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Sam Survives

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SAM SURVIVES



YOUTH JUSTICE PRESS

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This novel was inspired by the stories and struggles of youth in custody and made possible with support from concerned individuals and organizations including families, advocates, and corrections professionals.

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SAM SURVIVES

WRITTEN BY JAIME M. YARUSSI and BRENDA V. SMITH

ILLUSTRATED BY MONICA ROSS

YOUTH JUSTICE PRESS

FOREWORD

Since 1999, The Project on Addressing Prison Rape (Project) at American University, Washington College of Law has provided training to correctional administrators, agencies, advocates, associations and individuals who are working to end sexual abuse of individuals in custodial settings.

Sam Survives is a first step in educating youthful inmates (inmates under the age of 18 housed in adult correctional settings) on how to identify, address, and respond to incidents of sexual abuse by staff or other inmates in response to the Inmate Education Standard, § 115.33 of the National PREA Standards released on May 17, 2012. This graphic novel aims to provide key information to staff, inmates, administrators and agencies trying to address sexual assault in custody.

INTRODUCTION

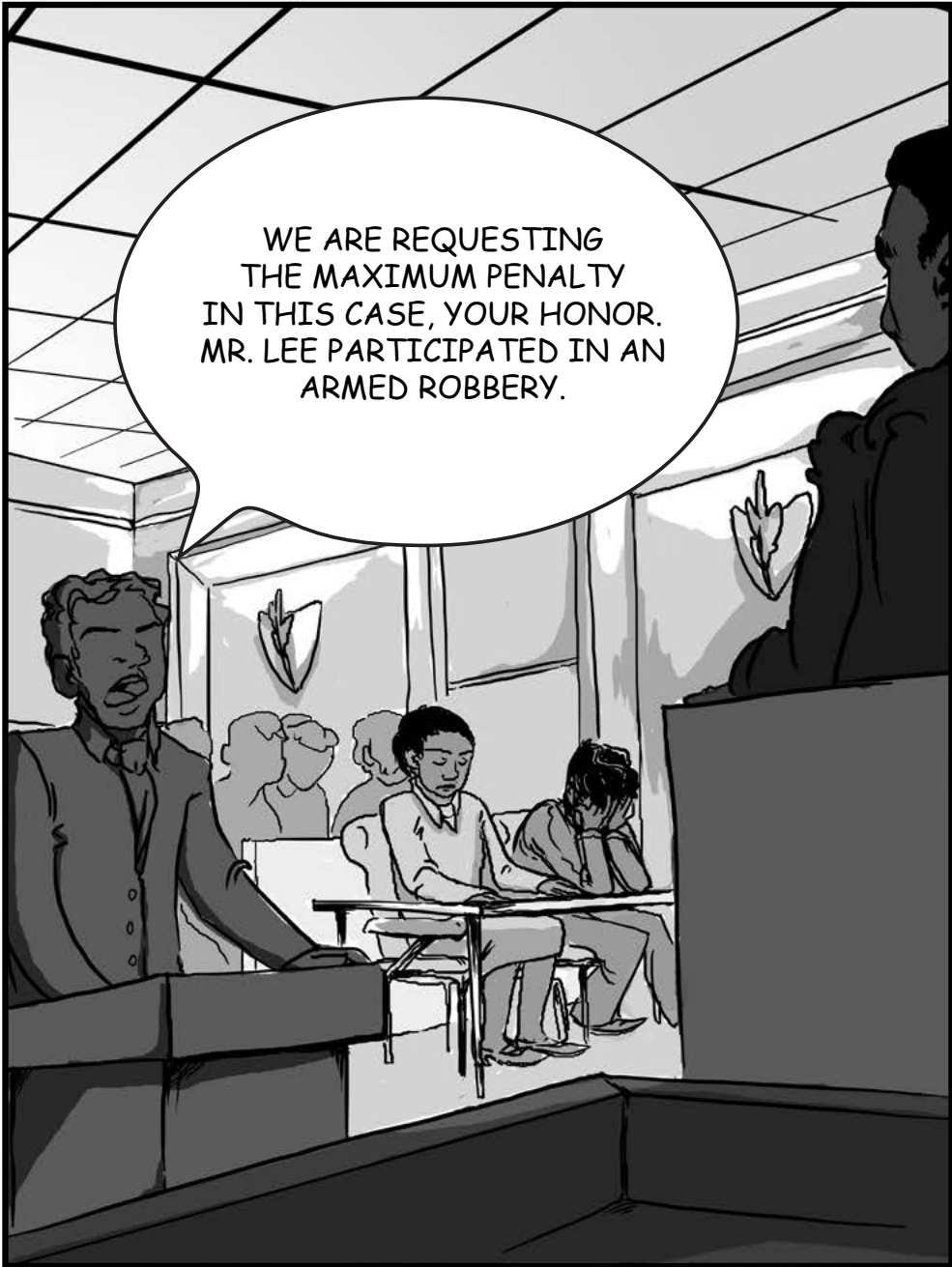
Sam Survives is a graphic novel about male youthful inmates in custody and their exposure to sexual abuse in adult prisons and jails. This graphic novel's primary goal is to help youth confront sexual abuse in custodial settings and to provide key information to families, staff, administrators and agencies looking to take positive steps to end sexual abuse in custodial settings. The novel raises several important issues including: (1) the 'code of silence' among inmates and correctional staff in a facility; (2) beliefs about protective pairing; (3) the experience of gender non-conforming inmates; and (4) female staff as perpetrators of sexual abuse.

At the end of the graphic novel, we have provided a glossary of terms; a space for agencies to provide resources for youthful inmates; and note pages. The Project on Addressing Prison Rape also developed discussion questions to use for training youthful inmates. Those questions are available at:


http://www.wcl.american.edu/endsilence/inmate_educfm

Though laws and policies differ by state, this publication can be used nationwide for all youthful inmates in custody. To that end, we have generalized the content and details of this novel. Please contact us with comments about the novel, your thoughts about the usefulness of graphic novels as a tool for training inmates, and suggestions for other needed resources.


