***Something Like Hope*** by Shawn Goodman

How do troubled teens become troubled? And once they become troubled, what can be done to fix them? Are the foster homes and detention centers meant to rehabilitate these lost souls really helping? Or are they adding to the problem? Shavonne is the 17 year old daughter of a crack –addicted prostitute, the mother of a 2 year old girl who was born straight into foster care, and victim of countless abuses. From abusive foster families to the abuses of the juvenile detention center she now faces, Shavonne has never known a life of anything but abuse and neglect. She’s tough because she has to be. In the detention center, guards will beat you down for no reason. In one instance in the book, a mentally challenged pregnant 14 year old girl named Mary is assaulted by guards because she can’t count well enough to figure out where in line she is supposed to be. This book is gritty, painful, and raw. But for people like Shavonne, it’s everyday life. Shawn Goodman uses his experiences working in juvenile detention facilities to show us what life is really like for some of these teens. *Something Like Hope* will make you realize that everyone has a story. People are the way they are because of the circumstances they have lived, or in Shavonne’s case, survived. Everything about her life has led her to be the closed-off, hardened person she is. This is not a happy, fun read. It’s a painful look at very real problems that some children and teens face every day.

*~ Booktalk by Karla Kirby*