

Bless This House

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It has been a while since I have posted anything on this blog. Last time I wrote, I was in Maine; and now I am back in Cambridge, but frequently I have to take my dog and cat and clear out because the house is being shown. So far, I would guess that maybe 30-35 people have tromped through my house, and though I am not there when they do, I picture them saying, "Oh god, isn't that paint color hideous?" or "Well, of course we'd have to replace the horrible window shades"

In the meantime, as they do that, I am busy choosing paint colors for a new house, and measuring furniture to determine what I can take with me to a smaller place. And I have been giving, and throwing, things away.

I will miss this house. There have been wonderful gatherings here. I could put little plaques around the house saying things like: *Katherine Paterson slept in this bedroom* and *Art Spiegleman stood in this garage, smokng, when I wouldn't let him do it in the house*

and
Phyllis Reynold Naylor sat here with a yellow legal pad, working on a book

and
Ashley Bryan recited poetry at this dinner table

...and countless others. Those are all memories, though, and I will take them with me. I will donate my crock pot to Goodwill but you don't leave memories behind.

I remember leaving from here for the airport probably hundreds of times, for trips of all sorts. I remember returning, always glad to be home even after the most wonderful of adventures. I remember my youngest grandson, 3 at the time, asking to see the attic; and when I took him there, he looked around and quoted "Finding Nemo"... "It's wicked dark in here!" I remember planting the weeping cherry tree, now huge, in the front yard. How many boring Oscars parties I have had here....and some exciting SuperBowl gatherings.

I remember how quiet the house was on the rainy spring morning almost two years ago, when Martin died.

I just hope whoever buys this house will love it as I have, and will create many years of memories here.

***Bless these walls so firm and stout,
Keeping want and trouble out . . .***

***Bless the roof and chimneys tall,
Let thy peace lie overall . . .***

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