

THE EDUCATION OF ANGELS

by Matthew Carlin



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SYNOPSIS: Nick and Jenna are two angels-in-training who are about to be sent back to Earth for their final exam. The problem is, these two can't seem to get along, which leads to a pretty competitive situation. When they return to Earth, they find Dave, a guy who is even more mixed up than they are. He is at the church, long before he should be on his wedding day, trying to decide whether or not to go forward with the wedding. Throw in a domineering ex-wife and the fact that Dave is the only one that can see only one of the angels... and multiple comic situations ensue. There is a serious side to this play, though, as we see Nick struggling to understand why he's back on Earth and perhaps, indeed, why he is an angel in the first place.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 female, 6 male)

NICK (m)	An angel-in-training, in his thirties. <i>(171 lines)</i>
JENNA (f)	An angel-in-training, about the same age as Nick. <i>(241 lines)</i>
CABBIE (m)	The cab driver from Heaven to Earth. <i>(34 lines)</i>
DAVE (m)	A man in his early forties who is about to get married. <i>(300 lines)</i>
NATALIE (f)	Dave's domineering ex-wife. <i>(116 lines)</i>
CHUCK (m)	Dave's pastor. <i>(28 Lines)</i>
CLIFTON (m)	A very spiritual and wise elderly man. <i>(48 lines)</i>
JACK (m)	Dave's best friend, also his best-man. <i>(73 lines)</i>
ALLY (f)	Dave's five year-old soon-to-be step- daughter. <i>(24 lines)</i>

PRODUCTION HISTORY

THE EDUCATION OF ANGELS was first presented on February 17, 2005 by United Players at the Friendswood United Methodist Church in Friendswood, Texas with the following cast:

NICK.....	Mike Thibodeaux
JENNA.....	Kim Griffith
DAVE	Dave Melendrez
CABBIE.....	Brian Mitchell
NATALIE	Kathleen Hughey
CLIFTON.....	Bob Burton
JACK	Darren Kelley
CHUCK	Donald Treleaven
ALLY	Jenna Chenette

Understudies/Alternates

JENNA.....	Candice Poston
CABBIE/CHUCK.....	Mark Flippin
NATALIE	Kelley Van Slooten
JACK	David Black
CHUCK	Terry Bebermeyer
ALLY	Lexi Poston, Rebecca Van Slooten

ACT ONE, SCENE 1

AT START: *The scene opens on the streets of heaven. At least on one little corner of a street. All we see is a bench, albeit a very nice and ornate bench, and a street sign which reads "Moses Way." Seated upon this bench is NICHOLAS TODD, we'll call him NICK, head hanging low. He was a man in mid-thirties, not bad looking. He is dressed in pants and a t-shirt which bears on the front what appears to be a pair of angel's wings. He seems distant, despondent. We can tell he's really a nice guy but troubled. For a moment he sits undisturbed until a young woman, JENNA, rushes in from offstage left. She is dressed in the same manner. She is anything but despondent. Happy-go-lucky and not afraid to let anyone know it. She knows no strangers. At first she rushes past but then, noticing him, returns and speaks.*

JENNA: Hey! (No response.) Hey! (Still nothing. She goes directly over and sits next to him.) I said. Heey! (NICK shifts away from her but still says nothing. Not giving up, she continues.) So. I see we have a difficult case here. Not to worry. The doctor is in. (She gives him a big smile which NICK ignores. Pause. Then she slides closer to him.) It's customary to speak when spoken to, you know. (NICK lifts his head and glances at her out of the corner of an eye but still is silent.) Hah! I saw that! (Pause.) I did. You know, right about now there's a tiny little something... way back there, in the deep dark recesses of your mind. (She taps him on the forehead as she speaks. He gives her a look out of the corner of his eye.) Don't be alarmed! It's a voice... a tiny little voice... But it's growing... growing inside your head. It's calling out to you. You hear it. I know you do. It's speaking to you. Only to you. It's saying, "Who is this... somewhat kooky... but wonderfully attractive female who has wandered across my path?" (He gives her another quick look and she immediately reacts.) I knew it! You do hear it. Intriguing isn't it? It's getting louder... (She leans in a little.) ...And louder... (Leans in more and gets louder.) ...And louder!

1

2 *NICK doesn't look at her but finally speaks.*

3

4 **NICK:** Go away!5 **JENNA:** *(She jumps up and, in the good old Frankenstein*
6 *tradition.) It's alive!*7 **NICK:** Don't you have some place to be?

8

9 *JENNA plops right back next to him again.*

10

11 **JENNA:** *(Simply.) No. (Then.) What's your name?*

12

13 *Finally NICK gives up, at least to the extent that he looks at her.*

14

15 **NICK:** I mean it. Shouldn't you be in class?16 **JENNA:** Shouldn't you be in class? *(No response.)* So what's
17 your name?18 **NICK:** If I tell you my name, will you leave me alone?19 **JENNA:** *(She considers.)* Maybe.20 **NICK:** *(He looks at her and sighs.)* That's not good enough.21 **JENNA:** I'd take a shot if I were you. You might think it better
22 than the alternative.23 **NICK:** What's the alternative?

24

25 *She slides in close to him, obviously invading his space, then*
26 *looks up at him with big puppy dog eyes.*

27

28 **JENNA:** What's your name? Tell me your name. Please?
29 Please tell your name! Will ya, huh? Please, please, please! I
30 want to know your name! Pretty please. With sugar on top.
31 Shall I continue? Please, please, please...

32

33 *He jumps up trying to get away from this crazy woman and at the*
34 *same time shouts out his name.*

35

36 **NICK:** Nick! My name is Nick! Now cut that out.

- 1 **JENNA:** *(Still seated.)* Nick! *(She repeats the name, letting it roll*
2 *off her tongue with a big "click" at the end.)* Nick! Nick! I like
3 it! Nick! Kind of like one of those one word title kind of things.
4 Jaws! Casablanca! Fame! Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!
5 Nick!
- 6 **NICK:** I am so thrilled you approve. You've made my day. Now
7 leave.
- 8 **JENNA:** I said, maybe.
- 9 **NICK:** *(More of a plea than a demand.)* Leave! *(Sitting back*
10 *down.)*
- 11 **JENNA:** You don't have to be hostile.
- 12 **NICK:** Go. Please?
- 13 **JENNA:** *(Flopping down next to him.)* All right! All right! What
14 did I do?
- 15 **NICK:** What did you do?
- 16 **JENNA:** What did I do?
- 17 **NICK:** You didn't do anything.
- 18 **JENNA:** No. No. Don't spare me. I have to know.
- 19 **NICK:** You have to know what?
- 20 **JENNA:** I have to know!
- 21
- 22 *NICK shakes his head and moves away.*
- 23
- 24 *(She follows.)* Okay. Wait. Look. See. I have this thing... and
25 I'm working on it... I really am... but I have this thing.
- 26
- 27 *NICK gives her a look and moves further away.*
- 28
- 29 *(Again she follows.)* Will you stop walking away from me? It's
30 very rude!
- 31
- 32 *He stops.*

1

2 **JENNA:** (*Continued.*) Thank you. Now look. It's just that when
3 people don't like me, I have a hard time dealing with it. Okay?
4 Especially when I've just met them for the first time. I mean, it's
5 like, do I have bad breath or B. O. or something? (*She lifts an*
6 *arm and sniffs.*) Fresh as a morning breeze. You can't get that
7 in heaven anyway, can you? (*She then blows into her hand*
8 *and tries to smell her breath.*) You don't get those things here,
9 do you? I wouldn't think you would get those things here. Not
10 that I've ever had a problem with those things, you understand.
11 Do you get those things here?

12 **NICK:** I don't think so.

13 **JENNA:** That's what I thought, too. I want to make it clear that
14 I've never had a problem with those things. You believe me,
15 don't you?

16 **NICK:** I believe you.

17 **JENNA:** Then why don't you... I mean, I... what did I...?

18 **NICK:** (*Showing some frustration with her now.*) !! !! !! Aye yi yi!
19 Why don't you go trade in the wings... (*Indicates the wings on*
20 *her shirt.*) ...and get one that says "It's all about I."

21 **JENNA:** All about me. (*He stares at her.*) I think the correct way
22 to say it is, "It's all... about me."

23 **NICK:** Whatever! (*She gives him a hurt expression.*) Listen.
24 Trust me. You didn't do anything. It's not that I don't like you.
25 I'm sure you're a wonderful ex-human being. It's just that I
26 came out here to be alone.

27 **JENNA:** Alone?

28 **NICK:** Alone. (*Patronizing.*) By myself.

29 **JENNA:** I know what alone means. Look. I may be going out on
30 a limb here, but this is heaven. Isn't it kind of difficult to be
31 alone here?

32 **NICK:** More and more.

33 **JENNA:** Ooh. Ouch.

34

35 *NICK just sighs.*

36

37 Well, you knew you weren't going to be alone today.

38 **NICK:** Why?

39

1 **JENNA:** Because of our test?

2

3 *NICK stares at her.*

4

5 Is that what this is about? I have heard of pre-test stress, but
6 you're going a little overboard.

7 **NICK:** What are you talking about?

8 **JENNA:** Our test. Our final exam. You know... that bell thing... a
9 bell rings, and an angel gets his wings, kind of test. Well, in my
10 case, an angel gets her wings kind of test. That test. You
11 know. We're meeting the guy here that's going to give us our
12 final test.

13 **NICK:** (*Incredulous.*) You! You've got to be kidding me. You!
14 You're taking your final exam? Today?

15 **JENNA:** Oh, now wait a minute! I know I am not sensing an
16 attitude! If there is anyone around here having problems
17 establishing an angelic outlook, it is certainly not me.

18 **NICK:** Angelic outlook?

19 **JENNA:** You heard me.

20 **NICK:** This is the first I've heard of any test. And if I was taking a
21 test today it certainly wouldn't be with you.

22 **JENNA:** Are you sure you didn't take a wrong turn somewhere
23 along the way? It seems to me you speak with a decidedly...
24 (*Points down.*) ... "Southern accent," if you know what I mean.

25 **NICK:** (*Crossing to her. Trying hard to control himself.*) All right!
26 That's it! I've tried to be nice about this...

27 **JENNA:** Nice? This is not nice. I know nice, and this is not nice!

28 **NICK:** You have no idea what you're talking about.

29 **JENNA:** All I know is I was told to come here. One hundred
30 Moses Way and find the angel sitting on the park bench. All I
31 can say is if you're an angel, you've got a lot to learn.

32

33 *CABBIE enters. He is dressed as an old New York cab driver and*
34 *has the accent to boot. He carries a clipboard which he reads as*
35 *he moves between them.*

36

37 **CABBIE:** Excuse me.

- 1 **NICK:** *(Still talking to JENNA.)* I've got a lot to learn? You've got
2 a lot of nerve trying to tell me...
- 3 **CABBIE:** I said, excuse me!
- 4 **JENNA:** *(They continue arguing.)* You started all of this. I was
5 just trying to be sociable!
- 6 **NICK:** You were being a pain in the neck!
- 7 **CABBIE:** *(Yells.)* I said, excuse me!
- 8 **NICK/JENNA:** *(Turn together to face CABBIE.)* What!
- 9 **CABBIE:** Whoa! Whoa-ho! Don't give me grief. I ain't gotta put
10 up with that.
- 11 **NICK/JENNA:** HUH! *(They move to opposite sides of the stage.)*
- 12 **CABBIE:** Yeah! Whatever. *(Looks at the clipboard.)* Says here I
13 am supposed to pick up a trainee named Nick. Are you him?
- 14 **NICK:** My name is Nick but...
- 15 **CABBIE:** Good. And also a... uh... Jen... Jennie... Jenno...
- 16 **JENNA:** Jenna?
- 17 **CABBIE:** Jenna! That's it! Jenna! Can't read my own writin'.
18 Can I assume then that she is you?
- 19 **JENNA:** Yes. I'm Jenna, but who are you? Are we in trouble?
20 We weren't really fighting, you know. It was just a little friendly
21 difference of opinion. Really.
- 22 **CABBIE:** Ain't no skin off my back, lady. I'm just here to "provide
23 the ride." *(Laughs.)* You like that? "Provide the ride?" That
24 was my motto back on Earth. "Provide the ride." What do you
25 think? Catchy, huh?
- 26 **NICK:** Provide what ride? What are you talking about?
- 27 **CABBIE:** *(Referring to the clipboard.)* Says here I am to deliver
28 yous two back to Earth for a special assignment. Says you will
29 be working together. Part of a final exam. Blah, blah, blah,
30 blah, blah. So forth and so on. So let's depart. *(Starts to*
31 *leave.)*
- 32 **NICK:** Wait a minute! What do you mean back to Earth?
- 33 **CABBIE:** Hey, pallie. *(Points to the clipboard.)* That's what it
34 says.
- 35 **NICK:** Why should I go anywhere with you? I don't know you
36 from Adam.
- 37 **CABBIE:** Nice guy, that Adam. You should get to know him. And
38 that Eve! Whoa!

