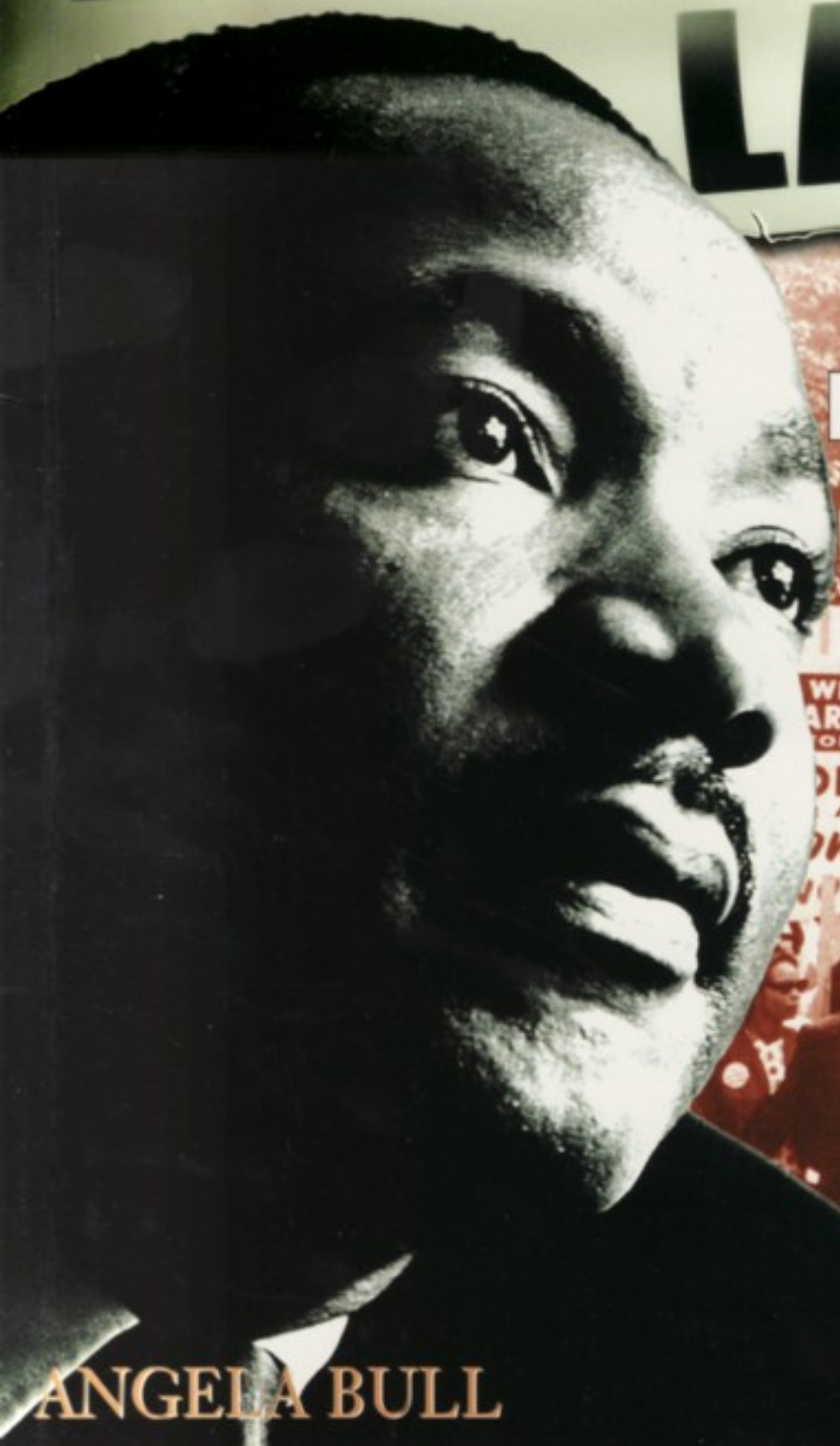


FREE AT LAST!

THE STORY OF
MARTIN LUTHER
KING, Jr.



ANGELA BULL



Family home
Although his grandparents had been farm slaves, Martin grew up in a comfortable house in the state of Georgia.



Christian hero
Martin Luther was a German monk who thought people had forgotten the true teaching of Jesus. He formed a new church called the Lutherans.

Black in a white world

The small black boy looked at himself in the mirror and smiled a big smile.

“I’ve got a new name now!” he marveled.

