Original flash piece by me: Whack! Her backpack slammed into my chest. “I’m so sorry!” she gasped, eyes wide. I wheezed, “It’s okay”. Definitely love at first sight.

Whack! Her backpack suddenly slammed into his chest.

"Oh my God, I'm so sorry!" she gasped, her light eyes wide with concern.

He took a moment, trying to catch his breath and recover, but couldn't help noticing her flushed cheeks and disheveled hair…cute. "It's okay," he managed to reply, still trying to collect himself after the unexpected series of events.

She paused, neither of them really knowing what to say, before awkwardly reaching up to fix the strap of her backpack. Her apology still lingered in the air, and he found himself touched by her genuine concern.

She shot him a nervous smile, tucking her chin-length hair behind her ear. Their eyes met, and right as he was about to speak she turned to leave saying goodbye and wishing him well. However, she didn’t notice the side pocket of her bag had come undone during the scuffle. As she walked away, a small plastic card slipped out and fluttered to the ground, her work badge.

“Hey, wait! You drop-” he started, but by the time he stood up, she was already gone.

He glanced at the badge in his hand, her name printed neatly beneath her photo. His nerves had kept him from getting her number, but at least now he had something; a name, a reason to come back to these cross streets tomorrow, and, for the first time in a long time, something to look forward to.