

The End of Chocolate



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Table of Contents

Chapter One: Chocolate Chips Cost a Lot of Dough!	5
Chapter Two: Raisins and Rations . .	13
Chapter Three: Why Chocolate Went Dark	17
Chapter Four: Bittersweet Aftermath	25
Epilogue	29
About Us	32

CHAPTER ONE



Chocolate Chips Cost a Lot of Dough!

Twins Zoey and Joey enjoyed going to the grocery store with their dad, Ronan. He did a lot of the cooking and baking for the family. He always encouraged the kids to taste new things. They enjoyed being culinary explorers.

But there was one traditional treat that was a constant staple in their home—homemade chocolate chip cookies.

“You guys are chips off the old block—the chocolate block, that is!” Ronan used to joke with the twins. (They heard that joke more times than they could count, and they couldn’t help but roll their eyes every time.) Still, their dad seemed to think it was hilarious every time. Plus, his smile was contagious.

“Dad, we’re almost out of cookies at home. Are we getting more chocolate chips today?” Zoey asked.

“You bet!” he said. “We’ve already got all the other groceries we need. Let’s head to the baking aisle.”

The trio chatted about this and that on their way to aisle 9, their ultimate shopping destination. The twins were talking about their current progress on the latest video game. It took them a while to realize their dad was looking quite puzzled, as he had already picked

up—then put down—several different bags of chocolate chips.

“What is it, Dad? They have the kind we always buy,” Joey said.

“They do, indeed,” Ronan mused. “But they all cost several dollars more than usual. I don’t understand why.”

Zoey got very quiet. “Oh. So...no cookies?” she asked sadly.

“No, no, we’re getting them. It’s just weird,” he assured her. He ruffled Zoey’s brightly colored copper curls, which annoyed her yet made her laugh.

“Dad, stop it!” she yelled.

Joey laughed, too. “Now your hair is all messed up!”

Zoey was a redhead and Joey had brown hair like his mom. This is why some kids at school didn’t believe they were twins. Each twin had explained—like a gazillion times—the difference between the types of twins. They were fraternal twins *not* identical twins. Still though, the twins could easily

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