

Heavenly Resolutions

by Rod Belt

Theme Christians sometimes talk as if the only thing that matters is conversion or being "born again", but this new-year-resolution drama suggests that actually it's the little triumphs of good over evil that God rejoices in.

Cast:

CAPTAIN GRINBOLT	A middle-ranking angel. Very stiff-upper-lip and well spoken like the world war 2 RAF pilots you see in old films.
THUDBANG	A young, inexperienced and excitable Angel.
CHARLIE	Two young people, bored.
JACK	

Notes: The four characters could be played by actors of either sex.

CHARLIE and JACK have many pauses in their conversation, during which they should fidget, stand up, sit down, looking around, kick the dirt, scratch their names on a wall or - whatever else bored young people do.

While the angels are talking CHARLIE and JACK should continue to hang out looking bored.

How you show that the angels are angels is up to you, but white dresses should be avoided. Perhaps military wear with halos and maybe wings. The overall aim is to make them seem *real*.

Cheap plastic Kazoos can easily be bought online.

(CHARLIE and JACK enter, looking bored, and say nothing for a while.)

CHARLIE It's quiet here innit.

JACK Yeah.

(Pause)

JACK Did you watch the film last night?

CHARLIE Yeah.

JACK Rubbish wasn't it.

CHARLIE Yeah. Nothing happened.

JACK No.

CHARLIE Boring wasn't it?

JACK Yeah. Dead boring.

(Pause)

CHARLIE You know that game you got for Christmas?

JACK Mega Armageddon Total Destruction 3?

CHARLIE Yeah. Can I borrow it sometime?

JACK Yeah, course.

CHARLIE Is it any good?

JACK Nah.

CHARLIE Oh.

(Pause)

JACK Did you make a new year resolution?

CHARLIE Did you?

JACK I asked first.

CHARLIE No, only kids make resolutions!

JACK Yeah, kids. And old people.

CHARLIE Yeah, old people! *(mimics an old persons voice)* I'm making a resolution to be nice to my cat!

JACK Yeah, old people.

(CAPTAIN GRINBOLT enters at a brisk pace, looking important. THUDBANG follows, but is looking intently at CHARLIE and JACK.)

THUDBANG Did you hear what he just said?

GRINBOLT That's "Did you hear what he just said, Captain Grinbolt Sir?" You young angels must learn respect!

THUDBANG *(stops, looking at CHARLIE)* Did you hear what he just said, Captain Grinbolt Sir?

GRINBOLT *(stops and turns to THUDBANG)* What are you talking about now, Thudbang?

THUDBANG He said he hadn't made a resolution.

GRINBOLT *(impatiently)* Well what of it?

THUDBANG He's lying!

GRINBOLT Ooh, nasty little word that! How do you know he's lying?

THUDBANG Because I heard him make a resolution. I heard them **both** make resolutions!

GRINBOLT Really? And what were these resolutions?

THUDBANG Well, the one called Charlie promised to tidy his room regularly.

GRINBOLT No doubt he said that to impress his Mum. They all do it.

THUDBANG *(impatiently)* No, he made the promise in private, to himself!

GRINBOLT *(interested)* Really? And what about the one called 'Jack'?

THUDBANG Oh, his was weird. He resolved to end world hunger by eating fewer chocolates and putting a little money each week in a charity box.

GRINBOLT *(shocked)* And has he done it?

THUDBANG Well, he gave the money last week. Not sure about the chocolate.

GRINBOLT Fantastic! This calls for celebration! Bring me a harp, lyre and tambourine!

THUDBANG That's a bit over the top isn't it? It's not like they've just become Christians or anything!

GRINBOLT *(exasperated)* Thudbang, Thudbang! Do you really think that there is only one decision in a human's life that is important, and everything that goes before or after is pointless?

THUDBANG No, I suppose there might be other important things.

GRINBOLT No no no Thudbang! It's not a matter of big or important gestures. Remember that Our Lord was interested in every feather on a sparrow - or something like that. We're interested in every bar of chocolate a human gives up!

THUDBANG Are we?