

"Assignment: Comfort And Joy!" Sample Pages #1
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Track One: Prolog: Voice of the angel narrator, Afriel: Well, here we are again, gathered together to celebrate the coming of the Lord into this old world. One thing most everyone enjoys this time of year is hearing a good Christmas story... and boy, have I got one for you. This story, like many of our favorites, takes place on Christmas Eve. Here, on the outskirts of a small country town, is a century-old church building, its stained glass windows brightly lit from within as worshippers gather for a candlelight service. The strains of joyful music echoes sweetly among the majestic cedars and weathered stones of the small cemetery adjacent to the church.

(Actions during the next paragraph.) Steven Carter enters from the back of the church and walks slowly up the aisle toward the front. He is carrying a Christmas wreath. He is dressed in a long coat. When he reaches the front, where the marker stone is located, he looks down for a moment, then places the wreath beside it. He kneels down and wipes some snow from the top of the stone. (Since it is obvious that this is a flat marker, there is no need to have a real marker or stone there, unless you just want one.) We see his lips silently move as he talks to her with a bowed head.

Narrator Afriel: Allow me to introduce to you Steven Carter, a man who is struggling to find the usual happiness of the season. The decorated wreath that he carries is not to adorn a door to a home, but the marker of his departed loved one... his wife, Emily Carter. Saying "hello, sweetheart," he told her how much he missed her, and wished he could see her again. His job at the radio station had seemed to lose some of its appeal since she was no longer listening to him at home. He expressed his doubts as to whether he was doing any good there, and if anyone was listening.

(Actions during the next paragraph.) Steven, kneeling down in front of the stone, talks as if his wife can hear him. But after a few moments, his head drops down, a hand on his brow as he sobs. But then, slowly walking onto the scene, we see the Presence of the Lord coming to him, and drawing beside him, lays a hand on his shoulder. He stays this way for several long moments, and comforts Steven. We hear part of the song "He's The Hand On My Shoulder" during this next part.

Narrator Afriel: Feeling more alone than he has ever felt, Steven is without even words to pray. But the Spirit of God knows what is in his heart, and his deepest needs are expressed by Him to the Father. He begins to understand that he is not left alone, for in his children's darkest hour, The Lord Jesus is there, as He promised He would be. (The song's words are heard here.) As his spirit becomes aware of the comforting presence of the Lord, Steven begins to come back from the brink of despair, and finds some words to pray. He tells the Lord that, although he knows his wife can't hear him now, he would like to make a special request that Jesus relay his message of love to his wife in Heaven.

(Actions during the next paragraph.) Steven stands, straighter than he was before. He looks toward the church, then raises his collar and begins to walk offstage, down through the audience toward the back... or off to one side and out of view if that stage is raised and only accessible from the side. The Lord walks with him, beside him, to the end of the stage, then stops and watches him go. As he watches Steven leave, the Lord turns to the side and beckons to someone as yet unseen. The angel, Afriel, comes onstage and walks to him with a rapid pace. When he reaches the Lord, he kneels with bowed head, and the Lord touches his shoulder, bidding him rise. Then they begin to walk and talk, strolling from one side of the stage to the other at a leisurely pace as friends would do. Stopping after a moment, the Lord produces a small scroll and hands it to the angel, who accepts it solemnly. Before they part, the Lord places a hand on the angel's shoulder in a solemn blessing, as Afriel bows his head for a

moment. The angel seems to grow stronger and infused with power, standing taller with a smile.

Narrator Afriel: As Steven left, The Lord beckoned me to join Him. I moved out of the stand of green myrtle trees where I had been watching. My name is Afriel, an angel in the army of God. Jesus, as the Commander-In-Chief of the Angelic Host, sends us to Earth to watch over his children, and Steven is who I am currently assigned to. Bidding me rise, He began to tell me of his next assignment for me. This one, as He explained it to me, was very special, in that it concerned helping a lost soul that needed help to find the way. The Lord's plan for helping her involved Stephen's ministry in such a way as to encourage him as well. The details of the plan were to be found in the assignment scroll he handed to me. With a touch of His nail-pierced hand, He imparted to me a special anointing to accomplish my task. I'm not high up in the angelic hierarchy; I'm not a warrior angel, just a messenger and minister. But my joy is no less than that of Gabriel or Michael when it comes to serving the King of Kings.

(Actions during the next paragraph.) The Lord gives the angel leave to go, and he does, bowing as he leaves. The Lord walks away, offstage, to the side, while the angel looks at the contents for a few moments. He then rolls it back up, tucks it in his sash, comes down to the front and goes through the main aisle toward the back. Thrilled with his assignment, the angel does some happy dance steps as he goes, a broad smile on his face.

Narrator Afriel: Everything begins with Jesus. He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, and this new adventure was no different. This was going to be an unforgettable Christmas Eve; for Steven, for me, and everyone he came into contact with tonight.

End of the prologue. As the attention is on the leaving angel, you can have a stage helper quickly come up and remove the wreath for the next scene.