

Five Modern Day Angel Stories?

Man, angel, spiritual being, alien even. How do you tell the difference? Modern day stories about angels and the supernatural are easy to find and you may have some of your own.

Decide for yourself what you think about the identity of the helpful 'people' in these stories.

1. Richard's Story: the Cyclist's Note

The young people were devastated. Lois, only 17 years old had been tragically killed in a car accident. Richard and a few close friends visited the funeral parlour to say goodbye. They found it very distressing, particularly Richard. Outside, they did their best to support each other. It raised so many questions. Sophie, a Christian, challenged him "If you want to know whether there's a God or not," she said to Richard, "then why don't you ask him to show you." So he did, praying "God if you're really there, prove it."

The next morning Richard set off on his way to work as normal. So at 5.00 a.m. on a cold February morning in 2008, he was standing near Sainsbury's in Winnershe, waiting for his lift. It was dark and the roads were empty. Richard was listening to his iPod and didn't take any notice of the approaching cyclist until he stopped to speak to him. The stranger handed him a piece of paper saying "Just to let you know that God loves you." The note had some Bible verses written on it. The funeral had not been planned at that point but when Richard went to the funeral a week later he immediately recognized the Bible verses that were read in the service, as the same ones that were on the note.

Although Richard tried to find the cyclist again on a number of occasions, it was without success. He hasn't seen him since and none of the youth workers known to himself or his brother knew anything about it. The incident really made Richard think. God continued to work in his life and 3 years later he became a Christian.

Story as re-told to us by Richard's brother, Adam. Used with permission

2. Esther's Story: The Stranger with a Birthday Card

None of the nursing staff had noticed the gentleman visiting Esther that afternoon in Purley Hospital. Although elderly, her mind was still alert and she was surprised to get a visitor she didn't recognize.

"It's your birthday today!" said the stranger as he greeted her.

"No it isn't." she replied.

"Yes it is – it's your spiritual birthday – the day you became a Christian" came the response.

"Oh yes, so it is" she exclaimed. "I'd quite forgotten."

They chatted for a while and then he went, leaving her with a card. Neither she nor anyone in her family ever discovered who he was. None of them had been to see her that afternoon, nor had anyone from church, and no one was really aware of the date she had become a Christian anyway. Her daughter-in-law suggested that it had just been a dream, but Esther still had the card that he had given to her, which was proof of his visit.

My Grandmother. BL

3. The Missionary and the Cyclists

“Whatever you do, don’t leave this village over the next few days,” the missionary had been warned. A local bandit leader was intent on killing him for some reason. But there was an urgent need for him to travel to the next village, and there was no one who could even go with him.

He prayed about it and felt strongly that it was right to go anyway. He would just have to trust God. But that didn’t stop him feeling in fear of his life. He cycled along warily, conscious of the many places where bandits could hide. When he reached his destination safely he wondered if it had only been hearsay. The next day he saw the bandit leader in the market place and challenged him. Yes, it was true. The man had planned to kill him that day.

“So why didn’t you?” asked the missionary. “I was alone and defenceless?”

“No you weren’t,” came the reply. “There were 12 other men on bicycles with you!”

Source unknown

4. Carol’s Story: The Calming Stranger

With tears streaming down her face Carol got onto the tube to return to her university hall of residence. She had just broken off her engagement. It just wasn’t right. She sat down oblivious to anyone else. The train wasn’t crowded. At the next station she was aware of someone sitting down in the seat opposite her. There was a tremendous aura of calmness and serenity about this man. He never spoke but there was something about his presence that really settled her, giving her a real sense of peace. He left at the stop immediately before hers. She always felt that whoever or whatever he was, that he had been sent by God to steady her as she made her way back home that day.

Carol was my flat mate at university. BL

5. A Teacher’s Story

‘Last school year, an elementary school teacher’s classroom was made up of third-graders, every one of whom came from a difficult situation. Some were from single-parent families, some were from dysfunctional families, some were undernourished or uncared for, and others lived in abusive homes. One little girl’s dad had died of AIDS, and the list goes on. The teacher’s heart bled for these kids.

Before the 1999-2000 school year started, she and her husband went to her classroom and prayed over each desk in the room. They prayed that God would place an angel behind each and every child throughout the coming year, to watch over them and protect them.

A month or so after the year started, she gave the kids an assignment to write about what they would like to be when they grew up. Each was busy with his or her assignment when “Andrew” raised his hand. When she asked him what he needed, he asked her how to spell “mighty”. After answering his question, she asked him why he needed to know. Andrew said it was because when he grew up he wanted to be a “mighty man of God”. When he said this, “Mark,” sitting next to him, asked, “So what’s a mighty man of God?” The teacher, knowing she could not say anything about this herself in the classroom, told Andrew to go ahead and tell Mark what it was.

Andrew said, "It's a man who puts on the armour of God and is a soldier for God". After observing the conversation, the teacher, had begun to walk away when Andrew motioned with his forefinger for her to come closer. He whispered to her, asking if she believed in angels. She told him yes, she did. Then he asked her if she thought people could see angels, and she said she thought some people probably could. Andrew said that he did, and he could see an angel standing behind each child in the room.'

Extract from: The Beginner's Guide to Intercession by Dutch Sheets