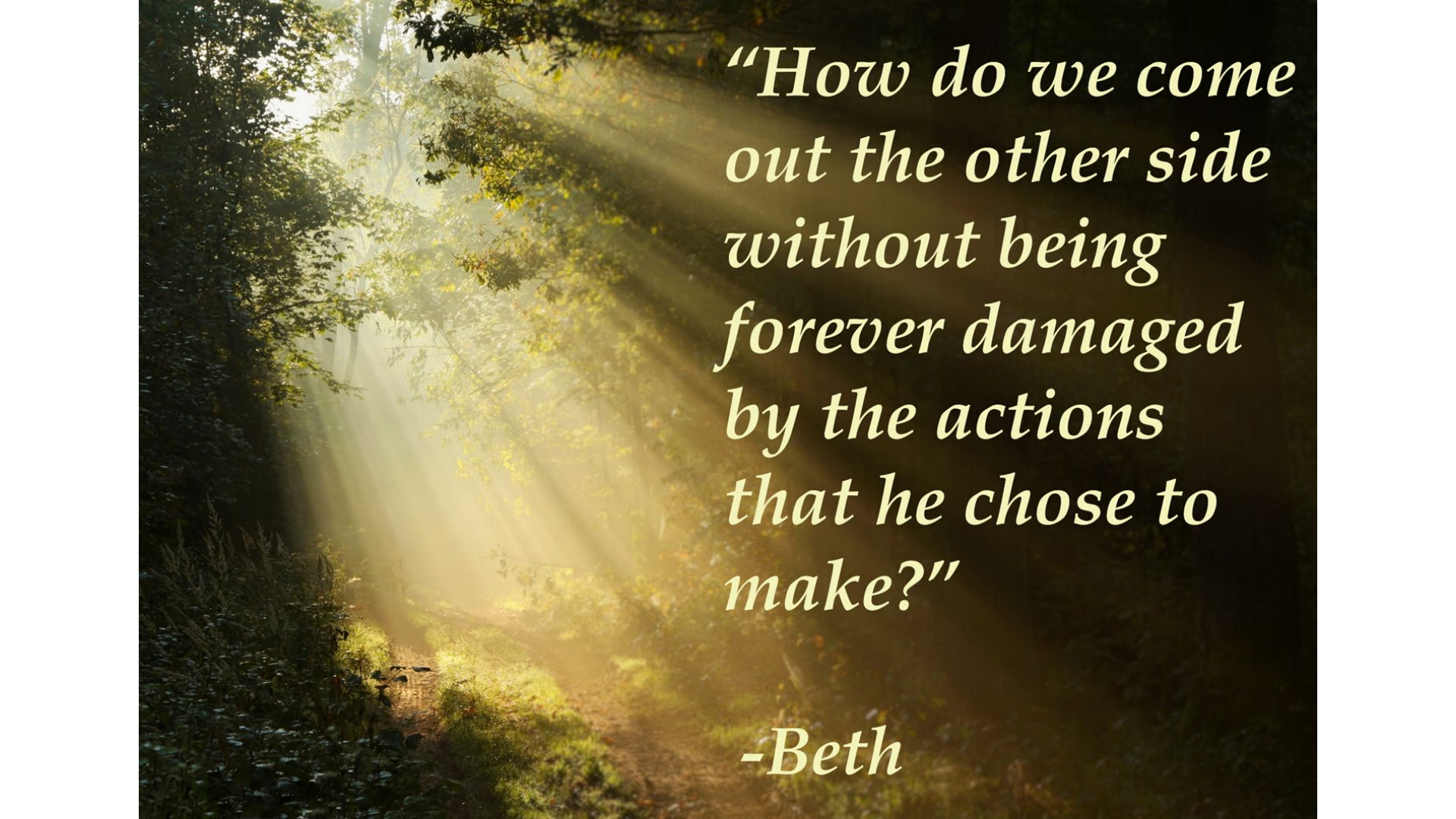
A photograph of a sunlit forest path. Sunbeams (crepuscular rays) filter through the dense canopy of green trees, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The path is narrow and appears to be made of dirt or small stones, leading into the distance. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

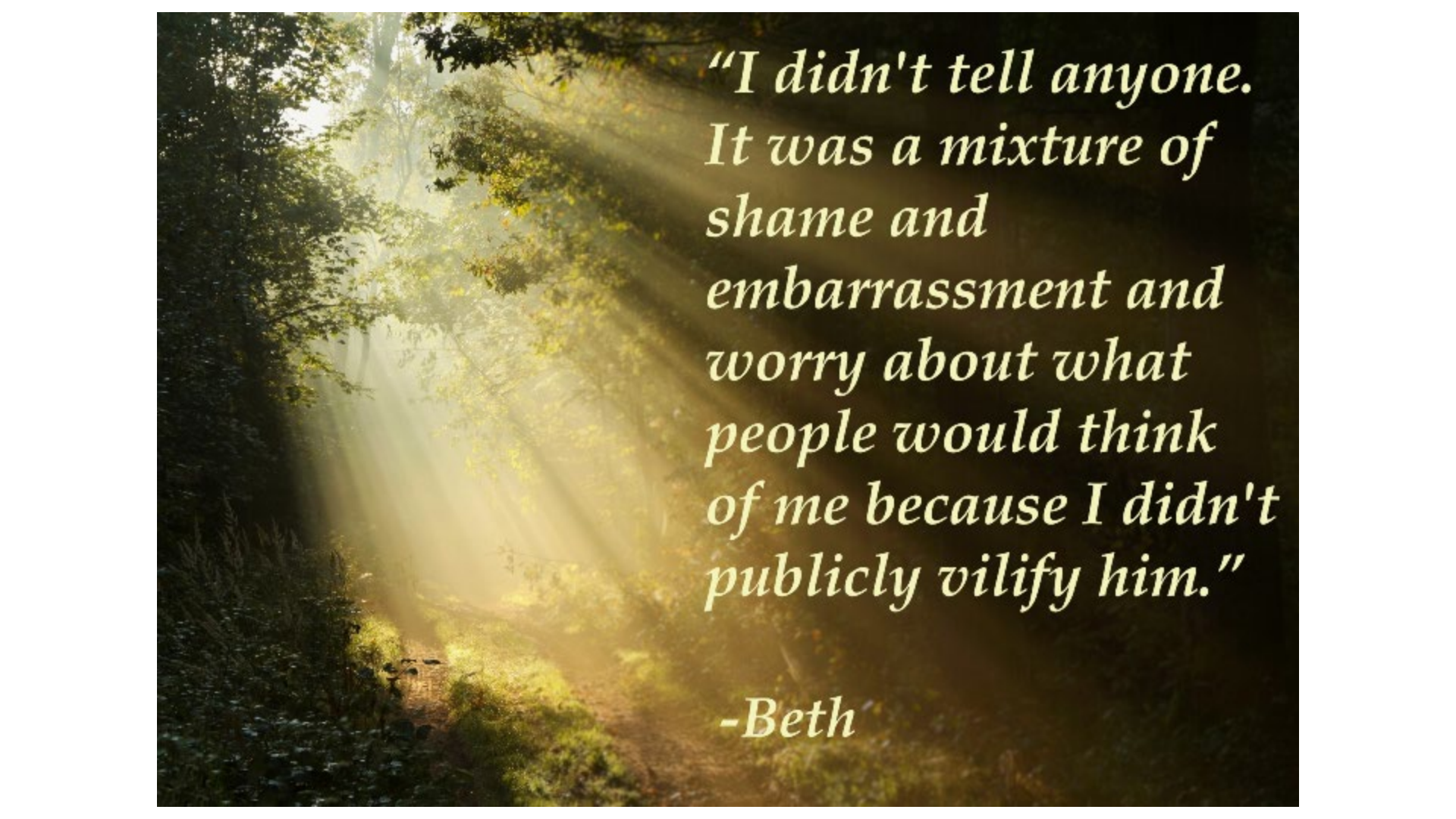
"The after effects of his arrest was so much more than the financial loss of losing a business and a home, or the emotional loss of losing my partner and the father of my son; I'd also lost confidence in myself and my ability to judge character and make decisions – how did I not know?"

-Beth

A photograph of a forest path. Sunlight streams through the trees, creating a bright path through the woods. The light is golden and creates a hazy, ethereal atmosphere. The path is narrow and leads into the distance. The trees are lush and green, with some leaves showing signs of autumn. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

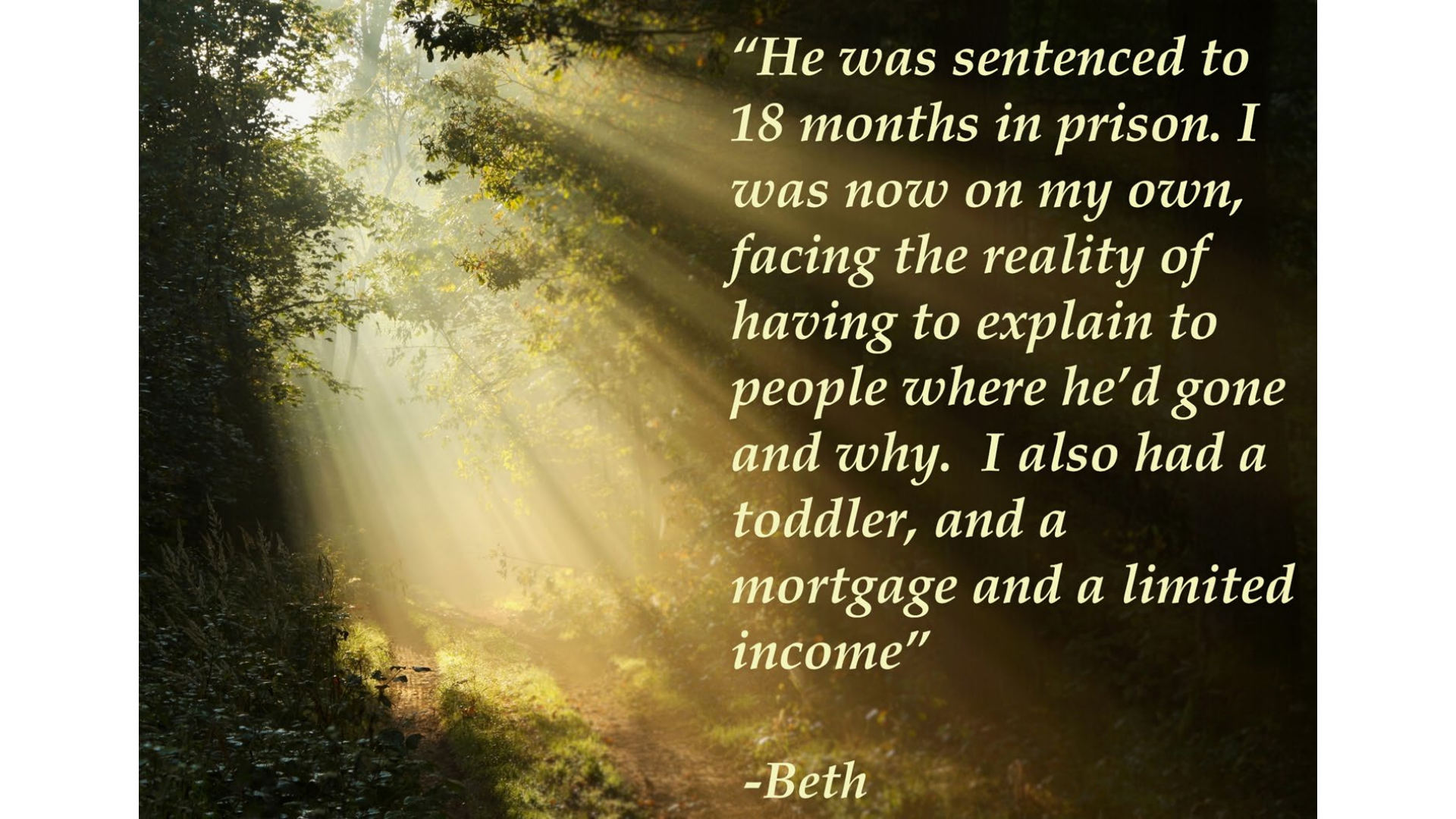
*“How do we come
out the other side
without being
forever damaged
by the actions
that he chose to
make?”*

