

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
Edmond, Oklahoma
Dr. Joe C. Jackson College of Graduate Studies

Willow

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE FACULTY
In partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
MASTER IN ARTS IN ENGLISH CREATIVE WRITING

By
Terri L. Black
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

2017

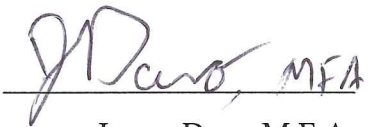
Willow

A THESIS

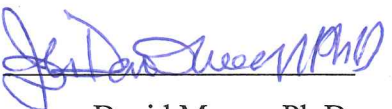
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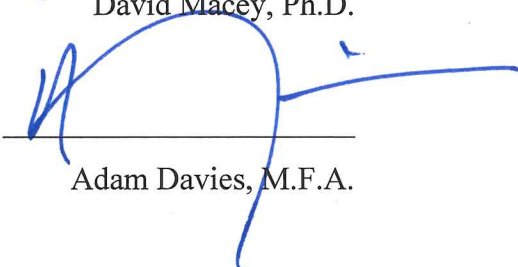
By



James Daro, M.F.A.



David Macey, Ph.D.



Adam Davies, M.F.A.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to God for giving me the strength, perseverance, and courage to embark on this odyssey. Thank you for your sacrifice and for always loving me.

I would like to thank my teachers for all the support they have given me. I could not have succeeded had it not been for the tremendous support at every stage of my education.

I would like to thank my professors at Oklahoma City Community College, Professor Julie Corff and Professor Mary Panches, who believed in me. You helped me soar higher than I ever thought possible.

A very special thank you to Kit Givan for helping me along the way, for providing guidance when needed, and for being honest with me, always . . . even when it was difficult. Thank you for always being there for me, as both my mentor and, most important, my friend. You are truly one of my most cherished friends and I will love you forever.

Thank you, James Daro, oh, king of graphic novels, for directing the writing of my thesis and for being a wonderful teacher. You taught me how to tighten up my writing, thereby making it better. Thank you for the poetry discussions at the Paramount, and for the emergency screenwriting sessions. Most of all, thank you for being my friend.

Thank you, Adam Davies. You are my hero. You have been there, done that. Through the fun times we have had over the past few years, I have grown to love you like a brother. I hope we are friends forever. Much love and respect to you, always.

Dr. David Macey, I want to thank you for being one of the best professors I have ever had. In regards to your classes, and life, you have a mannerism about you that puts everyone at ease. You always ask what “more I can be doing for you.” This selflessness is rare in a time when virtually everyone has the attitude of “me first.” I cannot express what it means to know you are always there, no matter what. Thank you for everything. I will never forget you, for you have placed your indelible fingerprint upon my heart.

Thank you to Misty Peckham, Deena Yates, Dr. David Macey, James Daro, and Belinda Monreal, for reading my story when it was so horribly rough. You are troopers.

Thank you to Wayne and Rosemary Black. You helped me out in so many ways during my trek toward becoming better-educated. I do not know what I would do without you. You are the rock upon which I stand. You are that which came before me. Being a “daddy’s girl” all my life has taught me how to become strong, to stay true to that which I love and to always, always be fair, kind and trustworthy. I love you both.

Thank you to my friends Misty Peckham, Patsy Smith, Deena Yates, Kit Givan, Lori Colbert, Margaret Jeffers, Kali Rickard, Tony, Brandee and Ayle French, Ron McVey, and Ken and Lesa Gise, for always being there and for always understanding. You are true friends, for you love me even when I am at my worst. (God knows how bad that is). True friendship sees through all the garbage life dishes out, sees the love within, and

withstands the tests of time. Thank you for seeing my beauty and for allowing me to appreciate yours. It is my hope we remain best friends forever.

Thank you to my tremendous family: Ellen Renee for encouraging writing morning pages, Mary Black Thompson for being my forever faithful pen-pal, Aunt Betti Black for always encouraging me and supporting me in every endeavor, Karen Black for always supporting me and for helping me hide from Donny, (p.s. I did not tell about the trampoline incident until a couple years ago).

I am thankful I come from a family with such a wide range of creative talents; from a grandfather who wrote Christian hymns in World War I to an uncle who traveled all over the world and wrote about it, and mom, dad and grandparents who were musically inclined. I am truly blessed to have acquired talent from such amazing people.

Although this story is based on fiction, I would like to extend a thank you to my main character, Willow, who kept speaking to me even though sometimes I wished she wouldn't. To all the children and adults who have endured, or are enduring the tragedy known as modern day slavery, I only wish I have is that this had never had to be written. I pray for you every night. For the past three years, you have weighed heavily upon my mind and my spirit. I hope this thesis does not stay on a shelf in a university, but rather makes it out into the world, where more people can become aware of just how big the problem is, of how it breaks lives and spirits. I pray you have the strength of a tree; that you bend and never break. People are coming to get you.

Thank you to Virginia Black. You raised me to be independent, kind, loyal, forgiving, trustworthy and honest. I hope I have not disappointed. You were a diamond in a sea of coal: regal, classy and elegant. You were my best friend. Not a day goes by I do not think of you. Whatever I am is because of you. I love you, Mom. Sometimes it felt like you and me against the world.

ABSTRACT OF THESIS

AUTHOR: Terri L. Black

TITLE: Willow

DIRECTOR OF THESIS: James Daro, M.F.A.

PAGES: 369

Willow is a story about one of the biggest problems facing humanity today: Human Trafficking. The world's population has never been higher. As a direct result, slavery has been more widespread. *Willow* is a fictional story about things that can occur when a person's safety and well-being, either alone, or with others, is compromised. After Willow and her mother escape an abusive father and husband, Willow does not protect herself. Once she has unwittingly let her guard down, something else happens to her that sends her on a downward spiral. It is this event that changes her view of everything, and everyone, around her. *Willow* addresses the problems associated with human trafficking: the guilt, shame, and trauma that both girls and boys feel. It also concentrates on the empathy the victims have for their captors. The graphic novel is about the hold the captors have on their victims . . . about how sometimes the victims do not even know they are being victimized. *Willow* attempts not to concentrate on the negative but instead, shows the reader what can be done to help control, and eradicate, the problem of human trafficking. It aims to raise awareness so people around the world will rally for laws that will discourage the trafficking of innocence. It is a story of sacrifice and of love.

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PART ONE CAST:

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- 2) **STEPHANIE WEBER:** Willow's mom: 33 years old, blond hair, blue eyes, 5'7" tall. Works two jobs: one as a waitress at the local diner and as a teacher at Willow's new school. She wants only the best for Willow, but is struggling herself. She begins dating Jim, and things between them begin to escalate quickly. She is distraught between her love for Willow and the new man in her life.
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- 5) **GREG ARMSTRONG:** Leigh's seventeen-year-old blonde, brown-eyed 6' 1" 170-pound brother. Cool, athletic and smart, he is everyone's friend. Greg became friends with Michael when he went out for the kicker position for the football team. Greg is saving up money for college in hopes of pursuing a medical career. He works at McDonald's and Kohl's in order to save money.
- 6) **MINDY ARMSTRONG:** Mindy is 5'8" tall, slender build, with auburn hair and green eyes. Her husband died, so she is raising two children alone. She works two jobs and is not around much.
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- 8) **MARK VALENTINE:** 14 years old, 5'10", blond headed, blue eyed, and popular quarterback. He likes reading, going to movies and concerts, and surfing. He is caught in a love triangle with his devious and deceptive best friend, Eric Thompson.
- 9) **CARRIE LOGAN:** 14 years old, popular and gorgeous, brown haired, brown eyed cheerleader. She hates everything Willow stands for. She is in love with Mark Valentine, Willow's new romantic interest. She threatens Leigh's rise to popularity,

only Willow is unaware of it. She will do anything to ensure her future place in the school.

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- 11) DANNY ANDERSON:** 14 year old 7th grader, brown hair brown eyes, football player and avid surfer. He has witnessed a crime, but is unable to come forward without putting his own popularity in jeopardy. What should he do?
- 12) TRACY ROBERTS:** 43 years old, light brown hair, blue eyes, 5' 8" tall. Willow's teacher at school. Remembering what it is like to be a 7th grader, she only wants the best for her students. She understands the teenager belief that anyone over 20 cannot be trusted. She has taken a liking to Willow and wants to help her if Willow will allow it.
- 13) BUDDY DANGER:** Buddy is 6'0" tall, twenty years old with black hair and brown eyes. Buddy, aka Jose Esquivel, has only lived in the United States for one year. He recently learned his brother has gotten sick in Mexico and will die soon if Buddy cannot figure out a way to get him to America for treatment. The cost of smuggling his brother into America is upwards of \$80,000.00. He realizes, even if he does get his brother in, they could deport him, thus causing him to never have the treatments he needs to live. He becomes involved with the wrong people in town, who talk him into some quick money. He knows what he is doing is wrong, but he cannot let his brother die.
- 14) VIRGINIA GOLDEN:** Willow's bus driver. She has witnessed first-hand the Eric and Leigh's taunts toward Willow. Like her name, she believes in fairness, equality and a safe atmosphere for her students to ride in. She is brave, kind, honorable and bold.
- 15) CHRISTOPHER GAGE:** Chris has been principal of Thomas Jefferson Junior High for seven years. He takes notice of one of his new students, Willow Weber, when it comes to his attention she was raped by one of the students. He is extremely interested in finding out exactly what happened when she and another classmate mysteriously disappear.
- 16) JOSEPH WEBSTER:** Joseph is the Student Resource Officer for Thomas Jefferson Junior High. He has been on the city's police force for fifteen years. He is 35 years of age, 6'4" tall, 265 pounds. In his spare time, he competes in bodybuilding competition. He recently won the Excalibur

17) JOE WRIGHT. Joe works at 7-11 as a night clerk. He is 6' tall, 155 pounds, and has black hair and dark brown eyes. He is married and has two kids, ages He does not realize that even the night shift has its surprises.

18) GLADYS SIMMONS. Gladys is sixty years old African-American, is 5' tall, weighs 125 pounds and has black hair and black eyes. She has worked for Thomas Jefferson Junior High for thirty years. She has witnessed a lot in those thirty years and it has left her with a desire to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

PART TWO CAST

1. **WILLOW WEBER:** 14 year old 7th grader: brown hair, brown eyes, 5'4" tall. Loves rock and roll, especially KISS and The Black Keys, skateboarding, dancing, and writing poetry. After a tragic party incident, Willow finds herself ostracized from her new friends. Because of this incident, she puts herself at risk and finds herself in a situation she could have never imagined.
2. **LEIGH ARMSTRONG:** 15 years old, blond hair, blue eyes, 5'2" tall. Leigh likes playing video games, reading, dancing, and skateboarding. She is outgoing, smart and is physically and mentally strong.
3. **RYAN SCOTT:** (Scotty). Scotty is against the job he is being forced to do. But, he owes Donahue . . . and Donahue will not let him forget it.
4. **GREG ARMSTRONG:** Leigh's seventeen-year-old blonde, brown-eyed 6' 1" 170-pound brother. Cool, athletic and smart, he is everyone's friend. Greg became friends with Michael when he went out for the kicker position for the football team. Greg is saving up money for college in hopes of pursuing a medical career. He works at McDonald's and Kohl's in order to save money.
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9. **EMILIANO MORAL:** Head detective of the Missing Persons Department of Oklahoma City Police Department. He is investigating a large number of young men and women who have been disappearing in his rapidly growing community.
10. **SARAH PETERSON:** Sarah is on the missing persons bulletin. She was last seen at the recreation center, but was reported to never come home. Police detectives are searching for her, but have been unable to locate her. Because she comes from a broken home, they are investigating her father, Rick Peterson, in hopes of learning something concerning her disappearance.
11. **KIM MURPHY.** Kim is a sassy red-head who stands 4'11" tall, and only weighs 110 lbs. She has a great, however warped, sense of humor. She loves teasing and playing tricks on people.
12. **NIGEL OWENS.** Nigel is a ten-year-old boy who loves swimming and playing basketball. He is of Welsh descent and stands 4'8" tall and weighs 73 pounds. He has light brown hair and green eyes.
13. **SEAN CHO.** Sean is a nine-year-old boy who enjoys playing video games, reading and playing baseball in the spring.
14. **RACHEL MCCLANAHAN.** Rachel is a thirteen-year-old girl who loves skating and playing soccer. She stands 5'1" tall and weighs 132 pounds. She has strawberry-blonde hair and blue eyes.
15. **PATTY HENDRICKS.** She has worked at Thomas Jefferson Middle School for fifteen years as a teacher. She loves the students and tries to help them learn. She is known for staying after school to help students reach their potential. She is single, has one daughter, aged eight, who goes to the elementary school a couple miles away.
16. **MERRITT DONAHUE.** Merritt is a corrupt, greedy man who runs a restaurant in the middle of downtown. He does not have a wife or children. He is forty-two years old, stands 5'10" tall, weighs 228 pounds and is balding with blue eyes. He lives in a large mansion just a couple of miles out-of-town between Central City and Macomb City in the Daytona Hills.
17. **ABLE JONES.** Able has owned the local wrecker company for thirty-five years. Many people know him as Big Boss Man. He is a handsome fifty-eight-year-old man, stands 6'3" tall and weighs 188 pounds. He has thinning brownish-gray hair and green eyes.
18. **JAMES THOMPSON.** James, also known as Ace, is a judge in Central City and the father of Eric Thompson. He worked as an attorney for Central City Police Department for twenty years as a Defense Attorney. When the opportunity arose, he ran for office as Judge. The people voted him in three years ago. Ace is forty-three years old, has thinning blond hair and brown eyes, stands 6' tall and weighs 175 pounds. Two years ago, his family bought a 10,000 square foot mansion in the Daytona Hills, not far from Merritt Donahue.

- 19. JOSHUA BARNES:** Joshua is a good friend of Buddy Danger's. He wants to join the Coast Guard when he graduates from high school so he can be of-service to his country. He is 5'9" tall, weighs 145 pounds and has brown hair and brown eyes.
- 20. JOYCE BENNETT:** Joyce Benson is a new detective at Central City Police Department. She realizes she is under some scrutiny because she is new, as well as the fact she is a woman. She is looking for a way to boost her respectability and credibility.
- 21. ROSALITA ESQUIVEL:** Rosalita, also known as Mama, is the mother of both Angel and Jose Esquivel, also known as Buddy Danger. She is worried about her sons because Angel has a rare brain tumor and Jose has raised a huge amount of money from unknown sources.
- 22. ANGEL ESQUIVEL:** Angel is only 11 years old. He, like his brother Jose, has black hair and brown eyes. He has been sick recently and just learned through the doctors he has a disease that can only be treated in America. If he does not receive treatment, he may not live to see his next birthday. He and Jose have always been close; he is Angel's buddy, always. He knows Buddy will do whatever he can to get him to America.
- 23. PATRICIA DUNHAM:** Thomas Jefferson Junior High School counselor. Patricia is 28 years old, stands 5'10" tall, 155 pounds, strawberry-blond hair, blue eyes. She went to school in order to assist children because her older brother committed suicide when she was twelve years old.

THE SETTINGS: Central City and Macomb City (both fictional).

Willow

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- 13) BUDDY DANGER:** Buddy is 6'0" tall, twenty years old with black hair and brown eyes. Buddy, aka Jose Esquivel, has only lived in the United States for one year. He recently learned his brother has gotten sick in Mexico and will die soon if Buddy cannot figure out a way to get him to America for treatment. The cost of smuggling his brother into America is upwards of \$80,000.00. He realizes, even if he does get his brother in, they could deport him, thus causing him to never have the treatments he needs to live. He becomes involved with the wrong people in town, who talk him into some quick money. He knows what he is doing is wrong, but he cannot let his brother die.
- 14) VIRGINIA GOLDEN:** Willow's bus driver. She has witnessed first-hand the Eric and Leigh's taunts toward Willow. Like her name, she believes in fairness, equality and a safe atmosphere for her students to ride in. She is brave, kind, honorable and bold.
- 15) CHRISTOPHER GAGE:** Chris has been principal of Thomas Jefferson Junior High for seven years. He takes notice of one of his new students, Willow Weber, when it comes to his attention she was raped by one of the students. He is extremely interested in finding out exactly what happened when she and another classmate mysteriously disappear.
- 16) JOSEPH WEBSTER:** Joseph is the Student Resource Officer for Thomas Jefferson Junior High. He has been on the city's police force for fifteen years. He is 35 years of age, 6'4" tall, 265 pounds. In his spare time, he competes in bodybuilding competition. He recently won the Excalibur
- 17) JOE WRIGHT.** Joe works at 7-11 as a night clerk. He is 6' tall, 155 pounds, and has black hair and dark brown eyes. He is married and has two kids. He does not realize that even the night shift has its surprises.

- 18) GLADYS SIMMONS.** Gladys is sixty-years-old, African-American, is 5' tall, weighs 125 pounds, and has black hair and black eyes. She has worked for Thomas Jefferson Junior High for thirty years. She has witnessed a lot in those thirty years, and this has left her with a desire to defend those who cannot defend themselves.
- 19) STEVE KNIGHT:** Steve is 5'10" tall, 195 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes. He is a woman-hating, narcissistic thug who spent his life living in a crack house where his mom prostituted herself out to supply her drug habit. He met Merritt Donahue when Ace Thompson defended him for raping a twelve-year-old girl. Once he got him off due to a technicality, he began working for Ace and Merritt.
- 20) LARRY ALEXANDER:** Larry is 5'8" tall, balding with dark hair, a moustache and beard. No-one really knows where he comes from. He appeared in town looking for work and found it at Dominique's as a table busser. That is where he met Merritt Donahue.

PART TWO CHARACTERS

1. **WILLOW WEBER:** 14 years old, seventh grader: brown hair, brown eyes, 5'4" tall. Loves rock and roll, especially KISS and The Black Keys, skateboarding, dancing, and writing poetry. After a tragic party incident, Willow finds herself ostracized by her new friends. Because of this incident, she puts herself at risk and finds herself in a situation she could have never imagined.
2. **LEIGH ARMSTRONG:** 15 years old, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'2" tall. Leigh likes playing video games, reading, dancing, and skateboarding. She is outgoing, smart and is physically and mentally strong.
3. **RYAN SCOTT:** (Scotty). Scotty is against the job he is being forced to do. But, he owes Donahue . . . and Donahue will not let him forget it.
4. **GREG ARMSTRONG:** Leigh's 17-year-old blonde, brown-eyed, 6' 1", 170-pound brother. Cool, athletic and smart, he is everyone's friend. Greg became friends with Michael when he tried out for the kicker position for the football team. Greg is saving up money for college in hopes of pursuing a medical career. He works at McDonald's to earn money.
5. **MICHAEL KNIGHT:** 5'11" tall, 185 pounds, 17 years old, blond hair, green eyes. Like Greg, Michael is looking forward to attending college as soon as he graduates. Always having believed in fair play, he wants to attend law school so he can punish those who do not conform societal laws and expectations. He plays football, wide receiver, for the Senior Varsity.
6. **MINDY ARMSTRONG:** Mindy is 5'8" tall, slender build, with auburn hair and green eyes. Her husband died, so she is raising two children alone. She works two jobs and is not around much.
7. **STEPHANIE WEBER:** Willow's mom: 33 years old, blond hair, blue eyes, 5'7" tall. Works two jobs: one as a waitress at the local diner and as a teacher at Willow's new school. She wants only the best for Willow, but is struggling herself. She begins dating Jim, and things between them begin to escalate quickly. She is distraught between her love for Willow and the new man in her life.
8. **BUDDY DANGER:** Buddy is 6'0" tall, twenty years old with black hair and brown eyes. Buddy, aka Jose Esquivel, has only lived in the United States for one year. He recently learned his brother has gotten sick in Mexico and will die soon if Buddy cannot figure out a way to get him to America for treatment. The cost of smuggling his brother into America is upwards of \$80,000.00. He realizes that, even if he does get his brother in, the government could deport him, thus denying him the treatments he needs to live. He becomes involved with the wrong people in town, who talk him into some quick money. He knows what he is doing is wrong, but he cannot let his brother die.

9. **EMILIANO MORAL:** Head detective of the Missing Persons Department of Central City Police Department. He is investigating a large number of young men and women who have been disappearing in his rapidly growing community.
10. **SARAH PETERSON:** Sarah is on the missing persons bulletin. She was last seen at the recreation center, and is reported to have never come home. Police detectives are searching for her, but have been unable to locate her. Because she comes from a broken home, they are investigating her father, Rick Peterson, in hopes of learning something concerning her disappearance.
11. **KIM MURPHY.** Kim is a sassy red-head who stands 4'11" tall, and weighs 110 lbs. She has a great, but warped, sense of humor. She loves teasing and playing tricks on people.
12. **NIGEL OWENS.** Nigel is a ten-year-old boy who loves swimming and playing basketball. He is of Welsh descent and stands 4'8" tall and weighs 73 pounds. He has light brown hair and green eyes.
13. **SEAN CHO.** Sean is a nine-year-old boy who enjoys playing video games, reading and playing baseball in the spring.
14. **RACHEL MCCLANAHAN.** Rachel is a thirteen-year-old girl who loves skating and playing soccer. She stands 5'1" tall and weighs 132 pounds. She has strawberry-blonde hair and blue eyes.
15. **PATTY HENDRICKS.** She has worked at Thomas Jefferson Middle School for fifteen years as a teacher. She loves the students and tries to help them learn. She is known for staying after school to help students reach their potential. She is single, and has one daughter, aged eight, who goes to the elementary school a couple miles away.
16. **MERRITT DONAHUE.** Merritt is a corrupt, greedy man who runs a restaurant in the middle of downtown. He does not have a wife or children. He is forty-two years old, stands 5'10" tall, weighs 228 pounds and is balding with blue eyes. He lives in a large mansion just a couple of miles out of town between Central City and Macomb City in the Daytona Hills.
17. **ABLE JONES.** Able has owned the local wrecker company for thirty-five years. Many people know him as Big Boss Man. He is a handsome fifty-eight-year-old man, stands 6'3" tall and weighs 188 pounds. He has thinning brownish-gray hair and green eyes.
18. **JAMES THOMPSON.** James, also known as Ace, is a judge in Central City and the father of Eric Thompson. He has worked as an attorney for Central City Public Defender's office for twenty years as a Defense Attorney. When the opportunity arose, he ran for office as Judge. The people voted him in three years ago. Ace is forty-three years old, has thinning blond hair and brown eyes, stands 6' tall and weighs 175 pounds. Two years ago, his family bought a 10,000-square-foot mansion in the Daytona Hills, not far from Merritt Donahue.

19. **JOSHUA BARNES:** Joshua is a good friend of Buddy Danger's. He wants to join the Coast Guard when he graduates from high school so he can be of-service to his country. He is 5'9" tall, weighs 145 pounds, and has brown hair and brown eyes.
20. **JOYCE YOUNGF:** Joyce Young is a new detective at Central City Police Department. She realizes she is under some scrutiny because she is new, and because she is a woman. She is looking for a way to boost her respectability and credibility.
21. **ROSALITA ESQUIVEL:** Rosalita, also known as Mama, is the mother of both Angel and Jose Esquivel, who is also known as Buddy Danger. She is worried about her sons because Angel has a rare brain tumor and Jose has raised a huge amount of money from unknown sources.
22. **ANGEL ESQUIVEL:** Angel is only 11 years old. He, like his brother Jose, has black hair and brown eyes. He has been sick recently and just learned through the doctors he has a disease that can only be treated in America. If he does not receive treatment, he may not live to see his next birthday. He and Jose have always been close; he is Angel's buddy, always. He knows Buddy will do whatever he can to get him to America.
23. **PATRICIA DUNHAM:** Thomas Jefferson Junior High School counselor. Patricia is 28 years old, stands 5'10" tall, 155 pounds, strawberry-blond hair, blue eyes. She went to school in order to assist children because her older brother committed suicide when she was twelve years old.

THE SETTINGS: Central City and Macomb City (both fictional).

PART ONE**PAGE ONE.****PANEL ONE.**

PRESENT. Willow. Sitting on a stool at an old-fashioned makeup table, looking through a round mirror at the reader.

1. CAPTION: Present.
2. WILLOW: Hi. I'm Willow. I'm 14 years old.

PANEL TWO.

Willow. Facing the reader now. Still seated.

3. WILLOW: I am a victim of Human Trafficking.

PANEL THREE.

Willow is hanging her head in shame, tears rolling down her cheeks.

PAGE TWO**PANEL ONE.**

With head still down, Willow blots her eyes.

1. WILLOW: Please don't judge, let me tell you: I was once like you.

PANEL TWO.

Willow looks directly at camera, sad, but determined, courageous.

PANEL THREE.

2. WILLOW: I went to school, hung out with my friends and family. I laughed and cried, played . . . just like you.

PANEL FOUR.

Willow is sitting with her hands in her lap.

3. WILLOW: People always think everything happens to someone else . . . never to them or someone they love.

PAGE THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Willow stands, places her hands on her hips, points at the reader.

1. WILLOW: But, bad things happen . . .to everyone! Even you!

PANEL TWO.

Willow is seated, once again, on the stool in front of the mirror, her head hung low.

2. WILLOW: You see, greed has polluted the world.

PANEL THREE.

Willow is standing at her bird's cage, opening the door.

3. WILLOW: A drug trafficker can sell his drug only once, but he can sell a human as many times as he chooses.

PANEL FOUR.

Willow's bird sits on her finger, looking at Willow.

4. WILLOW: Once you're there, they can do **whatever** they like.
5. WILLOW: There's nothing you can do about it . . . nothing.

PAGE FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Willow puts the bird back into the cage, her head hung low, chin resting on her chest.

1. WILLOW: How did it happen?

PANEL TWO.

Willow directly at the reader. , her face darkened in sadness.

2. WILLOW: Quite quickly.

PANEL THREE.

Willow is seated on the stool again, looking directly at the reader..

3. WILLOW: Every good story begins at the beginning.

PANEL FOUR.

Willow is still looking at the camera, hands in lap, holding a cellphone, somewhat detached.

4. WILLOW: I had a game that evening, but a severe thunderstorm cancelled the game.
5. CAPTION: End of flash forward – present.

PAGE FIVE.**PANEL ONE.**

August 29. Darkened clouds fill the sky, lightning streaks across the sky. Rain is coming down in sheets. Willow is running across her front yard in front of a modern two-story brick house. A cat dodges under the shrub for protection. Her next door neighbor is running from across her lawn, too.

1. CAPTION: August 29.
2. BOY: Better seek shelter; a tornado is coming this way!
3. WILLOW: No way!

PANEL TWO.

Willow is on the porch, opening the door. Debris is swirling in the air, their United States flag is fully stretched out, proudly displaying its Stars and Stripes.

4. (DISEMBODIED): ROAR!

PANEL THREE.

Willow is inside the house, the door closed behind her, her body pressed against the door, a look of horror on her face.

PANEL FOUR.

Beside Willow, the reader sees Willow's step-father, Howard, beating her mother, Stephanie Weber, a backhanded slap caught in mid-air right before it strikes her mother's face. Her mother eyes are wide with fright, and she is leaning backward trying to avoid his slap. Willow's chin is dropped, her body still leaning against the front door. The tornado, coming ever-closer to their house, growls in destructive anger.

5. TORNADO (DISEMBODIED) ERRRRR!

PAGE SIX.**PANEL ONE.**

Her step-father lands his slap, her mother's face flattened, her head turning now toward Willow. Willow, clutching her softball bag, feels the bat located in the bag's holder.

PANEL TWO.

Howard, upon seeing Stephanie's expression of fear, throws another blow, this one a roundhouse from his right side. Willow has pulled the bat from its holder. The tornado draws even closer, the windows crash onto the floor, drapes are pushed inward from the wind.

1. TORNADO (DISEMBODIED): GROWL!

PANEL THREE.

Stephanie is lying on the floor, Howard leaning over her, kicking her. Willow has shortened the distance between them, bat held high like she is going to bat one out of the park. Debris swirl through the house from the broken windows.

PANEL FOUR.

Willow lands the blow from the bat across Howard's middle back area. Stephanie is on her back pushing herself away from Howard's anger and aggression.

2. SFX: WHAP!

PAGE SEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Howard is lying on the ground, his hands and arms up to protect himself. Howard cries out in terror. Willow is standing directly over him, the bat coming down on him. Stephanie is trying to stand.

1. HOWARD: Willow!!!

PANEL TWO.

Willow's bat hits Howard directly in the knee. Stephanie has managed to stand up about halfway at this point.

PANEL THREE.

Howard screams in pain, grabs his knee to his chest. Willow realizes she has taken him out for the moment. The bat hangs loosely at her side.

2. WILLOW: Mom, we gotta go! Haven't you had enough?
3. STEPHANIE: Yes, let's leave!

PANEL FOUR.

Stephanie is standing at the end table, opening a drawer. There is a gun there. Willow is standing over Howard, making sure he doesn't get up. Through the window, they see the tornado has changed paths and is moving away from them.

4. STEPHANIE: We may need this.

PAGE EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Willow runs down the hall. Stephanie has the gun in one hand and a wad of cash in the other.

1. STEPHANIE: This will help.
2. HOWARD: Oh, no! Don't leave!
3. TORNADO: GRRRR!

PANEL TWO.

Howard pleads with Stephanie and Willow not to leave. Willow has returned with a couple of duffle bags, filled with clothes and things they need.

4. HOWARD: I'll never touch you or Willow again! I promise!
5. STEPHANIE: You've said that before!

PANEL THREE.

Willow and Stephanie are walking out the door. Howard is trying to stand, but cannot.

6. HOWARD: Please!

PANEL FOUR.

Stephanie and Willow are in their car, pulling out of the driveway. Howard has managed to make it to the door. His head is hung low, a look of anguish fills his eyes and tears are rolling down his cheeks.

7. HOWARD: No, baby, don't leave.

PAGE NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Present. Willow is in the kitchen, making herself a sandwich. Mayonnaise, ham, cheese and a bottle of pop lie on the kitchen counter. One piece of bread is in her right hand, a knife in the left. She is looking at the reader over her shoulder.

1. CAPTION: Present.
2. WILLOW: So, you see, things happen that are completely out of our control.

PANEL TWO.

Willow is standing, facing the reader, with the sandwich in her hand.

3. WILLOW: We were a happy family, that is until dad began drinking.

PANEL THREE.

Willow is walking into her living room, looking at the reader over her right shoulder.

4. WILLOW: Dad was an attorney, mom, a teacher. We lived in a big house, with a swimming pool, and a maid. We had all the toys, too: cars, boats, motorcycles, even a yacht.

PANEL FOUR.

Willow is sitting in front of the television, her feet propped on the living room table. A picture, with the family in front of a large \$500,000 house is visible in the background.

5. WILLOW: But, things are seldom as they seem. 27,725 actual cases of sex trafficking since 2007 proves the problem exists!

PANEL FIVE.

Willow hangs her head and has a sad expression on her face.

6. WILLOW: It's not only in America; it's worldwide.

PAGE TEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Willow is in her bedroom, late at night. The drapes are fully closed, and her door is open, unlike most teenagers.

1. WILLOW: So, what is Human Trafficking, you ask?

PANEL TWO.

Willow has her phone in her hand, with her earbuds in the other.

2. WILLOW: It's simply the exploitation of humans in either the sex or labor trade by people who view you as property, not actual human beings.

PANEL THREE.

Willow is lying on her back, listening to her music.

PANEL FOUR.

It is the next morning. The sun is shining through the window of the dining room, where Willow and her mom are seated at a table getting ready to eat bowls of cereal.

3. WILLOW: How did I become a victim? Easy. I didn't trust my gut instincts. I should have been more careful about who I hung around with.
4. STEPHANIE: You're confusing them. The best story is told from the beginning, dear.
5. WILLOW: Okay. Here goes.
6. CAPTION: End of flash-forward.

PAGE ELEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Wednesday, September 7. Willow is walking up to her new school, Thomas Jefferson Junior High. Buses are in the background and many students are milling about. A large statue of Thomas Jefferson stands between her and the buses.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, September 7.
2. WILLOW: First day at a new school is always rough, especially during Mid-term.
3. VOICE (DISEMBODIED): Hey, Loser!

PANEL TWO.

Ms. Roberts is in the office at Thomas Jefferson Junior High checking her mail when she notices a new girl approach the counter.

4. RECEPTIONIST: May I help you?
5. WILLOW: Yes, I'd like to pick up my schedule.
6. RECEPTIONIST: Name?
7. WILLOW: Willow Weber.

PANEL THREE.

The receptionist hands her a copy of her schedule. Willow reaches across the table to take it, exposing her forearm that reveals fingerprint bruises. Ms. Roberts sees them.

8. RECEPTIONIST: Fill these out.
9. WILLOW: Okay.

PANEL FOUR.

Ms. Roberts walks out of the office into the hallway filled with lively students. Willow is still in the office filling out the forms.

PAGE TWELVE.**PANEL ONE.**

Willow is in Time Block 1, sitting at a desk. Some of the students are seated; others are still coming in.

PANEL TWO.

The teacher, Ms. Roberts, enters the room just as the bell rings. Science lab tables fill the room. Located above each table is a Station Number.

1. SFX: Rrrring!
2. MS. ROBERTS: Break off into groups of four. I'd like for you, the new student, to sit at Station Number Four, please.

