

LIGHTING UP THE

DARKNESS

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The Healthy Aboriginal Network
Non-profit promotion of health, literacy & wellness

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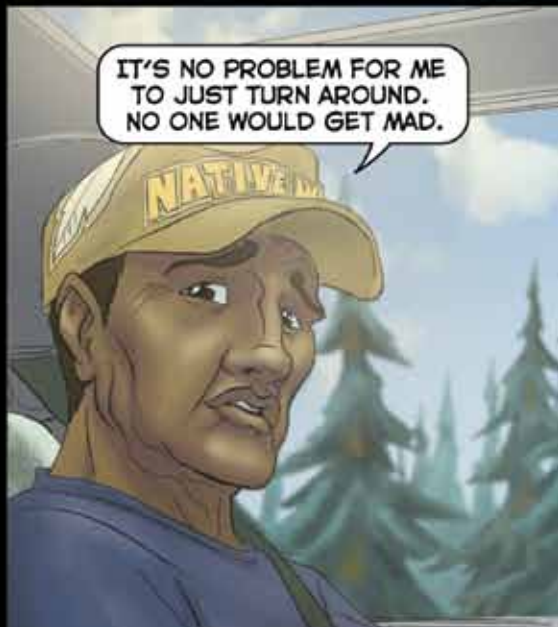




YEAH... GETTING CLOSE.



YOU KNOW, JENNIFER... I'D UNDERSTAND IF THIS IS TOO HARD FOR YOU...



IT'S NO PROBLEM FOR ME TO JUST TURN AROUND. NO ONE WOULD GET MAD.



THAT'S SWEET, UNCLE.
THANKS.



BUT COMING BACK HERE
IS A BIG STEP FOR ME.



I CAN'T KEEP RUNNING
AWAY FROM MY PAST.



I CAN'T KEEP PRETENDING NOTHING
HAPPENED, THAT THESE PLACES
DON'T EXIST. NOT ANYMORE.





AH, JUST INVITE THEM IN FOR A DRINK...




YES?




GOOD EVENING, MA'AM. WE'VE RECEIVED REPORTS FROM YOUR NEIGHBORS ABOUT LOUD PARTYING AT THIS ADDRESS.




THERE'S NO ONE PARTYING HERE. AS IF!




MOMMY, YOU'RE BEING LOUD AGAIN.




GO BACK TO BED, YOU!



MA'AM, I UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS MADE PERFECTLY CLEAR BY CFS THAT YOU WERE NOT TO TAKE PART IN ANY LATE NIGHT PARTYING AROUND YOUR CHILD.



AND IF YOU VIOLATED THAT ORDER YOU WOULD NO LONGER BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO CARE FOR HER.



AND FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CONTACT CFS IMMEDIATELY...

HEY! HEY!



DON'T YOU COME INTO MY HOME AND START TELLING ME HOW TO LIVE MY LIFE...



YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN SEVERAL WARNINGS, MA'AM.



GET THE HELL OUT OF MY LIFE!



ALL RIGHT, YOU JUST USED UP YOUR LAST CHANCE.

GET OFF ME!

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR ASSAULTING A POLICE OFFICER.



LET ME GO, YOU!

MOMMY?!



MOMMY!









...AND AFTER CAN I GET SOME ICE CREAM?



MAYBE, IF YOU FINISH YOUR SANDWICH.



IT'S OKAY NOW.

HERE YOU GO, JENNY.



THE ICE CREAM IS ALL FOR YOU. YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHARE WITH ANYONE...



IT'S GONNA MELT...



WHERE'S MY MOMMY?



ER... WELL... YOUR MOMMY IS... YOU SEE, YOUR MOMMY MADE SOME POOR CHOICES...





AND SHE HAS TO GO AWAY FOR AWHILE. SO WE'RE GOING TO FIND YOU A PLACE TO STAY, OKAY?



I DON'T WANT TO STAY ANYWHERE ELSE. I WANT TO GO HOME.



I KNOW. I KNOW.



YOU GOT ALL YOU NEED?

YEAH.







I SAID, GET OFF!



HEY, THAT'S ENOUGH NOW!



