The Kindest Red

Mama holds up the dress. It was my sister Asiya’s dress, before that Mama’s dress and now it was mine. I’ve been waiting patiently for so long to wear it.

Asiya does my hair. Just like Mama taught her. I get to slide the sparkliest scarf pin into Asiya’s hijab to hug it tight.

Mama is waving us goodbye on Picture Day as we begin walking excitedly to school.

At school, my friend Sophie twirls in a dress with the biggest red sash. I begin twirling slowly to show her we match.

In class, Ms Ramirez says “Today is a special day! What kind of world do you want to live in?”

I wonder what world to draw. Mama would draw a beautiful world. Asiya would draw a strong world. I begin drawing carefully, a kind world, where there is always a friend nearby to help each other.

At break-time, Sophie and I use our superpowers for growing a kind-powered world.

Mali wants someone to bounce a ball with, so I do some bouncing with her.

Jada wants to play tag, so we start chasing each other.

I ask Asiya, “Is there anything I can help you with?”. She smiles and gives me a turn with her basketball. I feel even more powerful now.

Priya needs help putting a plaster on her hand.

Sophie needs her sash tying into a big bow.

Mateo needs help with his bowtie.

Sophie needs her sash tying into a big bow again.

Our class picture is full of big smiles.

Later it is sibling picture time! Me and Asiya all by ourselves!

My friends all match with their siblings. Seeing them makes me happy and sad, because Asiya and I don’t match at all.

Sophie sees my sad face and asks if she can help. She pulls her big bow out of its loops and spreads it out, and it is big and wide and strong, just like Asiya’s hijab.

It’s the most beautiful Picture Day ever. Just like Mama wanted.

I want a kind world. A world where kindness passes from one to another. Like me lovingly passing on this story.