

The Snow Globes

By Glenn C. Gabriel

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Emma loved looking at Gran's snow globes. She had never seen such life-like figurines. The globes were throughout the house, but there were *hundreds* of them in the attic.

When Emma asked Gran about them, she would make up the most wonderful stories. Emma laughed when Gran told her how *she* put the people in the globes and why.

Gran told her how she and her best friend used to climb a nearby mountain. One day, Gran overheard her telling a boy who Gran liked, that she didn't like him at all and couldn't stand being around him.

Gran got so mad, she took one of the empty snow globes her father sold, and put it beside her pillow when she went to bed.

Just like *her* Gran had taught her.

Dreaming, she visualized her friend *trapped* in the globe, standing by the mountain.

In the morning, the snow globe had the *exact* scene she dreamt about... her friend looking up the mountain, only her *eyes* moving frantically with a *horrified* expression.

Several globes held teachers Gran didn't like. Emma *loved* those stories.

In another globe was a boy who had made fun of Gran and called her names. Gran hung *him* from a tree.

In a large globe were a lot of kids in a pretty lake, surrounded by beautiful pine trees.

Emma asked why *they* were in the globe. "Oh, that was one summer when I was swimming and my top came off! They all laughed at me! They told the whole school! Took *years* to get 'em all so I wouldn't get caught, you know? But I *got* 'em! Emma giggled.

As Emma grew older, she found that *all* those within the globes had actually *gone* missing... as though they had just... vanished.

Years later, long after Emma's mother had simply up and left, (according to Gran, who never did like her) Emma moved away and started a family of her own.

Gran was very frail and Emma decided to visit.

Rummaging through the attic, Emma finds a snow globe with the exact figure of her mother inside. She is standing in their old kitchen holding her favorite cookbook.

Emma recalls the fight Gran had with mom the day before she disappeared.

Remembering Gran's stories of the other globes, a horrible thought strikes her. As she frantically searches the old chests, to her horror, she finds a globe with Grandpa in it. He is sitting beside his favorite fishing hole, his face contorted, looking up through the falling snow. Leaning closer, Emma gasps! His *eyes* are moving!

Stumbling from the attic, Emma grabs an empty globe off Grandpa's old workbench and runs from the house. She just had a *terrible* fight with Gran about her husband. Gran did *not* approve of him and wants him... *gone*!

Placing the globe beside her pillow that night, Emma quickly falls asleep.

Three years later, Emma's daughter, Ann, finds a snow globe and brings it to her mother.

"Mommy, who's *this*?"

“Oh, that’s your great *Gran* honey... I got *her* before *she* got daddy!

“She’s trapped in there *forever*. Got what she deserved too, but, let’s give her some company. Put her up there between Uncle Ted and our old neighbors, okay?”

Setting the globe next to her Uncle, Ann thinks about the fight that day with one of her teachers and smiles.

That night, Ann takes a globe from mommy’s workbench, and places it next to her pillow.

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