

Madonna in Cow Country

by [Bill Stadick](#) in the [June 2026](#) issue
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The Mother of God can pop
up anywhere, even along

this country song of a road.
She stares blankly from

that farmhouse porch,
treasuring all things

within her plaster heart,
praying for us bikers-by,

now and at the hour—
When the world ends,

bang or whimper TBD,
what will become of

these corn-towering miles,
the calves in those hutches,

my aching calves, thighs, arms,
all this age's stand-in Marys?