The Secret Drawers of Wonder
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“Over the river and through the woods to grandmother’s house we go.” I excitedly hum as my fingers dance along the car window. Well it’s not really over the river and through the woods, more like over the freeway and near the airport in my case. But yes, we are going to Grandma and Grandpa Amport’s house today.

I know that we are headed to Grandma and Grandpa Amport’s house because on the way here I saw the gigantic green freeway sign that said, “AIRPORT” and airport sounds a lot like Amport so we must be getting close. Anyway, I can just barely hear the Secret Drawers of Wonder whispering in my head, “Jessie, hurry, we’ve been waiting for you”.

We pull up to Grandma and Grandpa’s house and park under the big whirly bird trees. Me and my mom get out of the front seats. Then I stick out my tongue and give my little brother my best stink face before letting him out of the back. Somedays, I wish that I could just leave him back there, but today I’m OK with letting him free without a fight.

Besides, today I am pretty sure is gonna be my lucky day. Before we left the house Mom made us pick a number to figure out who got to sit in the front seat on the ride here and I picked the right number on the first try. I know pretty lucky right? I am hoping that my luck continues and that Grandma will let me explore the Secret Drawers of Wonder today. After all they’ve been calling me all morning long. The drawers echo in my head “Jessie, hurry, we’ve been waiting for you”.

With bull frog fast speed I leap up the porch steps and push the glowing door bell. Ding-dong the bell quietly sings inside. Oh bye the way, that’s another one of the perks of sitting in the front seat. You always get to ring the doorbell. I really don’t understand why grown-ups try and trick kids into thinking that sitting in the front is, “No big deal”. We all know that’s not true!

I put my fingers into two perfect O’s and place them infront of my eyes to make spy-noculars. I push my spy-noculars into the screen door and I can see that grandpa’s coming. “Well hello there Tweetie” he greets me. Then he clucks his teeth, the way that only grandpas with take out at night teeth can, and he gives me a big polar bear hug. “Hi Grandpa!” I cheer. I can feel the sandpaper bristle of his beard on my lips as I plant a big smooch on his cheek. Then it’s through the kitchen and into the sewing room to go find
Grandma. The Secret Drawers of Wonder are talking much louder now. They must know that I'm really close when they beg, "Jessie, hurry, we've been waiting for you".

"Hi there honey" Grandma coos as she sees me round the corner. "Hi Grandma!" I excitedly shout. I hug my arms around her neck so she can lift me up onto my lap. "What 'cha working on?" I ask, looking at the bright flowery fabric laying on the sewing machine. Grandma holds up the fabric so I can get a better look at her latest project. "Well, this my dear Jessie is a blouse that I am making for my friend Edith. I am hoping to give it to her as a birthday present. What do you think? Do you think she'll like it?"

I reach out to touch the fabric, it feels smooth and cool like river water on my fingertips. I turn my head to the side a little you know it's that kind of head tilt that grown ups do when they really want to get a good look at something. The tilt works! As my head turns towards my shoulder my eyes are suddenly aware of the gorgeous red and purple tulips that sway back and forth. They look like the dancing flowers from Alice In Wonderland. And I don't mean the nice pretty flowers who can twirl and jump like beautiful ballerinas. "I know she's gonna love it." I answer with a smile. After all, everything that my grandma makes is beautiful. All of the sudden, the Secret Drawers of Wonder interrupt my thoughts. They're practically shouting in my head, "Jessie, hurry, let's go get some strawberry ice cream" No silly, just kidding, that's my hungry belly grumbling at me. The Secret Drawers of Wonder shout, "Jessie, hurry, we've been waiting for you".

"So punkin' what do you wanna' do today?" Grandma asks. "Well..." I say, as if, I really need some time to think about this. Grown-ups think that kids are really smart when they think about things for a minute before they answer. But I mean come on, I know exactly what I want to do today, and every day that I come over to grandma's house. "How about we go in your room and your room and look through some of the things in your dresser?" I ask trying to hide my hyperness. "Sure" she replies, like it's no big deal. She obviously hasn't been sucked in, like Legos to a vacuum cleaner, by the voices that now holler "Jessie, hurry, we've been waiting for you."

