Abditive

You are walking through the woods, cool and protected from the heat of a midsummer’s day. The cicadas are singing to the sun that shimmers through the canopy of leaves, but you walk in the shadows along a carpet of moss and pine. Each step you take is muted by the thickness of the wood. You are not looking for anything, but walk aimlessly—enjoying the rhythm of the earth beneath your feet and the pace of the world around you. There is a slight breeze, a freshness brought into the forest by a creek running somewhere nearby. You change your course to find this creek and follow its path deeper into the wood. It brings you to a rock face covered in vines and you walk over to investigate. It seems too perfect, too straight to be an ordinary rock face. You run your hands along the vines, feeling your way around the surface, until suddenly you feel something that is not stone. Pulling the vines aside, you find what looks to be an old wooden door. You see a weathered latch with a design mimicking the surrounding vines. This is a part of the wood you have never been before, deep and remote and hidden from the outside world. You take a hold of the latch and push the door open to explore this new and abditive discovery.

The word abditive comes from the Latin ‘abditīvus’ (removed or separated from), and from ‘abdō’ (hide, conceal). It is an adjective defined as “remote, secret, and hidden; having the quality of hiding.” Of course, we don’t always stumble across abditive things on a daily basis, but they are the source of so much intrigue in mysteries that we read in books or see in movies and on television every day. The debut ‘Nancy Drew*’* novel for example, ‘Secret of the Old Clock*’*, runs on the premise of Nancy’s search for a missing will. Its location, even its existence, remains abditive until the very end of the story, but the suspense and the clues leading up to its reveal keep us hooked until the last page.

I have made many abditive findings, acting on the wanderlust to just go out and roam—old bridges in the woods, abandoned buildings enveloped by nature, and even a rusted pocket watch. You never know what you might find. Take a walk. Go out and explore! There just may be a little something abditive waiting to be unearthed.

Sources:

<http://www.yourdictionary.com/abditive>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/32979.The_Secret_of_the_Old_Clock>