

My Closet The Labyrinth

I hate Tuesdays. Tuesdays are like Mondays but twice as bad and this Tuesday was the worst of them all. It was a PD day but it was pouring outside so I was stuck in the house. I started to read but then my mom said "Mark, I'm going to the Salvation Army to drop off some old toys. Are there any old toys in your closet that you want to get rid of?"

"Sure." I say. It's been awhile since I looked through my closet. "Just wait a minute." I go into my closet. It's dark in there so I can't see much so I put my hands in front of me and take a few steps but i don't hit the wall! Huh, I didn't know my closet was so big. I take a few more and then the floor drops and I fall.

If you want to know what plummeting from the sky into a pond is like it feels like jumping off the high board and doing the belly flop but ten times worse. I landed in the middle but it took the breath out of me. I swim to shore but it's more of a frog jump.

When I finally get there I feel like I broke all my ribs. I lay there to catch my breath when it hits me. Where am I? I look around and I see a forest surrounding the pond but there is a big wall that kind of looks like a maze. Huh, I must have hit my head, I thought. Then I hear a raspy voice behind "Hey you there". I jumped around to see who said that. There's no one there.

I say out loud "Hello?"

"Hey pal, I'm down here". There it is again. I look down at the pond. No one is there... All I see is a small trout in the water. Then the trout opens his mouth and says "How are you doing, buddy?"

I gape at the fish for a little while until it says "What you've never seen a talking fish before?"

I replied "first time".

"Well, get used to it because we're both stuck here".

"How in the world are you talkin' to me?"

"Don't know but I can only talk here?"

"Yeah, but where are we? "

"Well," The fish starts, "I don't know where it is but I know that the only way out is through the labyrinth". I look back at the maze so that's my way home. As if the fish could read my mind he said, "Yeah and I can get you there. You see I have memorized the path but I can't grow legs so that's where I need you. You can carry me and we both go home, do we have a deal, uh what's your name kid?"

"Mark but there's one problem. How am I going to carry you?"

"Wait a minute" and the fish went down into the lake and came back up with a plastic bag. "Fill it up with water and I'll go in."

"Thanks uh?"

"My name is Don, Don the Fish."

I fill the bag with water and ask "Are you sure you know the way?"

He replies "I've been staring at that maze for a while and I know every nook and cranny of it." I hold the bag open and he swims in. "Now let's get a move on or neither of us will go home." Don remarks. I walk over to the maze where its walls loom over us. I take a breath and take my first step into the maze.

The doors to the maze slammed shut behind us! I say "We're trapped!"

But Don says "Yep we're fish in a barrel get it cause I'm a fish?"

"Hilarious." I say dryly and

Don replies, "Don't worry we won't be going back there, now let's get going."

We walked the rest of the way in silence with Don occasionally saying "turn right, go left and you missed the turn."

I asked Don how did you end up here and he said "I was swimming around in a sunken boat looking for the food and drove into the kitchen but then I went into one of the pantries and dropped from the sky and ended up here. How did you get here?"

I say "I was looking through my closet and I fell into the pond."

"We have arrived." Don announced but all I saw was a big rock wall.

I ask "Where is our way home?"

Don says, "You're looking at it, it's just above that rock wall"

I say "How are we going to get up there?" Don gives me a look and I realize what he's saying. "What?! I'm not much of a climber"

Don sighs, "Look kid, I know things look bad."

"You think!" I replied.

"But I know it will get a whole lot worse if we stay and up there is one way home. So you need to suck it up and climb. Don takes a breath and adds "Sorry."

I glare at the wall and sigh "Some lucky Tuesday." And I start my climb.

Now the wall was roughly 30 feet and there were 4 leagues and I'm not exactly a rock climber. I put Don in my pocket and start my climb. I climbed up the first part with ease but it got harder going to the top but nearly lost my footing twice. I was about half way and Don slipped out of my pocket and was screaming if I hadn't of caught him he would have been a jellyfish. He took a second to regain himself and I put him back into my pocket. I kept climbing until I came to an unclimbable spot. "Dead end." I say.

Don peeks out of my pocket and replies "Not entirely." I look to where he is looking and see a ledge across from my mind but it's 5 feet away.

"How do you suppose we get over there?" I asked him.

Don says "Take a leap of faith."

I say "From there?"

"You got a better idea?". Sadly I didn't and there was no other way. I would have to get a running start. Luckily this league was thick so I might make it but my chances were slim to none. I go back.

"real lucky Tuesday." I muttered to myself. I run up and jump.

I stop short. Big surprise, right? I hit my chest off the league and knocked the wind out of me and I'm down another rib. How many do I have left - five? I stay there clinging on to the league for my dear life. I pulled myself up and lay there for a second but then I heard a muffled voice coming from my pocket. I take Don the fish out and he says "How are you doing?"

"Never better." I groan sarcastically.

Don says "It is easy going from here, we're nearly home." That motivates me and I get up and continue to climb. I haul myself up from the last league and I'm on top. I take a few minutes to take a breath and see a cave.

I asked Don, "What now?"

He replies "I don't know."

"You said you know every square inch of this place."

"Yeah, but I've never been up here." I look back at the cave.

"So we just go in?"

Don struggles "I guess so." I walk towards the mouth of the cave.

I called out "Hello, is anybody there?". No answer. I walk forward cautiously and plummet again!

This drop was a lot shorter than the last one. I come toppling out of my locker in my bedroom and I say "Don?" but get no reply and search my pocket to find it empty! I call out "Mom?"

"I'm in the living room." I hear her say. I go to the living room and find my mom sitting on the couch. She asks "Do you have all your old toys backed up?"

I ask "How long have I been gone for?"

"From your closet for about ten minutes? Why do you ask?"

"Nevermind" I said and passed the bag of toys to her.

She inspects them "I had thought you had lost all of these, it must have been a labyrinth in there."

I smile "More than you think."

The end.

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