

Aniyah's Sweet Plan

By

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Everything was fine until my sister Harper baked the sweetest, bestest chocolate chip cookies. I'm Aniyah Bremen, and I love cookies. I was in the kitchen getting two cookies when I heard my mom and dad talking about getting a divorce.

"Maybe you should go," Mom said.

"I don't want to leave like this," said Dad.

"It's for the best, Mel, just go,"

"Okay, Charlotte, if you think I should."

I jumped. The chair I was hiding under squeaked. My mom came to see what the noise was. I ran for my life.

"Harper, Morgan, Jayden," I yelled when I reached the second floor.

Harper came out of the room we shared with a cookbook in one hand and a mirror in the other.

The only thing she liked better than baking was looking in the mirror at herself. I ran past her and straight into Morgan and Jayden's room. Morgan was doing something with his keyboard.

Grandma Rose says he's pretty good for a ten-year-old. She makes him play Smokey Robinson songs. I'm not sure who Smokey Robinson is, but Grandma Rose likes him. Jayden was working on a model car as usual.

"Aniyah, why are you screaming?" Jayden asked softly.

"And who told you to eat the cookies I baked? Those are for Mom's book club tomorrow," Harper said.

"Mom and Dad are getting a divorce. I heard them talking about it. We have to do something. I don't wanna be an orphan," I said.

Grandma Rose came out of her room and stared at me.

"Orphan, why would you be an orphan? Has something happened to your parents? Where are they?" she asked.

"They're in the kitchen talking about a divorce. I heard them," I said.

"No way! We can't let that happen!" said Morgan, pushing his keyboard to the side.

Jayden started to cry for my mom. I probably should have only told Harper and Morgan. Jayden ran toward the stairs, but Grandma Rose caught him and hugged him.

"It's okay, Jayden. I'll find out what is going on. In the meantime, you four should think of something to help your mom and dad," said Grandma Rose.

She left us in the boys' room to find a way to help my parents.

We came up with a plan to have a party for my mom and dad. Harper said she would bake a cake and cookies and brownies. She just wanted all the attention, but who can say no to cookies? Morgan said he would write a song for Mom and Dad, play his keyboard, and sing.

"I will fix the broken clock on mommy and daddy's dresser," said Jayden.

I grabbed his hand, and we went to get the clock. I was still trying to figure out what I could do for my parents. I did not want to be like Ashley Newmoore. Her parents got a divorce, and she had to move to her aunt's house in Canada.

I like our house, and I don't want to move. I have to think of something to do for Mom and Dad.

The party was in three days. The day before, my dad was supposed to leave.

Harper's baking wasn't going as planned. She didn't have all the stuff she needed. We put our allowances together to buy the ingredients. We went to the food mart at the corner and got the things Harper needed. It was fun because Morgan made up a silly song about shopping.

Then Morgan's keyboard keys stuck together, so the song he was writing sounded awful. Jayden said he had some stuff that he uses on his model cars that might help. He gave it to Morgan, and the keyboard was good as new.

"Thanks, baby brother," Morgan said.

"You're welcome, jughead," Jayden said, giggling.

Morgan helped Jayden find spare parts in the garage. The clock looked great once it was put back together.

"Grandma Rose, I still don't know what to draw for Mom and Dad," I said.

"How about a picture of the family?" said Grandma Rose. "

"That's a great idea."

I gathered all my art supplies and got started.

On the night of the party our house smelled like chocolate and peanut butter. The music from Morgan's keyboard could be heard from the front porch. Grandma Rose helped me, and Jayden wrap the gifts and put them on the table for my mom and dad. Our parents entered the front door with Grandma Rose behind them. We all shouted. SURPRISE! Mom and Dad jumped, and their eyes got big.

Harper came out of the kitchen carrying a beautiful cake. I couldn't wait to taste it.

Morgan played a song on the keyboard, and Jayden and I handed them the gifts.

"What is all this?" mom asked.

"We don't want you to get a divorce, so we put a party together," I said.

"Divorce? What made you think that?" Dad asked.

"I heard you talking about it in the kitchen."

"You were the noise in the kitchen," Mom said.

"Thank you, my sweet musketeers. You've given us a great gift but,"...Dad smiled and put his arm around Mom. "Aniyah, sweetheart, your mom and I were discussing our upcoming anniversary, not a divorce," Dad said.

"Oh, I guess I jumped to conclusions. I'm sorry, everybody," I said.

"I guess it turned out okay; we did get a nice party out of it, but stop sneaking around stealing sweets, Sister," said Harper, laughing.

Grandma Rose winked at me and handed me a cookie.