

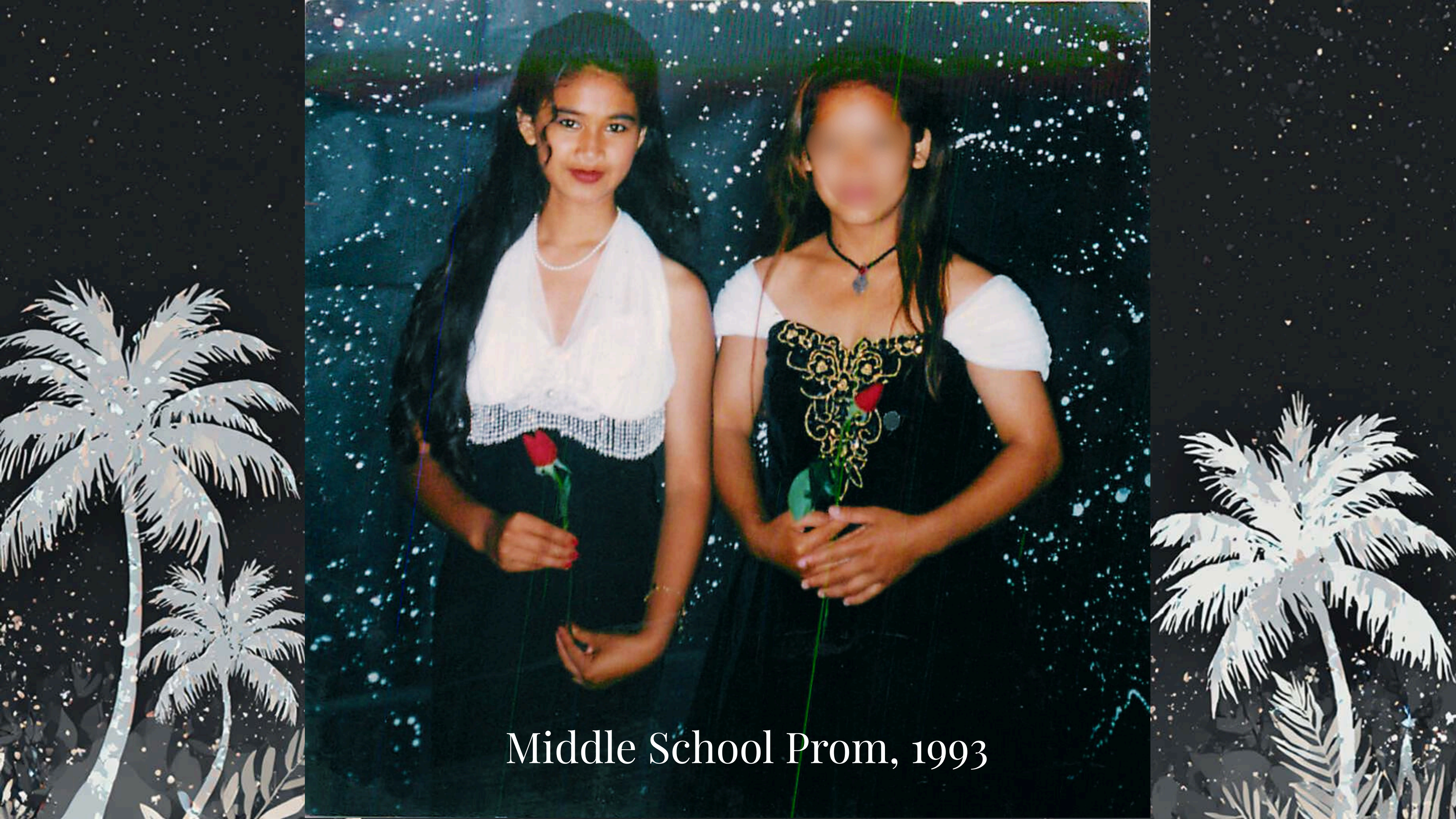
A woman with long, dark hair is seen from behind, looking out over a cityscape. The scene is captured in a high-angle, slightly hazy perspective, with the city buildings and streets visible below. The overall color palette is dominated by cool blues and purples, creating a contemplative and somewhat somber atmosphere. The woman's hair is a deep black, contrasting with the lighter, hazy background of the city.

Recognizing Harm in Trusted Relationships

A Storytelling Approach to Prevention and Healing by,
Malyneath Vong -Gilmer



Thank you for being here.



