

ANGELS UNAWARE

By Cheryl Harrison

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Hebrew 13:2 "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

An arguing couple, a hypochondriac, a singer who won't stop humming scales, two selfish daughters bent on putting their mother in a rest home, and other colorful characters are stranded at a remote mission house when their bus breaks down.

Tired, cold, and a little put out, all they seek are food and shelter until they can be on their way again. But the two ladies running the shelter are on a mission from above to provide not only food for the body but more importantly, food for the soul as well. That's not so easy, especially when the old Scrooge who holds the lease on the building wants everybody out at midnight on Christmas Eve - no exceptions!

Luckily, two loveable homeless men, Bernie and George, take matters into their own hands to allow the two angels do their jobs.

A highly entertaining play that will confirm your belief that we do, indeed, entertain angels unaware.

(Meet Bernie and George in Cheryl Harrison's first play, THE GUIDING STAR, and in its sequel, BENEATH THE GUIDING STAR, both available from Eldridge Publishing

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(7M, 11W)

ANGELA: Angel on a mission.

DEBORAH: Angela's assistant angel.

FRANK STEIN: Scrooge-like landlord, lonely.

BERNIE: Mission bum, has a plan.

GEORGE: Bernie's cousin and cohort.

MARIA MOORE: Homeless lady with a baby.

STATE TROOPER: Checks on everyone in last scene.

The Stranded Bus Passengers

CHAD SIMMONS: Feuding husband.

ASHLEY SIMMONS: Chad's wife.

IMA PAYNE: Old lady full of aches.

ROY L. PAYNE: Ima's husband.

PATTY LARKINS: Professional singer.

DON CHAPEL: Minister looking for his place to serve.

CASEY CHAPEL: Don's wife.

MARTHA HANDLE: Lovely Christian lady.

KELLIE BAKER: Busy daughter putting her mother in a rest home.

LESLIE BAKER: The other busy daughter.

BERNICE BAKER: Their mother.

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SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Scene 1: Dec. 23, late afternoon, at a run down mission out in the boondocks.

Scene 2: Several hours later that evening.

ACT II

Scene 1: Dec. 24, late morning.

Scene 2: Later, near midnight.

PLAYING TIME

About 60 minutes.

PROPS

Carry-on bag containing two aprons and orders for Angela; lease for Stein; coffee tray for Deborah; cookies for Stein; pills in a purse for Ima; food and baby bottle for Deborah; blanket for baby; handkerchief for Roy; gun for George. All wear coats and bus passengers have small amounts of luggage.

SET DESIGN

All the action takes place in the living room of a run-down mission house located in a rural area across the road from a bus depot. There is a door to the outside and a window at SR and a door leading to the kitchen and bedrooms at SL. DSR is an old piano and USR is a coat rack. At CS there is an old couch and two or three chairs. DSL is a small dining table and chairs.

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ACT I

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Dec. 23,, late afternnon at a rural, run-down mission. ANGELA and DEBORAH enter SR. THEY slowly brush off snow and unbutton their coats as they look the place over.)

DEBORAH: Are you sure this is the right place?

ANGELA: Oh yes, I'm sure.

DEBORAH: But how can you be so sure? There's no sign of life around here anywhere.

ANGELA: Oh, this is the right place all right. Our orders are quite clear. *(Opens HER bag, gets out orders.)* It says right across from the bus depot. This used to be an old motel.

DEBORAH: *(Sitting down in disappointment, looking around.)* I never thought I'd be spending my Christmas in a place like this again. I keep hoping for one of those uptown assignments .

ANGELA: It looks like it's going to snow a lot tonight *(Turning from window.)* but it seems like we have everything we need here.

DEBORAH: Do you really think that anyone will actually come to this place? We have to be in the wrong place.

ANGELA: Here. Put this on *(Hands HER an apron.)* This will help put you in the mood of things.

DEBORAH: Okay. Where should we start?

ANGELA: I guess we could just straighten things up a little. There should be some people here for supper. Why don't you check the back rooms? There should be a kitchen hopefully stocked with lots of food.

DEBORAH: Food! Who's gonna do the cooking?

ANGELA: No need to worry. There are plenty of volunteers to do the cooking ... I hope.

DEBORAH: There better be. I haven't cooked in a million years. I'll go check it out. I really doubt that we will be

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needing the rooms. *(SHE exits SL to kitchen. ANGELA hangs up both of their coats.)*

(FRANK STEIN barges in SR without knocking.)

ANGELA: Hello. My name is Angela. May I help you?

STEIN: Do you run this place?

ANGELA: I guess you could say that.

STEIN: Well, do you or don't you? It's a simple question.

ANGELA: Yes, I do.

STEIN: Fine then. *(Hands HER a copy of the lease.)* I think this belongs to you.

ANGELA: What is it?

STEIN: It's the lease on this dump. It's up and I am closing you down.

ANGELA: Now wait a minute! Just who do you think you are?

STEIN: I, madam, own this building and I have plans to use it to make big bucks.

ANGELA: But you can't do that.

STEIN: Of course I can. Read the fine print. It's all legal. Your lease is up. You have twenty-four hours to vacate this place.

ANGELA: Twenty-four hours! But that's not enough time. What about the people this mission serves ... the homeless ...

STEIN: I don't care about those bums. They ought to get out and get jobs like the rest of us.

ANGELA: But tomorrow is Christmas.

STEIN: That's right, and this is my Christmas present to myself. I never intended for this lease to be given in the first place.

ANGELA: Then why was it?

STEIN: My father did it. But he's gone now and I am in charge.

ANGELA: I am sorry to hear about your father.

STEIN: Sorry. Why?

ANGELA: You said he was gone. I assume you mean he passed on.

End of Freeview

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