- 1 **NICK:** *(Gives him a puzzled look and then continues.)* And me
2 work with her? I don't think so.
- 3 **JENNA:** You should only be so lucky.
- 4 **NICK:** Yeah, right. When heaven freezes over, I'll work for you.
- 5 **JENNA:** Now that's original.
- 6 **NICK:** Well how about . . . a... well... um... OK, when I think of
7 something good I'm really going to let you have it.
- 8 **JENNA:** Great. I got a few million years. I'll wait.
- 9 **CABBIE:** Are we done?
- 10 **NICK/JENNA:** No!
- 11 **CABBIE:** Hey! Hey! No reason to shoot the messenger. As
12 you've been informed, I'm just here to "provide the ride."
- 13 **NICK/JENNA:** But why do we... Why do I have to...
- 14 **CABBIE:** Stop! What do I look like to you two? The information
15 booth at the public library? The big guy says you are going
16 back to Earth. The big guy says you are working together.
17 When the big guy says it, it is! Am I right or am I right?
18
- 19 *NICK and JENNA have no rebuttal.*
20
- 21 I thought so. So, let us spread our wings as it were and make
22 haste.
23
- 24 *CABBIE starts off. NICK and JENNA hesitate.*
25
- 26 Now! *(Points off)* The meter is runnin'!
27
- 28 *NICK and JENNA exit hastily.*
29
- 30 That's better. *(He starts off, then stops, amused with himself.*
31 *He turns to the audience.)* The education of angels. What a
32 trip. But that's why they need me, cuz I "provide the ride."
33 *(Laughs and very pleased with himself.)* Boy, I always had a
34 way with words. *(He exits.)*
35
- 36 **BLACKOUT**
37

ACT ONE, SCENE 2

AT START: *The waiting room of a church. There are a couple of windows, one up center, the other stage right. There is a door stage left that leads to another part of the church and another stage right that leads to a bathroom. The room is nicely furnished with a sofa and coffee table down center. On the coffee table are some books, magazines, maybe a box of tissues all placed in a particularly orderly fashion. There are a couple of armchairs either side. There is a small buffet table up center that holds a coffee pot, cups, pitcher of water and glasses. There is a bookshelf stage right. As the lights come up we see DAVE CLARK, early forties, dressed in tux pants, shirt and tie. DAVE is another really nice guy but we can clearly tell he has a lot on his mind. Quite timid by nature, DAVE likes things to be orderly. He does not like confrontation. We see his coat draped very neatly across the back of the sofa and the tie and vest on the coffee table, also placed in a very orderly fashion. You might say he is a recovering obsessive compulsive. Any time something is out of place he methodically puts it back into place. As he paces center, he speaks into a cell phone. DAVE seems nervous and agitated.*

DAVE: *(Pleading.)* Look, Natalie, I... No. No. You cannot come down here right now! I know the wedding is still seven hours away. It doesn't matter. Because it wouldn't do any good. We've discussed this over and over again. *(As he paces, he knocks the coat off the back of the sofa. He immediately picks it up and tries to neatly put it back in place while trying to balance the phone.)* What? What? I can't... Hold on! *(He puts the phone down on the table in just the right way, folds the coat and then returns to the phone.)* Now, what was it you... *(He has to hold the phone away from his ear for a moment.)* You don't have to yell. I'm right here. What? I had to put the phone down for a second. That's all. Look. I told you before. I got here early because I wanted to have some time to relax. That's it. Before everyone else arrives. Yes. That's the only reason. What other reason would there be? I do not have cold feet. My feet... *(Looks down at his feet and getting distracted;*

sits to fiddle with his shoes; he lets the phone move away from his ear.)... hurt. These rental shoes are too tight. I hate having to wear shoes that don't belong to me. I don't know why you can't just wear normal shoes with a tuxedo. (*Noticing the phone again he puts it back to his ear and again has to back off for a second.*) Not so loud! What? You don't care about my lousy shoes, and you'll see me in a few minutes.

DAVE stands.

DAVE: No! You stay where you are and I'll see you at the wedding in a few hours! (*Almost pleading.*) No. You're not coming down here! Natalie! Natalie! Please! Don't hang up the... Don't hang up the phone! Nat!

She obviously has hung up. Frustrated he hangs up the phone, tosses it on the sofa. Then almost as if in a panic, he grabs the phone and places it neatly on the coffee table.

DAVE: Great! Just great! Just what I needed. (*Talking to himself, he grabs the coat and starts to put it on.*) You can't see her today. You can't. You cannot see her today. Not her. Not now. (*He stops to gather himself.*) Come on. Get a hold of yourself. (*Removing the coat he looks heavenward.*) How about a little help here, huh? I mean, come on! Why does this have to be so difficult? (*He begins pacing again.*) Can't you make it a little easier this time? Can't you just tell me what to do? (*Pause.*) You know what? You could go on the internet. That's it! You could get your own web site. Everybody else has a web site. Why can't you get a web site? We could just email our questions and you could email us back with the answers. What do you think? Time to go high tech? (*Shakes his head.*) Who am I kidding? I can't do this. I've got to get out of here.

1 *DAVE starts for the door at left, then thinks better of it. He heads*
2 *for the window at right. Getting his coat half on he unlocks it and*
3 *begins to try and lift it. At that moment he freezes. There is a*
4 *quick BLACKOUT. We see the door at left open. A very bright*
5 *light shines through it and in tumbles, almost as if coming in for a*
6 *landing, the CABBIE, JENNA and NICK. They enter and as they*
7 *do, the lights return to normal. DAVE is still frozen in place. The*
8 *CABBIE strides in. NICK and JENNA look shaken, as if trying to*
9 *regain their balance.*

10
11 **CABBIE:** All rightie then! Was that a smooth ride or what? Never
12 let it be said that I failed to provide the ride. (*Laughing, he*
13 *gives NICK a pat on the back.*) You all right there, buddy? (*He*
14 *looks to each of them.*) Well! Destination reached! Yous guys
15 are now on your own. (*He starts as if to leave.*)

16 **NICK:** Wait a minute! Aren't you going to tell us what we're doing
17 here?

18 **CABBIE:** I think you're supposed to figure that one out on your
19 own. My guess is that it might have something to do with...
20 oh... him! (*Sarcastically he points at DAVE.*) That's just a wild
21 guess.

22 **JENNA:** Why is he not moving? (*Crosses over to get a closer*
23 *look.*)

24 **CABBIE:** Ah! You might say he's frozen in time. He'll be quite
25 mobile again as soon as I leave, I'm sure.

26 **JENNA:** (*Checking DAVE out, she gives him a few little pokes*
27 *and prods.*) Cool.

28 **NICK:** That's it! You're just going to leave me here with her
29 without telling us anything?

30 **CABBIE:** You got it Nick. But I should at least lay down the
31 ground rules. (*Making himself at home, he plops down on the*
32 *sofa.*)

33 **NICK:** Ground rules?

34 **CABBIE:** Ground rules. Here they are. (*He looks at his*
35 *clipboard, flips a few pages and reads.*) As you are angels,
36 you will only be visible to those that are required to see you.
37 You will only be heard by those that are required to hear you.

38 **NICK:** How are we supposed to know who that is?

- 1 **CABBIE:** You'll figure it out! Says here you will assist the lady in
2 any way you can.
- 3 **NICK:** Assist the lady? What does that mean, assist?
- 4 **CABBIE:** Oh, I'm sorry. (*Starts searching his pockets.*) I don't
5 have my Webster's Dictionary here with me. (*Gives NICK a*
6 *look.*) Assist means assist? What am I, your English teacher?
- 7 **JENNA:** (*Smiling.*) I think it means you're my go for. You know.
8 Go for this, go for that.
- 9 **NICK:** Oh. No. No. No. That can't be right. Let me see that?
10 (*Reaches for the clipboard.*)
- 11 **CABBIE:** Hey! (*Pulling it away, he crosses down right.*) You
12 don't have clearance for that. Besides, I don't write it, I just
13 read it.
- 14 **JENNA:** It's the rules.
- 15 **NICK:** You...
- 16 **CABBIE:** (*Crossing in front of the sofa to down left.*) The only
17 other thing you need to know is this. You will be here until your
18 assignment is completed. When and if that occurs, you will
19 once again see my smiling face, whereupon I will...
20
- 21 *CABBIE tries to make a grand exit, NICK interrupts.*
22
- 23 **NICK:** "Provide the ride". We got it!
- 24 **CABBIE:** (*Goes to NICK and shakes a finger at him.*) You got
25 problems, buddy! (*He turns to go, but turns back to JENNA.*)
26 Its clear that someone needs further study. Good luck with this
27 guy, huh? You're gonna need it. (*As he leaves.*) Sheesh!
28 Angels with attitudes. What's next?
29
- 30 *There is a quick BLACKOUT again and the door opens, the bright*
31 *light returns and the CABBIE exits quickly. As he does, DAVE is*
32 *suddenly animated again, trying to open the window.*
33
- 34 **DAVE:** Come on. Open!
- 35 **JENNA:** Where you going there, big guy?
- 36 **DAVE:** (*Whirling around. He is shocked by her presence.*) Who's
37 that? What! Who? Who are you? How did you get in here?

