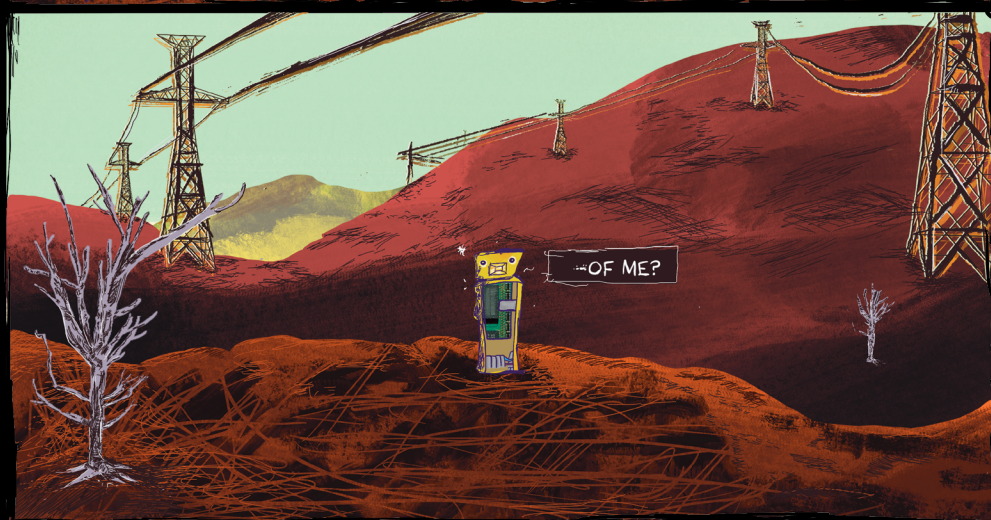
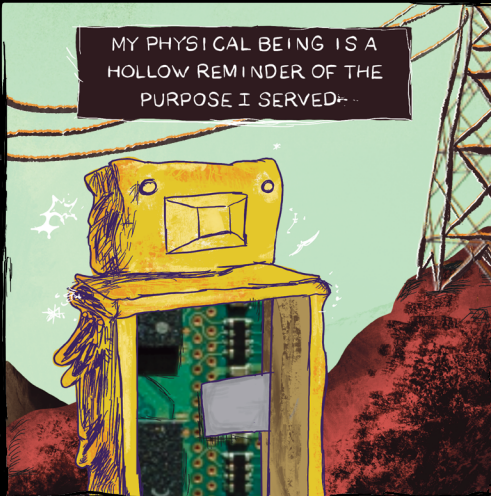


# THE LITTLE POWER BOX

BY JOHN CHARLES BRICKER





I CAN NO LONGER STEP DOWN  
THE HIGH VOLTAGE CURRENTS--

ZTLRT

--THAT TRAVEL--



--FROM TOWER TO TOWER--

--MILE AFTER MILE.

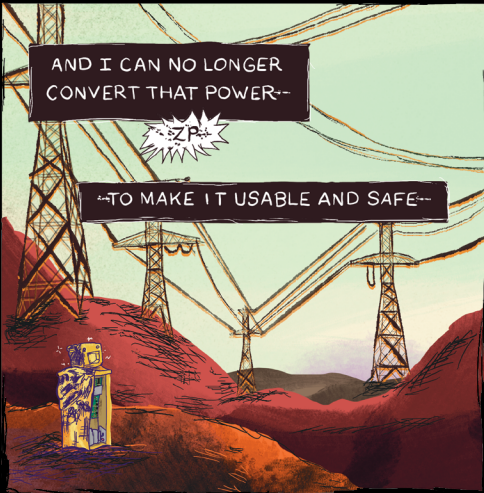


I WONDER ABOUT  
ALL THAT POWER--



--WHERE IT COMES FROM--

PZZT



AND I CAN NO LONGER  
CONVERT THAT POWER--

ZP

--TO MAKE IT USABLE AND SAFE--



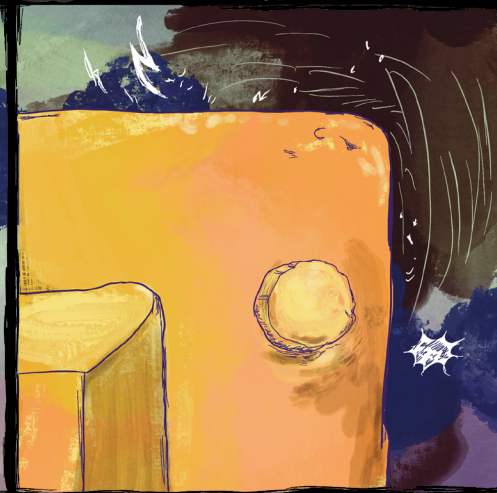
ZZZZ

--FOR BUILDINGS  
AND MACHINES--



--AND WHAT WOULD HAPPEN  
IF IT ALL RAN OUT?

