



**The VOICE Beyond
Issue #02: Bully For You**

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PAGE ONE - SPLASH PAGE

SPLASH PANEL

Three boys (Sam, Joe, and Dusty), tough looking kids in the 10th grade, are walking home from school through a church field.

In front of each of them are large, distorted versions of themselves eerily hovering over them. The three boys are cowering back in fear.

CAPTION

What goes on here? What are these creatures and where did they come from?

CAPTION

Find out as we go on another adventure with...

LOGO

The Voice Beyond

TITLE

Bully For You

PAGE TWO - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

Establishing shot. Outside of Minuteman High School. A school building with a flag in front and a sign that says, "Minuteman High School" prominently showing.

CAPTION

Minuteman High School. Liberty, VA.

PANEL TWO

Wide shot from above of kids eating lunch in the lunch room.

To the panel's left is a quiet and somber 8th grader (Toby) eating at a large table by himself.

CAPTION

Noon on a Monday. Your children, eager (or not?) to learn, enjoy a break from the teachings to partake of breaking bread. They talk about the weekend, make fun of the teachers, and trade sandwiches.

PANEL THREE

Zoom in slightly on lone Toby, still showing some of the action around him.

CAPTION

But on this day, just like every other day—

PANEL FOUR

Zoom in on close view of lone Toby, looking sad and playing with his food more than eating it.

CAPTION

—a child eats alone—

PANEL FIVE

Wide angle on the door from the hallway to the lunch room. Special education teacher Glessa Palmer (described as physically fit with long blonde hair and green eyes. She dresses casually, usually in plain color T-shirt and well fitting jeans with a belt. She is a very attractive woman.) She stands in doorway. The view is so she is seen silently watching.

CAPTION

—never knowing he is not truly as alone as he thinks he is.

PANEL SIX

On Glessa.

GLESSA

(Thought)

There must be some way to reach you, Toby...

PAGE THREE - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Outdoors. Playground. Recess. Warm and sunny day. Establishing shot of the kids on the playground. Dodge ball, tether ball, slides and swings, the usual. Toby is somewhere in the midst of this activity, looking lost. Like he really doesn't belong.

CAPTION

Later, during recess.

PANEL TWO

The three older tough looking kids from page one walk over to the lonely Toby. Toby is looking intimidated. The kids are looking mean.

Dusty is the leader of this gang. They are looking for some easy action.

DUSTY

Hey kid, got any money? We need some money.

SAM

Yeah. My mother needs an operation!
>hawr hawr!<

JOE

Good one, Sam!

SAM

Thanks, Man!

PANEL THREE

Dusty grabs a frightened Toby by the shirt.

DUSTY

C'mon, kid. Pony up the dough!

PANEL FOUR

On all four.

SAM

We ain't got all day.

JOE

Yeah. Fork it over.

PAGE FOUR - SEVEN PANELS

PANEL ONE

View from Glessa's classroom. View from behind Glessa as she looks out the window and sees the kids tormenting Toby.

NO DIALOG

PANEL TWO

Opposite view. Close on Glessa through window from outside. Glessa carries a look somewhere between anger and compassion.

GLESSA

(Thought)

I cannot allow this.

PANEL THREE

Glessa walking through the hallway of the school.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FOUR

Glessa, with a serious look on her face, is walking out the door of school to join kids at recess.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FIVE

Dusty and the bullies see an angry Glessa heading their way.

DUSTY

Oh, no. Let's get out of here.

PANEL SIX

Dusty and Joe casually walk away as if nothing is wrong. Sam stops to whisper in Toby's ear.

SAM

(Whispering)

Teacher's pet...

PANEL SEVEN

Sam walks away from Toby as Glessa approaches.

NO DIALOG

PAGE FIVE - FOUR PANELS

PANEL ONE

Glessa talking to Toby.

GLESSA

Toby. I need your help in the classroom.

PANEL TWO

On Toby as he looks up at Glessa and smiles.

NO DIALOG

PANEL THREE

View from behind the three boys as they watch Toby and Glessa go back into the school.

DUSTY:

That was close!

SAM:

(Small print)

She's so nice and so pretty. I wish she'd give me that kind of attention.

DUSTY:

(Small print)

Yeah...

PANEL FOUR

View on Toby following Glessa back into the school.

CAPTION

With thoughts and feelings known only to himself, Toby follows Glessa back into the school.

PAGE SIX - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

View on the school doors. Students are pouring out as school is over for the day. Among the students leaving are the three bullies.

CAPTION

Later, after school is out for the day...

PANEL TWO

Glessa is standing by the school buses helping kids onto the bus. There is another teacher (charmingly pudgy with white hair back in a bun) with her helping as well. A church can be seen across the street with a large field that has a small shack.

