

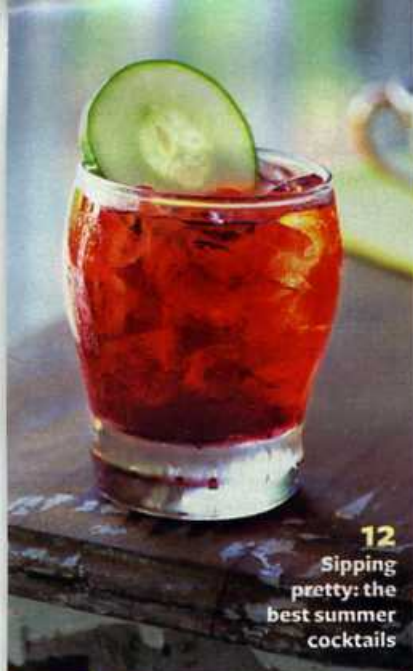
THE DIGEST

- 12 Food** Five delicious summer drinks; essential condiments for your kitchen
- 24 Family** 13 things your marriage counselor won't tell you
- 31 Work** The value of vacations; get your boss fired; the Beatles' business model
- 41 Home** Better-looking bookshelves; online bargains
- 50 Health** The best way to whiten your smile; how to spot a drowning person
- 62 Money** Is the Better Business Bureau still watching out for us? Plus: an entrepreneur's winning formula
- 73 Misc** Catching up with Dr. Drew Pinsky; six random ideas from all over

DEPARTMENTS

- 5 React** Your letters
- 83 @Work** Office humor
- 86 The Power of One** Hometown heroes from across the nation
- 92 Around the World with One Question** What should kids learn first?
- 94 Ask Laskas** Commonsense advice JEANNE MARIE LASKAS
- 96 Life's Funny That Way** Funny true stories
- 173 Quotes** Wise words
- 174 Off Base** Humor in uniform
- 177 Word Power** Test yourself
- 180 Laugh!** Our favorite jokes
- 184 Last Laugh**

● Get tips to make life easier at readersdigest.com.



12
Sipping pretty: the best summer cocktails



86
Lisa Klein (right) helps new mothers in need

Reader's Digest

AUGUST 2011

FEATURES

102 Big Gulp

We have the safest drinking water in the world—except for the pesticides that sometimes sneak in. And the rocket fuel. And the antibiotics ...

126 Liar, Liar ANDY SIMMONS

When faced with evidence of blatant wrongdoing, some people take a deep breath, put their hands on the Bible, and deny, deny, deny!

132 The Wrong Man JACOB BAYNHAM, FROM CINCINNATI MAGAZINE

After serving 29 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit, Ray Towler was freed by DNA evidence and the tireless efforts of a Cincinnati law professor. Recommended by Barry Scheck, codirector of the Innocence Project.

142 Look Twice

See the world differently.

146 Outrageous! Kicked to the Curb MICHAEL CROWLEY

Banks are making a mess of foreclosures and loan modifications. Even worse, sometimes they target fully paid-up homeowners. Could it happen to you?

152 The Best Medicine LIZ LEYDEN

No magic pill can make Piper Breinholt well. The only thing her parents can give her is the strongest medicine of all—love.

160 My Chinese Basketball Season

The Peace Corps sent author Michael Levy to teach—but he had plenty to learn, especially about shooting hoops on a foreign court.

114

America's Hero Pets

GARY SLEDGE

These best-in-breed creatures risked their own lives to protect their two-legged friends. Plus: amazing war dogs and silly (but fun) pet tricks.

(THIS PAGE) HORSE: PHOTOGRAPHED BY TAMARA REYNOLDS; SKY: GETTY IMAGES
(ON THE COVER) WATER: PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAMIE CHUNG; DOG: PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM SPRITZ

