TORONTO PAGES

ISSUE: 9 - FEBRUARY 2024



SONYA CHADHA

SHINE SO BRIGHT

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OUTFITTERS



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UTTERS

On the cover



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A Letter From the Editor

After a brief hiatus, we are thrilled to be back with the latest edition of TorontoPages magazine, and we sincerely apologize for the disconnection during our absence. As we transition from the frosty days of winter to the awakening of spring, Toronto's weather mirrors the city's vibrant energy, offering a blend of chilly mornings and sunny afternoons, prompting us to shed our winter layers and embrace the promise of warmer days ahead.

In this issue, we delve into an array of captivating topics that showcase the diversity and dynamism of our beloved city. From the exhilarating AutoShow 2024, where innovation meets automotive excellence, to exploring the latest beauty trends with Teint Fétiche Le Fluide, we aim to captivate your senses and spark inspiration.

Our entertainment section invites you to ponder the intricacies of storytelling in cinema with "Writing Movie Wrongs" and discover the literary delights of February's book releases. Meanwhile, the world of fashion takes center stage with captivating editorials, including "A Fashion Tale of Green & Grace," as well as exclusive glimpses into the FW24 collections of Bally and Lacoste.

In our feature section, we shine a spotlight on influential figures such as Duane "D.O." Gibson and artist Ramona Nordal, along with a soulful interview with Toronto's very own songstress, Denielle Bassels. And for those with a passion for culinary delights, indulge your taste buds with reviews of The Happy Chocco and WOK BOYZ, offering a tantalizing journey through Toronto's diverse food scene.

As always, we encourage you, our cherished readers, to share your thoughts and feedback with us, for it is your engagement that drives us to continually strive for excellence. So sit back, relax, and enjoy the enriching read that awaits you within the pages of TorontoPages magazine.

Warm regards,



JAMEEL ARIF
Chief Editor

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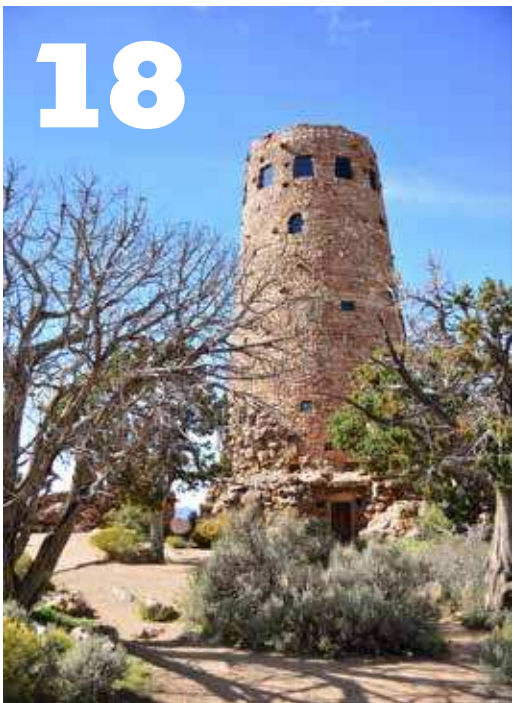


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Duane "D.O." Gibson Announces 2024 Black Canadian School Tour

Annual Virtual Black Canadian 365 Conference To Be Held February 13, 2024



Duane "D.O." Gibson, a two-time Guinness World Record-setting rapper, will kick off his annual Black Canadian history "Songs of Freedom" school tour. The tour will culminate in a virtual event on February 13th, expected to draw an audience of over 50,000 students nationwide.

In conjunction with the tour, Gibson will release the "Songs of Freedom" EP on February 9th, produced by Beatchild (Drake, Glenn Lewis, Gary Beals) and Saukrates (Nelly Furtado, Nas, Kardinal Offishall). It will feature the Bob Marley inspired "Redemption Song" with multiple-time JUNO nominee Ammoye. During the virtual event, Gibson will delve into the Nova Scotian connection that inspired this iconic Bob Marley song.

Also announced is the return of his third annual virtual Black 365 Conference on February 13th, in support of Black History Month. The conference is expected to draw audiences from school classrooms across Canada, where Gibson will rap, motivate, and speak to the contributions of Black Canadians throughout history.

A highlight of the conference will be Gibson's exploration of the rich history of Birchtown in Nova Scotia, where the community embarked on a journey to Sierra Leone, Africa.

Said Gibson, "one of my favorite aspects of discussing Black History is uncovering stories that many Canadians may not be familiar with. When I learned that the lyric 'emancipate yourself from mental slavery' was first spoken at a hall beside where my great-grandfather founded a church in Sydney, Nova Scotia, it blew my mind. The story of Blacks from Nova Scotia migrating to Africa and forming a lasting community is mind-blowing. I can't wait to share these stories with youth across the country."

"Covid was a challenge for all of us, but I learned it was a way to connect virtually with tens of thousands of students from Canada. While students are back in the classroom, continuing this event has allowed me to connect with so many Canadians and spread an inspiring message."

In 2024, Gibson is set for another breakthrough year. In May, he will travel to South Africa to perform at the Africa Music Rising conference.

Born in Watrous, Saskatchewan, with Cape Breton Nova Scotia roots, Gibson grew up in Southern Ontario before settling in Toronto. He has defied the odds as a rapper from Canada, becoming an international artist, a successful record label executive, and an active community ambassador. He set a Guinness World Record when he freestyled for nearly nine hours in 2003, sold tens of thousands of albums, hit #1 on U.S. college hip-hop radio charts, and traveled the world performing for sold-out crowds.

For more information, please visit www.iamdogibson.com.

"Songs of Freedom" School Tour Dates

1/8/2024 - Surrey, BC - Laronde Elementary - 9:00 AM
1/10/2024 -Grand Forks, BC -Dr D A Perley Elementary - 9:00 AM
1/10/2024 -Grand Forks, -John A. Hutton Elementary-11:00 AM
1/10/2024 - Rock Creek, BC -West Boundary Elementary -2:00 PM
1/11/2024 - Midway, BC -Boundary Central Secondary - 9:00 AM
1/11/2024 - Grand Forks, BC - Grand Forks Secondary - 11:30 AM
1/12/2024 - Kamloops, -Arthur Stevenson Elementary -9:00 AM
1/12/2024 - Kamloops, BC - South Sa-Hali Elementary -11:00 AM
1/12/2024 - Kamloops,-Robert L Clemitson Elem -1:30 PM
1/15/2024 - Nanaimo, - Randerson Ridge Elementary - 1:00 PM
1/16/2024 - Courtenay, - Georges P Vanier Secondary - 9:30 AM
1/16/2024 - Comox, BC - Aspen Park Elementary - 1:00 PM
1/17/2024 - Victoria, BC - Royal Oak Middle School - 8:45 AM
1/17/2024 - North Saanic-North Saanich Mid School-10:45 AM
1/17/2024 - Sooke, BC - Ecole Poirier Elementary - 1:30 PM
1/18/2024 - Victoria, BC - Claremont Secondary - 8:45 AM
1/18/2024 - Brentwood Bay, - Bayside Middle School - 11:00 AM
1/22/2024 - North York, - Pierre Laporte Middle School - 1:00 PM
1/23/2024 - Toronto, ON - Heather Heights - 12:40 PM
1/24/2024 - Toronto, - Eglinton Junior Public School - 1:00 PM
1/25/2024 - Woodbridge, ON - Lorna Jackson - 9:00 AM
1/25/2024 - Brampton, ON - Burnt Elm - 8:30 AM
1/26/2024 - Newmarket, ON - Terry Fox PS - 1:00 PM
1/29/2024 - Toronto, ON - Monsignor John Corrigan - 12:30 PM
1/29/2024 - Toronto, ON - St. Dorothy - 10:10 AM
1/31/2024 - Toronto, ON - Rosethorn Jr - 8:40 AM
1/31/2024 - Toronto, ON - Rivercrest JPS - 12:20 PM
2/1/2024 - Waterloo, ON - Blessed Sacrement - 10:20 AM
2/1/2024 - Waterloo, ON - St. Kateri Catholic - 12:30 PM
2/7/2024 - Richmond Hill, ON - Bayview S.S. - 12:25 PM
2/8/2024 - Brampton, ON - St. Mary Elementary - 9:00 AM
2/8/2024 - Newmarket, ON - St. John XXIII CES - 1:15 PM
2/9/2024 - Toronto, ON - Ryerson Community School - 8:45 AM
2/9/2024 - Toronto, ON - Maurice Cody - 10:15 AM
2/12/2024 - Woodbridge, ON - St. Stephen - 12:35 PM
2/13/2024 - Virtual Conference - "Songs of Freedom" - 9:30 AM
2/13/2024 - Virtual Conference - "Songs of Freedom" - 1:00 PM
2/15/2024 - Brampton, ON - Huttonville PS - TBD
2/16/2024 - Sarnia, ON - King George - 9:00 AM
2/16/2024 - Sarnia, ON - Bridgeview - 1:00 PM
2/20/2024 - Richmond Hill, ON - Macleods Landing - 11:30 AM
2/21/2024 - Bolton, ON - St. Nicholas - 11:00 AM
2/21/2024 - Mississauga, Fallingbrooke Middle School-1:00 PM
2/22/2024 - Woodbridge, ON - St. Brandan -9:15 AM
2/22/2024 - Toronto, ON - Jackman Avenue JPS - 12:45 PM
2/23/2024 - Toronto, ON - Woodbine - 9:15 AM
2/23/2024 - North York, ON - St. Matthias C.S. - 1:00 PM
2/26/2024 - Woodbridge, ON - St. Mary of Angels - 9:00 AM
2/28/2024 - Toronto, ON - Taylor Creek Public School - 10:30 AM
2/29/2024 - Burlington, ON - Frontenac Public School - 9:25 AM
3/7/2024 - Mississauga, ON - Queenston Drive - 1:00 PM

LE GRAND HÔTEL

A LUXURY HOSPITALITY LEGEND



JOSÉ BERROCOSO
TRAVEL EXPERT
joseberrocoso

www.intercontinental.com

For more than 200 years the Grand Hotel de Bordeaux has been the doorway to luxury travel right in the middle of the historic center of the Gironde capital city sparking admiration and curiosity to all. With a two-Michelin-starred restaurant among its duo of eateries, a rooftop bar with panoramic skyline views and a Guerlain spa including a relaxation pool, a sauna, a hammam and a tea room, the InterContinental Bordeaux – Le Grand Hôtel is the perfect accommodation choice. Get ready to travel, Bonjour France!





Embarking on a journey is not just about the destinations; it's about the luxury of the entire experience. In the symphony of travel, where each note plays a crucial role, the choice of accommodation serves as the crescendo, defining the harmony of your adventure. Selecting the right hotel is akin to curating a masterpiece. It's a pivotal decision that goes beyond mere comfort; it sets the tone for an opulent narrative, transforming a trip into a memorable sojourn. The luxury of travel lies not just in the miles covered but in the exquisite moments cocooned within the walls of a carefully chosen hotel.

In the world of luxury travel, the right hotel is your sanctuary, your muse, and your partner in crafting a narrative of indulgence. It's a space where you can rejuvenate, celebrate, and immerse yourself in the essence of each locale. And if you travel to Bordeaux, a stay at the InterContinental Bordeaux - Le Grand Hôtel is an unsually decadent and must-have experience.

Located on Place de la Comédie, in the heart of the city's Golden Triangle, this wonderful property has been a hotel legend for over a century. Formerly a private mansion built in 1789 by Victor Louis, this listed building first became a hotel in 1904. Its neo-classical façade with Corinthian colonnades faces the majestic Grand-Théâtre de Bordeaux, completed ten years earlier by the same architect. Two buildings whose destinies are intertwined, forming a unique and inseparable architectural ensemble that has been dear to the hearts of Bordeaux residents for many generations. The InterContinental Bordeaux - Le Grand Hôtel is the ideal starting point for discovering the Bordeaux of yesterday and today.

The hushed world of the InterContinental Bordeaux - Le Grand Hôtel is the work of Jacques Garcia. The famous interior designer (Hôtel Costes, La Mamounia, La Réserve Paris...) has found in this historic private hotel a superb material for one of his secret journeys through me, virtuously blending 18th and 19th century influences with more contemporary touches.

Bronze-legged furniture and wall brackets, Napoleon III studded armchairs upholstered in velvet and trimmings, heavy moire and silk drapes, thick carpets in deep red prints, subdued ligh ng with pleated shades, red and grey marble... the elegant baroque opulence of the famous decorator blends perfectly with the opulent neo-classical style of the premises.

The same distinguished, cosy spirit pervades the entire establishment, from the public areas to the two restaurants. And it's only when night falls that the intimate, refined soul of the place is revealed to its fullest, not without a touch of mystery.

ROOMS & SUITES

Consistent with the overall theme of the hotel, the bedrooms are adorned in the opulence of the ancien régime, featuring mahogany furniture adorned in regal red and gold upholstery. While the classic rooms lean towards a cozier size, they are well-equipped with desks and tables, allowing for convenient in-room breakfasts. On the other hand, the executive rooms boast generous proportions and offer delightful views of the Grand-Théâtre.









GASTRONOMY

British celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay took the helm of the hotel's flagship restaurant, Le Pressoir D'Argent This two Michelin-starred gastronomic restaurant has a seductive atmosphere and a creative, tasty cuisine. With its deep respect for authentic produce, Le Pressoir d'Argent offers a menu that pays homage to regional products. Black truffles from the Gironde, foie gras from the Charente or the unmissable Breton lobster à la presse are all references to the richness of France's culinary heritage.

Le Bordeaux restaurant has been an integral part of the city's history for over 160 years. Indeed, it was in 1850 that the former mansion of Sacriste de Rolly, descendant of Jeanne d'Albret, mother of Henri IV, rst became a dining establishment: the elegant Café de Bordeaux.

Victor Hugo gave a speech on Europe, Toulouse-Lautrec sketched the curious face of the co ee waiter Antoine, and elegant women aunted the terrace of this establishment with its 30,000 bo le cellar.

