

## 28 Genius Depictions Of Words With No Direct English Translation

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. But in this case, each image is worth just one.

Designer [Anjana Iyer](#) seeks to explain untranslatable words from non-English languages, with the help of a some quirky imagery. The New Zealand-based artist's series of illustrations, each of which is accompanied by a short explainer, effectively translates words that cannot be directly anglicized.

The series, "[Found In Translation](#)," draws from a variety of languages including Greek, Korean and Tshiluba (which is spoken in Democratic Republic of the Congo). Some of the terms Iyer chose to illustrate — such as "schadenfreude," a German word that means the feeling of enjoyment derived from seeing the misery of others — are more well-known [examples of untranslatable words](#), while others are a bit less common.

Iyer began the series as part of the [100 Days Project](#), a web-based creative exercise out of New Zealand which asks artists to choose an activity and repeat it every day for the next 100 days. For the span of the project, Iyer will be [illustrating a word that has no direct English translation](#). (She had already completed 41 images, as of Friday afternoon.)

*See a sample of Iyer's illustrations of untranslatable words, below.*



# Fernweh

feeling homesick for a place you have never been to

- Anjana Iyer

Fernweh (German)



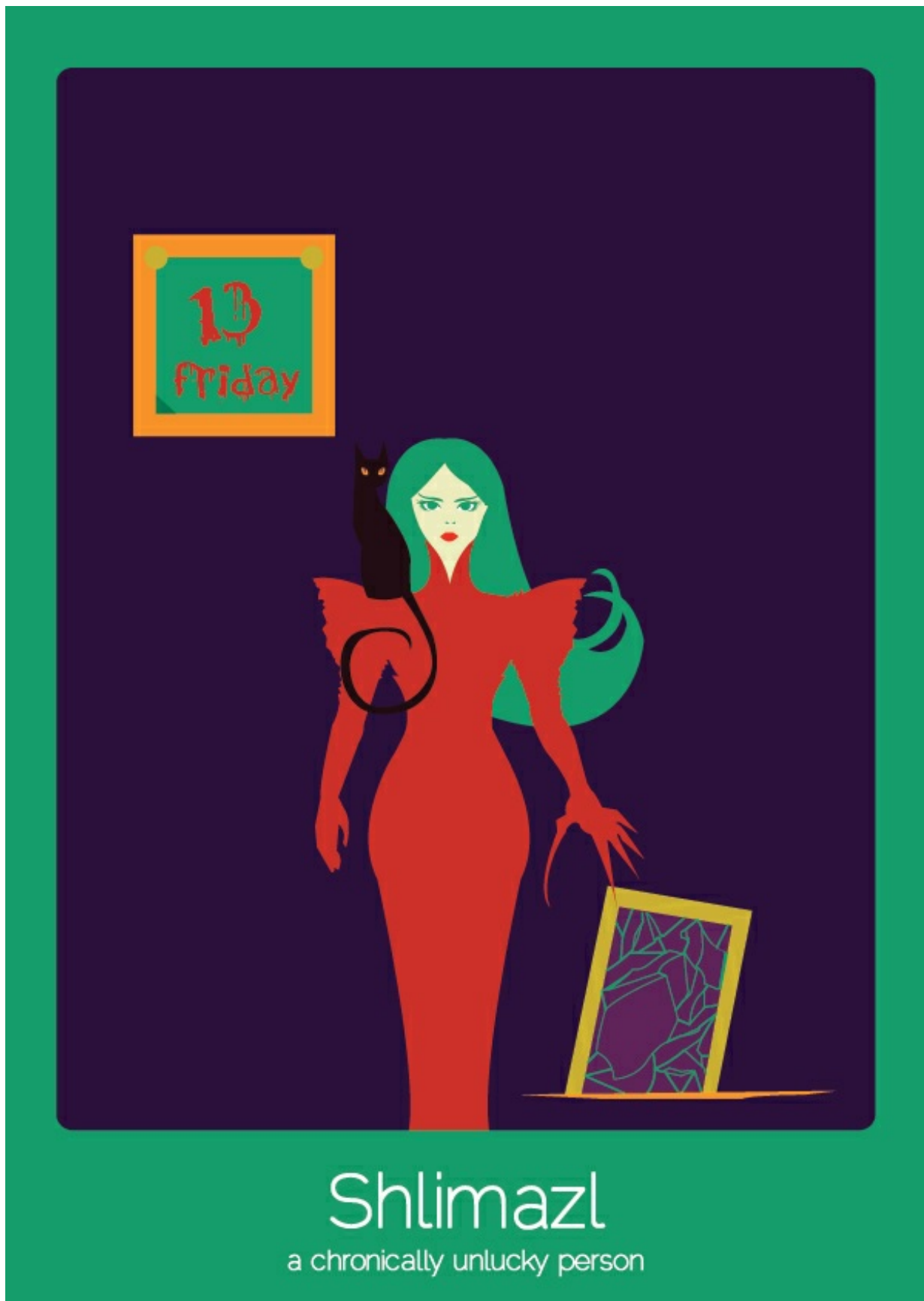
- Anjana Iyer

Backpfeifengesicht (German)



- Anjana Iyer

Bakku-shan (Japanese)



- Anjana Iyer

Shlimazl (Yiddish)



# Tsundoku

the act of leaving a book unread after buying it, typically piling it up together with other such unread books.

- Anjana Iyer

Tsundoku (Japanese)





# Waldeinsamkeit

the feeling of being alone in the woods

- Anjana Iyer

Waldeinsamkeit (German)



- Anjana Iyer

Pochemuchka(Russian)





