

## **Evelyn Evelyn**

### **"Tragic Events - Part II"**

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Are you crying Evelyn?

No... no... yes. I was just thinking about Sandy. And about Bimba and Kimba. I miss them Evelyn.

I know, I miss them too. Especially this time of year, Evelyn

The year is 1991, Terminator 2 is the highest-grossing film at the Box Office, the first Super Nintendo Entertainment System has just been released and after 70 years of Communist rule the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has collapsed

And on a chicken ranch just at side of Claxton, Georgia twin sisters are waiting for their supper

The farm is old and operated by Alfred McClock, an eccentric man with a fascination with Civil War weaponry. McClock's chicken farms produces over 140 000 chickens a year and ships wings, thighs and legs all over the continental United States

Despite the modest success of his business, McClock leads a solitary life, never marrying and tending several of the chicken houses himself. A simple man with a not entirely bad heart. McClock never knew how to best take care of the young girls who came into his life shortly after their birth, so he raised them the only way he knew how - in a 2 foot by 2 foot wire mesh cage on a diet of mash, crumbles, pellets and egg booster. One clear September day during the twins sixth year at the farm McClock does not come at meal time. Night falls and still he doesn't appear. The girls and the chickens cry out from hunger.

Days pass and the chickens in neighbouring cage begin to die. The smell of rotting poultry permeates the air of the hot, humid barn.

Finally, desperate to find food and concerned over the whereabouts of their guardian, the twins break free from their cage.

McCluck's house is locked tight, but the girls find the garden hose which quenches their thirst. Still half delirious with hunger, they make their way out to the road.

Little time passes before a dusty black cadillac Coupe de Ville drives by and pulls over. A tall, moustached young man with a kindly face steps out of the vehicle.

He smiles at the girls.

'Hello'

And presents them with the first candy they had ever tasted - a Twix bar,

which they share in silent, odd delight.

The girls do not feel at all uncomfortable when the man lifts them gently into the dark, spacious trunk.

In the following days the girls are transferred into the trunks or several other cars by many other kindly, candybar offering men until they reach their final destination at the lake side lodge in Manitoba.

The underwood lodge is a collection of cosy, water front cabins with an attached trailer park along the shores of lake Winnipeg.

It is also the world headquarters of Budding Flowers Entertainment

specializing in the production and distribution of photographs and VHS tapes for clientele with unique tastes

The girls are welcomed by Mrs Deborah Bouldger, the 52-year-old proprietress

'Well, hello, girls'

A women of enormous proportions who lives with her own 3 children in the main lodge of the underwood Upon finding that the girls have no names she christens them Eva and Lynn, names, which neither she, nor the twins themselves are ever able to keep straight

'Eva, Lynn'

The twins days of the underwood are relatively comfortable, they are well cared for, the food is delicious and there are many other girls their age Once a week, photo sessions take place, convivial affairs that involve make-up, a wide variety of dress up costumes and inventive new games. Every few days Mrs Bouldger introduces the girls to one of their many uncles

'Eva, Lyn, say hello to your uncle Mark'

'Heeey'

These uncles, seemingly endless in number, travel from all over the world to visit their nieces

The girls don't always like their new uncles, but Mrs Bouldger is always quick to remind them that 'family is family' and 'blood is thicker than water'

The conjoined sisters are not popular amongst the other girls, however, one gentle resident, a few years their senior befriends them and takes them under her wing.

'Hello, what's your name?'

Her name is Sandy

'I'm Sandy'

She has soft, blond hair that reaches down to her knees

Everyone says she looks like a mermaid

Dressed daily by Mrs Bouldger in trade mark fishnet stockings and vintage attire, Sandy is by far the most popular girl of the underwood. She has so many uncles that the twins lose count

Every night after dinner and chores, Sandy talks the young sisters into bed and tells them fantastic stories until they fall peacefully to sleep

'And after the three long weeks at sea Jean Luke, the sailor finally spotted land'

But these happy times do not last. Shortly after the twins' third Christmas under Mrs Bouldger's care, Sandy disappears - never to return

The twins remain in the underwood for the greater part of two, long, miserable years. Without Sandy to protect them, they are ostracized and abused by the other girls

'What are YOU looking at, 4-eyes?!'

