A Single Act

One day, someone reaches into their bag to retrieve a pencil and notebook. They found the notebook, but the classroom grows quiet as they keep digging.

"Where could it be?" They think desperately. They can't find a pencil in your bag anywhere. No pencil case, not in the pockets, not even at the bottom. Suddenly, a light tap grabs their attention.

"Need a pencil?" A classmate smiled, holding one out to them. They smile with relief as the pencil is traded between hands.

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There is a girl backstage, trying to style her hair. She's been trying for a few minutes now, growing more and more frustrated as time goes on.

"Need some help?" Someone asks her.

She blinks for a moment.

"Yeah. I can't get this bun right."

"Gotcha." The other nods. Someone supplies hair spray, others pins and bands.

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Through the clamor of students leaving after the bell, a voice carries over.

"Have a nice day!" They say as they leave the classroom.

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"Thanks for texting with me."

"Of course!"

The "anytime" goes unwritten, but is heard by both parties.

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In these stories, we have examples of a specific, repeating action. A singular common theme as each story unfolds. And that is kindness. Kindness is typically defined as an act of friendliness, generosity, or consideration that affects someone positively. Usually done with no expectation of something in return. And it is something that can have the potential for a ripple effect, one person to another.

This series, or web, of actions can often have an amazing effect. Maybe it's minor, like a neighbor giving someone else some of their home grown fruit because they carried occasional conversations with them. However it can have larger effects as well. The act of just being someone to talk to has prevented loss. A hand has been the thing to guide away from terrible opportunities. A simple "hello" could be someone's only reason to continue. The knowledge of who and who not to share with can be the determining factor to any number of decisions.

Kindness can be more than what it is typically thought of. It's something more than just common, something in passing; it's something that can weave itself to be greater. Kindness is an act, big or small. Proof that the world is not completely terrible, and proof that it can get better.

And yes, yes there is cruelty beyond measure. There is destruction and war and a thousand little cuts. But there are still these little ways to make everything just a little better. There is still someone who would help collect your stuff after it's been dropped. Someone who will ask how your day has been, and help you style your hair, and lend you a pencil when you need one. Someone to call, someone who will call. Only mundane things, but a world of meaning and intent behind them. Not out of obligation, but out of kindness. A single action could mean everything.