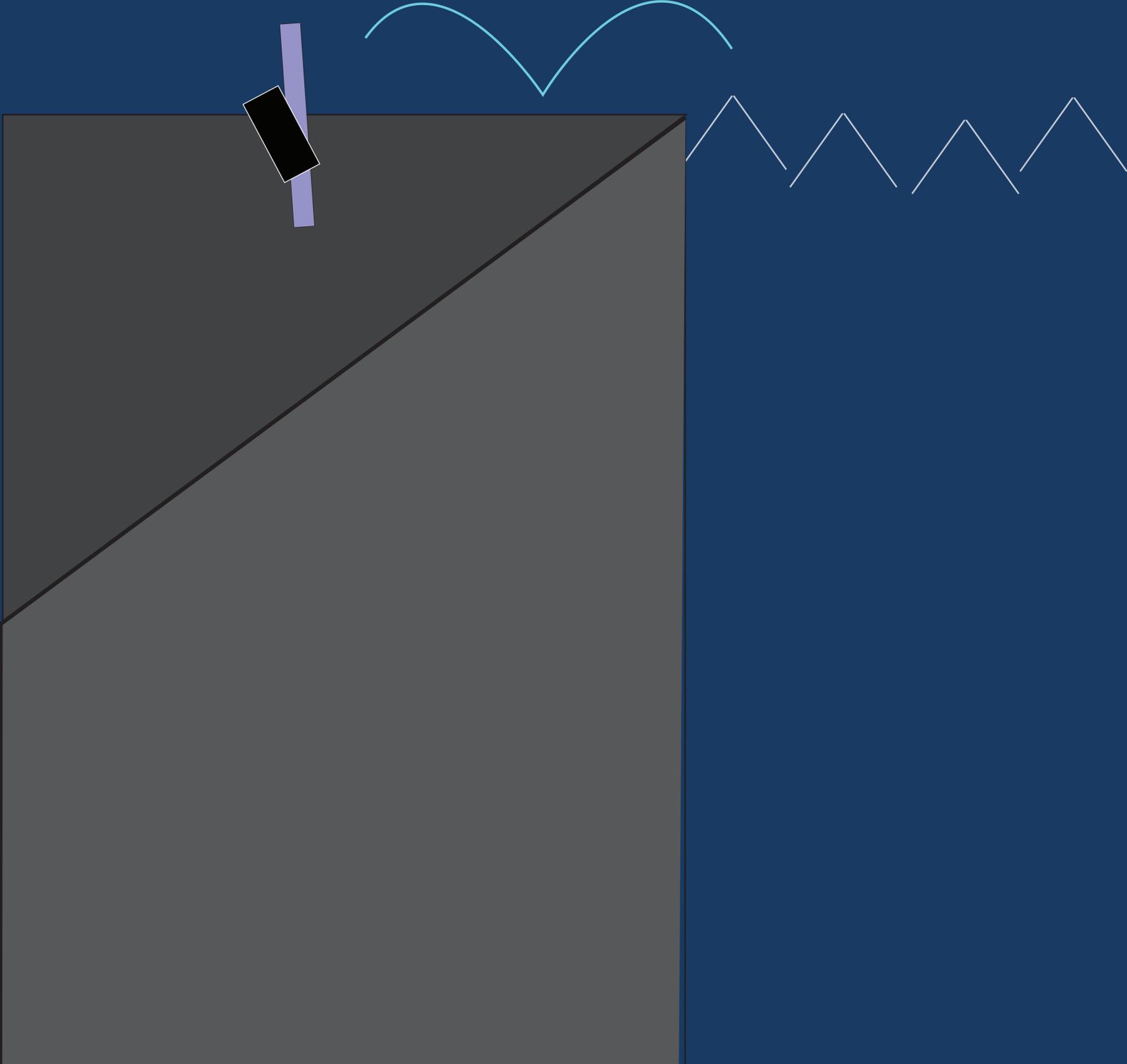


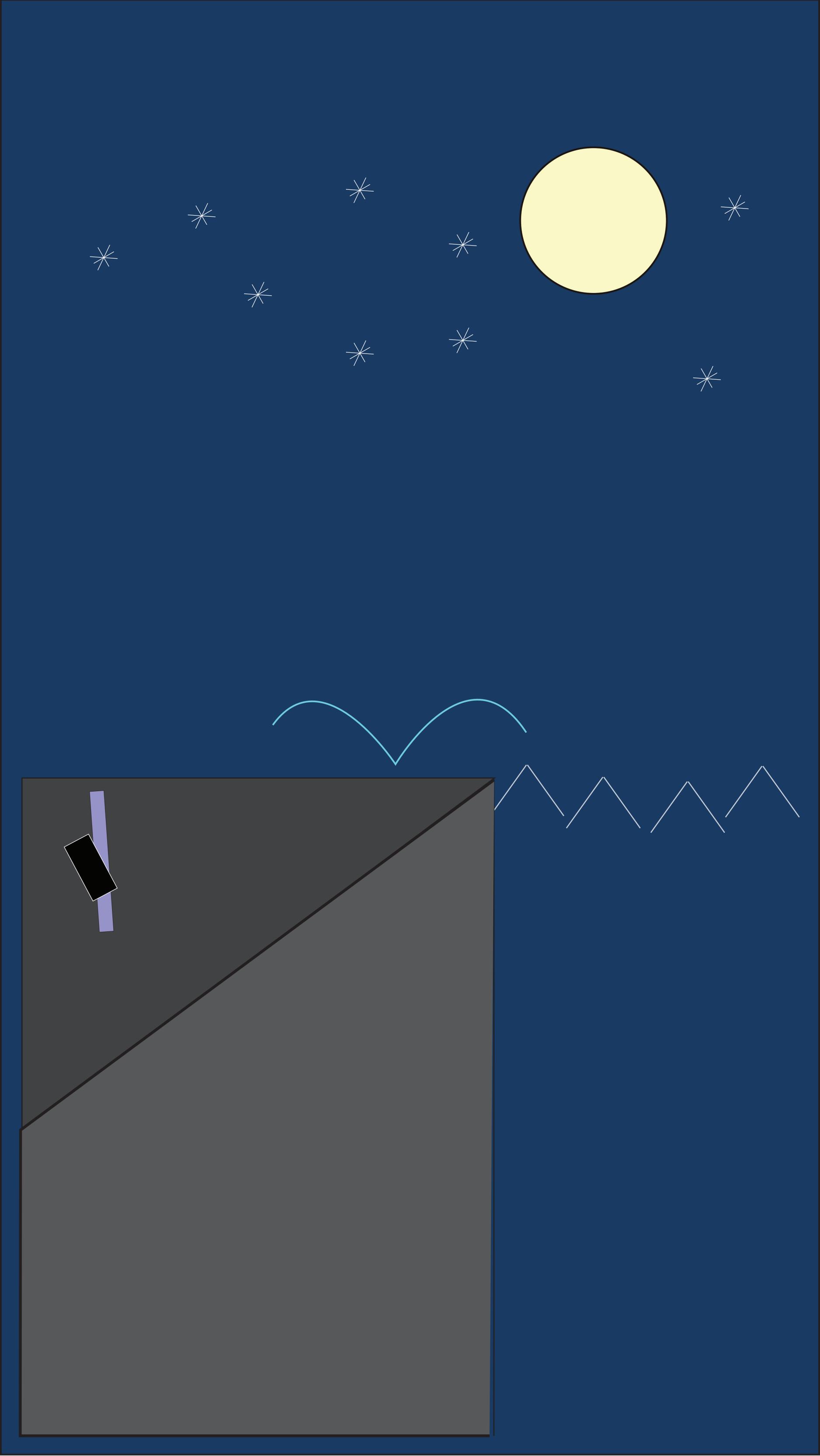




“Thank you, sir Condor.”

“My pleasure.”

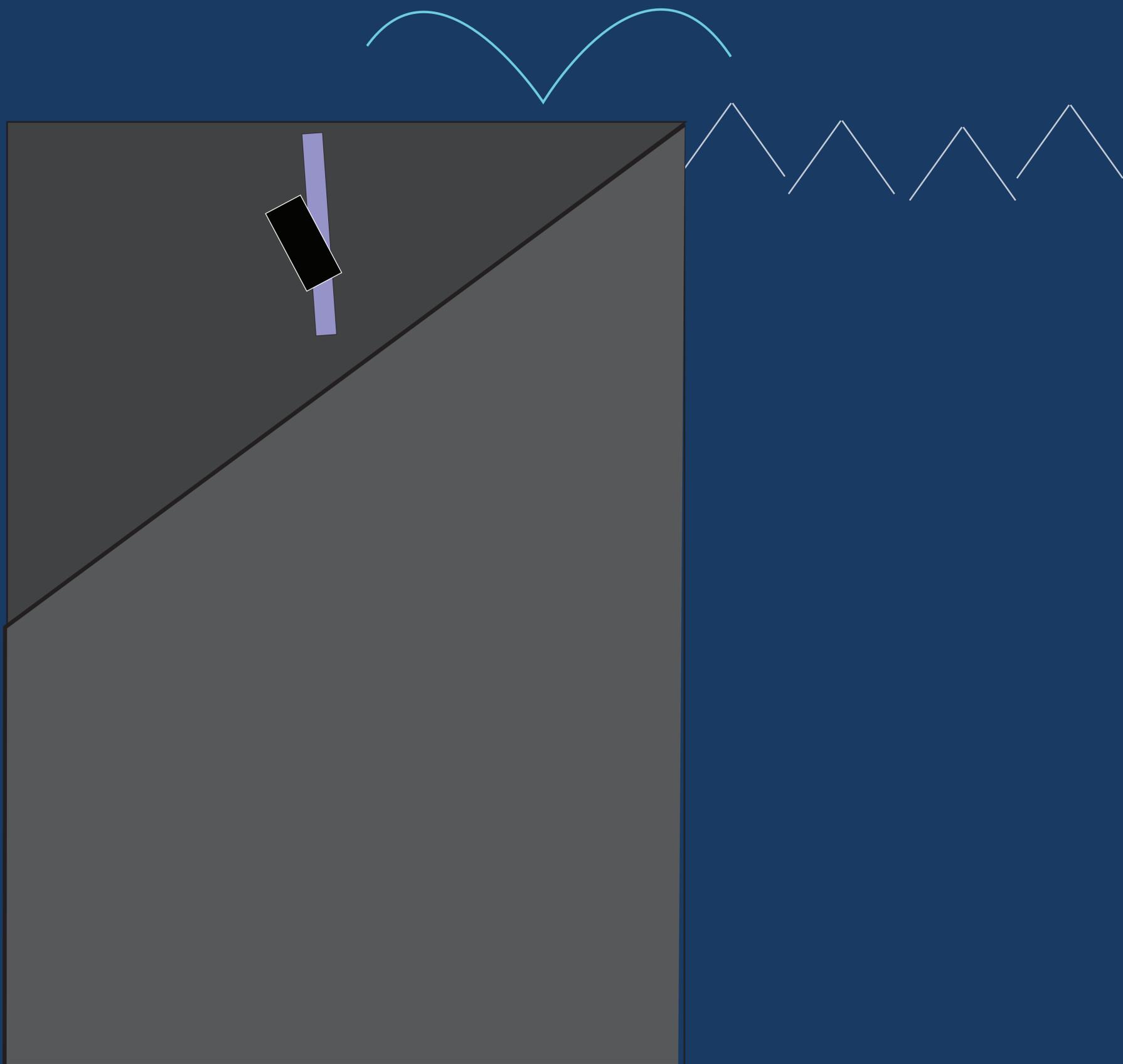






“...will I ever see you again?”

“Whenever you go to a hill, or mountain,
and you see a bird flying near the top...
That is the spirit of the mountain.”

