



BRITTLE BONES NICKY

A FEATURE LENGTH ANIMATED FILM



LOGLINE

Brittle Bones Nicky tells the dramatic, harrowing, and at times, fantastical life story of the world's most UN-lucky son of a bitch: **Nicky**.

Inspired by the viral hit song of the same name by Rare Americans, Nicky's story has captured the imaginations of 200M+ streamers around the world.

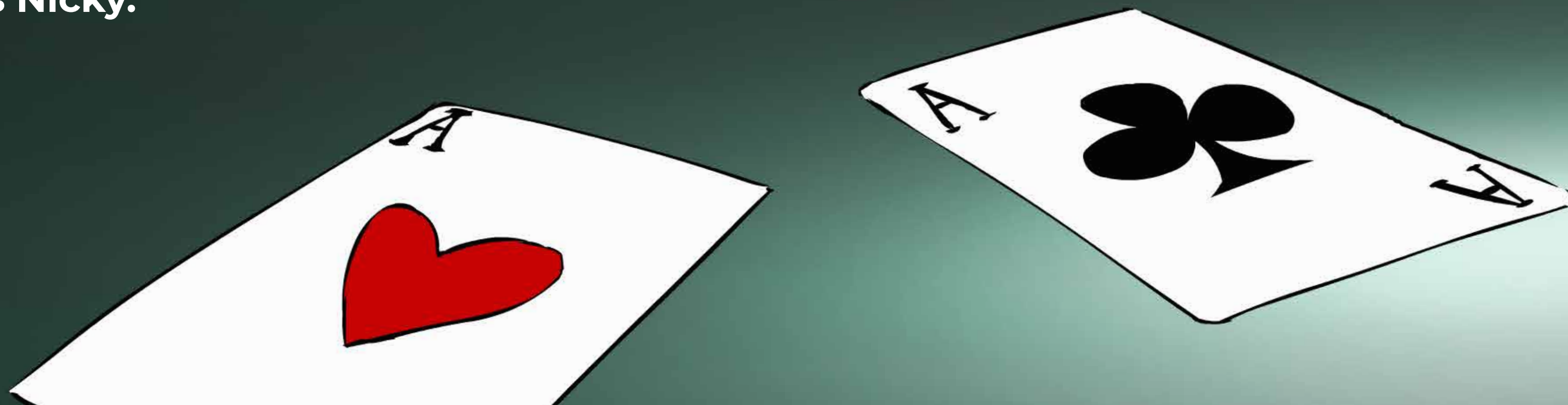


AN ORPHAN NAMED NICKY

Orphan, amateur street magician, and convicted felon.

As the film journeys through three distinct chapters in his life, we uncover the many sides of **Brittle Bones Nicky**.

- THE BACKSTORY
- THE ANTI-HERO



On TV and in movie theaters, we're used to watching stories about unlucky people finding a way to succeed in the end.



