

# CHAPTER 29

## 'BUSTED'

Henry Minnelton sat patiently within his smoking chair awaiting the return of the real Alexis, while angrily 'MA' 'MA' 'MUMBLING'- to himself!

[*Suddenly*] The cabin doorknob turned and 'CRA' 'CRA' 'CREAKED' open a few inches, causing Henry to swiftly close his eyes and lean back! Little Baby Squeaky Face scurried into the cracked door- followed by Alexis. She briefly stopped and gazed toward her papa, who 'SNA' 'SNA' 'SNORED' away. She then slowly and silently 'CA' 'CA' 'CREPT' over to her stool where the zombie Alexis sat quietly before an empty plastic bag and a small pile of burnt marshmallows. Zombie Alexis had no more marshmallows to roast- so she just sat there stiff like a lower-case letter h- she did!

"**Go away**", ordered Alexis- causing the zombie Alexis to instantly drop the branch to the cabin floor and vanish into a cloud of black smoke. Henry watched her every move with one eye open- he did!

"**ALEXUS!**", piped out Henry- startling her good.

Alexis instantly stood up straight and spun around to face him- with a strong look of guilt upon her face!

"**Yes- Papa!**", sang out Alexis.

"**Why haven't you done what I've asked to be done yet? .....I've already told you twice- I have!**", barked out Henry- as he leaned up within his chair and 'STA' 'STA' 'STARED' at her.

"**Oh- uh- because .....I-I-I- UH!**", stuttered Alexis.

"**Well ....HOP TO IT THEN! ....And I'll watch- I will**", instructed Henry- as he stuck his pipe within his mouth and struck a match across the table.

"**Yes- Papa!**", tooted out Alexis- as she searched about the cabin trying to figure out the task at hand.

Alexis turned around and peered into the furnace at the nearly burnt logs of wood and figured that he wanted more wood for the fire. She headed for a small pile of logs.

"**WHAT ARE YOU DOING! .....YOUR WASTING MY TIME- YOU ARE!**", barked out Henry.

Alexis didn't have any idea of what her papa had asked of her to do- so she just stopped and 'SCA' 'SCA' 'SCANNED' the cabin like a lost kitten. Upon locking her peepers onto a large black pot- her noggin rang an alarm. Figuring that her papa was hungry and wanted the soup water nice and hot, she stepped over to the shelf and lifted a huge black pot.

"**WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU DOING CHILD, IT ISN'T SUPPER TIME- IT ISN'T! ....NOW YOU STOP STALLING AND DO EXACTLY WHAT IT IS THAT I HAVE ASKED OF YOU TO DO!**", piped Henry.

With these words spoken- Alexis instantly spun back around and carried the pot back over to its spot. She then 'SCA' 'SCA' 'SCANNED' the cabin- once again, preparing to take another stab at it. The girl refused to just give up and come clean- she did!

"**Alexis- come over here for a minute**", ordered Henry- causing her to abandon her search and head towards him. She stopped her big boots to the left of his chair and gave him the most innocent stare.

Henry reached his left hand up to Alexis's head and stretched out her pink birthday hat. He then let it go- causing it to fall back down to her little head with a 'SNAP!' "You don't know what I asked of you because you weren't here, and you were trying to cover up for your lie- you were! ....You tried to fool me with that ghost while you ran off to some silly children's party- you did! ....How could you Alexis? ....You made me a promise- you did! ...No doubt now that your Karma will suffer greatly for this .....Why Alexis- WHY? ....Haven't I been a good father?", stressed Henry.

Alexis looked down to the floor with shame and shrugged her shoulders. She just wanted to have fun- she did!

"Do you not wish to be Gatekeeper?", asked Henry.

"YES PAPA REALLY- I DO!", tooted Alexis.

"Well you most certainly do not act like it ....I've told you over and over- time after time again, but it's just not sinking into your noodle- it ain't! ....You have a real responsibility young lady .....The entire world depends upon you to maintain the balance of good and bad dream energy- they do! ....One foul up and things can go haywire in the blink of an eye- they can! ....This isn't some childish game Alexis! ....Those nightmare beings will rip you to shreds if your not constantly watching them! ....OH ALEXUS- when will you learn! .... Hopefully- for the sake of us all, let us just pray that you decide to grow up before it's much too late!", continued Henry.

