

MAKING IT RIGHT

A COMMUNITY JUSTICE STORY



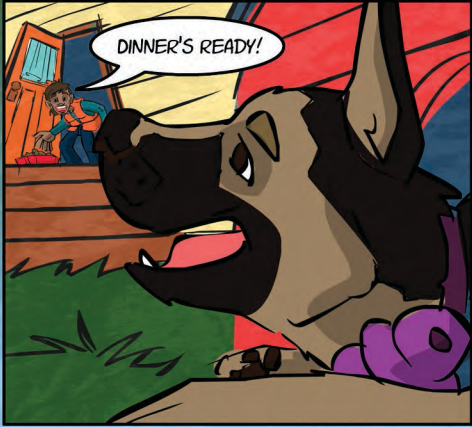
Jane Dickson-Gilmour

Brandon Mitchell

Tara Audibert



COME 'ER,
NICO!



DINNER'S READY!



WHO'S A GOOD
BOY?!



ANOTHER HECTIC
MORNING I SEE.

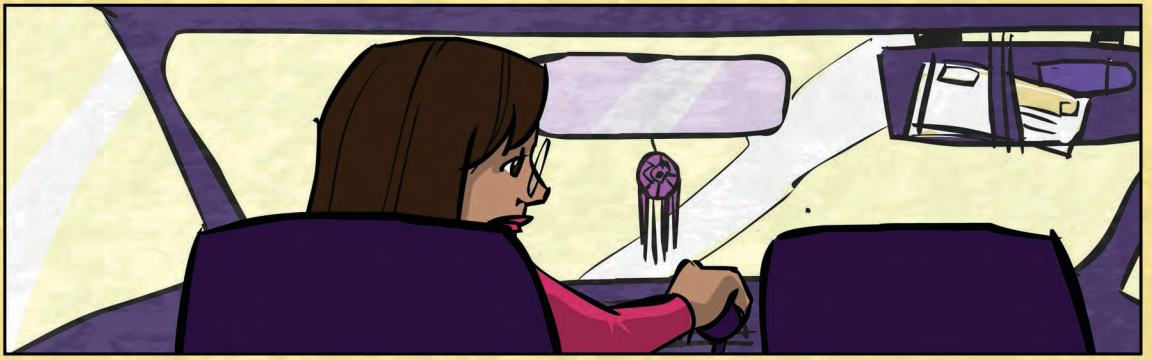
YOU HAVE
NO IDEA! IT'S BEEN
LIKE THIS ALL
WEEK.

WELL, DON'T
SWEAT IT. HERE, LET ME GET
YOU A COFFEE.

THANKS
FOR THE OFFER,
JACKSON. BUT I DON'T
HAVE TIME!

NO WORRIES.
JUST DON'T FORGET
TO BREATHE, HEY!





HI STELL, THAT WAS PRETTY FAST. IT USUALLY TAKES YOU... HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?



I... I DIDN'T SEE NICO...

WHAT HAPPENED?!



IT WAS A... I DIDN'T DO... HE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN BEHIND MY TRUCK!

NICO! HERE, BOY!

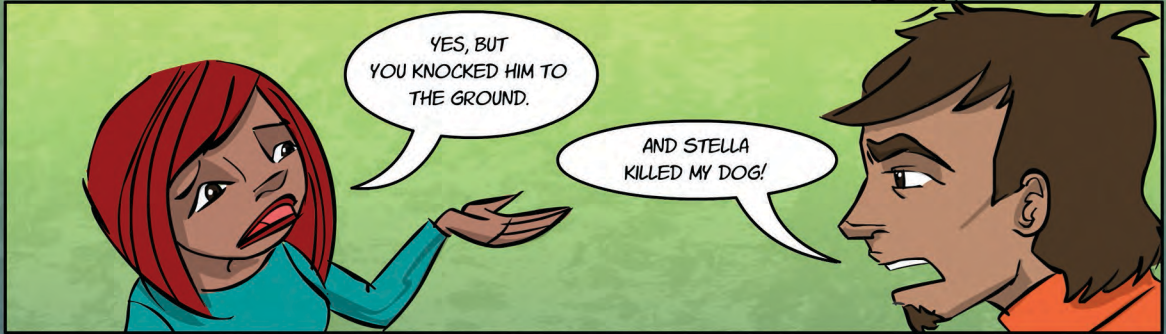
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THERE!





WHAT IF THEY PRESS CHARGES?

FOR WHAT? ROBERT PUSHED ME FIRST.



YES, BUT YOU KNOCKED HIM TO THE GROUND.

AND STELLA KILLED MY DOG!



BUT NICO WAS ON THEIR SIDE...

HI GUYS. I HEARD THERE WAS SOME TROUBLE HERE THIS MORNING. EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?



HEY, WHERE'S NICO...?

HAVE A LOOK. I JUST FINISHED BURYING HIM.



SO, WHAT HAPPENED EXACTLY?

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED... THAT GOOD FOR NOTHING...



