**Lunch with Friends**

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| **Characters** | | **Place and Time** |
| Mrs. Maria Perez  Elena Elias, her friend  Martin Elias, Elena’s brother | Tomasa Quiles, Elena’s cousin  Nancy Delgado, Maria’s mother-in-law  Waitress | A small cafe  Lunchtime |

*Maria Perez, her friend Elena Elias, and Elena’s brother Martin are at a café. They are meeting for lunch. It is Maria’s birthday. She is 38 years old.*

**Maria**: What would you like to eat, Elena? I want a nice salad. I am 38 years old today. I have to eat healthy food.

**Elena**: I don’t worry about food. I eat the food I like.

**Maria**: You are lucky. You can eat anything.

**Martin**: She is skinny. She works hard every day, and she eats a lot.

**Elena:** Martin, I do not eat too much. I do not eat too little. I am just right.

*(Tomasa Quiles, Elena’s cousin, comes in. She sees the group. She comes to the table and sits down).*

**Tomasa:** What a surprise! I am glad to see you in a nice cafe. Elena, I hope you will eat. You are too skinny. Martin, you always eat too much. Soon you will need larger pants.

**Elena**: (*to Maria*) Maria, this is my cousin, Tomasa. She lives on Broad Street.

**Tomasa**: I am here to say Happy Birthday, Maria How old are you today?

**Maria**: I am 38 years old.

**Tomasa**: Really? You need some hair color. I sell Mary Kay Cosmetics. We have a special sale on hair color.

**Martin**: Tomasa, I do not eat too much. I do not need larger pants.

**Tomasa**: Well, you can have some newer pants. You never change. You are out of style.

**Elena**: I told you, Maria. My family likes to fight. Still, I love them all.

**Maria**: Let’s look at the menu. What do you like to eat, Tomasa?

**Martin**: This café has delicious sandwiches and soup.

**Tomasa**: That is my choice. I like soup on a cold day.

*(The waitress comes with menus.)*

**Waitress**: What do you like to drink? Drinks are free today. Happy Birthday, Mrs. Maria.

*(Elena sees Nancy Delgado at the door of the cafe. She waves to her.)*

**Elena**: Maria, Maria. There is your mother-in-law. She is waving at you.

*(Maria looks at Nancy and waves. Nancy comes to the table.)*

**Maria**: Nancy, this is a nice surprise. I am glad to see you. Please sit with us. I want you to meet my friends. You know Elena Elias. She lives on Lois Lane, near your house. This is her brother, Martin. He owns the vegetable store on Butler Road. This is her cousin, Tomasa Quiles. Tomasa sells Mary Kay Cosmetics.

**Nancy**: I am glad to meet all of you. Elena, your son Kevin is very nice. He helped me wash my porch and front door after the snow. Martin, I remember you, too. You gave me all the extra tomatoes last month. I made spaghetti for the church. Tomasa, I have not met you before. Can you help me with cosmetics? I look old and out of style.

**Tomasa**: Thank you for asking, Nancy. Some people like to look stylish. (*She looks at Martin*.) I have samples I will share with you.

**Maria**: What a wonderful day! My friends and family can help me enjoy my birthday.

**Elena**: Thank you for this nice lunch, Maria.

**Martin**: (*He looks at Tomasa*) Just for today, I will be nice to my cousin. Family is very important.

*(The waitress comes with drinks)*

**Waitress**: I brought everyone some hot tea for this cold day. I have good news. There is no charge for this birthday party.

**Tomasa**: What? Why not? We are not special.

**Martin**: We are just old friends—and family too.

**Elena:** Right!Martin and I want to pay for lunch. Maria was our friend in school.

**Maria:** Who would buy lunch for us?

*(The waitress looks at Nancy. Everyone looks at Nancy.)*

**Nancy**: Kevin told me about your birthday and your lunch. I want to give you a small present. When I feel tired, you clean my house. When I am sad, you give me chocolate and tell stories about my son.

**Maria**: Nancy, you are part of my family. Every day you share kindness and understanding. Thank you, Elena. Thank you, Martin and Tomasa. I think our lunch is a big success! We can do this every year. Next year, we can buy your lunch, Nancy.

**Tomasa**: I agree! I like this group, even if all of you are old and out of style.

**Martin**: Now, Tomasa, you are the expert on style, but Nancy is the expert on kindness.

**Maria**: I must be the expert on friends. I have the best ones!

**Waitress:** You also have a free lunch, and I am the expert on lunch!