Chapter One

Isabella is talking to Jake about going to visit a few of her girlfriends, they planned on going to a movie, then have dinner after. Jake told her to be careful, after hearing about all the crime reports close to their area of the city.

After the movie they decided to get pizza at their favorite pizza joint downtown. Sara made the suggestion, and the rest followed along. Shouldn't be busy this time of night. None of the girls drink, so there won’t be any issues of drinking and driving.

At Tony’s pizza, it was just as they expected, no big crowds. The pizza was delicious as always. Isabella told them about her returning back to work on Monday. They were excited for her, and mentioned how great it will be for her to get back into a regular routine. She agreed, and said Jake was behind her 100 percent. They finished up the last slices of pizza and headed home. Sarah drove her car, and Isabella was the last to be dropped off. Been an enjoyable evening she told Sara, as she walked away from the curb.

The next morning, Isabella is upstairs getting ready, I can hear her footsteps from down here in the kitchen. This old house has no sound proofing in the walls or ceiling. I call up, asking her to try and hurry up having her

shower, and dressing. I was hoping to have gotten an earlier start to the day.

I head out the back door to load the bikes into the the van. We’re going to a new bike trail off route 2 in the valley. Only about an hours drive. Temps in the 50’s today, which is perfect for trail riding. We haven’t been riding in a long time

Ok Jake, I’m showered dressed and ready to roll. Sorry I wasn’t ready in time to help you load the bikes. I’m really looking forward to this ride. It’s been a really long journey to get to this point. Thanks for taking me along.

No problem, I needed a break from work. By the way, when do you think you will start back at the coffee shop? Maybe in a few days, can’t wait to get back!

An hour later and we've arrived at the parking lot for the trail head. Takes just a few minutes to unload the van, and we're off on our ride. Sun is hot, even though it's only 42 degrees. The trail is still muddy in spots from the rain the past few days.

We only passed a few people on our ride. Being a weekday, not too many riders on this trail. Weekends are much different. It's been a good ride for Isabella.

Didn't take long for her to get back in the groove. She's more worn out than usual though.

On the way home we stopped at the coffee shop to see if Isabella was on the schedule yet. She was planning on starting back in a few weeks. The schedule was not posted yet, but her boss ask if she could start next Monday. This was a busy time and he needed extra help. Isabella said she thought that would work out fine. Getting bored at home, she told him.

Let’s order a coffee to go, and a cupcake each. Nice snack before dinner. She smiled and walked out with Jake to the van.

Back home they both mentioned taking a nap, being tired from the drive and bike ride. Isabella was just about to tell Jake about the strange dream she had during her nap, when they hear the sound of their doorbell.

Chapter Two

Beach Trip

Sarah and Isabella are talking on the phone, planning their annual trip to Cannon Beach. Their group of friends have been going since high school.

This year they plan on two weeks, which will be their longest yet. Sarah said she would contact the rest of the girls when they decided on a date. They are open to almost any time frame.

Three weeks till we leave for the beach, a fatigued Isabella remarked to Jake, as he barged through the kitchen door. You look exhausted, he mentioned back to her. I am, but knowing we leave in three weeks has kept me going. I'll miss you lots and hope you can get by without me, she said with a grin. I'll make it somehow he said back to her, as he met her gaze.

The week before the big trip, the gang got together to make final plans and assign who would bring what. The excitement among them was at a fever pitch. No one would get much sleep in this final week. By the end of the night, their planning was complete. They all knew last minute things would pop up, and things were bound to be forgotten.

The day was finally here for the big trip. They all met at Sarah’s house for the departure. Jack was there as he had driven Isabella to the house. He wanted to be with here until she left. He would be away from her for two weeks, and that seemed to bother him a bit. He just had a weird feeling that things would be different when she returned. By the time he got back home, those feelings had faded away. Jake was lonely in the empty house.

Three hours later and the girls arrived at their cottage, located two blocks from the beach. They never stayed this far from the water’s edge, or the section of the beach located at the bottom of a cliff. They always stayed right along Main street, which hugged the sandy shores of Cannon Beach. The weather was forecasted to be perfect for the entire stay. Mid eighties during the day, and low fifties during the night. Luck was on their side.

Sarah backed the car up the driveway to make it easier for them to unload their stuff into the garage, then through the door to the house. Easier than carrying everything up the long stairway to the front door. The process took only about an hour. At this point the girls were tired, but not too tired to load back in the car to find some place for lunch. Everyone voted for just a simple burger and maybe ice cream afterwards.

Someone piped up and reminded the gang that they still had to do the grocery shopping for their stay. Brenda suggested doing the shopping for just the first week. They had the menu already planned, and had a shopping list.

After lunch and getting the food for the week, the girls arrived back at the cottage, and proceed to put the groceries away, except for tonight's dinner. Tacos on the menu for tonight. They had already decided to make meals which were easy to prepare, not time consuming. After All, they are here to have fun, not slave over a hot stove. Besides, they would be eating out some of the time.

After dinner, Isabella ask if anyone would be interested in going for a walk. The air was cool, and would be getting dark in about an hour. No takers, so she headed out the door. I’ll be back in about an hour she shouted. No one really took notice that she was heading out.

She had noticed on the way in the development, there was a path leading down to the beach. The beach lay at the bottom of a fairly high cliff. Parts of the beach, further down main were at street level. Isabella wished they were staying along that stretch, but wasn’t really worried about going down the path to beach level.

A brief shower earlier in the day had caused the ground to be a bit slippery. She is an experienced hiker and didn’t think twice about proceeding. She was glad there were no big crowds this time of the evening. In fact, she didn’t spot a soul around her. She did wish she had the proper shoes for hiking, but didn’t think to pack any because she wasn’t thinking about hiking at the beach. Just sunbathing and swimming. Isn’t that what you do at the beach, she thought to herself.

Isabella reached the section of the path at the very top of the cliff, and began her decent down to the water. Dusk was setting in, but the brightness of the June Strawberry Moon offset the dullness of twilight setting in.

Chapter Three

Panic Sets In

Sarah and the other girls were snacking on popcorn and watching a movie on HBO. Brenda had already headed up stairs to bed. She figured that Isabella had already retired to her bedroom since she hadn’t seen her. She thought to herself to tiptoe down the hallway, and keep it quite while in the bathroom. Isabella was a known light sleeper, and didn’t take well to be awaken. By midnight, the rest of the girls were fast asleep. Sarah said before going up that she would be up by Eight. It was her turn to start breakfast.

The next morning Sarah was busy making pancakes, scrambled eggs, and bacon. The aroma of fresh coffee made its way up stairs and probably caused the rest of the gang to open their eyes and head downstairs. One by one they showed up in the kitchen, eyes half opened, and asking for coffee.

Everyone was milling around getting out plates and filling them up with food. Brenda said she would go wake Isabella up, as she hadn't shown for breakfast. Usually she would be the first one down, especially since she was the first to go to bed, Brenda thought to herself.

Brenda knocked on Isabella’s door. After a few minutes of no answer, or indication of movement in the room, she opened the door and found it empty. Her first thought was she must be in the bathroom down the hall. Hers was the only bedroom without a bathroom.

Brenda headed down the hall to check. Ok that's strange. Bad timing she thought to herself, she has already made her way downstairs by now.

Brenda appeared back in the kitchen, expecting to see Isabella filling up her plate with breakfast. Did you wake her up?, Sarah shouted over all the noise the others were making. She wasn’t up there. Bed is made up. She wasn’t in the bathroom either. Everyone stopped what they were doing and a panic set in.

Sandy spoke up and said she remembered last night Isabella saying she was going out for a walk, and had asked if anyone wanted to join her. Did anyone respond to her question? Nobody answered, perfect stillness took over the room. Maybe she never made it back last night, Sarah spoke up.

What do you mean, never made it back, shouted one of the girls, that’s simply crazy to think that. Well one thing is for sure, we better figure out what to do.

Sarah ask the others if Isabella had mentioned where she was going on her walk. No one responded because they hadn't been paying attention last night when the invitation was given. They were all too involved in the movie on TV.

Ok then, let's just head out and start walking. There's a path out back that I believe leads to the beach, Brenda shouted out to the others. Let's start there.

They continued walking the path until it wound its way out of the neighborhood. When they reached the point where the path leads down the cliff and waters edge, the girls became skeptical that she would have attempted to proceed down, seeing that the time she must have left the house, it would have been close to getting dark. Surely she wouldn't have risk ending up taking a fall down the steep cliff.

They decided it would be too risky to venture down the path to look for clues of her being here. After all, what were they looking for. Best thing to do is contact the local police station. By this time she is a missing person.

Betsy had stayed at the house in case Isabella showed up there. Mean time, the others walked down Main Street to the Police department.

Inside, they were greeted by a young officer sitting behind a desk.

Sarah took the lead and began telling the officer why they were there. After she gave all the details they could think of, which wasn't much, seeing as they paid little attention to her departure last night, and no awareness of her even going to bed last night. Weather they realize it not, they had very little to offer the police. They probably didn't sound like very good friends.

The police officer told them there's not much he could do for them at this time. They really didn't even know what direction Isabella was headed last night, let alone what she intended to end up doing, other than going for a short walk. They were dumb founded as how to proceed.

They decided to start by walking the entire beachfront which covered about four miles. They began at the point where the beach was below the cliff, nearest to where they were staying.

Walking below the cliff, the beach at that point was about 100 yards wide. They spread out and combed every inch of the beach they could.

Suddenly, Sarah let out a yell that brought everyone running in her direction. What is it, Martha spoke out in haste. I just stumbled upon something laying here in the sand. It was an object made brilliant by the sun directly overhead. Sarah held it in her stretched out hands.

Anyone recognize this. Brenda spoke up and said it looks like a locket she saw Isabella wearing yesterday. In fact, I know it is, because I remember Jake giving it to her on her birthday. I remember that, Sarah spoke up. We were all there to celebrate with them.

