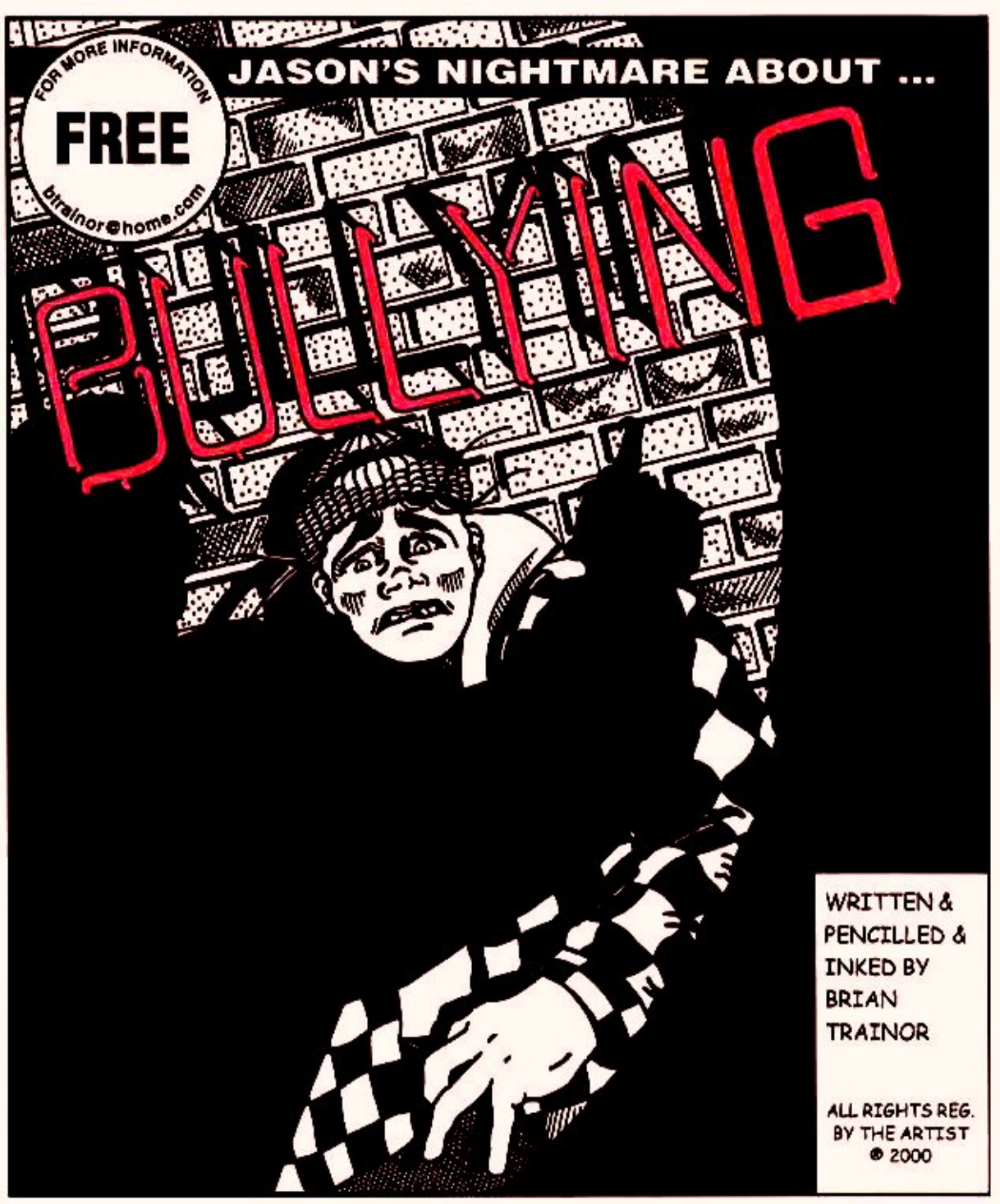
FOR MORE INFORMATION
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JASON'S NIGHTMARE ABOUT ...
BULLYING
WRITTEN & PENCILLED & INKED BY BRIAN TRAINOR
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JASON WAS ANGRY. IN FACT, HE WAS ANGRY MOST OF THE TIME. HE HATED SCHOOL, TEACHERS AND MOST OF ALL TEACHER'S PETS.
THAT JUST ABOUT COVERED EVERYONE EXCEPT BUTCH AND ANNIE. BUTCH WAS TOUGH AND ANNIE ... ? WELL ANNIE SMOKED.
TWO...
COME ON, COME ON,
ONE...
FIVE MINUTES... COME ON... FOUR. GEEZ... THREE...
BOY
JASON'S
NIGHT
MARE
1
WRITTEN & DRAWN BY
R. B. TRAINOR


KIDS SCRAMBLED TO PUT THEIR BOOKS AWAY. JASON ELBOWED IN...


