

Lesson 3

READ THIS STORY #1, Advanced

Naomi and Tony

After Naomi married Tony, his family held a feast to introduce her to all of the members of his extended family. Dozens of relatives packed the mezzanine. It was so crowded that Naomi felt like a sardine. She was hugged and kissed and squeezed. Tony smiled and said that it was just part of the routine.

The crowd then poured into the dining room. Chattering and laughter prevailed as everyone slid into their seats. Tony's dad lifted his glass of Chianti and quoted from the Bible, "A feast is for laughter and wine maketh merry." Then the feasting began! Platters filled with calamari and scampi were placed on the tables. Vermicelli with clam sauce appeared, as did veal medallions and polenta. People enjoyed stuffed manicotti topped with green pesto, as well as chicken tetrazzini. And that was only the beginning. Eventually, dessert was served, consisting of spumoni ice cream with biscotti.

Naomi was amazed to see how rapidly the food disappeared. Tony's family had elephantine appetites.

Then Uncle Lorenzo unpacked his accordion. Tony sang an aria from an opera by Donazetti. Then everyone sang love songs from old Napoli.

Naomi smiled. She liked being part of this family.