

BEYOND
PUBLISHING
CARIBBEAN



CROSS ROADS

ISSUE 3



CROSS ROADS



STORY
NIGEL LYNCH

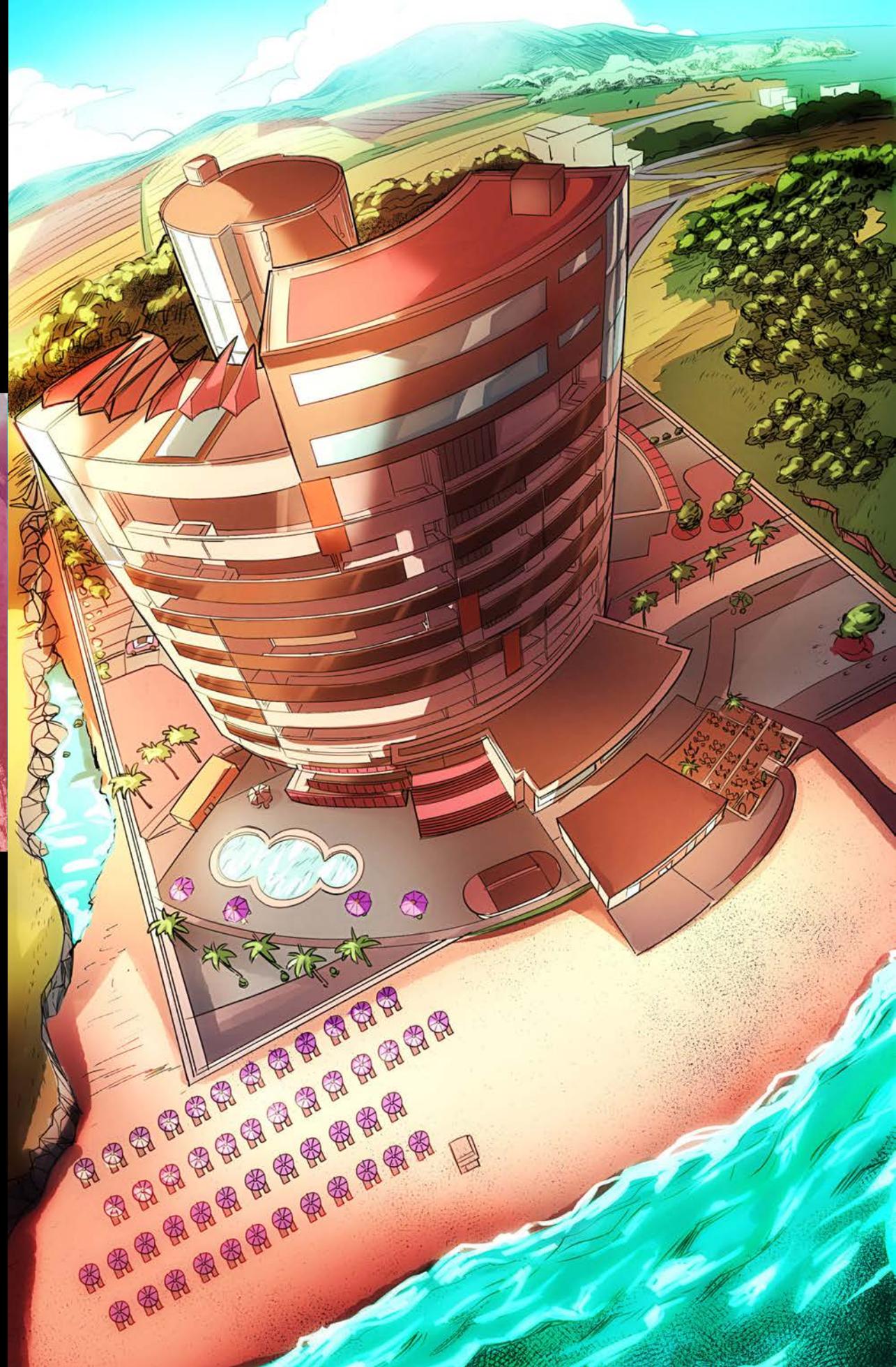
ART & COLORS
TRISTAN ROACH

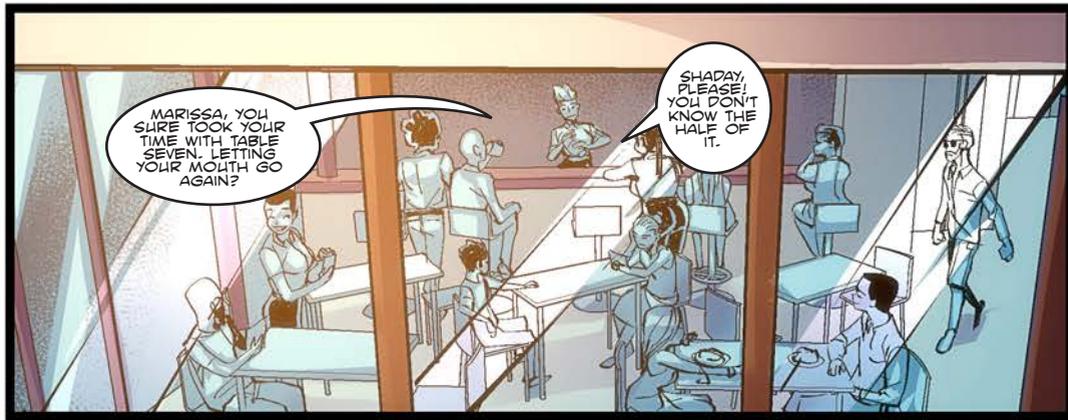
COVER ART & LETTERING
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EDITOR
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Crossroads 3 shines a light on the dark world of human trafficking. Shaday is faced with the lure of a bright future in a foreign land, but she must be mindful when presented with such a gift. Follow Shaday and her best friend, Marissa, as they decide whether this opportunity is too good to be true.

Beyond Publishing Caribbean and the U.S. Embassy Bridgetown have teamed up to bring you "CrossRoads," a comic book series chronicling the lives of two brothers growing up in the Caribbean at the crossroads of being just or falling into the temptations of the criminal underworld. Issues facing our young Caribbean men and women today are explored in this graphic novel written by Alan Lynch, and illustrated by Tristan Roach and Matthew Clarke.





MARISSA, YOU SURE TOOK YOUR TIME WITH TABLE SEVEN. LETTING YOUR MOUTH GO AGAIN?

SHADAY, PLEASE! YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT.



AT TABLE SEVEN ARE TWO RESORT CLUB OWNERS FROM LIP NORTH. AND THEY ARE LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCED PEOPLE TO WORK FOR THEM AT THEIR NEW BUSINESS VENTURE. WHAT DO YOU THINK?



IT SOUNDS GREAT! WITH MY BROTHER, KEMANI, FRESH OUT OF PRISON AND NOT WORKING, A BREAK FROM HIM AND MORE MONEY IN MY POCKET WOULD BE A BLESSING.



EXCUSE ME, MISS?



SO, MARISSA, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT OUR OFFER? POSITIONS ARE BEING FILLED QUICKLY AND I WOULD HATE FOR YOU TO LOSE OUT ON THIS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY. YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANY TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS. WE'VE GOT THAT PART COVERED.



WE EVEN PROVIDE TRAINING FOR OUR STAFF SO THEY CAN BETTER THEMSELVES.

