

THE TRUE STORY



Tommy Vig

Truth is an absolute defense against defamation.
In this book you will not find a single word, which is not true.

It is important, because I tell the truth about some very bad people who will do everything possible to discredit the facts presented here.

And these individuals are lawless: "everything possible" means just that, including using violence and murder.

You might ask, if I am facing such people: why would I risk writing and publishing this small volume? An excellent question...

To explain: I am a composer and I write serious music, music that most people do not understand and will not pay for hearing it.

(Example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qYx6O94yZ4>)

You might again ask: What is the point of composing serious music then: you will not make money and you will not be a respected pop star.

To these questions I do not know the answers except to say that all of us are born different. Why do the young people revolt in Hong Kong, when they know that they will go to jail or be killed when China moves in and starts controlling the city 100% according to Communist rules: no free speech, no human rights: an oppressive dictatorship.

We rose up in Hungary in 1956 knowing that at the end Communist Russia would destroy our Revolution. Why riot then, right?

Well, to some of us, freedom and truth are more important than anything, damn the torpedoes. That is the only explanation I can give to questions like: why risk your life for an idea? I do not know, but I believe one should.

Stupid?

May be.

But I like to live my life this way.

Tommy Vig

Dear Reader!

I am a musician (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qYx6O94yZ4>) not a writer, so if you want to read a John Grisham type short story, stop right now: this is not it.

This is merely a factual reference to the lives of Mia Kim (<http://www.thekimsisters.com/>) and Tommy Vig (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tommy_Vig), two people successful in the music business, and I tell about some good and bad things that happened to us.

And by the way, at this point we are awaiting the judgment of the Idaho Supreme Court regarding defendant Sarah Gerdes: according to the controlling authority of *Deloge v. Cortez* 131 Idaho 201 (1998), we should win!

I greatly appreciate your interest, understanding and patience.

Very Sincerely,

Tommy Vig

1

For musicians like Mia and me, Las Vegas in the sixties was a fabulous place to live. Of course, Mia was a big star as one of the Kim Sisters, but I too was working continually, making very good money, initially with Juan Garcia Esquivel's great group at the Stardust (married Juan was Sue Kim's secret lover...) then I became the house drummer at the new Caesars Palace under conductor Nat Brandwynne, accompanying Tony Bennett, Woody Allen, Tony Curtis, Judy Garland, Milton Berle and a hundred other big stars and visiting Broadway Shows such as Sweet Charity.

And from 1964 Mia and I began our great love affair that lost nothing of its fire and commitment today, 56 years later. I love Mia 24 hours a day. I am a lucky man!

I also loved playing drums (and still do) and never wanted to be a percussionist! But Life is unpredictable. My best friend was the late Roger Rampton, an excellent percussionist at the Dunes Hotel. In the Main Showroom they were presenting the American version of a major Paris Can Can production. Roger got injured one day fixing his garage door, and could not go to work. I was playing drums at the Stardust, but when Roger told me of his problem, I offered to substitute for him free at the Dunes at 8 pm and midnight, since my first set at the Stardust Lounge was not until 1:40 in the morning.

His difficult part called for timpani, xylophone, and a host of other percussion instruments, the music written by Bill Reddie, a great composer/arranger/conductor. Then once I played Roger's part, the word got around that I was a percussionist!

That was it. There are many good drummers, but not so many good percussionists, so when I moved to Los Angeles in 1970, tinseltown's music community already welcomed me as a percussionist and I quickly became one of the busiest players in the Hollywood movie studios.

Mia and I bought a brand new, fantastic house in Calabasas Park and continued our unending honeymoon. Our son, Roger was born in 1972.

Now, Sue Kim was one of the three famous Kim Sisters: Sue, Ai Ja, Mia.

She stole over 4 million dollars from Mia 1959-1976 and at present she is an unsuccessful real estate agent in Las Vegas. Her husband, John Bonifazio used to be an enforcer for casino bosses when the Mob owned Las Vegas. Poor Ai Ja died. Mia is still performing in Europe, Korea and America and audiences love her. You can watch her recent solo performances on YouTube.

