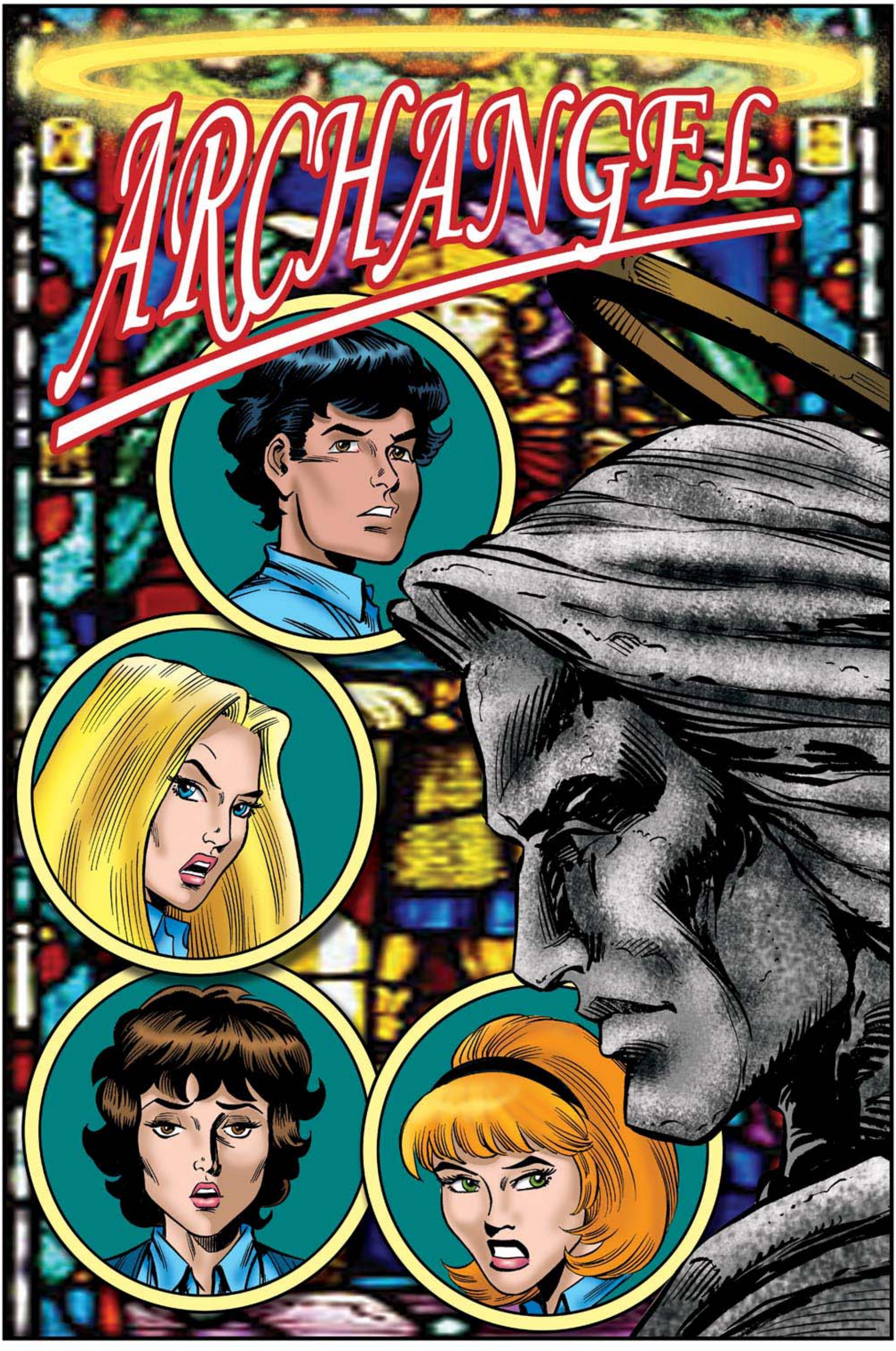

ARCHANGEL

Archangel
Credits

Story
Richard Dominguez
&
Patrick McGuire

Pencil Breakdowns
Ron Frenz

Finishes
Charles Barnett III

Colorist
Buzz Setzer

Letterer
Jim Spivey

Editor
Patrick McGuire

Assistant Editor
Charles Barnett III

"ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, DEFEND US IN BATTLE. BE OUR DEFENSE AGAINST THE WICKEDNESS AND SNARES OF THE DEVIL..."

"MAY GOD REBUKE HIM, WE HUMBLY PRAY, AND DO THOU, O PRINCE OF THE HEAVENLY HOST...

"BY THE POWER OF GOD--"

"--THRUST INTO HELL SATAN, AND ALL EVIL SPIRITS, WHO PROWL ABOUT THE WORLD SEEKING THE RUIN OF SOULS..."

JOSE MIGUEL GONZALES HAS JUST ARRIVED FOR HIS FIRST DAY AT ST. MICHAEL'S, HAVING JUST MOVED FROM TEXAS.

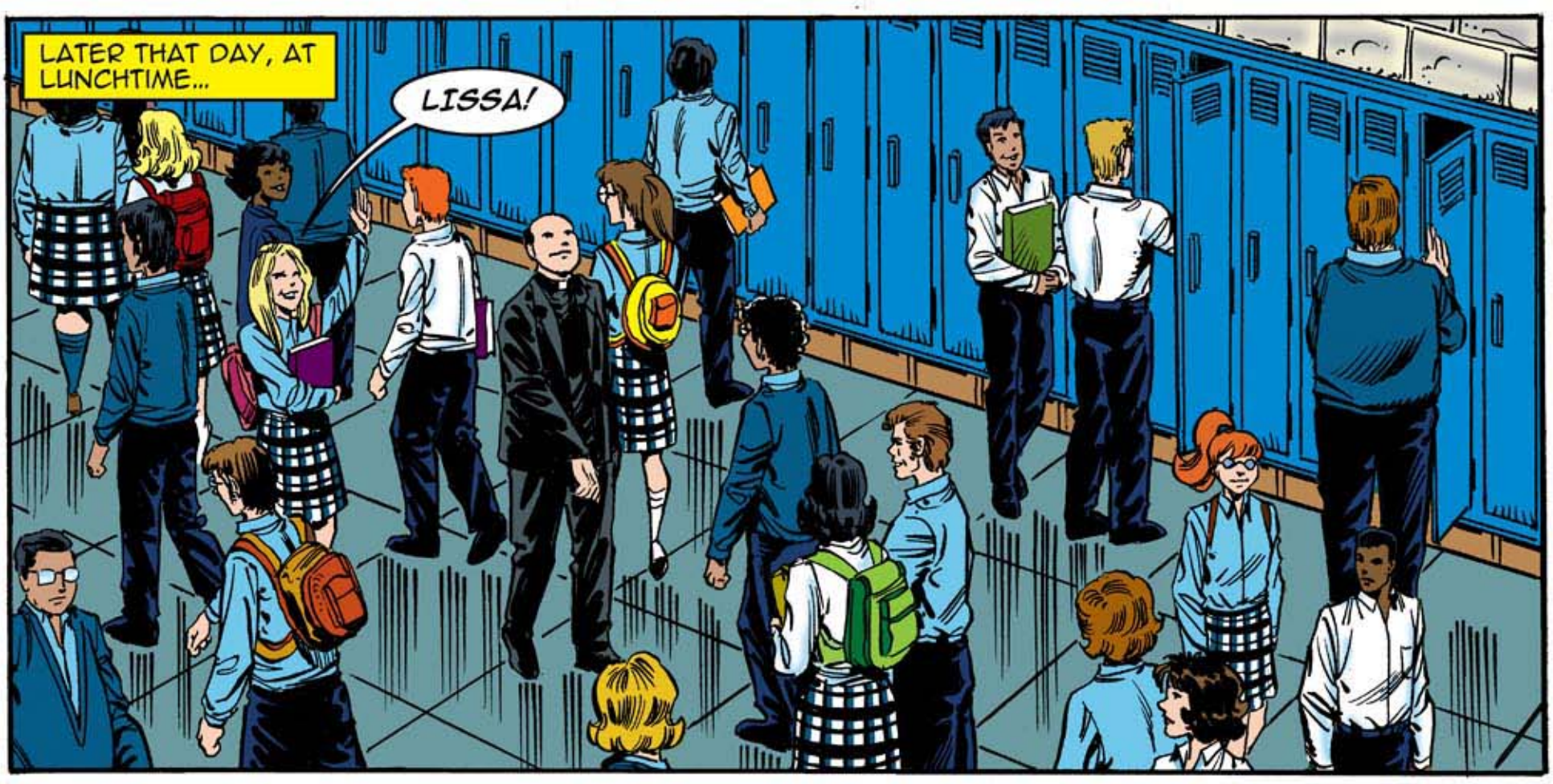
AMEN.

...AND FINDS HIMSELF TAKING COMFORT IN THE STATUE OF THE ANGEL THAT HE HAD LONG CONSIDERED HIS GUARDIAN...

"THOSE WHO SEEK THE RUIN OF SOULS..."

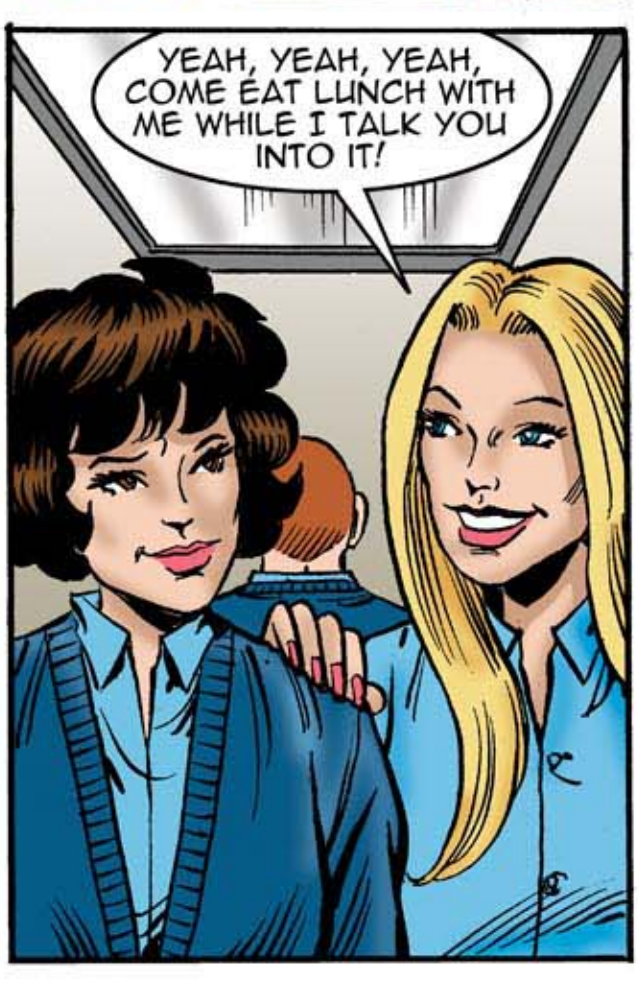
I KNOW YOU HEAR ME, SAN MIGUEL, YOU HELPED BEFORE.
NOW I AM SOMEWHERE I HAVE NEVER BEEN.

