

Candlelight.

Lucy awoke with a jolt, panting breathlessly. Delirious and chaotic, her mind whizzed with a crazy ecstasy of thoughts. The candle. Where was the candle? Oh no! Her heart pounding in her ears, she glanced apprehensively around her room until she noticed a bright and brilliant glow emanating from where her wardrobe was. The candle. Phew! It was gleaming in the same way it had when the old man had given it to her, as if it truly meant something. The designs imprinted on the sides were beautifully intricate and the refulgent illumination glimmering from within the candle was brighter than any other ordinary candle she'd ever seen.

Hopping out of her bed, stepping cautiously across the freezing floorboards, Lucy scooped the candle into her hands. It felt warm and tingly against her fingers and she could see a ring of wispy smoke surrounding the flame. Carrying it towards the window, she tried to remember what the old fellow had told her. Hold it. Breathe it in. Shine it in the moonlight. Something quite amazing will happen. That is only if you choose to do so, of course. Yes, that was it! But what did it all mean? Only one way to find out, she thought. Clamped between her hands, the candle burned with an even brighter intensity. Settling herself on the window sill, she held the candle in the spectacular moonbeam that streamed through the window, casting a patch of light on the floor. Slowly and fantastically, the light in the candle grew warmer and more dazzling. Then, something quite amazing happened. Something very unexpected. Something that encouraged adventure.

Lucy watched the candle for a while, letting it give off its odd but pleasant cinnamon smell. She noticed that the details on the sides had intriguingly grown in abundance and the smoke swirling around the flame had thickened. But, soon there seemed to be a circle or ring of candlelight hovering above the flame. However, the weirdest thing of all was that it seemed to be expanding somehow. As it somewhat enlarged, Lucy began to see something seeping through this hole, It appeared to be something dark and black. She felt a shiver drip through the entanglement of her confusion and uncertainty. Was this hole perhaps a door leading to another dimension? She gasped in disbelief at the thought. Placing the candle onto the floor, she plunged a foot inside the hole. She felt a freezing cold air penetrating through her skin so immediately, she snatched her foot back. Suddenly, she felt a wild intention to step inside, even so, she knew shouldn't. Something quite amazing will happen. That is only if you choose to do so, of course. That was what the old man had told her wasn't it? Something quite amazing will happen.

Lucy sighed a deep breath of excitement. This was breathtaking. She was going to do it. She was going to step inside. Closing her eyes, she plummeted into a dark and mysterious world . . .