The Project on Addressing Prison Rape can be reached at:
202-274-4385 or **endsilence@wcl.american.edu**



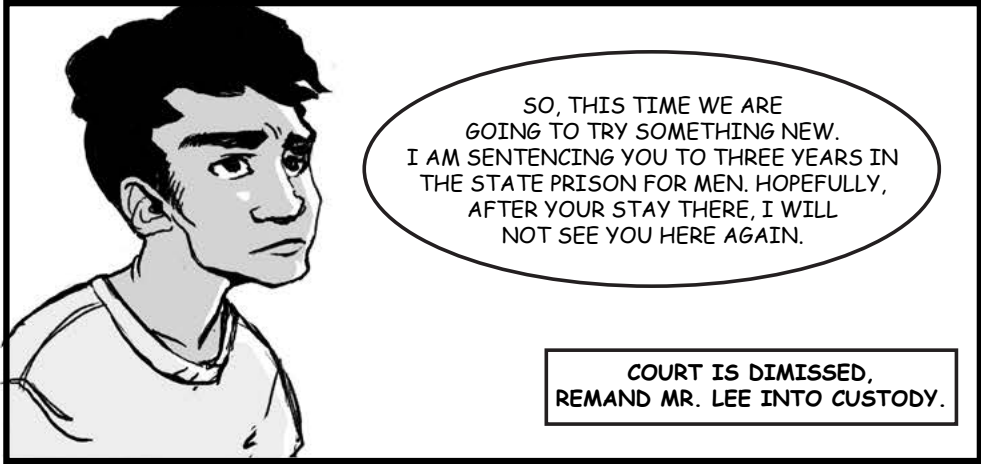
WE ARE REQUESTING
THE MAXIMUM PENALTY
IN THIS CASE, YOUR HONOR.
MR. LEE PARTICIPATED IN AN
ARMED ROBBERY.



I HAVE
THOUGHT ABOUT
THIS CASE QUITE A BIT.
MR. LEE, YOU ARE 17 AND
IN THE EYES OF THIS
STATE, AN ADULT.



YOU HAVE BEEN IN
MY COURTROOM MORE
THAN ONCE AND, EACH TIME,
RECOGNIZING YOUR
CIRCUMSTANCES I HAVE
TRIED BEING LENIENT.
I SEE THAT HAS NOT
GOTTEN US VERY FAR.



SO, THIS TIME WE ARE
GOING TO TRY SOMETHING NEW.
I AM SENTENCING YOU TO THREE YEARS IN
THE STATE PRISON FOR MEN. HOPEFULLY,
AFTER YOUR STAY THERE, I WILL
NOT SEE YOU HERE AGAIN.

COURT IS DIMISSED,
REMAND MR. LEE INTO CUSTODY.



SAM. WANNA PLAY SOME BALL?

SURE.



WHAT'S EATIN' YOU MAN?



IT'S JUST THIS PLACE. PEOPLE LIKE US DON'T BELONG HERE.

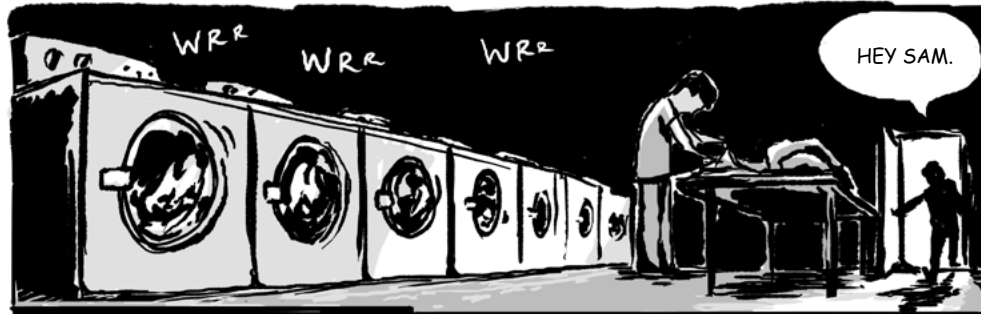
YEAH DUDE, BUT YOU GOTTA SURVIVE.

HOW DO YOU DO THAT AROUND HERE?! DO YOU WATCH WHAT GOES ON IN THIS PLACE?



DAMN MAN. YOU GOTTA RELAX.

LET'S GO PLAY SOME BALL.



HEY SAM.



HEY RICO.

WHEN YOU GONNA SIT WITH ME AT CHOW... LET ME SHOW YOU OFF?

SHOW ME OFF?! MAN YOU KNOW I AIN'T LIKE THAT. I TOLD YA, I GOTTA GIRL AND A KID WAITIN' ON ME WHEN I GET OUT,

YEAH? ME TOO.



I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK SHE'S JUST SITTING AROUND WAITIN' FOR YOU. SHE'S GOT NEEDS. JUST LIKE YOU.

EVENTUALLY, IN THIS PLACE, EVERYONE IS "LIKE THAT". YOU'LL SEE.



LISTEN, THINGS IN HERE CAN BE TOUGH. I'VE BEEN HERE FOR A WHILE, I KNOW. I GOT YOUR BACK IF YOU NEED ME.



DUDE, SOMETHING'S GOIN' ON. SOMETHING DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.

ARE PEOPLE LOOKING AT ME FUNNY?

I DON'T KNOW MAN. IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING.



LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING.

SURE, WHAT?

HOW LONG YOU BEEN HERE?

2 YEARS, 5 MONTHS, 16 DAYS.

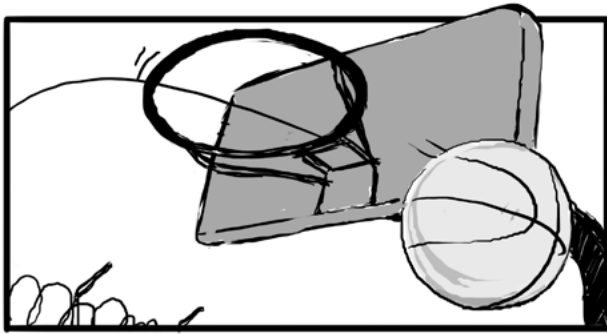
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT RICO?

