



**The VOICE Beyond
Issue #03: Spinning Her Wheels**

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Introduction – Revised Edition:

The previous introduction made it clear I did not like this story ten years ago.

But I do like it now.

Sometimes all it takes is the juggling of a few words to make a story good. Rebekah wants so much to win and through no fault of her own, that is taken from her. It's the Voice Beyond (or, in this case, Miss Palmer) to the rescue to set things right.

There is precious little action here, but that is made up for next issue when Glessa is finally forced to don the power suit to stop a massacre in the small town of Liberty. How will her first attempt at super heroing go? Don't expect her to not make mistakes. After all, she has never done this before! Read this to get to know Rebekah Grace, then catch the debut of a mighty heroine in the next issue in the Voice Beyond.

Thomas A. McKean
-01/20/21

As I said last time around, my thanks to Krissy Capriles for giving Wheeler his name, and to Buzz Dixon for his question that solved a plot point for me.

PAGE ONE - SPLASH PAGE

SPLASH PANEL

At a racing arena in the middle of 100 meter dash wheelchair race. Wheelers are in fancy racing wheelchairs. Wheels have camber. Rebekah is third but a boy is coming up fast on her left.

LOGO

The Voice Beyond

REBEKAH

(Thought)

Just a little further and I can win the bronze medal!

BOY

(Thought)

Now is my chance to cheat! I can take the bronze from this girl and no one will know!

CAPTION

Who is this person who wants to steal the bronze from our fair Rebekah Grace? And can he do it? Find out in this story whether or not Rebekah is just

TITLE

Spinning Her Wheels

PAGE TWO - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Establishing shot. Wide angle. Exterior. Early Friday evening after school at the Good Faith Orphanage, outside of Liberty, VA. A sunny day as Glessa gets out of her car. Coming through the door of the orphanage to welcome her is Sister Kate. An older lady, healthy enough, and full of grace. Conservatively dressed, as always.

GLESSA

(Thought)

There's Sister Kate! She was once going to be a nun, but then...

KATE

...Glessa! Greetings to you in the name of our Lord.

PANEL TWO

On Sister Kate and Glessa.

GLESSA

Thank you, Sister Kate. I am here to take Rebekah to the arena.

KATE

I'll see if I can find her.

PANEL THREE

Wide angle. Glessa and Sister Kate are talking as Rebekah wheels her way out the door of the orphanage.

REBEKAH

No need for that, Sister Kate. I saw her arrive.

REBEKAH

Hello, Miss Palmer.

PANEL FOUR

On Rebekah and Glessa.

REBEKAH

I have just a few more things to pack. Then I'll be ready.

GLESSA

Do you need any help, Rebekah?

PANEL FIVE

Wide angle. Glessa and Sister Kate are watching Rebekah wheel back into the orphanage.

REBEKAH

I'll be okay, Miss Palmer. This shouldn't take too long.

PAGE THREE - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide angle. Rebekah's chair is disappearing through the door. Glessa is speaking to Sister Kate.

GLESSA

I'd like to ask you a question while we are waiting, Sister Kate.

KATE

Certainly. How can I help you?

PANEL TWO

On Glessa.

GLESSA

I have heard you were there when... when it happened. That you saw the whole thing. I have read the reports, but if it isn't too difficult to talk about...?

PANEL THREE

Wide angle. Sister Kate turns away from Glessa.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FOUR

On Sister Kate, still turned away. We see her anguish. Glessa does not.

KATE

It was ... a few years ago now, not long after her parents died and she moved here to the orphanage.

KATE

It started on a day very much like this one, Miss Palmer. The weather was nice, the sun was shining.

PANEL FIVE

On Sister Kate and Glessa. Sister Kate has turned back around to face Glessa, tears glimmering in her eyes as she remembers.

KATE

It was to be a routine trip into town for the usual supplies. Rebekah had asked to come with me so I brought her along.

PAGE FOUR - FOUR PANELS

Begin flashback.

PANEL ONE

Sister Kate and a younger Rebekah are walking (Rebekah is also walking, no chair) down a busy downtown street toward the parked old car donated to the orphanage. Both are conservatively dressed and thus they stand out among the more sporty dressed people passing by them. Stores of all kinds line both sides of the street.

Sister Kate and Rebekah are both carrying bags of items they have recently purchased.

CAPTION

"We were walking back to our car after shopping when I remembered..."

KATE

Look, there's the bookstore. I meant to get a new Bible for the orphanage while we were out.

REBEKAH

I'll get it for you, Sister Kate.

PANEL TWO

Rebekah with a Bible, checking out in the bookstore.