Middle School Prom, 1993

A painting of a group of diverse women smiling and huddled together. The style is expressive with visible brushstrokes. The women are of various ethnicities and ages, all appearing joyful and connected. The text 'ACCEPTED EVERYONE' is centered at the top, and 'An auntie to all...' is centered below it.

ACCEPTED EVERYONE

An auntie to all...



INNOCENCE

An innocent moment.



"You look really grown up and beautiful."



That moment may have looked harmless.
But it was not.




TRUSTED

Trusted
Familiar
Safe... or so it seemed

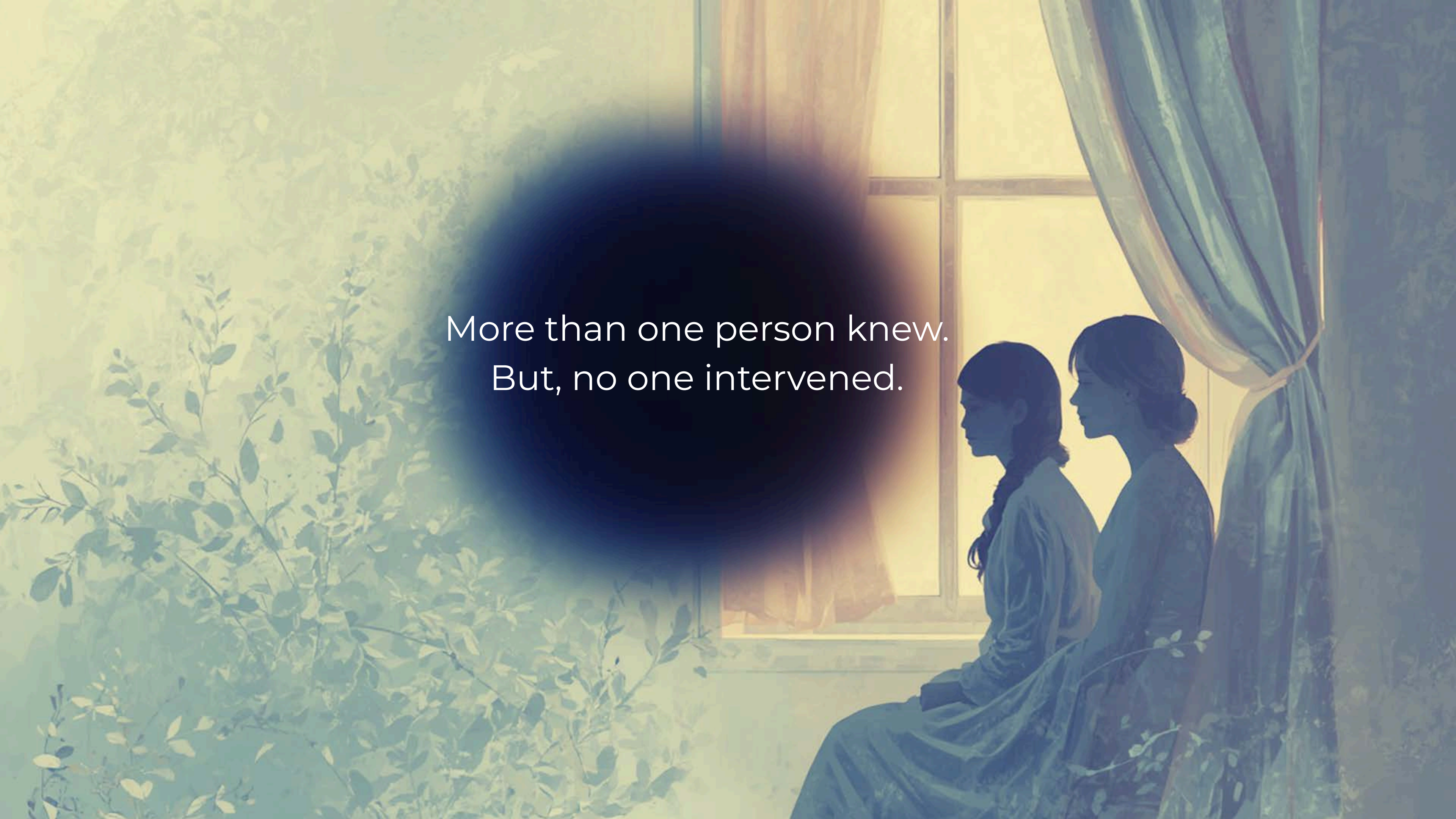
BOUNDARY

I was just helping.



