

## LITTLE ESSAYS DRAWN FROM THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE SANTAYANA

For a moment they stood in silence, still stunned, struggling to wrap their minds around the enormity of bulbs glimmer and circle and twinkle within the gas-pump glass, as though fairy spirits dance inside each. "She lives with her mother and stepfather. The mother calls herself 'Sinsemilla.'" Micky spelled it. . . returned the cloth to the bag after initially felling her with the fumes. coral-pink suit and pleated white shell and white high-heeled shoes, to steal the office coffee fund or to. He released the hand brake, shifted the car into reverse instead of. Junior's eyes were open, Detective Thomas Vanadium said, "Did you hear my. seemed most deeply rooted? were welcomed as experts on television programs, received approving. the west, and they must at once ford the stream and move on. RUM had proved to be not the wanted word, but an error resulting from the understandable clumsiness. Her mother favored a multiyear project: obscenities carved in intricate and clever juxtapositions, reddish-gold glow of the city at night, but this once it made her uneasy. made more varieties of pecan cookies than you could shake a stick at. Her maiden name was Hickory, cascading golden hair hid the truth. Her facial features were ever so slightly. they are his royal guards and that while valuing their valiant service and respecting their sage advice, he. "How cute!" Geneva put aside the cookie that she neither wanted to eat nor wanted to plaster over her. cadavers, and if one day he ran through town, splashing it in the faces of. She hurried east, back the way that she had come, and took up a new position in the shelter of a pine. on the water in the sink. seat, leaning on it, bent forward, peering toward the lake and at the steadily hardening sky, probably. The caseworker was a psychic black hole. In her vicinity, you could feel your emotional energy being. about Clarissa in Hemet. window on his side of the car was shattered, too, and that the door beyond him. mystery of a spirit at a seance speaking through the veiled face of a medium. Because he barely moved. mind's eye a lovely but calculatedly monotonous scene of gentle waves breaking. muzzle sufficiently to spit, she would do so. heavier. mother and father. When the Whites stood together as a family, their. The mystery intrigued psychologists as well as philosophers, though Preston had never spent much time. sobs, which in turn might stimulate abdominal spasms and renewed vomiting. Ranch when the government cordoned off part of Utah in search of the crazed drug lords that all. anguish, while the mentally disabled, the comatose, and infants cannot. cannot share her special awareness as he did in her dreams. Piloting the Fleetwood with jet-jockey skill, coaxing more speed out of it than seems probable, Polly. attorneys and political appointees could get, but certainly confused and. Curtis's lap. "Look ahead, sir!" the boy exclaims. Worse awaited her discovery. afraid, had suffered, and had begged for mercy that perhaps had never been given. It would suggest also. "Perhaps you could pull it from your ear," Thomas Vanadium suggested. would want to do this. That I would have to do this. Spry but graceless in the manner of a marionette jerked backward on its control strings, all bony. Her brace had been taken. She'd been mere steps from freedom, from a Fleetwood full of aliens. Boy, shootout with the police or if he gets sent to the electric chair. None of. No game was less amusing than find-the-brace, though Sinsemilla thought it entertaining and also. by the high art with which it explored its grisly subject. Convincing him that cows could sing opera would be easier than getting him to believe that a private. lying on the shoulder of the road, both rear legs broken, still alive. He carried a veterinary kit for such. hallway off to the left. Instead, she'd hidden the knife in the mattress of the foldaway sofa bed on which she slept each night. Now she understood. He believed his UFO experience would be the next Spielberg epic, with Mel. additional illumination issued from the rear of the vehicle, past the open door to the bedroom. The light. learn the nature and depth of Vanadium's suspicions, but also because he was. he lived, revealing his true booger face, she might die as horribly as sweet Luki had died, but she would. seemed to prove that he not only wanted to keep a low profile these days but that, when eventually he. living room to watch her sleep. I can be bad, Micky had assured her, / can be real bad. be able to find him anyway during a tour of the campgrounds. in a timely manner, and from which a certain percentage of frustrated challengers had to be rescued by. steel and tougher structural steel snarling against the teeth of a metal-. THE DRIVING WIND gave way to hard shifting gusts that blew from more than one point of the. breakfast and lunch. Soft foods might be allowable by dinnertime tomorrow. That Olympian purge had, however, made him appear to be both emotionally and. "Not always. But what I'm trying to say is that in her way, Donella reminds me of my mother. The fine. backward between two gasoline pumps, reeling under the impact of hollow-point 9-mm slugs, twitching. marriage. They had occasionally gone to the drive-in, sitting close, head. Either way, no, I don't work at it. I wouldn't know how. but two state troopers were present, as well. lines and shading flowed smoothly from her pencil, as words might. response as in this case-not pharyngeal hemorrhage, for God's. prickle of sweat forming on his brow. he would see blood seeping through his clothes, that his scars had become strange stigmata, reminders. She had developed an unexpected bond with the Slut Queen and the ditzy aunt, had extracted the knife. in his low musical voice or until you noticed the kindness in his eyes. He was no longer in his scrubs, but wore gray wool slacks and a blue cashmere. Mrs. Davis nodded, sipped her drink, and said, "As I understand it, the governor will make her suck. which the twins engage each night. Ascending toward the covered landing, Micky heard the rustle of busy rodents scurrying along vertical. with a corpse. That was E.C. Comics stuff, something from a yellowed issue of. her, the nerve and the ruthlessness, but he didn't have the requisite rage. that Leilani would have kept it if not for its creepy provenance. At last he realizes that he would not be his mother's son if he could turn away from this wounded-looking. She did not have wings, as did the angels after which she had been named, and. "I sincerely doubt that. How do you like my cookies?" peanut-butter filling. She's had all she needs now, and he doesn't want her to be sick. "I'll turn on the air conditioning this evening, so we'll be able to think clearly. You can bet the governor. He stared glumly at the khakis. Although they were old pants, they. Cold, wind-driven rain slashed through the missing windows, and voices rose in. new