EASY THERE. I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET. BUT WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. JUST TELL ME.

LISTEN,



THE BOTTOM LINE IS THEY KILLED MY DOG AND I WANT THEM TO BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR IT.

UNDERSTANDABLE. AND I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE HURT AND ANGRY.

BUT THIS ISSUE NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED BEFORE IT GETS ANY WORSE.

CAN YOU COME BY THE COURT BUILDING TOMORROW?



YOU CAN MEET WITH STUART. HE'S THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE OFFICER.

I THINK WE SHOULD TRY TO KEEP THIS OUT OF THE COURTS.

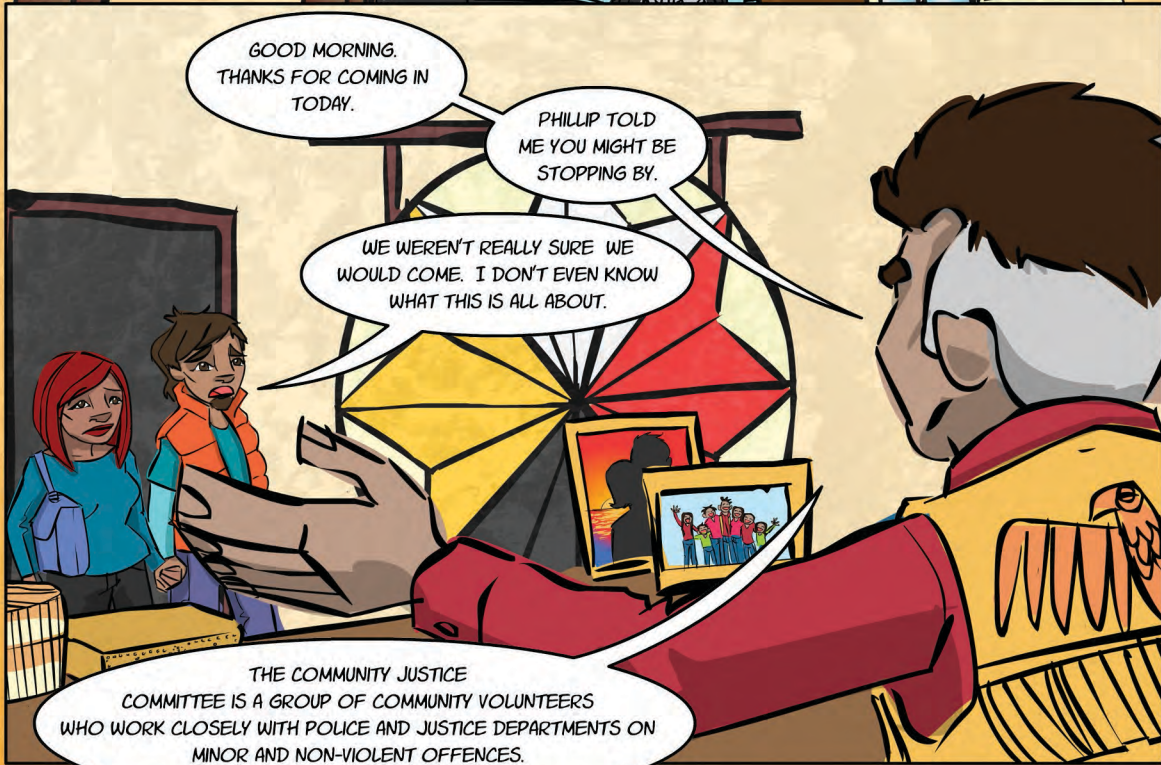
CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES, STUART MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU OUT.



I HOPE PHILLIP IS RIGHT ABOUT THIS.

WE WANT TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE AND THE COURT IS BUSY ENOUGH ALREADY.

I TRUST HIS JUDGMENT AS A POLICE OFFICER.

