

Angels-in-Training - TV Series
Episode 7, "Heart of Hope"
By Debbie Johnson

Copyright April, 2010, updated 2021
WGAW Registration No. Pending
Registered (date pending)
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RULES for Angels:

1. The audience always knows what the angels are doing, whether on earth or in heaven. They see the light or hear the sound accompanying the angel's entrance and, if it happens before the scene ends, their exit. Angels may appear or disappear in a blaze of light, surrounded by a soft light, or a halo, as long as the earthlings (characters) don't see this. The light around the angels fades as they begin their scene. The angels may also appear or leave with an uplifting sound, such as glockenspiel, harp, or flute notes.
2. Angels may or may not be seen or recognized by earthlings they've helped more than once per angel's or supervisor's prerogative. Audience will always recognize them.
3. Angels can communicate with their SUPERVISOR (Head Angel), or anyone in heaven at any time, though we usually don't hear these communications. If we do, they are in voiceover. If they are on earth, they may simply hear Head Angel's voice without seeing him or her, and the audience hears this voice as well. On occasion we may hear the voice of the "Boss" (God).
4. Earthlings (characters) are especially prone to open up to the angels immediately, as if they are meeting a long lost friend, even if they've never seen them before. When they see them the second time, it's assured they will "spill" whatever they need to in order for the angel to be able to give advice.
5. Whatever talent or skill is required in the angel's temporary earthly roles; they know how to do it immediately. All knowledge or skill is simply there within their minds and bodies.

6. Angels can hear the angel animals talking, but the humans (characters) can't.

THE GROVE is the setting the angels work from in heaven or whatever you want to call that plane of existence for Souls after death. Different park-like scenes or nature, it can also be a beautiful garden with comfortable-looking lawn furniture, all in very light colors. It's an area of heaven, where angels-in-training live and learn. It's also always daylight, and has beautiful surroundings

EACH EPISODE begins with HEAD ANGEL introducing concept to audience, segments from pilot showing TANYA and JACK arguing, having car accident, walking through tunnel into the light, and talking with SAMUEL in THE GROVE, as intro music plays and credits roll.

FADE IN

Introductory Scenes from Pilot shown at the beginning of each episode with V.O. by current HEAD ANGEL:

JACK: In his forties, medium height and build, brown hair, a bit bratty looking, but handsome, often insensitive to other's feelings, mostly lives in his own world - but underneath it all, has potential for kindness which reveals itself occasionally

TANYA: Attractive, forties, medium-build dark blonde or with bright eyes and fair skin, sensitive-looking, unconscious control freak, overly positive to the point of nausea at times! Overly nice and forgiving, definitely a people-pleaser.

HEAD ANGEL, SAMUEL: Tall, strong or fit black man, looks to be middle-aged, dressed smartly in white and looking official but friendly with warm, loving smile. Firm, but caring. Can also be sarcastic at times, but with humor.

B-roll - images of heavenly clouds or scene during following V.O.

**SEE SCREENER OF EPISODE 2 (third film): "DATING ANGELS" for
EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO DO - CAN BE LIKE THE
FOLLOWING:**

SAMUEL - V.O.

(To audience)

Would you like to know how I
came to have two angels-in-
training under my training?
Before they got their wings
and I began to work with
them, they were under Head
Angel, Catherine.

(while all scene-segments run until INTRO
FOOTAGE, next)

CATHERINE

JACK and TANYA got fed up
with each other and wondered
if they should leave. Then
they did get to leave, the
Earth, that is. Now that you
have to deal with each other
for a way longer time than
either of them ever thought
possible; as angels-in-
training.

Then in THE GROVE scene segment, we hear SAMUEL speak to
TANYA and JACK;

CATHERINE

Okay, you two are scheduled
for Angels-In-Training Class
beginning just about now.
You'll be working with
couples on Earth who have
problems very similar to
yours. Your job is to help
people learn unconditional

love for others as well as
themselves. In the process of
observing, listening to them,
and making suggestions,
you'll learn more about your
own problems and maybe even
get a little spiritual growth
out of it.

CATHERINE
(To audience)
And so, their education continues...

CAMERA ZOOMS IN ON EARTH

Act 1, Scene 1 to JADE'S HOUSE, (INT), BEDROOM, NIGHT

REED - Handsome Caucasian man, 40's, very independent and
intelligent, but sensitive, kind of a rebel, elementary
school teacher. Likes to make bad jokes/puns.

REED is on the phone with his friend HOPE.

REED
That's it! I've had it! I'm
not getting involved with the
female species ever again!

REED pauses for answer.

REED
Well, of course I still love
you HOPE, and your cat is
safe, don't worry. I still
love CHLOE, too. I'm just so
mad!
(pause)
Okay, it's a date. We'll talk
after Zumba tomorrow. So I
won't "zum" past you.

REED pauses for response, then grinning:

REED

Sorry, I couldn't help it.

Act 1, Scene 2

THE GROVE

TANYA

JACK

MIGUEL- Substitute Angel Supervisor/Instructor, Latino.

JACK and MIGUEL are wearing baseball gloves, tossing a baseball back and forth, catching most of them.

JACK

Wow, am I glad I'm finally
not the only sports fiend
around!

MIGUEL

Yeah, that can get old, man.
But remember, I'm only
temporary till SAMUEL gets
back from his advanced
classes.

JACK groans and tosses the ball to MIGUEL.

MIGUEL

Hey, no big deal; you're
always learning wherever
you're planted, or in this
case, *lifted-up to*.

MIGUEL smirks as he tosses the ball back.

MIGUEL

Hey, in my last assignment
here I had to get stuck with
my old high-school buddy!

JACK

What's so bad about that?

MIGUEL

When we were on earth, he
stole my girlfriend!

JACK
No way, man!

JACK sends the ball back.

MIGUEL
Yeah, it wasn't pretty at
first, but then I figured it
out. If I didn't forgive him,
I was gonna be stuck with him
forever!

TANYA walks up as MIGUEL says his last sentence about
forgiving.

TANYA
That's such a great thing to
do, MIGUEL. I wonder if that
lesson will apply to our
newest hopefuls.

MIGUEL throws the ball back to JACK.

MIGUEL
Well, you're gonna find out
soon.

Act 1, Scene 3

HEALTH STUDIO/FITNESS CENTER (INT.), EARLY MORNING

HOPE - Hispanic woman in her 40's, very feminine,
compassionate, and open-minded - elementary teacher
REED

ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR - male or female

ZUMBA CLASS - EXTRAS, both male and female

HOPE and REED are finishing stretches to music for about
two seconds. ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR dismisses class. They start
to walk out, wiping sweat off their necks and faces, but
HOPE stops REED to talk. As they sit on a bench outside the

entrance to the class, and HOPE picks up her water bottle, drinking from it after REED starts talking:

HOPE

Okay, what's going on with
you, mi amigo?

