

THE HIDDEN ADVENTURE

MY STORY IS A SCAVENGER HUNT WHERE YOU
DISCOVER A NEW CLUE EVERY NEW PLACE YOU VISIT.

Chapter One

Mr. and Mrs. Pine are kind and elderly people who live in a brick and beautiful mansion at the end of my street. Whenever it's a rainy day, I take my umbrella and walk over to visit them because they have the most beautiful library right in their home. It has stained glass windows and rows and rows of books. Every time I visit, Mr. Pine greets me with a kind smile. Most days, I pull a book from one of the shelves and sit in the velvet armchair eating one of Mrs. Pine's famous caramel chocolate cookies.

That Saturday, I had nothing to do, so I went to their library to search for a new book.

"Hi Eve, how are you today?" Mr. Pine asked, as I walked in.

"Good, how about you?"

"I'm doing just fine. I assume you came to find another good book from the library?"

"I had to, I was full of boredom and needed something new to read." He smiled at me as I went to visit each aisle of books, taking books out of the shelf occasionally to take an extra look. I had to get on the ladder to look through the top shelf. As I pulled out a book from the shelf, a secret panel swung open and I felt a soft breeze. I reached my hand inside and found a secret note that felt like it had been waiting there just for me.

Chapter Two

This is a scavenger hunt, if you wish to complete it, then you must solve each clue.

Go to the place where you find

Homemade, delicious sweets.

You can find macaroons and pastries,

And a whole bunch of yummy treats.

A scavenger hunt? Questions crowded my mind as I tried to take all the new information in. I knew that I was determined to finish this scavenger hunt, so I reread the note and thought about where it was asking me to go. I thought it over for a few seconds until I had it. The town bakery! The bakery was less than half a mile away from the Pine's home so after saying a short goodbye to Mr. Pine, I was on my way. I walked the short distance on the sidewalk and within a few minutes, I was there. I walked inside, smelling the comforting smell of a fresh batch of cookies just coming out of the oven.

"Hi Eve! What could I get you today?" said Mrs. Dara, who was always a kind and sweet person to anyone who walked into the bakery.

"Hi Mrs. Dara, I'm not here for any treats today. I'm trying to look for something that I think might be in the bakery. Do you mind if I look around for a little?" I asked.

"You may look for whatever you need and however long you want. Now, I'll be in the back kitchen. I'm working on a new cookie recipe." When

she went behind the doors, I started looking anywhere I could find. Until there I saw it! It was inside a coffee mug that was on one of the shelves for customers to buy. I grabbed the paper and eagerly unfolded the note to read my next clue.

Chapter Three

To find your next clue,

Go to the place where you can walk or run.

You can get hot and sweaty easily,

If there's a bright and boiling sun.

The next clue said to go to the place where people walk or run and sweat when there's a boiling sun. I first thought of the park, but then I knew that people do more at the park than just walk or run. I thought about it for a few minutes, until eventually it dawned on me. The trail! Unfortunately, the trail was too far to walk so I would have to go home and ask my mom to drive me there. After a short walk, I soon got home.

“Mom! Can we go to the trail?”

“Sure, after I finish this work.”

“How much longer?”

“About an hour.”

The next hour might have been the slowest hour of my entire life. Until finally we were in the car ready to go. Our puppy, Max, went with us to the trail, hoping that he was able to find some squirrels to chase while he was there. When we got there, I started running with Max's leash in my hand. I looked in bushes, in the grass, and anywhere else I could find on the trail that could have a secret note hidden in it. I tried thinking of where it could be hidden until I came along a bench. I looked under it hoping for the best, and there it was. Hidden underneath the bench, I saw

a scrolled-up paper. I grabbed it, feeling like I was getting closer to the end by the minute!

Chapter Four

To find your next clue,

Go to the place where you can get yourself wet.

You can find cool rocks and bugs,

And catch small animals with a net.

It didn't take me long to figure out where this next clue was trying to take me. I had to go to the creek! The creek was right next to the trail, so I headed right over there when I finished reading the clue. Once I got there, I started looking with Max following close behind me. Until there I found it! It was on the other side of the water, tucked in a muddy spot. I stepped through the water, thankful that I wore my sandals. I slipped twice, completely getting myself soaked, but I eventually made it across. I grabbed the note and quickly opened it to read what it said.

Go to the place where all of this started at the library.

You're almost at the end!

You've come this far so now you know,

That this surprise isn't just pretend.

I felt more excited than ever! I kept thinking about what surprise could be at the end. I found my mom and she drove me to the Pine's home. I

jumped out of the car with Max when we got there and went inside to get permission to look in the Pine's backyard. When I got a “sure” from Mr.

Pine, I ran to the backyard. I scanned the huge yard carefully, making sure I didn't miss anything. I searched for a good twenty minutes with no sign of anything. I was starting to feel doubt, until I saw something small and silver poking out of the mulch behind the blackberry bushes.

I pulled out what I saw to reveal a small key with a tiny note attached to it.

Chapter Five

This is the key to something big and grand,

You can choose to make it into anything you have planned!

Keep looking in this yard; you may have to go on your knees.

Keep on looking, and you'll soon find yourself pleased!

I did what the note said, and I got on my knees. I searched and searched, hoping the Pine's didn't see me on my hands and knees in their backyard. Until finally, I saw Max sniffing and growling underneath the huge flower bushes. I went over to the spot where he was looking, and I found a small gate with a keyhole that was covered by the huge bushes.

"Good boy Max!" I told him, as I gave him a quick head rub.

I slowly and carefully put the key in the slot and twisted it. I was in awe as the door to the gate opened to reveal a medium sized room outdoors with a pretty fence and a beautiful forest right behind the fence. Since the Pine's didn't live right next to other houses, the area was quiet and beautiful. I felt slightly disappointed due to the dead garden, but then I saw yet another little note taped to the white fence.

The choice is up to you,

Change this place to anything you want to.

You own the key, so you own this space,

This is now your very own little place.

I was thrilled; this place was now my very own. Over the next few days, I told my family, the Pine's, and my closest friends about the secret place outdoors that I discovered, and I showed it to them. As I showed the Pine's I asked,

“Were you the ones who set all of this up?” Mr. and Mrs. Pine smiled, and then Mr. Pine said to me,

“This place used to be our daughters. Now that she's moved out, we wanted someone else to own it and enjoy it as much as she did. After all, it's not like we were going to do anything with it. So, that's when we decided to make it into a scavenger hunt, knowing that soon enough you would be the one to find it.”

“The scavenger hunt was a lot of fun, and I couldn't be happier with the surprise that was at the end. It's kind of like I now have my very own secret library!”

Over the next few days, everyone helped change the dead garden into a fun and welcoming space. We created a reading nook with a little garden next to it that was full of vibrant and colorful plants and flowers. My new space was my new favorite place to go and hang out, alone or with friends. It made me think about how many hidden places and possibilities are still in the world. After all, you never know what you might find.

