



Reluctant Press

James or Jamie or Ann?

Jamie



ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHAS

A 'HER TV' NOVEL

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Reluctant Press TG Publishers

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JAMES OR JAMIE OR ANN?

By Jamie

James grew up in the rural part of York, Maine. Rural part? Back in the early sixties, what else was there? Maine was *totally* rural.

James was the youngest child, and the only boy, in his family. The children were born just a year apart, so Veronica was two years older, and Mary was just one year older. They enjoyed a peaceful country-style youth, separated from the fast-paced world around them.

James enjoyed sports and he got involved in many of the school activities. His small stature made him very versatile, and extremely agile. He was always sought after as a teammate for any of the baseball, softball and volleyball games played on the beaches, when the tide was out. He was like a fish when in the water, preferring pools or ponds to the frigid temperatures of the Atlantic Ocean along the Maine coast.

The three children got along quite well. James achieved a lot of knowledge of the ways that teen-aged girls dressed and acted because his older sisters were very vain and very feminine. They were anxious to look and act like sexy, grown-up ladies and were not intimidated by a younger brother always being there, under foot.

Their mother wanted all of her children to have some education in the field of entertainment and she loved music, so the children were urged to learn to sing, dance, or play an instrument. James was a typical boy, always wanting to be active and he loved to watch movies with lots of music and dancing. One day, he asked his mother if he could learn to tap dance and she booked him into a dancing school that very day. He missed a few games on the beach, but in just a few lessons he became very proficient at tap dancing and he continued the lessons for nearly a year.

In high school, James became interested in acting. He participated in several stage plays which the students wrote and directed. They used a couple of the plays as fundraisers for their class treasury and they also performed to raise money for special school equipment. The drama group benefited with special lighting and their school was a pioneer in the field of computer sciences.

The school set up an optional computer course and James fell in love with the “magic” of those sophisticated machines. He was always in demand to help solve problems with the computers, or with some student’s special computer project.

When he was a senior, the drama group selected a play depicting a very athletic female character. They had several girls trying for the lead part. As rehearsals got under way, the number of girls vying for that part decreased until one day not a single girl showed up to rehearse for the female lead. The directors asked some of them why they had dropped out and the answer was their desire was to play the part of a pretty girl, not a “tomboy”. This character was a rough and tumble boyish-acting female and that was the opposite of what the girls wanted to depict; they were at an age when they were evolving into pretty young ladies. The play character would become a beautiful girl at the very end of the play, but that was not enough to encourage anyone to take that role.

James was understudying the male lead. The part called for a large powerful male and James was ruled out because of his size. His acting ability and experience made him an important backup person, though. When they ran out of female candidates for the heroine's part, they asked James to fill in temporarily at rehearsals. They assured him that they would recruit an acceptable actress in plenty of time to have her ready for opening night. About two weeks before the dress rehearsal, there still was no actress for the leading lady's part. The director took James aside and asked him to take the part. He told James that he was well-prepared for it, and now he would only have to learn to speak, dress, and act feminine enough to pull off an impersonation of the leading lady. He explained that there wasn't time enough to hold all of the rehearsals required to train a new leading lady.

There was a lot of bargaining and many refusals on James' part, but finally the whole cast collectively asked him to bail them out by becoming their “leading lady”. James finally agreed to give it his best try. From that point on, there was an abundance of his girl classmates anxious to assist James with his part. Extra sessions of the drama group were held, just to familiarize James with how to act the part. They told him how to dress, how to act, how to speak with a girl's voice and encouraged him to let his hair and nails grow.

His older sisters, now out of high school, were still living at home and going to the local branch of the state technical college. They got into the spirit of the situation and coaxed their parents to help by giving James permission to practice his part, by becoming “Jamie” at home. His sisters assumed the responsibility of training James to be a girl. They now had only a little over a week to accomplish this transition.

