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**The Gray, the Blue, and the Green**

**By Laura Fink**

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The Skin Traveler

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Episode Two – "The Gray, the Blue, and the Green"

The buzzing in Tock's head faded, and he found himself outside in a forest at mid-day. "Toto, we're not in the sewer, anymore", he said to a nearby squirrel. The squirrel, whose name apparently was not Toto, didn't answer. Before Tock could instinctively withdraw into his shell, the sound of voices arrested his attention. He craned his neck to see what was happening.

In a clearing, a scraggly group of men seemed to be arguing with one man who stood on a tree stump. Behind them stood the tattered remains of four or five tents that probably used to be white. Tock crawled closer to get a better look.

"We're done for, I tell you. Hain't no chance under heaven we'll make it out of here. Let's up and take to the forest, every man for himself!" This cry from the crowd drew a general response of cheers.

The man on the tree stump shook his head, sadly. "God's truth, we're in a bad spot," he said. "We've got no proper food, medicine, or clean water. For six days we've had no contact with our commanders, and we can ill afford another encounter with the enemy such as we had yesterday." At this, the crowd murmured fearfully. "But men! Take courage! According to my calculations, we may very well find General Grant's forces nary a day's walk from this spot. Alone, you may be captured. Together, we'll salvage what's left of our honor and make a stand. Who will follow me?"

Tock was now right under their noses, posing as just another creature of the forest. He watched anxiously as the men muttered amongst themselves. One of them spoke up. "I say let's take until sundown to decide. Then in the morning, we either split up or carry on together, as Andrew proposes. What say ye'?" There was a chorus a "yeas", and the men moved apart. Tock crawled to where

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Andrew now sprawled alone under a tree. Tock mustered all his courage, and dared to speak.

"Eh, excuse me, sir." Andrew opened one eye and looked upward. Not seeing anyone, he closed it again. "Eh, down here. It's me, the turtle." Andrew turned his head cautiously, then drew in his breath.

"I'm having a bless't vision, that's what it is. Not enough sleep, probably."

"No doubt, that's the reason," Tock answered sensibly. "But listen, I want to help you. Can you please tell me where we are, and when?"

Andrew smiled as though to himself. "Well, sure, if a turtle's going to talk to me in a vision, no reason why I shouldn't answer it. We're in Virginia, near a place called Farmville. Yesterday around this time,

we were nearly decimated by General Lee's troupes, who passed through here like a whirlwind. I and my men are all that's left of our regiment, and we've lost contact with other Union forces."

"And the date?" Tock asked, breathlessly.

"April the eighth, the year of our Lord 1865."

"Sir, listen to me. Don't give up! If you can just make it to a place called Appomattox by tomorrow morning, you'll be fine!"

"Hmmm, Appomattox... That's a good forty-mile haul from here. But if we started now... I wonder what the hour is, already?"

Tock smiled in relief. Andrew would take his men to Appomattox in time for the historic moment of Lee's surrender! He whipped out his laptop and reactivated the screen.

"It's only 4:30 in the afternoon, sir. You've got plenty of time to..." Suddenly he noticed that Andrew was looking at the computer with a dazed expression in his eyes. His head nodded, and then he slumped over in a faint. Tock decided to take advantage of this temporary lapse in Andrew's attention to make his getaway. Scrambling under a bush, he pulled out his laptop again and tried to activate the Trizoner clock faces. They were dead. In frustration, he selection the Change Skin function, and looked through the list of clock skins.

"Hmmm. Pizza with extra cheese. I could go for one of those right now!" Tock clicked Apply, and in an instant the now-familiar buzz began in his head. (He was starting to like it. "Better than coffee, actually.") His surroundings began to fade. Now a well-seasoned skin traveller, Tock waited a few moments, and, as he expected, the buzzing stopped. But where was he? All was dark, and some rough material dangling from a low ceiling scratched the top of his head. Trying not to panic, Tock began to crawl. All he had to guide him was the faint sound of voices in the distance, and the tantalizing scent of a hot pizza, probably oozing with extra cheese...

In every issue of "Just a Minute", join Tock the Turtle for an adventure in time and space. No one knows just where or when he'll find himself next, not even the folks at Clock Domain . com!

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None

## **Color Terms You Need To Know When Decorating**

**By Jude Wright**

Color is the key to successful decorating. You can have the most expensive furnishings you can find, but without the right color scheme, they mean nothing. Color can work magic in a room by taking disparate furnishings and uniting them with color.

Adding color to a room is quite inexpensive. A new color of paint and fabrics can totally change a room.

The human eye can perceive approximately 10 million different colors. Just imagine all of the different color combinations that can be created. Even so, some color combinations are definitely better than others.

When looking at colors, there are eleven different terms that you should know:

1. Primary colors are the three main colors that every other color is made from: red, blue and yellow. Primary colors are often used in children's rooms because they are bright and will catch a child's attention.
2. Secondary colors are the colors that are created when you combine equal parts of the three primary colors. The color orange comes from red and yellow; green is from yellow and blue; and violet is from blue and red.
3. Tertiary colors are the result of combining a primary color with the nearest secondary color to it on the color wheel. The colors would appear as blue–green, yellow–green, yellow–orange, red–purple, and blue–purple.
4. Related color schemes result from combining secondary and tertiary colors. For instance, the colors blue–green and green will evoke a calming effect because there are no jarring changes in color.
5. Complementary colors are located directly opposite each other on the color wheel. They would turn gray when they are mixed together in paint, but they can be used together – carefully – when decorating a room. Sometimes these color combinations can be too overwhelming so care is needed when using them.
6. Hue is a descriptive word for color, such as leaf green, robin's egg blue or burgundy.
7. Saturation means how saturated (how much color) there is in the basic color. For example, light blue and navy are both still blue. Navy is more saturated with the blue color.

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8. The value of a color is how light or dark a color is. White has the brightest value and black has the darkest value.

9. Tints represent the colors that are closest to white in value. These would be pastel colors.

10. Shades are the colors that are closest to black in color, like hunter green or deep purple.

11. Neutrals are the "non" colors, like black, white, gray, brown and beige. They can produce a pleasing color scheme on their own or mixed with other colors.

Color plays an important part in decorating. The entire feel of a room can be changed just by changing the color scheme.

Jude Wright is the owner of

where you can find great decorating ideas for

those on a budget. Stop by and get your free ebook, "Home Decor Ideas for Those on a Budget."



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