



¡Qué montón de Tamales! (Spanish Edition)

By Gary Soto, Ed Martinez, Alma Flor Ada, F. Isabel Campoy

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The Spanish translation of the modern holiday classic *Too Many Tamales!*

La mamá de María prepara un montón de tamales para celebrar la nochebuena. María le ayuda a prepararlos pero se prueba el anillo de su madre y lo pierde en la masa. Sin decirles a los adultos lo que ha ocurrido, María y sus jóvenes parientes tratan de encontrarlo comiéndose todos los tamales.

* "Una historia graciosa, llena de deliciosas sorpresas . . . un éxito encantador"--Libro recomendado, *Booklist*

* "Una conmovedora historia familiar en la que se combinan unas ilustraciones brillantes con una historia bien contada sobre el dilema de una niña."--Libro recomendado, *School Library Journal*

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Maria is feeling so grown-up, wearing her mother's apron and helping to knead the *masa* for the Christmas corn tamales. Her mother even let Maria wear some perfume and lipstick for the big family celebration that evening. When her mother takes off her diamond ring so it won't become coated with the messy masa, Maria decides that life would be perfect if she could wear the ring, too. Trouble begins when she sneakily slips the sparkly ring on her thumb and resumes her kneading. Uh oh. It is not until later that night, after all the tamales have been cooked and after all her cousins and relatives have arrived, that Maria suddenly realizes what must have happened to the precious ring. Ed Martinez's warm oil paintings celebrate the riches of South American Christmas colors--adobe reds, dusty gold, lacey whites, and rain-forest greens. Martinez also has a gift for capturing children's animated expressions, especially when Maria begs her cousins to help her find the missing ring by secretly eating the enormous stack of steaming tamales! Gary Soto's delightful Christmas-spirit closure will relieve young readers who empathize with the negligent Maria. Grown-ups, too, will appreciate this playful reminder about the virtues of forgiveness and family togetherness. (Ages 4 and older) --*Gail Hudson*

From Publishers Weekly

Snow is falling, preparations for a family feast are underway and the air is thick with excitement. Maria is making tamales, kneading the masa and feeling grown-up. All she wants is a chance to wear her mother's diamond ring, which sparkles temptingly on the kitchen counter. When her mother steps away, Maria seizes her opportunity and dons the ring, then carries on with her work. Only later, when the tamales are cooled and a circle of cousins gathered, does Maria remember the diamond. She and the cousins search every tamale--with their teeth. Of course the ring turns out to be safely on Mom's finger. Soto, noted for such fiction as *Baseball in April*, confers some pleasing touches--a tear on Maria's finger resembles a diamond; he allows the celebrants a Hispanic identity without making it the main focus of the text--but overall the plot is too sentimental (and owes a major debt to an *I Love Lucy* episode). Martinez's sensuous oil paintings in deep earth tones conjure up a sense of family unity and the warmth of holidays. The children's expressions are deftly rendered--especially when they are faced with a second batch of tamales. Ages 4-8.

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From Kirkus Reviews

The whole family is coming for Christmas, so Maria and her parents are busy making tamales--Maria helps Mom knead the masa, and her father puts them in the pot to boil. While they're working, Maria secretly tries on Mom's diamond ring, then forgets about it until she's playing with her cousins. Since it's not on her thumb she's sure it's in a tamale, so the four cousins consume all 24 (with some difficulty) in hopes of finding it. No luck--the ring's on Mom's finger, after all. In this family, there's no scolding: Aunt Rosa says, ``It looks like we all have to cook up another batch," and so they do, three generations laughing and working together. Soto's simple text is charmingly direct; he skips explanations, letting characters reveal themselves by what they do. Martinez's realistic, nicely composed paintings are glowing with light and life, while he reinforces the story with particularly expressive faces and gestures. This one should become a staple on the holiday menu. (Picture book. 4- 8) -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Cassandra Martin:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or read a book eligible ¡Qué montón de Tamales! (Spanish Edition)? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have additional opinion?

Leslie Marcellus:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition details. Even you love ¡Qué montón de Tamales! (Spanish Edition), it is possible to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Catherine Benavidez:

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