

WARNING:
MATURE CONTENT

BK1 **TRIPPIN'**

PJ GRAY



The background of the page is a high-contrast, black and white abstract composition. It features large, irregular white splatters and bubbles against a dark, textured background, resembling ink or paint splatters on a dark surface. The splatters are most prominent at the top and bottom edges of the page, framing the central text.

JUST A HOUSE

Troy was in his last foster home. He hated it. Just like he hated all the others. His foster mom had many kids. She also had a job.

Troy would lie in bed at night dreaming of leaving. He wanted a place of his own.

Troy began to skip school. He did not have friends and liked to be alone.

He tried to stay out of fights. But if he had to fight, he would. Gangs were a problem too. But he tried to stay away from them.

Troy had one more year of high school. His grades were bad and getting worse. He did not want to go back.

“The cops found you again,” his foster mom said. “You were in the park. You have to stay in school.”

“You can’t make me go,” Troy said.

“Fine! Don’t go!” she yelled. “Stay here. Take care of the kids. How about that?”

“No way!” Troy said.

“Then go to school!”





BK1 TRIPPIN'

Troy was over foster homes. He decided to run away. It wasn't easy living on the streets. Then he met Justin.

▲ WARNING:
MATURE CONTENT

LEXILE HL90L

ISBN: 978-1-63889-267-0



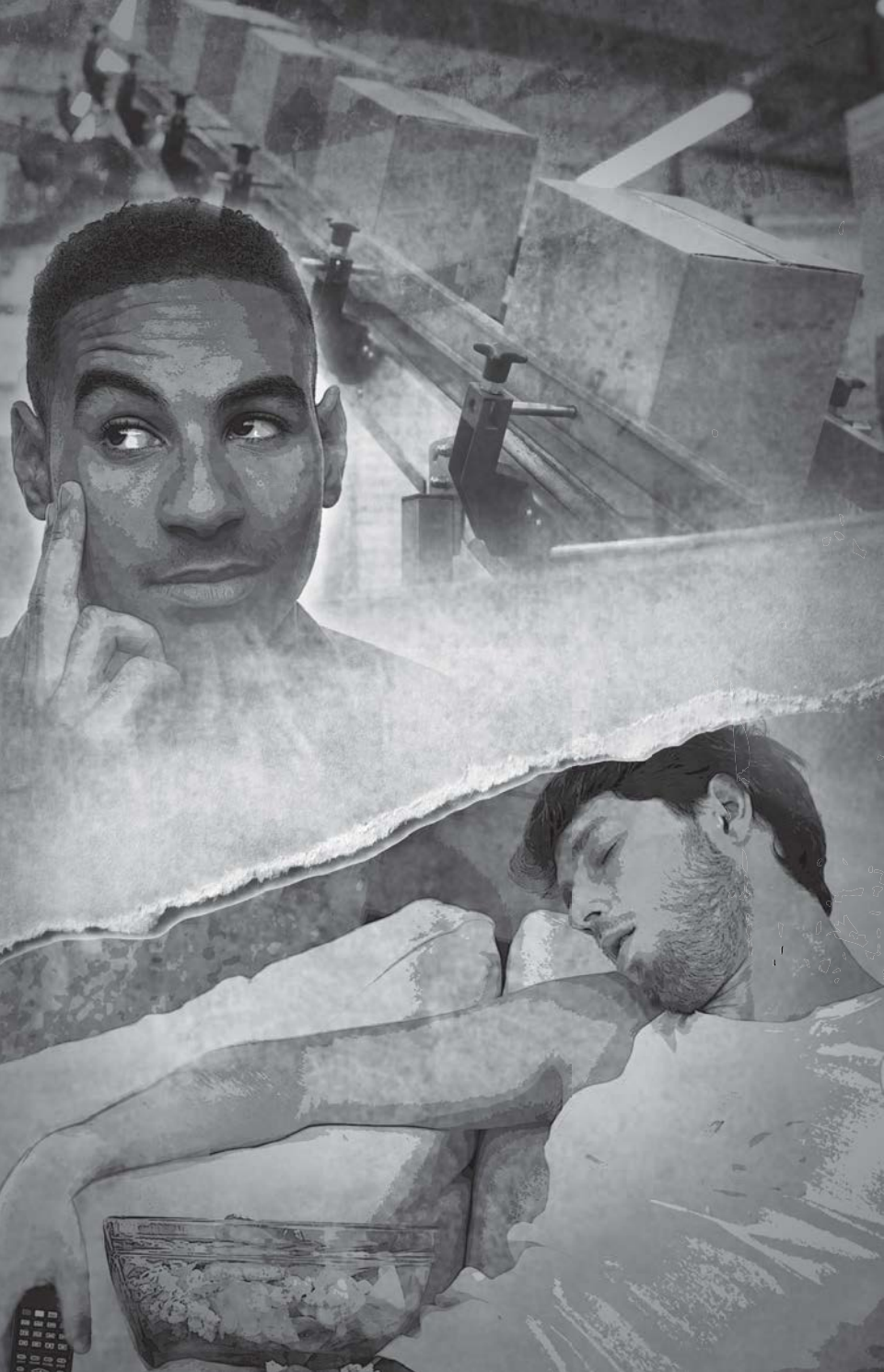
 **SADDLEBACK**
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING
www.sdlback.com