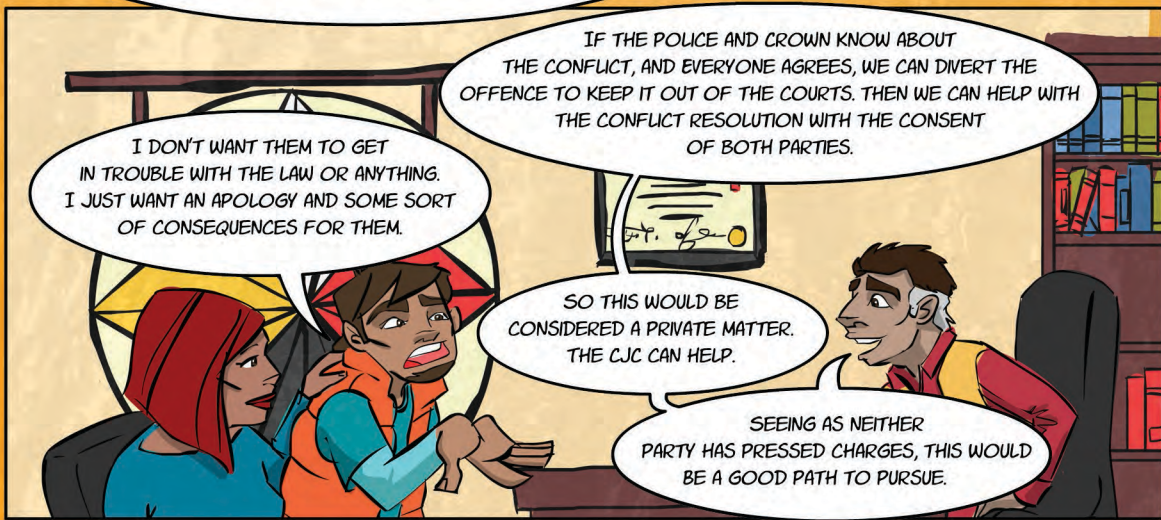


GOOD MORNING. THANKS FOR COMING IN TODAY.

PHILLIP TOLD ME YOU MIGHT BE STOPPING BY.

WE WEREN'T REALLY SURE WE WOULD COME. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.

THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE COMMITTEE IS A GROUP OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS WHO WORK CLOSELY WITH POLICE AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS ON MINOR AND NON-VIOLENT OFFENCES.

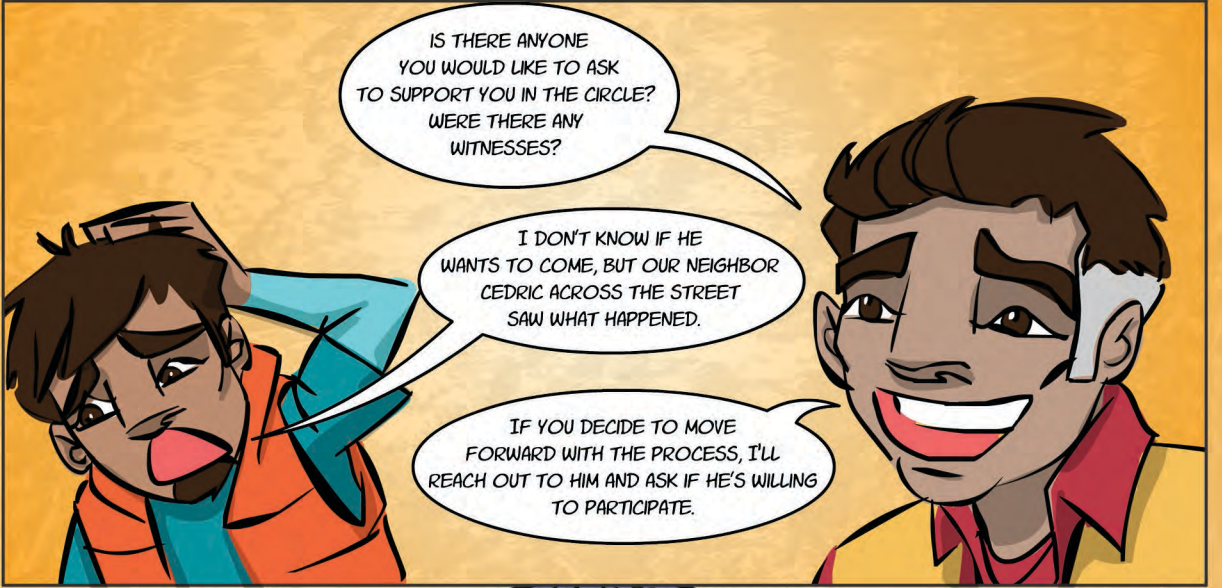


IF THE POLICE AND CROWN KNOW ABOUT THE CONFLICT, AND EVERYONE AGREES, WE CAN DIVERT THE OFFENCE TO KEEP IT OUT OF THE COURTS. THEN WE CAN HELP WITH THE CONFLICT RESOLUTION WITH THE CONSENT OF BOTH PARTIES.

I DON'T WANT THEM TO GET IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW OR ANYTHING. I JUST WANT AN APOLOGY AND SOME SORT OF CONSEQUENCES FOR THEM.

SO THIS WOULD BE CONSIDERED A PRIVATE MATTER. THE CJC CAN HELP.


SEEING AS NEITHER PARTY HAS PRESSED CHARGES, THIS WOULD BE A GOOD PATH TO PURSUE.



IS THERE ANYONE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK TO SUPPORT YOU IN THE CIRCLE? WERE THERE ANY WITNESSES?

I DON'T KNOW IF HE WANTS TO COME, BUT OUR NEIGHBOR CEDRIC ACROSS THE STREET SAW WHAT HAPPENED.

IF YOU DECIDE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PROCESS, I'LL REACH OUT TO HIM AND ASK IF HE'S WILLING TO PARTICIPATE.



SINCE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PRESS CHARGES WITH THE POLICE, I'M GOING TO ASK YOU TO SIGN THIS AGREEMENT.

IT'S A CONSENT FORM AND CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT.