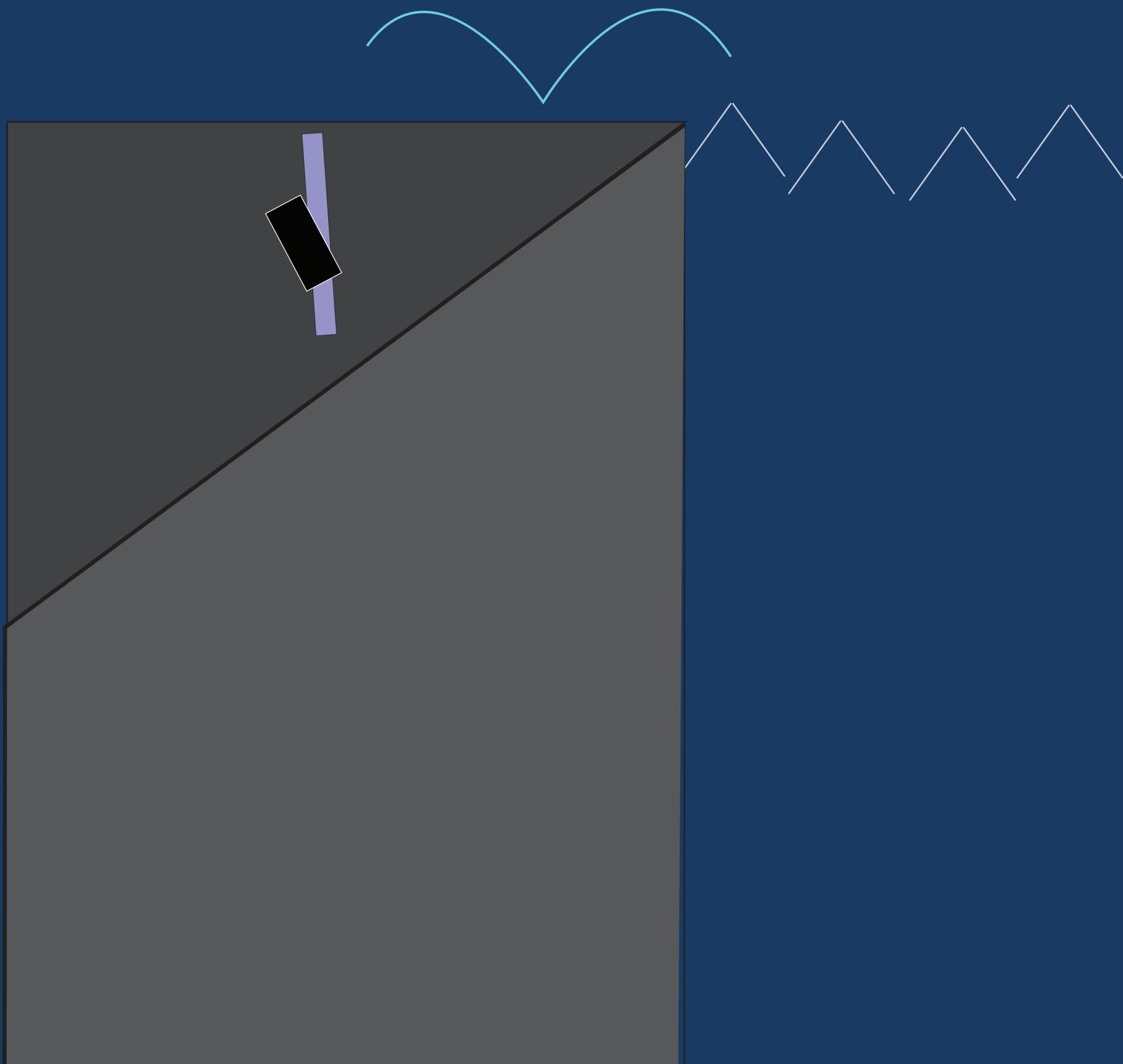




“...will I ever see you again?”

“Whenever you go to a hill, or mountain, and you see a bird flying near the top... That is the spirit of the mountain.

“You can always see me, and remember me, there.”

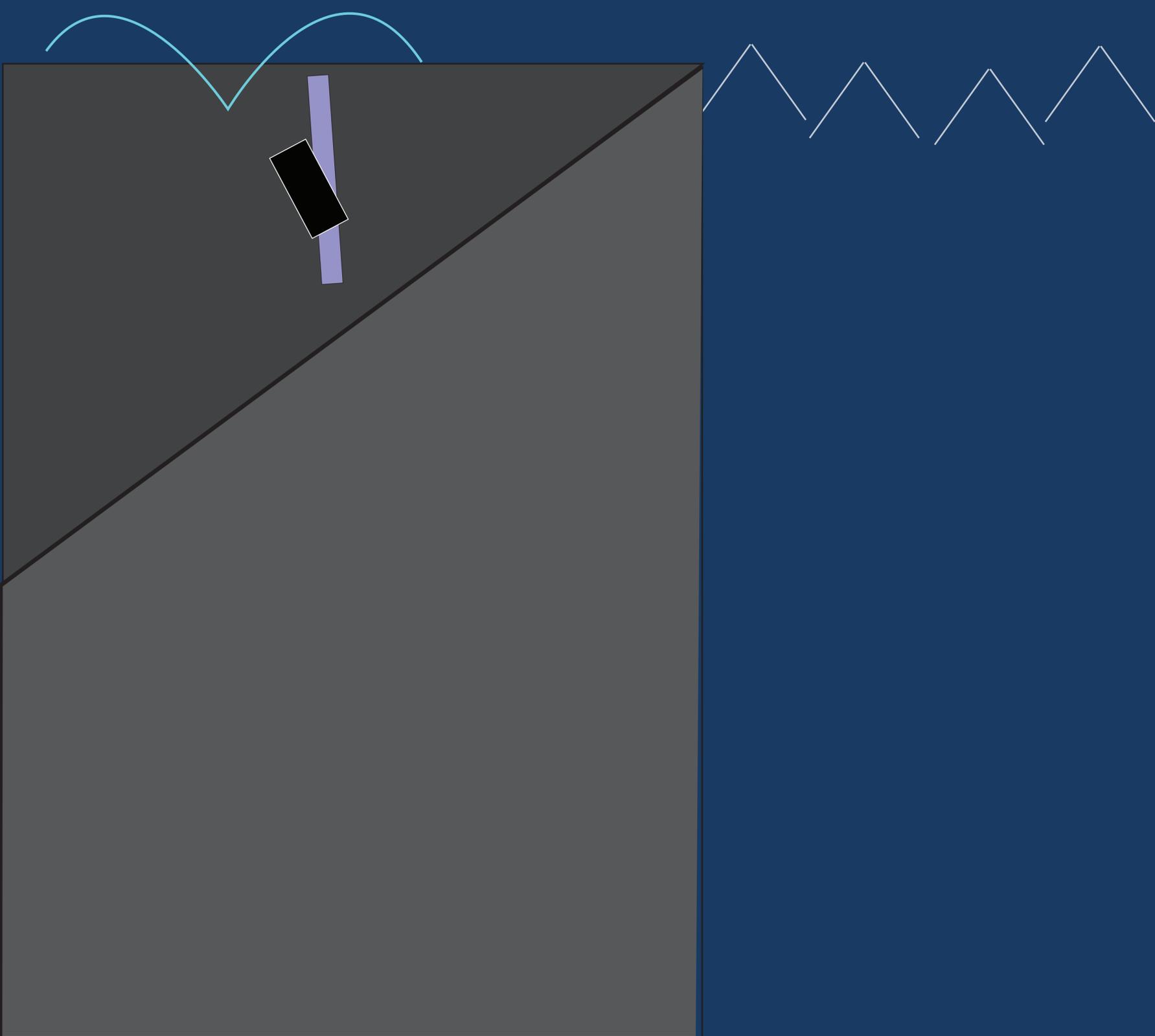


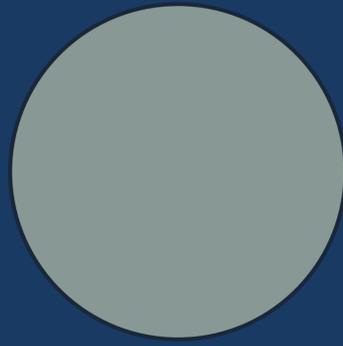


“Whenever you go to a hill, or mountain, and you see a bird flying near the top... That is the spirit of the mountain.