(Example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfgaMnvwAxo>)

2

Now take Sarah Gerdes.

Please!

She is a very smart and multi-talented businesswoman who now lives in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. A nice place to be from, I understand...

She permanently operates as a kind of fixer. A middleman, arranging deals for money among wealthy people and rich companies. That is her real job. An operator.

But she also masquerades as a novelist, self-publishing “her” books, written by ghostwriters such as Mr. Chris Healey and other great talents, because Ms. Gerdes does not really have a gift for writing books, but she has that ambition too.

No legitimate publisher seems to be interested in her writings: she self-publishes all her books, and submits praising reviews of her own volumes at Amazon.com under false names she invents, such as Randy Lee, Annon111, Brandi L and others.

One of her fake book projects started in 2008, when for \$25,000 she contracted with Sue Kim and her husband, John Bonifazio to publish a kind of Book of Revenge starring Sue Kim and The Kim Sisters, a paid-for, fabricated, imaginary tale that never was . . . Ms. Gerdes rewrote/reinvented history and the sorry, troubled life of her paying sponsor, Sue Kim.

This 100% fake biography could best be compared to a book of history called: “HOW NAZI GERMANY WON WORLD WAR TWO.”

Now, evil Sue Kim lied to the Korean Media about her adopted sister Mia pretending to be the biological daughter of Sue’s mother Lee Nan Young, when Sue knew that Mia never did that. The Mokpo Prosecutor is still waiting for Sue to show up for questioning: defamation is a serious crime in Korea.

But Sue will probably never appear...one important reason: she had submitted to the Mokpo authorities a forged contract dated 1987, stating that Mia had agreed not to use the name Kim Sister. The primitive forgery is pretty obvious: Mia’s signature appears only on an irrelevant sheet of paper stapled to the fake agreement with a metal fastener!

3

In her counterfeit volume Sarah Gerdes, a total stranger to us all, evilly smeared the characters and reputations of many good people connected to the Kim Sisters who died long ago and could not defend themselves, but she also besmirched and attacked the honor and personality of my wife and me with stories not based on reality: and although Mia and I are 80, we are still very much alive and would like to clear our names before we die.

We had tried to accomplish this peacefully, asking Ms. Gerdes to leave out of her book the many lies she wrote about us, but she refused. The reason?

During litigation publisher Gerdes admitted in an answer to a Request for Admission that if Mia and I were murdered by Mafioso Bonifazio's "large men" (as Ms. Gerdes called the Las Vegas casino's "collectors" in her book, these actual hitmen working under John Bonifazio's direction), her volume would become a bestseller, making her a lot of money.

Nice people . . .

4

For the incredible number of hateful lies in this revenge book, Mia and I sued the author for defamation but lost at the district court level: the judge, a John Mitchell, knows local Coeur d'Alene celebrity Sarah Gerdes well: her husband plays golf with him.

Judge Mitchell is considered by many to be the worst judge in Idaho. He is one of the most disqualified judges by lawyers and prosecutors alike and has one of the highest records of being reversed.

In this case, in order to help defendant Gerdes, Judge Mitchell:

- abducted the responsibility of the Jury, not allowing 12 unconnected, independent individuals to decide the facts of this case. The Judge instead prearranged the facts all by himself in a transparently prejudiced manner, to shield Ms. Gerdes from a fair jury trial, ignoring both the Seventh Amendment of our Constitution and Idaho Section 7: "The right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate."