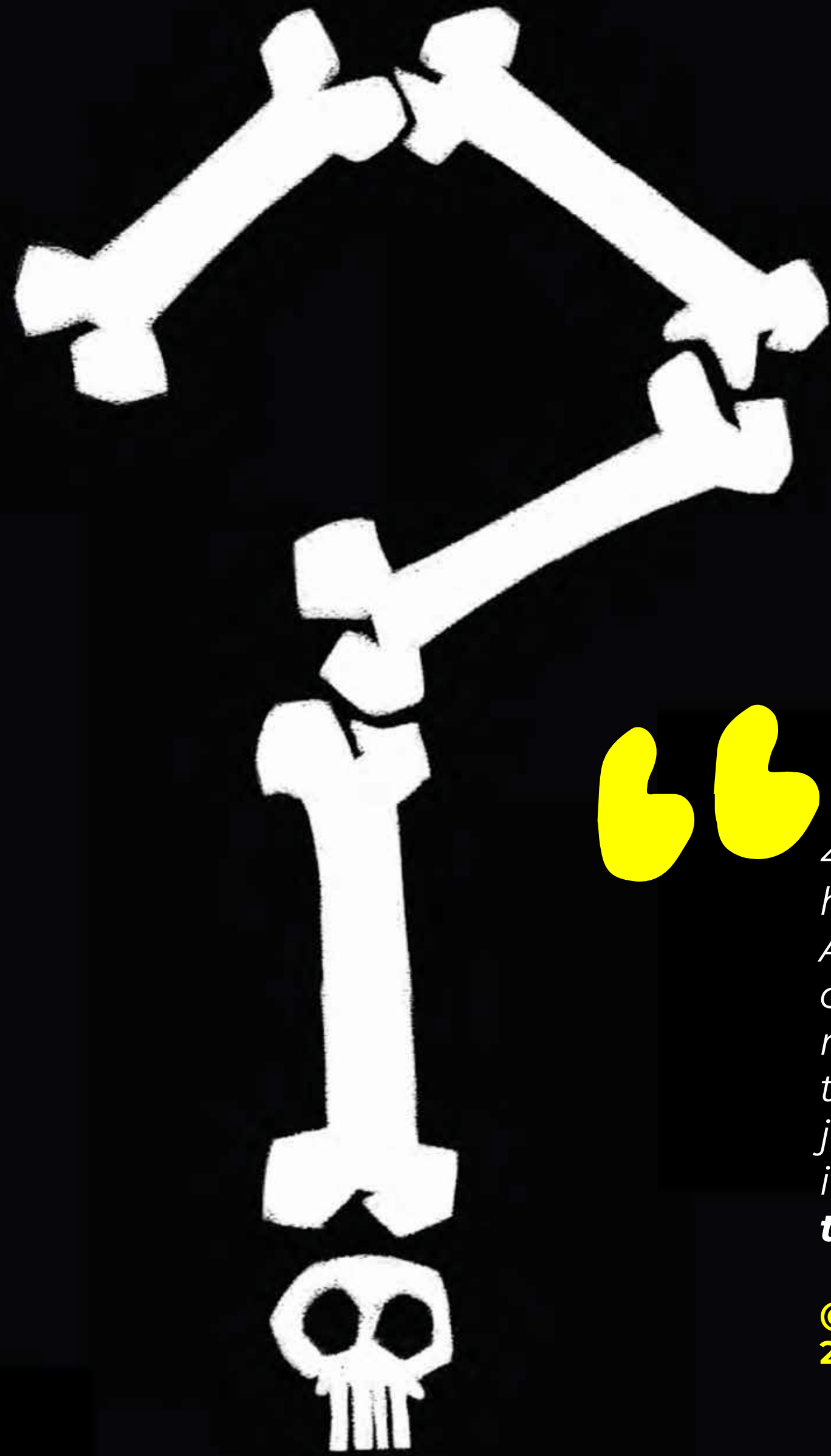
American entertainment is obsessed with telling audiences they can do anything in the world if they just work hard enough.

**ONE
IMPORTANT
TWIST...**

The hero...they don't win the game. They don't get the girl in the end. And they certainly do not live happily ever after. Because real life isn't a fairy tale. Most people's lives aren't like Rocky Balboa, or Barbie's. Their lives are a grind, and a test of will power in a world that doesn't pull its punches.

BUT WHAT IF THERE WERE AN ANIMATED SERIES THAT TOLD THAT SAME EXACT STORY WITH ONE IMPORTANT TWIST?





Now you are probably asking yourself, who the hell wants to watch a story about some ordinary orphan's life?

IT TURNS OUT, TENS OF MILLIONS.

“

*4 years ago, I became homeless. 2 days later, I was watching YouTube while crashing at a friend's house for the night. This song was an ad before the video. I usually skipped ads but I kept listening. And then instantly found it again and listened again. And again. Then Ryan and Dave. Over and over. I am man enough to admit that I cried for the first time in years. I listened to this song in my regular rotation over the course of the 2 and a half years before moved playlists and forgot about this song. It's almost 2 years later, and I have a loving partner, a home, a car, and a good paying job. I stumbled on this song again while looking through my old playlists for a different song. I instantly had to listen to it again. And again and again. **Thank you guys for helping motivate me to get through my toughest times.** It still goes just as hard as that first listen.*

@Saltine1549
2.1K likes

”

See before Nicky was a character in a film, he was the title character of a hit song by my band Rare Americans.

In 2019 I conjured the idea, and within a year Nicky's story came to life through 2 animated music videos that have garnered nearly 200M streams online!



Through waves of fan mail, buzzing comment sections, and heartfelt messages from tens of thousands of people around the world.. we've learned people FEEL LIKE Nicky.

