

JELLY BELLY

A story of how jealousy can ruin your health and life.

The sky hung heavy with dark brooding clouds, as wind whipped and tugged at the petrified crowds.

They'd gathered together in tight little bands, seeking shelter and safety beneath the high circus stands.

The huge circus tent ballooned and then tore, collapsing the tent with a frightening roar.

Thank goodness that none had been seriously hurt, just a few bumps and bruises with a whole lot of dirt.

But the circus had taken a pretty big hit, the tent now in tatters and the center pole split.

Levi, the ringmaster, a rotund Big Top boss, climbed over the mess to assess damage and loss.

He needed to make sure all were well, safe and sound, then find out just where some Bog help might be found.

Each performer, each elephant, camel and clown would need to find lodgings with the circus shutdown.

Then he'd need a doctor for the cut, bumped and bruised, and a pastor for those who were scared and confused.

The struggle and stress of a job this size, hurt his head, taxed his brain and crossed both his eyes.

Wading over the mess that now covered the ground, he climbed up the tall bleachers to look all around.

He called to a dog he saw helping those hurt, who was wearing blue overalls and a white collared shirt.

"Hey there, do you know of a doctor who'd help out?" Levi hollered to Hartlie, who then stood up to shout. *"I do"* he yelled back, *"I'll send him the word, but knowing the Bog, he's already heard."*

Sure enough...

The doctor was already working away, cleaning cuts, wrapping wounds through complete disarray.

And that's how it was with Dr. Brandnew, so patient, so kind, no complaints, no to-do.

Where there was a need, you'd find him close by, as grateful Bog critters could all testify.

His sweet nurse Wellanie was helping two clowns, whose red, broken noses turned smiles into frowns.

Oops and Uh Oh now really looked weird, with noses gone sideways and both now lop-eared.

"Oh I sure hope that I look better than you!" said Oops bending over to tie his clown shoe.

"Well, that wouldn't take much," Uh Oh hung his head *"But I think that comment was best left unsaid."*

"I'm sorry Uh Oh, I didn't mean to be curt, but look at my nose, it's horribly hurt!"

"Well you can't look any worse than what I do, I don't have a nose, I've have a corkscrew!"

Then, they busted out laughing over this wild accident, as both looked absurd with their noses all bent.

"There", said the nurse, *"your noses are fine, and when the swelling goes down they'll both re-align."*

Each gave nurse Wellanie a lopsided smile, relieved they'd look normal in just a short while.

With that she was off to find Dr. Brandnew, who was treating a patient who'd turned black and blue.

The poor little thing was one great big bruise, in varying shades of purples and blues.

But in the middle of this a performer broke in, demanding they treat a small scratch on her shin.

"If you'll have a seat, we'll be with you in a minute," cooed Wellanie trying to head off a fit.

"And just where is it you expect me to sit? I'm the star of this circus you silly twit"

The doctor raised an eyebrow but not his voice, *"If you don't wish to wait that's certainly your choice.*

But we see those first in the greatest need, and your tiny shin scrape did not even bleed."

Furious she snapped...

*"Oh you don't understand, I **must** look **just** right, I perform in the glare of that Big Top floodlight!*

And I'm not accustomed to standing in line...so I'll need to find a place to recline."

"Well that's your choice, you can do as you please, it's not like you have some deadly disease."

With that she stomped off in a royal snit, she was famous for throwing a foot-stomping fit.

The doctor and nurse each shook their head, *"There's more to this story!"* Dr. Brandnew said.

Belli Bouton flew the high trapeze, stealing everyone's breath with an elegant ease.

She could hold a crowd in the palm of her hand, as she swooped and looped in time to the band.

Her looks were the finest the Bog had seen; gold hair, pink nose and eyes emerald green.

With all of these gifts you'd think Belli content, but Twinkle, a new talent, caused her pain and torment.

You see, Belli couldn't bear to share the limelight, and would not give it up without a good fight.

Twinkle was clueless Belli felt this way, as she didn't fly trapeze but danced a beautiful ballet.

Her dancing brought folk from near and far, and they sang when she'd finish "Twinkle, Twinkle little star."

When Belli heard their singing she'd shriek out jealously, "**Hey, all that attention and applause belongs to me!**

I'm the only star this stupid circus ever had and they'd better watch their step, or they'll get me good and mad!!!"

And that's just how it was before the Big Top blew to bits, if she didn't get attention she'd throw her ugly fits.

Now here she was all out of sorts from a silly little scrape, which only needed cleaning and a little gauze with tape.

