

The Cry of Desperation

Eight-year-old Mateo was playing in the living room when he saw his mom rush out of the house without saying a word. She didn't take her purse or her keys. She just left. Panic took over him. His eyes filled with tears. He ran to get the home phone and dialed his mom's number.

When she answered, Mateo burst into a sob. "Mom! You left and didn't tell me anything. Come back! **I miss you**, please, come back home."

On the other end of the line, his mom's voice was calm and a little confused. "Calm down, honey. What's wrong? I just went to the corner store. I just realized we were out of napkins for dinner. I'm on my way home."

Mateo wiped his tears away. His drama had deflated in an instant. The great mystery of why his mom had disappeared was as simple as a hamburger.