

THE ANGEL'S WARD

By Aiden Stott

The scene opens in on a small messy apartment filled with dirty clothes beer cans and takeaway boxes. From around the corner comes Janyce. She is wearing scrubs with messy hair and dark circles under her eyes and pink bunny slippers. She is holding a bottle of wine and a glass.

Janyce: *[walking to her bed, sitting and pouring wine. spilling]* Oh, for god's sake! It's fine...whatever.
[Continues to drink, doorbell rings spilling more] oh u have got to be...Coming! I'm coming hold on! *[She proceeds to sneak towards the door and peak through the blinds]* It better be the goddamn pizza guy or I swear to God.

Michelle: *[from outside]* Janyce it's me I was wondering if-

Janyce: *[loudly]* Ugh. *[Quietly, covering her mouth]* Oh no...why is she here. *[Peaking again]*

Michelle: *[waving]* Hiya can you open the door.

Janyce: *[opens door]* Hello, how are you?

Michelle: I'm good thanks but are you okay? Oh my god your room it's a mess *[entering]* is that a wine stain?

Janyce: Well, I don't think it's stained just yet. Anyway, what do you want? I was just about to go to sleep.

Michelle: No, you weren't your still in your uniform.

Janyce: Yeah well, I sleep in it...sometimes.

Michelle: Well, I need you to fill in for Robyn, she's not feeling too great.

Janyce: Fine I guess I have nothing better to do anyway. So, what time do you want me there for?

Michelle: Oh, now.

Janyce: Hmm. *[wanting to say no]* Okay give me like a minute to do my hair.

Michelle: Okay I'll wait here.

Janyce 'leaves' to go the bathroom. Michelle goes off stage leaving Janyce onstage. In the bathroom.

Janyce: *[looking in the mirror]* I'm a mess. But I'm a mess because I love what I do. That doesn't make much sense but it's true. I put my heart and soul into making sure those beautiful, sweet, innocent people get to enjoy what time they have left. I'm sure it must be so hard to go through what they do and that is why I do it because I don't want anyone to feel scared. I don't want anyone to feel-

Michelle: Are you coming!

Janyce: Yes, I'm...one second.

[Michelle enters]

Michelle: I thought you was doing your hair.

Janyce: Yeah well change of plan.

They leave and re-enter at a hospital scene

Janyce: Is Irene here?

Michelle: Yeah, she got admitted yesterday. I forgot to tell you sorry. I knew you'd be happy about seeing her again.

Janyce: How long has it been? Oh, I'm actually so excited.

[Michelle walks under a paint ladder] WOW no, no don't do that it's-

Michelle: You and your superstitions.

Janyce: But you know why I'm like that.

Michelle: The surgery?

Stage lights flash like heartbeat as one plays and nurses crawl out like zombies then it ends in seconds.

Janyce: *[shocked, nods]*

Michelle: I'm sorry I just-

Janyce: It's okay.

Michelle: Irene is in room 6 and I need you to have a look at Jill too. I really am sorry.

Michelle exits

Janyce: I know...Room 6...where is room 6 ah.

She enters room 6. Irene (an old woman) is there.

Janyce: Irene!

Irene: Janyce? Is that you?

Janyce: *[hugging]* Hello Irene! I've missed you. Are you feeling alright?

Irene: Oh yes dear, I only got a slight tickle in me throat, but they make it out like I' dying. Oh dearie me they can be quite silly someti-*[coughing]*

Janyce: *[worried]* you're not dying are you?

Irene: Oh no sweetie, don't be so ridiculous.

Janyce: Good. You had me worried for a second. Anyway, it's good to see you again but I need to go and see to another patient quickly I won't be long.

Irene: Okay darling.

The stage is split in half by a wall with a doorway. On one side is Irene's room and the other is Jill's room. Janyce leaves Irene and enters Jill's.

Janyce: Hi Jill. I heard we're not felling to good let me sort that for you.

Jill: *[struggling to breathe and talk]* Thank...you.

Janyce: Well to start off I'd like to be as quiet and as still as possible for me is that alright? Can you do that for me?

Jill: *[murmuring]*

Janyce: *[whispering]* Be quiet.

Irene begins to shout for Janyce's help as she pulls Jill's oxygen mask away from her face.

Janyce: Coming!

Irene: I was just a bit lonely so I thought I'd give you a shout.

Janyce: *[nicely]* Is that right? Shall I grab us some tea and we can have a chat?

Irene: That'd be lovely.

[Returning to Jill]

Janyce: are feeling any better...don't cry, please don't cry I'm doing this for you. *[Jill begins to struggle]* Oh don't do that or else I might hurt you. *[Grabbing pillow and placing it on her face]*

Irene: Did you grab us that tea lovey?

