

THE DUPLEX BABIES

The twins had been a source of joy and speculation for three or four weeks to Mrs. Branhill and her husband...

Mr. Branhill was interested in the twins simply because they would have interested anybody. As they were wheeled past the Branhill cottage...

"I wish I knew who she was," said Mrs. Branhill to her husband one evening. "She looks so dignified I'm afraid to speak to her..."

"They're mighty cunning babies," said Mr. Branhill. "I suppose she takes them for an airing in the park..."

"Naturally I want to know everything about her. I want to know their names and what she feeds them and how old they are..."

"How do you know they are not boys?" Mrs. Branhill looked at him scornfully, but vouchsafed no other reply.

"Then why don't you ask her and find out?" "I did bow one afternoon, but she looked up so coldly and bowed to me in such a freezing manner..."

"It would tickle you to death, and you know it would. Here they come back now the same way, but she's traded carriages or something."

"She has, hasn't she? But that isn't the woman—surely not. There's the twins, though. Why, Fred, those are not the twins—it's another set!"

"It was another set and another young mother, and the eyes of these twins were blue, their hair flaxen—what there was of it—and their gender masculine."

"Did you ever hear of anything like that?" said Mrs. Branhill. "Why, I suppose there is more than one pair of twins in Chicago," said Mr. Branhill.

But the remarkable thing was that from that day the blue eyed babies were driven daily past the Branhill cottage as regularly as the brown eyed pair...

"Now, I should say there was a special Providence in this thing if it wasn't for that half hour of difference," said Mrs. Branhill, musing, with a prospective eye.

"I wonder whether they don't pass somewhere. I suppose not, though. They probably miss each other by about a minute. That's the way it is in this life; we miss things."

"I wonder whether they don't pass somewhere. I suppose not, though. They probably miss each other by about a minute. That's the way it is in this life; we miss things."

But Mrs. Branhill's estimate of the ways of Providence was not well based after all, for about two weeks ago Mr. Branhill, looking up the street, and Mrs. Branhill, looking down the street, both simultaneously exclaimed, "Here come the twins!"

And, sure enough, this time the blue eyed and the brown eyed were approaching from opposite directions and would soon meet. Mr. Branhill carefully measured the distances with his eye and then turned to his wife and said, "I believe they will hit just about here."

The little woman made no reply. She was too absorbed in her own calculations, but in a moment she said in her turn: "I'll just bet you that they meet right in front here. I wonder if they will stop?"

"How could they help it? As the Branhill had predicted, the two mothers, with their duplex offspring, met in front of the cottage and no introduction was necessary."

Mother of the brown eyed and mother of the blue eyed: "Why, if you haven't got your little twins?"

"They smiled divinely, pushed their carriages alongside of each other and began to talk. Mrs. Branhill, who had been looking forward from her seat eagerly, had eyes shining. Then, moved by an irresistible impulse, she stepped down and a minute later, with one example of each family."

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In one arm, she called to Fred to come down to look. And a little after that all four of the babies were kicking their fat little legs on a shawl spread on the neat little Branhill lawn...

The shawl on the lawn is now almost a regular afternoon institution. You can see it any time you may happen to go down the street, with the two mothers and Mrs. Branhill in attitudes of adoration at the edges, while Uncle Fred smokes his pipe on the porch...

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WILMINGTON AND WELDON RAILROAD. CONDENSED SCHEDULE.

Table with train schedules for Wilmington and Weldon, including dates, times, and stations.

Atlantic & N. C. Railroad TIME TABLE No. 14.

JULY 18, 1900.

Table with train schedules for Atlantic & N. C. Railroad, including stations and times.