

Chapter 1

I'm 74 years old, where did my life go?
Seems like last week I was young, pretty
AND HAPPY. Now I'm alone AND regretting most of the
things I've done to destroy my life AND even worse
the lives of people I love!

x my father was born in 1887, the second son & child
of Frances & Margaret^{wife} Kerns. which later had 4 more
boys & 2 girls. John, Ira, Marion, Baine, Ezra AND Bill
Elizabeth AND Alta.

Grandpa was the son of a Farmer & military man, David
Study. AND Grandma was the daughter of a family friend.
Grandpa was ALSO a military man, serving his country
in the family tradition.

They made their home in western Iowa, near the town
of Bartlett Iowa. It was Green Hollow, a man made
road reaching deep into the hills, with dirt embankment
raising 300 ft or higher separated by a creek so it
deep the hills were covered in all kind of trees
tall AND full of color. The road was slim (lean)
AND one had to be careful not to drive off into

the ditch, the road extended 20 miles deep into the hills.
Coming out at Thurman IA

Green Hollow was inhabited by several families
mostly poor people who related in one way or
another, or close friends of family. my grand
father owned 20 acres of land that he built a
home for his wife, he farmed the land, dug a
well, planted fruit trees AND raised chickens

goats, AND horses. Horses + Buggy were Everones Transportat. on

The house was A Frame house, 4 rooms on the bottom + 1 giant room on the second floor. which was turned into A Bedroom. There was No Electricity so Kerosen lanterns was light, For heat they had A put Belly Stove AND for cooking AND canning they used A wood stove Then A outhouse for a toilet.

The families built A Church just At the Entrance of the Hollow where they all gathered on Sundays For Services AND picnic Together. It was Named Kings Church.

During the winter the men would leave home to look for work, the women would gather together to sew clothes AND Exchange ideas to make life better. They canned food, helped as much as they could to make sure Everyone in the Hollow had food during the winter; Even shooting Squirrel AND rabbits for meat. The children would gather wild mushrooms to be dried + strung up to dry; then in winter were soaked to soften to eat. Everyone had a garden AND the potatoes were put in gunny sacks AND Buried deep in the ground + dug up during the winter to eat. The same was done with Apples + pears.

All the families knew each other from childhood All were unrelated, but had a special bond AND outsiders were not welcome. City people would often be curious About the Hollow people but were Greeted By men

With Guns. No outsiders were welcome

This is when they got the name Green Hollow Trash.

A lots of legends came out of the hills, passed on from Generations to Generations. Some were so far fetched one would wonder of the reality of them. but These things really happened.

Like Hannah, An 18 yr old who lived Between the hollow + Bartlett 4 miles away, her parents were hollow people. Hannah had a child out of wedlock, the parents took the baby to the river where they drowned it.

Hannah died of a broken heart, her parents buried her in a corn field near by. later a headstone was erected in plattsburgh NEB, 4 miles away but Hannah was never in that grave. She still remains in the cornfield and hedgrou has it. She would walk the fields crying for her baby. And when it snowed her grave always melted it right away. later her remains were moved to an unknown Cemetery; I believe it was Thurman, where my family is.

Then there was the story of a young couple Engaged to marry. She suddenly took Ill And died. Her Funeral was At King Church, And was taken by buck Board through the hollow to the Thurman Cemetery. later that night the man went to dig her up to get his ring back. And discovered her fingers were bloody from digging the casket

4

She was alive AND clinging onto life.

He picked her up AND carried her through the Hollow, where women fainted, men yelled + AKE her back. She woke up AND they were married AND RAISED A Large Family.

AS years went by the Study children grew up AND STARTED leaving home to live married in Bartlett AND Surrounding Areas ALL near the Hollow. Bartlett was A town with Electricity Running water, a gas station that was ALSO A Grocery store AND A BAR. There was ALSO A School house.

Uncle John went to Wyoming with his bride, never to return. He RAISED several children AND passed away there.

My Aunt Elizabeth married A. Garith, Aunt AITA never married. She lived at the mouth of the Hollow, all her life. She AND my dad were very close AND he watched over her. ALL AND ALL they ALL ended up together in the Thurman IA Cemetery.

My Grandpa was in her 50^s when she had a stroke while hanging clothes on the clothesline. No one was around AND it started snowing. She Froze to death.

AFTER her death Grandpa's health went into a downward spiral. He checked himself into AN Old Soldier Home in Marshalltown, where he

passed away, AND IS Buried there as well.

Now Dad & Bill were the only ones left at the house. Dad was in his mid 20^s when He joined the Army, this was around 1913. AND got caught up in WWI, in 1914 He served til 1916 He was given a medal for saving a man's life during combat this is when Dad took a Diamond Ring off a German AND Brought it home.

When Returning home from the Army, uncle Bill had a wife, so the 3 of them shared the family home.

One winter morning my Aunt got up early to start the fire AND heat the house up. putting wood on the coals, then she threw Kerosene on the coals, the flame flashed out the door, catching her clothes on fire. Dad & Bill did everything to

save her but she was burned to badly.

This is when Dad sold the diamond ring to pay for the funeral. Bill moved out of the hollow AND never remarried.

Several years passed, without any records of Dad's life AND what he did for work, ect until 1926. when a corn farmer in Brownsville Nebraska needed help. His name was Charles Reeves.

AND since my dad could drive a tractor AND knew a lot about farming He got hired. It was corn harvest Mr Reeves was a tall skinny man 6" or more his wife Frances was a native American, short and as round as she was tall.

They had a large home with 4 children - 3

Girls, Mary, Rose and Dorothy, I saw Charles Jr.
Little did anyone know that this chance
encounter would end up being the beginning
of a new study generation. Dad would marry
Rose, my mother.

1

Aunt Dorothy described Dad to me when they first met, she said he was tall 6'2" Coal Black Hair And Green Eyes, All the girls were smitten by him. But Rose caught his eye, Altho she was 22 years younger. they connected and my mother got pregnant, mom was only 18, Dad was 40. I don't know the details of how her parents reacted but Dad took her home to Green Hollow and married her.

It must have been hard for her, since she was used to running water and electricity. But she loved him and his family welcomed her with open arms. A few months later their first child "Viola" was born, then a not long later a second child "Enid" came along. Their lives were changing fast. No time for each other, and no running around having fun. Dad had to work more jobs which took him away from her most the time. washing diapers by hand, warming water on the wood stove to wash them and bathe the girls. And still cooking and carrying wood, ironing, she must have been completely overwhelmed by it all.

Sometimes my Aunt's would help her can food and watch the girls so she could have some free time, my uncle would take her to town, where they would stop to get a beer before returning home. my mom and uncle became close, too close

2

She had A Bad crush on him.

Not Long After A 3rd child came along, "Doris"
Life was even worse, 3 children in 5 years.
Dad starting staying away longer, sometimes for
weeks. leaving her with little to no money for
food. The family members helped with feeding
her and the girls, buying clothes at the second
hand store and visiting her for company.
Aunt Ida, Uncle Ezra's wife and Aunt Ethel
Uncle Basins wife were always to her
rescue.

Dad was furious, he said he could take care
of his family and resented their help.
He told mom not to discuss their problems
and refuse their help.

No one knew where dad was spending all his
time, mom got lonely and being isolated
made things worse. 3 crying children, hardly any
food. Her life was hell. After all she was
a young woman, still pretty and passionate and
desireable. She wanted attention.

So she waited til dad was home and she walked
15 miles up the hollow to thermans. To the Barn.
She had no problem finding men to buy her
booze. Ending up in bed with them being gone
for days.

She had to go home, there was no other place

3

To go. She had called her parents AND they told her to go home AND be a better wife. They didn't want a bunch of kids there.

Dad started beating her, AND becoming demanding. She wasn't allowed to leave the house or spend time with family. He came home every night AND demanded sex. She became more distant AND fell out of love. She stayed for the girls only, wanting so bad to be free AND happy.

