LOLLY WANTS A TWINKIE

A "Sweet" and Silly Short

by

Terrie Hayes

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Terrie Hayes Chicago, IL (773) 391-1306 FallingForFiction@gmail.com INT. KITCHEN - DAY

PIGTAILS dancing with joy, LOLLY (7) gapes at a NEW BOX OF TWINKIES in the open pantry and RIPS it open.

MOM (30) enters in CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE APRON and puts the box on a HIGH SHELF. Lolly stands on tiptoes, reaching in futility.

LOLLY

Mom! I want a Twinkie!

MOM

No dessert before dinner, Lolly. You know the rule.

LOLILY

Please, Mom, I'm starving.

Mom gives Lolly an APPLE from a HANGING FRUIT BASKET.

MOM

This will help.

LOLLY

This isn't a Twinkie!

MOM

It's better than a Twinkie.

LOLLY

Nothing's better than a Twinkie.

Lolly puts the apple back, then returns to the pantry to stare at the faraway BOX. At the stove, Mom, stirs TWO STEAMING POTS.

MOM

Dinner will be ready in about ten minutes.

LOLLY

When is ten minutes?

Mom points to the GUMDROP CLOCK.

MOM

When the big hand points to the six.

Lolly watches the second-hand tick in *slow-motion* past all the colorful, sugar-coated goodies...tick, tick, tick...she chews her lips and swallows...tick, tick, tick...more lip chewing, more swallowing...tick, tick, tick...blinking in distress... tick, tick, tick, tick, tick...

LOLLY

...ten minutes is too many minutes!

MOM

Why don't you sit at the table and do a quick puzzle.

LOLLY

A puzzle will make me hungrier.

MOM

That's silly, Lolly.

Mom places a TRAY OF BISCUITS in the oven and lays HOMEMADE CHICKEN TENDERS into a HOT PAN of OIL. Sizzle, crackle, pop, sizzle.

Lolly slyly opens a RUSTY FOLDED STEP STOOL leaning against the pantry wall--clank, squeak, squeak, squeak, BANG! It falls.

Mom raises a stern eyebrow at her shifty-eyed daughter, who immediately shuffles to her CHAIR and sinks like a rag doll.

Mom flips the CHICKEN TENDERS and hands Lolly a SMALL PUZZLE BOX from a sideboard stacked with GAMES and PUZZLES.

MOM

Try this one. It'll take your mind off Twinkies.

Lolly oggles the BLOSSOM OF FROSTED CUPCAKES on the front.

LOLLY

Mom...

Mom chuckles and returns to the stove. Lolly pours the COLORFUL PIECES onto the table and slowly turns them face-up.

MOM

Let's race to see who gets done first.

Lolly face-plants onto the puzzle pieces.

LOLLY

I'm too hungry to race.

MOM

Tell ya what. If you win, you can eat a Twinkie before dinner.

Lolly PERKS right up, PIECES flying off her face, and poises both hands over the puzzle.

Mom dons her OVEN MITTS, grabs a MASHER from a drawer, raises it high, and locks her daring eyes with Lolly's

LOLLY

Ready.....set.....GO!

Like a pro, Lolly attacks the BORDER while Mom mashes POTATOES.

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Mom slices BUTTER for the potatoes and dashes to the fridge.

Lolly matches the last of the BORDER and grabs MIDDLE PIECES.

Mom pours MILK into the buttery potatoes and MASHES again.

Lolly quickly FITS a few more PIECES into the shrinking center.

Mom moves the CHICKEN TENDERS from the pan to their PLATES.

With only six pieces to go, Lolly peeks toward the stove just as Mom, spooning CORN, checks on Lolly's progress.

MOM

Oh m'gosh, you're faster than I remember.

Lolly fumbles with the LAST THREE PIECES, while Mom slops MASHED POTATOES onto two plates and rushes them to the table.

MOM AND LOLLY

DONE!

Lolly pans from the LOADED PLATES to her FINISHED PUZZLE.

LOLLY

Who won?

MOM

Nobody. We tied.

LOLLY

What does that mean?

MOM

It means we both have to eat dinner first.

LOLLY

But Mom, I really want a Twinkie right now.

MOM

Sorry, Lolly.

Mom slides the puzzle aside to make room for Lolly's plate, FORKS, and GLASSES OF MILK. A pouting Lolly pushes her plate away.

Mom sits across from Lolly and takes a big whiff of her food.

MOM

These are the most *delicious* chicken tenders I have *ever* smelled.

Mom slices a tender with her fork, coats it with buttery potatoes, and eats with exaggerated pleasure.

CONTINUED: (3)

MOM

(mouth full)

Oh my! This is the most delicious chicken tender I have ever tasted.

Lolly licks her lips and swallows as Mom delights in bite after bite.

MOM

(chomping)

Mmmm-mmmm-mmmm...so crispy and juicy.

Lolly slyly pulls her plate close, and walks her fingers onto a tender...BEEP, BEEP, BEEP...the OVEN TIMER goes off.

Mom dons mitts, removes the GOLDEN BISCUITS, sets a plateful near the awestruck Lolly, and heads into the pantry.

As Lolly reaches for a buttery biscuit, Mom suddenly scoots both plates away and sets down a plated Twinkie.

MOM

Congratulations, Lolly, you won!

Lolly pans from the Twinkie to the biscuits to her dinner plate.

LOLLY

But you said I have to finish dinner first.

MOM

(points to stove)

The biscuits weren't ready yet, so you actually beat me. Eat your prize!

Lolly lifts the Twinkie, takes a deep sniff, then sets it aside.

MOM

You're not gonna eat your Twinkie?

LOLLY

No dessert before dinner, Mom. You know the rule.

Lolly swirls a TENDER through her potatoes and takes a HUGE bite.

LOLLY

(cheeks full)

mmmmmm.....mmmmmm....This is almost better than a Twinkie.

Mom smiles and takes a huge bite as well.

THE END