



**The VOICE Beyond
Issue #04: The Gang's All Here**

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To Dwayne McDuffie, who died the very day I started writing this script.

Someday, Dwayne, I'll be as good at this as you were. In my dreams.

I hope you are enjoying that great word balloon in the sky.

PAGE ONE - SPLASH PAGE

SPLASH PANEL

Night. On two police officers (Monday and Garnon, see below), pointing their guns above them to the top of the Liberty water tower.

LOGO

The Voice Beyond

CAPTION

A quiet night in the small town of Liberty is shaken by:

MONDAY

Drop your guns or we shoot!

CAPTION

Who are the police talking to? What could have happened in this peaceful town? Find out when Glessa Palmer and her student, Jimmy, discover

TITLE

"The gang's all here!"

PAGE TWO - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Establishing shot. Wide angle. Outside of room 019 of the Minuteman High School in Liberty, VA. The door is closed and the halls are quiet.

CAPTION

Friday afternoon. Room 019 of Minuteman High School in Liberty, VA. Classroom of Glessa Palmer.

PANEL TWO

Students roaming in the halls in front of 019. A happy Rebekah Grace is wheeling her way out the door in the conservative blouse and long skirt like she always wears. Jimmy Laurens is walking behind her, his face lacking any expression.

CAPTION

Other teachers gave homework for the weekend, but...

REBEKAH

Golly whiz, Jimmy! No homework this weekend!

JIMMY

Yeah. That's cool.

PANEL THREE

On Rebekah, silently wheeling her way down the hall with other students in a hurry to get home.

REBEKAH

(Thought)

Thank you, Lord!

PANEL FOUR

Wide angle. Just outside Liberty High. A row of buses are lined up to take the kids home. Rebekah Grace, in her wheels, is being lifted onto a bus. Glessa is seen with Toby in the background mixed with other students and teachers.

CAPTION

As the kids go home for the weekend,
Rebekah gets on one bus--

PANEL FIVE

Glessa helping Toby get onto another bus.

CAPTION

--while Toby gets onto another.

PAGE THREE - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Jimmy is walking through the church field across from the school on his way home. He is carrying a backpack with school supplies and textbooks.

CAPTION

But this day, it is Jimmy Laurens we
are following.

JIMMY

(Thought)

Miss Palmer could not have picked a
better day not to give homework. She
is so cool.

PANEL TWO

Jimmy walking through his front door as he enters the house. The house is old and has seen better days, but is livable. Jimmy tosses his backpack carelessly on the floor.

JIMMY

Hi, Mom! I'm home!

PANEL THREE

Wide angle. In the old kitchen of Jimmy's house. Bits of wallpaper are peeling off the wall and some pictures are hung crooked. A few dishes in the sink, but only enough to make the kitchen looked lived in. Jimmy's mother (seen in the previous issue at the wheelchair Olympics) is at the table doing paperwork. Most likely bills. Jimmy is standing at the kitchen entrance.

JIMMY

Can I go out with the gang tonight?
Miss Palmer didn't give us any
homework.

MOTHER

Sure. Just don't be out too long,
Dear. You know how I worry.

JIMMY

Cool.

PANEL FOUR

Jimmy, with no expression and his hands in his pockets, is looking down as he walks along the sidewalk outside of his house.

JIMMY

(Thought)
Ever since I've joined the *Gunshots*,
I have felt like I belong. It's a
cool feeling.

JIMMY

(Thought)
They said to meet them behind the
liquor store...

PANEL FIVE

Jimmy in an alley behind the local liquor store. There is a group of five tough looking teenage boys there waiting for him. The boys are Travis, Mark, Mike, Gary, and Dale. They each have a large can of green paint and a wide paintbrush.

TRAVIS

Good to see you, Jimmy.

MARK

Everyone's here. Let's go.

PAGE FOUR - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

View from the back of the six kids walking along a field as the sun begins to set. There is a farm house in the distance.

JIMMY

Tell me again where we're going?

TRAVIS

We're going to paint the water tower green. We want to do something about that ugly gray.

JIMMY

Cool.

PANEL TWO

The porch of the farmhouse. There's an elderly couple (Robert and Marion Webster) sitting on the porch swing, watching the kids walk in the distance. A set of binoculars is on a table nearby.