A historic establishment that today wishes to pay homage to its terroir and local producers, the Le Bordeaux team strives to work hand in hand with those who shape our beau ful region to o er local cuisine between land and sea throughout the seasons. As for desserts, our team of pastry chefs reinterprets the great classics. Our extensive wine list guarantees a tasty pairing with our delicious à la carte dishes. An address not to be missed in the historic heart of Gironde's capital.

And, what about the breakfast? It is an extremely classy affair, with fresh juices, fruit, croissants, breads, hams, cheeses, smoked salmon and eggs all perfectly executed.

The Rooftop of the InterContinental Bordeaux – Le Grand Hôtel offers a new experience throughout the year. Whether in summer or winter, it offers its guests an immersive experience. The relaxed elegance of the sophisticated setting combined with the stunning 360° panoramic view of the city and a wonderfully relaxed atmosphere make this open-air venue the place to be.











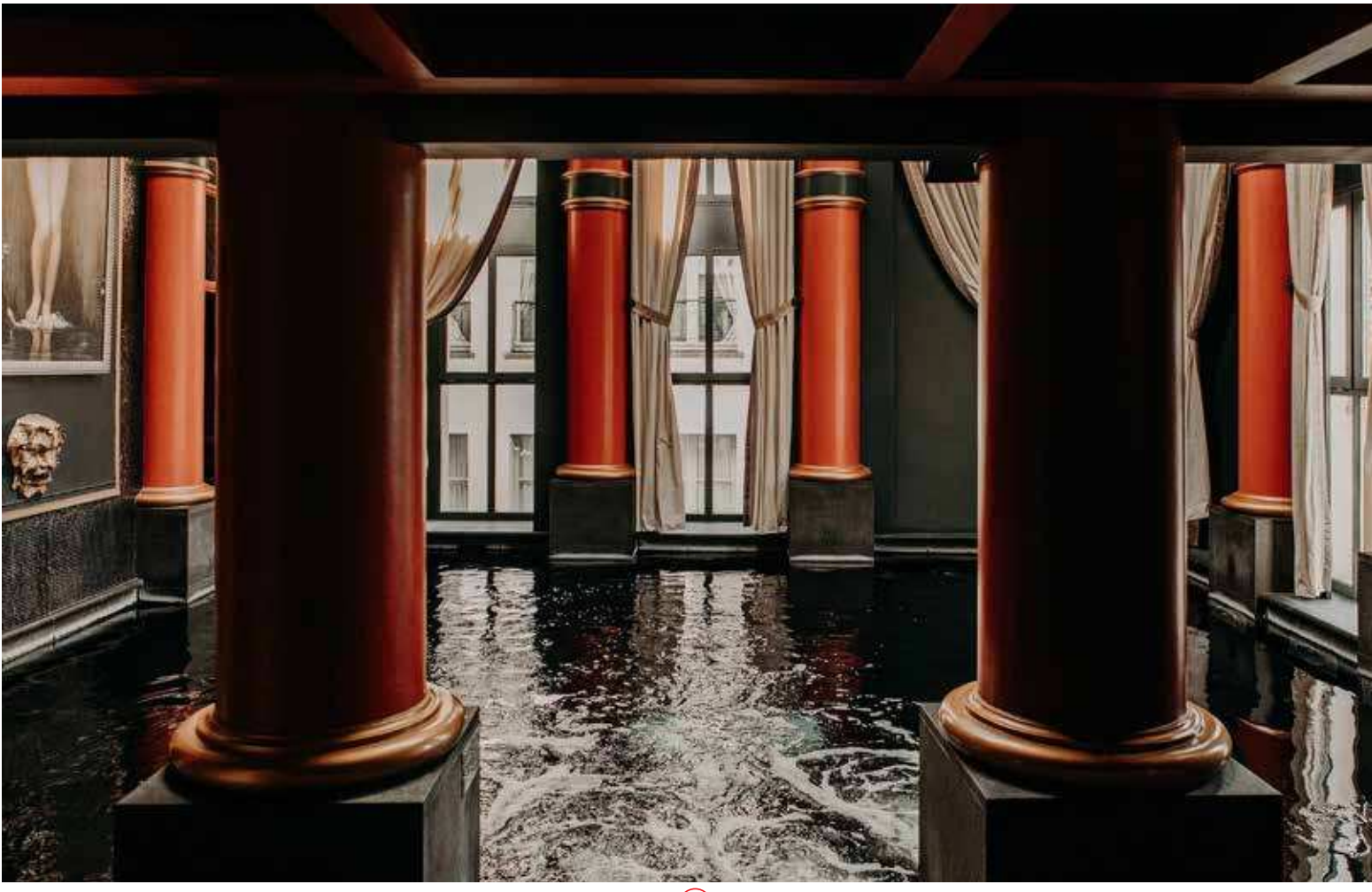


THE GUERLAIN SPA: A LUXURIOUS SETTING

In their constant quest for perfection, luxury and the French art of living, InterContinental Bordeaux - Le Grand Hôtel and Guerlain have naturally joined forces to create a spa that enhances beauty and well-being.

The collaboration between the two Houses reflects their uncompromising commitment to providing their customers with an exceptional experience. Thanks to renovation work on an unprecedented scale, the InterContinental Bordeaux - Le Grand Hôtel and Guerlain have taken up the challenge of revamping one of the flagship areas of this emblematic hotel to become more than ever thecity's most upscale wellness address. The spa is a haven where time stands still, and the world outside fades into serenity. From the moment you step through the doors, you're transported to a realm of tranquility and rejuvenation, promising a holistic escape for the senses.

It has 8 cabins dedicated to sculpting and treatments, a sauna, a hammam, a relaxation pool and a solarium with a view over the whole of Bordeaux. The relaxation pool, decorated by Jacques Garcia, is one of the Spa's masterpieces. This sumptuous pool is equipped with massage jets and nozzles, as well as a counter-current swimming system. It is topped by a luminous glass roof framed by a deep black ceiling, enamelled with twinkling lights like a starry sky. An overhanging tea room overlooks this theatrically decorated water feature, invi ng you to rest and relax.





A Skincare Routine For FROSTY DAYS



DR. NAZIA NAUSHEEN

drnaznaush

Maintaining a fresh and hydrated skin during harsh Canadian winters can be challenging due to frosty conditions and dry cold air. But following a right skincare routine and habits can help keep your skin looking vibrant and rejuvenated. Here are some tips:



Use a Gentle Cleanser: Choose a gentle and hydrating cleanser that does not strip your skin of its natural oils. Look for ingredients such as Hyalauronic acid and Glycerine to help retain moisture.

Limit Hot baths and Showers: While it may be tempting to take long hot showers during winter, hot water can strip your skin of its natural oils leaving your skin dry and dehydrated. Stick to lukewarm water and limit bathing time to 10-15 minutes.

Moisturise Regularly: Moisturise your skin immediately after showering, pat your skin dry and apply moisturiser while your skin is still slightly damp to lock in the moisture. This way your skin will stay hydrated throughout the day.

Avoid Over-Exfoliating: Although regular exfoliation can help remove dead skin cells and allows moisturiser to penetrate more effectively. However, too much exfoliation can further dry out your skin. Limit exfoliation to once or twice a week using a gentle exfoliant.

Hydration is Key: Staying hydrated by drinking plenty of water helps maintain your skin's moisture levels, which can combat dryness.

Don't Forget Your Sunscreen: Just because the sun is not shining as brightly doesn't mean you can skip sunscreen. UV rays can still penetrate your skin on cloudy days and can cause damage. Opt for a broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher and reapply throughout the day when you are planning to spend extended periods outdoors.

Eat a Healthy Diet: Eating food rich in antioxidants and vitamins can help nourish your skin from the inside out. Incorporate plenty of fruits, vegetables, nuts and fish into your diet to support healthy skin.

Pamper Your Skin with a Weekly Mask: Treat your skin to a weekly session of a hydrating face mask to replenish moisture and revive dull winter-worn skin. Look for masks infused with ingredients like Hyaluronic acid, aloe vera or honey to soothe and nourish, dry and irritated skin.

Protect your Hands and Feet: Hands and feet are often neglected during winters, but they are just as susceptible to dryness. Invest in a nourishing hand cream and food cream to keep your extremities soft and supple.

By following these tips and maintaining a consistent skincare routine, you can effectively maintain your skin freshness and hydration levels throughout the challenging winter. Should you encounter any specific skin issue or have concerns, consider consulting a dermatologist for personalised advice.

Millions of Years in the Making:
Time to Look into the Canyon.

At the parking lot at the visitor's center, I grabbed the camera bag that was hanging from the headrest on the passenger seat. I set off from the car, walking less than 5 minutes. I arrived and swiftly sat down on a huge rock. My destination was Mather's Point at the Grand Canyon National Park. I had to sit down. The view into the canyon was breath taking. Sitting on the rock, I could steady myself. That feeling that you just need to acclimatize to the situation crept over me. I did not want the people around me to get a glimpse, and think that I might be having a moment of feebleness. I just needed a few minutes. I could not decide if it was acrophobia, agoraphobia or a combination of the two. It did not last long, as I was too excited to be here. Soon I was able to proceed down onto the rocks and then move to the railing on the very edge of the point. The warm air was blowing at me from across the canyon. Below me, birds soared on the thermal currents that were rising from inside the canyon. With an average of 10 miles wide and a mile deep, the scale is hard to take in.



ROY BOYCE
royboycephoto

The Grand Canyon National Park is so familiar to us all. Listed as one of the seven natural wonders of the world, the park boasts close to 5 million visitors per year. Is it all hype and marketing? I wanted to see for myself. Would it really look that spectacular? I had the opportunity to detour to the South Rim for a two-day stopover on a recent trip. Travelling up from the town of Williams in Arizona to the South Rim, the distance is approximately 59 miles or just over an hour by car.

All Photos are provided by the Photographer - **Roy Boyce** (@ royboycephoto)





Travelling across America over the years I had often seen the Grand Canyon from the comfort of my airline seat. Either on route into Las Vegas or passing over on the way to California. The canyon is quite visible from the air on a clear sky day. On a trip into Las Vegas a couple of years ago, I had journeyed up to the Hoover Dam on a tourist bus excursion. Bus travel is not something that I would ordinarily do, but I really enjoyed the day. At the time, I thought about the Colorado river, and its course through the Grand Canyon and into Lake Mead, behind the Hoover Dam. I had made a mental note of it and promised myself that I would get to the Grand Canyon one day, sometime. Well, that time had come.

I did not spend too much time planning the details. I didn't know if I was going to have the time to visit, so I had not done my homework. But just in case, I had reserved a spot in the campground. I thought that I could camp, and it could be an easy in and out for me. I would not feel bad if I had to cancel. I know that having a vehicle with camping gear is not an option for everyone. I find that in the process of checking in and out of some hotels, you can lose time, of which I did not have a great deal on this trip.

The Grand Canyon has it all covered though, and there are hotels both inside and outside of the park. Inside the park does get you closer to the Canyon. Being closer is better if you are there to do the trails and activities, since there can be a wait to get in to the park through the gate when the park is busy. Being inside the park is fantastic if you want to catch the sunset and sunrise over the canyon, which I did. 'Outside the park' the village is about 9 to 10km (~5.5-6.2 miles) from the rim. There you will find some of the more familiar hotel chains including some of the more luxurious brands. For me, I was willing to forgo a high-end luxury experience in favour of more modest lodge accommodation closer to the rim. I am here looking to explore the Canyon and not the hotel.

The camp site was what you would might expect, and each location had a fire pit and table. Clean fresh water was not far away and the toilet facilities were not far, but far enough away, if you know what I mean. They were nice and clean also and adequately stocked. I had been on the road for a couple of weeks so having access to laundry in the camp ground was a big plus. After my two weeks on the road, I did need the laundry service. Be aware that the local Elk roam through the campsite area





constantly. They are generally not aggressive, however, you do need to keep your distance as they are ready to defend themselves if they feel you are too close. For some visitors that are exploring multiple park locations, you might consider renting an RV (Recreational Vehicle or Campervan). Tent camping equipment can also be rented to suit whatever your trip needs.

Inside the park, The Grand Canyon Village has a small village center. There are just over 2,000 residents of the village that keep the park operational for all the visitors to enjoy. The Village facilities are impressive and include the village market, post office, library, cafeteria, restaurant and school. I understand that the school supports around 300 students across all grades, and is for the permanent residents of the village. It felt like a terrific family location and I felt safe. The village market caters to visitors and residents alike, and sells everything from regular grocery supplies to backpacker gear and dehydrated meals. The Market area in the village is a great place to hang out with your coffee and enjoy some people watching. With many groups holding meetings in the Village hotels and conference centre, including scientific working groups, international and national travellers, in addition to local residents, this is a busy place.

Getting to the Canyon the large international airports are really Pheonix, Arizona's Sky Harbour Airport (~4 hour drive) or Las Vegas's Harry Reid International Airport (~4 – ¾ hour drive). Bus tours also run out of Las Vegas, as well as air tours either by plane or helicopter. Grand Canyon also has a regional airport for those that want to charter a flight in.







Also worth mentioning is that there is a train service that runs from Williams, Arizona straight into the park. It's really a historic railway with restored engines and carriages. You can park your car in Williams, and take the train up and back to the Canyon in the same day. At the train depot in Williams, there is also an RV park for campers. They run several packages with the train service, so that you can stay at one of the lodges and return later if you are not keen on the same-day return. For same-day travellers, anticipate having around 3 hours at the Canyon as it takes around 2 – ¾ hours each way on the train. The train service runs a steam locomotive on the first Saturday of the month, otherwise they use renovated Diesel Engines.