The first instruction given to their trainee was for him to do exactly as they instructed. There was only a week until the dress rehearsal and there was not a minute to lose because of mistakes. “There isn't time for us to explain all of our orders. You will have to trust us, believe us, mimic us, and drop any embarrassment when we are present while you are undressed. You should take the whole week off from school, in order to spend that time practicing to be a girl. Your grades are excellent and your teachers will cooperate, so you have no problems created by missing a few classes. You told us that your teachers would send home your assignments, so while you are getting accustomed to this new life style, you can do your studying, and turn in your homework assignments. Margie from next door has offered to pick up and deliver all your assignments so, as we see it, there are no serious roadblocks, everyone is cooper-

ating.” The sisters, Veronica and Mary had varied class schedules, and one of them would always be home as “Jamie’s” coach for the week.

James was required to strip, bathe, and shave his whole body. His oldest sister, Veronica, was there to supervise his bathing and shaving, Mary was in her bedroom, selecting an initial outfit for her about-to-be younger sister. Veronica helped Jamie into a very feminine robe and ushered “her” down the hall to Mary’s room.

Mary started her instructions with a warning. “There is no time for reluctance, and it is imperative that you make this week totally productive.” She handed “Jamie” “her” first nylon panties and followed them with a pair of pantyhose. Veronica sat on a chair facing Jamie and insisted that Jamie watch as she put on her pantyhose. She then told Jamie to do her level best to follow that procedure to the letter. Mary had a pair of high-heeled shoes ready for Jamie to put on and watched closely while their straps were buckled around the ankles. There was a slight delay in the dressing process, while Jamie learned to stand, then begin to walk in those shoes with their three-inch heels.

As soon as Jamie could master the basic fundamentals of ladies shoes, they returned to the clothing. Mary had picked out a front-hook bra for Jamie and after it was secured on her chest, Veronica was right there, inserting bust pads into the bra cups. Mary handed Jamie a full slip and helped while Jamie was putting it on. Veronica went to Mary’s closet and retrieved the dress they had selected for Jamie. They produced a wig, jewelry, makeup, and perfume and when everything was properly installed, they let their transformed brother see the results in Mary’s full-length mirror.

James was really startled by the reflection in the mirror; there was no way that the person appearing in that reflection could actually be him. They must have found some way to reflect some pretty girl’s picture into the mirror for him to see. James told them to cut out the pranks; they had to be serious in order to make this plan work. Veronica told Jamie to lift up the bottom of the dress and slip and see if the girl in the mirror was wearing pantyhose over her panties or if the pantyhose were underneath the panties.

Jamie pulled up the dress and slip to find that the underwear was just as he had put them on. Veronica suggested that Jamie select an eye to wink without telling them which one or when the wink would occur. The beautiful girl winked the exact opposite of Jamie. There was no question; the sisters had done an excellent job of transforming their brother into a very lovely girl. James was quite anxious to date the girl he could see in Mary’s mirror.

The remainder of that day and evening were spent learning to walk and sit. They had Jamie make several clothing changes and remove and redo the makeup. Jamie was put to bed in a nylon nightgown, in James’s bed, which now had a set of satin sheets and pillowcases.

The next day, Mary spent the morning with her new sister and took her shopping for lingerie and dresses for Jamie to wear in the play. The exposure to the inside of a ladies specialty store was a shocking experience to James; he had never given much thought to where his sisters got all of the ultra-feminine clothing they enjoyed wearing.

The fact that Jamie had to model all of the clothing being considered for the play's costumes created a sudden panic, for two reasons. First, Mary had called the lady in charge of wardrobe for recommendations of style, color and skirt length, and the lady volunteered to meet Mary and Jamie at the store and assist in the selections. Second, Jamie was informed that one of the store clerks was going to be told exactly what was going to transpire in one of their dressing rooms. That would mean that Jamie would have to dress and undress in front of three women. Jamie was already dressed and in the car as they were on the way to the shopping mall. The instant panic was short-lived because there was no place to run and hide. Jamie asked Mary how she could even think of planning such an embarrassing situation, Why not leave Jamie dressed at home? Mary and the wardrobe lady could go to the store and make the selections.