PANEL THREE.

The students are assembled at their work stations. The teacher is directing class. Willow's mouth is hanging open and her face has turned white.

3. MS. ROBERTS: As you recall, today is the day we dissect frogs. Each station will get one frog. Choose one person from your group to come up and retrieve your frog and take it back to your station.

PAGE THIRTEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

The most handsome boy at her table goes to retrieve the frog. Willow's mouth is shut. The girl with the blond hair is looking at her, with a large grin on her face.

1. GIRL: Chose a good day to start, didn't you?
2. WILLOW: Yeah, sure looks that way.
3. GIRL: I'm Leigh.
4. WILLOW: Hey Leigh, I'm Willow.

PANEL TWO.

The handsome boy has returned to the table and is sitting down next to Willow. The frog is in a jar in the middle of the table. Willow's cheeks are flushed. Leigh has a big smile on her face.

5. HANDSOME YOUNG MAN: Hey!
6. WILLOW: Hey!
7. LEIGH: This is Mark.

PANEL THREE.

Ms. Roberts has her back to the class and is writing instructions on the board. The other boy at the table has the frog in his hand.

PANEL FOUR.

Boy Number Two throws the frog at Mark. It hits him right in the face. Mark is leaning backward trying to avoid the blow.

8. MARK: Uhhhh!

PAGE FOURTEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Ms. Roberts has turned around and is facing the class, with an angry expression on her face. The frog is lying on the ground at Mark's feet. Mark and Leigh both look shocked. Boy Number Two face is frozen in a laugh.

1. MS. ROBERTS: What is going on in here? Who did that?

PANEL TWO.

Willow looks enraged. Both Leigh and Mark are looking at Ms. Roberts. Willow has made a fist and plants it right in the middle of Boy Number Two's face. Boy Number Two's nose is bleeding.

PANEL THREE.

Leigh has a shocked expression on her face. The Handsome Boy has a smile on his face. Willow is trying hard not to laugh.

2. MARK: Eric hit me with the frog!
3. MS. ROBERTS: I saw what Willow did!
4. MARK: But, did you see what started it?
5. MS. ROBERTS: Everyone, get out a piece of paper and write step-by-step what the procedures are for dissecting a frog. Willow, out in the hall, please!

PANEL FOUR.

Willow walks toward the door. Mr. Roberts is close behind. Girl Number One, Carrie Logan, brings Eric a tissue.

6. MS. ROBERTS: Eric, go see the nurse and then go to the office.
7. ERIC: Thanks, Carrie, for the tissue.
8. CARRIE: Sure.

PAGE FIFTEEN.

PANEL ONE.

Willow and Ms. Roberts are standing in the hall. Eric glares at Willow as he passes by, hand held to his nose.

1. ERIC: Loser!
2. WILLOW: Jerk!
3. MS. ROBERTS: Just stop, the both of you! Get to the office!

PANEL TWO.

Ms. Roberts looks upset. Willow is leaning against the wall, with her arms across her chest.

4. MS. ROBERTS: Is this your first day here?
5. WILLOW: Yep.
6. MS. ROBERTS: Kind of rough, huh?
7. WILLOW: Yep.

PANEL THREE.

Willow and Ms. Roberts are grinning at each other.

8. MS. ROBERTS: Just for the record, I would've done the same thing when I was your age, but . . .
9. WILLOW: Yeah?
10. MS. ROBERTS: Yeah, but you didn't hear that from me.

PANEL FOUR.

Willow laughs. Ms. Roberts smiles.

11. MS. ROBERTS: You know where to go now.

PAGE SIXTEEN.

PANEL ONE.

Willow turns and walks toward the office. Ms. Roberts walks back into her classroom.

PANEL TWO.

Willow is sitting in the office directly across from where Eric is sitting. Both students are holding referrals in their hands. A receptionist is busy working at her desk.

1. ERIC: Hey.
2. WILLOW: Hey.
3. ERIC: You got a nice right hook!
4. WILLOW: Yeah.

PAGE SEVENTEEN.

PANEL ONE.

Willow is sitting at home, her feet propped upon a chaise lounge in front of a pool. She is drinking a pop.

1. WILLOW: Holding true to ALL first days, this one turned out to be horrible!

PANEL TWO.

Willow jumps into the pool.

2. SFX: Splash.

PANEL THREE.

Willow is at the side of her pool, her arms draped over the top of the concrete. A large, knowing grin covers her face.

3. WILLOW: But, it got much, much better!

PAGE EIGHTEEN.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, September 8: the next day at school. Willow is at lunch, sitting at a table all by herself. Mark is approaching her table. The lunch room is full, students walking around, some sitting at tables eating, talking and laughing.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, September 8.

PANEL TWO.

Mark is standing at Willow's table, a big grin on his face. Willow is looking up at Mark.

2. MARK: Hey, thanks for yesterday.
3. WILLOW: No problem.
4. MARK: Can I eat with you?
5. WILLOW: Sure!

PANEL THREE.

Mark sits down at the table, right beside Willow. The backs of their hands are touching.

6. MARK: There's a party over at Eric Thompson's house on Saturday night. Wanna go?
7. WILLOW: Eric? You mean, the one I punched?
8. MARK: Yeah, that one!

PANEL FOUR.

Mark's head is turned toward Willow, clearly waiting for her answer. Willow is looking at him. Mark's hand is placed on Willow's forearm.

9. WILLOW: I guess. Sure it's okay?
10. MARK: Yeah, it's cool. I'll talk to him.

PAGE NINETEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Willow is looking down at her food. Mark is still looking at her. Leigh is approaching the table.

1. MARK: You're really beautiful, you know?
2. WILLOW: Thanks.
3. LEIGH: What's up?

PANEL TWO.

Willow's head is down, her face and ears red from embarrassment. Mark is looking at Leigh as she approaches the table. Leigh looks at Mark accusingly.

4. LEIGH: Jeez Mark, what'd you do to my new friend?
5. MARK: Nothing, really.
6. LEIGH: Doesn't look like nothing.

PANEL THREE.

Willow is looking at Leigh now, her face several shades lighter. Leigh is looking at Willow.

7. WILLOW: Mark just asked me to go to Eric Thompson's party with him.
8. LEIGH: Really? WOW! Cool!

PANEL FOUR.

Mr. Gage sees Willow and Leigh talking. As she is walking toward the cafeteria dump station, he stops her.

9. MR. GAGE: Hi, how are things going?
10. WILLOW: Good.

PAGE TWENTY.**PANEL ONE.**

Mr. Gage walks along with them as they approach the dump station. Leigh is looking straight ahead, while Willow is looking up at Mr. Gage.

1. MR. GAGE: Making new friends?
2. WILLOW: Yeah, a couple.
3. GAGE: Good! Let me know if I can help you with anything, okay?
4. WILLOW: Okay.

PANEL TWO.

Present. Willow is back in her bedroom. She is looking through the same mirror she was looking at the reader in during the first panel.

5. CAPTION: Flash-Forward - Present.
6. WILLOW: Adults are so fake sometimes. I didn't know if he really wanted to help me or what. I was so excited about the party, though! I couldn't wait for Saturday night! I had no idea how bad it would be.

PANEL THREE.

Willow is looking down at her hands that are clearly folded in her lap.

7. WILLOW: That was the night that changed everything.
8. CAPTION: End of flash forward.

PAGE TWENTY-ONE.**PANEL ONE.**

Friday, September 9. Willow is at the party. Eric lives in a large house with five bedrooms, a three-car garage and an in-ground pool with a pool house with a billiards table. There are about forty people in the living room, while the rest of the party is in the swimming pool. Mark and Eric greet her at the door.

1. CAPTION: Friday, September 9.
2. ERIC: Come on in!
3. WILLOW: You have a nice house.
4. MARK: Hey, gorgeous!

PANEL TWO.

Willow looks embarrassed, but flattered. Eric is staring at the two of them, an angry expression clouding his face. Mark is reaching out for Willow's hand.

PANEL THREE.

Willow takes Mark's hand. They are smiling at each other. Eric has turned and is walking away.

PANEL FOUR.

Eric returns with a six-pack of Budweiser. Mark and Willow are looking at him.

5. ERIC: Here! Drink up!

PAGE TWENTY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Eric hands two beers over to Mark. Mark takes them. Willow appears unsure.

1. ERIC: Come on now, don't leave me hanging!

PANEL TWO.

Mark looks at Willow to see her expression. Eric looks impatient.

2. MARK: You don't have to if you don't want to.

3. WILLOW: No, it's okay . . . just as long as you're around. Promise?

4. MARK: Yes, I promise.

5. ERIC: Come on, already!

PANEL THREE.

6. CAPTION: Several Hours Later.

Mark is passed out on the couch. There are only a handful of people still awake. A couple is sitting on the loveseat, making out. Two people are lying on the chaise loungers by the pool. The drapes to the big house are all pulled back, exposing both the living room, the pool area and the billiards room are in the picture, as well. The lights are out and it looks still, almost eerie. Willow has had too many drinks herself, and can barely stand. She is leaning against the couch. Eric is standing next to Willow.

7. ERIC: You know, I think you're cute.

8. WILLOW: Really?

9. ERIC: Yeah.

PANEL FOUR.

Eric moves closer to Willow, touches her shoulder. Willow looks unsure.

10. ERIC: Wanna go play some pool?

11. WILLOW: What about Mark?

12. ERIC: Ahhh, he'll be passed out for hours.

PAGE TWENTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Eric and Willow are by the pool. Eric is opening the door to the billiards room. Willow is walking through the door. At the far end of the pool, Boy Number Three is lying on a chaise lounge, watching them, his arm resting on his head. Eric and Willow clearly do not see him.

PANEL TWO.

Eric is teaching Willow how to hold a pool cue. He is leaning in behind Willow, his hand on top of hers on top of the stick. He has his face nuzzled into her neck.

1. WILLOW: No!
2. ERIC: Slut!

PANEL THREE

Willow pulls away from Eric, her back to the pool table. Eric is glaring at her.

3. WILLOW: NO!

PANEL FOUR.

Eric slaps Willow.

4. WILLOW: Ohhhh!

PAGE TWENTY-FOUR.**PANEL ONE.**

Eric has pushed Willow onto the pool table, and has positioned himself between her legs, and is unbuttoning his pants. Willow is trying to push him away.

1. WILLOW: No, please, No!

PANEL TWO.

Boy Number Three hears Willow's screams and comes to investigate. Eric does not stop; he is inside her now. He slaps her again.

2. WILLOW: Please, help! No!

PANEL THREE:

Boy Number Three is at the door now, looking in. He sees Eric raping Willow. Willow sees Boy Number Three at the window, but does not know who he is. Willow's eyes are pleading for help. Eric does not see him.

3. WILLOW: Please!

PANEL FOUR.

Eric places his hand over Willow's mouth, but doesn't move from his position, or stop. Willow is trying to push him off, but he is too strong. Boy Number Three is still at the window, looking in, but his face is down.

4. WILLOW: Oh God, No!

5. ERIC: Uhhh!

PAGE TWENTY-FIVE.**PANEL ONE.**

Upon hearing Eric's cry of satisfaction, Boy Number Three moves away from the billiards room door. He looks sad. Willow is lying on her back, dress askew, crying. Eric is zipping up his pants, standing between her legs. A satisfied look is displayed on Eric's face.

1. ERIC: Thanks for the lay, slut! Not very good, either. Wait until I tell Mark what a slut you are!

PANEL TWO.

Flash Forward – Present. Willow is sitting at her dining room table, a bowl of cereal before her.

2. CAPTION: Flash Forward – Present.
3. WILLOW: I guess you're wondering why I didn't fight back more, why I didn't tell anyone.

PANEL THREE.

Willow has the spoon to her mouth. She is looking at the reader.

4. WILLOW: I was so ashamed. I don't even remember walking home. How could I report it?

PANEL FOUR.

Willow head has dropped to her chin; her face looks extremely sad. The contents of the spoonful of cereal spills back into the bowl.

5. WILLOW: Afterwards, in the shower, I couldn't tell where my teardrops ended and the water droplets began.
6. CAPTION: Flash Forward ends.

PAGE TWENTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Monday, September 12. In the hallway at school Monday morning, Eric makes fun of Willow. Mark, Carrie, and Leigh are standing nearby.

1. CAPTION: Monday, September 12.
2. ERIC: Well, if it isn't Thomas Jefferson's newest loser!

PANEL TWO.

Mark stands up for Willow, then tells Eric that he likes her. Leigh has moved closer. Many other students have moved closer in, waiting and hoping for a fight. Boy Number Three is toward the front of the crowd, looking on.

3. MARK: Back off, man! I like her. Leave her alone!
4. ERIC: Oh, really? She worth it, man?

PANEL THREE.

Eric has a cocky look on his face. He and Mark are standing toe-to-toe in the hallway now. The crowd has moved in closer.

5. ERIC: After you passed out at the party, she came on to me, so I gave the dog a bone. IF she liked you so much, why'd that happen, huh?
6. MARK: No way!
7. DISEMBODIED VOICE: FIGHT!

PANEL FOUR.

Mark pushes Eric. The crowd moves back to give them room. Leigh is looking at Willow, a puzzled expression on her face. Willow looks shocked. Carrie is looking at Willow, an expression of happiness on her face.

PAGE TWENTY-SEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Eric is on his back, looking up at Mark. He is trying to explain what happened.

1. ERIC: Hey man, I'm sorry. She was coming on to me since day one. I wanted to tell you.
2. MARK: To hell with you, Eric!

PANEL TWO.

Willow is looking at Mark, with a pleading expression on her face. Mark is looking back at her, with a disbelieving look on his face. Eric is in the process of getting up off the floor.

3. MARK: Is it true?
4. WILLOW: No, Mark. He raped me. I never came on to him!
5. ERIC: Liar! She's lying, dude!

PANEL THREE.

Danny Anderson makes an advance like he is wanting to say something. Carrie Logan runs up, and pushes Willow to the ground.

6. CARRIE: You don't deserve him, you tramp!

PANEL FOUR.

Carrie Logan turns to Mark, and puts her arm around him. Willow is forcing back tears. The crowd is beginning to disperse, disappointed that a real fight had not occurred. Danny has retreated to the back of the crowd.

7. CARRIE: Come on, Mark. Let's go to class. Forget her. She didn't deserve you, anyway.
8. WILLOW: Wait, please!
9. DISEMBODIED VOICE: Well, that was lame!

PAGE TWENTY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Mrs. Roberts is coming out of her classroom. A bystander in the crowd is looking at the teacher and while pulling on another student's shirt.

1. STUDENT: Teacher! Let's go!

PANEL TWO.

The second bystander/student looks over toward the teacher. The students all are looking toward the student who yelled teacher.

PAGE TWENTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

The two bystander students are walking away from the group. The rest are also beginning to disperse.

PANEL TWO.

Mrs. Roberts walks up. Leigh has her arm extending out to Willow, who is still sitting on the floor. Willow looks at her, accusingly.

1. MRS. ROBERTS: What's going on here?
2. LEIGH: She tripped.

PAGE THIRTY.**PANEL ONE.**

Another group of students comes running through the hall, practically knocking Mr. Walker down.

PANEL TWO.

Mr. Walker turns and runs after them. Willow and Leigh are standing there, watching as he runs after them.

1. MR. WALKER: Hey!

PANEL THREE.

Willow, still sitting on the ground, staring up at Leigh, angry, fists clenched.

2. WILLOW: Where were you Saturday night? You were supposed to be there!

3. LEIGH: I'm sorry, but my family got sick. I had to stay home. I'm sorry!

PAGE THIRTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

Danny Anderson walks back up and looks down at Willow. Willow looks shocked. Leigh is offering her arm to Willow. Willow points her finger at Danny.

1. WILLOW: You . . . you were there!

PANEL TWO.

Danny's head is down. He looks extremely sad. Willow's eyes are bright. Leigh is watching.

2. WILLOW: You gotta tell someone what you saw, please?

3. ERIC: I can't. If I do, they'll hate me. I'll lose my football scholarship.

4. LEIGH: What? You were there?

5. ERIC: Yes.

PANEL THREE.

Willow and Leigh are watching as Danny walks away, his head hung low.

6. WILLOW: Wait, please!

PAGE THIRTY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Ms. Roberts comes out into the hall and finds the two girls. Willow is still sitting on the ground.

1. MS. ROBERTS: What happened?

PANEL TWO.

Willow is standing, her head hung low. Ms. Roberts is looking at Leigh. Leigh is looking at Willow.

2. MS. ROBERTS: Leigh, what happened?
3. LEIGH: Uh, I can't tell you, Ms. Roberts.

PANEL THREE.

Willow is walking away toward the school doors, her back turned to the reader, as well as Leigh and Ms. Roberts.

4. MS. ROBERTS: Willow, come back! Where are you going?

PANEL FOUR.

Ms. Roberts is shown standing in the hall, with Leigh walking in one direction and Willow walking in the other.

PANEL FIVE.

The outside door shuts. Ms. Roberts is the only one standing in the hall. The bell on the wall rings.

5. SFX: SLAM!
6. SFX: RRRRRING!

PAGE THIRTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Present. Willow is lying in bed. The glow from her television set illuminates her room.

1. CAPTION: Present.
2. WILLOW: I'm not sure what happened. I shut down. I wondered if I had done anything to have caused what happened.

PANEL TWO.

Willow is still in bed, eating from a bag of Doritos.

3. WILLOW: The guilt and pain was so bad I slept for the next twenty-eight hours.
4. CAPTION: End of flash forward - present.

PAGE THIRTY-FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Monday, September 12. The reader hears a knock at Willow's bedroom door. It is Stephanie, her mom. Willow is clearly jolted.

1. CAPTION: Monday, September 12.
2. SFX: Knock! Knock!
3. STEPHANIE: Willow, come eat! Dinner's ready!
4. WILLOW: Not hungry!

PANEL TWO.

Stephanie is at Willow's door, waiting.

5. STEPHANIE: Willow, open this door!

PANEL THREE.

Willow is still lying on her bed, her pillow buried in her face.

6. WILLOW: What?
7. STEPHANIE: What's wrong? I'm worried about you.
8. WILLOW: Everything's okay, Mom. Go away!

PANEL FOUR.

Stephanie has a look of disappointment on her face

9. STEPHANIE: We'll talk tomorrow, okay?
10. WILLOW: Okay, Mom. Go away!

PAGE THIRTY-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Tuesday, September 13. The next morning, Stephanie knocks on Willow's door.

1. CAPTION: Tuesday, September 13.
2. STEPHANIE: Willow, are you awake?
3. WILLOW: Yes, Mom. I am.
4. STEPHANIE: Ready to talk?

PANEL TWO.

Willow opens the door. Mother and daughter look at each other.

PANEL THREE.

Stephanie hugs Willow, who also hugs back.

5. STEPHANIE: Let's have breakfast!
6. WILLOW: Okay.

PANEL FOUR.

Willow and Stephanie are sitting at the breakfast nook, eating a bowl of oatmeal, toast and drinking a cup of coffee.

7. STEPHANIE: Anything you want to talk about? What's going on?
8. WILLOW: I'm just having friend problems, Mom.

PAGE THIRTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Stephanie looks concerned. Willow has her head down; tears are running down her face.

1. STEPHANIE: Should I call their parents?
2. WILLOW: Mom, please don't. This is not grade school; you'll just make things worse!

PANEL TWO.

Stephanie is standing in the middle of the dining room, with her hands on her head, clearly distressed.

3. STEPHANIE: Maybe we should have stayed where we were. At least you were happy!
4. WILLOW: Getting beat up by Dad and watching you get beat up didn't make me happy, Mom . . . and it didn't you, either.

PANEL THREE.

Willow has walked over to Stephanie and put her arms around her.

5. WILLOW: It's gonna be okay, Mom. Okay? It will. It has to be.
6. STEPHANIE: I hope so.

PAGE THIRTY-SEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Flash forward - Present. Willow and her mom are sitting in the kitchen eating dinner. Willow is looking at the reader.

1. CAPTION: Flash Forward - Present.
2. WILLOW: I went back. Don't know how, but I did.

PANEL TWO.

Willow takes their plates to the sink.

PANEL THREE.

She begins washing the dishes while looking at the reader over her right shoulder.

3. WILLOW: I wish I could say things got better, but they didn't.
4. CAPTION: End of Flash Forward.

PAGE THIRTY-EIGHT.**PANEL ONE.**

Tuesday, September 13. It is lunch time at Willow's school. As she enters the cafeteria, she notices Carrie Logan sitting at a lunch table with her hand on Mark's arm.

1. CAPTION: Tuesday, September 13.

PANEL TWO.

Willow is standing at Mark's table, looking for forgiveness for whatever part she may have played in what happened. Carrie is looking at Willow with contempt.

2. WILLOW: Mark, I want to explain, please.

PANEL THREE.

Carrie is standing and slaps Willow across her face. Eric throws his food at her and then begins to taunt her.

3. ERIC: Go home, WHORE! No-one wants you here!
4. CARRIE: Stay away from Mark. He's mine!

PANEL FOUR.

Willow walks away, toward the cafeteria exit, tears running down her face. Leigh is standing by one of the tables close to the exit, waiting on her. Carrie is cuddled in closer to Mark, watching Willow.

PAGE THIRTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

The reader's point of view changes from looking at Willow's back to one where the reader sees the expression on Willow and Leigh's faces. The cafeteria looms in the background. Eric is standing up, pointing his finger at Willow. As Willow walks beside Leigh. Leigh joins her. The taunting cries from several people fill the air in the cafeteria.

1. SFX: Loser!
2. SFX: Whore!
3. SFX: Slut!
4. ERIC: Sure glad she's gone!

PANEL TWO.

Ms. Simmons, one of the cafeteria ladies, hears the commotion and hurries out toward the students.

PANEL THREE.

Ms. Simmons is standing at the table where Carrie, Mark, and Eric are sitting. She looks angry.

5. MS.SIMMONS: Why don't you leave people alone? What'd she do to you?

PANEL FOUR.

As Ms. Simmons walks away, the students begin taunting her, also.

6. ERIC: Ooh, dig the hair net!
7. CARRIE: Looks so good on her!

PANEL FIVE.

Ms. Simmons turns around and glares at them. Eric and Carrie have their faces down in their meals, snickering at each other.

8. MS. SIMMONS: Keep it up, and I'll report you to Mr. Gage!

PAGE FORTY.**PANEL ONE.**

Patricia Dunham, a counselor for the school, is visiting the cafeteria for her lunch. As she walks in, she witnesses the exchange between the students and Ms. Simmons and watches as Willow and Leigh sit down at one of the other tables, far from Eric, Carrie and Mark.

1. MS. DUNHAM: THOUGHT BALLOON. I need to talk to her later.

PANEL TWO.

Patricia Dunham pays for her lunch and speaks to the cafeteria lady.

2. MS. DUNHAM: Do you know the girl who's sitting with Leigh Armstrong?

PANEL THREE.

The cafeteria lady looks over toward the table Ms. Patricia is looking.

3. CAFETERIA LADY: Yes, that is the new girl, Willow Weber.
4. MS. DUNHAM: Thank you.

PANEL FOUR.

The reader sees Ms. Dunham walk down the middle of the cafeteria. Business, as usual, continues in the lunch room. Money for food is exchanged, students are talking amongst themselves.

PAGE FORTY-ONE.**PANEL ONE.**

Leigh and Willow are seated at a different table on the other side of the cafeteria. Leigh is trying to cheer Willow up. Willow's head is still down.

1. LEIGH: Hey, don't listen to them. They're Neanderthals.
2. WILLOW: I know.
3. LEIGH: What happened, anyway?
4. WILLOW: Not here. Outside.

PANEL TWO.

Willow and Leigh are seen outside. They are seated beside the statue of Thomas Jefferson.

5. WILLOW: Mark got drunk and passed out. Eric was bored. He wanted to play some pool. I told him I better stay with Mark. He insisted, so I went with him. He raped me.

PANEL THREE.

Leigh is leaning in closer to Willow, clearly intrigued by Willow's story.

6. LEIGH: What happened with Danny?
7. WILLOW: While it was happening, I looked up and saw Danny looking through the window.

PANEL FOUR.

Willow is trying to explain to Leigh what happened. Leigh is listening intently.

8. WILLOW: I tried to tell him No, but he wouldn't stop.
9. LEIGH: Did you tell anyone?
10. WILLOW: Who am I supposed to tell? I'm new here. No-one would believe me, anyway.

PAGE FORTY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Both Willow and Leigh have their heads down, clearly pondering the ramifications of such an accusation.

1. LEIGH: What are you gonna do now?
2. WILLOW: I don't know. I guess wait until Danny comes forward. He's worried if he comes forward, he'll lose his football scholarship.

PANEL TWO.

Leigh is standing up, offering her hand to Willow to help her up.

3. LEIGH: No sense worrying right now. Wanna come hang out with me after school?
4. WILLOW: Sure.
5. LEIGH: We can ride the bus home, okay?
6. WILLOW: Okay.

PANEL THREE.

Leigh is running off to class, just as the bell rings. Willow is standing there, looking at her new friend.

7. SFX: Rrrring!
8. LEIGH: Meet me by the statue after school!
9. WILLOW: Okay.

PAGE FORTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Willow still looks sad as Leigh disappears behind the school doors.

PANEL TWO.

Willow rushes to class. As she walks into the door, the teacher looks up from her roll call.

1. TEACHER: You're late!
2. WILLOW: Sorry, I got lost.

PANEL THREE.

Willow is sitting in Time Block 6, looking anxious. Nervous anxiety fills the room as the students anticipate freedom. The clock on the wall reads 3:45. Another 35 minutes left before last bell. The teacher is writing something on the board. A few careful and deliberate students are copying the information.

PANEL FOUR.

An office aide interrupts the silence when she appears in the doorway.

3. OFFICE AIDE: Office needs Willow Weber.
4. WILLOW: Come on!

PAGE FORTY-FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

The teacher dismisses Willow, never losing a beat at the board.

1. TEACHER: Willow, go with the young lady.

PANEL TWO.

The two girls walk to the office together, never saying a word.

PANEL THREE.

When Willow walks into the office, Patricia Dunham, school counselor, greets her.

PANEL FOUR.

They are sitting in Ms. Dunham's small office, filled with pictures of her family on her desk and walls. A certification hangs on her wall just inside the doorway. There is a display of books and ceramic figurines are displayed on a bookshelf.

2. MS. DUNHAM: So, how've you been?
3. WILLOW: I'm okay, I guess.
4. MS. DUNHAM: You guess?

PAGE FORTY-FIVE.**PANEL ONE.**

Willow is sitting toward the back of her chair, while Ms. Dunham is standing behind hers. Note to illustrator: Ms. Dunham is the school counselor. On her desk is her name, as well as certificates showing on the wall indicating her degree(s).

1. WILLOW: Well, it's always hard making new friends.
2. MS. DUNHAM: Yes, well I noticed you were involved in a dispute in the cafeteria today. Can you tell me what happened?

PANEL TWO.

Willow fidgets a little in her seat, puts her hand to her mouth. Ms. Dunham leans forward a little in anticipation of her reply.

3. WILLOW: No, it's okay.

PANEL THREE.

There is a huge commotion coming from outside the office. Ms. Dunham is startled, as is Willow. Ms. Cunningham is by the door. Willow is standing behind her.

4. SFX: BANG!
5. SFX: SLAM!

PANEL FOUR.

Ms. Dunham opens the door to find two young men fighting in the hallway. The Student Resource Officer, Sgt. Webster and Principal Gage are coming around the corner. Sgt. Webster has on a police uniform with a badge and a gun on his hip.

PAGE FORTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Sgt. Webster has his knee buried on the back of one of the boys, while Mr. Gage is hanging onto the other one. When Mr. Gage sees Ms. Dunham, his eyes light up.

1. MR. GAGE: Hey, do you mind taking one of the boys into your office with Sgt. Webster? I will take the other one into the office with me.
2. MS. DUNHAM: No, I don't mind at all.

PANEL TWO.

Ms. Cunningham is looking at Willow while they handcuff the other student.

3. MS. DUNHAM: Can we continue this conversation another time? You okay?
4. WILLOW: Yeah, I'm okay.
5. MS. DUNHAM: You know where to find me, okay?
6. WILLOW: Okay.

PANEL THREE.

Willow leaves the office area as the students are being led to separate offices.

PANEL FOUR.

Flash – Forward. Present: Willow is playing a video game and puts it on pause. *Grand Theft Auto* is frozen on the television screen.

7. CAPTION: Present.
8. WILLOW: I didn't even get a chance to tell her. Even if I did, would she have believed me? I was new, after all. Why should she? Nobody else did.
9. CAPTION: End of Flash-Forward – Present.

PAGE FORTY-SEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Willow returns to her classroom for the last minute of class. The energy is getting more intense as the minutes approach 4:20, the time of last bell.

1. SFX: Rrrring!
2. WILLOW: God, finally!

PANEL TWO.

Willow is running down the hall, her hair flying behind her. Ms. Roberts is standing outside her classroom as Willow runs by.

3. MS. ROBERTS: See you tomorrow, Willow!
4. WILLOW: See ya!

PANEL THREE.

Willow clears the doorway and sees Leigh waiting for her by the statue.

PAGE FORTY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Willow and Leigh run toward a row of buses. Bus 50 is sitting there, waiting for them.

1. LEIGH: Come on!

PANEL TWO.

Willow and Leigh are on the bus, looking for seats. As they are going down the aisle, she and Leigh pass Carrie Logan and Eric Thompson. They stare at Willow and Leigh as though they were lepers.

PANEL THREE.

Less than a block from the first stop, Eric cannot stand it anymore. He makes fun of Willow. Outraged, Willow looks at Eric. Leigh looks around in defense of her friend. Carrie Logan looks on in contempt of Willow and Leigh.

2. ERIC: Well, lookee here, the whore has returned for more.
3. WILLOW: Rapist!

PAGE FORTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Leigh throws an apple at Eric, hitting him directly in the eye. Eric screams in pain. Willow laughs. Carrie looks infuriated.

1. ERIC: Ow!
2. LEIGH: Bullseye!
3. WILLOW: Ha! Serves you right!

PANEL TWO.

Virginia Golden, the bus driver, looks in to the overhead mirror. The view is from her angle. The students are taunting one another.

4. VIRGINIA: Hey! Ya'll stop now!

PANEL THREE.

The kids continue taunting one another.

PAGE FIFTY.**PANEL ONE.**

Virginia pulls the bus over to the side of the road.

PANEL TWO.

Virginia has gotten up, and walked to the back of the bus. She finds that Eric's eye is already turning black. Beside him, on the seat, is a bruised apple.

1. BUS DRIVER: Who threw this?
2. DISEMBODIED VOICE: Leigh.
3. BUS DRIVER: Leigh, you know I'm going to have to write this up.

PANEL THREE.

Leigh and Willow follow the bus driver to the front of the bus.

4. LEIGH: It's okay, Virginia. He deserved it! Maybe next time, he'll think twice.

PANEL FOUR.

Leigh and Willow are at the front of the bus. Virginia is standing behind them.

5. LEIGH: We'll get off here. Sorry for the trouble.

PAGE FIFTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

As the bus pulls away, Carrie Logan and Eric Thompson stick their middle fingers up at Willow and Leigh.

1. LEIGH: Losers!

PANEL TWO.

Laughing, the two girls sit on the ground as the bus driver drives away.

2. LEIGH: Did you see his expression?

3. WILLOW: What about hers?

4. LEIGH: He's gonna have a shiner for sure, a big one!

5. WILLOW: Serves him right!

PANEL THREE.

Willow and Leigh are at Leigh's house. She is handing Willow a skateboard.

6. LEIGH: You can use my new board. I like the older one better, anyway.

7. WILLOW: Thanks!

PANEL FOUR.

8. LEIGH: You know, you're better off without Mark if he hangs around with people like Eric.

9. WILLOW: Yeah, I know.

PAGE FIFTY-TWO.**PANEL ONE.**

Leigh and Willow are shown doing various skateboarding tricks. (A note to the illustrator: Very large panel or a series of panels. It is needed to show some good times are being had, not just bad).

PAGE FIFTY-THREE.**PANEL ONE.**

Willow and Leigh are skating down Leigh's driveway when Greg, Leigh's brother, and his friend, Michael, pull into the driveway. They are ultra-cool in the girls' eyes, so they look extremely happy when they pull in.

PANEL TWO.

Greg is outside the car, the car door still open. Leigh runs up to him, gives him a hug. Greg and Leigh are both smiling. Michael is only partway out of the car. His head is just clearing the car. Willow is at the back of the car.

1. GREG: Well, hello to you, too!
2. LEIGH: So glad you're home. You smell like French fries.
3. GREG: Who's that?
4. LEIGH: Oh, that's Willow, my friend.

PANEL THREE.

Willow is standing beside the car on Greg's side. Michael has come around to the driver's side. Leigh is looking at Michael., clearly infatuated.

5. LEIGH: How's it going, Michael?
6. MICHAEL: Great? You?
7. LEIGH: Well, I've had better days.
8. WILLOW: Ain't that the truth?

PANEL FOUR.

The guys are looking at each other, questioningly. Leigh looks disgusted.

9. GREG: So, are you gonna introduce us, or what?
10. LEIGH: This is Willow. Willow, this is my brother, Greg, and his friend, Michael. They're the reason my parents have house rules!

