

ANGEL - SYNOPSIS

WGAw Reg # 1666069

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Fourteen-year-old ALY BARRETT and her ten-year-old brother, MARKIE, live in a cramped welfare tenement apartment in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with their defeated mother, KAREN, and her abusive, out-of-work boyfriend, T.J.. Protecting Markie from T.J., Aly receives bruises that are noticed at school, prompting an investigation by Child Services as the children had previously been taken from their mother and placed in separate foster homes. Aly is determined that she and Markie will never be split up again.

Coming home from school one afternoon, she hears a trumpet playing in an alley behind an apartment building, seeing twenty-three-year-old TODD playing in his window. She knows the song he's playing and impulsively begins to sing along.

Todd is startled then captivated, thinking the young girl's voice the most beautiful he's ever heard. He tries to get down to meet her, but Aly runs off.

She goes up through a scraggly woods to the one place of peace and beauty in her deprived life, a graveyard where she visits with her best friend, Amelia, a girl who died three years earlier when just Aly's age, her grave marked by a beautiful carved-stone statue of an angel.

Todd tricks Aly by playing again and she takes the bait, singing along. Todd has a tape recorder pick up the piece and hurries down and surprises her. He tries to find out who she is, telling her that her voice can bring her fame and wealth, but Aly gets away without telling him much more than her first name.

Her dangerous and depressing home life, however, finally makes her gather her courage and seek out Todd, singing as he plays and records her. He takes the video to his professor at the Music Institute, BRIAN, who is astonished by Aly's voice and performing, taking the video with him to Disney in Hollywood where he produces music and has many contacts.

Just as Aly's secret career is moving ahead, her mother and T.J. try to avoid the authorities by spiriting them all to a trailer in the country. Todd tries to locate Aly without success. But when T.J. breaks Markie's arm, Aly bashes him and escapes in his brother's old car, a neighbor calling the police. When the trooper stops Aly and Markie, she tells him what happened and breaks down in tears as the pain she's been holding in for so long at last floods out to be swept away.

Brian and Todd continue to successfully promote her singing, but Aly is despondent as she and Markie have been put in separate foster homes. Todd tries to adopt both of them, but he's too young and poor to be considered. Brian would like to take them, but his wife, PAULINE, is still grieving over the death of their young daughter.

Aly sneaks out of her group home and gets Markie and they go on the run. Todd and Brian search frantically for the children, and learn that the friend she's mentioned, Amelia, is actually a young girl who died, Brian realizing it is his daughter. They don't find the children at Amelia's grave, but just as they're leaving, they hear her singing in the nearby woods. The children think they are being taken back to their foster homes as Brian makes a private call, but he brings them to his house where Pauline tells them it is their new home "for as long as you need us – forever, I hope."

Aly sings on the stage of a packed concert hall, all the people who helped her in her life there to applaud her. Returning to their new home, Pauline tells the children they've hired a new housekeeper who will live with them if they approve of her. The children find their mother waiting for them, hugging her as she apologizes. Aly tells all of them, "I'm happy, truly happy. And when I'm happy..." She sings, "more beautifully than anyone has ever sung."

THE END