

Melissa Marquez

Special Holiday

Red Stream



real

Summary

Oliver and Charlotte are two of the best cousins they know. Their excitement grows for the holiday that's just right around the corner, except. They know that with the holidays a bonus of embarrassment comes along.

COUSINS!

Oliver-

Father is away on a business trip and Mother stays sitting in her room. She never comes out. If she does it's only to cook, then she leaves again. Then there's Father, there isn't a point in missing father if he's never home, and when he is, he just sits in the office. Also, Mother is either never in the room or whenever she is, she still doesn't seem like she's in the room. She's like a ghost or at least someone lost in time. This has been going on for so long, it feels as if they just left me here. I wish I could go back in time. Of course, I would go save my mother but I can't. I'll probably get lost right along with her.

It's always so boring as an only child. The silence of rooms is so quiet you'd hear a mouse walk. Which is really quiet. Most people think that it's the best thing in the world to be an only child, but it's not. I would go outside except for the fact that I can never make any friends. If I do, they drift away. They go away so fast that they're like a piece of driftwood cast out to sea during a violent storm.

As I pressed the red button of the remote, the rectangular box poking out the wall sprung to life. The bright colors embedded into it fly by. Reds, Blues, Greens. All the colors to ever exist. The sound is no exception. The sound stumbles through the air hitting my ears. Moving my thumb I turned the volume down, not being too loud and not too quiet. I start to sink into the couch, waiting for anything when nothing comes.

“I guess today’s another day of being a potato couch or a potato chip or, whatever the whatchamacallit is.”

Time goes by so... slowly. It feels like a snail moving the slowest it can and yet it's still in slow motion but it’s moving faster than me.

Charlotte-

Waking up to the smell of pancakes is the best. The sweet scent of maple syrup, the powdered sugar dust, and The smell of freshly cooked batter turned to perfection. You just know you have the perfect pancake when both sides of the pancake are cooked to be perfectly brown on both sides. Springing out of bed with an extra bounce in my step, running down the stairs like I’m the race car driver on a race track, and slamming into my chair with such immense force I just might break the chair. “Good Morning Moms! I can’t believe you cooked pancakes this morning you know pancakes are my favorite, when are we going to Nana’s house, I can’t wait, is Oliver going to be there, I’m so excited”

“CHARLOTTE! I know you’re excited, but please be quiet, sit still in your chair, and eat your brunch. Mumbles* 12’ o clock is too early to be asking questions and have so much energy.”-Jane

“It might be too early for you but we’re ready to start the day. Chop Chop everyone, hurry up so we can get ready we have to get to Nana’s house in about an hour. ”-Rose

“Yes, this Christmas is going to be awesome. Though you still never answered my question. Is Oliver going to be there? I really hope he is. What about Noah? Is he going to be there? I hope he isn’t, he’s always pulling something over our heads.”-Charlotte

“I’m not certain who’s going to be at Nana’s house. Oliver’s most likely going to be there. He always is, plus, I don’t think he’d miss the Christmas tradition.”-Rose

Oliver-

“OLIVER! Get ready we have to start heading over to Nana’s house. Why don’t you put on the checkered pj’s I bought for you”-Ann

“Alright. Is dad going to be here this Christmas? Do you know when he’s going to be back for his business trip?”-Oliver

"No. Probably not. He hasn’t told me when he’ll be back. If anything you can call him and ask. Though I don’t think he would even know. He’s always saying it gets extended. " –Ann

I guess my time as a potato couch is over. After getting dressed I walked into the living room half expecting mom to be there, but sure enough, she was already in the car. So, I just hopped in.

“Hey Mom, is Charlotte going to be at Nana's house ”.- Ann

"She usually is so... Yeah it was my guess "- Ann

Oliver

arrives-----

Exiting the car into a new atmosphere is refreshing. It feels good to get out of my space for once, as I look at the house I can see that it's filled with Christmas spirit. As I approached the large red door I could hear the giggles and laughter of someone I was certain I knew. I rang the doorbell only for the door to swing open to Charlotte, the only mouth no one could stop from talking.

Noah-

Get ready, punks because Noah is coming to town. *time skip to Nana's*

Knock, knock(The door opens)

“Well if it ain't thing one and thing two.”-Noah

‘I knew we shouldn't have opened the door ’-Oliver

“Hello Noah, Isn't wonderful to see you.”-Oliver

“Why don't you let us in.”-Noah

‘Wish I wouldn't ‘, “Right this way, everyone's gathered in the living room. Just take off your shoes and hang your coat on the wall.”- Oliver

Charlotte-

I hate Noah to the bottomless pit. No matter how happy I am, he always brings my mood down.

“We should keep track of him. No matter where he is, Noah’s too dangerous to be left unsupervised. Plus he’s going to end up pranking us sooner or later, it's just an amount of time”-Charlotte

“You’re right. I'll start watching”- Oliver

Can’t believe it-

*Everyone sits in the living room talking to one another as families usually do. Nana’s talking to Jane. Rose is talking to Ann. Oliver is talking to Charlotte. Then Noah stands up and exits the room. Oliver and Charlotte silently follow Noah down the hallway. Noah then enters the playroom and right after, Oliver and Charlotte go in as well. *SPLASH! The red bucket of water that was being held over the door fell onto Oliver and Charlotte.*

“I CAN’T BELIEVE IT! ONCE AGAIN WE’VE BEEN TRICKED!”- Oliver

“You could have at least warmed up the bucket of water. It’s freezing.”- Charlotte

“We did. I guess you guys just took too long.”-Noah

“We?”-Unisoned by Oliver and Charlotte

“Yea, how else could this be pulled off.”-Noah

“Sorry guys, we couldn’t miss the opportunity. We did warm the water up though, it just cooled down too fast.”-Ann

“Mom? When did you have the time to come over here? We saw you in the living room right before we left.”-Oliver

“A prankster never reveals their secrets, you should know that. You live in a family full of them”-Ann

“I guess.”-Noah

“Come on, we should get you two cleaned up before the sleepover.”-Ann

“SLEEPOVER!”- Oliver and Charlotte say in unison.

“Yup. You two get to sleep over at Nana’s house for the weekend. That means all the cookies, snacks, and room to play.”-Jane

Oliver and Charlotte turn around

“I can’t believe the whole family saw that.”- Charlotte

“You know we just couldn’t miss it.”-Nana

Artist Statement-

I choose my first chapter based on my thought process about who's story would be easier to start with. Writing my story starting with Oliver's perspective was based on the fact that I could provide more details starting with his story. His story holds more emotion and background compared to Charlotte's character. Charlotte's character would be characterized as an average girl with a super sweet and talkative personality. My story shows the theme of Family by showing the idea that family is family. Nothing will ever change(unless you get disowned). I used dramatic irony by emphasizing certain motions and dialogue. You can find this in three major parts of the story. The first one is all over Oliver's Chapter. The second one is located at the beginning of Charlotte's chapter after she wakes up and runs to the dinner table. You can find the third part when Noah arrives at Nana's house.

The majority of the thought shot I created was during Oliver's chapter. This takes place at the beginning when he's describing how he feels. The snapshots I used were in Oliver's chapter right after he describes how he feels. I choose to use dialogue in order to push some of the stories forward and to show different characters' personalities. This generates the effect of emotion from the reader to portray the different characters. For example, when I wrote the dialogue

The motif of the story is, family is what you make of it. I choose this choice because it was a part of the task given to me, and it is true to the story. Either Oliver or/and Charlotte could have not gone to Nana's house because they believed that Noah wasn't family and would've thought that they shouldn't go just because Noah was going to be present.