

The Wounds of a Friend

HELLO AGAIN,
I'M MARA.

I WOULD LIKE TO TELL
YOU ABOUT WHEN I
WAS 11, AND I SPENT AN
EXTENDED TIME AWAY
FROM MY FAMILY AT A
YOUTH CAMP.

IT WAS A GREAT SUMMER WITH LOTS OF ACTIVITIES, TIME WITH
FRIENDS, SWIMMING, SPORTS, AND BIBLE CLASSES.

I SHARED A CABIN WITH THREE
OTHER GIRLS, AND SINCE WE
WERE GOING TO BE THERE
FOR A WHILE, I WANTED TO
"DECORATE" THE PLACE A BIT.

I HAD THIS IDEA THAT WE
COULD DECORATE ONE
WALL OF THE CABIN WITH
TREASURES AND TRINKETS
THAT REMINDED US OF HOME.

WHEN I TOLD THE GIRLS
ABOUT MY IDEA, THEY
ALL LIKED IT.

WE SPENT ONE FREE AFTERNOON PUTTING UP OUR PIECES AND TALKING ABOUT EACH ITEM.

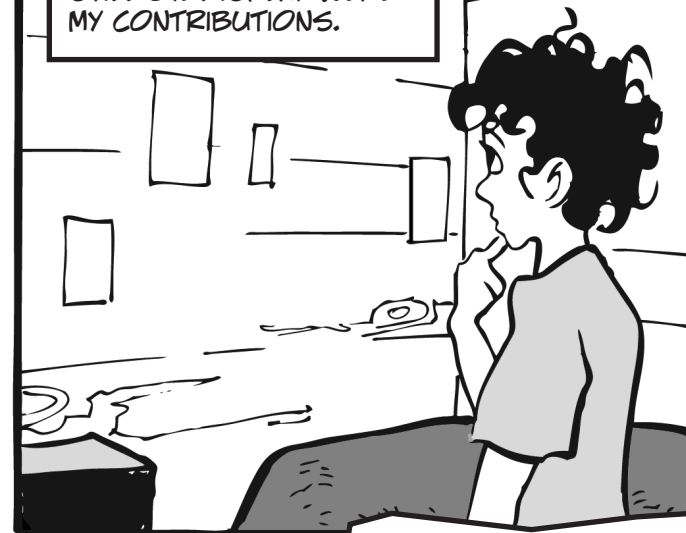


EVERY NIGHT, WHEN I WAS GOING TO BED, I'D ADMIRE OUR WALL.

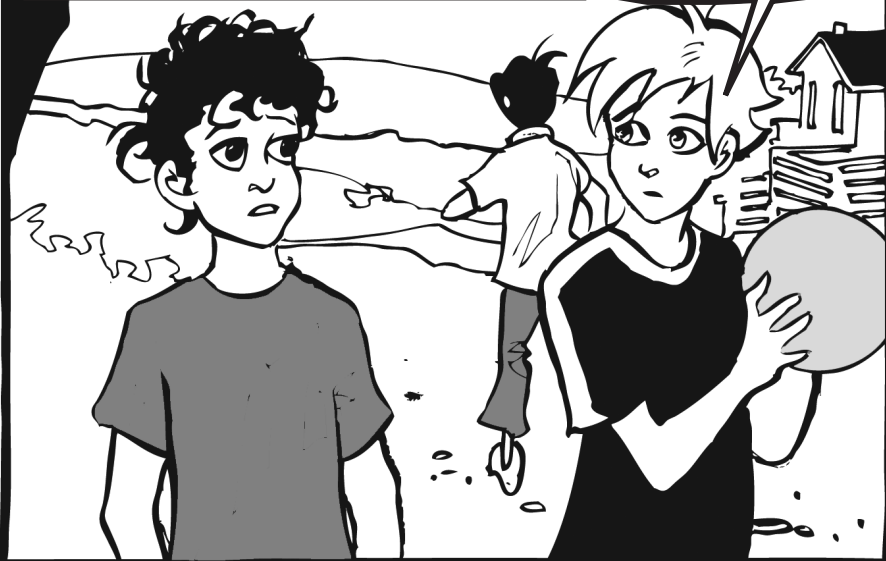


I THOUGHT IT LOOKED GREAT!