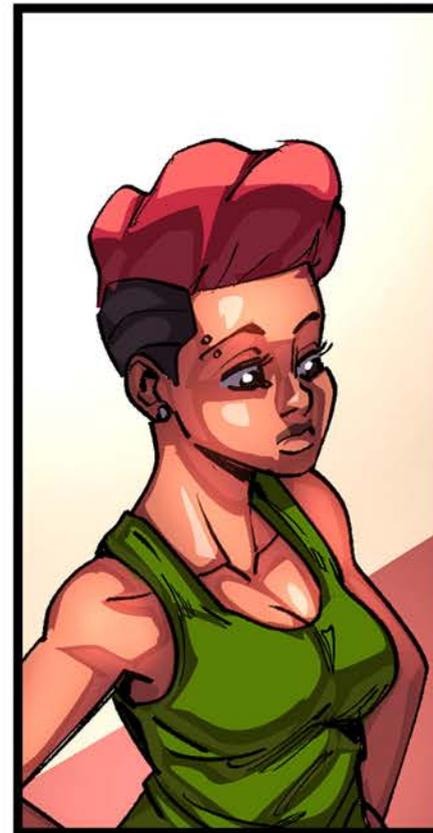


AND WITH HARD WORK AND DEDICATION, WHO KNOWS, YOU COULD BECOME A GENERAL MANAGER ONE DAY.



OH, REALLY? THAT WOULD BE AWESOME!





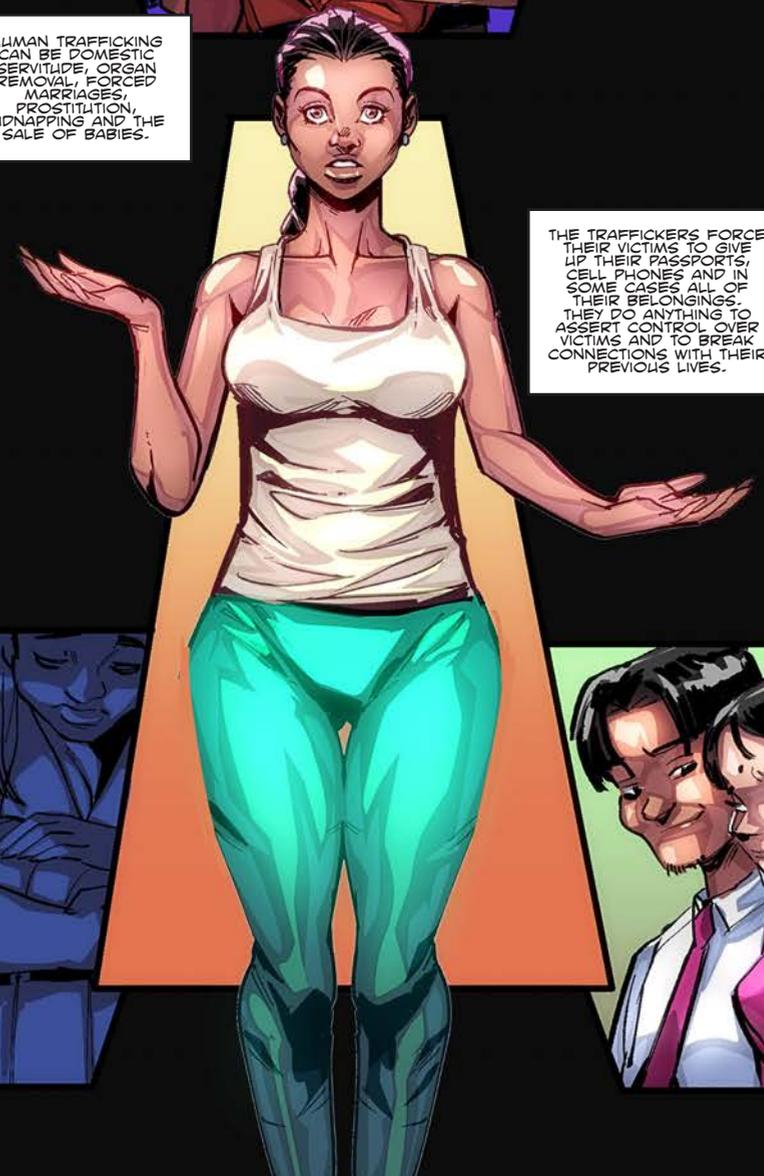
WHAT A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS NOT ONLY ABOUT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION. ESSENTIALLY, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE TRAFFICKERS' GOAL IS EXPLOITATION AND ENSLAVEMENT.



