The Message Meant for No One



Maya read her lines again on the bus. The school play was on Friday, and she still forgot the same sentence. Her friend Ellie was the main actor. She knew every word and always arrived early for rehearsal.

Maya opened her phone and began a message. "I hate this play. Ellie thinks everything is easy. I want to leave." She wanted to save it in her notes. Instead, she sent it to the play group. Twenty people could read it.

She tried to remove the message, but Ellie was already typing. Then she stopped. No answer came. At school, Maya found a new message from the teacher: "Please come to the stage after lunch. We need to talk."

Maya wanted to say that her little brother had taken her phone. It was a simple story. Perhaps everyone would believe it. But when she saw Ellie sitting alone behind the curtain, she put her phone away and sat beside her.

"I wrote it," Maya said. "But I wasn't angry because you're good at acting. I'm afraid I'll forget my lines. You asked me to join, and I don't want to disappoint you." Ellie looked at the floor. "You could have told me."

"I know. I was ashamed." For a moment, neither girl spoke. From the stage, they heard someone moving a heavy chair. Then Ellie opened her script. One

page was full of small notes. "I forget things too," she said. "I practise at home every night."

The teacher arrived and asked what Maya wanted to do. "Stay," she answered. "But I need help with the last scene." They agreed to practise together for ten minutes after school. Ellie helped, although she was still hurt. Their conversation did not fix everything in one afternoon.

On Friday, Maya forgot the sentence again. Ellie gave her a small signal, and the next words came. After the play, Maya wrote a new message to the group: "Thank you for helping me." This time, she checked the screen before sending it. On Monday, she arrived early to help Ellie put away the costumes. Trust needed time, and she could start with ten minutes.



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