

closet and click on the keyhole, she felt relieved and “I will be free, shouldn't ever go inside the closet,” she made a mental note to herself. But, suddenly the clicking sound stopped and she could hear footsteps walking away from her.

“No please don't leave me, I beg you,” she screamed.

She had no way out, she tried to scratch the cupboard and pierce it but it was no use. The only option she had was the antique doors. It wouldn't be easy to open them. She grabbed the door rings and pulled them towards her. To her surprise the doors opened easily with a creaking sound. She couldn't see anything, it was dark. She started a spark with the match box she had with her. She could see cobwebs and furniture covered in white



sheets. As she explored further she realized that she was inside a living room but the setting was different, or else was she insane? All the portraits hung from bottom to top and the furniture stood upside down. She was really going mad. She ran to the corner of the room to find a small stairway leading down stairs. She descended the steps, to find that there were three doors painted in bright

colors. Above all the doors, there was a notice, “Enter at your own risk,” it read. Which one to choose? She argued with herself and finally opened the red door. At that very moment, all the other doors disappeared and she felt she was spinning into a whirlwind.

“Someone help me! Get me out!” she wanted to shout but her voice didn't obey. Finally, the spinning stopped and she found herself seated on a chair. All the food in the world was spread across the table. She could see a lady staring at her from the far corner. She was pale in colour and wore a gold dress. She had a crown made of jewels on her head.

“Child,” she called,
“Eat anything you want; you must be hungry.”

Srimathi was famished. She started to pile her plate with all the items she could grab and started to eat. The lady started to eat, too.

Srimathi couldn't see what it was as she was very far but it was a liquid.
“Who are you”? Srimathi asked,
“I'm.....,” stammered the lady, “You will find out anyway.”

“First finish your meal, we will need to go together”

“Where?” Exclaimed Srimathi, she was fed up with surprises and she had enough for one day.

The lady stood up from the chair and floated towards Srimathi.

She stretched her hand towards her. Srimathi had no other choice but to hang on to her and continue her journey. She wanted to get out and be herself again and at this point this