TRAFFICKING DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE ACROSS BORDERS AS YOU MIGHT THINK.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING CAN BE DOMESTIC SERVITUDE, ORGAN REMOVAL, FORCED MARRIAGES, PROSTITUTION, KIDNAPPING AND THE SALE OF BABIES.



THE TRAFFICKERS FORCE THEIR VICTIMS TO GIVE UP THEIR PASSPORTS, CELL PHONES AND IN SOME CASES ALL OF THEIR BELONGINGS. THEY DO ANYTHING TO ASSERT CONTROL OVER VICTIMS AND TO BREAK CONNECTIONS WITH THEIR PREVIOUS LIVES.



I'M NOT SAYING YOU'RE STUPID OR ANYTHING, I JUST WANT YOU TO BE CAREFUL.



HAVE YOU DONE ANY RESEARCH ABOUT THESE PEOPLE ONLINE AT LEAST?

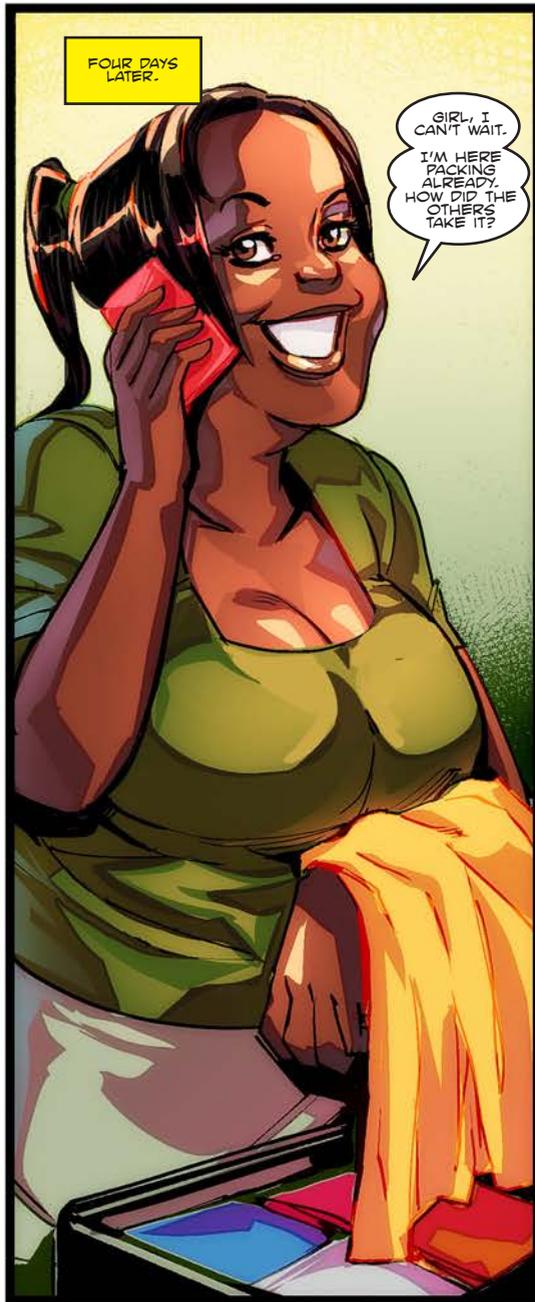


...AHH.



LOOK! I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU ALL THINK. IT'S MY LIFE, I'LL DO WHAT I WANT.





FOUR DAYS LATER.

GIRL, I CAN'T WAIT. I'M HERE PACKING ALREADY. HOW DID THE OTHERS TAKE IT?



THEM? THEY'RE A BLINCH OF HATERS. THINK THEY KNOW EVERYTHING. SO, YOU PACKING A LOT OF STUFF? OR ARE YOU LOOKING TO BUY A WHOLE NEW WARDROBE?