GLESSA

Joan? I have an appointment to keep. Can you take over here for me?

JOAN

Sure, Glessa. See you tomorrow!

GLESSA

Thanks, Joan.

PANEL THREE

Wide angle. Glessa walking over to the shack across the street. The older school kids can be seen walking home.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FOUR

View from behind Glessa. She is standing by the shack, unseen. She is watching the bullies, who are walking through the church field.

GLESSA

(Thought)
Those three bullies need a taste of their own medicine!

GLESSA

(Thought)
Let's see...

PANEL FIVE

Close on Glessa as she furrows her brow.

NO DIALOG

PAGE SEVEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On the three bullies walking along the field. They run into an invisible barrier.

SFX

>WHUMP<

PANEL TWO

Wide angle. View on Glessa and bullies. Bullies are unable to move further into the field. They have their hands up, trying to move forward. Glessa is watching.

GLESSA

(Thought)
There's nothing there. But it doesn't hurt that they think there is.

GLESSA

(Thought)
Moving on, I'll let them see themselves as Toby sees them. That's a fair thing to do.

PANEL THREE

On the three bullies. Sepia smoke begins to rise from the ground in front of all three. The three smokes almost look like they want to take shape.

DUSTY

Hey, what's this?

SAM

Oh, man! I knew I shouldn't have stolen that bologna sandwich at lunch!

PANEL FOUR

The smokes coalesce into large, distorted, monstrous images of the bullies and they begin to taunt their other selves.

SMOKE DUSTY

(Eerie)

Hey, kid. Got any money? We need some money.

SMOKE SAM

(Eerie)

Yeah. My mother needs an operation!
>hawr hawr!<

PANEL FIVE

The bullies are seen cowering in front of their smoke selves.

JOE

(Terrified)

Is it just me, or are you guys seeing this, too?

DUSTY

(Terrified)

It's not just you, Joe. Man, if we get out of this, I will never hassle anyone ever again!

PAGE EIGHT - FOUR PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Glessa by the shack, watching carefully.

GLESSA

(Thought)

Almost done here. Just one more thing to do.

PANEL TWO

Smoke bullies tower higher over bullies in a last effort to scare them.

SMOKE DUSTY

(Eerie)

Promise! Promise you will no longer bully and we will leave you in peace!

DUSTY

(Terrified)

We promise, Dude, we promise!

PANEL THREE

On Smoke Dusty and Smoke Joe.

SMOKE DUSTY

(Eerie)

Very well! But should we ever see you doing this again, we will return!

SMOKE JOE

(Eerie)

You have been warned!

PANEL FOUR

Wide angle. The bullies watch in horror as their three smoke selves disappear in wisps of smoke.

NO DIALOG

PAGE NINE - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

A silent and still field. Nothing but three former tough guys, too afraid to move.

NO DIALOG

PANEL TWO

On Glessa, watching them from afar.

NO DIALOG

PANEL THREE

On the three bullies. They slowly begin to look at each other.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FOUR

Wide angle. Glessa is still by the shed, her eyes directed to the bullies who are seen slowly recovering in the distance.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FIVE

Close on the bullies as they get it together.

DUSTY

(Weak, small letters)

Uh, guys? Did you just...?

PAGE TEN: FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On a visibly shaken but recovering Joe.

JOE

No, Man. I don't care what we saw,
or what we think we saw. Nothing
happened. You dig?

JOE

NOTHING HAPPENED.

PANEL TWO

On Sam and Joe.

SAM

Joe...?

JOE

Yeah...?

PANEL THREE

Close on Sam, giving Joe a dead serious look.

SAM

Dude -- Something happened.

PANEL FOUR

On Joe.

JOE

>sigh<

JOE

Yeah, man.

JOE

Something happened.

PANEL FIVE

On Dusty.

DUSTY:

Yeah. But what was it?

PAGE ELEVEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On the three bullies, silent and pondering among themselves.

CAPTION

(Upper left)

And the only response...

PANEL TWO

On the bullies, still silently pondering.

CAPTION

(Lower right)

...Silence.

PANEL THREE

On the three bullies, walking forward. No longer bound by the barrier.

CAPTION

Finally, the silence is broken.

DUSTY

Let's go home.

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa, behind the shack.

GLESSA

(Thought)

I didn't enjoy any of that, but I will not let them hurt my student!

PANEL FIVE

Glessa, walking to her car in the empty school parking lot.

GLESSA

(Thought)

I really hope that worked? Only time will tell.

PAGE TWELVE - FOUR PANELS

PANEL ONE

Glessa in her classroom, sitting at her desk and getting organized.

