

THE GUARDIAN ANGELS

By Craig Howard

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STORY OF THE PLAY

What do you do when your whole world seems to fall down around you? Following a divorce, Judy Williams has become bitter and tries to shut out the world and move away from her troubles. The only problem with that is, God isn't finished with her, and He moves her right into the middle of a bunch of caring Christians. And He tops it off with two new neighbors who are guardian angels. He even challenges her with two bumbling who don't know how to do anything right except show God's Love.

Here is a play which reminds us that when you are willing to experience God's forgiveness it can cut through bitterness and allow you to forgive others and find real Christmas joy. If that has ever happened to you, and it may have, then you'll love the story behind THE GUARDIAN ANGELS.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 M, 3 W, 2 Teen g, 2 b)

JUDY WILLIAMS: Bitter, middle-aged mother.

LORI WILLIAMS: Judy's teenage daughter.

DON BLACK: A Christian neighbor who wants to help Judy.

BEVERLY BLACK: Don's wife.

BILL: A guardian angel who poses as Judy's neighbor.

SARAH: Another angel. Poses as Bill's granddaughter.

FRED FINK: A redneck.

ROYCE FINK: Fred's brother.

MELISSA: Beverly's bitter sister.

BRENT: Don and Beverly's son.

RYAN: Another.

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SETTING: Living room of Judy's new house and a nativity scene. It is just before Christmas, current year.

SET - The living room has two entrances, one to the outside with a practical door, and one to the bedrooms. The furniture is simple. In Scene 1 the room is a mess as it is move-in day.

PROPS - Boxes, box with broken glass in it, trinkets to pull out of the boxes, 2 pies, books, eyeglasses, framed picture, large drawing pad, magic markers, game of Pictionary, coats, snacks, coffee decanter, coffee cups, man's hat, glass of water, quarter, handkerchief, towel, Christmas candles, suitcase, note paper, bathrobe, cup of coffee, newspaper, phone book, watch.

COSTUMES - All dress casually. Bill and Sarah need white robes for the angel scenes. Royce must wear bib-overalls. Fred should dress as a redneck.

SFX - Doorbell and phone.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Remember that when Bill and Sarah are in angel costume, the others cannot see or hear them.

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SCENE 1

(AT RISE: The stage is strewn with boxes, packing material and clutter. Some boxes are partially unpacked. It's a typical moving day mess. JUDY yells from off stage:)

JUDY: If I move again I will use U-Haul! *(SHE enters carrying a box with broken glass in it.)* Men! They are the proof that we evolved from a lower species, and their evolution still has a long way to go.

(SHE goes back to her unpacking as LORI enters.)

LORI: Mom, what was all the yelling about? You sure aren't making a very good impression on our neighbors. They'll think some crazy woman has moved in.

JUDY: It was those movers. Listen to this. *(SHE picks up the box with the broken glass and shakes it.)* That was my grandmother's antique tea set.

LORI: What happened?!

JUDY: One idiot mover threw it off of the truck to the other idiot mover and the second idiot mover missed it. It landed in the middle of the street.

LORI: What were they doing throwing a box of dishes anyway? You should report them to their head office.

JUDY: I will as soon as I get a few of these other things unpacked and make sure they haven't broken anything else. I understand that the office is somewhere here in town. If that is an example of their service, I don't think "Fink Brothers' Moving" will be in business for long. I am going to see that they pay for everything that is broken.

LORI: Maybe we will get a nice big insurance check to go Christmas shopping with.

JUDY: That is not my idea of a merry Christmas.

LORI: Mom, speaking of Christmas, it is almost here and we haven't even talked about a tree. When are we going to go get one?

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JUDY: I'm sorry, Lori, I am just having a hard time getting in the Christmas spirit. All I can think about is your father spending the holidays at some ski resort with his secretary. I would like to take him to the top of a mountain and push him off. How could he do this after 18 years of marriage?

(LORI becomes silent as she slowly unpacks things from a box. JUDY just sits there staring at the item she has in her hand.)

LORI: Mom, *(JUDY looks up at HER as Lori stares at what she has just pulled out of the box.)* don't let Dad take our Christmas, too!

JUDY: You just don't understand. *(Exiting to bedroom)* I just can't!

(LORI sits on the floor staring at the item in her hand. The DOORBELL rings. She sniffs and wipes the tears from her eyes. She goes to the door.)

LORI: *(Opening the door)* Hello, can I help you?

BEVERLY: Hi, we're the Blacks, your neighbors. We saw the movers leave and thought we would come over to welcome you to our neighborhood and see if we could lend a hand.

LORI: Come on in. *(DON and BEVERLY enter.)* I'm Lori, I'll tell my mom you're here.

BEVERLY: Here, maybe you can put this in the kitchen. *(Hands HER a pie)* It's just a treat for later. I hope you like coconut cream.

LORI: Are you kidding, it's my favorite. I'll get Mom. *(LORI exits.)*

BEVERLY: She seems really nice.

DON: Yeah, but did you see those red eyes? I'd say she's been crying.

BEVERLY: About what?

DON: How should I know? Do I look like some physic?

BEVERLY: Don!

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(JUDY and LORI enter.)

JUDY: Hello, I am Judy Williams. Lori tells me that you are our new neighbors. She also said it looks like you make a great pie.

BEVERLY: Don't brag on it until you taste it.

DON: Don't let her fool you. She makes great pies. The only problem is that I can never get her to make one for me.

BEVERLY: *(Patting HIS stomach)* Doesn't he look like he is suffering?

DON: *(Pushing HER hand away)* Okay, we didn't come over here to talk about my figure. We just wanted to welcome you to the neighborhood and see if there is anything we can do to help you get settled in.

JUDY: No, we are able to handle things ourselves.

DON: We just wanted you to know we would be more than glad to help any way we can. I am sure that a lot of the other neighbors would be willing to lend a hand if you needed anything.

BEVERLY: Have you had a chance to meet any of the other neighbors yet?

JUDY: No, we are just getting settled in and we really haven't had a chance to meet anyone. We appreciate your offer, but we really don't need any help right now.

BEVERLY: That's fine. Are you from this area?

JUDY: No, my husband and I just recently divorced and we decided to move closer to my new job. The Realtor showed us this place and it was only a few miles from work so we went for it. It seems like a nice place. It's just a little smaller town than we are used to, but that's okay, we're not looking for a lot of people right now.

BEVERLY: Maybe once you get settled in I can take you around and show you the town and the shopping highlights. If you are looking for a church, we would be more than happy to have you come visit our church.

JUDY: Thanks for the offer and I would like to see the town. As far as church goes, I'm not sure I'm ready. I don't know

End of Freeview

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