

KITCHEN MATH



by Jill L. Haney

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CHAPTER 1

FAMILY MEAL


Mr. Rivas checks the table. Everything is in place. "Dinner is ready!"

"Finally," Kim says.

Today is a big day. This is not just a meal. It's a party.





A modern living room interior. In the foreground, a wooden cabinet with a closed door and open shelves holds a potted plant and a stack of books. To the left, a red sofa is partially visible. In the background, a framed abstract painting hangs on the wall, and several colorful balloons (yellow, pink, blue, green) are visible on the right side.

Kim helps her grandma to a seat.
"Happy birthday!" she says.

Her grandma smiles. "Thank you,
dear."

Mrs. Rivas walks in from the kitchen.
“We cooked your favorites. I roasted
a chicken. There’s seasoned rice.
Jeff made the salad. Kim baked a
cake.”





"It looks great. Let's eat!"



PARTY PRACTICE

by Emily Anderson



Zula was frowning.

"What's wrong?" Helen asked.

"Eve invited me to her party."

"Why are you upset?" Helen laughed. "Parties are supposed to be fun."



Zula sighed. Her older cousin did not understand. Helen was 18 and had lived in the U.S. most of her life. This was all new to Zula.



"It's hard to be the new girl at school. Eve's party is at a fancy restaurant. I have never been to a place like that."

A few months ago, Zula had moved from Eritrea to Virginia. She missed her old friends.





"Americans eat out a lot," Helen said. "It's fun."

"What if I do the wrong thing?"

"Don't worry. This is not hard."

Zula rolled her eyes.



"I can help you," Helen said.

"How?"

"I'm a **server** at a restaurant. Remember? Come to my work tomorrow. You can practice."

"By myself?" Zula asked.

"Sure. Lots of people dine alone."

"Really? Okay." Zula smiled. "What should I wear?"

