

A  rise Series

# Alex Visits Daddy



Illustrated by N.M. Lokman

## About the Authors

This book was written by a group of students from Nanyang Polytechnic's Diploma in Social Sciences (Social Work) course, in collaboration with the Singapore After-Care Association (SACA).

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**Reintegrating through Inspiration, Support, and Empowerment**

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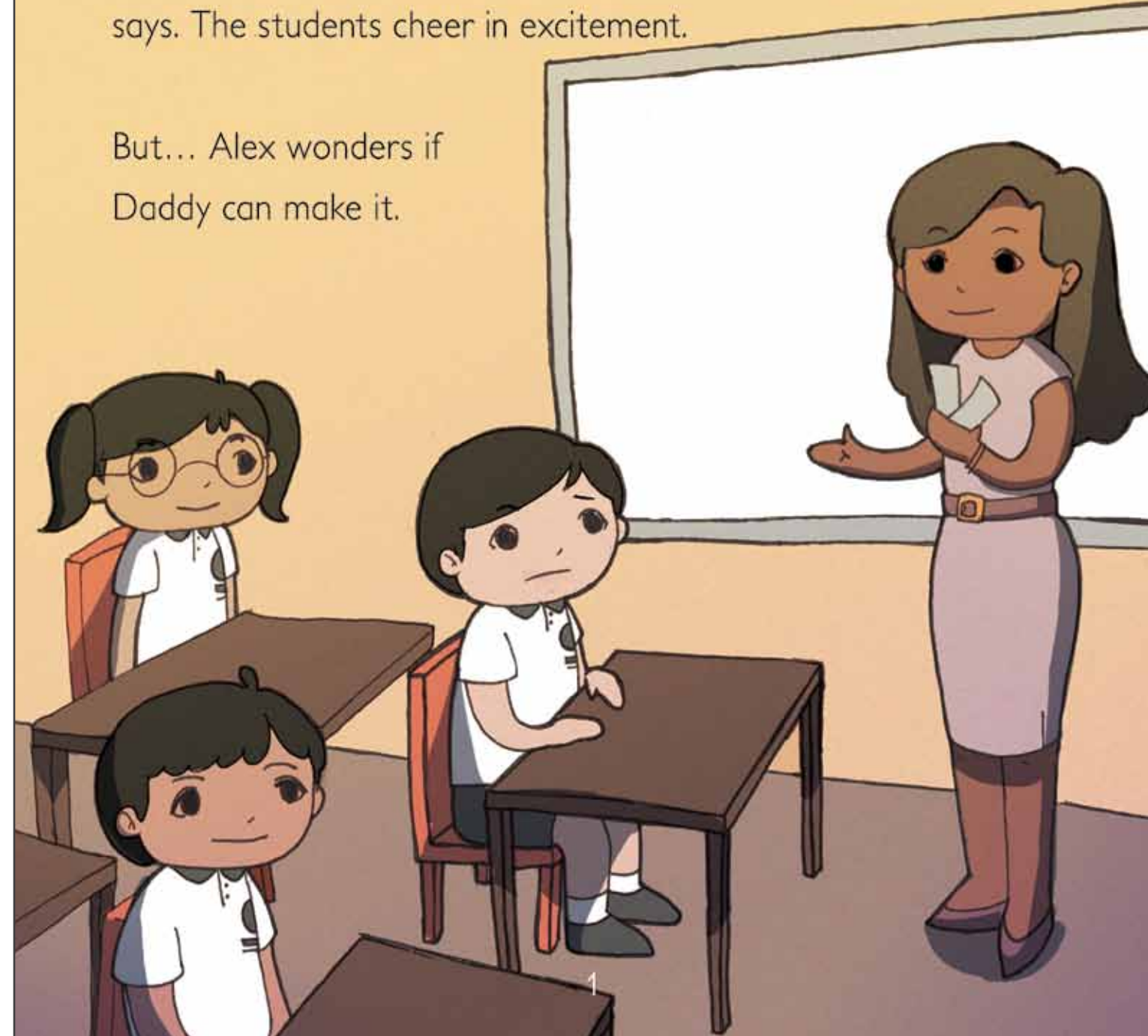
This book would not have been possible without **Nursabrina Md L**, our illustrator who brought our characters to life despite her busy schedule as a student of the Diploma in Animation.

