Fiction

Faded Into Blue

! " # $ % & ' ( ) (* + , , + $ - " -

$ " % & ' ($ ") * + & " ' " , & & - . " / 0 $ " *) " 1) 2 & " $ 3 ' * ") * + & " ' " 4 ' 5 . " ' "
$, 6 * " $ 0 2 /) 7 8 2) 8 " 2) 4 & " 0 8 " $ 3 & " * & + - 9 (" : 2 ' ; & % " 2) ' 4 < $ 3 & ") * & "
$ 3 ' $ " (8 % 6 $ " $ 3 & " # 4 ' 1 9 (" ' 8 8 % & " 4 0 * & (" 6 * " $,) < ' * 4 " ( ) + - & 4 "
$ 3 & " 3 & ' 4 " 2 6 : 3 $ " 6 * " $ 3 & " - ' , . " (8 % 6 $ $ 6 * : " 6 $ (" % 6 8 " + % & ' * ") 8 & * > " ?) "
$ 3 & " & ' ($. " + ' 0 : 3 $ " & @ $ & * 4 6 * : " 6 * $) " $ 3 & " / ' 5 . " ' % 1) ($ " $) " $ 3 & "
(3) 0 % 4 & 2 . " , & 2 & " $ 3 & " 3 ' 6 2 (. " $ 3 & " / & ' 2 4 . " $ 3 & " +) * : %) 1 & 2 ' $ & "
) A " & 0 $ 2) 8 3 6 & 4 " 1 0 + - " $ ' * : % & 4 " 6 * " ' * " 6 * $ & 2 ,) ; & * " ' % : ' % " 1 & (("
' %) * : " $ 3 & " / & * $ 3 6 + " B) * & > " ?) " $ 3 & " , & ($. " + ' 0 : 3 $ " ' : ' 6 * ($ " $ 3 & "

01"2+&",34"5%*"(336̀7

1"83,9"8:("(:2;,3"(<:,3"9%=&>"4'3<%'("%&"483"39?3"

%@"<5",:A(6"0B:&9"%C3'"<+443'6̀7"D83"E%,4"(,:9"83+C5F"

2,%(396̀

0G:?84"&%=>7"83"4%%;"+&%483'"(43A"@%'=+'9>"05%*"

(33"'3?'346̀7

0H3(>7"1"&%9939̀6"01&"2%<:&?"83'3>"1"48:&;̀67

òTo Carrickþnn?ó

òTo somewhere new.ó I þt the butt beneath my

2%,,+'E%&36"01"(A3&4"53+'("E3??:&?"4%"?34"+=+5>"53+'("

0%*123

4"5,6 78(9":9;%&<3"4"1'+1="6&"029"(*'>+19?"&%@"

1%76&5"0%"(2+009'3"A"@+&09<"0%"8*&12"60?"@9+029'"029"