MATEO? DETECTIVE KEVIN CARTER. WE SPOKE ON THE PHONE.



FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD US, THIS SOUNDS LIKE IT COULD BE A CASE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING? BUT SHE CAME HERE WILLINGLY.



I REALLY DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF SHADAY JUST PUTTING HER FAITH IN THESE STRANGERS. I LOOKED ONLINE AND I HAVEN'T FOUND SOUGHT ABOUT THEIR SO-CALLED CLUB.



WE SEE A LOT OF PEOPLE COME WILLINGLY INTO THIS ISLAND AND THEN FIND THEMSELVES IN ALL KINDS OF TROUBLE.









MATEO, I'M SORRY ABOUT RENATA AND WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO SOLVE HER MURDER. YOU'VE NOT ONLY HELPED YOUR NIECE BUT YOU'VE SAVED A LOT OF YOUNG LADIES TOO. THANK YOU.

THESE PREDATORS PREY ON PEOPLE EXPERIENCING ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS, WHO ARE PSYCHOLOGICALLY OR EMOTIONALLY BROKEN OR EVEN JUST LOOKING FOR A BETTER LIFE.



AT TIMES IT CAN BE A LUCRATIVE AND WELL-ORGANISED BUSINESS. ANYONE CAN BE A VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING NO MATTER THE AGE, RACE, GENDER OR NATIONALITY.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS A SILENT AND HIDDEN CRIME BECAUSE MANY OF THE VICTIMS ARE AFRAID TO OR CAN'T COME FORWARD. THEY FEAR RETRIIBUTION FROM THEIR CAPTORS.





OKAY, LADIES. GIVE CINDY YOUR PASSPORT AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. SHE'LL SORT THAT STUFF OUT.



MARISSA, I THINK WE SHOULD GO TO THE LADIES' ROOM BEFORE WE GO. YOU KNOW HOW I GET.



I DON'T LIKE THIS. DON'T YOU THINK ALL THIS IS A LITTLE STRANGE? THIS IS STARTING TO FEEL A BIT SHADY. LET'S NOT GO.



GEEZ, GIRL! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU. PLEASE STOP! WE CAN'T WALK AWAY FROM THIS NOW. WE MAY NOT GET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY.



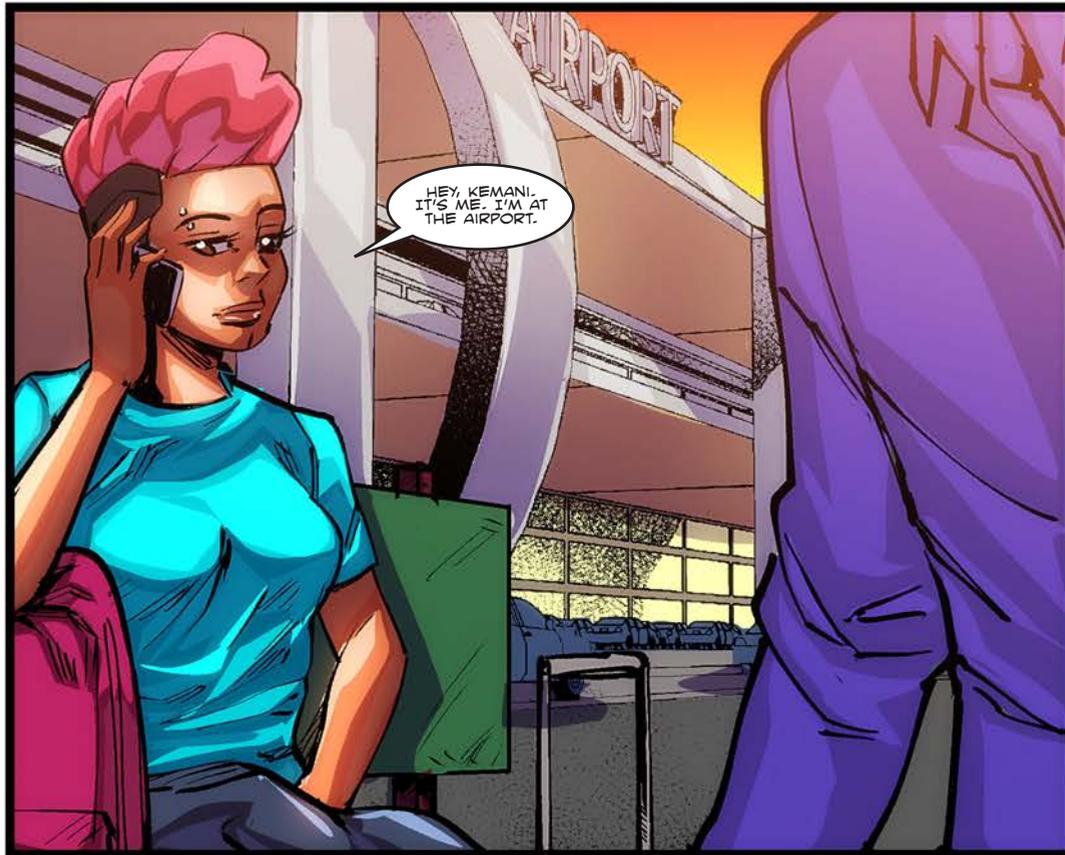
BUT THE PHONES, THE PASSPORTS?



