

Change

It was a bright early morning in Mayville. Everyone woke up excited for the big Christmas party coming but they had to prepare. So, when the church bells rang everybody ran out of their houses and started hanging decorations, setting the table, and getting out chairs. Everyone in Mayville was awake and preparing for the big Christmas party, all but one family.

Grace groaned at the sound of the very noisy church bells. Grace hated going to church, she thought it was so boring. The church bells felt like they would never stop ringing! Grace tried so hard to ignore the church bells and fall back to sleep but she could not.

“Okay, I’m up! happier!?” Grace yelled to the bells

Ignoring Grace the bells kept on ringing. Grace groaned again.

“Breakfast time!” Her mother shouted from downstairs.

Grace got dressed and headed downstairs immediately. Grace’s mom, Ms. Rose is an engineer, and Grace’s dad was also an engineer, they decided to take a vacation for Christmas in Mayville where they grew up. Unfortunately, Grace did not want to come here, she wanted to go to France, but she was stuck in a Mayville that was very boring and had nothing to do. Grace went downstairs to have breakfast and saw a sandwich waiting for her. She sat down at the small table to eat. As Grace took the last bite, she noticed her mother and father were cooking something that smelled delicious.

“What are you making?” asked Grace curiously.

“Well, we decided to make something for the big Christmas party on Friday, we were told by the leader of the Mayville that everyone makes something and then shares it at the table.” Said, Ms. Rose

“And you are going to help the kids decorate and bake cookies,” Ms. Rose added, hoping that Grace wouldn’t be mad, but she was sadly mistaken.

“I don’t want to decorate and bake cookies!” Yelled Grace, she was furious.

“Well, you don’t have much of a choice now do you?” Ms. Rose said cunningly.

Grace groaned for the third time this morning.

“I suggest you go start decorating with the other kids,” said Ms. Rose.

Mr. Rose was watching them while eating his sandwich.

“Dad, aren’t you going to say something!?” Grace shouted.

“I am staying out of this one,” said Mr. Rose calmly.

This made Grace furious but, what could she do? So, she decided to do as she was told and go with the other kids to decorate houses. When Grace joined the other kids outside, she noticed that the other kids were much younger than her, she was a helper.

The first house was Grace's neighbor's house. The kids argued but finally came to a compromise and decided to decorate his house with snowflakes and lights. Grace noticed a kid who needed help hanging a snowflake on the door. Grace didn't care but, after seeing how hard that little girl was trying, she walked over to help her. Grace lifted the little girl and put her down fast. After the little girl hung up the snowflake, she hugged Grace and said.

"Thanks." In a sweet voice.

"You're welcome, now can you please let go of me?" said Grace while trying to get the girl to stop hugging her knees.

"My name is Bella." The girl said.

Grace noticed that the little girl had patches of fabric on her dress that looked very dirty. By the time the kids finished Grace's neighbor's house it was already lunchtime, and they barely had enough time to finish decorating a small batch of cookies.

At the end of the day Grace was exhausted from helping all those little kids with their cookies and decorations but, that girl Bella, made Grace feel weird but nice. Grace wondered about Bella for some time. As she fell asleep that night she thought to herself, *Today wasn't that bad.* Grace thought.

The next morning Grace was excited to help the other kids, Grace didn't usually like being around others but now she felt different, she felt nicer. When Grace finished breakfast, she went to go meet up with the other kids.

That day they finished two house decorations and finished one huge batch of cookies. While Grace was helping a kid decorate a cookie, Bella was having trouble with icing. When Grace went to Bella and offered to help, Bella accidentally covered her face with icing. Normally, Grace would be mad but since it was an accident, all Grace did was laugh.

Then, Grace took some icing and put it on Bella's nose. Bella giggled and then that giggle became a laugh.

Bella was an extremely cute five-year-old, she was obedient and kind to everyone.

Grace asked Bella if she could visit her house. Bella took Grace to a house that was a bit old and didn't look that cozy.

"I live with my mom and dad here," Bella said.

Grace felt her chest pull tight. She had never felt this way before.

"I used to have an older brother," Bella whispered, almost to herself.

Grace's eyes widened in surprise.

"He went missing a couple of years ago. I don't remember him anymore. All the memories fade away day after day. We looked. Search parties are still looking, we still haven't found him. I don't think we ever will." Bella seemed like she was on the verge of tears.

Grace couldn't believe what she was hearing. Bella has been through so much at such a young age. Grace could hear her heart thumping as she raced through her thoughts to find something to say.

Grace and Bella stood in front of the house in silence for a couple of minutes. No one spoke until the bells rang for evening mass.

Grace felt sad for Bella and decided to give her a gift.

This week was her last week in Mayville. She was upset to leave so soon, but what could she do?

That day Bella was waiting for Grace outside her doorstep. "Good morning, Grace, I made you a gift." Said Bella sweetly.

"Oh, you didn't have to" started Grace "But, I wouldn't want to throw away all the hard work you put into that gift so where is it?" Grace asked.

"Here you go" replied Bella.

Bella gave Grace a card with lots of glitter on it and a heart that said, 'Thanks for helping me.' Grace smiled and gave Bella a big hug. "Thank you," said Grace.

The next day was the Christmas party and Grace could not sleep at all, she was so excited. The day of the Christmas party finally arrived! After the party, she felt like she did not want to leave so soon. When the time came for Grace to leave, she told her parents that she wanted to stay.

"This place is amazing, I've learned that I can change the world even. Just because I'm young doesn't mean I can't change the world."

"We'll stay. We were never going to leave Mayville. We knew you would fall in love with this place. It truly is magical"

The next day there was a service in the church. Bella and her family invited Grace to come with them. Grace didn't want to be rude, so she decided to go. At the service, Grace finally realized how important it is to share and be kind to everyone.

20 years later, Grace volunteers for charities and helps with donations. She started three different charities and decided to become a family doctor. She helped as many people as she could in her lifetime. She stood up for women's rights and convinced over 300 people to donate to charities. People started calling her *Amazing Grace*.

Grace changed. She changed a little girl's world and changed her way of seeing things. She changed the world.