þre. The pack was still in the basement, the clothes

and there I was, ÿannel draped across my back, jeans

The Ties that Bind

*%&$+&$' , -.&"&/0'.-1+'-&2'3+4567-.8

9%:'3$-&2'"&'5.%&$'%5'$7+';-$7.%%8'8"..%.'<"$7'=%:.'
3"3$+.'>;"/-"4?'<7%3+'+=+3'&%'4%&/+.'7%42'%#+-&3?';:$'
@:&2-='#%55++A8:3$'4"C+'=%:.3A-&2'-3'=%:';%$7'.:&'-'
;.:37'$7.%:/7'=%:.'7-".?'>;"/-"4D3'/.%<3'$<%"'&#7+3'
<7"#7'<-3'$7+'3-8+'4+&/$7'-3'=%:.3'<7+&'=%:'<+.+'
3"E$++&F'"$'<-3'$7+'1+.5+#$'4+&/$7'5%.'$7-$'3+&"%.';%='
5.%8'@1-&"37'#4-33'$%'/.-;'-3'7+'C"33+2'=%:.'&+#C'-&2'
5%.#+2'=%:'"&$%'-'2-.C'.%%8'-$'-'1-.$='<7+.+'=%:'2"2'
&%$'C&%<'$7+'7%3$GA;:$'7+=?'+H+.=%&+'<-3'/%"&/'$%';+'
$7+.+A-&2'-3'=%:';%$7'#-C+'%&'5%:&2-$"%&?'>;"/-"4D3'
5+-$:.+3';+/"&'$%'4%%C'8%.+'4"C+'=%:.'%<&?'-&2'$7+&'
37+'#%H+.3'$7+'7"#C+='%&'$7+'3"2+'%5'7+.'&+#CF'=%:'
2"2'$7+'3-8+'<7+&'=%:'7%%C+26:1'<"$7'-&='/:='<7%'
37%<+2'=%:'"&$+.+3$';+#-:3+'-44'=%:'<-&$+2'<-3'$%'5++4'
"&'#%&$.%4'%5'=%:.'%<&';%2=?';:$'$7-$'3+&3+'%5'3+#:."$='
&+H+.'#-8+F'-3'>;"/-"4'.:&3'-'#:.4"&/'".%&'$7.%:/7'7+.'
7-".?'3#-.3'5%.8'2%<&'7+.'<."3$3'%&'$7+'3-8+'31%$3'=%:'
used to drag razors and ÿames because each time you
#4%3+2'=%:.'+=+3'=%:'$7%:/7$'-;%:$'7%<'7+'5%.#+2'=%:'
"&$%'-'#%42'.%%8?'$7+'3%:&2'%5'-'4%#C"&/'2%%.?'-&2'$7+'
5++4"&/'%5'7"3';.+-$7'%&'=%:.'&+#C'-3'7+'5%.#+2'7"83+45'
%&'=%:'<7"4+'=%:'#."+2F'=%:.'3"3$+.';4+&23'#%&#+-4+.'
:&2+.'7+.'+=+3?';:$'$7+'2-.C'#".#4+3'2++1+&'<"$7'+-#7'
;.:37'3$.%C+';+#-:3+A8:3$'4"C+'=%:A37+'$."+3'$%'7"2+'
$7+'&"/7$3'<7+.+'37+'#-&&%$'#4%3+'7+.'+=+3'<"$7%:$'
5++4"&/'$7+'<+"/7$'%5'-&':&<+4#%8+'"'&$.:2+.'%&'$%1'%5'
7+.?';:$'37+'#-&&%$'$+44'-&=%&+';+#-:3+'&%'%&+';+4"+H+3'
$7+'/".4"'&'$7+3+'3#+&-."%3?'3%'=%:';%$7'.:&'1+-#7'4"1'
;-48'%H+.'=%:.'8%:$73'$7-$'C"33+2'$7+'+&23'%5'.+2'
3%4%'#:13'-&2'#"/-.+$$+3'+H+.='<++C+&2';+#-:3+'=%:'
<-&$+2'$%'5++4';+$$+.'5%.'-'&"/7$F'=%:'<-&$+2'$%'5%./+$F'
Abigail ÿashes you a smile with glossed over lips, but you cannot tell which reÿection is yours, and your little
3"3$+.D3'4+/3'/.%<'-&%$7+.'"'&#7'-&2'7+.'+=+3';+#%8+'
+81$=?'3%'=%:';+/"&'$%'<%..='$7-$'$7+'%#+-&3'<"44'&%$'
.+$:.&?'7+.'7-".'<"44'.+8-"&'4%&/?'-&2'7+.'3#-.3'<"44'&%$'
5-2+';+#-:3+'=%:'C&%<'-44'$%%'<+44'$7+'<+"/7$'%5'3"4+&#+F'
$7+&'8%8'#-443'%:$?'IJ4+&-?'-.+'=%:'.+-2=KL
M+5%.+'=%:'#-&'.+31%&2?'>;"/-"4'=+443?'I9+3?'
#%8"&/?L'-&2'.:&'2%<&'$7+'3$-".3?'4+-H"&/'=%:'5-#+6$%6
face with her reÿection.