1 **JENNA:** (*To NICK.*) I guess he can see us. That must mean he's
2 the guy.
3 **DAVE:** (*Looks at her puzzled.*) Who are you talking to?
4 **JENNA:** I was just talking to Nick here.
5 **DAVE:** (*Looking around the room.*) Nick... where? Who is Nick?
6 Who are you? Where did you come from? How did you get in
7 here?
8 **NICK:** (*Walking up to DAVE.*) What do you mean who is Nick?
9 I'm Nick.
10
11 *DAVE walks right past him, obviously not seeing him and*
12 *continues to speak to JENNA.*
13
14 **DAVE:** I don't know who you are or how you got in here, but
15 you're in the wrong room.
16 **JENNA:** (*Smiling.*) Oh now, this is interesting. He can't see you.
17 **NICK:** No! Of course he can see me. If he can see you, I'm sure
18 he can see me. (*Walks right up to DAVE and looks him square*
19 *in the face.*) Right! You can see me right?
20 **DAVE:** (*Looks right past NICK.*) Well, miss? Are you going to
21 say something?
22 **NICK:** (*Crossing away.*) Oh, this is not right!
23 **JENNA:** This is awesome!
24 **NICK:** This is ridiculous!
25 **DAVE:** Awesome? What's awesome? Look. I'm trying to get
26 ready for a wedding here. Could you please just leave? I don't
27 know who you are. You obviously came in the wrong door.
28 **JENNA:** A wedding? A wedding, huh? (*Looks at NICK.*) It must
29 have something to do with the wedding.
30 **DAVE:** Why do you keep doing that?
31 **JENNA:** Doing what?
32 **DAVE:** Acting like you're talking to someone?
33 **JENNA:** I am talking to someone. (*She points.*) Nick.
34 **DAVE:** Nick? (*Beginning now to doubt her sanity.*) Oh, right!
35 Nick. From before when you were speaking... to... Nick.
36 **JENNA:** Right. And I'm Jenna. Nice to meet you. (*She holds out*
37 *a hand which he refuses.*)

- 1 **DAVE:** You're Jenna. (*She nods.*) And he's Nick. (*She nods*
2 *again. He begins looking around the room.*) And Nick is here?
3 Now? In the room with us?
- 4 **JENNA:** (*Points.*) Right there.
- 5
6 *A moment as DAVE looks around the room again.*
7
- 8 **DAVE:** Would you excuse me for a moment? I need to make a
9 phone call. Real quick. It'll just take a minute. (*Reaches for*
10 *his cell phone.*)
- 11 **JENNA:** (*Moving up behind him.*) I understand you can't see him.
12 I think you're only supposed to be able to see me and not him.
13 I don't know why. Probably because he's just an assistant.
- 14 **NICK:** This is so wrong.
- 15 **JENNA:** (*To NICK.*) Be nice. Assistant.
- 16 **NICK:** (*Mumbling to himself he mimics her.*) Be nice. Assistant!
- 17 **DAVE:** (*Picking up the phone. He starts to dial.*) I just need to
18 make a quick call.
- 19 **JENNA:** You don't really need to do that. The phone doesn't
20 work anyway.
- 21 **DAVE:** What do you mean the phone doesn't work? Of course it
22 works. (*Places the phone to his ear but, of course, it doesn't*
23 *work.*) Wait. It was working just a minute ago. I don't
24 understand. It must be the battery.
- 25 **JENNA:** Must be.
- 26 **DAVE:** Well then, if you'll excuse me, I need to go... uh... go to
27 the store for... uh... batteries. (*Heads for the door at right.*)
- 28 **JENNA:** I don't think you should do that either.
- 29 **NICK:** That's right. Run! Run as fast as you can!
- 30
- 31 *DAVE grabs the doorknob but the door won't budge. He struggles*
32 *with it for a moment.*
33
- 34 **DAVE:** Must be stuck! (*He tries again, but to no avail.*)
- 35 **JENNA:** It's not stuck. You just can't leave right now.
- 36 **DAVE:** (*DAVE jumps back.*) What do you mean I can't leave right
37 now? What is this? Whats going on here?

1 **JENNA:** Don't worry. It's nothing sinister. In fact, we were sent
2 here to help.
3 **DAVE:** Help? Help who?
4 **JENNA:** You.
5 **DAVE:** Me? I don't need any help.
6 **JENNA:** Obviously you do.
7 **DAVE:** What?
8 **JENNA:** Maybe you'd better sit down.
9 **DAVE:** I don't want to sit down!
10 **JENNA:** I really think you should sit down.
11 **DAVE:** I don't want to sit down!
12 **NICK:** He doesn't want to sit down.
13 **JENNA:** All right. Have it your way.
14 **DAVE:** Just tell me what you want! And who you are.
15 **NICK:** Yes. Please. Explain it to him.
16 **JENNA:** (*To NICK.*) Gladly.
17
18 *DAVE gives her another, "Who is she talking to?" look.*
19
20 Sure you wouldn't like to sit down?
21
22 *DAVE stares at her.*
23
24 Have it your way. So. There's no easy way to say this, so I'm
25 just going to say it. I am an angel.
26
27 *DAVE stares at her again.*
28
29 And believe it or not, so is he.
30 **DAVE:** An angel? You mean like... a Charlie's angel?
31 **JENNA:** Well. (*Coyly.*) I can see how you would think that.
32 **NICK:** Oh please.
33 **JENNA:** But no. An angel angel. A real one. You know. From
34 up there. Heaven. See. (*Points to the angel wings on her*
35 *shirt.*)
36 **DAVE:** Oh. Sure. I see. And I'm Jimmy Stewart.
37

- 1 *NICK tries to go the door again, but JENNA grabs DAVE'S arm*
2 *and brings him back.*
3
4 **JENNA:** I love him. Did you see him in "Mr. Smith Goes to
5 Washington"? That was, like, my favorite.
6 **DAVE:** Really.
7 **JENNA:** You don't believe me, do you?
8 **DAVE:** No. No. Not at all. (*Escaping he goes to the door again.*)
9 I'm sure that was your favorite.
10 **JENNA:** I mean the angel thing.
11 **DAVE:** (*Struggling with the door, he yells back over his shoulder.*)
12 Oh, the angel thing? Of course I believe you. Why should I not
13 believe you?
14 **JENNA:** It's the wings, isn't it? (*She pulls at the wings on her*
15 *shirt.*) I know they're not real angel wings. We're still sort of in
16 training.
17 **DAVE:** (*Still struggling with the door.*) Angels in training. Great.
18 Good for you. (*Laughs nervously.*)
19 **JENNA:** Look. Dave...
20 **DAVE:** (*Suddenly stops with the door and turns to her.*) How did
21 you know my name?
22 **NICK:** How did you know his name?
23 **JENNA:** Wow! I mean, wow! (*She seems amazed.*) It just came
24 to me. Just like that! Dave... Clark. Right? I knew it! That is
25 so cool!
26 **DAVE:** And you are so weirding me out. (*Turns to the door*
27 *again.*)
28 **JENNA:** No. Dave. Don't you see? He wanted me to know your
29 name, so I know your name. It just reaffirms that you're the
30 guy we're looking for.
31 **DAVE:** Why won't this stupid door open!
32 **JENNA:** (*Laughing.*) Dave. He, like, parted the Red Sea. This.
33 (*Points*) This is just a door. Like, no problemo. Know what I
34 mean?
35 **NICK:** Maybe if you spoke English instead of Fonzieisms, he
36 might catch on.

- 1 **JENNA:** *(To NICK.)* It's English! *(Turns back to DAVE. She*
2 *notices the coffee pot. Again to NICK.)* Oh. Nick. Would you
3 be a sweetie and get me a cup of coffee? Assistant of mine.
- 4 **NICK:** *(He almost does so, then stops and points at her.)* You're
5 pushing it. Pushing it.
- 6 **JENNA:** *(Back to DAVE.)* I admit I kind of miss my coffee. I was
7 a big coffee drinker. Oh! A caramel frappuccino. What I
8 wouldn't give.
- 9 **DAVE:** *(Crossing away from her.)* You see that! You're trying to
10 tell me you're some kind of angel with the... *(Traces on his*
11 *chest.)* ...the wings thing. You're nuts! And you keep talking to
12 someone who's not here.
- 13 **JENNA:** *(Sits on the arm of the sofa and watches him.)* Oh, he's
14 here all right. I don't know why. I could have handled this on
15 my own.
- 16 **DAVE:** *(Giving up on the door, he heads for the window.)* Okay!
17 You obviously locked the door from the outside somehow, but
18 like it or not, I am getting out of here. *(He tries the window but*
19 *it does not give.)*
- 20 **JENNA:** Dave, Dave, Dave, Dave, Dave. *(Shaking her head.)*
21 You need to have a little faith. You believe in God. Right?
22 You were praying for help. Right?
- 23 **DAVE:** What do you know about it?
- 24 **JENNA:** Well. Not enough yet, but why else would he send us
25 here? Think about it. If you believe in him, doesn't it follow
26 that you should believe in us?
- 27 **DAVE:** *(Crossing behind the sofa to her. NICK moves up to*
28 *watch as well.)* I never said I didn't believe in angels. I just
29 don't believe you're one. Look at you. You're blonde...
- 30 **JENNA:** *(She almost flies out of her seat.)* What...
31
32 *Moving behind the sofa. NICK is laughing, but one look from her*
33 *and he stops and moves away.*
34
35 ...is that supposed to mean???
- 36 **DAVE:** What?!
- 37 **NICK:** At least it's getting interesting now.

- 1 **JENNA:** That I am a blonde! What has that got to do with...
2 anything?
- 3 **DAVE:** It's just that you're...
- 4 **JENNA:** (*Getting in his face.*) Because if you are trying to imply
5 that... because... I am a blonde I may somehow lack the...
6 intelligence... or the... wherewithal... or the... ability... to do my
7 job, I would not take kindly to that assumption.
- 8 **DAVE:** (*Backing down.*) I don't think I meant that? (*Pause.*) No,
9 I didn't mean that.
- 10 **JENNA:** (*Continuing.*) And if you are trying to put me in a
11 category or stereotype me in any way because I am a blonde, I
12 would... so... not appreciate that!
- 13 **DAVE:** I'm so sure I didn't mean that!
- 14 **JENNA:** (*Emphatically.*) Then what did you mean?
- 15 **DAVE:** I just meant... (*Crossing down left away from her.*) ...you
16 don't look like what I pictured an angel would look like. That's
17 all!
- 18 **JENNA:** That's all? (*Grabs him by the collar.*) Is there something
19 less than angelic about this face? Something that bothers
20 you?
- 21 **DAVE:** Uh... No.
- 22 **JENNA:** (*Pulls him along as she moves down right.*) Because I
23 think it's a nice face. A kind face. A sweet face. Don't you?
- 24 **DAVE:** Yes. Right. Yes. I do. I do.
- 25 **JENNA:** Then what?
- 26 **DAVE:** (*Exasperated, he pulls away.*) You're wearing jeans and a
27 t-shirt for crying out loud. A t-shirt with wings. On the front, no
28 less.
- 29 **JENNA:** I explained that!
- 30 **DAVE:** Yes. You did. You did. And it was a perfectly rational
31 explanation. (*He collapses onto the sofa.*) Why today? Why
32 today of all days?
- 33 **NICK:** (*Crossing up behind the sofa.*) You're doing great so far.
- 34 **JENNA:** You stay out of this!
- 35 **NICK:** Absolutely! Not a word. I'm just going to stand back and
36 watch the master at work.

- 1 **JENNA:** *(She starts to reply, then thinks better of it. She sits next*
2 *to DAVE.)* Look. Dave. Just because I didn't fly through the
3 ceiling in a blaze of glory wearing a gown of white doesn't
4 mean I can't be what I say I am. Do you think he really works
5 that way? Wouldn't that be a little too obvious?
- 6 **DAVE:** I don't know. Maybe.
- 7 **JENNA:** If we're going to get anywhere in helping you, it's really
8 going to depend a great deal on you.
- 9 **DAVE:** Me?
- 10 **JENNA:** You have to believe.
11
- 12 *There is a knock on the door. DAVE nearly jumps out of his skin*
13 *when he hears it. We hear the voice offstage of NATALIE*
14 *COOKE, DAVE's ex-wife. She does not sound happy.*
15
- 16 **NATALIE:** Dave? Are you in there?
- 17 **DAVE:** *(At first DAVE is even more despondent, then seeing this*
18 *as an out he jumps up, seemingly elated.)* Hah! Now we'll see
19 about all of this!
- 20 **JENNA:** Who's that?
- 21 **DAVE:** *(DAVE seems thrilled that his ex has arrived as he makes*
22 *a beeline to the door. JENNA follows.)* My ex-wife!
- 23 **JENNA:** Your ex? Coming to see you on your wedding day?
24 You guys must be on good terms.
- 25 **DAVE:** Not really! *(Laughing.)* She hates me! I told her not to
26 come.
- 27 **NATALIE:** *(Knocking again.)* Dave? I hear you in there. *(The*
28 *door knob rattles but will not open.)* Unlock this door! Now!
- 29 **DAVE:** She doesn't really listen to me. For once that's a good
30 thing. *(He stops and looks back at JENNA.)* Well? Are you
31 going to unlock the door? However you do it?
- 32 **JENNA:** It's not locked. Go ahead. Open it.
- 33 **DAVE:** What do you mean it's not locked? Of course it's locked.
34

1 *DAVE goes quickly to the door and almost rips it off its hinges as it*
2 *opens easily. Surprised, DAVE looks back at JENNA. As the*
3 *door opens, we see NATALIE standing there. She is an attractive*
4 *woman in her thirties. She stands in the doorway, hands on hips,*
5 *staring sternly at DAVE. JENNA stays behind DAVE.*

6
7 **NATALIE:** It's about time!

