

# ALL THE WAY HOME

REAL STORIES FROM MAINE VETERANS

*a comic book*

**HOW'D YOU STAY SANE RETURNING FROM DEPLOYMENT?**

*drawn by Danica Novgorodoff*

**CHARITY NICOLE**

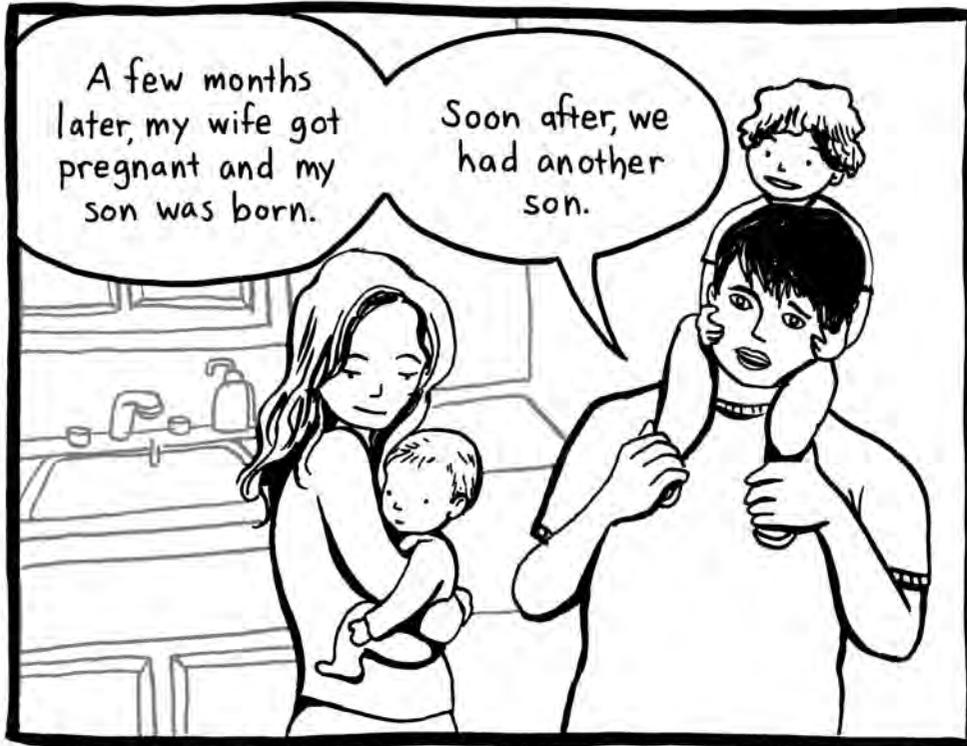
*drawn by Daniel Minter*

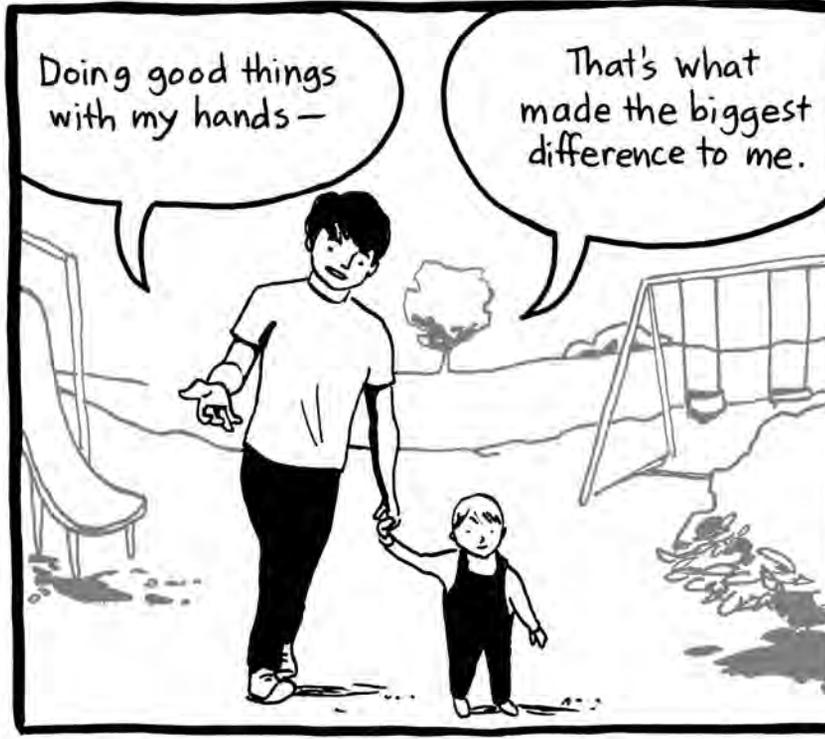
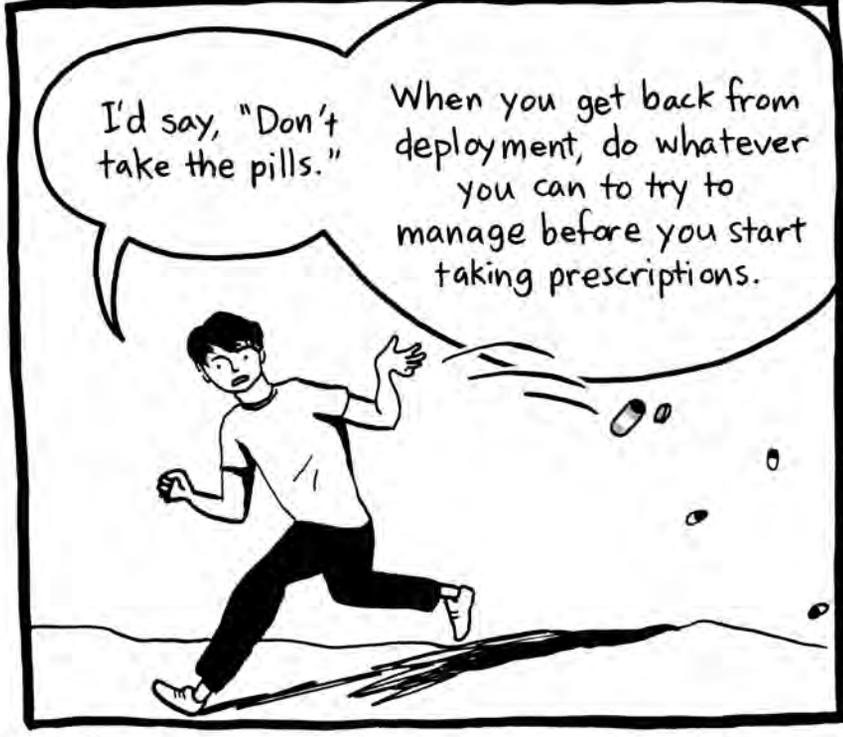
**3 AND 1/2 YEARS IN-COUNTRY**

