

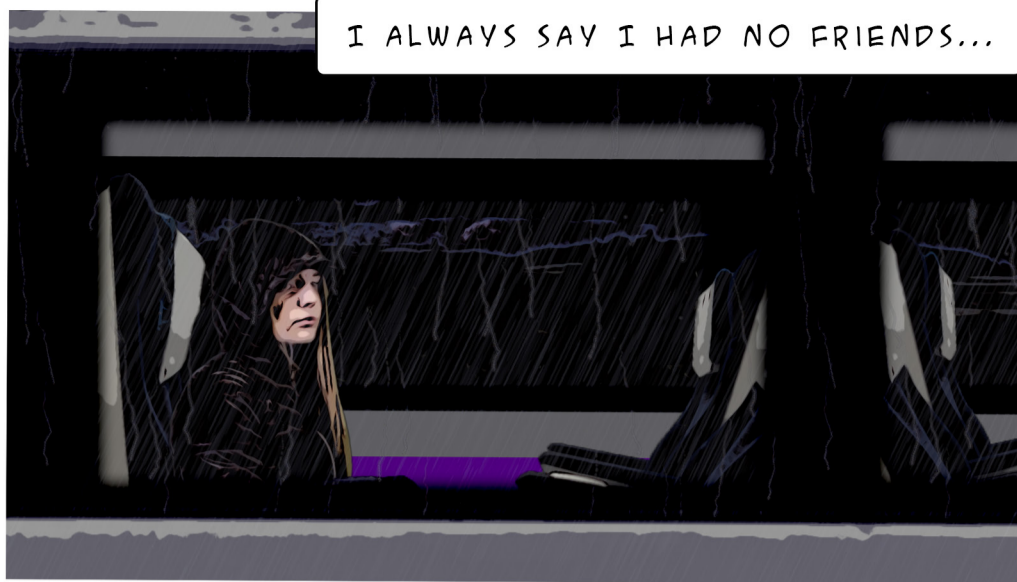
I am you...

a true story



by
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and
steph hill





I ALWAYS SAY I HAD NO FRIENDS...



I DON'T KNOW...MAYBE I DID. MAYBE I DIDN'T,



BUT SOPHIE WAS DIFFERENT YOU KNOW...



..AND I FELT LUCKY.



SHE WAS JUST....

DIFFERENT.

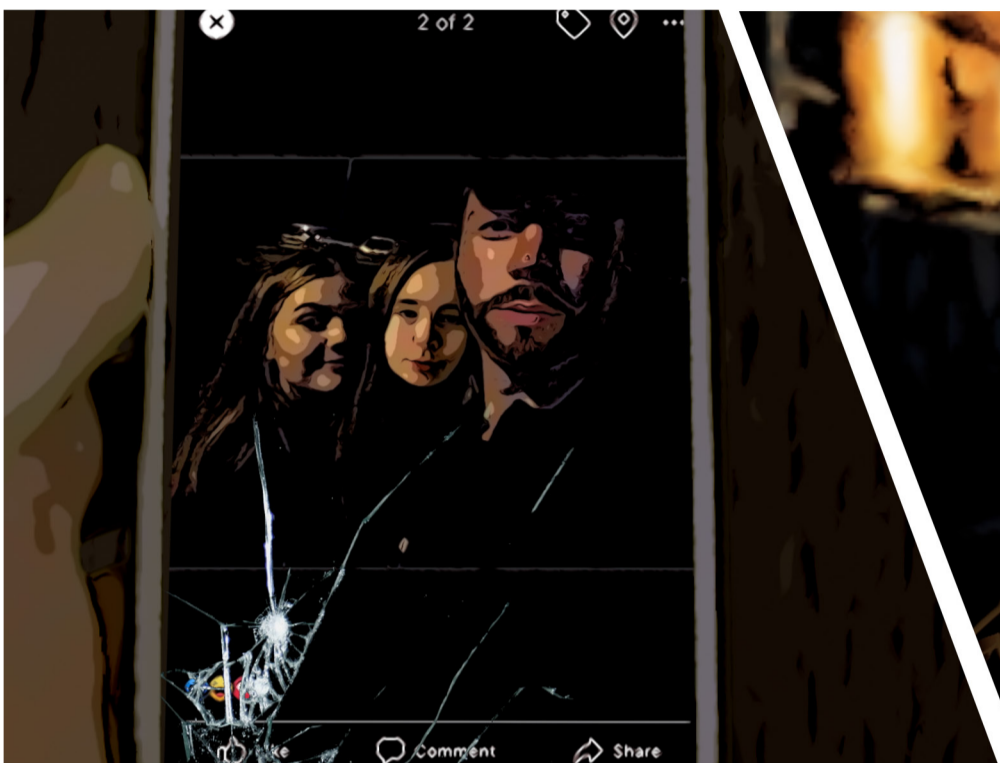
GWR 15357



SHE HAD THIS BOYFRIEND, DEAN....