The judge further:

- distorted the meanings of documented realities in this civil case, by misinterpreting everything according to his own, predetermined, unique preferences,
- ignored the attorneys' arguments, and acted in fact as the lawyer for the defendant,
- arbitrarily and unjustly reinterpreted long established, and respected Idaho laws and refused to comply with them, including:

1. IRCP 36: Requests for Admission,
2. IRCP 56: Summary Judgment Motions,
3. IRCP 15: Right to Amend a Complaint,

- essentially ignored the Idaho law controlling this case: *Deloge v. Cortez* 131 Idaho 201 (1998),
- twisted facts which go against the defendant which act is called "Fraud on the Court," and
- in his final iniquitous Order District Judge Mitchell daringly misquoted libelous statements from the Gerdes Book, trying to give the open and shut published defamatory expressions non-existent meanings which had never been intended by the writer and were contrary to Gerdes' plain published words.

5

For instance, Ms. Gerdes, relying on a fabricated agreement dated 1987, knowingly falsely implied on page 285 of her Book that Mia tried to extort money from Sue in 1993!

Then Ms. Gerdes further stated another premeditated lie that Sue paid Mia \$52,500 in 1993, and hoax publisher Gerdes then went on announcing to the world the ultimate falsity known by her to be an invention that as soon as Mia received the money from Sue, Sue never heard from Mia again, that Mia forgot all the years of family, friendship, work: lacking basic human decency, essentially charging that Kim Sister Mia is a woman of low character, who is interested only in money.

During the lawsuit Ms. Gerdes numerous times admitted that this entire story she advanced in her Book on page 285 was untrue, and that she had known that it was a fabrication!

Indeed publisher Gerdes finally did delete the dishonest tale from the reprint of her Book, but with no apology to her readers, or to Mia, for Ms. Gerdes' originally publishing the lie assassinating Mia's character.

That particular falsehood that *“as soon as Mia received the money, she forgot years of friendship, family and work and Sue never heard from her adopted sister again”* counts as *defamation per se* in Idaho.

The truth is that in 1993 or 1987, or at any time there was no demand letter, no settlement agreement and no payment of \$52,500 to Mia. Zero.

For her Kim Sisters book, Sarah Gerdes had refused to interview Mia, besides Sue the only Kim Sister still alive!

Nor did Ms. Gerdes ever attempt to hear me out concerning the lies she was about to publish about me!

In America, according to tradition and The Journalistic Code of Ethics when you attack somebody's character in print, it is customary to allow the ambushed individual to comment on the charges against him, including giving the assailed person the opportunity to deny false accusations.

The First Amendment does not allow the ruining of the integrity and character of innocent people by knowingly publishing lies about them as is the proven case here. And phony author Gerdes *never* denied a single allegation of defamation against her by Mia or me.

6

I am Mia's husband since 1967, I wrote the most successful musical arrangements for The Kim Sisters and was an eyewitness to the true facts about the girls and the people around them.

Sarah Gerdes claims that she interviewed 75 people for her book and used a lot of printed sources, but none of her claims are true. Ms. Gerdes never sourced anything in the book, but due to these insane, oft-repeated baseless sourcing claims of hers, she does appear to be a malicious mythomaniac.

Ms. Gerdes does not know us, never spoke to us, yet she wrote more than 50 derogatory lies about Mia and me and without Mia's permission placed Mia's photo on the cover of her Book of Lies.

7

Sue's motivation for paying \$25,000 to Gerdes to publish this Book of Libels against Mia is simple. You don't have to be a Sigmund Freud to understand the hate you feel against somebody from whom you stole 4 million dollars.

One of the interesting parts of the book tells about the death of Lee Nan Young, Sue's mother. Lee Nan Young was the most well-known vocalist in Korea and she formed and trained The Kim Sisters back in the fifties.

In early 1965 night after night Sue was yelling on the telephone at her mother back in Korea to pressure her to stop Lee Nan Young's relationship with a much younger man and threatened to send her no more Kim Sisters' money. As a result, Sue's mother's boyfriend left her, she became despondent and finally hung herself.

Sue was so ashamed about what she had done that she refused to go to her mother's funeral: all the Koreans in show business close to Lee Nan Young knew what had happened.

