

Cam McAlpine / SYMBOLS

SYMBOLS 1 *STOLEN FROM MATT COHEN*

*"Do you want a cigarette?" Laurel asked.
the instrument panel had once been fancy*

*and made out of wood. Now it was splintered
and all the pieces stuck out at crazy angles.*

*But the instruments still worked, and
the lighter did too, dangling from wires*

*so it could be swung to any position,
pulled now by Laurel up to her mouth
where she lit both cigarettes,
handed one to Calvin.*

SYMBOLS 2
GIVEN BACK TO MATT COHEN

"Do you want
Laurel asked a cigarette?"
The once had been
made fancy wood
out of instrument panel.
Now
it was splintered and at
the pieces
stuck
out
all crazy angles.
But instruments
the still worked
and too
the lighter did
dangling from wires
so swung
to any position could be
pulled to her mouth
now by Laurel
one to Calvin
handed
where she up
lit both cigarettes.

SYMBOLS 3

MATT'S POEM

Picture two people.
Sitting in a truck,
on an island
with one glowing neon
HOTEL sign and
a few dozen totem poles.
The truck is old;
they are young.
They share a cigarette.

Symbols explode all around them.

They should feel used, be
cause when the novel ends, well, frankly,
so do they.

After all, they too are only symbols.