

# The House on 21st Avenue

By: CC



His heart was pounding,

He was sure he had just seen the doorknob turn.

"Aw man! I lost that, too!" complained Michael. Michael was a well mannered, good student, but he had only one problem. That problem was that nobody thought he was responsible enough because all of *his* food, toys, and other possessions were disappearing. Michael's family consisted of a mother, a father, and a brother and sister named Kevin & Jessica, who were both younger than him. He knew that it wasn't his brother and sister taking his things because he always checks everywhere in their rooms, and also interrogates them when he loses something.

Michael's parents always say, "It's always the Boogie man", sarcastically, when he loses something. They think he is just misplacing his things. His best friend, Samuel, believes him even if everyone else says he is lying.

One evening, Michael's dad told him about some old toys that he collected when he was 11 years old. His dad told Michael that he would let him play with his toys if Michael promised to take care of them, and not to lose them. Michael agreed and his dad told him his toys were in the basement. Michael was scared to go into the basement. His house was the third house on the left on 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. in Colorado Springs. It was unique, because it had a basement as the other houses did not. It had lots of layers of dust on everything, cobwebs everywhere, and sometimes there was water on the floors. His dad said it had bad plumbing even if the plumber said the pipes were fine.

Michael had decided that he was going to wait to go down to the basement on Saturday at lunchtime so there will be sunlight. So after anxiously waiting through the week, Saturday came. After lunch, he went down to the basement, and finally Michael found an old chest in the corner, but he found on the floor something more interesting than what might be in

the chest. He had found lots of little footprints in the dust, and marks in the dust from where the chest was moved from side to side. Michael thought it might be where rats had a hole, and they were hiding their hole with the chest, but wondered how it was moved aside. So he moved the chest aside, he found not a rat hole, but a door about 3 1/2 feet tall. That made Michael's heart leap the second he saw it. He ran up the stairs, screaming, and his mother threatened him that she was going to ground him if he wouldn't stop screaming. She asked him what it was that made him scream, but he just said it was a spider. He didn't want her to think he was crazy. He decided not to go down there again that day. On Monday, Michael told Samuel about it at school on Monday, but Sam didn't believe him. Michael asked him to come with him so he could prove it to him. On Friday afternoon, like they planned, they went down to the basement. Since the chest was moved away from the door they could see the small door. All Samuel did was stared in amazement. Something happened, though, that made the boys scared: the doorknob started turning! The boys started running up the stairs again, but stopped as they thought they saw a couple of ugly creatures. The creatures were about two feet tall; red, really large hands, and looked devilish. Samuel almost passed out, and Michael hid his face. The creatures were also scared! They

had never come face to face with people, so they fled at the sight of the boys. After a while, when they calmed down a *little*, the boys tried to find them and Samuel accidentally startled one. The creature smacked him with his really long finger nails. Samuel shouted, "Oww, that hurt, what was that for!?"

Michael found out that one knows how to write after he captured one in a bucket, and the others ran back in the door. The boys came to find out that they were Red Caps, creatures that live in dark places in colonies of about 100. They also agreed that if they left food down in the basement every Sunday that the Red Caps would stay away from *Michael's* family. After their silent "talk," the goblins gave up all the things that Michael thought had disappeared. The colony of Red Caps kept their word, and didn't trespass in their house. Again next year their dad had to move because of business, and a new family moved into the house on 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Unfortunately the new family didn't know they weren't the only ones living in that house...