



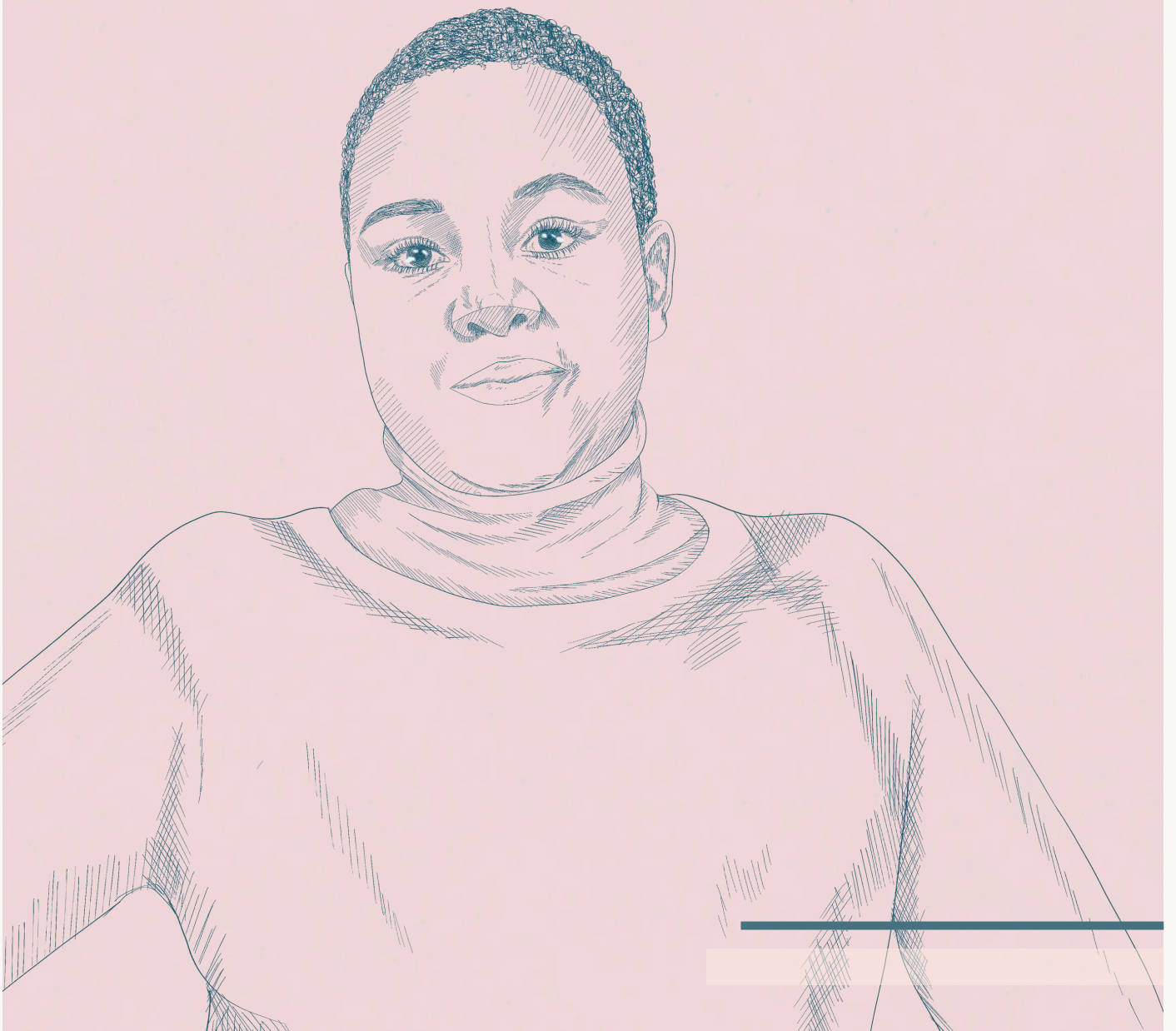
TAKE ME

AS I AM

MOREEN MAMOGALE



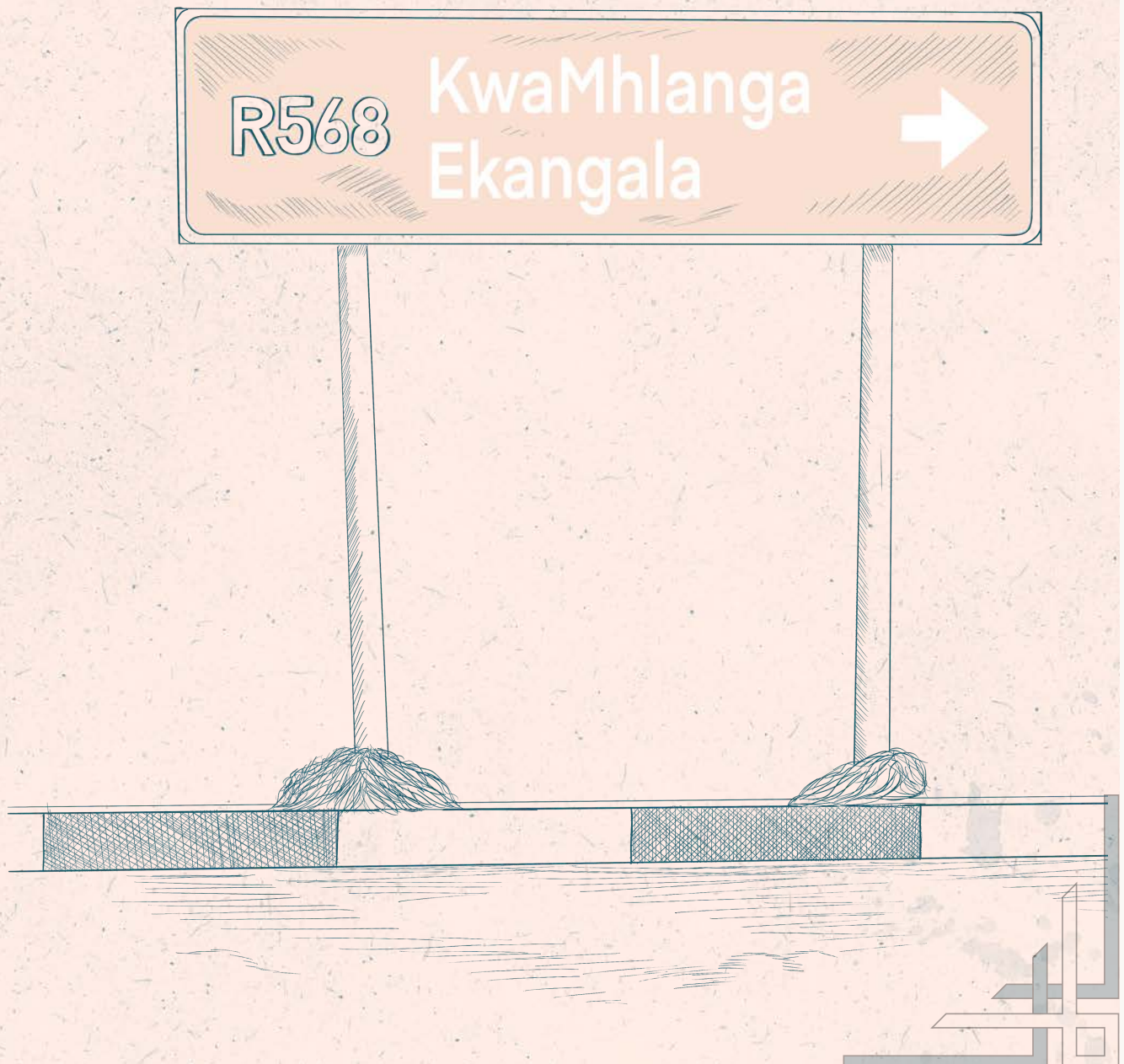
MY NAME IS MOREEN MAMOGALE.  
I WAS BORN IN 1997, IN DENNILTON,  
LIMPOPO AT MPHELENG.  
AFTER I WAS BORN, WE MOVED TO  
EKANGALA IN BRONKHORSTSPRUIT.