A COUPLE OF WEEKS INTO THE CAMP, I NOTICED THAT THE ONLY ITEMS STILL ON DISPLAY WERE MY CONTRIBUTIONS.



I WAS WONDERING WHERE EVERYTHING WENT, SO I ASKED ONE OF MY CABIN MATES WHAT WAS GOING ON.



OH, WE ALL DECIDED IT WAS A LAME IDEA, SO WE TOOK OUR STUFF DOWN.

I WAS CRUSHED!

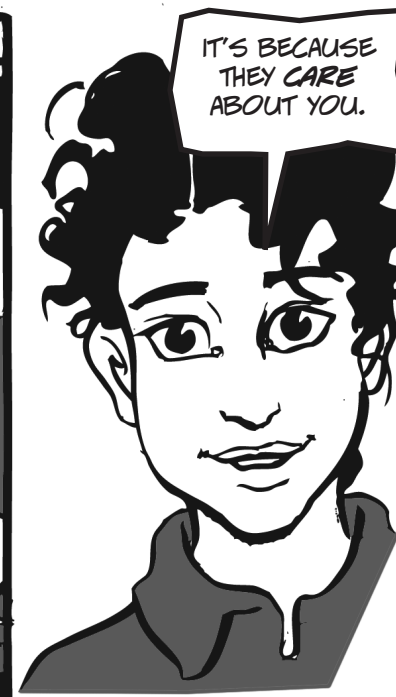
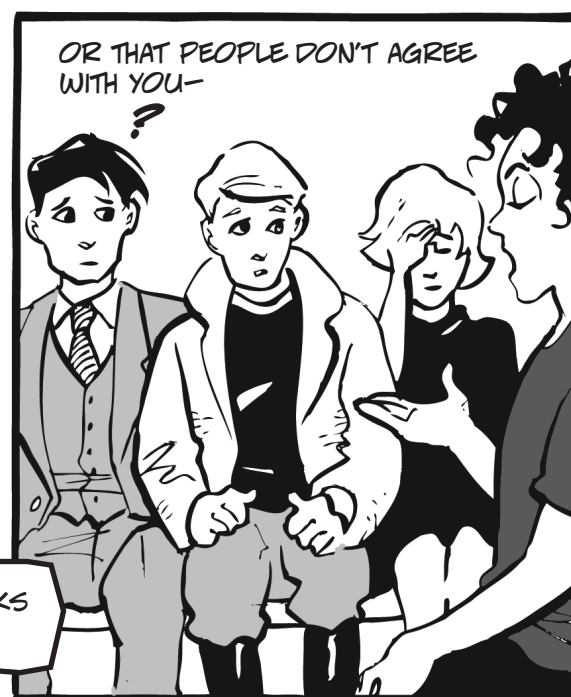


IT WASN'T THE FACT THAT NO ONE LIKED THE IDEA.

WHAT HURT WAS THAT THEY HAD ALL GOTTEN TOGETHER AND TALKED ABOUT IT, BUT NO ONE HAD LET ME IN ON THE CONVERSATION.