Mary was stopped at a traffic light and took that time to explain that every article of ladies clothing created a different "look" on every person who tried it on. Selecting clothes for Jamie was even more of a challenge because there was no previous experience to direct them away from incorrect colors. There were the requirements of the play to consider and also the wardrobe lady had to be consulted while they were making their selections. As they continued on towards the mall, Mary further explained that dress manufacturers had never managed to create an exact dress size; every female had her own special size needs. Select three perfect size-twelve models, have them try on the very same dress and it would be a miracle if it looked right on more than one of them. There is a science involved in fitting clothing on females; it is a very complex science, and one that requires serious attention to detail, but it is also a science with no instructions to follow. The final solution, especially in Jamie's case, was to go to the dress shop and try on every article of clothing needed, in order to satisfy all of the requirements for fit, style, color and length. This same clothing must project the correct image that Jamie was to portray on the stage. A dress worn on the street might look perfect, but that same dress worn on a stage could be all wrong, because of the different lighting and the need to create a bolder, more distinct, look on stage. The jewelry must be larger to create a look which more delicate jewelry would accomplish on the street.

Jamie was really confused by all of this information. How was it possible to find even one dress that would satisfy all those needs? To make the problem even worse, they had to select two outfits and a spare. The spare was needed in case one of their carefully selected ensembles was ruled out because its color clashed with some other costume that would be on the stage at the same time, or if one of them got soiled, or damaged in some way during rehearsals. Mary explained that an actress has her own library of selection guidelines to assist her in assembling the costumes for her part in the play. This was the first time for Jamie, though, and they had to start from scratch.

Mary further explained that this same meticulous care would have to go into the selections of the sports, or "tomboy" clothing which they would also have to select this morning. They would shop for dresses in one store, then go to a sports shop for the "boyish" outfits. There were two scenes where Jamie would be wearing dresses and four requiring tomboy type clothing, so that would mean a minimum of eight outfits and all of the correct underwear to go with each costume change. "To complicate that requirement even more, this only covers your stage wardrobe. You will still need cloth-

ing to wear during your week of training and we will have to discuss what would be the most appropriate type of clothing for you to wear to and from the school auditorium and the two other show locations. It would seem practical for you to remove your street dress when you arrive at the school and slip into your first costume. When the play is over and people begin to mingle with the cast, it would be very simple for you to quickly shed the dress worn for the last few scenes, and slip into the dress you wore to school.”

Jamie had now listened to nearly a half-hour of Mary discussing Jamie’s wardrobe and with each sentence out of her mouth, Jamie seemed to sink further into a quicksand of female clothing. “There must be a simpler way of solving this task of playing the female lead in four performances.” Jamie complained about the complications that were surfacing. The play director had assured James that as far as he could see, it would be very simple for James to take over as the “leading lady”.

Mary told Jamie that the information came from a man, and just when did men start paying any attention to the complex world of females? “Your director most definitely has never had to deal with a situation where a man suddenly assumes the role of a woman. A female lead actress already has a multitude of clothing styles and colors that will compliment her figure and her color. She would also have a ton of lingerie to select from when coordinating it with the outfits required for her part in the play. A man placed in this same situation has to start from the beginning, because there are no clothes at all, and everything must be tried on for fit and to determine the correct colors to select for the performance.”

Jamie got cold feet and suggested that they turn around and go home right then. There were just too many problems to face, too many people involved, too many possibilities for James to get permanently hurt by the news leaking out that he was going to impersonate a female. After the fact, the newspapers could learn the truth and saturate the papers with stories and pictures of the “female impersonator”, “cross dresser”, or even worse the technical name, “transvestite”.

Mary parked the car just outside the mall, sat and looked at the very feminine person sitting beside her and shook her head. She told her brother that he really looked lovely as “Jamie” and that everyone who was involved in assisting with this monumental task was serious about its success and would endeavor to protect its secrecy. No one wanted James hurt socially by bad publicity and they desperately needed him to make the play a success, so every one would respect James’s need to keep the true identity of the leading lady a well-guarded secret.

Mary and Jamie met the wardrobe coordinator near the entrance to one of the leading retailers for ladies clothing. Phyllis was young and very pretty, but quite overweight and embarrassed about that fact. She had met James at rehearsals, but had to be introduced to “Jamie” and Mary. Jamie made the introductions because James was the only one that was able to recognize her. Phyllis recognized the voice, and was startled by the beauty of the lady, when Jamie spoke to her. She spent several minutes examining Jamie and also the clothing which Mary and Veronica had loaned her. There were many compliments about the shape of Jamie’s legs, well-shaped bust line, the nice way the wig had been shaped and last, but not least, the magnificent application of makeup.

