

A N N I E W I L D E R

THE
TRUE
STORY
OF A
HAUNTED
HOUSE

H O

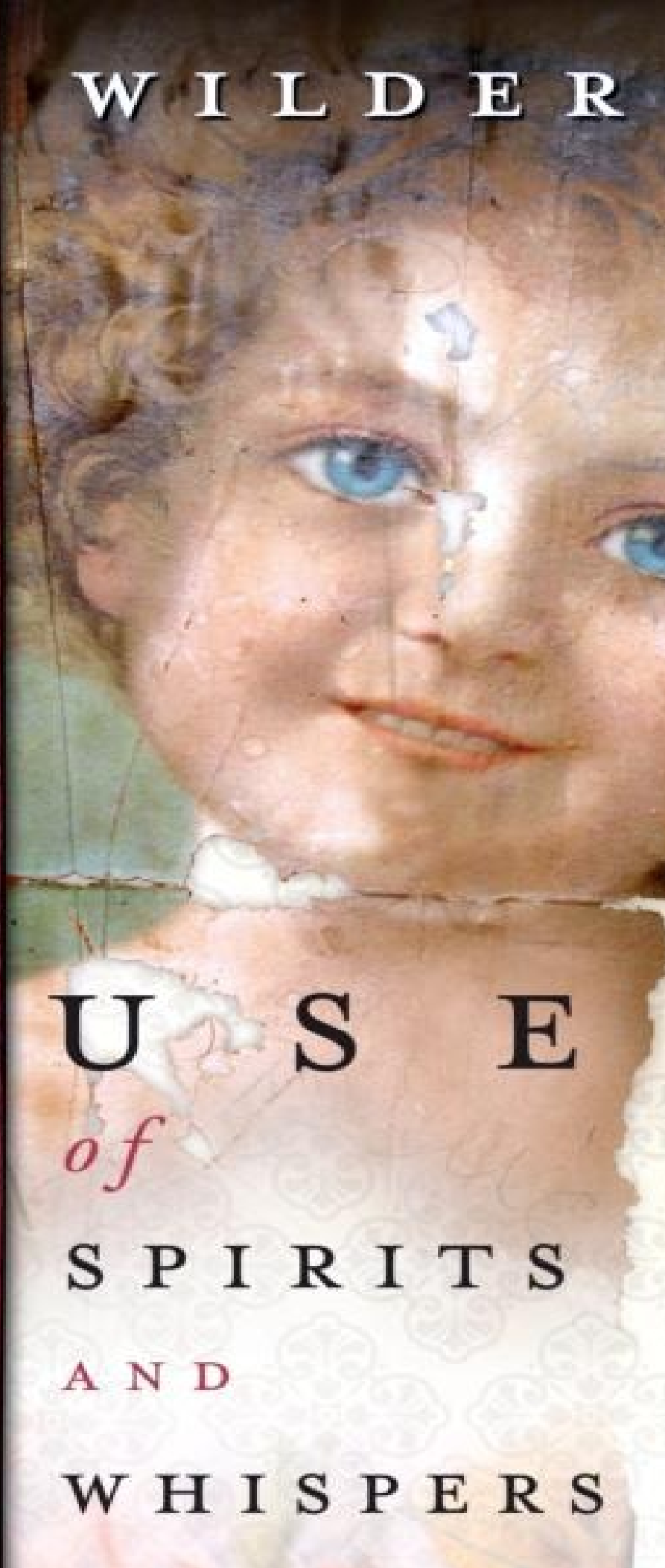
U S E

of

S P I R I T S

A N D

W H I S P E R S



ANNIE WILDER

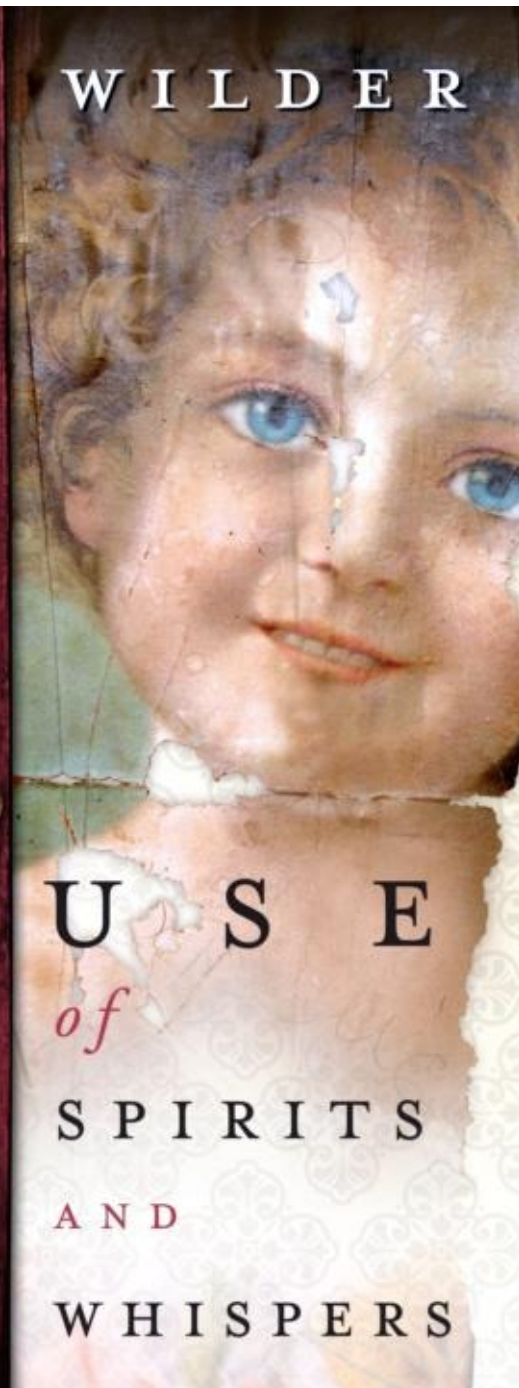
THE
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H O U S E

of
SPIRITS

AND

WHISPERS



H O U S E

O f

S P I R I T S

A N D

W H I S P E R S

About the Author

Annie Wilder is a mother and writer. She still lives in the old Victorian house with three cats and numerous ghosts.

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HOUSE

of

SPIRITS

AND

THE TRUE STORY OF A HAUNTED HOUSE

ANNIE W I L D E R

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This book is dedicated to:

My mom, who taught me the value of imagination, stories, and being kind, especially to children.

My dad, who taught me to be strong, work hard, and love the outdoors.

My children, from whom I've learned the most valuable lessons about love.

My Grandma Dorrie, the most loving, interesting, and fun grandma a girl could have.

And Leon, for all the adventures.

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WHO'S WHO

Family

Annie Wilder-Me (the narrator).

Molly and Jack-My children.

Other Family Members

My Mom and Dad.

Evie-Young family member who stayed with us for a while.

