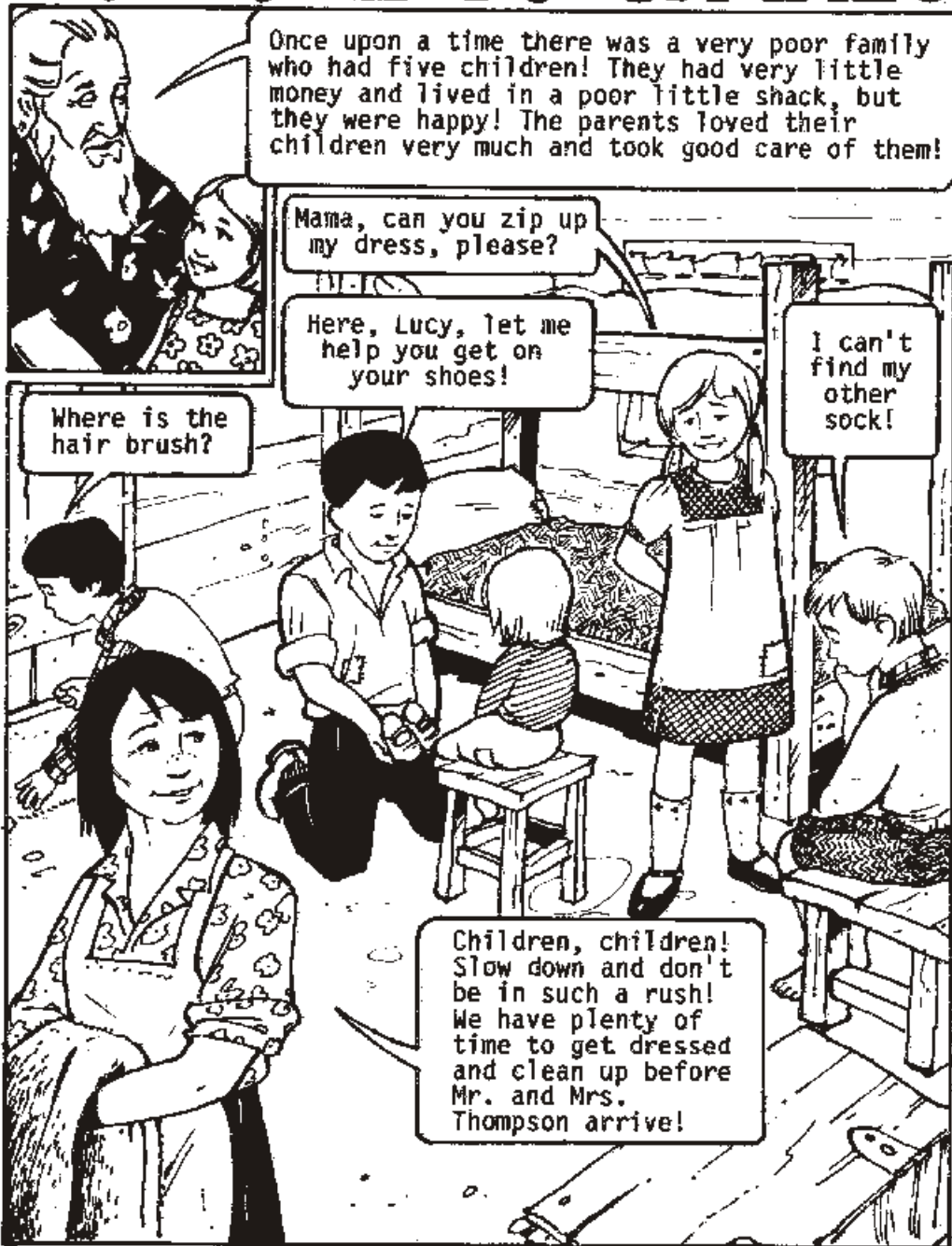


NOT ONE TO SPARE!



Once upon a time there was a very poor family who had five children! They had very little money and lived in a poor little shack, but they were happy! The parents loved their children very much and took good care of them!

