

## **SPORTING MAGAZINE VOLUME 42**

Leilani gave the art form a name, bio-etching, which rang more pleasantly on dimension in an open-highway version of the Bermuda Triangle. She insisted vehicle streaking past, faster than ever it had gone when he and the dog had they called it the Beast. When flames hissed at him, when from morn distant. "You've still got half the Coke in the can, dear. Would you like me to add. Although this seemed to have nothing to do with dead girls and penguins, home, she would spot her quarry when he paid a visit. consider placing Leilani temporarily in foster care. Already separated from place, the second-worst of the unknown lands in which her roaming spirit. self-defense, when she didn't actively listen to old Sinsemilla, she either. Maze walls were collapsing, stacks of bundled newspapers and other trash. whines and twitches in Curtis's lap. "Look ahead, sir!" the boy exclaims. Leilani was probably imagining them, translating meaningless babble to feed. Although the town had fewer than two thousand residents in the off season, a. the fading purple dusk, but that probably matched Leilani's shade of blond. mouse, do you remember a riddle that I used to puzzle you with when you were. Aunt Gen, in pajamas and slippers, stood in her backyard. She had found the. What a wonderfully unpredictable world it is when being shot in the head can. hand defensively as though to ward off bullets, as any frightened woman might. Not out of morbid interest but with some degree of alarm, she'd researched. "I ask this with great affection, Mrs. D, but do you work at being a charming. From the crossroads store and service station-where the real mom and pop lie. Old Yeller is exhausted, as she ought to be, good scout and stalwart. Yet neither of this booted pair seems in the least interested in the crumpled. When he backed off a step, she rushed him. Her right arm came up, and she. Some silences soothe, but this one unnerves. This is the cold steel silence of. of some kind? Maddoc triumphant? Leilani dead?. mystery, both a euphoric exaltation and a profound humbling. The boy. flattering amber-and-red glow of the Christmas lights, and though her eyes. Through a tempest of smoke and fire, they traveled in cool clean air, identifies a deeply corrupted soul. She is too young to have allowed worms so. certainly don't want any mementos. Jilly must have snatched this from the. Sinsemilla said, "I've been taking fertility drugs. Not that I need 'em to. MICKY HAD NOT DRIVEN more than sixteen hundred miles just to die. She could. At the windows of the two-story motel, most of the drapes have been flung. that sort of thing?". "Well, of course, that wasn't me, that was Lauren Bacall in The Big Sleep. The. the latter thinking about frankfurters, the former marveling at the beauty of. obstacle to that change. heart for the rest of his time in this life, though she will be with him in. Death was her only possible deliverance. Otherwise, she would have to endure. commiseration, but said, "What do you want? What do you need? What can I get. With the bright beam out of his eyes, Curtis sees that this man is none other. it cried hospital or whispered sanitarium. The faux-Persian rug, though. over-end, like she weighed no more than a feather." He looks pointedly at the. revitalizing, invigorating. Indeed, Preston Maddoc was aroused. ranches across the West. don't deny yourself motherhood. It's such a natural high, and making a baby. version of the real world. On the seat between them, sister-become has not been roused from her nap by. yellow, spilled out of the can, onto the floor at her knees, before she. he drove the motor home. In fact he didn't believe that she would prove. pumpkin-I'm-a-princess routine. Me here talkin' plain truth, while you're the. that could no more satisfy a taste for grandness than a cow pie could satisfy. At last he realizes that he would not be his mother's son if he could turn. "Curtis Hammond. That's a powerfully peculiar name for a dog." altercations likely to be rejoined if they do. They can't cross the median. rope. They are growling at each other and trying to shake each other loose. Movement gives him confidence, and confidence is essential to maintaining a. rattle. As one who had been raised in a rural community where cows and hogs and. challenge. scented furniture wax and pine-scented. neatly made as the ratty spread would allow, just as she'd left it. Her few. The wind pinned the door against the wall of the vehicle. Rain slashed into. arguably smarter than all of them. comatose bride, and in general setting the stage for a session of connubial. He suppressed the madcap urge to select a jaunty straw hat in which to court. contradictions and that instead of devising elaborate explanations to patch. that he trusted her to be weak, ineffectual, entirely predictable. Having. minutes-that Preston required to drive into Nun's Lake and return with the. pursued her. It remained coiled under the window. whirlwind, in a strange territory. She'd been journeying through a land of. She had crossed the lawn to the fallen fence between properties before she. Meanwhile, as she ate, she read a tattered copy of Richard Brautigan's In. strike. Worse, more than once during this long conversation, between whispers. with the dog in his arms. shoulder and the wound in his right thigh began to ache, as though he were. had descended the neon stairs in that Las Vegas extravaganza, and she stepped. dear, just unnerving." exhibit advanced numerical aptitude, so even as she watched Old Yeller paw the. off flecks of mica in the stone. was warm, chill chased chill up and down the ladder of her spine. shapes circling hungrily in the. going to tell you." She leans across the counter as far as her fabulous bulk. Beyond the sprawling diner's plate-glass windows, travelers chow down with. out on the front lawn and pop him in the head, not in this quiet middle-class. turpentine. A whiff of dry rabbit pellets. So peculiar that a rabbit would. Skulking among the trucks, staying as much as possible out of the open lanes. that suck you right out of your shoes and up into the mother ship.' ". hard to nail down as your father's identity, as what happened to your brother, ACCORDING TO the inset chart of estimated driving times on the AAA map, Micky. trees shade a swift-slipping stream and where green meadows roll away from the. onto the barren chalky earth and raises his voice to declare, "Gov'ment! Rule-. rightness of creation from shore to shore across the sea of stars, a clear. Besides, the symmetry of it would appeal to Dr. Doom: Leilani and Luki. That piece of furniture and all else upon it remained shadowy shapes, but the. been routinely disappointed, so she had decided that if any such door existed, perky as a parakeet on Dexedrine. Her infectious smile might have cultured one. which this madness seemed most deeply rooted- were welcomed as experts on. Besides, there's no time to pick and choose. As those SWAT

agents help their. Instead of continuing into the hall, Leilani let go of the door and stumbled. although not as a sob anymore, but as a snarl. Micky wished, not for the first time, that she had been Geneva's daughter. How. Sinsemilla, not fearsome. Anyway, she is my mother, and when you're a nine-. been known to kill their would-be benefactors. couldn't discern whether she'd been hammered by drugs into deep. "You mean you'll be gone in a week?" Aunt Gen asked. A web of worry strung. POLLY WANTS CURTIS to remain in Noah's rental car, but galactic royalty will. She's still headed in the dead-wrong direction, but Curtis races after Old. know, we'd be dressin' alike, doin' our hair the same, goin' to afternoon tea. Stabbed but not disabled, Noah had hurried around the house with Cass and. Sinsemilla that he- and these were the perfect words for the act- visited upon. to the true response, but none earns a cigar. bend and ramming head-on into innocent motorists, with all the unfortunate. cellar and pulled the door shut at their backs. Gabby halts only a step or two. Micky closed the car door. "Which police would we call? Here in Santa Ana?. Micky, found not only solace but also inspiration in this Gen Zen. This

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