Janyce throws pillow down unable to kill her and returns to Irene. On the other side during, Jill manages to get her oxygen mask back on.

Janyce: I'm so sorry baby I couldn't find any for us.

Irene: Oh, don't worry about it. I'll just have a glass of water if you don't mind.

Janyce: Okay I'll see what I can find for us in a minute I just need to finish off with Jill so don't worry if I'm not back.

Irene: That's alright lovey, I'll try not to shout for you then.

Janyce: Okay I'll try and be back as soon as I can so we can have our natter yeah? Alright, see you in a bit.

Back to Jill's room

Janyce: Is that? Now why do we have our breathing mask on Jill? *[Removing it]* I've told you to keep that off and be as quiet as you can for me, yeah?

Jill: Help...help me- *[Janyce puts hand over her mouth]*

Janyce: I'm trying to help you. I'm trying to safely send you to a better place but now I guess I'm going to have to try some other methods. *[Picking up scalpel]*

Irene: Janyce! Me back is really hurting me! *[Janyce drops scalpel and runs to Irene]*

Janyce: Oh my, are you alright? Would you like some morphine?

Irene: I don't know. I don't think I fancy having that needle again.

Janyce: Don't worry you won't feel it and then your back will be better.

Irene: Oh okay as long as you promise it won't hurt.

Janyce: I promise. *[Injecting needle]*. See all done. And it didn't hurt, did it?

Irene: No, it didn't actually and my back is already feeling better.

Janyce: Well, the medicine not started working yet Irene but at least you feel better but let me just get back to Jill now, okay? *[Returning to Jill with a needle and morphine]* I have an idea, okay Jill? I'm going to give you some morphine and then you'll feel better. *[Injecting needle with a lot of morphine]*

Are we still ok? You'll thank me for this. See, we're finally drifting asleep, aren't we? There was no need to struggle before *[holding her hand]*. It's all going to be okay. Shall I go fetch you a drink? Yeah?

Janyce leaves the room and the set changes to a crowded hospital corridor. Janyce is walking down it as the lights start to flash and the doctors approach her like zombies again. This lasts moments until Janyce is back to normality at the sound of a flat line. Panic among nurses. Overlapping lines from nurses asking where it's coming from

Janyce: [to passing nurses] Oh god no is Irene alright? I was just getting us some water. *[She grabs two cups and fills them amidst the chaos and walks into the toilets]*

She holds her hand over her mouth in fear holding back tears. She accidentally catches the emergency chord in the toilet.

Cat: [knocking] Is everything alright in there?

Janyce: [confused, tired noise] Eh, yeah fine. [falling to knees]

Cat: alright I just making sure because someone called for us and with all the commotion going on at the moment, I just wanted to make sure, alright?

Janyce: Mhm okay. [Crying] I- I had to do. You had to Janyce you had to. *[Pulling herself up and looking in mirror]*. You're a monster look at you. No! No, we're not a monster we're... we're an angel. We're helping people, right? Helping them to stop feeling the eternal pain and suffering life bring. Right? *[Knocks over water]*.

Cat: Are you sure everything is fine in there it sounded like you've dropped something? Would you like me to get the nurse? Is it Janyce that's on this ward?

Janyce: No.

Cat: which nurse is it then?

Janyce: No. I don't need nurse just please let me have some privacy.

Cat: Alright but can I have your name or room so I can tell your nurse about you calling for us?

Janyce: I don't need a nurse it was an accident.

Cat: please may I just have a name madam.

Janyce: ... Irene.

Cat: Thank you.

Cat leaves allowing for Janyce to get out. Janyce goes to the staff are and begins to make two cups of tea. Cat approaches her.

Cat: Excuse me, are you Janyce? Irene's nurse?

Janyce: Yes, why is everything alright?

Cat: I think so for the most part, it's just Irene pulled the emergency chord in the toilets and then kept telling me she was fine. I also heard her drop something. I just thought I should tell you. I mean- I'm quite new here so I didn't really know what's 'protocol' or not so yeah.

Janyce: Oh, that's fine. I'm sure it's nothing I'll be going to her room in a min anyway so I'll check-up on her.

Cat: Oh okay... I did tell Michelle though too and she said that it's best if she ran some tests.

Janyce: [stares silently, snaps out of it] oh yeah, no that's okay. I-I should be getting back to her now.

Cat: yeah, oh okay. I'm Cat the way.

Janyce nods and smiles then leaves the staff Backroom. And heads back to Irene passing by a covered gurney.

Janyce: I'm back Irene.

Irene: Oh god I was getting' a bit worried you weren't going to come back.

Janyce: What made you think that?

Irene: It was all that beeping and commotion going on I thought maybe something bad happened and you'd be all busy.

