

Neela & Chris

Broken  Love

HOMETOWN HIGH'S



TEEN
HEALTH
COMICS



This is a picture of my family when we first moved to the east coast. My grandparents are on the moving truck, and that's my Mom with the long braid. I'm the one pulling the wagon--I had just finished 2nd grade. And that's my Aunt Neela with the messy bun--she was maybe 15 or 16.

I almost never see her since she went away to college, but she's coming home tonight. She's so cool... I can't wait!



Neela and Chris: Broken Love was made possible with the generous support of the Foundation for Racial Ethnic and Religious Harmony in Newton, the Lauren Dunne Astley Memorial Fund and the Martin Richard Foundation.

Layout and design:

Ellen Crenshaw

Artwork:

Hazel Newlevant







"I had to start over at a new school, in my junior year."



Hey Sis! I thought you were working late today.

No, I even got out early. How was school?



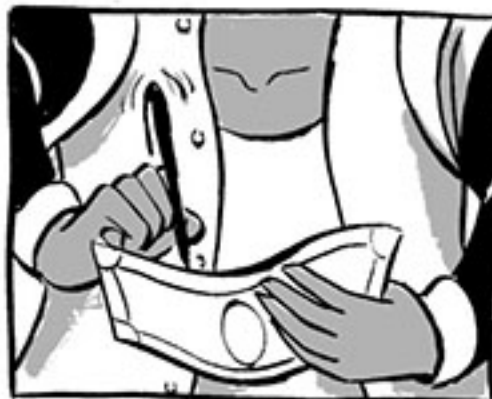
It's so hard. I still don't know anyone here--at least you have friends at work.



I'm sure you'll make friends soon, give it time.



Hey, why don't we walk through the Square? There's always something fun going on down there.













Hey, I wrote a song for you too.



Neela... I love the way you make me feeeel-a, the love I have for you is reeeel-a... even gave you a goreeeela...



Oh my God!! Promise you'll NEVER play that for ANYONE else!



No one else is worthy of it.

No one else would forgive you for it!



Someday I'll be good enough to write you the song you really deserve.



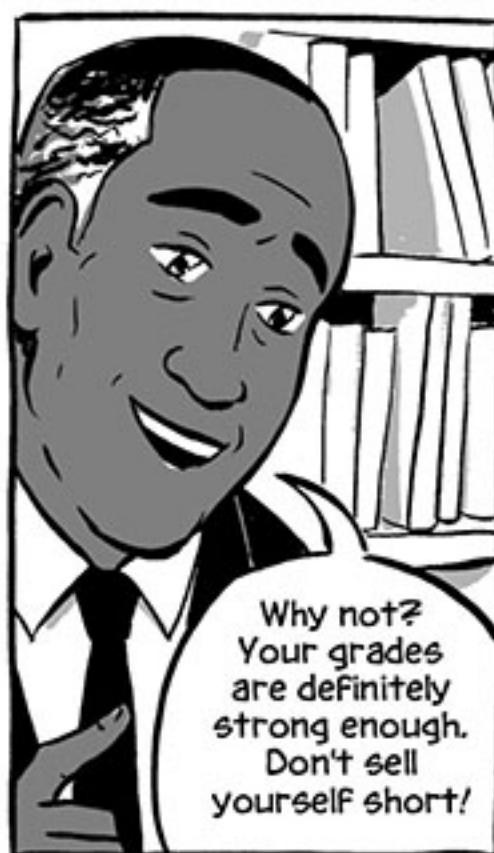
It sounds so perfect!

I thought so too.



"I was getting more confidence. I joined the track team. I started making friends."

