



**The VOICE Beyond
Issue #07: A Little Girl Talk**

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PAGE ONE - SPLASH PAGE

SPLASH PANEL

Glessa and Rebekah in conversation alone. Rebekah is angry and Glessa and shocked and confused.

CAPTION

When Special Education teacher Glessa Palmer was given powers she did not want, she knew she had to put them to good use. Now she teaches class during the day and battles crime during the night as

LOGO

The Voice Beyond

CAPTION

Glessa gets a new student and...

REBEKAH

Don't you understand, Miss Palmer? I hate her!

REBEKAH

I HATE HER!

CAPTION

What's this? Rebekah is the sweetest, more adorable person we know! What could possibly make her hate anyone? Can Glessa set her straight?

CAPTION

Glessa and Rebekah have

TITLE

A Little Girl Talk

PAGE TWO - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Establishing shot. Wide angle. Exterior of Minuteman High School, Liberty, VA. Nice day with flag waving in a gentle breeze.

CAPTION

Wednesday morning. Minuteman High School.

PANEL TWO

Interior of High School. Closed door of room 019. Glessa Palmer's special education classroom.

CAPTION

Room 019.

PANEL THREE

Wide angle. Miss Palmer is sitting on her desk and addressing her class. There is a knock on her door off to the side where we can't see.

CAPTION

Class is again in session.

GLESSA

I have some exciting news before we get started today, class.

GLESSA

Today we will be joined by a new student. She should be here any--

SFX

>KNOCK< >KNOCK<

GLESSA

--And there she is now!

PANEL FOUR

View of the door. Walking in, full of bounce and energy, is Rachela Grand. Sixteen years old, short blonde hair. She is slim and curvy, dressed in tight jeans and a shirt to match. She is built well and she knows it. She is excited to be there. Walking past her in the hall is the Nerdy Boy from last issue.

GLESSA (O.S.)

Class, this is Rachela Grand, Toby's older sister. She is going to be with us for a time.

GLESSA

Rachela, this is my class. Rebekah, Jimmy, and of course your brother, Toby.

PANEL FIVE

On Perky Rachela.

RACHELA

Hiya, class!

PAGE THREE - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide angle on the three students. There is a new empty desk between Toby and Rebekah.

REBEKAH AND JIMMY

Hi, Rachela.

PANEL TWO

On Glessa.

GLESSA

So. Tell us a little bit about yourself, Rachela.

PANEL THREE

On Rebekah.

REBEKAH

Oh yes, please! We'd love to know about our new friend!

PANEL FOUR

On a pleased Rachela.

RACHELA

Well, I'm sixteen, and I am a native of Liberty. I work at the Dairy Queen down the street on the weekends and I like baseball.

PANEL FOUR

On Rachela.

RACHELA

And there is one more thing. I know that you will hear rumors floating around about this, so I might as well set the record straight right now.

PANEL FIVE

On Rachela.

RACHELA

Those rumors will be true.

RACHELA

I'm gay.

PAGE FOUR - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

On a surprised Rebekah.

REBEKAH

>GASP!<

PANEL TWO

On Jimmy, no expression.

JIMMY

Cool.

PANEL THREE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Thank you for that...informative introduction, Rachela. Please take that empty seat next to Rebekah.

PANEL FOUR

On Rebekah and Rachela. Rachela is sitting at her desk with her hands folded, ready and eager to learn. Rebekah looks decidedly uncomfortable.

RACHELA

Right-o, Miss Palmer. Present and ready to learn, hey?

PANEL FIVE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Now. You will remember that we learned a bit about programming recently. Please turn your workbooks to page 73 and fill out the questions.

GLESSA

Rachela, you weren't here yesterday so just do the best you can.

PANEL SIX

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Begin.

PAGE FIVE - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide angle on the students writing away on page 73.

NO DIALOG

PANEL TWO

On Glessa, quietly doing her own paperwork at her desk.

GLESSA

(Thought)

Nothing from the Alley Killer this morning on the radio. That's good news. But I can't rest easy yet. He's still out there.

PANEL THREE

On Rebekah and Rachela. Rebekah is looking askance and uncomfortable at Rachela. Rachela is too absorbed in her work to notice.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa, still doing her own work.

GLESSA

(Thought)

The problem is I have no idea where to even begin looking for him. If it even is a him. What if it is a her? Or even a them?

