

THE BIG PICTURE

written by

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EXT. VIEW OF ANGELS CROSSING, KENTUCKY FROM HIGH ABOVE THE CLOUDS - DAY

OPENS WITH A BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF KENTUCKY, ZOOMING IN THROUGH THE CLOUDS, SLOW ZOOM DOWN TO A HIGHWAY WITH A GREYHOUND BUS APPROACHING.

The destination sign on the bus reads "Angels Crossing", and the bus pulls into town. Shot of CINDY'S face in the bus window, with reflections of the church, town square, etc. in the window before her. Cindy is an attractive thirty something. A pop country song plays under the images (Cindy's voice), foreshadowing the music which will become an integral part of the the series. Gradually pans past the town square, the Piggly Wiggly, the post office, and ultimately zero's in on the famous wooden suspension bridge across Miller's Pond. Seated on the edge, legs dangling over, are angels DIMITRI (40 something male) and CARMEN (40 something female) fishing off the bridge. There is a fog-like mist that surrounds them.

DIMITRI

Angels Crossing. Small town USA.  
. . good people. . . not so good  
people, football games, church  
picnics and fishing, lots and  
lots of fishing here at Miller's  
Pond.

CARMEN

What do they do here for fun?  
Looks pretty sleepy to me.

DIMITRI

Sometimes a nice restful little  
town is just What the doctor  
ordered.

CARMEN

Dimitri, you've been sent here  
before, but why me?

DIMITRI

There's a young lady who needs  
our help. She's back home now,  
here to help her family save  
their Christian magazine. It's  
called "Lost & Found".

CARMEN

We're here to help her with the magazine? Honey, I didn't even make it past 10th grade.

DIMITRI

Okay Carmen, here's the thing... that's not the only reason we are here. We might lend a hand there, too. It's also her heart. It's weary from too many broken relationships. Too many men, never the right one.

CARMEN

Take it from me, there is NEVER the right one. After three husbands, I can certainly tell her a thing or two, but she probably won't like what I have to say. I mean, my first husband went to prison for breaking and entering, got out and became a locksmith. My second husband ran off with my sister.

DIMITRI

What happened to the third?

CARMEN

He ran me off-a nearby cliff shortly after taking out a life insurance policy on me. That's how I ended up here, working with you.

DIMITRI

Oh my-well, we will see how it all comes together. There may be hope for both of you.

CARMEN

Well, you've been at this longer than me, so I'll play along. These assignments are sort of random, aren't they? Caught anything yet?

Dimitri pulls his pole up, but nothing on the line yet.

INT. INSIDE THE LOST & FOUND MAGAZINE OFFICE — MORNING 1

Cindy is sitting at her desk, loaded with stacks of papers. She is alone in the office before it opens. She is reading a letter (for the umpteenth time), obviously not happy.

JACOB

(V0)

Cindy, you are a wonderful girl,  
but you're on a different road  
from me.

You want to be a singer, and I want to get married, settle down and have babies. It's just not working out- I wish you the best, but it is what it is and it ain't what it ain't. Jacob.

CINDY

Ain't what it ain't??!! I know,  
I know, as my mother would have  
said, "Pretty up, Giddy-up, get  
back on the horse and ride!" Ok,  
chalk another one up for my dead  
boyfriend file- Cindy crumples  
up the letter and tosses it into  
the trash. Moving on! Ok, I said  
I would never, never, never do  
this, but I guess it's time to  
move into the 21st century to  
try to find the right man for  
me.

Cindy turns to her computer and types in FISHERSOFMEN.COM  
— She types in answers on the computer screen.

CINDY

Name — Cindy; Age — 28-ish, a  
little editing won't hurt here.  
Marital Status (Widowed,  
Divorced, Single) — Definitely  
single; Interests — Singing,  
movies, men, uh, scratch that,  
going to church, reading and  
being outdoors. What I'm looking  
for in a match — I want someone  
who dreams like I dream, who  
wants someone special, not just  
someone to be with. A man that  
believes that I am that special  
one for him, too.

Cindy attaches a picture of herself to the profile, then looks at the clock on the wall.

It's 7:55 AM. Better come back to this one.

Cindy hits SAVE AS A DOCUMENT on the computer screen, names it LOOKING FOR LOVE, then turns back to her stack of papers.

OLLIE walks in the door, mail in hand. Ollie is a gentleman in his late fifties- early sixties. He drops some of the mail on Cindy's desk and kisses her on the top of her head.

OLLIE

How's my little girl today?