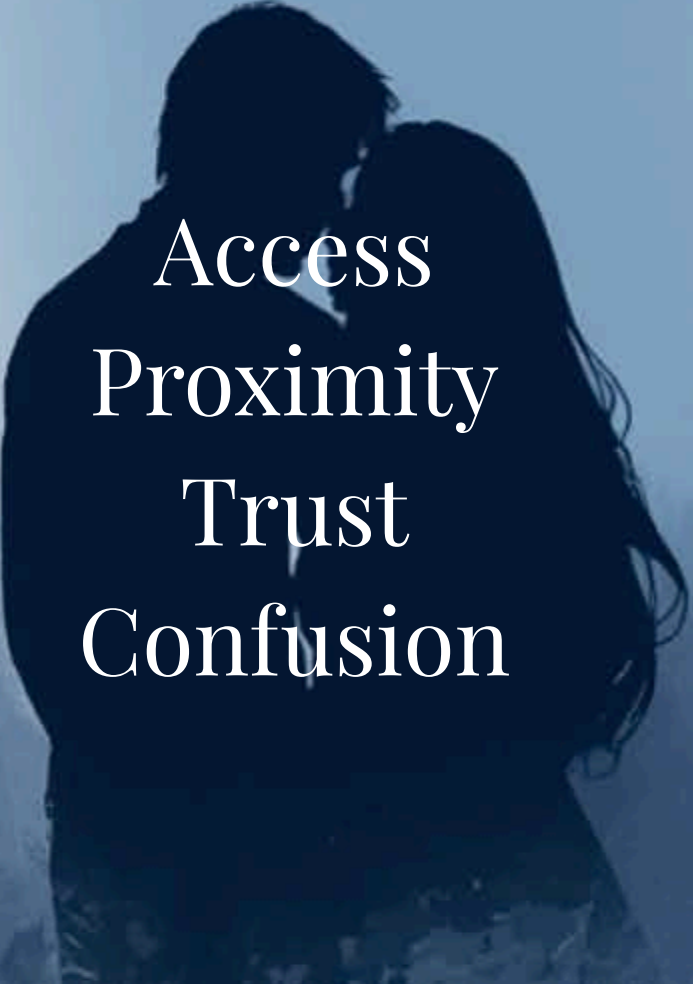
A person with long hair, wearing a light-colored t-shirt and shorts, is walking away from the camera through a doorway. The doorway is brightly lit from within, creating a strong silhouette of the person. The floor is wet and reflects the light from the doorway. The surrounding walls and floor are dark and textured.

A child can feel flattered...
and still be harmed.

An artistic illustration of two women sitting in profile on a wooden chair, looking out a window. The scene is bathed in a soft, golden light from the window, which is framed by light-colored curtains. The woman on the left has long dark hair, and the woman on the right has her hair pulled back. The background features a wall with a subtle floral pattern and a large, dark, shadowy shape on the left side. The overall mood is contemplative and quiet.

More than one person knew.
But, no one intervened.

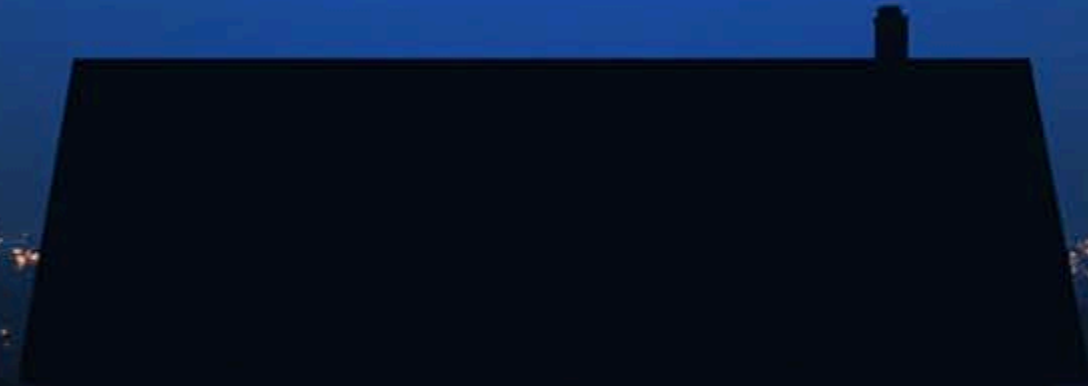
GROOMING

A silhouette of a man and a woman embracing in a forest. The man is on the left, leaning towards the woman on the right. They are positioned in the center of the frame, with their dark forms contrasting against the lighter, misty background of trees and foliage.

