Mabel and the Almost-Ready Picnic

There is more than one way to make a lovely day.





Mabel brought a picture of her perfect picnic to the garden. It had matching cups, neat sandwiches, and one big cake. Her friends gathered around to help.



She packed the cups in a basket. One was missing. Mum offered a tall blue cup instead. Mabel frowned. "But it doesn't match." The basket looked wrong already.



Next came the sandwiches. Mabel pressed them into neat triangles. One split down the middle. Mum put the two pieces together on a plate. "Still delicious," she said.



Then the cake stuck to its tin. A piece came away from the edge. Mabel's shoulders dropped. Her perfect picnic was turning into a very untidy lunch.



Mum sat beside her. "Let's see what everyone brought," she said. Mabel looked at her drawing. Everything on the paper was tidy. Their garden table looked very different.



Sami lifted a bowl of small tomatoes from his garden. Some were round. Some were long. One had a funny bump. Mabel could not help smiling at it.



Bea unpacked three little cloth napkins. Each had a different pattern. "I chose one for everyone," she said. Mabel's had green leaves. It looked lovely beside the blue cup.



They spread the blanket beneath the apple tree. The ground was a little lumpy. Sami moved a cushion under the bumpy corner. Bea held the basket while Mabel unpacked.



Mabel showed them the broken cake. "It was meant to be round." Bea tilted her head. "It looks like a moon." Sami pointed. "A moon with a bite missing!"



They served the cake in cheerful pieces. The wonky tomato went beside Mabel's sandwich. Nobody minded the different cups. Everyone was too busy talking, tasting, and asking for more.



After lunch, Mabel fetched her picnic drawing. She added a blue cup, a bumpy tomato, and three different napkins. Then she drew her friends, sitting close together.



Her new picture was full of colour. It was not the picnic she had planned. It was the picnic they had made together, and she wanted to remember every bit.



The end

What changed Mabel's mind?

What did each friend bring?

What makes a shared meal special?

Little adventures. A kinder tomorrow.

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