MARION

Where do you reckon those young 'uns are off to?

ROBERT

Let's see if we can get a better look at them.

PANEL THREE

On Robert and Marion, with Robert looking through the binoculars.

ROBERT

Better call the sheriff, Honey, I know that look anywhere!

MARION

Why? What are they up to?

PANEL FOUR

On Robert and Marion. Robert is holding the binoculars but no longer looking through them.

ROBERT

They're off to paint the water tower!

MARION

How can you tell?

ROBERT

That's easy.

PANEL FIVE

View on group through Robert's binoculars.

ROBERT (O.S.)

I was young once, myself.

PAGE FIVE - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

The kids climbing the water tower with the paint. It is dark outside.

CAPTION

A little later...

MIKE

I hope everyone remembered their flashlights.

PANEL TWO

The kids at the top of the water tower on the ledge, working on opening the paint.

SFX

WHEE OO! WHEE OO!

TRAVIS

Once we get started, we can...eh?

MARK

It's the cops! How'd they find us?

PANEL THREE

Wide angle. A police car sits at the bottom of the water tower. The kids watch, frightened, from the top. Two officers are standing next to the car. One is Sergeant John Monday. Slightly overweight with short dark hair and a slight widow's peak. Next to him is Officer Bob Garnon, a thin older man with salt and pepper thinning hair. The officers are shining a small spotlight on the kids on the tower. Sergeant Monday is holding a microphone from the car radio in his hand. A wire runs back through the window of the cruiser.

MONDAY

(Amplified)

You up there on the tower! This is Sergeant John Monday and Officer Bob Garnon of the LPD!

Now suppose you youngsters come down
here and we can talk about this?

PANEL FOUR

On the kids cowering on the tower with the spotlight on
them.

MARK

Oh, man! What are we going to do
now?

PANEL FIVE

On Travis, with Jimmy watching.

TRAVIS

Gunshots! Execute Maneuver Alpha!

JIMMY

(Thought)
?????

PAGE SIX - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Gary.

GARY

Maneuver Alpha? Are you sure?
That's kinda heavy...

PANEL TWO

On Travis.

TRAVIS

No options left. Maneuver Alpha.

TRAVIS

NOW!

PANEL THREE

On the six kids. Five of them are reaching behind their
backs with one hand. Only Jimmy isn't.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FOUR

The five kids are now all aiming a gun at the officers.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FIVE

On a surprised Jimmy.

JIMMY

Uh, guys?

JIMMY

This is NOT cool.

PANEL SIX

On Travis.

TRAVIS

Dig it, Jimmy. They don't call us
the Gunshots for nothing.

PAGE SEVEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Garnon and Monday.

GARNON

You know what I think?

MONDAY

What's that...?

PANEL TWO

On Garnon.

GARNON

...I think we have a problem.

PANEL THREE

Wide angle. Police cars surround the water tower,
officers are mulling about, and there is a reporter on the
scene setting up with the cameraman. The news van says
WLIB. The reporter is Lindsey Henshaw. A pretty young
girl with long dark hair and bangs.

CAPTION

As the night goes on, the scene
continues to unfold--

PANEL FOUR

Establishing shot. Wide angle. Glessa's living room.
Her white cat, Roxi, is lying peacefully on the sofa.
Glessa is sitting next to her, turning on her TV.

CAPTION

--as, elsewhere, Glessa Palmer turns
on the evening news.

PANEL FIVE

Close on Glessa's TV. Anchors Karen Warren and Jay McNew are broadcasting the news. Karen is a pretty girl with short, blonde hair, and Jay is a very professional looking man with short dark hair. Karen is seen on the left, Jay on the right.

KAREN

We have a breaking local news story as teens create a volatile situation at the water tower.

JAY

That's right, Karen. WLIB reporter Lindsey Henshaw is on the scene and joins us now live. Lindsey, what can you tell us?

PAGE EIGHT - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Glessa's TV. Lindsey is reporting, with water tower and police in the background.

LINDSEY

Jay, I'm here at the Liberty water tower where a very stressful situation is underway. A group of six teens with guns is on the tower and they refuse to come down.

PANEL TWO

On Lindsey.

LINDSEY

Sources tell me this all started out as a prank to paint the tower green and just spiraled out of hand. We have no further information at this time, nor do we have the names of the teens.

