The End of Chocolate



By Elizabeth Anderson Lopez
Illustrated by Kevin Fales

TCM Teacher Created Materials

Table of Contents

Chapter One: Chocolate Chips Cost a Lot of Dough! 5

Chapter Two: Raisins and Rations . . . 13

Chapter Three: Why Chocolate Went Dark 17

Chapter Four: Bittersweet Aftermath 25

Epilogue 29

About Us 32

For Review Only



For Preview Only

CHAPTER ONE



Chocolate Chips Cost a Lot of Dough!

Twins Zoey and Joey enjoyed going to the grocery store with their dad, Ronan. He did a lot of the cooking and baking for the family. He always encouraged the kids to taste new things. They enjoyed being culinary explorers.

For Review Only

But there was one traditional treat that was a constant staple in their home—homemade chocolate chip cookies.

"You guys are chips off the old block—the chocolate block, that is!" Ronan used to joke with the twins. (They heard that joke more times than they could count, and they couldn't help but roll their eyes every time.) Still, their dad seemed to think it was hilarious every time. Plus, his smile was contagious.

"Dad, we're almost out of cookies at home. Are we getting more chocolate chips today?" Zoey asked.

"You bet!" he said. "We've already got all the other groceries we need. Let's head to the baking aisle."

The trio chatted about this and that on their way to aisle 9, their ultimate shopping destination. The twins were talking about their current progress on the latest video game. It took them a while to realize their dad was looking quite puzzled, as he had already picked

For Review Only

up—then put down—several different bags of chocolate chips.

"What is it, Dad? They have the kind we always buy," Joey said.

"They do, indeed," Ronan mused. "But they all cost several dollars more than usual. I don't understand why."

Zoey got very quiet. "Oh. So…no cookies?" she asked sadly.

"No, no, we're getting them. It's just weird," he assured her. He ruffled Zoey's brightly colored copper curls, which annoyed her yet made her laugh.

"Dad, stop it!" she yelped.

Joey laughed, too. "Now your hair is all messed up!"

Zoey was a redhead and Joey had brown hair like his mom. This is why some kids at school didn't believe they were twins. Each twin had explained—like a gazillion times—the difference between the types of twins. They were fraternal twins *not* identical twins. Still though, the twins could easily

For Review Only

communicate with each other—even with just a glance or their go-to eye roll.

The trio headed home, where they found their mom, Yolanda, going through the mail. She still had her stethoscope around her neck. Yolanda was a pediatrician. The twins knew her job was important—she helped sick kids get well—but their dad's job sounded more fun. He was the creative director at an advertising agency, and he got to work from home several days a week. They liked listening to him brainstorm



For Review Only

on the phone with his team. Zoey and Joey were super excited anytime they saw a commercial on television for a company that was one of their dad's clients.

"There's my family. How was the store?" Yolanda asked as a smile spread across her face.

The twins didn't find the trip to the store interesting enough to relive, so they went to their rooms, stopping to say hi to their Senegal parrot, Astro. He said hi right back. Astro knew several

For Review Only



words and different sound effects. He had even mastered the sound of the microwave beeps!

Back in the kitchen, the adults finished up their conversation. "Eh, it was uneventful," Ronan answered. "Well, there was one thing…chocolate chip prices went up a lot since the last time I made cookies. And that wasn't very long ago at all."

"Interesting. Maybe there's no longer a surplus of them," Yolanda said.

"Maybe. I'll pop some leftovers in the oven for dinner," Ronan said. "Later, I thought we could all play a game and make a batch of chocolate chip cookies."

About a week later, Zoey asked her mom to pick up some cocoa. She wanted to make double-chocolate brownies. Upon Yolanda's return from the store, she relayed a similar experience.

"I was thinking about what your dad said about chocolate chips. It's been a while since I bought cocoa powder,

For Review Only