



Announcing the King

Luke 1:26-38

"Mr. Mertz, thank you for helping me search through the Philistine's apartment," Kasey said to her uncle's landlord.

"No problem, Ms. Carter," he said as he opened a desk drawer and shuffled through some papers. "So tell me again what happened after the Philistine and the Obliterator got knocked off the wall?"

Kasey pulled a box out from under the bed and coughed as a plume of dust rose into her face. "We found the Obliterator about a hundred yards away. He was fine just a few bumps and bruises. We treated those and locked him up in a maximum-security prison."

"But there was no sign of the Philistine or the Plutonium Heart?" Mr. Mertz asked.

"No," Kasey confirmed. "Mr. Rooney, the editor of the King City Herald, said he wants me to do a special investigation and find out what happened to him. Hopefully, we'll find some clues today. I searched the Philistine's hideout and found that box," she pointed to a cardboard shipping box sitting next to the door. "It's full of his favorite things. It has his freeze ray and his rubber chicken gun, oh...and his super laser water cannon. He loves that water cannon!"

"Hey what's this? It's all wrapped up," Mr. Mertz asked. He tore the brown paper away from the object and held it up to the light. "It's an angel."

Kasey stopped and stared at the delicately carved wooden angel with the painted white dress. It had feather wings trimmed with gold glitter. Gently she took the angel from Mr. Mertz. "Hey, I remember this! This angel is from Uncle Phil's nativity set. Every December he would set it up and gather all of the nephews and nieces and tell us the story of the King who was born to save us. He just loves Christmas." She carefully turned the angel over and over in her hands, looking at every part of the delicate figurine. "Wow, this brings back some great memories."

"What story is that?" Mr. Mertz asked.

Kasey smiled. "I'm gonna tell you the story right now!" She reached into her canvas journalist bag and pulled out her Bible. Mr. Mertz sat down at the kitchen table while Kasey turned to Luke 1. "Mary was a young girl, probably just a teenager, when an angel named Gabriel appeared to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.'"

"Wow! Mary saw an angel?!" Mr. Mertz exclaimed. "That must have been a surprise!"

"Mary was probably shocked and a little frightened," Kasey agreed. "But the angel told her not to be afraid because God had chosen her to be the mother of His Son, Jesus. Listen to how Gabriel described Jesus: 'He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end.'"

"So, God is going to give Jesus the throne of a kingdom that will last forever and ever?" Mr. Mertz asked.

"That's right," Kasey nodded. "And we get to be a part of God's forever kingdom! The people of Israel had been through so many good kings and bad kings, I'll bet it gave Mary so much hope to know that the true King had been born."

Suddenly, the sound of breaking glass echoed through the room. Kasey and Mr. Mertz jumped up. "What was that?" Mr. Mertz yelled as they ran into the living room. They discovered the window was broken. And, on the floor, lying in the middle of the broken glass was the Plutonium Heart.

"It's the Plutonium Heart!" Kasey squealed. "Only one person could have sent this, the Philistine! This is the biggest clue yet." She scooped up the heart and ran to the front door. "Thank you Mr. Mertz," she called behind her. "I gotta run. I've got a mystery to solve!" As she closed the door, she called out with joy, "I give everything to honor my King!"