LINDSEY

We'll bring you updates as we get them. For now, I'm Lindsey Henshaw at the water tower, WLIB, on your side.

PANEL THREE

In Glessa's bedroom. Glessa is by her closet, holding up the power suit given to her by Falcon and Jaltarra.

She is nude but the suit she is holding hides her. Roxi is sitting on the floor next to her, watching her eagerly.

GLESSA

I always knew this day would come,
Roxi. The day I'd have to put the
suit to protect the innocent.

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa with the suit on, putting on the power helmet.

GLESSA

But who are the innocent? Is it the
police or the kids, or both or
neither?

PANEL FIVE

On Glessa, now at last the Voice Beyond, flying through
the air on her way to the water tower in the dark.

VOICE BEYOND

(Thought)
Either way, I can't allow shots to be
fired!

PANEL SIX

In the farmhouse of Robert and Marion Webster. Robert and
Marion are watching the news on TV.

MARION

We did the right thing, didn't we?

ROBERT

Of course we did. It'll all work
out.

ROBERT

(Thought)
I hope.

PAGE NINE - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Voice Beyond, approaching the water tower.

VOICE BEYOND

(Thought)
There, on the tower with the others,
it's Jimmy Laurens!

GLESSA

(Thought)

The only one without a gun? What's going on here?

PANEL TWO

Glessa glides down and picks up Jimmy. She is seen carrying him away from the tower.

JIMMY

(Small)

What the...?

GLESSA

(Ghostly)

Have no fear, James Laurens. You are in safe hands.

PANEL THREE

On Monday and Garnon.

MONDAY

Bob?

GARNON

Yeah?

PANEL FOUR

On Monday and Garnon.

MONDAY

Did you see that?

GARNON

Did I see WHAT?

PANEL FIVE

On Monday.

MONDAY

Yeah. That's what I thought.

PAGE TEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Glessa lands with Jimmy behind a building and out of sight of the water tower and police.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)

You will be safe here, James Laurens.

PANEL TWO

On a surprised Jimmy.

JIMMY

Who are you?

JIMMY

You're not talking, but I can still hear you in my mind. You're like some kind of...voice beyond!

PANEL THREE

On Voice Beyond and Jimmy. Glessa has her fingertips pressed lightly against Jimmy's temples.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)

Forgive my intrusion, James Laurens. I must know what has yet transpired and we have not time to do this the standard way.

PANEL FOUR

On Voice Beyond and Jimmy. Voice Beyond is getting ready to fly back to the water tower.

JIMMY

How do you know who I am?

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)

I know of many things, James Laurens.

PANEL FIVE

Wide angle. View from behind Jimmy as he watches Voice Beyond fly back to the tower.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)

Though I fear I may not know how to prevent death this evening.

PAGE ELEVEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Voice Beyond, in the air.

VOICE BEYOND

(Thought)

Okay, Glessa, that Jaltarra style dialogue was about as corny as you can get!

VOICE BEYOND

(Thought)
Now let's see you deal with this
without getting yourself killed?

VOICE BEYOND

(Thought)
This would be easier if I knew what
the heck I was doing!

PANEL TWO

Wide angle. On Voice Beyond and the teenagers. Voice Beyond is hovering vertically in front of the kids on the water tower. The kids can't believe what they are seeing. Or hearing.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)
Drop.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)
The guns.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly, bold)
NOW.

PANEL THREE

On the five remaining kids on the water tower.

GARY

Aw, man! What do we do?

GARY

(Hysterical)
WHAT DO WE DO?

PANEL FOUR

On Monday and Garnon down below. Monday talks through the megaphone.

MONDAY

I'll tell you what you do, Son. You
do as she says and no one gets hurt.

PANEL FIVE

On Garnon.

GARNON

Are you sure you can trust her, John?

PAGE TWELVE - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Monday.

MONDAY

Not on your life. But for the moment
she does seem to be on our side.

PANEL TWO

On Monday and Garnon, hearing Voice Beyond in their heads.

SFX

(Ghostly)
I do not consider myself to be on
"sides", gentlemen. If I am on
anyone's side, it would be the side
of justice and the side of bringing
this to a peaceful resolution.

PANEL THREE

On Garnon.

GARNON

(Quiet and small)
That works for me, Lady.

