

ANGEL

By
Naadir Joseph

(Cast Copy)

Angel

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Characters

Kevin - The homeless, hat-wearing, ten-year-old boy
Rodney - The crazy, homeless boy
Eliza - The loving, homeless, fifteen year old girl
Dan - The sixteen year old leader of the homeless children
Alana - The artistic, homeless girl
Brian - The muscular, homeless, fifteen year old boy
Valerie - The sick, homeless girl
Elizabeth Thompson - A business woman
Doctor - The physical being of Death
Chorus - Playing the extra Citizens and Homeless People

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Scene 1

(Kevin is on his knees on the pavement with a hat next to him. Various Citizens are walking past him. Car noises can be heard in the background. Doctor in formal clothing is standing on the side, watching him.)

Kevin: Money! Money for the poor! Anyone have a cent to spare?

(Civilian walks past and drops a money note in the hat.)

Kevin: Thank you! Oh, thank you!

Doctor: What are you doing?

Kevin: What does it look like? I'm getting money.

Doctor: Why? You do know there is no point in doing what you are doing. There's no way you can stop it.

Kevin: I didn't say I want to stop it. All I am doing is... preparing.

Doctor: Prepare all you like, no one is ever ready.

Kevin: We will see, now won't we? Besides I have a family to look after.

Doctor: Family? You call your league of hobos a family? You all aren't even related.

Kevin: We aren't hobos! We're just misunderstood members of society, and who says we have to be born to the same mother to be a family? We are a family and I will always try to fend for them.

Doctor: Well, fend for them all you like. It won't make any difference.

Kevin: Yes it will. It always does. That reminds me, what's your name again?

Doctor: For the thirteenth time, it is Doctor Reaper! I won't repeat it again.

Kevin: That's a strange name. Your mother didn't like you very much, did she?

Doctor: Just don't forget it now, will you? You're the only patient I've seen this often, besides Miss Valerie.

Kevin: When is your final appointment with her anyway?

Eliza: **(Smiles at Elizabeth.)** You mean Kevin? Kevin came to see you!

Elizabeth: Is that his name? He didn't tell me. He ran off before I asked what his name was. Where is he?

Valerie: **(Grabs Dan and shakes him.)** Kevin saved us! **(Turns around and sees Kevin on the floor.)** Kevin!

(Everyone runs to his side.)

Dan: What happened?

Elizabeth: Everyone stand back please.

(Everyone takes a step back, Eliza hugs Kevin.)

Eliza: He's gone. **(Starts crying.)**

Elizabeth: **(Holds Eliza's shoulder, tries to get her off of Kevin.)**

Come on dear, I will call my personal medics to come and take care of this. There is nothing you can do.

Eliza: No! Let me go! Kevin! **(Holds Kevin's hand.)** Wait! Please Wait!

Brian: What is it?

Eliza: I found a note. He had it in his hand.

Dan: Read it Eliza, go on.

Eliza: **(Reads from a page.)** Hello everyone. If you are reading this then I am afraid I've passed on. You see all the time I've spent with you is borrowed time. I've been waiting. There is something I never shared with any of you. I have cancer. I didn't want to tell you because, well, I didn't want to bother you all with more troubles. I really am sorry. I hope you can forgive me. I've had cancer for as far back as I can remember and a couple of months ago, a doctor came to me, one that you could never see. He explained everything and he has finally come to take me to my mother. I really hope you stay together like I wanted you to. A family... I've done everything I could to give you what you all wanted. It was never money or food... it was happiness. I can only hope that I could at least do that for you as my mother always did for me. Brian, Dan, Rodney, Valerie, Alana and dear Miss Eliza, you have been a family that will always be in my heart. I will always watch over you from above. Good-bye...

(Lights fade to black.)

