

## The Key

By Valentina S.

I had moved into a new house. I explored it to see if I found anything paranormal, but all I saw was my brother running around. Until I found a strange key. I knew it led to something, so I searched and searched, but nothing. At noon, I ate dinner, showered, and went to sleep. The next morning, my mom was struggling to open a closet. I came over and noticed it had a lock.

My mom grunts. "Hmh. I'll forget it," she said.

Maybe this is the key to this door, I thought to myself. Of course, I open it and find a box that said, "Book: The Secret." I open the box and found a weird doll holding a note, so I opened it.

"Go to the library at 8:30."

Go to the library? This late too? I had to sneak out, so I did. My mom didn't pay attention to me anyways. A couple of minutes alter I arrived.

"Hello, little one. What book would you like?" said Mrs. Freckenburg, the library worker. "Do you have *The Secret*?" I said.

"Yes, right on hall 4.62."

I walk over to the hall and find the book. I opened it and there was just potion ingredients. I walked over to the front desk. "Thanks, Miss!" I didn't know what the potions would do, but I was bored. Hmm. The box also said 247, so I'm guessing I gotta go to that page. I go to page 247: "Get 5 eyelashes, any feather, mud, a dead frog, boiling water, and a poisonous mushroom."

I placed them all in a bowl. I mixed it all up and it started sizzling. I covered it up and kept reading the page: "Once you are done, mix water and baking soda together and spread it on the wall right next to the flower portrait in the kitchen."

Seriously? I don't have baking soda. Even though my mom always said no to me, I had to ask, "Mom, can you please buy baking soda?"

Mom sighs. "Only because we both need it."

"Yay! Thanks!" I say.

While my mom left to buy groceries, I ate a can of ravioli. I wonder if doing this will actually be worth it, or else I'll be in trouble, I thought. While eating my ravioli, I hear an odd voice, "Please help me, the others are coming."

What was that? I heard it in the wall! I wanted to break it, but I knew my mom would get mad, so I just tried speaking with anyone that could be in there. "How do you get out? How can I help you?" I say, but no response. I run to my room just waiting for my mom. Twenty-three minutes later she got here with the baking soda.

Hmm...mix it with water the spread it on the wall...okay," I say. I spread my solution on the wall. "According to this...now I spread the potion on it." After I did that, there was a hole in the wall! "Uh-oh. What do I do!" Some minutes after trying to think of a way to solve this, I heard the voice again,

"Mary Rose, that's my name..."

That name had sounded familiar. Aha! The missing girl! "Wait, are you a ghost?!" I had no idea of what to do. I had found a ghost in my house!

"Before this house was built, this area was covered in trees. I hid under some old plastic where I died of starvation," said Mary.

"Well, what do I do Tell the police?" I said.

"No, you need proof, and my body is underground. They also can't see ghosts like you can."

"Why is that?" I said.

"You were just blessed," said Mary. After she said that, she disappeared. I had no clue what to do. I couldn't tell anyone either!

"I have a mission for you to do. Go to this abandoned nursery, find all map pieces, and connect them. Then I will come back to life. If you don't, more spirits are going to hunt you. Forever!"

I was surprised that she spoke again, but doing that mission was more important. I already knew the location of the nursery. When I got there, I turned on my flashlight and headed to random rooms. "Ugh, not here. Not here either. I hope I have infinite time for this!"

Thirty minutes later I found two map pieces. One in the storage room and one at the front desk. But then I saw a shadow run past me. I didn't mind until it started shutting doors. Lanter on I found two in the bathroom. I heard the ghost make noises, but couldn't let it stop me.

"Yes! Finally, the last one!"

I found all five pieces and returned home. "Here you go, Mary!" I said.

"Thank you! My spirit will now protect you FOREVER!"