

WEEKLY

US



Why Being
Single
Is Working
for J.Lo

DREW
CAREY

How I
Learned
to Laugh
Again

Exclusive



Justin Baldoni
vs. Blake Lively

THE NASTY BATTLE ROCKING HOLLYWOOD

Who's Really Going to Win?

Leaked voice memos, aggressive texts and claims of sexual harassment, defamation and extortion: Inside the scandal that could destroy reputations and careers

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Reference: 1. Nutrient data for 11-oz frozen mocha drink with whipped cream. FoodDataCentral. USDA website. <https://fdc.nal.usda.gov>. Accessed November 24, 2021.

* Milk Chocolate with Caffeine and Café Mocha flavors have 100mg of caffeine, as much as an 8-oz cup of coffee.

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stars they're just like us

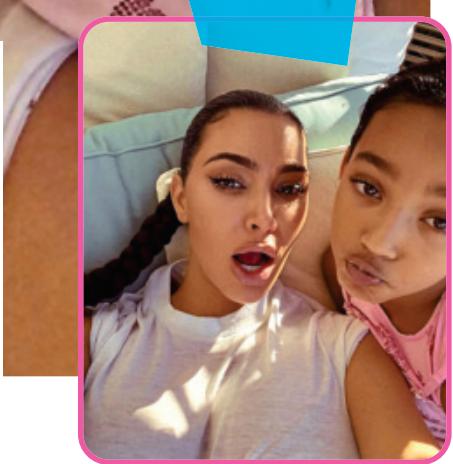
THEY'RE
NOT ALWAYS
IN THE V.I.P.
SUITE



KIM'S LEGACY
IS SECURE
WITH
CHEEKY
CHI-CHI

They Take Silly Selfies With Their Mini-Mes!

► Like mother, like daughter! **Kim Kardashian** celebrated her “twin soul” Chicago’s 7th birthday by sharing a series of funny face-offs in which they both made goofy (but adorable) expressions. “You are the cutest Hello Kitty-loving, full of wonder girl!” gushed the proud mom. The reality star affectionately calls her little one, born via surrogate, her clone. “I think I was so nervous to have a surrogate and to have that connection that God was like, ‘I’m going to make her look just like you,’” she explained. With cuteness, sass and Instagram chops to match, there’s no doubt Chi is her mama’s tiny twin.



They Nap by the Pool!

Taye Diggs used his hat as shade and a sleep mask when he nodded off in a lounge chair during his recent getaway to Sandals Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Maybe Amber Lyon's *You Are a Magnet* was just too powerful a bedtime read?!

CATCHING
RAYS—
AND ZZZS!



**Stars Were
Just Like Us**

Billie Was a Belieber!

Like many girls her age, Billie Eilish's childhood bedroom was wallpapered with posters of Justin Bieber — and she remains a superfan to this day. "Anything he makes at all, I'm excited about," said the "Birds of a Feather" singer. "I don't care if he pooped and put it on a plate and put that in the store. I'm excited." Proving that devotion means no (and we mean no) bounds when it comes to Bieber fever!



Baby, baby, baby Billie! "[Justin's] amazing. He's so sweet," said Eilish after Bieber — whom she befriended after collaborating with him on her "Bad Guy" remix — said he "just wanted to protect her."

How Just Like Us is...

PHAEDRA PARKS?



► She's back on Bravo's *The Real Housewives of Atlanta* and is out to convince us that Silk Vanilla Almond-milk is cereal's soulmate — but what we want to know is, how "real" is the reality star's life?

What's one bad habit you are trying to break?

Not sleeping enough — I get maybe four and a half hours of sleep a night. I'm really a workaholic.

What's your family nickname?

My grandfather, who's no longer with us, used to call me "Spider" because I was tiny and skinny, with little long legs and little long fingers.



What's the last thing you waited in line for?

More than likely, anything at Trader Joe's. They have the best flowers.

What's your favorite song to sing in the shower?

I know this is going to sound crazy, but I usually talk on the phone in the shower! I'm trying to close another deal or instruct my staff on what to do. So I don't have time for singing. I'm working.

What's the last show that you streamed?



Tulsa King [on Paramount+]. I love this show. So well done. I need it to come back on.

What's the last thing that you ordered online?

Oh my God, I am an Amazon nut! [I bought] rug adhesives just a few hours ago.

Who's your celebrity crush?

I love **Jimmy Kimmel**. I know he's a Scorpio. I've always watched him. He's so hilarious, but he also has an emotional side and so kind. I see him give musicians opportunities that some [others] wouldn't. So I just think he's a superhero.

CHRISTINA GARIBALDI



They Let Their Kids Give Them Extreme Makeovers!

Dwayne Johnson subjected himself to a beauty squad session from his daughters Jasmine, 9, and Tiana, 6. The *Moana* actor was on his way to the gym when his girls asked, "Daddy, can we just put some eye shadow on you?" but "The Rock" didn't regret his decision, noting, "They won't always be little." Too true. And too cute!

They Do Adorkable Couples' Stuff!

Joey King and her husband, director Steven Piet, aren't afraid to walk the tightrope between cuteness and cringe as they sported sweatshirts featuring their dogs, Jesse and Fable. "On the surface, we may seem like a couple who is a little corny and sometimes wears matching outfits," explained *The Kissing Booth* actress. "But deep down, we are literally exactly that." Admitting it is a major step!



They Ignore Historical Sites to Gossip With Their Pals!

When in Rome... catch up with your buddies!

A Complete Unknown costars **Edward Norton** and **Timothée Chalamet** were too engrossed in their conversation to pay attention to the scenic route while riding a double-decker tour bus through the Italian city.

TEA IS
GETTING
SPILT!



BEABODOOBEE
LOOKALIKE CONTEST

Hosted by Charli XCX

When: Friday, January 17th
Time: 3:00 PM PST
Where: Google Meet
How To Apply: DM @charlixcxstyle on Instagram

They Are Totally
NOT Like Us!

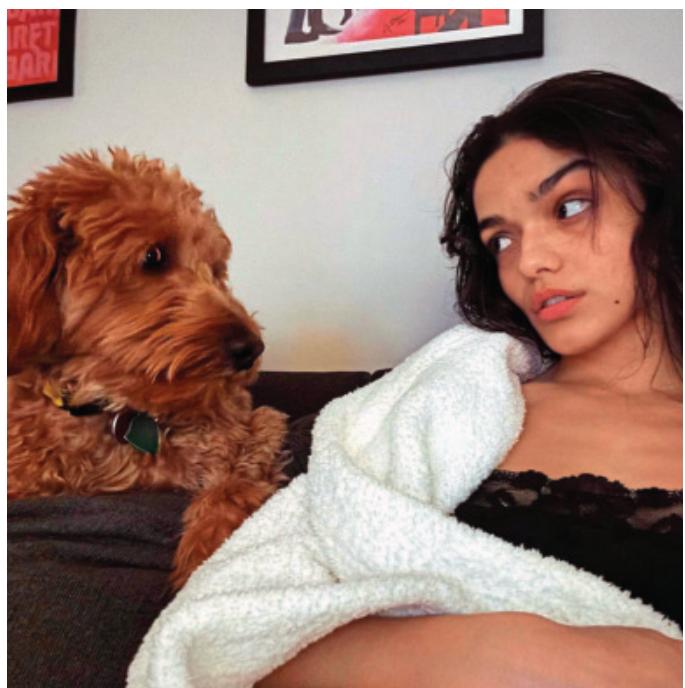
They Crash Their Own Lookalike Contest...and Lose!

When **Beabadoobee** saw that digital creator **Charli XCX** was hosting a Zoom lookalike contest, she decided to dive in headfirst. You'd think the odds would be in the singer's favor, right? Plot twist — she ended up losing! But don't worry, her dial-in was definitely the highlight. "Thank you for taking the time to give us this hilarious moment," said Chiu. "Sorry you didn't win!"

They Think They Can Communicate With Their Pets!

Call him her seeing eye-to-eye dog: **Rachel Zegler** got into a staring contest with her beloved pup Lenny — and they both ended up winners! The *Snow White* actress gushed that her good boy has given her "much-needed love without conditions or apprehensions."

Also, we think he wants a sausage!





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Color Block Party



JENNIFER CONNELLY

In head-to-toe Louis Vuitton, including a \$6,150 Petite Malle bag, Nov. 14.

KERRY WASHINGTON

In a \$2,895 top and \$995 trousers, both Brandon Maxwell, Dec. 4.

JOEY KING

In a \$6,990 plunge-front gown from Carolina Herrera, Oct. 19.

ZOE SALDAÑA

In a custom, knit number from Fendi with Marco Bicego jewels, Nov. 1.

From subtle pairings to striking two-tone contrasts, A-listers command attention in bold, multihued fashion!



MINDY KALING

In a \$5,495 Monique Lhuillier design and diamond drop necklace, Nov. 9.

KATIE HOLMES

In a \$3,290 Carolina Herrera dress and Irene Neuwirth gems, Oct. 28.

KATHRYN HAHN

In a belted Altuzarra ensemble and David Webb jewelry, Jan. 5.

CHARLIZE THERON

In a bustier bodice look and statement earrings, both Schiaparelli, Nov. 9.

Who Wore It

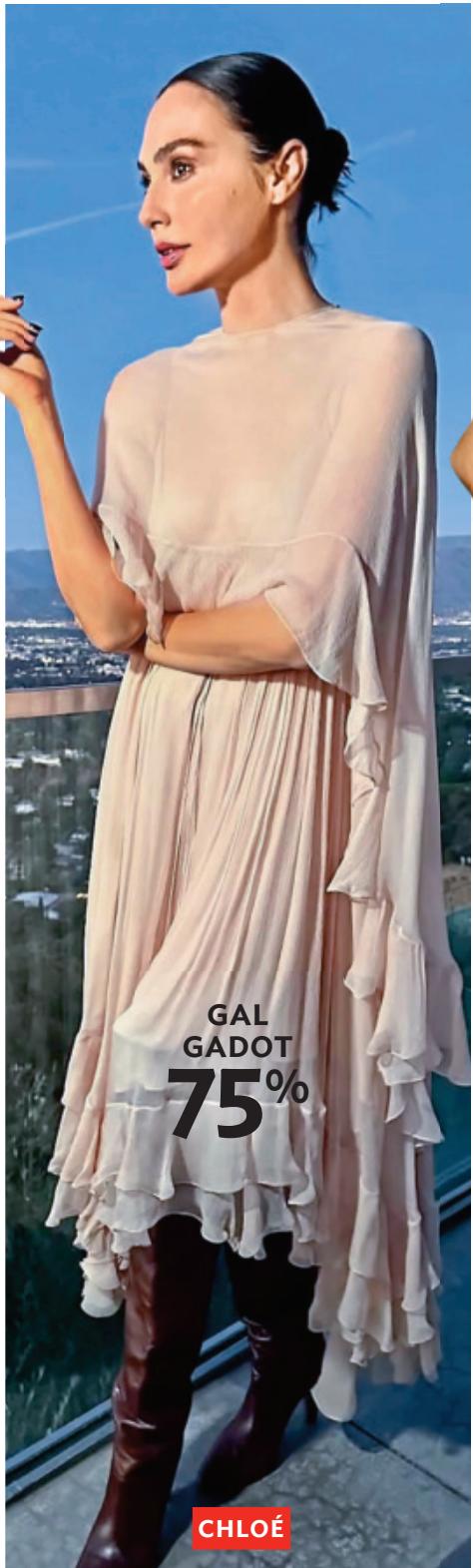


CHANEL

Best?

The fans weigh in!
Us asked our Instagram
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loose talk

WHAT
THE STARS
SAID THIS
WEEK

"[I'm] identifying as only married twice.

Time to update the Wikipedia."

On going back to her maiden name amid her messy divorce from third husband Josh Hall

CHRISTINA HAACK

"I'm very anxiety-prone, I don't like driving fast in real life at all. I can't even parallel park! I need it to be valet-only like in *Clueless*."

On what he's really like behind the wheel

ROBERT PATTINSON

"I'm now cool because I'm Margaret Qualley's mom and also Jack Antonoff's mother-in-law. So it's a double whammy. [I get] letters in the mailbox. 'I think you're wonderful,' and you know, they're 13!"

On experiencing "reverse nepotism"

ANDIE MACDOWELL

"I have never received more texts in my life about anything. Anyone who has my phone number has reached out about it."

Addressing his resemblance to CEO murder suspect Luigi Mangione

DAVE FRANCO

"I'm honestly not brilliant with cows... There are quite a lot of stories in England about people having very nasty run-ins with cows, very real ones. So I am extremely wary of a field of cows."

On her "fear" of the farm animal

KATE WINSLET

WHO said this?

"I think, actually, I'd be more successful if I was OK wearing a muzzle."

A) Courtney Love B) Chappell Roan C) Amy Schumer

ANSWER: B



inside Us

FEBRUARY 17, 2025

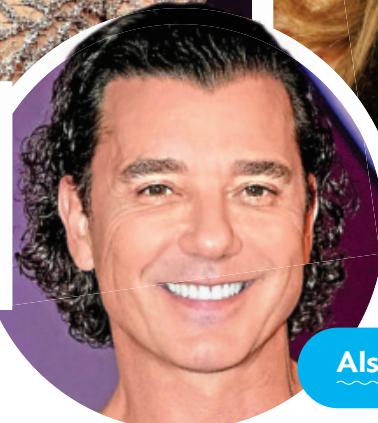
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Catherine O'Hara talks to Us about Schitt's Creek, Home Alone costar Macaulay Culkin and more.



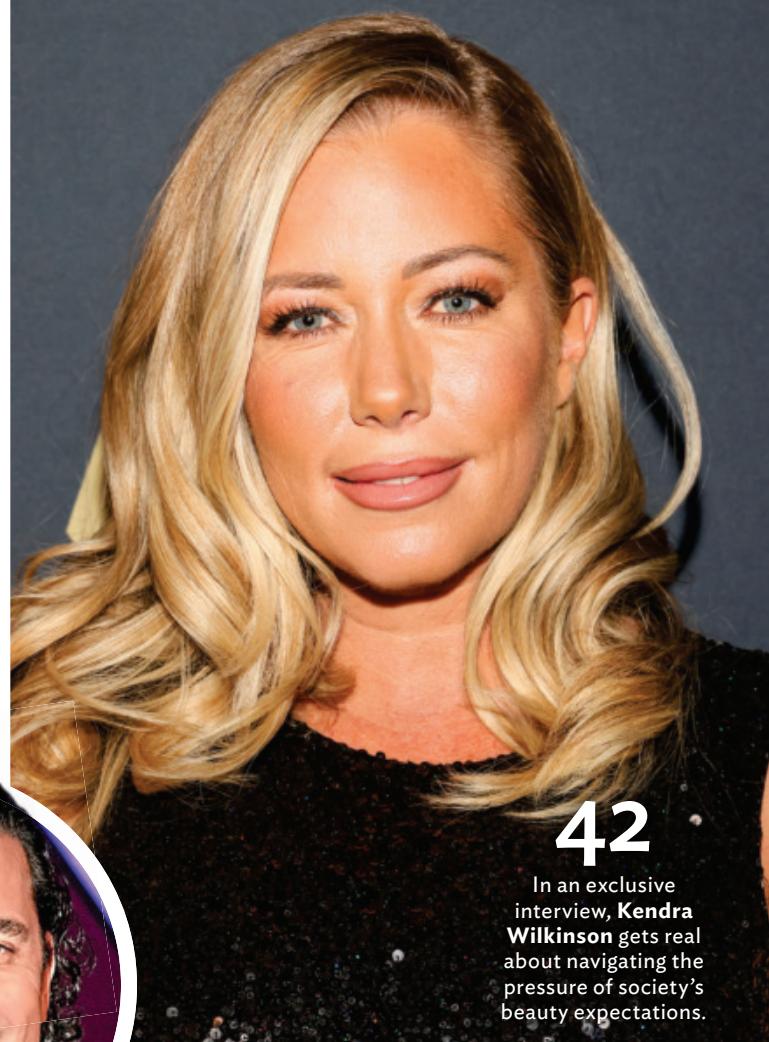
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Rocker Gavin Rossdale dishes on his new cooking show and shares a favorite recipe.