HIS MATES JUST USED TO HANG WITH US. CHAT TO US LIKE WE WERE ONE OF THEM....NOT LIKE LITTLE KIDS.



IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I SMOKED CANNABIS.



I DIDN'T WANT A PICTURE TAKEN.. I MEAN...

BUT IT JUST KIND OF HAPPENED.



THOSE FELT LIKE GOOD TIMES. I WAS GETTING PRESENTS FROM THESE COOL PEOPLE.

I DIDN'T PLAN ON DOING DRUGS.

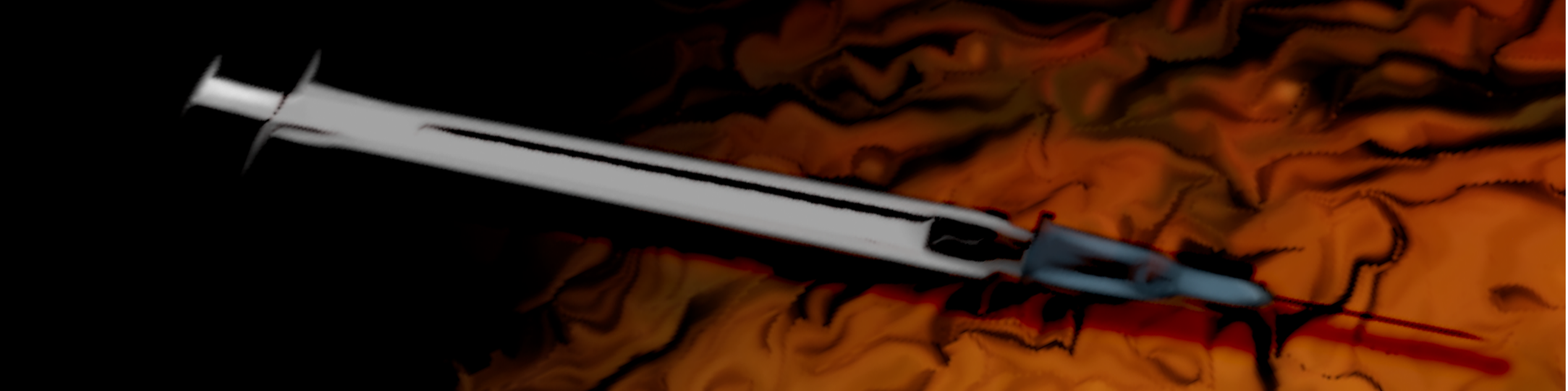
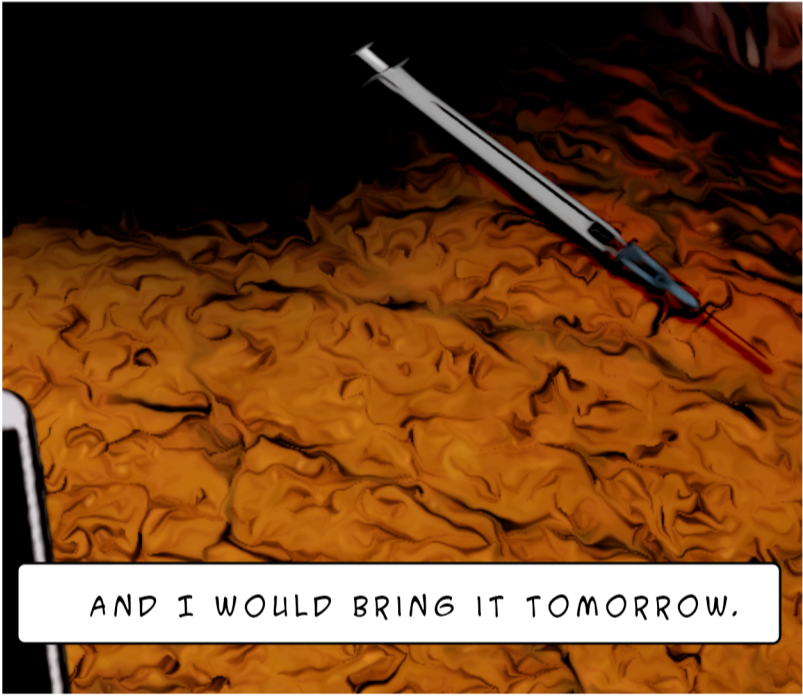
JUST HAPPENED.

