

DREAMS OF
Angels

TRUE STORIES OF HEAVENLY MESSAGES



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Dreams of Angels

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

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Introduction

Angels and dreams always seem to go together. In all my years of editing *Angels On Earth* magazine, I can't recall a single issue that didn't have at least one dream in it. Like angels, dreams are messengers. They bring good news, they bring warnings, they bring comfort at times when little can be found. And like angels, they really only need one thing from us to work their magic: a willingness to believe in them.

That's not to say that every dream we have brings a special message. In fact, like most people, I mostly have dreams that don't make much sense at all to me when I wake up. When I have a bad dream, I often think of the words of the poet and artist William Blake, who in his commentary on the Book of Job wrote, "With Dreams Upon My Bed Thou Scarest Me and Afrightest Me with Visions."

My younger daughter Evie is something of a champion in the dream department. She's nine now and, most mornings, the first thing out of her mouth after "Good morning" is a rundown of the dream she just finished having when her alarm went off.

Evie's dreams are usually good, but bad dreams get told, too, for Evie's already figured out that the surefire way to get the best of a dream that scares you is to find someone you love and tell it to them straight out.

INTRODUCTION

Most of the dreams you'll read about in this collection are good ones. Some are dreams of confirmation, in which the dreamer sees that someone dear who has passed on is happy and is safe where they belong in heaven. That's one of the most popular kinds of stories we get at *Angels on Earth*, and we—and our readers—never tire of hearing them. In other stories, the dream plays a different and sometimes quite unexpected role. Perhaps the dream provides just the answer the dreamer was looking for or gives that special kind of holy reassurance that the dreamer desperately needed.

Many of the dreams in this book don't even occur at night! They're daydreams or heaven-sent visions that come just in the nick of time or seem to answer the dreamer's prayer. For dreams, like angels, love surprising us—to bless us with their otherworldly magic in ways we never imagined. Just as Evie goes to bed at night, not knowing what she'll dream about, so each of us wakes every morning with no idea how, and through whom, God's grace will touch us.

All we know for certain is that God will.

Colleen Hughes
Editor-in-Chief, *Angels on Earth*



DO NOT BE AFRAID

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”

—LUKE 2:10 (NIV)

A Grandmother's Touch



JOAN WESTER ANDERSON

When Cassandra Lockhart was a child, her grandmother Ruth probably had the most influence on her. “She taught me to pray and was always there to support and guide me,” Cassandra recalls. But when she was sixteen, her beloved grandmother died. Cassandra was angry with God. Why had He taken her grandmother away, especially now as Cassandra was growing into adulthood? There were so many things they could have shared.

Eventually, Cassandra’s anger subsided, and she began to pray again, especially for Ruth. Was she in heaven? Did she know what was happening to Cassandra here on earth? In answer, something wonderful happened. Cassandra began to dream about her grandmother. “I would have conversations with her in the dreams, just like our real ones,” she recalls. “It was consoling, but of course I knew none of it was real. I assumed I was bringing about the dreams, because I missed her so much.”

Cassandra married and became pregnant. “The ultrasound revealed it was a boy, but Ruth appeared in a dream and assured me I would have a daughter,” Cassandra says. Of course it was just her imagination. But Cassandra and her husband chose the name Samantha, just in case.

It *was* Samantha! And she was in perfect health. But when she came home, trouble started. Samantha wouldn't sleep, nor did she keep her feedings down. "We went to the doctor several times, but he indicated that the baby was just fussy, and that I was overtired and stressed," says Cassandra. "I hired someone to help care for her so I could get some sleep, but things grew worse. Samantha continued to choke, vomit and scream, and nothing I did helped." Ruth occasionally appeared in Cassandra's dreams and seemed to be trying to tell her something. But Cassandra could grasp only a fleeting impression before the baby awakened her again. Oh, how she longed for her grandmother's nearness, even if it was all in her imagination. Ruth would have known what to do.

Then one morning Cassandra was working at the sink when she felt a presence in the kitchen, behind her. "I felt such warmth and serenity that I knew my grandmother was there."

Ever so softly, she heard Ruth's voice in her ear. "Cassandra, your child is very sick. She has a condition called pyloric stenosis. You must take her to another doctor." Ruth named the doctor. "I will be with you as long as you need me..." The sense of Ruth was fading now, and slowly Cassandra turned around. The kitchen was empty—and she had never heard of pyloric stenosis—but she knew what to do.

The doctor Ruth named examined Samantha the very next day, and arranged for immediate surgery. "Pyloric stenosis is relatively simple to fix, but sometimes hard to diagnosis," he told Cassandra and her husband after the successful operation. "It's lucky that you came in when you did."

Cassandra smiled. It hadn't been luck at all. Nor had the dreams been simply her imagination. God had shown her that Grandma Ruth was alive, and they would always be vitally connected, through love, memories and prayers.