...PUSHING WHOMEVER WAS IN THE WAY UNTIL HE WAS FIRST IN LINE. BUTCH AND ANNIE WERE WAITING AND TOGETHER THEY SLOUCHED DOWN THE HALL.


ANNIE... YA GOT ANY CASH, GIRL?
YO
DO I EVER, BUTCH? WHAT A STUPID QUESTION


ANNIE SCOWLED AND SHOVED BUTCH INTO JASON WHO SLAMMED INTO A BRICK WALL.


WATCH WHAT YER DOIN' YOU BOZOS OR YOU'LL REALLY BE SORRY
2


A FEW STEPS AHEAD WERE A GROUP OF YOUNGER BOYS SHARING A JOKE. JASON WATCHED THEM LAUGH.
LOOK AT 'EM... GIGGLING LIKE A BUNCH OF WEINERS!
HE HATED IT WHEN SOME BODY WAS ENJOYING THEMSELVES AND HE WASN'T INVOLVED
WHAT GIVES THEM THE RIGHT TO BE HAPPY?!
HEY BUTCH... LOOK AT THE BUNCH OF GEEKS GIGGLING OVER THERE!
JASON SNARLED LOUD ENOUGH SO THAT THE GROUP OF BOYS HEARD HIM. THE LAUGHTER CAME TO A SUDDEN STOP
3


A COUPLE OF BOYS HURRIED OFF SENSING TROUBLE WHILE TWO BOYS STOOD THEIR GROUND


THERE WAS NO SENSE IN RUNNING. TOMORROW WOULD BRING THE SAME. GOT TO STAND UP TO THEM


AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT MICHAEL'S DAD HAD SAID
GULP!


