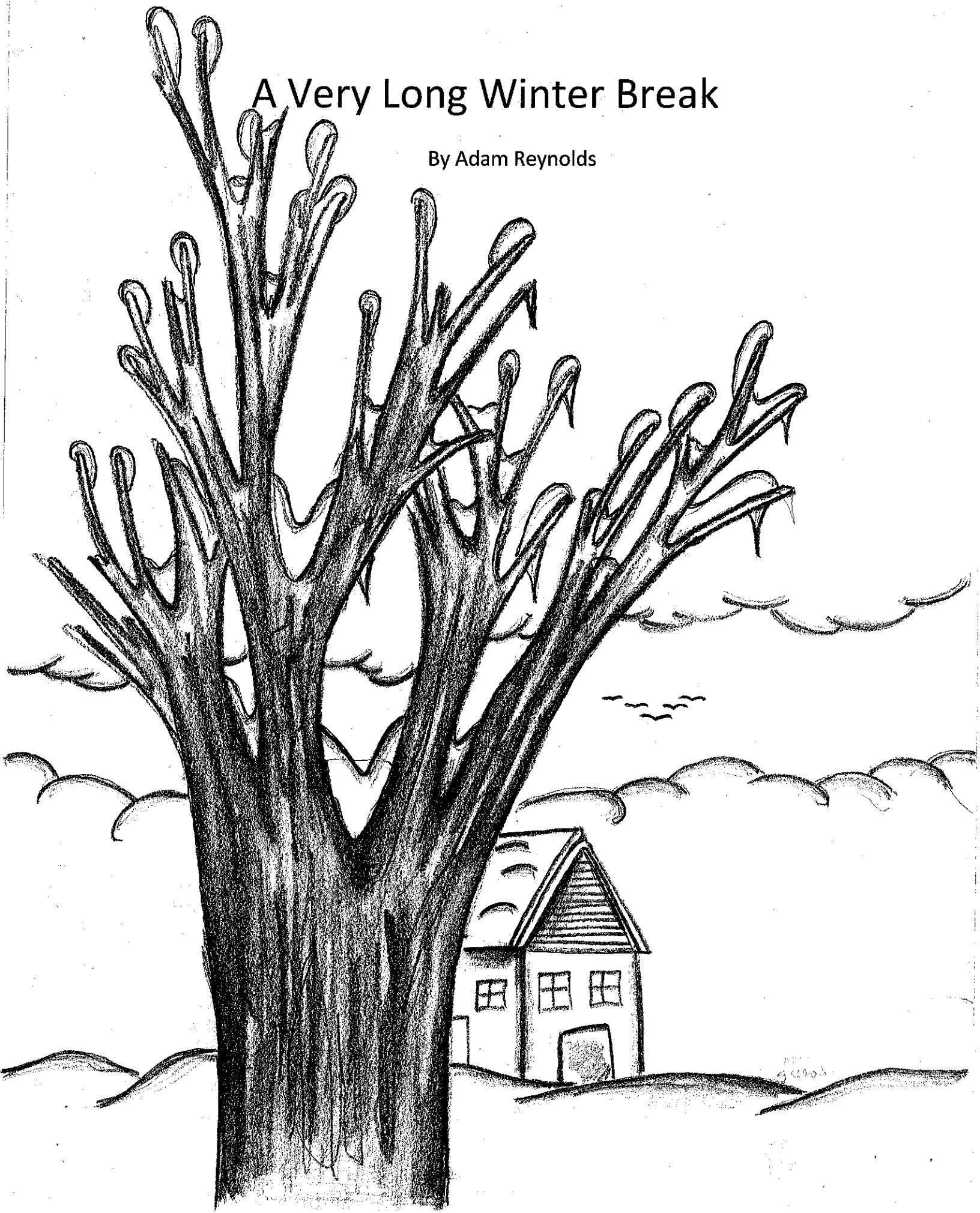
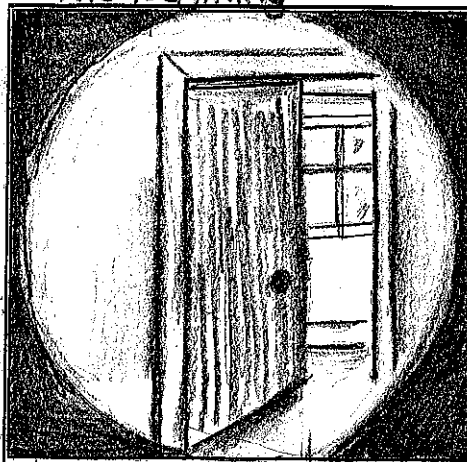