# Aware

the bittersweetness of a brief and fading  
moment of transcendent beauty

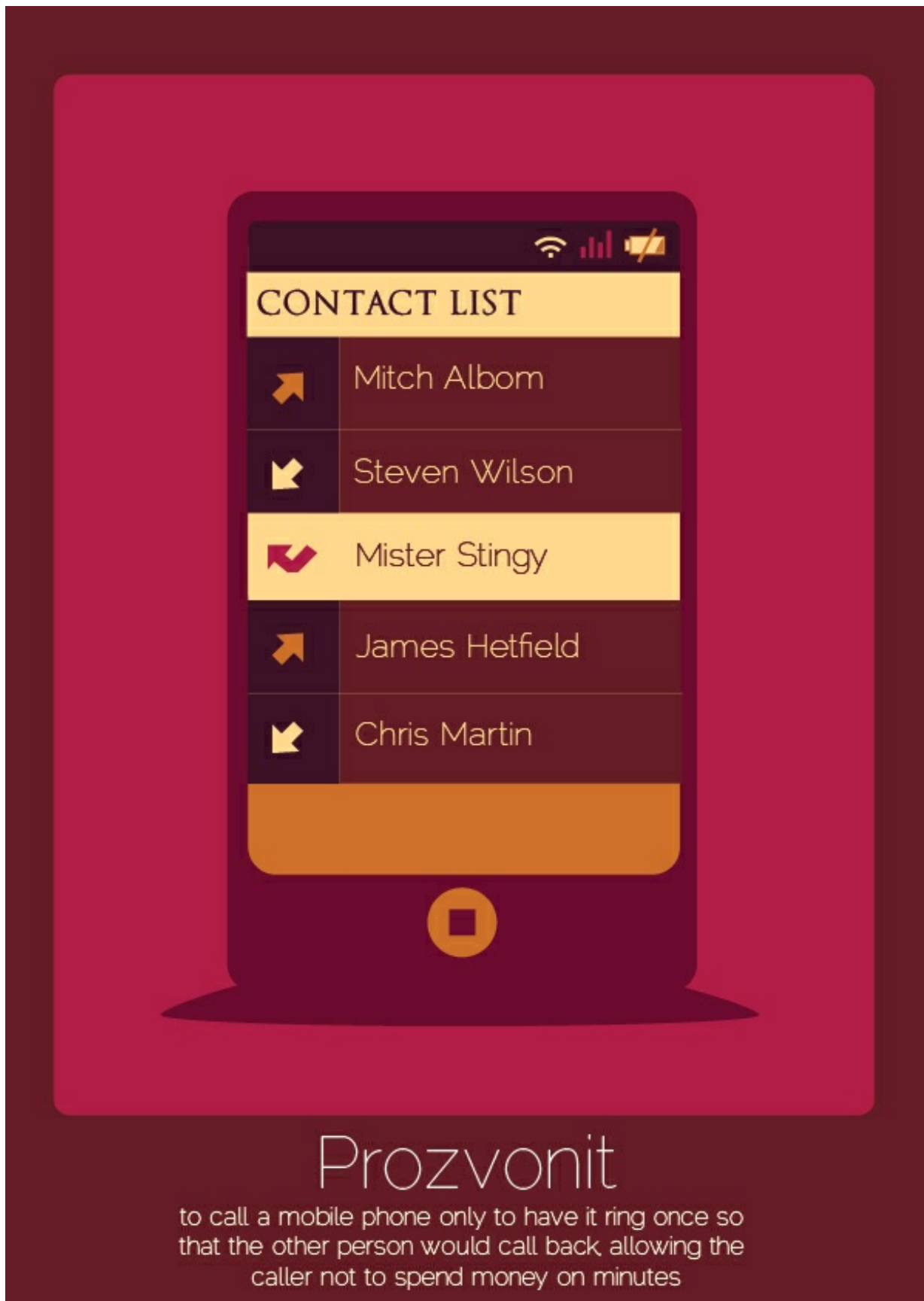
- Anjana Iyer

Aware (Japanese)



- Anjana Iyer

Radioukacz (Polish)



- Anjana Iyer

Prozvonit (Czech)



- Anjana Iyer

Gattara (Italian)



- Anjana Iyer

Hanyauku (Rukwangali)



- Anjana Iyer

Rire dans sa barbe (French)





- Anjana Iyer

Friolero (Spanish)



# Lieko

A trunk of tree that has submerged to the bottom of a lake

- Anjana Iyer

Lieko (Finnish)



- Anjana Iyer

Papakata (Cook Islands Maori)



# Komorebi

the sort of scattered, dappled light effect that happens when sunlight shines in through trees

- Anjana Iyer

Komorebi (Japanese)

