

The Majority



Page 2

Purpose: We want to show people that diverting from the majority is ok. A lot of people struggle with wanting the approval of others and that can sometimes hold us back. Other people will always judge you but it's whether you choose to listen to them is up to you.

“Don't go for what you know you can get. Go for what you really want.”

-Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

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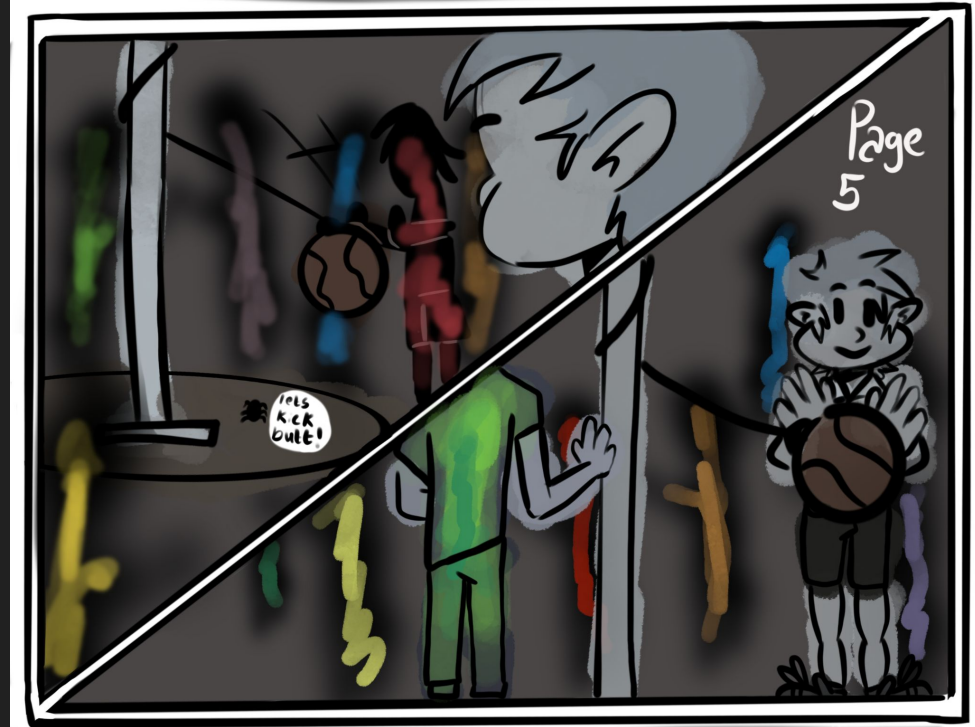
Jonah

The students are lining up for recess and talking about wanting to play tetherball and how they're going to win.

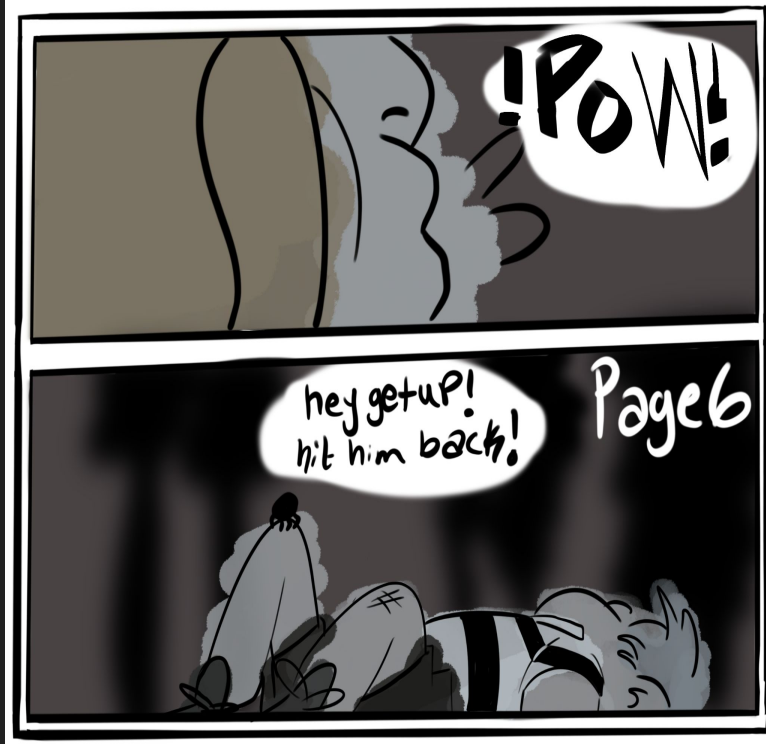


Tetherball

Students rush over to the tetherball pole. Jonah doesn't want to play the game but the spider tells him "You have to play the game otherwise you'll be an outcast!" The cricket tells Jonah "Don't go for what you know you can get. Go for what you really want." The spider's argument is more convincing than the cricket's in the moment and the Jonah goes into the game.



Embarrassment



Jonah stops paying attention for a second and gets hit in the face with a tetherball. Oohs and gasps ring out across the playground and Jonah gets embarrassed. He quickly gets up and runs to a different part of the playground.

New Friend



As Jonah is running, he notices a Kid sitting by himself on the playground. Out of curiosity, Jonah goes up to The boy and introduces himself. The boy smiles back at Jonah introducing himself as Matt, he soon opens his mouth to say something else, but the spider interrupts him. "What are you doing?! Go back to the game! You don't want to stick out like a sore thumb do you?"

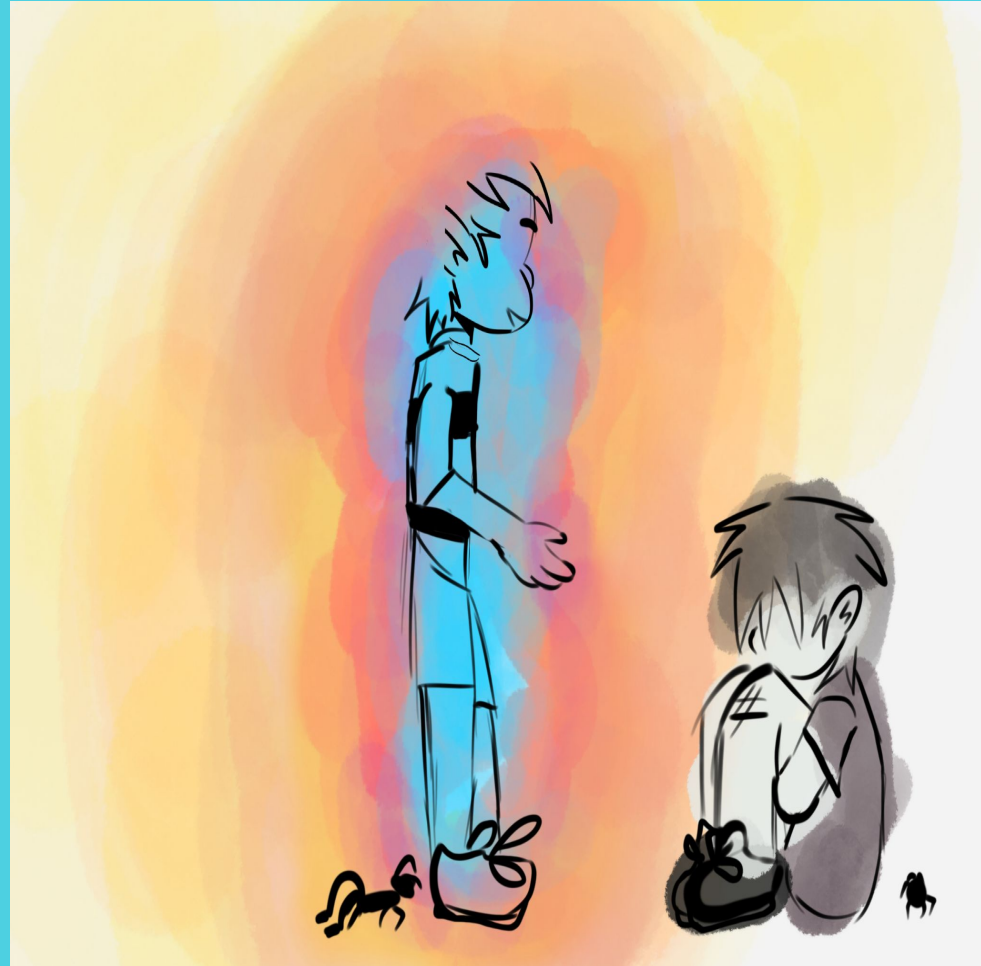
Color



Matt frowns at the spider and quickly flicks it off the Jonah's shoulders. He smiles and says, "Not wanting to play the game and having different opinions from others is totally ok! Sometimes the crowd isn't always for you so you just have to make your own crowd." With each comment that is said, Jonah gains more color.

Helping Hand

The Jonah thanks the Matt for his kind words and he asks him to go on the swings. Matt agrees and they race to the swings.



Different

When the Jonah and Matt get to the swings, they find another student who has no color. They go up to the kid and introduce themselves.



Call To Action

“Do not fight the darkness, let the light in and the darkness will disappear.”

-Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

Listen to that cricket on your shoulder and go your own way. Sometimes the majority isn't for you and that's ok! Knowing what you believe and what you want to achieve is the most important thing. If that requires not following the crowd, so be it. Stay true to yourself and don't let the opinions of others hold you back.

References

“Don’t go for what you know you can get. Go for what you really want”
- Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

“Do not fight the darkness, let the light in and the darkness will disappear.”
-Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

A Good Story About the Bad Guy



BY: LERDONG, WHITNEY, ANTONIO, CLIFF

Editor's Note

EDITORS NOTES

WHITNEY

ANTONIO

CLIFF

LERDONG

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ZINE IS TO
SHARE OUR LIFE STORIES WITH
EACHOTHER AND WITH THE
READERS.

A GOOD STORY ABOUT THE BAD GUY

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A GOOD STORY ABOUT THE BAD GUY

HOME



ANTONIO WAS RAISED BY A MOTHER AND A STEP FATHER. HE HAS 4 SIBLINGS, HE'S THE OLDEST, HELPED MOM OUT WITH ANYTHING SHE NEEDED BECAUSE HE WAS THE OLDEST AND SIBLINGS LOOKED UP TO HIM. HAD 4 SISTERS, AND HAD A KAMODO DRAGON, NAMED LARRY.



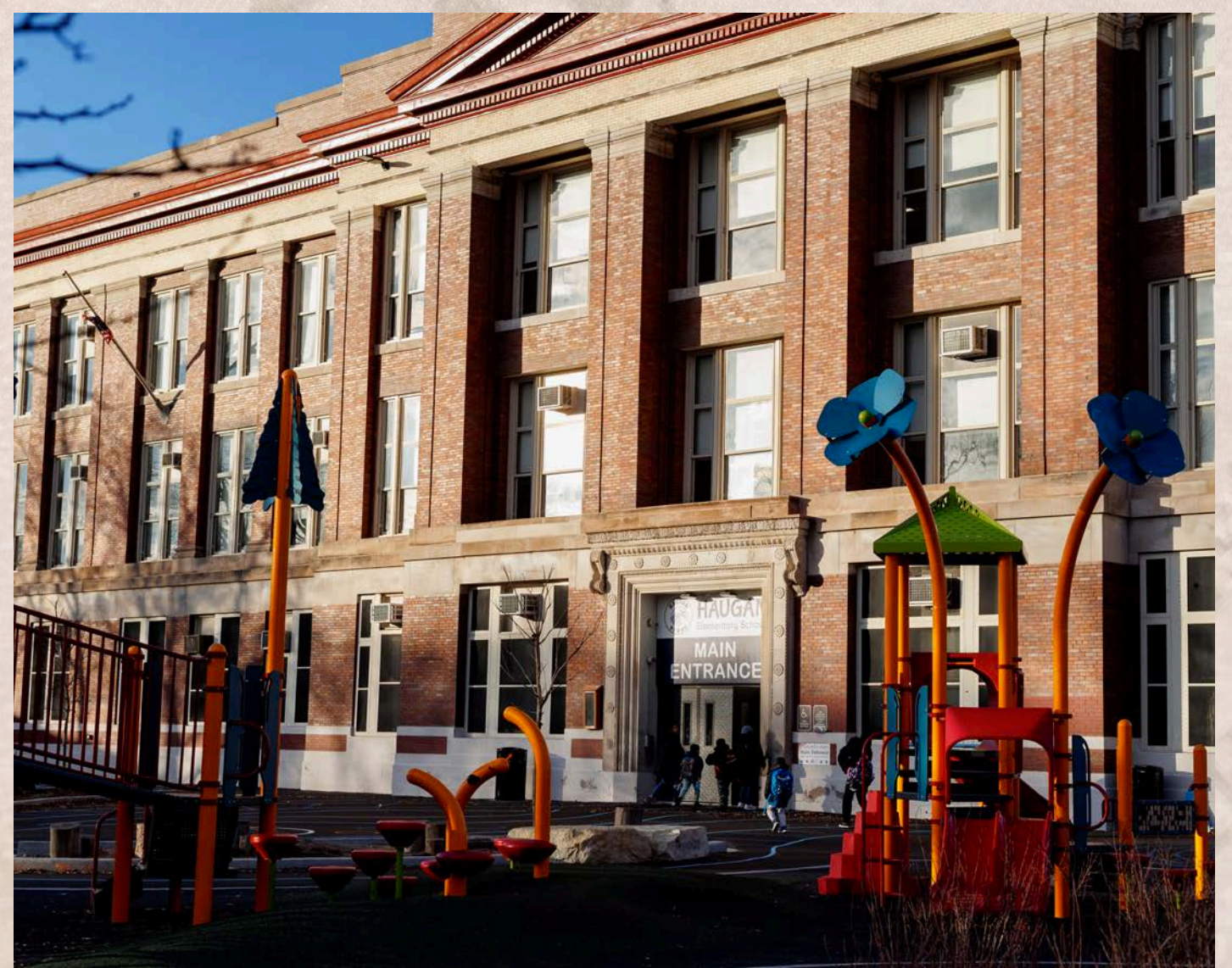
CLIFF WAS RAISED IN A SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLD WITH HIS MOM. BEING THE OLDEST GAVE ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES BESIDES JUST BEING A KID.

SCHOOL

ANTONIO WENT TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT DUNSTON IN CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA. HE ATTENDED MIDDLE SCHOOL AT SHERRY WOOD IN NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, AND WENT TO HIGHSCHOOL AT LAKELAND SENIOR HIGH IN LAKELAND, FLORIDA.



THE “BAD GUY”, CLIFF, ACTUALLY STARTED SCHOOL EARLY. HE WENT TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT INDIAN HILL, A PROJECT NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL. HE GOT GOOD GRADES AND ATTAINED MANY ACCOLADES. WHILE HELPING TAKE CARE OF HIS YOUNGER SIBLINGS



Violent Enviroment

ENVIRONMENT

ANTONIO WAS CALLED NAMES AND PUT DOWN AT A YOUNG AGE , HE STARTED GANG ACTIVITY IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AROUND THE AGE OF 13 WHERE HE WAS FORCED TO FIGHT AND IT MADE HIM A DOG



HAVING MORE, WHETHER IT BE INTELLECTUAL GIFTS, LOVE FROM A PARENT, OR POSITIVE RECOGNITION FROM OTHERS CREATES A TENSION BETWEEN THE “BAD GUY” AND THE REAL BAD GUYS.

A GOOD STORY ABOUT THE BAD GUY

PRISON LIFE



BEFORE HE WENT TO PRISON, ANTONIO WAS A FULL TIME WORKER AT KAWASAWKI IN LINCOLN NEBRASKA. HE STAYED IN LINCOLN FOR 2 YEARS BEFORE BEING INCARCERATED. HE HAS BEEN LOCKED UP FOR ALMOST 4 YEARS. HE HAS LEARNED A LOT BY STAYING TO HIMSELF AND MEETING SOME REALLY COOL DUDES. HE HAS BECOME MORE RESPECTFUL, COURTEOUS, AND THOUGHTFUL OF OTHERS.

CLIFF GREW UP TO CONTINUE TO DO SPECIAL THINGS AND TRAVEL THE COUNTRY, MAKING MUSIC. HE HAS A DAUGHTER, AND WAS LIVING A VERY STABLE LIFE. WITH A COLLAGE OF EMOTIONS CREATED A PERFECT STORM WHEN HE WAS DENIED HIS DAUGHTER AND WOULDN'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER. THE CONFRONTATION WITH THE POLICE LED HIM TO INCARCERATION.

A GOOD STORY ABOUT THE BAD GUY

PRISON LIFE



WHILE IN PRISON, CLIFF WAS IN AGONY WITH HOW MUCH HE MISSED HIS DAUGHTER. HE REALIZED HE COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT BEING IN HER LIFE. HE WENT THROUGH SELF HELP COURSES, ANGER MANAGEMENT, AND PERSONAL BETTERMENT.

AFTER PRISON



POST-INCARCERATION, ANTONIO WANTS TO PURSUES HIS DREAMS IN GOING TO COLLEGE MAJORING IN COMPUTER SCIENCE. HE WANTS TO BE ABLE TO STAY SOBER AND MANAGE HIS TIME WISELY.



AFTER PRISON, CLIFF INTENDS TO TAKE ALL OF THE POSITIVE, PROGRESSIVE THINGS THAT HE'S LEARNED TO BECOME A BIGGER AND BETTER PART OF HIS DAUGHTER'S LIFE.

AFTER PRISON

AS A YOUNG MAN, ANTONIO
WANT TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE
FOR HIMSELF AND HOPEFULLY
BUILD A FAMILY WITH GREAT
VALUES AND MORALS



A GOOD STORY ABOUT THE BAD GUY

CLOSING



ANTONIO'S GOALS ARE
TO WORK ON HIMSELF,
STAY OUT OF TROUBLE,
AND LISTENING TO
CHURCH MUSIC.

CLIFF'S GOAL IS TO KEEP MAKING
SURE THE "BAD GUY" DOES GOOD
THINGS.

**A GOOD
STORY
ABOUT
THE BAD
GUY**

Billy's Story



Editors note

Billy was a young man consumed by anger, leading him to hang with bad crowds, and make poor decisions. Which would ultimately land him in jail. After reconnecting with his daughter, Billy began to reflect on past decisions setting a goal on self- discovery.

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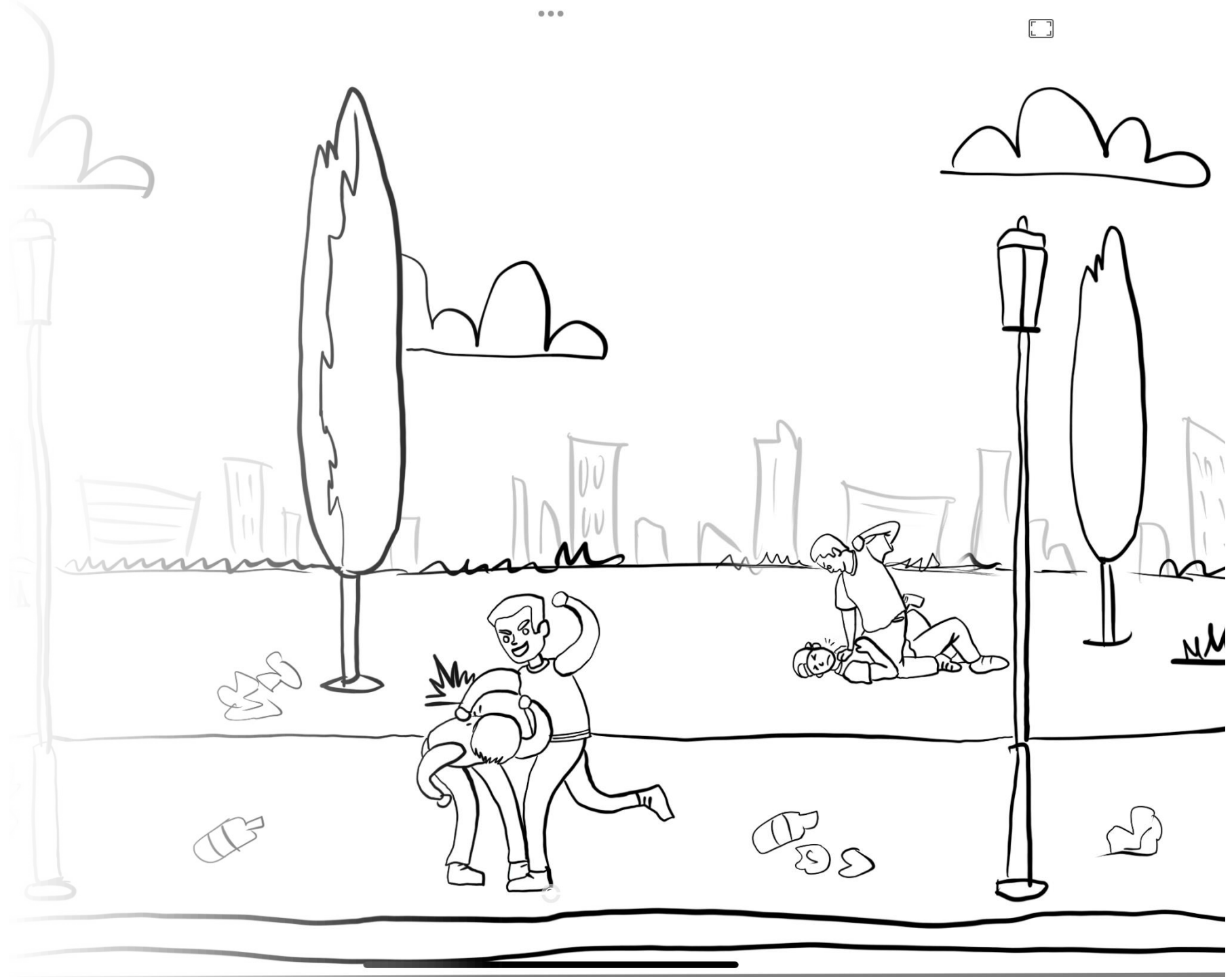
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Billy was an 18 years old boy who would hang around bad crowds. Getting into trouble such as drugs, fights, and hate crimes. Billy harbored hatred toward others different than him.

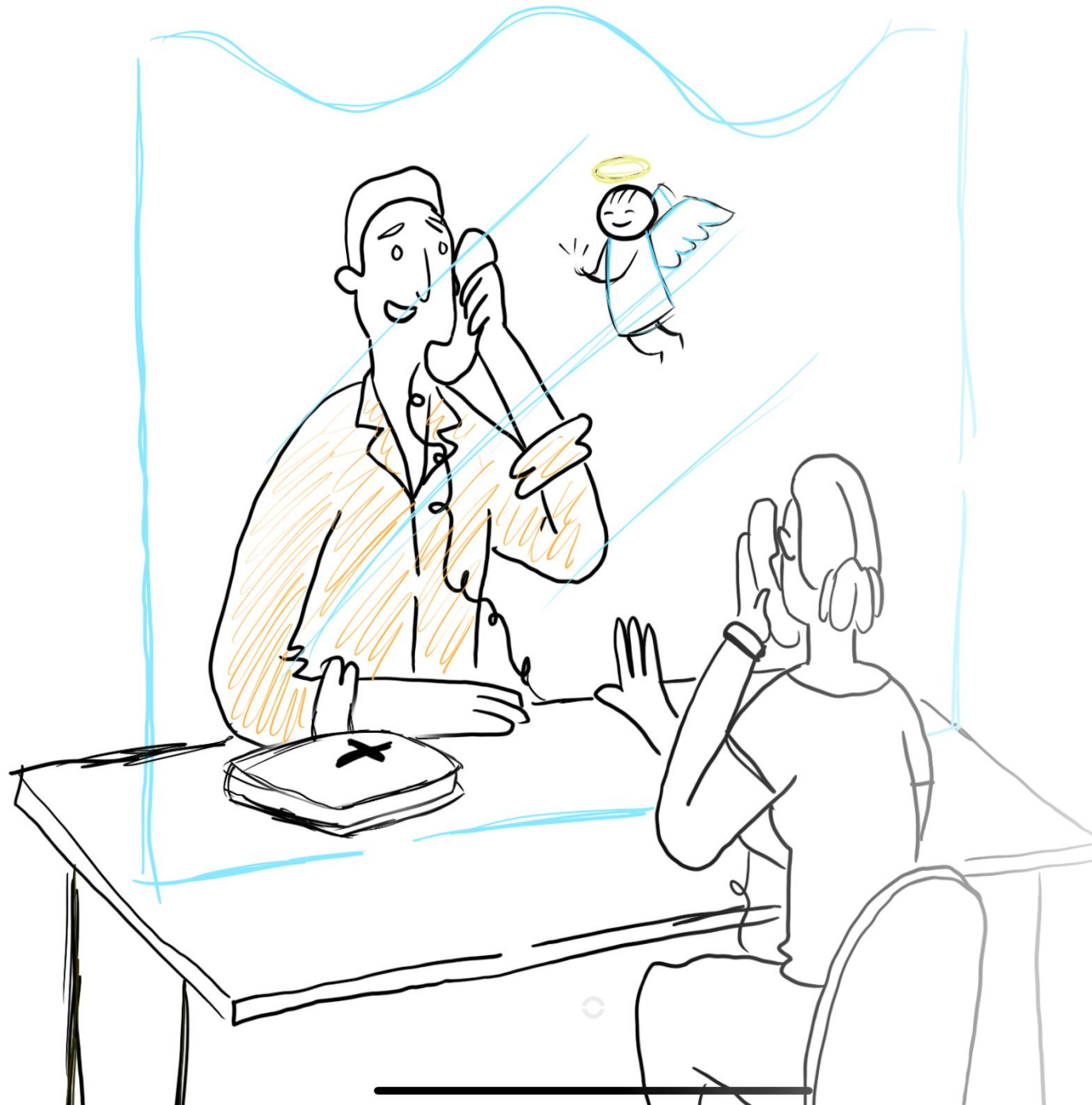




Being persuaded by hatred he beat up kids that was different than him. Due to his actions Billy then had to go to court. Where later in court was sentenced to 30 years in jail.

- Once in jail, Billy kept taking out his anger and hatred toward anyone who came across him, even the guards. Even when in jail he stuck with the wrong crowd making bad choices that kept setting him back. Leading him into a spiral of depression.

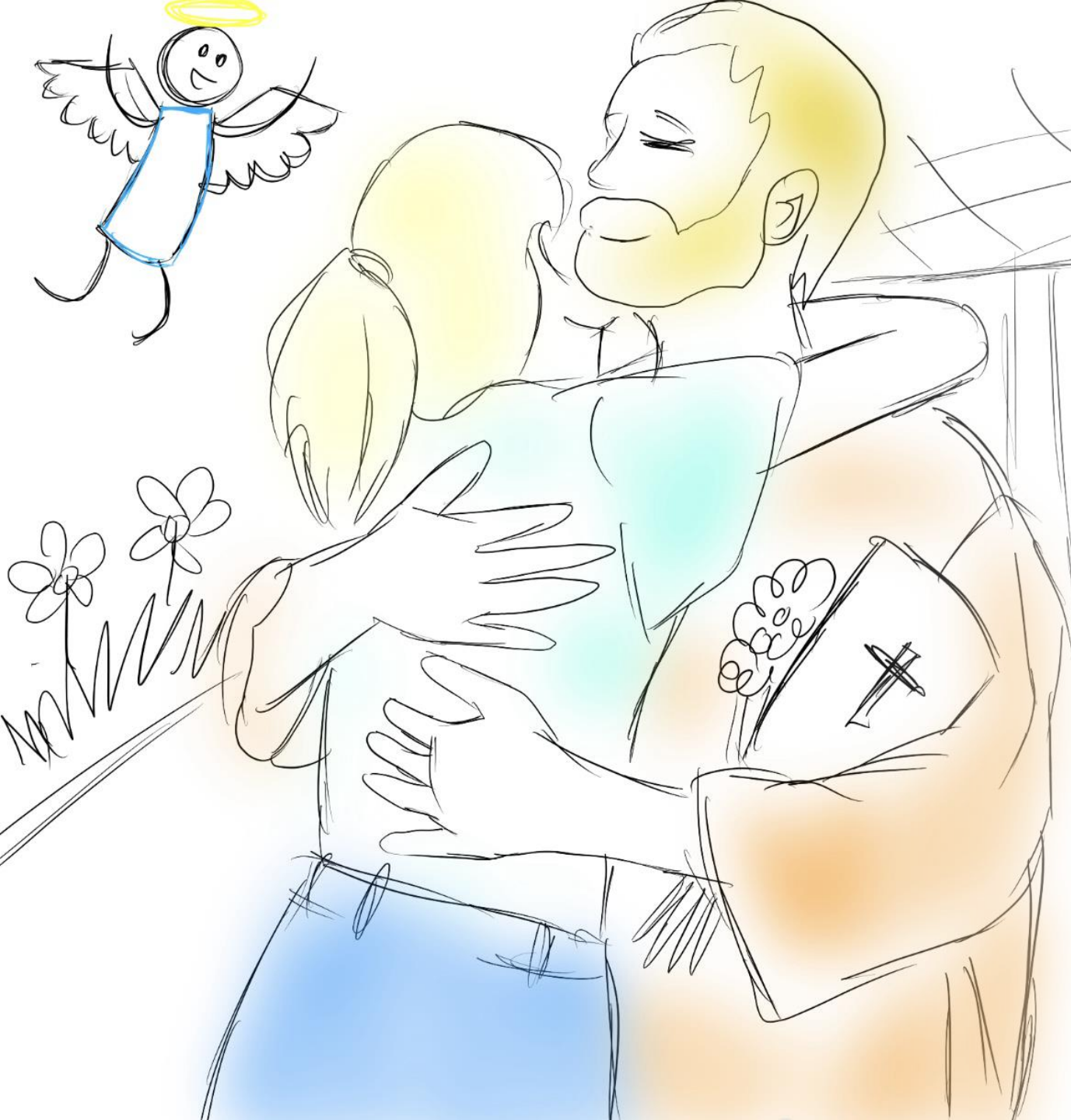




One day Billy got a message from his daughter saying "we need to talk". Billy being too nervous he waited to call his daughter. When wandering the library he discovers the bible. Deciding to open it he felt a wave of warmth. As days passed his reading intensified and got the courage to make that call after all those years.



After days of talking to his daughter Billy knew what he had to do, and that was to change. Being clear minded and determined to get out the situation he was in. Through his daughter and the bible.



Billys time came to an end being set free. And on this day, Billy was Finally able to met his daughter face to face for the first time.



Closing thoughts

- Most importantly don't let your past or views of others define who you are. Instead regain your strength to define yourself on your own terms.

References

- <https://www.stangelawfirm.com>
- <https://www.merrism-webster.com>

Unshackled Stories





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Opening

The purpose of this zine is to show how everyone makes mistakes. People of all kinds can be sent to prison for doing something dumb. The most important part is what you do after being put in a bad place.



Gage, Gage, and Vincenzo have interviewed for some stories from two formerly incarcerated people to shed some light on this predicament.

Stacy's Experience Before Prison

Stacy says he wasn't the typical person you see going to prison. He grew up in a nice farm family with no home issues. He went to college and had no problem finding work. Stacy considered himself "different than criminals" in his life before prison. He learned that little bad decisions over time can lead to some really big consequences. Stacy now believes that if you're not living out your purpose that God led you to do it will get you in trouble. "if you don't do something good, You will do something bad". This is one of the reasons Stacy spent his time incarcerated writing.

James 4:6, which states, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble".



Fred's Experience Before Prison

In high school, Fred was an A/B student. He was on homecoming court and the senior class president. He was also an athlete in three sports. After graduating he went on to the University of Nebraska Lincoln and received a degree in Communication studies.



Fred grew up with his dad being the biggest contributor, as his parents divorced when he was six. His dad later remarried at nine. He grew up in a broken family environment where he experienced various kinds of abuse. He never realized how much the abuse affected him, until prison, when he was forced to deal with them. He grew up in North Omaha around drugs and violence but stayed away from it.

Stacy's Transition

Stacy was not in prison for long, only being there for 3 years. He mentioned in prison that there's a heavy "us versus them" mindset. It helped Stacy a lot when he got out that he never succumbed to the institutional mindset. The effects of prison were still wearing him down despite his mental fortitude. While incarcerated he returned to college at Metro. Stacy wrote 4 books, 2 movie screenplays, and 1 TV series. Stacy also plugged in resources that helps people find jobs and confidence. He found a program that paid him to go to school, he got an internship, and he helped build medical devices. He has a book coming out and a business startup along with it . His transition was a lot more positive than what other inmates were and he credits that to his mindset he kept despite the circumstances.



Fred's Transition

Fred's transition started with healing. Fred took various classes while inside prison. He did Bible Study and went to counseling in order to help him recover from his childhood trauma and imprisonment. Fred worked at a couple factories before his incarceration, but during his transition he overhauled a data system at a large non-profit organization helping it grow from 1 million to 4 million dollars a year.



When he left prison, he realized the amount of work he needed to do on himself due to his trauma. He got out of a toxic relationship, which made him realize he needed to prioritize himself and accomplish his goals.

Stacy's Story About Being a Father

Stacy has two children, a 21 year old son and an 18 year old daughter. These adults have been disconnected from Stacy for a while, and exerting his influence as their parent would be too overbearing. "They're old enough to decide on their own".



After his wife left with the kids and his bout with prison, he has "the peace that I know God's taking care of [them]". He's still working on improving himself so that his kids can find him a reliable family member.

Fred's Story About Being a Father

Fred hasn't seen his son since we was incarcerated 12 years ago. He wants to let go of the prison mindset in his head before he reconnects to avoid as much pain between the two as possible. Even after going through courses and doing bouts of self reflection he still can't bring himself to see his son. Another barrier is that he would have to reconnect with his ex-wife. "Like what is my ex wife telling my son, her?" The disconnect between Fred and his family grows every day.



Conclusion

Stacy and Fred have gone through many trials and tribulations to get their lives back together and to reconnect to what they had before being incarcerated. Along the way they have learned virtues such as belief, vigor, hope, and grit. We should care about Stacy and Fred's stories because they show us that anybody can do wrong and be incarcerated. The most important part is to not lose your way and to keep moving your life in a positive direction, no matter what happens.



