The Girl Who Made a Difference

999 words

Year 2095

Sabrina had been here alone for weeks in the city of people with no hope, kindness, or courage. This city had no rules or leaders, (mostly because no one wanted to) so there was constant thievery and evilness. Not that anyone cared. It was perfectly normal for these survivors.

Sabrina mostly scavenged for food anywhere she could find it. Life was not easy here. In the dirtiest bits of city she would wonder if life had always been this way. Litter in every corner. She wished it wasn’t like this.

Sabrina was a small ten year old girl with long curly orange hair and pale skin. Her eyes were unusually bright green. She had never seen a happy soul in her life.

Though she was struggling more than usual, Sabrina was used to this kind of scavenging lifestyle. When she had lived with her mother and father, it would be up to her to gather food and supplies. Her father worked as a street sweeper, and often got sick. Not hard to believe, as he was practically breathing in toxic litter dust all day every day. As for her mother, she would do nothing but sit at home, remaining safe but useless.

Sabrina remembered the night when her father, silhouetted against the black light, somehow radiant, stumbled through the curtained door of their one room home.

“Father!” Sabrina shouted, excited to see him after a long day. She dragged over an old chair and a flashlight. He practically fell into the chair and started gasping. “Father?” Sabrina breathed, her voice full of worry. She fumbled with the flashlight and turned it on. As the light hit his face, he appeared greenish and his eyes were swollen shut. Sabrina gasped. Later that night, Her parents left to find another, healthier community, promising their return, and leaving Sabrina angry and unknowing. Now, on the streets of this city, she had no idea if she’d make it. But she had a strength that was not found in anyone these days.

She had courage.

Her mother always said Sabrina was different. She busted vases without even touching them when she was young*.* She was incredibly strong, too. That was all apparently because she had courage. One day her mother said "you can do anything with courage, little Sabie." Sabrina would now build a life off of those words from that day. *I’ll be far from here in a month’s time.* She thought furiously. Her plans were to leave here. Soon. She reached down for a newspaper, soggy from the dirty drizzle.

 *Sickness Becomes Catastrophic*

*Unknown plague strikes. Families beware. Highly contagious. Deathly. Symptoms include coughing, Pale skin, swollen eyes, trouble moving joints, and radioactivity.*

 *Beware of the Distending Plague.*

She stopped reading there. It was too much.

It was then when something in her mind clicked. She had to act *sooner*. Sooner *and* differently. It was up to her to make this place livable, not run away. She knew she could make a difference. Sabrina knew. The problem was, no one else did. It would take some convincing to get this community clean like it might’ve been long ago.

That night, on the way back to her house for the first time in three weeks, Sabrina was thinking about how impossible it would be to run away now that she had this thought. She had to make a difference in this more than troubled community. She had to plan.

 She already knew how to tell everyone, *and* she knew it would work.

After that one night, Sabrina spent so long in her house, thinking. Sometimes she wondered what color the sky was behind the toxic smog. Some nights she couldn’t sleep. She planned and practiced through many nights, testing her courage on household objects.

When she thought her gift was ready, as she was, she set out, thinking only one thing: *Anything is possible with courage.* The streets were lonely. doubt filled Sabrina’s bright eyes as she made her way to the center of the city. *Anything is possible with courage.* Breathing deeply, hair completely soaked, Sabrina found it. This building towered above them all. It was once known as the Empire State Building. Once it was majestic and shiny, now it was rusty and seemingly on the verge of falling over, but it was still impressive.

Taking one more breath, Sabrina stared at the 102 story structure and thought *It’s not like you're scaling it or anything.* Exhaling, Sabrina summoned her gift and thrust her hands towards the building, testing her strength. *Anything is possible with courage.* It let out a massive groan. After it stopped, Sabrina thought someone pushed a mute button. The silence pressed on her ears, her heart thumped. *Anything is possible with courage.*

“Have you ever wondered what color the sky is behind those clouds?” still only silence. “I have. I wonder if we can change the fact that *no one* here has never even *thought* about saving all these animals that are dying each day. don't you even *know what that means?* It means that entire families of dogs, cats, bugs, plants, and so much more are dying because of us.” Sabrina noticed that now some instinct chatter was forming. “If you want to help, this is how. I will help you as long as I can. When we succeed, it will be worth it.” she imagined how weird this was, to hear a child say all these seemingly random things. “I hope we can carry on and help our planet heal, come together and save lives. After all, anything is possible with courage. I should know.”

Year 3010.

Sabrina stepped onto her beautiful lawn of wildflowers and breathed in the fresh air. It smelled of spring life. Opening her bright eyes, she looked into the cloudless sky, a brilliant blue. The clean, fresh smelling breeze rippled her green dress.

“Morning, Sabrina!” Her neighbor called. This community was readily welcoming the beautiful season of spring.