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An encounter with a stranger.

It was a rainy day, thick black clouds floated ominously across the sky. I was returning home from school when I was suddenly confronted by a stranger

At promptly 3:00 in the afternoon the school bell rang to dismiss school. All the students made their exit out of school like crazy ants. The place looked like it was 6:00 in the evening, as dark thick black clouds covered the sun. As soon I stepped on the pavement, a loud thunder rumbled causing me to quickly take out my raincoat and umbrella. I felt as snug as a bug. I was ready to walk home in the rain.

I was just about to take my usual route home when a light bulb went off in my head to take a short cut through Skinner Park instead. Even though it was lonely and dark with bushes as tall as a giraffe, it would be the fastest way home. As I made my way tough the park, the sky opened up and a million rain drops came pounding down on my umbrella like jelly beans being poured into a bowl.

Suddenly, I felt a chill and it was not from the rain. A stranger pop out from one of the bushes like a rabbit from a hole. He was tall, slender with legs and arms like sticks. His shaggy hair plastered to his skull from the heavy rain, his beard was scruffy and long to his neck. Even through the rain drops I can see his hollow cheeks and sunken eyes. A white scar ran from his forehead and hid into his beard. His shirt was ripped up and his pants was tattered and did not reach his ankles. His shoes looked like boats on his feet as they were two sizes too big. He was carrying a huge black bag that looked like it has seen better days.

I was frozen in fear as he suddenly approached. My heart was racing like a cheetah and my mind was telling me to run but my feet refused to move. I was petrified with fear and trembling like a leaf. A gust of wind blew my umbrella up in the sky like a kite. I tried to walk as fast as my skinny legs can but my book bag felt as heavy as rocks, causing me to tumble forward and dive into a puddle of water face first. I turned on my back and stared straight into those sunken eyes of the stranger. Struggling to get to my feet, a pair of skinny arms reached out to help me up to my feet. I thought to myself ‘’Lord help me. I am dead as a doornail this afternoon.” To my surprise, those skinny arms were able to pull me up to my feet. I was soaked to the bone from head to toe and shivering like a leaf. The stranger began digging into his huge black bag and pulled out an umbrella.

I never imagined to receive such kindness from a total stranger. He looked just as scared as me as I was of him. And then, those thin lips cracked into a smile as he pushed the open umbrella into my hands. I too smiled and said thank you. As he was about to walk away, I checked into my wallet and realized that I had fifty dollars tucked away for an emergency. Quickly I thanked him again for his kindness and gave him the money for his assistance. A few minutes later, the sun smiled and chased away the angry clouds and even though it was still raining, I was happy as a lark as I made my way home with his umbrella. I immediately told my mom about the kindness of the stranger and that I thanked him by giving him my emergency money. She hugged me and told me “Don’t judge a book by its cover.”