

CHAPTER 2

'CABIN ON THE HILL'

Inside of the cabin on the hill.....

Henry Minnelton sat within his smoking chair 'PU' 'PU' 'PUFFING' on a pipe, while scanning the newspaper. He reached the small stubby fingers of his right hand onto a nearby wooden table cluttered with junk and lifted a sandwich from a plate. He opened his jaws wide for a bite of the delicious turkey- lettuce-bacon and tomato sandwich, allowing the pipe to magically hover before his face. He slid the sandwich in between his chompers, yet before he could take a bite- he yanked it back out and their it had hung. His bushy white eyebrows clinched tight!

"SWASTIKAS- NAZI- GERMANY!Why that's the silliest thing I've ever heard uttered- it is! Everyone knows that Swastikas represent happiness and good luck in the Hindu culture- it most certainly doesThe good things that people twist and warp these days are horrific- they areLet's just pray that no one's planning another one of those maniacal World Wars again- let's doI mean you make one stupid mistake, you certainly don't go repeating it- you don't But- it all starts in the dreams- it doesI suppose I'll just have ta work extra hard to prevent such- I surely will", he wailed out- as he continued on 'RA' 'RA' 'READING' the newspaper.

Once again- Henry slid the sandwich in between his teeth, yet before he could chomp down- he yanked it back out and there it had hung. His bushy white eyebrows took another low dive!

"STARVING CHILDREN!IN THIS DAY AND AGE!How can this be when there's more than enough food and water to go around?It's the faults of all those greedy bankers, politicians, and cut throat business men- it isThey truly believe that life is just some childish game in which you stockpile the most resources and take from those weaker than youThey care nothing about the children of the world- just shiny pieces of metalCan't take it to the grave wit'chaSo in the end- what's it all forI'll never in a million years understand some folksPeace of mindNow that's a treasure that will last you forever- right Lizzy", he wailed out- before lowering the newspaper and gazing upward to a woman's portrait hanging just above the 'CRA' 'CRA' 'CRACKLING' fireplace. Within the portrait a beautiful gray-haired woman wearing large granny glasses smiled brightly.

"It ain't the same without ya LizzySometimes I wonder how I'll continue on- I do". Henry then slid the sandwich back into his mouth and prepared for a big bite.

Lightning strikes! Thunder 'ROAR's!

[*Suddenly*] There came a 'KNA' 'KNA' 'KNOCK' at the door! Henry swiftly remove the sandwich and tossed it back onto the plate with several coolio radical flips.

"WHO GOES THERE?", he shouted out- as he swiftly leaned forward within his smoking chair. He waited a spell- yet no one responded, save for the

'PA' 'PA' 'POUNDING' rainfall and 'SWA' 'SWA' 'SWOOSHING' winds.

Lightning strikes! Thunder 'ROAR's!

Henry stood from the chair and 'STA' 'STA' 'STOMPED' over to the door in a ginormous pair of shiny black boots. He stopped at the door and lifted himself up upon his tippy-toes, in order to peep out of the peephole.

Henry took a good peep through the peephole seeing no one, so he opened the door. He 'SCA' 'SCA' 'SCANNED' the forest from left to right, but saw no one. Seeing no one- he took one last scan from right to left, then shut the door with a loud 'THUD'. "**Must be loosing my noodles**", he chimed- as he 'SCRA' 'SCRA' 'SCRATCHED' the gray hairs upon his head- in confusion.

Lightning strikes! Thunder 'ROAR's!

[*Suddenly*] Henry's eyes lit up with shock, as his mind revealed to him something that he must have unconsciously forgot! He quickly opened the door and gazed down upon the porch floor. There before his very eyes laid a bread basket covered by a blue quilt with white stars patterns across it. "**What in the world is this?**", he questioned himself.

Henry removed the quilt from over the bread basket and got the surprise of his life. Inside of the bread basket was an infant child! "**OH MY STARS!This isn't good- it isn't!Little one what are you doing out here in such ghastly weather.....**", he gasped. "**.....Let us get you near a warm fire- we must**"

Henry gently lifted the basket and carried the baby inside. He then did a quick 'SCA' 'SCA' 'SCAN' of the surrounding forest- before closing the door. He 'STA' 'STA' 'STOMPED' the basket over to the fire-place and sat it carefully down upon the floor. "**Who could just abandon a child in such conditionsThey're not fit for such a heavenly gift- they're notThey're not fit ta care for a squirrel- let alone another human beingFirst things first- little one, let us get you out of these wet clothes before you catch an awful cold**", he ranted- as he removed the child from the basket and cradled it within his short burly arms. As Henry began to remove the child from it's wet blanket, a folded sheet of paper 'FLA' 'FLA' 'FLOATED' down to the floorboards and landed.

"**What's this?**", questioned Henry- as he knelt and took the paper into his free hand. He then 'SHA' 'SHA' 'SHOOK' the paper open- and scanned it;

.....Dear sir Please help our daughter Alexis for her heart is bad and we can no longer care for her in this conditionMay God bless thee abundantlyE and C Stockwood-

After reading the disturbing note, he gazed down upon the child with unwavering love and compassion. "**Don't you worry one bit AlexisI promise that I won't let anything happen to you- I won'tI know someone who can fix that thing right on up for youHe's a real ruff character- he isBut we do what we must- when we mustMustn't we**", he vowed.

Henry 'CA' 'CA' 'CLONKED' his ginormous boots together- three times, and shouted out the magical word- '**SHIZ'ZIMO!**'! The boots instantly began to 'GA' 'GA' 'GLITTER' and sparkle- as if they were covered in millions of flawless cut diamonds! Seconds later- a small red star statically appeared within the air before him and rapidly 'SPA' 'SPA' 'SPUN' itself counterclockwise, growing larger with each spin- until it's legs had touched down to the floor! The large red star fluxed continuously from side to side- while emanating a bright active cloudy mist *It was- AWESOME!*

"Next stopThe Dream World", he tooted out- before stepping forward and allowing the 'DA' 'DA' 'DANCING' star to suck him inside its bright center like a powerful black hole. The star then swiftly 'SPA' 'SPA' 'SPUN' in reverse until it had disappeared into nothingness!

Lightning strikes! Thunder 'ROAR's!

Outside of the cabin on the hill- Earl and Cheerie stood concealed behind a thick bush, watching through the window as the magical star vanished along with the Voodoo Man and their infant daughter.

"I change my mind Earl!I want my baby back! My baby- my baby!I've placed her in the hands of a stranger!", cried out Cheerie- suddenly regretting her actions.

"Don't you do this to me right now!You know that we had no choice!Look at me Cheerie! He'll help her- I just know it!There's nothing we could have done for her but watch the angels gone and take her away", stressed Earl.

"Why'yyy EarlWhy does life have to be this way- WHY!I just feel like such a bad mother WHY- WHY- WHY!", she moaned- with tears rolling down her face.

Earl took Cheerie's shuttering body into his comforting arms and kissed her gently upon the head. It was all that he could do to comfort her. **"EarlWha-wha- what if we never see her again"**, she whispered.

"Don't you dare think it!We'll see her again- and she'll be good as newAnd I'll look right over at you and say that I told you so!You'll see CheerieYou'll see", he replied- though he couldn't shake the awful feeling that Cheerie was right.