

# THE CHARACTERS

**MARTIN LUTHER** WAS A MONK, A THEOLOGIAN, A PROFESSOR, A HUSBAND TO KATIE LUTHER, AND A PAPA TO HIS KIDS. DR. LUTHER WAS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR STARTING THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION, WHICH LED TO THE EVANGELICAL (GOOD NEWS) CHURCH THAT TODAY BEARS HIS NAME—*LUTHERAN*. THROUGHOUT THE STORY, ADAPTED QUOTES FROM LUTHER HAVE BEEN PLACED TO ADD TO THE STORY. LOOK FOR THEM WHERE A † SYMBOL HAS BEEN PLACED.



**KATIE LUTHER** (KATHARINA VON BORA) WAS SENT OFF AT THE AGE OF FIVE TO LIVE IN A MONASTERY AFTER HER MOTHER HAD DIED. LATER ON, SHE BECAME INTERESTED IN THE REFORMATION MOVEMENT, BUT NEEDED HELP TO LEAVE THE MONASTERY. A FEW YEARS LATER SHE MARRIED MARTIN LUTHER AND STARTED A FAMILY. ALONG WITH CARING FOR THE FAMILY, KATIE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR BREEDING CATTLE AND BREWING BEER, TWO JOBS THAT PROVIDED MONEY FOR THE LARGE LUTHER FAMILY.



**JOHANNES (HANS) LUTHER** WAS THE OLDEST OF THE LUTHER CHILDREN. HE IS TWELVE WHEN WE FIRST MEET HIM IN THIS BOOK. HE IS A HARD WORKER AND LOVES HIS FAMILY.

**MAGDALENA (MAGDA OR LENCHEN) LUTHER** WAS THE SECOND OLDEST CHILD IN THE LUTHER FAMILY. SHE IS SMART AND CLEVER, ALTHOUGH HER BROTHER OFTEN IRRITATES HER.



**MARTIN LUTHER, JR. (LITTLE MARTIN OR MÄRCHEN), PAUL LUTHER, AND MARGARETE LUTHER ARE THE OTHER LUTHER CHILDREN IN THIS STORY. THEY ARE 7, 5, AND 3 YEARS OLD WHEN WE FIRST MEET THEM.**

**FREDERICK THE WISE (FREDERICK III, ELECTOR OF SAXONY) WAS A PRINCE OF SAXONY, A REGION WHICH IS NOW A STATE IN MODERN GERMANY. FREDERICK WAS AN ELECTOR, ONE WHO HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF ELECTING THE HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR. FREDERICK PROTECTED LUTHER DURING THE TIME WHEN LUTHER WAS CONSIDERED AN OUTLAW.**



**JOHANN VON STAUPITZ WAS THE VICAR GENERAL (LEADER) OF THE AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS IN GERMANY. HE WAS ALSO A THEOLOGIAN AND PREACHER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WITTENBERG. HE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR MARTIN LUTHER DURING A DIFFICULT BUT IMPORTANT TIME IN LUTHER'S LIFE.**