HE'S ALRIGHT AS FAR AS THEY GO... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS DEAL IS, BUT EVERYONE SEEMS TO RESPECT HIM.

I HEARD HE HAS STREET AFFILIATION. WHY DO YOU WANNA KNOW?

'CAUSE HE'S BEEN TALKIN' TO ME IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM.





I WIN, LITTLE MAN.

AGAIN?
SURE.



MAN, I'M GOING TO HELP YOU HERE.



'CAUSE YOU REMIND ME OF MY FIRST TIME IN.

NOTHING HAPPENS IN HERE LIKE IT'S S'POSED TO.



YOU EVER DO ANYONE IN HERE?



NAW MAN, BUT IT HAPPENS. I GOT WITH OFFICER JOSIE, SO NO ONE MESSES WITH ME.



THIS PLACE IS MESSED UP.



YOU NEED TO WATCH YOUR BACK.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WATCH MY BACK"?!



WAIT-- REALLY?!?!



MAN, HOW LONG YOU BEEN HERE? YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T TRUST SOME OF THE STAFF.

SHE'S DOING OTHERS TOO.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.



OFFICER JOSIE? I THOUGHT THEY SAID STAFF WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO MESS WITH US.



I AINT MESSED WITH NO ONE. I KEEP TO MYSELF.

THAT'S THE PROBLEM. YOU GOT NOBODY.



YOU AND I PLAY BALL. OTHER THAN THAT, WHO DO YOU ASSOCIATE WITH?

NO ONE, MAN.



WHICH MEANS YOU ARE RIPE FOR THE PICKIN'

... AS IN SOMEONE'S BITCH.



THEY'RE GETTING READY TO FIGHT OVER YOU...

AND NOT FOR INITIATION OR FUN, I'M TALKIN' WHOSE BITCH YOU GOIN' TO BE.



I'M NO ONE'S BITCH!

OKAY MAN, BUT THAT'S HOW IT IS HERE. NO SHAME IN THAT GAME. DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO TO MAKE IT OUT ALIVE AND FORGET ALL THIS SHIT WHEN YOU GET OUT.



HEY SAM.

THINK ABOUT WHAT I SAID?

NAH, I'M STRAIGHT. I'LL JUST FIGHT IT OUT AND TAKE MY CHANCES.

WRR



I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND. YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

YOU'RE MINE AND THAT'S THE ONLY REASON WHY YOUR SWEET ASS HASN'T BEEN TAKEN YET.

I OWN YOU.

AND NOW



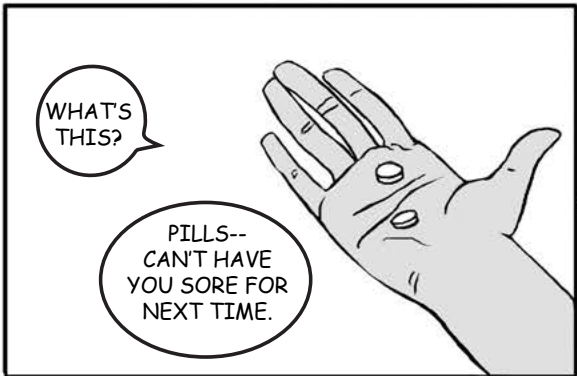
I'M CASHING IN.

THUD





HERE,
TAKE THIS.



WHAT'S
THIS?

PILLS--
CAN'T HAVE
YOU SORE FOR
NEXT TIME.



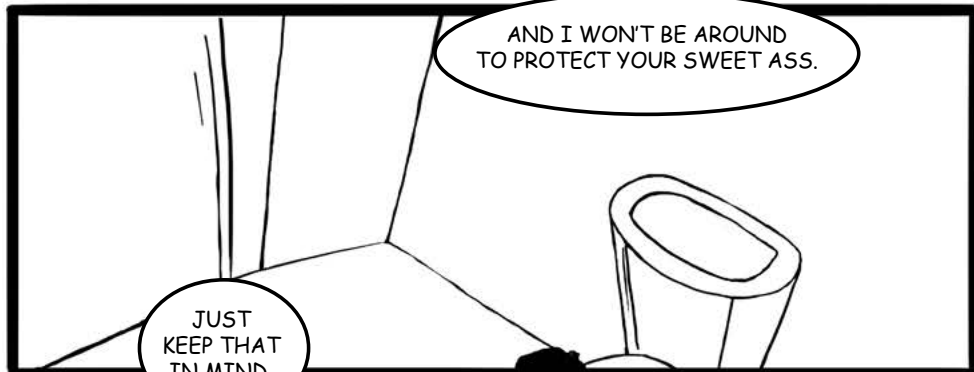
THERE AIN'T
GONNA BE A
NEXT TIME.

clench

OH, THERE WILL
BE A NEXT TIME.
KNOW WHY?



'CAUSE
IF YOU REPORT THIS,
NO ONE WILL BELIEVE YOU.
YOU ARE NOTHING MORE
THAN A TARGET FOR
OTHERS TO BUY
AND SELL.



AND I WON'T BE AROUND
TO PROTECT YOUR SWEET ASS.

JUST
KEEP THAT
IN MIND.



YOU GIVE ME WHAT
I WANT - WE WON'T HAVE
ANY PROBLEMS.

3 MONTHS LATER...

SAM,
RICO--
WHAT'S
GOING
ON
HERE?!

WHY IS THIS
DOOR CLOSED?!

WHAT THE HELL
IS GOING
ON HERE?

SEPARATE.
NOW.

HI SAM.

OFFICER ROTCHA
REPORTEDLY FOUND YOU
IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM
WITH ANOTHER INMATE
HAVING SEX.

IS THERE
ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE
TO TELL ME ABOUT?

NO SIR.

SAM, I HAVE A FEELING
THERE IS MORE TO THIS
THAN YOU ARE TELLING ME.

NO SIR.

SO THIS WAS CONSENSUAL.
YOU WERE NOT FORCED OR COERCED
IN ANY WAY?

