



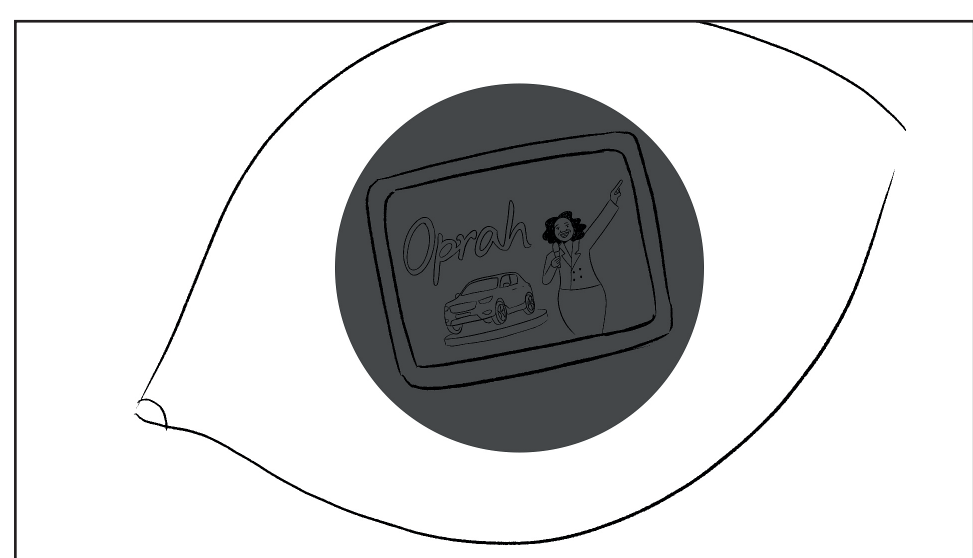
VO:
Dear Oprah Winfrey
My name is Gloria.
I have been wanting to ask you a question since I was a small child.



VO:



VO:
How did you do it?



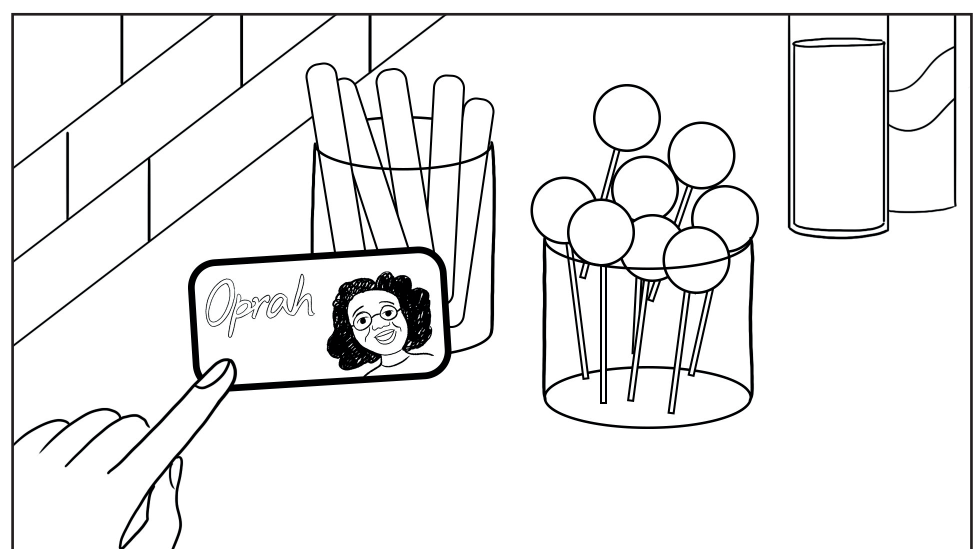
VO:



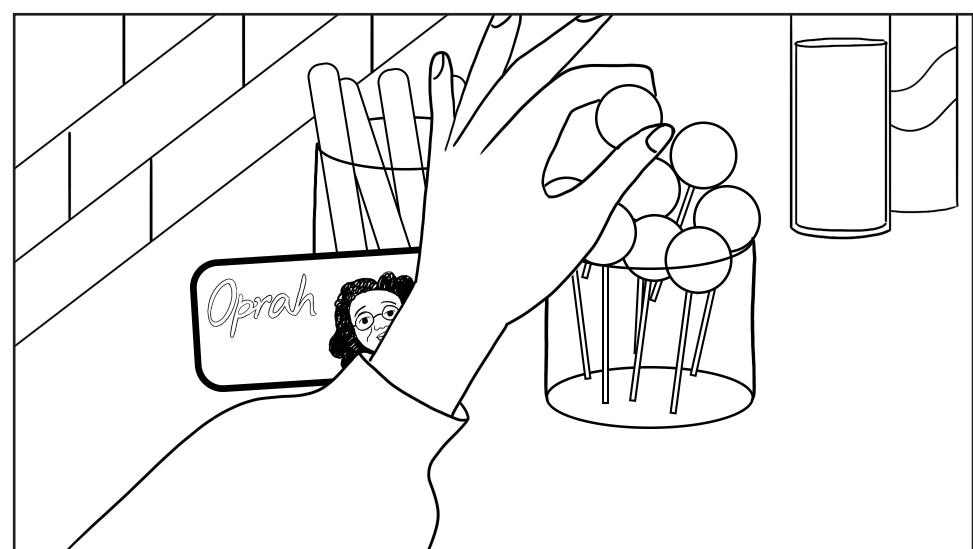
VO:
Even though plenty of bad-bad things happened in your life ...



VO:
Somehow...you made it!



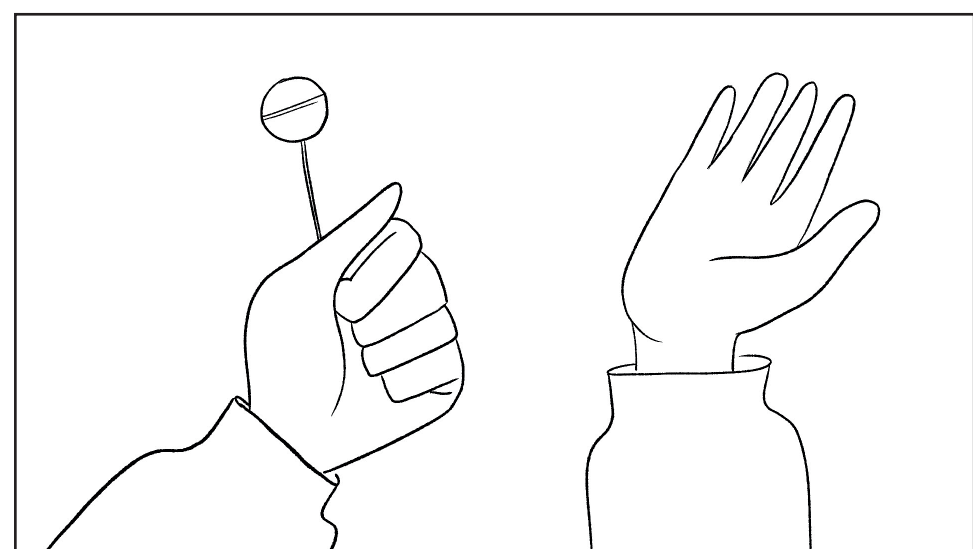
VO:



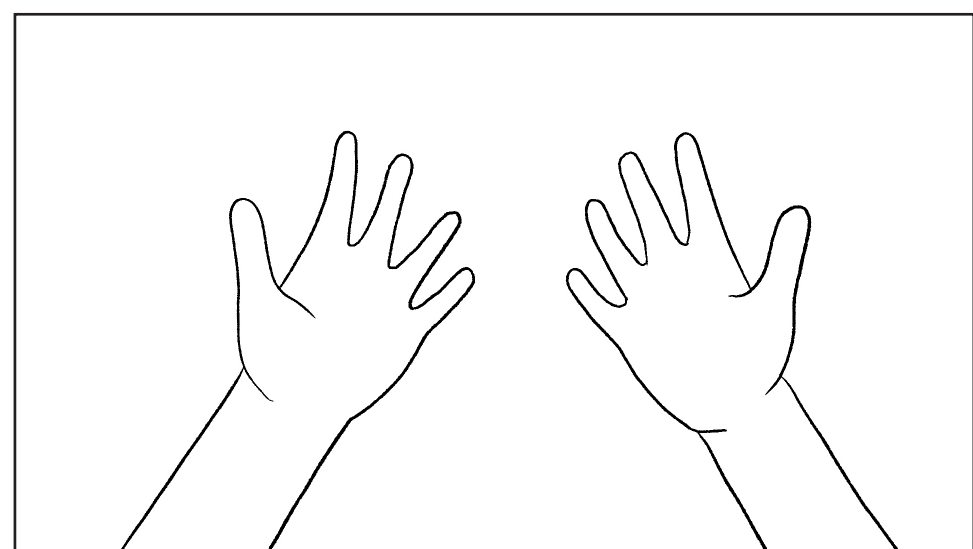
VO:
Dear Oprah,



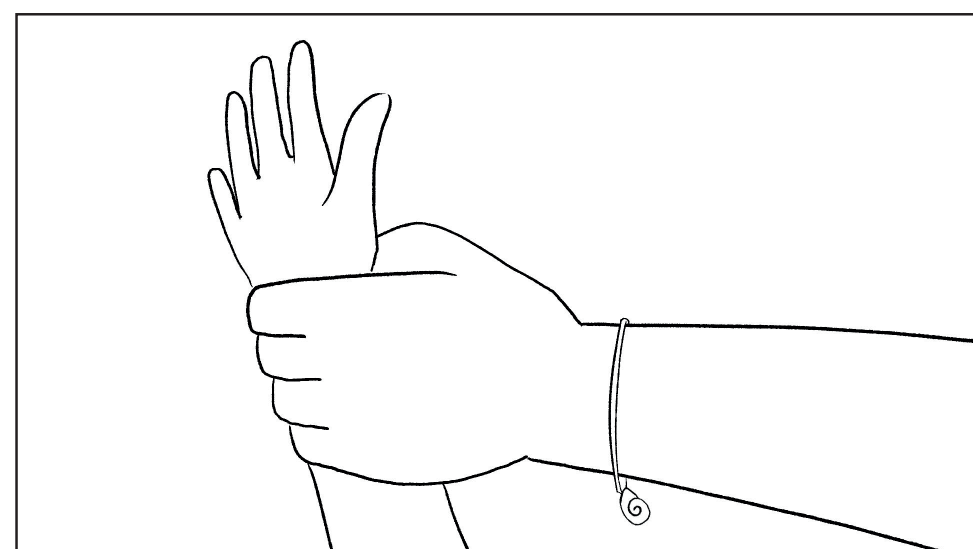
VO:
All I wanted was a better life.



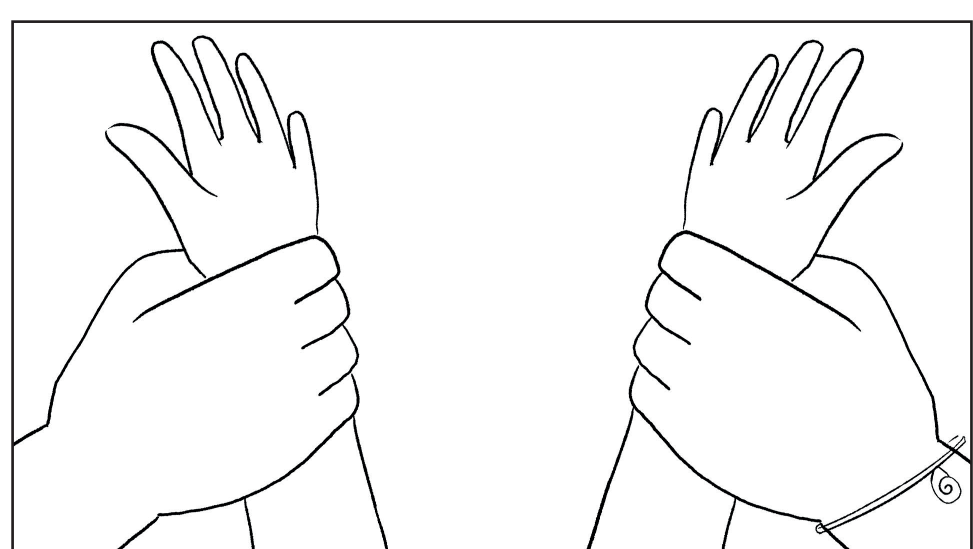
VO:
To forget all this pain.



VO:
Like you,



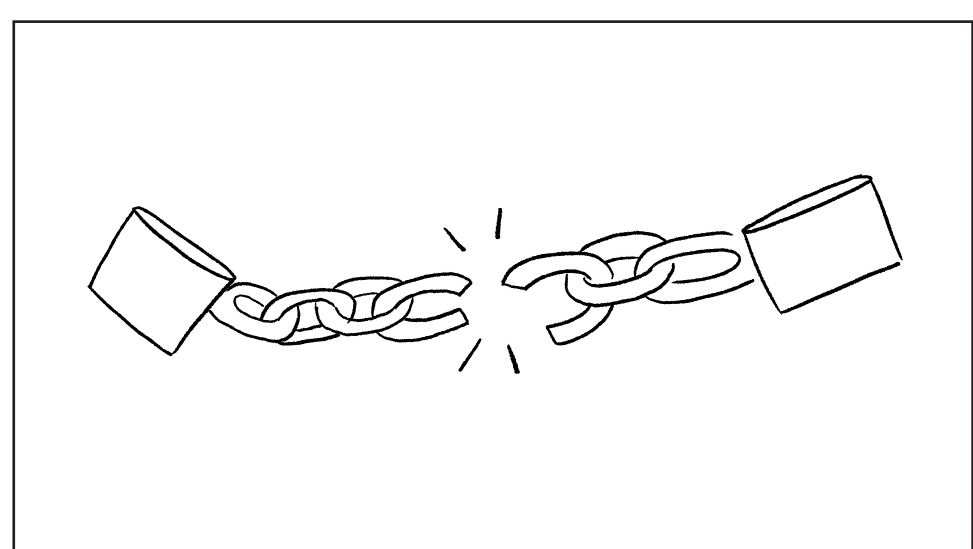
VO:
I was abused as a child.



