

Now I Lay Me

CHARACTERS: 2

PROPS: None specified

COSTUMES: Street clothes

SETTING: Bedroom (*Can be done also as an adult in an office. Substitute big meeting for exam and ideas at work for grades*)

At rise: Joe is on his phone.

JOE: I couldn't call earlier; I was studying... cramming really. No, really, I didn't play one game. Tomorrow's the exam. (*Pause*) Yeah, well my grades have been more like a submarine. I think I have a special ... I'm not sure how to describe it but I'm going to try something different this time. I gotta catch some zzz's. See ya tomorrow.

JOE: (*Kneeling, head bowed*) Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.

ANGEL: And if you did, would he ?

JOE: (*jumps up in surprise*) Huh, what? Who are you and what are you doing in my room?

ANGEL: I'm your guardian angel.

JOE: There's no such things as guardian angels.

ANGEL: Ok. Then you tell me: what am I?

JOE: I don't know. I think part of a bad dream or too many energy drinks? What did you mean by if who did what would I do whatever ?

ANGEL: If you died would God take your soul ?

JOE: (*unsure*) I guess.

ANGEL: But you're not sure. Let's check down this list. Bible reading ?

JOE: I have.

ANGEL: It's not a true false question. One time in your life doesn't generally cut it. It's like eating. You don't eat one or two meals during an entire life, do you?

JOE: No

ANGEL: Then why feed your self spiritually only once a year ?

JOE: Food, that's it. This is a nightmare resulting from blueberry ice cream and pepperoni pizza, four pretzels with mustard and that taco. I'll just close my eyes and it will all go away.

ANGEL: Don't count on it. Now about your church attendance....

JOE: Yes, I go.

ANGEL: Like when.?

JOE: Like Easter.

ANGEL: That was Easter - three years ago.

JOE: *(defensively)* Well it's boring. Long sermons, you have to wear these itchy clothes, the songs drag. You can't blame me for that.

ANGEL: I'm not blaming you - you sound like you're doing that well enough on your own.

JOE: Ok I need to make some adjustments in my spiritual life.

ANGEL: Now you're getting the picture. Prayer is a good place to start. But you have to give up those rote prayers you learned as a child and talk to God.

JOE: You mean use all that fancy church talk like they do in the long prayers?

ANGEL: No, I mean talk like you and I are doing.

JOE: Oh. You can talk to God like that? Like he's a person?

ANGEL: Yes, and there's no time like the present to start. Tell God about your problems at school and don't forget to ask for the strength to turn over a new spiritual leaf.

JOE: OK. Thanks for dropping by. I never really thought about talking to God like a friend.

ANGEL: I know. Bye *(exits)*

JOE: *(Bows head and kneels again)* Dear Father, *(lights dim)*