

Abandoned

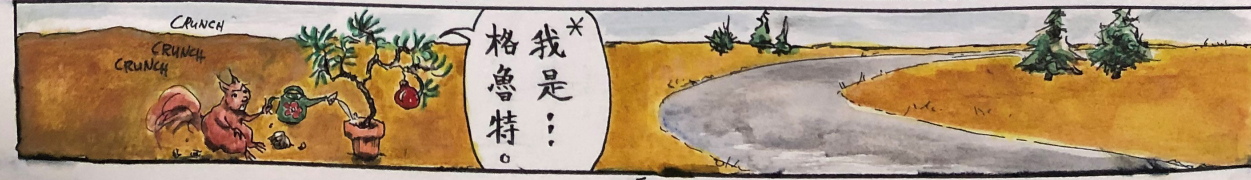
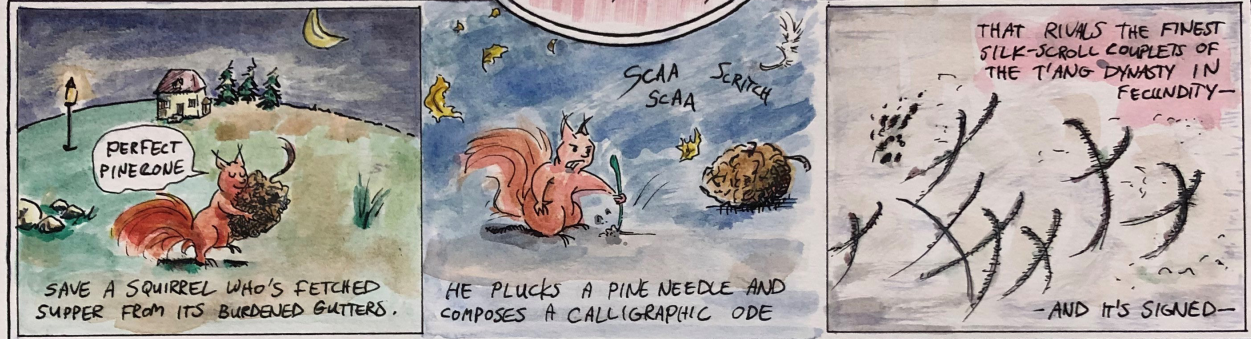
Jacqueline Raatz

Jacqueline Raatz is a senior Drawing and Painting BFA major with affinities for French Cuisine, biking, newspaper comics and Baroque paintings. Since retiring from the ND Army National Guard, she spends most of her time with her family and in her garden, kitchen, and art studio.

The vacant house across the road
Slouches in the amber lamp light.
Leaf-choked gutters rasping, wheezing,
Blowing, gently, into the good night.
Silvery moon shards stream
Across the walls of the upstairs room
The neighbors' chimneys churn out clouds
Their veiled windows bestrobed by flickering screens
And kitchens warm enough for bare feet.
By day, twiggy seedlings press ever upward,
Worming their roots into basement cracks
The flag on my porch tilts in the breeze—
And is reflected in that darkened foyer window.

Note

This 2019 painting (ink and acrylic on paper, 18 x 24") is based upon the above poem and is also a homage to George Herriman's great newspaper strip, *Krazy Kat*.



*[I AM... GROOT.]