

On My Way Home



by
Madeline

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Hi, my name is Kayleigh and this summer I went in my family's past to find me. Not by time machine, by travel in the present.

Our whole trip led us to Ireland. First we started this trip in Greenland, Iowa where I live. We are packing up right now. We each have two suitcases, Two! Now I was thinking we will need a bigger car. Good thing on the way to our first stop there will be only four people in the car. First thing out, we went to on this trip because of me. I thought because I was an Irish girl that I'm stupid and not an American citizen.

We drove for five hours. I was becoming really bored, even though I had my DSI. All I could see was grass, grass, grass, and more grass. Well at least it's not a dirt road, never mind. Great now we are on a dirt road and lots of dirt will fly in the car. I'm guessing that Grandpa Garret's town is a bunch of junk. It might look like a pile of trash. We turned into the driveway. I hadn't seen Grandpa Garret's house in 5 years. It was really lonely where Grandpa lives.

After we unpacked our bags, Grandpa Garret showed us the town. While we were walking around town I noticed that there was a lot more left of the town than I had thought. Most of Grandpa Garret's memories were still there.

The school room looked just like a house on the outside. On the inside there were 23 weird desks, 1 teacher's desk, 2 chalkboards, and a long rope that went up to the bell. The school room was also the church. In the school there was a picture of what it looked like when it was a church. The teacher's desk had been move onto the platform next to the chalkboards. Also the desks were pushed tight next to each other. I never knew that a school could be a church too!

There was a gift shop in town too. A quarter of this shop had books. Another quarter had postcards. Another quarter had candy and toys. All of my favorite candies were there. The delicious sweet rock candy was covered in pink sugar crystals. Also the shop had salt taffy in every color, I love salt taffies. Grandpa Garret gave me \$10.00 to use. I got a doll, a bag of taffies, and 6 sticks of rock candy. That all added up to \$9.70: \$6.00 for 6 sticks of rock candy, \$1.00 for a bag of taffies, and \$2.70 for a corn cob doll. Plus taxes that equaled \$10.00 total. It was becoming dark. We started to Garret's house.

After I kicked off my shoes, I could smell chili. For dinner we were having chili, fruit, and brownies. Before dinner started, Dad said, "Kayleigh put your shoes on, we're going on a walk." On the walk I heard an owl. The wind was bellowing on the grass. When I saw a tree and my hand touched it. A wolf howled in the night time air at the moon. When my dad and I stepped back into the doorway, we saw dinner at the table: two bean chili with chicken bites, chocolate caramel brownies, and a fruit salad. The chili was a creamy brown with white pieces of chicken. The brownies were a dark brown color with golden caramel. This was what made my head hit the pillow. I was so tired after dinner.

I spent the next day with Grandpa Garret. In the morning I had coffee and played a card game called gabuge. I enjoyed playing gabuge with Grandpa Garret. I got all the aces. We also went on a walk. On the walk Grandpa Garret and I found a lost puppy. After lunch we played with the puppy. Grandpa Garret was going to keep him! We both chose the name Gold Sky because when we found him the sky looked gold. That was the very best day.

At first I thought everything was going to be awful, going and looking at a dump instead of a town. I was also in a bad mood, snooty, and rude. I thought the exact opposite of what the town was really like. It was a small and cozy town. It almost

felt like a soft pillow. While I was in town, I was in a good mood. Happy and cheerful was the mood. As I was leaving Grandpa Garret's house on my next step towards getting to Ireland, I was going to miss the small town. I would never think of my grandpa and his town like when I first got there again.