

SANDWICHES FOR THE SOUL

written by

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INT. THE THOMAS KITCHEN - DAY

MATTHEW THOMAS, a young boy of 14 years old, is standing at his kitchen counter, doggedly making sandwiches and putting them into a bag. His sister DEIDRE THOMAS, age 9, skips into the kitchen and stops short, looking at Matthew. Matthew continues to make the sandwiches. In the background, unbeknownst to the children, their mother, SAMANTHA THOMAS, observes them quietly from around a corner.

DEIDRE

What are you doing?

MATTHEW

What does it look like?
Fixing sandwiches.

DEIDRE

Can I have one?

Matthew looks at her pointedly, and Deidre looks down shyly, for a moment.

MATTHEW

Did you mean --

DEIDRE

Sorry.
MAY I have a sandwich?

MATTHEW

Maybe.
They're for a friend.

DEIDRE

A friend?
Are you taking them to the
playground?

MATTHEW

No.
You don't know them.
It's another friend.
They're for someone who needs them.

DEIDRE

Can I help?

Matthew looks at her brightly, as he puts the sandwiches in a bag.

MATTHEW

Sure.
You grab the bag.

DEIDRE

Can they -- I meant, may they have some soda?
Sandwiches make you thirsty.

MATTHEW

Good idea. Put four of them in the bag.
I just have to run back to my room for something.

Matthew runs back into his room, while Deidre puts the sandwiches and sodas in a bag. Matthew runs back into the kitchen. A knock is heard at the door, and Matthew goes to answer it. SAMANTHA DAVIS, a girl of 13, and her brother, DANIEL DAVIS stand at the door and Matthew greets them warmly. All the children walk into the kitchen.

DEIDRE

Hi.

Samantha looks around suspiciously at Deidre packing sandwiches and sodas in a bag.

SAMANTHA

Hey -- what's going on?
We thought you'd want to go to the park with us.

DANIEL

Yeah, what's with all the food?

DEIDRE

Matthew's helping people.

DANIEL

With sandwiches?
Well, help me first!

Daniel tries to grab a sandwich, and Deidre slaps his hand away playfully. Samantha pulls Daniel away from the counter and silently mouths to him "Stop it."

MATTHEW

(Shrugs)
Yeah. Some new friends of mine.
They need these.

Samantha and Daniel look at each other and then back at Matthew and DEIDRE.

SAMANTHA
 You really don't have enough
 sandwiches.

DANIEL
 Yeah... I get hungry after three.

SAMANTHA
 (With a bit of snark)
 YOU get hungry ALL the time.

Daniel sticks his tongue out at her, and Samantha, Deidre and Matthew laugh.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
 We want to help.
 Come on, let's make some more.

Matthew, Deidre, Samantha and Daniel form an assembly line and begin to make more sandwiches together, laughing and talking together, with Deidre putting them in a bag when completed. When they are finished, they all turn and look at each other.

MATTHEW
 You ready?

DEIDRE
 Yeah. But who are we going to see?

MATTHEW
 You know how Mom always tells us we
 have to help others?
 We're going to help somebody.

DEIDRE
 Help somebody?
 Can we take Mom?

MATTHEW
 Let's keep it a secret for now.
 Can you keep a secret?

DEIDRE
 I can keep a secret.

SAMANTHA
 Can we go too?

DANIEL
 We won't tell.
 We can keep a secret.

MATTHEW
 (Gestures to Deidre)
 Well, SHE can't.

Matthew look at her disdainfully for a minute, and starts to walk out with the bags. Deidre follows him out.

DEIDRE
 (Petulantly)
 I can!
 I CAN keep a secret!

After Matthew, Samantha, Daniel and Deidre leave the house, DIANE THOMAS, a woman in her early 30s, walks into the kitchen, cleaning up after them. She smiles, looks up briefly and closes her eyes as if in a brief prayer. Then she shakes her head and continues cleaning up the kitchen quickly. She then picks up her purse, grabs her car keys and leaves in the opposite direction.

EXT. ON THE SIDEWALK OUTSIDE THE HOME - DAY

MATTHEW THOMAS, DEIDRE THOMAS, SAMANTHA DAVIS and DANIEL DAVIS run across the Thomas house front yard, laughing and shouting at one another. They stop short when they see DIANE THOMAS in the car at the corner. They then walk slowly to the car, and DIANE rolls the window down. MATTHEW sticks his head inside the window.

DIANE
 Need a ride?

DIANE smiles and motions them inside

DIANE (CONT'D)
 Get in.

