Contents

CLASSIC READS 2016

January 1936

HE FELL IN LOVE WITH A PICTURE 18 As Mark Twain penned his epic Innocents Abroad, his thoughts were with a woman he knew only through an image glimpsed during his travels. This is their story. LOUIS B. DAVIDSON

July 1983

24 CHILD DOWN THE WELL!

A 30-metre well shaft, a narrow 23-cm opening and a lively two year old. With one slip young William was lost from view and for his parents an eight-hour nightmare had begun, CHRIS PRITCHARD

May 2012

34 TWIN POWER

Craig and Brenton Gurney enjoy a bond that goes beyond mere brotherhood. In fact, it defies medical, physical and scientific explanation, HELEN SIGNY

March 1943

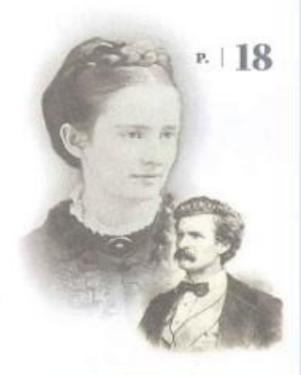
MY QUICKSILVER UNCLE

Part parent, part best friend, all fleeting inspiration, the important role of the mischievous, fun-loving uncle has never been so tenderly - and tragically captured, Robert P. TRISTRAM COFFIN

April 2010

48 DIAMONDS ARE FOR SHARING

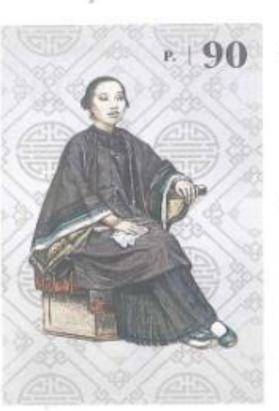
If the fabulous necklace was well beyond one woman's means, what might a group of like-minded women afford - and then go on to achieve? CHERYL JARVIS





Contents

CLASSIC READS 2016



July 1955 56 THE DAY I MET CARUSO

On a long train ride from Boston to New York, a young Quaker girl, yearning for fresh experiences, meets the very face of extravagance - and is changed forever. ELIZABETH BACON RODEWALD

November 1980

62 WHERE THERE IS LOVE

When an unwanted dog steals its way into their hearts, a mother and son are forced to ask: why do we so seldom know how much we love something until we are faced with Its loss? Aletha LINDSTROM

November 1998

68 ENCOUNTER IN THE AFRICAN BUSH

Savaged by a crocodile, beset by red ants and surrounded by the yowls and roars of hyenas and lions, the safari guide prepared to abandon hope. Until salvation came from an unexpected source, JOHN DYSON

November 1965

76 THE SECRET WORLD OF THE UNBORN

Newborns aren't as 'new' as you might think. In the months prior to birth, they drink, blink, wriggle, sleep, listen - even occasionally cry. Come peer inside the universe they share with their mother, or margaret liley with beth day

August 1955

82 THE GREAT MOLASSES FLOOD

On January 15, 1919, a terrific explosion devastated a molasses plant in Boston's old North End - the sticky, sweet-smelling remnants of which some say can still be detected to this day, RALPH PRYE



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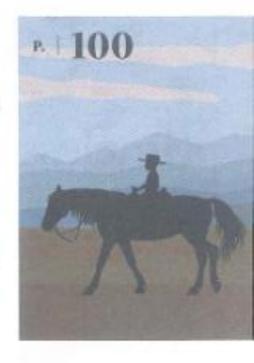
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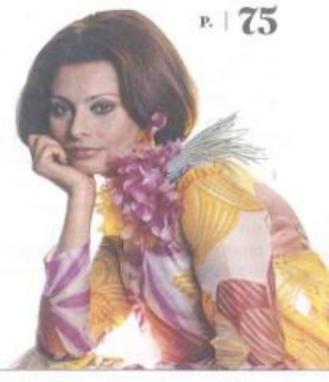


REGULARS

Editor's Letter	4
Reader Testimonial	7
Staff Picks	8
Top-Class Classics	17
Personal Glimpses	32,88
Points to Ponder	41, 128
Quotable Quotes	75
Kindness of Strangers	98
My Story	106

HUMOUR

Laughter, the Best Medicine	10
All in a Day's Work	12
Life's Like That	14





The beautiful seashell illustrations on the cover have been specially selected from the Reader's Digest archive of original artwork. They were first published in 1984 in Field Guide to the Water Life of Britain.