By the time the nurse and doctor made their way to angry Belli, her symptoms had grown so much worse, making her a nervous Nellie.

Her stomach was now tied in knots, causing pain beyond belief, "**Get your bag!**" she screamed at them, "**I've got to have relief!**"

"Tell me," asked the doctor, "just how long you've had this pain?" "**For years!**" she squealed "**but not this bad, it's driving me I insane!**"

He checked her throat, he checked her lungs and then he checked her heart, he checked her ears, her eyes, her nose indeed he checked each part.

"Well, the only thing that I can find is a nasty attitude, you need to see just why you feel the need to be so rude."

Belli was beside herself, how dare he speak this way, did he not know how to treat a star; he'd pay for this someday.

Trouncing off she snarled and shouted ***"You're absolutely wrong! I'm only rude because of Twinkle and that stupid little song!"***

Wellanie shook her sweet head saying *"You know it is quite sad, that someone's looks can be so good but their behavior be so bad."*

It took about two weeks for the Big Top tent repair; now the circus opening night was here with spectacular fanfare.

Levi was so grateful for all the Bog had done, in providing food and shelter now he'd give them all some fun.

There'd be an all day festival topped off by a grand parade, then right behind, the stars would walk in dazzling cavalcade.

Excitement galloped through the crowds as they lined the small Bog street, and even the littlest critter knew this was a special treat.

First, a gaily costumed band marched to a loud and lively beat, then came Oops and Uh Oh tripping over their big feet.

There were gasps and squeals of sheer delight when the elephants strode past, their huge gray trunks arched in the air sounding a triumphal blast.

Then some little acrobats came floating in midair, held up by huge festooned balloons which had not been seen elsewhere.

They were dropping cotton candy tufts that drifted through the air; soft pink flakes of sugar that were snowing everywhere.

The excitement really mounted, you could feel it growing stronger, as they waited for the circus star; it wouldn't be much longer.

Then suddenly, there she was in a glittering, spangled cloak, smiling and waving like royalty to all the regular folk. Belli gloriied in all the attention, reveling in their cheers, the oohs, the aahs and applause, were pure music to her ears.

But as she started waving back, she noticed something wrong, they seemed to be looking past her and singing some silly song.

"Twinkle, twinkle little star, you the best ballet dancer by far, Twinkle, twinkle rise and shine, you're the finest dancing swine."

Twinkle twirled and leapt, blew kisses and smiled, as the critters stood watching, mesmerized and beguiled

Belli kept on waving but her smile began to wane, as anger rose up in her heart and her stomach filled with pain.

Flinging the cape round her shoulders, she stomped off down the street, she'd show these critters just who she was, she'd never accept defeat.

When the parade got to the Big Top tent, they marched around the ring, while Levi the ringmaster took center stage to sing.

The lions lunged, the tigers roared, the crowd sat there amazed, but Belli was in another world, her eyes all red and glazed.

Now it was time for Twinkle to dance, the crowd all standing to see, but someone slipped quietly onto the trapeze; a completely deranged Belli.

She lowered the ropes then started her swing as Twinkle twirled unknowing, then down she swooped snatching her up, now both were to and froing.

The crowd all gasped... then they heard Twinkle scream, as Belli swung ever higher, Twinkle twisted and turned trying free herself, straining to grab hold the high-wire.

"Oh no you don't!" Belli shrieked, ***"You're not getting off that easy!"***

"Oh please," Twinkle pleaded, *"please stop the swinging, I'm terrified and queasy."*

"Ha, ha, ha, I'll not stop, until you swear you're leaving," *"OK, just put me safely down,"* cried Twinkle disbelieving.

Then suddenly a rope snapped, now they dangled in midair, both desperately struggling to hang on, both screaming in despair. Hartlie watched from down below, horrified by this event, stunned that this could be happening inside the Big Top tent.

Grabbing hold of the largest elephant, he rode it into the ring, riding high on its heavy, gray trunk, grasping to stop the pair in mid swing.

He missed them on the first swing, but when they came back by, he grabbed hold of Twinkles ankles, then things really went awry.

Their speed and weight knocked Hartlie off, now he clung and swung with the two, Oops and Uh Oh looked at each other, knowing exactly what they should do.

Running they grabbed their trampoline, placing it inside the ring, now if they fell they could do it safely as they'd only bounce and spring.

Each by turn fell safely down, the crowd breathing a hefty sigh; Hartlie hustled them out of the Big Top tent so the crowd couldn't see them cry.

"Belli, what in the world were you thinking? What's wrong? What's got into you?"

