

The House of Your Dreams

A Marriage Parable



By Jacque Sorenson

There once was a woman who dreamed of living in a beautiful house.



She thought about what it would feel like, where she would store things, how it would be decorated and what happy things would happen there.

She thought of colorful flower beds and a welcoming front door; she dreamed of a light-filled kitchen where she would create delicious meals; she even dreamed of children's faces and voices that would fill the halls with a joyful sound! Mostly she knew, living in her house would make her happy.

There were times when it was hard to dream about her house, because she was too afraid or sad about something. But she always came back to her dream, where, she was sure, she would never be sad or lonely or afraid again.

In time, the woman did have the opportunity to own the house of her dreams!

She was elated and certain it
would bring the fulfilling
experiences she dreamed it
would.

Then one morning, not long after
moving into the house, she
noticed that there was a slow leak
under the kitchen sink. Later, she
discovered a crack in the mortar
between the bricks on the front
porch.

"How can this be?" she thought,
"this house is supposed to be
perfect?"

Not long after that, she also
realized that she didn't always
feel like cleaning her beautiful
house, or keeping her yard tidy.
(Those colorful flower beds took
a lot of work!)



Even the paint on the
welcoming door began to wear
and peel.
And that was just the
beginning!

A few years later, there were
plumbing problems and
furnace issues and on and on
the trouble spots continued to
become more and more visible,
and more and more daunting.

What ever should she do?

She wondered if she had been wrong to dream about this house? Did she miss out on some preparations or did she simply make her choice too soon?



She wondered if maybe everyone who had ever encouraged her to own a home had withheld the stark truth that with ownership would come such a burden of work and complicated problems!

After some discouraging days of clogged pipes and freezing temperatures (without the furnace working), the woman decided to bag it all.



"Why try?"

"Nothing lasts forever" she thought.

Maybe home ownership was a pipe dream!

Then, as she was about to collapse in despair, there came a knock on the garden gate.

Opening the gate, the woman was startled to find an old, but spry woman wearing a fresh white apron, grinning at her (of course) and asking to come in.

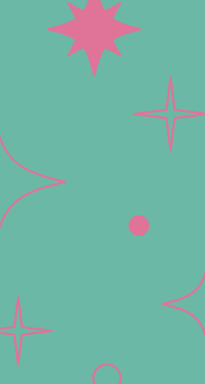
"My dear," the old woman said,
"you look so sad and discouraged!
Is there something I can do to
help you?" she asked once she
was seated on a bench.

"Well, maybe there is," said the
young woman.



"I'm just so frustrated with this house! It seemed it would be all I ever wanted, all I needed to make me happy, but now all I can see are the problems!

Maybe I was wrong to buy into this idea of happily ever after!"



"Well, let's see," said the old woman looking toward the house. "Tell me about your plumbing skills, and would you please show me your furnace maintenance schedule?"

"Skills?" replied the woman,
"Schedule? Maintenance?
What? You mean there are
things I'm supposed to do to
keep my house working?"



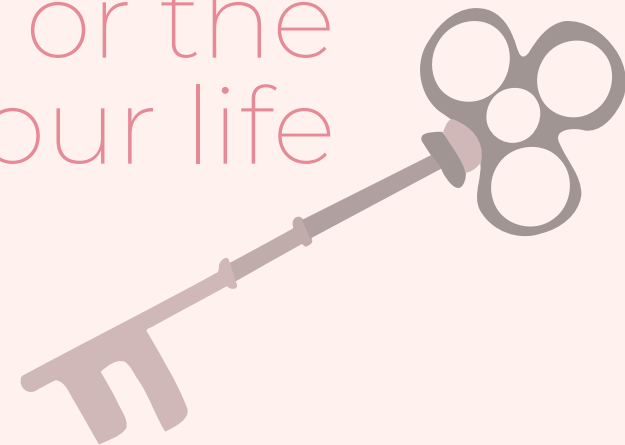
I'm just really tired of the whole mess. This was supposed to be my dream! My happiness! And now it's falling apart! I am so devastated, it must have all been a mistake!"

Kindly, the old woman listened and nodded. She too had once been a young woman learning about her own home!



When the young woman finished her lament, the old woman reached into her apron pocket and pulled out a key.

"My dear," she said, "your home was such a lovely dream! There is nothing wrong with your choice or your timing or the way you envisioned your life here."



"The only thing you need now is the skills and knowledge you didn't know you needed before! You simply thought that if you chose the right house, it would never have problems or need regular care!"

"I need what?" asked the younger woman, perplexed.

"My dear, most likely you didn't make a mistake at all.

You simply didn't understand that living happily in your dream home would require you to become someone you weren't before! Not someone else, just a grown-up, mature and truly loving version of yourself."



"And no, you don't need to go in search of another house or become a Nomad, living in a tent or find some newer kind of home that is supposed to suit you so well that you never have to learn anything new.

That is a pipe dream!"



"Not only will you learn that you have what it takes to make your home what you want it to be, but eventually you will learn how to build additional rooms with more function and beauty than you've ever before imagined!"



"So open your lovely eyes and see what it is you need to learn!" and with those words the old woman took another apron from under her arm and handed it to the young woman.

"No time to waste! Take this as your own, and wear it."

The young woman, looking perplexed, tied it on and felt through the pockets.

"Oh, hey," she said, "there's a key in here," and she held it up.

"Yes," the old woman nodded. "You're right, that is a key just for you. You see, all the tools in the world really only boil down to this one."



"When problems arise, and of course because you're growing they must, use this key to discover what is needed to correct the problem."

"But how will a key repair a furnace or unclog a pipe or keep the flower beds nice or fix the mortar between the bricks?"

"Well, it won't," the old woman replied, "the key is simply to remind you that **you** are the key!"

"It is your heart, your mind, your courage, your determination and most of all your *humility* and *honesty* that will be the key to making and keeping your dream an evolving thing of beauty and possibility!

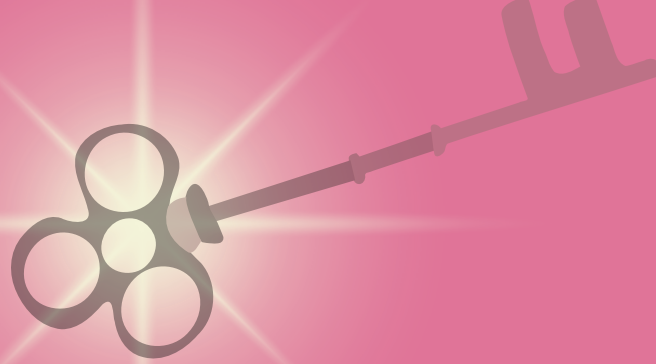


It will remind you that the house you thought would make you happy, is actually only the stage for you to learn how and practice truly loving others....and doing that will create happiness for you too!



When you learn the how-to
of that kind of love, then,
the pipes in your dream
home will flow freely, the
door will sparkle, the
furnace will effortlessly
keep you warm and your
flowers will be radiant!"

Relieved, yet somewhat
perplexed, the young
woman thought quietly.



She felt that the old woman's words were true, though she didn't see just yet how the key and what it meant would help her to create all of the grand things she desired in her home.

The old woman stood, and opened the garden gate. With the light of experience and love shining in her eyes, she smiled at the young woman and said,

"You can make your dream what you always meant it to be. I know you can."

And with that, the old woman slipped through the garden gate, and walked peacefully out into the setting sun.

Leaving only the apron, the key and hope behind.





Hello! I'm Jacque and I hope you enjoyed this parable!

Could you relate to any of our heroine's feelings of confusion and disappointment? Did you think your married life would be different than it seems to be now?

If so, there is great hope for it to improve and get far better if you're willing to learn some new principles and keep growing!

To learn more about love in marriage & parenting, visit the blog, podcast and classes at www.lionessatthedoor.com