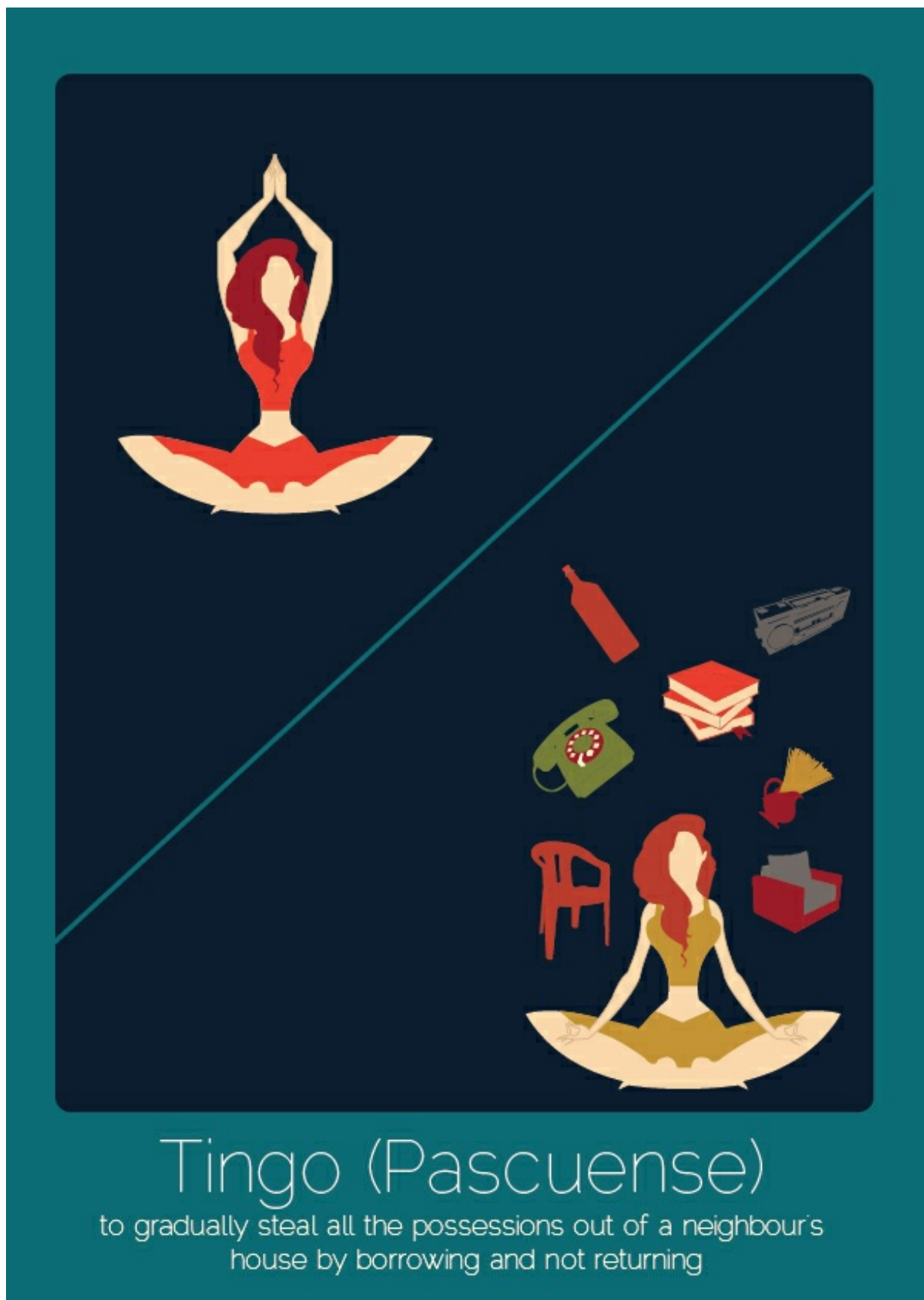


Cúbóg

a collective noun for easter eggs.

- Anjana Iyer

Cúbóg (Irish)



- Anjana Iyer

Tingo (Pascuense)





Utepils (Norwegian)

to sit outside on a sunny day enjoying a beer

- Anjana Iyer

Utepils (Norwegian)