Then the worse happened, she was pregnant AGAIN this time it was a boy. Donald, he was a premature baby, AND it wasn't for certain he would live. She loved him more than the girls because he was so sickly. But he made it. Dad was beyond himself, he had a son. For some reason a man always wants a son, it changes them. It did my dad, he became a better husband AND spent a lot of time at home to be with him. Life was better for mom, she now had a mate + help with the children. AND to top it off 3 yrs later she gave birth to another boy, "Lewis". Dad was in seventh heaven. But mom wasn't thrilled AT ALL. Don was the only one she wanted the rest of the kids weren't as special AS he was. Here she was 28 yrs old AND had 5 children.

4

Dad was 50 year old now. He couldn't keep up the pace to bring in the money to feed his family. He taught the girls to steal eggs from the neighbors. He stole from things from peoples sheds. He allowed men to sleep with my mom for money.

Including the town constable. But it backfired on him, my mom would get drunk with the men and didn't come home. Men would drive to the house looking for her, and dad ran them off. This went on for years she came home only when she wanted to and dad accepted that because he needed her to watch the kids. They fought all the time, He really loved her and didn't want to lose her, But it was too late. Mom would have men at the house when dad wasn't around and she drank a lot. Some of these men were my uncles, and neighbors. They bought her food and booze.

The oldest girls would tell dad what she did when he was gone, and the beating started again. Then in '43 mom was pregnant again. Dad knew it wasn't his child and had her charged with adultery. She went to prison for a year in Iowa City Iowa where she gave birth to my

5

Sister "Esther". When she finished her sentence she came home, the boys were thrilled to see her, but the girls had no part of her, or the baby. Dad let her stay because of the boys, he wanted Esther to go, but changed his mind when the father was revealed. My Uncle.

Sometime after that my mother met Frank Drewell, a soldier who lived in Talmage Neb., he had a blacksmith shop and dated my mom, when dad wasn't around. My mother was pregnant again, and in 1916 she had a baby girl "Marilyn". Me. Dad didn't want me till he seen me, I was a mini him. I looked just like him, and still do. 3 weeks after my birth mom left forever. She walked out on the boys and Esther & I. The oldest girls were all grown up and married at the first man who came along, just to get out of the horrible life they had at home.

Here dad was, alone, Don was around 9 and Lewis 7. He couldn't keep us girls, so Esther and I were given to a family in Bellevue Nebraska. Henry & Lottie Waite.

Esther was 3, I was less than a year old.

My Life 6

AS A child naturally I don't remember being a baby. I first memories were happy ones.

my sister Esther was Always there unlike me she had memories of our old life.

The waites were sw there late 40's.

I recall them vividly, Henry was a tall man, with a full beard. Lottie was short had dark hair streaked in grey.

They had 3 children, Ruby who was married and had 2 boys. Then Russell and ~~Quentin~~ Bennett, They were both teenagers living at home.

We had a happy home, my best memories of life in this home still haunts me, oh how my life would have been so much better had I grown up there. 1.

The house sit on a large Acres, After getting off the street you had to walk Aways to get to The house. The house was large inside, 4 bedroom bath, living room and large dining room and kitchen.

The outside was a large group of trees Extending a long ways. The back yard was one Giant Strawberry field, and the other side was trees also.

Uncle Henry turned an old chicken coop into a playhouse where we would color and collect lightning bugs at night.

We had lots of chickens running around. Everytime I went near the rooster He would ATTACK.

me. Aunt Lottie used the broom on him
Uncle Henry worked for the railroad and
Lottie, worked on a Gladys Farm behind
our house during the Flower Season. She
also picked Strawberry and sold them.
Russell + Everett helped pick them and wash
them.

Weekends were special, we went to church
and Ruby and her family came over for a
large meal. She had a son named Rodney
that played games with Esther + I.

One time Ruby was making Jello, and
the kids were hiding under the goat wood
table, it had a table cloth so no one
knew we were there. Suddenly, I felt hot
water on my head, I started screaming
the bowl had broke and I was right below
the section that connected the table.

The doctor came right away, put something on
me, I have a small spot on the top of my
head where hair doesn't grow now.

On Easter's we always got dresses + hats
plus a giant Egg hunt at church.

All holidays were a big event Christmas
was special too, we took gifts to poor kids
at church. I didn't want to give them away
because I liked them. Aunt Lottie told

me that was what Christmas was All About

Helping others who don't have what we do.

On July 4th Russell + Cverette Set fire works off, the day was full of Food, games, the men played cards the women gossiped and they all played horse shoes and drawk lemonade.

Every night we had to take a Bath, Lottie would check to see if we were clean, usually scrubbing the back of my ears til they hurt. I Swore when I grew up I'd never wash them and I don't

Every Afternoon, I had to take a Nap, I was the only child at home since the boys + Esther were in School. Lottie put me on her bed since it was closest to the living room where she could check on me. There was a Tall black cat statue on her dresser with Glass eyes, I was so Afraid of it, so she covered it up so I could Sleep. I usually wasn't Sleepy, so I leaned if I covered up my head, then waited to be awake, the light made me look like I was Asleep. It worked

I was A busy little Bee when Noone was watching, I'd into Everetts Room and play with his Crayons, And Accedently break them.

When he came home, I could hear him yelling Mom, my room was in my room Again

Aunt Lottie was doing the wash and I sat watching her, I was fascinated by how she put the clothes in the wringer, then she had to leave the room. I recall her telling me not to go near the machine but I did. And I got my hand & arm caught in it, I thought it was going to eat me. I was screaming when Lottie popped the top to release me. The Doctor came again, I was hurt bad but I never went near the machine again.

At dinner Lottie would get mad at me because I ate 1 thing at a time. She insisted I take Bites of Everything. Esther is the one who started scrambling my food together, I liked it then.

Russell would help Lottie with the Ice box when the Ice man came. He would chip the Ice to fix the square where it belonged, there was Ice chips all over the kitchen.

My favorite breakfast was Sugar pops, it was on TV commercials, and on the package was a paper gun! I couldn't wait to have one of my brothers cut it out and put it together.

At night the boys + Esther with me, sat on the couch and watched The Cisco Kid. There was commercial about Butterkut bread that the wrapper tore open and the bread was all sliced evenly. I thought that was neat cause lotte's bread didn't look like that.

US kids Esther, Rodney + I all came down with the measles, we were put in a bedroom with blankets over the windows, AND rubbed down with Calamine Lotion AND socks on our hands. Tied on so we couldn't get them off. Later we got chicken pox But the windows weren't covered for this disease. I ALSO had coughing cough. Its a wonder I survived all those

Once in a while Ruby + Lottie had us collect twigs for a fire to put perms in our hair. We didn't have a water heater I had curls all over my head, but if I had a perm like that today I'd have a fit, it was Frizzee. But Esther and I loved it.

Lottie taught us Always to be ladies, with manners. She caught me dancing in the Strawberies. I pulled up my dress to swirl. She came out + spanked my rear, Ladies don't pull up there dresses. We Always said Grace AND prayers, AND called

21
17
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olders by there last name. MR or MRS
Saying please + thank you to Anything
And Never Steal.

I Learned the hard way you dont steal, Russel
took me to the dime store with H.M. I saw
A miniature harmonica And Took it.

I showed it to Esther, And she told on
me. Lottie took me to the dime store And
tell the manager what I did. She payed for
it And Left it. I got a scolding And NO
playing outside or TV that night.

We were never spanked. or hurt in
Any way

On weekend After they graduated from School
The boys would go to OMAHA, Esther + I Always
Look Forward to Seeing them Come home.

We would sit on the porch & wait & wait
then Finally they Appeared, handing us
Each a bag. Fresh BAKERY cookies + Bubble
stuff. I was A Ritual we Always
Looked Forward To.