Dan: What brings you to these parts?
Elizabeth: Well, I'm here to take you home.
Valerie: Home? What do you mean home?
Elizabeth: I run a homeless shelter nearby. It has a school, plenty of food and has plenty of rooms. I'm here to take you there to be looked after.
Alana: Are you serious?
Elizabeth: Honey, if you really knew me. You would know that I am always serious.
Brian: Do you have a gym? I really want to get my muscles in shape.
Elizabeth: Yes, we have a gym.
Alana: Do you have an art room? I would really like to show you my skills.
Elizabeth: Yes, we have an art room. And I would be delighted if you showed me your talent.
Rodney: Can I bring my silver?
Elizabeth: Of course. But I must show you my collection. You would absolutely love it!
Rodney: Yippy! We have a home! My silver, we have a home! Did you hear that? We have a home! You are going to have brothers and sisters!
(Dan pushes Rodney out of the way.)
Dan: Don't mind him. He is a bit on the loony side.
Eliza: Everyone quiet! Now wait, I have a question. How did you know we are here under Bitter Bridge? Surely you didn't just walk out here just for fun.
Elizabeth: Well I wouldn't. I was told to come here.
Dan: Who told you that?
Elizabeth: Well, it was this small boy about this high and wore a weird hat on his head. I found him on his knees outside my building. When I saw him it seemed as if he was talking to himself.
Dan: Wait, you're talking about Rodney? Aren't you? Rodney's always talks to himself. We try to get him to stop, but he never listens.
Elizabeth: No, it's not Rodney. I don't see the boy here actually. Surely you know who is missing amongst all of you?

Doctor: Well, I can't tell you that. Doctor - patient confidentiality is there for a reason. So is that all you have made for the day, one measly note?
Kevin: You could be surprised with what one small thing can do.
Doctor: I still think what you're doing isn't worth the fuss. There is simply no point in it.
Kevin: Says you...
(Whilst Kevin speaks, a sound effect of a breeze goes Offstage.)
Doctor: Sorry to cut this short. The office calls, someone needs me.
(Doctor walks Offstage.)
Kevin: It might seem small, but sometimes small things can do stuff, you know. I always felt small, but that never stopped me from chasing my dreams. **(Coughs)** This money may be small, but it can do something. **(Walks Offstage.)**

Scene 2

(The stars are out. Dan and Brian are around one fire. Eliza, Rodney and Valerie are around another at their 'house' and Alana is standing by a wall spray painting. The Doctor is in homeless clothing in the back with the rest of the other homeless people, who are walking around and are huddled up in groups.)

Eliza: Where is Kevin?
Dan: You know Kevin, he is always out and about on his own mission. What should we eat tonight?
Brian: Let's get us some meat! I need protein to keep my muscles big and strong.
Alana: What muscle? Your arms should be used to make another fire, the way they're so thin. Anyway we don't have any money, remember?
Dan: We haven't had any money in weeks. All of you should be out on the streets, begging for money! But all you do is sit here. Even Valerie here **(Kicks Valerie slightly)** should be out in the street, infecting others with her illness. But... if I remember right, hey Rodney...
Rodney: No!
Dan: You didn't even know what I was going to say.

Rodney: Yes, I do. You were going to ask if I have money on me and the answer is yes, but I am not giving it to any of you. It is mine!

Dan: Rodney, but...

Rodney: It is mine, all mine!

Dan: Just sell one of these silver things.

(Dan tries to grab a silver treasure, but Rodney snatches it from him.)

Rodney: I will repeat what I said. It is mine and none of you can have it. **(Laughs hysterically.)**

Dan: Never-mind that whack-job. We will just have to have the one meal we have every night, the infamous air sandwich. It's not like you kids get anything else.

(Kevin enters, shouting from Offstage.)

Kevin: Guys! Hey, guys! Look what I got. **(Holds out the money.)**

Dan: **(Dan grabs money from Kevin.)** This money belongs to me. It's bad enough I look after you all. You never bring in any money, but I suppose I should feed all of you, well most of you. Let's go everybody!

(Everyone yells and goes Offstage except Kevin, Eliza and Valerie.)

Alana: **(Shouts from Offstage)** Food here we come!

Eliza: Hey Kevin, why don't you come take a seat next to me. You sure have been gone for a long time.

