



Full Text

Felice, Noel, and The Christmas Day Disaster

A Christmas Story

Our story today, “Felice, Noel, and The Christmas Day Disaster,” is written by Didith Tan Rodrigo, and published by Junior Inquirer, and read by Rica Bolipata-Santos

Of all the holidays in the whole year, Felice and Noel Christmas loved the

most. Felice loved singing Christmas carols.

Noel loved watching the Christmas cartoon specials. Felice loved helping Mom set up the Belen. Noel loved helping dad decorate the Christmas tree. Felice loved the cool walks to the early morning masses. Noel loved munching on puto bumbong and bibingka on the way home. And the very best part? On Christmas day itself, they had Christmas lunch at Lola Ida's.

To Felice and Noel, Lola Ida was the best cook ever. The delicious food she stewed, stirred, baked, and fried made Christmas at her house the tastiest in the whole world!

Felice and Noel knew it took Lola Ida days to prepare Christmas lunch. When she was younger, she used to do everything by herself. As she got older, though, her best friend and neighbor, Lola Viring, came over to cook with her. Lola Ida appreciated the company and the help. In exchange, Lola Viring got to take home Tupper wares filled with Christmas delights.

One week before Christmas, Lola Ida and Lola Viring slow-cooked Tito Sam and

Tita Mely's favorite: pot roast with chestnuts and prunes. Four days before Christmas, they stuffed shrimps with mushrooms and ground pork and froze them for Tita Arlene and Tito Paul. Two days before Christmas, they simmered chicken, beef, pork, and sausage for Mommy and Daddy's cocido. They put the cooked meats and their soup in the fridge and scraped off the lard when it was cool. The day before Christmas, they sautéed the pork, chicken, and vegetable sauce for the fried noodles that all the grandchildren loved. By Christmas day, Lola Ida's refrigerator and freezer were full of the best goodies, just waiting to be reheated.

On December 24, Felice and Noel were making their own Christmas preparations.

Mommy and Daddy had bought a cellular phone for Lola Ida and Felice and Noel were in charge of setting it up. Noel programmed the speed dial feature. Felice decided on what games and apps to install.

Lola Ida would love this, they were sure!

Just then the landline rang. Felice answered, "Hello?"

"Hello, Felice? This is Lola Ida."

"Oh, hi, Lola!" greeted Felice.

"It's Lola Ida?" Noel asked. "I want to listen, too!" He stuck his head beside Felice's and said, "Hi, Lola!"

"Hi, Noel," Lola Ida said. "Can you two please tell your mommy that I have to cancel Christmas lunch?"

Noel could not believe his ears. “Cancel Christmas lunch?”

“How come?” Felice cried.

“The food is locked up in Lola Viring’s house. I had to put it in her refrigerator.

Then, today, Lola Viring had to leave for the province and she won’t be back until the 27th. She locked up her house and forgot to give me the key. We have no food for lunch tomorrow.”

“Oh, no, that’s terrible!” Felice said.

“What a disaster!” Noel agreed.

“There’s nothing left?” Felice asked.

“I still have the sauce for the fried noodles because I just made that today.” Lola Ida said sadly. “But everything else is in Lola Viring’s house.”

“Oh...” the two children sighed.

“So,” Lola Ida continued, “Just tell your mommy we’ll just call off lunch, OK?”

“Lola,” Noel said. “Have you told anyone else yet?”

“No, I’m about to call your other Titos and Titas.”

“Don’t cancel yet, Lola,” Noel pleaded. “We’ll fix this.”

Felice looked at her brother wide-eyed. Noel winked.

“How?” Lola Ida asked.

“We’ll take care of it, promise,” Noel assured her. “Don’t worry.”

“Uh, maybe I’ll just...” Lola began.

“No, no, no, Lola,” Felice interrupted. “Don’t cancel Christmas lunch. Noel and I can fix this, really.”

Silence.

“Pleeeeeease!” the two children chorused.

“OK, OK,” Lola managed to chuckle. “I will trust you to fix this. Bye.”

When they put down the phone, Felice asked Noel, “How are we going to fix this?”

Noel replied, “Let’s ask everyone to bring food!”

Felice clapped her hands, “That’s right! Should I start calling?”

“No need!” Noel said, holding up Lola Ida’s new cellphone. “Let’s just message them!”

The two children created a social media account for Lola Ida and added all their titos and titas as friends. Then, in the messaging app, they created a family group and sent out their first message:

“Hello! Food for Christmas lunch is locked in Lola

Viring’s house. Please bring food to Lola Ida’s tomorrow.”

Soon, new messages started popping into the family group:

From Tita Mely: K. Will bring ensaymada and ham.

From Tita Arlene: Just received a relleno and cheese. Will

bring them tomorrow.

Even Mommy, who was just in the other room, messaged back: We can bring cake and wine.

The next day, Felice, Noel, Mommy and Daddy and the relatives arrived at Lola Ida's. The house was filled with Christmas hugs and kisses, exchanges of gifts, and of course, all the delicious Christmas food that everyone promised. And although they didn't get to gobble up their favorites, Christmas day was as special as it had always been.

Towards the end of the party, Lola Ida gave Felice and Noel an extra big hug.

"This was wonderful, you two!" Lola Ida laughed, "Thank you!"

"Merry Christmas, Lola," the two replied.

Source: Didith Tan Rodrigo. Junior Inquirer, Christmas Issue.

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