# A Very Long Winter Break

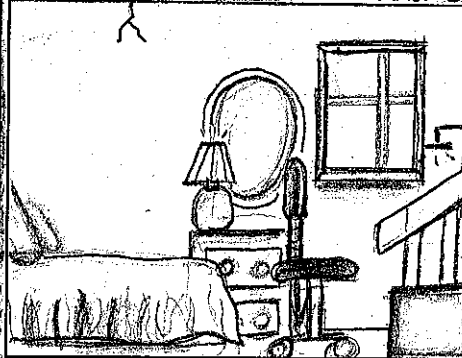
By Adam Reynolds



# The Beginning



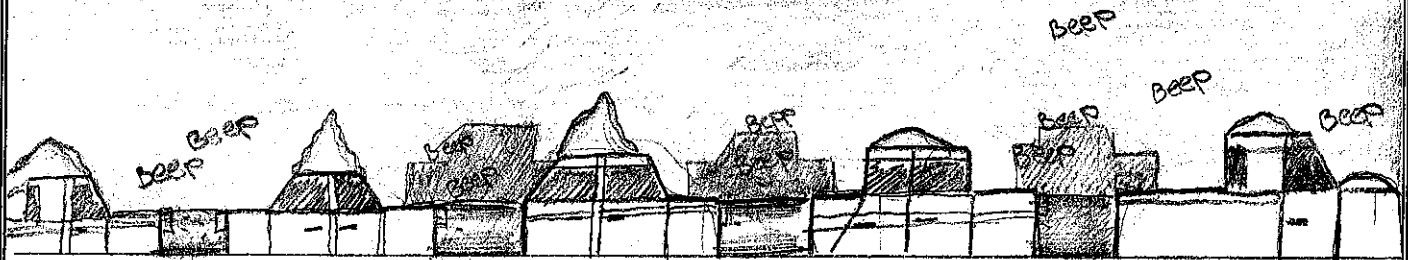
school had just let out and I was ready for a long and relaxing vacation. Had it Not been for Christmas.



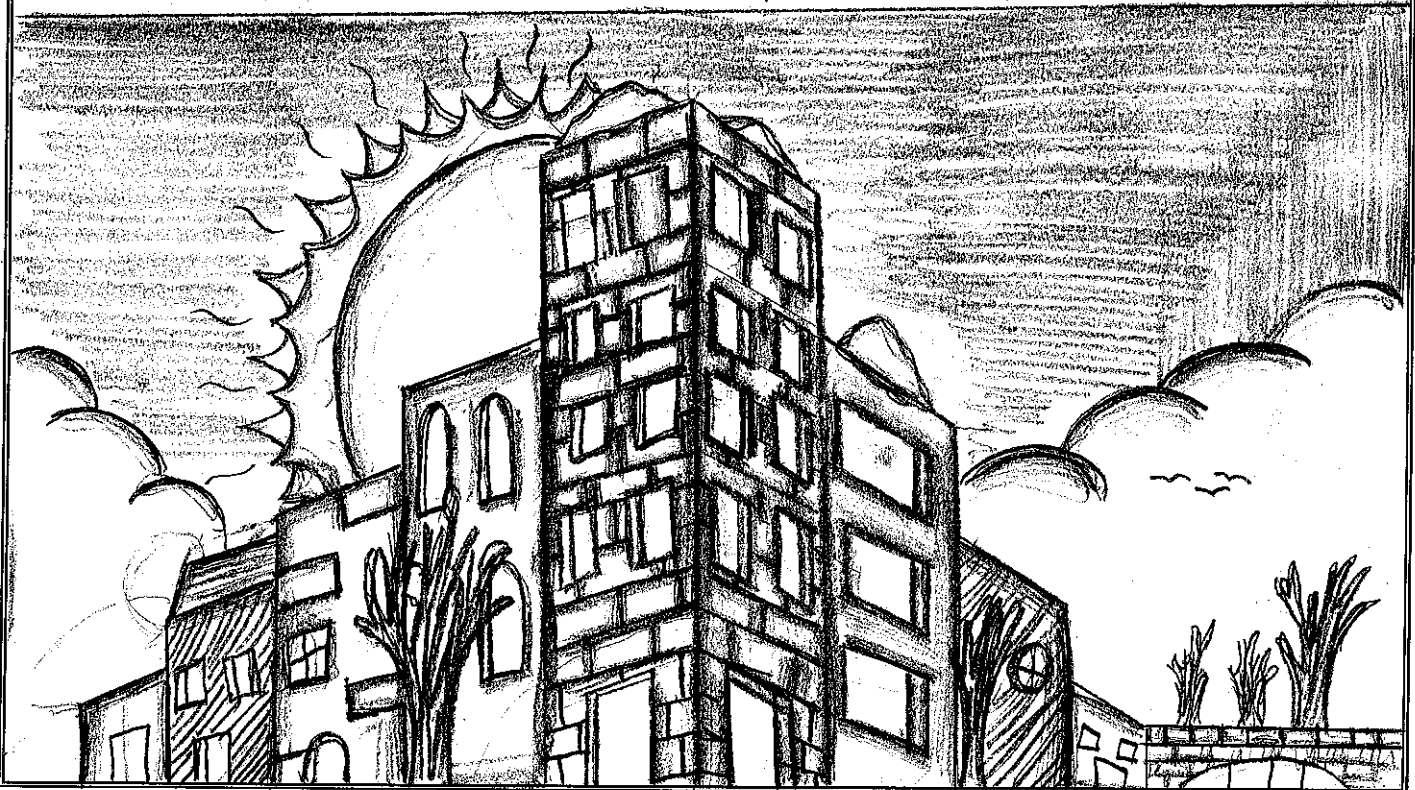
I Tugged myself To The car and like every year went shopping for stuff for my family.



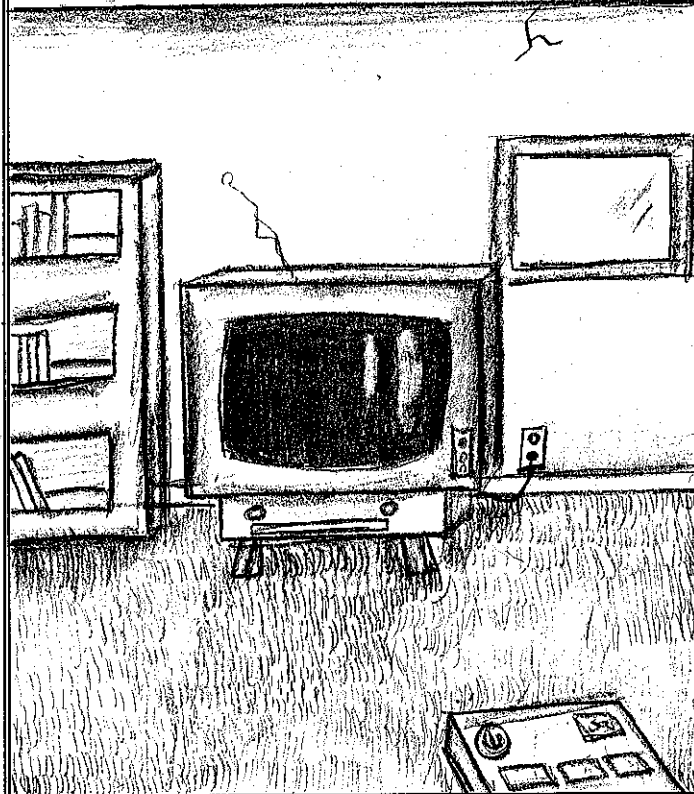
The Traffic seemed To Take hours Before it let up any. we were there for like "Two days" it seemed just trying To get into The mall. I Did Not want To Be here but saw that family Did Deserve something. and what little choice Did I have but To stay in The car. for another hour



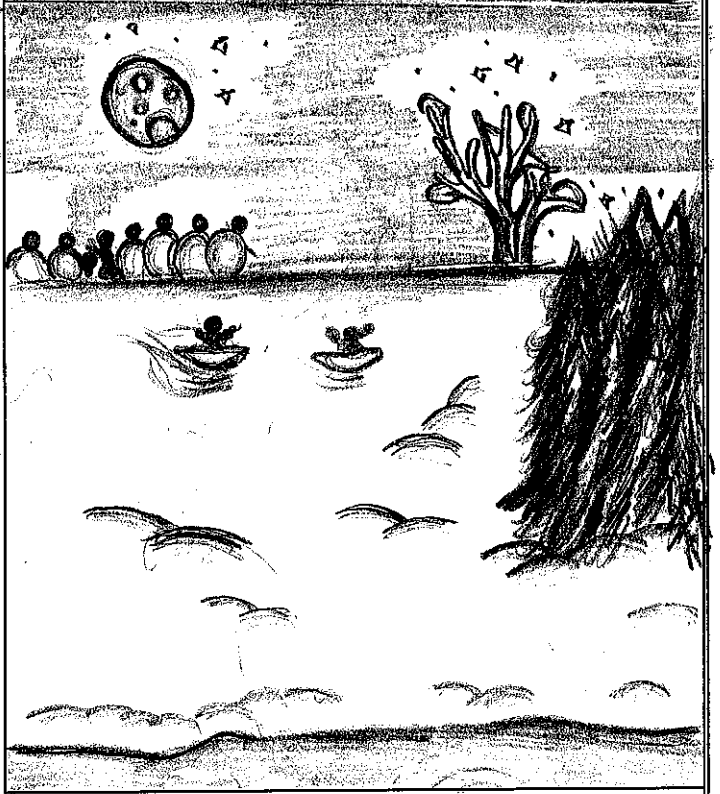
what really took long was finding The parking spot. after that it was into The mall. we went To every single department store in The mall and after 2 hours I was completely exhausted. we spent the entire day there. but my day was Not complete yet. I still had....



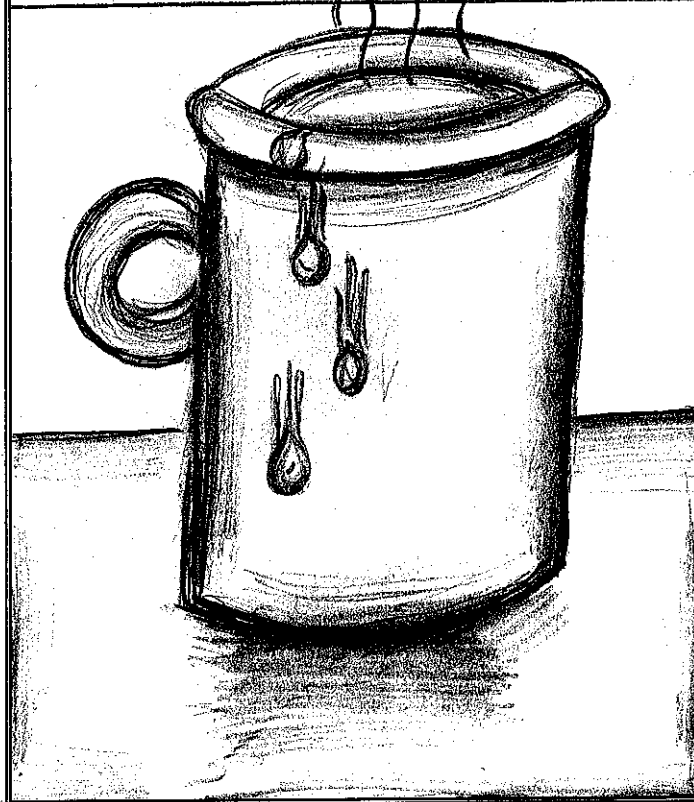
To go home and check the local forecast for weather conditions. Once done my brother insistently and did me so go sledding.



