

## “Stormy Night, Holy Night” Sample Page #2

**Actions during the next paragraph:** *She resumes pacing, a worried expression on her face, and then notices her father sitting there, unphased. She stop and angrily asks him why he is not concerned. He leans back and tells her a story from the Bible, and they talk back and forth about it.*

**Narrator:** Worriedly, Caroline resumes pacing as the sounds of the storm increase outside, but she suddenly stops and looks at her father in disbelief as she notices him sitting calmly. She lashes out in frustration, and wonders why he isn't worried also, as they could be in real danger. She wonders if he just doesn't care that the storm could bring down the house around them. Smiling a little, he tells her that she has reminded him of an event related in the Bible. Jesus was asleep in the back of the disciple's boat out on the lake when a storm arose and threatened to swamp the little vessel. The disciples frantically awoke Jesus and asked if he didn't care that they were about to perish? Caroline wondered what he said to them. Her father told her that he asked them why they were afraid, and had so little faith. He then spoke to the wind and the waves and commanded them to be still, and they obeyed him. He tells her that there is no reason to be afraid, because the Lord has everything under control and He can be trusted. The teen bitterly retorts that her mother trusted the Lord and He let her have the car accident that claimed her life. She feels the Lord let down her mother and all of them. The daughter says that her mother was a believer, so why didn't the Lord protect her? The dad responds that the time of our passing is never by accident, and when the time comes that the Lord ordains, we know we go to be with him immediately. So either way, we can trust him. Harold tells her that he himself is comforted by the knowledge that his wife is now in Heaven awaiting them, along with her mother who joined her shortly after. But he reassures his daughter that God is in control in the here and now, and we can trust him. He will deliver us many times during our lives from situations that could have harmed us. When that one time comes where he doesn't deliver us on Earth, He delivers us from Earth and takes us home forever.

**Narrator:** Harold tells her that building our faith on Jesus, the solid and immovable rock, the solid foundation, will sustain us when situations like storms threaten to overwhelm us. “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

**Narrator:** Her father reminds her of how she gave her heart to the Lord several years ago, and she says that she did, and she does believe in the Lord. But she admits she has not been living out His words, but has been preoccupied with all the many things that crowd her teen life. She has neglected prayer, Bible study, and has been letting the entertainment and pressures of the world crowd out spiritual things. *(The reading begins to get louder here, as the narrator is talking over the rising storm sounds and music.)* Her father suggests that they occupy themselves by praying about it, rededicating their lives to Him and thanking Him for his love and protection. *(This is the point where the sounds of the storm are loudest, and the music is dramatic and scary.)*

**Actions during the next paragraph:** *Caroline kneels on the floor beside her seated father as they pray. She puts her hands over her ears and is afraid as they wind and storm rises. With each noise, she jumps, and trembles more. but as she prays, she does begin to feel the Lord's presence, and gets more peaceful even as the tornado roars overhead.*

**Narrator:** Kneeling beside her father, who is sitting on the chair, Caroline tries to ignore the wind that has begun screaming around the eaves of the house. She begins to pray with him, putting her hands over her ears to muffle the thunder that is crashing all around them. Huddled together, the father and daughter lift their voices and heart to the Lord, as outside the tornado is approaches, and they can hear tree limbs breaking outside, and hail hitting the roof. The lightning and thunder are continuous now, accompanied by the sound of debris impacting the sides of the house. But as they pray, somehow, even in the midst of the storm, an inner light and peace begins to surround them, and Caroline begins to sense the presence of Someone with her, Someone besides her Father. Her troubled heart is comforted by the loving arms of her Heavenly Father, and His Spirit brings her a calm that goes further than just easing her fears about the tornado moving overhead; he begins healing the hurt and grief that had been breaking like waves over her soul. She realizes that, even in the deepest darkness she are facing now, that Jesus is there, and, like He said in His word, He will never, ever leave or forsake her.

*(The words of the song by Archie Jordan, "When Your World Turns Dark" begins.)*

*Song lyrics: When you world turns dark,  
my friend, take heart.  
When you world turns dark,  
that's when you'll see God.*