PAGE FIFTY-FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Greg is outside the car, while Michael is in the process of getting out. Greg is looking at Willow. Leigh is looking at Michael.

1. GREG: So, Willow, are you cool?
2. WILLOW: Yeah, I'm cool.
3. GREG: Well then, come on in!

PANEL THREE.

As soon as they got into the house, Greg pulls out a joint. Michael and Leigh sit down on the couch. Willow stands there. Greg is staring at her chest for around her neck lie a sterling silver necklace with her name emblazoned across it.

4. GREG: Hey, by the way, nice necklace!
5. WILLOW: Hey, thanks! My mom got it for me!
6. LEIGH: Very nice.
7. WILLOW: Thanks!

PAGE FIFTY-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Greg is looking at Leigh questioningly. Michael is already taking a hit.

1. GREG: You sure she's cool?
2. LEIGH: Absolutely.
3. MICHAEL: Your friend's cute!
4. LEIGH: Hey! Hands off, you sexy cretin!

PANEL TWO.

Willow sits down on the floor in-between Greg and Leigh. Michael passes the joint over to Greg. Greg has his hand out to take it.

5. MICHAEL: Puff, Puff, Pass.
6. GREG: I know, dumbass.

PANEL THREE

Greg passes the joint over to Willow. She looks like she does not know whether she wants to, or not.

7. GREG: You don't have to if you don't want to. Up to you, no pressure.

PAGE FIFTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Willow takes the joint and presses it to her mouth, a smile shows at the corners of her mouth. Her eyes appear bright.

1. WILLOW: Okay, as long as you're here.
2. GREG: I'll be here.
3. WILLOW: Promise?
4. GREG: Yes, I promise

PANEL TWO.

Willow is handing the joint to Leigh, who has her hand out to take it. The boys' eyes are dilated from the effects of the drug.

PANEL THREE.

There is a rustle coming from another room in the back of the house. Greg jumps up and fans the air. Leigh puts out the joint and hides it under the couch. Michael turns on the television.

PANEL FOUR.

Mindy Armstrong, Greg and Leigh's mother, walks out into the living room, eyes still faded from not enough sleep.

PAGE FIFTY-SEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

Mindy sits down in the recliner.

1. GREG: Hey, Mom!
2. MINDY: Hi. How was school?

PANEL TWO.

Mindy is looking at Willow, who is standing across the room, unsure of what she should do.

3. LEIGH: Mom, this is Willow, my new friend.
4. WILLOW: Hi.
5. MINDY: Hello.

PANEL THREE.

Recognizing the tension in the room, Greg suggests they go outside and skate.

6. GREG: Come on, guys! Let's go outside.

PANEL FOUR.

The four are skating up and down the street on their skateboards.

PAGE FIFTY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

One hour later. Mindy walks out of the house, across the yard.

1. CAPTION: One Hour Later.
2. MINDY: Be back late, guys! Don't wait up!
3. GREG: Okay, Mom. See you later!

PANEL TWO.

The quartet continue skating as Mindy drives by them. They wave as she passes.

PANEL THREE.

Greg screams out as he kicks his skateboard up and catches it in front of him. Michael jumps the ramp and exclaims loudly.

4. GREG: Paaarrtee!
5. MICHAEL: Oh, yeah!

PANEL FOUR.

After an afternoon of drinking and getting high, the four of them are passed out on the floor. Night shows through open curtains. The room is dark. Michael and Leigh are lying on the floor in a lover's embrace.

PAGE FIFTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Wednesday, September 14. 3:15 am. Willow wakes up in a recliner. She looks alarmed to find she has fallen asleep. Greg, in response to Willow, jumps up from the recliner, excited.

1. WILLOW: Oh my, God!
2. GREG: What?
3. WILLOW: Oh crap! My mom's going to kill me!

PANEL TWO.

Leigh and Michael wake up from the commotion. They appear shocked, also. Willow is standing up with an alarmed look displayed on her face. Greg is standing a few feet from her.

4. LEIGH: What's up? You scared me!
5. MICHAEL: God!

PAGE SIXTY.

PANEL ONE.

The group then notices it's no longer light outside. They have shocked expressions on their faces.

PANEL TWO.

Realizing that only one of them could be in trouble, they look at Willow with empathy.

1. MICHAEL: Is your mom cool?
2. WILLOW: I don't know. I've never done this before.

PANEL THREE.

Willow is distraught. The others look on.

3. WILLOW: It's too far to walk by myself. Give me a ride home?
4. GREG: Yeah, sure. No problem.

PAGE SIXTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

Michael and Leigh are standing on the front porch, watching as Greg and Willow drive away. Willow's is waving at them.

1. LEIGH: See you tomorrow!
2. WILLOW: Okay!

PANEL TWO.

Willow and Greg are sitting in front of Willow's home, a modest middle-income family ranch-style home. Willow is looking up at the house.

3. GREG: You look worried.
4. WILLOW: Yeah, I'm in trouble.
5. GREG: Well, maybe not if it's your first time.
6. WILLOW: Hope not.

PANEL THREE.

Greg leans over to give Willow a kiss. Willow responds positively.

PANEL FOUR.

Greg and Willow are shown kissing.

PAGE SIXTY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Willow and Greg are each on their own side of the car. They look happy.

PANEL TWO.

Willow is outside the car now, turned halfway between facing the house and facing Greg.

1. WILLOW: I had fun! Thanks for the ride!
2. GREG: You coming over tomorrow?
3. WILLOW: I dunno. Might be grounded until I'm thirty.

PANEL THREE.

Greg looks semi-disappointed, realizing he does not know when he will see her again. Willow has turned to walk toward the house.

4. GREG: See you later!
5. WILLOW: Hope so.

PANEL FOUR.

Willow is shown walking across the yard. Her back is turned to the reader. Greg is gone. It is nothing but her, surrounded by dark night with lights on in every room of the house.

PAGE SIXTY-THREE.**PANEL ONE.**

Before Willow even makes it to the door, her mom greets her. She looks angry, worried and relieved, all at the same time.

1. STEPHANIE: Where have you been? I've been worried!
2. WILLOW: Sorry, mom. I went to a friend's house, and fell asleep.

PANEL TWO.

Stephanie has relaxed some. Willow is standing next to her.

3. STEPHANIE: This is your one free ride, little lady.
4. WILLOW: Okay, mom. Thanks.

PANEL THREE.

They are shown hugging each other.

5. STEPHANIE: Go to bed.
6. WILLOW: Love you!
7. STEPHANIE: Love you, too! We'll talk in the morning.

PANEL FOUR.

She has a book of poetry by Dylan Thomas in her hands. Note to illustrator: The book can be seen from Willow's point-of-view.

8. BOOK: "Do not go gently into that good night."

PANEL FIVE.

Willow smiles, as the radio plays a tune by The Black Keys.

9. DISEMBODIED: Da da da da da, da da da da da da.

PAGE SIXTY-FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Wednesday, September 14. Willow wakes up a few hours later, a ray of sunshine just beginning to peek over the tops of her curtains.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, September 14.
2. WILLOW: Ohhh!

PANEL TWO.

Stephanie is standing at Willow's open door.

3. STEPHANIE: Time to get up and pay the piper, baby girl.
4. WILLOW: Oh, crud!

PANEL THREE.

Stephanie is seated in the breakfast nook when Willow walks in.

PANEL FOUR.

Willow sits down to some cereal in a bowl and pours the milk.

5. STEPHANIE: So, tell me about this new friend.
6. WILLOW: Her name is Leigh and she's my age. She's really nice, Mom.
7. STEPHANIE: Who is in charge over there?
8. WILLOW: Her mom.

PAGE SIXTY-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Stephanie folds her hands together on top of the table. Willow avoids eye contact.

1. STEPHANIE: Where was her mom last night?
2. WILLOW: She had to work.

PANEL TWO.

Stephanie is at the sink, washing her bowl. Willow is still sitting down at the breakfast nook.

3. STEPHANIE: So, are you telling me she is unattended?
4. WILLOW: No. Her older brother takes care of her when her mom's at work.

PANEL THREE.

Stephanie has turned around and is looking at Willow.

5. STEPHANIE: How old is the brother?
6. WILLOW: Seventeen, I think.

PANEL FOUR.

Willow's head is hung low.

7. STEPHANIE: Okay, no more hanging around there without the mom being present, okay?
8. WILLOW: Okay.

PAGE SIXTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, September 16, a couple days later. Willow is standing outside, waiting to go in. Danny Anderson, Mark's friend, is walking up to Willow.

1. CAPTION: Friday, September 16.
2. DANNY: Hey Willow, can I talk to you?

PANEL TWO.

Willow looks shocked to see him standing there, now next to her.

3. WILLOW: What?
4. DANNY: Please, be cool.

PANEL THREE.

Carrie Logan walks up, with now boyfriend, Mark Valentine, in tow. Danny looks pale.

5. CARRIE: Hey, slut! Lining up to do Danny next?

PANEL FOUR:

Willow is staring straight into her eyes. Carrie Logan's hands are on her hips. Her body language is taunting.

6. WILLOW: Shut up!
7. CARRIE: Make me!

PANEL FIVE.

Carrie punches Willow in the face. Willow's hand is on her left eye.

PAGE SIXTY-SEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Willow has Carrie on the ground, sitting on top of her, smashing her face with her fists. Carrie is trying to cover up. A small crowd is beginning to gather.

1. WILLOW: You bitch!
2. CARRIE: Stop!
3. WILLOW: Hell, no. When you do!

PANEL TWO.

Mark pulls Willow off of Carrie. Danny is standing nearby, a look of helplessness on his face. The crowd is taunting.

4. DISEMBODIED: Beat her up!
5. DISEMBODIED: Fight!

PANEL THREE.

Carrie lunges at Willow, but Danny Anderson steps in front of her. Willow is still being held back by Mark. Willow is looking at Danny.

6. WILLOW: When are you going to tell them, Danny? Please?

PANEL FOUR.

Mark is looking back over his shoulder at Danny, who is looking at the ground. Carrie is no longer trying to fight with Willow anymore. She is standing with a confused look on her face. Willow is looking at Danny, accusingly.

PAGE SIXTY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Danny has turned his back and is beginning to walk away. Mark turns to Willow. Willow is watching Danny.

1. MARK: What happened, Willow?

PANEL TWO.

Carrie looks incensed. Danny turns to face them once again. Eric Thompson is now present in the group of students who have been watching the fight.

2. DANNY: I was there at the party. I saw it all.
3. MARK: Saw what, Danny?

PAGE SIXTY-NINE.

PANEL ONE.

Danny closer to Mark now, within a couple of feet. The illustration is concentrated only on the members of the group.

PANEL TWO.

Danny looks distraught. Everyone in the crowd is looking at Danny. He is standing next to Mark now, his voice a whisper.

1. DANNY: I saw Eric rape Willow at the party.

PAGE SEVENTY.**PANEL ONE.**

Carrie, Willow, Leigh, Mark and Eric are all close enough to hear. Willow has dropped to her knees, her face in her hands, crying. Carrie Logan slaps Danny in the face. Mark is standing with his hands in his pockets, his mouth hanging open. Eric has moved in closer, also. He looks shocked.

1. ERIC: No, w' w' we had sex.
2. MARK: You asshole!

PANEL TWO.

Mark's face turns red; his hands ball up into fists at his side. Eric sees his friend's expression and looks afraid. Leigh steps in front of Carrie to keep her from entering the fight. Danny looks shocked and apologetic.

3. ERIC: No, man, it's not what you think!

PANEL THREE.

Mark punches Eric. Eric covers up, refusing to fight. Carrie interferes.

4. CARRIE: No, Mark! Let's just go, okay?

PANEL FOUR.

Mark looks at Willow with sympathy in his eyes. The rest of the group look shocked.

5. MARK: I'm sorry, okay?

PAGE SEVENTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

Danny, Leigh and Willow are the only ones left standing there. The small crowd that had gathered is in various stages of walking away.

PANEL TWO.

Leigh is holding Willow. Willow is crying. Danny has his head hung low.

PAGE SEVENTY-TWO.**PANEL ONE.**

After school, Willow hurries out to her bus and finds a seat. She is looking out the window and sees Eric Thompson hurrying through the crowd.

PANEL TWO.

Eric looks up at the buses and sees Leigh.

PANEL THREE.

He gets on the bus. Willow has head down, hoping he will move on and leave her alone.

PANEL FOUR.

Eric finds a seat behind her and sits down. Willow cringes.

PAGE SEVENTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Eric puts his hand on the back of Willow's seat. Willow glances from the corner of her eye at Eric's hand.

1. ERIC: I wanna talk to you!

PANEL TWO.

Eric's face has turned red, his right hand balled into a fist. Willow stands up.

PANEL THREE.

Eric reaches up and grabs Willow's hair.

PANEL FOUR.

Willow screams as Eric pulls her hair. She falls back into the seat.

2. WILLOW: Ahhh!
3. ERIC: Danny's lying, right? Time for you to set everyone straight.

PAGE SEVENTY-FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

School bus #37's driver, Virginia Golden, is looking up into her mirror. She recognizes the ruckus that is taking place.

1. VIRGINIA: Hey, you back there! What's going on?
2. WILLOW: Let go!

PANEL TWO.

Virginia is standing at the door and motions for an administrator to come onto the bus. Willow has her hand up at her hair. Eric's hands are just coming loose. Eric is sneering at her.

3. WILLOW: Don't you ever touch me again!
4. ERIC: Or what, slut?

PANEL THREE.

The principal, Christopher Gage, is on the bus now and is standing at the front of the bus. The students are all looking toward the front of the bus. Willow finally frees herself as Eric looks down at her.

5. MR. GAGE: What's going on here?

PANEL FOUR.

Eric has a shocked expression on his face when he looks up and sees Mr. Gage standing there. Willow looks at Mr. Gage in gratitude.

6. MR. GAGE: You don't ride this bus, do you?
7. ERIC: No.
8. MR. GAGE: Come with me to the office. We'll call your parents.

PAGE SEVENTY-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

As Eric gets off the bus, he looks toward the back of the bus. He looks angry. Willow has her head down so to deter any further comments. Mr. Gage is waiting off the bus for him.

1. DISEMBODIED: Loser!
2. DISEMBODIED: Jerk!

PANEL TWO.

Leigh walks up to Bus 37 and gets on after Eric gets off. Eric glares at her.

PANEL THREE.

Leigh walks to the back of the bus to where Willow is sitting. Willow still has her head down.

PANEL FOUR.

Leigh is standing beside Willow. Willow is still looking down at the book in her lap.

3. LEIGH: Hey, mind if I sit here?

PAGE SEVENTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Willow looks up and sees Leigh standing there.

PANEL TWO.

Leigh is sitting next to Willow. Both the girls are happy to be in each other's presence.

1. LEIGH: Hey, just heard from Michael. There's a party tonight. Wanna go?
2. WILLOW: Really? Yeah, maybe.
3. LEIGH: Cool.

PANEL THREE.

The girls ride the bus home together. Leigh gets off the bus with Willow.

4. LEIGH: You can say you're staying the night at my house. I'll tell my mom I'm staying with you.
5. WILLOW: I dunno.
6. LEIGH: It'll be okay.
7. WILLOW: Okay.

PAGE SEVENTY-SEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

Willow and Leigh walk into Willow's home. Stephanie is already home because she had a doctor's appointment earlier that day.

1. WILLOW: Hi mom, can I stay over at Leigh's house tonight?
2. STEPHANIE: Well, hello to you, too!

PANEL TWO.

Willow is grabbing two Cokes out of the refrigerator. Leigh is standing nearby. Stephanie is cooking.

3. WILLOW: Aw, come on, mom, please?
4. STEPHANIE: Is she the one you were with last night?
5. WILLOW: Yeah.

PANEL THREE.

Willow has handed the Coke over to Leigh. Both girls are standing there with their cokes in hand. Stephanie is scowling.

6. WILLOW: It won't happen again, mom. I promise!
7. STEPHANIE: Well, I guess. I need to talk to you first, though.

PAGE SEVENTY-EIGHT.**PANEL ONE.**

Willow looks concerned. Leigh is looking at Willow. Stephanie is looking at both the girls.

1. STEPHANIE: I just received an email from the school. Do you know a Sarah Peterson?

PANEL TWO.

Willow and Leigh look at each other, confused.

2. LEIGH: Yeah, I know Sarah. Why?

PANEL THREE.

Stephanie still has a concerned look on her face. She has moved closer to Willow and Leigh.

3. STEPHANIE: Have a seat, girls.

PANEL FOUR.

Willow and Leigh are sitting on the kitchen stools at the bar. Stephanie is standing across from them in the kitchen.

4. STEPHANIE: Girls, she is missing.
5. LEIGH: What do you mean, missing?
6. STEPHANIE: Honey, she didn't make it home from school yesterday.

PAGE SEVENTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Willow and Leigh look at each other, both confused and shocked. Stephanie is leaning over the counter, her hand on top of Leigh's.

1. STEPHANIE: The school didn't want to alarm the students until they knew for sure she truly is missing.
2. LEIGH: I just saw her. There has to be a mistake.

PANEL TWO.

Stephanie has moved to the other side of the bar and is standing between the two girls. Willow and Leigh are both expressing disbelief.

3. STEPHANIE: Girls, I wanted to tell you so you know to be extremely careful, okay?
4. WILLOW: Okay, mom. We will. Does that mean I get to go?
5. STEPHANIE: Yes, sweetheart. You may go, but be careful.

PANEL THREE.

Leigh looks happy however, Willow seems upset.

6. STEPHANIE: Do you still want to go?

PANEL FOUR.

Leigh is looking at Willow with alarm. Willow is looking at Leigh.

7. WILLOW: Yeah, I want to go.

PANEL FIVE.

Stephanie is standing at the door, watching the two girls as they walk across the front yard. She looks concerned. Leigh and Willow are looking at each other.

PAGE EIGHTY.

PANEL ONE.

Willow and Leigh are walking by the recreation center on the way to Leigh's house. Kids are milling about the center, some outside and some going in and coming out of the recreation center.

1. WILLOW: I'm thirsty. Wanna get something to drink?
2. LEIGH: Sure.

PANEL TWO.

They walk into the recreation center. On the billboard above the water fountain is a Missing Persons Bulletin. Included is a picture of Sarah Peterson.

3. WILLOW: Wait, I thought mom said they were keeping it on the D.L.
4. LEIGH: Well, apparently not.

PANEL THREE.

An attendant, overhears Willow and Leigh talking. He is getting closer to them.

5. ATTENDANT: Do you know her?

PANEL FOUR.

6. LEIGH: Yeah, I do.
7. ATTENDANT: I hope they find her.
8. LEIGH: Me, too.

PAGE EIGHTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

Leigh and Willow are walking across Leigh's front yard. Greg's 1982 Camaro is sitting in the driveway. Willow appears happy.

1. LEIGH: Hey, do you like my brother?.
2. WILLOW: Why?
3. LEIGH: Because he can't stop talking about you!

PANEL TWO.

Leigh and Willow walk through the front door to find Michael and Greg sitting on the floor, smoking a joint.

4. GREG: Hey, ladies! Come join us!

PANEL THREE.

Leigh and Willow sit down on the floor between them. They pass the joint.

PANEL FOUR.

The four of them are sitting back against the couch. Everyone looks relaxed, calm and happy.

5. MICHAEL: Party starts at 9:30 tonight.
6. LEIGH: Mom still working?
7. GREG: Yeah, won't be home until 4 a.m.
8. LEIGH: Cool.

PAGE EIGHTY-TWO.**PANEL ONE.**

Friday, September 16. 8:00 pm. Several vehicles are parked all around a roaring campfire. Michael, Leigh, Greg and Willow are at the party held at the river. They are at the keg, pouring themselves a drink. About twenty-five people are there. Across the river are two rope swings, with trees that jut over the river. A bunch of people are in the water. Many are swinging on the swings.

1. CAPTION: Friday, September 16.

PANEL TWO.

Michael and Leigh grab their beer and climb down the side of the cliff into the water.

PANEL THREE.

They are swimming across the river while holding their beers above their head. Michael is looking back toward Greg and Willow.

2. MICHAEL: Come on!

PANEL FOUR.

Greg and Willow are sitting on the hood of his 1982 Camaro, holding hands. Greg holds his beer into the air.

3. GREG: Nah, we're okay.

PANEL FIVE.

Michael and Leigh are together again in the middle of the river. They have stopped swimming and are treading water.

4. MICHAEL: Okay. Later, then.

5. GREG: Later!

PAGE EIGHTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

With a guitar being played in the background, Greg kisses Willow.

1. GREG: You're so beautiful.
2. WILLOW: You're sweet.

PANEL TWO.

Amongst the pickup is an unusual vehicle, a 2010 black wrecker with no markings. It sits ominously in the background, its owner, as sinister looking as the pickup itself, is standing at the back of it, watching Greg and Willow. Note to illustrator: This is typically used as an auto re-possessor. An automobile re-possessor has both a boom and a lift. It is designed especially so the wrecker driver does not have to get out of the vehicle.

PANEL THREE.

Greg and Willow are still sitting on the hood, but Greg has noticed the owner of the black wrecker staring at them.

PANEL FOUR.

Greg is standing beside his Camaro and yells Buddy.

3. GREG: Hey, what's up?

PAGE EIGHTY-FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Buddy walks toward them. Willow looks concerned. Greg does not seem to know who it is since he is walking out of the darkness. He just looks mad.

PANEL TWO.

Within fifteen feet of the vehicle, Greg recognizes who was staring; it is his friend/acquaintance, Buddy Danger.

1. GREG: Hey, Buddy! How's it going, man?
2. BUDDY: Muy Bueno! You?

PANEL THREE

When the two boys meet, they perform a handshake, exchanging marijuana.

3. GREG: Gracias!
4. BUDDY: No problema.

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy is staring at Willow, which is making her feel insecure. Greg is looking at Buddy.

5. BUDDY: Who's that with you?
6. GREG: That's my girlfriend, Willow.

PAGE EIGHTY-FIVE.**PANEL ONE.**

Greg is now sitting on the car with Willow, his arm draped around her shoulder. Leigh and Michael are making their way up the embankment.

1. BUDDY: Cool, man, cool.

PANEL TWO.

Leigh and Michael are closer to Greg, Willow and Buddy. They are close enough to see who is standing there with them.

2. BUDDY: Hey, Michael!
3. MICHAEL: Hey!

PANEL THREE.

Leigh is looking especially sexy in her bikini, her blond hair in stark contrast to her tanned skin. Buddy is staring at her.

4. BUDDY: Man, Willow and Leigh are drop-dead gorgeous!

PANEL FOUR.

Leigh looks uncomfortable. Michael has draped his arm around Leigh's shoulders and is leaning in close to her, his hand on her stomach.

5. BUDDY: You girls should be models! Honestly.

PANEL FIVE.

A fight erupts up on the other side of the camp. A bunch of the kids start running toward the fight. From the middle of the mass of people, a voice calls out to Greg and Michael.

6. DISEMBODIED VOICE: Greg, Michael, come help! Hurry!

PAGE EIGHTY-SIX.**PANEL ONE.**

The reader sees Greg and Michael running toward the fight. The girls are watching as they do. Buddy is staring at Willow and Leigh, clearly oblivious to the fight.

PANEL TWO.

A close-up is shown of the fight. Four people are involved in the fight. A group of people have begun forming around them. Greg holds one of the young men who are fighting, holding him back. Michael is pushing another guy on the chest to create distance between two of the fighters. A couple other young men are moving in to break up the other two fighters.

PANEL THREE.

Close-up of Buddy, Willow and Leigh. They are standing in a triangle now. He is handing Willow a flyer that shows the exact location, times and dates of the modeling fair.

1. BUDDY: No kidding, ladies. Could be your big break!

PAGE EIGHTY-SEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

The reader sees the advertisement held in Willow's hand. Want to become a model? We can show you how. Magical La Modelisation Presents: Modeling Fair of Central City. When: September 11, 2016. Where: City Event Center, 123 Josiah Creek Road. Central City. Time: 9:00 a.m.

PANEL TWO.

Willow and Leigh look at each other. Buddy is watching them. Seeing they are thinking about it, he encourages them some more.

1. BUDDY: You could be the next Heidi Klum or Allesandra Ambrosio!
2. LEIGH: That would be so cool, wouldn't it, Willow?

PAGE EIGHTY-EIGHT.**PANEL ONE.**

Buddy is encouraging them to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. His body language and mannerisms exude enthusiasm, optimism, and charisma. Leigh is looking extremely excited. Willow is still unsure. She is looking at Buddy with suspicion. The fight has re-erupted with two more boys hitting each other. People are scrambling.

1. BUDDY: I knew a girl who recently moved to Paris and her picture is displayed on every bus there!
2. WILLOW: I'm not big enough to be on a bus!
3. LEIGH: Not you, silly! Your picture!

PANEL TWO.

Willow is sitting on the hood of the car, watching the fight. Leigh is close to her. Buddy is handing Leigh his card with his phone number on it. Danny Anderson has meandered over toward them and is standing up against a tree, urinating.

4. LEIGH: Dang, Willow! This could be our big break!
5. WILLOW: Naw, I don't think so.
6. BUDDY: Well, just think about it. I'll be at 7-11 tomorrow morning at 8am if you change your mind.

PANEL THREE.

Willow is looking at Buddy again. Leigh has turned her head and is looking at the fight. It is finally settling down.

7. LEIGH: Maybe we should go help?
8. WILLOW: Nah. It's breaking up now.

PAGE EIGHTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Greg and Michael are getting closer to the girls. Buddy is walking toward the fire, where another group of people are sitting. Leigh stuffs the flyer into her pocket as they approach.

1. LEIGH: We can't tell the guys. They wouldn't understand.
2. WILLOW: I don't know if I do.

PANEL TWO.

As Buddy, Greg and Michael pass, they speak to one another.

3. BUDDY: Get it broken up?
4. GREG: Yeah, thanks for helping.
5. BUDDY: Sorry.

PANEL THREE.

Willow and Leigh run up to meet Greg and Michael.

6. MICHAEL: I need another beer.
7. GREG: Me, too. Girls, wanna come?
8. WILLOW: Absolutely!

PANEL FOUR.

Willow, Leigh, Greg and Michael are sitting by the fire with their friends, including Danny Anderson. Buddy is still standing up against his wrecker. He is eyeing Danny.

PAGE NINETY.**PANEL ONE.**

Saturday, September 17. 1:45 a.m. After the party, they go back to Leigh's house. Their mom's car is still not in the driveway.

1. CAPTION: Saturday, September 17. 1:45 a.m.
2. LEIGH: Wow! Mom's not home from work yet!
3. GREG: Yeah, she works too much.

PANEL TWO.

The boys turn on the television and begin playing *Grand Theft Auto*. Willow and Leigh are looking at Greg and Michael.

4. GREG: I get Niko Bellic!
5. MICHAEL: You got him last time!

PANEL THREE.

The girls look disgusted and are no longer looking at the boys, but at each other.

6. LEIGH: Come on, Willow!

PANEL FOUR.

The girls disappear down the hall. The boys appear undisturbed.

PAGE NINETY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

Leigh and Willow are sitting on Leigh's bed. They are facing each other.

1. LEIGH: Wanna go tomorrow and check out the modeling session?
2. WILLOW: Gee, I dunno know.

PANEL TWO.

Leigh looks upset. Willow is playing with her fingernails. She is clearly upset.

3. LEIGH: Why not?
4. WILLOW: I dunno. Doesn't Buddy seem a little . . . weird to you?

PANEL THREE.

Leigh has a bottle of nail polish in her left hand. She is looking at Willow and smiling.

5. LEIGH: I dunno. Everyone's weird, ya know?
6. WILLOW: I guess.

PANEL FOUR.

Saturday, September 17. 1:52 a.m. Willow and Leigh are still sitting on Leigh's bed. She has the bottle of fingernail polish open, the pen is in her hand and she is leaning forward. Willow responds by putting her hand on her leg for her, but she does not seem to be enjoying it.

7. CAPTION: Saturday, September 17. 1:52 a.m.
8. LEIGH: Let's paint our fingernails!

PAGE NINETY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Saturday, September 17. 7:35 a.m. Leigh and Willow walk into the living room and Leigh takes Greg's key to his Camaro. The guys are passed out in the living room: Michael is in the recliner and Greg is sprawled out on the couch.

1. CAPTION: The Next Morning. Saturday, September 16. 7:35 a.m.
2. MICHAEL: *Zzzzzz*.

PANEL TWO.

Leigh and Willow are in the Camaro driving down the street. The first rays of dawn are appearing, pink, blue, and purple line the horizon.

3. WILLOW: Aren't you too young to drive?
4. LEIGH: Only if I get caught. Everyone's still asleep.

PANEL THREE.

Willow has a doubtful expression on her face. Leigh looks happy.

5. WILLOW: What about your mom? I mean, if she finds out.
6. LEIGH: She'll be asleep for hours. Don't worry. It's cool.

PANEL FOUR.

The reader sees the girls in the Camaro driving down the road from the back. A 7-11 can be seen in the distance.

PAGE NINETY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

There is a close-up of Willow's watch: 8:15.

1. CAPTION: Saturday, 8:15 a.m.
2. WILLOW: I say we leave.
3. LEIGH: Nah, let's give him five more.

PANEL TWO.

In the background, a black wrecker is seen coming down the street. In the foreground, Willow and Leigh are standing beside the Camaro under the 7-11 sign. The sky has turned an ominous blue-gray and dark clouds have filled the sky.

PANEL THREE.

Buddy has pulled in beside them, and is looking at both girls.

4. BUDDY: Ready?

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy appears nervous. He is turning his head from side-to-side, trying to see whether anyone is watching. Willow is watching him. Leigh has her head down, looking at the flyer.

PAGE NINETY-FOUR.**PANEL ONE.**

Willow is whispering in Leigh's ear. Leigh does not look happy. Buddy is looking at the 7-11 clerk, who is mopping the floor by the front doors.

1. WILLOW: Leigh, I really don't think this is a good idea. Let's go home.

PANEL TWO.

Leigh appears shocked. Willow is pleading with her eyes. Buddy is still focused on the clerk.

2. LEIGH: No, I've been waiting for this all my life!

3. BUDDY: Girls, you ready?

PANEL THREE.

Buddy is looking at the girls again. Willow is still looking at Leigh. Leigh is looking at Buddy.

4. LEIGH: I am!

5. BUDDY: Hop in! I'll take you!

6. WILLOW: No! We'll follow you!

7. BUDDY: Suit yourself.

PANEL FOUR.

The reader sees the black wrecker on the road. The red Camaro pulls out of the 7-11 parking lot behind it. The clerk is standing at the door, watching.

PAGE NINETY-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Inside the Camaro, the reader sees Willow and Leigh. Leigh is still excited. Willow looks angry.

1. LEIGH: We're gonna be stars, Willow, stars, I tell you!

PANEL TWO.

Willow is looking at Leigh, with an angry expression on her face.

2. WILLOW: Don't get you get a weird vibe? Why won't you listen to me?

3. LEIGH: I can't wait! Lots of money, big houses, swimming pools, fancy cars, a handsome boyfriend.

PANEL THREE.

Willow is staring out the front window at the black wrecker in front of them: 2LT2PAY, it reads.

4. WILLOW: THOUGHT BALLOON. Great! Another smartass!

5. LEIGH: . . . wearing all those pretty outfits, having everyone stare at us.

PAGE NINETY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Flash Forward - Present. Willow's bedroom, present day. The reader is looking over Willow's shoulder while she is playing *Angry Birds* on her computer. She has her face turned to the side, toward the reader. The angry bird lies dead at the bottom of the screen, frozen. (Another idea is for the bird to be falling from the sky).

1. CAPTION: Flash Forward - Present.
2. WILLOW: I should have trusted my instincts.

PANEL TWO.

Willow's head is down. The reader is looking at her from the side. Tears are running down her face.

3. WILLOW: Always, always remember to trust your gut.
4. CAPTION: End of flash forward – present.

PAGE NINETY-SEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Saturday, September 17, 8:35 a.m. Buddy pulls the truck up in front of an old, abandoned building. Willow and Leigh pull in behind him. An old rustic-looking business sign hangs just above the front door: Harvard Freight.

1. CAPTION: Saturday, September 17, 8:35 a.m.

2. WILLOW: What the hell?

PANEL TWO.

Buddy is standing at the driver's side window. He appears happy, nonchalant.

3. BUDDY: Lucky you! We're the first one's here! Come on!

PANEL THREE.

Leigh is finally aware that something may be wrong. Buddy is waving his hand for Leigh to get out of the car. Willow looks scared.

4. LEIGH: I think we'd better . . .

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy has the door open and is pulling Leigh out of the car. Another man has approached the vehicle while the girl's attention has been diverted. He also has Willow's door open and is pulling Willow out of the car at almost the same time. Her necklace with her name, Willow, drops to the ground, unnoticed. A white unmarked van is behind the Camaro, blocking their escape.

PAGE NINETY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Three men are there now, plus Buddy. Buddy throws Leigh to the ground. The man pushes Willow up against the car and pins her there, her arms behind her back. Willow helplessly watches as Leigh gets thrown to the ground.

1. LEIGH: Help, somebody, please help!
2. WILLOW: No! Please!

PANEL TWO.

