



Imagine a Telephone Call One
Day Notifying You That...

You Have A Twin!

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You share similar occupations, talents and traits. You have common aspirations and grapple with the same issues. You even enjoy the same hobbies. Yet, you are living parallel lives in different parts of the world!

Scientific research has established that identical twins are not only similar in outward appearance, but also in their habits, talents, IQs and personalities. The most amazing aspects of these similarities become apparent in the case of twins separated at birth. Even though they never met and were raised under completely different circumstances, they still share astonishing similarities. Sometimes, the similarities defy explanation—for instance, separated twins who give their children the same names, or twins who marry women with the same name, divorce, and marry the second time to different women who also share the same name! The scientific and paranormal converge in this fascinating topic.



Jim Lewis and Jim Springer have the same first name. Nothing special, right? Well, what if I told you that they are also identical twins... who were separated at birth... raised under different circumstances... by different parents... and had no contact with each other until much later in life?

And what if I told you that—beyond merely identical first names—the similarities between them are astonishing?

And what if I told you that they are not the only twins separated from birth who later found their other half and discovered amazing similarities?

Do you really know yourself? Do you really know how you would be if you were raised in a very different environment? What parts of you would be the same?

You may never know, but by studying the few cases we do know about—identical twins separated at birth and living without knowledge of the other twin for many decades—you may learn not only about them but discover more about yourself than you think...

Two Jims

The pair came to be known as the “Jim Twins,” using their first names instead of the more commonly used last. It is particularly ironic that one of the few differences between the two brothers is the one factor that most other siblings share: the family name.

The two Jims were born in 1940. Their mother was incapable of raising them and they were separated at just three weeks. Both were adopted by childless couples. One went to the Lewis family of Lima, Ohio, and the other was taken in by the Springer family of Piqua, Ohio. Both families were told that their baby was born together with a twin, but the other baby had died.

The Lewis and Springer families each named their adopted babies James.

That might be a coincidence, but almost all other aspects of their lives also mirrored each other.

In school, both boys

enjoyed math and woodworking and both detested spelling. Later, the two entered similar professions. Jim Lewis became a security officer for an iron works and Jim Springer became a deputy sheriff.

The next string of similarities defies all logic. Both men married women named Linda. Then, later, they each divorced and married women named Betty. Both Jims had sons with the same names, James Alan in one case and James Allan in the other. (Even identical twins are entitled to *some* individuality.) Even their dogs shared the same name, Toy. In their emotional lives, too, both Jims suffered from a chronic feeling of emptiness, which neither could explain.

When her adopted son Jim was 16 months old, Mrs. Lewis visited the Miami County courthouse to finalize the adoption procedure. The clerk who handled the papers made an offhand remark, “Interesting, the other boy was also named Jim.” At the time Mrs. Lewis didn’t think much about it. By the time she came home, however, she could not get that statement out of her head. Did that mean that the twin was alive?

That thought plagued Mrs. Lewis for the next three decades. When her Jim became an adult, she shared her suspicions with him and encouraged him to search for his twin brother. Jim Lewis made little of the matter until one evening early in 1979. Now 39, his adoptive parents convinced him that it would be worth the effort to try to locate his brother.

With modern technology such a search would not have been impossibly difficult. Back in the 1970s, however, this was a very daunting task. Jim Lewis spent a long time searching for his brother. Eventually, he contacted the court that had handled his adoption. He asked the court to check its records and assist him in locating his twin brother. The court officials agreed to call the Springer family and ask whether Jim Springer was interested in a reunion. His answer was an unhesitating and emphatic “Yes!”

When Jim Lewis arrived home that day, there was a message for him that Jim



The “Two Jims” meet after 39 years.

Springer was waiting to speak to him. He dialed the number. When Springer picked up, Lewis was momentarily disoriented. He was listening to the sound of his own voice at the other end of the line! He pulled himself together and asked Springer, “Are you my brother?”

“Yup,” came the reply.

It took a while for the two men to acclimate to each other. But the ice melted quickly. Four days later, on February 9, 1979, Jim Lewis traveled to meet his twin brother for the first time. It was a deeply emotional reunion.

There are a few dozen cases on record of twins who were separated at birth. None, however, were separated for as long as Jim Lewis and Jim Springer.

Genetic Research

The story of how the Jim Twins were reunited became a media sensation, and it was aired across the nation. Most listeners were deeply moved. A day later, though, the media was busy with the next round of news.

One listener, however, took a much deeper interest in the Jim Twins affair. This was Dr. Thomas Bouchard, a professor of psychology and director of the University of Minnesota’s Center for Twin and Adoption Research. Bouchard had studied twins for years. His work concentrated on determining whether the similar traits twins share are hereditary or a result of the environment in which they develop (also known as the “nature versus nurture” debate).

Identical twins separated at birth and

living without knowledge of the other twin for many decades was the perfect scientific experiment. They would share identical genetic encoding, but their circumstances would be very different. By comparing and contrasting their lives, scientists could determine what aspects of a person’s being are shaped by genetics and which by environment.

When the professor heard the story of twins separated at birth and living parallel lives for 39 years, he felt as if he had hit the jackpot!

Bouchard immediately contacted the Jim Twins and implored them to come to his laboratory. He agreed to cover their travel expenses and even offered them a small salary for the duration of their weeklong stay in Minneapolis. He needed to see them as soon as possible so that their renewed contact would not compromise his research.

Two weeks after the story broke, Dr. Bouchard had the twins sitting in his Minneapolis laboratory. He recalls, “I remember sitting at the table with them when they first arrived. They both had fingernails that were nibbled down to the end and I thought, ‘No psychologist asks about that, but here it is staring you in the face.’”

When Bouchard spoke to the media at the outset of his investigations, he stated publicly, “I’m certain that I will find all sorts of differences between them that will surprise even the twins.” In fact, he was shocked to discover a much longer list of astonishing similarities between the two brothers.



Jims Lewis and Springer discovered that they shared many similar habits, both good and bad.