SOPHIE...

..OR WAS IT DEAN?....

WELL, BOTH ALWAYS HAD SOME... GIVING IT AWAY....WELL...

TURNS OUT WEREN'T GIVING IT AWAY. A FEW DAYS LATER ONE OF HIS MATES ASKED ME FOR THE 20 QUID I OWED.



I ASKED MY DAD FOR THE MONEY...HE SAID NO...
I CAN'T REALLY REMEMBER WHY HE SAID NO.
I DIDN'T CARE....

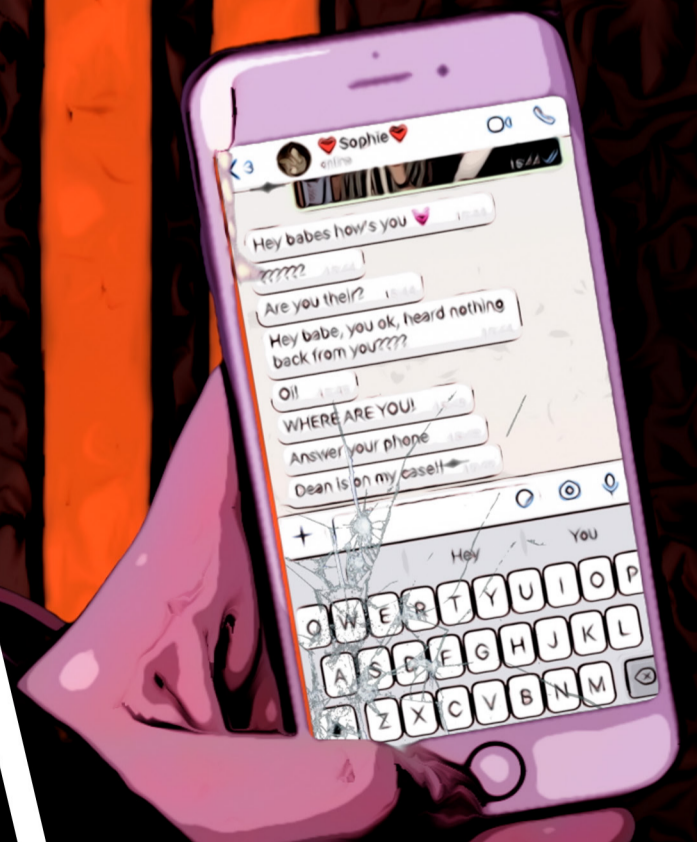
SO I STOLE IT FROM HIS WALLET.



I PAID THE MONEY..BUT BECAUSE I
WAS LATE I HAD TO PAY MORE...
40 QUID!..THEN 60 QUID.....
I WAS IN HUGE DEBT.