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In an exclusive interview, Kendra Wilkinson gets real about navigating the pressure of society's beauty expectations.



On The Cover

Also in This Issue

30 THIS IS HER... NOW

The future is looking bright for **Jennifer Lopez**: With her latest film, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, getting rave reviews, a source tells Us how the newly divorced actress is using this time to level up her professional and personal life.

36 NO END IN SIGHT

Experts share their takes on how the ugly legal battle between *It Ends With Us* costars **Blake Lively** and **Justin Baldoni** has already impacted the actors' lives, careers and reputations — and whether it's likely they'll settle before their March 2026 trial date.

44 A SOUL SURVIVOR

The *Price Is Right* host **Drew Carey** sits down with Us to discuss navigating the darkest days of his life, the power of laughter and the joys of being part of the beloved game show. Plus: the powerful lessons he took from his time in the Marine Corps.

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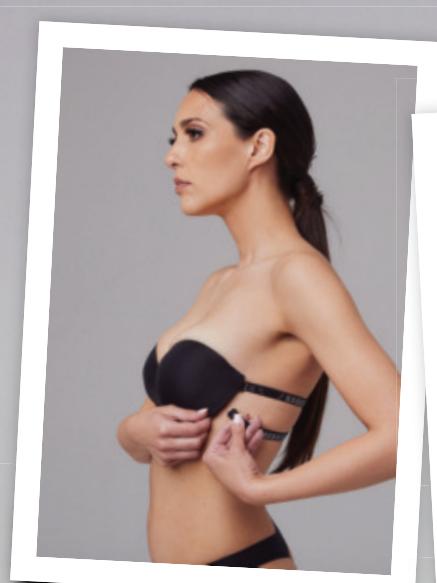
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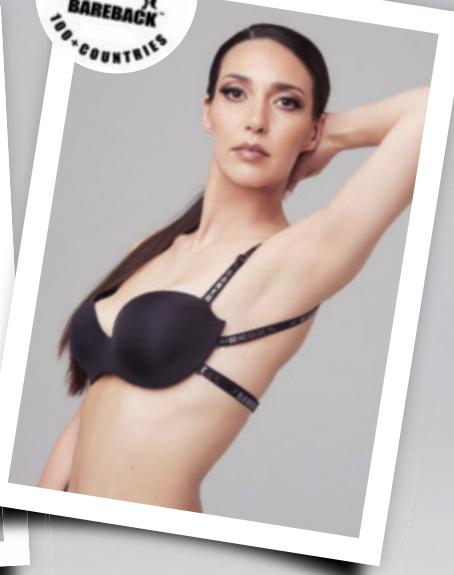
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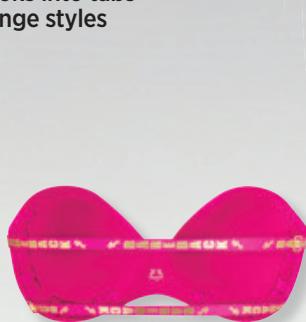
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hot pics



Who Are We to Fight the Alchemy?

Taylor Swift proudly locked lips with **Travis Kelce** following his AFC Championship win with the Kansas City Chiefs, earning their spot in the Super Bowl. "This is so insane," Swift gushed to Kelce. "This is not a real-life situation."

KANSAS CITY,
JAN. 26



GOING
THE
DISTANCE!



To get even more hot pics every day, check out usmagazine.com

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: GETTY (2), NYKNICKSMSG SPORTS, GETTY (2), MEGA GETTY, KENDALLIENNER/INSTAGRAM



Mutual Fan Club

Knicks star **Karl-Anthony Towns** gifted NYC native **Timothée Chalamet** his game-worn jersey following the team's win over the Memphis Grizzlies.

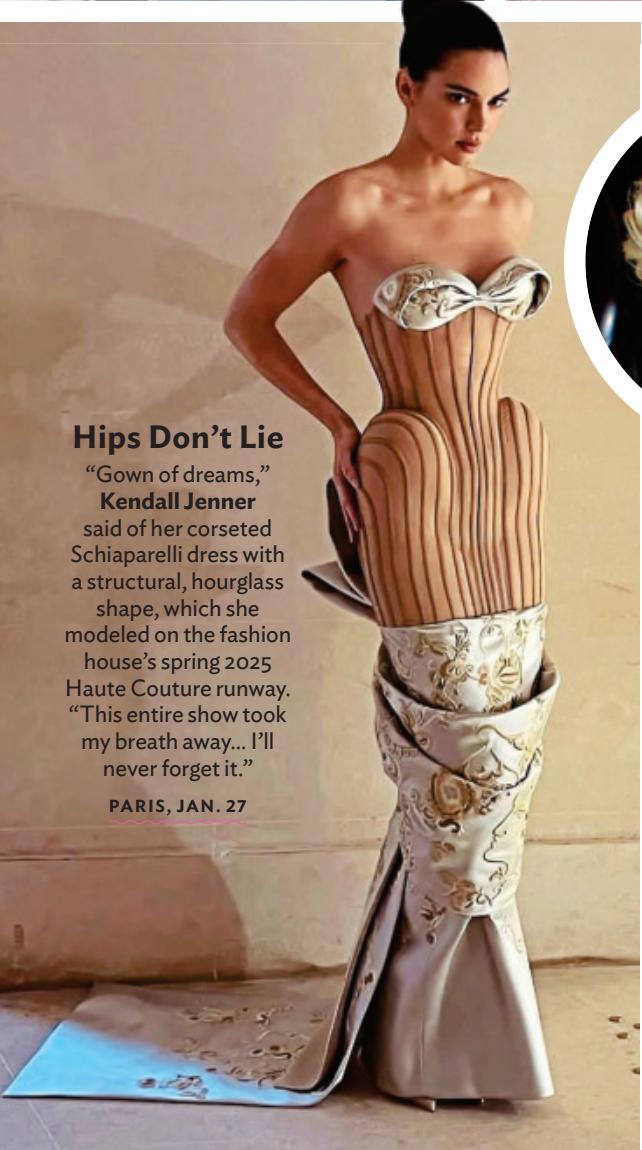
NYC, JAN. 27



A Family Affair

Two generations of sibling love! **Paris Hilton**'s son, Phoenix, 2, and 14-month-old daughter, London, made their red carpet debut with their mom and aunt **Nicky Hilton Rothschild** at the God's Love We Deliver ice cream social.

NYC, JAN. 28



Hips Don't Lie

"Gown of dreams," **Kendall Jenner** said of her corseted Schiaparelli dress with a structural, hourglass shape, which she modeled on the fashion house's spring 2025 Haute Couture runway. "This entire show took my breath away... I'll never forget it."

PARIS, JAN. 27



Two Days, Three Hairstyles

Bold hair, don't care! **Lisa Rinna** nearly gave us whiplash with her vastly different (but equally daring) back-to-back looks during Paris Fashion Week.

PARIS

hot pics



Sheer Delight

Gabrielle Union stunned in a Schiaparelli gown with see-through panels at the fashion house's Haute Couture show during Paris Fashion Week.

PARIS, JAN. 27



Two Decades Later

Bridget Jones's Diary costars **Hugh Grant** and **Renée Zellweger** reunited 24 years after the film debuted for the premiere of the fourth installment in the franchise, *Mad About the Boy*.

PARIS, JAN. 27

Three's Company

Tarek El Moussa was sandwiched between his wife, Heather Rae El Moussa, and ex-wife Christina Haack for *The Flip Off* stars' appearance on *The Jennifer Hudson Show*.

L.A., JAN. 28



A Very 'Brat' Duo

"I thought a Super Bowl was something I could order on Uber Eats," **Charli XCX** said in a new teaser for the food delivery company's ad during the big game. "I thought it was something else," **Martha Stewart** replied with a laugh.

JAN. 27

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: GETTY (2), UBER EATS/MEGA, GETTY, INSTAR

USMAGAZINE.COM | 17

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hot pics



Let Them Eat Cake!

Reese Witherspoon and Will Ferrell playfully posed with a splintered cake at a screening of their new film, *You're Cordially Invited*, which centers around two couples double-booked for their dream wedding venue.

LONDON, JAN. 23



Always 'Together'

Doing press with your scene partner is way more fun when they're also your spouse! Alison Brie and Dave Franco showed some PDA at the Sundance Film Festival, where they promoted their body horror flick, *Together*.

PARK CITY, UTAH, JAN. 26





Boy Bands Meet Broadway

AJ McLean and Joey Fatone dramatically posed backstage with Nicole Scherzinger after her performance in *Sunset Blvd.*

NYC, JAN. 22



Ab-solutely Insane

The crowd at *The Jennifer Hudson Show* was so excited to see **Shemar Moore** that he couldn't resist lifting his shirt to flex his six-pack for the roaring audience.

L.A., JAN. 24



Sweet Reunion

"Drew made up a lot of her own dialogue because she was irrepressible," **Steven Spielberg** recalled of working with a 6-year-old **Drew Barrymore** (his goddaughter!) over 40 years ago on *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* during their appearance at the TCM Classic Film Festival.

NYC, JAN. 25

By Molly McGuigan

hot pics



Garden Party
Country queen Kelsea Ballerini dressed like your average city slicker, pointing fans in the right direction ahead of her sold-out show at MSG.

NYC, SEPT. 11

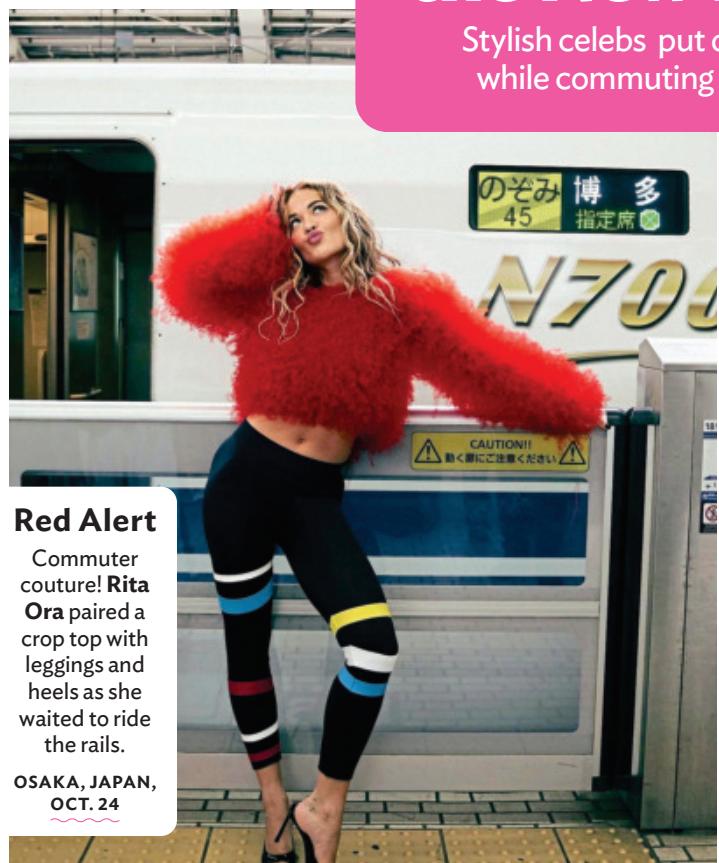


Connect the Dots
Olivia Rodrigo turned an empty car into an impromptu photo shoot, donning a polka-dot Dana Foley dress.

NYC, DEC. 3

The Subway is the New Runway!

Stylish celebs put on a fashion show while commuting on public transit



Red Alert

Commuter couture! Rita Ora paired a crop top with leggings and heels as she waited to ride the rails.

OSAKA, JAPAN,
OCT. 24



Fantasy League

Holly Madison reped the New York Jets as she emerged from the underground.

NYC, OCT. 30



Pole Models

Emily Ratajkowski and Bella Hadid were fashionably early on the subway-as-runway trend when they rode NYC's N train home from the Marc Jacobs show in 2015.



Getting a Leg Up

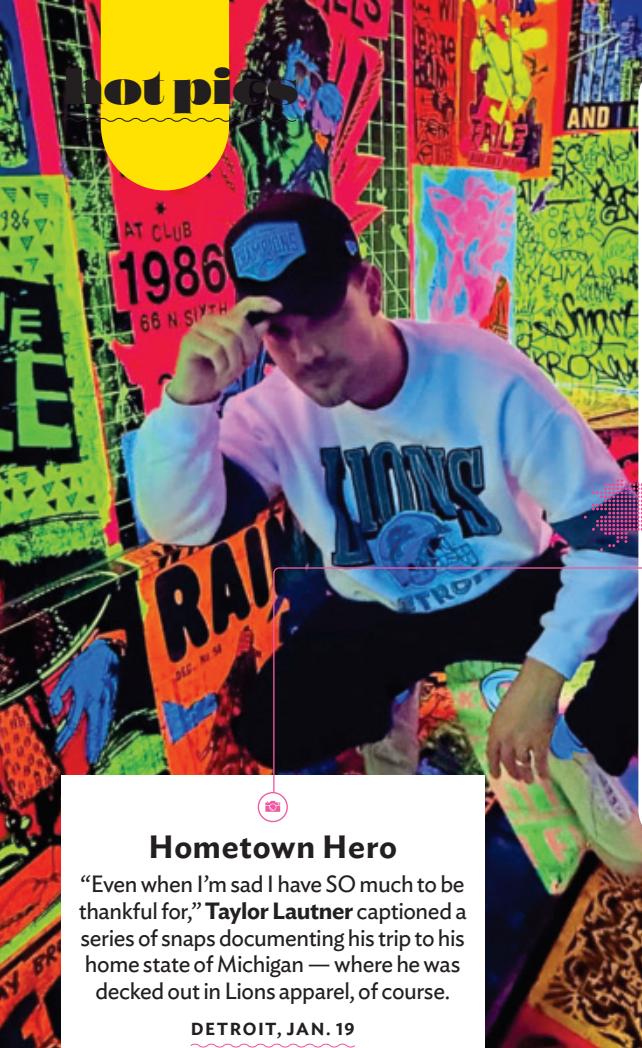
Hey, no feet on the seat! Olympic gymnast **Jordan Chiles** traded red, white and blue for an all-black outfit to make her way around the Big Apple.

