

# Grandmother's **Secret Wish**

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## Chapter One

# A Wish Is Granted

Inez and Franco stood on the sidewalk, peering through the window of a building with a tilted “For Lease” sign on the front. Through the dusty glass, they could see only bare white walls and a wide, empty floor, which had been carefully swept and cleaned. Inez turned to Franco, grinning.

“It’s perfect! Let’s go tell Grandmother right now!” she exclaimed.

“I’ll race you home!” challenged Franco, leaping onto his bike.

A few minutes later, the exhausted pair tumbled off their bikes onto a soft green lawn. Before they could reach the steps, though, the front door opened, and Grandmother stepped out onto the porch.

“Children, I thought you were coming home later,” she said.

“Grandmother,” they shouted in unison, “your first wish is granted!”





## Chapter Two

# A Special Task



Grandmother had been a doctor in a big city for many years, but recently, she had decided to move to the tiny town where her daughter and grandchildren lived. Before long, she grew bored. She missed having a full-time job.

Two weeks earlier, Grandmother had talked to the children about her dream. “I wish to start a small business. However, I don’t want to be a doctor anymore. I want to do something different and exciting, something that will make people happy, and I need your assistance.”

“How can we help you, Grandmother?” they’d asked, eager to please her.

For a long time, Grandmother had gazed at the fields and hills in the distance. Then she had smiled mysteriously. “I have an idea of *what* I shall do, but I don’t know *where* I shall do it. Children, I’m not familiar with this town, so I’m giving you a special task. Search for a place where I may open a new store. If you find one, you’ll receive a fantastic reward!”

## Chapter Three

# A Dinnertime Mystery

A few hours after Inez and Franco had discovered the store, they sat down to dinner with their parents. They ate steaming plates of roasted chicken and vegetables. Everyone was cheerful, but something was different.

“Why isn’t Grandmother eating with us?” Franco asked suddenly. “Why is the kitchen door closed?”

At that moment, Grandmother cracked the kitchen door open and peeked through, smiling mysteriously again. “Children,” she said, “I told you I’d reward you for your help. Clean your plates, and I will honor that promise.” Then she disappeared again.

No one had ever seen a plate of vegetables vanish so quickly. Grandmother returned, picked up their dirty plates, and left again. A mysterious buzzing, whirring sound came from behind the kitchen door.



## Chapter Four

# A Secret Revealed



Inez and Franco looked at each other with questioning expressions as they waited patiently for the surprise. When Grandmother finally came back, she was carrying a small tray with four white bowls on it. Each bowl was filled with a soft, cold, colorful mixture.

“Is that—?” Franco began.

“Frozen yogurt!” Inez interrupted.

Grandmother smiled and said, “I kept pondering what kind of business I wanted to open. One day I realized that the hillsides here are famous for their berries. Nearby, orchards are full of apples, lemons, and pears. I could make wonderful treats with all this fruit. Then I wondered, should I make jams and jellies instead? Should I open a bakery and make fruit pies? Before long, I discovered the perfect solution.”



“What was it?” the curious children asked.

“Three things I love are fruit, frozen yogurt, and places where people can gather to share delightful treats,” Grandmother said.

She paused a moment, and then exclaimed, “I’m going to open a frozen yogurt shop!”

“That’s a terrific idea, Grandmother!” yelled Franco. “May we try some?”

Grandmother nodded, and everyone began to sample each flavor: raspberry, blueberry, lemon, and pear. They all started to smile because Grandmother’s yogurt was *delicious*. It tasted fresh and tart, and just sweet enough.

“Children, I have one more wish. Could you ask all your friends and their parents to help me decide on the best flavors? I’ll hold a special tasting party here next Saturday. There’ll be lots of frozen yogurt for everyone to sample!”

Inez and Franco grinned.

## Chapter Five

# The Great Tasting Party

The next Saturday, children and their parents started assembling on the family's lawn. Grandmother stood in the doorway, proudly holding a tray of cups, and Franco and Inez handed a small cup of frozen yogurt to each person as she or he reached the porch.

The name of each flavor was written on a board in the yard. As the adults and children tried each kind, they marked their favorite on the board. *Raspberry* and *Pear* were the big winners. Before long, all the yogurt was gone.

“Grandmother, it looks like your shop is going to be a big success!” Inez exclaimed.

“That’s just what I was going to say,” Franco said.

“Children, I never could have done it without your valuable assistance,” Grandmother replied. “Now, which flavors would *you* like to try?”

