

Sheepville

by Rod Belt

Theme: The shepherds are busy. Rose is carrying out an audit. Lucas is on a wild food forage. Sam is playing Sheepville on his game-thing. Will they have time for the angel? Will the angel be distracted? It might be a close call!

Cast:

ROSE	Pedantic
LUCAS	Obsessed
SAM	Distracted
ANGEL	An angel. Should be as bright and glowing as possible – foil, glitter and maybe a spotlight could be used.

Notes: SAM's GameThing should be a simple small wooden board (or similar) with maybe a grid of squares on one side and a few simple playing pieces. It should be somewhere between the size of a DS and a netbook.

ANGEL's sudden appearance – as simple or clever as you can manage. Consider popping up from behind scenery, strolling on purposefully or standing in darkness and then being suddenly in a spotlight.

ANGEL has a lot of lines, so if you want to split the part between two or three actors to create a heavenly host - that's fine.

(ROSE is downstage moving slowly along, mouthing numbers, apparently silently counting the audience. SAM sits upstage right engrossed with doing something on a rectangular piece of wood in his hands. Suddenly ANGEL is standing in their midst.)

ANGEL Fear not! *(ROSE and SAM continue with what they are doing. ANGEL looks at them, slightly puzzled. Louder.)* I said, Fear not!

(No response. SAM plays, ROSE counts.)

ANGEL Oh dear, I always seem to get the difficult ones. *(Shouting now.)* FEAR NOT!

(Both now look at ANGEL, slightly irritated.)

ROSE *(between numbers)* Please be quiet, I'll lose my place.

ANGEL But I've come to bring you a message.

ROSE If you write it down I'll look at it later.

ANGEL No! Look, this is important! I'm... what is it you are doing exactly?

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ROSE Auditing the sheep.

ANGEL Auditing?

ROSE You know, counting. It's audit night.

ANGEL Shouldn't you know how many sheep you have? Isn't that an important part of being a shepherd? Aren't you supposed to know them all by name and everything?

ROSE Actually I do know those things, but the weekly audit is an important part of animal husbandry. You clearly don't know much about shepherding.

ANGEL Perhaps not, but you probably don't know much about being an angel.

ROSE Then why don't you stick to your job and leave me to audit the sheep.

ANGEL Fine!

(LUCAS walks on stage, bent over inspecting the ground as if looking for a lost item. Nearly bumps into ANGEL.)

ANGEL Fear not!

LUCAS Uh, yes, you too. *(looks at ANGEL's feet)* Oh dear, I could have used that if you hadn't stood on it.

ANGEL What could you have used? What exactly are you doing?

LUCAS I have to feed these guys. I'm on a wild food forage. You have carelessly stood on a very rare and tasty fungus!

ANGEL Oh – sorry. Is there such a thing as a tasty fungus?

LUCAS There are vast numbers of tasty and nutritious wild plants and fungi just sitting around waiting to be eaten. Of course there are also lots of foul tasting or poisonous ones around too. You just have to know which is which.

ANGEL How do you know which is which?

LUCAS Well, if you die you've eaten the wrong one. Anyway, You are distracting me. I haven't foraged enough for dinner yet! Unlike you we're human and we need to eat.

ANGEL Oh, you recognise that I'm an angel then? That's wonderful, because I've got an announcement of good news!

LUCAS You'll have an announcement of bad news if you keep treading on my fungi!

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ANGEL *(sighs)* No one told me it was going to be this hard!

(ANGEL walks over to SAM.)

ANGEL Fear not! I bring you...

SAM *(interrupting ANGEL with an excited yell)* YES! 57 thousand points! I'm on fire tonight!

ANGEL *(looks Sam up and down)* I Can't see smoke... what *is* that you are doing?

SAM It's a GameThing! Everyone has got one. They're cool! You can keep pets or build cities or test your brain...

ANGEL I think maybe one of us needs our brain testing! Be that as it may, I have news of great joy which you really might want to listen to!

SAM There's a new version of the game?

ANGEL NO! What is the game?

SAM Sheepville! You have to herd the sheep together and keep them happy and do tasks and stuff.

ANGEL Couldn't you do that in real life?

SAM *(rolls eyes)* My real life is looking after sheep – does that sound very exciting to you?

ANGEL I'm beginning to feel like I'm on another planet... *(Looks up as if for strength or inspiration, then looks at them all)* LISTEN UP PEOPLE! I've come with news that you really need to listen to! Down in Bethlehem something amazing is happening and you need to come!

(all are now looking at ANGEL)

ROSE I'm sorry, but auditing the sheep is a really important task for a shepherd! I would be failing in my responsibilities if I didn't carry this out!

Does the audit have to be tonight? Is Sheepville really the best game in town? And what do you get the king who has everything? Buy the full script from dramatisdei.com to find out!

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