

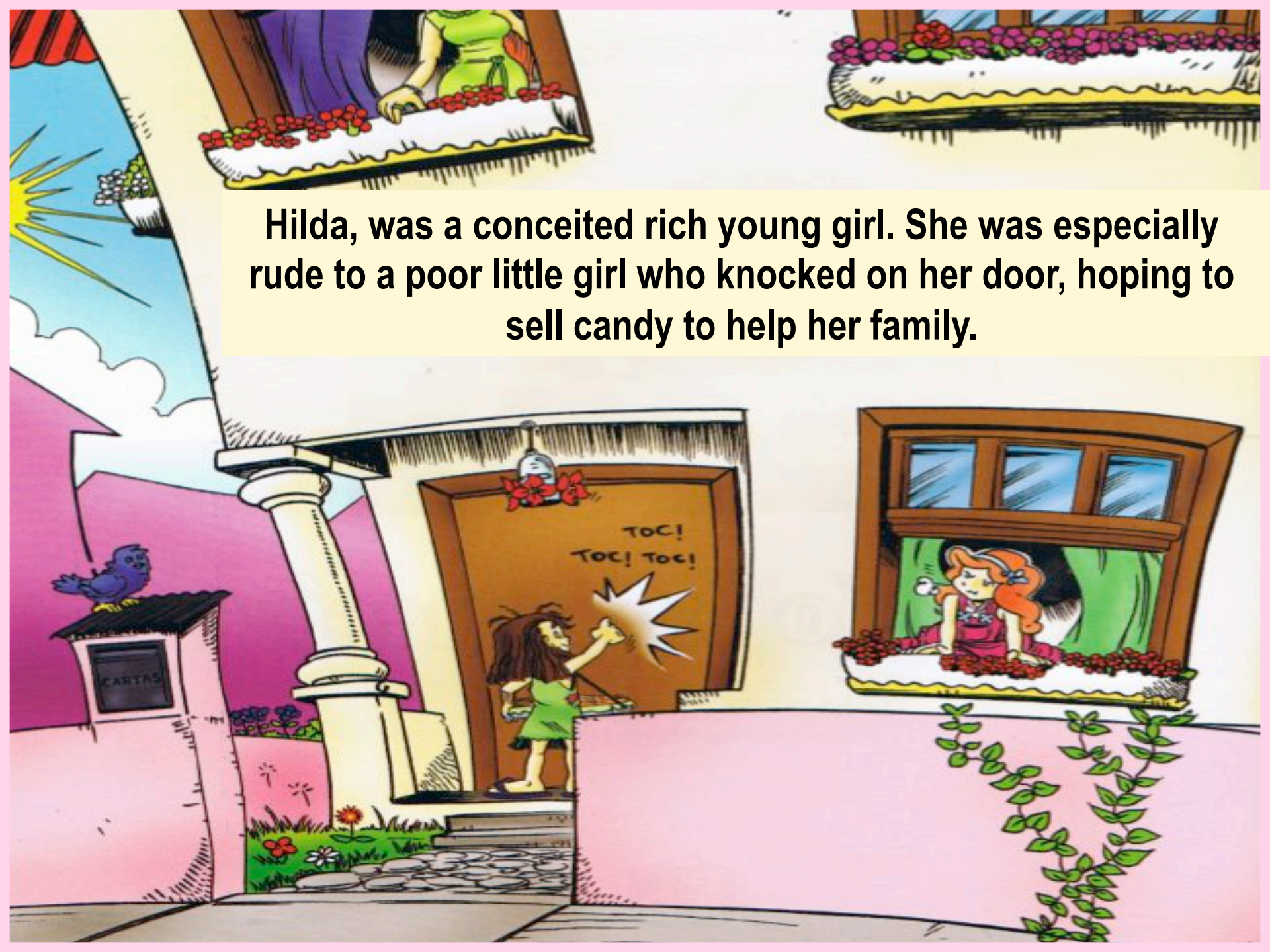
Unforgettable Lesson



Neio Lucio Francisco Xavier



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Hilda, was a conceited rich young girl. She was especially rude to a poor little girl who knocked on her door, hoping to sell candy to help her family.

