

Switched- A tale of
two girls- two lives

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Sarah Walker – Present Day
- It Happened That Night.
- Rachael Donahue- Present Day
- A Sneak Peek Into Old Nancy’s Life
- Old Nancy Speaks
- The Beginning of A New Friendship
- 7 Years Later
- Rachael’s Birthday Party.
- Sarah is in love
- Sarah gets a big surprise.
- Sarah’s Last Chance
- Old Nancy’s Confession

Sarah stood in silence, gazing at the crowd in the market while brushing her silky blonde hair.” These people had everything a person could ask for – parents who loved them and bought them everything they wanted, good food, good clothes and the money to celebrate festivals but still they cry ,why? . They don’t even understand the meaning of hunger. How it haunts you every time! They have never felt the fear that people like me go through every day! “ . She thought. She shuffled inside her polybag and took out the box which contained her collection of buttons – It was the only thing that she was proud of. It was Christmas Eve and most of the children in the town were pestering their parents, asking them to buy beautiful decorations for their Christmas trees. Sarah did not decorate her Christmas tree for she had none. She wiped her tears after crying for almost an hour. She left for home. As soon as she reached her home (a small cottage in a forest), she saw her only family, her aunt, lying on the bed. Her mother had died when she was 3 years old. She could feel the agony of her aunt. “What happened, Aunt Nancy?” Sarah asked. “Don’t you see, I am ill. “She replied. “Should I call the doctor, Aunt?” “Who will give us the money to pay him?” Her aunt replied angrily. Sarah knew soon the disease would take her only family away from her. “If I sell my collection of buttons, I can save my aunt. “ She thought. She went back home, took her collection, went to the shopkeeper and sold it. She got only 4\$ for the entire collection. She thought that this would at least help her in paying the doctor’s fees. She called the doctor and went to church to pray. “ Dear Jesus , I know that festivals are not meant for people like me .I’ve never asked you to give me anything because you already sent your angel (My aunt) to take care of me .But today I’ll ask for a thing . Please don’t take my aunt away from me. I’ll repay it.

Please send me your address, I 'all work for you and in return you just have to keep my aunt happy. But Jesus, I'll just ask you one question today, do we not have the right to celebrate festivals? Is Santa Claus only a dream for us? Is a luxurious life only possible for children who have rich parents? Amen "She finished her prayer and returned home. Her aunt was sleeping so she did not wake her up. She slept on her side of the bed. When she woke up she found her aunt in good health. They thanked Jesus. Suddenly, Sarah noticed the box which contained her collection. She opened it and was surprised to see her collection safe in her hands.

It Happened That Night

"Nancy, go and get my Baby Princess for the party. I want her first look to be in front of all our guests. "Stella Donahue told her daughter's nurse "But ma'am you should see the baby princess first." Nancy replied. "If you do not bring my daughter for the party in 20 seconds,

you're fired!" Nancy entered the Nursery She looked at her disliked client's precious, beautiful and perfect daughter. "Wow! You're very pretty. That cruel mother of yours does not deserve a girl so pretty.

Your parents haven't seen you yet. How about we give my niece to them? Saying that she is the Baby Princess. At least my niece would be brought up in a huge house with lots of servants to take care of her.

One day, she would be the princess of Rome". Nancy picked up her niece. She had a dark complexion and was a brunette. Nancy went to the party which was being held at a hotel near the hospital. She told Stella Donahue that the Baby Princess was not very beautiful. Stella was upset for a while but she cheered up and accepted her daughter not knowing that the real princess would be brought up in a house which would face financial crisis. So, the girls were exchanged. While Sarah was brought up in the home of Anne Martin, a widow who didn't earn much, Rachael was brought up in a huge house .It was made sure all her wishes came true.Rachael grew up to be a brand conscious , pampered girl who didn't realize the importance of hunger, Sarah grew up to be a caring, hungry girl for whom Anne Martin was everything.

Rachael Donahue- 10 Months Later

"Mom! It's Christmas today and I have already selected my gifts at Duncan's toy chest. I used my Credit Card but I forgot to sign the bill. Send somebody to sign it" Rachael Donahue shouted from her room. "Okay, honey". Her mother replied. "Nora, send Princess Rachael's new secretary to pay the bill". Catherine Montgomery was Rachael's new secretary. She took the credit card and went to Duncan's Toy Chest.