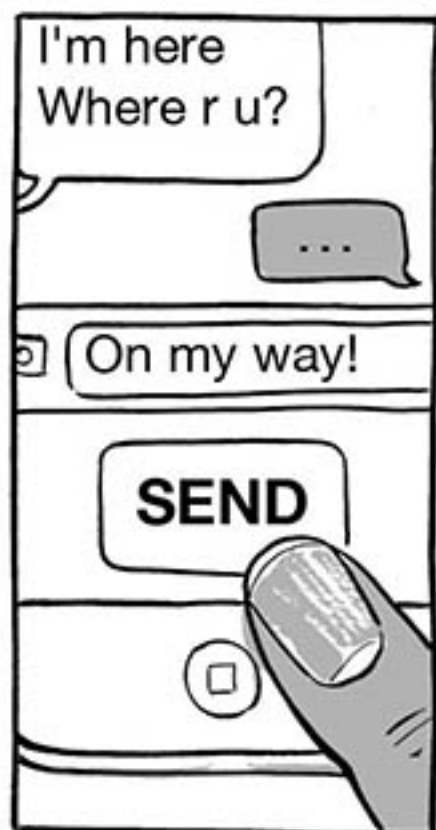
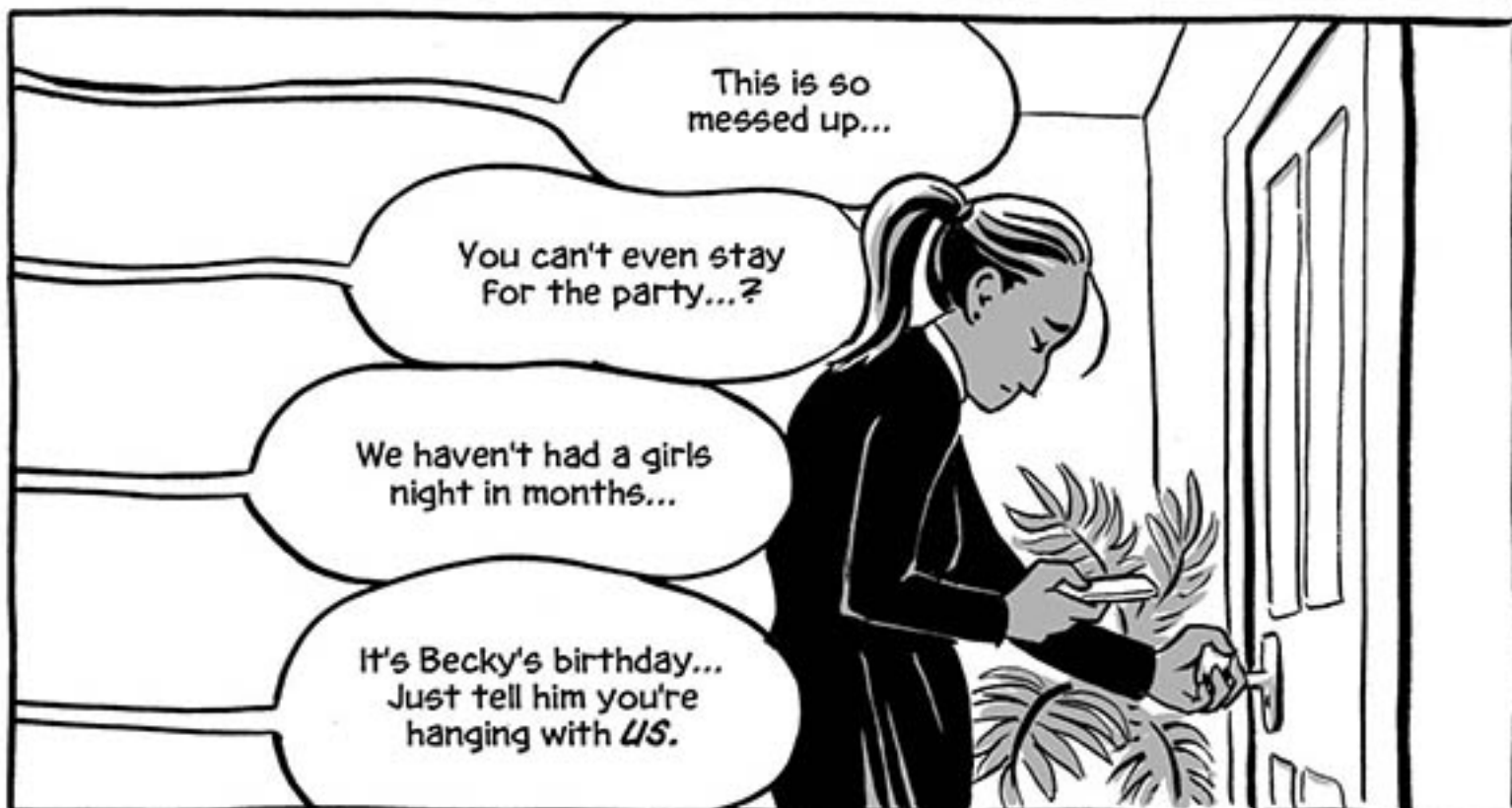