The girls continued to look around the area for more clues. Isabella must have come through this area, but why was her locket laying here on the beach. It’s unlikely that it came off by itself. Sarah conclude that since they have not found any additional clues, that maybe they should go back to the police station and show the officer what they found. The police will know what to do. Becky hasn’t called, so that means Issabella hasn’t returned.

A real sense of panic has overtaken the girls to the point that they can feel themselves becoming shameful about not paying attention last night when Isabella left the house.

Chapter Four

The Search Continues For Isabella

At the police station, Sarah shows the desk officer what they found. This was not the same office as before, so she had to explain again, why they were there. The officer didn't seem to realize their sense of urgency in locating their friend. He’s giving the impression it's not a priority for him to offer any real suggestion to their inquiry, or even offer them their next game plan. The girls leave and began to pursue their own search.

Sarah has a picture of Isabella on her phone, so they proceed to stop people on the boardwalk and inquire weather or not they’ve seen the girl in this picture. After about an hour and stopping well over 50 people, they come across a possible clue, when they talk to a lifeguard who says she saw a girl late last night who looks exactly like Isabella.

The lifeguard indicates that she was with a man, who appeared to be much older than Isabella. She’s sure it’s the same girl as the picture, even the clothes she is wearing in the photo matches what she remembers the girl she saw was wearing. She had on a sweatshirt bearing the name, “Cafe Expresso”. Sarah says with a tremble in her voice that for sure the lifeguard has spotted Isabella, because that’s the same shirt in the photo, and Isabella got it from the Coffee house where she works.

With this information from the lifeguard, and being sure this was Isabella, the girls are really perplexed at her intentions. Is this a man she met on her walk? Is it a long lost friend she just happen to run into. They don’t have a clue. In either case, why didn’t she call and say what she was up to. She surely realized that we would be worried about her. The only conclusion they could arrive at, is there must have been flow play. They hated to think the worse, but what other conclusion could they possibly have arrived at?

Sarah told the other girls that it might be the right time to call Jake and see if he wants to come here and help in finding out what has happened to Isabella. They all agree, and head back home to make the call.

Back at the house, Sarah picked up the phone and dialed Jakes number from her cell. He picked up on the second ring. Jake, sarah said with a uncertainty in her voice. I’m calling you to let you know that Isabella has disappeared. What do you mean, disappeared, Jake belted out. Sarah responded as calm as she could, telling him that last night she went out for a walk, and never came back. She went on to say that they were not aware until this morning that something was very wrong. Jake was screaming when he heard that last part about not finding out until this morning. He was beside himself to say the least.

No use in getting me upset right now, I can scold you girls later. Right now, I need to know all the details, and I need to know them now, he shouted through the phone. After composing herself, Sarah continued telling Jake everything they knew up until this afternoon, when they talked to that lifeguard on the boardwalk.

Jake with a calmer tone to his voice said he was hanging up and calling his friend, a police detective. Jake tells Sarah to stay where they are and he’ll call back as soon as he talks to his friend. Jake hangs up and calls his friend Steve’s work cell.

Detective Johnson, how may I assist you today, his friend answers on the first ring. Steve this is Jake, I need your help. Isabella is away on her annual beach outing with the girls and has disappeared. I just received a call from Sarah. Okay, Jake, calm down and give me some details. Jake fills him in with everything he got from Sarah. Steve says he will call the police department where the girls are, and coordinate with them. I’m also going to start some detective work in the meantime, myself.

Checking credit card activity, and so on. Steves tells his brother to give him Isabella's credit card info and Social Security number and he’ll get started. Jake complies, and thanks Steve for the help. In the meantime Jake calls Sarah back and tells her what’s being done at his end. He tells her to hang tight and stay there just in case there might be some contact from his sister. Jake’s thinking to himself, he can’t bare to lose her.

Although they lost their parents more than ten years ago, and he’s pretty much raised Isabella since then, this would be more than he could possibly bare.

About an hour later, Jack’s detective friend called to say he has information about his sister’s disappearance. That was fast, Jake said to his brother. Yeah, but it may not be the news you want to hear. One of her credit cards was used about four hours ago, some 250 miles from where the girls were staying. Here is the bad part. I was able to make a call to the business where the card was used. I also, while on the phone ask the clerk to look at surveillance tape. I was able to give her the time of the purchase, and description of Isabella. The clerk remembers her, and stated she was with a guy, who appears to be about 10 years older than her. She remembers them, because they purchased a lot of camping gear, and enough food for weeks. The place was a Walmart, right off a major highway.

By the time Steve had finished giving him the details, Jake was in shock. He also told him the clerk indicated that Isabella did not appear to be in stress, nor did she appear to have been forced to be in a place she didn’t want to be. She appeared to be happy, and the two were even seen kissing and very loving with each other. Jake's friend Steve contacted the local police and said they are going to go talk to the clerk, and obtain photos from the surveillance tapes. Also checking tapes for outside cameras to try and get a make on the vehicle they are traveling in.

Jake decided to stay put at home. There would be no reason to travel to Cannon Beach. He called the girls and told them the latest, and was leaving it up to them for their next move. When he talked to Sarah, she told him they were packing up and heading home. The vacation was ruined and no point continuing. At this point, with the new information about Isabella's apparent activities, their worried thoughts have now turned to anger that she has done this to them. Ran off with a person, and didn’t even tell them what she was doing. It’s obvious her intentions are her own, and not of force.

Chapter Five

Jake is visiting his parents at the cemetery today. Despite the heavy rain showers, he sits by their grave site and talks to his parents about how he misses his sister, and wonders everyday where she is, and why she did what she did. After all the police investigations, it was determined that Isabella acted own her own. The investigation also found that she pre-planned everything that took place at the beach, relating to her disappearance.

For whatever reason she decided to leave her life with the only family she had left, and start something new. Jake can’t understand the reason. She never gave any indication of being in the frame of mind to do what she did. It was way out of character for her to do this to Jake, and her best friends. Maybe one day we’ll know and understand the reason. Until now, life must continue for Jake.

Jack decided he needs to get away for awhile and maybe take a trip to the west coast to visit an old college friend. He and Amanda dated during their first semester of college. Their relationship ended shortly after the start of their second year of school. They have remained good friends, and visit often. Neither one of them ever found a soul mate. Just the occasional off and on relationship. Both have careers that take up much of their time. Amanda is a RN at a hospital in the city where she lives.

Four o'clock in the morning comes too soon for Jake, but he manages to drag himself out of bed and head to the bathroom for a quick shave and shower. His flight leaves at 8:30. The airport is about a 45 min drive.

He ponders weather to eat a bite before leaving home, or just wait and see if he has extra time at the airport before boarding his plane. Nowadays, most airlines offer very little in the way of food was his thought. He opted to wait until he arrives at the airport. His Uber was scheduled to arrive at his house in less that 30 min. So that made the decision for him. He was behind schedule as usually was the case.

Jake being an IT professional, has to travel with several laptops and other related gear. He always has to take extra time getting through security.

Having his own Cyber security company, he is never not working. He has to be available to his clients at all hours of the day and night. Even being on an airplane for 4 hours is going to make him a nervous reck. This type of business is nonstop and stressful. Jake loves it because it keeps his mind off everything that’s happened in his life.

Jake disembarks the plane with the rest of the passengers in the usually hurried fashion. He hates the pushing and shoving, and oftens just waits on the plane to avoid the mayhem. This time he goes for it, being anxious to meet Amanda at his gate.

At first he doesn’t spot Amanda when he gets to the end of the concourse and out through the gate area. There are so many people standing around that he has a difficult time spotting her. Finally he hears his name being called in a loud familiar voice. Jake, Jake here, I'm over here, Amanda shouted at the top of her lungs. She is short, and hard to spot in a crowd of this size. Jake sees her and runs over to give her a big hug and kiss on the cheek. How was your flight, she asked. Uneventful was his reply.

Are you hungry for lunch, Amanda ask as they continue to follow the masses to the rail system that takes them to the main terminals. Starving he answers back. Okay, can you wait until we get out of here, we can stop somewhere on the way to my apartment. Sure thing, Jake blurts out over the noise of the crowd .

After finishing lunch, and stopping by the grocery store for a few items, they arrived at Amanda’s apartment. She has moved since his last visit. Very nice Jake tells Amanda as they are taking his belonging and groceries out of the back seat of her SUV. It’s a great place to live, and close to everything she says, as she walks up the few stairs to the front door.

They open the door to find a cute small breed dog standing there ready for their undivided attention.

Jake caries his stuff pass the dog and up the stairs to the loft which will be his spot for the stay. It’s very comfortable feeling and cozy. There’s a large size couch which will double as his sleeping arrangements. A nice flat screen TV sits in the far corner of the space, as well as a closet and nice pair of bookcases, loaded with all sorts of books. How’s it look up there Jake hears Amanda shouting from below, in the kitchen. Sweet, He hollowers back in her direction. That's my den space she shouts back.

Mind if I take a nap, Jake says as he’s walking down the loft steps, and into the kitchen where Amanda is tidying up. Nope, take as long as you need. I’m sure you’re beat, and you’re now in a different time zone. Anyways, I have to go to the hospital to check in before I actually start my vacation time. I shouldn’t be there too long, but you never know about that place. I've popped in there before, for what I intended to be a short visit, and ended up being there all night. At any rate, I won’t call and bother you. You’ll see me back, when you see me.

Jake broke out in a laugh and said, same ol Amanda. BTW, she spoke up, you might have to fend for yourself for dinner, so help yourself to anything you like. Just clean up after yourself, because there is no maid at this place. Jake smiled back as she was heading out the door to leave. See you whenever Amanda, and thanks for letting me come out for a visit.

Jake hadn’t told Amanda about Isabella and wasn’t intending to. There was already enough pain for him to bear, without having to explain everything to her. Talking about it just hurt too much. He wanted to enjoy his visit with her. That was his whole idea for getting away. She didn’t really know Isabella that well, and never ask Jake about her. Jake went back up to the loft and setup his bed for a long needed sleep. He didn’t even check his work email before going to sleep. That’s highly unusual for him to ignore work. It never entered his thoughts.

