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Geography

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One friendship, different freedoms

Amelia, a 18 year old girl who lives in North America, has an interest for art. One day Amelia was looking on an app that showed worldwide art competitions when she found one that would give her a scholarship to go to the best art school in North America. Yale, a college she had always dreamed of. So, she immediately signed up and got to work.

Amelia was scrolling through the names and countries that signed up when she scrolled across a name that, for some reason, caught her eye. Her name was Mariam and she is from syria. Amelia knew some things about Syria and none of it was good. So Amelia decided to contact her and see what her life was like there.

Mariam, also an 18 year old girl from Syria, who also had an interest in art. The same day Amelia signed up for the contest Mariam did. She had been scrolling through scholarships to go to different colleges when one caught her eye. Yale, a college that would get her to great places. But the problem was it was in a different country, would she even be able to leave the country. All of the sudden she had this feeling that she needed to do this and that is when she decided to sign up.

That night Mariam got a call. It was from somebody that was unknown to her. She answered, "Hello, who is this?" "Hi I'm Amelia Westbrook from North America." North America, that surprised Mariam. "Oh how did you get my number?" "From the art competition that would give two of the winners a scholarship to go to only the best art college, Yale!" Amelia

said. "And why did you call me?" mariam said. "I wanted to ask some questions of how it is to live in constant fear of others and about life in Syria, if that's fine." Amelia said. So for about an hour or two Amelia and Mariam talked about their lives and what it's like in the different countries they live in.

So after a few months of online conversations Amelia and Mariam became best friends. Mariem and Amelia were on the phone one day when Amelia asked an odd question, totally out of the blue, a question that would change both their lives forever. "So I was just wondering but what if we both tried to change something in our community?" Amelia asked. "What do you mean?" mariam asked. "I mean in both countries we have different non freedoms so why don't we make a difference." "ok, but how are we going to do that?" Mariem asked. "You can't go to school, and you're not respected for your rights, and women only get paid 70% of what men get paid for the same work so that's what I could change." Amelia said.

So for the rest of the week Amelia and mariam worked on figuring out how to change something in their community. About a few weeks later it was time to change their community and the rights they hold. They both started gathering women in their community that understood their cause to change their rights for all women. It started with an online group that got over two million comments that they would help to change the community. Then they started having meetings through online chats. And they keep on building their community of online protesters to fight for women's rights. They know it would be tough and would take time but in the long run it would change the rights for all women.

About a year later Amelia and Mariems lives had changed almost completely. They had now been protesting for over six months, and things were getting better for women. In Syria girls were getting to go to school, and in America girls were getting paid more for what they did. For

Amelia and Mariam they were still waiting to see the results for the art composition. One day they were on the computer talking about another protest when an email came to both of them. It was from Yale. This email would decide their entire lives, would they get in or would they not. They both decide to go at the same time, one, two, three..... There was a quiet suspense for what felt like an eternity, when Amelia said, " We can go somewhere else, to a different college, together."

About three months later it was time for Amelia and mariam to go to college. But there was one problem they were at different places. Amelia had decided to stay in her home state, North Carolina and go to NC the art college. For mariam she was going to a government college for international cultures, UC berkeley. They both Knew in the end they were going to have to part ways but it was tough. They would still work to protest for women's rights but it would be harder without mariam being in syria. But they could work it out, they always did.

The day had come that Mariam would move to america. She would have to say goodbye to her family and leave right in the morning. Amelia had been talking to her all night about how fun it is in the americas and that at first it might be different. Mariam was nervous about the long journey but Amelia had helped her so much, Amelia is the kindest friend she ever had.

Amelia was jumping inside waiting for Mariam to call her and say she had got off the plane, this was going to be the first time Amelia had ever seen Mariam in real life! When all the sudden she got a call it was from Mariam! She answered immediately, "Hi, are you off the plane?" There was complete silence when mariam said, " Yes, are you coming to pick me up?" " Yes, I am," said Amelia. And immediately she got off the phone and drove as fast as she could to the airport!

When Amelia got there it took forever for her to find her, but when she did she ran!

“Mariam!” “Amelia!” They both hugged each other for an eternity, which to them were only like a few seconds. Mariam was going to stay with Amelia for a while because she was new to America, and it was also a way for them to work on their incoming protest. When it was the day of the protest they got ready to set up tables around the state to gather votes for women's freedom around the world. If the protest got four thousand votes then the government might change the law for women's rights around the world.

In the end their protest succeeded and the government was deciding about changing the law. Mariam and Amelia would go to court to justify for the law to be changed. And before any of that Mariam had moved into her college dorm. Amelia, since she was going to college in her home state, was living at her parents house so it wouldn't cost as much. Mariam's college was fully paid for because she was an immigrant from Syria. And for the rest of their lives they would keep on fighting for women's rights. And most important of all they will be inseparable friends for the rest of their lives.

References

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