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BUST

FOR WOMEN WITH SOMETHING TO GET OFF THEIR CHESTS

HOW RACISM SPLIT THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT
p.60

NADYA TOLOKNO OF
PUSSY RIOT

WOMEN RISE UP

THE REVOLUTION ISSUE

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PHOTO: CRISTINA MARTINEZ

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THIS PAGE: POLKA-DOT JACKET: VINTAGE; SKIRT: VINTAGE YVES ST. LAUREN; ASCOT BLOUSE: VINCE; SHOES: JEROME ROUSSEAU; JEWELRY: NADYA'S OWN.

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PHOTOS: SHANNA FISHER (TY SEGALL); MEGAN SENIOR (PAPER FLOWERS)

Walk in
Peace

You Say You Want a Revolution

IN MY LAST "Editor's Letter," written two weeks before the presidential elections were held, I was pretty sure the country was about to elect its first lady president. Everyone was. I hedged my bets with a few "what ifs," but still, I thought we'd have a lot to celebrate.

Well, I was wrong.

Instead, we now have the human embodiment of a troll as leader of the free world. Not only that, but the entire government seems to have been taken over by the comments section of a feminist web site. And while I've long prophesied that, due to the immense success of feminist pop culture, we were due for a backlash, even I never dreamed it would come directly from the White House.

The current state of affairs has left many of us wondering if there's anything we can do to stop, or at least slow down, the progress of the rich, white, mangenda. And it can be difficult to feel that it is possible to have any influence over the huge machine that is the United States government. That's why, in this issue, we've gathered an array of voices to show you the various ways you can, in fact, effect change.

First, we have Pussy Riot's Nadya Tolokno, who discovered firsthand what can happen when you go up against a fascist oligarch, even if it's only via performance art. And while she probably never intended to find herself jailed for almost two years as a result, she did manage to have a worldwide impact on how people perceive Vladimir Putin.

If you're interested in public protests but would prefer to avoid a lengthy jail term, have a look at our eight-page guide to revolution. It focuses on acts of civil disobedience, and how to stay on the right side of the law while participating in them. There's also advice from Black Lives Matter's co-founder, Patrisse Cullors; successful women's protests from around the world; and lots more—including a playlist to help get you ready to fight the power.

We turned to bell hooks, author of over 30 books about the intersections of race and gender, and a truly revolutionary thinker, to help us understand how this presidency could have even happened. Perhaps hooks' insights can help us comprehend what I find to be the most shocking fact to come out of the election results: that 52 percent of the white women who voted, voted for Trump. I mean, What. The. Fuck? Compare that to the only 6 percent of black women who voted for him, and you can see there's a giant rift between black and white women in this country. What did these white women think they were going to get from Trump? And why were they so willing to throw black women under the bus to get it?

It's deplorable, to be sure. But it's unfortunately not the first time white women have pushed black women aside for their own gains. And one major example of this can be found in the history of the suffragist movement in the United States. Our story reveals the many ways that white women excluded black women from the fight for the vote, and even relied on racist rhetoric to advance their cause. It's a heartbreaking account, reminding us that any feminist fight must include *all* women, with their varying needs and priorities. As someone once said, we're stronger together.

But even the most radical revolutionary deserves some down time, and we've got just what you need to recharge between rallies. You may find joy in our guide to making paper flowers, creating a cool undercut hairstyle, or cooking up a vegan Philly cheesesteak. You might let yourself be entertained by any of our book, music, and movie recommendations. Or you may want to immerse yourself in our fashion shoot with the fiercely stylish rock goddess, Kim Gordon. Whatever your need, there's lots in this issue to soothe your rebel soul.

So, enjoy—then prepare to come out fighting.

Debbie

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BUST

FOR WOMEN WITH SOMETHING
TO GET OFF THEIR CHESTS

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Annie Shannon, who wrote "Waste Not, Want Not," is an activist and new mom living in Brooklyn whose political passions range from sexual-assault prevention to animal rights. Shannon has been reading *BUST* since the '90s and can still remember flipping through it while volunteering at the first Ladyfest in 2000. Her popular blog, Meet the Shannons, and award-winning books, *Betty Goes Vegan and Mastering the Art of Vegan Cooking,* have appeared in *The New York Times, The Today Show*, Oprah.com, *Glamour*, and the Kitchn. She is currently finishing her first novel. Follow her adventures at MeetTheShannons.com, or on Instagram @MeettheShannons.

Marianna Tomaselli, who illustrated "Mother, May I?," was born in Italy with a passion for drawing and a healthy obsession with patterns. After graduating from Milan's European Institute of Design, she began working as a designer for the shoe label Manebi. She currently works as an Art Director for Revolution Department, a Milanese design studio with clients all over the world. Her published work covers all mediums, from newspapers, magazines, and books, to video and animation. Her clients include Valentino, Roberto Cavalli, Nike, and *Vogue*. A feminist at heart, Marianna is an irreverent illustrator whose work mirrors her own soul.

A December to Remember

Thank you for doing what you do for women. Each issue is balm for the soul—especially your December/January issue. Reading about the Hags was incredibly inspiring, as were the interviews with Rose McGowan and Princess Nokia. The ideas you share are essential! I first encountered *BUST* in the summer of 2001, and it has been a treasured source of information, ideas, wisdom, comfort, pride, and joy ever since. Thank you to all of the smart women who create *BUST*. You are a force of truth and beauty and power and light! *–Abbey L., San Francisco, CA*

I wanted to let you know how great it made me feel to see Rose McGowan and her anti-patriarchal headline on the cover of the December/January issue when it arrived soon after the election. It reminded me that you and many fellow subscribers are in this together, and we need each other more than ever! Keep up the great work of sharing the stories of amazing women! *–Nancy C. Sampson, Huntersville, NC*

It's really a pleasure to read *BUST*'s articles. Sometimes, the topics are literally what my friends and I had just discussed the night before over cocktails—very relatable and always relevant. Thank you for all your hard work, it does not go unnoticed. *–Bonnie Gutz, New York, NY*

Pussy Power

As someone who once suffered from vaginismus, I was glad to see an article on the subject ("Tightly Wound," Oct/Nov '16). I also could not use tampons, and having intercourse was impossible. However, I was surprised there was no mention of the mental health aspect of the problem. My boyfriend at the time and I went to a sex therapist who gave me the dilators and helped me learn how to relax my muscles. In addition, we also discussed my frustrations in our therapy sessions. The author was understandably very distressed and depressed by the situation. I only wish she had been able to have the extra layer of medical help. *–J. Cohen, Boston, MA*

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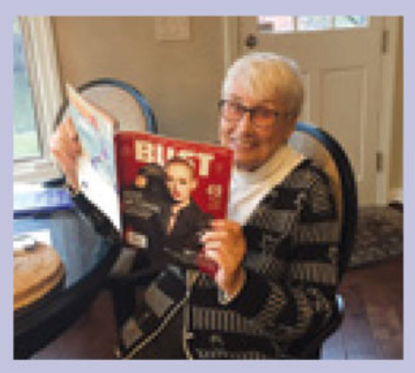
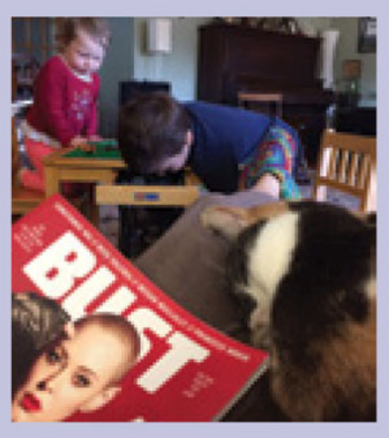
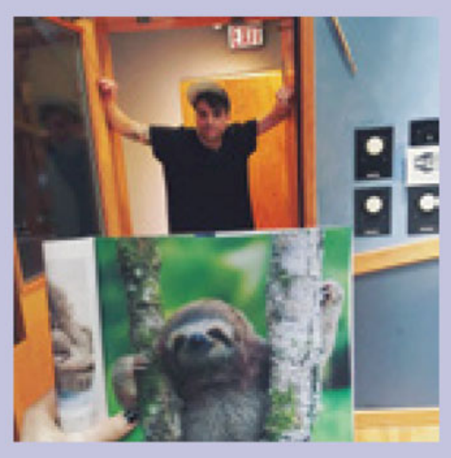


My two kidlets playing nicely, a super snuggle kitty, and my @bust_magazine to flip through. Good morning. **–@andilea265**



Halfway thru the wk, u can do it. **–@paramore**



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From Saturday when we found the BUST Craftacular! Thanks, girls, for such a fun weekend! #nyc #bachloretteparty #bust #bustmagazine. **–@veganinthedeli**

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BOY DU JOUR: TY SEGALL *p. 13* · POP QUIZ: ZORA NEALE HURSTON *p. 14* · EIGHT-YEAR-OLD SKATEBOARD QUEEN *p. 16*

Listen Up

HARSH CROWD IS A POP-PUNK PHENOMENON WITH A RIOT GRRRL HEART

THE MUSIC WORLD would be wise to take Harsh Crowd seriously—these high-school girls are not messing around. Band members Rihana Abdulrashid-Davis, Lena Faske, Dea Brogaard-Thompson, and Willow Bennison already have two EPs under their belts and have opened up for big indie acts like Mac DeMarco, Mirah, Sharon Van Etten, and Hurray for the Riff Raff. Along the way, they've racked up praise from *New York* Magazine, *The New York Times*, and Vice.com.

But the highest complement paid to these loud and proud feminists so far was when they were asked to open for riot grrrl queen Kathleen Hanna's band the Julie Ruin this past November. They were a smash hit. Bringing their high-energy set of melodic pop punk to the stage, their performance reached a crescendo when lead singer Willow belted out the chorus of their 2015 single, "Don't Ask Me." "I'll show you what I'm really made of, show you what I *really* am," she proclaimed, and the audience went wild, embracing this next generation of riot grrrl rockers with open arms. ➙

HAIR AND MAKEUP: PAIGE CAMPBELL

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JENA CUMBO

Clockwise from top left: Willow, Lena, Rihanna, and Dea

So far, the band is taking their success in stride, though they don't always relish the attention they receive as rising stars. "A couple of boys in my class were like, 'Oh my gosh, it's the lead singer of Harsh Crowd! The lead singer of Harsh Crowd sat next to me!'" Willow jokes, but her bandmates agree that fame definitely has its price. "It feels weird to have the judgment of all the teenagers in your life," Dea, the band's guitarist, chimes in.

Willow, Dea, Rihana (all 14), and Lena (15) met at Brooklyn's Willie Mae Rock Camp for Girls in 2013. After quickly hitting it off, they realized how well they worked together, and they continued meeting for weekly rehearsals at the camp's headquarters after summer ended. When asked who they write their music for, Lena surprises me. "We write for each other," she says. Dea agrees. "We write what we want to listen to," she says, "and it's kind of by chance that other people want to listen to it as well."

Their latest EP, *Better*, shows the band's evolution from 2015's *Don't Ask Me*. "We wrote most of *Don't Ask Me* when we were 11," drummer Lena explains. Then Willow points out that the formative years from middle to high school also affected the band's outlook. "We've developed as people, and we have a wider view of the world and what it's like to be human beings, so our songs are a lot more complex," she says. "We've also grown our bond, so I think we're tighter. We're altogether a different band."

In three years, the band has also grown their repertoire. "With the second EP, we had the luxury of getting to pick what we wanted to go on it, because we had so much material. So we made sure it was the exact songs we wanted. Everything that's on there is the best of what we have," Dea says, beaming. "The really awesome thing is that we took so long writing it, recording it, and perfecting it, that it really represents where we are in this moment."

"A couple of boys in my class were like, 'Oh my gosh, it's the lead singer of Harsh Crowd! The lead singer of Harsh Crowd sat next to me!'"

Driving Harsh Crowd's success is a work ethic that would put most adults to shame. Rihana, the band's bass player, has been playing piano since age four. "I wanted to play every other instrument," she says, "but my mom made me start with piano." From there, she just didn't stop. "In school, I have orchestra, then I have the band on Saturdays, and jazz academy on Sundays," she says. Lena also studies music during the week. "In school, I learn the more educational part of music, but then I get to take it out during the weekend with the band, have fun, and get creative." Dea studies music production at her school, and Willow boasts some Scholastic writing awards.

Clearly, these girls have bright futures ahead of them. But when it comes to what's in store for Harsh Crowd, they're not trying to force it. The band knows that graduation is looming, and after that, anything can happen. "One year in teenager life is like a bajillion years in regular life, so it's really hard," says Dea. "Like, I don't even know what I'm doing tonight!" –MEGHAN SARA

PHOTO: JENA CUMBO

THE HOTNESS

BUST'S BEST BETS
By Emily Rems

1 *Girls* on HBO

It will be hard for many of us to say goodbye to Hannah Horvath, the indelible main character Lena Dunham created for her groundbreaking HBO comedy *Girls*—returning for its sixth and final season February 12. The show has been a lightening rod for conversation and critique, and paved the way for the many female-centric series that came after.

2 Ms. Lauryn Hill on Tour

Now through April 28, fans of hip-hop-soul superstar Lauryn Hill can catch the elusive performer live as she makes the rounds with *The MLH Caravan: A Diaspora Calling!* concert series. Each show will also feature performances by artists from different parts of the African diaspora, so find out who will be on the bill in your city at mslaurynhill.com.

3 "A Year of Yes: Reimagining Feminism at the Brooklyn Museum"

The Brooklyn Museum is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art with a yearlong series of events running through 2017. From exhibitions by Georgia O'Keeffe, Marilyn Minter, and Beverly Buchanan, to a show devoted to women of color in second-wave feminism, the series promises to "push back against conventional barriers while expanding the canon." Find out more at Brooklynmuseum.org.

PHOTOS: MARK SCHAFER/HBO (*GIRLS*); COURTESY OF THE ARTIST (MS. LAURYN HILL); CHRISTINE GANT, BROOKLYN MUSEUM (GEORGIA O'KEEFFE'S "BLACK PANSY & FORGET-ME-NOTS (PANSY))"

4 *Still Processing* Podcast

Hosted by *New York Times* culture critics Jenna Wortham and Wesley Morris, this chatty-yet-brainy 'cast tackles tough issues like Airbnb's racism problem alongside lighter themes like first date horror stories. Since its debut last September, it has already become essential listening, so check it out pronto at nytimes.com/podcasts/still-processing.

5 The Seventh Annual Athena Film Festival

Taking over Barnard College in N.Y.C. from February 9 to 12, the Athena Film Fest "honors extraordinary women in the film industry and showcases films that address women's leadership." This year's honorees include Eve Ensler, Patricia Riggen, and Ragina K. Scully. Find out more at athenafilmfestival.com.

6 *Sabat* Magazine

This new, visually stunning print mag from the U.K. "fuses witchcraft, feminism, ancient archetypes, and art." Their first three issues are dedicated to "Maidens," "Mothers," and "Crones," and are available where fine witchy wares are sold, or online at sabatmagazine.com.

7 *Harlots* on Hulu

Samantha Morton stars in this Hulu original series premiering March 29 about warring madams fighting over turf in 18th-century London. Produced by a team of women and starring an all-female cast, *Harlots* promises to be a juicy period drama that will make "Hulu and chill" even more fun.

8 Comedian Naomi Ekperigin

If you've caught either of funny lady Naomi Ekperigin's two appearances on *2 Dope Queens*, you know she's a comedy powerhouse. A former staff writer for *Broad City* and *Difficult People*, Ekperigin's set is saturated with pop culture references and her star is deservedly on the rise. Watch videos and find out more at naomisfunny.com.

9 "On Your Side" Video by the Veronicas

This epic music video, written and directed by *OITNB*'s Ruby Rose, stars Rose and her real-life gf Jessica Origliasso as lovers going through the highs and lows of a tumultuous relationship. Steamy and poignant, it's definitely one of those vids that feels like a mini movie. Find it on Vevo.

10 *Fifty Shades Darker*

If you enjoyed the erotic thrills of the *50 Shades* book series, then February 10 is the date to play hooky and line up for the film sequel *Fifty Shades Darker*. This time around, Ana is demanding a new arrangement from Christian before she'll let him back into her...(ahem)... good graces.

PHOTOS: RYAN PFLUGER FOR *THE NEW YORK TIMES* (*STILL PROCESSING* PODCAST); BRIGITTE LACOMBE (EVE ENSLER); ESTUDIO MIERTERAN (*SABAT* MAGAZINE); LIAM DANIEL/HULU (*HARLOTS*); BEN ESNER (NAOMI EKPERIGIN)

Unplugged

ROCKER TY SEGALL OPENS UP ABOUT MAKING REAL HUMAN CONNECTIONS IN A SOCIAL MEDIA-OBSESSED WORLD

DON'T LOOK FOR Ty Segall on social media. The 29-year-old musician, known for seamlessly navigating between noise, psych, glam, and retro-pop rock, has used his Twitter account a grand total of 12 times, most recently, the day after Election Day ("I puked my guts out last night"). When I talk to him on the phone a few days later, both of us still reeling from the results, he says the thing that bothers him the most about digital interaction is the lack of accountability. "The disconnection there is wild, and [the election] has been a crazy example of social media winning in some weird way. I guess I'm just old-fashioned," he says. "I really need human connection. I need a real kind of conversation." ➞

PHOTOGRAPHED BY SHANNA FISHER

A return to real connection is a theme of *Ty Segall*, the multi-instrumentalist's ninth full-length album, on which his band plays live in the studio for the first time. When it dropped on January 27, it joined an impressive discography which includes dozens of smaller releases, collaborations, and examples of Segall's supporting roles in other bands. Yet when I ask Segall how he's been so prolific, he's modest. "Maybe I'm just crazy, but I feel like that's actually kind of mellow," he says of his output. "I think it just boils down to the fact that I'm a lucky guy that this is my job."

Segall grew up in Laguna Beach, CA, which he describes as a "weird art town" that became "a full-blown Orange Country resort" after the tech boom and the success of the eponymous MTV reality show, for which Segall had a front-row seat. "I went to high school with those *Laguna Beach* TV show people," he says. "I remember Lauren Conrad yelling at me because I tried to sabotage a scene. I was totally surprised that she even knew my name. We were just standing there screaming and banging on shit because we all hated MTV, we were convinced they were ruining our town. They pretty much did, for a few years."

When I ask Segall about women who have influenced him, he cites his girlfriend of eight years, musician Denée Petracek of the band Vial. "I know that's a cliché, but she's an inspiration to me," he says. "Every love song I've written has been about her." He quickly adds, "And I have a dog daughter named Fanny."

"I'm a total feminist—and a humanist, really," Segall says, musing about the women in his life. "I wish we lived in a world where it wasn't even a talking point, but it is." We both agree on that. As we sign off on our call, Segall tells me to have a good day, and adds, "Go for a walk or something, you know?" And as with most of what Segall does, I listen—and I feel better afterward. –LIZ GALVAO

POP QUIZ

By Emily Rems

Zora Neale Hurston Had A Way With Words

A brilliant writer of the Harlem Renaissance, Zora Neale Hurston's groundbreaking 1937 book *Their Eyes Were Watching God* was heralded as the first African-American feminist novel. Wanna know more-a about Zora? Then take the quiz!

1 Zora was born on January 7, 1891, in _____.
a. Fort Pierce, FL
b. Notasulga, AL
c. New Orleans, LA
d. Port-au-Prince, Haiti

2 When Zora was ___, she pretended she was 10 years younger than she actually was so she could qualify for a free high school education in Baltimore.
a. 24 b. 26
c. 28 d. 30

3 Not only a celebrated novelist, Zora was also an accomplished _____.
a. playwright b. folklorist
c. anthropologist d. all of the above

4 Despite having written five books, becoming a Guggenheim fellow, and consulting for Paramount, when job prospects dried up, Zora began supporting herself as a ____ in the '50s. She died of heart disease in a Florida welfare home in 1960.
a. maid b. cigarette girl
c. substitute teacher d. factory worker

5 Complete the following Zora quote: "Trying to live without ____ is like milking a bear to get cream for your morning coffee. It's a whole lot of trouble, and then not worth much after you get it."
a. sex b. feminism
c. friends d. money

PHOTO: SHANNA FISHER (SEGALL)

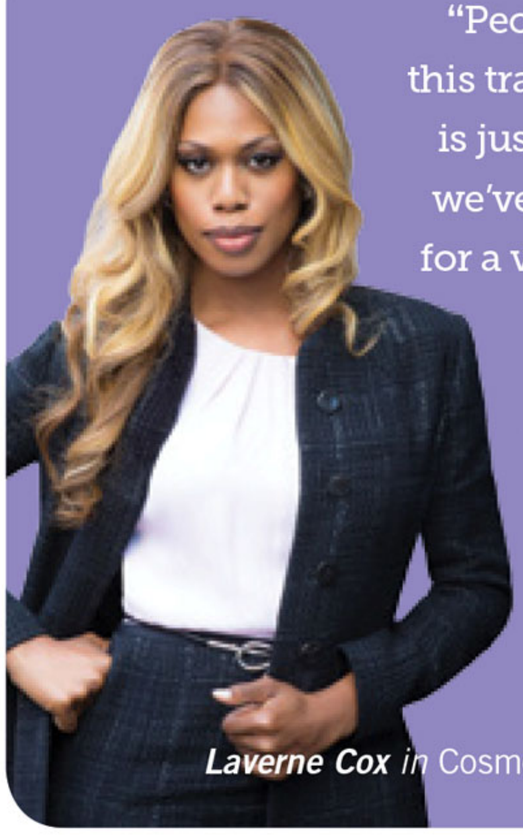
Answer Key: 1.b, 2.b, 3.d, 4.a, 5.c

BRA-OMETER:

WOMEN'S NEWS IN BRIEF By Solange Castellar

"To all the little girls who are watching this, never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and achieve your own dreams."

Hillary Clinton *during her concession speech*



"People think, 'Oh, this trans revolution is just starting,' but we've been around for a very long time. It's important to know that there's been a path blazed for me."

Laverne Cox *in* Cosmopolitan

"Our president-elect is everything you should abhor and fear in a male role model. He has spent his life telling girls and women like you that your lives are valueless except as sexual objects. It is your job to bust out. You are going to run this country, and this world, very soon."

Leslie Knope *(written by a member of the* Parks and Rec *writing staff) on Vox.com*

"We will fight back against attacks on Latinos, African Americans, women, Muslims, immigrants, disabled Americans—on anyone. Whether Donald Trump sits in a glass tower or sits in the White House, we will not give an inch on this. Not now, not ever."

Senator Elizabeth Warren *on Medium.com*

"If you are an immigrant, if you are a person of color, if you are LGBTQ+, if you are a woman—don't be afraid, be loud!"

Jennifer Lawrence *on Broadly.vice.com*

GOOD NEWS
66% of women ask for pay raises. This is comparable to the 75% of men who ask.

BAD NEWS
Men are 25% more likely to receive a raise.

STATS

53
Percentage of white female voters who chose Donald Trump for president.

40
Percentage of women on hormonal birth control who report experiencing depression after six months.

6
Number of women of color elected to seats in the U.S. Senate in November.

39
Percentage of girls aged 11-16 in the U.K. who say poor body image prevents them from speaking up in class.

PHOTOS: TIMOTHY KURATEK/CBS (COX); SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT INC (LAWRENCE)

The Cat's Meow

"KITTEN LADY" HANNAH SHAW RESCUES ORPHANS THE SHELTERS WON'T TAKE

HANNAH SHAW NEVER planned on becoming a professional kitten rescuer. But she also never dreamed she'd stumble across a tiny, mewling orphan stuck in a tree. "I thought surely there was someone who would help this kitten," Shaw, 29—aka "Kitten Lady"—says of the discovery she made in Philadelphia in 2008. "But I learned that nobody was going to help this kitten unless *I* helped this kitten."

Most super-young kittens like the one Shaw saved—who grew up into her healthy adult cat, Coco—are euthanized if they're taken to shelters. Why? Because caring for them requires way more time and resources than many facilities have available. Referred to as "bottle babies," very young kittens need to be fed formula every four to six hours until they are at least a month old, and smaller or weaker kittens need to be fed even more often. So with no safe place to leave the tiny cat, Shaw took it home, and within just a couple of days, she was "in love"—both with Coco, and with kitten rescue. Since then, Shaw has taken in hundreds of orphaned kittens, raising them in her home in D.C., getting them spayed and neutered, and adopting them out once they've hit the two-month mark. She documents all of this on her painfully adorable Instagram feed, kittenxlady, using her furry babies' inspiring stories to draw attention to rescue, fostering, and neo-natal kitty care.

Bottle-feeding, litter-training, and keeping kittens warm are a few of the topics Kitten Lady tackles online. And whatever she's doing, it's working; Shaw currently has more than 230,000 followers on Instagram and almost 52,000 on Facebook. Her Insta feed features shots of Shaw bottle-feeding kittens while getting her hair highlighted; taking bubble baths with curious kittens perched on the tub; and carrying kittens through the grocery store in her scarf. "I'm on a mission to change the world for orphaned kittens," says Shaw on her site KittenLady.org. "We can create global change in the way we treat animals." –LAURA BARCELLA

Sky's the Limit

ROLLING WITH EIGHT-YEAR-OLD SKATEBOARD QUEEN SKY BROWN

NOT ONLY DOES Sky Brown shred harder than anyone else in her hometown of Miyazaki, Japan, but at only eight years old, she's also the youngest person ever to compete in the Vans U.S. Open Pro Series skateboard tournament. Now gaining notoriety as a pro skater while most of her peers are mastering multiplication, Sky hopes to inspire kids in low-income areas around the world with her tenacity. "I know that kids relate to kids, and I really want to connect and make friends and hopefully inspire other children through skateboarding," Sky explains on her crowd-funding page fundrazr.com/skate4change. When Sky isn't grinding on the half-pipe, she's taking to the waves to hone her surfing skills. But her true mission is to motivate kids to pursue their dreams and stay in school. "I wanna make a positive impact," she says, "and empower children in vulnerable and dangerous situations." –MEGHAN SARA

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF @KITTENXLADY (KITTEN LADY); IAN LOGAN FOR GIRL IS NOT A 4 LETTER WORD (SKY BROWN)

CRASH COURSE IN DIVORCE *p. 19* · ESSENTIAL OILS PRIMER *p. 21* · VEGAN CAULIFLOWER "CHEESESTEAK" *p. 24*

In Bloom

DIY PAPER POPPIES ARE ALWAYS IN SEASON

WHEN YOU'RE STUCK in the dreary depths of winter, it's hard to remember that spring will actually come. So until the frost thaws and new buds emerge, bring a little sunshine to your life with perennially blossoming paper flowers. These colorful poppies are easy to assemble, and will basically last forever so you can enjoy beautiful blooms despite the gloom.

MATERIALS

- 18 to 20 gauge floral wire
- Light green florist tape
- Crepe paper in black and red *(we used Lia Griffith double-sided crepe paper, available at shop.liagriffith.com, $6.99)*
- Cotton balls
- Black flower stamens *(available at the-crafts-outlet.com, $3.14)*
- Wire cutters
- Scissors

STYLIST: JENNIFER MCCABE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MEGAN SENIOR

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut crepe paper into 3" by 3" squares. You'll need one black square and four red squares for each flower. Cut floral wires in half with wire cutters.
2. To make one flower, wrap a piece of floral wire with florist tape, starting at one end and spiraling around until you reach the other end.
3. Tape a cotton ball to one end of the floral wire, using floral tape to secure the edge of the cotton ball to the end of the wire. Wrap cotton ball with a square of black crepe paper so that it's entirely covered and tape edges to stem to secure.
4. Fold 3 stamens in half and tape at the fold to the stem, so the beaded stamen ends jut out around the crepe paper-covered cotton ball. Repeat a couple more times, working your way around the flower center.
5. Cut red crepe paper squares into petal shapes, making sure the grain of the crepe paper runs up and down the length of the petal.
6. Shape each petal by gently pulling the crepe paper apart in the center, so the petal widens and curves. Crimp the top of each petal by gently pulling the crepe paper in opposite directions in small, equal increments along the edge. Pinch the very bottom of each flower petal so that it creates a point.
7. Tape the bottom of one petal to the stem, so that the petal curves up around the cotton ball center. Tape another petal to the stem so that it curves up around the opposite side of the center. Rotate the flower 90 degrees and tape two more petals to the stem in opposite directions.
8. Finish the flower by gently pulling the petals out and shaping them to your liking. Repeat until you have a whole bouquet!

—JENNIFER MCCABE, MCCABEGARDENS.NET

Wealth of Knowledge

THIS PODCAST MAKES TOTAL CENTS

THE PODCAST *HER MONEY* first came on my radar through Ann Friedman, feminist writer extraordinaire, when host Jean Chatzky had her on as a guest. I listened to the episode—about the financial side of freelance life—and realized how refreshing it was to hear women talking about money. Which is basically what each weekly show (ranging from 25 to 50 minutes) is all about. Chatzky, a financial journalist and author, interviews guests about traveling on the cheap, how to pay for college without going broke, the connection between money and happiness, and more. It's a good mix of practical info, girl power, and a little dose of self-help-type motivation. You can listen to it all the way to the bank. Find out more at jeanchatzky.com/podcast. –LISA BUTTERWORTH

PHOTOS: MEGAN SENIOR; ILLUSTRATION: ANDREI KRAUCHUK

Split Decisions

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR UNCOUPLING WITH THIS CRASH COURSE IN DIVORCE

NOBODY PLANS ON getting divorced. But hey, life happens. And no matter how consciously you uncouple, the process can be complicated. We know, because we went through it. If you're contemplating saying "I don't," here are the nuts and bolts to keep in mind. And remember: it gets better.