VO:
I was so angry... so confused.



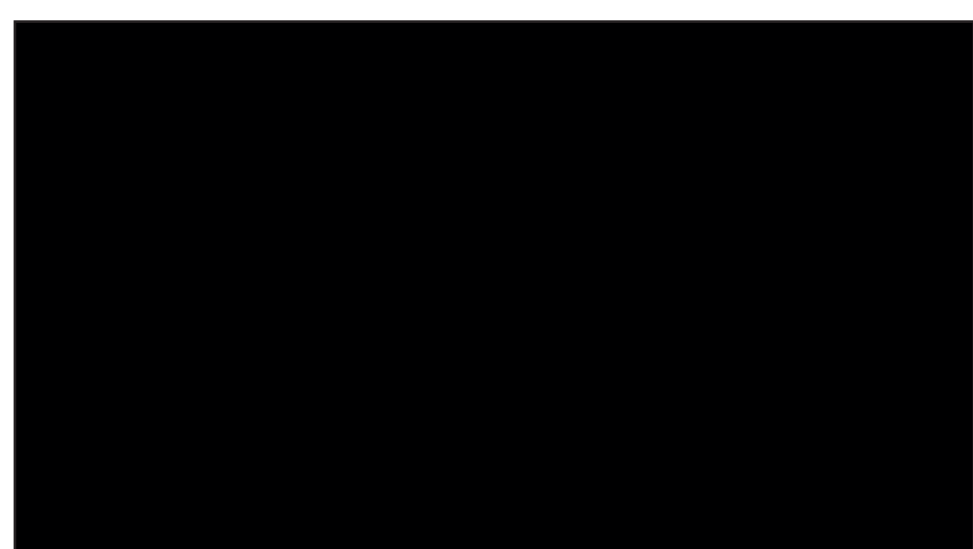
VO:
But see eh, when I look at you,



VO:
I think, yes!



VO:
If Oprah can do it, then I too can escape this past and start again in the UK. I can become great, free myself from all this wahala.



VO:



VO:
Dear Oprah
Gloria is not my real name.
My birth name is Osoyegbon: It means: I am not a slave.
I was born in Benin city in Nigeria, from the tribe of Ishan.



VO:
I grew up with my grandmother.
We didn't have much but we were happy...



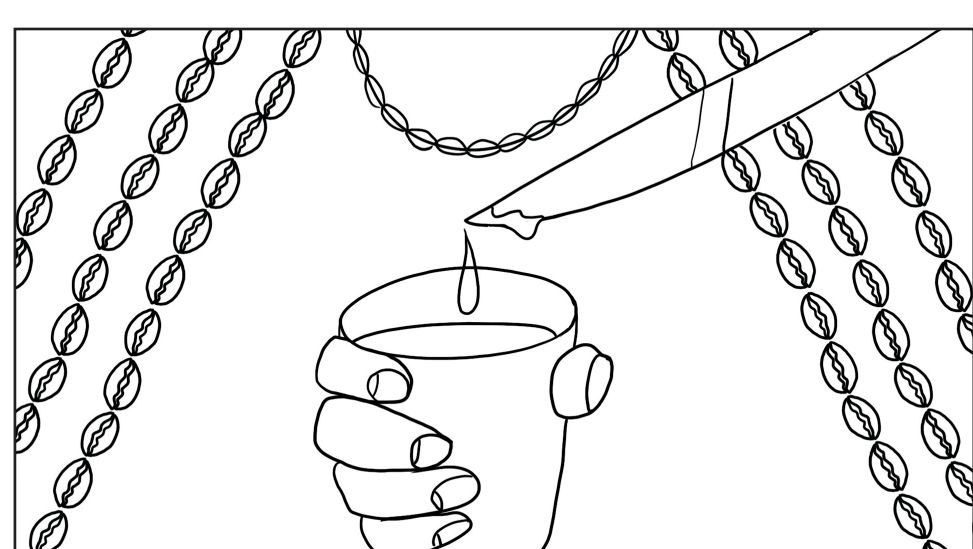
VO:
...until that terrible day when the wicked abuse started.
It destroyed everything.



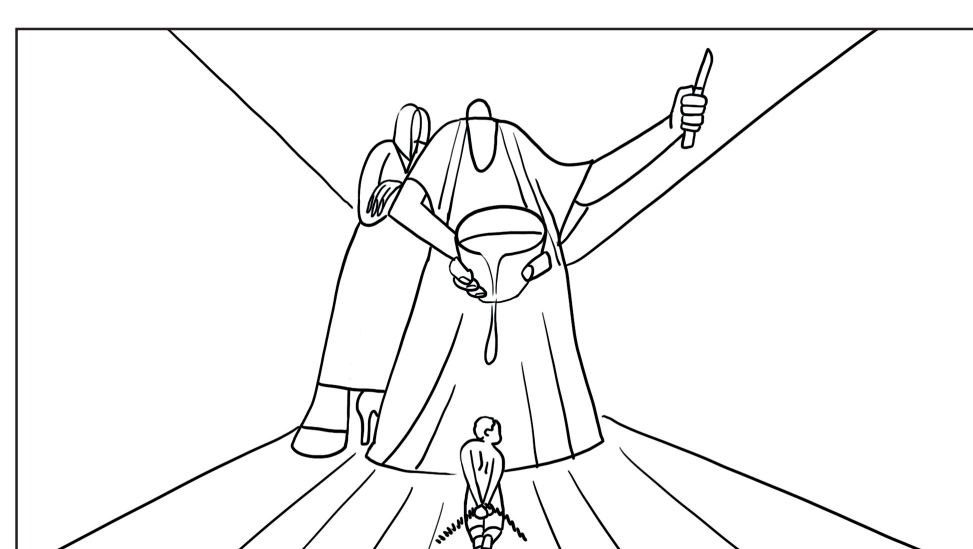
VO:
Everybody said that I brought shame to my family.



VO:
One Madam came to our village and offered me hope.
"Come with me to the UK!", she said.



VO:
She took me to a juju man.



VO:
I can still taste the bitterness in my mouth.



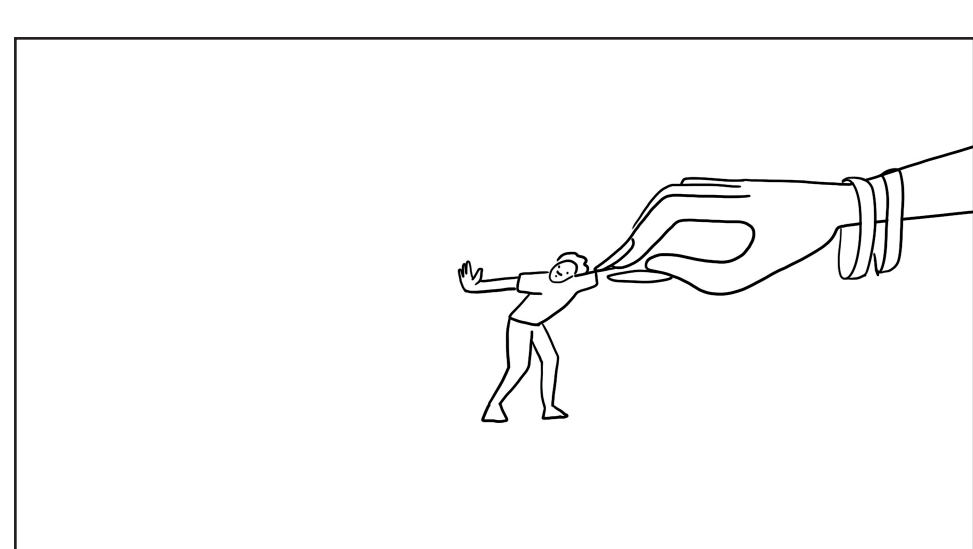
VO:



VO:
Dear Oprah Winfrey



VO:
I thought I was coming to the UK for a better life .



