



# Angels

by John Waterhouse

# Characters

Rachel –	an Angel	30s
Daphne –	an Angel	30s
Simon –	an advertising executive	30s
Edward –	an advertising copy-writer	30s
Nicholas –	a neighbour	30s
Emily –	a neighbour	30s

Daphne and Rachel are two hard-working, guardian angels whose respective charges are both believed to be near the end of their lives. Rachel has been looking after a young woman who called Julie who, following a bad car crash, is in a coma and not expected to survive more than six months. Daphne

Rachel's charge is of an old man called Henry, irreversibly senile and not expected to live more than a few months. Rachel sees an opportunity for the two of them to have a few months 'holiday' living as humans.

The first thing to do is to change their angelic garments for tasty, modern clothing. Rachel suggests they simply raid Sarah's bedroom since neither she nor anyone else is going to miss anything.

The second item of their agenda is to get out meet people socially; something they have never been able to do as angels.

## Act One

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## Act Two.

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## **Act One Scene One - A Celestial meeting room.**

*The backdrop is fluffy clouds. RACHEL, dressed in angelic robes, is sat on one of two blocks, playing a harp. DAPHNE enters. Upon seeing her, RACHEL stops playing.*

**Daphne** – Oh, please don't stop; that was beautiful.

**Rachel** – Thank you. I am little out of practice.

**Daphne** – Nonsense. It sounded simply divine.

**Rachel** - Do you play yourself?

**Daphne** – Not really. I'm more of a horn player, myself.

**Rachel** – That must be useful when you have glad tidings to announce!

**Daphne** – Oh very. Do you use the harp much in your work?

**Rachel** – Occasionally. It can help create a very ephemeral atmosphere but it's a bit cumbersome to take round all the time.

*DAPHNE sits down on a block.*

**Daphne** – I can imagine. It's a pity that we're always associated with horns and harps. Wouldn't it be nice to make a sudden appearance to mortals playing a heavy metal riff on an electric guitar?

**Rachel** – Or a slide-trombone perhaps? Not quite a heavenly image, I'm afraid.

**Daphne** – Perhaps not. Have you got time off then?

**Rachel** – Well, sort off. I've been watching over a young woman and she had a bad crash in a skiing accident. It happened so quickly, there was nothing I could do to try to warn her! She lost a ski on a black run and slid down a slope, hitting her head on a rock!

**Daphne** – So what happened? Is she.....

**Rachel** –.....dead? Not quite. She's in a coma but it doesn't look good. The doctors have given her about six months.

**Daphne** – Oh, I see. So you've got a bit of time to kill. Funnily enough, I'm got a similar situation.

**Rachel** – Your charge has also had an accident?

**Daphne** – No, nothing like that. I've been looking after a man all his life and he's now very old. His mind has gone and he no longer knows who he is. There's nothing more they can do for him now but bodily, he's been given about six months.

**Rachel** – You could learn to play the harp in that time!

**Daphne** – Hmm. Maybe. Not sure it's really my thing though. (*laughs*) I had thought it might be amusing to adopt a human form for a few months.

**Rachel** – Yes, that would be different. Of course, you'd have the problem of providing yourself with clothes, money and a place to live

**Daphne** – I know. I don't suppose you could get a job on earth, utilising two millenniums' experience as an angel?

**Rachel** – Probably not and even if you did, you'd be breaking at least two of the divine laws of spiritual dynamics. If you were to adopt human form, it would have to be right down the line; no heavenly props I'm afraid.

**Daphne** – Oh well; it's a tempting prospect, even if not possible.

**Rachel** – I know what I'd do, if I really wanted to live as a human for a while.

**Daphne** – Go on, what?

**Rachel** – Well my charge, Julie, has a very comfortable, two bedroomed flat with wardrobes and drawers that are full of stylish clothes and accessories.

**Daphne** – Gosh. That would work...for both of us. But what would you do about money?

**Rachel** – Oh, that wouldn't be very difficult. I know that she didn't take all her bank cards on holiday and there's lots left in one particular account. I also happen to know the pin number so I could get all that I needed from the cash machine.

**Daphne** – That sounds great; so what's stopping you?

**Rachel** – Stopping me? I was just telling you how it could be done. I wasn't suggesting that it's what I'd like to do.

**Daphne** – No but you've explained how easily it could be done and if your charge is going to die in six months, none of it's going to be of any use to her, is it?

**Rachel** – Julie always was just a hedonistic materialist. She certainly never gave much away when she had the opportunity. Anyway, I happen to know that she's lots of clothes she's never worn; some of it not even been taken out of the packet!

**Daphne** – There you are! And we could buy some items ourselves in any case. I'm only talking for a few months. We'd be back at work well before we were missed. It's not as if an opportunity like this doesn't come up very often either.

**Rachel** – You're trying to get me into trouble now. The very thought of stealing off the very person you've been assigned to watch over!

**Daphne** – Well I know but it's not really stealing if the owner can never make any further use of their belongings. The clothes would most likely just get given to charity shops.

**Rachel** – I don't suppose a little money from Julie's bank account would ever be missed either. She has some very greedy siblings who're already well off!

**Daphne** – So what's the problem?

**Rachel** – I don't like the sound of this. I've always tried to do my job to the best of my ability.

**Daphne** – And you have done! It wasn't your fault that she suddenly crashed and hit her head on a rock!

**Rachel** – I know and you do make it sound tempting!

**Daphne** – Isn't it just!

**Rachel** – But you're an angel! You're not supposed to be trying to tempt people into doing bad things. That's *their* job!

**Daphne** – I know but I wouldn't call this bad; a bit naughty maybe.

**Rachel** – A bit naughty? I'd say it's a lot naughty.

**Daphne** – But you are tempted to do it, aren't you?

**Rachel** – I need to think about this.

**Daphne** – We could dress up in nice clothes, make ourselves up; maybe meet some nice men?

**Rachel** – All right, I'll do it.

**Daphne** – Great!