RIGHT OFF THE BAT Consider paying an attorney for an hour to answer your burning questions, so you can go into the process with your eyes open (especially if you have kids, you'll need to understand how custody and child support are determined). To safeguard your finances, separate your money so you're not responsible for your soon-to-be ex's spending. If you don't have one already, open your own bank account, and get a credit card in your name. Redirect automatic withdrawals so you don't damage your credit. Close overdraft accounts, equity lines, lines of credit, and credit cards your spouse can access. Next up, if you're on a family cell phone plan, get your own ASAP so no one has records of your texts and calls but you.

NEXT STEPS Don't assume marital assets (which can include anything from a house you bought together to a shared record collection to a pet) will be split 50/50. Courts consider a lot of factors, including earned salaries and length of marriage, plus the earning potential and health of each spouse. If you don't have savings or you're out of work, ask a relative or friend for a loan to get you through the first few months after you separate. Most states have temporary support orders you can request through the courts. Though your post-split expenses and earnings aren't clear yet, draft a budget to paint a picture of what you earn and spend, what you can afford, and what you may ask for from your ex. If you're the breadwinner, odds are good that you'll be the one responsible for paying alimony.

BRASS TACKS The type of divorce you choose is important. If your split is simple, investigate a DIY divorce with the help of a paralegal ($). If you need to save money and are on amicable terms, mediation with a neutral third party ($$) may be for you. Collaborative divorce ($$$) means you each hire a lawyer with the goal of avoiding a trial. If you and your spouse can't communicate and your assets are significant, you may select arbitration ($$$$), hiring a panel of lawyers. Litigation ($$$$$) is the last resort—it's the most expensive and time-consuming path. Even a simple divorce can take several months, a difficult one up to several years. Be prepared for the long haul and take care of yourself—mentally and physically—as best you can.

The more you learn, the more the divorce process will feel manageable. And you may even discover, as we did, an unexpected upside, whether it's learning what you truly want, forging new friendships, discovering how strong you are, or all of the above.

–SUZANNE RISS AND JILL SOCKWELL, OPTIMISTSGUIDETODIVORCE.COM

Adapted from The Optimist's Guide to Divorce *by Suzanne Riss and Jill Sockwell (Workman Publishing, 2017). Copyright © 2016*

ILLUSTRATED BY ALESSANDRA DE CRISTOFARO

Bad Girls Throughout History

By Ann Shen

Bad in the best sense of the word: these 100 remarkable women challenged the status quo and changed the rules for all who followed.

Available wherever books are sold

CHRONICLE BOOKS

Follow Your Nose

AN ESSENTIAL OILS PRIMER FOR SMELLING GOOD AND FEELING FINE

EVER NOTICE HOW inhaling a scent—of sliced orange, a rosemary sprig, or blooming lavender—can trigger a memory? Make no mistake: aromatherapy is real. The areas of your brain that process information from your olfactory senses—the limbic system and amygdala—are also involved in emotional learning and memory. In fact, the olfactory system is the only one of your senses that utilizes these two brain structures in this way. So perhaps it's no surprise that the scent of pine has the ability to take you right back to your grandma's house on Christmas. Scents can also perk you up or calm you down, and essential oils can be aromatic additions to your health and beauty routine. Try them because they smell good; then fall in love with them because these precious, alchemical distillations do so much more.

What They Are & How To Use Them: Essential oils are the lifeblood of a plant. The sections containing therapeutic benefit—cinnamon bark, rose petals, eucalyptus leaves—are distilled into a potent liquid, which you can use a couple of different ways. Aromatic use enhances mood and addresses immune and respiratory health; place a few drops in your palm and inhale, or diffuse an oil to combat airborne germs and odors. Oils can also be applied topically (most require dilution, so check before applying and combine it with a carrier oil like coconut or grapeseed if necessary); massaging an oil into the soles of the feet will affect your whole system. Some aromatherapists also recommend internal use (with water, in a capsule, or in edible creations), but because of essential oils' potency, you should consult a certified aromatherapist before you ingest any of them.

What To Look For: Many brands claim purity but contain GMOs, pesticides, and chemicals. Research sourcing, sustainability, and farmer relations, then use your nose! Smelling an unadulterated lavender oil can be an awakening and is worth the investment. I like doTERRA, Floracopeia, and Living Libations. Keep in mind that plants growing in their native fields contain different chemical constituents from those that are cultivated. Air and water quality, soil chemistry, and geography are crucial.

A Few Go-To Oils: Diffuse **lemon**, the great cleanser, to kill bacteria. Often called liquid gold, **frankincense** aromatically relieves stress, and when used topically, promotes radiant skin. A soothing superhero, **lavender** calms the nerves with its aromatic powers and can topically treat a variety of skin irritations. Cool yourself with **peppermint** on a hot day or apply to temples to ease tension. For superb immune support, use **oregano** topically (but be sure to dilute it or you'll feel the burn!).

–BRITTA GUDMUNSON, GREENANDVIOLET.COM

DIY Radiant Skin Serum

Fill a dark glass bottle with a dropper cap halfway with **fractionated coconut oil** (it won't solidify at colder temps) and ⅛ of the bottle each with **jojoba oil** and **vitamin E oil**. Add 5 drops each **lavender**, **ylang ylang**, and **frankincense**, and 3 drops of **geranium**. Fill nearly to the top with **pure aloe vera**. Apply morning and night to moisturize and enliven your gorgeous face. Shake before each use.

ILLUSTRATED BY CAITLIN KEEGAN

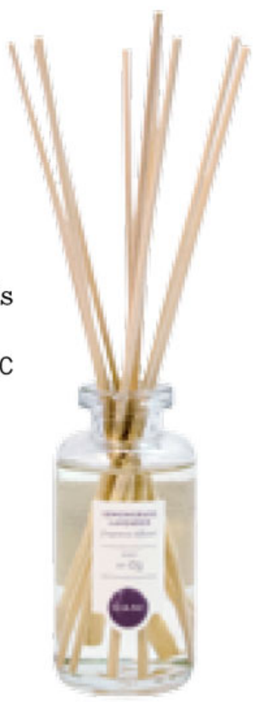
Take A Whiff

Tap the top of this ultrasonic diffuser to change the color of its faint mood lighting. GURUNANDA TOWER DIFFUSER, $40, GURUNANDA.COM

Bring on sweet dreams with this foot cream featuring lavender, chamomile, calendula, and more. DREAM CRÈME, $38, SCENTSOFAWE.COM

Dip your toes (or any other body part) into oils with this sampler kit. CLASSIC ESSENTIAL OIL KIT, $36, MOUNTAINROSEHERBS.COM

Vetiver, ylang ylang, and wildharvested pine give this all-purpose spritzer its earthy scent. METEOR COSMIC FRESHENING SPRAY, $20, CAPTAINBLANKENSHIP.COM



These natural babies can diffuse a scent for several months and require no flame or electricity. REED DIFFUSER LEMONGRASS AND LAVENDER, $25, DANINATURALS.COM

Waste Not, Want Not

REVOLUTIONIZE YOUR KITCHEN WITH NO-WASTE COOKING

AMERICANS THROW OUT 25 to 30 percent of the food they buy, but this wasn't always the case. "No-waste cooking," developed by generations of women hit hard by the Great Depression and wartime rationing, used to be the norm. It's better for the environment, and will save you cash, too! Here's how to bring it back.

1. Be real. Eighty percent of Americans make weekly meal plans; 65 percent go to the store with a list; 19 percent stick to both. Making an honest shopping list sounds easy, but most of us aspire to eat better than we do. Start by looking at how you ate the two weeks prior: how much you spent, what you ate, what you threw away. With a realistic idea of your lifestyle, buy only what you need.

2. Make it last. Extend the shelf life of produce by storing it properly. If you're unsure how to do that, just copy your grocery store. Buy unripe produce unless you plan on eating it within 24 hours. Treat fresh herbs like flowers: wrap cut ends with a wet paper towel and store in a cool place. Don't feel bad about using your freezer; frozen veggies are better than none.

3. Eat *all* your veggies. Don't toss the leafy green tops of carrots, turnips, and beets. Almost any greens can be made into a pesto or chimichurri sauce. (Except poisonous rhubarb leaves!)

4. Collect recipes for past-prime produce. Most of us have saved an overripe banana from the trash with a bread recipe. Use other waning produce for smoothies, popsicles, jams, applesauce, and marinara sauce.

5. Reinvent leftovers. Anything can become an awesome pizza, baked potato, or burger topping. Chili and taco toppings are just a few of the leftovers you can makeover into another dolled-up meal.

6. Embrace the dregs. Think the last bits at the bottom of a jar are a lost cause? Wrong! Use a jar of spent peanut butter to make overnight oats. Add olive oil and vinegar to almost-empty bottles of savory condiments to create new salad dressings or marinades. —ANNIE SHANNON

ILLUSTRATION: SIMONE NORONHA

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WILL BRYANT

NIKKI MCCLURE

JILL BLISS

APAK

VICTORY GARDEN

BINGAMAN-BURT

STELLA MARRS

GEMMA CORRELL

BLACK APPLE

TRISH GRANTHAM

SARAH UTTER

ASHKAHN

RYAN BERKLEY

POWER & LIGHT

LIZZY STEWART

SHIRTS

WEARABLES

BOOKS

KIDS STUFF

ZINES

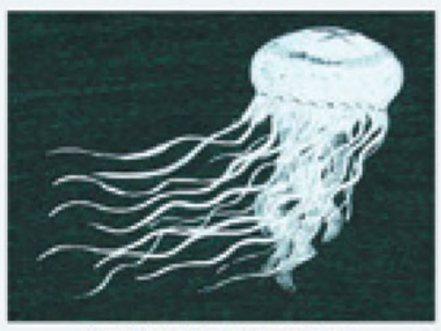
FRANK CHIMERO

BOYGIRLPARTY

TOM FROST

JENNY TIFFANY

TINYMEAT



SLOW LORIS

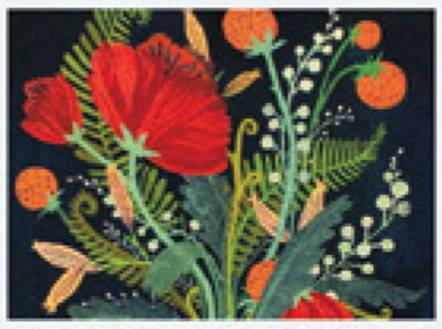
YELLOW OWL

JOLBY

NICOLE LAVELLE

EVAH FAN

PETER NEVINS



BECCA STADTLANDER

ANIMAL SLEEP STORIES

ARCHIE'S PRESS

MIMI WILLIAMS

CAKING BAD: BY TERRY HOPE ROMERO

Philly Cauling!

THIS VEGAN CAULIFLOWER "CHEESESTEAK" IS A HOAGIE HOME RUN

CAULIFLOWER BUFFALO WINGS, cauliflower rice, cauliflower "steak"–this cruciferous veggie is having a serious moment. We're taking it next level with Philadelphia's most beloved sandwich, the cheesesteak (roasted cauliflower and green peppers smothered with a Provolone-inspired cashew sauce and caramelized onions). The right bread is crucial: if you don't live above a vegan hoagie roll bakery, go for French bread that's not too crusty.

Philly Cauliflower Cheesesteak Hoagies

CARAMELIZED ONIONS

1½ pounds yellow onions
2 tsp. olive oil
Pinch baking soda
¼ tsp. salt

ROASTED CAULIFLOWER

2 pounds cauliflower, leaves and center core removed
½ green bell pepper, seeds and core removed and sliced very thin
2 Tbsp. olive oil
2 tsp. each garlic powder and onion powder
1 tsp. ground sweet paprika
½ tsp. each ground black pepper and salt

CASHEW PROVOLONE SAUCE

½ cup unroasted cashew pieces
1 cup unsweetened plain almond milk
3 Tbsp. nutritional yeast flakes
1 Tbsp. olive oil
2 tsp. organic cornstarch
1 tsp. lemon juice
½ tsp. each white miso paste, garlic powder, and salt

4 small hoagie rolls or 6-inch sections of soft French baguette

1. Slice onions into ¼-inch-thick half moons. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat, add onions, and sprinkle with pinch of baking soda. Fry for 10 to 15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until soft and deeply caramelized. Season with salt.

2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees, line a large baking sheet with parchment paper, and lightly oil with olive oil. Slice cauliflower into ½-inch-thick slabs and lay on baking sheet with sliced bell pepper. Drizzle with oil, sprinkle with combined remaining spices, and massage into the veggies. Roast in a single layer for 20 minutes, flip pieces over, and roast another 5 to 10 minutes until cauliflower edges are well browned.

3. To make the sauce, cover cashew pieces with 2 inches of warm water in a small bowl. Soak for 20 minutes until softened. Reserve ¼ cup of soaking water and drain. In a blender, pulse cashews, reserved water, and remaining sauce ingredients until smooth. Pour into a saucepan and simmer over medium heat, whisking constantly for 6 to 8 minutes (sauce should be thick and no longer taste starchy).

4. Warm rolls in the oven, then spread with sauce and onions, pile on cauliflower and peppers, and spoon with more sauce. Serve this messy, delicious sandwich immediately!

FOOD AND PROP STYLIST: AMY TISCHLER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY CAYLA ZAHORAN

STUART SEEGER

Austin Skyline

YOU GO, GIRL: BY PATRICIA AFFRIOL

Austin, Texas

THIS SOUTHWEST CAPITAL IS WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

NOT ONLY IS Austin a progressive haven in the red-state of Texas, but it's also an eclectic and vibrant enclave for music, art, and eats, with mouth-watering barbecue and Tex-Mex joints around every corner. "Keep Austin Weird" is the local mantra, and this offbeat city's managed to do just that while also preserving its Southern warmth.

Mexic-Arte Museum

SHOPPING, ARTS, & CULTURE

BookWoman (5501 N. Lamar Blvd.) is a local feminist bookstore that has been around for 39 years. Beware, you might get lost for hours perusing their diverse and unique selection (and check their calendar for feminist literary events). Vintage hunters should skip the overpriced stores on South Congress, and head to **Treasure City Thrift** (2142 E. 7th St.), which is full of Southwestern fashion favorites. With a bit of searching, you can find a unique pair of cowboy boots or some uncommon relics.

Once a part of Mexico, Austin is rich in Mexican history, art, and culture. The **Mexic-Arte Museum** (419 Congress Ave.), featuring work from young Latino artists on issues of migration, border control, and religion, is worth a visit. Check out the **Hope Outdoor Gallery** (11th & Baylor St.)—a collection of concrete walls from a failed condo development turned secret graffiti spot turned protected park—for amazing street art. Want to contribute? Pick up a paint pass from the onsite trailer and leave a Krylon memento of your trip.

La BBQ

EAT & DRINK

Austin is a food lover's paradise filled with all kinds of gourmet delights. To get a true taste of the town, bypass the hip brunch spots and head instead to neighborhood favorite, **Joe's Bakery & Coffee Shop** (referred to locally as Joe's Mexican Restaurant—2305 E. 7th St.) for a breakfast taco and traditional Tex-Mex *migas* (eggs scrambled with

PHOTOGRAPHED BY SARAH ELLISON LEWIS

crispy tortilla strips) with jalapeno and cheese. For the best barbecue in town, don't miss **La BBQ** food truck (1906 E. Cesar Chavez). Try the impossibly perfect brisket sandwich and a side of potato salad and enjoy them in one of Austin's many outdoor eating spaces. Yes, the line sucks—I sometimes wait an hour!—but free beer on tap makes it way less painful. For veggie lovers, head south to **Whip In** (1950 S. Interstate Hwy. 35), an Indian restaurant, corner store, bar, and event space all rolled into one—the vegan samosas are an absolute must.

There is no shortage of places to drink in this craft beer hub. To skip the crowds, head north to the hidden **Adelbert's Brewery** (2314 Rutland Dr.) for glorious, handcrafted Belgian-style ales. Cozy up under the hanging lights outside and try the Lobster Melt from the on-site food truck (expensive, but totally worth it!). For a more upscale option, try **Peche** (208 W. 4th St.), which serves up craft cocktails (many with absinthe) in a New Orleans-styled space.

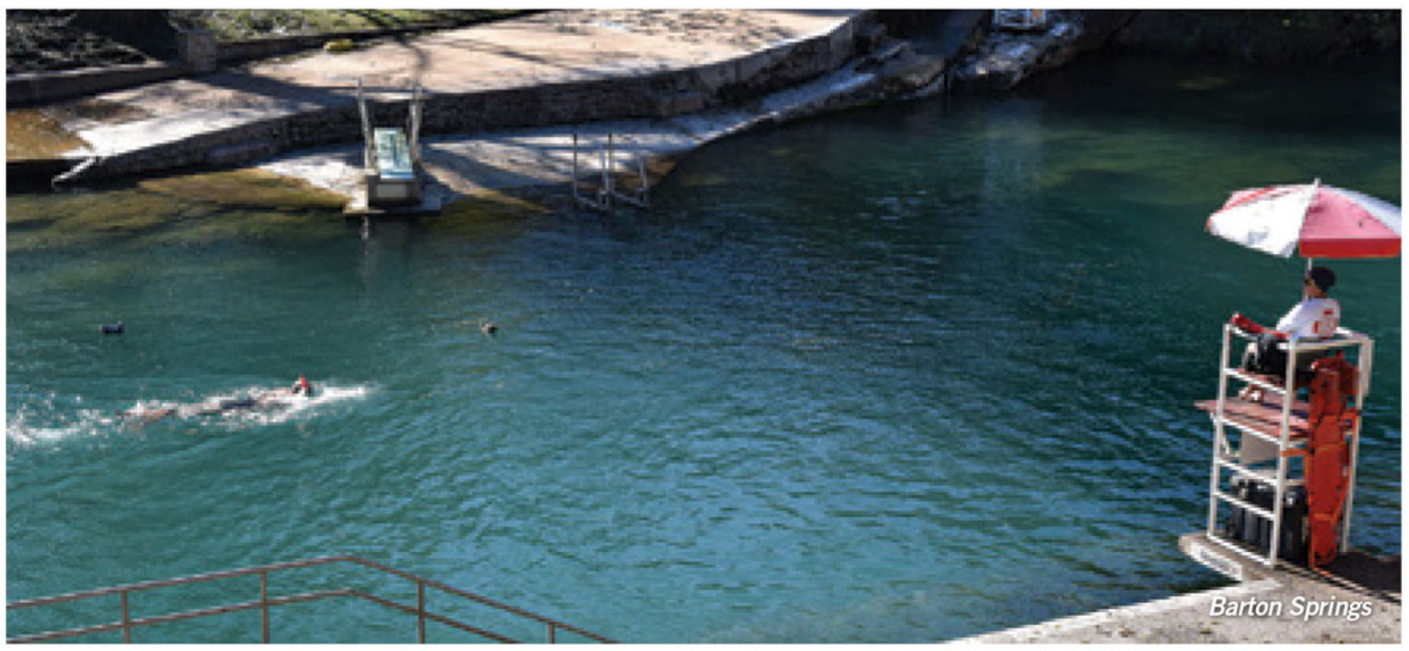
Peche

Peche

ENTERTAINMENT

Live music is everywhere in Austin. Attending the city's famous **South By Southwest Music and Film Festival** (March 10–19) is a trip on its own. But for a wild night of dancing every other week of the year, don't miss TuezGayz on Tuesdays at **Barbarella** (615 Red River St.) where you'll catch the city's best drag show. Also check out **Spider-House Cafe & Ballroom** (2908 Fruth St.), a coffee shop by day and a laidback event space by night, hosting everything from comedy shows and poetry slams to burlesque performances and punk rock. A trip to Austin wouldn't be complete without a Sunday visit to **The Little Longhorn Saloon** (5434 Burnet Rd.) for "Chicken Shit Bingo," which is exactly what it sounds like; roll in, grab a local beer, listen to country tunes, and bet on where a chicken is going to shit on a bingo board at this legendary bar!

The Little Longhorn Saloon


Barton Springs

OUTDOORS

The Southwest is home to some of the country's most pristine natural pools and intricate rivers, and Austin's no exception. Local favorite **Barton Springs** (2201 Barton Springs Rd.) is a natural pool that's 67 degrees all year round. This city gem is a glorious escape for everyone from local councilmen to bare-breasted free spirits. The springs cradle the lush **Zilker Park**, perfect for hiking or a bicycle ride (B-Cycle stations, Austin's bike share program, are all over the city). To escape the crowds and for a bit of adventure, head to **Krause Springs** (404 Krause Spring Rd., Spicewood) less than an hour away, which is home to more than 30 natural pools and jaw-dropping waterfalls.

DIY JEWELRY CLEANER p. 28 • CHOKERS ARE BACK p. 31 • PET-PERFECT PRODUCTS p. 33

MAKEUP: CANDICE FORNESS; HAIR: RICHARD KEOGH

PHOTOGRAPHED BY LAUREN PERLSTEIN

FASHION NATION

Sam Ushiro

LIFESTYLE BLOGGER
BROOKLYN, NY

Tell us about this outfit.
The jacket, sweater, and boots are all from ASOS. My magenta fur cuffs on this jacket are also from ASOS and they're actually removable, so I can pair them with any outfit—definitely one of my favorite accessories! The skirt is from J.Crew, and the fuzzy pink beret and yellow necktie are from Forever 21.

How would you describe your look?
Lately I've been wearing a lot of '60s- and '70s-inspired styles, but no matter what, my clothing is always colorful and full of pattern. My motto with my style always seems to be, *the more glitter and rainbow, the better*. And I can never have enough berets!

Who is your all-time favorite style icon?
This isn't a specific person, but I get a lot of style inspiration from French New Wave films. I like to recreate the simplistic silhouettes, but put my own spin on them with crazy patterns and clashing colors.

Have you always had such a vibrant sense of style?
When I was in high school I was really into bright colors and unique, kitsch objects, but once I moved to New York, I started wearing all black. It seems like that's what happens to a lot of people when they move here . But I eventually found my way back into this colorful world and style again.

Would you say pink is your signature color?
Pink is definitely my signature color right now. I used to hate pink when I was younger, and I honestly don't think I owned one piece of pink clothing, but as I grew older, I started to really love pink and it's quickly become the color of the majority of my wardrobe. I'm always looking for special pieces and it just so happens that a lot of the really fun clothes I find are some shade of pink. –KELLY WALTERS

Copycat

WANT TO COP SAM'S SWEET STYLE? HER PICKS WILL HAVE YOU PRETTY IN PINK

1. **LIMITED EDITION POM POM HEADBAND**, $9.50, ASOS.COM
2. **REALM BANANA PEELS CLUTCH**, $40, BANDO.COM
3. **TIE DYE MOTO JACKET,** €109, SUGARPILLSCLTH.COM
4. **PLEATED MIDI SKIRT IN LILAC**, $46, ASOS.COM
5. **KOBRA BOOTS**, $65, TOPSHOP.COM

The Shining

TAKE YOUR JEWELRY FROM SCUMMY TO SPARKLY WITH DIY CLEANING SOLUTIONS

JEWELRY CAN GET grimy fast. Moisturizing, washing dishes, and even shampooing your hair will make your fave pieces lose their luster. It's best to leave antique heirloom upkeep to the professionals, but you can clean the rest of your rings, earrings, necklaces, and bracelets at home with some basic kitchen supplies and no creepy chemicals.

Most jewelry (except for pieces with pearls, opals, or other soft stones like turquoise or amber) can be cleaned using 1 part mild dish soap and 3 parts warm water. Carefully scrub the jewelry with a soft toothbrush (be extra careful around prongs), rinse with warm water, and dry with a soft cloth. Do not soak jewelry that may have glue; instead dip the toothbrush in the cleaner. For tarnish and deep dirt, try one of the methods below. (And always cover your sink drain before rinsing your jewels!)

To remove tarnish, mix 2 tablespoons each of salt and white vinegar in 2 cups of steaming hot water. Dip a soft toothbrush in the solution and gently rub the tarnished area. Dry with a soft cloth. If your rings still don't bling, line a small bowl with aluminum foil, add 1 tablespoon each of salt, baking soda, and dish soap, and 1 cup of hot water. Set jewelry on foil for 5 to 10 minutes. Flip the piece during the process so all sides come in contact with the foil, or, if the piece is oddly shaped, wrap the foil around it. Rinse with cool water.

To restore shine, soak the jewelry in a cup of boiling water for 5 minutes, then in a cup of white vinegar for 5 more. Then make a paste with small amounts of baking soda and water and use it to completely cover the piece. Lightly scrub in circles with a soft toothbrush; add more paste as you scrub. Soak in warm water for 5 minutes and rinse thoroughly. –CALLIE WATTS

PHOTO: LAUREN PERLSTEIN; ILLUSTRATION: DANSKI TANG

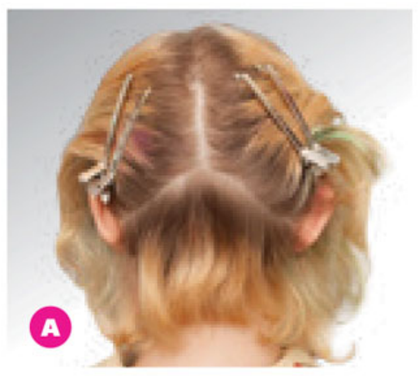
The Big Shave

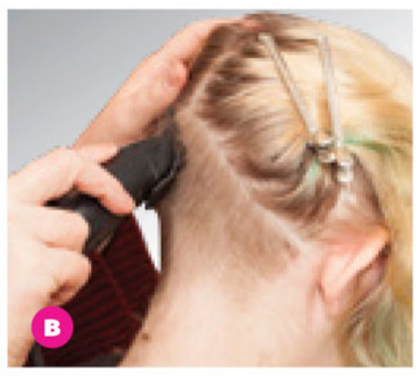
GO FROM BUSINESS-AS-USUAL TO CUTTING EDGE UP-DO WITH HIDDEN DIY DESIGNS

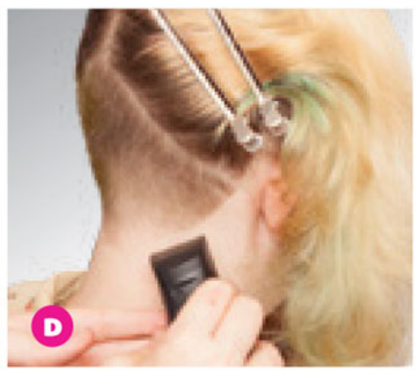
TAKE AN UNDERCUT to the next level by shearing a design into the shaved area, creating a work of art with your hair. This look's perfect to DIY, 'cause you can hide a botched attempt under longer hair for the couple of weeks it takes a design to grow out. So grab a friend you trust, hand her an electric hair trimmer, and make your head a canvas with the steps below. —CALLIE WATTS

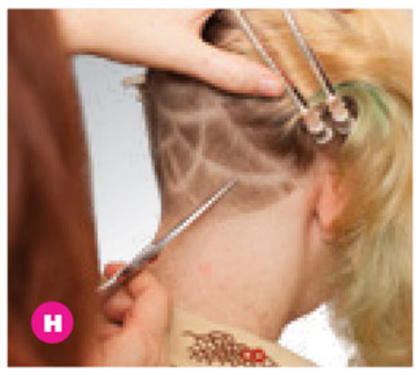
PHOTOS: MEGAN SENIOR; MODEL: CALLIE WATTS; HAIR: MOLLY BENKO AT *FRINGE SALON*

Start Snippin'









1. (If you already have an undercut, skip to step 4.) If you want your undercut to be completely hidden when your hair is down, make the shaved space a shorter width along the bottom hairline. If not, get as wide as you want across the nape of the neck. Find the ridge where the crown (the upper back of the skull) and nape meet. This will be the top point of your undercut area. Make your part from that point, separating the hair you want to keep long from the hair you want to shave. Pull the hair you want to keep long up tight, part it in the middle, and secure it with bobby pins or clips. Make sure the parts separating the undercut area are straight and the corners are symmetrical—use the bottoms of your ears as reference points (**A**).

2. Buzz the area you want shaved using a hair trimmer with a 2" guard (use a miniature trimmer for maximum design control; we like the Wahl Peanut Clipper and Trimmer, $50, sallybeauty.com). Get eye level with the area while you work, and buzz in the direction of the hair growth (which can be wonky—look out for cowlicks). Use a light touch; you do not need to dig in. Pull the pinned section up tight as you go to get clean lines (**B**). Use hair scissors and a comb to trim any little hairs you missed (**C**).

3. Once you've shaved the undercut section, use the clippers without a guard to go around the perimeter to make those lines more defined (**D**). Pause and move your head around every once in awhile to see if everything is lining up from all angles.