"It's Twinkle!" she yelled grabbing her stomach, "she's driving me cuckoo!"

"Oweeee!!!" she groaned, doubling over in pain, gripping hold of her tummy, "I think I'd best see a doctor" she moaned, "I'm starting to feel really crummy."

Dr. Brandnew was only too willing, to open his office and see, Belli who was in a pitiful state between her tummy and tom foolery.

"You know Belli..."

The last time you had these tummy troubles, I found nothing physically wrong, but it seems we are back at the same old place, singing that same old song.

Doing the same thing over and over and expecting things to have changed, is behavior that's not only foolish but it's also somewhat deranged.

Let's you, me and Hartlie, just sit here and have a good chat, let's get to the bottom of just what's wrong with our high-flying acrobat."

"Can't you just give me a pill," she whined, "and make the pain go away?"

"No" said the doctor, "what we need to find out is why your life's in such disarray."

Hartlie took hold of her still shaking hands "It's OK, we're here to help out, now why did you try to hurt Twinkle, what was all that nonsense about?"

You know...

Someone could have been terribly hurt, it was a dangerous risk to take, do you think all this could have something to do with your terrible tummy ache?!"

"Hmmm" said the doctor...

"The last time that I saw you, you'd become a nervous nellie, I think you're suffering from a condition known as 'Jelly Belly'.

***"OH NO!!!"** she screamed, **"NOT JELLY BELLY, THIS SIMPLY CAN'T BE TRUE!** Errr...what is Jelly Belly anyway, I haven't got a clue."*

"Well, Jelly Belly comes about when jealousy rules ones life, it warps the mind and emotions, makes us sick and causes strife.

You told me before that you'd suffered this pain for quite a number of years, so I think you'd best speak with Hartlie, so that he can address all your fears."

"Fears?" she questions, "I'm never afraid, why I climb on the high trapeze," "Yes but harmful emotions can make you sick, cause pain and often disease. There's only so much toxic emotion a persons body can take, before it starts giving you problems like a head and a tummy ache.

You know...

*Life isn't always about **you** and what **you** want or need, jealousy's a green-eyed monster you continually have to feed. You hold tight to what you think is yours, never wanting to give or share, it makes you envious of others, it's ugly and unfair. You can't keep going on like this, so tell us what's really wrong, tell us what gets you so angry when you hear folk sing Twinkles song.*

She hung her head all embarrassed as now she was starting to see, that her problems all along had stemmed from her self-centered jealousy."

"Oh... I'm soooo ashamed," she squalled, "how could I have been so blind, I've made Twinkles' life just wretched, even though she's been so kind.

Hartlie...

I was just so scared that they might like her more than me, it made me say and do things like some looney chimpanzee!"

"Belli...

You just took a huge step to your freedom and your healing! By admitting there's a problem you can change that jealous feeling.

Perhaps you didn't get enough attention as a child, perhaps you got too much and it caused you to run wild, but whatever was the cause you need only to repent, apologize to Twinkles and then learn to be content."

"How can I be content with things, what if someone gets more than me? What if I come in second or end up some star wannabee?"

"Belli, be the best critter you can possibly be, then love and put others first, and if you'll remember to do this it will stop any jealous outburst.

Hartlie smiled as did Dr. Brandnew, they could see she now understood, the truth was tough medicine to swallow but it was said for her very own good.

The strange thing was she began to feel as though some weight had shifted, her stomach didn't hurt as much and her spirits had been lifted.

Then...

They all walked back to the Big Top tent, with Belli leading the way, she was tired but walked with purpose, determined she would now learn ballet.

She'd offer to teach Twinkle all about her act on that dangerous flying trapeze and Twinkle could teach her ballet then they'd both fly and dance on the breeze.

She'd welcome her into the spotlight, then they'd both enjoy the applause; the crowds could sing for her too now; she'd been freed from jealousy's claws.

The end...or could it be

THE BEGINNING

THE BEGINNING

Scriptures from the Bible that helps us with jealousy

Galations 5:20 When you follow the desires of your own sinful nature, the results are very clear. Immorality, impurity, wrongful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition (and sins like this)

Galations 5:26 Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

James 3:16 For wherever there is jealousy and self ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

James 4:2b You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them.

Proverbs 27:4 Anger is cruel and wrath is like a flood, but jealousy is even more dangerous.

James 4:15 For jealousy and selfishness is not God's kind of wisdom.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever would believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

This series was written in an effort to help children understand that nothing can overcome them, if they are walking close to Jesus, trusting in His love and obeying His commandments.