SO HE STOOD HIS GROUND, THOUGH IT FELT VERY SHAKEY


HIS BEST BUD, CHRIS STAYED AT HIS SIDE, THOUGH...
I WISH I WAS SOMEWHERE ELSE
4

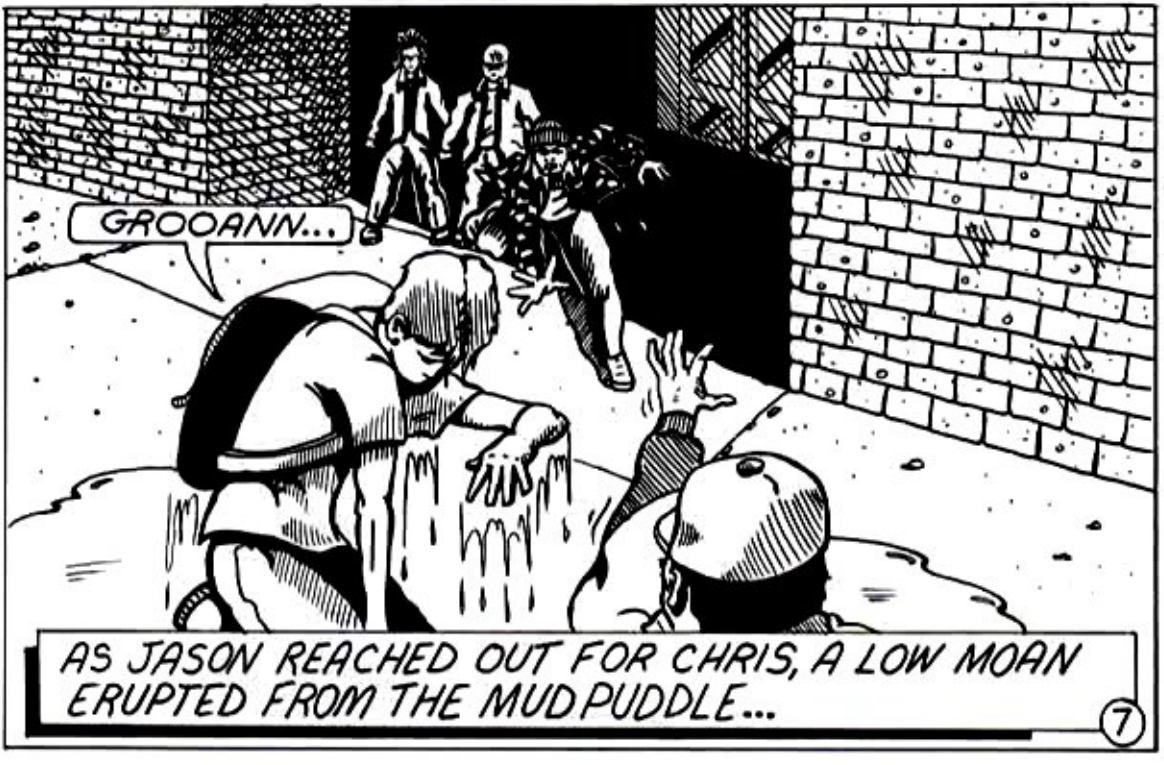

WELL, LOOK WHO'S TOO STUPID TO RUN... IT'S JOHNSON AND HIS LITTLE PAL, CHRIS.! WHAT? YOU GONNA BE A HERO TODAY?
HEE HEE
YO
WHAT DO YOU WANT WHITE?
GULP!
YA KNOW, JOHNSON, I NEED A POP... AN' CHIPS!
YO
MAYBE A SMOKE TOO. YA GOT ANY ANNIE?
NOPE JAS'
BUTCH, YA GOT ANY CASH FER SMOKES?
FRESH OUT
YOU TWO HEAR? WE NEED COIN SO HAND IT OVER!
5


MICHAEL NEEDED TIME TO THINK... A DISTRACTION... CHRIS WAS STANDING BEHIND HIM, SHAKING AS JASON MOVED IN...
LET'S SEE YOUR CASH MIKEY!
YIKES!


MICHAEL TRIED TO STAND TALL BUT THE SHOVE KNOCKED HIM OFF BALANCE. HE STUMBLED BACK INTO CHRIS PUSHING HIM INTO A HUGE MUD PUDDLE. CHRIS DID A FULL BODY SLAM SENDING A TIDAL WAVE OF MUDDY WATER OVER JASON!
WHOA...
WHAT?
6


YOU IDIOT! YOU MORON!
I'M GONNA GET YOU TWO!


SHAKING THE MUD FROM HIS HAIR, JASON LUNGED AT CHRIS...


GROOANN...
AS JASON REACHED OUT FOR CHRIS, A LOW MOAN ERUPTED FROM THE MUD PUDDLE...
7


CHRIS, STILL ON HIS KNEES, ROLLED HIS EYES UP AND FAINTED LANDING FACE FIRST INTO THE PUDDLE...
... SENDING A SECOND, HUGE WAVE ON JASON, WHO JUMPED BACK
BLUB BLUB
YIKES!
BLUB BLUB
8


ARRRGGH! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
YOU TWO ARE GOING TO BE SO SORRY. TOMORROW IS YOUR DAY... YOU'RE ON MY LIST, YOU HEAR? TOMORROW YOU'LL GET YOURS
GOOFS!
YOU OKAY CHRIS?
MIKE, I WAS SO SCARED... I FAINTED. NEVER PLANNED TO, HONESTLY!
CHRIS, YOU'RE MY HERO, MAN... YOU CHASED 'EM OFF! DID YOU SEE HIS EYES? HA HA HA WOW... HERO!
THIS IS THE STUFF OF LEGENDS, DUDE. YOU'RE A LEGEND MAN!
YA, A DEAD LEGEND
9

CHAPTER 2


YOU EVER COME HOME AGAIN COVERED IN MUD, AN' I'M GONNA GROUND YOU FOREVER... YOU HEAR ME... FOREVER!
GET TO BED BEFORE YOUR DAD GETS IN. IF HE'S MISERABLE, AS USUAL... YA KNOW.
JASON'S MOM HAD LIVED A HARD LIFE AS HAD JASON. HER HUSBAND WAS NOT A HAPPY MAN, GRUMPY IN FACT.
HE ALWAYS BLAMED THEM FOR ALL THAT WAS WRONG


SLAM
JASON WAS AT HOME AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE
HE PREFERRED TO HANG OUT WITH BUTCH & ANNIE AT THE CORNER STORE OR PICKING ON KIDS FOR THEIR MONEY. JASON FOUND HE COULDN'T STAND BEING TOLD WHAT TO DO!
I SAID GIMME YOUR MONEY NOW...OR ELSE
SLAMMING THE BEDROOM DOOR, JASON FLOPPED DOWN ON HIS BED
PULLING A PILLOW OVER HIS FACE HE SCREAMED..
NO ONE CAME TO SEE WHY... NO ONE CARED


