

*This book is dedicated in loving memory
of Mrs. Clara Ward.*

*Her deep love and concern for children
of incarcerated parents was evident
to all who knew her.*



P.O. Box 22185 • Chattanooga, TN 37422-2185
423-899-5714 • 866-318-6294 • fax 423-899-4547 • www.ncyi.org

ISBN: 978-1-937870-37-9 \$9.95 • E-book ISBN: 978-1-953945-42-6
© 2015 National Center for Youth Issues, Chattanooga, TN • All rights reserved.
Written by: Julia Cook • Illustrations by: Anita DuFall
Published by National Center for Youth Issues • Softcover
Printed at Starkey Printing • Chattanooga, TN • January 2019

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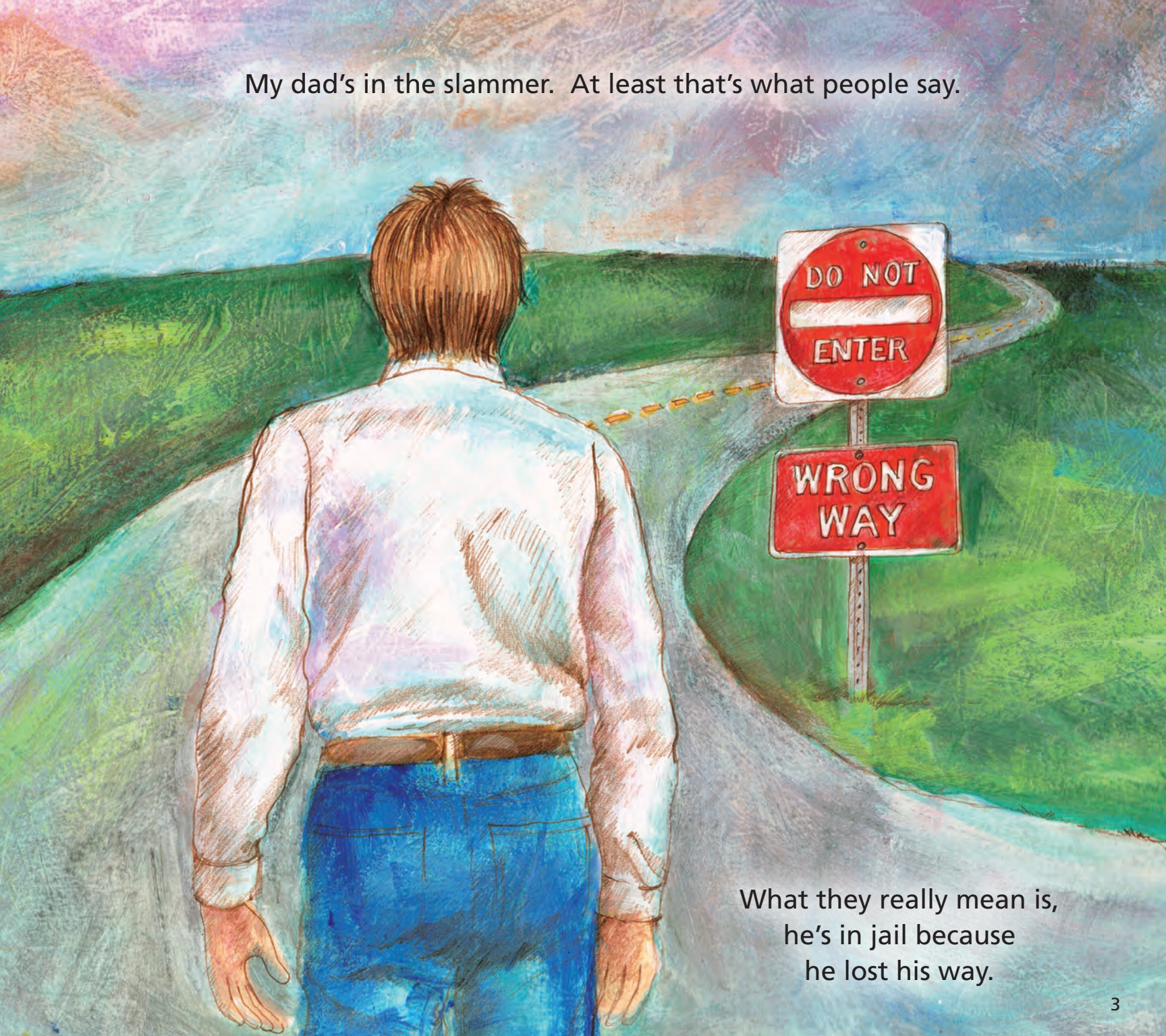
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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

