

The ConSPIRITcy

Synopsis: Riley is a normal HS student going about their day. Riley is a decent person committed to school, activities, church, friends and family. However, Riley sees life as if they are the center/the main character in the story. We follow Riley through a normal day's interactions. Then through a dream that night, Riley is visited by two secret agents and invited to conspire with the Holy Spirit to see through the lens of others and bring blessing to them. When Riley awakens the next morning, they are challenged to see things differently and see the opportunity to bless others in their life.

Characters:

- **Riley -male or female**
- **Mother**
- **Brother or sister: J.J.**
- **Teacher, Mr. Lou**
- **Concession workers: Jackson, Timmy, Morgan, Jasmine**
- **Lunch room friends: Jo(e) and Trina**
- **Special Agent Angel Claire #1 and Special Agent Angel Claire #2**

Scene 1:

Riley joins Mom in the kitchen. She is chipper and he is sleepy and grumpy.

Mom: Good morning Riley!

Riley: Morning. Is my uniform clean? I need it for work tonight.

Mom: Yes, it's in the basket downstairs. Listen, I have to leave early this morning because I have an interview for that promotion I told you about. I need you to take care of some things for me. Can you please put the whites into the drier for me and load the breakfast dishes?

Riley: Why are you always asking me to do stuff? Can't JJ do it?

Mom: JJ isn't feeling well and is going to stay home from school this morning.

Riley: Little faker.

Mom: Riley, he threw up three times last night. I don't think he's faking. Listen, I'm going to be late if I don't leave now. Can you please do those things I asked and check in on your brother before you catch the bus? And don't forget you have confirmation class tomorrow so you need to read your lesson for that.

Riley: Great. (mutters sarcastically)

Mom: Riley I think if you slowed down a bit and read the passages with a little more attention and thought how they might apply to you, you might find that it speaks to you in important ways.

Riley: I doubt it.

Mom: Riley, I've got to go. Can you do those things, please?

Riley: Fine. I'll do the stuff.

Mom: Thank you. Wish me luck!

Riley: Bye.

Mom: Have a great day, honey! (she leaves.)

Riley: (after she leaves, under his breath.) Yeah, right. I'm so sick of always having to do work around here. (Scene shows him doing dishes and laundry –but rushing through –not doing a very good job.)

(to self, rummaging through stuff) Where is that stupid book? (finds it eventually, and reads quickly and mechanically.)

(Reads James 3:5-8 passage rushing through it)

Okay, confirmation assignment done! (checking it off a list and slamming book shut.)

(Goes to JJ's room. Brother is lying in bed, moaning softly.)

Riley: Hey faker. Mom wanted me to check on you.

JJ: I'm not faking Riley. I feel awful.

Riley: Whatever. You can stop acting now. Mom's gone -you fooled her. But I know you just wanted to skip school.

JJ: I'm sick Riley. I've been throwing up all night. And I don't WANT to miss school. I have a chemistry test and a history presentation that I'm going to have to find time to make up. Plus, I'm missing play try-outs and I really wanted to be in the play this semester.

Riley: Whatever, I've gotta go. I'm gonna miss the bus.

JJ: (sighs) Bye.

(Later at school cafeteria)

Riley is carrying his lunch tray to his table with friends. On the way, he crosses paths with a teacher **Mr. Lou**

Mr. Lou: Hey there Riley! How's it going today

Riley: Oh, hi **Mr. Lou**. How are you?

Mr. Lou: I'm great! Thanks, Riley. You did an amazing job on your last paper! It was one of the best I received this year! Very interesting take on Manifest Destiny! Have you considered going into history or maybe writing?

Riley: Hmm. I don't know. I always thought I'd go into business or investments. I'm not really sure yet.

Mr. Lou: That's okay. You're just a sophomore. You have plenty of time to decide. Now's the perfect time to try stuff out –see how it feels –what fits or not. Listen, I'm the sponsor for the school newspaper, and we're always looking for more writers. Would you be interested in that?

Riley: I don't know. I'd have to think about it.

Mr. Lou: Sure, sure! Give it some thought and if you're interested, come find me, okay?

Riley: Okay, I'll give it some thought.

Mr. Lou: Well, take care, Riley! See you later!

Riley: Bye.