FLAP
HE WHIPPED A PILLOW ACROSS THE ROOM KNOCKING THE POSTER OF HIS FAVORITE ROCK STAR DOWN.
YOU'LL ALL BE SORRY SOMEDAY!
HE STARED OUT THE WINDOW WONDERING IF HE WOULD EVER BE HAPPY.
12


CHAPTER 3
MICHAEL DECIDED NOT TO TELL HIS PARENTS. THEY WOULD FREAK, PHONE THE SCHOOL AND RAISE A STINK. EVERYONE WOULD BLAME SOMEONE ELSE.
I DON'T NEED THE GRIEF WITH JASON THINKING I'M A RAT.
THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER ANSWER ... MAYBE CHRIS COULD FAINT AGAIN
HEY DUDE, HOW GOES THE HEAD?
A BIT BETTER NOW... THANKS
WE NEED A PLAN, MAN...
THIS CAN'T GO ON EVERY DAY
YOU'RE GONNA GET HURT FAINTING LIKE THAT OR BECOME A PIG IN ALL THAT MUD
YA, THANKS VERY MUCH. I AGREE BUT WHAT TO DO? THEY ARE LIKE CAVEMEN AND KNOW ONLY ONE THING FEAR...!
CHRIS WASN'T FEELING ANY BRAVER. THEY HAD TO HAVE A PLAN, BUT WHAT? THINK, CHRIS
13


IF WE TELL SOMEONE WE'LL BE LABELLED RATS, YET IF WE DON'T WE'LL BE KILLED... EVERYDAY!


SO WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST MIKE?


WHAT IF WE START AN ANTI-BULLYING CAMPAIGN?!
GET THE WHOLE SCHOOL BEHIND... SORT OF A, "WE'VE HAD ENOUGH AND WE'RE NOT GONNA TAKE IT ANYMORE."


IF WE CAN GET EVERYONE TO SIGN UP, WE'LL TEACH 'EM TO BE SAFER FROM BULLYING!


WHAT DO YOU THINK, CHRIS?