-Beth



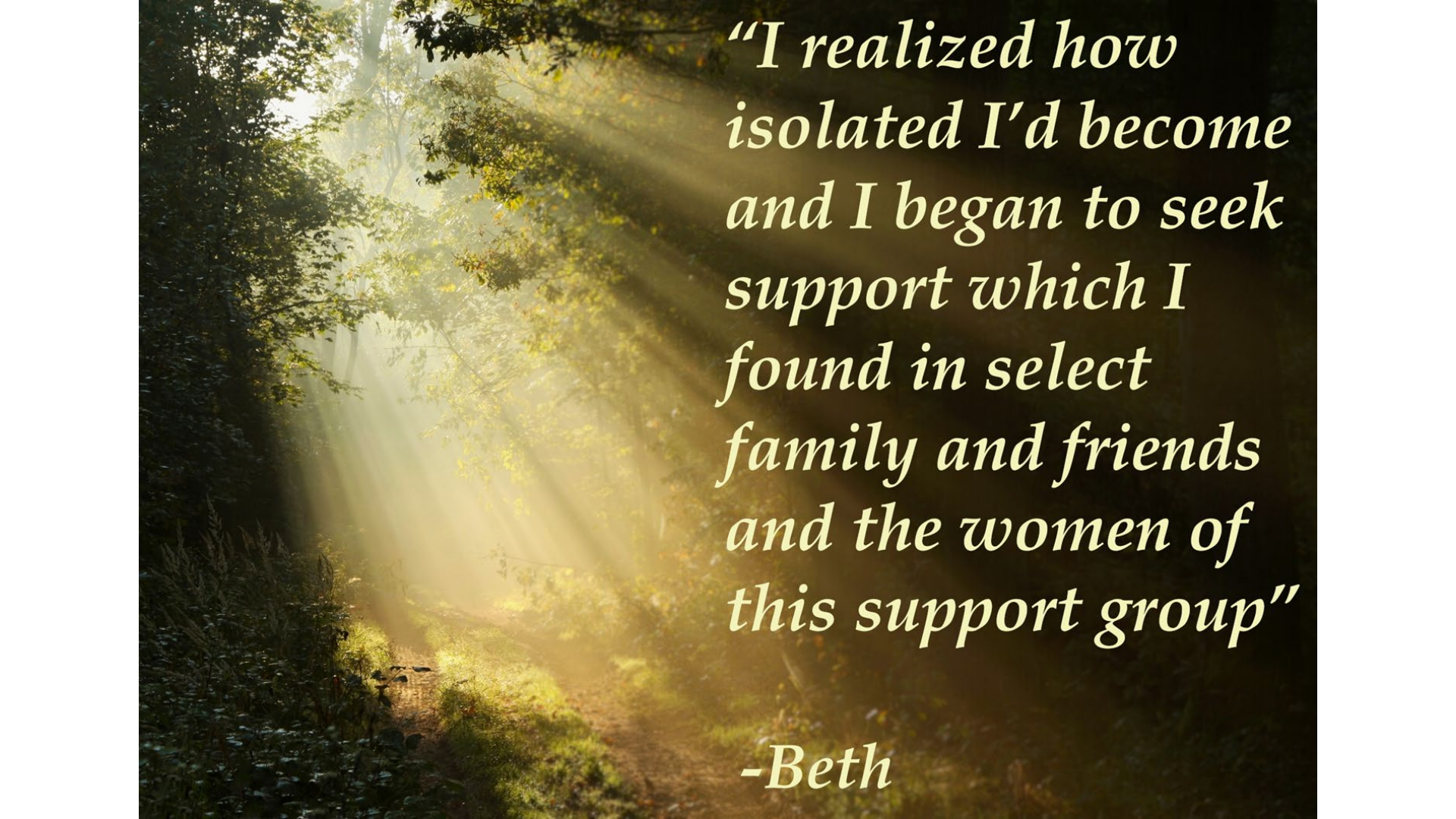
*"I didn't tell anyone.
It was a mixture of
shame and
embarrassment and
worry about what
people would think
of me because I didn't
publicly vilify him."*

-Beth

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight streaming through the trees, creating a warm and hopeful atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

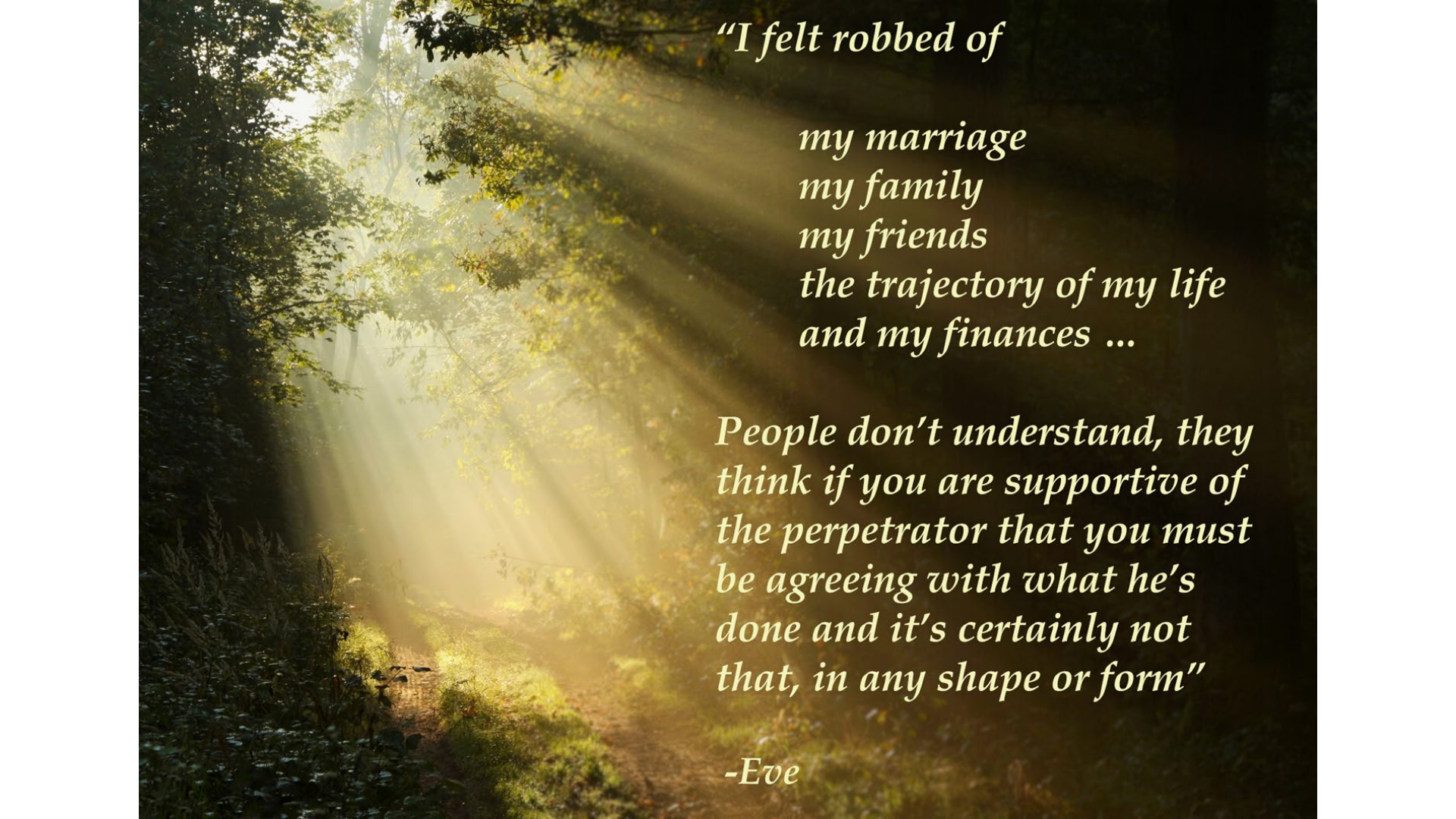
“He was sentenced to 18 months in prison. I was now on my own, facing the reality of having to explain to people where he’d gone and why. I also had a toddler, and a mortgage and a limited income”

-Beth

A photograph of a sunlit forest path. Sunbeams (crepuscular rays) filter through the dense green foliage, creating a warm, golden glow. The path is narrow and appears to be made of dirt or small stones, leading into the distance. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

*“I realized how
isolated I’d become
and I began to seek
support which I
found in select
family and friends
and the women of
this support group”*

-Beth



"I felt robbed of

my marriage

my family

my friends

the trajectory of my life

and my finances ...

People don't understand, they think if you are supportive of the perpetrator that you must be agreeing with what he's done and it's certainly not that, in any shape or form"

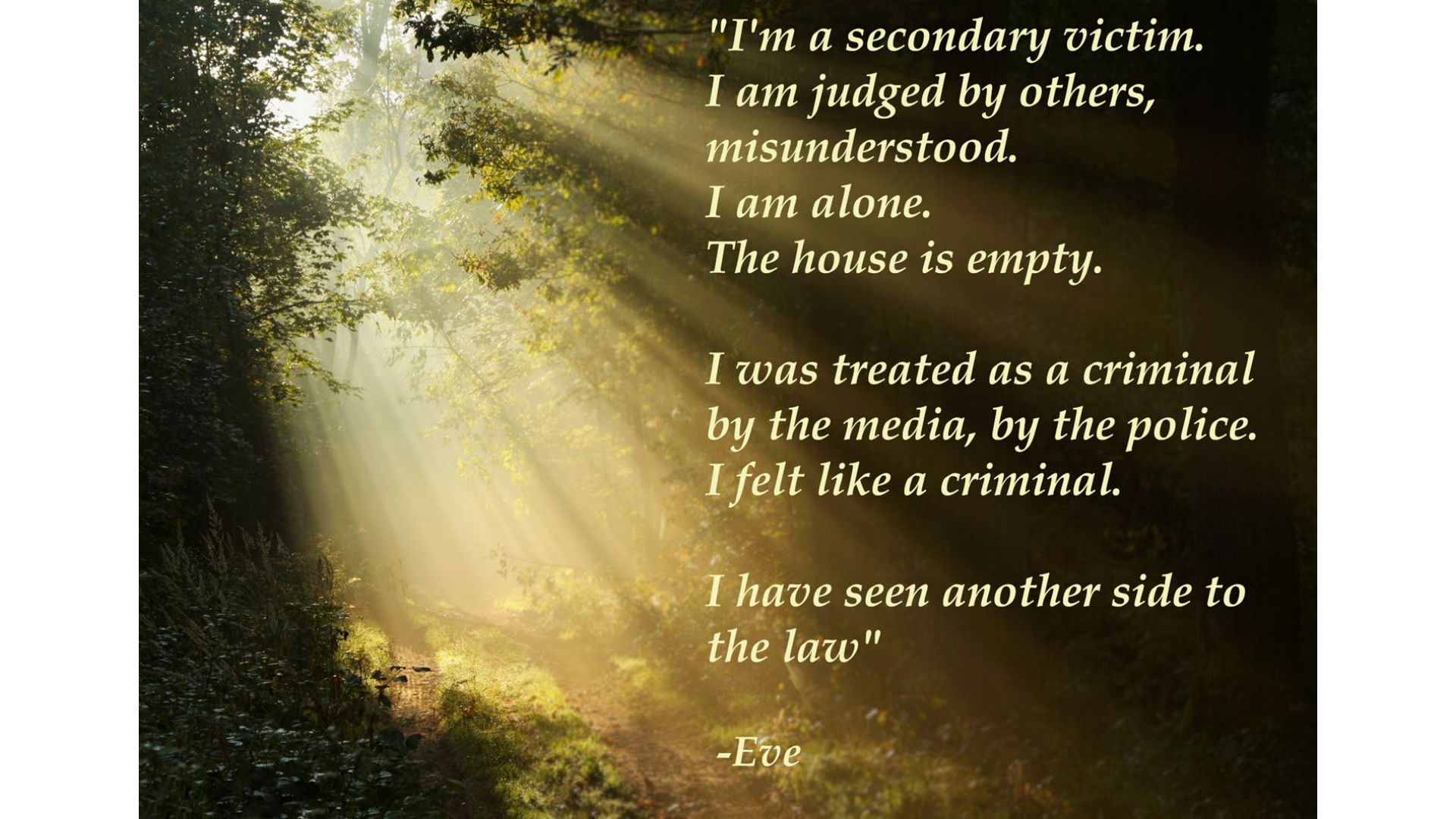
-Eve



*"People see it as
BLACK and
WHITE.*

*In all of this there
are shades of
colour."*

-Eve

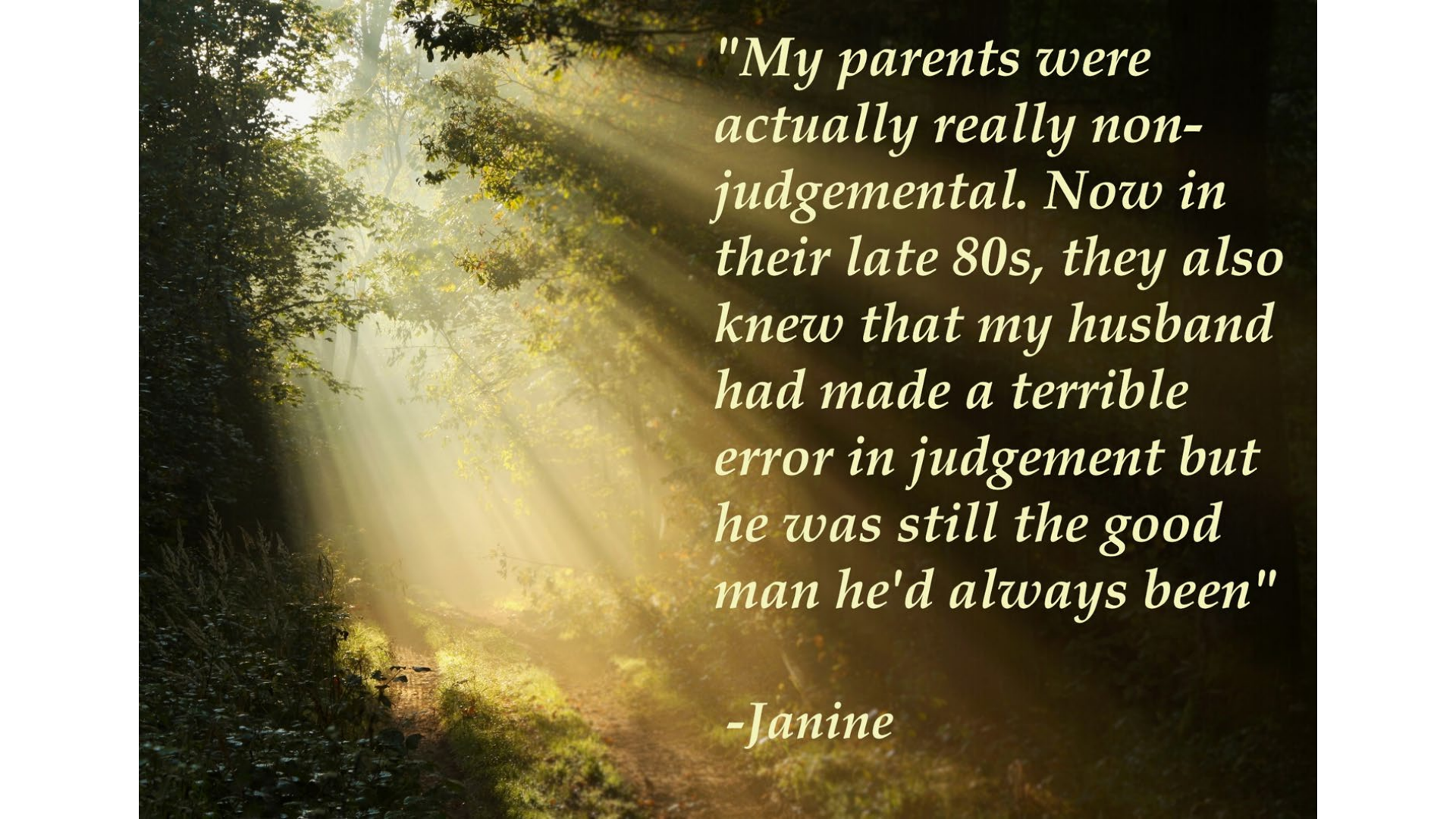


*"I'm a secondary victim.
I am judged by others,
misunderstood.
I am alone.
The house is empty.*

