

A Comics Presents...

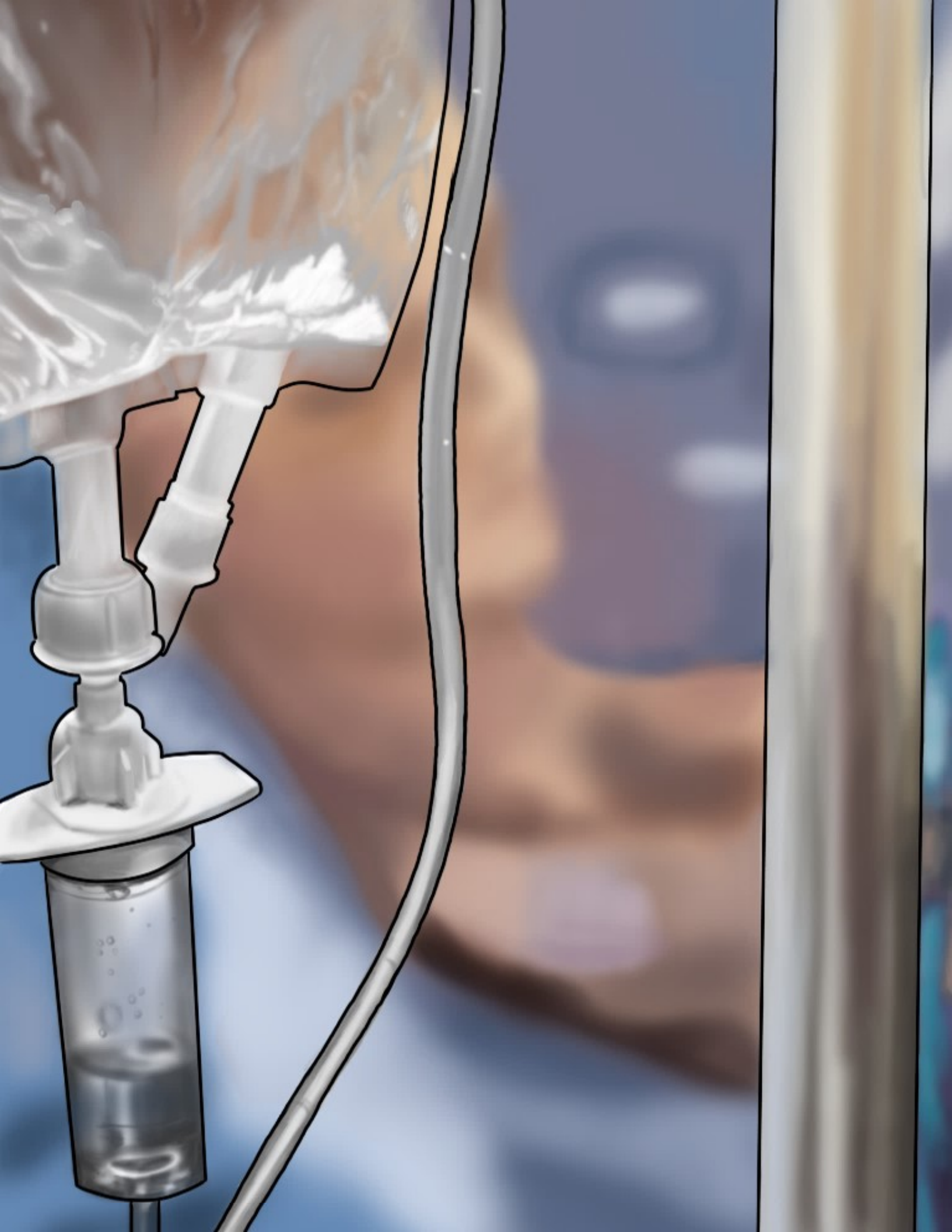


DECIPHER



Chapter I

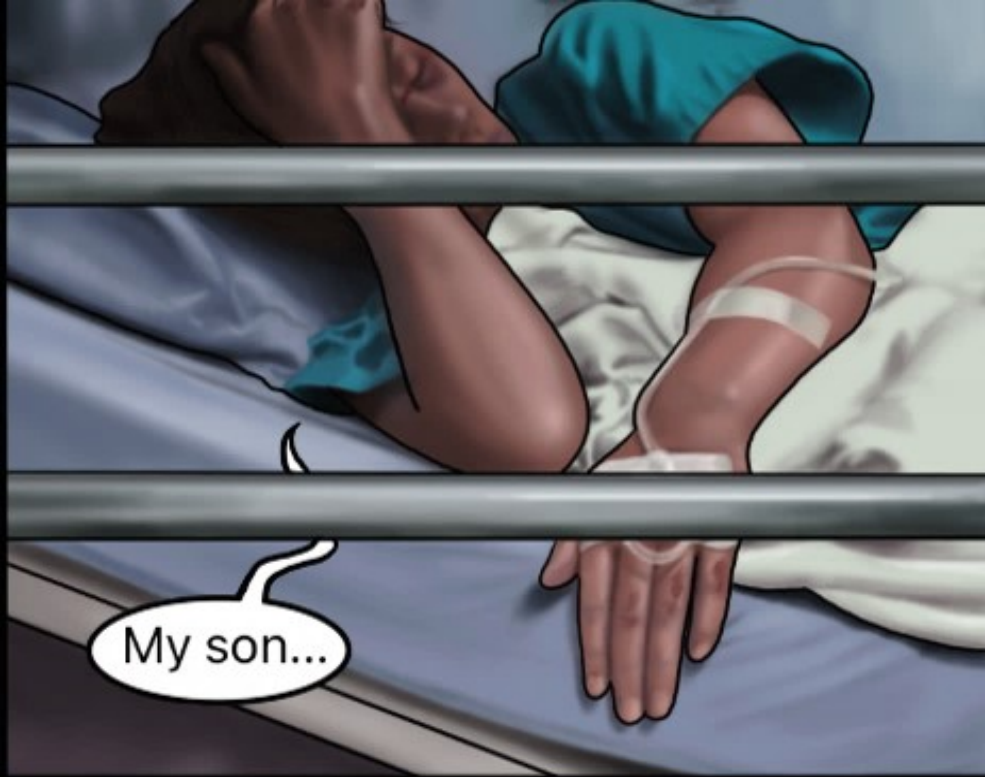
*Before I was Afflicted,
I went Astray*











My son...

Cilas, I'm so sorry.

Sadly this tragedy is what brought you back to me.



Mom, it's okay. I'll always be here for you.

I can't believe this happened.

Cilas, hand me my purse please.

