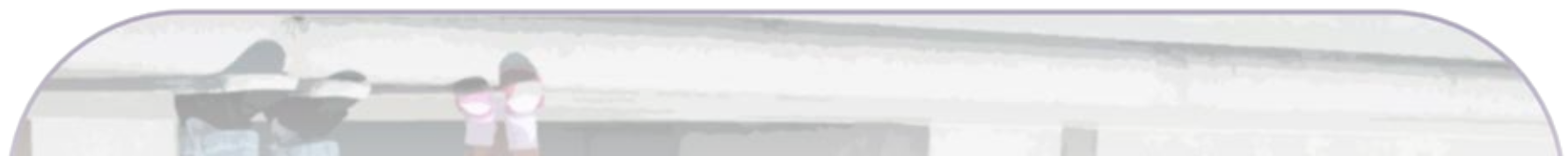


Together Again

A Day of Celebration



Message From the Chief

Together Again: A Day of Celebration is a book about reunification, meant to honor those families who reunify. Many families face an array of challenges and as a result are sometimes separated. The goal of the court is to help parents resolve their issues while keeping their children safe until the family is able to live together safely.

This book illustrates the reunification process from a child's perspective. The story is about a young boy who is removed from his home as a result of his parents' substance abuse and other issues. It follows him and his sister through the court process, various foster homes, and visitation with their parents until the parents are rehabilitated and the family can be reunified.

This book was developed as part of the national efforts to recognize reunification through Reunification Day, Reunification Month, and other celebrations. These efforts aim to recognize the hard work and dedication of the families who reunify, raise awareness that reunification is the preferred outcome for children in foster care, and inspire other families who are separated to continue working hard to achieve reunification.

I congratulate all of you on your reunification and wish your family all the best for a happy and healthy future.