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Alex's class is preparing for a performance. The students are going to sing and dance.

"As you know our class performance is coming up, so everyone will receive two tickets. You can invite your parents!" Mrs Singh says. The students cheer in excitement.

But... Alex wonders if Daddy can make it.



As Mrs Singh gives out the tickets, Alex's friend, Irfan, asks:  
"Will your parents be coming?"

"Mommy says that Daddy is away. I don't know if he will be back home," Alex says.

"Oh, where is he?" Irfan asks.

"I really don't know. Mommy won't tell me," says Alex.

"How can you not know where your Daddy is?" Irfan replies.

It makes Alex wonder if he is different from everyone else...



Alex eagerly shows Mommy the tickets and asks:  
"Mommy, can I call Daddy to ask him to come watch me?"

"No, he's away," says Mommy.

"Then, can I text him instead?" Alex asks.

"No, you can't," says Mommy.

"Why?" asks Alex,  
in confusion.

Mommy says sternly:  
"Because I say so."



Daddy is never at home anymore.  
Where did he go? Why doesn't  
he come home?

Now, Mommy works much  
longer hours and has less time to play  
with him. She used to cook a lot but now  
she seldom does. Mommy always looks tired.

Sometimes she is sad and sometimes she is angry.

Why won't Mommy tell him anything?



The next day, Alex plays with his friends in school as always.  
But things are different that day. Irfan has told everyone bad  
things about Alex's Daddy, and now they are making fun of  
Alex. They say that his Daddy cannot go to the concert  
because he does not care about Alex.

Alex feels hurt.



He wonders if Daddy really does not care about him.

The children do not notice that Mrs Singh has seen  
everything.



Mrs Singh tells Alex that she saw his friends tease him. She wants to know if anything is wrong.

Feeling both angry and sad, Alex says:

"Daddy doesn't come home anymore. I don't know where he is and Mommy won't tell me anything.

Is Daddy gone?"



Later that day, Mrs Singh calls Alex's Mommy.



When Alex gets home that day, Mommy tells him that Mrs Singh rang to tell her about what had happened in school. Mommy asks him if he is okay.

"Where is Daddy! WHY WON'T YOU TELL ME?" Alex cries. Mommy hesitates for a few minutes before deciding to tell Alex the truth.

"Sit down Alex, there is something I need to tell you... He is actually in prison." Mommy explains, "Daddy did something wrong and broke the law<sup>1</sup>, so he is being punished.

It is not your fault. It is just like when you eat in class when you're not supposed to, Mrs Singh will punish you by asking you to copy the class rules 50 times."

Alex is confused. What is prison?



<sup>1</sup>Laws are rules that everyone in the country has to follow. If they do not, they will be punished.

Mommy adds, "Prison is where they keep people who did bad things. He is just there for a while to learn what is right and wrong, and think about what he did. He still loves you and he will be home soon."



