# Chapter 1: The Mystery Guest Joins the Fun

**Scene #1:** Mystery Guest Guesses

The turkey had been expertly carved, wine glasses brimming, and sides meticulously served. As the Christmas Eve feast kicked off, the elusive mystery guest remained absent. Joe took the stage, announcing that the enigmatic visitor lingered nearby and dared the dinner attendees to unleash their most creative guesses.

**Scene #2:** The Mystery Guest Is Revealed

The enigmatic dinner guest's identity was unveiled—it was none other than Evan and Liz's mother, someone they believed was enjoying a cruise with her husband's family. As it turned out, the cruise was scheduled for two days later. To the surprise of Liz and Evan, At Joe's request and expense, Bridget had flown from Florida to Chicago for a brief visit, intending to spend Christmas Eve and most of Christmas with them. Joe and Bridget craftily deceived Liz and Evan by making them believe the cruise had set sail two days prior.

**Scene #3:** Evan's Energy Wall Concerns

Once the buzz surrounding the mystery guest's arrival had settled, the family resumed their dinner and dessert, engaging in conversations on various topics. However, Evan's comfort was short-lived when, following a compliment about Sarah's exceptional posture, Liz shifted the conversation to Evan's history of experiencing sudden energy drops. The topic visibly bothered Evan, who didn't think it was a matter for concern.

**Scene #4:** Sarah's Pendant Is a Hit

Bridget and Liz both noticed Sarah unconsciously rubbing her pendant, prompting them to inquire about its significance. Surprised that Evan had never mentioned it to them, Sarah took the opportunity to share its backstory. Although usually a monotone storyteller, Sarah's narrative skills surprisingly elevated as she recounted the tale of how the jewelry was crafted and relived the emotional experience of receiving it from Evan on their first date.

**Scene #5:** Sarah Throws a Roll

Sarah discusses her wealthy father's tradition of each family member limiting their gifts to each other 21 at a modest monetary value. This leads to Evan and Liz sharing one of their one-gift traditions. Their tradition is to allow each family member is allowed to open one of their many gifts on Christmas Eve. It hasn't taken long for Evan's affectionate and playful family to infiltrate Sarah. At the end of the scene, not only does she playfully pay back Liz for her ugly sweater tease, but mimicking Liz's earlier action when goofing around Evan, she launches a dinner roll at Liz, to the surprise and delight of everyone.

The End.