The boys would hold us down & tickle
us And let us use Furniture to make
Houses covered with Blankets. As long as
we put everything back before Lottie
And Henry Returned.

After Supper Henry would walk us girls

Now Esther was gone forever.

Everyone in the family stayed near me all the time so they wouldn't come back. I missed her so much. Crying myself to sleep, worried I'd never see her again.

Weeks later the family sat me down and told me they were coming back to get me, but I didn't have to go if I told them so. I didn't want to go.

When the day came Rose & her husband and Doris came to our house. Russell & Everett were there in case they tried to force me to go. I told them I wanted to stay with my family. Doris asked, "don't you want to see Esther again?"

Yes, I said, well she lives with Rose and Frank and so would I if I went with them. I wanted my sister back. I loved her and we were never apart.

So I said I'd go to be with her.

Aunt Lottie cried, as they took me away, never to see me again. It broke everyone's heart, and I often wonder if I'd stayed I would not endure the horrible life that awaited for me.

One single word "yes" destroyed my life.

in the side yard to an old tree that was fallen and sit us down. He would peel an apple + share it with us and tell us a story. I can't recall any of them but this incident is embedded in my mind.

A woman came to visit one time. She had a little girl my age with her, Beverly was her name. We caught lightning bugs and I showed her my playhouse.

Then more women started coming. Lottie said I was Rose Drewell, then Evid Lawson and Viola Garren. Then she sat us down and told us where we came from.

And they wanted us back. Esther + I said No, this is our home. we didn't know these people and we cried to stay.

When the day came to tell them we didn't want to go, Evid showed up. She parked away from the house and walked on foot to the house.

Esther + I were outside, when she came flying out of the house + grabbed my sister + drug her to her car. She tried to get me but I ran in the house. A man in the back seat was lying down not to be seen. He grabbed Esther + held her down + they drove off.

Lottie called the law, but since there were no legal papers to keep us, nothing could be

my Study Life Begins 14

I fell to sleep during the trip, and woke up when we stopped the car. I saw a house, it had 2 windows in the front & Roses growing on both sides of the door. I ~~was~~ was down and looked old.

The front door opened and there was Esther, my ~~was~~ flying I couldn't wait to hug her, she had a big smile & her eyes were full of joy. She started crying & run to me. We must have embraced for 5 minutes, and she said she was so happy to see me, my god it was almost 2 years since we were together. She was 10 now I was 7. She had grown up now, dark brown hair, and here I had blonde. One couldn't tell we were sisters. She showed me our room, Esther explained who these people were. Rose was our real mom & Frank was our step father. That ~~Original~~ Dad (Bud) study was in Wyoming visiting his brother & he would be home soon. She explained that Lotte & Henry were our parents. I was so confused, I didn't know any of these people. I was afraid of them, Frank had a mean, frown, and never smile, and the man who was watching Esther when they came to get me was Herman, Frank's Dad and Esther told him she explained Frank wasn't so nice to stay as far as possible away from him. My mind was over whelmed by all these people. I wanted Esther & I to go home.

95
21
19
The first day alone with Rose, she walked up down to the local grocery store, it was only 3 blocks, the whole town was only 8 blocks. The store was named Dammies. She introduced me and her baby daughter. The reason we went to the store was because Frank had given Rose money before he went to work to buy us girls one of the world's best Dammies sold. They were the size of Barbie dolls + beautiful Dresses. I chose the one from Ireland, because I love Green.

That night Frank went out to his Blacksmith shop and fired it up. It was a large ~~Irish~~ building next to the main street. I recall Frank coming in the house and saying Lets show Miquela the Shop.

I was walking then I heard the noise, it was a roar with loud noises coming from inside. I never heard anything like it, I was scared + started to run back to the house. When Frank grabbed me + picked me up + continued to the shop. I was screaming + kicking and he was laughing + so was Rose. I just knew I was going to get killed I was so afraid. When we got inside there were machines with belts + a large pit with fire and a giant tub of water, it smelled horrible.

inside. Esther told me it was ok, no one was going to hurt me that Frank made things with the fix for people & got money for them. That Experience has stayed with me all my life. I've never known real fear til then. I hadn't experienced Fear before.

meal time was strange, there were things we girls weren't allowed to eat, Jello, Fruits or milk.

That was for Frank only. I couldn't understand it.

Esther told me he would get drunk & when he does Ride, but usually drank in his shop with some food & his named Johnny.

Doris & her husband lived about 3 blocks away. Harlem was his name, they had a only girl. Carol Jean. Doris was always at our house. She liked Frank and I found why one day when Esther & I were told to wash the car & stay out of the house.

I went in for some reason & heard the strangest sounds coming from Doris' bedroom. There was a hole in the wall so I looked in. Doris was on the edge of the bed with no pants on and Frank was screwing her, Mom was sitting watching them with a smile on her face. I couldn't believe it, when I told Esther she said it happens all the time. Not to let them know I seen them.

Esther said our real dad was really nice and lived not that far away, that he would be home soon.

And that he knew we were happy and didn't want to take us! was and he didn't want to give us up but he was alone & couldn't care for us. That he ~~knew~~ we were happy at Lotties and wanted no part of stealing us. He said we were better off there."

In the days I would roam all over town I met a little girl with a playhouse in the back yard. We played for days on end and Mom didn't care she was busy with making wax roses for her yard or drinking with Frank.

At night Esther & I would lay in bed & make animals in the wall with our hands using the shadow of the lamp in our room.

Mom would come into our room with a sheet over her to ~~scare~~ ^{scare} us, but we would laugh because we knew who she was, and Frank would be in the next room talking like she was in the room with him.

I didn't really care for the school I went to. At recess the janitor would push me on the swing and pinch my rear every push. He tried to get me to help him put lockers & map away, but I didn't like him so I refused. Now I realize he was a pedophile.

The town had yearly Purple & White days. They had a parade & threw Candy off floats. We always looked forward to these days.

18

Behind our house was a giant Dance Hall for the U.F.W. a lot of Saturday night they would have big parties that went on to midnight. Esther & I would get up early to go look for beer bottles which were worth 2¢ each. Sometimes we found money too.

Mom had gotten us peppy books of Aunt Jamina we didn't take long to fill them. Trying to buy something special. One day we had all went on a ride in Frank Stadelacker and when we got back some of our books were gone. Only 1 person had a key to the house, Doris. nothing was ever said to her. We were heart broken and started keeping our money in a jar we put in the Shop, Frank didn't even know it was there.

Frank would become physical with mom when they got "down" & hitting her & shoving her down calling her names. we stayed in our bed hugging each other I wanted to help her but sis said not to leave our room he would come after us. I never experienced fear before, not by a person. I just cried my eyes out. What if he came after us. What would we go,

I tried to spend as much time as I could outside when Frank was home, when I had to go inside I spent time in the bathroom. Some week ends Frank would take us to a town called Otse to a bar, where

Her man would spend hours drinking. They would give us pay money, we would walk around the main street, we didn't get anything to eat & sometimes it was early morning before we left. They would fight on the way home & Esther & I fell to sleep. When we got home Esther would wait til they passed out & go get us something to eat.

Then Frank's wrath turned on us, if he didn't like 1 little thing we did we never got ~~any~~ food. Sometimes he slapped my sister so hard she fell on the floor.

One time (it was a weekend) my friend across the street from us had an Uncle who on leave from the military he got his motorcycle out & was giving all the kids rides up & down the main street. Esther wasn't there, I got to go on a ride, on the way back I saw Frank in front of his shop drinking with a friend. I was afraid he ~~saw~~ me, I was afraid to go home. When I did he & mom sat me down & said So you want to get fucked, well we will and they grabbed me & held me down took off my pants & Frank held me up in the air while mom put Red pepper in my uterus, the entire time, I burnt so bad I was screaming I thought I would die, I ran to ~~Don's house~~.

and she ~~saw~~ I was in pain & what it was causing it, she put me in the tub & helped wash it away then she took me to the hospital in New City, where they flushed me out with something. There was no child protection agency back then so the hospital didn't report it.

