

STRANGENESS OCCURRING

BY ABBY T.

“HEY! RONNIE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE OVER AT THE MARTIN’S HOUSE!” SHOUTED MAX. “I KNOW, I JUST THOUGHT THAT MAYBE I SHOULD BRING THEM A LITTLE SOMETHING! RONNIE YELLED EVEN THOUGH MAX WASN’T VERY FAR AWAY.

MAX KNEW HE DID THAT ON PURPOSE, SO HE SHOT HIM A LOOK OF DISGUST. “LET’S GO, WE ARE GOING TO BE LATE.” SAID MAX. RONNIE NODDED AND HELD UP HIS POINTER FINGER TELLING HIM TO WAIT A SECOND. ONCE RONNIE HAD GOTTEN DONE THEY WALKED OVER TO THE CAR, GOT IN, AND DROVE TO THE MARTIN’S PLACE. WHEN THEY GOT THERE THE MARTINS WERE WAITING OUTSIDE TO GREET THEM FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME. THE MARTINS WEREN’T AFRAID TO START THE RENOVATION. THEY WERE EVEN HAPPY TO START RIPPING THE PLACE TO SHREDS.

THEY HAD EVERYTHING READY, SO RONNIE AND MAX WENT TO WORK RIGHT AWAY. THEY WERE SURPRISED TO SEE THAT THERE WEREN’T REALLY ANY HORRIBLE PROBLEMS ABOUT THE HOUSE. THEY HAD FINISHED THE FINAL TOUCHES ON THE KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM ON THE SECOND WEEK OF RENOVATION, WHICH IS REALLY FAST FOR THEM BECAUSE THE LAST COUPLE OF RENOVATIONS HAD TAKEN ABOUT ONE MONTH TO DO ALL OF THAT. THEY WENT HOME AND WENT TO BED.

THE VERY NEXT DAY THEY WOKE UP BRIGHT AND EARLY, 8 A.M. SHARP. THEY ATE EGGS, BACON, AND SAUSAGE FOR BREAKFAST AND THEN HEADED STRAIGHT TO THE MARTIN’S TO GET STARTED ON THE LIVING ROOM. THEY WENT DOWN TO THE MARTIN’S HOUSE LIKE THEY SAID THEY WOULD AND SURE ENOUGH THE MARTINS WERE THERE FOR RONNIE AND MAX WHEN THEY CAME.

THE LIVING ROOM WAS STARTING OUT VERY WELL. THEY WERE ALMOST FINISHED TAKING OUT THE FLOORBOARD WHEN THEY FOUND SOMETHING VERY STRANGE UNDER A PARTICULARLY WOBBLY FLOORBOARD.

CHAPTER 2

RONNIE WAS LAUGHING AT ALL OF THIS BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THAT THE VERY STRANGE LOOKING JEWELRY BOX WAS JUST SOME TOY THAT THE KIDS HAD HIDDEN UNDER THE LOOSE FLOORBOARD. WHEN MAX WASN’T LAUGHING, RONNIE REALIZED THAT THIS PROBABLY WASN’T A JOKE. USUALLY WHEN MAX FEELS SOMETHING IS WRONG HE’S USUALLY RIGHT ABOUT IT.

NOTHING ABOUT THIS FELT RIGHT TO MAX. HE OPENED THE BOX ANYWAY BECAUSE HE IS A VERY CURIOUS PERSON AND WANTS TO KNOW EVERYTHING BEFORE IT IS TIME LIKE DURING CHRISTMAS. WHAT HE FOUND SCARED THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS OF HIM AND RONNIE. HE CLOSED THE BOX AS SOON AS HE COULD, BUT NOT SOON ENOUGH. A PURPLE LIGHT SHOT OUT OF THE STRANGE BOX AND WENT INTO MAX.

WHEN THE FOGGY LOOKING PURPLE LIGHT SHOT INTO MAX, IT VERY QUICKLY SHOT OUT THE DOOR LIKE A LIGHTNING BOLT AND FLEW INTO THE NEAREST PERSON IN THE FRONT YARD, ONE OF THE MARTIN KIDS, SIXTEEN YEAR OLD ANGELA.

IT DIDN'T COME BACK OUT THOUGH. MAX WAS WIDE EYED, SITTING UP STRAIGHT, AND LOOKING AS THOUGH HIS LEG HAD BEEN BITTEN OFF BY A COYOTE. ANGELA CAME IN AND SHE WAS ACTING A LITTLE STRANGE. SHE LOOKED STRAIGHT AT MAX AND TOOK A QUICK GLANCE AT RONNIE BUT VERY SUDDENLY LOOKED BACK OVER TO MAX.

SHE LOOKED AT MAX FOR A WHILE. THEN SHE SNATCHED THE BOX OUT OF MAX'S HAND, OPENING IT UP. ANOTHER LIGHT SHOT OUT OF THE BOX. ONLY THIS TIME IT WAS A YELLOW LIGHT. IT ALSO WENT INTO MAX BUT DIDN'T COME OUT THIS TIME.

