




IF I GO  
*Missing*

Brianna Jonnie with Nahanni Shingoose  
Art by Nshannacappo



**"If I go missing,** do not treat me like the Indigenous person I am proud to be."

When someone who looks like me goes missing — wondered 14-year-old Ojibwe teen Brianna Jonnie — why does it not get the same swift response from the police and the media as when a white person goes missing?

Brianna put this question to the Chief of Police in a letter, urging them and the media to "do better" when investigating cases of missing Indigenous people.

This book brings that letter to life and sheds light on the issue of missing Indigenous people from an Indigenous girl's perspective.

**LORIMER**

James Lorimer & Company Ltd., Publishers  
www.lorimer.ca

**\$24.95**

ISBN-10: 1-4594-1-451-9

ISBN-13: 978-1-4594-1451-8



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*To all those who feel invisible — you are valued and you are loved.*

— Brianna Jonnie

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Illustration copyright © 2019 by Neal Shannacappo

Published in Canada in 2019. Published in the United States in 2020.

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James Lorimer & Company Ltd., Publishers acknowledges funding support from the Ontario Arts Council (OAC), an agency of the Government of Ontario. We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$153 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country. This project has been made possible with the support of Ontario Creates.



Cover design: Tyler Cleroux

Cover illustration: Nshannacappo

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Title: If I go missing / text by Brianna Jonnie and Nahanni Shingoose ; art by Neal Shannacappo.

Names: Jonnie, Brianna, author. | Shingoose, Nahanni, author. | Shannacappo, Neal, illustrator.

Identifiers: Canadiana 20190130695 | ISBN 9781459414518 (hardcover)

Subjects: CSH: Native women—Crimes against—Canada—Comic books, strips, etc. | CSH: Native women—Violence against—Canada—Comic books, strips, etc. | CSH: Creative nonfiction, Canadian (English) | LCGFT: Graphic novels.

Classification: LCC PN6733.J66 I35 2019 | DDC j741.5/971—dc23

This digital edition first published in 2020 as 9781459414549

Originally published in 2020 as 9781459414518

Published by:

James Lorimer & Company Ltd., Publishers  
117 Peter Street, Suite 304  
Toronto, ON, Canada  
M5V 0M3  
www.lorimer.ca

Distributed in Canada by:

Formac Lorimer Books  
5502 Atlantic Street  
Halifax, NS, Canada  
B3H 1G4

Distributed in the US by:

Lerner Publisher Services  
1251 Washington Ave. N.  
Minneapolis, MN, USA  
55401  
www.lernerbooks.com

Printed and bound in South Korea

Manufactured by We. Sp Co.  
Job #190829

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**Toronto**



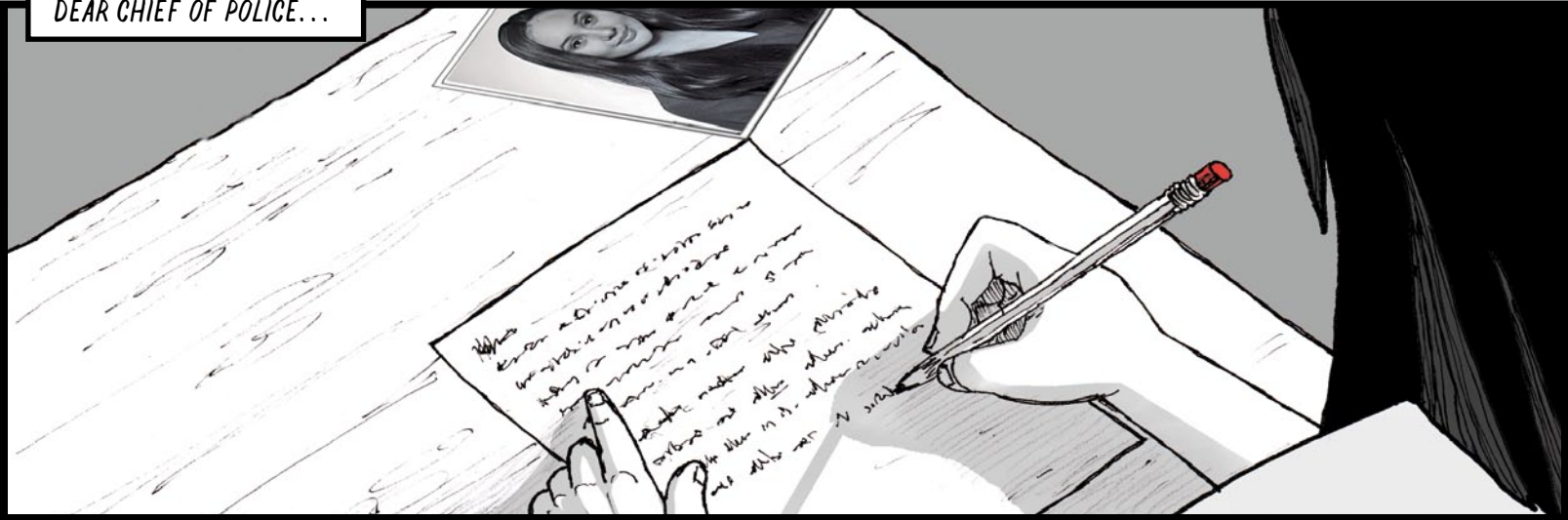


## United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:

Governments, with proper consultation with Indigenous peoples, will ensure Indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities have their rights respected. Governments will ensure that Indigenous women and children are free from all forms of violence and discrimination.

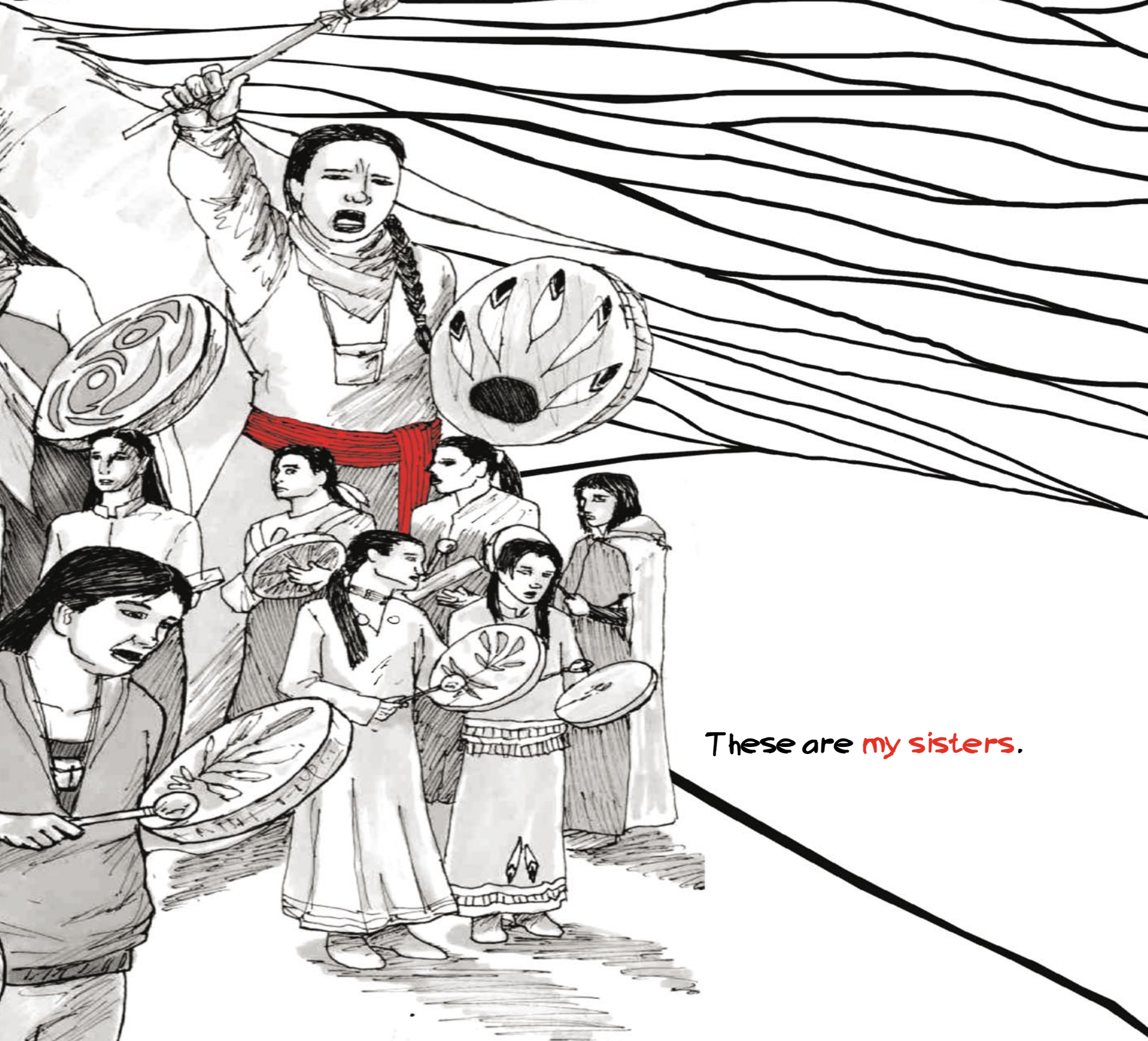


DEAR CHIEF OF POLICE...



