

1.

"I'll die if I can't go." And she wasn't sure whether she had been heard.

2.

On the morning of the party she discovered that her mother had starched her Christmas dress. And in the afternoon, after washing her hair, her mother rinsed it in apple vinegar so that it would be all nice and shiny. Before going out, Rosaura admired herself in the mirror.

3.

With her white dress and glossy hair, she thought she looked terribly pretty. Senora Ines also seemed to notice. As soon as she saw her, she said, "How lovely you look today, Rosaura." Rosaura gave her starched skirt a slight toss with her hands and walked into the party with a firm step. She said hello to Luciana and asked about the monkey.

4.

Luciana put on a secretive look and whispered into Rosaura's ear, "He's in the kitchen. But don't tell anyone, because it's a surprise."

5.

Rosaura wanted to make sure. Carefully she entered the kitchen and there she saw it: deep in thought, inside its cage. It looked so funny that the girl stood there for a while, watching it, and later, every so often, she would slip out of the party unseen and go and admire it. Rosaura was the only one allowed into the kitchen.