

THE LITTLEST ANGEL

A Christmas Play in One Act

By Helen M. Roberts

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STORY OF THE PLAY

This is a sweet, touching and dignified Christmas play for children to give. It, too, is quite novel and different in conception and execution; the setting being the heavenly realms.

Here the large angels are making preparations for the coming of the Christ Child; but the little angels, the Star Polishers, have not been told the Great Secret and their mischievous acts are the great disturbing element. They are led in their playful mischief by Michael, the littlest of them. But when the Guardian Angel shows them the pictures of Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, the Wise Men, and their own Star of the East and explains to them the true meaning of Christmas, they are eager to do their share of preparing for the coming of the Christ Child ... to keep the new Star brightly polished so that it will guide the Wise Men to Bethlehem.

When Gabriel prepares to return to Bethlehem, Michael cannot hide his great desire to go along. Suddenly Gabriel says that he can take one small angel with him and all the others plead that Michael be allowed to go, for not only is he the smallest but he has worked the hardest. Hand in hand Gabriel and Michael leave for earth; and when the cloud curtain is pulled back all the other angels see the Manger Scene in Bethlehem and there, with Gabriel, is Michael, the littlest angel beating his drum for the Christ Child.

Those who wish a play of beauty and dignity that is within the range of smaller children will welcome this new play.

SETTING: The heavenly realms.

TIME: The first Christmas Eve.

PLAYING TIME: About thirty minutes.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

CONSTANCE: The Recording Angel, Chief guardian of the heavenly realms.

FAITH: Guardian of the Star Polishers.

HOPE: Guardian of the Flower Gardeners.

LOVE: Guardian of the Flower Gardeners.

PEACE: Messenger to shepherds.

GLORIA: Guardian of orchestra and choir angels. *(The parts of these Guardian Angels should be taken by older girls.)*

HERALD ANGEL:

GABRIEL: Messenger to Mary and to Bethlehem.

MICHAEL: The littlest angel.

PETER: Another Star Polisher.

JOHN: Another Star Polisher.

FLOWER GARDENERS: *(One or more, as desired.)*

TREE GARDENERS: *(One or more, as desired.)*

OTHER FLOWER GARDENERS: *(Optional.)*

OTHER TREE GARDENERS: *(Optional.)*

MUSICIAN ANGELS:

SHEPHERDS ON EARTH:

MARY, JOSEPH, WISE MEN: For tableau.

Note: If a smaller cast is desired, several of the Guardian Angel parts may be put together, and one of the Star Polishers may be omitted. Where a large cast (fifty to one hundred) is desired, it facilitates production to have these larger girls to help control the groups of younger children and get them on and off stage.

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SCENE 1

NOTE: The heavenly realms, created with cloud effects. At SR, a little UPS from CS, is a tall cloud on which the Herald Angel stands watching the Golden Stairs. The stairs are off right and not visible; but the portal, at the top of the stairs is visible and connects with the Herald's cloud lookout. Behind other clouds UPS are steps ascending and descending. A cloud couch is DSR. A fairly tall cloud at USC hides the Nativity scene for the final tableau. Tiny clouds at front of stage: The pit below and in front of stage may be used as an extra playing area for the shepherd scene on earth.

(AT RISE: The HERALD stands watching the Golden Stairs. CONSTANCE is seated on couch down SR, looking at the Great Book. After a few moments the other GUARDIAN ANGELS enter from various entrances on-stage. They pause a moment to look out across the sky before approaching CONSTANCE. Peace is the last to arrive. Constance looks up and greets them with a nod.)

PEACE: We are all here now, Constance, ready for whatever tasks lie ahead.

CONSTANCE: I'm glad you came, Peace! *(Shakes HER head.)*
The poor, troubled world needs your blessing.

PEACE: The shepherds on Bethlehem's hills will be the first to receive it.

GLORIA: All the musician angels have been practicing their music to play for them, and the choir angels have learned their Gloria in Excelsis song.

CONSTANCE: And you, Peace! Do you know every word of the important message you are to announce to the shepherds?