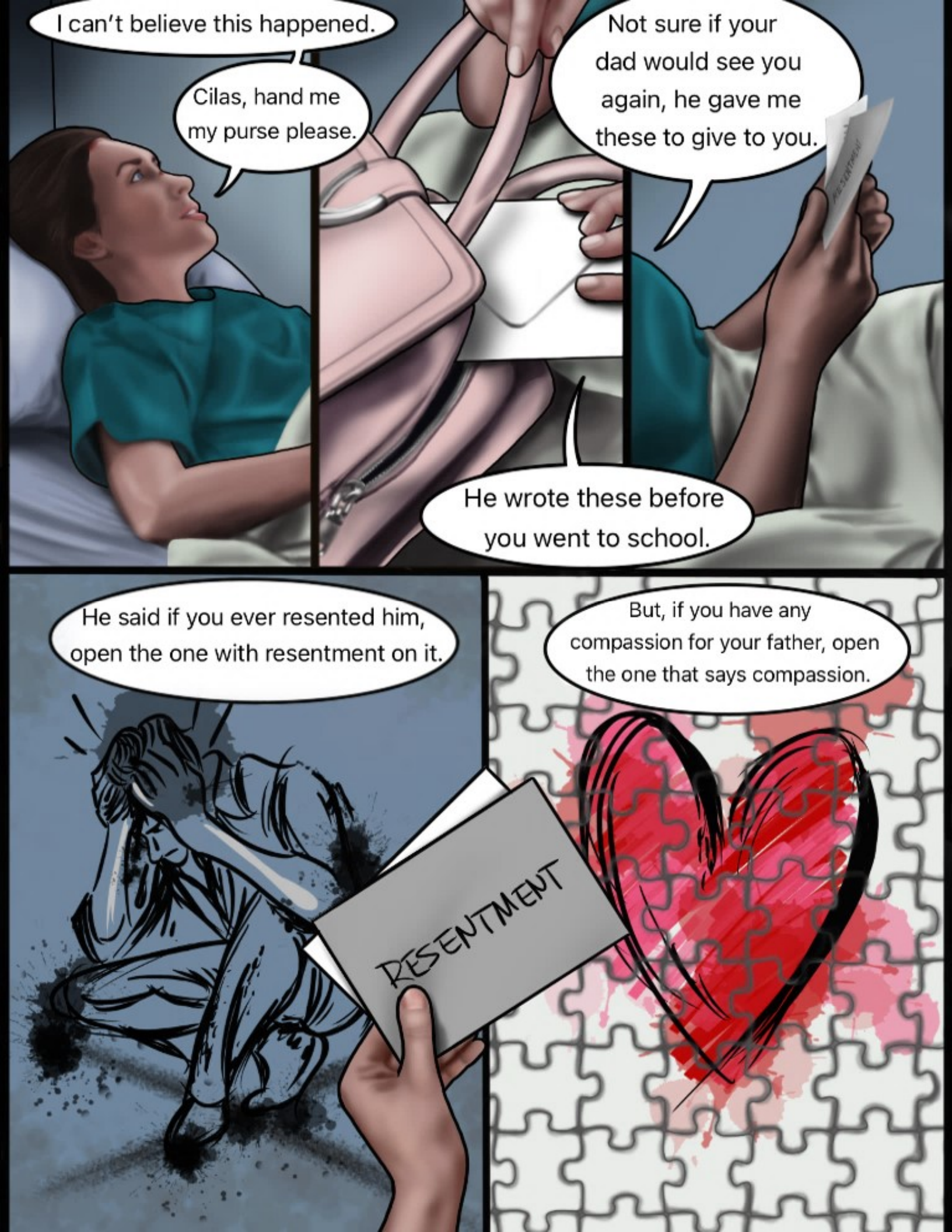
Not sure if your dad would see you again, he gave me these to give to you.

He wrote these before you went to school.

He said if you ever resented him, open the one with resentment on it.

But, if you have any compassion for your father, open the one that says compassion.

RESENTMENT



He loved you...
We love you.

Seeing you here
knowing I could have
done more, makes it
hurt even worse.

I never should have sent you to Kedesh.






KEDESH




Dad, how come we stopped?

Give me a hand son.




Where are we dad?

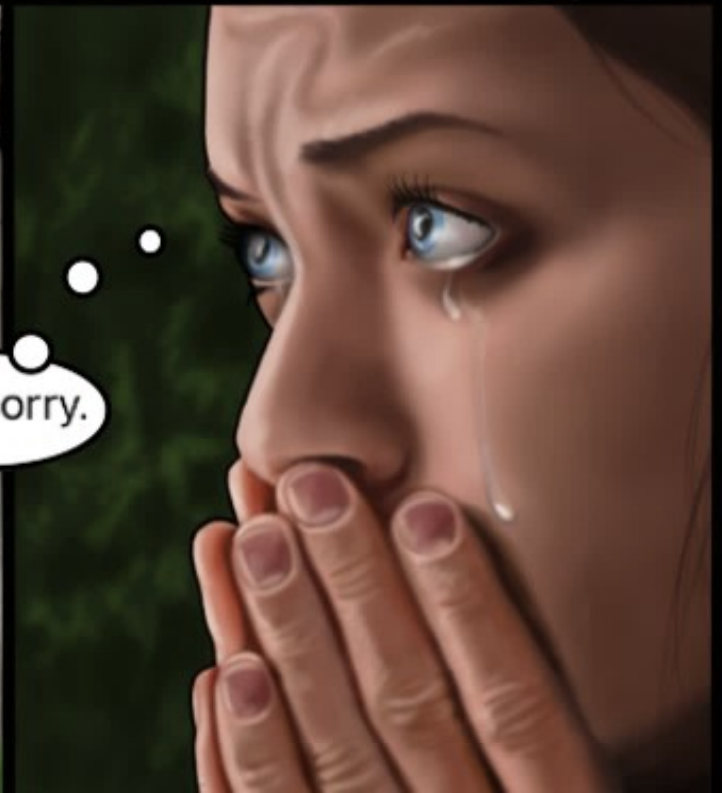
Mom and dad need to work some things out. In the meantime, you'll stay here.



