



A BRIDGE TO BRAVERY

Hidden in the shadows of a small closet, under things all little girls collect like pink purses and white Sunday shoes and half-done stitchery projects, five-year-old Wendy kept a worn copy of *Three Billy Goats Gruff*. It surfaced each time she felt disappointed, perhaps from a friend who excluded her at recess or a curt remark from a teacher. She would consider how the goats crossed that bridge with courage and wit, and something deep inside moved her to do the same.

Years passed. The closet held prom dresses and heels for work, a dress for a grand wedding and, finally, nothing at all. Wendy and Geoff Ellis had discovered a life together, followed by two children, three dogs and a cat. But Wendy kept the tattered book in a drawer filled with special mementos, reminding her that being smart and brave meant one could achieve great things.

One summer day, the Ellis' traded Charlotte, North Carolina for Highland Park, Illinois. They settled on a large-framed, modern fortress conceived in the eighties. Years of neglect left the brooding home yearning for love. And the Ellis' proved perfect suitors along with designer Michael Norpell. Wendy's directive was clear: We want a house you want to go into. Open it up and unleash its beauty.

But a mystery lay afoot. The outdated pool exhaled scents of ancient mildew and weathered concrete as Michael's crew retracted the faded cover revealing two separate rectangles connected by a narrow pass through. What secrets lay amidst the odd design? Ideas flew, blueprints materialized and suddenly, in the span of two days, a bridge was built transforming the mysterious pass through into a focal point for the newly designed California-style pool. Michael then introduced the Ellis' to someone who would make the outside truly come alive at night:



Dean MacMorris from Night Light. Pool lighting now outlines the perimeter while moon lighting sprinkles romance from the trees. And the bridge? It is the piece de resistance as the sun exchanges place with the stars each night. Wendy says, "When you go under the bridge, it's cool. Perimeter lighting doesn't quite reach the center so the bridge is that little burst of light."

True creativity inspires emotion. Wendy considers her home from night's perspective. "The moon lighting in the front yard is beautiful. The lights on the bridge and hot tub go through the kitchen and catch my eye. I almost pause each time because it's so different, like a floating light. It looks like a resort ... very relaxing, a serene place. Your eye is just drawn to the lighting. Very magical. The lighting is seamless from outside to inside. People now notice the yard and some have mentioned the lighting – how cool. Usually people don't notice lighting," she muses.

Wendy said, "Lighting is like that hidden charm at the end." Or like the happy ending of a very special book held by a little girl thoughtful enough to find courage through the written word. No small wonder she grew up to be a teacher.

And that is how Night Light helped Wendy illuminate the bridge she had always dreamed of and finally found.

~The End~

A Bridge to Bravery is based on a real story. All quotes and lighting details are based on interviews and fact. We would like to thank our clients, Wendy and Geoff Ellis from Highland Park, for participating in this story that highlights Night Light's belief in Passion, one of many business virtues we believe in every day.

