Wilderness House Literary Review 16/1

Zvi A. Sesling A Run Of Bad Luck

It hasn't been good, Leroy said to his psychiatrist Dr. Mendenhall. My luck with women has been a bad run. My first wife Cecilia has an itis. In fact she had every itis known to the medical profession and some they didn't know. First, on our honeymoon she got appendicitis. After we were married a year she developed ileitis, then colitis. She then got a terrible case of conjunctivitis. That was followed by osteoarthritis.

Dr. Mendenhall stroked his moustache, *A run of bad luck for the poor woman I would say, the psychiatrist said.*

Ah, but that's not the end of it, Leroy continued. *Next she got diverticulitis and finally vulvovaginitis.*

And that was when you had an affair with Laura?

Yes, but I was desperate. I needed some lovin' and I ran into my secretary in a lounge. She had just gotten a divorce and was drowning her misery. Took me back to her place and made very passionate love to me, kept calling me by her ex-husband's name. I helped find her a new job.

Dr. Mendenhall said with a scolding tone, *You have not told me about Zoe*,

Well, Zoe was kind of a free spirit and barely out of her teens. She had a couple boyfriends but told me she'd always wanted to have sex with a married man.

Why did you stop seeing her?

One of her boyfriends threw her out the fifth story window of her apartment building.

And then?

There was a string of quick affairs. One had an STD, one ran off with her pro-fessor. Another decided she was a lesbian. Then came Florence.

Ah, yes, Florence. An extension of your bad luck?

Was she ever, Leroy said. We were really destined to meet and marry, which we did. We took wonderful vacations and cruises. Problem was Florence loved to eat sweets. Got diabetes, lost weight but got cancer and died.

Such a pity, Dr. Mendenhall said *shaking his head sadly. But I sense you may have someone else now.*

Shirley, Leroy said. I started seeing Shirley. But you know she was one of the victims in the mall shooting two days ago.