8 **DAVE:** Am I glad to see you.

9 **NATALIE:** Really? You could have fooled me by the phone
10 conversation we had a while ago.

11 **DAVE:** Come in. Please!

12 **NATALIE:** Oh, I'm coming in all right!

13
14 *NATALIE storms in and crosses downstage past the sofa. At the*
15 *same time, JENNA moves behind the armchair left.*

16
17 **DAVE:** *(Closing the door.)* Thank you. *(He crosses upstage*
18 *toward JENNA with a big smile on his face.)* Natalie, I want
19 you to...

20 **NATALIE:** Keep my mouth shut and go away? I know. *(She*
21 *tosses her purse down on the coffee table but does not look in*
22 *his direction.)*

23 **DAVE:** No. No. I want you to... *(He tries to indicate JENNA but*
24 *she just ignores him.)*

25 **NATALIE:** You are going to listen to me whether you like it or not.
26 Not that you ever listened to me when we were married! *(She*
27 *begins pacing downstage.)*

28 **DAVE:** Fine. That's fine but I...

29 **NATALIE:** I can't believe you're actually here. Here. At the
30 church. Acting like you're really going through with this.

31 **JENNA:** So, that's it!

32 **DAVE:** *(To JENNA.)* No. No. It's... It's... *(Looks to NATALIE.)*
33 Nat! Will you please turn around and look at me!

34 **NATALIE:** I don't even know if I can!

35 **DAVE:** Nat! I need you to turn around and look at me. *(He grabs*
36 *JENNA and puts his arm around her shoulder like they were*
37 *buddies.)* Nat!

38 **NATALIE:** I've told you a million times not to call me that!

1 **DAVE:** It's an endearment!

2 **NATALIE:** It's a bug! An irritating little bug! Don't think I didn't
3 know.

4 **DAVE:** *(He takes a breath and regains his composure then*
5 *speaks deliberately.)* Natalie. Would you please turn around?
6 There is something I wish to show you. *(He remains with his*
7 *arm around JENNA, and as NATALIE finally does turn around,*
8 *he squeezes JENNA to him and smiles broadly.)* See!

9

10 *NATALIE stops dead in her tracks and stares at him. Then, after a*
11 *pause.*

12

13 **NATALIE:** What is this?

14 **DAVE:** This is what I've been trying to show you.

15 **NATALIE:** What? Show me what? *(She crosses up to his right.)*
16 What, are you Marcel Marceau now? You're taking up mime?
17 What is this? Your new career? *(She repeats the arms*
18 *motions of DAVE.)*

19 **DAVE:** I just... Don't you see...? *(Let's go of JENNA and gestures*
20 *toward her.)*

21 **NATALIE:** What?

22 **DAVE:** Can't you see?

23 **NATALIE:** *(Crossing up right behind the sofa near NICK. She of*
24 *course does not see him, even though NICK tries his best to*
25 *get her to notice him.)* I'll tell you what I see. I see you've lost
26 your mind. That's what I see. That would explain a lot of
27 things.

28 **JENNA:** Told you, Dave.

29

30 *DAVE's jaw drops in shock.*

31

32 **NICK:** She did tell you, Dave.

33 **JENNA:** He can't hear you. Remember?

34 **NICK:** Excuse me!

35 **NATALIE:** Are you just going to stand there?

36

37 *DAVE starts to pant. If we didn't know better, you might think he*
38 *was having a baby as he struggles toward the sofa.*

1
2 **DAVE:** I think I need to sit. Yes, I do need to sit.
3 **NATALIE:** Then sit. Please!
4 **DAVE:** OK, I'm sitting.
5
6 *DAVE plops down in the armchair at left, and during the following*
7 *dialogue we see him continually look from NATALIE to JENNA*
8 *and around the room as if looking for NICK. All of this does not go*
9 *unnoticed by NATALIE.*
10
11 **JENNA:** *(Comes right behind him to comfort him.)* That's right.
12 You take it easy. I know it's a lot to swallow all at once. *(She*
13 *places her hand on his shoulder.)*
14 **DAVE:** *(He jumps over to the sofa.)* Don't touch me!
15 **NICK:** *(Coming to JENNA's side.)* I'm sure I know how he feels.
16 **JENNA:** You wish.
17 **NATALIE:** I am not about to touch you!
18 **NICK:** Was he talking to her?
19 **JENNA:** I think he was talking to me. You were talking to me,
20 right? *(She reaches down and touches DAVE's shoulder and*
21 *he slaps her hand away.)* Yep! He was talking to me.
22 **NATALIE:** *(Moves to sofa next to DAVE.)* We are divorced, and,
23 please understand, we are going to stay divorced. That is not
24 why I came here today. Let's make that perfectly clear. Are
25 we clear?
26 **DAVE:** We're clear.
27 **NICK:** We didn't come here to get them back together, did we?
28 **JENNA:** No. No. It couldn't be that. *(Leans down to DAVE.)*
29 You're not trying to get back together with her, are you?
30 **DAVE:** Are you insane?
31 **NATALIE:** *(Turns on him.)* Are you trying to start something?
32 **DAVE:** I'm not. I swear I'm not.
33 **NICK:** You'd better stop talking to him. He's confused enough as
34 it is.
35 **NATALIE:** *(Stands – sternly.)* Because I am only here for your
36 well-being.
37 **JENNA:** You're right. Dave, I'm just going to be quiet for a while,
38 so just pretend we're not here.

1 **NATALIE:** (*Crosses to armchair left.*) All right?

2 **DAVE:** (*To JENNA.*) All right.

3 **JENNA:** (*To NICK.*) All right.

4 **NICK:** All right.

5 **JENNA:** (*Indicates they should sit.*) Shall we?

6

7 *They ALL sit. JENNA on the sofa next to DAVE and NICK at the*
8 *armchair right. DAVE stares at her.*

9

10 (*She whispers to him.*) Don't look at me. She'll think you're
11 crazy, and it sounds like you're not exactly on her good side
12 already. (*Points to NATALIE.*)

13 **NATALIE:** Are we calm now?

14 **DAVE:** Yes. Yes. We're calm. I'm fine. (*He obviously is not.*)
15 I'm just fine and dandy.

16 **NATALIE:** Good. Then perhaps we can talk rationally for a
17 moment. You can do that. (*Smiling.*) Can't you?

18 **JENNA:** Ooh! Patronizing.

19

20 *DAVE looks at her and she shushes herself.*

21

22 **DAVE:** Rationally. Absolutely.

23 **NATALIE:** Good. We're both adults. With a history. Yes. That
24 doesn't mean we can't communicate civilly. So. (*Sighs a deep*
25 *breath and then jumps up from the chair.*) Have you lost your
26 ever loving mind?!

27 **DAVE:** Nat!

28 **NATALIE:** Don't!

29 **DAVE:** ...alie.

30 **NATALIE:** (*Moving down right.*) Don't even try to justify this to
31 me, David. First, you try to sneak this entire affair by me
32 without my knowledge...

33 **DAVE:** I didn't try to sneak anything by you. We're divorced. You
34 live halfway across the country. You never want to talk to me.
35 We've barely spoken to each other in the last two years.

36 **NATALIE:** (*Moves around to the back of the sofa directly behind*
37 *DAVE.*) Don't try to cloud the issue. Am I impossible to get in
38 touch with? I have a phone. I have an email address.

- 1 **DAVE:** I sent you an invitation!
- 2 **NATALIE:** (*Crosses down left.*) Well, thank you very much for
- 3 that! That really put me into the decision-making process!
- 4 **DAVE:** The decision-making process? I wasn't a part of the
- 5 decision-making process when you got married again!
- 6 **NATALIE:** You know that's completely different.
- 7 **DAVE:** How?
- 8 **NATALIE:** Because I didn't need your help in making my
- 9 decision.
- 10 **DAVE:** And I don't need your help.
- 11 **NATALIE:** That is obviously not the case.
- 12 **NICK:** This is good. You really married this one, did you?
- 13
- 14 *DAVE of course doesn't hear him, but JENNA responds.*
- 15
- 16 **JENNA:** Will you be quiet?
- 17 **DAVE:** What?
- 18 **JENNA:** Not you. Him!
- 19 **DAVE:** (*Drops his head in his hands.*) This is too much!
- 20 **NATALIE:** That I agree with. This is too much.
- 21 **DAVE:** (*Rises.*) Look. I know how you feel about this wedding.
- 22 You made that clear in our phone conversations.
- 23 **NATALIE:** Not clear enough. Obviously. You know you really
- 24 don't want to go through with this.
- 25 **NICK:** Oh. Here we go.
- 26 **DAVE:** That is not true.
- 27 **NATALIE:** David. I know you. Better than you know yourself. I
- 28 know the signs. I was married to the signs for years.
- 29 **JENNA:** Signs? What signs, Dave?
- 30 **NATALIE:** Here you are at the church on the day of your wedding
- 31 several hours before you need to be. Why is that?
- 32 **DAVE:** I... I don't know. I was ready. I just didn't want to sit
- 33 around at home. That's all.
- 34 **NATALIE:** Oh, sure. This from a man who on our first date
- 35 showed up in the lobby of my dorm two hours early and sat
- 36 there because he wasn't quite sure if our going out was a good
- 37 idea, so he wanted to be a little closer to the source to get a
- 38 feel for things.

- 1 **DAVE:** That was a long time ago.
- 2 **NATALIE:** From a man who would show up several hours early at
3 an airport, so he can really decide if it's wise to get on a plane
4 that day or not.
- 5 **DAVE:** That has nothing to do with today.
- 6 **NATALIE:** A man who, if he wants to try a new restaurant, will
7 show up an hour before everyone else to check out the menu
8 and breathe in the aromas to make sure it will be an acceptable
9 place to dine.
- 10 **JENNA:** Dave. That is a little excessive.
- 11 **NICK:** Can you say paranoia?
- 12 **DAVE:** (*To JENNA.*) It's being cautious. That's all. And that was
13 a long time ago. I've had counseling! (*To NATALIE with a*
14 *satisfied look.*) Yes, counseling.
- 15 **NATALIE:** So you've said.
- 16 **DAVE:** (*Addressing both NATALIE and JENNA.*) It's true. I
17 haven't had any problems in more than a year.
- 18 **JENNA:** I believe you.
- 19 **NATALIE:** (*Crossing to DAVE.*) Well, maybe it just took longer to
20 show up this time. There were times you were fine with me
21 too, David. Remember? One day you were a normal, boring
22 husband, the next day, you were Howard Hughes. Everything
23 had to be in perfect order. Everything had to be just right!
24 (*Gestures quotation marks with fingers.*) Whatever "right"
25 happened to be on that day.
- 26 **DAVE:** That's not fair! It was never that bad and you know it. It
27 was more like an... eccentricity. The doctors told you that.
- 28 **NATALIE:** Maybe it wasn't so bad to them, but they didn't have to
29 live with you. It made me crazy!
- 30 **DAVE:** I know! I know! And I'm sorry. I've told you that but it's a
31 thing of the past. I don't do those things anymore.
- 32 **NATALIE:** Oh, really? Be honest, David. You're here early
33 today, hours before you need to be, because you have doubts
34 and because... you're still crazy. Just like you always were.
- 35 **DAVE:** No. No. No. (*Moves behind sofa to up right.*)
- 36 **NATALIE:** And you should have doubts, David. As I've told you
37 manu times, you should have doubts.
- 38 **JENNA:** I think we know now why we're here.

