

SAM SURVIVES



YOUTH JUSTICE PRESS

JAIME M. YARUSSI, M.S.

Assistant Director
The Project on Addressing Prison Rape
American University, Washington College of Law

BRENDA V. SMITH, J.D.

Professor of Law
Director
The Project on Addressing Prison Rape
American University, Washington College of Law

MONICA ROSS

Illustrator

MARIANETTA PORTER

Art Director

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.

Funding made possible by a grant from the Ford Foundation.

All rights reserved, Youth Justice Press. No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without written permission, except in the case of reprints in the context of reviews.

First Printing, September 2014. Printed by ULitho, Ann Arbor, MI. www.ulitho.com

ISBN 978-0-692-27000-4

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_edu.cfm

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**



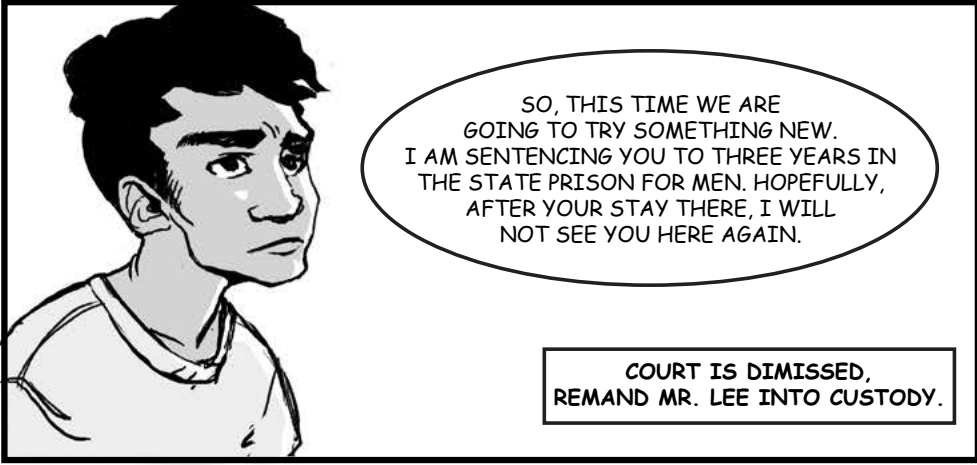
WE ARE REQUESTING
THE MAXIMUM PENALTY
IN THIS CASE, YOUR HONOR.
MR. LEE PARTICIPATED IN AN
ARMED ROBBERY.



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

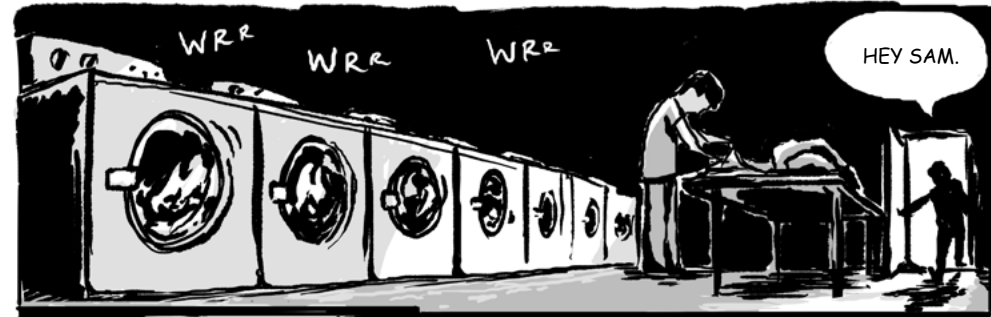


YOU HAVE BEEN IN
MY COURTROOM MORE
THAN ONCE AND, EACH TIME,
RECOGNIZING YOUR
CIRCUMSTANCES I HAVE
TRIED BEING LENIENT.
I SEE THAT HAS NOT
GOTTEN US VERY FAR.