NYC, DEC. 10

SKINCARE *Super* POWER FOR YOUR SHOWER!



hot picks



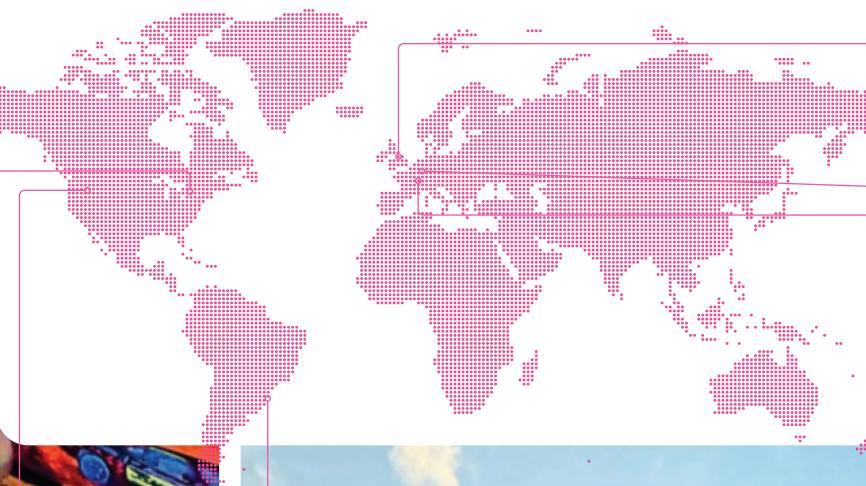
Hometown Hero

"Even when I'm sad I have SO much to be thankful for," **Taylor Lautner** captioned a series of snaps documenting his trip to his home state of Michigan — where he was decked out in Lions apparel, of course.

DETROIT, JAN. 19

Out of Office, Celebrity Style

Inside the stars' food and fun-filled getaways



Good Eats

"Shout out to all the locals in Sun Valley, ID. We made some great memories and some great friends," **Jimmy Fallon** said of his family ski trip. "If you're in town, stop by Grumpy's for a burger and a schooner."

SUN VALLEY,
IDAHO, JAN. 24



Landmark Moment

Emily Ratajkowski couldn't resist a photo-op in front of the famous Christ the Redeemer statue. "Eu amo o rio ... so so much!" she wrote via Insta, proclaiming her love for the city.

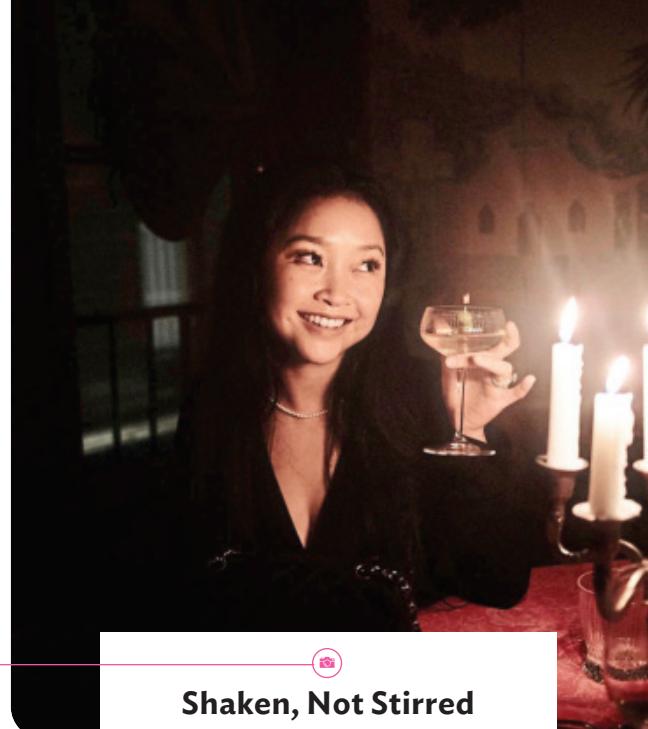
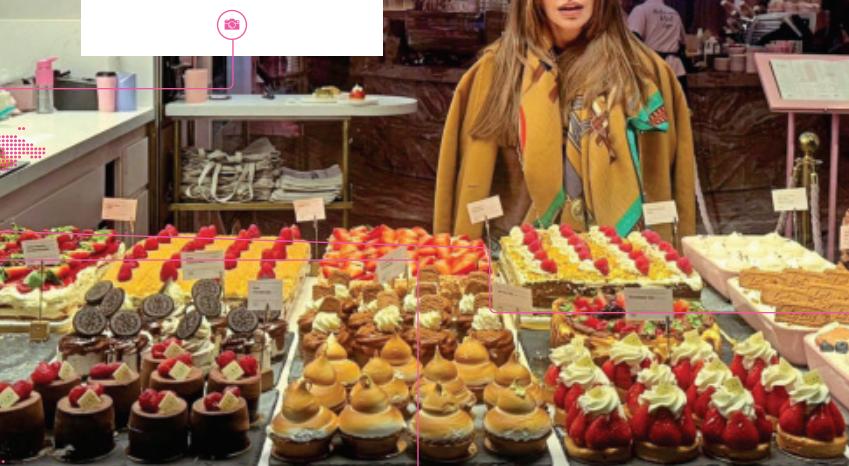
RIO DE JANEIRO,
JAN. 26



Cupcakes and Shortcake and Tarts, Oh My!

Sofía Vergara seemed to opt for sweets over sightseeing while across the pond.

LONDON, JAN. 22



Shaken, Not Stirred

Fancy in France: **Lana Condor** sipped on a dirty martini in a candlelit bar.

PARIS, JAN. 22



Au Revoir!

"I know I just got back, but Paris, I miss you already," **Tayshia Adams** captioned a recap of her time in the City of Lights on Instagram.

PARIS, JAN. 23

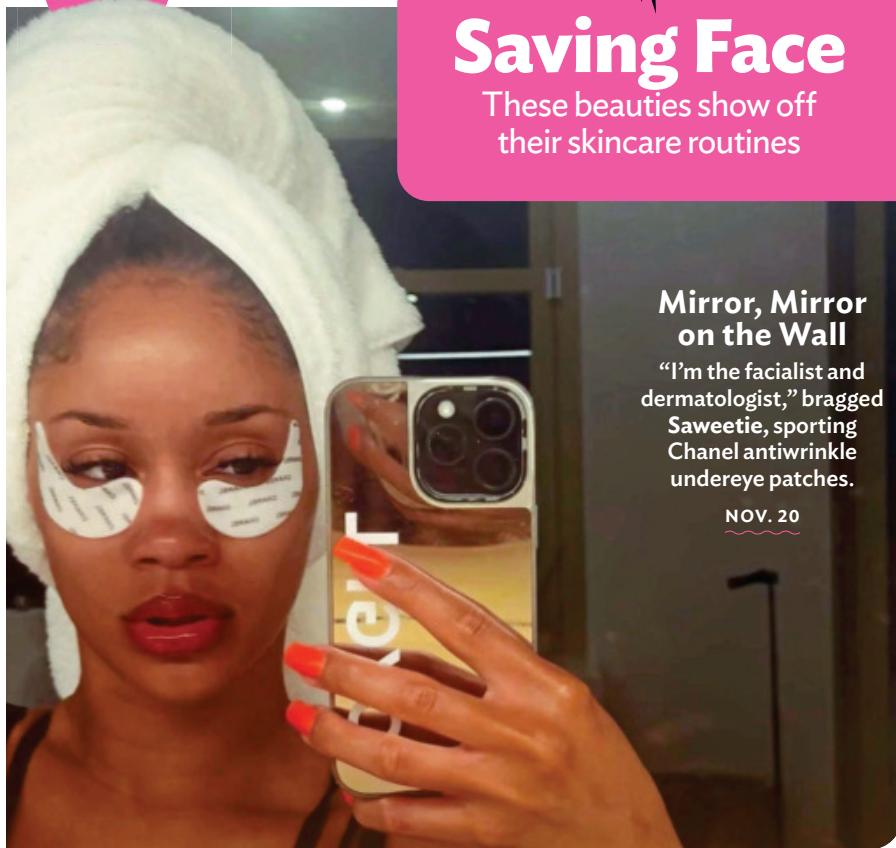
Saving Face

These beauties show off their skincare routines

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

"I'm the facialist and dermatologist," bragged Saweetie, sporting Chanel antiwrinkle undereye patches.

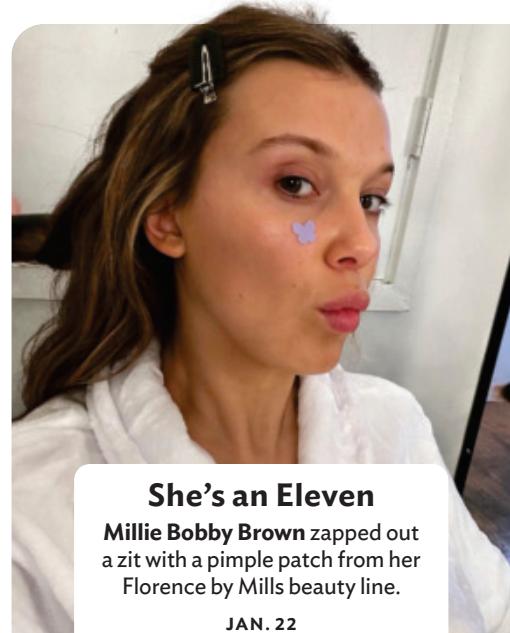
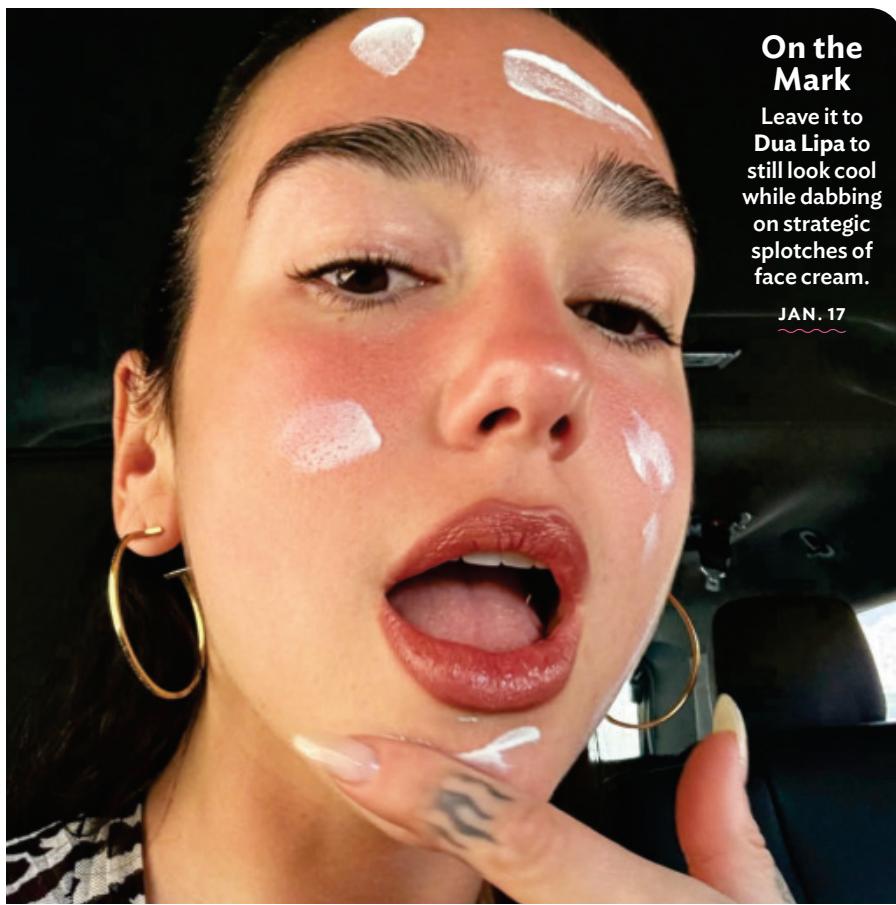
NOV. 20



On the Mark

Leave it to Dua Lipa to still look cool while dabbing on strategic splotches of face cream.

JAN. 17



She's an Eleven

Millie Bobby Brown zapped out a zit with a pimple patch from her Florence by Mills beauty line.

JAN. 22



Feeling Blue

Kerry Washington and her *UnPrisoned* costar Jee Young Han engaged in "on-screen self-care" in Blue Magic masks from Sonya Dakar Skincare.

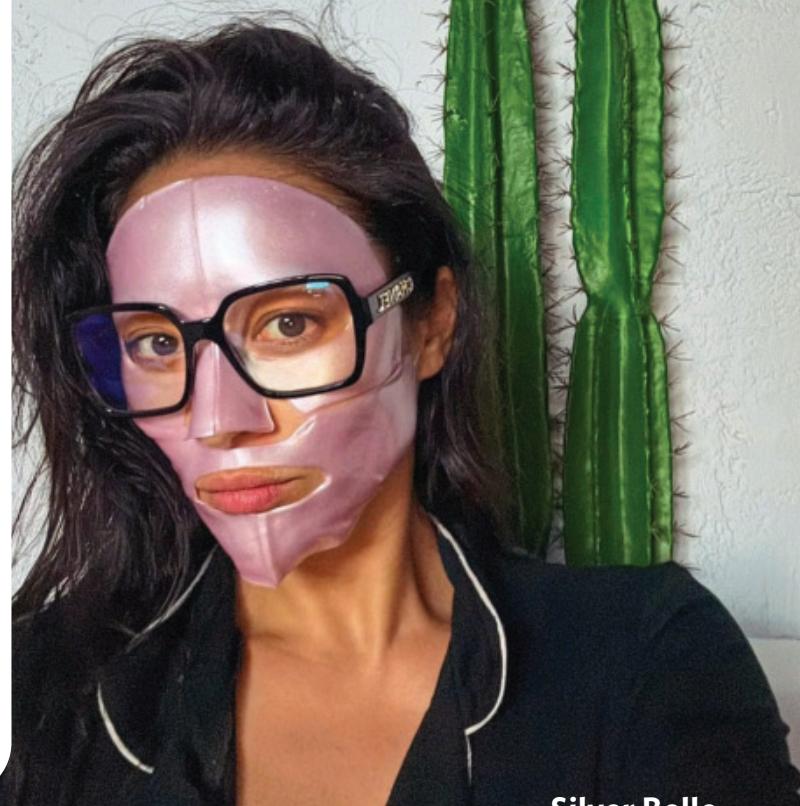
JULY 29



Going Robe

The woman in the sheet mask: An undercover **Demi Lovato** snapped a selfie during a hands-on facial.

NOV. 12



Silver Belle

Shay Mitchell resembled a relaxed robot in her PJs, glasses and metallic mask.

NOV. 11



Shine Bright Like a Diamond

"Here's your reminder to put that sunscreen on, baby!" said **Rihanna**, applying Fenty's Hydra Vizor moisturizer with SPF 30.

AUG. 24





Risque Ramen

During a 2018 trip to Japan, Kim Kardashian showed off her chopstick skills while slurping down what she called "nudels." (Good one!)



Causing a Stir

If you can't stand the heat... MMA fighter Paige VanZant and hubby Austin Vanderford spiced up the kitchen in 2020.

Clean Eating

No reservations! "Love a good bath picnic, don't you?" asked **Padma Lakshmi**, enjoying wine and pasta in the tub in 2023.



Attention Hungry

These stars pose with food in the nude!



Salad Undressing

Sitting pretty in the nitty-gritty! "But...I'm bored of wearing clothes," declared **Kesha**, who proved her point by posing stark naked next to her meal.