Janyce: No, I've always got enough time for you [sitting and handing over cup of tea].

Irene: Thanks lovey [sipping]... Oo that's Blumin hot.

Janyce: [laughing] are you alright?

Irene: Yeah, I'm fine it's just me being silly that's all. What was I thinking, of course it's going to be hot.

Janyce: How are things going then? You found an old man that suits you yet?

Irene: No of course not, no old man wants me and the ones that do I'd rather not have. I want handsome young man who's all muscular, but you can only dream when you're like me.

Janyce: Well, I wouldn't be so sure.

Irene: Oo why not?

Janyce: Well, you know younger men like an older woman.

Irene: Yes, I know that but what I mean is they won't want one who can't walk properly and [whispering] occasionally lets a little dribble out... [Laughing] oh OW!

Janyce: Oh god are you okay? I'll give you some more morphine.

Irene: No-No don't be stupid I just laughed a bit hard that's all lovey.

Janyce: Okay...Oh I forgot to mention, the other nurses just thought it would best if you had a few tests.

Irene: Why I've not done anything, have I?

Janyce: Erm...no, no not all it's just routine because of- because of no reason at all really.

Irene: Hmm fine I guess I'll just have to put up with it.

Janyce: Yeah, unfortunately.

Irene: When are thinking of doing it, I don't want to be stuck here forever you know. I've got Milo to feed.

Janyce: [confused] Milo as in your cat?

Irene: Yes, he'll be waiting for me at home.

Janyce: But you told me that Milo left you years ago.

Irene: Did I... Oh yes, yes he did I-[confusion]

Michelle knocks on door

Janyce: Yes, come in.

Michelle [pokes head round] Is it alright if we start the tests?

Janyce: [looking at Irene] Yes, I think that'd be fine. Where do you want us to go?

Michelle: I'd like for us to go to radiology for a quick CT scan just to check up on everything, yeah?

Janyce: Okay, is that all?

Michelle: Erm yeah, can I just have a quick word with you outside?

Janyce: of course.

They stand outside of Irene's room.

Janyce: What is it?

Michelle: Has Irene been showing any signs of...well dementia or anything along those lines. I don't think there is majorly anything to worry about in terms of the scans but what I was told about her in the toilets, that worries me.

Janyce: [hesitating] Erm...no, no not that I can remember.

Michelle: Oh, okay then, is it good if we take her around now?

Janyce: yeah sure.

Irene is pushed by Michelle on the bed as Janyce follows, it goes dark, and everyone freezes except Janyce.

Janyce: NO! NO! NO! Why...Why did I lie? I didn't think this through at all. What if they think she's ill, what if they take her away? I won't be able to help her. All I want to do is help people, but no one will understand, will they? They can't see things the way I do. [Touching Irene's face] Poor Irene. Poor, poor Irene. Who knows what they'll do to you? I'd look after you. I...NO! I can't let them do anything to you, I can't. I... [Looks at Michelle] You. Tour going to take her away from me. Do you not trust me anymore? DO YOU THINK I'M A MONSTER? DO YOU THINK I- [Irene starts coughing]

Freeze-frame stops

Janyce: Oh my god, are you Okay?!

Michelle: Janyce? It's fine it was just a cough wasn't it Irene?

Irene: What? Oh yeah just had a tickle in my throat that's all dear.

Michelle: See... Are you feeling alright Janyce?

Janyce: [to side] She doubts me. [Normal] yes, I'm fine.

Michelle: I see.

Janyce: [to side] no she doesn't. [Normal] It's just been a long day that's all. [To side] She's going to get in my way.

Michelle: I can't reach the door can you grab it for me?

Janyce: Err yeah.

She pushes the door open and rotates around the stage. Room has a CT scanner in the centre.

Janyce: Is this it?

Michelle: Yep, we'll get Irene to lie down just here if you don't mind.

Janyce: Sure [They sit her down on the scanner]

Irene: What's going to happen?

Michelle: nothing bad, I just need you to lie down there and just stay still for about 30 seconds when I ask you too and that's it. Alright?

Irene: Yes, that's fine lovey.