*drawn by Jay Piscopo*

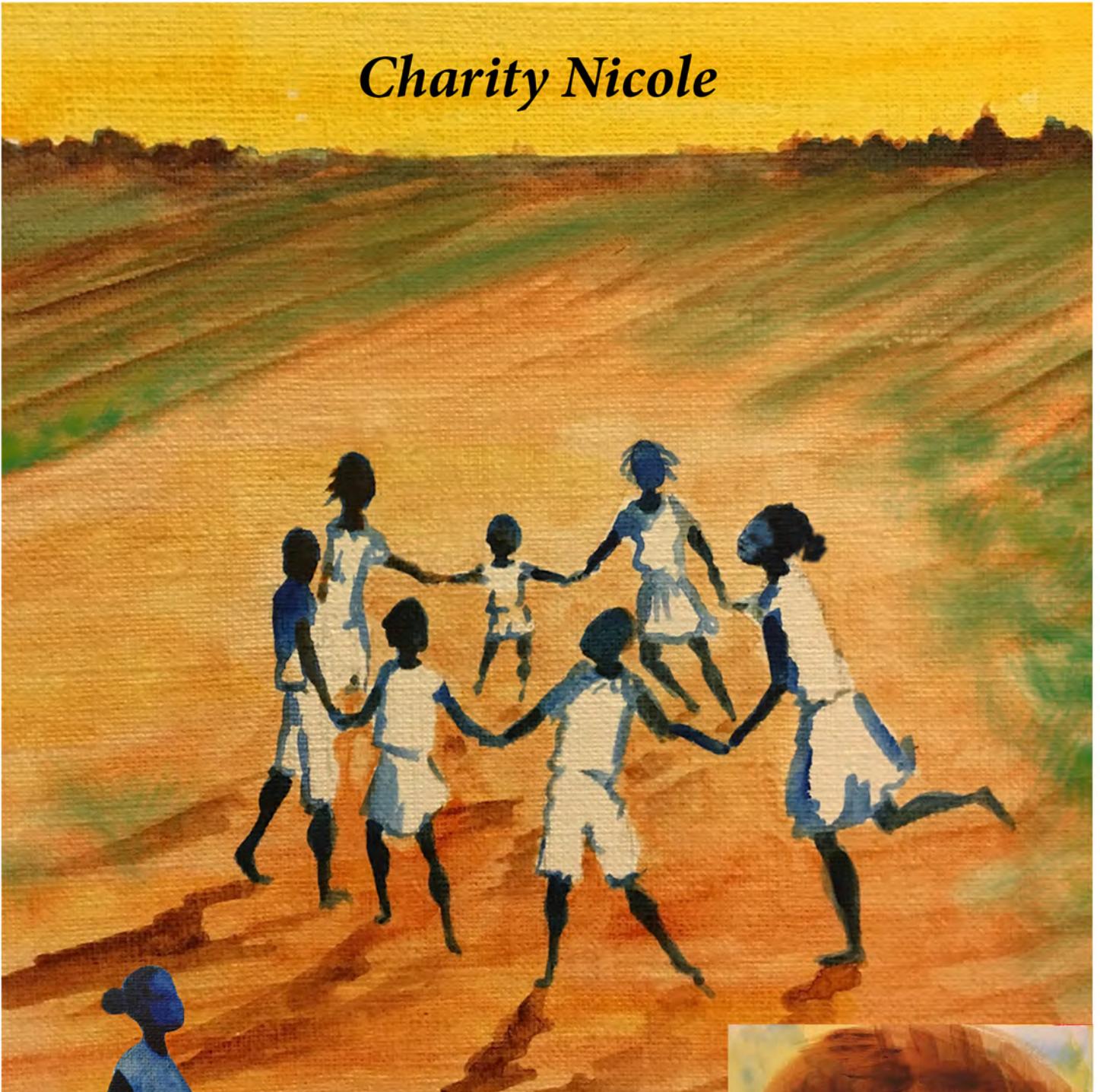
All The Way Home is a project of Art At Work/Terra Moto Inc.  
Director Marty Pottenger. Contact [marty@artatwork.us](mailto:marty@artatwork.us) / [www.artatwork.us](http://www.artatwork.us)  
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Maine Military Community Network and Maine Arts Commission

# "HOW'D YOU STAY SANE RETURNING FROM DEPLOYMENT?"





# Charity Nicole



I was in the Army for 20 years. Grew up in Georgia, oldest of 7 children.

I got married early and divorced when I was 24.

I needed a job so I enlisted.

I served in Germany, Guantanamo, Korea, Iraq – Desert Storm & Desert Shield.

Been a Pfc, Sgt., Staff Sgt., SSG., always working in the Army's version of Human Services.