Phyllis asked Jamie to be patient, to cooperate willingly, and not to question the costume selections. Also he was to be prepared to totally disrobe when required. Phyllis promised to respect James's privacy as much as possible, but she and Mary would not have time to leave the dressing room each time Jamie had to try on different selections of lingerie.

The clothing selection took about three hours; Jamie was put through the ringer, while Phyllis and Mary selected costume and everyday ensembles. Jamie was embarrassed many times as she was required to disrobe in front of the two making the selections and the sales clerk that was assisting Jamie with the modeling. Mary had a mid-afternoon class. She began to get nervous and was anxious to wrap up the modeling.

They filled the back seat of Mary's car with packages and hurried home. Veronica was there to greet them and help Jamie carry in all of the packages. She had to see every article of clothing as its package or bag was opened; it took over an hour for Jamie to put everything away and clear away all of the packaging material. The sisters insisted that "Jamie" should move into the guest bedroom and not mix her clothes with those in James's bedroom.

Breakfast had been at an early hour, in order to get Jamie bathed and dressed and off to the Mall to meet Phyllis and now mealtime was long overdue. Veronica and Jamie had a leisurely lunch, then Jamie was taken on a tour of a nearby beauty salon and arrangements were made for the beautician to give Jamie "The Works" on Thursday afternoon. Their next stop was to pick out a supply of makeup items. Veronica explained that the colors and tones of her and Mary's makeup were not correct for Jamie's complexion and definitely were not right for the clothing which Phyllis and Mary had selected.

The final stop on the afternoon shopping trip was to select the needed basics such as a supply of panties, bras, slips, pantyhose and shoes. When all of these items were added to the bureau, closet and vanity of the guest room, the room really took on the appearance of a ladies bedroom.

Twice each school day, Margie came to the house to provide messenger service between Jamie and his/her teachers. She was in the Junior class and had a crush on James. She insisted on seeing Jamie at each visit and this was amusing to the rest of James's family. James was anxious to keep up his Honor Roll standing and had to suffer through the embarrassment of each of Margie's visits.

Mary and Veronica kept Jamie busy all week long and as the time approached for Opening Night, Jamie felt like a model must after a long siege at a fashion show. It seemed that every hour of every day was used up learning to change clothing and makeup to fit their daily tasks and also to be able to make all of the changes needed in the play. The sisters were real taskmasters; it would be difficult to imagine Jamie being able to handle the assignment of Leading Lady without the training given by his two sisters.

In just one short week, James had made a complete character change. He was hopeful that the return of James would not leave him with any permanent mental or physical problems.

There were four performances: Thursday and Friday nights in the auditorium at the High School, a Sunday afternoon show at a large local Seniors' Home, and about two weeks later, the final performance was at the nearby seashore summer-stock playhouse. That performance was featured as their season opener.

James was stuck with the long hair and nails for nearly five weeks and the very next day after that final performance, you would have been able to find James as the first customer in the local barber's chair.

The reviews in the local papers were kind to James. They were filled with praise for the performance, the success of the play and careful not to create too much embarrassment for James playing the female lead.

The group in charge of the summer stock playhouse approached James with an invitation to join their ranks. High school was almost over, so joining the Playhouse group would be a simple transition. It would keep his acting career alive. James was going to be attending the local Technical College in the fall, so he was pleased to accept their invitation.

James was "The New Kid on the Block" at the Playhouse. He was overshadowed by the veteran members of the group with many years of acting experience. His initial duties were chiefly understudying and stagehand responsibilities.

One of the directors asked James for a special favor. He was putting the cast together for a play which included a lady tap dancer and there were no female members with tap dance experience. James knew exactly what the favor would be and interrupted the director to state that he enjoyed working with the group, that he had just suffered through almost five weeks, posing as "Jamie" for the high school play, and that was his limit.

The director was not surprised by the initial response from James, but he was not going to lose out on his chance to direct this challenging play. He made several more attempts to convince James to accept the lady dancer's part.