I hated ~~those~~ men now along with being afraid of them, and the one thing that came out to this ordeal is I couldn't scream anymore and to this day I cannot scream.

Then one night, it was winter, the pot belly stove was going and they got into a big fight, this time Frank held Mom against the hot stove, she was screaming and we ran out the door to Dad's house. She called the Law, and loaded us girls up & took us to plattsmouth where my sister Uncle lived with her family. We slept there and come morning after eating she took us to our Dad's in "Green Hollow." The torture and fear was finally over.

It was mid morning, when we arrived, and I was somewhat afraid, I'd never met my dad before but Esther Dad, she was excited and told me we had 2 brothers living with Dad. Don & Lewis, Don was around 17 Lewis was 14.

When we pulled up to the mouth of the hollow

25

27

71

I couldn't believe my eyes. Trees, lots of trees then hills. Tall hills with a small road that had trees growing out over the road, there was a deep ditch with water & tall hills over the other side, I loved it, it was like a paradise.

When we arrived at the house, no one was outside, it was still early morning. - The first thing I saw was Squirrels running & jumping from tree to tree, the birds were singing and the wind was still, it was spring time and so exciting for Esther & I. Viole went in & everyone was just getting up. Louis & Dan were still asleep, but I could see them. Dad was drinking coffee in the kitchen & I couldn't believe how old he looked. Tall with white hair and tall & brawny. I was so happy to meet him - but my happiness was soon crushed when Rose came out of the bedroom, she had bandages on her arm. I expected to see Frank but learned he was in jail. I wanted her to leave. All we knew now was fear and unhappiness with her. I just hoped I had found a new life with my dad. And I was thrilled when my dad told my mom she couldn't have us back until she straightened out her life.

22

Viola left at dinner or so and Dad said he would take Mom home to Big this time. Lewis + Esther were sitting and talking when Dad wanted me to sit on his lap. He said he was so happy I was home with him. This is the first time since I left ~~home~~ that anyone held me on their lap + actually wanted me around. My life lit up, I have a real dad that really loved me and wanted me with him. Dad also assured me, Mom would never get me back now. He was really upset at what we had told him about the things that we ~~endured~~ at Mom's.

Life was good, Esther + I would play in the yard and Lewis had a hobby of catching mice in a jar at night; we had lots of them, so we would watch as he put strings around the top of the jar + put food inside, we didn't have electricity so we used lanterns + table lamp. We sat in the slightly dark rooms + wait. It was so much fun.

We had an outhouse, but had a potty house at night, the house smelt like clean air, no cigarettes like Mom's, and there was no alcohol smell.

We had a cellar built into the hill across from our house, we kept milk + meat + canned goods in there. We had to only buy for a week because the meat + milk went bad in the summer but until we shipped down

85

29

Every Saturday we all got into dad's pickup + go to Plattsmouth to shop, Esther + I rode in the back; it was so much fun. We stayed in the pickup while dad + Lewis shopped. When it rained Dad put a wide board across the bed + put a tarp on it for shelter from the groceries. We always got a roll of life savers on shopping day. Saturdays were special we always looked forward to it.

For breakfast we ate cereal, sometimes Egg and Bacon, and Dad always had to have winter onions on his food, supper was fried potatoes and squirrel I never had squirrel before but it was yummy. After supper Lewis did the dishes and Esther + I would sit outside with Dad, we asked him questions and he asked us questions. He would tell us about his childhood and his brothers. Sometimes he talked about mom but not very often. He always told me when mom + Frank met "Two fools well matched". He told us the reason we went to live with Father was because we were so small and he couldn't work with no one to watch us, and he knew the Whites were good people.

We used to get in the pickup + go to church a lot, Dad knew everyone there, after services we would Run + Play with the other families kids. Lewis was about 14 now and we had

24

been at Dad's a year or so, usually someone would bring chicken and squirrel and Lemons for the kids after the pastor left it was beer time for the men. We would be there for hours. Back behind the church were the stumps of the hills and cut trees were lying on the ground, the men would use the large pieces for chairs and the stump for a table + play poker. Children were not allowed up there.

Sometimes on Saturday we went to visit my sister Gail in plattsburgh. Her nickname was Jean. Her husband was Edmar, they had 2 kids April + Mike. April was a little younger than me she was around 5 and Mike was about 3. Jean had a big house in the country with a big yard, she had a large garden and I really liked her.

Sometimes we would spend the night and I liked that because I got to see TV. my favorite was Gunsmoke. I felt ignored most the time but I was used to it at home. Lewis + Don would argue a lot when Dad was gone. which was a lot.

Anyway Jean would have friends over with kids my age but I wasn't allowed to go out and play with them, she kept me hidden in the upstairs bedroom. I didn't understand why so I would sit by the window + watch them play. Dad would come up + go to bed early and I spent my night listening to him snore until I fell to sleep.

On sundays Jean would use some special shampoo to make Dads hair gleaming white he always looked forward to that. Then we would go back to the hollow where the boys were + Esther. Jean I don't like Esther so she wasn't allowed at her house.

The Sidney Rodeo came to town + Dad got a job working there, he helped to get the monkeys from their ^{cage} ~~cage~~ + back after their show. Esther + I + Lew had a blast at the Rodeo, since Dad worked there we all got free rides. We had no money so we didn't get soda or treats but it didn't matter we were having fun. After closing we would all go home only to return the next day.

Lew's Esther I would go to the creek and walk in it + splash each other, it wasn't deep but we took soap + cleaned up the best we knew. One time I stepped on a broken fruit jar and cut my heel half off, Lew carried me home and Dad washed it and put alcohol on it. I needed stitches but I never got them I don't know why. I was told not to walk on it, and Esther helped me hop around. We wrapped it in old clothes + waited for it to heal. I missed out on going fishing and playing for a long time

24

W.Dad + Don would argue, a lot, even yelling at each other, Don was around 19 then and he would steal from Dad's sell his things for money. Don always took Dad's truck without permission, which was easy to do when it rained because the road to our house was dirt + it turned to mud so Dad parked at the mouth of the hollow + walk home. probably 1/4 mile. Don would get up + walk to the pickup + go running around. using up all the gas.

Our school was in Bertlett Iowa, it was 3 stories tall made of Brick. A school bus would pick us up at the end of the hollow and bring us home. We had to get up early to eat, check our traps and walk to the bus. The three of us would race home to get strawberries that were ripe and apples and pears. Lewis would shoot squirrel and Esther + I would carry wood to cook with. In the winter we ran because we were cold and Dad wasn't home if he didn't show up when we arrived.

In school we were the only Green Hollow kids kids made fun of us because we were poor and our Dad was so old. We never had home work that was an innovation of modern times. We were taught square DANCING, soft ball, Art, penmanship and math. when it was cold we played basket ball and music. And all we needed for school supplies were Big Chief TABLETS

58
21
33
and 2 lead pencils and crayons.

On holidays we had Easter parties, Halloween parties & Christmas parties. We always made decorations for all them. At Easter we were suppose to bring 2 boiled decorated eggs. but we never had any extra and we could afford colouring. so our teachers would do it for us.

Christmas parties were my favorite especially one year we had a party for the parents, my teacher made me an outfit so I could be Suzie Snowflake. I was amazed that Dad brought Don, Lewis & Esther to see me dance. I was so happy, we got cup cakes & pencils with our name on them and fancy paper napkins with Santa on them. We didn't have Christmas at our home; we had no money for tree decorations or presents so we just stayed home & kept warm. We had no toys so we helped Dad cut wood and unload it.

When the winter set in Dad moved us to a dugout house. Its where he had dug into a hill and built a large room with wood and covered it with aluminum then dirt. we had 4 beds a stove for heat & cooking stove and a table to eat on. with chairs there was 1 window. we had to climb a steep hill to get up there but Dad ran a rope from the pine tree out front to the

bottom so we could get up + down our outhouse wasn't very far + neither was the cellar, but we had to carry wood up that hill, so when it was nice out we would make big piles for later.