Valerie: The others weren't even worried where he was. They are all a bunch of... **(Moans.)**

Kevin: That's okay, miss, don't talk. You need to rest. I've been begging all day and that was all I could get. The people on the streets aren't as giving as they used to be.

Eliza: It's okay. You did your best and that's what matters. Without you here, who knows what would happen to us. You're kind of like our father even if no one sees it, especially Dan.

Kevin: But Dan is the oldest, so isn't he in charge?

Eliza: He likes to think he is, but he is just like one of us, scared and alone. Besides I prefer spending time with you than listening to him babble on about how he was born in the wild. I'm sick of it.

Kevin: Thank-you, Miss Eliza. But I just do my part like everyone else.

Kevin: I don't expect you to understand. You aren't exactly human now are you, Doctor? One moment of happiness can last a lifetime. One moment of happiness is priceless.

Doctor: Maybe you're right, maybe you're wrong. I still don't think this will change anything. One human can't make such a difference.

Kevin: That's where you are wrong! It will cause a change just you watch.

Doctor: So - you will teach a few to be kind to the homeless, after a few years, it will be forgotten.

(Kevin forgets about the Doctor and stares at the group.)

Doctor: Excuse me? **(Snaps his fingers.)** Are you listening? Well, I have some advice for you. I've been around for a very long time and one thing I can say about you, humans. You have something in you that I cannot begin to fathom.

Kevin: What do you mean?

Doctor: You see I've seen the Pyramids get built. I've seen the Eiffel Tower's construction and the Burj Dubai reach towering heights. The thing is I've realized that humans are filled with a quality that gives them undying hope. Well, whatever it is, you are filled to the brim with it.

Kevin: That's probably the nicest thing you have said to me.

Doctor: Trust me; I won't make a habit of it.

Kevin: I wish I could have my mother here to see this.

Doctor: Speaking of which, it's time you go see her.

(Kevin nods, digs in his pocket, takes out a note and lies down Centrestage. Doctor follows him and then walks Offstage. Time continues as normal.)

Dan: Who are you? Get out here now!

(Elizabeth walks Onstage.)

Valerie: That is Elizabeth Thompson!

Elizabeth: Well, I think I don't need to introduce myself, seems like my reputation speaks for itself.

Eliza: **(Goes to Elizabeth's hand and shakes it rapidly.)** Hi, Miss Thompson. It's a real pleasure. You've been an idol all my life. You've...

Brian: **(Grabs Eliza off of Elizabeth.)** Easy there! You don't want to rip her arm off. She is a guest in our home.

Brian: I am not a macho man. I am a strong man! And I will share my story since Kevin was brave enough to tell us his. I've been on the streets for a long time just like Dan. I spent my days on the streets begging for food and a place to stay. Until one day I saw this huge man. He could carry about ten trucks on those shoulders of his. I decided then that I'd be big like him. Maybe then when I have a family I can protect them.

All: Awwwwwww...

Dan: **(Dan turns his head to the sides fast.)** What, is everyone going to start crying now? Should we get a bucket? We shouldn't waste water like that.

Eliza: Oh just hush Dan! We all know you are human too. It's okay to feel sorry for someone once in a while. Kevin, why are you so hot?

Kevin: I'm fine.

(Doctor is on one end of the stage calling him with a hand gesture.)

Kevin: **(Starts walking towards the Doctor.)** I should grab some water. I'm thirsty.

(A voice is heard from Offstage.)

Dan: Who is that?

Alana: What if it's some weird talking unicorn?

Dan: **(Smacks Alana's forehead.)** Are you serious? A talking unicorn? I think you and Rodney should get married seriously.

Elizabeth: **(Offstage)** Hello? Is anyone there?

(Time pauses, everyone is in the state of a freeze frame except Kevin and the Doctor.)

Kevin: It's time isn't it?

Doctor: **(Nods)** So did it work? All of the work you did? Did it pay-off?

Kevin: What do you think? Look at them. **(Points to the Group.)**

(The Group goes in slow motion as if they are talking and back into the freeze frame.)

