

Leaky Faucet

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

“Dad!” Mom called from the kitchen. “There’s water under the sink.”

“Do you mean water *in* the sink?” Dad called back from the sofa. He was very involved watching some sports on TV.

“No, dear, I said *under* the sink because I meant it. If it was in the sink, I would not be calling you, since that would be a very regular thing.”

With a resigned sigh, Dad levered himself off the sofa and made his way to the kitchen to inspect the sink. He appraised the puddle under the sink in the cabinet first, deciding it was far too much water. He glanced over at Mom, who smiled sweetly. “See?”

Dad frowned and looked at his daughter Olivia, who was watching intently. She didn’t talk much, but she watched a lot. “Broken.” She suggested simply.

Dad wiggled the faucet handles first, deciding they were not the culprit for the leak. Next he got out a flashlight and looked underneath the sink at the valves. The valves appeared fine, as did the cold and hot water lines. The leak was apparently coming from the faucet itself. “It’s going to need to be changed; the faucet is just worn out.”

“That sounds expensive.” Mom lamented. She was careful about spending money, and a sink faucet was not something she’d planned to buy.

“Oh, no!” Olivia murmured. That was her favorite thing to say.

“Yeah, it will be over a hundred bucks for sure, unless we put a cheap, ugly faucet in.”

Mom silently shook her head. There were always better things to spend money on, but the house came first. It was important to have a nice, clean place to live. “Put in a good one – one that will last. If we don’t, we’ll be replacing it again in a year.”

Dad couldn’t have agreed more. “Let’s go to the store, Olivia!” He scooped up his daughter, ran to the car, and went to pick out a new faucet. This basically meant going to the store, staring at about 50 new fixtures, and trying to decide which one Mom would like. There were a lot of choices, each with different options.

“Too shiny,” Dad said, as Olivia pointed at one she liked, “so it’ll show water spots. Mom will hate cleaning that.”

They finally chose one around a hundred dollars, which was actually sort of cheap, compared to the really nice ones. It was stainless steel with a coating to prevent water spots, and it had the sprayer built in, which made doing dishes easier. “Mom will approve.”

“Yes!” Olivia agreed.

Dad drove home, pulled out his wrenches and a screwdriver, and swapped out the faucets. He had to disconnect the old one, put in the new one, adjust it, and then test it. Half an hour later, they had a new faucet.

“It looks great, and it doesn’t leak water under the sink!”

“It looks like my work here is done!” Dad announced, sneaking back to the football game. Mom and Olivia shook their heads.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is wrong in the kitchen?
 - A. Mom burned dinner.
 - B. The dishwasher broke.
 - C. The faucet is leaking.
 - D. Mom broke a dish.

2. What does Dad decide the problem is?
 - A. The valve leaks.
 - B. The line is broken.
 - C. The hose has a hole.
 - D. The faucet needs to be replaced.

3. What is wrong with the faucet Olivia suggests?
 - A. It's too shiny.
 - B. It's too expensive.
 - C. It's cheap looking.
 - D. It's the wrong color.

4. How long does it take for Dad to swap the faucet?
 - A. 2 hours
 - B. 3 hours
 - C. half an hour
 - D. 1 hour

5. What does Dad do immediately after the faucet is fixed?
 - A. He takes a nap.
 - B. He goes back to the game.
 - C. He eats dinner.
 - D. He goes out to do yard work.

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