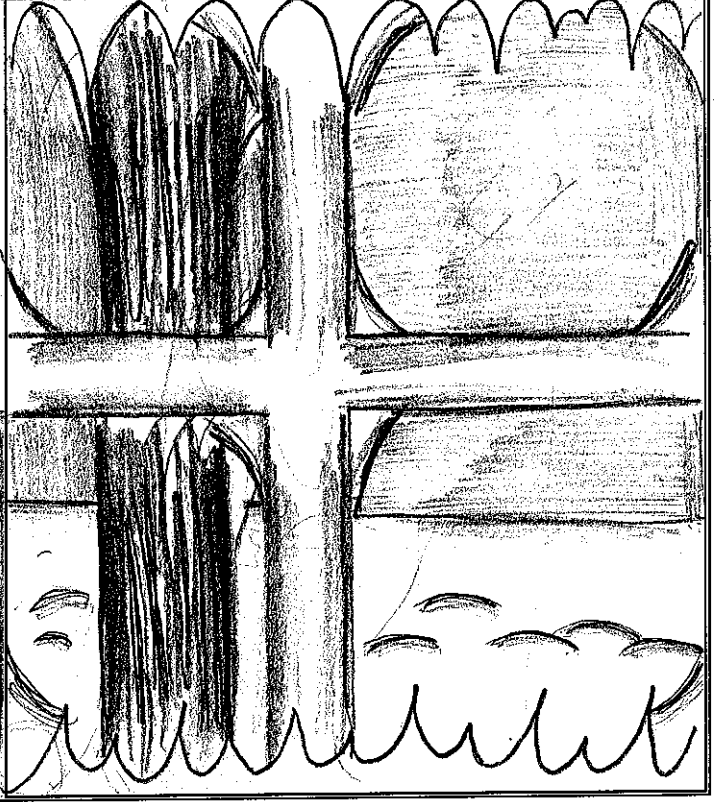
we must have spent another two hours up there my feet were killing me on the 2th trip up the hill but continued to do it for my brother's sake.



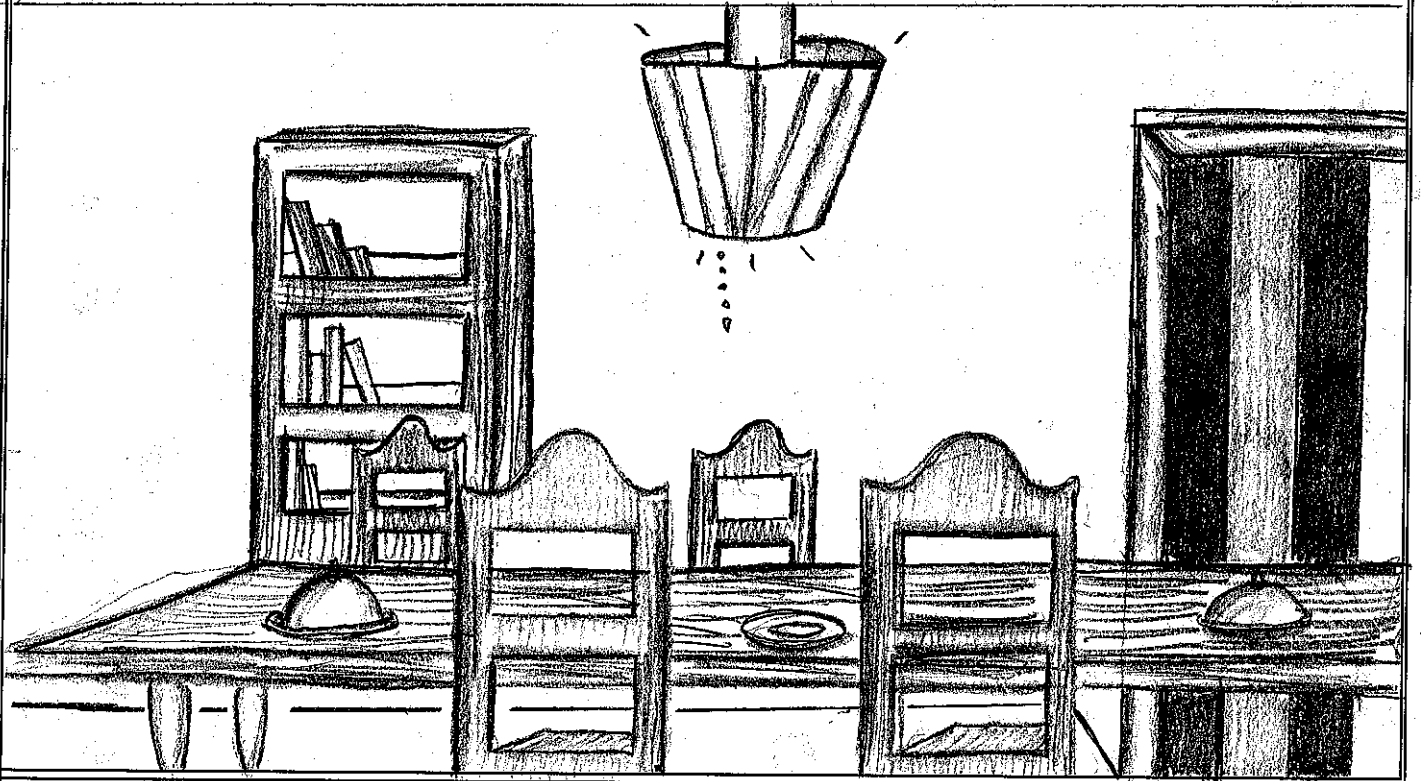
It was about 5:00pm once we got home and I immediately went for the cup of coffee sitting on the counter.