WARNING:
MATURE CONTENT

BK 2 **TRIPPIN'**

THE ACCIDENT

PJ GRAY





A FRIEND'S GIFT

Troy left the shelter. He found a job and took classes at night. During the day, he worked at a meat packing company. He found a cheap place to rent. After a while, he bought a used car.

Troy tried to save money, but it was hard. He did all he could to stay off the streets.

Justin left the shelter a year after Troy.

Justin tried to keep a job. But he did not like to work. Soon Justin was back on the streets.

Troy and Justin still talked on the phone. Sometimes they met for dinner. They liked to eat burgers at a diner. Troy always paid for their meals.

“I got a call from Cash,” Troy said, eating his burger.

“Cash?” Justin asked. “What’s up with him?”

Cash was a friend from the shelter. He had moved to a town called New City. He got a job at an auto parts plant.

“Cash is having a New Year’s Day party,” Troy said.

“Cool,” Justin said. “I wish I could go.”

“Why don’t we go?” Troy asked. “I can drive.”

“Dude, I wish I could.”

“Why not?” Troy asked.

“You know I’m broke. I can’t help pay for gas or food. I have no job. I don’t even have a phone.”

“Why not go with me?” Troy asked.
“What keeps you here?”

Justin looked down.

“I want you to go with me,” Troy said.
“It’s just one night. I will take care of gas
and food. We can crash at Cash’s place.”

“Okay,” Justin said. “Let’s go see Cash
and have some fun.”



BK 2 TRIPPIN'

Troy found a job and bought a car. It was time for a road trip. Justin tagged along. But a terrible snowstorm changed their plans.

⚠ WARNING:
MATURE CONTENT

LEXILE HL130L

 **SADDLEBACK**
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING
www.sdlback.com

ISBN: 978-1-63889-265-6





WARNING:
MATURE CONTENT

BK 3 **TRIPPIN'**

THE LAB

PJ GRAY





THE BASEMENT

Troy and Justin were friends on a road trip. They wanted to see their friend Cash.

Cash lived in another city. He was having a New Year's party.

Troy and Justin were in a bad snowstorm. It was the worst one in years.

Troy had taken a shortcut. The road was full of ice. Troy almost hit a deer. The car skidded off the road and hit a tree.

An older couple saw them on the road. Their names were Ross and Martha. They stopped to help. Troy and Justin were saved.

The storm got worse. They went to the couple's farmhouse to wait it out.

Troy and Justin slept in the living room.

Ross and Martha slept upstairs.

Overnight, the fire went out. Troy went to the basement for more wood.

The basement was dark and cold. It smelled foul.

Troy found a pile of wood. He picked up a piece.

There was a foot.

He picked up another piece.

There was a dead body.

Troy jumped back. He had to think fast. Were Ross and Martha killers? Were he and Justin in danger?

Troy had to tell Justin. He hurried up the basement stairs.

The clock chimed. Ross and Martha would be getting up.

Troy ran into the living room.

“Where is the wood?” Justin asked.

“We have to talk! Now!” Troy said.

“What’s wrong?” Justin asked.

“We have to get out of here,” Troy said.

Justin stared at him.

Ross and Martha came down the stairs. It was too late.



BK 3 TRIPPIN'

The worst snowstorm in years means Justin and Troy are trapped in a farmhouse with strangers. They seem nice enough. But things aren't always what they seem.

⚠ WARNING:
MATURE CONTENT

LEXILE HL130L

 **SADDLEBACK**
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING
www.sdlback.com

ISBN: 978-1-63889-266-3

