

**"Redemption In The Wings" Sample Pages #1**  
**by Fred Passmore**  
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**Please note:** the prologue starts out like an ordinary Christmas play. But events quickly go horribly wrong, and they realize that were watching a rehearsal, and that it wasn't a real accident. It is a joke pulled on the audience, that leads them into a very different kind of play with a bit of humor and building on their preconceived expectations, or even against them. So as you read, keep that in mind, the script is not your usual Nativity Play once you get past the prologue. Also, the prologue contains the only two lines of spoken dialog in the play.

**PROLOG:**

**Begin Track # 1:** *(Sounds like an old scratchy record, with old-fashioned Christmas music.)*

**Actions during the next part of the narration:** *From the side of the stage, the actors playing Joseph and Mary (Brianna McIntyre and Lenny) come out and sit in the straw. Mary tenderly cradles her baby (obviously a doll) and then places it in the manger, covering him up with swaddling clothes. Her smile is beautiful as she gazes at the child.*

**Soundtrack opening narrator:** Christmas... what a blessed time of the year. A time for gifts and giving. And there has never been a greater gift given by anyone than the one that God gave to the world on the first Christmas... that of his only begotten son.

**Actions during the next part of the narration:** *The children or young men playing the shepherds begin to make their way down the aisle of the church. They walk down the aisle in single file, looking this way and that, seeking the nativity scene described, acting as talking quietly to each other.*

**Narrator:** *(For this particular sequence only; not the same voice as the Nate narration.)* And who do you think he sent His angels to, to tell of the arrival of this wonderful gift? You might expect it was a king, or some other important person, but no... it was a some humble shepherds out in the fields keeping watch over their flocks of sheep. An angel had appeared to them to tell them of the birth of the Messiah, and where he could be found. And with the sounds of the Heavenly choir still echoing in their ears and hearts, they set off to find Him. They hurried to Bethlehem, and after looking all over, they finally found the stable... and Mary, and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger just as they had been told. As they carefully and humbly neared the manger... *(THE RECORD SKIPS)* ...and so they went on their way, rejoicing and praising God, and telling everyone what they had seen and *(THE RECORD GETS STUCK AND REPEATS.)*

**Actions:** *The Shepherd actors, confused and thrown off by the stuck record, look around uncertainly as they near the manger. The first one stops, not knowing what to do, and the one behind him stops, but the one in the back, still looking around, runs into the one in the middle and knocks him over, falling into the first one. He falls over also, directly onto the manger, spilling out the doll that represents the baby Jesus. (THE NEEDLE IS KNOCKED OFF THE LP, SCRATCHING ACROSS IT WITH A HORRIBLE NOISE.) Mary jumps up, dismayed, and the poor shepherd quickly picks up the doll by an arm and awkwardly tries to put it back in the manger, as if trying to cover up the accident.*

**Brianna as Mary:** *(Throwing her arms up in the air in exasperation and disgust.)* **LIVE DIALOG:** That's IT! I've had it. I can't work with such amateurs and unprofessionals! When you get real actors, call me. Lenny! *(She claps her hands and motions.)* Let's get out of here.

**Actions:** *Lenny instantly doffs his robe hood and puts on a pair of cool sunglasses. He looks around, and begins backing up behind her as he follows her out, watching everyone carefully. The Director, Charlotte Vickers, hurries on stage with a clipboard in hand and starts to follow her off, but the bodyguard raises a hand sharply and warns her "stay back" as he hustles the girl off-stage and out of sight. Stymied, Charlotte freezes, looking around at the stricken shepherds, two of which point in accusation at the last one who had tripped them all up. He raises his hands helplessly and shrugs his shoulders at her, and she slumps in defeat. Pointing offstage, she sends the three shepherds away.*

**Charlotte:** *(With a look toward the ceiling.)* **LIVE DIALOG:** If this play comes together in time for Christmas, it will be a **miracle!**

**Actions:** *Charlotte resignedly walks offstage as the lights dim and the background music ends..*

**Begin Track # 2:** Full-sounding music, in direct contrast to the tinny, scratchy music heard earlier, comes up and

begins the first act.

