



The Parkers were living the idyllic life until they were struck by not one but three tragedies, all involved James Martin in one way or another. When all is said and done, they came out ahead.

Misplaced Anger

By Lois Kerr

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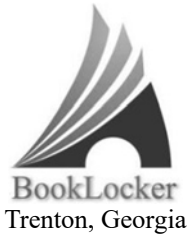


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Chapter 8

Everyday life for the Parker family took a while to come to pass. The school was out for the summer so keeping busy became a challenge. A lot of sleepovers kept the twins busy for at least a couple of days a week. Their friends sensed they needed a good distraction.

Sharon started meeting again with her quilting and stitching friends. Sewing was one of her passions so at least that was one thing that made her happy.

Laura also picked up a couple of houses to clean. She was determined to pull her weight. Every dollar helped. That would be truer than she could have imagined.

Again Miss Peg took care of the Parkers. She gave her entire staff a raise so giving Sharon and Laura a large one didn't raise any questions. Sharon felt they were back on track with the twins' college funds. She didn't want them in debt when they got out of school.

Once school started back the twins were pretty busy. As usual, their grades were at the top of their classes so they, too, were back on track.

As the years ticked by, the grief of losing David started to calm down. At first, Jeremiah would wake up screaming. He never had nightmares before David died. After about a year and talking to the parish priest the nightmares eventually stopped. That was the year they also heard about early college classes. They could take them right along with their high school classes. The significant part about the program was that the class costs were included in their high school tuition. So, instead of paying \$75-150 a credit hour in college, the cost was barely felt.

At this point, the twins had turned fourteen and were pretty sure what their career path would be.

Jeremiah was determined to become a master chef, studying around the world. He decided he would own a high-end restaurant. You know, the kind where you need reservations and still may have to stand in line.

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Elizabeth was determined to work herself up to a PA (Physician's Assistant). With her grades, there was no doubt she would get there.

With some classes under their belt, they were both on their way to their dream.

Chapter 23

Word did quickly get out that James Martin had been arrested and the reason for it. The tow truck with the car on the bed was seen going down the street. An ambitious reporter followed it to the police impound. The story ballooned from there. Reporters find things out that most people can't imagine.

Bailiff: "All rise. The Honorable Brandon Matthews presiding. (Pause.) Be seated."

James appeared in court on Monday morning for his arraignment. He didn't have a lawyer yet so he had a public defender, Greg Daily, represent him for this. The courtroom was full of James' friends. James pled "Not Guilty" to all counts.

Judge: "Issue on bail?"

Prosecutor Lenny Jacobs: "Your Honor, Mr. Martin has a lot of wealthy acquaintances with the ability to aid him to flee this court's jurisdiction. Due to the serious issue of the crime we request remand."

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Greg Daily, Public Defender: “Your Honor, that’s extreme for a mostly hearsay case. We request reasonable bail.”

Judge: “Sorry, Mr. Daily, I agree with Mr. Jacobs. After all these years of freedom I’m sure Mr. Martin would rather be sitting on a beach in the Bahamas. He would probably be there before you could blink instead of sitting in jail. We’ll go for an early trial. Mr. Martin, you will stay in jail until then. Court dismissed.”



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