

# CHANGING YOUR LIFE

Amazing things can happen when you meet a person by chance. Read these letters to our online magazine.

A year ago my family moved house, and our new neighbour<sup>1</sup>'s son visited us on the first day. His name was Tommy and he was in a wheelchair<sup>2</sup>. We were all very busy – Dad wanted to move some furniture, and there were boxes all over the house, so Tommy wanted to help us. 'What can a boy in a wheelchair do?' I thought. But Mum just said 'Thanks very much – we really need your help!' So Tommy helped us in the house all day. He told me funny stories while we worked in the kitchen, and I laughed<sup>3</sup> a lot. Before I knew Tommy, I was very sorry for<sup>4</sup> disabled<sup>5</sup> people. I thought they were unhappy<sup>6</sup>, and they needed help. But I was wrong. Tommy was born disabled, but he isn't unhappy – and he doesn't need my help. Now Tommy is my best friend. And he helps me all the time!

**Mandy Holzer**



On a hot sunny day last summer, I was in a café with a friend. There was a woman at a table near us, and she had a big bag with her. She got a coffee, and she took paints<sup>7</sup> and paper out of the bag. Then she started to paint<sup>8</sup> a picture of the people in the café. My friend and I stayed in the café and watched her. She was very good, and her picture was amazing. I thought 'That's really cool. I want to do that.' So when the woman finished her picture, I talked to her. Her name was Edith, and she was really nice. Now I'm learning to paint, and Edith is giving me art lessons. When I leave school, I want to go to university and study art.

**Rona Miller**

I got on a bus on a cold rainy day last winter because I wanted to go shopping. There were lots of people on the bus, but I found a place to sit next to a boy from my school and his dad. His name was Jon, and we started to talk. Jon told me about a film audition<sup>9</sup> in town. 'I'm going there now,' he said. 'Do you want to come?' So I decided to go with Jon and his dad and visit the shops another day. When we arrived at the audition, there were hundreds of teenagers outside. We waited with them in the rain. When Jon and I went into the audition two hours later, we were cold and very wet, we weren't very happy. We looked terrible, but we got small parts<sup>10</sup> in the film. The film was *After the Storm*, so maybe we looked right for it!

**Simon Briggs**



## Glossary

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<sup>2</sup> wheelchair	sedia a rotelle	<sup>7</sup> paints (n)	vernici
<sup>3</sup> I laughed	ho riso	<sup>8</sup> paint (v)	dipingere
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