“You can always see me, and remember me, there.”

Can I have some of that food now?”

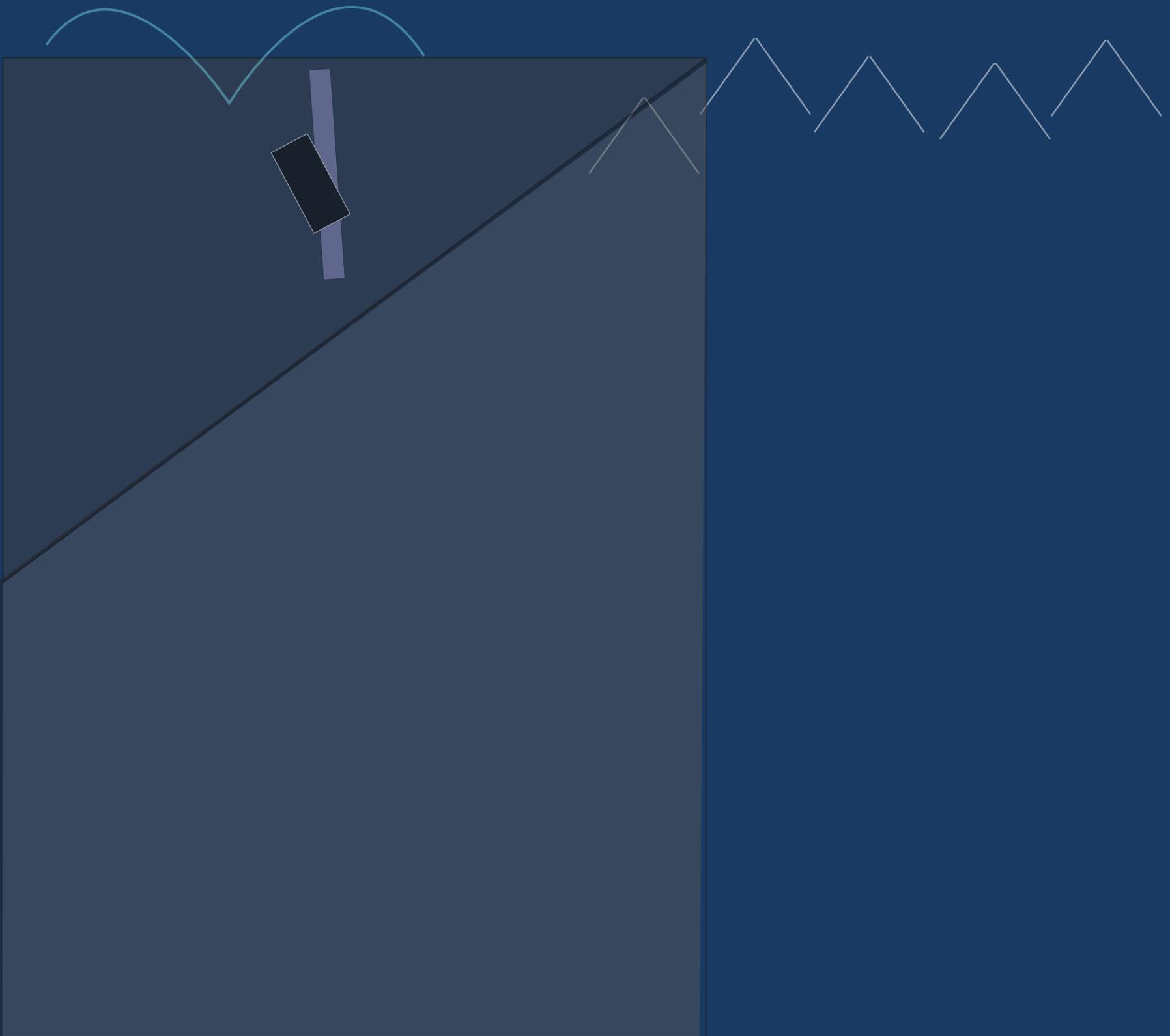




“Whenever you go to a hill, or mountain, and you see a bird flying near the top... That is the spirit of the mountain.

“You can always see me, and remember me, there.”

Can I have some of that food now?”



The next day...

The next day...

“Ellie!”

Mom was calling from the river
bank.

“Ellie!”

Mom was calling from the river bank. “Do you want to go rafting?”



