

Podcast Name: *The Isle of Imaginaria*

Episode Name: Chapter 1 - International Fart Line

In this first chapter of *The Isle of Imaginaria* podcast, we see a young girl with her nose pressed to the parlor room window on a rainy Sunday afternoon. It's always dreary, Markie thought as she looked outside, whenever such days came to her hometown of Springlinton. She made a heart shape on the glass with her nose before turning into the house again.

Markie had just returned her attention to the happenings inside her home when she ran into Great Aunt Sis (or perhaps Great Aunt Sis ran into her?). Great Aunt Sis commanded the room with a loud voice, loud print dress, and loud, thick perfume. The scent reminded Markie of Christmas Eve, but right now, it was late August.

Great Aunt Sis plopped a pot of stargazer lilies onto the table and summarily shoved her nose into a bloom, emerging with a pollen mark on her nose. She noted to Markie that roses were Markie's father's favorite flower. Markie paused to consider the strangeness of the comment, which not only misidentified her father's favorite flowers as roses rather than stargazers, but also referred to him in the past tense.

Moving to the dining room, Markie observed the many differences between now and the Christmas gatherings her assembled relatives reminded her of. Now, there were people clad in black, a guest book near a picture of Markie's late father, and a buffet table. Markie attempted to skip over the egg salad to the more appetizing chocolate covered strawberries, but upon being critiqued by Great Aunt Sis (who had added egg salad to the smudges on her face), Markie decided to look for her mother.

And she knew just where she was most likely to find her mother: in the patio, or rather, in the antique brick courtyard complete with fireplace, greenhouse, and beehive. Markie found her mother by the bees, in one of the chairs in which Markie and her parents regularly sat together. She settled in beside her mom, and after a period of silence, told her mom about stargazers and how they point to heaven.

Jumping ahead in time, we find Markie's mother, Annie, in the kitchen, making a sandwich. Annie was happy to finally have her house empty of visitors again, and had decided on peanut butter and honey to share with Markie - without crust, of course - rather than dipping into leftovers from the funeral gathering.

She was interrupted by the ringing of the phone, and found her friend and former college roommate from culinary school, Delia, to be on the other end of the line. The two friends spoke about the devastation of the season, as things were both the same and different simultaneously after Annie's husband had been killed in a SWAT team training incident. Delia and Annie arrived at an idea: Annie and Markie needed a change, and would move to Delia's home of Raytown. There, Annie could take up baking again.

After getting off the phone, Annie went to eat with Markie, bringing leftover sandwiches with her in order to trick Markey about what they would eat. Markie smelled the leftover tuna with disdain, and she and Annie laughed as Annie revealed their actual dinner. While in the kitchen, Annie had seen Markie talking to the bees, and now, Markie reminded Annie that her father had taught her to tell the bees about big life events.

The next time Markie updated the bees, it was early December, and she was moving. The flight from Springlinton to Raytown took nearly all day, and Markie was especially fascinated by the international dateline. Upon landing, she and her mother took a Sky Train from the airport to Delia's home. Markie felt close to flying up in the Sky Train, and she looked down on places she loved and places (like a camera museum and snake farm!) she hoped to visit.

Annie reminded Markie to look for the Christmas tree in the city square. Christmas was so different here than in Springlinton, but it was still familiar. Nose on the window, Markie looked and thought, until finally she and Annie both realized they had arrived. Markie admired the Christmas display across the street as she and Annie headed toward Delia. They all caught up, and while the women started to make cookies, Markie shared about the missing 24 hours and her mom farting in her sleep on the plane.

As conversation turned to business, Markie got tired. Delia showed her to her new room, and the hallway that led her toward it was filled with remarkable paintings. Delia explained that this was a hall of fame for Delia's family, which was filled with champion kite fighters. Unfortunately, Delia clarified, she could not be on the wall because only males could compete. Markie went to bed, but she couldn't sleep. Her final thoughts of the night were thoughts of confusion: How could Delia be okay with her inability to be a champion? And how could she be okay with the idea of telling a daughter that she, too, could not be a champion?

Key Takeaways:

0:23 - Rainy Sunday afternoons in Springlinton are always dreary.

0:46 - Markie ran into Great Aunt Sis, and eventually followed her to the dining room.

4:01 - Markie went to find her mother, and located her out on the patio by the bees.

6:06 - Annie prepped peanut butter and honey sandwiches, and was interrupted by a call from Delia.

9:15 - Annie brought dinner to Markie, and Markie shared about talking with the bees.

9:57 - In early December, after talking to the bees, Markie left with Annie and flew to Raytown. The two then took a Sky Train from the airport to Delia's home.

14:07 - Annie and Markie arrived at Delia's home and caught up with her. Markie shared about their travels, including the detail that her mother farted in her sleep on the plane.

16:04 - On the way to her room for the night, Markie learned about the hall of fame.

17:47 - Markie could not sleep because of her thoughts and confusion over kite fighting and the hall of fame.

Links:

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Learn more about the [International Date Line](#).

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SEO Keywords:

Christmas, August, stargazer lily, noseprint, patio, greenhouse, beehive, peanut butter and honey, culinary institute, SWAT team, training incident, December, skeleton key, the International Date Line, Sky Train, airport, camera museum, snake farm, Christmas tree, lotus flower, hall of fame, kite fighters, champions, male, female