PANEL FIVE

On Rebekah, wheeling her chair towards Glessa's desk.

REBEKAH

Miss Palmer?

PAGE SIX - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Glessa and Rebekah. Glessa is looking up from her work at Rebekah, but still has pen in hand.

GLESSA

Yes, Rebekah?

REBEKAH

Can you take me to the little Rebekah's room, Miss Palmer?

PANEL TWO

On Glessa.

GLESSA

(Thought)

Since when does she need help...She prefers to go alone.*

GLESSA

Sure, Rebekah. Just let me call and get someone to come in.

CAPTION

*See issue 3.

PANEL THREE

Rebekah and Glessa walking through the hallways of the school. Glessa walks next to Rebekah, who is wheeling herself. The only other person in the hall is passing them coming the opposite way. That would be the silent Nerdy Boy.

REBEKAH

Thank you for coming, Miss Palmer, I wanted to talk to you privately.

PANEL FOUR

In the private teacher's ladies room with Glessa and Rebekah. Rebekah is looking ashamed and Glessa is adjusting her hair in the mirror.

REBEKAH

Miss Palmer, I...I think I have a problem.

GLESSA

What's wrong, Rebekah?

PANEL FIVE

Same view, different angle.

REBEKAH

It's that new girl, Rachela, Miss Palmer.

GLESSA

What's wrong with her?

PANEL SIX

On Rebekah and Glessa. Rebekah is even more stressed, Glessa is shocked beyond belief as Rebekah is saying words Glessa never thought she would ever hear from her.

REBEKAH
(Yelling)
I HATE HER, MISS PALMER!

PAGE SEVEN - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE
On a still shocked Glessa.

GLESSA
Rebekah! I can't believe you could
ever hate *anyone*!

PANEL TWO
On a sad Rebekah.

REBEKAH
I'm sorry, Miss Palmer. I can't help
it. I hate her!

PANEL THREE
On Glessa and Rebekah.

GLESSA
But *why*, Rebekah? She seems nice
enough to me. Very friendly and
outgoing.

PANEL FOUR
Glessa and Rebekah. Different angle.

REBEKAH
(distraught)
Well, she's...I can't even say it,
Miss Palmer!

GLESSA
Take a deep breath, Rebekah, and try
again.

PANEL FIVE
On Rebekah.

REBEKAH
The problem, Miss Palmer, is that
she's...*she's gay*!

PANEL SIX
On Glessa, somehow no longer surprised.

GLESSA
Why does that matter to you, Rebekah?

PAGE EIGHT - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Rebekah and Glessa. Door can be seen behind them and coming through the door is another teacher, Joan Flannery. Charmingly pudgy, gray hair tied into a bun in back.*

REBEKAH

The Bible says homosexuality is a sin and an abomination unto the Lord, Miss Palmer!

REBEKAH

And also it's just GROSS!

CAPTION

*See issue #2.

PANEL TWO

On Glessa. Behind her, Mrs. Flannery is walking into one of the stalls.

GLESSA

Rebekah, do you remember the tax collector who was up in the tree?

PANEL THREE

On Rebekah.

REBEKAH

Do you mean Zacchaeus, Miss Palmer?

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa and Rebekah. Mrs. Flannery's feet are seen under a stall door in the background.

GLESSA

Right. Remember that tax collectors were hated among the Jews. Yet when Jesus saw him in the tree, he called to him by name and wanted to visit his home.

REBEKAH

I remember that story, Miss Palmer.

PANEL FIVE

On Rebekah.

REBEKAH

Zacchaeus was so moved by Jesus that he repented and swore to make restitution to all he had wronged.

REBEKAH

Jesus had a big meal at his house.

PAGE NINE - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

That's right, Rebekah. And do you remember the lepers?

REBEKAH

Yes, I do, Miss Palmer. He told ten lepers to show themselves to the priests. All ten went and were healed, but only one of them came back to thank him.

PANEL TWO

On Rebekah and Glessa, Mrs. Flannery's feet under the stall in background.

GLESSA

Right. And what happened to the single leper?

REBEKAH

Jesus touched him and his faith has made him well?

PANEL THREE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Right again, Rebekah. You know your Bible. Now, what do all of these things have in common?

PANEL FOUR

On Rebekah, deep in thought.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FIVE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Rebekah, in each of those cases, those people were hated by others. But Jesus loved them all.

GLESSA

And remember, he loved the prostitute as well.