“

*I'm in tears as I listen to this for I don't know I lost count, I discovered these guys when I was at lowest point in my life and songs like this and the Gask Mask really helped me to get back up and stand up for myself, whenever I felt lost, I used to listen to these songs and always felt better thank you for letting me listen to your songs and **thankyou for impacting my life positively***

@paragmhatre8388

This actually helped me stand up for myself and my friends and family.

@helpfulkiller3156

*Song slaps like hell dudes, and it **resonates so much with so many lines.** For me specifically its "if it costs me my life, id save my only friend, thats something i could live with, i could take that to the end:. With my true homies id sacrifice myself for them any time. I honestly havent seen myself having so much purpose, but if i died trying to save them id be fine with it and accept my fate*

@random_bored_idiot

”



Brittle Bones Nicky is aimed at young adults and older viewers who appreciate deep, emotionally resonant stories with a mix of dark humor and hope.

His story delves into themes of perseverance, resilience, and the human condition.

IT EMPHASIZES THE IDEA OF PUSHING FORWARD DESPITE LIFE'S DIFFICULTIES.



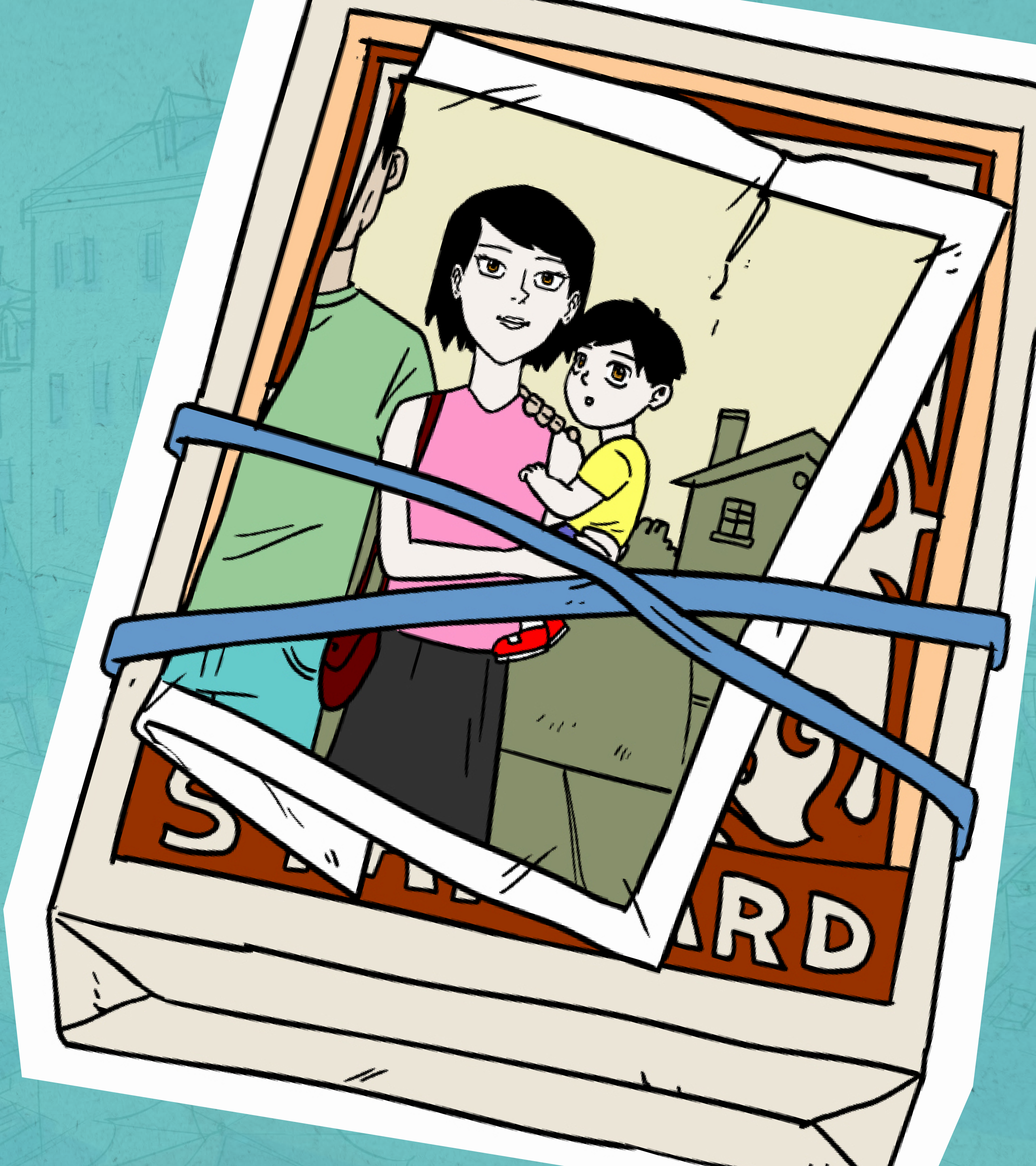
Nicky's story isn't just about struggle, it's about the resilience of the human spirit.