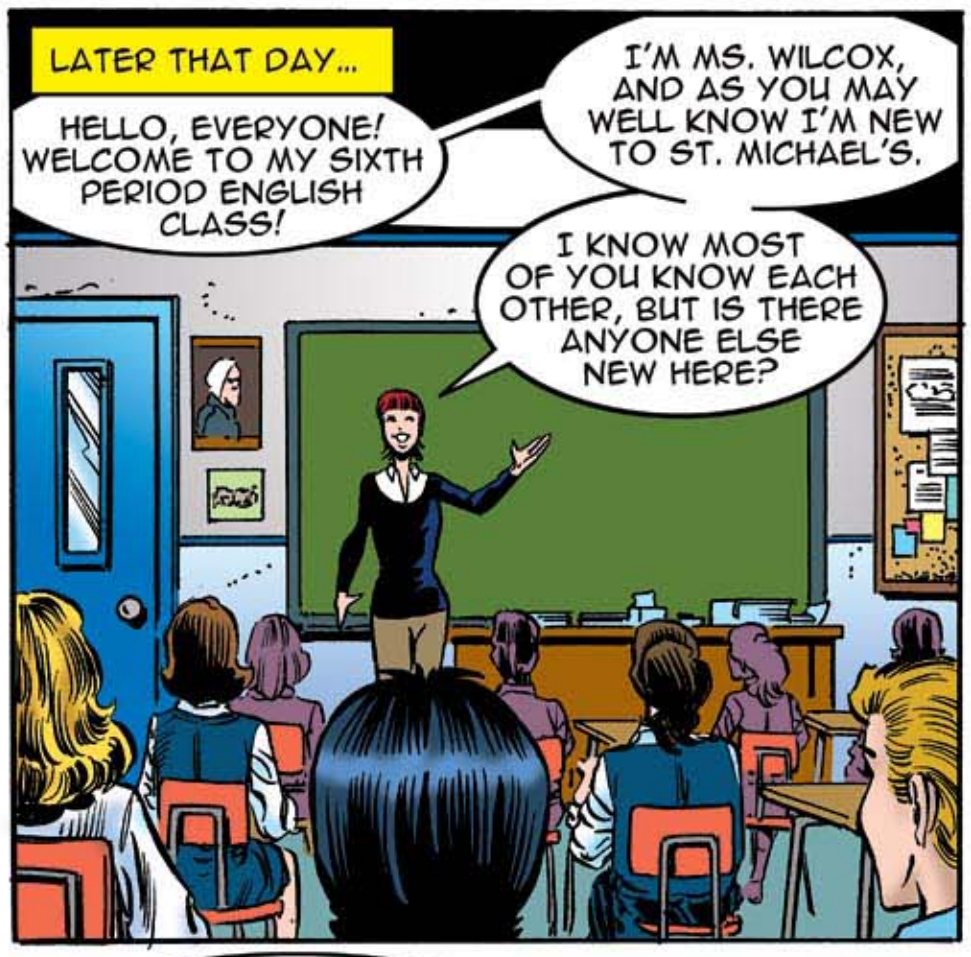
STAY CLOSE, OK?

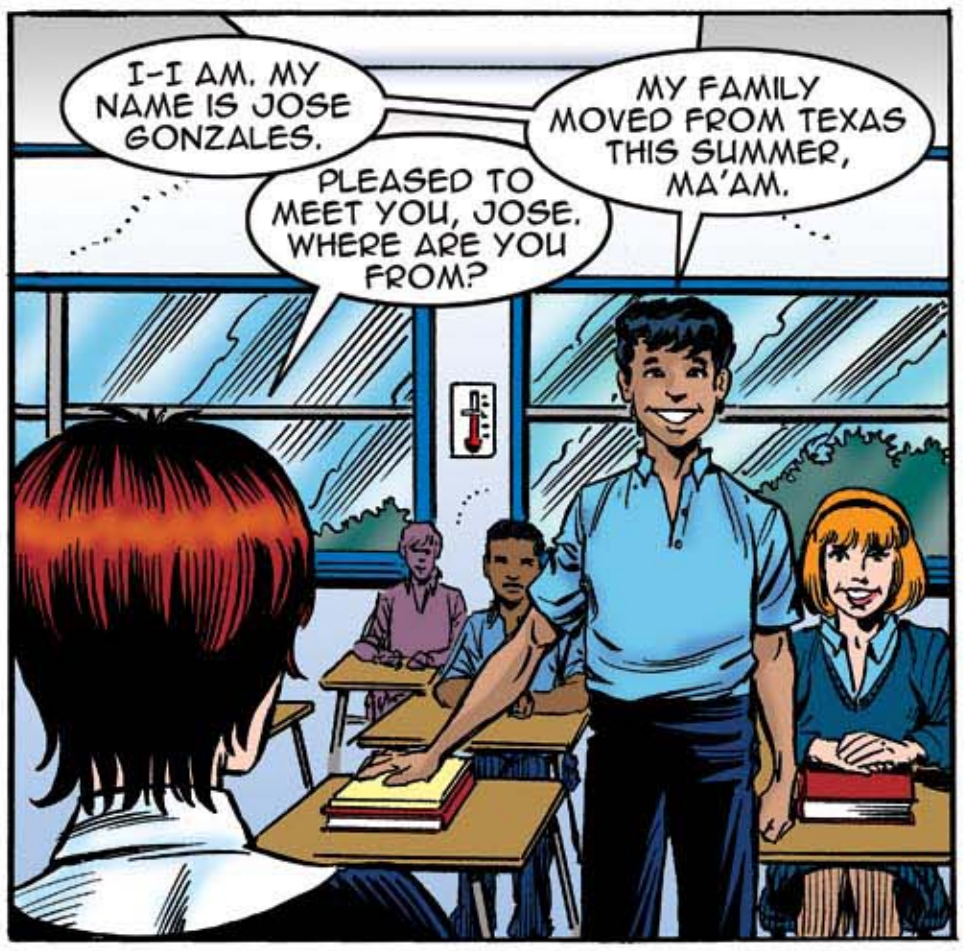

LATER THAT DAY, AT LUNCHTIME...
LISSA!

HEY, SHELLY! I'LL WAIT HERE FOR YOU!

SO WHAT'S THE GOOD NEWS, SHELLY? ANYTHING FROM MRS. SMYTHE?
AH, NOT FROM HER, BUT FROM MRS. ELDEN!
SHE TOLD ME THE PLAY WE'RE DOING IN THE SPRING! IT'S PERFECT FOR US!

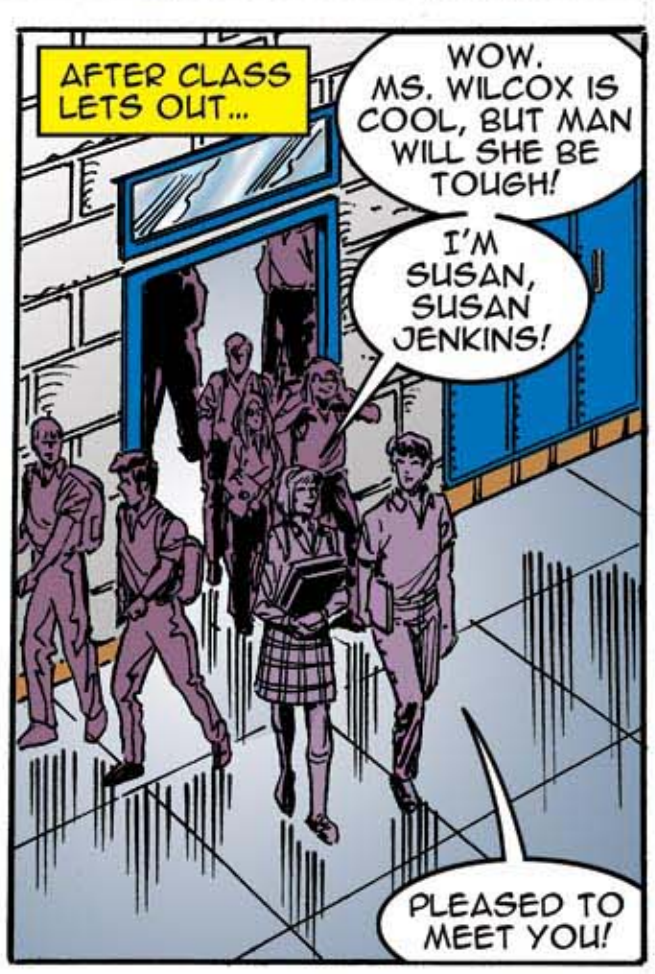

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH, COME EAT LUNCH WITH ME WHILE I TALK YOU INTO IT!


LATER THAT DAY...
HELLO, EVERYONE! WELCOME TO MY SIXTH PERIOD ENGLISH CLASS!
I'M MS. WILCOX, AND AS YOU MAY WELL KNOW I'M NEW TO ST. MICHAEL'S.
I KNOW MOST OF YOU KNOW EACH OTHER, BUT IS THERE ANYONE ELSE NEW HERE?