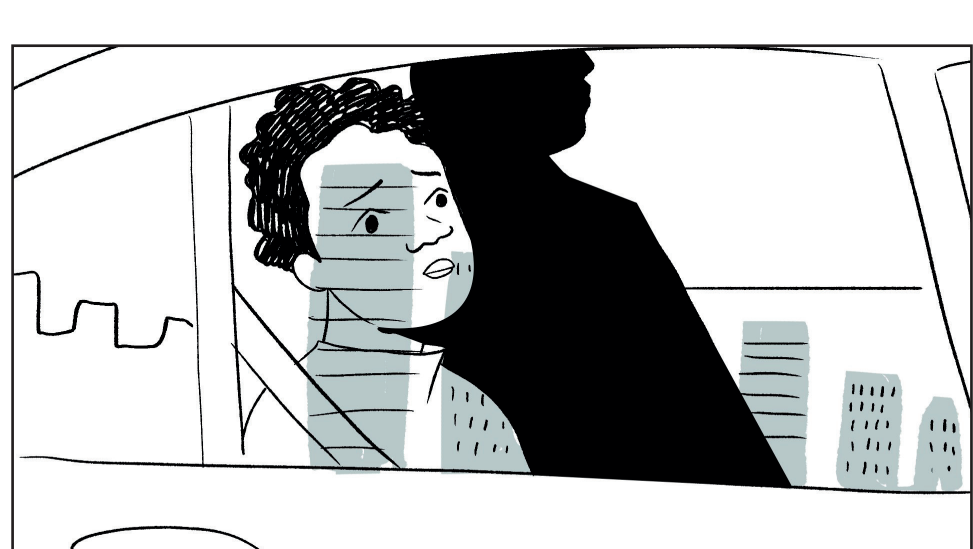
VO:
To escape the past.



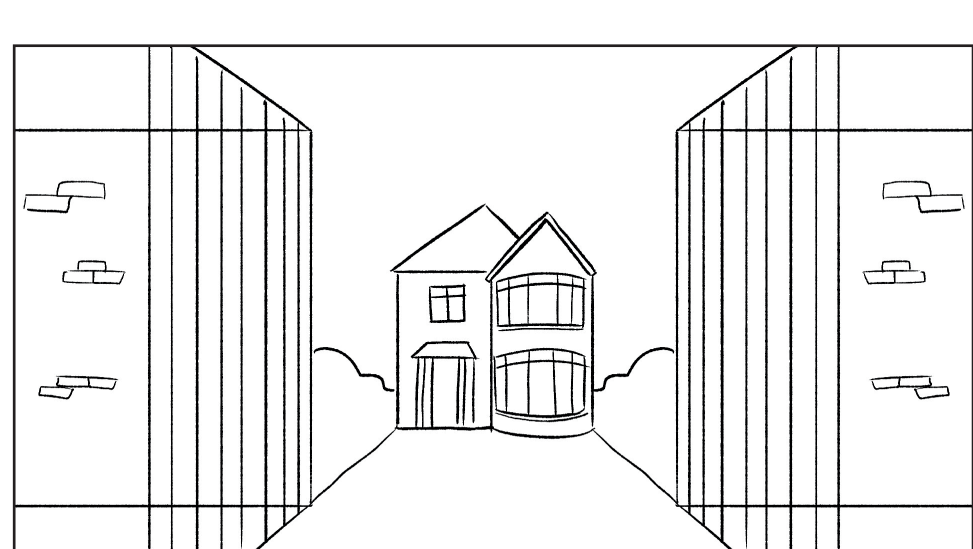
VO:
Madam gave me a fake passport, promised me a cleaning job in a big house!



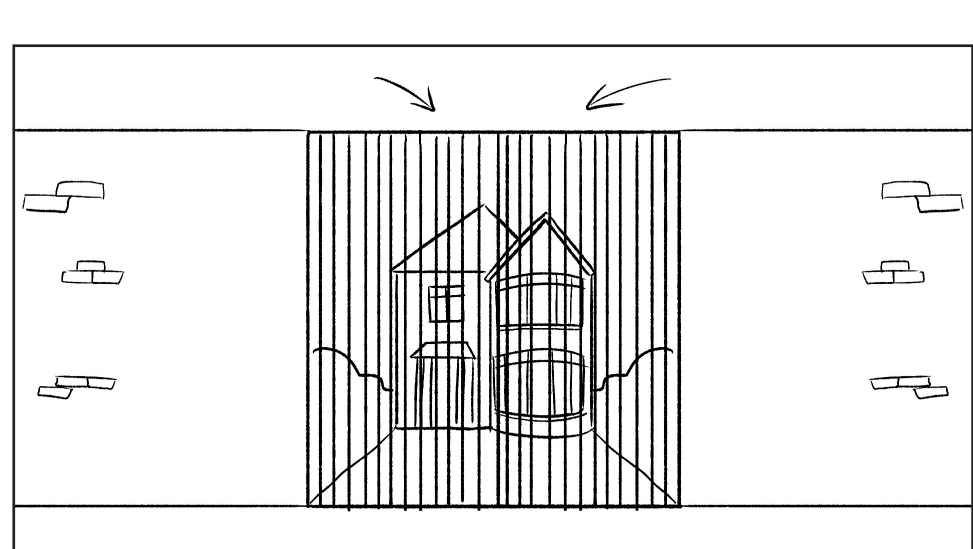
VO:
I said no-wahala o. I will do it.



VO:
We reached London. The drivers drove and drove o



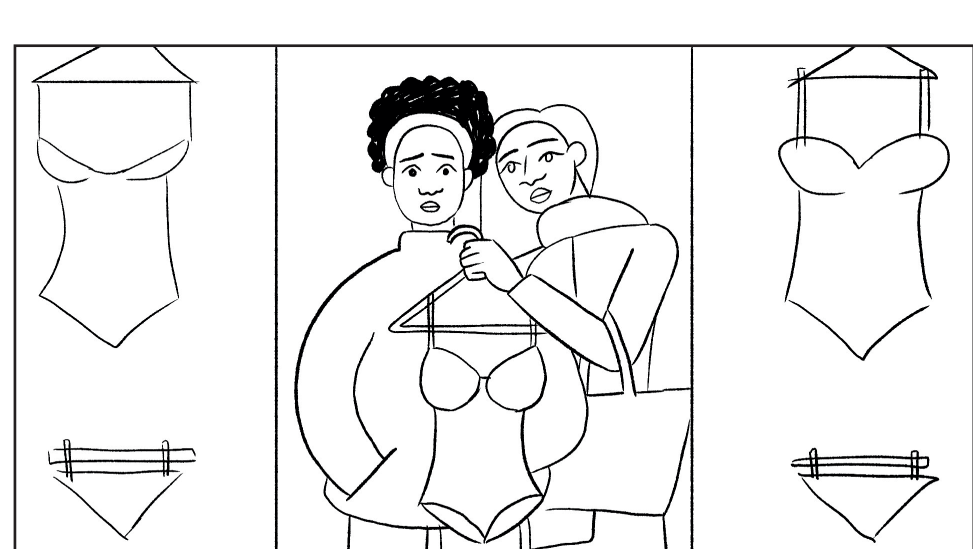
VO:
Until we got to one big, fine house.



