



The VOICE Beyond
Issue #10: I Won't Take Your Baby

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PAGE ONE - SINGLE SPLASH PANEL

PANEL ONE

Close up view of a truck driver in panic and slamming on the brakes. He is absolutely terrified of what he sees out his front window!

CAPTION

A truck out of control! A pregnant teenager missing! A boy completely lost in his own mind!

CAPTION

All of this and more leads to problems, perils, and pontification for...

LOGO

The Voice Beyond

CAPTION

In a story we call...

TITLE

I Won't Take Your Baby

PAGE TWO - TWO PANELS

PANEL ONE

View from above the Voice Beyond, flying and looking for Penny.

CAPTION

From last issue...

VOICE

(Thought)
There she is! I found Penny!

VOICE

(Thought)
But that truck is coming so fast and she doesn't see it...

PANEL TWO

Close on the emotionless full mask of the Voice Beyond, thought waves emanating from her.

VOICE

(Ghostly)
NO!!!!!!!!!!!!

VOICE

(Thought)

Too late to stop him, maybe I can
slow him down?

PAGE THREE - SINGLE PANEL

PANEL ONE

Voice Beyond's view of the street from above. Penny is standing on the sidewalk with a few others. They are startled as a young pregnant girl jumps in front of a truck.

SFX (O.S.)

>WHOMP<

PAGE FOUR - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Voice Beyond alights in front of the truck. People are standing around in shock looking down at the unconscious girl in the street. Among them are the driver and a particular man and woman who say...

WOMAN

Look! It's...

MAN

...the Voice Beyond!

VOICE

(Ghostly)

Stand aside.

PANEL TWO

Close on Voice Beyond and driver. Rubber neckers are seen in the background.

DRIVER

I... I didn't see her. She jumped
right out in front of me. I called
911 but...

VOICE

(Ghostly)

This was not your fault.

PANEL THREE

Voice Beyond and driver (as well as everyone else) look to see ambulance and police car arriving on scene with flashing sirens.

SFX

>WHEE< >WHEE< >WHEE<

PANEL FOUR

Two EMS workers hover over the girl in the street as Sergeant Monday and Officer Garnon of the Liberty Police begin to ask questions.

MONDAY

All right. Now suppose someone tells us what just happened here?

DRIVER

It's like I just told Miss Voice Beyond, Officer. I didn't see her. She just jumped out in front of me.

PANEL FIVE

On Officer Garnon.

GARNON

Did anyone else see what happened?

PAGE FIVE - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide angle on the gathered crowd.

PERSON 1

She just jumped right in front of him.

PERSON 2

There was no way he could have stopped.

PERSON 3

She just ran out in front of him.

PERSON 4

There was nothing he could do.

PANEL TWO

Sergeant Monday looks sternly at Voice Beyond, who gazes back at him with her emotionless mask.

[NO DIALOG]

PANEL THREE

On Monday and Voice Beyond.

MONDAY

Did you see what happened, Ma'am?

VOICE

(Ghostly)
Indeed I did, Sergeant.

MONDAY

Spill it, Lady.

PANEL FOUR

Wide angle. Voice Beyond talking to Monday while in the background, the girl is being loaded into the ambulance on a stretcher.

VOICE

(Ghostly)
I was overhead and saw the truck coming down the street at a reasonable rate of speed. It happened just as these people said.

VOICE

(Ghostly)
As the truck approached this location, the girl ran out into the street in front of the truck. It almost appeared as if she wanted the truck to hit her.

PANEL FIVE

Pull out to reveal Monday, Voice Beyond and Garnon.

GARNON

It wouldn't be the first time a pregnant teenager tried something like this, John.

MONDAY

Yeah, Bob. I know.

PAGE SIX - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

Same angle. Monday addressing the Voice Beyond.

MONDAY

Do you mind if I ask you what you were doing in this area?

VOICE

(Ghostly)

I was searching for a student.

MONDAY

Why were you searching for a student?

