**The Family Dilemma**

Someday life could be sweeter, life could fill us all with joy. People could see the good in things someday. I wrote this in my journal the night that my world fell apart. I am Sophia and this is my story. I had a fantastic family. My mom loved me so much, and my sister Mila and I would do everything together. Life could not have been better: even though mom was not very rich she would still give my sister and me the best life ever. We had enough food, clothes, a roof over our heads, and toys to play with.

That mournful night I was in Milas's room playing with her when mom came in with exciting news.

“Girls, I have great news for you. I got engaged!” Mom said this with such excitement that I did not know what to say. Mila asked mom who he was and why we knew nothing about this until right now.

Mom sighed and said, “I thought you would be happy for us. He can give us a better home and new clothes, everything you ever wanted.” I was so mad I did not know what to say. My world was spinning upside down. I stormed out of the room with a hateful look on my face. Mom knew we had everything we needed and now she wanted to give that all away. My life felt like a forest that just got chopped down.

Thirty minutes later I heard a knock on the front door and I went to open it. I didn't expect it to be mom’s fiance standing at the door. I thought he was going some slob, but I took one good look at him and I knew he was perfect for mom. He had short hair the color of beach sand, he was tall and had a gift bag in one hand and a rose in the other. He asked if I was Sophia. I replied “Yes” in a very quiet and shy voice even though I was the loudest and coolest kid in my school.

He told me his name was Sullivan and he was happy he was going to be my dad. I said “Stepdad!” aggressively and I think that that hurt him a little bit. Behind me, I heard my mom and she was so happy to see Sullivan that she pushed me out of the way. I landed hard on my butt. I wondered, *“What has happened to my mom? She is not acting like herself.*” This concerned me to the point where I wanted to ask her, *“ Why are you acting like this for him?* But I just kept quiet until Sullivan said he had a present for Mila and me. I had forgotten about the gift that he was holding in his hand. I ran upstairs to find Mila crying in the corner. She told me that when I stormed off mom had beat her because she said she did not want a dad. I told Mila that mom had shoved me to the ground when she saw him.

“I think mom is going crazy over Sullivan,” said Mila in a sniffled voice.

“Oh yeah, Sullivan has a gift for you and me.” I hoped this would cheer her up but I don’t think it did. We both went downstairs anyway. I had to pull Mila along because she was so sad. When Sullivan gave us the present we were so amazed.

“I hope you like them! I paid extra to make them look just like you two,” he said with an excited expression. I gave him a big hug.

“ I am sorry I have been so mad and hateful I am just so stressed about this, I love you both so much. I never wanted to hurt you. Please forgive me.” Mom said and then broke into tears. Sullivan heard her and asked if she was ok.

“I think she will be,” I said. “I love you all so much.”

One month later I was officially Sullivan’s daughter. Sullivan has so many things that he gives us, and I love them but sometimes I feel that this is too perfect to be true. “*I think that we should still be in our boring old house doing normal things, not in a fancy gigantic house.”* I think this to myself every night before I fall asleep. Now, this is the someday I wanted.