The snow really got deep those winters, we wore snow pants + black snow boots that had 14 or so buckles. Snow pants were made out of weather proof material that was poly-filled, they had suspenders + went over your shoulders. Snow shoes were made of rubber, they fit over your regular shoes + buckled up kinda like combat boots only they had hooks that snapped together, they came up to the middle of your leg. Girls had to wear dresses only to school. So the pants + shoes kept you warm.

Our school had a field trip, we went to Shawanoosh and were suppose to bring money for lunch + Roller skating. Dad got us 20¢ each, but it only paid for lunch + we had enough for 1 set of skates, so we took turns on them. We went to a dime store but didn't anything to spend. Lewis stole a baby turtle for us and some candy. Dad never knew about it and we weren't going to tell.

Dad + Don got into a fight + Dad kicked him out, he was a thief and stole from Dad + our Uncle. He went to live with Jean and she got him a job. He bought a car and nice clothes. We went to see him and visit Jean for the weekends.

15 35
29
One time I had a bad tooth ache, my teeth were rotten from no proper food or brushing. No one cared I hurt, I was crying cause of the pain. Then Don came home & brought me some Red Cross toothache medicine, It was so much better then.

In my 19th year my world came to an end again. Dad said we were going back to Moms again. I cried & Esther told him we hated him because he had promised us we never had to return there but he never said why, he just loaded us up and took us to Moms. But now she lived in Nebraska City by a park & my Aunt Dorothy lived 2 blocks away. Frank was working for Oscar foods where they killed turkey & chickens & made TV Dinners. He cleaned up the heads feet & feathers.

Dad said he would come see us on Weekends, but that was just another promise he broke. I loved my Dad & couldn't figure out what I did wrong to have to leave his home. Esther & I were so scared we just knew our happy days were over. And we would miss Lew & Dad.

A New Chapter in Life

Esther + I were really scared to go our moms we knew what they were capable of doing.

They lived in A house with 3 Room Kitchen, Living room + 1 bedroom, we had A Roll Away Bed to Sleep in the Living room. It was tiny. Outside there were About 16 plum trees, And An Apple orchard And cherry trees. They lived on a hill that one had to climb about 15 steps up to get to the house. What I Liked Best was we lived next door to A park no one ever came there because it was A old one, it was full of Black walnut trees.

My Aunt Dorothy And her husband Ocie lived down the hill from us. Next to the Missouri River.

You could see it clearly from moms house

My Aunt had 3 kids living at home Eddie A teenager Chris A little younger than I And Bobby, he was in his 30's. Their house was A shack, because they were poor, it reminded you of A cardboard house, with Junk all over the yard.

Mom + Frank seemed to slow down on their drinking except week ends. Frank worked at Ocoma Foods with Doris And mom just visited her Sister OR sat & smoked all the time.

At first Frank was nice to us but it didn't take long for him to start in on us, by telling us how bad our dad was And how

2

Lucky we were that he let mom have us. When ever his TV stations werent coming in good he Accused us of messing with the knobs, but we never Touched it. And we wouldnt get to watch it as punishment.

I spent most of my days at Aunt Dorothy's House Chris + I had stick horses AND we ran all over the yard + park. Eddie had to carry water from the park to their house because it had no running water. Uncle Ocie did mostly paint jobs AND any other job he could to support the family. They Always had plenty of food + had large gathering of family.

I missed my dad + Lewis really bad, Esther AND I were Always AFRAID to be in the house when Frank was there. The house was so small + he was Always in the living room where our bed was. You could tell he didnt want us there, Always Complaining About us, or yelling at us.

Uncle Ocie would come honking his horn on the car AND yell for us girls to come down to his house, it would be 9 pm AND we had to go to bed. But He got us up AND went to his house for Ice cream. We usually spent the

3

night because they knew how we had to live.

Uncle Ocie would take Esther down to the river and teach her to swim, I sat fishing with Eddie & Chris. It was so much fun to go to my Aunt & uncles.

On the 4th of July, they had a big picnic at the new park, Uncle Ocie would go at 3 AM & put 4 or 5 tables together and they were filled with food. My Dad was suppose to show up but he never did, I kept watching for him, hoping to see him but I was left in dispare. The picnic was fun, lots of kids to play with and fireworks, then Mom & Frank showed up they made us go home before the fireworks I just felt so bad, no Dad, no fireworks. Doesn't anyone care? Frank and Mom were drunk. Esther refused to go home, she stayed with Aunt Dorothy. I don't think she was going to put up with it anymore because soon after she moved out of Mom's and went to live with Aunt Dorothy.

I hated being alone, walking to school alone and it was about a good 1½ walk to get there, I met a classmate Becky Yost who lived with her Aunt & uncle because

her dad Beat her mother To death, when she was small, her Aunt took her to School AND Sometimes I got To ride with them.

I used, to WALK the Alleys downtown going through the TRASH of the Dept Stores, I FOUND All KINDS OF good STUFF I NEVER got home before dark, AND I WASNT MISSED, NO ONE SAID ANYTHING TO me About being so late.

We had A Neighbor just up the hill Behind our house who was A hired man To TAKE care of our handfords Apple + peach Orchard His Name was EARL; he Liked me To come Visit AND I LOVED LISTENING TO him whistle, he Sounded like A bird AND I ENJOYED it, I went there To get away.

Then one day EARL AND FRANK went Goose Berry hunting ALONG the RIVER, They took them To EARLs AND put them IN A Big Crock pot type container To make wine FRANK went up there every night To stir it. Anyway they had Lots of Jars of wine AND FRANK really drank A Lot.

One day Dad Showed up with Lewis To Visit AND get Esther From my Aunts I was so happy To see them, Lewis

5

Tell me Don had joined the Army AND Dad was so proud. He was coming home to visit AFTER BASIC Training. Dad started drinking FRANKS wine AND was really drunk, he AND FRANK got into AN Argument AND Frank tried to push him down the cement steps (16) in the front yard, Lewis held him upwards to stop his FALL. I was so scared, Dad told FRANK if you ever hurt my kids I will Kill you, AND Lewis drive them home to Iowa with Esther. I wanted to go, but I wasn't asked or told.

I Laid in Bed at Night AND cried, Everyone had deserted me AND Now I had figure out a WAY to get out of MANS. I Lay in Bed listening to them having sex in the next room, the bed squeaked AND bounced, it was disgusting Night after Night.

One day I didn't want to go to School I told mom my Stomach hurt Real Bad. Before I knew it Dad was there to take me to the Doctor, Since Dad was a WWI Vet he got All his childrens medical Free. When the doctor started poking my Belly I knew I better tell him it hurt or Dad would Really be mad, so when he poked my

6

right side. I said that's where the pain was. He called my dad in and said well "Bud" dad's nickname, look like we need to remove her Appendix. When I asked what that meant Dad said they have to cut you open. OH NO I thought, I'm only 10 years old, I can't do that. They put me in the hospital + Dad brought me some Baby Doll pjs, They were Esthers, back then Baby Doll pjs were the hot thing to own I was a little jealous that Esther had them + I slept in an old night T shirt. When they took me to surgery I was really scared, but when they put a mask over my face it had stinky stuff coming out (Either) I fought it but was sound asleep in no time. When I woke up my belly was wrapped in gauze completely and I hurt badly. I was so sorry I lied but I had to keep it to myself. Dad never knew the truth ever.

I had fun eating ice cream and Sherbert and someone brought me paper dolls. I always had paper dolls from the Sears Catalog but these were real ones with out fits

But the fun would soon end when I was sent home. Dad took me back to

7

moms Again, Even tho I begged him not to. That was the last time I saw him. I had turned 11 in March and the day After Thanksgiving my Cousin Eddie came running up to our house and said Uncle Bud was Dead, and my older sisters were on their way to get me.

