



Hands That Held Them

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Providence, RI

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1920s Dollhouse Furniture

She surrendered them, a century's worth of memories into the hands of a stranger and in exchange, thin green leaflets

They were no longer of sentimental value seated in her closet collecting monetary worth and dust.

Her mother's, hers, her daughter's, her granddaughter's.

A table that held dinners its `50s Chevy green chipped at the corners now with only two legs and unable to hold up a plate.

Beds that nestled dreams their headboards and footboards split along the crossboards, mattresses forming a cavern.

A Frigidaire that held pretend milk, three and a half legs door permanently ajar that could curdle the milk in a day.

Thirty more individual stories lost to time.

Once two roofs over their heads. Now on a shelf, over a century later far from where they called home.



BAI THE L'ALLEN !!

1950s Desk and Chair Set

She grew up beside its putrid lime sort of green, sucking her eyes bone dry each and every time she looked at it. She always hated it and I'm sure it hated her back.

Her mother left it to her not by choice but by circumstance the color of freshly baked key lime pie that glowed gold in the afternoon sun. She liked it and I'm sure it treated her well.

The man across the street gifted it to her after his wife had passed away.

The avocado hue was not his usual choice but it had already lived in their home.

He didn't have feelings towards it, and I'm sure it was neutral about him too.

When she was young she ordered it custom from a fancy shop on the Upper East Side gorgeous peridot green wood sparkling red coral cushion to match. She adored its special flavor and it adored her too.



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1960s Glass Lamp

Saying goodbye to every one of her possessions as they were slowly sold off from within the walls of the nursing home.

Buzzed into a hallway, lights emitting a sickly glow, crumpled bills placed in an envelope on the wood vencer door

I wondered if she planned what she will wear to her own funeral too.

After all, you don't need lamps in your casket.

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