

TEEN ANGELS

By

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Shoebox Theatre
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CHARACTERS:

COOKIE:	Pearly Gates' secretary. Efficient, beehive Hairstyle, nasal voice.
SANDY:	"Airhead type". Files her nails constantly.
LIZ:	Businesswoman. Carries a briefcase.
LISA:	Waitress. Dressed in uniform. Has order Pad and pencil. Chews gum.
MIKE:	Basketball player. Uses imaginary basketball.
MINDY RAE:	Southern Belle. Indecisive. Pampered.
JACOB:	Works behind Pearly Gates in the research Department. Glasses. Bookworm.
PAIGE:	Pearly Gates' elevator operator. Clueless.
RAMONA:	Rock Star. Hip. Dressed in black.
CANDACE:	Pearly Gates' courier. Fast talker and Efficient.
MINSKY:	Pearly Gates' mailman. Joker.
MARY FRANCES:	Girl Scout Cookie Mom.
SARAH:	Pearly Gates' Accounting. Glasses. Business suit. ORGANIZED.
MRS. OGGLE:	Pearly Gates' Doctor. Dressed in white Uniform.
CYD:	Pearly Gates' Manufacturer's Rep. Dressed in wild sports coat.

SETTING:

Pearly Gates of Heaven. Set includes a desk with headlights and hood ornament. Desk has a telephone. Elevator is upstage left for entrances and exits. Color scheme is pink and black with posters of 50s movie stars and advertisements. There is a waiting area with chairs or benches. A wastebasket and a table with magazines.

COSTUMES:

Typical 50s garb. Poodle skirts, sweaters worn backwards, angora rings on a chain around a neck, black leather jackets, slicked back hair, spit curls, beehive hair, straight skirts and angora sweaters, letter jackets, bobby sox, saddle oxfords, loafers, converse tennis shoes. Easy and fun!

A NOTE ABOUT CHARACTERIZATIONS:

This play is a study of characterizations. It is fun and very helpful for students to write "biographies" of their characters. Use questions like "Where did I grow up", "What do I look like?", "How do I talk? What's my voice like?", "What is my favorite color? Activity? Food? Clothing? Movie Star?", "What is my most outstanding quality?". This exercise is often helpful for developing action and costuming and props for the play. It is also a good way to establish relationships between the actors.

A NOTE ABOUT THE AUDIENCE:

Sometimes they don't know when to applaud. It's okay to help get them started. Usually it will only take one time. Sometimes they are afraid to laugh. It's okay to help get them started. It is often a relief to give them a clue and it is WONDERFUL for the actor to get a response to his hard work!

ACT I

SCENE I

SETTING: The Pearly Gates of Heaven

AT RISE: There are 5 applicants in waiting Area: SANDY, who is doing her nails, LIZ, who is reviewing papers from briefcase. LISA is chewing gum and pulling her short skirt down. MIKE is playing imaginary basketball and MINDAY RAE, who can't make up her mind which magazine to read and where to sit. COOKIE, Pearly Gates' secretary is. Sitting at her desk, eating her lunch. Phone rings. APPLICANTS look up.

COOKIE

(Answers phone)

Pearly Gates. We've got your number. Can I help you?...No, I haven't seen him yet ... Yes...yes, of course. I'll call you right away. Uh-huh. Bye now.

(Looks at her watch)

Lunch time.

(Humming, gets out sack lunch. Includes a Coke. Takes a drink)

Ah, the pause that refreshes!

(ALL watch her unwrap her sandwich. COOKIE takes a big bite. ALL watch her chew. COOKIE notices them watching, chews a bit, swallows, then stops)

COOKIE

A person's gotta eat, you know?! I mean, I have had jobs that kept me busy, but this one is ETERNAL! Time is not a factor here, see. No use being in a hurry.

COOKIE (Cont'd)

(Stands up)

Relax. Everyone gets a chance ... all in good time, all in good time.

(phone rings)

'Scuse me ... Pearly Gates. We've got your number. Can I help you? Oh, sure send her up.

(Slowly sits)

Absolutely! Right. Oh and Grace? Thanks for the warning.

(Hangs up)

I can't believe it.

(To the applicants)

The Rock Star, Ramona, is on her way up here and we don't want a scene. No autographs, okay? Oh my goodness, I need to fix my make-up!

(Digs in her purse. LIZ drops a paper. MIKE picks it up, crumbles it, stands and shoots a basket into trash can)

MIKE

Two points!

(LIZ slams briefcase closed)

LIZ

This is INCREDIBLE! In my entire life I have yet to witness such INEFFICIENCY! I had no idea Heaven would be so disorganized.

(Walks to trash can, takes out paper, goes back to seat, smoothing paper)

SANDY

Relax. You heard the lady. This ISN'T like life on Earth. Enjoy the wait.

(Continue to file her nails)

LISA

(Stands up and talks to everyone)

I think this is really interesting. I mean, who would've imagined that Heaven looked like ... like this!

LIZ

Technically speaking, this ISN'T Heaven. We are only here to account for our lives on Earth ... making certain we are SUPPOSED to be here.

MIKE

(Dribbles basketball through his legs and pretends another shot into the wastebasket)

MINDY RAE

(To SANDY)

I'm not quite sure what they mean by this questions right here. Can you help me? I meanm, if you're not too busy or anything I mean, I probably can stare at it for awhile and try to figure it out, but I'm just not good at tests. Well, not really tests, but things like this always throw me ...

SANDY

(Blankly)

HUH?

BLACKOUT