YES, SIR.
I DID CONSENT TO IT.

ALRIGHT SON,
IN THAT CASE.

YOU WILL FACE
DISCIPLINE PER
THE INMATE CODE
OF CONDUCT.





YOU WAKE?

SURE. WHAT'S UP?

WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY "BUYING AND SELLING" ME?

HAVE YOU NOT BEEN PAYING ANY ATTENTION 'ROUND HERE?



BUT IF YOU DON'T HOOK UP WITH A MAN IN YOUR NEW DORM, YOU COULD END UP AS COMMISSARY.

TRUST ME... I'VE BEEN HERE A FEW TIMES AND I HAVE SEEN AND DONE IT ALL .

WHAT IF I JUST GET WITH STAFF?

YOU HAVE NO OPTIONS. YOU WERE TURNED OUT... YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A MAN'S BITCH. AT THIS POINT, NO STAFF WILL TOUCH YOU.

I DON'T CARE. I AIN'T LIKE YOU- I'M NOT GAY AND I'M DONE WITH THIS SHIT.

GAY OR NOT... THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE HELL THAT'S HAPPENING IN HERE.

JUST REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU...



THE INMATES RUN THIS PLACE, AND MOST OF THE STAFF IS IN ON IT. HOW DO YOU THINK YOUR MAN WAS GETTIN' PILLS IN HERE? AND DON'T GET ME STARTED ON THE REST...

LOOK, I'M NOT TRYING TO SCARE YOU.



SAM, MEET YOUR NEW CELL MATE, DARREN.



WELL, WELL, WELL, WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?

YOU ARE FINE. I'LL GET A PIECE OF THAT TONIGHT.



NO. YOU WON'T. THAT'S NOT MY THING.



RICO'S NOT HERE TO SAVE YOU NOW.

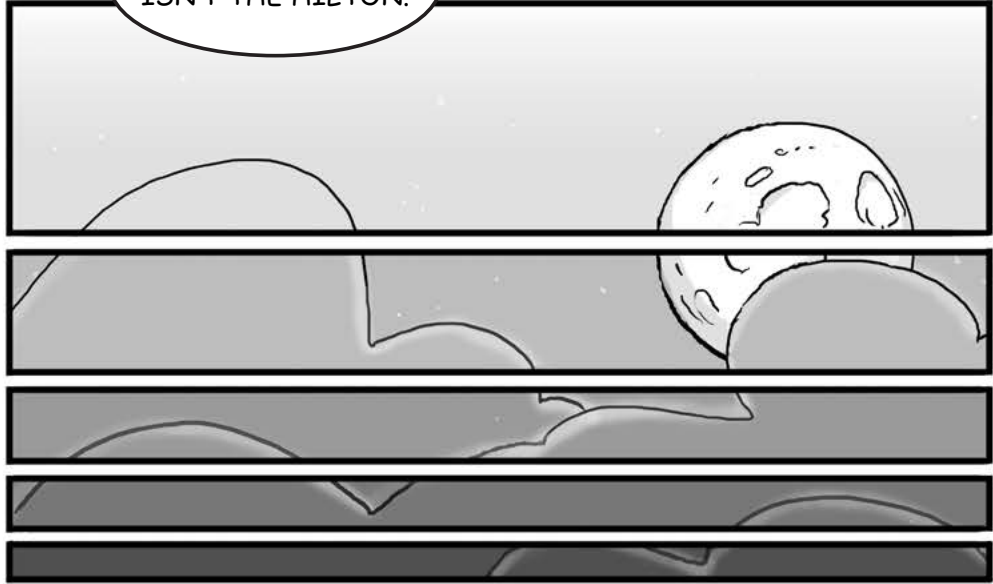
OFFICER?

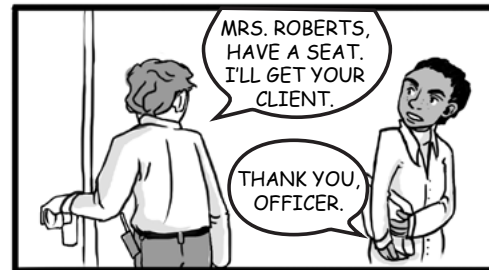
I DON'T FEEL SAFE IN MY CELL...

I'M NOT MOVING YOU.



THIS PRISON ISN'T THE HILTON.

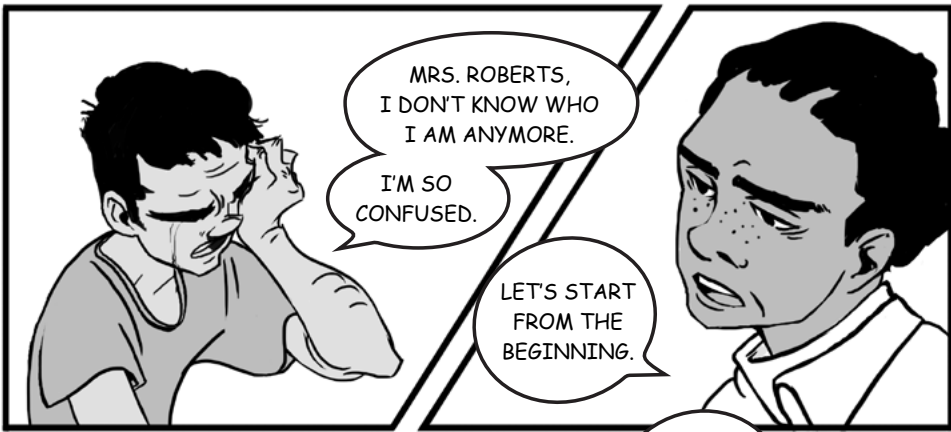




YOU CAN AND YOU WILL. THIS IS A CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED CONVERSATION. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP ME SAFE FROM THE DOOR.

THANK YOU.





MRS. ROBERTS,
I DON'T KNOW WHO
I AM ANYMORE.
I'M SO
CONFUSED.

LET'S START
FROM THE
BEGINNING.