At supper that evening, James told his family that he was going to give up acting, and quit the Playhouse. They asked him what the problem was and he explained what the director wanted him to do. His sisters and parents offered encouragement and assistance, if he accepted the part. His mother was quite pleased that the dancing school training would be put to good use, even if it did mean that her son had to pose as a lady dancer. With all of the enthusiasm shown by his family, the director's continual pleading was too much for him to tolerate, and James accepted the role.

There were several places in the show where James would appear acting out a dance performance and as many more with James being a lovely young lady. The ladies' tap dance outfits were a lot different from the tomboy ensembles from the school play. Jamie had worn lots of shorts and jeans and finally, two pretty dresses. All of these costumes had required the well-padded bra. The tap dance costumes were very revealing and included one with a full skirt and petticoats under it; the other was a brief costume with hardly any skirt at all. In either case, they were cut to just barely cover the wearer's breasts. The lady in charge of wardrobe assured James that the makeup lady would be able to fix "Sally" up well enough so that the false breasts

would pass as the real things, at least on stage. The greatest challenge would be for James to practice tap dancing in high-heeled shoes.

One of the reasons that James accepted the part was because the director assured him that it would just be a Friday and Saturday two-night “filler”, for a gap in the “Name Brand” shows which were the bread and butter of the Playhouse.

The final night of the show there were representatives from several other New England Playhouses in the audience and they loved the show. Back stage after the show, they began to request that the show go on Tour of all of the playhouses in the Northeast. The manager readily accepted as he would get a percentage of the take and the play was booked for fill-in slots for the remainder of that summer season. This kept James tied up acting as the tap dancer, “Sally”, for almost eight months.

Can you imagine the problems and the teasing that a late teen male would get from his buddies if he had to portray a lovely female tap dancer? A one-time deal and the teasing is over and forgotten soon, but when forced to retain that lovely hair style for ten performances spread over a period of eight months, every time these so-called buddies saw James, they started in on their teasing vendetta. The stress and embarrassment would go clear off the chart.

James was stuck with the long hair because there wasn't time to get a haircut and have it grow out again for the next performance. Trying to wear a wig wasn't safe; it could come off while on stage, especially while performing some of the dance routines, or attempting costume changes between acts.

James was a very popular boy; everyone wanted and needed him to work for them. He had no permanent employment because of school and worked at odd jobs every spare minute. Mowing lawns, painting fences, caring for vegetable and flower gardens, splitting and piling firewood and working in the busy neighborhood garage. The long hair, with a permanent wave to create a lovely ladies hairstyle, must be kept clean, which meant being covered because of the type of jobs James would be doing. The safest way to protect it was with a hair net and covered with a kerchief. Putting it up in curlers and trying to protect it with a cap made an awful mess and required a shampoo and set to correct the damage.

There were ten performances in eight months, which amounted to a show about every three weeks. He was stuck with the perm and all of the grooming and care to protect it. The summer was a scorcher, the long hair was uncomfortable, the pools and ponds and the ocean warmed up enough to be very inviting. James would go in to cool off to reduce his body temperature. He couldn't dive in or swim under water; a bathing cap wasn't adequate protection, so he had to be satisfied with wading in and standing there while keeping his hair dry. If he forgot or someone pushed him under or if one of his buddies drowned him with a cannonball dive, he had hours of care to get his hair back in shape.

He spent many nights with his hair in curlers; then in the morning he had the ritual of removing the curlers and brushing and spraying his hair into shape. He tried leaving the curlers in during the day but his scalp began to itch and everyone would tease him about being a fairy or a sissy. It cost money to go to the hairdresser and his odd jobs couldn't cover very many visits, so it meant many nights in curlers.

The Fourth of July was a popular time for stage plays and all of the playhouses were booked to the rafters. James had three performances in eight days. He had shows on Saturday night, the 30th of June, on Wednesday the Fourth and again on Saturday the 7th. He hardly had any time to work that week and he really couldn't work unless he very carefully protected his hair and the long sculptured fingernails. He didn't want to be seen with the long nails and that meant wearing gloves everywhere. The cost of a new set of nails was prohibitive, so he had to stay inactive and inaccessible for the greater part of that week. His sisters tried to be helpful by inviting Jamie to accompany them on some of their shopping and sightseeing excursions and Jamie accepted a couple of times, but it meant dressing as a girl and acting the part.