CINDY

Just another day in paradise, papa. (She smirks). So far in today's inbox —two of our long-term advertisers both dropped, the second past due notice for that useless copier Marcus bought, and a reminder that your interview with Central Kentucky Times is today at 3:00.

Ollie grimaces broadly. Cindy opens up one of the letters Ollie dropped at her desk.

OLLIE

Ollie waves an envelope wildly in his hand. All our problems are solved! I'm going to be a millionaire!

CINDY

What?!

OLLIE

Ed McMahon tells me so right here!

Ollie tosses the letter in the waste basket, sits down, sips his coffee while flipping through a fishing magazine he has brought with him.

ROOSTER (ZACH) comes racing through the front door, his arms full of art boards, papers flying everywhere. Rooster is a young, well-meaning klutz.

ROOSTER

I've got th- I've got three ideas for our next cover that you're going to love. Your only problem will be picking which one.

Cindy and Ollie look doubtfully at each other. Rooster drops it all on the conference table in the center of the room. Cindy walks over to the table.

Ollie stays at his desk, still reading his fishing magazine.

CINDY

OK Rooster, let's see what you've got.

Rooster spreads out one of three cover layouts.

ROOSTER

Idea number one. This one is unbelievably cool. Ok, the idea you want is to sponsor a charity event for the animal shelter, and hold it in December. Let's turn the church fellowship hall into "Angel's Crossing Casino" and we'll raise lots of money for the shelter. Check out this cover...

Rooster hands her a cover of the magazine with a mock-up of a hound dog sitting on a blackjack table with lots of chips around him. Cindy looks at it, shows it to her father, then Cindy and Ollie stare at him in disbelief. Cindy takes a breath and composes herself before speaking.

CINDY

Well-we might have been able to make that work in a different situation... and under a pseudo name.

OLLIE  
And on another planet.

Rooster, please remember that "Lost and Found" is a Christian magazine, right?!? We don't exactly go around promoting gambling, much less with a poor dog on a roulette table on the cover of our magazine in the church of all places!

ROOSTER  
But . . . but. . .

CINDY  
Let ' s hear the second one, if you please.

ROOSTER  
Okay, this one is almost as good. I'm sure you won't have a problem with it.

Rooster hands her the next cover mock-up.

ROOSTER  
"Angel Crossing's First Annual Pie Auction and Contest. You know how it works . . . people bring pie to auction off and at the end there's a pie-eating contest. That part would be much like the Lost & Found picnic-

CINDY  
Please don't remind me, I still have the picture.

OLLIE  
What picture?

ROOSTER  
This picture.

ROOSTER shows OLLIE a photo.

ROOSTER  
Cindy in the pie-eating contest...and winning it.

OLLIE

Wow, that's some attack! After seeing this face I'm not worried that we don't have a home security system anymore.

CINDY

Can we please hear your third idea?

Rooster is obviously dejected, but cautiously pulls out his third cover idea. On the cover is a kitten with mittens on, and the title is "Mittens for Kittens".

ROOSTER

Everyone needs presents for their kids at Christmas... let's do a holiday party where people adopt a kitten or puppy from the shelter during a party at the fellowship hall- We can dress up all the animals in holiday gear, and each person who adopts one will have their name put on a special ornament on the church Christmas giving tree.

Ollie and Cindy look at each other and are obviously pleased by this final effort. They applaud and Rooster is beaming with pride.

CINDY

Okay, you finish that up, and I'll finish this week's Editor's Letter. We've just got about an hour before we're supposed to go online with the edition, but I think we can make it.

Cindy and Rooster go back to their desks, and Ollie goes back to his fishing magazine. In the background Dimitri and Carmen suddenly appear, unseen by those in the room.

CARMEN

What is she doing now?

DIMITRI

Every week, they pick a letter from a reader who needs help. Someone who is lost and needs to be found. The woman who has written has just lost her husband to cancer, and wants so much just to be alone for awhile. Her friends won't let her in their effort to be comforting.

CARMEN

What does Cindy tell her?

Cindy is reading the last of the letter, and starts to type in an answer. Text on the computer screen: "Dear Lost -- " Cindy stops, looks puzzled, and is thinking. Dimitri does a simple gesture with his hand, a curl of all the fingers. Cindy continues to type. The response shows on the screen, and also Dimitri speaks it -

DIMITRI

"Dear Lost, You may have lost your love, but you have not lost yourself and your God. He is here with you, He is speaking through your friends. Their voices are His embrace, His warmth, His answer to your prayers. Take their hands and you will be comforted. Do not shy away.