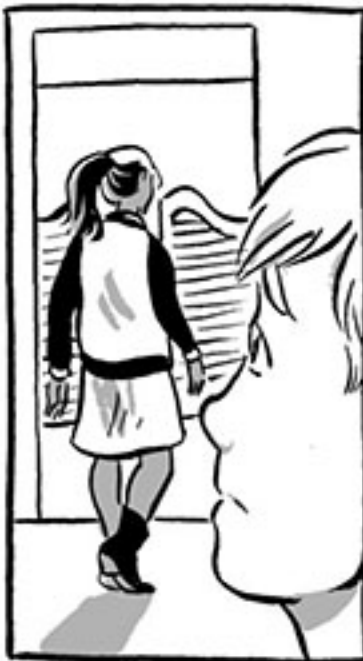
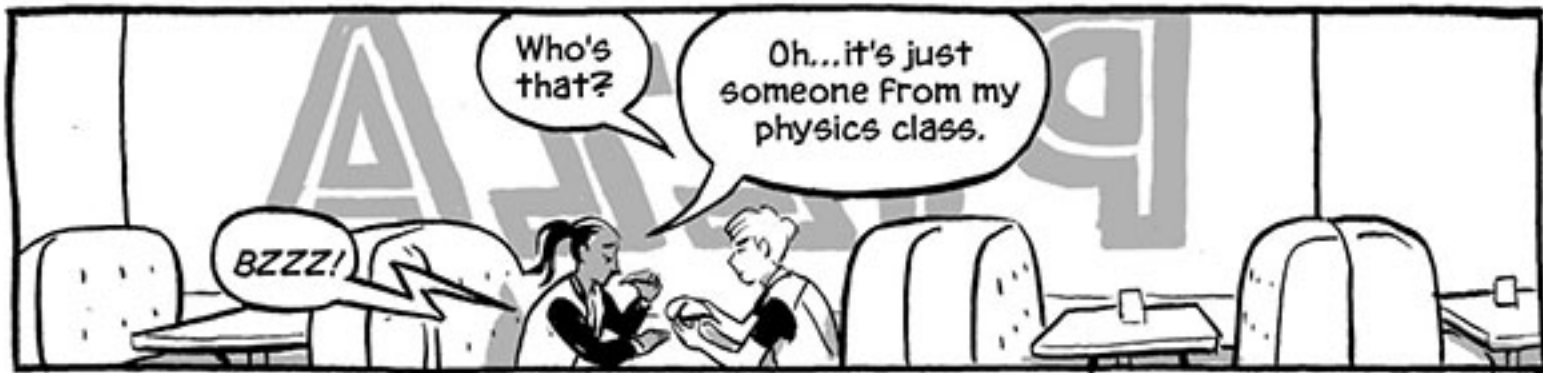