Iris, Betsy, Maggie-My sisters.

Dan-One of my four brothers.

Deanna-My aunt who liked the angel statue in my yard.

Alexandra and baby Shea-My second cousin and her daughter who lived with us for a short time.

Family Spirits

My Great Grandma McDonough-My Irish great grandma.

Mary, Dorrie, Thomas, Norah, and Nellie McDonough-The five of my Great Grandma McDonough's children whom I had known (four of her children had died as infants or children).
Dorrie was my grandma. Nellie was my second cousin Alexandra's grandma.

House Spirits

Leon Kuechenmeister-The old man who lived in my house before my kids and I moved in.

Old-fashioned spirit sisters Julia, Bettina, and Katrina Hartnett, the sisters who lived in my house at the turn of the last century.

Sad woman-The apparition at the foot of my bed.

Lily-The old woman spirit that Echo found and helped to the Light.

Two young guy spirits-Found by Echo and persuaded to go to the Light.

Marie-Servant spirit from the basement.

Other Spirits

Petros-Friend from a past life in Peru.

Laughing child spirit

Dark Man

Woman made of Light

Neighbors

Margaret-Friendly, red-haired next-door neighbor who had been friends with Leon and his wife.

Dean, Jeanette, and their daughter, Susie Lou-The hub family of the neighborhood.