REED

(taking a deep breath)
What is it about women that
make me want to go running in
the other direction?

HOPE practically spits out water as she
laughs.

HOPE

Well, I do have an answer for
that, but first, are you sure
you want to keep me as your
sister. I am a female you
know!

REED

Oh, sorry. I just think of
you as my sister now, even
though we adopted each other
as adults. I'm so glad we
did, too, or I wouldn't get
to talk with anyone like I do
with you.

HOPE

Okay, why don't you tell me
what happened with you and
JADE?

REED is sipping water as HOPE finishes talking. REED,
putting down his water bottle:

REED

Well, it started a long time
ago, before I ever knew JADE,
when and I was married. My
wife, you know, Cassandra,
kept spending my money, using

my credit cards for things
she was never going to use.

HOPE
Never?

REED
Well, she used some things
once. Like one year, she
bought a super expensive
digital camera, took a few
pictures; then bought an
iphone. You know what happens
next.

HOPE putting down her water bottle she's
been drinking from.

HOPE
Oh yeah, she took all her
pictures with her iphone,
right?

REED
Right! Next, she buys a top-
notch, very spendy computer
system, saying she's gonna
start a home business on
computer. Never happened.

HOPE
Using your money still?

REED
You got it.

HOPE
Ouch!

REED
Yeah, I needed a
really big band-aid
for that one!
But here's the worst part: If
I wanted something like a new
video game, which is a lot
less expensive than what she

was buying, she thought I was
splurging!

REED picks up his water bottle, looking at
it with disdain, then lifting it in the air
for emphasis.

REED

Now I have the same grief
with JADE. She's been buying
all kinds of new clothes,
saying she needs them for
work, but when I told her I
was looking for new tires,
she told me how important it
was to be frugal in this
economy. Can you imagine
that? We're talking safety
here!

HOPE

So, you've *had* it.

REED

Oh yeah! And last night she
said I was crazy to want to
spend a hundred and ninety
dollars on some really good
athletic shoes. These . . .

REED, pointing at his feet:

REED

. . . are broken down and my
body feels it. So her clothes
are more important than my
health and safety? I don't
think so, not anymore. She
and her clothes are history!

HOPE

Well, I'm with you on this
one big brother. But before
you leap into the next
relationship, I've got a book

you might like to read that
will help you understand
yourself and women a little
better. It really helps me
even in business.
Let's go sit outside and get
out of this stale air.

REED

Oh, you mean you don't like
the scent of fresh sweat?

HOPE gives REED a light punch on the arm, laughing lightly,
then grinning:

HOPE

I'm so glad you adopted me.
Now I can really give you a
hard time!

REED

Oh yeah? Just wait till you
see what I can dish out,
little sister!

Act 1, Scene 4

HEALTH STUDIO/FITNESS CENTER (EXT), EARLY MORNING

HOPE

REED

JACK

HOPE and REED are sitting on bench, drinking water.

REED

So, how about finding me a
book that helps me get why
the women in *my* life - with
the exception of you, of
course - think they're so
much more important than me!

HOPE

Well...that would be a book on
past lives.

REED
Yeah, right!

HOPE
I *am* right! And I can prove
it! Think about your
relationship with JADE and
how it makes you feel.

REED
That's easy . . . like a
lowly servant.

HOPE
Okay, so can you imagine the
possibility that you might
have actually been her slave
or something in a past life?

JACK walks by in a workout suit just as HOPE says "past
life."

JACK
Whoa, did I just hear you say
"past lives"?

HOPE looks up at JACK with
surprise, raising her
eyebrows.

JACK
Sorry, I know I'm butting in,
but it's so rare to hear
people talk about
reincarnation, and I really
believe it's true!

HOPE
Good; in that case you can
back me up. I've been trying
to get my brother to see how
important that is to

understanding difficult
relationships.

JACK, sitting down with HOPE and REED:

JACK
Oh yeah, I love this stuff!

(thinking, voiceover)
*MIGUEL, a little help here,
please*

TANYA, also in workout clothing, walks over
and sits down by JACK, taking his hand.

TANYA
Hi honey! What are we talking
about that you love? Besides
me, of course. (giggling)

JACK
Oh, just past lives.

TANYA
Oh that! One of my favorite
subjects, too.

Act 2, Scene 1

FLASHBACK, PAST LIFE, Dirt Road, (EXT), morning, clear of
anyone.

JADE as medieval landowner, wealthy-looking clothes, sharp
tongue, overbearing and egotistic.

REED as serf - humble, dressed in ragged clothing

JADE walks one way on dirt road, REED walks another, toward
JADE. She stops and waits for him to take a few steps to
reach her. He appears fearful, head down and trembling a
bit. JADE crosses her arms and looks angry.

JADE

What are you doing out this
time of day?

REED

I'm sorry, m'lady. I was
going into town to get a tool
we need to finish the work
you gave us.

JADE

Do that on your own time,
peasant!

REED turns around to return home.

REED

Y...yes m'lady.

Act 2, Scene 3

HEALTH STUDIO/FITNESS CENTER (EXT), EARLY MORNING

HOPE

REED

JACK

TANYA

HOPE and REED are sitting on bench with JACK and TANYA.

REED

Wow, I just had this amazing
vision! It seemed like I was
a servant of JADE'S in
medieval times. She was
really mean.

TANYA

I hope it's okay if I jumping
here, but you know, the
interesting thing is that
sometimes we were the mean
ones. Then we have to
experience the other side of
the coin. I believe it's
called karma.

REED fiddling with his water bottle, looking a bit disturbed.

REED

Mmmm . . . I can see how that might have happened. I do have a temper sometimes. And I don't know why, since I don't even know you, but I trust you guys.

HOPE has been listening intently, drinking water and waiting patiently.

TANYA

It amazes me how very closely past lives can relate to this one. For example, my husband loves sports in this life because he used to be a pro athlete in a past life. He just discovered that. It's helped me so much to understand him better.

JACK smiles at TANYA and squeezes TANYA'S hand.

JACK

And you are doing really well at understanding me, sweetheart.

REED

I don't think I ever want to understand JADE better.

TANYA

Don't you think that would help you understand yourself better, too?

REED

I don't know . . . it's pretty hard to see that side of myself. And she's been such a witch to me.

JACK

I know how you must feel. But
what if she's had it pretty
rough in *this* life,
especially compared to her
last one of luxury? What if
she's just trying to cope?
(voiceover)
Am I really saying this?

MIGUEL

(voiceover)
Keep going; you're doing
great!

REED

(thinking about it)
Oh, I think I see what you
mean, because *I'm* sure trying
to cope. I guess I don't
always do things that make
sense either. But I'm still
mad at her!

JACK

(laughing)
I know how you feel! Just
give yourself some time.
You'll find a way to forgive
her. But that doesn't mean
you need to keep a
relationship with her.

TANYA, looking mock-worried:

TANYA

That better not apply to me
and you!

