





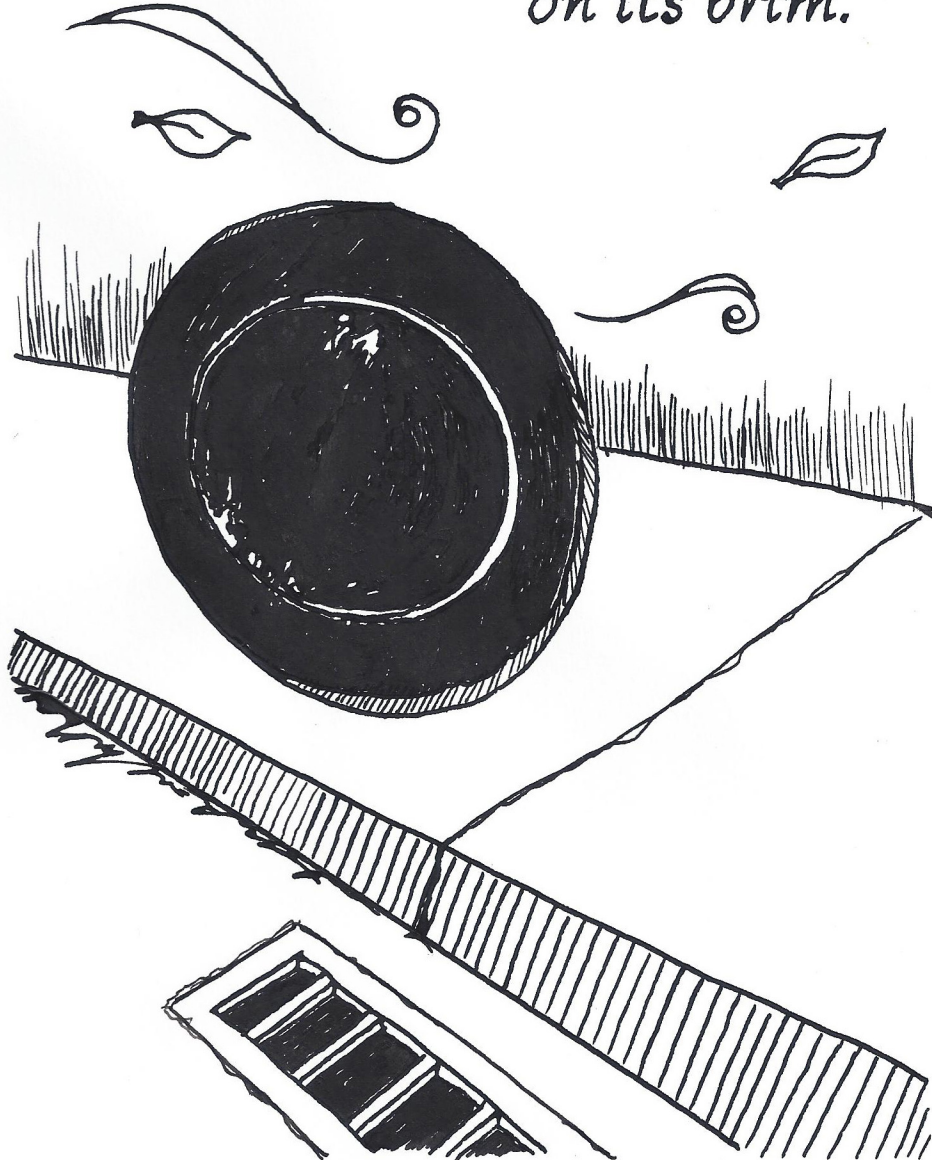
*Adventurer Wanted,
Hat Provided*

*Story by
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&
Illustrations by
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2016



The hat blew down the road,
rolling along the pavement
on its brim.



Sierra bent to pick it up.
It was a fine new bowler hat,
black and shiny.





*He was tall and rough looking,
with well worn boots
and faded jeans, grey hair
and lots of laugh lines on a
sun-weathered face.*

*She looked around, it was early
yet, just after dawn, and the
street was almost empty.
There was one man
coming down the road,
looking about as if he'd
lost something, but he certainly
didn't look as if he was missing
a bowler.*



*"Did you lose a hat?",
she asked, holding it up.*



*"I did." he replied, "but not that
one. Mine's an old brown fedora.
Can't mistake it, it's got forty,
fifty years of travel and adventure
on it."*

*Sierra looked down at the bowler,
it was too small for him anyway,
and was obviously brand new.*



*"Must be a hat-grabbing wind."
she said.*

"All the best hats arrive on the wind." he replied,



"That's how I got mine, at the end of a war, when I was about your age, found my hat blowing across the desert."



