

“Assignment: Comfort And Joy” Sample Pages #2

Track 2: (AT THE MOTEL, INTRODUCTION TO DIANE)

*(Actions during the next paragraph.) The Diane Warren character comes on stage with a friend. Both she and the friend have some shopping bags in their hands, which they set down on the table. The set is that of a hotel room; at the least, a comfortable chair, an end table with lamp. There is also a small dining table with a couple of chairs. They take off their coats and put them on a chair, then they sit down at the table as they talk together. The angel walks up to the stage and watches from the sidelines.*

Narrator Afriel: One of the great things about being an angel is that we are not limited by time and space. We can travel anywhere we need to go at the speed of thought. It's time to get busy in the life of another that the Lord's plans included in this night's work, and I've just popped in a room at an old hotel on the main highway passing through this little country town. Coming into the room is Diane Warren, an executive at a graphic design firm in New York who has returned, under stressful circumstances, to her old home town for the holidays. With her is a friend she has known since childhood, and they are returning from some down-to-the-wire last-minute shopping that her friend needed to do, and invited her to come along. I've studied Diane's file, and let me tell you, heaven's files are thorough and detailed. Her recent divorce from a husband who was a philanderer, who had been recently arrested for tax evasion, has demoralised and depressed her, and she is feeling the effects of a life devoted to getting ahead, but neglecting the spiritual. She commented that she felt as if she was in the middle of a raging storm that was threatening to destroy her. She hoped that just being back in the town where she grew up would quiet the turmoil that she felt inside. Her friend Susan observed that staying in a hotel room is a terrible way to spend Christmas... then she had an idea that brightened her up.

*(Actions during the next paragraph.) Standing up and moving to retrieve a box from a large bag, she brought it to the table and opened it. It is a small artificial Christmas tree, which she puts in the stand. She also brings out a box of ornaments and places them beside the tree. Diane smiles wistfully as the friend explains why she brought it. Diane motions for her to sit with her, and as they do, the friend questions her about her love life. When she makes a misstep that seems to be an unintended insult, Diane suddenly looks disturbed, so her friend looks at her watch and moves to get up.*

Narrator Afriel: Moving to the largest bag she had brought in, Susan reached in to bring out a tiny artificial Christmas tree and a box of ornaments. She told Diane that she wanted to make sure that, if she insisted on staying by herself, at least she would have something to make her feel like it was Christmas. Shaking her head with a small smile, Diane thanked her, and motioned for her to sit down for a moment. Susan wondered if Diane remembered her old high school flame, Steven Carter. At the mention of the name, she winced as she remembered with regret how they parted. She had told Steven that she wanted a more exciting life than he could ever offer her. She had said that his Christianity was a drag, and that he would never get ahead by being content where he was. Now she was beginning to realise that chasing success and money had brought her nothing but misery. She wondered what Steven was doing now. Susan said that he had married years ago, but he lost his wife in an auto accident a little over a year ago. Diane was saddened to hear this tragic news, and her heart went out in sympathy to him. Encouraging Diane to go see him, or at least call, the friend said that she was sure he would like to hear from her. Diane wryly mused that Susan was quite a matchmaker from someone that had never tied the knot herself. Laughing, she responded that she was content, and glad to avoid all the drama she saw in her married friends lives. She caught herself when she noticed the funny look on Diane's face, and she apologised, saying she didn't mean that, but the right guy had not come along yet. If he did, she would be open to it. Realising she might be making Diane feel worse, Susan looked at her watch and began to get up to go.

*(Actions during the next paragraph.) Standing, her friend explains why she needs to go soon. She moves to put on her coat, and they talk as she buttons up and moves to the door. After inviting her to go home with her again, the friend gives Diane a warm hug, and leaves. As she closes the door behind her, Diane walks over to pick up the remote and switches on the TV. She then sits down at the table, half-heartedly putting some ornaments on the tiny tree as the TV plays.*

Narrator Afriel: As she prepared to go out into the cold evening weather, Susan explained that her mother would be cooking the biggest dinner of the year, and she really should be there to help her. She then made another attempt to invite Diane to come home with her, saying that her parents would be happy if she brought home an old friend for Christmas dinner. Diane politely declined, and said to go on, not to worry about her, she would be just fine. Not convinced by Diane's words, she told her that things will get better. Seeing her friend to the door, Diane faked a smile that she didn't feel, returning the hug that is given. Closing the door behind her with a sigh, Diane went over to retrieve the motel's TV remote. Sitting down, she flipped on the TV, then leaned back resignedly to while away the hours with the old Christmas movies playing all evening.

*(NOTE: We hear the TV playing a Christmas special here as the scene is hidden when the angel or stage hand pulls the curtain over that side of the stage.)*