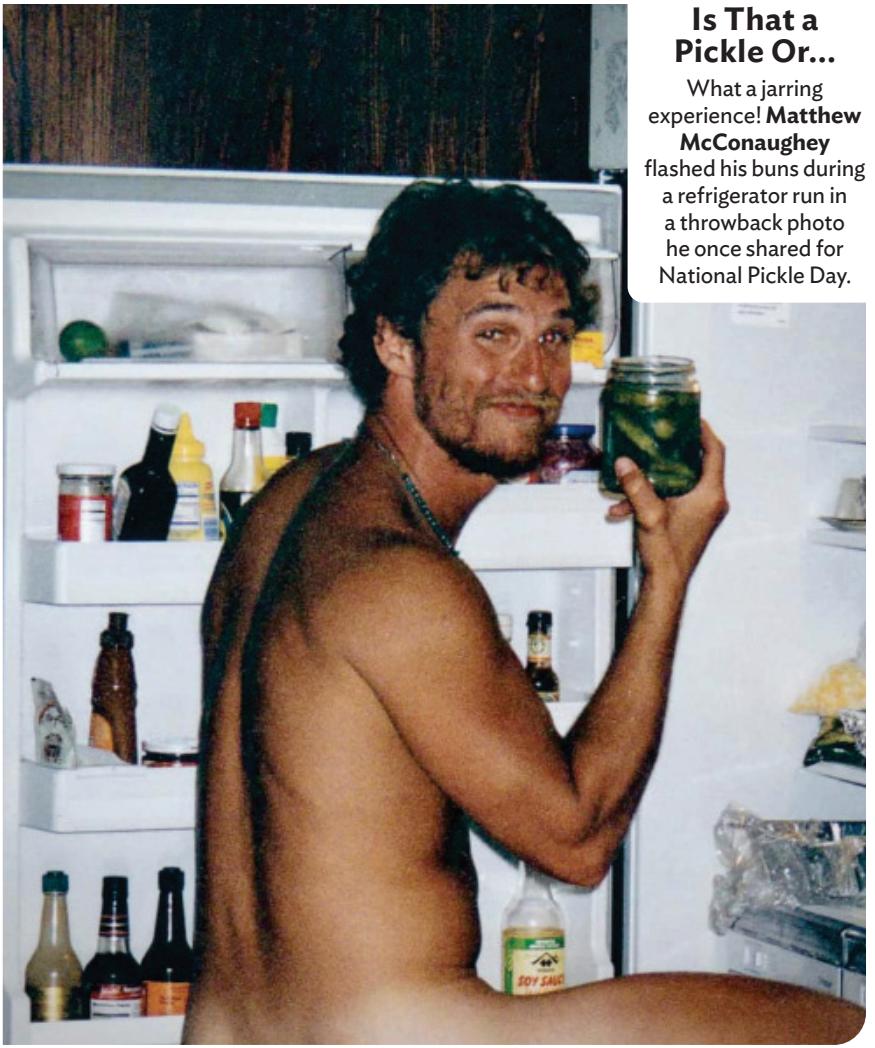
AUG. 17

Is That a Pickle Or...

What a jarring experience! **Matthew McConaughey** flashed his buns during a refrigerator run in a throwback photo he once shared for National Pickle Day.

Don't Spill!
Madonna (barely!) protected her modesty with a napkin as she spooned into a bowl of soup sans shirt.

OCT. 22



Au Natural

"Please don't shame me: I am a strong, proud-salad-making woman," quipped **Chrissy Teigen** back in 2018.

By Matt Sullivan

love lives

CAITLIN & JOE

A (Fur) Baby-Approved Match

Caitlin O'Connor may just be The One for **Joe Manganiello** — and his pup!

From their Valentine's Day Instagram hard launch last February to PDA at concerts and sports games, **Caitlin O'Connor** and **Joe Manganiello** have shown they're the real deal over the last year and a half. "They have a lot in common because of their shared Pittsburgh roots and upbringing," an insider tells *Us* of the *Deal or No Deal Island* host, 48, and the actress and model, 35. "They always seem so genuinely happy, in love and holding hands." The duo started dating in August 2023, shortly after Manganiello split from ex-wife **Sofía Vergara**, and since then, it's been all Steelers games, island getaways and cute Insta pics for the lovebirds. But the true mark of the couple's future lies with Bubbles, the *Magic Mike* actor's beloved rescue Chihuahua. "Bubbles loves kissing Caitlin on the face and allowing Caitlin to hold her, which is pretty rare since she's so protective of Joe," the insider shares. "It seems like she has Bubbles' approval — which is all Joe really needed to see to seal the deal."



O'Connor sang Manganiello's praises in a December birthday tribute, calling him her "funny adventure buddy, protector and Bubbles' amazing dad."

Learn more about your favorite couples at usmagazine.com

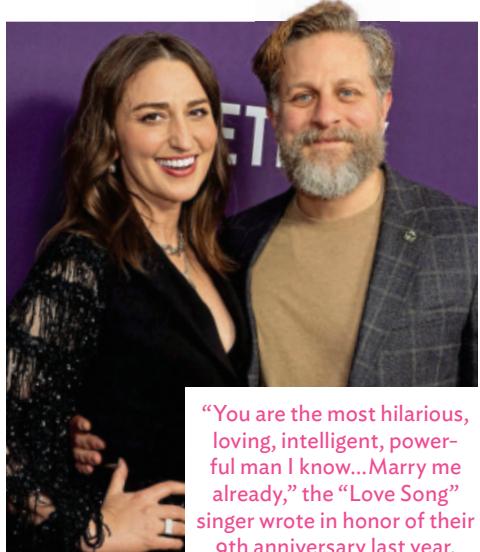
SARA BAREILLES & JOE TIPPETT

Straight Out of a 'Love Song'

After a decade together, **Sara Bareilles** and **Joe Tippett** are tying the knot this year. It's no surprise their love story ends with a happily ever — they met on the set of a musical, after all. "You get the beautiful benefit of someone who understands what it's like to go through the artistic process and what that

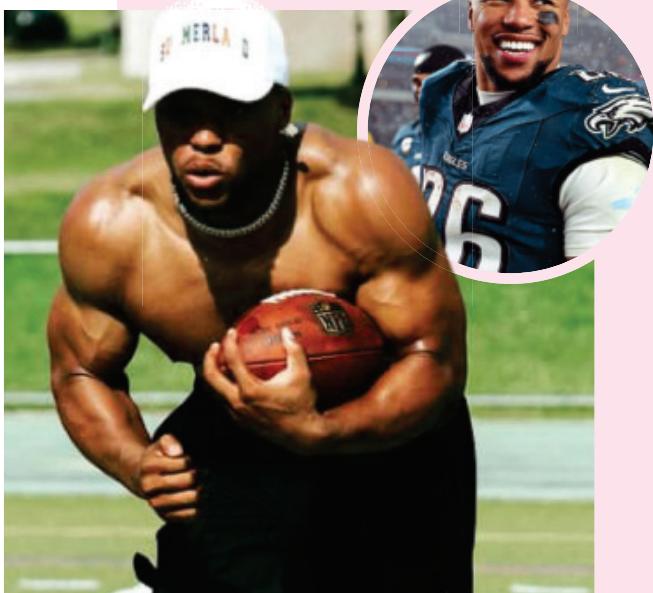
brings up in you as a person," Bareilles, 45, tells *Us* of her dynamic with the actor, 42, whom she met working on a production of *Waitress*. Yet when it comes to their wedding, the singer-songwriter promises it won't be a theatrical production. "Getting married in your 40s for the first time, the things that stick with

me about what I thought I wanted when I was in my 20s and dreamed about, it's just not the same," she explains. "I just want to wear shoes that don't hurt my feet. I want there to be lots of food and delicious drinks and great music. I want everyone to have fun."



"You are the most hilarious, loving, intelligent, powerful man I know...Marry me already," the "Love Song" singer wrote in honor of their 9th anniversary last year.

People We Googled Shirtless This Week



Saquon Barkley

The 6-foot, 233-pound running back may have joined the Eagles in dramatic fashion after failing to resign with rivals the Giants last year, but *Us* will watch him and his "Saquads" anywhere they run. The 28-year-old's successful season with the Philly team — and crowd-pleasing long touchdown runs — are unfortunately coming to a close post-Super Bowl, and we'll be mourning by singing "Let Me Love You," his self-described karaoke song of choice.

ON & OFF!

Who's Hooking Up & Who's Breaking Up



Jamie Foxx & Alyce Huckstepp

On Jan. 24, shortly after the release of his new film, *Back in Action*, news broke that the Oscar winner and Huckstepp had called it quits after more than a year of dating.



Chace Crawford & Kelsey Merritt

The *Gossip Girl* alum stepped out with the Victoria's Secret model in L.A. on Jan. 18, two months after they sparked romance rumors by following each other on Insta.



Olivia Wilde & Dane DiLiegro

The director coaxed up to the *Prey* star and former basketball player at a Lakers game in L.A. on Jan. 23, prompting internet speculation about their relationship.

THE HIGHER
YOUR IQ, THE
GREATER YOUR
NEED FOR
CELEBRITY
STORIES

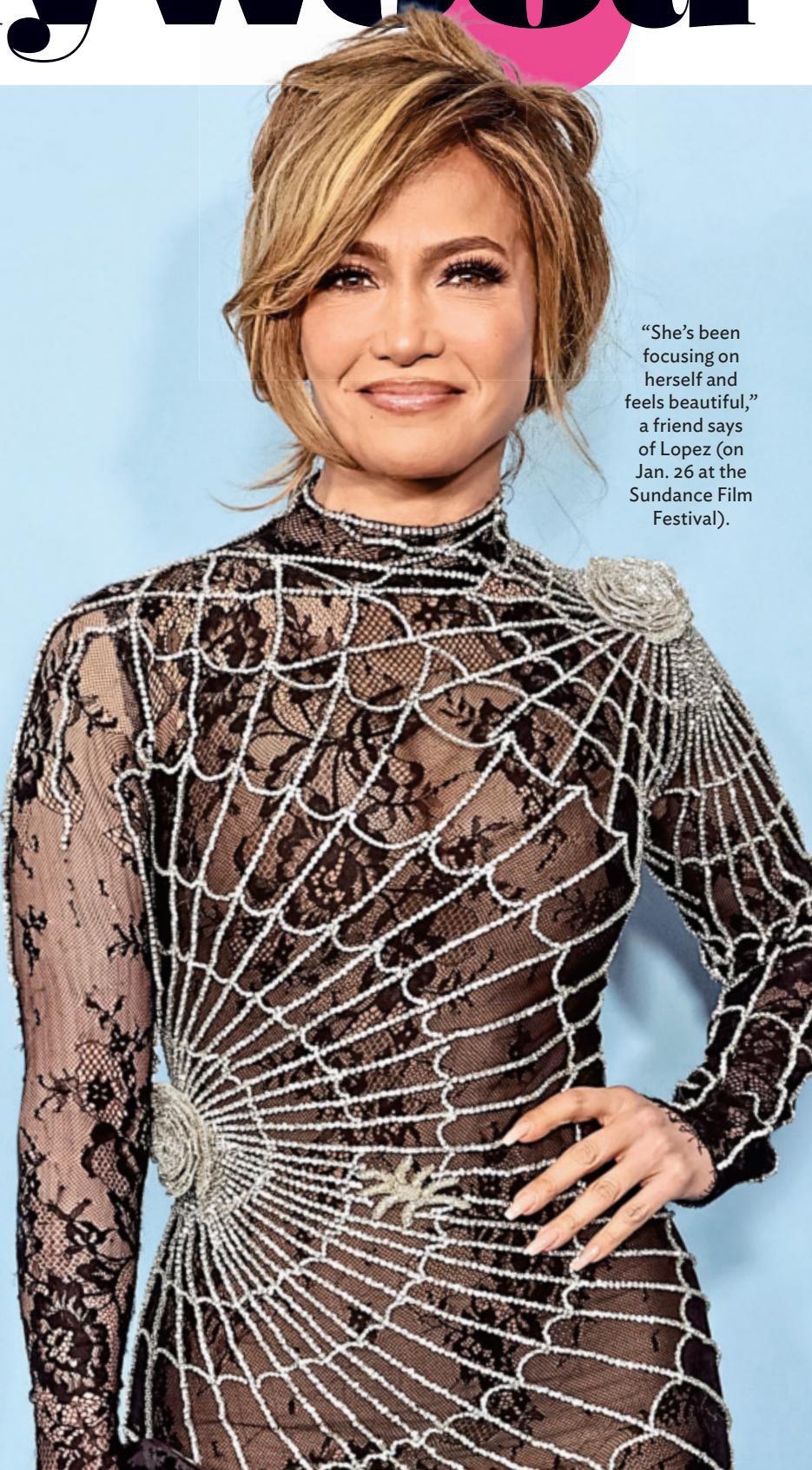
hollywood hot

Single Life Looks Good on J.Lo!

Following a difficult few months, **Jennifer Lopez** is feeling great — and excited about what's to come

All eyes were on **Jennifer Lopez** when she showed up at the

Sundance Film Festival for the premiere of her upcoming musical drama, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* — and she did not disappoint. “She look[ed] beautiful,” an eyewitness tells Us, adding that Lopez’s performance in the movie was equally impressive. “Jennifer is the highlight of the film... [there were] multiple applause breaks after performances and a standing ovation,” notes the eyewitness. “If she gets an Oscar nod [next year], it won’t be a shock.” It would be a dream come true for Lopez, 55, who’s put her career at the top of her mind following her recent divorce from **Ben Affleck**, 52. “J.Lo is starting to feel like herself again. She’s making sure she is happy and that she’s being a good mom [to 16-year-old twins Max and Emme with ex **Marc Anthony**],” a friend of Lopez tells Us, calling work a “good distraction” from the last several months. “This film is J.Lo’s dream. She really thinks it’s her best performance,” the friend continues. “She also has a couple of other projects in the works, but she’s being selective. This is all about quality over quantity.” That applies to her love life as well. Although the friend notes that Lopez “isn’t ready to date again just yet,” she isn’t ruling out a relationship in the future. “She still believes in love,” adds the friend. “She is a romantic and always will be.”



“She’s been focusing on herself and feels beautiful,” a friend says of Lopez (on Jan. 26 at the Sundance Film Festival).



"Megan [has been] taking space apart from MGK and it's been beneficial," says an insider.



Why Megan's Distancing Herself From MGK

Things are still rocky between **Megan Fox** and ex **Machine Gun Kelly** as they prepare to welcome their first child together. While the rocker, 34, took to Insta on Jan. 28 to seemingly slam reports that he and Fox, 38, aren't in contact, an insider tells *Us* their communication is very limited. "They don't talk at great lengths but have exchanged a few texts," says the insider, explaining that the actress — who's already mom to Noah, 12, Bodhi, 10, and Journey, 8, with ex-husband

Brian Austin Green — has taken a step back in order to "heal" and protect her peace as her due date approaches. "Megan wants him to be a part of their child's life but doesn't want to be in a relationship with him." As *Us* previously reported, the pair split in November amid trust issues in their on/off, four-year romance. "MGK wants to get back together with Megan, but she's told him she is done for good," adds the insider. "Everyone close to her thinks she's happier and seems to be in better spirits."



Kirkconnell said that James "didn't think" she was his "perfect person."

Rachael & Matt: What Went Wrong

• **Rachael Kirkconnell** is shedding light on what led to her sudden split from former Bachelor **Matt James** after four years of dating. "He said that at the end of the day, there were just qualities about me that he worries about having in a wife," Kirkconnell revealed on the Jan. 28 episode of *Call Her Daddy*. "I think [he] just had this realization that 'I should want to propose to you by this time... [but] I can't actually see myself married to you.'" Bachelor Nation was blindsided when James, 33, announced his split from Kirkconnell, 28, in a Jan. 16 Insta post — just months after teasing that an engagement was the "next step" for the two. Kirkconnell admitted she was equally shocked. "[Matt] said, 'You're beautiful, smart and funny and ... you'll find a guy that will love you for you.' He just didn't think that it was him," she recalled. "It was a lot to hear at once because a few days before... I'm hearing the opposite."