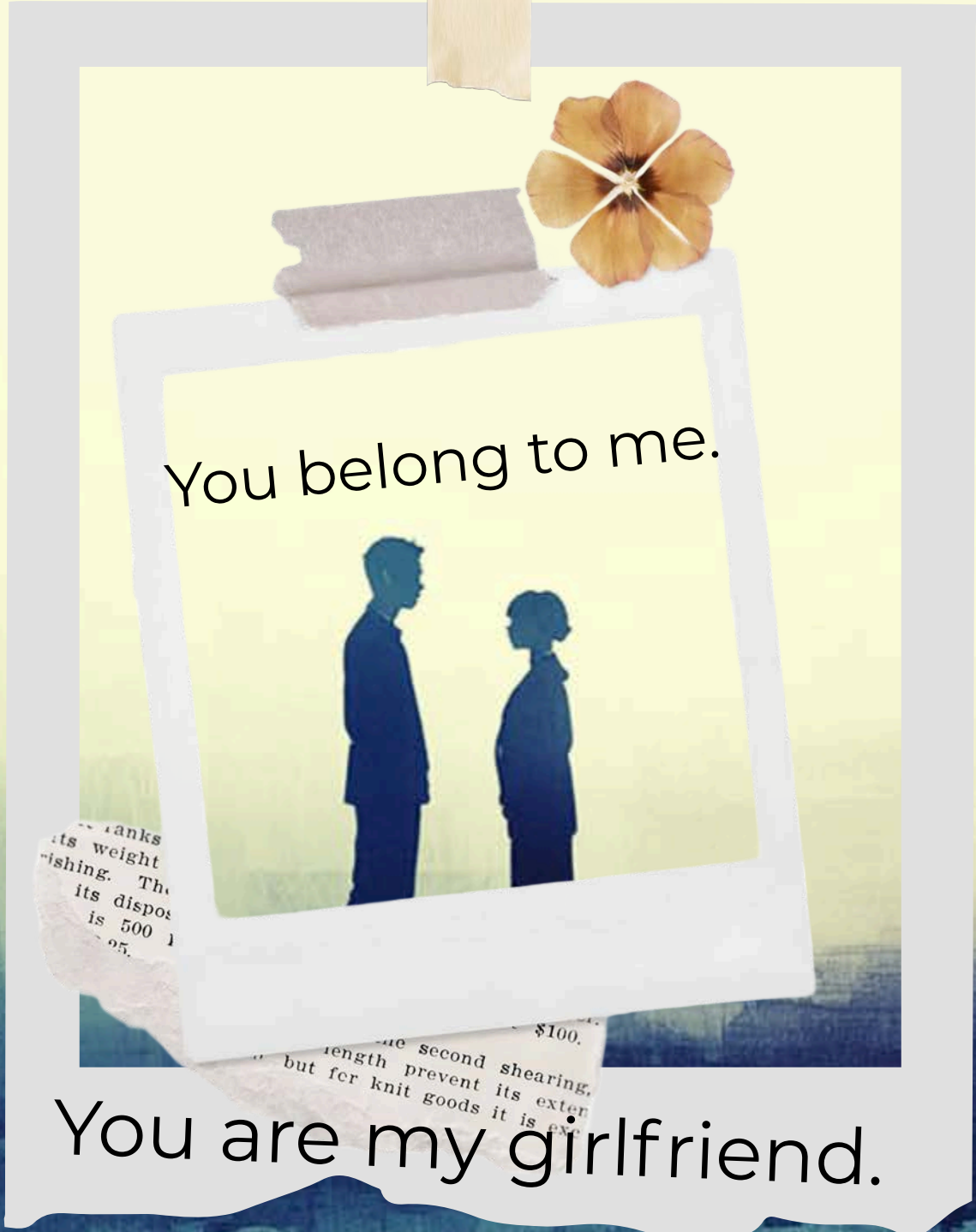
Access
Proximity
Trust
Confusion

ACCESS

He lived right behind me.
There was no separation.



He called it a relationship.
It was control.



You are my girlfriend.

ESCALATION

It didn't stop.



A dark silhouette of a person wearing a heavy, fur-lined coat is shown from the side, looking towards a bright, glowing light source in the center of the frame. The background is a gradient of dark to light, creating a dramatic, high-contrast scene.

NO ESCAPE

He was always there.

MISUNDERSTOOD

What was seen as maturity...
was survival.







Something felt off.
But no one asked.





Recognizing Harm in Trusted Relationships

A Storytelling Approach to Prevention and Healing

If something feels off... ask the question.

Silence protects harm.
One question can interrupt it.

Contact Information

Malyneath Vong-Gilmer
malyneath@outlook.com
Cell: 714.932.9832

