

## “The Kindness Butterfly”

A black and blue butterfly flew above the vast suburbs of North Carolina. This particular butterfly was much different from the rest. Instead of drinking nectar from poppies and tulips, this butterfly sprinkled around kindness throughout the world. Its wings grew bigger every time it witnessed kindness. Another trait that this butterfly had that was different from the rest is that it is invisible.

Suddenly, the butterfly’s wings tingled. The Kindness Butterfly’s kindness line was in range! A kindness line is the line a Kindness Butterfly is chosen to start. The person who was supposed to help begin it was nearby! The special butterfly swooped down, keeping an eye on all of the people on the streets and in the windows of their homes. The tingling was getting stronger. Suddenly, it stopped. The Kindness Butterfly had arrived at a house with a brown wooden roof and brick walls. The windows were shaped like upside down U’s and the flower beds were full of bees and butterflies collecting pollen and nectar.

Suddenly, the oak doors flew open and a girl with a big smile emerged.

“Bye, Mom!” She called. She skipped down the driveway of her house and onto the sidewalk. She was the one. She was going to begin the kindness chain. She was only five years old, and had two missing front teeth, but it doesn’t matter what age you are when it comes to kindness.

The girl’s blonde pigtails bobbed up and down as she skipped. She soon arrived at a meadow. In front of the meadow was a sidewalk. That was where her bus stop was. She was fourth to arrive. Even though she was ecstatic to start her first day of kindergarten, a girl who she had never seen before looked very nervous. The girl decided to help out by being kind.

“Hi there! My name is Addy!” She said, enthusiastically. “I love your shoes!” The shy girl’s shoes had Hello Kitty’s on them and were bright pink.

“Thank you!” The girl said. “I’m Brynn!” Just then, the bus pulled up and the girls boarded. Later that day, Brynn sat down in her classroom. Addy was nowhere to be found.

“Please take out all of your school supplies.” The teacher said. After that, it was recess. Everybody went out to play.

“Let’s play Tetherball!” A voice behind her exclaimed. It was Addy!

“Yeah!” Brynn exclaimed. Little did they know that the Kindness Butterfly was watching them. There was much more kindness to be sprinkled around!

“Ow!” A boy wailed. He started to cry. He had tripped on the way to get into the long Tetherball line! The line was very long and Brynn was next up. But, she chose to do the better thing. She got out of line and went up to the boy.

“Are you okay?” She asked him nicely. He looked up at her with tears in his eyes. “No! I skinned my knee! I’m Toby, and I hate skinned knees!” He cried.

“Then let’s get you to the nurse. C’mon. I’m Brynn, by the way” Brynn held out her hand and the boy hesitated, but took it. She helped him up and brought him to a Recess Watcher and told her what had happened. The Recess Watcher brought him to the Nurse’s Office.

Later that day, Toby was followed home by the Kindness Butterfly with now much bigger wings. He got into a blue jeep at the car pick up and was greeted by his mom.

“Hi, honey!” She said, “How was your first day of school? Wait, no! Your older sister called from her college in Florida! She said to call her back when you could talk. Now is a great time!” Toby’s mom dialed Toby’s sister’s number on her phone and gave it to Toby. Then she began to drive home. A picture of a girl with dark brown hair just like Toby’s popped up.

“Hi Toby!” She smiled.

“Hi Serena!” He exclaimed. Suddenly, he saw an off expression on Serena’s face. “Are you okay?” Serena shrugged.

“Just worried about a big test coming up…” Her voice trailed off. Toby smiled a big smile. “Sis, don’t worry! You’re going to ace that test!” Toby said.

“Thanks, Tobs! Whelp, I better get going!” She smiled. “Bye!”

“Bye!” Toby exclaimed. He handed the phone back to his mom when Serena hung up. Later that day, Serena took a walk around campus. She then saw a person she had never seen before drop their books on the ground. Serena headed over to the girl when no one did and helped her.

“Hi, there!” Serena smiled. “Do you need any help?” The girl smiled and nodded. When Serena picked up her writing notebook, she noticed that the name imprinted on the front was Gabby.

“Are you Gabby?” She asked. The girl nodded.

“Thanks.” Gabby said when they were done picking up the books. Serena smiled.

“Anytime.” She replied. By now, the Kindness Butterfly’s wings were giant! All this butterfly needed was one more act of kindness. Then something amazing would happen. Something extraordinary! Gabby just had to be kind. After Serena helped her out, Gabby felt more confident. She was a very shy girl and was longing for a friend. As she rounded the corner to her dorm room, someone caught her eye. It was the teacher for biology class. Mrs. Lotty, she believed. She was very quiet and mostly kept to herself. From one shy girl to another, maybe Gabby could cheer up Mrs. Lotty like Serena had cheered her up! It was worth a shot.

“Hello, Mrs. Lotty?” Gabby asked.

“Yes?” She replied. Gabby looked at her.

“I just wanted you to know how awesome you are.” Gabby smiled. She then proceeded to walk into her dorm, leaving Mrs. Lotty there smiling. Suddenly, the amazing thing started to happen. The Kindness Butterfly twitched. Then wiggled. Then...*POOF!* The Kindness butterfly turned into many other miniature-winged Kindness Butterflies! Then, they stretched out their small wings and flew away in the night. They were starting their own Kindness Chain. The truth is, Kindness never stops. It never goes away. The Kindness Butterflies are only there to help the kindness stay in balance. It’s mostly the people doing the true job. Because you and I, yes each of us, can change the world. All we have to do is choose kindness.