Buddy kicks Leigh in the face. Another man ties Willow's hands behind her back.

PANEL THREE.

Leigh's mouth is bleeding, her hands held to her mouth. Blood still oozes through her fingers. She screams in pain.

3. LEIGH: Owwww!

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy reaches down to pull Leigh up off the ground. Willow is at the open-doored van. Larry is inside the van, leaning under the roof, leering at her. Man Number Three is behind the wheel of the van. Both girls are crying. Buddy is watching.

PAGE NINETY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Buddy leads Leigh to the van, her head held down. She has her hand in her left front pocket. The man who has shoved Willow inside the van turns to speak to Buddy. He hands him a big wad of money, about \$10,000 dollars. Note to illustrator: The \$10,000.00 has a bank tie with the amount on it.

1. MAN NUMBER ONE: Tow it!

2. BUDDY: Okay, Steve!

PANEL TWO.

As Buddy is walking away, Man Number One, (Steve) takes Leigh by the right arm. Leigh has the modeling flyer in her left hand. As he grabs her, Leigh allows the flyer to drop from her hand onto the ground. No-one notices anything.

PANEL THREE.

As Leigh is shoved into the van, Buddy is hooking up the Camaro.

PART TWO.**PAGE ONE HUNDRED.****PANEL ONE.**

Inside the van, both girls are crying. Steve is tying Leigh's hands up.

1. WILLOW: Where are you taking us?
2. STEVE: Shut up!

PANEL TWO.

Steve gives Willow a shot to render her unconscious. Leigh sees what happened and is screaming.

3. LEIGH: Please, don't. Let us go! We won't say anything, I promise! Please!

PANEL THREE.

Steve is kneeling beside Leigh now, a syringe in his hand. Willow is passed out on the floor three feet away.

4. LEIGH: Please!

PANEL FOUR.

As the van is pulling away, the reader sees the driver for the first time. He is a big, muscle-bound man with a shaved head and goatee. Tattoos cover his arms and face. In the background, the reader sees that Buddy has the Camaro hooked up and is pulling in behind the van.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED ONE.**PANEL ONE.**

When Willow awakens, she finds herself in a big, dark room. She wakes up with a headache and the dreadful realization that now not only are her hands tied, but her ankles as well. She is lying on an old couch. She is looking at the cords that bind her.

1. CAPTION: Day One.
2. WILLOW: Thought Balloon. Where's Leigh?

PANEL TWO.

Willow raises herself up on her elbows, and begins looking around the room. It appears she is alone, except for Leigh, who lies a few feet away from her on another dilapidated couch.

3. WILLOW: Leigh?

PANEL THREE.

Willow sits up on the side of the couch, trying to lean in closer to Leigh.

4. WILLOW: Leigh!

PANEL FOUR.

Leigh finally hears her and opens her eyes. She groans in response.

5. LEIGH: Ohhhh.
6. WILLOW: Are you okay?

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Leigh has rolled onto her side and is staring at Willow. Leigh moans. Her nose is bleeding, her left eye blackened.

1. LEIGH: Oh!
2. WILLOW: Shhhh, someone might hear you!

PANEL TWO

Willow slowly stands up and is trying to take a step forward. Leigh is watching her.

PANEL THREE.

Willow almost makes it to Leigh, but then Larry steps out of the shadows less than a couple of feet from where Willow is standing.

3. LARRY: Where the hell do you think you're going?

PANEL FOUR.

Leigh screams in fear. The man grabs Willow and throws her onto the floor. Willow screams in response.

4. LEIGH: Ahhh!
5. WILLOW: Ahhh!

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Larry kicks Willow and begins screaming at her. Leigh is screaming, too.

1. LEIGH: Stop!
2. WILLOW: Owww!

PANEL TWO.

Larry picks Willow up to throw her onto the couch. Willow grabs his neck with her newly polished fingernails. Blood is oozing from his neck.

3. LARRY: Owww!

PANEL THREE.

The man screams in pain, and drops her onto the couch. Willow is glaring at him.

4. LARRY: Bitch! I'll teach you!

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-FOUR.**PANEL ONE.**

Larry is on top of Willow now, his hands pulling her shirt from her. Leigh buries her face in the couch.

PANEL TWO.

Larry is rubbing her breasts. Willow is crying out in pain and fear.

1. WILLOW: Owww! Please, stop!
2. LARRY: You know you like it!

PANEL THREE.

Larry slaps her, hard, across the face. Willow cries out again.

3. WILLOW: Owww!

PANEL FOUR.

Larry is now on one knee, his right foot planted firmly on the floor, holding himself in place. He is yanking down Willow's pants. His hands are at the top of her jeans. Willow's body is raised as a result of the man's actions. The top of her tanned buttocks is showing. Willow is protesting. She is hitting the man with her fists, although still tied.

4. WILLOW: No!

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Larry slaps her so hard Willow's head snaps back.

1. SFX: Slap.

PANEL TWO.

Larry unties her legs.

PANEL THREE.

Larry pulls her pants down the rest of the way. Willow's head has come to rest on the couch, her eyes dazed.

PANEL FOUR.

Larry holds Willow's pants out toward Leigh, taunting her. His body is shadowing Willow's private parts with only part of her breasts shown. Leigh's head is turned a little bit, so that only her left eye, tears glistening, is showing.

2. LARRY: This is what happens to girls around here. You're next!

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Willow is petrified. The man's hand is on his fly, in the down position.

1. WILLOW: Stop! Don't do this! Please!

PANEL TWO.

As Larry enters her friend, Leigh, with tears rolling down her face, lies there, helpless. She presses her face and ears into the couch so deeply that the sound no longer penetrates her ears. Willow is crying, the man grunting.

1. WILLOW: S-s-s-top, please.

2. MAN: Uh! Uh! Uh!

3. LEIGH: Hey, stop! You're hurting her!

PANEL THREE.

Steve appears beside Leigh. Leigh does not know he is there. He stands tall over her, dark and ominous.

4. STEVE: Larry, break her in good!

PANEL FOUR.

Steve grabs Leigh.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-SEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

Steve hits Leigh in the face as hard as he can, rendering her unconscious.

PANEL TWO.

When Larry finishes, he zips his pants back up. Willow lies on the couch, crying.

1. LARRY: Baby, you weren't worth getting undressed for!

PANEL THREE.

Larry walks away, leaving Willow alone.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-EIGHT.**PANEL ONE.**

Willow is lying there in the dark room, the light from the moon just barely illuminating the place. Leigh begins stirring. Larry and Steve are nowhere in the room.

PANEL TWO.

Leigh is sitting up, but looks extremely confused. Her hands and ankles are still tied up.

PANEL THREE.

She looks over to where Willow lies. She is lying lifeless, eyes open, covered in blood from where Larry hit her when she tried to fight back.

1. LEIGH: Willow?

PANEL FOUR.

There is no response from Willow. Leigh wonders if her friend is dead.

2. LEIGH: Thought Balloon. Is she okay? Did he kill her?

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Leigh whispers again. Willow ignores her. She does not want the assault to continue. It is much better to ignore.

1. LEIGH: Willow?
2. WILLOW: Thought Balloon. If I answer, will they come back, again? I want to answer her. She will worry if I don't. But, what if?

PANEL TWO.

Leigh is growing impatient. She whispers to Willow ever more urgently. Willow lies there, thinking about being at home in bed, asleep, dreaming this horrible nightmare.

3. LEIGH: Willow?
4. WILLOW: Thought Balloon. I'm just having a nightmare. Soon I will wake up and everything will be fine.

PANEL THREE.

Willow can hear Leigh attempting to crawl toward her. She knows if Leigh does this, she will be endangering them more.

5. WILLOW: Leigh, I'm okay. Are you?

PANEL FOUR.

Leigh is resting on her elbow, once again, facing Willow.

6. LEIGH: Yeah, I'm okay, I guess.
7. WILLOW: Did they hurt you, too?
8. LEIGH: No.
9. WILLOW: Good.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-TEN.

PANEL ONE.

Suddenly, they hear two men talking just outside the door to their little room. Willow and Leigh appear scared, and immediately become motionless.

1. WILLOW: Shhhh,

PANEL TWO.

They can hear the door open. The two men come into the room. They are laughing.

2. SFX: Creak!

3. LARRY: How was the one you had?

4. STEVE: Ahhh, she was good! Cherry!

PANEL THREE.

Larry and Steve are standing a few feet from the couch Willow is lying on.

5. STEVE: So, how was the other one?

6. LARRY: So good!

7. STEVE: Sweet!

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-ELEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Steve kneels down, touches Leigh's hair. Leigh whimpers.

1. STEVE: I thought you might've been dead, you were so quiet.

PANEL TWO.

Leigh attempts to turn over and away from him.

2. STEVE: Where d'ya think you're going?

PANEL THREE.

Steve grabs her by the hair, and pulls her up onto her knees.

3. STEVE: You know you want it!

PANEL FOUR.

Steve takes her head and pulls it into his crotch, pushing his pelvis toward her face.

4. STEVE: Time to suck it, cunt!

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-TWELVE.**PANEL ONE.**

The man's hand is on his zipper in the down position.

PANEL TWO.

Leigh gags as Steve pushes himself into her mouth. Willow screams in defense of Leigh.

1. STEVE: Don't bite, or I'll kill you!
2. WILLOW: No!

PANEL THREE.

Leigh pukes on Steve. Willow laughs. Larry has moved closer to Willow.

3. STEVE: You sick little cunt!

PANEL FOUR.

Steve pushes Leigh back onto her back. Larry laughs.

4. LARRY: Ha ha ha! Tame her, they all gotta learn!

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-THIRTEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

He is leaning down toward her feet, knife in hand.

1. LEIGH: Please, no!
2. WILLOW: Leave her alone!

PANEL TWO.

He cuts the cord that held Leigh's legs together.

3. STEVE: Can't suck? Let's see if you can fuck!
4. WILLOW: No!
5. LEIGH: Please, don't. No!

PANEL THREE.

Leaning on her with all his weight, he pulls her shorts down hard. Willow has turned her head away. Larry is stroking Willow's hair.

6. LEIGH: Please!
7. WILLOW: Please, God, no.

PANEL FOUR.

Steve is inside Leigh now. Tears are streaming down Leigh's face. Leigh cries out, once again.

8. LEIGH: Oh God, No!

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-FOURTEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Steve shoves Leigh's panties down her throat.

1. STEVE: Never did like those talky bitches!

PANEL TWO.

Steve hits Leigh when she cannot stop whimpering. Larry is still watching Steve and Leigh. He has moved his hand down to Willow's breast and is stroking it.

2. STEVE: You really should've sucked it! I'm gonna ride you like I stole you!
3. LARRY: Get her, David! I'm gonna get more of this sweet thing!

PANEL THREE.

Willow closes her eyes as Larry positions himself between her legs. Steve is still raping Leigh. Leigh has her eyes closed, tears still running down her cheeks.

4. WILLOW: Thought Balloon. If we just give them what they want, maybe they'll let us go.

PANEL FOUR.

Both men are shown raping the girls. It is still dark outside, the moon covered by clouds. Only a small ray of light is showing through the window.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-FIFTEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Dawn's first rays of sun are appearing through the open window. Orange and yellowline the horizon, lighting the beginning of a brand new day. Larry and Steve are sitting in chairs not very far from where Willow and Leigh lie. Willow is praying.

1. STEVE: Wanna have a race, see who can come first?
2. LARRY: You're on!
3. WILLOW: Dear Lord, please deliver us from the hands of these people. . .

PANEL TWO:

Willow keeps praying. Leigh is pressing her head into the couch again.

4. WILLOW: Please help us. Make them leave us alone
5. STEVE: No-one's gonna help you! You're on your own!
6. LARRY: Shut up, Steve!

PANEL THREE.

Steve turns around and screams at Larry. Willow buries her head in the soft cushion of the sofa.

7. STEVE: You shut up, Larry!

PANEL FOUR.

The two men are shown hitting each other. The girls are lying perfectly still, afraid to move, or even breathe. Willow has her head turned toward Leigh.

8. WILLOW: Thought Balloon. Oh, God, please help us.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-SIXTEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Flash Forward - Present. Willow is walking through a park. A vacant park bench is beside her. Children are playing around her. Mothers and fathers are playing with their children. A young mother is talking to her infant child. Another is feeding her baby a bottle. Signs of family tenderness and love fill the panel.

1. CAPTION: Flash forward - Present.
2. WILLOW: I couldn't help myself. I wished we had never gone, that I had stood up to Leigh.

PANEL TWO.

Willow is sitting on the park bench, looking directly at the reader.

3. WILLOW: I kept praying that they wouldn't touch Leigh anymore, or even me. I wished it was a school day. The day we were raped, I swore I would never beg for anything, including my life.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-SEVENTEEN.

PANEL ONE.

Willow is still sitting on the bench. A man gets too close. Willow leans toward the reader.

1. WILLOW: During my repeated rapes, I kept singing *100 Bottles of Beer on the Wall*. I know that sounds funny, but I had to separate myself from, from . . . that.

PANEL TWO.

Willow is standing next to a swing now, watching a couple of kids swing.

2. WILLOW: I wished those men would die a thousand times over. I wished they would get some kind of disease that'd make it rot right off.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-EIGHTEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

A kid gets up and runs away.

1. WILLOW: Ever felt so broken you could barely find the strength to breathe?

PANEL TWO.

Willow is sitting on the swing. Her eyes are unwavering, but filled with sadness.

2. WILLOW: Do you think I should feel ashamed? Well, sometimes I do, sometimes I don't. We didn't cause this.

PANEL THREE.

Willow has turned the swing in circles until the chain is all knotted up. She is looking directly at the reader.

3. WILLOW: Being girls, we are taught to protect one thing with all our might. It hurts to know we did everything we could, but it wasn't enough.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-NINETEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Willow lets the swing go. She is shown spiraling around in circles as the swing unwinds itself.

1. CAPTION: End of flash forward – Present.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED-TWENTY.**PANEL ONE.**

Both girls are lying on their backs, their legs untied, eyes closed, too tired and beaten to move. Larry and Steve are between the girls' legs. The door suddenly opens. A man of about forty-five is standing there. Both men have shocked looks on their faces.

1. LARRY: Mr. Scott!
2. MR. SCOTT: What the hell? Out! Now, before I kill you!

PANEL TWO.

Both men bolt out the door as quickly as possible. Mr. Scott is standing beside Willow, running his fingers through her hair. Willow cringes. Leigh pushes herself away from him.

3. MR. SCOTT: Oh, I'm sorry. Let's get you up, okay?

PANEL THREE.

Mr. Scott takes them outside to a van. Both girls are shown getting into the van.

4. MR. SCOTT: Let's get you out of here, okay?

PANEL FOUR.

The van speeds away.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE.**PANEL ONE.**

They arrive at a house in the woods, far from the city. The girls are asleep in the back of the van.

1. MR. SCOTT: Wake up, girls.

PANEL TWO.

The reader sees a cabin in the background with the van in the foreground. Mr. Scott has one girl on either side of him, his arms around them, helping them.

PANEL THREE.

The door to the cabin is open, emitting a warm light from within.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Mr. Scott takes Willow and Leigh to the bathroom.

PANEL TWO.

Mr. Scott turns on the shower, watches as they get in the tub.

PANEL THREE.

He is standing in the tub with the girls. He takes a washcloth to remove the blood from Leigh's body as Willow watches. Leigh washes Willow as Mr. Scott is cleaning her.

1. MR. SCOTT: It's okay, girls. I'm here now. They won't hurt you ever again. I will make sure of that.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE.**PANEL ONE.**

Once their bodies are clean, he then washes their hair.

PANEL TWO.

He sits them down on his bed, with clean linens, and combs Willow's hair.

PANEL THREE.

The three of them are shown sleeping together in the bed.

PAGE ONE-HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR.**PANEL ONE.**

Present. Willow, present day. Willow is still on the same playground, sitting at the top of a slide.

1. CAPTION: Present.
2. WILLOW: That's when me and Leigh thought we'd met our savior.

PANEL TWO.

Willow is midway down the slide, her feet held high above the slide, sliding down on her bottom for speed.

3. WILLOW: Some say the reason we developed an attachment is cause we suffer from the Stockholm Syndrome.

PANEL THREE.

Willow is halfway down the slide.

4. WILLOW: You know the thing where when some people are kidnapped, they begin to empathize with their captors?

PANEL FOUR.

Willow is shown landing on her feet. Children are all around her.

5. WILLOW: In reality, we met our pimp.

PAGE ONE-HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE.**PANEL ONE.**

Willow, Leigh and Mr. Scott are watching television. Willow is looking at Mr. Scott directly. Leigh's head is down.

1. MR. SCOTT: What happened?
2. WILLOW: They, they . . . raped us.

PANEL TWO.

Leigh fidgets. Mr. Scott has both girl's hands in his. Leigh and Willow look at their hands. He appears empathetic.

3. MR. SCOTT: I'm so sorry that happened, girls.

PANEL THREE.

Mr. Scott is shown at the door, his hand positioned behind him as he is walking through it.

4. MR. SCOTT: It won't happen again, not while I'm here.

PAGE ONE-HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX.**PANEL ONE.**

Once the door shuts, Willow looks at Leigh.

1. WILLOW: Let's get out of here.
2. LEIGH: And go where? Where are we?

PANEL TWO.

Willow is standing at a window, trying to pull the windowsill up.

3. LEIGH: What are you doing?
4. WILLOW: SHHHH!

PANEL THREE.

A close-up is shown of the window Willow is trying to open; the window has been nailed shut.

5. WILLOW: We can't get out this way.
6. LEIGH: Where we gonna go?

PANEL FOUR.

The girls hear Mr. Scott's footsteps as he approaches the room. Leigh is pleading with Willow to return to bed.

7. LEIGH: Whisper Balloon. Willow, come on.

PAGE ONE-HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

A full-page drawing is shown as Willow slips back into the bed beside Leigh, just as the door is opening. A cell phone drops onto the floor.

PANEL TWO.

Willow pushes the phone under the bed with her foot. Scotty is oblivious to her actions. Leigh is sitting on the side of the bed looking at Willow. Willow is looking at Scotty. She is smiling.

PAGE ONE-HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT.**PANEL ONE.**

Mr. Scott has one huge platter filled with food and drinks. It is so full not a single area is vacant. The girls look astonished. Willow is trying to act nonchalant.

1. MR. SCOTT: When was the last time you ate?
2. LEIGH: Two days ago!

PANEL TWO.

They sit on the bed, eating the food. Willow sits on the edge of the bed and pushes the phone under the bed when no-one is looking. Leigh is happy. She looks content. Mr. Scott is sitting between the two of them.

3. WILLOW: Yum, this is so good! Thank you!
4. MR. SCOTT: You're so welcome! We'll do it again, tomorrow!

PANEL THREE.

After they finish eating, the girls snuggle up next to Mr. Scott.

5. LEIGH: That was so good, Mr. Scott.
6. MR. SCOTT: Call me Scotty.

PAGE ONE-HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE.

PANEL ONE.

He leans over and gives Willow a kiss on the lips, as Leigh watches.

PANEL TWO.

He leans over and gives Leigh a kiss on the lips while Willow watches.

PANEL THREE.

They settle in for the night, one girl on either side of Scotty.

1. WILLOW: Good night, Scotty.
2. LEIGH: Sweet dreams.
3. SCOTTY: Good night, my ladies.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY.**PANEL ONE.**

It is the next morning, a ray of sun is streaming through the partially open window. Scotty is standing over the bed, looking at the two girls, his face grim.

PANEL TWO.

Scotty is in the restroom, combing his hair. His cellphone buzzes.

1. SCOTTY: Hello?

PANEL THREE.

Scotty looks uncomfortable and a bit worried. The scene is shown from the bedroom, with both the restroom and door to the bedroom visible.

2. SCOTTY: Okay, I will.

PANEL FOUR.

The bedroom door busts open, and two, big, burly thugs push through it. Scotty drops the phone. The girl's eyes pop open, frightened by the sudden noise.

3. LEIGH: AHHHH!

PAGE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE.**PANEL ONE.**

Willow is standing beside the bed. Scotty is escorted out of the room, while another brute makes his way toward Willow.

1. WILLOW: Run, Leigh!

PANEL TWO.

Leigh is running across the room, trying to make it to the bathroom. A bright ray of light shows through the bathroom window. A brute grabs Willow.

2. WILLOW: Go get help!
3. STEVE: Oh, you're funny! There's NO help.

PANEL THREE.

Brute #2 catches up with Leigh just as she enters the bathroom.

4. LARRY: Oh no, you don't.

PANEL FOUR.

Both Willow and Leigh are carried out the door into the main area of the cabin.

PAGE ONE-HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO.**PANEL ONE.**

They are put into the back of a black van with no windows. The man who drove the van the first time is driving. He peers at them venomously.

PANEL TWO.

Steve sprays something onto a cloth and applies it to Willow's face.

PANEL THREE.

He hands the bottle to Larry, who sprays the liquid onto a rag.

PANEL FOUR.

Willow is shown passed out, while Leigh is struggling with Larry.

PANEL FIVE.

The interior of the van is shown once again. Both girls are passed out. Larry has Leigh's shirt open, his hand cupped over her small breast.

1. STEVE: You're sick! Leave her alone!
2. LARRY: Awww, shut up!

PAGE ONE-HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE. SPLASH PANEL.

The van is shown barreling down the road, the driver leering at the reader.

PANEL TWO.

The van is parked in the driveway of a huge mansion.

PANEL THREE.

Inside the mansion, Scotty is standing in front of Merritt Donahue. The girls are escorted by Brute #1 and Brute #2.

1. SCOTTY: They were brutalizing the girls, Merritt!
2. MERRITT: Since when is it your problem, huh?

PAGE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Merritt is shown striking Scotty in the face. Leigh looks shocked. Willow is staring in disbelief.

1. MERRITT: What do you care, anyway? Not! Your! Call!
2. SCOTTY: They would've killed them! I was trying to . . .
3. MERRITT: SHUT UP!

PANEL TWO.

Scotty is standing before Merritt, an expression of helplessness covers his face.

4. MERRITT: You have a job. They belong to you, but don't ever try to hide them from me again!
5. SCOTTY: Okay, sorry.

PAGE ONE-HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Merritt stares at Scotty in contempt and disappointment.

1. MERRITT: What? Do you like them? Why them?
2. SCOTTY: I don't know.

PANEL TWO.

Merritt strikes Scotty again. This time he hits the floor, hard.

3. MERRITT: Don't lie to me!
4. SCOTTY: Yes, I guess.

PANEL THREE.

Merritt appears amused at this revelation. Scotty hangs his head in shame.

5. MERRITT: HAHAHAHA!

PANEL FOUR.

Merritt leans down and brings Scotty's head up to meet him.

6. MERRITT So, tell me, have you been with them yet?

PAGE ONE-HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Scotty looks up at Merritt, ashamed of himself.

1. SCOTTY: No, not yet.
2. MERRITT: Well, why not? You turning queer, or something?

PANEL TWO.

Merritt stares him down, with more contempt, then calls to one of his guards.

3. MERRITT: Bring Scotty the new boy, you know the one with blond hair! Maybe he'll like him better.

PANEL THREE.

Scotty looks at Merritt, trying to reestablish his place in the organization, to re-earn respect.

4. SCOTTY: NO, wait! I just didn't have time. You haven't trusted me all this time for no reason.
5. MERRITT: Oh, really?
6. SCOTTY: Yes.

PANEL FOUR.

Brute #3 has arrived back in the main room. Willow and Leigh appear shocked. The boy, Nigel Owens, appears unharmed, although extremely frightened. Merritt is staring Scotty down.

7. MERRITT: So you like girls, huh?
8. SCOTTY: Yes!
9. MERRITT: Well, good! You can do one of them right here, right now . . . in front of all of us!

PAGE ONE-HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

The entire room looks at Scotty. They realize the weight of the situation and no-one dares snicker or even move. Merritt continues staring at Scotty.

1. MERRITT: Well, choose!
2. SCOTTY: Okay . . . Willow.

PANEL TWO.

Merritt breaks out with laughter, bending at the waist. The others respond in like manner. Scotty appears embarrassed, his head hung low.

3. MERRITT: HAHAHAHA!

PANEL THREE.

Merritt taunts. The rest of the room stand in silence. Leigh has fallen to her knees. Brute #2 has her by the arm too hard.

4. MERRITT: They don't have NAMES; they have PUSSIES!
5. LEIGH: Ow.

PANEL FOUR.

Merritt laughs in Leigh's direction. Scotty stands defiantly, now angry.

6. MERRITT: Oh, you think THAT hurts?
7. SCOTTY: I'll do Willow! Bring her to me!

PAGE ONE-HUNDRED THIRTY- EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Scotty rubs his crotch. It immediately responds. Merritt looks amused.

1. MERRITT: Okay, Superman. Show us what you got.

PANEL TWO.

Steve steps up to bring Willow to him. Merritt interrupts.

2. MERRITT: No, bring the other girl.

PANEL THREE.

Willow looks pleadingly at Scotty, then to Merritt. Scotty looks shocked.

3. WILLOW: No, not her! Me!

4. MERRITT: No, I think she will be better. She's more innocent.

PANEL FOUR.

Larry brings Leigh over to Scotty and hands her to him.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Leigh begins struggling, but Scotty whispers to her.

1. SCOTTY: It won't hurt as much if you relax.
2. LEIGH: Please, don't.

PANEL TWO.

Scotty pulls Leigh's skirt up, and unzips his pants. Leigh screams. Willow turns her head.

3. LEIGH: PLEASE, NO!

PANEL THREE.

Steve pushes Willow's face so she cannot help but watch.

PANEL FOUR

A close-up of Willow's face reveals sheer determination.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED FORTY.

PANEL ONE.

Flash forward – Present. Willow is running toward the camera, her arms are in mid-run.

1. CAPTION: Present.

PANEL TWO.

Willow is leaning over, her hands on her knees, gasping.

2. WILLOW: We -tried -to -escape. We – tried.

PANEL THREE.

Willow stands in the middle of the sidewalk, still looking at the reader.

3. WILLOW: Remember the Stockholm Syndrome? Yeah well, he made us empathize with him because of his secret.

PAGE ONE-HUNDRED FORTY-ONE.**PANEL ONE.**

Scotty, Willow and Leigh are in Scotty's bedroom in Merritt's mansion. Leigh is sitting on the floor, her head hung low, knees against her chest. Willow is standing in the middle of the room, arms across her chest.

1. SCOTTY: I'm sorry that happened, girls.
2. WILLOW: Really? If you feel so bad, why don't you get us out of here?

PANEL TWO.

Scotty has his arms across his chest. Willow is sitting down next to Leigh, who has begun crying again.

3. WILLOW: See what you do to us?
4. SCOTTY: You don't understand. I HAVE to!
5. WILLOW: Why?

PANEL THREE.

Scotty is sitting on the bed, his face in his hands. Leigh is still crying. Willow is looking at Scotty.

6. SCOTTY: It happened a long time ago.
7. WILLOW: What did?

PAGE ONE-HUNDRED FORTY-TWO.**PANEL ONE.**

Close-up of Scotty, deep in thought.

1. SCOTTY: It happened a long time ago . . .

PANEL TWO.

Willow, Leigh and Scotty are shown. Leigh has stopped crying. She is looking interestedly at Scotty while Willow is still standing with her arms across her chest.

2. SCOTTY: While working as an accountant, I embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars from him. He found out.

PANEL THREE.

Scotty has his head in his hands, tears running down his cheeks. Willow and Leigh are staring at him.

3. SCOTTY: He threatened to kill my entire family if I did not work for him. He said he had discovered a new way to make money . . . a product that could be sold over and over.

PANEL FOUR.

Scotty is looking at the girls, eyes begging for forgiveness. Willow's arms are uncrossed. Leigh looks on with empathy.

4. SCOTTY: I sent my family to Europe to get them away from here. I have been alone since.
5. WILLOW: Why me?
6. SCOTTY: Because I know you're tougher than Leigh.

PAGE ONE-HUNDRED FORTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE. SPLASH PANEL.

Close-up of Willow and Leigh. Willow looks suspicious, while Leigh is crying.

PART TWO.**PAGE ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR.**

PANEL ONE.

Saturday, September 17. Michael and Greg are standing at the window, looking at the driveway, which only contains one car: Greg's mother's car, the BMW.

1. CAPTION: Saturday, September 17, 2 p.m.
2. GREG: Where the hell's my car?
3. MICHAEL: Beats me! Where's the girls?
4. GREG: I don't know. Maybe they'll come home soon.
5. MICHAEL: Hope so.
6. GREG: Me, too.

PANEL TWO.

Greg walks down the hall to use the restroom.

PANEL THREE.

Greg stops and peeks into his Mom's room.

PANEL FOUR.

The reader can see she is still asleep, after having worked so late the night before.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE.**PANEL ONE.**

Greg steps into the bathroom.

PANEL TWO.

All the reader can see is Michael sitting in the living room with the hallway.

1. SFX: Flush!

PANEL THREE.

Greg goes back into the living room and sits across from Michael, who has a worried expression on his face.

2. MICHAEL: Suppose I should call Leigh? Maybe she has her phone.
3. GREG: Yes, I think you should.

PANEL FOUR.

Michael begins dialing Leigh's cell phone.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

When the ringing on Michael's phone begins, Leigh's phone begins ringing in her bedroom.

1. CAPTION: Saturday, 2:30 pm.
2. SFX: Rrrring!

PANEL TWO.

Greg is running down the hall toward Leigh's bedroom.

3. GREG: Shhhh!

PANEL THREE.

Greg returns to the living room with Leigh's cell phone in his hand.

4. GREG: Man, this bites!
5. MICHAEL: Why would she leave her phone? Where do you think they've gone?
6. GREG: Beats me. Think they're mad at us?
7. MICHAEL: I dunno.

PANEL FOUR.

Michael and Greg are near an open window, smoking a joint.

8. GREG: I'm gonna call Willow. Maybe she'll answer. I think it's time to start calling around.
9. MICHAEL: Yep, me too.

PANEL FIVE.

Greg calls Willow's number. Lying in the darkness, the reader can see Willow lying face down on a couch, in the darkness. No-one is around. The tip of her cell phone is sticking out from under the edge of the couch, it's extremely dim light showing.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

An hour later, the boys hang up from their last call. A clock on the wall, or on the television, is in sight.

1. CAPTION: One hour later, 3:45 pm.
2. GREG: Any luck?
3. MICHAEL: Nah. You?

PANEL TWO.

There is a rustling from Mindy's bedroom.

PANEL THREE.

Still groggy from sleep, Mindy walks into the living room and finds the boys looking depressed and forlorn.

4. MINDY: What's going on guys? Too much fun last night?

PANEL FOUR.

The boys look up from their stupor.

5. GREG: The girls took my car. We don't know where they are.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE:

Mindy's hands are on her hips. She does not look happy.

1. MINDY: What do you mean you don't know where they are?

PANEL TWO.

Greg appears nervous. Michael has lowered his head.

2. GREG: Well, they were with us last night.
3. MINDY: Where were you last night?

PANEL THREE.

Greg still looks nervous. Michael has gotten up and is looking out the living room window. Mindy is still standing with her hands on her hips.

4. GREG: There was a party down by the river.
5. MINDY: Party?
6. GREG: Yeah, well a get-together.

PANEL FOUR.

Mindy still looks upset, and the boys still appear nervous.

7. GREG: We called everyone. Nobody's seen them since last night.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED FORTY-NINE.

PANEL ONE.

1. MINDY: No time debating this right now. Does Willow's mom know?
2. GREG: No. I just called her number. No-one answered.
3. MINDY: Do you know where she lives?
4. GREG: Yes.

PANEL TWO.

Mindy is grabbing her keys.

5. MINDY: I think it's time we pay her a visit. Maybe they're over there.

PANEL THREE.

Mindy, Greg and Michael are in Mindy's 2007 B.M.W. Note to illustrator: Some kind of time-keeper now shows it's 4:15 p.m.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY.

PANEL ONE.

Mindy and the boys drive into the driveway at Stephanie Weber's home. Time: 4:39 p.m.

1. CAPTION: Saturday, 4:39 p.m.

PANEL TWO.

Mindy and the boys are standing on the front porch. Greg is knocking on the door.

2. SFX: Knock-Knock!

PANEL THREE.

Stephanie opens the door.

3. GREG: Are Willow and Leigh here?
4. STEPHANIE: Aren't you Leigh's brother, Greg?
5. GREG: Yes.

PANEL FOUR.

Stephanie has a confused look on her face.

6. STEPHANIE: Didn't she stay over at your house last night?
7. GREG: Yes, she did, but Leigh and her left in my car. Can't get hold of her.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

Stephanie is looking at Mindy now, her eyes showing fury.

1. STEPHANIE: Where were you last night?
2. MINDY: Work. Blaming people won't help, anyway.

PANEL TWO.

Stephanie understands Mindy's statement. Her cell phone is in her hand.

3. STEPHANIE: I'm sorry. You're right.

PANEL THREE.

Stephanie has her cell phone up against her ear. Greg has his hands covering his face. Michael is standing next to Greg's mom, looking at his feet. Mindy hasn't taken her eyes off Stephanie.

4. STEPHANIE: Come on, Willow. Answer the phone.

PANEL FOUR.

