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THE MAGAZINE OF FACTS AND IDEAS

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## LOUISIANA

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### Darryl Click

for William Styron

"Sinister connotations were evoked by the attribution to the district attorney of the statement that a taxicab driver named Darryl Cheldrove Oswald from downtown Dallas to the area of his room-inghouse in Oak Cliff. It has been correctly ascertained that no such taxicab driver existed in Dallas."—The Warren Commission Report

You can believe that if you want to. I can only try
To forget him. As the unbelievable night

Fell everywhere, he parked his car beneath a liveoak, sat In darkness for a moment, flicked the top

Of his Zippo and spun the wheel; a brief flaring in the shadows Lived and died while the end of his cigarette

Tore a burning hole in the black atmosphere around him. His cab door shut behind him quietly;

Susan Boulevard was silent, empty. He walked along The unclean gray of pavement toward his room

Where from a dresser Ruby Jo (Krebs) Click, his mother, and

Billy Sam Click were being remembered, framed In gunmetal. The flowers of the paper on the walls

Are not to be described: he sat beneath

The stare he read into their centers, smoked a while, and then Rose silently and crossed the room, and parting

The dotted-Swiss white window curtains with one forefinger

Gazed out across the darkened road at what Was not merely Dallas, but a burning of bluish fires.

That flickered along dark faces everywhere, Through every window. He looked out beyond Dallas, beyond

The imprisoning American night, mild

And violent, as he dissolved into his room, in total

Remembrance of other nights, gotting his mid-

Remembrance of other nights—getting his wick

Dipped, aboard the Golden State in '47, say— While airbrakes gasped (five blocks away a bus

Halted suddenly because a passenger appeared

To flag it down, then vanished), while the silence

Whirled and broke to the shattering of mundane noises again.

It probably took some hours before the last Emanation of his residence forsook the room

On Susan Boulevard, and at the end There was a moment, surely, when reports of any kind

As to whether he was there or not

Were in the strictest sense quite meaningless, as when The drying stain along a sunbleached sheet Hovers unwillingly between worlds, after it has been

Reclaimed by a terrible unblinking glare.

—John Hollander



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