

Canadian Twins

A short story by Haley Roxanne Blake

Once upon a time in Ottawa, Canada, a car came speeding down a stone street and into the birth center. That morning twins were born. They were two beautiful girls with curly black hair and heavenly blue eyes that seemed to say love and peace at a tone so sweet.

They were named Lisa and Lilly. From the time they were taken home their bond with each other was strong enough to take down a brick wall.

For the first few months everything was just about perfect in the Jaimiey household. On the girls’ first birthday was when their lives took a bad fall. The mom and dad burst out in a terrible fight about who should cut the cake. They coldly decided to leave each other and each take one of the twins.

The girls almost cried themselves to pieces that day. They could hardly bear the pain of saying goodbye in their soft baby voices. The mother took Lilly deep into Ottawa City. The dad and Lisa drove for days to get to Winisk in Ontario. Separating them was a huge Canadian forest that insisted on keeping the twins apart forever.

After moving to the city the mother bought a town house. To Lilly’s delight her mother got her a scrub jay in which she tamed and named Hyper. He became her best friend as her mother went to work as a florist. That was just fine with Lilly. She liked to put on make-up, do her homework, and read.

About 800 miles away lived Lisa and her father. They found a house, a barn, and a huge slice of land. They also bought a handful of animals including horses, dogs, cats, cows, sheep, goats, chicken and roosters. Lisa had fun getting home-schooled and even more fun riding and tending to the horses. For work her dad sold eggs, milk, and wool, and traded and sold animals.

Years pass, thoughts do not. Both girls grew up with a suspicion and a curiosity about their babyhood. Both held very tightly to the memories that they had, wondering if the past was not what they had come to know...

One day when Lisa was 11 years old she found out a secret that changed her life. Lisa and her father each got a horse and brought them into the barn to groom and tack them up for a ride in the woods. Lisa picked a gray boy named Winter and her father picked a reddish-white female named Summer Snow. Father and daughter decided to ride without a saddle. They got their helmets and mounted their horses.

The trails were beautiful with the green, lush trees smelly wonderfully of fresh pine. Rays of sun broke through the leaves creating warmth. Everything shed off a cozy feeling. Lisa smiled and her father suddenly stopped, his face looking sorry all over. He mumbled something that made her want to faint.

“You have a twin and a mother.” Then it all caught up with her. The crying. The hugging. The laughter identical to hers. She did have a twin! She was so surprised that she kicked Winter a little too hard. He took off at a fast run and the only thing she could do was direct him to the barn because like herself, he never stopped until he absolutely had to.

The same day Lilly was having her share of surprises too. She was looking through an old photo album. She had to find a picture of herself as a baby for a school project. She was flipping through the pages when she saw a picture of two newborn babies. Both of them were identical.

She shifted her glance to the bottom of the picture. There in her mother’s scrawl it said, “left to right, Lilly Lyn and Lisa Ann, Two very beautiful twins.” Lilly was speechless. Never had her mother mentioned her having a twin!

Without another thought Lilly typed in “Lisa Ann Jaimiey” on the family computer. The name came up positive and it showed her age and where she lived. Lisa was the exact same age as Lilly and lived about eight hundred miles away in Winisk.

Lilly wrote a quick note to her mom explaining why she was gone, then went upstairs to pack. Her plan was to trek out across the thick forest to Lisa’s house and explain the whole crazy mess. She packed clothes, water, food, a compass, a map, a flashlight, a small tent, and a hair brush.

She decided to take Hyper along with her, so she got out his small travel cage and some of his bird food. She laced up her hiking boots and headed out the door. She had to see her twin.

“Easy, whoa” Lisa called out to Winter. They were at the barn. Lisa knew her father was probably coming very slow. He didn’t like to hover and Lisa liked that about him. He probably would be home in about two hours.

Lisa knew where her twin was. She remembered when she was little that her father had said they were in the city of Ottawa. “This will not be easy,” she told herself and she slowed Winter down to a halt. “I will have to be very fast and quiet, too.”

Her idea was to ride across the forest to her twin’s house. Although her father had forbid her to, she was going to ride Breaking Dawn, a lovely light palomino thoroughbred who had just been in her first race. She had gotten a magnificent first place and was worth a lot of money due to speed and her good breeding. She was very fast, but was very gentle, too. Lisa knew she could handle her.

After taking off Winter’s bridle and putting him in his stall, Lisa went to her room to pack. She packed very light because of the horse she would be riding. She put a change of clothes, a comb, her toothbrush and toothpaste, a blanket, and some food in a backpack that would sling over one shoulder. In a saddle bag she stored water, a hoof pick, some horse treats, a horse brush and Dawn’s halter and lead rope.

Then Lisa tacked up Dawn in an English saddle and a comfortable bridle. She tested the weight of everything and concluded that it was not too heavy. She mounted up onto Breaking Dawn and heeled her into a trot. Dawn was glad to be moving but did not strain on the reins to go faster. Lisa had chosen a good horse for the ride but would Dawn make it all the way to Lilly’s house?

Lilly let out a sigh. She had been walking for what had seemed like days. Lilly was in her small tent with Hyper, who was sitting contently on Lilly’s knee. Darkness had set over the land and Lilly guessed it was about eight-thirty at night. She was just about to turn off her flashlight when she realized that she was hungry.

She dug into her bag and pulled out a bottle of water and a bag of potato chips. Chips were not her usual food, but they were one of her favorites. She was planning to get up early, have a banana, then, pack her tent and start going again.