it does not do well to dwell  
on dreams and forget to live

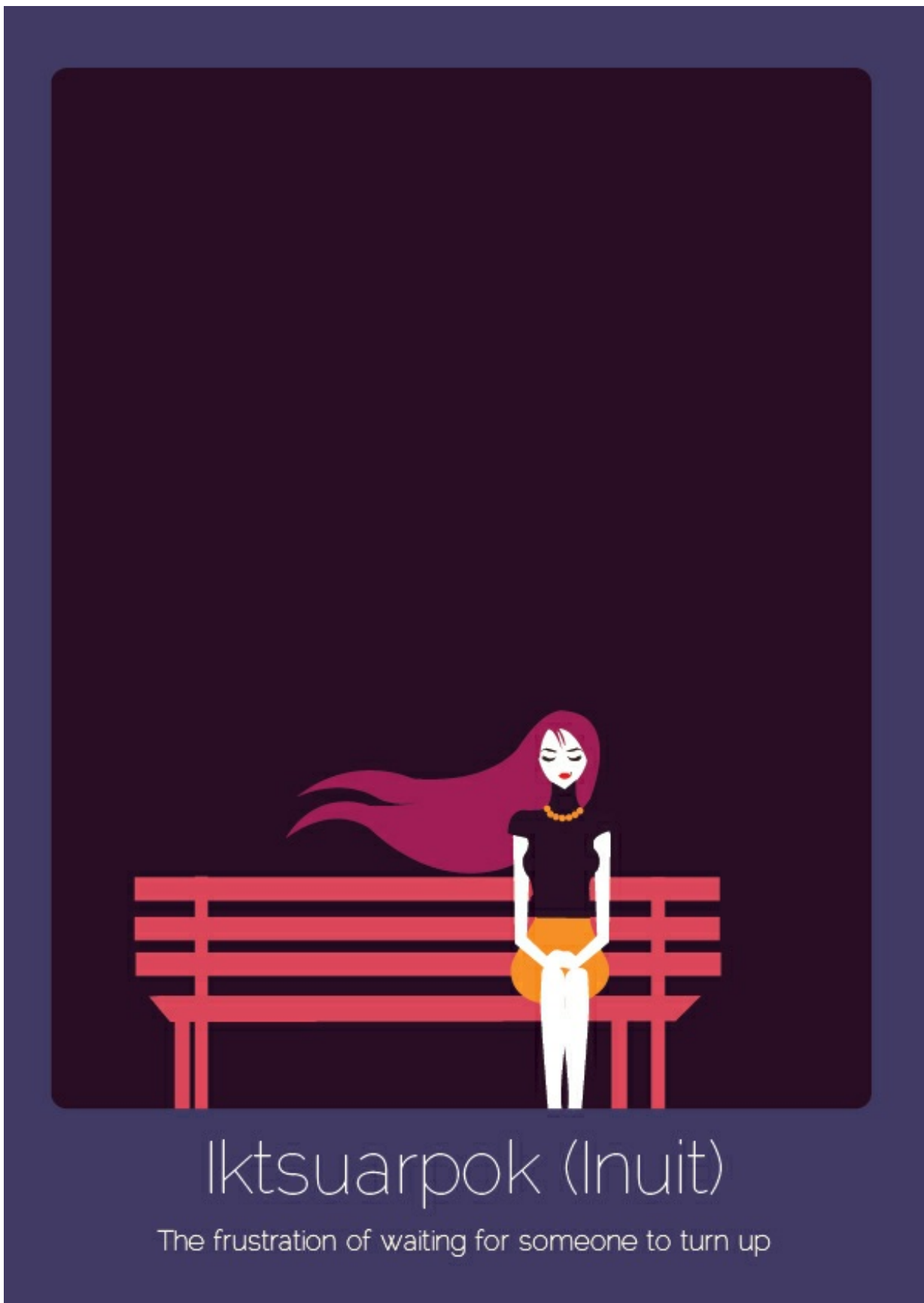


Won (Korean)