Amanda arrived at the hospital to find the place in utter turmoil. What’s going on she ask the person at the nurses station where she usually works from. Beth told Amanda that all hell broke loose about an hour ago. Three serious wrecks on the freeway, and a young lady was just brought in with serious injuries from an assault in the park, just down the street. That explains the police presents here outside of the ER she pondered in her mind.

Wow Amanda said to Beth, do you want me to jump in and give a hand. Susan the nursing supervisor piped up and said to Amanda, get changed and get your butt in here. A Thank you was the next thing she shouted. Be right there, and off she went to change.

Amanda was assigned to assist in the care of the woman brought in from the park assault. She was stable, but still unconscious. Two police officers were stationed outside the door of the trauma room she was still in. A detective also showed up and ask permission from a doctor to see the women's personal items, in hopes of identifying her. The detective was given a bag with personal effects from the woman Amanda was still caring for.

Six hours passed and when a new shift of nurses and doctors arriving for work began trickling in, Amanda headed to the locker room to change and head back home. Looking at her watch, she couldn’t believe it was past midnight. Thinking to herself, she was hoping jake was tired enough to still be asleep when she got home. I sure don’t want him to be worried about me. Even though I told him before I left, that he would see me when he sees me, I don’t like for people to worry about me. Amanda walked out to her car with other nurses as a safety precaution, since it was in the middle of the night.

Amanda got back home, to find Jake still fast asleep. Unless he did a good job of cleaning up, it appears he didn’t even have anything for dinner.

No signs of cooking. She let out a sigh of relief that he didn't have to know she was away that long. She headed to the bedroom to get ready for bed.

She didn’t even set alarm, knowing that tomorrow, and for the next ten days was hers to enjoy. Love vacation time, was her last thoughts before falling fast asleep.

In the morning, Jake was up before Amanda, and figured he might as well start breakfast. First he got the coffee started, and the smell of it got Amanda out of bed. She stuck her head out the door and shouted to Jake that she was heading into the shower, and would be out in about half an hour. Jake replied back and told her to take her time. Breakfast is still not ready he added. Thirty minutes later and they were finished eating and cleaning up the mess he created in the kitchen.

Amanda told Jake about her staying at the hospital and all the cases she worked on. She told him about the woman brought in that was attacked in the park. They were still trying to find out who she was when I left, she told Jake. I bet if she has any family, they’ll be upset about her ordeal. Sure enough Jake remarked, and said, I can relate.

Later in the day, Amanda and Jake head out for a drive, and plan to stop by the hospital where she works. Amanda lives in a different town from when Jake last visited, so she is taking him around town to look at different landmarks she knows he’ll be interested in. They stop for lunch at her favorite Fifties diner. They settle on burgers and fries, and top off with milkshakes. Jake’s impressed with the food, remarking that it’s tasty for a diner. Amanda tells him she eats here a few times a months. It’s close to her work, and often a stop off for her dinner.

Amada heads out of the parking lot of the diner, and turns west in the direction of the hospital. She wants to show Jake where she spends a great deal of her time. Amanda parks in her reserved spot for hospital employees. Sweet, Jake blurts out. Must be nice to have your own spot. Yes, Amanda said. I sometimes have to get into work for an emergency and wouldn't have time to drive around and look for parking. That’s why nurses and doctors have them. Make sense to me Jake replied.

They walked in through the employee entrance of the emergency department. Amanda says to the nurse setting at the workstation by the door, noting that it’s sure a different site from last night, when so many emergencies came through the door at once. The nurse was on the phone and shook her head in response. Jake was amazed that it was such a larger department for such a small city. The hospital also serves one other nearby smaller town.

Amanda gave Jake a tour of the facility, stopping to talk to other nurses and doctors she works with. Doctor Smith stopped them and proceeded to talk to Amanda about the woman she helped to treat last night. He told her that she was identified, but still could not find anyway to contact her next of kin.

The woman only had a driver's license on her. No cell phone or other items that would help in the search. She remains in a coma, Dr. Smith remarked. That’s very sad, both Amanda and Jake spoke out. What’s her name, asked Amanda to the Dr. I’ll go up and sit with her for awhile. At least if I have a name, maybe that will help in talking to her. Dr. Smith spoke up and said the name, Isabella Johnson. Jake’s face turned to a ghost, and he fell to the floor, and was out cold. It took Amanda just a few seconds to realize what happen. She turned to the doctor and said, that woman is Jake's sister, she disappeared over a year ago. She was at the beach and just walked away one night on her own. The police investigation determined no foul play. She planned her disappearance without telling anyone.

Jake came to and checked over by the doctor. He immediately said he wanted to go see Isabella. Amanda took him up to the fourth floor to ICU.

Amanda went in the room first, followed by Jake. Jake took one look at the woman lying unconscious in the bed, and shouted out loud, This woman is not my sister. Amanda and the nurse in the room turned to each other, then Jake, and with puzzled looks on their faces, said, are you sure? Yeah, I should know my own sister, and this aint her.

Chapter Six

Jack ended his vacation, and his visit with Amanda. He was upset having to go through the possible reunion with his sister. The police were called and determine that the woman in the hospital looking similar to Isabella had stole her identity. She apparently stole Isabella’s purse while shopping at a grocery store. The only thing Jake got out of all this, was he knew for a short time that his sister was in Texas. No leads came from the woman that led them to knowing the location of his sister.

Jack arrived back home, and decided to contact his friend Steve. He discussed what happen on his trip. Steve was interested in what Jake had to say, and ask if he mind if he looked into the matter a bit further. Jake said to go ahead. He ask what he had in mind, and Steve said it seems to be more to this woman then the police have discovered.

A few weeks after talking to his detective friend, he receives a call late one night from him. He wants to come over and talk to Jake about an interesting discovery he made about the woman in the hospital. Steve shows up about an hour after they spoke on the phone. Hey Jake, Steve said as he walked through the door of Jake's apartment. Might want to set down, I’ve got some news I think you’ll be amazed to learn. Jake sat down with a puzzled look on his face.

Steve began to fill him in on what he learned while digging around on his own. This is unofficially, Steve said, but I’m almost 95% sure it will turn out to be true. What his friend was sharing with him, was blowing his mind, and so unbelievable that Jake said several times that he felt like he was in a fantasyland. Something you only come across on a TV show like Dateline. After Steve finished telling of his findings, Jake grew to be excited and emotional that he may have came across another sibling.

It turns out that the woman in the hospital did not steal Isabella’s identity, but was in fact, her twin sister. Jake didn’t see any resemblance of his sister in the hospital because the womans face was swollen from the beating she received in the attack. It’s still not clear why she had Isabella’s drivers licence. What information do you have that makes you think this woman is Isabella's twin? Steve was still waiting to get further details from a detective he’s working the case with. That should come later this week, he explained to Jake.

All I can say Jake is fate seems to be the answer to this whole situation. I’ll say, replied Jake. So amazing if this turns out to be true. I’m hoping this woman makes a full recovery, at least, comes out of the coma and talks to us. I’m really hoping that we can also find Isabella and sand we can all be a family again. I don’t even think she has a clue what’s going on. Maybe this news, if we can get it too her, will make her come back to me. That’s what I’ll be praying for. I hope my prayers can be answered.

Later in the afternoon Amanda called Jake with the news that the woman in the hospital just awoke from her coma. She speaking and getting better by the day. Maybe you and Steve might want to fly out and speak to her. I haven't said anything to her. The police have been here, and told me your brother was working with them. Jake had already filled Amanda in about the news his friend Steve had told him about this could be Isabella’s twin sister, and my sister as well.

Jake and his friend Steve are headed out west to Amanda’s and to her hospital to hopefully question his new found sister. They arrive on a Monday and head right to the hospital. Amanda is working, and meets them for coffee in the cafeteria. After they finish, they head up to the third floor. The woman has been move out of ICU, into a private room. They enter the room, and Jake takes a double look, hard at the woman in the bed. The swelling has gone down from last time he saw her, and now she is a spitting image of Isabella.

Jake takes the lead and begins to tell the woman why they are here. He starts off by asking her what she remembers happening to her in the park, the night she was attacked. He also ask for her name. She replies with Robin. Next he ask her about any knowledge of having siblings. She says she has only a sister, that she hasn’t seen in many years, and that she was adopted at birth. Maybe that will give us some clues, Jake says to Steve, standing behind him. Yeah, that will tell us a lot. Wonder why your parents were hiding the fact that they gave up one of the twins at birth. We still don’t know this for sure until there is a DNA test.

The reason Steve told him about the possibility of a twin sister was gathered from information the detective here in this city found out from the social worker on Robins case. They are always called when someone like her is brought into the ER. Robins records were not sealed, so the detective questioned the social worker and it led to where we are now. It will still be backed up by the DNA test. Robin does have to consent to the test.

Robin overheard them talking about her, and she lifts her head off the pillow and shouts out that she will consent to whatever they need to do. She says she wants to find out what happen to her at child birth, and would welcome the addition of siblings. She goes on to tell how she was in possession of the drivers licence.

Robin explained that she met this woman in a grocery store, when they accidently bumped into each other about two months ago. Except for her hair, Robin said she couldn't believe how much alike they looked. After all, they say everyone has a look alike somewhere out there. They sat and had coffee and talked about two hours, before they each went their separate ways. When I got home, I noticed that I had the wrong purse. I must have grabbed it by mistake. I had my car and house keys in my jacket pocket, so I had not noticed that I had the wrong purse until I got home. Another strange thing was our purses were almost exactly alike. We must have the same taste. Anyways, Only thing in the purse was her driver's license, which was expired. I’m in the process of getting mine issued again, since my purse was left at the store. When I was attacked in the park, her licenses was still in my purse.

Jake and Steve both thought she was telling the truth. Next thing is to get the DNA testing so we can know for sure that she is related to you and Isabella. I can’t wait for that Jake expressed as he turned back towards Robin to chat some more with her. As he was talking to her, a nurse came in to administer the DNA test. The social worker was able to speed up the process, since her case is quite unusual. The nurse said it would be the standard two weeks or less for results.