Kevin: After the four years I've been here, I've never seen us all sit down the way we have today.

Doctor: And all of that work was worth it? All the pain and sadness you felt worth one moment of happiness? I think it's a waste of time.

Eliza: Oh, please! If you were like any of them, we would have died a long time ago. If you were like Rodney, well, you would probably have been hearing voices and always shouting my dear for everything you found. And don't get me started with Alana!

Her words are as artistic as her art on these walls, not true and big!

Kevin: Yeah, well it's who they are. We can't change who they are and we should accept them as is. We're a family.

Eliza: Uh Kevin, are you okay? Are you starting to see stuff? We could never be a family. We never have food and no one looks after us.

Kevin: Yes, we do. We have you. You look after us just like my mother used to do. We are a family **(Shakes his shirt, getting hot.)** You know things will get better for us, right?

Eliza: **(A slight chuckle)** Kevin, it's been four years since we all met and you have said that every day. Won't you ever give up on the idea of us getting out of here? Face it, we are meant to be at the bottom of everyone's boot.

Kevin: I know we will get out of this place someday. My mother taught me to never give up on what my heart tells me.

Eliza: Yeah, now I know it's true. You are delirious if you think we are getting out of here. The water is getting cold. Could you watch Valerie while I go warm it up?

(Kevin nods, Eliza walks Offstage. Kevin places Valerie's head on his lap.)

Kevin: **(Strokes Valerie's hair.)** Sometimes I wonder when all this will end, miss. I mean things aren't getting better and you need medicine. I'll try to get some tomorrow alright?

(Valerie points towards the back.)

Kevin: What is it? What's wrong?

(Doctor walks forward.)

Doctor: See? I told you there is no point in what you are doing. It will do nothing just like the other times. Don't you see? Humans never care about each other. They live for themselves and no one else. Your family just proved that.

Kevin: There's one thing you should know Doctor! Humans can love and help each other. Look at Miss Eliza, she's a perfect example. She is just like our mother.

Doctor: One example is all you can give? One person can't change an entire species. At the heart of it all, everyone lives for themselves even Eliza. She just does this because she has nothing else to do.

Kevin: Now listen up! Miss Eliza is not like that. She is...
(Moans and holds his chest.)

Doctor: Hmmmm, how long has that pain been there? Five months now? It keeps happening, doesn't it? What about the blood from your cough? Not long now...

(Dan calls from Offstage and the Doctor disappears into the crowd of the Homeless. Everyone enters except Eliza. Rodney walks on with chips in his hand.)

Dan: Eliza! Eliza! We brought you some chips from the shop.
(Drops the box on the floor and looks at Kevin.) What's going on with you? Don't tell me, you missing mommy?

Alana: We didn't bring back any food for you, Kevin, sorry. We are older and bigger, so we need to eat more than you.

Brian: I ate your share. I needed to, to keep my muscles big. Maybe Rodney can give you...

Rodney: Oh, don't you dare go there! What's mine is mine. No one gets anything from me. It's all mine. **(Shoves the chips into his mouth.)**

Dan: That's that, I guess. You will be alright, won't you?

Kevin: Uhm su...

Dan: That's the spirit! Hey, I still have some cold drink left, let's go sit by the fire and drink it. I will tell you the story about the nasty men in the wild.

(Everyone follows Dan to a fire. Eliza comes Onstage picks up the box of chips off the ground and sits next to Kevin.)

Eliza: Go on, have some.

Kevin: That's okay. You go on, Miss. You need it more after all that you have done for us. **(Rubs his chest.)** Besides I think I might have the flu or something, I am just having trouble swallowing.

Eliza: You are really something Kev. I wish there were more people like you in the world. You have a unique soul, one that I've never seen before.

Kevin: What do you mean?

Eliza: I did no such thing. What kind of person do you think I am?

Dan: Ugly, mean? Maybe believes in fairies - like Kevin here.

Eliza: Are you sure you weren't looking in the mirror? And you leave Kevin alone. He has done nothing to you.

