

# Exile

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## auction

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the auctioneer

*the newspaper said, "Marlene Dietrech lived  
on both sides of the mirror."*

last month they auctioned off her things  
at Sotheby's.  
a man from Miami purchased Lot 54,  
a recipe  
for beef stew,  
because his wife does not know  
how to cook.

*she stood in her beaded, metallic cabaret gowns,  
alone*

Lot 30, a travel alarm clock,  
with the phone numbers  
of her daughter and husband  
taped to it,  
was sold  
to a narcoleptic  
from Phoenix.

*until the beads fell away  
one  
by  
one*

her grand piano,  
Lot 18,  
was bought by a man from  
Pittsburgh  
for his daughter  
studying for Julliard.

*and she was left, pale and freckled  
undressed.*

—erin malone '00