

CENTRAL ILLINOIS TAKEN INVENTORY

**ANDREA
ENGLAND**

—my mother

We had been dating for eight years when he bought me tires instead of a ring. I sympathized because his mother was his interior decorator, the prom queen of 1903, and afraid his ex-wife was still wielding a knife. Our bathroom towels were burnt-orange with black ampersands, even though I had a one bedroom over on Roosevelt that housed leftovers and high heels.

Our daughter says she's happy we married, that I moved in to Riverview Street and named the dog Taco. She says Taco Riverview makes a great porn star name and is quite the icebreaker. Eight years of one part sweet vermouth, two parts bourbon, orange zest and rocks. On occasion, a blue plastic sword pierces a Maraschino cherry. Steak rare, corn only on the cob, twice-

baked potatoes on Saturday nights.

Two sheets to the wind I told him.
If he wasn't going to marry me I was
going back West to the mountains. Three
days it took him. He said he was still
bleeding, still liked his bellbottom suit-pants,
and was worried for my safety.
Our daughter says she dislikes
station wagons, especially green ones.

I have a drum, a red Schwinn, a scar across
my chin and a pack of Lucky Strikes, verbatim.