I am an **Indigenous** girl.





These are **my sisters**.

I am a **coach**,



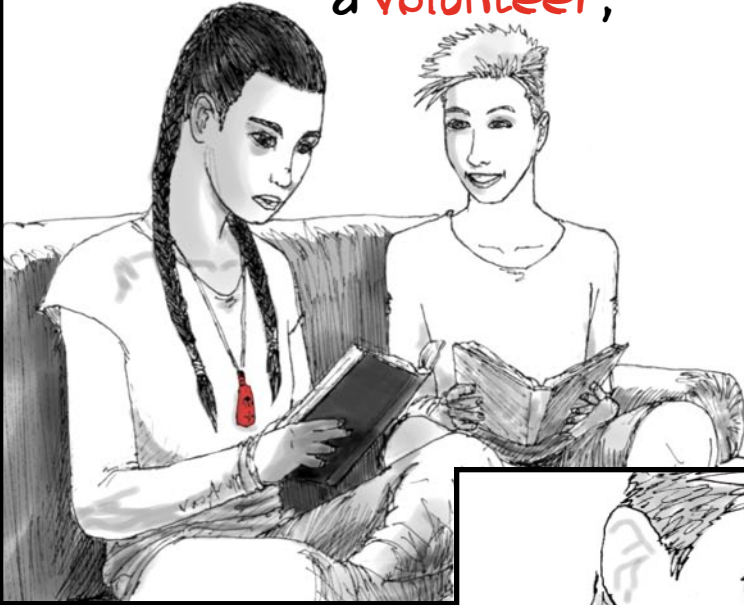
a **dancer**,



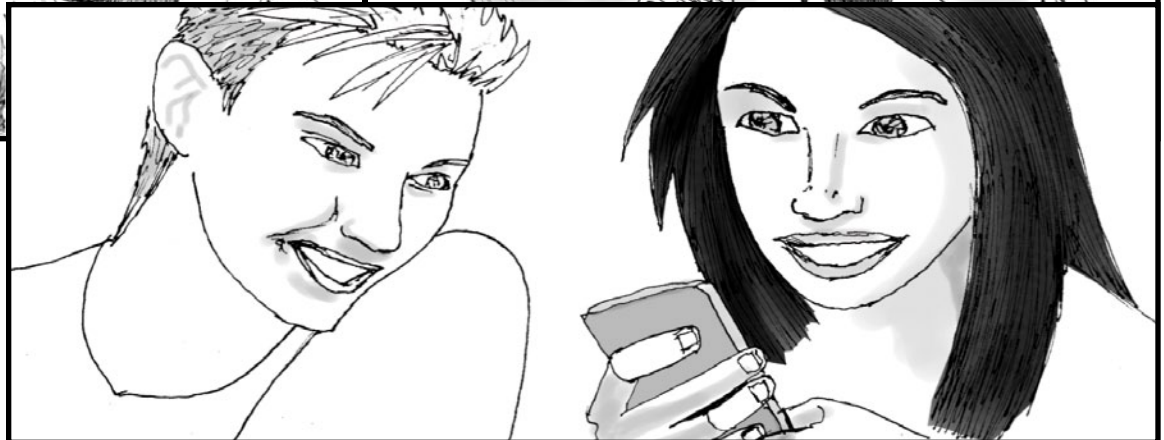
