

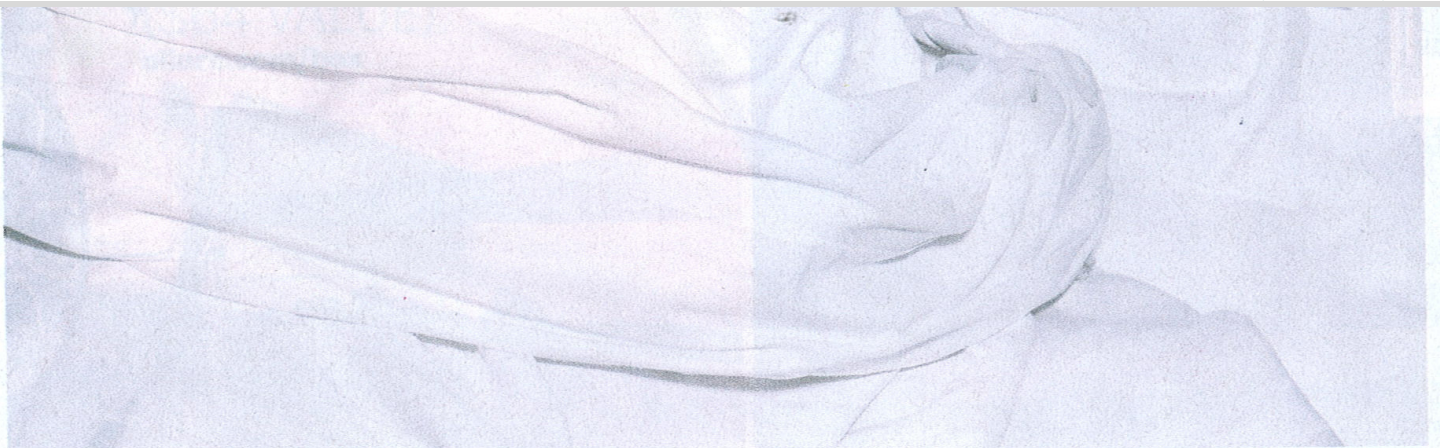
P E R S O N A L  
Q U E S T

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# LOOK *alive*

SHE FEELS GREAT, INVIGORATED EVEN. YET **ALICE GREGORY** WAKES EACH DAY TO DEEPLY SHADOWED EYES THAT MAKE HER APPEAR DEJECTED, DEFEATED...EXHAUSTED. ONE DAY, SHE SET OUT TO CURE THEM, ONCE AND FOR ALL.





...says Alice Gregory:

"On a good day, I might describe the dark circles under my eyes as "mauve." On a bad day, they're more the color of bluefin tuna sashimi, which is to say fresh bruises. I don't think they make me look old, or even ugly, really just miserable, which I'm not...For years I found the best solution to be a distracting bright red lip. That only worked for so long, though. Now I tend to wear sunglasses – indoors..."

"...Haideh Hirmand, a New York City plastic surgeon and a clinical assistant professor of surgery at Cornell Medical College, was arguably [...] a realist. She agreed that an eye cream wouldn't produce terribly impressive results for me, but neither, she specified, would filler solve the problem entirely on its own. My circles were too deep and too dark. Fillers—which she's been using on patients under the eyes for over 15 years—can work miracles for those who have deepening tear troughs but not for those who also have crepey skin or protruding fat bags like mine, she said. If I really wanted my circles completely gone, I'd also need a "lower transconjunctival blepharoplasty," i.e., the courage to allow someone to [...] "reposition" what scant quantities of fat remained [under my eyes]..."

acid liner. I might be a little swollen for a day, but for that she'd prescribe a steroid. The results would last about a year, though people who work out really hard, she stipulated, "burn through fillers really fast." She guessed I would need two syringes to "fully correct" my undereye circles but added that she prefers to correct to 70 percent so as not to make friends suspicious. This is when I became nervous

with the results—happy that I can look happy and also happy to have my suspicions about truth and beauty confirmed: Nothing short of undergoing extreme-seeming (to me at least) medical procedures at great expense has any real result. Nothing short of needles and lasers and maybe your own centrifuged blood is going to effectively intervene in your biological decline. No lotion or potion or semiprecious stone tool will erase veins or alter the struc-