

BETH

AND THE **TRIO** OF
ANGELS

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BETH AND THE TRIO OF ANGELS
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Yellow Version

Flesch-Kincaid Reading Level 2.0

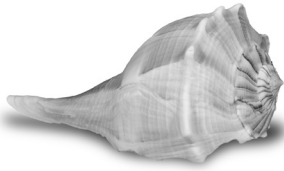
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CHAPTER 1

BETH GOT INTO THE CAR WITH HER TWO SISTERS, Pat and Meg. She looked at Mom. She let herself feel a little bit of hope. Maybe they would be out of gas. Maybe the tire would be flat. Maybe the car would not start.

Beth faced the window. She closed her eyes and begged God for help. She needed something to happen. Anything.

She could not go to school. She could not face the class. Not after yesterday. The whole school must be talking. Everybody must know by now.

Mom started the car. They began to move. Everything seemed to be OK. But Beth knew everything was not OK.

Beth's head felt like it was spinning. Her thoughts moved around like a flock of birds trying to nest.

“I hope this ride lasts forever,” she said. “I don’t want to go to school. I can’t do it. I just can’t do it. I will never be able to face the teacher or the other kids . . .”

Pat, the oldest, turned to her. “You will need to get out of the car when we get to school, Beth. You can’t just stay with Mom. Kids don’t just drop out of school when they are 10.”

Outside the window, Beth could see long stretches of green grass. Beth knew this road very well. Just a few more miles, and they would pass the small store with gas pumps out front. Next the road would make a sharp turn. Soon she would see a white church. Mom would take a left. They were almost to the Medfield Christian School.

With each mile that passed, Beth seemed to feel worse. How could she open the door of the car and step out into the parking lot? She did not want to see anybody from school.

The biggest problem was Robbie Ladd. He always liked to laugh at the kids in her class. What if Robbie Ladd was the first person she saw? What if Robbie Ladd was getting out of his car too? She did not want to think about it.

From the front seat, Meg kept chatting. “Did you see what Ann Ross wore yesterday? I hope Mr. Miller does not come in today. I am so glad we will have pizza today. Are you going to try out for basketball?”

Beth did not even want to hear Meg talk. She did not want to think about school. She did not want to open the car door. She did not want to make her way to her room.

Beth stopped listening to her older sister. All she could think about was yesterday. The day had started out so well. She had been so happy when she got up. How could she have known things would change so fast?

Beth closed her eyes and let yesterday play out in her head. She felt as if she were watching a movie. The plot started out happy. But that would not last for long.

She remembered humming as she put everything in Mom’s car. She was so proud of her work. She could not wait to get to school.

Why did things have to change? Beth let out a sigh in the back seat of the car. She started to think about last summer. That’s when she came up with the idea for the science fair.

Her family had taken a trip to Cape Cod in Massachusetts. She had been so excited when she spotted something on the sand! At first it looked like a piece of seaweed. But when she looked it up, she found it was a string of egg cases.



Excited, she had cracked open one of the discs. Sure enough, it was filled with little baby shells. She had found the egg cases of a channeled whelk!

Her mind had flown right to the school science fair. She knew right then and there that she held a winner. The year before, she had set her heart on a blue ribbon. But she had gotten the flu and was not able to get things done. Standing on the beach, she told herself this school year was going to be better.

The car sped toward Medfield Christian School as Beth thought about what had happened next. Oh, how hopeful she had been!

When her family had returned to Michigan, she'd unpacked her finds. She placed the tiny shells into a little bag. Then she slid the shells and egg cases into a shoe box.

The next step had been to find a large whelk. Her home in Medfield, Michigan was nowhere near the sea! And they did not plan to make another trip to Cape Cod.

Then she'd come up with an idea! She would save the cash she made walking dogs! Each week she put aside 50 cents for church and saved one dollar. Soon she had enough bills!

She had been so happy when the box came in the mail! Inside was a shiny pink-and-tan shell. She'd placed the large whelk in the shoe box with the egg case and tiny shells.

It had seemed like forever before Mrs. Starr finally stood in front of the class and spoke the words she'd been waiting for.

"Are you ready to have a science fair?" she had asked. "Here are the rules."

How her thoughts had hummed! She carefully wrote down every word. She had been pretty sure Mrs. Starr

was going to ask for a text! In the box with her shells she had put a card.

*Sing to Him; sing psalms to Him;
talk of all His wonderful works!*

Six weeks had passed quickly. She had worked very hard on each step. Her poster was the best! She printed neatly. Next she put some glue on the tiny shells and placed them in the middle. Then she had added the egg cases.

And then came the morning she would never forget. Beth could not contain her dismay. She had been so happy yesterday when she packed everything into the car! How could she have known that something bad was about to happen?

Beth looked up. Her heart sank. They were almost to the school! What was she going to do?