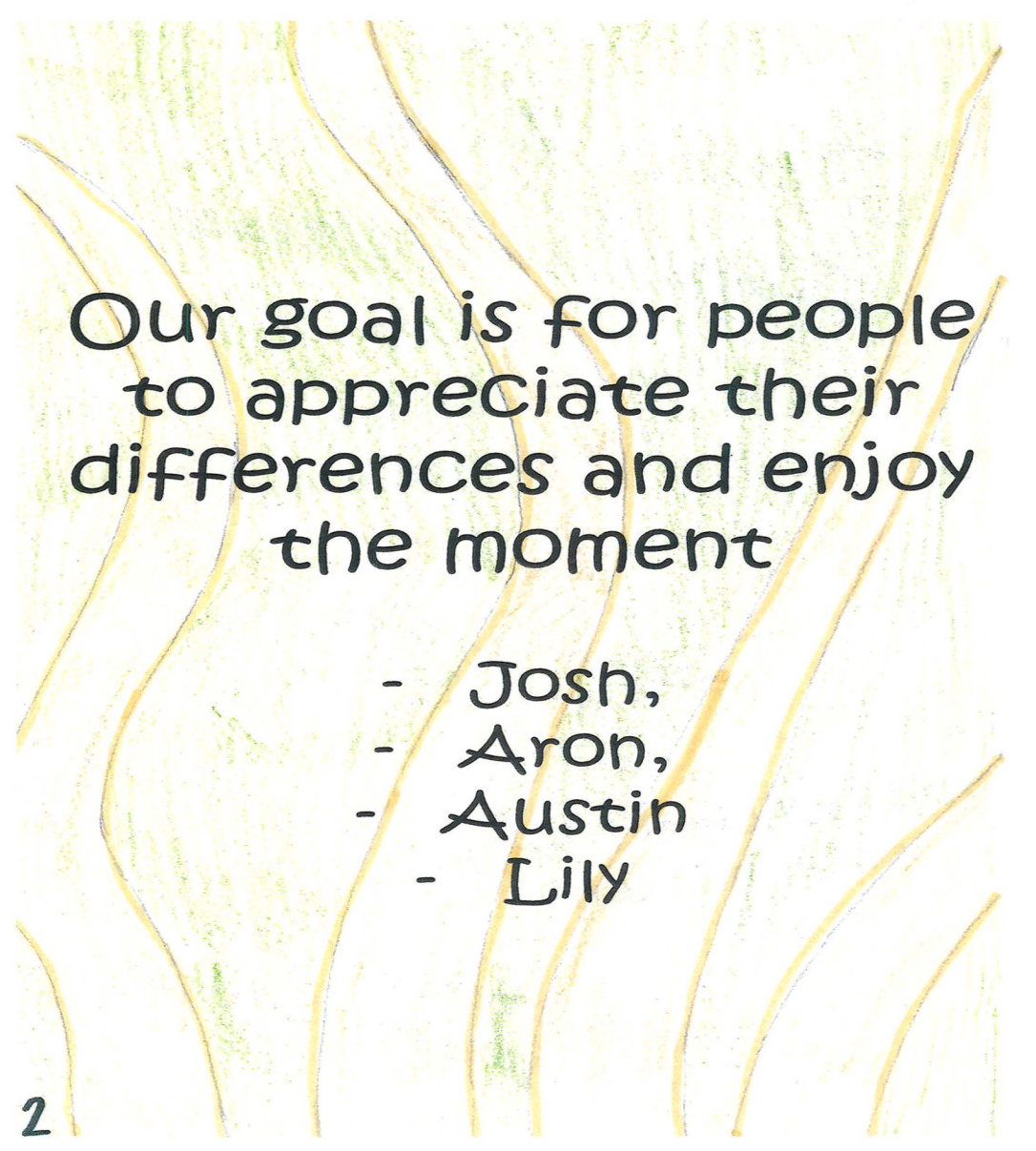
Diverse Paths, Singular Destiny

Iindlela ezahlukeneyo,
isikhumbuzo esinye

Махпакпа le, tsitsidola
kple dzifo

Różne ścieżki, jedno
przeznaczenie

Verschiedene Wege, ein
gemeinsames Schicksal

The background of the slide features a series of wavy, vertical lines in shades of yellow and light green, creating a textured, watercolor-like effect.

Our goal is for people
to appreciate their
differences and enjoy
the moment

- Josh,
- Aron,
- Austin
- Lily

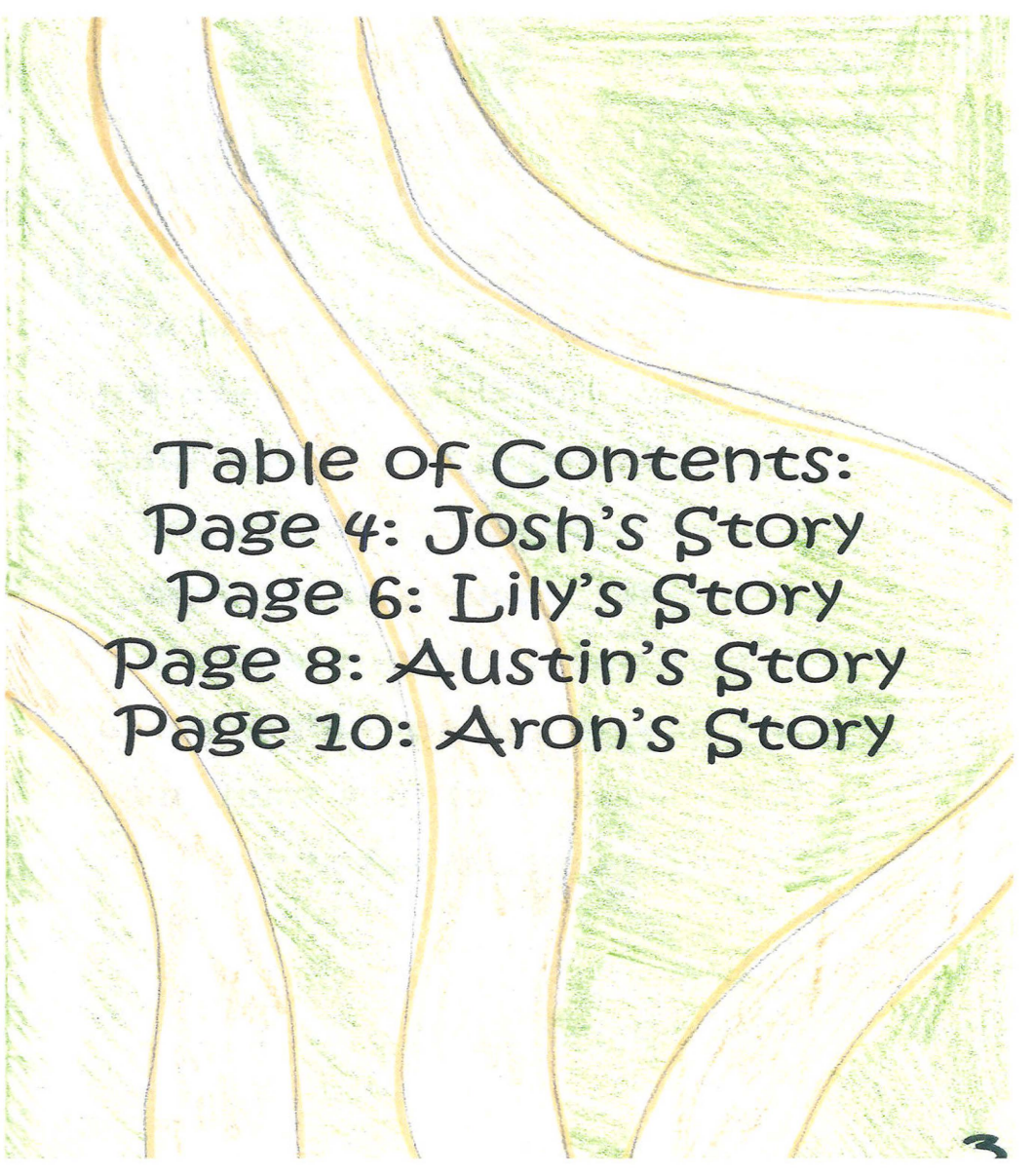


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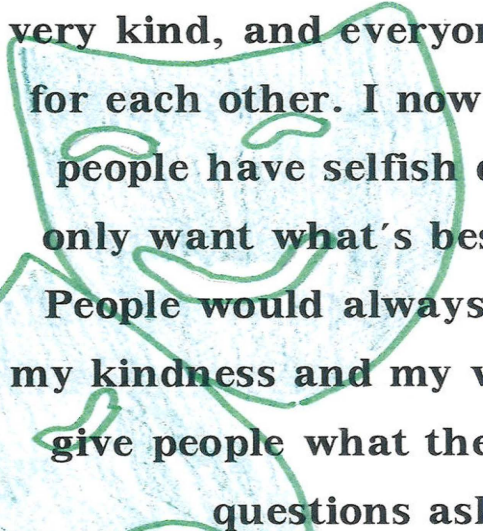
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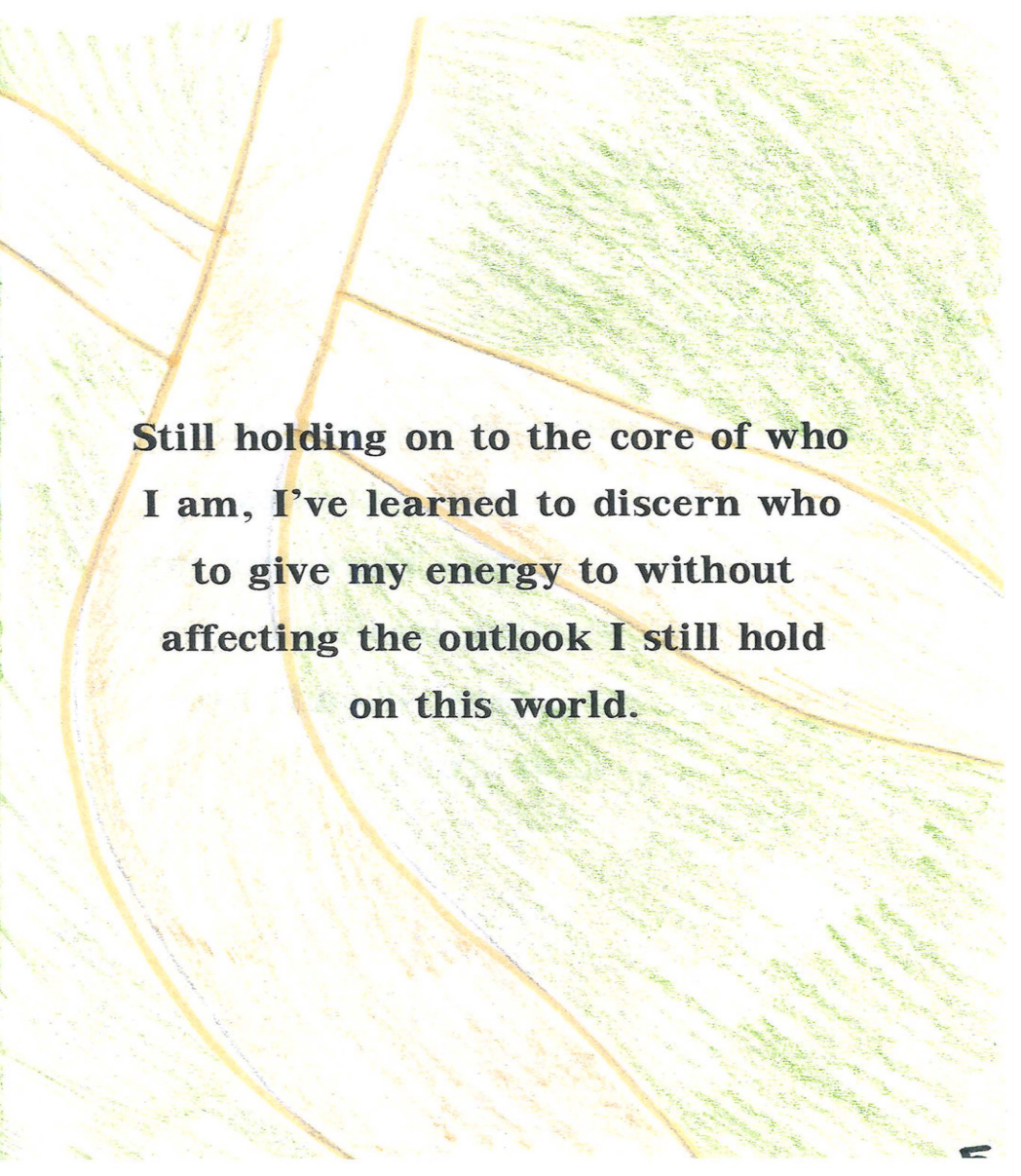
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JOSH