ZZZZ



--AND FOR THE  
HUMANS THEY SERVE.



--SIGH--



I SEE THE HUMANS  
RETURNING HOME --

--FOR THE FIRST  
TIME IN DAYS.



WILDLIFE, TOO.



A FEW BIRDS CHIRP AND SING--

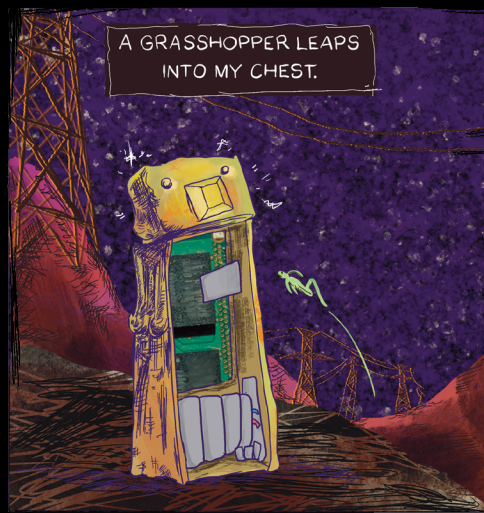
--AS THEY GATHER SCORCHED TWIGS--



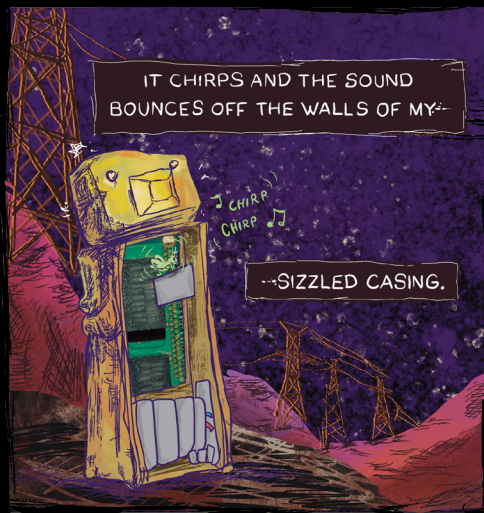
--TO REBUILD THEIR NESTS--

**PZZT**

--FOR THE INCOMING SPRING.



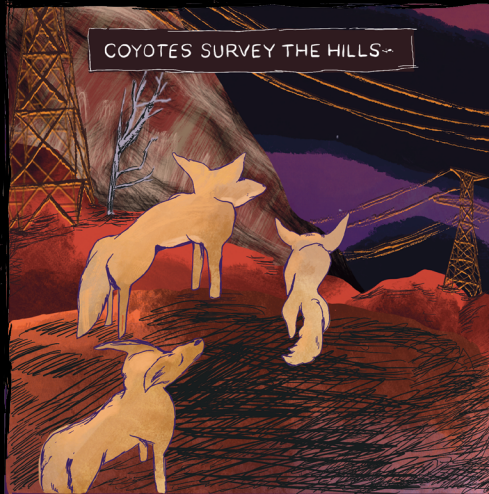
A GRASSHOPPER LEAPS INTO MY CHEST.



IT CHIRPS AND THE SOUND BOUNCES OFF THE WALLS OF MY--

CHIRP CHIRP

--SIZZLED CASING.



COYOTES SURVEY THE HILLS--



--AND THE ASHY, BARREN GROUND.



AS MY NEW FRIEND'S SONG FILLS THE AIR--

--IT DAWNS ON ME--



--THAT JOY AND NEW LIFE WILL FILL THIS HILL SIDE.

IT WILL FILL ME TOO, AND I WILL HOLD IT DEARLY.



THEIR HOWLING STIRS SOMETHING IN ME--



--A SADNESS THAT ECHOES FROM WITHIN--

--AND QUESTIONS--

**PZZT**

--WHAT IS MY PLACE IN ALL OF THIS?



PERHAPS, THAT IS MY PURPOSE NOW--

**BZZTZE**

--TO TAKE IN THE WORLD AROUND ME--

--ALL OF ITS POWER AND BEAUTY--



--AND THIS MAGNIFICENT CHORUS OF NATURAL SPLENDOR.

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"The public library has a special place in my heart. My parents would take my siblings and me when we were young, and those visits introduced me to so many stories, whether through books, DVDs, or VHS tapes. Libraries act as a vital community resource in a multitude of ways. I'd love for my story to help give back to the library and to the public it serves."

--John Charles Bricker, Creator of "The Little Power Box"

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