Michelle and Janyce walk behind a screen

Irene: [to audience] I don't like the thought of death. Then again no one does do they. I just want to sit at home with a cup of tea and read a book. Nothing more, nothing less. I don't want to be weak and old though. I enjoy being capable, but I'm lying here now, and I can't help but think 'maybe I'm not as capable as I thought'. Perhaps if I could go back in time, you know what I'd do? I'd find a handsome, young man. I would! And then, I could be old, married and have no need to be capable because I'd have someone do it for me. Maybe that's what we all need: someone to look after us and do a lot for us. But now, I've just got to lie here and be scared. In truth, I'm horrified. I might not look it but I really am. [Upset] I'm worried I don't have long left, that my end is sooner than I had hoped. I'm not ready for death, I really don't want-[stage goes dark and Janyce screams, running on stage]

Janyce: AHHHHH! I can't take it! I can't bear to watch as she lies their petrified. She's as scared as I am. Of... of death. [Lights flicker] the intense fear of this inhumane torture. I can't watch anymore. The thoughts are too much to handle. [Likes strobe as the zombie-like nurses' return]. Is this what I am? Am I A bearer of Death? Am I a demon or a monster? No... [They stop] I'm an Angel. No, I'm not I'm a monster [they continue]. I want it to end, I want my life to-

Michelle: [enters] It's all done now. Easy wasn't it? Janyce thinks you did great.

Irene: Oh, thank you, you're too kind.

Michelle: She did great didn't she?

Janyce: What? Yes, she did amazing. As always.

Irene: Aw honestly you two really are too kind.

Michelle: Shall we get you back to your room and then we'll bring the results around when we've got them. I don't think there's anything to worry about though.

Janyce: okay thanks. [To Irene] shall we get you back then?

Janyce gets Irene back onto her bed and they walk down the corridor as nurses approach them cat is leading them. They take control of Irene.

Janyce: excuse me! Excuse me what do you think you're doing? You can't take her.

Cat: Hello again Janyce, were just taking her for examination.

Janyce: that's where we've just been! You can't just take her away.

Cat: you took her for examination?

Janyce: Yes!

Cat: No.

Janyce: Yes, I did ask Michelle she took us there.

Cat: I already did, I'm taking Irene under her orders.

Janyce: What? That doesn't make any sense.

Cat: Does it not? We are taking this patient to go for a MENTAL examination not a physical. Don't worry we'll bring her back like we always do.

Janyce: Michelle told you to do this?

Cat: yep

Janyce: Oh... okay then.

The nurses stare each other down before cat turns her back and leaves with the other nurses

Janyce: That cow! She lied to Irene. She said it was over! She's gonna' get her kill- [she notices Michelle enter the corridor] you! [She tackles Michelle through a doorframe and starts pulling at her hair]

Michelle: Ahhh what is wro-Auggghh.

[Overlapped talking]

Janyce: You evil woman

Michelle: What are you ta-Ahhh-lking about!

Janyce: sending her for examination!

Michelle: I was being a nurse what are you [she kicks Janyce off her]

Janyce: They're going to find out she's not well! [Grappling Michelle to the floor again]

Michelle: Ahh what do you mean 'not well'.

Janyce: She's going to have to die.

Michelle: Get Off! I don't understand.

Janyce: the only reason she lives is because I haven't let them find out!

Michelle: Why couldn't we know-AHHHHHH.

Janyce: Because I would have no reason not to Kill her! [she throws Michelle off her and pushes her against the wall]

Michelle: Gahh. What do you mean kill her?

Janyce: why do you think all those people have died on this ward? It's because I'm the only one brave enough to help them. Jill, Maurice, David it was all me! Do you understand I helped them? They were ill and I had-

Michelle: You sick, evil woman [She pins Janyce up]

Janyce: Ughh, you...don't understand, do you? I did this to help but Irene...Irene was different I. I loved her so I protected her, convinced myself I was a monster-

Michelle: YOU ARE!

Janyce: No. I'm angel. [She stabs Michelle with a scalpel]

Michelle: what? What was tha-[she looks down to see her uniform turned red. Janyce? What?

Janyce: [she pushes her to the floor] Can you see it now? I HELP people. But you, you hurt them I only did what I had to. I'm sorry

Michelle: You...You bitch [she splutters blood].

Janyce: [begins to breathe heavy as she cries standing] You were a beautiful rose. But always catching me with your thorns.

She sees a chemical waste bin in the corner and proceed to take out a bin bag wrapping up her body and placing it in the bin. She exits the stage. Blackout. Light turns on to Janyce entering Irene's room where cat is.

Cat: Janyce. Did you talk to Michelle about it then?

Janyce: ye-No...no I couldn't find her.

Cat: Oh, that's odd but do you at least understand why we took her for testing now?

Janyce: Yeah, yeah no I completely get it. I'm sorry about earlier.

Cat: It's alright I understood why you reacted like that. You really care about Irene, don't you?

Janyce: Yes... why are you? What's wrong with her?

Cat: I'm sorry but Irene has dementia and she's at the stage now where she's approaching a rapid fall in her ability to remember and be able to live her life properly. I'm sorry.

Janyce: I-how? What? How do you know?

Cat: I'm sorry, Janyce. We did a GPCOG test on her and it was incredibly clear to us how much she is deteriorating.

