

Your Story #29: The Door

While remodeling a room of your house, you discover a door to another room you didn't know existed. (Writer's Digest contest, October 2010)

Outside, it was always sunny. But we didn't get out much. Lee kept himself occupied in his room with his train set. May talked on the phone most days. Grandpa sat in his rocking chair, and Gram and I—we were always *enhancing*. Last week, we graced every room and stairwell with colorful, fake potted plants. The week before that, it was polishing all the spotted silverware and china we found under the floorboards of the living room. We discovered them last month when we were tearing out the dingy maroon carpet.

Our next project was a grueling one done at my insistence. Remodeling the basement. Gram hated the basement. It was big and the lights never worked. The air was stuffy and made me dizzy after seconds of standing down there.

The first day, we worked on bringing all the antique furniture stored there, upstairs. We got sidetracked after that and redecorated the dining room with it. I was exhausted by the time we finished. Gram called everyone to dinner, but as usual, none of us were hungry, so I just went to bed.

The next morning, Grandpa was working in the bathroom trying to get water running in the sink and tub. I walked by Lee's room and heard him chanting, "Choo-choo! Choo-choo! Chugga chugga chugga." Downstairs, May was on a lounge chair, holding the phone to her ear. She was quiet, staring at the black screen of the television set.

"Ready?" Gram called.

We spent the second day tearing down two partition walls, throwing out a rusty toilet Gram didn't know we had, and dusting. Gram went to make dinner, but since I wasn't hungry, I stayed and got a head start on peeling off the gross wallpaper. We hadn't discussed touching it, but it bugged me. It was an ugly bright pink with orange polka dots.

I was surprised when I peeled off a long strip and saw the edge of a door. I tore away more until I could see the whole thing. It was a plain white door. The knob was missing and there was a vacant hole where it had been. I knelt in front of it and peeked through. The same pink wallpaper was on the other side. Light was coming in from the room over there, and I could barely make out the headboard to a child's bed.

I stood and bumped the door with my shoulder. It budged a little, so I bumped it harder. It was about to give when Gram came running downstairs. When she saw me standing in the ring of torn wallpaper with my side pressed against the door, she clapped her hands over her mouth. Her blue eyes opened as wide as they could.

"Weird, huh?" I said. "I just found it. And there's a room on the other side."

I took a step back and prepared for one last hard impact before the door would give.

"No, stop!" Gram hollered.

Why was she so worried?

The door swung up, ripping through the wallpaper. My body froze up and I landed on my side, staring at the ceiling. I couldn't move. I tried to get a peek of Gram as I rocked side-to-side on the floor. Where did she go?

The floor trembled as something approached. My heart started thumping against my chest. Whatever it was, it was huge. The vibrations made my body start rocking again. I stole a quick look at the bed, the big door, the pink and white vanity—and the face. She was my age with brown curls just like mine, and big green eyes. She was a giant.

She picked me up and looked me in the eye. Grinning, she turned and shouted, "Mom! I found it! Come quick!"

She set me down so I was standing, facing the horrible scene. The door didn't lead to a normal room. This place turned me to stone and made everything else grow. *Really big*. I watched the girl hold the door with two huge fingers and swing it back and forth. She leaned in to try and peek inside. Hopefully Gram got away.

Seconds later, another giant came into the room. The little giant's mother.

"I found the secret room!" the little giant said.

"Wow. I never thought we'd find that door," her mother said. "Gram said she hid it real well. I didn't think she ever wanted us to find it."