Her goal was to make good time. Without a final thought, Lilly flipped the switch on the flashlight and was asleep before her eyes closed.

Lisa jolted awake when a muffled thump hit the ground. She panicked for a second, then realized that it must have been Breaking Dawn. Lisa had tied her to a tree nearby. She turned her head around to see Dawn rolling around on the ground. In other words, scratching her back. Lisa walked over to the horse and untied the rope.

She gazed at her surroundings and guessed that she and Dawn were about half way to the half way mark. Lisa had been very right to pick Dawn. The race horse was very up to the challenge of getting Lisa to Lilly. The two quickly trotted for most of the way. Sometimes Lisa had let Dawn canter or gallop. Breaking Dawn was a very good horse. She had been trained well. She paced herself and obeyed most all commands, even the unclear ones.

After feeding Dawn her breakfast of oats, grass, and water, Lisa packed up the stuff. As soon as she saw a ray of sunlight peeking in through the trees, she was off in the way of Lilly’s house. She knew that the trail was dangerous. Even with a reliable horse like Breaking Dawn. She hoped to make it through the forest and not get in trouble afterwards. But now there was another thought that wandered into Lisa’s head. What if she didn’t make it through the challenging forest? She pushed that thought out of her mind as she and Dawn pranced down the trail of pine needles and greenish-yellow grass.

Chirp! Lilly opened her eyes to find herself sprawled out on the ground. Hyper’s cage was on its side about a foot away from her body. Hyper was tweeting wildly, apparently frightened about being on the ground and Lilly on the ground with him. The girl reached out to the bird and set the cage upright. She pushed herself up from the forest floor and sat there where she was.

After pondering the day for a minute she decided that she had collapsed. She had been trying to make good time, but ended up not getting enough sleep or enough food and water. At first she was upset with herself for trying to be a hero. Then she was worried that she had wasted too much time.

She had not been on the ground long. Lilly was beginning to think badly of her choice to run away from her good life in the city and hike through eight hundred miles of forest to Lisa’s house. She knew that she could not turn back now. Since the little girl was still half asleep, she sent up her tent and closed her worried eyes, letting the sunlight fade away.

Some things were starting to go wrong with Lisa and Dawn. The palomino horse was getting some mud fever and not acting right. She would shy away from sweet Lisa and bite, acting as if she was a different horse. Lisa felt as if she and her horse were actually going slower, despite the fact that Lisa let the horse run full blast much more often.

Lisa decided to keep the mare under control for the ride tomorrow. The next morning Lisa packed up all the stuff and put the equipment on Breaking Dawn. The horse tried to bite her and when she put the saddle on and tossed her head while Lisa was putting the bridle on.

She mounted the horse and nudged her into a trot. Dawn ignored the command, even though it was crystal clear, and sprinted as fast as she could! Lisa was not in control of the fiery horse and she lost the stirrups and the reins. She made a wild grab for the reins, but ended up falling to the ground.

She landed with a soft bump and it hit her! She knew why Dawn was acting so weird. Lisa wasn’t giving the race horse enough love! She pushed herself up from the dirt and ran after Dawn, who was now trotting a teasing trot, as if challenging Lisa to come after her.

When Lisa got to Dawn (which was pretty fast because she was a good runner) she hugged and stroked her, telling her what a beautiful, great horse she was. Dawn melted into Lisa’s arms and snorted in content. After a few minutes Dawn allowed Lisa to swing herself into the saddle and touch her with her heels gently. Then they were off, going at a gentle trot.

Lilly was pretty tired at the end of the day. She had gotten up at a reasonable hour after being refreshed and then set off on a good pace. Now she was looking for a small clearing to set up camp for the night.

She was starting to miss the comforts of home. Stuff like a warm bed, clean food, showers, and good places to use the bathroom. She was getting kick of sick of using Mother Nature for life. “Oh well,” she thought. “I’ll be over and done with it sometime soon.”

After a long day of riding a perfect horse, Lisa was exhausted. Although Breaking Dawn had done most of the work, Lisa was probably just as tired from moving with the horse and getting on and off so much. She found a clearing and easily set up her blanket and tethered Dawn to a tree. They both nodded off in comfort as the red sun set lightly in the distance.

Lilly was now very tired. She stumbled through the roots and thorns with a sleeping Hyper in his small cage. Finally, she spotted a clearing! She was surprised when she saw that someone was already there, but was too tired to introduce herself. She got out her tent and went to sleep easily in it, dreaming of the one day that she would see her lovely twin, Lisa Ann.

In the morning both girls awoke next to each other. They screamed and cried in joy like a million stars shining a bright white, blinding anyone who dared to look. They hugged and danced, showing as much feeling as a world bank filled with money. But no amount of money could bring them apart for any length of time. They loved each other as much as everything. They were Canadian twins.

Epilogue

By then the parents had a helicopter searching the forest. The girls were quickly found. They made a choice and sold the town house, their full home becoming Lisa’s barn and a piece of land called Dreamland. They all take rides during the week. Dad riding Summer Snow, Mom riding Winter, Lisa riding Breaking Dawn (who was now her very own horse), and Lilly riding her own racehorse, a black male named Twilight. The girls got home-schooled and Lilly became a farm girl. Breaking Dawn and Twilight had a beautiful red baby who was named at birth by the twins, Flaming Comet. Life was good for the two black-haired, blue-eyed twins. Life was good for the Canadian twins.

Haley Roxanne Blake lives in Salem and will be 11 years old in June.