Keeping Up With Us

The Hollywood Download!

• A royal welcome! **Princess Beatrice** and husband **Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi** (above) welcomed their second child together — daughter **Athena Elizabeth Rose**, a nod to the late **Queen Elizabeth**! — on Jan. 22, the Palace announced in a statement. They're already parents to daughter **Sienna**, 3, and Mozzi's son **Wolfie** from a previous relationship.

• Mark your Post-it: **Lisa Kudrow** (pictured) and **Mira Sorvino** are reportedly in final negotiations to star in a sequel to their hit 1997 film, *Romy and Michele's High School Reunion*. Production is said to be eyeing a June start date.



• She's back! More than a decade after leaving *RHOC*, **Gretchen Rossi** is returning to the franchise next season in a "friend" role, a source close to production confirms to *Us*.

• One year after finalizing her divorce from **Kevin Costner**, **Christine Baumgartner** is engaged! Per reports, she said yes to financier **Josh Connor** on a beach in Santa Barbara, Calif., on Jan. 26.



• A new role: Former Disney actress **Skai Jackson** has given birth to her first child. "Kasai," she captioned a Jan. 22 Insta photo of her newborn's tiny feet. Jackson has not revealed the identity of the baby's father.



Keeping Up With Us

THE Gossip Download!

- A reason to Smile: **Katy Perry** (above) has announced her first North American tour in seven years! The singer will kick off the U.S. leg of her *Lifetimes Tour* in Houston, Texas, on May 7.



- Tim McGraw** has reportedly exited his headlining role in Netflix's upcoming untitled rodeo drama after learning that he needs to undergo back surgery.

- Surprise, **Vic Mensa** is a dad! The rapper quietly welcomed son Mansa Musa with his girlfriend, **Melanie**, eight months ago. "The best part of fatherhood is just the time I get to spend with my son and seeing his personality develop," he tells *Us* exclusively.

- Late actor **Paul Reubens**, who lost his battle with cancer in 2023 at age 70, came out as gay in HBO's posthumous docuseries, *Pee-wee as Himself*. "I was conflicted about sexuality," he explained. "But fame was way more complicated."

- A career pivot? Pop star **Charli XCX** is set to produce and star in *The Moment*, a film based on her own original idea. It marks the first project under her new production company, Studio365.

Got some hot gossip? Email HOTSTUFF@USMAGAZINE.COM

Celebs' Crazy Collections

These stars have treasure troves of unique memorabilia



JANET JACKSON

Years ago, the Grammy winner took up the hobby of gathering pig figurines — but it eventually backfired. "Everyone started giving them to me. I had hundreds of pigs," she recalled. "I mean, really, what was I supposed to do with them? So I gave it up!"



TOM HANKS

A longtime typewriter enthusiast, Hanks picked 35 of his 300 beloved machines to appear in an exhibit titled "Some of Tom's Typewriters," which runs until March 10 at The Church in Sag Harbor, N.Y. "Every time you type something on a typewriter, it is a one-of-a-kind work of art," the actor said of his appreciation for the relics. "They're brilliant combinations of art and engineering."



MARTHA STEWART

The lifestyle guru has so many baskets that she had to build a shed on her property in Bedford, N.Y., just to store them, dubbed the Basket House! "I have hundreds," Stewart revealed in 2023, "some are rare and antique, some are vintage and some are more contemporary."



AMANDA SEYFRIED

The actress has a passion for animals — both living and deceased! "When taxidermy is done well, it's an amazing piece of art," she once said, noting that her collection includes an owl, miniature horse, miniature zebra, chick and a deer. "I love animals, and they're very easy to look after when they're dead."



EMMA ROBERTS

Roberts built a custom "doll wall" in her home to display some of her favorite collectibles, like her "drunk cowgirl" Barbie and Blythe dolls. "I'm madly obsessed with them," she's said, adding, "I hope that every night — that they'll come wake me up. It would be so thrilling."



"There are very few things I think that would knock back King Charles from doing his duty," former royal chef **Darren McGrady** tells *Us*.

Charles Isn't Slowing Down Amid Cancer Battle

► Last April, **King Charles** stunned the world when he returned to royal duties just two months after sharing he'd been diagnosed with cancer. While it's been reported that his treatments are expected to continue in 2025, the monarch, 76, has no plans to slow down. "He's a passionate workaholic," royal historian **Marlene Koenig** tells *Us*. "His mom [Queen Elizabeth II] was head of state at the age of 25... He's got less time. He's going to try and do as much as he can under his own steam and what his doctor allows." According to royal photographer **Samir Hussein**, the king's schedule is packed. "It's very encouraging [to see] the amount of jobs he has been able to take on despite his treatment," Hussein tells *Us*. "I feel a real desire from the king to cement his stature."

CATHERINE O'HARA

Comedy's Queen of Quirk!

The two-time Emmy winner looks back on her most legendary projects with *Us*



With a résumé boasting classics like *Beetlejuice*, *Home Alone* and *Schitt's Creek*, it makes sense why **Catherine O'Hara** can't decide which one is closest to her heart. "I can't pick a favorite; it's like picking a favorite child," the actress, 70, tells *Us*. However, she does credit one experience with informing all of her performances. "I still try to practice the skills I learned at [famed improv troupe] The Second City, where I learned to develop characters, improvise, write a scene and stop and listen. That was just the greatest gift." While promoting her latest gig, Michelob ULTRA's 2025 Super Bowl spot, "The ULTRA Hustle," O'Hara stopped to reflect on her decades-spanning career. "I don't know if proud is the word," she says of her journey. "[I'm] grateful, really."

How was it filming the Michelob ULTRA commercial with Willem Dafoe?

I got the script and really laughed reading it. I'd worked with Willem very briefly on *Beetlejuice*. *Beetlejuice*, but I didn't really get to hang out with him much. He's a great actor, but he also has a great sense of humor.

Schitt's Creek premiered 10 years ago. What do you miss about playing Moira?

It was just fun to work with people who collaborate and allow you to create an inconsistently crazy character with an inconsistent way of speaking and an amazing



wardrobe. Every day was a great experience.

Did you bring any of Moira's wardrobe items home?

I did, yes, and when I was evacuated weeks ago [due to the L.A. wildfires], I took a lot of them with me. I brought home the Givenchy boots and this short dress with big, silver



"He's a sweet young man," O'Hara says of Culkin, whom she reunited with at his 2023 Hollywood Walk of Fame ceremony.



Schitt's Creek — which ran from 2015 to 2020 — "relaunched opportunities for all of us," O'Hara says of the cast.

work and see what they're coming up with.

You're still close to your *Home Alone* costar and onscreen son Macaulay Culkin. How would you describe your relationship?

I don't know what I would be, like, a far-off relative, I guess. I care about him. I'm so happy he's doing so well. He's got his own lovely little family. He's still got the same face up close. It's like, oh my God, I'm still looking at that little 8-year-old. I'm just really happy for him.

How surreal was it to revive Delia Deetz for last year's *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice*?

I didn't think it would ever happen, and then all of a sudden, we're on the set, looking at each other. I think there were some tears. The first movie had been such a lovely experience and here we all were, still alive and doing it again. I was intimidated at the beginning because *Beetlejuice* was an early movie for me, and I spoke quickly, so I was trying to do the same thing. I thought, am I going to sound like I don't know what I'm doing? But it was great fun.

LEANNE ACIZ STANTON

This Week
We've Noticed...

The Pop Girlies Are Sticking Together!

Gone are the days of pitting high-achieving women in the music industry against each other; today's icons are all about uplifting one another

From Charli XCX's "Brat Summer" to Sabrina Carpenter's Short n' Sweet

Tour and the rise of the Midwest Princess herself, Chappell Roan, women in pop are dominating the soundwaves and the culture in a way we haven't seen since the early aughts. Yet unlike their predecessors of the noughties, these pop gals are standing in solidarity with one another, refusing to comply with the toxic, competitive culture of the music industry.

In the late '90s and early 2000s, it was nearly impossible to be a successful female pop act without being compared to or accused of a rivalry with peers. From **Britney Spears vs. Christina Aguilera** to **Lady Gaga vs. Katy Perry**, the predominant narrative in the media was that you have to fight your way to the top — where there's only room for one.

At a certain point, the tide began to turn, reaching a peak last summer when some of the top-selling albums — Charli XCX's *Brat*, Roan's *The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess*, Carpenter's *Short n' Sweet*, Taylor Swift's *The Tortured Poets Department*, Billie Eilish's *Hit Me Hard and Soft* and Beyoncé's *Cowboy Carter*,

Spreading the love: These ladies often sing each other's praises, with Carpenter gushing that she's "grateful" for all of Swift's support.



all of which led this year's Grammy nominations, including an all-female pop vocal album category for the first time in history — were all by women. Most importantly, women who actively support one another's work.

"What's so reassuring and so f***king sick is, like, the pop girls that you and I have loved our whole lives or, like, have been f***king stans the past two or three years... A lot of them have reached out and are, like, so supportive and girl's girls," Roan, who has been open about her mental health struggles in the midst of her sudden rise to superstardom, shared in a 2024 TikTok video.

Other instances of ladies spreading the love: Swift has sung Carpenter's praises on many occasions, calling her the "pop princess of our dreams," and last August saw Charli XCX ask Eilish to collab on a remix of her song "Guess," which quickly broke

the record for the biggest remix debut for female artists on Spotify.

In June, Charli XCX also "worked it out on the remix" with Lorde on "Girl, So Confusing," putting the rumors of supposed beef between the two dark-haired pop icons to bed. The song sent the internet into a frenzy thanks to its clever lyrics, which encapsulate the theme of solidarity among female artists who were once pitted against each other often for media attention and, ultimately, profit. As the ladies sing: "People say we're alike / They say we've got the same hair / It's you and me on the coin / The industry loves to spend."

But in today's age, girlhood is about coming together rather than tearing each other down. So whether you're a Grammy-nominated singer or a woman navigating friendships in the modern day, there's so much more power (and fun!) in sticking together.

MOLLY MCGUIGAN

ROB GRONKOWSKI

I'm 'Down' To Be a Dad!

He's a four-time Super Bowl champ, a five-time Pro Bowl selection and is widely regarded as one of the greatest tight ends of all time. But there's one title **Rob Gronkowski** is still eyeing: Dad. "I'm down for it," says the retired athlete, 35, who's been dating model **Camille Kostek**, 32, for nearly a decade. "If it happens tonight, it happens tonight. If it happens in five years, it happens in five years. That's up to God, [but] I'll be ready no matter what the situation is!" While promoting his partnership with Avocados from Mexico, Gronkowski talked to Us more about life on and off the field.



The NFL legend has been dating Kostek, a former New England Patriots cheerleader, since 2015.



"What I truly miss about the game is [the] regimen," Gronkowski tells Us.

with me wherever I am and brings the dog. Or if she has a job — say she has a swimsuit [shoot] at a beach in St. Lucia. I'm like, heck yeah, I got some downtime. I want to take a vacation and watch you shoot! It's just all about communication.

Your former teammate Tom Brady has said that his son Ben, 15, wants to be the next Gronk. Thoughts?

Ben's an absolute monster. Tom sent me a highlight of him playing the tight end position and he literally looked like me on the field. I watched that, and it got me out of my seat.

It got me excited again. I was like, I wanna go back to football! Just watching Tom's kid run over every other dude out there on the field was phenomenal.

Have you given Ben any tips?

He can get a ton of advice from his dad, but if he does need some tight end advice, how to really run over people, then I'll give him a couple pointers.

You retired — for the second time! — in 2022. Ever miss it?

I just miss being around the guys in the locker room. I [miss] the schedule as well. It keeps you sharp. [But] being with the Fox crew [as a studio analyst] on the NFL Kickoff show... those are like my teammates as well. That's a locker room itself. So that helps out.



This Week in Ye Olde US

FEBRUARY 13, 2006

- **Dating after divorce is nothing new to Jessica Simpson:** Following her split from **Nick Lachey**, the star set the rumor mill ablaze when she seemingly spent the night at Chateau Marmont, the home of rumored fling **Adam Levine**! While an eyewitness told Us Simpson appeared "disheveled" leaving the next morning, sources insisted that the two did not have a sleepover.
- **En route to Switzerland, Brad Pitt** and a then-pregnant **Angelina Jolie** held hands while boarding their flight — their first sighting of PDA.
- **After her breakup with Jude Law, Sienna Miller** moved on with her *Factory Girl* costar **Hayden Christensen**. Pals wondered if Miller might be using him to make her ex jealous, and the romance fizzled out a few months later.
- **Ahead of the Turin Olympics,** Us introduced readers to the women's figure skating team: the now legendary **Michelle Kwan, Kimmie Meissner and Sasha Cohen**, who took home a silver medal.



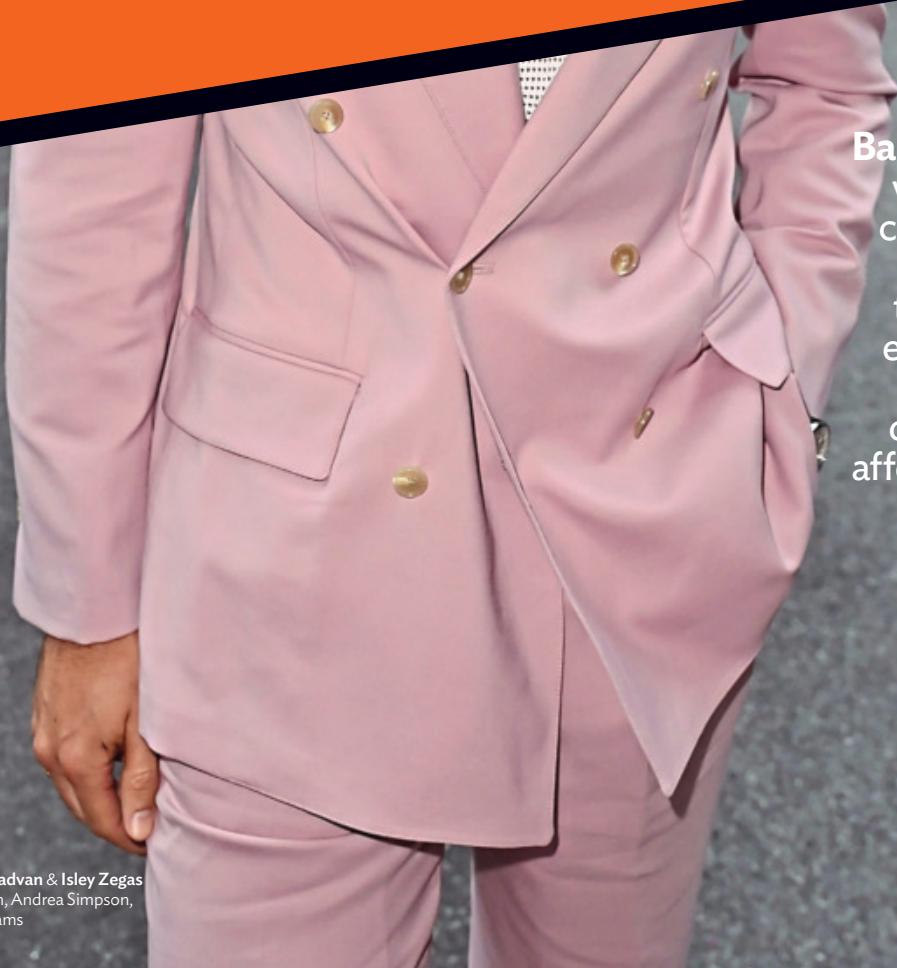
BLAKE LIVELY VS. JUSTIN BALDONI

"Sexual harassment cases against wealthy and powerful people are very difficult," attorney Lisa Bloom tells *Us*. "They fight back — and they fight back hard."

