

May 2012 Contents

THE READS

104

50 Secrets Your Vet Won't Tell You

Candid veterinarians reveal insider tips and startling stories. MICHELLE CROUCH

113

\$35,000 for Pizza

What's the price of a presidential campaign? FROM THE ATLANTIC

118

RD CLASSIC

The Night I Met Einstein

A lesson in life—and music—from the most brilliant mind in the world. JEROME WEIDMAN, FROM READER'S DIGEST, NOVEMBER 1955

124

Radical Reefs

Sunken subway cars and tanks make odd but inviting homes for endangered coral. PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID DOUBILET

132

Mom Advice

The best, the worst—and the best of the worst—from Anna Quindlen, Sissy Spacek, Nicholas Sparks, and more.

144

Five Stupid Internet Reactions

If the Internet had been around 100 years ago, what would people have said about the biggest news of yore? FROM CRACKED.COM

150

Look Twice

A different lens on our world. PHOTOGRAPHY BY DIRK RASMUSSEN

154

Decode Your Doctor's Language

Medicalspeak is filled with tricky shorthand that can be confusing, condescending, and even life-threatening. Be your own interpreter with this cheat sheet. JOE KITA

160

What It's Like To ...

... kayak over a waterfall, deliver your wife's baby, win a game show, and more amazing true-life tales.

AS TOLD TO LISA GOFF

ON THE COVER: BK HART/VIKKI HART/GETTY IMAGES; RIGHT: COURTESY ERIK BOOMER

Contents

THE DIGEST

- 22 Food** Five new things to do with your microwave; the glory of guacamole
- 35 Home** 13 things your landscaper won't tell you; high-tech helpers for faster fixes
- 42 Health** New 411 on sunscreen; "healthy" saboteurs; fat-releasing snacks
- 56 Family** Nancy Grace's life lesson; John Steinbeck's two kinds of love
- 68 Money** Savings mistakes to avoid; the smart way to buy from Apple
- 83 Culture** Photographers' star subjects; celebs are poets too!
- 88 Humor** The jokes are on us
Laughter, the Best Medicine
Life in These United States
All in a Day's Work
Humor in Uniform



35

Build a better bouquet—using dried flowers



173

Toni Morrison's new Home

DEPARTMENTS

- 7 Editor's Note**
- 9 React** Your letters
- 12 RD.com**
- 14 Hometown Heroes**
Ordinary people, extraordinary deeds
- 173 Books** Excerpts and reviews
DAWN RAFFEL
- 178 Ask Laskas**
JEANNE MARIE LASKAS
- 183 Word Power**
EMILY COX & HENRY RATHVON
- 196 Quotable Quotes**

readersdigest.com 5/12

Download This Issue!

The Reader's Digest app for the iPad and Kindle Fire has bonus content, video, and more!

TOP: COURTESY CHRISTINA MORENO; NICOLAS GUERIN/CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES