





Grace was catching snowflakes on her tongue while her father was putting up Christmas lights on their house when Theo had just come home with his mother from seeing his father off at the airport. They had become fast friends since he moved in next door a few months back.

Grace giggled each time she caught a snowflake, declaring her favourite flavours for each one. "That was a yummy strawberry snowflake! I'm going to try to catch a bubble gum one so I can blow snowflake bubbles!" she declared.









"C'mon Theo! Catch snowflakes with me. Maybe you'll catch a chocolate one or a cherry one." Grace said excitedly, not noticing that Theo didn't look his usual cheerful self.

"Snowflakes don't taste like that, they taste like....snow!" Theo barked. Grace stopped and looked at Theo, hurt that he wasn't playing along.

"What's wrong, Theo?" Grace asked. He sounded angry but he looked sad.

"Christmas is dumb!" Theo snapped as a tear rolled down his cheek and he marched back inside his house and shut the door angrily.









The next day, Grace went over to Theo's house. She wanted him to taste the Christmas cookies she just baked with her mother and see if he was in a happier mood. There, on the table, she noticed a photo of Theo on Santa's lap. He had drawn a black X over it.

"Try one of these. I decorated them myself." she offered proudly, thinking the cookies would cheer him up.

"I don't like Christmas cookies." Theo snorted, and went up to his bedroom.

Grace couldn't understand why Theo was upset. She knew he loved cookies. And everyone loved Santa... didn't they?



