





RAPHAELA ROSELLA

When my teenage twin sister told me she was pregnant, I was angry. I called her a ‘slut’ and told her to get an abortion. I thought she could have a ‘better life’. But what is a better life? It was a path we were all expected to take. For many of my friends, becoming a parent young was not a ‘failure of planning’, but a tacit response to the choices and opportunities available to us.

‘We met a little early, but I get to love you longer’ documents women in my life; my twin, my-step sister, and new and old friends as they grapple with the complexities of motherhood and the turbulent and uncertain environments around them.

We met a little
early, but I get to
love you longer



Mimi

Eight minutes separated us at birth. Although we were inseparable, my identical twin and I relentlessly fought. Our fights were vicious and still are.

I always knew at some stage in her life she was going to be a mum, I just hadn't expected it to happen so early, nor had I imagined her to fall pregnant before me. Things haven't gotten any better since Mikah's father left. I always thought it was 'baby blues' but it never went away.

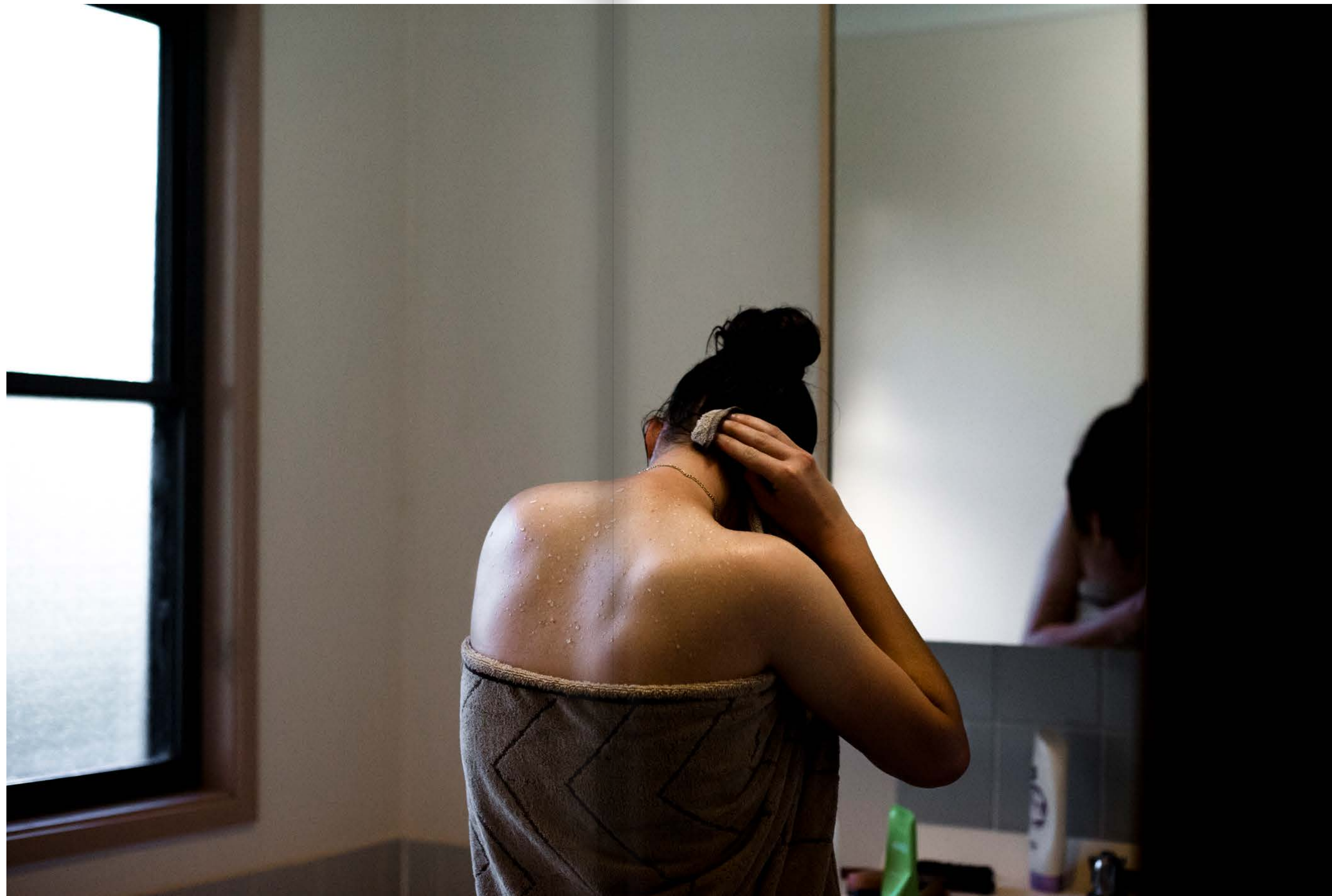




“I’ve never told anyone, but I miss him. Why did I have to do this? Mikah says, ‘I miss Dad. I wish Dad would come back.’ Why do I have to realise this when I have lost him. I was a selfish bitch. I’m the one that drove him away.”