See, Grandma doesn't know it but I secretly call her dresser drawers, The Secret Drawers of Wonder. No, not the dresser where she keeps her clothes and undies and things like that. I accidentally stumbled into that dresser a couple of years ago and trust me you don't want to go in there
again. The Secret Drawers of Wonder are in her other dresser, the place where she hides all of her most prized possessions.

There are so many neat things in those drawers that I always leave wondering what we will find inside the next time we open them. At times I think that even grandma doesn’t know exactly what’s inside of those drawers. Mama says it’s because Grandma is getting old and that causes her to forget things sometimes. But I don’t care, it just makes our discoveries all the more exciting for both of us. Anyhow, she can always remember a story or two about the things inside when we get going. Sometimes I feel like we are pair detectives solving the hidden mysteries that have been long lost and buried in The Secret Drawers of Wonder. I am pretty sure that it’s the mysterious undiscovered items locked inside of those drawers that now whisper, echo, beg, shout and holler all at the same time, “Jessie, hurry, we’ve been waiting for you.”

I jump off of my grandma’s lap and sprint down the hallway to my grandma’s room. Then I see it. There nestled into the corner, glowing in the summer sunlight perfectly sparkles, you guessed it, The Secret Drawers of Wonder. They excitedly chant, “Jessie you made it! We’ve been waiting for you.” And now I know that drawers will quiet down for a while so that Grandma and I can get down to the real mission for the day. Unlocking some new mysteries from The Secret Drawers of Wonder.

Grandma slowly walks into her bedroom. “Sorry it took so long Jessie. These old knees just don’t move like they used to.” She apologizes taking a seat on the bed. “That’s ok!” I chirp, eager to get started. “Well, go ahead Sweetie. Show me what you wanted to look at.” Grandma says pointing towards the Mysterious Drawers of Wonder with the hand that’s not rubbing her old knees.

I take a deep breath and slowly grab the shiny sliver handle on the top drawer. Goosebumps cover my arms when I hear the drawer softly purr in delight as I slide it open. My eyes feel like they are about to bulge out of my head when I see the all of the neatly stacked boxes that line the dresser drawer. There must be at least a thousand little boxes in here I think. I drag my finger tips across the box tops just to make sure I’m not dreaming. “Go ahead and take one out,” my grandma mutters with a it’s ok smile and nod.

My first pick is a fuzzy dark red box. It’s feels heavy and hard I bring the box up to my ear and knock it. I can hear something rattling around inside. I wonder what it could be? I gently set the box on my legs
and use my thumb to pop the lid. As the box opens I am nearly blinded by the glittering sparkles inside. “WOW, GRANDMA LOOK AT ALL OF THESE DIAMONDS!” I shout. Grandma chuckles and says, “Well, Honey those aren’t exactly diamonds but they’re close”. I am confused for a minute. But then I remember what Mama said about old people forgetting things sometimes and realize that this must be one of those times.

“They’re soooooo beautiful” I whisper pulling the two glittery diamond necklaces out of their box. “They are nice aren’t they. Why don’t you try one on?” Grandma asks. I pick up the blue and white super shiny one and hold up my hair so grandma can help me put it on. The necklace hangs heavy on my neck, but once I get a peek of myself in the mirror I forget about it’s weight because all I can think about is how amazing this diamond necklace looks around my neck. “Ooooh, la, la, don’t you look faaaaancy!” My grandma whistles checking me out in the mirror. “Come on Grandma be fancy with me” I say putting a sparkly white snowflake necklace in her hand.

“Well, I suppose,” she says closing the necklace clip behind her head. “Whoo! Hooo!” I cheer and clap as grandma poses for the mirror. “Hey, Jessie look in that drawer and see if you can find another small red jewelry box. It should look just like the one you found these necklaces in.” Grandma says grinning. I look back into the drawer and, sure enough right next to the place where I found the first red box is the red boxes twin brother.

