

## Through the Door

By Leigha Hylands

Have you ever seen something no one else can? Something that simply disappears when you turn around! Well that's what happened to me and that is where this story begins.

I was walking home from school with my best friend Emmy. We were talking about soccer practice. I was nervously thinking that it was the last practice before our championship game when I dropped my notebook.

Emmy didn't notice and kept on walking but as I bent to grab my notebook something caught my eye. It was a tiny light pink door at the base of the tree. It had little flowers and twigs surrounding it forming a delicate arch.

"Emmy, EMMY come see this!" She turned around and hurried back to me. "What is it?" She asked curiously. "I dropped my notebook and when I went to pick it up I saw..." But when I turned around to show her... it was gone!

"Umm Ella.. Earth to Ella, I would like to know what you saw?!" Emmy said

"There was a little door but um it's gone, it..it disappeared!" I blushed. Emmy looked at me like I was crazy. "Maybe your mind is playing tricks on you. Are you feeling ok? You should take tonight off." We hardly spoke for the rest of the walk home and then Emmy told my mom I wasn't myself and THEY decided I wasn't feeling well and should skip practice to rest up for the big game.

So with no soccer practice I found myself stuck in my room with nothing to do. "I might as well put my pajamas on." I muttered to myself. When I opened my drawer there were no pajamas but a flowery twig covered trap door! Nervous it would disappear again I did not dare look away. I needed proof so I quickly grabbed my camera without taking my eyes off the door and took a picture. But it didn't show up in the photo!

"What do I do? What should I do?" I wondered but the truth is for a determined girl like me there was only one option. So I took a deep breath and opened the trap door.

I gasped, inside there was a whole world lush with color and wildlife. "Here goes nothing." I whisper and jump through the trap door. Screaming as I plummeted through a pink sky aimed right for the biggest tree I have ever seen. CRASH!!!! I hit the tree and tumbled through the branches to the ground. Shocked, I stayed laying where I landed in the softest grass I have ever felt for a long time until finally I got up the nerve to get up and explore this strange and beautiful new world. I was surrounded by a thick forest with green, pink and blue trees all covered in fruit or flowers. There was a giant waterfall to my left, forward was a path that looked to be made of gemstones and to my right

mountains that appeared to touch the sky. "Wow." I breathed. This place is amazing and I was desperate to start exploring it. I decided to head towards the waterfall.

"AHHHHH!" I shrieked a squirrel flew out of nowhere and landed on my head! "GET OFF, GET OFF!" The squirrel jumped to the ground. "What the...?" This was no ordinary squirrel, it was light purple with wings! "Hey what was that for?" I asked "You stood right where I was landing!" the Squirrel snapped!

"OHHHkayyyy, I am pretty sure I am just dreaming because that voice came from the squirrel! A-are you t-talking?!" I stammered. "Yeah I'm talking! Now I would like some peace so go away!" The squirrel said very rudely. Not wanting to get attacked again, I turned around and walked away as fast as I could towards the waterfall. That's when I saw something elegant drinking from the pool at its base. "Is that?" I gasped because there stood a pearly white unicorn. It looked up and stared at me and I stared back. Suddenly there was a loud crash and a stampede of horses with human heads and chest came running between me and the unicorn, scaring it off. They stopped right in front of me. "Who are you!" A loud booming voice came. "I-I am E-Ella umm a h-human. W-Who are you?" I stammered "We are the centaurs. We have been told you attacked a fly squirrel. Is this true?"

"I did not attack, I didn't..." But the look the centaurs were giving me made me pause. "We are very grateful you attacked that squirrel. We do not like him very much. Always making trouble." I was surprised he said that. "Y-you don't like him?" I asked. "Of course we don't, he always drops stink acorns on us forcing us to kick them away like this." And he turned around, walked towards a giant stinky acorn and kicked it away so far and so hard, landing with perfect accuracy in the rapids down stream to be washed away. I just stared, amazed. "Umm, Can you teach me that?"

He smiled.

After a long afternoon of kicking stink acorns I lay down in the meadow and thought about my day until I slowly drifted off to sleep in the impossibly soft grass.

"Ella. Ella." It must be that pesky fly squirrel again I thought, but it wasn't. As I opened my eyes I realized I was in my bed and my mom was staring at me. "How are you feeling? Ready for the soccer championships today?" she asked. I smiled "Oh I'm READY!"

And that's the *real* story of how I scored the game winning goal from the far side of the field winning our team the championship game. "Ella, that shot was amazing! It takes a lot of guts to take a kick like that" said the coach.

I smiled and said "Thanks, sometimes you see an open door and you just gotta take the leap!"