Ms. Gerdes revealed Sue's mother's suicide in the first sentence of her book, except that in order to protect Sue, her paying sponsor, later in the book Ms. Gerdes lied about the date of Lee Nan Young's death! It actually occurred in 1965, however, according to her Book, the tragedy happened in 1964!

But truth never interferes with the story as told by Ms. Gerdes in her Book of Defamations.

Now, in contrast, Mia's personality is incredibly beautiful. I know. We have been together day and night for almost 55 years now. While Sue and Ai Ja fought, Mia held The Kim Sisters together. Everybody knows this too.

8

From 1959 until 1973, when Sue perfidiously ousted Mia from The Kim Sisters, Mia had never received a weekly or any other kind of salary for her work as a Kim Sister while the act was making \$10,000 a week!

Sue controlled all the money but would not release any of Mia's part of the income insisting instead that Mia's third share of the money the three girls made was being saved for her by their accountant Daniel Lembark.

This turned out to be a lie and meant that by 1973, traitorous Sue Kim stole more than 2 million dollars from Mia, but that is not all.

9

The Kim Sisters' contract with the Stardust expired in 1973 and they had no offers from other hotels to continue performing, their wonderful manager, poor Tom Ball was dead: it looked like the end of a beautiful show business story.

Then I contacted my old friend Dave Victorson, who was then Director of Entertainment at the Hilton. He was happy to see me and was interested in the Kim Sisters and offered a deal to me for the girls to appear at the Hilton for \$20,000 a week, 6 months per year, for 3 years.

We shook hands on the deal and I called Sue with the great news: this was the best contract the girls ever had and in fact saved the act!

Sue was not happy though, because her plan was to make her mobster husband John Bonifazio the manager of the Kim Sisters and this deal was an unusual one: no manager, no agent: all 20,000 dollars going directly to the girls.

I told Sue that I wanted nothing for procuring the contract.

David Victorson unexpectedly died a few days later!

When Sue heard the news, she sent her husband and another Mafioso, a Rocky Sennes, to booking agent Art Engler, whose daughter Nancy was Victorson's secretary, and together they modified the contract, gangster style, to get percentages for Rocky, Bonifazio and Engler.

Sue called me with this racket, yelling "WE HAVE THE CONTRACT NOW!" and hung up, and for good measure disloyally ousted Mia from the act, replacing her with an older sister, Jane.

Sue and John wanted to keep most of the weekly \$20,000 and with Mia (and me) out of the picture it would be much easier.

10

John Bonifazio then came to me at the Stardust Lounge, where the girls were appearing for the last time, and said this, with that New York hoodlum accent and looks: "WE KNOW WHERE YOUR SON GOES TO KINDERGARTEN!" Our son, Roger was one year old then.

Nice, right?

The reality was that from 1959 through 1976 all told Sue embezzled more than 4 million dollars from Mia: today's worth a total of about \$10 million!

John Bonifazio has threatened our lives more than once.

He might still have us killed: but luckily, he has reason to worry, the FBI has kept close watch on all his activities since the sixties and his threats against us are as well noted by the FBI in Budapest, Seoul and Washington, DC. (John's photo and the realities of his position in the Mob are documented in the FBI offices in Las Vegas (when I reported in person Bonifazio's threat against my son at their offices, the FBI agents showed me his extensive files on record, including his photographs... John's father Tony was a known crime figure in New York as well...))

11

Ai Ja's husband was Frank Pastore, a friend and fellow musician of mine. He was a very good looking, nice guy and a good drummer.

Sue was unhappy with Ai Ja, so she had her husband John beat up poor Frank so badly that he had to flee Las Vegas and later committed suicide back in Baltimore.

Frank Pastore too came from an important Baltimore family and was very proud of it, telling me that "they were No. 1 in Baltimore," one night came over to my house in Las Vegas, crying like a baby, and telephoned his brothers in Baltimore, telling them this: "I WANT JOHN BONIFAZIO RUBBED OUT!"

That was the first and only time I ever heard that expression.