Irene: [awaking] Is that you Janyce? Oh, it is.

Janyce: yes, I'm here now. How are you feeling?

Irene: Who's that?

Janyce: That's Cat, she's a nurses here. The one who just tested you.

Irene: No I don't seem to recall that. Are you sure that was me?

Janyce: What do mean you don't remember?

Cat: Janyce.

Janyce: You're being stupid again. I know you remember. Don't you?!

Cat: Janyce! What are you doing you need to reassure her not scream at her!

Janyce: Irene? Say you remember or-

Cat: Or what? [To Irene] Everything is going to be fine. I know you're having some problems trying to remember but that's fine. Janyce has just had a long day. That's all, she's not mad at you.

Irene: No. No, I do remember. I think?

Janyce: see, that's good. Just keep trying.

Cat: is it okay for you to leave the room a moment Janyce: I want to talk to Irene alone.

Janyce: Fine! But don't you dare hurt her.

Cat: I'm not going to. I'm afraid that's what you'll do and that's why I am asking you to leave.

Janyce storms off stage.

Cat: Are you feeling alright?

Irene: Just a bit weary that's all lovey.

Cat: Good. You should really try and get some sleep now.

Irene: Alrighty.

Cat: sorry about all those tests we had to put you through today but it's all for good. Yeah?

Irene: It's fine honestly dearie. I understand.

Cat: I'll leave you too it then and I'll be back in a bit to check on you.

Janyce stands at the corner of the stage listening in.

Irene: what about that mean nurse? What if she comes back?

Cat: You mean Janyce?

Irene: Yes, I think so.

Cat: She's not a mean nurse. She's just upset and confused

Irene: Why's that?

Cat: because of you.

Irene: But I haven't done anything to upset her. Have I?

Cat: Oh no! Silly me, what I meant was she is upset because you're not too well at the moment, so she's upset for you.

Irene: I'm not too sure what you mean? Am I not well?

Cat: Unfortunately, not.

Irene: will I die?

Cat: No don't be silly. You're not that sick Irene.

Irene: But everyone who gets sick here dies.

Cat: I think that's just the way things are, some people who come here are sick and will pass on. But you're not kind of "sick". Your brain is just getting tired. You must have too many good stories and it's making the angels jealous. But you won't be with them anytime soon. I promise.

Cat takes Irene off stage and Janyce walks centre stage.

Janyce: 'mean nurse'. Is that all I am now?
Does a 'mean nurse' wash, clothe and feed an old woman. Do they take away from their own life to help others? No! But I am a mean nurse, nevertheless. Right? Where did I go wrong? Was it my personal life? Or was it my goal to help these patients. It's the second one isn't it? That's the one that's ripping me up inside. But that's where it comes from. From deep down in my past. The pain and fear. When is it coming? Is it close? Death! I'm so afraid. Like all those years ago when I feared for my own life, I now fear for some who calls me a 'mean nurse'. How stupid! How selfish of me to think I was the only one afraid if dying! Ueah. [She freezes in fear].

A shadow on a screen behind her shows a child on a bed with a huge doctor waving around tools. The zombie nurses return grabbing Janyce and walking her off like a convict. The screen is pulled aside like a surgery room and the bed is pushed forward. Music plays over a scene of surgery as a heartbeat plays. The zombie nurses crowd the child and hold her hand as the beat stops. Until it picks back up and the nurses sit her up and reveal a child that looks like Janyce. Blackout. Lights up on older Janyce sat on bed.

Janyce: My heart stopped. But did it really ever start beating again? A limbo. I must free everyone from it.

She exits the stage and Irene walks on with a walking stick. We are in a bathroom.

Irene: [reaching out] I don't remember the last time I looked at myself in a mirror. But my god am I a beautiful old lady? I just wish I knew what I looked like in the good old days. I bet the men were swarming me. But Cat tells me that I didn't have kids so perhaps they couldn't see what I do. I- I've lost my train of thought now. I...no I don't remember. I hate this. I hate feeling weak and alone because... because I can't remember. I should be getting back to the nurses now.

She leaves the stage as Janyce enters on the other side. She sits in silence on a waiting chair. A few moments later a young male nurse enters with Irene.

Matt: are you Irene's nurse? She wandered off and I found her.

Irene: I only went to the loo.

Janyce: You can't just walk of Irene!

Irene: Well, I don't even remember walking off.

Matt: Is she well?

Janyce: Yes, why wouldn't she be?

Matt: I don't know I just thought- oh my names Matt by the way.

Janyce: I'm Janyce I erm can I have a quick word?

Matt: Yeah, sure.

Janyce: Just sit there Irene.

Matt and Janyce stand on the side of the stage leaving Irene sat centre.

