

Tom and his family lived in a busy city. There was always something to see and hear. Sometimes Tom wanted a secret place of his own. He didn't have a place that was just for him.

Tom made a plan. He climbed up high inside the garage. He came to a little peak in the roof where his dad stored bikes and tools. Here was the place for Tom!

It was quiet. He could look out a little window to see the city. He brought his favorite comic books, his monster truck, and a bag of chips to his secret place. Tom decided to call his secret place "Study." If anyone asked where he was going, he would tell the truth. He would say he was going to "Study."

His big sister left him alone when he said he was going to "Study." Tom spent every day after school at the "Study." His sister thought he was becoming a good student. Mother knew better though.

One day he climbed up to "Study." He found Mother sitting there on the floor.

"Mother, how did you know I come up here?" asked Tom.

"I like this place," said Mother. "Can I call this place 'Clean'? When I want some time alone I will tell everyone I'm going to 'Clean!'"