

Lauren

## MY GRANDPARENT'S HOUSE

So this driveway is pretty tricky even though it's maybe 90-feet and completely straight. When my mother's side would get together here every summer since I was just 2 months old, my uncle Chuck or my grandfather would hit someone's car. My dad always said it was because of the mailbox so I suggest you park on the street but NOT on the grass.

See this small drop in the concrete of the driveway Brant? Well, when it rains it would fill up with water and my cousin Christopher Robin and I would light a firecracker, put it in mason jar and it would pop out and make the slightest sound with a little bubble forming on the surface. The second time you use the same mason jar it explodes.

As we walk up the pathway to the door, to your left you'll see the roses my grandmother used to care for. Pink, white and red. And then with the green tiny leaves giving the colors such good contrast. Well, anyways, so the brick of the house always confused e. Black, brown and beige. With a sea foam green front door and two bedroom windows. It's a small house, only one story.

Walking up the four brick steps to your left you'll see a porcupine. A fake one, of course, with pokey things on it to clean your shoes. I've never used it.

The first glass door is very smooth to open, it always has had good springs. When there's family in town the front door I always unlocked besides when no one's home. The seafoam green color always reminded me of my grandmother but never my grandpa. I just feel like he wouldn't have that color for a front door ya know?

Brant follow me this way to my left. But be careful of this step. There's black tile but the switch from black to beige carpet throws off the old people and they usually fall. To the left id the garage door, it smells funny and there's a birdcage in there! Never thought my grandparents had birds. But there's tons of crafts, jars, fake flowers, vases, golf clubs, and a foot spa, all stacked up on a shelf to your left when you open the screen

door after the light wooden door you used to enter. Another step. But it goes from ugly shag beige carpet to concrete. To your right is my grandpa's 1994 Cadillac. It is huge isn't it? Whenever we go to Applebee's I always go in his car 'cause I feel like I'm in a limo. And to the left is my grandmother's 80's wood paneled maroon leather interior station wagon. I want this car so bad. I hope I get it someday. I think it's the coolest thing. Three seats in front, three in back and two in the trunk. It's a boat to say the least.

Okay we have to go, the smell is getting to me.

Here, walk straight. This is the family room or the TV room. That big leather chair right there. That's Grandpa's chair, it's reclining. If you sit in that chair after a long day at the country club, you'll be sleeping for hours. In the book shelf behind you there's tons of books, records and 8-tracks. In the cabinets there's knitting materials, picture albums. All different kinds of knick-knacks. And then to the left of the leather chair is an ugly flannel type of sitting device, it's a chair but has no arms to put your arms.

To the left is the TV and family photos of my parents and uncles and my cousins and my family. And then next to the TV is the fireplace with more family photos of my cousins when they were all younger. As we walk this way you'll see my Grandpa's office. It's pretty open there's no door between the TV room and the office. He has a sign sticking up in these plants that hide his desk, it says, "I'm a golfer therefore I swear." I get a kick out of it. And if we walk left around the desk you'll see the only new age thing in this house, a Mac desktop. My Grandpa's kind of technology advanced, but not that much. Ha ha.

Now let's go to the kitchen. There's a TV that is hung over the second microwave that is never used when my Grandma was alive. You often would see her watching this TV and my Grandpa watching the other. There's this old wooden table that's pretty low to the ground. Therefore there's four office-like chairs with blue flannel upholstery. They swivel and roll around. Only my dad always tells me to not roll around in them. It's bad for the linoleum floor. There's always sugar and butter on the table. Always.

And on your left next to the phone is a cabinet filled with liquor glasses. All different kinds. They're rarely used. And the cabinet under the counter is the liquor cabinet, I think I've seen it opened once. To the right of those cabinets is the fridge. The freezer is on top and the refrigerator is on the bottom. It's my favorite refrigerator ????

And if we keep going to the right, you'll see the cookie jar and the toaster, you can toast 4 pieces at a time, best invention ever. The cabinets are all filled with dishes and cooking materials. The drawers underneath the linoleum countertops are filled with eating utensils. There's the sink and underneath is the dishwasher. And at the doorway leading to the dining room is the stove and oven and above the other microwave.

As we walk into the dining room you'll see that it's really just part of the living room. Only it's a level up. With a sort of wooden basin thingy. By my grandma's desk that is technically in the living room. The "a small area with a huge armoire that holds all my grandma's china and glass. The table has those squishy type of materials on the top. I don't like it and I don't understand it. The chairs I don't get either, they have seafoam green upholstery.

As we step down you'll see grandma's desk. It's nothing special. But there is a baby grand piano. It's out of tune, please do not play it. Then to your left is a couch that is hard as a rock, I swear. The marble table that has corners sharper than a knife. And on the right wall is a rocking chair and a little side table and another chair. This room is boring, it has nothing to play with.

As we walk through the foyer we'll go to the hallway on your right. And turn left into the pink room. Everything is pink and made by my grandma. The curtains, bedding and pillows. The carpet is pink, everything is pink. The closet is dark wood paneling. It's pretty pink.

Now, when you walk out the door you'll go straight into the bathroom. It's also pink. A pink bathtub, beige-pink carpet and a fizzy pink toilet seat cover, with potpourri on top of the toilet. My grandpa uses this bathroom.....

Let's go to the "blue room." Second doorway on the right. The bed all the way in the corner against the wall is so tall when I was younger I needed help getting up on it. In the summers when I was younger all the boy cousins would stay in here and it would smell so bad. Opposite of the bed is my grandma's sewing machine. And in the closet to the right of it is so many sewing materials it never ends. And in front of the window next to the bed sits an aloe vera plant. Whenever we would go to the water park my grandma would always have aloe ready for us. The closet right in front of the bed is full of my

grandpa's suits and shoes, all his clothes. The dresser and mirror to the left is filled with all his jewelry. He loves rings. Has a ton of them. He's awesome

As you exit the blue room you walk straight into the master bedroom, which is the biggest bedroom in the house. On your left is my grandma's closet. And before we cleared it out, after she died, it was FILLED. So many clothes and random things she never used or rarely used. And as you walk in a little more to the right is her dresser and on the left is her bed she used to share with my grandpa. He's huge. They stopped sleeping in the same bed together because they got so old. The wall that her bed is up against is all mirror. From baseboard to ceiling, just mirrors. Sometimes it's great but most of the time I get super creeped out. The windows on the wall you're facing look out to the backyard. It's not that big. It has a shed in the far left corner, the Mexican landscape boy is the only one that uses it. Of course, there's a patio with a table and grill. But if we go left we walk into the bathroom. To the left as you walk in is the sink and cabinet with old people lotion and old make-up. At the back of the bathroom, although it is small, is the toilet complete with fuzzy cover. And the shower that doesn't have a tub, just a cube.

My grandparent's home is a large part of my childhood, a very significant piece. And now that both of my grandparents have passed away I get skeptical of how my family will stay together. This house in Grand Island, Nebraska has been the meeting place every summer for my family to catch up and see each other, so, now what?