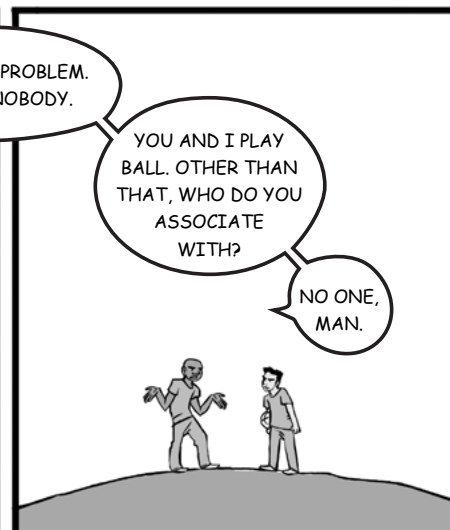
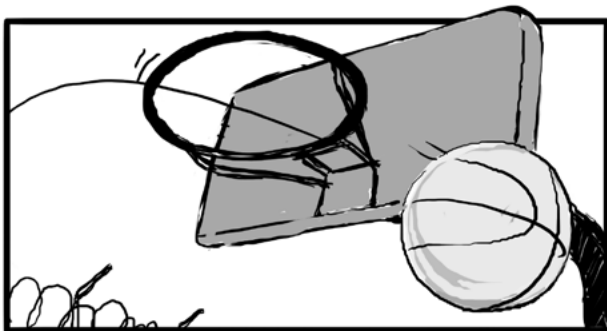
SO, THIS TIME WE ARE
GOING TO TRY SOMETHING NEW.
I AM SENTENCING YOU TO THREE YEARS IN
THE STATE PRISON FOR MEN. HOPEFULLY,
AFTER YOUR STAY THERE, I WILL
NOT SEE YOU HERE AGAIN.

COURT IS DIMISSED,
REMAND MR. LEE INTO CUSTODY.

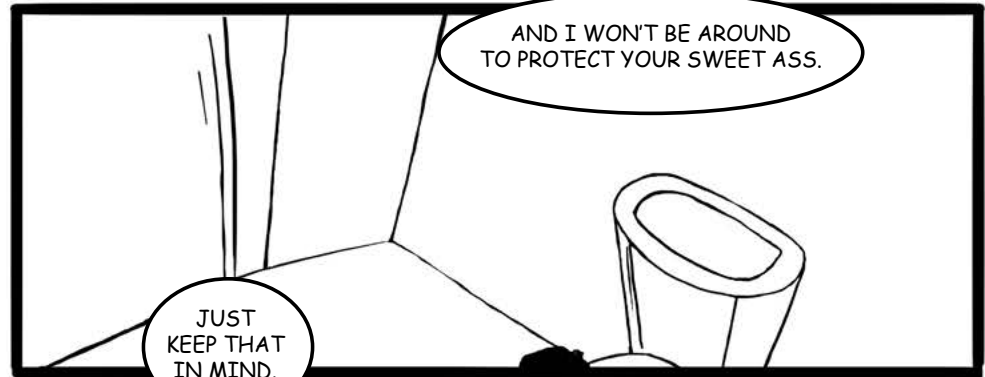
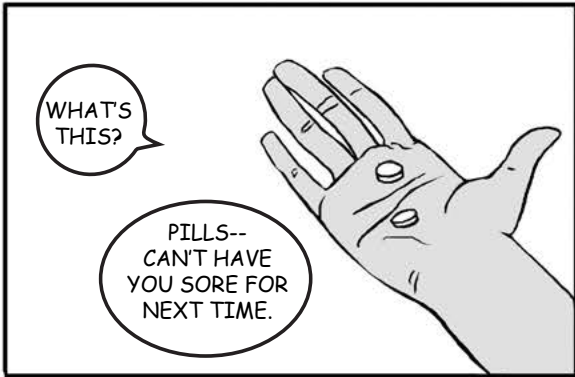












3 MONTHS LATER...

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.







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.