MATTHEW
 Yes ma'am.

MATTHEW, DEIDRE, SAMANTHA and DANIEL get into the car.

EXT. ON THE SIDEWALK ON A BUSY STREET CORNER - DAY

An older man and woman, SAMUEL and DENISE JOHNSON sit huddled together, with backpacks and other possessions around them on the sidewalk. Another couple, SHARON BELL, a woman in her early 30s and her husband, DAVID BELL, a man also in his early 30s, are sitting beside them, and they are engaged in conversation.

Sharon grabs a tambourine from her possessions, smiles, and begins to tap it rhythmically, humming slowly to herself. DAVID joins in, creating a harmony. Then stops suddenly.

SHARON
Any requests?

SAMUEL
Whatever lifts your spirit.

DENISE
Wait... there's something I
remember... from when I was little.

DAVID
(Chuckles)
Be careful... she's knows every
song in the book.

Sharon throws him a look and Sharon and David chuckle together.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Hey, how about...?

SHARON
I know the one.

Sharon and David break in to a spontaneous harmony of "This Little Light Of Mine." Denise and Samuel begin to clap and sway with them in rhythm, laughing.

MATTHEW runs up to them eagerly, and DEIDRE, SAMANTHA and DANIEL follow behind, shyly.

MATTHEW
(Running up shouting)
SAMMY!
Hey, Sammy!

SAMUEL
(Smiles broadly and shakes
Matthew's hand)
Hey there, young man!
Good to see you again.
So, what's the word?

MATTHEW
(Proudly presenting the
bag)
The word for today... sandwiches.

Matthew extends the bags to Samuel and Denise, who take it gratefully, murmuring words of thanks.

DEIDRE
 (Chirps up excitedly)
 And soda!

Samuel, Denise, Sharon and David chuckle softly.

SAMUEL
 Well, thank you, young lady.
 And who might you be?

MATTHEW
 This is my sister, Deidre.
 She wanted to help.
 (Motions to SAMANTHA and
 DANIEL)
 And these are my friends, Sam and
 Daniel.

DANIEL
 We helped, too!

Samantha nudges him.

SAMUEL
 (Chuckles)
 Well, I'm a Sam, too, young lady.
 Great to meet you all.

SAMANTHA and DANIEL both laugh shyly.

DENISE
 And we thank you all.
 God bless you.

Matthew, Samantha, Daniel and DEIDRE murmur "Thank you,
 ma'am" to Denise.

SAMUEL
 You know, young man, this is
 wonderful, and I thank you.
 Since you all brought something for
 us, I'm going to give you something
 in return.

Samuel reaches into one of the bags, produces a bible, and
 hands it to Matthew.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
 Here you go, son.

Matthew reaches in the bag of sodas DEIDRE is holding and
 produces a bible of his own.

MATTHEW

I brought one for you.
I thought it might help if you knew
God was watching over you.

DENISE

It does help, and we thank Him
every day for our safety and for
friends, like you.

DEIDRE

Me, too.

SAMANTHA

We all do.

SAMUEL

(Chuckles)
Especially you.

DANIEL

And I thank God for sandwiches!

Samuel peers in the bag and begins to pull out the
sandwiches.

SAMUEL

Looks like you made enough here for
an army.

MATTHEW

(Shyly)
I thought maybe we could all
share... you know... maybe... eat
together?

DEIDRE

(Claps her hands
excitedly)
Like a picnic!
Like we do after Sunday school!

SAMANTHA

Sounds better than playing in the
park.

SHARON

(Laughs)
Best offer I've had all day.

DAVID looks at her, laughing softly, and wraps an arm around
her, hugging her briefly and kisses Sharon on her forehead.

DENISE

Best offer we've all had in a
while.

SAMUEL and DENISE hug each other and Denise leans her head on
Samuel's shoulder.

Matthew offers his bible again.

MATTHEW

(Shyly)

And maybe... read together?

Samuel and Denise look at each other, look to Sharon and
David ,all grab hands, and look to Matthew, Samantha, Daniel
and DEIDRE.

DENISE

That sounds wonderful.

Matthew, Samantha, Daniel and Deidre join Samuel and Denise
on the sidewalk. DIANE THOMAS walks up to join them. Matthew
and Deidre hug her and she seats herself among them. After
they are all seated, they join hands and bow their heads
together in prayer. After the prayer, Sharon and David begin
the sing "This Little Light of Mine" as they all begin to
join in with the singing as they eat together.

FADEOUT