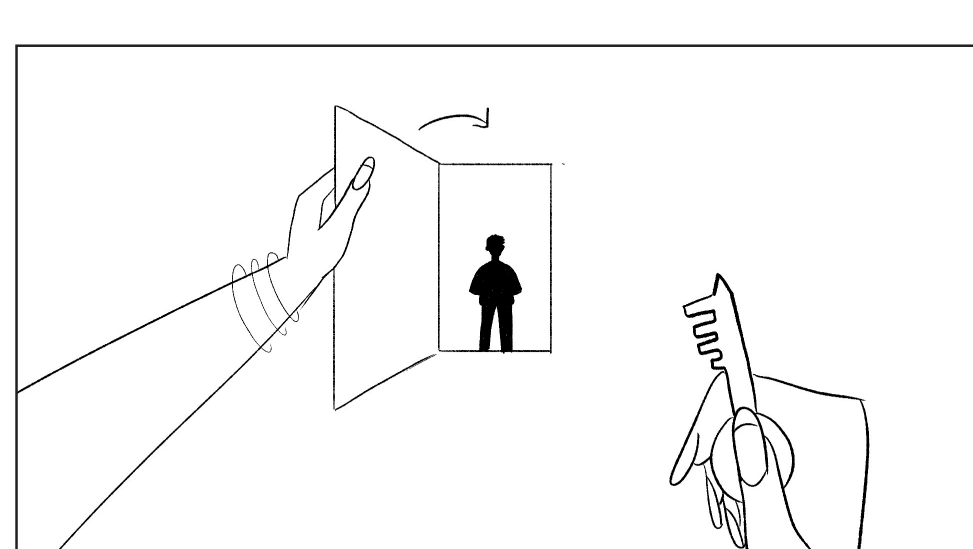
VO:
Like a castle!



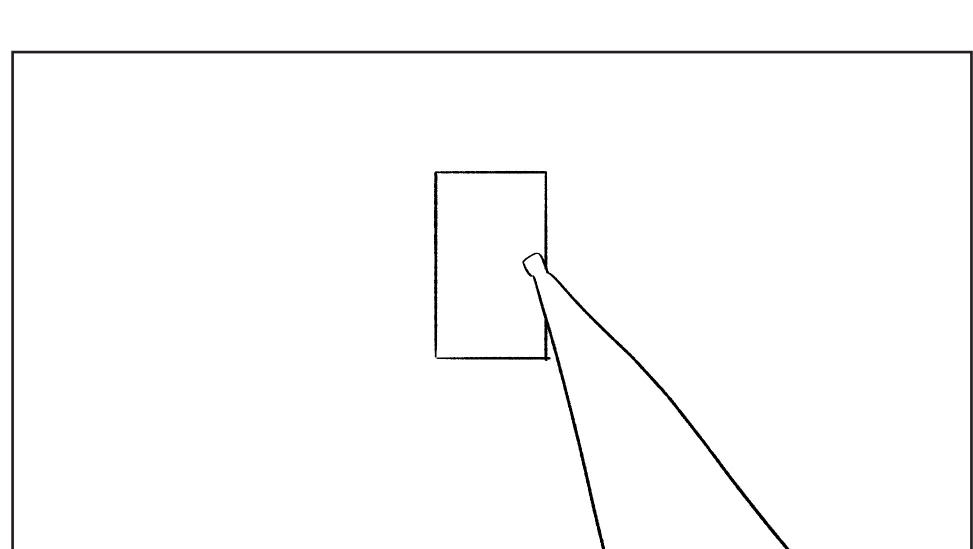
VO:
Madam introduced me to one of the girls
And asked her to bring my clothes.



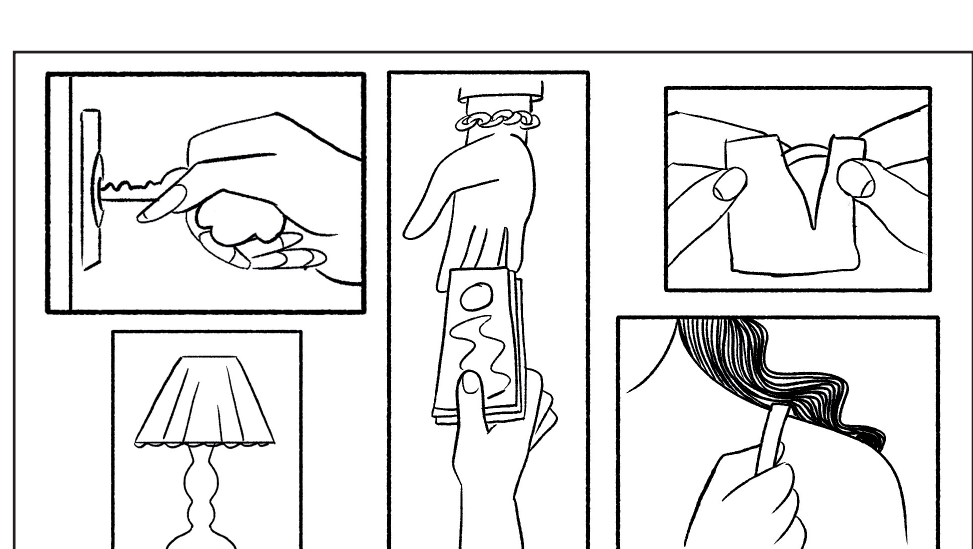
VO:
Gloria: "Is that what they wear to do cleaning in London?"
Colleague: "You don't know why you are here? You think she brought you all the way from Nigeria to come and do cleaning?"