His brother asked Frank: "WHERE ARE YOU CALLING FROM?"

Frank: "TOMMY'S HOUSE" His brother: "TOMMY CAN HEAR THIS CONVERSATION?" Frank: "YES, HE IS SITTING RIGHT NEXT TO ME, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT TOMMY!"

12

Ai Ja herself was so oppressed by Sue, her older sister, that she developed emotionally induced cancer and passed away in 1987.

Ms. Gerdes in the first sentence in her Book revealed that Lee Nan Young killed herself! Sue's mother's suicide and its circumstances relating to her daughter threatening her is still a major, shameful secret in Korea. The false cover story known to most outsiders still is that Lee Nan Young died of a heart attack.

These facts are well known in the Korean show-business community, especially the contemporaries of Lee Nan Young, but Koreans are generally extremely secretive and private and do not like to talk about such things.

13

The Kim Sisters became major stars in America.

The trio had fantastic sex appeal, good vocal talent, exciting musical arrangements, played more than 20 instruments, had fabulous stage presence and an excellent sense of humor. There was never anything like The Kim Sisters before or since.

Ai Ja was wild and sexy, Mia was beautiful and nice, and Sue . . . well, she played several instruments well enough and had leadership qualities, but was a weak singer and she was an insanely jealous individual. For instance, when she noticed that the wife of one of her older brothers had a Mercedes, she went out of her mind with envy, yelled and screamed at her sister in law, and bought a Mercedes for herself the next day using Kim Sisters' money.

14

Mia and I met on the revolving stage at the Stardust Hotel Lounge. She came from a family of musicians and performers. At a very early age, both of us started professional musical appearances in American jazz and pop music. Our extremely similar early beginnings had only one difference: hers happened in Seoul, Korea, mine in Budapest, Hungary!

Our two nations have a lot in common!

Koreans and Hungarians love freedom and American culture and American music!

Today, in 2019, we are celebrating 30 years of diplomatic relations between Korea and Hungary.

Of course, Mia and I are both as American as apple pie, but when people ask us: How come you have been happily married for over half a century? I respond: "WE DON'T UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER!"

15

But actually, we do!

And we live in Budapest today: a fun city!

Have season tickets to the Hungarian State Opera and the concerts of the MÁV Symphony Orchestra and often go to Operettas and contemporary chamber music concerts, enjoying the music of Bartók, Kodály, Ligeti, Penderecki and Lutoslavski.

We also both like football, our favorite team is Barcelona.

Mia plays tennis 3 times a week. I used to play, too, but because I lobbed too much at one point was politely but vigorously requested to cease and desist... however I took karate for many years in Hawaii and LA and I practice my katas every morning . . .

And we perform! Mia and I gave more than 150 concerts since we moved to Hungary about a decade ago, often on television.

Here are some photos of our lives . . .

Sincere thanks!

Tommy Vig



MIA AND TOMMY WITH THEIR GROUP PERFORMING AT
THE KOREAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL IN BUDAPEST 2017



Mia Kim, also known as Min-ja, a member of the Kim Sisters, is shown with her husband Tommy Vig after their Jewish wedding ceremony in Temple Beth Shalom in Las Vegas in 1967.