Mama, can you zip up my dress, please?

Here, Lucy, let me help you get on your shoes!

I can't find my other sock!

Where is the hair brush?

Children, children! Slow down and don't be in such a rush! We have plenty of time to get dressed and clean up before Mr. and Mrs. Thompson arrive!

How is it going with the children, Dear?

Just fine, Daddy! Richard and Helen have grown up so much and are such a help with the younger ones!

You look a little nervous, Honey!

Well, it's just that this is the first time that the Thompsons have ever visited our house! Usually they invite us to their big mansion in the city!

Don't worry, Honey, they know how poor we are! They won't be expecting anything fancy.

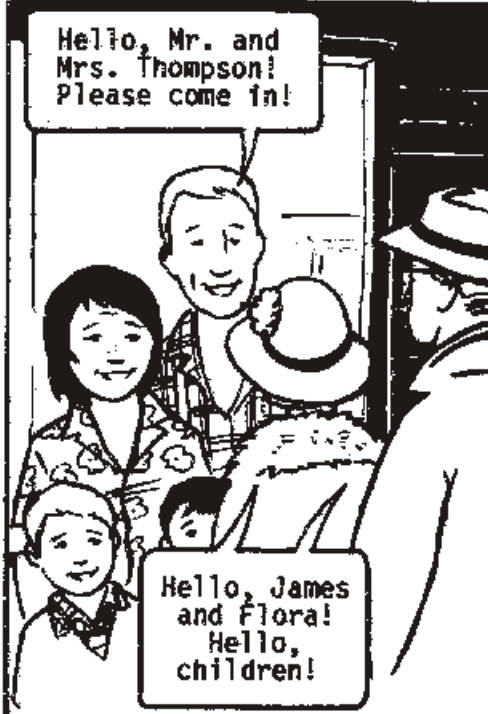
You know, sometimes I wonder why the Thompsons are so sweet and kind to us when we're not rich like the rest of their friends!

Oh, but Honey, we are rich! God has blessed us with 5 beautiful children, and they're worth more than all the riches in the world!

KNOCK!
KNOCK!

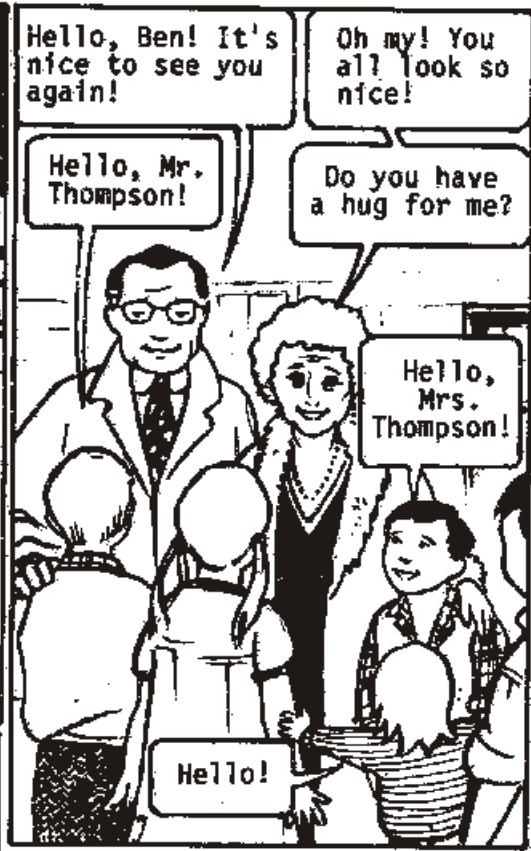
Oh, here they are! Come, children, come!

The Thompsons really appreciate our children since they don't have any of their own. The children make them feel young and happy and give them hope for the future.



Hello, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson!
Please come in!

Hello, James
and Flora!
Hello,
children!



Hello, Ben! It's
nice to see you
again!

