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*Angels Fight Dirty*  
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**American Way**  
**by Jeremy Gable**

3 Males, 1 Female

No Intermission

**Synopsis:** It's not easy being a superhero. When not busy looking danger straight in the eye, there's comic book sales, public complaints and failed marketing strategies to deal with. Sometimes it seems the only solace for a hard day of crime-fighting is a trip to the secret café. Our heroes - the explosive Firebang, the voluptuous Mandible Maiden and the recently retired Crescent Wonder - gather to have a drink and welcome the newest apprentice, an eager kid with an unusual name. But the day is young, and there is danger lurking. "American Way" shows what happens when those with superpowers suddenly realize that they are powerless. With a mixture of humor and tragedy, it shows us what truly makes a superhero.

**If You Take One Elf Off The Shelf**  
**by Francesca Sanders**

*2 Males, 2 Females*

**Synopsis:** Danika is writing a novel... well, wait a minute, maybe it's a play... or it could be non-fiction aka her real life. Perhaps Samson, the kindly elf can help sort this out. Or it could be Elsa, the temptress, reveals more than just her body... though it is quite a body... and she does put on quite a strip show. Oh, I bet Errol, her boss, will break through his uptight persona and answer these burning questions for us. Because surely someone knows which is the play, which is the novel and which is real life. Surely someone knows. Anyone?

# Angels Fight Dirty

By Mark aloysius Kenneally

“Angels Fight Dirty” was first presented at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, April 7, 2000. It was directed by Phil Hubbard and with the following cast:

LUKE—Scott Johnson

ANDREA—Jamie Carvelli

OZZIE—Jason Aaron Goldberg

MARY—Chrissy Wright

RAPHAEL—Jonathan Shultz

JULIE—Erin Hagerty

Time: A long night’s journey into day.

Place: The living room of a quaint West Coast Floridian home in Sarasota, Florida. The atmosphere suggests a house that has “been in the family” for generations.

Synopsis: The story of when the angels stop watching over us and start living with us.

*(Lights up on OZZIE watching television alone. The sounds of a cheesy porno movie are heard coming from the TV. OZZIE is drinking a beer and giggling. After a few moments LUKE enters the apartment.)*

LUKE

Ozzie? What are you doing here?

OZZIE

I just got back from mass.

LUKE

Do you always follow church with porno?

OZZIE

Of course.

LUKE

But Andrea's on her way over, so you've gotta get outta here.

OZZIE

I've just gotta get some lines.

LUKE

Lines?

OZZIE

Yeah, believe it or not, the best pick up lines are the ones you hear in the wonderful world of soft core porno. And the movies on Cinamax have some of the best. Like these I got off of *Molly Mouth in Nursing School* last night... (*Reading from a pad of paper on his lap*) "I may be off duty but my unit is always on call." Or what about... "the surgery may be over, but I still need to explore all of your internal cavities." And of course my favorite... "I need 400 cc's of boobs STAT!"

LUKE

Those sound fine... so why are you still here?

OZZIE

No, those were from last night... I need to fine some new ones... (*Pointing to the screen*) that's why I'm watching *Denise and Debbie down in the Delta*. I hope I can pull off a Cajun accent.

LUKE

I really need to be alone with Andrea tonight.

OZZIE

Tonight's the big night huh?

LUKE

She thinks so but I'm still not sure I'm ready.

OZZIE

I think you should just do it and get it over with.

LUKE

I think you should just butt out of my business and leave.

OZZIE

Okay, okay... I guess I'll go to the bar and try some of these new lines out on a couple broads.

LUKE

Good. But don't call them broads, they don't like that.

OZZIE

Duh... I know... they like it when you call them bitches.

LUKE

Fine, whatever. Just leave.

OZZIE

WAIT!! I can't go yet, I almost forgot something.

LUKE

No you didn't. You didn't forget anything... nothing was forgotten... go!

OZZIE

No, wait... I've gotta watch the news first.

LUKE

What, like the exclusive late breaking porno news reports?

OZZIE

No, the real news. It should be starting right about now...

