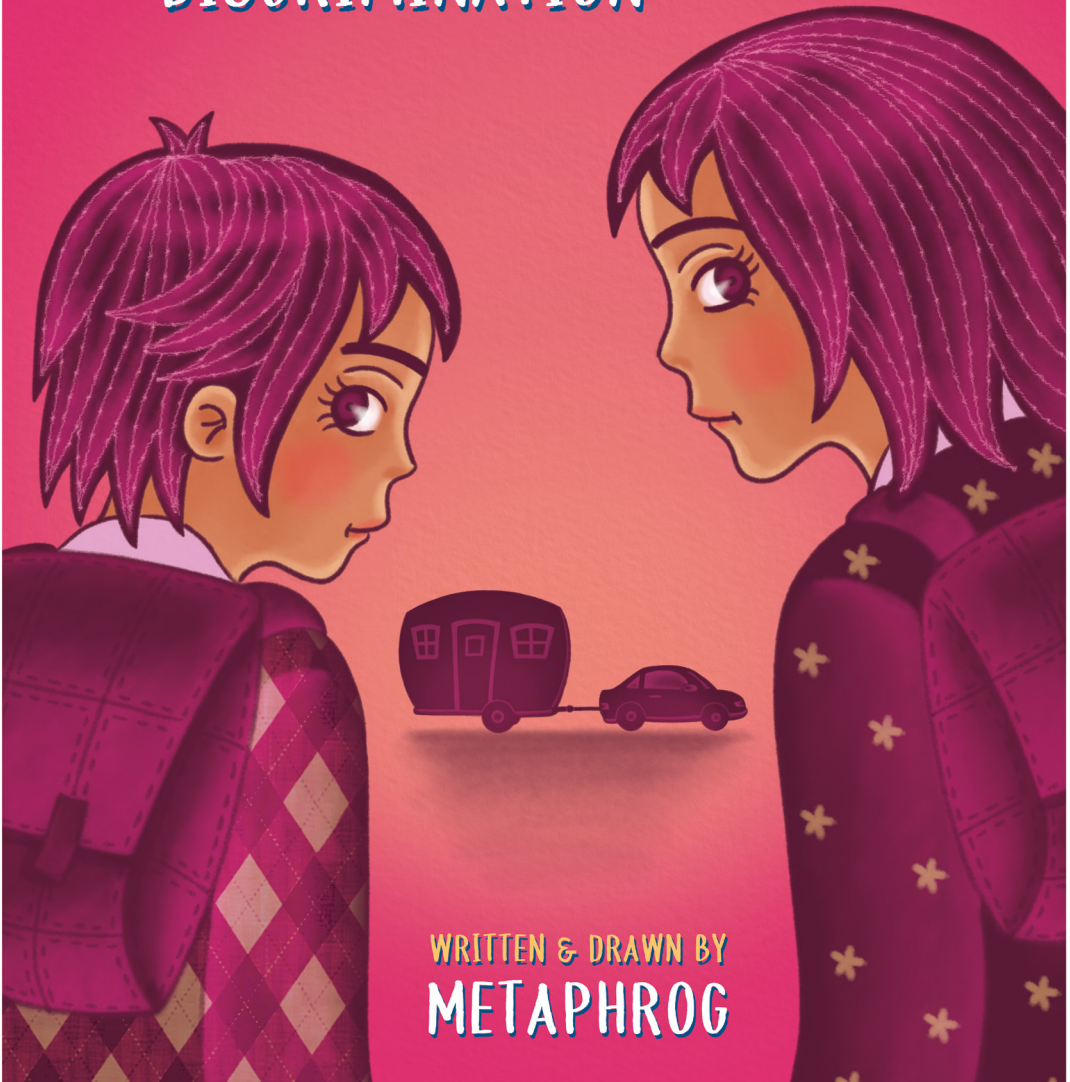


SHIFTING

A TALE OF BULLYING AND
DISCRIMINATION



WRITTEN & DRAWN BY
METAPHROG

THERE ONCE WAS A YOUNG TRAVELLER GIRL WHO LIVED IN A CAMP AT THE EDGE OF THE WOODS.



SHE HAD HOPES, SHE HAD DREAMS.
SHE WAS JUST LIKE YOU AND ME.
HER NAME WAS TILLIE...



BUT THEY CALLED HER: 'DIRTY GYPSY'.

TILLIE'S BROTHER WAS CALLED
LITTLE JOE.



THEY CALLED HIM: 'DIRTY GYPSY' TOO.

TILLIE AND JOE OFTEN VISITED THEIR GRAN IN HER BEAUTIFUL OLD VARDU.



THEY LOVED TO HEAR STORIES ABOUT HER TRAVELLING LIFE, HER CHILDHOOD AND THE OLDEN DAYS.



THEIR GRAN TOLD THEM HOW SHE
NEVER WENT TO SCHOOL.



