



## Don't Let This Happen to You!

Hi Folks,

You're relaxing, getting ready to enjoy a big meal with the extended family after everyone has arrived safely. Your wife has been a whirlwind in the kitchen, sending you out time after time for this and that - to make sure everything is perfect for the meal. The smell now coming from the kitchen causes horses to trample in your belly. Finally! You hear the command from the kitchen you and your stomach have been waiting for . . . *"Dinner's ready!"*

First out the gate: two giant loaves of sourdough bread and a mountain of butter. *"Honey, can you carve the bread?"* The family bread knife in hand; you're on it. All of a sudden, you realize that no matter how much sawing you do, your faithful knife is not cutting the bread like it used to. You apply more pressure, you cut harder each and every time distorting this once masterpiece.

After frantically searching for a long champion knife to finish the job you realize you only have small steak knives. Then you remember the chore you didn't do, sharpen the knife set. Quiet descended on the table, you look up to see one slow tear softly flowing from the right eye of a disappointed wife. **Men, don't let this happen to you!**

*Pops* (Walt)



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### "The Library Lemons" Renovate and Redo Casa Pacifica's Library to Earn Girl Scouts' Highest Honor

Cadettes from local Girl Scout Troop 60385 - Makena Large, Kaitlyn Seymour, and Nika Wallach worked on earning their Silver Award, the highest honor a cadette can achieve, by doing a library renovation project at Casa Pacifica's main campus in Camarillo. Over the past year the girls - who dubbed themselves 'The Library Lemons' - have dedicated their weekends and time after school to work on the project. The renovation included repainting the walls, a complete book inventory, restocking the library with current and age-appropriate books, reorganization, and catalog creation.

The idea to incorporate Casa Pacifica into their Silver Award came from Makena Large, whose family had begun donating to the nonprofit in honor of her late mother who had spent time in the foster system as a child. Casa Pacifica's mental health programs serve foster and at-risk youth. Community businesses partnered with the Girls' to make their project a reality. They ended up collecting close to a thousand books for the library. Once their library was completed, the Library Lemons went one step further and purchased rolling library carts so the books could meet the kids of Casa Pacifica wherever they are - in their cottages, at school, etc.

A sweet surprise came after the girls thought the library was done when ProSource Wholesale offered to donate carpeting, while an anonymous donor stepped forward to cover the cost of the carpet installation.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic made earning their Silver Award even more difficult when Casa Pacifica had to close its campus to visitors. But the girls persevered, coming on the weekends completely masked and sequestered in the library until the job was finished. Troop leader Andi Kish spoke about the project, "These girls were pretty ambitious, they really shot for the moon. What I love is they were able to pivot when circumstances got hard. It took a tremendous amount of dedication and prioritization."

The campus is home to Casa Pacifica's residential treatment programs, nonpublic school, and outpatient services; the agency serves an older population, ages 9-17 year olds, based on current needs. The library overhaul made the space much more appealing and usable with the addition of current and age-appropriate books. The newly renovated library and its new offerings have brought a renewed love of reading back to Casa Pacifica. A few youth are even hoping to start a book club and have begun to request books they want to read that aren't currently stocked in the library. If you would like to purchase any of their wishlist books, go to Amazon registry - AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.