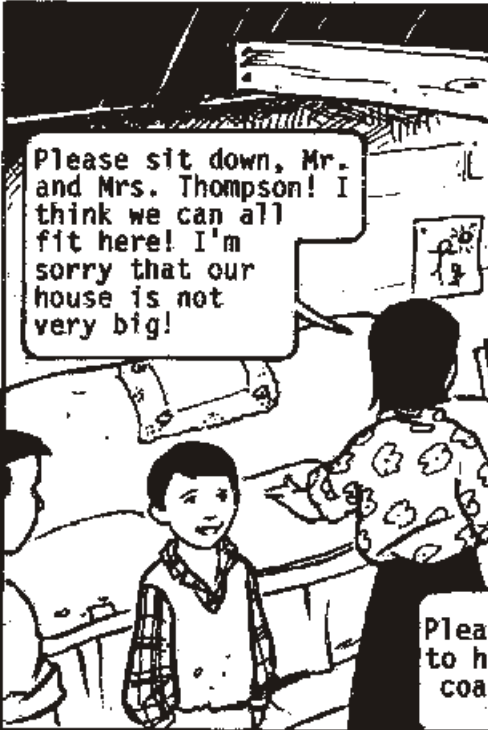
Oh my! You
all look so
nice!

Hello, Mr.
Thompson!

Do you have
a hug for me?

Hello,
Mrs.
Thompson!

Hello!



Please sit down, Mr.
and Mrs. Thompson! I
think we can all
fit here! I'm
sorry that our
house is not
very big!

Oh, we're so happy to
be here! Your house is
very cosy and warm!

Yes, it's very
charming, I
must say.

Please allow me
to hang up your
coat and hat.

Excuse me, Mrs. Thompson! We made these cards for you!

Oh, look, Bernard! They're beautiful!

My! What talented children you are!

Helen, Sweetheart, would you like to serve the tea and biscuits, please?

Yes, Ma'am!

And please remember to serve our guests first!

Later that evening:

Well, I think it's your bedtime now, children!

Please, Flora, I'd love to help you put the children to bed!

Of course you may, Mrs. Thompson! The children would love that!

Goodnight, Daddy!

Goodnight, children!

Goodnight, Mr. Thompson!

I must say, you have a wonderful family!

Thank you!

You know, James, although we're rich, we've never had the joy that you and Flora have!

Ever since that day we met your children in the park, we've been in love with them!


We've never had the joy of having children! And so my wife and I have been talking about it and...er...well, we have something to ask you!

Please, we'd love to help you in any way we can!

We'll give you a good sum of money...if you give us one of your children!

You...you mean...you want us to sell you one of our children?!

James, we know that you're not so well off and are having a hard time financially at the moment, and so we've decided that we would like to help you!



Well, James, let's rather say we would like to adopt one!

You can choose! Any one you can spare!

We will bring the child up as if he were our very own! The child will grow up with all he needs and a fine house to live in, and you won't have to worry about being poor anymore! We would like to offer you a lot of money for that child, so you can well care for the other ones!

So what do you think?

Er...uh...that's a very kind offer, Mr. Thompson, but, well, I'll have to discuss it with Flora!

Of course, take your time!

Oh, the children look so sweet in their pyjamas!

Oh, James, Flora asked if you'd like to come and see her in the children's room!