*I was treated as a criminal
by the media, by the police.
I felt like a criminal.*

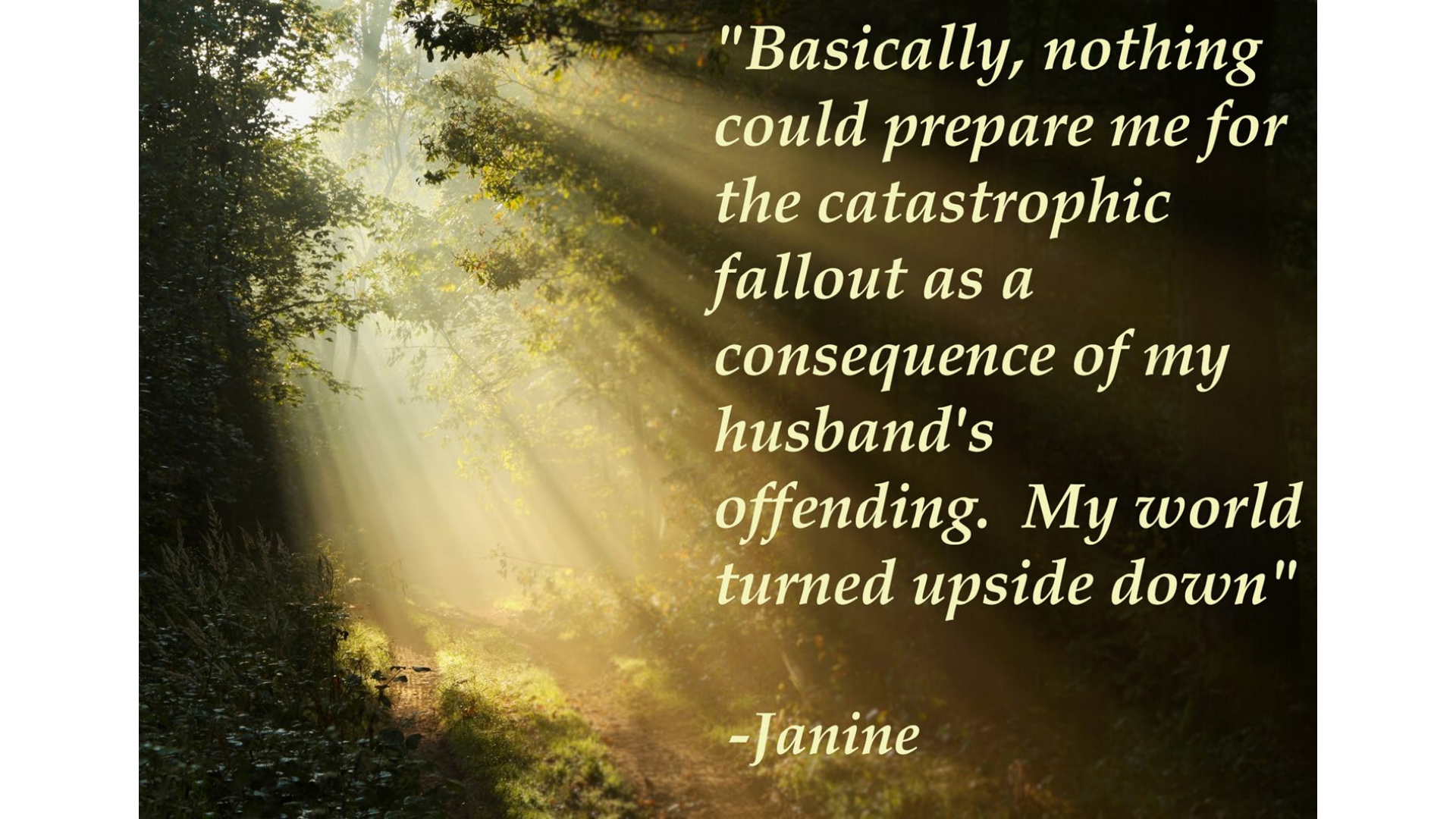
*I have seen another side to
the law"*

-Eve



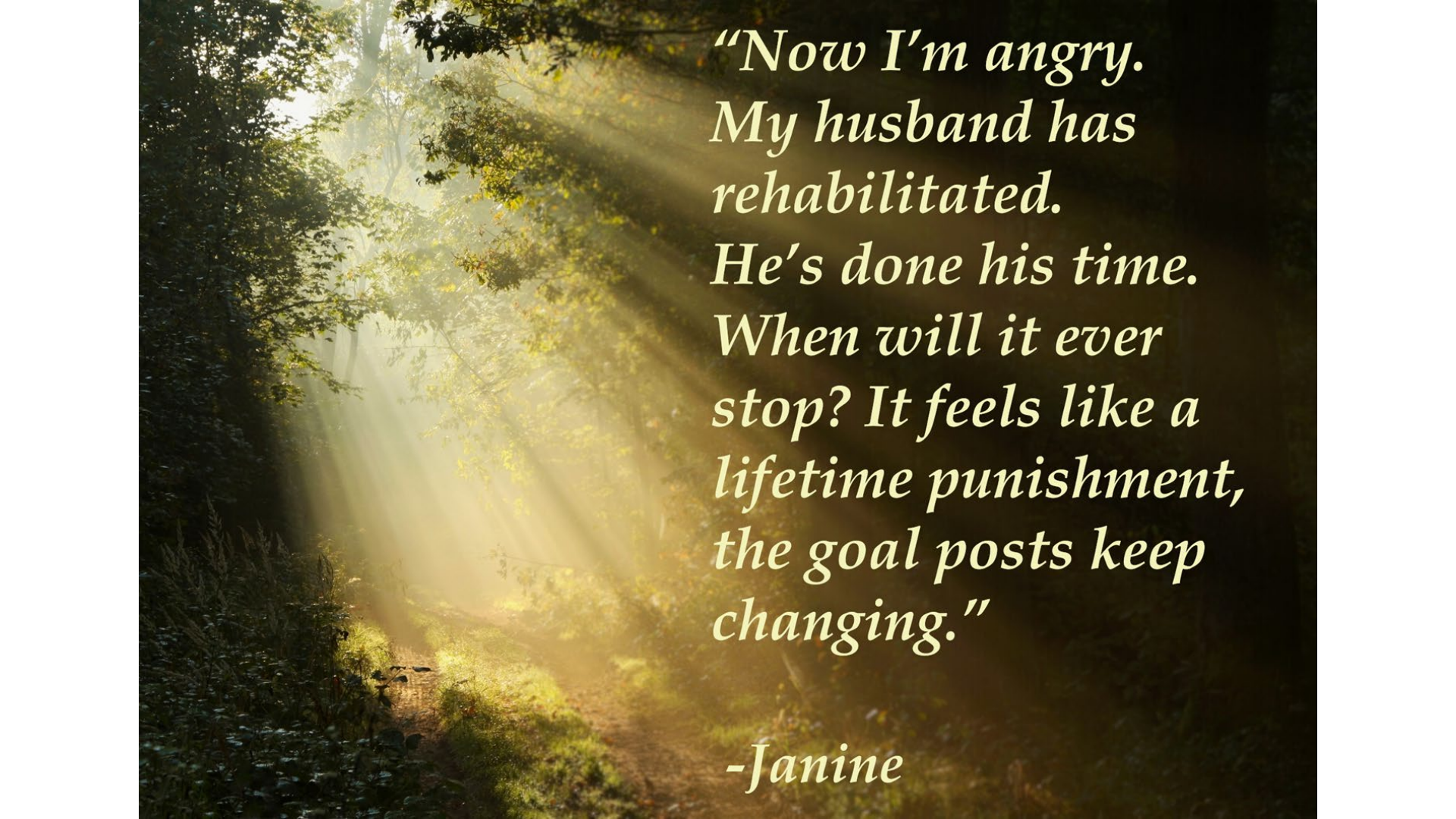
"My parents were actually really non-judgemental. Now in their late 80s, they also knew that my husband had made a terrible error in judgement but he was still the good man he'd always been"

-Janine



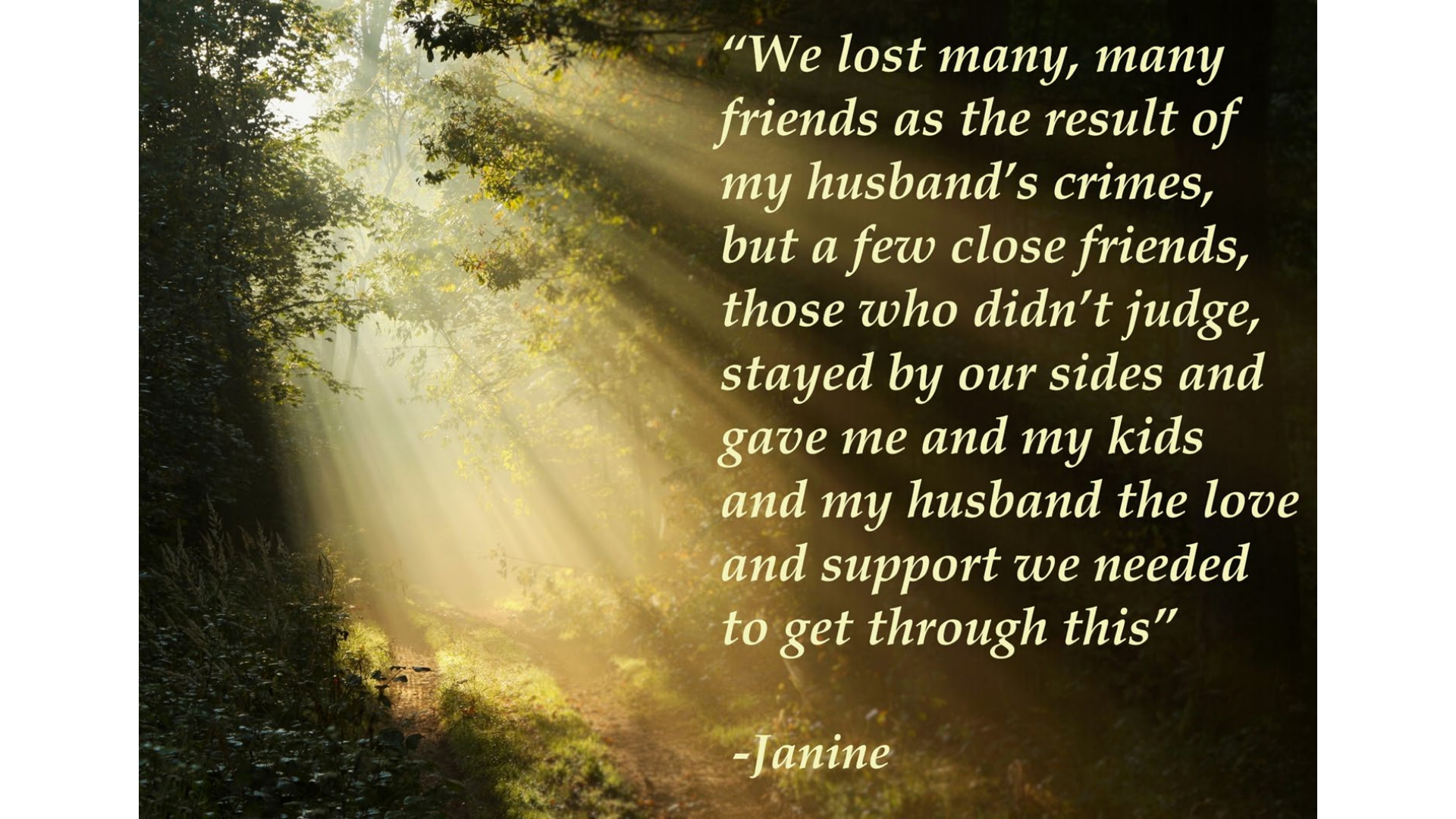
"Basically, nothing could prepare me for the catastrophic fallout as a consequence of my husband's offending. My world turned upside down"

-Janine

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight streaming through the trees, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

