

Anonymous Angel



While comedienne and actress Carol Burnett grew up in Hollywood during the 1930s, her Hollywood was an old apartment where she lived with her grandmother, on relief, as it was called then. Her parents were divorced, and both were alcoholics.

Burnett attended UCLA, but knew she needed to go to New York to get a start in musical theater. But with little money, how would she get there?

In her book, *One More Time*, Burnett recounts how a benefactor, who wished to remain anonymous, helped her launch her career.

“So, what do you want to do with your life?” asked Mr. C.

Burnett and her boyfriend, Don, told him that they wanted to be in the theater, and that New York was the only place to do it, the musical comedy capital of the world.

“What makes you think you’ll succeed?” he asked.

“I don’t think it. I know it,” she replied. “I amazed myself with the simplicity of the statement. I wasn’t bragging. I just told him what I believed.”

“Sounds to me like you two really mean it,” he said.

“Yes,” the two of them answered.

“Well, I think you might have a good shot at it. I’m gonna lend each of you a thousand dollars. You can pay it back in five years, no interest. I want you to promise to use the money to go to New York. It’s enough for a ticket, and you can stretch out the rest until you find a job. Might take a little time. Tough business.”

Burnett looked down at the check. “I had never seen that many zeros in my life. We thanked him over and over and started to get up.”

“Wait a minute,” the benefactor said. “There are stipulations. Aside from this being a loan, you can’t tell anyone my name. Also, when you do make it, you have to promise me you’ll help other people out. Doesn’t have to be in show business. It’s up to you. Just help ’em out like I’ve helped you. People you think might need that one little break. Got it?”

(more)

Five years to the day, Burnett repaid that loan and not only went on to become a show-business legend, she also became renowned for encouraging new talent along the way.

The lesson for us?

No doubt, someone (or several people) helped you get where you are in life, monetarily or by encouragement or both.

Are you paying forward the favor?

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God (Hebrews 13:16 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter