JOINT COLLABORATION BETWEEN

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To all ScrumMasters:

Please Step up Your GAME

— A Product Owner's Perspective on what scrum masters can do better ...

Dear Scrum Masters,

Now that we've got your attention, we apologize for the spicy title. To be fair you've been writing a lot of juicy articles on how we as Product Owners can do better. Recent ones that come to mind are "4 ways a Product Owner can destroy a team" and "a letter from a fake Product Owner". But there are many more examples.

If you dish out, you should be able to receive as well. We decided to list the most important things Scrum Masters can do better from the perspective of a Product Owner. We promise to be more gentle and keep it constructive from now on.

So with that being said - let's get started!

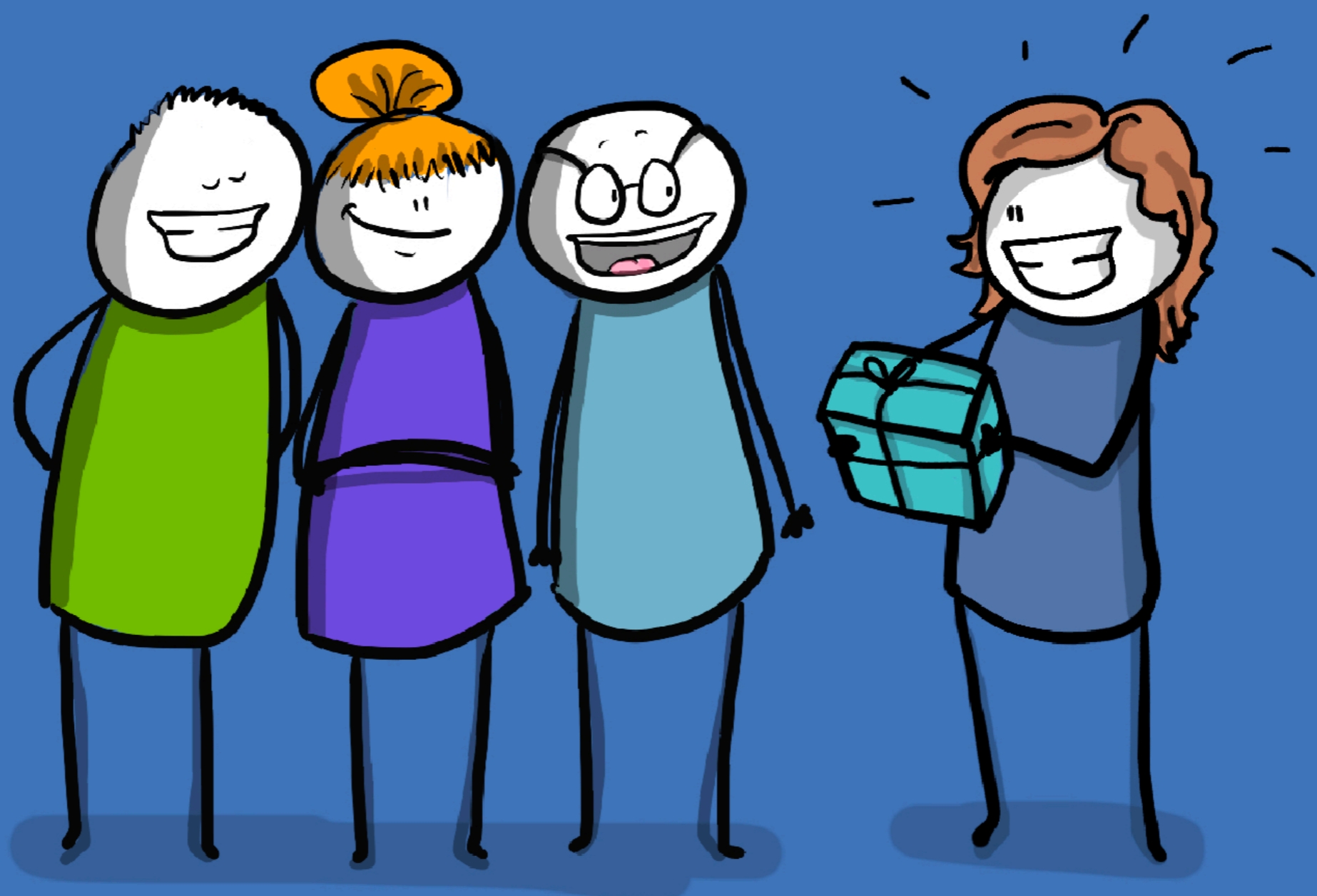BR, Product Owners who belive Scrum Masters are capable of more...

1.