VOICE

(Ghostly)

Because her parents were--

PANEL TWO

Wide angle view on Harvey running toward crowd and Penny.

HARVEY

Penny? PENNY!!!

PANEL THREE

Wide angle view as Voice Beyond, Monday and Garnon see Harvey hugging Penny. Aimee is approaching from the other direction.

VOICE

(Ghostly)

--worried about her.

MONDAY

I see.

PANEL FOUR

Close on Penny, Harvey and Aimee.

AIMEE

Penny, where have you been? I've been looking all over for you!

HARVEY

C'mon. Let's go home. We have things to talk about.

PANEL FIVE

On Penny, Aimee and Harvey walking home.

PENNY

Am I in trouble?

HARVEY

No. No, Honey. You're not in trouble.

HARVEY

Not anymore.

PANEL SIX

On Garnon and Voice Beyond, watching them go.

GARNON

What's with them?

VOICE

(Ghostly)

A family matter. I'm sure it will be resolved.

PAGE SEVEN - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Garnon and Voice Beyond. Monday approaching.

VOICE

(Ghostly)

Any word on the girl?

MONDAY

It's not looking good.

VOICE

(Ghostly)

I'm sorry to hear that.

MONDAY

Yeah. Me too.

PANEL TWO

On Monday, Garnon, and Voice Beyond. Monday is looking at Voice Beyond.

MONDAY

Ma'am, I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you a few questions.

VOICE

(Ghostly)

Sorry, Sergeant. I have other important matters to attend to.

MONDAY

Now see here...!

PANEL THREE

Voice Beyond rises into the air, waves at Monday and Garnon.

VOICE

(Ghostly)
Farewell, Gentlemen, I am sure we
will meet again.

PANEL FOUR

On Monday and Garnon.

MONDAY

Sometimes I get the feeling she
really doesn't like me.

GARNON

Can you blame her? You haven't
always exactly been kind to her.

MONDAY

She needs to answer some questions.

GARNON

She always answers mine.

PANEL FIVE

Monday and Garnon looking at each other.

[NO DIALOG]

PANEL SIX

On Monday and Garnon.

MONDAY

>Humph!<

PAGE EIGHT - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Voice Beyond, landing next to Glessa's car.

VOICE

(Thought)
Exit Voice Beyond, enter Glessa
Palmer.

PANEL TWO

Glessa knocking on Penny's door.

SFX

>knock< >knock<

PANEL THREE

Aimee answers.

AIMEE

Come on in, Glessa. We found Penny.

GLESSA

Glad to hear it!

PANEL FOUR

Wide angle on all four standing in the living room as seen last issue. Harvey looking embarrassed.

HARVEY

I ... I owe all of you an apology.

HARVEY

Penny, I...

PANEL FIVE

Wide angle on all four standing, favoring Harvey.

HARVEY

Look. You know I haven't approved of who've been hanging out with lately. But...

HARVEY

...Maybe we better sit down.

PANEL SIX

Family sitting down, Glessa heading toward the door.

GLESSA

I'll leave you guys to work this out...

HARVEY

No.

HARVEY

Please stay, Miss Palmer. You've been very helpful and my daughter obviously thinks highly of you.

PAGE NINE - SEVEN PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide angle on all three sitting down on chairs and a sofa. Harvey is sitting next to Penny. Glessa is looking at Harvey and invisible psionic waves are coming from her forehead.

GLESSA

(Thought)
Looks like he can use a little help.
I'll just boost his courage a bit and
let him talk.

GLESSA

Go ahead, Mr. Gain.

PANEL TWO

On all four, favoring Harvey and Penny. Harvey has Penny's hand in both of his as psionic waves are coming at him from Glessa.

HARVEY

Penny, I left because I was ... I was afraid. Money is already very tight around here.

HARVEY

We haven't been getting along lately and I didn't think this was making that any better. But...

PANEL THREE

On Harvey and Penny, hands still together.

HARVEY

...But when I heard on the news that a young girl had been hit, I felt like I might have lost you.