Dad had been plowing the road to his house and went over into the ditch and lay there all night, his Spleen was Broken and he layed & Froze to Death.

Lewis & Esther were at Jeans house waiting for Dad, so when he never showed up they all went looking for him. The road was caved in where they found him & the tractor was on top of him. They all were screaming crying just AS I was. Later.

They had to order a special coffin for him, back then anyone over 5'8" was considered a Giant. Dad was 6'2". Don came home from the Army. I had never seen a Dead person before, let alone the one person I loved more than anything. I kept thinking he was just Asleep and told him to wake up. Don said sis he cant wake hes Asleep forever. Then I cried I wanted him Back.

SN

W3

8

The funeral was at Kings Church.
The place was jammed, some stood outside. I sat with Don & he held my hand, he said don't worry ses I will be there when you need me.

I RECALL the Smell of Roses that were Draped over the casket, To this Day I hate Roses because of that, then we All went To the Thurman grave yard where the military Shot of Guns + Someone played Taps on top of the hill. I didnt cry, I held it in, Mom + Frank were there and my oldest sister Viola got the Flag that was on the casket. Then we All went back To Dads house in the Bottom where Jean Viola + Esther got into A FIST Fight over Dads Flag. Jean was on top Viola, Esther was on top Jean. Jeans husband was going to help her when Don stepped in & stopped him. Lewis + I Just Watched, we couldnt Believe them acting LIKE that. Frank's mom were there when Frank spoke up & told them that was no way to act after they just buried their Dad. So they Kicked him out of the house. SOON AFTER Viola took us back To our house in

NEBRASKA city.

Lewis want to live with Jean and Esther
want to live. Don deserted the
Army and lived in Dad's House until they
found him and put in prison in Ft Leavenworth
KANSAS for Desertion.

A while later Jean contacted mom & said
they were going to visit Don & she could
come along. I recall her arriving at our
house with Esther in the back seat all
beat up & bleeding. Jean dragged her out of the
car onto the gravel road & told her to die.

I ran to get uncle Ocie to help her and
we almost didn't get to go because of Frank.
Jean didn't want him around. We had to listen
to his bitching & aches & pains all the way
down & all the way back. No one liked him.

But it was good to see Don. And see he
was healthy. We ran into a blizzard on
the way home & spent the night creeping
along the roadway. I fell to sleep.

Next day I checked on Esther and she was
OK, but never came home. She went back to
Violas. Now she & Jean were together. I will
never know.

There was a family down the road from us
that were known for trouble, they had a boy

16

About 13. Named PAUL that was Always hanging
AROUND Uncle Oles. He AND Another boy.

VALENTINE SMITH pushed AN old CAR top into the
River + it SANK. VALENTINE WAS DROWN. There were
hours before they found him. His FATHER
Found him knee-deep mud. Everyone said
PAUL killed him because there was NO
water in his lungs. FRANK + mom had
the mom + dad at the house before the
body was found offering them Whiskey + use
AND Coffee. FRANK was DRUNK making AN
ASS OF HIMSELF. IN the process MR
SMITH had left behind his hat at our
house. I knew where they Lived so AFTER
A few days I WAS on my way to return
it AND this dog came running at me.
He had a hold of my leg biting into it.
The owner came out + Stopped. When I cried
all the way home. Mom went to my
Aunt AND called the police. The Sheriff
took us to the hospital AND they told him
to go quarantine the dog. I had stitches AND
was told I needed Rabies shots. To be safe.
The dog died, he had rabies. AND I had A
Shot Everyday for 5 days AND my belly
the needles were long AND they HURT.
I got teased A lot at school. The Kids

Would Say Run She's got Rabies.

I was Always the class clown, I got a lot of hours sitting in the hall for talking during class. But making the other kids laugh was my only happiness I had. One day about 1/2 hour before the class was dismissed for the day the teacher announced that she was going to leave the room and I could have the class to tell jokes til the bell rang. I had everyone laughing all the time. I felt so full of happiness and the kids asked if I could do that again. She said "NO" so I did it during class and spent more time in the hall.

One day I was at the park, just trying to stay away from the house when Jim Chavez, Paul's older brother, the one connected to the drowning well Jim was about 18, here I was 13, he grabbed me and threw me to the ground, said to take off my pants he was going to fuck me. I tried to run, I couldn't scream I was so scared. Then I heard a voice say leave her alone Jim, it was my cousin Eddie getting water. I never played at the park again.

I just seemed like something happened all the time and I didn't have Esther

12

To protect me anymore.

At school we were given plastic flutes for music and a book on the notes to play. I would get up early and sit on the front steps and play my flute and watch the barges go down the river. I often wondered where they were going & wanted to be on one. Sometimes on the weekends I would watch people ride horses down by the river. I wondered how much fun it would be to have fun like that.

Mom had a small dog named Tricksey. She was kept in the bathroom all the time chained to the stool. I wanted to walk her but Frank said "No" stay away from her. I used to sit on the stool and pet her. I could see in her eyes she hurt as bad as I did. I gave her water because no one else did.

One day she disappeared. I was told she got loose and ran away. Fact is she died and they put her body down the sewer opening outside the house. Mom said she was still alive when they did it. But dying. I cried a lot over that. I wondered if they could do that to me.

13

I Felt helpless, AND Alone, That poor helpless dog lived like I did. Alone, no one who loved

me, Dad, Esther, Lewis & Dan were ALL gone

I was Alone in the world, AND I lived with 2 people I hated AND were AFraid of.

I went to Aunt Dorothy crying, I told her I wanted To die, just like Tricksey I was going to die if I never got Away From mom

& Frank. I asked her to help me

AND she did!

Another Chapter of Life Jean

A few days later Jean showed up, telling mom she wanted to take me for a visit at her house. I'm sure it wasn't a hard decision to make. I was just a burden to her anyway.

I didn't have to pack, my belongings all fit in a box, I had lived like that for years. I didn't even own a toothbrush.

The fear of being put down the sewer was gone, I was finally free from them.

Jean called an attorney and got legal custody of me, I was 13, I don't remember birthday parties or gifts. No one ever had 1 for me. I had been to other people's parties but I never got one.

Jean lived in Nehawka NEBR. in a 2 story house. I liked her & Delmar (her husband).

She put me in school and took me to the goodwill for clothes and shoes. April was 8 new and mile 6. Jean told me she received money from Dad SSN til I was 18. So she bought me the things I needed & never had before. Toothbrush, shoes etc. I didn't know how to act having so many clothes. I even got baby doll pjs and barretts for my hair. I felt good knowing Dad was helping me get things from the grave.

2

Delmar worked At A Chemical plant in
 plattsmouth he had a few miles to drive back and
 forth, and Jean worked but was off work
 to have A Baby A few month Ago. So she had
 Lewis watch the Kids so she could return to
 work At American motor in Negr city I helped
 with April + Mike while he watched over Barbara
 the baby. I had Friends at School who
 All went Bike riding, but I didnt have A Bike
 but it sure looked like fun, they would
 ride over to my house to visit, I rode one
 of the Bikes, it was easy to learn. Oh how
 I wanted one

Sometimes on weekends we would All go to
 Omaha, to Goodwills, yard sales and Drive in parks
 We went to playland park, An amusement park
 open the Summer months I got to go on Big people
 Rides, It was lots of fun

Lewis found me A Newspaper job. the Lincoln
 Star, I got A Silver dollar for every New
 Customer I got lots of New ones And
 I was saving for playland park + yard
 Sales, Ice Cream bars After School etc
 And then Jean said Since April + Mike
 Following me on my Route I had to pay them
 I did All the work, I carried the papers, Collected
 Money I didnt Need them Following me

3

to deliver papers I was mad so I quit my job
I did the work, I collected money and I didn't
need them taking my money.

