

The Hidden Jungle

Introduction

I am here to tell you the story of Mirah Tompkins. You are probably sitting there, wondering, who is this Mirah? Actually, I'm here to tell you.

Chapter 1

It was a humid day in Nevada. It smelled of pine, with a hint of rain. There were 2 Tompkins inside, cooking grilled cheese sandwiches.

"Mirah," asked Mirah's grandfather, A.J. " Would you like your sandwich with or without tuna?"

"With tuna, please," answered Mirah, her mind elsewhere.

You see, when Mirah was a young child, she was brilliant. She is still very smart today, but her grades keep shrinking.

Mirah tries to use her imagination extremely carefully. Instead of doing Algebra, Mirah is floating off to another galaxy.

Mirah was an only child. She didn't have a brother or sister to push her around, annoy her, or interrupt her thinking. She was used to having all the attention and getting her way.

Well, this was about to change. Mirah's mother was pregnant.

"Mirah, your mother is coming home with your new baby brother," said A.J. "Why so blue?"

He got no answer, and as usual, he asked again. This went on for quite a while until he just gave up and went about his daily business.

Mirah, on the other hand, had just heard strange voices coming from outside- well, at least she *thought* she did.

Suddenly, Mirah got an urge to go outside and start digging. Mirah always goes with what her mind tells her to do, and right now, her mind was telling her to go and start shoveling dirt out of the ground.

Before you knew it, Mirah was outside making a 5-foot hole. Once she reached the exact 5-foot mark, she hit something hard. Then Mirah started clearing the dirt away with her hands so she could get a good look at it.

It was a door, but it was inside the ground. Mirah reached down and found a brass knob. She slowly turned the brass knob and opened the door. Light flooded in from the other side. She didn't know what to think.