HARVEY

I don't think I could take that. I can't lose you. And I can't lose...

PANEL FOUR

On Harvey. He looks away from Penny, embarrassed.

[NO DIALOG]

PANEL FIVE

On Harvey, looking again at Penny, tear still very visible.

HARVEY

...I can't lose my grandchild.

PANEL SIX

On Harvey and Penny. Penny has her arms tight around Harvey. Harvey is hugging her back.

[NO DIALOG]

PANEL SEVEN

Pull to wide angle. Harvey and Penny hug each other. Glessa and Aimee look at each other and smile coyly.

[NO DIALOG]

PAGE TEN - EIGHT PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide angle. Everyone in the room.

AIMEE

Penny, did you witness the accident?

PENNY

Yes. Yes, I saw it.

PANEL TWO

Close on frightened Penny.

PENNY

It was like that girl, like she wanted to die. She ran out in front of that truck knowing what it would do to her.

PENNY

I've seen her at school in the hallways, but I don't think I have ever talked to her? I didn't know she was pregnant. I don't think anyone knew. Not until it was obvious.

PANEL THREE

On Penny and Aimee.

PENNY

Mom...?

AIMEE

Yes?

PANEL FOUR

On Penny. Sheepish.

PENNY

I don't want to abort my baby.

PANEL FIVE

On Harvey and Aimee looking at each other.

[NO DIALOG]

PANEL SIX

On Aimee.

AIMEE

You don't have to, Honey. I promise.
We'll find a way.

AIMEE

...Somehow.

PANEL SEVEN

On Penny. Face in her hands, sobbing.

[NO DIALOG]

PANEL EIGHT

Pull out to wide angle. All three looking at Penny, all four lost in their own thoughts.

[NO DIALOG]

PAGE ELEVEN - FOUR PANELS

PANEL ONE

Establishing shot. Wide angle. Exterior of an old and somewhat beat up house during the day. The house sits in a field with a few trees and the paint is peeling and a shutter or two are hanging crooked. There is a porch in the front with a few pillars where the paint is also peeling. An old porch swing with a couple of missing pieces creaks in the breeze.

CAPTION

Meanwhile, at the home of Rachela and Toby Grand.

PANEL TWO

Establishing shot. Wide angle. Interior, Grand residence. Battered dining room. It has seen better days. Furniture is old and beat up, yet remains functional. The occasional crooked picture hangs on the wall.

It is here we find Toby, Rachela, and their mother, Estelle. Toby remains silent, gently rocking against the wall, completely emotionless, in his own little world.

Rachela and Estelle continue to helplessly watch, standing by a window.

RACHELA

Mom, we have to do something. We can't just let him keep going on like this!

ESTELLE

I know. But what can we do? I feel so ... so helpless!

PANEL THREE

On Rachela and Estelle. Rachela is angry, making her right hand into a fist.

RACHELA

You feel helpless? I was *there*! I should have been able to--

PANEL FOUR

Rachela smashes her fist through the window. Glass and blood are everywhere.

RACHELA

--stop him!!!

PAGE TWELVE - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

Glass falls to the ground as Rachela pulls her bloody hand back from the window. She stops and ponders it with a look of complete emotional detachment.

[NO DIALOG]

PANEL TWO

Rachela turns to her mother, who looks at her hand, also with emotional detachment.

[NO DIALOG]

PANEL THREE

Wide angle. Rachela and her mother hug. Blood continues to fall from Rachela's hand onto Estelle's clothes and onto the floor. Toby continues to rock back and forth, appearing to not to notice.

[NO DIALOG]

PANEL FOUR

Close on faces of Rachela and Estelle as they embrace.

[NO DIALOG]

PANEL FIVE

Close on Toby. He rocks back and forth but turns to look at his family, the tears, the blood.

[NO DIALOG]

PANEL SIX

Closer on Toby. Unknown to Rachela and Estelle, he is crying.

CAPTION

(Upper left)
This...