4. Sketch your desired undercut design on paper until you're happy with it (**E**). (Start simple with straight lines; Instagram's great for inspiration.) Working in sections, use the scissors to faintly mark a line of the design in your hair. Use your fingers to guide as you go and the edge of the scissors to check that your lines are straight. Start with thin lines, you can always make them wider later (**F**). After you cut a section of the design, use the trimmer without the guard and shave along the scissor lines (**G**). Switch back to the scissors to mark another section and repeat the process until you complete the design (**H**).

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MEGAN SENIOR

GOOD STUFF: BY STEPHANIE J.

Peachy Keen

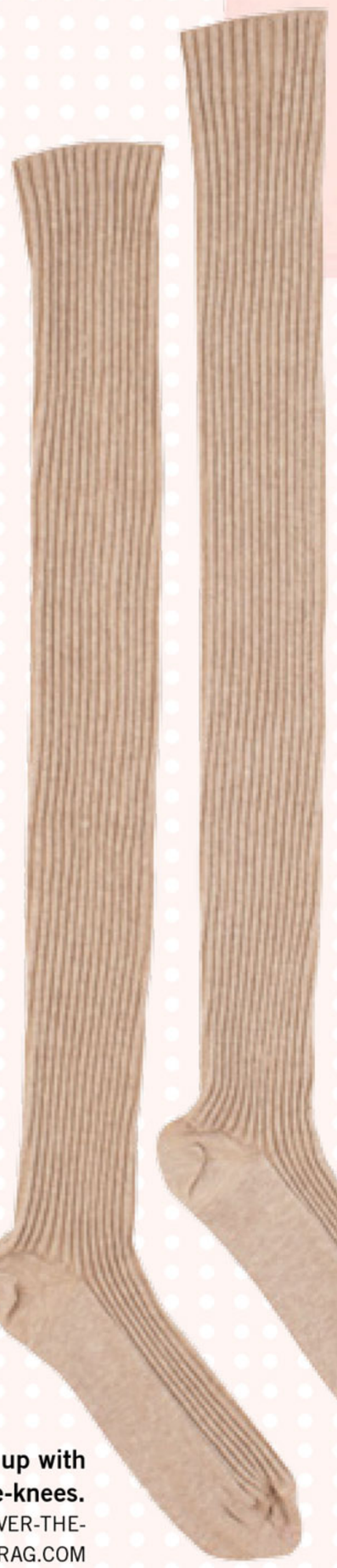
THIS SEASON'S SWEETEST SHADE IS ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU BLUSH

Accessorize your spring sniffles with a hand-dyed handkerchief. HEARTS LINEN HANDKERCHIEF, $25, VARTANCO.ETSY.COM

Get cheeky with an offbeat badge. "EAT IT" PEACH ENAMEL PIN, $10.25, PRETTYBADCO.ETSY.COM

Dream of summer skies to come.
PINK SKIES AHEAD TEE, $38, BANDO.COM

Silk and satin in salmon shades. BEATRICE BRALETTE IN "BARE," $100, ARAKS.COM



An eight-free formula from Hard Candy's Dineh Mohajer. NAIL COLOR IN "GHOST EDIT," $18, SMITHANDCULT.COM

Luxe leather in a coral color. MAE PEACH LEATHER CLUTCH, $58, ANNIEBUKHMAN.ETSY.COM

Get the spa treatment at home with a soothing soak. MINI PINK HIMALAYAN BATH SALTS, $29, MULLEINANDSPARROW.COM

Smell fruity with a coconut-based candle. BOY SMELLS PRUNUS CANDLE, $29, BYGEORGEAUSTIN.COM

Pull your socks up with these nude over-the-knees. BASERANGE NUDE OVER-THE-KNEE SOCK, $31, BONADRAG.COM

Deck Out Ya Neck

CHOKERS ARE BACK IN A BIG WAY

NO LONGER JUST for '90s lovers or the sexually submissive, chokers look good on everyone and are easy to wear no matter what your aesthetic. Make this super simple but mad stylish DIY accessory, or cop one of the tight-fitting statement pieces on the next page.

MATERIALS

- 10 ½" -long piece of ⅜" -wide velvet trim
- 19" -long chain (any kind will work as long as the links are large enough for a jump ring)
- 1 lobster clasp
- 3 small jump rings
- 2 ⅜" ribbon clamps (with a loop for attaching a jump ring)
- Charm
- Small flat nose pliers

MODEL: MILLIE NOVAK @ Q MODELS; MAKEUP: CANDICE FORNESS; HAIR: RICHARD KEOGH

PHOTOGRAPHED BY LAUREN PERLSTEIN

DIY

1. Use pliers to break the chain into 3 lengths: a 12" piece, a 1" piece, and a 6" piece.

2. Adhere a ribbon clamp to each end of the velvet trim: place the edge of the trim into the ribbon clamp and close it by pressing down very hard on the clamps with pliers.

3. With the velvet facing up, put a jump ring through the clamp on the left side; slip one end of the 12"-chain onto it, then slip on one end of the 1" piece. Close the jump ring with pliers.

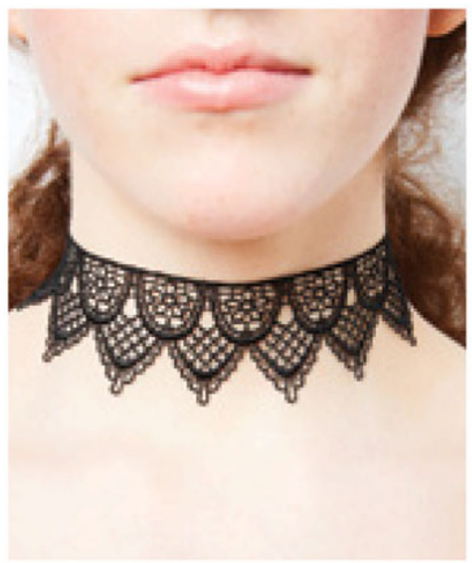
4. Attach the lobster clasp to a second jump ring; attach that jump ring to the other end of the 1" piece.

5. With the trim still facing up, thread your charm onto the 12" chain so it faces up. Put a jump ring on the other ribbon clamp and attach the other side of the 12" chain and one side of the 6" chain and close the jump ring. Make sure the 12" chain lays to the front of the jump rings on both sides.

6. To wear, fasten the lobster clasp to a link in the 6" chain behind your neck, making sure the velvet trim is flush against your neck.

BUY

Metal Mania
This handmade metal collar really makes a statement.
SUBTLE, $85, VITTROCK.COM



Devil's in the Details
Add this delicate lace choker for a touch of gothic romanticism.
LACY LOVER BLACK LACE CHOKER NECKLACE, $18, LULUS.COM

High-Low
This suede and metal choker can be wrapped so the quartz crystal ends drop at different lengths.
SERAYAH GOLD AND CRYSTAL QUARTZ CHOKER, $59, WANDERLUSTANDCO.COM

The Future is Clear
This PVC piece can be customized to fit your neck and comes in four different color schemes.
HOLOGRAPHIC CHOKER COLLAR, $30, APATICO.COM

CHOKER PHOTOS: LAUREN PERLSTEIN; GOOD SUPPORT: MOLLY QUAN

Support System

PROJECT RUNWAY WINNER GRETCHEN JONES MERGES DESIGN AND ACTIVISM WITH GOOD SUPPORT

IF THERE'S A silver lining to Trump's rise, it's the inspiring upsurge in activism. Good Support is a direct result of fashion folks getting fired up. The collective of creative women, founded by designer and former *Project Runway* winner Gretchen Jones, creates limited-edition capsule collections, donating all proceeds to causes ranging from women's rights to racial equality. They launched in January with bralettes by Thief & Bandit (pictured) and Piper Dalton, and solidarity safety pins from Heart of Gold that were created for the Women's March on Washington. A new collection is planned for April, and every month, the collective will post action plans for civil engagement. The site (goodsupport.us) also offers resources for getting involved. Resistance never looked so good. —LISA BUTTERWORTH

BOOTY CALL: BY CALLIE WATTS

Creature Comforts

GET TWO PAWS UP FROM YOUR FOUR-LEGGED BESTIE WITH THESE PET-PERFECT PRODUCTS

No one likes sifting through shit, but at least you can stash your poop scoop somewhere precious. CAT LITTER BOX SCOOP HOLDER, $23.95, JOSSANDMAIN.COM

Let everyone know your pussy (or pooch) grabs back with this hand-hammered "feminist" pet tag. FEMINIST BRASS PET TAG, $15, CHAPARRALSTUDIO.COM

Offer your cat a catch of the day with this interactive magnetic toy that comes with two felted wool fish. MAGNETIC FISHING ROD SET, $45, SIAMESESOCIALCLUB.COM

This ceramic bowl handmade in L.A. will really class up your pet's kibble. MEDIUM CERAMIC PET BOWL, $35, TOOOLS.CO

Let your dog sleep in style on this embroidered bed by designer Ellen Van Dusen. PAPER DOG BED, $148, DUSENDUSEN.COM

Rinse the funk away with these pear-scented suds that pull double duty. PRICKLY PEAR SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER, $14, HARRYBARKER.COM

Everything you need to keep your pet naturally pest free: anti-itch skin tonic plus flea and tick control spray in both lemongrass and rosemary. NATURAL PET PARENT PACK, $39.99, WONDERCIDE.COM

Made from hand-dyed, marine-grade rope, this beautiful leash can take a tugging. CORAL OMBRE ROPE LEASH, $62, FOUNDMYANIMAL.COM

Filled with organic catnip, this handmade toy will have your kitties freaking out, man. BEEF TACO CAT TOY, $8.99, POLYDACTYLCATS.ETSY.COM

Keep your pup warm and looking fly with this slogan hoodie. "BAD BITCHES ONLY" DOG SWEATSHIRT, $79, SHOPPRIVATEPARTY.COM

Whether you need a coat for your critter or a bright-colored leash and collar combo, Pride Bites delivers. HUCKLEBERRY HOUND COAT, $39.99; BLUE LEASH, $19.95; FLORAL COLLAR, $16.99, PRIDEBITES.COM

Take your precious pet wherever you want with this foldable carrier. KRITTERWORLD PINK POLKA DOT PORTABLE SOFT-SIDED PET TRAVEL CARRIER, $26.94, AMAZON.COM

BAG LADY

Cristina Martinez

BOSS HOG'S FIERCE FRONTWOMAN SHARES HER TRUMP-ERA MUST-HAVES

IN 1989, BOSS HOG took the stage of CBGB's with their sexy-dirty brand of bluesy punk, leaving a sweaty, immutable mark on the New York underground that has had fans clamoring for more ever since. The band, founded by husband-and-wife duo Cristina Martinez and Jon Spencer, is releasing *Brood X* in March, just when the world needs driving, scuzzy anthems for sweating it out. Their first album in 16 years, this is music for rising up. We asked Martinez for her daily essentials, now that fighting the good fight is more important than ever. Not pictured: Xanax. "If all else fails, take some and try again tomorrow," she jokes. –LISA BUTTERWORTH

Balaclava "Get out the message, stay strong, and inspire friends and family to do the same. Vote. Or better yet, run for local government. Support each other. Protest the injustices! Defend the powerless."

KILLSTAR MOUSETRAP BALACLAVA MASK, $40, DOLLSKILL.COM

Pepper Spray "Cretins are crawling out of the woodwork, ladies. There's been a dramatic uptick in incidents of harassment across our country. I'm prepared to protect myself."

SABRE RED LIPSTICK PEPPER SPRAY, $7.99, AMAZON.COM

Donald Trump Cloth Pads "With the new administration threatening to restrict our rights, we must employ every tactic to defend them. And it can't hurt to let my blood flow in the face of the opposition."

DONALD TRUMP CLOTH PAD, $8, CALEIGHSCLOTH.ETSY.COM

Refreshing Mist "Frustrations run high these days. To keep myself sane and peaceful enough to focus on the good fight, I use an olfactory trigger to bring me back to center."

REFRESHING MIST IN LAVENDER AND BERGAMOT, $19, SHOPWOODLOT.COM

Tote "Pack it all up and put it in here! Hit the streets and let 'em know who's boss."

GIRL BOSS TOTE, $28, OHMBOUTIQUE.COM

The Purrfect Makeup Collection

A LITTLE HELLO KITTY FOR YOUR FACE

I DON'T CARE how old you are—if you're a Hello Kitty fan, there's something about that iconic red bow that sparks bubblegum-scented devotion deep down in your Sanrio-loving heart. Now you can wear your obsession on your face with ColourPop's Hello Kitty makeup collection. It pairs nostalgia (thanks to names like "Coin Purse" and "Lock Diary") with totally grownup beauty prods, including blush, highlighter, lipstick, and eye shadow. We're partial to the "Let's Play" Lippie Stix and the navy blue "School Bus" eye pigment. But with prices that average $5 to $8, there's something for everyone. Snap 'em up at colourpop.com/collections/hello-kitty. –LISA BUTTERWORTH

PHOTO (MARTINEZ): JERI LAMPERT; MAKEUP: JAMIE HANSON

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FROM RUSSIA

WITH LOVE ♥

Five years ago, Nadya Tolokno and members of her punk band Pussy Riot were sent to prison for public acts of feminist activism. Today, she's free and louder than ever. Here, she talks about rising up, getting rowdy, and pissing off repressive presidents

BY ERIKA W. SMITH

PHOTOS BY JEANEEN LUND // STYLING BY KIME BUZELLI // MAKEUP BY WILL LEMON

OUTFITTED IN COLORFUL dresses, tights, and—most importantly—balaclavas that hid their faces, a group of fierce young women became activist icons overnight when they were arrested for performing a song in Moscow's Cathedral of Christ the Savior, protesting the repressive anti-choice and anti-LGBT policies of Vladimir Putin. Calling themselves Pussy Riot, the group was part punk band, part performance art collective, part activist group, and completely feminist. And even though that performance in 2012 lasted less than a minute before the women were pulled offstage, their lyrics—including the phrases, "Mother of God, banish Putin," and "Mother of God, become a feminist"—led to an arrest that reverberated worldwide. Pussy Riot became an international cause celebre when three of its members—including leader Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, aka Nadya Tolokno—were sentenced to two years in prison for "hooliganism motivated by religious hatred." Their high-profile case caught the attention of Madonna, Björk, and Peaches, and sparked weeks of headlines, a book, and a documentary. Pussy Riot was everywhere.

Five years later, Pussy Riot appears to be more relevant than ever. Today we have an American president who shares quite a few deplorable views with Putin: Like Putin, President Trump is anti-LGBTQ, anti-abortion, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, and anti-everything that feminists stand for. And Tolokno, 27, recognizes it. The morning after Trump was elected, she tweeted as Pussy Riot, "Putin just woke up and he's screaming in fucking ecstatic happiness right now."

It wasn't Tolokno's first comment on U.S. politics—far from it. In 2015, she and another member of Pussy Riot released a song and music video about the murder of Eric Garner called "I Can't Breathe." And just before the election, Tolokno released a trio of political music videos as a solo artist. Along with the girl power anthem "Straight Outta Vagina" and the Russian-language track "Organs," there was a song called "Make America Great Again" that predicted the horrors of a Trump presidency. In the latter video, a broadcaster on "Trump News Network" announces bans on Muslims, Mexicans, abortions, and any language other than English. The announcements are interspersed with scenes of Trump posturing in the White House and police stripping and torturing a protester. Tolokno plays every part. As President Donald Trump, a yellow wig covers her brunette bob, and she frames her large, dark eyes with red and white eye shadow. Her full lips are covered in bright blue lipstick—lips a Russian Orthodox official once said marked her as "a demon with a brain," adding, "She's a strong demon. You can tell by her lips, by her mouth. It means she'll fight to the end."

At least in one respect he was right. In the years since her arrest, Tolokno has been imprisoned, gone on a hunger strike, been separated from her husband and young daughter, been beaten, and had her eyes burned with spray paint. And she's still fighting against despotism—not only in her native Russia, but also in the U.S. and worldwide.

On the morning of November 8th, Tolokno knew something wasn't right. It was the day after her 27th birthday—a day that has always held special significance to her, because besides being her birthday, November 7th was the day of Russia's October Revolution in 1917. It's a holiday that, when Tolokno was a child, Putin banned out of fear of an uprising, replacing commemoration of the revolution with something called "Unity Day." It's also the day that, before Pussy Riot, Tolokno took part in one of her favorite protest actions with the art group Voina: laser projecting a skull and crossbones onto the Russian Parliament.

"The day after my birthday this year, I was waiting for my gift, which would be the first female president," she tells me over the phone from L.A., where she spends a lot of time when she's not in New York or Russia. "I went to the gym and my trainer made my butt hurt so much that I was suffering the whole day. You know how some people have a gut feeling? I had a *butt* feeling that something was about to go wrong."

When things did go wrong, she wasn't surprised. "I had it in the back of my head. I had this irritating, small thought that it could happen, and all the guys around me, they didn't believe that it could happen at all," she says. "But after 16 years of Vladimir Putin, I know that terrible political things can happen. I didn't believe that I could ever end up in prison, because I was like, 'Oh no, I'm doing nonviolent, political, symbolic, artistic action. Nothing bad could happen to me.' And then I ended up in prison."

Tolokno's nonviolent, political, symbolic, artistic actions didn't start with Pussy Riot. In fact, she remembers doing a version of protest performance art as a small child at school. "I would take a pile of garbage to school and put it on different objects—on the drawings, on the chalkboard. I saw that as the

PREVIOUS SPREAD: TUX JACKET: WILD FANG; SILK BLOUSE: YVES ST. LAURENT; VINTAGE TIGER BELT: LAIZE ADZER; KILLSTAR MOUSETRAP BALACLAVA: DOLLSKILL.COM; UNDERWEAR HAND-PAINTED BY NADYA; TIGHTS: STYLISTS OWN.

PANTSUIT: RALPH LAUREN; METALLIC SHOES: PSKAUFMAN;
WILD FEMINIST T-SHIRT: WILD FANG; JEWLELRY: VINTAGE.

proper way of expressing my feelings about school and the way they wanted us to learn things."

Tolokno grew up in Norilsk—a mining town that has the dubious honor of being the world's northernmost city with more than 100,000 inhabitants. For about a third of the year, snow storms rage in Norilsk; the sun never sets from late May through late July; and temperatures can drop to 60 below zero Fahrenheit. Besides being one of the coldest places on earth, it's also one of the most polluted, ranking eighth in the world in 2007. Over 1,700 miles from Moscow and Saint Petersburg, Norilsk is by no means a cultural center. "When I was a teenager, I was looking for something that would empower and excite me because I was living in a really small, provincial Russian town and it wasn't easy to find these things," she says.

Tolokno's life changed when the city invited two contemporary artists to the town for a fair. "These guys, they made me love classical poetry and contemporary art," she explains. As a result, she moved to Moscow to attend college, studying philosophy at Moscow State University. She also got into gender studies, working on improving her English so she could read Judith Butler, as there were no Russian translations of Butler's work.

It was at Moscow State University in 2007 that Tolokno first became involved with performance art and activism, joining the art protest group Voina. It's also where she met her husband, Pyotr Verzilov. The two bonded over a discussion of Buddhism while Tolokno was helping her suitemates study for a religion exam. "Pyotr had lived for several years in Japan, so he knew something about Buddhism," Tolokno says. There was an immediate spark, "And I just couldn't help myself from talking to him the next day." They began dating, and she says she knew it was real love when he gave her his books. "The thing that made me fall in love with him was when he gifted me his library, which was precious," she says. "It was all French philosophers, which I adored at that time. My heart was bought with that library."

In 2008, the couple married. And after Putin was "elected" again that year—although Putin was ineligible to run for a third consecutive term, the person who did win the election, Dmitry Medvedev, appointed Putin Prime Minister—the group expanded from rallies to art performances. One notable action involved members of the group having public sex in Moscow's State Museum of Biology to protest Putin's stated desire for Russian women to procreate more. "We combined art and politics," Tolokno says of that performance, which she carried out at age 19 while pregnant with her daughter Gera. "That's my recipe for everything in life. If you want to be more powerful, just combine everything that you know—and it works."

"After I had my daughter, I became a much stronger feminist than I was before," she says. "Because for some weird reason, when you have a baby, everybody starts treating you just as a mother. I didn't want to just be seen as a reproductive machine, even though I had her. I didn't want her to think of me as a reproductive machine. I wanted her to see me as a person. When your kid is really little, you have to give a lot of your life to your kid. But you still want to do art, and you still want to study, and you still want to see your friends, so you have to figure out how you can do it all in one hour. After that, I became a much more productive person."

Tolokno first started incorporating feminism into her art in 2011 when she led a months-long performance piece in which female Voina members kissed female police officers as a response to the rampant violence and corruption plaguing Russian law enforcement. "The first thing you want to do" when you see a police officer, Tolokno explains, "is to punch him in the face. But because I believe in nonviolence, I don't do that, because it will cause more violence. So it's a gesture of goodwill: I wanted to kiss the police instead of punching them in the face." Male Voina members refused to participate in the action, so Tolokno gathered "a group of girls" who spent the next three months planting kisses on female officers—it took a while because it was so difficult to find women on the police force. "That was when we started to be not just political, but feminist," Tolokno explains.

"After I had my daughter, I became a much stronger feminist than I was before, because for some weird reason, when you have a baby, everybody starts treating you just as a mother."

Pussy Riot came into being later that same year. Tolokno and a friend and fellow Voina member, Yekatrina (Katya) Samutsevich, had agreed to give a talk on punk feminism; while researching, they got into riot grrrl, and decided to make their own Russian punk feminist band. "We were listening to 'Rebel Girl,' the Bikini Kill song, and we basically just stole what they did," Tolokno says, laughing. She and Samutsevich recorded their first song, "Kill the Sexist," on their phones in Samutsevich's bathroom at four a.m., while Samutsevich's dad tried to get them to stop. "I think it was the proper environment for starting a punk band," Tolokno says. "The sound quality was really shitty, and I'm so proud of it."

Tolokno still draws a lot of inspiration from the American riot grrrl movement of the '90s. "They empowered me a lot because I found out that you actually don't have to be perfect to make music, to make art, to express your ideas," she says. "I know it sounds pretty banal, but I know a lot of people who would just not trust themselves. They would say, 'No, I couldn't do art because I don't have the proper technique.' Fuck technique. If you have passion, if you have excitement, you can do art."

After Pussy Riot was formed, there was no question that they would perform, and not just concerts. Pussy Riot—which

PINK CAPE TOP: CHRISTINE ALCALAY; VINTAGE BEADED BOW COLLAR NECKLACE: COPPOLA E TOPPO.

had a fluctuating membership peaking at around a dozen women in 2012—performed a handful of times before the infamous church performance, staging two-minute shows in the Moscow subway, atop luxury stores, and, most notably, in Red Square. "We were coming from performance art backgrounds, so it was as natural as eating or pooping for us to make performances," Tolokno says. "The difficult part was for us to make songs!"

The Red Square performance brought Pussy Riot some attention, but nothing close to the notoriety they received after Tolokno, Samutsevich, and Maria (Masha) Alyokhina were arrested and sentenced to two years in prison. (Samutsevich was released early; Tolokno and Alyokhina both served 21 months of their sentences.) Tolokno insists that the church performance was not their best. "For me, it was a big disaster, but more of an artistic disaster because I knew we could do better," she says. "The action that I really loved was the one in Red Square. So when they arrested us, I was like, 'Why did you arrest us for this action? It's not the best. You could have picked a better one!'" She also expresses disappointment that Pussy Riot didn't get to carry out their next planned performance at Parliament—where an unnamed Pussy Riot member worked. "When they arrested us, I wasn't sad that I was losing my freedom," Tolokno says. "I was sad that we weren't going to be able to do the action in the Russian Parliament, because I expected that one to be really radical."

"I was scared after I was attacked.... But you cannot allow your fear to make your life unproductive, and it was really important for me to keep doing my art."

Once Tolokno landed in prison, however, the seriousness of her situation became much clearer. After a trial that lasted several months, Tolokno was separated from Alyokhina and sent to a notoriously harsh women's penal colony called IK-14. During her time there, she went on a hunger strike over the prison's brutal slave labor policies and smuggled letters out to the Russian philosopher Slavoj Žižek (their correspondence was later compiled in the book *Comradely Greetings*). Because her mail was read, Tolokno had to be ingenious about writing her letters. She would compose them secretly while at her sewing machine, then "I would be going to see my lawyer and I had them in my panties," she explains. "Sometimes there would be a search and they would take them from me and I would have to write another one. It was a time-consuming adventure."

The experience was enough to break anyone, but speaking to Tolokno now, it appears to have only made her stronger. "When you don't eat for some time, it works like a drug," she says of the bravery she had to summon during the nine-day hunger strike that left her hospitalized. "You get the jitters. Creativity came to my prison cell and I understood that finding my creativity was my way to overcome. Another thought that really helped me when they would beat me and not allow me to eat or drink was that I had to go through difficult situations to get an understanding of how things really work. I started to think about my prison term as an important lesson for me."

One would assume that after her release from prison, Tolokno would flee the country. But instead, she stayed, and still spends a significant amount of time in Russia, despite being attacked twice since her parole. Tolokno and other members of Pussy Riot were whipped by police when they attempted to stage a performance at the Sochi Olympics, and a month afterward, along with Alyokhina, she was attacked by a gang of men wielding garbage and spray paint, which temporarily damaged her eyes.

Though Tolokno now considers herself a citizen of the world, she remains a presence in Russia as well, launching an independent media platform with other Pussy Riot members and working on prison reform. "I think it's a natural thing for a human being to have some fear," she says of her decision to stand her ground in her home country. "It's a natural reaction; you would be dead if you did not have any fear. I was scared after I was attacked. For two months, if I was alone on the street and someone was approaching me, I would start to think about how I could run or how I could protect myself. But you cannot allow your fear to make your life unproductive, and it was really important for me to keep doing my art. Sometimes you just have to forget about it—or learn to protect yourself. Just go take boxing lessons."

That fear may also be why Tolokno sees some positives in Trump's election. "I love to fail, strangely," she says, "because it gives me energy to fight and to understand more about the world I live in. I've never felt more politically engaged than I do now. Probably the only other time I felt this politically engaged was right before Vladimir Putin was about to be so-called elected for his third term." She's now reading up on political science and "trying to figure out what we can do with this new world we share with neoconservatives," she says, naming not only Trump and Putin, but also France's Marine Le Pen, Hungary's Viktor Orban, and Brexit. Her daughter Gera, now 8, also feeds her optimism. "She asked how long Trump will be in power, and I told her four years most likely," Tolokno says. "She said, 'That's OK, I will be 12 years old then, and while he's in power, we will do a lot of things to stop him from doing hurtful things to us.'"

Obviously, Gera isn't alone. Millions of us want to do what we can to stop the Trump administration from doing hurtful things. And as a veteran of political uprising, Tolokno has some advice—get weird. "My strange punk advice is to mix everything that you know and everything that you care about into one thing, because I'm tired of all these conversations about art and politics. Why do you have to separate them?" she asks. "Think about the three weirdest things that come into your mind and then combine them into one artwork. If you keep it minimalistic and don't add a lot of obstructing details, believe me, it will be good." **B**

VINTAGE SWEATER: NEW/FOUND; EARRINGS: SIERRA KEYLIN.

#BLM

LOVE is love

PROTECT WHAT YOU LOVE!

PIEKŁ kobiet trwa

REVOLUTION GIRL STYLE NOW!

Experts on protest and resistance give their best advice for women who want to flex some political muscle over the next four years and beyond

ILLUSTRATED BY NICOLE MILES

IN 2016, A presidential campaign based on xenophobia, bigotry, misogyny, racism, transphobia, and fear won Donald Trump the presidency. And since then, he's populated his administration with people who preach more of the same, which means voices of resistance need to be louder than ever. Of course, that can be easier said than done. That's why we've put together this handy guide for creating real change. Whether you want concrete ways to organize your community, tips for making the most of a protest, inspiration from female activists of the past, or just some sweet tunes to inspire you while toppling the patriarchy, this resource will be one you can turn to for the next four years. Because getting complacent is not an option. As author and political activist Barbara Ehrenreich said, "No matter that patriotism is too often the refuge of scoundrels. Dissent, rebellion, and all-around hell-raising remain the true duty of patriots." Ladies, it's time to raise hell.

THEY FOUGHT THE LAW

A PRIMER ON WOMEN AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

BY AMBER RAMANAUSKAS

ON DECEMBER 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, a seamstress and NAACP activist, boarded a bus in Montgomery, AL, taking a seat just behind the "whites only" section. When the bus filled up and the driver ordered her to move so a white man could sit she refused, challenging Jim Crow laws. Parks was arrested, inspiring a 381-day bus boycott and a case that went to the U.S. Supreme Court, which found bus segregation unconstitutional. "People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired," Parks said. "No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in." Indeed, her refusal to acquiesce was a deliberate act of civil disobedience.

There are many ways to protest within the law. But nonviolent civil disobedience, or principled action that purposefully risks arrest, is deeply woven into the fabric of America (just look at the Boston Tea Party and the Declaration of Independence). And women have long used the tactic as well. In 1630, Anne Hutchinson was expelled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for standing up for religious freedom. In 1872, before U.S. women had the right to vote, Susan B. Anthony was jailed for casting a ballot. And in the 1950s, social activist Dorothy Day refused to take shelter during government-mandated air-raid drills, an anti-war action that got her hauled away in a police wagon.

