

A GUARDIAN ANGEL

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Uriel had just finished his training at Angel University. Now it was time for his first assignment. Like the other students in his class, he was so excited he could not wait for the list of the people they were going to protect to be posted on the bulletin board.

After graduation, and as soon as the list was pinned to the board, the angels pushed forward to see their names on the list. Uriel was not as big as the other angels, so he had to jump up and down to see the list, but he could not see anything. He was the last one to see it.

When he looked at the paper, he could not find his name. Everyone else had an assignment but him. He was confused. He wondered why his name was not there.

He asked the teacher who was standing next to the board, “Where is my name? I don’t see my name anywhere on the list.”

The lady told him he would need to speak to the dean of students. She did not have any answers for him right then.

He went to the dean’s office to ask why his name was not on the list.

The dean said, “I’m worried about the baby I had originally planned for you. I suggest that you should wait until the next term, so you can get an easier case to work on.”

Uriel’s grades at the university were not that good. In fact, he had just a passing

score. The dean told him she thought he was not ready yet.

“Please! Let me have an assignment. I’ll take anything. I don’t want to wait another year,” Uriel begged the dean.

She looked over the records on her desk, then she said, “There’s only one name here, but looking at what his life is going to be like, I’m not sure you can handle him. I think you need to wait. I need to find a more experienced angel to take him.”

Uriel kept insisting that he would do a great job, if only given a chance.

Finally, the dean gave in and made him the guardian angel of the boy on her list. His name was Peter Duggins. He was going to be born in two days.

“I hope I don’t regret this,” the dean said, as she handed him the folder with the information about his assignment.

Uriel took the file about Peter’s information to his room. He studied about his parents, about his home, and about his life. At first, he was excited and then, as he continued to read the information, he realized why the dean had been worried.

Then he thought to himself, “I can do this. I can prove to them that I’ll be the best guardian angel ever!”

The day came for Peter’s birth. Uriel was in the room watching. He had never seen a baby born before. He wondered why anyone would ever want to have a baby. It seemed to be just too painful, but when it was over everyone was so happy.

Peter looked terrible. He was red and his skin was all wrinkled. When he started to cry, the whole room filled with the sound. Uriel had to cover his ears.

Uriel stayed with Peter as he went home. He stayed in Peter’s room and made sure everything was perfect. He did not want any harm to come to his first assignment. He made sure the baby did not fall out of his crib, made sure his bottle was not too hot, and made sure he was comfortable when he slept.

As Peter grew, he became more and more of a challenge. He would run too fast, jump too high, fall down, and even hit the dog. He did many things where he could have gotten hurt badly.

It was up to Uriel to keep him safe. Uriel had his hands full protecting Peter.

As Peter grew, he continued to get into more trouble. When his parents were not watching, he would walk out of the house. Uriel had to whisper in the parent's ears to warn them that he had left.

Sometimes he would walk away when they were in the grocery store and Uriel had to tell strangers who had found him, how to find his parents.

When Peter got to elementary school, he loved to play on the jungle gym and hang upside down. He would climb to the top and then jump as far as he could. Uriel had to watch him every minute of the day.

In middle school, he played every sport: football, baseball, and basketball. He was a pretty good athlete, but when he was in class, he always misbehaved. He was sent to the principal's office almost every day.

The other kids teased him and called him names because he was always in trouble. He got into many fights with older kids and became a big bully. He treated the kids in his class very badly. No one liked him.

It was becoming a fulltime job for Uriel. He had to keep up with all of the times Peter could have injured himself.

Uriel was determined to prove the dean wrong. He was going to succeed with his assignment. He worked harder than he had ever dreamed.

When Peter got to high school, he became even more difficult to protect. He became friends with boys who were into many bad things. Uriel did his best to help him, but Peter had a mind of his own. He began to smoke and then take drugs. His life became a big mess.

The other guardian angels could not believe what was going on with Uriel's assignment. They watched as he found creative ways to protect Peter, but it was becoming more and more difficult.

The other guardian angels asked Uriel why he was helping such a bad person. They wondered why he did not ask to be reassigned to another person who was not

so much trouble.

Uriel would reply, “Peter needs me. It’s my job. It’s what I was born to do. He’s my assignment, and I have to do all I can to protect him. If I’m not there, he will surely die.”

One day, Peter and his friends decided to rob a convenience store. Peter was the first one in the door. A lady started to scream, so Peter became nervous. He fired his gun and killed her.

The gang ran out of the store, but as they did, the police arrived. There was a gun battle with bullets flying all over the place.

One of the bullets hit Peter. He fell down and lay on the street in great pain. The police arrested him and took him to the hospital. Even though he was injured, Uriel had managed to keep him from being killed. All of Peter’s friends died.

Peter went to trial and was convicted of robbery and murder. He was sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison.