(walks to table with friends)

Jo: What was that all about? What did old Mr. Lou-ser have to say?

Trina: (laughs) Lou-ser? Why do you call him that?

Jo: You obviously haven't had him as a teacher yet. He's such a loser.

Trina: Like what do you mean?

Jo: Like he's trying to be everyone's friend. He's ultra-positive to your face –like –“good answer!” or “nice game Friday!” or “you guys rock!” or whatever. But then he stabs you in the back when he grades your tests and assignments. Right Riley?

Riley: ...Uhh, yeah...

Jo: He LOVES to give me D's on my tests. On the last test, he told us that if we studied hard we'd do fine. He's a liar. I did study hard. I studied on the bus ride to school that morning for an **entire ten minutes**. Then I took the test and it was impossible. There's no way you could pass that without actually reading the chapter first. What a waste of time!

Trina: Mr. Lou-ser sounds like a jerk. Nice to your face and then gets off on torturing his students by giving impossible tests. I'll try to avoid taking his classes! What did he say to you anyway, Riley.

Riley: (hesitates) Well he said I wrote a good paper...

Jo: See! He's duping you!

Riley: ...and he asked me to work for the student newspaper.

Trina: Newspaper? That's lame!

Jo: He's trying to find new ways to torment us! He's a sicko. You're not going to fall for that, are you Riley?

Riley: (hesitates) ...No, I uh... I have better things to do with my time.

Trina: Only losers work for the newspaper anyway.

(work)

Riley is shift leader at work and he lords it over his coworkers

Jasmine: Where's Jackson? He's always here on time.

Morgan: I don't know. I hope something's not wrong.

Riley: Okay, everyone, listen up! I'm calling this meeting because some of you don't seem to remember that Alberta appointed me as the shift-leader of this concession crew. You all can't seem to listen and you don't clean-up like you're supposed. I'm tired of doing everything so I need some of you to step it up.

[Riley improvises a continued provocation that may exist in the form of bad advice]

(two other workers smile and whisper to each other.)

Morgan: Does *everything*? I think he's in another universe. Last shift he sat in the back eating popcorn while I cleaned the machine.

Jasmine: Yeah, he kinda let this shift-leader thing go to his head.

Riley: Would you like to share with everyone Morgan?

Morgan: (sheepishly) no

Riley: That's what I thought. *I'm* the shift leader and that means you need to listen to me, got it? If you don't, I'll be forced to write you up. (pause) Now as I was saying, you guys are slobs and if you don't start doing better, I'm gonna have to report you both to Alberta.

(as he's speaking, Jackson rushes in and hurriedly ties on his apron.)

Riley: Nice Jackson! Five minutes late! Alberta is going to have to hear about this, because I have to report on ALL derelictions.

Jackson: I'm sorry I'm late. As I was leaving to come here, I saw my neighbor Mrs. Petticoat and...

(Riley interrupts at "neighbor")

Riley: Save it Jackson. I don't want to hear any stupid excuses about your neighbor or why you're late. Team members are expected to do their job and be on time. I'll have to write you up if you're late again.

Jackson: It's just that...

Riley: (Doesn't let him speak) Would you rather I wrote you up now? Alberta knows I'm responsible and that's why she made me shift leader. I do my job well and I expect you to do your job well too.

(Back at home -Riley gets home from work and his mom and sister are watching the news)

Mom: Hi Riley! How was work?

Riley: Fine. What are you watching?

JJ: The news.

Riley: Yeah, cause *that's* not depressing at all. (sarcastic)

Mom: We're learning about the grain shortage that has resulted from the war in Ukraine.

Riley: Grain shortage. Sounds exciting (sarcastic)

JJ: Riley, people are starving in countries that were relying on that grain.

Mom: That war has caused so much heartache. Here, I'll scoot over and you can sit here. Their dealing with some awful situations.

Riley: No thanks. My Xbox is waiting for me.

(that night as Riley slept he had a strange vivid dream)

[Riley is sleeping, Sequence of Angels sneaking into the room. Mission Impossible Music.]

Riley awakens and is startled to see 2 secret agent angels in his bedroom.

Riley: What's going on?! Who are you?! Please don't kill me!

Angel J: We're not going to hurt you Bro.

Angel G: We're here to help you.

Riley: Who are you?