CAPTION

(Lower right)
...is a family in crisis!

PAGE THIRTEEN - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

Establishing shot. Wide angle. Living room of Penny's home. All three in view. Penny is trying to compose herself.

CAPTION

Back to Glessa...

PENNY

Miss Palmer? Why are people so hung up on abortion?

GLESSA

...That's a difficult question to answer, Penny.

PANEL TWO

Close on Glessa.

GLESSA

I think it comes down to two basic things.

GLESSA

On one side, you have people who are against it. Usually this is due to religious reasons.

Their beliefs in Jesus and the Bible include the belief that abortion is murder and that we are killing God's innocent children.

PANEL THREE

Glessa, another angle.

GLESSA

Some will picket abortion clinics and some will set up pregnancy centers designed to share their own beliefs and talk you out of the abortion by making you feel you are killing your child in cold blood.

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa and Penny.

GLESSA

Those who have extreme beliefs have been known to even go so far as to bomb abortion clinics or to murder doctors who perform abortions. They say they are against murder, yet they turn around and murder the doctors themselves.

PANEL FIVE

On Penny, thoughtful.

[NO DIALOG]

PANEL SIX

On Penny.

PENNY

Are they right, Miss Palmer? If I had an abortion, would I be killing an innocent child?

PAGE FOURTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On a somber Glessa.

GLESSA

I don't know the answer to that, Penny.

GLESSA

Some believe life begins at conception. Some believe it begins when you can hear the heartbeat in the womb. Others believe it begins after birth when the child takes the first breath.

PANEL TWO

On an interested Penny.

GLESSA (O.S.)

You also have people who are in favor of abortion. These are usually liberated women who believe they have a right to do as they please with their own bodies, which is where the phrase, "the right to choose" comes from.

GLESSA (O.S.)

They have their own beliefs and resent others trying to force other beliefs on them. They feel it is their body and they can do with it as they want to.

GLESSA (O.S.)

This includes aborting a baby. They don't think any outside person has any right to tell them not to.

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Complicating matters even more is our political system.

GLESSA

Conservatives are pandering to the evangelical base that is against abortion, while the liberal base is pandering to the women who believe in the right to choose.

PANEL FIVE

On Penny.

PENNY

But...

PENNY

...But what do you believe, Miss Palmer?

PAGE FIFTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

It's a tough question, Penny. There are people on both sides who are convinced they are right, that they have the answers and that they know better than anyone else.

GLESSA

But I feel differently. I realize there are things none of us have the answers to.

PANEL TWO

Glessa, different angle.

GLESSA

I don't like the idea of aborting. It may well be murder, I don't know.

GLESSA

But I do know not only is it not good for the baby, it also isn't good for the mother.

GLESSA

But all of these pregnancy centers and legislators have it wrong. Changing the laws is not going to prevent it. Thumping a Bible is not going to prevent it.

GLESSA

Only one thing will prevent it.

PANEL THREE

On Aimee, who has been quietly listening to the conversation.

AIMEE

What's that, Miss Palmer?

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa.

GLESSA

The only way to prevent abortion is to give the girls an alternative that is acceptable to them so they will bring the baby to term.

PANEL FOUR

On Harvey and Glessa. Harvey has also been listening. And chomping on a cigar.

HARVEY

And just how do we do *that*?

GLESSA

I don't know, Mr. Gain.

GLESSA

--I just don't know.

PANEL FIVE

On Harvey. Cigar in mouth, fingers on cigar.

HARVEY

>HUMPH!<

PAGE SIXTEEN - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Penny and Glessa.

PENNY

Miss Palmer, if these are such hard questions to answer, then how come some people are sure they know the truth?

PANEL TWO

On Glessa.

GLESSA

They *don't* know truth, Penny. They just *think* they do.

GLESSA

Extremism is never a good thing. Especially when it comes to religion and politics.

