

FROM FANTASTIC INCIDENTS, UNDER THE LISTING FOR
SIAMESE TWINS

A Siamese twin was accused of setting fire to an orphanage with the intention of murdering everyone within. His brother was proclaimed a hero for having saved half the children from the flames. The criminal twin was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged by the neck until dead. Lawyers for the defense appealed the decision on the grounds that the innocent brother's well-being would thus be adversely affected. The sentence was reduced to life in prison. Again the defense protested that in such a case, an innocent man would be wrongly punished. Finally, medical specialists were called in, and a delicate operation to separate the two men was performed. The operation had complications, and the brothers were set to rest, both in critical condition, in twin beds in the same hospital room. When the doctors and the police returned, they found one twin resting comfortably, propped up against his pillow, reading a magazine. The other twin lay freshly dead, his face a vivid shade of purple. "It's God's justice," said the surviving brother. The doctors nodded gravely, and pulled the sheets up over the dead man's face. The remaining twin left several days thereafter, and was never heard from again. Years later, the doctors wondered, in which bed had they put the murderer, and in which the innocent man?

POSTCARD FROM THE FIELD: HOT COAL WALKING

Having a lovely time here in the islands, examining primitive cultures, documenting creation myths, taking notes on everything. I've even been learning the ancient art of walking on red-hot coals. The natives have been most helpful: when they're not showing the missionary's wife (the missionary died several years ago) their wide selection of coital positions, they take great delight in encouraging my progress. Have ruined three pairs of boots so far, but the experience has been well worth it. Leaving soon for Alaska to spend a month with the Eskimos. I hope to trace the origins of the snowcone. Back for the fall semester. Much wiser.
Yours truly.