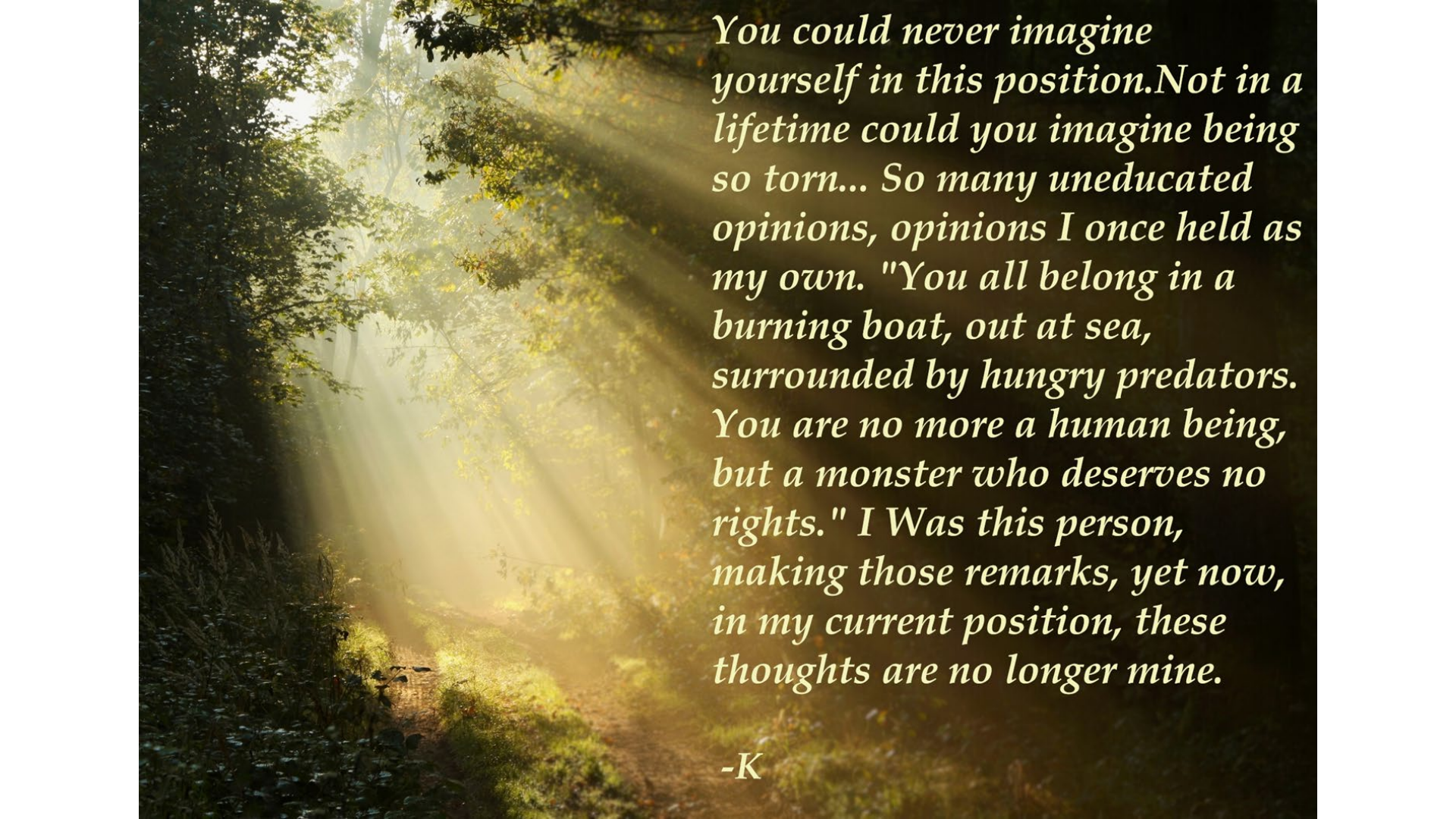
*“Now I’m angry.
My husband has
rehabilitated.
He’s done his time.
When will it ever
stop? It feels like a
lifetime punishment,
the goal posts keep
changing.”*

-Janine

A photograph of a forest path. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The path is narrow and appears to be made of dirt or small stones, leading into the distance. The trees are lush and green, with some leaves showing signs of autumn. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

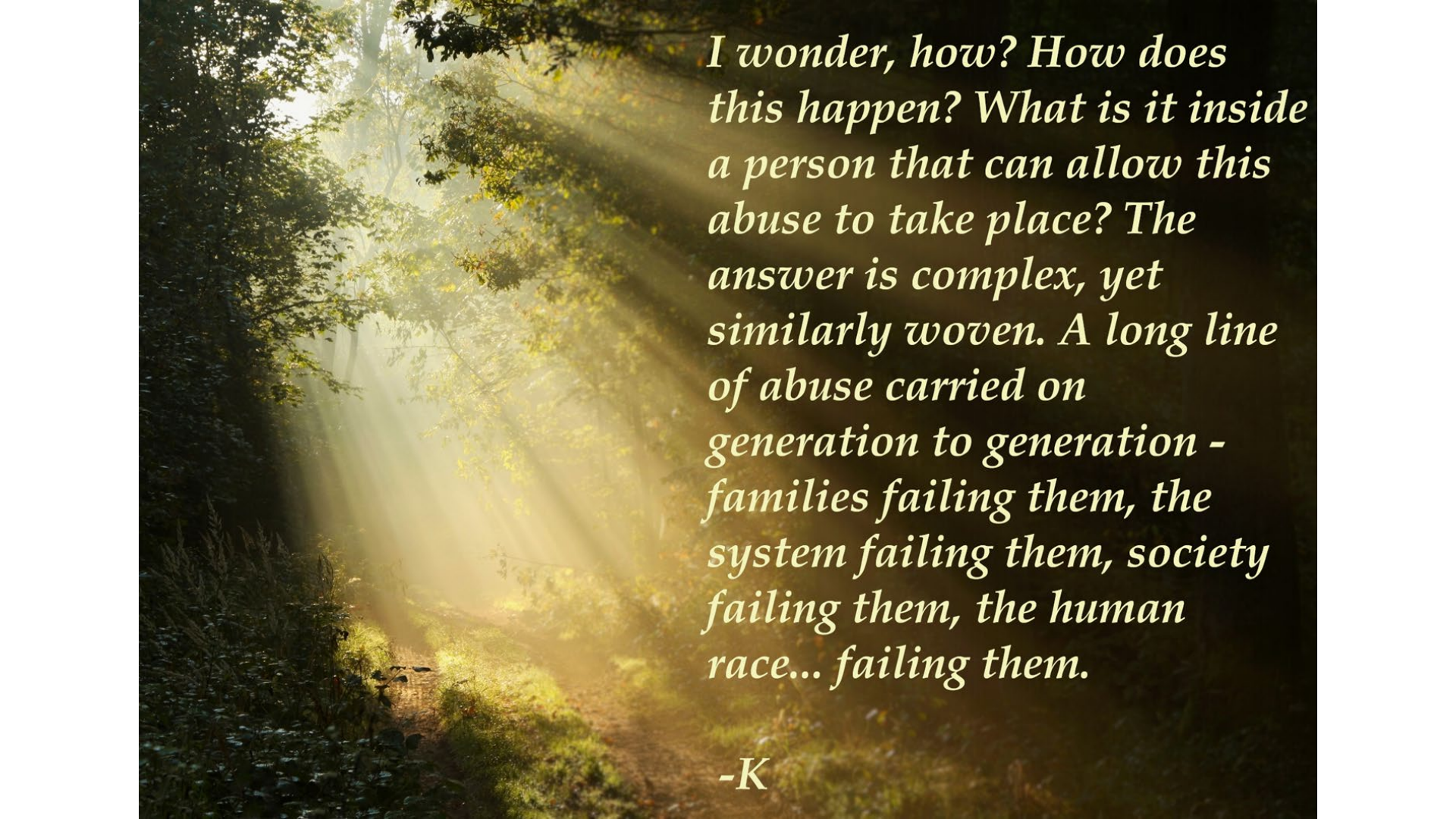
“We lost many, many friends as the result of my husband’s crimes, but a few close friends, those who didn’t judge, stayed by our sides and gave me and my kids and my husband the love and support we needed to get through this”

-Janine

A photograph of a narrow dirt path winding through a dense forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The path is covered in fallen leaves and small plants. The trees are tall and thin, with their branches reaching over the path.

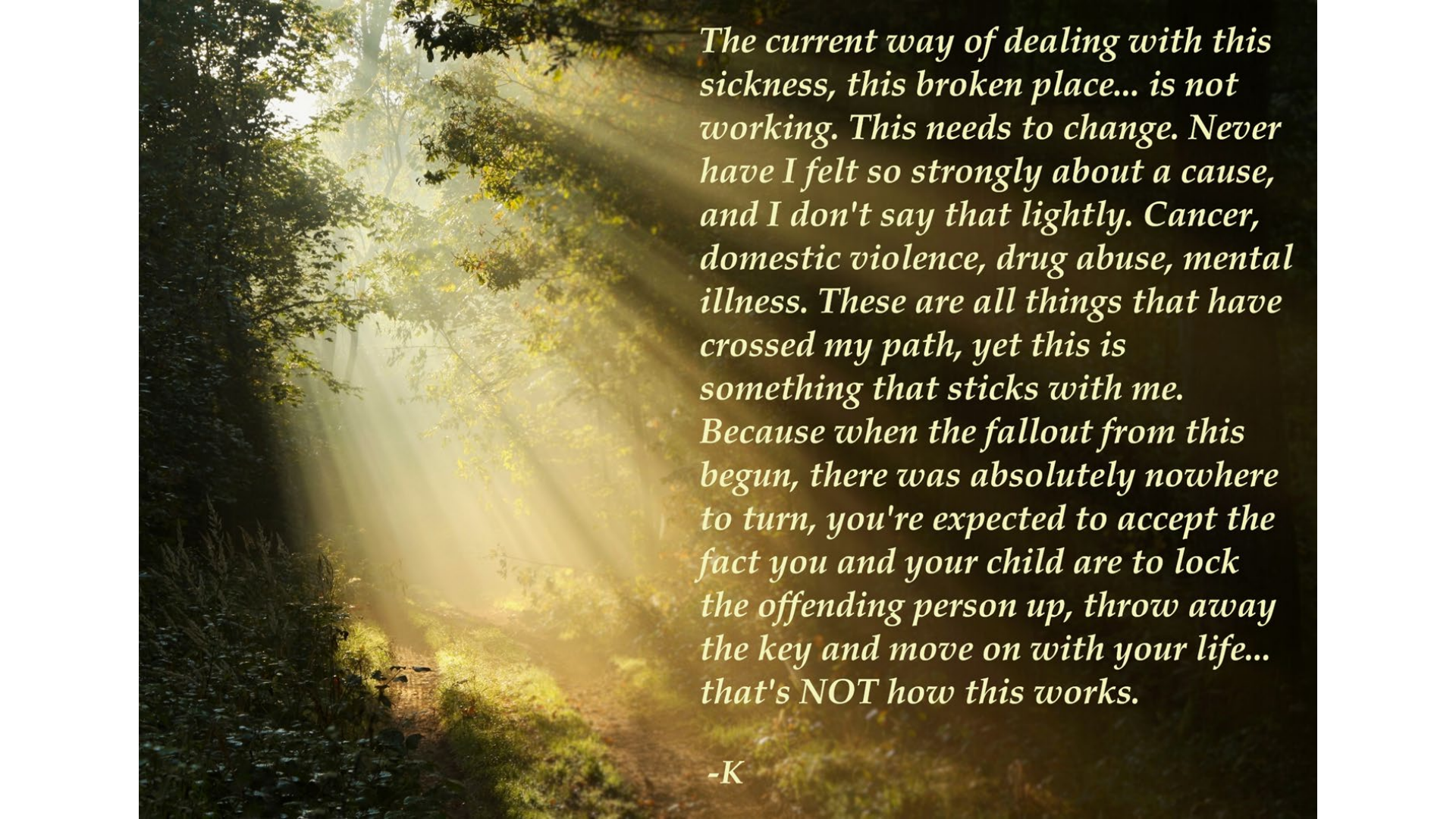
You could never imagine yourself in this position. Not in a lifetime could you imagine being so torn... So many uneducated opinions, opinions I once held as my own. "You all belong in a burning boat, out at sea, surrounded by hungry predators. You are no more a human being, but a monster who deserves no rights." I Was this person, making those remarks, yet now, in my current position, these thoughts are no longer mine.

-K

A photograph of a narrow dirt path winding through a dense forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a hazy, golden glow. The path is covered in fallen leaves and small plants. The overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

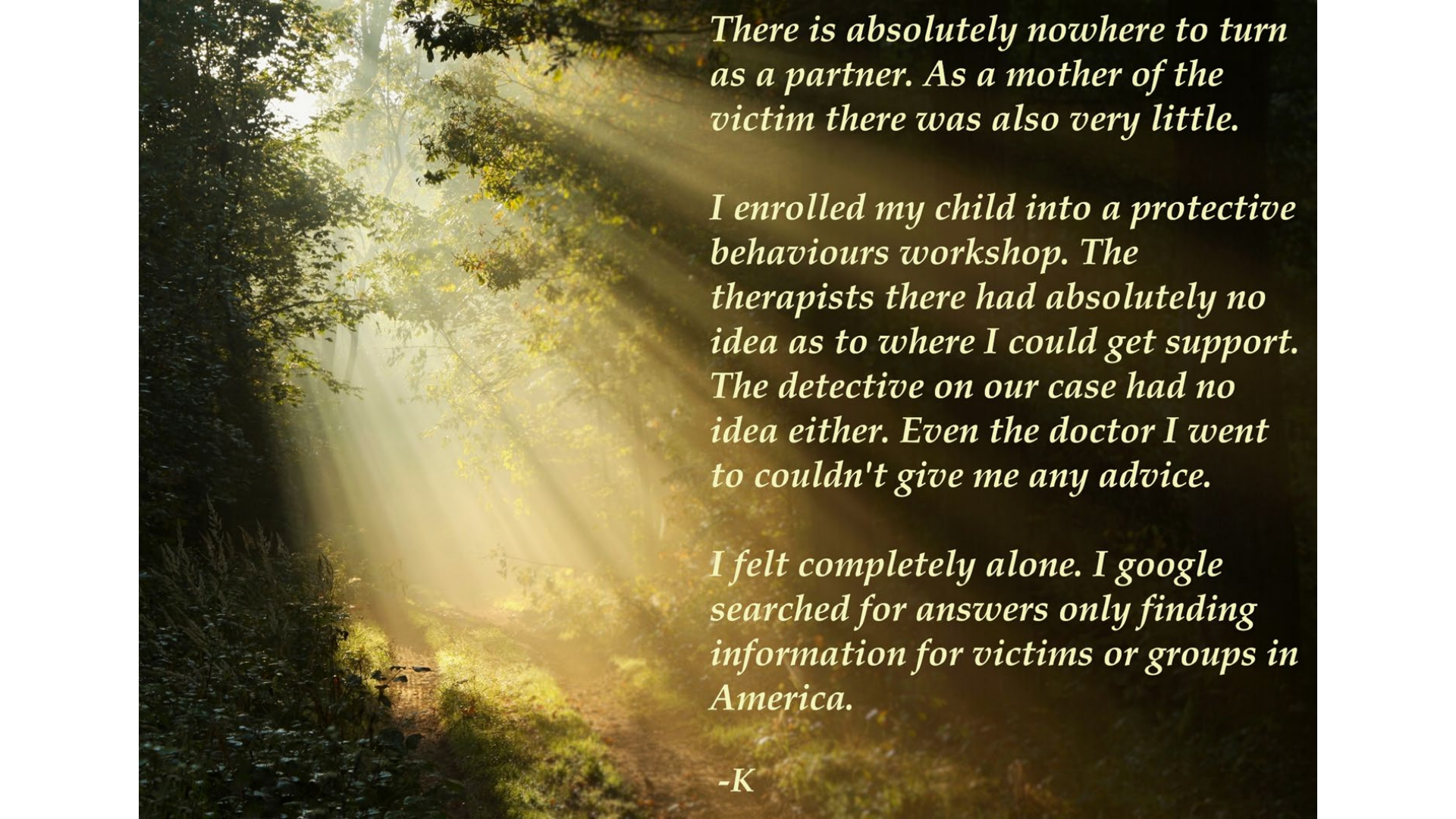
I wonder, how? How does this happen? What is it inside a person that can allow this abuse to take place? The answer is complex, yet similarly woven. A long line of abuse carried on generation to generation - families failing them, the system failing them, society failing them, the human race... failing them.

