

# THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING MEATBALL

AN ORIGINAL CHILDREN'S PLAY BY EMILY IEKEL

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### Cast of Characters

Domenico Dimaggio, the Pasta Chef  
Domenica Dimaggio, his wife  
Mario, Lucio, and Cecilio, their sons  
Maria, Lucia, and Cecilia, their daughters  
Linguini and Macaroni, their dogs  
Fettuccini and Ziti, their cats  
The narrator

SETTING: A homey Italian kitchen: rows of garlic, red and white tablecloth and a rack of drying pasta on the table. DOMENICO stands at the table taking the pasta off the rack and putting it into a pot of water to boil. DOMENICA is also at the table, counting meatballs.

NARRATOR

It's a typical Sunday afternoon in the Dimaggio household: the children playing outside, and, at the kitchen table, pasta chef Domenico and his wife, Domenica, making their famous pasta and meatballs for dinner as they do every Sunday. Or it seems like a typical Sunday afternoon—but then again, things are not always what they seem.

DOMENICA

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15...15?

DOMENICO

Don't sound so uncertain about it.

DOMENICA

Ssh! I'm counting. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15...again, 15?

DOMENICO

It does come after 14.

DOMENICA

Ssh! One, two, three, four, five, six...oh what's the point, I know there are only 15 here.

DOMENICO

And what's the problem with that?

DOMENICA

I know I made 16 meatballs.

DOMENICO

Are you sure?

DOMENICA

Of course I'm sure. I made 32 meatballs last week. We ate 16 for dinner last Sunday.

DOMENICO

And they were delicious.

DOMENICA

Of course they were, I made them. But you can't have good meatballs without good pasta.

DOMENICO

Of course you can't, and I made that.  
(They high-five.)

NARRATOR

After being momentarily distracted by congratulating themselves on their cooking, our culinary couple realize the search has not yet begun.

About that missing meatball... DOMENICO

What about it? DOMENICA

Let's look on the floor. DOMENICO

What for?  
(They look.) DOMENICA

No meatball! On the chair.  
(They look.) DOMENICO

Not there! DOMENICA

In my hat?  
(They look.) DOMENICO

Not that! DOMENICA

In a book? DOMENICO

Let's look!  
(They look.) DOMENICA

No way! DOMENICO

What did you say? DOMENICA

NARRATOR  
As the mystery deepens, Domenico and Domenica find themselves having to ask for help from an unexpected source.

DOMENICO AND DOMENICA  
Mario! Maria! Lucio, Lucia! Cecilio, Cecilia! Come inside.

CHILDREN  
(Entering stage right.)  
Why?