NOT ONLY DID IT STAY IN BUT IT TOOK OVER MAX'S BODY COMPLETELY AS DID THE OTHER LIGHT TO ANGELA.

ANGELA WENT OVER TO RONNIE AND TOOK SOME SLEEPING POWDER OUT OF A LITTLE BAGGY,) THAT MAGICALLY APPEARED WHEN THE LIGHT FLEW INTO HER) HELD IT OUT IN HER FLAT PALM, AND BLEW IT IN HIS FACE. RONNIE FELL OVER, BUT DIDN'T FALL COMPLETELY ASLEEP UNTIL AFTER HE HAD HEARD THEIR FOOTSTEPS GOING OUT THE DOOR AND MAX SAYING "GOOD JOB, MARIA, " AND ANGELA SAYING, "YOU, TOO, JOHNNY."

CHAPTER 3

WHEN RONNIE AWOKE, HE WAS VERY FLABBERGASTED BY WHAT HE HAD JUST SEEN AND HEARD. HE DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER TO LIKE MAX OR NOT, BUT HE WAS VERY CERTAIN THAT THAT WASN'T MAX. HE KNEW FOR SURE THAT HE HAD TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS AND QUICK, BUT HE WASN'T SURE WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO OR WHAT HE WAS GOING UP AGAINST. HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IF IT WAS MAX HE WAS GOING UP AGAINST.

THEN HE REMEMBERED THAT HIS GRANDMOTHER HAD TOLD HIM STORIES ABOUT MARIA AND JOHNNY. HE DIDN'T THINK THAT THIS COULD BE TRUE. COULD IT? HE DIDN'T KNOW. ALL HE KNEW WAS THAT HE NEEDED TO GET HIS GRANDMOTHER AND QUICK. HE GOT IN HIS CAR AND DROVE OVER TO HIS GRANDMA'S HOUSE.

THANKFULLY HIS GRANDMOTHER WAS HOME. HE RANG THE DOORBELL AND SHE ANSWERED. HE ASKED ALL ABOUT JOHNNY AND MARIA. SHE WAS VERY HESITANT ABOUT THE ANSWERS BUT SHE EVENTUALLY SPILLED WHEN SHE HEARD MAX WAS IN DANGER.

SHE LOVED MAX LIKE A SON. SHE LOVED HIM ALMOST AS MUCH AS HIS MOTHER DID. SHE WAS WILLING TO DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING FOR HIM. SO SHE TOLD RONNIE THAT IF HE WANTED TO HELP MAX HE HAD TO LEARN HOW TO BE VERY QUIET AND STEADY. HE COULDN'T MAKE A SOUND IF HE WAS GOING TO GO UP AGAINST THESE PEOPLE.

RONNIE KNEW ALL OF THIS. WHAT HE WANTED TO KNOW WAS WHO IN THE WORLD ARE THESE PEOPLE? HE WANTED TO KNOW WHERE THEY CAME FROM AND WHAT THEY WERE DOING IN SOUTH CAROLINA. HE KNEW THAT HERE WASN'T TIME FOR ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS, BUT HE DESPERATELY WANTED TO ASK THEM.

HIS GRANDMOTHER GAVE HIM EVERYTHING HE NEEDED TO DO THE JOB. SHE GAVE HIM A MAGICAL GPS SO HE COULD TRACK THEM. IT TOLD YOU WHERE THESE SPECIFIC PEOPLE WERE, DEPENDING ON WHAT ENCHANTED SPELL YOU PUT ON

HE LOOKED AT THE GPS AND SAW THAT THE LAST VOICE WAS HIS GRANDMOTHER!

CHAPTER 4

HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW SHE COULD HAVE BEEN ON THE GPS. UNLESS SHE ENCHANTED IT TO FOLLOW HER, TOO! SHE MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT SHE WAS GOING TO BE THERE. BUT HOW? HE KNEW THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW. HE HAD TO SAVE ANGELA, MAX, AND HIS GRANDMOTHER. HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW HE WAS GOING TO DO THIS.

HE HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THAT. HE THOUGHT HE WOULD JUST WING IT. THAT WAS NOT THE CASE, THOUGH. HE COULDN'T JUST WALK OUT THERE LIKE AN IDIOT AND GET TIED UP LIKE HIS GRANDMOTHER HAD BEEN. BUT HE COULDN'T JUST STAND THERE. HE HAD TO DO SOMETHING. SO HE GOT UP FROM BEHIND THE WALL AND YELLED, "GET AWAY FROM HER. IT'S ME YOU WANT, NOT HER." NOBODY SAID ANYTHING AFTER THAT.

"JOHNNY" WALKED OVER TO RONNIE AND SAID, "YOU'RE RIGHT," AND KNOCKED HIM OUT.