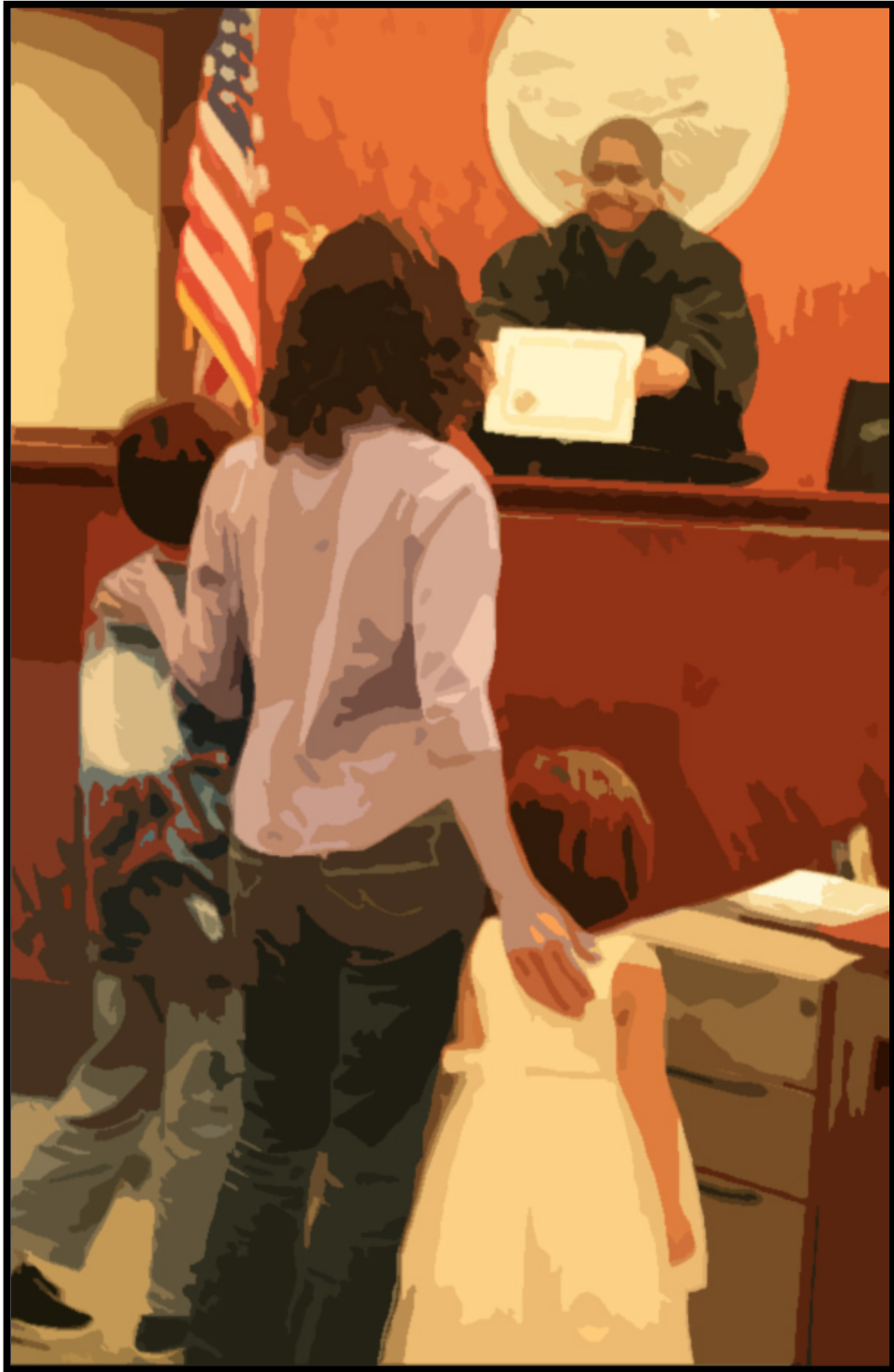
Sincerely,



Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye
Supreme Court of California