Jake and Steve left the hospital and headed to the airport to go back home. Amanda stayed to start her shift. She told the guys she would be in contact when the DNA results came back. The social worker is the contact, and she is at the hospital frequently. She even have an office on the first floor, so she told Amanda she would stay in touch.

The doctor making rounds that day told Robin she would be released in about a week, if she continues to make the progress she has after coming out of the coma. Robin was very happy and told the social worker she was ready to move forward to be part of another family, if that was in her future.

When Jake and Steve arrived back home, Steve told Jake that with the additional information they got from seeing Robin, and finding out more about her, that he could now focus on maybe finding his sister. I’m sure if she found out what we knew, she would want to come back in my life, Jake said to Steve.

Amanda called Jake a few days ago and said the DNA testing was completed, and Robin is his sister. Amanda was excited to deliver this new to her friend. Jake was also very happy hearing that he had another sibling. It was also very much on his mind, as to why his parents had never told him about Robin, and why they gave her up.

He would be much happier if his Isabella would return. Jake thanked Amanda and ask if she knew where Robin had gone when she left the hospital. Amanda gave him another surprise that he was not expecting.

She said Robin gave her her current address and phone number to pass along. She was thrilled to learn the positive results of the DNA testing.

She wants you to get in contact with you, when you fill it’s the right time.

Jake plans to call Robin in the next few weeks. He’s waiting for his detective friend Steve to call back, maybe with some new information about Isabella. Knowing Robin is okay with the news that she also has new siblings, Jake feels like they will become best friends in the future, and wants to tell Robin that she also has another sister, she knew nothing about, and she is a twin to Isabella. Maybe in time, was the thoughts running through his mind.

Chapter Seven

Isabella

After being gone from her family for more than Six years, Isabella decided it was time to return to her family, even though her only family was her brother Jake. Maybe he wasn’t there to return to. What if he had moved and she had no way of locating him. What if Jake had forgotten about her. All of these thoughts she’s having will be answered in the near future, but maybe not the way she is hoping for. A lot of things have happened to her. Some things she will figure out, some she won’t.

It would still be a few months before Isabella made the trip back to the last place she called home. Little did she know what was ahead of her.

In her frame of mind, she won’t be able to handle too much more than what she has been through since walking away from her life. A life that seem to be normal to all those around her. Things will not be as she expects when she returns to the home she left more than Six years ago. She already expects to take a long time to make all the adjustments that must come with walking away from one's life.

As Isabella starts to prepare to leave the life she started Six years ago, she is only beginning to realize it’s not going to be as easy as the way she left her past life. Even though she’s currently happy with the person she has been with during this time, she knows the time is right to move on.

She just has to convince him of her decision. That will be easier said than done, she thinks to herself. I’m going to have to do this sooner, rather than later, being the last thought in her head, as she drifts off to sleep. Roger is out of town on business. She will have a fews days left to think about how this will all go down.

In the next few months things will happen to Isabella that will forever change her life. The life as she knows it now, even as much as it has already changed, will be shocking to those around her. For Isabella, the changes won’t be what everyone else can see. It will be years down the road, before she will see somewhat of a normal day, but things can never be like they use to be.

Next morning was a sunny day and a good day for a bike ride. Riding is her favorite way to clear her head and where she can do her best thinking. She has a lot to think about in the next few days. After several hours of riding along all of the usual trails around where she lives, Isabella heads back toward home, but not until she swings by her favorite cafe. This place reminds her of home, and where she use to work, and be among her best friends. Thoughts run through her head of those friends never being in her life again. She could understand why they wouldn't want to be.

Coffee in hand and she goes and sits for awhile at the table near the window. Becky comes over and sits with her for a few minutes while on her break. Isabella ask Beaky what she thinks about her plan to return home. She questions why now. When they first met, Beaky told Isabella she should have went back then.

Tomorrow Roger gets back from his trip. Isabella is ready to have her talk with him. She has dreaded this decision for the past few months. The time is right, and she will not put it off any longer. She thought about having her friend Becky come over for moral support. She nixed that idea, because it is a personal thing, that maybe should not be shared with others, just yet. Becky is her best friend, and would not want to ruin that.

Isabella is on her way to the airport to pick Roger up. Traffic will be heavy, so she decides to leave about an hours earlier than she normally would. She does get there before his arinal time, so she decides to pick up a coffee while she waits. About 45 minutes passes and she sees Roger walking through the concourse toward her. At first he doesn’t see her sitting there. He passes, then turns around when he realized he walked right passed her. She stands up and they hug and she gets a peck on the cheek.

The ride home was quite, with just the usual, how was your trip kind of talk. He didn’t even ask how she made out while he was away. She didn’t offer much conversation. Only thing she had on her mind was the conversation they would have, once settled back at home. She wasn’t even going to wait until tomorrow. She knows Roger is tired from his trip, and might want to get a nap in before dinner, but she wasn’t even planning on delaying any longer. He would just have to sit and listen to her.

They arrived home, and Roger unloaded his bags from the trunk. He walked in the door, and just as she thought, said he was heading upstairs to have a short nap before dinner. Next thing out of his mouth was an order for her to make sure she has dinner ready by Five. Then he said he would be going out after dinner with a few of his friends, for drinks at a place downtown.

Isabella with a tremble in her voice spoke up and said to Roger that he needed to come into den and sit down. She explained to him that she needed to talk to him, now. Can’t it wait until tomorrow he yelled while starting up the stairway to the master bedroom. No said isabella, it’s now or never. Okay, I’ll be right there, as soon as I change into something more comfortable.

What happens in the next few minutes will be a life changing event for Isabella. Something she has not thought about. She’s not afraid because she knows it’s the right thing to do. She realizes how wrong it was to walk away from her past life. She left so many friends and good times behind. She may not ever fully understand why she left. She just knows she much try and get back whatever can be salvaged. Maybe salvaged isn’t the best words she says to herself. I just want to be normal again. I need to make amends to the people I left behind.

Roger is back downstairs after about 15 minutes, and comes into the den and sets across the room from Isabella. That’s fine with her. She begins with telling Roger that over the past year things with them have not gone that well. She explains that they have grown apart. Roger so far has not uttered a word, just sitting in his chair, appearing to be half listening.

Good thing the television set is turned off, or he would have his attention in that direction. Isabella continues with her talk.

After about 10 minutes of her talking, she gets to the point of the whole conversation. Roger she says, I’m leaving tomorrow to go back to my real home, and a life I walked away from. Roger never had any clue of what Isabella had done, way back on that first evening of her beach vacation with her best friends. No one knew except, John, the guy she met up with at the beach vacation. She had everything planned ahead to disappear with John, that evening at the beach. Things didn’t last with him, and she just never returned back home after it fell apart. She couldn't face her brother or friends with what she had done to them.

The last part of this story got Rogers attention, and quickly he jumped up and started towards where she was sitting. He’s yelling at her and asking her why she thinks she needs to leave him. He’s not on the same wave link as she. He’s upset about the fact she is leaving, not about what she just admitted doing in her past. He seemed to care less about that fact.

The next thing Isabella knows is she’s being attacked by a mad man, the likes of which she has never seen from this man. He’s already hit her in the face and now attempts to drag her out of the chair she’s sitting in and onto the floor. Blood continues to pour from her head, which hit on the wooden arm of the chair she was just in. She landed on her elbow and forearm when she hit the floor. All this time, as he continues to beat up on her, he’s yelling and screaming at her. She in a state which doesn’t allow her to even know what’s coming out of his mouth. Her only concern is trying to survive this beating. She never expect this reaction from him. She only thought that he would resist and try to change her mind and continue living with him.

What seemed like hours to her, was only about 10 minutes, and Roger had left the room. She thought she heard the door slamming a while back. She couldn’t move, but located her phone in the light jacket she had on. That would be her life saver. She was to punch in the speed dial of her friend Becky. Becky answered but Isabella couldn't speak. Becky knew something bad had happen, so she rushed over to Isabella’s house, which was only 5 minutes.

When Becky arrived, Isabella was laying on the floor next to the couch, and was not moving. Becky immedily dialed 911. In about 3 minutes a knock was heard at the front door. Someone was yelling on the other side, Police, do you need help in there. Becky went to the door and let them in. The officer was followed by the EMT. Becky couldn’t believe how fast they got there. The EMT began working on Isabella, while the officer walked over to Becky and ask what she knew about the attack.

Isabella is starting to regain consciousness as they are wheeling her out the door. By this time, Becky has filled the officer in on what she believes happen tonight, based on Isabella telling her the other day that she was going to return to her home. She told the officer about Isabella leaving home while on vacation, and did so without telling anyone. She told him she just disappeared from her former life. The officer ask for her contact information and then said he was heading to the hospital to try and talk to Isabella.

Becky took it upon herself to look through Isabella’s phone to try and find her brothers phone number back home. She knows that he would really like to know what's going on with his sister. Afterall Isabella did talk about going back home, so Becky doesn’t think she will mind her contacting him, given what has just happen to her tonight.

Since it’s late, she is going to wait until tomorrow to make the call. She would also like to get an update on how Issabella is doing, and find out the extent of her injuries. Becky is heading to the hospital as soon as she secures Isabella’s house and picks up a few things. The last police officer has just left.

Becky arrives at the hospital and ask the nurse at the desk if she has any information on Isabella. Not being a next of kin, or any relation besides a friend, the nurse says she can’t give any information out. Becky ask if someone could go see how she’s doing, and at least let her know someone is here for her. Maybe she could give you permission to speak to me. The nurse thinks that would be a good idea, and proceeds to have someone go check on Isabella.

After about half an hour, a nurse come back and talks to Becky, telling her that she can go back into ICU for a few minutes. Isabella was already asking if you were here, so it will do her good to have a friend with her.