## **Act 1**

**Actions during the next part of the narration:** *The stage remains empty for a moment more, then the character of Nate walks out, wearing a coat with his hands in his pockets. He stops in the middle of the stage and looks around. He is not speaking, but his words are being heard through the narrative. He moves around the stage area, hands still in his pockets, stopping here and there to gaze at various areas as if they are invoking memories. about mid-way through, people begin coming on one at a time, carrying various items and busying themselves with getting ready.*

**Narrator:** *(This is the Nate character narrating now.)* And that's how it all began. Not a very promising start, to be sure.... but then, most miraculous situations often begin as what you would call disastrous. What we just saw happened nearly two weeks ago, during the rehearsals for the Christmas play. Now, the performance is date upon them, and they seem no closer to making it happen now than then. It's especially busy this particular holiday season, here at the "Refuge In The Rock," a shelter for people that are temporarily displaced by various kinds of hardships. Some might call it a homeless shelter... but the people that work or volunteer here call it a ministry. It's the evening of the play now, and everyone is arriving to prepare for the presentation of the play... ready or not.

**Actions during the next part of the narration:** *As the lights come up again, Nate moves over to the side of the stage to make room for the activity starting to take place. He turns and watches the various people as they come in; first, Charlotte comes onto the stage, followed by her crew of workers. She has her clipboard again, and as each person playing a helper come on stage, they come to her. She checks the clipboard and then points them in a direction, telling them what needs to be done. The Seamstress character comes out with some costumes over her arm, and Charlotte sends her to a table where she begins separating the garments for the actors to wear. She also makes some repairs to them as the action goes on.*

**Narrator:** There's a lot of activity that goes on behind the scenes in any kind of production like this, something we seldom see. But this time, I'm going to be pulling back the curtains, as it were, to give you a glimpse of the unseen work and the unsung workers that labor to bless others. The lady obviously in charge is Charlotte Vickers, who holds the position -among others- of the Directory of Activities. She's been at the shelter for many years, but this is the fullest she's ever seen it. She knows that being without a home is bad any time, but infinitely worse on Christmas. So she's determined to present, with the Lord's help, an unforgettable Christmas play for the families that have come to them for shelter, food and comfort.

**Actions during the next part of the narration:** *The Janitor, Owen, comes on stage to banjo Christmas music, sweeping and swaying as he does, as if hearing music no-one else can. He does a little dance with the broom now and then as he sweeps. He always has a slight smile playing about his lips and a twinkle in his eye. He moves in and out among the various people on the stage, sweeping without getting in anyone's way, but managing to cover all the floor by coming back to a spot when someone has moved.*

**Narrator:** The older gentleman dancing with his partner the broom is Owen, the shelter's janitor and handyman. He always has a song in his heart and kind words on his lips for all. If Charlotte is the head of the shelter, then Owen is it's heart, ready to lend a hand and a shoulder to the guests, who often just want someone to listen to them. Owen is a wise man, and anyone talking to him will come away with feeling encouraged. He's a man after my own heart.. and the Lord's.

**Actions during the next part of the narration:** *As Charlotte is talking to someone, she catches Owen's eye and motions for him to come over to her. Owen puts the broom aside and moves to stand beside her, waiting for her to finish with the person. As soon as they leave, she turns to him with a smile and they speak. Owen appears apologetic as he explains the situation, and as he finishes she puts a hand to her head as if feeling a headache coming on.*

**Narrator:** Wondering why the Christmas tree for the stage wasn't up yet, Charlotte asked Owen what the delay might be. Reluctantly, Owen related to Charlotte that he'd "run into a slight hitch," as he termed it. "Sorry to have ta tell ya this, Miss Charlotte," he said; "but some varmint done got in an stole the Christmas tree and decorations" Typically, he tried to downplay the crime, saying that someone must have been really desperate to steal a tree but everyone's hit hard this year.