AND SHE MADE THEM BOTH SMART
NEW CLOTHES...



AND TILLIE AND JOE WENT TO SCHOOL.



IT WAS JOE'S FIRST DAY AT SECONDARY AND HE WAS VERY NERVOUS...
BUT TILLIE WOULD BE BY HIS SIDE.



THAT'S
THE GYPOS.
DON'T TALK
TO THEM.

IN CLASS, NO ONE WOULD SIT BESIDE THEM.



AND ALMOST EVERY DAY SOMEONE SAID SOMETHING HURTFUL.



TINKS!

SOME PUPILS EVEN THREW THINGS AT THEM.



THEY THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY.

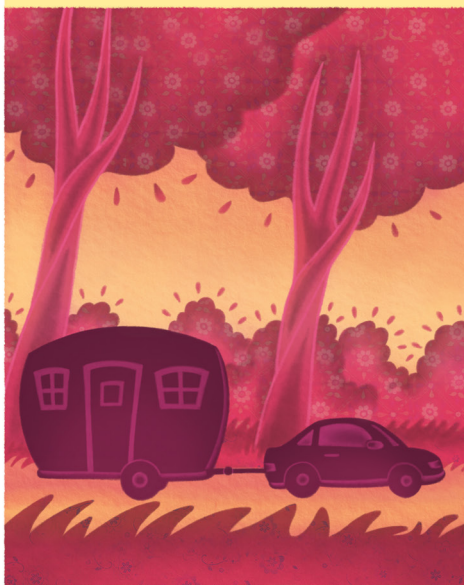


EACH DAY THEY WOULD THROW THINGS AND SHOUT INSULTS.



BUT THE TEACHERS DID LITTLE TO HELP.

SO THEIR PARENTS DECIDED TO SHIFT... PERHAPS THEY WOULD FIND MORE WORK...



AND TILLIE AND JOE WENT TO
ANOTHER SCHOOL.



EVEN THERE, THE PUPILS STILL
INSULTED THEM.



THEY THREW INK ON THEIR SHIRTS...



... AMBUSHED THEM IN CORRIDORS
BETWEEN CLASSES...



THEY THREW DIRT IN THEIR FOOD
AT LUNCHTIME...



AND ONE DAY, ON THEIR WAY
HOME FROM SCHOOL, THEY SAW...



GRAFFITI ON THEIR TRAILER!



SO THEIR PARENTS DECIDED TO
SHIFT, TO FIND MORE WORK...



AND ANOTHER SCHOOL.

THIS TIME, TILLIE AND JOE SAID...

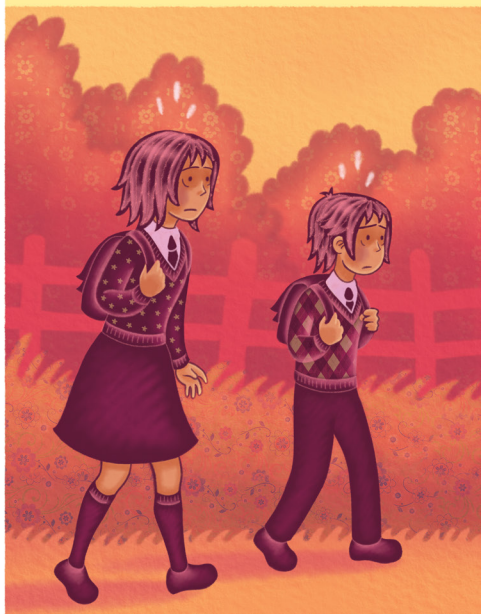
WE DON'T WANT
TO GO TO SCHOOL
ANYMORE.
EVERYONE IS
MEAN.



YOU MUST
GO TO
SCHOOL.



SO TILLIE AND JOE WENT
TO ANOTHER SCHOOL...



... BUT THERE WAS A GIRL
NAMED SARAH.



... WHO WAITED FOR THEM EVERY MORNING AT THE GATE.



ONE MORNING, LITTLE JOE SHOUTED BACK...



AND TILLIE PUSHED HER BACK!

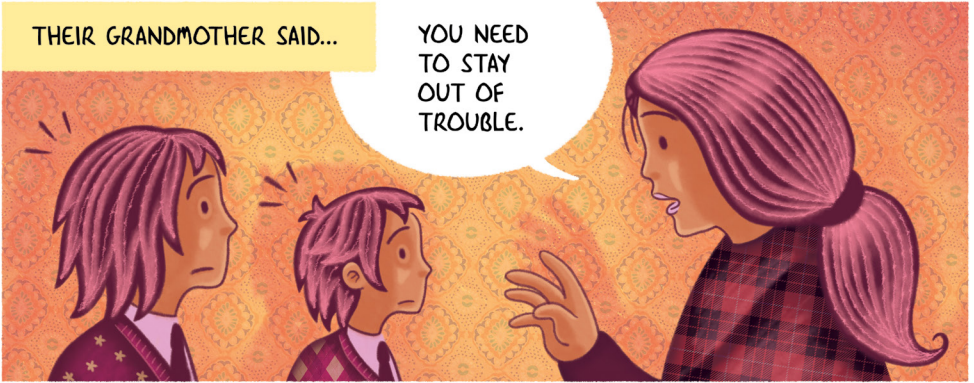


THEY ALL RECEIVED A WARNING.