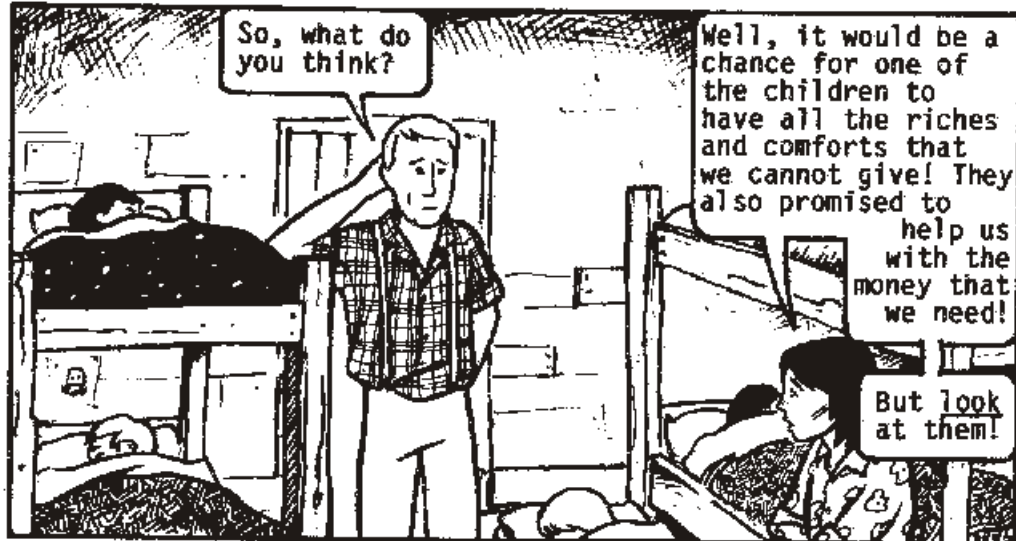
Yes, if you'll excuse me...!

Are they all asleep, Honey?

Yes.

Honey, there is something that I need to talk to you about...

Yes, I know. Mrs. Thompson already asked me the same thing!

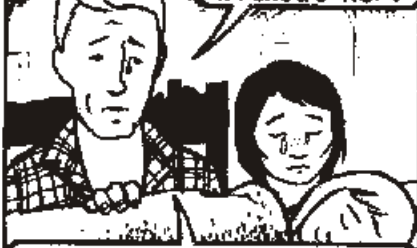


We can't possibly give them Richard.



He's growing up so fast now! He really needs you as his father! And he's such a help to me when you're not here!

Oh, and of course not Helen! Things just wouldn't be the same without her! I wouldn't be the same without her!



And she's such a good little Mommy, helping with the younger ones!



I know sometimes Benjamin and Nathan are real little rascals, but they try their best to be a help and a blessing...sob!...I do love them so!


If we give one away, the others would be so sad!



So that just leaves Lucy.

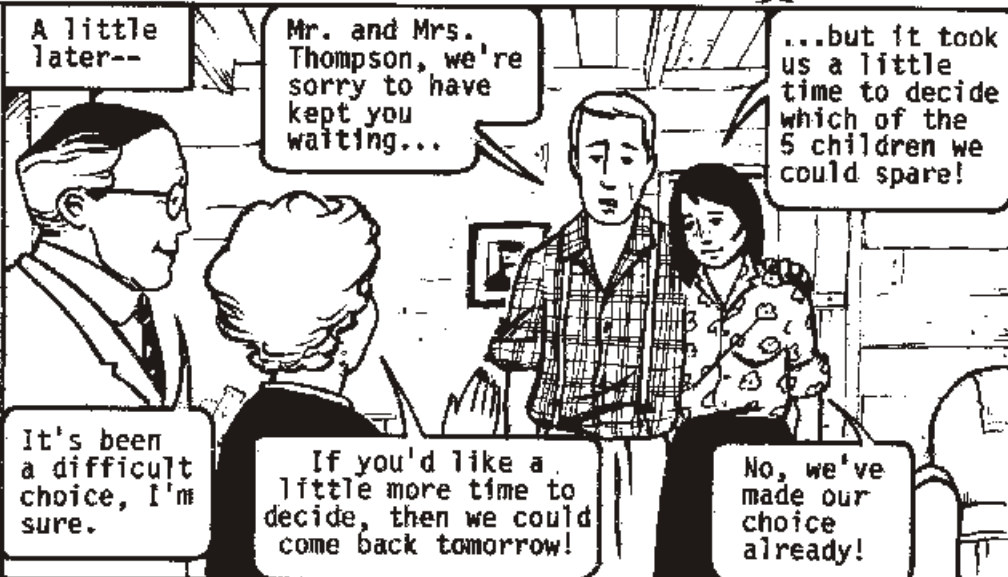
Dear sweet little baby Lucy! She has so much love for others! How could we ever give her away?...Sob!...I just

can't even think of it!