# THE CHARACTERS

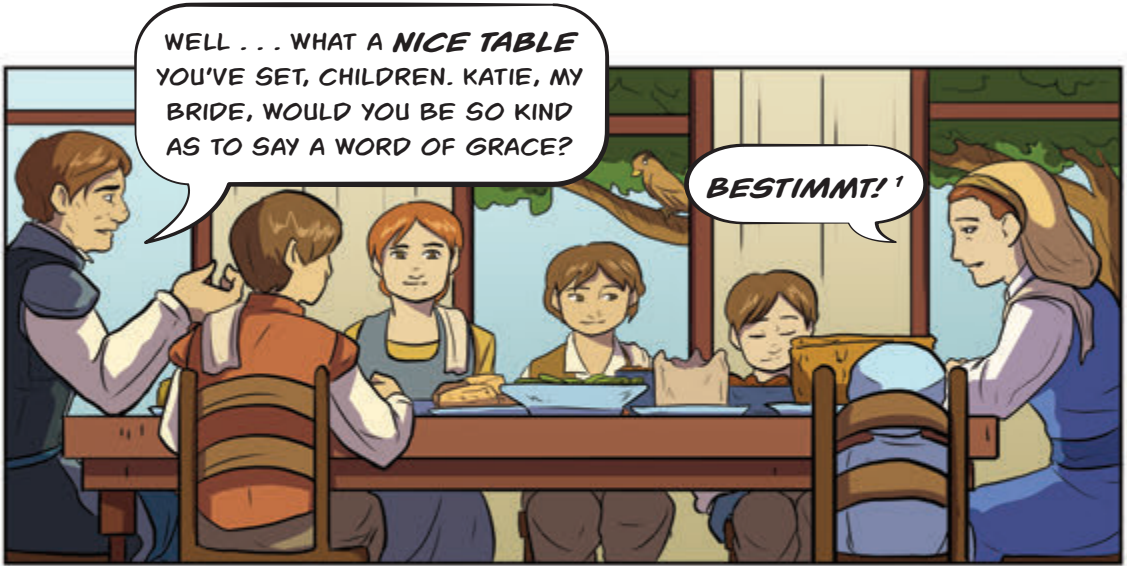
**JOHANN TETZEL** WAS A PRIEST KNOWN BEST FOR OFFERING INDULGENCES IN EXCHANGE FOR MONEY. THESE WERE GUARANTEES FOR PEOPLE THAT THEY (OR THEIR RELATIVES) WOULD HAVE TO SPEND LESS TIME IN PURGATORY AFTER THEY DIED. LUTHER SPOKE AGAINST INDULGENCES, AND THE DOCUMENTS HE WROTE LARGELY FANNED THE FLAMES OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION.



**CHARLES V, HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR** WAS ELECTED WHEN HE WAS ONLY 19 TO RULE OVER THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, WHICH COVERED AN AREA IN EUROPE A LITTLE LARGER THAN THE SIZE OF TEXAS. CHARLES V RULED WHEN LUTHER WAS TRIED FOR HERESY IN WORMS, GERMANY.

**POPE LEO X (THE TENTH)** WAS THE LEADER OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AT THE TIME OF LUTHER. HE USED MUCH OF THE MONEY FROM THE INDULGENCES HE SOLD THROUGH TETZEL AND OTHERS TO FUND THE BUILDING OF ST. PETER'S BASILICA WHICH STILL STANDS TODAY IN THE VATICAN (ROME).





WELL . . . WHAT A *NICE TABLE* YOU'VE SET, CHILDREN. KATIE, MY BRIDE, WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO SAY A WORD OF GRACE?

