

LAND ANGELS

FEATURE FILM WRITTEN BY LAUREN HACKNEY



INTRODUCTION

LAND ANGELS is a highly involving dramatic emotional drama about a woman's overwhelming anxiety over her husband's recent heart attack. The story also features a genuinely surprising and clever final twist-reveal, when the viewer ultimately learns that her guardian 'angel' is in fact her pet dog, who's been giving her and her young family comfort and companionship throughout the story.

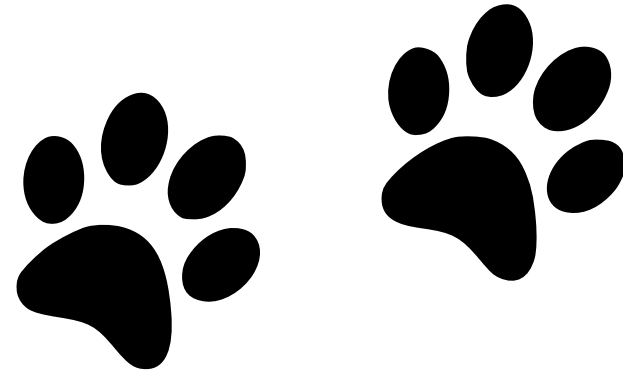
An angel is silent.

An angel can read energy.

An angel can heal your soul.

An angel is faithful and belonging.

Our Earth has Land Angels. **They are dogs.**



LAND ANGELS - Set in Brisbane, Australia





STORY

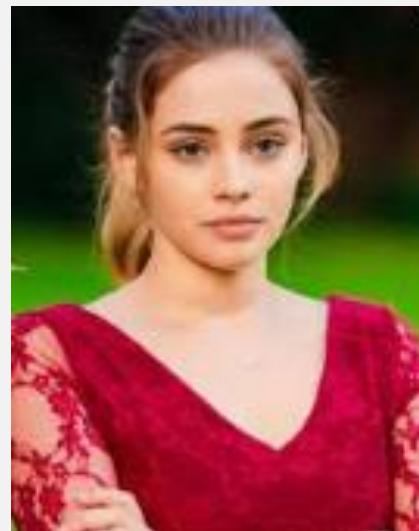
‘Land Angels’ is a tense and moving portrayal of the devastation that medical diagnosis can have on an entire family. It's emotionally resonant and the seeds of a touching drama are evident through all acts of the film.

This story is based on true events that happened to my husband and I. Due to privacy, I have blurred out our faces to protect his and my children's identity.

CHARACTERS

ANNA – Wife and mother

Anna is a likeable protagonist who it is easy to empathise with. Her struggle to maintain strength while grappling with fear and exhaustion is portrayed through both quiet moments and more dramatic confrontations. We feel every weight placed upon her shoulders - from managing Marc's care to navigating family dynamics to protecting her children's emotional well-being. What's particularly compelling is how her relationship with Zelda evolves from simple pet ownership into a profound spiritual connection. This clearly offers her strength when human support systems fall short. This threading of faith and guardianship through Anna's arc gives the story a unique spiritual dimension without becoming heavy-handed. Anna feels complex and layered and her narration really helps immerse the viewer in a world that she's desperately trying to hold together.



CHARACTERS

Rhonda – Marc's Mother

Rhonda is the story's primary human antagonist. Though much of the antagonism in the script is provided by Marc's medical issues, Rhonda provides some interesting conflict of her own. The tensions between her and Anna are mined to great effect. Rhonda embodies the complicated nature of in-law relationships, especially during a crisis. Her overbearing behaviour stems from genuine love and fear for her son, even as it clashes with Anna's approach. The gradual shift in their relationship, as both women learn to acknowledge each other's place in Marc's life, is one of the most nuanced aspects.



CHARACTERS

Marc – Father, Husband, Son

Marc is a man in his early 40s with a once-vibrant energy that life has recently been tested. His tall frame still carries the remnants of his younger self's athleticism. His eyes reflect both a weariness and an unyielding warmth, a man trying to keep his family together even as his own body betrays him.

A loving father and devoted husband, Marc has always been the rock of his family, someone his children look up to for guidance and strength. However, his recent heart attack has left him grappling with his mortality and the fear of not being there for his family when they need him.

Marc's relationship with his wife is loving but strained under the weight of their situation. He's caught between his wife's frustrations and his mother-in-law's well-meaning but often misplaced interventions.

Marc is a man of quiet resilience. His journey is one of rediscovering strength - not just physical strength but the strength to navigate his role as a father, husband, and son in a time of profound vulnerability.



CHARACTERS

Henry and Joe

Henry (8) and Joe (6) are two young brothers navigating the emotional upheaval in their family.

Henry, mature beyond his years, feels an urgent responsibility to step into his dad's role, trying to protect his younger brother and support his crumbling mother. His determination to hold everything together belies his tender age.