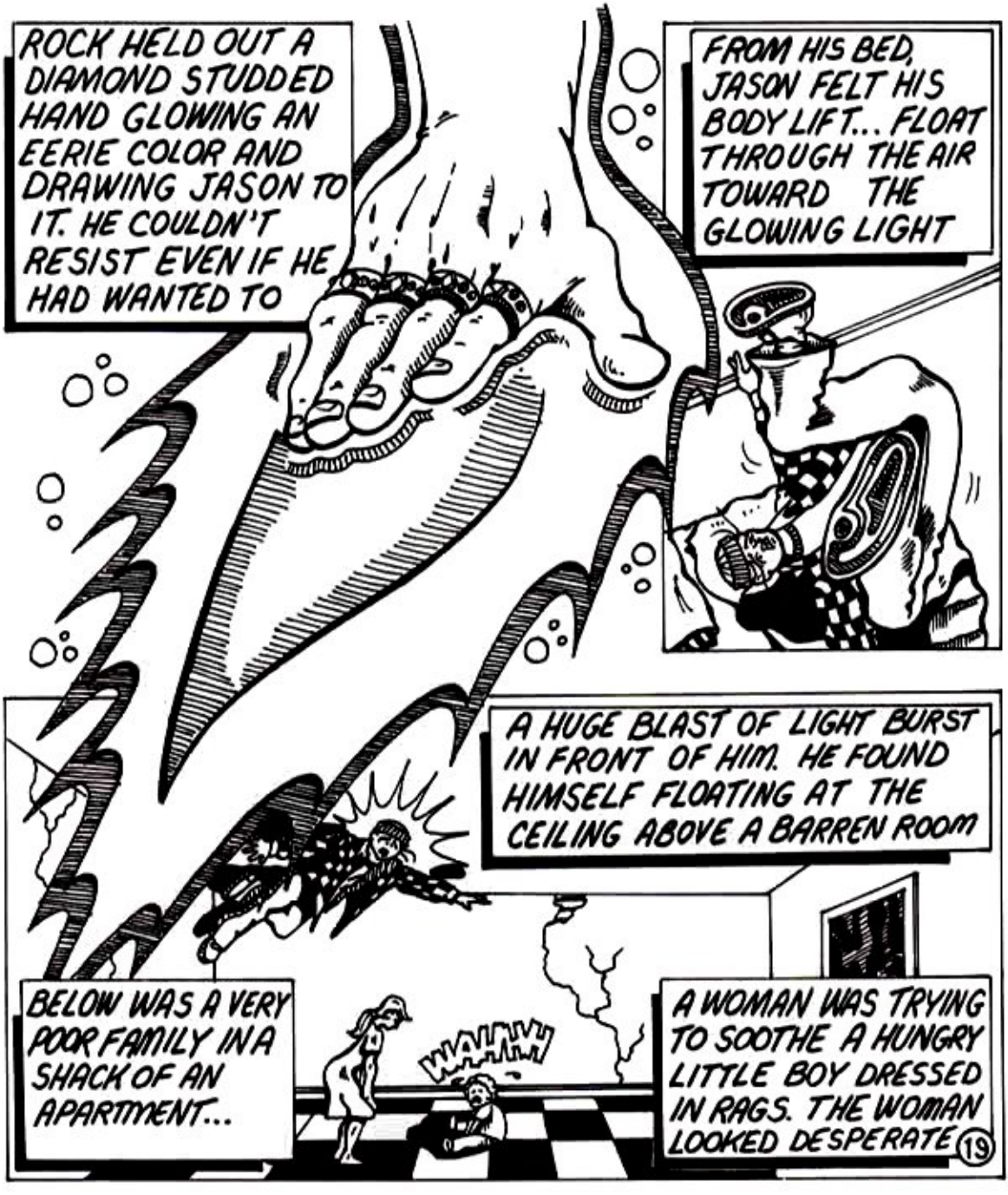

I THINK I'M GONNA FAINT...


CHAPTER FOUR
I SHOULD'VE POUNDED THE SNOT OUTTA 'EM! TOMORROW.
JASON TOSSED IN HIS BED, DEEP IN A BAD DREAM. HE SAW HIMSELF LYING IN BED, ANGRY AT HAVING BEEN COVERED IN MUD BY CHRISTOPHER.
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
SUDDENLY THE POSTER ON HIS FLOOR BEGAN TO MOVE. A LOUD CRACKLING SOUND FROM IT...
15


... CLIMBED A HUGE MAN CLAD IN A T-SHIRT, BLACK LEATHER PANTS AND ROUND "LENNON" SUNGLASSES. SHORT HAIR OUTLINED AN INTENSE FACE CASTING THE MAN IN A GHOSTLY LIGHT
TOMORROW WILL NEVER COME, JASON... NOT IF YOU KEEP GOING DOWN THE ROAD THAT YOU ARE ON, DUDE!
ROCK?!!! ROCK, MY FAVORITE SINGER?!! IS THIS FOR REAL, MAN? ROCK FROM THE BAND "PEACE OUT"? OH, MAN!!!


?
WHERE... HOW DID...
MOOOMMMM!!!?
NO ONE'S HERE JASON. JUST YOU AND ME, AND... I'M NOT REALLY HERE, AM I? JUST LIKE ALWAYS JASON, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN. ISN'T THAT THE WAY YOUR LIFE HAS GONE? ALL ALONE...
JASON WAS SO SCARED HE BEGAN TO SHAKE
NOOOOOOO... YOU'RE WRONG


MY MOM'S ALWAYS THERE WHEN I NEED HER. MY DAD'S TOUGH TOO.. I CAN COUNT ON HIM. HE'LL HELP ME OUT!
YOU CAN'T COUNT ON HIM, YOU KNOW THAT, JASON...
DON'T YOU?
YOU CAN'T COUNT ON ANY OF THEM, CAN YOU?
DON'T BELIEVE ME? TAKE MY HAND. DON'T BE AFRAID, I'LL TAKE YOU ON A JOURNEY... YOU CAN SEE WHERE YOU CAME FROM AND WHERE YOU'RE GOING
18


ROCK HELD OUT A DIAMOND STUDDED HAND GLOWING AN EERIE COLOR AND DRAWING JASON TO IT. HE COULDN'T RESIST EVEN IF HE HAD WANTED TO
FROM HIS BED, JASON FELT HIS BODY LIFT... FLOAT THROUGH THE AIR TOWARD THE GLOWING LIGHT
A HUGE BLAST OF LIGHT BURST IN FRONT OF HIM. HE FOUND HIMSELF FLOATING AT THE CEILING ABOVE A BARREN ROOM
BELOW WAS A VERY POOR FAMILY IN A SHACK OF AN APARTMENT...
WAHHH
A WOMAN WAS TRYING TO SOOTHE A HUNGRY LITTLE BOY DRESSED IN RAGS. THE WOMAN LOOKED DESPERATE
19