When becky got to the room, Isabella had gone back to sleep. So she thought, but when the doctor came in a few minutes later, he checked her over and said she had slipped back unconsciousness. The doctor said it was normal for this to happen in some cases.

Next morning Becky remembers she had looked through Isabella’s phone last night, and now has her brothers phone number. Should she call him, or not. She picks up her phone and dials the number, expecting not to get anyone on the line. She thinks the number may not be his any more, because Isabella has been gone for so long. While waiting for an answer, she thinks to herself, just what am I going to say to this guy.

At last, after more than five rings, she hears an answering machine kick in. Great she thinks, now I have to leave a message. So, she begins to tell her story about Isabella. Probably the message was ten minutes long.

She really didn’t expect to get a call back. She was thinking that maybe he screens his calls, or since it was just a general type answering machine message, and not a personal one that he recorded, there wasn’t much chance it was her brothers number anymore. But you never know, she thought out loud.

A few weeks went by, Isabella was still in the ICU, and has not come out of her coma. Becky never got a call back from the number she left the message on. She continue to visit her daily in hopes that her being there and talking to her will bring her back. Beck decides to go downstairs and get a bite to eat. After going through the line, and finding a table to sit at, her phone rings. Not a number she knows, so she doesn’t answer.

After eating, she steps outside to access the voice message that was left. She shocked that it’s Isabella’s brother that left the message. She never expected to her from him. He sounded very concerned and ask to be called back as soon as possible. He stated in the message that he wanted to come to her as soon as he knew the location. He would make arrangements right away to get to her. Becky called the number back, and talked to Isabella’s brother, and told him where she lives, and about what happened to his sister. He said he could get there in the morning. Becky told him he could stay at her place, and that she would pick him up at the airport tomorrow afternoon.

Chapter Eight

The Reunion

Jake arrived at the airport, Becky was there to pick him up. It was very strange picking up someone you’ve never really known about until just a few days ago. Jake seemed to be a very nice guy. Well dressed and clean shaven. Not that it made any different what he looks like. Just made me feel better about being with a total stranger. Isabella really never said much about him. I’m just glad he’s here. Now we just have to get Isabella back to good health. Hopefully she will come out of the coma soon. Jake’s being by her side may just do the trick.

Becky ask jake if he would like to stop somewhere for lunch. Jake replied yes, and said that he’s waited this long to get his sister back, he can afford to take a lunch break. Besides, he hasn’t even eaten at all today. He was in a rush to get to the airport and be on his way to his sisters side, that he never thought about eating. They stop at a small diner and spend about 45 minutes there.

Jake and Becky arrive at the hospital, and check in at the reception desk downstairs. They are directed upstairs to the ICU, and touch base with a nurse on duty. Jake tells the nurse who he is, and is taken to Isabella’s room. Becky waits in a waiting room near the nurses station. When Jake approaches his sisters room, his nerves begin to unravel, and he starts to sweat.

He hasn’t seen his sister in a long time, and still has mixed feelings about what she did to him by walking out of his life.

Before Jake enters the room, the nurse tells him he can only spend 15 minutes with her. He thinks to himself that 15 minutes should be plenty of time for now, since she is not even awake. He’ll sit by her bedside and hold her hand while talking to her. He’s hoping she will know he is here for her.

Jake leaves the room and goes to find Becky. She is still in the waiting room. Jake tells her that he spent time talking to his sister, and hopes she knows he was there. They go back to the nurses station and gives the nurse his contact information, so he can be called if there are any changes to his sisters condition.

Becky ask Jake if he wants to go back to her place and get settled in. You must be tired after your long trip this morning. Jake pipes up as they are leaving the nurses station and tells her he’s ready to get some rest and return here tomorrow to sit with his sister. They walk out to her car, and drive the 10 miles to her house. There she shows Jake thee gurat room, and tells him to take as long as a nap as he needs. She’ll make dinner when he gets up.

Three hours later and Jake comes downstairs to find Becky sitting in front of the television looking half asleep. Becky ask him if they could order dinner in, she was too tired to cook. Then she ask him what he like to eat. He answered, pizza is a good food to order in, as a smile came across his face. Pizza it is, she replied as she got up to grab the phone, and make the call to order their dinner.

After the pizza was delivered and they finished dinner, Becky and Jake sat and talked about each other's lives, and what was going on in each of them. Becky asked questions about her friend, Isabella. She didn’t know a great deal about her, just the few stories Isabella has shared over the past few years they’ve know each other. Until just recently she didn’t even know that Isabella had left her past life, and not telling anyone, why. Jake was interested in Becky’s life story. Just a simple life, going to college, and working in the town she grew up in. She hasn’t traveled much, outside of where she lives, to any extent.

Becky tells Jake she’s going to head to bed, but you can stay up as long as you want she added. Jake looked almost asleep while they were chatting, so she knew he would not be long going himself. They discussed what time they were leaving in the morning to go back and be with Isabella. They has already talked about getting up early, and leaving after breakfast.

In the morning, Becky was up early and getting a light breakfast going in the kitchen. Jake came down just as she was finishing up, and had just set the table for them to eat. Jake said he slept well, and was happy she had a nice meal waiting for him. Becky replied, glad to do it for you. Maybe you can do dinner, she laughed out loud to him. How do you even know I can cook, was his response, as they cleaned off the table, and began to do dishes.

Breakfast dishes are cleaned up, and Jake says he’s ready to head to the Hospital. Becky grabs her purse, and follows him out to the car. They make small talk in the car about what they may find when they visit Isabell today. Both hoping for a breakthrough.

When they finally got through all the traffic, during rush hour, which Becky had forgotten what time of day it was when they decided to leave home this morning. she dropped Jake off at the front door, so he could see if there were any changes with his sister. Becky wasn’t in any real hurry to get to the waiting room and just sit.

Jake walked into the room where his sister was being attended at the time by Two or Three doctors, and two nurses were standing around her bedside. Jake was shocked when he heard a voice, which was neither a doctor or nurse. It was his sister talking to the doctors.

Jake ran back out of the room to go find Becky and tell her the news. He knew he wouldn't be allowed to even see Isabella right away. He found Becky and told her the good news. They went to the nurses station and ask about his sister’s change, and for any further information the nurse might know about her condition.

The nurse said she had woken up earlier this morning, and seems to be better than the doctors were expecting her to be, given the extreme beating she had receive the night before. The nurse told them to go and wait in the waiting room, and someone would come get them as soon as they were able to go see her. They hugged each other and said how grateful they were for the care she was getting.

About an hour of waiting, a doctor came into the room and ask for Jake Johnson. Jake spoke up, and the doctor approached them. You can go visit your sister, but keep it to no more than thirty minutes, she’s not out of the woods yet, but we don’t expect any further complications from her injuries. She should make a full recovery, but it will take time. They thanked the doctor, and both headed to the ICU to be with Isabella.

Jake went in first, and was so relieved to see his sister sitting, propped up by a pillow. Her head went down as soon as she saw him enter the room. Hey sis, Jake shouted out as he walked through the doorway. She lifted her head, and said to her brother, I’m so sorry Jake, how will you ever be able to forgive me for what I did a long time ago, he replied back. I knew you would return on your own time.

They sat and talked until Isabella began to fall asleep. Before she did, Jake had told her he would stay in town and visit her everyday, until she would be released. She was happy that he was sticking around. I'm sure that will help her to heal faster knowing her brother is back in her life, Becky was thinking to herself.

A week later Isabella was released from the hospital, they left to go back home the next morning. Becky ask if she could come visit them sometimes.

Both piped up and said how wonderful that would be.

Chapter Nine

Isabella and Robin Meet

Jake and Isabella were never aware that they had a sibling. Never knew that the sibling was Isabella's twin.

Their parents never told them what happen to Robin after she was born. Jake was really too young at the time to remember anything about the birth of the girls. He only remembers Isabella coming home from the hospital.

The Johnson’s were told their baby had died right after birth. The truth is, their baby was accidentally switched with another baby in the nursery. The baby they buried was not there’s, and they never found out the awful truth. Robin ended up going home with the wrong set of parents. She was never aware of this until she met Jake, and the DNA test was done.

As time passed, Robin got in touch with Jake, and made arrangement for him to come back for a visit, and get to know each other better. Jake hasn’t yet told Robin about Isabella. He hasn’t told Isabella about Robin. Jake decided to take things slow, and let Isabella and Robin recover from what each has been through.

Two weeks before he was supposed to leave to go visit Robin, he decided he better tell Isabella about Robin, and see if she wants to make the trip with him. He’s sure she would agree.

Isabella comes in the door, from being out on a walk to try and get her strength back to normal. Jake calls her into the den and ask her to sit down. He begins to tell her all that happen on his trip to see Amanda.

Her emotions are telling Jake how happy she feels, and then turns to sadness from all she has done in the past by walking away from her friends, and her brother. She thinks about all the time wasted without them knowing that Robin could have been in their lives all this time.

They both agree that they have to begin a fresh new live, with Robin in it. She agrees to go with him to meet Robin.

They will tell Robin when they get there, about the sister she never knew about, and that she is her twin.

Finally the time comes for them to travel to see Robin. Both were very excited, and ready to meet the challenge of getting to know their new found sister, and best of all, Issabella was ready to meet her look alike.

They arrived at the airport, and both Amanda and Robin were there to meet them. Robin and Amanda had become best friends. Robin spots Jake, runs up and gives him a big hug and kiss. She backs away from jake to get a better look at him, and then she noticed Isabella walking up to them. Robins says to Jake, you didn’t tell me you were bringing your girlfriend along. She is your girlfriend, right? Jake is caught off guard and turns to Isabella and puts a big smile on his face.

No Sis, fraid not. Maybe we should go sit down over there and we will explain. They all head over to a quiet area near by, and sit together. Jake motions for Amanda to join them. After all She is a big part of this reunion. Well Robin, Jake says, this is Isabella, she is your twin sister.

