

Angels-in-Training - TV Series
Episode 3, "Sweet Yesterdays"
By Debbie Johnson

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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 tutelage?
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 or SAMUEL

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...

Act 1, Scene 1

ASSISTED LIVING OFFICE, (INT,) DAYTIME.

OLD KEVIN - kind, loving soul, very confident, strong and
tall. (used to be a lumberjack and also an accountant),
Married to Marissa.

OLD MARISSA - also kind, and a bit stubborn

OFFICE MANAGER - Any gender or age, strict about rules.

OFFICE MANAGER
I'm sorry, but I don't think
we can accommodate you both.
It may detract from her care.

KEVIN looks mad, but trying to be calm, he
closes his eyes for a moment.

OLD KEVIN
I understand your concerns,
and I assure you that you'll
save money on your nursing
staff since I *want* to take
care of my wife. And we don't
want to be apart. In fact, if
you want her here, you'll
have to take me, too!

OLD MARISSA

KEVIN means what he says and
says what he means to do. And
he always does it.
He will take good care of me
like he always has.

Act 1, Scene 2

THE GROVE, PATIO SETTING WITH SEVEN CHAIRS

JACK
TANYA
SAMUEL

SAMUEL, TANYA, and JACK are walking toward the patio.

TANYA puts her hand on her cheek and draws out her words:

TANYA
Oohh, that is sooo sweet.
Their marriage must be amazing.

JACK grins with a look that says, *I know how to do that!*
I'm a great husband.

SAMUEL
Well, actually, TANYA, they
are not on earth anymore, but
they are still married here
in heaven, and you'll get to
meet them!
We're going to be doing
something very different for
this assignment . . .

JACK sits down in his chair, followed by
TANYA sitting next to him, then SAMUEL
nearby.

JACK
Different sounds fun.

SAMUEL
. . . It involves meeting
with some new heavenly
transplants from Earth.
We'll be interviewing them
and looking at their stories
to learn how couples stay
married for many decades.

TANYA bounces in her seat.

TANYA
Oh, goodie! That's exactly
what JACK and I need.

JACK gives TANYA a wry look that says,
"Really?"

JACK
I think we've done pretty
well so far, don't you,
SAMUEL?

SAMUEL
Sure, you've definitely made
some progress, but your feet
haven't been put to the fire
like some couples. Consider
this training for the future.

JACK and TANYA look at each other with wide
eyes, eyebrows raised, looking a bit
frightened.

Act 1, Scene 3

THE GROVE, PATIO SETTING WITH FIVE CHAIRS

JACK
TANYA
SAMUEL

KEVIN - Appears to be in early forties, kind, loving soul, married to MARISSA, very strong and confident.

MARISA - Same age-look at Kevin or slightly younger, also kind, a bit stubborn.

SAMUEL, TANYA and JACK are sitting in same chairs, but now SAMUEL has a laptop computer or notebook on his lap.

SAMUEL

Okay, angels, we're scheduled
for the interview now, so
let's welcome our guests,
KEVIN and MARISSA.

KEVIN and MARISSA appear in the empty
chairs.

TANYA

Great to meet you folks.
Thanks for letting us pick
your brains. Or would that be
souls?

JACK

Ha Ha. My wife is the funny
one these days. Good to meet
you both. What would you like
to tell us first?

KEVIN puts his arm around MARISSA and smiles
at her lovingly.

KEVIN

Even though MARISSA was a
few years younger than me
when we first met, I knew on
our first date that she would
be my wife one day. Most of
my family knew who they'd
marry as soon as they met
them.

MARISSA smiles up at KEVIN.

MARISSA

On our second date, KEVIN
told me he wanted to marry
me, and he was certain we'd
be married! But he also said
I could take all the time I
needed to know for myself
what was right for me. Talk
about mixed messages!

KEVIN and MARISSA both laugh while
JACK and TANYA look at each other with wry
grins.

JACK
Yeah, we know all about mixed
messages.

DARRIN - Super smiley, happy, positive guy, married to ELSA
ELSA - matches her husband a lot in temperament, also more
reserved, private than Darrin, not sharing details as much
as he does.

FADE OUT

Script Plan:

Episode 9, "Sweet Yesterdays"

Story A: *Kevin:* I was not impressed with her when I
first met Marissa. We were on a committee
together, and I had to drive 135 miles each time we
had a meeting. After our last meeting she was
driving behind me with a friend in her car. At a traffic
light she jumped out of her car, ran to mine, and
jumped in the passenger seat! She had asked the

friend to drive her car the rest of the way home, which was also on my way home.

Marissa then said, "You have such a long way to drive, I thought I'd just keep you company until you get to my house." I knew right then that she cared about me, and I asked her out on a date.

After our first date I knew I would marry her. Most everyone in my family had a knack for knowing who they were going to marry. On our second date I told her I wanted to marry her and that I was certain we would be married, but that she could take all the time she needed to know for herself what was right for her.

A few weeks later Marissa told me she thought it was a good idea for us to marry. However, she had an agreement with her father that required her to wait two years to marry. I let her know I would honor her agreement with her father and wait the two years.

One day I walked into her kitchen where her mother was cleaning vegetables. She stopped what she was doing, looked up at me, and said, "You must really love my daughter to wait all this time for her." I said, "Yes I do." Her parents felt very confident in my love and ability to care for their daughter, because I was willing to be patient.

Marissa and I got to know each other very well as friends. We were married sixty-six years until she died three years ago. I miss her every single day.

We got along so well because we put each other first. We knew what was important, and that was unconditional love.

Story B: *Angel Track:*