



# Not Every Tuesday Anymore



Nussbaum Mind

Illustration coming soon

For ages 15-18





## Chapter 1: The Familiar Folder

Yedida opens the folder to the page with the crooked staircase. Her friend always laughs at that staircase. They drew it two years ago, when their imagined house had twenty rooms and only one way upstairs. The smallest bedroom required a ladder through the pantry.

Now Yedida is seventeen. The house folder still waits on the shelf every Tuesday afternoon.

For three years, Tuesday means a visit after school and homework.

Their mothers arrange the times. The girls draw plans for impossible houses, invent the families who live there, and argue about whether a room needs two windows.

Lately, they spend less time drawing.

Last Tuesday, her friend left the folder closed and described a sewing lesson. Yedida asked two questions, then tried to turn the conversation toward the old pantry.

The week before, they both looked at the same blank page for twenty minutes.

Today, Yedida puts out the older drawing before her friend arrives. A familiar joke should make beginning easier.





## Chapter 2: The Joke That Hasn't Changed

The friend arrives at the time their mothers confirm.

Yedida points to the staircase.

"Remember the pantry ladder?"

"Of course."

The friend smiles. She does not begin laughing.

"We could make a new house with a worse staircase," Yedida says.

"Maybe. I don't have any ideas for one today."

Yedida takes out a pencil.

"You said that last time."

"I know."

The friend sits beside her. They are not quarreling. Nobody refuses a promised project. Neither has agreed to produce a house this week.

That makes the empty page difficult to complain about.

"Tell me about the sewing lesson," Yedida says.

Her friend describes a practice piece that takes longer than expected. Yedida listens for a few minutes. She is glad her friend likes it. She cannot think of another question.

Then her friend asks about Yedida's new history reading.





Yedida explains an account of an old town. Her friend listens, but does not want to debate the confusing street names for half an hour.

They both glance toward the house folder.





## Chapter 3: A Carefully Arranged Afternoon

After the visit, Yedida decides they need a better start next week. She sharpens two pencils, selects their funniest old page, and finds the puzzle booklet they used before the houses.

She remembers the snacks they liked when they were fourteen. Mama agrees to the ordinary snack already available at home.

Yedida places two plates beside the drawing things.

The preparations have the shape of the old afternoon.

Mama asks whether the girls have chosen a project.

"Not exactly. I'm making it like before."

"Does your friend want to do the houses again?"

"She used to."

Mama waits.

Yedida touches the puzzle booklet.

"We used to want all the same things."

"All of them?"

Not all. Her friend always disliked the riddles Yedida wanted to read twice. Yedida never enjoyed naming all the curtains in the houses. They managed those differences easily when there was something both wanted to make.





Now she is collecting old objects because she does not know what they both want to do next.

She keeps the plates ready anyway.





## Chapter 4: Nothing for the Pencils

Her friend notices the arrangement.

"You found the old puzzle book."

"We could finish the pages we skipped."

The friend turns one page, then another.

"We skipped them because we didn't like them."

Yedida laughs. That is true.

For a moment, it sounds like their usual Tuesday. She feels relieved.

Then the friend closes the book.

They eat, look through two house drawings, and talk about school. When Mama asks how long they want before the arranged leaving time, Yedida says they can use all of it.

Her friend asks to leave a little earlier if the mothers agree. She wants time for her own practice piece at home.

Yedida puts down her pencil.

"We only have this afternoon."

"We have every Tuesday."

The answer makes the room still.

Every Tuesday is exactly what Yedida has been trying to save. To her friend, it sounds like time already plentiful enough to shorten today.





The mothers confirm the earlier departure. Yedida puts both unused pencils away.





## Chapter 5: No Person to Blame

"Has she made a new best friend?" Mama asks when Yedida describes the visit.

"Not that I know. It isn't that."

Yedida does not want a rival invented for her.

Her friend still greets her warmly at school. She does not mock the houses, hide a different gathering, or promise an afternoon and fail to arrive. She comes when they arrange it.

Yedida also looks at the clock during the visits now. She wants to return to her history book. She feels guilty about that because she is supposed to be the one protecting Tuesday.

"I want it to feel like before," she says.

"What do you want to do together now?"

"I don't know."

Mama sits beside her.

"You can miss how it was without finding somebody who ruined it."

Yedida wants an activity that will restore everything. Mama does not supply one.

"You could talk about the Tuesday plan itself. Not ask her to perform the old joke correctly."





Yedida looks at the folder. She likes the memory. She is no longer sure she wants another house.





## Chapter 6: The Plan They Can Change

At school, Yedida asks her friend to talk after their class finishes, while the teacher is still nearby.

"I keep setting out old things because I want Tuesday to feel like it used to. But I don't really want to draw houses every week either."

The friend looks surprised, then relieved.

"I thought you still wanted it."

"I wanted us to want it."

"I didn't know how to say I don't have much to do with the folder now."

Yedida asks whether her friend wants a different weekly activity.

The friend considers it.

"Not a whole new one just to fill Tuesdays. Do you?"

Yedida thinks of the history book and the sharpened pencils.

"No."

The answer hurts more than she expects. It is still her answer.

They agree to speak with their mothers about ending the automatic weekly visit. The next Tuesday is not canceled secretly or left for someone to guess about. Both families will know that no visit is arranged.

They do not choose a new date while standing there.





## Chapter 7: The Open Tuesday

Their mothers confirm the change.

On Tuesday, Yedida comes home, finishes her homework, and leaves the house folder on the shelf.

At the usual arrival time, she looks toward the door.

Nobody is late.

There is no missing guest to explain.

She opens her history book. For a few minutes, she feels as if choosing it proves she has not cared enough about her friend.

Then she remembers that the old visits also included moments when she wanted to read it. Closing the book now would not make those afternoons different.

Mama comes to ask about supper.

"It's strange," Yedida says.

"Do you want company for a little while?"

"Yes."

They talk about the strange quiet without planning a replacement visitor.

Later, Yedida puts the staircase page into a flat envelope with the other drawings. She asks Mama for a shelf place where the paper will not get bent.





The drawings stay. The two pencils return to the ordinary pencil cup. Before supper, she checks with Mama that the old arrival time is no longer written on the family plan. It is not. Yedida puts her own reading book beside her schoolbag for tomorrow, leaving no extra chair prepared beside it.





## Chapter 8: A Smaller Question

Two weeks later, Yedida finds a passage about a house with a stairway built after its rooms.

She thinks of the pantry ladder.

At school, she asks her old friend whether she wants to see the short passage during their next free break.

"Yes. That sounds like our terrible house."

They read it together at the classroom table, with the teacher nearby.

The friend laughs at one detail. Yedida does too.

They talk for ten minutes. Then the friend returns to her own book, and Yedida copies the passage's page number into her reading notes.

Neither says they must restart Tuesdays because they have found something funny together.

After school, they walk to the gate with the other girls and say goodbye at their usual turning points.

At home, Yedida places the reading note inside her current book. She leaves the staircase drawings in their envelope on the shelf.