The costumes had to be cleaned and ready for the next show. Mom was just super, she took care of all of the laundry. She washed, dried and folded all of it, then went out on her delivery route. She claimed that she delivered the lingerie to all three of her daughters and along the way she also dropped off her son's underwear. The guest room was still set up and reserved for Jamie and that was where she delivered the third "daughter's" unmentionables.

On the day of a performance, James disappeared and the day was spent preparing Jamie to become "Sally" the tap dancer on stage. Four of the shows were in southern New England; too far to go and return in a single day, so a motel was rented in the name of Jamie. Jamie would drive to the motel, get ready to go to the Playhouse and do the show. She would spend the night in the motel, then usually James found some way to sneak out to the car and drive home. A couple of times there were too many people around the motel and it meant that Jamie had to check out and drive home.

The three shows of Fourth of July Week were all close to home along the Maine coast, so Jamie could drive to those Playhouses and after the show, return directly home. There was a big party after the final performance and of course Jamie was expected to attend. There were several young men attending that party. They wanted to date Jamie and this presented quite a problem. Should it be announced that the star performer, "Sally", was actually James? The newspapers would have a field day with that and James would really get hurt. One of the ladies came up with a solution. Convincing Jamie to pay attention to her and presenting the picture of two ladies hitting it off would scare the guys away. Jamie liked the idea of pairing up with her. In fact, this was Lillian the girl that he married a short while later.

The playhouse used James in two other parts in their seasonal closing performances. Both of these characters were teen-aged boys.

The play that had James as the male lead was about a boy named Frank in his final year of high school. James was doing lots of odd jobs while studying to attain excellent grades in school. An elderly lady, one of his regular customers, accused him of stealing money from her. Frank was hauled into juvenile court and ordered to return the money. If he couldn't repay the amount stolen, then he would have to work it off doing odd jobs for this lady.

Two weeks later, Alice reported to her daughter, Grace, that more money was missing. Grace called on Frank and told him about this new problem and Frank was terrified. He didn't steal the money in the first place and definitely wouldn't have tried to

duplicate the alleged theft because that would most likely lead to a jail sentence. Going to jail would stop him from graduating and cause him to repeat Senior year.

James and Grace had a long talk and Grace agreed not to involve the police in this second incident until she could see if her mother was spending the money and forgetting that she had done so. Frank asked Grace if Alice replaced the lacing in her wallets, because he felt that the colors of the rawhide lacing seemed to vary.

Grace stayed with her mother, Alice, for a week and shortly after she moved in, she discovered who the culprit was.

Over the years, Alice's lifelong friend Jane had given Alice several leather wallets that were held together with rawhide lacing material. She assumed that Alice had always used the new one and had thrown out the used one. Grace decided to straighten out some of the bureau drawers and found four of the wallets under layers of Alice's lingerie in different areas of that large drawer.

All of the missing money was found, along with more that had also gotten lost over the last few years. Alice apologized to Frank. Grace and Frank went to see the juvenile judge and had him wipe out the record against Frank. Alice paid James for all of the time he had worked for free in an effort to make restitution for the money he had allegedly stolen. So here again, James got involved in a problem all because of ladies lingerie.

One of the managers at the playhouse was the nice young lady named Lillian. She handled the business arrangements between James and the Playhouse. It took only about a month for James to ask Lillian for a date. It was exactly thirty days between that first date and the wedding. By some miracle, it took just a little while longer to produce an heir, named Julia.

The life of James settled down to being the typical "Bread Winner". He and Lillian and their daughter Julia found a nice little house right on the York River. The house had belonged to Alice, the lady who had accused James of stealing. Grace offered the place to James and Lillian shortly after they were married; finally they were able to acquire financing and were able to move into their own little house.

James became one of the regular actors at the Summer Playhouse and also a computer programmer for a large company in the nearby city of Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

When Julia entered high school, her parents started having marital troubles. It just seemed that they had fallen out of love, there wasn't any one cause. They just couldn't find any thing to hold them together. James moved out of the house, leaving it for Lillian and Julia. This would allow his daughter's schooling to continue and her grades would not be affected by having to change schools.