THERE WAS
THIS GUY...

IT STARTED
RIGHT AFTER
I GOT HERE.

AND--
HE RAPED
ME.

I HAD A HARD TIME
BEING WITH HIM AT FIRST--
BUT EVENTUALLY I FIGURED
IT COULD BE WORSE FOR ME.

I JUST DID
WHAT I HAD TO DO
TO SURVIVE.



WE GOT CAUGHT,
SO WE WENT TO SEG
THEN GOT MOVED APART.

THINGS ONLY
GOT WORSE WHEN I
MOVED. MY BUNKIE
DARREN THREATENED
ME. THEN...



LATER THAT NIGHT HE
TOLD ME, "RAY IS PAYING ME
FOR HIS TIME WITH YOU".

"HE'S WAITIN',
SO HURRY UP".



I TOLD HIM
HE COULDN'T
MAKE ME GO.



I WAS GOING
TO FIGHT HIM!

BUT...





HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT I DIDN'T HAVE AN OPTION.



SO I DID AS DARREN SAID-- I DID WHAT RAY WANTED ME TO.

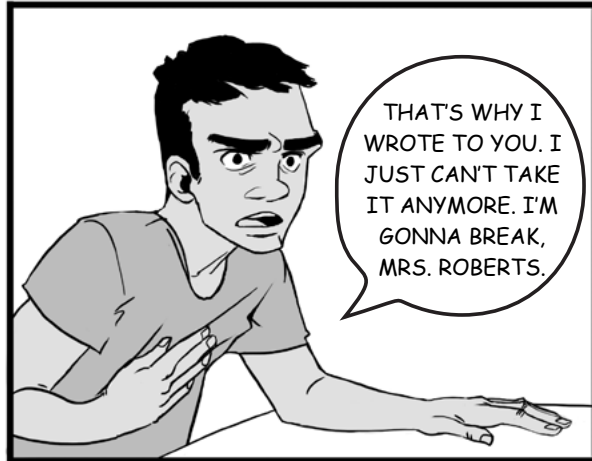


WHEN DID THIS STOP?



STOP?

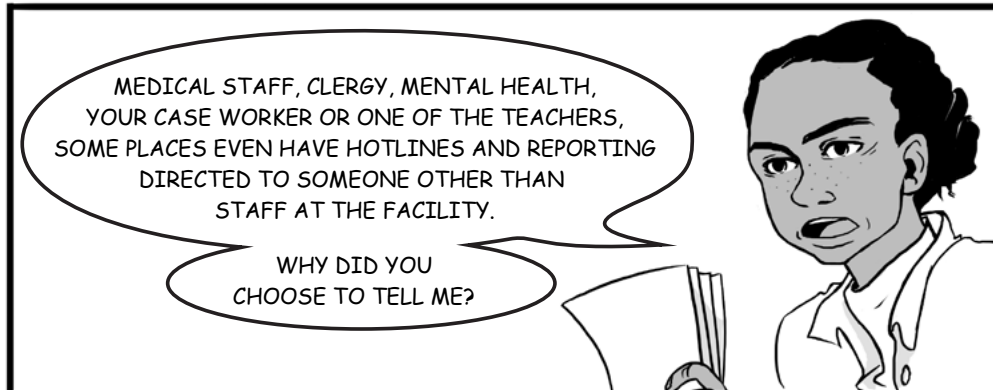
IT HASN'T STOPPED!



THAT'S WHY I WROTE TO YOU. I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE. I'M GONNA BREAK, MRS. ROBERTS.

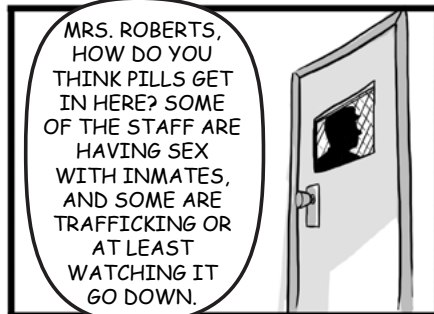
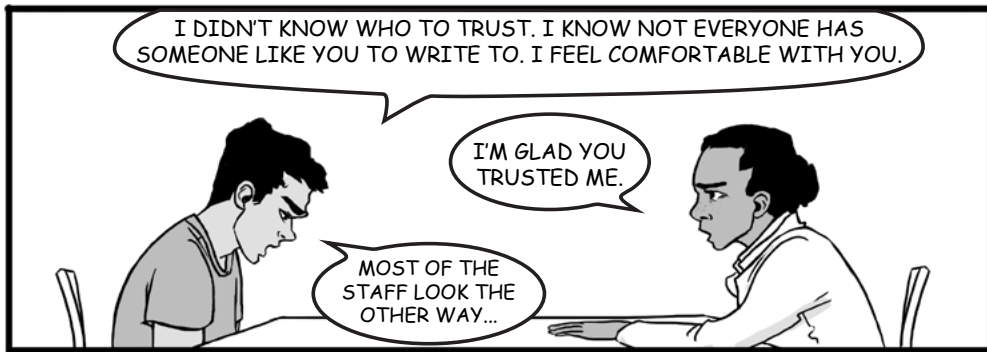


YOU KNOW, SAM, YOU COULD HAVE TOLD A LOT OF PEOPLE ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON...



MEDICAL STAFF, CLERGY, MENTAL HEALTH, YOUR CASE WORKER OR ONE OF THE TEACHERS, SOME PLACES EVEN HAVE HOTLINES AND REPORTING DIRECTED TO SOMEONE OTHER THAN STAFF AT THE FACILITY.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO TELL ME?



THERE ARE TIMES
I'M SO EMBARRASSED,
AND HUMILIATED,

THAT I JUST
WANT TO DIE,

AND I DON'T CARE
WHAT THEY DO TO ME,
SO LONG AS IT ENDS
MY LIFE.