The four stand there looking at each other. Time: 4:45p.m.

5. CAPTION: Saturday, 4:45 p.m.
6. MINDY: I'm gonna stay over here with Stephanie, if that's okay. Boys, you go back to the house in case they show up.
7. STEPHANIE: Yeah, it's okay.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Greg looks at his mom as she hands him the keys.

1. MINDY: Don't leave the house.
2. GREG: Okay.

PANEL TWO.

The women go into the house as the boys load up in the B.M.W.

PANEL THREE.

Inside Stephanie and Willow's home, the two women sit at the dining room table, the same table Stephanie and Willow had eaten at the morning before. Time: 4:50 pm. Note to illustrator: The time can be included in whatever format you would like: a wristwatch, cell phone, old-fashioned clock on the wall, television, nightstand, car radio, etc. Please do not include it, however, in block print without a vehicle for its presence. Thank you.

3. STEPHANIE: Think we should call 911?
4. MINDY: I don't think so, give them a little time. What do you think?
5. STEPHANIE: Yeah.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE.**PANEL ONE.**

Saturday, 7:00 p.m. Stephanie and Mindy are sitting in Stephanie's living room, drinking a cup of coffee. Mindy receives a text from Greg.

1. CAPTION: Saturday, 7:00 p.m.
2. GREG (DISEMBODIED): Any word?
3. MINDY: Damn!

PANEL TWO.

Stephanie looks alarmed. Mindy looks angry and disappointed.

4. MINDY: Thanks for letting us know.
5. GREG (DISEMBODIED): No problem, Mom. She'll come home.
6. MINDY: I hope so.

PANEL THREE.

The women go back to their cold ones.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FOUR.**PANEL ONE.**

Saturday, 10:00 p.m, Mindy picks up the phone and calls Greg. Note to illustrator: The panel is split in two parts, showing both Mindy and Greg. Mindy's face shows concern while Greg's conveys disappointment.

1. CAPTION: 10:00 p.m.
2. MINDY: Any word yet?
3. GREG: No.
4. MINDY: Okay, we're coming over there.
5. GREG: Okay.

PANEL TWO.

Greg and Michael look a little frantic. They are smoking weed and the house looks terrible.

6. GREG: Crap! Get on it!

PANEL THREE.

Greg is tidying up the house, while Michael sprays air freshener.

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Saturday evening, 10:15 pm. Mindy is seated on the couch in the living room. Mindy, Greg, Michael and Stephanie are all present.

1. CAPTION: Saturday, 10:15 p.m.
2. MINDY: Since the cops are coming out, did you get your weed put up, Greg?

PANEL TWO.

Greg and Michael look shocked. Mindy looks amused.

3. MINDY: Might want to hide it really well.
4. GREG: Y-y-yes, I did.

PANEL THREE.

Stephanie looks amused, also.

5. MINDY: What? Did ya think I didn't know?
6. GREG: And, you're cool?

PANEL FOUR.

7. MINDY: My hands are kind of tied, aren't they? You're gonna do it regardless.
8. GREG: Okay.
9. MINDY: Nothing more serious than pot, though.
10. GREG: Okay.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Saturday, 10:20 p.m. Stephanie is looking at Michael suspiciously. Mindy is dialing 911. Michael's head is down. A close-up of the phone shows the numbers 911.

1. CAPTION: Saturday, 10:20 p.m.
2. STEPHANIE: We'll talk later.
3. MINDY: Yes, we'd like to report our daughter's are missing.
4. 911: *Our* daughter's? How long has they been missing?

PANEL TWO.

Stephanie is looking at Mindy. The boys are sitting on the edge of their seats.

5. MINDY: Since 2:00.
6. 911: Can you come in? There will be lots of questions and detectives will want to see you.
7. MINDY: Yes, we'll be right there.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

Saturday, 10:40 p.m. Mindy, Stephanie, Greg and Michael are at the police department placing a missing person's report.

1. CAPTION: Saturday, 10:40 p.m.
2. OFFICER: Can you tell me what happened?
3. MINDY: Our daughters have not come home. We haven't seen them since last night.

PANEL TWO.

The police officer looks concerned, but systematic in his approach.

4. OFFICER: Have they ever done anything like this before?

PANEL THREE.

Mindy and Stephanie are both looking at the officer.

5. MINDY: No.
6. STEPHANIE: No, never.

PANEL FOUR.

The officer looks at Mindy and Stephanie with concern.

7. OFFICER: We will issue a child missing report and notify all appropriate agencies, such as the Missing Child Information Clearing House, National Crime Information Center, as well as notifying any and all surrounding areas police and law enforcement agencies.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT.**PANEL ONE.**

The officer looks at both mothers with consideration and respect. Mindy, Stephanie and the boys are looking at the officer with great concentration. Note to illustrator: This is very important to convey because we need victims to understand there are people out there who are concerned about their well-being and are interested in helping them.

1. OFFICER: We don't take any report of child disappearances lightly. As an added precaution, we will issue a report to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
2. STEPHANIE: When will this report go out?
3. OFFICER: Right now. There is no waiting period regarding a child.

PANEL TWO.

The officer hands Mindy and Stephanie a form a fill out. It is Form 159C and includes data such as physical description and personal history. The reader can see the form in front of them.

PANEL THREE.

Mindy and Stephanie have filled out the reports and are sitting in front of the police officer.

4. OFFICER: Where were the girls last seen? And by whom?
 5. STEPHANIE: Willow was with Leigh, Mindy's daughter.
- MINDY: They both were last seen at my home.

PANEL FOUR.

The officer faxes the forms to the various above-listed agencies.

6. OFFICER: Any chance that either of the girls have been taken by another family member?
7. STEPHANIE: No.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

The police officer is looking at Mindy and Stephanie.

1. OFFICER: The first place we'll need to look at is the last place they were seen. Okay if we search your home?
2. MINDY: Yes, of course.

PANEL TWO.

Never flinching, the officer addresses the women again as Greg and Michael watch.

3. OFFICER: We will also issue an Amber Alert because we consider them to be endangered.
4. MINDY: Where will the Amber Alert be broadcasted on?
5. OFFICER: It goes through the Emergency Broadcast System. It'll display via radio, television and cable, text messages, highway billboards and even the internet. Can't hurt. Any questions?

PANEL THREE.

Stephanie and Mindy look at each other.

6. STEPHANIE: No.
7. MINDY: No.
8. OFFICER: Okay. Another officer will be out to your house, Ms. Weber, within the hour, okay?
9. MINDY: Okay.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SIXTY.**PANEL ONE.**

Saturday, 11:45 p.m. The four are sitting in the living room. The television set is on and the boys are watching. The Emergency Alert System interrupts regular programming and is scanning a message across the bottom of the screen.

1. CAPTION: Saturday, 11:45 p.m.
2. TELEVISION: EMERGENCY ALERT: Central City police are looking for two children. Willow Weber is 14 years old, has brown hair, brown eyes, 5'4" tall, medium build. Leigh Armstrong is 14 years of age, blond hair, blue eyes, 5'2" tall, small build. If you see either of these children, please contact proper authorities.
3. GREG: Mom!

ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

Saturday, 11:46 p.m. Across town, Buddy is sitting in his living room watching television. He looks surprised. A picture of his brother, Angel, is sitting on the living room table. He has a letter in his hands.

1. CAPTION: Saturday, 11:46 p.m.
2. BUDDY: Damn, that was quick!

PANEL TWO.

There is a close-up of Buddy with the reader looking over his shoulders at the letter.

3. LETTER: We wish to inform you that treatment for Angel Esquivel has been approved once financial responsibilities have been met.

PANEL THREE.

Buddy has his head down. His face is in his hands.

4. BUDDY: Thank you, God.

PANEL THREE.

Buddy has the picture in his hand. His head is lowered. A teardrop drops onto the picture.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO.**PANEL ONE.**

Sunday, September 18, 3:00 a.m. Mindy and Stephanie are back at Stephanie's house. Stephanie is in the recliner while Mindy is lying on the sofa. Greg is lying on the sofa while Michael is lying on the other side. The boys are over at Mindy's. Note to illustrator. This is a split panel. One household is one side of the panel; the other household is on the other side.

1. CAPTION: Saturday, 3:00 a.m.
2. STEPHANIE: I hope they find them soon.
3. MINDY: Me, too.
4. MICHAEL: Any word yet?
5. GREG: No.
6. MICHAEL: Me, neither.

PANEL TWO.

The quartet maintain their vigil. At around 6:00 a.m, we see that they have all fallen asleep. Note to illustrator: this scene will be split, also. Please show the four sleeping.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE.**PANEL ONE.**

Monday, September 19, 8:30 a.m. Thomas Jefferson Junior High. Everyone is talking about what happened to Willow, Leigh and Sarah. The scene is in the lunch room

1. CAPTION: Monday, September 19, 8:30 a.m.
2. DISEMBODIED VOICE 1: Did you see the deal on Leigh and Sarah?
3. DISEMBODIED VOICE 2: Yeah, and that new girl, Willow.
4. DISEMBODIED VOICE 3: Suppose they'll find them?
5. DISEMBODIED VOICE 2: Who knows?

PANEL TWO.

At another table, Danny, Carrie, Eric and Mark are talking about Willow and Leigh's disappearance. Eric has an angry look on his face that is directed at Eric.

PANEL THREE.

Danny is standing up now, his fists clenched and his face is red.

6. DANNY: This is all your fault!

PANEL FOUR.

Eric is now standing up himself, his own anger aimed at Danny.

7. ERIC: Shut the hell up!

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Both boys are standing in front of each other.

PANEL TWO.

Eric takes a swing at Danny. Danny ducks.

PANEL THREE.

Ms. Roberts sees the fight happening, so she goes in and interrupts it. Another teacher steps in, also. Ms. Roberts holds Danny back while the other teacher keeps Eric from doing something else.

1. MS. ROBERTS: Hey, you two, knock it off.

PANEL FOUR.

Ms. Roberts is addressing the two boys. She does not look happy.

2. MS. ROBERTS: You two, come with me, now!

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Monday, 9:18 a.m. Mr. Gage and Danny Anderson are sitting in the principal's office.

1. CAPTION: Monday, 9:18 a.m.
2. MR.GAGE: So, you want to tell me what's going on?
3. DANNY: Eric raped Willow at a party at his house last weekend.

PANEL TWO.

Mr. Gage is extremely alarmed. Danny is looking Mr. Gage directly in the eye.

4. MR. GAGE: How do you know, Danny?
5. DANNY: I saw him.
6. MR. GAGE: Do you realize the implications of such an accusation?
7. DANNY: Yes, but it's true.

PANEL THREE.

Mr. Gage is staring Danny right in the eye to see whether he will look away, but he doesn't.

8. MR. GAGE: Why didn't you tell someone before now?

PANEL FOUR.

Danny's head is hanging down on his chest.

9. DANNY: I was afraid I'd lose my shot at college ball.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Monday, 9:36 a.m. Mark is also questioned. MR. GAGE: Tell me what happened.

1. CAPTION: Monday, 9:36 a.m.
2. MARK: We went to a party at Eric's. I fell asleep. On Monday, Eric said he had sex with Willow
3. MR. GAGE: Did you believe him?
4. MARK: Yes.

PANEL TWO.

Mr. Gage is leaning forward in his chair while Mark is leaning back.

5. MR. GAGE: Did you care?
6. MARK: Yes.
7. MR. GAGE: Why?
8. MARK: Because I like her. She's cute, and funny and smart. Just what I like in a girl.

PANEL THREE.

Mr. Gage is sitting back in his seat while Mark is leaning forward.

9. MARK: Willow tried to tell me Eric raped her, but Eric kept saying it was consensual, that she came on to him.
10. MR. GAGE: Thank you for telling me, Mark. You may go.

PANEL FOUR.

Mark is standing at the open door, the door still in his hands. Mr. Gage is standing behind his desk.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Monday, 10:00 a.m. Carrie, the girl who wants to be with Mark, is still in the waiting room. Mr. Gage is standing at the front desk talking to Sgt. Webster, the Student Resource Officer. Note to illustrator: Sgt. Webster has on a full uniform, complete with gun and taser.

1. CAPTION: Monday, 10:00 a.m.
2. MR. GAGE: We need to report a crime. Carrie, unless you know something vital, go to class.
3. CARRIE: No, I don't, not really.

PANEL TWO.

When Carrie walks out, Mr. Gage addressed Sgt. Webster.

4. MR. GAGE: We may have had a student rape another student.

PANEL THREE.

Sgt. Webster calls the non-emergency number at the police department. Mr. Gage calls Eric and Danny's parents.

5. SGT. WEBSTER: We may have a problem at Thomas Jefferson Junior High.

PANEL FOUR.

Eric's dad is in front of the school in a brand-new Lamborghini. Eric is sitting in the front seat, looking straight ahead.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT.**PANEL ONE.**

Monday, 11:03 a.m. Danny and his parents are in one room, while Eric and his parents, are in another at the police station. Note to illustrator: This will be a full-page panel that is split in half, divided in the middle so there is a top part and a bottom part. Eric and his dad, James Thompson, are sitting at a table across from Detective Moral.

1. CAPTION: Monday, 11:03 a.m.
2. DET. MORALES: So, tell me what happened, Eric.
3. ERIC: I had a party. Willow came on to me and we had sex.
4. DET. MORALES: We have testimony that is not what happened. Are you sure?
5. MR. THOMPSON: Are you pressing charges against my son?
6. DET. MORALES: Not at this time.
7. MR. THOMPSON: Then, I think this conversation is over. My son has told you all he knows. Any questions, contact my attorney.

PANEL TWO.

Danny and his parents are in the other room with Detective Young. Danny is sitting directly across from Detective Young, while his parents sit beside him.

8. DET. YOUNG: So, tell me, Danny, what you saw.
9. DANNY: I saw Eric rape Willow.
10. DET. YOUNG: How do you know he was raping her?
11. DANNY: She was screaming at him to stop, but he wouldn't.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Monday, 11:30 a.m. As Eric and his parents leave, Detective Young looks at Detective Morales.

1. CAPTION: Monday, 11:30 a.m.
2. DET. YOUNG: Now, what?
3. DET. MORALES: We have nothing, really. A testimony of rape against a young girl, but no actual victim . . . who is now missing.
4. DET. YOUNG: So, he walks?
5. DET. MORALES: Unfortunately, yes, for now.

PANEL TWO.

Detective Young looks at Detective Moral, who is looking at Eric Thompson's dad get into his Lamborghini.

6. DET. YOUNG: Ever wonder what a judge makes?
7. DET. MORAL: Enough to drive a Lamborghini, perhaps?

PANEL THREE.

Both detectives watch as Mr. Thompson drives away, squealing the tires as he does.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY.

PANEL ONE.

Monday, 11:33 a.m. Inside the Lamborghini, Mr. Thompson looks at Eric with a sour look on his face.

1. CAPTION: Monday, 11:33 a.m.
2. MR. THOMPSON: What the hell were you thinking?

PANEL TWO.

Eric has his head down. Mr. Thompson is looking back at the road.

3. MR. THOMPSON: I'm waiting.
4. ERIC: I don't know.
5. MR. THOMPSON: You don't know? Really? Well, you better pray they never find Willow.

PANEL THREE.

Mr. Thompson backhands Eric.

PANEL FOUR.

Eric's hand is up against his mouth, blood running from it through his fingers and onto his shirt.

6. MR. THOMPSON: You stupid ass!

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-ONE.**PANEL ONE.**

Monday, 11:52 a.m. Detective Morales is looking at Detective Young. He doesn't look pleased.

1. CAPTION: Monday, 11:52 a.m.
2. DET. MORALES: I think it's time we call Greg and Mindy Armstrong, Michael Knight and Stephanie Weber to see what they know.

PANEL TWO.

Monday, 1:00 p.m. Stephanie is being questioned by Detective Morales. Stephanie looks worried.

3. CAPTION: Monday, 1:00 p.m.
4. DET. MORALES: Anything happening in your life with Willow that needs to be revealed?
5. STEPHANIE: Willow's dad and I are going through a divorce. We just moved here.
6. DET. MORALES: Was it a bad split-up?

PANEL THREE.

The look on Stephanie's face is pained.

7. STEPHANIE: Yes, very bad.
8. DET. MORALES: Do you think your husband had anything to do with Willow's disappearance?
9. STEPHANIE: No. He's low, but he's not that low.
10. DET. MORALES: Got his number?

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Monday, 1:03 p.m. Mindy is in another room with Detective Young. She looks nervous, but extremely worried.

1. CAPTION: Monday, 1:03 p.m.
2. DET. YOUNG: So, tell me what you know.
3. MINDY: I had to work all weekend. She said she was staying over at Willow's house. I had no idea!
4. DET. YOUNG: What else?

PANEL TWO.

MINDY: Well, when I woke up on Sunday, after having worked the night shift, the boys told me Willow and Leigh had taken Greg's car.

5. DET. YOUNG: Were you worried about Leigh?
6. MINDY: Oh, yes, but I really thought she'd turn up. She's never done anything like this before. When she didn't show up by ten, we called Stephanie to see if she was over there.
7. DET. YOUNG: Why not before then?
8. MINDY: I thought maybe something happened that she had to leave. I didn't figure she'd be gone long.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Monday, 1:20 p.m. Michael is being questioned by Detective Young while Greg is questioned by Detective Moral. Note to illustrator: PANEL ONE fills up most of the page.

1. CAPTION: Monday, 1:20 p.m.
2. DET. YOUNG: So, tell me what happened.
3. MICHAEL: Well, we went to a party at the river on Friday night.
4. DET. YOUNG: Did you have a good time?
5. MICHAEL: Yes.
6. DET. YOUNG: What happened next?
7. MICHAEL: We went home, went to bed. When we woke up, they were gone.
8. DET. YOUNG: That's it?
9. MICHAEL: Yeah, that's it.
10. DET. MORAL: Anyone strange there? Anything different?
11. MICHAEL: No, not really.

PANEL TWO.

As the ladies and the two boys leave the police station, Detective Morales addresses Detective Young.

12. DET. MORALES: The boys' story is the same.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Monday, 1:43 p.m. Detective Morales calls his department together for a meeting.

PANEL TWO.

Detective Morales holds up a large poster of the three missing girls.

1. CAPTION: Monday, 1:43 p.m.
2. DET. MORALES: As you can see, we have a real problem developing here. Let's get on this! Round the clock, if need be. Got me?

PANEL THREE.

The room is suddenly full of energy.

3. OFFICER: Let's get them, guys!
4. OFFICER 2: Oorah!

PANEL FOUR.

As the detectives in the office begin working, Detective Young looks at Detective Morales.

5. DET. YOUNG: Sure am glad they're on our side.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE.**PANEL ONE.**

Monday, 1:45 p.m. Michael, Greg, Mindy and Stephanie are standing out in the driveway, consoling one another. The boys are hugging each other.

1. CAPTION: Monday, 1:45 p.m.
2. MINDY: Call me if you need me.
3. STEPHANIE: You, too.

PANEL TWO.

Stephanie is sitting in her car, alone, a block or so away from Mindy's. The weight of the world seems on her shoulders. The emptiness of the front seat beside her needs to seem devastatingly empty. Stephanie is staring into the void.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Tuesday, September 20, 2:00 a.m. Michael is staring at the ceiling, unable to sleep. Phone vibrates. It's Greg.

1. CAPTION: Tuesday, September 20, 2:00 a.m.

PANEL TWO.

Michael answers the phone.

2. GREG: You sleeping?

3. MICHAEL: Can't.

4. GREG: Me, neither. Where d'ya think they are?

5. MICHAEL: I dunno.

PANEL THREE.

Mindy knocks on Greg's door.

6. GREG: Mom's at the door. I'll talk to you later, okay?

7. MICHAEL: Sure.

PANEL FOUR.

Mindy is standing in the open doorway. She looks sad.

8. MINDY: Detectives called. They found your car, but not the girls.

9. GREG: What? Where are they? Where was it?

10. MINDY: Northwest side, Central City.

11. GREG: That's ten miles away!

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

Tuesday, 2:15 a.m. Mindy is still standing in the doorway. Greg is sitting on the side of his bed.

1. CAPTION: Tuesday 2:15 a.m.
2. MINDY: They have your car at CCPD. They'll hold it until they search it for possible evidence. Don't know how long that will take.

PANEL TWO.

Greg is standing by his window, a breeze blowing through, rustling his curtains.

3. GREG: If it will bring Willow and Leigh back, I don't care if I ever get it back.

PANEL THREE.

Mindy is holding Greg. His head is resting on her shoulder.

4. MINDY: Oh, sweetie. I know.

PANEL FOUR.

In the living room, Mindy has her phone out. A text is visible.

5. MINDY: They found Greg's car, but the girls weren't with it.

PANEL FIVE.

On the other end of the text, Stephanie is lying in bed, her phone extended above her. Tears are filling her eyes.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Tuesday, 2:30 a.m. Greg calls Michael.

1. CAPTION: Tuesday, 2:30 a.m.
2. GREG: Michael, they found my car, but not the girls.

PANEL TWO.

On the other side of the phone, Michael is sitting on his bed, his head in his hands.

3. GREG: Michael, you there?

PAGE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Tuesday, 9:02 a.m. Central City Forensics Department. Central City Police Department is in the process of finger-printing the car. The reader can see the forensics team extracting prints from the car.

1. CAPTION: Tuesday, 9:02 a.m. Central City Forensics Department.

PANEL TWO.

Inside the police department, Detective Morales is hanging up the phone.

2. CAPTION: Inside Central City Police Department.
3. DET. MORALES: Macomb City called. Last month, they had a twelve-year-old boy disappear. His name is Nigel Owens.

PANEL THREE.

Det. Morales takes a fax off the machine and holds it up. The reader sees a picture of a handsome young man, with mischievous eyes with a grin that matches, peering back at them.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY.**PANEL ONE.**

Tuesday, 10:59 a.m. The forensics team comes inside from the garage. They check several sets of prints from the car into the evidence department.

1. CAPTION: Tuesday, 10:59 a.m.

PANEL TWO.

The forensics technician comes back to Detective Morales's desk.

2. TECH: Chief said you would want to know, we completed the check on the '82 Camaro.
3. DET. MORALES: When?
4. TECH: Fifteen minutes ago.

PANEL THREE.

Detective Morales is standing beside his desk.

5. DET. MORALES: Thank you!
6. TECH: Hey! You're welcome!

PAGE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE.**PANEL ONE.**

Detective Morales is standing at Evidence Clerk, Kim Murphy's, desk. He looks impatient.

1. DET. MORALES: How long is it gonna take to get back the results of the fingerprinting?
2. MURPHY: You referring to the red Camaro?
3. DET. MORALES: Yes.

PANEL TWO.

4. MURPHY: What's it worth to you?

PANEL THREE.

Det. Murphy looks disgusted, but he knows how the game is played.

5. DET. MORALES: How does a package of French Horns sound?
6. MURPHY: Sounds good, but you know I would have done it for nothing. It is my job, after all.

PANEL FOUR.**PANEL ONE.**

Detective Morales looks disgusted. Murphy looks amused.

7. MURPHY: Hey, Morales! Never figured you for one of those morons who think all a cop does all day is sit and eat donuts.

PANEL FIVE.

Detective Morales walks down the hall, flipping Murphy off. Murphy is hanging out the window, with a grin on her face.

8. MURPHY: Sheesh! No sense of humor.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO.**PANEL ONE.**

Tuesday, 12:26 p.m. Michael is standing on the front porch of Greg's home with a skateboard in his hand. Greg is standing in the doorway.

1. CAPTION: Tuesday, 12:26 p.m.
2. GREG: Hey.
3. MICHAEL: Hey. Feel like boarding?

PANEL TWO.

Greg looks depressed.

4. GREG: I don't know about anything anymore. Should we go back to school? Should we be looking for Willow and Leigh?
5. MICHAEL: I don't know. What are we supposed to do? Besides, I hate school!

PANEL THREE.

Michael's board is on the ground, one foot placed upon it.

6. MICHAEL: Maybe we'll see someone who might've seen them. They board too, you know!

PANEL FOUR.

He is looking back at Greg. A small smile appears at his lips.

7. GREG: Okay. Let's go! Can't hurt, can it?

PAGE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Greg is reaching into the house.

PANEL TWO.

Greg pulls out a board.

PANEL THREE.

The guys go racing down the street.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR.**PANEL ONE.**

Tuesday, 12:28 p.m. Stephanie is sitting at the dining room table drinking a cup of coffee. On the table is a family photo album.

1. CAPTION: Tuesday, 12:28 p.m.

PANEL TWO.

The reader can see several different pictures of Willow at different ages. Tears are streaming down Stephanie's face. Her cell phone is sitting on the table beside the photo album.

PANEL THREE.

Her cell phone lights up. It is a text from Mindy.

2. MINDY: Any word?

PANEL FOUR.

Stephanie sends a text back.

3. STEPHANIE: No.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE.**PANEL ONE.**

The reader sees Mindy lying on her bed in a dark room. The light of the phone illuminates the room, her face.

1. MINDY: Me, neither.

PANEL TWO.

From the bedroom door, the reader sees Mindy disappear under the covers.

PANEL THREE.

Mindy is completely under the cover now, her cell phone dimmed.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX.**PANEL ONE.**

Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The reader sees a huge, approximately 10,000 square foot, sprawling mansion with a circle drive and horse statues. There are different kinds of exotic cars parked in the front driveway.

1. CAPTION: Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.

PANEL TWO.

Inside the mansion, the reader sees a huge foyer with two regal-looking staircases leading upstairs, one on each side. A huge crystal chandelier hangs from the ceiling. The ceilings are thirty feet high. Paintings of Van Gogh, Monet, Renoir, and other famous painters hang on the wall. To the left of the main entry, there is a large room with an open door.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

The reader sees an older man with gray hair sitting at an immense cherry desk. There are bookshelves on both sides of the room that match the desk. Behind the desk is a huge courtyard that extends as far as one can see. The landline rings.

1. DONAHUE: Yes?
2. DISEMBODIED VOICE: You got her?
3. DONAHUE: Yeah, I have them.
4. DISEMBODIED VOICE: Them?

PANEL TWO.

Merritt Donahue looks nervous. The caller is agitated.

5. DONAHUE: Yes, them.
6. DISEMBODIED VOICE: Well, that's your business! Don't hurt her just yet. Wait until I tell you. Understood?
7. DONAHUE: Have my best man on them.
8. DISEMBODIED VOICE: Good.

PANEL THREE.

Merritt leans back at his desk, one hand gripping the arm rest and the other on his lap, his legs spread.

9. DONAHUE: Oh, yeah. Just like that.

PANEL FOUR.

Donahue reaches down with both hands. His hands are on the back of a young red-headed boy's head. His face is buried in Donahue's crotch.

10. DONAHUE: Hell, yeah.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT.**PANEL ONE.**

Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. Michael and Greg are at the skate park. Each of the boys are showing the other the new tricks they have mastered.

1. CAPTION: Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.

PANEL TWO.

This panel should also show various tricks the boys have mastered. It must show they are having fun.

PANEL THREE.

This panel should show the boys having fun, displaying all the new tricks they have learned.

PANEL FOUR.

Tuesday, 4:15 p.m. After skating for a while, both boys are getting tired. They have given up for the time being and collapse on the bleachers.

2. CAPTION: Tuesday, 4:15 p.m.
3. GREG: Nice crooked grind! Been practicing?

PAGE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Michael has a huge grin on his face. He is looking at Greg.

1. MICHAEL: Yeah, got real tired of being beaten by you!
2. GREG: Well, no-one likes a wimp!

PANEL TWO.

The sun is on the horizon, but there are still a couple of hours left to the day. The boys watch as others skate. Among them is Buddy Danger. Buddy sees Greg and Michael and waves at them.

PANEL THREE.

Note to illustrator: This panel will be shown from Buddy's point-of-view.

3. BUDDY: Thought Balloon. Wonder why they're here. You'd think they'd be grieving, or something.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED NINETY.

PANEL ONE.

Buddy skates over toward Greg and Michael.

1. BUDDY: Hey!
2. MICHAEL: Hey!

PANEL TWO.

Michael grins while Greg simply eye-balls Buddy. He looks as though he does not know what to think of Buddy.

PANEL THREE.

Buddy sits down onto the bleachers with the other boys. Buddy is looking at Greg.

3. BUDDY: I heard about Leigh. Heard anything?
4. GREG: No.

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy looks down at the ground and messes with his board.

5. BUDDY: I saw Sarah Peterson's poster by the rec center.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED NINETY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

Greg looks surprised.

1. GREG: A poster?
2. BUDDY: Yeah.
3. GREG: Where?
4. BUDDY: The rec center.

PANEL TWO.

Michael looks at Greg with hope in his eyes.

5. MICHAEL: Maybe we should do the same thing.
6. GREG: Put up posters?

PANEL THREE.

Michael, still persuading. Buddy is looking at them with a shocked expression on his face.

7. MICHAEL: Yeah, why not? Better than doing nothing.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED NINETY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Buddy is not paying any attention to them. His attention has been diverted to the young, gorgeous young ladies who are skating.

1. BUDDY: What are the cops doing?

PANEL TWO.

Greg and Michael are looking at him in puzzled disbelief.

2. GREG: They found my car.
3. BUDDY: They did? Already?

PANEL THREE.

This panel is from Buddy's point-of-view again.

4. BUDDY: Thought Balloon. I thought I hid the car pretty well. How'd they find it so soon?

PANEL FOUR.

Greg's eyes darken, then tears begin to form.

5. GREG: Yeah, why wouldn't they?

PAGE ONE HUNDRED NINETY-THREE.**PANEL ONE.**

Buddy appears nervous, but oblivious to Greg's pain, because he is still looking at the young ladies.

1. BUDDY: Oh, I don't know.

PANEL TWO.

Greg and Michael are watching Buddy watching the girls at the skate park. They look mildly concerned.

2. BUDDY: Guys, talk to you later. Need anything, let me know.

PANEL THREE.

Greg's eyes are still cloudy. Michael is still staring at Greg.

PANEL FOUR.

The reader sees Michael, Greg skating away in a different direction than Buddy.

PANEL FIVE.

Buddy is still looking at the girls, but appears deep in thought.

3. BUDDY: Thought Balloon. \$20,000.00 more. Focus.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. Greg's house. Michael breaks the silence.

1. CAPTION: Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.
2. MICHAEL: Posters, man, posters.

PANEL TWO.

Greg looks at Michael and grins.

3. GREG: Maybe you're right. Let's do it!

PANEL THREE.

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Greg and Michael create a poster sitting at Greg's dining room table.

4. CAPTION: Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE.**PANEL ONE.**

Note to illustrator: This will be a Splash page. It will include the poster that Greg and Michael created. It will include Leigh's date of birth, age, sex, race, eye color, hair, height, weight, where she is missing from, missing since date, identifying characteristics that might help with identification, plus any additional details that might be pertinent. It will also include a recent photograph of her, as well as contact numbers.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED NINETY-SIX.**PANEL ONE.**

Note to illustrator: This will be a Splash page. It will include the poster that Greg and Michael created. It will include Willow's date of birth, age, sex, race, eye color, hair, height, weight, where she is missing from, missing since date, identifying characteristics that might help with identification, plus any additional details that might be pertinent. It will also include a recent photograph of her, as well as contact numbers.

ONE HUNDRED NINETY-SEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

Once finished, with posters in hand, Greg and Michael knock on Mindy's bedroom door.

1. MINDY: Go away!
2. GREG: But, Mom.

PANEL TWO.

Mindy snuggles under the covers even further.

3. MINDY: I said, Go away!

PANEL THREE.

Greg is sounding extremely frustrated.

4. GREG: Mom, you have to get up! Leigh wouldn't want this!

PAGE ONE HUNDRED NINETY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Greg opens the door. Michael is simply standing in the doorway, afraid to do anything else.

PANEL TWO.

Greg pulls back his mother's covers. Michael's mouth is hanging open.

1. GREG: Get up!

PANEL THREE.

The covers fall to the floor. Greg is handing the missing person's posters to his mom.

2. GREG: Look! We have to get these out tonight.

PANEL FOUR.

Greg sits on the bed beside his mom, who is looking at the posters.

3. GREG: This is reality, mom. We have to do something, anything.

PAGE ONE HUNDRED NINETY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Mindy is sitting up on the side of the bed now. Her cell phone is in her hand.

PANEL TWO.

Note to illustrator: This is a split screen panel. One side will have Mindy; the other will show Stephanie.

1. STEPHANIE: Hello?
2. MINDY: The boys made fliers. We're going out in thirty minutes. Want to meet us?

PANEL THREE.

Stephanie looks hopeful, while Mindy looks doubtful.

3. STEPHANIE: Absolutely! Where?
4. MINDY: At the recreation center.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED.

Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Buddy Danger is at the local arcade in Central City, playing a video game.

1. CAPTION: Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.

PANEL TWO.

A young red-headed teenage-girl walks by. His attention is drawn away from the game. His friend, Joshua Barnes, is watching him play.

PANEL THREE.

2. JOSHUA: Oh man, you almost had it, but . . .

3. BUDDY: Oh well, did you just see that babe that walked by?

4. JOSHUA: Yes, I did. She was all that!

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy is looking for the girl who has worked her way through the crowd to the snack bar. Note to illustrator: This is a broad enough panel that the reader can see where the boys are standing, as well as the snack bar where the red-haired girl is.