*BESTIMMT!*<sup>1</sup>



REMIND ME TOMORROW, WOULD YOU KATIE, MY DEAR? I NEED TO REMEMBER TO *CLEAN THE SPADE . . .*



— *AMEN.*



THE EYES OF EVERYONE LOOK TO YOU, *OUR LOVING GOD*, AND YOU GIVE US OUR FOOD IN DUE SEASON. THANK YOU *FOR LIFE!*

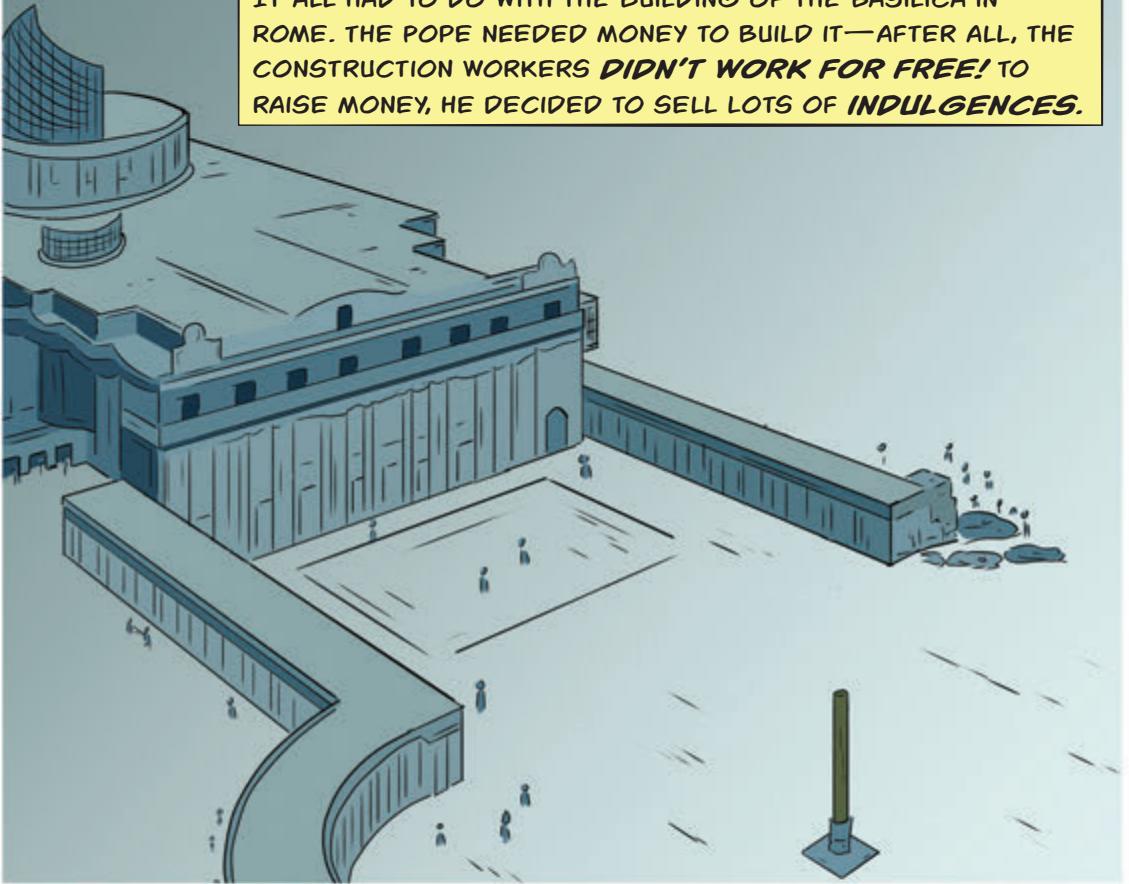
<sup>1</sup> CERTAINLY!



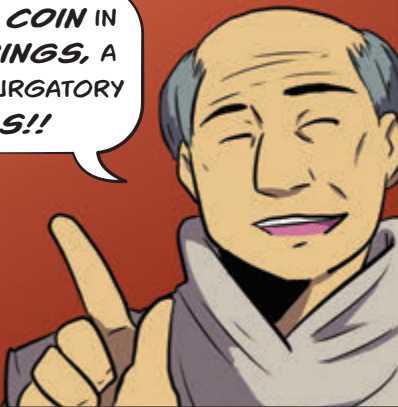
ROME

FIRST, MY CHILDREN, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND WHY TETZEL WAS **RAISING** MONEY IN THE FIRST PLACE . . .