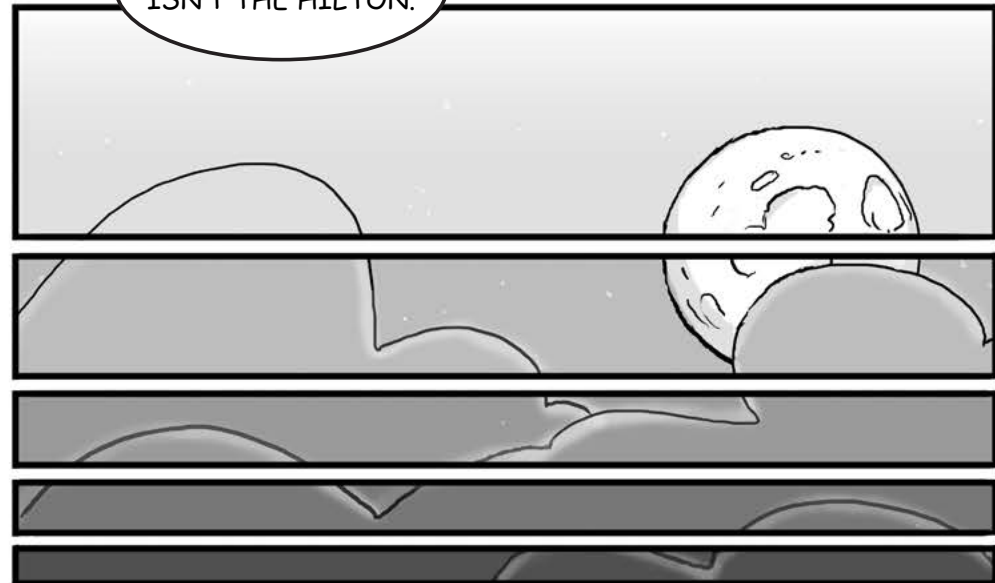
OFFICER?

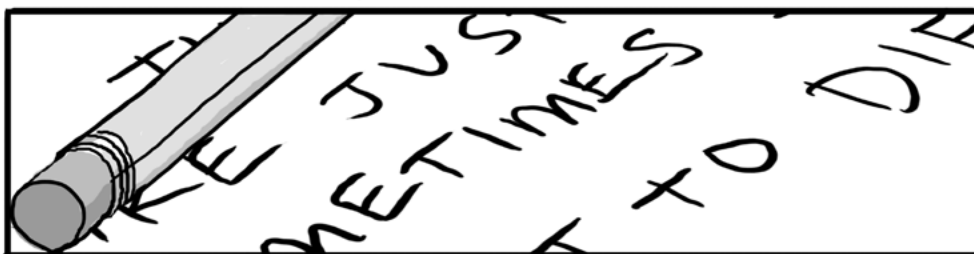
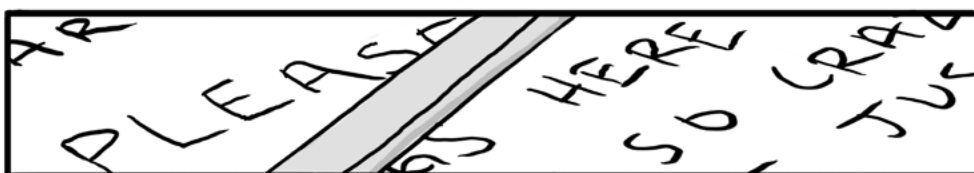
I DON'T
FEEL SAFE IN
MY CELL...

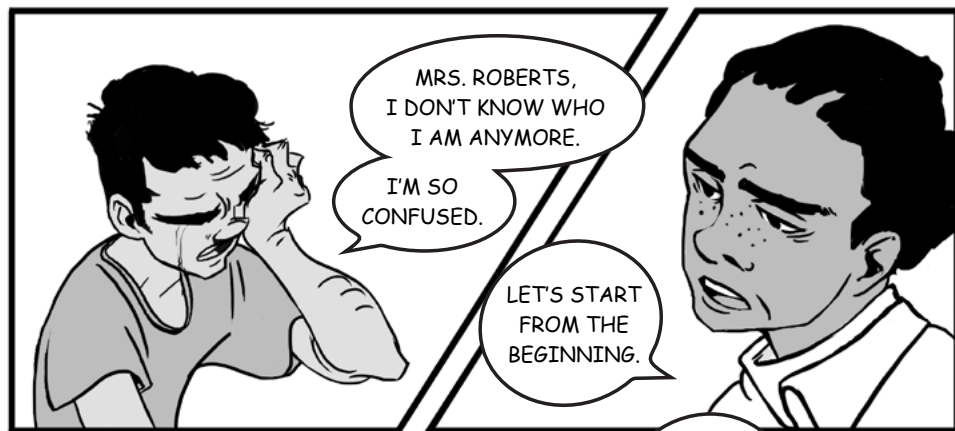
I'M NOT
MOVING
YOU.



