

## Excerpt “The Uncurious Adventures of Knod Knowingly”

As the wagon pulled into the cemetery Knod saw all of the stones standing on end, with words on them. How could he remember all of the names? He didn't know where or when it would be his time to be put into the ground but he thought knowing a few names might help.

He saw, Lucy, Wallace, Jacob, Winnie, Gabriel, Edward, Henry, and Ethel. He wouldn't bother with the last names that would be too much to remember. But he could come back and write some of them down. But what if he wasn't put into the ground on this side of the island. This was confusing. How did this work?

The service was kind of like church. The minister said a prayer, and someone read from the Bible, “Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection into eternal life”, now another question. Ashes? What were they talking about now?

Then what happened next made Knod a little uncomfortable. Uncle Cormac started crying. And then through himself over the chair and made these odd noises. It made Knod feel very weird in his stomach. No one else was doing this. He saw tears in Grandma Knowingly's eyes but she wasn't making that noise. Knod's Mom shook her head as if disapproving of him making such a scene. He finally settled down but Knod still felt weird.

Knod had to make sure that he could get in close to see the hole. How deep would it be? When they pulled up to the spot where Pop would go he quickly jumped out of the wagon. Everyone seemed to be elsewhere concerned so no one stopped him as he ran over to graveside. He got right to the edge and stopped. Wait. What if he wasn't supposed to see into the opening? He had never been to a funeral before so he didn't know if you looked into the hole.

He had to do it. He looked down, what? It had a bottom! There weren't stairs or anything but a hole with a bottom, just a hole? He just stared and couldn't believe it. There was no other opening or anything, just this hole. How did this work? He couldn't keep from just looking in and staring. He thought maybe if he looked long enough it would be like looking at the stars and it would open up to him and he could see for ever and see what it was like. Then someone grabbed his hand.

As he turned around to see his Dad he asked, “where does it go?” His Dad didn't say anything, just moved him toward the chairs and asked him sit down. This would take some thought.

The service at the graveside was short and then Pop's box was lowered into the hole. Knod tried to stretch his neck so that he could see if maybe it would just keep going. But he couldn't see. Everyone was really quiet so he knew not to talk.