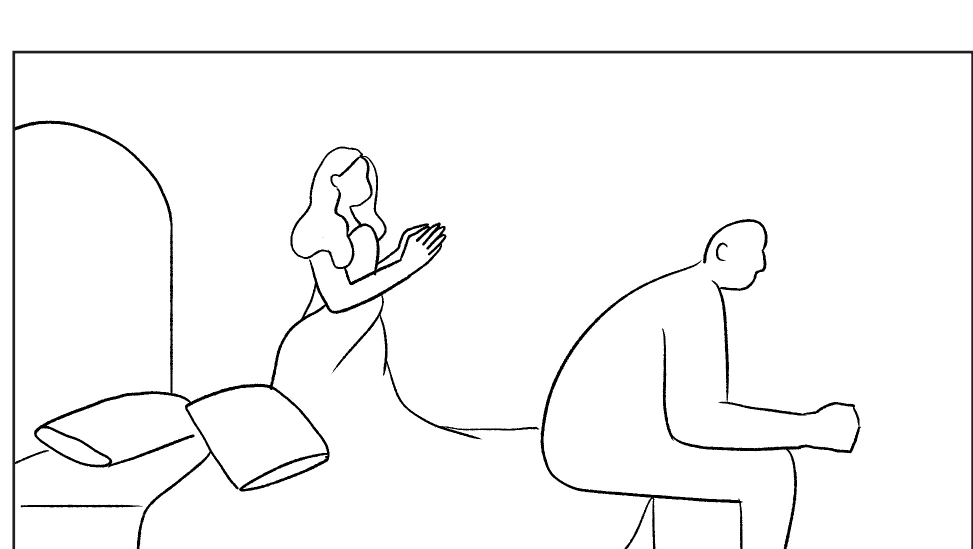
VO:



VO:
They never let me out of the house.



VO:
The men: stinking, horrible, wicked men...they came and went as they pleased. Eh! God knows. I begged and begged them to help me. Nobody answered me.



VO:
Six months later, one man said yes.



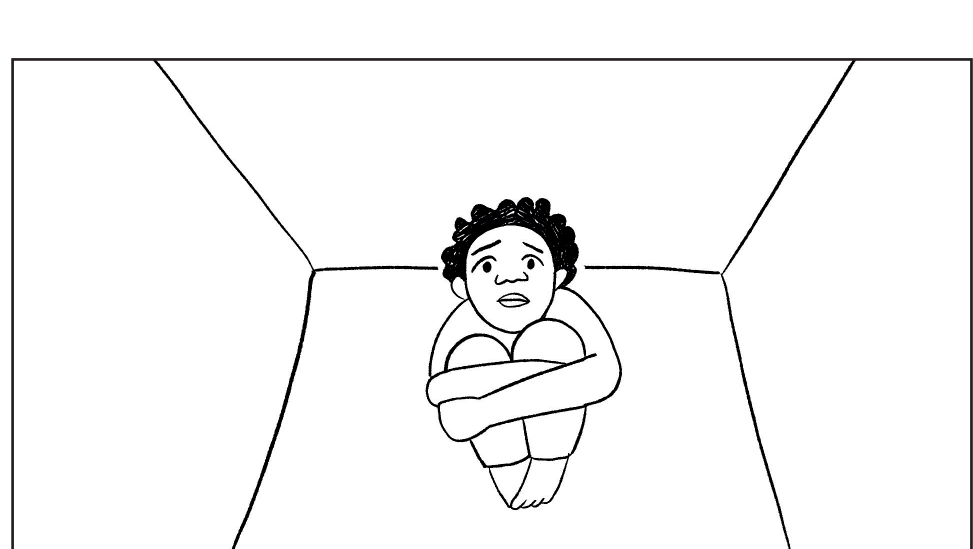
VO:
I escaped.



VO:
I thought I was free,



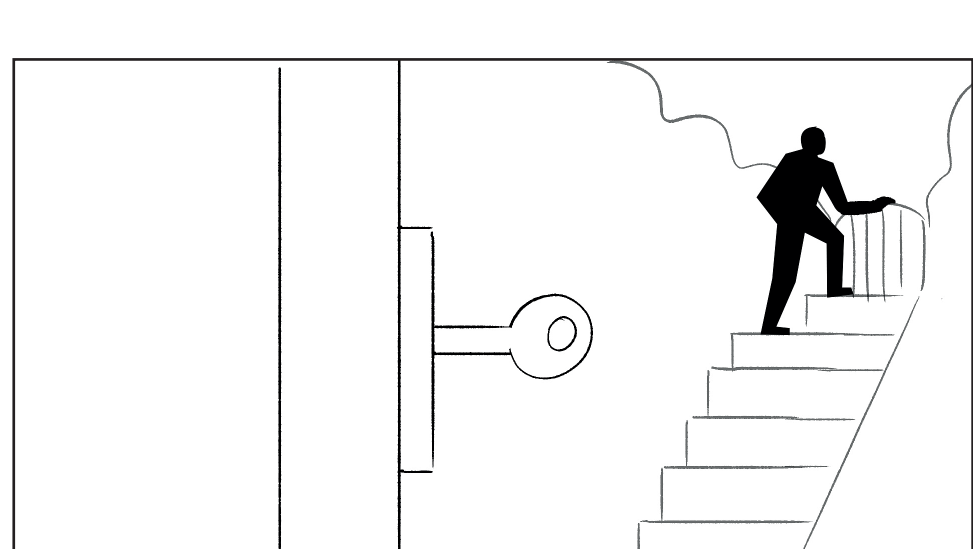
VO:
but he took me to his house,



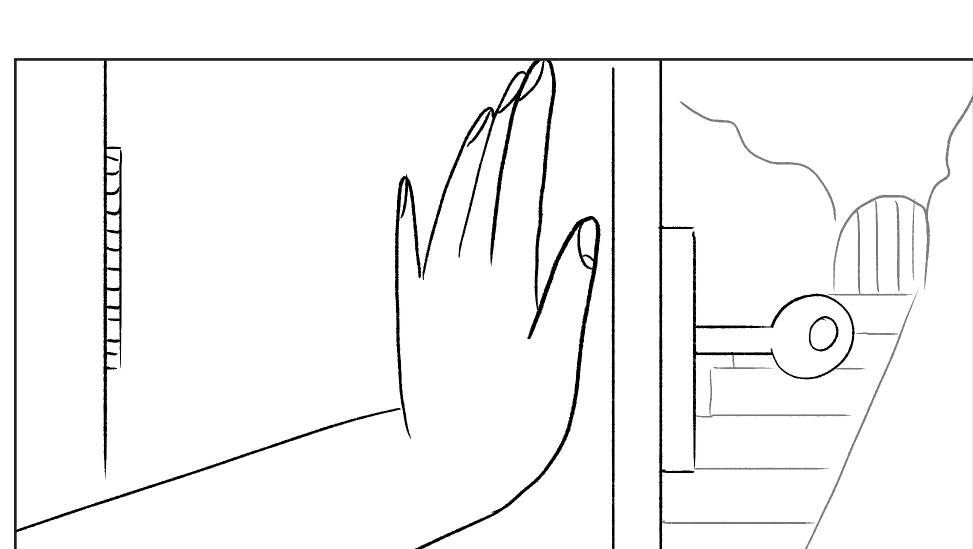
VO:
locked me up... and abused me.