Oh, Honey, they are all so special! But we need to give an answer to Mr. and Mrs. Thompson! We need to tell them which one we can spare!

A little later--




Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, we're sorry to have kept you waiting...

...but it took us a little time to decide which of the 5 children we could spare!

It's been a difficult choice, I'm sure.

If you'd like a little more time to decide, then we could come back tomorrow!

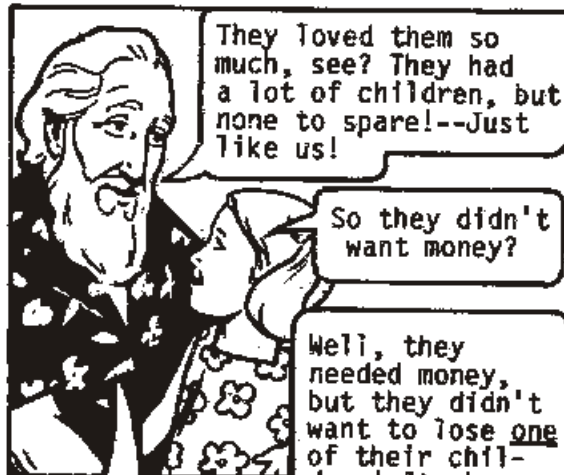
No, we've made our choice already!



We looked at each of the children, and saw that each one of them is a jewel, a special, priceless gift of God that He's trusting us to take care of!

We would like to thank you for your very kind offer, but we are sorry, we need every one of them!

WE HAVE NOT ONE TO SPARE!



They loved them so much, see? They had a lot of children, but none to spare!--Just like us!

So they didn't want money?

Well, they needed money, but they didn't want to lose one of their children! It shows

how much they loved them! All the things that the rich people could give could never replace the love and happiness that the children had in their little home with their mommy and daddy and brothers and sisters!

Just like if someone came here and offered us a lot of money for you, we'd never sell you! We wouldn't sell you for the whole world, because we love you so much!



Grandpa, I'm sure they didn't want to sell the baby!

No! Think if we sold Mary Dear!

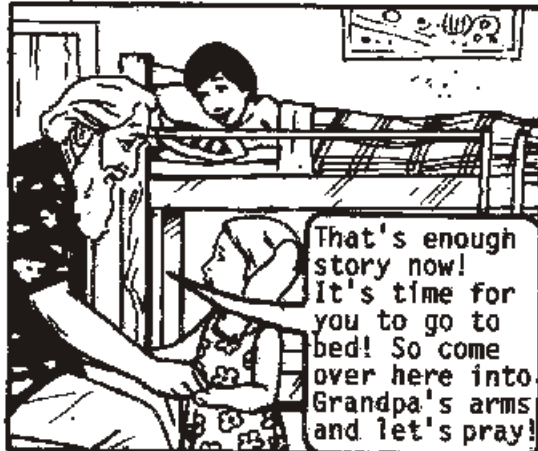
Oh no!
Oh my!

We would really miss her, wouldn't we?

Because she's so cute!

Yes, she's so cute. She grins at Grandpa now, and smiles and laughs and blows kisses!





That's enough story now! It's time for you to go to bed! So come over here into Grandpa's arms and let's pray!

Thank You, Lord, for Teché, and thank You for sending her to cheer me up in my old age! Thank You that she was willing to come from Heaven down here to make me happy until I go back to Heaven again!

And God bless each one of our children in our wonderful Family all around the World! They're all so special! Help us to treasure each one as precious! Give us all a good night's sleep and keep us safely, in Jesus' name! Amen!



Amen!

Yes, God has a special place for each of you in His Kingdom! And whatever your place is, you are very needed, you're very important and each one of you has your special job! And we must all work together in unity and harmony as parts of His Body, all joined together as one.



God loves and needs each of you, from the smallest to the greatest! There's not one of you that He can spare! God bless you! I love you!