Every time the little girl heard things like:

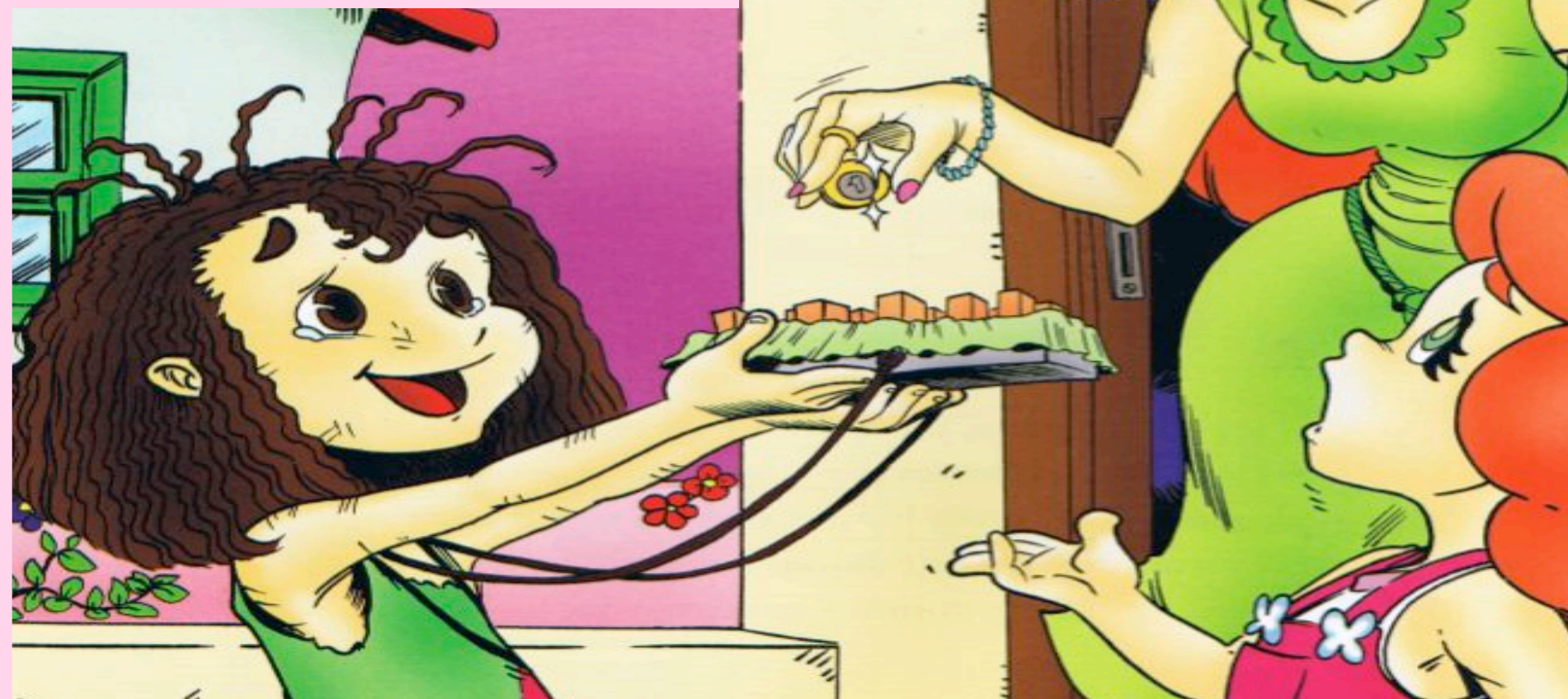
**"What do you want!! How can you bear to be seen like that?
Go away and don't be a pest!" she yelled, unreasonably.**



Embarrassed, the candy girl looked away in shame. Hilda's mother, in an effort to protect the candy girl and to educate her daughter, intervened:

"My, my, my...! Would you just look at that candy! How yummy! May I ask you who made it?"

The candy girl, who was very proud of her mother's talent cheerfully answered: "My mommy."