Anna Ross

Three hours and þfteen minutes until I am home.
/ 01 ' 2342O&#5&+()#+ ' 26-#7#, 8#9+226 ' : #& ' #, #; -, <=#)+62#
, ' >#>(6?6 ' : #2&#@5+(<5#&A#B(, <1#&AA#&A#C1>; , ' =#C&, >D#
/ 01 ' 234A&+(#5&+()#+ ' 26-#7#, 8#<, ((36 ' : #251#<,)=12#>&O ' #
251#A(& ' 2#)219)#&A#251#<5+(<5D
E ' #&(, ' : 1#-6 : 52#; -6 ' =)#6 ' #A(& ' 2#&A#81D#FG, >61)#
, ' >#: 1 ' 2-181 ' H#051 ' #251#)1, 2#; 1-2#)6 : ' #6--+86 ' , 21)H#
please fasten your seat belt. Insert the metal þttings
& ' 1#6 ' 2&#251#&251(#, ' >#26 : 521 ' #; 3#9+--6 ' : #& ' #251#-&&)1#
1 ' >#&A#251#)2(, 9D# / &#(1-1,)1#3&+(#)1, 2#; 1-2H#-6A2#251#
+991(#9&(26& ' #&A#251#; +<=-1D# I 1#,)=#25, 2#3&+#=119#
your seat belt fastened throughout the ÿight, as we may
experience turbulence.ó The ÿight attendantôs soft-
)9&=1 ' #?&6<1#)-&O-3#)6 ' :)#81#2&#)-119#,)#251#&(, ' : 1#)1, 2#
; 1-2#)6 : ' #, ; &?1#83#51, >#; 1 : 6 ')#2&#; -+(D#7#<-&)1#83#131)H#
but all I can see is þery hair.

J J J

Golden eyes and caramel hair. She sat across the þre
962#)O, 36 ' : #2&#251#8+)6<#7#9(&>+<1>#O625#, #96<=#, ' >#
&->#: +62, (D#7 ' #, #K+612#?&6<1H#)51#), ' : #, -& ' : #2&#L, ?6>#
I 6-<&MN)#FO31#&A#251#%+((6<, ' 1HP#, ' >#51(#131)#01(1#
glued to the ÿames that stood between us. As I played

we would have celebrated our þfty-seventh wedding

ÿowers, but I was too damn nervous to ring the bell. I

The ÿight attendantõs voice interrupts our

/&')01--,02&')3#

45#-261#0&#/&71#81(1#981'#5#'11:#,'#1)/,;1<#=&+#
6'&9>#?261#981'#7=#:,:#)&710271)#@,--)#&@@#081#9,A&'#
,':#5#:&'B0#6'&9#8&9#0&#1C;-,2'#0&#7=#)2D-2'A)#98=#
:,::=#8,)#0&#A&#,9,=#@&(#9116)#,0#,#0271#981'#81#2)#2'#
(18,D3E#F81#7+)0#8,G1#)11'#081#-&&6#&'#7=#@,/1#D1/,+)1#
)81#2771:2,01-=#@&--&91:#+;#9208<#45#6'&9#H,'21-#0&-:#
=&+3#50B)#&6,=3#5B7#'&0#,)8,71:#&@#20<#5#I+)0#0(=#0&#82:1#
20#@(&7#7=#=&+'A1(#)2D-2'A)3#J81=B(1#)02--#)&#=&+'A#,':#
081=#)02--#082'6#081#D1)0#&@#0812(#@,081(3#%1#:1)1(G1)#081#
/8,'/1#0&#0(=#,':#-2G1#+;#0&#08,0#&'1#:,=3E