I-I AM. MY NAME IS JOSE GONZALES.
MY FAMILY MOVED FROM TEXAS THIS SUMMER, MA'AM.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, JOSE. WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

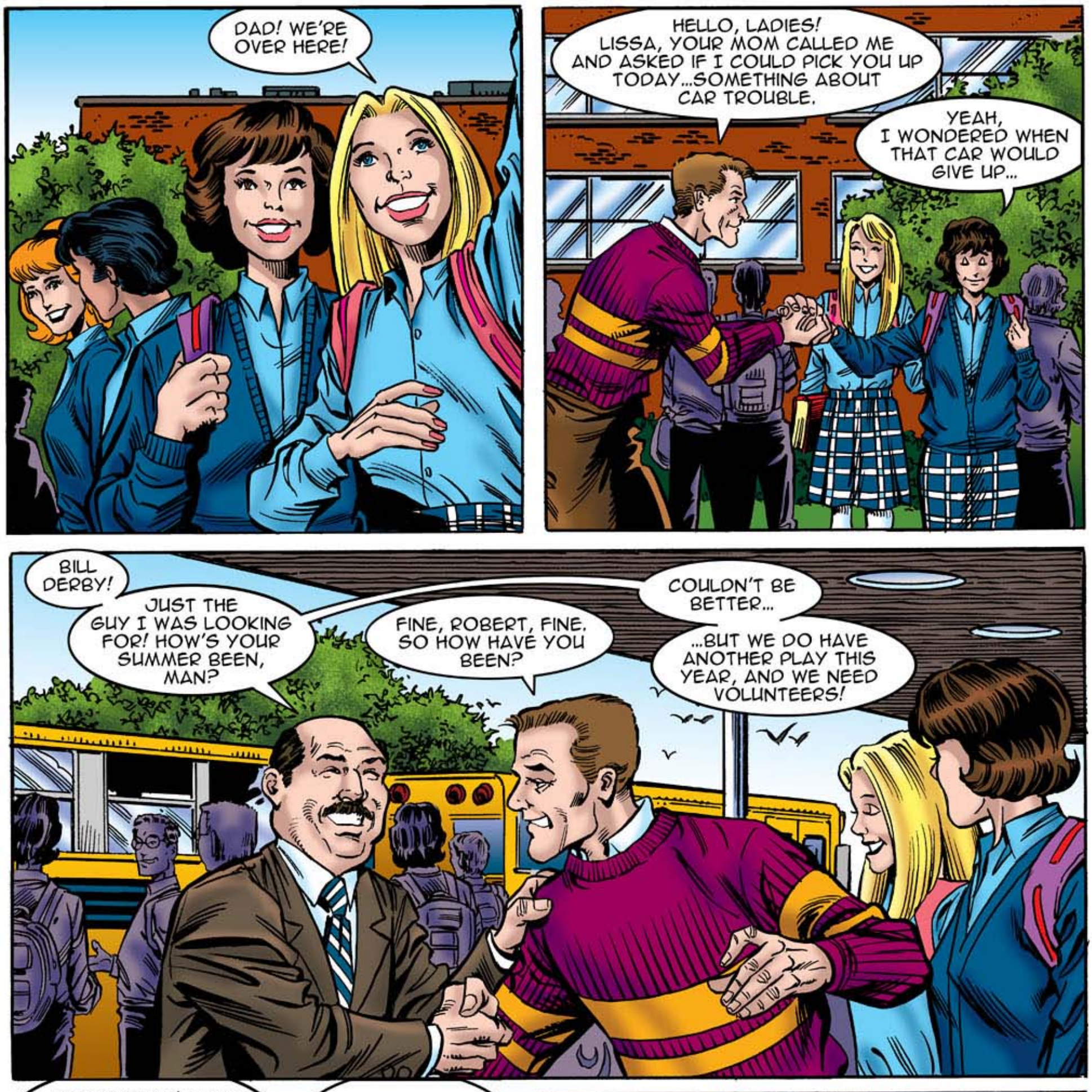
REALLY? I JUST CAME UP FROM MISSISSIPPI.

I GUESS YOU AND I GET TO SHOW THESE YANKS HOW ENGLISH IS REALLY PRONOUNCED WON'T WE?
HA! HA! HA!


AFTER CLASS LETS OUT...
WOW. MS. WILCOX IS COOL, BUT MAN WILL SHE BE TOUGH!
I'M SUSAN, SUSAN JENKINS!
PLEASED TO MEET YOU!

I KNOW YOU'RE NEW HERE, AND IT CAN BE TOUGH TO MAKE FRIENDS...
YOU KNOW IT. ANY SUG-GESTIONS?

WELL, THEY ARE DOING AUDITIONS NEXT WEEK FOR THE SPRING PLAY...


DAD! WE'RE OVER HERE!
HELLO, LADIES! LISSA, YOUR MOM CALLED ME AND ASKED IF I COULD PICK YOU UP TODAY...SOMETHING ABOUT CAR TROUBLE.
YEAH, I WONDERED WHEN THAT CAR WOULD GIVE UP...
BILL DERBY!
JUST THE GUY I WAS LOOKING FOR! HOW'S YOUR SUMMER BEEN, MAN?
FINE, ROBERT, FINE. SO HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
COULDN'T BE BETTER...
...BUT WE DO HAVE ANOTHER PLAY THIS YEAR, AND WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!
YOU KNOW I'D LIKE TO HELP AS ALWAYS, ROBERT! IS THERE A MEETING PLANNED?
WHY, NEXT WEEK DURING AUDITIONS. YOU SHOULD COME OUT. YOU'LL HAVE FUN!
DON'T WORRY, BOB --
-- I ALWAYS DO.

TWO WEEKS LATER THE AUDITIONS ARE OVER, AND THE WORK BEGINS...

...AND THANKS AGAIN TO ALL WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO HELP. SO, FOR THE SET CREW, HERE ARE YOUR ASSIGNMENTS:

JOSE GONZALES?

YES, MA'AM!

JOSE, FIRST OF ALL, WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL'S, AND FOR HELPING US WITH OUR PLAY.

I'M PUTTING YOU IN CHARGE OF DESIGNING THE MAIN SET PIECES. CAN YOU DO THAT?

YES, MA'AM! NO PROBLEM.

GOOD FOR YOU, JOSE. I THINK YOU'LL DO A GREAT JOB.

MR. DERBY HAS ONCE AGAIN AGREED TO HELP US WITH PROVIDING WOOD AND SUPPLIES FOR JOSE AND THE SET BUILDERS.

ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE OUT, MRS. SMYTHE!

HUH?

NO WAY!!

NOT AGAIN. IT CAN'T BE!

NOW MR. DERBY HAS ALSO LOANED US THE USE OF HIS HOUSE FOR PRACTICE AND PREPARATION ON THE WEEKENDS, SINCE OUR GYM IS BEING RENOVATED THE NEXT FEW WEEKS!
I'LL HAVE REFRESHMENTS READY, BUT FEEL FREE TO BRING WHAT YOU LIKE! I HAVE DIRECTIONS TO MY HOME PRINTED OUT FOR ANYONE WHO NEEDS THEM!
THE FIRST PRACTICE IS THIS SATURDAY AT NOON!

MOMENTS LATER...
SO YOU KNOW MR. DERBY?
YEAH, I MET HIM THROUGH MELISSA LAST YEAR. WE WERE TEAMED UP FOR THE TALENT SHOW.
HE'S REALLY A GOOD MAN. YOU SHOULD TALK TO HIM WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE!

FOUR DAYS LATER AT THE DERBY HOME... PRODUCTION AND DESIGN COMMENCE!
JOSE AND HIS SET CREW (BILL DERBY DUBS THEM "ST. MICHAEL'S ENGINEERS") START SKETCHING..
THAT'S A FANTASTIC DESIGN, GIRLS! NOW WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THE BOYS?
MS. WILCOX HELPS THE COSTUME DESIGNERS, OR "SCROUNGERS", BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO FIND MORE THAN THEY CAN BUY!

SHELLY, LISSA, AND THE REST OF THE CAST (THE "WAY-OFF BROADWAYS") GET THEIR FIRST LOOK AT THE SCRIPTS AND MUSIC.

AND THE JAZZ BAND, CALLING THEMSELVES...WELL... "THE JAZZ BAND", TAKE THEIR FIRST WHACKS AT THE ACCOMPANIMENT.

SWEETHEART, WE'RE OUT OF SODA FOR THE KIDS! DO YOU MIND MAKING A QUICK TRIP TO THE STORE?

HMM? OH, COULD YOU PLEASE GO INSTEAD? WE'RE ABOUT TO FINALIZE THE DESIGNS HERE! I'LL MAKE THE NEXT TRIP!

OKAY, BILL, I'LL HOLD YOU TO THAT! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

THANKS, DEAR.

UGH! SHELLY AND THAT STUPID CAT OF HERS!

EXCUSE ME, JOSE...

THAT WAS WEIRD...

KNOK! KNOK!

MELISSA? YOU OKAY? CAN I COME IN?

WHAT HAPPENED?

OH, SURE, MR. DERBY!

SHELLY'S CAT SCRATCHED ME PRETTY GOOD...

KLIK

I'M SORRY ABOUT MAXIE. SHE'S NEVER BEEN QUITE COMFORTABLE AROUND LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE. LET ME SEE YOUR HAND...

THAT'S NOT TOO BAD. I'M SURE THE BOYS OUT THERE WON'T NOTICE.

WHY WOULD THE BOYS NOTICE? THEY MOSTLY PAY ATTENTION TO SHELLY ANYWAY. SHE'S THE POPULAR GIRL FOR A REASON...

MY DAUGHTER'S A BEAUTIFUL GIRL, BUT SO ARE YOU. THOSE BOYS DON'T SEE WHAT I SEE, MELISSA.

I SEE A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER WHO JUST NEEDS TO OPEN UP...

M-MAYBE I SHOULD G-GO-

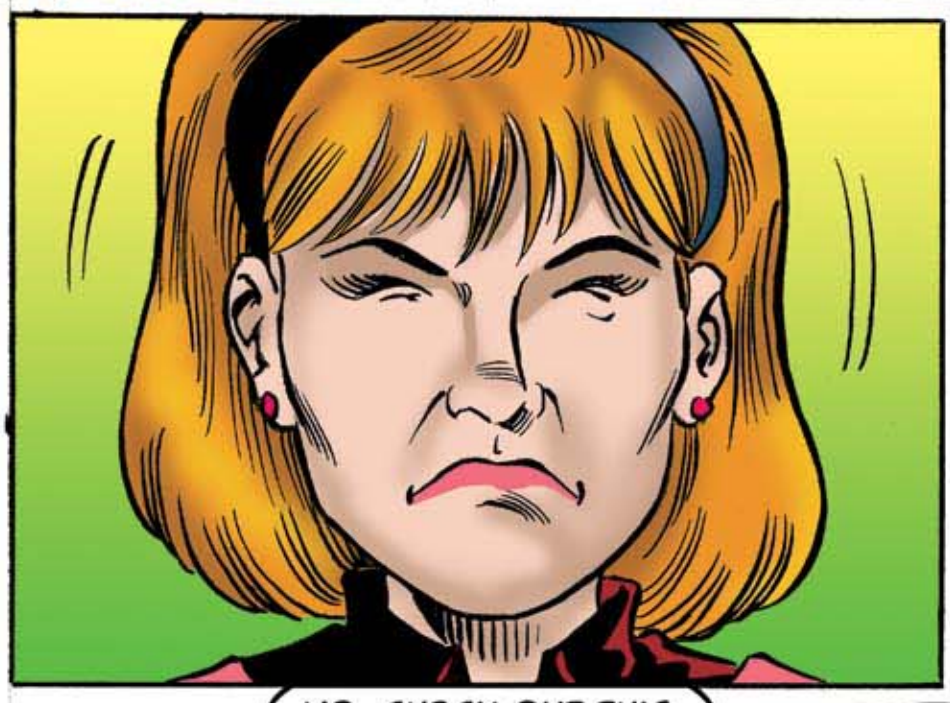
BEFORE YOU GO, LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT I'VE NOTICED ABOUT YOU. SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF...