Chief Justice
Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye

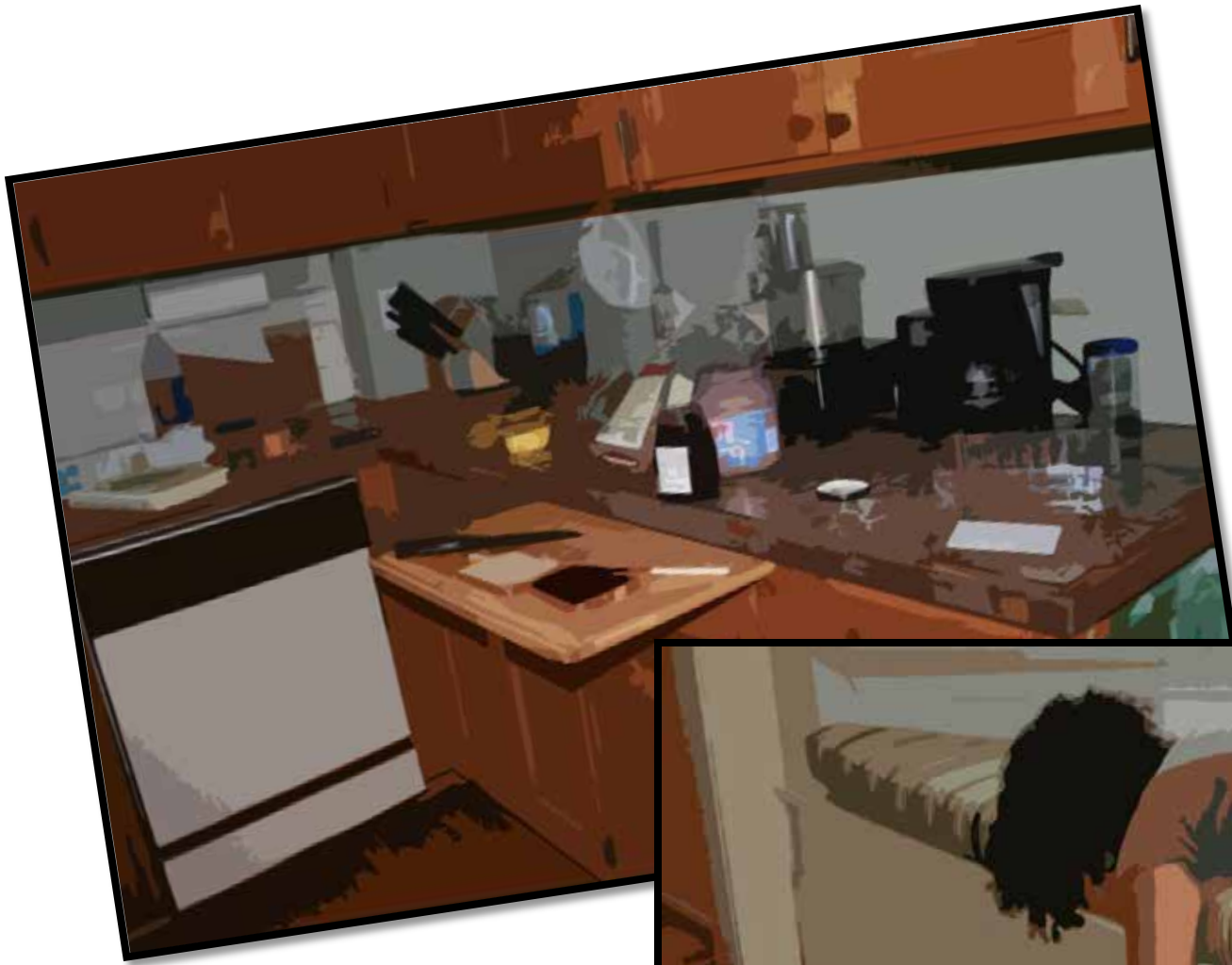


Today is a happy day...



But I remember





When...

