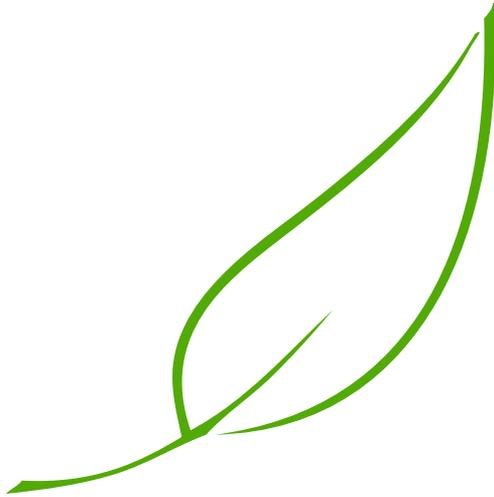


# PARTY ON!

by Ken Bradbury



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**JULIA:** Twelve. I promise, that's all I've invited.

**MADELINE:** Julia, you never keep your promises on these things. You always go overboard.

**JULIA:** No, Madeline, I'm not kidding this time. For this birthday I only invited twelve of my closest friends. I mean, I have mentioned it to a few more, but ...

**MADELINE:** I knew it! I knew it!

**JULIA:** But that doesn't mean they're coming!

**MADELINE:** How many? How many did you "just mention" it to?

**JULIA:** How should I know? I mean, there was my gym class and the volleyball team and ...

**MADELINE:** Julia! How many people are coming to this party?

**JULIA:** At least twelve.

**MADELINE:** But you mentioned it to two hundred.

**JULIA:** I didn't actually invite them. I just thought they might want to know I was having a party.

**MADELINE:** Why? Why did you mention it to them if you didn't want to invite them? I've got dad's den all set up for a few people and you invite an entire county! Julia, you're always doing this to me. We're going to have teenagers with their heads sticking out of every window in this house!

**JULIA:** I can't believe you could get so upset about a simple little birthday party for your best friend.

**MADELINE:** Nothing is simple with you, Julia. Everything becomes a production! You did the same thing to me for our Homecoming party.

**JULIA:** That wasn't my fault. I didn't know they'd all come.

**MADELINE:** You invited the whole football team, Julia ... and it wasn't even our team! It was the team we were playing! They pulled up in their bus and I spent the whole night running to the store for drinks and chips! Do you have any idea how much chip dip a linebacker can eat after a football game?

**JULIA:** But they were cute. You've got to admit that, Madeline. They were cute.

**MADELINE:** They were muddy and sweaty and they dropped their chips all over Mom's kitchen carpet. You need some control, girl! You need to learn how to say no. Are you listening to me?

**JULIA:** No.

**MADELINE:** What?

**JULIA:** You just told me to say no.

**MADELINE:** I give up. When are they supposed to get here?

**JULIA:** Oh, I told them anytime after six.

**MADELINE:** *(a long pause as she looks at her imaginary wrist watch)* Do you know what time it is, Julia?

**JULIA:** I never wear a watch.

**MADELINE:** Well, I'd hate to hurt your sense of style, but you ought to take up the habit. It's five 'til.

**JULIA:** Six? Wow. Time flies when you're having fun.

**MADELINE:** Fun. I'm in charge of refreshments and you're having fun.

**JULIA:** Hey. It's my birthday. I'd do the same for you.

**MADELINE:** Julia, you never remembered my birthday.

**JULIA:** But if I would have remembered, I'd have given you a great party. *(looking off)* Oh look! There's the first car!

**MADELINE:** What?

**JULIA:** Oh, this is going to be a great party!

**MADELINE:** Who is it?

**JULIA:** It looks like Sherry and Mike ... and Jacob ... Cool! It looks like they're brought some friends with them!

**MADELINE:** Friends?

**JULIA:** Well, I told everybody that if they had some friends they'd like to bring ...

**MADELINE:** Julia! You are driving me crazy! *(pushing her along)* You invite them in! I've got to go water-down the punch.

**JULIA:** *(seeing something out the window)* Look! There's Travis and Jared!

**MADELINE:** What?

**JULIA:** They just pulled up.

**MADELINE:** Didn't Travis used to date Sherry?

**JULIA:** Yeah. He can't stand Mike.

**MADELINE:** And you invited them both?

**JULIA:** They both like me!

**MADELINE:** I'm glad somebody still likes you! Julia, you can't have them in the same room! Quick! Take Travis and Jared around to the back of the house and I'll let Sherry and Mike in the front door.

**JULIA:** But won't they meet in the middle?

**MADELINE:** That's the kitchen. What're they gonna do, battle with chocolate chips? (*pushing her*) Go! Go! (*Julia turns her back to the audience to indicate her departure*) Great. What next? Chip-dip, and punch on the carpet ... and now blood.

**JULIA:** (*turning, entering the room*) Hey! Mark and his sister are here, too. Where should I put them?

**MADELINE:** (*pushing her offstage*) In the closet! I don't care! (*Julia exits*) Great. We've got the entire town coming and four bags of chips. (*looking out the window*) Oh, good grief. How many people can you get into a mini van? Julia! Get in here!

**JULIA:** (*running in*) Yeah?

**MADELINE:** (*pointing out*) Who are those kids?

**JULIA:** (*looking*) It looks like my sister's daycare friends.

**MADELINE:** What?

**JULIA:** I thought they'd like to come.

**MADELINE:** Without telling me?

**JULIA:** They're all short, Madeline. Short people don't take up much room.

**MADELINE:** Short people eat. Short people eat a lot! How am I supposed to feed all these people?

**JULIA:** We could break the chips in half.

**MADELINE:** I'd like to break the birthday girl in half. (*stops suddenly*) What was that?

**JULIA:** I think Mike met Travis. Think you should go check?

**MADELINE:** No! (*pushing her out*) I think you should go check! And wipe the blood up off the carpet! It's brand new! (*Julia is gone.*) (*picking up the phone*) Hello? No ... no, the



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