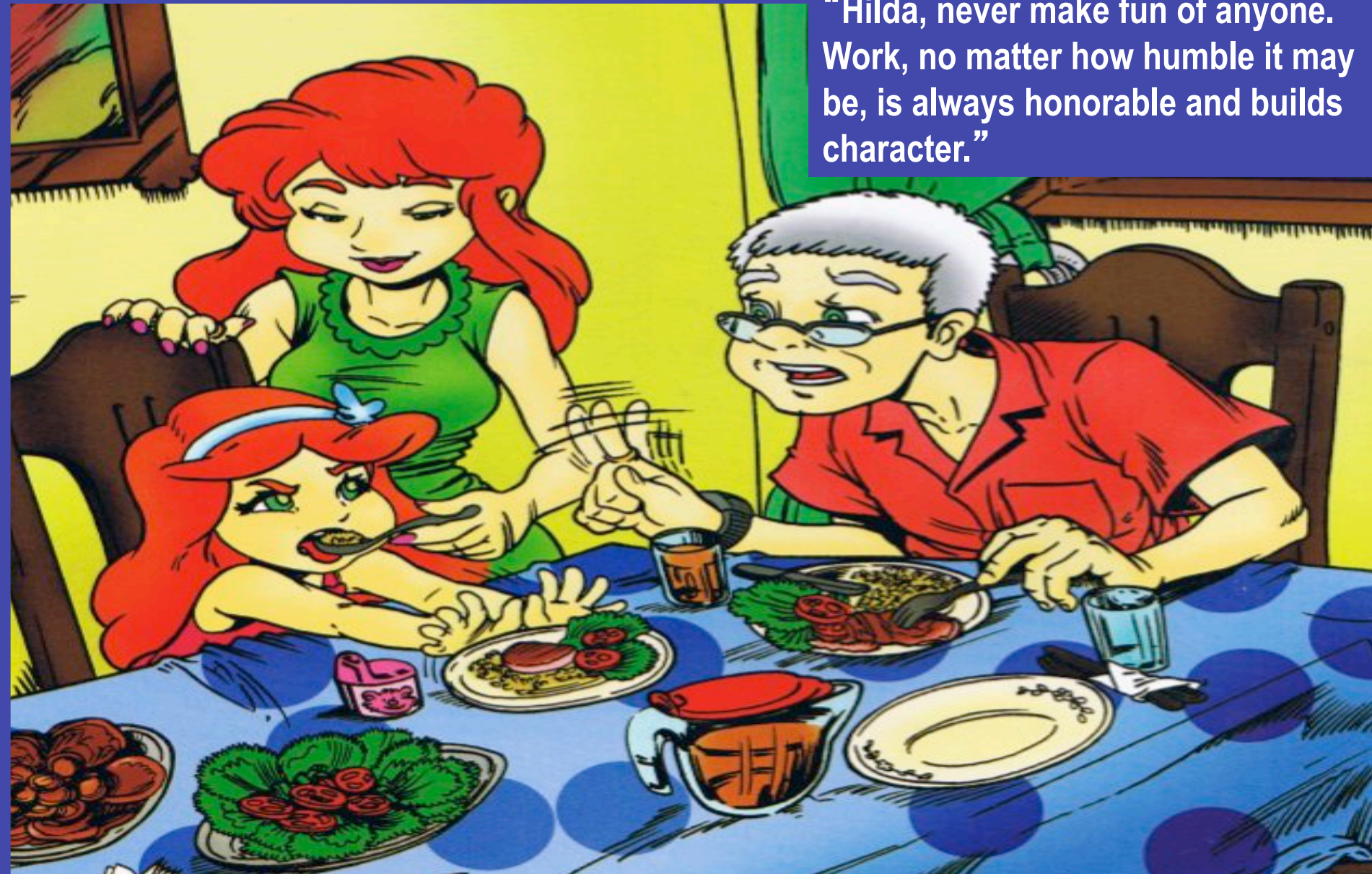
And being the very loving and generous woman that she was, Hilda's mother bought the girl's candy.

The nice lady decided to teach Hilda better ways:



**“Hilda, don't play around with destiny. Never reject the needy who come to our door looking for our help.
Who knows what tomorrow may bring...?”**