THE FRONT DOOR SLAMMED OPEN AND IN SULKED AN ANGRY MAN... THE FATHER... JASON ASSUMED
SLAM
SHUT THAT KID UP GLORIA. I DON'T NEED TO HEAR IT. ALL HE DOES IS SCREAM!
SHE SAID... JASON
THE MAN SHOOK THE CHILD BY THE ARM
SHUT UP, ALL YOU DO IS EAT AN' CRY
WAH
STOP IT! IT'LL BE OKAY, JASON
DON'T YOU EVER TOUCH MY BABY!
20


TEARS WELLED IN JASON'S EYES...
SHE CALLED HIM JASON! THAT BABY BOY IS ME! THIS WAS HOW MY LIFE WAS WHEN I WAS SMALL
YOU DIDN'T HAVE A GOOD START IN LIFE, DID YOU JASON? I HAVE MORE, THOUGH... MORE FOR YOU TO DISCOVER... COME MY YOUNG FRIEND...
AGAIN A BRIGHT BLAST EXPLODED IN THE AIR...
W-WHERE ARE WE?
WE ARE IN THE FUTURE REALM, JASON... THIS IS WHERE YOU'RE HEADED SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO STAY ON THE PATH YOU'RE CURRENTLY ON
...ROBBING JASON OF HIS SENSES MOMENTARILY!
21