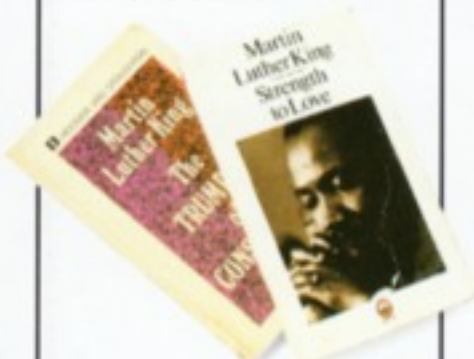
Yesterday he had been plain Michael King. But today was a very special day. This morning his father, the pastor, had baptized him in church and announced his new name to the whole congregation. He was now called Martin Luther King, Jr. Junior because Martin Luther was his father’s name, too. The name came from a great hero of the Christian faith.

“I’m Martin Luther King, Jr., now!” the boy thought.

His new name sounded good, and he was pleased. He grinned again. Five-year-old Martin could not guess that, one day, the whole world would know his name.

Book writer

Stride Towards Freedom: The Montgomery Story was Martin's first book. He wrote five others.

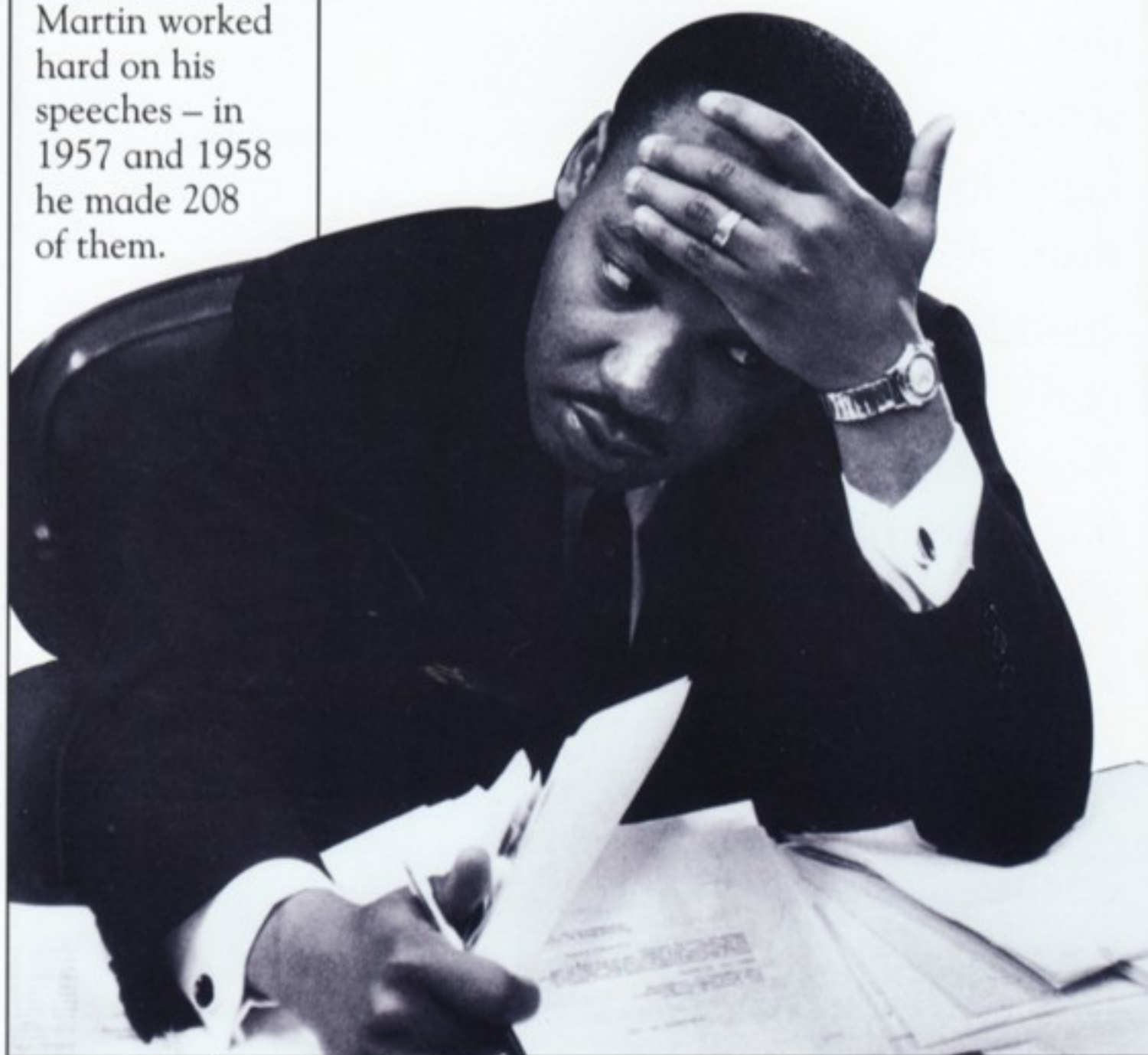


Speech writer

Martin worked hard on his speeches – in 1957 and 1958 he made 208 of them.

