

~~Clara walks over and tucks the note into the tree's branches.~~

~~Then comes another. And another. Soon, there's a line of kids holding papers. A line of people saying "thank you" in their own words.~~

~~Belle stands quietly reading each and every one, tears brimming - overwhelmed, but for once not by work.~~

~~END OF ACT 3~~

~~ACT 4~~

~~INT. BEDFORD HOUSE - MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS~~

~~Belle walks slowly toward the Christmas trees, now blooming with handwritten letters in every kind of handwriting - some misspelled, some with doodles, some smudged with crayon. One by one, she begins to read them.~~

~~KID'S VOICE~~

~~(V.O.)~~

~~Thank you for the hot chocolate and always remembering how many marshmallows I like.~~

~~TEEN'S VOICE~~

~~(V.O.)~~

~~Thank you for giving me a fun place to volunteer. Now I have early acceptance to Wellesley!~~

~~ADULT'S VOICE~~

~~(V.O.)~~

~~You helped me believe in second chances. I have a job I love now. I'm proud of me again.~~

~~Belle covers her mouth with her hand, overwhelmed. Her eyes shimmer and she lets out a quiet, shaky laugh - tender, disbelieving.~~

~~CLARA~~

~~(from behind her)~~

~~This is just the beginning.~~

~~Belle turns, a little dazed, as Clara makes her way toward the entrance.~~

~~There stands HANNAH SMITH, early 30's, kind-eyed but visibly worn from the weight of single motherhood. Her TWO SMALL CHILDREN cling to her coat, one holding a crumpled coloring page.~~

Belle lights up.

BELLE

(beaming)

Hannah! Oh my goodness - look at you all! How have you been?

HANNAH

Better. Honestly - so much better.

Belle kneels when the kids go to hug her and gives Hannah's hand a squeeze.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

(to Clara, then Belle)

Clara told me what's going on. I had no idea Bedford House was struggling.

BELLE

Well...yeah. Been a rough few years for us.

HANNAH

This place - it changed everything for us. You really helped me get back on my feet.

She glances to Clara.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

And she said it's not too late to help.

Belle is speechless. She watches as Hannah grabs a blank sheet of paper and sits down at a nearby table. Her kids help her color the edges.

End

~~Clara meets Belle's eyes with a quiet, knowing look.~~

~~BELLE~~

~~(to Clara)~~

~~What is all this? How did you-~~

~~CLARA~~

~~Step two - showing people how they can shine the light back.~~

~~Belle watches as Hannah adds her note to the tree. The kids beam proudly beside her. Clara guides them over to where a few others are preparing the meal for the soup kitchen later.~~

~~Just then, Hutch walks up, steaming mug of coffee in his hand.~~

Start