

“Christmas Leads Us Home” Sample Pages #05

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Narrator (Grandpa): As Cassie lifted her head to greet her new life, the joy that overwhelmed mother and daughter cleansed away years of accumulated hurts and fears like a spring rain. She expressed to her mother her excitement over having actually went through with it, and they laughed together as they rejoiced for the rest of the evening. During the course of their long conversation, the first one they had enjoyed in many years, Trudy gave Cassie her personal Bible, and said it was a Christmas present. Cassie resisted taking it at first, knowing how important it was to her mother, but she insisted, saying that she was having trouble seeing the small print any more. She wanted her to have it, to help her to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord, and to benefit from her notes and underlined promises... many of which concerned her mother's prayers for her. At last, Cassie accepted it gratefully, and told her she would read it much, and treasure it forever. When at last it was time to go, as visiting hours were nearly over, she stood and promised her mother that she would come back as often as possible, and at least every weekend. She also told her to thank her friend Miss Jolene for her words of encouragement. With a final hug, she said her goodbyes, and left a changed person, starting a new walk with the Lord as her constant companion. One thing was for sure; this Christmas would be remembered as the first one she spent as a child of God, knowing the true joy of the season... by knowing the Savior whose birth it celebrates. Somehow she knew in her heart that whatever struggles she faced, she was no longer alone.

Actions during the next paragraph: *Trudy watches her daughter leave the room, then bows her head and clasps her hands under her chin as she thanks God silently for answering her prayer. She remains like this for a few moments, then when the narration is almost at the end of the paragraph, her head bows a little further over toward her lap as though nodding off, although she remains in the praying position.*

Narrator (Grandpa): Watching her daughter leave, Trudy felt happier over her than she had been the day she was born... for now she had been born again, and would be with her in heaven. Bowing her head, she prayed a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord and praised him for the wonderful Christmas present she had gotten this year. The emotion of the day's event had left her tired... and as she worshiped, her eyes became heavy with fatigue, and she seemed to hear echoing in her mind the voices of her departed loved ones... her mother, her father, and her husband. She hoped that when she went to bed, that she would also dream of Trent, but more than that, she hoped that she would see him again in heaven someday. She had never known if he read the Bible and tracts she gave him... never known if he was ready to meet the Lord when he was called suddenly into eternity. That Christmas visit was the last time she ever saw him... for only months afterward, he had been caught in the devastating explosion of a roadside car bomb. The question of his salvation and eternal destination had been the one unanswered question in her mind in all the years since. In the end, all she could do was leave it in God's hands and trust in Him to have answered her prayers. For now, it was enough that the prodigal had returned.

Note: *What happens in the next paragraph needs no verbal description; it is carried by the music.*

Actions during the next section of music: *Her friend Miss Jolene comes in, excited to see what has happened with Cassie. She sees Trudy praying, hesitates a moment, then knocks lightly at the door. When Trudy fails to respond, she knocks a little louder, but there is still no response. She steps into the room, calling her name, but when Trudy doesn't move, she hurries over to her, and touches her shoulder with concern. At this, Trudy's head slumps a little more, to the side, and her hands fall down into her lap. Alarmed, Miss Jolene puts a hand to her mouth, and rushes out of the room to go get help.*

Actions during the next paragraph: *As she goes, she passes three people coming into the room without even seeing them. They are some of the people that was saw at the party in the flashback, all*

wearing the same clothes as they did in her memories. Her mother, her father, her husband, all come in and gather around her. Her husband touches Trudy on the shoulder, and she wakes up, looking around at them in wonder. She thinks she is dreaming, as she greets each one of them with a smile and a hug. Her father helps her to stand, as she struggles to get out of the chair.

Narrator (Grandpa): As Miss Jolene hurried off to get help for her friend, we gathered around Trudy and made our presence known. Looking up and blinking in surprise at seeing us, Trudy assumed it was another dream as she greeted Jack, to whom she had been married for over 40 years before his heart attack. Then her mother drew close to her, who had passed over nearly 15 years ago from the same disease that was now claiming her daughter. And finally, she smiled and greeted me, her father, with a warm embrace. I explained that we had come to take her home, but she shook her head and said that she was not well enough to go. I assured her that she would never be better than she was right now, and held out my hand to her, encouraging her to stand.

Actions during the next section of music: *As Trudy stands with difficulty, she then takes a hesitant step as she holds her father's hand. Then as if realizing she is no longer weak, straightens, and takes another one more confidently, letting go of his hand as the music swells. Another step, and another, as she smiles in happiness. She jumps a little, then jumps again higher, and does a graceful spin as if dancing. Everyone is smiling broadly as they watch her.*

Actions during the next paragraph: *Trudy begins to hurry toward the door to tell her friend Miss Jolene, but she is stopped when her mother tells her she can't. Her mother leads her around to face the front of the stage and indicates for her to look off in the distance. The others gather around her on each side and watch as her son Trent make his way up the aisle from the back of the room --through where the audience is sitting. When Trudy glimpses her son, her mouth opens in shock, then she hurries down to meet him halfway as the music swells.*

Narrator (Grandpa): As we watched Trudy discover that she was no longer infirm or weak, she suddenly exclaimed that she must find her friend Jolene and tell her the good news. Her mother explained that we were no longer in the nursing home... this was just a place to help her make the transition, but now we were going to take her, not to her earthly home, but to her Heavenly home. As the reality of the situation began to sink in, her mother gently guided her to the front of the room, the wall of which by now had faded away, opening up onto a bright heavenly vista that went on for miles. Her eyes lit upon a familiar solitary figure coming down a flower-lined path... one that she recognized at once. As she hurried down the trail to greet her son, forgetting that she had not run so freely in years, her heart was overflowing with love and gratitude that God had answered her prayer.

Actions during the next section of music: *As they meet in the middle, down off the stage near the front of the aisle, they run into each other's arms and hold each other while sobbing with joy. The others come down behind Trudy, and when they get to them, surround them and join in the embrace.*

Actions during the next paragraph: *The ones that have come to greet her now draw to the side, facing the back of the church or place of performance, in the direction that the son had come from. The son lifts a hand to indicate the city in the distance, and he offers her his arm. She takes it, and they all begin walking down the aisle toward the back exit, smiling as they go. Trudy gets a thought and speaks to the others about going home for Christmas, to which they nod in agreement, and they walk the rest of the way out as the music swells and concludes the play.*

Narrator (Grandpa): As we finally turned, and started to guide her back down the pathway toward the golden city shining in the distance, she knew that the next stop would be to see the Lord, where we would all rejoice together until her other loved ones arrived... which now included her daughter. She realized suddenly, and told us all with joy, that she would, indeed... *be going home for Christmas, after all.*