“Excuse me; I’m here to pay the bill for Rachael Donahue. How much would that be?” She asked the Clerk.

“That would be \$5000 only”. The Clerk replied. “That girl spent \$5,000 on toys! Such a spoiled girl.”She thought. She returned to Donahue Palace with all the toys. When she reached the Palace, she heard whispers coming from the Queen’s room. “And very soon Rachael will be the queen of this country. I am thinking of hiring a poor child to come and play with her. Of course, the child would be cleaned and given a dress before entering my palace. Do you know a child who can play with Rachael?”Stella said. “Your Highness, do you remember Baby Princess’ old Nurse?”Nora said. “Nancy? I do remember her but she would be too old for the job.” “Ma’am, Nancy has a niece who is as old as Baby Princess; she needs a job for Nancy is ill. I’ve heard that she is an honest little girl.” “Very well, Nora but I want Rachael to perform with her new friend on her birthday. It would be a great occasion for some charity. You will prepare the performance and teach them” “Ma’am, but it is 25th October already. I only have 32 days. Baby Princess’ birthday is on 27th November!” “If I get even one complaint from Rachael, you’re fired!” Ella went back home after the conversation.

A Sneak Peek into Old Nancy’s Mind

Nancy lay on the bed. The disease was killing her from inside. She knew that she would die very soon. It was essential to do a good deed. No better deed than giving back Stella Donahue her daughter. But, if she would do this then her darling niece would be sent back to live in this house. "The good deed should be one that makes people happy. Let my niece be happy for I can't give her the happiness that Stella Donahue can." She thought. "Where is that annoying child now? Sarah, get in here right now!" Nancy shouted. "Yes, aunty." Sarah replied. "I am not well and look at you, enjoying yourself in the town. What have you been doing all day? How much money did you earn today?" Nancy asked with rage. Her face was bright red. "I went to a Construction Site. They needed labor there. I worked for today and earned \$5." Sarah replied. "Don't act as if you're doing a favor for me by working. I took care of you when your mother died. If it had not been for me, you wouldn't have had a house to live in .Be thankful to me. Now make some dinner and serve it to me" Nancy was pleased with herself. She had made such a good servant of the Baby Princess. She didn't care how badly Sarah cried that night.

Old Nancy Speaks

I am Nancy and I just came to tell you that don't believe whatever the book tells you. I treated that stupid (sorry, wonderful) Sarah with lots of love. I am going to exchange the new prince of Iowa –Charles Bartowski with my nephew Pierre. I need help in doing so. Anybody who helps me will get a free picture with Rachael Donahue. I did a good thing by making my niece the Irish Princess. Sarah didn't deserve to be brought up in a house like that. I want to see Stella Donahue's face when she realizes that she has been raising her maid's (my sister's) daughter. It would be a slap on her face. I'll wait till Rachael gets the throne. As soon as she becomes the queen, I'll tell Rachael and kick Stella out of the house. That would be fun. People say I am like the Evil Queen in Snow white and I'm proud of it. Thank God, there is no prince in this story. Or is there? You won't know unless you read the whole book. So keep reading.

The Beginning of a New Friendship

Sarah was on her way to her Aunt's friend- Nora Allen's house. She didn't know what her job was but she was excited .Any girl her age would be excited by the idea of dressing up. She hoped that she would get the job. "Aunt Nora, may I come in?" She knocked the door and asked. "Come in, Sarah."Nora replied. Sarah entered the house. "Let's get you dressed up quickly. Baby Princess is waiting." Sarah got dressed up in a pink silk dress .Nora combed her hair and they were ready to go. "What is my job, Aunt Nora?" "You are a friend to the Baby Princess." "That sounds easy" Sarah thought. They reached the palace. Sarah was made to sit in Rachael's room. Rachael entered her room. Both of them exchanged a smile which could either be an evil smile or a friendly smile. That can't be decided for we were not there to see it. This commenced a new friendship.