an honour-roll student,

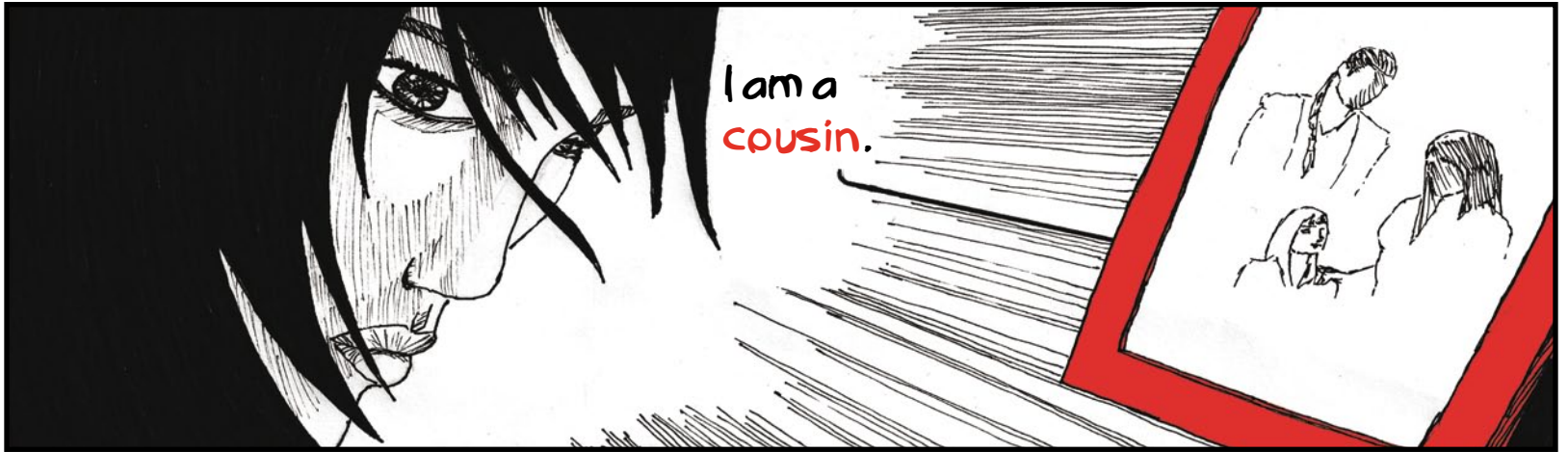


a volunteer,



a friend.

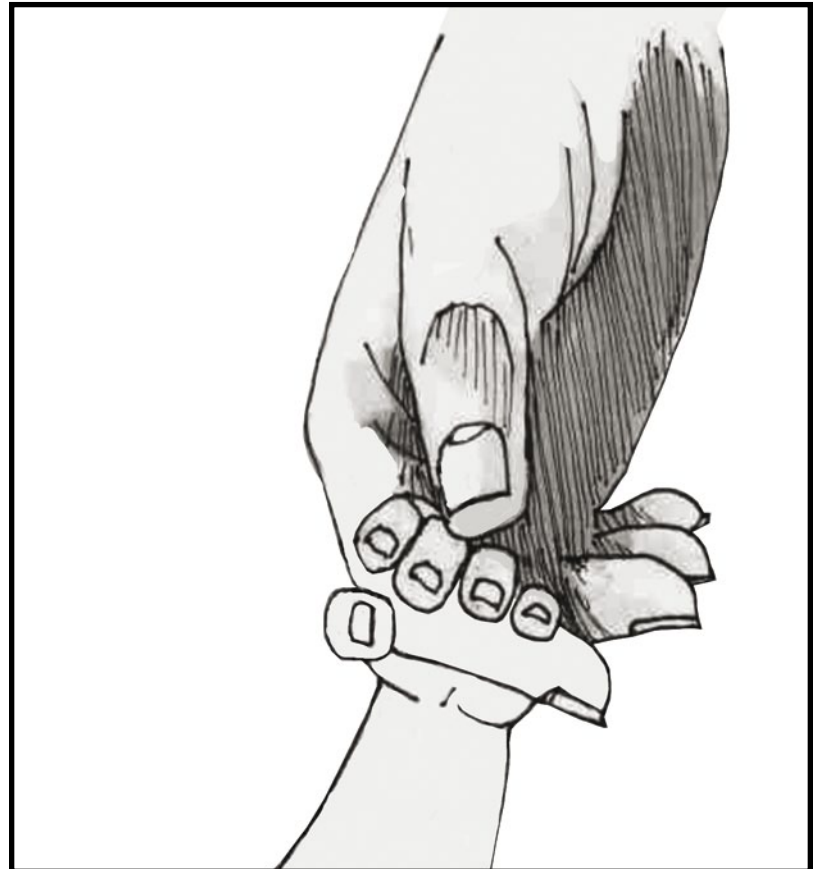
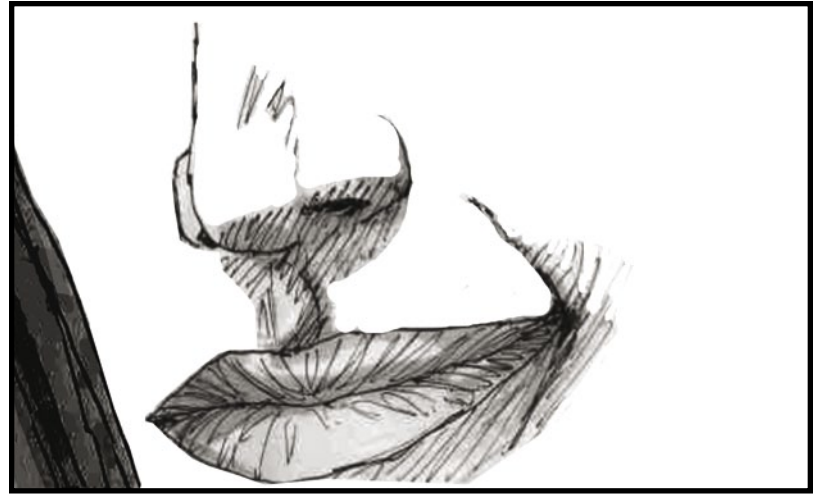