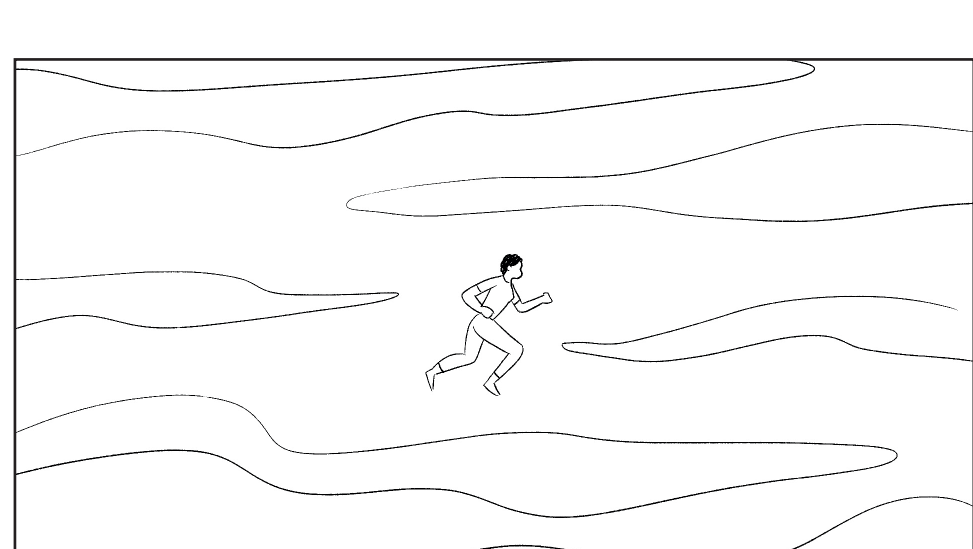
VO:



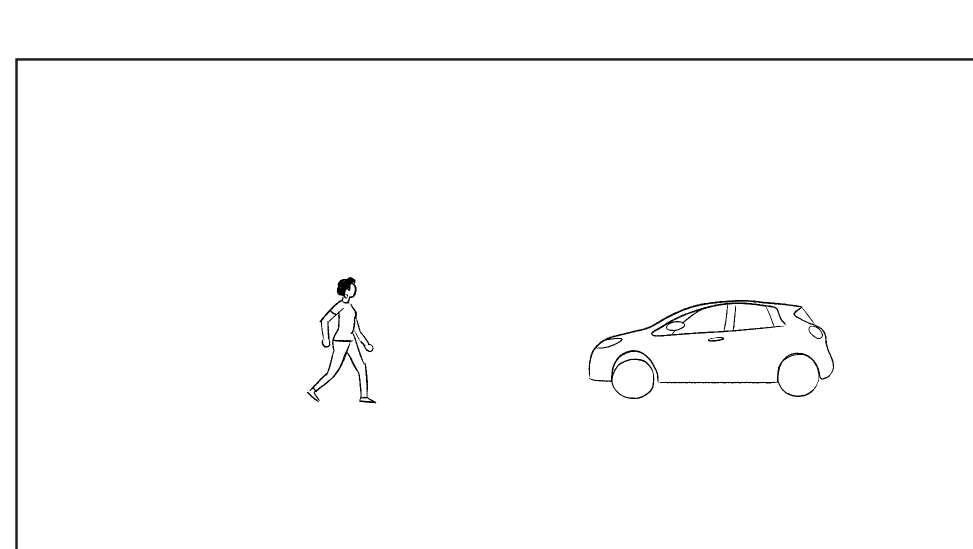
VO:
One day he forgot to take the key out of the back door.



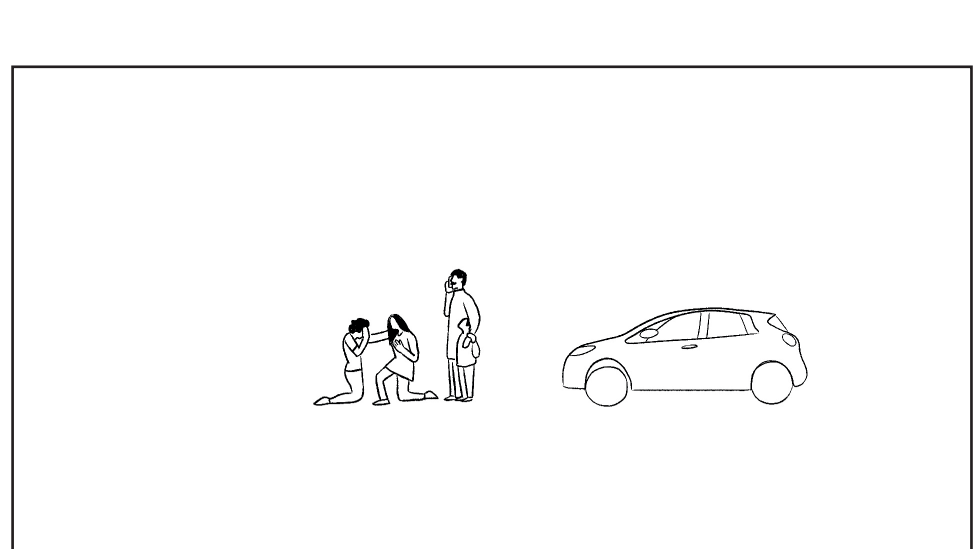
VO:
I pushed it open and ran and ran.



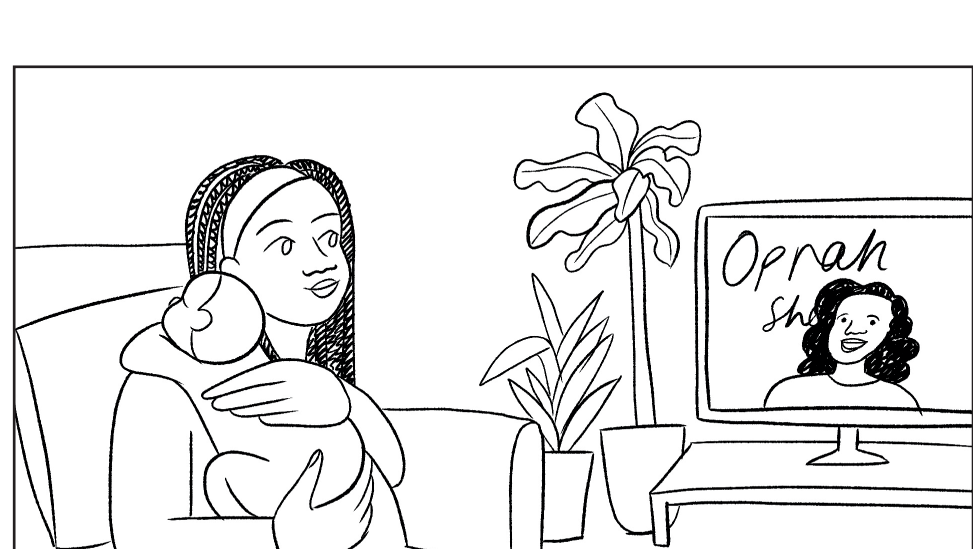
VO:
I did not know where I was, what city, nothing.



