

A Girl And Her Angel

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EXT. LONDON STREETS - 1950S - NIGHT

SARAH, a girl in her early 20s and in clothes heavily implying poverty, walks down the streets shivering. Two men in suits walk up in the opposite direction, talking and laughing.

SARAH

Please sirs, could you spare a few coins?

The men shake their heads and carry on. After a few moments, their jolly conversation begins again, as if they had not been interrupted at all.

EXT. LONDON PARK - CONTINUOUS

Sarah walks through the deserted park and sits on a bench. She lies down on the bench and tries to sleep, now shivering violently.

Sarah's breath is visible in the air.

Her eyes close and her breaths get shorter. After a while her breaths stop.

INT. STRANGE BEDROOM - NO TIME

Sarah awakes in a comfortable room with classy furniture but without windows, now wearing a nightdress. She looks around confused. The door opens and ARCHIE enters, a soft voiced man in a great overcoat and hat, early 50s but slim and fit for his age. He closes the door behind him (we do not see what is outside the room).

ARCHIE

Ah! Hello my dear. It seems you have awoken.

SARAH

Who are you? Where am I?

ARCHIE

My dear, do you remember where you were last? What you were doing?

SARAH

I was in the park. I was...

Sarah shifts uncomfortably.

ARCHIE

You were dying... And this is where
(MORE)

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

you sent yourself. This is heaven.
Your Heaven. My name is Archie and
I'm here to help you.

SARAH

This doesn't seem like the heaven
people seem to describe.

ARCHIE

Well what would the living know of
heaven? They only guess and
squabble over what comes next, when
they should be making the most of
life instead.

Sarah tries to sit up but winces. Archie quickly puts her
back down.

ARCHIE

My dear you are not strong enough
for that yet. You need to rest.
Your soul has seen turmoil and you
need time for it to heal.

SARAH

So what happens to me now.

ARCHIE

Now you will experience all the
things you could not in life. You
had a life of hardship and poverty.
That is over now, don't worry. Here
you will be safe and happy. But, my
dear, you have not told me your
name...

SARAH

It's Sarah.

ARCHIE

Well for now Sarah, rest. I shall
leave you for a while now.

Archie gets up and walks towards the door.

SARAH

Archie?

Archie stops.

SARAH

Are you an angel.

Archie smiles warmly

ARCHIE

I suppose you could call me that.
Rest now.

Archie leaves the room.

Sarah closes her eyes and drifts back off to sleep.

INT. STRANGE BEDROOM - LATER

Sarah opens her eyes. Archie has entered and now shuts the door. In his hands is a bowl of food.

ARCHIE

Ah, I was afraid to wake you but I believe you must be hungry.

SARAH

Oh very.

Archie gives Sarah the bowl and sits on a chair beside her bed.

ARCHIE

I said you'd have the things you couldn't have in life. Now you have all the food you could possibly want.

SARAH

Thank you.

ARCHIE

There's no need to thank me. It is what you deserve. It is what you deserved in life.

SARAH

Do you not have control over what happens in life?

ARCHIE

Sadly no. Sometimes I see the hardships and the woes of that world and I wish I could help people the way I can help you now, but I can't, and people are unpredictable, un-empathetic creatures who neither help or accept help from each other.

SARAH

I wish there were people like you
in that world

Archie loses himself in his thoughts for a few moments
before reverting his attention back to Sarah.

ARCHIE

Why were you sleeping in that park
that night, Sarah.

SARAH

I had nowhere else to go.

ARCHIE

Yes but why did you not have
anywhere? How had life's cruelties
taken you to that cold bed?

SARAH

Well there was a time when I had
the protection of my parents, but
they didn't like that I was having
a baby. They liked it less when I
wasn't having one anymore. Then I
was on my own. I did okay for a
while, I earned money and created a
new life. I had friends and I
thought I'd found a new family...
But that didn't last.

ARCHIE

Nobody should have to go through
that.

SARAH

It's okay. My life wasn't
completely miserable. There were
good times too

ARCHIE

Well your future shall be all joy.
If you've finished I will leave you
for now. Feel free to read any
books here or use anything else. It
is all for you

Archie gets up to leave.