"Justin Baldoni, from the get-go, said, 'I don't want to do anything negative toward her,'" stated his attorney, Bryan Freedman, denying Lively's claims of a smear campaign against her.

CAN ANYONE REALLY WIN?

As It Ends With Us' Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni forge ahead with their lawsuits concerning alleged misconduct on the set of the film, experts share their takes on how the drama has already affected the costars' lives and careers





feels like Hollywood's longest game of he said, she said. Over the summer, reports of tension between *It Ends With Us* lead Blake Lively and her director and costar, Justin Baldoni, dominated headlines as they promoted the project. Then, in late December, Lively filed a bombshell legal complaint in California claiming Baldoni had sexually harassed her during filming and later attempted to ruin her reputation via vicious and targeted online attacks. *The New York Times* picked up on it and swiftly published an exposé about the alleged retaliatory smear campaign Baldoni and his associates waged against Lively, 37. "You know we can

bury anyone," Baldoni's PR Melissa Nathan is alleged to have said in a text message.

Baldoni's attorney, Bryan Freedman, called the allegations "categorically false." Still, the public fallout was swift: The *Jane the Virgin* alum, 41, and his production company, Wayfarer Studios, were dropped by talent agency WME, which also represents Lively and her husband of 12 years, Ryan Reynolds. Two days later, the cohost of Baldoni's feminist *Man Enough Podcast* abruptly left the show. Over on TeamLively, her *It Ends With Us* costars Jenny Slate and Brendan Sklenar publicly expressed support for her, as did celebs like her *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* castmates as well as Amber Heard and Gwyneth Paltrow.

Then, it was Baldoni's turn to strike. On New Year's Eve, he filed a \$250 million lawsuit against the *New York Times*, reporting that the outlet "cherry-picked" and altered communications stripped of necessary context and deliberately

spliced to mislead." A few weeks later, he filed a federal lawsuit accusing Lively, Reynolds and their publicist of defamation, claiming the power couple steamrolled him while filming *It Ends With Us* and that Lively plotted to destroy his career.

A Closer Look

On the surface, the story centers around lawsuits involving celebrities, their tangled webs of associates and, of course, what really happened between Lively and Baldoni on the set of *It Ends With Us*. But underneath the legal jargon, the stars have become engaged in a full-on PR war, one that's exposing Hollywood's secret world of machinations and manipulation, in which smear campaigns can be used to cause irrevocable harm to reputations and shape entire narratives.

While PR spins are par for the course in showbiz, social media has provided a vast (and sometimes frightening) space for opinions and influence to take hold

in unchecked ways. "A lot of publicists nowadays are using the public as their arm, you know, to help them in their campaigns," PR expert Molly McPherson told *NPR*. "You have all these people on TikTok just waiting to chime in. So it's a rich, fertile ground to shape public opinion." Lively's suit is bringing attention to this new brand of shadow campaigns. Adds McPherson: "This is the first time that I think it's been exposed."

Here, *Us* delves into how this case is affecting Lively and Baldoni personally and professionally — and what the future might hold as their reputations hang in the balance.

Personal Toll

According to licensed psychotherapist Marni Feuerman, the decision to go public with their lawsuits will have far-reaching consequences for both Lively and Baldoni. "As of now, Blake and Justin have not chosen [a private] route and instead have gone in the opposite direction, basically declaring

NEVER-ENDING SAGA

A timeline of Lively and Baldoni's legal battle

DEC. 20, 2024

Lively files a complaint with the California Civil Rights Department claiming Baldoni sexually harassed her, created a hostile work environment and then retaliated by coordinating a PR campaign designed to "destroy" her reputation out of fear her complaints "threatened his feminist brand."

DEC. 21, 2024

The New York Times publishes the article "'We Can Bury Anyone': Inside a Hollywood Smear Machine" about the retaliatory campaign Baldoni allegedly orchestrated against Lively.

DEC. 21, 2024

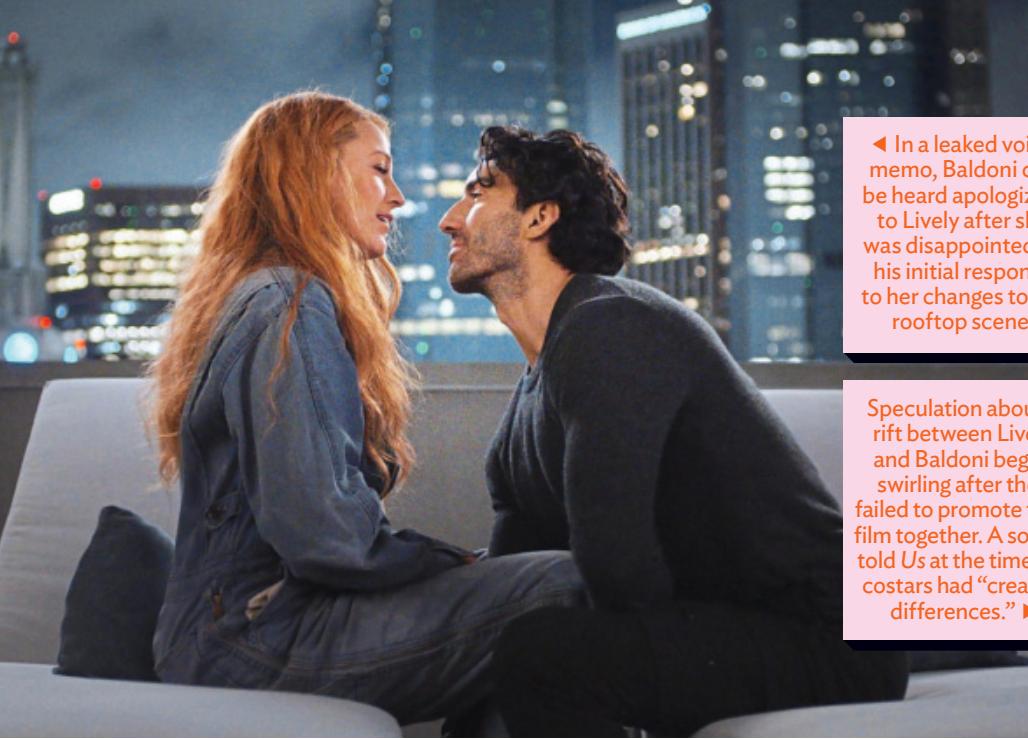
Baldoni is dropped by talent agency WME. (He later claims Reynolds pressured the firm to drop him; WME denied it.) Two days later, Liz Plank, his cohost on *The Man Enough Podcast*, leaves the show.

DEC. 24, 2024

Baldoni is sued by his former publicist Stephanie Jones over an alleged conspiracy to discredit her and steal clients in conjunction with the alleged efforts to launch a "smear campaign" against Lively.

DEC. 31, 2024

Baldoni files a \$250 million defamation lawsuit against the *NYT*. He accuses the outlet of having "cowered to the wants and whims of two powerful 'untouchable' Hollywood elites" — Lively and Reynolds. The *NYT* says they "plan to vigorously defend against the lawsuit."



◀ In a leaked voice memo, Baldoni can be heard apologizing to Lively after she was disappointed by his initial response to her changes to the rooftop scene.

Speculation about a rift between Lively and Baldoni began swirling after they failed to promote their film together. A source told Us at the time the costars had "creative differences." ▶



war on each other," Feuerman tells Us. "[This] is certain to increase the emotional price they'll pay both during the process and when trying to heal in the aftermath."

In her lawsuit, Lively says she's suffered mental pain, anguish and "severe emotional distress." Feuerman notes that we can't forget that celebrities are still human. "Any event that happens to us that overwhelms our ability to cope can be traumatizing. Being sexually harassed and bullied at work is not an

uncommon experience for women, and many of them are left saddled with the same debilitating emotions [Blake] describes."

According to Dr. Paul Hokemeyer, licensed family therapist and expert in celebrity mental health, the lawsuit also brings a set of challenges for Lively's husband: "Not only must [Ryan] stand by as his wife is attacked for standing up for herself, he'll need to figure out how best to support her and [their kids]."

For Baldoni, Hokemeyer

notes it must be incredibly stressful to have his character called into question and believes the actor's relationships with his wife and children will likely be scrutinized. Feuerman says Baldoni is likely concerned about whether or not he'll ultimately be canceled. "Only time will tell," she says, adding, "I'm fairly certain that Justin is worried about his career and relationships and future. He's hitting back hard. Some may characterize it as 'overkill' [but] it appears he has some supporters."

Among them is TV personality Megyn Kelly. On the Jan. 22 episode of *The Megyn Kelly Show*, the host aligned herself with Baldoni, saying in part, "Time and time again, [Blake] accuses him of doing something, which then when you hear the full context, is an absolute nothing burger!"

Image Concerns

Women's rights attorney Lisa Bloom, who represented accusers of late convicted sex

DEC. 31, 2024

Lively formally files a lawsuit against Baldoni, Wayfarer Studios and his PR team for "retaliating against her for reporting sexual harassment and workplace safety concerns," echoing her CRD complaint.

JAN. 16, 2025

Baldoni, Wayfarer Studios and more file a federal lawsuit accusing Lively, Reynolds and their publicist of defamation. They denied Lively's allegations of sexual harassment and a retaliatory smear campaign. Lively's legal team called the lawsuit "another chapter in the abuser playbook."

JAN. 21, 2025

Baldoni's attorney releases raw footage from *It Ends With Us*, stating that it disputes Lively's allegations. Her legal team hits back that it shows Baldoni repeatedly attempting to kiss her "with no discussion or consent in advance and no intimacy coordinator present."

JAN. 21, 2025

Lively's legal team files a gag order letter to the court, requesting that it enforce their two previous cease-and-desist letters to Baldoni's legal team amid the legal proceedings to "avoid improper conduct."

JAN. 27, 2025

Baldoni's late-night voice note to Lively is leaked in which he addresses her rewrites of the film's rooftop scene. (Texts about the changes appear in his \$400 million lawsuit in which he claims Lively used Reynolds and close pal Taylor Swift to intimidate him into using her version of the script.)

offender Jeffrey Epstein, says that in terms of Lively's image, her decision to stand up to her claims of harassment and bullying "is ultimately good for her reputation." But when it comes to who's faring better in the court of public opinion, talent manager and social media expert Courtney Lupilin says support appears to be pretty equally divided between Lively and Baldoni.

When Lively initially filed her complaint, some felt they'd been effectively manipulated by the alleged smear campaign Baldoni embarked on with his crisis PR team. Were her flowery promotional appearances — and attempts to sell her Betty Buzz brand "Ryle You Wait" themed-cocktails (named after her abusive on-screen love interest in *It Ends With Us*) — misfires of her own, or was she the victim of media

distortion? In her lawsuit, Lively says she followed Sony's playbook to promote the film as a rom-com and claims Baldoni went rogue with his emphasis on domestic violence victims.

Hollywood power play. "Let's not be naive — reputations aren't built on truth; they're built on narrative control," he tells *Us*. "In the court of public opinion, innocence is a quaint afterthought,

In raw footage from *It Ends With Us*, Lively and Baldoni discussed differing opinions on how the scene should look.



PR expert and crisis consultant Mark Borkowski calls the legal battle "a Grand Guignol of egos, lawsuits, and hastily drafted PR statements attempting to stanch a hemorrhaging reputation." He says the saga is less about justice and more about a

and perception is the only currency that matters. Lively, with the velvet glove of media sympathy and a well-oiled machine behind her, plays the protagonist. Baldoni, now bleeding credibility, scrambles in the wilderness of cancellation."

Borkowski notes that Baldoni could have a comeback, as "Hollywood has always adored a redemption arc, provided it's profitable." He adds: "The real lesson here? Fame is a fickle mistress, but the one rule remains unchanged: control the narrative, or be consumed by it."

Career Concerns

Neither Lively nor Baldoni will come out of this unscathed. "This case has become so controversial that no matter what, it will affect their careers," says Little Red Management CEO Lupilin. "There's already been so much press on it and so many opinions that there [is] bound to [be] some bias." While Lupilin believes brands will steer clear of both Lively and Baldoni for the foreseeable future — "There are hundreds of other creators they could work with" — she maintains Baldoni will have a tougher time

BLAKE AND JUSTIN LIFE GOES ON?

Lively and Baldoni have been coping with the drama in different ways

Their legal battle is far from over, but Lively and Baldoni are trying to carry on. While the actress initially kept a low profile following her December filing — she'd last been seen publicly in early December at an NYC screening of *Wicked* — she resurfaced with Reynolds on Jan. 26, appearing in an Instagram Story from her *Simple Favor 2* costar Michele Morrone. "Missed you guys!" Morrone wrote on the pic. "Love you!" Baldoni, however, hasn't been shying away from the public. The actor jetted to Hawaii ahead of his 41st birthday to get "away from the drama" and "reconnect with what's important," a source told *Us* in January. That includes his wife, Emily, who broke her silence on Jan. 24 to show her support for Baldoni. "Happy birthday, my love," she wrote on Instagram alongside a sweet family photo. "Celebrating the man, husband, and father that you are. I'd choose you again and again."



recovering, professionally speaking. "For some, this is the first time [they've] heard Justin's name, so it might be the only reason people know him now, which is unfortunate."

The legal battle may have already affected projects he had in the pipeline. According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, a Pac-Man film that Baldoni had been developing since 2022 may be in jeopardy, along with two other jobs he had in the works. So while Lively seems to be taking a bigger hit in the comments sections, she's still an established A-list actress and half of a Hollywood power couple. Her next project, *A Simple Favor 2*, "is finished and coming out soon," director Paul Feig promised in early January, dispelling rumors that the Prime Video film's release had been delayed in the wake of the scandal. Says Lupilin: "It will be harder for Justin to come back from this than Blake no matter where this lands."

Legal Matters

As of press time, a trial date has been set for March 9, 2026, with a pretrial hearing on Feb. 3. It's a complicated, emotional case on both sides. "A lot of what's been alleged is about people's intentions," notes civil litigator Caitlin Kovac. "And that's something that we're never going to know."

Attorney Bloom says any possible monetary awards will be beside the point. "The court of public opinion is equally if not more important than the legal court," Bloom tells *Us*. "At the end of the day, someone is going to get a ruling; maybe it'll be \$0, maybe it'll

be \$5 million, maybe it'll be \$10 million. But how much are their reputations worth? How much are their film careers worth? Probably a lot more than what's at issue in the case."

When it comes to damages (Baldoni is suing for \$400 million; Lively for an undisclosed amount), Kovac says both parties will likely bring in experts to discuss what they would have otherwise earned or what opportunities they would have had "absent the conduct of the other side." (In Lively's lawsuit, she claims sales of her haircare brand, Blake Brown, plummeted by as much as 78 percent because of Baldoni's alleged smear campaign.)

On Jan. 21, Freedman released nearly 10 minutes of behind-the-scenes footage from *It Ends With Us* in an effort to refute Lively's claims that Baldoni acted inappropriately while shooting a slow dance scene for the film. Lively's side calls the footage — which has been pored over and analyzed on social media — "damning," adding, "any woman who has been inappropriately touched in the workplace will recognize Ms. Lively's discomfort." Says Kovac: "People can look at the same objective facts and come to totally different conclusions." Attorney Gloria Allred, known for taking on high-profile cases, agrees. "I think both sides have supporters [who] can't help but draw conclusions from what they're reading and seeing," she tells *Us*. "This is the way it is in 2025. So, at some point, the



Has Ryan's Image Been Affected?