I sat in the living room chair and just for a moment relaxed and enjoyed the silence that came from a winter snow out the window.

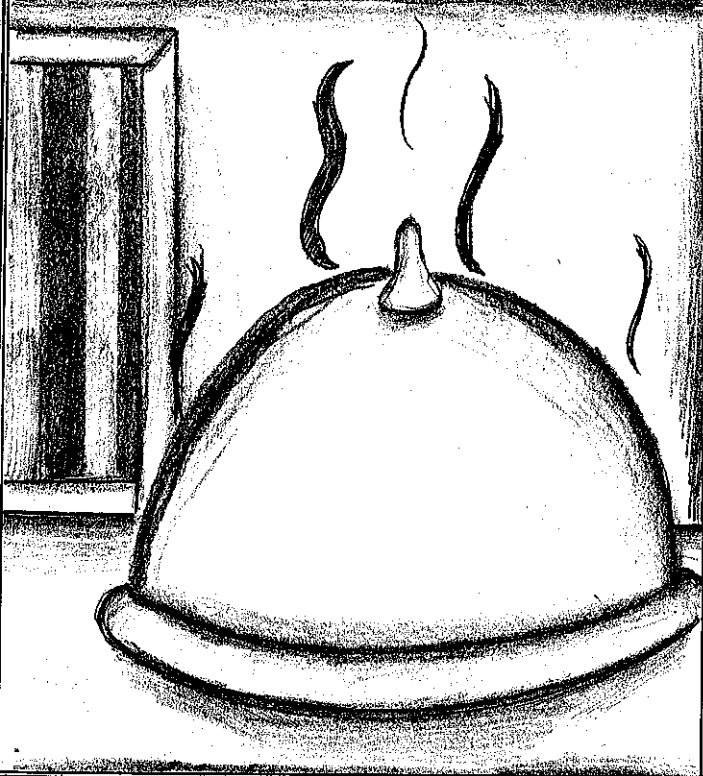


Dinner was waiting for us and at any moment would be on the table. we sat waiting for the  
 supper meal that would come. we were so tired yet so hungry that we dared to  
 say nothing except for our stomachs



Dinner came and we were dying for food. we  
 ate and we ate and we ate and after  
 dinner we could eat no more

Later that evening after we were finished  
 my mom and brother prepared for church.  
 I did not care to go and decided to stay

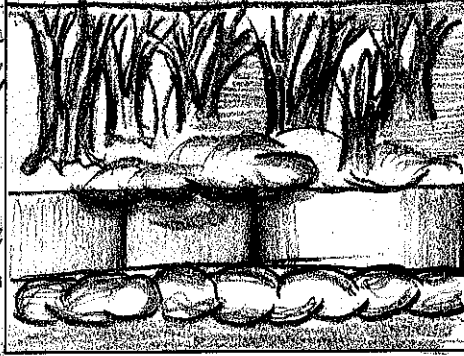




I felt terrible for staying and immediately ran as fast as I could to get to the church



I Don't know exactly how long it was but it was long



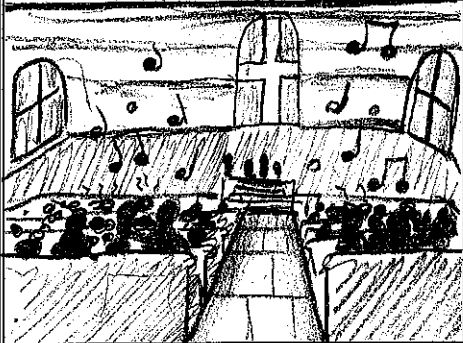
Finally I arrived on the front steps sobbed myself and went in



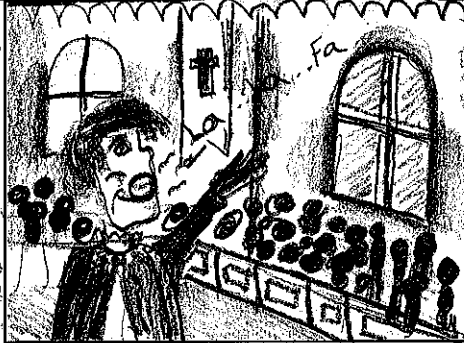
you could hear the echo of voices outside of the church - but of course all of that halted the moment I entered. People proceeding singing and I looked for where my mom and brother were sitting.