Okay, lets address the elephant in the room. Do you have to go down into the canyon and back? No. There is plenty of pavement, and numerous trails and lookouts along the South Rim to keep everyone busy and the accessibility is good. Bicycles can be rented and shuttle buses run all day along the route, so that you can do a hop on, hop off tour of the lookout spots if you prefer. You can also do a combination of walking and riding from point to point by picking up the bus for a ride to the next stop here and here. You do you; it is all good fun. If you are more adventurous, take some of the trails. The Rangers in the park will gladly help to guide you to the right trail for you. For the more advanced hiker, there is the rim-to-rim trail that does require planning. I spoke with a local guide who had done the rim-to-rim trail and back more than once. He felt that to do the rim-to-rim trail you need to be fit enough to run a marathon. Many people train







for a couple of years to do the trek. The North Rim is approximately 1,000 ft higher than the South, and the climb is very hard. There are Ultra Marathon Runners that manage to make it to the North Rim and back in the same day, which is just amazing. Backpack camping is an option if you have around 4 days to complete the trip. You will need to plan the trip well in advance as you will need permits from the park, which can take 3-4 months to get if the park is busy. There are also companies that you can hire to give you a guided experience. And mule rides are available if you are under 200lbs in weight and at least 4' 9" tall. They offer a 2-hour rim tour or an overnight experience into the Canyon. You might want to be booking the trip over a year in advance to get what you want.

For me, I got what I wanted. I sat with some great people, in the darkness with my coffee, waiting to see the sunrise. I walked the South Rim. Rode the buses. Talked to strangers. Watched the sunset. Had dinner at my campfire with a glass of wine. Serenity. Yeah...I have to go back.

The opinions shared are mine based on my first-hand experience. Your experience could be the same or different. Take time to do your own research to see if it is right for you. I was not paid, endorsed or sponsored by anyone, including The Grand Canyon National Park, to visit this location. It was an independent choice and my visit was funded from my personal account. I have included a few links below to help you start your research, however, I have no affiliations with any of these organizations.

A Fashion Tale of Green & Grace

THE TEAM:
Photographer: **Zac Photography** (@zacphotography.6ix)
Model: **Alisha** (@__she.is.fire__)











Indulge in the Exquisite World of The Happy Chocco:

A Fusion of Tradition and Innovation



MESHAL
meshaljameel_

Welcome to the delectable world of Happy Chocco, a beloved family-owned dessert haven nestled in the heart of Toronto. Since its inception in 2020, Happy Chocco has been tantalizing taste buds with its exquisite selection of French pastries infused with a delightful Turkish twist. From classic eclairs to innovative fruity creations, each dessert is meticulously crafted with the finest ingredients and a passion for perfection. Join us as we embark on a sweet journey through the rich flavors and artisanal excellence of Happy Chocco.



A Confectionery Journey

Happy Chocco began its journey in 2020, rooted in a passion for the art of pastry-making and a desire to introduce a unique eclair experience to the Toronto market. Armed with expertise acquired from the prestigious Bake and Pastry program at Humber College, the founders embarked on a mission to blend the rich heritage of Turkish culture with the elegance of French pastries. Thus, Happy Chocco was born, offering a delectable array of desserts crafted with finesse and ingenuity.

Innovating Tradition

At the heart of Happy Chocco's philosophy lies a harmonious fusion of tradition and innovation. The menu, meticulously curated and constantly evolving, showcases a diverse range of flavors and textures, each one a testament to the creative vision of the artisans behind the counter. From classic eclairs to inventive fruity variations, every dessert is a work of art, meticulously crafted using only the finest ingredients sourced from trusted suppliers.

A Family Affair

Family is at the core of Happy Chocco's ethos, with the founders and their daughters actively involved in every aspect of the business. From baking and preparation to customer service and engagement, each member of the family plays a vital role in ensuring the success of the venture. This familial bond not only permeates the atmosphere of the store but also adds a personal touch to the customer experience, creating a warm and welcoming environment that keeps patrons coming back for more.

Unparalleled Quality

Quality is non-negotiable at Happy Chocco, where every dessert is crafted with care and precision. From the selection of premium ingredients to the meticulous attention to detail in the production process, no stone is left unturned in the pursuit of perfection. Each treat is made fresh daily, guaranteeing optimal flavor and freshness with every bite. Moreover, stringent quality control measures ensure that only the finest desserts make their way to the display case, maintaining the impeccable standards that Happy Chocco is renowned for.

A Feast for the Senses

Step into Happy Chocco, and you're greeted with a symphony of sights, smells, and tastes that tantalize the senses. From the irresistible aroma of freshly baked pastries to the vibrant colors and decadent textures of the desserts on display, every visit is a feast for the senses. Whether you're drawn to the classic elegance of a traditional eclair or tempted by the innovative flavors of







"Family is at the core of Happy Chocco's ethos..."



a fruity variation, each dessert promises a culinary journey like no other.

Looking Towards the Future

As Happy Chocco continues to delight and inspire, the future holds boundless possibilities for this beloved establishment. With plans to expand to new locations and introduce exciting additions to the menu, the journey is far from over. From special seasonal offerings to exclusive limited-edition treats, there's always something new and exciting on the horizon at Happy Chocco. And through it all, one thing remains constant: a steadfast commitment to excellence and a passion for creating unforgettable dessert experiences.

Join Us on a Sweet Adventure

In a city brimming with culinary treasures, Happy Chocco shines as a beacon of creativity, passion, and innovation. From its humble beginnings as a family venture to its status as a beloved destination for dessert aficionados, Happy Chocco has carved a niche for itself in the hearts of Toronto's food lovers. So come, indulge your senses, and embark on a sweet adventure with Happy Chocco. Your taste buds will thank you.



"Quality is non-negotiable at Happy Chocco..."

Top Canadian Psychologist Dr. Barbara Landau Introduces Separation Pathways

A Revolutionary Approach to Transforming Ontario's Separation and Divorce Landscape Out-of-court



Making the decision to separate from a spouse is an emotionally challenging path to navigate. Dr. Barbara Landau, a renowned lawyer, psychologist, and mediator, introduces Separation Pathways, an innovative out-of-court mediation initiative poised to revolutionize the landscape of separations in Canada.

What sets Separation Pathways apart is its commitment to fostering compassion, fairness, efficiency, and affordability throughout this trying journey. Separation is an inherently difficult process, one that can exact a toll on all involved parties. Traditional litigation can be not only financially burdensome, but it can also extend over several years, exacerbating conflict and stress, especially for children caught in the middle. Many couples, unable to bear the high costs of professional assistance, find themselves struggling in court, adding to their uncertainty and hindering the path to a constructive resolution.

Recognizing the urgent need for a holistic and collaborative approach, Dr. Barbara Landau conceived Separation Pathways. This initiative provides a supportive framework that prioritizes the well-being of individuals, their children, and extended family members.

At the heart of Separation Pathways lies the belief that, with expert guidance, separating couples can

cooperatively achieve mutually beneficial solutions without embarking on costly adversarial court proceedings. Dr. Landau's approach places great emphasis on effective, respectful communication and empathy, cultivating trust, understanding, and cooperation. Through guided discussions and proven strategies, couples can craft sustainable solutions tailored to their unique needs and interests.

What truly distinguishes Separation Pathways is its comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach. Dr. Landau has curated a team of highly respected and seasoned professionals, including lawyers, financial advisors, and child specialists, to provide couples with an affordable and comprehensive support system as needed. This interdisciplinary team ensures that every aspect of the separation process receives due attention, from legal considerations and financial planning to emotional well-being and co-parenting arrangements.

"Separation Pathways represents a paradigm shift in addressing separation and divorce," Dr. Barbara Landau explains. "Our goal is to empower couples to make informed decisions that prioritize their well-being and the best interests of their children. By focusing on collaboration over confrontation, we can significantly reduce the emotional and financial toll often associated with divorce."

Through Separation Pathways, couples can benefit from a streamlined, efficient, and cooperative process. This structured approach offers greater transparency and predictability, reducing the uncertainties commonly associated with traditional litigation. By diminishing conflict and nurturing constructive dialogue, couples can expedite agreements, allowing them to move forward with their lives while minimizing the emotional strain on themselves and their children. For more information about Separation Pathways and to schedule a free consultation, please visit separationpathways.com.

About Dr. Barbara Landau



Dr. Landau is a renowned lawyer, psychologist, mediator, and Order of Canada recipient who is based in Ontario, Canada. With over four decades of experience in conflict resolution, she has helped hundreds of families navigate the challenges of separation with compassion and integrity. Through Separation Pathways, Dr. Landau and her team are committed to providing couples with the tools and support they need to achieve affordable, fair and sustainable resolutions – and a path to a better future!

A ROOM WITH A VIEW



JOSÉ BERROCOSO
TRAVEL EXPERT
joseberrocoso

INDULGE IN THE EPITOME OF LUXURY AT ANANTARA SANTORINI ABU DHABI'S ROYAL SUITE

Created to reflect the buildings of its namesake island, the low-lying white buildings of Anantara Santorini house a collection of accommodations with spacious interiors, terraces and sea views. This opulent retreat invites you into a world of unparalleled elegance and refinement. The Royal Suite boasts breathtaking views of the sparkling waters, creating a seamless connection between the opulent interiors and the mesmerizing surroundings. Every detail of the room is carefully curated to offer the highest level of comfort and sophistication. From the lavish furnishings to the state-of-the-art amenities, the suite is a sanctuary of indulgence. Immerse yourself in the private infinity pool, unwind on the spacious terrace, and relish the exclusivity that defines the Royal Suite experience.


www.anantara.com

SONYA CHADHA

A Rising Star in Toronto's Modeling Scene.

Meet Sonya Chadha, a dynamic force in Toronto's modeling landscape. With a passion for fashion and an unwavering dedication to her craft, Sonya brings a unique blend of elegance and versatility to every project she undertakes. Before stepping into the world of modeling, Sonya meticulously crafted her path towards this industry, maintaining a steadfast routine that aligned with her ambitions. Despite her newfound success, Sonya remains grounded, attributing her resilience to her unwavering support system and the invaluable lessons instilled by her parents.

With an ever-evolving sense of style, Sonya draws inspiration from a diverse array of icons, from the timeless elegance of Monica Bellucci to the classic charm of Aishwarya Rai. Her mantra, "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard," encapsulates her ethos and serves as a driving force behind her aspirations for continuous growth and evolution within the fashion realm.

As a proud Torontonian, Sonya invites readers to explore the vibrant tapestry of her city, from the electrifying energy of a Raptors game at Scotiabank Arena to the chic allure of Yorkville's designer boutiques. Reflecting on her journey thus far, Sonya expresses gratitude for the opportunities that have come her way, including a memorable collaboration with esteemed designer Roberta Einer.

In closing, Sonya extends her heartfelt appreciation to the readers of TP Magazine, expressing her deep-seated love for Toronto and her unwavering commitment to representing her city with pride wherever her career may lead. With Sonya Chadha on the rise, the future of Toronto's modeling scene shines brighter than ever before.



Photography by: **Roshan Sri** - Mango Picture Studio (@mango.pictures)



Please introduce yourself?
Hi everyone, my name is Sonya Chadha and I am a model who lives in Toronto.

How was your everyday life before you started modeling? And how much has your life changed since then?
I always knew that I wanted to be a part of this industry, so I focused on learning and creating a routine for myself that aligned with helping me reach my goals and now that I am a part of it, I don't feel like too much changed because my daily routine and schedule has pretty much kept the same and my support system has kept me grounded and leveled throughout this journey.

Who's Your style icon?
I feel that just like with life style and fashion is one of those things that's always evolving and changing depending on the stage you are in you are in your life, I couldn't say that I have just one style icon but if you're asking me about a current one it's Monica Bellucci and Jane Birkin and if you're asking me someone from when I was first starting out it would Aishwarya Rai and Lauren Bacall.

Who's your Role Model?
I know this answer can be cliché, but it is honestly my parents because without them teaching me and nurturing me and showing me how to be an adult and chase after my dreams I would never be here. The way I saw my parents chase their dreams and raise me and my older sister truly remarkable. They are my super stars.

At this point of your career, what are your goals for the future?
You know I don't want to say what I've achieved until now has been easy, it's been a lot of hard work and I haven't given the future much thought as of yet, but I know for sure it's to keep growing and evolving and becoming more involved in the fashion industry.

What's your life motto?
Hard work beats talent, when talent doesn't work hard.

How would you describe your personal style?
I would say that my style isn't just one way, and I don't feel like I can put myself in a box when it comes to this because sometimes, I love to take styles and looks from all different eras and incorporate it in my personal style.

What is something you cannot leave your house without?
I know everyone nowadays can't leave without their phone or keys and I'm the same but before even that if there's one


PRADA
MILANO
PRADA





thing, I really can't leave without it's my lipliner and sidenote I'm so excited for the Hailey Bieber phone case with the lip-gloss attachment on it.

What are 3 interesting places would you suggest to someone visiting Toronto for the first time?
If you come to Toronto you have to go to Scotiabank Arena and watch a Raptors Game and you have to go to my favourite area in all of Toronto which is Yorkville because all my favourite designers are all located in that area and to round it all off you have to have to go to the CN Tower at least once.

How and when did you get into modelling?
I always knew I wanted to be a model from my earliest memory that I can remember and when of it was, I did everything I could to become a model which included doing small projects in my younger years and I really felt that I finally had my moment.

Take us back to the beginning, how did your modeling career start? What was your first modelling for?
My modeling career started with a pageant and I always knew I wanted to enter a pageant it's something me and Mom used to talk about all the time and once I did that I really felt that was the start of my career and shortly after my pageant I got my first big project to walk the runway for Femina Wedding Times in Mumbai, India and I was one of the few models who walked on the runway for every designer and became the show stopper.

You worked with many designers. What is your favourite project?
I don't want to say I have one favourite project because I feel so lucky and blessed for all my projects but the one that caught me by surprise was the Roberta Einer project I did last summer and that is because she is a designer who I have always admired and taken inspiration from and I've always dreamed of wearing her designs and the fact that I was able to work with her has been one of my proudest moments.