Dollar, dollar, bills y'all

Better Scrum is a means to an end. Product Owners care about Scrum to the extent it helps to deliver value — and you should too.

We're not here to do better Scrum, we're here to make a difference for our customers and capture that in business value.
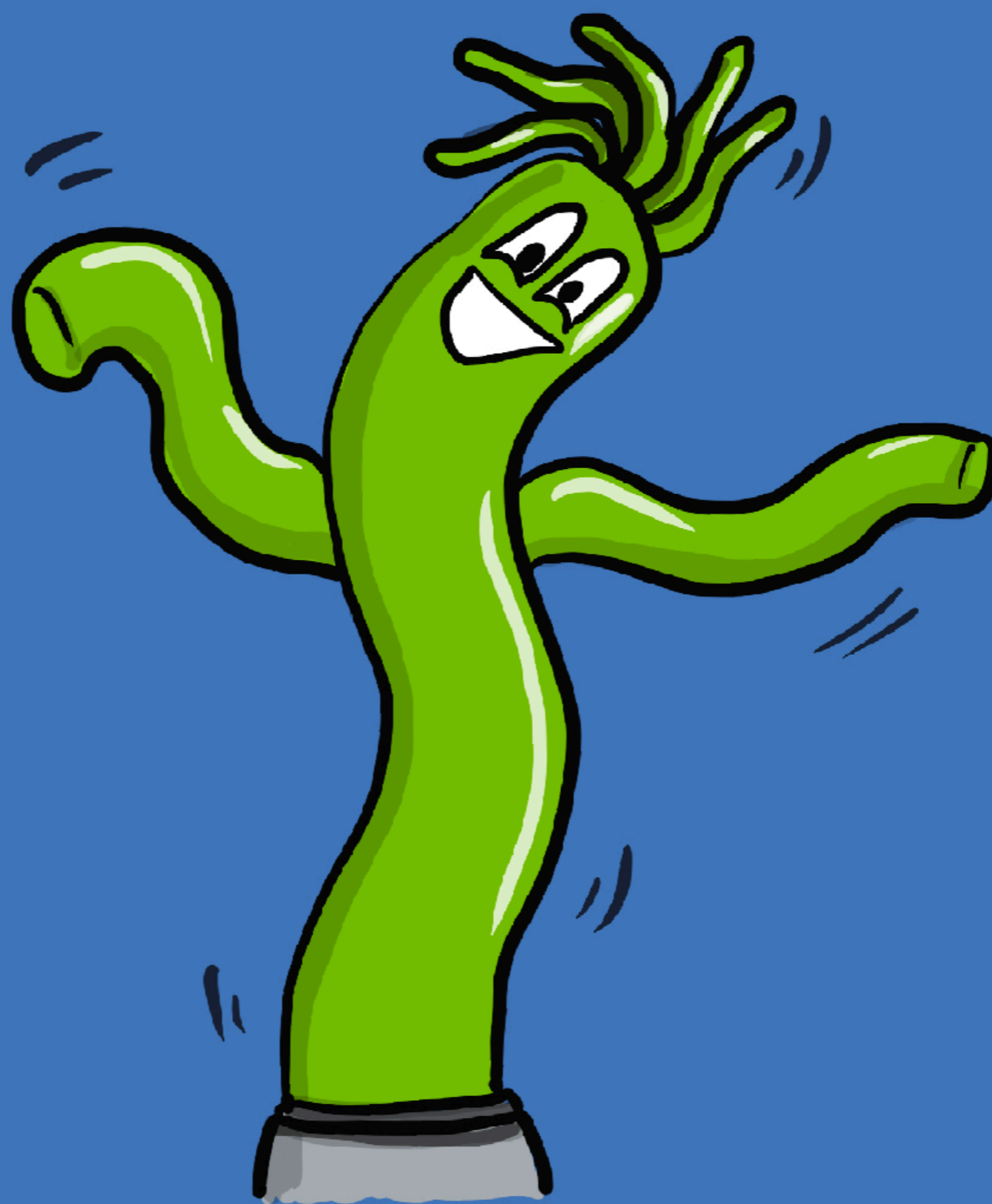
2.

Help your Teams to be flexible

Flexibility, adaptation and collaboration is core to Scrum. Nailing all that planning and coordination stuff isn't what you should worried too much about. How good are we dealing with surprises and collaborating to figure stuff out as we go along?

Let's try to keep things light and flexible and only add rules if they really add value.

3.

Scrum can only succeed when we discover better ways of working

Product Owners don't care about following Scrum by the letter. Are we discovering better ways of working on top of the Scrum framework? Scrum is purposefully incomplete which means we have enrich it. Perfectly incomplete, at best, can only be incomplete.

