

## 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