I flip open the lid and gasp when I see, MORE sparkles! This time I find two sets of clip on earrings that match our necklaces. I bring my earrings to the mirror and put them on making sure that the glittery sides face out. “Now I really feel like a princess” I sing as I twirl to watch my sparkles twinkle in the sunshine. “I guess that makes me the queen.” Grandma announces sitting up straight and shaking her head a little so her sparkles will twinkle too. “Yup!” I giggle. “Well princess Jessie why don’t you open another box?” Grandma says pointing back to the Secret Drawers of Wonder.

This time I choose a small worm brown box held together with an old rubber band. As I pick it up the box feels like soft butter in my palm, unlike the rubber band that feels more like a crusty old strand of spaghetti. I carefully set the little package on the bed next to my grandma and begin to pick off the rubber band. Grandma watches as I try to wriggle the lid off of the mysterious package. “What is this?” I ask trying to hide the disappointment I feel when all I can see are clouds of stretched out cotton balls. “I’m not sure” my grandma answers “Why don’t you move those cotton
balls out of the way and check it out.” I pick up the first cotton ball and am suddenly aware that there is definitely something else hiding in this box.

There cozied inside the cotton balls is a tiny little tea set. I pull out the worn fragile pieces one at a time. Two white silver dollar sized plates with golden rims. Two little china tea cups with perfect tiny handles. One larger tea pot that stands proper and proud. A short sugar bowl and lid decorated with fading purple flowers and curvy high handled pitcher.

“WOW! This is awesome!” I shout to my grandma. “Oh, that old thing” she replies with a chuckle. “That tea set used to belong to my big sister Helena a long time ago. I can remember having many a tea parties using that very tea set.” “Can we have a tea party?” I ask even though I already know that the answer will be yes, because grandma always wants to do whatever I want to do. “What a great idea Jessie! Why don’t you take the tea set to the bathroom sink and rinse it out while I get the table ready for tea.”

I place the tea set back into the box and hurry to the bathroom sink. Never in my life have I been this excited to do the dishes. The sink quickly fills with warm fluffy bubbles. I carefully dip each piece of the tea set into the suds, rinse it and then pat it dry. I’m going to have to tell my daddy about this when I get home. He won’t believe that I washed the dishes at grandma’s house without even complaining.

I hear the hisssss of the tea kettle in the kitchen, that must mean that grandma is almost ready. When I get into the kitchen I can see that already grandma has already placed a rose doily on the table to make it look fancy. Even more importantly there is a big plate full of pink, orange, and brown wafer cookies in the middle of the table, they make my mouth water, boy oh boy am I hungry. I snitch one pink cookie, just to make sure that they are ok, and they most definitely are. They are every bit as delicious and sweet as they look. I set out a tiny plate and cup for grandma and myself. Then I take a pinch of sugar out of the big sugar bowl and sprinkle it into our little one. “Tea’s ready” my grandma announces as she enters with a steaming cup. She carefully fills our tiny pitcher with tea.

Now it’s my turn I pick up our tiny tea pitcher, pinkie out just like a princess should, and watch the cranberry pink tea stream into the tiny tea cups. “Tea for two” my grandma cheers carefully grabbing her tiny cup. “Cheers!” I say and we giggle as our cups clink. We sip tea and chatter about grandma’s life form before I was born. She tells me about how she used to have a cat, just like my Tigger at home. She also tells stories about growing up on the farm and how her ten big brothers and sisters used to call her
Stonefield Beauty. They called her that because she was the youngest and when it was time to work out in the fields she would spend her time picking up the rocks and looking at them, instead of loading them onto the truck like she was supposed to. I tell her that I must be a Stonefield Beauty too because whenever Mama asks me to help her pick weeds in the garden, I always end up spending my time looking for new rocks for my rock collection, instead of picking dandelions like I'm supposed to.

Eventually mama calls and says it’s time to go. We clean up our little tea party. Well, everything except for the plate of cookies which I ate almost all by myself as we chatted the day away. Then we all say our good byes with hugs and kisses. I tell grandma “Thank you for the tea party! I had a wonderful time” in my most proper grown-up voice. She says your welcome and to come again soon. I mouth, “I’m sure I will” because I know that soon the Secret Drawers of Wonder will be calling me back. Back to uncover another one of their mysteries as they call, “Jessie, hurry, we’ve been waiting for you”.