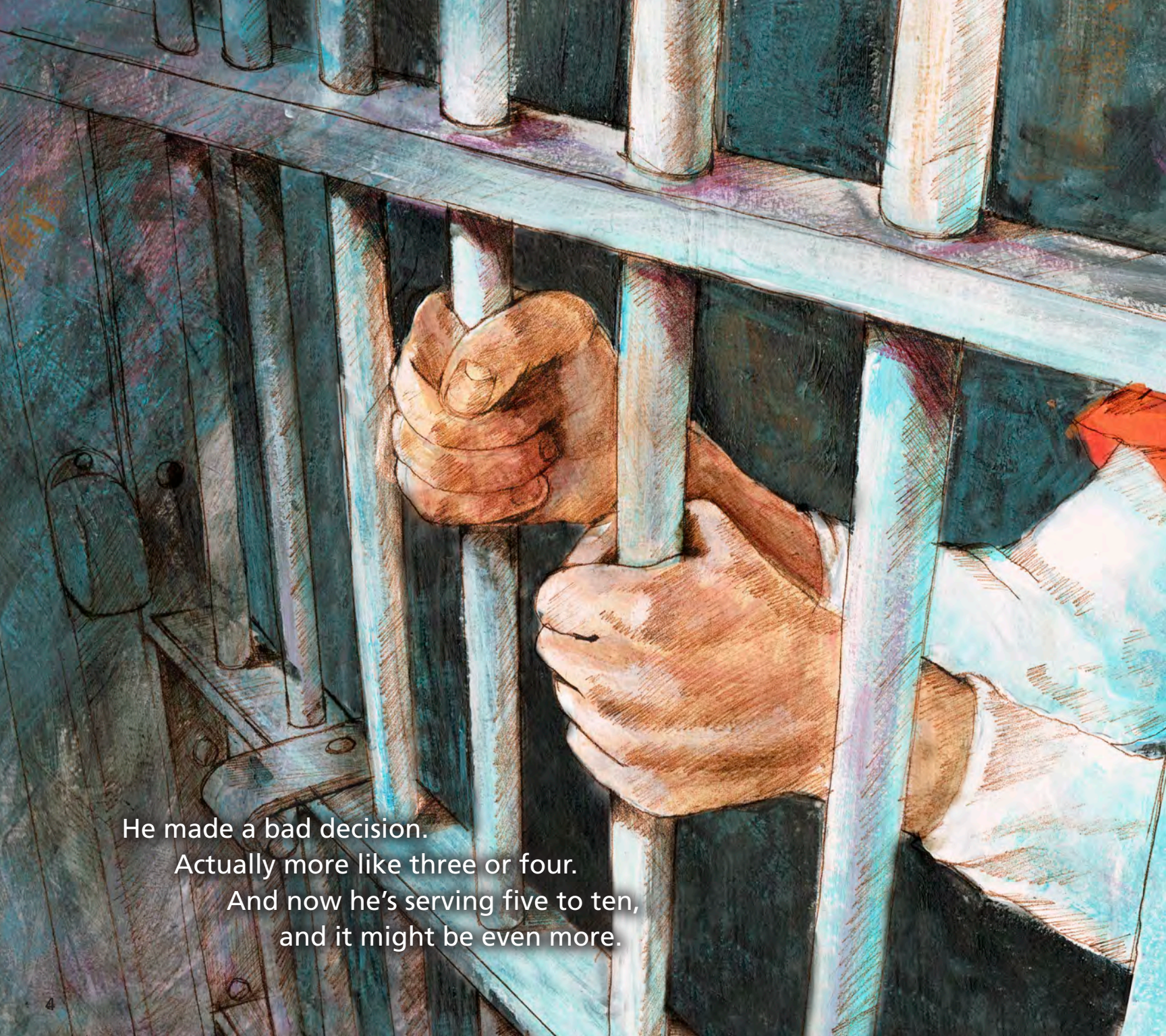
Names: Cook, Julia, 1964- author. | DuFalla, Anita, illustrator.
Title: What do I say about that? : coping with an incarcerated parent /
written by Julia Cook ; illustrated by Anita DuFalla.
Description: Chattanooga, TN : National Center for Youth Issues, 2011. |
Audience: Ages 7-11. | Audience: Grades 4-6. | Summary: A young boy
experiences feelings of fear, anger, and sadness as he struggles to
understand the choices that led to the imprisonment of his father.
Identifiers: LCCN 2021007314 (print) | LCCN 2021007315 (ebook) | ISBN
9781937870379 (paperback) | ISBN 9781953945426 (pdf)
Subjects: CYAC: Stories in rhyme. | Prisoners' families--Fiction. | Fathers
and sons--Fiction.
Classification: LCC PZ8.3.C76797 Wh 2021 (print) | LCC PZ8.3.C76797
(ebook) | DDC [E]--dc23
LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021007314>
LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021007315>