EVERYONE laughs.

Act 3, Scene 1

HOPE'S APARTMENT, LATE AFTERNOON (INT), LIVING ROOM

HOPE

HOPE is on the phone with her friend ABBY, who is ill. ABBY looks about to cry.

HOPE

Oh no, it can't be that bad.
You've been doing everything
right! I just can't believe
this!

(pause)

I'm coming over tomorrow
after I'm done at school and
we'll talk about it.

Act 3, Scene 2

ABBY'S HOUSE, (EXT), LATE AFTERNOON, BACK YARD or DECK

ABBY - Same age as HOPE, white woman, easy to be around,
laughs at self readily.

HOPE

ABBY and HOPE are sitting on patio furniture, sipping iced
tea. ABBY sighs deeply:

ABBY

Yup, it's true. This is where
the truth shines out . . .
when I find out who my real
friends are.

ABBY picks up her tea and salutes HOPE with
it, like a toast.

HOPE, wiping away tears:

HOPE

Well, it's a heck of a way to
do it!

ABBY

(laughing)

Hey, it's not like I picked
this method!

HOPE
Sorry, I didn't mean that.

HOPE drinks some tea as ABBY speaks last line
said with a smile and raise of eyebrows.

ABBY
You know I haven't changed,
HOPE, even if I *am* dying. I
still think I can laugh at
myself and life . . . or
death.
Hey, if the angel of death
looks as good as he did on
that Touched by an Angel show,
I'm all for it!

HOPE
You are still silly, even unto
the end! So, let's get down to
business. Am I or am I not
going to be your constant
companion for that last
hurrah?

ABBY
You are. I wouldn't have
anyone else playing nurse-maid
to me in my hour of need. But
will you be okay with it?

ABBY shift in her chair, a bit uncomfortable,
maybe in pain, then picks up her tea.

HOPE
Well, you couldn't have timed
it more perfectly . . . or was
that our friend in Heaven? My
summer break starts in two
weeks. I'm assuming you will
be kind enough to stay strong
until then?

ABBY

You've got it. And I know it
will be a great comfort to
AARON for you to be here with
me. I wish he could be here
more, but the medical bills
won't let him stop working.

HOPE, standing, up picking up her ice tea
glass, then reaching to pick up ABBY's:

HOPE
I'll do everything I can
before and after school hours
starting right now.

HOPE stands up and picks up her ice tea
glass, then reaches to pick up ABBY's.

ABBY grabs HOPE's hand and squeezes it,
looking lovingly at her with a sad smile.

Act 3, Scene 3

ABBY'S HOUSE, (INT) EVENING, DINING ROOM TABLE

HOPE

ABBY

AARON - ABBY'S husband, construction manager. Hispanic,
warm, open and loving. Very generous and caring, but
absent-minded due to his strong mental focus (like
Einstein).

HOPE finishes serving dinner with AARON'S help as ABBY sits
down at the table. AARON with a warm look to HOPE:

AARON
HOPE, thank you so much for
being here when we need you
most.

HOPE looking a bit embarrassed, ducks her
head:

HOPE

You're very welcome. It's the least I can do for such good friends. You've always been there for me, now it's my turn to help you.

AARON begins to eat while the women talk.

ABBY, putting her napkin in her lap, and leaning toward HOPE:

ABBY

Okay, let's talk about something fun. Who's the new guy in your life, HOPE?

HOPE putting her napkin in her lap and picking up her fork:

HOPE

No new guys. But you know my friend REED, who teaches, too?

ABBY animated now, smiling, teasing:

ABBY

Oh, yes! Are you dating now?

HOPE

No. It's really cool, though. We've become such good friends; we decided to adopt each other!

ABBY, looking confused, puts her fork down:

ABBY

Really? Why?

HOPE

Well, you know how I don't have any immediate family left? He doesn't either. No brothers, no sisters, no mom or dad. We just like each other as friends, no

chemistry there. Plus he just
got divorced two years ago,
then broke up with his
girlfriend recently. He
decided to take a year hiatus
from all romantic
relationships.

We're going to learn together
and teach each other
everything we know about how
to communicate better with
the opposite sex. And we're
having so much fun! He was
even willing to embarrass
himself by taking Zumba with
me! (laughing)

AARON

He sounds like a really cool
guy. I'd like to meet him
sometime. Bring him over next
time we have dinner.

HOPE, pointing her fork at AARON:

HOPE

Okay, it's a deal.

Act 4, Scene 1

SCHOOL where HOPE and REED teach. (INT) TEACHER'S LOUNGE,
AFTERNOON

HOPE

REED

ONE TEACHER, EXTRA

HOPE and REED fill coffee mugs and go to sit at a table,
with papers stacked in front of them. ONE TEACHER (EXTRA)
sits at another table, grading papers and drinking coffee.

HOPE

So, how did your kids do on
their standards?

HOPE takes a sip of coffee.

REED, putting his cup down:

REED
It doesn't look good, but I
think at least they passed.

HOPE
Sounds like *your life* lately.

REED
Hey! Watch it!

HOPE, lifting her cup in a salute, then
takes a sip after speaking:

HOPE
Little sister privilege. I
get to tease you mercilessly,
right?

REED
Sure, as long as I can tease
you back!

HOPE grinning like she's ready to tease him
again.

HOPE
HMMMM . . . Within reason,
remember I'm the little
sister. You have to be nice
to me.

So how did it go with JADE
yesterday?

REED
(big sigh)
I let her know I needed some
time to think about things.

HOPE
You're kidding, right?

REED

Nope, that's what I said. You
know me, ever-direct REED.
Ha, Ha.

HOPE

Yes, I do know you, and I
still love you anyway!

REED

Gee, thanks.

HOPE

Let's get together later. I
need your advice, too. I have
a secret to share that I've
never told *anyone*.

REED

Hmmm; sounds intriguing. Are
you cooking?

HOPE

Of course.

REED

It's a deal.

Act 4, Scene 2

HOPE'S HOME, (INT), EVENING, KITCHEN

HOPE

REED

HOPE is finishing a stir-fry in a wok on the stove and REED is getting some iced-tea out of the refrigerator, pouring glasses of tea while HOPE dishes out the meal onto their plates as they begin to talk.

REED

So, what's the big secret,
sis?

HOPE

This is a biggie, so I'm
trusting you not to tease me
about it, okay?

REED pulling out a chair and sitting at
kitchen table:

REED

You got it.

HOPE, setting plates at table and sitting
down:

HOPE

You don't really know my
friends ABBY and AARON,
except what I've told you,
right?

REED mouth full, talking around his food.

REED

Right.

REED swallows.

REED

By the way, this is really
good stir fry! Not like I
expected anything less from
you, of course!

HOPE

Okay, so Abby is a great
friend and I love her dearly.
But she's not always so great
to Aaron, and it hurts me to
see that.