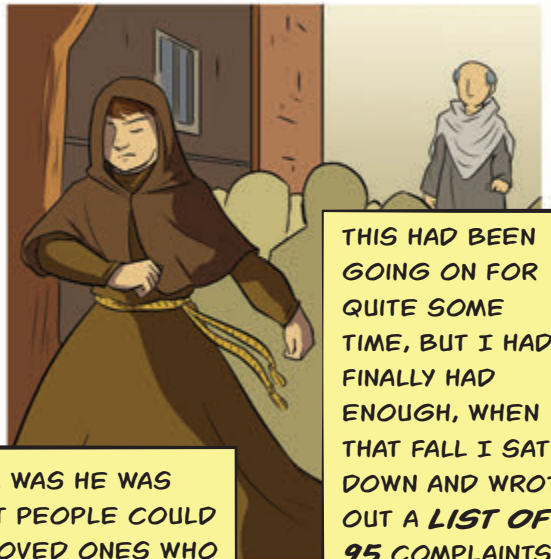
IT ALL HAD TO DO WITH THE BUILDING OF THE BASILICA IN ROME. THE POPE NEEDED MONEY TO BUILD IT—AFTER ALL, THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS **DIDN'T WORK FOR FREE!** TO RAISE MONEY, HE DECIDED TO SELL LOTS OF **INDULGENCES**.



AS SOON AS A **COIN** IN THE COFFER **RINGS**, A **SOUL** FROM PURGATORY **SPRINGS!!**



TETZEL WAS A **MONEY-RAISER**. THE PROBLEM WAS HE WAS PROMISING SOMETHING THAT WAS **FALSE**—THAT PEOPLE COULD **BUY** THEIR **SALVATION**—AND THAT OF THEIR LOVED ONES WHO HAD ALREADY DIED—BY SIMPLY GIVING THE CHURCH **MONEY!**



THIS HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR QUITE SOME TIME, BUT I HAD FINALLY HAD ENOUGH, WHEN THAT FALL I SAT DOWN AND WROTE OUT A **LIST OF 95 COMPLAINTS**, OR THESE!

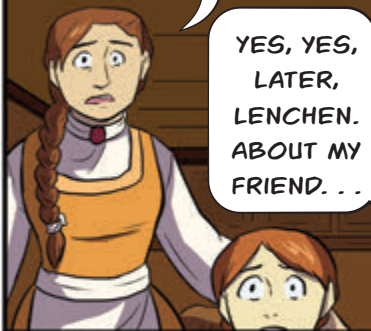
WHEN THE DAY FINALLY CAME ON OCTOBER 31ST IN 1517 TO STICK MY LIST OF 95 **COMPLAINTS** AND **CORRECTIONS** UP ON THE DOOR OF THE CASTLE CHURCH IN WITTENBERG, IT WAS WINDY!

IT WAS AS IF GOD WAS IN THAT COLD OCTOBER WIND, **WARNING** ME WHAT WAS TO COME. I THOUGHT THAT I WAS ONLY TAKING THE CHURCH TO TASK WITH THE BAD THINGS GOING ON. BUT . . .

. . . IT TURNED OUT TO BE SOMETHING THAT WOULD **SHAKE** THE **FOUNDATIONS** OF THE WORLD.

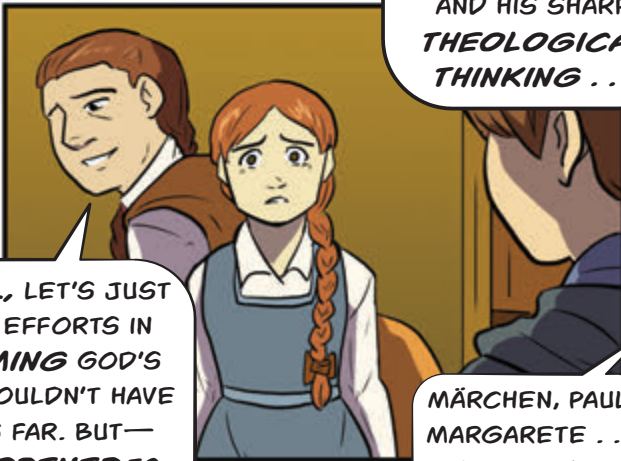
I HOPE I DIDN'T WORRY ANY OF YOU. PAPA  
... PROFESSOR MELANCHTHON IS AN  
**INTERESTING, FASCINATING** MAN.