TIME MAGAZINE 1967 MARCH 21



MIA AND TOMMY IN SEOUL 2017



MIA 2018



MIA 1963



MIA WITH DEAN MARTIN



MIA PERFORMS AT MÜPA IN BUDAPEST 2017



MIA WITH THE MIMI SISTERS AND THE BARBERETTES IN SEOUL 2016



LEE NAN YOUNG, MIA'S ADOPTIVE MOTHER -
MIA WAS HER FAVORITE DAUGHTER



MIA APPEARING ON AMERICAN TV WITH
LEE NAN YOUNG



THE VIGS IN 2018, BUDAPEST



MIA AND TOMMY WITH MOVIE PRODUCER DAEHYUN KIM
ON THE RED CARPET AT THE KOREAN MUSIC FESTIVAL 2017



MIA AND TOMMY DURING TV-INTERVIEW AFTER
PERFORMING AT THE KOREAN ART FESTIVAL
AT THE BÁLNA IN BUDAPEST 2017



MIA PERFORMING ON TV IN BUDAPEST 2016



MIA WITH ED SULLIVAN



MIA AND TOMMY IN KOREA 2017



MIA AND TOMMY WITH PRODUCER DAEHYUN KIM AND THE BARBERETTES IN SEOUL 2016



MIA AND TOMMY AT THE CULTURAL CENTER
IN SEOUL 2015



MIA AND TOMMY WITH FRIENDS IN KOREA 2017



HERE TOO



ROGER VIG 3 ½ YEARS OLD PLAYING THE DRUMS
IN HOLLYWOOD WITH HIS FATHER'S BIG BAND



THE KIM SISTERS' MOST SUCCESSFUL CLOSING MARIMBA NUMBER
ARRANGED BY TOMMY VIG

THE FOLLOWING FEW PAGES ARE
PHOTOGRAPHIC REPRODUCTIONS FROM AN
HONEST-TO-GOODNESS

BOOK OF DEFAMATIONS

BY A FAKE AUTHOR NAMED SARAH GERDES.
THIS MYTHOMANIAC PROMOTER RECEIVED
\$25.000 IN 2008 FROM A SUE KIM TO INVENT
AND PUBLISH WORLD-WIDE HUNDREDS OF
FABRICATIONS IN A HOAX BIOGRAPHY ABOUT
THE KIM SISTERS, LIBELING WITH UNTRUE
STORIES MANY HONEST PEOPLE WHO DIED
LONG AGO, AND DEFAMED MIA AND TOMMY
VIG, WHO ARE 80, BUT VERY MUCH ALIVE!

SUE KIM



OF THE KIM SISTERS
THE AUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY

SARAH GERDES

PREFACE

When Sook Ja Kim was four years old, sitting by the window on the third floor of her parent's thirteen-room mansion outside Seoul, she had no idea she would live through the capture and execution of one parent, the kidnapping and suicide of another.^{*} She couldn't have dreamed that poverty and near starvation would drive her and her siblings to perform for food, and that this talent would catapult her out of obscurity in Korea to the stage lights of Vegas by the age of nineteen. On that day, in the summer of 1943, she couldn't have foreseen the abuse and death of her closest sister nor the addiction and rehabilitation of brothers and relatives. Most of all, she had no concept of the Italian boy in New York, playing baseball on a dirty field in the Bronx, who she would meet, marry, and who would become the longest running casino boss in Las Vegas history. Together, they would shine as the most glamorous couple under the bright lights of the desert city for four decades and raise children and grandchildren, even as his occupation and her family threatened to tear it all apart. At that moment on that day, Sook Ja only knew stars existed in the sky, not on the stages around the world that was to be her destiny. For a few more hours, Sook Ja still had the pure, trusting, unconditional love of a sheltered child. They would be her last.

*** PUBLISHER GERDES
FINALLY REVEALED
THAT LEE NAN YOUNG
COMMITTED SUICIDE!**

SARAH GERDES

family in under her care. It was during the train ride to Pusan that Ran had an idea, one that involved three singing girls, who she could brand as "sisters." She'd seen how easily her brother's daughter Min-Ja Lee (pronounced Mee-ya), complimented her own daughter's personalities. She was quiet, easy going and interested in learning about performing.

When Ran and her large group entered the old locomotive, she found all the seats were taken, so Ran and her kids sat on the floor, piling on one another's laps or standing to make room so that they could stay together. The occupants of the tight quarters tried not to touch one another. For hours, the train stood still. It didn't take long for fleas and lice to leave the entire group scratching their heads and other body parts. Ai-Ja and the others children ruthlessly dug out the fleas on their arms, and felt the creeping and itching crawling of the lice burrow their way into their scalps. The time gave her a chance to consider the merits of her idea and convince her it was the only way to sustain her extended family.