*(OZZIE flips some channels on the remote control and then we hear a news reporter.)*

#### NEWS REPORT VOICEOVER

Good evening and welcome to News Ten: The Eye on Southwest Florida. Our lead story tonight... an unidentified man caused a scene outside the United Bank in St. Petersburg when he accosted seven people involved in a worship ceremony in front of the image of what most people claim is the Virgin Mary which first appeared slightly over a year ago. Since then, many people have traveled from around the entire world to view and pray in front of this apparent celestial image. Tonight the man seen here, wearing a ski-mask and a tee-shirt reading "I'm the Christian the Devil warned you about" was seen verbally and physically attacking several onlookers. Although no arrests have been made, the police are still looking for suspects. This and many other reports coming soon on--

*(Disgusted, LUKE finally grabs the remote away from OZZIE and throws it at the TV. It shatters to pieces on impact.)*

OZZIE

Hey?! I was watching that!

LUKE

Are you out of your mind?

OZZIE

No, that was just the beginning my new crusade.

LUKE

You're gonna be thrown in jail.

OZZIE

They didn't know who I was because I was wearing a disguise.

LUKE

Did I say you could borrow my ski-mask?

OZZIE

Nothing could possibly happen to me. It's a mission from God.

LUKE

What is?

OZZIE

Well, I keep seeing these stories about rednecks in Idaho finding potatoes and yams that appear to resemble the shape of the Lord our Savior and Mexican Farmers that swear they keep having lunch with the ghost of Hitler and now it's happening right here in Florida too... I've decided not to take it anymore.

LUKE

Why not?

OZZIE

Because I know in my heart that if God, or the Virgin Mary... or Hitler wanted to appear to the world they'd do it with more style. And I am going to serve God by proving to the world that all these ridiculous sightings of Heavenly Beings are all big frauds.

LUKE

Because they don't exist in the first place.

OZZIE

Just because you don't believe in God anymore, doesn't mean that I agree with you.

LUKE

Hey, I just don't know what to believe so I'm waiting for the facts to come in.

OZZIE

But doesn't the sight of all those morons praying in front of that false icon piss you off?

LUKE

False icon? What Skinamax porno did you get that off of?

OZZIE

*The Garden of Eden and Sex* but that's not the point. The point is--

LUKE

The point is you need to leave. Go save all the lost souls in the world, just don't start with me.

OZZIE

Okay. But I can't start my mission until I have sex. It's my one condition. So I'm gonna put my smack down on some gangsta bitches before I start my mission. But if I were you, I'd call the cable company and get a new remote so that I can watch some more Skinamax when-

LUKE

Okay. Bye.

OZZIE

Fine. Bye. (*A beat*) Heathen.

*(OZZIE opens the door to find ANDREA who was about to enter. Both are startled.)*

OZZIE

JESUS CHRIST!!!

ANDREA  
Sorry Ozzie.

OZZIE  
Goddamn, you scared me. *(A beat)* Hey Luke... Andrea's here.

*(OZZIE exits and ANDREA enters the apartment. She moves in to kiss LUKE but he backs away.)*

ANDREA  
Can't I get a kiss?

LUKE  
Of course, of course. *(A pause)* Do you want to watch a movie?

ANDREA  
No.

LUKE  
Something to eat?

ANDREA  
Nope.

LUKE  
Wanna go out somewhere?

ANDREA  
Is something wrong?

LUKE  
No... I just thought that maybe...

ANDREA  
Well, that's your whole problem. Stop thinking.

*(She pulls him close to her and they kiss. He tries to pull away but she holds him close to her. Then she slowly leads him to an offstage bedroom. A few moments of silence and just a bare stage. Then ANDREA enters quickly, now obviously upset. LUKE comes on shortly after her.)*

LUKE

What's wrong?

ANDREA

How could you?

LUKE

How could I what?

ANDREA

You've got another woman in there! How could you think that I'd be into something like that?!

LUKE

She's just a sex doll.

ANDREA

That's even sicker.

LUKE

What's so sick about it?

ANDREA

You want to have sex with me and a blow up doll and you have to ask what's sick about that?

LUKE

I don't want to have sex with her. (*A beat*) I want you to have sex with her while I videotape you.

ANDREA

You need help.

LUKE

No, I can film it by myself.

ANDREA

Professional help. You're a pervert.

LUKE

Perverts don't have understanding girlfriends as wonderful as you.

ANDREA

They just lose them by doing things like this.

LUKE

Perverts have girlfriends that enjoy it when they get beaten.

ANDREA

Well, I'm glad I found this out kinky, perverted sickness of yours now. Thank God I found out before we talked about the "L" word.

LUKE

Lingerie?

ANDREA

Love!! I'm not that kind of a girl!

