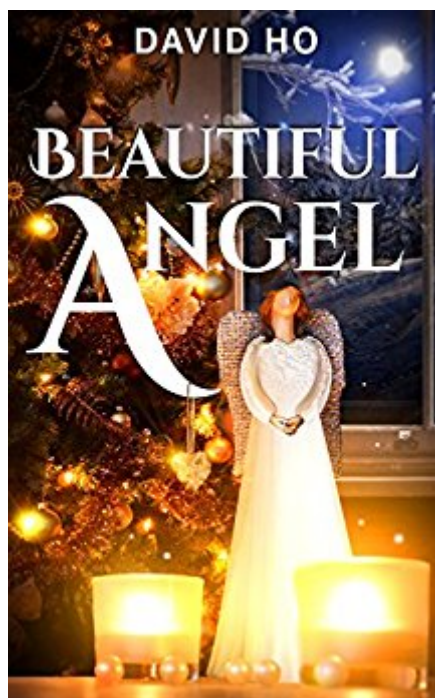


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# Beautiful Angel



## Synopsis

While “Beautiful Angel” has drawn comparison to other timeless, Christmas stories such as “A Christmas Carol” and “It’s a Wonderful Life” because of its themes of kindness and compassion, at its heart, it’s really a story about miracles and the powerful influence one person’s actions can have on the lives of others. Morgan Stern, a successful yet self-centered and spiritually bankrupt business professional, lives the life she always wanted. She has money, power, and influence, all driven by her ambitious and uncompromising nature and in her world of absolutes and unyielding focus, there is no room for old friends, relationships, or any semblance of love or family. A chance encounter with an angry homeless man one cold, December morning leaves Morgan questioning the familiarity she senses. Distracted, she steps into the path of an oncoming car and is fatally struck. Disoriented and confused, Morgan is visited by a mysterious angel, who explains how she can gain entry into the heaven only by going back and saving someone else. Morgan agrees to this and the angel sends her back 15 years into the past. A life that she had long-forgotten and one she had turned away from long ago. Not knowing who it is that she is meant to save, a vague, indistinct memory leads her to a gritty reality that looms close to her childhood home, a reality that she had never contemplated. George Hornsby is a part of that reality. Is George the person she’s meant to save? How can she know for sure? With no guidance, Morgan must choose the path to her salvation. Faced with disappointment and relentless obstacles, she realizes that in order to save George she must change the hearts and minds of an entire community. In the process, she learns that the personal cost of real change is something that some are unwilling to pay. Just as Morgan begins to believe that love, redemption, and grace are possible, her efforts begin to unravel to a devastating end. With every ounce of determination that Morgan can gather, she fights to save not only George, but others whom she’s come to love while risking her own fate.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Could probably be a good book, but I didn't make it past the first few pages of the first chapter. Verb tense changes all over the place even in a single paragraph, Incorrect pronouns used, writing that didn't make sense. It was too difficult to stay focused or get interested in the story because of all the mistakes. Needs to be proofread, edited and revised.

Book Review Title: Beautiful Angel Author: David Ho Genre: YA/Religious/Contemporary Rating:

\*\*\*\*\* Review: The opening chapter to beautiful angel was unusual, we meet Morgan Stern who is a young dancer already confronted with many challenges. Her group are offered to perform at the annual Christmas tree lighting but she has to drop her best friend Laura from the group because of her physical appearance which Morgan doesn't want to do and the decision weighs heavy on her shoulders as she is the group's leader. We learn of Morgan's sad home life, her parents are barely keeping their heads above water and are struggling financially. Morgan wants to better her life with a good college and job but all the while she holds out for a miracle and there is something quite mysterious about the old woman she helped earlier on in the day and I couldn't wait to find out what it was. After a lecture from a particular handsome and wealthy man, William Hightower III, Morgan makes her decision about dropping Laura and where she wants her life to go, we then jump forward from 1995 to 2010. Now in her 30's Morgan is exactly where she wanted to be; a great job and massive salary but she has changed she is quite cold even dismissing staff without even hearing why they have been taking days off. She still works for Hightower and partially runs his company for him and she doesn't even spare a thought for her old friend Laura, which leads me to ask what