I am a  
cousin.



I am a grand-daughter.



I am a daughter...

... to a young,  
single mom who  
**loves me** more  
than humanly  
possible.





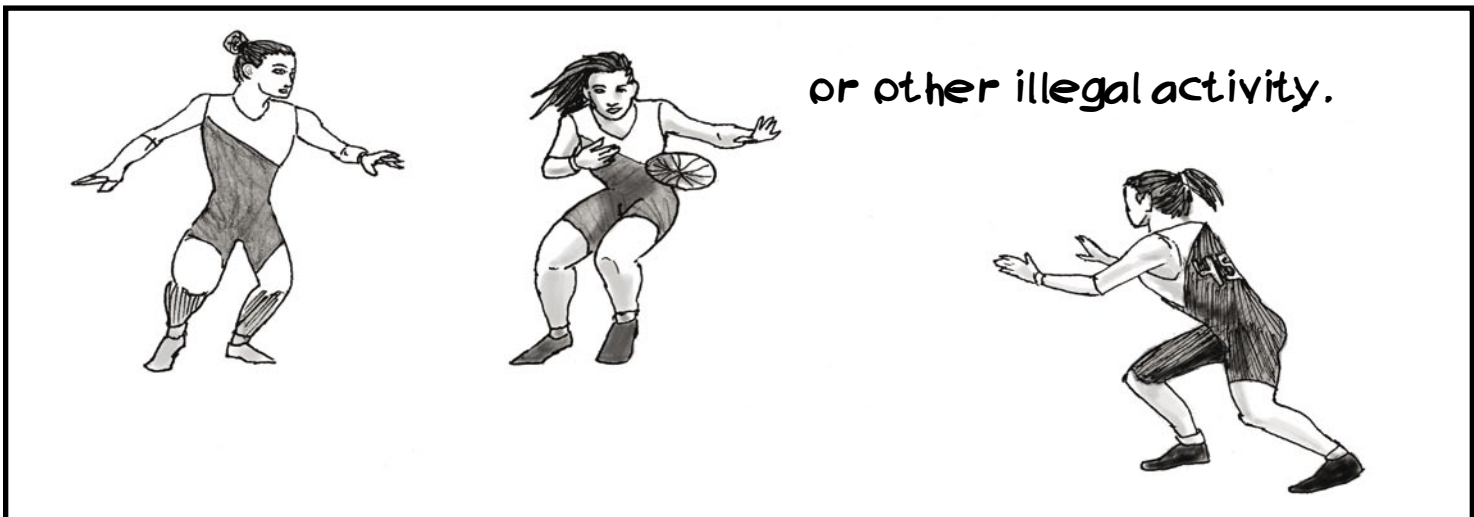


My father (whom I have  
no contact with) is an  
addict and a criminal.