CARLA, YOU BE NICE TO YOUR COUSIN. LET HER PLAY ON YOUR SWINGS.



YES, MOM.

YES, MOM.



SHE'S ONLY BEING NICE TO YOU BECAUSE SHE HAS TO.



THOSE SWINGS ARE CHEAP, ANYWAY. JUST LIKE YOU.





YOUR MOM CAN'T
MAKE IT TODAY, JENNIFER.
HER PAROLE WAS DENIED.



DO YOU KNOW
WHAT THAT MEANS?




NO, AUNTIE...




IT MEANS YOUR MOM ISN'T
COMING HOME WHEN SHE
THOUGHT SHE WOULD BE...




UNFORTUNATELY,
THIS PUTS
US IN AN AWKWARD
POSITION. YOU SEE,
YOUR AUNTIE ONLY
PLANNED TO KEEP
YOU UNTIL
YOUR MOM
GOT OUT OF JAIL.



AND WE REALLY HADN'T PLANNED FOR HER NOT GETTING OUT. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS...




I CAN'T STAY...

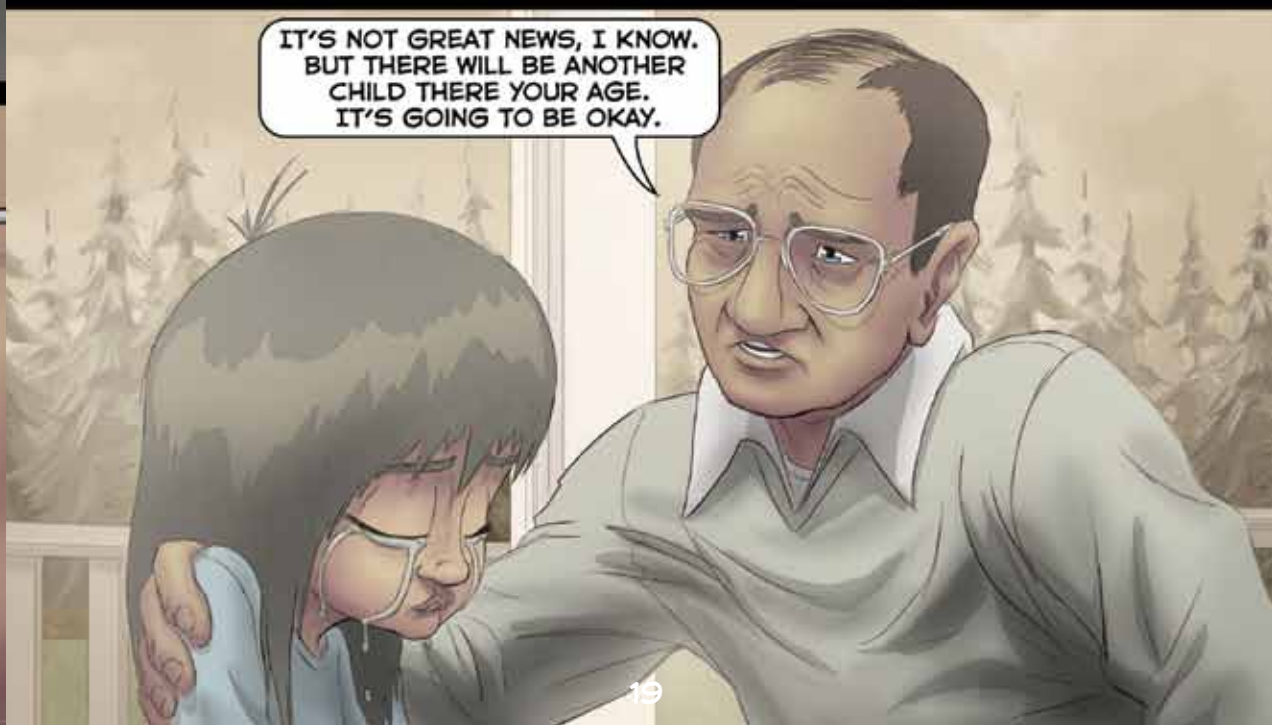


NO, UNFORTUNATELY YOU CAN'T. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO TO ANOTHER HOME. A FOSTER HOME. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS?

