

## An Excerpt of 'Frank' in The Lies We Live – A Corner Confessions Novel

“You’ve got a lot on your mind, huh?” Steph settled back in her chair, waiting to see what else he had to say.

“More than you can imagine,” Frank answered. He, too, settled back in his chair, and he threw one leg up over the other, his right ankle resting on his left knee. “So, TK gets dragged through the county’s court system, and they tell her she can’t self-treat her medical issues anymore but instead has to get a prescription for medical marijuana through a doctor.”

Steph groaned at this, “That sounds like a bunch of bullshit, honestly. What’d she do then? How’d she take it?”

Frank smirked and shook his head. “Well, now TK’s had to go through several doctor appointments with several different doctors, running all over the place, getting the runaround, playing *Mother, May I* with these doctors – and I’ll tell ya, some of ‘em get it, and some of ‘em just keep trying to push pills at her, and she’s already tried all those things.” He shook his head in disgust, “I’ll tell ya somethin’ else, too. That medical marijuana they’re selling to the patients who’re lucky enough to get that far – well, it’s not good. Not good, at all. Apparently, the state growers haven’t been harvesting the stuff the right way, and they’ve been taking too long to harvest it, so by the time it gets to the dispensary, it’s more mold than marijuana. This medical marijuana’s makin’ people sick! Stuff that’s supposed to be making people better is making them worse ‘cause the state just doesn’t know what the hell they’re doin’, and of course, that don’t matter. They don’t care. They’re not gonna let anyone grow their own when they could be growing cheap shit and selling it to them for outrageous sums. It all comes back to money. Greed. And if you think about it – I mean, *really* think about it – the government’s been playin’ us the whole time!” Frank was red in the face, and his hands were in fists, shaking on the table. He sounded like he was preaching at a Baptist Revival. “They took marijuana away because they were enforcing their made-up, arbitrary, Puritan values on us, but even more so, they knew marijuana was too useful to let it stick around. They had to get rid of it so Big Pharma could keep growin’ like a tick fulla blood! Now they see the people are demanding it back, so they’re makin’ a big show about these medical marijuana programs, but they’re just poisoning people and over-chargin’ em while they’re at it. How’re they expectin’ folk to live like this? I swear... And then, since it’s still illegal at the federal level, all these employers are gettin’ to discriminate against medical marijuana patients. And don’t even get me started on the states where it’s still illegal ‘cross the board – all them families separated ‘cause havin’ pot on you can put y’in jail, sometimes for years... but for most, they get *life* in prison! Shit, it just makes me so furious. And the media won’t cover none a’this, so most people’d never know what was goin’ on unless it became an issue for them personally, or someone told ‘em. It’s a silent persecution, it is. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph! God bless the TKs of the world, and may He grant me the courage to stand with ‘em. Can’t believe I didn’t have her back... Still can’t believe it...”

As if someone had suddenly let the wind out of his sails, Frank fell silent and Steph saw his hands relax on the table. His face slowly returned to normal, and he brought a hand down over his eyes and mouth, inhaling sharply and exhaling deeply. His eyes refocused on Steph and he gave a weak smile, “Well, that’s a rage that’s been bubblin’ in me for some time, now...”