Joe, the quieter of the two, copes by withdrawing into silence. His emotions remain bottled up until they inevitably overflow in a vulnerable moment with his dad. Together, the brothers' contrasting ways of processing the chaos around them create a poignant and heartfelt dynamic.



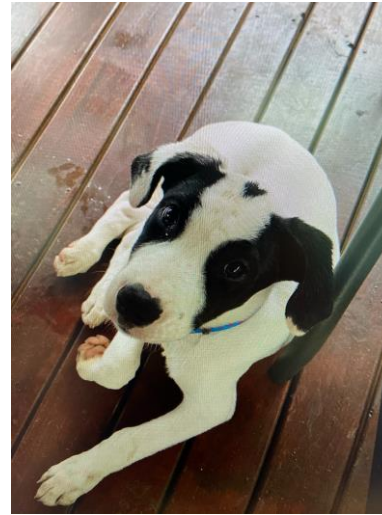
CHARACTERS

Zelda the dog.

Pictures to the right are from our own family album.

Pictures below are other breeds.

Could be an Australian Shepherd, Border Collie, Bull Arab



ACT 1

- Anna running a busy house. P1-2
- Marc at basketball training. P2-3
- Marc's heart attack and arrival at hospital – Page 4-12
- Anna being told he's OK. Hospital visit. Diagnosis. – P12-19
- Anna car ride home. Talking about angel – P 19-20
- Marc's chat with fellow patient, Barry P21-22
- Rhonda and Tracey introduction, flashback with the doctor – P22-27
- Marc is home recovering. Mentions his work. – P28-32
- Marc and Anna visit Barry in hospital. Brings Barry non-alcohol beer P32-34
- Rhonda bringing junk food. Marc sticking up for Rhonda. Anna storming out – P34-39

Act 2

- New diet challenges, Marc and Henry make jokes P 39-41
- Anna remembers how they met P41-44
- Anna and Tracey watch Marc walk up and down the street P44-46
- Marc worried about money P46-47
- Anna not coping at basketball training P47-49
- Marc's first pub lunch with his basketball team. Talks about Barry. P49-51
- Henry trying to help. Nina Judging P51-53
- Joe classroom. Rhonda picking up P53-55
- Rhonda judges Anna to Marc P55-56
- Add a moment with Joe and Marc bonding P56-58
- First attempt at sex P 58-60
- Anna trying to keep on top of the housework. Challenges with fatigue P60-62
- Anna talking about her angel P62-64
- Basketball match. Rhonda and Anna fight. P64-68
- Marc returning back to work P69-70

Act 3

- Anna sitting alone after hearing Marc's had another heart attack P70-73
- Anna visiting Marc in hospital learning he now has heart failure P73-74
- Flashbacks revealing Zelda, intro of kids and Rhonda, first heart attack P74-84
- Finding out Marc needs a transplant. Rhonda and Nina are present P84-87
- Flashback Anna with Zelda P87-88
- Back to hospital P88-89
- Marc questioning his mortality and finding out Barry didn't survive. – P89-92
- Marc and Anna discussing family life – P92-93
- Zelda passing and burial – P93-98

CINEMATOGRAPHY FOR *Land Angels*

- The cinematography is naturalistic and emotionally driven, designed to immerse the audience in the intimate dynamics of the family. Handheld and close-up shots capture the raw, unfiltered emotions of each character, bringing viewers into their most vulnerable moments.
- The lighting is soft and natural, shifting from cooler tones to reflect tension and isolation, to warmer hues as the story progresses, symbolizing healing and connection. Wide shots of the family's home and surrounding landscapes highlight their world's beauty and solitude, reinforcing the narrative's emotional contrasts.
- Visual framing is purposeful, with a focus on capturing the contrasts between strength and fragility, chaos and order. Subtle shifts in perspective emphasise each character's emotional journey, creating a rich tapestry of human resilience and connection.
- The cinematography of *Land Angels* mirrors the heart of the story: a visually tender, deeply human portrayal of a family navigating profound vulnerability and rediscovering hope.

GENRE AND SIMILAR FILMS

Genre: *Land Angels* is an emotional family drama with elements of heartfelt realism. The film explores themes of resilience, connection, and healing, delivering an intimate yet universally relatable story.

Its tone combines the tender authenticity of indie dramas like *The Pursuit of Happyness* or *Manchester by the Sea*, with the emotional warmth of family-centered narratives.

This film shares a connection with *A Dog's Purpose*, highlighting the profound bonds between loved ones, their animal companions and the unwavering commitment they have to one another in times of need.



REVIEWS OF THE ORIGINAL SELF-PUBLISHED STORY

Land Angels is a self-published story written by Lauren Hackney. This can be found on Kindle.

Community Reviews

★★★★★ 4.80 10 ratings · 5 reviews



Pauline Reid

424 reviews

142 followers

Follow



Kay Dietsch

Author

4 books

12 followers



Susan

2,476 reviews

87 followers



March 10, 2023

A wife is concerned about her husband who has had a heart attack, with questions and worries she gets these sorted out with the help of her Angel.