I am not involved  
in drugs,



underage drinking,  
prostitution

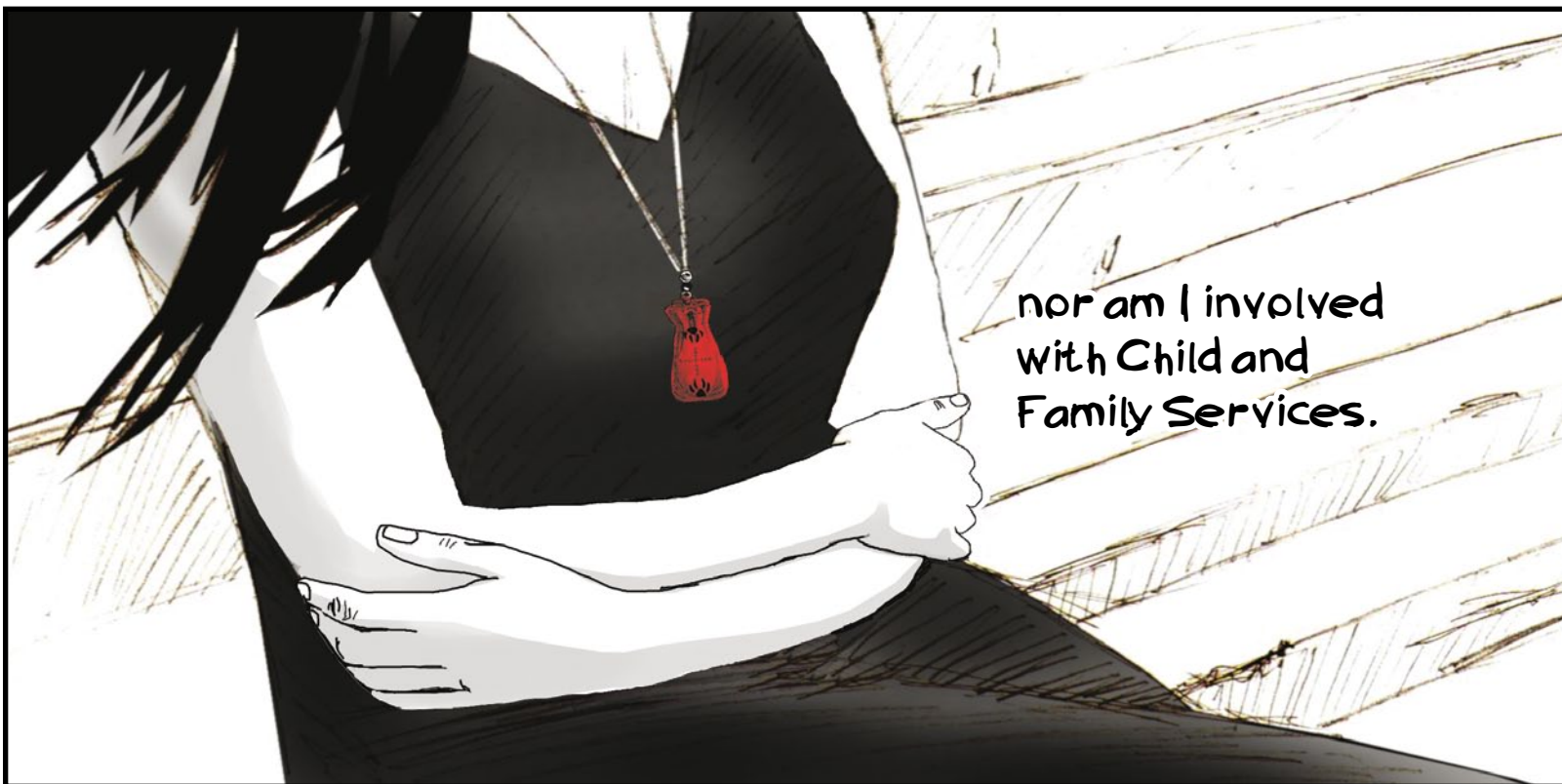


or other illegal activity.