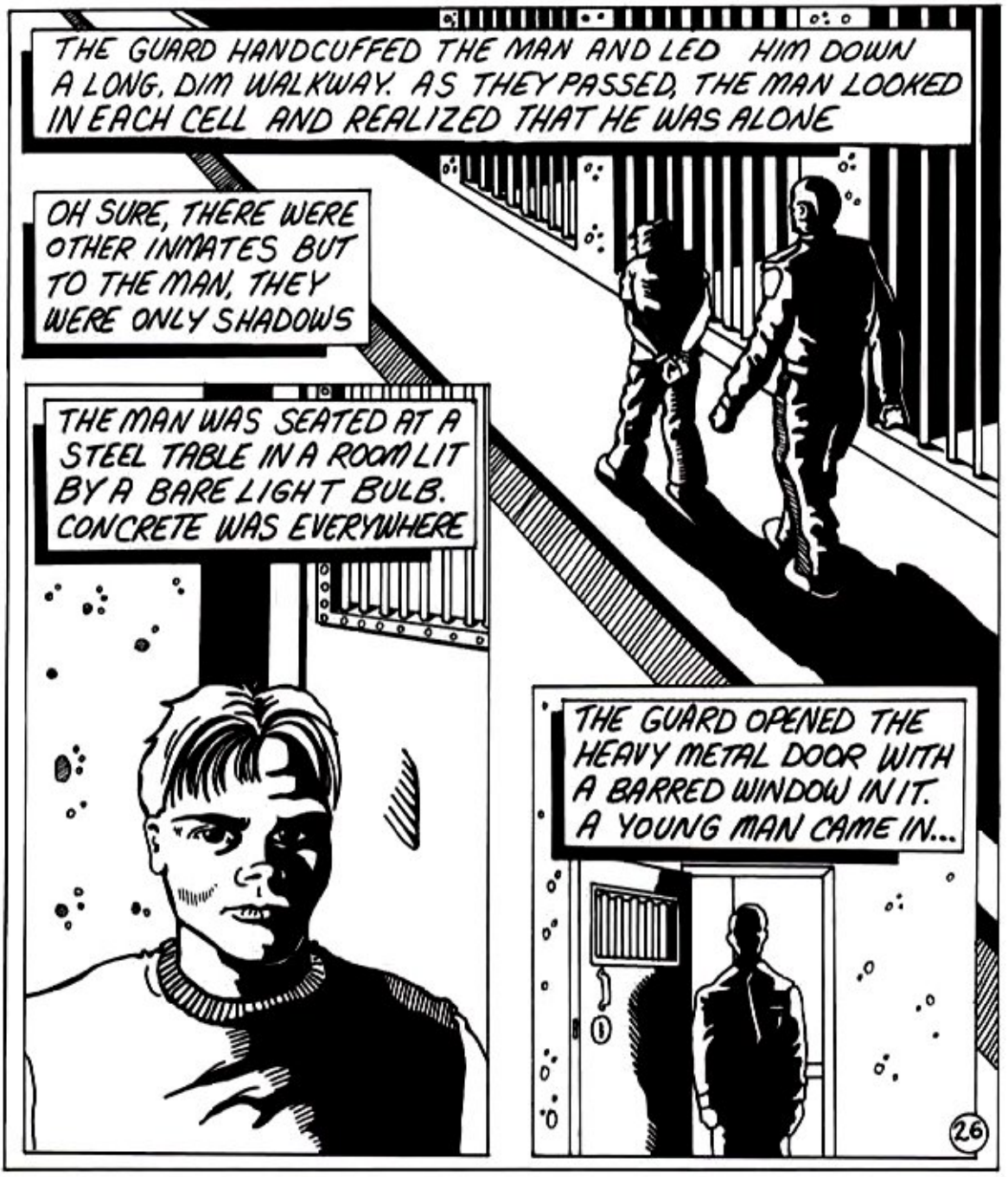

CHAPTER FIVE
DON'T BE AFRAID, ERIN. SCOTT AND ROB HAVE ALREADY SIGNED UP!
CHRIS WAS SCRIBBLING MADLY AS MICHAEL SAT ON THE PHONE CALLING ALL THEIR SCHOOLMATES; GETTING PEOPLE TO SIGN UP FOR THEIR ANTI-BULLYING CAMPAIGN WAS HARDER TO DO THAN EITHER BOY THOUGHT. NO ONE WANTED TO BE FIRST
MR. HORNER, THE PRINCIPAL, LOVED THE CAMPAIGN IDEA
HE KNEW THERE WAS A PROBLEM BUT MOST KIDS WERE TOO SCARED TO TELL HIM FOR FEAR OF VIOLENCE
PEER HELP WAS A GREAT IDEA AND MR. HORNER PROMISED MICHAEL A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY IN THE MORNING
IF WE CAN GET THE KIDS TO STOP CHEERING THESE FIGHTS, WE COULD STOP BULLYING!
WHAT DO YOU SAY, CHRIS?
I HOPE YOU RUN FOR MAYOR, MIKE. I'LL VOTE FOR YOU MAN!
22


CHAPTER 6
WAIT! THIS IS JAIL! WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE? I AIN'T GOIN' TO JAIL, MAN
JASON WAS NERVOUS. HE DIDN'T CARE MUCH FOR THIS FLOATING STUFF... ESPECIALLY ABOVE A JAIL!
WHY? WHY COULDN'T I HAVE HAD A NORMAL LIFE? WHY DIDN'T I CHANGE MY BEHAVIOR? I HAD NOTHING TO PROVE. I WAS TOUGH!
I HAD TO BE! THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE TO RELY ON!
BUTCH IS GONE AND ANNIE IS ON THE STREET SOMEWHERE... MAN... AREN'T WE TOUGH NOW!
23


ECHOING DOWN THE HALL CAME FOOTSTEPS
A MAN DRESSED IN A UNIFORM STOPPED AT THE INMATES CELL, STOOD TALL AND LOOKED AT THE MAN COWERING IN THE CORNER
JASON WHITE?
Y-YESS?
THERE'S SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU... TURN AROUND!
24