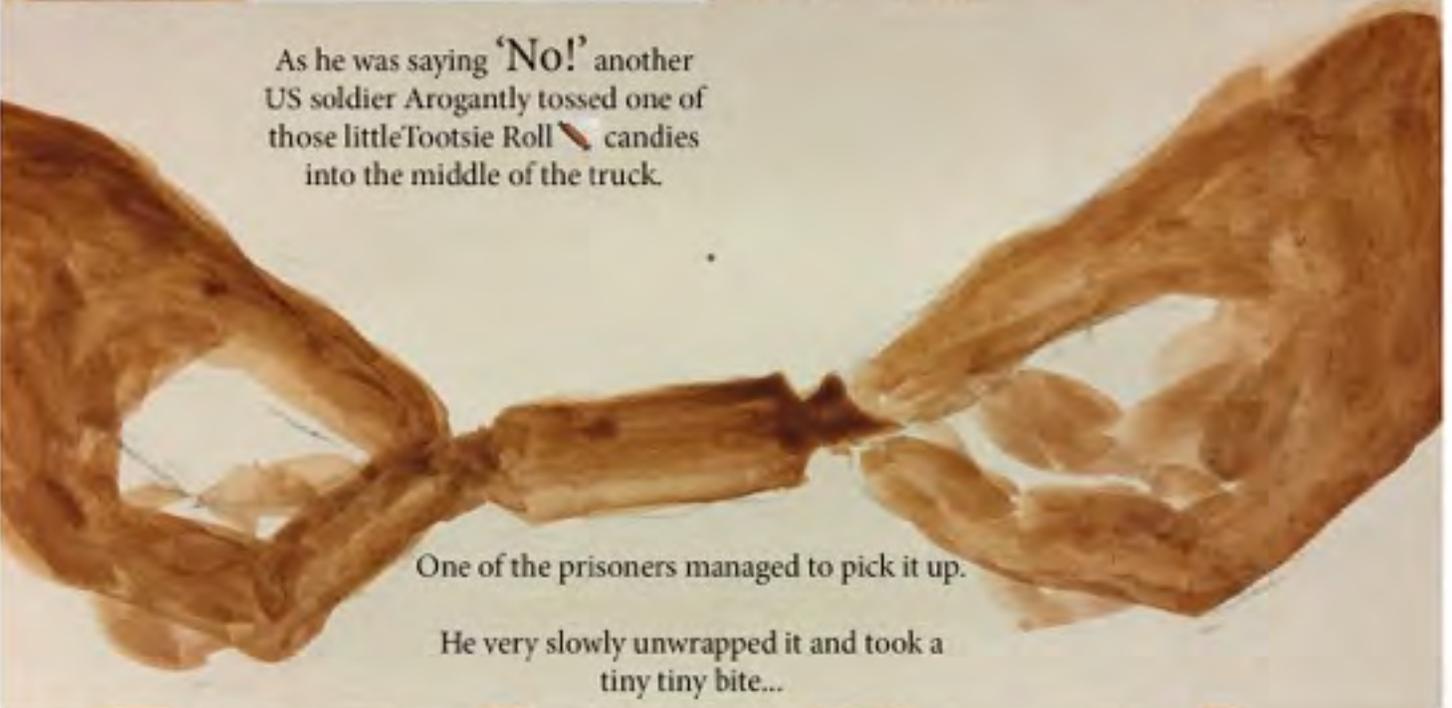
One afternoon in Iraq they needed me over at prisoner intake.

I got there and saw an open-bed truck filled with Iraq prisoners - some looked 12 years old, some looked 70. Everybody looked hungry. I'm a Christian. I believe in treating everyone with kindness.

I asked the Sgt. if I could give them my 2 MRE's.



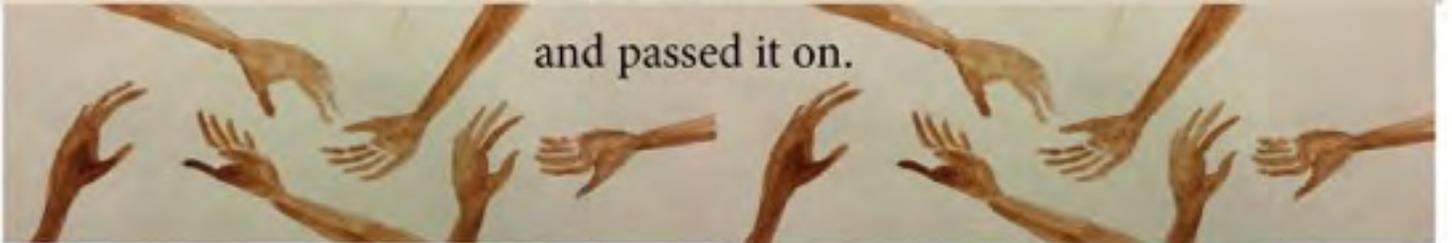
As he was saying 'No!' another US soldier arrogantly tossed one of those little Tootsie Roll candies into the middle of the truck.