.

Quote I enjoyed, which is telling us about the Angel.



January 10, 2023

This beautifully written book straight from the heart is a must-read! It will change your perspective on life, especially the surprising twist at the end - it will make your heart melt. Loved this extraordinary short-story and can highly recommend it!

- ...



March 4, 2023

I loved this short story..... short and amazing!

[borrowed](#) [ebook](#) [kindle-unlimited](#) [...more](#)



Veronika Darwell

Author

1 book

19 followers

Follow



Rachel Wagner

97 reviews

4 followers

Follow



November 19, 2022

This book is a gem! Lauren is a great storyteller and her writing reflects her reality as she had experienced it but at the same time it provides useful tools for us to reflect on our own journey on this planet. I love the way she has managed to bring in just enough details to uncover her soul as well, with the help of the angels, of course;).

1 like



June 11, 2024

Such an emotional and mental ride for such a short story! Lauren expertly crafted her words to show the devastation, helplessness and loneliness that can come in times of family crisis.

This is such a relatable book, I think to anyone who has family, had a health scare, or faced losing a loved one. It finds the beauty in what could normally only be described as horrible circumstances. I definitely recommend this, but bring your tissues!

Like Comment ...

Top reviews from Australia



racheal Johnson

★★★★★ **So raw and written from the heart...**

Reviewed in Australia on 24 October 2022

Verified Purchase

I loved reading this-so raw and from the heart, beautifully written! I honestly got teary as I put myself in the subject's shoes, especially too as I have a young family and we are a close family unit. I will be recommending everybody read it. Certainly puts things into perspective...



Melissa H

★★★★★ **Honest, raw and heartfelt**

Reviewed in Australia on 26 April 2024

What you will find:

- * Short Story
- * Wife's POV.
- * Family Life.
- * Life changing medical emergency.
- * Raw, honest writing.

What I loved:

- * Drew me in from the start.
- * Raw, honest writing.
- * Emotionally drew me in (have a box of tissues ready).
- * Honestly after reading this, you will question a lot of things. But one thing is certain, you will hug your loved ones a bit tighter and hold them a bit longer when you see next.

Customer reviews

★★★★★ 4.9 out of 5

13 global ratings

5 star  86%

4 star  14%

3 star  0%

2 star  0%

1 star  0%



OrlaZ

★★★★★ **Beautifully Written x**

Reviewed in Australia on 10 November 2022

Verified Purchase

This story was honest, emotional and heartfelt. The writers journey is something none of us want to experience and it has made me hug my family a little tighter xx I will definitely be recommending to all my friends. Its a must read x

Helpful

| Report



LJ

★★★★★ **Great short story with an unexpected ending**

Reviewed in Australia on 25 November 2022

Verified Purchase

Not normally into short stories but this hooked me in and was a great read and didn't expect the twist at the end at all.

Helpful

| Report



Rachel Wagner

★★★★★ **Relatable, beautiful and emotional**

Reviewed in Australia on 11 June 2024

Such an emotional and mental ride for such a short story! Lauren expertly crafted her words to show the devastation, helplessness and loneliness that can come in times of family crisis.

This is such a relatable book, I think to anyone who has family, had a health scare, or faced losing a loved one. It finds the beauty in what could normally only be described as horrible circumstances. I definitely recommend this, but bring your tissues!

Land Angels Kindle Edition

by [Lauren Hackney](#) (Author) | Format: Kindle Edition

4.9 ★★★★★ ▼ 13 ratings



Martina Jimenez

★★★★★ **Raw and wonderfully written**

Reviewed in Australia on 19 November 2022

Wonderfully written, honest and raw. This quick read was thoroughly enjoyable. I look forward to reading more stories from the author.

About Lauren Hackney

My name is Lauren, and I'm a writer from a seaside suburb of Brisbane, Australia. I love exploring with my family, traveling, trying new things, laughing out loud, and being outdoors. A favourite pastime of mine is storytelling, whether it be a bedtime story, a campfire story, or a road trip story. I love combining these into my work and sharing them with people creatively.

I started writing after a horrid year in 2020. Covid put an end to my aviation career and only a few months later, my husband of 41 suffered a life-threatening heart attack that left him diagnosed with heart failure. Refusing to have those events as my main memories, I made up stories with my children and together we created, wrote, illustrated and published our family bedtime story 'The Lolly Shop' and later I wrote a short story. 'Land Angels', which has now been turned into a screenplay

Recently 'The Lolly Shop' received an honourable mention in the StoryMonsters awards in both middle grade and children's chapter books. This screenplay made it into the Quarterfinals in the New Voices in Animation Screenplay awards through Stage 32. My script 'Land Angels' received an Honourable Mention in the New York Script Awards 2024 and gained a place as a Quarter Finalist in the Los Angeles International Screenplay Awards 2025.

It doesn't matter how old you are, imagination can save the day!