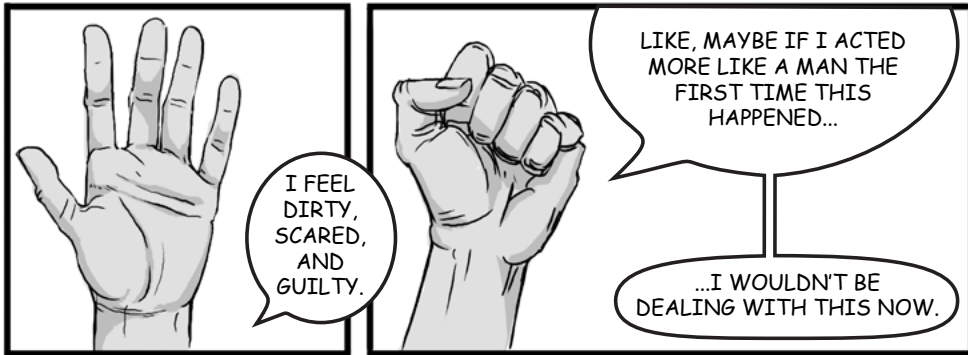
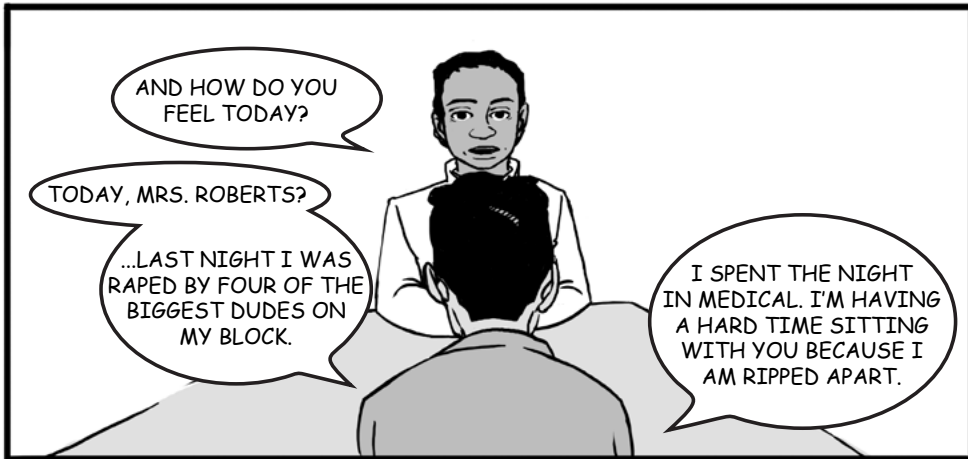
SO LONG AS NO ONE
OUTSIDE OF HERE
EVER KNOWS WHAT
HAPPENED.



THEN I HAVE
MOMENTS OF CLARITY.
I KNOW THIS ISN'T MY REALITY.

I HAVE PEOPLE
ON THE OUTSIDE
TO TAKE CARE OF

AND I KNOW I NEED
TO STAND UP.

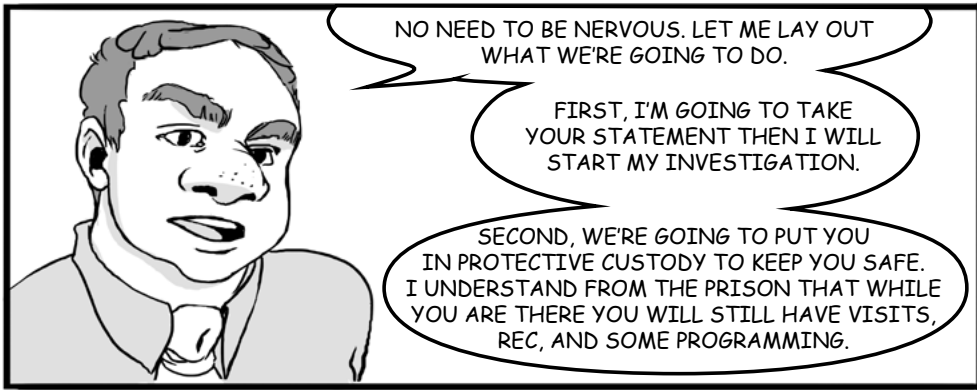




HELLO SAM. I AM DETECTIVE LOUIS. I'M HERE BECAUSE INVESTIGATORS AT THE FACILITY HAVE LOOKED INTO A REPORT FROM MRS. ROBERTS AND HAVE DETERMINED THAT IT'S POSSIBLE SOME CRIMINAL ACTIVITY TOOK PLACE.

WE ARE WORKING ON A CASE IN WHICH YOU ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED. IS THAT CORRECT?

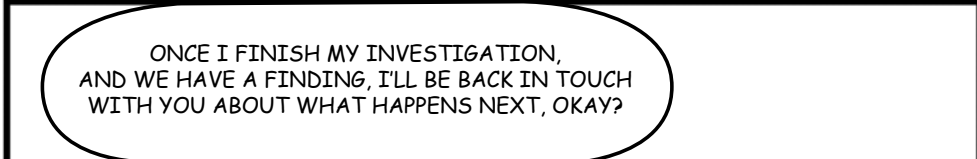
Y-YES...



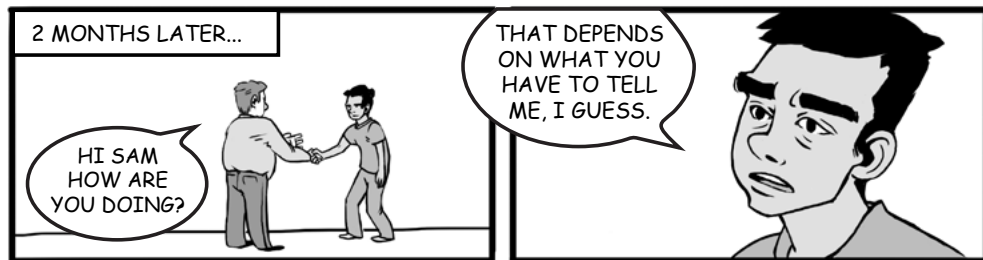
NO NEED TO BE NERVOUS. LET ME LAY OUT WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO.