Aspect - Autism

Australia Sharon
Corinne

ph: 66283660 • toileting

- Delayed Speech
- Hyperactivity
- Lack of concentration
- Otitis Media
- Lack of emotional control
- Following routines
- Obsessiveness with toys
- Clinging at home

"He's full on. The pediatrician reckons he has challenging behaviour."



“He hasn’t seen Mikah in months. Mikah cries for him at night.
Sometimes I wish he didn’t remember him because it breaks my heart.”







Gillianne

My step-sister was 16 when she fell pregnant, one of the first of us. Now 24 and pregnant with her fifth, the sudden loss of one of her twin boys changed the Gillianne we once knew.

Lachlan was 11 days old when he left us and now a year has already passed. I often wonder if she still cries when we're all gone. I can't imagine the pain will ever go away.

“...my friend drunk and smoked through her pregnancy.
I did nothing and lost my baby. I feel so ripped off.”







"It still smells like him."



“... I try and be the best mum as I can.

My mum was a full-blown coke and heroin addict.
I try to give my kids what she didn't give me. I don't
like comparing myself to her because I feel like I'm
putting her down, but I do what's best for my kids.”









Baby of Gillianne YOUNG
25.7.06 Taken 1239hrs



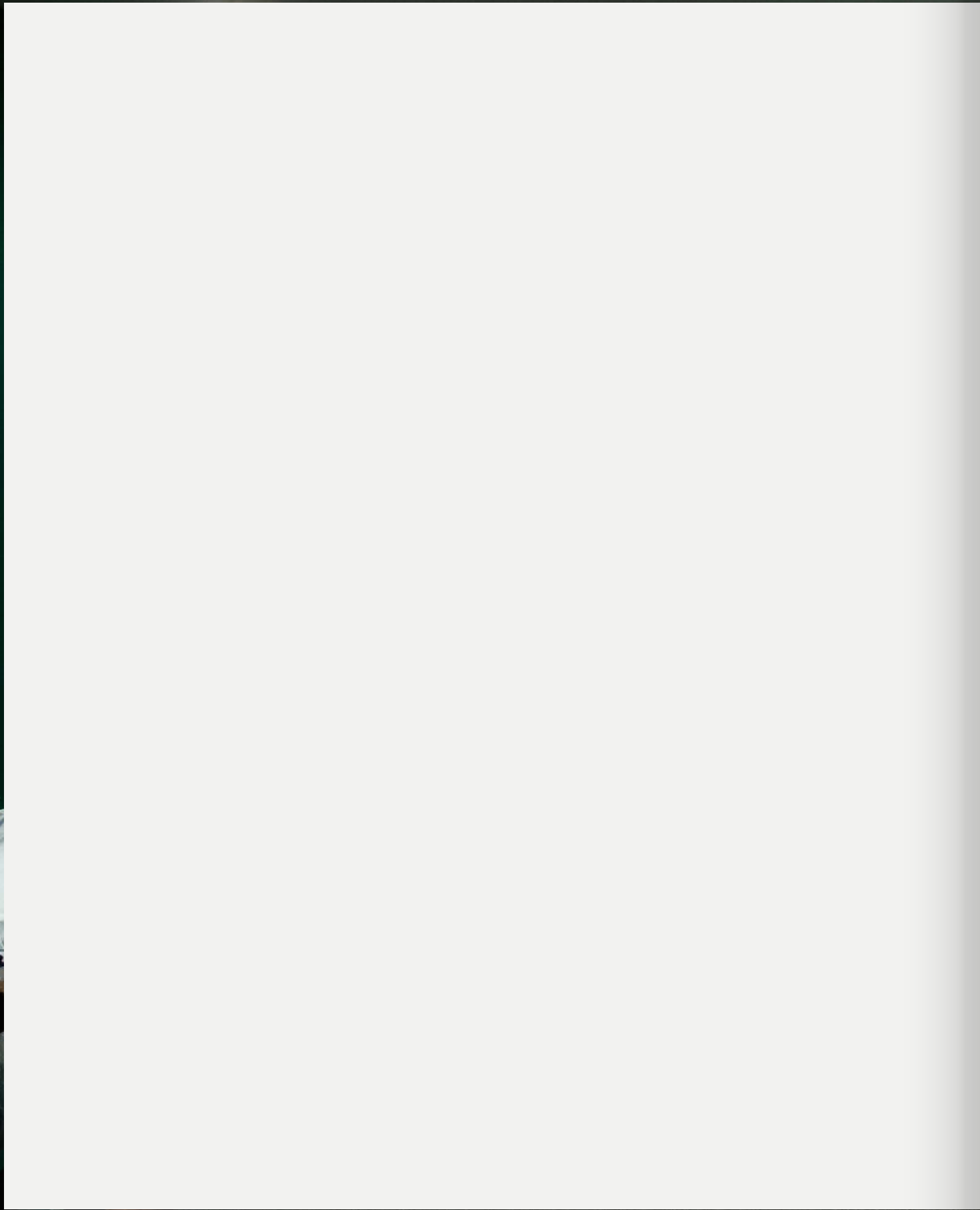
Baby of GILLIANNE YOUNG
25.7.06 Taken 1240hrs