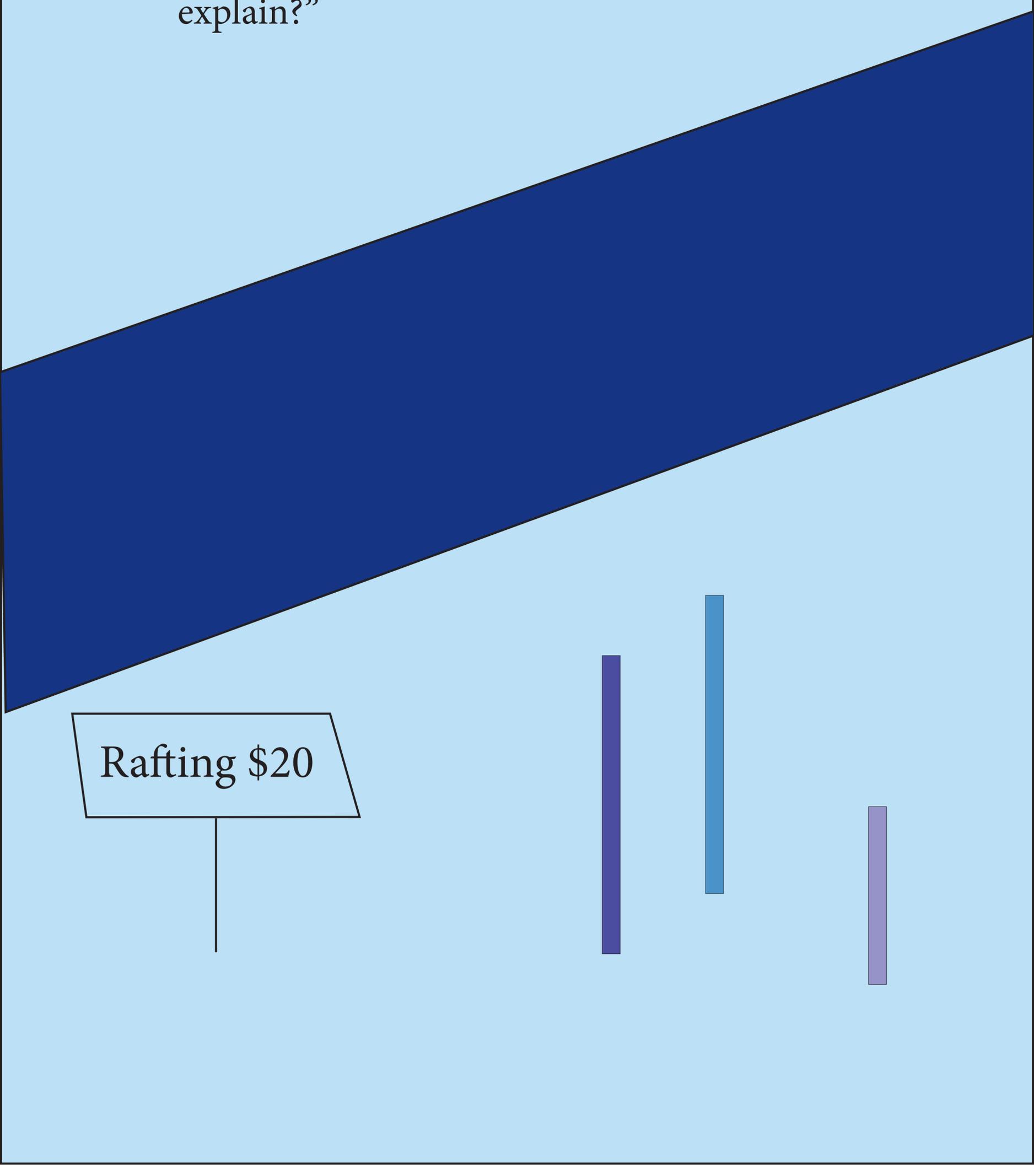
Rafting \$20

“Ellie!”

Mom was calling from the river bank. “Do you want to go rafting?”

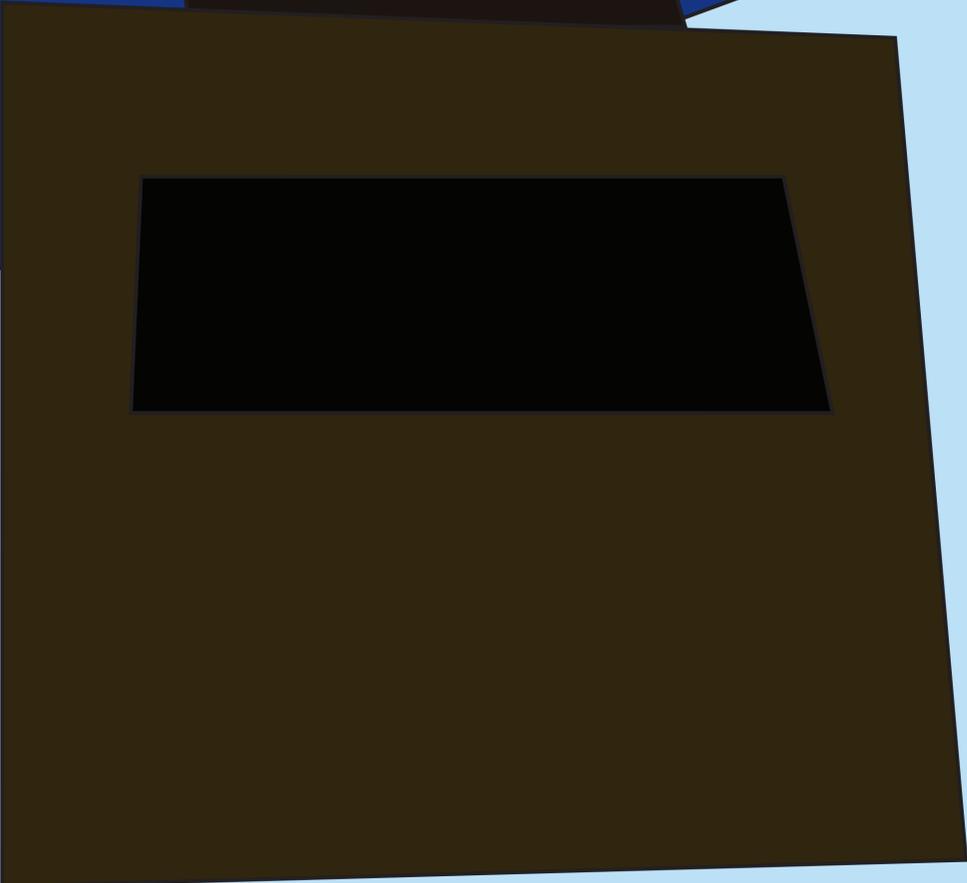
soo exhausted...

“Sure!” Ellie said, trying to sound upbeat. She hadn’t told them about her adventure last night yet. Would she...? How could she even explain?”

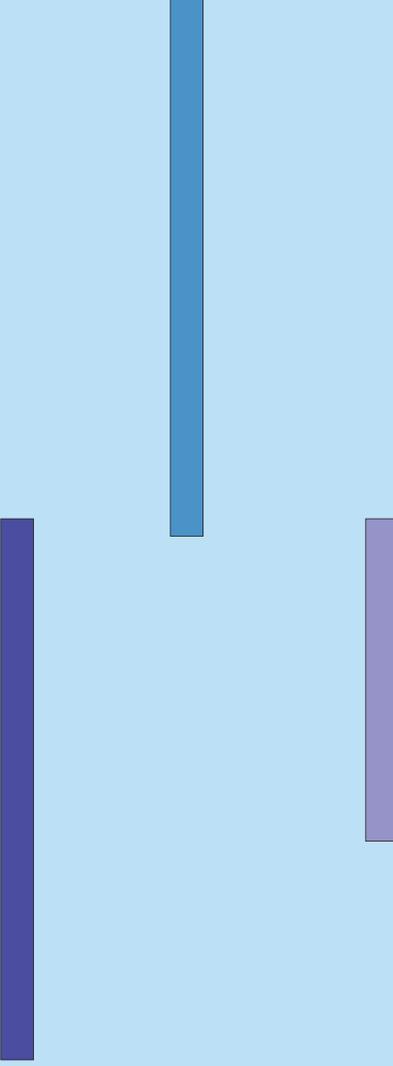


Rafting \$20

“Sure!” Ellie said, trying to sound upbeat. She hadn’t told them about her adventure last night yet. Would she...? How could she even explain?”