- 1 **DAVE:** No. I should not. And I don't. Look. I told you on the
2 phone not to come here. I told you I was not changing my
3 mind. No matter what you said.
- 4 **NATALIE:** David. *(She crosses behind the sofa to him.)* I know
5 what's best for you. I've always known what's best for you. If
6 you had listened to me, we might still be married today.
- 7 **JENNA:** Think about that one, Dave.
- 8 **DAVE:** Natalie. I don't want to get into this with you.
- 9 **NATALIE:** This woman has a child. Right? *(He doesn't respond*
10 *at first.)* Right?
- 11 **DAVE:** Yes. Yes. A beautiful, sweet daughter.
- 12 **NATALIE:** *(Pacing back and forth as she talks to him.)* You know
13 nothing about children. You're terrible with children.
- 14 **DAVE:** I...
- 15 **NICK:** *(To JENNA.)* I don't think Dave here likes confrontation.
- 16 **NATALIE:** You certainly know nothing about female children.
17 You know very little about females at all. Another one of the
18 reasons we're no longer married.
- 19 **JENNA:** Don't listen to her, Dave. She's just trying to work you.
- 20 **DAVE:** I...
- 21 **NATALIE:** *(In his face.)* You never wanted to have a child with
22 me.
- 23 **NICK:** *(Sarcastically.)* Why, Dave?
- 24 **DAVE:** You said you didn't want children.
- 25 **NATALIE:** Only because I knew you weren't ready.
- 26 **DAVE:** Oh, come on.
- 27 **NATALIE:** *(Pacing again.)* You know it's true. Any time we were
28 around friends with children, you acted like you thought they
29 came from another planet. That they were some weird new
30 species.
- 31 **JENNA:** *(To NICK. She laughs.)* They are, aren't they?
- 32
- 33 *NICK just stares at her.*
- 34
- 35 I mean. Kids. You know.
- 36 **DAVE:** That was different.
- 37 **NATALIE:** How?

- 1 **DAVE:** (*Crosses down right.*) They were other people's children.
2 Some people just aren't comfortable around other people's
3 children.
4 **JENNA:** That's good. Good answer.
5 **NATALIE:** (*Follows him.*) And isn't she other people's children?
6 **DAVE:** No. I mean. Yes. But she's mine too, now. Or she will
7 be.
8 **NATALIE:** And what do you think you know about being a father?
9 To a little girl? What is she, five? Six years old?
10 **DAVE:** Five.
11 **NATALIE:** Five. (*Shaking her head she places her hand on his*
12 *shoulder.*) You haven't learned to live in the adult world yet,
13 David, much less the world of the little people.
14 **JENNA:** Don't let her talk to you like that.
15 **DAVE:** I...
16 **NATALIE:** And this woman. (*Moves away from him to down left.*)
17 If you couldn't make it work with me, why should it be any
18 different with her?
19 **NICK:** I could probably think of a few reasons.
20 **JENNA:** Will you be quiet? I'm trying to concentrate.
21 **NICK:** Don't hurt yourself.
22 **NATALIE:** You are not ready for this marriage, David. You know
23 it and I know it.
24
25 *All of this is really beginning to get to DAVE.*
26
27 **DAVE:** I... I don't know. I...
28 **JENNA:** (*Stands.*) No. Dave! You have to stand up for yourself.
29 **DAVE:** But I...
30 **JENNA:** (*Crosses to him.*) Don't let her get the better of you,
31 Dave. You know what you want better than she does.
32 **DAVE:** (*As it trying to convince himself.*) I know what I want.
33 **NATALIE:** Will you stop mumbling!
34 **JENNA:** If you listen to her now, Dave, she wins. She'll think
35 she's got you again. You don't want her to win. You don't want
36 her making your decisions for you. Do you? Do you?
37 **DAVE:** No. No. I don't.
38 **NATALIE:** What are you blabbering about?

1 **DAVE:** All right, Nat...

2 **NATALIE:** Natalie!

3

4 *DAVE turns back away, but is met by JENNA, who turns him*
5 *toward her again.*

6

7 **JENNA:** Stand up to her, Dave. It's now or never!

8 **DAVE:** No. Nat! I'm sure you have good intentions. I'm sure
9 you're not here just because you think you can still run my life!

10 **JENNA:** You go, Dave!

11 **NATALIE:** Somebody needs to run your life.

12 **DAVE:** I need to run my life. You tried to run it all the years of our
13 marriage and, unfortunately, I let you much, much too often.
14 But, no more. I make my own decisions.

15 **NATALIE:** No matter how incredibly stupid they may be?

16 **DAVE:** No matter how incredibly stupid they may be. So. Nat! If
17 I want to get married today, I will get married today!

18 **NATALIE:** If? Do you hear yourself, David? You said if!

19 **DAVE:** *(Turns away and whispers to JENNA.)* I said if.

20 **JENNA:** That's okay. For now. Just, say it with conviction.

21 **DAVE:** *(Turns back to NATALIE.)* If! That's what I said. If! It's
22 my choice.

23

24 *At that moment we hear a knock on the door and the pastor of the*
25 *church, CHUCK SANDERSON, opens it and peeks in. He is in his*
26 *fifties, distinguished looking, dressed in jeans and button down*
27 *shirt. He carries a gift box. NATALIE crosses to the sofa and sits.*

28

29 **CHUCK:** May I come in?

30 **DAVE:** Please do!

31 **CHUCK:** I hope I'm not interrupting anything.

32 **DAVE:** No. No. Pastor Sanderson. Please come in.

33

34 *CHUCK enters.*

35

- 1 **CHUCK:** (*Goes to him and shakes his hand.*) Call me Chuck,
2 David. We've known each other too long for formality. I
3 thought I heard a noise. I was surprised to see that anyone
4 was here this early.
- 5 **NATALIE:** It's not the only surprise you're in for today.
- 6 **DAVE:** Yes. Sorry. I guess I am a little early.
- 7 **CHUCK:** (*Looking at his watch.*) Just a little. How did you get in?
- 8 **DAVE:** The custodian let me in. He knows me.
- 9 **CHUCK:** Of course.
- 10 **DAVE:** (*Crosses behind the sofa.*) Chuck. You remember my ex-
11 wife, Nat. Natalie!
- 12 **CHUCK:** (*Reaching to shake her hand.*) Ah, yes. I certainly
13 remember Nat. (*She gives him a look.*) Uh. Natalie! How are
14 you?
- 15 **NATALIE:** I am just terrific. I hope you came to talk some sense
16 into David.
- 17 **CHUCK:** I'm sorry?
- 18 **JENNA:** Here's your chance to get rid of her.
- 19 **NICK:** Please do.
- 20 **DAVE:** Nothing! You know Natalie. She's always trying to...
21 Well. You know Natalie.
- 22 **CHUCK:** Yes. I do.
- 23 **DAVE:** (*He crosses down right end of the sofa, takes her by the*
24 *arm and begins to usher her toward the door.*) Natalie was just
25 about to leave.
- 26 **NATALIE:** No. Natalie was not!
- 27 **JENNA:** Now or never, Dave.
- 28 **DAVE:** Yes. Yes. You were. You've got that thing to take care
29 of. You remember. That thing. (*Continues to push her to the*
30 *door. He looks back at the pastor.*) She just came by to wish
31 me well. Isn't that right? Nat!
- 32 **NATALIE:** (*With a pasted on smile and a syrupy response.*) Why
33 yes, dear! (*Waves to CHUCK and then an aside to DAVE.*) All
34 right! I'll leave, but you know you haven't got the guts to go
35 through with this.
- 36 **DAVE:** Thanks for coming by.
- 37 **NATALIE:** You're going to back out of it. You know you are.
- 38 **DAVE:** (*Still trying to push her out.*) Well, you know best..

- 1 **NATALIE:** *(Finally she is out the door, but stops and turns back to*
2 *him.)* I read you like a book, and I will be back to watch you
3 leave this so-called “bride” of yours at the altar.
4
5 *NICK shuts the door; totally exhausted/relieved and comes back*
6 *into the room.*
7
8 **NICK:** I think she's bitter. You think she's bitter?
9 **JENNA:** Maybe just a little bitter.
10 **DAVE:** *(To JENNA.)* You think? *(Then crossing over to*
11 *CHUCK.)* Thanks for dropping in, Chuck. I hope it's okay if I
12 hang around. I don't want to get in the way.
13 **CHUCK:** No. No. *(Looking at his watch.)* You do have quite a
14 while, but the room is yours. All day, if you like.
15 **DAVE:** Thanks.
16 **CHUCK:** I did come here with a mission though.
17 **DAVE:** What's that?
18 **CHUCK:** This? *(Holds out the gift box.)* It's from your bride-to-
19 be. She wanted me to make sure you opened it before the
20 wedding. I'm sure it's personal. I was going to leave it here for
21 you with a note, but I suppose I can just give it to you now. *(He*
22 *sets it on the coffee table.)*
23 **DAVE:** Thank you. I'll be sure to open it. *(Taking CHUCK by the*
24 *arm, he moves down left.)* Chuck, you... you haven't noticed
25 anything or anyone unusual around today, have you?
26 **CHUCK:** No. I don't believe so. Other than the fact that you're
27 here so early. Why do you ask?
28 **JENNA:** He can't see us either, Dave.
29 **DAVE:** I just wondered. That's all.
30 **JENNA:** It's just me and you, Dave. Just me and you.
31 **NICK:** Which I still cannot figure out.
32 **DAVE:** Say. Chuck? Do you mind if I ask you a question.
33 **CHUCK:** Of course, Dave. What is it?
34 **DAVE:** Do you... believe in angels?
35 **CHUCK:** *(Chuckles.)* Well. Yes. I do. It's kind of a prerequisite
36 for the job. Don't you think?

1 **DAVE:** I know that. I guess what I mean is, do you believe that
2 there are angels here on earth? Do you believe they come
3 around and see people, talk to people, help people?

4 **CHUCK:** I absolutely believe that.

5 **DAVE:** You do?

6 **CHUCK:** Of course. I believe I've seen the work of many angels
7 in my time.

8 **DAVE:** The work of many angels? But have you personally seen
9 one?

10 **CHUCK:** Well, I suppose I can't say that I've ever had any angels
11 come up and introduce themselves to me, if that's what you
12 mean.

13

14 *CHUCK laughs. DAVE forces a laugh along with him.*

15

16 But, yes, I believe there are angels among us, and I'd like to
17 believe that I have seen a few in my day. I just didn't know
18 they were angels at the time.

19 **JENNA:** He can't help you with this one, Dave. You're going to
20 have to deal with us all on your own.

21 **NICK:** *(Beginning to really show his frustration.)* You mean deal
22 with you. He certainly hasn't had to deal with me.

23 **DAVE:** *(He crosses away.)* Let me ask you one more thing. Do
24 you think an angel could be... *(Looks at JENNA.)* I don't know.
25 *(Then back to CHUCK.)* Nuts?

26 **CHUCK:** Nuts?

27 **JENNA:** Dave!

28 **DAVE:** I mean, a little psychotic or neurotic? Could they see
29 things that aren't really there? The way people sometimes do?

30 **JENNA:** Dave!

31 **CHUCK:** I don't know where you're going with this. I hope there
32 are not a lot of psychotic angels roaming around in heaven or
33 on earth, but I suppose it's possible. Angels aren't perfect.

34 **JENNA:** Dave, you disappoint me.

35 **CHUCK:** Why all these questions about angels?

36 **DAVE:** I don't know. Just had too much time on my hands lately,
37 I guess.