Valerie: Why are you so mean to Kevin anyway?

Dan: Well, you know it's what big brothers are there for. To annoy, tease and irritate!

Valerie: I'm sure that's what that old woman did to you, didn't she?

Dan: I don't want to talk about it.

Alana: So Dan has a soft side after all. Who would have thought?

Dan: Oh hush now all right? I was just trying to give Kev what he wanted the best way I knew how.

Alana: And what was that?

Dan: Well, you've heard what he always rambles on about. Haven't you? He is always talking about us being a family.

Eliza: We are nothing near to that.

Kevin: I think we are.

Valerie: I agree. We may be different where some are missing a few bolts and others a few books in their head. And some have no hope when others have never ending hope. But when it comes down to it, we are all together like a family.

Alana: Hey guys! Look here! Look what I painted!

Brian: What is it?

Alana: Don't you see it? It's a family portrait with all of us in it.

Brian: I look like a gorilla!

Dan: My head is not that big!

Alana: Well, if you don't like it, you could just say so. You don't have to be so mean.

(Everyone shakes their head except Kevin.)

Eliza: Wait, what about Brian, Valerie and Alana? What about their stories?

Dan: Forget about it. Brian is too much of a macho man...

Kevin: I'm fine. Please go to the bridge and help them. They may seem rough around the edges, but they mean well. **(Runs Offstage.)**

(Elizabeth's phone rings and she answers her phone.)

Elizabeth: Hello? Oh, the meeting! Yes, I'll be right there. But after the meeting I have to go somewhere. Bye. **(Beeping sound is heard of an ended phone call.)**

Scene 4

(Kevin enters and the rest of the group is sitting on logs around a fire. Doctor, dressed in ragged clothes, is still in the background with the other Homeless people, watching.)

Dan: Kevin! Come over here, and have a seat. Eliza had a talk with me and I've had a change of heart. Take a seat and why don't you tell us how you ended up here.

(Kevin sits down.)

Kevin: You really want to know, sir?

Dan: Sure, why not?

Kevin: Well, you see. When I was nine, I was in a car crash with my parents. They never survived though, but I was lucky. As I got out of the wreck, I ran away. I was scared. I didn't know what to do. I ran and found you guys, so I decided to stay. None of my other family members ever looked for me. I checked, but I found another family that took me in.

Eliza: I'm sorry to hear that. **(Sits next to him and hugs him.)**

Kevin: It's okay. My mother taught me never to let life get you down, even when Death comes knocking on your door. I still think about her, but I know I will see her again someday.

Dan: I had you all wrong Kev. Seems like you more of a man than I thought. Well, since you said your part. I'll tell you mine. I've always been on the street and never had a family. My mother left me with this old woman and when I was able to run, I ran! I found this place and it's been my home all my life.

Valerie: You know I always thought about the stars.

Dan: Looks like we have another Rodney in our group. Eliza, please tell me you didn't mess with her head?

Eliza: Well... It's hard to explain, but the world isn't the way you see it is. You see a world that cares about each other and never lets anything bad happen to anyone else. When the world doesn't care, it never did.

Kevin: Where's your proof? My mother always said that when you state something, you should always prove what you say by giving proof.

Eliza: I'd like to meet your mother someday. She sounds... **(Giggles)** exactly like you... But if proof is what you are looking for then look around you. We are all here alone and miserable. Who cares about us, the world? Like I said the world doesn't care. **(Throws the chip box on the ground and stands up.)**

Kevin: Miss, what happened? Why are you here?

Eliza: Well... you see... my father, every night he would come into my room and... until one day, I saw him and my mother arguing, so I just decided to run away.

(Rodney moves to one side, plays with his silver.)

Eliza: I thought anything would be better than that place. So that's how I ended up under Bitter Bridge.

Kevin: I'm sorry.

Eliza: It's fine. Rodney makes it fun enough to forget about everything. Rodney! Can you come here please?

Rodney: Noooo! I am playing with my silver.

Valerie: They just want to ask you about your silver and how you ended up here.

