**THE HARP**

**Jasleen and Dorlie**

*As the lights come up, RAVEN is playing her harp down stage left. The music continues, she looks up graciously and then she starts the narration.*

**RAVEN THE ANGEL WOMAN (NARRATOR):** There is a boy. My boy. His name is Nathaniel. He was a happy and jolly soul. He always had a smile on his face until the most unfortunate event occurred. My death and his diagnosis of schizophrenia.

 When I was just 39 years old, I thought I would live 20 years longer, I thought I would live a happy life with my family, I thought I would live to see my son be a successful man. God wanted me back but the devil had other intentions. The devil was well aware of God’s plan for me and he elaborated on it. He decided to possess my husband. *(pause)*

 And now there’s the Harp. The Harp that calms my child down. I had to take it with me so that the devil could no longer have a connection with me. I did not know that I could not take any earthly possessions to heaven with me so I unwillingly left the Harp at our family’s favourite river. So here I am today, trying to protect my son from people. People who only my son and I can see.

 My son Nathaniel, was diagnosed with schizophrenia. He believes he sees spirits, spirits that aren’t there. Those who surround him anywhere make fun of him and laugh at him when he yells *(this is said out loud by the actor playing Nathaniel)*: “THE DEVIL IS FOLLOWING ME!” They push him and tell him to get over it. Even his father at home laughs at him and takes all of his anger out on him. He cries himself to sleep every night questioning me as to why I left him. *(pause)*

 He sees the spirits. He talks to the spirits. He even fights with the spirits *(a box is thrown at nothing. There is a pause)*. His only friend, his dog, Buster, also rages at the spirits *(dog barking noises)*. But upon seeing me at the river, he comes to cuddle.

 Buster knows that I am here and can see me. Nathaniel however, knows I’m here but he can’t see me. I don’t want him to see me. That is why I move the harp everyday to let him feel my presence, to let him know that someone is still here to protect him. That someone still cares about him.

 One day however, he saw the movement of the Harp taking place. He made his way towards me even though there were obstacles in the water *(there is a pause as NATHANIEL makes a complicated route his mother)*. Over the face of a broken child, I saw a glimpse of hope on his face.

 This time I felt weak, I didn’t move. I let him come to me. His cold hands made the hairs on my neck stand but his warm heart melted me.

 It was time for me to go. I can’t become weak now. Not after all that I’ve done for him. *(there is a 15 second pause as RAVEN leaves NATHANIEL).* So it’s true he thought, it’s really true.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CGLcZpXbZs>