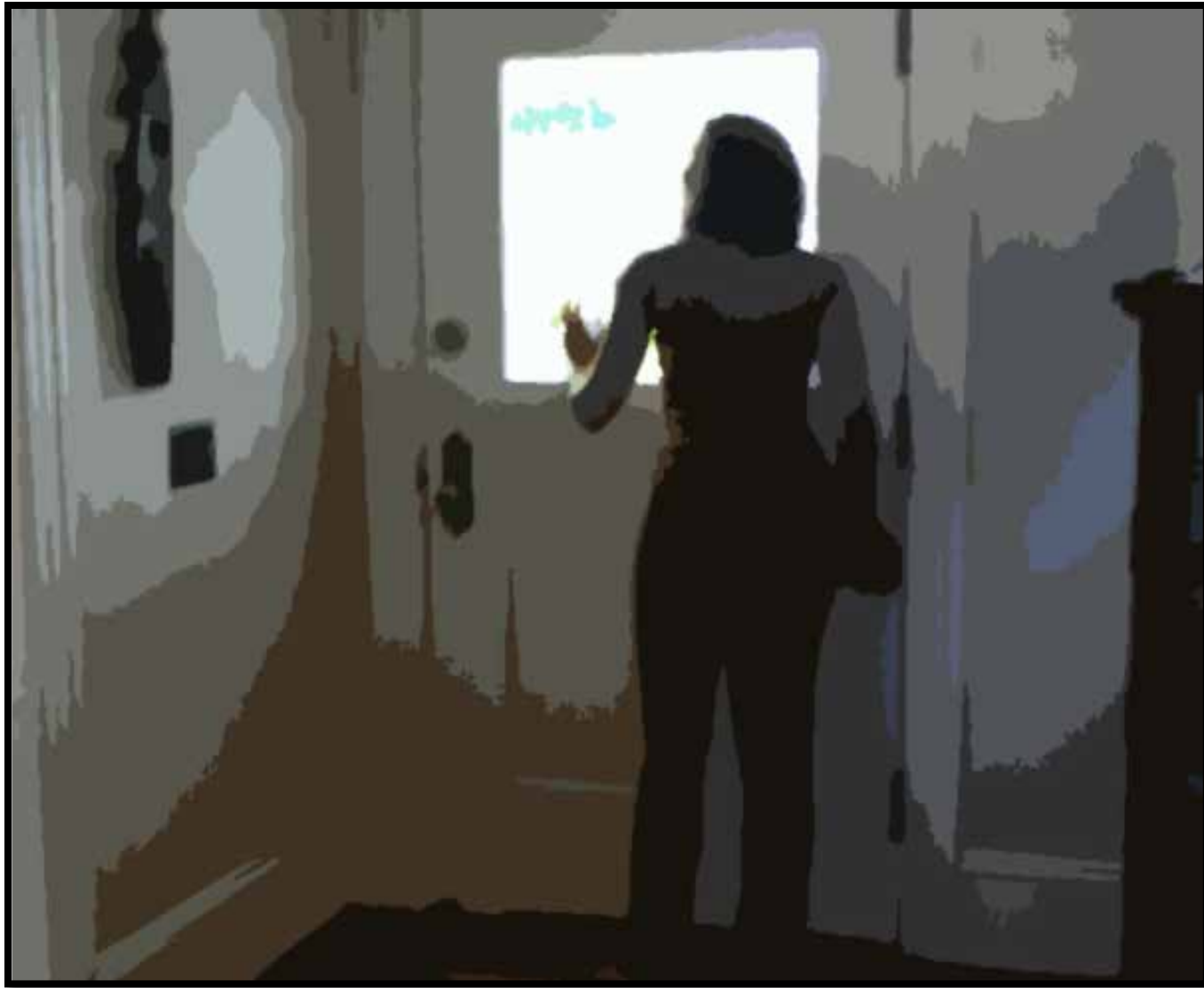




A social worker came to my house with a police officer.



The social worker said
I couldn't live with my
mom right now.



At first I was afraid I'd never see my mom again...



...and then I was
afraid I'd never
see my sister
again.



The people I stayed with were nice...



...But I just wanted to go home.

The first time I went to court I thought the judge would let me go home because I missed my family. She said it wasn't my fault and told my parents what they needed to do before we could live together again.





I was happy the judge said my sister and I could live with grandma together.



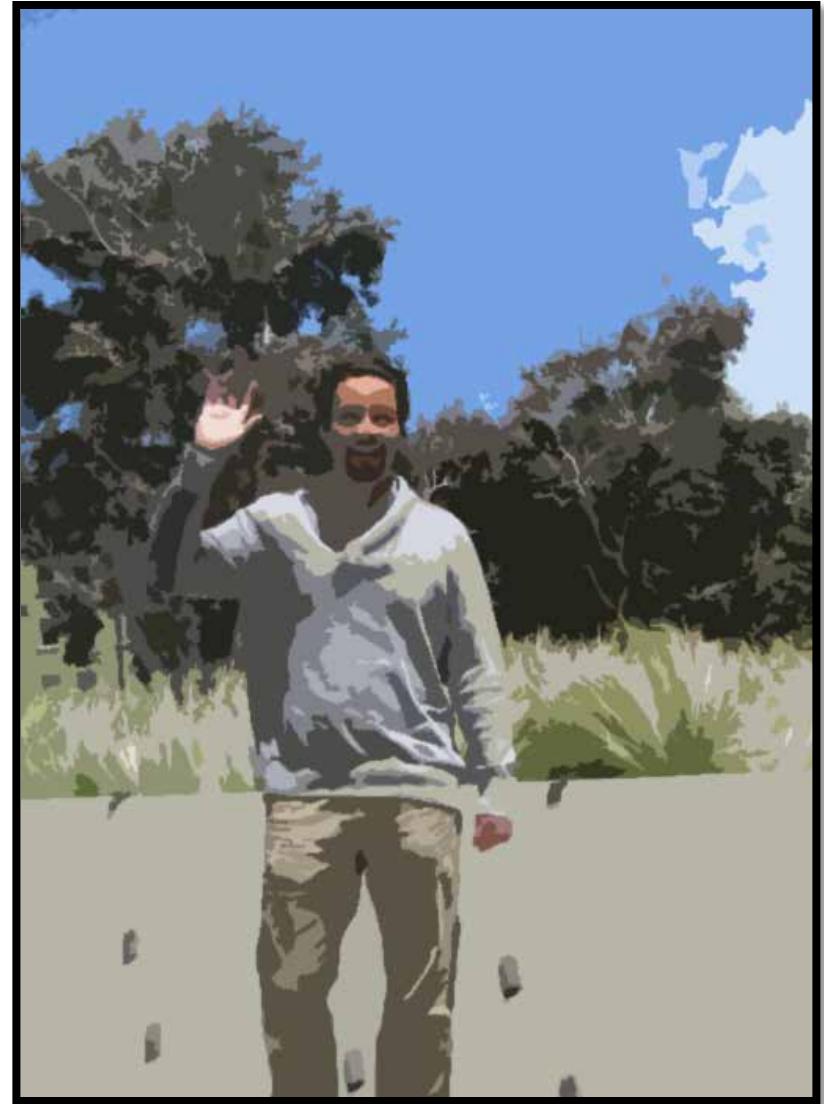
Getting used to living at grandma's house wasn't always easy because I missed my mom and dad, but I knew my grandma loved me...