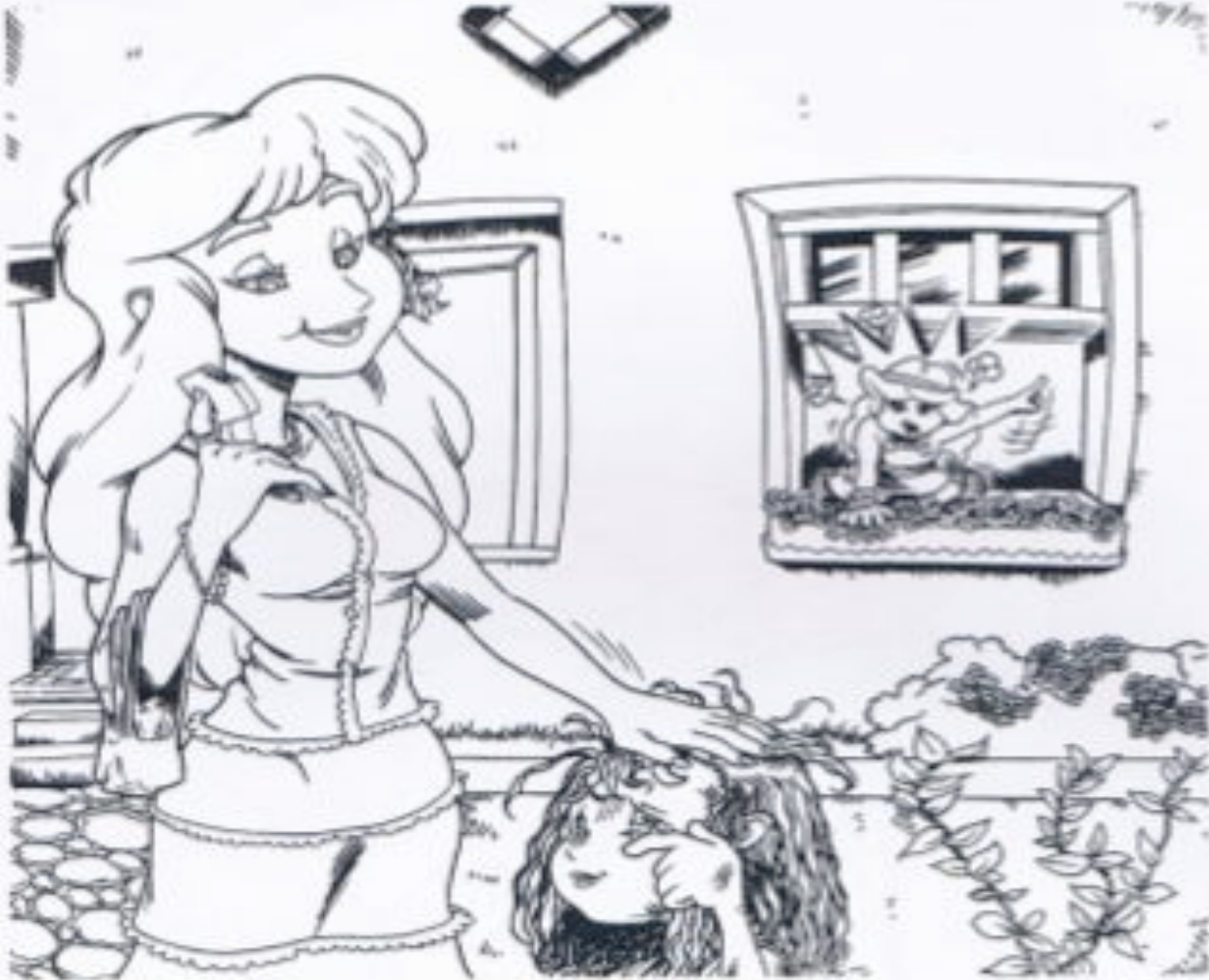
“Hilda, never make fun of anyone. Work, no matter how humble it may be, is always honorable and builds character.”



“Besides, the very same people we help today may be the ones who help us in the

The next day, Hilda, ignoring her parents' advice, delivered her usual routine of insults and put downs.

“Didn’ t I tell you not to come back? Just take your stuff and go away!”



Hilda's mother, compassionate as ever once again intervened in favor of the girl.

But life changes, sometimes in very unexpected ways. Four years have passed and Hilda's life is very different now.



Her father died after a terrible disease, in spite of all the efforts on the part of the doctors to save him, leaving wife and daughter to fend for themselves.

Hilda's mother, overtaken by sadness and overwhelmed by the huge expenses of a lifestyle they could no longer afford, retreated helplessly to her bedroom and soon became too weak to even get out of the bed.