Will I ever see you again?

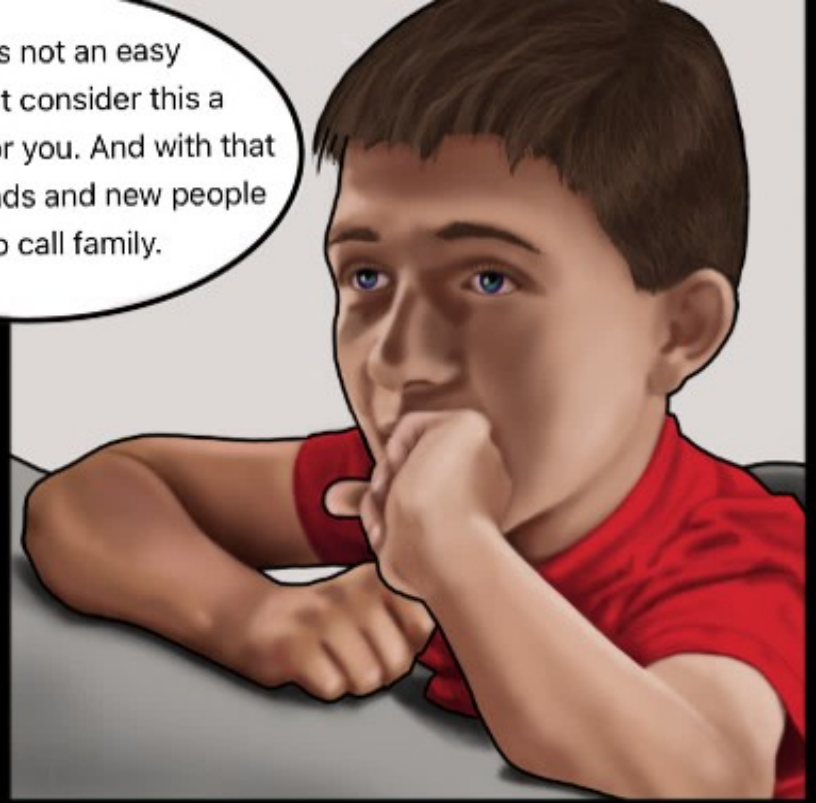


Of course. It's just temporary.





I know it's not an easy transition, but consider this a new beginning for you. And with that comes new friends and new people for you to call family.





You know that saying is a lie don't you?

What saying?

Sticks and stones may break your bones...

I know.

They're mean.
I can tell.

What's your name?

Cilas...

and yours?

Aquilla.

Nice to meet you.



How long have you been here and why?

I've been here for years. My parents were unfit to raise me so they brought me here.



Before mom left, she gave me this necklace. It's a constellation of my name. She told me not to be like her, instead to shine bright like the stars.