-K

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The path is narrow and appears to be made of dirt or small stones, leading into the distance. The trees are lush and green, with some leaves showing signs of autumn. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

The current way of dealing with this sickness, this broken place... is not working. This needs to change. Never have I felt so strongly about a cause, and I don't say that lightly. Cancer, domestic violence, drug abuse, mental illness. These are all things that have crossed my path, yet this is something that sticks with me. Because when the fallout from this begun, there was absolutely nowhere to turn, you're expected to accept the fact you and your child are to lock the offending person up, throw away the key and move on with your life... that's NOT how this works.

-K

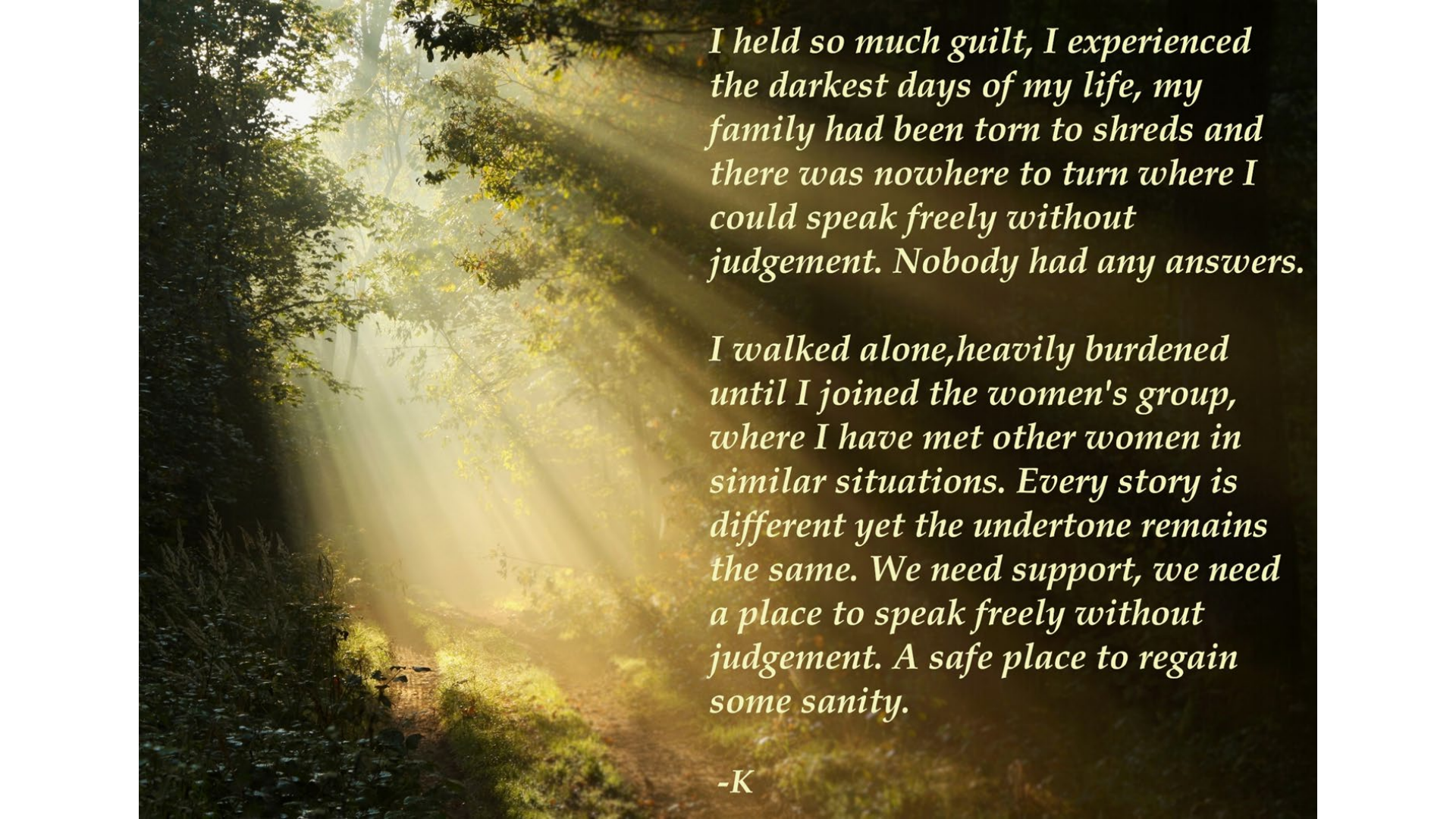
A misty forest path with sunlight filtering through the trees. The scene is serene and somewhat ethereal, with soft light rays creating a sense of hope and tranquility. The path leads into the distance, surrounded by lush greenery and tall trees.

There is absolutely nowhere to turn as a partner. As a mother of the victim there was also very little.

I enrolled my child into a protective behaviours workshop. The therapists there had absolutely no idea as to where I could get support. The detective on our case had no idea either. Even the doctor I went to couldn't give me any advice.

I felt completely alone. I google searched for answers only finding information for victims or groups in America.


-K

A misty forest path with sunlight filtering through the trees. The scene is serene and atmospheric, with a narrow path leading into the distance. Sunlight rays are visible, creating a soft, golden glow. The trees are lush and green, with some leaves showing signs of autumn. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

I held so much guilt, I experienced the darkest days of my life, my family had been torn to shreds and there was nowhere to turn where I could speak freely without judgement. Nobody had any answers.


I walked alone, heavily burdened until I joined the women's group, where I have met other women in similar situations. Every story is different yet the undertone remains the same. We need support, we need a place to speak freely without judgement. A safe place to regain some sanity.

-K

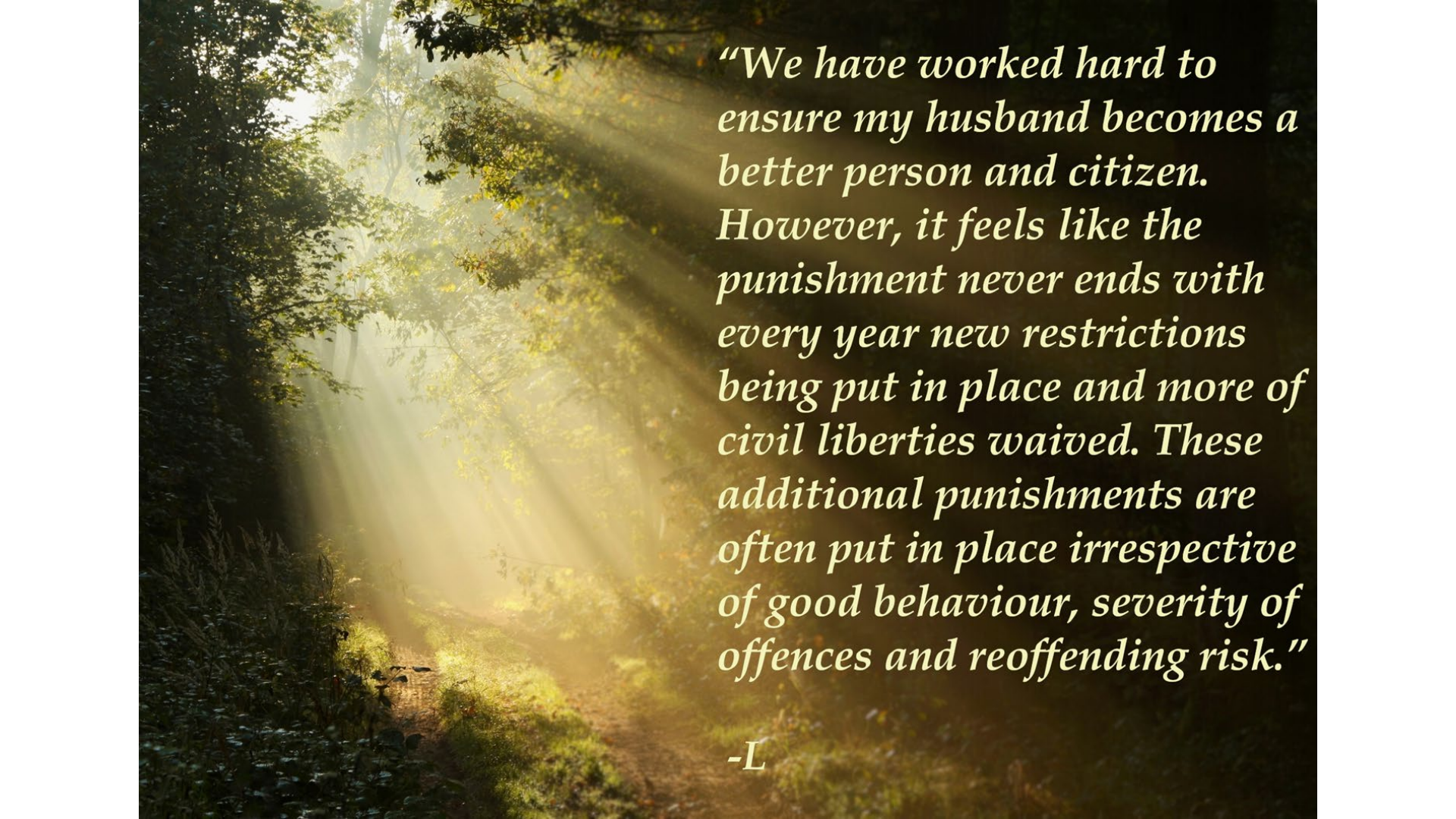
A photograph of a forest path with sunlight streaming through the trees, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The path is narrow and appears to be made of dirt or small stones, leading into the distance. The trees are lush and green, with some leaves showing signs of autumn. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

“I can speak from personal experience that vigilantism and public backlash are real. When my husband’s offenses were published in the media, I feared for my life and for how it would impact my career.”

-L

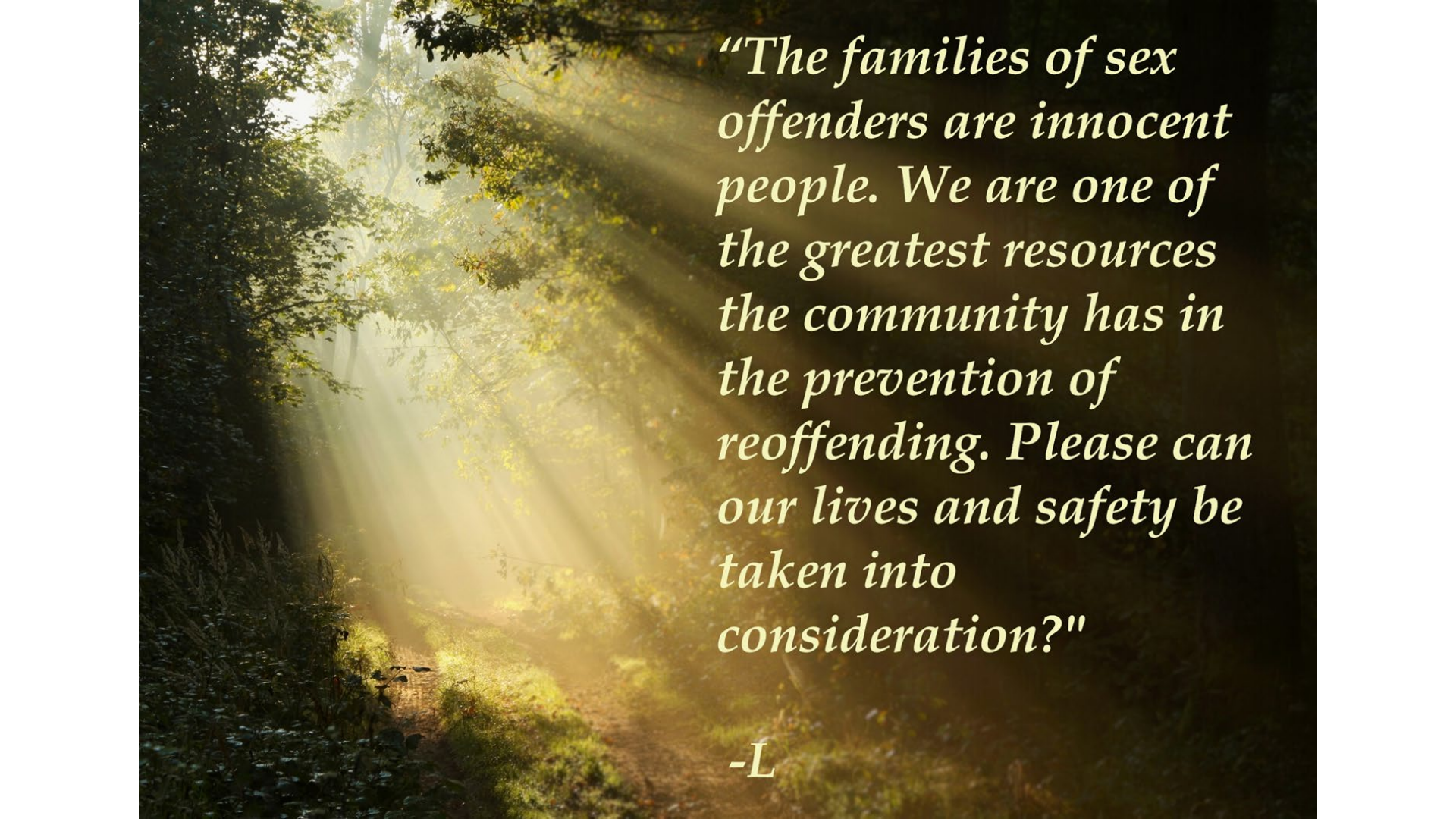
A photograph of a forest path. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The path is narrow and appears to be made of dirt or small stones, leading into the distance. The trees are lush and green, with some leaves showing signs of autumn. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

“My husband’s younger brother and sister, who are children and share his name, were bullied at school and lost friends. Family members of other offenders have told me they have had their properties vandalised, cars set on fire and have been contacted by groups, who specialise in the assault and murder of sex offenders.”