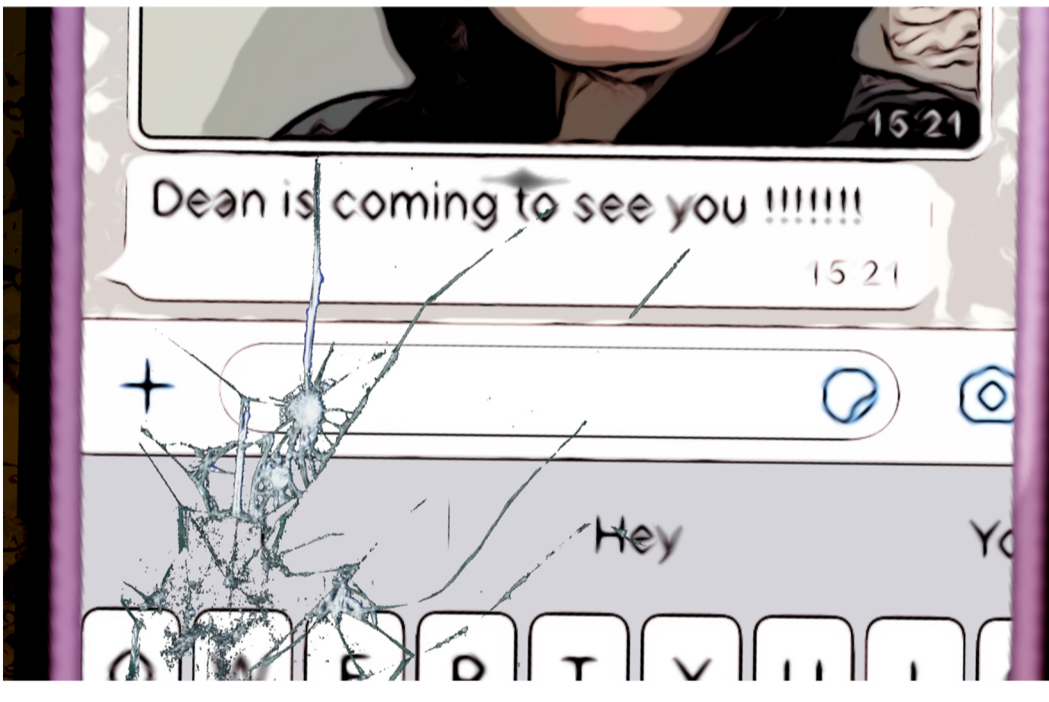
SOPHIE WAS TEXTING ME. IT WAS ALL CHANGING.

I JUST HID AWAY. I SAID I WAS ILL...
MISSING SCHOOL AND OTHER STUFF.



SOPHIE SENT THIS FROM RIGHT OUTSIDE THE HOUSE.

I KNOW YOU ARE IN. JUST SORT WHAT YOU OWE.
I'M GETTING INTO SERIOUS TROUBLE SO YOU ARE GETTING IT.
CAN'T PAY? THEN YOU GOT TO PAY ANOTHER WAY!



I WAS TRAPPED AND ALONE.

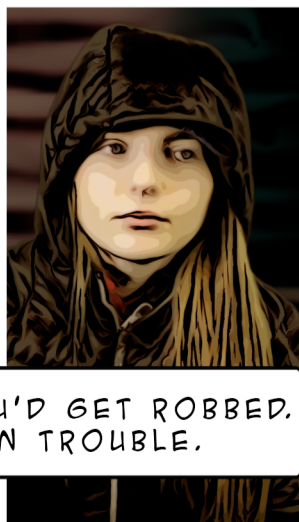
I SAW HIM AND HE TOLD ME I HAD TO PAY IT ALL BACK. HE SAID I COULD DELIVER DRUGS FOR HIM OR BE MORE FRIENDLY TO HIS FRIENDS..... I DIDN'T..WELL...

I WAS GIVEN AN OLD PHONE AND ALL THE PACKAGES, YOU KNOW. DRUGS. I DIDN'T THINK I COULD BE MORE SCARED, BUT THEN HE GAVE ME A KNIFE.... FOR PROTECTION.... THATS WHAT HE SAID.



I WOULD MEET PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT PLACES, DIFFERENT TOWNS, VILLAGES. DAY. NIGHT. I NEVER KNEW WHERE I WAS ANYMORE. I'D PASS THE DRUGS ON, MAKE THEM MONEY AND GET TOLD THEY WOULD WIPE £50 OFF THE DEBT BUT THE DEBT WAS ALWAYS GOING UP.

YOU'D GET GOOD DAYS WHERE YOU BASICALLY GOT THROUGH IT.



OTHER DAYS WHEN YOU'D GET ROBBED. THEN YOU WERE IN TROUBLE.

THIS WAS THE DAY IT ALL CHANGED.



IT HAD TO CHANGE!



THIS WAS THE DAY THEY HURT ME!

АHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!
АHHHHHHHHH!! АНННГ....

BANG!
BANG!

THIS WAS THE DAY I FOUND
PEOPLE TO HELP ME.

THIS WAS THE DAY I TOLD
PEOPLE THE TRUTH.

THIS WAS THE DAY I NEVER FELT ALONE AGAIN.





EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OK

RING!RING!



RING!RING!

WHO ARE YOU?



I AM YOU.....



I AM THE GIRL YOU'VE KNOWN SINCE PRIMARY... I AM THE BOY GOOD AT SPORTS. I AM THE CLASS CLOWN....

.....AND THE QUIET ONE IN THE CORNER ..I AM THE PERSON YOU NEVER SPEAK TO...AND I AM YOUR BEST FRIEND...

I AM YOU.....DON'T BE ME!