Janyce: Irene has dementia and well she's getting worse in all honesty. I don't really like talking about it around her because she starts asking all sort of questions you see.

Matt: Oh, I understand now. I'm sorry.

Janyce: No, no don't be sorry. It's fine honestly.

Matt: You too should get back to your room and I'll bring you some coffee if you'd like. As an apology for "interrogating" her before.

Janyce: Yeah, that would be nice. Tea though. She much prefers tea.

Matt leaves and Janyce and Irene 'walk' back.

Janyce: you can't go wandering off like.

Irene: Oh, sorry dear.

Janyce: I would say it's fine but it's just really not. You get me all worried.

Irene: [touching Janyce's name tag] Jan...yce. Janyce.

Janyce: Yeah what is it?

Irene: Your name, it's Janyce. It's a very pretty name.

Janyce: [nods holding back tears].

Cat enters angrily.

Cat: Where is Michelle? I can't find her anyway and she's really getting on my nerves.

Janyce: I'm not sure I haven't seen her in ages.

Cat: keep an eye out for me, will you?

Janyce: yeah, of course.

Matt comes on stage with a bed.

Janyce: Hi Matt.

Irene: hello again [handed tea] oh is this for me?

Matt: yeah, it's all for you. And this is for me. [Spills tea] Oh no ow! Oh gosh. Er Janyce I'm sorry to ask you for this but can you go to room 1? It's Peter in there and I need you to give him his morning meds. I'm so sorry but I need to clean myself up.

Janyce: Yeah, sure that's fine just get yourself sorted out.

The stage is split again with a wall and peter's room. Janyce goes to peter stopping in the middle.

Janyce: Alone in a room, again. What will I do? Could I finally stop, or will I carry on my ways? All these new people, Cat, Matt and both of them want to take her from me. If they want to take who I care about away from me then I will take away what they care about. Does that include Irene though? I suppose I will have to find out.

She continues into peter's room.

Janyce: Hello peter. Matt sent me to give you your meds. That silly man just spilt tea all over him

Peter: [chuckling] Oh, it won't be the first time he's done that.

Janyce: [reaching for needle, stopping] Is that so?! [Picking up medicine bottle]

Peter: yes, he does it all the time.

Janyce: he must be so clumsy. [Laying out his meds and hand him the glass of water on the side]

Peter: Thank you my love. [Beginning to take meds]

Janyce: [reaching for needle] Matt also asked me to give you...a coffee. Yeah, a coffee what would you like?

Peter: really? Normally he's telling me to keep away from them. It's bad for my health.

Janyce: Why, are you not well? [Grabbing needle]

Peter: well not entirely. Is anyone really well here mind?

Janyce: No not really, I suppose...I guess I should give you the rest of your meds.

Peter: that is all of them though, isn't it?

Janyce: Erm...no matt told me to give you a small amount of morphine.

Peter: I'm not in any pain though. I don't understand.

Janyce: Trust me Peter, you're in pain. [She grabs his arm forcing the needle in as screams. She covers his mouth] Peter? Peter? Hello...are you...no, no what did I do? I shouldn't have I just...I don't know what came over me. Why am I the way I am? Being close to death shouldn't have turned me into a monster, yet it has. I'm so sorry. [She kneels and holds his body from the bedside, crying]

Fade to black on one side and lights up on Matt and Irene.

Irene: Thanks for my tea. I'll try not to spill mine.

Matt: [wiping himself] Very funny Irene.

Irene: Oh, I wasn't making a joke... I.

Matt: Don't worry about it it's fine.

Irene: I'm just glad that horrid nurse is gone.

Matt: You mean Janyce? She was like your best friend though I thought.

Irene: I don't think so. I can hardly remember her at all.

Matt: You used to like her a lot, maybe you should just talk to her. She's worried about you that's all.

Lights up on Peter's room as Cat goes into Irene's room.

Cat: What did you do to her?

Janyce: What are you talking about? Cat!

Cat: I found her. Michelle. You said you talked to her.

Janyce: and I did.

Cat: Then why is her body IN A BAG!

Janyce: I... I DON'T KNOW!

Cat: don't you lie to me!

Janyce: Please I honestly don't know-[cat slaps her]

Cat: what the hell is wrong with you Janyce? Why are you always acting so strange? You don't make any sense.

Janyce: I'm...I'm so sorry. [Collapsing to knees]

Cat: You wouldn't...You left her body in a bin. How could you be so cruel?

Janyce: I'm so sorry. I couldn't stop myself. I can't stop myself. [She looks at peter]

Cat: You didn't, did you? No, no, no what is wrong with you.

Janyce: [wailing] I'm a monster. I thought my job was to help these people, guide them but I betrayed them. I did, didn't I?