IT'S LIKE A PROMISE NOT TO TALK ABOUT THE THINGS THAT HAPPEN OR ARE SAID IN THE CIRCLE.



WE DO THIS SO PEOPLE CAN FEEL SAFE TO SPEAK OPENLY. IS THERE ANYONE ELSE YOU WANT TO ATTEND?

I WOULD LIKE IT IF MY BROTHER PHILLIP COULD ATTEND.

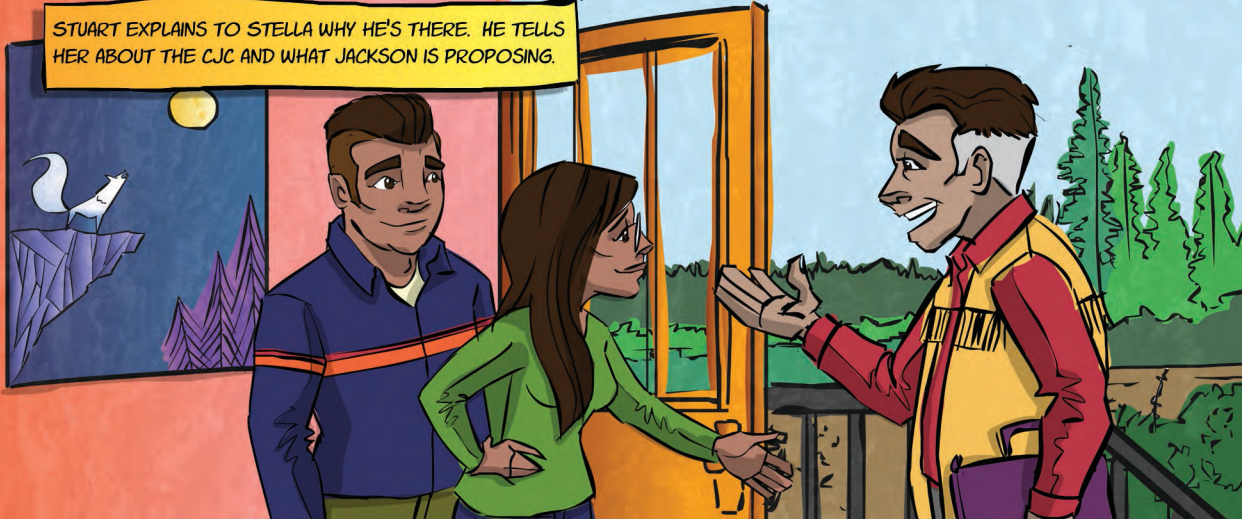


PHILLIP IS A MEMBER OF THE POLICE FORCE AND IT WOULD BE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR HIM TO BE INVOLVED OFFICIALLY.

IT WOULD BE THE SAME IF HE WAS A COMMITTEE MEMBER OR A LAWYER.



BUT HE CAN DEFINITELY BE THERE FOR YOU AS A SUPPORTER IF YOU WISH.



STUART EXPLAINS TO STELLA WHY HE'S THERE. HE TELLS HER ABOUT THE CJC AND WHAT JACKSON IS PROPOSING.

STELLA AND ROBERT AGREE. STELLA WOULD LIKE HER FRIEND MAGGIE TO BE THERE AS HER SUPPORT.

STUART THEN APPROACHES THE REMAINING PEOPLE ON THE LIST.

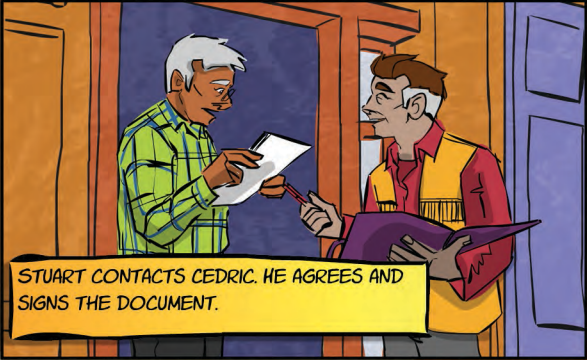


STUART CONTACTS MAGGIE. SHE AGREES AND SIGNS THE DOCUMENT.



STUART CONTACTS PHILLIP. HE AGREES AND SIGNS ON AS A SUPPORT.

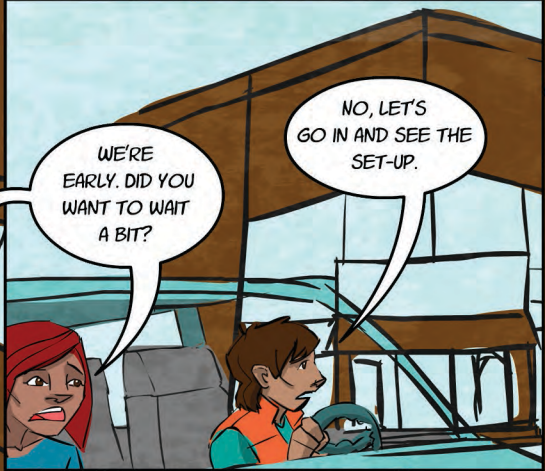
THEY ALL AGREE TO PARTICIPATE.



