Dear Carla Soriano , 9/30/2020

From what I follow, Your Story “Found Family” follows two main protagonists Aaron and Luca who are neighbors and friends. Aaron helps drive Luca Home after he misses the bus to go home after being in a fight with another student. Aaron chastises Luca in a rather calm manner but then lightheartedly jokes with him before dropping him off at him his home. Later, Luca cheats on a test and Aaron catches him on his way to somewhere, and he decides to once again drop him off at his home. Luca tells him what happened and Aaron once again chastises him. Despite apologizing for having to drive him again, Luca later unleashes pent-up emotions at Aaron by stating that he isn’t his guardian. After this quarrel, the two do not interact with each other despite Aaron slowly planning to move out for university. When one week remains, the two reconcile with Luca proclaiming that the two are best friends and brothers.

What worked well in the story’s was Luca’s characterization. He had a great progression within the short story from being a delinquent to slowly improving on himself. This is even shown through the choice of words used to describe him and his actions. From bitter/angry tones and vocabulary to more relaxed and happy vocabulary. The conflict of the story also was rather well done, it had an interesting catalyst and ended rather happily. Another fact that I like was how relatable the characters can be hence it feels rather realistic and often a nice relation to many people’s friendships. The vivid description of the actions taken by Luca are good and allows the reader to picture the story as it leaves little descriptions to prevent the reader from not imagining it.

As for what I felt was rather weak in the story, Aaron himself stands out for me. While we do follow the friendship of the two, we see little of Aaron and how he vies things. While we do see he cares for Luca, that is all we can surmise from him. While the ending is well written, I feel if we also followed Aaron and his perspective and not just Luca, we can get a better sense of the conflict between the two. Following this, Luca’s supposed transformation just happened suddenly, despite the change in time, we do not see as to why he changes or when exactly he felt the need to change his approach to school life. Maybe add another paragraph or sentence before the dinner mentioning this if you fell like it. Maybe due to page constraints, I felt the conflict could have been expanded upon or give a scenario other than the dinner to show the strained relationship between the two( If you feel this isn’t needed, feel free to discard the comment).

Overall, this was a well written story Carla. It had a lot of tense moments yet touching moments as well. It also feels rather nice to see this kind of close friendship in a story that really felt grounded and realistic. It is an interesting take of fiction and I look forward to the final draft!

Sanad Masannat