CAPTION

"So, with cash in hand, she went in to get an NKJV."

CASHIER

Will that all today, Miss?

REBEKAH

Yes. Thank you.

CASHIER

Your lucky day. This Bible is 65% off today only.

PANEL THREE

Rebekah with a sack carrying the Bible, running through the door of the store to the outside.

CAPTION

"Knowing the discount would save the orphanage money, she was excited to tell me about it."

REBEKAH

(Thought)
Wait till Sister Kate hears about this! Praise God!

PANEL FOUR

Wide angle. Rebekah is seen running outside toward the car where Sister Kate is waiting. In the background is a shadowy looking man with dark sunglasses. He is reaching into his jacket.

REBEKAH

Sister Kate! Sister Kate!

CAPTION

"And then it happened."

PAGE FIVE - SINGLE LARGE SPLASH PANEL

SPLASH PANEL

Wide angle. On one side of the page, Sister Kate's car. Rebekah fast approaches. Across the page, the shadowy man pulls a gun out and fires a single shot. The bullet travels and hits Rebekah in the back. Rebekah, in front of Sister Kate's car door (with her back to the gun), arches back in severe pain.

SFX

>BANG!!!<

REBEKAH

>ARGH!<

PAGE SIX - FIVE PANELS

Flashback ends.

PANEL ONE

On Glessa and Sister Kate, both somber.

KATE

The crowd reacted immediately. But by the time they had taken him down, he was dead.

GLESSA

Dead? How?

KATE

Self-inflicted poison.

PANEL TWO

On Sister Kate.

KATE

He knew from the start it was a suicide mission. He had not planned to live through it.

PANEL THREE

On a confused Glessa.

GLESSA

But...Why would someone want to shoot an innocent girl?

PANEL FOUR

On a thoughtful Sister Kate.

KATE

(Thought)
How can I tell her? How can I tell anyone? That shot was meant for ME!
No, I must not think about it!

PANEL FIVE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

(Thought)
Strange. For just a moment there I felt like Sister Kate was thinking almost as if she--

PAGE SEVEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide angle. Glessa and Sister Kate turn to Rebekah as she wheels out of the orphanage.

REBEKAH

--I'm ready, Miss Palmer. Can you help with my bags, please?

GLESSA

Sure, Rebekah. Sister Kate can help you into the car.

KATE

I'd be glad to.

PANEL TWO

View of the orphanage from the car. Glessa is seen walking toward the car with one very large suitcase.

GLESSA

(Thought)
We're only going to be gone for one night. Why is she taking this oversized suitcase?

PANEL THREE

On Sister Kate, watching Glessa and Rebekah drive away.

KATE

(Thought)

Yes. They found me once, that means they can find me again. Rebekah saved my life and gave up her own. It is wrong of me to keep putting these children's lives in danger. But if I don't take care of them, who will?

PANEL FOUR

In the car and driving with Glessa and Rebekah.

CAPTION

Later...

REBEKAH

How long is this trip, Miss Palmer?

GLESSA

It'll be about three hours to the arena, then tomorrow you will compete in the Wheelchair Olympics.

PANEL FIVE

On Glessa and Rebekah.

GLESSA

Are you nervous, Rebekah?

REBEKAH

Golly, YES!

PAGE EIGHT - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Glessa and Rebekah pulling into a hotel.

CAPTION

For three hours, Glessa is unable to calm Rebekah down. Then they reach the hotel.

GLESSA

Here we are, Rebekah.

REBEKAH

This is all very exciting, Miss Palmer!

PANEL TWO

Wide angle. In the hotel room with Glessa and Rebekah. Glessa is sitting on the bed. Rebekah is in her chair. She is opening her huge suitcase, which is on the bed.

REBEKAH

I have something to show you, Miss Palmer.

PANEL THREE

Rebekah pulls out a very large stuffed doggy with floppy ears. Cute as can be, it is black and tan and somewhat of a funny face.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FOUR

On a smiling Glessa.

GLESSA

That's *great*, Rebekah! What's his name?

PANEL FIVE

On Rebekah, hugging the dog affectionately.

REBEKAH

His name is Fuzzy. I named him that because he has a fuzzy face!

REBEKAH

He is very special to me, Miss Palmer.

PAGE NINE - FOUR PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

I can see that. Where did you get him?

PANEL TWO

On Rebekah.

REBEKAH

My mother gave him to me just before she...

PANEL THREE

Rebekah turns away in sadness as she remembers her mother.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FOUR

On a compassionate Glessa.

GLESSA

...Rebekah?