PEACE: Every blessed word, Constance! But I think we'd better go now and practice our message with the musicians. *(Turns to go.)*

CONSTANCE: Wait a moment, until we hear from the other

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Guardian Angels! This one evening, this First Christmas Eve, must be perfect in every detail.

LOVE: The trees in our gardens are just right! The Tree Gardeners are making beautiful wreaths and ornaments.

HOPE: The Flower Gardeners are picking their finest blossoms. What is to be done with them?

CONSTANCE: Before long we'll decorate Heaven in honor of the birth of the Holy Child.

FAITH: *(With a rueful smile.)* I wish I had a better report to give.

CONSTANCE: Anything wrong with the little Star Polishers?

FAITH: *(Sighing.)* They're wonderful angels, especially Michael, The Littlest Angel! He is so full of life he's always into mischief. Just a few moments ago I turned his wings down because he was trying to make a skating pond out of the Milky Way.

CONSTANCE: *(As THEY all laugh.)* Poor little Michael! It's always lively when he's around.

FAITH: Yes ... but ...

CONSTANCE: Tell us, Faith! Perhaps we can help you.

FAITH: It's just that they don't understand! They've been polishing and polishing on their stars. But they're restless because they don't know the Great Secret ... I think it's time they were told.

OTHER GUARDIAN ANGELS: *(In chorus.)* So do !! And !! I think so, too!

CONSTANCE: Of course they should know! They are all so little, we thought they would be too impatient if they knew too long ahead of time.

FAITH: *(Joyously.)* Then you'll tell them?

CONSTANCE: Indeed I will! The time is growing short! *(To PEACE and GLORIA.)* Go over your message and music again. *(PEACE and GLORIA exit SL. SHE turns to HOPE and LOVE.)* We'll need the trees and flowers soon. See that they're ready. *(HOPE and LOVE exit SL.)* Now, where do you think I'll find Michael and the others?

FAITH: *(Smiling as SHE shakes her head.)* It's hard to say, Constance! Sometimes they carry the New Star across the Milky Way to polish it, and sometimes across the Snow Clouds.

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CONSTANCE: *(Rising and placing Book on couch.)* We'll find them as soon as we can. They must be told. *(Exits SR, followed by FAITH.)*

(Offstage instrumental MUSIC of Christmas carols is played as the STAR POLISHERS enter SL, led by Michael, Peter and John, carrying the large New Star, while others carry smaller stars. Michael, The Littlest Angel, has a toy drum slung over his shoulder. His wings are turned down.)

MICHAEL: Listen to that music! Maybe I could play with the orchestra! *(Pounds on HIS drum.)*

PETER: Stop it! Stop it, Michael! Your drum's far too loud!

JOHN: And you're not playing right.

MICHAEL: I'll wrap some feathers round the drumsticks! *(Picks up cotton and tries to fasten it around the end of the sticks.)* If I don't play I'll never learn.

PETER: You're a Star Polisher ... not a drummer.

MICHAEL: But that's such hard work! *(HE sighs heavily, then begins to polish the Star, the OTHERS help.)* You know what I think?

PETER: No. What?

MICHAEL: Well, you know how busy everyone is? ... I think something's going to happen.

JOHN: But no one's told us anything.

MICHAEL: That's just it! ... We don't know the secret. *(Sighs again.)* I'm tired of working! *(With sudden abandon.)* I'd rather play! *(Picks up a handful of cotton, for cloud, and throws it at PETER.)* You're "it" now. *(THEY all laugh as they play.)*

PETER: Such fun! Such fun! *(ALL THREE begin to throw balls.)*

MICHAEL: Ouch! That one was wet! *(Hides behind a star and throws.)* Watch out! Here it comes!

JOHN: Ooh! You got the New Star all wet that time! It doesn't shine so bright any more.

MICHAEL: *(Gaily.)* Never mind! We'll polish it later ... when we get tired of playing. Let's hit those other angels with the hunks of cloud. *(THEY begin to throw balls at the other STAR*

End of Freeview

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