Getting arrested for peacefully defying a law you believe is unjust can help bring attention to an issue as well as instigate changes in the law. But knowing what could lead to arrest, and what the consequences may be, is crucial. Trespassing or disobeying a police officer's order to disperse are two typical transgressions that could get you cuffed. The legal consequences of arrest depend on a variety of factors, including if you are on state property versus federal property (which determines whether state or federal laws apply to your case), your citizenship status, and how disobedient your actions are. If you plan to get arrested, carry valid ID and alert a friend so they can be prepared to post bail and contact an attorney. Going limp, or resisting arrest could add to the severity of your charges. Know that you have the right to remain silent. You do not have to write or sign any statements or speak to any prosecutors, district attorneys, or the police. Keep in mind that arrest and incarceration can result in loss of Pell Grants or federal benefits, impede employment and professional licenses, and create immigration consequences for non-citizens. Thankfully, most protests have legal collectives that can help advise you on the probable consequences and coordinate bail collection. Do your homework; knowledge is power.

Amber Ramanauskas is a public defender in New York City.

MARCH, SISTERS

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE PROTESTING

BY ELEONOR BOTOMAN

KEEP THIS HANDY list of guidelines in mind the next time you hit the streets.

Arm Yourself with Phone Numbers. Sharpie important digits on your arm. If you're arrested, you'll be able to contact your family or a lawyer (e.g. the National Lawyer's Guild Arrest Hotline, 212-679-6018) without a cellphone.

Dress Smart. Wear comfortable shoes. Layer long-sleeve T-shirts to reduce painful exposure to pepper spray or rubber bullets. If you're going to the front, consider wearing goggles and covering your nose and mouth with a kerchief.

Know Your Rights. Although the First Amendment protects our right to assemble, make sure the protest is on public property. Blocking entrances or private property may lead to arrests.

Pick Your Battles. If cops are yelling to get off the sidewalk, you should probably comply. You don't have to be sweet to officers, but don't antagonize them either.

Pack Properly. Bring a charged phone, ID, money, vital medicine (e.g. inhaler or EpiPen), bandages, and water. Put together a pepper-spray treatment kit: milk (in a spray bottle) relieves burning; Dawn dish soap and water (in a small bottle) helps clean chemicals off; and a small hand towel for patting (not rubbing!) affected areas.

March Effectively. Avoid creating gaps. Cops will cut in to an open space to break up the crowd. Be aware of your surroundings. Police will put up barricades to force twisted, convoluted routes that confuse marchers. Look for exit strategies.

Keep an Eye on Your Friends. Set up a buddy system and meeting points.

Document Safely. If you see police abuses, you have the right to film them. Back up your footage in case your phone is damaged. If you're unable to film, take down names and badge numbers.

Help Each Other. Everyone has the right to protest, including children, the elderly, and the disabled. Keep an eye out for those most vulnerable, including people of color and LGBTQIA folks.

Eleonor Botoman is a politically active sophomore at Barnard College.

THE MAKING OF A MOVEMENT

A Q&A WITH PATRISSE CULLORS, CO-FOUNDER OF BLACK LIVES MATTER

BY LISA BUTTERWORTH

PATRISSE CULLORS WAS only 17 when she staged her first protest, after getting harassed in a park for being with her girlfriend. In 2013, in the wake of George Zimmerman's acquittal for killing unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin, she, along with Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi, helped found Black Lives Matter, an activist movement that now has more than 40 chapters in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and the U.K. Here, she tells us how to actuate change, what women bring to organizing, and how to fight in the face of despair.

How much should intersectionality be considered when organizing?

It should be the basis on which we understand how we organize. We are not one-dimensional. I'm not gonna show up to a conference about race and just talk about being black. I am a black, queer woman who was raised poor, and how I organize, understand the world, and how the world understands me is because of all those things.

What tips would you give for making sure groups welcome people of different ethnicities, nationalities, and backgrounds?

There's no easy answer. On one hand, it's about the people who are organizing being educated enough about why it's important that we're all at the table. On the other hand, it's about people's intentions. In this moment, it's imperative that across race, gender, sexuality, and citizen status, we should be building together. Not to dissolve the specificities that come with being black or latinx, but to say we're up against a bigger problem. Our movements have to come together and figure out, *How do we ensure that Trump—and the team he's built—doesn't get another four years in office?*

What real change have you seen from your BLM work?

We've changed the culture. We've made it a popular conversation and that is so huge. People believed that the rise of a black presidency meant that we lived in a post-racial society; I couldn't disagree more. Black Lives Matter allowed for a new cultural phenomenon around what blackness is. Our movement has also put elected officials on notice and we've seen legislative change. But we've also seen a great rise in white nationalism. It's not a coincidence that a Trump would be able to develop at this time. Historically, whenever black people have said enough is enough, white nationalism has risen. We can't divorce history from this moment.

What are the most effective ways BLM has actuated change? Is it social media, organizing in the streets?

It's all of it. We need to use all tools right now. What a powerful tool social media is, but we also need to be door knocking, meeting our neighbors, having circles, talking, creating together. We need to be able to be responsive, not just on social media but also in the streets. I also think we need an inside/outside strategy. We need to build real political power, whether it's aligning ourselves with legislators we trust and believe, or taking some of our own folks and saying, "I think it's time for you to run for mayor, for State Assembly."

Do you think women bring something unique to community organizing?

Always. And I don't think it's because it's biological, in the sense that we're natural nurturers. But I do think because of our socialization and our relationship to patriarchy, our understanding of how to bring people together has everything to do with the team versus the I.

What advice do you have for women who want to take action post-election? Where can we start?

Honestly, anywhere. If you have a local Black Lives Matter chapter, join it. Do a Google search: *women's organizations in my city*. If they don't exist, start one. Start a meetup group that's able to really have a conversation about this current moment; talk about your feelings, process, and then join something that is about changing the current conditions that we live in.

What would you say to those who might feel overwhelmed by the amount of social change work that needs to be done?

Feel overwhelmed. It's overwhelming. And remind yourself that there are so many more people who want to see this place better off, who want to live in a world where black lives actually matter, where being Muslim doesn't designate you as terrorist, where your native lands are protected and free from corporations, where children can live their lives without being gunned down in the street. So many of us want to see that. Remind yourself that we can feel overwhelmed today, and then we gotta work tomorrow.

COME TOGETHER

A COMMUNITY ORGANIZING HOW-TO

BY MIKKI HALPIN

THERE'S A SAYING in community organizing that if you want to be an activist, walk out your front door, go to your neighbor's house, and start talking. It sounds simple, but that's basically it. Community organizing is some of the most hands-on, sustainable, results-oriented kind of work you can do to change the world, and you can totally do it. Here's how:

Define community any way you want to. Maybe for you, "community" literally is the people on your block who want to get composting collection started. Maybe it's a citywide group that wants to work to reopen ERs in neighborhoods that lack them. Maybe it's your friends on Twitter, or the people who respond to your Facebook appeal. Or a bunch of strangers who come together based on a shared interest and a great idea. Whoever you feel comfortable with and share inspiration and goals with is your community.

What's your big picture issue? Pick one thing, whether it's reproductive rights, food insecurity, immigrant safety, housing, war, water, environment, prison reform—choose something that speaks to you. You can go broad here.

Do your homework. Look into your issue, especially on the local level. What are the needs and challenges for success in that cause? Who is already doing good work? Talk to people. Go to some meetings and learn. What takes something big like "abortion" and turns it into a manageable issue to tackle?

Set a goal. Find one thing that could make a difference; don't decide on your own (see above). Does your local food pantry need an iPad to better track donations? Can you get the person in your state legislature who keeps introducing transphobic laws out of office? Is there an abortion clinic that needs escorts? Or a hospital in Syria that needs $40K to keep operating for one year?

Enlist others. This is the knocking on doors part! (You can also use email.) And this is when it's helpful to have a discrete goal. Asking someone to help you flyer for a fundraiser for 20 hospital beds or set up training for the local precinct to learn to deal with citizens who have mental health issues is a lot more likely to get a response than, "I want to do something about Aleppo." People want to do good things and they like to be involved in good things. You are doing them a favor. Let your passion ignite theirs.

Do your thing. It will be frustrating. Bands will flake on fundraisers. You will have to go to your local councilperson 20 times to be taken seriously. You will begin to hate everyone who stands in your way. Keep going. Persistence is how you turn impossibilities into possibilities.

Working within my community is the kind of activism that I find the most rewarding and sustainable. If you're new to "activism" as a thing, it's one of the best ways to get started.

Do another thing. In the course of your fund drive, escort program set up, legislative advocacy, or whatever you do, you'll see more ways and places you can help. Keep working on the local level but also look into ways you can make structural change on your issue. If you started out doing a pen pal program with juveniles in prison, maybe next you want to look at the way sentencing laws in your state are affecting juveniles, or advocate for guards in juvenile institutions to get better mental-health training.

For me, working within my community (which I define in different ways at different times) is the kind of activism that I find the most rewarding and sustainable. If you're new to "activism" as a thing, it's one of the best ways to get started. You can totally change the world—just walk out the door.

Mikki Halpin is the author of It's Your World: If You Don't Like It, Change It, *and runs the Action Now newsletter, tinyletter.com/actionnow.*

CALL OF DUTY

TAKE DIRECT POLITICAL ACTION BY SIMPLY PICKING UP THE PHONE

BY EMILY ELLSWORTH

SINCE NOVEMBER, ONE message has become clear: people don't want to wait for the next election to act, and social media activism isn't going to cut it. I worked for Congress from 2009 to 2014 in a state office. My primary role was to listen to constituents and make sure the representative got their messages. I learned that many people thought their tweets and Facebook posts had a more significant effect than they actually did. If you want your voice to be heard, you actually need to use your voice. Here's how to effectively call your elected official:

Gather names and numbers. Know who your federally elected officials are. You have two senators and one member of the House of Representatives. Find their phone numbers by typing in your address at callyourrep.co.

Stick to one message per call and one call per message. If using a script is helpful, create one with this formula: state your name and the city you live in, explain the one issue you are calling about and what you'd like your representative to take action on (use specific examples such as bill numbers), wait for a response from the staffer, and then explain why this issue affects you personally.

Be calm and polite. It's OK to be nervous. You don't need to make the phone call long for it to be effective.

If calling isn't an option, send a personal email or a letter. Make it as unique to you as possible so it will be read and properly recorded by a staffer. Keep it succinct and include what action you'd like to see from your representative.

The first call is the most uncomfortable. If you've never called your representative before, you might not know what to expect. As someone who took those calls for six years, I can assure you that most offices know that it's uncommon for people to call or contact their representative. They will be kind, take your message, and offer a statement from the representative if one is available. After you've made your first call, the next ones will be easier. Remember, the staff is there to listen to your message and make sure your elected officials listen as well.

Emily Ellsworth is a former Congressional staff member. Her ebook Call the Halls: Contacting Your Representative the Smart Way *(callthehallsguide.com) has even more info.*

SHOW THEM THE MONEY (OR YOUR TIME)

DONATE TO OR VOLUNTEER WITH THESE CRUCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Civil Liberties Union
(aclu.org) Working through litigation and lobbying, the ACLU was created "to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to every person in this country."

Center for Reproductive Rights
(reproductiverights.org) A legal advocacy group using Constitutional and human rights laws to advance reproductive freedom.

EarthJustice
(earthjustice.org) This environmental law agency fights for wildlife and land preservation, healthy communities, and clean energy.

Everytown for Gun Safety
(everytown.org) A non-profit advocating for common-sense gun laws.

International Refugee Assistance Project (refugeerights.org) A group working for the rights of refugees around the world.

The Movement for Black Lives
(policy.m4bl.org) A collective of more than 50 organizations, including Black Lives Matter, organizing around the needs of black communities.

National Immigration Law Center
(nilc.org) This L.A.-based organization is dedicated to defending and advancing the rights of low-income immigrants.

National LGBTQ Task Force
(thetaskforce.org) Founded in 1973, it's the oldest org in the U.S. promoting civil rights for gay and transgender communities.

Planned Parenthood
(plannedparenthood.org) The embattled number-one provider of sexual and reproductive healthcare in the U.S.

She Should Run
(sheshouldrun.org) A non-profit working to get more women into public service and elected positions of leadership.

Southern Poverty Law Center
(splcenter.org) A legal advocacy organization fighting for civil rights and against hate.

THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US

A BRIEF, INSPIRING LIST OF WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS THAT FORCED CHANGE

BY PATRICIA AFFRIOL

WOMEN HAVE BEEN shaking things up and creating real change all over the world for as long as the patriarchy's existed. It's a powerful thing when we put our minds together and speak out against oppression. Just look at these examples for proof and motivation.

Washerwoman Strike In 1881, thousands of black laundresses working in Atlanta, GA, went on strike for higher pay. It began as a small protest of 20 women and quickly grew to 2,000, thereby inspiring cooks, maids, and nurses to demand higher pay as well. The city caved, granting the women the wages they deserved.

Australian Pub Protest Women in Australia weren't allowed to drink in bars (the few pubs that accepted female patrons forced them to sit in a separate area and frequently charged them more). But in 1965, Merle Thornton and Rosalie Bogner marched into a pub and ordered a drink. When the barman denied them, the women chained themselves to the bar for the night, prompting a change in the law.

Liberian Sex Strike In 2003, after 14 years of violent civil war, women in Liberia decided they'd had enough. That's when Leymah Gbowee mobilized women to peacefully protest with sit-ins, public demonstrations, and... a sex strike, meaning they purposefully abstained from getting it on with their partners. Their actions inspired the warring parties to negotiate a peace deal and paved the way for the country's first female head of state, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Applebee's Lactation Sit-In It's illegal in Kentucky to ask a woman to cover up while breastfeeding, but that didn't stop an Applebee's manager from asking Brooke Ryan to put a blanket over her breasts while she was feeding her child. So in 2007, she organized a "Nurse-In," with hundreds of women breastfeeding uncovered at more than 30 locations of the restaurant chain throughout the country, causing Applebee's to immediately say that all nursing moms are welcome.

Polish Abortion Demonstrations Last year, Polish legislators proposed a law that would completely ban abortion, even in cases of rape and threat to the mother's life. In protest, on October 3, women across the country refused to go to work or do household chores, shutting down businesses, schools, and government offices for the day. Thousands of women dressed in black and marched in the streets, shocking politicians who immediately did an about-face and voted down the ban.

Iceland Wage Gap Strike Despite being an incredibly progressive country, Iceland still lags behind on equal pay. So on October 24th, 2016, women walked out of work at exactly 2:38 p.m. (when 72 percent of the workday was finished) to symbolize the amount women are paid in comparison to men. Although nothing concrete has been passed, the government has pledged to make closing the gap a top priority.

Patricia Affriol is an editorial intern at BUST *and a regular contributor to bust.com.*

SOUNDS OF THE REVOLUTION

CHANGE-MAKING MUSIC FOR FUELING THE FIGHT

BY B-SIDE BRUJAS

1. **"Viva La Raza"** - ZAPATA
2. **"Rat Race"** - RALFI PAGAN
3. **"Pa' Los Chicanos"** - PONCHO SANCHEZ
4. **"Get Involved"** - GEORGE SOULE
5. **"Stand Up and Be Counted"** - GHETTO KITTY
6. **"Power To The People"** - CURTIS MAYFIELD
7. **"Free At Last"** - LEE MOSES
8. **"Tell It Like It Is"** - S.O.U.L
9. **"Anacoana"** - CHEO FELICIANO
10. **"O-o-h Child"** - FIVE STAIRSTEPS
11. **"This Land is Your Land"** - SHARON JONES & THE DAP KINGS
12. **"The World (Is Going Up In Flames)"** - CHARLES BRADLEY

B-Side Brujas is an all-female-of-color vinyl DJ group based out of Oakland, CA, heavily influenced by soul, funk, old school, Latin, and Brazilian genres.

OUR BODIES, OUR CHOICE

THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL WAY WE CAN FIGHT FOR OUR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

BY AMELIA BONOW

IN EARLY DECEMBER 2016, Ohio lawmakers stealthily pushed two abortion bans through their legislative session. One, dubbed "The Heartbeat Bill," would've banned abortion at six weeks, before many women even know they're pregnant, with no exception for rape or incest. If not vetoed by Ohio governor John Kasich, it would've been the most extreme restriction in the country. Instead, Kasich approved a law that bans abortion at 20 weeks, regardless of fetal viability. In an interview with Al Jazeera, Ohio Representative Jim Buchy was asked the most innocuous gotcha question of all time: "What do you think makes a woman want to have an abortion?" Buchy paused. "I don't know," he answered. "It's a question I've never even thought about."

The most basic level of culture change occurs in conversations—online, on the subway, at your book club, in a bar.

Unwanted pregnancies happen—a lot—to every kind of woman: rich, poor, Democrat, Republican, devout, secular. And one in three women will have an abortion in her lifetime, for all sorts of reasons. Lawmakers are making decisions so fundamentally out of touch with the needs, values, and actual lives of their constituents in part because many anti-choice crusaders like Buchy have never thought about why women have abortions. Just as the concept of rape culture would seem outrageous to someone who doesn't think they know anyone who has been raped, banning abortion might seem fine to a person who doesn't think they know anyone who has had one. Banning abortion at 20 weeks probably seems reasonable if you've never had a conversation with someone who was forced to deliver a fetus with catastrophic abnormalities. Culture cannot see policies as inhumane if their human casualties are kept a secret.

Politically, we are locked into a rough ride for four, maybe eight years. In addition to fighting to cling to the legal protections of Roe v. Wade, it's time to double down on addressing the toxic cultural conditions that have landed us at the precipice of eradicating abortion rights. It's time to make our communities, our workplaces, and our families places where women can discuss their abortions and, in doing so, help those around them develop a more complex sense of compassion.

Making incremental changes in the way we discuss abortion is going to look different for everyone. It might simply mean telling your family members that you are pro-choice. It might mean that when abortion comes up with your co-workers, you take things out of the abstract by describing the ways that you've seen abortion help women live their best lives. It might mean you decide to talk about your own abortion in ways that have traditionally been deemed inappropriate, which is pretty much all of them.

With legal abortion on the chopping block for the first time in a generation, these suggestions might seem trivial and they certainly won't be sufficient. But the most basic level of culture change occurs in conversations—online, on the subway, at your book club, in a bar. And as a society, it seems that we only decide to grant full human rights to disenfranchised groups once we realize that *people like them* are simply the people that we know. It shouldn't be our job to teach people to listen, and framing disclosure as political imperative is problematic as hell. But finding ways to have a real conversation is the most reasonable place to start.

Amelia Bonow is the founder of Shout Your Abortion, a decentralized network of individuals talking about abortion and creating space for others to do the same.

MOTHER, MAY I?

WHEN A PROFESSIONAL DOMINATRIX DECIDES TO START A FAMILY, HER LIFE CHANGES IN WAYS SHE NEVER EXPECTED

BY YIN Q.
ILLUSTRATION BY MARIANNA TOMASELLI

MY HUSBAND KNEELS by my bedside, his nose to the floor with his hands stretched out in a yogic "Child's Pose." I enter the room to stand at the crown of his head and he moves to press his lips to my boots. I pull a soft leather hood over his face and Robert disappears. His body is the one I lie next to every night, but his identity has morphed—no longer the man who chides me over the grocery budget or the jolly father who throws his daughters over his shoulders. His face is a dark spot against the white bedroom walls as I instruct him to stand at the far end of the canopy bed. Quickly, I weave a web that binds him to the metal frame. My fingers pause by his chest, squeezing his nipples—those sensitive triggers that activate his groin. From the experiences I've had as a professional dominatrix, I've learned that the body can be taken to greater lengths of pain if the entrance is first through pleasure. For many people, the line between pleasure and pain is not clear—a deep tissue massage, a spicy Indian meal, the 17th mile of a marathon. For sadomasochists, that threshold is our limbo stick to lower, again and again, until our limit is reached.

I peruse a collection of instruments lain on the windowsill: a slim bamboo cane; a thick, deerskin flogger; a single-tail whip. I select the single tail, an elegant and exacting instrument. I am a sadist; I adore the tear of the skin, the pain that so effectively and visually trembles the flesh. Later, I will satisfy my sexual needs, gripping the welts as the slave's body presses over mine. Then suddenly, a baby starts to cry, a meowing muffled from behind two sets of closed doors and a hallway. The sound is faint and yet it hooks into my gut and swells my chest. It's time to breastfeed.

I chose to be a professional dominant in bondage, discipline, and sadomasochism (BDSM) 13 years ago as an extension of my personal curiosities. I remember buying my first crop at the N.Y.C. shop Leather Man. My high school girlfriend and I were celebrating at Gay Pride when I saw my first leather daddy in the window—a buff mannequin dressed in leather chaps and an officer's cap—demanding that I get on my knees and crawl into the store. I pulled Dee in, and suddenly, I was trembling in a shop that smelled of sex—primal and ecstatic. Black leather gear and heavy steel instruments hung in rows. The men raised their brows at us and turned away, but one sales person asked me if I needed help ("Sir, yes please, sir"). And that's how I found home.

That evening, I pulled out the crop and swung it at Dee's bottom. She, in turn, threw her boot at me as her form of playful objection. I didn't know about negotiations or safe

words then, but soon learned. I picked up books on BDSM and began to participate in formal classes taught by the leather community, adopting their code of "Safe, Sane, and Consensual." Upon completing my Barnard senior thesis on BDSM, I sought hands-on apprenticeship from the masters and madams of the craft, and embarked on a career as a professional dominatrix.

I chose this line of work neither to support a drug habit nor to make my way until a real job popped up. I worked in the sex industry with deliberation—it satisfied my personal interests and was a lucrative business. My roommate at the time questioned me. "You have a degree from a prestigious college, why are you limiting yourself to this kind of work?" But to me, this work felt important and worthwhile—I was helping others, like myself, explore their vulnerabilities. I encouraged clients to embrace their sexuality, to find pride in submission and strength in masochism, to transform shame into reclamation, all in a safe space. My roommate was coming home miserable from the menial duties and tedious social politics of her office job. So really, which one of us was actually the one limiting herself?

Professional BDSM work does not usually incorporate overt sexual activity. In fact, most professional dominatrixes adhere to a kind of sorority pledge that, while the client may satisfy themselves, the dominant lady is not to directly engage in the physical relief of the client's, ahem, tension. It's a funny dividing line in the sex industry, and there are always harsh whispers for the professionals who cross that line. I've always been safe in my corner, touting a solid reputation in the industry as a bondage aficionado and experienced sadist, but I shrug my shoulders at the theoretical dividing lines: escort, prostitute, porn star, stripper, erotic masseuse, dominatrix, whore.

Eventually, I created my own BDSM studio in the financial district of Manhattan. Located on the same street as a strip club, a sex shop, and a boxing gym, my private loft was a sanctuary for consensual sexual violence. Outfitted with custom suspension beams; a heavy, metal cage; and a designer bondage chair, the studio was aptly named "The Dojo." There, I conducted sessions where men, women, and couples explored their inner desires. I tied and teased, dressed men in panties and women in strap-ons, and caned the bodies of consenting adults. I was good at my job and I loved it.

Now for the inevitable, "But then...." Robert and I met at a piercing demonstration at Babeland, a sex toy store on the Lower East Side. I was assisting another domina as she taught a class on how to safely use needles in sensation play. Robert was the demo-bottom, the human pincushion. After the workshop, we went to a café and discovered that we had both just moved from San Francisco to New York. Our story unfolded like a kinky version of *When Harry Met Sally*, both of us dating other partners while confiding our failures and hopes to each other, until we fell in love. That love spawned the growth of a heartbeat and toes, and a storm of baby food and diapers quickly swept away the life I once knew.

During my first pregnancy, I tried to be a goddess Earth mother, but wasn't. There were magic moments, especially when I felt the first flutter of movement, but much of the time, I just felt big and unsuitable for a life amongst subway stairs and leather thigh-high boots.

I HAD ONCE ENJOYED THE CONTROL I HAD OVER MY HUSBAND—BOUND AND HELPLESS—BUT WITH A TRULY HELPLESS BABY IN MY CARE, I FOUND THAT TO BE A BURDEN.

After I gave birth, my days started to feel like a *Saturday Night Live* skit: the "Dommy Mommy." There were evenings I would trot from the cage to the crib, checking on each of my dependents. Power exchange had been upended. I had once enjoyed the control I had over my husband—bound and helpless—but with a truly helpless baby in my care, I found that former domination to be a burden. I didn't want my partner to be immobile, I wanted him to be changing diapers and helping with the two, four, and six a.m. feedings. Robert did all that, sure, but he's also a bondage fetishist. It was one of the reasons we got married: our sex lives fit. So once a week, he would need that fix, and I, with swollen breasts and depleted libido, felt what so many new mothers feel toward the partners they love: utter dispassion and resentment. These two pillars—motherhood and sexuality—were toppling over me. And along with babies come their accessories. Our Manhattan apartment could not accommodate the accumulation of sensorial stimulation toys for both children and adults: pacifiers and ball gags; swaddle blankets and straight jackets; cribs and cages. So, naturally, we moved to Brooklyn.

While I despise the Madonna/whore binary, there was something about becoming a mother that made my career uncomfortable. Not in an ethical way—I just no longer had the empathetic capacity to involve myself with the erotic needs of others. I was no longer curious or patient enough

to deal with my clients' desires. After I returned to the Dojo from maternity leave, while a client exhaled to prepare for my cane, my mind wandered from my subject's pain to what I should buy—kale or spinach?— for dinner. I was no longer in the game. It was time to move on.

I am not alone in my struggles with libido after motherhood, but I wonder if I felt the diminishment all the more drastically because it also drained my professional interest. Sexuality had always been a fluid thing in my life—an ever-present trickle of curiosity in childhood, a flood in my teens and 20s, then an ocean with high and low tides in my 30s. Pregnancy offered sudden spurts and dry spells, and early motherhood ushered in a prolonged period of stretch marks, sleeplessness, and low sex drive. My sexuality became introverted. My fingertips felt reserved for private encounters. I had grown a child inside my body. Now more than ever, it was a sacred space. And since Robert and I were financially secure enough to give up my income, I packed up my whips, wheeled the cage onto a moving truck, and receded from professional domination.

I left sex work only to face the reality that sex had become work. As a single woman, I had counseled married-with-kids couples on how to keep their sexual tension alive. As a mother, however, I realized that back then I knew nothing. But I did follow my own advice: I dressed in clothes that made me feel sexy (and still fit me); I selected mood music that wouldn't wake the baby; I took out my ropes and whips, which were now kept in a locked trunk, and role-played the sexy me until I really felt sexy. As the saying goes, "Fake it 'til you make it." I faked it for four years. Not the orgasm, but the feeling sexy part. Just as you can force a smile until your brain starts to register happiness, you can go through the motions of sex until the heat actually starts to rise. With the proper equipment, including my husband, I worked my body to orgasm without feeling sexy in my brain until a nanosecond before. When the climax was reached, that victory was a relief in so many ways. Sometimes, getting myself to orgasm felt like a lap around the track, something I needed to pump out to stay in sexual health. The release of oxytocin definitely calmed me afterward and the pulsations, though they were not as strong as my pre-motherhood orgasms (for years), were a lovely reminder that my body is for my pleasure.

When I left my BDSM career to be a swing-pusher, I found myself isolating behind a wall of the unsaid. While other stay-at-home parents could openly lament the professional identities they had passed off, I had four scarlet letters attached to my resume: BDSM. Pre-children, I was adamantly out to my social circle. I felt a duty to challenge the mainstream perceptions of sex workers and kinksters, but as a new mother, I hesitated to risk scrutiny of my children. I hesitated and hesitated until the hesitation felt like shame, the same kind of shame I had spent my career trying to help clients cast aside. I became accustomed to muttering broad lies about my past career under the pretense of protecting my children.

Parents *should* protect their children—from sugary cereals and violent video games. Parents should protect their children from busy streets, drugs, sharp knives, and other hard realities. We even need to protect them from ourselves sometimes—our anger and frustrations, our anxieties, and our sex. But as they grow, our protection turns into education. We teach them to handle sharp knives, to choose their own foods. They should learn what our anxieties are based on, that anger is human and can be a useful emotion. Our sexual activities should never be in front of their eyes, but neither should our sexual identities be hidden.

My five-year-old recently found my vibrator when I left it on the nightstand. She turned it on and was delighted by the purple "pocket rocket" as it sputtered across the floor. When she asked me what it was for, I pressed it behind her shoulders and told her it was for massaging muscles. She opened her mouth and let out a choppy breathed "a-a-a-ah-hh" and didn't need any more explanation. Perhaps when she starts puberty, I'll buy her one for her own private explorations. I suspect that another more formidable instrument will be found one day—probably from her snooping rather than my carelessness—a whip, perhaps, or Robert's heavy metal cuffs. I don't fear that conversation in the least.

I do, however, fear the day that someone—some playground bully or perhaps even a vindictive adult—will tell my daughters that their mother is a whore. I fear the hurt and confusion it will cause. Explaining sex work to my daughters might be more complicated, but perhaps in the next 10 years, views on sexual commerce will change. Sex work activists are already progressing their cause in social justice and health organizations, re-claiming the word "whore." It's a word with a big, open sound; a word that could swallow one's identity. I write the word now; I say it out loud, appropriate it, so I'll be ready to face it again with confidence. **B**

WHEN I LEFT MY BDSM CAREER TO BE A SWING-PUSHER, I FOUND MYSELF ISOLATING BEHIND A WALL OF THE UNSAID.