PAGE TEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On a sad and tearful Rebekah, who turns back to Glessa.

REBEKAH

I want her to be proud of me, Miss Palmer. That's one reason I want to race. I want to win and make her proud of me.

PANEL TWO

On Rebekah.

REBEKAH

Whenever I did something she liked, she had the nicest smile. And her eyes had a shine and the way she hugged me, it made me feel safe, Miss Palmer. It made me feel special.

REBEKAH

I guess I want to feel special again.

PANEL THREE

On Rebekah and Glessa.

GLESSA

Oh, Rebekah. Your mother didn't love you because of what you did, she loved you because of who you are.

GLESSA

You are growing into a fine and special young woman that any mother would be proud of.

GLESSA

And I can tell you this: I am very proud of you, whether you win or not.

PANEL FOUR

On Rebekah and Glessa.

REBEKAH

Do you...do you mean that, Miss Palmer?

GLESSA

With all my heart, Rebekah.

PANEL FIVE

On a warm embrace between Glessa and Rebekah.

NO DIALOG

PAGE ELEVEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE (LONG HORIZONTAL PANEL)

Late Saturday morning at the arena. The long track sits with five lanes and the stands all around. Stands are beginning to fill and people are milling about, trying to find seats.

CAPTION

Late the next morning, at the arena.

PANEL TWO

Wide angle. In a private dressing room with Glessa and Rebekah.

CAPTION

Glessa and Rebekah arrive at their dressing room.

GLESSA

I have something for you, Rebekah.

REBEKAH

For ME, Miss Palmer?

PANEL THREE

Glessa is holding up two sets of sweat suits in Rebekah's size. One red and one black.

GLESSA

You will want to be appropriately dressed. What will it be, red or black?

PANEL FOUR

On excited Rebekah.

CAPTION

There is no hesitation in the response.

REBEKAH

I want the red one. It will be like being covered in the blood of Jesus!

PANEL FIVE

In the dressing room with Glessa and Rebekah dressed in identical red sweat suits.

GLESSA

It's almost time, Rebekah.

REBEKAH

My tummy is all a-flutter, Miss Palmer!

PAGE TWELVE - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Glessa and a shy Rebekah.

REBEKAH

Miss Palmer? Can I ... ask you a question?

GLESSA

Of course, Rebekah. Anything.

PANEL TWO

On Rebekah.

REBEKAH

Would you ... would you pray with me before we go out?

PANEL THREE

On a smiling Glessa.

GLESSA

Of course I will.

PANEL FOUR

Glessa is reverently kneeling in front of Rebekah's chair. They have their hands together and their heads are bowed with their eyes closed.

REBEKAH

(Spiritual)

Dear God. Please give us all strength to compete to your glory. I pray in the name of Jesus that your will be done and that you place a hedge of protection around the racers so that no one gets hurt. In Jesus name, A-Men.

PANEL FIVE

On Glessa and Rebekah, finishing the prayer.

GLESSA

That was beautiful, Rebekah.

REBEKAH

Thank you!

PAGE THIRTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Glessa, now standing.

GLESSA

Well. I really need to tinkle for a minute before we go out. How about you?

PANEL TWO

On Rebekah.

REBEKAH

You can go first, Miss Palmer. I always prefer going alone.

PANEL THREE

On Rebekah, watching Glessa walk into the next room.

REBEKAH

(Thought)

I'm trying to trust you, Miss Palmer, I want to trust again. It is so lonely...

REBEKAH

(Thought)

So lonely...

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa, walking into one of two stalls.

GLESSA

(Thought)
Poor girl. I know she's trying to trust again. It must be hard after all that has happened to her...

PANEL FIVE

Wide angle. On Rebekah and Glessa. Glessa is walking back into the room.

GLESSA

Go ahead, Rebekah. I'll see how things are going out in the arena.

PAGE FOURTEEN - SIX PANELS

PANEL ONE

Out in the arena. Glessa is out waiting for Rebekah, who enters in a fancy, racing wheelchair.

GLESSA

Rebekah. Over here.

PANEL TWO

On Rebekah and Glessa.

GLESSA

Sister Kate is here. So are Jimmy and his parents.

REBEKAH

Really? Gosh. I wish Toby was here, but I know how he is about crowds...

PANEL THREE

On Glessa, pushing Rebekah's chair to the track.

GLESSA

Yes. But he may be watching on TV. Speaking of which...

GLESSA

...You are assigned to track four. Let's get over there. The games are about to begin!

REBEKAH

Golly!

PANEL FOUR

Wide angle. On Glessa pushing Rebekah into the starting position on track four.