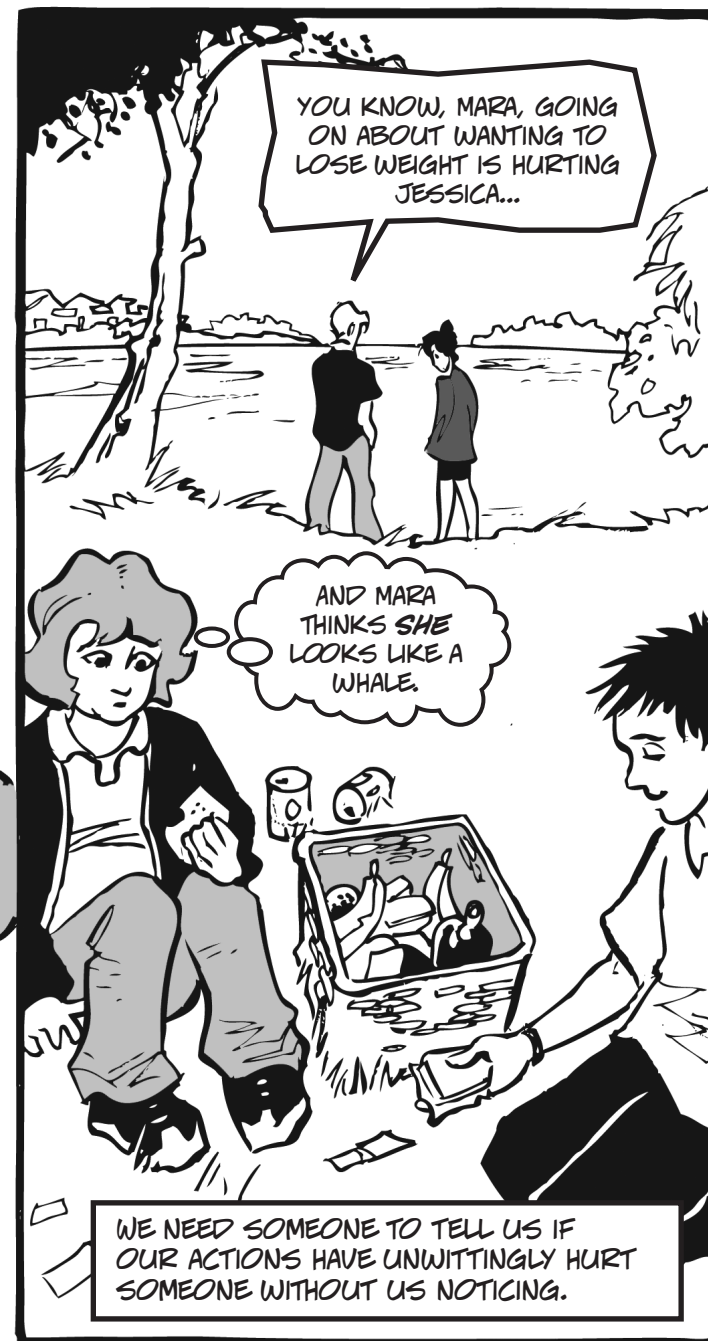
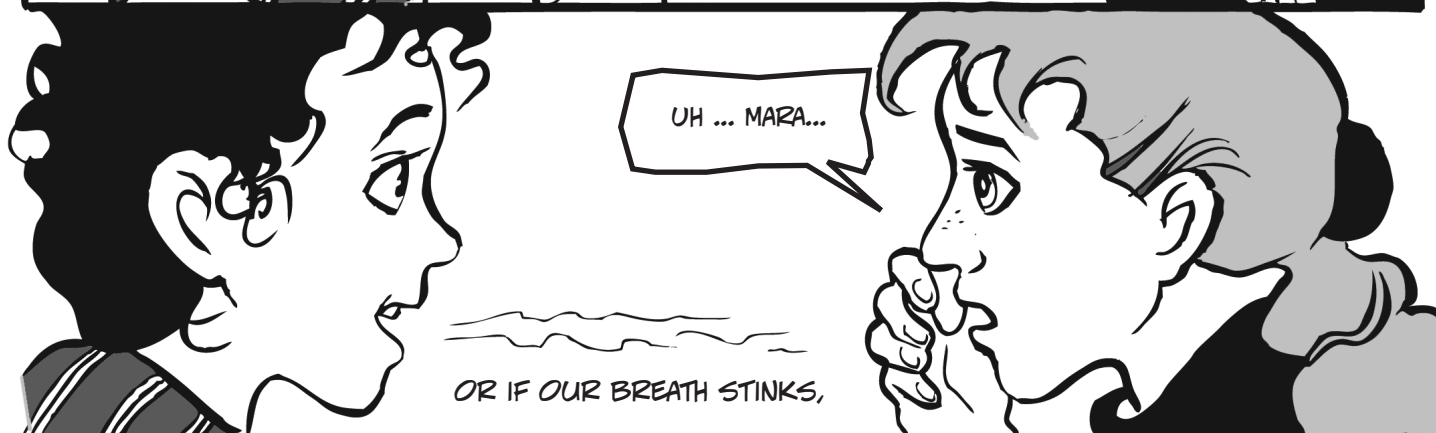
