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Drawing has always been a part of my life. I remember stealing paper from the printer, taking out some well-loved crayons, and creating illustrated stories of princesses, animals, and happily-ever-afters. In my middle school years, I got my first sketchbook and proceeded to fill it to the brim with my personal creations. Art was always there for me even when friends and family couldn't be.

I love illustrating. I love designing characters and planning out the stories that they'll tell. I love slowly making a project that I know will inspire and entertain so many people in the future. It's only natural that I want to make graphic novels and webcomics for the rest of my life.

One of my webcomic ideas is a comedic slice-of-life story based on the characters that me and my cousin created years ago as kids in our own little imaginary world. Another takes place in a futuristic world where a group of heroes use their supposedly unnatural powers for good, despite the stigma against superpowers. Each of my characters have a part of my soul in them and therefore each share in a couple of my personality traits, dreams, and even obstacles.

I have struggled with anxiety and isolation for a few years now. Sometimes I get so caught up in my own mind that I can't comprehend the rest of the world. Drawing is a way to get out of my head, to put my thoughts towards a positive subject, and to escape. I create artwork that expresses my struggles as a way to vent. Some of my troubles are given to my characters with the hope that others who are going through similar things don't feel as alone. I am aware that I am not the only one who struggles with mental illness, and I'm so fortunate that I have a family that supports me. Others might not be so lucky, which is why I want to give them some peace when they have no one to turn to.

I'm going to pursue college. I'm looking into colleges in Oregon that have good art programs. I'd ideally like to major in illustration and minor in creative writing. I want to go to college not just as a means to improve my skill, but to also learn the business of art, especially in today's art world full of self-advocating, audience creating, and marketing.

This scholarship would be the first step in many to get into college. I see that there is a long road ahead of me. The future is intimidating to me if I'm honest. I sometimes wonder if I will even be able to make it in the scary world of adult life and art life, but all it takes is a gentle reminder of my aspirations to allow me to look forward, filled with drive, and take that next step.