Once the train began moving, Ran gathered her children around her. She was forming a new singing group, called The Kim Sisters. The group would include Sook Ja, Ai-Ja and her brother's daughter, Min Ja. Elder sister Young Ja was relieved, since she had always hated performing to the crowds on the street, much preferring to dance or better yet, babysit the other children. Sook Ja welcomed the news because she had firsthand knowledge of the American's leftovers and the warmth of a tent. She enthusiastically told Ai-Ja about the Coca Cola, the chocolate and the food. Ai-Ja was immediately excited. Min Ja was no less eager, although she expressed it differently. Her sweet personality was solicitous and encouraging, not overly flirtatious like Ai-Ja nor as commanding as Sook Ja. Since joining the Kim family, she'd retreated in to a quiet role, uncomfortable with taking the beds or food that rightfully belonged to her cousins. By performing, she knew she'd be contributing to the family, not taking away. Ran's brother gave her his full blessing: it was one less mouth to feed and person to worry about.*

*** A BIG LIE,
INVENTED BY
PUBLISHER GERDES**

As the train clattered and clanged its way south, passengers watched Ran teach Min Ja and Ai-Ja the American words to *Old Buttermilk Sky* and *Cookies and Cake* with Sook Ja providing helpful tips for memorizing the words. Ran asked one of her dancers, Mrs. Kang, to teach all three girls how to tap dance.

The train was full to capacity, with some people sitting on laps to rest their legs. The dusty wooden floors were covered with tired bodies. Mrs. Kang's requests for others to give up their seats were ignored.

Once again, Ran's fame came to her assistance. Only Ran could have influenced a tired, beaten people to sacrifice their floor seating, but for Ran Young

THE SUE KIM STORY

In October of 1993, Sue gave her last performance in Harrah's Casino. She took the holiday season off, fully expecting her contract to be renewed with Rocky in January as promised. When he unexpectedly died, it left her without a signed contract. The hotel was sold to new owners, who weren't interested in renewing her contract, news that Sue and John took in stride. Sue was already receiving offers from other venues, and as she told John, she was glad of it. "Thirty-five years isn't enough."

Then misfortune struck two times over. The first came in the form of a demand letter from Mia. The former group member had continued to receive payments every week for years, even though she hadn't performed. Sue generosity had long outstripped Mia's participation, and as she affirmed to John, not once had she regretted her decision. It had been the right thing to do. But now, even Sue's unending reservoir of kindness went dry when she read the note from her former adopted sister.

She immediately heeded John's advice to pay her off and be done with the woman. They hired Norm Kershman, a former union lawyer, to negotiate a settlement, one that included a one-time lump sum of \$52,500, a figure Sue thought a fortune. With the money was the agreement and rights for Sue to continue using the Kim Sisters name, and Mia's inability to reference the Kim Sisters in her own solo pursuits, should she continue on stage. Sue and John had no other options than to attain a second mortgage on their home, a fact neither disclosed in the paperwork. Once the final documentation was signed, Sue never heard from Mia again. All the years of work, family and friendship gone once she had a check.*

***NOT A WORD OF THIS STORY IS TRUE!**

Ever the optimist, Sue believed she'd make the money back in a few months. She was ready to sign a new contract when misfortune struck again. As she drove to an appointment, a driver ran a red light, totaling Sue's car. When she woke in the hospital, she learned four vertebrae in her back had been shattered. The doctor told her she would have to give up performing.

"Absolutely not," she replied, as she felt the neck-brace affixed to her body. Once the bones healed, she'd be back, better than ever.

"No, you don't understand," he said sympathetically, glancing at John. "You'll never walk again."

Sue refused to believe the doctor's prediction. For months, she laid in the hospital bed, pushing herself to move her limbs, denying herself pain medication. John was by her side, day and night, until Sue feared for his job.