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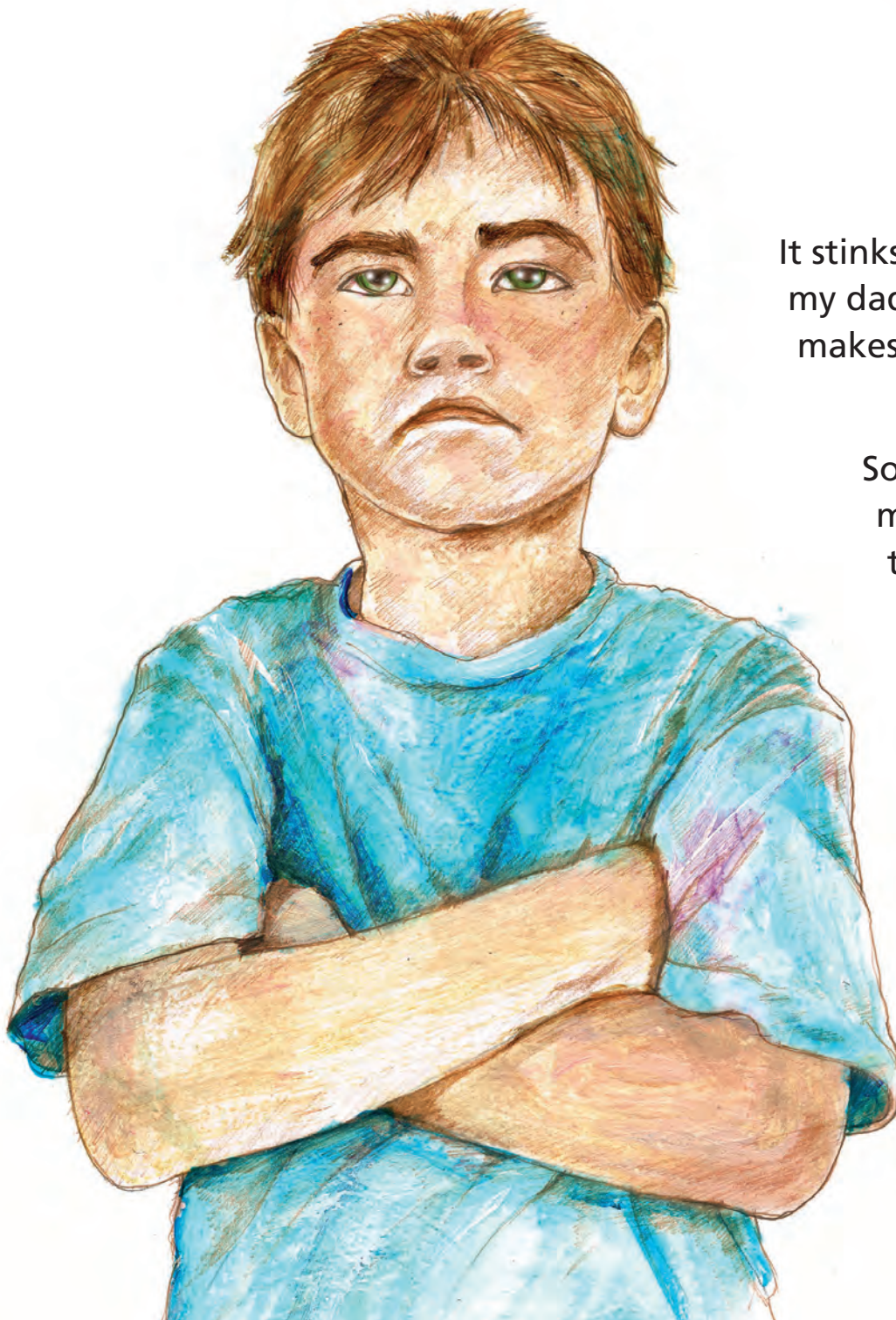
My dad's in the slammer. At least that's what people say.



What they really mean is,
he's in jail because
he lost his way.



He made a bad decision.
Actually more like three or four.
And now he's serving five to ten,
and it might be even more.



