

The old woman pushed her walker, with a cane hanging from the handle bars, as she slowly approached the three children. She was glad that they hadn't noticed her yet. She wanted to get much closer to them before they saw her.

Jonathan, almost fifteen; Rebecca thirteen and a half and Adam, almost twelve, were very busy complaining to each other about their parents. Had they seen her sooner, the three of them would have likely moved quickly, closer to the door of their house and to the safety of their Mom and Dad. As it happened, she was quite near when they heard her strange laugh. Looking at her, the children were surprised to see a woman, who looked so ancient, standing by their side. What scared them a little, beyond her cackle, was that she was dressed in black, from the hat on her head, to the dress that touched the sidewalk. The only thing that was not black, was the long, red feather, protruding from the hat. It difficult to stop staring at her.

The three of them could not look away as her eyes moved to each face. Then she spoke these words. "Have you remembered? Have you found it?" Rebecca looked at her brothers, they looked at her and each other. The woman spoke again. | "Have you remembered? Have you found it?" Jonathan asked her what she means and what is there to find? She stared at them with piercing eyes and said, "The third floor. Have you found it?"

Adam could not keep quiet and blurted that the house only has two floors, unless she means the basement as well. The woman answered no. They must count from the first floor. She picked up the cane and pointed toward the house, into the air, above the second floor. That was when Adam pointed to his head with his finger and twirled it around and around. The woman understood that he was insulting her; silently saying that she was crazy! The children saw the woman's anger. Her eyes had turned red! They were terrified and attempted to run to back to their house. However, they could not move. Their feet were stuck to the sidewalk!

Then she began to chant. "Remember, find it! Remember, find it! Remember, find it! Remember, find it!" She continued over and over, again and again. The siblings kept trying to move, trying to run, but to no avail. Then suddenly, the chanting stopped and the woman had disappeared! Their feet were no longer anchored to the sidewalk.

They ran to the porch of their house. Jonathan held Rebecca and Adam back before they could run into the house. He told them not to tell their parents anything, at least before he told them his secret. His siblings did not understand why he said this, but they agreed not to tell. Each of them also had something that they were hiding. As they entered the house, their parents saw that their children had been running. After a few moments of chatter, the whole family agreed they were tired. Mom and Dad said they were going to sleep and their children should do the same. Tomorrow, everyone would have a chance to talk.

When their parents fell asleep, Jonathan gets his brother and sister to come to his room. As the three of them enter, they see two boys and two girls, about the ages of the siblings, sitting on Jonathan's bed. They are wearing the same black clothing and hats as the old woman. However, the girls wore pants instead of a long skirt. The only other thing that was different, was the absence of the red feather.

Jonathan asked them who they were and why were they sitting on his bead? Then he asked them how they got into his room. The answer gave the children a shock. One of them said they came through

2.

the third floor. The four strangers began to chant, "Remember, find it! Remember, find it! Remember, find it." Just like the old woman, they repeated the words over and over and over again. The windows in Jonathan's room were closed. However, as they spoke, a wind began to blow. The curtains were swinging. All of Jonathan's books, papers and pens flew from his dresser and landed across the room. His cupboard doors opened and his clothing came dancing off the hangers and flew around the room. Then, as if taking their turn, his dresser drawers opened and his socks, underwear, and t-shirts joined their friends from the cupboard. Round and round they went, as if gravity had been suspended for them.

All the while, the children on the bed continued with their words! "Remember, find it! Remember, find it! Remember, find it." Then Jonathan saw it happening. He grabbed Rebecca, then Adam and turned them away from the bed. He did not want them to see their eyes, the red eyes of the strangers.

Rebecca would have none of this. She broke away from her brothers, turned around, saw their eyes and screamed, "Get out! Get out! Get out!"

In a flash, they were gone. All the clothing from the cupboard and drawers, were in place. All the books, papers and pens, once again, sitting neatly on the dresser.

Jonathan, Rebecca and Adam searched under his bed, in the cupboard and behind the curtains. The four strangers were really gone. The three of them decided that first they needed to sleep. Tomorrow, after breakfast, they would take a walk around the neighbourhood. They promised each other that they would not tell their parents what had happened. The three of them would reveal their secrets to each other, before speaking to Mom and Dad.

Thus began a journey for the three children . They were to discover some of their family secrets. They realized that they could understand and speak a language that was strange to them. They enter a different world, but were still on Earth. Their parents disappear. The man who lives next door looks menacing and his commands cause them to hide in their house.