Beyond Publishing Caribbean and the U.S. Embassy Bridgetown have teamed up to bring you “CrossRoads,” a comic book series chronicling the lives of two brothers growing up in the Caribbean as the crossovers of being just or falling into the temptations of the criminal underworld. Issues facing our young Caribbean men and women today are explored in this graphic novel written by Alan Lynch, and illustrated by Tristan Roach, Edward Bola and Matthew Clarke.

In “CrossRoads Issue 2,” Shamar’s sister, Shaday, is the victim of domestic abuse at the hands of her wealthy boyfriend, Jared. Shaday is hesitant to leave Jared because she believes that he will change. It will take courage, and the help of her family to escape before it is too late.
HELLO.

How come you called me back?

I thought you were going to phone me.

You know how it is with you.

Just thinking, I thought I'd give you a call, you know, by myself.

I guess I'll just hang up then.

I'm just going to hang up.

Hmm.

I'm just going to hang up then.

Heh.

I'll call you later.

Yeah...

I'll call you later.

Heh.

I'll call you later.
I can't just say I'll help myself.

But then again, I always had this thing about helping others.

But this isn't someone I know. This isn't someone I've even had a conversation with. This just seems... wrong.

There's a reason I avoid situations like this. I need to help them. I need to go do this. I need to help someone.

I can't just say I'll help myself.

I need to help. I need to do something.

I want to help.
AT THE MEETING, MARGARET SHARED HER STORY.

YOU STUPID GIRL!

STOP!!

AS I SIT HERE, I THINK ABOUT THE MANY YEARS THAT I ENDER PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE BY MY HUSBAND.

BUT WHAT HAUNTS ME THE MOST IS THE EFFECT IT HAS HAD ON MY CHILDREN. WILL THEY BE SCARED AND GROW UP TO DO THE SAME THING?

HERE AT REACH OF HOPE WE FOCUS ON POWER TRIPS FOR WOMEN AND MENS TO OVERCOME THE SHADOWS OF ALL TYPES OF ABUSE.

IN THE CARIBBEAN, WE HAVE SEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CASES OF ABUSE. PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE. WE HOPE TO CHANGE THAT.

HI, MY NAME IS DR. SUSAN BULANAI, I'M THE CHEF DE STAFF HERE AT THE REACH OF HOPE WOMEN'S SHELTER.

HERE AT REACH OF HOPE WE FOCUS ON POWER TRIPS FOR WOMEN AND MENS TO OVERCOME THE SHADOWS OF ALL TYPES OF ABUSE.

IN THE CARIBBEAN, WE HAVE SEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CASES OF ABUSE. PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE. WE HOPE TO CHANGE THAT.
THANK YOU, MARGARET. FOR COMING. PLEASE EXCUSE ME. PILGRIM, DO YOU MIND TAKING OVER.

HOW ARE YOU DOING?

I'M DOING WELL, IS THIS THE YOUNG LADY YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT ON THE PHONE?

YES, WOULD YOU MIND SHARING YOUR STORY, JONISHA?

WE WERE TEENAGE SWEETHEARTS, INSEPARABLE. WE HAD OUR RIFE BUT WE LOVED EACH OTHER. HE WAS ALWAYS SO CARING AND PROTECTIVE. SO I DON'T MIND HIM LOOKING THROUGH MY PHONE AND STUFF. I DON'T SEE IT AS A SIGN OF HIS INSECURITY.
I understand all of this pain and it cost me. It took numerous surgeries and years of therapy. His fingers were replaced, and there'll always be a bit of fear...

...but I'm glad to be alive, so I fight to stay alive. You're still young and beautiful, your future is bright, get out while you still can.

If you stay, you may not be so lucky.
Our first comic book, “CrossRoads: Issue 1,” showcased the talent and creativity of the Eastern Caribbean. Beyond Publishing Caribbean’s “CrossRoads: Issue 1’s” reach has been extensive. It has been my pleasure to share Shamar and Kemani’s story with libraries, schools and non-profit organizations throughout Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

With the second edition of “CrossRoads,” we’re diving deeper into other increasingly significant and current topics: domestic abuse and gender-based violence. I hope “CrossRoads: Issue 2” gives people something to think and talk about, especially among the youth.

Thank you for reading this story, and supporting these talented Caribbean artists. If anyone you know is struggling with similar issues, and is in need of support, please share the resources below with them.

**CRISIS CENTERS IN U.S. EMBASSY COUNTRIES**

**Antigua & Barbuda**
Directorate of Gender Affairs - Support and Referral Centre (GARC)
Tel: (268) 462-3990
Hotline: (268) 463-5555
Email: gender@ab.gov.ag

Women Against Rape, Antigua and Barbuda
Tel: (268) 721-5553
Email: womenagainstrapeab@gmail.com

**Barbados**
BPW Crisis Centre
Tel: (246) 536-5070
Tel: (246) 435-8222 [Crisis Hotline]
Email: bpwcrisiscentre@gmail.com

Bureau of Gender Affairs
Tel: (246) 535-0102
Email: genderbureau@barbados.gov.bb

**Dominica**
Bureau of Gender Affairs
Tel: (767) 266-3023
Email: genderaffairs@dominica.gov.dm
Dominica National Council of Women
Email: dncw@cwdom.dm

**Grenada**
Grenada National Organization of Women
Tel: (473) 440-5237
Email: gnogendergren@gmail.com
Email: gnogren_grenada@hotmail.com

**St. Kitts & Nevis**
Department of Gender Affairs – St. Kitts
Tel: (869) 466-1397
Email: genaff.gov.kn@gmail.com

**St. Lucia**
Raise Your Voice St. Lucia
Tel: (758) 487-2329
Email: raiseyourvoiceslu@gmail.com

Department of Gender Relations
Tel: (758) 453-0557
Email: gender.relations@govt.lc

**St. Vincent & the Grenadines**
Gender Affairs Division
Tel: (784) 453-2061
Email: genderavg@gmail.com

Legal Aid and Counselling Clinic
Tel: (473) 440-3788
Email: lacc@spiceisle.com

**VIOLENCE RESOLUTION**

**VIOLENT SITUATION. COME ON PULL ME UP. IT’S MY TURN ON THE HEAVY BAG.**

**THE END.**
In “CrossRoads Issue 2,” Shamar’s sister, Shaday, is the victim of domestic abuse at the hands of her wealthy boyfriend, Jared. Shaday is hesitant to leave Jared because she believes that he will change. It will take courage, and the help of her family to escape before it is too late.”