A photograph of a sunlit forest path. Sunbeams (crepuscular rays) filter through the dense canopy of green trees, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The path is narrow and appears to be made of dirt or small stones, leading into the distance. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

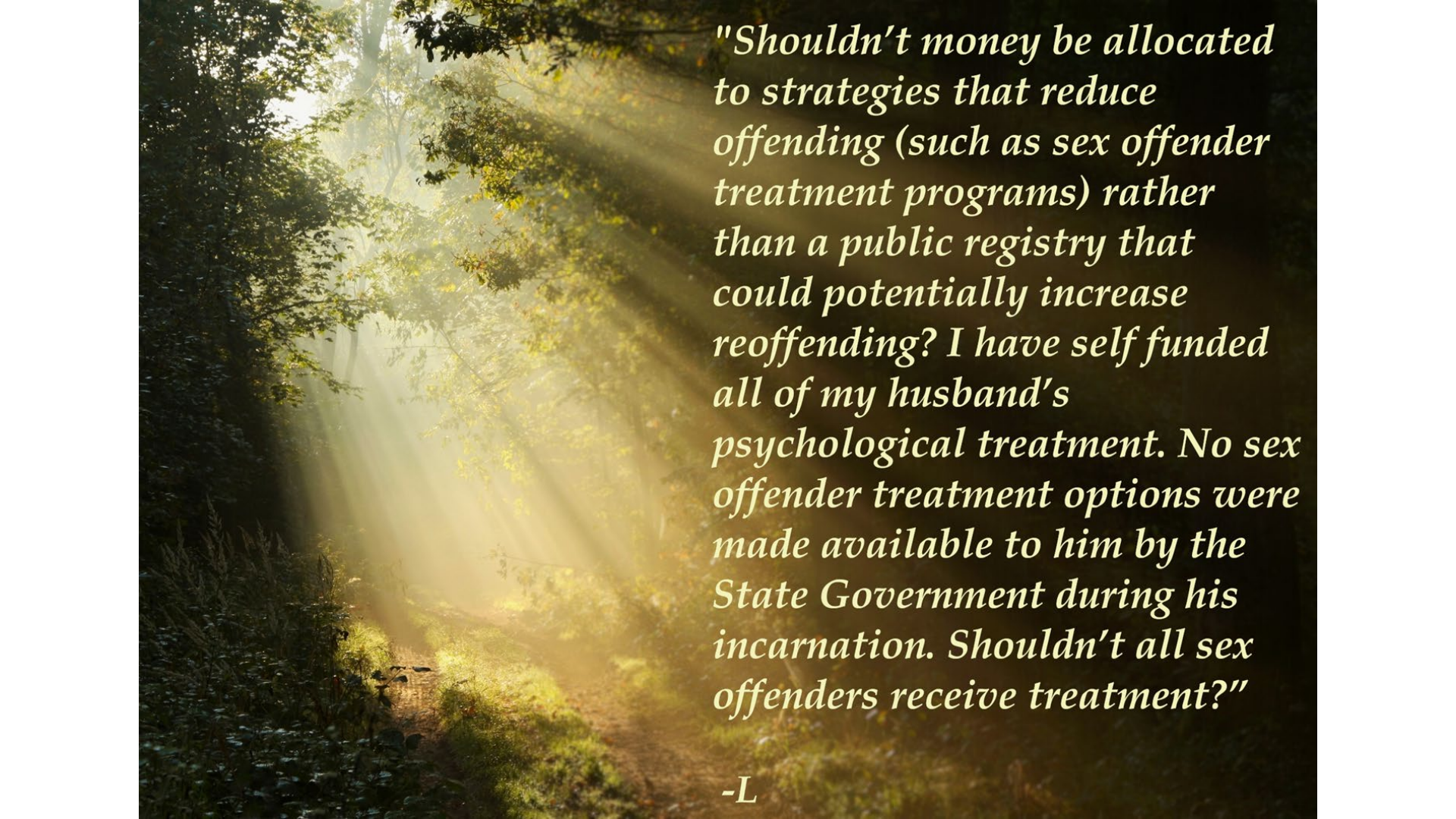
“We have worked hard to ensure my husband becomes a better person and citizen. However, it feels like the punishment never ends with every year new restrictions being put in place and more of civil liberties waived. These additional punishments are often put in place irrespective of good behaviour, severity of offences and reoffending risk.”

-L

A photograph of a sunlit forest path. Sunbeams (crepuscular rays) filter through the dense green foliage, creating a warm, golden glow. The path is narrow and appears to be made of dirt or small stones, leading into the distance. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

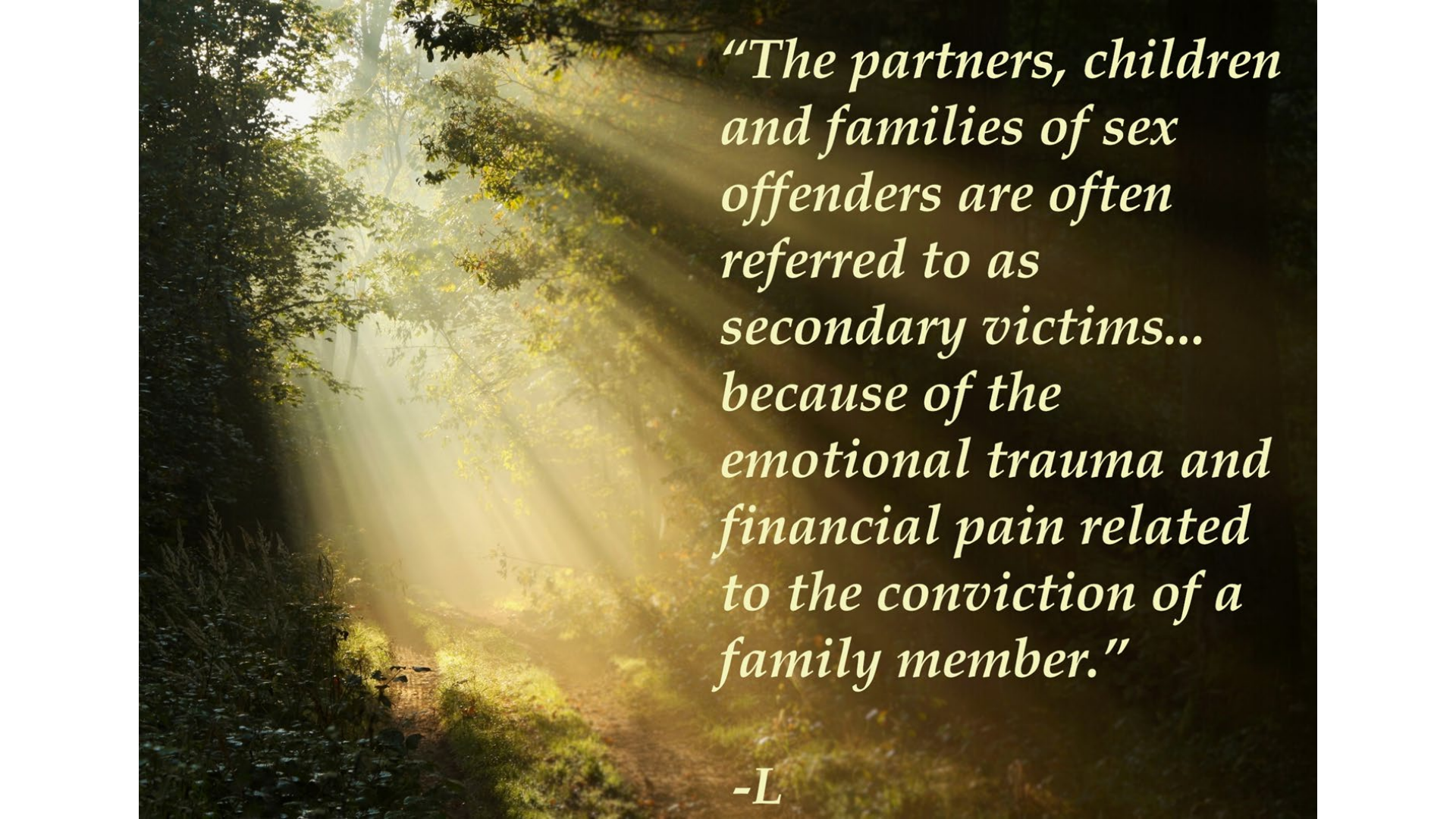
“The families of sex offenders are innocent people. We are one of the greatest resources the community has in the prevention of reoffending. Please can our lives and safety be taken into consideration?”

-L

A photograph of a sunlit forest path. Sunbeams (crepuscular rays) are visible, filtering through the dense canopy of green trees. The path is narrow and appears to be made of dirt or small stones, leading into the distance. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

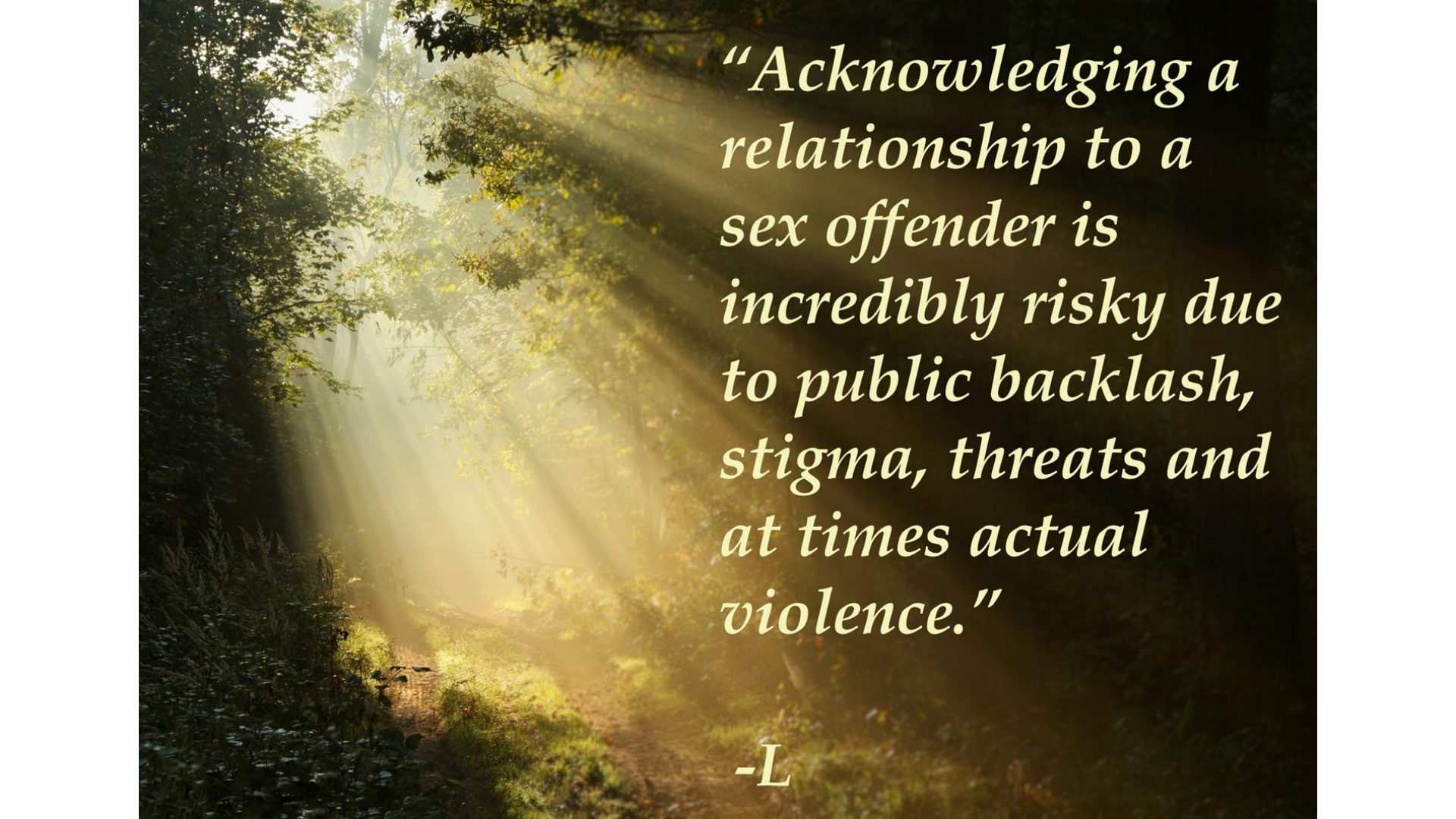
"Shouldn't money be allocated to strategies that reduce offending (such as sex offender treatment programs) rather than a public registry that could potentially increase reoffending? I have self funded all of my husband's psychological treatment. No sex offender treatment options were made available to him by the State Government during his incarnation. Shouldn't all sex offenders receive treatment?"