A reminder to everyone that even in our lowest points, we all possess an **inner strength** that can carry us through.

*This song is getting me through my fiance's wrongful incarceration. we used to listen to it together all the time. we can't afford a good lawyer. i've sent his empty facebook thread "if it cost me my life, man, i'd save my only friend. that's something i could live with. i could take that to the end" so many times. i'm going to put everything i have on the line for him. **thank you guys for making a song like no other.***

@sabrinafletcher7884

”



SYNOPSIS

The film is divided into three distinct chapters:

ACT 1



ACT 2



ACT 3





ACT 1



Young Nicky's life is upended by tragedy, plunging him into the foster care system. At Ms. Ava's foster home, he meets a group of teen orphans and forms "The Skeleton Crew." With the help of 'Mr. Pockets,' an old street magician, Nicky learns sleight of hand and a moral code:

"STEAL FROM THE GREEDY, NOT THE NEEDY."

However, a wrong move with Nicky at the helm lands them in deep trouble, setting off a chain of events that leads to unforeseen tragedy.



ACT 2

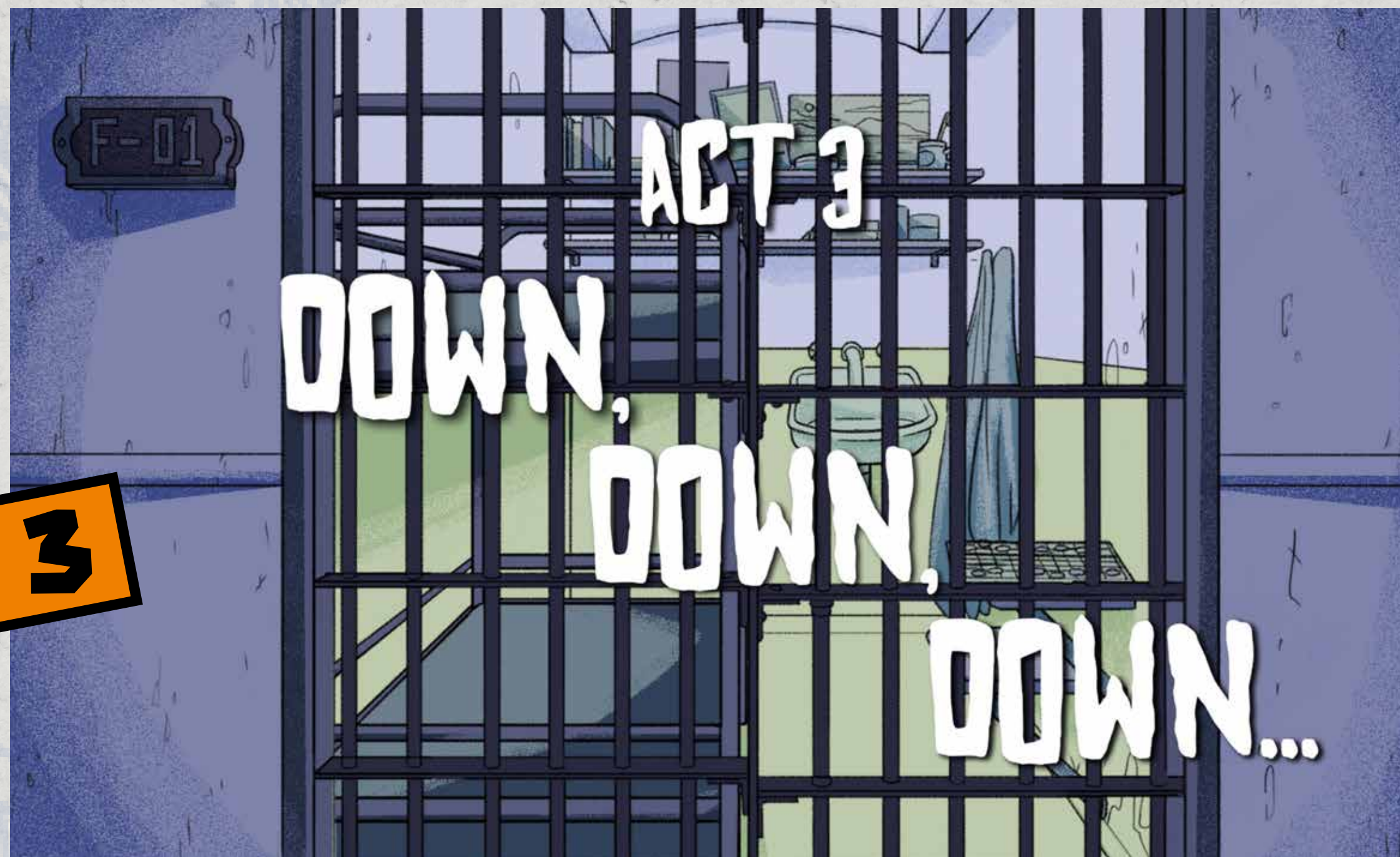


Fresh out of juvie, Nicky joins the **Chaplin Circus**, captivated by the star trapeze artist, **Karla**. He becomes a star attraction with his magic but soon discovers the grim reality behind the circus's glamour.

Faced with a moral dilemma, Nicky must choose between his rising life in the circus and risking everything to help Karla escape from the corrupt owner, "**The Commissioner.**"



ACT 3



Nicky's darkest chapter sees him in prison, where he befriends his cellmate **Ben**, who helps him see himself as a product of a failed system. Nicky's revelation is short-lived as he ends up in solitary confinement for saving Ben from a prison gang.

Writing becomes his solace, and through a letter from **Karla**, he learns about his son, **Harlan**. Nicky's memoir, '**Brittle Bones Nicky**,' becomes a cult sensation, offering hope and resilience to many. In his final years, Nicky finds peace and a sense of earned redemption.