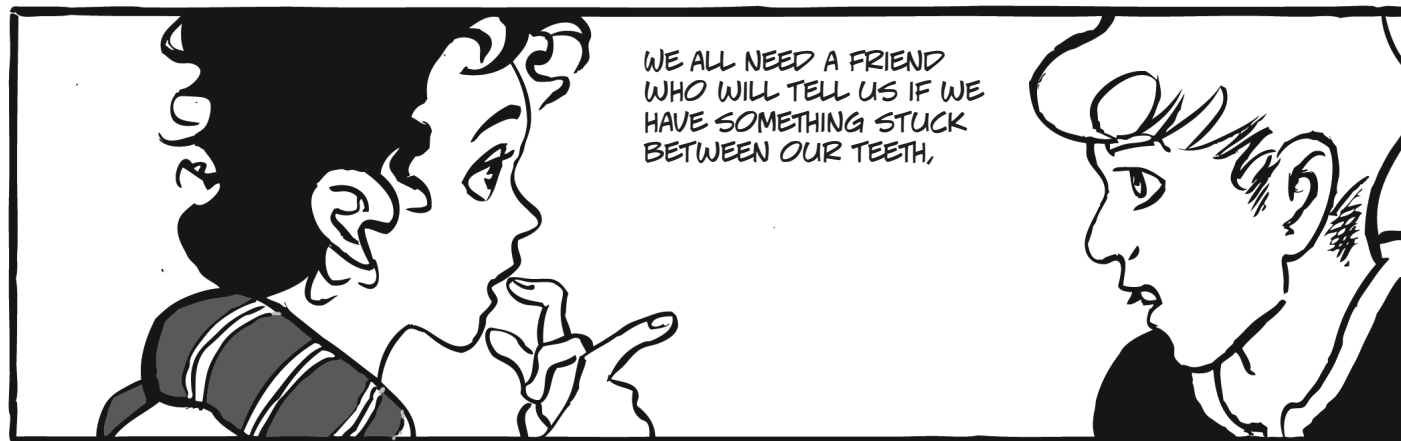