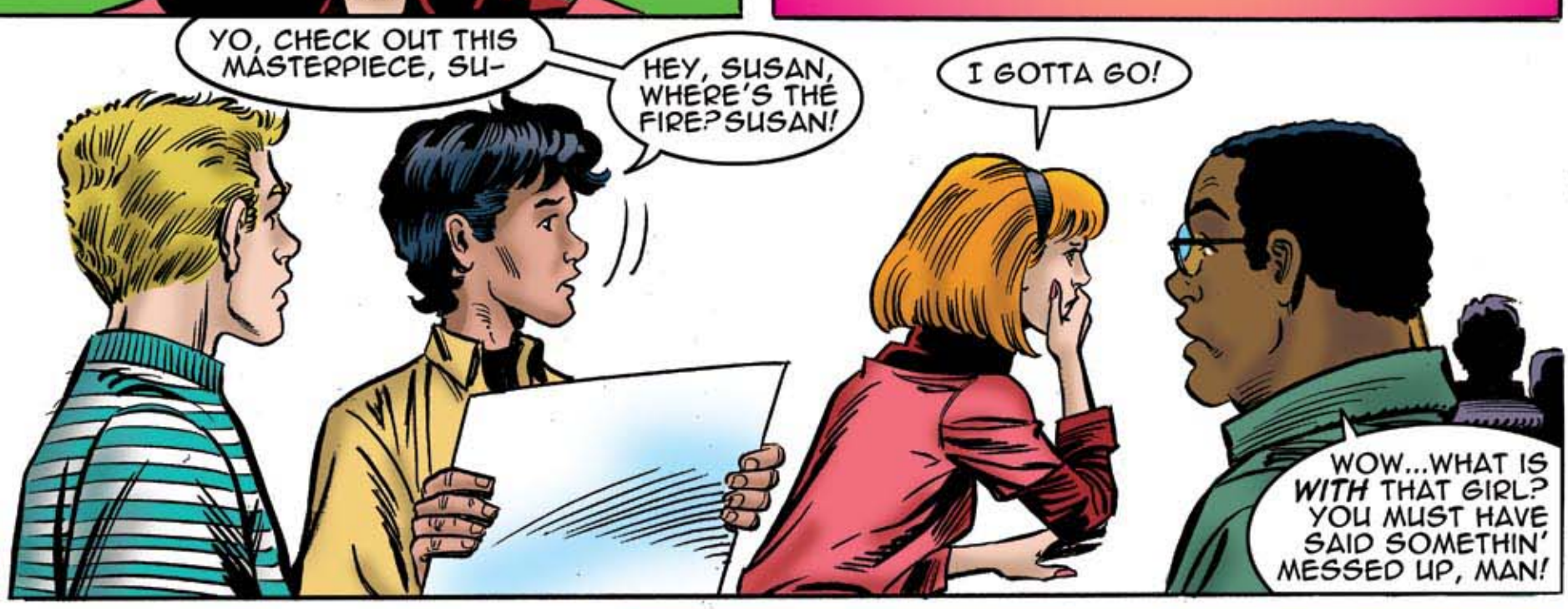
HUH? OH HEY, SUSAN!

WHAT'S UP, JOSE? SEEN MR. DERBY?

NOPE. HE'S BEEN GONE A WHILE. HE WAS GOING INSIDE THE HOUSE LAST I SAW HIM.

:SNIFF!:




YO, CHECK OUT THIS MASTERPIECE, SU-
HEY, SUSAN, WHERE'S THE FIRE? SUSAN!
I GOTTA GO!
WOW...WHAT IS *WITH* THAT GIRL? YOU MUST HAVE SAID SOMETHIN' MESSED UP, MAN!

♪♫MISTER-THORNE ONCE CORNERED CORN AND THAT AIN'T HAY. AHA!♫
♫BUT I'M ALWAYS TRUE TO YOU, DARLIN', IN MY FASHION, ♪♫
♪-YES, I'M ALWAYS TRUE TO YOU, DARLIN', IN MY WAY...♫

FALL SLOWLY DESCENDS ON THE STUDENTS OF ST. MICHAEL'S, AND THE EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR THE SCHOOL PLAY.

THE WHISPERS ARE THAT IT WILL BE THE BEST EVER...

THE DAYS PASSED INTO WINTER, AND THE FINAL PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE, FOR SPRING IS ONLY ONE MONTH AWAY...

HEY, JOSE.

JOSE! JOSE!

WHAM! WHAM!

SUSAN! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE. EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?

I GUESS SO. I'VE BEEN AROUND, JUST, I DUNNO...

WHAT IS IT?

YOU'VE DONE A GREAT JOB, JOSE. MS WILCOX WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU. YOU'RE GREAT AT THIS STUFF.

THANKS, BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU? THE MUSIC COMING ALONG?

IT'S THERE. JUST DON'T REALLY... ***CARE*** SO MUCH ANYMORE, Y'KNOW?

THAT SO? WHY?

BECAUSE OF BILL, THAT'S WHY!
IT ALL FELL APART, AND I THOUGHT I WAS SPECIAL!
YOU GOT SOME KICK. IF ONLY WE HAD A SOCCER TEAM HERE!
I NEVER KEEP UP WITH THE GOSSIP HOUNDS, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SEEING ANYONE!
IT'S KIND OF A SECRET.
REALLY? LET ME GUESS. BILL PINKERTON? WILLIAM BENNET?
THEY'RE JUST BOYS.
BILL DERBY.
HE APPROACHED ME A YEAR AGO, WHEN SHELLY INVITED ME OVER FOR A SLUMBER PARTY. HE WAS SO GRACIOUS, AND MADE ME FEEL SPECIAL.
THEN THAT DAY A MONTH AGO, AT HIS HOUSE...
...I SAW HIM LEAVE THE BATHROOM WITH THAT MELISSA SMITH! I THINK HE LIKES HER MORE THAN ME NOW...
...I JUST DON'T WANT TO LOSE HIM, JOSE!
UM...LISTEN, THIS IS JUST BETWEEN US, OKAY? OUR LITTLE SECRET.
YEAH... SURE.
THANKS FOR LISTENING, JOSE.
I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU.

HEY, SAN MIGUEL. THANKS FOR LOOKING OUT FOR ME SO FAR. I LIKE THIS SCHOOL, BUT I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG HERE.

I THINK WHAT HAPPENED TO ME HAS HAPPENED TO A FRIEND OF MINE...BUT I DON'T THINK SHE UNDERSTANDS WHAT HAPPENED TO HER.

IF I TELL ANYONE, SHE WON'T BE MY FRIEND ANY-MORE, AND THE PEOPLE HERE MAY TURN AGAINST ME... AND ANYWAY, SHE MADE ME PROMISE TO KEEP IT A SECRET...

...AND BESIDES, SOMEONE ELSE MAY BE IN THE SAME TROUBLE, TOO! DOES MY PROMISE MEAN I CAN'T HELP HER AS WELL?

I'M AFRAID FOR THEM, MIGUEL! WHAT SHOULD I DO?

MY SON, IT'S TIME YOU KNEW JUST HOW GREAT LOVE CAN BE.

GOD MADE LOVE SO REAL LOVE IS HOLY.

THERE CAN BE LOVE BETWEEN A HUSBAND AND WIFE, A BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND, BETWEEN FRIENDS, EVEN BETWEEN PRIESTS AND JESUS...

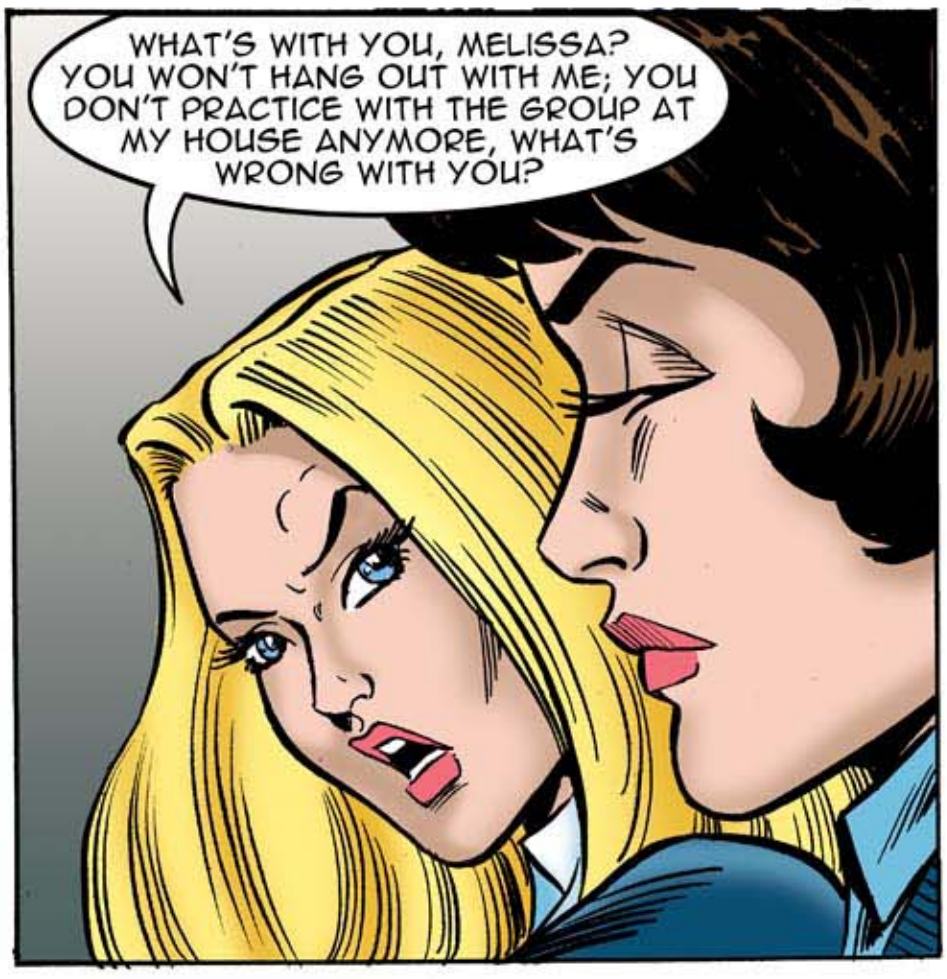
...THE EXPRES-SION OF LOVE CAN BE DIFFER-ENT, BUT THEY ARE ALL LOVE... AND THEY ARE ALL SELFLESS. ANYONE WHO IS TRULY TRYING TO LOVE, IS TRYING TO BE MORE LIKE GOD.

