

Applying to Heaven

Hallie Koontz

817 Wilson St.  
Geneva, IL, 60134

(630) 701-5650

[hallie.koontz@gmail.com](mailto:hallie.koontz@gmail.com)

Cast of Characters

Angel:

Secretary, any age

Chance :

A baffled, slightly awkward  
18-year-old

ACT I

Scene 1

LIGHTS UP

*A gate stands near stage left. An ANGEL sits at a desk outside it, typing into a LAPTOP. A large BOOK is on the desk next to her.*

*CHANCE enters, stage right. He glances around nervously.*

CHANCE

Excuse me?

ANGEL

May I help you?

CHANCE

Is this Heaven?

ANGEL

The one and only.

CHANCE

So I'm dead then, huh?

ANGEL

Afraid so. But you can spend the best years of your Afterlife here.

CHANCE

Does that mean I get to come in?

ANGEL

Certainly. What's your name?

CHANCE

Chance Doe.

*Angel flips slowly through the Book.*

CHANCE

That's Chance Doe.

(beat)

Doe.

*She switches to the laptop.*

CHANCE

(beat)

With a D.

(CONTINUED)

ANGEL

I'm sorry. I can't seem to find your application.

CHANCE

My application?

ANGEL

Did you send one in?

CHANCE

I didn't know I had to apply.

ANGEL

Well luckily for you, the deadline for the Resurrection Term isn't until March. Would you like to apply now?

CHANCE

Yes, please.

ANGEL

(prepares to type into laptop)  
How old are you?

CHANCE

18.

ANGEL

Birthday?

CHANCE

October 21st.

ANGEL

Where did you live?

CHANCE

Chicago.

ANGEL

Your GPA?

CHANCE

(beat)  
My GPA?

ANGEL

Your Goodly Person Attributes.

CHANCE

Oh. I don't know?

ANGEL

(flips Book to show Chance)

You know the seven deadly sins? Take the good versions of those traits, add the appropriate number that you think applies, and then divide by seven. 4.0 is saintly, 3.0 is good, 2.0 is decent, and 1.0 is the guy downstairs.

CHANCE

3.0?

ANGEL

Excellent. Now what is your course of meditation?

CHANCE

...getting into Heaven?

ANGEL

Well obviously. You want to be an angel, right? What kind of angel would you like to be? They all require different meditations. Cherubim, Seraphim, Archangel?

CHANCE

Do I have to decide now?

ANGEL

Well you have to be something.

CHANCE

...Cherubim.

ANGEL

You'll make an excellent Cherub. Now I'll need at least one letter of recommendation.

CHANCE

From who?

ANGEL

A priest. A rabbi. A minister. Someone who could say you'd be a good candidate for Heaven.

CHANCE

Can I just say it?

ANGEL

No.

CHANCE

I don't have one.

ANGEL

(annoyed)  
Well, it's not necessary. Just preferred.

CHANCE

Sorry. Am I done?

ANGEL

Just one more thing.

*Alice shoves the Book and a pen into Chance's hands.*

ANGEL

An essay.

CHANCE

How long?

ANGEL

Just a thousand words.

CHANCE

About what?

ANGEL

Why do you want to get into Heaven?

CHANCE

...Because it's better than the alternative?

ANGEL

Write it down.

*Chance awkwardly balances the Book on his arm and begins writing.*

ANGEL

While you're doing that we can discuss your finances.

CHANCE

Finances? Does Heaven cost money?

ANGEL

Of course. Everything is gold here. Paradise isn't cheap.

CHANCE

Well how much is it?

*Alice beckons Chance closer and whispers in his ear.*

*Chance drops the Book.*

CHANCE

I can't pay that!

ANGEL

You can't?

CHANCE

No!

ANGEL

You know that 99% of Heaven applicants have said that lately?

CHANCE

(overdramatic)

I wonder why!

ANGEL

Well we help you, we offer loans. You just pay them back once you're an Angel. And we don't even start charging you until six months after you get your halo. It doesn't take long. A couple millenia.

CHANCE

Why does it cost so much?

ANGEL

(definitive)

Paradise isn't cheap.

CHANCE

How the hell did it get this way?

ANGEL

(exasperated)

Hell is down the hall and to your left.

CHANCE

Is it any easier to get into?

ANGEL

Much harder, actually.

CHANCE

Well are those loans hard to get?

ANGEL

Very. But there is a third option.

(CONTINUED)

CHANCE

There is?

ANGEL

Many souls choose to begin their Afterlife experience in Purgatory. It's much less expensive and most of their credits transfer over.

CHANCE

Credits?

ANGEL

You can learn the basics of Angelhood in Purgatory. Like how to play the harp. And then transfer those credits over here to pick up your meditation where you left off.

CHANCE

What if I don't want to learn how to play the harp?

ANGEL

(offended, intense)

Everyone needs to know how to play the harp.

CHANCE

And my learning the harp there will count as if I learned it here?

ANGEL

Only if you take Harp 100. Harp 101 doesn't count here, and Harp 102 technically qualifies under Heaven's 'Personal Development' requirement and not 'Heavenly Music' like it is in Purgatory. You could take Harp 210, but the prerequisite is Harp 101, and since that doesn't count, I wouldn't recommend it. But Harp 115 is fun. So long as you take it concurrently with Harp 116. They don't count unless they're a bundle package.

CHANCE

Does Purgatory make this harder or easier?

ANGEL

(cheerful)

Yes.

CHANCE

(beat)

Well, God knows I've got no other choice.

ANGEL

God certainly does know.

(CONTINUED)



CHANCE

So I guess I'm going to Purgatory.

ANGEL

The best of luck to you. It's right before the door to Hell.

CHANCE

Goodbye.

ANGEL

Have a lovely time.

*Chance exits.*

ANGEL

I miss the days when people just buried themselves with all their gold. The Egyptians knew how to do it.

LIGHTS DOWN