



## TOPIC: MOTIVATION

## TITLE: HARRY POTTER AND A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

July 12, 2000

"Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end." - Scott Adams

Harry Potter and a Random Act of Kindness

I was with a friend this weekend, who is fortunate enough to have a young son who is an avid reader. He had been patiently awaiting the arrival of the new Harry Potter book for many days. He is also preparing to head off to his first Boy Scout Camp, and she thought it would be great for him to have this new book to bring along. So on our way home from our evening out on Saturday, we decided to stop by a bookstore and see if we could obtain the new Harry Potter book when it went on sale at midnight.

Although I never thought I would wait at a store at midnight for a book, I didn't mind at all, especially since I knew it would surprise and thrill someone I loved and cared for.

So, we waited in line to make our way to the store counter and purchase the book. Many, many other people had the same idea as the line was literally wrapped around the store. As we were standing in line, and conversing with the other patrons, a gentleman came and asked us if we were the last in line. We told him that we were, and he handed my friend a package and said, "I'd like to give this to you and I hope you enjoy it." Surprised and slightly confused, she opened the package to find a brand new Harry Potter book that the man had purchased. She ran out to thank the man and understand why and what he was doing, only to find that he had disappeared as quickly as he had given his gift.

Although we were both surprised and delighted by this man's kind gesture, my friend was especially touched by his kindness. She explained the event to her son, and wrote in the first page of the book, "thanks to a stranger and a random act of kindness". She also shared this story with many other people, not in the context of getting the new book, but in theme of sharing this man's kind gesture and goodwill.

As we further talked about the events of the weekend, we both found ourselves wondering why we don't do more things like this. This small event had a very large impact on my friend, her son and myself. I found myself asking the question when was the last time I shared a kind word, gesture or simple act of kindness? The reality all too often is that it isn't done enough. It is often the little things that make the largest impacts.

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My challenge for you this week is to give the gift of kindness to someone else. Sometimes it's as simple as a kind word, note, or gesture to a stranger, employee, friend, spouse, etc. I also challenge you to pass this along to others and request the same. If we all take the time to give the gift of kindness to just one person this week, think of the difference we will make and the ripple effect we will create, not to mention the nicer place we'll live in.