...and I knew my parents were working hard so that we could be together again.



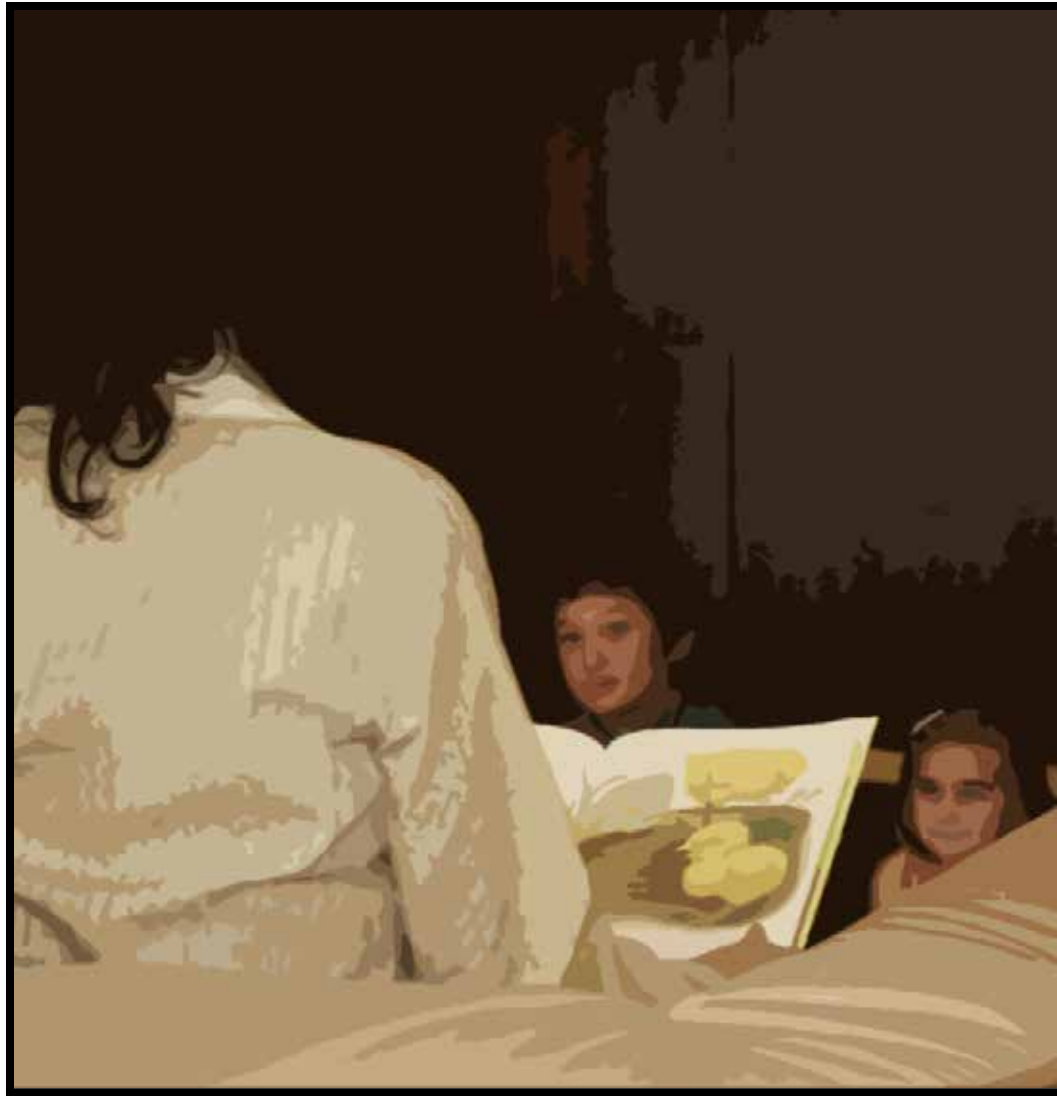
I liked getting to visit with my parents, but sometimes it made me sad because it reminded me of how much I missed them.



Some days I was busy with my friends after school. Other days I'd get to spend time seeing my mom... and my dad.