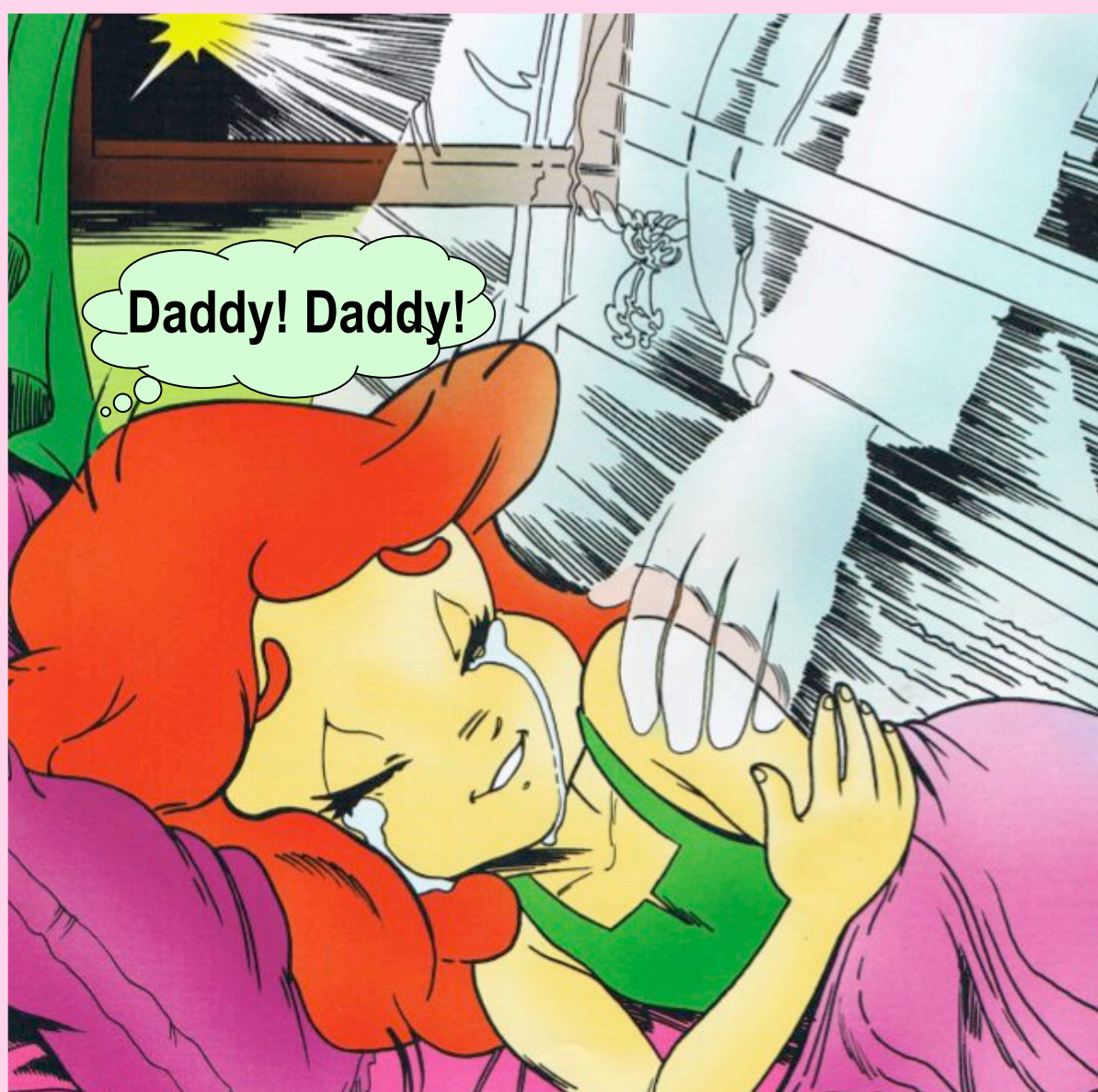


The family slipped into poverty overnight. Suddenly, the snobby girl who had originally been extremely wealthy could not even afford to buy a pair of shoes.



Hilda wanted to help her mother desperately, but was clueless as to what to do. One evening she cried like she had never cried before. In between sobs she remembered her father.

Upon falling asleep, she dreamed that her dad had come from the spiritual world to comfort her.



