

Dear whoever may find this note,

My name is now Cassie Gray. I'm only 17 and yet I've lived a more complicated life than I can even explain. All I know now is that everything that I have ever known isn't true. The life that I grew up living in is all a lie. For years, I sat in a dark room thinking I was one of the five last people alive on Earth. I look around to see so many wonderful things that to you is only an everyday surrounding. The running stream that trickles down discolored rocks, the lush forests that stand over all the animals like a bear protecting her cubs, and the clouds that were smeared through the bright blue paint of the sky. Everything so perfect and so delicate. Why did I have to spend almost 17 years of my life as a scared little girl trapped inside a small, cold, room that imprisoned me from the reality of the world. Why would someone so human do such an inhuman thing. Rosie Allen. That was her name. One of the five other people in the room that told us that the world outside was "poisoned" and everything else was destroyed. Rosie Allen, Jordan Walker, Leah Martin, Tyler Jonas, and lastly my best friend Mya Tanner. We were down there for seventeen years and she was the only one who was able to get me through what we had to experience. We would talk for hours and did everything together. Our favorite thing was to read. We read to hear about the lives of the world before it was destroyed. But then one day when we went to get a new book we saw something. A faint golden shimmer from behind the bookshelf. We quietly moved the shelf away from the wall to find a gold key. We were confused and scared. We didn't know what to do and nothing so exciting has ever happened to us. I spent days rubbing the golden key around in my hand before I went to bed each night. I finally decided I wanted to look for what the key belonged to. Finally, we found a small cut out that lightly blended into the cement above us. I wanted to go through the door so badly. I wanted to see more than what I was limited to but Mya didn't. She said she didn't want anything to change anything she wanted me to stay with her but I went anyways. I shoved through the door and out into the world. And when the sparkling light of the sun reached my eyes, I stared in awe, shock, and betrayal. I couldn't believe everything that was in this new world, I turned around to look back at Mya one last time but the door I left open wasn't there anymore. I sprawled out on the ground desperate to say goodbye to my best friend but nothing was there. I just ran. I was so confused and hurt that I ran and ran until I found this paper and a letter to me telling me to change my name and find help. I need somebody to help me. I'm alone and scared. Please come find me. I asked somebody to tell me where I was and all they said it was something called Lanesboro Minnesota. If you know this place I need somebody.

Sincerely,

Cassie Gray