CAPTION

The next morning, Glessa begins class and looks over her three special needs students:

PANEL TWO

On the left is Toby. Sitting at his desk and playing with a fidget toy.

CAPTION

Toby Grand, whom we've already met.

PANEL THREE

In the middle is Rebekah Grace. Rebekah is a 15 year old girl in a sporty, custom built wheelchair. She is dressed in white blouse and a skirt that goes down to her feet (because she is always dressed conservative) and she wears a cross necklace. Her hair is dark and long, but pulled back in a pony tail. She is studying her text book. She has a deep charismatic Christian faith.

CAPTION

Rebekah Grace, polite, soft spoken, and demure.

PANEL FOUR

On the right is Jimmy Laurens. 16 years old. Dressed in a leather jacket and jeans (like Fonzie), he sports an outdated David Cassidy hair cut. He likes people to think he's tough all over. He is slouched back in his chair, trying to look "cool" - and failing.

CAPTION

Jimmy Laurens, all around tough guy. Or so he wants you to think.

PAGE THIRTEEN - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide angle. Glessa and the three students.

GLESSA

To begin today, students, I have some very good news.

GLESSA

Our own Rebekah Grace has been selected to represent our school in the Regional Wheelchair Olympics 100 Meter Dash coming up next month.

PANEL TWO

Wide angle on the classroom. Everyone is looking at Rebekah.

GLESSA

Congratulations, Rebekah. Quite an accomplishment.

JIMMY

Yeah. That's pretty cool.

PANEL THREE

On a proud yet somewhat embarrassed Rebekah.

REBEKAH

Thank you, Jimmy.

PANEL FOUR

On Rebekah, turned toward Glessa.

REBEKAH

Miss Palmer. I will need a coach for the Olympics. I would like you to be my coach.

PANEL FIVE

On a happy Glessa.

GLESSA

Me?

GLESSA

Well, I don't know all that much about coaching, Rebekah, but I'd be happy to help you in any way I can.

PANEL SIX

On a happy Rebekah.

REBEKAH

Thank you, Miss Palmer.

PAGE FOURTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide angle. On Glessa at her desk and the door to the class. The door is closed but we hear a:

SFX

>knock< >knock<

GLESSA

(To the door)
Come on in.

PANEL TWO

Assistant Principal Elaine Snoggle pokes her head in.

ELAINE:

Miss Palmer? The students you wanted to talk to are here.

PANEL THREE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Thank you, Mrs. Snoggle. I'll be right there.

GLESSA

Would you consider keeping an eye on my class for me?

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa and Elaine, who is walking into the room.

ELAINE

Certainly Miss Palmer. I'd be glad to.

GLESSA

Thank you. I'll be right back,
Class.

PANEL FIVE

Wide angle. Glessa walks into an unused class room. The three bullies are sitting in seats behind desks waiting for her. They look as though they have not slept.

NO DIALOG

PAGE FIFTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide angle. Glessa is at a desk and the three bullies are not happy to be there.

GLESSA

Good morning, gentlemen. I'll get right to the point.

GLESSA

The three of you have been beating up on my student and it is going to stop.

GLESSA

Today.

GLESSA

NOW.

PANEL TWO

On Dusty.

DUSTY

Miss Palmer, we thought that might be what you wanted. And the three of us would like to apologize.

PANEL THREE

On Glessa, giving them all a hard look.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Go on. I'm listening.

PANEL FIVE

On the three (uncomfortable) bullies.

SAM

Well, you see, Miss Palmer, it's like this.

PANEL SIX

On Dusty, who interrupts.

DUSTY

What Sam is trying to say, Miss Palmer...

PAGE SIXTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Dusty, looking ashamed and unable to look Glessa in the eye.

DUSTY

Look, I did some thinking last night. We all did.

DUSTY

Miss Palmer, my father, he cheated on my mother when I was very young. He left the house and divorced. My mother raised me alone.

PANEL TWO

On Dusty, getting a bit of nerve.

DUSTY

It wasn't until last night that I realized how hard she worked for the both of us. She's on her feet all day waiting tables and then she is home waiting on me. And I give her grief. But I'm not going to do that anymore. I want to help her and pull my share of the weight.

PANEL THREE

On Sam.

SAM

I still have my father, Miss Palmer, but he drinks.

SAM

He comes home from the factory and drinks and does things to me and my mother. Bad things.

PANEL FOUR

On Sam, who starts to cry.

SAM

>sob<

PANEL FIVE

On Joe, comforting Sam,

JOE

Sam, Dude, it's okay.

PAGE SEVENTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Glessa, turned to Joe.

GLESSA

What about you, Joe?

PANEL TWO

On Joe.

JOE

I guess I'm lucky. I don't have problems like that. I just wanted people to think I'm cool, but I guess maybe I'm not.

