

## **Maria's Wedding**

Rosa was not happy. Her older sister Maria was getting married. That made Rosa very happy. But Maria had told Rosa that she couldn't come to the wedding. Rosa could still hear Maria's cold voice saying so.

Now Rosa was helping Mama make sweet tamales for the party after the wedding. She stopped putting raisins in a cup and looked up. "Mama," Rosa asked, "my friend Jennifer was a flower girl when her sister Sarah got married. Why can't I even be at Maria's wedding?"

Mama's hands stopped filling corn husks. "Who said you couldn't?"

Just then, Maria's voice came from the doorway. "That's right, Mama. I'm afraid she'll talk or run around."

Mama looked at Maria, then said quietly, "Maria, do you remember Julio and Ester's wedding?"

Maria smiled. "Yes, I remember. I was Rosa's age, and I was so happy. I was helping with the food. Then I spilled punch on Ester's wedding dress. I was afraid she would be very mad. But Ester only laughed and said that it would always help her remember that a wedding is about family, old and new." Maria stopped, then said softly to Rosa, "I'm sorry, Rosa. Of course you can come to my wedding."