When Julia was in her sophomore year, the company where James worked closed their doors to move to the Silicone Valley of California. James was offered a chance to move with them and did so. Six months after relocating in California, he was homesick for his home state; he quit his job, and flew home. He found a little apartment and went job hunting. The Playhouse wanted him to return, asked him to spend the summer on tour with a cast of famous stage personalities and he accepted. He forgot about

sending the child support checks to Lillian and she couldn't locate him because the tour group was always on the move.

Lillian desperately needed the support money to keep everything going and was forced to file a complaint against James as a delinquent Dad.

When the Road Show Tour was over, they were in Florida. The pay for his acting was rather meager; he had gone with them just to get a break from the regular "workaday world". All that he would have for money would be his final check from the Playhouse. The authorities in Maine demanded that the Playhouse owner turn that final check over to Lillian and they issued an arrest warrant for James, because of the money that he owed for child support.

There just wasn't any money for a ticket to fly home; there was no practical reason to go home and get arrested. He could let them arrest him in Florida and the authorities would have to pay the cost of extradition. While deciding just what to do, the call of the ocean coaxed him to go in for a swim. James was afraid to return to his motel room, for fear of arrest, so he went in under a pier, stripped off his clothes and waded out to the end of the pier into the ocean, where he was covered above his waist. The water was excellent; the temperature was about eighty degrees. Compared to Maine's water temperatures of the low sixties in August, this was just like a bathtub.

While he was enjoying his skinny dipping on this deserted beach as the sun was setting, a woman appeared dressed in a very revealing two piece bathing suit. She apparently didn't realize that James was nude, or wasn't alarmed if she did determine the true situation and they struck up a lengthy conversation.

James told her that he was a computer programmer, temporarily unemployed and was enjoying the ocean for a little while before starting out to find work. She introduced herself as Paula Young and told him about her job working as an advice columnist for the Chicago Daily News. Just about an hour earlier she had completed the purchase, registration, and insuring of a beautiful new motorhome. She pointed down the beach to where it stood out above the regular cars in the parking lot. She said that she had changed into her bathing suit, locked the door, placed the key on top of the driver's front tire, and walked into the ocean.

James asked her what she was carrying. She explained that she was hiding a camera and that she was helping a very dear female friend get evidence against her husband which would stand up in divorce court. The friend told Paula that she had heard the husband arrange to meet someone on this beach just before dark. Paula figured that a bather would be an expected part of the beach scene and would be ignored by the husband. She hoped that she could get a few good pictures, then she could just stroll down the beach, get out of sight in her motorhome and later give the pictures to her friend. Paula also said that it was a big help having James there with her, because it would paint an altogether different picture. Here was a "young couple" finding privacy on the ocean after the crowd had long since left for their homes. She asked James to stay with her until this was over, then accompany her to the new motorhome, where they could put together an evening meal from the supplies on board.

James was wondering where he would sleep for the night, and was very concerned about finding some place to get a free meal. He had been counting on that last pay-

check to carry him until he could get a temporary job. Suddenly he had transitioned from an employed actor to a homeless, penniless, unemployed man who was on the list of “Delinquent Dads”. Getting a job was going to be tough now; he couldn’t use his Social Security number because the police would be watching for it. His credit cards were dangerous because any activity would lead the law to where the card was used. This dilemma was all new to James; he had always been a law-abiding citizen and was not prepared for the role he was suddenly being forced to play. His stage experience had never taught him how to deal with the problems of a penniless man on the lamb. When the tour was over, he was planning to return to the New England area, find a good job in the computer field and pay up the child support.

He had savings and checking accounts in his favorite bank, in fact the only bank, in York, Maine. He was sure that the court had ordered those funds released to Lillian. That meant he was totally wiped out.

The only possibility he could see was to try to find a few jobs, like mowing lawns, painting fences, like he used to do in his teens and they had to pay in cash. In the morning he would look around to see if he could find some quick sources of income. This would help provide him with food and maybe enough money to get away from the vicinity of the Playhouse where the final tour performance had taken place.