**My daughter! She clearly heard him say.
I have come to tell you not to be discouraged. You can work. You can sell
candy door-to-door to help your mother!**



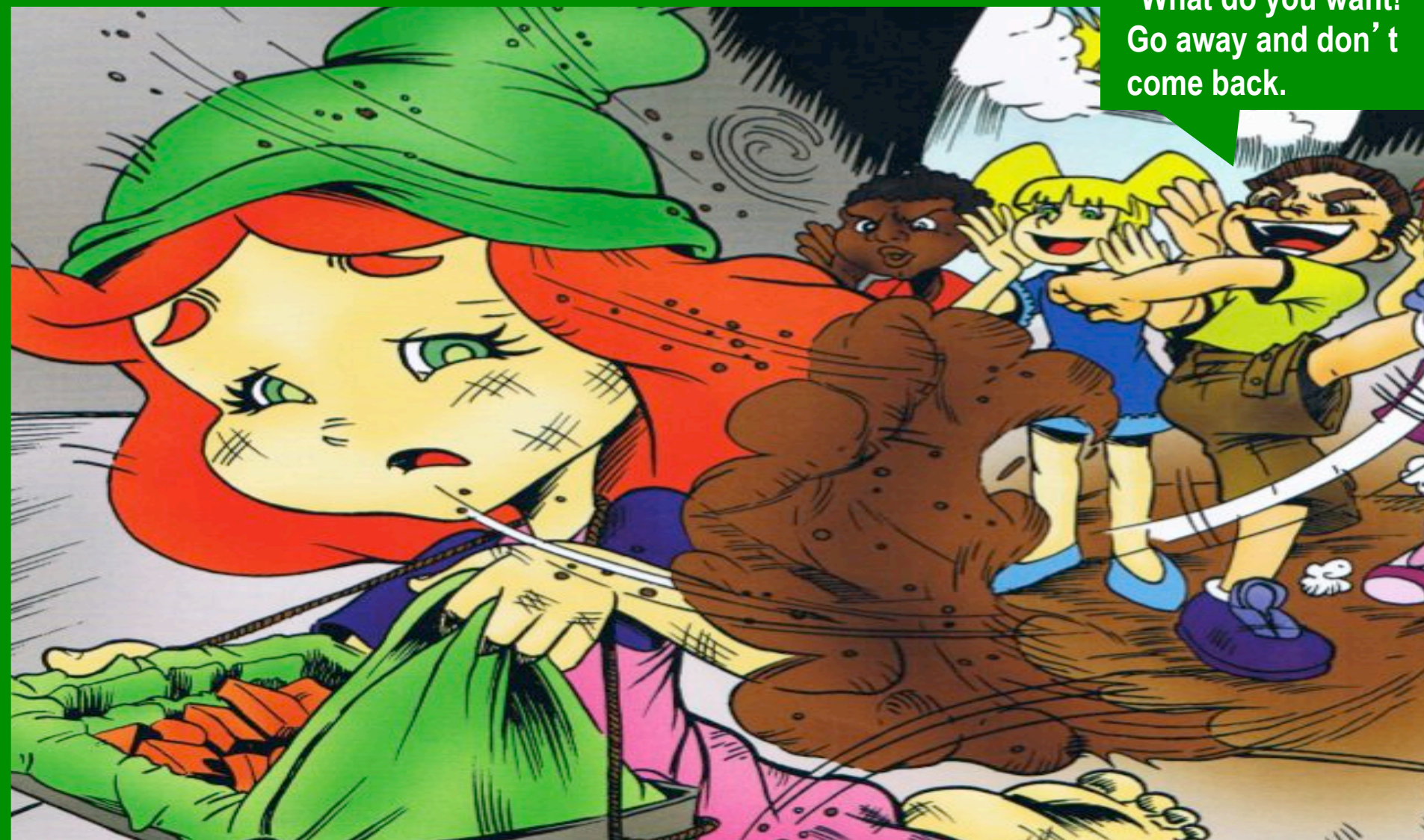
The following day, Hilda awoke – this time determined to follow her father's advice.



