

# SOMETHING SO SECRET

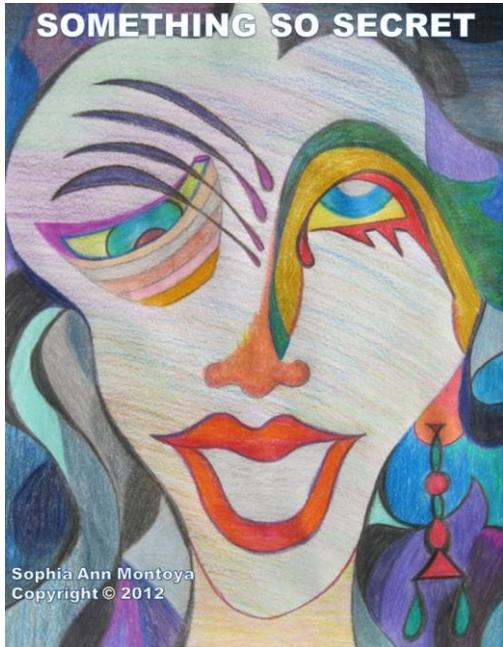
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## SCENE ONE:

“Paint’s peeled off the window panes. Look at this. Shingles blown off the roof. So many storms in life.”

“Grandma, you’re crying.”

“Not to worry Linnie, my memories are sweet. First time I held hands with a boy I was inside eating a banana split. We thought no one saw our hands under the counter.”



“What was his name?”

“Oh, my, don’t know ... just remember the excitement I felt--butterflies. Then, the next day at school I was so embarrassed, seems like the entire school teased the heck out of us.

“How old were you?”

“About ten. We never sat next to each other again.”

“That’s not a sweet memory.”

“Compared to the girl who got killed there, by the tall pine, well, my memories are sugar sweet. I’ve got you, don’t I? She got nothing but hurt out of this life. Sometimes we have to look at someone else to realize what good we got.”

“Let’s go Grandma; your hands are colder than the North Pole.”

## SCENE TWO:

*It was 2:00 a.m. when Linnie ran down the hall to scoop her Grandmother up in her arms to comfort her. She was sobbing. Twenty minutes passed before she spoke in full sentences without gasping for air.*

“Linnie...I’ve something important to tell you.”

“In the morning, right now you need to rest.”

“No dear. Let me talk it through. I tried to tell you this afternoon.”

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“What’s this about?”



“That girl, Melissa, so, beautiful. Her Daddy went crazy, accusing every young man in town of raping and beating her to death. But, each of them blamed my son, your Daddy. Someone saw him drive off with Melissa down the highway. He became a suspect and couldn’t leave town. Your mama couldn’t stand the harassment, so she moved back to her parent’s home in Nashville. Your Daddy told me Melissa’s father forced himself on her, repeatedly, after his wife ran off. She ended up pregnant.”

“Oh, Grandma. How horrible.”

“Your Daddy drove her up to New Jersey so she could have an abortion. He never told your Mama.”

“Why would he help her?”

“Well, like I said. She was a beauty and he had a crush on her for years. She’d never go out with him, probably too ashamed. Don’t know if she ever dated.”

“Oh, God. Her own father!”

“A witness testified against him. He whipped Melissa with a belt to hush her up. The scars were on her back.”

“I hope they hung him.”

“Never got arrested. He shot himself in the head.”

“Grandma, why’d you make me drive you to that town?”

“Sweetheart, your Daddy adored you. But, your Mama never forgave him for doing something so secret. She left him when you were four years old. It was your Mama’s Papa who let me get to know you after she died from cancer. Linnie? He’s in town, your daddy, and he wants to see you.”

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