

# **THE ANGEL OF DEATH**

A Short Comedy

by

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15 Inglis Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3HU

THE ANGEL OF DEATH  
GOING GOING, GONE  
and  
MEET THE FAMILY

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## THE CAST

**Hank**                    }  
**Lee**                     } *Three Gangsters*  
**Babyface Nolan**    }



## THE ANGEL OF DEATH

by Jan Carew

### SCENE 1

*(A speak-easy in Chicago in the 1920's. There are various tables with gambling, drink etc. The table with our three GANGSTERS is at the front of the stage. They are rather stupid men, brutal and also very drunk. HANK, LEE and BABYFACE NOLAN are their names. HANK is the leader. LEE is his side-kick. BABYFACE NOLAN is called that because he snivels easily).*

**Hank:** Where the hell is that bar-tender? I want another drink!

**Lee:** O.K. Hank. Take it easy. I'll go and find him. Another whisky?

**Hank:** What else do they have in this joint, stupid? Yeah, whisky.

**B.F. Nolan:** Do you want another game of poker, Hank?

**Hank:** Gee, no. I'm almost cleaned out. All I want is another drink. I'm fed up with this place. No action. Where is everybody?

**Lee:** *(Comes back with drinks).* I got them at the bar. Here you are.

*(They all drink).*

**B.F. Nolan:** The boss is depressed. There's no action in this place today.

**Lee:** I know why you're feeling low, Hank. It's the news from the South side - it ain't good.

**B.F. Nolan:** What news?

**Lee:** You haven't heard? They're dying like flies over there. Nobody knows why. It isn't safe to go there.

**B.F. Nolan:** But what about our cut from the bookies? What about our protection money? I go over there every Thursday to collect it.

**Hank:** Well, you go right ahead son. Take the risk if you like. But don't blame me if you don't come back.

**B.F. Nolan:** Gee, that's terrible. What are we going to use for money?

**Lee:** Yeah, boss. We've gotta live, haven't we? And gambling and drinking cost a lot of money.

**Hank:** Oh, stop belly-aching you two! I'll think of something.

*(The noise of a jazz band reaches them from the street).*

**Hank:** What's that racket? Go and see, Babyface. I just hope it isn't another funeral. That's all I need today!

*(BABYFACE goes out. The other 2 drink in silent gloom. B.F. returns, with a long face).*

**B.F.N.:** Gee, boss. It's bad news. I don't know how to tell you.

**Hank:** Go on, Babyface. Give it to me straight.

**B.F.N.:** It's Al Spaghetti, boss. He bought it last night..

**Lee:** What did he buy, Babyface?

**Hank:** He's dead, stupid! Why do I have to be surrounded by such dumb-bells as you two? One of you is a fool, and the other one snivels all the time.

**B.F.N.:** *(Starts to snivel).* Gee, boss. That ain't fair, I did what you asked. I went to find out.

**Hank:** O.K., O.K., Babyface. Don't cry. Have another drink. Now what did you find out about Al? Who killed him?

**B.F.N.:** *(Snivels into his drink).* I don't know, boss. He died suddenly last night, while he was sitting at a poker game. One minute he was laughing and the next minute he was dead.

**Lee:** Just like that?

**B.F.N.:** Just like that! So the old man said.

**Hank:** What old man?

**B.F.N.:** The old man who told me. He seemed to know all about it. He talked about .... *(He gulps and has another drink).*

**Hank:** What? What did he say?

**B.F.N.:** *(In a low scared voice).* He talked about the Angel of Death, boss. That's who got Al Spaghetti. The Angel of Death.

**Lee:** Who's that, boss? He must be new around here.

**Hank:** I don't like the sound of this. The Angel of Death, huh?

**B.F.N.:** The old man says he kills with a single touch. I'm scared, boss.

**Lee:** Gee, Hank. I've just thought of something.

**Hank:** Don't overdo it Lee. Thinking doesn't agree with you.

**Lee:** But listen, boss. You know a lot of guys have died over on the South side.

**B.F.N.:** Like flies, you said.

**Hank:** So?

**Lee:** So maybe this Angel guy is the one who's wiping them out. Huh? What do you think?

**Hank:** Yeah. Maybe. Kills with touch, huh?

**B.F.N.:** So the old man said.

**Hank:** Well, he doesn't scare me. Let's get the old man in here and find out more.

Maybe he knows where we can find this Angel guy. And if we do ....