5'#7=#08(11#=1,()#,0#K,(217&'0#%2A8#F/8&&-<#5#
9&':1(1:#8&9#5#8,:'B0#710#81(#)&&'1(3#J81(1#5#9,)<#,#
A+=#98&#8,:#'&#2:1,#98,0#9,)#,D&+0#0&#8,;;1'<#-=2'A#
'1C0#0&#,#A2(-#2'#,'#&-:#98201#0L)82(0#,':#0&('#I1,')<#
)0,(2'A#,0#081#)6=3

MMM

4J8,0#A2(-#&'#=&+(#)/(11'3#F81B)#N+201#D1,+02@+-3#
O172':)#71#&@#7=#92@1<E#P1&(A1#),=)#,)#7=#;8&'1#
)/(11'#A&1)#:,(63#

4Q1,83#F81#2)3#5#(1,--=#-&G1#81(<E#5#(1;-=#,)#,#)7,--#
)72-1#@&(7)#&'#7=#@,/13#4R+0#5#-&)0#81(3E#J81(1#2)#,#
slight burning sensation in my eyes as I þght back the
01,()3#5#)8+0#7=#1=1)#02A80-=#,':#0,61#,#:11;#D(1,083#J82)#
2)#'&0#081#;-,/1#0&#A10#17&02&',-3#%+772'A#@(&7#081#
;-,'1#1'A2'1#0+'1)#&+0#081#G,(2&+)#'&2)1)#@(&7#(1)0-1))#
;,))1'A1()#,(&+':#713#*,'+,(=#,2(#,@01(#,#@(1)8#)'&9#
D-&9)#2'#7=#@,/1#@(&7#,#)7,--#G1'0#,D&G1#713#S82--)#(&--#
:&9'#7=#);2'1#,)#5#092)0#081#'&TT-1#0(=2'A#0&#)0&;#081#
cool ÿow of air. Why are airplanes always so cold?

MMM

+,-..'/012'$/2'3042560'72%892'823:%&;3<'="$/'3%42'
force the ÿight attendants move the cart to the next pod
%>'320$35'%&.?';"3$@8A"&9'0'>2B'3.22:"&9':0332&9283'%&'
$/2'B0?<'

+C/2283<6'72%892'0&;',"#."&D'%@8':.03$"#'#@:3'0&;'
$0D2'0'3":<'+E%@'30";'$/0$'?%@'.%3$'$/"3'9"8.'%>'?%@835'A@$'
">'?%@'.%12'/28'."D2'?%@'30?'?%@';%5'40?A2'?%@'/012&-$'
820..?'.%3$'/28<6

+F2."212'425','04'$%%'.0$2<6

òItõs never too late to start þghting.ó

+G/0&D35'72%89256','3%.24&.?'82:.?<'F2"&9'#082>@.'
&%$'$%'3:"..5','$0D2'0'3":'%>'4?';8"&D'0&;':.0#2"'$'%&'
$/2':.03$"#'$80?'"'&'>8%&$'%>'42<'H".2&$.?5','B0$#/'03'$/2'
A@AA.23'3$@#D'$%'$/2'3";2'%>'$/2'#.208':.03$"#'40D2'$/2"8'
B0?'$/8%@9/'$/2'9%.;2&'."I@";'0&;'3@8>0#2'>%8'0"8<'

JJJ

,$'B03'0'!8";0?'&"9/$5'!2A8@08?'$B2&$?K2"9/$/'$%'A2'
2L0#$5'B/2&','%:2&2;'$/2'.2$$28<','420&5','/0;'9%$$2&'$/2'
240"."$/2';0?'A2>%82'.2$$"&9'42'D&%B'$/0$','/0;'A22&'
0##2:$2;5'A@$'$/"3'B03';">>282&$<',&'4?'/0&;5',"/2.;'4?'
$"#D2$'%@$'%>'C088%..5',%B0<