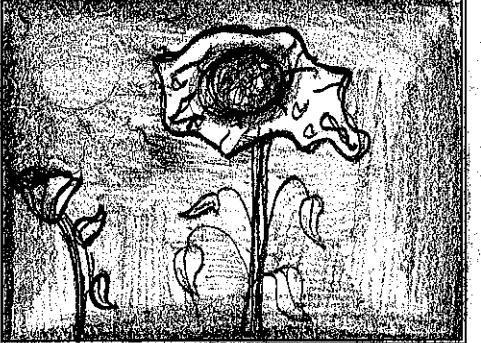
I found my mother but when I began to ask about my brother - ...



he was singing I knew why he had wanted me to come and could see that he was smiling



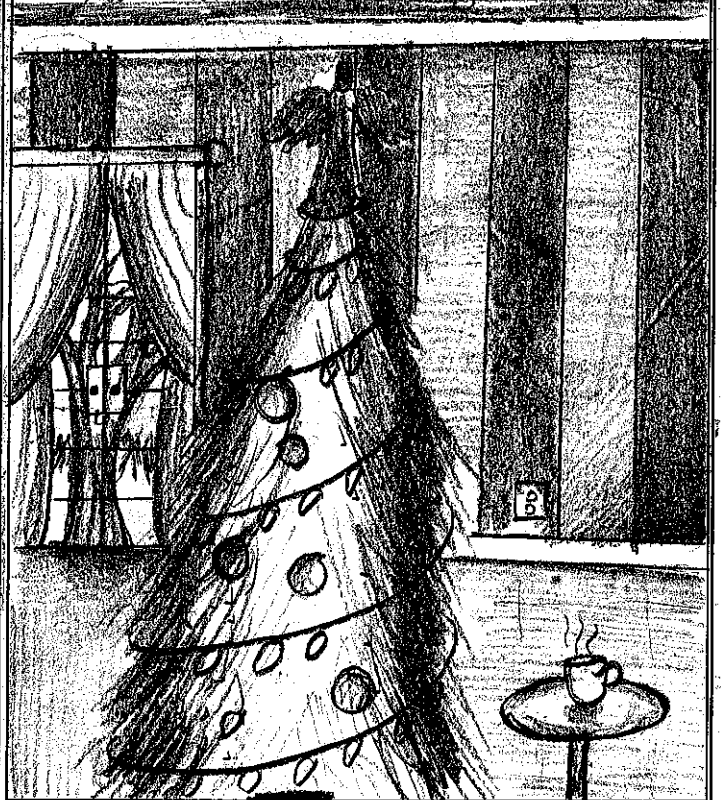
later that night he/I talked and later would start to talk more often



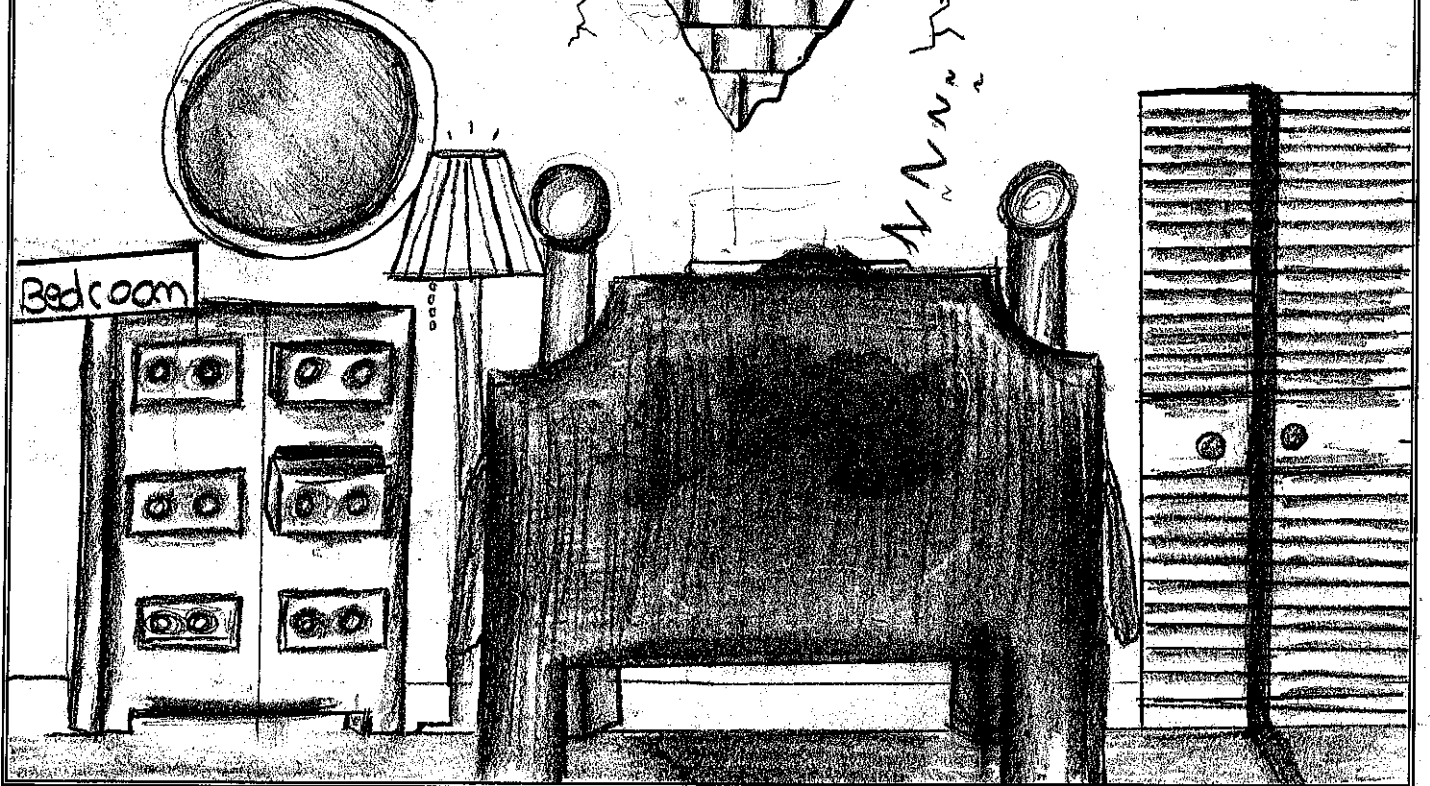
That Night when we returned home we all were so tired that we immediately went to bed.