**Lee/B.F.N.:** Yes, boss?

**Hank:** We'll make him a cement suit, and throw him in the river. It's the least we can do for Al.

## SCENE 2

*(The OLD MAN is brought in by LEE and B.F. NOLAN, one on either side. The old man has sandwich boards with posters like "Prepare to meet thy doom" and "The Day of Judgment is at hand").*

**Lee:** Here he is, Hank. He was trying to get away.

**B.F.N.:** Come on now, old man. Tell the boss what you told me.

**Old Man:** What do you want to know, gentlemen?

**Hank:** Don't give me that! You know what we want to know. Where's this Angel guy who got Al Spaghetti?

**Old Man:** Angel guy? Oh, you mean ....

**Hank:** The Angel of Death, you called him. Well, he may have a fancy name but he's just another hit man. Now, where do I find him? Tell me or I'll break every bone in your body.

**Lee:** That's telling him, boss!

**Old Man:** That wouldn't be hard. It's very easy to knock an old man about. Not very risky either.

**Lee:** Hey, boss! I think he's calling you a coward.

**B.F.N.:** Let him have it, boss.

**Hank:** Wait a minute. Look here, old man, I don't want to hurt you. Why don't you tell me what I want to know: Where is the Angel of Death?

**Old Man:** Are you sure you want to find him?

**Hank:** You bet your sweet life I do. Now come on, tell us.

**Old Man:** All right. I'll tell you where you'll find him. Over on the South side of the city, there's a park called City Park. Do you know it?

**Hank:** Sure we do.

**Old Man:** There's a small back street leading out of it, near the back gates. Follow that and you'll come to an oak tree.

**Hank:** So?

**Old Man:** Under the oak tree, you'll find what you're looking for.

**Hank:** Is this on the level?

**Lee:** You'd better not lie to us, old man. Doesn't sound right to me, boss. Why would the Angel hang about under an oak tree?

**B.F.N.:** We're more likely to find him in a joint like this.

**Hank:** All right, you two. Shut up for a minute. We'll go there and see. And if we don't find this Angel guy, we'll be back, old man. You'd better be telling the truth.

**Old Man:** (*Quietly*). You'll find him all right.

**Hank:** Come on guys, let's go.

### SCENE 3

(*The three are standing under the oak tree*).

**Lee:** I knew that old man was lying. Didn't I tell you, boss? There's nobody here.

**B.F.N.:** You'll break every bone in his body, won't you, boss?

**Hank:** I'll do worse than that. I'll tear him to pieces and throw the bits in the river.

**Lee:** Will we go now, boss?

**Hank:** Wait a minute. Not so fast. Maybe the Angel's hiding somewhere. Let's have a good look round before we go. Take care, boys, this guy is dangerous.

**B.F.N.:** He kills at a touch, the old man said. (*With a shiver*).

**Lee:** It must be a new kind of gun, boss.

**Hank:** New kind of poison, you mean. Remember how Al died? Nobody shot him. This Angel guy must have some new kind of secret weapon. Now, you go over and search the bushes, Babyface. And Lee, you look on the other side of this tree.

**B.F.N.:** What'll you do, boss?

**Hank:** Me? Why, I'll just stay right here and keep a look out.

**Lee/B.F.N.:** O.K. Boss.

(*They go and search. Suddenly, LEE cries out. The other two jump*).

**Hank:** What is it, Lee? Did you find something?

**Lee:** Boss, come here! Look at this!

**B.F.N.:** Is it the Angel? (*Scared and snivels*).

**Hank:** (*Goes to LEE*). No, it isn't the Angel. It's something better. Come and see, Babyface. Don't be scared. And do stop snivelling.

**B.F.N.:** Yes, boss.

**Hank:** It's a bag of money. And all used notes too.

**Lee:** What do you make of it, boss? What does it mean?

**Hank:** I'll tell you what it means. It means this Angel of Death guy has left his loot here. He must have robbed a bank or something. Then something must have scared him and he left in a hurry. Hey, maybe he heard us coming.

**Lee:** That's it, boss! We scared him away ....

**Hank:** Well, I suppose it's not surprising. He must have heard about us. I mean, Al Spaghetti is one thing, but Hank and his gang - yeah, that's it. He heard we were coming and ran.

**Lee:** What'll we do now, Hank?

**Hank:** Do? Why, we'll take the money, that's what. Finders is keepers, as they say.

**B.F.N.:** O.K. let's get out of here. I don't like this place.

**Hank:** Wait a minute guys. We can't just stroll back into town, carrying a great bag of bank notes. People might think we stole it! I tell you what. Babyface, you go into town and get some food and drink - beer and sandwiches will do.

**B.F.N.:** Why, Hank?

**Hank:** Because we have to wait until dark, stupid. And then we can slip back to town with the money. No-one'll see us at night. Got it?

**B.F.N.:** Yes, Hank.

**Hank:** So you go and get something for us to eat and drink, then we won't starve till nightfall.

**Lee:** Gee, Boss. That's clever. Really clever.

**Hank:** Yeah, well. You guys stick with me and you won't go far wrong. Now, go Babyface. We'll see you in about an hour.