STUART CONTACTS CEDRIC. HE AGREES AND SIGNS THE DOCUMENT.

A FEW DAYS LATER.

SO STUART CONFIRMED EVERYONE WOULD BE ATTENDING.



WE'RE EARLY. DID YOU WANT TO WAIT A BIT?

NO, LET'S GO IN AND SEE THE SET-UP.

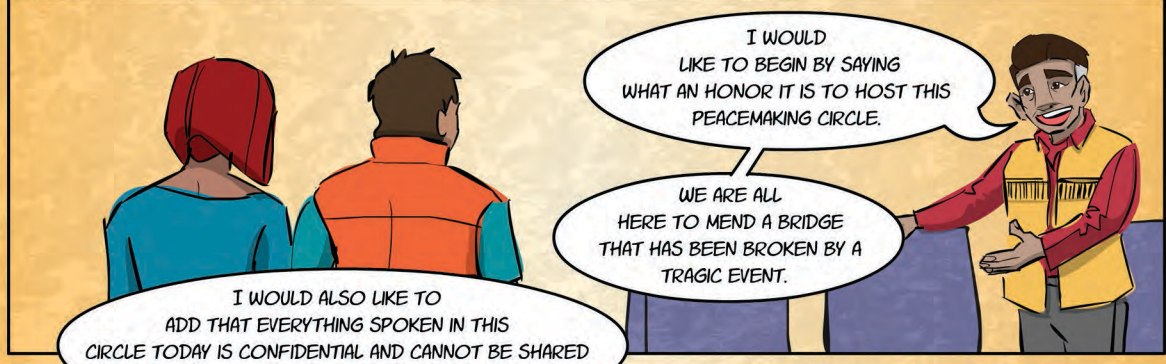
LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE WANTED TO GET STARTED EARLY TODAY.



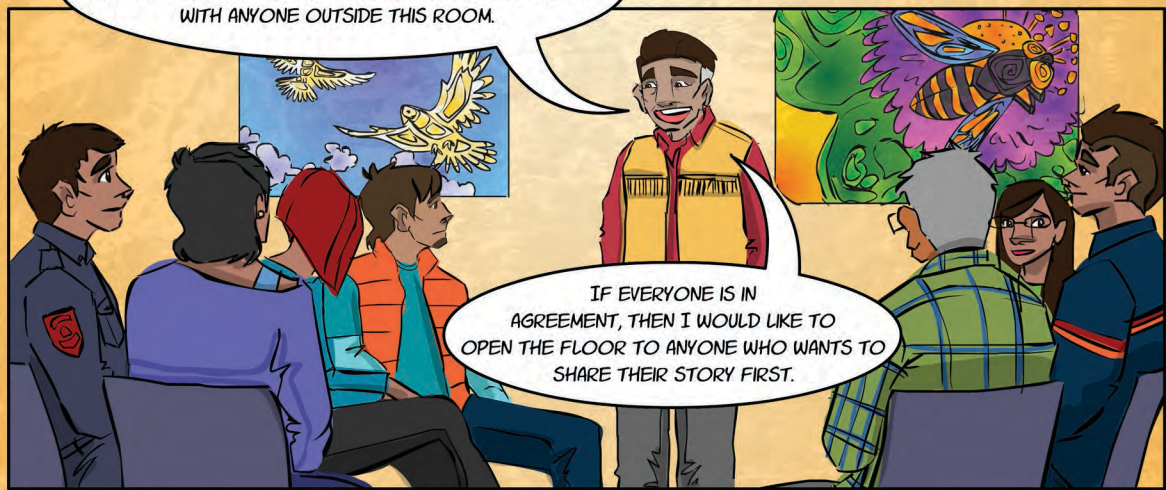
I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY SAYING WHAT AN HONOR IT IS TO HOST THIS PEACEMAKING CIRCLE.

WE ARE ALL HERE TO MEND A BRIDGE THAT HAS BEEN BROKEN BY A TRAGIC EVENT.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ADD THAT EVERYTHING SPOKEN IN THIS CIRCLE TODAY IS CONFIDENTIAL AND CANNOT BE SHARED WITH ANYONE OUTSIDE THIS ROOM.



IF EVERYONE IS IN AGREEMENT, THEN I WOULD LIKE TO OPEN THE FLOOR TO ANYONE WHO WANTS TO SHARE THEIR STORY FIRST.




I WOULD LIKE TO START.

I JUST WANT TO BEGIN BY SAYING HOW SORRY I AM FOR WHAT HAPPENED.

IT WAS A CRAZY WEEK; WE DIDN'T HAVE DAYCARE AND I WAS RUSHING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN WORK AND THE HOUSE.

I WAS JUST OUT OF MY MIND.





I DIDN'T MEAN TO YELL
AT YOU WHEN I CAME OVER, JACKSON.
I WAS JUST SO UPSET.

