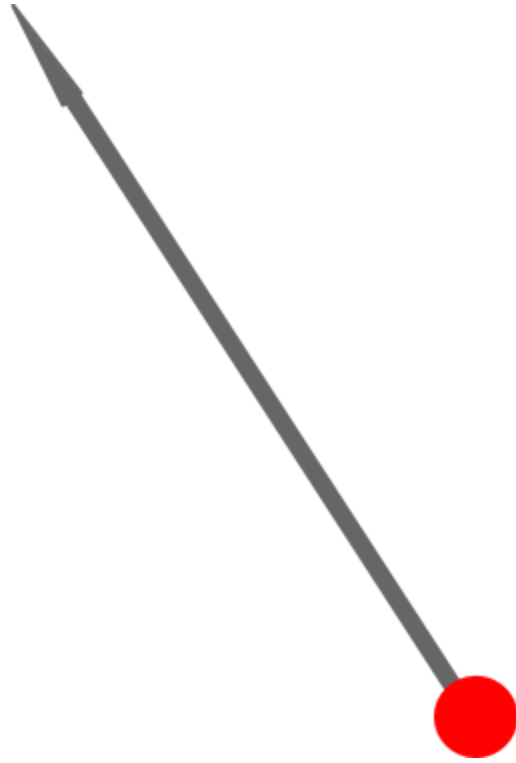


POP!



BF KELLER

Once upon a dreadful, dreadful, painful Saturday, I broke my toe. But this isn't the beginning, and we should probably start there. My English teacher says so. It all started at my house... in my garage. The Atrocious Garage of Doom. My mom told us not to play in there, but my brother coaxed me into doing it. "Come on," he teased, "she doesn't want us in there because we will make a mess. We won't make a mess." I knew this probably wasn't true, but I did it anyway, because I really wanted to play in there. It is a 2-car garage with an insulated room in it, so it was pretty mammoth. And awesome.

There were ten or twelve white pine 2×4s about 10' long lying on the cement floor in a tidy stack, so I grabbed four of them and made a square out of them that I called our "tent" on the floor of the garage. We played that we were Arctic explorers in the "tent" for a while, but then my mother stormed in. She is very sweet when she is in a good mood, but boy, was she in a bad mood! I quickly began to stack the boards up, but the last one stuck out like (my) messy hair. I hurriedly shoved it into place, but the force in my shove knocked the other side down -- onto my toe.

I screamed in pain and terror like a wild animal in a trap. My 10 year old brother Tanyon scrambled out of a garbage can that my dad had recently bought (Tanyon was teasing my younger brother by saying he was Oscar the Grouch) into action, telling my 4 year old brother Nolan to get my mom, as my dad wasn't home from work yet. She ran out of the house (I could see her through the open garage door) and looked at my toe, with me still bawling my eyes out.

When my dad got home at least an hour later, my toe was still numb from the shock. He told me to ice it, that there was nothing to do about it. I wanted to go see the doctor, but my parents said that the doctors couldn't do anything either. This wasn't comforting, and it also

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