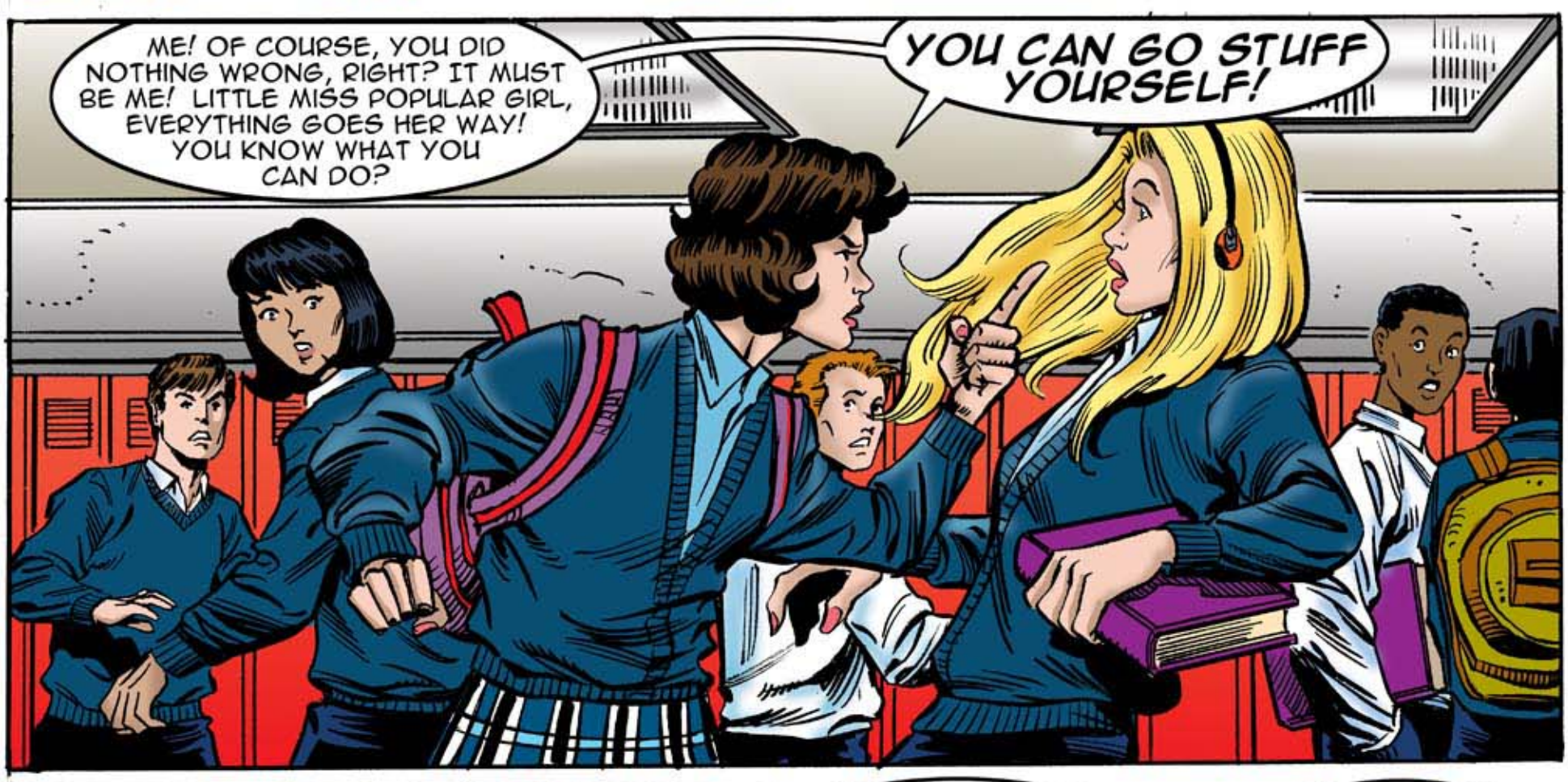
AND REMEMBER, SON, WHEN LOVE IS REAL, IT NEVER HAS CONDITIONS. SOME-ONE WHO TRULY LOVES YOU WILL ***NEVER*** SAY, "YOU WILL IF YOU LOVE ME" OR "THIS IS OUR FUN LITTLE SECRET."

STAY WITH ME, SAN MIGUEL, AND WITH MELISSA AND SUSAN TOO. THEY NEED YOU NOW, EVEN IF THEY DON'T KNOW IT YET...

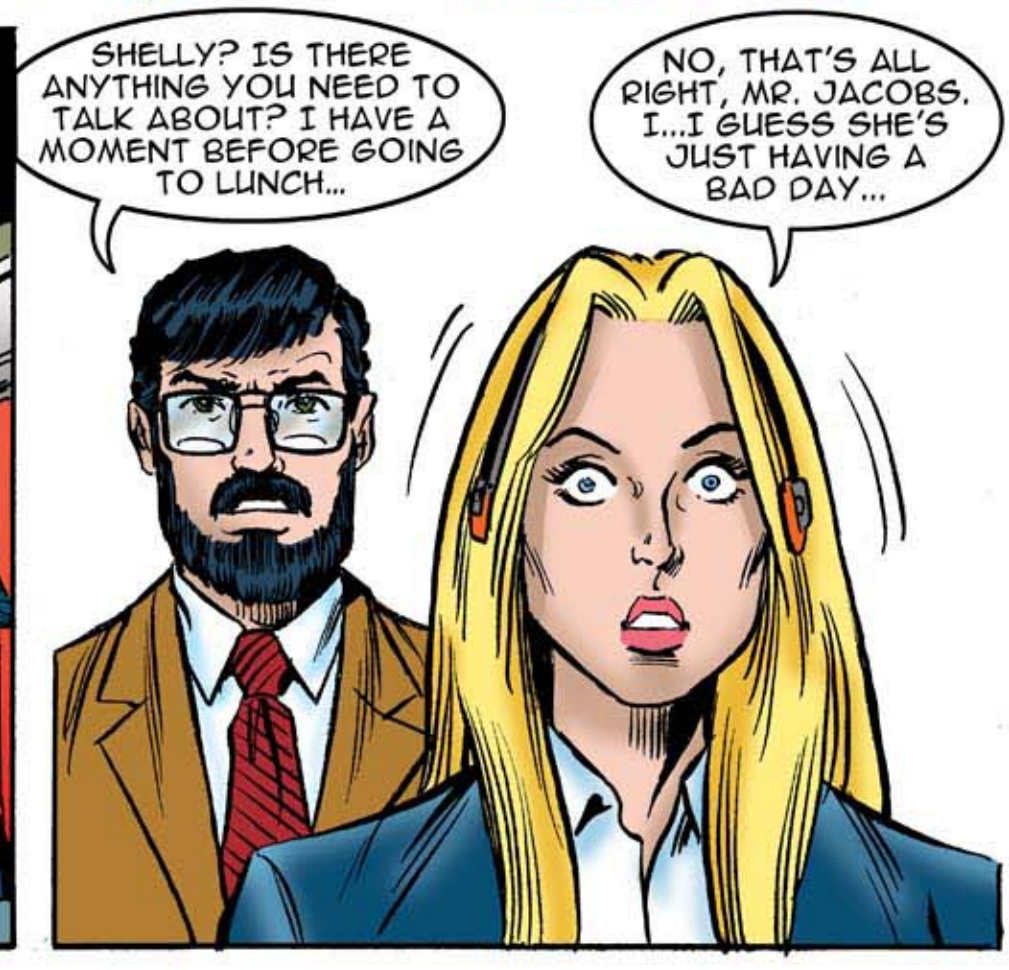
"I CAN'T KEEP THIS SECRET!"

LISSA! WAIT UP! HEY!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I CALLED YOU LAST WEEK TO SEE IF YOU WANTED TO GO TO THE MALL, BUT YOU DIDN'T CALL ME BACK!
SORRY.


WHAT'S WITH YOU, MELISSA? YOU WON'T HANG OUT WITH ME; YOU DON'T PRACTICE WITH THE GROUP AT MY HOUSE ANYMORE, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?


ME! OF COURSE, YOU DID NOTHING WRONG, RIGHT? IT MUST BE ME! LITTLE MISS POPULAR GIRL, EVERYTHING GOES HER WAY! YOU KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO?
YOU CAN GO STUFF YOURSELF!

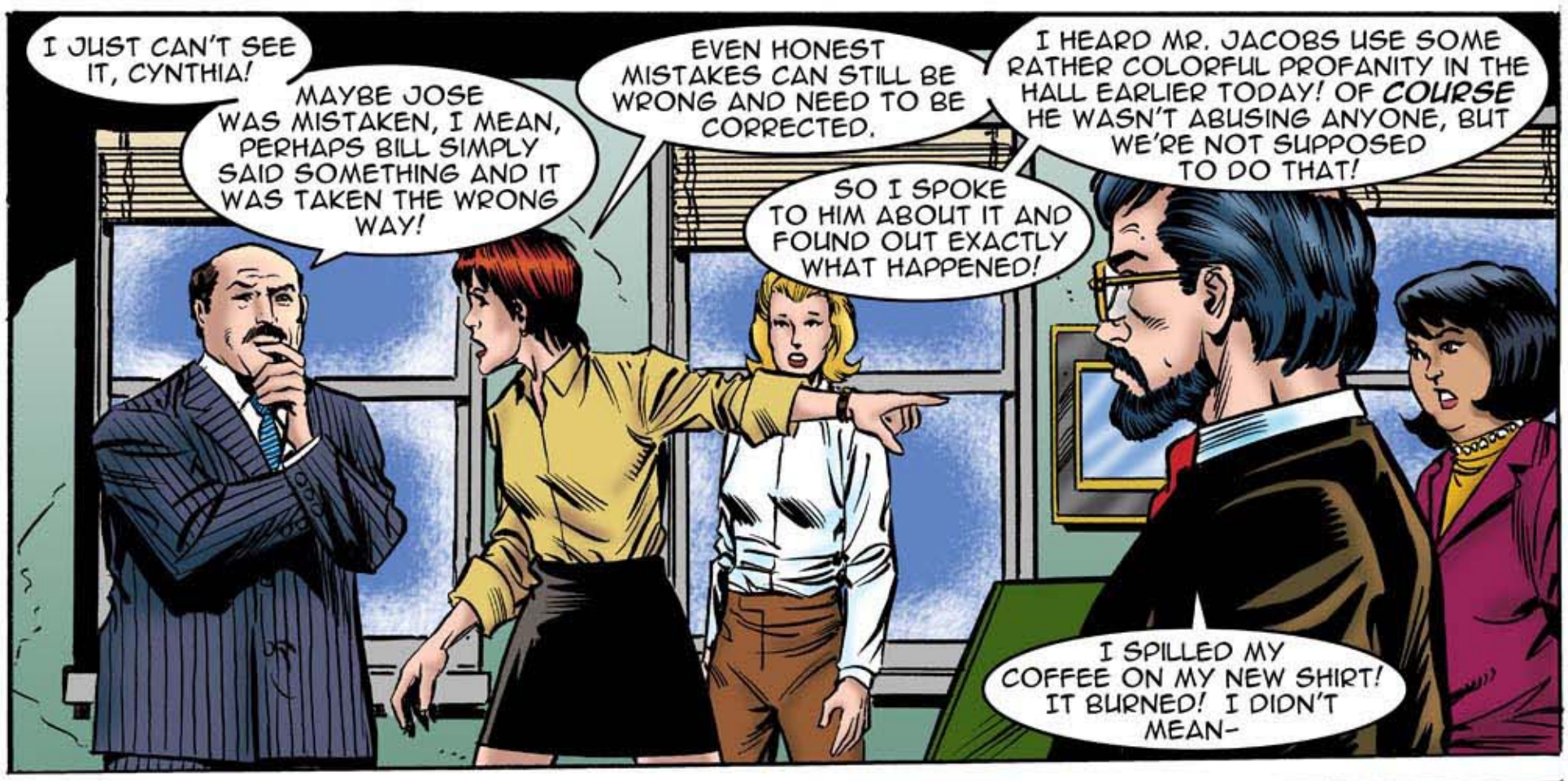
SHELLY? WHAT JUST HAPPENED HERE? IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?

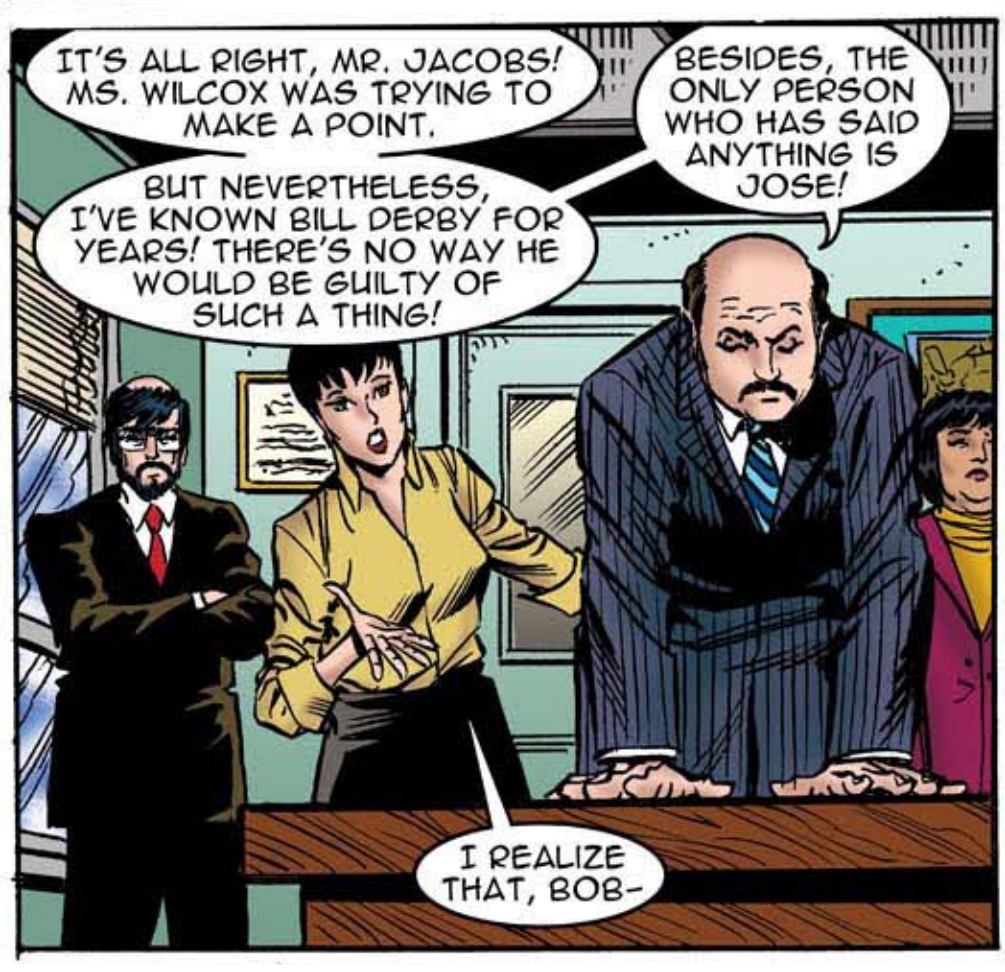

SHELLY? IS THERE ANYTHING YOU NEED TO TALK ABOUT? I HAVE A MOMENT BEFORE GOING TO LUNCH...
NO, THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MR. JACOBS. I...I GUESS SHE'S JUST HAVING A BAD DAY...

MS. WILCOX?

JOSE! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I NEED TO-
I THINK MELISSA SMITH AND SUSAN JENKINS ARE BEING SEXUALLY ABUSED.


I JUST CAN'T SEE IT, CYNTHIA!
MAYBE JOSE WAS MISTAKEN, I MEAN, PERHAPS BILL SIMPLY SAID SOMETHING AND IT WAS TAKEN THE WRONG WAY!
EVEN HONEST MISTAKES CAN STILL BE WRONG AND NEED TO BE CORRECTED.
SO I SPOKE TO HIM ABOUT IT AND FOUND OUT EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED!
I HEARD MR. JACOBS USE SOME RATHER COLORFUL PROFANITY IN THE HALL EARLIER TODAY! OF *COURSE* HE WASN'T ABUSING ANYONE, BUT WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO DO THAT!
I SPILLED MY COFFEE ON MY NEW SHIRT! IT BURNED! I DIDN'T MEAN-


IT'S ALL RIGHT, MR. JACOBS! MS. WILCOX WAS TRYING TO MAKE A POINT.
BESIDES, THE ONLY PERSON WHO HAS SAID ANYTHING IS JOSE!
BUT NEVERTHELESS, I'VE KNOWN BILL DERBY FOR YEARS! THERE'S NO WAY HE WOULD BE GUILTY OF SUCH A THING!
I REALIZE THAT, BOB-

-BUT I BELIEVE JOSE. HE'S NEVER LIED TO ME BEFORE, AND I DON'T THINK HE WOULD TRY TO PLAY A GHASTLY PRANK LIKE THIS!
BUT WE DON'T KNOW HIM! HOWEVER, WE'VE KNOWN BILL FOR YEARS!

BILL HAS HELPED US PROVIDING COSTUMES AND EQUIPMENT FOR YEARS! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!

I SAY WE BRING JOSE IN HERE!

LET'S SLOW DOWN, NANCY.

NOW, WHAT ABOUT MELISSA SMITH? ANYONE NOTICE ANYTHING?

OH YES, INDEED.

MELISSA USED TO BE A STELLAR STUDENT, BUT LATELY SHE'S BEEN MAKING D'S AND F'S ON HER HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS...

YES, AND SHE'S BEEN SKIPPING A LOT OF PRACTICES OVER THE LAST TWO MONTHS...

COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE ONLY MISSES PRACTICES AT BILL'S HOUSE...

OH...MY GOD!

I SAW HER YELLING AT SHELLY DERBY YESTERDAY, AND SUSAN HERSELF HASN'T BEEN PERFORMING WELL LATELY IN JAZZ CLASS...

SEE? SOMETHING *IS* WRONG HERE!

REMEMBER WHAT THAT TRAINER SAID BEFORE SCHOOL STARTED? "LESS THAN 5% OF CHILDREN LIE ABOUT THIS."

WE HAVE TO TAKE JOSE SERIOUSLY!

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO? CALL THE POLICE? AND TELL THEM WHAT?

ALL WE HAVE TO GO ON IS THE COMMENTS OF A BOY WE DON'T KNOW! I NEED MORE THAN THIS BEFORE I TURN THE SCHOOL UPSIDE DOWN!

MR. JAMES?

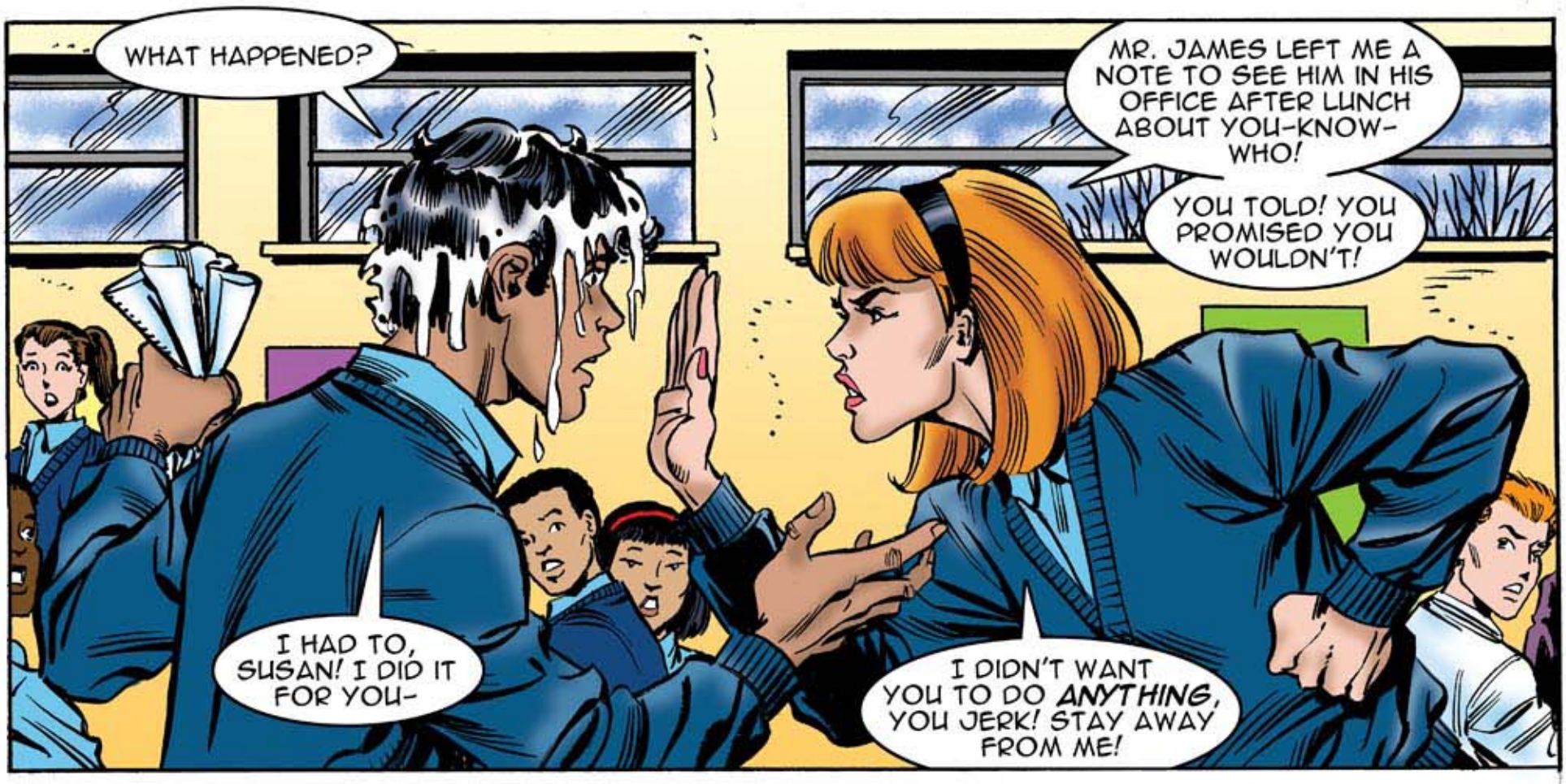
YES, HELEN? WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

THERE'S A MR. AND MRS. GONZALES HERE TO SEE YOU...