"I'M SORRY- I AM- HONEST ....I SWEAR I'LL GROW UP AND STOP PLAYING GAMES- I WILL!", she vowed.

"Why should I believe you .....You've already lied to me- you have! .....Just how many times- I do not know! .....But I grow weary of telling you these things- I do! ....You obviously have no intention on changing your ways anytime soon, so from this day forward I will no longer tell you what you should- or shouldn't do ....After all- you are the Gatekeeper and I'm just some tired old man who's much too old to train another Gatekeeper to replace you .....So go on Alexis! ....HAVE YOUR FUN! ..... The dreams of the world can wait! .....If you want to party and play Foosbally all day, you go right ahead and do as you so choose!".

"NO PAPA! .....I'M SORRY- I AM! .....I'LL DO MUCH BETTER- I WILL!", she plead.

"Sometimes the word sorry just doesn't fix things .....Some mistakes- take a lot more than an empty word ta fix- they do .....NOW GO! ..... Run along and play and leave me to my newsy- you do!", stressed Henry- as he unfolded a newspaper and dismissively 'WA' 'WA' 'WAIVED' her off.

"BUT!", tooted Alexis- as she tried to apologize, but Henry simply ignored her- he did .....*he had all he could stands of the Peter Pan stuff- and he could stands NO more!*

Alexis 'WA' 'WA' 'WALKED' away with her feelings hurt, and the disappointment of her papa had given her a 'GLIT' 'GLIT' 'GLITTERING' blue rainbow shirt! She sat down upon her stool feeling really really sad and confused .....*she had tried to grow up many many times before, but she just didn't truly know how!* Wanting to redeem herself in the eyes of her pa, Alexis figured that she'd need to work longer and harder at her responsibilities- in order to prove that she could grow up!

**"Come on you! .....I'm going to show papa that I am responsible- I am! .....No more games will I play .....It's all the responsibilities from here on out!"**, chimed Alexis- to Little Baby Squeeky Face, who sat *'NA' 'NA' 'NIBBLING'* at a burnt marshmallow. Little Baby Squeeky Face- *'SQEE' 'SQEE' 'SQUEEKED'* .....*he was ready!*

Alexus quickly leapt up from the stool and *'CA' 'CA' 'CLONKED'* her boots together- three times, while calling out the magic word ....**"SHIZ'ZIMO"**! Her boots instantly began to *'SPA' 'SPA' 'SPARKLE'* and shine!

[*Suddenly*] A magical stargate appeared within the air and swiftly *'SPA' 'SPA' 'SPUN'* open- illuminating the cabin with a blinding red glow!

**"I'M OFF TA WORK PAPA!....."**, tooted out Alexis- as she spun her head around toward him .....*but he just continued to ignore her as if she weren't even there!* She turned back toward the stargate with a sad sad look- she did. ".....**I'll be the best darn Gatekeeper- EVER- I will! ...You'll see papa!**", vowed Alexis- before she stepped toward the stargate and got *'SA' 'SA' 'SUCKED'* inside. Little Baby Squeeky Face followed- he did!

After taking in Alexis and the raccoon, the stargate shrunk and vanished leaving Henry behind- all alone.

**"A little tuff love ain't never hurt anyone- it ain't! ....."**, sang out Henry- just before his bushy eyebrows dove really really low, upon reading the newspaper and receiving a really really shocking blow! ".....**CORPORATE BAILOUTS! .....RECESSION! .....UN-EMPLOYMENT! .....Where's in the world does all the money go? .....I'll tell you where- I will! ...Straight into the pockets of all those greedy pig-faced corporate executive, with all their super secret perks and bonuses- it does!**

Those are jobs going into their feeding troth- they are! .....How much money does one person really need to be happy! .....**Sharing just isn't in their vocabulary- it ain't"**, ranted Henry- as he *'PA' 'PA' 'PUFFED'* on his pipe.