5. BUDDY: Hey, you hungry?

6. JOSHUA: I'm always hungry!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED ONE.**PANEL ONE.**

As Buddy and Joshua walk through the snack bar area, Buddy makes eye contact with the red-haired girl. She is sitting at a table with friends.

1. JOSHUA: (Whispering). There she is.
2. BUDDY: (Whispering). Shhh.

PANEL TWO.

As they walk by, Buddy smiles at the young lady. She smiles back.

PANEL THREE.

Once they get to the snack bar, Joshua looks at Buddy.

3. JOSHUA: Dude, she totally smiled at you!

PANEL FOUR.

While Joshua is ordering food, Buddy looks back over to where the young lady is seated. He nods his head at her. She is smiling.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Buddy orders his food. The young girl is still watching him.

PANEL TWO.

The duo sit down a few booths from the red-haired girl and her friends.

1. JOSHUA: Hey man, I've been wondering how your little brother's doing.

PANEL THREE.

Buddy's face darkens.

2. BUDDY: He's gettin' worse every day, man. He's got to come to America for surgery, or he won't make it.

PANEL FOUR.

Joshua hangs his head.

3. JOSHUA: I'm sorry, man.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Buddy looks as though he is trying to find the correct answer.

1. BUDDY: It's okay. Everyone in my family is working to get enough money to bring him here.
2. JOSHUA: I saw your Go Fund Me page. My mom and I gave some money, too.

PANEL TWO.

Buddy is cheerful. Joshua is listening intently.

3. BUDDY: We've raised \$16,000.00 so far.

PANEL THREE.

Joshua has an expression of excitement on his face, also. Buddy is smiling.

4. JOSHUA: Really? That's awesome!

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy suddenly appears sad again.

5. BUDDY: We need a lot more, though. Know how hard it is to come to America for medical treatment?

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Joshua is looking at Buddy with interest.

1. JOSHUA: What?
2. BUDDY: You have to show that you have to receive treatment here because treatment is not available in your home country and that you have a reason to return. Plus, you have to have all the money for the treatments and the money to stay here for the length of your treatment.

PANEL TWO.

Joshua looks shocked. Buddy is staring at the ground.

3. BUDDY: Just to have surgery and the treatments, it's gonna cost us \$81,000.00.

PANEL THREE.

Joshua's eyes look like they're going to pop out of his head. Buddy is looking at his friend in amusement.

4. JOSHUA: \$81,000.00?
5. BUDDY: Yep.
6. JOSHUA: Holy crap! You're nowhere near that!

PANEL FOUR.

Realizing he may have revealed too much, Buddy begins to try to cover up his honesty.

7. BUDDY: Yeah, but everyone in my family is coming up with money daily.
8. JOSHUA: Well, that's good.
9. BUDDY: Yeah.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Joshua looks uncomfortable. His body is still facing Buddy, but his head is turned. His hands are nervously moving around.

1. JOSHUA: Hey man, I gotta go.
2. BUDDY: Huh?

PANEL TWO.

Joshua, trying to hide his discomfort, turns back toward Buddy.

3. JOSHUA: My brother paged a little while ago. I gotta go help him with his car.
4. BUDDY: Hey, it's cool.

PANEL THREE.

Joshua is walking away from Buddy. Buddy's head is still down, deep in concentration.

5. BUDDY: Thought Balloon. Got \$40,000.00 for those girls and Nigel, \$16,000.00 on Facebook, and \$6,000.00 from family, so far.

PANEL FOUR.

As he is walking out of the arcade, he looks confident and his eyes appear bright.

6. BUDDY: Thought Balloon. \$62,000.00. Almost there. Two more.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SIX.**PANEL ONE.**

Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. Stephanie, Mindy, Greg and Michael meet at the recreation center. There are many people going in and coming out of the rec center. A baseball diamond is to one side. A soccer field runs adjacent to the baseball diamond.

1. CAPTION: Tuesday, 8:30 p.m.
2. STEPHANIE: Boy, this is a busy place, isn't it?
3. GREG: Yes. Very.

PANEL TWO.

A poster on the door of the recreation center informs people of the classes and programs the center offers. Basketball, volleyball, Tai Chi, Tae Kwon Do, ceramics, cards, and bumper pool are some of the programs. Note to illustrator: Please illustrate a poster that will include these programs and classes. The panel can be as large as you would like.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

Across the street from the recreation center is the arcade. As Buddy walks outside, he notices the young red-haired girl standing outside, smoking a cigarette.

PANEL TWO.

He stands beside his motorcycle, looking at her. She is looking back.

PANEL THREE.

He pulls up beside her on his bike.

1. BUDDY: Need a ride?
2. GIRL: Yeah.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

She smiles at him. He smiles back.

PANEL TWO.

Across the street, Greg and Michael are tacking up the first posters of Leigh and Willow. Greg is looking across the street at the arcade while Michael nails the poster into the pole. The reader can see Greg, Michael on one side of the street, as well as Buddy in front of the recreation center.

1. GREG: Hey, isn't that Buddy?

PANEL THREE.

Michael drops hammering long enough to look across the street.

2. MICHAEL: Yeah, I think it is.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED NINE.

PANEL ONE.

Both boys are looking over at Buddy with the young girl climbing on to the back of the bike with him.

1. MICHAEL: Isn't that Rachel McClanahan?
2. GREG: Sure looks like her.

PANEL TWO

Buddy and the girl ride off into the night, her arms wrapped tightly around his waist, face resting against his black, her red hair flying behind her.

PANEL THREE.

Standing in the parking lot not very far away is Joshua. He is talking to his brother, who is changing a flat on his car. He watches as Buddy leaves with the girl.

PANEL FOUR.

Michael grins at Greg. Greg looks concerned.

3. MICHAEL: He's turning into a stud, isn't he?
4. GREG: I don't know. He bothers me.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED-TEN.

PANEL ONE.

Stephanie and Mindy are walking up the street. The boys are still watching the taillights of the motorcycle.

PANEL TWO.

Mindy is getting impatient.

1. MINDY: Hey, got to get these up tonight, remember?

PANEL THREE.

The boys run to catch up with them.

2. MINDY: You need to go to school tomorrow if you feel like it. We've been through a lot this week.
3. GREG: Awww.

PANEL FOUR.

Mindy is looking at Greg, his eyes firm.

4. MINDY: You need to speak with your friends about the party and what happened. Maybe they'll know something.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED-ELEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

Greg looks at Michael. They realize they need to be around people who might know something.

1. GREG: Are you going back to school tomorrow?
2. MICHAEL: Yeah, if you are.
3. MINDY: That settles it.

PANEL TWO.

The reader sees them spread out and begin to tack posters onto the poles.

PANEL THREE.

Michael phones his mom.

4. MICHAEL: Mom, I'm okay. I'm helping Greg, Mindy and Stephanie put out flyers for Willow and Leigh. I may stay the night, if it's okay.

PANEL FOUR.

Mindy is looking at Stephanie with a smile on her face.

5. MINDY: Well, at least we're doing something. Better than doing nothing.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED-TWELVE.

PANEL ONE.

Tuesday, 11:00 p.m. Buddy is driving very fast through the mountains.

1. CAPTION: Tuesday, 11:00 p.m.

PANEL TWO.

He is aiming his motorcycle for oblivion.

PANEL THREE.

At the last second, he turns his bike back toward the road while applying the cycles brakes. He skids to within three feet of going off the cliff.

PANEL FOUR.

He sits up on the ground and takes in the darkness that matches his bleak feelings.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED-THIRTEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

In the moonlight, with his helmet removed, the reader sees tears rolling down his cheeks.

PANEL TWO.

Frustrated, Buddy punches the air in defiance and frustration.

PANEL THREE.

Exhausted, he collapses to the ground.

1. BUDDY: God, why? Why me? Why Angel? Why? Why is he sick?

PANEL FOUR.

The reader sees Buddy, lying in a heap by his motorcycle. The moon's brightness casts shadows everywhere.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED-FOURTEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Wednesday, September 21, 1:30 a.m. Greg, Michael, Mindy and Stephanie are in Mindy's car. They all look exhausted. No words are spoken.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 1:30 a.m.

PANEL TWO.

They are approaching a pimp hustling his girls. Some of the girls do not look over the age of sixteen.

PANEL THREE.

An older man in a blue Dodge Ram is exchanging money with the pimp.

PANEL FOUR.

The girl looks at them with sad eyes as they pass by. Mindy, Stephanie, Michael and Greg look back, with a sad look on their faces.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED-FIFTEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. Joe Wright, a clerk at 7-11, is sweeping his store so he can close out and go home.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 7:00 a.m.

PANEL TWO.

He notices a missing person poster on the window. His eyes darken because he recognizes the girls.

2. JOE: Thought Balloon. Aren't they the ones I saw with that guy with the wrecker on Saturday morning? Or, was it Sunday?

PANEL THREE.

Realizing he might know something the police would be interested in, he immediately walks into the store.

PANEL FOUR.

The reader can see Joe's phone. The numbers on the dial read 911.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Joe is on the phone with the police department.

1. POLICE OFFICER: Sir, the person you need to speak to isn't in yet. Can I have him call you later?
2. JOE: Yes, please do. C-c-can you send someone out, please?
3. POLICE OFFICER: Yes, we can do that.

PANEL TWO.

The reader can see the detective talking to Joe.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SEVENTEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Wednesday, 8:03 a.m. Buddy is looking at a piece of mail he received.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 8:03 a.m.

PANEL TWO.

From the letter, the reader can see it is from the Immigration Department.

PANEL THREE.

Buddy is reading the open letter. He is smiling.

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy is standing up, with the letter held high in the air.

2. BUDDY: Yes! One more and you are in, Angel!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED EIGHTEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Buddy has his cell phone in his hand. Note to illustrator: This will be a split panel with Buddy on one side of the page and Mama on the other.

1. BUDDY: Hola? Have great news, Mama!
2. MAMA: Como?

PANEL TWO.

Buddy is shown talking to his mom. She is very excited.

3. MAMA: That's great news!
4. BUDDY: Finally, he can get better.

PANEL THREE.

The reality of Angel getting better hits Mama. She breaks down in tears.

PANEL FOUR.

Hearing her cry, Buddy consoles her.

5. BUDDY: It's okay, Mama. Can I talk to Angel?

PAGE TWO HUNDRED NINETEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

The reader sees a handsome young seven-year-old boy with the face of an angel. He is happy. Note to illustrator: There must be an empathetic connection with the reader to both Angel and Buddy in this panel. Without it, Stockholm Syndrome type empathy for the kidnapper cannot be established.

1. ANGEL: Love you, Bubby!
2. BUDDY: Love you, too, Lil' man. See you soon!
3. ANGEL: Okay. Here's Mama.

PANEL TWO.

This is a split panel. Buddy is on one side and Mama is on the other.

4. BUDDY: Mom, Uncle Carlos will take you to the border. In Brownsville, you'll catch a Greyhound up here, okay?

PANEL THREE.

5. MAMA: Si, gracias!
6. BUDDY: De nada. See you soon!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED TWENTY.

PANEL ONE.

Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. Emiliano Morales, Head Detective of Missing Persons Department of Central City, is sitting at his desk. The phone rings.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 8:00 a.m.
2. SFX: Rrrring!
3. DET. MORALES: Detective Morales.

PANEL TWO.

A frantic parent is on the other end of the line. Note to illustrator: This is a split panel. On one side is Detective Morales; on the other is Ms. McClanahan, Rachel McClanahan's mother.

4. DET. MORALES: Ma'am, Ma'am, please slow down. I can't understand you.
5. MS. MCCLANAHAN: M-m-m-my daughter is missing.

PANEL THREE.

Detective Morales's face drops. He looks very pale. Detective Young, Detective Morales's partner, is sitting across at the desk adjacent to his. She appears shocked.

6. DET. YOUNG: Whispers. Another one?
7. DET. MORALES: Ma'am, who is this?
8. MS. MCCLANAHAN: I'm Rachel McClanahan's mom, Ruth McClanahan.

PANEL FOUR.

Sitting closer to his desk, on the edge of his chair, Detective Morales listens intently. Detective Young is leaning forward on her desk, also.

9. DET. MORALES: When's the last time you saw her?
10. MS. MCCLANAHAN: Yesterday, after school, Rachel went to the arcade with friends. Haven't seen her since.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

1. DET. MORALES: Ma'am, can you come down to the station, please?

PANEL TWO.

Ms. McClanahan is crying. Tears are rolling down her cheeks.

2. MS. MCCLANAHAN: Yes, of course.

3. DET. MORALES: See you soon.

PANEL THREE.

Detective Morales hangs up the phone, stands by his desk.

4. DET. MORALES: Young, we have a problem; we have another missing girl.

PANEL FOUR.

The other detectives in the room cannot help but overhear the conversation. They are all looking at Detective Morales with different expressions on their faces; some are sad and some angry. Detective Morales's face is bright red.

5. DET. MORALES: We have to get whoever's responsible. Hear me?

PAGE TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Buddy looks extremely happy. He still has his cell phone in his hand, up against his ear.

1. RECEPTIONIST: Central City Medical Center. May I help you?
2. BUDDY: Yes, Dr. Clark, please?
3. RECEPTIONIST: Yes, please hold.

PANEL TWO.

Buddy waits impatiently for the doctor, or his machine, to pick up. Dr. Clark's voice mail picks up.

4. DR. CLARK: This is Dr. Clark. Please leave a message at the beep and I'll call you as soon as I'm available. If this is an emergency, please call 911. Have a great day!
5. SFX: Beep!

PANEL THREE.

Buddy seems anxious. He can't get the message out fast enough.

6. BUDDY: Dr. Clark, this is Jose Esquivel, Angel Esquivel's brother. Immigration has approved Angel's visit here for treatment. Please call me as soon as you can. Thank you.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Buddy is standing with his finger on the cell phone's send button. He looks deep in thought.

1. BUDDY: One more and you don't have to do this anymore. Just one more.

PANEL TWO.

The reader sees tears running down his face.

2. BUDDY: God, if only there'd been another way.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Wednesday, 8:05 a.m. Michael pulls up into Greg's driveway, honks his horn.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 8:05 a.m.
2. SFX: Beep!

PANEL TWO.

Greg runs out of the house toward the car.

PANEL THREE.

Inside the car, the two boys greet one another.

3. GREG: Hey, man!
4. MICHAEL: Hey!

PANEL FOUR.

The two boys suddenly appear very quiet. Both are looking out the Honda Civic's windshield.

5. MICHAEL: Heard anything?
6. GREG: Naw, not yet. Just takes the right person to see the posters.
7. MICHAEL: Yeah.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Suddenly, Greg looks disappointed.

1. GREG: Oh, almost forgot; the P.D. called: They didn't find any fingerprints . . . at all!
2. MICHAEL: No way! How the heck that happen?

PANEL TWO.

Greg's eyes dim, suddenly aware of the implications.

3. GREG: I wish they'd found something they could use . . . even if I never got my car back. At least maybe we'd have Leigh.

PANEL THREE.

Greg and Michael both have sad expressions on their faces as they pull into the parking lot of Central City High School. The students of the school are all looking at them with interest and pity. Note to illustrator: Central City High School is just like any other high school. Nothing sets it apart from any other. It is very important to convey this.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX.**PANEL ONE.**

Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. Buddy is on the prowl once again. He realizes the elementary school begins later than the junior high school does.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.
2. BUDDY: I might be able to convince a kid to help me find my cat. No-one will be out here because everyone is in school already.

PANEL TWO.

At a stoplight, Buddy reads a Be on the Lookout text from an unknown sender. Note to illustrator: The text will be large enough for the reader to read without any problem. The message can fill up an entire panel by itself.

3. TEXT: BOTL: 8-10 year-old Asian boy, black hair, black or brown eyes, small build.

PANEL THREE.

Buddy begins to flip through his texts. At the top of the text is a phone number with a name: Ace.

4. TEXT: BOTL: 12 to 14 year old Hispanic or Native American girl, brown hair, brown eyes, medium height.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

One after another, the texts appear.

1. TEXT: BOTL: 12 to 14 year-old girl, Caucasian, blond hair, blue eyes, short.

PANEL TWO.

2. TEXT: BOTL: 10 to 12 year-old Caucasian boy, blondish-red hair, blue or green eyes, small build.

PANEL THREE.

3. TEXT: BOTL: 12 to 15 year old Caucasian girl, red hair, green eyes, small build.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Wednesday, 8:45 a.m. Ruth McClanahan is seen walking through the front doors of the Central City Police Department.

PANEL TWO.

The front desk personnel has a landline phone in his/her hand.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 8:45 a.m.
2. FRONT DESK PERSON: Detective Moral?
3. DET. MORALES: Disembodied. Yes?
4. FRONT DESK PERSON: You have a Ms. Ruth McClanahan to see you.
5. DET. MORALES: Send her back.

PANEL THREE.

Ms. McClanahan is seen speaking with Detective Morales and Detective Young

6. DET. MORALES: A missing person's alert will be issued right now.
7. MS. MCCLANAHAN: Good.

PANEL FOUR.

Ms. McClanahan is standing up. Detective Morales is looking at her with empathy.

8. DET. MORALES: Call us if you hear from her, okay? Detective Young will take your report. We will do everything we can to help you, okay.
9. MS. MCCLANAHAN: Okay.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE.

PANEL ONE.

Ms. McClanahan is crying, tears rolling down her face. Her head is in her hands.

1. MS. MCCLANAHAN: She's all I have! Please find her.

PANEL TWO.

Detective Young moves closer to her, willing to lend a hand, or a shoulder, if she needs it.

2. DET. MORALES: We'll do everything we can to find her. Go home. Wait for her.
She may show up.

PANEL THREE.

Ms. McClanahan walks out of the department, the door shutting behind her.

PANEL FOUR.

With the door shut, Detective Morales looks serious.

3. DET. MORALES: Okay, people! Get busy! We have five missing kids!

PANEL FIVE.

People scatter, get busy. Some are making phone calls; others are looking for files, still others are working on the computers.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED THIRTY.**PANEL ONE.**

Wednesday, 8:46 a.m. Buddy is driving up the back road not far from the grade school. Walking on the sidewalk is a young Asian boy.

PANEL TWO.

Buddy pulls the car toward the curb, shouts out at the small boy.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 8:46 a.m.
2. BUDDY: Hey!

PANEL THREE.

The boy looks around at Buddy.

3. BOY: Yeah?
4. BUDDY: Have you seen a little orange tabby kitten?
5. BOY: No.

PANEL FOUR.

The boy turns to keep walking, but Buddy calls to him again.

6. BUDDY: It's my sister's cat. If I don't find her, she's gonna kill me!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE.**PANEL ONE.**

The young boy turns around to face him again. Buddy is leaning over to the passenger side of the car.

1. BOY: Well, I hope you find her, then.
2. BUDDY: Are you sure you can't help me? School'll understand. You'll be a hero!

PANEL TWO.

The boy ponders this for a moment., still turned facing the wrecker. Buddy looks anxious.

3. BUDDY: Today's her birthday! Please!

PANEL THREE.

The boy walks toward Buddy.

4. BOY: Okay, but only for a little while. I have to go to school.

PANEL FOUR.

The reader sees the boy in the wrecker with Buddy.

5. BUDDY: Thought Balloon. Another \$10,000.00! He's mine!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO.**PANEL ONE.**

Buddy begins calling out the cat's name while moving forward in the wrecker. The boy is leaning over the window frame, looking for the lost kitten.

1. BUDDY: Fleasley! Here, kitty, kitty, kitty!

PANEL TWO.

The boy laughs. Buddy looks at him with a confused look on his face.

2. BUDDY: What's so funny?

3. BOY: Fleasley?

PANEL THREE.

The boy is still having a great time messing with Buddy. His face is jovial. Buddy is confused.

4. BUDDY: What's wrong with Fleasley?

5. BOY: No, just . . . funny.

PANEL FOUR.

The boy laughs. A relaxed look crosses Buddy's face.

6. BOY: Hahaha!

7. BUDDY: Hahaha!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Buddy tries to explain. The boy is still grinning

1. BUDDY: You know, like Ron Weasley?
2. BOY: Yeah, I get it!

PANEL TWO.

The two are grinning at each other . . . a feeling of attachment has been formed. The wrecker is still moving forward.

PANEL THREE.

Buddy's eyes are soft. He looks deep in thought.

3. BUDDY: Thought Balloon. He has a smile like Angel's.

PANEL FOUR.

This panel will have Buddy looking at the reader with an image above his head of both his brother and the young Asian boy. They will share the same smile.

PANEL FIVE.

The boy is still leaning out the window, calling the cat's name. Buddy is watching him, a smile presents itself on his face.

4. BOY: Here, Fleasley! Here kitty, kitty, kitty!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR.**PANEL ONE.**

The wrecker is directly in line with the back of the school. Buddy can see children playing on the playground before school even begins.

PANEL TWO.

Buddy looks back at the boy, who is still calling the cat.

1. BOY: Fleasley!
2. BUDDY: Fleasley!.

PANEL THREE.

The boy looks back at him and grins.

3. BUDDY: I think it's hopeless. She's gonna kill me!

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy stops the wrecker and looks at the young boy. The boy is looking back at him.

4. BUDDY: Well, have a great day at school!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE.**PANEL ONE.**

The boy has gotten out of the wrecker that still looks menacing. The boy and the back of the school appear innocent and clean. Buddy is still watching him, with a big grin on his face.

1. BOY: Hope you find Fleasley! Tell your sister Happy Birthday!

2. BUDDY: No problem. I will.

PANEL TWO.

Buddy watches as the boy runs up the playground toward the school. Buddy is still smiling.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX.**PANEL ONE.**

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. Detective Morales pushes the button to retrieve his voice mail.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.
2. PHONE: Yes hi, this is Joe Wright. I work at the 7-11 on Akers and Lindsay St. Those two girls who went missing? Yeah well, I saw them on Saturday morning while I was working. My number is 555-2989. Call me, okay?

PANEL TWO.

Detective Joyce Young is standing there when Detective Morales pushed the button.

3. DET. YOUNG: Oh, snap!

PANEL THREE.

Detective Morales grabs his jacket off the coat rack by his desk. Detective Young takes her jacket off the back of her chair.

4. DET. MORALES: Let's go! We'll call him on the way!

PANEL FOUR.

Both detectives have their jackets half on as they race through the department. Detective Morales's hat is on his head.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

Wednesday, 10:10 a.m. The 7-11 is shown in the background. A squad car sits in front.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 10:10 a.m.

PANEL TWO.

Inside the building, Joe Wright is working. He looks tired. The police are standing at the counter.

2. DET. MORALES: Joe Wright?

3. JOE: Yes, I'm sorry I didn't call earlier. Just saw the posters.

4. DET. MORALES: It's okay. Glad you called. Was anyone with the girls?

PANEL THREE.

Joe is looking the detectives right in the eyes. He appears honest, hard-working and sincere.

5. JOE: Yes, I saw a guy about 6'4" tall, about 190 pounds.

PANEL FOUR.

Detective Young is writing down everything Mr. Wright has to say while Detective Morales is listening intently.

6. DET. MORALES: Anything you notice unusual about him? Limp, irregular features, tattoos, maybe?

PAGE TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Joe Wright's face lights up. The detectives are extremely interested in what he has to say. They are leaning forward toward him, showing their eagerness.

1. JOE: Nothing physical. But, I found it unusual he was driving a black wrecker.

PANEL TWO.

Detective Moral and Detective Young look at each other. Joe is checking out a customer.

2. DET. YOUNG: Wrecker?
3. JOE: Yes, black. No I.D. on the sides. One of those repo wreckers, you know with the boom and a wheel lift.

PANEL THREE.

Detective Morales looks a bit puzzled. Joe Wright checks out the next customer.

4. DET. MORALES: How do you know so much about wreckers?

PANEL FOUR.

Joe laughs and smiles. Detective Morales slightly smiles.

5. JOE: I drove one for ten years!
6. DET. MORALES: Interesting.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Detective Morales looks back at Joe. Detective Young is staring straight ahead, lost in thought.

PANEL TWO.

Detective Morales pulls out a growing stack of posters and shows them to Joe Wright.

1. DET. MORALES: Do you recognize any of these children?

PANEL THREE.

The reader can see the five posters lying on the counter, side-by-side. Joe Wright is looking at the posters.

PANEL FOUR.

Joe puts his finger on the poster of Leigh. The reader can see Leigh's poster.

2. JOE: This one.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FORTY.**PANEL ONE.**

Joe looks at the other posters. He puts his finger on the one of Willow.

1. JOE: This one, too.

PANEL TWO.

The reader sees the missing person's posters of Willow and Leigh lying side-by-side.

PANEL THREE.

Detective Morales is looking at Joe. Detective Young has her head down looking at the posters.

2. DET. MORALES: I need you to come downtown and fill out an official report today.
3. JOE: Okay if I come down after work? Doubles'll kill a person.
4. DET. MORALES: Yeah.

PANEL FOUR.

As the Detective Morales is walking out the door, Detective Young is still looking at Joe Wright.

5. DET. YOUNG: Any chance you saw which way they went?

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FORTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

Joe looks up from his cash register and smiles.

1. JOE: Yeah, north up Old Hollow Road.

PANEL TWO.

Detective Morales and Detective Young smile at Joe Wright, appreciating him for doing his civic duty.

2. DET. YOUNG: Thank you for coming forward.
3. JOE: I wish it was sooner. Working nights causes one to miss everything going on in an 8 to 5 world.
4. DET. MORALES: Yeah, don't I know it?

PANEL THREE.

As Detective Young and Detective Morales are walking through the front door of the 7-11. Detective Morales is holding the door, while looking at Detective Young.

5. DET. MORALES: Hey, nice work, Rookie!

PANEL FOUR.

Detective Young grins at Detective Moral.

6. DET. YOUNG: Thanks! Now, let's go get 'em!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FORTY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

In the car, as they are pulling out of the 7-11, Detective Young looks at Detective Morales.

1. DET. YOUNG: Perfect set-up. No touch towing, no fingerprints. Drop and hook. Easy to make people simply vanish.
2. DET. MORALES: Now, you're getting it!

PANEL TWO.

Both officers are looking through the front windshield.

3. DET. YOUNG: We may have just gotten our biggest break.
4. DET. MORALES: No doubt.

PANEL THREE.

Joe is standing in front of the 7-11 watching the detectives drive north up toward Old Hollow Road.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FORTY-THREE.**PANEL ONE.**

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. Buddy is patrolling the streets again, this time cruising by the elementary school one more time. The kids are playing on the playground.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.

PANEL TWO.

A ball rolls up to the fence by where he is parked. A young boy of about nine years of age runs after it. The other kids keep playing, oblivious to the danger.

PANEL THREE.

Buddy opens the door of the wrecker. The ball comes to a rest.

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy is shown walking toward the young boy. The boy bends down to pick the ball up.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR.**PANEL ONE.**

Buddy has a rag in his hand. The boy accidentally kicks the ball with his foot, which causes it to come closer to Buddy.

PANEL TWO.

The boy comes too close. Buddy grabs him, putting the rag over the boy's face.

PANEL THREE.

The boy passes out. Buddy begins to carry the boy to the wrecker.

PANEL FOUR.

The boy is lying helpless on the bench seat of the wrecker.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

On the playground, a teacher, from about two-hundred feet away, sees a man placing a child in the seat of a black wrecker.

PANEL TWO.

She looks shocked. Buddy is looking over at her as he drives away.

1. TEACHER: Help! Somebody, help!

PANEL THREE.

She is pointing toward the far end of the playground.

2. TEACHER: Help!

PANEL FOUR.

She runs toward the school.

3. TEACHER: Oh, please help!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FORTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

As Buddy is driving away, he sees the teacher screaming.

1. BUDDY: Thought Balloon. Too late. Sorry.

PANEL TWO.

Buddy looks at the little boy lying on the seat of his truck.

2. BUDDY: Sorry, little man. Wish I didn't have to do this, but they're gonna get you out real soon. I promise cuz I'm gonna bust 'em.

PANEL THREE.

The reader sees the wrecker moving away from them.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

Detective Morales and Detective Young are parked in the parking lot of an old, abandoned warehouse building with a sign reading Harvard Freight.

PANEL TWO.

They are looking around. Detective Morales is a few feet away from Detective Young.

PANEL THREE.

Detective Young is excited. She is waving her hands at Detective Morales.

1. DET. YOUNG: Moral, come here, quick!

PANEL FOUR.

Detective Morales is walking toward Detective Young.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Standing there together, they are looking down at a lady's necklace.

1. DET. YOUNG: Looks really nice.
2. DET. MORALES: Yeah, maybe a diamond. Don't touch it.

PANEL TWO.

In a pothole filled with water and a little bit of mud, they find a flyer lying face-up. The corner of the flyer is under the edge of the pothole, with the weight of the water holding it down. They both are looking down at it.

PANEL THREE.

The reader sees that it is the same flyer that Buddy gave to Willow and Leigh at the river.
Note to illustrator: Please show a flyer that matches the first flyer given at the party.
Include Want to become a model? We can show you how! Magical La Modelisation
Presents: Modeling Fair of Central City. When: September 11, 2016. Where: City Event
Center. 123 Old Hollow Road, Central City. Time: 9am.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FORTY-NINE.

PANEL ONE.

Detective Young and Detective Morales are looking at each other again. Detective Young has a puzzled look on her face.

1. DET. YOUNG: City Event Center?

PANEL TWO.

The reader and the detectives are looking at the sign above the front door. Harvard Freight: 123 Old Hollow Road.

2. DET. YOUNG: They never saw it coming until they got here, and it was too late.

PANEL THREE.

Detective Young and Detective Morales are standing by their car. By the road, Detective Young discovers a tire track in the mud by the drainage pipe.

3. DET. YOUNG: Well, lookee here. I think they may have left something else.

PANEL FOUR.

While standing there, Detective Young answers her phone.

4. SFX: Rrrring!

5. DET. YOUNG: Hello?

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FIFTY.

PANEL ONE.

Dispatch is on the other end and they are not very happy.

1. DISPATCH: We've been calling you. There's been another abduction. This time, at the elementary school!
2. DET. YOUNG: Another what? Damn!

PANEL TWO.

Detective Morales looks shocked.

3. DET. MORALES: Another abduction? What the hell?

PANEL THREE.

Detective Morales appears outraged, while Detective Young looks disappointed. DET.

4. DET. MORALES: Let me talk to them!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

Detective Young hands him the phone.

1. DET. YOUNG: Send forensics out to Harvard Freight. 123 Old Hollow Road.
2. DISPATCH: What'd you find?

PANEL TWO.

Detective Morales is looking up at the rotting building with broken windows and a ghostly appearance.

3. DET. MORALES: The crime scene.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Wednesday, 11:48 a.m. Buddy sedates Sean Cho again and carries him into the house with him.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 11:48 a.m.

PANEL TWO.

Buddy disappears through the front door.

PANEL THREE.

He emerges from the house carrying a large soft-sided workout bag. The garage door is open.

PANEL FOUR.

He pulls his vehicle out of the garage.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. Greg and Michael are eating lunch when Greg's cell phone begins buzzing. It is the police department on the other line. Note to illustrator: This panel will be split with one side showing Greg and the other showing the police officer.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.
2. POLICE: May I speak to Greg Weber?
3. GREG: This is him.

PANEL TWO.

The police officer addresses Greg.

4. POLICE: I understand your mom received a call earlier today stating that you would be able to pick up your car.
5. GREG: She did?
6. POLICE: Yes, but due to a recent development, we are not going to release it today.

PANEL THREE.

Greg looks intrigued and his eyes sparkle. Michael is looking at him with interest.

7. GREG: Recent development?
8. POLICE: Yes, detectives found the crime scene.
9. GREG: Where?
10. POLICE: 123 Old Hollow Road.
11. GREG: Wow! Tell me you found the girls.
12. POLICE: No.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Greg's attention is strictly on the phone.

1. GREG: Well, let me know. I'll call mom and let her know.

PANEL TWO.

Greg hangs up the phone, all the time looking at Michael.

2. GREG: Gotta call mom. Just listen, okay?

PANEL THREE.

Greg and Michael are facing each other now.

3. GREG: I'm not getting my car back.

PANEL FOUR.

Greg calls his mom; his phone in his hand. Michael watches him.

4. GREG: Mom? Got good news and bad news. Which one you want first?

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Wednesday, 12:20 p.m. Buddy drives the wrecker to 2LT2PAY Auto Recovery.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday 12:20 p.m.

PANEL TWO.

Big Boss Man meets him in the parking lot. Buddy is walking toward him.

2. BUDDY: Hey, I hate to do it, but I can't work anymore. We finally got the approval for Angel's treatment.

PANEL THREE.

Big Boss Man, Able Jones, looks disappointed.

3. BIG BOSS MAN: I am happy to hear that, but I sure am gonna miss you! You were a great worker!

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy looks happy to hear his boss's praise for him. Big Boss Man has an inquisitive look on his face.

4. BUDDY: Yeah.
5. BIG BOSS MAN: How'd you get the money so quick?

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Buddy looks at his feet. Big Boss Man looks concerned.

1. BUDDY: We had a Go Fund Me page.
2. BIG BOSS MAN: That's cool! Did you raise it all there?
3. BUDDY: Most of it.

PANEL TWO.