NO.



IT'S A PLACE FOR KIDS WHOSE PARENTS CAN'T TAKE CARE OF THEM. THERE WILL BE NEW PEOPLE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU - YOUR FOSTER PARENTS.



IT'S NOT GREAT NEWS, I KNOW. BUT THERE WILL BE ANOTHER CHILD THERE YOUR AGE. IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY.

HELLO, JENNIFER! WE'RE YOUR NEW FAMILY. YOU'LL BE STAYING WITH US. WE'RE SO HAPPY TO HAVE YOU.



HELLO.



OH, YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LOVE IT HERE. I HAVE A FEELING.

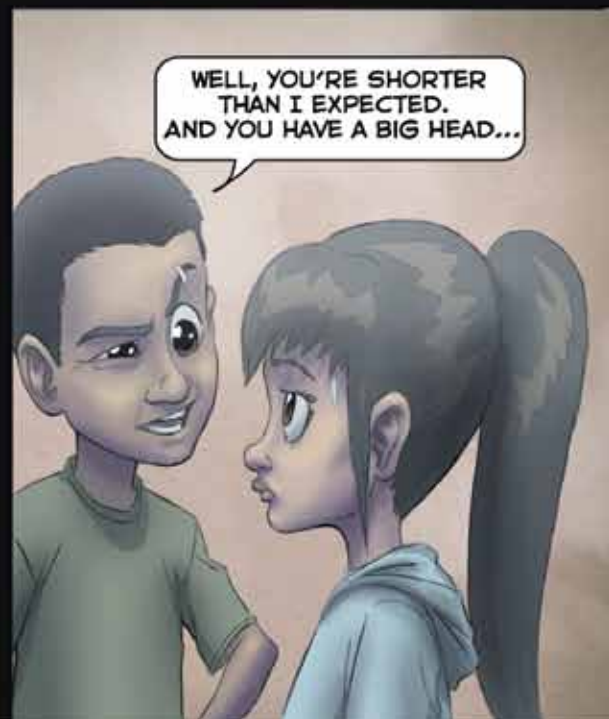


HERE'S YOUR ROOM.



HERE'S THE YARD. AND OVER BY THE SANDBOX, THAT'S DAVID. HE'S ACTUALLY FROM THE SAME COMMUNITY AS YOU. WHY DON'T YOU GO OVER AND SAY HI?





NO.
NO.
NO.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN BITTEN BY A WOLF?

VAMPIRE?

RADIOACTIVE SPIDER?

HHHMMM. WELL, YOU SEEM OKAY...

OKAY FOR WHAT?

TO BE MY NEW LITTLE SISTER, STUPID.





I ONLY HAVE TRUCKS
AND ARMY GUYS, THOUGH.

THAT'S OKAY.



ALL RIGHT YOU
TWO. TIME FOR
SUPPER. AND THEN
YOU CAN PLAY
A LITTLE WHILE
BEFORE BED.



LOOK, I HAVE RABIES!
BLAAAA!



SO, YOU'RE ENJOYING
YOURSELF SO FAR?

YEAH...



THAT'S GOOD. I'M GLAD.
AND IT SEEMS YOU AND
DAVID ARE GETTING
ALONG WELL...



HE'S ALL RIGHT, I GUESS.



I HEARD THAT!



THEY'RE NICE, HUH?

THEY'RE REAL GENEROUS, TOO. YOU'LL HAVE NEW TOYS TO PLAY WITH IN NO TIME.

YEAH.



BUT HERE, IN THE MEANTIME YOU CAN HAVE THIS.



THANK YOU. WHAT IS IT?

IT WAS MY SISTER'S. MY BIRTH SISTER, I MEAN.



YOUR SISTER'S?



YEAH.



