

KEEP THE STORY GOING

BEAUTIFUL ODDITIES

The Wishing Line

What have you inherited? What will you release?

A reader journal and creative challenge

Before You Begin

This is not a test, and there are no correct answers. The Wishing Line is a private place to think about what families pass down: stories, habits, hopes, fears, objects, expectations, and love.

A quiet rule

Write only what feels safe to write. You can skip anything. You can come back later. You can change your mind.

In Clara's story, the women of one family inherit wishes that become attachments. This journal asks a gentler question: what do we inherit, and what do we choose to do with it?

1. The Wishing Line

Think about the people whose lives have shaped yours. They do not have to be related to you by blood.

Person / relationship

What I inherited from them

What I want to carry forward

What I want to change

2. The Wish Inventory

A wish often contains another wish underneath it.

I wish for...

Write one thing you want right now.

If I got it, I imagine I would feel...

Name the feeling underneath the wish.

What might it cost?

Time? Attention? Freedom? Peace? Something else?

What might I already have?

Is any part of the feeling you want already present in your life?

3. The Open Hand / Closed Hand

Some things deserve to be protected. Some things become heavy because we are afraid to loosen our grip.

CLOSED HAND	OPEN HAND
Something I am holding tightly	Something I may be ready to release

What would become possible if you loosened your grip just a little?

4. Your Symbolic Animal

The women in Clara's family are connected to animal forms. Create a symbolic animal for yourself - not because it is magical, but because symbols can help us name what is hard to explain.

My animal

What animal represents something true about you?

Why this one?

What qualities, habits, habitats, sounds, movements, or myths connect it to you?

What would it guard?

If this animal kept watch over one part of your life, what would you ask it to protect?

5. A Family Object

Choose one object that carries a family story: jewelry, a recipe, a photograph, a tool, a book, a piece of clothing, a dish, anything.

The object

Describe it.

Whose was it?

Who used, made, bought, carried, or kept it?

What does it hold?

What story, memory, habit, or feeling lives inside it?

What happens next?

Will you keep it, give it away, photograph it, record its story, or let it go?

6. The Release

You do not have to throw anything away. Release can mean giving something away, forgiving yourself, changing a habit, stopping an expectation, or simply naming that something is finished.

I am ready to release...

I want to carry forward...

What would you choose if you did not have to wish?

7. Keep the Story Going

Choose one action. Small is enough.

- ☐ Ask someone in your family about a story you have never heard.
- ☐ Write down the history of one object before the details disappear.
- ☐ Give away or release one thing you have been keeping only from fear.
- ☐ Make something new that represents who you are becoming.
- ☐ Tell someone what you hope they carry forward from you.

*Some things stay because we hold them.
Some things become beautiful because we finally let them go.*