"Why don't you try that one on?"



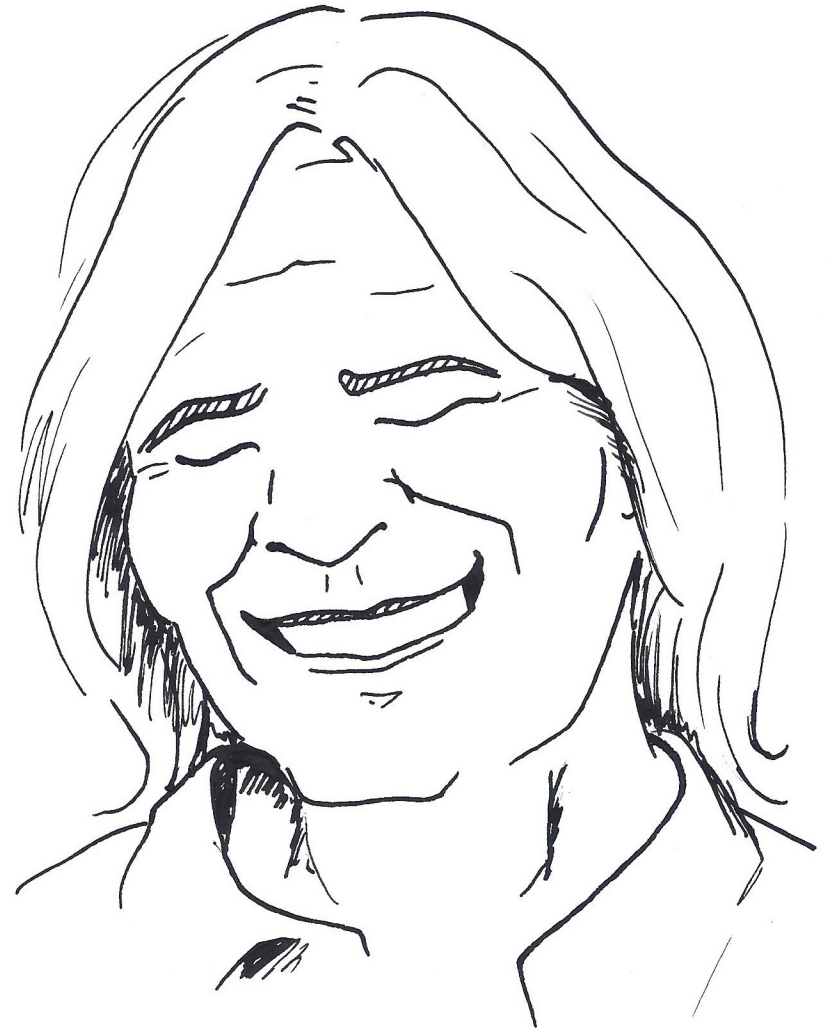
*Sierra did, tentatively pushing it
down over her dark curls.*

It fit.

Then he laughed a strange laugh,
like there was a joke
that he was the butt of,
but Sierra couldn't see it.



"Fits you like it chose you."
he said, flashing his wide smile.
"It's bound to be good luck."



*"You treat that hat well,
and be careful, it can't do
all the work." he said,*



*then turned and walked off
into the wind,
no longer looking for anything.*



"Weird." Sierra said to herself, and looked around again. But there was nobody else paying attention, and certainly no-one looking like they'd lost a hat.

She took it off and looked at it again. Not really something she would have chosen,





*a hard black bowler
with a satin band,*

*the inside had a red lining
and a tag that said
"Adventure".*



*"Weird." She said to herself
again, and crammed it back
onto her head.
It was comfortable enough.*



*She checked her watch,
then picked up her backpack,
stepped away from the hostel,*

*and headed towards
the train station.*



About This Project

*Adventurer Wanted, Hat Provided
was written in January 2012.*

*Claire loves Edd's stories, and asked
to illustrate one for Inktober 2016.*

*The Inktober Initiative was created
by artist Jake Parker in 2009,
a community art challenge
to create daily ink drawings
for the entire month of
October.*