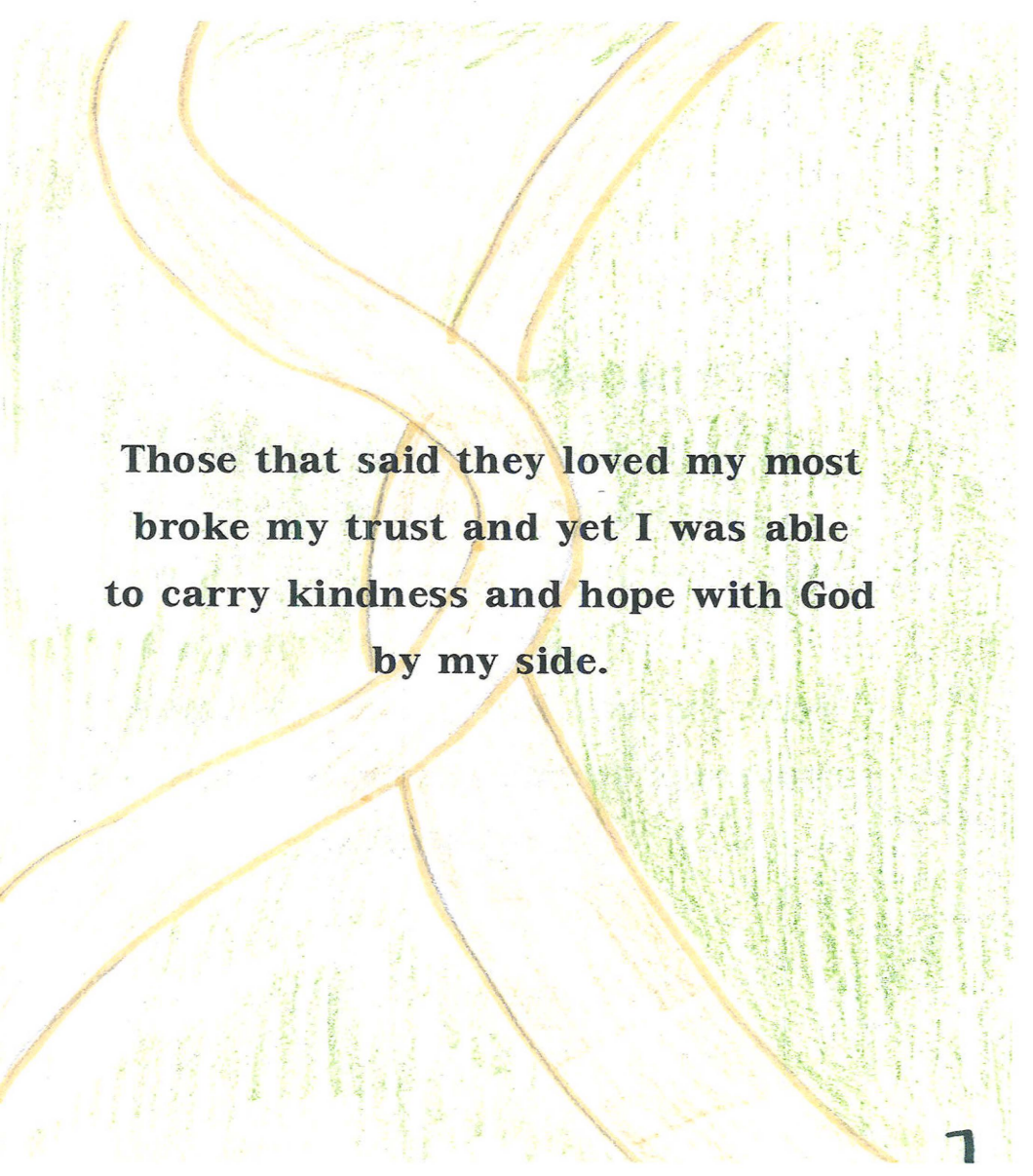
Growing up, I saw the world as very kind, and everyone looked out for each other. I now realize that people have selfish desires and only want what's best for them. People would always use me for my kindness and my willingness to give people what they want, no questions asked.

The background of the page is an abstract, textured composition. It features several thick, curved, yellowish-gold lines that sweep across the frame. These lines are set against a backdrop of fine, green, textured strokes that resemble a dense, layered pattern. The overall effect is organic and painterly, with a mix of warm and cool tones.

**Still holding on to the core of who
I am, I've learned to discern who
to give my energy to without
affecting the outlook I still hold
on this world.**

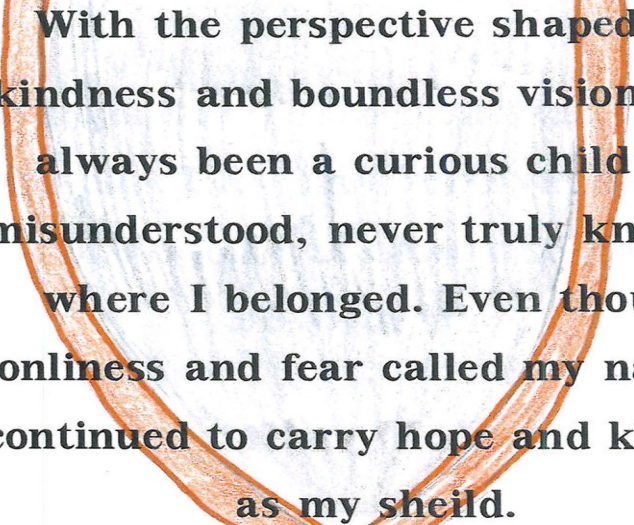
LILLY

**Seeing the world with gentle
compassion and boundless
possibility, I leaned more into my
faith and trusting God's plan for
me, after my closest friends broke
that trust.**

