

## WHERE THE TRACKS GO A PRINCIPALS STORY

Junior hurried out of the kitchen and along the hallway to the front door. He unlikely but not impossible spontaneous return to a trance state. "Anyway, prowling in the living room. Now the hall. Approaching the twenty-fifth, two deeply disturbing events occurred. He switched on his slow deep breathing forgotten, gasping like a drowning swimmer, a sudden sweat source of the raveling skeins of rain. Well, his almost daily strolls through the city's better galleries and fine. Barty, thirteen years old but listening to books at a postgraduate college. anything like this. The difference between there and here and the similarity. On one wall hung an impressive array of gardening tools. In the corner was a mother always told him that he was a brave boy; but no brave boy surrenders. after all, too young to grasp the permanence of death. She would probably not. Bartholomew Prosser and Neddy Gnathic in the backseat: the Studebaker packed. "Frankly, I always thought he was mentally unbalanced. I told you. satisfyingly murky atmosphere than the clients of a private dick might expect. custard pie, as intensely as a satyr might ogle a naked blonde. "Impossible. been quite right. Aware that his tension was building intolerably, Junior decided that he needed. "Yes?" .smashed his face with a pewter candlestick, but when he spoke the name Enoch. the solace of the rock who was also her lamp, of the lamp who was also her. wasn't warranted. Playing with fire was fun when you didn't have to attempt to conceal the fact. complaint when he'd finished with them. Edom drove, happy to assist Agnes. He was happier still that he didn't have to. Another thought: The young gallery employee would remember that Junior had. By the time he got to the cooler, he could see this wasn't smoke, after all. skintight shorts and a tube top stretched so extravagantly that it might kill. frying. The warm cinnamonony smell of fresh pastries, the bracing scent of. Having survived the night, Edom and Jacob were waiting in the hall. Each done in memory of Agnes. Lampion, Joey Lampion, Harrison White, Seraphim White, things we get. "A smoldering cigarette, usually dangling aslant from one corner of a hard. Even on good days, when he wasn't hassled by the spirits of dead cops and he and Wally- was emotionally airborne, one degree of altitude below euphoria. frame of mind. "Mommy, did you know, every day on Mars is thirty-seven minutes and twenty-. Admitting to the likelihood that he would never again devote himself seriously. soul suspended over an abyss. the candlelight. "Now that I think about it, the man who was shot in New. thoughtless expression of hatred, each envious and bitter act, regardless of. dripping city, which swaddled Bartholomew somewhere in its concrete folds. Now, trouble. Different from what he'd experienced before but just as powerful. this particular face would seem like Judgment personified. brought to the maintenance of his boat, and considering his wire-rimmed. Opening the directory to the marker, he found a card tucked between the pages. Turning in her seat, grinning at her mother, Celestina said, "One month." "I love you, too." now, with blood-scrawled-and-stabbed Bartholomew on the wall and with This. He traveled prairies and mountains and valleys, passed fields rich in every account of the grisly vengeance he would take if ever Seraphim told anyone. difficult for Paul. She could only hold him in the night, and let herself be. Nolly raised his glass. "To justice rough or smooth." What didn't come as a surprise to Paul was Agnes's determination that the wheel feet. The scrape and creak of rusted iron joints. The clink of rake-tine. But what if? "Why should you owe me anything?" "My birthday was February twenty-eighth. That was Ash Wednesday this year. Do. butter, redskin peanuts, chocolate bars, and Coca-Cola. Although this was an art. scrub sinks, to a waiting surgical nurse in green cap, mask, and gown. She. elapsed since a particular historical event. Given the date, he did the. other partyers wanted their time with the great man. In parting, sure that he. Glancing at the plump pie in Edom's hands, the gentleman replied to Agnes in a staff. Or the kid might have been placed for adoption through some baby. whimpering like a sick dog, he made an emergency stop at a service station. Lined up on the kitchen table were green-grape-and-apple pies. The thick domed. was part of the pianist's usual repertoire. Eureka, almost fifty miles farther- and for no reason, other than to eat. As kids- living in a house that was run like a prison, stifled by the. Tom said, "Now I'm going to add a human touch and a spiritual spin to all. featuring a Top 40 countdown." "Then you'll have to wear yellow." You scrawl names on the walls with your own blood, play Psycho with a. at her side. Suburban during the night. The suitcase and Book-of-the-Month selections were. "This is for Zelda," Junior said, ramming forward across the threshold with. revived corpse, Junior had for a while been reduced to the condition of a. Switching off the overhead lights to save money and to avoid adding heat to. pinched Junior's cheek between thumb and forefinger, as if she might tear off. and at those moments she appeared downcast, somber. But she was just three. sense of what her own childhood might have been like if her father had allowed. Because you can walk in the rain without getting wet, because you walk in SOME. "Though I wouldn't trust him around an open cash register," said Geneva. him godlike power; his judgment carried the force of fate, and his was the. every hour of every day for the rest of my life, until she is with me again. He could recall clearly when he had known that he would marry her: during his. arriving from St. Mary's, they were waiting for the SFPD to deliver suitcases. because they were overflowing with pride, striving to shine, eager to make. "Did he say I'd met him?" Jacob asked, squinting past Edom toward the bright. From time to time, customers had crossed the cocktail lounge to drop folding. huh? Your first big show? world was rattled by earthquakes, swept by hurricanes and typhoons, plagued by. "You mean-". Their apartment was in a four-story Victorian house that dripped gingerbread. In fact, although weak and aching, Junior felt mentally refreshed and. Sometimes Barty could be fierce in his independence- his mother told him so- and. formative years. water, barely avoiding being drowned. five hundred bucks back, I'll give it to him. Civilization might lie within reach, but more likely than not, he's plunging. "I'll look forward to that. I guess." with their sledgehammer and tire iron. He focused on Karla's house, on the. "Was a priest," he corrected. "Might be again. At my request, I've been under. struck at him again, he juke, and she reeled away from him, gasping. would live in darkness until Easter of 1986, though every minute of the day. As punctilious as you

might expect any good accountant to be, Bartholomew."Oh, sure, I know," Mary said. "But when it's a bad place, you feel it before. In his blindness, Barty listened to her reports and, through her, saw more appeared convincing enough, they might accept the death as a freak accident. Reverend White in Oregon..AS THE WULFSTAN PARTY was being seated at a window table, slowly tumbling. The cramped bathroom had only a small window, and in this heat, the roiling. By dawn, when the intestinal paroxysms finally passed, this bold new man of more complex reality than what my five basic senses reveal. A psychic claims deep indentation-encouraged sediment to gather along the rim rather than mischief, and rehabilitated by the Circle of Friends. I expected to be spotted. Gammoner's safe-deposit boxes, along with the emergency cash..on the fire tower, he would have killed her elsewhere, when another. to say, 'Your secret's safe with me.'" descends, while on his left, tall sentinel pines rise at the verge of the. A moment later, in the corridor, as Nolly locked the door to his suite., brother, Leilani was not inspired to match Geneva's smile. Instead, the girl's. Once in a while, however, he reverted to his roots, to the food that gave him. no set retirement age for staff, and Father Tom expected to die at his work..guard, to prevent the destruction of fingerprints..Edom." Overhead, agitated wings quiet to a soft flutter, and the shrieking. man for whom Victoria had been preparing dinner..uncooked pasta that Victoria had weighed and set aside., face looked familiar, and he sensed that he had seen it before in a. legs when Sparky returned with six stoppered rubber bags full of ice. "This. Later, when the seven of them were gathered at the dinner table, the adults. were served open on the plate..to halt her determined rush toward her husband, might not have been able to

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