Rafting \$20

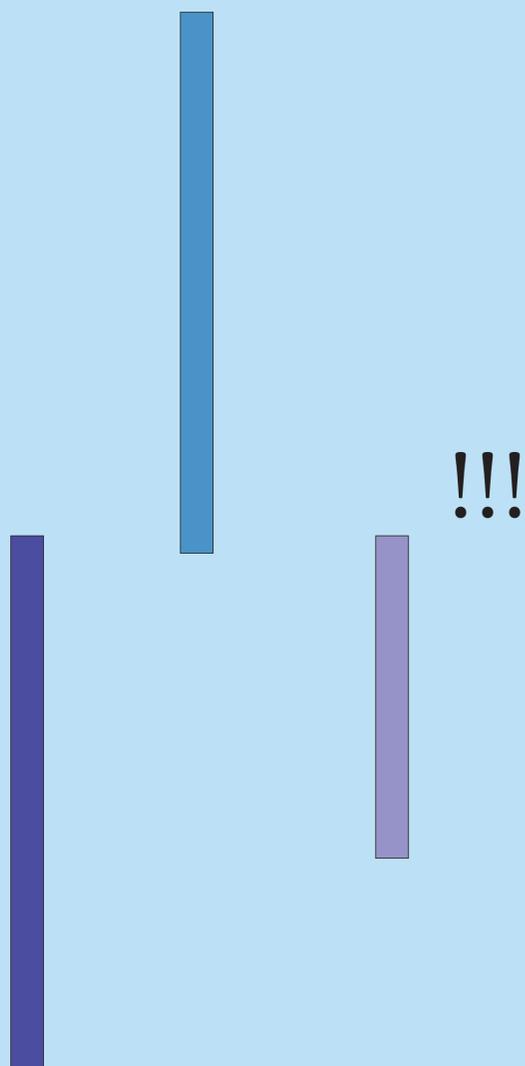


“Sorry to say,” Dad said, “but they say the river’s too rough for rafting today. Looks like we won’t be able to do it.”

“Sure!” Ellie said, trying to sound upbeat. She hadn’t told them about her adventure last night yet. Would she...? How could she even explain?”



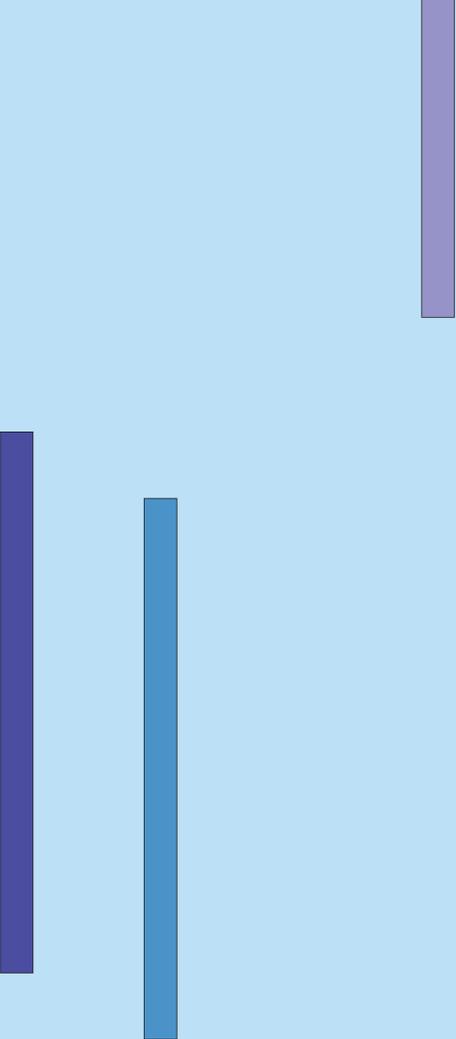
Rafting \$20



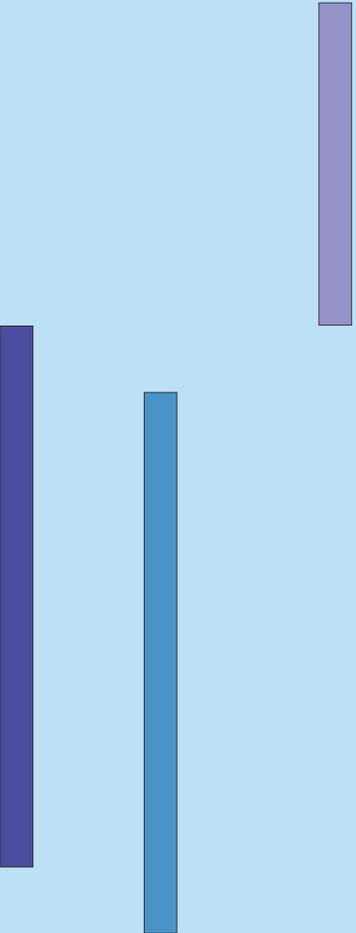
!!!

“Sorry to say,” Dad said, “but they say the river’s too rough for rafting today. Looks like we won’t be able to do it.”

“Actually, I have an idea...” Ellie said.



Ellie walked up to the side of the river. She looked up and down its rough waters. Then she said, “River, I think — I know — that you have a spirit. And you don’t have to, but I’m wondering if... just for today... you could let me and my parents ride on you?”



Ellie walked up to the side of the river. She looked up and down its rough waters. Then she said, “River, I think — I know — that you have a spirit. And you don’t have to, but I’m wondering if... just for today... you could let me and my parents ride on you?”

“Ellie, what are you doing?” Mom asked.

“It’s umm, something I learned from the mountain ceremony,” Ellie said. “Maybe we just need to ask the river permission before we can go on it.”



“Ellie, what are you doing?” Mom asked.



“It’s umm, something I learned from the mountain ceremony,” Ellie said. “Maybe we just need to ask the river permission before we can go on it.”

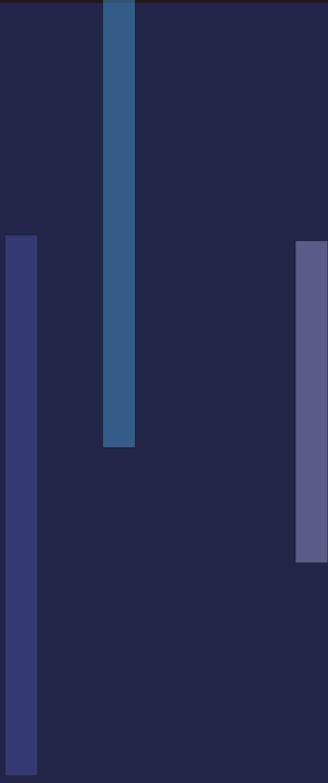


“Well how about we grab some lunch?” Dad said. “Maybe things will clear up. We can try again later.”

And Ellie couldn't help but admire the landscape as they paddled downstream.