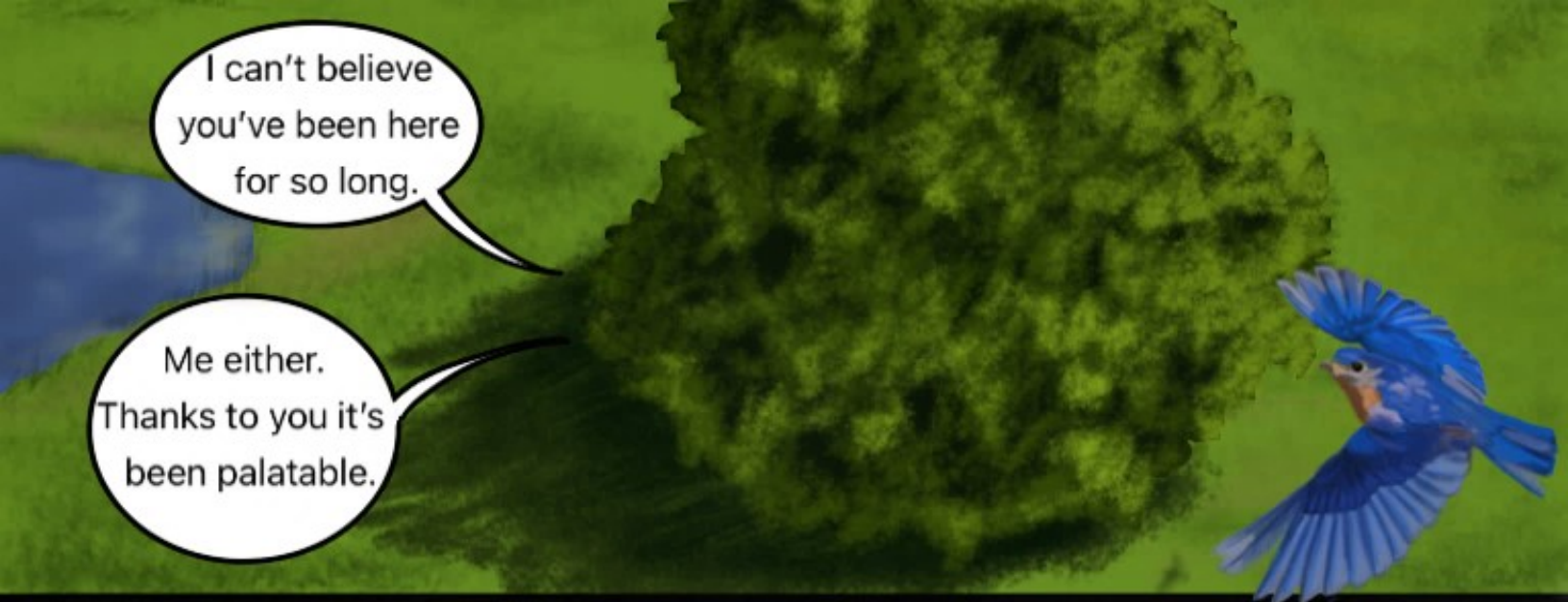


I wear it hoping one day she'll change.

I pray for that every night.







I can't believe you've been here for so long.

Me either. Thanks to you it's been palatable.



That's an impressive word! You've learned something during your time at Kedesh.

Yeah, it's taught me how much you mean to me.

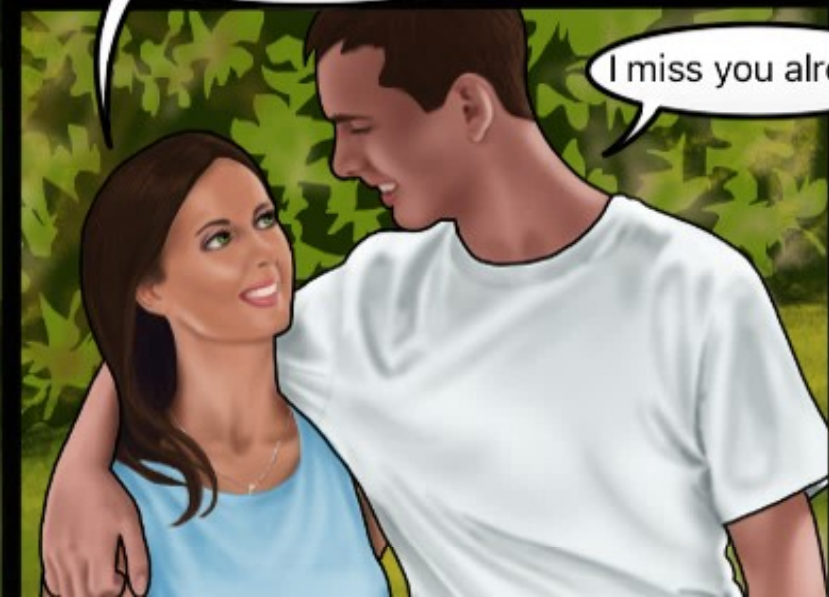
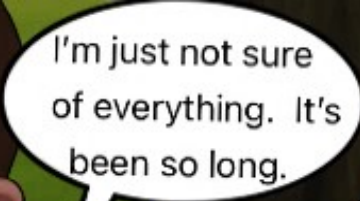


I hope you still feel that way after you leave in a couple of days.