I am not a runaway,

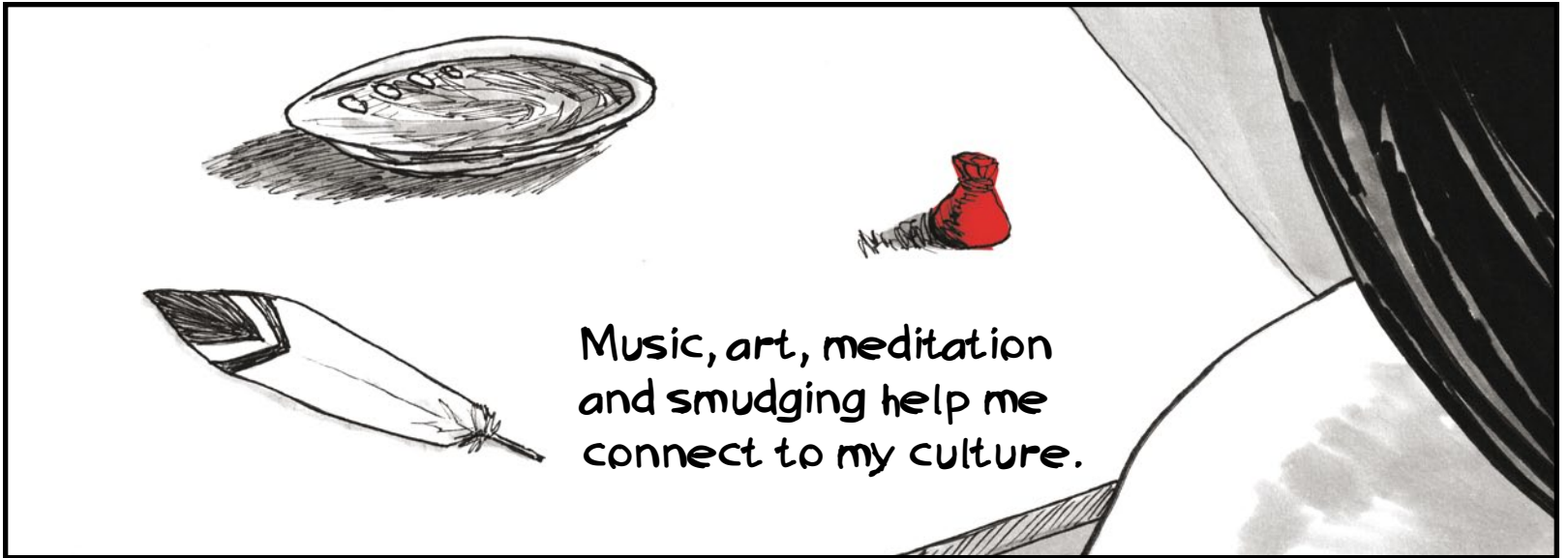


nor am I involved  
with Child and  
Family Services.

