

TOMORROW'S HOPE



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The content in this graphic novel may stir up unpleasant feelings or thoughts, particularly if you or someone you know has experienced a suicide attempt or if someone close to you has died by suicide. Please consider reading it with a family member or friend.

The events and characters appearing in this work are fictitious. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, or places, is purely coincidental and unintended.

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IF I GET THIS ONE, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO LISTEN TO ONE OF MY STORIES.



I DOUBT IT. YOU'RE GETTING TIRED, UNCLE.



YOU SEE THAT CLEARING?

THERE USED TO BE A SCHOOL UP THERE.

YEAH.

I KNOW ABOUT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS. WE COVERED IT IN CLASS.



I KNOW YOU KNOW WHAT THEY TAUGHT YOU: THAT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS WERE A LONG TIME AGO. BUT THAT ONE ISN'T THAT OLD.

MY GRANDPARENTS WENT THERE. AND SO DID MY PARENTS; YOUR GRANDPARENTS.



THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE SCHOOLS WOULD EDUCATE EVERYONE SO THEY COULD GET GOOD JOBS.



BUT OUR PEOPLE CAME BACK MUCH DIFFERENT THAN HOW THEY WENT IN. IT WAS A BAD PLACE. IT TOOK AWAY OUR DIGNITY, OUR SELF-SUFFICIENCY, OUR TRADITIONS AND OUR LANGUAGE.



WHEN THEY GOT OUT, SOME OF THE YOUTH DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR FAMILY ANYMORE.



THE CHILDREN WEREN'T PARENTED IN THOSE SCHOOLS. SO THEY DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN KIDS WHEN THEY WENT TO RAISE A FAMILY.



SOME ONLY KNEW HOW TO PASS ON THE ABUSE THEY SUFFERED AS CHILDREN... IN THOSE SCHOOLS.



I KNOW, I GREW UP IN A DIFFERENT WORLD THAN YOU; THAT THINGS ARE CRAZY WITH SCHOOL... SOCIAL MEDIA... BOYS...




WELL, THERE'S THIS... BOY?! I DON'T WANNA KNOW ABOUT THAT! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, GIVE ME A HEART ATTACK?!



KIDDING.



WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, YOUR MOM, SHE'S DOING HER BEST FOR YOU KIDS. ESPECIALLY SINCE YOUR DAD PASSED.



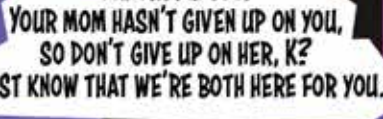
THANKS UNCLE. I MISS HIM SO MUCH...



K, THANKS. DOESN'T ALWAYS FEEL LIKE IT.



WHAT?



I KNOW, ME TOO. YOUR MOM HASN'T GIVEN UP ON YOU, SO DON'T GIVE UP ON HER, K? JUST KNOW THAT WE'RE BOTH HERE FOR YOU.



YEAH. I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN HAVING A HARD TIME. CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?



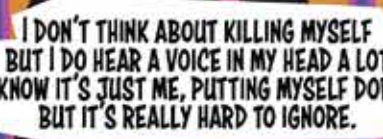
HAVE YOU BEEN THINKING ABOUT... YOU KNOW... HURTING YOURSELF OR... SUICIDE?



I KNOW HOW THAT FEELS. I'M SORRY, MY SWEET. BUT I'M SO GLAD YOU OPENED UP TO ME.




CAN YOU PROMISE ME ONE THING?



I DON'T THINK ABOUT KILLING MYSELF BUT I DO HEAR A VOICE IN MY HEAD A LOT. I KNOW IT'S JUST ME, PUTTING MYSELF DOWN, BUT IT'S REALLY HARD TO IGNORE.



MAYBE...




THAT YOU'LL TALK TO SOMEBODY BEFORE IT GETS TOO BAD. YOUR MOM, ME, YOUR COACH, TEACHER, ANYONE. AND IF NO ONE IS AROUND, HEAD DOWN TO THE HEALTH CENTRE AND TELL THEM HOW YOU'RE FEELING.



CAN'T... BREATHE...



HILARIOUS. COME ON, LET'S GO HOME.



YOU KNOW... I COULD USE YOUR HELP TOMORROW PICKING SWEETGRASS BEFORE THE CEREMONY.




K. I WILL, UNCLE. THANKS...



SORRY! I FORGOT YOU'RE OLD...



BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW...



I'LL SHOW YOU.