The Road Ahead

Writer and activist **bell hooks** helps us process the post-election state of feminism, and tells us how to move forward in the era of Trump

By Lux Alptraum // Photos by Jesse Fox

2016 **WAS SUPPOSED** to be a banner year for women; the year female voters helped Hillary Clinton finally break through that "highest, hardest glass ceiling" to reach the Oval Office. Instead, Americans woke up on November 9 to discover that Donald Trump, a ruthless personification of the patriarchy, had been elected president. As many disillusioned feminists tried to make sense of what it all meant, *BUST* reached out to one of the pioneering voices of intersectional feminism, and one of the movement's most influential thinkers: author and activist bell hooks. For more than three decades, hooks has examined the overlap between racism, classism, and sexism, publishing more than 30 books on the topic (including *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism* and *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*). She also founded the bell hooks Institute at Kentucky's Berea College, which works to better understand "the ways systems of exploitation and oppression intersect." Here, we chat with hooks about the rise of Trump, the problem with benevolent patriarchs, and where we go from here.

It's hard not to feel like Trump's election is a huge defeat, a sign that America is eschewing feminism for someone who openly rejects women's bodily autonomy and the idea that women have value outside of their appearances.
It's absolutely evident that so much of the anti-Hillary Clinton campaign was rooted in misogyny and woman hating, and that in many ways she became a symbolic representation of feminism. So many patriarchal men, especially white men, really felt like feminism had taken something from them. And I think for those groups of people, Hillary Clinton losing was a sense of victory, like they were getting some patriarchal power back. But patriarchy has no gender. There were many, many women who did not support Hillary Clinton or vote for her. We can't see this as being about one, individual, male misogynist and hater, but the whole structure of our society. Masses of people really hate and fear empowered women.

It feels like we had a false idea of the progress women had made, and this is a reminder that there's so much work to do.
Exactly. I felt very strongly that there's been a feminist backlash going on for some time. Why are we shocked? I wasn't shocked. Patriarchy has not been deeply challenged enough and changed. It was just about patriarchy getting a publicly sanctioned voice and silencing a feminist voice, as if there was this war that was going on. And then patriarchy could feel like, "We are going to win this war."

It's funny because one of my best women's studies colleagues here at Berea would always be frustrated with me because I would tell her that I felt very strongly that sexism and misogyny actually posed a greater threat to black women and all women than racism. She just thought, "Well, that's ridiculous." She's black. The night of the election she called me and was like, "You've been right all along." The sexism is so deeply, deeply embedded. If you think about public discourses on race in this past year, where are the big public discourses on feminism? They don't exist.

So many progressive organizations primarily hire white men. It wasn't lost on me that Bernie Sanders' senior staff was primarily white men.
Bernie Sanders isn't saying anything about feminist politics. He's not integrating any kind of feminist poli-

"I felt very strongly that there's been a feminist backlash going on for some time. Why are we shocked? I wasn't shocked."

bell hooks at the bell hooks Institute in Berea, KY

tics into his vision. I think the important thing is that we see this as the continuum of patriarchal power reasserting itself, and not as though Trump invented it or makes it possible—because it has been there. It's been there, in Hillary Clinton's husband and all of these men—except that Hillary Clinton's husband and Barack Obama became the benevolent patriarchs. They're the patriarchal men we can love.

Early on, when Barack Obama became president, people were asking him, "Well, is Michelle Obama going to influence you, is she going to come to meetings?" I kept waiting for him to say, "She's as much a citizen as anybody else and she has a right to her opinions and thoughts." Instead, he went along with the idea that no, she will be doing her wifely, motherly duties. And not, yes, this is an amazingly smart and analytical woman who will of course have a voice that's heard.

Even though so many people were deeply moved by Michelle's speech supporting Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire, even that speech still contained this heteronormative mom-ism idea. As though sexism outrages us because it offends our sense of decency, and not that it offends our sense of justice, of what women and girls deserve. We saw that happening again and again, this focus on a patriarchal mom-ism.

Even when there's not misogyny, there's so much benevolent sexism—in the response to the whole "grab her by the pussy" thing, men expressed their outrage over the incident by saying things like, "That could have been our wives and daughters he was talking about." To me, that's just as problematic as the sexual objectification they were denouncing.
And it reinforced a heteronormative vision of decency, not a powerful, passionate argument for justice and for where we stand as people who are advocates of feminist politics. Which is not about whether you're a mom or not, it's about the whole question of whether we can exist without being seen as second-class citizens. This heteronormative vision of parenthood is part of that.

Where do we go from here? What advice do you have for feminists who want to smash the patriarchy?
I think that we have to restore feminism as a political movement. The challenge to patriarchy is political, and not a lifestyle or identity. It's as if we have to return to very basic education for critical consciousness, around what visionary feminist politics really is about. And let's face it: visionary feminist politics is not about having a woman president. It's about having a person of any gender who understands deeply and fully the need for there to be respect for the embodied presence of males and females, without subordination. **B**

"Just like the men!" Cartoon. New-York Tribune, ***March 1, 1913***

IMAGE: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

EQUAL MEANS EQUAL

When African-American women demanded the right to vote, they faced resistance from racists, from sexists, and even from other suffragists

BY SABRINA FORD

AMERICA'S RECENT PRESIDENTIAL election was a painful one for many of us. But amid all the traumatic sound bites, one of the few highlights was watching women in their late 90s and older—born before the 19th amendment granted women the right to vote—gleefully casting their votes for a female president for the first time.

Of course, Hillary Clinton's historic nomination and campaign was the perfect excuse to revisit the long and difficult fight for women's voting rights. Celebrating American suffragists was a running theme during the election. And in the days leading up to November 8, the hashtag #WearWhiteToVote was trending on Twitter as many women shared plans to pay tribute to the suffragists by wearing all white to the polls.

But on the eve of the election, best-selling author and blogger Luvvie Ajayi voiced what so many black women feel when the suffragists are spoken about with reverence. "I'm surely not wearing white tomorrow," Ajayi tweeted, calling the suffragists "the epitome of white feminism." Journalist Britni Danielle replied to the trending topic by posting, "If anything, I'll wear red, black, and green, for the BLACK suffragists who were pushed out but worked anyway."

The complicated reality of the women's suffrage movement is that the very women who are heroes to white women for securing their right to vote often excluded black women from participating in the movement, and worse, even made the argument for their right to vote by exerting their superiority over African Americans. Although many prominent white suffragists had publicly opposed slavery and supported equal rights for African Americans, black women were often barred from joining women's rights organizations or marginalized within those organizations. The divide between the movements for equality for white women and equality for black women was established early and, unfortunately, remains today. So while the nomination of Hillary Clinton was historic for all women, the celebration of the suffragists is, for women of color, a painful reminder that the mainstream women's movement in America has a long history of being focused mostly on the needs and desires of middle-class and well-to-do white women.

In July 1848, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who'd both been active in the abolitionist movement to end slavery, held the first conference for women's rights in Seneca Falls, New York. While there were no black women in attendance, former slave and famous abolitionist Frederick Douglass was invited to speak. Douglass expressed his gratitude for Mott and Stanton's support of abolition and pledged his support to the women's suffrage movement. Douglass remained active in the suffrage movement for years, forming a friendship and close working relationship with suffragist Susan B. Anthony.

Ida B. Wells-Barnett

But things got ugly with the proposal of the 15th Amendment, in 1869, which stated that no one could be denied the right to vote on the basis of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." Suffragists fought against the 15th Amendment because it did not seek to remedy the denial of voting rights based on gender. Anthony famously said, "I will cut off this right arm of mine before I will ever work or demand the ballot for the Negro and not the woman." But abolitionists and Republicans were intent on prioritizing black men's suffrage over that of women. Stanton, Anthony, and other prominent suffragists responded to this sexism by adopting anti-black arguments for women's suffrage and courting the support of racists who opposed black men's right to vote. Arguing that white women should be granted the vote in order to counteract the votes of newly enfranchised black men and the growing number of immigrants, Stanton wrote, "The best interests of the nation demand that we outweigh this incoming pauperism, ignorance, and degradation with the wealth, education, and refinement of the women of the republic."

This rhetoric was particularly troubling to black suffragists like Mary Church Terrell and Ida B. Wells-Barnett, the latter of whom first came to prominence as an activist against the common and horrific practice of the lynching of African Americans. Wells-Barnett, who in her autobiography, *Crusade for Justice*, called Susan B. Anthony a "dear friend," recalled a conversation she'd had with Anthony about Frederick Douglass' participation in the suffrage movement. Anthony told Wells that when her suffrage organization went to Atlanta, she asked Douglass not to attend because, "I did not want to subject him to humiliation, and I did not want anything to get in the way of bringing the Southern white women into our suffrage association, now that their interest had been awakened." In other words, she didn't want to upset racist white Southerners who may have been open to the idea of white women voting, but would have balked at the sight of Douglass, a former slave.

According to Wells-Barnett, Anthony also told her that she had refused some black suffragists' requests for assistance for the same reasons, telling her, "When a group of colored women came and asked that I come to them and aid them in forming a branch of the suffrage association among the colored women, I declined to do so, on the ground of that same expediency."

But while their white counterparts used racism to argue for the importance of women's suffrage, some black suffragists also felt it was imperitive that, if black men were to be granted the right to vote, women must be given that right as well. For these women, many of whom had until recently been the property of white men, living in a society where their husbands had the vote and they did not was tantamount to another form of slavery. Black abolitionist and suffragist Sojourner Truth addressed these concerns specifically when she spoke in New York City at an 1867 convention of the American Equal Rights Association (AERA), the suffrage organization presided over by Lucretia Mott. "I feel that I have the right to have just as much as a man," she told the crowd. "There is a great stir about colored men getting their rights, but not a word about the colored women; and if colored men get their rights, and not colored women theirs, the colored men will be masters over the women, and it will be just as bad as it was before."

> "I will cut off this right arm of mine before I will ever work or demand the ballot for the Negro and not the woman."
>
> *Susan B. Anthony, 1869*

Anthony and Stanton further distanced themselves from black suffragists when they co-founded *The Revolution*—a newspaper focused on women's rights—with funding provided by Democrat and pro-slavery businessman George Train. Train actively campaigned against enfranchising freed black men, announcing, during an 1867 women's rights speaking tour, "Woman first, and negro last, is my programme."

There were, however, a good number of white suffragists who rejected the anti-black attitudes of many of their peers. Mott broke with Anthony and Stanton over their opposition to the 15th Amendment, and resigned from her position as President of the AERA. Born into a Quaker family, Mott

PHOTO: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

was also a minister who had helped organize the first Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women. Nevetheless, her split from Anthony and Stanton was not an easy one. "Altho' they make some mistakes," she said of the pair when it seemed a schism in the movement was imminent, "I can't bear to have them ignored in any way." For activist Lucy Stone, another leader in the suffrage movement, the pairs' association with Train was completely unacceptable. "She stayed late and talked much against Train and Anthony," Mott wrote, regarding a visit she'd had from Stone. "No chance of reunion."

As a result, in 1869, more than 20 years after its first meeting in Seneca Falls, the women's suffrage movement finally split into multiple factions. The National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA), created by Anthony and Stanton, actively opposed the 15th Amendment because it excluded women. Although Mott supported suffrage for all regardless of color or sex as president of the American Equal Rights Association, she was also an active member of the NWSA. Critical of the NWSA's divisive agenda, Stone—along with Henry Blackwell, Julia Ward Howe, Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, and others—founded the American Women Suffrage Association (AWSA), which supported ratifying the 15th Amendment even if it meant women would have to wait before they could win the right to vote. "I thank God for that 15th Amendment," Stone stated, "and I hope that it will be adopted in every state." In contrast to the all-female and all-white membership of the NWSA, the AWSA made "no distinctions because of race," and "no distinctions because of sex," and, as a result, counted people of color and men among its membership. Stone—who was such a badass she kept her maiden name and formally rejected laws making her a subordinate when she married in 1855—was both an outspoken suffragist and abolitionist. A radical among her fellow organizers, Stone believed in freedom for African-Americans by any means necessary, stating, "I do not know what bloodshed may come by it. All I do know is, that we have no right to keep a Union with slaveholders. Slavery shall be abolished, or the Union shall be dissolved."

> "If colored men get their rights, and not colored women theirs, the colored men will be masters over the women, and it will be just as bad as it was before."
>
> *Sojourner Truth, 1867*

As passionate as some white suffragists were about progressing the cause for all women, the task still fell to women of color to organize and empower the black community for the advancement of their own interests. Bi-racial journalist, suffragist, abolitionist, and AWSA co-founder Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin worked alongside Stone and Howe in Boston before branching off into endeavors more specifically geared toward women of color. In 1890, St. Pierre Ruffin founded a monthly journal called *The Woman's Era*, the nation's first newspaper published by and for African-American women, and her freelance journalism spread the message of suffrage outside the movement as well. In a 1915 article titled "Trust The Women!," which she penned for the NAACP magazine *The Crisis*, St. Pierre Ruffin wrote, "Many colored men doubt the wisdom of women's suffrage because they fear that it will increase the number of our political enemies.... [But] we are justified in believing that the success of this movement for equality of the sexes means more progress toward equality of the races."

Alongside her daughter, St. Pierre Ruffin also organized an advocacy group for women of color in 1894 called the Women's Era Club. In 1896, they merged with the Colored Women's League of Washington, D.C., and the National Federation of Afro-American Women to become the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC). Dedicated to "raising to the highest plane the home life, moral standards, and civic life of our race," the NACWC also claimed as one of their core objectives, "To secure and use our influence for the enforcement of civil and political rights for African Americans and all citizens." But when St. Pierre Ruffin tried to take her group

Sojourner Truth

PHOTO: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

to a conference being held by the General Federation of Women's Clubs in Milwaukee in 1900, the executive committee of the conference voted to rescind their invitation when it was discovered that the delegation was black. The situation was covered by the national press and was referred to as "The Ruffin Incident." In the wake of their exclusion, the Women's Era Club released an official statement denouncing the committee's decision while questioning whether women who would stoop so low could actually be trusted with voting privileges. It read in part: "Shall women, asking for suffrage and a large participation in public life, endorse a ruling which, as a specimen of bossism, could not be overmatched by the lowest political gathering in the country?.... We regret to see the standard lowered, the higher ideals repudiated, and the power of the club work diminished by any declaration that it is the cause of white women for which it stands, and not the cause of womankind."

In the meantime, the NWSA and the AWSA had overcome their differences in favor of a more centralized movement and, in 1890, merged to become the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). At the time of their formation, the group had 7,000 members, but their ranks steadily increased to 2 million, making NAWSA the largest voluntary organization in the nation. Positioning themselves as a more progressive organization than the divisive NWSA, NAWSA invited civil rights activist and suffragist Mary Church Terrell to speak on "The Progress of Colored Women," at their 1898 meeting in Washington D.C. "Consider if you will, the almost insurmountable obstacles which have confronted colored women in their efforts to educate and cultivate themselves since their emancipation," she told the assembled crowd. "I dare assert, not boastfully, but with pardonable pride, I hope, that the progress they have made and the work they have accomplished, will bear a favorable comparison at least with that of their more fortunate sisters, from whom the opportunity of acquiring knowledge and the means of self-culture have never been entirely withheld. For, not only are colored women with ambition and aspiration handicapped on account of their sex, but they are everywhere baffled and mocked on account of their race. Desperately and continuously they are forced to fight that opposition, born of a cruel, unreasonable prejudice which neither their merit nor their necessity seems able to subdue. Not only because they are women, but because they are colored women, are discouragement and disappointment meeting them at every turn."

Mary Church Terrell

Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin

Despite this gesture of inclusivity, however, NAWSA revived the movement's earlier penchant for white supremacy when they organized a segregated March for Women's Suffrage in Washington, D.C., in 1913. Spearheaded by Alice Paul, the march marked the first public appearance of the black Delta Sigma Theta sorority, founded at Howard University that same year. But members of the sorority, and other black women, were asked by Paul to march at the very back of the parade because some white suffragists refused to march alongside women of color. Wells-Barnett, already a prominent figure by then in the Chicago suffragist movement, staunchly rejected this notion, and replied that she "refused to take part unless I can march under the Illinois banner." Ultimately, she did end up marching alongside the white feminists from her home state. According to some accounts, she accomplished this by hiding in a crowd of spectators before jumping into the white segment of the procession mid-parade.

That same year, Wells-Barnett organized the Alpha Suffrage Club in Chicago, believed to be the first black women's suffrage organization. The club campaigned tirelessly not only to secure the right to vote, but also to elect local candidates of color and to put an end to lynching. They played a significant role in the passing of the Illinois Presidential and Municipal Suffrage Bill in 1913, which allowed all women in the state to vote

PHOTO: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS (TERRELL)

Colored Women Voters League. Georgia, circa 1920

> "Not only because they are women, but because they are colored women, are discouragement and disappointment meeting them at every turn."
>
> *Mary Church Terrell, 1898*

for Presidential electors and for some local officials. But even in races where they had not yet been granted the vote—as was the case with Illinois circuit court judges—they educated themselves on the candidates because, as they told the press in an official statement, they still felt it was their duty to "use their influence to aid in selecting good judges," usually through their husbands' votes.

After the 1920 ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave all American women the right to vote, the struggle for equal rights in other aspects of society transformed the suffrage movement into the feminist movement. And in the wake of this transition, predominantly white women's organizations continued to take center stage as the second-wave feminists fought for women's equality in the workplace and the right to choose in the '60s, and for the Equal Rights Amendment in the '70s. But that doesn't mean women of color dropped out of the movement or ever stopped struggling to be considered equal—both by society at large and by white feminists.

Activist and author Audre Lorde eloquently gave voice to this struggle in 1979, while addressing a room full of second-wave feminists at the Second Sex Conference in New York. In a speech that was later printed as "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House," she declared, "Women of today are still being called upon to stretch across the gap of male ignorance and to educate men as to our existence and our needs. This is an old and primary tool of all oppressors to keep the oppressed occupied with the master's concerns. Now we hear that it is the task of women of color to educate white women—in the face of tremendous resistance—as to our existence, our differences, our relative roles in our joint survival. This is a diversion of energies and a tragic repetition of racist patriarchal thought." **B**

PHOTO: USED WITH PERMISSION OF THE SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE

GUCCI DRESS; A-MORIR SUNGLASSES.

L.A. WOMAN

Effortlessly glam garments modeled by rock icon Kim Gordon

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANNABEL MEHRAN // STYLED BY TURNER

MAKEUP BY KRISTIN HILTON // HAIR BY BRIAN FISHER

MILA ZOVKO SWEATER; VINTAGE SKIRT; RACHEL COMEY SHOES; SUNGLASSES, KIM'S OWN.

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EQUIPMENT BUTTON-DOWN SHIRT; AMERICAN APPAREL TURTLENECK; EMILIO CAVALLINI HOSIERY.

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ALPHA INDUSTRIES BOMBER WITH AÏDA RUILOVA SLOGAN PRINTED BY INK & THREAD LA. CHECK OUT KIM'S BAND BODY/HEAD, AND HER NEW SINGLE "MURDERED OUT."

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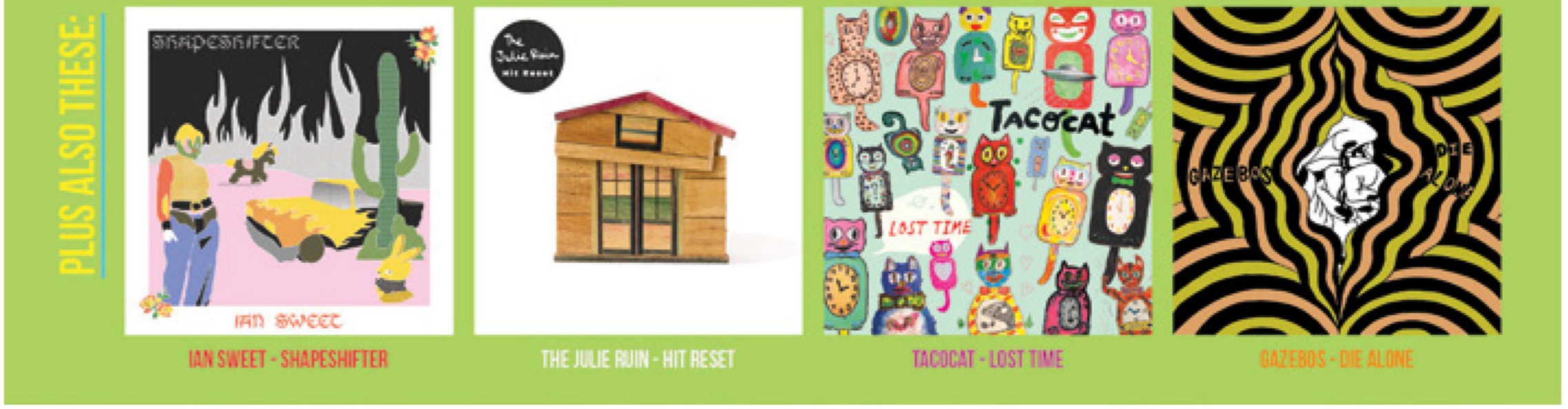
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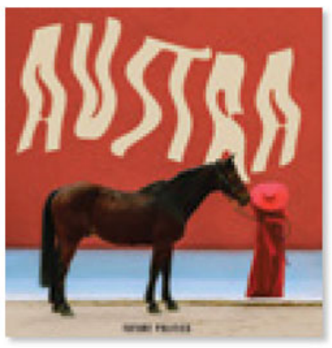
fringepdx.com
HAIR Rosie Sumstad
MODELS Janine Lidell & Jessica Wolf

STAFF PICK

CRYSTAL FAIRY
Crystal Fairy
(Ipecac Recordings)

THEY'RE CALLED "SUPERGROUPS" for a reason, and Crystal Fairy has certainly earned the title, with the Melvins' Buzz Osborne and Dale Crover on guitar and drums, Omar Rodriguez-Lopez of the Mars Volta on bass, and Le Butcherettes' Teri Gender Bender delivering the keys and her fiendish, wild vox. Their debut record is a banger from start to finish. Sludgy songs like "Drugs on the Bus" and "Sweet Self" are riff-centric and heavy, and are balanced by faster, wilder tracks like "Bent Teeth" and "Chiseler." The end result is a well-rounded, weirdo rock collection that will have listeners pining for more. –EMILIE VON UNWERTH



AUSTRA
Future Politics
(Domino)

When you think about Earth's impending doom, "joyful" isn't the word that comes to mind. But it's fitting for Austra's *Future Politics*, an uplifting album about how humanity could change for the better to prevent the apocalypse. Despite the heavy subject matter, the Toronto-based dream-pop band sounds happier than ever here, if somewhat pared down. The sparse instrumentation allows frontwoman Katie Stelmanis' operatic voice to shine as the formidable weapon it is, especially on the title track and "I Love You More Than You Love Yourself." If this is what the end of days sounds like, it can't be that bad. –ELIZA C. THOMPSON

BLAK EMOJI
Intro EP
(Self-Released)

In a time when unlikely fusions of musical genres abound, Blak Emoji (born Kelsey Warren) has tapped into something new. The New York City mainstay—a multi-instrumentalist, songwriter, and studio hired gun—shows off a mastery of diverse talents on his debut EP, *Intro*. Smokey Seal-style vocals meet industrial rock on "Sapiosexual" (Warren cites NIN as a major influence), funky synths appear on "Velvet Ropes & Dive Bars," and there's lots of powerful electric guitar throughout, calling to mind a grittier Lenny Kravitz. With only five songs, *Intro* is short but dense with talent; Blak Emoji deserves a high-five (or are they prayer hands?). –LIZ GALVAO

PHOTO: DAVID GOLDMAN

BOOB RATINGS | OMG AMAZING | DAMN GOOD | JUST OK | COULD BE WORSE | DON'T BOTHER

CHAVEZ
Cockfighters EP
(Matador Records)

New York alt-rockers Chavez rose to popularity during the math-rock and post-rock heyday of the mid-'90s. With contemporaries like Shipping News and Rodan, they played noisy, angular, guitar-based rock, often with unconventional and almost jazzy song structures. *Cockfighters*, Chavez's first release in almost 10 years, finds the band in familiar form, and though it's concise, fans will not be disappointed. "Blank in the Blaze" is a particular stand out, segueing from a subdued intro into a Jawbox-style melody with deliciously loud, crunchy guitars. Chavez's new EP makes a compelling case for an alt-rock renaissance. —KRYSTLE MILLER

ALLISON CRUTCHFIELD
Tourist In This Town
(Merge Records)

Allison Crutchfield's debut solo album, *Tourist In This Town*, hasn't come a moment too soon. The Alabaman singer/songwriter (best known for her collaborations with her twin sister Katie, aka Waxahatchee), is fierce, raw, and above all else, real. Crutchfield uses a fusion of folk-rock and synth-pop to tell a story of self-reflection, pain, and growth. Songs like "Dean's Room" and "The Marriage" are a gut-punch of emotion, while "Sightseeing" has strands of earnest lyrics like, "I can't enjoy Paris/Because I can't get away from you." *Town* casts a golden light on a time that feels so dark. —CLAIRE MCKINZIE

DIRTY PROJECTORS
Dirty Projectors
(Domino)

As a band, Dirty Projectors are in a constant state of experimentation. Over the course of the 14 years they've been active, David Longstreth's musical project has been through many different band line-ups, musical styles, and creative directions. Their new self-titled album—their eighth full-length release—continues the experiment. Musical misdirections ("Winner Take Nothing"), surreal harmonies ("Work Together"), and otherworldly electronic soundscapes ("Ascent Through the Clouds") make up this engaging, if a bit inaccessible, album. Overall, *Dirty Projectors* feels like a look forward for the band. It's futuristic, pushes the boundaries of song structure, and is full of experimentation. —LIZ GALVAO

DUDE YORK
Sincerely
(Hardly Art Records)

Dude York's *Sincerely* packs a sugary punch. On their new album, the Seattle-based rock trio provides hard-hitting drums and face-melting riffs (especially on "Paralyzed"), but they never stray far from a pop base. "Something in the Way" and "Life Worth Living" both have choruses that are begging for a singalong. And bassist Claire England makes her welcome debut as a lead vocalist for Dude York on this album. "I might be wrong but at least I'm sure that you're not right," she sings on "Tonight." It's an album highlight that perfectly captures the sweet, punky sound that's uniquely Dude York.
—KATHRYN HENSCH

HEAVY ROTATION

THE FLAMING LIPS
Oczy Mlody
(Warner Bros. Records)

Not only are the Flaming Lips back, but their new album is also full of the moody and mischievous melodic tendencies that made us fall in love with them. With whirring synths and droning distortion, *Oczy Mlody* experiments with inventive electro-pop and avant-garde psych-rock. On "How," Wayne Coyne's softly warbling vocals give way to a fuzzed-out, bass-driven chorus. Miley Cyrus lends vocals to "We a Family," a dreamy duet that closes the album with the sonic equivalent of a group hug. With *Oczy Mlody*, we can thank our lucky stars that the Lips are as weird as ever. —CINDY YOGMAS

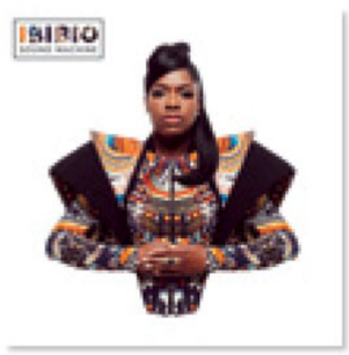
PHOTO: GEORGE SALISBURY

SALLIE FORD
Soul Sick
(Vanguard Records)

If you're feeling nostalgic for rock 'n' roll from a sunnier era, then you're going to love Sallie Ford's latest album, *Soul Sick*. The Portland-based singer/songwriter's newest release, her first as a solo artist, is a collection of upbeat, confessional, '60s-inspired tracks chronicling her battles with anxiety, insecurity, and depression. "Loneliness is Power" is full of fuzzy surf guitars, while "Unraveling" is a modern doo-wop ballad that exposes both Ford's vulnerable side, and her musical talents. *Soul Sick* is a triumphant record, one that will hopefully inspire more performers to unveil their personal challenges. –STEPHANIE NOLASCO

JESCA HOOP
Memories Are Now
(Sub Pop Records)

On her seventh studio album, singer/songwriter Jesca Hoop follows in the footsteps of early 2000s experimental folk artists like Devendra Banhart and Cat Power. *Memories Are Now* is built with layered vocals above a sparse background of rhythmic guitar loops. In an interesting juxtaposition, Hoop uses old-fashioned close harmonies to convey modern lyrics with an emotional twist ("You say it's impossible, but your dumb computer says no"). Many of these songs—"Unsaid" and "Cut Connection" in particular—are slow-burners that build to dramatic conclusions, so a bit of patience is required to appreciate this album. It's worth the wait. –SARAH C. JONES



IBIBIO SOUND MACHINE
Uyai
(Merge Records)