GLESSA

Don't you see, Rebekah? God is not about hate. He is about love!

PAGE TEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Rebekah.

REBEKAH

But Jesus says He doesn't like homosexuals, Miss Palmer!

PANEL TWO

On Glessa and Rebekah. Mrs. Flannery is walking out of the stall in the background.

GLESSA

Jesus said no such thing. There is no record in the Bible of Jesus Himself ever discussing homosexuality one way or the other.

GLESSA

Rebekah, He was too busy talking about love to talk about hate.

PANEL THREE

Side view on Glessa. Mrs. Flannery is seen walking to the sink behind her.

GLESSA

The Bible makes it very clear that Jesus didn't hate *anyone*. If your goal in life is to be more like Jesus, which is a noble and admirable goal, then you have to give this girl a chance. Jesus would love her as much as He loves anyone else.

PANEL FOUR

On Rebekah looking thoughtful again. Mrs. Flannery washing her hands behind.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FIVE

Close on Rebekah, unable to look Glessa in the eye.

REBEKAH

You're right, Miss Palmer.

REBEKAH

I feel ashamed.

PAGE ELEVEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Mrs. Flannery joins in the conversation.

MRS. FLANNERY

Excuse me. I couldn't help but overhear. May I speak with her, Miss Palmer?

PANEL TWO

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Certainly, Mrs. Flannery.

PANEL THREE

On Rebekah and Mrs. Flannery. Glessa walks into the stall recently vacated by Mrs. Flannery.

MRS. FLANNERY

Rebekah, I just want you to know that like you, I go to church every Sunday.

MRS. FLANNERY

I used to go to a church that refused to allow gay people to walk through the door.

PANEL FOUR

Close on Mrs. Flannery and Rebekah.

MRS. FLANNERY

They got so caught up in their religion that they forgot the most important thing Jesus taught.

REBEKAH

What's that, Mrs. Flannery?

PANEL FIVE

On Mrs. Flannery, Glessa's feet under the stall behind her.

MRS. FLANNERY

Look around you, Rebekah. There are gangs and shootings, wars and death. Soldiers are killed, dictators are taking over, and legislators are so polarized that they can't get along.

PAGE TWELVE - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Rebekah and Mrs. Flannery.

MRS. FLANNERY

Whether you believe in a higher power or not, life is about loving your fellow man and respecting the beliefs of those who respect the beliefs of others.

PANEL TWO

On Mrs. Flannery.

MRS. FLANNERY

This world is full of people who have forgotten that. Please don't become one of them, Rebekah.

PANEL THREE

On Mrs. Flannery and Rebekah. Glessa coming out of stall behind them.

REBEKAH

So... Jesus would love them. Even if they are gay.

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa, washing her hands.

GLESSA

Of course He would, Rebekah. And you can be sure He isn't happy with the bigotry many Christians are showing towards them.

PANEL FIVE

On Mrs. Flannery.

MRS. FLANNERY

Not everyone is this way, Rebekah, but some Christians have a problem separating the sinner from the sin. They hate both. S

MRS. FLANNERY

Sometimes I think they don't they even realize it, or maybe they simply just don't care.

PAGE THIRTEEN - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

But here is a special opportunity to show the true love of God. By loving Rachela just for who she is. The same way Jesus loves you for who you are.

PANEL TWO

On Mrs. Flannery.

MRS. FLANNERY

You'll find the two have more in common than you think, and you might make a new friend.

PANEL THREE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

And who couldn't use a new friend? Rachela is new in the class. I know she can use all the friends she can get.

PANEL FOUR

On Rebekah.

REBEKAH

You're right, Miss Palmer.

PANEL FIVE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

You have nothing to be ashamed of, Rebekah. If you go back and be her friend, Mrs. Flannery and I will be very proud of you.

PANEL SIX

On Glessa, Mrs. Flannery and Rebekah. Glessa and Mrs. Flannery are moving toward the door.

GLESSA

I'll wait for you outside, Rebekah.

PAGE FOURTEEN - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

Outside the ladies room. Glessa and Mrs. Flannery are talking. Door with a "Ladies" sign is in the background.

GLESSA

That was some smooth talking, Joan.

MRS. FLANNERY

Thanks. You did pretty well yourself. I need to get back to my class. Let me know how it goes.

PANEL TWO

Mrs. Flannery walking away from Glessa. Mrs. Flannery and Glessa waving at each other.