CHARACTERS

Okay, so now that we know the story, let's meet some of the main characters!







NICKY

- GOOD KID, GOOD HEART
- DEALT A SHITTY HAND
- UNFORTUNATE KNACK FOR FINDING TROUBLE

Nicky is a good kid, on his own in the world, just **trying his best with the shitty hand he was dealt.**

He's always standing up for his friends, what he believes in his heart to be right, even when it leads to more trouble. He is a bit **stubborn**, his **temper** can get the best of him at times, and he is **smarter** than most people he comes across. **His life is a series of unfortunate events, yet he never loses his ability to find hope.**

Throughout the series, viewers witness Nicky's journey filled with **personal struggles, relationships**, and moments of **profound introspection.** Despite the world's constant pushback, **he embodies the human spirit's capacity to endure, adapt, and thrive.**

Nicky's character is **relatable** to anyone who has ever felt the world was against them but chose to keep moving forward. **His story is one of inspiration, showcasing that even in the darkest times, there is always a glimmer of light.**

SKELETON

Meet the **Skeleton**.. or rather.. **Dead Nicky**, the ghostly version of himself.

This isn't a haunting figure; it's Nicky's future self, who's found peace at the end of it all.

He's not just a narrator; he's a sardonic, all-seeing guide reflecting on his own life's story.

Imagine a dead-pool'y like character who can look back at every twist and turn with a **cheeky smile**, and a **wise, self-assured** perspective.

The Skeleton will guide the audience through the **3 distinct chapters** in Nicky's life. Each act in the story explores **a critical juncture where Nicky is faced with challenging decisions that will directly alter the outcome of his life.**

- CHEEKY

- WISE

- SELF-ASSURED NARRATOR

SHIFTY


-MACHO
-BULLY
-A**HOLE

↳ BEST
FRIEND?!

Shifty is a **seventeen-year-old** you might recognize from the music videos.