Seemed Jeaw was coming home later + later everyday
She rode to work with a friend of hers named
Ed Roddy, he & his wife Carol had 2 girls and lived
in the same town. Ed would bring Jeaw home and
sit and drink beer with her & Delmar. He was
always drunk.

Sometimes Delmar would start going to poker
parties after work, so now both of them was
gone a lot of the time, both coming home
drunk, and then they started fighting, not
just yelling, Jeaw would use a knife on him
and kick him around, he never defeated himself
either. I just hid, I had seen this too
many times before, and again I was scared
for them to come home.

One day Jeaw was home and Barbara went into
a seizure, her eyes rolled up into her head & she
was screaming, Lewis & I took her to Children's
hospital in Omaha, where they discovered a tumor
in her brain. They operated & she took a long
time before she could come home. After she returned
her hair fell out and now she was Jeaw's favorite.
Mike and April were put on the back shelf for
attention. Lewis & I would play hide & seek with

Them AND give them A lot of Attention.
We didnt go places anymore, Always home
while Jeaw & Delmar did their Seperate things
I guess you could say Lewis was Dad & I was
mom.

One night delmar came home drunk and told
me to go get something out of his Trunk.
I opened it AND there was A Bicycle in it
He won it in a poker Game AND gave it to
me. Well Jeaw wanted April to have it, but
it was too tall for her. Delmar said it was
mine AND the fight began, She kicked him
in the mouth AND his teeth went through
his chin. He had to go to hospital to
get stitches. Lewis took him.

I never touched the bicycle, it sat in the
garage for months. It seemed everything was
April, I didnt like her she told her mom every
move + Always getting me into trouble. Jeaw
would yell at me for the dumbest reasons, She told
me I was 13 and old enough to do dishes, laundry
AND feed the kids I wanted to play with
Friends After School but I didnt get to. Not
even on weekends.

Then the Big Blowup came, Delmar accused
her of cheating on him with Ed, I guess
Eds wife called him + said Ed wasnt coming.

5

home either. Jean beat him up and he said he was taking the kids and leave her. He and Ed got into a fist fight right there in the front yard. Ed told Jean it was over that he wasn't going to break up the family. Jean was so mad she decided to move to the country just outside plattsmouth where Viola lived. The house had 2 Bedroom, living room, Dining room & kitchen. It had a coal furnace in the basement that also took wood. A very Big yard and an old shed made of bricks in the back. The owners owned a Dairy Farm and our house was fenced in so the cows couldn't escape or come in our yard.

I had to sleep in the same room with Mike and April. So I had no privacy, I went to a country school about a mile away and April was always with me. It only had about 20 kids going there.

We took our lunch which I never ate, p+J sandwich and an apple. April got chips & fruit I never.

My teacher the only one Mrs. Husher lived in a small town near by, one day after school she kept me alone to talk, she knew I was unhappy and I told her why. She asked my mother name and where she lived and before I knew it she was bringing me letters from mom. I would write back and

6

She would mail them. Mom said Frank was working on an Elevator & fell off that he was totally disabled and in the Vets home in Lincoln NEBR. only to come home for short visits. And she sent me 45 Records of my favorite singer Frank. But I had to hide them from Jean so she wouldn't know I was writing.

One day Don shows up at Jean's, he was out of prison and needed a place to live. So now Don & I lived with her, Louis stayed in NE HAWA with a guy named Al Dosi that he worked for, but later moved to plattsmouth and took Louis with him.

Jean introduced Don to a gal she used to work with Joyce ese. tee is how you pronounce it. Joyce came from a well to do family who owned a Grocery store in a small town near by. Don was always gone with her, and I used to wash his car for 50¢ Every Saturday.

Soon after they were married & had a baby on the way. Don moved her down the road from us in a farm house.

Jean & Delmar would go to the horse races in Omaha on weekends, leaving me to babysit. Don would be with them and they never returned before 10 at night. Leaving me

7

to cook 3 meals, clean house AND watch 3 kids. I'm 13 I can hardly keep up with it ALL I wish Lewis was still there, he was 19 now AND I could use the help. When they came home if they were they were in A great mood, laughing telling all about the horses they bet & how they went out to eat & had A great time. but if they lost, it was war zone time, blaming each other for their loss and finding things wrong with what I did & didn't do. April of course would tell everything I did, From Swat milk on the ASS OR make her help. I hated her, maybe because she was mummy's little tattle TALE or because she enjoyed seeing me cry. They never ever Brought home ANY left over I love Catfish AND they ate At Joe Tessos CATFISH house in Omaha.

Sometimes they went bowling, sometimes to wrestling matches AND Always I was stuck with the Brats. They never took us ANYwhere FUN, just To Viola's where the same old CRAP went on. Viola had a daughter Beverly who was 1 month younger than me. She was like April, she had everything, a howdy dooey Doll, canopy Bed, Bicycle, SKates. Jean used to compare me to her. Beverly knows this & that AND can put rollers in her hair, know how

8

To peel potatoes the right way, Well I thought IF I had been raised by a mother I would know these things Too.

One time I really made Bev mad when I told her I Sleep with April not A Dummy, which howdy Daddy was. She cried to her mom Jean thought it was funny. Esther had been living there but she went to our uncle John's house in Sheridan Wyoming for ~~Quilting~~, she was 16 now AND old enough to travel on a Bus Alone. I couldn't wait for her to return.

One day out of nowhere Ed roddy showed up, he was drinking as usual AND Jean told me they were going for a ride, that ride lasted til just before Delmar got home around 7. April + I were told To Not Say a word to him AND we didnt.

Jean planted a Big Garden It was huge, about $\frac{1}{2}$ Block long + wide, There were tomatoes, potatoes, carrots onions Cucumber, peppers you name it we had it. I was given the job of hoeing it ALL. After School + Week Ends.

Dan + Joyce would come visit ALL the

9

Cheryl L
Time And Bring the baby Cheryl L., they
would go to her mom's house for Groceries
AND money. Dow was Always At the
race track AND they were Always Broke
But I loved Dow + He told me if Jean is
mean to me to come to his house.

Our house had A Fenced in Barn where
the owners kept Hay + Grain for the
cows. It ALSO had A Bull in with them
We had chickens running ALL over AND they
would lay Eggs in that Barn. I had to
WATCH for the bull AND run real fast to
get the Eggs. AND That bull seemed to
Know I was there so here he came. I got
up in the top of the hay to get Away.
Sometimes it was AN hour before he left.
Everyone was laughing at me, but I got
the eggs.

It wasn't long before I had to skw chicken
for meals AND that was Gross, I could Not
Eat them. I ALSO had to dig potatoes for
meals, there were 6 of us so I had to have
A lot, some plants had A lot, but other didnt
AND it got hot AND cold out, AND I had
to wash them, peel them + slice them.

Jean would caw in the Summer AND
I had to peel the tomatoes, AND pick Green

Beans & clean them. I was Always
Tired. As A reward I got to watch
Sci Fi movies on Saturday nights.

I never got to go anywhere. I had
to watch the kids All the time
plus clean, cook hoe the garden And
laundry. I felt like A Slave.

Jeann would TAKE off (She said to
the horse races) during the day And
wanted Everything done So Delmar couldn't
tell she was gone, She was Actually
with Ed Roddy.