- 1 **CHUCK:** Well. I'm sure there will be angels present to bless this
2 wedding today, David, but I'm also fairly sure they will be of the
3 sane variety.
- 4 **NICK:** (*Moving to DAVE.*) One of them will be, at least. Too bad
5 you haven't met that one.
- 6 **DAVE:** I'm sure you're right.
- 7 **NICK:** I know I am.
- 8
- 9 **JENNA** just gives **NICK** a look and he crosses behind the sofa
10 again.
- 11
- 12 **CHUCK:** Now. If you'll excuse me. I have some preparations to
13 make. As I said, you're welcome to stay as long as you like.
14 (*Looks at his watch again.*) Are you sure there's nothing I can
15 do for you? Nothing else you'd like to discuss?
- 16 **DAVE:** Thanks, Chuck. I'm fine.
- 17 **CHUCK:** Suit yourself. (*Heads for the door then turns back and*
18 *points to the package on the table.*) Don't forget that now.
- 19 **DAVE:** I won't.
- 20 **CHUCK:** Good. See you soon. (*He exits.*)
- 21 **JENNA:** Well, well, well.
- 22 **DAVE:** Well, well, well, what?
- 23 **JENNA:** Well. I think it's time for you to be honest with us, Dave.
24 We're here for a reason and the only thing I've seen today is
25 that you seem to be having some issues with to marry or not to
26 marry.
- 27 **DAVE:** No. Yes. I mean. No. No. I mean. I don't know.
- 28 **JENNA:** What's the story, Dave? You have to tell us if you want
29 us to help.
- 30 **DAVE:** Could you stop saying us? It kind of creeps me out. I
31 mean. I believe you if you say he's here and all, but it just
32 creeps me out.
- 33 **JENNA:** Of course. I understand.
- 34 **NICK:** (*Crosses to the chair and sits.*) Yeah. Sure. Let's just
35 pretend that I'm not here at all. What's the difference?

- 1 **JENNA:** *(She simply smiles at him and turns her attention to*
2 *DAVE.)* So. Dave. Let's hear it. And remember who you're
3 talking to. It's probably not a good idea to tell falsehoods to an
4 angel.
- 5 **NICK:** Falsehoods?
- 6 **DAVE:** Okay. Okay. *(Takes a deep breath.)* Maybe I have had
7 cold feet or something. I don't know. As much as I hate to
8 admit it, Natalie, was partially right about some things. I have,
9 in the past, tended to overanalyze at times.
- 10 **JENNA:** Overanalyze?
- 11 **NICK:** Is that what you call it?
- 12 **JENNA:** Is that why you two are divorced?
- 13 **DAVE:** That, and other things. I know she's... strong-minded, let's
14 say... but there were times I wasn't so easy to deal with.
- 15 **JENNA:** And?
- 16 **DAVE:** *(Rises and crosses down right.)* And what if she's right?
17 What if I'm starting it all over again?
- 18 **JENNA:** *(Crosses to him.)* Dave, relax. It's a big day, that's all.
19 You're stressed. I'm sure a lot of people are frantic on their
20 wedding day.
- 21 **DAVE:** *(Getting frantic again, he moves down left and she*
22 *follows.)* And... I want to get married. I really do. Natalie was
23 right, though. I've never been around kids in my life. I was an
24 only child. No nieces and nephews. No cousins around when I
25 was growing up. No baby-sitting experience. No nothing.
- 26 **JENNA:** Lots of people are inexperienced when they first have
27 children. They learn.
- 28 **NICK:** What makes you so qualified to deal with him and not me?
29
- 30 *JENNA tries to ignore him, and will continue to try to do so through*
31 *the scene, but it will become increasingly more difficult.*
32
- 33 **DAVE:** I know that, but most of them get to start from scratch. I
34 mean, with a baby. This one's already five. She's already a
35 little girl.
- 36 **JENNA:** And most little girls grow up to be wonderful, beautiful,
37 exceptional human beings.
- 38 **NICK:** And then there's you.

- 1 **JENNA:** What about your fiancée?
- 2 **DAVE:** I'm crazy about her. She's the best. But obviously, she
3 was married before. I guess I'm worried about measuring up.
- 4 **JENNA:** Measuring up?
- 5 **DAVE:** To him. And to her. (*Moves over to coffee table and*
6 *picks up the package.*) Look at this. She's always doing things
7 like this. It's probably something... perfect. She has a knack.
8 She does great gifts.
- 9 **JENNA:** Some people are like that.
- 10 **NICK:** (*Stands and crosses behind the sofa again.*) I mean, why
11 you? Why?
- 12 **JENNA:** (*Sits at the sofa and indicates for DAVE to join her,*
13 *which he does.*) Why don't you open it?
- 14 **NICK:** Yes, open it. Please. I'm sure that will solve all of your
15 problems.
16
- 17 *JENNA shoots him a look but says nothing. DAVE does open the*
18 *package. It is a framed photo of his fiancée and her little girl. As*
19 *he opens it, NICK moves behind him and leans down to look.*
20 *JENNA rises and crosses over to look. NICK stares at the photo*
21 *and seems to grow even more agitated.*
22
- 23 **DAVE:** (*To JENNA.*) It's a picture of her and Ally. Her little girl's
24 name is Ally. Her name is Abby. And a note. (*He reads.*)
25 "Thought you might need us with you this afternoon. Hang in
26 there."
- 27 **NICK:** Unbelievable! (*He begins to pace.*) This whole thing! It's
28 unbelievable!
- 29 **JENNA:** That's beautiful, Dave. They're beautiful.
- 30 **DAVE:** They are. I don't know what she sees in me.
- 31 **NICK:** (*Becoming increasingly agitated.*) This is just great!
- 32 **JENNA:** (*Finally she can't take it anymore and stands and faces*
33 *him.*) Okay! What is your problem?
- 34 **NICK:** I've had enough of this! That's what my problem is! He
35 can't see me! Nobody can see me except you! You're
36 standing there trying to give him advice about something you
37 know nothing about!
- 38 **JENNA:** (*Trying to remain calm.*) We came here to help him.

1 **NICK:** Help him do what? Maybe we're supposed to help him get
2 out of this marriage! Did you ever think of that?

3 **JENNA:** Help him get out of this marriage?

4 **DAVE:** Help me... help me get out. Get out of what? What?
5 What?

6 **NICK:** Maybe. Maybe she's all wrong for him?

7 **JENNA:** All wrong for him?

8 **DAVE:** (*DAVE rises and follows JENNA around, confused.*)
9 Wrong for me? What's wrong for me?

10

11 *NICK continues to pace around and she begins to follow him.*

12 *DAVE in turn follows her.*

13

14 **NICK:** Maybe he's right. He could be a terrible father. He could
15 be the worst father the world has ever seen!

16 **JENNA:** The worst father the world has ever seen? Haven't you
17 been listening to him?

18 **DAVE:** The worst father? The worst father? (*He tries to stop*
19 *her.*) Are you talking to him? He doesn't like me. He thinks
20 this is a bad idea. He thinks this is a bad idea, doesn't he?

21 **JENNA:** (*To DAVE.*) Give me a minute.

22 **DAVE:** But...

23 **JENNA:** Just a minute. (*She turns back to NICK.*) Why are you
24 going berserk all of a sudden? You know why you're here
25 today.

26 **NICK:** (*He continues his wild pacing and the merry-go-round*
27 *continues.*) No. I don't. I don't know why I'm here. Trying to
28 help this guy marry... marry... (*Voice gets soft, as he points to*
29 *the picture.*)... her... (*Catches himself and becomes gruff*
30 *again.*) And I don't know why I was sent here with you or why
31 you're the answer to a prayer, and I'm just the invisible man!

32 **JENNA:** The invisible man?

33 **DAVE:** That's him right? You're talking to him, not me? I'm not
34 the invisible man? Why would I be the invisible man?

35 **NICK:** Yes, the invisible man!

36

37 *DAVE has gotten between the two of them somehow and so this*
38 *next line appears to be directed at him.*

1
2 **JENNA:** You're out of your mind.
3 **DAVE:** I'm out of mind? So. So I shouldn't get married? I
4 shouldn't get married? What about all the other things you
5 said?
6 **JENNA:** I'm not talking to you!
7 **DAVE:** You're not talking to me?
8 **JENNA:** *(Gets in his face.)* I am not talking to you!
9 **DAVE:** *(Finally losing it. He throws up his hands and yells.)* How
10 am I supposed to know that?!
11 **JENNA:** You. *(Points to DAVE and then to the sofa.)* Sit!
12 **DAVE:** But...
13 **JENNA:** Now!
14
15 *DAVE still hesitates.*
16
17 Now!
18
19 *DAVE does so and she turns her attention again to NICK.*
20
21 And you...
22 **NICK:** No. You know what? You have all the answers. You're
23 the expert here. I'm just the assistant. Right? *(He starts for*
24 *the door.)*
25 **JENNA:** Where are you going?
26 **NICK:** I don't know. Anywhere but here.
27 **JENNA:** *(Genuinely concerned now.)* But what about your final
28 exam, Nick? What about Dave?
29 **DAVE:** *(Falls prostrate to the sofa, throwing a pillow as he does.)*
30 Yeah! What about Dave?
31 **NICK:** What about him? He can find his own way. That's what all
32 of the rest of us have to do. *(Opens the door and starts out.)*
33 **JENNA:** Nick?
34 **NICK:** Good luck. *(He exits.)*
35 **JENNA:** *(Calling after him.)* Nick! *(She closes the door and turns*
36 *back to DAVE.)*

1 **DAVE:** *(Pause.)* Uhhhh. Maybe I should go. Maybe this getting
2 help from angels thing wasn't such a good idea after all. *(He*
3 *rises as if to go.)*
4 **JENNA:** You're not going anywhere! I came a long way to see
5 you today. A long way! *(In her gesturing, she points directly*
6 *down.)* So you're going to get help from an angel today
7 whether you like it or not. *(He looks where she is pointing.*
8 *She realizes and tries to assure him.)* No. No. I was just
9 pointing. I'm not from down there really. Really. Up there.
10 *(She points up.)* Up there. Both of us. And he'll be back.
11 *(Looking back at the exit.)* He'll be back. I know he will.
12
13 **BLACKOUT.**

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO, SCENE 1

AT START: *The scene is a park bench. We can hear the sounds of children at play, etc. A few hours time has passed. It is nearing dusk. There is an elderly gentleman seated there. NICK enters from left, walking head down, hands in his pockets. He sees the man sitting there, but thinks nothing of it. He sits at the opposite end of the bench, head in hands. After a moment, the elderly man looks his direction and speaks.*

CLIFTON: Been a tough day, huh?

NICK does not react.

I say, you must have had a tough day today.

NICK slowly raises his head and looks at the man. Then he looks to his left and then behind him, a perplexed look on his face.

You lost?

NICK looks back at him.

Are you lost, son? Need some directions?

NICK: Are you... talking to me?

CLIFTON: Well, I... I believe I am.

NICK: You can see me?

CLIFTON: I'm old, son. I'm not blind. *(Removes reading glasses and begins to clean them on his shirt.)* Not completely anyway.

NICK: I don't understand. You're not an... I mean you... You're alive, aren't you?

CLIFTON: Well, I... *(Reaches down and checks his pulse and gives a sigh of relief.)* I think so. Do I look that bad? I look alive, don't I?

NICK: Yes. Yes. I didn't mean anything. You definitely do look alive... but then so do I.

CLIFTON: And... you're not?

- 1 **NICK:** No. I'm... Not exactly. (*Not able to make himself say it he*
2 *just shakes his head.*)
- 3 **CLIFTON:** Not exactly?
- 4 **NICK:** I'm an... No. Forget it.
- 5 **CLIFTON:** You're a what?
- 6 **NICK:** Look. It's hard to explain. You're never going to believe it
7 anyway.
- 8 **CLIFTON:** Try me.
- 9 **NICK:** No. No. Really.
- 10 **CLIFTON:** Son. I'm nearly eighty years old. Trust me. I've
11 probably heard it before.
- 12 **NICK:** Right.
- 13
- 14 *CLIFTON just looks at him waiting.*
- 15
- 16 (*NICK gives a big sigh.*) Okay. You asked for it. I... am an
17 angel.
- 18 **CLIFTON:** An angel?
- 19 **NICK:** Yes. An angel, and I didn't think you were supposed to be
20 able to see me. No one else has been able to see me so far.
- 21 **CLIFTON:** I thought angels wore their wings back here. (*Points*
22 *to his back.*)
- 23 **NICK:** I'm sort of in training. I haven't earned those yet.
- 24 **CLIFTON:** Oh.
- 25 **NICK:** I knew you wouldn't believe me.
- 26 **CLIFTON:** Didn't say I didn't believe you, son. When you get to
27 be my age, it's probably a little easier to believe in things like
28 angels. I think that's one of the advantages of senior
29 citizenship. At least in my case. Maybe that's why I can see
30 you.
- 31 **NICK:** Maybe. (*Then a thought hits him.*) Or maybe you're
32 supposed to see me. I hadn't thought of that.
- 33 **CLIFTON:** What's that?
- 34 **NICK:** Oh, nothing. Nothing.
- 35 **CLIFTON:** So should I call you "Angel" or might I know your
36 name?
- 37 **NICK:** The name is Nicholas. Nick for short.

