The train slowed to a stop, groaning as the metal pieces hummed. James’ heart seemed to have started a marathon, beating faster every second. His eyes scanned the crowd nervously, moving around like lasers.

There. He spotted the person he was looking for. James’ mother seemed to have travelled through time, which she kind of had. Her face was lined with wrinkles, and her expression was hopeful as she scanned the crowd for him. Every second passed anxiously as he waited for her to spot him.

As their eyes finally met, time seemed to slow down, their faces flickering between hope and desperation. Memories came flooding into his mind, washing away all other thoughts like a tidal wave. Them holding hands while going down an alleyway; her pushing the swing he was on, their faces filled with laughter. The memories formed endlessly, not letting him stop thinking about them.

They stared at each other for one endless second, not believing their eyes. People around them seemed oblivious to what they were doing, but this moment was the most special moment of his whole lifetime. Then, without a word, they raced towards each other, tears springing out wildly from their eyes.

And for the first time in years, James and his mother embraced each other like they never did before. He could barely remember what it felt like, until now. Her scent was fresh and sweet, like breathing in perfume. The smell reminded him of his hometown, where he was born. All the fun he had in it, and how he was leaving it because he found a job in the city far away.

She pulled back finally, her fingers brushing his hair. Then, she asked James why he hadn’t come home when he was working. He glanced down, and realised that she was right. It had been two years since he had visited his hometown, and he had not gone there since..

As they finally started to walk to his old house, James smiled. He promised himself he would visit it more frequently. He would spend more time with his family and friends, and less on work and official matters. He pulled out his phone, making a call to his boss to schedule a vacation later in the year.