up, then took the phone off the hook.

I looked at the phone. what they didn't understand was that sometimes there was nothing to save except a personal vindication of a personal viewpoint and that was what was going to cause that blinding white flash one of these days.

I walked across the room and snapped on the tv.

THE CONDITION BOOK

the long days at the track have indented themselves into me: I am the horses, the jocks, I am six furlongs, seven furlongs, I am a mile and one sixteenth, I am a handicap, I am all the colors of all the silks, I am all the photo finishes, the accidents, the deaths, the last place finishers, the breakdowns, the failure of the toteboard, the dropped whip and the numb pain of the dream not come true in thousands and thousands and thousands of faces, I am the long drive home in the dark, in the rain, I am decades and decades and decades of races run and won and lost and run again and I am myself sitting with a program and a Racing Form. I am the racetrack, my ribs are the wooden rails, my eyes are the flashes of the toteboard, my feet are hooves and there is something riding on my back, I am the last curve, I am the home stretch, I am the longshot and the favorite, I am the exacta, the daily double and the pick 6. I am humanely destroyed, I am the horseplayer who became the racetrack.

— Charles Bukowski

San Pedro  CA

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