- 1 **CLIFTON:** Well, Nick. (*They stand.*) It's good to meet you. The
2 name's Clifton. Cliff for short. (*He holds out his hand and they*
3 *shake. They both gaze at their hands in amazement.*) Now, I
4 will admit, that's a first. I never shook hands with an angel
5 before.
- 6 **NICK:** I never shook hands with a person before. Not since I
7 became an angel that is. To tell you the truth, I didn't know I
8 could.
- 9 **CLIFTON:** I consider it a privilege to be the first.
- 10 **NICK:** Thanks.
- 11 **CLIFTON:** (*Pause and a quizzical expression comes over his*
12 *face.*) Wait just a minute now. You're not one of those angels
13 are you?
- 14 **NICK:** Those angels?
- 15 **CLIFTON:** You know. (*Shuffles a little uncomfortably.*) You're
16 not here to... take me with you? Are you?
- 17 **NICK:** Oh. (*With a little laugh.*) No. No.
- 18 **CLIFTON:** That's good. That's good. (*He sits.*)
- 19 **NICK:** No. I've just been out walking for a few hours.
- 20 **CLIFTON:** Nice day for it. (*Pause.*) So did you come out here to
21 watch the sunset?
- 22 **NICK:** What?
- 23 **CLIFTON:** The sunset. (*He points.*) You came to the right place.
24 Best spot in the whole city. Come out here myself every day
25 about this time. Try to do a little catching up.
- 26 **NICK:** Catching up? What kind of catching up?
- 27 **CLIFTON:** Well. Let's just say for about the first seventy years of
28 my life I never saw many sunsets. I mean, I saw them, but for
29 me they were just the reason I had to squint or flip the sun visor
30 down while I was in rush hour traffic. Never did appreciate it
31 much. For what it was. Not like Gal.
- 32 **NICK:** Gal?
- 33 **CLIFTON:** My wife. That's what everybody called her. Gal.
- 34 **NICK:** Called her? So she's...?
- 35 **CLIFTON:** Yeah. Been a while now. Almost ten years. Anyway,
36 she used to come out here every day. Never missed it. Unless
37 it was pouring down rain or something. Even got me out here a
38 few times, but I never got it. Not like her.

1 **NICK:** Never got what?

2 **CLIFTON:** You know. It. She looked at that sunset, and she got
3 it. She understood what I didn't.

4 **NICK:** What was that?

5 **CLIFTON:** Oh, I see. You're testing me huh? It's okay. I
6 understand?

7 **NICK:** You do?

8 **CLIFTON:** Sure. *(Pause.)* She got it. That's all. She knew that
9 the sunset is a... well, not meaning to sound too corny or
10 anything
11 but... it's a blessing. That's what it is. A blessing. Just like
12 those trees are and those kids playing on that swing set over
13 there. *(He points.)* That young mother and her baby there.
14 For that matter, even this... *(Reaches down and picks up a*
15 *rock.)* ...even this little rock here. Something as small and
16 seemingly insignificant as this. Did you ever think what it really
17 took to make this little rock?

18

19 *NICK looks but makes no reply.*

20

21 Sure you have. You're an angel.

22 **NICK:** Right.

23 **CLIFTON:** So now I come out here every day and watch the
24 sunset with her. Try to do a little catching up.

25 **NICK:** *(He sits on the bench.)* So you believe she's watching with
26 you?

27 **CLIFTON:** Not a doubt in my mind. I think that's what got me
28 coming out here. I'm sure God has her busy up there, but she
29 never missed a sunset. Gives me a chance to check in with
30 her.

31 **NICK:** You really think she looks in on you?

32 **CLIFTON:** Absolutely. I know I can't see her face to face, and
33 like I said, I know he has work for her up there, but I just know
34 there are times... special times that she gets to look in on me.

35

36 *They sit for a moment and watch. The light fades slowly during*
37 *the rest of the scene.*

38

- 1 **CLIFTON:** *(Continued.)* Say. You haven't met her up there have
2 you?
- 3 **NICK:** No. I don't think so. Not yet. There are a lot of angels,
4 though. Believe it or not.
- 5 **CLIFTON:** I'm sure there are, son. I'm sure there are. *(Pause.)*
6 You will meet her soon, I'm sure. She has a way of getting
7 around to everybody. Probably not a family in this
8 neighborhood she couldn't call by name. Her chocolate chip
9 cookies are still famous for blocks all around.
- 10 **NICK:** She sounds great.
- 11 **CLIFTON:** She was. She is.
- 12 **NICK:** So can I ask you something?
- 13 **CLIFTON:** Have at it.
- 14 **NICK:** Do you ever question why?
- 15 **CLIFTON:** Why?
- 16 **NICK:** Why God took her? When he did?
- 17 **CLIFTON:** Do you question why, son?
- 18
- 19 *NICK looks at him questioningly.*
- 20
- 21 Why God took you when he did?
- 22
- 23 *NICK looks down.*
- 24
- 25 **NICK:** Maybe I do. Maybe I have. Sometimes.
- 26 **CLIFTON:** Well, that's normal, I guess.
- 27 **NICK:** For an angel?
- 28 **CLIFTON:** Angel in training. You said.
- 29 **NICK:** Yes, but...
- 30 **CLIFTON:** So you haven't been an angel for long.
- 31 **NICK:** No. I mean, I've been away awhile, but time passes a little
32 differently up there.
- 33 **CLIFTON:** So when a child comes into this world, he has to learn
34 the ropes. Why should it be any different for an angel?
- 35 **NICK:** Maybe.
- 36

CLIFTON: In fact. I figure if you walked right into heaven with all the answers, that would about make you perfect. As far as I know there's only one up there that's perfect.

NICK looks at him deep in thought.

But to answer your question. Sure. I can't say the thought hasn't crossed my mind. It has. Human nature, I guess. I always go back to what Gal taught me. When we had our first child, she called her the First Wonder of the World. Then, of course, came the second, third and fourth wonders of the world. There were times I thought those wonders of the world were going to put me in the poorhouse or send me to the funny farm but... in the end she was right. Gal always knew to be thankful. For those kids. For the bread on the table. For the home we lived in. For the time we had. It took me a while longer to catch on. That's all. I'm thankful that I finally have. I guess what I'm saying is, I get it now. Those kids were a gift. Gal was a gift. No less than that sunset there. I believe I still have that gift. Here. *(Touches his heart.)* And here. *(Points to his mind.)* And I know she's waiting for me up there. And that's the greatest gift of all. So I manage to get along without her here... *(Points to the empty seat beside him.)* ... for the time being.

NICK: So you believe the ones we leave behind are... okay?

CLIFTON: Okay? *(Pause.)* I miss her. Not a day goes by that I don't miss her mightily. I suppose you miss yours, too. *(Pause.)* Unless they're with you already?

NICK: No. They're not. And yes, I do. I miss them... mightily.

CLIFTON: That's a gift too, I think. Keeps them in our minds. Our hearts. Keeps them in our memories. Keeps them... alive. *(Pause.)* And I just know she still thinks about me up there. She does, don't you think?

NICK: She does. I'm sure she does.

1 **CLIFTON:** *(Pause.)* That's good... very good. *(Looks up as the*
2 *light fades even more.)* Well, there she goes. Another one in
3 the books. Nick, I... I guess I'd better be getting on. *(He rises.)*
4 These old eyes don't see so well in the dark any more.

5
6 *Offers a handshake to NICK who accepts.*

7
8 It was good to be with you today. I hope you find what you're
9 looking for.

10 **NICK:** What I'm looking for?

11 **CLIFTON:** Like I said, son, I'm old, not blind.

12 **NICK:** You know you're pretty wise for a... a person. You are just
13 a... person. Aren't you?

14 **CLIFTON:** *(Chuckles.)* That's all I am. Maybe I needed those
15 years... the years after Gal, to get it right. Like I said, some of
16 us need a little more time. We get some time down here and...
17 oh, I'll bet we get some time to figure things out up there, too.
18 *(Places his hand on NICK's shoulder.)* So you hang in there.

19 **NICK:** I will. I will.

20 **CLIFTON:** *(Turns to leave and then looks back.)* I always thought
21 Gal must have met lots of angels in her day. She just never
22 knew for sure who they were. *(He looks and points*
23 *heavenward and speaks to her.)* At least I've got that one up
24 on you! Don't I? *(Looks back at NICK, smiling.)* That'll get her
25 riled. You take care of yourself, Nick. *(Turns and starts off. As*
26 *he leaves.)* It was a good day today. Yes, sir. A good day.

27
28 *He exits, whistling as he goes and NICK sits and watches the final*
29 *rays of sunlight. FADE TO BLACK.*

ACT TWO, SCENE 2

AT START: *We are back to the church, where we see DAVE sitting on the sofa. JENNA is pacing back and forth behind the sofa and JACK COOPER, DAVE's best man, is pacing back and forth in front of the sofa. DAVE is now fully dressed in the tux, as is his best man. There is an open box of chocolates on the coffee table, which JACK manages to delve into occasionally. JACK is a large but soft-hearted man with a little bit of country in him. He looks at his watch. He appears very agitated.*

JACK: Dave. You know I love you man, but this is ridiculous. They're waiting to take pictures. The ceremony is less than an hour from now.

DAVE: I know!

JACK: Then why won't you get your tail up from that sofa and let's go!

JENNA: You can't go yet.

DAVE: I will. I will. When I'm ready.

JACK: *(Goes to sit next to him on the sofa. He is very animated. Foot tapping, hands gesturing, etc.)* Dave. I know you've been here for about... what? Six? Seven hours now? Would you mind telling me? Just as a courtesy to your... your best man, when you just might be ready? *(DAVE turns to look at JENNA.)* And will you stop doing that? *(JACK rises.)*

DAVE: What?

JACK: That! That looking around the room every time I ask you a question! It's like you're looking for somebody. Like there's a ghost in here or something.

JENNA: I am not a ghost!

JACK: It's really weird, man.

DAVE: I'm sorry. It's just a big day. That's all. Getting married. It's a big step. It could make anybody seem a little weird.

JACK: Yeah, I guess but you're taking it a little to the extreme, my man. I've got to tell you. *(Pause. He goes back and sits next to him.)* You are still planning on getting married. Right?

DAVE: Sure! Of course!

JACK: Because Abby is a terrific girl. You know that. Right?

- 1 **DAVE:** I know that.
- 2 **JACK:** I mean, if you two weren't... together, I'd sure... I mean, I
3 wouldn't... ever. You know. Get between my best friend and
4 his girl.
- 5 **DAVE:** I know that.
- 6 **JACK:** But wow, she is something else.
- 7 **DAVE:** She is terrific.
- 8 **JACK:** *(Pause.)* How would you feel about that?
- 9 **DAVE:** Feel about what?
- 10 **JACK:** I mean if you chicken out and call all of this off at the last
11 minute. She probably wouldn't be too happy about that.
- 12 **DAVE:** Jack.
- 13 **JACK:** No. I'm just saying. She'd probably dump you like a hot
14 potato. You know.
- 15 **DAVE:** She probably would.
- 16 **JACK:** So you're not going to chicken out? Are you?
- 17 **DAVE:** No. *(Pause.)* No. I'm not.
- 18 **JACK:** Oh. *(He seems almost disappointed. Suddenly he shifts*
19 *gears again as if he's forgotten all about his previous train of*
20 *thought. He rises and moves down right.)* Good! That's good!
21 You're not getting any younger you know. I'd hate to think I
22 dressed in this hangman's noose for nothing. *(He reaches up*
23 *and tries to loosen his collar.)*
- 24 **DAVE:** It's not that bad.
- 25 **JACK:** I hate ties, Dave. I hate them. *(He crosses behind the*
26 *sofa.)*
- 27 **DAVE:** I know.
- 28 **JACK:** I don't know who invented these things, but whoever it
29 was probably rolls over in his grave laughing every time one of
30 us dummies puts one of these things on.
- 31 **DAVE:** You're probably right.
- 32 **JACK:** I really hate these things.
- 33 **DAVE:** I know that.
- 34 **JACK:** It's all part of a government plot.
- 35 **DAVE:** What?
- 36 **JACK:** I'm telling you. *(DAVE stares at him quizzically.)* I don't
37 mean like the current administration or anything but believe
38 me, they're an extension of what started a long time ago.