Track four is next to closest track. Other racers are getting ready to begin. Older boy at track one and older girl at track three. Track two is random, up to he artist. Track five has an older boy. Seems friendly. This is Kyle "Wheeler" Snyder.

WHEELER

Hi. I'm Kyle Snyder. But sure, m' friends call me Wheeler!

REBEKAH

Hello, Wheeler. I'm Rebekah. Good luck in the race today.

PANEL FIVE

On Wheeler and Rebekah.

WHEELER

Thanks, Rebekah, and same to you!

REBEKAH

Thanks, Wheeler!

PANEL SIX

On Wheeler, with evil look.

WHEELER

(Thought)

Yes. Good luck with what I plan to do to you, Rebekah.

PAGE FIFTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Rebekah and Glessa.

REBEKAH

I'm all nervous, Miss Palmer!

GLESSA

Remember what we practiced and you'll be fine. Go fast and stay in your lane.

PANEL TWO

On Glessa, taking her seat in the special coaches section.

GLESSA

(Thought)

Good luck, Rebekah...

PANEL THREE

Wide angle. The track and ten contestants.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen! Welcome to the third annual Regional Wheelchair Olympics 100 Meter Dash! Contestants are lined up...

PANEL FOUR

On Referee off to the side of the track, holding a starter pistol above his head in one hand.

REFEREE

On your mark!

REFEREE

Get set!

PANEL FIVE

Close on the pistol as it is fired.

SFX

>BANG!<

PAGE SIXTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On the racers, taking off down the track. Girl in track three takes the lead.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

And they're off! With Leslie in the lead in track four!

PANEL TWO

The boy in track one, Rebekah, and Wheeler catch up to Leslie.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

And Sherman, Rebekah, and Wheeler catch up to Leslie! It's going to be a photo finish here today, folks!

PANEL THREE

On a huffing and puffing Wheeler, with Rebekah right next to him.

WHEELER

(Thought)

Okay, Wheeler. This is it. You have practiced this maneuver all week. Don't mess it up now!

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa, in the coaches section.

GLESSA

(Thought)

Oh no! I can see it in Wheeler's mind! He is about to--

PANEL FIVE

Close on Wheeler's left wheel. It barely and imperceptively crosses the line into Rebekah's lane and bumps her fingers.

CAPTION

--CHEAT!

PAGE SIXTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Rebekah, pulling her hand back.

REBEKAH

OUCH!

PANEL TWO

Leslie, Sherman, and Wheeler pull ahead as they near the finish line.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Wait a minute, Folks! Rebekah has pulled back!

PANEL THREE

Leslie takes first place, Sherman takes second, and Wheeler takes third. Rebekah takes a very close fourth.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Leslie takes the gold, Sherman takes the silver, and Wheeler takes the bronze!

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa standing in the coaches stands, surrounded by people clapping. She has a look of utter anger on her face.

SFX

>CLAP< >CLAP< >CLAP<

PANEL FIVE

On Glessa, running toward Rebekah.

GLESSA

(Thought)

I've got to fix this. But if I use the powers, I am no better than Wheeler! I can't cheat! I will have to do this *without* the powers... somehow!

PAGE SEVENTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Glessa and Rebekah. Rebekah is hugging Glessa.

REBEKAH

(Crying)

Miss Palmer! Wheeler cheated! I could have won a medal!

PANEL TWO

Close on Glessa's face as she holds and comforts a sobbing Rebekah.

GLESSA

I know, Rebekah. I saw the whole thing.

GLESSA

(Thought)

How can I set things right? Maybe I can do it the old fashioned way?

PANEL THREE

On Glessa talking to Rebekah.

GLESSA

Go on into the lockers and get yourself together. I'll...talk to the judges. See if I can get this worked out.

PANEL FOUR

On Rebekah.

REBEKAH

Thank you, Miss Palmer. You are a good coach.

PANEL FIVE

View from behind Glessa as she watches Rebekah sadly wheel toward the lockers in her race wheelchair.

NO DIALOG

PAGE EIGHTEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Glessa walking to the judges booth in the distance.

GLESSA

(Thought)

When is it right and not right to step in? Do I even *have* a moral responsibility with these powers? Would it really have been wrong of me to keep Wheeler from cheating? Just where do I draw the line on right and wrong? Am I even qualified to decide? I will need to think hard about this.

PANEL TWO

Glessa approaching the judges.

GLESSA

Excuse me, please. May I speak to one of you for a moment?

PANEL THREE

On one of the judges, an older looking, self important man. He is sitting with other judges who are busy with paperwork.