THEIR GRANDMOTHER SAID...

YOU NEED
TO STAY
OUT OF
TROUBLE.



AND SHE TOLD THEM ABOUT THEIR COUSIN WILLIAM WHO WAS EXCLUDED FOR FIGHTING. EVEN THOUGH IT WASN'T HIM THAT STARTED IT. THREE BOYS HAD PUSHED HIM AROUND. HE HAD WON THE FIGHT, BUT GOT THE BLAME.



IT WAS ALWAYS LIKE THAT.



SO TILLIE
AND JOE
PROMISED
TO STAY
IN SCHOOL
...
AND SHOW
EVERYONE
THEY COULD
PASS THEIR
EXAMS.

THE NEXT DAY, AT THE CANTEEN...

I'M GONNA
TELL YOUR
FUTURE.

YOU TWO
ARE GETTING IT!
RIGHT AFTER
SCHOOL.



THE
DINNER
LADY
OVERHEARD
AND SAID...

YOU BETTER BEHAVE,
SARAH!
I'M WATCHING YOU.



SARAH DIDN'T LIKE
BEING TOLD OFF.

IT WAS THE SECOND
TIME IN TWO DAYS.



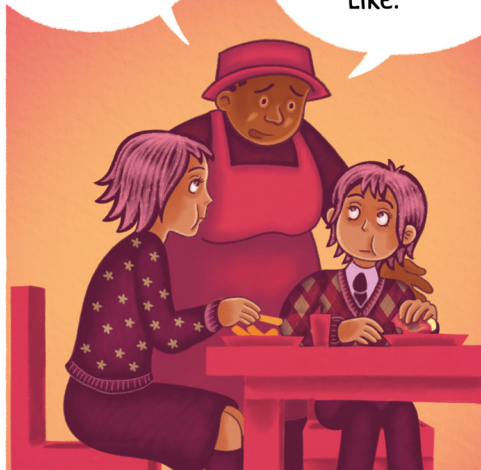
DIRTY GYPOS.
I'LL SHOW THEM.

ARE YOU
TWO ALL
RIGHT?

I'LL GIVE YOU
A LIFT HOME
AFTER SCHOOL
IF YOU
LIKE.

NO THANKS,
WE'RE FINE.

WE CAN
TAKE CARE
OF
OURSELVES.



BUT, IN THE WOODS, ON THEIR WAY HOME, SARAH AND HER FRIENDS
WERE WAITING FOR THEM.



TILLIE AND JOE REALLY DID THEIR BEST TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.



BUT SOMETIMES, THERE WAS NO WAY OUT...





... AND THEY WERE OUTNUMBERED!



IT WAS THE DINNER LADY WHO CAME TO THE RESCUE AND CHASED THE CHILDREN AWAY.



THAT GIRL
NEEDS AN
AMBULANCE!



RIGHT
NOW!



THAT NIGHT, THE CHILDREN POSTED A VIDEO OF THE ATTACK ON FACEBOOK.



COMMENTS POURED IN...



WHILE TILLIE, BADLY HURT,
SPENT THE NIGHT IN HOSPITAL.



This is the part where the story
needs to get better...

...and it needs your help!

Think about each of the incidents
and how things could have been different.

What do you think should happen next
to make sure that everyone knows
that bullying should never be tolerated?

Go to the STEP teachers' website
<http://www.step.education.ed.ac.uk/resources-for-learners/>
for comic templates and activity ideas
then send your completed story endings to
step@ed.ac.uk.

In collaboration with Metaphrog,
we will illustrate and publish the top five stories.



ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

Metaphrog are Sandra Marrs and John Chalmers, winners of The Sunday Herald Scottish Culture Awards Best Visual Artist 2016. They have received multiple Eisner Award nominations and critical acclaim for their Louis series and Louis – Night Salad was Highly Commended for the Scottish Children's Book Awards. They were Writers in Residence at the Edinburgh International Book Festival 2015. Their latest graphic novels are The Red Shoes and Other Tales, The Little Mermaid (Excelsior Award Junior winner 2018) and Bluebeard. Visit metaphrog.com



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SHIFTING

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This is a work of fiction inspired by accounts from young people from the Gypsy/Traveller community. Specific names, characters, events and incidents are the products of the authors' imaginations. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, or actual events is purely coincidental.

With thanks for ideas and advice from the Gypsy/Traveller community in Scotland.

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