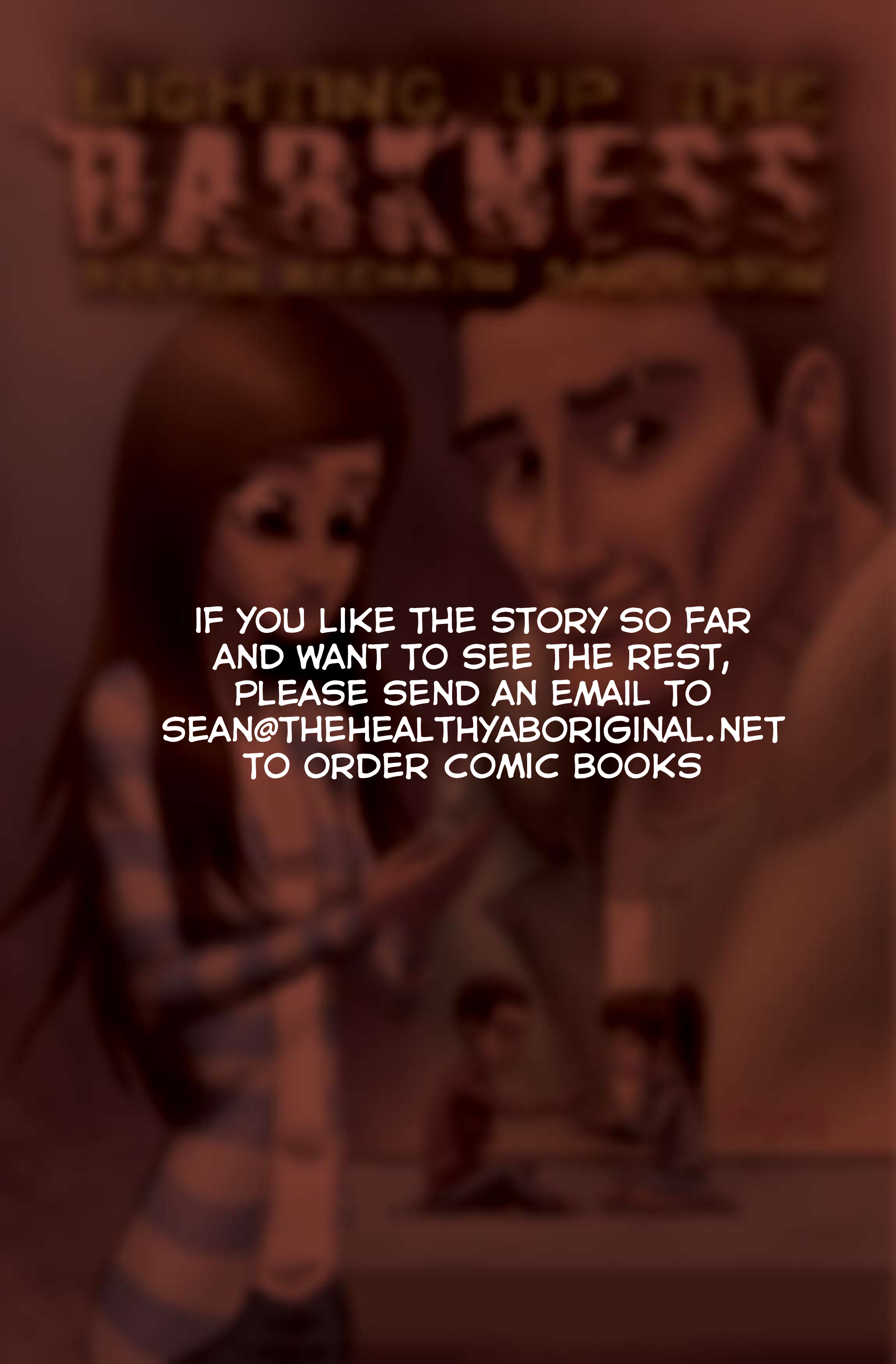
BUT IT'S YOURS NOW. SO YOU
HAVE A TOY TO PLAY WITH.



THANK YOU.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.



AH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
NOW GET TO BED.

A group of people, including children and adults, are holding a large banner. The banner has the text 'THE HEALTHY ABORIGINAL' written on it in a stylized font. The background is a solid reddish-brown color.

IF YOU LIKE THE STORY SO FAR
AND WANT TO SEE THE REST,
PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO
SEAN@THEHEALTHYABORIGINAL.NET
TO ORDER COMIC BOOKS