YOU DID WORRY  
US! ESPECIALLY  
YOUR **SISTER!!**



YES, YES,  
LATER,  
LENCHEN.  
ABOUT MY  
FRIEND. . .

... WITHOUT  
PROFESSOR  
MELANCHTHON'S  
**SKILL IN WRITING**  
AND HIS SHARP,  
**THEOLOGICAL**  
**THINKING . . .**



... **WELL**, LET'S JUST  
SAY OUR EFFORTS IN  
**REFORMING** GOD'S  
CHURCH WOULDN'T HAVE  
GONE AS FAR. BUT—  
WHAT **HAPPENED** TO  
YOU, HANS?

MÄRCHEN, PAUL,  
MARGARETE . . .  
COME WITH ME.



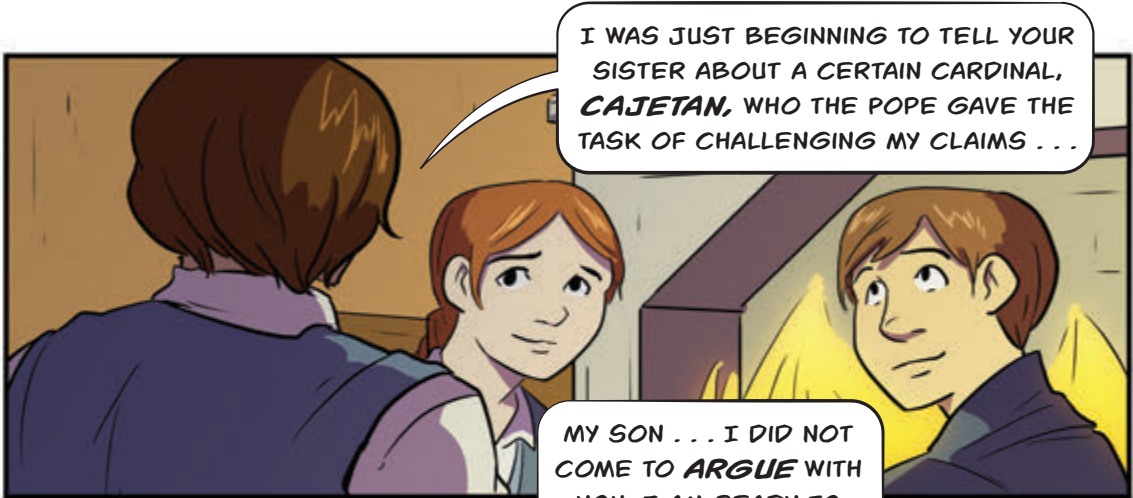
COME WARM  
YOURSELVES AT  
THE FIRE, YOU  
TWO. I NEED TO  
**CONTINUE MY**  
**STORY!**



**ER**—I JUST  
GOT TIED UP  
SPEAKING WITH  
THE GOOD  
PROFESSOR IS  
ALL . . .







I WAS JUST BEGINNING TO TELL YOUR SISTER ABOUT A CERTAIN CARDINAL, **CAJETAN**, WHO THE POPE GAVE THE TASK OF CHALLENGING MY CLAIMS . . .

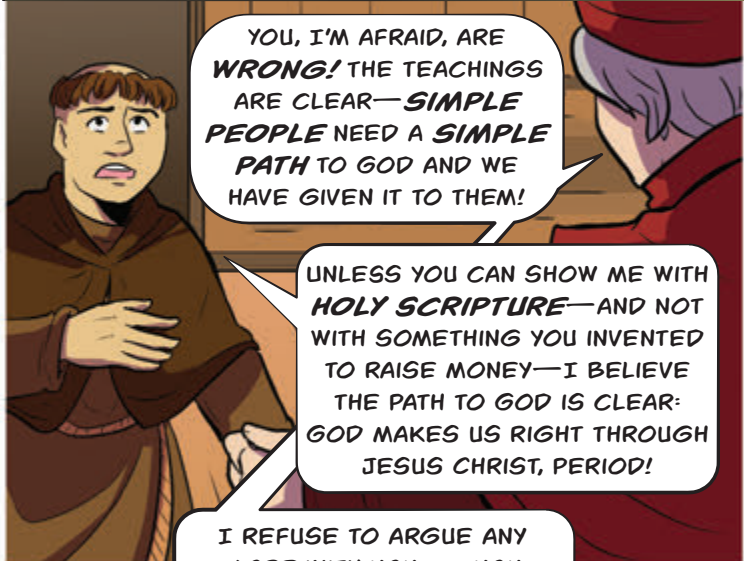
MY SON . . . I DID NOT COME TO **ARGUE** WITH YOU. I AM READY TO FORGIVE YOUR **ERROR**.