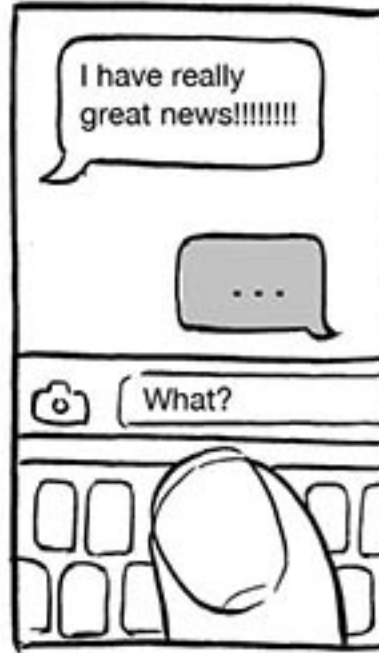




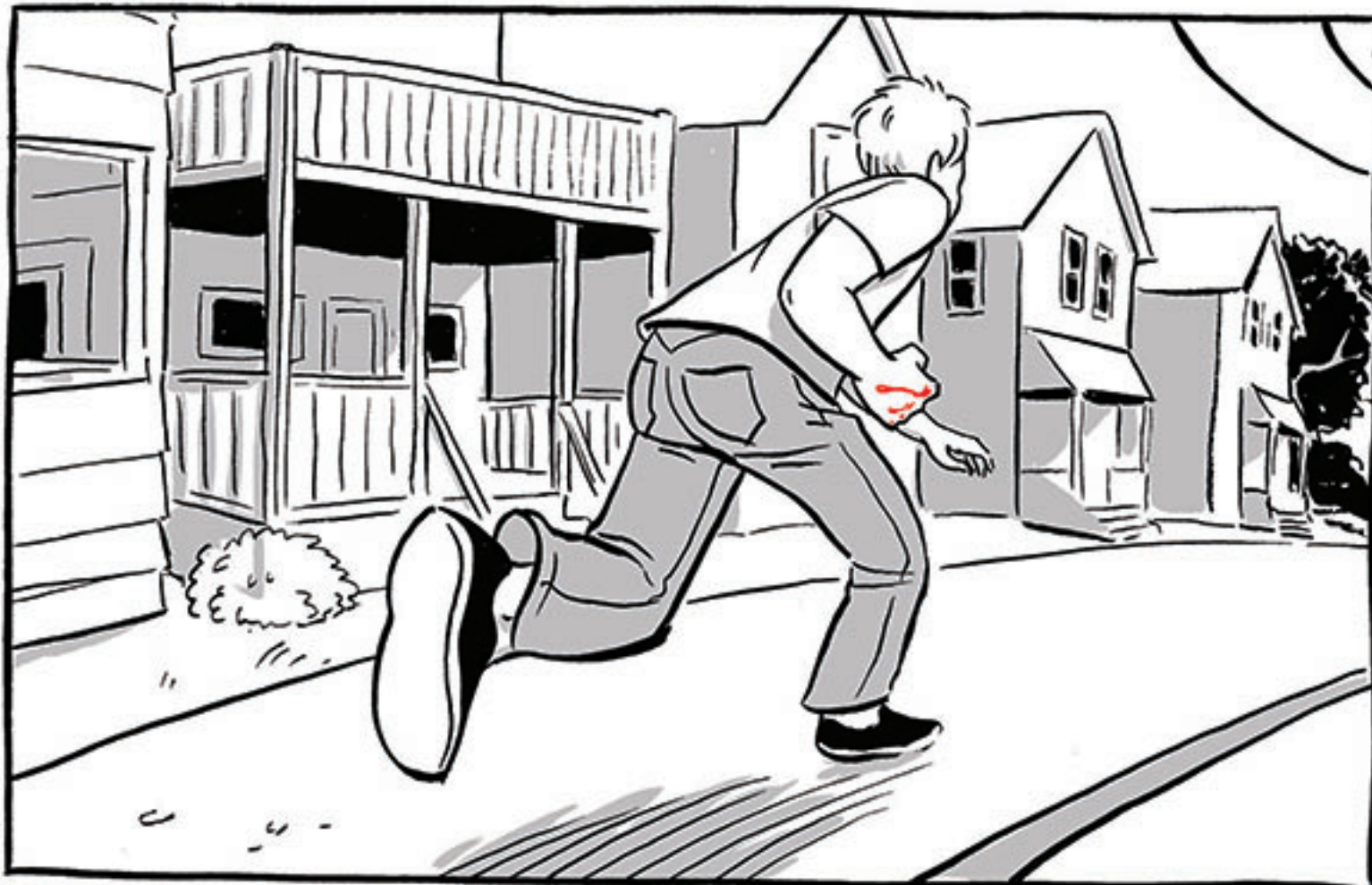


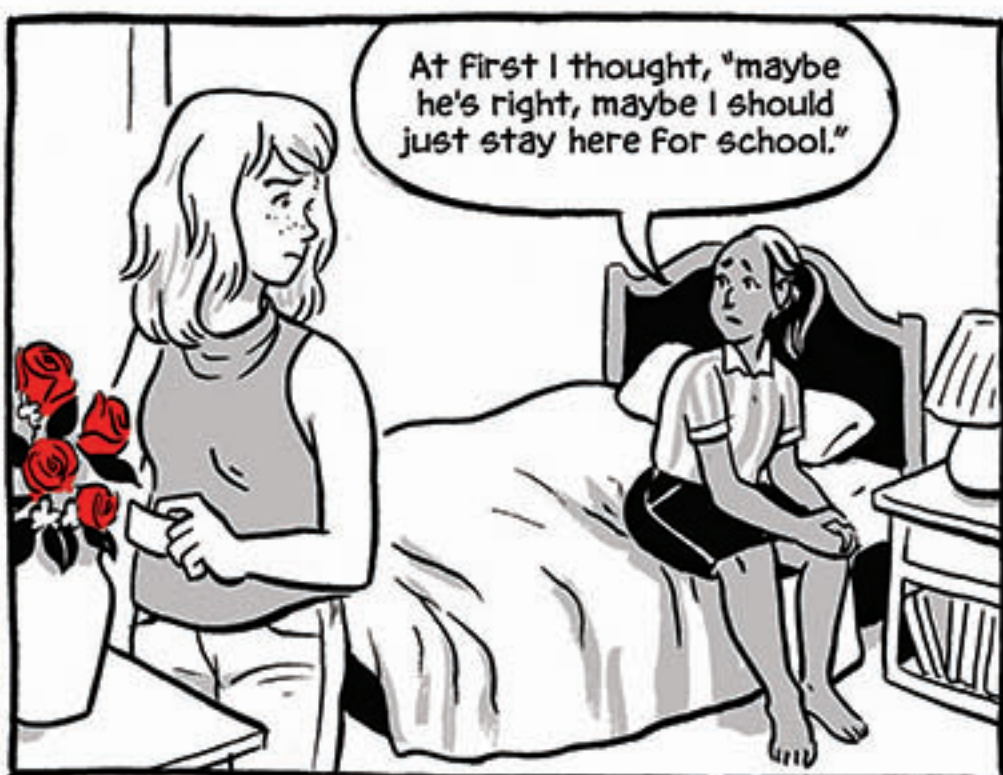
















But this thing with Chris--

He talked to you?

Neela, I know you care about him, and I'm sure he means well, but he's shown that he can be violent. It's not a safe situation.



It's not that bad.

Neela, this is serious. *You shouldn't be alone with him.*



He loves me. He would never hurt me.



Friday Night









He went through some really tough times, but I hear he's doing better now.



I have one more question...

Mm hm?



Are you seeing anyone now?



Nosy girl!
That's a story for another day!

Teen Dating Abuse:

what you need to know

Stories like Neela's are very common. It is normal to think that dating abuse could never happen to you. But the truth is that anyone can experience dating abuse.

Here's what you need to know:

Dating abuse is common: As many as 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 7 boys experience dating abuse in some form.

Guys experience dating abuse: Dating abuse happens to people of any gender.

It happens in LGBTQ relationships: People of any gender identity or sexual orientation can experience dating abuse.

There are many different kinds of dating abuse.

- **Physical** – punching, slapping, kicking, or shoving
- **Emotional** – name-calling, bullying, shaming, being controlling or possessive, or keeping you away from friends and family
- **Sexual** – forcing or pressuring you to do something sexual
- **Stalking** – repeated harassing or threatening behavior
- **Cyber Abuse** – posting damaging pictures of you online or sending threatening text messages

Breakup violence: Even people who haven't been abusive before may get violent during a breakup. If you're trying to end a relationship and you feel scared, get help from an adult you trust and develop a safety plan.