SARAH

Where do you go when you're not
here.

ARCHIE
I am a servant of heaven. I cannot
stay in your world at all times.

Archie leaves.

FADE OUT

INT. STRANGE BEDROOM - LATER

Sarah reads a book in bed.

KNOCK KNOCK

Sarah looks up from her book.

KNOCK KNOCK

She sits up and goes to the door, pressing her ear against
it.

KNOCK KNOCK

SARAH
Hello? Hello!?

Sarah tries to open the door but it is locked.

The knocking stops.

INT. STRANGE BEDROOM - LATER

Sarah sits on the chair facing the door. Archie enters with
a package.

ARCHIE
Sarah! I have something for you.

He hands Sarah the package. She opens it to see a stunningly
pretty dress.

SARAH
A dress.

ARCHIE
A marvellous looking dress. You
will look lovely in it.

SARAH
Thank you, Archie. It's beautiful!

ARCHIE
Not a problem! Well what have you
been up to whilst I have been away?

SARAH

I started reading some of those books but then I heard knocking coming from somewhere outside.

ARCHIE

Knocking? You couldn't have. There is nothing outside.

SARAH

Maybe there would be if I went through the door.

ARCHIE

NO!.. I'm sorry Sarah, but you can't. It's dangerous.

SARAH

What's the worst that could happen? I'm already dead.

ARCHIE

You are not going through that door. It's impossible. Now why don't I leave you to put on the dress and then you can show me how it looks?

Archie smiles and leaves.

Sarah picks up the dress and places it on the bed. She begins taking off her nightdress but then stops. She goes up to the door and looks through the keyhole.

SARAH'S POV: An eye watches her through the keyhole. It widens and a cover slides over the keyhole,

Sarah leaps back in shock. She runs to the bed and hides under the covers.

PAUSE

ARCHIE (O.S.)

Sarah?

SARAH

Y-yes?

ARCHIE (O.S.)

Um, on second thoughts. It's quite late and I imagine you are quite tired. We can wait until later for you to try on the dress.

SARAH

Okay.

ARCHIE

Goodnight.

Sarah remains sat up in bed, frozen.

FADE OUT

INT. STRANGE BEDROOM - LATER

Sarah is sat up in bed staring at the door. It opens and Archie enters. He smiles and sits down on the chair next to her.

ARCHIE

Well? Have you tried on your dress yet?

SARAH

Yes. It was very lovely.

ARCHIE

Ah, well I'm glad you find it -

Sarah grabs the bedclothes and throws them over Archie. She jumps off the bed and frantically runs to the door, opening it and rushing through to...

INT. LONDON APARTMENT - DAY

Sarah stops for a second as she sees the apartment, with classy sofas and ornaments. A great window indicates that it is day. She goes towards it and sees a London road, far down from the floor this apartment is on, with tiny people going about there business. She hears Archie struggling and spots the door. She exits through it.

INT. APARTMENT CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Sarah runs out into the corridor where a DARK HAired GENTLEMAN waits by another door.

SARAH

Excuse me? Where is this?

DARK HAired GENTLEMAN

This? This is 74 Warwick road, miss. Are you visiting Mr Steltson?

Archie runs out into the corridor. Sarah flees down the stairway and Archie follows.

INT. STAIRWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sarah runs down the stairs as fast as she can.

ARCHIE

Sarah, stop!

She does and turns to face him.

SARAH

I'm not dead am I, Archie. I'm
still alive aren't I?

ARCHIE

Yes. You were dying in that park so
I took you in, to make you better.

SARAH

You kept me prisoner! You caged me
like an animal!

ARCHIE

I tried to show you kindness. I
gave you joy and tried to give you
everything you didn't have. I
wanted to make you happy.

Sarah backs away and continues to run down the stairs to the
continuing shouts of SARAH, SARAH, SARAH. She turns around
to check if she is still pursued and missteps.

Sarah falls down the last stairs on to the ground floor
landing, cracking her skull.

The staircase falls silent as Sarah lies dying at the bottom
of the stairs.

SARAH'S POV blurs as it rises back up the stairwell. Rising
to where the apartment was. Rising to heaven...

END