Buddy is looking at him now. Big Boss Man is looking him in the eye.

5. BUDDY: Yeah, I know!

PANEL THREE.

Big Boss Man watches as Buddy walks away, his head down.

6. BIG BOSS MAN: Thought Balloon. Sure doesn't look happy.

PANEL FOUR.

When Buddy gets to his car, Big Boss Man calls out to him.

7. BIG BOSS MAN: Call me when you want your job back!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

Inside his automobile, Buddy looks out the window at Big Boss Man.

1. BUDDY: I will . . . and I'm sorry.

PANEL TWO.

As he drives away, Big Boss Man has a confused expression.

2. BIG BOSS MAN: Thought Balloon. Now, why is he apologizing?

PANEL THREE.

Inside the car, Big Boss Man can see a small head pop up in the back seat.

3. BIG BOSS MAN: Thought Balloon. Guess his brother and mom are already here.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Wednesday, 1:15 p.m. Crime Scene. The forensics lab is lifting tire prints out of the culvert.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 1:15 p.m. Crime Scene.
2. POLICE OFFICER: Careful, guys! Don't mess it up!

PANEL TWO.

Another investigator about thirty-five feet away discovers a piece of paper lying in a pot hole.

3. INVESTIGATOR: Hey, I found something!
4. POLICE OFFICER: Just be real careful with everything.

PANEL THREE.

The investigator is shown picking up the item with tweezers.

PANEL FOUR.

He is placing the moist piece of paper into a plastic container.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE.

PANEL ONE.

Wednesday, 1:27 p.m. Buddy is lying on a bed in a motel room; the drapes are open a little bit to let the sunshine in.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 1:27 p.m.

PANEL TWO.

Buddy's cell phone is in his hand.

2. SFX: Rrrring!

PANEL THREE.

His mother, Angel and Uncle Carlos are standing on the beach in Matamoras, Mexico.

3. MAMA: Hola?
4. BUDDY: Hola, Mama! Are you there yet?

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SIXTY.

PANEL ONE.

Mama looks at Carlos. Angel is wading. Carlos is watching Angel.

1. MAMA: In just a few minutes.
2. BUDDY: Good. Put Uncle Carlos on.
3. MAMA: Si.

PANEL TWO.

Uncle Carlos has the phone in his hand. Mama is wading in the surf with Angel. Buddy pushes the end button on his phone.

4. BUDDY: Uncle Carlos, thank you!
5. UNCLE CARLOS: You're welcome. Just get him better.
6. BUDDY: I will. I promise.

PANEL THREE.

Uncle Carlos is seen running with Angel and Mama in the surf.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. The forensic team is in the police department now. They have the evidence they have gathered. Detective Morales meets them at the door.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 4:30 p.m.
2. DET. MORALES: Is that it? Did you get a good print?
3. FORENSICS OFFICER: Yeah, everything looks real good!

PANEL TWO.

Detective Morales has the house phone up against his ear.

4. RECEPTIONIST: Central City Forensics Lab. This is Gladys speaking. May I help you?
5. DET. MORALES: Yes, This is Detective Morales of CCPD. Got some last minute evidence over here. Any chance you can look at it tonight?

PANEL THREE.

Gladys laughs.

6. GLADYS: I'm sorry, but we close in fifteen minutes. All the techs have gone home for the evening.

PANEL FOUR.

Detective Morales looks upset.

7. DET. MORALES: This is an emergency, Gladys. Please?
8. GLADYS: It always is. I'm sorry. We open 8:00 am.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

The line goes dead. Detective Morales looks at his phone.

1. DET. MORAL: Hello?

PANEL TWO.

Detective Morales looks ticked. He is putting the phone back into his pocket.

2. DET. MORALES: Damn! Stupid phone! No-one there.

PANEL THREE.

Detective Young is standing next to Detective Morales.

3. DET. YOUNG: What?
4. DET. MORALES: Not until morning.

PANEL FOUR.

Detective Morales and Detective Young look at each other. The forensics team is still standing there, evidence in hand.

PANEL FIVE.

Detective Morales looks at the guys with respect and gratitude.

5. DET. MORALES: Guys, great job! Take everything to evidence and check it in.

PANEL SIX.

Detective Morales looks at Detective Young.

6. DET. MORALES: 7:30 a.m. Sharp.
7. DET. YOUNG: No problem.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Later that evening. Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. Buddy is waiting outside the Greyhound Station, waiting for Mama and Angel to arrive.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.

PANEL TWO.

The reader sees the bus pull in.

PANEL THREE.

Buddy is standing next to the parked bus. Angel and Mama are standing on the bus steps.

2. ANGEL: Bubby!

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy catches Angel in his arms when he suddenly jumps from the steps. Mama is on the top step.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Buddy, Mama and Angel are hugging each other. Mama is crying.

PANEL TWO.

Buddy, Mama, and Angel pick up their luggage and walk toward the car.

PANEL THREE.

Buddy is in the middle of putting their bags into the trunk of his car. Mama and Angel are already sitting inside the car.

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy is seated inside the car. Angel is leaning over the back of the seat between Mama and Buddy.

1. ANGEL: I'm kind of hungry.

2. BUDDY: Let's go eat, then!

PANEL FIVE.

Mama and Buddy look happy, but Angel looks extremely tired.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Wednesday, 8:45 p.m. Greg, Michael, and Mindy are sitting at the local pizzeria. The waitress has just brought them their drinks.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 8:45 p.m.

PANEL TWO.

They are looking at the menu when Stephanie walks in. Behind her is Buddy Danger, a young boy and an older woman. Mindy puts her hand up to signal to Stephanie.

2. MINDY: Hey, Stephanie!

PANEL THREE.

Buddy looks over and sees Greg and Michael sitting there. Michael waves. Stephanie puts her hand up and begins walking over to their table.

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy puts his head down. There is a strange expression on both Michael and Greg's face.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Greg looks at Michael with a puzzled expression, just as Stephanie sits down beside Mindy.

1. STEPHANIE: Hey.
2. GREG: What the heck?

PANEL TWO.

Michael and Greg are still looking at each other. Stephanie and Mindy are looking at them, too.

3. GREG: Beats me.
4. STEPHANIE: What?

PANEL THREE.

Greg looks at Stephanie. All four at the table are looking at Greg.

5. GREG: We just waved at Buddy Danger. He acted like he didn't know us.

PANEL FOUR.

Stephanie laughs. Michael and Mindy look at Stephanie, also.

6. STEPHANIE: Ha. Is that all?

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

Michael and Greg look frustrated.

1. MICHAEL: Well, he's been trying to be friends forever. Why'd he diss us?

PANEL TWO.

Buddy, Mama and Angel are seated at a table far from where they are.

2. MICHAEL: It's just weird.

PANEL THREE.

The waitress is standing at the table. The quartet are still looking at each other.

3. WAITRESS: What can I get you?

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Wednesday, 10:45 p.m. Greg and Mindy are watching a repeat episode of *The Big Bang Theory*.

1. CAPTION: Wednesday, 10:45 p.m.

PANEL TWO.

This panel shows Michael playing video games.

PANEL THREE.

This panel shows Stephanie crying at her dining room table with Willow's favorite mug in her hand. Note to illustrator: Please use the same mug that was used before in Part I.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Detective Morales is watching the news. The picture of Sean Cho is shown, along with everyone else who has disappeared from Central City and Macomb City in the past month. Note to illustrator: Please include the pictures of the youth who have disappeared.

PANEL TWO.

This panel shows Buddy and Mama talking at the little table alongside the bed. Angel is sleeping peacefully on one of the two beds.

1. MAMA: How'd you raise the money so quickly?
2. BUDDY: Facebook.

PANEL THREE.

Buddy appears nervous. He has changed positions and is facing away from Mama. He is looking at Angel.

3. MAMA: Wow! Americans are very generous!
4. BUDDY: Yes, they are!

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy is standing by the door.

5. BUDDY: I need a drink. You want one?
6. MAMA: No, I'm okay.

PANEL FIVE.

The door shuts, leaving Mama and Angel alone in the room. Mama is looking at the door with a doubtful expression.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, September 22, 7:30 a.m. Detective Morales and Detective Young are sitting in the police station waiting for the evidence clerk, Kim Murphy. They face each other while drinking coffee and eating a doughnut. Detective Young is looking at a magazine. The clock on the wall reads 7:30 am.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, September 22, 7:30 a.m.
2. DET. YOUNG: Think Murphy will be here on time?
3. MURPHY: Who the hell knows?

PANEL TWO.

Kim Murphy comes through the office, carrying a bag from McDonald's and a cup of coffee. Detective Morales jumps. Detective Young does not move.

4. MURPHY: I understand I have something you're interested in!

PANEL THREE.

Detective Young and Detective Morales turns their heads to see her. Detective Murphy is walking toward them.

5. MURPHY: Hey, are those doughnuts? I love doughnuts!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

Detective Young hands her a doughnut.

1. MURPHY: Shall we?
2. DET. MORALES: What took you so long?

PANEL TWO.

Officer Murphy wags her finger in the air at Detective Morales.

3. MURPHY: Don't make me nervous now. Might not be able to find what you're looking for.

PANEL THREE.

Detective Morales looks at Detective Young, but doesn't say anything. Officer Murphy is looking at Detective Morales with a big grin on her face.

4. MURPHY: You'll hurt my feelings.

PANEL FOUR.

Officer Murphy starts walking down the hall. Detective Morales and Detective Young follow her.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

In the property room, Officer Murphy opens the door, then looks over her shoulder at Detective Moral.

1. MURPHY: See, your partner knows the game. Why don't you?

PANEL TWO.

As the door shuts behind her, Detective Morales looks at Detective Young and scoffs. Officer Murphy opens the window and catches the scoff directed at Detective Young.

2. MURPHY: Never mind him. Guys like him are socially awkward.

PANEL THREE.

Officer Young cannot keep her chuckle to herself. Her head is down and she is laughing to herself.

3. DET. MORALES: Hey!

PANEL FOUR.

Officer Murphy looks at Detective Morales and grins, then addresses him.

4. MURPHY: Now, what did you want again? Tire impressions, right?

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Detective Young still has a doughnut in her hands. Detective Morales looks at her, disgusted.

PANEL TWO.

He snatches the doughnut from her hand.

1. DET. YOUNG: Hey, I bought those!

PANEL THREE.

He takes a big bite out of the doughnut just as Officer Murphy comes to the window.

2. MURPHY: Well, lookee here, tire marks!

PANEL FOUR.

Detective Morales stares at her. Officer Murphy tries to lighten things up some.

3. MURPHY: Lighten up, sweetie. You know I'm just teasing you, right?

4. DET. MORALES: Be careful, or I'll investigate your mother for not having any children who lived!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR.**PANEL ONE.**

Detective Morales laughs, then grins at Officer Murphy. The half-eaten doughnut is still in his hand. He is offering it to Officer Murphy.

1. DET. MORALES: I'm full. Here.

PANEL TWO.

Officer Murphy, not wanting to make him any madder, takes the doughnut. Detective Young is standing there with her mouth hanging open.

2. DET. YOUNG: Hey!

3. OFFICER MURPHY: You didn't spit on it, or anything, did you?

4. DET. MORALES: Naw.

PANEL THREE.

As Detective Morales and Detective Young walk away, Officer Murphy puts the doughnut in the trash.

5. DET. MORALES: Hope you choke on that!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, 7:45 a.m. Buddy takes Angel to the doctor's office.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 7:45 a.m.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, 7:45 a.m.

Officer Morales and Officer Young arrive at the forensics lab. They are shown signing the castings to them.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 7:45 a.m. Forensics Laboratory.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN.

PANEL ONE. Thursday, 8:30 a.m. Central City Hospital.

Buddy and Mama are in the waiting room at the doctor's office. Angel is lying on a couple of the seats, clearly not feeling well. A nurse calls out Angel's name.

1. Thursday, 8:30 a.m. Central City Hospital.
2. MAMA: Yes.
3. NURSE: The doctor will see you now.

PANEL TWO.

Mama pats Angel on the shoulder. Angel looks up at her, his eyes showing his fatigue.

4. MAMA: We're going back now. Come with us.

PANEL THREE.

Buddy picks Angel up and carries him.

5. BUDDY: Come on.

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy and Mama are sitting in front of Dr. Clark's desk. Angel is seated between them. His head is resting on Buddy's leg. Dr. Clark is honest and upfront.

6. DR. CLARK: We need to do some chemotherapy, then possibly radiation. After the treatments are given, we will then do another MRI and CATSCAN to see what the tumor looks like and if Angel's body is responding well. Afterwards, if we don't get what we're hoping for, surgery may be an option.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Buddy is looking at the doctor. Mama is looking at Buddy.

1. BUDDY: How much is that gonna cost?
2. DR. CLARK: Cash?
3. BUDDY: Yes.
4. DR. CLARK: About \$55,000 dollars, with everything, including surgery.

PANEL TWO.

Mama is looking at Dr. Clark while Buddy is looking down at his hands which are lying in his lap. He looks as though he's seen a ghost.

5. BUDDY: Thought Balloon. Damn!

PANEL THREE.

Buddy appears upset.

6. BUDDY: But, why only \$55,000?
7. DR. CLARK: Cash makes a big difference. Plus, this new form of chemotherapy treatment is only in its infancy. We need people who are willing to test it.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Mama is crying now, realizing that treatment is unproven. Dr. Clark is looking at Buddy. Buddy still does not look well. Mama is looking at Buddy, also, realizing something is not right.

1. BUDDY: That's about \$25,000.00 less than I thought. Once we pay, can you fax a letter to immigration showing it's been paid for?
2. DR. CLARK: Yes, I will.

PANEL TWO.

Angel sits up. He looks at Mama and Buddy.

3. ANGEL: It's okay, Mama. Bear-bear needs help. That's all that matters.

PANEL THREE.

Mama is crying. Dr. Clark is looking at Mama, Buddy and Angel. Bear-bear is sitting on Angel's lap. Angel's eyes are closed.

PANEL FOUR.

Dr. Clark is writing something on a piece of paper.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY.

PANEL ONE.

Buddy starts to cry. Mama has her hand on his shoulder.

1. BUDDY: I'm sorry. Just relieved, I guess.
2. DR. CLARK: It's understandable.

PANEL TWO.

Buddy opens a small backpack.

PANEL THREE.

A stack of money is lying on Dr. Clark's desk. Dr. Clark looks shocked. Tears are rolling down Mama's face.

PANEL FOUR.

Dr. Clark has his chair turned to one side, landline in his hand.

3. DR. CLARK: I need an emergency MRI done today.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

Dr. Clark has the phone in one hand and the other on the fax machine. The machine whirrs. Mama looks relieved, but her eyes are still moist with tears.

1. SFX: Whir.
2. DR. CLARK: You had a cancellation for 10:30? We'll take it!

PANEL TWO.

Dr. Clark looks at Mama and Buddy with a happy expression. His arm is extended. In his hand, he has a card showing the address of the Imaging Center. They look relieved.

3. DR. CLARK: No time to waste. This is okay, right?
4. MAMA: Oh, yes!
5. DR. CLARK: Good.

PANEL THREE.

Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Angel, Buddy and Mama are sitting at the Imaging Center's waiting room.

6. CAPTION: Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Imaging Center waiting room.
7. ANGEL: Bubby, I love you!
8. BUDDY: I love you back, little man.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO.**PANEL FOUR.**

Inside Dr. Clark's office, the reader sees him on the phone. Note to illustrator: This panel will include both Dr. Clark and the person on the phone with him, Judge James Thompson.

1. DR. CLARK: I just visited with Buddy Danger and his mother. It's a done deal.
2. JUDGE THOMPSON: Good. I told him I'd take care of it. I will forward the rest shortly.
3. DR. CLARK: Thank you.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, 1:45 a.m. Angel comes out of the MRI room. Angel looks tired. There are dark circles under his eyes.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 11:45 a.m.
2. BUDDY: How'd it go, Angel?
3. ANGEL: Okay, I guess.

PANEL TWO.

Mama, Buddy and Angel are sitting in Dr. Clark's office, once again.

4. DR. CLARK: We put a stat on MRI results. Should know something today.
5. MAMA: Thank you, doctor.

PANEL THREE.

The trio leaves the doctor's office.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, 12:45 p.m. The forensics laboratory is on the phone with Detective Morales at Central City Police Department.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 12:45 p.m.
2. LAB: The Camaro tire prints do not match the cast impressions found at the scene.
3. DET. MORALES: Okay, thank you.

PANEL TWO.

Detective Morales is facing Detective Young, who is sitting across from him at her desk.

4. DET. MORALES: The tire prints at the scene don't match the Camaro.
5. DET. YOUNG: So, no fingerprints and non-matching tire tread.
6. DET. MORALES: Yep.

PANEL THREE.

Detective Morales looks upset, but deep-in-thought.

7. DET. YOUNG: Well, someone will be happy.
8. DET. MORALES: Yep.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, September 22, 1:00 p.m. Detective Young has Mindy Armstrong on the phone.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, September 22, 1:00 p.m.
2. DET. YOUNG: Ms Armstrong, just wanted to call to let you know we are done with your son's car.
3. MINDY: Did you find anything?
4. DET. YOUNG: No, ma'am. No fingerprints or any evidence that is usable.

PANEL TWO.

Mindy is thankful they do not have to buy another car, but also unhappy because there are no leads to solving Leigh and Willow's disappearance.

5. MINDY: So, are there no leads?
6. DET. YOUNG: Yes, we have a lead; there are tire tracks at the crime scene.

PANEL THREE.

Mindy appears hopeful.

7. MINDY: So you think they might belong to the kidnappers?
8. DET. YOUNG: We hope so.

PANEL FOUR.

Thursday, 1:05 p.m. Mindy looks thankful for that bit of information.

9. CAPTION: Thursday, 1:05 p.m.
10. DET. YOUNG: Good news is you can come get your car.
11. MINDY: Greg will be happy to hear that!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX.

Mindy texts Greg to tell him he can get his car back. The reader can see the text.

1. MINDY: Great news! P.D.'s done with your car!

PANEL TWO.

A few miles away, Greg is in his class sneaking a peak at his phone when it vibrates.

2. SFX. Buzz.
3. GREG: Yes!

PANEL THREE.

The entire class looks at him, including the teacher. Michael's expression is inquisitive.

4. GREG: Oops, sorry.

PANEL FOUR.

Everyone in the class continue with what they were doing. Greg puts his hands on an imaginary steering wheel and begins driving.

5. MICHAEL: Whispers. What?
6. GREG: Yeah.
7. TEACHER: Do you boys mind?

PAGE TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Thursday, 1:30 p.m. Becky Staples, reporter at Central City Press, arrives at the police department. Detective Morales agrees to an interview.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, September 22, 1:30 p.m.
2. STAPLES: There have been many disappearances in the past month in Central City. Can you comment?
3. DET. MORALES: Yes, I can. A new development has come about.

PANEL TWO.

Becky Staples is happy because there has been very little posted about the girls, other than the missing persons posters and the alert that went out. Detective Morales appears as though he is nervous, but pressed him to make a statement.

4. DET. MORALES: We received information that a person-of-interest was seen with two of the young girls, both Willow Weber and Leigh Armstrong, on the morning of their disappearance.

PANEL THREE.

Becky Staples is excited, but trying to remain calm.

5. DET. MORALES: We are looking for a male, about twenty to twenty-five years old, who drives a black wrecker with no identifying characteristics. At this time, there is nothing more I can tell you.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, 3:00 p.m. Mama looks concerned. Buddy is evasive and uncomfortable. Angel is exhausted. Buddy is pacing. Buddy's cell phone vibrates. He is looking at it.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 3:00 p.m. Motel.

PANEL TWO.

Mama looks upset and concerned. Buddy is nervous.

2. MAMA: Buddy, why are we here? Why not your place?
3. BUDDY: Cuz my place is so d-d-dirty.

PANEL THREE.

Mama is facing Buddy, now, tears appearing at the corners of her eyes. Buddy is on the other side of the room by the door.

4. MAMA: Buddy, where did you really get all that money?
5. BUDDY: Mama, do you want something to drink? I'm thirsty.

PANEL FOUR.

Mama begins sobbing. Buddy is standing beside her, his arms wrapped around her. Angel, having woken up, is sitting on the side of the bed.

6. BUDDY: Mama, the only thing that's important is Angel's gonna get better!
7. MAMA: Oh, Buddy!

PANEL FIVE.

From the door, the reader sees the three of them, huddled together, holding each other.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Thursday, 3:35 p.m. Michael drives Greg to the police department to pick up his car. When they walk in, they notice a poster on the bulletin board that has missing person's posters tacked up, along with an artist's depiction of a black wrecker with boom and lift.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 3:35 p.m.

PANEL TWO.

Michael and Greg look at each other with shocked expressions on their faces.

2. GREG: Buddy drives a wrecker!

PANEL THREE.

They look at the posters more, especially at the picture of Rachel McClanahan.

3. GREG: Wasn't she the girl who rode off with Buddy?

4. MICHAEL: I think so.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED NINETY.

PANEL ONE.

Greg and Michael both look as though they've won the lottery.

1. MICHAEL: Buddy was at the river party, too!
2. GREG: Holy crap!

PANEL TWO.

Realizing the enormity of this revelation, they both look shocked.

PANEL THREE.

The reader is given another look at the young people who have disappeared, the pictures of Willow, Leigh and Rachel being the most dominant.

PAGE TWO HUNDED NINETY-ONE.**PANEL ONE.**

Thursday, 3:30 p.m. Buddy pulls up to Taco Trio. Joshua Barnes is walking into the restaurant until he sees Buddy.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 3:30 p.m.
2. JOSHUA: Where's your wrecker?
3. BUDDY: I quit my job today. Mama and Angel are here.

PANEL TWO.

Buddy seems a little uneasy, but not too much so. Joshua appears happy.

4. JOSHUA: Wow! Where'd you get the money so quick?

PANEL THREE.

Buddy is upset. Joshua is shocked at Buddy's display of anger.

5. BUDDY: Why's everyone so hung up about the money? Facebook, stupid!

PANEL FOUR.

Joshua has his hands out, palms up, indicating he doesn't understand why he is being yelled at.

6. JOSHUA: Sorry, man.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED NINETY-TWO.**PANEL ONE.**

Buddy, realizing his mistake, looks regretful. Joshua looks thankful his friend is upset regarding his behavior.

1. BUDDY: Look man, I'm sorry. I had no right to do that.
2. JOSHUA: It's okay.

PANEL TWO.

Buddy is halfway in his car, halfway out. Joshua looks confused.

3. BUDDY: Sorry man, gotta go. Just remembered Mama hates Taco Trio.

PANEL THREE.

Joshua watches as Buddy drives out of the parking lot in a Toyota Camry. The reader sees the tag: Toyoda.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED NINETY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, 3:40 p.m. Greg and Michael are still at the police department, standing at the desk right inside the front door.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 3:40 p.m.
2. FRONT DESK OFFICER: Yes?
3. GREG: Sir? We think we may know something about the disappearances.

PANEL TWO.

The front desk officer looks up at the boys with a questioning look on his face.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, 3:45 p.m. Buddy arrives at the motel with pizza. Mama greets him at the door.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 3:45 p.m.
2. MAMA: Dr. Clark called. He wants to start chemo today.
3. BUDDY: What time?
4. MAMA: 4:15.
5. BUDDY: Let's eat on the way!

PANEL TWO.

Buddy still has the pizza in his hand, Mama has a 2-liter bottle of pop and some Solo cups, and Angel has his teddy bear in his hands. They bolt out the motel room.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, 4:15 p.m. Greg and Michael are at the police department at the counter. The officer has a questioning look on his face.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 4:15 pm.

PANEL TWO.

He motions for them to follow him. They do.

PANEL THREE.

Greg and Michael are standing at Detective Morales's desk. Detective Young is standing next to his desk with the boys.

2. DET. MORAL: You have this Buddy Danger's address?

PANEL FOUR.

Michael is writing on a piece of paper. Greg, Detective Morales and Detective Young are watching.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED NINETY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, 4:20 p.m. Angel is getting a chemotherapy treatment. Buddy and Mama sit with him. Angel has his teddy bear sitting to the side of the needle in his arm.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 4:20 p.m.
2. ANGEL: It's okay, Bear-bear. This will make you all better.

PANEL TWO.

The nurse comes over to see how he's doing. Mama and Buddy look at each other.

PANEL THREE.

Buddy and Mama are standing a few feet away. The nurse is double-checking everything and talking to Angel.

3. MAMA: He'll have chemo for six weeks.
4. BUDDY: That's good, Mama!

PANEL FOUR.

As the nurse leaves, Mama and Buddy walk back toward Angel. Angel is peering down into Bear's face.

5. ANGEL: See, that wasn't so bad.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED NINETY-SEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, 4:30 p.m. Greg and Michael are talking to Mindy.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 4:30 p.m.

PANEL TWO.

Greg, Michael and Mindy are sitting at the kitchen counter. Mindy looks surprised; Greg and Michael are excited.

PANEL THREE.

Mindy has her cell phone out.

2. STEPHANIE: Hello?
3. MINDY: Oh, have we got news for you!

PAGE TWO HUNDRED NINETY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, 4:44 p.m. Detective Morales and Detective Young are knocking on Buddy's door.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 4:44 p.m. Buddy Danger's house.

PANEL TWO.

They peer through the window. They can see a large duffle bag that is packed lying on the living room table.

2. DET. YOUNG: Well, looks like he's planning on leaving.
3. DET. MORALES: Then, we wait.

PAGE TWO HUNDRED NINETY-NINE.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, 6:51 p.m. Angel, Mama and Buddy arrive back at motel room.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 6:51 p.m.
2. MAMA: I'm so tired. I'm going to take a bath.
3. BUDDY: Okay, mama!

PANEL TWO.

Angel is lying down on the bed. Mama runs the water for her bath. The light from the bathroom is lighting up the little vanity area. Buddy turns on the television.

PANEL THREE.

He catches a breaking report: Police have a lead on possible abductions in the area. Police are looking for a black wrecker that may be involved in the recent disappearances of several of our teenage citizens. Stay tuned to Channel 12 news at 10 for more information.

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy looks worried. Angel has not moved. Mama does not hear anything because of the running water.

4. BUDDY: Thought Balloon. What am I gonna do?

PAGE THREE HUNDRED.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, 10:02 p.m. Greg, Michael, Stephanie and Mindy are sitting in Mindy's living room.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 10:02 p.m.

PANEL TWO.

When the news comes on of the missing boys and girls, a picture is shown of a black wrecker, as well as a picture of Buddy Danger.

2. MICHAEL: Damn! Wonder what he was thinking.
3. GREG: I never liked him.

PANEL THREE.

This panel will have a television set in it with the news lady telling about Buddy and the wrecker.

4. NEWS LADY: Although Buddy Danger is not known to be involved, he is a person-of-interest the police would like to speak with. If you see or hear from Buddy Danger, or know the whereabouts of the black wrecker, please let proper authorities know.

PANEL FOUR.

The boys are looking at the television screen. Mindy and Stephanie are looking at the boys.

5. MINDY: You know this boy?
6. GREG: Yeah. He was at the river on Friday night and when we were putting up posters, Michael and I saw him ride off with a girl on the back of his bike.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED ONE.**PANEL ONE.**

Stephanie is looking at Greg and Michael in shock and rage. Mindy is looking at Stephanie.

1. STEPHANIE: And you didn't say anything?

PANEL TWO.

Greg and Michael both look stunned. Greg is looking at his mom for back-up.

2. MINDY: That's a good question.
3. GREG: Well, how were we to know?

PANEL THREE.

They are squared off at each other, bickering.

4. MICHAEL: We've been putting up posters, trying to find them!
5. MINDY: Skateboarding, you mean!
6. GREG: Dahmer's neighbors said he was a nice guy, too!

PANEL FOUR.

The group settles down a bit. Stephanie is crying. Mindy has her arm around her. The boys are looking on.

7. STEPHANIE: I'm sorry.

PANEL FIVE.

The reader sees the four of them huddled up together, consoling each other.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, 10:02 p.m. Across town, Able Jones, of 2LT2PAY Auto Recovery, is watching the news, also.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 10:02 p.m.

PANEL TWO.

When he sees the picture of the wrecker, he hangs his head.

2. BIG BOSS MAN: Buddy, why the hell? You had everything going for you!

PANEL THREE.

Able picks up the phone.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED THREE.**PANEL ONE.**

Thursday, 10:02 p.m. On a sprawling estate, the reader sees Merritt Donahue sitting by the pool side, drinking a Pina Colada with his arm wrapped around a young girl. There is a large television sitting on an outdoor patio table. On it is the news.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 10:02 p.m.

PANEL TWO.

Merritt's eyes get huge when the news shows the picture of Buddy Danger and the black wrecker.

2. MERRITT: Awww, fuck!

PANEL THREE.

He has his cellphone in his hand. An unknown person picks up on the other end.

3. MERRITT: You might want to turn the news on, now!

PANEL FOUR.

The person on the other end of the line is so mad that Merritt has the phone away from his ear.

4. UNKNOWN: What the hell? I told you he was a bad idea! Take care of it! Now!

PANEL FIVE.

Merritt gets someone else on the line.

5. MERRITT: Hey, we've got a little bit of a problem.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, 10:30 p.m. The police department sends out a tow truck to pick up Big Boss Man's wrecker.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 10:30 p.m. Big Boss Man's Auto Recovery business.

PANEL TWO.

Detective Morales and Detective Young are in separate vehicles. Detective Morales is speaking to Big Boss Man.

2. DET. MORALES: When was the last time you saw Buddy Danger?
3. BIG BOSS MAN: Today. He quit, said he'd raised the money for his kid brother's treatment.

PANEL THREE.

Detective Morales looks at Detective Young, who is standing beside Big Boss Man.

4. DET. MORALES: Treatment?
5. BIG BOSS MAN: Yeah, he's real sick. Needs treatment and possibly surgery.

PANEL FOUR.

Detective Morales looks at Big Boss Man again.

6. DET. MORAESL: Did he say how he raised the money?
7. BIG BOSS MAN: Yeah, he said he got it on Facebook.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Detective Morales and Detective Young look confused.

1. DET. MORALES: But, why did they need the money now?

PANEL TWO.

Big Boss Man is watching as the police department tows his vehicle away.

2. BIG BOSS MAN: Because they're illegals from Mexico. They had a chance to get treatment with a new form of chemotherapy.

PANEL THREE.

Detective Morales and Detective Young look confused. Big Boss Man looks sad.

3. BIG BOSS MAN: He was a great worker. He wanted to Americanize. But, his name isn't Buddy Danger; it's Jose Esquivel.

PANEL FOUR.

Detective Morales and Detective Young look at each with a shocked expression on their faces.

4. DET. MORALES: So, that's it!

PANEL FIVE.

Big Boss Man watches as the detectives drive away.

5. BIG BOSS MAN: Thought Balloon. Damn, Buddy, if you'd only asked, I could've helped more.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Thursday, 10:25 p.m. Mama is out of her bath now and is lying on the second bed. Buddy appears nervous. He has the remote control in his hand. Angel is sleeping.

1. CAPTION: Thursday, 10:25 p.m.
2. MAMA: Okay if we watch a rerun of the news?
3. BUDDY: No, I want to watch *The Big Bang Theory*. It's better, anyway.

PANEL TWO.

Mama looks a little agitated. Buddy is sitting in a chair and looking at his phone to avoid Mama's dirty looks.

4. MAMA: Well, I guess.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED SEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Friday, September 23, 3:30 a.m. The man who drove the van to kidnap Willow and Leigh is sitting a few houses down the street from where Buddy lives. The two kidnapers, Steve and Larry, are stealthily walking across his yard.

1. CAPTION: Friday, September 23, 3:30 a.m.

PANEL TWO.

Larry gently knocks at the door while Steve peers through the window.

PANEL THREE.

Suddenly, a flood illuminates them. There are police everywhere.

2. POLICE MAN: Police! Freeze!

PANEL FOUR.

Steve and Larry appear shocked.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Larry jumps off the porch and runs across the yard.

PANEL TWO.

A woman police officer takes him down. Steve tries to run, but is tased before he gets two feet.

PANEL THREE.

The man in the van squeals his tires as he drives away. A police officer is getting into his car to pursue the white van.

PANEL FOUR.

The two are shown in the back of a police car. A police officer is on the radio, talking to the dispatcher.

1. POLICE OFFICER: We got two guys trying to break into Buddy Danger's house.
2. DISPATCH: Good work, officers!

PANEL FOUR.

The police officer who is pursuing the third man in the van is in hot pursuit. The man turns his lights off so he cannot be easily seen.

PANEL FIVE.

The man in the van is sitting in an alleyway, with his lights still off, when the black-and-white drives by.

3. MAN: Fuck! That was close!

PAGE THREE HUNDRED NINE.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 3:38 a.m. The man in the van has his cell phone in his hand.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 3:38 a.m.
2. MERRITT'S MAN: Police staked out Buddy's house. They got Larry and Steve!
3. MERRITT: What the hell? I told you guys to be careful!

PANEL TWO.

The man looks ticked off. His hands are gripping the steering wheel so tightly his knuckles are white.

4. MAN: Well, you know those idiots!
5. MERRITT: I don't want to hear your excuses! You have jeopardized everyone, ya dumbass!