...ABOUT JOSE.

LUNCHTIME, THE NEXT DAY...

HOW ABOUT A LITTLE MILK TO GO WITH YOUR LIAR'S PLATE SPECIAL?!
WHAT THE-?!


WHAT HAPPENED?
I HAD TO, SUSAN! I DID IT FOR YOU-
MR. JAMES LEFT ME A NOTE TO SEE HIM IN HIS OFFICE AFTER LUNCH ABOUT YOU-KNOW-WHO!
YOU TOLD! YOU PROMISED YOU WOULDN'T!
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO DO ANYTHING, YOU JERK! STAY AWAY FROM ME!

UGH. MY CLOTHES WILL SMELL LIKE SOUR MILK BY THE TIME I GET HOME.. MOM WILL KILL ME...

...EH?

HE HAS SAD EYES, DON'T YOU THINK?
HMM? OH-
I SUPPOSE.
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?
I GUESS-
I THINK HE'S SAD TO GO INTO BATTLE, BUT DOES SO NEVERTHELESS.
HE FIGHTS FOR US.
ALWAYS.
DOES HE PICK AND CHOOSE?
NOPE.
MAYBE HE THINKS NOT EVERYONE IS WORTH HELPING.
HE SENDS HELP IN DIFFERENT WAYS, BUT HE'S ALWAYS HERE.
I GOT A NOTE SAYING THAT MR. JAMES WANTS TO SEE ME. BUT YOU KNEW THAT, RIGHT?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M SORRY. I-
IT'S OKAY. IT'LL BE OVER SOON, ANYWAY. I GUESS THE WHOLE SCHOOL WILL KNOW SOON ENOUGH. I'LL GO SEE HIM AFTER BEING HERE A LITTLE WHILE.

OKAY. I THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. I'LL SEE YOU INSIDE, OKAY?
SURE.

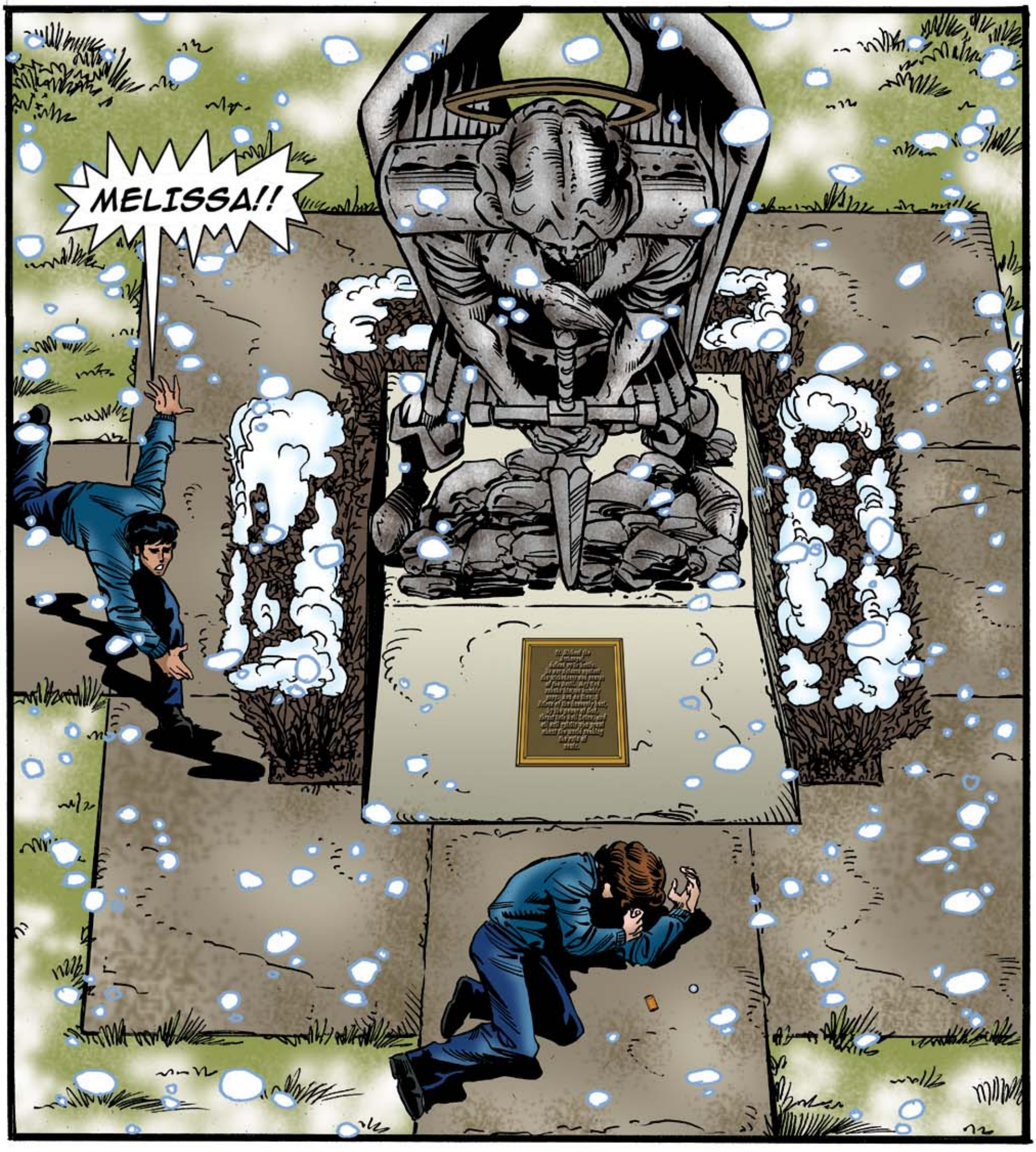
MS. WILCOX? HAVE YOU SEEN MELISSA SMITH?
NO, SHE DIDN'T COME TO CLASS.

HMM. NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW WHERE SHE IS. I'LL CHECK THE GYM...
OH NO... MICHAEL!

JOSE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? I DIDN'T GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO LEAVE!

PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T LET ME BE TOO LATE!

OH, NO... SAN MIGUEL...
NO!


MELISSA!!

MELISSA! LISSA!
SPEAK TO ME! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
HMMM... JOSE?
YEAH, IT'S ME. WHAT DID YOU TAKE?
HMMM, JUST LET ME SLEEP A WHILE, 'KAY?
CYNTHIA, CALL AN AMBULANCE!
OH MY GOD!
SHE TOOK THESE.
HMMPH. JUST LET ME SLEEP-
I D-DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE A GOOD I-IDEA, LISSA.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS! WE COULD GET YOU HELP!
I JUST COULDN'T TAKE IT. AFTER HE TOUCHED ME, I WAS SO ASHAMED....
NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE ME IF I SAID SOMETHHM-MMM...
DON'T GO TO SLEEP ON ME!

MELISSA...*LISSA*! STAY AWAKE! MS. WILCOX CALLED 911!
TALK TO US, CHILD. I THINK I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, AND IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT!
HAIL MARY, FULL OF GRACE, THE LORD IS WITH THEE...
WE'LL BE HERE FOR YOU, BUT CAN YOU TELL ME WHO TOUCHED YOU?

HMMMM...IT WAS MR....DERBY...
MUSTN'T TELL SHELLY, SHE WON'T BE MY FRIEND ANYMORE...I'LL BE ALONE....
NO, NO, YOU'LL *NEVER* BE ALONE.

I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.
I-I WAS SEXUALLY ABUSED TOO. THAT'S WHY WE MOVED HERE.
...BUT YOU'RE A BOY...
IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE, MELISSA!

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A HARD ROAD, BUT TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE SURE THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU HAPPENS TO NOBODY ELSE!

YOU'LL HELP ME?

KEEP HER TALKING, JOSE! THE AMBULANCE IS HERE!
I'LL HELP YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. MICHAEL WILL BE THERE, TOO.

HE HELPED ME, AND I'LL HELP YOU! I PROMISE!
YOU KNOW... YOU'RE A LITTLE SHORT...
...FOR A GUARDIAN ANGEL...

KNOK KNOK

YES? HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

ARE YOU WILLIAM DERBY?

YES...

WILLIAM DERBY, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR THE MOLESTATION OF MELISSA SMITH, SUSAN JENKINS AND AMBER REEVES!

WHADAYA MEAN? I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! I DON'T--

DON'T GIVE US THAT. ALL THREE GIRLS STEPPED FORWARD AND TOLD THE TEACHERS AT THE SCHOOL, AND MELISSA SMITH NEARLY KILLED HERSELF BECAUSE OF YOU!

READ THIS PERV HIS MIRANDAS AND GET HIM OUT OF HERE!

THIS HAS BEEN QUITE A YEAR, HASN'T IT?

I'M SORRY WE HAD TO CANCEL THE PLAY, BUT THAT'S ONLY PART OF THE REASON THE FACULTY HAS CALLED YOU HERE TODAY...

...AS YOU KNOW, A PREDATOR IN OUR MIDST HAS SEXUALLY ABUSED SOME OF YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS.

NOW THAT PERSON IS NO LONGER AMONG US, BUT HAS LEFT A MESS IN HIS WAKE...

"...FAMILIES HAVE TO REBUILD, THEIRS AND OURS, AND WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT WHAT HAPPENED HERE DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN..."

