# The Mirror

Lucy was a kind-hearted girl. She had dark red hair, hazel eyes and a beautiful smile. But today was the day she was going to live with her grandma who lived with her younger sister. She slowly emerged from the cab, approaching a large manor. It was beautiful: the trees were all the same size; the grass was cut perfectly; and there was a rocky path that led to the back lawn.

Lucy carefully placed her luggage down and gently knocked on a large red door to find herself standing in front of a tall woman who had piercing blue eyes and golden locks that led to a reassuring smile. “Hello, darling,” she said kindly, “you must be Lucy.”

“Yes, I am Lucy.”

“Well, Lucy, don’t just stand out here in the cold- come inside.”

Lucy was led through a many-roomed corridor with silver tiles that shone like the moon, golden chandeliers and well-looked-after flowers. Astonished, Lucy followed her grandmother into a small, dusty room, lit only with one candle.

“You may leave your belongings here and Richard (the butler) will show you to your room,” announced grandma in her kind, quavering voice.

“Thank you grandma, but I thought that I would see Anna.”

“Oh, yes sweetie. She is upstairs in her room, you may go up and see her. You will find a door that has her name written on it.”

“Ok, thank you.” Lucy said politely.

Lucy turned many corners and many staircases until she finally made it to the door that said “Anna” on it. She knocked on the door quietly – but there was no answer. Eventually, Lucy opened the door and stepped inside. There was one ancient-looking wardrobe, a large bed and a little girl sitting down in a corner.

“Anna!” screamed Lucy, filled with joy, “how are you? It’s been so long.”

Lucy raced up to her sister and hugged her, not letting go. Anna was wearing an old, ragged dress and no shoes. Her hair was greasy-looking and unwashed; her face was surprisingly pale. Lucy looked at her sister for a minute, shrugged and continued talking.

“I’m so excited to start playing with you.” Lucy said kindly.

“Anna, aren’t you going to talk to me?”

Anna turned around and stared into a blank wall. Lucy was confused. Why wasn’t her sister talking to her? It went on like this until dinner time.

“Lucy! Anna! Dinner time, come downstairs.” Called grandma.

They obeyed and came running down the stairs. The table was set out beautifully. A diamond chandelier elegantly shared its crystal reflection with the darkness.

“Grandma, this is beautiful!”

“Thank you dear, but you should really thank Richard.”

“Ok, but thank you anyway.”

They each found a seat, and sat down (including Richard).

“This food is delicious. But granny, I haven’t seen my room yet.”

“Oh, I am so sorry my precious. Your room is across the atrium near the west wing, where you and Anna are forbidden to enter. “Said grandma with a deeper tone in her voice than earlier.

“Why, gran? Asked Lucy curiously.

“Because. Um. Ahem… you just aren’t, ok?”

“Yes granny, I’m sorry.”

After that, dinner was eaten in silence.

“Bedtime, girls! Come and kiss me goodnight!” called grandma.

Lucy and Anna walked down the wooden stairs and entered a large room with a king- sized bed, a beautiful wardrobe and a red rocking chair, where grandma was sitting with a blue blanket, resting upon her knees.

Lucy carefully kissed her grandmas soft, wet cheek and went up to her room. She got changed into her night clothes and lay on her bed. The door slowly closed, letting out a high- pitched noise. Lucy picked up her cream- white pillow and found a book; she opened it up and started reading. The colourful pictures elegantly rose and danced around the room.

After a few weeks, Lucy had seen every room in the house - except the west wing.

“Lucy! Anna! I have a surprise for you!” called grandma.

They ran down the main lobby and entered their granny’s warm presence. “Yes grandma?”

“Darlings, I was looking through a couple of old boxes and I found a few dolly’s that were mine when I was a girl, and I thought that you two might want them.” Grandma kindly handed each of them their gifts. To Anna a scratched, wooden doll and to Lucy a Victorian, porcelain doll.

“Thank you very much, grandma.”

“You’re welcome, darling. My own grandmother had given it to me when I was your age. So take care of it.”

Lucy nodded in thanks.

That night, Lucy dressed into her night clothes and got into bed with her dolly. She had asked Anna to share her room with her for a while, so Anna was going to sleep in the bed across from her. After they had read a few chapters of their books, it was time to turn the lights off. They fell asleep. But while Lucy was sleeping, she could see “Anna right in front of her, mumbling something.

“Come with me. I want to show you something very special. It’s just for you. “

Lucy was sweating. She started breathing heavily. She woke up. But there was no one in front of her. Anna was fast asleep.

After that, Lucy realised that she was quite thirsty. So she stood up and walked into the kitchen. There was a kettle boiling, so Lucy picked a cup and made a cup of tea. But she heard a noise. It sounded like a little girl humming. Lucy slowly took a glance over her shoulder to find Anna standing at the end of a large corridor, holding her ragged dolly.