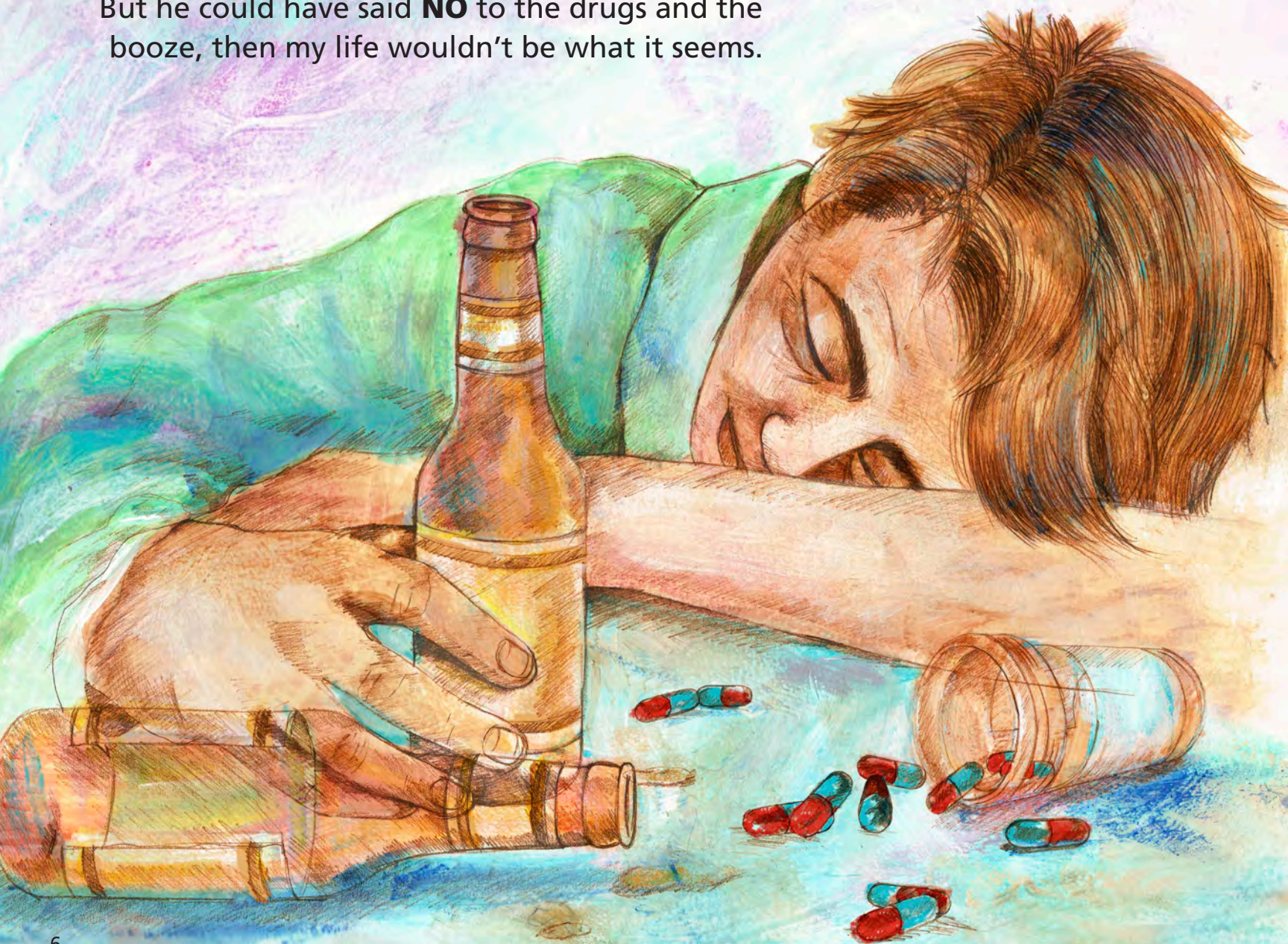
It stinks not to have
my dad around, and it
makes me **really mad**.

Sometimes I start to
miss him a lot, and
then I feel **really bad**.

*I have no idea
what to say
about that.*

My dad says that drugs and alcohol made him choose to do the wrong things.

But he could have said **NO** to the drugs and the booze, then my life wouldn't be what it seems.



Why didn't he love us enough to say **NO**?

Aren't we worth it to him?

He had a choice...

us or drugs.



HE CHOSE
to let the drugs win.



Last week my mom said, "We have to move because I just can't pay the bills."

Now I'm starting my sixth school in just three years.
Does she have any idea how that feels?

*I have no idea
what to say
about that.*