PANEL THREE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

On the religious side, there is no proof at all, none whatsoever, that Jesus performed those miracles and rose from the dead. The extreme fundamentalists say they don't need proof. This is not the problem. The problem is that they seriously expect everyone else not to need proof as well. On the other side, the pro rights people are convinced that it does no harm to the baby to abort and that it is not murder. This can't be proven, either.

PANEL FOUR

On Penny and Glessa.

PENNY

So they are both wrong?

GLESSA

I didn't say that.

PENNY

Then what are you saying, Miss Palmer?

PANEL FIVE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

What I am saying is for all I know one of them may be right. Or neither of them. Or maybe, in some odd way, both of them may be right.

PENNY (O.S.)

Then what part of this is wrong?

PANEL SIX

On Glessa.

GLESSA

The part that is wrong is being so extreme in your own beliefs that you make a conscious choice to go out of your way to not even consider the other side's point of view because you feel it is wrong, without even hearing what they have to say. And forcing your beliefs on others.

PAGE SEVENTEEN - SEVEN PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Aimee.

AIMEE

But, Miss Palmer, there are things that are wrong!

PANEL TWO

On Glessa and Aimee.

GLESSA

That's right, Aimee. Things like murder, theft, rape, assault, these things are wrong. Our laws have decided this.

GLESSA

But our laws also provide for both freedom of religion *and* abortion rights. Until one of these two things changes, the two sides must accept the other's beliefs, even if they don't agree.

GLESSA

Extremism on either side is not going to help matters or change anyone's mind. It will only make the debate worse.

PANEL THREE

On Harvey with cigar.

HARVEY

So if my daughter had decided to go through with the abortion...

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa.

GLESSA

...Then, because she is a minor, the two of you would have been consulted and a decision would have been made. No doubt the pro life people would have tried to prevent it, especially with one so young as Penny.

PANEL FIVE

On Aimee.

AIMEE

None of which is our problem at this point. But it seems to me that for those who are against abortion, they insist on the baby being born, but once it is born, parents are left on their own, many times with no money and no support.

PANEL SIX

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Yes. And many times the pro life people walk away, thinking they did their part by saving the baby's life. They don't consider the poverty aspect. Every once in a while you find a faith based program that is very helpful after the baby is born, but those are rare compared to those who just protest and leave. They also usually have a long waiting list that makes getting help nearly impossible.

PANEL SEVEN

On Aimee.

AIMEE

So both sides are wrong, and yet both sides are right. This is a tough situation with no easy answers.

PAGE EIGHTEEN - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Glessa and Aimee.

GLESSA

Right. And we aren't going to find those answers any time soon.

PANEL TWO

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Look, I'm not in any way in favor of abortion. I think it is the wrong thing to do. And not for religious reasons.

But I also know I personally don't have the authority to tell anyone how to decide.

GLESSA

But this I do know. If you are going to make a baby, you need to be sure you are ready and prepared.

PANEL THREE

Wide angle on everyone.

AIMEE

That's easy for you to say, Miss Palmer, you've never had any kids.

AIMEE

Harvey? Do you think you and I were "ready" when we had Penny?

PANEL FOUR

On Harvey, legs crossed, relaxed, smoking cigar.

HARVEY

(Small print)
>grumble< >mumble< >grumble<

PANEL FIVE

On Aimee and Glessa. Glessa is looking at her watch.

AIMEE

I'm afraid that's as close to an admission as Harvey ever gets, Miss Palmer.

GLESSA

I see.

PANEL SIX

On Glessa, still looking at her watch.

GLESSA

I also see it's getting late.

PAGE NINETEEN - FOUR PANELS

PANEL ONE

Glessa rises to walk toward the door. The three family members follow to see her out.

AIMEE

Thanks for coming, Miss Palmer. You really helped us out today.

GLESSA

It was certainly my pleasure.

PANEL TWO

Outside the house. Glessa is waving as she gets into the car and the three family members wave back.

AIMEE

Come again, Miss Palmer.

GLESSA

I'll be back. Have a good day!

PANEL THREE

As Penny walks back into the house, Aimee and Harvey stay on the porch.