The photo sessions involve fewer fancy costumes and over time, their uncles become more peculiar

'Did I ask you to talk?'

The twins begin to notice the disturbing tendency for girls, much like their dear friend Sandy - they quietly disappear from the underwood around their 12th or 13th birthday. The sisters brace themselves for something terrible

One autumn, when the girls are eleven, an old man, who speaks only Spanish, takes the twins into a large, orange van and drives them to their new home

'Step right up, step right up, see amazing human oddities, freaks of nature, be warned, people with heart condition, children, women - we will accept no responsibility for fainting, reoccurring nightmares, or death'

Dillard and Fullerton, elusive and illogical traveling show is the 12th largest touring circus in North America. Former insurance salesman, Dillard and Fullerton, distinguish their enterprise by procuring the most procuring specimen of the grotesque and unusual. Their small administrative staff works tirelessly to combat legal actions and public allegations of animal cruelty and human slave trafficking  
Life in the circus is harder than their time at the underwood. There is always work to be done. In addition to their chores of laundry and sweeping, Mr Dillard insist that the twins spend many hours each day practicing their act

'What are you staring at for?'

The girls are frightened of the clowns, several of

whom, by amazing coincidence, also happen to be their uncles

'Hello, hello, hello'

But still, overall these early days at the circus are happy time for the twins

Every night to the delight of audiences across the country, the girls appear in the center ring, singing and strumming the ukulele, at the top of Bimba and Kimba - the world's only known conjoined twin siamese elephants

The twins feel they have found true soulmates in Bimba and Kimba, who they affectionately refer to as 'Elephant, Elephant'. This special bond is reciprocated by the pachyderms, who fondly nuzzle the girls with their trunks and seem to delight in giving them rides.

The twins and the elephants are inseparable

With the help of the Alphonso de Ares tin, the animal trainer, the twins tend to the elephants, feeding them and grooming them daily

But one terrible August morning, Bimba and Kimba refuse to take their food. Due to the unsanitary conditions of their quarters and an improper diet of popcorn and cotton candy, the elephants have contracted a rare form of elephantine diphtheria compounded by early onset Alzheimer's disease

For the next two weeks can only stand by helplessly, as their companions become sicker and weaker and begin displaying obvious signs of memory loss. The last few days are almost unbearable. With Bimba and Kimba's confused, sad eyes looking up at the girls with great anguish, but no hint of recognition

And on one, grim, September day

The sisters 16th birthday

Elephant Elephant dies

The funeral is held at the same day a grizzly affair had an industrial trash compactor behind a Home Depot in Fort Dodge, Iowa

The twins are devastated. Without Bimba and Kimba life is but a terrible and meaningless void. They resign themselves to living out the rest of their hollow existence in solemn mourning

The emotionally exhausted sisters fall from favour within the circus

No longer willing to sing and play their ukulele, the girls are dressed in a pink tutu and forced to balance on the giant red ball, an impossible task for the conjoined sisters

'Get on that damn ball!'

The audience roars with laughter each time they awkwardly fall

Their discomfort is increased by a pair of radical

groups who have taken an interest in the twins. Every night in most major cities, protesters assemble, noisily waving signs and chanting slogans in front of the Box Office

The first faction claims to represent an organization called 'FASSEN' - the Foundation for Always Separating Siamese Twins Everywhere Now

Citing the bible, FASSEN members believe that it is the will of the Lord that all conjoined twins be separated and allowed to live individual lives. Wielding symbolical surgical saws and blunt carbon knives, FASSEN members tried the ticket buyers for supporting the abomination of god

The second group operates under the acronym SPLIT - the Society for the Preservation of Linked Identical Twins.

A reactionary organisation, working to discredit the claims of FASSEN, SPLIT believes that conjoined twins will play a critical role in the second coming of Christ. The twins are terrified by both groups - the knives and saws make them very nervous and SPLIT members make threats to kidnap the girls and take them to where they will be kept safe in a place of darkness until the rapture

One day before a Sunday matinee in Sacramento a chaotic brawl erupts between the two factions and one FASSEN member gets alarmingly close to the twins with a hacksaw

Stricken with fear, the sisters decide that they are no longer safe at the circus

That night, they make a resolution - to leave the Dillard and Fullerton travelling show - FOREVER

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