Cindy finishes typing and on the screen she saves the file as "LOST LOVE". And suddenly, a semi-blonde hurricane named KIERCE ST. JOHN bursts in the front door, bags in hand, wearing an outrageous and ridiculous costume. Kierce is an attractive female, comparable to Cindy in age.

KIERCE

I'm here!

CINDY

Oh wow, what are you doing here?

KIERCE

Oh, I was just in the neighborhood, and I was remembering what my best college girlfriend said to me the last night we saw each other, "For all we know, someday you might find yourself in my neck of the woods. When you do, just find me, and I'll be waiting for you." I somehow found myself in Nashville but you weren't there, and they said you came back home. So, here I am.

Cindy runs over to the door, hugs Kierce wildly. Kierce drops her bags and they hug again, laughing through happy tears. Ollie and Rooster look at each other, as if, "Who is this?"- Cindy turns Kierce around to the others.

CINDY

Papa, Rooster, this is Kierce St. John. My college roommate who left me for the stage of New York. I haven't seen her for over five years. She never looked better than now to me! Oh, my, we've got so much catching up to do. Let's run down to Ruby's and let these boys take care of the office. Rooster, pull up the "Lost Love" file from my team drive, and you're all set for getting out the issue.

Cindy grabs her purse, then Kierce and they head out the door. Ollie and Rooster go back to their desks, and Rooster pulls up the TEAM DRIVE from his computer.

He clicks on "Looking for Love" on the computer screen file and inserts it into the editorial page.

OLLIE gets a Facetime call from "MARCUS." He sits down at his desk to talk to him.

OLLIE

Hello Marcus.

Marcus' face is seen on Ollie's phone. He is in his sixties.

MARCUS

Hi Ollie, this is difficult to say... due to some health issues I've been experiencing, I must step down from my position as partner at Lost & Found. I've decided to retire.

OLLIE

Well, I hate to hear that. I hope it isn't serious.

MARCUS

Not sure exactly how serious at this point. I'm at the doctor now as a matter of fact.

OLLIE

Perhaps you could find out how serious it is before making such an important decision. I mean, this is a critical time to leave, what with all the-

MARCUS

Ollie, I should probably go. Every time I try to text or call anybody, all the bells and sirens go off on the machines on this guy next to me. I can't hear myself think!

OLLIE

Yeah, I don't think you are really supposed to use cell phones in there. Anyway, thanks Marcus, been good having you as a partner. You are worth your weight in gold. Bye. (To himself) In gold, yeah, just wish I knew where to go to make that exchange. (Mocking Marcus) I've got a hangnail-gotta quit work and stay home... I'm sunburnt from all the vacation time, I-

MARCUS

Ollie, I'm still here.

OLLIE

Oh, if you need anything Marcus, don't hesitate to call.

INT. RUBY'S DINER. AROUND 10:30 AM — MORNING 2

Cindy and Kierce have obviously been talking for awhile. They are both in a booth. Other customers are sitting around, RUBY is behind the counter.

Carmen and Dimitri are sitting on bar stools, unseen by anyone.

KIERCE

And that's about all of it- my husband ran me outta money then ran me outta town. I didn't marry a groom-I married a grimlin. (Both laughing) Oh- and I also found out he cheated.

CINDY

How did you catch him?

KIERCE

He kept getting these weird calls and lying about them being from a telemarketer.

CINDY

Kierce, that's not so outrageous, everyone gets a ton of calls from telemarketers.

KIERCE

Yes, but they normally don't save them in their phone as "TELEMARKETER."

CINDY

Ahhhh, no, you're right, they don't. (Both bust out laughing)

KIERCE

Actually I'm glad we split- And I'm glad I've finally decided that acting on the stage, New York or otherwise, is not where I am supposed to be.

CINDY

So, what do you want to do? I mean, for your life?

KIERCE

From the few minutes I spent in your place, I could tell you need a new DIRECTOR OF SALES.

CINDY

Well, yes, I do, but we don't have any extra money.

KIERCE

Do you have an extra bed?

CINDY

Sure, upstairs in the office, two lovely bedrooms with a view of bridge.

CINDY

Didn't you want to be a big star on Broadway?

KIERCE

Didn't you want to be a Nashville superstar?

KIERCE

Didn't you want to have at least three babies by now?

CINDY

Didn't you??

They both look at each other and burst out laughing. Ruby comes over to their table. Ruby is a feisty, fifty something.

RUBY

Do you gals need anything else? Looks like you're solving all the world's problems.

KIERCE

For the ones we can't solve I bet that cutie over there can help us figure out.

KIERCE points to an attractive thirty something guy across the restaurant.

CINDY

Oh no, I'm a mess.