PANEL FOUR

Wide angle on Glessa and the kids.

DALE

I don't know who this lady is, but I
don't want to mess with her.

PANEL FIVE

On Voice Beyond.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)
You are getting wise, my young
friend.

PAGE THIRTEEN - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Monday and Garnon.

GARNON

Now, John?

MONDAY

Yeah. Now.

PANEL TWO

On Monday and Garnon, guns aimed at the kids.

MONDAY

Last chance, kids. Drop them or we shoot!

PANEL THREE

On Glessa, turning around to face Monday. Her palm is facing the officers and there are lines of invisible rays coming from her hand down to the all the police on scene.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly, bold)
NO!!!!

PANEL FOUR

On the officers, eyes open and frozen mid way to lifting their guns to the kids.

CAPTION

And with that, the officers are frozen in place.

CAPTION

Still. Unmoving.

PANEL FIVE

On the five kids.

MIKE

What did you do? They're not moving!

PANEL SIX

On Voice Beyond, still hovering.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)
Correct.

PAGE FOURTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Glessa, flying down to the police. She is seen taking the guns out of their hands as she flies by.

NO DIALOG

PANEL TWO

On Jimmy, who has been watching behind the scenes.

JIMMY

(Thought)

What is she doing?

PANEL THREE

On Voice Beyond, dropping the guns a distance away.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FOUR

On Voice Beyond, arcing back to to hover in front of the five kids.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FIVE

On Voice Beyond, facing the kids on the water tower.

GLESSA

(Ghostly)

They cannot harm you. Surrender.

PAGE FIFTEEN - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

On the five kids, emphasis on Gary.

GARY

How do we know we can trust you?

PANEL TWO

Wide angle on Voice Beyond and the kids.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)

You don't. But you have no choice.

You can trust me or you can end up frozen like them.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)

Your choice.

PANEL THREE

On Mark.

MARK

Are they...? Did you...?

PANEL FOUR

On Voice Beyond, still hovering in front of the tower.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)

They are very much alive. They can see and hear everything we are doing. They just can't move for the moment. Drop your guns and we can end this peacefully.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)

Be warned. I will not ask again.

PANEL FIVE

On Gary.

GARY

All right. You win.

GARY

I'm dropping mine, Lady.

PANEL SIX

On the ground beneath Gary. The gun falls with a...

SFX

>PLUNK<

PAGE SIXTEEN - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

On the ground with Gary's gun.

NO DIALOG

PANEL TWO

Still on the ground with Gary's gun.

NO DIALOG

PANEL THREE

On the ground with Gary's gun. Four other guns join it.

SFX

>PLUNK< >PLUNK< >PLUNK< >PLUNK<

PANEL FOUR

On Monday and Garnon, coming out a fog.

GARNON

John?

MONDAY

Yeah?

PANEL FIVE

On Monday and Garnon.

GARNON

Did you just...?

MONDAY

Did I just WHAT...?

PANEL SIX

On Garnon.

GARNON

Yeah. That's what I thought.

PAGE SEVENTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide angle on Voice Beyond and the kids. Voice Beyond is floating down to the ground while the kids slowly descend the water tower ladder.

NO DIALOG

PANEL TWO

Voice Beyond and the kids on the ground in front of the water tower. The kids are surrounded by police and handcuffed as Monday and Garnon walk up to Voice Beyond.

MONDAY

Now suppose you explain to me just how you did that hocus pocus, ma'am?

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)

That's classified information, Sergeant.

PANEL THREE

On an angry Monday.

MONDAY

Well, UN-classify it, Lady, and be quick about it!

PANEL FOUR

On a somewhat calmer Garnon.

GARNON

It's not that we don't appreciate
your help, we just don't know who you
are or what your intentions are.

PANEL FIVE

Wide angle on Monday, Garnon, and Voice Beyond.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)
I'm one of the good guys, if that's
what you're worried about.

PAGE EIGHTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Monday and Voice Beyond.

MONDAY

Then I suppose you won't mind turning
over that kid you took when you
arrived?

VOICE BEYOND

(Thought)
Jimmy! I forgot about...!

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)
I'm afraid I can't do that. I think
he may be innocent.

PANEL TWO

On Monday.

MONDAY

That's for the courts to decide,
ma'am.