NICO SHOULD HAVE
MOVED AS SOON AS I STARTED
THE TRUCK, BUT I NEVER SHOULD HAVE
BLAMED YOU THAT HE DIDN'T.

IT WAS
JUST AN ACCIDENT.
I'M VERY SORRY. I WANT
THINGS TO GO BACK TO
HOW THEY WERE,
NOT HOW THEY
ARE.

THANK YOU,
STELLA. I APPRECIATE
YOUR WORDS.

NICO WAS LIKE A
BEST FRIEND TO ME. I LOST MY
HUNTING BUDDY THAT DAY.

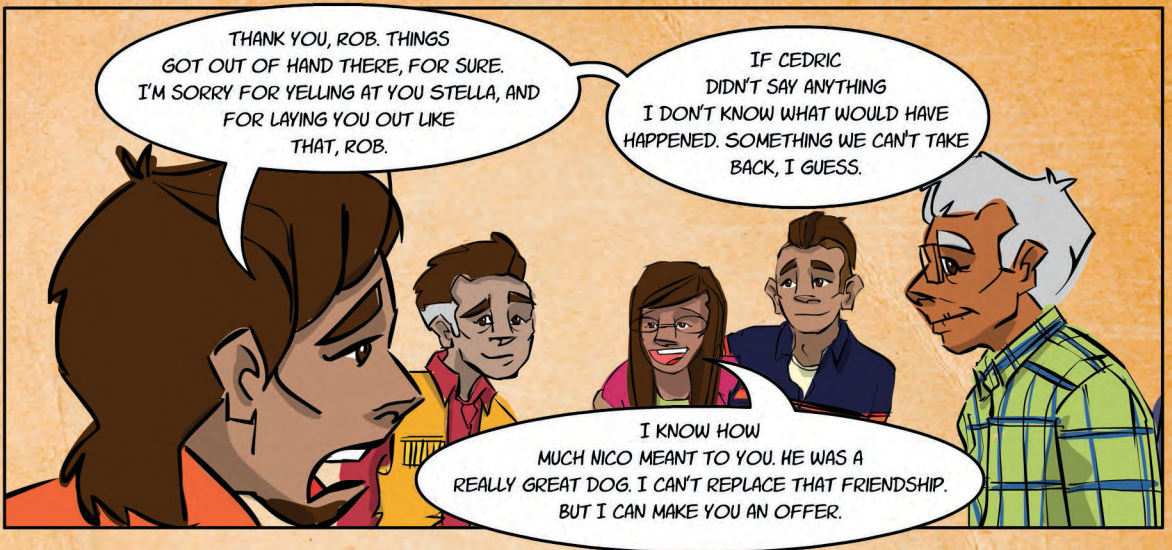
I WAS SHOCKED
BECAUSE EVERYTHING HAPPENED SO FAST. IT
HASN'T BEEN EASY FOR US EITHER.

THIS TROUBLE HAS
AFFECTED YOUR FRIENDSHIP WITH
ANNE, AND WE ALL FEEL BAD
ABOUT THAT.

WHEN I GOT TO
YOUR HOUSE, JACKSON, AND
SAW YOU AND STELLA YELLING AT EACH
OTHER, I JUST WENT INTO
PROTECTIVE MODE.

WHAT I SHOULD
HAVE DONE WAS ASKED EVERYONE TO CALM
DOWN SO WE COULD DISCUSS THIS
LIKE FRIENDS.

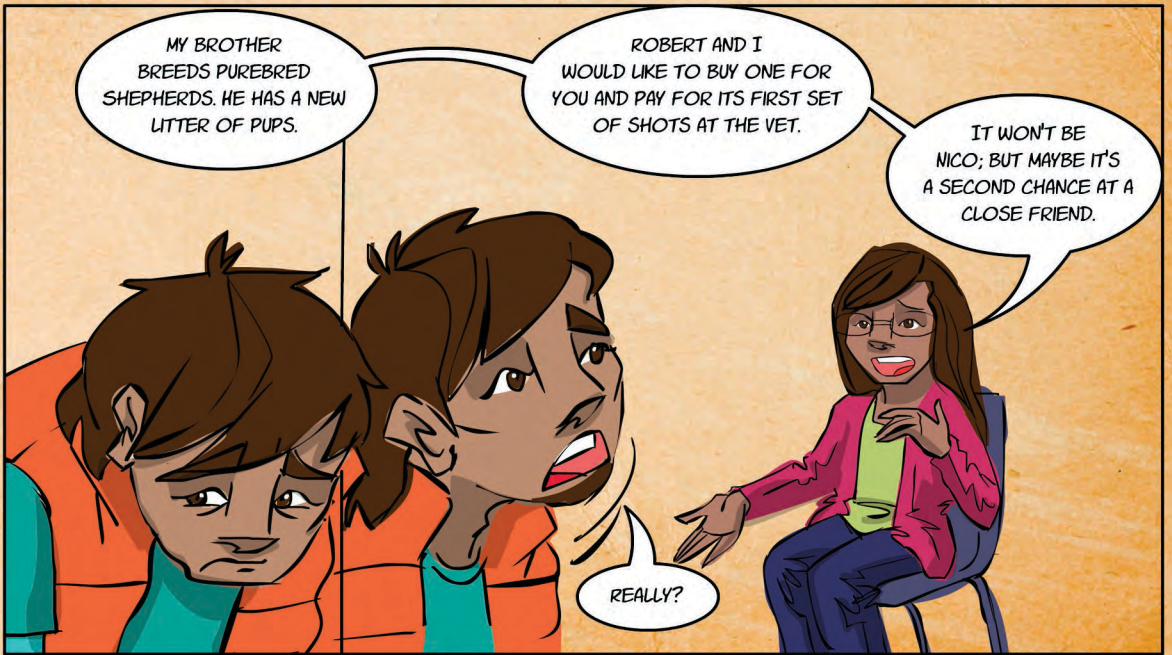
INSTEAD, I PUT MY
HANDS ON YOU AND I SHOULDN'T HAVE.
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.