REED

That's the secret?

HOPE, playing with her food, looking down.

HOPE

No, the secret is that I love
Aaron, too, but in a
different way. I always have,
and I don't really know why.

REED takes a deep breath, and lets it out.

REED

Wow, that *is* a big secret. I
won't say anything; don't
worry. Why do you think that
is?

HOPE

I think, like everything,
it's from past lives. I felt
this way the instant I met
him, and I've hidden it ever
since then. I love Abby, too,
like I said, and I would
never hurt her for the world.

HOPE pauses, takes a drink of iced tea. As
she crumples her napkin:

HOPE

Thanks for letting me tell
you, REED. It's been hard to
carry this burden for so
long.

REED taking HOPE'S hand:

REED

I'm here for you, HOPE.

Act 4, Scene 3

THE GROVE

JACK
MIGUEL
TANYA

JACK and MIGUEL are shooting hoops through a white
basketball hoop that looks like a halo.

JACK, as he attempts a shot and misses:

JACK

I wish that hoop would quit
glaring at me when I miss. Or
maybe it's trying to
encourage me?

MIGUEL, laughing, intercepts the ball.

MIGUEL
God's love is a mysterious
thing, yeah?

MIGUEL shoots a perfect basket. JACK smirks
playfully at him, then grabs the ball and
dribbling:

JACK
So, things are really
heating up for HOPE. I wonder
how REED will help her.

MIGUEL, grabbing the ball back:

MIGUEL
Oh, it's gonna be
interesting. He'll be the
connecting link, and his
weakness will be his
strength.

MIGUEL shoots another perfect basket.

MIGUEL
By the way, just *imagine* the
ball will go through the hoop
and it will.

JACK
Really! I'll try it.

JACK makes a perfect shot.

JACK
Imagination works really fast
here, doesn't it?

MIGUEL
(grinning)
You bet. Now all you have to
do is use it for the right

things, like getting to the
next level of heaven.

JACK raises his eyebrows and then smiles.

Act 4, Scene 4

HEALTH CLUB, ZUMBA CLASS (INT), EARLY MORNING

JACK

HOPE

REED

ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR

VARIOUS EXTRAS, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, IN ZUMBA ATTIRE

ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR getting music ready to begin class as JACK
walks in. REED and HOPE standing together; HOPE notices
JACK walk up to them.

HOPE

Hi JACK, how's it going?

JACK

Great. It's wonderful just to
be alive!

HOPE

I know what you mean. Some
days are like that, but today
not so much for me.

JACK

What's going on?

HOPE

Maybe we can talk after class
. . . looks like we're
getting ready to start.

ZUMBA instructor clapping his/her hands,
loud Latino music starting up:

ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR

Let's go kids!

JACK

Okay.

Act 4, Scene 5

HEALTH CLUB, ZUMBA CLASS (INT), EARLY MORNING

JACK

HOPE

REED

ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR

VARIOUS EXTRAS, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, IN ZUMBA ATTIRE

Class ends. INSTRUCTOR leads last stretch. Can be arm stretches to keep it simple.

ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR
Thank you everyone!

ZUMBA CLASS claps.

JACK, HOPE, and REED walk out of class to bench outside, carrying water bottles. HOPE sits in the middle, with JACK and REED on either side. They are all sipping water on and off.

HOPE
I'm sure glad it's Saturday!
No scrambling.

JACK
Yeah, it's great not to have
to rush to work.

JACK taking a sip of water, almost chokes as
TANYA speaks to him:

TANYA
(voiceover)
You can say that again!

JACK
(grinning)
So, what did you want to ask
me, HOPE?

HOPE, looking kind of shy, putting her water bottle on her lap or next to her.

HOPE
Where do you think love at
first sight comes from?

REED
Oh, I know this one!

HOPE, turning to REED:

HOPE
Really. What do you think big
brother?

REED
It's *lust* at first sight,
always. Purely physical
attraction.

HOPE
But what if the guy isn't
even your type?

JACK laughs. REED chuckles.

REED
Guys are *never* my type! But I
get your drift. I don't know,
never heard of that one.

JACK
The answer goes back to our
conversation last week.
Reincarnation. It's that
simple. You probably knew him
in a past life and as Soul,
so you recognize him.

HOPE, pointing her water bottle at JACK:

HOPE
Yes! That's exactly what it
feels like. My soul
recognizes his soul. But I

like how you said it better,
like I *am* Soul.

JACK
Right. You don't *have* a soul,
you *are* Soul, and you have a
body . . . for now.

HOPE
Hey, wait a minute. How did
you know this was about me?

JACK
Isn't it always?

JACK, getting up and gathering his things:

JACK
Speaking of Soul-mates, my
wife is expecting me. We've
got a date with a dog and a
Frisbee.

HOPE laughing lightly:

HOPE
Sounds really romantic!

JACK
She puts up with my sense of
romance, and for that, she
has my heart forever!

JACK walks away, and disappears in a flash of light beside
the building out of HOPE and REED's sight.

HOPE
(gets up)
I'm starved. You buying lunch
today?

REED
(getting up, too)
Of course! I have to get
points so my favorite cook
will keep cooking for me.

Act 5, Scene 1

RESTAURANT OR CAFÉ', (INT), DAYTIME

REED

HOPE

TANYA AS CUSTOMER

HOSTESS

VARIOUS CUSTOMERS, EXTRAS

REED and HOPE are waiting for a table in long line. TANYA is behind them. Reminder here that angels always have slight glow about them briefly as they are first seen, even if not entering scene. HOSTESS calls out:

HOSTESS

I have a table for three or
four; I'm sorry, no two-tops
yet.

TANYA tapping REED on the shoulder.

TANYA

Would you two like to join me
so we can get in faster?

REED looks at HOPE who shrugs her shoulders and smiles.

REED

Sure. Oh I remember you . . .
aren't you married to JACK?

REED calling to HOSTESS:

REED

Say, miss, we'll take that
table!

HOSTESS grabbing menus and motioning them to follow her:

HOSTESS

Right this way please.

TANYA

Thanks, guys; I'm starving
and this place is so good

it's hard to get in till
you've passed out from
hunger. And yes, I'm JACK's
wife.

REED
Thanks to you, too. We're
ready to eat as well.

REED pulls out the chair for TANYA, then
HOPE.

TANYA
Thank you! I certainly picked
the right couple. You've got
yourself a real gentleman . .
. . oh I don't know your
names.

REED
I'm REED and this is my
chosen sister, HOPE.

TANYA
Pleased to meet you both. I'm
TANYA. So, how do you choose
a sister?

HOPE
Well, actually, I asked REED.
We both needed family, and
friends of the opposite sex
to help us figure out the
opposite sex!

TANYA
(chuckling)
What a great idea! I wish I'd
thought of that. Did you do a
ceremony of some kind?

HOPE puts down her menu, which she had
started to look at.