After about 30 seconds, Robin gets up and starts to walk around in front of where everyone is still sitting. She is not saying anything, just walking in circles and staring at Isabella. She finally stops in front of Isabella and says, wow, you sure do look like me. Isabella speaks up and says, yeah, it was a shock to me when I was told I had a twin sister I never knew about. Robin motions for Isabella to stand, and when she does, wraps her arms around her body and whispers in her ear. Hi sis, so nice to meet you. They both start to laugh out loud. Big smiles can be seen on Jake and Amanda’s faces. They can’t believe how well this reunion is going.

Amanda speaks up and says let's get out of here, and take this reunion to my house. I’ll make lunch for everyone, and you guys can get better acquainted. They all grabbed their bags, and headed to the nearest exit.

When they arrive at Amanda’s house everyone made themselves comfortable, Jake, Isabella, and Robin on the same couch. Amanda went into the kitchen to start making a lite lunch consisting of soup and sandwiches.

Their conversation starts with talking about their parents. Jake tells Robin about the accident that took the lives of both of their parents. Then he starts to try and figure out why he and Isabella never were told about Isabella’s being one of a twin. Maybe our parents wanted to spare us the heartache of knowing something had happened to Robin, or something in the family that made them give her up. Isabella ask Jake if he ever came across anything in the house that would give them some real answers. Jake replied that there were some boxes up in the attic that they could go through when they get back home.

Robin speaks up and stuns everyone when she ask if she could come home, maybe within a few weeks.

She says there is nothing keeping her here, after she takes care of a few minor things around town, and she still wants to visit some close friends and tell them what’s happening in her life. The family she grew up in is all but gone. The parents that she knows as hers, have both passed. There was a sister, but they drifted apart many years ago.

After everyone finished lunch, they packed up and headed to Robins apartment for the night. Amanda told them all to make sure they keep in touch, and let her know if they find out anymore about the early years.

They all answered with smiles on their faces, that they wouldn’t have it any other way. You're part of the family, Amanda, Isabella shouts, as they were walking out the door to the car.

Chapter Ten  
 The Truth

Jake and the Isabella arrive at the airport, late in the night, and wait for a taxi to take then home to begin a new chapter in each of their lives. They both wish Robin could have made the trip with them, but are looking forward to her coming home where she belongs.

After a good nights sleep, and having breakfast, Isabella gets on the phone and calls all of her best friends, hoping they will still talk to her, after what she did to them. She wants to let them know how much she missed them, and try to explain to them how much of a mistake she had made running off like she did.

Isabella finished making her calls, and found that two of them had moved away, and no one had contact information for them. She was upset about not getting in touch with everyone. That’s something she will have to live with.

Jake came downstairs and ask Isabella to come up to the attic with him. She ask why, and then she remembered that their parents left boxes up there that might give them clues as to what happen to Robin when she was born. In the attic they found many boxes they never knew existed. Neither one of them had gone up here very often. Just at Christmas when they helped get the decoration down.

They both grabbed a box, and carefully headed down the stairs, and into the kitchen to spread the box contents out on the table to go through. They would go get more boxes after looking through these. They both had nothing but old books in both of there boxes, and nothing they were looking for. Back up to the attic they both went. Only this time, they decided to just go through the boxes up there.

After several hours of looking through box after box, they decided to take a break and go out and grab something for their dinner. They both need some fresh air.

Back home from dinner, they both were too tired to go back up to the attic. They called Robin to see how she was doing, and if she knew when she would be able to make the trip home. Robin told them she was almost done rapping things up, and should be on a flight next weekend. They were all so happy to each have loved ones back in their lives.

In the morning they were both back to looking through boxes. Not long into the task, Jake found a folder with no marking or label on it. He opened it to find what appeared to be police reports. He took them out and began to look them over.

Jake could not believe what he was seeing. He put them down and called his detective friend. Steve answered and said he would be over in about an hour to help them understand what they were seeing in the reports. It didn’t look good, but they couldn’t understand all of the details.

When Steve arrived Jake gave the folder to him to look over the papers inside. Didn’t take him long to start explaining what the reports were telling them. It was about Robin. The extensive investigation showed that Robin was somehow switched in the nursery with another child. The child was very sick and soon died a few days after being born, and switched with Robin. Your parents were told Robin died, but it really wasn’t her.

After a few months and because your parents obtained a lawyer, their suspicions came to light. They thought from the very beginning that something was wrong. The baby that was switched didn’t look anything like Robin. After All they were twins. With DNA testing, it was proven that the babies had been switched. The mother, that had the real Robin had moved far away from the city where they lived, and never seen again. The police did all they could to find her. It’s not known if the woman even had anything to do with the switching of the babies. It was assumed to be purely a hositital error. At least you have your sister back.

They all agreed that they should not pursue the matter any further. Robin was lead to think she was adopted at birth. They will need to tell her the truth, Hoping that she will be able to take it. She’s a very strong person, Isabella spoke up.

Next morning they got a call from Robin saying she will be flying out next week, she gave them her flight information. She could hardly speak from the emotions of knowing she was coming home to her real family.

Isabella and Jake said to each other that they are hoping she won’t be too emotional when she finds out what really happened to her at birth. Again, Isabella said she thinks Robin will be fine, especially given the fact that she has gotten to know and trust us.

Chapter Eleven

Robin Comes Home

Jake and Isabella arrive at the airport, and wait for Robins plane to pull up to the gate. About half and hour of waiting and they spot Robin walking down the hallway and through her gate. She runs up to both of them and gives a big hug and kiss to both of them. Jake ask Robin how much luggage she has, and they head off to collect her belongings.

On the ride back, they stop off for an early dinner. Isabella tells Robin she will like living in her new small town. Not much to do here, Jake says, but everyone is very friendly.

Once they finished dinner, they head home so Robin can get settled and just relax for awhile. Isabella takes her upstairs to her bedroom, which will be right next to hers. Jake is down the hall, he took his parents old room. Robin says she is so excited to be home, and doesn’t think it will take long to get use to living with her new family.

Robin and Isabella empty all of Robin’s suitcases and begin to put things away in the closet, and dresser drawers. When they finished, Jake says he’ll take her suitcases down to the basement for storage. Isabella tells him to put plastic bags over them to keep the bugs, and other things out of them. Jake laughed and said, no problem.

In the morning Jake and Isabella sit down with Robin and tell her the real truth about not being adopted at birth, but that she was really switched with another baby. She was very emotional while they were explaining everything to her, but once she heard everything, she calmed down, and said she was very happy growing up, but very sad that she was switched, and doesn’t know what may have been if she had grew up with Jake and Isabella. She also doesn’t know why she was told she was adopted. Her parents has passed, and no one will know the truth.

Robin says she wants to forget the past, and live the rest of her life happy knowing she is right where she belongs. She is looking forward to having her own family some day. Jake and Isabella both spoke up and said the same thing. They want to have a family of their own.

Someday all the cousins will be running around and having a great time.

After a few months went by, the reunited siblings were getting along, just as if nothing had every broken them apart. Robin only having been there for just two months, decided she wanted to go out on her own, and maybe get an apartment of her own. Money wasn’t going to be a problem, because when her parent past, she was left very comfortable with life insurance, and a trust fund, which she was just about to come of age to start collecting if the need arises.

She figured that if she ever wanted to meet someone and maybe start a family, she couldn’t do it living here. She also thought it would give her brother and sister a better chance, as well. Jake and Isabella were not keen on the idea of her moving out, but understood her point of doing so. They both went with her to see what was available in the area for rent. She didn’t want to be far from her brother and sister.

Chapter Twelve

Two Years After The Reunion

Robin, Isabella, and Jake have been living their own separate lives. Jake has married, Isabella, and Robin both have a boyfriend. Isabella lives by herself in an apartment. She wanted to get out on her own so Jake could start a family, and do likewise, herself. Jake remains in their family home. Robin moved to a small town, about thirty miles away. They all want to be near one another, but not interfere in each others lives.

Isabella still works in the coffee cafe, and loves meeting new people that come in for a coffee and treats.

That's how she met Tim, her current boyfriend. All of her friends come in daily to chat with her. She has to remind them that she working, and can't spend the whole day chatting with them. One subject that hasn’t come up is the annual trip they use to take to the beach. It probably won’t, because they’ve all have families, with children, and go on family vacation now.

Friday night is date night for Isabella and Tim. He shows up at Five to pick her up for their date. They have been doing this, since they met. Both are always busy with work during the week, so they chose Friday to be together. Isabella told Tim from the start that she didn’t want them to live together. He respected her wishes, is the reason she loves him so much, and someday hopes they get married.

Jake in the meantime is planning a family vacation to the mountains, and is hoping Robin and Isabella can all go with them. He calls them both to check, and find out dates that will work for everyone. He left messages with them both, not realizing they are both working.

The next morning while Jake was getting ready for work, the phone rang. Isabella was calling back, and told Jake she would go on the family vacation with him. She said Tim couldn’t make it, as he had to work. She ask him if Robin was going, and he said she hadn’t called back yet, but he was certain she would go.

Robin called the next day and said she was also going on the family vacation. She was excited because it was going to be her first one, with her family. She told Jake she would come over tomorrow to help plan everything. She is going to call Isabella and ask her to also help in the planning. She’s thinking about how it’s going to be to be with her real family after all this time of being apart, and not even knowing she had another family. She can hardly wait to go.

The following week, everyone came over to Jake for dinner, and start the planning for the vacation. Jake ask everyone if a trip to the mountains was ok. He has a friend that owns a campground near Lake Charles. Lots of things to do. Everyone likes to hike, and ride on the many bike trails. Some of the trails are flat, and will be good for the girls. The lake is also good for swimming.

The trip is a month away, and plenty of time to plan last minute details. Isabella, Robin and Jakes wife, Sara are going to do some of the shopping for non-perishable items they will need to take on the trip, most of the food items they will buy when they get to the cabin. There is a small town near by.

Jake has a small trailer that will hold his family. The girls are going to barrow a family size tent from one of Jake's friends. They have their own sleeping bags and cook utensils, pots and all the necessary things for camping.

