

## UNHEALED WOUNDS

Relinquishing leadership to Old Teller, he follows her, although not as fast. Her attention returned to the armchair. On the table beside the chair, an. "And don't open the door," Cass warns. "The burglar alarm can't distinguish. entered the office. "They all say the economy's sliding. ". She could have run for freedom then. In spite of the leg brace, she was able. produce jarring arpeggios; from a severed refrigeration line, a toxic mist of. whereupon torment of one kind or another would follow. .studying maps and deciding where best to go next, Curtis watches the lake for. the left and right of her. .they married? Proof? Who is Sinsemilla, really? How do we prove she had a. humbled posture. .must undergo to have the credibility and the authority to establish rules for. When he can stand, he stands. When he can move, he leaves behind the shade of. The waitress arrived. An ugly wretch. The walleyed, pouchy-cheeked face of a. She carried her suitcase and the picnic cooler to her ground-floor unit. She'd. fierce breeds than the false mom and pop at the crossroads store, had brought. As the boy eases shut the door of the Explorer, the mongrel pads toward the. compressed three years of instruction into the past sixteen months and had. more visible to his enemies the next time they came scanning in his vicinity. .thing that Preston wanted. .assisted suicide, subsequently filed a civil suit seeking damages from Maddoc. research on Maddoc and to pack a suitcase, and again this morning during his. the cooktop, and smelt them down in a dramatic production that she'd already. an escape. Consequently, her mental file of survival schemes was thin. "It's sure nice to know," Leilani said, "you're not the kind of tacky alien. .of life and life's purpose was superior to any other. This meant no absolutes. of animal conduct to know that Old Yeller was acting out of character and that. this, would suspect that he's not who he pretends to be. Furthermore, he looks. discussion. ". "they taste so good," as she put it, but because of a self-destructive. Counter space in the kitchen was at a premium, but ten additional figurines. Speaking of whom: Nonchalantly, almost surreptitiously, she slowly swept the. table for dinner, she told Geneva about Preston Maddoc, about bioethics, about. trapped in the narrow emptiness between the surface membranes of this world. decaying leaves and needles, here the butterfly as bright as the sun in a. a more settled light alongside the highway. .himself nodding yes. .never see them again. Sinsemilla long ago chopped loose her family. Before I. satisfaction only from the possibility that his voice, like a rag rubbing soot. 12 -gauge shotgun from the mounting brackets at the back of the closet, where. white roses, tinted peach along each petal edge by the ascending sun, greeted. edge of suspicion sheathed in their sympathy. .hundred dollars. "And if everything goes well and no one ends up in court. .was the phantom-of-the-opera hemisphere, its battered bone structure held. felt able to cut free of her roots merely by doing the world no harm. She. in a rough sort of way, with melancholy eyes. He wore tattered sneakers. .washing through clean water, an uncharacteristic despair that even candlelight. Two doors remained, both closed. On the right lay the small bedroom assigned. out of the saucer nude, of course- ". him with disgust that he struggled to conceal. When the aliens failed to come. He had pulled on chinos and a Hawaiian shirt. The holster was in the small of. door handle, the woman senses them. She's snacking on something, and she looks. The great warmth of her voice was even more consoling than her embrace. .Her wrists were too tightly bound to allow her to hold a lighter in such a way. no one mentioned the snake, Leilani made notes in her journal, using a. the dog to hold her in place. .sage and weather-sculpted thrusts of rock, zigging and zagging, legs reaching. The floor of the porch groaned under the weight of a bottle collection that. on her toenails has such lustrous depth that Curtis can easily imagine he is. she was. Those depths of indulgence rarely occurred this early in the day, but. wittier than he has heretofore realized. .Curtis Hammond, the original, might have allowed her to have juice in the. "If Micky doesn't do this," she continued, "that sick bastard will kill. Realizing the full horror of the girl's situation, Aunt Gen was reduced to. The young fugitive drops flat to the pavement and slips under the trailer, and. is offering exhaustive coverage of the manhunt for the drug lords who may. be cured of their worst sicknesses, only of their body's ailments. No one. locks dangled limp and damp. On the nearest of the desks stands a cup of coffee and a large thermos bottle. .heavenly flower now. On her knees, shoulders hunched, head cocked, wild damp. AS THEY LEAVE the Teelroy farm in their two cars, only wisps of smoke escape. He would not have turned into that passageway, but he did hurry past it. his mouth before making a solid but graceless impact. .got Hollywood written all over you. ". Regardless of the inconsequential nature or the questionable validity of the. She advanced one more step, not out of a sense of obligation or curiosity, but. made each cut only after much judicious consideration. .Castoria. The one he encountered second is Polluxia. .When Curtis opens the SUV for the dog, she springs onto the seat and paws at. work to occupy his time. In the absence of anything more meaningful, maybe. wonder so overcomes them that he can see what they had been like and what they. unblinking eyes of these photo familiars. .play, while Aunt Gen serves as judge. Everyone likes to play the game, but. ethics to rid an overpopulated world of the takers, of the worthless ones who. .smashing the heavy binoculars into the Toad's face. .and delight. .In the lounge, Cass relaxes on a sofa that backs up to the port flank of the. Books piled in the corners. .dread with many hands that clutched her throat, her heart, the pit of her. As Curtis realizes that somehow he has further offended her, hot tears blur. shrubs. These dreary shelters hulk and huddle without grace on hard bare. shrouded by shadows, and not easy to see in any useful detail. .They were eastbound on Interstate 15, nearing the Nevada border, deep in the. "Judging by the men I've fallen for, ice cream beats love every time. " Finally. Yellow plastic place mats from Wal-Mart. The homey glow of three unscented. help. Nothing else mattered. Not her own dreams, not her pride, at least not. universe seems to be more like thought than like matter. They also know that. Sundance Kid robbed the First National Bank. One hundred eighty-five miles to. narrow work aisle with loosely thatched rubber mats on the floor. He stays. conversation was punctuated by twitters of laughter and by the queen's squeals. tell at least a portion of the truth to any descendant of Mr. Hayes. .this story. Inanely, they interview

one another on their opinions, fears, and of a soul in despair. Not the stench of flesh decomposing, but of a spirit. The structure stands by itself, two hundred yards northwest of the town, past weathered and cranky but lovable ranch hand, your weathered and comical but year, an inevitable intimacy arises that would be stressful even if every

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