



*I inspected
the knife in
my hand.*





*She was
perfect.*





*She doesn't
belong here.*



Stranger in the House by Shari Lapena

*Genus Jackson
was killed in
Cotton County,
Georgia on a
summer midnight
in 1930, when the
newborn twins
were fast asleep.*





*I can hear the
sound of her
crunching up the
path.*





*The first time
Caesar approached
Cora about running
north, she said no.*

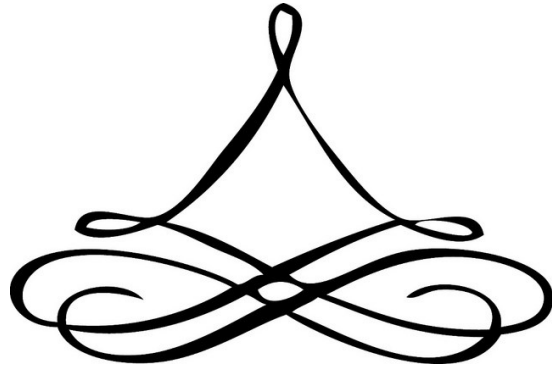


*My dear friend, Roz Horowitz
met her new husband online
dating, and Roz is three years
older and fifty pounds heavier
than I am, and people have
said that she is generally not as
well preserved, and so I
thought I would try it even
though I avoid going online too
much.*

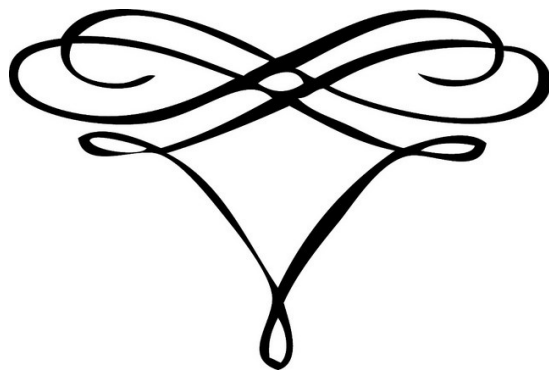


*Although smoking
had been outlawed
inside public
establishments more
than a decade ago,
the bar still had
leftover smog.*

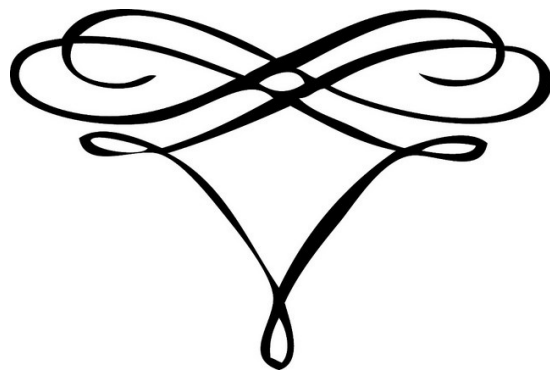




*Walter “Iron Man”
Matthews was propping
up the first-class bar on
the new luxury liner, the
RMS Titanic, as it
plowed steadily through
the Atlantic.*



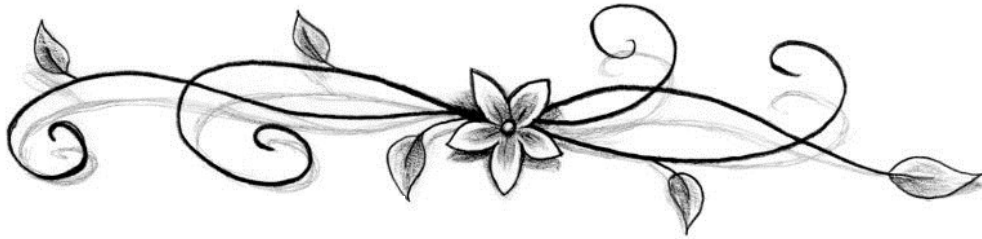
A couple roustabouts had been asking about guns at the Tibbehah County Fair, but by the time the word had gotten back to Donnie Varner, they'd long since packed up their Ferris wheel, corn dog stands, and shit and boogied on down the highway.



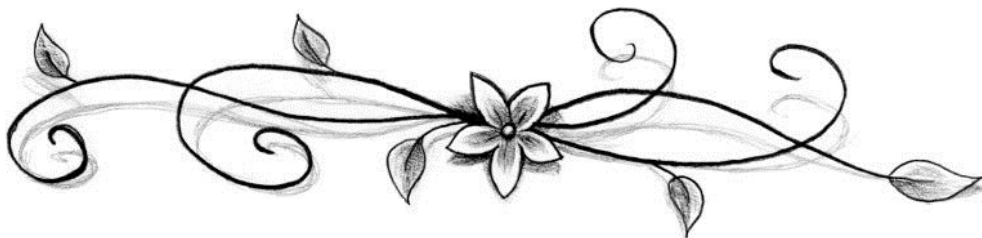


*As I walked along
Waverly Place to meet my
friend Joy for
dinner, I saw a girl in her
twenties leisurely crossing
the street, and something
about her brought back that
whole decade of my life
back to me.*





‘I was wondering.’ Sammy said, tentatively, as they paused between course at La Venezia, ‘if you should think of getting a new photograph of yourself.’





*It's a
bad
house.*



The Shotgun Rule by Charlie Huston

*I'm not really sure
where one should expect
to find the bereaved
daughter of a wealthy
Malibu suicide in need
of a trauma cleaner
long after midnight, by
safe to say a trucker
motel down the 405 in-
dustrial corridor in
Carson was not on my
list of likely locales.*



*Will Robie crouched
shadowlike at a
window in a
deserted building,
inside a country that
was currently an all
of the United States.*



*I still
dream
about
Fairview.*



Sweet Damage by Rebecca James



*So this
was the
end.*





*I had
never been
hypnotized
before.*





*My father used
to carry me down
the hall to my
room after I
came home from
the hospital.*





*The killer
emptied the
final bag of ice
into the bath
and shut off
the cold tap.*





*The first
thing he
notices is
the cold.*





*She walks briskly
down the city side-
walk, her blond
hair bouncing
against her shoul-
ders, her cheeks
flushed, a gym bag
looped over her
forearm.*





*The pilot's voice
on the Alitalia
flight to Paris
from Milan
wake Timmie up
from a brief
nap.*