+M208'C08$28'N0D"&5

C%&980$@.0$"%&30',$"'3'B"$/'9820$':.203@82'$/0$','
%>>28'?%@'0;4"33"%&'$%'$/2'P2&&'H$0$2'Q&"1283"$?'#.033'
%>'RS)T<6','3:2;'$/8%@9/'$/2'.2$$28'3208#/"&9'>%8'0&?'
indication of þnancial aid, and there it was. òYou
qualiþed for our Discover Penn State þnancial award of
URV5SSS'%128'>%@8'?2083<'G/282'B"..'A2'0W6'

X.?330'$/82B'/28'0843'08%@&;'4?'&2#D'0&;'D"332;'
4?'#/22D<'F%$/'%>'4?':082&$3'Y%"&2;'"'&'$/2'/@9'0&;'
$/2&'4?';0;':%::2;'0'A%$$.2'%>'#/04:09&2<'X.?330'
:%@82;'@3'20#/'0'9.033'0&;'9%$'/2832.>'0'#@:'%>'B0$28<'
=2'80"32;'%@8'9.03323'%>'A@AA."&9'9%.;2&'."I@";'$%'$/2'
sky in celebration of the past four years þnally paying
%>>'"&'$/2'A23$'B0?':%33"A.2<'P2&&'H$0$2'/0;'A22&'4?'
;8204'3"&#2'>823/40&'?208'%>'/"9/'3#/%%.5'0&;'0$'$/0$'
4%42&$5'"$'A2#042'0'820."$?<"

X3'$/2'#2.2A80$"%&';"2;';%B&5'4?':082&$3'$@8&2;'"'&'
>%8'$/2'&"9/$5'0&;'X.?330'0&;',B0.D2;'A0#D'$%'4?'8%%4<'
G/2'2L#"$242&$'3$08$2;'$%'B208'%>>'A2#0@32'B2'A%$/'
820."Z2;'$/0$'$/"3'.2$$28'420&$'B2'/0;'0'A"9'#%&12830$"%&'
"&'>8%&$'%>'@3<'

X>$28','#.%32;'$/2';%%85'X.?330'B80::2;'/28'0843'
08%@&;'4?'&2#D5'.%%D2;'"'&'4?'2?235'0&;'30";5'+,'D&%B'
B2'&22;'$%'$0.D'0A%@$'$/"35'A@$'A2>%82'B2';%5',&22;'$%'
$2..'?%@'$/0$','04'3%"'R"A.?':8%@;'%>'?%@<6

=2'30$'%&'4?'A2;'$/0$'&"9/$'0&;'$0.D2;'$/8%@9/'
0..'$/2':%33"A."."$"23<'H/2'$%.;'42'$/0$','/0;'B%8D2;'$%%'
/08;'0$'$/"3'%::8$@&"$?'$%':033'"$'@:'&%B<','3@9923$2;'
$/0$'X.?330'#%@.;'0::.?'$%'P2&&'H$0$2'&2L$'?208'B/2&'
$/2'$"42'#042'08%@&;5'0&;'$/2&'"$'B%@.;'%&.?'A2'0'?208'
%>'.%&9K;"3$0&#25'A@$'3/2'$%.;'42'$/0$'3/2'&22;2;'$%'
3$0?'#.%32'>%8'/28'>04".?<'[28';0;'/0;'B%8D2;'$%%'/08;'
$%'3$0?'3%A28'>%8'/28'$%'.2012<'N%&9K;"3$0&#2'B03'0&'
%:$"%&5'A@$'&2"$/28'%>'@3'D&2B'/%B'B2'B%@.;'0>>%8;'
$/2':.0&2'$"#D2$35'0&;'A?'$/2'$"42'%&2'%>'@3';8%12'$%'$/2'
%$/28'B2'B%@.;'/012'$%'$@8&'08%@&;'0&;';8"12'/%42<'

Moines for thirty-þve years.ó

would serve for twenty-þve years and at that point we

I loved Alyssa, but I did not þght for her. I walked

easy way out for us. No ÿights back and forth, no trying to þnd time to talk, no constantly worrying about the

in the same spot she took me to on our þrst date. Her

plant my feet on the ÿoor like it will make a difference.

what she felt before the car ÿipped twice, landing

1:30

the swim team after we won our þrst meet of the season

[illegible]

[illegible]e, and the þrst time was the only time she was sober. [illegible]

A [illegible] ? [illegible] ?