Baby of Gillianne YOUNG
25.7.06 Taken 1245hrs



Baby of Gillianne YOUNG
25.7.06 Taken 1243hrs



“The doctors reckon I’m too young, but I got my tubes tied. Five’s enough for me.”



NO
SMOKING
ZONE
←

Tammara

A birth should be celebrated, yet she was nobody.

I realised I was the one in the room who'd known her the longest. I went to school with Tammara. She was in the year above me, her sister the year below me. Her mum was strict, and my friends and I bullied her because of her frizzy hair.

She left high school early. She wasn't in a good place. Depression, drugs and a turbulent relationship resulted in the removal of her first two children. She admits at that stage in her life, she had given up.

Now homeless and pregnant with her third, I wondered whether this baby would be the catalyst for change in her life.



“The very first day after the court case they turned around and went to give her to me. I was sick, couldn’t move, head cold, fucked up. I said, ‘Look I can’t have her this weekend.’ I grabbed her anyways. An hour later I rang them up and said, ‘I can’t really do this. Can you please come and grab her?’ They said, ‘Nah that’s it, you don’t ever get to see her again.’

I haven’t seen her since. I actually gave up. I’ve never given up that easy in my life and on my daughter I did.”





I asked Tammara if she got to speak to her son for his third birthday.

She said, “I choose not to call him. DoCS (Department of Community Services) has made it too hard. They don’t let me call Jessika either. It’s time to ignore the other two and start new with this kid. Hopefully one day they will want to know their mother.”







“We’re not here for you, we’re here for Steven and the baby.”

Tammara’s mother-in-law







To My little Bum Bum Jessika,

hello my hunni, I miss you like Crazy,
I am sorry I have not been in your
life for a few years but I wish I have.
I hope you have been spoilt by your
daddy and his girlfriend!!!

I have seen some photo's on facebook of
you and god have you grown,
I seen your photo when you lost your
first tooth. all I could do was wish I was
there.

I have my own house now and hope that
One day you would come and stay for atleast
One night, One weekend or even One week.

Just so I can show you how much I Love U.
you have a baby sister who lives with me,
her name is Tanika. I got her Name
from a Mix of My Name and yours.

Tamara + Jessika.

I want you to know how much I Love
you, I would go to the End of the Earth
for you, and Do Anything To hold you in
My Arms again.

I miss you, I miss you, I MISS U!!
Love you Always AND forever
ur mummy Tamara. xoxoxox

To my One and Only Baby Boy Gage,

hello, its mummy or as you know me as
(Tommy Mummy)!!!