HOPE
Not really, we just
celebrated and that was it.

REED feels more like family
to me than my family ever
did. And we have a lot of fun
together. It's been lonely
for me teaching in a new town
with no really close friends
yet. REED saved me!

REED looking adoringly at HOPE:

REED
It works both ways. And we
have a commitment for life.
We'll always be there for
each other.

TANYA
How great is that!

Act 5, Scene 2

RESTAURANT OR CAFÉ' (ad op), (INT), DAYTIME

REED
HOPE
TANYA AS CUSTOMER
VARIOUS CUSTOMERS, EXTRAS

REED, HOPE, and TANYA are seated at their table with meals
in front of them. Each of them is taking a bite of food or
chewing.

TANYA, with eyes closed, deeply savoring the
food:

TANYA
Mmmm . . . I've forgotten how
good this was.

TANYA, opening her eyes:

TANYA
So, what have you discovered
about men and women that's
different?

HOPE laughs, then putting down her fork and patting her mouth with her napkin:

HOPE

Oh, just about everything! It seems like we're here to irritate each other, but then we found out there are lots of great books and workshops out there to help us understand how to communicate with each other.

REED

Yeah, but the trouble is, what if a guy is scared to really put himself out there? To get hurt, or worse yet, to hurt a woman.

TANYA

That is a tough one. I know my husband used to clam up about everything until I finally let him know that I was proud of him for speaking his mind. That encouraged him to speak up when he was unhappy about something. Even though he did it mostly with love, it was tough on me at first, because I had to be willing to look at myself and why I was so over-the-top positive all the time. My issue was buried feelings, too.

REED

Really?

TANYA

Really. Even though we're pretty emotional, women can bury feelings too.

REED
I had no idea!

HOPE, turning to REED:

HOPE
Really? What planet are you
from?

REED
(laughing)
Obviously Mars!

REED picks up his coffee cup, obviously
thinking.

REED
So, this could mean that JADE
might have had some buried
emotions. And JACK kept
talking about past lives. I
wonder if there's a
connection?

TANYA smiling at the mention of JACK:

TANYA
Oh yes!

Act 5, Scene 3

FLASHBACK, LOOKS LIKE CHINA, PARK with Pagoda or something
Chinese-looking (EXT), DAYTIME

JADE in past life as PEASANT
BAO, JADE'S DAUGHTER, four to six years old, very thin and
weak-looking, pale.

JADE and BAO are dressed in ancient Chinese clothing with
pointed hat. They are walking slowly, obviously very tired,
then JADE stops and bends down to talk with BAO very
seriously.

JADE, speaking English with Chinese accent:

JADE
I'm so sorry, BAO.

I know you are very hungry,
but we have to keep our faith
and hope.
Somehow we will get by.

BAO sways a bit with obvious hunger and exhaustion.

Act 5, Scene 4

FLASHBACK, LOOKS LIKE CHINA, SAME PARK (EXT), DAYTIME

JADE in past life
BAO, JADE'S DAUGHTER

JADE is weeping over her child, who is apparently dead.

Act 5, Scene 5

RESTAURANT OR CAFÉ', (INT), DAYTIME

REED
HOPE
TANYA AS CUSTOMER
VARIOUS CUSTOMERS, EXTRAS

REED, HOPE, and TANYA are seated at their table with just coffee now. They are all sipping off and on.

REED
Wow! I just had the strangest
vision. JADE was a Chinese
woman and her daughter had
starved to death because of
her. And I happen to know
that she was brought up in a
very poor family in this
American lifetime, too.

HOPE
That would explain her
compulsion to shop . . .

REED

And her compulsion to save!
What do you call that . . .

HOPE
Conflicted.

REED
Yeah; conflicted. She's like
two different people. She
wants to have everything she
couldn't have before, but she
feels driven to save money,
too! Wow, that must feel
really weird.

TANYA
I know how it feels to be
pulled in two different
directions, too. And, in
fact, I should probably go in
one of them right now, but
I've really enjoyed
seeing you both again.

TANYA, getting up and leaving some money on
the table.

TANYA
(voiceover)
*I just love how money appears
whenever I need it.*

TANYA, as she's walking toward door of
restaurant to leave:

*Hey, Miguel, Can I go
shopping? Maybe I'll run into
JADE and can help her with
her conflict!*

MIGUEL
(voiceover)
*Not a chance. And don't try
to sweet-talk me just because
I'm a sub!*

TANYA'S laugh rings out as she walks out the
door in a flash of light.

Act 6, Scene 1

BEACH or PARK WITH WATER, (EXT), DAYTIME

ABBY

HOPE

A FEW PARK-GOERS, A CHILD ON SWING WITH MOM; EXTRAS

HOPE and ABBY are sitting on a blanket by a lake, throwing bread bits to ducks or geese as they talk.

ABBY, leaning back and soaking in the sun:

ABBY

Aaaah. This is the life...even
if there's only a bit left of
it.

HOPE

ABBY!

ABBY

Hey, if I'm dying I want to
get the most mileage out of
shocking people. Otherwise,
what fun is it? Hope you
don't mind.

HOPE looks sympathetically at ABBY and takes her hand.

HOPE

Actually, I think it's great.
Your attitude is so
accepting. But isn't there
any chance you'll get well if
you think really positive and
ask for a miracle?

HOPE lets go of ABBY'S hand.

ABBY

Not according to the experts,
but you know how that goes.

HOPE

Yup. You're only an expert if
you're from out of town.

ABBY

(laughing)

No, silly, that was for my
speaking engagements. The
doctor who diagnosed me is
from right here in town.

HOPE

So, what am I supposed to
know about how that goes?

ABBY

Not everyone is right about
everything.

HOPE, as she flops back to lay down:

HOPE

Oh, well I hope not!

ABBY lays down, too.

ABBY

You are ever true to your
namesake. I just know that
God knows when my number is
up and will bring me home.
Don't worry, I've done my
homework, and I know I'm
going to have a grand old
time in the heavenly worlds.

HOPE

What kind of homework?

ABBY

I've been studying how to
leave my body in the dream
state so I can visit heaven
now, before I actually die.
Haven't you heard? You don't
have to be nearly dead to
have a near death experience!

HOPE
Wow, that sounds so cool!
Tell me how!

ABBY
(chuckling)
HOPE, you are so much fun to
play with! Okay, I'll tell
you. Maybe we can even
practice together if and when
I get weaker and can't do a
whole lot physically. But
let's wait till we get back
to the house and have some
privacy.

HOPE, anxious to get started, speaking
while getting up and brushing off her legs
from any grass, etc.:

HOPE
Of course! Let's go!

ABBY laughs and slowly gets up.

Act 6, Scene 2

ABBY'S HOUSE, (INT) DAYTIME, LIVING ROOM

ABBY
HOPE

ABBY and HOPE are sitting on comfortable chairs or sofa.

HOPE
So, how do we do this?

