

The Zaparo Brothers



According to the International Zygoty Institute, the odds of a woman giving birth to identical twins are 1 in 285; identical triplets, 1 in 150,000; quadruplets, 1 in 729,000; and quintuplets, 1 in 60,000,000. Identical sextuplets, while possible, are extremely improbable. None have ever been documented. Until now. In 1967, Henrietta Zaparo of Montezuma's Revenge, New Mexico, gave birth to six look-alike sons: Hajari, Henrik, Hidalgo, Horace, Hugo, and Bob. Not wanting to expose them to the excessive media attention that other multiple identical births triggered, Henrietta diligently kept them out of the public eye. For years, whenever they went out, she dressed each one differently. Sometimes she ever resorted to cross-dressing Bob, a practice that left him with a slight high heels fixation. Once the boys reached teendom, however, Mom's influence began to wane. And by their twenty-first birthdays, "The Zaparo Brothers," as they insisted on being called, were keen to exploit their "unique identicalness." Although they didn't dress *exactly* alike, each always sported a jaunty mustache and a brown and green camouflage kepi, making it difficult to tell them apart (except for when Bob insisted on wearing pumps). They made numerous public appearances at film festivals, sporting events, restaurant openings, building demolitions, and UFO conventions. Trouble began, however, when they appeared in the short-lived reality TV program, "Which One Is Bob?" Suddenly, Bob was in the limelight, and the other brothers begrudged him his popularity. Hidalgo dyed his mustache fuchsia, Henrik wore his cap inside-out, and gradually each brother developed his own identifiable persona. Requests for public appearances evaporated, and soon the brothers found themselves back in Montezuma's Revenge, destitute, except for Bob's extensive collection of public appearances, kittens, prisms, spools, wedges, and stilettos. There's a lesson here, but The Zaparo Brothers are currently too discouraged to verbalize it.