This birthday was not going to be a normal one for Liz’s sister, Meg. Meg was in tenth grade, but because of the Covid-19 pandemic, she had not been in school for the whole year. She missed seeing her friends. When Liz asked Meg what she wanted for her birthday, Meg answered, “Maybe some nail polish? Or a pair of shorts?” But Meg did not even smile.

Liz said, “I have another idea. You have always wanted to redecorate your room, but it never happens. Why don’t we paint your room this weekend and clear out the stuff you are not using? We can do a whole room makeover!”

Meg’s room was the same pink color that it had been when Meg was in first grade. The walls were scuffed, and Meg had taped many posters right onto the walls. She had put holes in the walls with thumbtacks too.
Meg's room was full of stuff she was no longer using, and the tops of her dresser and nightstand were always cluttered. Liz and Meg filled up big bags of books, papers, and clothes to be discarded or given away.

Meg wanted a room that looked more adult. She looked at photos of pretty rooms on the internet. Meg chose a pale light gray with white trim that had an elegant, adult look.

Liz had painted rooms before. She and Meg put tape on the moldings to protect them from being spattered by drips of paint and put drop cloths on the floor. They put putty in the holes and sanded the walls with sandpaper before starting to paint. It took two days to finish the job. They blasted all their favorite tunes while they worked.

Meg was so glad that Liz came up with this idea. She would remember this birthday for a long time.