

SO FAR BUT SO CLOSE

BY KATRINA BUTLER

ILLUSTRATED BY: UNKNOWN

Comfort me series
Keeping families together
through incarceration



So Far But So Close

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**What's wrong Calvin?
Why aren't you playing
with us?**

**I'm sad because my dad isn't
here anymore. It's going to be
a long time before I see him
again.**

**He did something
really bad....He broke
the law.**

I miss him so
much.



**The police took
my Auntie Kim
away a long
time ago too.**

**I thought I was
the only one
this happened
to.**

**My family said
to keep it a
secret, so I
didn't tell
anyone.**

**I understand
how sad you are
feeling.**

**When my
Auntie Kim left,
I cried because
I missed her so
much.**

**How long was
she gone?**

**It was three
years. It was a
long time.**

**She broke the
law too. That's
why they took
her.**

**The police took
my dad, Anita!**

**I don't know
what I am going
to do!**

**When I come
home from
school, I look
for him but he's
not there
anymore.**

**Sometimes, I
cry at night but
no one knows.**

**My dad did a
bad thing, I get
it but he is my
hero.**

**He's the best
dad.**

**I cried a lot too. My
Auntie and I were very
close. We did
everything together**

**There was a lot of
good things the police
didn't know about her**

It's not fair!

**I want my dad
back!!**

**I know you do
but did you
know about all
the things you
can do to be
close to him?**

**No. I thought I
would never see
or talk to him
again**

**Even though my
Auntie was far
away from me,
we did things to
stay close to
each other**

Really?

What?

**My Auntie
would call me
sometimes to
see how I was
doing. We
would talk on
the phone, just
me and her for
a whole 15
minutes.**

**It was fun to
tell her
everything she
missed. I would
even tell her
secrets just like
I did when she
was at home
with me.**

**You mean you
were able to call
her?**

**No, I couldn't
call her but she
could call me.
It was always a
surprise**

**My mom would say,
"Anita, auntie is
calling today."**

**She would tell me the
time and I would wait
by the phone to make
sure I didnt miss her
call.**

**Sometimes my mom
and I would drive to
see her for a visit. We
would laugh and talk. I
could only hug her one
time but I made sure I
hugged her long and
hard so she knew I
missed her.**

One fun thing I was able to do was go to the vending machine to get us a whole bunch of snacks. My Auntie wasn't allowed to go but she could eat all the food with me. It was great!

**We were in a
big room with a
whole bunch of
other families.**

**We would have
such a good
time until the
police would
tell us it was
time for us to
go. I became sad
again.**

**My Auntie
would tell me
that it was
okay, I could
come back
another time.**

**We would hug
one last time
and then she
walked through
a door and I
couldn't see her
anymore.**

**So you mean
the police took
her away from
you again?**

**Yeah, it wasn't
time for her to
come home so
she had to go
back to where
she lived.**

**Man, I would
love to see my
dad but I would
want him to
come home
with me.**

**I know exactly
how you feel.
But guess what?**

What?

**When we
couldn't visit
my Auntie, she
would write me
letters and send
it to me in the
mail.**

**She and I
became penpals**

Penpals?

**What's a
penpal?**

**You know! A penpal is
someone you write to
all the time and they
write back to you. My
Auntie and I would
send each other
letters through the
mail.**

**After school, I
would run home
and look inside
the mailbox to
see if there was
a letter just for
me!**

**I know my Dad
and I would be
great penpals!**

**I can't wait to
write him!**

**All of this
sounds great! I
thought I would
not be able to
see my dad for a
long time.**

**Now I can visit
him, write to
him and he can
even call me
sometimes!**

**I am so excited.
Thank you
Anita. I am so
happy I do not
have to miss my
Dad as much.**

**He's my number
one Dude!**

**I am glad you
are feeling
better. Now
come on let me
beat you at
kickball!**

In your dreams!



Caruga