-L

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight streaming through the trees, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The path is narrow and appears to be made of dirt or small stones, leading into the distance. The trees are lush and green, with some leaves showing signs of autumn. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

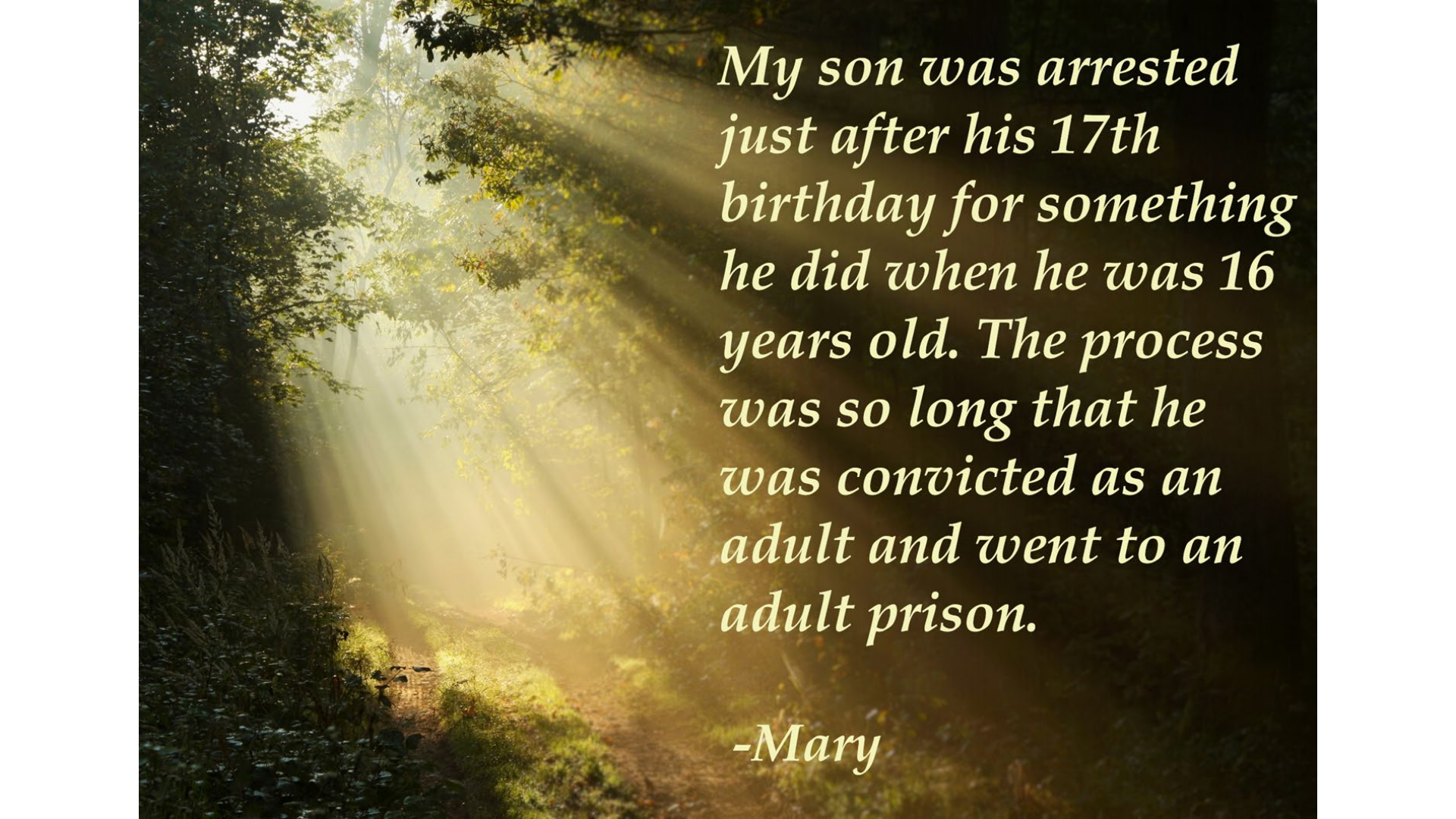
“The partners, children and families of sex offenders are often referred to as secondary victims... because of the emotional trauma and financial pain related to the conviction of a family member.”

-L

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The path is narrow and appears to be made of dirt or small stones, leading into the distance. The trees are dense, with green and yellow leaves, suggesting a late summer or autumn setting. The light rays are prominent, creating a sense of depth and tranquility.

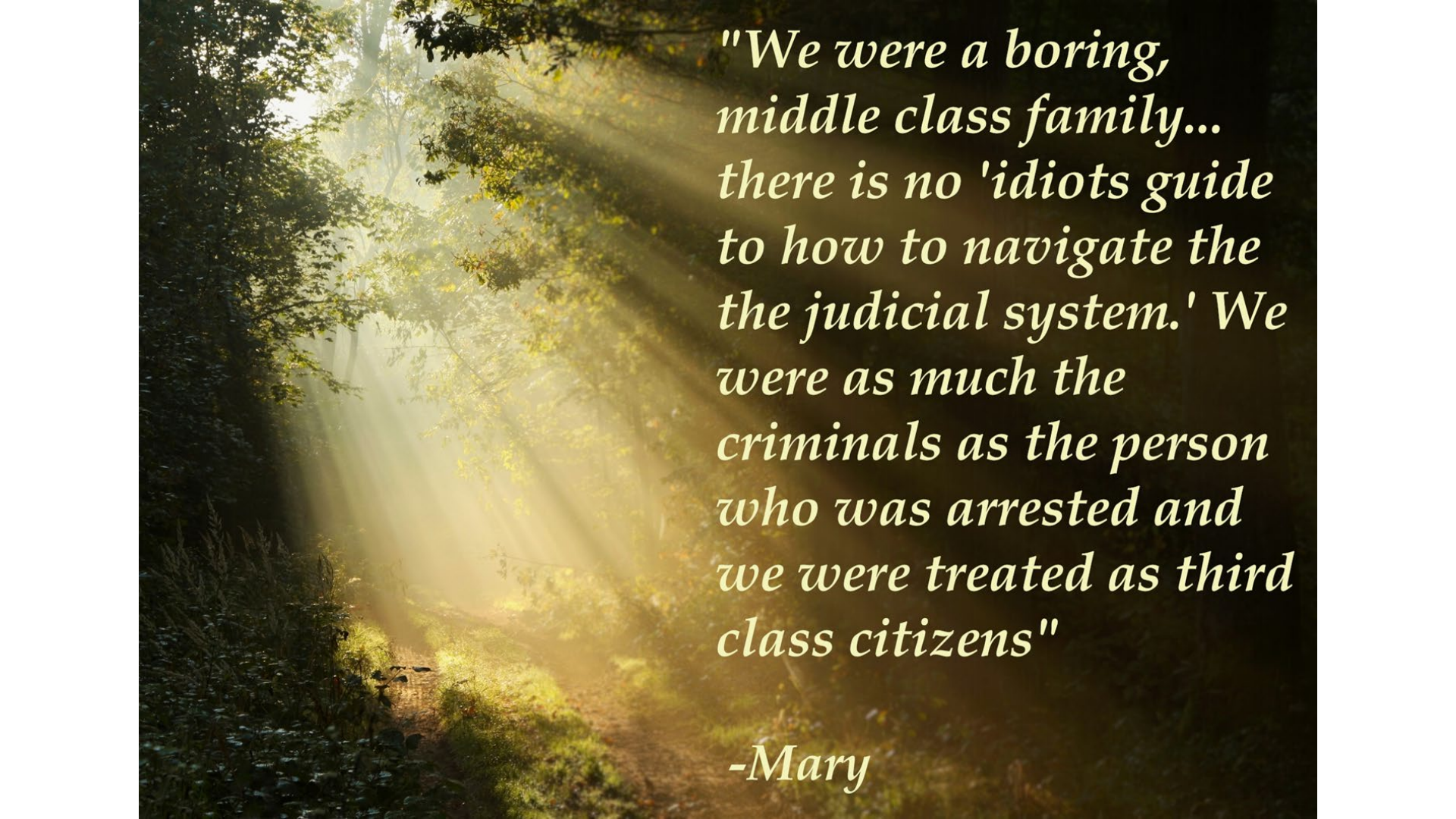
“Acknowledging a relationship to a sex offender is incredibly risky due to public backlash, stigma, threats and at times actual violence.”

-L

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight streaming through the trees, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The path is narrow and appears to be made of dirt or small stones, leading into the distance. The trees are lush and green, with some leaves showing signs of autumn. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

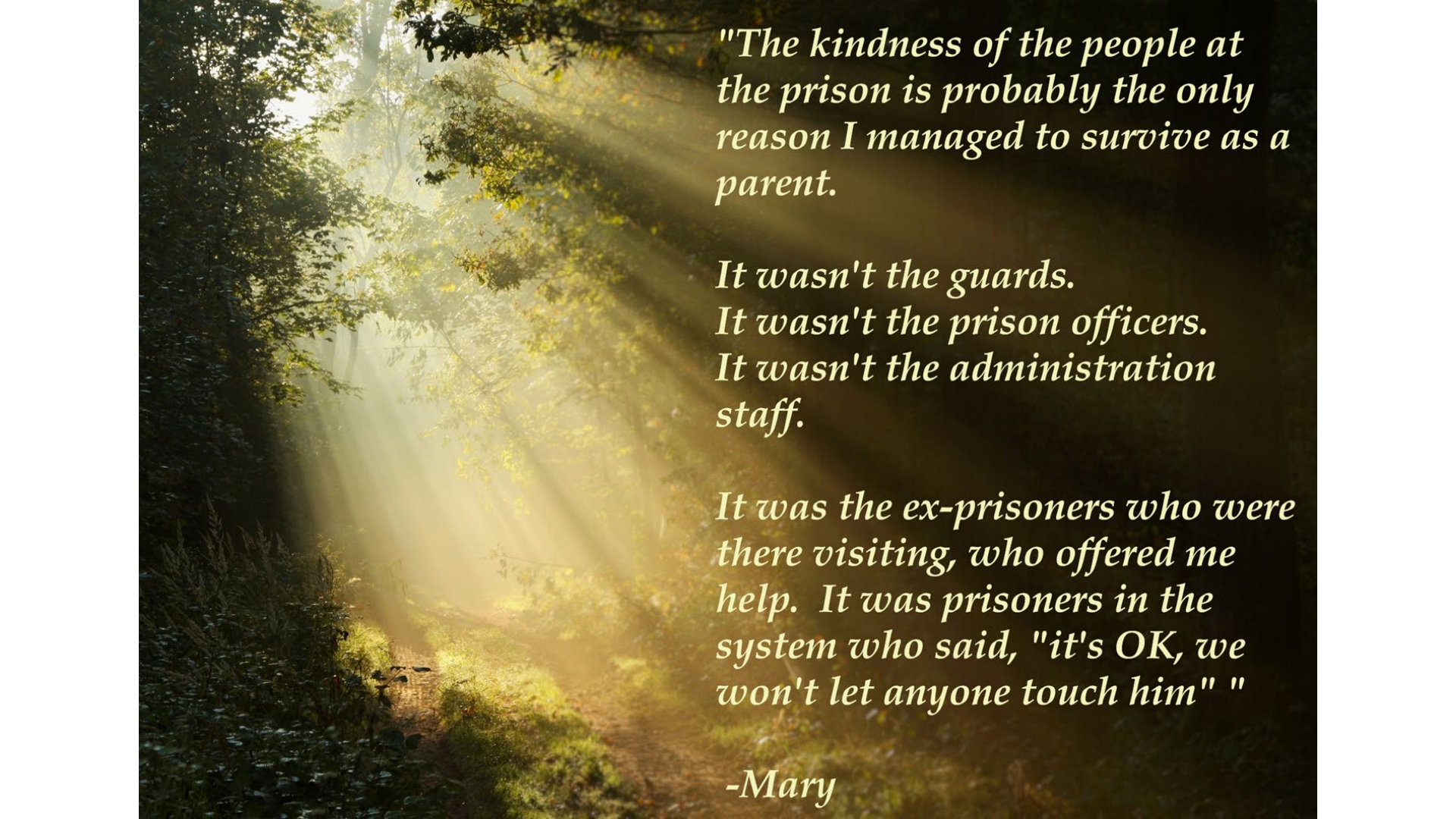
*My son was arrested
just after his 17th
birthday for something
he did when he was 16
years old. The process
was so long that he
was convicted as an
adult and went to an
adult prison.*

-Mary



*"We were a boring,
middle class family...
there is no 'idiots guide
to how to navigate the
the judicial system.' We
were as much the
criminals as the person
who was arrested and
we were treated as third
class citizens"*

-Mary

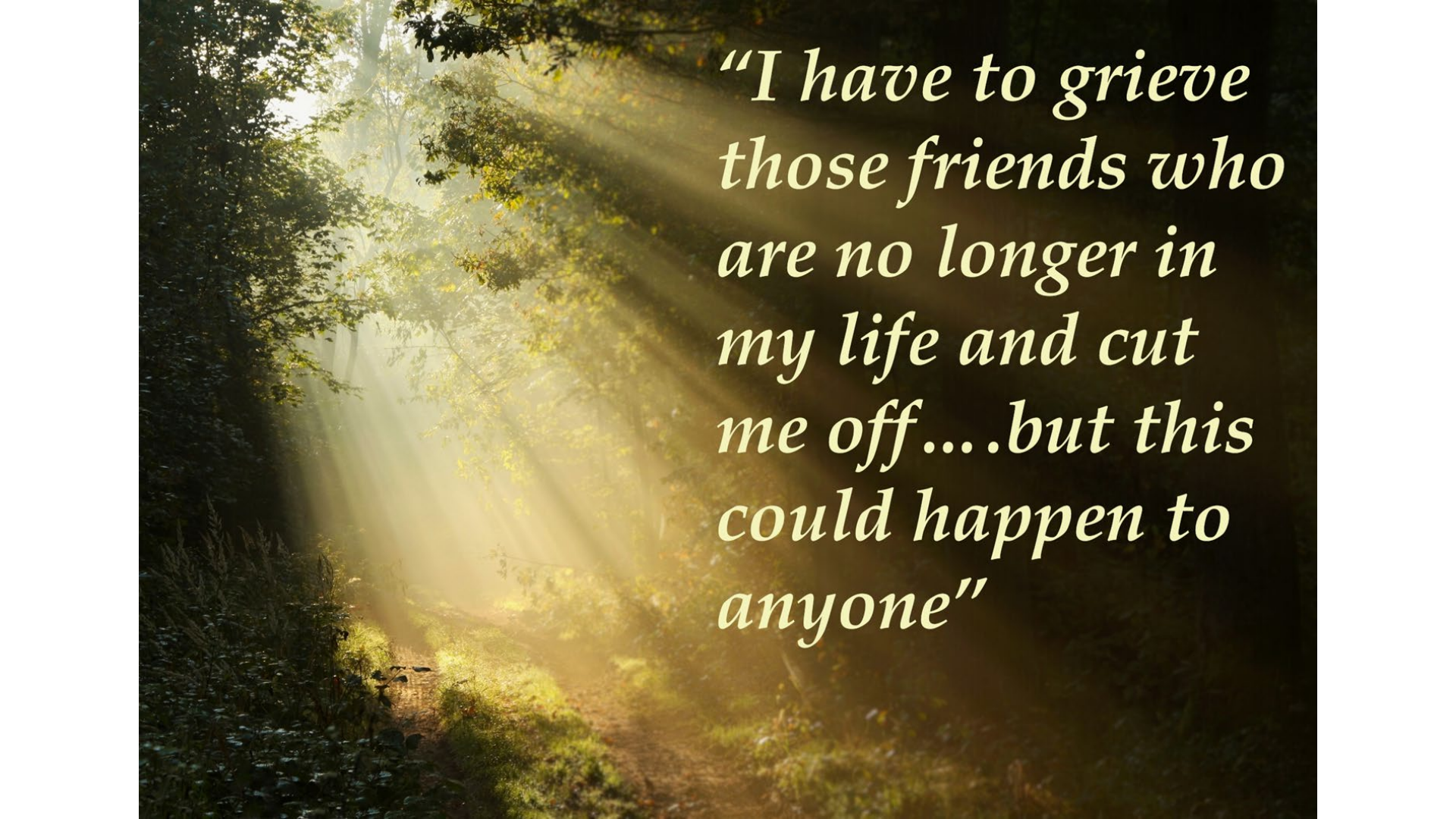
A photograph of a forest path. Sunlight filters through the dense green foliage, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The path is narrow and appears to be made of dirt or small stones, leading into the woods. The trees are tall and their leaves are vibrant green, with some showing signs of autumn. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

"The kindness of the people at the prison is probably the only reason I managed to survive as a parent.