On their new album, *Uyai*, Ibibio Sound Machine marries African rhythms with electronic melodies, and the end result is quite a harmonious pairing. It's fitting that the record's title means "beauty" in the Ibibio language. Using aspects of West African funk, disco, modern post-punk, and electro, the London-based band puts forth a unique—and unexpectedly cohesive—sound that incorporates groovy basslines, '80s-inspired synths, and a DIY energy. Not only is the album lively and engaging, but its title also refers to the strength and free spirit of women. *Uyai* is a much-needed reminder of female empowerment, especially for post-election America. –ALEXA TIETJEN

HEAVY ROTATION

VALERIE JUNE
The Order Of Time
(Concord Records)

Valerie June's sophomore album showcases her intoxicatingly twangy vocals against an eclectic musical backdrop. Pedal steel, ukulele, organ, and backing vocals by her family are all in play, and there are moments of classic blues balladry ("Slip Slide On By"), modern folk-rock ("Astral Plane"), and traditional rootsy Americana ("Man Done Wrong"). But June's songwriting moves beyond classification and toward a timeless, inimitable sound, one she's called "organic moonshine roots music." Closer "Got Soul," exemplifies this best, starting in the style of blues-based gospel, blending into joyous horns and fiddle, then fading out with an a cappella refrain. It shines, just like June. –CINDY YOGMAS

NIKKI LANE
Highway Queen
(New West Records)

As Nikki Lane howls "Ohhhhh yippee-ki-yay" on album opener "700,000 Rednecks" for her third album, *Highway Queen*, the sentiment could seem cliché, conjuring tired images of bloated cowboys and Wild West stereotypes. But instead, the Nashville-based singer/songwriter's music is an homage to her country roots that is both nostalgic and fresh. Evoking Miranda Lambert, Neko Case, and Wanda Jackson, Lane's sound manages to be both classic and contemporary. Tracks like "Big Mouth" and "Highway Queen" are injected with infectious, rough-around-the-edges pop. By the time album closer "Forever Lasts Forever" arrives, even the staunchest country skeptic will be converted. –MELYNDA FULLER

PHOTO: DANNY CLINCH

LILAH LARSON
Pentimento

(Self-Released)

Pour yourself a stiff drink and listen to Lilah Larson pour out her heart. Her debut album, *Pentimento*, tells a conflicted love story that starts at the pit of despair with the dirge "Dear Mountain, Love Valley" and ends with the wistful strummer "Come Home." That passionate push and pull is heard throughout, with Larson admitting she doesn't mind being her lover's second choice on "Someone Else," only to realize she's selling herself short on the Dylan-style "Oh Inertia." But it's the wise-beyond-her-years "Dink's Song" that will have you finally forgetting that (wrong) one that got away—likely with help from another round. –SHANNON CARLIN

LAURA MARLING
Semper Femina

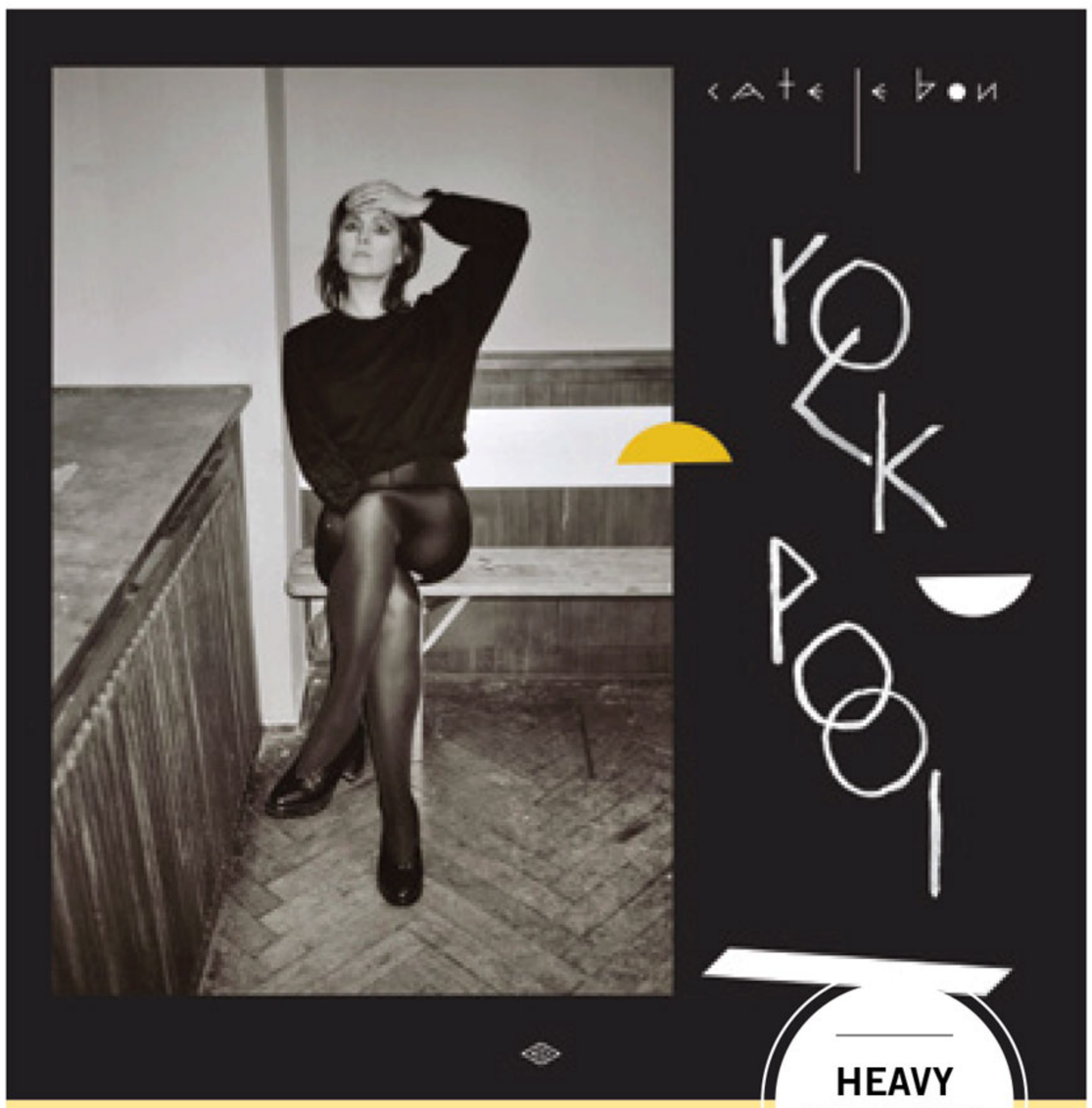
(More Alarming Records via Kobalt Music Recordings)

With every record, Laura Marling's singularity as an artist grows more distinct: she's not "trying something new," but instead reveals what she's already mastered. With *Semper Femina*, the old-soul 26-year-old folk musician has grown more concerned with the complexity of both womanhood and songwriting. Without taking direct cues, the dramatic sonic landscape of "Soothing" is evocative of Bowie's dark surrealism and Kate Bush's fantastical intimacy. Yet Marling's words remain rooted in folk tradition, as in "Next Time," an exquisite, agonizing ballad: "I can no longer close my eyes while the world around me dies/At the hands of folks like me." –MAURA HEHIR

TIFT MERRITT
Stitch Of The World

(Yep Roc Records)

Tift Merritt has always been equal parts story-weaver and songwriter, so it makes sense that *Stitch of the World* resonates like a book you just cannot put down. The singer's sixth studio album unwinds in vignettes, all braided through Merritt's loose blues and raw country soul: the opening scene kiss-off ("Dusty Old Man"), the sobering reflection ("Heartache is an Uphill Climb"), then movement and transformation ("My Boat," "Eastern Light"). The music alone is enough to bring you back again and again—dusty and bittersweet, all gorgeous country guitars and that sugar-sour voice. But the story itself? That's the page turner. –MOLLIE WELLS



HEAVY ROTATION

CATE LE BON
Rock Pool EP

(Drag City Records)

Cate Le Bon produces comfort tunes for the soul. 2016's *Crab Day* LP saw the Welsh artist dive deeper into her nostalgic tendencies through twangy guitars and dreamy vocals. On her new EP, *Rock Pool*, Le Bon continues to take her cue from the past, though her sound is by no means dated. "I Just Wanna Be Good" includes playful piano, and the peppy, electronic-infused "Perfume Days" shows that the singer/songwriter is firmly future-facing. *Rock Pool* proves that Cate Le Bon is able to see the beauty in the world around her, and bring it to others, too. –SAMMY MAINE

THE ORWELLS
Terrible Human Beings

(Canvasback Music)

Innocuous and radio-ready, The Orwells' third studio album is a pop-rock record that recalls post-Kurt alternative rock, a time in musical history when Eve 6 and Better Than Ezra ruled the charts. Occasional interesting guitar squalls ("They Put a Body in the Bayou," "Heavy Head") will have you on the edge of your seat ready for a ferocious attack, but the songs quickly veer back to formula. Seven-minute closer "Double Feature" was the absolute highlight of the record, with its drawn-out instrumentation, lovely guitar interplay, and a bit of much needed grit at the climax. –KRYSTLE MILLER

PISSED JEANS
Why Love Now
(Sub Pop Records)

Pissed Jeans' latest album, *Why Love Now*, marks the urgency and anger that comes with gender politics. This is particularly true in sneering tracks like "It's Your Knees." The LP's first single, "The Bar Is Low," centers around disappointment and anger about men. "There's no guy that isn't a total creep," frontman Matt Corvette explains in a press release. The album is produced by Arthur Rizk of Sumerlands and Lydia Lunch, whose radical, no-wave influences radiate in tracks such as "Ignorecam," which features Corvette's bloodcurdling screams. *Why Love Now* channels the frustration and the outrage of this modern age. –MARY KINNEY

HEAVY ROTATION

SNOW ANGEL
Snow Angel
(Self-Released)

Psychedelic pop band Snow Angel's self-titled first album is like Child's Play meets the Postal Service. Gabby La La heads the multi-babe band, wielding a number of instruments, including guitar, drums, an accordion, an omnichord, and a sitar. The single "So Sick So Cool" features girl gang backup vocals and, delightfully, a recorder. The record hits its stride with the starry, techie teen anthem "Fifteen," and holds strong through "Big Group Hug," a flowery, hippy-ish, disco song. Snow Angel succeeds in creating its signature sound right out of the gate, which is a rainbow-colored burst of girl power. –WHITNEY DWIRE

TY SEGALL
Ty Segall
(Drag City Records)

Taking lessons from 2013's acoustic dream *Sleeper*, and 2016's unrelenting, conceptual noise album *Emotional Mugger*, Ty Segall is back with a new self-titled record. This time, the Californian garage rocker shows his range. Transparency is the theme, and for the first time, the multi-instrumentalist records with his band playing live in the studio, adding an organic energy to each performance. From the noise rock of opener "Break A Guitar," to the acoustic, almost honky-tonk "Talkin'," to the epic, psychedelic sprawl of 10-minute long "Warm Hands (Freedom Returned)," Segall proves once again why he's one of our favorites. –LIZ GALVAO

SIREN AND THE SEA
This Time With Feeling
(Self-Released)

Cristina Cano's debut album with Siren and the Sea, her solo project-turned-five-piece band, is filled with the feelings of a post-2016 hangover: ennui, concern, and defeat. On the salsa-flavored "Limbs," she sings about getting rid of hers, and on the interstellar "Atmosphere," she wishes for space. With its layers of blips and beeps, "The Wait" is basically a sigh in song form, where Cano admits she feels like she's fading away. But, more importantly, she's tired of listening to what everyone has to say. It's the 2017 anthem that totally gets how we all feel after a very rough 2016. –SHANNON CARLIN

JAY SOM
Everybody Works
(Polyvinyl Records)

Jay Som is the moniker of California-based singer/songwriter Melina Duterte, whose second release, *Everybody Works*, features more of her dreamy music. This time around, however, she's created a fuller and more varied sound. "Lipstick Stains" features a dramatic orchestral opening, while "Baybee" has a retro disco vibe, making it danceable even when paired with Duterte's sleepy, ethereal vocals. The messy guitar work on "(Bedhead)" brings to mind '90s indie acts like Liz Phair and Sleater-Kinney. *Everybody Works* offers plenty of dreamy reflection and dance-inducing jams, and Duterte's low-key style will appeal to a variety of ears and moods. –ADRIENNE URBANSKI

Garance Marillier

RAW

Written and directed by Julia Ducournau
Out March 10

Vegetarianism and veterinary school are family traditions for Justine (Garance Marillier), a young woman who's looking forward to joining her older sister Alexia (Ella Rumpf) at the same school their parents attended. Unfortunately, her prickly sibling isn't interested in showing her the ropes, and instead urges Justine to participate in the school's bloody freshman hazing ritual as a means of fitting in. After a particularly stomach-turning test, however, Justine's body begins developing strange cravings that require sating in all sorts of unfamiliar new ways.

Raw is horrifying and gorgeous, with fantastic performances by Marillier, Rumpf, and Rabah Nait Oufella as Justine's roommate. The increasingly vivid scenes, from throbbing dance parties to Justine acting out on her carnivorous cravings, are jarring against the anonymous, concrete buildings of the school. And while tons of horror movies rely on med schools, mortuaries, and the like to explore the dark side of everyday life, setting *Raw* in a vet school is a neat trick that juxtaposes the excesses of college life with the shock of seeing innocent animals in compromised positions. The special effects team includes Olivier Afonso, who worked on the blood-soaked French flick *Inside*, so viewer beware. But if you're looking for stomach-turning horror with complex female characters, *Raw* has got you covered. —JENNI MILLER

A UNITED KINGDOM

Directed by Amma Asante
Out February 17

Rosamund Pike, Madison Manowe, and David Oyelowo

A United Kingdom is, at its heart, a gorgeous love story about a two people from radically different worlds. But like director Amma Asante's previous film, *Belle*, it's packed with political subtext that's all too relevant to today's world. Seretse Khama (David Oyelowo) is a law student in London when he meets Ruth Williams (Rosamund Pike) at a dance; they're instantly smitten, but there's much more working against them than just the everyday racism of the 1940s. After a charming whirlwind romance, Seretse tearfully tells Ruth he's done with his studies and must return home to the country now known as Botswana, where he will be king. When Seretse brings home a white bride, it becomes an international incident that threatens the future of his leadership and his tribe itself.

Oyelowo and Pike are perfect together, conveying a deep well of love buoyed by joy and fierce loyalty. The supporting cast is equally great, with standout performances from Terry Pheto as Seretse's sister Naledi, *Downton Abbey*'s Laura Carmichael as Ruth's sister Muriel, and Jack Davenport as a U.K. diplomat. Based on a true story, *A United Kingdom* is a welcome entry into the genre of romantic historical dramas made for intelligent adult audiences. —JENNI MILLER

PHOTOS: IMAGE COURTESY OF FOCUS WORLD (*RAW*); STANISLAV HONZIK. © 2016 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION (*A UNITED KINGDOM*)

BOOB RATINGS | OMG AMAZING | DAMN GOOD | JUST OK | COULD BE WORSE | DON'T BOTHER

A QUIET PASSION

Written and directed by Terence Davies
Out March 31

☺☺☺

The idea of an Emily Dickinson biopic sounds exciting until you remember that Dickinson was a famous recluse. Much of what's interesting about Dickinson comes from her written work, and while writer/director Terence Davies attempts to derive drama from her day-to-day life, he fails to create a captivating story. This is incredibly frustrating, because Davies comes close. But the moments of tension he introduces have no buildup and little reverberation. We see Dickinson confront the editor who has changed her punctuation—but there's no mention of these changes or how she feels about them before or after that scene. We see Dickinson suffer greatly when the pastor she is in love with moves away—but he'd appeared in only one scene and had been mentioned only a few times before. Instead of a coherent storyline, viewers get interesting but disconnected moments spaced out between recitations of Dickinson's poems.

Cynthia Nixon and Jennifer Ehle

Both Cynthia Nixon, playing adult Emily Dickinson, and Emma Bell, playing teenage Emily Dickinson, do their best to portray a person who was ultimately a mess of contradictions: both shy and outspoken, meek and prone to rages, humble yet convinced of her own great talent. If only they'd had better material to work with, this could have been a great film. —ERIKA W. SMITH

PERSONAL SHOPPER

Written and directed by Olivier Assayas
Out March 10

☺☺☺☺

French director Olivier Assayas' first film starring Kristen Stewart, 2014's *Clouds of Sils Maria,* was nominated for so many awards, it's not surprising they've teamed up again. In *Personal Shopper,* Stewart plays Maureen, a young American woman living in Paris who works as a personal shopper for a wealthy, jet-setting socialite. Maureen hates her job, but keeps it because it lets her stay in Paris, not far from the house where her twin brother, Lewis, died suddenly months before. Maureen has the same heart condition that killed Lewis—and she might share even more. Lewis believed both twins were mediums, and he promised Maureen that if he died first, he would send her a message from beyond the grave. Now, Maureen is waiting.

Kristen Stewart

Assayas uses the supernatural to explore grief, and Stewart portrays Maureen's heartbreaking loneliness with skill. She completely carries the film, making *Personal Shopper* something of a character study. Also worth mentioning is the fashion. Stewart spends the film carting around Chanel gowns and Cartier jewelry, and of course she can't help but try on her boss' couture. But this film is far sadder and stranger than *The Devil Wears Prada*. Strangest of all is the ambiguous ending, a conclusion that will frustrate some and satisfy others. —ERIKA W. SMITH

PHOTOS: HURRICANE FILMS/COURTESY OF MUSIC BOX FILMS (*A QUIET PASSION*); IFC FILMS (*PERSONAL SHOPPER*)

BUST CRAFTACULAR HOLIDAY 2016

LONDON (NOV. 27) NEW YORK (DEC. 10+11) BOSTON (DEC. 17+18)

The 11th season of the BUST Craftacular Holiday edition brought hundreds of next-level craft vendors to over 6,000 shoppers on the hunt for unique indie gifts! DJs and fun workshops like Tatty Devine's jewelry-making class and Floss Gloss' DIY manicure station kept shoppers busy. Guests got into the giving spirit while making pins with Planned Parenthood, getting (fake) uterus tattoos from Lady Parts Justice, making cards with Get Holiday Happy for the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, and snugglin' kitties with Broken Tail Rescue. Celebrity sightings at this year's shows included Lauren Mayberry of CHVRCHES, Domino Kirke, and Penn Badgley.

LONDON

Happy shoppers at York Hall

Darling dolls by Sally Nencini

Cute cards by Mister Peebles

NEW YORK

Jen Lorang of Alchemilla sold magical jewelry made from vintage pieces

Planned Parenthood of NYC helped donors make custom pins

Debbie Allen of Hissy Fit Cvlt and Ashley Pearsall of Smoosh Bath teamed up at the fair

Shoppers treated themselves to a DIY manicure courtesy of Floss Gloss

Green Mountain Energy helped locals make greener energy choices

CHAN + KRYS repped their ethical + eco, zero-waste clothing line

BOSTON

Shoppers got crafty with festive flower crowns

Alan Martofel's Feminist Apparel booth was an instant favorite

Broken Tail Rescue helped many adorable felines find new homes

PHOTOS: HANNAH KEIFFERT, MELISSA BRADLEY, AND GARRY MACLENNAN

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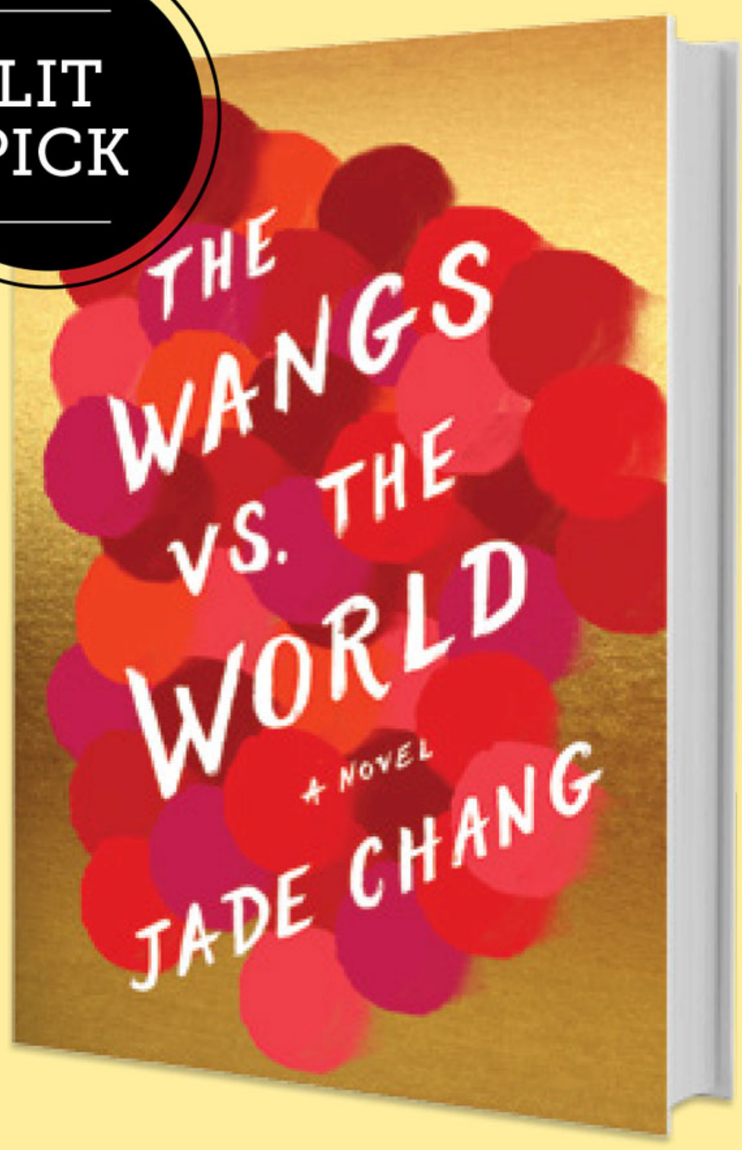
LIT PICK



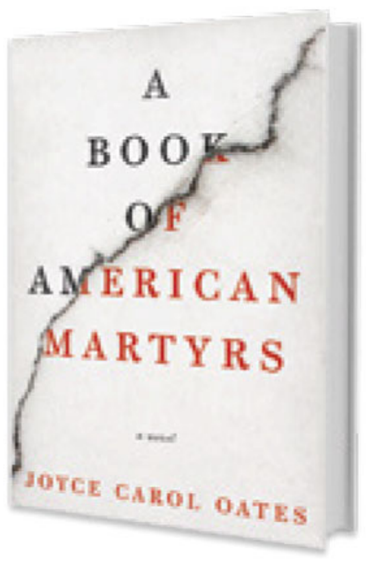
THE WANGS VS. THE WORLD: A Novel

By Jade Chang

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Charles Wang's fortune is gone. All the makeup magnate has left is his family and a powder-blue Mercedes station wagon, which he's packed full of everything the repo man hasn't already taken. The Wangs are driving from Bel-Air to New York in hopes of starting over after the financial crisis. But they aren't victims of a bad subprime loan; Charles' ego is how they ended up here. That's something author Jade Chang makes clear throughout her hilarious debut novel, which looks at an Asian-American family dealing with losing everything. Or, more accurately, who *think* they've lost everything.

Without their fortune, Charles, his second wife Barbara, and each of his three children—eldest daughter, Saina; middle son, Andrew; and his youngest girl, Grace—start taking stock of who they are when they can't afford it all. As Chang explains, "money made everything easy to indulge in." It also made it even easier to overlook or completely ignore everything outside the Wang's orbit. This riches-to-rags story examines the importance of empathy using humor, but with each laugh, readers may find themselves checking their own privilege. –SHANNON CARLIN



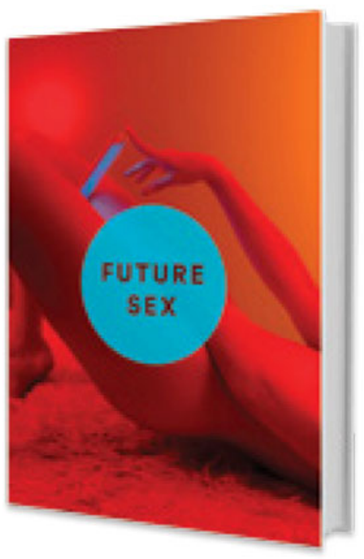
A BOOK OF AMERICAN MARTYRS: A Novel

By Joyce Carol Oates

(HarperCollins)

Joyce Carol Oates' latest novel opens with a murder, or as the man who carries out the act describes it, an "execution." Luther Dunphy believes he's carried out the Lord's will by killing Augustus Voorhees in the abortion clinic where he works. Over the course of over 700 pages and multiple decades, Oates explores the aftermath of the violent act, dedicating chapters to both the violence and persecution the doctor faced when he was alive, and the fallout his family and children must deal with after his death.

Oates jumps between stylistic choices, keeping up the pace of this weighty (literally and figuratively) novel. Breaking down the work into over 60 chapters with subheadings also helps make the narrative more digestible. It's hard to encounter any art today without thinking about the world it will be released into. *A Book of American Martyrs* is gripping not only because of the subjects it tackles–abortion, religion, grief—but also because of the way it gets inside the heads of characters with fundamentally different points of view, revealing all of their stories as parts of a whole. –MOLLY HORAN



FUTURE SEX

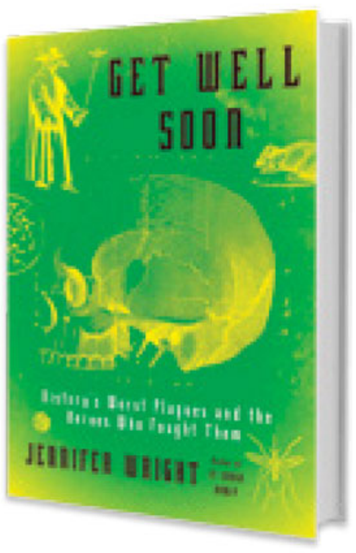
By Emily Witt

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

After ending a serious relationship at age 30, writer Emily Witt began exploring all things sex-related, from dating apps to orgasmic meditation. And in *Future Sex*, Witt combines detailed research with in-depth interviews and her own personal experiences. For example, the chapter on polyamory begins with the story of a young polyamorous couple Witt interviewed, delves into the history of polyamory, and ends with Witt's own experiences at a sex party.

Witt accomplishes the remarkable feat of being completely honest about her own experiences without judging others. Just as valuable is the wide range of people Witt interviews, including porn stars and cam girls. She tackles familiar subjects with new insights (the world is not lacking Tinder thinkpieces, but Witt's examination of Tinder's marketing is fascinating). There are quite a few topics—like revenge porn—that go unexplored, and the focus is very heterocentric. Altogether, though, it's refreshing to read a book that explores sex today with nuance, and without any handwringing about how the youths are ruining society with their smartphones and their sexy selfies. –ERIKA W. SMITH

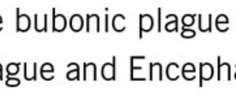
BOOB RATINGS | OMG AMAZING | DAMN GOOD | JUST OK | COULD BE WORSE | DON'T BOTHER



GET WELL SOON: History's Worst Plagues and the Heroes Who Fought Them

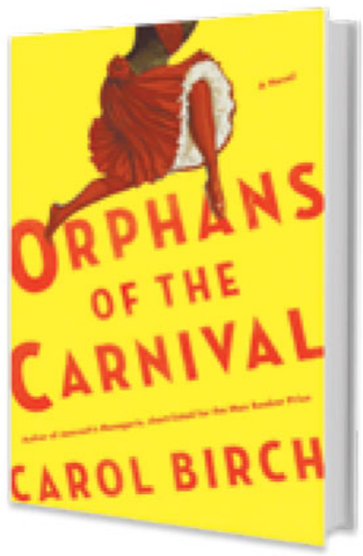
By Jennifer Wright

(Henry Holt and Co.)



In her follow-up to last year's *It Ended Badly*, historian Jennifer Wright traces the world's most terrifying plagues and explores how humanity confronts widespread disease. The book includes stories both well known (the bubonic plague and Spanish Flu) and more obscure (the Dancing Plague and Encephalitis Lethargica). Each chapter looks at a different disease, its genesis, its symptoms, and how it was combated. So if falling down a horrifying Wikipedia hole of terrible maladies is your idea of fun, this book is for you.

Wright doesn't simply state gross-out facts or hold up solitary individuals as heroes. Instead, she highlights the issues that impacted our understanding of and response to medical nightmares. Leadership, religiosity, power structures, and science collide in ways that create widely differing results. She also illuminates the fallout from widespread, catastrophic loss of life, from the way these diseases impact us today to how they can bring about the end of an empire. Written with Wright's signature humorous tone, this is a grim but engaging look at some of humanity's most feared foes. —BRIDEY HEING



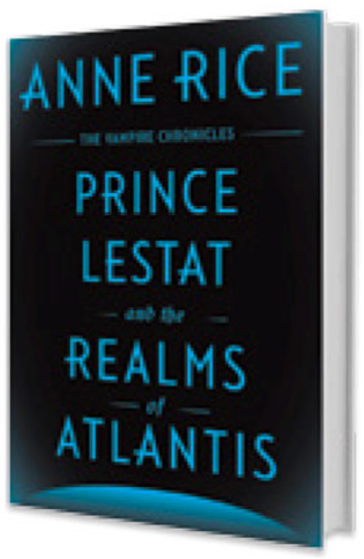
ORPHANS OF THE CARNIVAL: A Novel

By Carol Birch

(Doubleday)

In the 19th Century, Julia Pastrana—an indigenous Mexican woman born with a genetic condition that caused her face and body to be covered with straight black hair—was dragged across the globe to be gawked at as a human curiosity. Author Carol Birch, in her newest novel, beautifully imagines Pastrana's life, vividly depicting the changing world that celebrated her as a singer and performer while using her as evidence of white racial superiority in an era of colonization.

