

**An excerpt from “Stories from the Strange Side”  
by Josephine Dunne**

*Healing: The Fingers of Angels*

The lights seemed to travel away from her and the sensation of falling down a well ended abruptly as she fell out of the earth and tumbled out into the stars. The speed of her fall slowed down to nearly a stop. She gazed around in wonder.

Lizzy was slowly moving through the stars, drifting in silence. She stretched out in the silence, enjoying the dream and drinking in the regenerating power of the stars. Somewhere, a noise broke through the stillness. It sounded like a rushing of air and a horn sounding all at once.

The noise got louder and louder until it started to push into Lizzy`s brain. The pressure pushed against her as the sound blasted through the heavens and Lizzy thought she was going to explode. Each hair on her head stood to attention, and her teeth vibrated at incredible speed, sending the waves of vibration through her body.

She became very frightened and started to call for her mother. The call vanished into the sound and returned to brush past her face. Her hair began to swarm around her as a wind from the beating of wings flowed past her. She closed her eyes in fear, sobbing for her mother in a loud voice and throwing her arms across her face in an attempt to protect herself. The beating of wings grew stronger and stronger until suddenly, there was silence. The air was still and nothing moved. Lizzy slowly moved her hands from her face and opened her eyes.

A terrible fear gripped her as she found herself surrounded by a host of angels. Each being was so tall that they looked down on Lizzy as if she were an ant. Their long silken hair streamed off into the void, their wings outstretched, interlinking with each other to form a circle around Lizzy, who stood terrified in the center. Each of their bodies seemed to have layers of moving color within them.

Lizzy looked closer to find that each angel was made up of many other much smaller angels. Just as she saw that, one of the angels split into hundreds of smaller ones and they all swarmed around her like bees.

One particular one moved behind her and placed his hands on her back. The moment his hands touched Lizzy she felt a shock wave of power flow through her as though she had been struck by lightning. The shock caused her to fall, and the angel fell with her, passing through the stars at a terrible speed. Lizzy tried to catch her breath as she fell, her hands frantically searching to grasp the angel in an attempt to feel safe.

Down below her, the planet rose to meet them at high speed and Lizzy thought she was going to die. She tried to remember her prayers and cried out for her mother in breathless bursts as they plummeted towards the ever-growing planet. The angel heard her prayers and felt Lizzy's fear.

He smiled through the falling and slowly, carefully, placed his wings around Lizzy until she was completely enveloped within him.

Lizzy relaxed into the warmth and safety of the wings as they fell. She allowed her body to sag against the body of the angel until they fell as one being through time and space. She felt the earth get closer, the closeness of the angel seemed to heighten her senses and she felt the despair and fear rising up to greet them as they fell. She questioned, in her mind, what it was that she was feeling and the angel answered:

*"Child, behold the despair of life and the fear of death."*

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