There Is Help

If your dating partner is abusive, it is not your fault. That's true no matter what your partner tells you. No one deserves to be hurt by a partner for any reason.

Use these resources to learn more or get help — for yourself or someone you love:

- **loveisrespect:** www.loveisrespect.org
- **One Love:** www.joinonelove.org
- **Reach Beyond Domestic Violence:** www.reachma.org

**Know someone in an abusive relationship?
you can help:**

- Tell your friend you support them
- Avoid telling them what to do — always respect your friend's feelings and decisions
- Encourage them to get help from a trusted adult



Get Help Now

- Reach a loveisrespect.org peer advocate:
 - »» Call 1-866-331-9474
 - »» Text "loveis" to 22522
- Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at **1-800-799-7233**
- **Call 911** right away if you or someone you know is in danger

Neela & Chris: Broken Love is dedicated to the memory of **Lauren Dunne Astley**, a caring and talented 18-year-old young woman who had just graduated from Wayland High School in Massachusetts. She was passionate about her friends and family, the arts, and community service and was planning to attend Elon University in North Carolina. She died on July 3, 2011 at the hands of her former boyfriend in an act of breakup violence.

In honor of their daughter, Mary K. Dunne and Malcolm L. Astley launched the **Lauren Dunne Astley Memorial Fund**. Their mission is to promote dynamic educational programs, particularly those in the areas of the development of healthy teen relationships, the arts, and community service.



With Gratitude

Neela and Chris: Broken Love was developed with the help of comic book professionals, high school students, and experts in domestic violence and teen dating abuse prevention.

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