

Rainy Day Attic Play

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With my elbows resting on the window ledge I sadly watched the rain splattering against the window. It had been raining for several days and showed no signs of stopping. My sisters and I had completed our chores, played games and generally kept ourselves busy. It was too wet to play on the screened-in porch. Both the upstairs and the downstairs porches were dismally wet. What were we going to do?

My mother had a great imagination and when it came to entertaining children she was usually prepared. This day was no exception. After we helped fix and eat lunch she looked around the table at our gloomy faces and proclaimed the day a holiday. She brought the smiles back by telling us that she had a secret. She was going to let us play in the attic! This was always a treat as we were not allowed to play there just anytime we wanted.

Mom went up to the attic with us. We were so excited! We gathered in the middle room that was floored. Old things were stored there. There was an old roll top desk where she kept paper, pencils and crayons for our artistic endeavors. An old trunk worked as a place to sit. In that trunk were very old catalogues from which on that day we were allowed to cut out paper dolls.

On one end of the attic there was an attic fan which was running this day. On the other end there was an open door-sized space with no door. The room was not floored but it did have a board on which one could carefully walk into the room. The only light in the attic came from a single light bulb that hung from the rafters in the middle room. My mom set up the rules for the day. Paper dolls and art were good. Playing house was good. We were not to go near the fan. As to the other room she left it up to us but she did warn us that we should not ever fall off the board.

For the first few hours we played happily with all that was allowed. After a while we sat on the old carpet in the middle of the room and began telling spooky stories. It was the perfect place and time for it! As we told and discussed our stories we decided to explore the spooky room. As I carefully walked on the board I looked down beside the board. I stopped, shivering with fright. My sisters ran in to me and almost knocked me into the sea of snake-like creatures below the board. We stood there afraid to move or talk. As we finally began inching backwards we heard strange noises. As soon as we got off the board we turned off the light left the attic and closed the attic door. My mom heard the door closing and came up to make sure we were okay. She looked at our faces and knew where we had been. She gave us the *look* and with a twinkle in her eyes asked "Did you see or hear any Gremlins up there?" We retired to our rooms for the rest of the rainy day.