Red and Russ-Bachelor brothers who lived across the street.

Skink-Reclusive neighbor who lived on the other corner of our block.

Turnip Head

Louisa-The artist who gave us a cowbell housewarming gift.

Wolf-The biker neighbor who gave us Boo the kitten.

Helpful People

Todd-My realtor.

Ex-Beau

Leon's daughter and her realtor

Electrician

Bill Schoener-Painter friend.

Phone psychic

Rebecca-Friend of Leon's family who came and sprinkled holy water at our house.

Echo Bodine-Ghostbuster.

Filmmaker and cameraman for ghostbusting video

Furnace repairman

Friends

Sonja-Schoolteacher/garage sailin' Bohemian spirit.

Yvette-Sonja's sister and earthmother extraordinaire.

Becky-Wild-child childhood friend.

Will-Becky's son and my godchild.

Keith-Family friend who lived with us for a while.

Ellen-Catholic friend who heard the ghosts on the phone.

Rex-Scientist beau.

Derrick and Dallas-Friends who encountered the ghost cat.

Cowgirl Josie-Friend who saw Leon in the back hall doorway at one of our parties.

Gina-Intuitive friend who was pinned down by a male spirit.

Anastasia-Friend who appeared in a prophetic dream with my grandma.

Cats

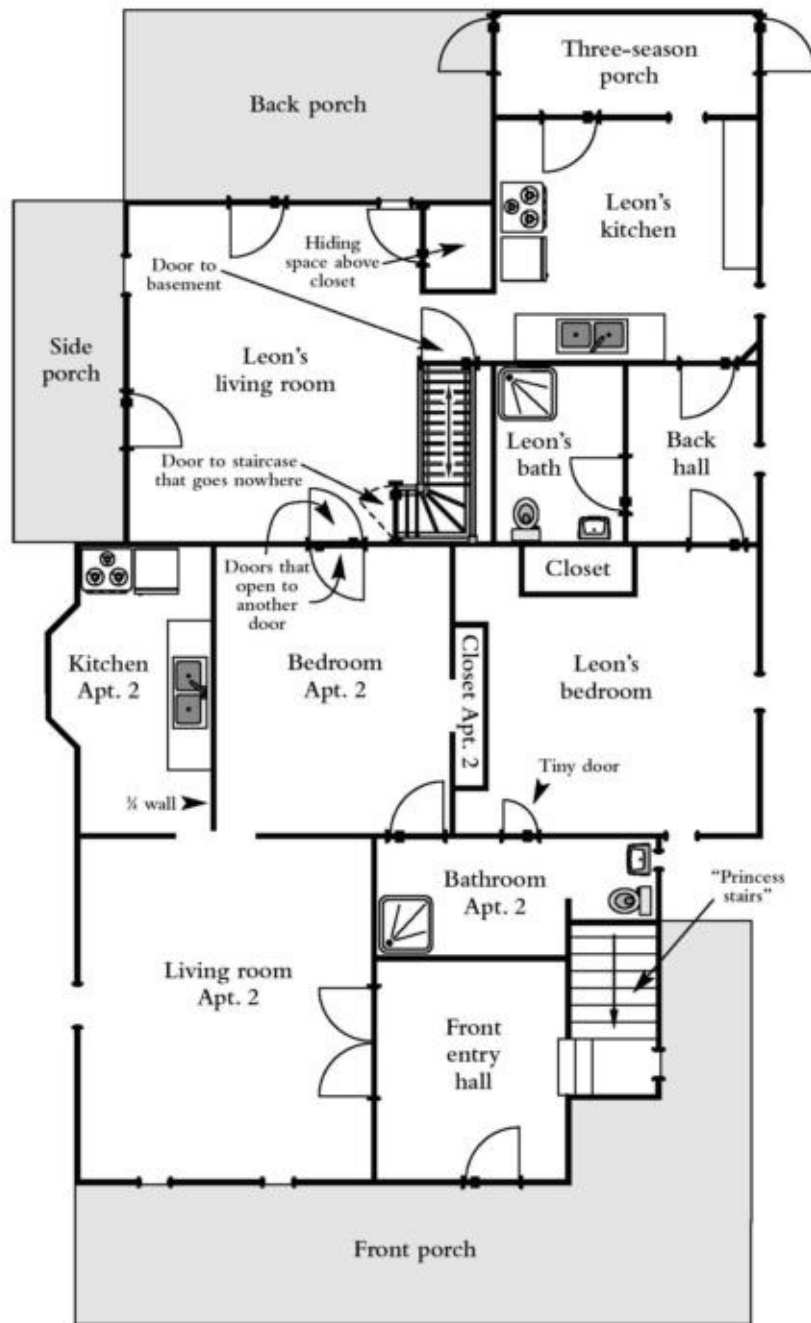
David

Theo

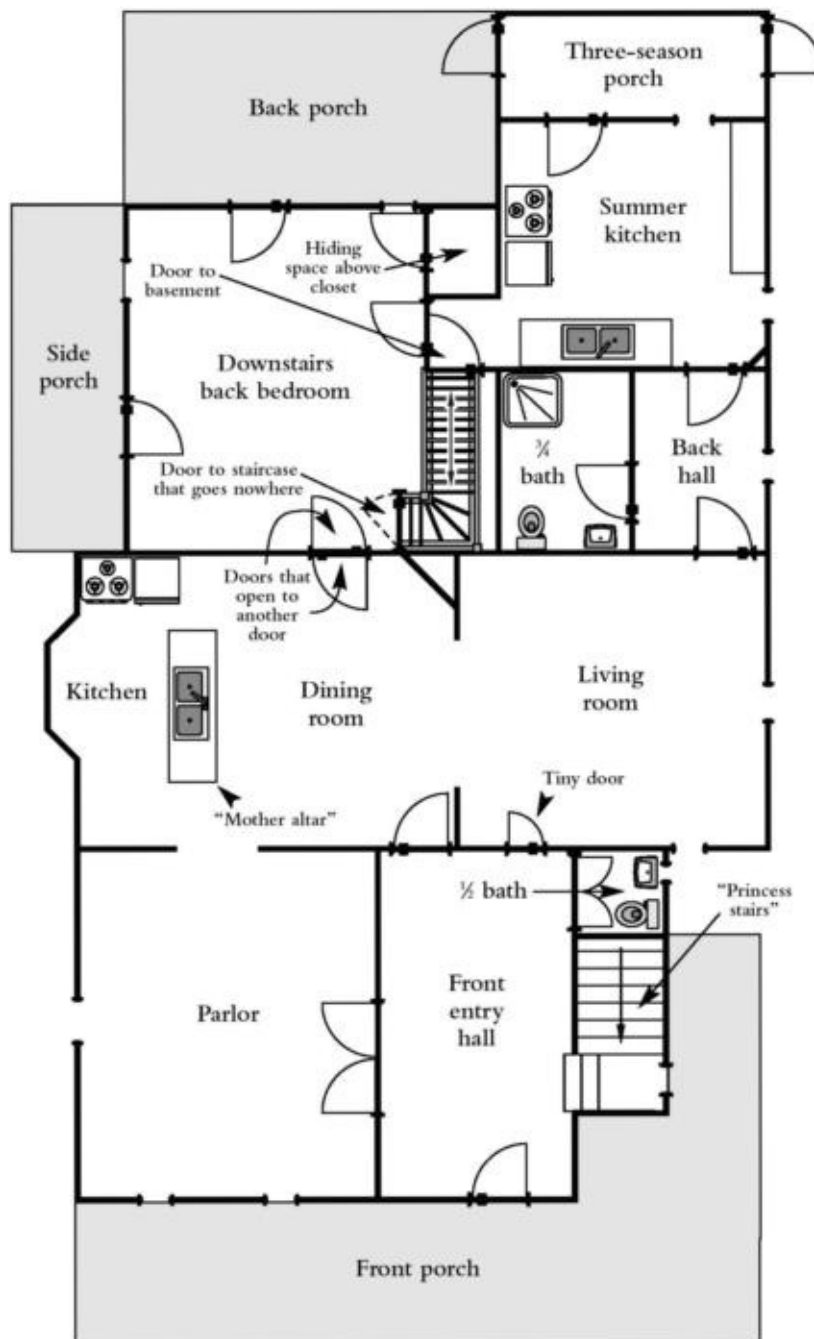
Snip

Sugar Pluni

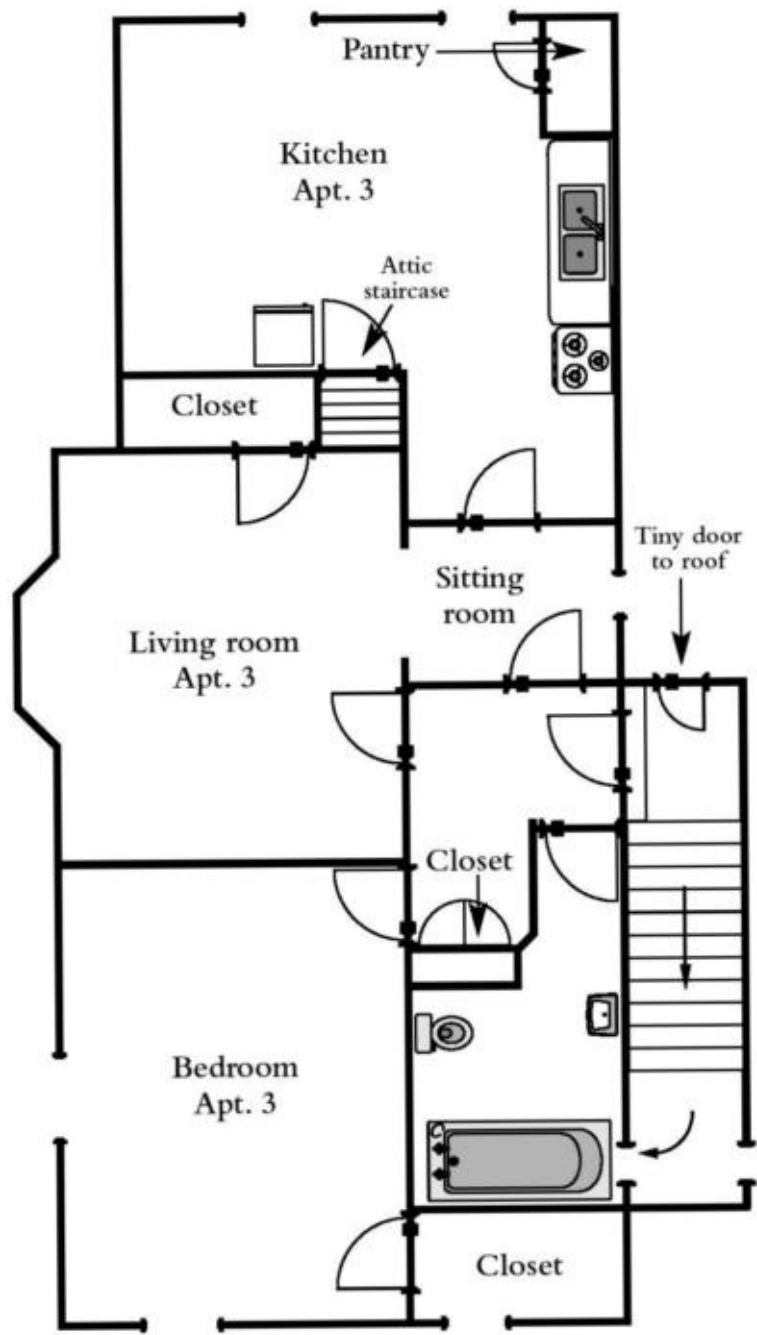
Boo



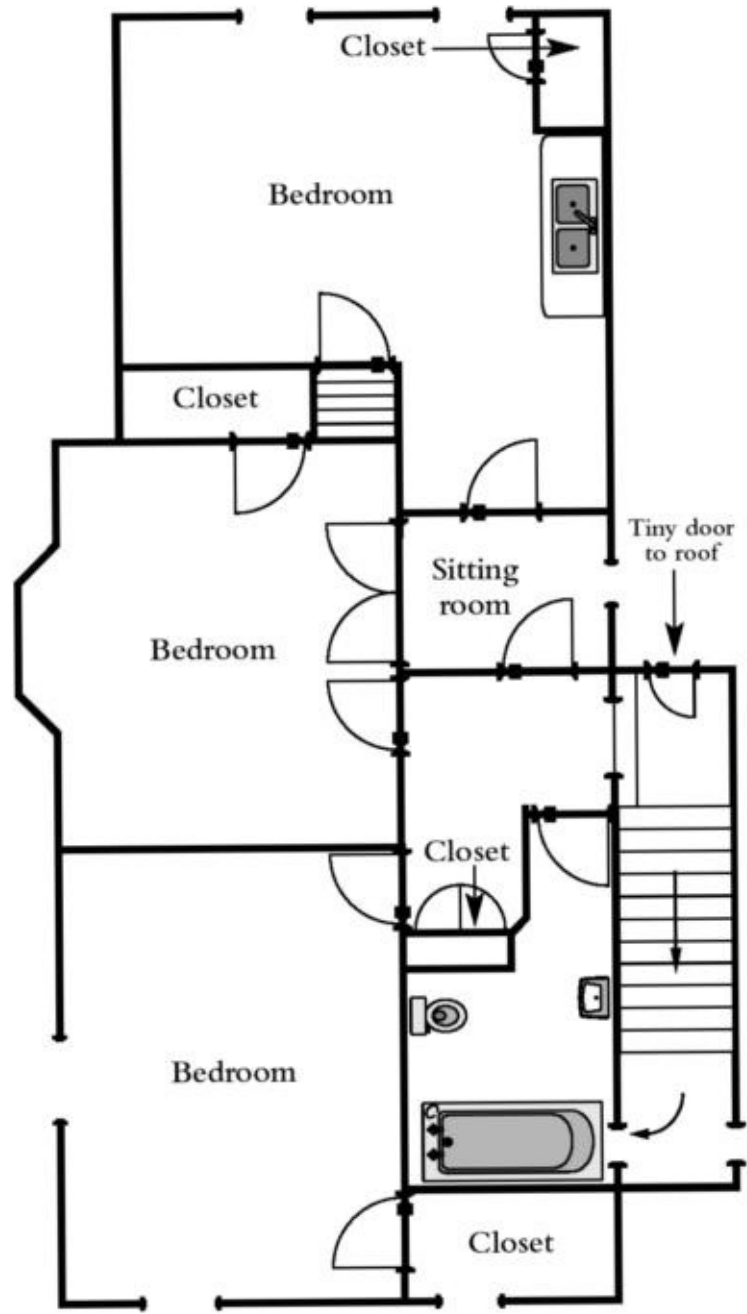
Original main floor



Remodeled main floor



Original upstairs



Remodeled upstairs

INTRODUCTION

It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

IT WAS A house filled with stories and secrets. I sensed it from the moment I first stepped inside into air so still and heavy it felt a hundred years old. Outside, the day was overcast, with the brisk damp breeziness of late winter. Inside, in the dim light, I could feel the charged melancholy, clinging to faded draperies and lingering in worn carpets. Even the dust seemed to be watching and waiting for my long-suffering realtor and I made our way through the many rooms and unexpected turns of the century-old house, which had been converted from a singlefamily home to a triplex decades before. We opened one door only to find another behind it. And what looked like a closet turned out to be a maid's staircase, which turned a corner and ended.

But neither the occasional madhouse architecture nor the forlorn shabbiness that had descended upon the old house could hide its grandeur and beauty. Its high ceilings, hardwood floors, leaded-glass windows, open staircase, and four porches were glorious beyond anything I'd ever imagined I could afford, and with each unexplored room we encountered, I could feel my spirits rise. On my budget, any house I bought was bound to have some shortcomings. By my standards, funky architecture and maybe even a resident ghost could hardly even be considered problems.

We had been instructed to enter by the back door. That's the part of the house where the old man had lived. It was where he still lived. Turns out he was watching us that day too, silent and heavy as the air, bound to the earth and his former home.

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