How are you? i hope your "New Mummy"
is treating you good.

you would be 3 years old now,
and to think that Docs Took you from
me when you wer. only 3 mths old. :(

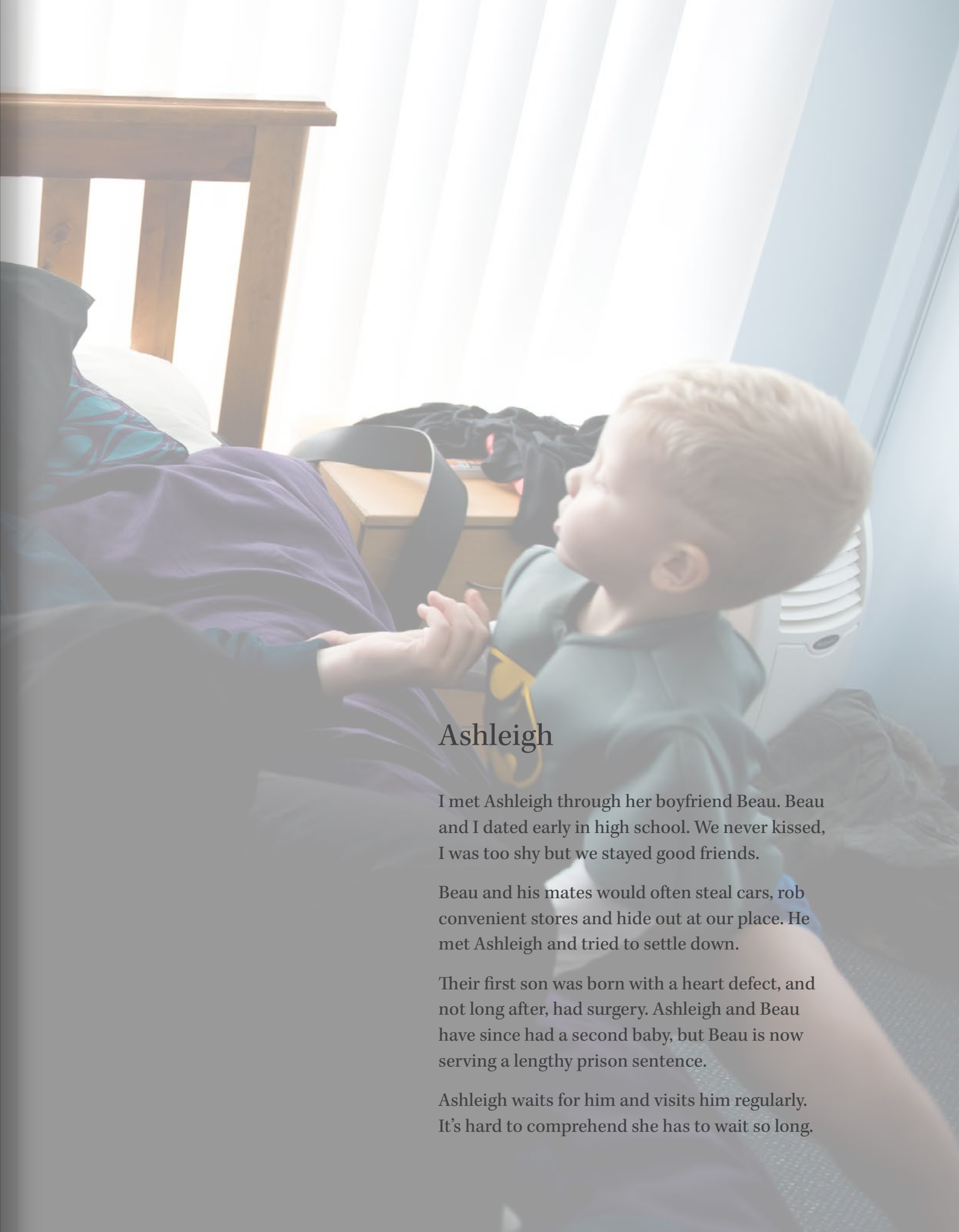
I am just wrighting to you to say
how much i Love and miss you!!

it hurts so Bad to think i may Never
see you again But i refuse to think
that and i say i will see you again.
It may Not be as soon as i would Love
But one day you will be in my arms again.
and when you are i will Never Ever
Let Anyone Take you away from
me Ever Ever again.

