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Not a Living

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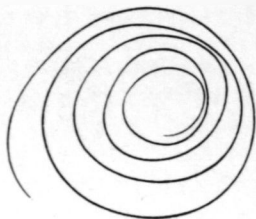
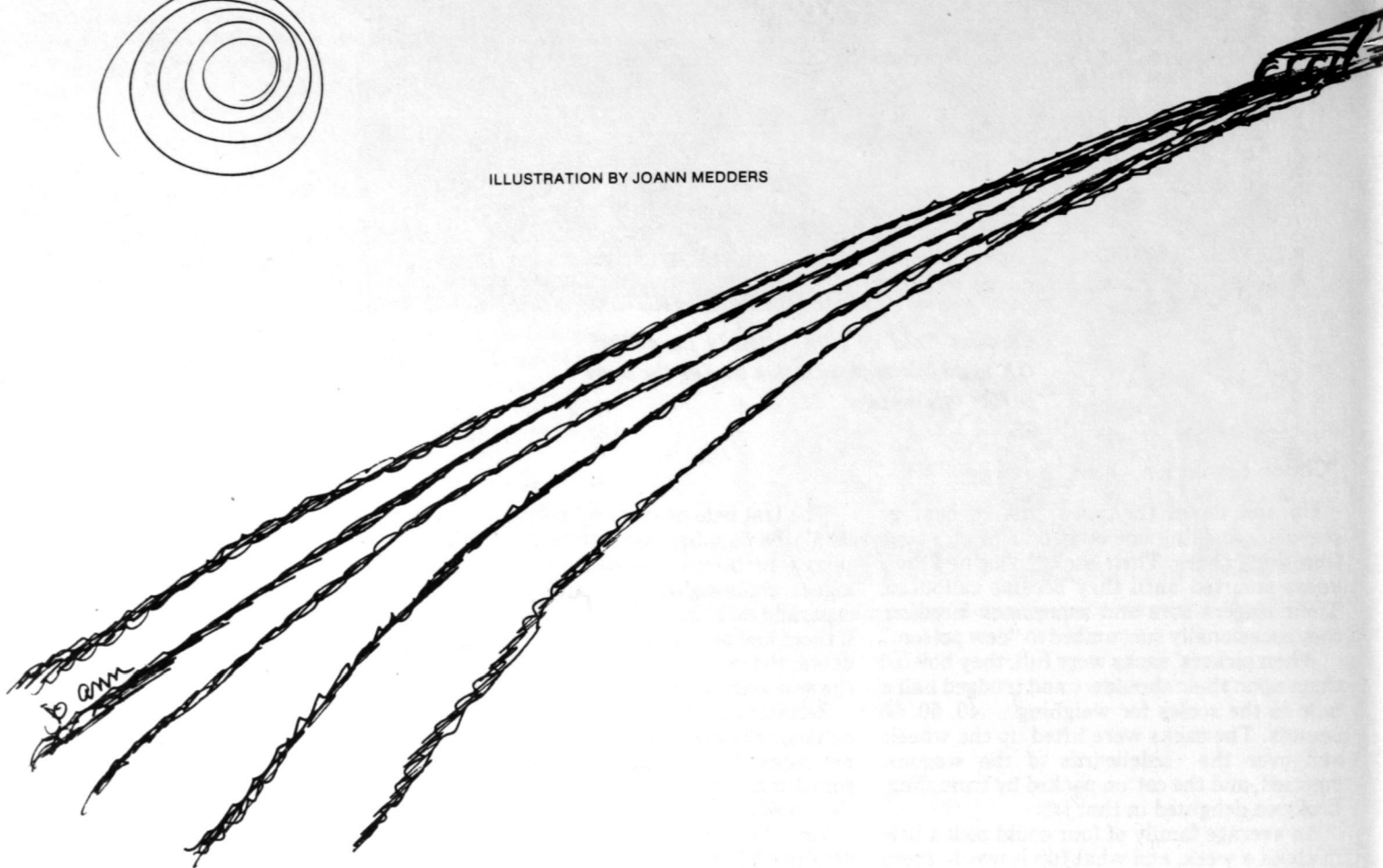


ILLUSTRATION BY JOANN MEDDERS

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NOT A LIVING

— by Janie Horn Janzen

When we were young lovers, I persuaded my farm-reared husband to promise me that we would never farm for a living. With his Industrial Arts degree just signed by the college president and his teaching certificate in the mail from the State Department of Education, he pledged that he would never consider it.

This spring, 15 years past that promise, my lover began a farming partnership with my father. Last Saturday midnight after we had spent four hours in the field getting a sunk-in-the-mud-to-its-hubs swather onto drier acres and after postponing our plans of going to town for pizza, I teasingly reminded my husband, "I thought you promised me we would never farm for a living."

His apt answer was, "I never said we would make a living doing this."