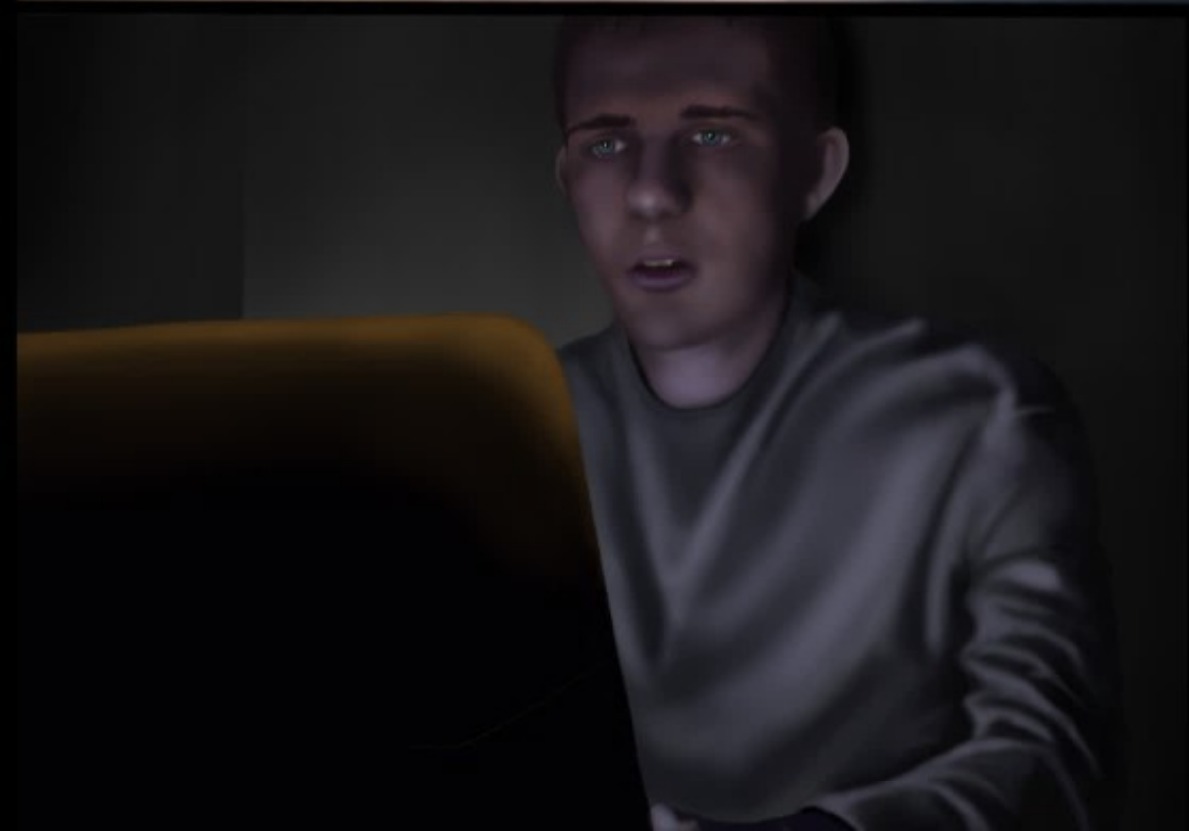
I will. You're irreplaceable.