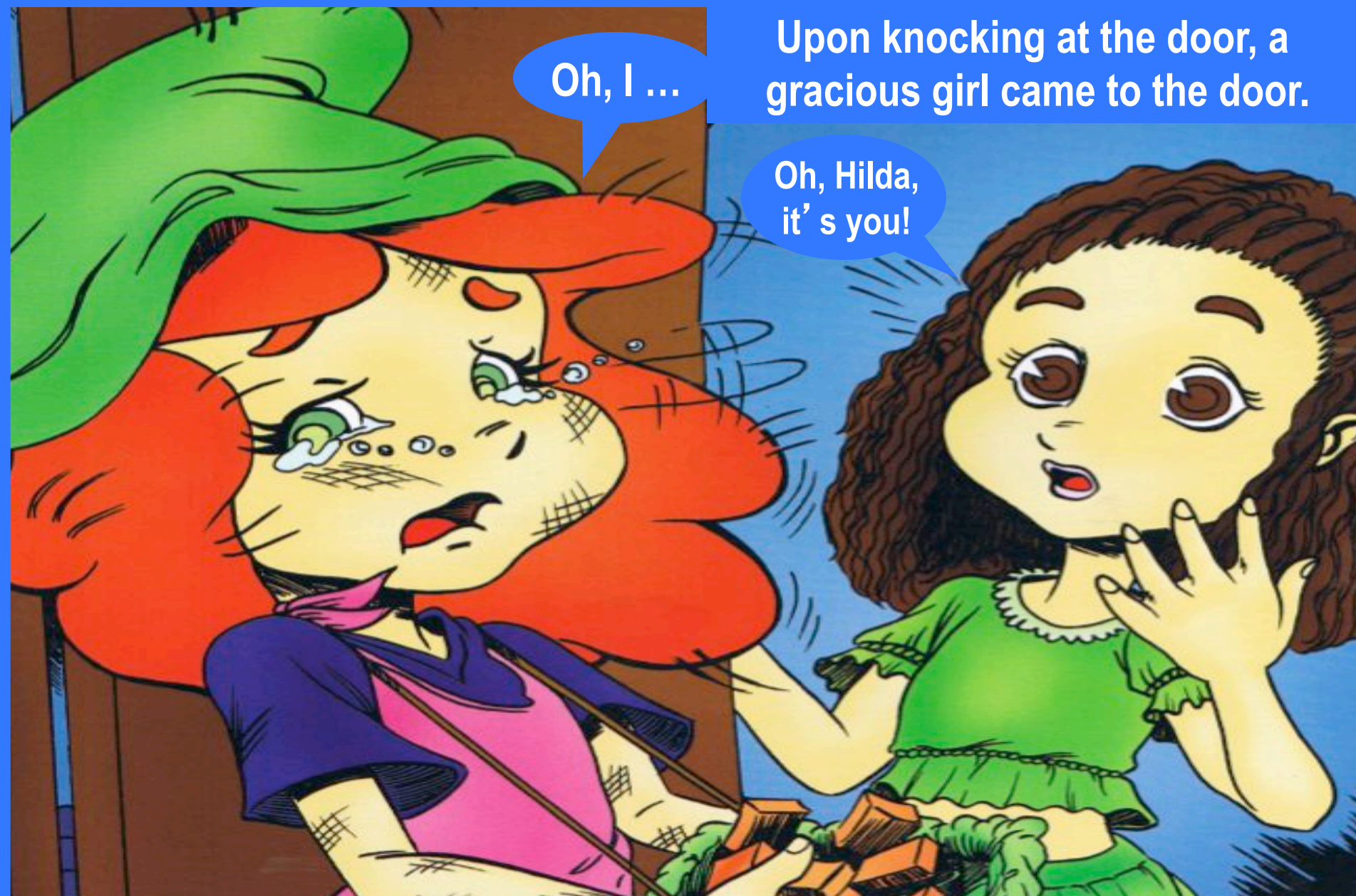
So both mother and daughter headed for the kitchen to prepare their best recipes. Once the tray was full, Hilda set out to sell.

She knocked on many doors and encountered a lot of compassionate and generous people, who like her mother were eager to help and to buy her candy. Unfortunately, she also ran into a bunch of mean and rude young boys, from whom she heard things like:

"What do you want!
Go away and don't
come back."



It hurt so badly, the rejection and the humiliation of it all. At the end of the day Hilda decided to make one last stop. It was a very modest home.



Hilda recognized the girl immediately. It was the candy girl from the past. Anticipating a shower of insults, Hilda just stood there resigned to her fate. Instead the girl gave her a friendly smile.