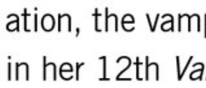
Birch's research shines through as she faithfully re-creates the painful realities of freak shows of the Victorian era, prompting readers to wonder if they themselves would have paid to stare at someone like Pastrana. Despite some pacing issues, *Orphans of the Carnival*'s humanity shines through. The book successfully explores not only how people treat one another, but also the ways in which our differences can strip away our ability to see one another as fellow humans. "Everyone loved her," Birch writes, "because she made them so glad they were themselves and not her." —PRINCESS WEEKES



PRINCE LESTAT AND THE REALMS OF ATLANTIS: The Vampire Chronicles

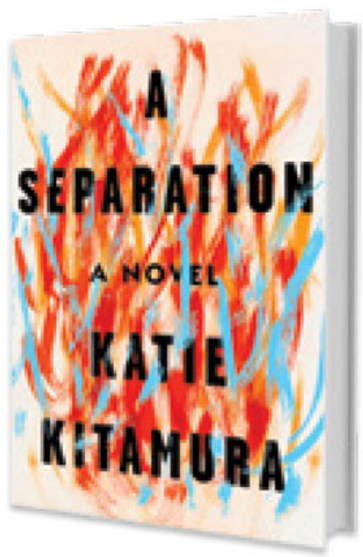
By Anne Rice

(Alfred A. Knopf)



Anne Rice's most famous creation, the vampire Lestat, is back in her 12th *Vampire Chronicles* novel. The vampires have discovered a new kind of otherworldly creature: though at first glance human, these beings have preternatural strength, are unable to be killed, and speak a language unknown to even the oldest blood drinkers. As the creatures' origin (hint: it has something to do with Atlantis) and mission are revealed, Prince Lestat must face unthinkable challenges, both internal and external.

Rice's injection of a well-known Western mystery doesn't succeed in breathing fresh life into this decades-long series; the result lacks the enchantment and suspense of her earlier work. The way the novel's revelations broaden the series' fundamental mythology stretches the world thin instead of enriching it. Additionally, the slow pacing and flat character development makes this a much less engaging read than Rice's earlier, deservedly bestsellers. Hardcore *Chronicles* fans who can't get enough of the characters will be pleased just to be spending more time with their favorite vampires. For everyone else, I recommend you get your Rice fix by rereading an oldie-but-goodie. —ANN MAYHEW



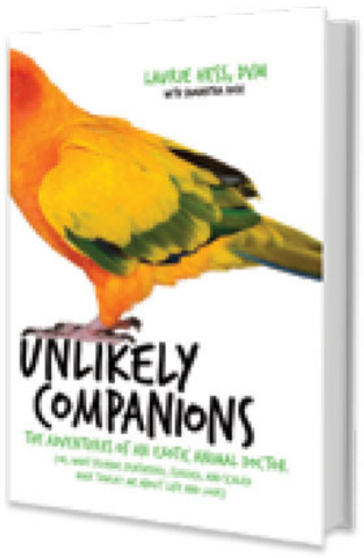
A SEPARATION: A Novel

By Katie Kitamura

(Riverhead Books)

A month after she separates from her husband Christopher, a young wife learns he is missing and goes to Greece to find him. While looking for him, the wife also searches for the source of their unhappiness. Novelist Katie Kitamura's meditative approach doesn't make for a page-turner, but some scenes are electric. The unnamed wife, trying to understand her philandering ex, goes to dinner with a hotel worker who may have been Christopher's lover. Later, she takes a drive with a man who may know what happened to her husband. Still, the plot is almost secondary. Kitamura doesn't treat story revelations like big reveals.

The book has no dialogue. Instead, the wife's first-person narration forces the reader to dwell inside her head, creating a challenging intimacy. (If you don't like the wife's voice, you may not like the book.) But Kitamura's observations about present-day Greece—"a place I had no desire to visit"—and the familiar awkwardness of in-laws provide relief from the stream of consciousness. Ultimately, this book's source of power is its language. If only we all thought such elegant, well-constructed thoughts. —AILEEN GALLAGHER



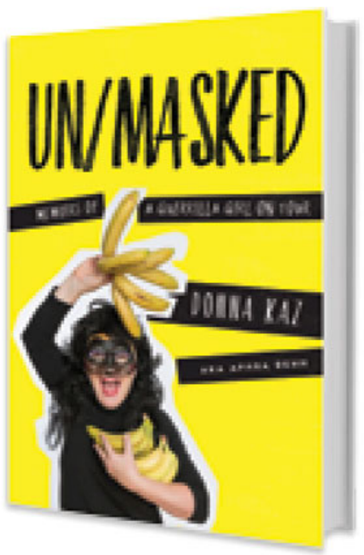
UNLIKELY COMPANIONS: The Adventures of an Exotic Animal Doctor

By Laurie Hess, DVM with Samantha Rose

(Da Capo Press)

Imagine a giant four-seat seesaw. Picture your husband, kids, and menagerie of pets crammed onto the first seat; your exotic animal hospital, your patients, their owners, and your staff piled on another; your neglected diabetes and forgotten snacks stacked on the third; and weighing down the last seat is a mystery surrounding a breed of tiny possums that are dying across the country. Trying to balance all those things is a normal week in the life of veterinarian Laurie Hess. And *Unlikely Companions* tells her story.

Yes, women struggle with being overscheduled every day, but the parade of chinchillas, lizards, macaws, potbellied pigs, and more, makes Hess' version unique. In a perfect example, Hess and her husband are in bed one night, in a fight. They'd had a date planned, but she stood him up again because of work. As she vows to keep her promise next time and he forgives her once more, Dale, the family parrot, suddenly screeches, "IT'S A PARTY. IT'S A PARTY." Get lost in this jungle of a memoir and let yourself laugh a little—we could all use some comic relief. –GINA MARIE VASOLI



UN/MASKED: Memoirs of a Guerilla Girl on Tour

By Donna Kaz

(Skyhorse Publishing)

As an aspiring playwright and actress arriving in N.Y.C. with stars in her eyes, Donna Kaz immediately experienced the industry sexism keeping women's stories and meaningful roles off the stage. While working as a waitress, she met Bill, a successful stage and film actor. They began a seemingly fairytale romance, but it soon turned abusive. At this point, the memoir shifts to its real focus—Kaz's involvement with the Guerilla Girls, an anonymous, renegade feminist group that formed to protest sexism in the arts in 1985.

The tale of Kaz's life as a feminist activist becomes interwoven with her tale of being in an abusive long-term relationship—her political enlightenment happens as she opens her eyes to the realities of her damaging home life. Her story is a compelling page-turner, packed with inspiring stories about the Guerilla Girls' plans and protests. But it's also an inside look at a woman who allows herself to be trapped in a violent partnership. Kaz's journey to find herself, both as an artist and as a woman, is an inspiring and enthralling one that also gives necessary credit and attention to the Guerilla Girls. –ADRIENNE URBANSKI

THE WOMEN WHO MADE NEW YORK

By Julie Scelfo

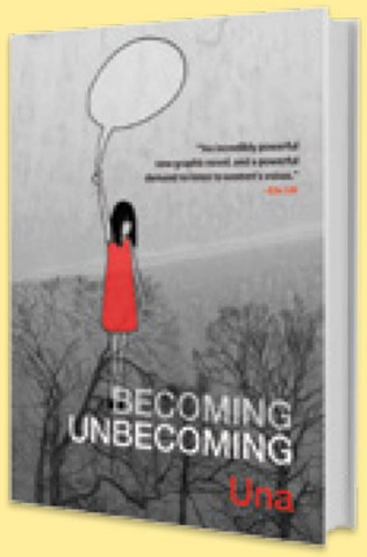
(Seal Press)

Julie Scelfo's *The Women Who Made New York* is a collection of vignettes about some of the Big Apple's most influential heroines. While some of the book's subjects have become synonymous with the city—such as beloved writer Nora Ephron and America's most famous first lady, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis—many are not household names despite the fact that their contributions impact modern-day life in the concrete jungle. Little-known is the chronicle of Linda Fairstein, a district attorney who changed how New York handled rape cases and prosecuted date rapists. Another unfortunately obscured history is that of Hetty Green, or "The Witch of Wall Street," a wealthy investor who saved New York's banks in 1907.

The portraits that resonate most are of those who made waves beyond the five boroughs. It's difficult not to be inspired by New York-transplant Victoria Woodhull, who in 1872 became the first female to make a run for the White House; or Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger, whose fight to provide reproductive healthcare began 100 years ago in Brooklyn. Scelfo's book is a beautifully packaged volume full of heart, moxie, and wonder. –HELEN MATATOV

Picture This

THE SEASON'S GREATEST GRAPHIC NOVELS

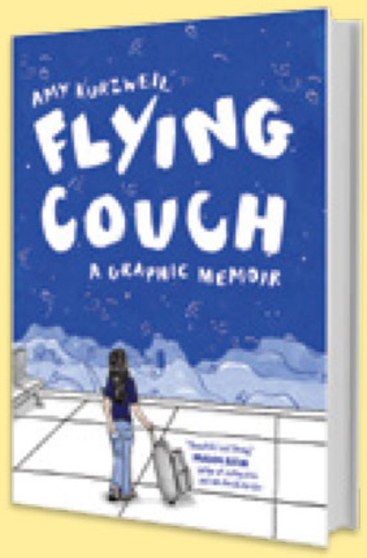


BECOMING UNBECOMING
By Una

(Arsenal Pulp Press)

☺☺☺☺

Through author Una's utilization of her own experiences, this graphic novel talks candidly about sexual violence. The author starts the story off with a description of her life during the '70s—an era usually characterized by the rise of second-wave feminism. Readers quickly learn, however, that beneath that layer of liberation, lots of men were forcibly trying to pull women back into servitude. While this comic could easily be triggering for some, it is nonetheless a very important read. It mines modern history while referencing classic feminist texts and doesn't seek to lay generalized blame or even necessarily hold itself responsible for finding a solution. Instead, Una focuses on informing readers so the ability to make a difference lies in their hands. –MADISON NUNES

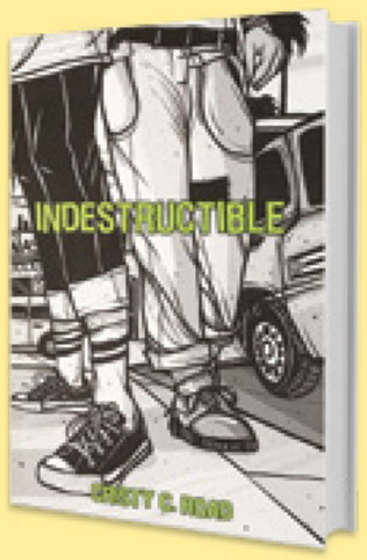


FLYING COUCH: A Graphic Memoir
By Amy Kurzweil

(Black Balloon Publishing)

☺☺☺☺☺

In the first graphic memoir by *New Yorker* cartoonist Amy Kurzweil, she highlights her mother and grandmother, her Jewish heritage, and her *bubbe's* amazing Holocaust survival story. Kurzweil's style is loose and comical, except for her drawings of photographs, which are quite beautiful. And her tone segues from humorous to poignant, especially when talking about *bubbe*. Aptly titled, *Flying Couch* takes readers from Massachusetts, to Michigan, to New York, to Florida, to Germany, to Poland, and even on a Birthright trip to Israel. And let's be real, you'll probably be on your own couch while you read it—so kick back and let Kurzweil spirit you away. –WHITNEY DWIRE

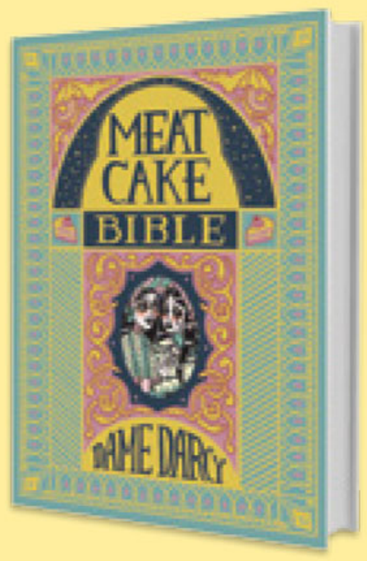


INDESTRUCTIBLE: Growing Up Queer, Cuban, and Punk in Miami
By Cristy C. Road

(Microcosm Publishing)

☺☺☺☺

Framing day-to-day survival as its own legitimate teenage revolution, Cristy C. Road delivers boldly illustrated pages about her adolescence in West Miami. Definitely not a typical memoir, this collection dives deep into Road's manic and caffeinated explorations as she forges and accepts her queer identity. Defining herself in contrast but not in conflict with others—her family, non-punks in her school—she writes with the wisdom of her years since high school, but the fervent immediacy of being a teen pulses through her story. Gritty and unflinching, Road discusses sexual assault and the death of a friend alongside an optimistic ode to a two-minute punk song that always cheered her. Literally drawn from the intersection of Road's Cuban identity, her queerness, punk rock, and the drugs she chose and avoided, this portrait in black and white is electric. –CHRISTINE FEMIA



MEAT CAKE BIBLE
By Dame Darcy

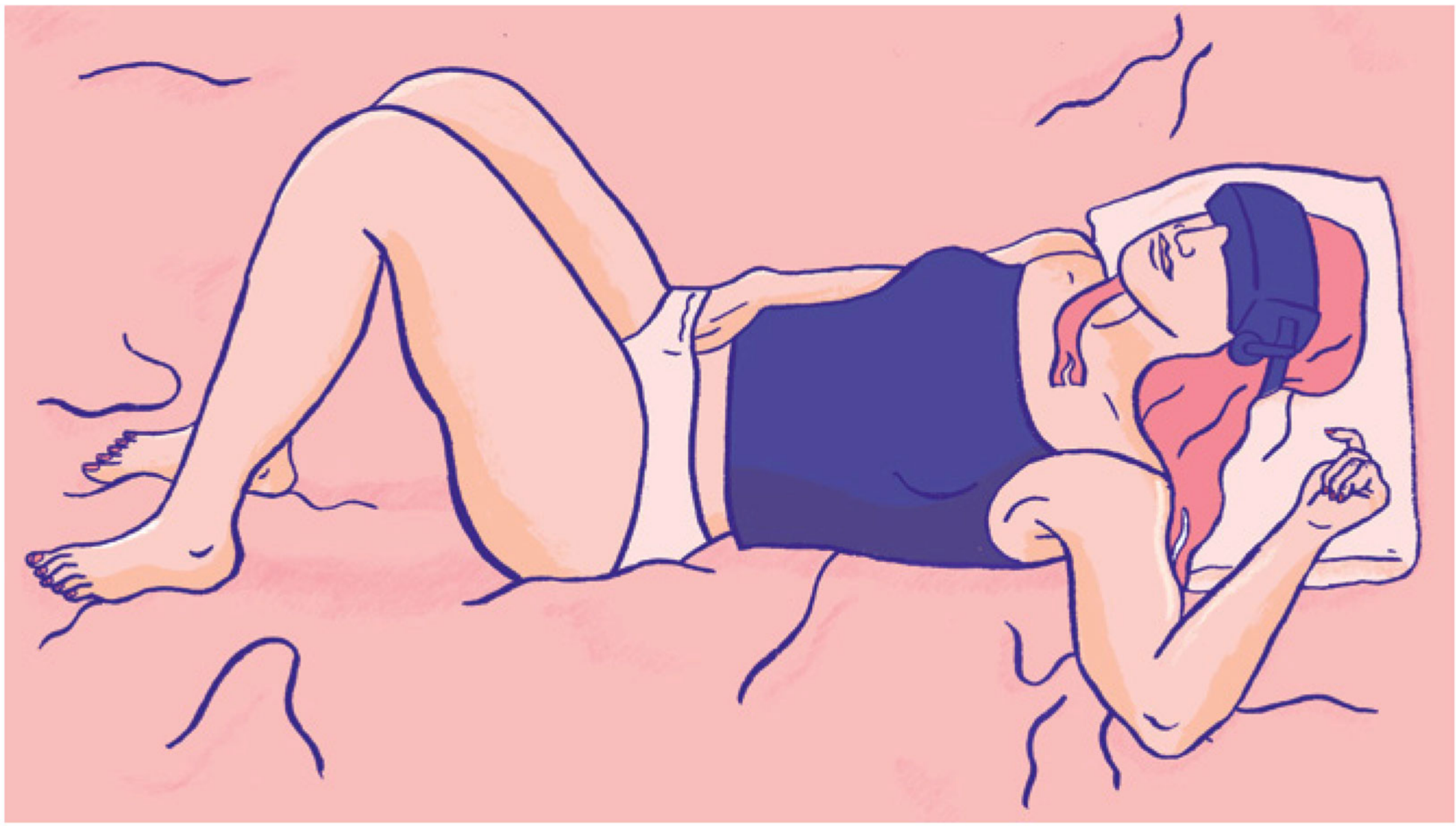
(Fantagraphics)

☺☺☺☺☺

Dame Darcy—playwright, animator, actor, musician, and creator of the *Meat Cake* comic book series—is one of the most exciting talents of our time. This anthology brings together every *Meat Cake* comic, so newcomers and longtime fans alike can fully experience Darcy's complex, whimsical, and mischievous genius. Published in the 1990s and 2000s, these comics create a deeply original feminist fantasy universe underscored by sly wordplay, slapstick comedy, and light gore. A regular cast of mostly female characters cavorts from grave-robbing expeditions to tea parties in improbably silly plot sequences that will induce both guffaws and squeals at unexpected moments. *Meat Cake* is a great way to relieve stress, both because of how funny it is and because Darcy's inky, Edward Gorey-esque style is simultaneously stimulating and soothing to the eye. –RENATE ROBERTSON

Visor On, Rocks Off

WHERE TO RIDE THE WAVE OF VIRTUAL-REALITY PORN



THE MERGING OF pornography with virtual reality headset technology is upon us, and mainstream porn giants are already churning out titillating titles. While the vast majority of these are squarely aimed at cis-dudes, featuring the same old in-and-out, there are a few companies making VR porn for women. To experience any of the following immersive experiences, you'll need a smartphone and a VR headset, which range in price from the $15 Google Cardboard to the $599 Oculus VR Rift (for Android), and higher.

Badoinkvr.com specializes in point of view (POV) VR porn, and they have a few flicks intended for ladies. *The Mating Room* opens with you sitting in an all-white room. Look down, and you see your (white) legs and mini skirt. Look across the room, and there's a hot guy! Soon he comes over and begins licking your leg. Things get more naked from there. It's fun, but the feeling of having some nude stranger coming in for a smooch takes some getting used to. Don't care for a storyline? VRSmash.com has a bunch of female POV porn videos with flowery titles such as "Getting Head" and "Squirting Orgasm" that cut to the chase.

Unfortunately, most of these titles were created by straight dudes for whom the mechanics of female anatomy appear to remain a mystery (aka my clit is way lower, still lower...forget it). And on VRSmash, the female bodies are porn-y, which can be alienating. On the other hand, one of the coolest aspects of the POV VR experience is that you can try on someone else's skin—and not just that of female porn stars. If you've harbored fantasies about turning the gender tables, you can test drive a dude body in either a hetero or homo sexcapade very easily.

If you'd rather avoid stereotypical bodies and clichéd storylines, German site Ersties.com offers porn exclusively produced and shot by women, and you'll see a much wider variety of bodies there. Ersties' only VR film is not shot from your POV. Instead, you are a voyeur watching three people get it on while they are being filmed. You can look up, down, and all the way around, but behind you there's just a wall and a door. My comfort level with the Ersties video was strong, since everyone involved seemed genuinely into one another. But I was standing behind the videographer during the climax of the film's juicy sex scene! Frustrating, but at least it was a lady.

Sssh.com is another site where the porn is made by women, and here it's also made *for* women. *Empowering Ava*, their first VR title, offers a storyline about an erotic novelist and her lover, so you can ease into the coitus. The actors share natural conversation, and things get really hot when Ava's beau goes wild for pegging (found your prostate!). *Ava* is also shot voyeur-style, so it feels like some couple invited you to plop down in a chair to watch them do the nasty. If you're interested in VR porn but don't feel up to getting the equipment that viewing it requires, you can also watch *Ava* on your desktop or phone and just scroll around. But at the rate this technology is catching on, it's only a matter of time before everyone will be doing it headset style. –JULES ABRAHAM

ILLUSTRATED BY SARAH CLIFFORD

Carol Queen's latest book (written with Shar Rednour) is The Sex & Pleasure Book: Good Vibrations Guide to Great Sex for Everyone

Questions for the Queen

DR. CAROL QUEEN TAKES ON SWITCH-HITTING SADNESS AND MANICURE MADNESS

Q: I am a versatile lesbian; I need to experience topping and bottoming to feel satisfied in my sex life. My girlfriend is a diehard top. I love her so much, but bottoming all the time is making me feel stuck and frustrated. How can I overcome my girlfriend's stubborn stance, or at least feel more empowered in the bedroom? *–Bottom Blanche*

A: You and your girlfriend aren't 100 percent compatible sexually, as you surely already realize, although you haven't said whether you and she have talked about this. I don't have a clear sense of the kinds of sex you're referencing: BDSM-style topping and bottoming? Or "active vs. receptive" in the sack? If that matters in my reply, I'll try to be clear about it.

Less-than-total compatibility isn't especially rare, and there are a number of ways to deal with it. Some couples open their relationships for just this reason, although if either of you are pretty monogamous, I don't know that I would recommend it. Maybe if you're "monogam-ish" (Dan Savage's splendid word), it would be fun to add a third person to your play from time to time. If you're into BDSM, that can be especially easy to arrange, but even if it's vanilla play, take a page from the kinky crowd and clarify carefully what everyone wants out of the fun, and what everyone's boundaries are.

If your girlfriend doesn't want touch or tongue aimed at her body, that's one thing, and if she doesn't want to exchange power in a kinky sense, that's another. If you feel that the kind of intimacy you like and expect is impeded, it could be worth a few sessions together with a sex therapist to unravel the various activities you engage in and their emotional meanings for both of you. It's a pretty broad distance from "Touch freaks me out and I'm not sure why" to "I don't have orgasms easily so I just won't put you through that" to "I am a top, and I do not give up my power, ever." Digging in with a professional could help shift dynamics, uncover workarounds, or make clear exactly where you are on the compatibility matrix.

Any couple can make choices based on sexual interests, ranging from "I'm willing to try that thing you want" to "Go find a playmate on the side, honey." What may be most important is not which choice you make, but whether you are both able to participate in the decision. When it's one-sided, you really need to ask yourself whether in the long run you'll get what you need from the partnership.

Q: My cis-dude enjoys ass play, and I enjoy playing with his ass. However, I also enjoy having long fingernails. What's the best way to make prostate play safe and painless for him without forgoing my manicure? And how can I make it work while still staying in the moment?
–Fingernail Femme

A: Ahh, I dream that in the future, all the cis-dudes will have made friends with their asses, and we will have world peace. Thank you for getting us started on this important project! We definitely don't want to lose ground to talon-based injuries, so here are some options.

First, make sure your manicure is filed smooth. Whatever the shape of your nails, you don't want hangnails, chips, or rough edges. These make abrasions more likely even if you're only playing with the sensitive external opening of his ass. Pick a lovely color of latex or nitrile gloves, and lube up.

There are two main dangers of long nails, particularly with ass play (though bisexual and lesbian femmes reading this will want to take heed, too, because vaginal insertion with long nails is also a skill). The first is breaking a nail while your fingers are in his butt. This adds roughness and/or sharpness to an area where those things are risky. In particular, a broken nail can become a sort of hook. Watch out for nails sharp and pointy enough to break through a glove. If that happens, they can scratch, abrade, or even (worst case scenario, and it's a bad one) break through the rectal mucosa. That last one is a medical emergency, full stop. The walls of the rectum are thinner than the vaginal walls—you must protect their integrity when you do ass play.

Don't do ass play when you've been partying; to do this, you really have to be in control of your reflexes. If he likes it vigorous, shop for a dildo together, and use that as an extension of your pretty hands. (Make sure it has a base; don't just raid the vegetable bin or grab an old smoothie vibrator.) Or you can try this trick from the pro dommes: pad your nails with cotton balls, and tape them on with bandage tape, making sure the profile is smooth and that you can't feel your claw tips through the padding before putting on gloves. The downside of this technique is that your fingertip touch acuity isn't as good, but it might be worth trading that for the kind of anal intimacy you both enjoy. Just stay conscious and careful when you're back in his precious, open-minded dude butt.

→ Got a sex or relationship question you need answered? Submit it at **bust.com/sex**

ILLUSTRATION: MARCELLUS HALL

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ONE-HANDED READ

Back-Seat Driver

A SULTRY NIGHT GETS EVEN HOTTER WHEN TWO LOVERS FIND EACH OTHER

I LIFT THE glass off the bar. The three ice cubes swimming in amber make it slippery with cold. I wipe it across my forehead, desperate for something to break the suffocating boredom and heat. The man next to me notices. His smile is charming—he's a perfect stranger, without any familiar flaws or annoying habits. He's direct and so am I, so I suggest we escape the curious eyes of small town drunks and go for a drive.

We pull over to get gas. I climb into the back of his car, and the humidity sticks to my skin like a kind of leather that refuses to dry. The wildflowers bow to passing cars, damp clothes suck under arms, and breath hovers right around lips. Even the rainbow puddle of gasoline shimmers slowly as the static clouds overhead.

He tells me in a sweaty drawl about the seasonal work he's doing, how the physical labor leaves him exhausted. The monotony is what drove him to the bar for a little fun. I assure him that I'm happy to be that distraction.

"Come closer, then." He shifts his head to the right. "I want to feel you." He has a Mexican blanket slipped over an old bench seat. It reminds me of a nubby hotel towel. His mouth vibrates when we kiss. His spit is salty and tastes like the plastic-wrapped jerky you can buy at the gas stop we're parked behind.

Kissing, we don't quite fit together. *Maybe if I jut my bottom lip out an inch, slacken my tongue,* I think, but no. I tell myself he's a newborn puppy, that's all. He's cute enough, dark hair with a hint of hipster shag—just a week or so behind on getting it cut. He murmurs into my mouth like a bee in a can of Orange Crush. The heartbeat bass of a passing car. I forget his lips when my hands feel the firm muscles of his chest and back.

I pull my shirt over my head, relieved to be free of the fabric. His hands press over my nipples, slip my bra to the side. I don't mind starting slow, or letting him take the lead. He unclasps the strap, moves his tongue down for a taste, licks my nipples to hardness. He takes one at a time between his teeth, with a gentle pressure, flicks the tips with his tongue. There is a line of sweat trickling between my breasts, slipping down to my belly. He follows it an inch at a time while my mind races ahead.

I can feel him, sweet and hard, through his jeans. He unbuttons mine, tries to slip them below my hips—I shift and help, the whole time looking into his eyes. I bite my lip, grab his fingers, and draw them down where I'm even wetter. Push them inside so he's knows I'm ready. He rubs his fingers in slow circles between my lips. I can come in seconds if he stays steady. Fingers or tongue tip, it doesn't matter. I let him play until I can't think about anything other than the shape of his dick, the veins that are rising, the skin stretching, the pink rim around the thick head. I need to take it in my mouth.

He jerks away from my lips right before coming, drizzles down the side of my neck, in my hair, on my breasts. I'm still on the edge, fidgeting. "Watch," I direct. Slipping my own hand down. "Watch me," I murmur as I begin to work my clit, slipping every couple of strokes. I open my whole palm and rub, slide one finger in, rock back and forth. Pinching my clit tightly right as I come. I can't help but take a little sucked-in breath. The Mexican blanket is now even more like a hotel towel, soaked in our sweat and come. I notice he's still hard, or hard again. "I'm so damn wet," I say. "Come here."

"Mmmph," he answers with his lips pressed into a smile. He flips me so I'm underneath, his weight pressing over my ribs. He takes my hair into his fist and pulls, rocking in and out, getting deep. A perfect fit. I tighten around him, clamp onto his thickness and squeeze. He slows, shortens his stroke, and pulses. "I don't get off that way. I'm a clit girl," I whisper. He slides his thumb between our bodies and presses firmly down. I whimper.

The windows are so fogged up that I can barely see the gas station attendant who comes out the back door for a smoke, then leans against the wall. His thin lips nip the end of his cigarette. I trace their shape with my eyes. They look cracked, like a dry lakebed. I wonder how they would fit with mine and if, from where he's leaning, he can see my pink nipples pressing against the glass, the shape of the body behind me. The rising bulge in his jeans tells me everything I need to know. –QUINN CAMPBELL

Send your original One-Handed Read to **submissions@bust.com** and you may see it in an upcoming issue of *BUST*!