Life in prison was not easy for either Peter or Uriel. Peter got into many fights with other inmates because Peter thought he was so tough.

After a few years, a big riot happened in the prison and Peter managed to escape. He hid in the back of a garbage truck. When the truck stopped in the middle of the garbage dump, Peter jumped out and ran away.

Uriel was still there protecting him as best as he could.

Peter avoided capture for two years. He lived in the mountains in a small cabin. During this time, Uriel was finally able to relax. Peter did not do much of anything. He was hiding.

The only thing that made Uriel nervous was when Peter would go to nearby cabins to steal food and clothes. Once he was shot at by an old woman with a shotgun. Peter was hit in his rear end, and it took a few weeks for the wounds to heal.

Then the day came when the police found him. They surrounded the cabin and told him to come out.

Peter refused to leave.

The police began to fire their guns into the cabin. Peter lay on the floor, but several of the bullets hit him. Soon he was dead.

As Peter's spirit left his body, he was able to see Uriel for the first time.

"Who are you?" Peter asked.

"I'm Uriel. I've been your guardian angel since you were born," Uriel replied.

"You were my guardian angel?! Why didn't you protect me just now? Why did you let me die?" Peter asked in an angry tone.

"What are you talking about?" Uriel asked. "I've been watching over you all your life.

"Who saved you when you walked out of the house? Who protected you when you fell off the jungle gym? Who protected you when you got into fights? Who took care of you after you were shot during the robbery? Who kept you from being sentenced to die? *It was me!*" exclaimed Uriel.

"Why didn't you help me just now?" Peter asked.

"I couldn't save you this time. It was your fault. You are responsible for your own death, not me!" Uriel said, as he disappeared.

Uriel returned to Angel University where he met with the dean of students.

"I'm sorry I failed. I thought I could save Peter, even though I knew what he was going to be like. I'll return to school to learn the lessons I should have learned before," Uriel said, staring down at the floor in despair.

"Uriel, look at me. You did an amazing job of protecting Peter. The one thing you could not protect him from was himself. No one can do that. I'm proud of you," the dean told him.

"What do you mean?" Uriel looked up in surprise.

"We've been watching you over the years. You did an amazing job," the dean complimented him.

"And because you've done such a good job, we're promoting you to guardian

angel level two.

“Here’s your next assignment. I hope you do as good a job with him as you did with Peter,” the dean said, as she handed Uriel the new folder.

He looked at the name. It said, ‘Justin Bieber’.

VOCABULARY: (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. protect _____ | a. hanging head down |
| 2. bulletin board _____ | b. speak in a soft voice |
| 3. Dean _____ | c. act badly, disobey, naughty |
| 4. regret _____ | d. to be found guilty |
| 5. whisper _____ | e. place to post messages |
| 6. upside down _____ | f. prisoners, jailbirds |
| 7. misbehave _____ | g. head of a department in a school |
| 8. difficult _____ | h. defend, guard, safeguard |
| 9. convict (v) _____ | i. feel guilty, shame, remorse |
| 10. inmates _____ | j. not easy |

TRUE / FALSE:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Uriel was a student in Angel's University. | T / F |
| 2. Uriel had good scores in all his classes. | T / F |
| 3. His assignment was Tommy Jones. | T / F |
| 4. The other Angels were jealous of Uriel. | T / F |
| 5. Uriel watched as Peter was born. | T / F |
| 6. Peter was a good athlete. | T / F |
| 7. Peter broke his arm when he fell off the jungle gym. | T / F |
| 8. Peter liked to walk away from his mother in the grocery store. | T / F |
| 9. Peter went to jail for thirty days. | T / F |
| 10. An old lady shot Peter and killed him. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. Where did Uriel go to school? _____
 - a) Angel's Academy
 - b) Angel's Elementary
 - c) Angel's University
 - d) Angel's College

2. Where did Uriel look to find his assignment? _____
 - a) on the internet
 - b) in his classroom
 - c) in the dean's office
 - d) on the bulletin board

3. What did Peter and his friends try to rob? _____
 - a) grocery store
 - b) convenience store
 - c) pawn shop
 - d) liquor store

4. How did Peter escape from prison? _____
 - a) in a police car
 - b) in a garbage truck
 - c) on a motorcycle
 - d) climbing over a fence

COMPREHENSION: *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. Who was Uriel's first assignment?

2. Why did the Dean think Uriel was not ready for an assignment?

3. What would Uriel do when Peter walked away from his mother?

4. What did Peter like to do on the jungle gym?

5. Who did Peter shoot at the convenience store?

6. Who shot Peter with a shotgun when he tried to steal something?

7. How long did Peter hide in the forest?

8. Who asked Uriel why he didn't ask for a new assignment?

9. How long was Peter supposed to stay in prison?

10. Who was Uriel's next assignment?