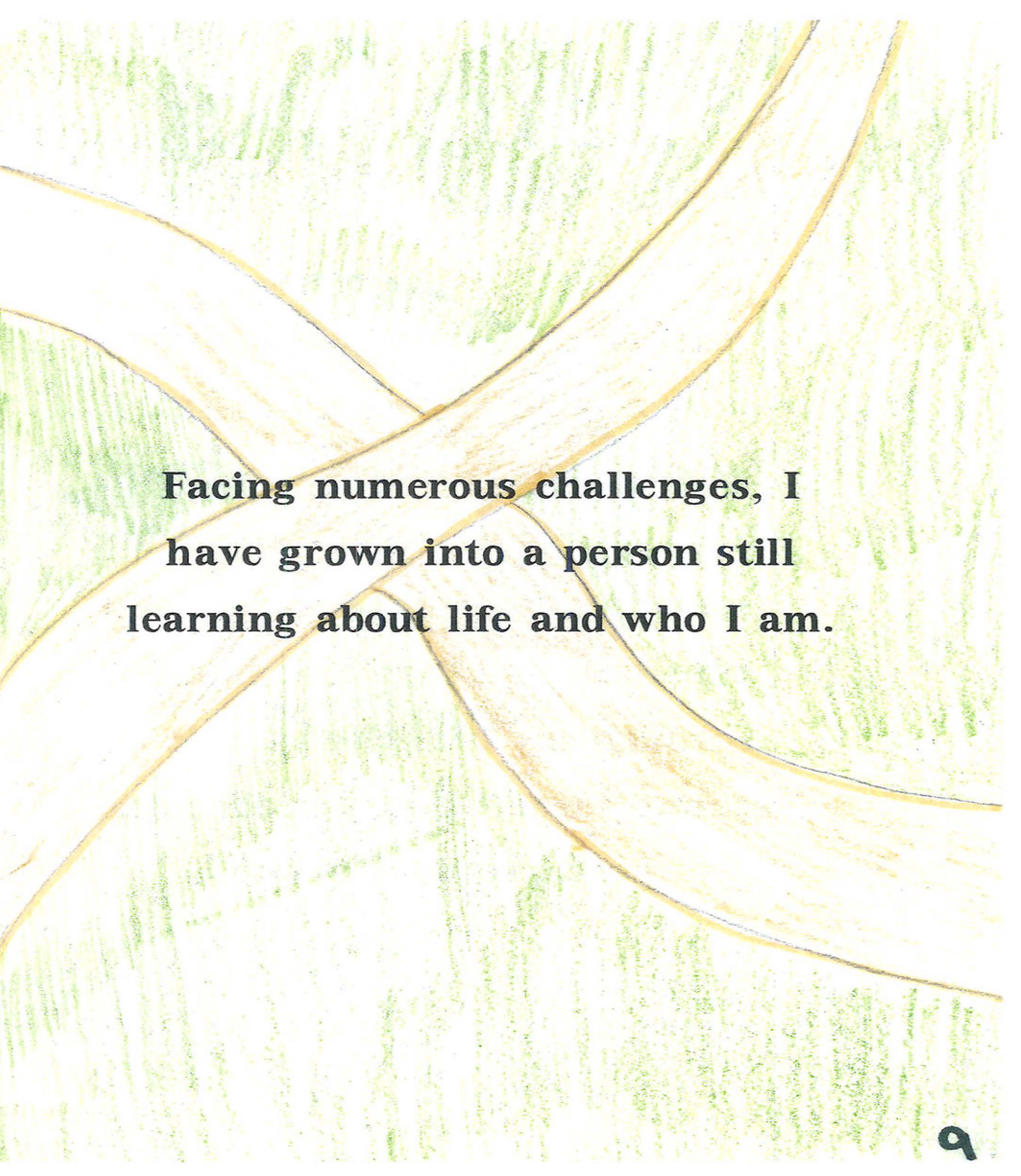


**Those that said they loved my most
broke my trust and yet I was able
to carry kindness and hope with God
by my side.**

AUSTIN

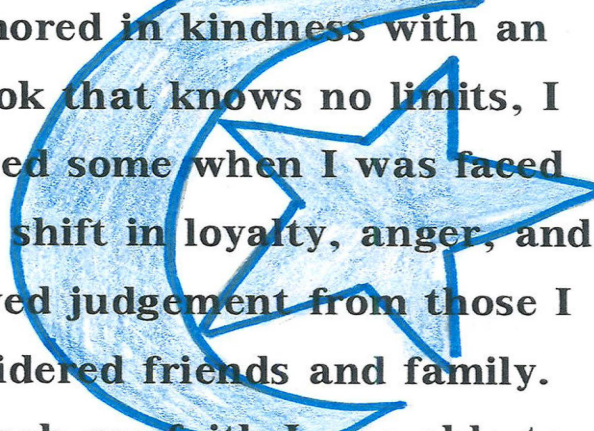


With the perspective shaped by kindness and boundless vision, I've always been a curious child yet misunderstood, never truly knowing where I belonged. Even though loneliness and fear called my name, I continued to carry hope and kindness as my shield.



**Facing numerous challenges, I
have grown into a person still
learning about life and who I am.**

ARON



Anchored in kindness with an outlook that knows no limits, I faltered some when I was faced with a shift in loyalty, anger, and received judgement from those I considered friends and family. Through my faith I was able to remind myself that patience and perserverance is key.

Soundtrack



References:

Chatgpt for brainstorming
Original Stories by:
Austin, Aron, Josh & Lily

EVERYTHING WE DO IS DRIVEN BY YOU!

SELENA, ORION,
MARCOS, ZACHARY



Authors

Selena

Orion

Marco

Zackary

Ths zine is to show the way of life/going through struggles. 4 different tires, 4 different unique stories of each person, all showing the light at the end of the tunnel. Were using the car tires as A metaphor for each experience in our lives and how it shaped us.



Im the front left tire, my first experience with the road was a very smooth ride, but later I found out it could get rough real fast, with one wrong turn, it could all come to an end.

Im the front right tire, my first experience with the road was very rough i pulled off the lot and scraped a curb.

Im the back right tire, my first experience with the road is driving like normal and then all of a sudden I went into a pot hole.

Im the back left tire, my first experience was like any other tire, until a nail went in my tire, its hard to notice at first but it can turn into an issue.





FRONT LEFT TIRE STORY

I am the front left tire, my first interaction with the road was a very smooth ride. Until I swung around a corner so hard I scraped the curb the impact was so hard that it knocked my tire off course. This story represent the problems I had growing up with an alcoholic father.

It is taking time to get back on course so it is still a bumpy ride; but with the support from friends, family, and support groups, I keep myself together.



FRONT RIGHT TIRE STORY

I am the front right tire, my journey on the road started out rough, I hit many bumps and holes, it was a tough way to go along the road until I eventually got a boot put on me. The tire represents my life as I grew up with a father who abused me and my siblings. After my father disappeared, my escape was to get involved in criminal activities. I ended up in prison it has taken me going through a lot of pain to try and escape that. Now, I have developed a better relationship with my father and we are both determined to better our lives. Im still working on figuring my story out, I have come a long way and am dedicated to getting a better life for myself.



BACK RIGHT TIRE STORY

My first experience with the road as the back right tire. a smooth road going through life with all types of climates and conditions, but later on the climate destroyed the road and the back right tire went out with a pothole. In reference to this, it shows life is good until you hit a pothole and then it's not good.

My incident is living in an abusive household and witnessing it as a kid. It changed my life and living life through that aspect. Now that it has changed, my household has solved the issues through communication and separation. My back right tire was replaced with a new one. In conclusion, this is saying now that there is no more living in an abusive household; I've moved on and am starting a new start. Now I'm back on the road to face more challenges on the way.

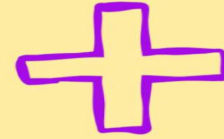


BACK LEFT TIRE STORY

I am the back left tire, it was smooth sailing at first on the road, until I hit a nail, I didn't notice it for a while but that nail stayed there until it made me flat. It was easy to ignore until it made my tire pop and scrape across the road. The nail represents past trauma growing up and ignoring it, the tire popping is when life was too hard for me to handle. Eventually I was able to get myself patched up through the help of friends and I am back to smooth sailing on the road again



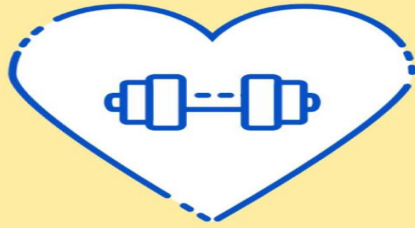
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF



The front tires and the back tires are in a different point in their lives now, however both are riding on the same road towards a positive life and being successful. Bumps and nails are common and we all have to go through them, but it's our toughness and dedication that drives us towards the end of the tunnel, no matter how far away the light may be.



When the road gets rough, we all had different ways of dealing with it, listening to music or working out helps a lot as well as doing things like meditation or doing things for yourself. It helped make the road a little less rough.



I believe in me





Arrived at the final
destination

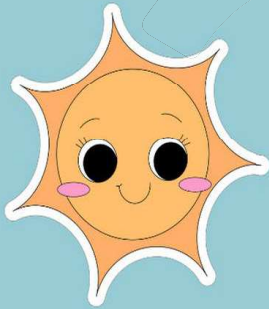
Sweetie



&

BB

The End



a potato's tale

The Alternatives to Violence Project
<https://avpusa.org/>

Canva Design

Dear Reader,
From a young age, we have been told to never judge
a book by its cover. That is true for people, too.
Everyone has their own story--their own triumphs
and tribulations that have made them who they are
today.

So, it is best to treat others with kindness even if
they have gone down a path in life that you are not
accustomed to. Everyone is growing and learning in
their own time. Take a breath, step out of your
shoes, and see the world from a different
perspective. Be kind, and most important of all, be
true to who you are.



Aiden, UNO undergrad majoring in Psychology
Randell, Very Punny and Terminally Strange
Svea, UNO undergrad majoring in Creative Writing and English
Vik, Warrior for Goodness and Mankind, Devoted Father

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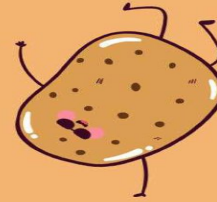
**Beneath the dirt where human eyes can't see,
two young potatoes grow and play happily.
They live in a home just like yours!
With toys and treats and rooms to explore.**



Sweetie and BB live happy lives. They strive to be themselves and to always be kind. Sometimes they don't get each other and that's okay; they always make sure to meet each other halfway.