JUDGE

Certainly, Ma'am. How may I help you?

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Thank you. My name is Glessa Palmer.

GLESSA

I am coach for Rebekah Grace. I would like to contest the results of this race. I believe there was foul play.

PANEL FIVE

On judge, looking rather suspiciously and coldly at Glessa.

JUDGE

I....see. And what do you base this on, Miss Palmer?

PAGE NINETEEN - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On Glessa.

GLESSA

Sir, I personally saw Wheeler Snyder cross his lane to bump Rebekah's hand. This is an obvious violation of the rules. I ask that it be reviewed.

PANEL TWO

On angry judge.

JUDGE

With all due respect, Miss Palmer, every year we have an angry or irate coach approach us about some allegation of cheating. They have always been wrong. They will do anything to get a medal for their kids. Why should you be any different?

PANEL THREE

On a very calm Glessa.

GLESSA

Because I am not, as you say, angry or irate. I am coming to you calm and collected and I am very politely asking you review the video. If, after this, you still find the race was fair, I will accept that and bother you no longer.

PANEL FOUR

On the judge, looking hard at Glessa.

NO DIALOG

PANEL FIVE

On judge.

JUDGE

One moment, please, Miss Palmer...

PAGE TWENTY - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Wide angle. Judges leaned into each other in private conference.

NO DIALOG

PANEL TWO

On the judge and Glessa, The judge is looking back to Glessa.

JUDGE

Very well, Miss Palmer. We will check. You will abide by our decision?

GLESSA

I will.

PANEL THREE

Wide angle. View of overall arena with people milling about and winners up on the podium ready to receive awards. Sound comes from loudspeaker mounted above.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen. Please stand by...

PANEL FOUR

View of the stands. Two people (man and woman) are pondering the delay.

CAPTION

Time passes.

WOMAN

What do you suppose the delay is?

MAN

Dunno, Honey. I don't know enough about this to answer that question.

WOMAN

...I admire your honesty.

PANEL FIVE

Wide angle view of arena. Sound from speaker.

CAPTION

Later still.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen, we apologize for the delay. For unsportsmanlike conduct not in keeping with the tradition of the games, Wheeler Snyder has been disqualified. The bronze medal therefore goes to...

ANNOUNCER

...Rebekah Grace!

PAGE TWENTY-ONE - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

On the podium with Leslie, Sherman, and Rebekah. They are each wearing their medals, and smiling and waving to the cheering crowd. A small tear of happiness runs out of Rebekah's eye.

CAPTION

And so Rebekah takes her place on the podium and receives the medal.

PANEL TWO

Back in Glessa's car with Glessa and Rebekah as they drive back to the orphanage.

CAPTION

On the way home...

REBEKAH

Miss Palmer? Do you think my mother would be proud of me?

GLESSA

I am certain she would be.

PANEL THREE

Still in the car.

REBEKAH

Thank you for helping me win, Miss Palmer.

PANEL FOUR

View from behind the car as the car drives toward home into the sunset.

GLESSA

You're welcome, Rebekah.

PANEL FIVE

Caption panel.

CAPTION

NEXT ISSUE: Not enough action this time around? Fear not! For next issue, Glessa must finally put on the power suit if she is to prevent a massacre in the town of Liberty! Look for action packed issue #04, coming soon!

PAGE TWENTY-TWO - FIVE PANELS

PANEL ONE

Glessa standing in front of the blackboard in her classroom.

CAPTION

(Upper left)

Moral:

GLESSA

Hi kids. Glessa Palmer here. Today I wanted to--

PANEL TWO

Wide angle. Glessa sees Rebekah come wheeling into the classroom, back in her own chair.

REBEKAH

May I, Miss Palmer?

GLESSA

By all means, go ahead.

PANEL THREE

On Rebekah, looking straight at you.

REBEKAH

Hi. My name is Rebekah Grace. Gosh, in today's story, we saw the results of cheating. See, even if Wheeler had won, he would not have really won because he did not win fair.

REBEKAH

And gee whiz, also despite all his work beforehand, he was caught in the act of cheating and now he has to live with everyone knowing what he did!

PANEL FOUR

On Glessa.

GLESSA

That's right, Rebekah. The only way to really be proud of what you do is to do it right. In the end, that medal would have meant nothing to Wheeler because deep down, he would have known he didn't deserve it.

PANEL FIVE

Wide angle on Glessa and Rebekah.

REBEKAH

Willikers, Miss Palmer! I'd much rather do it the hard way!

GLESSA

Me too, Rebekah, me too.

CAPTION

(Lower right)
End.

END