The next time I went to court, the judge was proud of my parents. She said that my sister and I would be able to see them more often.



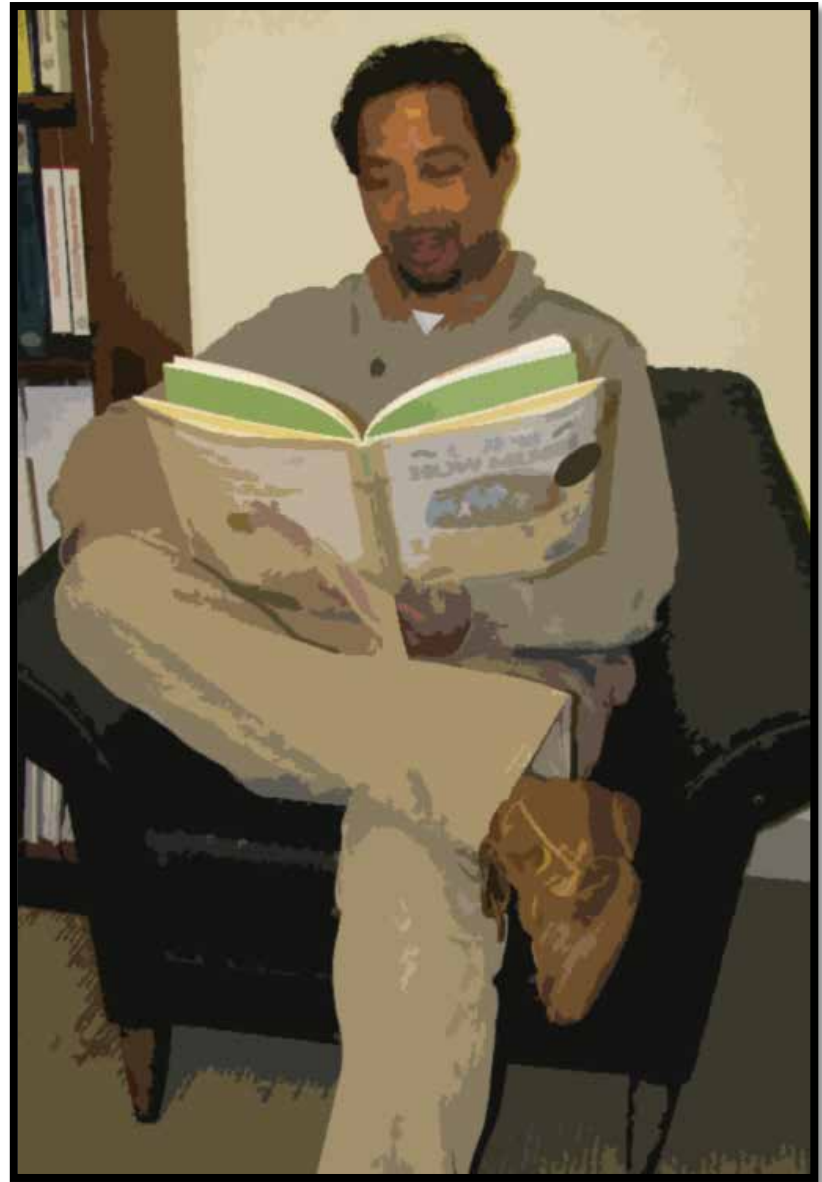
When we began having longer visits, I was really excited to be back in my old room and be together again.



I didn't always like having to get used to new rules, but I was still happy to be home.



The night before the next court date, I was nervous. The judge was going to decide whether or not I would be able to move back home.



But the judge saw what I knew in my heart – my parents had worked very hard to be able to have us be...



Together again.



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Special thanks to the staff who volunteered their time and efforts to make this book happen.
Printing costs are provided by the Administration of Justice Fund.

For more information about this Reunification Book or to request copies,
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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

JUDICIAL AND COURT OPERATIONS
SERVICES DIVISION

CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN & THE COURTS

CERTIFICATE OF REUNIFICATION

*Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the State of California,
it is hereby declared and ordered that the family of*

*has successfully met the requirements of the Superior Court of
California in order to live together again and is awarded this*

CERTIFICATE OF REUNIFICATION



Awarded this ____ *day of* _____, 20__

Judge of the Superior Court