THANK YOU, ROB. THINGS GOT OUT OF HAND THERE, FOR SURE. I'M SORRY FOR YELLING AT YOU STELLA, AND FOR LAYING YOU OUT LIKE THAT, ROB.

IF CEDRIC DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED. SOMETHING WE CAN'T TAKE BACK, I GUESS.

I KNOW HOW MUCH NICO MEANT TO YOU. HE WAS A REALLY GREAT DOG. I CAN'T REPLACE THAT FRIENDSHIP. BUT I CAN MAKE YOU AN OFFER.



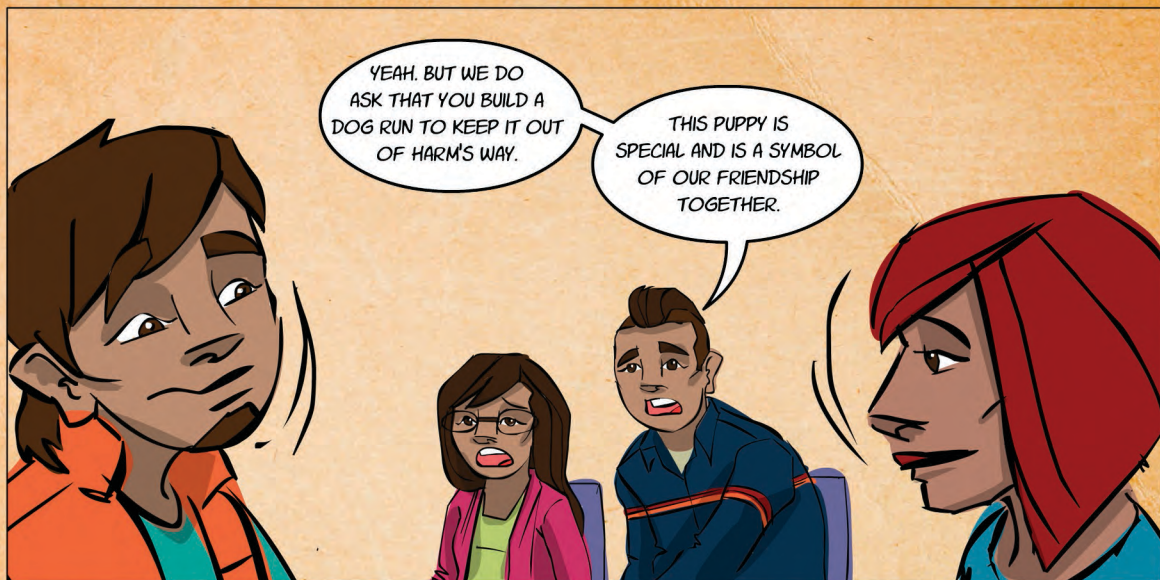
MY BROTHER BREEDS PUREBRED SHEPHERDS. HE HAS A NEW LITTER OF PUPS.

ROBERT AND I WOULD LIKE TO BUY ONE FOR YOU AND PAY FOR ITS FIRST SET OF SHOTS AT THE VET.

IT WON'T BE NICO; BUT MAYBE IT'S A SECOND CHANCE AT A CLOSE FRIEND.

REALLY?





IT BROUGHT A LOT OF SADNESS TO ME TO SEE YOU GUYS FIGHT THE WAY YOU DID. I'VE SEEN HOW CLOSE YOU ALL ARE.

I HAD FEARED THAT THIS BOND WAS BROKEN FOREVER.



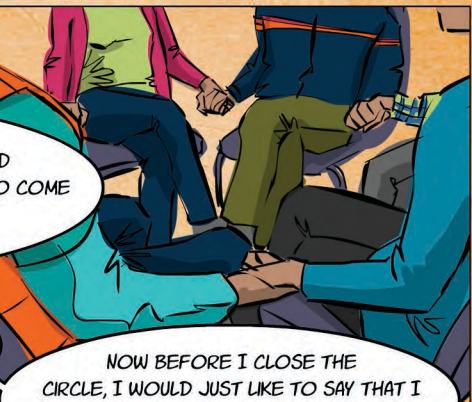
I FEEL HONORED TO HAVE BEEN A WITNESS HERE TODAY; TO SEE THIS CONFLICT RESOLVED IN A GOOD WAY. I AM PROUD OF YOU.



