

The _____ of the Universe: A Love Story

by Bianca Spriggs

It was beyond midnight when she showed up at
his back door and asked him to take her on
a ride through backroads out past Elkhorn Creek. It would be
just like the night she wore
a neon wig and her favorite leopard print heels but lost one at
The Dame, which tended to smell like
a careless night out with friends. She blushed at
his suggestion that instead they throw a dance party for two as bottom-shelf as
the cheap seats on the opening day of Keeneland. He told her that the first time seeing
her under the golden gingko tunnel on Catalpa St. felt like finding
the perfect peach in the Farmer's Market before brunch on a Saturday after
Rocky Horror the night before at the Kentucky Theatre.
And perhaps a stroll past Triangle Park's cascading fountain could be a quest to discover
all the daydreams they'd ever dream to light the city up like
a handful of lightning bugs backed by a choir of cicadas.
She knew his gravitational pull would lead to nothing but
wandering around downtown all the way from Charlie Brown's
to the Lexington Cemetery. They might drift to Short St. where Gallerie Soleil
used to be. Maybe they'd have enough time to join
the 3 AM crowd at Tolly Ho and order
all the deep fried delicacies they could eat. She'd always be willing to risk
heartburn for him. It was settled. He couldn't resist her wonky winking eye
any more than he could resist entering the enchanted forest in
the UK Arboretum. They held hands down Broadway
all the way to Gratz Park and were so busy telling one another
how great the other looked in that creamsicle sheathe of streetlamp light
they forgot all about why they left in the first place. Something about taking
the long way. Something about putting down deep roots in the thin soil of
their hometown.

The Crossroads of the Universe
The Sunday Drive of the Universe
The Honeymoon of the Universe
The Sequined Leotard of the Universe
The Truck Stop of the Universe
The Armpit of the Universe
The Mating Call of the Universe
The Underrated Wine of the Universe
The Secret Identity of the Universe
The Long Lost Left Sock of the Universe
The B-List Cult Movie of the Universe
The Wishbone of the Universe
The Middle Name of the Universe
The Signal Flare of the Universe
The Roadside Attraction of the Universe
The Hangover of the Universe
The Candy Heart of the Universe
The Errant Nipple Hair of the Universe
The Dregs of the Universe
The Love Jones of the Universe
The One Night Stand of the Universe
The Recalled Part of the Universe
The Bellybutton of the Universe
The Sweet Potato Vine of the Universe
The Knock Knock Joke of the Universe
The Compact Mirror of the Universe
The Dark Ride of the Universe
The Waiting Room of the Universe