Your message for TP Magazine readers?
I'm honoured that I can represent Toronto and I love my city and wherever my career takes me my heart will always be for Toronto.

Thank you, guys.

WRITING MOVIE WRONGS
moviewrongs.com

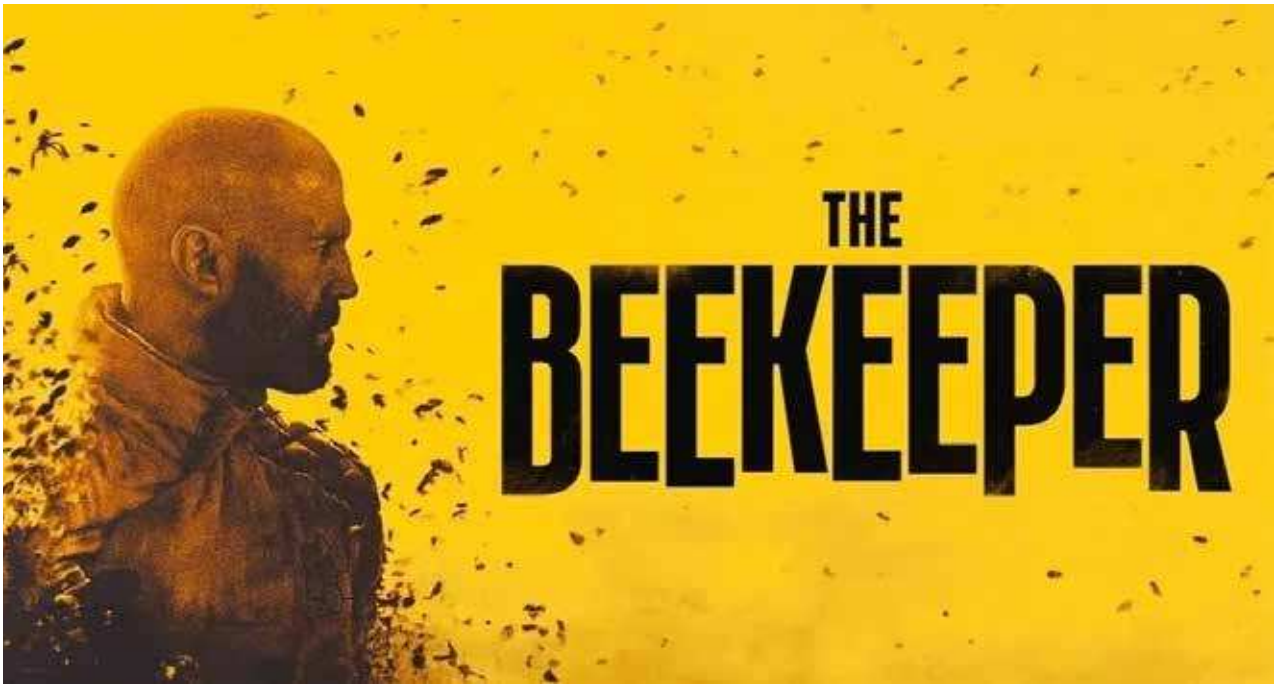
The Beekeeper

Directed by: **David Ayer**
Written by: **Kurt Wimmer**



JIM WEST
jimwestauthor

Jason Statham has long been known globally as a British Action Star with several films and franchises to his credits. Getting his film start collaborating with director Guy Ritchie on *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* (1998) and *Snatch* (2000), Statham would go on to star in action thriller franchises like *Transporter* (2002), *Crank* (2006), *The Expendables* (2010), and *The Fast and Furious* series since 2013. Audiences know what they can expect from a Jason Statham film and this film is no exception. The action is almost nonstop and even the storyline is concise with a much deeper history they may have opened for another franchise. With a straightforward plot of revenge that is relatable to current cyber security threats to the elderly and non-technical people in the world, this film delivers what you would expect, and for that, I give this film a 'writing a movie RIGHT' review.







Here comes the spoilers.

Retired schoolteacher Eloise Parker is living a quiet life on her farm, and she has Adam Clay, a Beekeeper, staying at her barn helping with the bees on her property. Eloise falls for a phishing scam and is robbed of over $2 million, the majority of which belongs to a charity organization she manages. Devastated, she shoots herself dead. Clay finds her body and is immediately arrested by FBI agent Verona Parker, Eloise's daughter. After Eloise's death is ruled a suicide, Clay is released. Verona tells him the group that robbed Eloise has been on the FBI's radar for a while but is difficult to track. Wanting justice for Eloise, Clay contacts the Beekeepers, a mysterious group, to find the scammers responsible. He then goes to the office where the scammers work and delivers the first round of justice as a Beekeeper.

He goes on to tracking down the other organizations one by one until he reaches the top and all the while the FBI, Secret Service, and private security forces are trying to stop him to no avail. There are some solid action sequences with scenes in the barn, a high-rise office building, and a vacation home surrounded by hundreds of security people. The best scene is when he deals serious bodily damage to the first scam office manager, and you can get the sense from audience members that they wanted even more damage done than just severed fingers.

I will stop here for spoilers as anyone can safely assume he will finish his quest for revenge and justice. Yet what is most intriguing here is the mythos and history that is spoken about Beekeepers. Beekeepers are a highly skilled and dangerous clandestine organization tasked with protecting the United States, operating above and beyond governmental jurisdiction. This draws many similarities to the *John Wick* series in establishing a society that sits outside of the public view. I personally hope they continue to develop this into a franchise and introduce other actors and actresses in the role of The Beekeeper and even consider going back in time to dive into the formation of the Beekeepers. This concept is very intriguing and would draw in many fans. I know I would 'Bee' in line for that (pun intended).

Thanks for reading Writing Movie 'WRONGS'.



RAMONA NORDAL

A Visionary Painter Pushing Boundaries.

"A painting is not a picture of an experience, but is the experience."
~Mark Rothko

TorontoPages Magazine is thrilled to introduce Ramona Nordal, a visionary artist whose dynamic and evocative work continues to captivate audiences worldwide. With a foundational education from the esteemed Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design, Ramona brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her practice.

Renowned for her vibrant and thought-provoking compositions, Ramona draws inspiration from a diverse array of subjects, weaving together different eras and forms to create something entirely new. Her intuitive approach to portraiture transforms each piece into a portal, inviting viewers on a journey through the past, present, and future.

Ramona's unique technique, blending pen and acrylic painting, showcases her mastery of form and color, resulting in works that are as visually captivating as they are emotionally resonant. With a global exhibition history and a commitment to artistic integrity, Ramona navigates the intersection of commercial viability and creative expression with finesse.



Tell us about your education.
I studied at Emily Carr Institute Of Art & Design for 1 year.

Your artwork is described as vibrant and thought-provoking. Can you share with us the inspiration behind your choice of subjects and use of color?
I choose subjects that resonate with me. Incorporating different eras, different features and forms to create something new. The colors in chose are the first thing I think about when starting a new painting. The color guides the whole piece.

How do you approach the process of creating a portrait as a "portal to a journey encompassing the past, present, and future"?
I paint women for the most part. These figures are bits and pieces of several different generations, each offering their own strength and story. By adding many different features together from different eras the subject becomes powerful. The viewer is then guided by the subject through their story.

Could you elaborate on your reliance on intuitive elements in your artistic process? How do you balance intuition with technique?
I think that intuition as an artist is everything. From decisions on color to shapes, forms and texture it is always about what feels right to me. It needs to feel right in order to work.

Your technique combines pen and acrylic painting in an unconventional approach to depicting the human form. What led you to develop this unique method?
I have always had a huge love of drawing. I draw to get back to the basics and clear my head. By incorporating drawing into the painting there is a softness and depth that occurs. There is a specific tension between the two techniques, when combined that create a visual dance. They work well together.

Your work has been exhibited in various locations worldwide. How do different cultures and environments influence your artistic vision and style?
No matter where my work is exhibited I try to stay true to what I like. By doing this my work stays consistent and in turn, is recognizable no matter what country it is in.

Can you tell us about any memorable reactions or interactions you've had with viewers experiencing your artwork?
Interactions is really the best part of what I do. I have been fortunate enough to hear many stories of clients experiencing my work for the first time. The emotional connection that grabs them is what stands out. I remember being in several shows where viewers circled back several times to have another look, almost as if the painting was pushing them to come back. That is something quite special.





You've participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions. How do you approach the curation and presentation of your pieces in different gallery settings?
I really try to push my boundaries with each show. It's important to try new things and experiment. This is how my work evolves. Each new show is a step forward in my work.

With your extensive exhibition history, how do you stay motivated and continue to innovate in your artistic practice?
I go to the studio almost every day. I get there early and focus on what needs to get done. You can't think about deadlines, show etc. When you sit down to paint all of that needs to be set aside so that your mind can focus on the painting. I work on several at a time and this allows the process to stay fresh.

Your upcoming solo exhibition at Graphite Gallery in New Orleans is highly anticipated. What can attendees expect to see and experience at this event?
I'm really looking forward to this show. I want to push myself to create something different. The gallery is incredible in that they allow me to create anything I want and that in turn allows the artist to delve into uncharted territory.

How do you navigate the intersection of commercial viability and artistic integrity in your career?
I think the art world is changing drastically. I think artists have so many different opportunities to expand their professional approach to what they do. The sky is the limit on how an artist can incorporate their work into different corporate avenues.

Your participation in art fairs like Context Art Miami and Affordable Art Fair speaks to your engagement with the art market. How do these experiences influence your perception of the art world?
It's important to go to these shows. There are so many different levels in the art market it's very important to understand how these different levels operate. It allows you to see where you are and where you want to go.

As a Canadian artist, how do you perceive the Canadian art scene compared to international art scenes where you've exhibited?
I feel fortunate to be known as a Canadian artist. I think there is huge potential in Canada for an artist. It is a fairly small market which can help to secure oneself as a Canadian artist. I think Canada has a lot to offer with regards to the art market in general and I really want to see Canada expand as a leading art center.









Many of your exhibitions have been in collaboration with galleries. How do you establish and nurture relationships with gallery owners and curators?
I market the heck out of my work. This brings my work into curators and galleries radar. Once you are working with someone it's all about teamwork with both parties striving for success.

Your involvement in events like the CANFAR Gala Art Auction highlights your support for charitable causes. Can you discuss the role of art in raising awareness and funds for social issues?
I think it is important to allow your work to be offered for charitable causes. If an artists work can raise awareness and funds to a charity in need then it's a must for artists to be involved.

Looking ahead, what are your aspirations and goals as an artist? Are there any specific projects or collaborations you're excited about?
I have a few projects that I am working on that involves, furniture, a world renowned fashion brand and new materials being used. Can't wait to elaborate more.

What are some of your other hobbies?
I love travelling, movies and music.

Your favourite quote(s)?
A painting is not a picture of an experience, but is the experience.`~Mark Rothko

Your message for us at TOPS (Toronto Pages) magazine.
Thank you for seeing the necessity in shedding light on the creatives.

"I think that intuition as an artist is everything. From decisions on color to shapes, forms, and texture, it is always about what feels right to me. It needs to feel right in order to work."

Off the beaten path in Vienna:

Three neighbourhoods to fall in love with

2024 is the year of the 'Grätzel' in Vienna. These are the small inner-city neighbourhoods where people gather to meet, eat, shop and get creative. They are the beating heart of the capital, steeped in tradition and history but also reflecting contemporary culture with their own distinct architecture, cuisine and entertainment.

What makes the Grätzel unique is that they often have no official boundaries, no beginning and no end. Visitors suddenly step from one into another. What's more, in the Grätzel, visitors are welcomed in with open arms and treated as temporary neighbours, not just tourists.

Austria's vibrant capital has been consistently ranked as the city with the highest quality of life by Mercer, ranking number one for the 11th time in 2023. It's not difficult to see why when you browse through three of the most popular neighbourhoods which encapsulate everything there is to love about the cosmopolitan Viennese culture:



The Gußhausviertel & Karlsplatz (4th district)

Known for: **opulent architecture, foodie delights and the spectacular newly reopened Wien Museum**

This is the perfect area to escape the hustle and bustle of the city and get exploring. In December 2023, the completely renovated and expanded Wien Museum reopened. Representing the history of the city in a completely new way, this ultra-modern attraction is free of charge to visit and right on the doorstep of Karlsplatz which comprises around 50,000 m^2 of mostly green space, including the sprawling Resselpark. One of the most beautiful sights in Vienna, the Karlskirche church, which was completed in 1739, features a monumental green dome, opulent interiors and classic Baroque architecture.



Events to look out for:
Popfest Wien (a free, multi-day music festival) 25 – 28 July 2024
Kaleidoskop (a free open air cinema festival) June/July 2024 exact date TBA
The Art Advent Christmas Market from mid-November and throughout December.

Freihausviertel (4th district)

Known for: **modern galleries, laid-back bars and second-hand shopping**

A hip and urban neighbourhood, this Grätzel is a hotspot for Vienna's creative scene. Modern galleries on Schleifmühlgasse plus second-hand shopping and the Third Man Museum make this one of the liveliest places to be in Vienna. The name of the district comes from 'Freihaus auf der Wieden' a huge housing complex which was demolished in the 1930s and incorporated the Freihaus Theater, where opera history was written in 1791 with the first performance of Magic Flute by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Another big name in the history of music has an association with the area: Franz Schubert's final residence (Sterbewohnung in German) is located on the edge of the district on Kettenbrückengasse.



Events to look out for:
Freihausviertelfest (a street festival) every year at the end of June.