Rodney: Well if you must know. I can tell you that I left my home. My father could never stop teasing me about how stupid I am. Then one day, I had it. I just ran. This silver you see is my mother's, a true gem she was. It's the only things I have left of her.

Valerie: See! His madness has reason. You're a good kid Rodney.

Rodney: I'm not a good kid. I'm bad. I would steal an apple from that tree over there. That's how bad I am.

Valerie: I think I might agree with your dad. On a pleasing note, I am feeling a bit better. Eliza, is there any chips in the box?

(Eliza slides the box to Valerie, Rodney moves back to his silver. Alana moves to the group.)

Alana: Hey, Valerie. You feeling better? I have a gift for you, look! **(Points to a wall.)** It's a portrait of you.

Brian: (Walks to the wall.) Wait, what's this writing? It says, 'Kill Val soon.' Woah, woah, woah! Alana, I thought I was the fighter in the group. Since when did you plan this?

Alana: It says, 'Get well soon,' you moron!

Valerie: Rodney, I take it back. Your dad should have met Brian. He would really have given himself a heart attack with him.

(Everyone laughs, but Kevin doesn't.)

Valerie: Thanks sis. **(Turns and hugs Alana.)**

Dan: **(Dan walks forward.)** What's with all the laughter? Shouldn't you all be sleeping? You have to go beg tomorrow. Go to bed all of you!

(Everyone goes to bed.)

Kevin: **(Whispers to Eliza.)** I told you we are a family. **(Valerie throws the box to Kevin with a few chips inside.)**

Kevin: **(Points to the cover of the box.)** Hey! Who is that!

Valerie: That's Elizabeth Thompson. She runs a string of food businesses and other huge companies in the city. I saw her car one day. It was that long that I thought it couldn't turn a single corner.

Eliza: You know I was named after her. My mother thought I would be like her. Some dream that was.

(Kevin gets out of bed and runs Offstage.)

Alana: Hey! Where are you going?

(There is no answer and Dan wakes up in a rush.)

Dan: *What's with all the noise?*

Valerie: Kevin's run off.

Dan: Where did that little rubbish go to?

Eliza: He didn't say, but would it kill you to be kind to him once in a while, after everything he has done for us?

Dan: Hey, if he learns to grow up and forget about being so childish, maybe then I will cut him some slack. If he doesn't, he could end up like Rodney. **(Points at Rodney.)**

(Rodney is smiling in bed and holding his silver treasures.)

Eliza: Well he deserves better. He is just a boy. He means good.

(Blackout)

Scene 3

(It's morning. Kevin is holding his chest, walking on the pavement, trying to get someone to help him. He is outside Elizabeth Thompson's building. Car sounds are in background. The Doctor is in formal clothing.)

Kevin: Excuse me? Excuse me? Could you please help me? Sorry, could you please help me? Madam, could you please help me?

(No response from anyone of the Citizens and Kevin drops to his knees.)

Doctor: Given up yet?

Kevin: No, I'm just taking a break.

Doctor: You have been at it all night. No one is listening. Admit it. You've given up.

(Kevin shakes his head.)

Doctor: You really think a child like you can help those broken children? After watching you all, I have to say that you are crazier than Rodney. But I have to give you credit. You are persistent. I'd like to see how this plays out. But I do have to remind you, our final appointment is today.

Kevin: **(Kevin nods his head.)** I'll see you later then Doctor.

(The Doctor moves Offstage.)

Kevin: Can someone help me please? Someone? Anyone?

Elizabeth: **(Walks on towards Kevin.)** Hey, little one. What are you doing here? **(Kneels down to Kevin and lifts him to his feet.)** Come inside, we will get you something to eat.

Kevin: I can't eat, miss. I'm here to talk to you. I need your help.

Elizabeth: What is it?

Kevin: If you have the time, please come to the area underneath Bitter Bridge. There is a group of children there that needs your help. They need homes and people to look after them. Please will you... **(Coughs loudly and looks at his hand.)**

Elizabeth: Sure son, but why don't you come in and have something to eat. You need your strength.