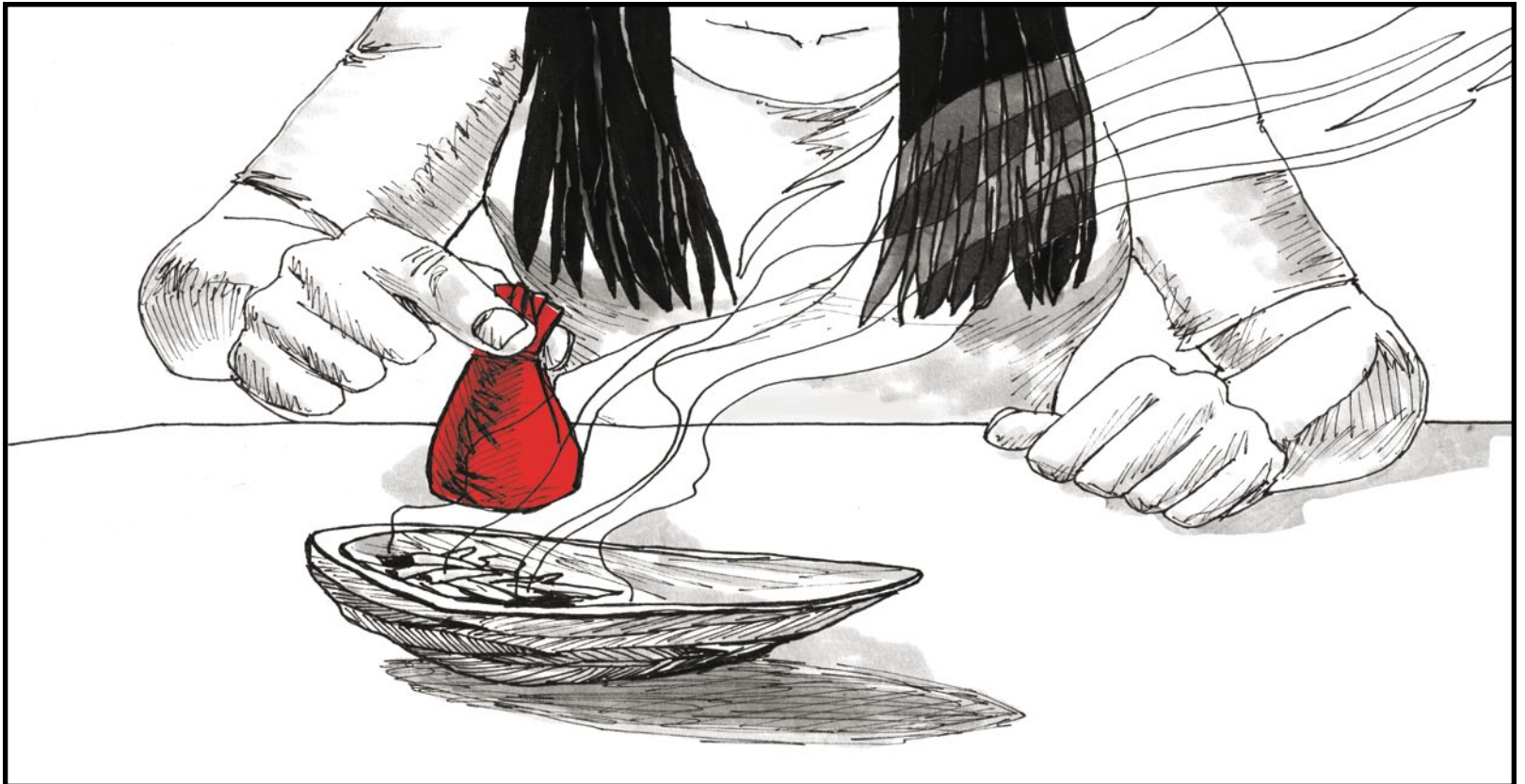




My name is  
Brianna Jonnie.  
I am fourteen years old.



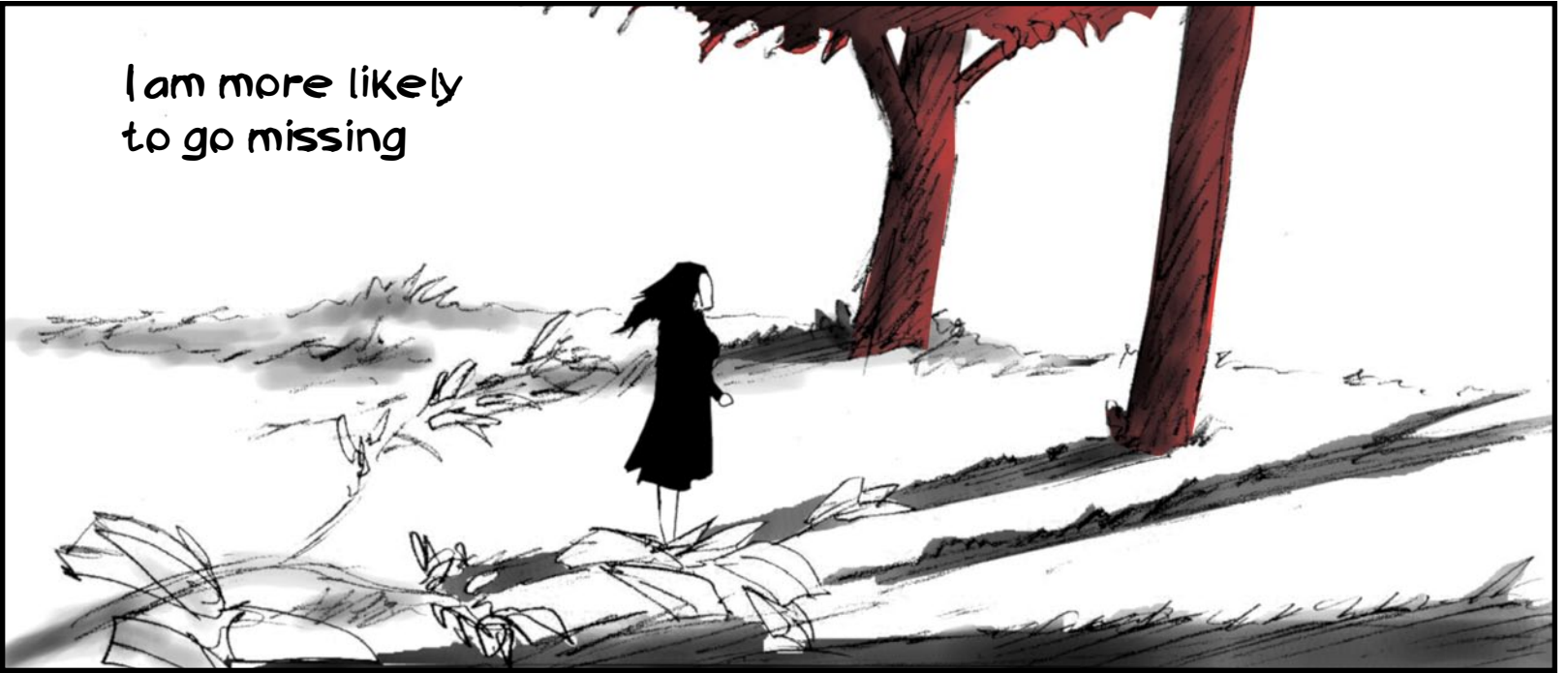
Music, art, meditation  
and smudging help me  
connect to my culture.





I am Indigenous.

I am more likely  
to go missing



than my peers.