FIRST, I'M GOING TO TAKE YOUR STATEMENT THEN I WILL START MY INVESTIGATION.

SECOND, WE'RE GOING TO PUT YOU IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY TO KEEP YOU SAFE. I UNDERSTAND FROM THE PRISON THAT WHILE YOU ARE THERE YOU WILL STILL HAVE VISITS, REC, AND SOME PROGRAMMING.



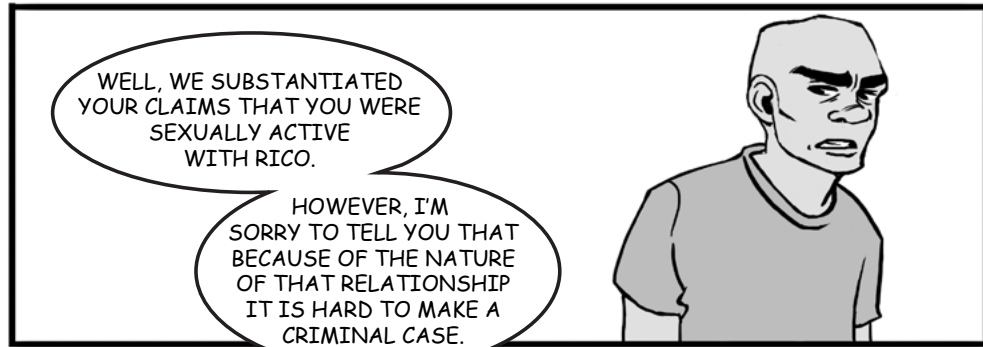
ONCE I FINISH MY INVESTIGATION, AND WE HAVE A FINDING, I'LL BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH YOU ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, OKAY?



2 MONTHS LATER...

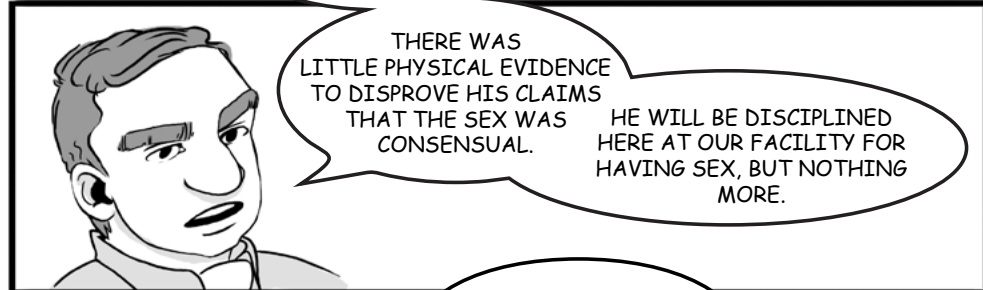
HI SAM HOW ARE YOU DOING?

THAT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU HAVE TO TELL ME, I GUESS.



WELL, WE SUBSTANTIATED YOUR CLAIMS THAT YOU WERE SEXUALLY ACTIVE WITH RICO.

HOWEVER, I'M SORRY TO TELL YOU THAT BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THAT RELATIONSHIP IT IS HARD TO MAKE A CRIMINAL CASE.



THERE WAS LITTLE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE TO DISPROVE HIS CLAIMS THAT THE SEX WAS CONSENSUAL.

HE WILL BE DISCIPLINED HERE AT OUR FACILITY FOR HAVING SEX, BUT NOTHING MORE.



DARREN IS IN AD. SEG. RIGHT NOW. HE IS WAITING ON A TRANSFER TO MAXIMUM SECURITY.

BECAUSE OF THE SEVERITY OF YOUR INJURIES AND THE MANNER IN WHICH THE ABUSE OCCURED, THERE IS NO DOUBT THERE SHOULD BE A PROSECUTION.



YOU MAY HAVE TO TESTIFY. SO BE READY FOR THAT.



HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THESE ALLEGATIONS AND YOUR HISTORY WITH RICO, WE THINK IT'S SAFER TO MOVE YOU.

WHAT? WHERE?!



WE ARE STILL LOOKING INTO YOUR ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE STAFF.



DON'T WORRY. BECAUSE OF THE ABUSE, YOU'RE NOT GOING FAR. JUST TO THE NEXT COUNTY FOR MUCH OF YOUR REMAINING TERM, THEN YOU'LL BE TRANSFERRED TO A PRE-RELEASE CENTER WHEN YOU ARE READY.

WE ARE LUCKY THEY HAVE BED SPACE FOR YOU. OTHERWISE, I'D HAVE TO LEAVE YOU IN PC UNTIL A BED OPENED IN ANOTHER FACILITY.



SAM, SOME HORRIBLE THINGS HAPPENED TO YOU WHILE YOU WERE IN HERE, AND FOR THAT I AM SORRY.
NO ONE DESERVES TO BE TREATED THE WAY YOU WERE.

8 MONTHS LATER

IN THE PRE-RELEASE CENTER . . .



HI SAM. HOW ARE YOU?

NOT GREAT, BUT DOING BETTER. IF ALL GOES RIGHT, I'LL BE OUT IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS.



SAM, THAT'S GREAT. HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP?

I STILL HAVE NIGHTMARES, BUT MY COUNSELOR SAID THAT WOULD HAPPEN FOR A WHILE. THEY SAY I HAVE RAPE TRAUMA SYNDROME, BUT I SEE MY COUNSELOR TWICE A WEEK.
SO IT'S GETTING BETTER.



