

# ANGEL INN

*By Paulette B. Rogerson*

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**STORY OF PLAY**

Unless there's a miracle, Angel Inn will have to close its doors after Christmas. Dorothy and her niece, Ronnie, just can't pay the bills. But luckily, Christmas can happen anywhere, including the homey little inn, where a threatened snowstorm has forced together a delightful and colorful bunch of people. All the guests have their own problems - especially little Becky who won't talk and whose parents may separate. But one special visitor, who totes a golf club instead of wings, spreads some heaven-sent help to make this Christmas the most meaningful for all. Optional nativity scene creates a beautiful ending. One easy set.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*3 m, 6 w, 1 g, extras*

**Dorothy Morgan:** Runs Angel Inn.

**Regina (*Ronnie*):** Dorothy's likeable teenage niece (*or nephew.*)

**Angela:** An important visitor.

**Leslie Edwards:** Becky's Mom.

**David Edwards:** Becky's Dad.

**Becky Edwards:** Young girl who won't talk.

**Fred Harris:** Inn guest, retired gentleman.

**Agnes Harris:** Fred's wife.

**Bus Driver:** Man glad to rest at the inn.

**Teenage Girl:** Bus passenger, in nativity.

**Extra Teenagers:** As additional passengers.

**Two radio announcers (*offstage.*):** Can be pre-recorded, if desired.

**SETTING:** Lobby of a small, mountain lodge.

**TIME:** Present day, the Christmas holidays.

**PLAYING TIME:** About an hour and 15 minutes.

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**ACT I**

Scene 1: Early afternoon, a few days before Christmas

Scene 2: A short time later

**ACT II**

Scene 1: Late afternoon

Scene 2: Dusk

Scene 3: Early evening

Scene 4: After dinner that same evening

**COSTUMES**

All characters wear present day winter clothes. Angela can look startling with summery golf clothes or more angelic with white sweater and white skirt or slacks. In Act II, Dorothy wears an apron; Agnes changes into a robe, hair net and curlers; the Girl and Teens wear or carry Biblical costumes; and David has a bandage on his forehead.

**PROPS**

**Act I:** Doll on sofa; magazines, coat, and firewood for Ronnie; eye glasses, pencil and papers, Dorothy; guest register book, bell, and rate card at lobby desk; sun visor and golf club for Angela; small box of Christmas decorations for Dorothy; big Xmas cookies for Ronnie and Dorothy; feather duster for Ronnie; overnight bag for Agnes and 3 large pieces of luggage for Fred.

**Act II:** Coloring book and crayons for Becky; hammer, cups, container of hot chocolate for Ronnie; newspaper for Fred; blanket for Agnes.

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### **SOUND EFFECTS**

Phone ringing; radio Christmas music and announcers over PA system; lobby desk bell.

### **SET DESIGN**

Angel Inn is a warm, homey little inn, somewhat off the beaten path. It is now run by Dorothy Morgan and her niece (or nephew), Ronnie, after Ronnie's parents who used to own it, were killed in an accident.

DSR is a small grouping of comfortable furniture for guests to relax and read. UPS of this grouping is a Christmas tree. USR is a doorway which leads to Dorothy's office, the inn kitchen, and the guest rooms.

USC is the lobby desk which holds a radio and the guest register.

SL is the door to the outside. DSL is a fireplace and additional seating.

Additional Christmas decorations will help set the holiday mood. The optional nativity scene can be set up by quickly moving the furniture offstage. If set up in another location, have the actors lead the way.

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**ACT I**

**Scene 1**

*(BEFORE CURTAIN: LESLIE EDWARDS, wearing a coat, enters from behind audience. SHE is upset; her voice reflects this.)*

LESLIE: *(Moves through audience as she speaks, and exits SR)* Becky? Becky? Where are you? Becky, please answer me. It's so cold out here! Oh, dear God, where is she? Becky ... Rebecca!

*(AT RISE OF CURTAIN: Action moves to stage. After a pause, ANGELA enters, SR. SHE walks about the room as if seeing it for first time, and talks to herself.)*

ANGELA: *(Picking up a doll from the sofa.)* Lovely, simply lovely. And the snow ... why, it just makes the grounds that much more beautiful. A Christmas card; yes, that's it. This lodge reminds me of a scene on a holiday card. Such a nice place to spend some time, but ... gracious, its been ages since I was assigned a small child. Oh, well, let me see ... let me see. *(Puts doll back, exits SR.)*

*(Pause. BECKY enters, from SL, glances around room as if looking for something. SHE sees doll, picks it up, and gives it a hug. RONNIE, entering SR with magazines, startles her as she starts to exit.)*

RONNIE: Hi there! *(BECKY gives no response. RONNIE walks DS, and places magazines on a table.)* Got some magazines here. *(BECKY watches RONNIE closely, but does not speak.)* Do you like to read? Help yourself.

*(There is still no response from BECKY.)*

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RONNIE: *(Moves closer and tries to make conversation.)*  
Uh, looks like we're in for more snow ... just in time for Christmas, too. I'll bet you like to play in the snow. *(No response. Undaunted, RONNIE points to doll in BECKY's arm.)* Who's your friend? *(BECKY still gives no response. SHE turns, walks toward SR exit.)* She's cute. What's her - *(BECKY exits, SR, with her doll before RONNIE finishes speaking.)* Uh, nice talking to you. *(SHE busies herself at lobby desk, then suddenly snaps her fingers, and exits SR)* I almost forgot!

*(Pause. LESLIE enters SL still in her coat, scans room before slumping on sofa in tears.)*

RONNIE: *(Enters, SR.)* Hi, Mrs. Edwards!

LESLIE: *(Responds quickly.)* Oh, Ronnie! Have you seen Becky?

RONNIE: Yes, ma'am.

LESLIE: *(Jumps up.)* You have? Where? When?

RONNIE: She was in here; just a minute ago. I think she went up to your room. *(LESLIE brushes by RONNIE as she exits, SR; does not hear her speak about doll.)* Had her doll with her, too. *(Phone RINGS.)* Good afternoon, Angel Inn. May I help you? Sorry, but you have the wrong number. That's OK - Merry Christmas. Good-bye. *(Goes to radio and turns it on. The lively Christmas MUSIC is too loud. SHE listens as she puts on her coat from behind desk, then exits, SL. The radio continues to play.)*

*(Pause. From off SR, DOROTHY calls to RONNIE to turn radio down. She then enters, SR, with eye glasses propped on top of her head, a pencil between her teeth, and carries an armful of papers. Attempts to call Ronnie again are garbled because of pencil which is then removed. She turns radio off and expresses great relief. With a sigh, she flips through the papers and talks to herself.)*

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