Let's worry less about better Scrum and more about discovering better ways of delivering value.

4.

Don't mother your Scrum Teams

Whenever we want to interact with one of the Scrum Teams, it shouldn't have to go through you. It's not your job to be their gatekeeper. Get your Scrum Team to a place where they can stand on their own feet without you constantly holding their own hands.

If you always treat your Scrum Team as children, they will always need parental guidance. Let them make mistakes and learn from them.
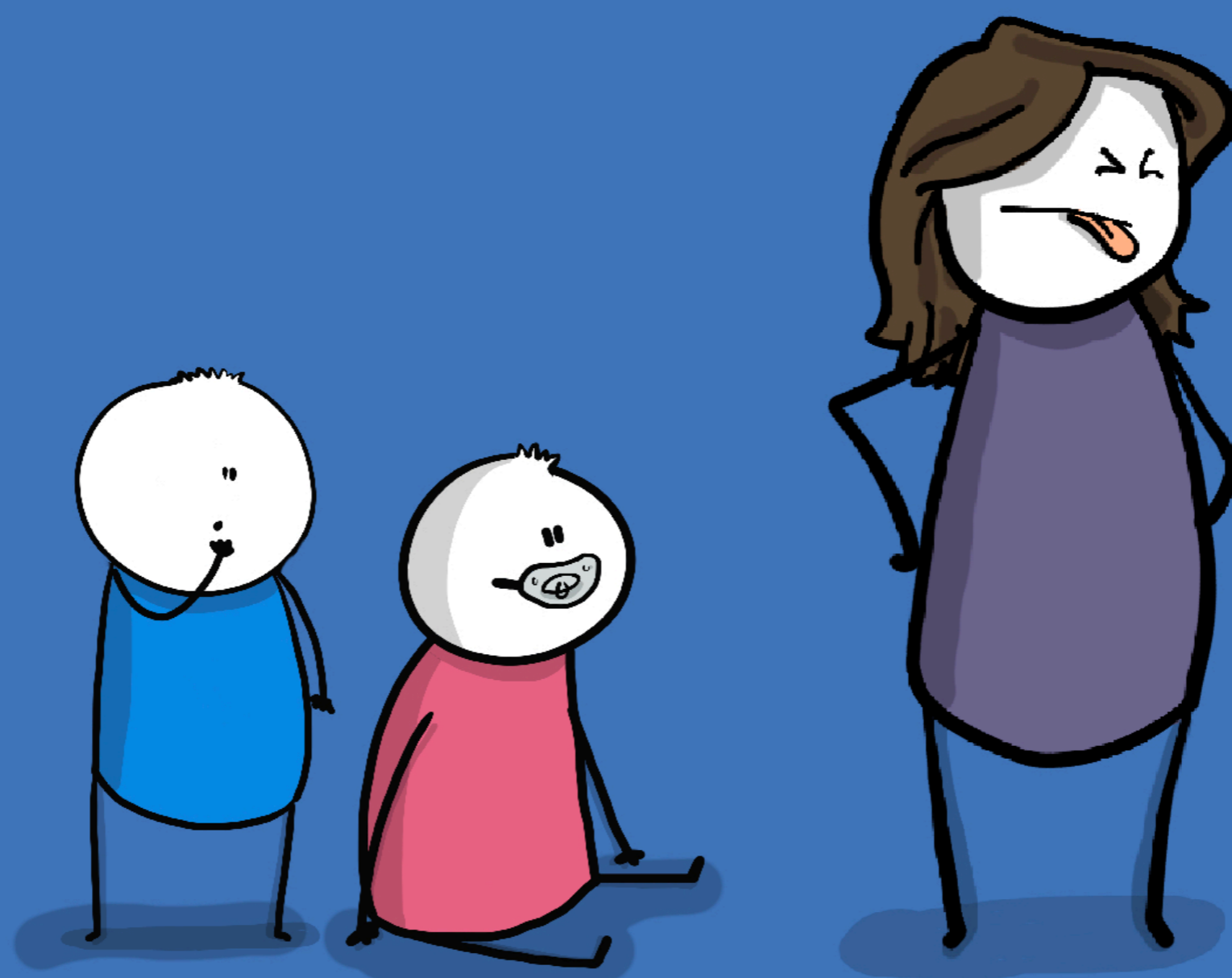
5.

Escape the comfort of a Team

Many Scrum Masters love staying in the safety and comfortof the Scrum Team. The biggest impediments to agility usually are not on the team-level, but the organisational level.

We understand it's difficult to let your team go, but at some point they shouldn't need you as much and that's fine. Help your Scrum Team to spread their wings, so you can spread yours too.