ABBY
Okay, first close your eyes
and relax. Take a few deep
breaths to help. Then we just
ask your guardian angel to
show you something about

heaven! The trick is to trust
yourself. Oh, and one more
thing. If you sing or say
something that uplifts you
the most it helps.

HOPE, shifting around, trying to get comfy:

HOPE

I can't think of anything
right now; what do you do?

ABBY

I sing HU (pronounced hue).
It's an ancient love song to
God, and hallelujah was
derived from it. You can
actually hear it in all
sounds. I find it more
uplifting than any other
prayer. What it really means
is, "Thy will be done."

HOPE

That is so cool! One word for
all that! Can we do that now?

ABBY

Sure thing!

ABBY gets more comfortable, puts her hands
in her lap, eyes closed, smiling and taking
a deep breath.

ABBY

Huuuuuuuuuuuu

HOPE joins in at same time as second
Huuuuuuuuuu:

HOPE

Huuuuuuuuuu

At third Huuuuuuuuuu, next scene opens:

Act 6, Scene 3

THE GROVE

ABBY

HOPE

TANYA

ABBY and HOPE are looking at TANYA as she work on a computer at one of the patio tables.

HOPE
(looking at ABBY)
There are computers in
heaven?

TANYA sees ABBY and HOPE, and gets up to walk over to them.

TANYA
Yes, HOPE, there are
computers in heaven. In fact,
pretty much everything you
see on Earth has a
counterpart in heaven. You
know, "As above, so below."

ABBY and HOPE are staring, wide-eyed.

TANYA
So, is this your friend ABBY?

HOPE ignores the question, and after
"familiar" pauses to think, hand on mouth:

HOPE
You look really familiar.
Wait! Wasn't that you at the
café' with me and REED the
other day?

TANYA
Yup, that was me.

HOPE squeals softly.

HOPE
I can't believe it! I met my
guardian angel!

HOPE turning to ABBY, then back to TANYA,
smiling big and hugging herself.

TANYA
Oh, just one of them. I have
a feeling you need a few.

HOPE'S eyes get big.

HOPE
Have I met them?

TANYA
Oh, yes . . . we are often in
disguise.

ABBY, bouncing on her heels in excitement,
obviously healthy and strong in heaven:

ABBY
This is so great!

ABBY extending her hand to shake TANYA'S:

ABBY
I'm ABBY, and I can't believe
I'm meeting an angel in
person!

TANYA, taking ABBY'S hand and pulling her
into a hug:

TANYA
Hey, this is heaven; we hug
here, if you don't mind.
And trust me; I'm just as
surprised to be an angel as
you are to meet one! You'll
get your turn soon enough,
dear one.

ABBY looks happy and glows. (FX please!)

Act 6, Scene 4

ABBY'S HOUSE, (INT) DAYTIME, LIVING ROOM

ABBY
HOPE

ABBY and HOPE are back in their bodies, sitting on comfortable chairs or sofa. ABBY opens her eyes.

ABBY
Hey, HOPE, get back in your
body!

HOPE's body jerks a little, like in waking
from a dream)

HOPE
Oh! Wow! That was amazing!

ABBY
I'll say. And now I know my
next job. No rest for the
wicked.

HOPE
(laughing)
You're right. You are wicked,
teasing me about your
impending so-called doom and
here you're going to get to
travel all over the heavens
and earth, too, probably! I
am so jealous!

ABBY
Yeah, that part's good. I
just hope I get through the
part of this illness that's
not so pretty.

HOPE, looking serious now and a bit sad:

HOPE
Me, too. You know I'll do all
I can and so will AARON.

ABBY looking sour, grimacing:

ABBY
If I ever see him.

HOPE
You know he doesn't have much
choice, sweetie.

Act 7, Scene 1

PARK, (EXT) EVENING, PARK BENCH

REED

JADE- Caucasian woman with red hair and temper to match.
Not very warm, except when she wants something.
Controlling.
VARIOUS PARK VISITORS, EXTRAS

JADE walks up to REED who is already at park, sitting on a
bench.

REED
Hey, JADE, thank you for
meeting me.

JADE, sighs like she's put out, sitting
down, putting her, handback beside her:

JADE
Well, I was curious. What's
up?

REED fidgeting, obviously uncomfortable:

REED
Umm . . . well . . . see, I
wanted to ummm.

JADE turns further toward REED and sighs
big, impatient.

JADE
If you asked me here, you
might as well tell me. Just
spill it.

REED still uncomfortable, still fidgeting:

REED

Uh, yeah, okay. I just wanted
you to know I have forgiven
you.

JADE snorts.

JADE

Oh really, and what did I do
wrong?

REED

Uh-oh, this isn't what I was
thinking. I just know you had
a rough childhood, and I
didn't really think about
that when we were together.

JADE

So, are you apologizing or
forgiving me?

REED

Oh, never mind. Let's just
get on with our lives. I just
wanted you to know I
understood why you got mad
sometimes and spent a lot of
my money but didn't want *me*
to spend any.

JADE

What are you talking about?
You bought just as many
things as I did!

REED

Yeah, but they were a lot
less expensive most of the
time.

JADE, sounding bored, getting up and
grabbing her purse:

JADE

Whatever.
I really don't want to go
back to this conversation.

JADE, walking away, looking back over her shoulder, fake smile:

JADE
Have a nice life!

REED puts his head in his hands and groans.

Act 7, Scene 2

SPLIT SCREEN:

a. PARK, (EXT) EVENING, PARK BENCH

REED

b. HOPE'S HOME, (INT) KITCHEN, EVENING

HOPE

REED, still on park bench, gets out his cell phone and dials.

Screen splits, phone ringing as HOPE dries her hands on a dish towel by sink where dishes are stacked, picks up her phone after glancing at caller ID.

HOPE
Hi REED, how'd it go?

REED sighs loudly or groans.

HOPE
That bad, huh?

HOPE turning, leans against sink.

REED
You wouldn't believe it.

HOPE
Try me.

REED

Do people ever change?

HOPE

Nope, not unless they want to
and then it takes seven
years.

REED

You're kidding!

HOPE

Would I kid my big brother?

REED

Now I feel better. Do you
have any of that great apple
cobbler left?

HOPE opening fridge and pulling out pan of
cobbler:

HOPE

Sure do, been saving it for
this very occasion. Come on
over, but you better bring
more vanilla ice cream. I
needed to eat it all with
some fudge sauce. I'll tell
you about it later.

REED

This could prove to be an
interesting evening. See you
in a few.

Act 7, Scene 3

HOPE and REED are seated at the table with a pan of apple
cobbler, and a tub of vanilla ice cream (ad op) on the
table between them with a large spoon stuck in it.

HOPE serves the cobbler and scoops some ice cream onto
REED'S cobbler, then onto her own as they talk.

HOPE
REED

HOPE
Okay, so it didn't go so well
with JADE, but did you really
want it to?

