

VOGUE

The Supernatural

Judith Newman

“Last year, a friend told her about the WellMax Center for Preventive Medicine in Palm Springs Desert, California, and Catherine made an appointment. Founded nine years ago by Daniel Cosgrove, M.D., a former emergency-room physician, WellMax is a sort of medical Disneyland where the well-heeled worrywart can get a head-to-toe checkup in one idyllic setting. The workup is expensive, to be sure- up to \$10,000, none of which is typically covered by insurance. Perhaps to soften the blow, WellMax is located in the La Quinta Resort & Club. Once the playground of the Hollywood elite (Frank Capra wrote several of his scripts there, and Greta Garbo reportedly entertained many a male visitor during her extended stays), La Quinta is a little Disneyesque itself: Costa’s hummingbirds diligently pollinate the carpets of poppies and snapdragons, and tiny lights twinkle on palm trees and cast shadows on the ubiquitous waterfalls. It’s a surreal place. If you’ve got to contemplate your own internal decay, you might as well do it at La Quinta.

Cosgrove- whose game-show good looks belie a deep geekiness- put Catherine through five days of rigorous testing. Some of her numbers were a bit abnormal; she had, for example, a mild iron deficiency. But one test in particular stood out:...”