**Actions during the next part of the narration:** *As Charlotte lifts her hands and wonders what they are going to do, Nate leaves the sidelines and approaches the two of them. Owen is trying to placate her and settle down, with his hands patting the air down in front of him. Upon seeing Nate, Charlotte holds up a hand to the janitor as*

*if she doesn't want their troubles overheard by the guests, and turns to face the stranger. Owen nods at the approaching man and excuses himself with a touch to his forehead toward Charlotte, walking off stage. Nate shakes hands with Charlotte and they stand speaking back and forth as the narrative indicates.*

**Narrator:** I had been waiting and watching from the wings long enough... it was time to get involved. Moving over to introduce myself to the shelter's director, I told her my name was Nate, and that I had been sent by headquarters to lend a hand. Her face changed from wondering to relieved, all too happy to accept any kind of help. She loosened up and told me that I was a gift from heaven since they were short-handed this year, with not enough staff or budget to deal with the needs of the many people coming in for help. Walking together to the edge of the stage area, she told me of the hardship that many were experiencing due to the economy and loss of homes and jobs. I asked her what they needed, and her reply was "a miracle," as she half-laughed. She wondered what I could do, and I said anything they needed. So, she pointed me in the direction of some of the volunteers putting up the stage set, and off I went.

**Actions during the next part of the narration:** *Nate assists the extras on the stage in various things they are doing to put up the set and backdrop. He keeps an eye on things from the sidelines, though. Just then, the "diva" Brianna McIntyre storms onto the stage, her bodyguard in tow. Upon spying the diva's approach, Charlotte faces away from her and her eyes roll up in an expression of impatience. The star rapidly stalks up to Charlotte, who sighs and turns to face her.*

**Narrator:** Now, it's unfortunately an accurate axiom that "it never rains but it pours," and another ugly thundercloud was looming on Charlotte's horizon; this time bringing a storm in the form of the "Diva" as she was known behind her back. Her name was Brianna McIntyre, a budding young Hollywood TV star here to serve her sentence of public service for repeated DUI's. She was also known as a "drama queen" and she was certainly living down to her reputation now.

**Actions during the next part of the narration:** *As her bodyguard Lenny watches all around, the Diva gets up close to Charlotte's face and begins pointing offstage in the direction from which she came and making angry motions, holding up her costume robe and shaking it. The rest of the cast and crew stop their work and watch the confrontation with interest. They exchanged heated conversation back and forth during the narrative as indicated. Eventually Charlotte flips a page back on her clipboard, holding the page up for the girl to see. She indicates it as she stresses a point, to which the Diva responds by turning silent and sulky.*

**Narrator:** It was made known to everyone, quite loudly, that the problem area was the Diva's dressing room, which was supposed to be private. It seems she had come in to do her makeup when she found it occupied by several other cast members getting ready; and this was completely unacceptable for a star of her caliber. She demanded a private dressing room immediately. Charlotte refused to cater to her, and made it clear there was no more room, and she'd have to make do. Her final words were a reminder that a quick call to her probation officer could get her taken to jail if Charlotte reported that she was being uncooperative. Well, this warning seemed to snap her back to reality and she backed off for the time being.

**Actions during the next part of the narration:** *The crisis averted for now, Lenny begins to coax the diva offstage as the cast and crew got back to work. Charlotte, standing with her arms crossed, watches her go and shakes her head. She looks at Nate still beside her and nods her thanks, to which he nods a welcome in return. Just then a reporter hurries onto the stage and stops Brianna, taking her photo several times, to which she responds by smiling and posing in several different ways. The "shy child," Sophia Conners, has come on stage holding her father's hand, and is trying to get closer to McIntyre. Her father, Franklin, is gently keeping her back. She pulls down on her father's arm, and he kneels down for her to whisper in his ear. He quietly replies something back to her as they watch the activity going on.*

**Narrator:** Having a so-called "star" around was disruptive in more ways than one; the press were getting wind of her presence now and starting to show up at the worst times. As she preened and vlogged for the camera, I noticed a small fan who had made her way into the room to get a closer look at her favorite TV show star. Her name was Sophie Conners, and the experience of losing her home and having to live among strangers had caused her to retreat into a space of her own that she only allowed her father Franklin into. Her desire to meet McIntyre was unusual for her and one that Franklin was anxious to grant her.

**Actions during the next part of the narration:** *Work has once again come to a stand-still as everyone watches the interview. Charlotte, looking around at them with disbelieving eyes, "shoos" them back to their work with a pointed finger at her watch; but they are slow to move. The little girl, dragging her father closer, gingerly holds up an autograph booklet toward the starlet, but Lenny puts out a hand to keep her away during the interview, which is continuing as the reporter questions the actress and holds up a mic to record her answers.*