REED
Now that I think about it,
no, I really didn't. If she
had shown any bit of warmth I
might have been tempted to
take her back. But I think
she's just an energy drain
for me until I learn to stand
up for myself.

HOPE
I think your insight is good.

HOPE licks the serving spoon.

REED
Hey, just because I adopted
you doesn't mean I want to
share your germs!

HOPE
(laughing)
Who said you'd get any more
ice cream from this spoon?

REED
You are so mean! And it feels
really good to be able to say
that to *someone*.

HOPE
(still laughing)
Yeah, I know how you feel.
It's really fun to have
someone to tease that you
know won't take offense. . .
Brother-sister privilege,
right?

REED picks up his fork and takes a bite
after "Right."

REED
Right!
Mmmmm, this is soooo good.
Thanks for cheering me up,
Sis.
Okay, now for the *really*
juicy stuff. What's going on
with you?

HOPE
Okay, you know the story with
ABBY. She's going downhill
fast, and I feel bad for her,
but . . . the sicker she
gets, the meaner she gets.
Here's what happened
yesterday.

Act 7, Scene 4

ABBY'S HOME, (INT), LIVING ROOM, AFTERNOON

HOPE
ABBY
AARON

HOPE and ABBY are sitting on the couch. ABBY is wrapped up
in a blanket, and looks cold.

HOPE
You look cold, ABBY,
can I do anything?

ABBY
No, but thank you.
It seems this is how
it is at this stage.

AARON walks in the front door from work. He looks done in,
like he's had a hard day. As he kicks off his dirty shoes
on rug by door:

AARON

Hi Sweetheart,
Hi HOPE.

AARON walks over and kisses ABBY very quickly; a peck on the mouth. Then he looks warmly at HOPE.

AARON
Thanks for being here so much, HOPE.

AARON now talking to ABBY:

How are you doing today?

ABBY shivering:

ABBY
How does it look
like I'm doing?

AARON jerks back a little, looking stung.

AARON
It looks like you're
really cold.
Can I get you some hot tea?

ABBY
(resentfully)
HOPE'S got me covered.

AARON
ABBY, I tried to get home
earlier tonight so we could
spend more time together.
I wish I could be two places
at once, but I can't.
Since I did get a little
extra time off today, let's
make the most of it, okay?

HOPE, getting up to leave:

HOPE
I'm gonna disappear now
so you two can have
that time together, okay?

ABBY still looking irritated:

ABBY

Bye HOPE.

Act 7, Scene 5

HOPE'S HOME, KITCHEN, (INT), NIGHT

HOPE

REED

HOPE and REED are still seated at the kitchen table, cobbler's eaten, plates pushed aside. Ice cream still on table.

HOPE

It really hurts me to see
women treat men the way
ABBY's treating AARON,
especially men I love!

REED

Do you think she's in denial?

HOPE

Wow, you are smart!

REED

You knew that, little sis.

HOPE

Yeah, I did. So, I'm thinking
you are right on. I love
ABBY, too. If her life has to
end, I wish she could end it
on a high note, especially
her marriage.

REED

Hopefully, AARON will
remember the good times best.

HOPE

Yeah, I hope so, too. I wish
I could think of something I
could do to help ABBY see
what she's doing, though.

REED

Why not ask for help in your
dreams? You always said you
could visit heaven in your
dreams.

HOPE looking like she just woke up:

HOPE

Hey, I did, didn't I!
I forgot all about that. I
mostly did that when I was
younger. But get this, ABBY
is actually the one that
showed me I could visit
heaven without even dreaming!

REED

No way!

HOPE

Yes way! And I intend to do
so after you leave.

REED getting up to leave:

REED

Well, will you at least tell
me how it turns out?

Act 8, Scene 1

SCHOOL, (INT), TEACHER'S LOUNGE, AFTERNOON

HOPE

REED

FEMALE TEACHER, EXTRA

FEMALE TEACHER walks out as HOPE walks in. As HOPE gets cup
of coffee, REED walks in the door.

HOPE, looking like she's been crying, wipes her eye.

HOPE

Hi.

REED walking over to HOPE quickly, speaks tenderly:

REED
What's wrong Sis?

HOPE
ABBY'S getting worse by the
minute.
(small sob)
I'm afraid she might not make
it past today.

REED takes coffee out of HOPE'S hands and pulls her into a hug.

HOPE cries. Just then her
cell phone rings.

Act 8, Scene 2

HOSPITAL, (INT), WAITING ROOM/AREA, AFTERNOON.

REED
HOPE
AARON
ABBY

REED and HOPE are sitting and talking quietly. We don't hear what they're saying yet. AARON rushes into waiting area.

AARON
I'm so sorry I couldn't have
gotten here sooner, but I
drove as fast as I dared.
Where is she?

HOPE, getting up:

HOPE
She's just down the hall,
I'll take you.

AARON follows, looking worried.

AARON
How's she doing?

HOPE
As well as can be expected, I
guess.

AARON looks like he's about to cry and he
chokes up.

AARON
I wish I could have just one
more night with her.

HOPE
Well, I hope you get your
wish, AARON, and I hope she
feels more peace with you,
too.

AARON, giving HOPE a side hug:

AARON
So do I, dear friend,
so do I.

Act 8, Scene 3

HOSPITAL, (INT), ABBY'S PRIVATE ROOM, NIGHT

AARON
ABBY

AARON is lying next to ABBY, holding her. ABBY looks pale
and is having difficulty breathing.

ABBY has tears rolling down her cheek.

ABBY
I'm so sorry, AARON.
I know I've been mean to you,
and now I think I know why.
I was scared.
I wasn't scared to die.
I've seen heaven and
it's so beautiful!
I was scared that you and HOPE . . .

AARON surprised, but not shocked:

AARON
What!

ABBY
Oh, I've always known
you two felt close.

AARON
AARON quick to answer, defensively:

AARON
Yes, but we've always just been friends.

ABBY
Yes, I know, I know.
I'm not accusing you
of anything. You know
how I get feelings
about things? Intuition?

AARON
(smiling)
Yes, of course I know . . .

ABBY
Well, I know you
and HOPE will be together
someday. And don't worry;
I'm at peace with it now.
I love you both and
I want you both to be happy,
however that happens.

ABBY smiling faintly, sadly, turns and puts her hand on
AARON's face:

ABBY
I think that's called
unconditional love.
And, AARON, my love,
don't wait to have that
happiness, because I will
be having mine in heaven.

AARON hugs her tightly, crying.

Act 8, Scene 4

HOPE'S HOME, PATIO OUTSIDE, (EXT), DAYTIME

HOPE

REED

HOPE and REED are sitting on lawn chairs, sipping iced tea.
GRAPHICS: One Year Later

HOPE

I can't believe it's been
a year since ABBY left us.
I actually visited her and TANYA!