In One night Delmar brings home A large
Bottle of whiskey, A gift From one of the
guys At work, it WAS Near Xmas time
And some gave gifts. It sat in the Fridge
for a long time Since ~~no~~ no drank whiskey
At our house. We were going to go to
Delmar parent in Missouri For Xmas And
A Few days before we left Ed showed
up, I seen him take it out ~~it~~

And Took A Big Swallow putting it back
in the back of Everything before they left

Just the night before we were to leave
Delmar noticed it open. He Asked Jeann who
opened it, She said it must have been
Marilyn, He was really mad, he said well

11

Let's let her have it All AND made me sit at the Table AND Drink it til I passed out, I woke up AND I had peed my pants, I was on the Kitchen Floor Soaked in whiskey & pee. I crawled to my bed But couldn't get up, in it so I slept on the Floor. Early next day they wanted to leave I couldn't walk, Delmar drug me to the car & put me in the back seat. I was so thirsty for water but didn't have any. I could hear them Eating chips AND Snacks but I could see anything, my head was spinning, I woke up At Delmars Mom, She was A Nurse. When they told her what happened She gave me something to help me. She was all upset because As she said Marilyn could die from this. She put me to Bed AND Fed me, the next day I was better, but it took 2 days to come out of it.

Delmars Sister Donna was there, She owned A Prime Store, She had gifts for everyone AND even me. I got new Slack, Shirts AND panties. Which Jean took From me For April, Even tho they never fit her.

I told Jean I was going To tell Delmar About Ed being there AND She threw me up Against the wall AND threatened me Saying I got custody of you. AND you do AS I say or you

will be put in A girls home where they Lock you up tilh your 18. Keep your mouth shut.

Delmar + She Fought ALL the time, AND I didnt get Anywhere them when they did. When Delmar asked her what she had done ALL Day She would get mad AND throw things AND he asked me what she did + I just looked AT him, Not SAYING A Word.

Once the family went To town To the dairy Queen, the little ones got Dilly bars AND I wanted A BANANA split. Jean got mad AND you can only have 1 Dilly Bar. Delmar started A fight, why cant she have A BANANA split Jean got out + Order 4 BANANA splits AND gave them to me. Eat them ALL or I will beat you to A pulp. I Ate ALL I could make + April were laughing at me. I split 2 on purpose AND helped me eat them. I hate BANANA splits To this very day.

Don + Joyce had To go to her moms for A week OR so because of A death in her family. Jean loved that, She immediately went to their house + Broke in TAKING Any-thing + Everything including Joes nicest clothes. She hid the clothes under her

13

old clothes on a hanger in the closet. you could see them, the expensive stuff she put in the attic of our house. When Dan returned Joyce came to the house, I hid from her, I wasn't much of a liar. And I loved her & Dan. She seen me through the window and I had to let her in. I told her the truth, and she said she wouldn't tell on me, the kids were asleep so I gave her clothes back. Jean never did notice them gone, they didn't fit her anyway.

One night they got into it big time, Jean told me to get in the car, and we drove off to NBR City & she checked into a motel & called Ed. He came over and gave me money to leave. So I went & got soda and walked to mom's.

She brought me so I wouldn't tell Delmar about Ed, I'm sure of that. But I didn't have to. Delmar found us, I was watching TV when he arrived late at night. I left the room went outside while the fight went on. Ed took off running to his car & Jean started yelling & hitting Delmar. He told me to get in the car, so I did, he drove us home and was trying to get all the info he could get from me. He got real mad and started hitting me. I kept telling him I didn't know anything. I knew Jean would send me to girls prison if I did.

14
62
Somehow they were together again
And that was not what I expected,
Again he forgave her and life went on.

I watched her sitting at the table one
day, long curly hair, she looked old for a
30 year old. She had a hole in her front teeth
looked like a drill went in there. She had a
fat butt and no boobs. God how I hated
her. And Delmar.

I don't recall what happened but during a
fight one night I walked way down to Don's
house crying, it was dark + spooky and country
gravel road at least 2 miles away. Don + Joyce
said I could live with them and it took Jean
nearly a week to find me. I helped Joyce
with the baby because she was pregnant
again. They had to carry water from a well
and I had the mules to do it. Joyce told
me she was leaving, Don because he
wouldn't work, not to tell him. So I didn't.

Don had a talk with Jean, and she agreed
to stop beating on me and fighting all the
time. Well I never got beat but no TV
or popcorn on Saturday night.

It was Valentine's day and Jean bought
a chain saw for Delmar to cut firewood
for the furnace. Well Lewis worked for Al.

15

posi, who had Timber land About 10 miles Away. Al Agreed to let Delmar have All the trees he Wanted About 10 Acres of them. All our yard Was Cut Wood, piles of it. Then he got the genius + idea of Selling it, He found A place in Omaha that Bought it for 50¢ A cord. That's like 6ft high and 10ft long. Now Jean made me go Split Wood in the Timbers because she was pregnant, she would drop me off early, and Delmar would come get me + the wood I split. I had water + peanut Butter sandwiches, and to some point it was nice to get away from it ALL. I did this All Summer; when there was wood to split, sometimes I had to stay home and do the household work. I had nothing to do with April + Mike, I stayed away from them. Sometimes it would be 11pm before I finished dishes, I sat outside Staring at the Stars wanting to fly up there.

Jean knew her baby belonged to Ed, + so did I. She took A bunch of pills to get rid of it, she vomited + started Bleeding bad. Delmar took her to the hospital. So now I had 3 kids, housework, dishes, ironing + cooking Laundry and No help. Don Stopped by to tell us Joyce Lett him, and he helped me out. There was A bad storm coming and A tornado watch. Don stayed with me and

he could see I was about at Witts end
He told me. S. I will get you out of
here somehow. but he didn't. He stayed
a few days and left.

I turned 15, ready for my 9th grade
and I'd have to go to town 15 miles away
to go. Jean me drop out, said there was
no way to get there.

Esther just returned to Uoles and
she came out to see if I could go to
Uoles for the night & go to the movies.
Jean said yes but we had to take
April (the moath) she knew April would
tell her everything we said. When April
fell to sleep we went outside and I
told her everything. She told me to run
away and call Aunt Dorothy. But it was
coming winter and I was too scared.

When Jean went in to have her baby
Delmar started feeling my boobies, and
bought me a purple dress, I tried to
stay near April so he would leave me
alone but he never. One day the kids
were asleep and I packed a few things
to eat and I left a note of good-
bye & walked out. It was cold, very
cold but to me freezing to death was a

17

Not Better than my life I Found AN old house
No one lived in. I went up Stairs to A Bedroom
And SAT ON the Floor & Fell to Sleep, when I
Woke up, it was Dark AND I imagined Ghosts
Being in the house So I went WAKING Again
in the Dark, I had A Flashlight WITH me,
It Started Snowing, AND Remb me I Never Stayed
in from the weather, why did I do this in the
Cold, I didnt want to go BACK, I Knew Jean
was coming home today, AND I didnt WANT to
be there.

I came upon A Farmhouse, I could see lights
ON the inside, so I went to the Barn AND Found
A stack of hay I was cold & hungry, AND
Fell to Sleep

I Awoke To Flashlights in my Eyes, it was
the owner with cops. they Ask me if I
was Marilyn, AND I had to tell them. They
SAID my sister was looking for me. I told
them I wanted to go to my Aunts AND why
but they made me go back to Jean's.

I was Shocked to see Mom there, Jean had
Went AND got her so I wouldnt be Able to
Find her if I had made it All the way
The cops told her what I had Said, AND
She called me A liar, saying I lied All the
time, she said she had custody of me, AND they

18

Left. And All hell Broke Loose.

She grabbed by my hair AND pulled into her room. Using a Belt that WAS made with Beads designed into an INDIAN Design She hit me & hit me & threw me Across the room. I thought I was going to die. I just lay there and took it. Then mom came in and said thats Enough Stop Jean said you want this Little Bitch Shes yours. And I was thrown out the door, mom had Delmar take us home, no clothes nothing. She yelled you will be Begging to come back here, I can Bet on that. I thought No I wont, Id rather be dead then to ever return here. I hurt so Bad, I was Bleeding from my Arms, Legs and head. It took Forever to get to moms, but it was A welcome ride I was Free From it ALL, Cleaning, babysitting & Cooking and most of Delmars Fostling me. It would Never happen Again or So I thought boys oh boy life throws some terrible things at me. IF only I could see into the Future. How Wrong I WAS