Yppenviertel (16th district)

Known for: **its tangible, oriental atmosphere, its creative scene and being home to the Brunnemarkt**

One of the most colourful parts of the city, Yppenplatz is where East meets West. The city's largest street market, Brunnenmarkt is home to over 170 stalls where fresh fruit and vegetables are piled high and exotic spices, cheeses and halal meats make up some of the other delicious items on sale. Although it has a distinctly Turkish feel, Brunnenmarkt also represents Syrian snack bars, African butchers, and Viennese delis all in close proximity. The area around Yppenplatz features a colourful blend of cafes and eateries taking in cuisines from all over the world. With all the feelings of a lively, major city, this Grätzel is truly the city's heartbeat with more than 400 art events taking place in the Brunnenpassage every year.



wokboyzcanada

A Taste of Asia Comes to Toronto



MESHAL

meshaljameel_

We recently had the opportunity to visit WOK BOYZ in Toronto's Liberty Village for a dining experience unlike any other. Originating in Dubai in 2017, WOK BOYZ has made its mark as a popular Asian street food sensation, with locations in Ghana and Oman, and now they're taking on North America by opening their first Canadian location in Toronto.

Nestled in the bustling Liberty Market Building at 171 E Liberty St, Toronto, WOK BOYZ offers a vibrant and inviting space where patrons can immerse themselves in a culinary journey through the flavors of Asia. The grand opening on Monday, Jan. 29, 2024, marked a significant milestone for the brand, signaling its commitment to sharing its passion for Asian street food with a new audience.

WOK BOYZ has garnered acclaim for its innovative approach to traditional Asian dishes. With a focus on customizability and fusion, the menu boasts a tantalizing array of options, from stir-fry noodles to rice bowls, along with a variety of Asian-inspired snacks and beverages. What sets WOK BOYZ apart is its commitment to using the freshest ingredients and authentic spices, ensuring that each dish is a flavorful delight.


WOK BOX
ASIAN STREET FOOD
121
YOU'LL NEVER WOK ALONE
PASS
ONE WAY







During our visit, we had the pleasure of sampling some of WOK BOYZ's signature offerings, and we were thoroughly impressed by the quality and creativity evident in each dish. Here's a breakdown of our culinary adventure:

Thai Papaya Salad:
A refreshing start to our meal, the Thai Papaya Salad was a symphony of flavors and textures. Crisp green papaya tossed with green beans, cherry tomatoes and peanuts, offered a perfect balance of sweet, sour, and spicy notes. This vibrant salad was a testament to WOK BOYZ's commitment to authenticity and freshness.

Shrimp Tempura:
Next up was the Shrimp Tempura, a classic dish executed to perfection. The shrimp were impeccably crispy on the outside yet tender and succulent on the inside, showcasing the skillful technique of the kitchen. Served with a tangy dipping sauce, this dish was a delightful combination of flavors and textures.

Spicy Korean Wings:
For those craving bold and fiery flavors, the Spicy Korean Wings did not disappoint. Each bite was a burst of heat and sweetness, with the crispy exterior giving way to juicy, flavorful meat. The K-drama of flavors was evident in every succulent bite, making this dish a standout favorite.

Shrimp Siu Mai:
The Shrimp Siu Mai was a testament to WOK BOYZ's commitment to authenticity and attention to detail. These delicate dumplings were filled with plump, succulent shrimp, enveloped in a thin, perfectly steamed wrapper. Served with a savory dipping sauce, they were a true delight for the senses.

Ramen:
No visit to WOK BOYZ would be complete without trying their Ramen, and it did not disappoint. The broth was rich and flavorful, infused with aromatic spices and served piping hot. The noodles were cooked to perfection, with just the right amount of chewiness, while the toppings added depth and complexity to the dish. This bowl of comfort was a highlight of our meal.

Curry Laksa:
The Curry Laksa was a soul-warming dish that transported us to the bustling



streets of Southeast Asia. The rich, coconut-based broth was fragrant and aromatic, packed with tender chicken, shrimp, and an assortment of fresh vegetables. Each spoonful was a burst of flavor, making this dish a true standout.

Kung Pao:
Last but not least, the Kung Pao was a delicious blend of sweet, savory, and spicy flavors. Tender pieces of chicken were stir-fried with crunchy peanuts, bell peppers, and onions, coated in a sticky, tangy sauce. This dish was a perfect representation of WOK BOYZ's commitment to quality ingredients and bold flavors.

Tom Yum:
A quintessential Thai soup, Tom Yum is renowned for its bold and invigorating flavors. WOK BOYZ's rendition of this classic dish features a fragrant broth infused with prime ingredients creating a tantalizing balance of sour, spicy, and savory notes. Served with plump shrimp and fresh vegetables, each spoonful of Tom Yum is a burst of aromatic delight.

Tom Kha:
Another Thai favorite, Tom Kha is a creamy and aromatic coconut soup that exudes comfort and warmth. WOK BOYZ's version of Tom Kha combines creamy coconut milk with fragrant lemongrass, galangal, and lime leaves, resulting in a velvety broth that is both soothing and flavorful. Tender chicken and mushrooms add depth to this comforting soup, making it a beloved choice for those seeking a taste of Thailand's culinary heritage.



Sweet Corn Soup:
A beloved Chinese classic, Sweet Corn Soup is a testament to simplicity and comfort. WOK BOYZ's Sweet Corn Soup features a delicate broth infused with the natural sweetness of fresh corn kernels, complemented by the subtle flavors of chicken broth and aromatics. Garnished with scallions for a hint of freshness, this comforting soup is the perfect prelude to a satisfying meal at WOK BOYZ.

Build Your Own Wok:
For those who crave a personalized dining experience, WOK BOYZ offers the Build Your Own Wok option. Guests can tailor their wok to their exact preferences by choosing from a variety of bases, including egg noodles, udon, quinoa, and mixed vegetables, as well as a selection of proteins, vegetables, sauces, and toppings. Whether you prefer a classic stir-fry or a fusion creation, the Build Your Own Wok option allows you to unleash your culinary creativity and design a dish that suits your taste perfectly.

Throughout our meal, we were struck not only by the exceptional quality of the food but also by the vibrant and energetic atmosphere of WOK BOYZ. The restaurant's interior was adorned with Instagrammable graffiti murals, setting the tone for a hip and urban dining experience. The rhythmic beats that filled the space added to the ambiance, creating a lively and dynamic atmosphere that enhanced our dining experience.

Our visit to WOK BOYZ was a true culinary adventure, offering a tantalizing glimpse into the diverse and vibrant flavors of Asian street food. From the freshness of the ingredients to the creativity of the dishes, every aspect of our meal was a testament to WOK BOYZ's dedication to excellence. As WOK BOYZ continues to expand its presence in Canada, we can't wait to see what other culinary delights they have in store. If you're looking for a taste of Asia like never before, be sure to visit WOK BOYZ and embark on your own culinary journey.





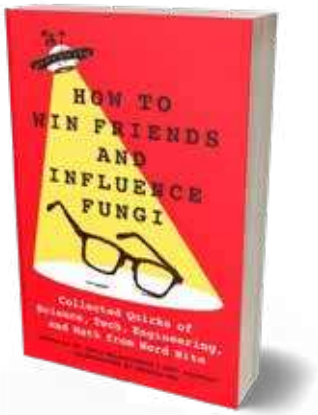




FEBRUARY RELEASES

How to Win Friends and Influence Fungi:
Collected Quirks of Science, Tech, Engineering, and Math from Nerd Nite

Chris Balakrishnan, Matt Wasowski



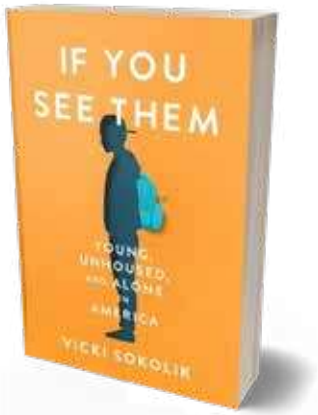
The co-founders of the global science organization Nerd Nite bring readers a collection of wacky, yet fascinating STEM topics.

For twenty years Nerd Nite has delivered to live audiences around the world the most interesting, fun, and informative presentations about science, history, the arts, pop culture, you name it. There hasn't been a rabbit hole that their army of presenters hasn't been afraid to explore. Finally, after countless requests to bring Nerd Nite to more fans across the globe, co-founders and college pals Matt Wasowski and Chris Balakrishnan offer readers the quirky and accessible science content they crave in book form. Focused on STEM and paired with detailed illustrations that make the content pop, the topics are quirky and vast, from kinky, spring-loaded spiders to the Webb telescope's influence on movie special effects.

How to Win Friends and Influence Fungi features narratives, bursts, and infographics on all things STEM from scientists around the world. Chapters are sure to make you laugh-out-loud, with titles such as "The Science of the Hangover," "What Birds Can Teach Us About the Impending Zombie Apocalypse," and "Lessons from the Oregon Trail."

If You See Them:
Young, Unhoused, and Alone in America

Vicki Sokolik



A moving exploration of the crisis of homeless youth—told through the inspiring stories of a woman on the frontlines and the kids themselves.

They hide in plain sight. They survive on free school breakfasts and lunches, join school sports teams in order to shower, sleep on friends' couches, in parks, or on the streets. Their official designation is "unaccompanied homeless youth"—they are not "runaways" breaking free from strict parenting; these are kids seeking safety. They have escaped abusive parents, have been abandoned, or have never had a home to begin with.

When Vicki Sokolik's son brought home a classmate who was living on her own and was dropping out of school to support herself, Vicki stepped in to help. As she learned more about the invisible population of young people navigating life alone, she discovered the countless ways they are overlooked and impeded by the system. She founded a nonprofit and worked to change legislation in her home state of Florida to give these kids agency over their lives.

If You See Them wakes us up to the issue of youth homelessness in America, through Sokolik's own story of advocacy and through the voices of the kids themselves. Her grassroots action demonstrates the world-shifting power of compassion, acceptance, belonging, and self-determination, and the capacity each of us has to change our communities for the better.

Strong Passions:
A Scandalous Divorce in Old New York

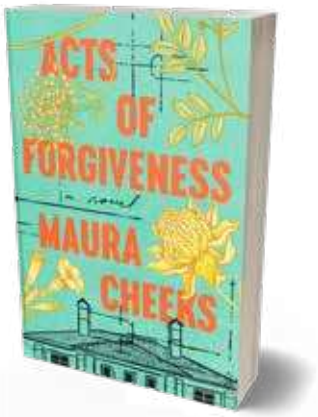
Barbara Weisberg



Shocking revelations of a wife's adultery explode in an incendiary nineteenth-century trial, exposing upper-crust New York society and its secrets. What could possibly go wrong in a wealthy matriarch's country home when her dilettante son, his restless wife, and his widowed brother live there together? Strong Passions , rooted in the beguiling times of Edith Wharton's 'old New York,' recounts the true story of a tumultuous marriage. In 1862, Mary Strong stunned her husband, Peter, by confessing to a two-year affair with his brother. Peter sued Mary for divorce for adultery the only grounds in New York but not before she accused him of forcing her into an abortion and having his own affair with the abortionist. She then kidnapped their young daughter and disappeared.

The divorce trial Strong v. Strong riveted the nation during the final throes and aftermath of the Civil War, offering a shocking glimpse into the private world of New York's powerful and privileged elite. Barbara Weisberg presents the chaotic courtroom and panoply of witnesses governess, housekeeper, private detective, sisters-in-law, and many others who provided contradictory and often salacious testimony. She then asks us to be the jury, deciding each spouse's guilt and the possibility of a just resolution. Social history at its most intimate, Strong Passions charts a trial's twists and turns to portray a family and country in turmoil as they faced conflicts over women's changing roles, male custody of children, and men's power financial and otherwise over wives.

Acts of Forgiveness
Maura Cheeks

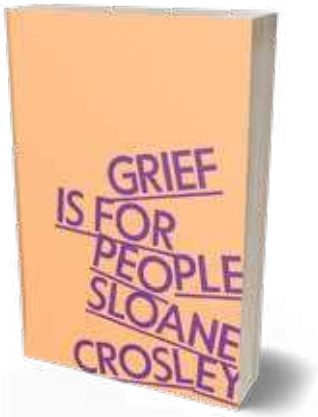


In this stirring, tender-hearted debut about ambition and inheritance, a family grapples with how much of their lineage they're willing to unearth in order to participate in the nation's first federal reparations program.

Every American waits with bated breath to see whether or not the country's first female president will pass the Forgiveness Act. The bill would allow Black families to claim up to $175,000 if they can prove they are the descendants of slaves and for ambitious single mother Willie Revel the bill could be a long-awaited form of redemption. A decade ago, Willie gave up her burgeoning journalism career to help run her father's struggling construction company in Philadelphia and she has reluctantly put family first without being able to forget who she might have become. Now, she's back living with her parents and her young daughter while trying to keep her family from going into bankruptcy. Could the Forgiveness Act uncover her forgotten roots while also helping save their beloved home and her father's life work?

With powerful insight and moving prose, Acts of Forgiveness asks how history shapes who we become and to consider the weight of success when it is achieved despite incredible odds—and ultimately what leaving behind a legacy truly means.

Grief Is for People
Sloane Crosley



Following the death of her closest friend, Sloane Crosley explores multiple kinds of loss in this disarmingly witty and poignant memoir.

Grief Is for People is a deeply moving and surprisingly suspenseful portrait of friendship and a book about loss packed with verve for life. Sloane Crosley is one of our most renowned observers of contemporary behavior, and now the pathos that has been ever present in her trademark wit is on full display. After the pain and confusion of losing her closest friend to suicide, Crosley looks for answers in friends, philosophy, and art, hoping for a framework more useful than the unavoidable stages of grief.

The Things We Didn't Know
Elba Iris Pérez



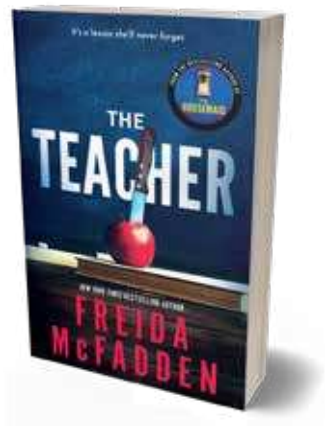
The inaugural winner of Simon & Schuster's Books Like Us contest, Elba Iris Pérez's lyrical, cross-cultural coming-of-age debut novel explores a young girl's childhood between 1950s Puerto Rico and a small Massachusetts factory town.