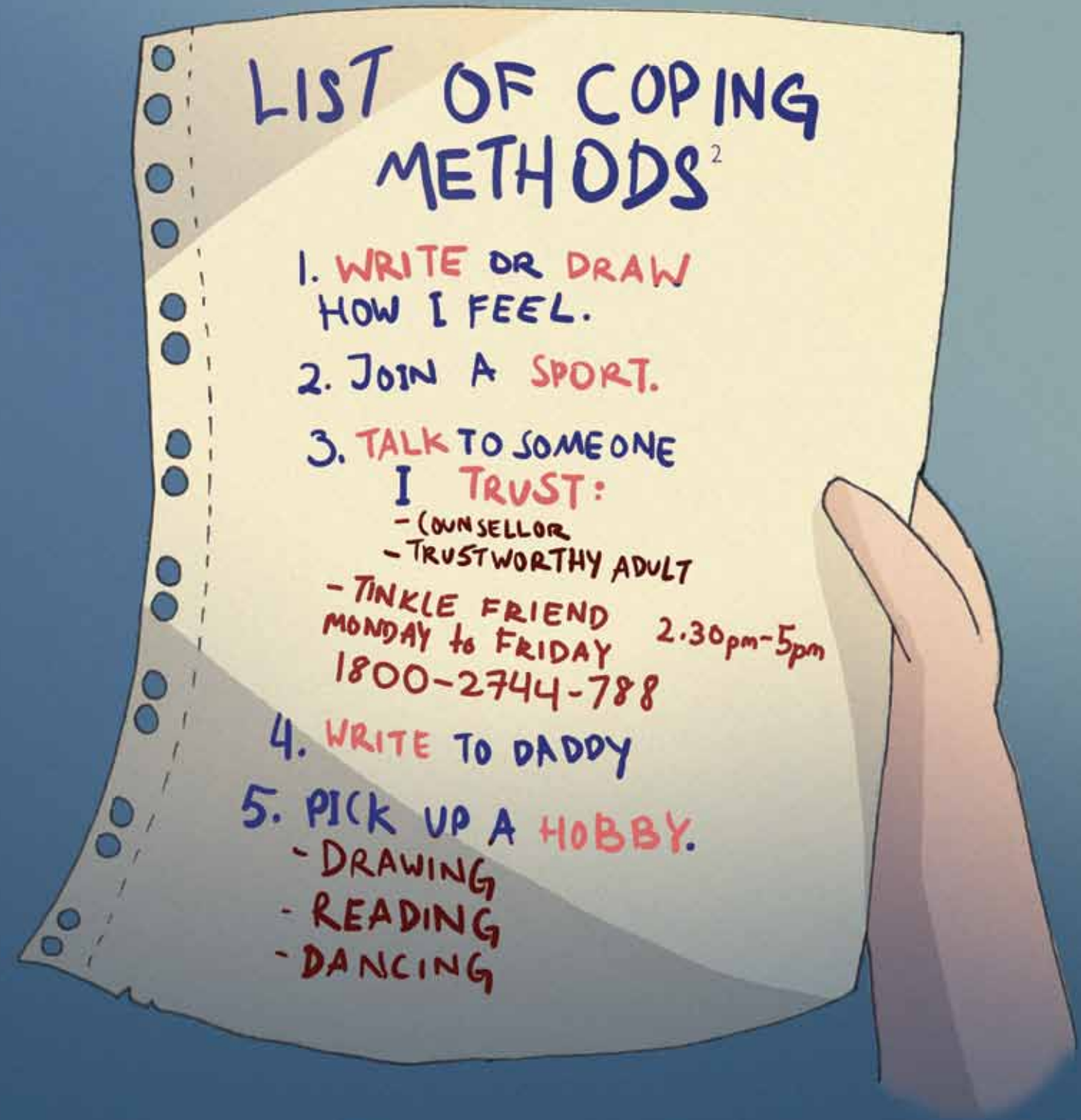
That night, Alex cannot sleep. He has a million questions in his head.

What is prison like?  
Is Daddy okay in there?  
Does Daddy have friends?  
Is Daddy scared?

Mommy says that Daddy will come home but Alex wants to see him now. Alex misses his Daddy very much.



The following week, Alex and Mommy have a chat with Mrs Singh in school. They talk about how Alex feels and what he can do to feel better. They come up with a list of things that Alex can try.



## LIST OF COPING METHODS<sup>2</sup>

1. WRITE OR DRAW HOW I FEEL.
2. JOIN A SPORT.
3. TALK TO SOMEONE I TRUST:
  - COUNSELLOR
  - TRUSTWORTHY ADULT
  - TINKLE FRIENDMONDAY to FRIDAY 2.30pm-5pm  
1800-2744-788
4. WRITE TO DADDY
5. PICK UP A HOBBY.
  - DRAWING
  - READING
  - DANCING

<sup>2</sup>You may refer to "RISE: A Book for Families of First-time Offenders" for more information on how the various coping methods can help a child to feel better.



Alex writes to Daddy and he is thrilled when he receives a letter back from him.



Alex starts sharing his feelings with Mommy. This makes him feel better.



Alex picks up a sport and makes new friends on his team. He feels less lonely.



Alex draws what he feels when he does not know how to say it.



One day, Mommy asks Alex: "Alex, would you like to see Daddy?"

"YES! Let's go now!" says Alex excitedly.

But Mommy says that they cannot see him whenever they want to.



