

Martha and Belinda's Excellent Adventure: Part 7

Belinda Darcy

Louisville, KY to Staunton, WV

I made Martha drive this morning so that I could, in her words, "go berserk with the camera." Kentucky is just gorgeous. At 7:15 am, the rolling green hills were cloaked in a thick blue mist. I tried to get a shot of a trainer and her horse, but missed and got the horse's butt instead. Damn. And she was wearing jodhpurs and boots and everything! Martha said it served me right. I was supposed to be helping her figure out where breakfast would happen, not cruising unavailable women. I was about to argue that we had no way of knowing if she was single or not, but decided I should quit while I was ahead. Old habits die hard.

Finding a breakfast spot proved more difficult than we thought. We saw plenty of signs beckoning us to cheap fast-food joints, but nothing that sounded like real food. And if turning out plastic burgers and fries wasn't bad enough, they had the gall to plant giant billboards right smack in the middle of the pristine landscape, wrecking any potential Kodak moment. It was really depressing seeing cows and horses grazing under a "McDonald's Happy Meals...Next exit" sign. Martha told me that Vermont had passed a law years ago, expressly forbidding such eyesores. As the morning wore on, and our tummies began to growl, we grew more desperate. Martha finally made an executive decision and pulled into a Shoney's.


We reached the hotel in plenty of time for a swim in the "indoor/outdoor" pool. From the description I had imagined a pool with a rollback roof for the summer. But, no, half of it really WAS indoor and half of it outdoor. The roof extended out over one half of the pool and then a transparent, acrylic wall descended to about 6 inches above the walkway, neatly bisecting the turquoise water. I could just see someone's precious Little Jimmy running smack into it. The other half was outdoor and looked over the golf course, and steam from the heated water wafted over the surface like dry ice. Very ethereal and very strange. We swam back and forth like a couple of seals, fascinated by the changes in air and water temperature. It was great fun until local patrons of the hotel's restaurant began to arrive for dinner. The restaurant had a clear view of the pool, and it became apparent that if we stayed much longer, we were destined to become the evening's entertainment.

It was actually not too bad, apart from the usual kids running loose and monotonous muzak. We thought we detected the strains of Sheena Easton's "For Your Eyes Only", and "One" from a Chorus Line. As we were leaving, Martha, disappointed with her long-awaited Homemade Biscuits, mentioned to the cashier, Mary Sue, that she thought they were "really salty". With a nod and a just-between-us-girls wink, the lovely Mary Sue leaned over and confided, "Pre-baked!"

Needless to say, we passed on the dining room and the depressingly generic dark bar, opting instead for a Pizza Hut pizza, followed by a big Chocolate Sundae from room service ("Because I want it, that's why!"). Martha tuned into the Miss America Pageant (it was that or golf or *Murder She Wrote*) and Miss Somewhere was being "interviewed". Her chosen platform was AIDS awareness. "How nice", said Martha as she zapped her into oblivion with the remote control. ▼

Back on the road, we passed a sign for the Appalachian Bible College, then a series of huge, greek-revival/antebellum mansions alongside run-down shacks with sagging porches. I was surprised to see how often this configuration occurred and wondered if the neighbors ever spoke to each other. What would they have to say to each other? "Pardon me, do you have any Grey Poupon?"

(to be continued)



ARTISTS

Kara
&
Shellie

188 Shelburne Rd.
Burlington, VT 05401
802 • 658 • 4328

S-09-93-BM

TELEPHONE (802) 524-9595

CAROL L. THAYER, M.D.
FAMILY PRACTICE

OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

R. D. 2, BOX 1160
FAIRFAX, VERMONT 05454

04/94

Lynn Goyette, M.S.,M.A.
Feminist Counseling & Psychotherapy

Lesbian & Gay Affirmative
Individuals • Couples • Groups

Burlington Montpelier
802-860-6360

03/94