Cat: I... I don't know.

Janyce: why do I do these things?

Cat: I, I. I don't know what's happening Janyce.

Janyce: [crawling along the floor] I'm scared Cat. I hate what I've done, and I hate myself and I want it to be quiet in my mind for at least a minute because it just won't stop [screaming]. Look at me.

Cat: Janyce stop!

Janyce: I can't.

Cat: You need to pull yourself together [sitting next to her on the floor].

Janyce: [crying] I tried to help...I messed up. I'm messed up. When I was young, I went into surgery. It... It scared me. It made me horrified of death and the awful process that comes with it.

Cat: So you killed people?!

Janyce: NO! I helped them.

Cat: No, you killed them, Janyce.

Janyce: I... I killed them. I only tried to help but I was blinded and I thought I was doing good but...

Cat: You're a nurse Janyce, you want help people so do it. Why would you kill them in the process of that?

Janyce: I knew what I was doing was wrong, but I couldn't stop. Something kept telling me 'no, you're an Angel' but I'm not. I was wrong to think that these sick people couldn't be properly helped.

Cat: So, what about Michelle?

Janyce: she...she did nothing wrong. I shouldn't have...no, No she mad Irene sick.

Cat: she had been sick for a while.

Janyce: Yes, but not sick enough that I felt she needed to be helped.

Cat: YOU WASN'T HELPING THEM!

Janyce: Yes!..No! I.

Cat: I want you to explain how she made Irene sick...How did Michele make her sick?

Janyce: She didn't! I just thought that it was her fault that I knew she had dementia. I knew all along but if there was no proof I could stop myself from hurting her. By taking her away you gave me a reason to kill her.

Cat: But you haven't done anything to her yet. You can go back and let her live now you see that-

Janyce: Can't you just listen! I...Can't...Stop...Myself! I'm a monster and I always will be, the world would be better if I just got rid of myself if I just [she pulled out a scalpel going to stab herself]

Cat: No [she goes to grab the knife, grapple on floor] Don't do it to yourself!

Janyce: I want to die!..Let me die! [She gets on top of cat]

Cat: Don't!

Janyce goes to stab herself but has the knife knocked out of her hands and across the floor by cat. They scramble across the floor for it and Janyce gets there first kicking cat and getting atop her again. She pushes the knife down on cat as she pushes back. The knife slightly pierces her as she screams.

Cat: Stop! [She kicks her and manages to get the knife off her. She holds it against Janyce's neck as she kneels.

Janyce: Please. Help me. Do it. Don't do it. I. I'm sorry I. I'm so tired. I didn't mean to it was a mistake! I couldn't stop. I'm trying my best.

Cat: You're not trying hard enough. But you will. [She throws knife away and Janyce looks at it] Don't.

Janyce: I won't. I promise.

Cat: Then get up.

Janyce: I'm so sorry, Cat.

Cat: I don't care. You have no idea what you've done.

Janyce: I'll put it right, I will.

Cat: How?

Janyce: I... I don't know.

Cat: You're going to go back to Irene right now and sit there while I sort out this major problem you've created.

Janyce: I'm so sorr-

Cat: Shut up will you! You destroyed lives; do you realise that?

Janyce: I.

Cat: Get up and go to Irene. Now!

Janyce stands up and slowly walks off stage as Cat collapses to the ground. Lights down and lights up on Irene's room with Matt, Irene and Janyce.

Matt: Janyce! You're here I was worried you wouldn't get back.

Janyce: what do you mean?

Matt: Well, you were taking far ages with peter, I was starting to think you weren't coming back.

Janyce: Peter, peter died.

Matt: Oh...oh my god how, are you alright.

Janyce: yeah I'm fine, it was just his time to go. He knew it was coming and I sat next to him and held his hand. It was peaceful.

Matt: I'm glad it wasn't painful for him. After what he'd been through it was the least he deserved. But erm...Janyce.

Janyce: yeah.

Matt: erm well. I think it might also be Irene's time.

Janyce: What? What do you mean time for what?

Matt: she's not going to last much longer I'm afraid.

Janyce: What?! Why not, what happened?

Matt: she's deteriorating rapidly and-

Janyce: is this it then?

Matt: unfortunately.

Janyce: Irene! I'm here for you, Irene.

Irene: Janyce. You've looked after me.

Janyce: yes, I have.

Irene: why?

Janyce: because I'm a nurse it's what I do.

Irene: but why do you like me so much. I've never shared the same love for you back so why did you do it.

Janyce: it's just part of my job I don't?-

Irene: NO! You only ever looked after me. Everyone else has passed on. Me though, I'm still here and you made that happen. All I ask is why do you care so much.

Janyce: Because I care about you.