Angel J: I am an angel (light glowing behind her with music starting to play –then stops). Gotcha! Just kidding Bro. I am Special Agent Angel Claire #1.

Angel G: And I'm Second Special Agent Angel Claire.

Riley: Wait, you're both named Special Agent Angel Claire? Am I seeing double? Am I hallucinating? Am I crazy?

Angel J: Chill dude.

Angel G: You are too hyper for your own good.

Riley: Wait, but you're American. And you're Russian?

Angel G: What's the problem/. God doesn't discriminate.

Riley: What do you want with me?

Angel J: We have a mission for you should you choose to accept it.

Riley: A mission? What kind of mission?

Angel G: It is more an invitation to be a part of a conspiracy.

Riley: A conspiracy?! You mean you want me to be a spy for the government? Do I get some cool spy equipment?

Angel J: No bro, not that kind of conspiracy.

Angel G: You watch too much American T.V.

Angel J: This kind of mission is about conspiring to do good.

Angel G: And it takes place under cover, right in your own home and neighborhood.

Riley: You're not asking me to spy on my family and friends are you? Because they're plenty annoying and everything, but I'm not going to rat on them.

Angel J: Riley, we don't want you to betray your family and friends. We want you to conspire to *bless* them.

Riley: *Bless* them? What do you mean? How do I do that?

Angel G: Our Big Boss – sometimes referred to “Creator of All” –sent us on a mission to invite you to participate in a conspiracy with your handler.

Riley: Handler –who is my handler?

Angel J: Have you ever hear of, “The Holy Ghost”? (dramatic)

Riley: The Holy Ghost?! A ghost with holes is my handler?!

Angel G: You Americans are always so dramatic. I prefer “Holy Spirit”. Holy Spirit is guide from God. Holy Spirit speaks silently to your heart and helps direct your decisions and attitude and gives you strength and power to do challenging things.

Riley: Challenging things? What challenging things?

Angel J: Like love people and find ways to bless their lives and in turn create other ripples of blessing in the world.

Riley: That's a different sort of conspiracy. But I'm not sure what you mean. I love my family already.

Angel G: You feel love for your family, but that doesn't always show up in your words and actions. You have a limited view point. You see everything through your eyes. First step is to try to see life from their eyes.

Riley: I don't understand.

Angel J: So yesterday when your mom was heading out the door to go to her interview, how do you think she was feeling?

Riley: I don't know –nervous maybe?

Angel G: I'd say so. On top of her interview, she had a sick kid, laundry and dishes to be done and you were asking about your uniform and complaining about chores even though she does so much for you. Did you bless her by your reaction or add to her stress?

Riley: I probably didn't help.

Angel J: And your sister. She was sick and disappointed because she was missing tests and play try-outs. How do you think that felt after being sick all night?

Riley: I guess I didn't bless her either.

Angel G: And if you think through your whole day, I bet you can think about all your interactions and see how you could have conspired with the Holy Spirit to be a blessing when maybe you chose to only see things your way, or impress your friends.

Riley: Hmm. Now that I think about it, I see what you mean. I guess I'm just a selfish jerk.

Angel J: No Riley, you are a Child of God. God sent the Holy Spirit to be your handler and help you conspire to live like a child of God in a world full of difficulty but also great beauty and love. God wants you to look at the world through God's eyes and through other people's eyes and love them and conspire to bless them.

Riley: I'm not sure I'm good at that.

Angel G: You're not. Well not yet. But you will be. First you need to have a meeting with your handler. Get in sync with the Holy Spirit.

Riley: How do I do that?

Angel J: You know that confirmation passage you read yesterday –try reading it a little more slowly and think about it. Spend time every day in prayer –just tell God about your life and your concerns and ask for the help you need. Be honest and real. Make this a habit. And during the day, when you are struggling, turn back to your handler and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and let God's love flow through you to bless others.

Riley: I guess I can give it a try...

Angel G: So do accept this mission to conspire?

Riley: I do. I will try.

Angel J: Then this is where we leave you. Good night.

Riley: Good night angels.

(they strike a Charlie's Angels pose)

Improvised scenes:

- Wakes up
- Reads James passage –meaningful and slowly –says prayer.
- Mom
- Sister
- Teacher/friends/lunch
- Work with Jackson
- Home/the news
- Final ending