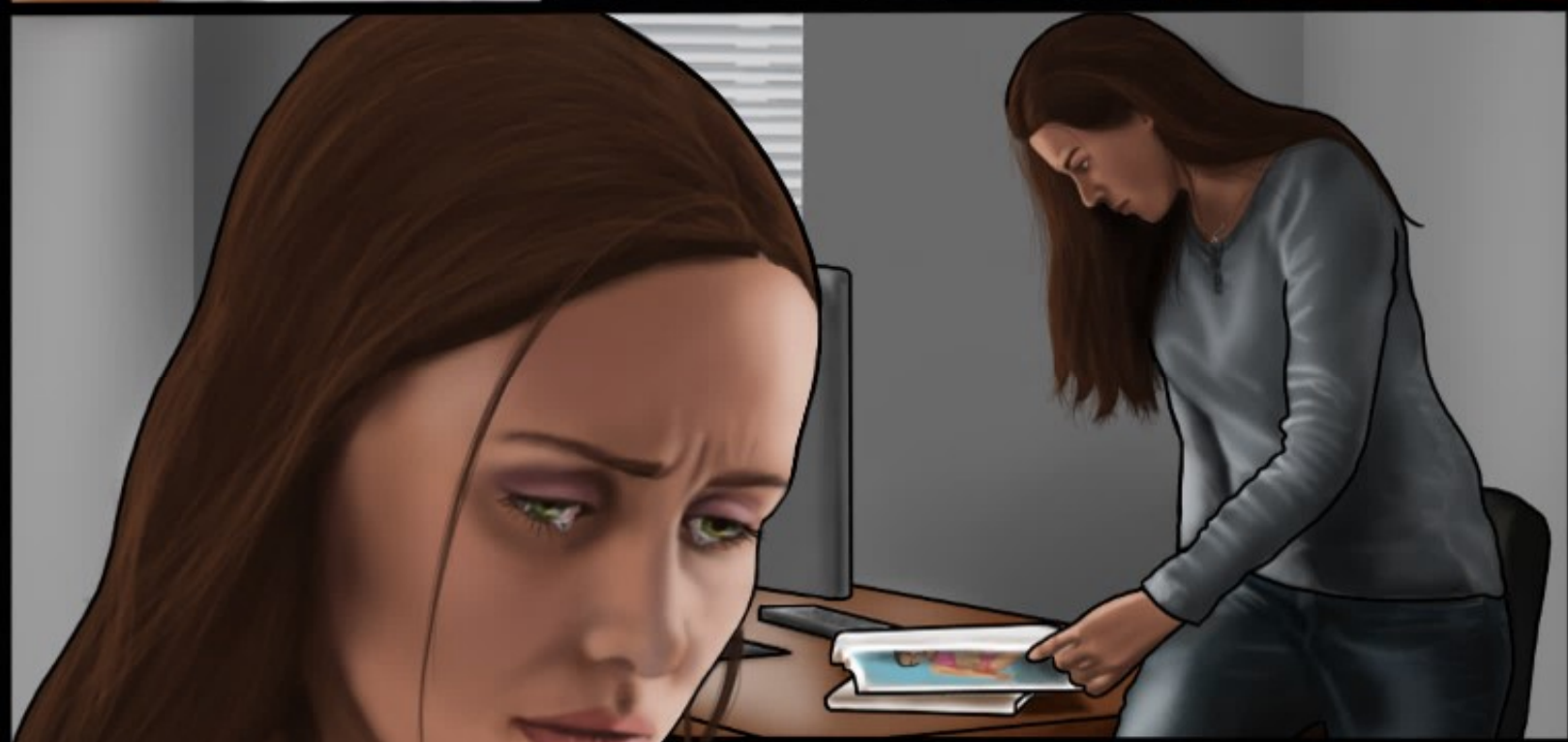


At least you're going home. It'll be nice to stay with your mom for awhile.



Months later.







Search history

Monday		
<input type="checkbox"/>	9:33 PM	Jezebels Palace
<input type="checkbox"/>	9:24 PM	Passionate love scene
<input type="checkbox"/>	6:29 PM	Iniq night club

Sunday		
<input type="checkbox"/>	10:45 PM	1 Thessalonians 4:3-4
<input type="checkbox"/>	10:41 PM	Titus 2:11-12
<input type="checkbox"/>	10:33 PM	Matthew 5:8
<input type="checkbox"/>	3:03 AM	Kedesh foster care







Do you want to tell me what's this all about?!

I'm sorry.

I'm sorry I let you down.

Well HELLO to YOU too!

I asked you a question.

Sorry?!
For what?

Sorry you got caught?
Sorry you're an addict?
Sorry for what?!

Don't you **dare** touch me.

How long has this been going on?
You couldn't wait? What is it?



It meant nothing. I wasn't hurting anybody.

It hurt us, Cilas.

I was afraid you'd leave me.



But we made a commitment to each other. Does any of that matter?

Trust me, I want to stop. The guilt is overwhelming.

I want a future with you but I will NOT share it with another woman.



Sorry Aquilla, I have an addiction. I don't know if I have the strength to fight it.

I'll trust you. For better or for worse, I'll put you first. I know you'll make the right choice.



I'll stay with you but you need to get help.

I will. I'm glad we can be honest with each other.

We just need to have faith. We need to have patience even when it seems difficult.