"I WANT ALL OF YOU TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR BODIES AND ABOUT YOURSELVES."

"YOU'VE ALL HEARD IN CLASS AND IN CHURCH THAT 'YOUR BODY IS A TEMPLE OF THE LORD.' I WANT YOU TO REALLY BELIEVE THAT...TO UNDERSTAND IT!"

"GOD MADE YOU. YOU ARE UNIQUE. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN, THERE NEVER WILL BE AGAIN, ANYONE LIKE YOU! THAT'S WHAT MAKES EACH OF YOU SPECIAL AND DEARLY PRECIOUS ESPECIALLY TO GOD..."

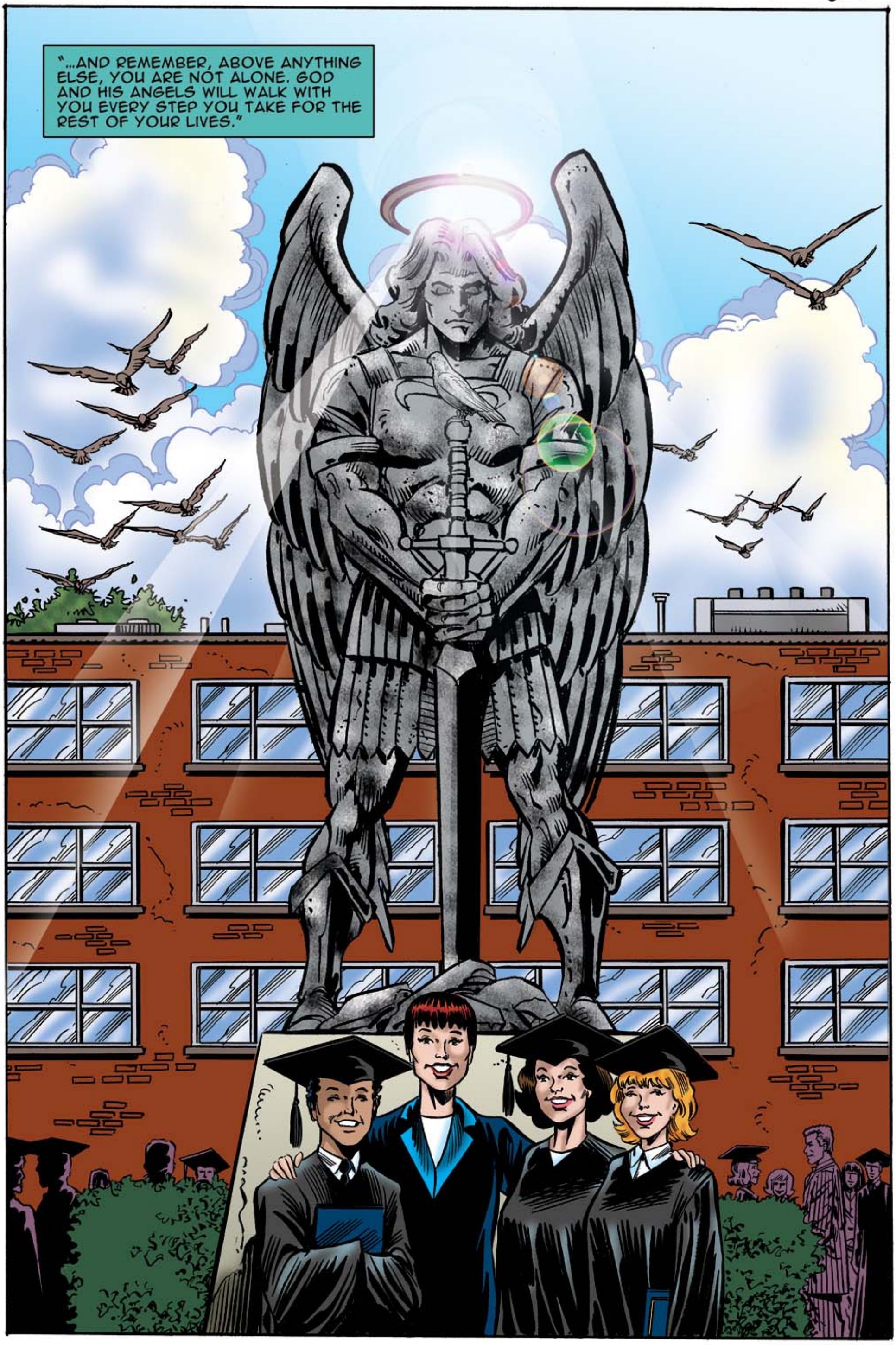
"...OUR LORD LIVES WITHIN YOU AND LOVES YOU WITH A DEPTH THAT DEFIES ALL REASON! AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT'S WHY WE TEACH YOU TO BE CAREFUL AND SAFE. YOU SEE, ALL ADULTS HAVE A MORAL OBLIGATION TO PROTECT CHILDREN...NOT JUST THEIR OWN, BUT ALL CHILDREN...."

"...AND IF ANY OF YOU FEEL THREATENED, OR THAT YOUR SAFETY IS IN JEOPARDY, YOU MAY ALWAYS SEEK ME OUT, OR ANY ONE OF THE FACULTY, AND ANY ADULT YOU TRUST."

"WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO HELP YOU. YOU WILL NOT BE RIDICULED OR JUDGED, YOU WILL NOT GET IN TROUBLE, AND ***YOU WILL NOT BE ALONE.***"

"ABOVE ALL, REMEMBER TO LOVE EACH OTHER JUST AS GOD LOVES YOU..."

"...AND MEND YOUR FENCES, AND KEEP EACH OTHER CLOSE..."


"...AND REMEMBER, ABOVE ANYTHING ELSE, YOU ARE NOT ALONE. GOD AND HIS ANGELS WILL WALK WITH YOU EVERY STEP YOU TAKE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES."

We dedicate the work of this program to the protection of Saint Joseph, the guardian of the redeemer of mankind. As we have placed the workings of our Safe Environment program under his patronage, please join us in offering this prayer.

St. Joseph, God entrusted His greatest treasures, Mary and Jesus, to your protection.

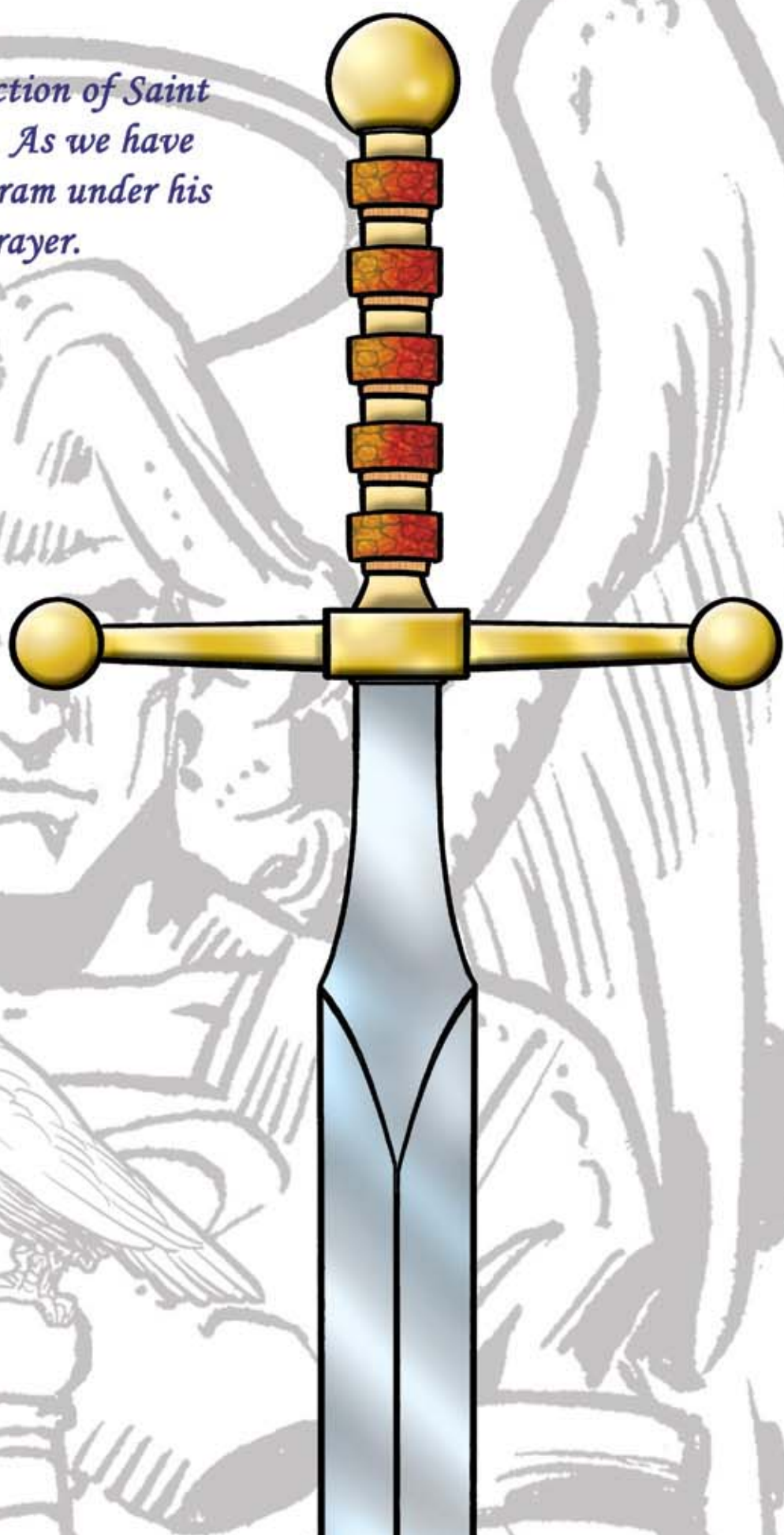
We now place our programs under your patronage.

We ask you to pray for us, that we may create a safe environment for the children who have been entrusted to us.

Please obtain for us the grace to lead these children to lives of virtue and love, and to guide them to the vocations that God has intended for them.

Help us to be good role models and protectors for them, as you were for your family.

We ask this in the name of your beloved spouse Mary, and your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.



The staff of the Safe Environment Office is committed to providing nurturing, safe spaces for our children. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us via any of the methods below.

Web Site:
www.archny.org/pastoral/safe-environment-program

E-Mail Address:
safe@archny.org

Phones:
845-452-1171 extention 4218
212-371-1000 extention 2810

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SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

St. Michael the
Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against
the wickedness and snares
of the Devil. May God
rebuke him, we humbly
pray. And do thou, O
Prince of the heavenly host,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan, and
all evil spirits who prowl
about the world seeking
the ruin of
souls.