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The Hidden Mother

by Sandra Banks

He had many secrets but the biggest secret of them all was hidden deep within. People had to know him well and for a long time before they could not make sense of how his mind worked.

It was common knowledge that he'd had a traumatic childhood, banished from his homeland, living among strangers and moving house often; abandoned by his father, his mother became all-important to him.

We all carry with us the child that we were, with all his frailty, innocence and by that I mean lack of understanding of the adult world and the desperate need to be loved. For some of us this child has more influence on us as adults than for others. For him the child within was always a powerful force. To cope with that he adopted his mother internally. She was always there to comfort him and tell him that he was loved and had a great future.

When he was upset, mother came quickly to his rescue. Small disasters and big ones, the remedy was always the same. This made him resilient. He was not afraid of setbacks. He and his mother were following the same path.

His actions needed to be actions she would approve. Children were important to them both. He could make them happy and make himself happy at the same time.

He spent his life achieving the goals she had set him. Conflict was inevitable. From time to time, he was unable to deal with the conflict and this caused a nervous meltdown. He found out only after his mother's death that he had an illegitimate half-brother. His older brother knew but did not tell him. This illegitimate brother was well-known in society and would have been of great help to him, but it was many years before he could control the feelings of the betrayed child enough to agree to meet him.

As a young man, he quickly discovered the joys of women. He enjoyed their company and all through his life he was always ready to please a lady who caught his fancy. But somehow, in his mind there was a difference in enjoying women and marrying one.

Marriage for him, and he was always a staunch catholic, was a violation of the sacred relationship between him and his mother. When he did marry and he married late in life, his marriage was a disaster. This made the internal conflict a continuous battle between his feelings for his mother and his disappointment in his wife. This conflict he could not resolve and it had a dramatic impact on both his public and his private life.

This strange character persevered. He overcame so many obstacles that his eccentricities deserve to be forgiven.