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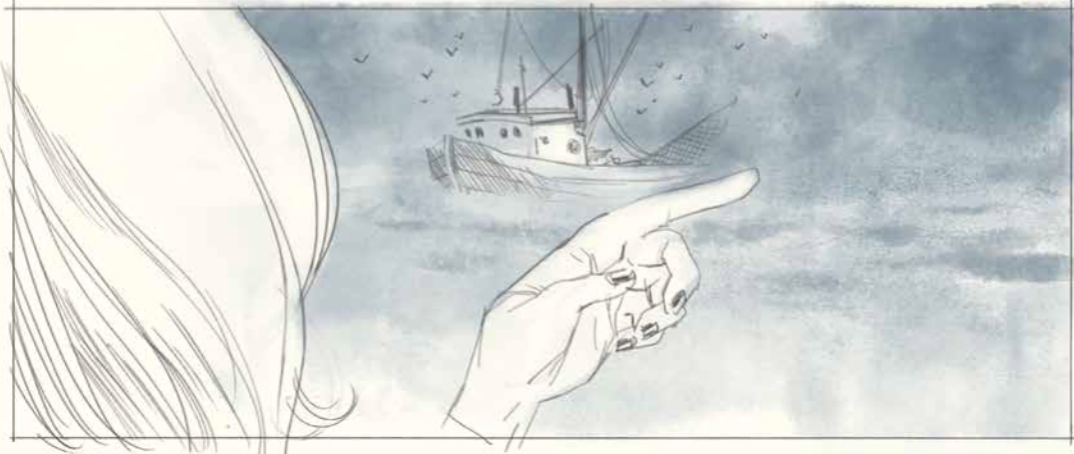
Deron Bennett


Inspired by *Jane Eyre* by

Charlotte Brontë



*My parents worked  
on the water.*




A full-page illustration of a small boat on a turbulent sea. The sea is depicted with dark, swirling waves and white foam. Rain falls diagonally across the entire scene, creating a sense of urgency and danger. The boat is small and appears to be struggling against the waves. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, greys, and whites, contributing to a somber and dramatic atmosphere.

*One day they  
went out to sea...*

*And they didn't  
come back.*







My aunt and my cousins lived two towns over. My mother wasn't close to her sister. I didn't know them well.

But I had  
nowhere else to go.






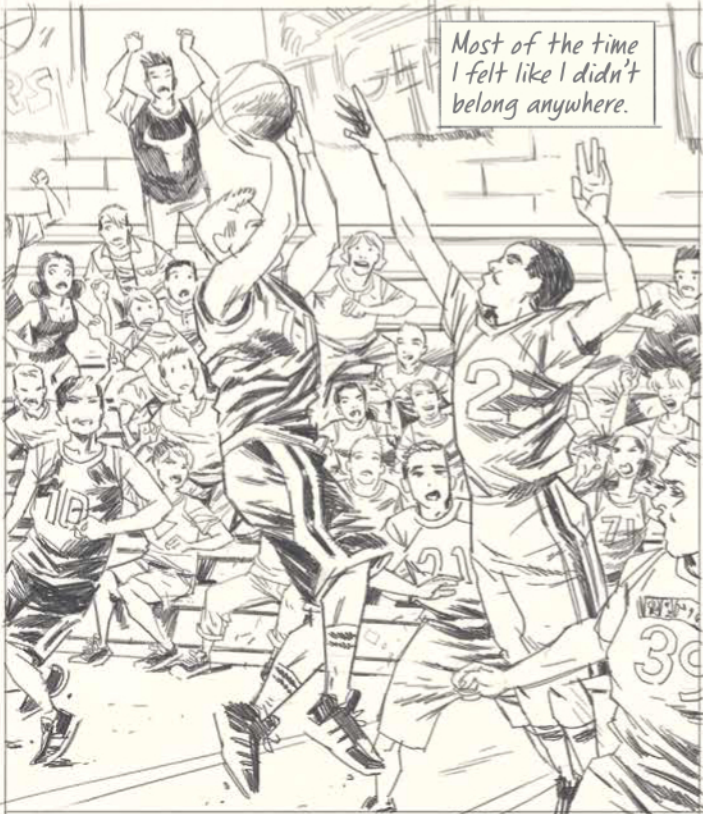
Living there was  
not living. I was  
biding my time.




I always knew  
I didn't belong.




I learned to be  
invisible.



Most of the time  
I felt like I didn't  
belong anywhere.



No one had any use  
for me. But I knew I  
could do one thing.



I could take what I  
saw and put it on  
a piece of paper.



I hoped one day THAT  
would be my ticket out.  
In the meantime, I had  
to earn money.





Until I had enough.

SHRIMP

YOU CAN  
CLOSE MY  
ACCOUNT  
NOW.

I knew there was a wide  
world out there, as big as  
the ocean. All I needed was  
the courage to go.



And finally, it  
was time to leave.

There were things I could have said. About how I had been  
treated. About how I could never, ever come back. Instead,  
I left there the same way I had lived there.



Invisibly.