PANEL THREE.

This panel is shown from Merritt Donahue's point-of-view. He is looking at Scotty, but talking to the man.

6. MERRITT: Get Willow and Leigh. Time to move them!

PANEL FOUR.

Scotty is walking away from Merritt.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED TEN.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 4:05 a.m. A phone call from an unknown source. Merritt Donahue looks extremely uncomfortable.

1. CAPTION: Friday, September 23, 4:05 a.m.
2. UNKNOWN: Screaming Balloon. A source informed me police have your men!

PANEL TWO.

Merritt looks nervous again. He desperately tries to persuade Unknown that everything is okay.

3. MERRITT: You don't have anything to worry about. They won't talk.

PANEL THREE.

The unknown man's demeanor suddenly becomes very calm.

4. UNKNOWN: Better not. Or you know what happens next.

PANEL FOUR.

The line goes dead. Merritt Donahue looks as though he has seen a ghost.

PANEL FIVE.

Merritt is in his bedroom. An open suitcase lies before him on the bed. Some of his clothes have already been packed.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED ELEVEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Friday, 4:06 a.m. Buddy and Angel are asleep. Mama turns on the television, careful the sound is not too high.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 4:06 a.m.

2. TELEVISION: Police are interested in questioning this man: Buddy Danger, also known as Jose Esquivel, concerning the disappearance of many children in the area. If you see this man . . .

PANEL TWO.

Mama looks over at Buddy, a look of shock and disbelief covers her face.

3. MAMA: Jose! Wake up!

PANEL THREE.

Buddy is sitting straight-up in bed. He looks scared.

4. MAMA: Look, Jose, look!

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy realizes what she has seen even though he was in a deep sleep.

5. BUDDY: Mama, it is okay!

6. MAMA: No, it's not! Those girls, those girls, Jose.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED TWELVE.

PANEL ONE.

Buddy sits back down at the table.

1. BUDDY: Mama, please sit.

PANEL TWO.

Mama sits down across the table from Buddy.

2. BUDDY: Mama, I'm turning myself in. I had to . . . to save Angel. Don't you get it? He has his whole life ahead of him.

PANEL THREE.

Mama begins crying. Buddy is holding Mama's hands.

3. MAMA: I don't want to lose either of my boys.
4. BUDDY: You won't, Mama. Angel's gonna be okay. Uncle Carlos has \$4,000.00 to help you get through and the treatments are paid for.

PANEL FOUR.

Buddy has his cell phone in his hands. Mama is still crying. Angel is beginning to stir.

5. BUDDY: Come here, little man. I want to see you before I go.
6. DISPATCHER: 911, what is your emergency?

PANEL FIVE.

Buddy is holding his brother and his mother.

7. BUDDY: Get better, little man. Always remember, I love you and I did it for you, Angel. I'm sorry.
8. ANGEL: I love you, Bubby.
9. BUDDY: I love you, too. Gotta go.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED THIRTEEN.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 4:20 a.m. The dispatcher looks shocked as she calls out to the police officers working.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 4:20 a.m.
2. DISPATCHER: All units in the vicinity of 4th and Lee, please respond to a man who claims to be Buddy Danger.

PANEL TWO.

The driver of Police Unit 1717 looks at his partner.

3. DRIVER: We're on it.

PANEL THREE.

With sirens blaring, they drive toward that address. The passenger calls in to base.

4. UNIT 1717: We will respond.

PANEL FOUR.

The unit is sitting at the corner of 4th and Lee. Buddy is in custody. They are walking him to the car.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FOURTEEN.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 4:23 a.m. Detective Morales has Detective Young on the phone. Detective Young's eyes are only half-way open.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 4:34 a.m.
2. DET. MORALES: Get to the station ASAP!

PANEL TWO.

Detective Young looks confused. Detective Morales explains.

3. DET. MORALES: They got Buddy Danger and a couple other guys.

PANEL THREE.

Detective Young's eyes are no longer half-open.

4. DET. YOUNG: They what?
5. DET. MORALES: No time to waste. Let's go!

PANEL FOUR.

The phone goes dead. Detective Young is staring into the phone.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FIFTEEN.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 4:25 a.m. Merritt Donahue is standing in the middle of his mansion with several of his people standing around waiting for orders.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 4:25 a.m.
2. MERRITT: I need for these brats to disappear. Now!
3. SCOTTY: Okay. Who do you want me to take?
4. MERRITT: I need you to take Willow, Leigh and Nigel to Las Vegas.

PANEL TWO.

Merritt looks desperate. His bag is already packed and is sitting on the marble floor.

5. MERRITT: Eric, you take Rachel and Sarah to the Hyatt. I will take Sean.

PANEL THREE.

They leave to get the children.

6. MERRITT: Take them as they are. No time to get ready!

PAGE THREE HUNDRED SIXTEEN.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 4:30 a.m. Detective Morales is sitting in an interrogation room with Buddy.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 4:30 a.m.
2. DET. MORALES: You know, we picked up two guys earlier this evening who were looking for you!
3. BUDDY: Really? Do you have those guys now?
4. DET. MORALES: Yes, we do.

PANEL TWO.

Buddy is trying to look as sincere as possible. He is leaning forward in his chair.

5. BUDDY: I want to help. I never wanted to hurt anyone. I did it for my brother. He's sick.
6. DET. MORALES: We need you to identify them.

PANEL THREE.

Buddy is still leaning forward. Detective Morales is sitting back against his chair.

7. BUDDY: Please. We don't have long. They will be making a move.

PANEL FOUR.

Detective Morales is looking at Buddy in disbelief.

8. DET. MORALES: Okay, wise guy, let's see if you're being legit.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Detective Morales has taken Buddy to a room where the other two men are being interrogated. Buddy is looking at him with a grin on his face.

1. BUDDY: Always hated those two! That's Steve and Larry.
2. DET. MORALES: So, you know them?
3. BUDDY: Oh yeah, they were the ones who took Willow and Leigh.

PANEL TWO.

Detective Morales looks at Buddy in shock.

4. BUDDY: Think that's something? I have so much more to tell you.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED EIGHTTEEN.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 4:35 a.m. Merritt Donahue is sitting in his limousine with Sean Cho. He is looking at Sean.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 4:35 a.m.
2. MERRITT: Sean, you're not Nigel, but I guess you'll do.

PANEL TWO.

Merritt has unzipped his fly and has forced the young boy's head into his lap. The limousine driver is looking through the rear-view mirror at Merritt, his disgust showing through the mirror.

3. MERRITT: Take us to the airport.

PANEL THREE.

The limousine driver points the car toward the gate, refusing to look in the mirror any longer. Note to illustrator: there should be a balloon included that has him sitting on the couch, handcuffed, while Merritt rapes his daughter.

4. MERRITT: I've been waiting, mother fucker!

PAGE THREE HUNDRED NINETEEN.**PANEL ONE.**

Friday, 4:35 a.m. Scotty is behind the wheel of his personal car. Willow, Leigh and Nigel are in the backseat.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 4:35 a.m.
2. SCOTTY: It'll be okay now. I have you. I won't let anything happen to you.
3. WILLOW: How can you be sure? Doesn't Donahue own you?

PANEL TWO.

Scotty shoots a look at Willow. He is anything but pleased. Leigh and Nigel's heads are down.

4. SCOTTY: He's flying somewhere overseas. Won't ever see him again.

PANEL THREE.

The reader sees Scotty and the children fading in the distance.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED TWENTY.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 4:40 a.m. The limousine is parked in front of the police department. The limousine driver is standing outside the car. He is pointing at the car. A police officer going in to the building pauses to look at the limousine.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 4:40 a.m. Central City Police Department.
2. LIMO DRIVER: Hey, got a pervert in the car.

PANEL TWO.

The police officer goes over to look and sees a young boy going down on an older man. Merritt realizes where he is. He appears shocked.

PANEL THREE.

Merritt opens the door, attempting to run. One of the police officers slams it shut on him.

PANEL FOUR.

The first officer holds the door shut until more officers can assist. The limousine driver is standing far away from the scene.

3. POLICE OFFICER: I need assistance!
4. DRIVER: Fucker!

PANEL FIVE.

The first officer opens the door; another coaxes the child out of the open door on the other side of the car. Merritt's expression is total disbelief and shock.

5. MERRITT: What the hell?

PANEL SIX.

Merritt takes a swing at the officer.

PANEL SEVEN.

Several police officers are hitting him. He is lying in a heap on the ground while looking at the driver with a disgusted scowl. His middle finger is extended. The limousine driver is scowling right back at him.

6. MERRITT: You fucking shit! I'll get you for this!
7. DRIVER: Try not to get raped too much in prison, scumbag! Touch my daughter again and I'll kill you!

PANEL EIGHT.

The limousine driver flips him off as he gets in the limousine. He drives off as the police officers take Merritt Donahue into custody.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE.**PANEL ONE.**

Friday, 4:45 a.m. Scotty is at the airport with Nigel, Willow and Leigh. The board says: Las Vegas.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 4:45 a.m. Central City International Airport.

PANEL TWO.

Scotty seems at-ease. The children appear quiet, sad and withdrawn.

2. SCOTTY: It's going to be okay. Just be quiet. Soon, we'll be in a new apartment in one of the best cities in America.

PANEL THREE.

They are sitting at the gate. The children are silent. Two other passengers are sitting in the same area.

PANEL FOUR.

The reader sees them boarding the plane at 5:00 am, the first flight of the day.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 5:00 a.m. One of Merritt's men receives a phone call from Unknown.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 5:00 a.m.
2. UNKNOWN: Take the girls to a hotel. I have a buyer for them in the morning.

PANEL TWO.

The man checks into the Hyatt. The front desk personnel, Audrey Cooper, looks at the girls in their dirty clothes with suspicion.

3. MAN: We'd like a room, please.
4. FRONT DESK: Sure, no problem. One bed or two, sir?

PANEL THREE.

The man looks at Audrey with disdain. Note to illustrator: He is dressed impeccably, wearing a tailored suit. Something does not look or feel right.

5. MERRITTS MAN: Two.

PANEL FOUR.

As Audrey James hands him the key, one of the girls looks up at her with a strange look on her face. Audrey looks at her with empathy.

PANEL FIVE.

Merritt's Man sees one of the girls looking at the desk clerk. He nudges her and gives her a dirty look. Ms. James is watching the exchange.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE.**PANEL ONE.**

Friday, 5:20 a.m. The plane is in the air. A flight attendant comes over to see what Scotty, Willow, Leigh and Nigel would like to drink.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 5:20 a.m. Central City International Airport.
2. FLIGHT ATTENDANT: What can I get you?
3. SCOTTY: I'd like a vodka seven.

PANEL TWO.

The flight attendant is still looking at Scotty.

4. FLIGHT ATTENDANT: Anything for the children?
5. SCOTTY: Not right now. They're okay.

PANEL THREE.

She notices the bruises on Willow's arms and Leigh's downcast eyes. Nigel has a haunted look on his face.

PANEL FOUR.

The flight attendant tries not to act suspiciously and walks back to the back of the plane.

PANEL FIVE.

Willow looks at Scotty.

6. WILLOW: I need to go to the restroom.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR.

PANEL ONE.

Scotty looks at Willow with a look of disbelief on his face. Willow has her hand on her crotch.

1. SCOTTY: Now?
2. WILLOW: Yes, please. I really need to go really bad!

PANEL TWO.

Scotty has a disgusted look on his face. Willow is trying to look sincere.

3. SCOTTY: Well, okay. Make it quick!

PANEL THREE.

Scotty looks at the other children. The flight attendant hears Willow, and steps inside the restroom.

PANEL FOUR.

The flight attendant steps out, holding the door open. Willow meets her at the door.

PANEL FIVE.

Inside the restroom, Willow is greeted by a lipstick message: Need help? The lipstick is still on the sink.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE.

PANEL ONE.

Willow comes out. A brief exchange is made between Willow and the flight attendant.

PANEL TWO.

Scotty looks over his shoulder.

1. SCOTTY: Ah, there you are!

PANEL THREE.

Willow sits down beside Scotty. Scotty is smiling at her. The flight attendant walks into the restroom.

PANEL FOUR.

There, inside the lavatory is the answer to the flight attendant's question.

2. MIRROR: Yes!

PAGE THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 5:30 a.m. Merritt's man, Sarah Peterson and Rachel McClanahan are lying down in the two beds. Merritt's man is on one bed; the girls are in the other.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 5:30 a.m.
2. MERRITT'S MAN: I'm hungry.
3. SARAH: I am, too.

PANEL TWO.

He is eyeballing the girls.

4. MERRITT'S MAN: If I go get something, will you be cool?

PANEL THREE.

Rachel looks at Sarah. Merritt is looking at the two girls.

5. RACHEL: I will be.
6. SARAH: Me, too. I'm starving.
7. MERRITT'S MAN: Okay.

PANEL FOUR.

Merritt's man gets up and walks toward the door.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

The door shuts behind him. The reader can see the card key is still in his hand.

PANEL TWO.

Rachel jumps up and races to the door.

PANEL THREE.

She takes the lock designed to keep the maids out and puts it across the door.

PANEL FOUR.

She looks back around at Sarah, who is staring at her in disbelief.

1. SARAH: Undo it. He's gonna kill us!
2. RACHEL: No, he won't be able to get in!

PANEL FIVE.

Sarah is still looking at Rachel.

3. RACHEL: It's our only chance.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 5:30 a.m. Detective Morales sends out Amber Alerts of the children across the United States.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 5:30 a.m. Central City Police Department.

PANEL TWO.

Detective Morales pushes the button to send the fax.

PANEL THREE.

The bulletin goes across television screens, radios, text messages, and emails. Note to illustrator: Please show a panel that has many different people looking at missing bulletin via various modes of transmission. The reader sees a copy of the missing persons reports he sends to every major Human Trafficking city in the United States: San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, St. Louis, Houston, Atlanta, Chicago, Miami, New York, Long Island, New Orleans, Phoenix, Philadelphia, Richmond, Seattle, Tampa, and Washington, D.C.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Friday. Across America, fax machines are going off in police departments. Note to illustrator: This page will show several different states. On each panel, show the city and the time the fax reached their office. Central Standard Time for this action is 5:30 am. Please fill the page. Also, be sure to include Las Vegas.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED THIRTY.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 5:42 a.m. Merritt's man has a bag full of food. He is standing outside the hotel room door. His key is in, but the door will not open.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 5:42 a.m. Hyatt.

PANEL TWO.

The door is shown open. Merritt's man is talking through the door. Sarah is looking at Rachel with doubt and confusion. Sarah is moving backward toward the door.

2. MERRITT'S MAN: Come on, girls. Open up.
3. RACHEL: No, Sarah. You can't.

PAGE THREE.

Merritt's man is practically begging.

4. ERIC: Please?

PANEL FOUR.

Friday, 6:15 a.m. Eric has tried for thirty minutes to get the girls to open the door. He appears helpless.

5. CAPTION: Friday, 6:15 a.m.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 5:30 a.m. Las Vegas, Nevada. Several police cars are stationed throughout the airport, including the tarmac. Armed police officers are everywhere.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 5:30 a.m. Las Vegas, Nevada.

PANEL TWO.

Scotty, Willow, Leigh and Nigel are walking into the airport from the plane. There is a police officer on either side of the tunnel.

PANEL THREE.

Once on the other side of the tunnel, the police pull their guns on Scotty.

2. POLICE: Freeze!

PAGE THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 6:30 a.m. Merritt's man is sitting on the floor outside the hotel room door.

CAPTION: Friday, 6:30 a.m.

PANEL TWO.

He is standing at the counter downstairs.

1. MERRITT'S MAN: My daughters have locked the door and won't let me in. Can you help?

PANEL THREE.

The front desk clerk, Audrey Young, looks suspicious. Merritt's man is completely unaware because he is looking at the security guard standing at the other end of the counter.

2. AUDREY: Yes, we can help.

PANEL FOUR.

She looks at the security guard at the other end of the counter.

3. AUDREY: This gentleman's daughters have locked him out of the room. Can you help him?

PAGE THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 5:30 a.m. Las Vegas, Nevada. The quartet look around in shock. Willow, thinking quickly, pulls Nigel away from Scotty. Leigh moves in the opposite direction.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 5:30 a.m. Las Vegas.

PANEL TWO.

The police have Scotty surrounded, but he tries to run. A cop levels him.

PANEL THREE.

Willow, Leigh and Nigel run toward each other.

PANEL FOUR.

Willow, Leigh and Nigel are holding each other. Scotty is looking on.

2. SCOTTY: I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

PANEL FIVE.

The police are seen ushering Scotty away. The children are taken into custody, also.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR.**PANEL ONE.**

Friday, 6:32 a.m. Hyatt. The security guard is looking at the front desk personnel. The kidnapper is looking at the security guard while the front desk lady is giving the security guard a cautionary look.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 6:32 a.m.
2. SECURITY GUARD: Yes, I can open it for you.
3. MERRITT'S MAN: Great! Thanks.

PANEL TWO.

The kidnapper begins walking toward the elevators. The security guard is walking by the front desk lady.

4. FRONT DESK LADY: Whisper Balloon. 911?
5. SECURITY GUARD: Yes.

PANEL THREE.

The security guard continues walking toward the elevator. The kidnapper appears nervous.

6. SECURITY GUARD: Suppose they're just playing a trick on ya!
7. MERRITT'S MAN: Yeah, must be.

PANEL FOUR.

The security guard and the kidnapper disappear into the elevator.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE.**PANEL ONE.**

Friday, 6:37 a.m. Hyatt. Central City. Rachel and Sarah are in the room, huddled against a wall on the opposite side of the room. The hotel security guard is attempting to get them to open the door.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 6:37 a.m. Hyatt.
2. SECURITY GUARD: Open up, I'm a security guard.
3. MERRITT'S MAN: I can take it from here.

PANEL TWO.

The security guard turns to look at Merritt's man. His eyes are intense, hot with anger.

4. SECURITY GUARD: What do you mean, you can take it from here? Didn't you call us to help?
5. MERRITT'S MAN: Oh yeah, well, I . . .

PANEL THREE.

The elevator beeps and out steps two uniformed Central City Police Department officers. Their air commands respect and allegiance. Merritt's Man looks down the hall and sees them. The security guard shows a look of relief.

PANEL FOUR.

Merritt's man quickly runs down the hall toward the fire exit. The officer's watch as he disappears behind the stairway door.

PANEL FIVE.

The security guard looks shocked when the police do not chase after him.

6. SECURITY GUARD: What the hell? Aren't you . . . ?
7. POLICE OFFICER: They'll get him downstairs.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX.

PANEL ONE.

On the ground floor, a K-9 officer awaits.

PANEL TWO.

The door opens and a scared Merritt's Man runs out. The officer sics the dog on Merritt's Man.

1. K-9 OFFICER: Sic 'em!

PANEL THREE.

The dog has Merritt's Man down. He is screaming.

PANEL FOUR.

Upstairs. The officers and security guard are knocking on the door very gently. A call on the radio comes from another uniformed office downstairs.

2. CAPTION: Upstairs.
3. OFFICER DISEMBODIED: We got him! He is in the squad car now.
4. POLICE OFFICER: Girls, you're safe now, the police department has the man you were with. He can't harm you anymore. Open up.

PANEL FIVE.

Rachel and Sarah get up and slowly walk to the door. The police officers are standing on the other side with the security guard close by. Note to illustrator: this panel will show the inside of the hotel room and the hallway.

5. RACHEL: Are you sure he's gone?
6. POLICE OFFICER: Yes, I'm sure. Please, open the door.

PANEL SIX.

Inside the room, Rachel has her hand on the door lock, slowly turning it.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 6:45 a.m. Hyatt. Police officers are downstairs speaking with Audrey, the front desk clerk, about what happened. The squad car is still out front, parked under the awning. The elevator door pings. Out steps the two police officers, security guard, and Rachel and Sarah.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 6:45 a.m. Hyatt.
2. ELEVATOR: Ping!
3. AUDREY: Oh girls, you're okay!

PANEL TWO.

Needing a female to hold on to, both girls run up to Audrey, who is standing with her arms wide apart to embrace them.

PANEL THREE.

Embraced in their arms, Rachel has her head lying on Audrey's right shoulder. She sees the police car with Merritt's man sitting in the back seat, his hands behind his back.

PANEL FOUR.

Still embraced by Audrey, Rachel smiles at the police officer and security guard standing next to her. Tears are streaming from her eyes.

4. RACHEL: Whisper Balloon. Thank you.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 7:30 a.m. Detective Morales is on the phone with Stephanie Weber.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 7:30 a.m.
2. DET. MORALES: Ms. Weber, they found Willow, Leigh and a little boy in Las Vegas.
3. STEPHANIE: Las Vegas?

PANEL TWO.

Stephanie looks happy. Her face shows pure joy. Detective Morales and Detective Young look happy.

4. STEPHANIE: When will she, they, be home?
5. DET. MORALES: Before Las Vegas P.D. can release them, they want them to answer a few questions. Then, they will fly home.
6. STEPHANIE: Oh God, thank you so much!

PANEL THREE.

Detective Morales is still grinning, his smile wide, his eyes, open. Detective Young is crying. Detective Morales still has his phone in his hand.

7. DET. MORALES: Hello, Ms. Armstrong? I have great news!

PAGE THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

Friday, 11:00 a.m. Central City International Airport. Stephanie, Mindy, Greg and Michael are there waiting for Willow and Leigh to walk down the long tunnel to the building.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 11:00 a.m. Central City International Airport.

PANEL TWO.

The reader sees Willow, Leigh and Nigel walking up the ramp. The family is standing just in front of the reader's view.

2. STEPHANIE: Willow!
3. MINDY: Leigh!
4. NIGEL'S PARENTS: Nigel!

PANEL THREE.

The kids look up and see their family. Their eyes light up. They are running toward their loved ones. Everyone's faces are filled with high emotion.

5. STEPHANIE: Oh, baby!

PANEL FOUR.

The kids and their family are embracing one another, finally back together again.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FORTY.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 11:05 a.m. Central City Police Department. The police are interviewing Merritt, Scotty, and Merritt's man. Note to illustrator: All three interrogation rooms are visible by the reader. Merritt and Merritt's man are refusing to cooperate. Merritt sits with his back to the detective while Merritt's Man looks scared, but afraid to talk.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 11:05 a.m.
2. DET. MORALES: Now, Scotty, we have you. We caught you with someone that was reported missing. If you cooperate and tell us what you know, we may be able to help you.

PANEL TWO.

Scotty's attorney is present. Detective Morales offers him a deal.

3. DET. MORALES: We can get you a sentence of 10 to 15 years, max.
4. ATTORNEY: I think you better take it Scotty. Once someone else talks, you're done.

PANEL THREE.

Scotty looks up the Detective Morales. Detective Young watches.

5. SCOTTY: I didn't want to do this. Never. Merritt owned me.

PANEL FOUR.

6. SCOTTY: You know Dominique's downtown?
7. DET. YOUNG: Yeah, Donahue owns it.
8. SCOTTY: Yeah.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FORTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

Detective Young and Detective Morales appear very eager.

1. SCOTTY: Well, Merritt needed an accountant and a head chef. I used to cook there, you know both the books and food. I needed money, so I stole lots of it from him. It seemed so easy, but he caught me, forced me into the trafficking part. He needed dirt on me, too, so I wouldn't turn on him.

PANEL TWO.

Detective Morales is staring at Scotty to determine if he can be believed, or not. Detective Young has assumed the same position.

2. DET. MORAL: What did you do?
3. SCOTTY: I came in after the guys who actually took them had abused them for a while. I, I, I became their savior. I promised them they'd be okay and that nothing else would happen to them.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FORTY-TWO.

PANEL ONE.

Detective Morales is still looking at Scotty.

1. DET. MORALES: Tell me about the business. How did it work?
2. SCOTTY: People came in, ordered something off a special menu waiter's referred as the *Shuck, Fuck and Suck*. It looked like an ordinary wine list. When the person's food came back, on the ticket was a place, date, and time. Then, the john went there.

PANEL TWO.

Repulsed, Detective Young walks out of the room. On the other side of the room, she punches the wall. Note to illustrator: Both the interrogation room, plus the hallway is shown.

PANEL THREE.

Inside the interrogation room, Scotty has a worried look on his face.

3. SCOTTY: But, that's not all. You have some big muscle in on this. Really big.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FORTY-THREE.

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 11:07 a.m. Mama and Angel are at the hospital. Angel is getting his next chemotherapy treatment. Bear-bear is sitting on his lap; his arm rests upon Bear-bear's middle.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 11:07 a.m.
2. ANGEL: Everything's gonna be okay, right Mama?

PANEL TWO.

Tears come streaming down Mama's face. Dr. Clark walks into the room.

3. MAMA: Dr. Clark, Angel wants to know if everything is going to be okay.
4. DR. CLARK: I spoke with Detective Morales. He said no money had been recovered, so no money found equals no money. They don't know what Buddy did with the money . . . and they don't care. Better to be used as good than bad, right?

PANEL THREE.

Angel puts out his arms.

5. ANGEL: Thank you!

PANEL FOUR.

Dr. Clark is leaning over Angel as he gives him a hug. Mama is crying.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR.**PANEL ONE.**

Friday, 11:08 a.m. Stephanie, Willow, Mindy, Leigh, Greg, and Michael are sitting in the living room watching television. Scooby Doo's Mystery Machine is barreling down the road, on its way to another spooky case. Two pizzas are on the living room table.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 11:08 a.m. Stephanie's home.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE.**PANEL ONE.**

Friday, 11:10 a.m. Central City Police Department. Interrogation room. Inside the interrogation room, Detective Young has rejoined Detective Morales and Scotty's attorney. She still does not look pleased.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 11:10 a.m.
2. SCOTTY: Ace Thompson's son caused all this mess with Willow and Leigh. Do you know what happened to Willow?
3. DET. MORALES: We know what was alleged to have happened.

PANEL TWO.

Scotty appears agitated, ready to get this over with.

4. SCOTTY: Well, Eric raped Willow at a party. He told Ace what happened. Ace texted Buddy to tell him to pick them up and drop them off.
5. DET. MORALES: Yeah, but Ace Thompson is a judge!

PANEL THREE.

Scotty leans back in his chair, his hands across the back of his head.

6. SCOTTY: I told you it was deep. He knew about Buddy's little brother, so Ace took advantage of Buddy's desperate state and asked him to work for him. Said he'd make things happen for his brother when the time came.

PANEL FOUR.

Detective Morales has a shocked look on his face. Detective Young is leaning against a wall. Scotty's attorney is holding his head in his hands.

7. DET. MORALES: Holy shit!

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FORTY-SIX.**PANEL ONE.**

One week later, October 2: Willow, Leigh, Sarah, Rachel, Nigel and Sean are sitting in a group therapy session.

1. CAPTION: Flash forward. One week later: October 2.

PANEL TWO.

Flash forward: October 23, one month after kidnapping. Willow is looking at the reader. She seems neutral, not really sad or happy.

2. CAPTION: Flash forward: October 23, one month after kidnapping.
3. WILLOW: Group therapy is good because everyone can relate to everyone else.

PANEL THREE.

A close-up is shown of Nigel. He appears extremely anxious and sad. His eyes are downcast and he is fiddling with his fingers in his lap.

4. CAPTION: End of flash forward – One month after kidnapping.

PANEL FOUR.

Flash Forward: November 23, eight weeks after kidnapping. Willow is back in the panel. She looks extremely sad. Her head is on her chest.

5. CAPTION: Flash forward: November 23, eight weeks after kidnapping.
6. WILLOW: Take Nigel, for instance. He committed suicide six weeks after we were found. Most boys don't make it out alive. They just can't handle what they do to them. I miss him.
7. CAPTION: End flash forward – eight weeks after kidnapping.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN.

PANEL ONE.

Flash forward: January 23, two months later. Willow and Leigh are swinging on the playground when a young boy with the face of an angel runs up to them.

1. CAPTION: January 23, two months later.
2. BOY: Hey, aren't you Willow and Leigh, the girls who were taken?

PANEL TWO.

Willow looks at Leigh in total boredom.

3. WILLOW: Yeah, why?
4. BOY: My brother, Buddy, took you.

PANEL THREE.

Willow and Leigh are both looking at the young boy.

5. LEIGH: Are you Angel?
6. BOY: Yeah, I'm Angel.

PANEL FOUR.

Willow looks at Angel in disbelief. Leigh's mouth is hanging open.

7. WILLOW: But, I thought you were sick!
8. ANGEL: I was, but the treatments helped. I feel good now.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT.

PANEL ONE.

Angel climbs onto the swing next to them. Willow and Leigh are simply sitting in the swings, looking at him. He looks sad.

1. ANGEL: Buddy's in jail.

PANEL TWO.

The girls are still looking at Angel in disbelief.

2. WILLOW: It'll be okay. I heard he'll be out soon because he told on all the bad guys.

PANEL THREE.

Angel looks up at them with big eyes.

3. ANGEL: Do you hate him?

PANEL FOUR.

Willow appears nervous, unsure what to say. Leigh's eyes are fiery.

4. WILLOW: No, I understand why he did it. I'm glad you are being treated.
5. LEIGH: Well, I hate him!

PANEL FIVE.

Leigh runs away. Angel is crying, his head resting on Willow's shoulder.

6. WILLOW: It'll be okay, Angel. We made it, you will, too.
7. CAPTION: End flash forward – January 23, two months later.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FORTY-NINE.**PANEL ONE.**

July 23, six months later. The nightly news is on television. Stephanie, Willow, Mindy, Leigh, Michael and Greg are sitting at the dining room table playing a board game.

1. CAPTION: Six months later.
2. NEWS REPORTER: Today, James, Ace, Thompson, a local judge, was convicted of twelve counts of human trafficking.

PANEL TWO.

Mindy hears the news. She turns to face the television.

3. MINDY: Shhhh!

PANEL THREE.

The entire group is looking at the television.

4. NEWS REPORTER: Mr. Thompson's conviction comes after Merritt Donahue, Jose Esquivel and Ryan Scotty were all found guilty of a trafficking ring that included both Macomb City and Central City. Police refused to identify an informant who supplied crucial evidence regarding the case.

PANEL FOUR.

Everyone is looking at each other now.

5. GREG: Whoo-eeee!
6. CAPTION: End flash forward - July 23, six months later.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FIFTY.**PANEL ONE.**

June 2018. One year later. Mindy and Stephanie are in their cars with Willow and Leigh in the back seat.

1. CAPTION: June, 2018. One Year Later.
2. MINDY: Are you sure you want to do this, girls?
3. LEIGH: Yes, it's necessary for us to heal.
4. WILLOW: Yes.
5. STEPHANIE: Okay.

PANEL TWO.

The car is winding down a long road with a huge castle-like building in the distance. They pass a sign that reads: Federal Correction Center: Macomb.

PANEL THREE.

The vehicle pulls up to the building. An armed guard approaches the car.

PANEL FOUR. The girls and their mothers are inside the prison when their names are called.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.

They enter a long corridor with bullet-proof glass. As they go by several of the booths, inmates call out to them.

1. INMATE: Hey, baby! Looking good!
2. INMATE: Mmmmm, yummy!

PANEL TWO.

From behind the glass, they hear someone hollering at the other prisoners.

3. DISEMBODIED VOICE JOSE: Hey, cut it out! You yell at your sister that way? Jeez!

PANEL THREE.

The girls sit down at a small table on one side of the bullet-proof glass. Jose Esquivel turns the corner.

PANEL FOUR.

Jose sits down on the stool located on the other side of the bullet-proof glass.

PAGE THREE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO.**PANEL ONE.**

The reader sees the two girls talking with Jose.

PANEL TWO.

Willow is standing on a basketball court playing HORSE with Leigh, Sarah, Rachel and Sean. Willow is looking at the reader

1. WILLOW: I guess we're gonna be all right. I hope, anyway. Leigh still doesn't trust anyone. Sarah has begun dating lots of guys and wear tons of makeup. Rachel has begun cutting to ease her anxiety and Sean won't talk to anyone . . . even us.

PANEL THREE.

It is Willow's turn. She shoots the ball. It looks like it's going in.

2. WILLOW: Me? I don't know. Some days, I'm good. Other days, I'm bad. I just don't know.

PANEL FOUR.

It is Leigh's shot. She runs up to the board and lays it in off the backboard.

PANEL FIVE.

Leigh holds her arms above her head in a victorious stance.

3. LEIGH: Score!

PANEL ONE.

Friday, 7:30 am. Detective Morales is on the phone with Stephanie Weber.

1. CAPTION: Friday, 7:30 am.
2. DET. MORALES: Ms. Weber, they found Willow, Leigh and a little boy in Las Vegas.
3. STEPHANIE: Las Vegas?

PANEL TWO.

Stephanie looks happier than she has been all week. Her face shows pure joy. Detective Moral looks happy, also. Tears are welling in Detective Young's eyes.

4. STEPHANIE: When will she, they, be home?
5. DET. MORALES: Within four hours. Las Vegas P.D. wants them to answer a few questions.
6. STEPHANIE: Oh God, thank you so much!

PANEL THREE.

Detective Morales is still grinning, his smile wide, his eyes, open. Detective Young looks relieved. Detective Moral still has his phone in his hand.

7. DET. MORALES: Hello, Ms. Armstrong? I have great news!