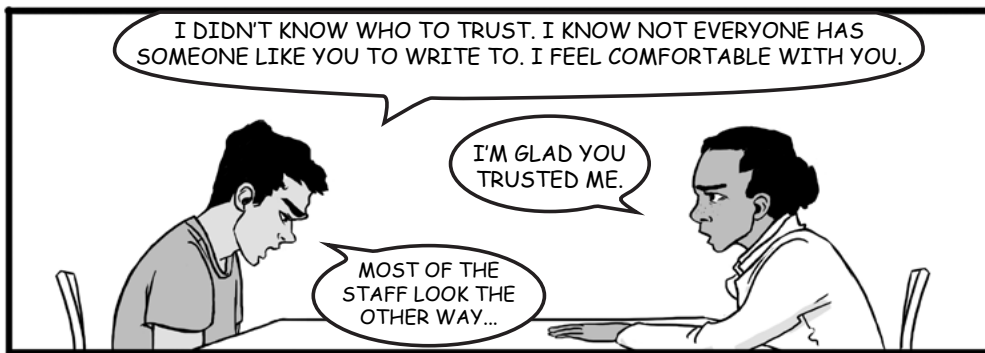
THIS PRISON
ISN'T THE HILTON.











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.

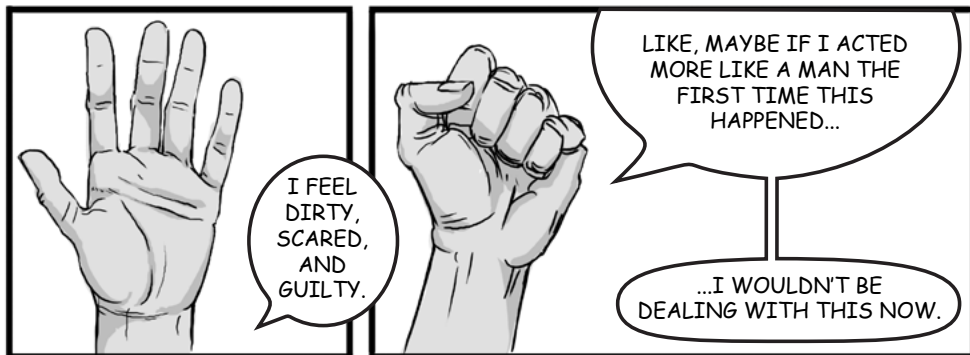
SO LONG AS NO ONE
OUTSIDE OF HERE
EVER KNOWS WHAT
HAPPENED.

