

Tania's Dilemma



By Kanika G

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It was Saturday evening. Tania had just returned from her weekly visit to Grandma. She was telling Mama all about it. Grandma had fed Tania all her favorite foods. Then Grandma and Grandpa had taken her to the park. Tania had used the swings and the slide to her heart's content. Grandma had shown her some nice flowers. Tania had met a man walking his dog, and the nice man let her pet his dog. She was quite happy with the visit. Just before Mama picked her up, Grandma had told Tania that she had planned a very special surprise for the next week's visit.



A visit to Grandma was always fun, but with a special surprise to come, Tania just could not wait for the next Saturday. It was only Tuesday, and she was prancing around the house, unable to contain her excitement.



She kept asking Mama what the surprise was. Mama told her that she didn't know. Grandma wanted it to be a surprise, so she would have to wait to find out.



On Wednesday night, the phone rang. Mama picked it up and called Tania. Tania's best friend Tanisha was on the phone. Tanisha said, "Hi Tania. My mother just got three tickets for the movie about the bears, and she said I can invite a friend. Can you come? It will be so much fun to watch it together."

"Yes, I really want to watch that movie. Thanks for inviting me. I will have to ask Mama. When is the movie?"

"Saturday afternoon."

"Okay, I'll check with Mama and call you back."

"I have to go for dinner now. Let me know by tomorrow. In case you can't

come, I'll call Sonali."

"Okay, bye."

Wow the bears movie! yay, yay, yay!, thought Tania as she skipped off to ask Mama. Tania had asked Mama to take her for the movie, but Mama had not yet got the tickets. Now she would get to watch it on Satur.... Satur... Oh no! Saturday!



"No! No! No!" shouted Tania, jumping up and down violently. "That's just not fair! Why does it have to be the same day that Grandma has planned her surprise? Why? Why? Why?"

Mama heard all the commotion and came running. "What happened little Tania? Are you hurt?" she asked.

"Mama, Tanisha's mother got us tickets to go see the bears movie!" Tania moaned, her shoulders drooping.

"That's great Tania. Aren't you happy?" Mama was puzzled.

"Mama the tickets are for Saturday" Tania added, looking at Mama in despair.

"Oh, I see!" said Mama, finally understanding. "Don't worry baby. I can get you the tickets for Sunday. How about that?"

"But Mama, it will be more fun to go with Tanisha," said Tania now crying. "I want to watch it with her."



Mama sighed. "Tania, Grandma has planned a big surprise for you. She will be sad if you cancel. I won't tell you what to do. You can call Grandma and cancel if you like, but *you* are going to have to talk to her. I think you are a big girl now, and you should decide this yourself."

Poor little Tania! She did love Grandma so much. She could not bear to disappoint her. She knew Grandma was excited about the surprise as much as she was. But she did so want to go for the movie with Tanisha. What should she do now? What a dilemma for poor Tania.



Tania barely slept that night. She tossed and turned wondering what she should do the next day. She wished

Mama would tell her what to do. Mama felt really sorry for Tania, but Tania had to figure this out herself.

The next day, Tania finally came to a decision. She told Tanisha she would not be able to come to the movie, because she promised Grandma she would be there on Saturday. Tanisha was sad, but she invited Sonali instead.



For the next two days Tania was really glum. Mama got her some ice-cream to cheer her up. It worked temporarily, but after some time Tania was brooding again. Mama said, "Tania, I am very proud of you. It was very grown up of you to think of Grandma's feelings and not go back on

your word. You will feel good about this one day."

Tania said, "Mama, if I did the right thing, why do I feel so miserable?"

"It's like medicine Tania. It does not taste good, but it makes you feel better later."

"I hope so," mumbled Tania.

Tania tried to cheer up. She did love spending time with Grandma. And who knows, the surprise could be even better than the movie, though for the moment Tania could not imagine how.

Saturday morning arrived. Tania looked a little more cheerful. She was trying to guess what Grandma's surprise would be. After breakfast and a bath, Mama dropped Tania off at Grandma's house. Tania gave Grandma a hug and then asked her what the surprise was. Grandma winked and said, "You are impatient aren't you little Tania? That's okay! I was just going to tell you, anyway. I got us

tickets for the bears movie you wanted to see. We are going after lunch."



Tania could not believe her ears. She told Grandma about Tanisha getting the tickets and how she was upset that she would miss it. She asked "Grandma, can we sit with Tanisha and Sonali at the movie theater?"

"Of course dear!" said Grandma, touched that Tania had chosen to miss the movie with her friend rather than hurt her feelings. Tania really was an angel.



Tania called Tanisha and they arranged to meet at the entrance to the theater fifteen minutes before the show. Her spirits considerably higher, Tania enjoyed the delicious lunch Grandma had made for her.

Tania, Tanisha, Sonali, Tanisha's mother and Tania's grandmother all enjoyed the movie together. Then, they all went out for ice creams, and Tania got to talk about the movie with her friends. She had a wonderful time.



That evening when Mama picked her up, Tania told Mama how everything had worked out so well. Mama was happy for Tania. Tania had been considerate

and selfless, and she really deserved
this happy outcome.

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