

# *SATURDAY'S SURPRISE*

By  
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Carlos woke up late that Saturday. As he opened his eyes, he could hear the sounds from the street coming through his open window. He could hear people talking loudly. He heard laughter and mothers calling for their children. He heard kids playing, and yelling. There was music coming from someone standing on the corner. He heard the cars and buses as they passed by his apartment. These were all the normal sounds he heard every day, but something was wrong.

When he listened for the sounds that normally came from his apartment, everything was silent. He did not hear his mother cooking in the kitchen. She always made a big breakfast on Saturdays. He did not hear his sister Maria jumping up and down or fighting with their brother José. He did not hear his brother screaming for her to stop. Even the dog was quiet. What was wrong? The house was completely silent. The only noise was coming from outside.

Carlos looked at the clock across the room. It said ten o'clock. Something was very wrong!

Carlos quickly got up and got dressed. He looked out of the window and saw everyone walking and talking. That was all normal. What was not normal was how quiet it was inside of his apartment.

He put on his shoes, and made his bed. He put his dirty clothes away, and then sat on his bed thinking, “Why is it so quiet? Is everyone still sleeping? Is my clock wrong?”

He went slowly to the door and listened. He still did not hear anything. He opened the door a little and looked around. He did not see anything. His heart was pumping. He could feel it pounding in his chest. He was nervous and scared.

He wondered, “What was going on?”

He slowly walked out of his room and into the hallway. His stomach was making noise since he was so hungry. He started toward the kitchen. His feet moved slowly down the hallway not knowing what to expect.

“Mom? José? Maria?” he called out, but no one answered.

“Where is everyone?” he thought to himself.

Just then, he thought he heard a noise from the kitchen. He moved slowly toward the kitchen doorway.

He thought to himself, “What’s going on? Why is everything so quiet? Where has everyone gone?”

When he got to the kitchen, he looked inside and was surprised to see that there were many people there. He was even more surprised when he heard them singing, “Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you!”

He walked into the kitchen, and all of his family was there. His parents, his brother, his sister, his aunt and uncle, his cousins and even his grandparents were in the kitchen singing “Happy Birthday” to him.

His family was smiling from ear to ear. They let the dog loose, and the little terrier jumped into Carlos’ arms. Carlos just stood in the doorway of the kitchen not knowing what to say or do. He was totally surprised. Their plan had worked.

Sitting in the middle of the kitchen table was a small box. The gift-wrap was bright red. It had a silver bow on top.

His mother told him to open the box. Carlos walked over to the table, picked up the box, and slowly opened it. There was a gift inside. Inside he found keys.

“What are these for?” he asked.

“Look outside the window,” his mother replied.

Below the stairs was a yellow motorcycle. On the seat was a black helmet. Carlos was speechless.

He ran down the stairs. On the walk below, he found the bike. The motorcycle was not new, but it was his! Everyone had given money to buy it.

Soon his friends came to see his new birthday present. They stood on the sidewalk smiling, whistling, and screaming as Carlos rode his new bike up and down the street for them.

Carlos could not hear them. The sound of the motor was sweet music to his ears. He had all day to hear it.



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**VOCABULARY:** (*Match the word to its definition*)

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. normal _____     | a. no sound              |
| 2. kitchen _____    | b. beating sound         |
| 3. silent _____     | c. covering for the head |
| 4. pounding _____   | d. music from the lips   |
| 5. nervous _____    | e. place to prepare food |
| 6. gift-wrap _____  | f. a colored tied ribbon |
| 7. bow _____        | g. bicycle with a motor  |
| 8. motorcycle _____ | h. paper on a gift       |
| 9. helmet _____     | i. regular, common       |
| 10. whistling _____ | j. afraid, unsure        |

**TRUE / FALSE:**

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1. Carlos was dreaming.                            | T / F |
| 2. Cars and buses pass by Carlos' apartment.       | T / F |
| 3. The time was eight o'clock.                     | T / F |
| 4. Carlos went to school that day.                 | T / F |
| 5. His sister's name was José.                     | T / F |
| 6. Carlos' grandparents arrived late.              | T / F |
| 7. The house was always very noisy in the morning. | T / F |
| 8. Carlos received a new car for his birthday.     | T / F |
| 9. Carlos' cat jumped into his arms.               | T / F |
| 10. It was Sunday morning.                         | T / F |

**MULTIPLE CHOICE:**

1. Why did Carlos go to the kitchen? \_\_\_\_
  - a) his mother told him to go.
  - b) he was hungry.
  - c) he was looking for his dog.
  - d) he heard his family singing.
  
2. What time did his clock say it was when he woke up? \_\_\_\_
  - a) eight o'clock
  - b) seven o'clock
  - c) ten o'clock
  - d) noon
  
3. What did Carlos get for his birthday? \_\_\_\_
  - a) bicycle
  - b) motorcycle
  - c) new car
  - d) dog
  
4. What did Carlos do after he went down to see his new gift? \_\_\_\_
  - a) rode around the street
  - b) hugged his family
  - c) crashed his new gift
  - d) cried

**COMPREHENSION:** *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. What were the sounds Carlos heard outside of his window?

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2. Why was Carlos scared?

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3. What did Carlos do after he got up?

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4. Who was usually fighting in the morning?

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5. What kind of dog did his family have?

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6. What color was Carlos' new gift?

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7. Who was in the kitchen when Carlos walked in?

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8. What color was the gift-wrap on the box?

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9. What did the family sing to Carlos?

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10. What was inside of the box?

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