Initially, he comes across as the **quintessential bully**, even coining the nickname "**Brittle Bones**" for Nicky.

But there's more to him than the black eyes he gives. His tough upbringing has shaped him into a **hardened kid** who uses **intimidation as a shield** against his own **inner demons**.



Meet **Otis**. Unlike Nicky, she **doesn't dwell much on her past** or the family she barely remembers. She was a product of the **residential school** system.

She's the kind of person who tells it like it is, with a **raw, sarcastic wit** that's as endearing as it is **brutally honest**. Her humor is a bit **crude**, her remarks often **pointed**, but always laced with an **undeniable truth**.

Most importantly, **she has Nicky's back**, and **he has hers**.

OTIS

-WELCOMING

-HEART 

-STREET
SMART

Miss Ava runs a **foster home** where older kids who haven't been adopted get sent to, their "last stop" so to speak. She's a bit **grumpy** and **loves to yell at the TV** while sitting in her armchair, **smoking** her cigarettes and **drinking her coca colas**. However, underneath her bossy demeanor, she holds a **soft spot for the uphill challenges** her kids face in life.

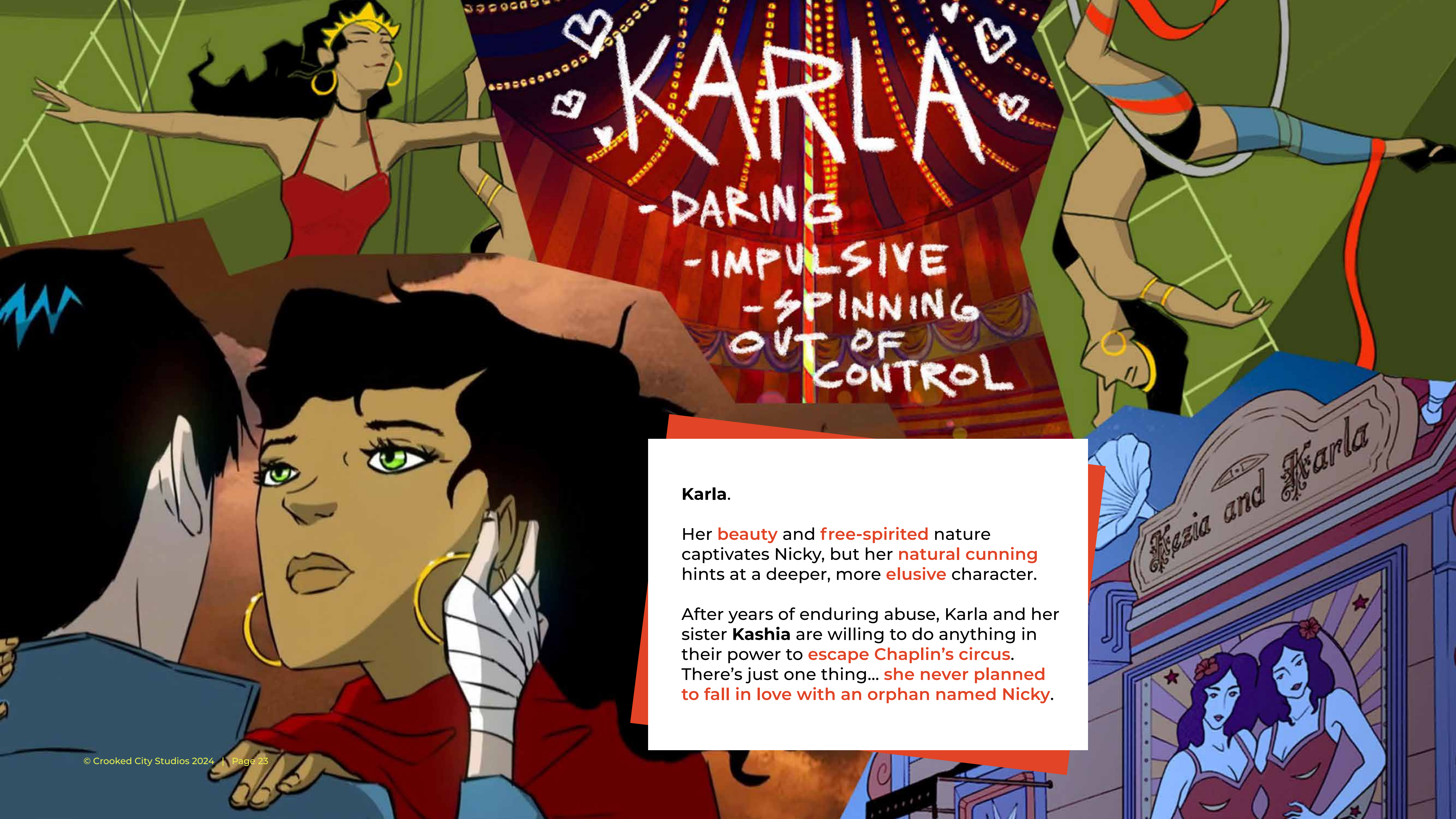
With the **"fend for yourself"** policy at Miss Ava's, it's where Nicky forms the **Skeleton Crew**.