5 Years Later

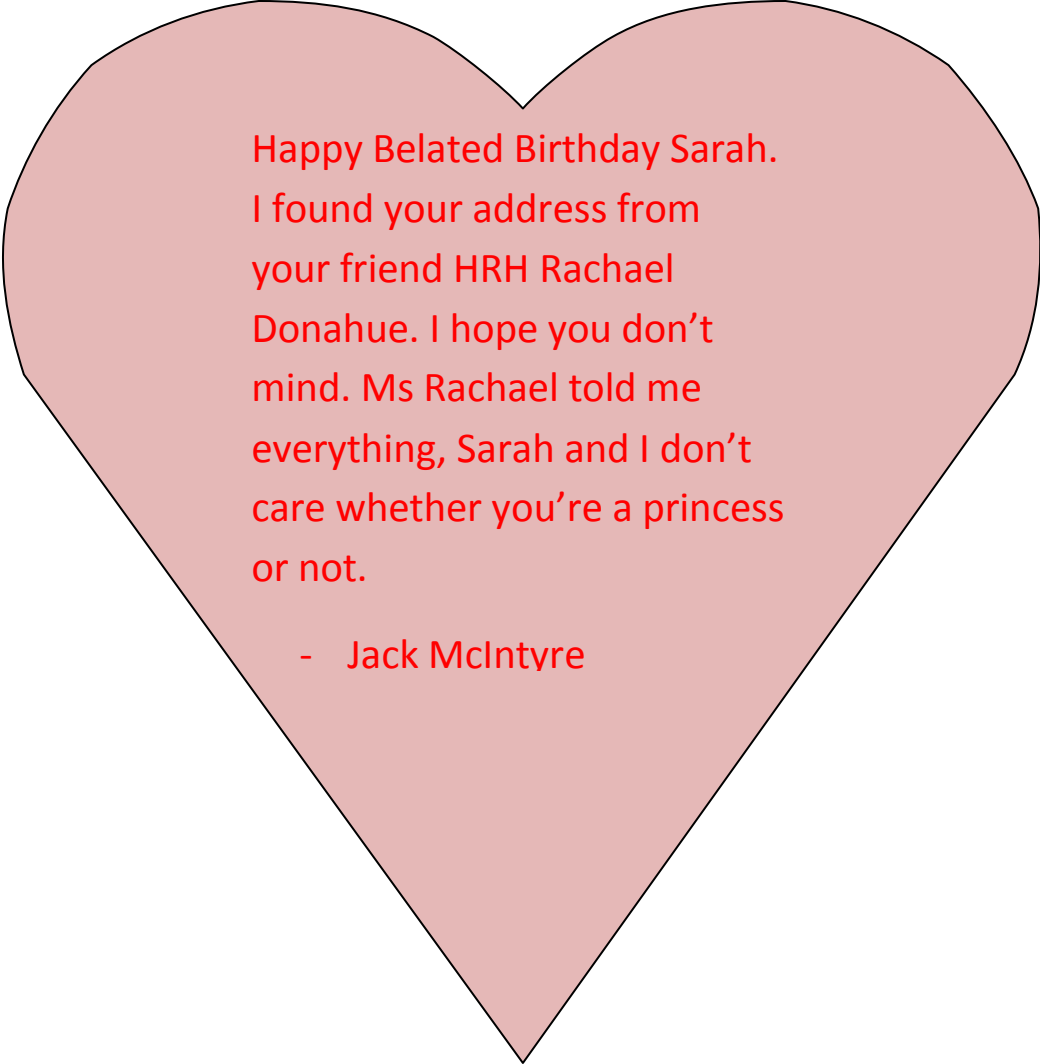
Sarah entered the room of her Best Friend – Rachael Donahue. “Thank God! You’re here, Sarah. We have to go shopping today. I don’t have any dress to wear on my 18th birthday party and we’ll buy something for you too. You can’t wear that old dress of yours on my party.” “Stop! Donahue Express. Take a breath at least. First of all, Happy Birthday Rachael, this is the only memory I have of my aunt. I always wear it on the day she disappeared. You know that.” “Sorry!” Rachael apologized. “It’s okay. Rachael and Sarah hugged each other. “Remember, how shy you were when we met for the first time?” Sarah said. “Yeah. You know you look like my mom now and I look like yours. Maybe we were switched at birth like Bay and Daphne of Switched at Birth. Love that show.” Rachael. “ Ha-ha! Not possible.”

