

The Joy of Re-Gifting

“DADDY!”

Roberto sighed. *Here we go again.* “What is it, sweetheart?”

“Why didn’t Santa bring me the new Barbie doll? I was extra super good this year.”

“Well, Santa has to deliver toys to all the good girls and boys. He can’t show favoritism to one of the two most special girls in the world,” Roberto explained.

“But isn’t that why you buy us toys too?” Sophia chimed in. “Besides, you donated plenty of gifts to charities. Why can’t we get any of those?”

His wife saw the face he made. She leaned over and whispered, “It’s not that they’re greedy; they just don’t know any better.”

“They should know. Katia’s five, and Sophie’s seven. They’re old enough to understand. Please, they need to know,” Roberto quietly implored.

“I guess you’re right,” Rebecca admitted. “Go ahead and tell them.”

Roberto turned to the girls and asked, “Girls, why do you think we celebrate Christmas?”

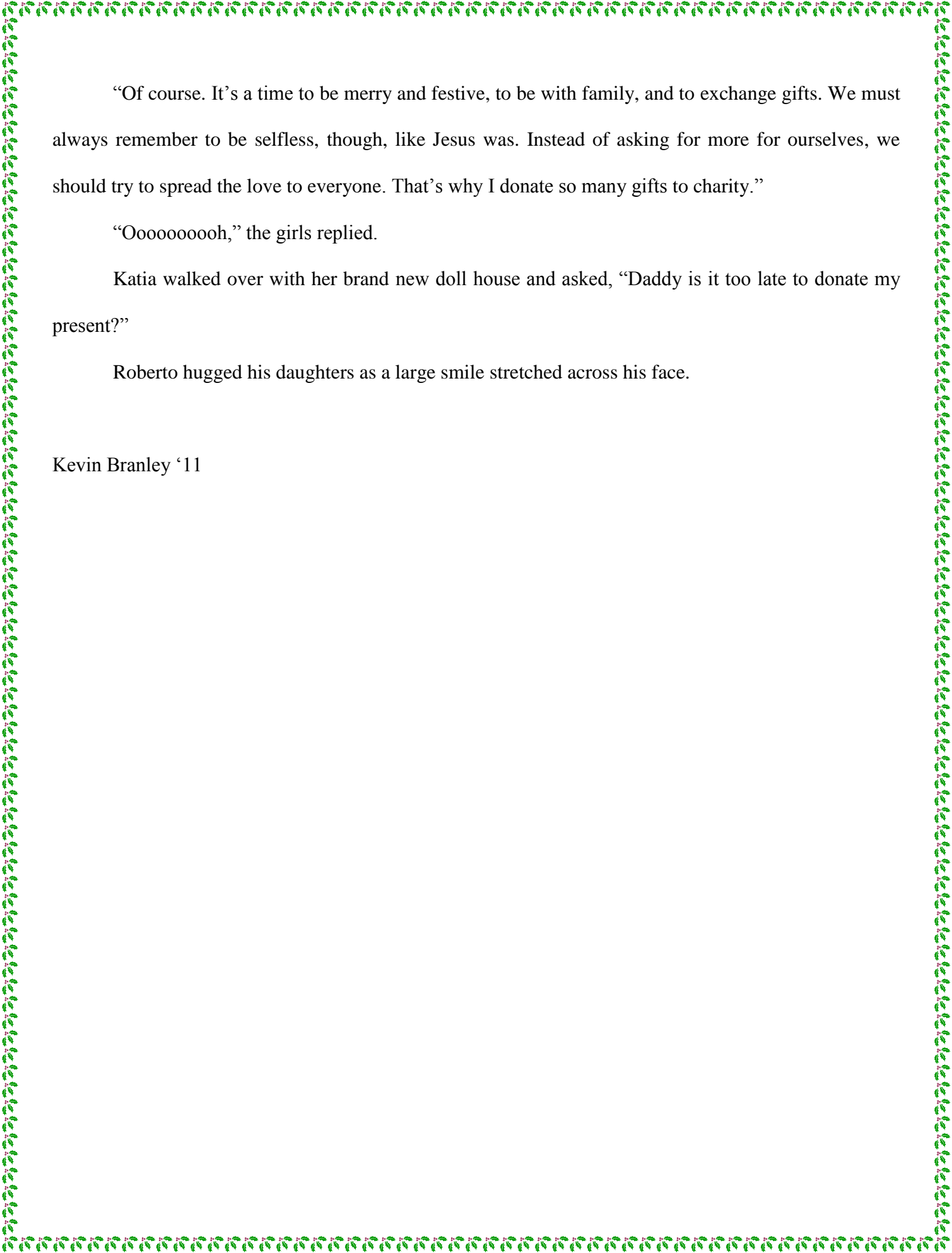
“Cause it’s Jesus’ birthday,” Katia exclaimed.

Roberto said, “You’re exactly right.”

“I don’t get it. Why did you ask us that, Dad?” Sophia inquired.

Roberto elaborated, saying, “Well, because I wanted you to remember that we celebrate Jesus’ birth, God’s gift of himself to the world.”

“Is that why we give gifts?” Katia asked.



“Of course. It’s a time to be merry and festive, to be with family, and to exchange gifts. We must always remember to be selfless, though, like Jesus was. Instead of asking for more for ourselves, we should try to spread the love to everyone. That’s why I donate so many gifts to charity.”

“Ooooooooooh,” the girls replied.

Katia walked over with her brand new doll house and asked, “Daddy is it too late to donate my present?”

Roberto hugged his daughters as a large smile stretched across his face.

Kevin Branley ‘11