LUKE

How do you know what kind of girl you are until you try different things like this?

ANDREA

I'm not going to have sex with a blow up doll.

LUKE

Whoa. Mary may be a personalized love puppet, but I never said she was a blow up doll.

ANDREA

Oh, my God.

LUKE

What?

ANDREA

You named her?

LUKE

The company did.

ANDREA

What do you mean she's not a blow up doll?

LUKE

She's a real doll. They look and feel almost exactly like a real woman.

ANDREA

Oh, well then... that's completely different. Good.

LUKE

You changed your mind? Sweet, I'll go get the whipped cream.

ANDREA

No, but it's good that she feels real. Now you've got yourself new on the rebound.

LUKE

You're leaving me? Over this?

ANDREA

And everything else.

LUKE

What else?

ANDREA

Whips, chains, vibrators and whatever other weird things you were going to try out on me later on down the road.

LUKE

Vibrators? You want us to get that kinky already?

ANDREA

I can't believe I ever thought you were a nice guy!

LUKE

Andrea, sweetheart, I'm still a nice guy! I'm just the kind of nice guy who might enjoy seeing you tie me up and spank me with bamboo reeds!

ANDREA

I have been waiting for weeks for this moment and then you go and ruin it all with a perverted little sex doll.

LUKE

I'm glad I didn't show you the hood and cane.

ANDREA

Where did all this perversion come from... you used to be this nice wholesome boyfriend. And then the first time we are gonna have sex, you act like this. You've turned into a freakish asshole.

LUKE

Alright, dirty talk... now you're getting into it.

ANDREA

Luke... I will never get into it. And the fact that you are means that I must be getting home right about now.

LUKE

I think you're just jealous.

ANDREA

What?!

LUKE

It was a joke! Listen sweetie... I know we can work this whole thing out... I'm sorry I didn't show you all of my sex toys before our first time... but I just thought--

ANDREA

All your sex toys? Exactly how many sex toys do you have?

LUKE

My collection is not the point.

ANDREA

You have a collection?

LUKE

I'm positive we can come to some sort of a compromise if we talk about things. Don't rush to judgement about our relationship. This can't all fall to pieces just at the sight of a sex doll? I think we've got something too special to just ruin over a piece of rubber.

ANDREA

I just can't stay Luke... I'm sorry.

LUKE

Andrea please wait. (*A beat*) Look, why don't we just forget about having sex altogether for awhile and go back to the way our relationship was before? You know, the caring kind without the sex getting in the way. Why do you think I have wanted to wait this long in the first place?

ANDREA

Because you wanted it to be special like I did?

LUKE

Well... yeah, that too... but really it was because I was scared it would complicate things.

ANDREA

Well you were right then. A little too right I'm afraid.

LUKE

Please don't go.

ANDREA

I'm sorry Luke... but I just can't be with you any longer.

*(ANDREA exits with LUKE following her as he talks)*

LUKE

Andrea?... Andrea, listen?!... Andrea, wait! (*A beat*) ANDREA!!!

*(ANDREA is gone. LUKE just stands there silently. Then he exits into the offstage bedroom and returns bringing MARY with him. He sits her on the sofa and looks at her. She sits perfectly still, eyes closed, arms and legs outstretched, and mouth wide open. She is dressed in just a piece of skimpy lingerie. Then OZZIE re-enters and collapses on the sofa. He sits next to MARY.)*

OZZIE

I can't believe I got so flustered that I just forgot all my lines. (*A beat*) Where's Andrea? Did she get jealous of your new friend?

LUKE

I guess so.

OZZIE

What the hell are you doing with this?

LUKE  
I got her yesterday.

OZZIE  
Why on earth would a guy like you ever want a blow up doll?

LUKE  
She's not a blow up doll.

OZZIE  
Could have fooled me.

LUKE  
She's a real doll.

OZZIE  
A real doll? Is that code for I can no longer tell the difference between reality and perverted fantasy?

LUKE  
You remember that show Real Sex that I taped off HBO for you?

OZZIE  
Remember it? I damn near broke the pause button.

LUKE  
And that Internet company they showcased on the show?

OZZIE  
I never watched that part. I always fast-forwarded to the section called "fun with hot wax."