**B.F.N.:** O.K. Boss.

#### *SCENE 4*

*(The oak tree).*

**Hank:** I wonder how much money is in that bag?

**Lee:** Shall I count it, boss?

**Hank:** No, no. You know you can't count. You'd be sure to get it wrong. The only thing you can do with money is spend it.

**Lee:** Sorry, boss.

**Hank:** Never mind, Lee. We can't all be clever. That's why you need me, see?

**Lee:** Yes, boss.

**Hank:** I was thinking. I reckon there's about 20,000 dollars in there. Now, if we split it three ways ....

**Lee:** Yes, Hank?

**Hank:** Er - that's - er well, it's quite a lot of money for each of us. Never mind the details. Yes, it's quite a lot of money.

**Lee:** That's great, boss.

**Hank:** On the other hand ....

**Lee:** Yes, boss?

**Hank:** On the other hand, if we split it two ways, that's a lot easier, and a lot better. 10,000 dollars each.

**Lee:** But there are three of us, boss.

**Hank:** Yes, there's always Babyface, isn't there: But he isn't here is he?

**Lee:** What do you mean, Hank? He'll be coming back with the food.

**Hank:** Yes, I was just thinking .... if something happened to Babyface. Something bad.

**Lee:** Yes, boss?

**Hank:** You know, Lee, sometimes I wish you weren't quite as stupid as you are

**Lee:** Sorry, boss.

**Hank:** Never mind, Lee. What I mean is - maybe we should make SURE something happens to Babyface. Like this (*He gets a knife out of his pocket*). And like this (*He points to LEE'S knife at his belt*). Do you see what I mean?

**Lee:** Oh, now I get you, boss! You mean, we kill Babyface.

**Hank:** Good boy, Lee. You've got it. And it'll be quiet, see? No guns. And then we split the money two ways instead of three. What do you say?

**Lee:** Gee, boss. That's good. really good. I'd never have thought of that.

**Hank:** O.K., Lee. We can't all be clever.

## SCENE 5

*(In the town. BABYFACE NOLAN has a parcel of food and drink, including bottles of beer. He stops at a drug store. He is thinking hard with great effort).*

**B.F.N.:** *(To himself)*. Now, we split the money three ways. That's good. But we don't know how much there is in the bag. So I don't know how much I'll get. Will it be enough? On the other hand, if something happens to Hank and

Lee, like an accident maybe .... then I'd have it all. But, wait a minute. There's two of them and only one of me. How could I do it? Unless - what did the boss say about the Angel? Something about poison. That's it! Poison. I'll get some rat poison and put it in the beer. Then I'll keep one bottle clean for myself and mark it so I don't make a mistake. Yeah, that's it. I'll tell the man I have rats in my cellar. Then he'll sell me the poison. It'll be easy. Gee, I'm worn out with all this thinking.

*(BABYFACE goes into the shop).*

## SCENE 6

*(The oak tree again. BABYFACE enters).*

**Hank:** So there you are, Babyface! What took you so long?

**Lee:** We thought you were lost.

**B.F.N.:** I had to get the food, didn't I? And I got beer, too.

**Hank:** Great! Bring it over here, Babyface, and sit down. You must need a rest after all that walking.

**B.F.N.:** Yeah. I am a bit tired.

*(He sits down and is at once attacked by the other two. LEE sticks a knife in his chest while HANK does the same in his back. BABYFACE falls down with a final snivel).*

**Hank:** That's it Lee. He's finished. I won't have to hear another snivel from him. He was getting on my nerves.

**Lee:** Me too, boss. I never liked Babyface.

**Hank:** Now let's count the money.

**Lee:** Wait a minute, boss. I'd like a drink. I'm so thirsty. We seem to have been here for hours.

**Hank:** O.K. Let's have some beer first. A few minutes won't make any difference. The money's all ours now.

**Lee:** Here you are, boss. *(He opens a bottle of beer and then a second one. He hands one to HANK).*

**Hank:** Looks a bit flat to me. Never mind, it'll do. Soon we'll be drinking champagne, eh Lee?

**Lee:** Yes, boss.

*(They both drink beer and suddenly gasp and fall on the grass in pain).*

**Lee:** What is it, Hank? What's the matter?

**Hank:** *(Gasps)*. It's the beer. There's something wrong with the beer. Babyface must have put something in it.

**Lee:** Maybe it was the Angel who did it.

**Hank:** The Angel? I forgot about him. That's why we came here. To find the Angel of Death. Lee ....

**Lee:** *(Faintly)*. Yes, boss?

**Hank:** I think we found that Angel guy after all.

**THE END**