

## A.M. opportunities

### Early morning is best for taking pictures

#### FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY



MONTE NAGLER

Ever wonder when is the best time of day to photograph? It's the early morning...without doubt!

Early morning has always been my favorite time of day to get the best shots.

There's a stillness in the air, a calmness in the lighting and a mood in the sky that is available no other time of the day.

Here are some reasons why I recommend photographing early in the morning.

To begin with, there's usually an absence of wind and breeze meaning that tall grasses and tree branches will hold still for your camera. This means you can take full advantage of depth-of-field by placing foliage in the foreground of your composition and know that everything will come out sharp and in focus.

Early morning light and wispy clouds combine to help me get the dramatic cactus photograph shown here. Another time of day wouldn't have produced the same result.

Flowers, often covered with dew, are also very still in the morning and, if you're lucky, you'll find one with a butterfly. Because a butterfly's wings are

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

weighted down with moisture in the early morning making it difficult for them to fly away, you should be able to move in close with your camera for an impact-filled shot.

Another reason for photographing in the morning is that you'll often find fog and mist. Low lying mist over the lake or layers of fog in the countryside will give your photos an element of mood no other time of day will offer.

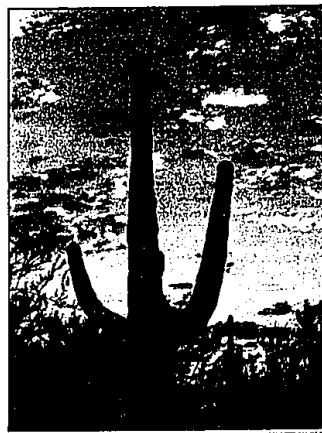
And keep on the lookout for cloud patterns. Clouds in the early morning will often have a

dramatic mood that's easy to capture on film and could turn your picture into a winner.

Because of the low angle of the sun, morning light produces shadows, textures and tonal contrasts just not available under a noon sun.

So remember the expression: "early to bed, early to rise, makes someone healthy, wealthy and wise..." and gives them a terrific opportunity to get early morning shots, too!

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. His fax number is (248) 644-1313.



MONTE NAGLER

Morning light: Early morning was the only time of day to capture this exciting picture of Saguaro cactus. It was taken in Tucson, Ariz.

## Short stories of infidelity are disturbing, memorable

BY VICTORIA DIAZ  
SPECIAL WRITER

A Multitude of Sins, by Richard Ford (Alfred A. Knopf, \$25).

#### BOOK BEAT



VICTORIA DIAZ

Despite its title, this collection of sterling short stories by Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Ford (*Independence Day*) centers mostly around the transgression of infidelity in the opening days of this fast-paced 21st century.

In spots as diverse as a Michigan ski resort, a muddy Louisiana duck blind, a dark Connecticut road, and the lip of the Grand Canyon, Ford's characters are painted in colors both familiar and strange.

Familiar in that we recognize parts of ourselves in them; strange in that they have about them a touch of something akin to ghostliness — a kind of removed, shadowy quality.

Sometimes they are hard to figure. Often, they are "blind" and out-of-touch. What they "see" isn't really what is there at all. They don't really mean anyone harm, but they are seeking rather desperately to come alive, it would seem. And, in so doing, pain and suffering can often be the order of the day for those around them.

The lead-off story, *Privacy*, offers a brief, but indelible, view of a young married man involved in a kind of distant voyeurism, as his wife sleeps nearby. ("This was at a time when my marriage was still happy," the story begins.) Trouble is, when he encounters up close what he has been gazing at from afar, he realizes he hasn't been "seeing" the truth at all.

#### BOOK REVIEW

In *Quality Time*, a writer named Wales and a married woman named Jena rendezvous at The Drake Hotel in Chicago on a snowy night, after he has witnessed the death of a woman in a traffic mishap.

When they meet, the couple talk, make love, take a walk, have dinner, say good-bye in the "amber light" of the sumptuous Drake. (He never tells her of the woman's death.)

Somewhere in all this, a mysterious fellow named Jim recognizes Wales in the hotel lobby, but Wales fails to recognize him. At another time, Jena asks Wales if he would be willing to kill her husband. (His answer is "No, I guess I wouldn't.")

The only "real" aspect of this world seems to be their strong physical

desire for each other. But, in the end, even that isn't lasting.

*Creche* is a Christmas tale set in northern Michigan, where a non-nuclear family has gone to spend a non-traditional holiday together at a cheesy little ski resort.

The family is made up of Faith (a "motion-picture lawyer"), her chubby mother, Esther; Roger (Faith's sister Daisy's estranged husband); and Faith's small nieces, Jane and Marjorie. Daisy is "a presence" here, but always an offstage one. As the little group "celebrates," it gradually becomes clear that Roger's interest in Faith goes far beyond familial.

Ford's characters in this story are probably the most vividly and subtly etched of any in this collection, and therefore, among the most memorable.

From the concluding story, *Abyss*, in which an illicit affair concludes with a death; to a strange tale titled *Puppy*, in

which a New Orleans couple find a strange canine abandoned in their lush garden; to *Under the Radar*, a story about a young Connecticut couple and the effect of adultery on their "idyllic" relationship; this fiction will prove to be disturbing and unsettling to many readers.

But there's not a dull story in the bunch. And each tale is enhanced by Ford's dazzling way with words, plus his thought-provoking "take" on our crowded world that leaves us, ironically, so very isolated from one another.

Once upon a time, *The New York Times Book Review* said about Richard Ford, "Nobody now writing looks more like an American classic."

Read this collection. See if you agree.

Victoria Diaz lives in Livonia and writes about books, theater, and travel for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

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Donate a new or gently-used book (K-12) at any Detroit-area Starbucks or The Palace during Pistons games in March. Receive a voucher for a free Starbucks Grande beverage and buy-one-get-one-free Pistons tickets.

**Palace**

Buy Tickets at [Pistons.com](http://Pistons.com), The Palace Box Office at (484) 877-0100 and all ticketmaster outlets.

# Bunnyville

## at the Detroit Zoo

SATURDAY,  
MARCH 30, 2002  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Enjoy a day at the Detroit Zoo filled with fun and excitement for the whole family. Children can follow their map along the bunny trail and visit with our special cast of characters, featuring Tommy and Angelica from Nickelodeon's "Rugrats". Collect stamps at each tent, and explore all the exciting exhibits and animals at the zoo.

At the end of the trail each child 12 and under will receive a bag of goodies (while supplies last) and visit with the Easter Bunny.

Admission to Bunnyville is free with the donation of one nonperishable food item per person.

All donations will benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank of Greater Detroit.

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