This will be Isabellas first trip, since the beach trip with her friends. That was a long time ago, and most have forgot about what happen. Isabella and Jake have done remarkable with healing. They are both looking forward to this trip. They have all of their family together for the first time.

Chapter Thirteen

Family Vacation

Jake and Sara are loading up the van, and start putting some of the gear into the trailer. Isabella and Robin are on their way to help with the packing. They plan to leave before noon, for the three hour drive to the mountains. It took them about two hours to get everything organized and packed. Jake pointed out that the girls brought way too much stuff for a camping trip. They both spoke up and said everything they brought was needed. Jake didn’t believe them, but just kept his mouth shut.

Just after three in the afternoon, they arrived at Lake Charles campground. Jake went into the office to find his friend, the owner of the campground. He registered the group, and was given a map to show where their sites are located. They have sites right on the lake. Jake has been here many times, but never had this good of a spot. He was happy his friend took care of them.

They decided to have some lunch before setting up camp. There is a small restaurant next to the office, serving the basic lunch fair, and some breakfast items. Only open until mid afternoon.

They spend about an hour at lunch, and start to set up camp when it starts to rain. They managed to set up the tents before it got too bad. The trailer takes about five minutes to pop up and secure the sides. They have two sites side by side, and have the picnic tables together. If need be, there is room in the trailer for them to have a meal, if the weather got too bad.

The next morning the girls get up early and make breakfast, while Jake goes to the camp store to pickup a few things they forgot to bring. Things are more expensive at the store, so he’s thinking they should have just waited, and went into town to get what they need.

When Jake returned, the girls serve breakfast, and while eating they decide what will be on the agenda for the week. They like to plan things out in advance. Today they are going to go rent a boat and do some fishing, and skiing out on the lake. The sun is blocked by the clouds, but it still feels like a warm day. Just perfect for being out on the lake. Robin suggest they pack sandwiches to take out with them. Isabella agrees, and they clean up the breakfast mess, and prepare the lunch to take out on the water.

Neither Robin or Isabella have ever been out in a boat, so Jake goes over the safety issues, and gives them both a life jacket to try on, and make adjustments so it fits correctly. Sara has been out many time with Jake, but still wears her life jacket which makes her feel safe. Jake and the girls head to the boat rental at the dock, and load their things into the boat they were assigned. The man at the dock gives them a map of the lake, and goes over the features of their boat.

Jake starts up the boat, and they head out for a fun day on the water. The sun comes out from behind the clouds, and they start to heat up inside the boat. Lucky they have a cover over the part of the boat to stay out of the direct sunlight.

Jake finds a cove to pull into out of the hot sun, and a good place for having lunch. They pull the boat up to shore, and tie it up to a large rock on shore. The girls hand Jake all the bags containing their lunch, and he takes them up to a picnic table under some trees for shade. Jake and Sara have been to this spot before, and always find it’s less crowded than most spots around the lake. It provides good cover when the lake gets rough, or when a storm rolls through.

After lunch, the girls decide to go for a swim. The cove is just deep enough to barely be over their heads, and there is no current to pull them away from shore. The bottom is sandy and flat. They both take out floats from the boat, floating around and enjoying the beautiful weather. Jake set up a lawn chair on shore and reads his book, having his feet dangle in the cold water. Jake turns on the radio in the boat to listen to some music.

The girls join Jake on shore to enjoy just sitting and watching the people around them having fun on the water. More and more boats begin to pull into the cove. It’s a large area, so it doesn’t feel like it’s that crowded. Two girls around age five come over to Robin and ask her to play with them. They ask her to help build a sand castle. Isabella joins in and helps with the project. The girls mother is close by, and thanks Robin and Isabella for being so friendly to her girls.

Jake tells the girls to start helping him pack their things up, as it’s getting late, and he wants to get back, and return the boat before dark. Jake gets everything packed up into the boat, and they head back to the dock where they rented the boat. They make in time to return the boat before the allotted time ran out. Otherwise they would have had to pay a late fee.

Back at the campsite Jake and the girls go have their shower. Afterwards they begin to make dinner, while Jake gathers up some firewood. They plan on sitting around the fire when it gets dark, and making smores.

Jake goes over to the campsite next to them and introduces himself, and invites the young couple over to join them around the campfire. Jake tells them to come over before dark for a coffee. They are excited for the invite, and seem to be a friendly couple.

Robin gets all the dishes together and tidies up around the table area, while Isabella gets everything out for the smores. Both say out loud that they can’t wait to get started making them. Robin says it’s been many many years since she has been camping and sat around a campfire eating smores. Jake and Sara say the same.

Just before dusk, the couple from the next campsite show up and join the group already sitting around the fire. They bring over a bottle of wine as a thank you gift. Jake pours everyone a cup of coffee while the girls go get the items for making the smores. Robin puts herself in charge of handing out the marshmallows, graham crackers, and chocolate bars to everyone. Jake makes a mess out of his, but still manages to make one that resembles a traditional s'mores.

After about two hours of fun, John and Susan start to head back to their campsite next door, after thanking Jake and the girls for a wonderful visit. They invite them over to their site for dinner on the weekend. Jake speaks up and tells them that would be fun, and ask if they can bring anything. Susan says to just bring yourselves.

Jake puts out the fire and they all head to their trailer and tents to get a good nites sleep. They have a lot planned for tomorrow.

Jake and Sara are up early the next morning making breakfast. They have to go and wake up Robin and Isabella. Jake tells them breakfast will be ready in 10 minutes. They both shout out to Jake, that’s not enough time to get ready. Jake with a big smile on his face, says be here in 10, if you want something to eat. 15 minutes later the girls show up at the table, and still there is plenty of food left. Jake tells them to be on time, tomorrow. They all just laugh.

Jake ask the girls what they want to do today. Either hiking or riding in to town to see some sites. Sara ask if going into town, also means doing some shopping.

Jake replies with a smile. And says anything for you my dear. Isabella and Robin laugh and ask if they are allowed to come along to shop. Jake motions to the car and tells everyone to get in and off they go.

In town Jake lets the girls off by the local coffee shop, and he goes to find a place to park the car. He tells them he’ll meet up with them in a few hours. He’s not interested in the shopping part. He parks and heads back to the coffee shop and sits in there for awhile, before going to the local museum to check out the history of the town. He’s been here many times, but never had time to explore. It was always a big rush to get a few things at the store, and head back to camp. This time the girls going shopping gives him time to relax.

Jake finishes up his coffee, and goes in search of the girls. After finding them in one of the dress shops, he rounds them up and they decide where to go for dinner. They all say they are in the mood for pizza. There are several pizza places in town, and they choose the one that has outdoor seating.

Back at the campsite, Jake gets the campfire going, and the girls are cleaning up around the campsite. Robin says she’s going to go do some laundry at the camp store, and ask if anyone wants to go along. Sara and Isabella both say they also need to do some laundry. They tell Jake they’ll be gone for about an hour. Jake says he has plenty to keep him busy.

Two hours have passed and the girls have yet to return from doing laundry. Jake takes off up the hill to the store in search of the them. After searching in the store where the laundry mat is located, he doesn’t see any of them around, and ask the clerk if she has seen them. She says that about an hour ago, there were three woman doing laundry, and left all together. She didn’t know where they were headed. Jake leave the store and goes over to the recreation building to see if maybe they went there to play pool, or maybe just to hang out in the small library. He can't see going anywhere else, since they would be carry their laundry around with them. He heads back to the campsite.

Jake is getting worried now, because the girls still have not returned. Three hours have passed since they left the site, and it’s starting to get dark. Jake decides to go back up to the store, and contact the security guards at the main gate of the campground. Access to the campground is controlled at the gate. Registered campers and guest must sign in and show ID before entering. Jake gets to the security office and tells the officer that his wife and two sisters are possibly missing.

The officer checks his log for any guess that may have checked in, during the past few hours. Only thing in his log, are two families that had a reservations, and proceeded to their sites. Nothing out of the ordinary, the officer tells Jake.

Chapter Thirteen

The next morning, after getting no sleep, Jake has no idea where to turn. He gets on the phone and calls 911.

The operator says he’ll send out an officer to take a report. Jake wants for than a report to be taken, he wants the girls to be found. He can’t imagine what has happen to them. He’s worried sick, and decides maybe he should call his friend Steve. He’s the one that helped to track down Isabella. Jake calls and tells Steve what's going on. The campground is in the same area where Steve’s department has control over, so he will be able to assist in the investigation, and search.

When Steve arrives, first thing he does is ask the security office if they have CCTV anywhere on the property. The officer indicates that they have it at the main gate, the camp store, and recreation building. Steve sits down at the CCTV computer and goes over the video with the security officer in charge. By this time, the local police have also joined in.

While Steve is looking over the CCTV footage. Jake and the police officer go to the laundry area to do a search. On the way over, they have to walk down a path, from the main gate, leading to the camp store. While walking, they notice something a few yard down the side of the path. The officer walks down, and sees a white bag. He puts on his gloves, and looks inside. He looks back at Jake, and says there are a bunch of clothes in the bag. Jake looks inside, and says they belong to his wife.

They take the bag to the officers car, and put it in the trunk. By this time, Steve has finished looking at the CCTV video from the past few days. He didn’t see anything that gave a clue to what happen to the girls. He’s taking a copy of the videos with him to look at, back at his office. The police officer tells Steve about the bag of clothes they found on the path, leading to the camp store. He ask if they were able to search anymore around the area. The officer said when they found the bag, they headed right back to the main gate. Steve says they need to go back to the area and search for more clues.

They all head down the path, leading to the store, and each take a section away from the path to search.

Jake looks down and see another white bag laying under a pile of leaves, as if to be hidden from site. Steve tells him not to touch it, and then with his gloves on, Steve take the bag, and looks inside. More cloths are found, and Jake says they belong to Isabella. They are puzzled as to why these bags are out here along the path. The police officer says it’s an indication that foul play has taken place. Steve agrees, and they all continue to look for more clues.