I WENT TO HLOLISISA PRIMARY AND THEN MOVED TO  
SITJHEJIWE SENIOR SCHOOL, WHERE I FINISHED GRADE 12.  
MY FAVOURITE SUBJECT WAS TOURISM BECAUSE I LIKE TRAVEL.

MY EXPERIENCE OF SCHOOL WAS NOT GOOD BECAUSE  
WE DID NOT HAVE A LOT OF MONEY. UNLIKE MY FRIENDS,  
MY HOME SITUATION SERIOUSLY AFFECTED MY SCHOOL LIFE  
BECAUSE SOMETIMES MY MOTHER DID NOT HAVE WORK AND  
I WOULD OFTEN GO TO CLASSES ON AN EMPTY STOMACH.



I WAS RAISED BY A  
SINGLE MOTHER,  
MILRDRED MAMOGALE,  
WHO HAD  
FOUR DAUGHTERS.  
SHE MADE SURE  
THAT I RECEIVED  
EVERYTHING I NEEDED,  
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS  
DIFFICULT FOR HER.  
SHE WORKED AT A  
CRÈCHE AND EARNED  
R800 A MONTH.  
SHE MADE SURE  
THAT OUR FAMILY  
WAS OKAY.





MY MOTHER, SISTER AND I LIVE TOGETHER,  
BUT NO ONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD WORKS.  
MY SISTER AND I EACH HAVE A DAUGHTER.

AT THE MOMENT, WE DO NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES WE NEED  
TO PROVIDE FOR MY SISTER'S DAUGHTER, WHO IS STILL A BABY.  
WE SURVIVE ON OUR SOCIAL GRANTS OF R480, WHICH COMES TO  
R960 PER MONTH. I WISH SOMEONE COULD HELP US WITH  
MONEY OR GROCERIES BECAUSE IT IS SO PAINFUL TO WAKE UP  
NOT KNOWING WHAT OUR FAMILY IS GOING TO EAT.  
WE LIVE IN AN RDP HOUSE FROM THE GOVERNMENT.  
I NEED A JOB TO BUILD MY OWN ROOM BECAUSE I SHARE ONE  
WITH MY MOTHER AND I NEED MY OWN SPACE.





## MY DAUGHTER'S NAME IS OMPHILE.

SHE WAS BORN ON MAY 18TH, 2020.


THE FIRST TIME I SAW HER,  
SHE BROUGHT ME SO MUCH JOY.

I LOVE SEEING HER SMILE - IT MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME.  
SEEING HER HAPPY MAKES ME FORGET MY SITUATION.

I ENJOY THE TIME WE SPEND TOGETHER  
AND I LOVE TO HEAR HER CALLING ME 'MAMA'.

I HAD DREAMED THAT, WHEN I BECAME A MOTHER,  
I WOULD HAVE A BABY GIRL.

I LOVE HER WITH ALL MY HEART  
AND I TELL HER ALL THE TIME,  
'YOUR MAMA LOVES YOU A LOT'.