AIMEE

Do you think we can make it work, Harvey?

HARVEY

You bet I do.

PANEL FOUR

Aimee and Harvey with their hands wrapped around each other's waists. Aimee has her head on Harvey's shoulder.

[NO DIALOG]

PAGE TWENTY - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Establishing shot. Wide angle. Exterior of Glessa Palmer's home.

CAPTION

Later that night, at the Palmer house...

PANEL TWO

Establishing shot. Wide angle. Glessa Palmer's living room. She is at a table wrapping a box in plain brown paper. Roxi is on the table, getting in the way. We see the box is another communicator like the one Toby broke in issue #8.

GLESSA

We'll just leave this at the door and go, Roxi. Leave it mystery who it came from.

ROXI

>Meow<

PANEL THREE

Package is wrapped. Glessa has it in her hands. She is walking toward the front door and Roxi is enjoying a ride on the package.

GLESSA

I'm about ready to go, Roxi. I just need to change clothes.

PANEL FOUR

Into the night flies the Voice Beyond with the package heading for Toby's house.

VOICE

(Thought)

This should be easy. Drop it off and come home.

VOICE

(Thought)

Toby's been having such problems lately. I hope this will help him.

PANEL FIVE

Voice Beyond heads down for the beat up house in the distance to drop off the package.

VOICE

(Thought)

I just wish there was more I could do for him. But even the Voice Beyond has her limits.

PAGE TWENTY-ONE - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

Inside Toby's run down home with Toby, Rachela, and Estelle. Rachela and Estelle are watching TV. Toby rocks quietly in the corner.

TV

(Electrical)

Get me a beer, there, Edith...

RACHELA

Sigh. It's hard to enjoy this with Toby rocking, Mom.

ESTELLE

Yes. I know. But what else can we do?

PANEL TWO

On Rachela.

RACHELA

I don't know? But I can't take much more of this! We have to...

SFX

(Doorbell)
... >Ding Dong<

PANEL THREE

On Estelle and Rachela. Estelle is getting up to answer.

RACHELA

Now who could that be?

ESTELLE

Don't worry. I'll go answer it.

PANEL FOUR

View from outside on the porch. Estelle opens the door and finds no one. She sees the package by the door.

[NO DIALOG]

PANEL FIVE

View from above. Estelle stands on her porch holding the package and looking for who sent it as Voice Beyond flies unseen, softly into the night.

[NO DIALOG]

PANEL SIX

Caption panel.

CAPTION

Will Toby take to the new device, or will he throw this one out the window as well? Plus, the return of Sister Kate! All this and much more in issue #11, coming soon!

PAGE TWENTY-TWO - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

Glessa is standing in front of the school.

CAPTION

(Upper left)
Moral.

GLESSA

Hi.

GLESSA

I'm Glessa Palmer.

GLESSA

In today's story, we saw how Toby's inability to communicate had an effect on the entire family.

PANEL TWO

On Glessa, walking along a school sidewalk with her hands in her pockets.

GLESSA

We can't pretend to know what is going through the minds of the silent.

GLESSA

But we do know that just because one is unable to speak, it doesn't mean they have nothing to say.

PANEL THREE

On Glessa, standing casually by a school window, hands still in her pockets.

GLESSA

Silence and intelligence have nothing to do with each other.

GLESSA

In fact, many people who don't talk have eventually been shown to be smarter than a lot of us.

PANEL THREE

On Glessa. Standing casually, hands out of her pockets.

GLESSA

It is easy to think that because a person never talks, they have no thoughts or opinions.

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa, walking again.

GLESSA

But this just isn't true.

PANEL FIVE

On Glessa, different angle.

GLESSA

So remember, when you see someone who can't speak for whatever reason, don't automatically assume they aren't smart. There may well be some gears turning in those heads.

PANEL SIX

On Glessa, waving to us.

GLESSA

Bye for now, see you next time.

CAPTION

(Lower right)
End.

END