1 **DAVE:** I'm lost.

2 **JACK:** (*Sits in armchair at left.*) Think about it. The government
3 is always wanting to create jobs. Right? Make something out
4 of nothing. Right? So here's this government inspector a
5 hundred, two hundred years ago, whenever they invented
6 these stupid things, he's walking through a clothing factory... he
7 sees all of these scraps lying on the floor. Garbage. Trash.
8 Right? Oh, no! No. Not to the government. Jobs!

9 **DAVE:** Jack.

10 **JACK:** No. No. Stick with me here. So this government guy
11 picks up a few scraps, winds them up into a kind of a rope,
12 wraps it around some poor stiff's neck and... ta da! The
13 necktie!

14 **DAVE:** The necktie.

15 **JACK:** And they've had us by the throat ever since!

16 **DAVE:** You always have had a unique way of looking at things,
17 Jack.

18 **JACK:** (*Holding the tie, he rises and moves behind the sofa.*) I
19 hate them!

20 **DAVE:** And I really appreciate that you're wearing one for the
21 wedding. I really do.

22 **JACK:** Anything for you, buddy. (*Behind DAVE now, he gives*
23 *him a pat on the shoulder.*)

24 **DAVE:** I do appreciate it.

25 **JACK:** Thanks. (*Moving up left.*) Hey. You remember when old
26 Bill got married?

27 **DAVE:** I remember.

28 **JACK:** That was some party. I tell you. The wedding ceremony
29 was too doggone long, but that was some reception. Catholic
30 wedding. (*Shakes his head.*) I got nothing against the
31 Catholics, mind you. They're good people, but man, they need
32 to shorten those wedding ceremonies.

33 **DAVE:** Jack. If it was up to you, the entire wedding ceremony
34 would be, "Do you take this man? Do you take this woman?
35 Let's go eat cake."

36 **JACK:** Wouldn't be anything wrong with that. It gets the job
37 done.

38 **DAVE:** Right.

- 1 **JACK:** Your groom's cake is chocolate, isn't it?
2 **DAVE:** Yes.
3 **JACK:** Because if I have to go through a whole wedding
4 ceremony as well as stand up, I at least deserve some
5 chocolate.
6 **DAVE:** It's chocolate.
7 **JACK:** That's good. So. Dave. What is the deal?
8 **DAVE:** The deal?
9 **JACK:** You know patience is not one of my virtues.
10 **DAVE:** That I know.
11 **JACK:** So why are we still sitting in here, man? It's not normal.
12 **DAVE:** There's no deal, Jack. I just can't go yet.
13 **JACK:** You've got to get this wedding thing over with, man. Just
14 think of it as a beautiful rainbow that you have to travel over
15 and at the end of that rainbow is a big pot of chocolate.
16 **DAVE:** There's a little more to it than that.
17 **JACK:** I'll grant you that. So let's get her done.
18 **DAVE:** I will. I just can't yet.
19 **JACK:** *(Pause and a big sigh as he thinks it over.)* All right. All
20 right, Dave. Look. I am the best man. Am I not?
21 **DAVE:** You are?
22 **JACK:** And as the best man I have certain responsibilities. You
23 have to agree with that. With me?
24 **DAVE:** I'm with you. But...
25 **JACK:** And one of my responsibilities is to make sure you get
26 where you're supposed to be, when you're supposed to be.
27 *(He moves a little closer to DAVE.)*
28 **DAVE:** Jack. What are you doing?
29 **JACK:** I've tried to be nice about this.
30
31 *JACK pushes DAVE up out of his chair and starts to remove his*
32 *jacket. The following is with much false bravado.*
33
34 **DAVE:** What are you doing?
35 **JACK:** *(Moving down right around the sofa.)* It's time, Dave.
36 Whether you like it or not. You are going out that door.
37 **DAVE:** I can't do that!

- 1 **JACK:** You can do that. You will. By physical force if necessary!
2 *(Throws the jacket down on the sofa with much bravado.)*
3 **DAVE:** *(At down left.)* Come on, Jack. What are you going to
4 do?
5 **JACK:** I'm going to carry you out there like a baby if I have to.
6 Even though I'm sure that would be quite embarrassing for
7 both of us.
8 **DAVE:** You can't do that.
9 **JENNA:** You can't leave, Dave.
10 **JACK:** I can! I've been working out. *(Makes a muscle.)* Look at
11 that. See that? Feel that?
12 **DAVE:** I'll pass.
13 **JACK:** Like steel!
14 **DAVE:** Good, Jack. That's great. But... *(Crosses toward the*
15 *door.)*
16 **JACK:** That's it. You just keep going. Right through that door
17 and this won't have to get ugly.
18 **DAVE:** Jack.
19 **JACK:** Okay. That's it! No more Mr. Nice Guy.
20
21 *JACK grabs DAVE and lifts him onto his shoulder. Immediately*
22 *we hear a knocking on the door and NATALIE's voice.*
23
24 **NATALIE:** I hope you're all dressed. I'm coming in!
25
26 *As soon as JACK hears her voice, he heads for the opposite side*
27 *of the room, taking DAVE with him. He looks more like a scared*
28 *little boy than a tough guy. He drops DAVE and whispers to him*
29 *as NATALIE enters.*
30
31 **JACK:** What is she doing here?
32 **NATALIE:** I told you I'd be back!
33 **JENNA:** Oh boy! Here we go again!
34 **DAVE:** I don't know.
35 **JACK:** Get her out of here!
36 **DAVE:** Look. Relax. I invited her to the wedding.
37 **JACK:** Invited her? You invited... her? That's like inviting
38 Hannibal Lecter over for dinner, Dave.

- 1 **JENNA:** (*Over DAVE's shoulder.*) That has turned out not to be
2 such a brilliant move on your part, Dave.
3 **DAVE:** But she's my ex.
4 **JACK:** Ex! (*Shapes an X with his hands.*) Ex! That's the
5 relevant term here, Dave. Ex!
6 **NATALIE:** Hello!
7 **JACK:** What does she want?
8 **DAVE:** I don't know. She's already been here once today.
9 **JACK:** She... She what? Is that what's wrong with you?
10 **NATALIE:** I said. Hello!
11 **DAVE:** I'll get rid of her.
12 **JACK:** (*Still keeping his back to her he grabs DAVE's lapel.*)
13 That woman scares me, Dave. Scares me!
14 **DAVE:** (*Crossing to her with JENNA in tow.*) What are you doing
15 here? Again?
16 **NATALIE:** It's nice to see you too. What a privilege it is to see
17 how... (*She peers over toward JACK.*) ...gentlemen act when a
18 lady enters the room.
19 **DAVE:** What do you want?
20 **NATALIE:** What do I want? I told you I'd be back, didn't I?
21 **JENNA:** She did tell you that, Dave.
22 **NATALIE:** And look. (*Reaches into her bag and pulls out a*
23 *disposable camera.*) I even brought this so I can record this
24 fiasco for posterity... (*Snaps a picture of DAVE.*) ...and for a
25 little "I told you so" later on.
26 **DAVE:** Nice!
27 **JENNA:** She is such a sweetheart.
28
29 *DAVE gives her a look.*
30
31 Really. I can totally see why you two hooked up.
32 **NATALIE:** Are you going to just stand there or are you going to
33 introduce me?
34 **DAVE:** Introduce you?
35
36 *For a moment DAVE is perplexed, wondering if she now sees*
37 *JENNA, but instead she points toward JACK.*
38

- 1 **DAVE:** *(Continued.)* Introduce you to Jack? You already know
2 Jack. My best man.
3
4 *JACK turns and waves at her. She stares at him with an*
5 *expression that is quickly turning to extreme dislike.*
6
7 **JACK:** Hello.
8 **NATALIE:** You!
9 **JACK:** Good... good to see you again.
10 **NATALIE:** You!
11
12 *She starts toward him and he starts to back up.*
13
14 **JACK:** Now, Nat...
15 **JENNA:** Ooh! Bad choice.
16 **NATALIE:** Don't you dare call me that you... you big lummoX!
17 **JACK:** Natalie! I meant Natalie!
18 **NATALIE:** *(To DAVE.)* How could you? How could you ask
19 this... person to be your best man? Again?
20 **DAVE:** He's my best friend!
21 **NATALIE:** He ruined my wedding day!
22 **JACK:** I think ruined is a little strong.
23
24 *NATALIE shoots him a look.*
25
26 Don't you think?
27 **NATALIE:** Strong? Strong!
28
29 *During the following, she advances on JACK, gesticulating angrily.*
30 *He dodges her, and JENNA, of course, follows along, observing*
31 *with great interest.*
32
33 **NATALIE:** *(Continued.)* What kind of a moron puts a box of
34 chocolates... not just any box of chocolates, mind you. No! A
35 five pound box of chocolates in the front seat of a car... the
36 passenger seat... in the middle of a one hundred degree
37 August afternoon?
38 **JACK:** Well, I...

- 1 **NATALIE:** (*Hushing him.*) No! No! Don't talk! And it wasn't just
2 any car, was it? It was the getaway car. Our getaway car!
- 3 **DAVE:** He was just trying to...
- 4 **NATALIE:** (*To DAVE.*) You stay out of this!
- 5 **NATALIE:** (*Still chasing him around the room. By the end of this*
6 *dialogue she catches him by the collar and gets directly in his*
7 *face.*) Do you have any idea what it feels like to come out of a
8 church in a beautiful wedding gown that cost a fortune and
9 climb into a car that's going to take me to my beautiful wedding
10 reception that also cost a fortune, and then plop down into a
11 five pound glob of melted chocolate goo???
- 12 **JACK:** I think you've described it to me a time or two. Quite
13 colorfully.
- 14 **NATALIE:** If I described it to you from now 'til the day I die it
15 wouldn't be enough! (*She lets him go.*)
- 16 **JACK:** I was only trying to...
- 17 **NATALIE:** I haven't been able to look at a piece of chocolate for
18 ten years.
- 19 **JACK:** Wow! I'm really sorry.
- 20 **NATALIE:** That doesn't even begin to describe what you are!
- 21 **DAVE:** All right! That's it! I can't take this anymore. I will not
22 take this anymore. I have a... a... delicate... psyche today and
23 you... (*Looks from NATALIE to JENNA.*) ...all of you are
24 messing with it!
- 25 **JENNA:** You go, Dave!
- 26 **NATALIE:** He ruined my wedding day!
- 27 **DAVE:** It was not your wedding day! It was our wedding day, and
28 he did not ruin it!
- 29 **NATALIE:** (*Crossing menacingly toward DAVE.*) I went to my
30 wedding reception looking and smelling like a cake ornament!
31 He ruined my dress!
- 32 **JENNA:** (*Crossing to DAVE. This has hit JENNA'S funny bone*
33 *and she has trouble controlling her giggling.*) I would have paid
34 money to see that.
- 35 **DAVE:** He was trying to do something nice.
- 36 **NATALIE:** Nice?
- 37 **DAVE:** Nice! A little misguided, but nice! Jack loves chocolate.
38 Right, Jack?



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