They can only see him twice a month. This makes Alex sad but he is still eager to visit Daddy.



To visit Daddy, Mommy first has to choose a date. Alex now knows when he will be seeing Daddy.

Mommy tells Alex that when they visit, they will only get to see Daddy for 20 minutes. That is not a lot of time so Alex should prepare what he wants to tell Daddy. Alex can also write a letter to Daddy and place it in the mailbox at the visit area. The letter has to be checked by a prison officer before Daddy is allowed to read it. Alex has to go through security checks, such as body scans, before he is allowed to enter the prison. When they visit Daddy, Alex cannot bring anything along with him into the visit room - neither his bag nor his toy car.



Alex is very excited as he is going to visit Daddy today. Alex cannot wait to see Daddy.



Alex and Mommy have to wait for their turn. As Alex sits patiently, a lot of things are going through his mind. How does Daddy look like now? Does Daddy have friends? Does Daddy miss me?

Alex feels nervous because he has to walk through security checks.





They wait for Daddy to enter the room. It is weird at first because there is a glass panel separating Alex and Daddy. Alex cannot hug Daddy. He cannot touch Daddy. He can only talk to Daddy.

Still, Alex is excited. When Daddy finally enters, he tells Daddy everything he wants to say - from how much he misses Daddy to his new favourite cartoon. Alex is happy to finally see Daddy again.

Then, their 20 minutes are up and they have to say goodbye.



Sometimes, Alex sees Daddy in person.

Sometimes, Alex talks to Daddy through a TV screen. This is a tele-visit. It is difficult to say goodbye when time is up but Alex knows that it is not forever.

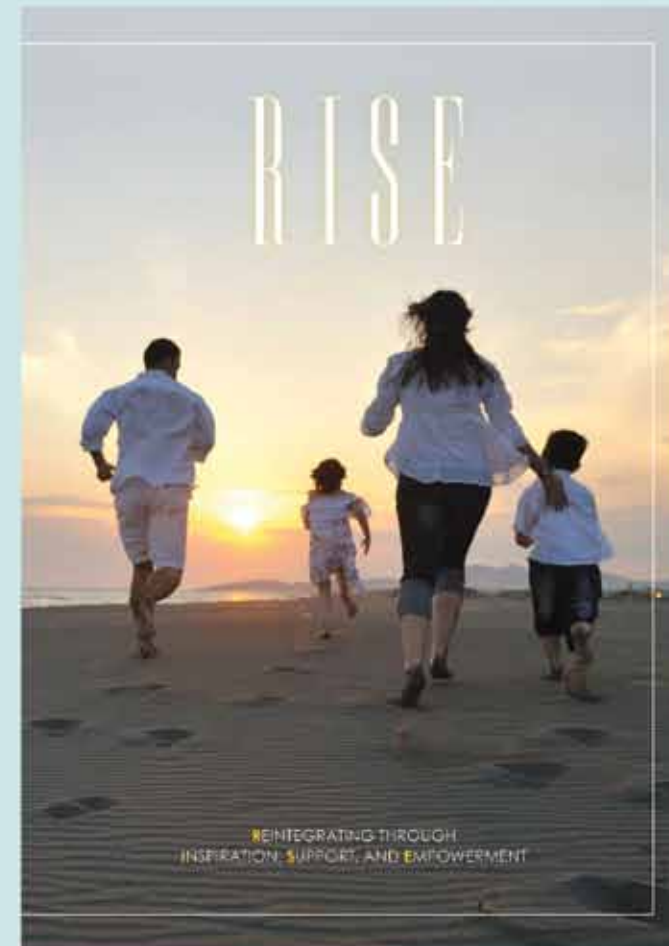
Daddy has to stay there for a while and that makes Alex sad, but Alex knows that Daddy still loves him.

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For more information on how to help a child, refer to

"RISE: A Book for Families  
of First-time Offenders"



The RISE Series also includes

"1045 DAYS: The Diary of a Teenage Boy"



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Where is Alex's Daddy?

Alex's Mommy won't tell him anything  
and Alex doesn't know why.

Why does Alex feel this way?

What can Alex do to make himself feel better?

With the help of the people around him, he soon finds out...

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A collaboration between:

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