MISS AVA

- FOSTER HOME OWNER
- GROUCHY
- RESPECT IS GIVEN, RESPECT IS EARNED

BIG TOP CHARACTERS





Karla.

Her **beauty** and **free-spirited** nature captivates Nicky, but her **natural cunning** hints at a deeper, more **elusive** character.

After years of enduring abuse, Karla and her sister **Kashia** are willing to do anything in their power to **escape Chaplin's circus**. There's just one thing... **she never planned to fall in love with an orphan named Nicky.**

The **Commissioner**, also known amongst his crew as “**The Corrupt:oner**”, is an **opportunist**.

He’s an **entertainer**, an **entrepreneur**, and an **empty soled megalomaniac** with less money than he makes people believe, but **deep connections** nonetheless to the who’s-who all across town.

The Corrupt:oner is **dirty**. He prides himself on providing a seedy experience that others don’t. **And he knows how to use leverage to his advantage.**

- EMPTY SOLED MEGALOMANIAC
- OPPORTUNIST
- ENTERTAINER

THE CORRUPT:ONER

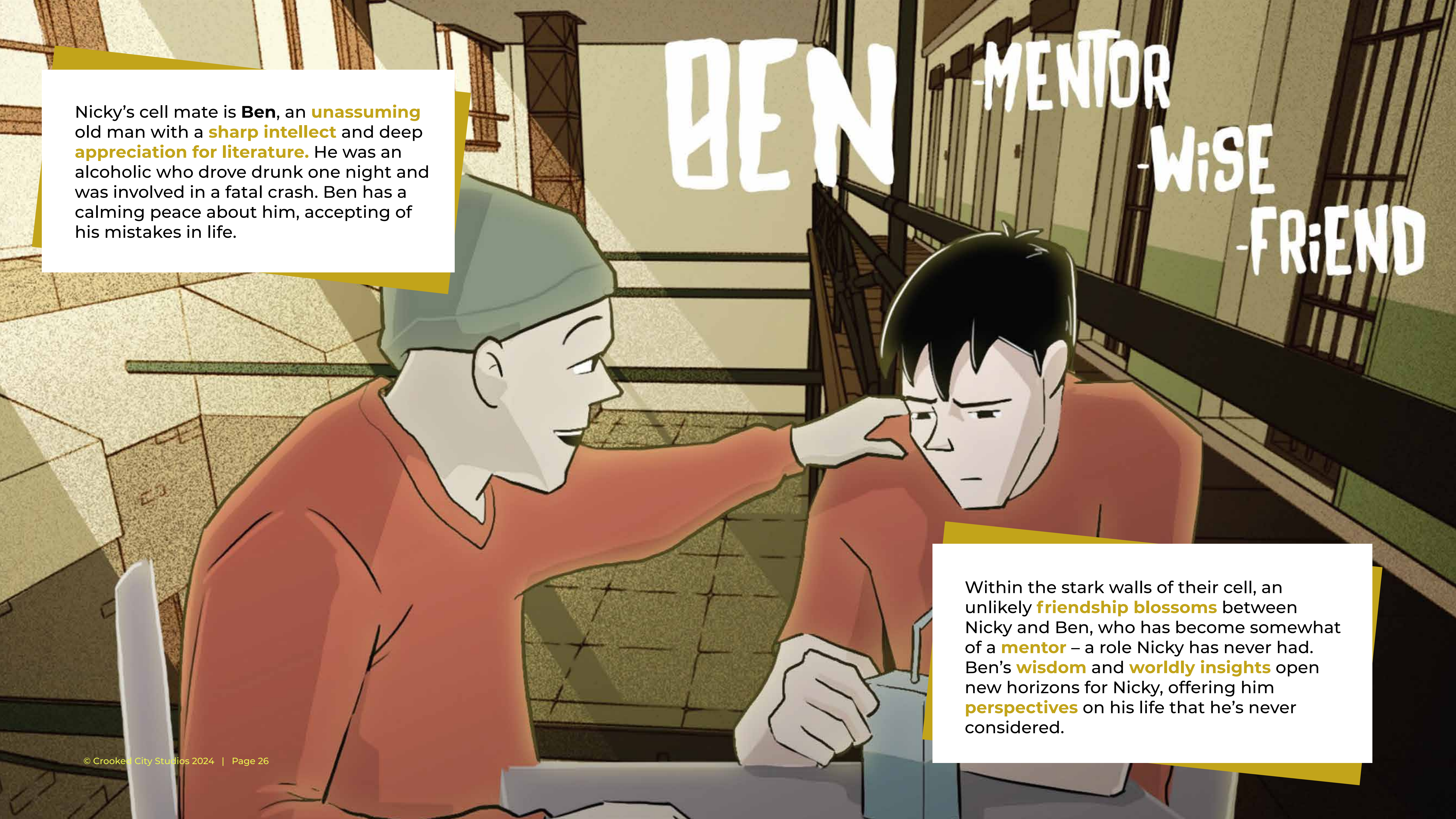
PATCHES + BO

An illustration of two men, Patches and Bo, in a circus setting. Patches, on the left, has blonde hair, a black eyepatch over his right eye, and is wearing a green vest over a blue long-sleeved shirt. Bo, on the right, is a Black man wearing a blue cap, a light blue short-sleeved shirt, and blue overalls. He is carrying a large log on his shoulder and a sack of material. The background shows a circus tent and other structures.

Patches and Bo are Nicky's 2 **closest friends in the circus.**

Both are **stagehands** that have been **working for Chaplin** for over a decade and **know the inside and out of what goes on,** and what he's capable of.

- **NICKY'S CIRCUS' CLOSEST FRIENDS**
- **STAGEHANDS**



Nicky's cell mate is **Ben**, an **unassuming** old man with a **sharp intellect** and deep **appreciation for literature**. He was an alcoholic who drove drunk one night and was involved in a fatal crash. Ben has a calming peace about him, accepting of his mistakes in life.