Andrea Rodríguez is nine years old when her mother whisks her and her brother, Pablo, away from Woronoco, the tiny Massachusetts factory town that is the only home they've known. With no plan and no money, she leaves them with family in the mountainside villages of Puerto Rico and promises to return.

Months later, when Andrea and Pablo are brought back to Massachusetts, they find their hometown significantly changed. As they navigate the rifts between their family's values and all-American culture and face the harsh realities of growing up, they must embrace both the triumphs and heartache that mark the journey to adulthood.

A heartfelt, evocative portrait of another side of life in 1950s America, The Things We Didn't Know establishes Elba Iris Pérez as a sensational new literary voice.

The Teacher
Freida McFadden



From the New York Times bestselling author Freida McFadden comes a chilling story of twisted secrets and long-awaited revenge.

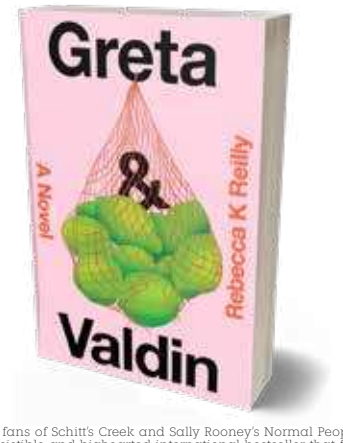
Lesson #1: Trust no one.
Eve has a good life. She wakes up each day, kisses her husband Nate, and heads off to teach math at the local high school. All is as it should be. Except...

Last year, Caseham High was rocked by a scandal involving a student-teacher affair, with one student, Addie, at its center. But Eve knows there is far more to these ugly rumors than meets the eye.

Addie can't be trusted. She lies. She hurts people. She destroys lives. At least, that's what everyone says.

But nobody knows the real Addie. Nobody knows the secrets that could destroy her. And Addie will do anything to keep it quiet...

Greta & Valdin
Rebecca K. Reilly

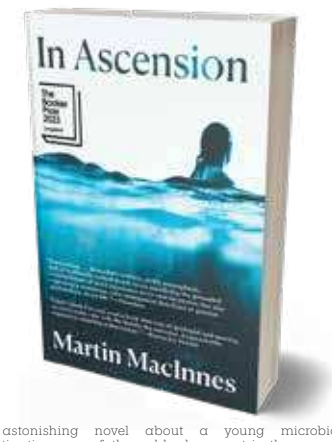


For fans of Schitt's Creek and Sally Rooney's Normal People, an irresistible and bighearted international bestseller that follows a brother and sister as they navigate queerness, multiracial identity, and the dramas big and small of their entangled, unconventional family, all while flailing their way to love.

It's been a year since his ex-boyfriend dumped him and moved from Auckland to Buenos Aires, and Valdin is doing fine. He has a good flat with his sister Greta, a good career where his colleagues only occasionally remind him that he is the sole Māori person in the office, and a good friend who he only sleeps with when he's sad. But when work sends him to Argentina and he's thrown back in his former lover's orbit, Valdin is forced to confront the feelings he's been trying to ignore—and the future he wants.

Greta is not letting her painfully unrequited crush (or her possibly pointless master's thesis, or her pathetic academic salary...) get her down. She would love to focus on the charming fellow grad student she meets at a party and her friendships with a circle of similarly floundering twenty-somethings, but her chaotic family life won't stop her mother is keeping secrets, her nephew is having a gay crisis, and her brother has suddenly flown to South America without a word.

In Ascension
Martin MacInnes

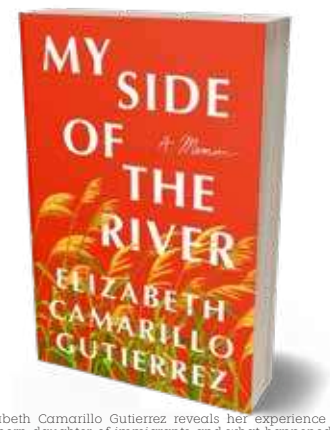


An astonishing novel about a young microbiologist investigating an unfathomable deep vent in the ocean floor, leading her on a journey that will encompass the full trajectory of the cosmos and the passage of a single human life.

Leigh grew up in Rotterdam, drawn to the waterfront as an escape from her unhappy home life and volatile father. Enchanted by the undersea world of her childhood, she excels in marine biology, travelling the globe to study ancient organisms. When a trench is discovered in the Atlantic ocean, Leigh joins the exploration team, hoping to find evidence of the earth's first life forms – what she instead finds calls into question everything we know about our own beginnings. Her discovery leads Leigh to the Mojave desert and an ambitious new space agency.

Drawn deeper into the agency's work, she learns that the Atlantic trench is only one of several related phenomena from across the world, each piece linking up to suggest a pattern beyond human understanding. Leigh knows that to continue working with the agency will mean leaving behind her declining mother and her younger sister, and faces an impossible choice: to remain with her family, or to embark on a journey across the breadth of the cosmos.

My Side of the River
Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez



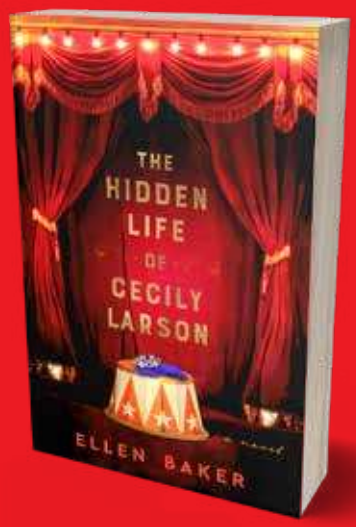
Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez reveals her experience as the U.S. born daughter of immigrants and what happened when, at fifteen, her parents were forced back to Mexico in this galvanizing yet tender memoir.

Born to Mexican immigrants south of the Rillito River in Tucson, Arizona, Elizabeth had the world at her fingertips as she entered her freshman year of high school as the number one student. But suddenly, Elizabeth's own country took away the most important right a child has: a right to have a family.

As her parents' visas expired, they were forced to return to Mexico, leaving Elizabeth responsible for her younger brother, as well as her education. Determined to break the cycle of being "a statistic," she knew that even though her parents couldn't stay, there was no way she could let go of the opportunities the U.S. could provide.

Armed with only her passport and sheer teenage determination, Elizabeth became what her school would eventually describe as an unaccompanied, homeless youth, one of thousands of underage victims affected by family separation due to broken immigration laws. For fans of Educated by Tara Westover and The Distance Between Us by Reyna Grande, My Side of the River explores separation, generational trauma, and the toll of the American dream.

The Hidden Life of Cecily Larson
Ellen Baker



Orphan Train* meets *Before We Were Yours meets ***Water for Elephants*** in this compelling multigenerational novel of survival, love, and the families we make.

In 1924, four-year-old Cecily Larson's mother reluctantly drops her off at an orphanage in Chicago, promising to be back once she's made enough money to support both Cecily and herself. But she never returns, and shortly after high-spirited Cecily turns seven, she is sold to a traveling circus to perform as the 'little sister' to glamorous bareback rider Isabelle DuMonde. With Isabelle and the rest of the circus, Cecily finally feels she's found the family she craves. But as the years go by, the cracks in her little world begin to show. And when teenage Cecily meets and falls in love with a young roustabout named Lucky, she finds her life thrown onto an entirely unexpected—and dangerous—course.

In 2015, Cecily is now 94 and living a quiet life in Minnesota, with her daughter, granddaughter, and great-grandson. But when her family decides to surprise her with an at-home DNA test, the unexpected results not only bring to light the tragic love story that Cecily has kept hidden for decades but also throw into question everything about the family she's raised and claimed as her own for nearly seventy years. Cecily and everyone in her life must now decide who they really are and what family—and forgiveness—really mean.

Sweeping through a long period of contemporary history, The Hidden Life of Cecily Larson is an immersive, compelling, and entertaining family drama centered around one remarkable woman and her determination to survive.



Ellen Baker

Ellen Baker is the author of the novels THE HIDDEN LIFE OF CECILY LARSON, KEEPING THE HOUSE, and I GAVE MY HEART TO KNOW THIS. She has worked as a museum curator and as a bookseller and event coordinator at an independent bookstore. Originally from the Upper Midwest, Ellen currently lives on the coast of Maine.

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DENIELLE BASSELS

"Harmonizing Life's Challenges: The Unforgettable World of Denielle Bassels."



Renowned for her soulful jazz vocals and eclectic musical style, Denielle Bassels emerges as a dynamic force in the contemporary jazz scene, earning acclaim with a prestigious JUNO award nomination. Drawing inspiration from jazz legends like Ella Fitzgerald and Nina Simone, Denielle's musical journey began with a serendipitous encounter in Switzerland, propelling her into the world of jazz performance. Overcoming initial hurdles, she pursued formal education at Humber College, where she honed her craft and penned acclaimed tracks like "Cool Cool Water."

With her latest album hailed as a testament to resilience and artistic integrity, Denielle reflects on the arduous yet rewarding process of its creation, marked by setbacks and triumphs alike. From painstaking re-recording sessions to collaborative synergy, Denielle emerges as a consummate artist driven by a relentless pursuit of excellence.

Looking ahead, Denielle remains steadfast in her dedication to pushing the boundaries of jazz music, aspiring to reach audiences far and wide with her evocative melodies and heartfelt lyricism. With upcoming projects on the horizon and a steadfast commitment to artistic evolution, Denielle Bassels stands poised to make an indelible mark on the world stage, driven by a singular vision and unwavering passion for her craft.





Congratulations on your JUNO award nomination! What inspired you to pursue jazz music as a career?

Thank you so much! I'm so thrilled! Music has always been a source of healing for me. Truth be told, when I was growing up, I would often miss school to stay at home and listen to records. I would spend many a day hiding from the world to study the greats like Ella Fitzgerald, Nina Simone and Aretha Franklin. I call them my voice teachers because I never had a voice lesson until after I started performing. It was when I went to Switzerland as an au Pair (nanny) that I started actually singing and performing Jazz. It was an accident. I got up and sang at a jam one night and was suddenly in a jazz combo. It felt like I had found my true path and I found that as long as I was making music, all was well in my world. It was then I said to myself that it would be impossible for me not to do music all the time.

Can you tell us about your musical journey and the challenges you faced?

Once I found jazz in Europe, I realized that I was missing a ton of skills. I didn't know how to count in a band or scales, or chords etc. Everything was by ear. I knew I had ideas about what I wanted to hear but I didn't know how to articulate anything. I decided to come back to Canada and get a firmer foundation to draw from. I bought a couple books and a fisher price piano and began learning from scratch. There were no funds to get help and for that reason I didn't even think of reaching out to anyone. A year later I auditioned for Humber College and got in. It was really hard to keep up at first and I found myself skipping classes a lot to go learn ear training with Ear Master Pro, ha.. ha, but eventually I was caught up enough to not cry after a class and ended up getting my Bachelor of Contemporary music. I wrote "Cool Cool Water" there and won the John Lennon Song Competition in the Jazz category, that really helped pave the way for an album.

How did you develop your unique style as a jazz vocalist?

I think if you listen to lots of different styles of music like a fiend, your voice is just going to become this mystery flavour. I loved jazz but I also loved Country singers like Shania Twain, Dolly Parton and Patsy Cline. I loved British and Jamaican ska like the Specials, Desmond Dekker and Dawn Penn, punk bands like Operation Ivy and the Dead Kennedys. When I got to Europe, I discovered the world of Django Reinhardt and I knew that would become a major influence, especially with my first album. My voice always resonated best with Jazz, which is a music that allows individuality, so I've always embraced that about it.

Who are some of your biggest musical influences?

All named above, but I would add Sam Cooke, Joni Mitchell, and Nina Simone.

How do you feel about being recognized for your album with a prestigious nomination like the JUNO award?

I'm absolutely thrilled. We call this "The Little Album That Could". It faced a series of unfortunate events during the pandemic and so many setbacks. Making music these days is very expensive and I was lucky to have the support of my fans, in addition to grants. So, it was a long road but along the way I made some great friends and collaborators and amazing musicians. Lily Frost introduced me to Thom McKay from Exeter Sound Studios to record some vocals. He loved the tunes and when he heard what I was going through with the album, he rolled up his sleeves and vowed to help me through it. We found we worked well together and ended up with an album that exceeded all expectations. Everyone who was part of this album was just so lovely and incredible at what they did. I'm proud of every single song on this record. To be recognized by the Junos as one of the top 5 Jazz albums of the year in Canada is just a testament to the love of making music for music's sake.

What is your personal favourite song on the album and what was the inspiration behind that song?

I'd say it's a tie. Tangled Thread speaks to my love of juxtaposition and to the whimsical and unexpected. It's so fun to play live and I get a chance to bring awareness to the reality behind the façade of the super fun rhythms and melodies - the lyrics of the song are actually quite dark compared to its bright tempo. "Gone" is one of the most vulnerable songs I have ever recorded. Drew Jurecka wrote and played such gorgeous string arrangements, really drawing out the soul of the track. This one was the hardest for me to write because it speaks of a truly difficult period in my personal life that I had to revisit in order to work through it. While writing it, I realized that I had been a lot stronger than I thought. It was kind of a turning point in my life from naive and lost girl to a strong, powerful woman.

Can you share some of the memorable experiences or challenges you encountered while recording the album?

The album was actually recorded twice. The project had been dropped during a time when many were relocating due to the pandemic. All involved had been paid and the money was nearly all spent but the music could not be used due to some crazy glitches and production issues. It was really a devastating time and for a while, I thought all was lost. I decided that I would just begin, start re-recording some things and became determined to just pick away at it until it was done. When I met Thom McKay, it all started to come together. Picture a big ball of Christmas lights as big as a shed and that's what me and Thom had to untangle. In the end we got a phoenix rising from the ashes type thing and what I had envisioned from the beginning came to life.