PANEL THREE

On Joe, pulling cash out of his pocket.

JOE

We have something for you, Miss Palmer. We kept track of the money we took, and we got together and we want to give it back to Toby. Will you give it to him?

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa.

GLESSA:

No. No I won't.

GLESSA:

But I'll let you to give it to him personally.

PANEL FIVE

On Joe.

JOE

I don't think he'd be happy to see me, Miss Palmer.

GLESSA

And I think you underestimate my student, Joe.

PAGE EIGHTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Okay, guys, here's what's going to happen...

PANEL TWO

Wide angle on Glessa and bullies.

GLESSA

Dusty and Sam, you two are going to go to Counselor Strathmore's office and tell her what you told me. Word for word. You will also tell her that Joe is returning the money.

PANEL THREE

Wide angle on Glessa and Joe.

GLESSA

Joe, you come with me to give Toby his money back.

GLESSA

If you want to be cool, I'll try to arrange for you to spend some of your study hall time helping me in class. My students will teach you to be cool.

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa, rising from the desk.

GLESSA

Dusty, Sam, you are dismissed to see the Counselor. Joe, come with me.

PANEL FIVE

On all four, heading toward the door.

GLESSA

Just one more thing before we leave, boys...

PAGE NINETEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Why have you had the sudden change of heart?

PANEL TWO

On Dusty.

DUSTY

I guess... I guess we just grew up, Miss Palmer.

PANEL THREE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

I ... see.

GLESSA

Growing up is a very difficult thing to do, but you three are off to a good start. I am proud of all of you.

PANEL FOUR

On the three bullies, smiling.

JOE

Thank you, Miss Palmer.

PANEL FIVE

On Glessa, also smiling.

GLESSA

Let's go face the music, guys. And remember, we face it together.

PAGE TWENTY - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide angle in Glessa's classroom. Glessa is at her desk watching Joe quietly interact with Toby. Joe is pointing to something in Toby's textbook.

CAPTION

Three weeks later.

GLESSA

(Thought)

Things seem to be working out. Joe and Toby are finally getting along, and Sam and Dusty are getting the help they need.

PANEL TWO

Joe is walking toward Glessa.

JOE

Miss Palmer?

PANEL THREE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Yes, Joe?

PANEL FOUR

On a thoughtful Joe.

JOE

Well, I just wanted to thank you. I wasn't sure what to expect when I came into your class. But your students, they aren't like the other kids say, they really are cool.

PANEL FIVE

On a happy Glessa.

GLESSA

I'm glad you noticed that, Joe. Maybe you can help change the minds of some other students in this school? Be an ambassador of sorts.

PAGE TWENTY-ONE - FOUR PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Joe.

JOE

I'd like that.

PANEL TWO

On Joe, looking toward Toby.

JOE

Looks like Toby needs some help. I better get back there.

PANEL THREE

Wide angle. View from behind Glessa as she looks out over her classroom. Joe is helping Toby, and Rebekah and Jimmy are studying. All is quiet and all is right in the classroom.

GLESSA

(Thought)

You just do that, Joe. Learn to be cool.

PANEL FOUR

Caption panel.

CAPTION

NEXT ISSUE: Glessa and Rebekah train for the Regional Wheelchair Olympics. But when it is time to compete, there are problems at the competition! Can Glessa stop this before it leads to tragedy? Find out in the next issue of the Voice Beyond!

PAGE TWENTY-TWO - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Glessa and Rebekah are in a gym. Lots of exercise equipment can be seen in the background. Glessa is standing next to Rebekah, who is in her chair.

CAPTION

(Upper left)

Moral:

GLESSA

Hi, Kids. Miss Palmer here. I'm helping Rebekah train for the Olympics. She has asked to give the moral today.

REBEKAH

That's right, Miss Palmer.

PANEL TWO

On Rebekah.

REBEKAH

In today's story, we saw the results of bullying.

REBEKAH

No one should ever be treated like that. All of us, regardless of who we are, deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.

PANEL THREE

On Glessa and Rebekah. Glessa is looking down at Rebekah, listening to her talk.

REBEKAH

If you are bullied at school or you see someone else being bullied, don't be afraid to tell your parents or your teacher.

REBEKAH

Don't let it continue. It will only get worse.

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa and Rebekah. Rebekah is looking up at Glessa as she talks.

GLESSA

That's right, Rebekah. All of us have value and need and deserve to be treated well.

PANEL FIVE

Glessa and Rebekah looking at each other.

REBEKAH

You are my favorite teacher, Miss Palmer.

GLESSA

Thank you, Rebekah. That means a lot to me.

CAPTION

(Lower right)
End.

END