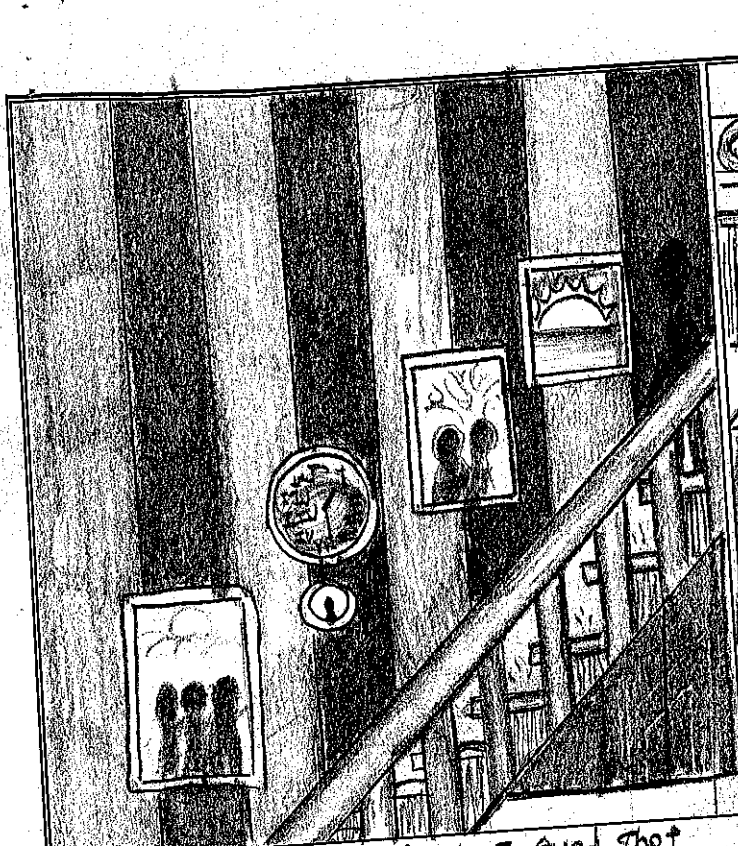


The house was quiet - except for the ticking sound of the clock on the wall and the sound of the wind outside. It was Christmas morning.

