

Elizabeth PulforD

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Chapter One Lily feels gloomy

Lily stood in the long hallway and gazed at the notice:

First-Year Angels

★ GOOD DEEDS ★

Points Chart for the Silver Star

She looked for her name. There it was, right down at the bottom, all on its own with no points. Lily had tried so very hard to gain some points, but whatever good deeds she had done had somehow not turned out the way they were meant to.

When she had polished the stairs until they shone, everyone slipped on them. When she had tidied away all the cups and plates in Angel Mipmop's messy kitchen, she had been told they had been put out for a reason. Then yesterday, when she had stood outside the Saintly Sick Room and sang to the two angels lying in bed to cheer them up, they had covered their ears and told her to go away.

Lily let out a loud sigh. She had better hurry up and find someone that needed a good deed. One that would give her a lot of points.

At that moment Angel Mina appeared. "Come, come, young Lily. You're not giving up yet, are you?"

Angel Mina was one of Lily's favourite angels. She was really ancient and had poor eyesight, but she was gentle. Not like her sister, Angel Holly.

"You know," said Angel Mina, "the next step might just be the right one."

Sometimes Angel Mina said things that Lily didn't really understand.

"In other words," the old angel carried on,

"if you don't take that step you will never know where it could lead. Today is a new day. And who knows what might happen? You might find the perfect good deed to perform."

Lily nodded. Did Angel Mina know something that she didn't?

"It seems that Mother Angel has visitors." Angel Mina turned to Lily and winked. Well, it looked like a wink. It was a bit hard to tell amongst all the wrinkles.

"It seems her nieces have come for the day. They are her favourites, you know."

Lily didn't know. "Why are they her favourites?"

"Oh, my dear one. You only have to see them to understand."

No sooner had the words left Angel Mina's mouth than along the corridor came Mother Angel, and beside her trotted two little girls.

"Oh," whispered Lily. She had never seen identical twins before. They took her breath away they looked so alike.

"Yes," said Angel Mina. "Now you understand what I've been talking about." She patted Lily's arm. "I have a feeling that the next step for you isn't far away at all." She raised a hand to Mother Angel in greeting and then departed.

Mother Angel stopped. "Ella and Bella, say hello to Lily."

They both opened their big blue eyes wide, blinked at the same time and said, "Hello, Lily."

To Lily they seemed perfect. They had rosebud lips and rosy cheeks, and pale curls fringed their sweet faces. They were dressed in yellow, sunshine-coloured clothes and a large yellow ribbon sat in a bow on top of each head.

"Lily, I'm looking for Angel Holly. Have you seen her? It was agreed that she would have the twins for the morning. She should have collected them half an hour ago from my office."

Lily shook her head. Poor Ella and Bella, she thought, being stuck with that prickly angel...then a golden light went off in Lily's head. Here was her