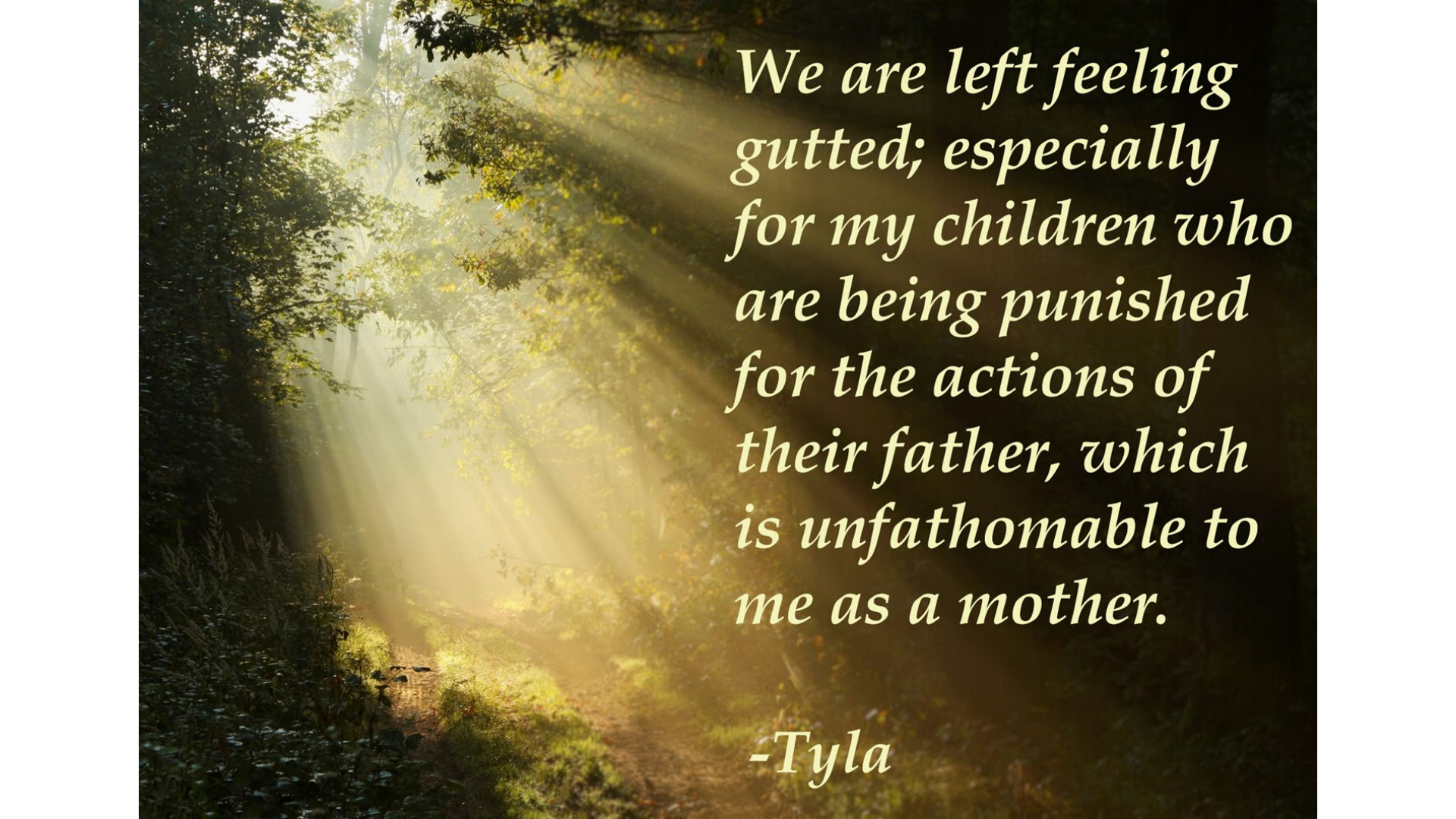
*It wasn't the guards.
It wasn't the prison officers.
It wasn't the administration staff.*

It was the ex-prisoners who were there visiting, who offered me help. It was prisoners in the system who said, "it's OK, we won't let anyone touch him" "

-Mary

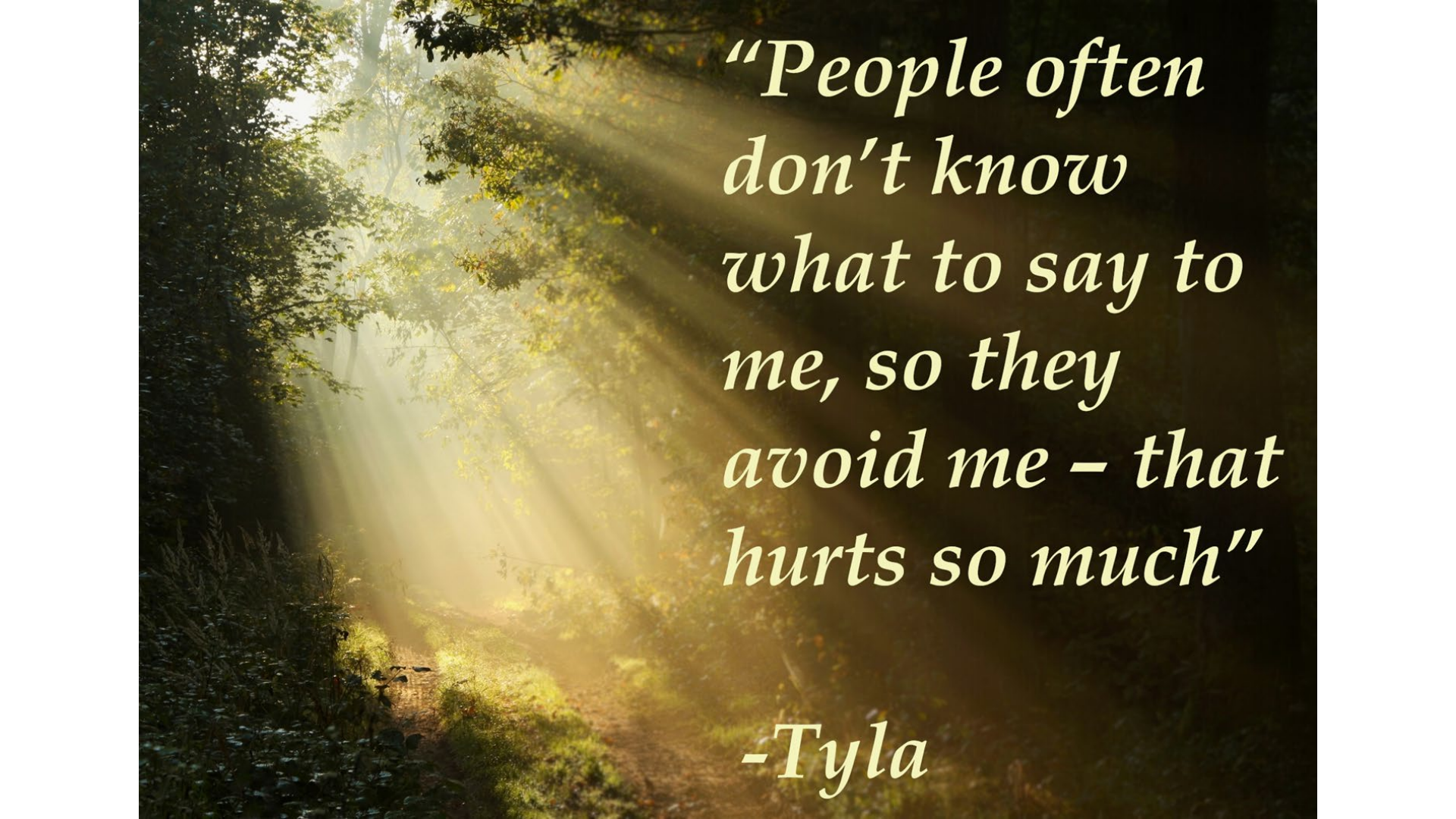
A photograph of a forest path with sunlight rays filtering through the trees, creating a warm and serene atmosphere. The path is narrow and appears to be made of dirt or small stones, leading into the distance. The trees are lush and green, with sunlight streaming through the canopy, creating a dappled light effect on the path and the surrounding foliage. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

*“I have to grieve
those friends who
are no longer in
my life and cut
me off...but this
could happen to
anyone”*

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight streaming through the trees, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The path is narrow and appears to be made of dirt or small stones, leading into the distance. The trees are lush and green, with some leaves showing signs of autumn. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

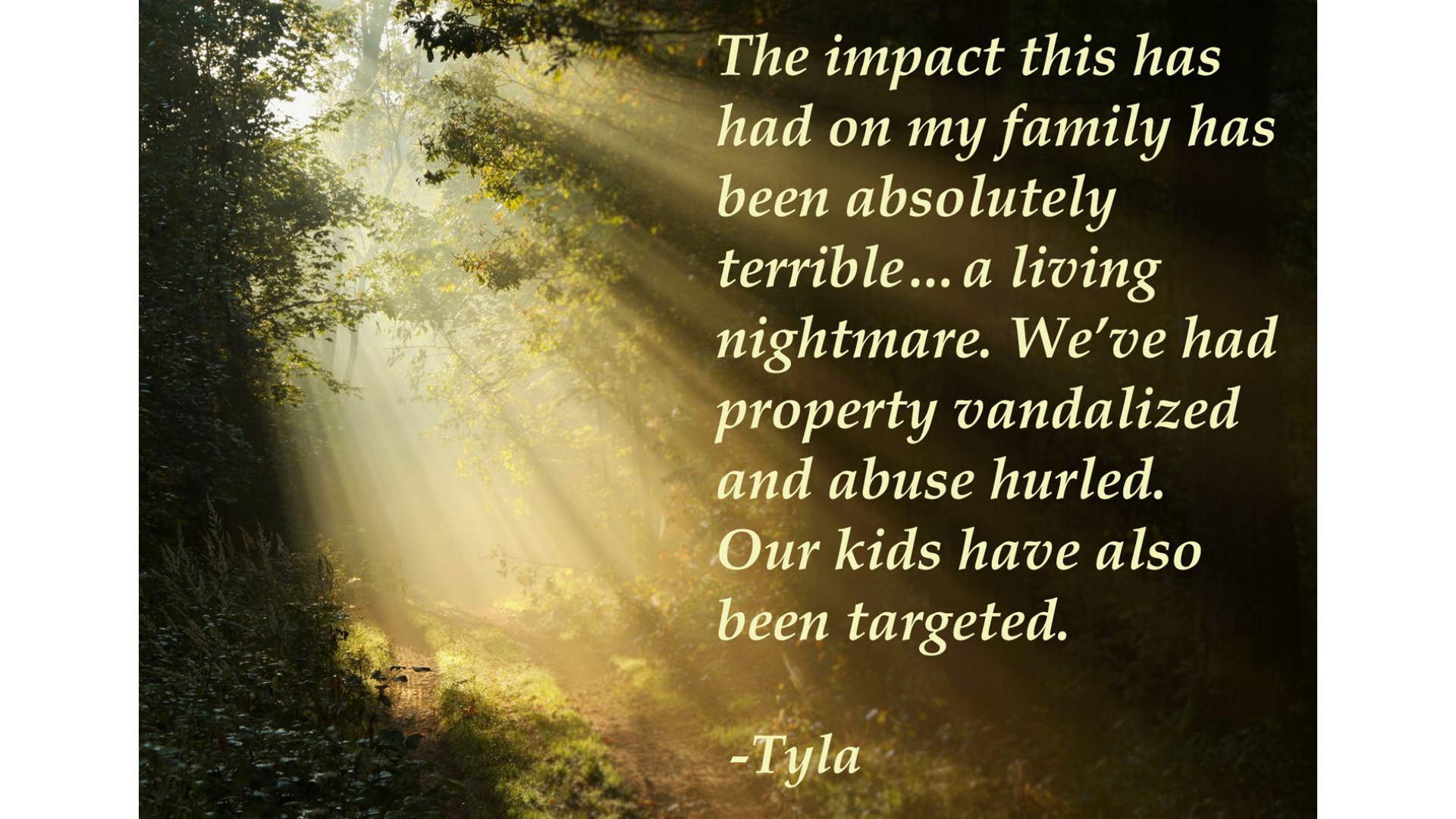
We are left feeling gutted; especially for my children who are being punished for the actions of their father, which is unfathomable to me as a mother.

-Tyla

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight streaming through the trees, creating a warm and ethereal atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.


*“People often
don’t know
what to say to
me, so they
avoid me – that
hurts so much”*

-Tyla

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight streaming through the trees, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

The impact this has had on my family has been absolutely terrible... a living nightmare. We've had property vandalized and abuse hurled. Our kids have also been targeted.

-Tyla

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight streaming through the trees, creating a warm and serene atmosphere. The sunbeams are visible, illuminating the path and the surrounding foliage. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

*“Look at the
person for
who they are,
not what they
have done”*

-Tyla