PANEL THREE

On Voice Beyond. Thought rings are radiating out from her
head.

VOICE BEYOND

(Thought)
If I concentrate, maybe I can make
people here forget the Jimmy was ever
here.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)
You were saying, Officer?

PANEL FOUR

On an agitated Monday, with the thought waves reaching him.

MONDAY

I was saying I want to know who you are and I want to know now!

PANEL FIVE

On a much calmer Garnon.

GARNON

What my partner is trying to say is that we are just curious about who you are. You would have to expect that of law enforcement.

GARNON

Let's start with your name.

PAGE NINETEEN - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Voice Beyond.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)

I am just a voice. Perhaps a voice beyond.

PANEL TWO

On Garnon, writing her name down on a small pad.

GARNON

I see. Voice Beyond. I'm curious, Miss Beyond, if you are one of the good guys, then why did you freeze the law enforcement instead of the kids? You could have easily taken their guns away and settled this.

PANEL THREE

On Voice Beyond.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)

I thought it would be better for all involved if they gave up the guns themselves.

PANEL FOUR

On Monday and Glessa.

MONDAY

YOU thought? Well, Miss Voice Beyond, I'm going to have to ask you to remove the helmet and come down to the station for questioning.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)
And ruin the mystery? No thank you.

PANEL FIVE

Wide angle. Monday, Garnon, and the news team watches Glessa wave at them as she flies away from the scene. Her other hand is showing lines of invisible force aimed at the camera.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)
Give my regards to the department, Sergeant.

VOICE BEYOND

(Thought)
I'll just blur the video on my way out to protect Jimmy.

PANEL SIX

On the group below watching her go.

NO DIALOG

PAGE TWENTY - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Lindsey Henshaw with her cameraman. She is approaching Sergeant Monday.

LINDSEY

Sergeant Monday, Lindsey Henshaw, WL1B. Can you tell us who that woman was?

PANEL TWO

On Monday.

MONDAY

She called herself the Voice Beyond. Other than that, you know as much as I do, Lady.

PANEL THREE

On Lindsey.

LINDSEY

I see. Can you tell me--

PANEL FOUR

On Monday.

MONDAY

--No further comments. Excuse me,
Miss, I have work to do.

PANEL FIVE

On Monday and Garnon, a small ways away from Lindsey and the cameraman.

GARNON

I don't know, John. There's
something about that Voice Beyond
that I almost...admire.

PAGE TWENTY-ONE - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Monday.

MONDAY

She took the law into her own hands.
There's nothing admirable about that.

PANEL TWO

On Garnon.

GARNON

You're right. And she may well have
saved our lives in the process,
including ours.

PANEL THREE

On Monday.

MONDAY

>HHMMPH<

PANEL FOUR

Wide angle. On Voice Beyond and Jimmy as Voice Beyond is
about to land beside him.

CAPTION

Meanwhile...

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)
James Laurens.

PANEL FIVE

On Voice Beyond, with her dark mask staring straight at Jimmy.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)
We need to talk.

CAPTION

To Be Continued...

PANEL SIX

Caption panel.

CAPTION

Next issue: She talks! He listens!
The network reports! And much more!
Coming soon!

PAGE TWENTY-TWO - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Daylight. On the Voice Beyond and Jimmy, standing in front of the water tower.

CAPTION

(Upper left)
Moral.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)
Greetings. I am the Voice Beyond.

JIMMY

And I'm Jimmy Laurens.

PANEL TWO

On Voice Beyond.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)
In today's story, we saw a situation
get out of hand because of guns.

PANEL THREE

On Jimmy.

JIMMY

Yeah, man. I thought guns were cool.
And they are, in a way, but they are
also very dangerous.

JIMMY

You gotta know what you're doing,
Man.

PANEL FOUR

Wide angle on Jimmy and Voice Beyond.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)

You speak truth, James Laurens. Guns
are not toys to be taken to school or
carried around in a back pack.

PANEL FIVE

On Jimmy and Voice Beyond, different angle.

JIMMY

Yeah. That's not cool. If you see a
gun, leave it where it is and tell a
responsible adult right away.

PANEL SIX

On Jimmy and Voice Beyond, waving.

VOICE BEYOND

(Ghostly)

See you next time.

CAPTION

(Lower right)

End.

END