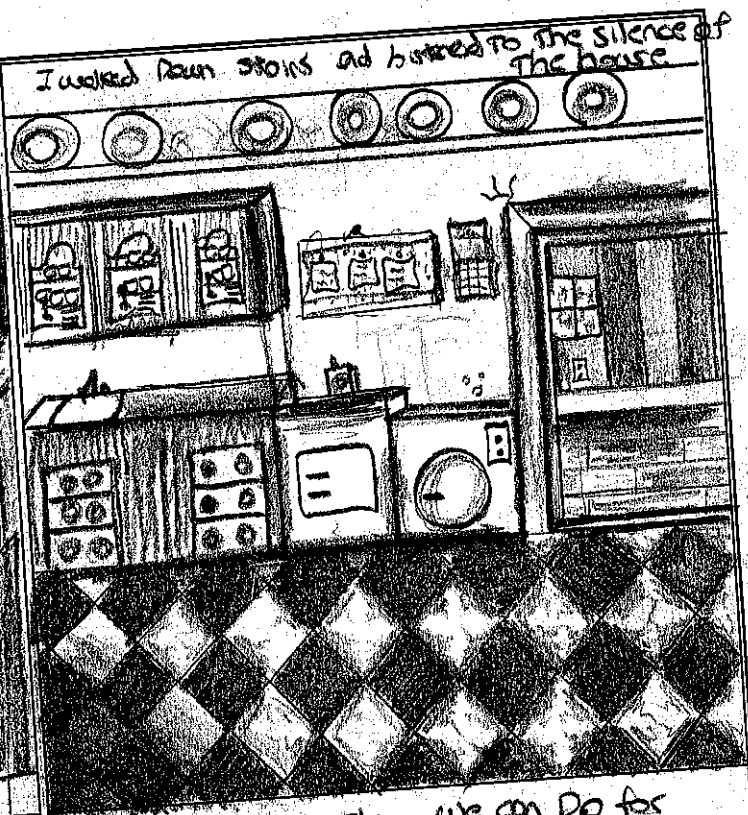


I was asleep in my bedroom mulling over the events that took place today, and came to realize that my day was not in spent. even though I did nothing I wanted I felt good about how everybody else felt. I was up.

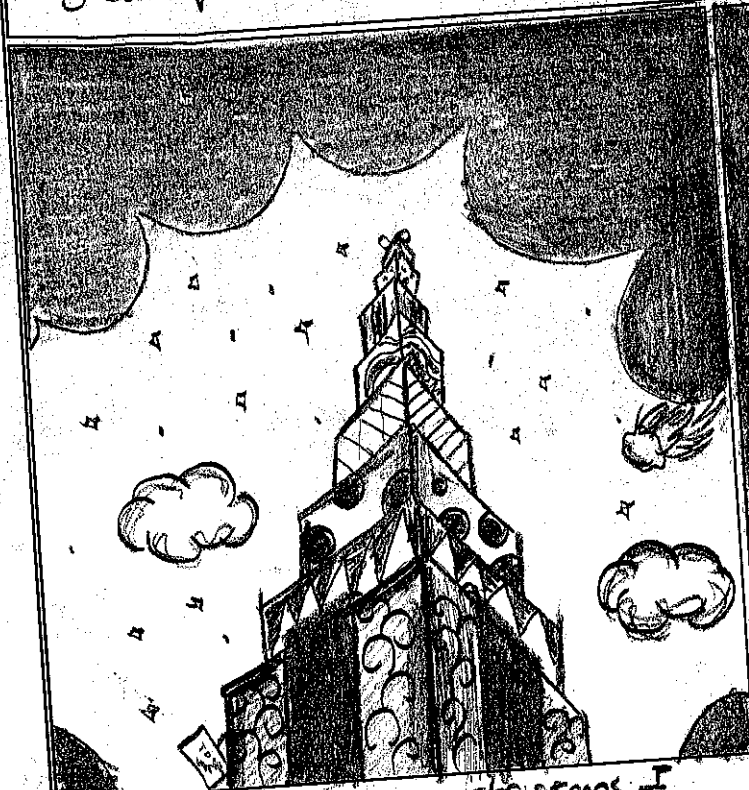




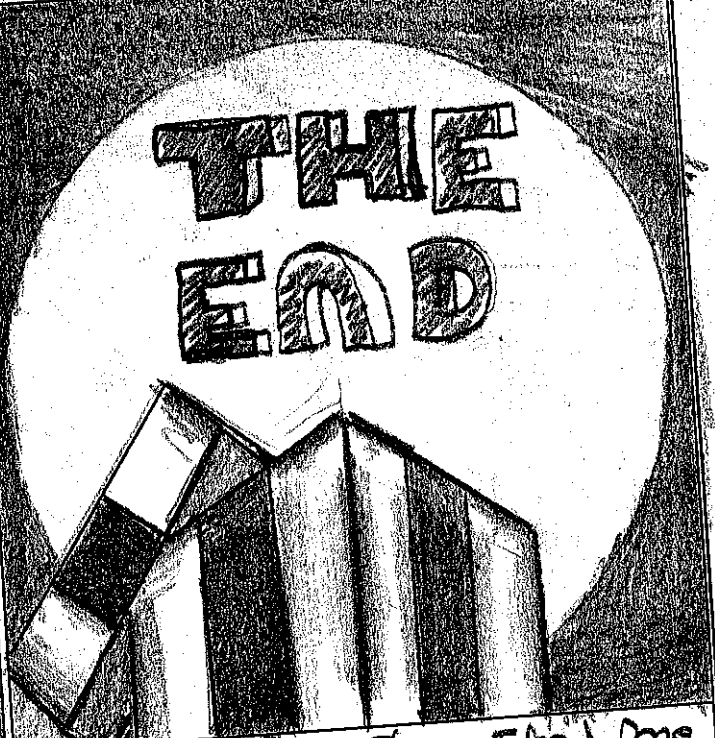
as I walked down stairs I found that everything I had done made everybody have a good day. in turn so did I,



I walked down stairs and listened to the silence of the house.  
Perhaps The Best Thing we can Do for others and ourselves is by being There. I kept on Thinking...



No present that on Christmas I received could compare to how I felt about what I had done



perhaps The Best Thing I had Done was Doing what others wanted. so Therefore I helped everyone and myself