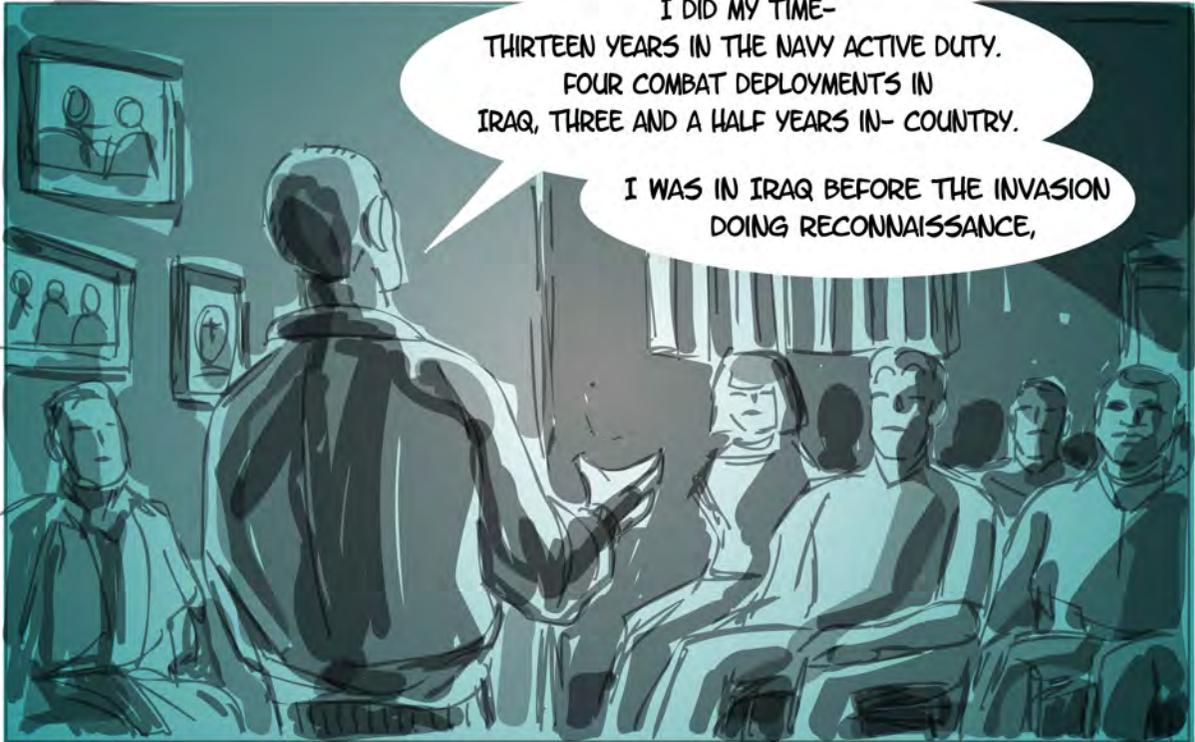


One of the prisoners managed to pick it up.

He very slowly unwrapped it and took a tiny tiny bite...

and passed it on.





I DID MY TIME-  
THIRTEEN YEARS IN THE NAVY ACTIVE DUTY.  
FOUR COMBAT DEPLOYMENTS IN  
IRAQ, THREE AND A HALF YEARS IN- COUNTRY.

I WAS IN IRAQ BEFORE THE INVASION  
DOING RECONNAISSANCE,



DID THE REST OF MY TIME GOT OUT IN '09,



MOVED UP HERE  
AND STARTED WORKING FOR  
MYSELF BECAUSE AS YOU GUYS KNOW  
MAINE'S TOUGH TO FIND WORK.



FALLUJAH AND RAMADI WAS WICKED HOT IN '06 AND '07.  
I WAS THERE FOR 14 MONTHS.

PERSONALLY,  
I WAS INVOLVED WITH STARTING  
TWO DIFFERENT SWAT TEAMS  
OVER THERE.



WE WORKED  
REALLY REALLY HARD DURING  
THE AWAKENING.

STARTING TWO SWAT TEAMS  
AND THEN KNOWING THAT 95%  
OF THOSE GUYS GOT WIPED OUT  
BY ISIS -

THAT'S A PRETTY SHITTY FEELING.

I WOULD JUST SAY  
THAT IF YOU SERVED IN IRAQ,  
AND YOU WATCH THE NEWS AND YOU'RE  
FRUSTRATED AND PISSED OFF-



-YOU ARE NOT ALONE.



WHAT YOU DID OVER THERE WAS JUST.  
WHAT WE DID OVER THERE HAD PURPOSE.  
UNFORTUNATELY THE WORLD  
IS JUST A CRAZY PLACE.



WHAT WE CAN CONTROL  
IS... WE CAN CONTROL  
THAT WE'RE HERE,  
AND WE CAN ONLY CONTROL  
FROM THIS DAY FORWARD  
SO DO YOUR BEST.

WHAT ELSE CAN I SAY?