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World Hunger and Door Locks

When I leave my house and shut my front door, I smile. It's not that I'm going anyplace special. Or that I've "escaped" from the close quarters from working at home with two boys on summer break and a stay-at-home spouse. I'm excited to open the door with ease and close it behind me with similar ease.

For over a year, the lock on our front door had been "sticky". It started with the inability to open the lock from the outside, even with the key in the door. Everyone in the household had gotten used to ringing the doorbell, even after the last shout of "It's open!" We didn't have to worry about intruders since no one could open the door from the outside. We got used to leaving the door ajar when going out for the mail. We adapted.

It became harder to adapt after the lock became even more temperamental and refused to open from the inside. Well, not completely true. My husband was the only one who could open it. But he discovered that he had limited control. If he opened the lock at the beginning of the day, when he went out to retrieve the morning papers, the Lock Goddess was obliging. He then left it open the rest of the day. But try opening the lock from inside later in the day, when wood expands or contracts or does something funny like that, and we were all out of luck. It was the Ross version of letting down the castle gate at the beginning of the day, so that life and commerce could flourish.

Eventually, my husband could not open the lock, even first thing in the morning. This is much worse than not being able to open the door from the outside. It's wholly embarrassing, especially when there's someone at the door who doesn't know about the lock situation. We have an uncovered side window, next to the door, made for peering out to see strangers and friends alike. It works okay to yell to Mike, the 9-year old boy next door, to direct him to the garage door to enter the house. It doesn't work as well when it's a coaching client. Come to think of it, this could be a great excuse for not opening the door for solicitors.

I had visions of the house on fire and all four of us racing down to the front door to escape, only to remember that the lock on the front door no longer opens. The path to the garage door is blocked and we all end up dying of smoke inhalation, just because of the damn door lock.

What I discovered is that fixing door locks is not as complicated as solving world hunger. In fact, it only takes a call to a locksmith. I have this bias that anything that needs fixing in the house is my husband's problem, not mine. So I nagged him to get someone to do something. He called a locksmith. Two days and \$70 later, we had a working door lock that opens both from the inside and the outside. It was that simple. How could we have all been irritated and inconvenienced for so long when the solution was so easy?

We put up with irritants in our daily lives, as if to say, "This is part of life. Deal with it." Like world hunger. Well, that's flat-out wrong. If you have something that's a chronic annoyance, don't let it quietly become part of your life, like a spreading rash. Focus on it. Give it some attention. It may be easier than you think to turn it from an annoyance into a joy.

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her magic by bringing the power of the creative, intuitive right brain into a left-brained world. While her degrees in engineering from Northwestern University have served her well, it's been her life and work experiences that have moved her to do her best work. She is certified by The Coaches Training Institute and credentialed by the International Coach Federation.