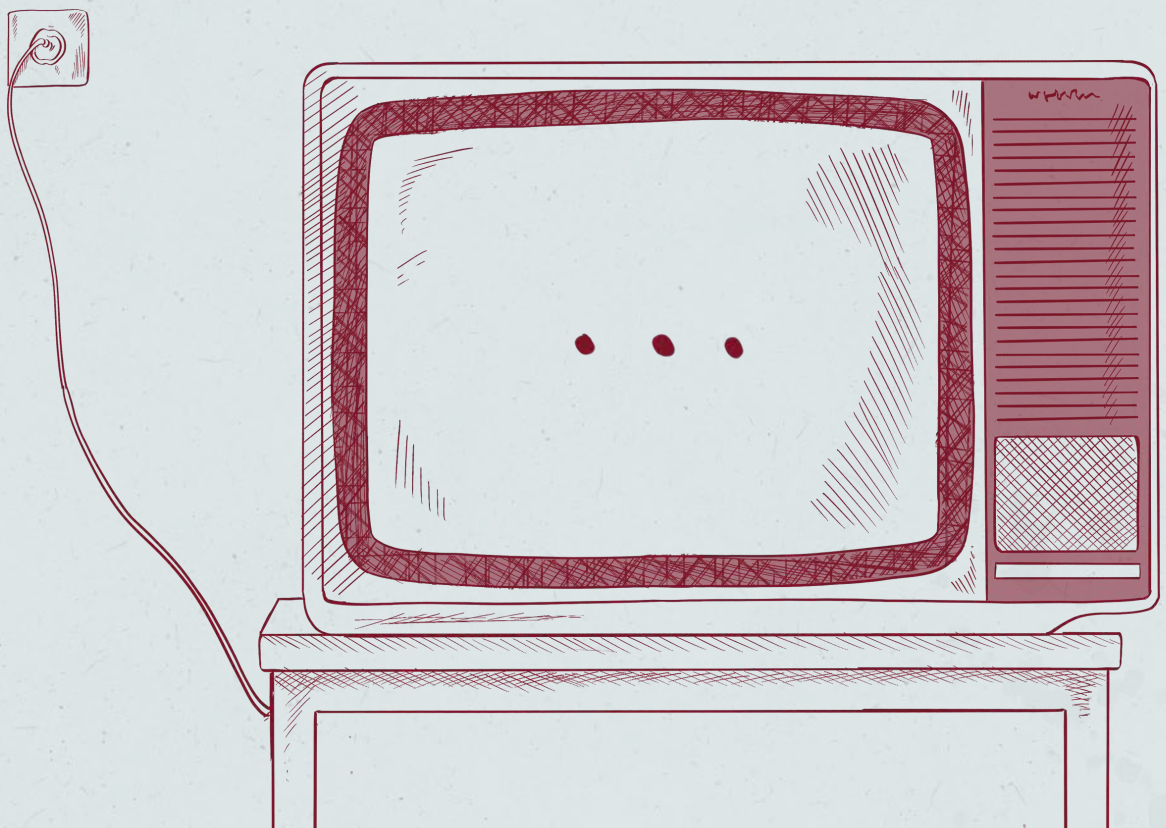







I LIKE TO LISTEN TO MUSIC AND SING WHILE I AM BUSY. I LOVE GOSPEL AND AMAPIANO. MY FAVOURITE ARTISTS ARE HLENGIWE MHLABA, DUMI MKOKSTAD AND LEBO SEKGOBELA. MY FAVOURITE SONGS ARE ULWANDLE BY DUMI MKOKSTAD AND SWEET JESUS BY HLENGIWE MHLABA. I ALSO ENJOY WATCHING TV, ESPECIALLY SOAPIES AND MOTIVATIONAL PROGRAMMES. I ENJOY WATCHING MOJA LOVE BECAUSE THEY HELP PEOPLE.

I AM A KIND PERSON BUT I AM TOO SHY. MY DREAM WAS TO BECOME A SOCIAL WORKER SO THAT I COULD HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NEED. I DO NOT LIKE TO SEE PEOPLE SUFFER. IT MAKES ME WANT TO CRY BECAUSE OF HOW MY HEART HURTS. MY DREAM NEVER CAME TRUE DUE TO MY FINANCIAL SITUATION.








