

## Moments of Kindness: A Film

*My finger hovers above the trackpad. I press down. Play.*

The screen starts moving, the beginning of a movie. The first clip pictures boots on rainy pavement. The camera moves to show the black boots making their way up stairs, hurrying to avoid the cold January wind. Indistinct voices layer on top of the music symbolizing the opening of the film. It goes black.

“A Moment of Kindness” says the screen. It flickers back to the image of the boots, now inside, making their way up flights of stairs. They go to a standstill next to two other pairs of slightly bigger boots, and then continue on their own. The camera now travels to the character's face. It shows her medium length hair, dark brown eyes and an expression of what could be described as confidence, but looks a little bit more like smiling through uncertainty.

*A pit settles in my stomach, this story is all too familiar.*

She walks into a library. The camera sweeps around revealing crowds of students in a circular shape with a clump of older looking, presumably high school students in the center. The room is alive with excitement. The camera flashes back to the boots. They falter more with each step and attempt to sink into the circle of students. All at once a silence falls over the screen.

*I see the students in the center talking, but no noise breaks through. She has entered a daze.*

The noise comes through suddenly, breaking through the static. “Go socialize!” the high school students call out. Instantly, there are colors all around as people become blurs streaking past the main character. Now, all confidence and assurance is gone from her eyes. The movie zooms into her face almost like we are infiltrating her mind. I see the mental tug of war between approaching a group or with saying the wrong thing. Her mouth parts as if she is about to speak but nothing comes out.

*I can almost see the invisible vines sneaking out of the ground pulling her down until she is frozen, caught in a different world.*

Her eyes squeeze shut, the camera surges towards her and light fills the screen. When it clears, she has been transported to a different place. Instead of being in the library with movement all around, the audience has been transported to a familiar space, you can tell by the ease that she walks now, and how she interacts with people all around her, like she's known them all her life. She looks confused at the memory, wondering, why is this happening?

Ahana Garg

“Hi!”

A blink, we are back in the center of the library. Surprise in her eyes as the black boots spin around. A smiling face fills the camera. Another girl. The protagonist blinks once, then twice, then jumps for the opening, “hi!”

A conversation starts, but it fades out on the screen, and inspirational music fills the audience. It's almost as if the new girl's confidence and excitement are pouring out and swirling around the leading character.

The video speeds up, and the clock spins until an hour has passed in thirty seconds.

The film floats back over the heads of kids and makes its way down to the familiar sight of black boots. It travels up, and the once anxious girl is now laughing with a stranger like they are old friends. The other girl is smiling and talking. The screen goes dark as the credits roll, the same inspirational music playing.

*Wake up!*

My eyes flash open, lifted from the movie in my mind. I remember the moment where one person's small act of kindness raised my confidence and inspired me to be that person for someone else. As Maya Angelou said “Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud.” Now, as the sequel begins, I am ready to face it head on.