

The Latch Key Kid

Many times, when I came home after school, there was no one there. Dad worked and mother was often busy with volunteer work. She gave me a key to let myself in but I lost the key so regularly that she insisted I wear it at all times on a string around my neck. I must have been one of the first latch key kids as this started when I was in the second or third grade! If I was caught not wearing the key at anytime, I was punished. So, I made up my mind to always wear the key. I wore it in the shower; I wore it to bed. It became such a part of my life that I'm wearing it to this very day.

Of course, it's just a memory thing now. I sometimes hold the key on my hand (do so) and look at it as I remember the wonderful times I had when I was very young. (Key begins to turn). Lately, I've noticed a strange happening: when I hold the key and think of my childhood home, the key seems to come alive and turn over in the same direction it turned hundreds of times to let me in. If I stop thinking of my home, the key stops turning. It turns again when my thoughts of home return.

The sad truth is my childhood home was bulldozed to the ground many years ago to make a parking lot. So, I have a key to a house that no longer exists....except in my memory.

Notes:

The Haunted Key is my favorite close-up trick. I use the non-gimmicked Key supplied by Fun Inc. in Chicago. See "Presenting the Haunted Key" booklet from Fun. Inc for my handling of Key (plus 5 different patter scripts).

Good patter enhances the magic. With all best wishes – *Dick Williams*

* Dick's granddaughter found the patter Dick wrote, above. It was written some time after the *Haunted Key* booklet was released in 1997....possibly around 2000?