Rachael's Birthday Party

They went shopping and when they came back, it was time to get dressed for the party. Rachael was dressed in a DKNY limited edition dress. She had a diamond tiara on her head. Sarah on the other hand was dressed in a simple pink dress which her Aunt Nora had stitched. She looked beautiful. The party started. All the Royal Families were invited. The dance began. Rachael went to join her family. Sarah waited for Rachael to come. A boy dressed in a black suit came and said "Hey! I am Jack Potter, prince of Might land." "Hey, I'm Sarah Walker." He shook her hand. "So Ms. Sarah, would you like to dance?" He asked. "Sure." Sarah replied and so it continued, Sarah made a new friend. "How do you know Rachael?" Sarah asked him later that night. "Who is Rachael?" He asked looking puzzled. "Rachael is the Donahue princess .It is her 18th Birthday today." "When is your birthday?" he asked. "Well actually, Rachael and I were born on the same day. So, it is my 18th Birthday too." "Well Happy Birthday, Sarah." "Thank you" Soon the party ended. It was time to go home.

Sarah is in love.

Sarah woke up in the morning and found a bouquet of flowers near her bed. There was a note attached which said



Happy Belated Birthday Sarah.
I found your address from
your friend HRH Rachael
Donahue. I hope you don't
mind. Ms Rachael told me
everything, Sarah and I don't
care whether you're a princess
or not.

- Jack McIntyre

She smiled to herself. Even though she had met him a night ago, she was deeply in love with him.

Sarah gets a big surprise.

Sarah stood near the mirror. She was wearing the dress Jack had sent for her. She couldn't believe that a prince like Jack Potter would accept her the way she was. But it was true. He loved her. She had been excited by the idea of her first date. They were going for a dinner. Sarah was very happy today. So happy, that she didn't even pay attention to what was going on around her. She didn't even feel the wrath of the person who was standing behind her, the person who wanted her to die .When she was going down the stairs, somebody pushed her , she hit her head on the corner of the wooden staircase. She called for help but nobody came. She tried to see who pushed her and she saw a face very similar but it was not to help her but to kill her. That person whispered something into her ear. Now, she understood
Everything. She drifted away to unconsciousness.

Sarah's Last Chance

Sarah lay on the bed. She was still unconscious. Jack sat on the corner of the bed, holding her hand, waiting for her to wake up. Sarah tightened her grip on his hand. His eyes glowed with a sign of hope. He went to call the doctor. When the doctor came, he saw that Sarah had already lost a lot of blood. She needed more but the Blood Bank didn't have the blood she needed. He told Jack. Jack tried to call everybody he knew, trying to find somebody with O negative blood group. Only Stella Donahue's blood group matched to Sarah's. Stella agreed to donate her blood. She came to the hospital and gave her blood. While she was leaving, the doctor stopped her and said "Congratulations, ma'am. Now we can save your daughter." "Great! But she is not my daughter."

"Ma'am we are sorry but we did a compulsory DNA check which proved that Ms. Sarah is your biological daughter." Stella was shocked. She wanted answers and she wanted them quickly. There was only one person which had touched her daughter before the party- Nancy Martin. She sent her officials to search for Nancy. After 3 hours, she received a phone call. "Your Highness, we have found her at last."

Old Nancy's Confession

"Fine! I'll confess." Nancy said after hours of being beaten by the officials. Everybody stood in the room- Stella, Jack and Nora.

"I exchanged Baby Princess with my niece when I was asked to bring her. Sarah is your real daughter. Rachael is my niece." Nora said. "How could you do that, Nancy? What did my daughter do to you?" Stella asked. "Your daughter was beautiful. She could make any prince fall in love with her without even knowing she was a princess. Nobody deserves a perfect life like that. Not even your daughter. I did everything to give your daughter a horrible life and she was living one but this Prince had to step in. It was essential to kill her. So, I came back and pushed her from the stairs. What a relief it was!" Nancy said happily. "You pushed Sarah from the stairs?" Jack asked. "Yes, I did and I am proud of it." Nancy replied. "You shall be hanged until death." Stella cried. Nancy was imprisoned. Stella returned to the hospital and brushed Sarah's hair. "What will happen to Rachael, Aunt Stella?" Jack asked. "Rachael is my daughter too. Sarah and Rachael will be sisters now." Stella replied. When Sarah woke up after a deep sleep, she found Jack proposing to her. She accepted it. She is content now and lives peacefully in Might land with her Prince. Rachael got married to the Dowager Prince and often came to visit Sarah with her family. Nancy was released after 6 years of imprisonment. They all lived together peacefully.

THE END