Lively and Baldoni aren't the only ones whose reputations have taken a hit

Reynolds has long been known as one of Hollywood's most lovable funnymen. But after being roped into Lively's legal feud — in Baldoni's lawsuits, he alleges that Reynolds, 48, took over control of the production of *It Ends with Us*, manipulated media to smear his name with false accusations of sexual harassment and also aggressively berated him during the making of the film — there's been a shift in admiration for the *Deadpool* star. "I lost respect for Ryan Reynolds," one TikTok user declared amid the drama, while another questioned if he was the "true villain" of the saga.

According to a movie industry executive, the

actor's fall from grace has been shocking. "Before this, Ryan could do no wrong," notes the exec. "Obviously this has affected the public image of everyone involved badly and their careers. [But] Ryan was untouchable and now, even he has been tarnished by this mess." However, PR agent and author Mark Borkowski tells *Us* that if anyone has a chance to come out of this unscathed, it's Reynolds. "He understands the game better than most: stay affable, stay funny and never, ever let the stink of scandal stick," says Borkowski, dubbing Reynolds a "untouchable deity" in the PR pantheon. "He's played this hand before, and he plays it well."

court may have to step in."

As for whether Lively and Baldoni will settle before trial, Allred tells *Us* it's unlikely. "Usually, lawyers will try to settle the case with a confidential settlement prior to [trial]. That's about

buying peace, but a lawsuit is like starting a [full-scale] war," she explains. "[The case] may also settle at some point during this litigation, but it hasn't so far, and I think it's likely not to settle in the near future."

Kendra Wilkinson

'Even Though I Was Skinny, Doesn't Mean I Was Happy'

The TV personality keeps it real about aging, body neutrality and her mental health in an exclusive interview with *Us*

By LEANNE ACIZ STANTON

From 2005 to 2010, Kendra Wilkinson was known as one of the *Girls Next Door*, three blonde bombshells sharing a glimpse into life at the famed Playboy Mansion. But for the reality star, it's been difficult to shake comparisons to who she was — and what she looked like — nearly two decades ago. "I was living my life and enjoying my 20s, being skinny and [a] party girl. I didn't realize I was setting myself up for this unrealistic expectation in my 30s," Wilkinson, 39, tells *Us*. "I feel like society needs me to stay the girl they once knew."

However, as she approaches her 40th birthday this June, the mom of two (she and ex Hank Baskett share son Hank IV, 15, and daughter Aliyah, 10) is proud to be embracing herself in every form. She's also done with strangers sharing their

unsolicited opinions: On Jan. 12, the *Kendra Sells Hollywood* alum slammed critics attacking her looks, declaring on Instagram, "For those of you hating on my new weight [and] 40 yr old face, please know that I'm happy, healthy and at peace in life finally." Most importantly, "I'm becoming the woman I want to be," she tells *Us*. "I feel free, to be honest." Here, Wilkinson talks ushering in a new era.

What inspired you to address body-shamers on Instagram?

It's important to highlight these things. I see a lot of ageism [and] a lot of body shaming, and it's not right. We're human. People are getting mad at women for aging [or] gaining a pound. It's unfortunate we have to feel [like] we have to be 25 [years old] and a size zero forever. I'm unapologetically me at all times, and I have

the confidence to rise above it and to be comfortable in my own skin. This is about embracing life now.

Was there a moment you prioritized self-confidence?

This past year, I've been working really hard on myself. Before that, I [was] struggling with life through

divorce, depression and mental health. I've been through absolute hell — my 30s were a mess — and [I] thank God I hit that rock bottom because the only way to go is up. I finally did the proper work to get to that point of confidence. Before, I was self-sabotaging and living in regret.





Wilkinson
in 2005

"I'm so proud of the person I am today," Wilkinson says. "It took a long, hard, dark, twisted battle to get to this place."

and shame, so even though I was skinny and fit, [that] doesn't mean I was necessarily happy. Now that I've gained a couple of pounds, I feel confident. I feel great about myself. This is the first time in a long time I want to prance around in a bathing suit with everybody watching.

What was behind your mental health struggles?

Divorce definitely knocked me down to the ground, and then things spiraled out of control. I had to embrace life as a single mom. [Hank] is a great dad, but on my side, I'm alone, so I've had to go through the regret of the past by myself. I lived in a deep depression for years and it was a battle. Finally, I went through a psychotic breakdown, and I had to be hospitalized. It was the darkest point of my life. I had to recover.

How are you maintaining a healthy lifestyle now?

I had [to] focus on a realistic mindset and how to improve my thoughts. Self-care is so important. [I also do] journaling, and I'm on medication, which probably has something to do with my weight gain. The doctor did try to prescribe me Ozempic and I said no to it. What I'm doing [instead] is cooking. I'm going to cook more using good oils, but I'm not going to go on any crazy diet.

Have you reconciled with your *Playboy* past?

I still have setbacks when it comes to why I did *Playboy* or why I moved in [to the Playboy Mansion] at 18. I do signings and most of the pictures are *Playboy* photos. A year ago, I was crying. I was like, "Oh my God, this is not me anymore." I was so mad at myself and the world. I felt trapped in this *Playboy* image. It's too much pressure and you don't know how to fight it mentally. Honestly, it's about thinking positively. I live authentically and I've finally stepped into that place for the first time since *Girls Next Door*.

Are you looking for love?

I've been on the Raya dating app waiting list for almost

five years. Am I happy as f*** right now being alone? F*** yeah. I actually like my freedom and I have boy toys here and there. Do I want to find love again? Sure, yeah. I'm open to it, but at the moment, I like my freedom.

How's your headspace as you enter your 40s? What's next for you?

I'm still in real estate right now and doing a great job. Things are looking up. I feel blessed. I couldn't be happier going into my 40s. I'm so proud of all the obstacles I've overcome, and my kids are happy. I feel confident I will find love again [and] let me tell you, my weight gain ain't stopping the hottest guys [from] coming at me. The best version of Kendra is here right now.

US

The Other Girls Next Door Where Are They Now?

It's been nearly 20 years since the classic E! series premiered. Find out what Wilkinson's costars have been up to



Holly Madison

The mom of two, 45, recently hosted and produced true crime series *The Playboy Murders* and *Lethally Blonde*. Though she's been outspoken about life as Hugh Hefner's girlfriend, describing it as a "Stockholm syndrome kind of thing," she told Us last year, "I wouldn't change anything."



Bridget Marquardt

Aside from cohosting the *Girls Next Door* rewatch podcast *Girls Next Level* with Madison, Marquardt, 51, launched the paranormal *Ghost Bunny* podcast last September. As for her personal life — which she tends to keep under wraps — in 2015, she announced she was engaged to director Nick Carpenter.

Drew Carey

The Healing Power of Humor

He's delivered laughs by the million. Now, as *The Price Is Right* marks 10,000 episodes, the host and comedy icon talks to *Us* about his career, his mental-health challenges and why we should say 'I love you' as often as 'hello'

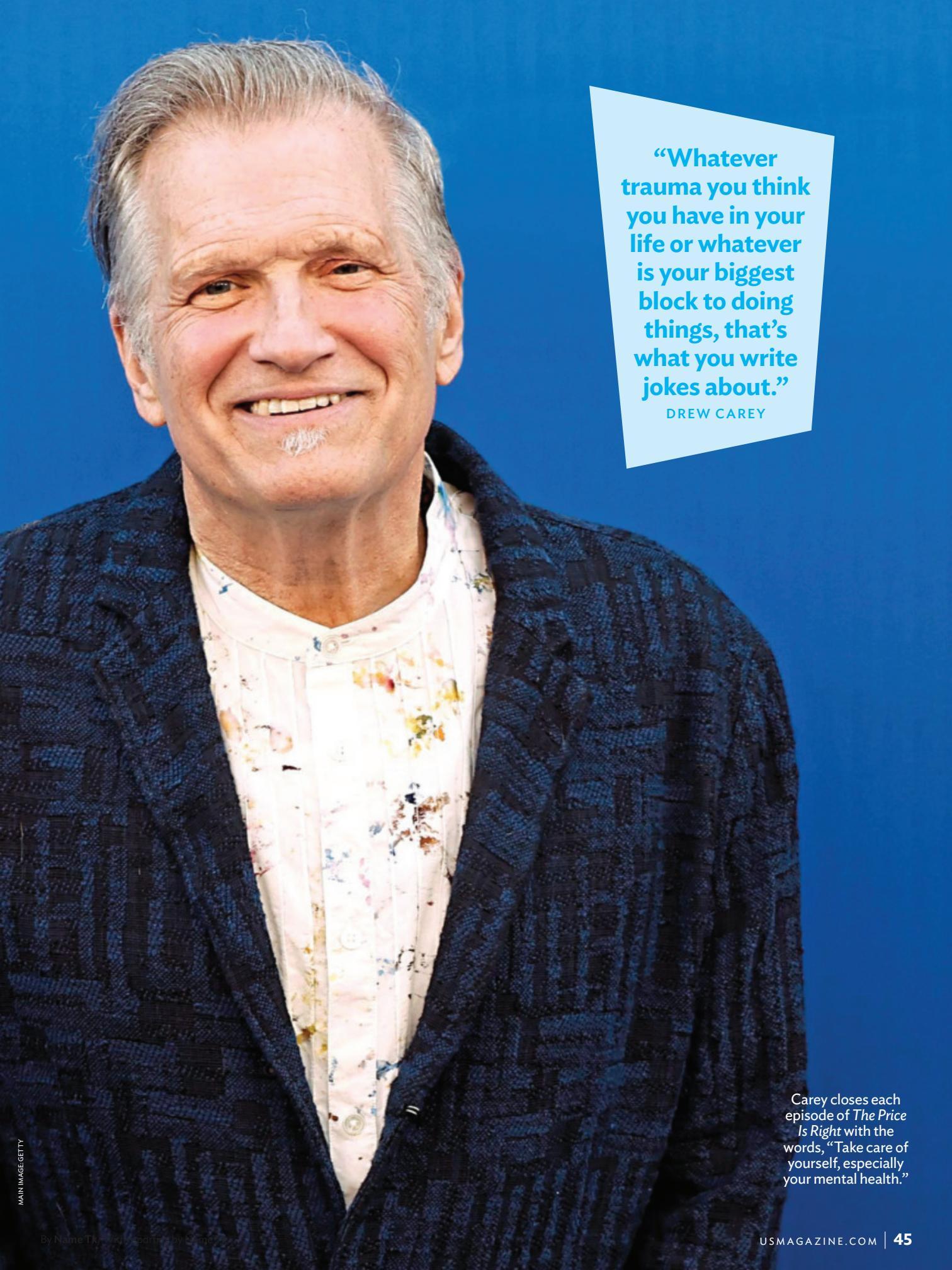
by

JOANNA POWELL & AMANDA WILLIAMS

Drew Carey has a joke he likes to tell studio audiences at *The Price Is Right*. "I'm just a regular guy from Cleveland," he'll deadpan. "My girlfriend ties me to the bed one leg at a time, just like everyone else."

There's a grain of truth in there: Carey, 66, is from Cleveland. But with a career trajectory that's made him officially beloved — not to mention legendary on the internet for his

deep-pocketed tipping habits! — he's far from a regular guy. Since 1991, when the unknown stand-up debuted on *The Tonight Show* and a wowed Johnny Carson invited him to the couch for a chat, Carey has been a comic sensation. He masterminded a highly original TV series, *The Drew Carey Show* (see page 49). Then, in 2007, when he inherited the so-called "skinny microphone" from *The Price Is Right*'s iconic host, Bob Barker, Carey again hit the jackpot, managing to maintain stellar ratings for the classic game show (CBS, weekdays, 11 A.M.) without alienating loyalists.



“Whatever trauma you think you have in your life or whatever is your biggest block to doing things, that’s what you write jokes about.”

DREW CAREY

Carey closes each episode of *The Price Is Right* with the words, “Take care of yourself, especially your mental health.”

SMILING THROUGH

Offstage, however, things have been less linear. Like many comedians, Carey is well acquainted with darkness. His father died when he was 8, and in his teens and 20s, he twice attempted suicide with sleeping pills. In 2020, Carey was shattered when his former fiancée, Amie Harwick, a therapist, was murdered by an ex-boyfriend.

Recently, the often-bespectacled funnyman talks to *Us* about triumphing over tragedy, the satisfaction of playing games for work and why he signs off *The Price Is Right* by saying, "I love you."

Congratulations on the milestones you're about to celebrate: the 30th anniversary of your brainchild *The Drew Carey Show* as well as the 10,000th episode of *The Price Is Right*, which airs Feb. 26. Do you take time to reflect on markers like these?

Oh, yeah — birthdays and New Year's, things like that. It's wild, isn't it? Sometimes I have to pinch myself: Wow, what a life! Not, "Look at all this stuff I got." I am really grateful, but that's not my main focus. Mostly I ask myself, "Am I still growing? Am I still engaged in the world in the way I want to be?"

When you first took over from Bob Barker, how long did you imagine this gig would last?

I had no idea. I mainly didn't want to get the show canceled or be responsible for ruining such an institution. Once I got comfortable after a couple of years, it felt like it was more my show instead of me just being a steward of somebody else's. And now I just want to do it forever, as long as I'm mentally and physically able to show up. It's such a fun thing! The money's nice, but it's just a cool job. I don't *have* to go to work, I *get* to go to work! It's a privilege to be here, an honor. So we'll see how long I hold up.

Well, as of the anniversary, you'll already have 3,269 episodes under your belt! Will you be buried with the skinny mic?

Maybe. [Laughs.] I haven't made that part of my will yet, but we'll see.

We want to keep you around as long as possible. What about hosting this show makes it so joyous?

I'm playing games all day! There are more than 70 different contests on the show, so I'm never bored. It's like game night at home: What are we going to play tonight? Is it going to be Scrabble or Monopoly or Cards Against Humanity? I'm also really interested in how people arrive at decisions under pressure. Do they listen to their spouse, to the crowd, to a friend? Or do they go with their gut and ignore everybody else?

You end every episode by saying, "I love you." Why is that important?

I say it to everybody. I think it should be as common as saying "hello" and "goodbye." I text my female friends with a heart, I tell 'em I love 'em. And I tell their husbands and kids [the same thing]. There's nothing wrong with spreading love and saying "I love you" to people. The idea that men especially are told they're not allowed to express love or they're not allowed to hug because they'll appear weak or not masculine enough is ridiculous. It breaks my heart. I think it's important to tell people you love them. It might be the last time you see them. You don't know.

You've brought your fans a lot of laughter over the years. What shaped your sense of humor growing up? What made you laugh?

Growing up in Cleveland had a big impact because the city was always a punchline. People made fun of it and the whole place had a self-deprecating sense of humor. We all grew up on, "I'm from Cleveland, it's the mistake



Carey and his late ex-fiancée Harwick (in 2017) went to Disneyland for their first date.

on the lake," and things like that. You learned to make it part of your humor. One of my comedy idols was Big



Chuck Schodowski, who recently passed away. He did a late-night TV show called *The Hoolihan and Big Chuck Show*. Later it was *Big Chuck and Lil' John*. On Fridays, the same channel had a guy named Ghoulardi [Ernie Anderson] who became known as the Ghoul and hosted horror films. These guys were all influential for me. When I was a paperboy, some of my first money went to buy *Mad* magazine. Once I read that, there were two more magazines I'd get, *Sick* and *Cracked*. They helped shape my sense of humor.