GLESSA

Will do.

PANEL THREE

Glessa walking and Rebekah wheeling down the hallway back to class.

CAPTION

Soon...

REBEKAH

Golly! What should I do, Miss Palmer? How can I be her friend?

GLESSA

Well, seems to me you can start by shaking her hand and welcoming her to the class.

PANEL FOUR

On Rebekah.

REBEKAH

But, Miss Palmer! Shaking her hand? Would I get...

PANEL FIVE

On Glessa and Rebekah. Nerdy Boy walks silently by in the background.

GLESSA

No. You can't catch it. It isn't contagious.

REBEKAH

Are you sure, Miss Palmer?

PANEL SIX

On Glessa, smiling.

GLESSA

I'm sure, Rebekah.

PAGE FIFTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide angle. In Glessa's classroom. Back of Rebekah and her chair seen as she is wheeling back to her spot next to Rachela.

REBEKAH

Rachela?

RACHELA

Hey, Rebekah, What's up?

PANEL TWO

Close on Rebekah and Rachela. Rebekah is back next to Rachela. She is holding out her hand to Rachela.

REBEKAH

I'd like to welcome you to the class.

PANEL THREE

On Rachela and Rebekah, shaking hands.

RACHELA

Thank you, Rebekah.

PANEL FOUR

On happy Rebekah.

REBEKAH

So.

REBEKAH

Friends?

PANEL FIVE

On happy Rachela.

RACHELA

Yes.

RACHELA

Friends.

PAGE SIXTEEN - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide angle. Mrs. Palmer's classroom door. Door is closed.

CAPTION

Later...

SFX

>KNOCK< >KNOCK<

GLESSA (O.S.)

Come in, please.

PANEL TWO

View on door. Janitor Warring is walking through the door. Nerdy Boy is seen walking past in the hall, silent as always.

MR. WARRING

Hello, Miss Palmer.

PANEL THREE

On Glessa, at her desk.

GLESSA

Hello, Mr. Warring. What can I do for you?

PANEL FOUR

On Warring.

MR. WARRING

Just making the rounds, Miss Palmer. You need anything?

PANEL FIVE

On Glessa and Warring.

GLESSA

Not at the moment, but thanks for asking. It was very kind of you.

MR. WARRING

Just doing my job, ma'am.

PANEL SIX

View from behind Glessa as she watches Mr. Warring leave.

GLESSA

(Thought)

He seems a nice man, but somehow I
feel uncomfortable when he is around
me? I wonder why...?

PAGE SEVENTEEN - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Toby, typing away at his keyboard.

TOBY

(Computerized)
Miss Palmer?

PANEL TWO

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Yes, Toby?

PANEL THREE

On Toby, with his tongue sticking out Charlie Brown style
and typing on his keys.

SFX

TAP TAP TAP

TOBY

(Computerized)
Thank you for this keyboard. It has
been very helpful.

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa.

GLESSA

You're welcome, Toby. I trust we
start to hear more from you in class?
We would appreciate your
participation.

PANEL FIVE

On Toby, typing.

TOBY

(Computerized)
I would like that as well, Miss
Palmer.

PANEL SIX

On Glessa.

SFX

>RRRRRIINNNGGGG!!!!<

GLESSA

Our time is up. See you tomorrow,
class.

PAGE EIGHTEEN - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

Establishing shot. Wide angle. Voice Beyond, flying in
the during early evening. The sun has started to go down
and it is getting dark.

CAPTION

Later that night.

VOICE

(Thought)
This town isn't all that big, but
it's big enough to make one alley
killer hard to find... Where do I
begin looking?

PANEL TWO

On Voice, still in the sky, looking down at a disturbance
below.

VOICE

???

BOY ONE (O.S.)

Is too!

BOY TWO (O.S.)

Is not!

BOY ONE (O.S.)

Is too!

BOY TWO (O.S.)

Is not!

PANEL THREE

Voice Beyond alights in front of two young boys in a nice neighborhood.

VOICE

(Ghostly)
What goes on here?

BOY ONE

Hey, aren't you--

BOY TWO

--The Voice Beyond!

PANEL FOUR

Voice Beyond standing with the two boys, arms akimbo, looking heroic.

VOICE

(Ghostly)
Yes. Now what's all this about?

PANEL FIVE

The two boys stare blankly at each other.

