### The Map

In a quaint house on Elm Street, a room served as my sanctuary. It was adorned with posters of favorite bands, book-filled shelves, and a well-worn, creaky bed. This space was where I did homework, daydreamed, and sometimes embarked on my own adventures.

One evening, as the sun dipped below the horizon, casting long shadows across my room, I noticed something peculiar. An old, ornate picture frame hung on the wall above my desk. It had been a fixture in my room for as long as I could recall, never drawing much of my attention—until now.

The frame seemed to beckon, as if harboring a hidden secret. Its intricate carvings narrated tales of a bygone era, and the fading paint whispered stories of times long past. It was a portal to history.

Driven by curiosity, I approached the frame and made a discovery—tucked behind it was a folded piece of parchment. My heart quickened as I gently retrieved it. The parchment was aged, delicate, and bore the scent of a book left forgotten in a dusty attic.

Unfolding the parchment, I was met with a treasure map—a genuine one! It felt as though I had stumbled upon a concealed chapter of history, a secret yearning to be revealed.

The map was a work of art, adorned with cryptic drawings and faded ink. It held clues that pointed toward an unknown destination. An exhilarating rush of excitement surged through me, as though I had become the protagonist in an adventure novel.

Without a second thought, I decided to follow the map's enigmatic path. As twilight settled in, I slipped out of my room and into the night, like a young explorer embarking on a quest for hidden treasures.

Beneath the shimmering stars, I embarked o n my journey, guided by the secrets of the map.



## **How To Build Suspense**

# Use this 10 tips and examples to help you write a cliff-hanger that other people will be fascinated by.

#### Start with a Strong Setting:

"In a quaint house on Elm Street, a room served as my sanctuary."

#### Introduce an Interesting Discovery:

"One evening, as the sun dipped below the horizon, casting long shadows across my room, I noticed something peculiar."

#### Engage the Senses:

"The parchment was aged, delicate, and bore the scent of a book left forgotten in a dusty attic."

#### **Create a Vivid Picture:**

"Beneath the shimmering stars, I embarked on my journey, guided by the secrets of the map."

#### Show, Don't Tell:

"An exhilarating rush of excitement surged through me, as though I had become the protagonist in an adventure novel."

#### **Build Suspense:**

"It was a portal to history."

"An exhilarating rush of excitement surged through me, as though I had become the protagonist in an adventure novel."

#### **Character Emotions:**

"My heart quickened as I gently retrieved it."

#### Dialogue:

"Without a second thought, I decided to follow the map's enigmatic path."

#### **Transition Smoothly:**

"As twilight settled in, I slipped out of my room and into the night, like a young explorer embarking on a quest for hidden treasures."

#### End with a Bang:

"Beneath the shimmering stars, I embarked on my journey, guided by the secrets of the map."