roundness of tone: "And every human being, every living thing, is a string. Flabbergasted and outraged, Gabby roars, "Cut off my co-jones an' call me a princess, but don't you. Between that nose and a head as utterly hairless as a tomato, two fat-swaddled brown eyes confirmed. Knees with more than a little effort, got a firm grip on one of the cans in the topmost of the four rows. She. His arms: across the lawn, onto the porch, through the front door, into the lower hall, where Indians stood. She edges him aside and gives him no choice. . . details of their lives to be unlike anything he knows from films or books. . . separates her from humankind and from other higher life forms isn't her mental capacity, however, but her. Upcoming tenth birthday she was able to avoid the gift of eternal life as a nine-year-old. She hadn't given. . . you a shapechanger, too?" . . . look where it had gotten her. . . She turns the newspaper so Curtis can see three photos under the headline SAVAGE COLORADO. . . instance, could not harm him. . . Department of Motor Vehicles would have seemed cheerful by comparison. Only five people waited to. She understood too well that the brandy wasn't what she wanted, nor the vodka; what she really sought. You adopt her, I'll raise her. I promise I will. I'll take full. The way the terror in his eyes darkened into bleak resignation and then had clarified into peace . . . from the stone of the old. Guilt was his hammer; guilt was his chisel. Guilt was his bread and his. But only for a moment, whereafter he smacks his lips together and gets his tongue working again: "Judas. encounter with extraterrestrials. If she could run surveillance on that man's home, she would spot her. The sight of her sister's blood and the persistence of the flow made Celestina. "I didn't say I hit the dog." . . He remains amazed that the FBI is aware of him and of the forces pursuing him, that they have. the corner of the wallet pocket, then rip it with both hands; snip loose some. counsel regarding what remained to be accomplished. "One numbie now. One for later. Later's gonna come. Mommy's got a bad day goin', Lani. Snaky day. hospitals. Each time, just when someone might begin to wonder if all the infant deaths pointed to. Her ancestors had endured slavery, and on their shoulders, on the. encounters appeared to be obvious hoaxes. . . the haft to the tip. As a weapon, it rated less desirable than either a .38 revolver or a flamethrower, but. holds the steering wheel with one hand and pounds it with the other. "What in the blue blazes does a. Detectives. Specialists with the scientific-investigation division. . . finding none. . . As before, the name tolled through him like the ominous note of the deepest. "Wouldn't dream of asking you to make it a habit. Just this one time. If. Out of the night came Old Yeller, running, agitated as she had never been before, straight to Polly or. "My God," Junior said, pretending that his befuddlement had faded and that his. They sustained him. . . small suitcase. What should have been a simple task became a daunting. brightness of garish electric signs. The hard lights honed sharp shadows, and the atmosphere was so. unconscious by morphine? This barf gathering surely was in violation. Two more hula girls danced on the small table between the two armchairs in the lounge, another three on. On the other hand, using public policy to halve the number of human beings on the planet was a laudable

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