

JESSICA

This won't take long. Some of the kids in class told Miss Fairburn they weren't going to wear their angel outfits for our Christmas pageant.

AUNT SARAH

Why not?

JESSICA

They said it was too embarrassing.

STEVE

I don't blame them.

JESSICA

You know what Miss Fairburn said?

(imitating Miss Fairburn)

But boys and girls, it's the only time of year I get to see all of my students as little angels. So you will be wearing those wings!

Jessica laughs. When she doesn't get much of a reaction from her dad, her smile fades.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Can you help me with my angel outfit tonight, dad?

JOHN

Tonight? No.

JESSICA

Why not?

JOHN

I'm busy, that's why not.

AUNT SARAH

I'll help you, Jessica.

JESSICA

I want dad to help me.

JOHN

I don't know a thing about making angel outfits.

JESSICA

So, we'll figure it out together. It'll be more fun that way. Who knows how it'll turn out?

AUNT SARAH

When do you need this outfit, Jessica?

JESSICA

By Friday. You're coming to the school Christmas pageant, aren't you, dad?

JOHN

Friday? No, I can't.

JESSICA

Why not? Everyone else's parents are coming.

JOHN

I'll be in Eagle Run.

JESSICA

You didn't make it to the Thanksgiving pageant, either.

JOHN

Maybe that's because I was working to keep a roof over our heads.

At this point, John is clearly getting annoyed with Jessica.

JESSICA

But you never come to any of my school stuff. What's so important in Eagle Run?

JOHN

(sternly)

Enough with the questions, Jessica. Now *eat*, will you?

Jessica sits tensely in her chair. Then she bolts from the kitchen.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Get back here!

Beat, then John throws up his hands in surrender.