

Start

2.

INT. BEDFORD HOUSE - (THIRTY YEARS AGO) - DAY

Bedford House, a community center, attached to a quaint old church, is bustling and bursting with Christmas spirit. There is a long line of community members, including a FATHER WITH YOUNG KIDS - one is a BEAUTIFUL LITTLE GIRL, around age 5, who shyly clings to his coattails.

Nearby, A YOUNG BELLE CARTER, age 9, works diligently - packing each bag of food items with variety and care. BELLE'S MOM is nearing the end of her supplies as she looks to Belle-

BELLE'S MOM

Belle? Do you have a few more bags ready over there honey?

YOUNG BELLE

Coming!

Young Belle hoists bags in each hand, far more than one little girl should be expected to carry. The little girl in line watches young Belle with curiosity.

PASTOR TOM (in his 40'S) tries to take a bag from Young Belle.

YOUNG BELLE (CONT'D)

I got it, I got it.

PASTOR TOM

Young lady, you do too much. Lesson for the day, though it's better to give than to receive, sometimes...you take the help.

Belle's mom flashes her a look.

YOUNG BELLE

Yes, Pastor Tom.

Young Belle catches the little girl's eye watching them, then grabs the one and only box of cookies and places it in one of the bags. Belle tells her mom-

YOUNG BELLE (CONT'D)

This one is for them.

Young Belle subtly points to the family and for just a moment young Belle and the little girl make eye contact.

Young Belle gives her a sweet smile and a wink and the little girl reflexively smiles back before burying her face in her father's coat.

End

Young Belle gets right back to work, bagging food items and delivering more to the volunteers working to distribute.

The young girl watches young Belle in awe, lost in thought.

~~INT. BEDFORD HOUSE - (THIRTY YEARS LATER) - DAY~~

~~Bedford House looks a little more worn, charming but aging, and the few decorations they have up are on their last leg. There is once again, a line for the food pantry.~~

~~There are fewer volunteers, fewer donations to distribute. PASTOR TOM, now in his golden years, looks around.~~

~~PASTOR TOM~~

~~Belle? Any more bags ready back there?~~

~~BELLE CARTER, now age 39, emerges from a back room, once again carrying a couple bags in each hand and clearly overloaded on multiple levels, as she struggles not to drop anything. She's modestly dressed, with a magnetic smile and a generous energy for everyone but herself.~~

~~PASTOR TOM (CONT'D)~~

~~You will never learn your lesson will you? Always biting off more than you can chew.~~

~~BELLE~~

~~This is the last of it.~~

~~Belle hands out the last of the food items.~~

~~BELLE (CONT'D)~~

~~That's it for today, everyone. I'm so sorry, but please come back on Tuesday. We will have more by then, hopefully.~~

~~The last of the few in line walk away, disappointed.~~

~~Belle notices a LITTLE BOY about to walk into the cold without a coat with his YOUNG MOM.~~

~~BELLE (CONT'D)~~

~~(to the mom)  
Wait!~~

~~Belle runs in the back and returns with a small boy's winter coat.~~