Land of the free

Black people could now keep their seats on Montgomery buses. But other laws stopped them from being treated the same as white people. Martin wanted all America to hear his side of the story so he wrote a book called *Stride Towards Freedom: the Montgomery Story*.





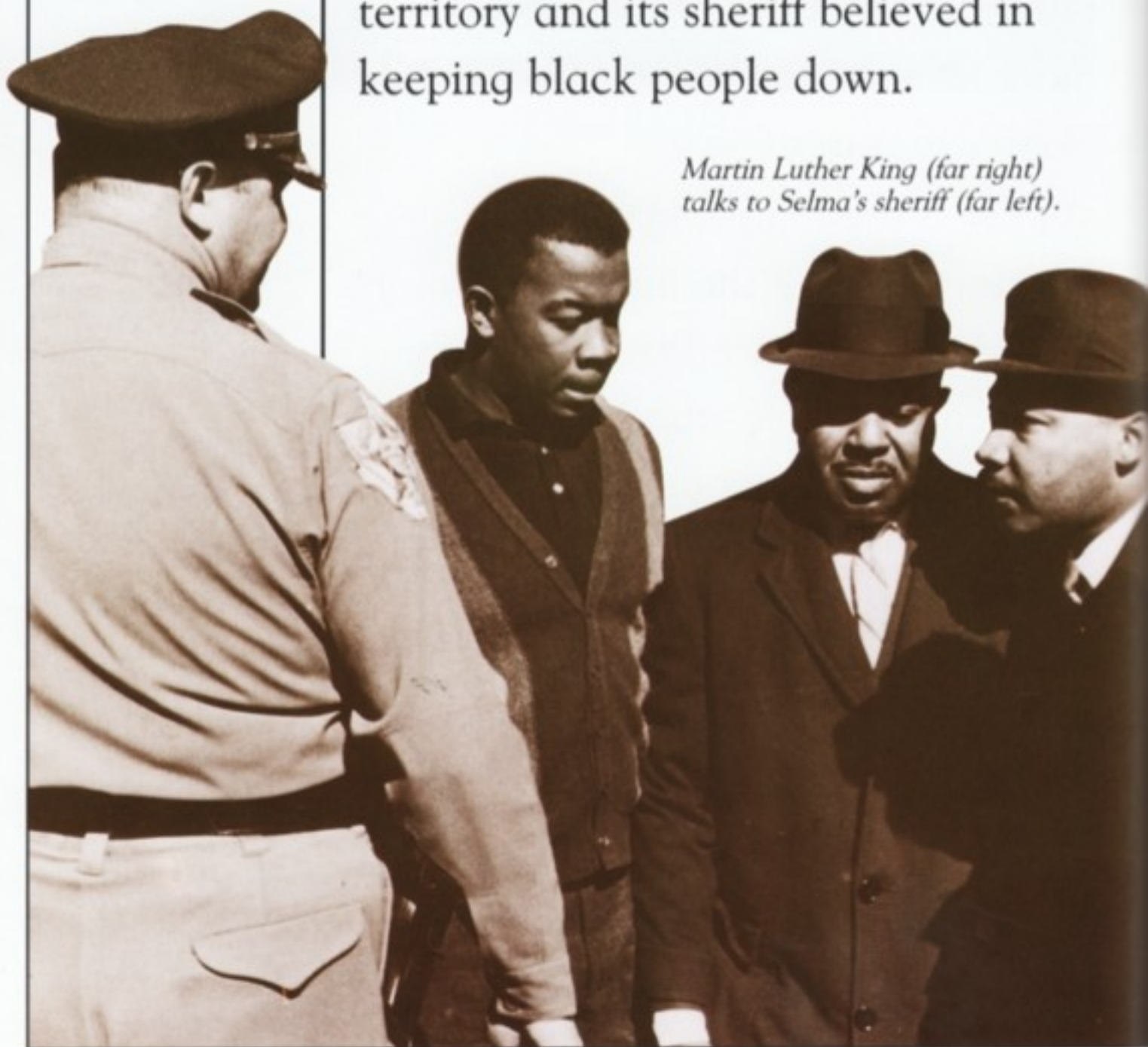
Right to vote
In Selma there were 15,000 black people but only 150 were registered to vote.

The right to vote

By Christmas 1964, Martin had chosen a new goal – to uphold the right of black people to vote. The Civil Rights Bill guaranteed this right, but many southern towns refused to register black voters.

One such town was Selma, Alabama. The town was in old slave territory and its sheriff believed in keeping black people down.

Martin Luther King (far right) talks to Selma's sheriff (far left).



Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream that one day all people would be treated as equals, whatever the color of their skin.



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