

## Alternate Reality

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There is a house at the end of our street. No one really knows much about it. It just sits there in the middle of its dead grass lot, shaking every time the wind blew. And tonight, Cameron and his younger sister, May, decided to explore the colorless house, so when the moon rose high in the sky, they swung over the rusted metal fence and landed on the dead grass, taking care not to wake everybody up in the neighborhood by trampling on the grass.

“What time is it, Cameron? You said that it would take 5 minutes!”

“I don’t know, May, but do you even want to explore the ‘abandoned house’? And, you promised to come if I gave you chocolate, remember?” Cameron shot back.

May rolled her eyes, took a deep sigh, and walked across the dirty lawn towards the house. Cameron followed her as she pushed open the door. The door, having not been pushed open for a long time, let out a big creaking sound when she opened it. May looked at Cameron and shrugged, motioning for them to go in. Inside, the siblings turned on their flashlights and searched the ancient house. It was dark and there was dirt almost everywhere except one room. May cautiously stared at it while her older brother looked at a couple of the furniture that was covered with cobweb.

“I don’t even think that this house is scary at all!” Cameron said, surprising May and causing her to drop her flashlight.

“Don’t scare me like that, Cam! You scared me to death!” May hissed back. Cameron opened his mouth to speak when they both saw a bluish light coming from the strange room that May was staring at earlier. Cameron turned off his flashlight as they gingerly walked towards the door, and May reached out a hand to turn the knob. They walked inside when light immediately disappeared, trapping them in darkness.

“What happened?” May prompted as she tried to find her way through the darkness.

“I’ll turn on my flashlight,” Cameron replied, and a moment later, blessed light flooded the doorway. He swung the beam around the room, drinking in the texture of the old room. They slowly edged away from the room, cautiously taking steps towards the front door.

“You know this is all your fault, right?” May whispered to her brother. “If we’re not home before 10:00 pm, who knows what mom and dad will do to us.”

“Probably ground us till we’re in college,” Cameron answered grimly, thinking about the possibilities. A sudden creak jolted him out of his thoughts though. He looked behind him, and May was gone.

“MAY!” He shouted, retracing their steps and going back upstairs. He rounded the corner and fell down a dark passage. His head hit something hard, then everything went black.

May watched curiously at her brother, who had suddenly appeared out of thin air. She had been blinded and gagged then thrown down. But when she finally got the cloth off her face, she found

herself lying on a soft patch of grass. Then, her brother had appeared out of the air next to her with a big bruise on his head. She glanced at their surroundings, lush greens with beautiful flowers next to each other. She looked at the distance and saw tiny people scurrying to work. May inhaled a deep breath of the clean air, as her brother stirred next to her. Cameron woke up, and instantly felt pain on his forehead. May realized her brother was awake and started telling him about how they had come here.

“It was like a portal maybe, and now I don’t know where we are.” May finished, glancing at her brother to see how he made sense of that.

“Wow.” Cameron replied, shaking his head in disbelief. “I think that the old house held a portal that traveled us to a different universe.”

“So, you’re saying...”

“It’s an alternate reality.” Cameron finished, looking at the sunset which gave them hope for their future.