BEN - MENTOR
- WISE
- FRIEND

Within the stark walls of their cell, an unlikely **friendship blossoms** between Nicky and Ben, who has become somewhat of a **mentor** – a role Nicky has never had. Ben's **wisdom** and **worldly insights** open new horizons for Nicky, offering him **perspectives** on his life that he's never considered.

CREATOR'S STATEMENT

Never in my wildest imagination did I think **Brittle Bones** would inspire so many kids around the world.

My goal when writing this song was to create a character with a good heart who always tried to stand up for what he believed in. But despite his good intentions, bad things just kept happening.

I think we've all felt that at some point in our lives when it feels like the deck is stacked against us.

So, what can we do? As the great athletes of our time say, **just keep pushing forward.**



I've toured in over 15 countries around the world, playing for tens of thousands of kids. Every single time they hear the church bells in the song's intro, the room fills with an energy that words can't convey—it's just something you have to experience.

The rap is fairly complex, yet I'm always amazed each night when I see hundreds of kids singing along with me. **These are kids who feel just like Nicky.**

Kids who were **dealt a tough hand in life.**

Kids who are up **against a system that isn't designed for them to win.**

When I ask them after shows why they connect so much with the song, they say it's because **Nicky's story gives them hope and motivation**—to never give up on themselves no matter what happens.

This is a damn powerful emotion.

My goal is to capture this emotion, bring it to the big screen, and inspire hundreds of thousands of kids around the world to **keep dreaming in a world that sometimes feels impossible to win.**



AND IF AN UN-LUCKY SON OF A BITCH LIKE NICKY
CAN BE PROUD OF HIS LIFE IN THE END,
WELL, SO CAN YOU AND I.





QUESTIONS?



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