I want you to know that i Love U
and you have a baby sister Now.
her Name is Tanika and We would
Love it if you Came and stayed with
us on the Beach and we could go
Swimming. That would Be so fun Hey
my little man. I ♡ U I ♡ U I ♡ U

Love U alwaysz mummy Tammara xoxoxo





Ashleigh

I met Ashleigh through her boyfriend Beau. Beau and I dated early in high school. We never kissed, I was too shy but we stayed good friends.

Beau and his mates would often steal cars, rob convenient stores and hide out at our place. He met Ashleigh and tried to settle down.

Their first son was born with a heart defect, and not long after, had surgery. Ashleigh and Beau have since had a second baby, but Beau is now serving a lengthy prison sentence.

Ashleigh waits for him and visits him regularly. It's hard to comprehend she has to wait so long.

“I wasn’t going to keep the baby, until I saw the ultrasound and couldn’t do it.”

“He couldn’t be settled. He cried for the first six weeks.”





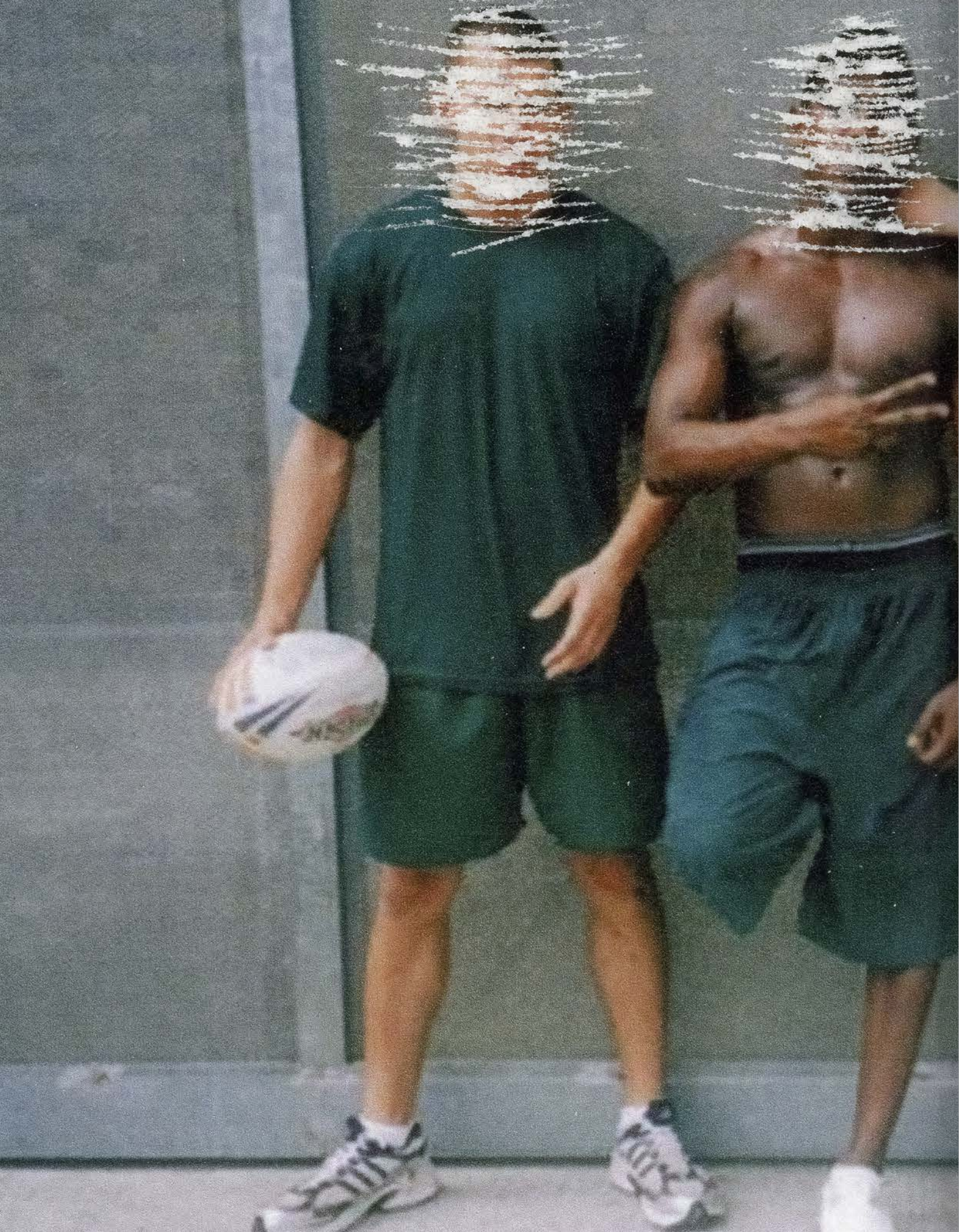






“He always asks, ‘Where’s Dad?’ He’s been very angry since Beau went. He hits me and chucks tantrums. I think I will have to visit [Beau] less with the kids. It’s too hard on Chaise.”





Fri 6th / 5 / 11

To my BIG BEAUTIFUL CHAISE...

Hello BABY it's daddy

I MISS U SO MUCH

im thinking of you's

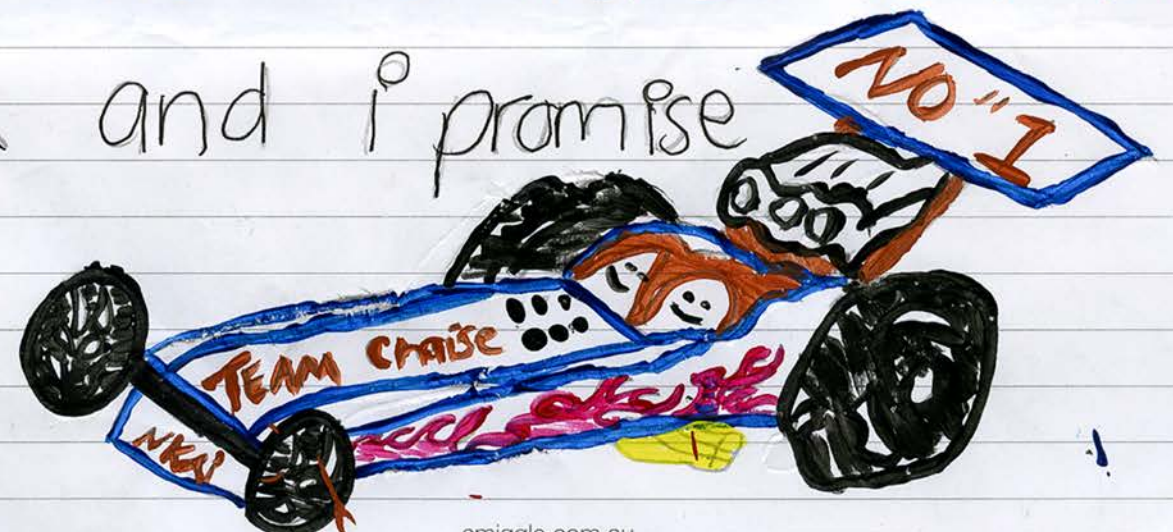


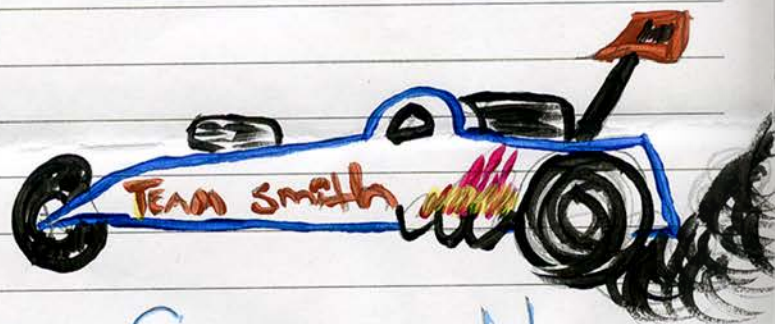
So much Well Son i know
You are being abit Sooky

