

Oddities

by Jake Barnes

One day my wife got so mad at me she raked her fingernails down my face. I had to hold her down on the bed. That night we went to our friends' house for dinner. "What happened to you?" Carlos asked. I said I cut myself shaving.

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Sometimes he would get up at night, go outside, and stand in the middle of their back yard. He would look the moon in the eye and raise his arms in greeting. He would throw back his head. He would do Tai Chi. Repulse the monkey. Grasp bird by the tail

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One night we sat in the lounge of a hotel in Billings, Montana, listening to a country western singer with a harelip. He had a reedy voice, but he could carry a tune, and he seemed to know the lyrics to every country song there ever was.

