

## Stormy

*By Suzy Hopkins*

The locals called them the M & M's. Their real names were the young Officer Mary Donnelly and older Captain Margaret Wilson. With their husbands at home at night they chose the 11PM to 7AM shift so they could help their kids with homework, go to work and be home in time to get them off to school. Cops had it easy in the small town of Hobnob, Tennessee. Not much happened on the nine streets they patrolled.

One stormy drenching rainy night they were cruising the parking lots in their ancient patrol car for bums sleeping in the alleys behind the food market, the gas station and the bank. Sometimes they'd find a drunk who couldn't find his way home who had been assaulted by the aforementioned bums. They would call his family and wait for them to pick him up. This night they were patrolling near the high school when they saw a heavy set tall guy wearing a dark colored rain jacket with the hood pulled over his head walking quickly down Main Street. They didn't recognize him and since he was acting suspiciously they slowly followed him at a distance. Suddenly he darted into the bushes and heavy vegetation that went around the baseball field at the spot which was a short cut to the high school athletic fields. M & M knew where the path reappeared on the other side of the brush so they sped over to meet him. When he appeared he had lost much of his weight looking now more like a tall skinny drowned rat. They followed him with their eyes for a distance but he disappeared into the dark.

Officer Donnelly said, "He must have left something on the short cut."

Captain Wilson said, "Darn right. Go look on the path."

Since it was raining Officer Donnelly said, "You come, too and bring the big flashlight."

After much thrashing around in the soggy underbrush they found a small cardboard box with a towel in it. Wrapped in the towel was a pink faced newborn infant with cold hands and feet.

"What the heck?" said Captain Wilson. "We need to get this baby help. Now!"

With the hospital almost 250 miles away they decided to take the baby to the tiny Hobnob Police Station which had heat and electricity. They got the radio dispatcher to make some calls for blankets and mother's milk.

But whose baby was this? The tall skinny man whom they had followed? Who was he? Where was he now? This unforeseen incident was to change their lives forever. M & M shared the care and the cost of raising the little girl, now called Stormy. She now had two moms and two dads even though she had lost both on that terrible night so many years ago.