Could you describe a typical day in the studio when you were working on your album?

Since a lot of the album was recorded remotely and then brought together at the studio (because of isolation), A typical day would be recording vocals or comping, editing. There was lots of crying, lots of pee your pants laughter and one occasion where I had tracked all day before I realized I was wearing my pants inside out. I was so focused on the music I had forgotten how to dress myself.

What do you think sets your vocal jazz album apart from others in the genre?

I feel like this album brings other genres to the table. Someone who doesn't know anything about jazz can dip a toe in and begin to understand how free flowing it is. I wanted to weave together different jazz influences to tell the story of this journey. Each original composition is inspired by personal experiences, making the album deeply intimate yet universally relatable. As the truth of these experiences unfolds through the music, listeners are drawn into a more tangible and meaningful connection with the melodies and messages conveyed.

Are there any particular messages that you hope listeners take away from your music?

It is always an honour when listeners choose a recording to add to their collection. Especially these days when there are so many songs out there! Once in a while someone tells me that my song touches them, and this is really the greatest gift I can receive as a songwriter. I want ideally, for my fans to see themselves in these songs.

What do you think is the future of jazz music and how do you see yourself contributing to its evolution?

All music is evolving including jazz. I can't say where it will travel but I do know that listeners will always respond to honest, creative music.

How do you stay connected with your audience?

I am on Instagram, Facebook and TikTok and perform as much as possible. I love travelling to new cities and discovering new people and discovering music - I also must admit that I am one of those people who likes old-fashioned letters and stationery. If you buy a CD on bandcamp you are likely to get a personal written note by me saying hi and thanks for listening.

What are some misconceptions people might have about jazz music, and how would you address them?

That it's brainy or old fashioned. While both these things can be quite cool in music, the spectrum of Jazz is so vast it's impossible to pigeonhole. Jazz is and always will be, essentially, in all music. My approach is to balance honouring the tradition while also adding something contemporary and unexpected.

How do you stay inspired and motivated as a jazz artist especially during challenging times?

Listening to all kinds of different music all of the time and going to live shows as much as possible. Learning new skills keeps it all fresh and inspiring. I love picking up new vocal styles, rhythmic styles and implementing new instruments into the arrangements that I haven't worked with before.

What projects are you currently working on, and what can your fans expect from you in the near future?

Working on my third full studio album, which I am so pleased to share was awarded a FACTOR (the Foundation Assisting Canadian Talent On Recordings) grant - I am so grateful for the support which makes this process



possible. I'm also currently writing the fourth album as we speak! Lots of music and some surprise singles are on the way.

Are there any artists that you would love to collaborate with in the future?

YES! In case he is reading this: Jacob Collier! And I would absolutely love to write and arrange a song with Fiona Apple.

What advice would you give to aspiring jazz artists?

Hone your craft, study your idols, play as much as possible with other musicians, and always try to reach outside of your comfort zone.

Lastly, what milestones do you hope to achieve in your career moving forward?

I want to tour the world with my music, perhaps work with the theatre and film at some point and one day, I plan to win an Oscar for best original song!



TEINT FÉTICHE LE FLUIDE, THE NEW SUBLIMATING FLUID FOUNDATION

"Nude it's not a colour, it's a concept", Christian Louboutin.

Following hot on the heels of Teint Fétiche Le Cushion, La Poudre and Le Baume De Teint, Christian Louboutin introduces a new liquid icon to create the perfect canvas: Teint Fétiche Le Fluide, the new sublimating fluid foundation.











MAJESTIC NUDES FOREVER 30 SHADES OF NUDE

Like liquid silk, unifying as it beautifies, Teint Fétiche Le Fluide brings imperceptible match-perfect high coverage in a no-transfer formulation.

For everyone, and for one and all, 30 shades of nudes from Pearl to Dune to Havana and Ochre. With Christian Louboutin, nude comes in many sublimating shades.





A COMPLEX INFUSED WITH THE ULTRAFINE POWDER OF THE AMETHYST GEMSTONE

Thanks to the exclusive Dermaglam complex, texture feels comfortable after application and due to the immediate hydration. Long-lasting without drying, the formulation actively cares for the skin.

The true jewel in the crown however is amethyst powder.

A liquid veil that unifies and illuminates for non-stop, up to 24H sublimating coverage with comfort.

BALLY PRESENTS FW24 COLLECTION





Revealed within the patrician halls of the 17th century Palazzo Serbelloni, BALLY is delighted to present its Fall/Winter 2024 Collection which draws upon the potent mysticism of mountain stories.

The new collection is the integration of traditional Swiss elements and folklore, such as the flared designs reminiscent of a siren's tail and the treicheln bell, alongside a colour palette that infuses Swiss red amidst natural hues. The textures are rich and varied, combining shearling, waxy leathers, and alpine jacquards with smoother fabrics like wool, draped satin, and corduroy. Jackets and coats swing from the shoulders with curved hems or wild sleeves, blending in Swiss attire into contemporary styles.

Bally's heritage footwear anchors the wardrobe, such as the snub-toe 'Plume' deck shoe becomes a lace-up bootie or thigh-high cuissard and 'Glendale' Mary-Jane is spiked and studded with Appenzeller charms. Accessories like the buckled satchels, briefcases and zippered carry-alls are worn in monochrome calfskin with gilt or silvered hardware.

Through this collection, Bally and Creative Director Simone Bellotti invite us on a journey that honors the past while boldly striding into the future, encapsulating the spirit of exploration and the merging of worlds.



LACOSTE FALL-WINTER 2024
Victory of 1927



The Fall-Winter 2024-2025 season sees Lacoste returning to the official Paris Fashion Week calendar and reclaiming its roots, now artfully reawakened and reengineered for a new era by Creative Director Pelagia Kolotouros.

For her Paris debut, the highly respected Greek-American designer re-energizes the brand in the spirit of the Années Folles, when René Lacoste — aka "the crocodile" — was the world's number one ranked tennis player and Paris was the world capital of creativity across the arts. Strong tailoring, crisp lines and sharp graphics play up the dialogue between fashion, sport and – particularly – art, which is as central to today's creative scene as it was in René's day.

The first Frenchman to win the Davis Cup in America, in 1927, René was one of the Four Musketeers, whose historic win would lead to the construction of Roland-Garros stadium and, by extension, the French Open. One of the world's most prestigious sporting competitions, that event perpetuates the Lacoste legacy and unites a global community to this day.

For Fall, Lacoste takes center court to salute its founder — a pioneer, inventor, and proto-fashion icon — and celebrate both the House's legacy and its ultra-modernity. Pelagia Kolotouros and her studio revisit tennis codes and archival references, transposing them into sophisticated, feminine ready-to-wear: lines twist, angles disappear and curves surprise as she carves out a new path informed by the elegant modernism of the 1920s and 1930s. French chic embraces athleticism, subverting clean-cut, preppy codes through easy, sophisticated, and universal daywear. One detects a distinct sensuality lingering just beneath Lacoste's original allure.

The show's leitmotif is based on the original illustration for the Lacoste crocodile, designed by René and the artist Robert George in 1927, now in modernized dimensions. Emphasized in colorful graphics on powerful, minimalist silhouettes and blankets, it becomes a disruptive design element throughout the lineup. Baby crocs play up femininity and glamour in all-over silver sequin embroidery on mesh lace dresses and tank tops, glide along silk pleating and reprise a tie motif on neo-bourgeois silk scarves. Separates evoke young René's American adventure. The designer explores references such as the original Lacoste tennis polo from 1933 and tennis pleats, in fleece, with track stripes and with archival "Chemise Lacoste" labels. A Pop Art-style jacquard is emblazoned with motifs inspired by René's Davis Cup win.

René's victorious homecoming is recounted through new proportions in tailoring, with subtle contrasts of fit combined in a single silhouette. Continuing the sports metaphor, pleated skirts inspired by the ones worn by tennis champion Suzanne Lenglen appear in a classic twill for an impeccably tailored look, while pleating on leather turns a sports signifier into a design code. Utilitarian pieces like sport tops, parkas and puffers fuse fashion and function. New-gen cable-knits update old-school country club style for today. Coats cut like generous robes accentuate freedom of movement, slipping easily over sport tops and fitted jackets for a fluid, progressive look.








AutoShow 2024:
The RevOLUTION

In our recent coverage, we delved into the thrilling happenings of the Total Automotive Experience, which took place from February 16 to 25, 2024, right in the heart of downtown Toronto!

Held within the expansive Metro Toronto Convention Centre, spanning both its North and South Buildings, the Auto Show 2024 provided a myriad of captivating exhibits. Enthusiasts were treated to the sight of stunning vehicles in the Auto Exotica showcase, experienced the rugged adventures of Camp Jeep, admired the timeless classics at the Cobble Beach Classics Tribute to Performance, and explored the future of transportation at Electric City. Noteworthy attractions included Canada's Largest Indoor EV Test Track and the revered Canadian Motorsport Hall of Fame.




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HOROSCOPES



ARIES

(March 21 - April 19)

Your month begins on a popular high note, Aries, with Mercury in thoughtful Aquarius revving up your eleventh house of friendship and forward-thinking on February 4. Your social circle expands during the Aquarius new moon on the ninth, and you'll feel drawn to people you can share your brilliant ideas with.

When Mars powers into Aquarius on February 12, you'll be inspired to create a meaningful impact and stand up for what you believe. Be tactful as you take the lead. Your natural charm will help you cultivate successful connections as Venus sways into cool, calm, and collected Aquarius on the sixteenth.

You're ready to rest and recharge when the Pisces sun brings warmth to your twelfth house of regeneration on February 18. This is a welcome energetic shift that encourages cycles to close so you can make space for what comes next. Take a relaxing retreat!

Mercury floats into ethereal Pisces on the twenty-third and invites you to come into conscious contact with your emotional realm. You'll be eager to express what's in your heart. Embracing compassion for yourself and others will lead to happiness and acceptance.



TAURUS

(April 20 - May 20)

It's an empowering start to the month, Taurus, with Mercury in clever Aquarius activating your tenth house of career and accomplishment on February 4. Surprising opportunities arrive with the Aquarius new moon on ninth, and work-related manifestations are especially powerful. Everyone is noticing your talent! Motivation comes when Mars blasts into Aquarius on February 12 and you align with success. A breakthrough could take place, so be sure you're willing to experiment and try new methods. The recognition you deserve arrives when Venus enters confident Aquarius on the sixteenth. Be sure to ask for what you want!

After discovering your immense personal power, you'll feel ready to share your vision with others. This is easy to do when the sun enters compassionate Pisces on February 18, activating your eleventh house of community and hope. An expansive and abundant collaboration could be in the works! You're connecting with people in a heartfelt way and developing valuable friendships. You could feel inclined to gather with people online or through shared interests, which helps you expand.

You bring creative ideas to your social circles when Mercury enters dreamy Pisces on the twenty-third. Deep conversations could take place that help you evolve your perspectives.



GEMINI

(May 21 - June 20)

The month is off to an expansive start, Gemini, as Mercury in Aquarius shines a light on your ninth house of growth and abundance on February 4. You're invited to awaken your adventurous side and try new things. An innovative new moon in Aquarius on the ninth inspires you to explore your passions as your quest for knowledge increases. You'll broaden your horizons when Mars moves into Aquarius on February 12. Remember to take breaks on the journey. Venus follows Mars into Aquarius a few days later, on the sixteenth, and this sets the scene for your manifestations to materialize. Your free spirit allows you to fall deeper in love with the world around you.

Opportunities to integrate what you've learned present themselves when the sun shifts into imaginative Pisces on February 18. Creativity is a source of personal empowerment as your tenth house of career and reputation glows. Positive recognition arrives when you commit to bringing your dreams into reality. As Mercury flows into tender Pisces on the twenty-third, you bring compassion and understanding to conversations with important people. You're ready to use your innate gifts to help others.



CANCER

(June 21 - July 22)

Magic encapsulates you as we begin the month, Cancer, and Mercury in progressive Aquarius activates your eighth house of manifestation and intimacy on February 4.

Your most important bonds deepen during the Aquarius new moon on the ninth as you discover what true commitment means to you. You're eager to develop a positive relationship with money, and a transformation with your resources takes place.

Be sure to release unhealthy power dynamics when Mars blasts into Aquarius on February 12. Instead, channel your energy into nurturing your inner phoenix so you can rise. Venus makes her presence known in Aquarius on the sixteenth, which connects you to your desires. You're captivating and fearless in your pursuit of success!

Intensity allows you to discover your emotional strength, but when the sun enters hopeful Pisces on February 18, you're ready to break free. Your ninth house of expansion and adventure is ready to be explored. Faith and excitement are restored as your knowledge grows. You're reaching new heights and feeling inspired by the world around you.



LEO

(July 23 - August 22)

Relationships are harmonizing as we open the month, Leo! Mercury in thoughtful Aquarius activates your seventh house of partnership and love on February 4, and you see yourself expressed through others as you form alliances. Your bonds strengthen and goals are formed with the people you care about during the Aquarius new moon on the ninth. Your heart is opening as you embrace the future!

Passion is intensified as Mars enters the territory of Aquarius on February 12. Be sure to take your time and walk into every interaction with mindfulness. Venus moves into inventive Aquarius on the sixteenth, and you find yourself attracted to people who are unique and innovative. Bonding in your community helps bring your big visions to life.

Your emotions come into focus when the sun enters helpful Pisces on February 18, awakening your inner world and emotions. Transformation and personal evolution become important as your eighth house of manifestation and rebirth is highlighted. Growth occurs when you embrace positive change and break old patterns.

Your perspectives on money and magic shift when fast-moving Mercury enters empathetic Pisces on the twenty-third. A graceful mindset of hope inspires you to heal old wounds and tap into your personal powers. You bring kindness and compassion to the commitments you're passionate about.



VIRGO

(August 23 - September)

Self-love is highlighted as we start the month, Virgo. Mercury in Aquarius makes waves in your sixth house of wellness and work on February 4. You're being called to harmonize the energy you give to others with the energy you give yourself. Finding the middle ground will help you feel supported as you share your gifts.

