

FIRST PERSON

# So not vain

The Vineyard's Carly Simon, 66, island-hops for a most worthy cause.

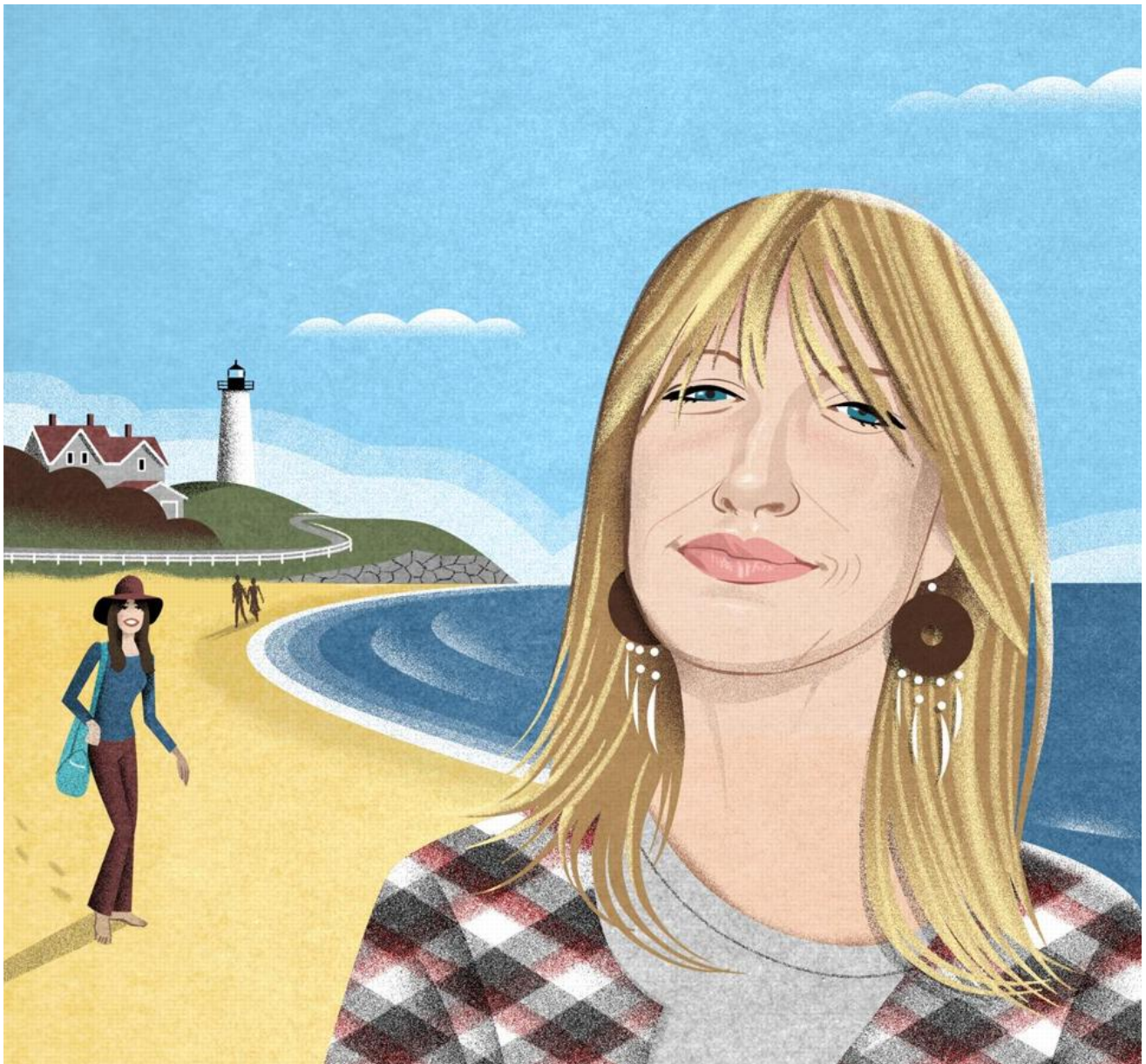


ILLUSTRATION BY BEN KIRCHNER

**As a longtime Martha's Vineyard resident, how did you end up at a Boston Pops benefit for Nantucket Cottage Hospital this month?**

People on Martha's Vineyard say, "You're defecting," but I'm not. I've been involved with Martha's Vineyard Hospital for years and years, but Nantucket Hospital is in more of a bind. It's further out to sea, so it's more difficult to get to the mainland [for care]. There are great doctors out there, but there should be more.

**Have you played with the Pops before?**

Yes, four summers ago, I sang with my wonderful sister-in-law, Kate Taylor, and her daughter. We sang Patti Page's "Old Cape Cod" about lobster stew and ocean views. [Singing] "If you're fond of sand dunes and salty air ... you're sure to fall in love with old Cape Cod."

**You also recently collaborated with playwright Ernest Thompson on a new song, "The Father Daughter Dance," for a revival of On Golden Pond in Holderness, New Hampshire. What made you sing so movingly?**

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I never had a father-daughter dance in my life, but I imagined one. Ernest's words have an emotional energy that's easy to pick up on. When I wrote the music, I was very unself-conscious. I wrote it on the piano, very unintellectually, sitting on it like a bird sits on its eggs; then it hatched.

**An unauthorized biography on you comes out in January. Are you OK with it?**

I know the author [Stephen Davis], so there's some integrity. He's interviewed me over the years; he knows my family. He's a good guy. He has written many books about rock and rollers.

**At age 66, any thoughts of retiring?** I want to make the most of my time. I'm really into writing poetry and piano concertos. My weakness is my tendency for laziness. I realize laziness is more a habit. If you're used to staying still, you will. I'm determined to be a body in motion. I want to rev up!

**Your voice still sounds so strong. What's your secret?**

Letting love come into my life. Feeling loved makes me feel like I want to shine.

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