

Theatre

Art

Music

between the covers

Love is a mystery

Love's Last Chance: A Nigel and Nicky Mystery
by Krandall Kraus
Fiction/Mystery
Alyson Publications \$12.95

by Dan Cullinane
Special to Q-Notes

As the weather here in the Carolinas turns colder, books provide a free, if temporary, escape to hotter settings — and where better than the Mediterranean? *Love's Last Chance* is a delightfully poignant and funny blend of mystery and romance by best-selling author Krandall Kraus (*The President's Son*).

Fate has strange and wonderful plans for wisecracking Nigel Adams and cynical, aristocratic Nicky Borja, who are accidentally thrown together in a Tuscany villa, where they have both fled to escape from life and its heartbreaks. Hostility and bickering turn to fireworks in the

unwelcomely close quarters, and as the summer progresses, a fiery romance is kindled from oil and water.

But fate can be sinister as well as sweetly seductive, and on their return to San Francisco, Nicky and Nigel are horrified to discover that a friend they recently met, the publishing heiress Evelyn VanDeventer Iversen, has been drowned in a remote Arizona lake while camping with her new and much younger husband. In an attempt to help Evelyn's daughter discover the truth about her mother's death, the newly-in-love and eager-for-adventure pair find themselves in the deserts of Utah and Arizona on the trail of a mystery that could threaten their newly discovered lives together.

Love's Last Chance is a delightfully poignant and funny blend of mystery and romance, exploring the possibilities of love in the face of danger and the resurrection of the human heart.

Krandall Kraus and his partner, Paul Borja, spend most of their time with their Doberman pinscher, Harry, trying to solve the mystery of life, which usually means digging for gophers, chasing birds, and twitching in their sleep.

The author of *The President's Son* and *Bardo* is at work on the second Nigel and Nicky Mystery. ▼

drag rag

by Miss Della
Special to Q-Notes

Hello, boys and girls...here we are with the last Drag Rag of the Millennium, and what a hot one it will be! Lions and tigers and bounced checks, MY GOODNESS!

They recently had a humdinger of a pageant in Miami — the Miss Florida Continental and PLUS contests. Jim Fint, national pageant owner, flew the cast of Chicago's Baton Show Lounge down to entertain, so already there's your admission fee. Barbara Herr of NYC won Miss Florida, and her runners-up were Tatiana Braxton and Whitney Gaitan. Vanessa Casti of Texas won the PLUS contest. Congrats to prelim owner Samantha Perez on a fabulous pag! That same weekend, Miss Metropolitan was held in Dayton at Jessie's Celebrity, and Sasha Valentino won. Her sister Kristian Valentino won the PLUS contest. Kristian was 1st runner-up at nationals last year.

In the last column, I mentioned that Santana T. Summers had won Miss Universe at Large months ago, and nothing could be further from the truth — the contest was Miss International PLUS, and my apologies to her and the contest owner! That same weekend, they had a contest for smaller girls, Miss International, and probably one of the most beautiful queens alive won — Atlanta's Jasmine Bonet. Her RU was Raquel Lord, our new Miss Ebony Charlotte!

I ran into Dorae Saunders of Columbia recently, and she was happy to share the good news with me that she had recently won Miss Savannah at Club One; her RU was Heather Daniels. Dorae is also the reigning Miss Queen

of Hearts International, which she won in DC. I wonder if Miss Club One, Ashley Kruijz, was there? I'll have to ask!

The prelims to the Solar System contest are being held at Club Enchantment now, and I had made a note to myself to get the most recent prelim winners from Shannon Dee, Miss Solar System, but I still have not dropped that sister a line. I have a few winners that I want to verify with her before I print them...wouldn't want an understanding to turn into a misunderstanding, now would we? And I also wanna make the sure the winners get their just recognition, too. Check back with me in the next one, ok?

The most recent national contest that took place, besides Tatiana Braxton of Miami winning Miss Black America (details in next Drag Rag!), would be Miss National at Large. The outgoing title holder, Darcel Stevens of Orlando, was able to give up her crown in her hometown at the Parliament House.

Many formers were present from the At-Large family, as well as formers and the current Miss National, Terry Vanessa Coleman, who is fabulous! Anyway, the outcome was what some good Christian women in Raleigh I know might call "mysterse," but here are the results...3rd RU, Desiree DeMornay of St. Louis; 2nd, Martina Dezarea; 1st, Victoria Parker; and the newly crowned Miss National at Large is LaToya Bacall of Lexington, Kentucky. Say what? Yeah, that's what I said, too. Honey, sometimes pageants are hard to figure out, but silver leather shoes are never en vogue for evening gown. Or are they?

Miss NC US of A was recently held at Club Odyssey in Winston-Salem, and I bumped into many old friends who are also entertainers, like show-director Cass Westbrook, that crazy Shana Nicole who still has that dress I want, and my

See DRAG on page 25



the mad nutcracker

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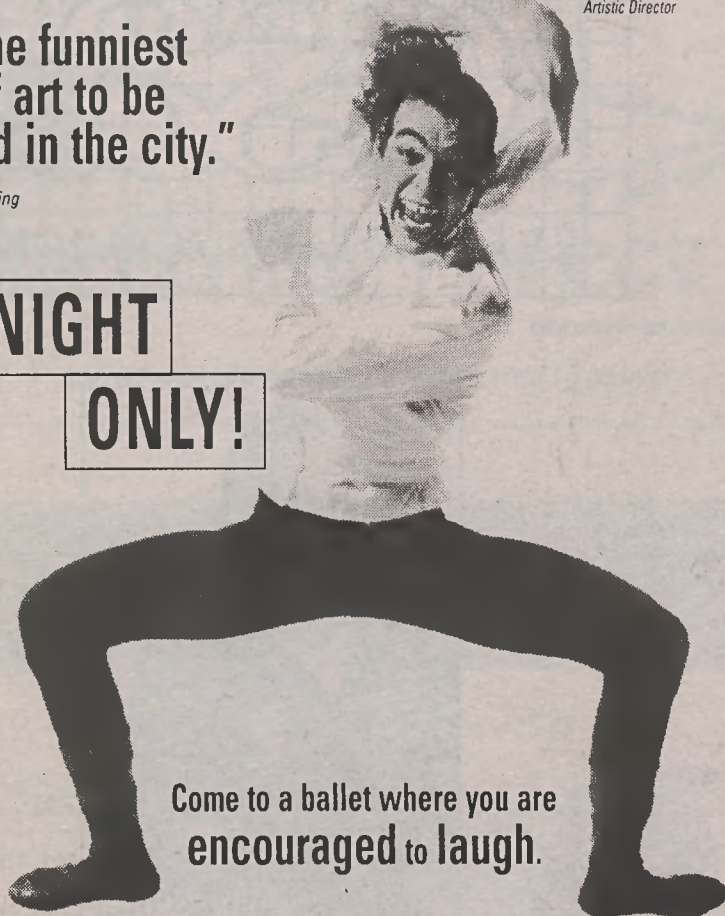


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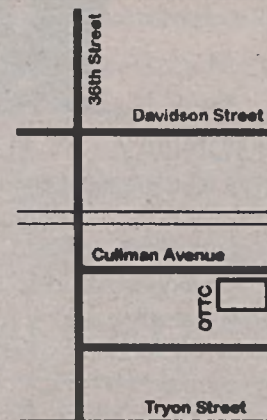


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