

“Assignment: Comfort And Joy” Sample Pages #3

Narrator Afriel: Arriving at the radio station, Steven was taking over from the board operator from the afternoon shift, Theresa, who also happens to be the station's program Director. As she prepared to leave, she brought out a gift-wrapped package she had hidden and gave it to him, telling him not to open it til Christmas. Thanking her, and reaching for the bag he brought in with him, he takes out an unwrapped manuscript in a binder. He explained that she had expressed interest recently in having a copy of some of his original Christmas stories, and she gratefully expressed her thanks. This seemed to spark an idea in her mind, and she turned back to the D.J., suggesting to him that he read some of the stories tonight on the air. Hesitant, he said he lacked faith in his material. She told him that she was sorry to hear that, but, she encouraged him to share these new ones with the listeners. He reluctantly agreed, but expressed his doubt that many would be tuning in anyway, since they would be with family and friends. Theresa replied that maybe those that were listening tonight might be lonely, and needed to hear something uplifting. Wishing him a Merry Christmas, she headed out the door.

*(Actions during the next paragraph.) As Steven sits down and is looking through the pages of the binder, we see the door onstage slowly open, and a face peeks into the room. This is Donald Shanker, the DJ from the other studio in the same building. Wearing a Santa hat and beard and a mischevious expression, and carrying a plastic trash bag slung over his shoulder, and holding a wreath, he sneaks in quietly, watching Steven to make sure he is not detected, and stealthily moves into place behind his chair as the narration describes his appearance.*

Narrator Afriel: Now, so deeply engrossed in his reading, Steven was completely unaware that the control room was being invaded by a silent and stealthy visitor.

He was decked out in blue jeans, and wore a fake beard, and a red fur-lined hat that made him look weird. A big Hefty trashbag was slung over his back, and he looked like a garbageman holding a sack. His eyes-how they scowled! His mouth-how it sneered! You could tell just by looking, he was to be feared.

*(Actions during the next piece of music; no narration as the action carries the scene.) Suddenly yelling "Ho, ho, ho!" he scares the DJ so badly that he falls out of his office chair onto the floor. Picking himself up off the floor, Steven grabs hold of the chair to help himself up, and the bad Santa pulls it away, causing him to fall all over again. Quickly grabbing the bottom of the trash bag, he lifts it up and empties the contents, handfuls of crumpled trash paper, on the D. J.'s head. "Merry Christmas!" he exclaims. These lines are done live by the actor. This further amuses the man, Don Shanker, who laughs and slaps his knee as he watches the DJ try to get to his feet. Holding out a hand as if to help, when the D.J. reaches for it, he yanks it back in a big showy motion, nearing causing him to fall again. Then, grabbing the bag, he pulls it down over Steven's head and upper body, grabbing him by the shoulders and spinning him around. Stumbling back and forth as he tries to get the bag off, the D.J. nearly falls over the board. The bad Santa then grabs the wreath he brought in with him (which can be the same one that Steven used earlier) and jams it down over Steven's head while still in the bag.*

*(Actions during the next paragraph.) Laughing hysterically as the DJ manages to push off the wreath, then take off the bag, he points at him and wipes his eyes, laughing so hard he is crying. Finally, he pulls the bag off his head, and throws it down angrily as he glares at the prankster. As Don laughs more, he removes the beard but leaves the hat on his head. Pulling a mock pious face and clasping his hands together, he looks upward as he tells the angry co-worker to ask himself "What Would Jesus Do?" Picking up the trash bag, Steven cleans up the trash as he begins to ask him some probing questions. The questions make him indignant, as Steven focuses on him and begins to figure something out. But the other D.J. retorts angrily, then leaves.*

Narrator Afriel: This rather immature act regretfully forces me to introduce you to the proverbial thorn in

Steven's side... a fellow by the appropriate name of Donald Shanker, known to his listeners by his self-proclaimed nickname, "The Don." This irritating fellow works in the other studio in the building, which runs a secular talk-radio format. Noticing Steven's clenched fist, he tells the angry co-worker to ask himself "What Would Jesus Do?" As Steven reigns in his temper, remembering that he had to show forgiveness and patience toward sinners, he wonders to himself if they don't sometimes count on that when trying to provoke a reaction. The D.J says that he is working tonight because he has no family in the area. He wonders why the other man is working the night shift, and asks if he is alone also; and Steven invites him to stay and listen to some music with him. Smarting from the suggestion that he has such a need, he scoffs at the idea, retorting that he is just killing time until his girlfriend comes to the station to keep him company. Watching him retreat in a huff, Steven has no doubt but that "The Don" will be planning something to make him pay for the insult.