NO DIALOG

PANEL SIX

On the boys, talking to Voice Beyond.

BOY 2

I don't remember!

BOY 1

Me neither!

PAGE NINETEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide angle. On all three.

VOICE

(Ghostly)
Then it is time to be friends again.

BOY 1

I guess you're right.

BOY 2

Yeah.

PANEL TWO

On the two boys shaking hands.

NO DIALOG

PANEL THREE

On Voice Beyond, again flying. The two boys can be seen on the ground playing behind her.

VOICE

(Thought)
If only all problems were that easy
to solve!

VOICE

If I was an alley killer, where would
I strike next? What would my
motivation be? Why would I be doing
this?

PANEL FOUR

On Voice, flying and pondering.

VOICE

(Thought)
All of the victims have been girls
from Minuteman High School. Could
the killer be one of the teachers?

PANEL FIVE

View from above Voice in the air. The ground is seen far below.

VOICE

(Thought)
I can't think like that. I'll be
suspicious of the teachers and it'll
drive me nuts!

PAGE TWENTY - SEVEN PANELS

PANEL ONE

The streets of Liberty. Rachela and Rebekah are moving along the sidewalk, casually chatting.

RACHELA

Starting to get dark, Rebekah.

REBEKAH

Golly Juniper! We've been having
such fun out here that we lost track
of time!

REBEKAH

Sister Kate is probably frantic with worry!

PANEL TWO

Close on Rachela.

RACHELA

Then we'd best get you home, new buddy. It's been great hanging with you today.

RACHELA

Besides, you know there is that mysterious alley killer around here somewhere.

PANEL THREE

On Rebekah, looking worried.

REBEKAH

Do you really think he would...he would come after US?

PANEL FOUR

On a sly Rachela.

RACHELA

I doubt it. That kind of thing usually happens to "other" people.

RACHELA

But then again, we are two wild and crazy girls...!

PANEL FIVE

On a scared Rebekah.

REBEKAH

You don't think...I mean he wouldn't...would he?

PANEL SIX

On Rachela.

RACHELA

Maybe we better hurry back just in case.

PANEL SEVEN

On Rachela and Rebekah.

ALLEY KILLER (O.S.)

(Chilled)

A bit too late for that, ladies...

PAGE TWENTY-ONE - FOUR PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Voice, still soaring.

VOICE

(Thought)

Rebekah told me she and Rachela were getting together after school. I'm glad that worked out for them.

VOICE

(Thought)

They'll be able to learn from each other and--

PANEL TWO

On Voice, hovering in the air.

SCREAM (O.S.)

--EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!!

PANEL THREE

On Voice Beyond, approaching Rebekah, Rachela, and the Alley Killer.

VOICE

(Thought)

The Alley Killer! I don't believe it! The Alley Killer is--

PANEL FOUR

Caption panel.

CAPTION

When Glessa finishes that sentence next issue, everything will come together! Glessa, Rachela, and Rebekah have found the Alley Killer. But that is the very least of Glessa's problems! Things get worse, much worse. Glessa finds a problem she may not be able handle in the next issue, coming soon!

PAGE TWENTY-TWO - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

Outdoors at a nice park on a sunny day. Glessa is dressed casual in jeans and a sweat shirt, leaning against a lamp post with her hands in her pockets. She looks out at the reader with those beautiful green eyes and says...

GLESSA

Hi.

PANEL TWO

On Glessa, walking.

GLESSA

I'm Glessa Palmer.

GLESSA

In today's story, Rebekah learned something very important.

PANEL THREE

On Glessa, walking through the park. Kids are playing on the swings in the background and a soft breeze is flowing through her hair.

GLESSA

All of us are different.

GLESSA

We have different beliefs, different ways of looking at things, different ways of being.

GLESSA

And yet, for all of our differences...

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa walking, with happy kids chasing each other behind her.

GLESSA

...we are all still very much the same.

GLESSA

Sometimes beliefs aren't right or wrong, they are just different. And those differences are what makes this world such a wonderful place in which to live.

PANEL FIVE

Close on Glessa.

GLESSA

Many people hate or even fear these differences, but what we should be doing is rejoicing in them. We can learn so much about one another if we just take a moment to listen and give each other a chance.

GLESSA

Like Rebekah did today with Rachela.

PANEL SIX

Wide angle. Playground behind Glessa as she waves goodbye.

GLESSA

That's all for now. See you next time.

END