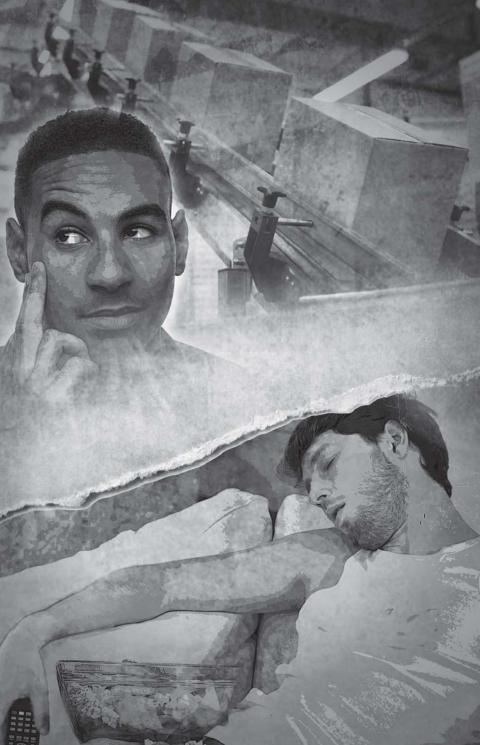


ETRIP PINT THE ACCIDENT

PJ GRAY





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."



ETRIPPIN⁷

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.



MATURE CONTENT

LEXILE HL130L