Further down the path, and closer to the camp store, Steve spots a shoe, and handbag partly covered by leaves. He ask Jake to come over and take a look. Jake identifies the shoe and handbag, saying it belongs to his wife, Sara. Jakes can barely talk at this point, and becomes very upset. He sits down on a bench, alongside the path, where the shoe and handbag was just seen.

Steve says he’s going to take all the items they've just found, back to the station to be analyzed, checking for fingerprints, and other clues to try and find out if there was any foul play.

After a few more hours of searching the area for additional clues, and not finding any, Jake says he’s heading back to his camp to pack everything up, and head back home. He and Steve have determined there is nothing more that can be done at the campground. Steve told Jake he would be in contact tomorrow if there were new developments.

Steve, thinking to himself, and after watching Jake help in the search, he had a feeling about Jake that wasn’t setting just right in his mind. He was expecting Jake to be more upset than he had been. He saw Jake get emotional, but no tears were shed, and at times, he was joking around with some of the others involved in the search.

The next morning, Steve called Jake and ask him to come down to the station. Jake questioned the need for the visit. Then he realized that maybe Steve had information to share with him. Little did he know the real reason, and one that would take a turn that he would have never expected. Jake said he would be right down.

Chapter Fourteen

Jake arrived at the station, after the hour drive from his home. He was carrying two boxes of doughnuts, and one of those to go boxes of coffee. Jake walks into Steves office, and sits down the goodies on his desk. Jake says, here are some refreshments for you and your buddies.

Steve was stunted that Jake was walking in with smiles on his face, not to mention that he brought breakfast too.

He didn’t act like someone that just had his wife and two sisters disappear. Now Steve was sure he’s made the right decision to bring him in for questing.

Steves tells Jake to join him and his partner in a small room, just around the corner from his office. Jake thinking no big deal, follows them both. They all enter the room, and Jake takes a seat along the back wall of the room. John, Steves partner ask Jake if he knows why he’s been ask to come into the station.

Jake says he’s asumes he’s here for an update on his missing wife, and two sisters. Jake then ask if they have any additional news to share. Steve pipes up and says, yeah, we do. Then he ask Jake where exactly he was, while his wife and sisters were doing their laundry at the camp store. Jake replied with a smirk, I was at our campsite, reading and drinking some beers. Then he questions why he’s getting the third degree.

Steve then proceeds to tell Jake about some evidence they found at the camp store, and back at the campsite. Actually, Steve says, we found somethings on the way back from the store, to your site. We found a knife, a bottle of chlorafill. Guess whose fingerprints were on both? Jake was now visable shaken, and started to get up out of his chair, and pace around the room. Jake then states he wants a lawyer.

Steve and his partner, tell Jake he can leave, for now, but not to leave town. They also tell him they have obtained a search warrant for his home, and car. They will be serving the warrants in a few hours. Jake is thinking to himself that he needs to find a way to disappear. He knows he’s been caught, because of his sloppiness in not hiding the items in a better place, that had his fingerprints on them. After All, he's not a professional criminal, and his mistakes might cost him his freedom, if he can’t find a way out.

Jake rushes out of the police station and into his car, in hopes of getting back to his house, before the detectives get there and find other evidence he’s hidden down in the basement. When Jake arrives home, there are already two police vehicles parked outside his house.

Jake is now thinking he might as well bypass his house, and head out of town, before his arrested. He realizes to himself, that if he stays around, he will surely go to prison. He’s not having that.

Steve and his partner arrive at Jake’s house, and join the other officers inside. They finish their search, and come out with four large brown paper bags. They don’t know it, but Jake is parked down the street, and watching them come out. As soon as Jake sees the officers and detectives get in their cars, he speeds away, and heads to the interstate.

Jake knows he should not run away, and it’s only going to make things more difficult for clearing his name. He knows he must have been setup, but for the life of him, he can’t figure out why. Why would his wife, and two sisters do something like this, he’s rattling his brain to come up with a clear answer. He doesn't know how they were able to place all the evidence that the police just found in his house, and how did his finger prints gets on the stuff that the police found up at the camp resort. He’s at a total loss to figure this out, but he will, in due time.

Jake is making his way down the interstate, and driving through blinding rain, from a storm that's sweeping over the flatlands he approaching. Sweeping waves of rain, going sideways is hitting him, along with strong winds. He is struggling to keep his vehicle moving in a straight line. Somehow he manages, while all of a sudden, he drives clear of the fast moving storm.

Jake pulls off the first exit he comes to, after moving out of the storm, and looks for a hotel to spend the night. He’s far enough from home, that he can use the hotel as his base, to try and figure what his next moves will be. Lucky I have the knowledge and skills, he thinks to himself, to hack into the phones and computers of his wife and sisters, to try and find clues as to what they did to him, and most importantly, WHY!

After a good night's sleep, Jake gets out all his computer gear, and gets online to do some hacking.

He pulls up his wife and sister’s info from the contact list in his Iphone. He not only has phone numbers, but also IP address information for all of their laptop and Ipads. He never thought when he collected their information, that he would be able to put it to good use. He also just remembers about a friend he knows that works for the cell phone provider, that all of their devices connect to. What luck, he says to himself. I’ll contact him later, and ask him to get phone records. He’s thinking that this might just turn out to be a great day.

Later in the afternoon, after hacking into his wife's laptop, he spends time looking over emails he downloaded from her laptop. He looks for any between his wife and sisters, hoping to find a clue about what they did to him, and just how they pulled it off. He is hoping they were sloppy, and will lead him to the truth. He will have his friend provide any texts from their cell phones, which would be more likely to contain better clues and evidence, he could hand over to the police, and clear his name.

The next morning he contacts his friend at their cell phone provider, and ask his favor to provide cell phone records for his wife and sisters. His friend tells jake that he could get into serious trouble providing this data, afterall, the correct procedures is to have a court order.

Jake explained the life and death matter to his friend, and after a long conversation, and a reminder to his friend, all the not so legal things he’s provided him, his friend says, give me a few days, and I’ll be in contact with you. Jake hangs up, and shouts out loud, That's the ticket!

Two days go by, and he hasn't heard from his friend at the cell provider. Jake decides to give him a call. No answer, so he leaves a message, asking if there is any information he can provide, and ask for a time frame when he can expect a call back. A another couple of days go by, with no call back. He just chalks it up to him being busy, and hopefully he didn’t get caught doing it. Jake hopes for the best, and proceeds with his investigation.

Where to look next, is on Jakes mind. Not hearing back from his friend, he decides to take a danous chance, and head out in search of the whereabouts of his wife and sister’s. He’s got a real good idea of where they might be hiding out. His sisters and wife probably assume he is behind bars by now, after having set him up, that he would not put it past them to be hiding out at his wife's childhood home, where her parents still live. He knows she has not been back there in at least ten years. Also it’s far from their current home, that anyone looking for them, would be hard pressed to find them. Just one things they have forgotten, Jake is a wiz at finding people, and being able to track them down. They have underestimated his abilities.

Jake begins the journey to his Wife’s childhood home. It takes him a good half a days drive to reach the small town of Woodinville, nestled foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains. Arriving late in the evening, he decides to get a hotel room for the night, and start fresh in the morning, to try and go see if the girls are where he thinks they are. Jake hopes this trip will not be wasted. He’s fairly sure he’ll get what he needs to clear his name.

In the morning, Jake fires up his computer, and looks on a map to find the best way to get to his wife's parents house. He see that there are not many roads in the area of the house, so it might be hard to not be spotted, since there would not be a place to pull over out of the way, and maybe take a path through the woods to the house. He needed another idea to make this work.

Jake decides to drive in the direction of the town where the house is located. He pulls into a small parking lot of the towns general store. He surveys the area and tries not to act suspicious. Last thing he wants to do is draw attention to himself.

Jake gets out of his car, and approaches a young couple stand by their car in the parking lot. His first question to them, is are they from around here. They indicate that they live about five miles south. Then he ask him if they knew where his wife’s house was. Jake didn't come right out and ask like that, but he got the information he was looking for.

Jake gets back in his car and feels confident that he can proceed to the house, and be undetected when he approaches. After driving for about twenty minutes, Jake pulls over to the side of the road, which is part of someone's driveway. He’s off the road enough to be out of traffic, and can’t be seen until someone comes right up to where he’s pulled off. The heavy brush, and willow trees block his sight, just enough that he can’t be detected easily.

He begins to walk the hundred or so yards to the driveway entrance of his wife’s house, staying over to the side of the driveway that has the most tree cover. When he reaches a clearing that reveals the front yard of the house, he’s stunned to see a large group of strangely dress people. He almost thinks he stumbled upon a Woodstock like event, but without the music and pot smoking hippies. Although most have the long hair, he can’t quite figure out what he stumbled upon. There is loud music playing, but not coming from instruments.

Jake takes a few minutes to compose himself, then all of a sudden, he spots his wife and both of his sisters. He doesn’t like what he’s seeing them engaged in. Jake decides to retreat back to his car.

After sitting in his car for a couple of minutes, he says to himself that he must contact Steve and tell him what he’s found. His sister;s and wife are alive, and calling will clear his name. He also would rather let Steve and the other detectives on his case find out what’s going on. He’s thinking it’s not good, whatever they are involved in. Whatever it is, he wants no part of it, except to find out why his wife and both sisters would do this sort of thing to him. He is more angry than anything else, and afraid of what he might do, if he tried himself to find out the truth.

Jake gets on the phone and makes the call. After a few minutes, he hangs up and drives back into town. Back at the hotel, he spends the night, before driving home the next morning. Arriving home, and after a fews days have past, he gets the call from Steve, that’s he’s been expecting. It would be news that would devastate him, and change his life forever.

Steve’s call revealed that his wife and two sisters joined a religious cult many years ago, and up until their camping trip, had not been active in it. They met an old cult member while camping, that had convinced them to become active again. He doesn't understand why they had to make him out to be the bad guy, by setting him up like they did. He’s just glad it didn't end up putting him in prison.

In the years that followed, Jake put his life back together, and put all of sad memories of the past, behind him.