



Duet for a Lifetime: The Story of the Original Siamese Twins

Kay Hunter

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This is the amazing story of the original Siamese twins, Chang and Eng Bunker, who were born near Bangkok in 1811 and died, after a lifetime spent in perpetual fleshly captivity, in North Carolina in 1874. Their fantastic history is told with sympathy and delicacy by Kay Hunter, descendant of the Scot who found and befriended them. She has been able to unearth much new and hitherto undisclosed material, including illustrations, not only from her own family sources but from the descendants of Eng and of Captain Abel Coffin, the villain of the piece who sought to rob the twins of their earnings. After purchase from their mother, Chang and Eng were launched into show business and in time became the most celebrated attractions of the great impresario P. T. Barnum. They eventually settled in North Carolina, where they touched off a fiery controversy by marrying two sisters and raising large families. They sought medical advice in the hope of being separated, but surgery at that time was not advanced enough to perform such an operation. Hunter's book contains accounts of the various medical examinations and details of the autopsy which finally revealed the extent to which these two men were joined as one.



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