THANK YOU FOR SHARING THOSE KIND WORDS, ELDER.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO PLANS COMMUNITY AND LAND-BASED PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS WHO COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

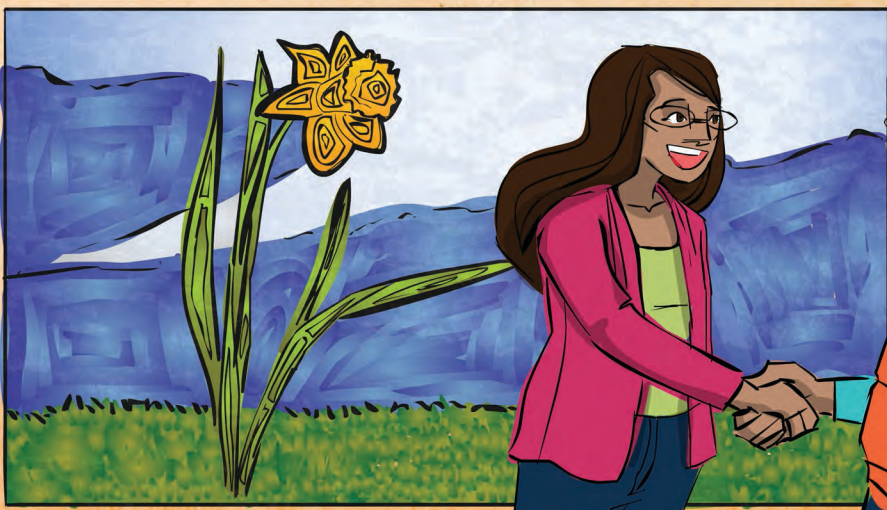
I THINK THAT WE ARE ALL GRATEFUL THAT WASN'T NECESSARY TODAY.

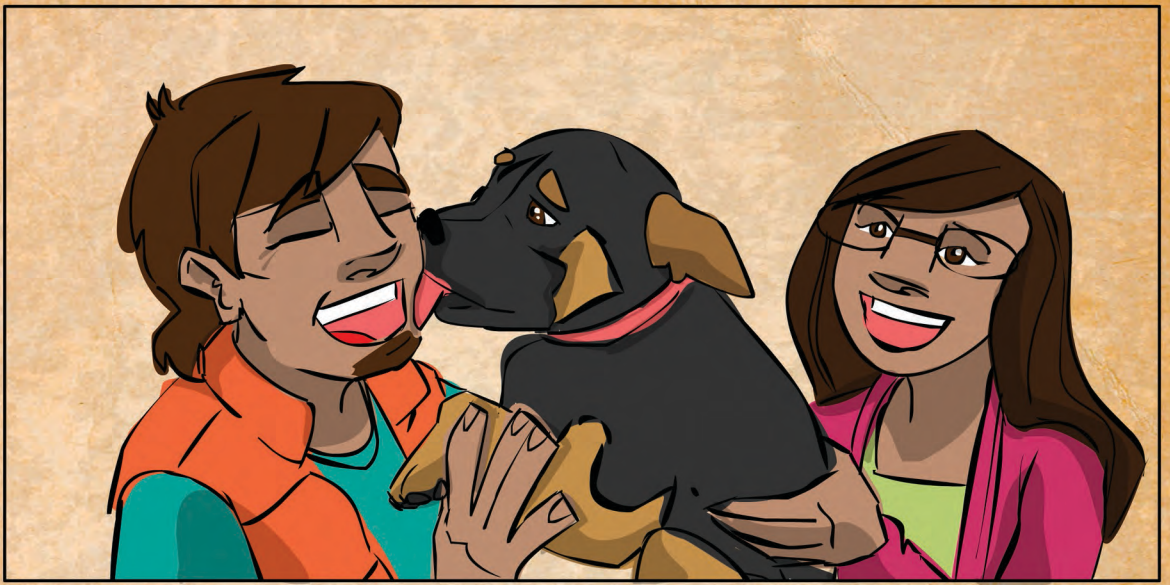


NOW BEFORE I CLOSE THE CIRCLE, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT I FEEL PRIVILEGED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MODERATE FOR YOU ALL.



I WILL DRAFT UP AN AGREEMENT BASED ON WHAT WAS SAID HERE AND HAVE THE PARTIES SIGN IT.







LOOKS LIKE YOU COULD USE A HAND THERE.

IT'S EASY TO BUY THE MATERIALS. THE TRICK IS ACTUALLY PUTTING IT TOGETHER!



LET ME GRAB MY TOOLS AND MAYBE WE CAN FIGURE IT OUT TOGETHER.

THANKS ROB. I WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE THAT.



THE END