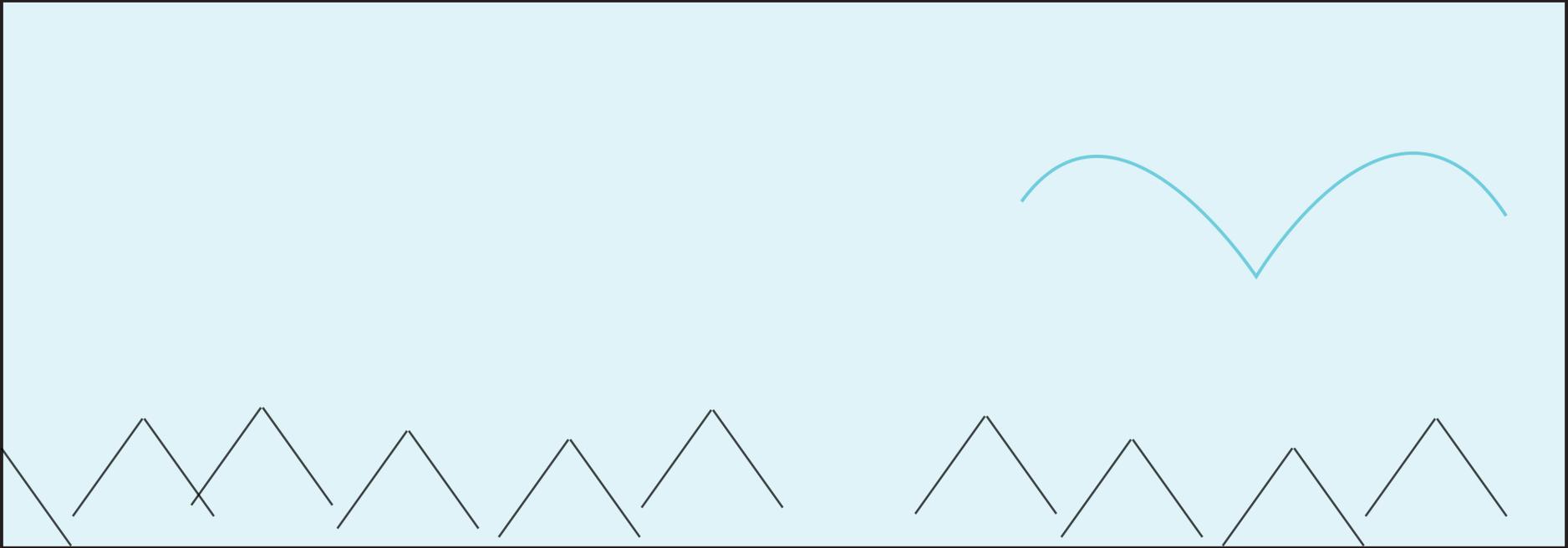
“Ellie, see, looks like this time without your cell phone is doing you good,” Dad said.



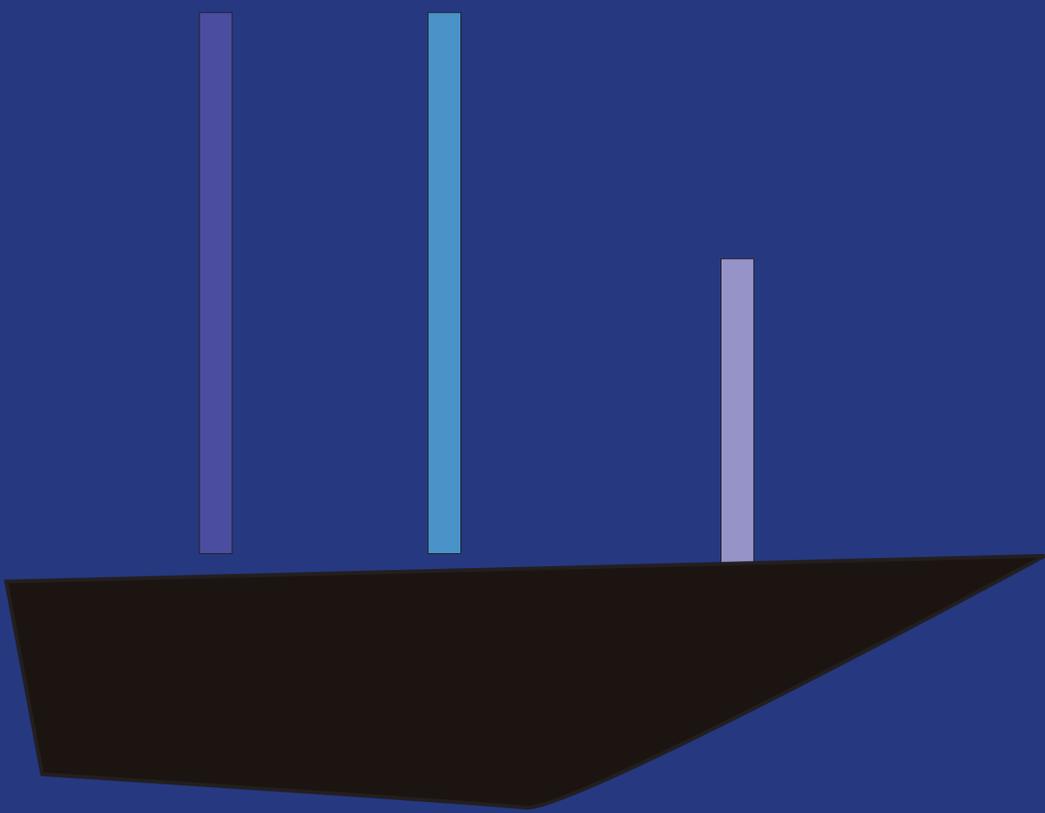
“Ellie, see, looks like this time without your cell phone is doing you good,” Dad said.