“Anna? W- What are you doing?” stuttered Lucy.

There was no answer. Anna turned around and started walking the other way. Quickly, Lucy followed. They reached the west wing.

“Anna? Grandma told us to never set foot in here.”

Anna ignored her and started to open the door. She walked inside and so did Lucy. The room looked abandoned and had mice everywhere. Anna stood in front of a wall and looked into an ornate mirror.

“Anna, it’s not the time to look in the mirror.”

She turned around and took a glance at Lucy before placing her gentle, yet pale hands on it. The pieces of glass shattered to the floor. Now there was a large, dark hole in the mirror, almost like a tunnel.

Anna went through the hole and disappeared. Lucy stared in shock as the pieces of glass rose up and danced elegantly back to the mirror. Lucy walked out of the room, closed the door and drank her tea in silence.

As the sun appeared, the morning birds stared up at it, but made no noise; in the third room, Lucy stretched her arms up and yawned silently. She remembered Anna and raced up a corridor, past the kitchen and into the west wing. Lucy walked up to the mirror and stood there. As she reached out for the mirror, she could see a small figure standing at the door. It was Anna.

“Anna? What’s going on? I thought you went inside the mirror.” Lucy whispered.

There was no answer. Anna stared straight past her and walked to the mirror. Lucy watched in complete silence, knowing what was going to happen.

As the shiny glass shattered to the floor, Anna stepped in. Lucy didn’t want to be left in this abandoned-looking, gloomy space once again so she took a deep breath – and stepped in. Grandma was just sipping her tea in her special rocking chair when there was a knock on her door.

“Enter,” said grandma.

The door slowly revealed a little girl, looking a bit like… Anna.

“Hello darling, no one to play with today?”

“No, grandma.”

“Then come here and let’s have a little chat.”

So, Anna walked over to her gran and sat down on the bed across from her.

“I hope you like playing with your new dolly.”

“Yes grandma, I love her very much.”

“Well, that’s good then. But”, said she, “where is Lu-“

She stopped before she could say any more.

“Pardon, grandma.”

“Oh. Ahem… nothing to worry about, precious.”

“Grandma? Please may I go upstairs to my room and read a book?”

“Yes, you may go.”

So Anna carefully walked up the creaky staircase and reached the main corridor. She passed the kitchen and reached a large door. She was in the west wing. Anna reached out her hand to open the door. She walked over to the mirror, placed her hand onto it, and watched the tunnel appear. She climbed onto a table and crawled into the darkness.

There was a strange noise, Anna got closer and closer to it; soon she was floating. It was pitch black, but just around the corner there was a small light, leading to a large one. Anna got closer and closer to it, looking down at a small village. She could see her grandma in the bakery, buying two loaves of bread. There was a cough behind Anna. It was Lucy.

“Anna? You’re here? I thought I would be stuck in here forever. I couldn’t get out.”

“There is no time now Lucy. Just come and watch this.”

They both looked down at the village where they could see grandma walking down a street. Soon after, she reached the manor, grandma was wearing a blue dress a white apron and she had long, ginger hair. As she put the key in the door, she noticed an old lady standing behind her, wistfully gazing into the distance. The woman was holding something, it was a mirror.

Grandma took it, thanked the kind woman and went inside. Anna and Lucy watched carefully as grandma was heading for the west wing. She opened the door and placed the mirror inside. As she left, a little girl was at the door. It was Anna.

She waited for grandma to leave to buy t old woman some food. When grandma was gone, Anna slowly walked down the wooden stairs and into the west wing. She reached for the mirror to hold it, but as soon as her hands gave the mirror the faintest touch – it cracked.

Anna fell to the floor as a black and white picture of a lady was left smiling in the corner of the room. After that, Anna picked the mirror up and hung it where she had once found it and ran out of the room.

Lucy looked up at her sister, she was now in tears.

“Anna? Why didn’t you tell me?

Anna ignored her and left Lucy to cry alone. Lucy wiped her tears and looked down once again. Anna was crying in her bed, she looked a little different: her hair was greasy, looking unwashed; she was wearing an old, ragged dress, and her skin was surprisingly pale.

Lucy picked up her dolly and floated away. When she reached the west wing, she climbed out of the mirror and threw it to the ground. But Lucy could feel something clutching onto her leg, she looked down but saw nothing. It was like a strange force, trying to pull her back into the mirror, but Lucy managed to escape. She ran out of the room, leaving the door wide open. That night, Lucy was falling asleep when a loud noise woke her up. It was Anna. Anna was holding shattered pieces of glass, she handed them to Lucy.

“You have entered the other world. So sleep well because this could be your last night as a… human.

As the sun rose, grandma called Lucy into her room. Lucy entered her grandma’s warm presence. “Lucy, I have called you into my room to ask if you like it here.”

Lucy shook her head and stared straight into a blank wall.