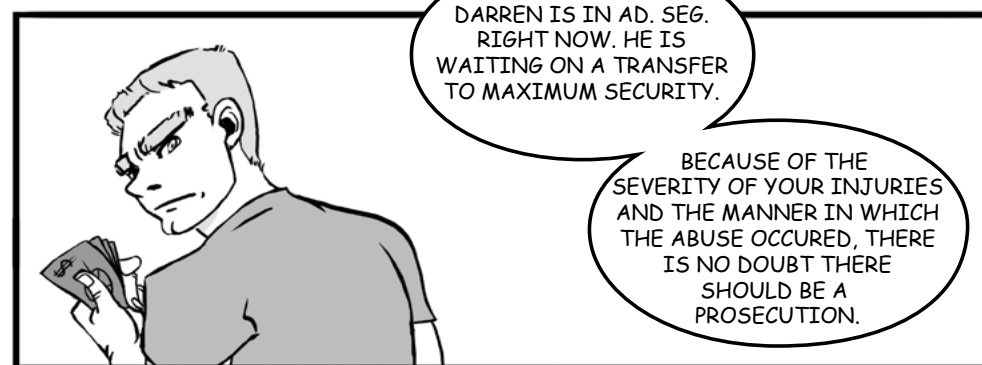
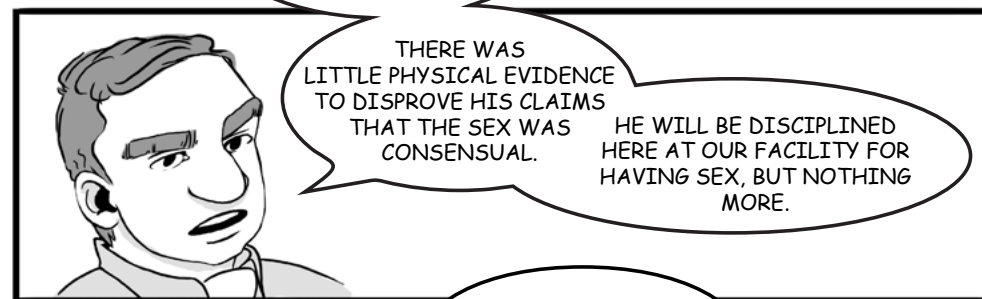
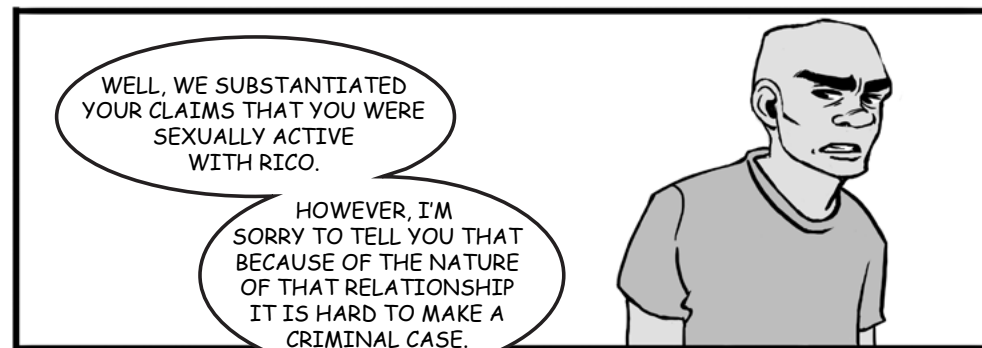
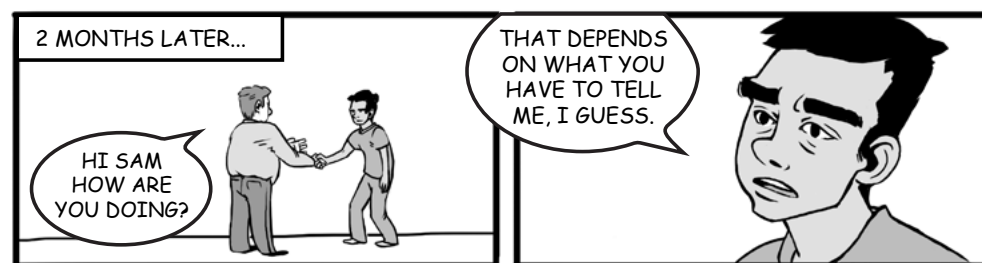
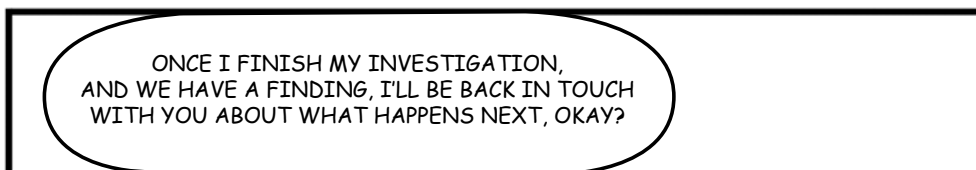
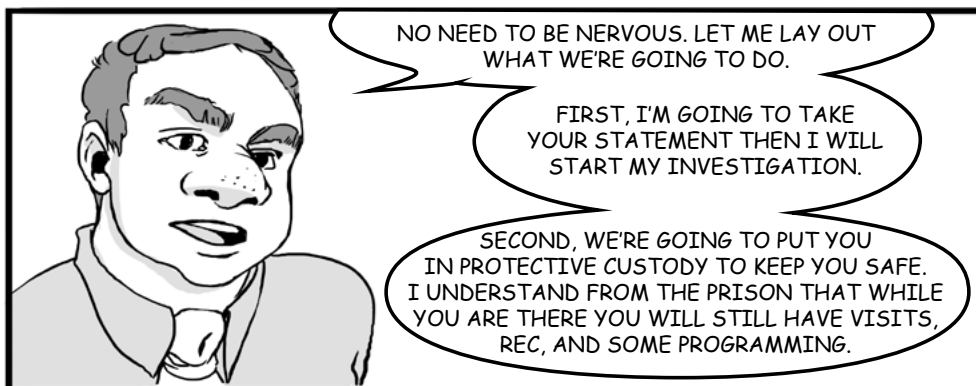
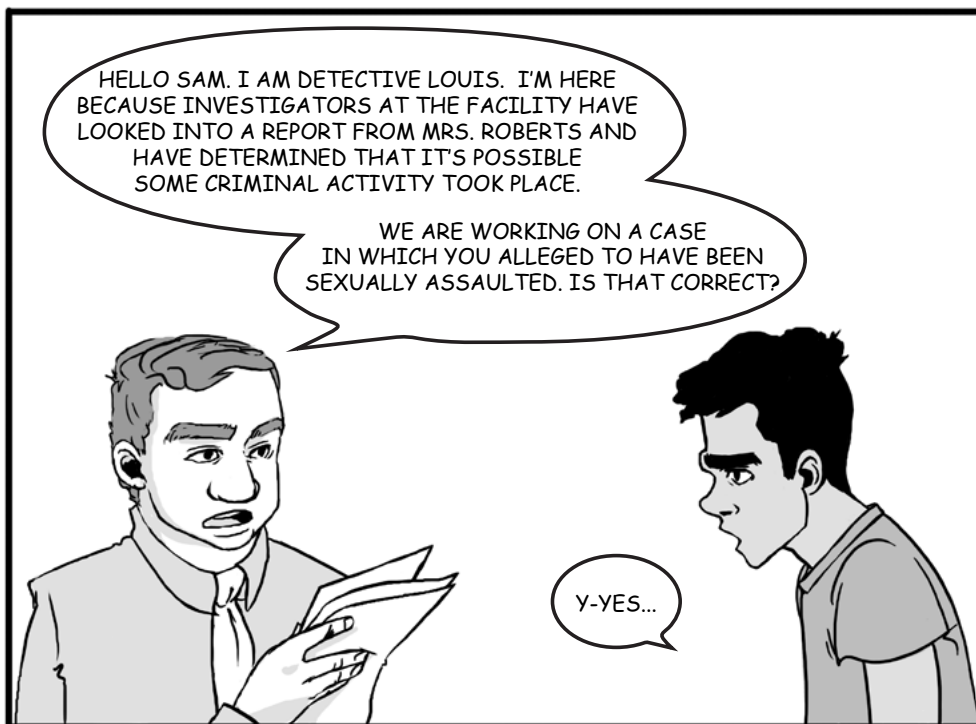