òYeah. Iõm totally þne,ó she said in the high-pitched [illegible] ?

[illegible] ?

with them after I left. At þrst it was fun, and she was [illegible]

. A [illegible]

. A [illegible]

A [illegible]

. *Click*. [illegible]

[illegible]

-75.

85, 90,

105. [illegible]

going, but it was not too hard to þgure out; the accident [illegible] C C [illegible] ?

a difference, and I shut my eyes to hold back the ÿood [illegible] C [illegible]

[illegible] ?

? [illegible]

A [illegible]

A A [illegible]

told you son: itõs never too late to start þghting. You get [illegible] A [illegible] ? A

still in love with her, and you þght for her this time. You [illegible] ?

[illegible]

The ÿawless beauty of Ludivicciõs creations was

mahogany eyes, it was as if he were the personiþcation

fondly referred to him as her þrst love! A cacophony of
tokens, ÿowers, letters, and gifts took up permanent

of the lip, and a ÿat òlõd rather not.ó You see, Ludivicci

+",',#-./$"&0',11213'$%'41'545&3%&13'5,'5'$6"&0'%7'$61'
/5,$8'5,'61'653'12190l3'79%2'6",'",%.5$'"%&':"$6'&%$6"&0'
$%',6%:'7%9'"$;'<7'%&1':%-.3'#5$#6'6"2':5.="&0'54%-$'
"&'$%:&'%9'259=1$/.5#1'5&3'"&>-"91'54%-$'6",':%9=8'61'
:%-.3',$591'45#=':"$6'65-&$138'0.5,,?'1?1,'5&3'2-$$19'
,%21$6"&0'54%-$'65@"&0'2%91'"2/%9$5&$'25$$19,'$%'
/-9,-1;''

A%'%&1'>-"$1'=&1:':6191'$61':%25&'653'#%21'
79%2;'B61':5?'$61'"&&=11/19'$%.3'"$8',61'653'=&%#=13'
-/%&'$61'"&&C,'3%%9'.5$1'%&1'&"06$'D$61'&"06$'417%91'
E-3"@"##"'91$-9&13'$%',%#"1$?F'5&3'91>-1,$13'91,"31&#1;'
G5"3'619'&521':5,'H"5&5'I.3";'G61'653'/5"3'6"2'
handsomely for room and board from a þne leather coin
/-9,1'65'6-&0'79%2'619':5",$;'G61':5,'5'/5"&$198'$6",'
:%25&8':6%':",613'$%':%9='-&3",$-9413':"$6"&'$61'
9%%2,;'

J'B61'"&&=11/19'412%5&13'$%'6",':"71'5&3'
35-06$19,'5,'$61?8'35K13'5&3'91#1&$.?'9%-,13'79%2'
,.11/8',$-24.13'$%'/91/591'5'9%%2;'

G%%&'1&%-068'$61'$%:&'7%90%$'$61"9'75,#"&5$"%&':"$6'
E-3"@"##""&'75@%9'%7'$61'2?,$19"%-,'H"5&5'I.3";'<$':5,'5,'
if she had been carved from marble, as such ÿawlessness
seemed unnatural. Smooth dark locks ÿowed down her
45#='$%'619':5",$'5&3'.5901'4.5#='1?1,':191'7952l3'4?'
615@?'.5,61,;'B61?',11213'$%',11'"&$%'%&1C,'6159$8'5&3'
%&1'#%-.3&C$'61./'4-$'711.'&5=13'5&3'1L/%,13'-&319'619'
05K1;

'G61':5,',$19&'5&3'313"#5$13'$%'619'59$':"$6'5'