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February/March

Whore-o-Scopes

ASTROLOGICAL ADVICE FOR LADIES LOOKING TO GET LAID

BY JONNA BOND

Aquarius

JAN. 20 TO FEB. 18

The new moon on February 2 will help you manifest the perfect sexual partner, so get your wish list ready. (This goes for coupled-up folks too!) Gird your loins for mind-blowing sex when Mars enters your sign on February 25. Beware: Venus will enter Taurus on March 16, so things may get serious with your lover; set the rules beforehand if getting mushy isn't your thing.

Pisces

FEB. 19 TO MAR. 20

Venus and Mercury are both hanging out in your sign, which will have you feeling yourself—and a potential suitor could be, too. Buy some extra-sexy underthings and *werk*. You will be feeling thirsty, but be careful of letting your work dominate during March. You may find yourself fantasizing over a co-worker, but don't take the bait! Get out there and start swiping right.

Aries

MAR. 21 TO APR. 19

A Venus transit in your sign brings new opportunities to flirt and have flings, thanks to a boost of charm from the planet of love, although you could also find some possible long-term suitors. Uranus in Aries might rain on your parade on March 12 when an old flame returns to prove her/himself worthy of your heart. Look inward and see what you're truly worth.

Taurus

APR. 20 TO MAY 20

Neptune shows up to give your social life a boost, so even though you're still licking some emotional wounds, you'll attract plenty of peeps who want to make out or more. Be wary of becoming the other woman in March. Temptation may strike, but it could come back to haunt you in the form of an embarrassing FB post, tweet, or ill-advised Instagram.

Gemini

MAY 21 TO JUNE 20

Jupiter in your fifth house wants you to fall in love so hard and fast that you may feel like the star of a cheesy rom-com, but you deserve something sweet in your life. When March comes, things could speed up too fast for your liking, while also bringing some blasé banging. It's up to you to take charge with whatever/whomever is coming your way.

Cancer

JUNE 21 TO JULY 22

Uranus moving into Pisces means major potential to reach out and touch someone. You could also get lucky with a vacation or work opportunity abroad. Celestial body Chiron the healer steps in to help you cut ties with toxic people; great sex requires partners who respect and worship you. Your libido will be in overdrive so make sure to expel that energy the best way possible.

Leo

JULY 23 TO AUG. 22

A Leo lunar eclipse on February 11 will shake things up for you emotionally. You may use sex as a weapon or tool to have the upper hand in your relationship, but use caution because eventually you'll have to use your words. March promises a more positive shift and a happier sex life as long as you vocalize your needs to your partner.

Virgo

AUG. 23 TO SEPT. 22

Venus popping into your seventh house, the house of love, makes things super romantic. For all my single ladies, get ready for a Tinder tsunami; paired-off Virgos will continue to experience pure bliss with their partners. Mercury, the planet of communication, teams up with Venus to help get the point across in March, so expect things to get more intimate and experimental.

Libra

SEPT. 23 TO OCT. 22

Leo's full moon will have you venturing outside your comfort zone, sexperimenting, and trimming the fat from meaningless relationships. Abandon ship or stick to your guns. Remember, if you're not feeling confident and attractive, a potential partner won't see you that way either. Take care of yourself in March, especially if drama strikes. Avoid messy situations where you can.

Scorpio

OCT. 23 TO NOV. 21

Neptune in your fifth house during February may make you start looking for love in all the wrong places. This is a time to put your foot down and reclaim your sexiness and power. Bending over backwards for partners isn't for you if it's not reciprocated! New love interests pop up in March, but don't lose yourself and take on their interests as your own.

Sagittarius

NOV. 22 TO DEC. 21

Mars, Venus, Jupiter, and the moon are teaming up to re-decorate your bedroom. You're missing a certain ingredient, so invest in new bed sheets or maybe even a new sex toy or two. Creating your ultimate love nest will bring you and your lover so close that you'll be BFFs, too. Focus on your physical body in March so you're ready for all that sexin'.

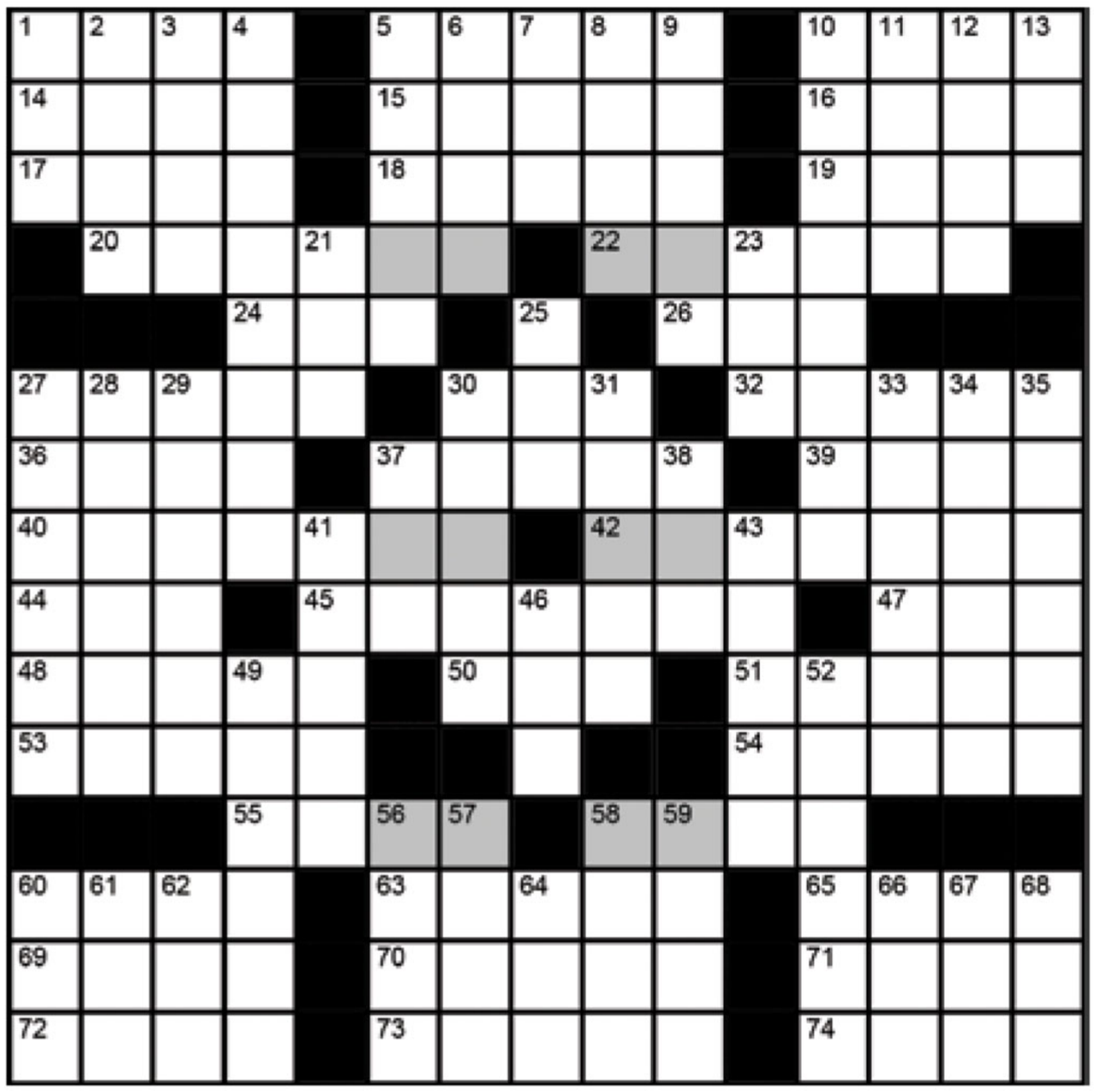
Capricorn

DEC. 22 TO JAN. 19

Mars moves into your sign on February 6, which means it's a great time to take charge in your career. This is also a great time to master the art of managing a sidepiece. Although you're not interested in anything serious, don't neglect your feelings or the feelings of others. Saturn will step in mid-March to remind you that intimacy and relationship goals are important, too.

ILLUSTRATED BY ADA BUCHHOLC

Lost Wages

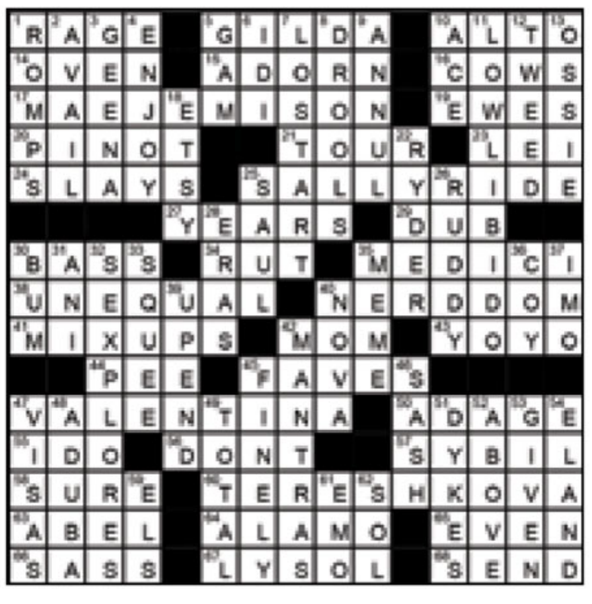


ACROSS

1. Lager-like libations
5. Diamond bags?
10. G-___ (erogenous zone)
14. Anxiety fed by social media posts, briefly
15. Upright, as a boner
16. Roof overhang
17. Celebratory end-of-the-workweek shout
18. Wearable drone-camera named for a shape-shifting water spirit
19. Odd alternative
20. Capital of Canada involved in this puzzle's disparity
22. 7-down relative
24. Ryder cup group, for short
26. Dance move that resembles sneezing into your arm
27. Kellogg's (loopily spelled) ___ Loops
30. Prevent
32. "It's a ___ question" ("Just confirm/deny")
36. Roseanne of *Roseanne*
37. Barely lukewarm
39. Freshly
40. Historic Japanese island involved in this puzzle's disparity
42. Boogie with style
44. ___ *culpa*
45. Unlikely to take initiative
47. Some baby deliverers, briefly
48. Game played in church basements
50. ___ Talks
51. Diameter halves
53. Tangle up nastily
54. Put back to 00:00, say
55. Early caucus state involved in this puzzle's disparity
58. Equipment
60. Condemn to hell
63. Coming out words
65. Throat clearer's "pardon the interruption"
69. Apple's desktop
70. Climate effect much like smog
71. Guided training session, informally
72. Feminists are man-haters, for one
73. High ___ (great expectations)
74. Make your mark (using acid)

DOWN

1. Back, on a boat
2. Stayfree's butterfly, e.g.
3. Exude, as vibes
4. Erotica, essentially
5. ___ balls (aka Burmese bells)
6. Diva song
7. Unfair basis for a pay disparity
8. Vaper's choice, for short
9. Horsewoman's trusty mount
10. One of many little spheres on a crafter's wire
11. ___ the way
12. All finished
13. *Five'll Getcha* ___
21. Sales rep.
23. Fancypants denial
25. Disparity, such as that suggested by the black squares breaking this puzzle's shaded word
27. "Explosive" vulgarities
28. Gather copiously, as earnings
29. Italian journalist/author Fallaci who wrote "A Man"
30. Making the ___ with two backs
31. Inflexible
33. Knitted hair-holding hoods
34. One just learning the ropes
35. Takes pride in authenticity of self, warts and all
37. Pan Am rival
38. Patel of *Slumdog Millionaire*
41. Speed skater Ohno
43. ___*firma*
46. 7-Down again, because it bears repeating
49. Mean green Christmas thief, with "The"
52. Make bubbly, as soda pop
56. One of three from a genie
57. Cannonballs and buckshot, e.g.
58. Look
59. Lookers?
60. Poorly lit
61. Sister Sedaris
62. End-of-yoga rollup
64. 25-Down again
66. Simple home
67. And so on and so forth: Abbr.
68. "I've seen better"



Answers to "Defying Gravity" from the DEC/JAN '17 issue. For answers to this issue's puzzle, see the next issue of BUST.

"TORRENT"
By Marilyn Minter
Enamel on metal, 96" x 60"
Private collection, Palm Beach, Florida
Image courtesy of The Brooklyn Museum

IN STORES NOW

DRAWN & QUARTERLY

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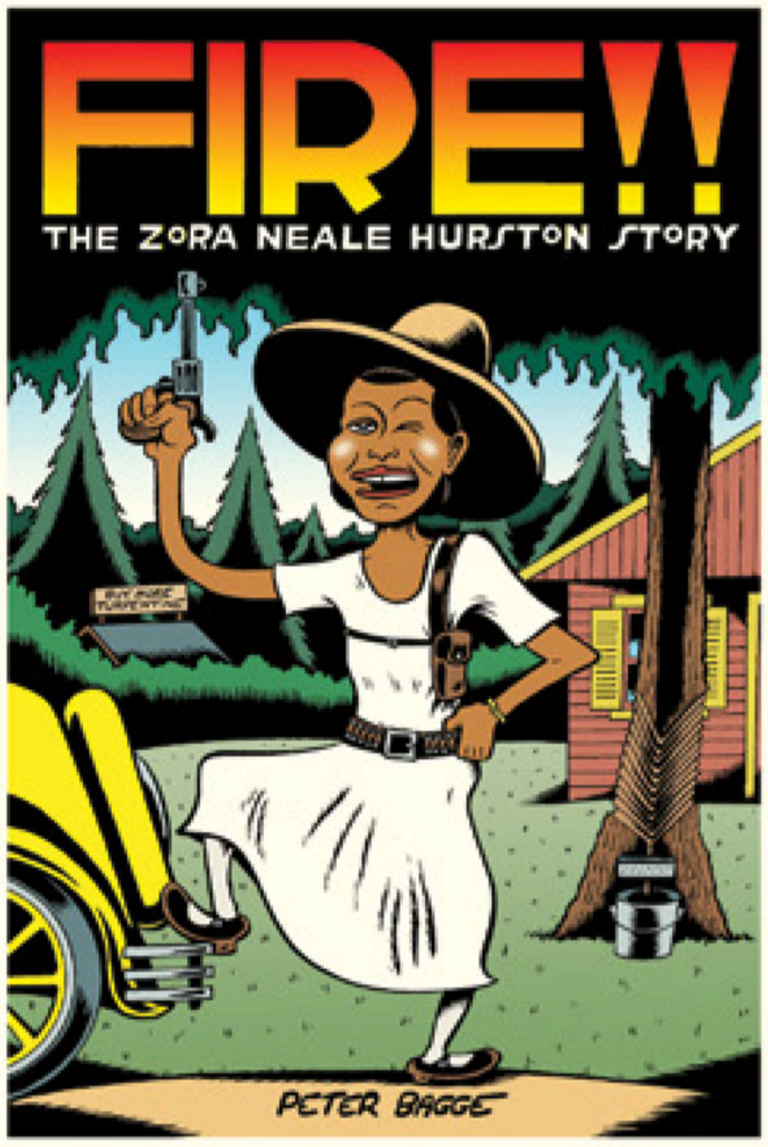

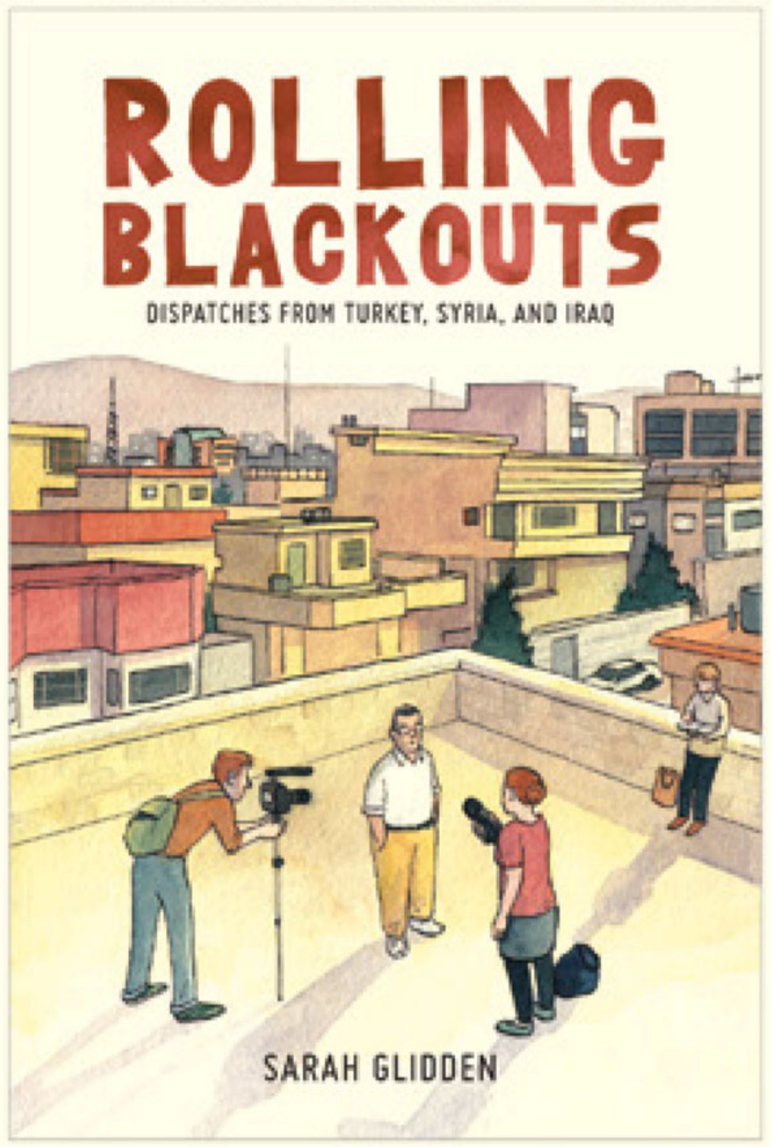

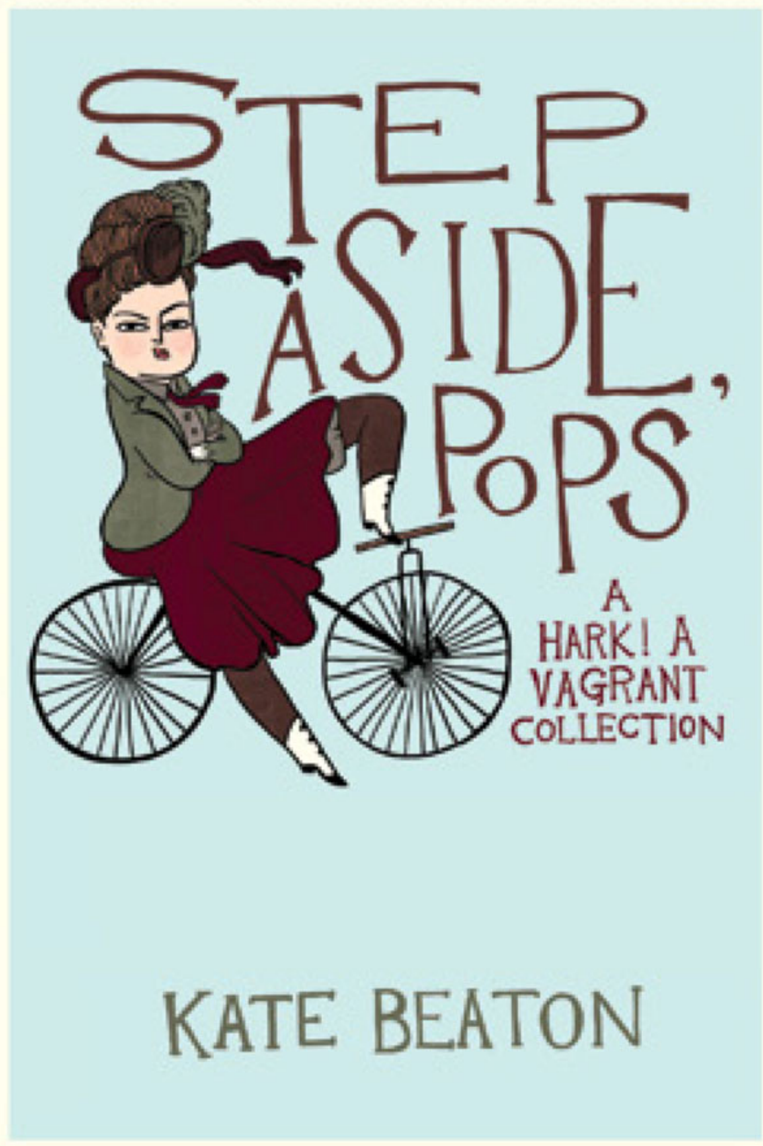

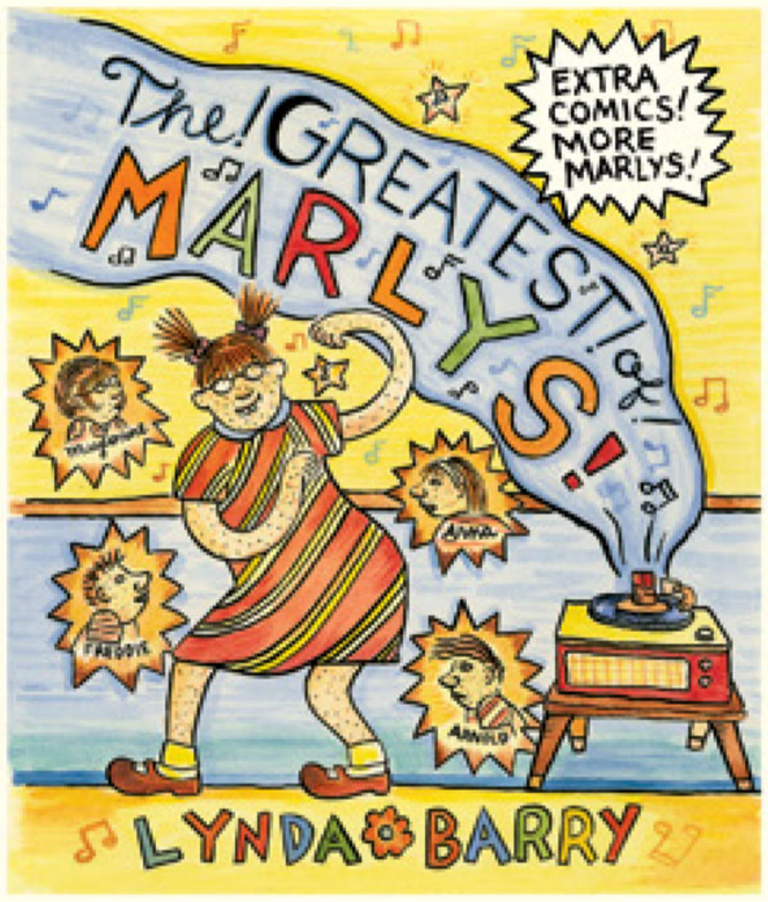

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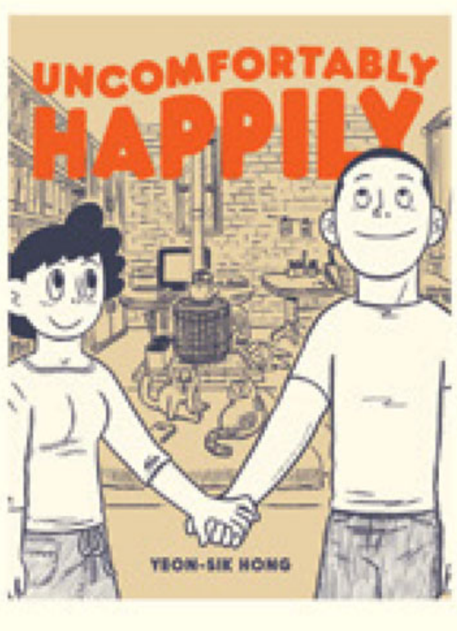
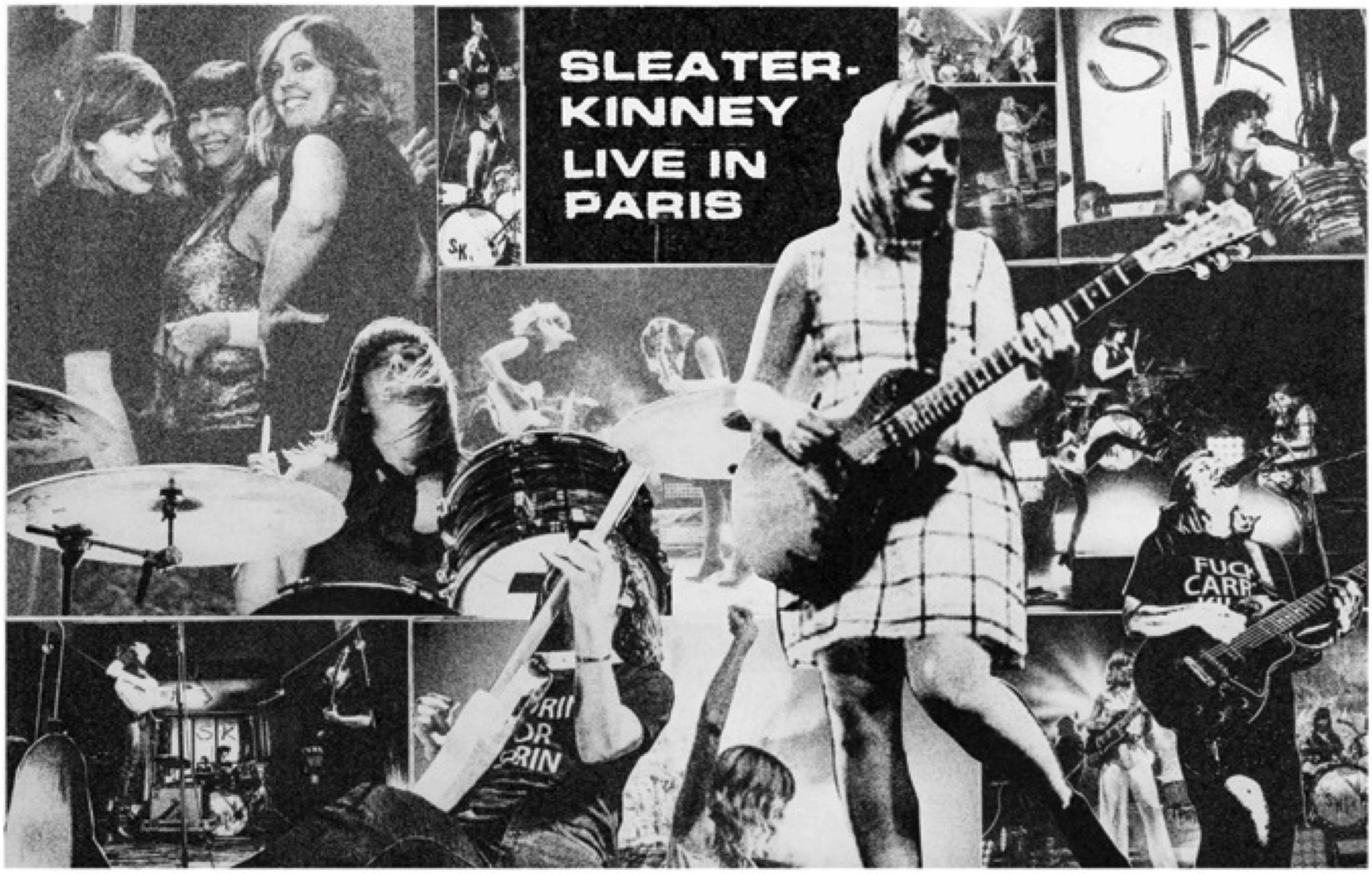


WE'RE SUB POP AND WE'RE STILL TRYING



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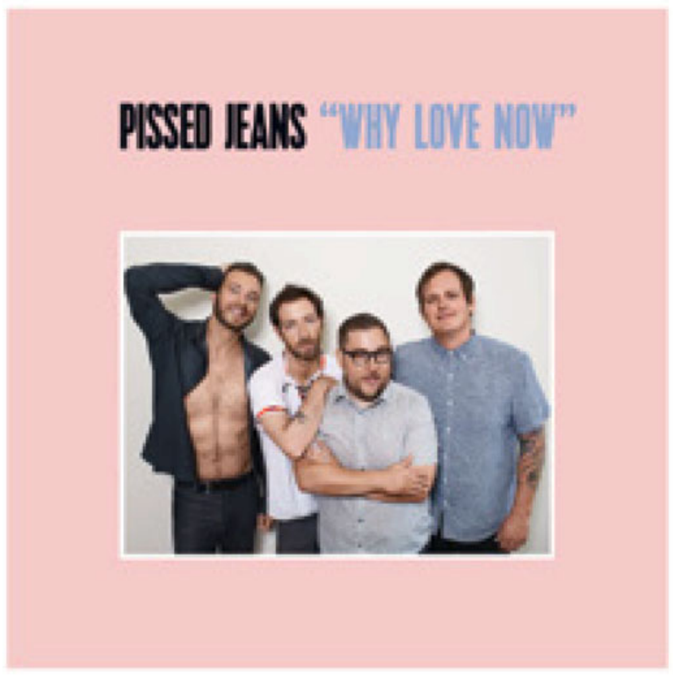
JESCA HOOP
Memories are Now
Out 2/10/2017 on LP/CD



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