CINDY quickly and gently turns her head over and flips her hair. KIERCE tosses hers.

RUBY

And what might you girls be doing?

CINDY

Making our hair look fuller.

KIERCE

Giving it more glam. Is something wrong?

RUBY

I don't want any fullness or any glam anywhere in the same zip code as the food. Go to the bathroom.

Ruby rushes the girls off, shewing them both away quickly. As soon as the coast is clear, she turns her head over, flips her hair and heads to the table of the cute guy carrying a pot of coffee.

RUBY

Need a refill?

Kierce and Cindy return and Kierce looks up at the big screen TV on the wall. Cindy's FISHERSOFMEN profile and pictures are displayed openly as the people in the restaurant begin reading. Kierce distracts Cindy by showing her a menu. Dimitri and Carmen shake their heads in disbelief and disappear. Ruby is reading the profile and looks at Cindy.

RUBY

Cindy, I didn't know you were 28.

Cindy looks up but isn't really listening.

RUBY

I'm sure we all want that dream man, too, honey. Most of mine, except my last one, were just nightmares.

Cindy turns and looks at Ruby. Ruby points to the screen and Cindy walks over to look at it- then screams out.

CINDY

ROOSTER!!!!

INT. LOST AND FOUND OFFICE. - AFTERNOON 3

Cindy bursts in the door, followed by Kierce. Ollie and Rooster are both at their desks. The phones keep ringing.

ROOSTER

No, I'm sorry, Sir, but Cindy is not here now. I'll give her your message.

OLLIE

Ma'am, I'm sure Cindy would love to meet your son, but she's got a long list of messages ahead of you.

Ollie picks up a large stack of phone messages and shoves them at Cindy. He hangs, up, but then picks up another line, just as Rooster keeps doing.

CINDY

Rooster- No-ZACHARY, what have you done?

ROOSTER

I just put in the file you said, "Looking for Love".

CINDY

I said. "Lost Love", you idiot. Ok, I need you to bring that page down right now, and put in the right file- We'll do an "apology" later. Kierce and I will have to retrieve every copy from our stands. It's also in print!

Phones continue to ring and the group, including Kierce, continue to answer calls.

KIERCE

Hello, Lost & Found...that was actually a misprint...28-ish? Oh a big misprint...yes, thank you... I'll give Cindy the message.

Kierce hangs up the phone.

KIERCE

Cindy, make sure you call Al. He works for the internet.

Kierce and Cindy both start laughing.

KIERCE

I mean, if you're gonna make up  
a fake a job, make up a real,  
fake job.

There is a knock at the door. Kierce and Cindy open the door to KYLE who is casually dressed and carrying a camera and tablet.

CINDY

Okay, this has simply gotten out  
of control. True, there was an  
oversight in print and online  
but to show up at the house and  
with a camera for goodness sake  
is just outrageous!

KIERCE

Yes and appalling! You should be  
ashamed creeping a girl out this  
way. Now, you go home. GO!

KYLE

I don't know anything about what  
was printed. I'm Kyle from  
Brushy Fork Times. I-I'm here to  
interview Ollie Miller. But if  
this isn't a good time-

CINDY

Oh-oh, no! This is a great time!  
There's your jolly good fellow  
right there.

Cindy points to Ollie and motions him over towards the door. Ollie is shaking his head.

CINDY

I'm just his, uh-er,

KIERCE

We work for the internet. Gotta  
run-bye!

Kierce and Cindy dart out the door.

KIERCE

Now, let's go get the papers out  
of the stores.

CINDY

Let's roll.

KIERCE

Believe me, I'm already rolling.

Lights fade to black.

INT. THRIFT STORE - AFTERNOON 4

Lights fade to thrift store from previous fade.

Cindy and Kierce hurry inside and walk up to the CLERK.  
There are three customers browsing items.

CINDY

Hi, I was wondering if anyone  
has delivered the new Lost &  
Found Magazines today.

CLERK

I'm not sure, but I can check  
with the others in the back to  
see if they have seen them. Can  
you please keep an eye on the  
place while I'm gone?

CINDY / KIERCE

Sure, absolutely.

CUSTOMER 1 walks up to the girls.

CUSTOMER 1

Excuse me, do you work here?

KIERCE

No Ma'am, we sent the manager to  
the back. We are gonna take care  
of everyone here while she's  
away.

CUSTOMER 1 gasps for air and looks terrified. CUSTOMER 2  
raises her hands in the air to surrender.

CUSTOMER 2

(Whispering to CUSTOMER 1) Oh  
no! This is a stick up.

CUSTOMER 3 empties her purse out onto the floor and faints,  
falling to the floor.