happened to the bright, kind and ambitious girl? After leaving work one day Morgan runs into several homeless people which she ignored and even berates one of whom is an old school friend, George who confronts her and is brushed off. George happens to own the angel doll rescued by the old woman and as he sat crying he sees a car heading for Morgan he tries to warn her but it's too late. As we approach the 1/4 mark in the novel, Morgan is in heaven and agrees to risk everything to be sent back but in exchange she has to save George's soul only she doesn't know it. After the accident Morgan wakes up in her parent's house 18 year old again, having to re-do the fateful day that set on the course of her life, the day William Hightower III spoke at her high school. The first big decision she faces she chooses between the life she knows or the unknown each symbolised by a physical item and to my surprise Morgan decides to change. Much to Morgan's surprise George isn't stupid just poor like herself and they actually get along well and with some outside influence she gets him to go to the Winter Formal Dance with her, her new challenge is finding the money for a dress to wear there. We learn more about George and how he and his mother live at the homeless shelter after his father died, and that a local drug dealer is trying to recruit him as a runner. I feel really sorry for George and I really want Morgan to get over her prejudices and help him like she is supposed to be doing. After going to the shelter Morgan learns the truth about George and his situation and her views on the homeless begin to change slightly. By the half way point in the novel Morgan is really beginning to change even going as far as to organise a charity event to help raise money for the homeless shelter which the older version of Morgan would never have done. The way Morgan goes about getting the money for the shelter is ingenious and a praise to the author for creating such a smart and determined character in Morgan. Things become a lot harder for Morgan when her dance group refuses to perform at the shelter and George gets arrested but where there's a will there's a way and Morgan is determined to save the shelter and George from the life he is going to have. As we cross the 3/4 mark of the novel and after some setbacks the tide is beginning to turn for both Morgan, George and the shelter, and everything is coming together. As everything is coming together George is beginning to believe that Morgan's plan isn't going to work but whether he is right or wrong remains hidden to us the readers. As we enter the final section of the novel, the final performance goes well with a minor hitch but it ends on the most perfect note. But despite all their hard work they didn't raise enough money and when all hope was lost they find their Christmas miracle, the last thing Morgan has to do is save George from Virgil the drug dealer which she does. That scene literally made me cry my eyes out as Morgan has fought so hard and this particular scene among others was heartbreaking, and the final chapter draws everything together beautifully. Overall Beautiful Angel was the most beautiful and heart-wrenching novel I have read

this year. I highly recommend this novel to everyone, it is different and original and will open your eyes to the true miracle that everyday people can make happen. This novel was wonderful and definitely deserves it's rating.

This was an interesting Christmas themed story about second chances. The story mixes several different religious beliefs but that is not the central theme of the story. The beginning of the story introduced her to us as a teenager. Then we saw her as an adult 15 years later. After a near death experience Morgan is either returned to her teen years or her mind is, but she experiences them with a twist because she can change the events. She was given a mission by the angel at her near death experience and as she attempts to carry it out a variety of twists and turns in the plot occur keeping the plot moving along quite nicely. I liked that Morgan Stern, the protagonist had an opportunity for a huge change of character growth through the story. Morgan had grown up to be a very selfish woman, always on the lookout for herself only with no thought or sympathy for others. Throughout the story she develops a character that the reader will care about. I thought that the plot was interesting and the story was well-written. It certainly brings back faith in what people can do to help each other if they are willing to work together. If there is a lesson to be learned from *The Christmas Angel* it would be that not everyone that lives in a homeless shelter is there because they are drunk or drug addicts. Many are there simply because of the circumstances of life. *The Christmas Angel* is a lovely story of redemption. I gave this book 4 stars out of 5. Thank you to the author for providing a copy of his book in exchange for a fair and honest review. A positive opinion was not required. All thoughts are my own. This review is published on my blog Shelf Full of Books <http://kathrynsshelffulofbooks.blogspot.com/2014/12/book-review-beautiful-angel-by-david-ho.html>

*THE BEAUTIFUL ANGEL* by David Ho is a story about forgiveness & the power of paying it forward. Morgan & George went to high school together but ended up with extremely different lives. Morgan is a pretty young dancer who decides to put dancing behind her in order to become a successful businesswoman. George & his mother live in a homeless shelter after his father dies. George finds it too difficult to stay in high school when the homeless shelter loses its funding. Fast forward 15 years to the day Morgan is hit by a car. This is when the story becomes a version of "It's a Wonderful Life." I don't want to spoil anything for you, but I really think you'll enjoy this updated Christmas story.

It's appropriate to review A BEAUTIFUL ANGEL on the eve of another holiday, Thanksgiving. The book description is accurate-this story reminds me of IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE. It's a great seasonal read, a good book to pass the time with those long travel periods. David Ho captures a gritty modern world, but also the hopeful side of life. A redemption tale. Recommended.

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