THEN I HAVE
MOMENTS OF CLARITY.
I KNOW THIS ISN'T MY REALITY.

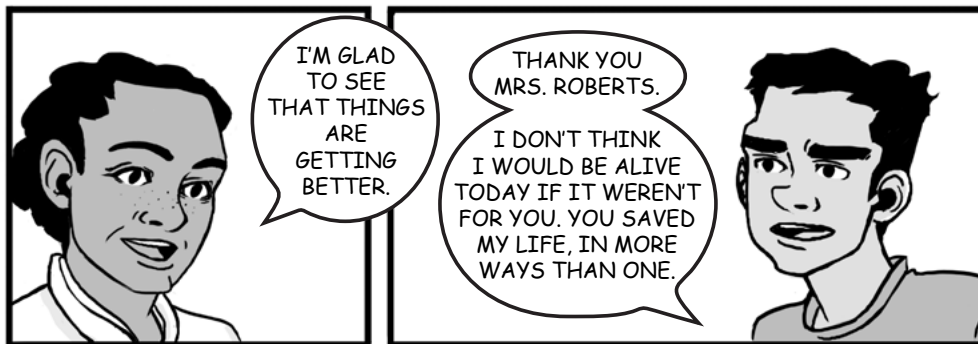
I HAVE PEOPLE
ON THE OUTSIDE
TO TAKE CARE OF

AND I KNOW I NEED
TO STAND UP.











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