the reluctance on a person's part to let go of an illusion

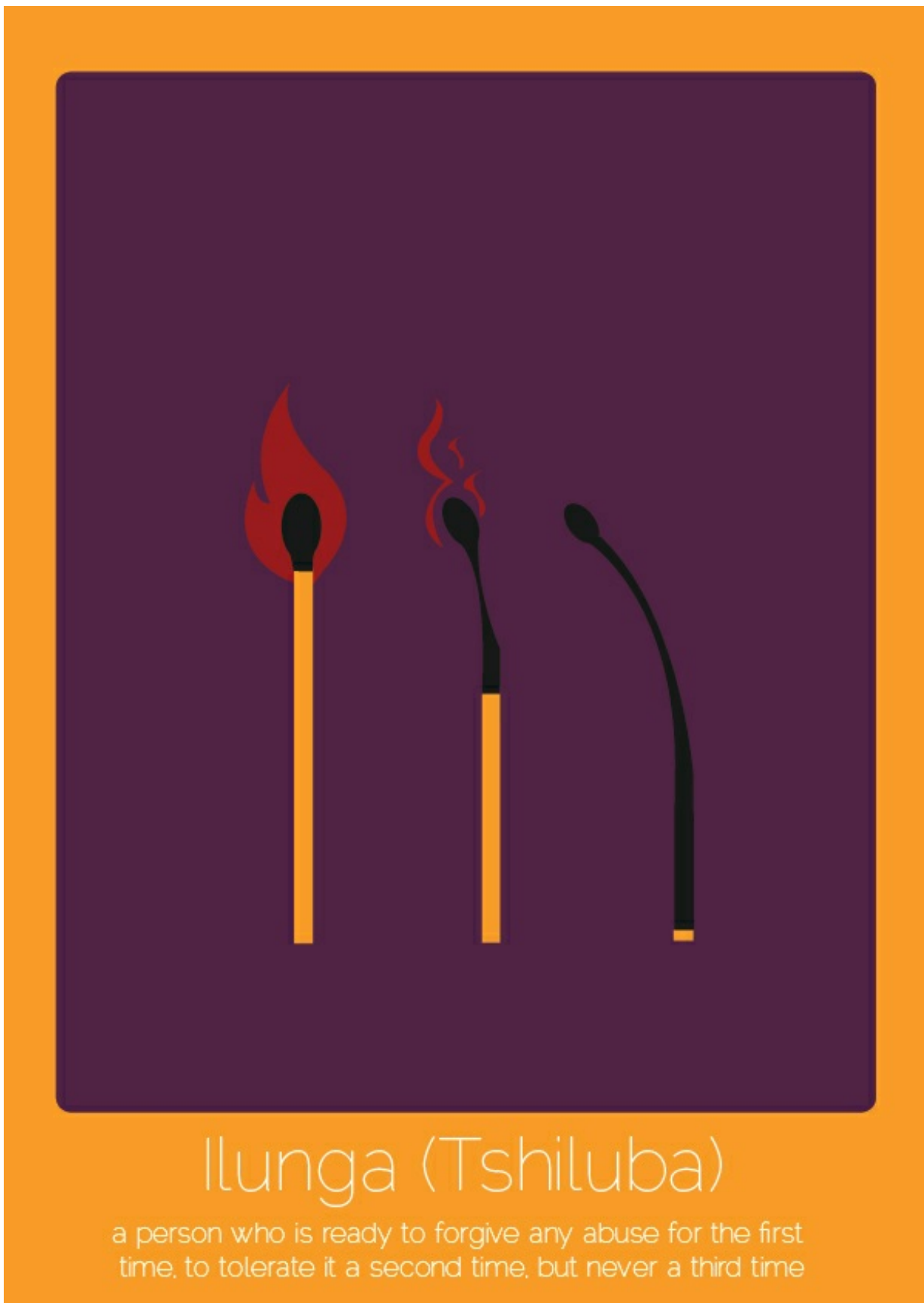
- Anjana Iyer

Won (Korean)



- Anjana Iyer

Iktsuarpok (Inuit)



- Anjana Iyer

Ilunga (Tshiluba)



- Anjana Iyer

Schadenfreude (German)



- Anjana Iyer

Tokka (Finnish)



Once upon a time...



Istoriesmearkoudes (Greek)

literally 'stories with bears' - refers to narrated events so wild and crazy it seems that they can't possibly be true

- Anjana Iyer

Istories me arkoudes (Greek)



# Wabi-Sabi (Japanese)

accepting the natural cycle of growth and decay

- Anjana Iyer

Wabi-Sabi (Japanese)



## Mamihlapinatapei (Yagan)

a wordless yet meaningful look shared by two people who both desire to initiate something but are both reluctant to start

- Anjana Iyer

Mamihlapinatapei (Yagan)

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