If Sweetie is sad, BB will give her a hug. If BB is mad, Sweetie will listen and will not judge.

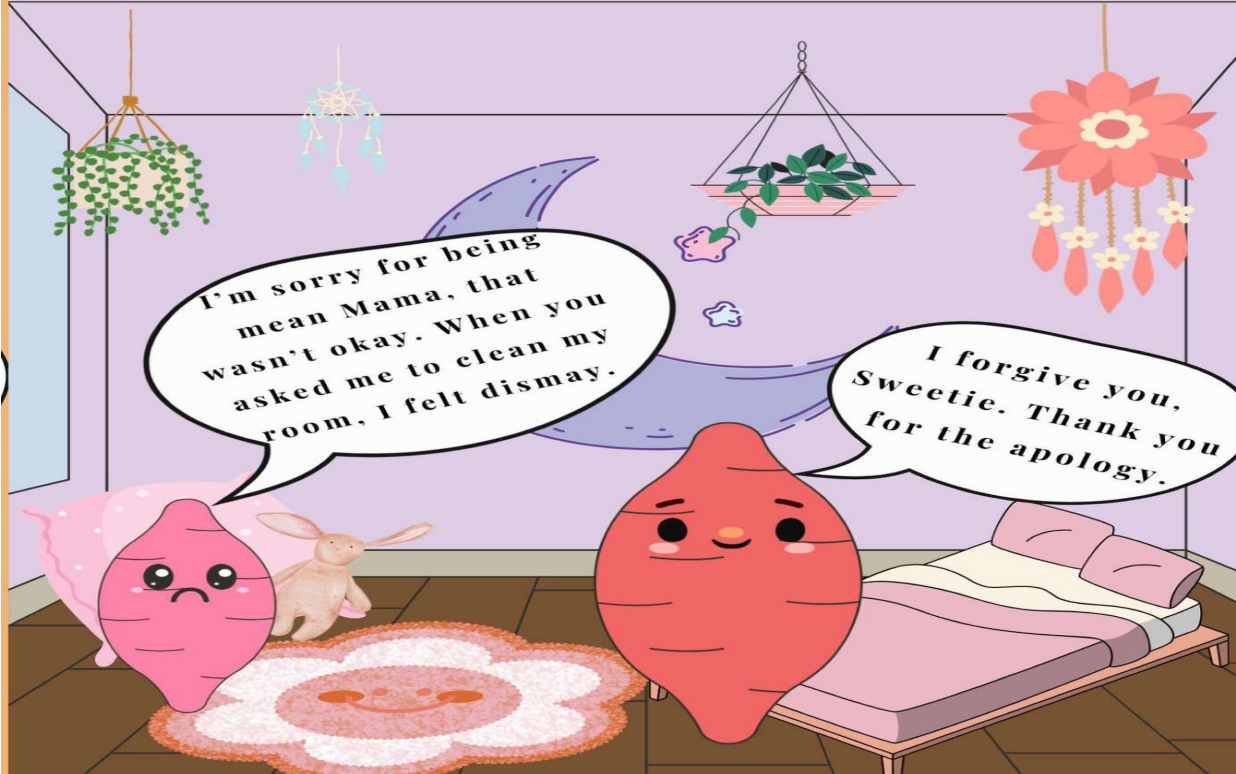




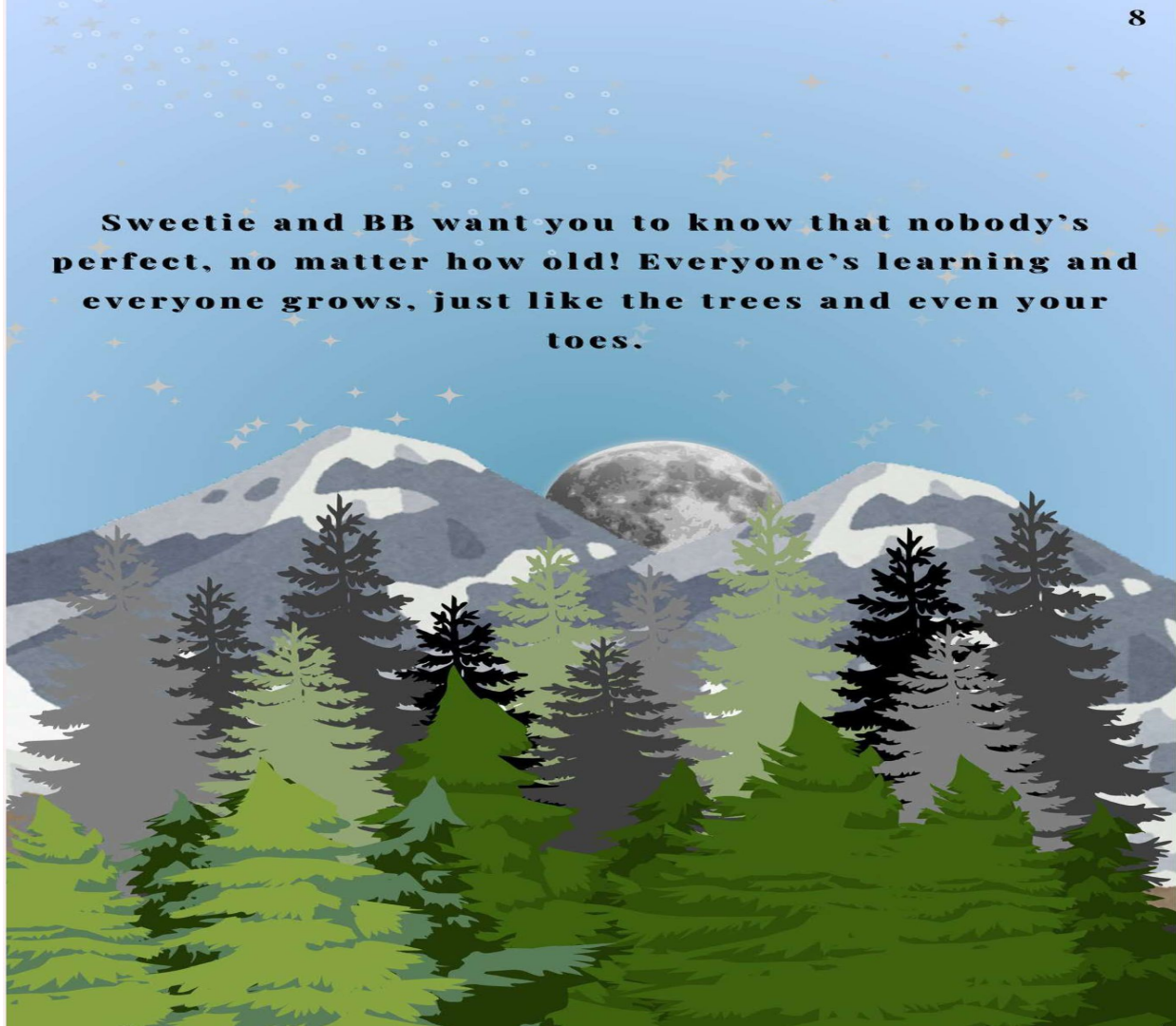
Sometimes other potatoes can be mean, but Sweetie and BB know that's just what they see. Everyone is unique in their own way. Sweetie and BB know they must be true and kind to themselves at the end of the day.



Sweetie and BB know to not say mean things because it may hurt someone more than they think. Sometimes they slip up and that's okay-- they make sure to always apologize and fix their mistakes.



Sweetie and BB want you to know that nobody's perfect, no matter how old! Everyone's learning and everyone grows, just like the trees and even your toes.



**Sizes and shapes and the colors they were made.
Everyone's different in their own way. Lives are
picked, choices are made, but you can't judge
someone for another's mistakes. Sweetie and BB
know this now, and they ask you to share this
knowledge with your pals! Choose kindness over
hatred and compassion over fear. Use this for
yourself and for others who are near.**



Sweetie and BB are tired now. This long chat really wore them out! Maybe they'll take a nap or even a walk. They thank you for taking the time to listen to them talk! Hopefully now you understand better the effect that kindness can have on yourself and others.

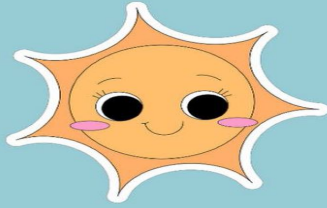


Whilst the topic of this zine may seem overstated, I believe in the power of repetition. Just like in school, the easiest way to remember is to study the information multiple times so it sticks in your head. Kindness and grace is something we need more of in this world, especially with the unfavorable state that it is in now. If you practice kindness for yourself and others then eventually it will become a part of your daily life. Acts of kindness can be big or small; the idea is to take action and to make someone's day just a little bit brighter.

Little Acts of Kindness

- **Feed the homeless**
- **Hold the door open for someone**
- **Give someone a compliment**
- **Tell a friend or family member you love them**
- **Do not judge based on looks; judge based on actions**
- **Volunteer at your local library, soup kitchen, or the Alternatives to Violence Project**

The End



The Alternatives to Violence Project
<https://avpusa.org/>

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