A forward-thinking Aquarius new moon on the ninth allows you to create healthy habits that serve your progress. Stay motivated, but watch for burnout as Mars powers into Aquarius on February 12. Find ways to innovate your work flow. You're focusing on your manifestations when Venus makes her entrance into Aquarius on the sixteenth. Nurture yourself to experience abundance and growth!

You begin to feel more romantic as the sun enters charming Pisces, activating your seventh house of love and romance on February 18. You set your sights on people who embody compassion and find comfort in those who have a hopeful outlook. Your talent for helping people grows as you form reciprocal connections.

LIBRA



(September 23 - October)

As Venus moves elegantly into Aquarius on the sixteenth, the desire to be around people you love grows and you feel especially romantic.

You're being called to have compassion for your mind, body, and soul when the sun in Pisces lights up your sixth house of self-love and work on February 18. It will be easier to experience flow by finding harmony within your work/life balance. Be kind and gentle with yourself as you share your gifts with the world. Develop new practices and self-care rituals that nourish you. Imaginative conversations regarding your work can take place when Mercury enters dreamy Pisces on the twenty-third. You're finding peace through a calmer mindset.

Relaxation serves you well during the Virgo full moon illuminating your twelfth house of rest and endings on February 24. A nourishing retreat is the perfect medicine. It's time for a cycle to close so you can embrace the next phase of your life in full power. You can feel especially magical when you trust your intuition.

SCORPIO



(October 23 - November)

Your emotional powers are fierce as we begin the month, Scorpio. Mercury in Aquarius enlivens your fourth house of intuition and roots on February 4, and conversations with loved ones help you stay grounded. You might feel inclined to dive deeper into your history.

An impactful new moon in Aquarius on the ninth inspires you to turn your living space into a sanctuary where you can retreat and search your soul. New beginnings feel exciting!

When Mars ignites Aquarius on February 12, you crave independence as you cultivate the strength to let go of old patterns. Be mindful of putting up too many walls. When Venus makes a grand entrance into Aquarius on the sixteenth, you feel abundant by embracing your emotional bonds.

After some deep internal work, enjoying life becomes a priority when the sun flows into creative and caring Pisces on February 18. Your fifth house of pleasure and joy will warm up, which allows you to experience genuine happiness. You'll feel especially tenderhearted, which helps you connect deeply with others. Mercury travels gracefully into Pisces on the twenty-third and guides you with self-expression. You feel at your best when you share your beautiful dreams and embrace your imagination.

SAGITTARIUS



(November 22 - December)

You enter the month curious and observant, Sagittarius. Fast-paced Mercury enters intellectual Aquarius on February 4, touching down in your third house of communication. You're paying attention to your innovative mind, and perspectives evolve through learning. A special idea arrives during the Aquarius new moon on the ninth that can help you advance in a major way.

Be mindful of being too blunt when Mars activates in truthful Aquarius on February 12. Find friendly ways to share your truths. You experience joy by connecting with people in your community as Venus enters social Aquarius on the sixteenth. Your communication style is mesmerizing, and you have the power to spread love with your words.

After processing so much information and sharing your thoughts with the world, you're ready to retreat into a calmer atmosphere. You're encouraged to find comfort in your environment as the sun enters peaceful Pisces, activating your fourth house of intuition and self-reflection on February 18. You might come to find that the most enjoyable home of all is the home within your heart.

CAPRICORN



(December 22 - January 19)

You enter the month with a growth mindset, Capricorn. Mercury dashes into unique Aquarius on February 4, bringing energy to your second house of wealth creation and stability. Inventive ideas emerge that help further your efforts toward success. A progressive mindset helps you grow. You're building your dream life during the creative Aquarius new moon on the ninth. You align with your values and embrace what's most important to you.

Watch out for overworking yourself when Mars dives into Aquarius on February 12. Resist the urge to push yourself to exhaustion even if you feel motivated.

Abundance flows when graceful Venus enters Aquarius on the sixteenth. Enjoy the little luxuries of life to multiply your blessings and experience gratitude.

When you master the physical realm, the next step is tuning in to the power of your mind. The sun enters heartfelt Pisces on February 18, bringing a beautiful warmth to your third house of communication. You're processing information from a more emotional lens that allows you to have sympathy for yourself and others. You're more open to healing conversations when Mercury moves into peaceful Pisces on the twenty-third. Tapping into your spiritual side helps you evolve your sense of consciousness. You experience shifts in your feeling-based perspective that lead to greater compassion.

AQUARIUS



(January 20 - February 18)

You begin the month in your power, Aquarius! Mercury enters your sign on February 4, giving a boost to all of your communications. Your first house of self and new opportunity is fully activated. Expressing yourself is easy, and enlightening conversations can take place.

You're ready to reinvent yourself and become a trendsetter during the Aquarius new moon on the ninth. Exciting manifestations are within your reach!

Be mindful of how you take care of your body when Mars enters your domain and brings intensity on February 12. Venus reaches Aquarius on sixteenth and inspires you to find the beauty in life. You're especially magnetic, and people are attracted to your energy!

With so much self-awareness, the time is right to bring your desires into reality when the sun enters soulful Pisces, lighting up your second house of values and wealth creation on February 18. You're ready to be productive and take care of business while also understanding the value of taking breaks when needed. Self-esteem grows to new heights when you realize how capable you truly are and have compassion for yourself. Mercury takes a trip to Pisces on the twenty-third, helping you bring an imaginative flair to your work. Creativity leads you to the path of success.

PISCES



(February 19 - March 20)

You are recharging your energy as we begin the month, Pisces. Mercury enters Aquarius and visits your twelfth house of spirituality and endings on February 4. Conversations that bring important closure can help you find peace. You manifest moments of rest and reprieve during the Aquarius new moon on the ninth. Exploration of your inner world helps you tune in to your deeper needs. When Mars engages independent Aquarius on February 12, it's important to honor your boundaries so you have space to relax.

You can find creative ways to feel pleasure when Venus moves into Aquarius on the sixteenth. You set your sights on the spiritual aspects of love. Creating a sacred space for retreat away from the busy world helps you feel abundant.

You feel invigorated and ready for a fresh start as the sun enters your sign on February 18. Your love for yourself deepens, and you feel ready to embrace your exciting new chapter. As an upgraded version of yourself emerges, you develop aligned manifestations and plans for your future. A thrilling cycle begins that inspires you to be your best, most authentic self.

HOMEWORK FOR GROWNUPS

JUMBLED WORDS

1. What piece initially occupies H8 on a conventional chessboard diagram?

2. What was Italian scientist Aloysius Lilius' globally significant chronological creation of 1582: Pocket Watch; Pocket Diary; Gregorian Calendar; or Sundial?

3. The bay leaf plant originated what term of glory or repute?

4. The term Hibernian refers to which nation: England; Scotland; Ireland; or Wales?

5. The Latin 'cochleare majus' was the common 1700s term for what kitchen/chemist measurement?

6. The South American tradename 'chiclero' refers to a worker who collects the raw material for which hugely popular confectionery product?

7. US poet Henry Longfellow's epic 1855 poem 'The Song of (Who?)' also popularized which famous fictional Native American Indian woman, the central character's lover (two answers required)?

8. The Patrouille de France is the national: Wine; Sandwich; Mountain; or Aerial Display Team?

9. The bird group Merops Apiaster is more commonly named after what creature that it eats?

10. The construction term 'soffit' refers to what aspect of an arch or overhang: Shadow; Angle; Underside; or Base?

11. What old English four-letter word, in use today, means 'to avoid the risk of'?

12. Which living things have phloem and xylem: Birds; Plants; Fish; or People?

13. Spell the vegetable: Broccoli; Brocoli; Broccolli; or Brocolli?

14. The Mitsubishi name means literally what in Japanese, as in its logo?

15. What reptilian nickname is given to the lowest score in double-dice gambling, said by the superstitious to represent bad luck or treachery?

16. What US term is a cocktail of spirit and fizzy mixer/water and ice, and slang verb for travel fast?

17. In music what is the relative major chord of F#m (F sharp minor)?

18. The mentha plant genus is more commonly called what?

19. What anciently devised method of moving a liquid with minimal effort up and then down makes use of hydrostatic and atmospheric pressures and gravity?

20. The early 2000s brands Heat, Fantasy, Pink Friday, Fame, and Lovely, are examples of celebrity product diversification into: Perfumes; Nightclubs; Diets; or Underwear?

ANSWERS: 1.Castle, 2.Gregorian Calendar, 3.Laureate, 4.Ireland, 5.Tablespoon, 6.Gum, 7.Hiawatha and Minnehaha, 8.Aerial Display Team, 9.Bee, 10.Underside, 11.Test, 12.Plants, 13.Broccoli, 14.Three Diamonds, 15.Snake-eyes, 16.Highball, 17.A, 18.Mint, 19.Syphon, 20.Perfumes

TEST YOUR VOCABULARY

Which of the following persons would best be considered a part of the **medical** profession?

a. a fortune-teller
b. a nurse
c. a police officer
d. a diplomat

ANSWER: b. *Medical* can describe the practice of medicine, or a type of illness or injury. If bright red spots have erupted all over your arms, you probably have some sort of *medical* condition, and it would be wise for you to visit a doctor.

Medical comes from the Latin word *mederi*, meaning 'to heal', which is exactly what medical professionals such as doctors and nurses are trained to do. When you arrive at your doctor's office or local emergency room complaining of various medical conditions ranging from step throat to a sprained wrist, doctors provide the necessary medical care.

JUMBLED WORDS

1. R A H O D
2. C P R I E
3. M R U T A E
4. G R O O F
5. U R A T O N
6. F B T U E

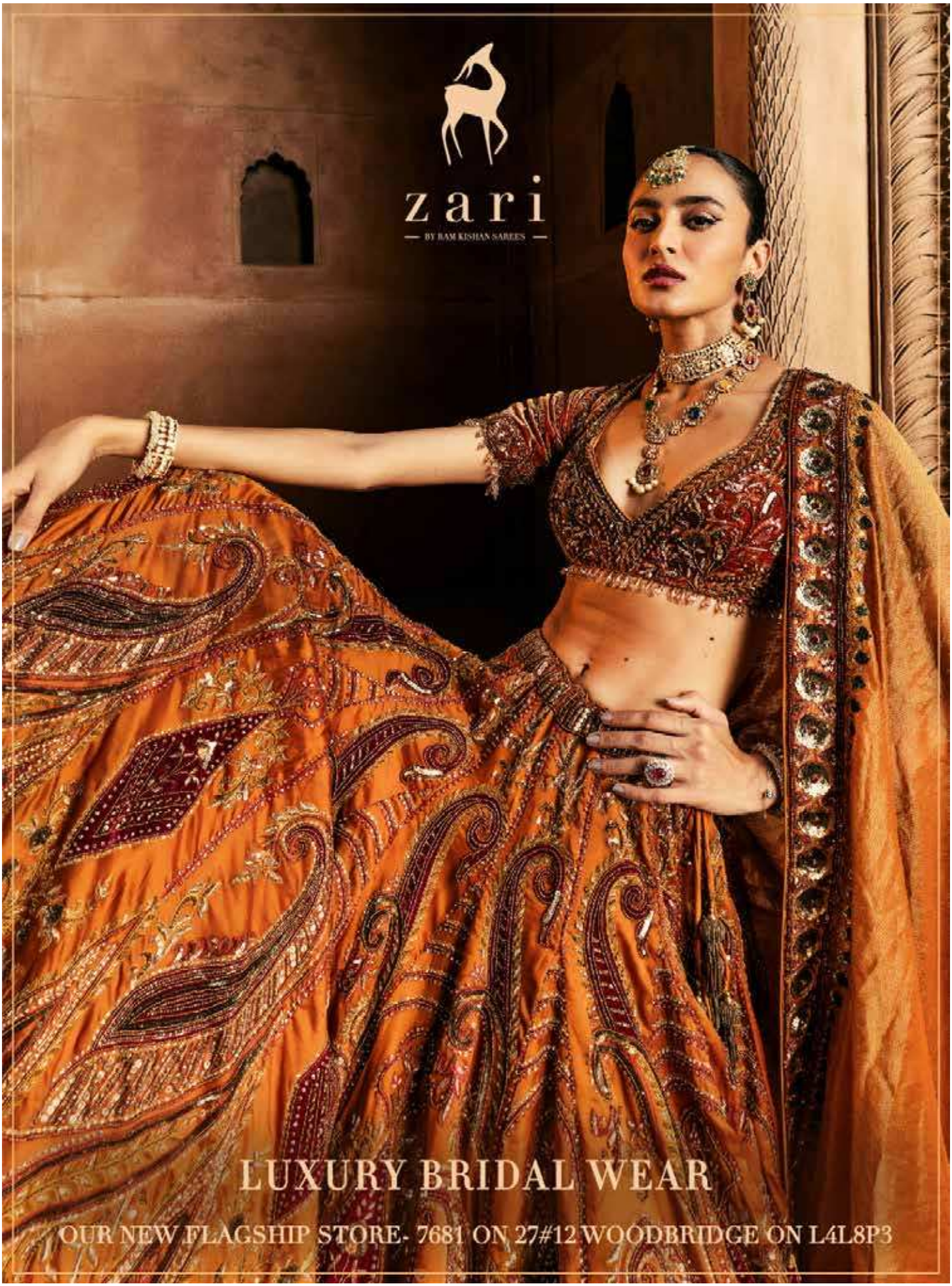
ANSWERS: 1.HOARD, 2.PRICE, 3.MATURE, 4.FORGO, 5.OUTRAN, 6.BUFFET

MATH CORNER

A car covers a distance of 200km in 2 hours 40 minutes, whereas a jeep covers the same distance in 2 hours. What is the ratio of their speed?

A. 3:4
B. 4:3
C. 4:5
D. 5:4

ANSWERS: A


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