LUKE  
Well this Internet company sells these things called real dolls. They are hand made to your specific requests... i.e. measurements, height, weight, hair and eye color... (*picking up MARY and standing her on the ground*) and she's made with a synthetic rubber that feels a lot like real skin, she's got blinking eyes, a movable tongue and when you push this button on her back... (*He pushes a button and suddenly MARY robotically begins pulling her arm and hand up to her mouth. She repeats the action several times before LUKE pushes the button again and she returns to the first frozen position.*) she does that.

OZZIE

*(In awe)*

What's their Internet address?

LUKE

You can't afford one.

OZZIE

What's their Internet address?

LUKE

You can't afford one.

OZZIE

What's their Internet address?

LUKE

You CAN NOT afford one.

OZZIE

*(Snapping out of it)*

How do you know what I can and can not afford? Do you know how much they pay people for a healthy liver?

LUKE

You drink like a fish.

OZZIE

What does that have to do with my liver?

LUKE

Trust me, you can't afford one of these.

OZZIE

Maybe I can.

LUKE

5,000 bucks.

OZZIE

Maybe I can't.

LUKE  
Told you.

OZZIE  
Have you tried her out yet?

LUKE  
I didn't buy her to have sex with.

OZZIE  
Does she play chess?

LUKE  
I bought her to scare Andrea.

OZZIE  
Couldn't you just hide in a closet?

LUKE  
This is all your fault.

OZZIE  
My fault?

LUKE  
Yeah, last week when I told you I thought Andrea was ready to have sex but I wasn't, you told me to scare her into waiting longer.

OZZIE  
I can see how someone might assume I meant buy a sex toy.

LUKE  
I figured if I came on super strong, she'd tell me to slow down.

OZZIE  
Well, there is that fine line between coming on strong and like a sex crazed pervert.

LUKE  
There's also a difference between slowing down and screeching to a halt.

OZZIE

She left for good?

LUKE

Merely at the thought of me filming her while she had sex with this doll.

OZZIE

That bitch.

LUKE

Thanks a lot.

OZZIE

Just get rid of the doll and have normal sex with her.

LUKE

I'm still not ready for sex. Besides, I can't just throw Mary away.

OZZIE

Mary? That's gotta be a sin.

LUKE

What?

OZZIE

You can't have a sex doll named after our Heavenly Mother.

LUKE

You're heavenly mother.

OZZIE

Name her something like Helen... or Lorraine.

LUKE

Lorraine's your mom's name!

OZZIE

That's not why I suggested it. I just like the name Lorraine. *(A beat)*  
But she does have my mother's hair.

LUKE

And you think I'm the one going to hell.

OZZIE

Hey, I know... why don't I take Lorrain... er, Mary off your hands and--

LUKE

Not a chance.

OZZIE

Why not?

LUKE

Because I'm gonna try and return her.

OZZIE

You can't do that.

LUKE

Oh, no? (*Picking up and reading a tag still attached to Mary*) If you are not completely satisfied within the first thirty days please return your personalized love puppet to RealDoll.com for a full refund.

OZZIE

RealDoll.com, huh? Good to know. But now some other pervert is gonna get your used sex doll.

LUKE

But I haven't used her.

OZZIE

It's still gross.

LUKE

Ten seconds ago you wanted to have sex with her.

OZZIE

I didn't want to have sex with her! (*A beat*) I just wanted to look at her naked and masturbate.

LUKE

No wonder you can't keep a girlfriend for longer than a day.

OZZIE

Don't forget about Annie.

LUKE

She went into a coma after your second date.

OZZIE

But we still stuck together until her parents pulled the plug.

LUKE

Oh.

OZZIE

I just don't understand why you would go to all this trouble not to sleep with your girlfriend.

LUKE

Because I'm not ready.

OZZIE

I think this whole "no-sex" thing is all because of your parents.

LUKE

Don't. Not tonight.

OZZIE

It's been a year. Why can't you accept the fact that the pilot killed your parents, not you.

LUKE

Get out.

OZZIE

You're gonna ruin your life if you keep--

LUKE

GET OUT!

OZZIE

Fine. But you are never going to be happy until you come to terms with this issue.

LUKE

Please get out of my house right now.

OZZIE

I'm only a friend trying to help.

LUKE

Don't you have some other sinners you could be saving tonight? Or at least some girls you could be stalking?

OZZIE

Yeah, I guess... maybe I'll even find one who's grateful.

LUKE

A sinner or a girl?

OZZIE

Like there's a difference.

LUKE

Keep being that noble, upstanding Christian and that ego-mania-porn-freak at the same time.

