# SODA SHOP ANGEL

By Shirley McNichols

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## STORY OF THE PLAY

Judy Harding's life as a 16-year-old isn't too sweet right now. Her dad can't find the money to fix up the family's soda shop; her older jock brother, Jimmy, is flunking out of school; and her younger brother, Tommy, has retreated into a fantasy world of comic book superheroes since their mom died. To add to the dilemma, Judy has a major crush on Ricky, a new guy in town who's a mysterious loner. Enter Angela, a bumbling angel-in-training who must earn her halo by helping the Hardings. But when the shop is hit first by a fire and then a flood, is it divine providence or disaster? Salvation or catastrophe? A quiz show and hula hooping are all part of the miracle that help save Judy and her family.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**
*(8 m, 8 w, 2 flexible*)*

**ANGELA**: Angel who must earn her halo.
**FRITZ**: Senior angel.
**JUDY HARDING**: Teen who needs some heavenly help.
**JIMMY HARDING**: Judy's baseball-loving older brother.
**TOMMY HARDING**: Judy's irritating little brother, about 10.
**HOWARD (POPS) HARDING**: Their dad, overworked, 40s.
**LAURA**: Teen friend of Judy, intellectual.
**SANDY**: Teen friend of Judy, athletic.
**VIOLET**: Teen friend of Judy, into astrology.
**HANK**..(ANN): Teen friend of Judy.
**FRANK**..(FRAN): Teen friend of Judy.
**RICKY**: New boy in town whom Judy likes.
**STAR**: Tough girl teen, likes Jimmy.
**BRADY**: Tough teen (can double as Director).
**PITTS**: Tough teen (double as Cameraman).
**PHIL RILEY**: TV game show host, 30s.
**DIRECTOR**: Of TV show.
**CAMERAMAN**: Of TV show.
**MRS. RITA LEWIS**: Health inspector, 40s.
**MRS. SEYMOUR**: School counselor, 40s.
**EXTRA STUDENTS**: As many as desired.

**Time:** Spring, 1950s.

**Setting:** A small-town malt shop somewhere in the Midwest.

**SET DESIGN**

The malt shop has a counter running UPS and tables, chairs and booths DS. Entrance from the outside is USL. Exits into the family's living quarters and kitchen are at USR and DSR. The shop should have a '50s look.

**PROPS**

JUDY - Diary and pen.
RICKY - Sunglasses.
TOMMY - Superhero cape and squirt gun.
STUDENTS - Assorted books.
JIMMY - Towel.
ANGELA - Suitcase, ankle bracelet, towel, door knob.
FRITZ - Cigar and letter, frisbee.
VIOLET - Astrology chart and hula hoops.
PHIL - Card.
DIRECTOR- Light meter.
POPS - Phone bill.
GANG - Buckets and rags.
STAR - Large envelope.
CAMERAMAN - Camera and tripod.
SET PROPS - Glasses, trays, menus, charred birthday cake (clay on a pizza pan spray painted black).

**SOUND EFFECTS**

Thunder, fire engines, rock 'n roll music, phone rings, glass breaking.

**ACT I**
**Scene 1**

*(AT RISE: Monday after school. JUDY HARDING sits at the table at CR writing in her diary. She can read from the diary, or her pre-recorded voice can begin the dialogue.)*

JUDY: Dear Diary, I saw him again today. He was sitting on the railing by the locker rooms at lunch. And then he looked up at me. I think he was looking at me! It was hard to tell, though, 'cause of the dark glasses he always wears, but it sure looked like he was looking my way. Ricky. Such a cool name*. (Writing and speaking.)* Ricky and Judy. Ricky and Judy. *(Speaking.)* Looks good! Oh, who am I kidding? A guy like Ricky would never notice a girl like me! He's so cool. And I'm such a, such a...

JIMMY: *(Entering USL.)* Twerp! Is Dad back yet?

JUDY: Shut up, Jimmy, the geek! You were supposed to be here an hour ago. I've had to run things all by myself!

JIMMY: It's not my fault baseball practice ran late! *(Looking around the empty room.)* Anyhow, I think even you could handle this crowd, Betsy-wetsy.

JUDY: Yeah, well, just for leaving me with all the work you can take my dish night tonight.

JIMMY: Don't think so, little sister. Dishes are women's work. Besides, I've got to take care of these hands. *(Holding up and lovingly admiring HIS hands.)* Take a look, Jude! These are the hands of the next Don Larson! *(Or other great pitcher from the 1950s.)* Someday, if you're nice, I'll autograph my baseball card for you. "To Judy, the twerpiest sister a great guy could ever have. Signed, Jimmy, 'The Curve,' Harding."

TOMMY: *(Running in USL wearing a superhero cape.)* Look out! It's starting!

JUDY: *(Stopping TOMMY.)* What's starting, Tommy? What are you yelling about?

TOMMY: Megaman! It's Megaman time! I almost missed it! Frankie and I were playing Superman! *(Turning to JIMMY.)*

TOMMY: *(Cont'd.)* You know, the one where Lex Luthor gets some kryptonite and gets Superman to go to the secret, lead-lined underground room he has, so he can capture the man of steel!

JIMMY: Sure, sport, I know that one!

TOMMY: But Megaman is the mightiest of all! I bet he could take Superman with both arms tied behind his back! *(Running around the room.)* Defender of the lame, protector of the ignorant, it's Megaman to the rescue!

JUDY: Tommy, stop yelling!

TOMMY: *(Switches to singing.)* It's Megaman to the rescue! Look out bad guys, he's coming after you! *(Runs off USR.)*

JUDY: *(Calling after TOMMY.)* Tommy! Don't forget to take out the trash! Or Pops will blow a gasket!

TOMMY: *(As HE exits.)* After Megaman!

JUDY: Now, Tommy!

TOMMY: *(From off USR.)* Aw, Jude! No fair! Quit actin' like you're my mom!

JUDY: *(Turning to JIMMY.)* Oh, in case you care, Mrs. Seymour called for Dad this afternoon.

JIMMY: Who?

JUDY: Your high school guidance counselor.

JIMMY: That's where I've heard the name! You didn't let her talk to him, did you?

JUDY: He wasn't here. But she's gonna call back, Jimmy. What did you do?

JIMMY: Nothing!

JUDY: Oh sure!

JIMMY: No really! I ain't done nothing! It's just, maybe my grades aren't so good is all.

JUDY: I get it. You really haven't done anything. You haven't done your math, or your English, or your history...

JIMMY: Jude, I ain't gonna need all that to be a pro baseball player! Why waste the time? When the big league scouts get a look at my curve ball, they'll be lining up to sign me to a ten-thousand-dollar-a-year contract. I'll be a rich man, little sister!

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