I'M NOT THE ONE IN ERROR. THE **LOVE** AND **GRACE** OF GOD IS **FREE**. THE BIBLE SAYS SO!

NEARLY A YEAR AFTER I HAD POSTED MY LIST OF COMPLAINTS AND CORRECTIONS ON THE CASTLE CHURCH DOOR IN WITTENBERG, I WAS CALLED TO TRAVEL TO **AUGSBURG**, A LENGTHY JOURNEY TO THE SOUTH, TO APPEAR BEFORE CAJETAN. AT FIRST, HE TRIED TO BE NICE . . .

THAT TACTIC DIDN'T PROVE TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE!



YOU, I'M AFRAID, ARE **WRONG!** THE TEACHINGS ARE CLEAR—**SIMPLE** PEOPLE NEED A **SIMPLE** PATH TO GOD AND WE HAVE GIVEN IT TO THEM!

UNLESS YOU CAN SHOW ME WITH **HOLY SCRIPTURE**—AND NOT WITH SOMETHING YOU INVENTED TO RAISE MONEY—I BELIEVE THE PATH TO GOD IS CLEAR: GOD MAKES US RIGHT THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, PERIOD!

I REFUSE TO ARGUE ANY MORE WITH YOU . . . YOU **CRAZY GERMAN MONK!!**



SEVERAL TIMES IN MY LIFE, I THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE BECOME JUST LIKE ONE OF THE LOGS YOU SEE THERE BURNING IN THE FIRE! BUT **I TRUSTED IN GOD'S PROMISES . . .** NO MATTER WHAT.



THE NEXT DAY I WAS BACK TO THE **SAME PLACE** WHERE I HAD BEEN. I HAD TO ANSWER.

**MARTIN LUTHER . . .**  
HERE WE ARE AGAIN. THIS IS ALL VERY SIMPLE. DO YOU **RECANT** OF THE WORKS SET BEFORE YOU?!

THESE WRITINGS HAVE ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT THINGS I SAY. IN SOME OF THEM, I MIGHT HAVE SAID WHAT I WANTED TOO HARSHLY. I SUPPOSE THAT'S MY **GERMAN TEMPER**.

BUT WHAT I **BELIEVE** IS A DIFFERENT STORY. COLLECTING MONEY TO FORGIVE SINS IS **WRONG**, AND THE ABUSES OF THE CHURCH ARE TOO GREAT FOR ME TO SAY **NOTHING**.

A HUMAN BEING IS NOT ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HE OR SHE **SAYS**, BUT ALSO FOR WHAT IS **NOT SAID!**

UNLESS YOU CAN CONVINCE ME WITH THE **WORD** AS IT STANDS IN THE **BIBLE**—OR BY SIMPLE **LOGIC** AND **REASON**—WHAT I SAY IS CAPTIVE TO THE WORD OF GOD. MY CONSCIENCE TELLS ME I AM **RIGHT**.

I CANNOT GO AGAINST GOD, AND I CANNOT GO AGAINST MY CONSCIENCE. I **CANNOT** AND I **WILL NOT** RECANT!

**HERE I STAND. GOD HELP ME.**