Latty im telling u that

u have to listen to mummy

OK and i promise





When daddy COMES Home

I will get u the best beast

racing car ok one like

iron man's car but u have

to listen to mum be very

good brush your teeth

Or u want get theses

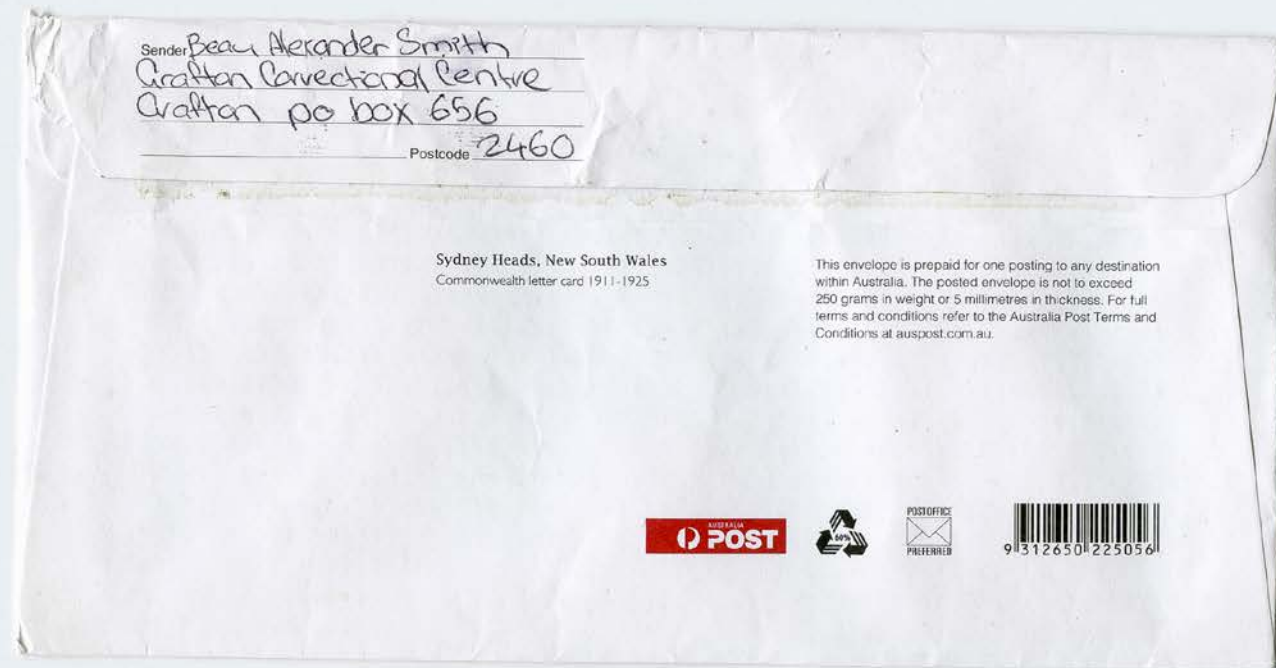
good things ok. and be

a big brother to kai boi.

DADDY LOVES YOU'S...







“The judge said he will [not] take into consideration that he has changed and no consideration [that] he has kids. He said I’m his rock and without me [Beau is] still that person. He gave him five years. Four years and one month, no parole.”



7-9-12

Dear ashliegh...

Hey you how are things i am so board cause we are locked in so i thought i would write you a letter, well let me Just say that im proud of you ~~ash~~ ash for the way upu are handeling life at theire i really dont know how tough it must be for you, you have matured in so maney ways and have taken on the tough'st responsibltys and stuck bye them when so many young adults just chuck it in ash i really do appreciate everything upu are doing and has done for me and i know our boys do to even thou it doesn't seem like it

Just remember they are kids and when they are older they will look back and think the world of upu because you stuck with it and upu will relise that they will be a y pair off beautiful smart kind harted bunch.. Well to be honest ash i am still so confused on why upu left i get the part on me coming to jail for four years but i really dont think that's the real ~~rese~~ reason and upu told me that upu were still angrey at me about all that happen when befor we broke up befor nkai was born i mean back in "09" i know all that was terrible and unhumain to do but i thought ~~when~~^{we} came back into each others lifes that we put that past behind us i was so sure that upu did upu know upu stood up for me at court and with all ur friends at that stage and with every letter and phone call upu

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