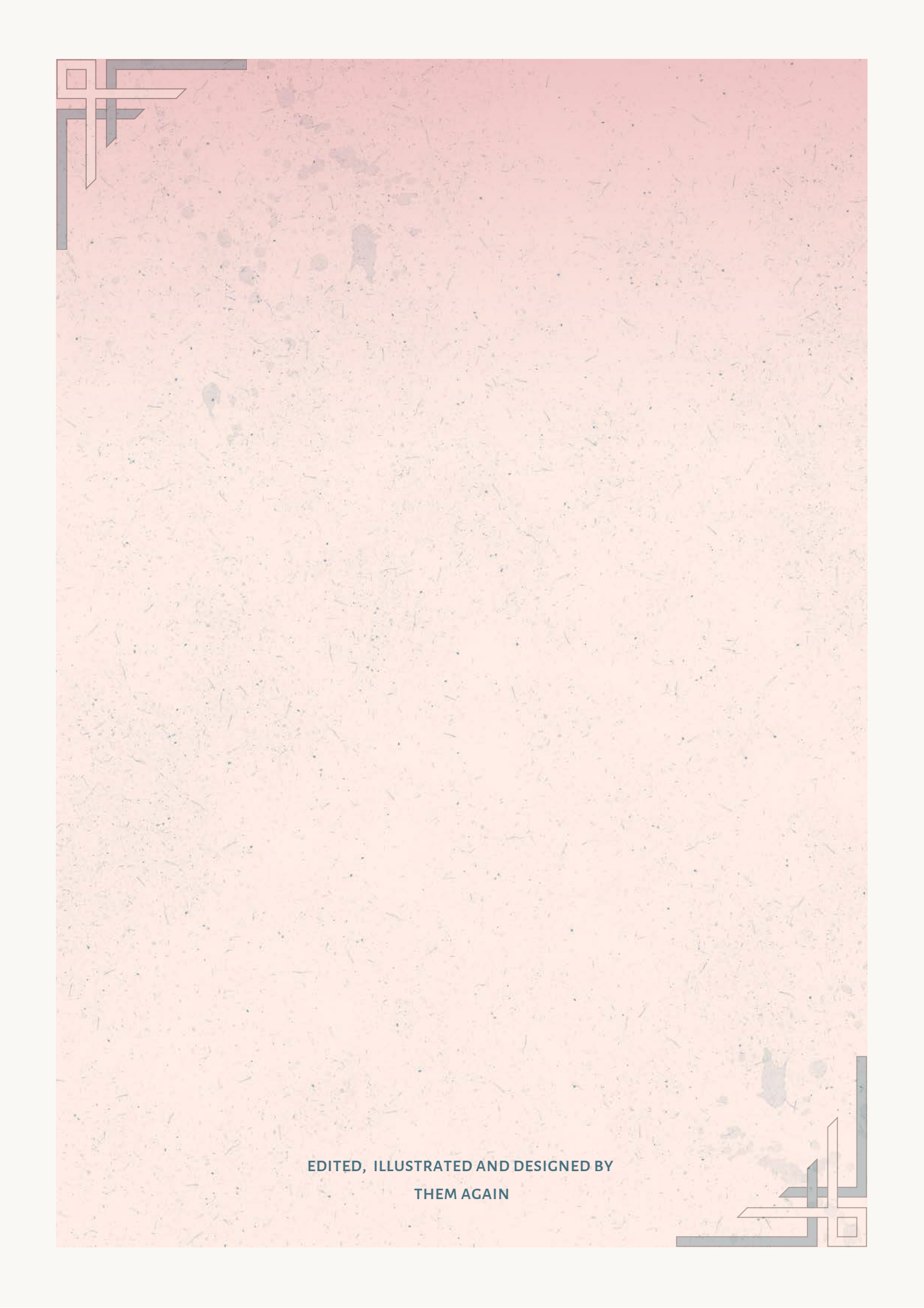
WE LIVE IN POVERTY. I OFTEN HAVE TO ASK  
PEOPLE FOR MONEY IN ORDER TO EAT.

TO CHANGE MY SITUATION, I CAN SEARCH FOR  
PIECE JOBS FOR MYSELF SO THAT I CAN HELP MY  
FAMILY. I WANT THEM TO BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE  
THEIR DREAMS. MY MOTHER'S DREAM WAS TO  
HAVE A BIG HOUSE WITH BEAUTIFUL FURNITURE.

I WANT TO BE A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR MY FAMILY.  
I WANT TO BE SOMEONE WHO WILL MAKE THEIR  
LIFE EASIER, SO THAT THEY CAN LIVE A SOFT LIFE  
WHERE THEY HAVE EVERYTHING THEY NEED.

I WANT TO VOLUNTEER SOMEWHERE TO GET A  
SMALL INCOME. I HAVE A MATRIC QUALIFICATION  
AND AM COMPUTER LITERATE. I WOULD LOVE TO  
VOLUNTEER AT HOMEBASE CENTRES SO THAT I  
CAN GROW MY KNOWLEDGE. I STILL DREAM OF  
BECOMING A SOCIAL WORKER AND WILL KEEP  
PUSHING UNTIL I CAN SUCCEED.





EDITED, ILLUSTRATED AND DESIGNED BY  
THEM AGAIN