EXT. CAR - AFTERNOON 5

Cindy and Kierce exit the parking lot of the thrift store. A police car goes by with lights flashing and sirens blaring.

KIERCE

Wow! Something big must be going down here.

CINDY

Good thing we are leaving. That could have been us mixed up in that mess.

INT. MILLER'S - EVENING 6

Cindy and Kierce walk slowly through the door. They are exhausted. Ollie is waiting for them on the couch.

OLLIE

Did you get the papers?

CINDY

Yes, from here to the moon. How did your interview go?

OLLIE

It was hard to make it sound like things are going well without lying. I focused on how important the ministry is. Hopefully God will help get us out of the turmoil Marcus left here.

KIERCE

Should I leave?

OLLIE

Oh no, you're fine, Kierce. Cindy, I suppose you know what I'm going to ask you.

CINDY

Pizza or Chinese? Pizza, definitely pizza.

OLLIE

Cindy, Marcus is retiring. I need your stay to be a bit more permanent...until I sell or find another partner. Would that be possible?

CINDY

That's it? Marcus just runs out on you like that without doing anything that he promised?

OLLIE

I know, I had high hopes too. I understand if it's too much to ask.

CINDY

Of course not. It's not like it's so far away from Nashville anyway. I can get a lot done from here.

OLLIE

Thank you, My Darling.  
Goodnight. Good night Kierce.

KIERCE

Goodnight Ollie.

Ollie kisses Cindy on the forehead. He exits.

CINDY

Love you, Dad.

KIERCE

Well, what an exciting day. We should sleep good tonight.

CINDY

I'm too wired to sleep. I'm not ready to lay down.

KIERCE

What in the world could you possibly want to do?

INT. MILLER'S KITCHEN - NIGHT 7

Cindy is holding a small glass in one hand and beating the counter with the other.

CINDY

Hit me again!

KIERCE

No, you've had enough.

CINDY

Come on, one more time. Don't judge.

KIERCE

Okay, but don't blame me when you feel guilty tomorrow.

Kierce sprays whipped cream into Cindy's glass. Cindy tips the glass bottoms up and sets the glass down.

CINDY

You try to talk me out all those carbs every time but I never listen. My sweets cheer me up.

KIERCE

How about letting a movie cheer you up?

INT. MILLER'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 8

Cindy and Kierce are on the sofa watching a movie. They are both crying, sobbing and wiping tears with tissues.

Lights Fade to Black.

CINDY

This just reminds me of the romance I don't have.

KIERCE

It reminds me of the money I don't have.

CINDY

Have you ever heard of that legend in that movie? (Drying up tears and perking up) About love?

KIERCE

What, if you spin around, throw your shoes and sleep at the foot of your bed, you'll dream of the man of your destiny? Nonsense.

CINDY

Yeah, I know it sounds silly. It would be nice if it worked that way.

KIERCE

Yeah, that would really be something.

CINDY

Ready to call it a day?

KIERCE

Ready to call it a day and a half. Oh- and I'll pick the movie next time.

INT . CINDY' S BEDROOM - NIGHT 9

Fade to Cindy's bedroom later that night from the previous scene's fade out. Cindy is in bed, with a lamp beside her. She is obviously troubled. Dimitri and Carmen are in the dark in the corner of the room. They say nothing. Cindy picks up her guitar and plays few bars before singing.

CINDY

(Strumming guitar) Lord, I know you have a plan for me. I've trusted you with my life, now I'm trusting you with my love life. You know what I need, if I need anyone at all. I ask you this- if he is out there, please let me see him in a dream?

Fade to Cindy kneeling by her bed, as her song continues while she prays.

CINDY

(Singing Surprises)  
 Headed out for Houston, his car stalled and he missed his flight/ On the next plane bound for Texas, met the girl who changed his life/The very thing that set him back, set him up for something great/Sometimes the bad hand that we're dealt is just the helping hand of fate/When you think your life is going wrong/ behind the scenes there's something going on/ In the end there's something beautiful waiting just for you/ Sometimes I think God likes to give surprises too.

She rises, gets into bed, and almost instantly falls asleep. We are now in her cloudy dream along with Carmen & Dimitri. She is sitting on the bridge, when suddenly she notices the back of a man at the end of the bridge.

She starts to get up, and yell to him, but as she does, he disappears. He was taking a photograph of the woods just beyond the bridge. He had dark, vintage styled ..hair, and she could only see his profile.

Her song has continued throughout until the scene ends.

CREDITS ARE ROLLING.

Written by Kristi Miller- Friend & Steven Friend