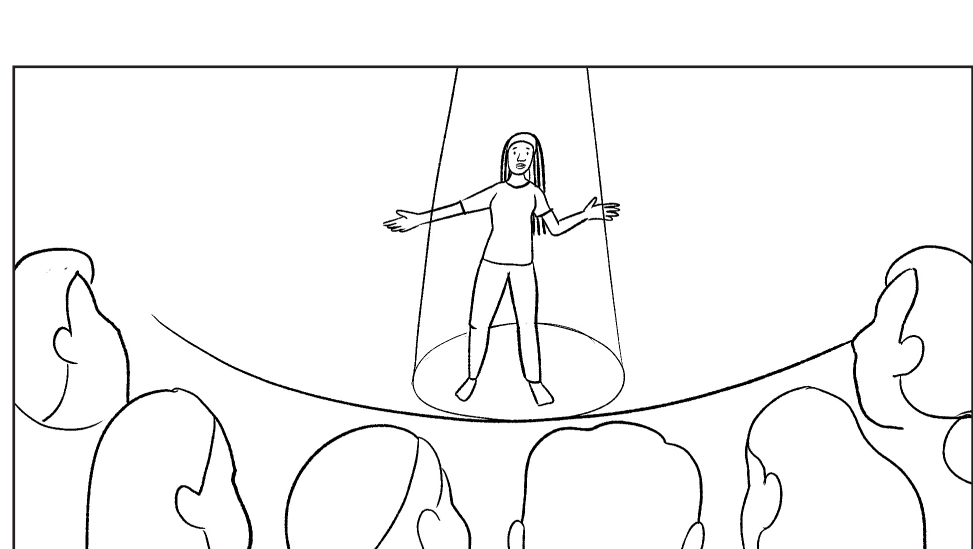
VO:
Ah, I wanted to die!



VO:
I was standing in the middle of the road, when a driver saw me and stopped.



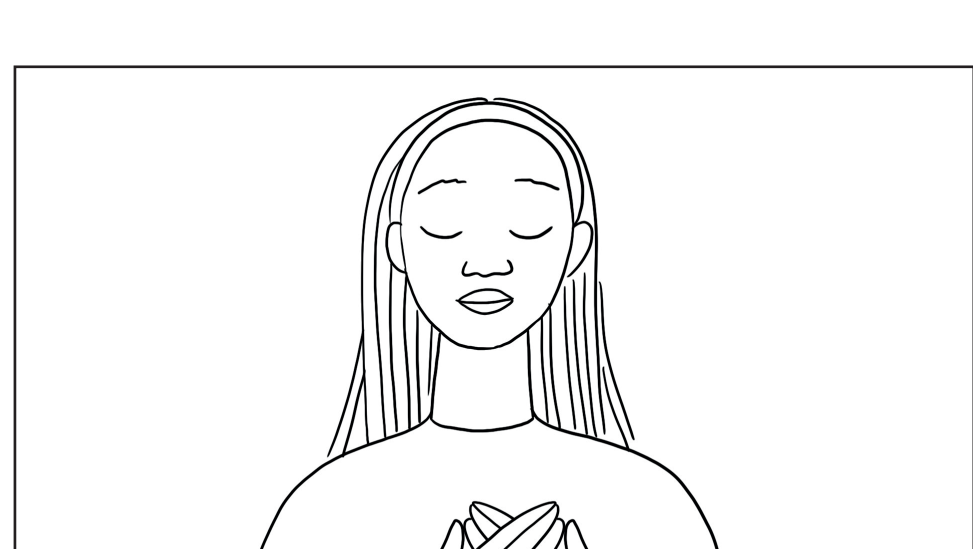
VO:
Dear Oprah,
You once said: "the biggest adventure you can take is to live the life of your dreams."



VO:
I want to become an actress and use my story to help others.
I want women who have been trafficked to know that they are not alone.



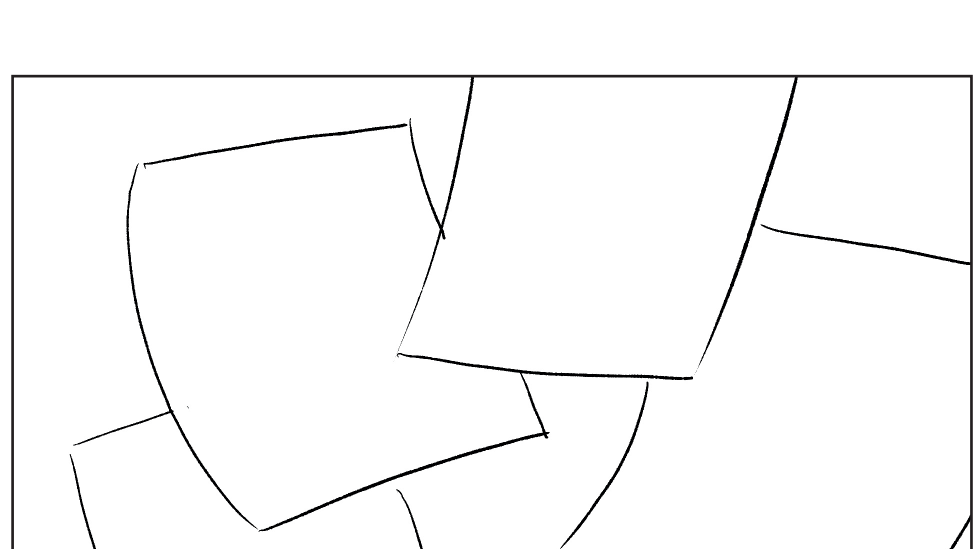
VO:
That plenty of people care. That I care.



VO:
Dear Oprah,
You said, "Turn your pain into wisdom".
Those words healed my heart.
I am no longer a slave.



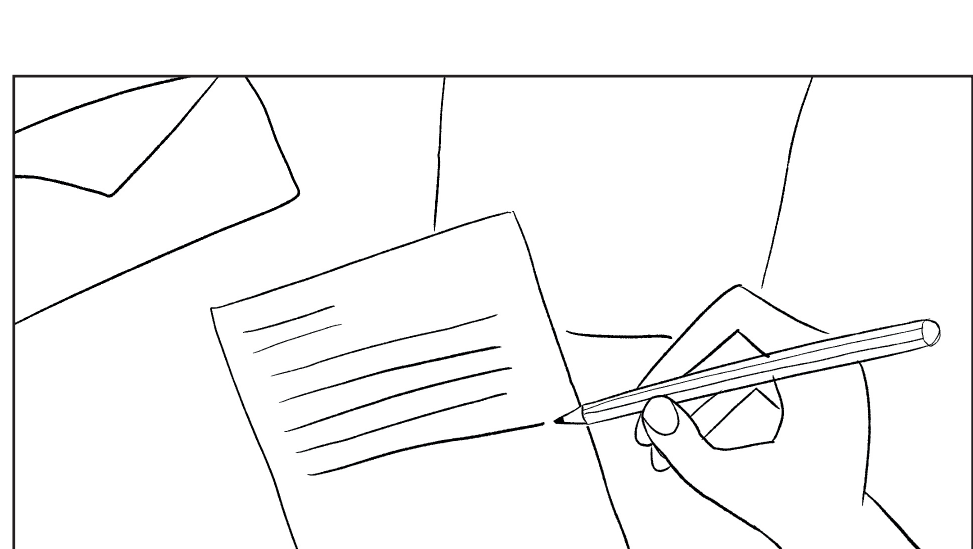
VO:
I've got my papers now. My family surrounds me.



VO:
They are the best thing that ever happened to me.



VO:
They make me strong when I am weak and bring so much joy to my heart.



VO:



VO:
One of my big dreams is to meet you...



VO:
...so I can look into your eyes with a big smile on my face...



VO:
...and say - Thank you. Thank you, Dear Oprah Winfrey.