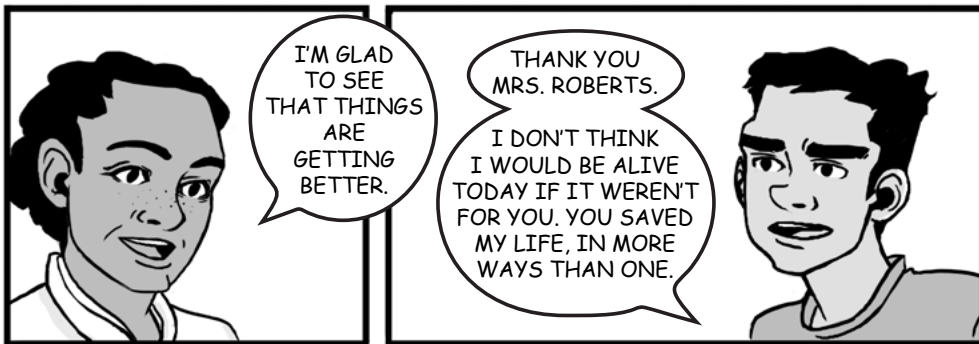
IT'S NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK TO WHO GETS IT, WHO DOESN'T BLAME ME AND TELL ME EVERYTHING I SHOULD HAVE DONE TO PREVENT IT.



HAVE YOU TALKED WITH YOUR FAMILY?

NO, I'M JUST NOT READY FOR THAT YET.

I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL EVER BE READY TO TALK WITH THEM ABOUT THAT.



I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER.

THANK YOU MRS. ROBERTS.

I DON'T THINK I WOULD BE ALIVE TODAY IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU. YOU SAVED MY LIFE, IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.



I'M GLAD I COULD DO SOMETHING, BUT I HAD A LOT TO WORK WITH. YOU TOOK THE FIRST STEP TO SAVE YOURSELF WHEN YOU WROTE TO ME. YOU ARE STRONGER THAN YOU THINK.

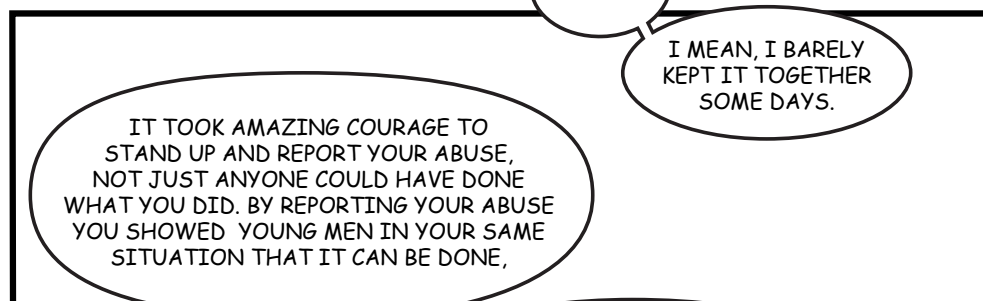


THANKS FOR SAYING THAT.

I DON'T FEEL STRONG. ESPECIALLY GIVEN WHAT HAPPENED TO ME.



A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD HAVE JUST GIVEN UP. BUT YOU DIDN'T. YOU STAYED ALIVE AND TRUE TO YOURSELF.



HOW SO?

I MEAN, I BARELY KEPT IT TOGETHER SOME DAYS.

IT TOOK AMAZING COURAGE TO STAND UP AND REPORT YOUR ABUSE, NOT JUST ANYONE COULD HAVE DONE WHAT YOU DID. BY REPORTING YOUR ABUSE YOU SHOWED YOUNG MEN IN YOUR SAME SITUATION THAT IT CAN BE DONE,



AND, BY REPORTING YOU MAY HAVE STOPPED WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU FROM HAPPENING TO SOMEONE ELSE. I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU.

--I HAVEN'T LOOKED AT IT THAT WAY



GLOSSARY

[Definitions in this glossary are adapted from the Bureau of Justice Statistics data collection survey instrument and the final PREA Standards issued by the U.S. Department of Justice on May 17, 2012.]

Abusive sexual contact: Contact with any person without his or her consent; contact with a person who is unable to consent or refuse; and intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the penis, vagina, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person

Custody: When a person is under the power and control of an entity – the police, the juvenile justice system, a prison system or person-- and is not free to leave

Carnal knowledge: Contact between the penis and the vagina or the penis and the anus including penetration of any sort

Gender expression: A person's expression of his/or gender identity, including appearance, dress, mannerisms, speech, and social interactions

Gender identity: Distinct from sexual orientation and refers to a person's internal, deeply felt sense of being male or female

Gender non-conforming: Gender characteristics and/or behaviors that do not conform to those typically associated with a person's biological sex

Homosexuality: Sexual, emotional, and/or romantic attraction to a person of the same sex

Non-consensual sexual acts: Contact with any person without his or her consent, or with a person who is unable to consent or refuse; contact between the penis and the vagina or the penis and the anus including penetration, however slight; contact between the mouth and the penis, vagina, or anus; or penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person by a hand, finger, or other object

Oral sex: Contact between the mouth and the penis, the mouth and the vagina or the mouth and the anus

Questioning: Active process in which a person explores her or his own sexual orientation and/or gender identity and questions the cultural assumptions that they are heterosexual and/or gender conforming

Rape: Includes all of the following actions: vaginal penetration, sodomy, oral sodomy, sexual assault with an object, or sexual fondling of a person forcibly or against that person's will; forcibly or against that person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of youth, temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity; achieved through exploitation of the fear or threat of physical violence or bodily injury.

Sexual acts: Carnal knowledge, oral sex, anal sex, rape, sexual assault with an object, sexual fondling

Sexual assault with an object: The use of any hand, finger, object, or other instrument to penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person.

Sexual fondling: The touching of the private body parts of another person, including the penis, vagina, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks, for the purpose of sexual gratification

Sexual orientation: Romantic and/or physical attraction to members of the same or different sex

Sodomy: Anal sex with a member of the same or opposite sex

Staff sexual harassment: Repeated verbal statements or comments of a sexual nature to a person in custody by an employee, volunteer, official visitor, or agency representative, including: demeaning references to gender or derogatory comments about body or clothing; or profane or obscene language or gestures.

Staff sexual misconduct: Any behavior or act of a sexual nature directed toward a person in custody by an employee, volunteer, official visitor, or agency representative.

Transgender: Person whose gender identity differs from their birth sex

- Transgender woman: Person whose birth sex was male but who understands herself to be, and desires to live her life as a female
- Transgender man: Person whose birth sex was female but who understands himself to be, and desires to live his life as a male

