

Horse Lady

By Sheila Sunset

Chapter 6: Unregistered

Brad Yayger's thoughts wandered back to a prior incarceration when he lived in Dorchester. His Dorchester experiences have been outlined in the framework for "Dorchester Lady" (available at bit.ly/silk4ma). He had been briefly incarcerated on a car registration/insurance rap that resulted from a bureaucratic error outside of his own control.

He was driving into Cambridge when a local cop pulled him over because his motor vehicle registration had expired. He was cited for being unregistered and uninsured. Why the latter charge was included, only the arresting officer can say. He spent less than an hour without shoestrings in a holding cell before being bailed out. It turned out that his post office box zip code had been entered incorrectly in the registration system. They had sent the re-registration form to the wrong P.O. box.

He took the case to court twice without a lawyer. Each time, the arresting officer failed to appear. The second time, he told the judge that he was prepared to demonstrate that the mishap was not his own fault and that the car had been insured at the time of the arrest. The prosecutor made no objections to dismissing the case.

The dynamic trio of Greta Garbo, Carry Grant, and Slim 1.5 headed for Greta's red P.W. Cabrio in the D.A. parking lot. Slim was happy to sprawl out in the backseat as Carry called shotgun. Their conversation was dominated by Greta and her interest in the theater arts. She was happy to hear that Slim's New Jersey origins exposed him to the Manhattan theater scene at a young age. He was not raised by wolves as was Carry. Needless to say, Carry felt a bit left out. As a treat for Slim, Greta asked him to name their destination. She was happy to hear the name of a restaurant that employs underemployed movie actors to wait tables and dance on the countertops.

Meanwhile, back in S.F., Brad put Bentham aside to focus on his favorite travel lit. Today's reading was the travelogue of a Spanish Jesuit from the sixteenth century. Early in the book, he described two paradigms for the Earth: flat and globular. He goes into detail on the differences between the two and how each conceives of the stars in relation to one of our common moms. There is a myth in circulation that "educated" people in the Middle Ages perceived the Earth as globular. The Jesuit's account, along with a variety of other sources, disagrees with that myth.

One of the biggest problems comes in defining what constitutes an education. Monastics tended to be better read than seculars because they typically had better libraries. (There were some monasteries that lacked libraries.) Hildegard of Bingen, for example, was exposed to an extraordinary array of literature. It is shameful that her cult members fail to follow in her footsteps. It seems that they only join the cult in order to bask in her glory. (Brad's research into Hildegard revealed that she opposed contraception, but not herbal abortifacients.)

The Jesuits were also famous for their exquisite "Renaissance" library at the monastery in Loyola. It is an order that fascinated Brad for a variety of reasons. He likes to chat up students from the Jesuit high school about the way Ignatius of Loyola (the founder of the Jesuits) almost killed a man for ridiculing the medieval myth that Mary retained her virginity after giving birth to Jesus. Virginal status means different

things to different peoples. In some cultures, a woman is virginal up to her first parturition. In the Cyberjunkies domain, an individual loses virginity upon reading "Epiphany" (available at bit.ly/nite4silk).

Greta parked her Cabrio in the same pay lot used by Slim 1.0 back in '99. Carry smiled as she pulled into the exact spot he had used. "I see you still have a crush on Whitey." Greta's subtle smile reminded Carry of a rattlesnake. He imagined a forked tongue flicking out and back. The conversation reverted to Mamet as soon as they headed for the restaurant. Greta also had a crush on Brad, and knew all about his first partner's association with that playwright.

While hanging out at his favorite breakfast spot, catty-corner from the Zin Center, a Franciscan candidate would chat Brad up about all things Catholic. He looked more like an undercover cop than a seminary student, complete with rubber-soled shoes. The guy told Brad a joke that put Jesuits in a bad light. The other things Brad read about them did likewise. They came across as sociopathic sons of a canine woman, probably a wolf. The joke compared Franciscans, Dominicans, and Jesuits. The way it sweeps Dominican evils under the rug has been corrected in Cyberspace. Needless to say, Franciscans come out smelling like a rose.

During post-'01 research, Brad encountered the travelogue of a fourteenth century Franciscan of Austrian ethnic persuasion. He wound up at a Chinese Buddhist monastery as the abbot demonstrated feeding wild monkeys from the neighboring forest. When the abbot quipped that the monkeys have the souls of gentlemen, the Franciscan objected. Brad remarked that the Buddhist abbot was more of a Franciscan than the Franciscan.

As Greta chatted up the host about a booth for the trio, Carry distracted Slim with a question about his favorite antique car. "I know a guy at Warmer Brothers with a kick-donkey Duezy." Carry gave him a high-five. At least they could agree on that much. (For those who have yet to be read-in on Slim 1.0's antique Duesenberg, consult the link above.)

The host brought the trio to the same booth Brad had used when he was still at Fauxboro. Slim 1.5 got the spot Brad occupied in the booth back in '99. Only Greta and Carry realized that the three of them had entered a dimension of sound, sight and mind: The Twilight Zone. They were about to re-experience the meal of a lifetime.