

Obsolescence

Story and art by Isabella Yu

I often dream of dragonflies,



of how they glitter and dance like living gemstones.

But they never stay for more than a moment in my dreams,

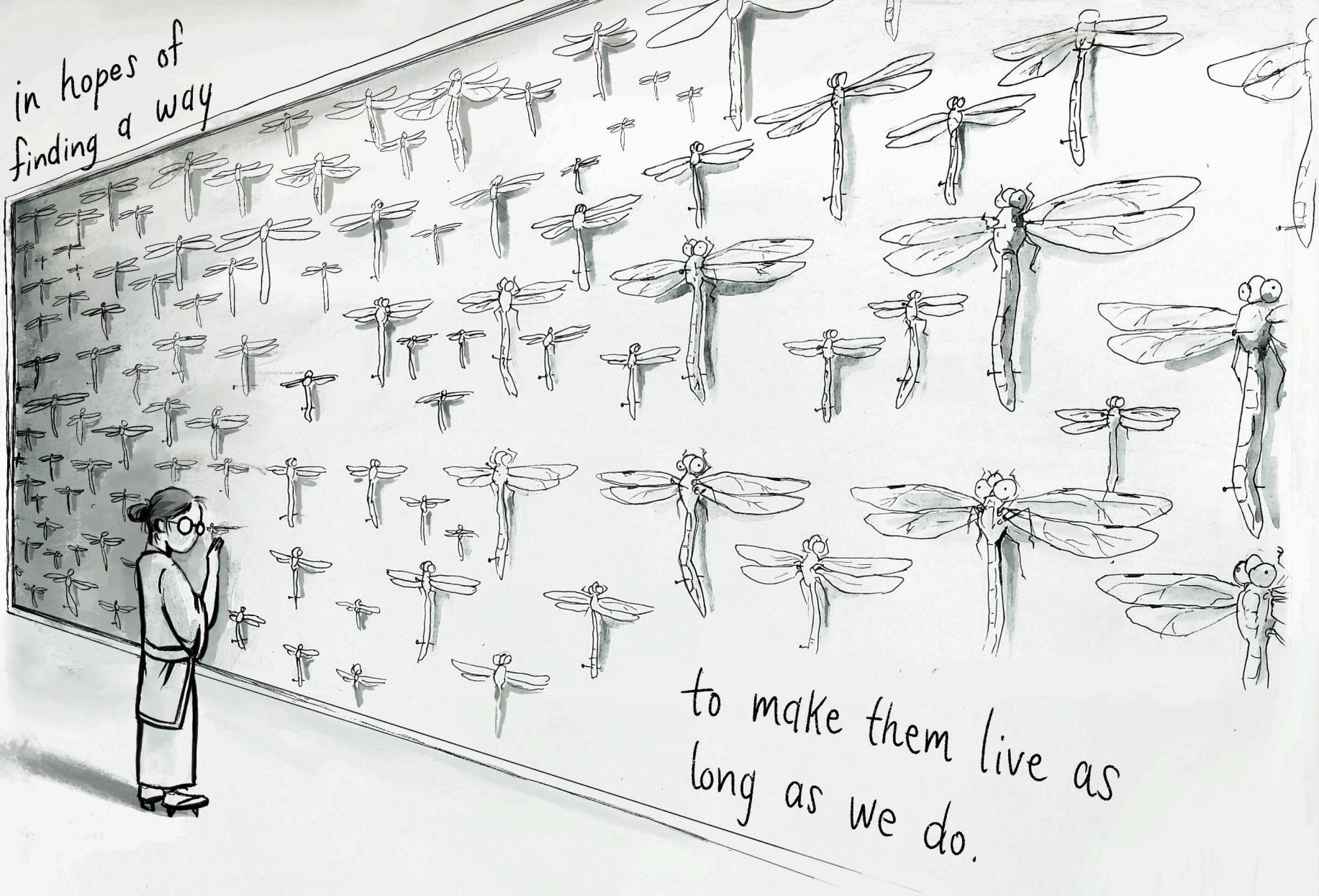


just like in real life



I've learned everything about them, their anatomy, their behavior,

in hopes of
finding a way



to make them live as
long as we do.

When I was younger, I'd catch
a few each summer.



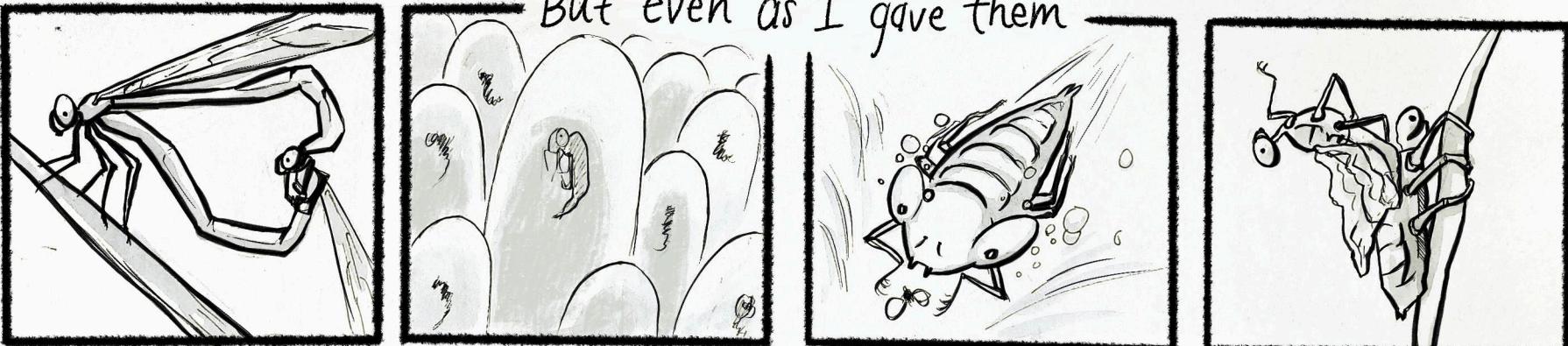
put them in a sanctuary I built
with the perfect conditions for a long life.



They like a bit
of humidity

and the taste of
mayflies.

I replaced their
limbs more often
than I wanted to.



But even as I gave them

more food,

more water,

more space,

more care,

They'd all die by mid-autumn,
like clockwork.

I gave up on that dream last year.



There were more important things to attend to, anyway.

At least I have time during summer break to visit home.

I wonder how the sanctuary is doing.

Is it even worth fixing now?

I'd have to...

- Repopulate the dragonflies
- Prune the tree



Or not...