

# Locked in the Attic

By R.E. Weichert

## Chapter 1: The attic

One day a seven year old girl, an eight year old boy and a twelve year old boy were playing hide-and-go-seek in an old house their father had just bought. Two of the children, whose names were Mia and Jackson, ventured into the attic while their oldest brother, Harper, stayed downstairs counting. Jackson saw a cement chimney and hid behind it. Mia went further into the attic and found a circular porthole.

Resting on the sill of the porthole she found a note and on top of that note was a broken key. She studied this key for a while before setting it down and picking up the note.

The note said this:

To: Whoever built this house.  
From: Ruth Anne, Jared, and Caleb.

Dear Person,

This note is probably almost 1 hundred years old. This key laid on top locks the attic door. We broke it when trying to escape from a wanted man who is hiding in this attic. I must make this letter brief for my brothers are being held at gun point. Watch your back. THIS IS NOT A JOKE.

Sincerely,

The Holcher's

Frightened, Mia called her brothers over. "What is the matter?" demanded Harper. Mia showed them the letter, and then the key. The boys looked at the note, then the key. Finally Jackson said, "It's just a joke." "I think so too," said Harper, "besides, I don't see anyone. Come on, let's get back to our game."

Harper laid down the note and key on some old newspapers. As Harper and Jackson walked away Mia curiously looked at the newspapers. On the front page there was the title "Murderer."

## Chapter 2: Murderer

Murderer. Mia thought this over. Could there really be a stranger? No, this much worse, a wanted man living in this attic? No, there just couldn't be. As she read on she found out as a child he was charged with petty theft. As he grew older he got involved in more serious things like drug dealing, bank robbing, and public shooting. Although in his teens he never hurt anyone, he was off to a pretty bad start.

"Interesting." Mia mumbled, as she grabbed another newspaper. In his 30's he had killed a couple people.

All of a sudden she felt a hand rest on her shoulder. as she let out a scream another hand covered her mouth. Then she heard a quick whisper, "It's me! Jackson!" Relieved, she sank into her brother's arms. In came Harper.

"What's going on?" he asked, almost whispering  
"I thought I heard a faint scream!" Mia showed  
them both the newspapers. "I guess that is kind  
of a coincidence." said Jackson with a little  
grin on his face. "Do you want to go get some  
lunch?"

"Whatever," replied Harper. Just as quick  
as Jackson put the newspapers on the stack of  
newspapers, the whole stack fell down, revealing  
a treasure chest. Excited, the three children  
tried to open the chest but couldn't. Mia had an  
idea. She found the key to the attic, shoved the  
boys aside, and with a smile on her face, stuck the  
key in the key hole. She turned the key and with  
ease opened the chest. Everyone was thinking  
about what would be in the treasure chest. Mia  
thought it would be full of gold jewelry. Jackson  
thought it would have a spyglass. Maybe some  
words, and an eye patch. Harper thought it would  
have the captain's diary and a picture of the  
captain's love. When the excited children saw  
what was in the chest they were very much so  
disappointed, that is, all except Jackson.

### CHAPTER 3: Frightened Children

The eager children opened the chest and found two knives, two guns, some ammo, and a rope. Each child was confused.

"What are these for?" wondered Harper out loud.

"You mean where did they come from?" corrected Jackson.

"I've got it!" hollered Mia. "They must be the scared man's stuff! Who is supposed to be hiding in our attic." Each child exchanged a frightened look. "Maybe we should go downstairs." Harper finally managed to say.

"Yes! Yes! Let's go-go down stair-stairs!" replied Jackson. "Okay," sighed Mia. "but what should we do with this stuff?"

"K-K-K-keep it-it. We-we d-d-don't w-want it-it to... Oh, spit it out! We don't want it to fall into the enemy's hands."

replied Jackson. "If he's even here," said Harper,

"which he probably is, gulp..... Okay, Jackson you take that end I'll take this end. Let's go!

Pronto! Move it!" Next thing you know the boys have the chest halfway across the attic.

Now this attic was a very large attic. One where a grown man could stand up straight and not hit his head on the roof. This attic was also fairly full of stuff. You know, stuff like boxes, suitcases, magazines and newspapers, old lamps, mice traps, pots and pans, just rags, loads full of random stuff, the whole nine yards. Now, back to the story.

The boys were almost at the door when Jackson shouted, "Mia get the door open!"

"Yes sir!" replied Mia "It's jammed!"

"Well then unjam it!" Wailed Jackson.

"I can't!" said Mia.

"Hurry!" Harper chimed in. There the boys stood, patiently waiting for Mia. Or maybe, not so patiently.

#### Chapter 4: The missing key

"Faster Mia! Faster!"

shouted Jackson. "Where is the key to the attic door?" asked Mia.

"I thought you had it!" said Harper. "Go find it!" demanded Jackson. "I've got a better idea!"

said Mia. "Put the chest down and help me find it."

Harper and Jackson immediately dropped the chest and left it to help Mia find the key.

"I found it!" yelled Mia. "Great job, sis!" declared Harper. "Now let's get out of here." The happy

children picked up the chest, stuck the key in the door's key hole, and with ease broke the key. "Mia, you broke it!" screamed Jackson.

"Hey! I mean, it's not my fault." said teary-eyed Mia. "Mia, I can't believe you broke it!"

continued Jackson.

"I'm sorry." mumbled Mia.

"Arrgh, Mia!" yelled Jackson while storming off.

Sniff. "I am really sorry," said Mia while looking up at Harper. Harper had to look away because he couldn't stand to look at Mia's teary eyes.

"Jackson!" Harper yelled. "Get over here this INSTANT and apologize to your sister!"

"Never!" shouted Jackson.

### Chapter 5: The Wanted Man

"Jackson Andrew Winslow!" yelled angry Harper. "You will apologize and you will apologize now!"

Harper also ran off, to find Jackson. Poor Mia was left alone. A couple of minutes later Harper came back, with Jackson. "Jackson says he is sorry for being so mean and wants to know if you will forgive him." said Harper. "I don't hear him." said Mia. "Well anyways he is," replied Harper in a cheery way. "I'm sorry." said Jackson. "Okay!" replied Mia. Then she punched him in the gut and walked away. (Smiling of course) "What does that mean?" asked confused Jackson. "That's a girl's way of telling a boy that she forgives him and that he should never do that again." said Harper. "Really?" asked Jackson.

Next Harper gave him a punch in the arm. "Now, how do we get out?" asked Harper. "That's a good question huh, Mia?" said Jackson. Mia decided instead of answering the question she would let the boys figure that out and give Jackson the 'stink eye'. The boys started looking around for a place to get out. By the time Mia spoke up, Jackson had walked passed a window twenty-one times. "Ahem." Mia cleared her throat. She pointed at the window Jackson was standing right next to.

"I saw that," said Jackson.

"Oh sure," said Harper. "Good idea Mia, but let's not use that escape unless we really need it."

Mia crossed her arms and wrinkled her nose.

The boys went back to looking. "Okay," whispered Mia to herself. "I'll just sit on the treasure chest."

She walked over to the spot her brothers had left the chest. "Where did it go?" Mia asked herself. "Help!" someone cried. Mia raced over to the place that she thought the noise had come from. There stood Jackson and Harper. They looked as stiff as a board. "Don't take another step forward or they die!" called a mysterious voice. Mia gasped. The wanted man!