Suddenly, they noticed three people on the beach. Two of them were standing together and another one was walking towards the first two. Paula urged James to move with her, until they would be close enough to get a couple of snapshots, then they could just wade off away from the scene and disappear into her new vehicle.

She was planning to get the pictures without using the flash, but when they were close enough she realized that it was too dark. She told James to move down the beach; she would take a flash picture, then come and join him. James had moved about a hundred feet away when he heard a shout. He turned to see that one of the men was running and he also saw the flash from Paula’s camera. There were two gunshots. Paula disappeared into the water and the running man fell in a heap on the beach sand. James dove into the surf and swam under water until he thought that his lungs would burst. Then he carefully stuck his nose up enough to get some air. When he was able to get his breath, he continued to swim under water until he was quite a distance from the scene of the shooting. Standing in water up to his chin, he surveyed the area and could see the two men walking north, away from him. He wondered if Paula had sensed danger when the man had started to run and had slipped into the water for safety, or if one of those bullets had hit and possibly killed her.

It was almost completely dark now. James could go ashore, but the men had been last seen up the beach, somewhere near the pier where his clothes were stashed. He was quite close to the motorhome. He decided to wait just a few minutes more as it got darker, then make a run for the RV, see if the keys were in fact on the front tire, or if Paula had survived and made it safely to her vehicle. This presented another problem for James: he was nude, how could he explain this situation to Paula?

A short time later under cover of darkness, James approached the parking lot, staying in the shadows and slipping from behind one car to another. The motorhome was parked in an area slightly separated from the regular automobiles. It was going to re-

quire a dash across the open space to the back of the big rig. He could walk along the dark side, away from the parking lot lights. Hopefully he could grab the keys from the front tire and get into the vehicle, through the driver's door.

What should he do if one of those men spotted him in that open area of the parking lot? He stayed in the seclusion of the dark side of a parked auto long enough to plan an escape route, then he made that dash across the open parking area. He surprised himself at his running speed and safely crossed that open section. The key *was* on the front tire. A big lump started to form in his throat; he feared the worst for Paula, but right now he had better get inside, lock the door and find some clothes to cover his nudity.

James managed to unlock the door, get inside and lock the door again. Then he sat quietly in the driver's seat, listened to his heartbeat and also for activity outside. His eyes became accustomed to the dim light inside the vehicle and he started examining the interior. He was getting cold and began to search for something to cover himself. He decided to slip into the bed. If he waited until three or four o'clock, the two guys would be tired of searching for him. It should be safe to retrieve his clothes, get dressed, then he had better get his butt out of this part of Florida.

The stresses created by the past couple of hours had taken a lot out of James, and the bed did a wonderful job of warming and relaxing him. He fell asleep rather quickly. A dream about a group of men standing on a beach, shooting at everyone in sight, woke him up. He used the little toilet, then began to search for clothes to wear while he went out after his clothes, which he had abandoned under the pier. He found a pair of jeans and tried them on. They fit rather snug and the seams were rough, so he searched for some underwear for protection. The drawer containing Paula's lingerie was filled with bras and fancy lace-trimmed panties. In the dim light filtering in from the overhead lights of the parking lot, it was difficult to see exactly what was there, so he put on the first pair he could recognize as panties, then pulled the jeans back on again. They were a lot more comfortable with the panties underneath.

James had to go after his clothing, so he unlocked the coach door and stepped out to see if it was safe. There was a full moon directly overhead and it was almost as bright as daylight. He quickly returned to the semi-dark inside the motorhome and locked the door again. He would wait another hour and hope for clouds to move in and cover that huge moon. He needed complete darkness to feel safe going after his clothes. Removing the jeans, he crawled back under the bed covers, wearing the panties from Paula's underwear drawer. Lying in bed, he worried about his future and he rolled and tossed because he was very nervous and frustrated. The slippery feeling of the nylon or silk panties reminded him of his playacting as Jamie and Sally. Rubbing his hands over his hips and fanny reminded him of the times he had done that same thing to Lillian, when she was wearing just panties and bra and also when she had a full slip or a nylon nightgown on. This prompted some sorrow for the loss of their life together and the desire to come in contact with a lovely and willing female. He thought about the possibility of Paula returning and offering to share her RV with him.