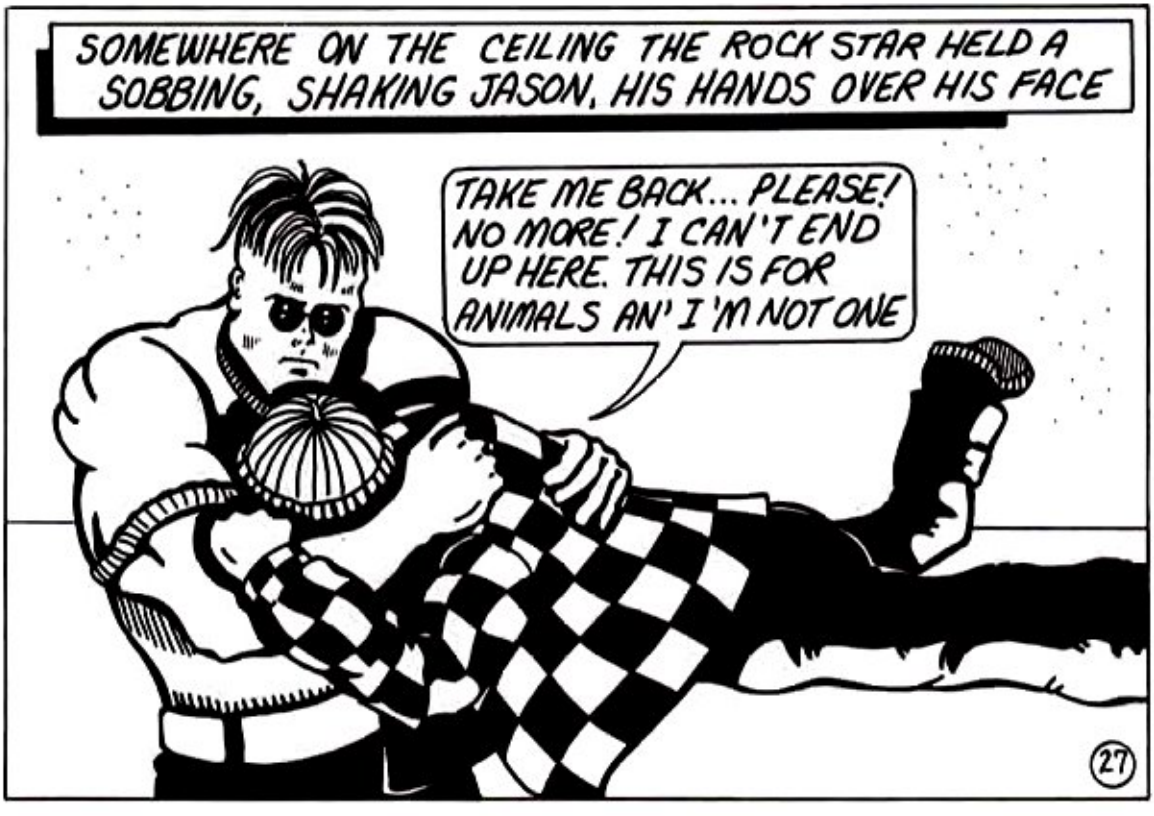

THE ROCK STAR LOOKED AT JASON FLOATING BESIDE HIM... THE LOOK ON THE BOYS FACE WAS PURE TERROR


TH-TH-THAT'S ME... IN JAIL! WHY? I WAS ONLY ACTING OUT
I DIDN'T MEAN NOTHING BY IT!
JUS' BEING TOUGH ... YOU KNOW... GOOFIN' AROUND
25


THE GUARD HANDCUFFED THE MAN AND LED HIM DOWN A LONG, DIM WALKWAY. AS THEY PASSED, THE MAN LOOKED IN EACH CELL AND REALIZED THAT HE WAS ALONE
OH SURE, THERE WERE OTHER INMATES BUT TO THE MAN, THEY WERE ONLY SHADOWS
THE MAN WAS SEATED AT A STEEL TABLE IN A ROOM LIT BY A BARE LIGHT BULB. CONCRETE WAS EVERYWHERE
THE GUARD OPENED THE HEAVY METAL DOOR WITH A BARRED WINDOW IN IT. A YOUNG MAN CAME IN...
26


A CALM, QUIET VOICE SPOKE
HELLO JASON


WITHOUT LOOKING UP, JASON KNEW... MICHAEL...
JASON, I WANT YOU TO KNOW... I FORGIVE YOU FOR ALL THE BULLYING


SOMEWHERE ON THE CEILING THE ROCK STAR HELD A SOBBING, SHAKING JASON, HIS HANDS OVER HIS FACE
TAKE ME BACK... PLEASE! NO MORE! I CAN'T END UP HERE. THIS IS FOR ANIMALS AN' I 'M NOT ONE
27


THE MORNING BELL RANG AND AS KIDS RAN TO CLASS RUMOURS FLEW
WOULD THE NEW ANTI-BULLYING CLUB SAVE MICHAEL AND CHRIS?
THE TEACHERS FILED THEIR CLASSES INTO THE GYM FOR MICHAEL'S TALK
CHRIS LOOKED AROUND THE GYM FOR JASON AND HIS PALS BUT THEY WERE NO WHERE TO BE FOUND. HE LOOKED AT MIKE...
MEANWHILE... THE DOOR TO THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR OPENED SLOWLY. IN SLUMPED A LONE BOY...
I-I-I AM JASON... AND I NEED HELP
THE END
28