REED

Where did you visit her
and who's TANYA?

HOPE

Oh, wow, I never told you,
did I?
So much has happened since then.
I can't believe it.
After the memorial service,
it seems like life
never slowed down.

REED

I'll say! Cassie keeps me busy,
but I love every minute of it.

HOPE

How's that going?

REED

Great. She gives me respect
and you know how golden
that is for men.
It's how we feel love.
But let's not get off the
he who and where topic.

HOPE

Right, okay, here goes.

You trust me,
right, big brother?

REED
Of course!

HOPE
Well, I tried that technique
ABBY taught me before
she died. You can actually
visit heaven while
still living on Earth!

REED
No way!

HOPE
(giggling)
That's what you
said last time!

REED
Oh, yeah, déjà vu
all over again!

HOPE poking him gently with her toe:

HOPE
You are so silly.
Anyway, I asked my
guardian angel—
-her name is TANYA—
to take me back for a visit
to heaven right before ABBY died.
I'm sure glad ABBY showed
me how to do it! And . . .

REED
(interrupting)
Now it's making sense.
But this is way cool!
Tell me more.

HOPE, nudging him playfully:

HOPE
I'm trying to!

Act 8, Scene 5

CREATIVELY CUT TO THE GROVE in Flashback mode.

TANYA

JACK

HARRY (THE ANGEL DOG)

TANYA is playing Frisbee with HARRY and JACK. HOPE appears and TANYA stops, letting JACK and HARRY continue to play.

TANYA, walking up to HOPE

TANYA

Hi, HOPE;
thanks for visiting!

HOPE

Did you know I was coming?

TANYA

Sure, we were all talking
about how we could
help ABBY through *you*.

HOPE

I like the way that sounds.
But she won't listen
to anyone right now.
She's just crabby ABBY.

TANYA

Well, here's what you can do.
Just give her love.
Be her friend and be
the best friend you can be.
She will never forget it
in this life or the next.

HOPE

Is that all I have to do?

TANYA, giving HOPE a tender hug:

TANYA

Absolutely. Love always wins; always.
But you can never lose hope.

HOPE, letting go of hug and laughing:

HOPE
Well, I can't lose me,
so I guess I'll just
have to be patient.

TANYA, linking arms with HOPE, walking:

TANYA
Now you've got it.
That one is the toughest.
Most people get the love part
eventually, but they expect
it to work instantly.
Doesn't always happen that way.

TANYA stops and looks into HOPE'S eyes.

HOPE
(almost whispering)
Thank you, TANYA. I owe you.

TANYA
Never. My joy is giving
unconditionally and there
is never anything owed.

TANYA grins and grabs HOPE's hand.

TANYA
But you can always give me
unconditional love back.
That's something I never tire of!

HOPE
How can I not love my angel?!

Act 9, Scene 1

HOPE'S HOME, PATIO IN BACK, (EXT), DAYTIME

HOPE
REED

HOPE and REED are still sitting on lawn chairs, sipping iced tea.

HOPE
So, that's all I know.
I gave ABBY as much love
as I could, even when
she was Crabby Abby!

REED laughs.

REED
You're a poet.

HOPE
Right; and
Einstein was a farmer.

REED chuckles and shakes his head.

REED
That's so lame.

So, when are you
going to see AARON again?

HOPE getting up and picking up garden hose, attaching nozzle

HOPE
We're taking it slow.
You know how people can
talk in a small town. . .
even though it's been a
year since she's been gone.

REED
Oh yes!

HOPE, turns on water from spigot, then standing still thinking.

HOPE
And to be truthful,
it wouldn't feel right
any other way.
We are such good friends,

and that's what we're used to.
If it's meant to go
another way,
we'll both know when.

REED
You're a pretty smart cookie . . .
for a little sister.

HOPE turning hose toward REED:

HOPE
Watch it!

REED puts his hands up to guard his face.

REED
Hey, that's my line!

HOPE, laughing, drops hose.

HOPE
Yeah, déjà vu all over again!

Act 9, Scene 2

THE GROVE

JACK
TANYA
MIGUEL
HARRY

JACK and MIGUEL are playing basketball again. TANYA is watching, cheering for JACK.

MIGUEL
Hey, I'm gonna have to get
my own cheering section!
I could beat you easy then, man.

JACK
Anytime, boss.

MIGUEL, looking a little sad:

MIGUEL

I wish we had more time.
I have to go sub somewhere
else now that SAMUEL's back.

JACK

Doggone it!

HARRY, running up to JACK:

HARRY

(VOICEOVER)

*Did you say dog - ON- it?
On it? I'm on it! I'm in!
What are we doing next!
Teach me basketball, buddy!*

TANYA, JACK, and MIGUEL are laughing.

JACK

Yeah, what are we doing next,
MIGUEL?

MIGUEL

Oh, I think SAMUEL has something
really special cooking
for you two.
It's all about HOPE.

TANYA

What a coincidence!
We just had a HOPE.

MIGUEL

No, I mean hope like
you wouldn't believe.
God's miracles,
that kinda' thing.

TANYA squealing with delight and hugging JACK as HARRY gets
in on the hug.

TANYA

Oh, I love it!
I can't wait!

Script Plan:**Episode 7: "Heart of Hope"**

Story A: *Hope Requires Patience* - HOPE, a teacher who is a coworker with REED, (below) named HOPE. She helps friend ABBY, who is dying. Stays in ABBY's home with her and Abby's husband, AARON. RACHEL continues to stay and help husband after friend's death. Husband and her fall in love and marry, which is exactly what her friend Abby wants. During difficult time of friend's illness HOPE learns from Abby how to visit heaven before death and they do so together, then Hope does on her own to find out how to help her friend, who gets pretty crabby.

Story B: *Adopting Hope*: REED, a fellow teacher with HOPE takes a year hiatus from romantic relationships to study himself and work out the blocks he has to attracting a woman who actually pays attention to him and his needs. Also, teaching with Hope, his "adopted" sister (they choose each other to be family due to not having any other close family around) about how to communicate better with the opposite sex. He's been a pushover and needs to build his boundaries, not letting others take advantage of him. He learns about his former girlfriend and wife's issues from past life recalls. Reed's and Hope's adopted-family relationship helps them through the cycle of "hope" until they get to relationship reality.

Angel Track: MIGUES is substitute head angel while Samuel is on vacation, and JACK is in "heaven" because Miguel is just as sports crazy and they play basketball together. Jack and TANYA have a scene on earth together (unusual) as they help Hope and Reed understand the influence of past lives. TANYA greets Hope and Abby as they visit heaven out-of-body, teaching Hope how to help her crabby, dying friend through unconditional love. Jack helps Reed understand his girlfriend, Jade, in *this* life as well so he can more easily forgive her for taking advantage of his generosity and not caring about him. In heaven, Jack is learning from Miguel how to use his creative imagination to make things happen via basketball.