

Everyday stories

A fictional Keepsake sample

ILLUSTRATIVE WRITING BY KEEPSAKE

Dedication

These people and stories are fictional. This short reader sample illustrates the current text-only book layout. It is not a customer book or a print-ready order.

NORA (FICTIONAL NARRATOR)

The kitchen table

The table was too large for the kitchen, but we kept it anyway. When somebody opened the oven, the person in the nearest chair had to stand up. I remember that interruption more clearly than most of the meals.

On Saturday mornings my brother spread his homework across one end while I sorted the buttons from a tin. Our mother used the middle for peeling apples. Nobody called it a family ritual. It was simply where we ended up.

When we moved, the table went to my aunt. I saw it years later with a new mark along the edge. I liked knowing that another household had added something to it. I could still point to the place where my chair used to be.

LEO (FICTIONAL NARRATOR)

The journey home

I used to leave the station by the wrong exit because the longer walk took me past the bakery. I rarely bought anything. The familiar window told me I was nearly home.

One winter evening my sister met me at the station with an umbrella that had lost a spoke. We walked so slowly that I missed the last bus. I remember being annoyed and happy at the same time.

In her account, she had come to ask me for help with something. I had forgotten that part. We decided to keep both versions rather than combine them into a smoother story.

NORA (FICTIONAL NARRATOR)

A recipe in the margins

The recipe card gives a precise oven temperature and then says to add enough flour. That was the instruction I wanted explained. My father showed me the dough instead of measuring it.

I wrote down what it looked like and took a photograph of his hands. The note in the margin says to stop before it feels dry. I still use that description when I make it.

The first time my nephew tried the recipe, he added more cinnamon. We wrote his change on another card. Keeping the old version did not mean he had to make it exactly the same way.

Contributors

Nora (fictional narrator)

Leo (fictional narrator)