OZZIE

At least I still have a God.

LUKE

And I hope he still has you.

*(OZZIE leaves the house quickly. LUKE is noticeably upset. He sits down on the sofa and looks up at MARY. SUDDENLY, the heavens open, Angelic music is heard, a loud crack of thunder, a flood of lights illuminate the image of MARY and then... she comes to life. LUKE cowers on the couch in awe as MARY surveys her surroundings. She gazes at everything in the room until finally she looks at herself standing there in just a skimpy piece of lingerie. She tries unsuccessfully to cover herself up until finally she looks at LUKE.)*

MARY

Do you have a robe?

LUKE

Wh... wh... what are you?

MARY

I'm shy! (A beat) A blanket?... a pillow?... a washcloth?!

LUKE

Who... who... who are you?

MARY

Luke, calm down and I will explain everything... but first, how about-

LUKE

How... how... how did you know my name?

MARY

GET ME A ROBE!!! NOW!!!

LUKE

Okay, sure.

*(LUKE exits and returns quickly with a robe. He starts to approach MARY and then backs away and just throws the robe at her.)*

MARY

Thank you.

LUKE

You're not real.

MARY

I beg your pardon.

LUKE

You're a hallucination caused by stress.

MARY

Do you always hallucinate with the aid of booming thunder and Angelic music?

LUKE

Am I in *Mannequin Three: The Porn Years*? What are you doing in my sex doll?

MARY

So, you have no faith, huh?

LUKE  
Oh, my God.

MARY  
Good guess, but he couldn't make the trip... I'm the Virgin Mary.

LUKE  
You're the what?

MARY  
I'm a who, not a what.

LUKE  
Great, my hallucination is correcting my grammar.

MARY  
I'm not your hallucination.

LUKE  
Then you're a talking sex doll.

MARY  
Right... well, not exactly. You can't see the actual me because I'm inside the doll... but I am the one talking, not it. A sex doll who talks? I think that's a little too unrealistic, don't you? I am the Virgin Mary, I just thought if I stayed invisible you might think I was a snob.

LUKE  
Prove it.

MARY  
Why should I have to prove it? Do you think I'm another Deity pretending to be the Virgin Mary?

LUKE  
I don't know. Turn some water into wine or heal a leper.

MARY  
Luke, I don't do parlor tricks. (*A beat*) I can't believe I have to prove to you that this is not just your sex toy talking to you. Why do I always have to prove that I am who I say I am?

LUKE

If you are who you say you are then you should know that I'm the wrong guy to just go with you on some act of faith. (*A beat*) How about you at least tell me something that no one on the face of the earth could know about but me?

MARY

You mean like the time you crazy glued your tongue to the roof of your mouth to see if it would help you whistle.

LUKE

That happened when I was ten years old... how did you know about that?

MARY

I can pick something more embarrassing if you still don't believe me. How about when you got your dick caught in your toy cement mixer...

*(LUKE stares at MARY with his mouth agape.)*

LUKE

You just said dick.

MARY

Why does this happen every time I appear to someone? How come you all expect me to be wearing tattered gowns and a stupid little halo and start saying "Thee" and Thou"? Where do you all get your research? Look Luke... up in Heaven we keep up with the times.

LUKE

Does Jesus swear?

MARY

Occasionally. It's kinda funny when he uses his own name in vain.

LUKE

Okay, maybe you are the Virgin Mary. What are you doing here?

*(SUDDENLY there is a loud knock on the door.)*

LUKE

Holy shit!

MARY  
Holy shit... that's funny.

LUKE  
You've gotta hide.

MARY  
I'll just come back later. 'Kay?

*(MARY freezes into the position of the "real doll" again. Another knock. LUKE cautiously approaches MARY. He studies her closely.)*

LUKE  
Mary? Mary?

MARY  
*(Unfreezing)*  
What?

LUKE  
JESUS CHRIST!!

MARY  
No... I told you, I'm Mary. I was practicing, now go answer the door.

*(MARY freezes again and LUKE opens the front door to find RAPHAEL. He is a large man wearing a jumpsuit with the name CARL written on the lapel. There should be a large bulge protruding from his shoulders.)*

RAPHAEL  
Cable guy, something wrong with your remote control?

LUKE  
My remote? Oh yeah... Ozzie must have called you... come on in and just put the new one on th--

MARY  
*(Unfreezing)*  
NO, DON'T INVITE HIM IN!!