COME ON, SHADY. STOP WITH THE NONSENSE AND LET'S GO ALREADY. PLEASE DON'T MESS THIS UP FOR US! SEE YOU ON THE PLANE.



HERE'S TO A NEW START!



"CROSSROADS: ISSUE III"

A MESSAGE FROM LINDA S. TAGLIALATELA,
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BARBADOS, THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN AND THE OECS



CrossRoads: Issue III marks the conclusion to the U.S. Embassy's comic book trilogy chronicling the lives of four fictional Caribbean youth – Shamar, Kemani, Marissa, and Shaday. Our characters' journeys have allowed us to explore some of the serious issues affecting many of our communities – crime and violence, domestic abuse, and human trafficking.

The final edition of CrossRoads exposes our readers to the issue of human trafficking which threatens millions of women, men, and children worldwide, including in the Eastern Caribbean. Human trafficking can come in many forms – sex trafficking, forced labor, and debt bondage – and is considered a "hidden crime" because it is so hard to detect. Vulnerable groups, including children, immigrants, and LGBTI persons, are particularly vulnerable to trafficking.

I hope this story illustrates how traffickers prey upon victims, the challenges of uncovering these networks, and the crucial role law enforcement and civil society play in identifying victims and bringing traffickers to justice.

The team behind this trilogy includes some of the most creative minds in the region. I am very proud of the high standard of work produced by Beyond Publishing Caribbean. Their youth, talent, and energy brought these stories to life. Thank you for partnering with U.S. Embassy Bridgetown to share these complex stories with our young Eastern Caribbean readers.

I hope these stories have encouraged you to learn more about the issues depicted and to seek support if needed. Thank you all for reading, sharing, and discussing our CrossRoads trilogy.

If you require assistance, or would like further information on human trafficking, please contact the police force in your country at the numbers listed below.

Antigua and Barbuda
Tel: 1-268-462-3913/3914
Email: cidpd@ab.gov.ag

St. Kitts and Nevis
Tel: 1-869-662-7062
Email: ja.francis@police.kn

Barbados
Tel: 1-246-430-7332/7333
Email: sexcrimesandtrafficking@rbpf.gov.bb

St. Lucia
Tel: 1-758-456-3751/3770
Email: cidphq3770@gmail.com

Dominica
Tel: 1-767-266-5100
Email: dompol@cwdom.dm

St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Tel: 1-784-457-1211 / 1-784-456-1750
Email: svgantitraffickingunit@gmail.com

Grenada
Tel: 1-473-440-3921
Email: RGPF@spiceisle.com



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