Zombie nurses begin to enter with strobe lights.

Irene: Why!

More nurses getting closer to Janyce.

Janyce: [panic] I- it's my job.

Nurses begin to grab her and cover her face.

Irene: Answer my question, Janyce. Why are you so protective!

Janyce tries to talk but is muffled by nurse's hands. She pries them off her mouth.

Janyce: because you saved me!

The nurses snap off her and back up staring at Janyce.

Janyce: When my heart stopped beating it was you. You were the nurse who brought me back to life.

Irene stands and goes into a position that the nurse and young Janyce were in earlier.

Irene: You were her.

Janyce: yes.

Irene: you were the little girl who faced death all by herself.

Janyce: [holds Irene's hand] I wasn't alone.

Irene: I was just doing what was needed of me. As a nurse.

Janyce: You made me who I am today. You inspired me to help people. And guide them-

Zombie nurses turn to Janyce

Nurses: NO!

They begin to chant at her and tell her she's a monster as they get closer.

Janyce: Irene, I killed them.

The nurses grab Janyce and hold her in a cross like pose.

Janyce: I had to.

Irene: No, you didn't.

Janyce: I couldn't do what you did I'm not as strong as you are. I couldn't save people because I'm not a good person Irene.

Irene: Yes, you are.

Janyce: I'm not and I never will be.

Irene: Yes, you can. You just have to make the right choice.

Irene begins to remove the nurses one by one off of Janyce.

Irene: you're a good person...You helped me...You could have helped everyone. You can be like me. Make the right decision.

Janyce shakes her head and begins to cry as the last zombie is removed from her as this happens Irene falls back and is picked up and held by the nurses.

Janyce: Irene? I'm sorry.

The nurses hold her up centre stage as Janyce kneels before them.

Janyce: Irene, please talk to me.

Nurses [in unison]: you should have saved them. You could have saved them. Now you are too late.

Janyce: So, I'm not an angel?

Nurses: you were never the angel, for she was before you the whole time. You are but a harbinger of death.

They slowly place Irene's body back onto the bed. She holds Janyce's hand as she passes away and is taken off stage. The room returns back into a hospital with Matt there as the zombies crawl and walk behind Janyce.

Matt: what did you do to them?

Janyce: Irene helped me and I wanted to do the same.

Matt: so why?

Janyce: I didn't want to do it but it was the only way. I admired her and she was the one who showed me that help is needed by everyone.

Matt: You really are a demon, a mon-

Janyce: A monster I know. I see that now. I've made so many mistakes but. I won't do it anymore. I won't allow myself to hurt anyone else.

Matt: What is wrong with you? Why are you like this? Why would you ever even think of doing that?

Janyce: I don't know I-

Matt: You...

Janyce: I'm so, so sorry-

Matt: No! Don't even begin to apologise.

Janyce: I-

She kneels on the floor in tears with zombies behind her comforting her as Irene, Peter, Jill all come out zombified.

Janyce: I'm sorry

They comfort her and hold her

Matt: You liar.

They snap and stare at him.

Matt: All you've done since I met you was lie. You've hurt people Janyce. You've ruined so much for so many people. You're truly a monster. Do you have no thought behind anything you do? Your eyes are just blank. I can see your crazed mind behind them seeping out and it's vile. You're disturbed and need help. You're ill Janyce.

Janyce: I-I know.

Matt: You know?! You know?! You can't just admit to that and say you know. You're messed up.

Janyce: [screeching] I know!

She begins wailing and breaks down. Matt grabs her and sits her down as the apparitions of zombies look on.

Janyce: My...whole life- I don't know! I'm so messed up. I shouldn't have done it but I couldn't stop. I just...I just thought that deep down I was helping people and that's what stirred me on. Seeing all those sick people bed ridden and just sad. Their upset, old little faces all wrinkled just made

me. Want to help. I know I know! I wasn't helping, I couldn't help them. I just wasn't that good. I wasn't able to do what she had done for me and that stained me with guilt. Why was I able to come back from death? Why me. Do you really think that I of all people deserved that? I'm so ruined and I was saved. I don't deserve this. I never should have tried to be nurse. I just need help now. That's it. It's all over for me at this point. And I'm sorry for that. [She lets go of the zombies and reaches for a phone in her pocket] this is all I deserve now. I need to make the 'right choice'.

She holds the phone as the apparitions try to take it off her. One of them grabs it off her. They all scatter off stage except Irene with the phone.

Irene: make the right choice, my angel.

Janyce: I will. I promise.

Sirens play as police lights flash.

A group of police men grab her as she smiles. She keeps a smug face as she leaves the stage as everyone watches on leaving one by one until just Irene is left. She is carried off in an angel-like pose by the nurses.

The End.

