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## THE SIMPLE JOYS OF LIFE

Maria had been feeling cooped up in her house for weeks. She said to her friends “I want to stay at home and watch my favorite TV shows, but I need to go to the library to get some books for my upcoming exams.” She decided to brave the outside world, and headed to the library. As she walked towards the library, she noticed that everyone seemed to be in a rush. Nobody was talking to each other, and the streets were empty. She felt a sense of relief when she finally arrived at the library, which was relatively empty. While Maria was browsing the books, she overheard a man talking on his phone, and he was celebrating because he was approved for the loan!" Maria smiled, happy to hear some good news. As she was about to leave, Maria realized she wanted to share the man's happiness with her friend, but she didn't have her friend's phone number. "I wanted to text you," she thought, "but I don't have your cell phone number."

After leaving the library, Maria decided to stop by the mall to do some window shopping. "I go to the mall every week because I love window shopping," she thought. She walked around the mall, admiring the displays, and even tried on a few dresses, but didn't buy anything. On her way home, Maria heard on the radio that "the virus cannot live in immunized individuals nor in nature." She felt reassured, knowing that she had received the vaccine, but still took precautions to keep herself and others safe.

As she approached her neighborhood, Maria saw Paul sitting on a bench, staring off into the distance. "Nobody talks to Paul because he looks mad," she thought. She wondered what was going on in his life, but decided to keep walking.

When Maria got home, she settled down with one of the books she had borrowed from the library. "I always take a book to read, yet I never seem to turn a single page," she chuckled to herself. She read a few pages before drifting off to sleep.

The next day, Maria met up with her friend at a café. They chatted and caught up on their lives. "You know," Maria's friend said, "she is very old but still attractive." Maria was surprised, but also felt a sense of hope for herself in the future. As Maria walked home, she reflected on her day. She had gone to the library, done some window shopping, and spent time with a friend. It was a simple day, but it made her feel happy and content.