Has anything like that ever happened to you?

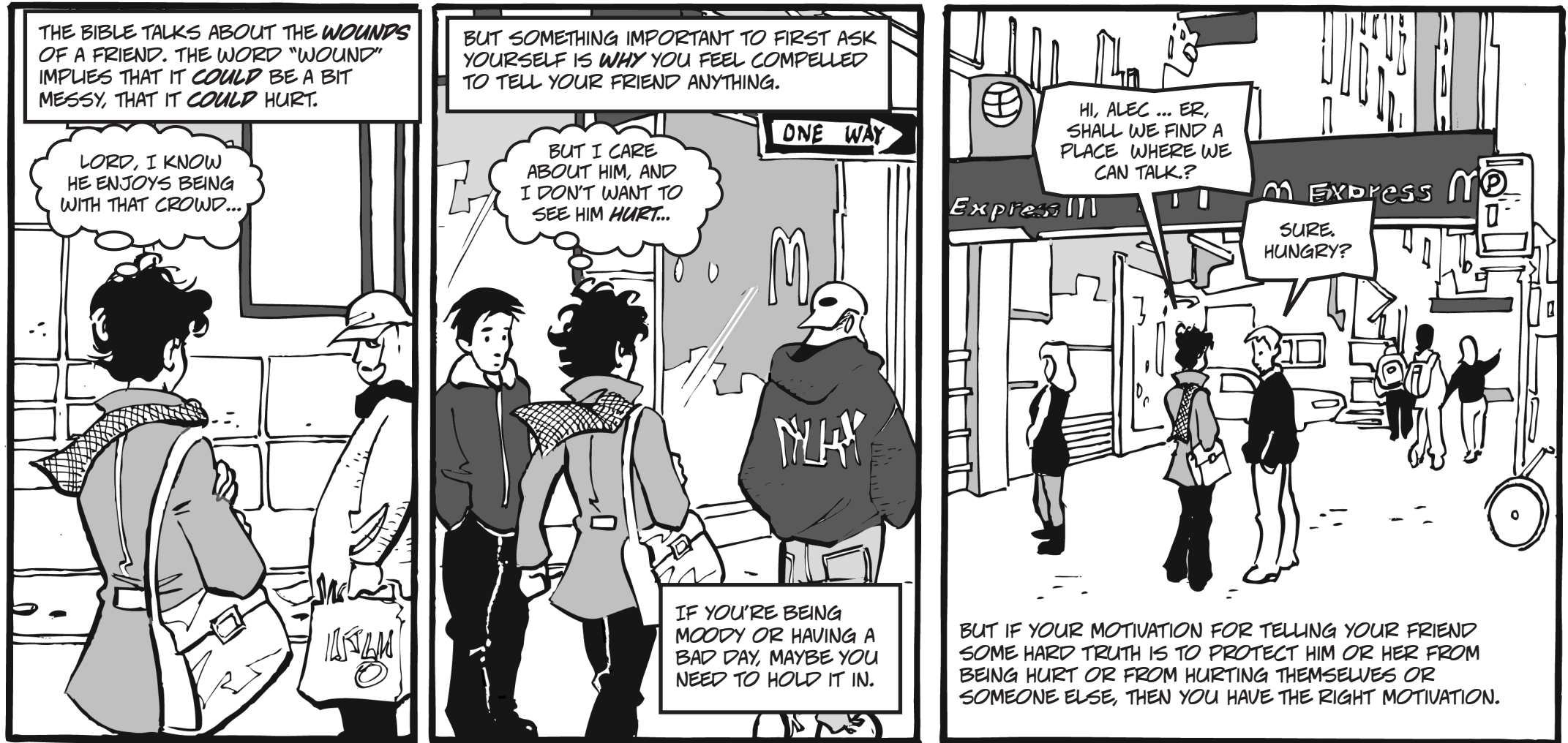


Those are the friends who have your back.

THEY'RE GOING TO TELL YOU WHAT'S WHAT, EVEN IF IT'S HARD FOR YOU TO HEAR. THEY AREN'T TELLING YOU TO HURT YOU; THEY'RE TELLING YOU TO HELP YOU.



At the same time, if you want to be a good and faithful friend, you will sometimes be faced with the challenge of having to “wound” your friend.



IN TIME, YOU WILL COME TO SEE WHICH FRIENDS REALLY HAVE YOUR BACK—THE ONES WHO ARE WILLING TO WORK THROUGH THE “UGLY” WITH YOU. WHEN YOU FIND FRIENDS LIKE THAT, BE GRATEFUL. TAKE THE STING, BECAUSE THE WOUND WILL HEAL, AND YOU WILL BE WISER AND HAPPIER FOR A FEW GOOD FRIENDS WHO VALUE YOU ENOUGH TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH.

Footnotes
¹Proverbs 27:6 KJV