My, my, my! Would you just look at that candy! Who prepared them so beautifully?

It was my mom!

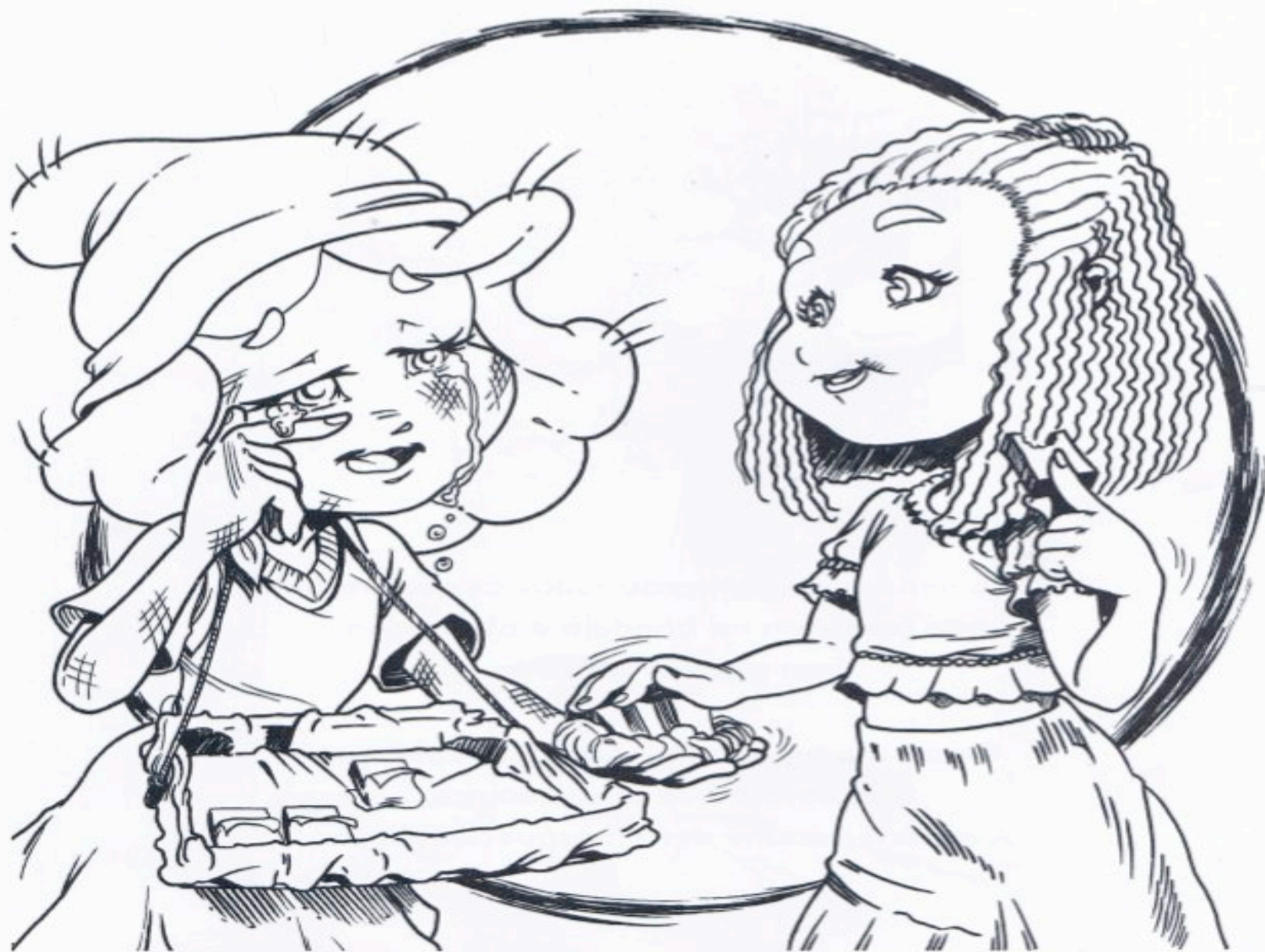


Hilda quite relieved, remembered her mother's teaching and said:

The girl bought all the candy Hilda had left so that she could call it a day, and then hugged her in sincere friendship.



From that day on, Hilda was a changed girl. Life had taught her an unforgettable lesson.





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