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“I want to show the world I’m alive!”

Ian along with Trina, Antonio, and George are examples of how evil the juvenile system is in America. Towards the end of chapter eight, EJI wants to take photographs of them to spread awareness that these “penalties” need to end for juveniles. Ian was very moved and emotional when he found out his photograph was taken. In Ian’s letter to Steveson, he quotes, “I forgot to mention that today June 19th was my deceased mom's birthday..Reflecting on it afterward it seems symbolic and special that the photo shoot took place on my mother's birthday!” Readers in fact can sense that this is symbolic towards Ian, and although it may seem that it’s only a photo, it has a powerful meaning towards Ian and for the juveniles.

Throughout this chapter, readers continue to get an insight from many cases, but this chapter specifically mentions children, and with these characters being introduced, it is most certainly an emotional intake once you read their backstory. Steveson knows that the juvenile system is terrible so he communicates to readers by digging in deeper and brings connections with these children. One common pattern from these children is that readers can sense that they’re genuinely not bad people. They all had a traumatic family background and developed mental illnesses and though some did not commit a crime, it is communicated they needed help mentally. The aftermath of being sent to a prison to eventually die and get sexually assaulted does not help their situation.

Towards the end of this chapter, there is some light being aimed, but readers know that this is only the beginning, and there's a lot of progress to be made. There are many cases where situations aren't fair, and as this book continues on, the author is sharing those cases to educate us on what it was like roughly 40 years ago-which in terms of history time, is not too long ago. It really makes us think, "is this really america?"