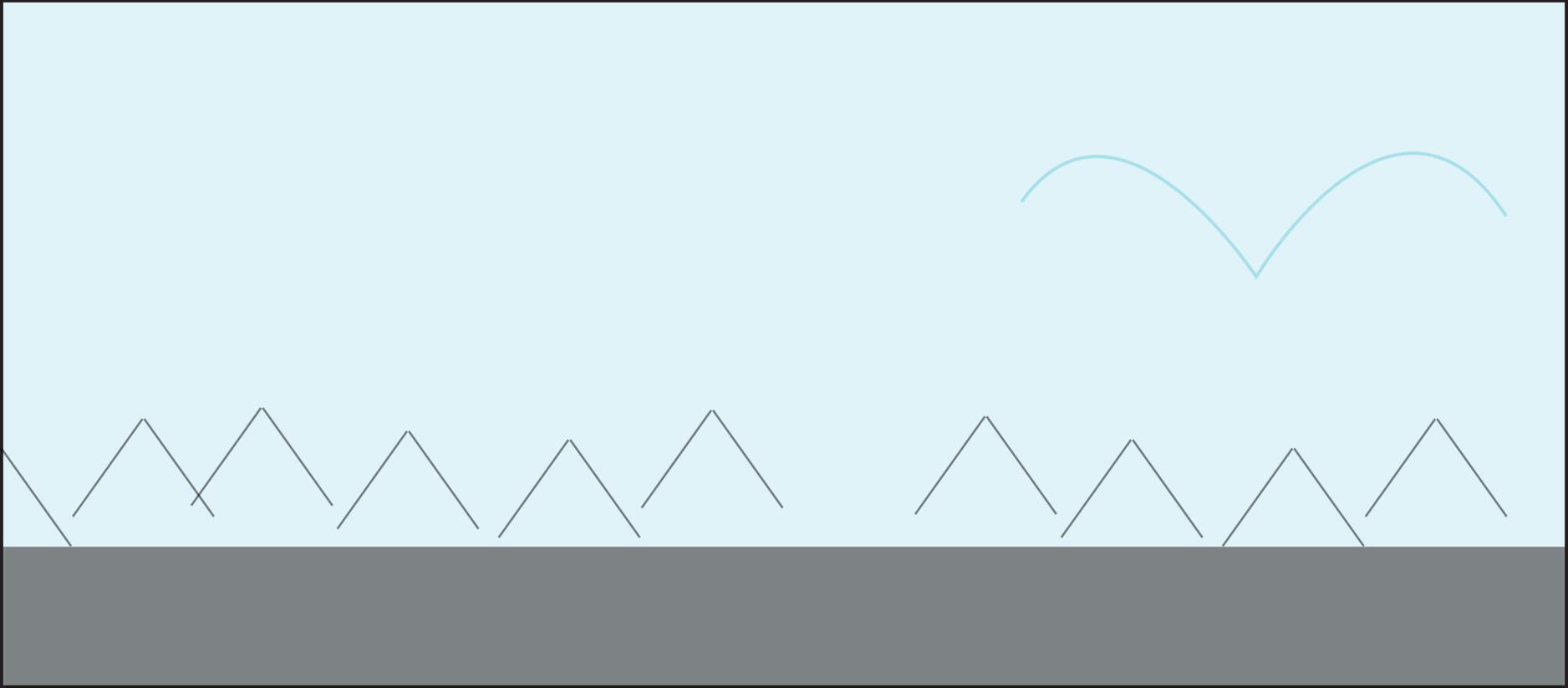


1

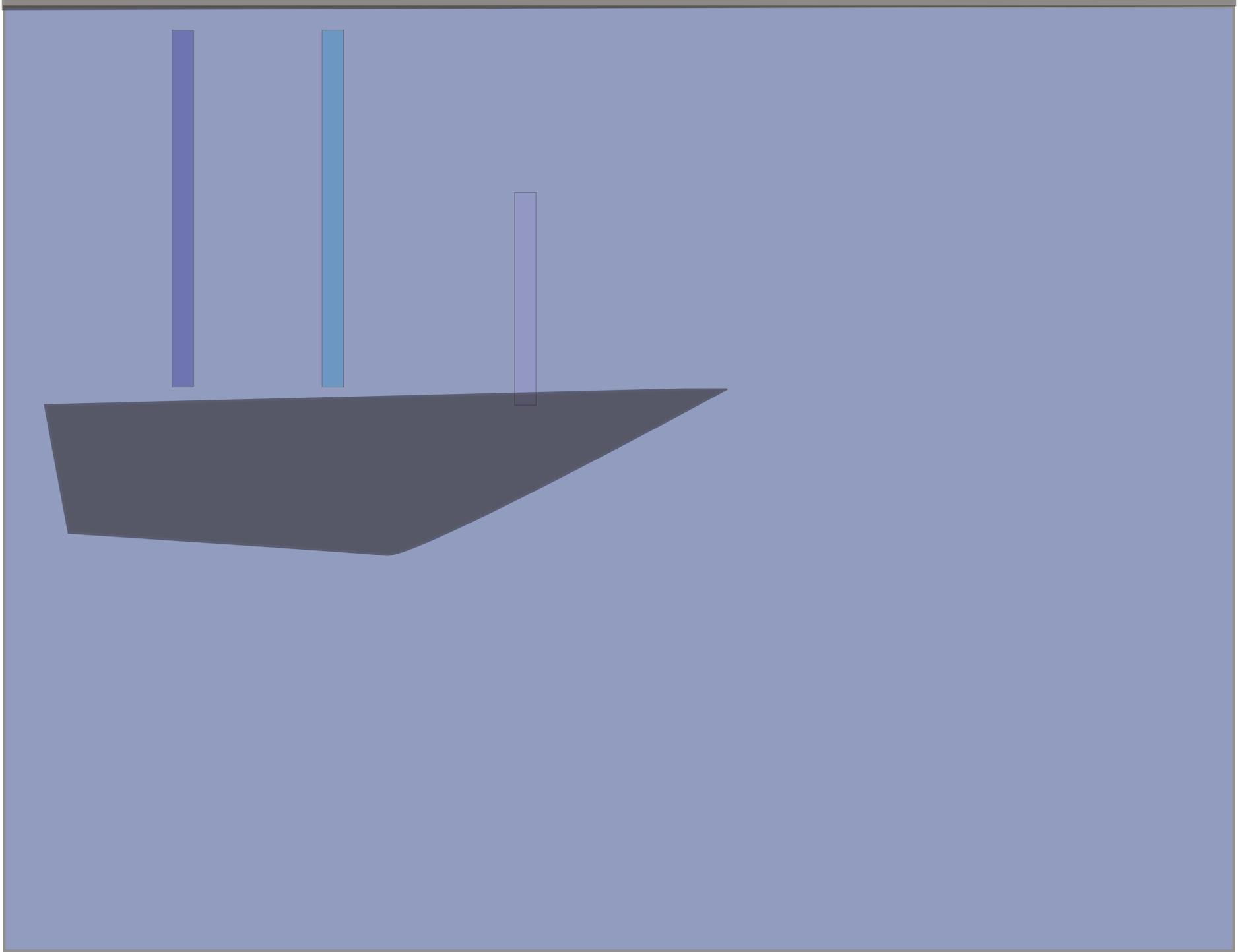


“Yeah,” Ellie said, looking up towards the mountains. “It definitely is.”





“Yeah,” Ellie said, looking up towards the mountains. “It definitely is.”



Created by
Artemio Morales

an AltSalt production

thanks for reading!

www.altsalt.com