Have you always been funny? Were you born that way?

My mom was really funny. And I loved poring over the newspaper reading comics. At school, we'd repeat jokes that we'd heard from the morning radio DJ or read in joke books. A friend bought me a famous one, *2000 Insults for All Occasions*. I would memorize

"I'm not itching to get married. [Losing Amie] affected everything, and I'm to the age where I'm OK with it. I'm going to be happy."

DREW CAREY

these and was good at telling them at school. All my friends were the same way. I guess I was funny, but I wasn't the funniest.

I was the youngest in my family and always physically small. Being funny was my way of getting attention and getting people to like me. There's nothing like getting a laugh. It's a good dopamine hit, and I'm a

dopamine addict. Hardcore.

You've been open about your mental health journey and your struggles through the years. Do you remember the first time you felt the symptoms of depression?

It started when I was really young. My dad died when I was 8, and soon after that I began biting my nails. I was a lifelong nail-biter, even as an adult, and it was really bad. When I was in grade school and junior high, I not only bit my nails, I'd bite my cuticles. I'd bite the pads of my fingers and tear the

skin off until they bled. It hurt to hold a pencil, and I would always try to hide my hands because I was ashamed of how they looked.

When did you realize there was a larger problem?

I'm not trying to knock Christianity, but I was an evangelical Christian when I was in junior high and high school, and that brought a lot of [negative feelings] into my life. I felt I was never good enough because I was a sinner, and everything was always going to be bad. I did learn good moral lessons about treating people nicely and turning the other cheek that stuck with me. But I had a lot of shame and self-hate. It was so overwhelming, I had to get away from it. At around 18 in college, I started buying self-help books, and those really saved me.

What topics did those books cover?

The first one I bought was by Wayne Dyer, and it had a whole chapter about



Dressing Up With Drew



➡ What's more fun than Plinko? Halloween on *The Price Is Right* — and Carey goes all-out. "Growing up and being a comic, I was always kind of an attention seeker anyway," he tells *Us*. Not that there aren't downsides: With his rubber-suited wrestler costume, "Sweat was running out of my sleeve, down my arm. I must have lost 10 pounds wearing that thing!"

SMILING THROUGH

guilt and letting go of it. It really hit me: What am I walking around feeling guilty about everything for? In the hallway at school, instead of saying, "Excuse me," I would say, "I'm sorry." The idea of looking someone in the eye was tough for me. I could be talking to you, but I'd be looking at your shoulders or at the wall or the ground. I had this feeling that I didn't deserve anything: I'm just little Drew Carey from this poor family in Cleveland, this town that everybody makes fun of, and don't mind me, hope I'm not in your way. Oh, but I'll tell you a joke to get you to like me. Self-help books helped get me out of it. And then after that, therapy.

You've also been very candid about your most painful moments, such as attempting to take your own life at 18 and then again in your 20s. What gave you the strength to keep going?

Well, I didn't know what I was doing. The first time I tried to kill myself, I was drinking. I had a couple beers, and I took a whole bottle of Sominex, which is not strong enough to kill you. But I'd heard if you wanted to kill yourself, you took sleeping pills. Sominex were the only ones I knew of. I told my fraternity brothers, "Hey, I just took all these pills," and they took me to the medical

"I want to dispense all my knowledge. Everybody has this urge to teach [others] about their mistakes so they don't make the same ones."

DREW CAREY

center. While I was throwing up over the toilet, my friend Paul was holding my shoulders, and he started singing the jingle: "Take Sominex tonight and sleep... sleep... sleep."

I laughed so hard. It made me feel so much better being able to joke about it.

Humor saves the day! How did you get through depression later on?

I saw a counselor. Everybody needs a therapist, whether you see a professional or not. When you talk to a friend or a bartender or Reddit, you are

seeking therapeutic help for a problem. Why not see a pro who has a degree in psychology and understands how the brain works, what neurons do and how habits are formed?

Besides therapy, are there any tools that have helped you along the way?
Yes, learning to meditate. I took a



The Corps Made the Man

Carey's 1980s detour into Semper Fi territory gave him the ability to face fear and say, 'Why would I be afraid of that? I was in the Marine Corps'

● "I have so much to thank the Marine Corps for," Carey declares. At the top of the list: self-discipline and confidence. "I always remind myself, man, you did a thing that not a lot of people get to do," he continues. "Not that many people percentage-wise have decided, yes, I'm going to go through three months of bootcamp, and yes, I'm going to have this train of thought instilled in me, and yes, I'm going to subject myself to this."

The Carey who showed up in 1980 at the recruiting office was rudderless. He'd dropped out of Ohio's Kent State University, lost his job and totaled his car. But he found a purpose serving as a field radio operator in the 25th Marine Regiment, a Reserve unit. Being part of that brotherhood, he says, "Nothing seems impossible." In 1986, the sergeant was honorably discharged.

Carey's time in the Reserves overlapped with a burgeoning stand-up comedy career. At his first amateur night, which won him 50 bucks at the (now defunct) Cleveland Comedy Club, he sported military-issue glasses jokingly known as "birth control glasses" — they were that unattractive! "I was so broke, I couldn't afford better glasses or new frames or contacts, so I just wore my BCGs everywhere," Carey recalls. "And I had to keep my hair short, so that whole look was from the Marine Corps." The Few. The Proud. The Funny!





More than 75,000 excited contestants have been told to "Come on down!" on *The Price Is Right*.

10-day class through dhamma.org, and it was life-changing. It's based on Buddhist teachings, but they don't try to convert you. And it is funded by donations, so you don't have to pay if you can't afford it. You just sign up and show up. I was always pretty chill. But this put me on another level.

After going through tough times, how did you learn to laugh again?

Humor is my way out of everything. And I have no objection to people using dark humor, [like] when my friend Paul started singing [about] Sominex. He knew me well enough to know he could be playful with me and not hurt me. And it was kind of perfect. I'll never forget it as long as I live. I've always used my sense of humor to get me over this kind of stuff. Still, sometimes I need to have serious time and ponder life instead of laughing with everyone. I need balance.

Any triggers you avoid?

I'm very careful. I watch my mental health all the time. And when it's time to stay off social media, I stay off social media at night. I read the newspaper every day. I do the Jumble and I look at the headlines. [Sometimes] I go, nope, not today.

It's been almost five years since you lost your former fiancée, Amie Harwick. You've said that you feel that Amie is with you always.

All the time. I think about her every day. It's such a loss. Her death still affects me and my ideas about relationships and intimacy. It was all damaged by first our breakup, and then, the day before she died, when she texted me. It had been a really bad breakup for both of us, but a necessary one. I couldn't think about her or see a picture of her. I didn't want to be reminded. And then I got a text from her out of the blue. She said, "Hey, it's Amie. I've been thinking a lot about forgiveness. I would love to

get together with you and talk about some things." I texted her that I loved her and that I'd see her the next week. I heard from one of her friends that she shed tears about my saying that I loved her still. Which I did. I loved her madly even though we were broken up.

So you never got a chance to have that final closure with her?

The next day she was murdered, and we never got a chance to get together. It destroyed me for a while. I still don't date. I have women I go out with and spend time with, but it's all platonic, and I don't care about anything else. Amie's death really affected everything.



The Drew Carey Show Turns 30!

"All the little chicks with the crimson lips go, 'Cleveland rocks! Cleveland rocks!' If you remember anything about *The Drew Carey Show* — which reaches its 30th anniversary this year — it's the exuberant song-and-dance opener set to a very specific Ohio anthem performed by the Presidents of the United States of America. "People say it to me, and I say it back," Carey says of those two fist-pumping words about his hometown. In the sometimes surreal 1995-2004 sitcom, which won him three People's Choice Awards, he plays an everyman employee at the city's Winfred-Louder department store. Among the "really good group of people" he worked with: future *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* costar Ryan Stiles, Diedrich Bader, Christa Miller, Craig Ferguson and Kathy Kinney as the Drew character's nemesis, Mimi, a fashion and makeup don't. You can find episodes on Pluto TV and Plex, but Carey isn't revisiting the past, saying, "I don't like to watch myself on TV."

You've mentioned that you can finally move on now. Was there a specific moment when you felt that?

After Amie died and we had the funeral, her three best friends reached out, saying, "We wanted to tell you how much Amie loved you and cared for you and how well she spoke of you." I was so moved by it. They've now become some of my best friends. I also got to reconnect with her mother, father and brother. We held each other up through the funeral and the trial [of Harwick's ex-boyfriend Gareth Pursehouse, who was convicted of killing her by strangulation and throwing her from the third-floor balcony of her home]. Now Amie's memory and the things she lived for keep us going.

We already know the price is right in your life. But what else is right?

Honestly, I have this great female friend group that I cherish, and I'm godfather to several sets of kids from the group. We hang out together, went on vacation together and we talk to each other every day. That's the biggest blessing in my life right now.

star style

GET THE LOOK AND LIFE FOR LESS — A LOT LESS

Made Us Look!

Suki Waterhouse

The Brit beauty, spotted in NYC on Jan. 13, could teach a masterclass in winter wardrobe wizardry with her daring shorts and stockings combo. She effortlessly maximized closet staples by teaming \$225 L'Agence cutoffs with a \$1,790 faux fur topper and \$1,790 boots from Isabel Marant, creating a glamorous-meets-edgy look that oozes '70s rock star cool.



Forever 21 tortoiseshell oval sunglasses, \$8, forever21.com

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HER
STYLE



Donna Salyers
Fabulous Furs
vintage mink
faux fur favorite
jacket, \$250,
fabulousfurs.com



Calzedonia
30 denier
total comfort
soft touch
tights, \$15,
calzedonia.com



AE77 premium
classic denim
short, \$88, ae.com

For added
warmth, opt
for fleece-
lined tights.

HOT STUFF

They're into it, now we are too

ALICE + OLIVIA

The celeb-loved label launched the Jean Bar — their first denim pop-up — at their NYC Madison Ave. location, where you can shop exclusive styles and even get them customized or embroidered.

Open at 755 Madison Ave. through April 30.



HEAVEN'S DOOR

The Bootleg Series Volume VI from the whiskey brand co-created by **Bob Dylan** is ideal for the hard-to-impress spirit connoisseur. The swanky bottle features the musician's own illustrations.

(\$500, buy.heavensdoor.com)



QUEEN OMAKASE

No Miami trip would be complete without a stop at the upscale Japanese restaurant, which offers exquisite dishes from Chef Max Kamakura served in a glamorous atmosphere.

queenmiamibeach.com



LEMME X FOUQUET'S NEW YORK

Kourtney Kardashian Barker's wellness venture joined forces with the five-star hotel, so guests now have Lemme Sleep and Lemme Debloat supplements in their minibars.

(hotelsbarriere.com and lemmelize.com)

CURRENTBODY

Meet the new LED Light Therapy Face Mask: Series 2, a gadget that targets wrinkles and delivers a smoother, more radiant complexion. (Makeup artists used it on **Mikey Madison** and **Zoe Saldaña** for the Golden Globes!) (\$469, us.currentbody.com)



RiRi styled her limited-edition design with a classic Louis Vuitton handbag.

Simply The Best...

Suede Sneaks

The everyday style items the stars can't live without

► Leave it to **Rihanna** to introduce us to our next go-to sneaker that can even pair well with a fur coat! From the royal blue suede finish to the sporty silhouette inspired by one of Puma's iconic trainers — the Fenty x Puma Avanti LS will be your new fashion fix. (\$120, exclusively at puma.com, Puma NYC and Las Vegas flagship stores)





NO-BRAINER OUTERWEAR

The statement-making Sherpa Coat by Gap will give any outfit that wow factor. Keep its high-quality appearance by dry-cleaning when needed. \$168, gap.com



CHUNKY CARDY

Style the Colby Cable Cardigan by Joe's Jeans with a white T-shirt and your favorite denim. Use a sweater comb to remove pilling. \$288, joesjeans.com

EASY DRESSING
The side tie on Mango's Knitted Pyjama Cardigan makes the laid-back silhouette even more charming. Avoid pilling by turning it inside-out before washing by hand. \$80, shop.mango.com



FAR-FROM-BASIC HOUSE DRESS

You'll feel sexy and put-together in H&M's Fluffy-Knit Dress, which features a confidence-boosting slit. Toss inside a mesh bag before putting in the washing machine to sustain its fuzzy finish! \$50, hm.com



Comfy & Cozy BUT STILL CUTE!

Upgrade your winter wardrobe regulars with pieces that feel as good as they look, and take note of hacks for foolproof fabric maintenance!

BUSINESS CASUAL

Wear Varley's DoubleSoft Jersey Wide-Leg Pants with an oversize turtleneck and loafers for the ultimate French girl style that's also office-appropriate. Conserve the pleated design by letting it air-dry after washing. \$128, net-a-porter.com



PREPPY KNIT

Opt for The Half-Zip Sweater in Luxe Merino from Everlane for a fast, polished ensemble. A milder detergent is your BFF when it comes to the elegant fabric. \$148, everlane.com



CLASSY CREW NECK

Replace your overly-worn pullover with Aritzia's Sweatfleece Cozy Fleece Perfect Crew Sweatshirt. Maintain the plush material by always washing it with cold water! \$75, aritzia.com



SPORTY-CHIC JACKET

Show up to your Hot Girl Walk in Alo's Sherpa Main Act Corset Puffer. Use a boar bristle brush to help prolong its fluffiness. \$248, aloyoga.com

Monochromatic moment: You can never go wrong with an earthy-hued, matching set like Pamela Anderson's!



Dinner With Gavin Rossdale is available to watch beginning Feb. 13 via Vizio on WatchFree+.



My Life in Food

Gavin Rossdale

The Bush frontman shares his memorable meals with *Us*



My last meal on earth would be...

A really long, slow meal! I'm a sucker for bacon and eggs and fries. And I love white truffle, so a white truffle tagliolini with a poached egg. I know people have death row meals that are quite big, but I don't plan to be on death row.

Dinner With a Rock Star? Yes, Please!

On his new cooking show, *Dinner With Gavin Rossdale*, the British musician welcomes celebrity guests like **Serena Williams**, **Brooke Shields** and **Tom Jones** into his Hollywood Hills home. But the singer and guitarist insists he's no rock star in the kitchen. "I have a bit of a knack for it," he tells *Us*. "I'm just a home cook. There's a million people that are better cooks than me." But for Rossdale, it's more about the conversation than the food. "I just thought it was a nice way of getting to know people [while] breaking bread... When you sit and have dinner with someone, you find things out about them that you really didn't know."

Grouper in Black Peppercorn Sauce

SERVES 2

INGREDIENTS

For the fish

2 tbsp neutral oil such as grapeseed
1 lb Japanese grouper or swordfish, cut into bias portions

For the sauce

½ cup butter
2 tbsp butter
6 tbsp oyster sauce
6 tbsp white sugar
6 tbsp sweet soy
4 cloves garlic, grated

1 tsp coriander powder
2 tbsp white pepper
Black pepper (lightly crushed, to taste)
rice, for serving
1 tbsp chopped cilantro
1 spring onion, chopped

INSTRUCTIONS

Fish Preparation

- 1 Use a heavy pan (cast iron, copper or stainless steel). Heat over medium heat and add neutral oil.
- 2 Ensure the fish skin is very dry. Place it skin-side down in the hot pan, gently pressing for 3–4 minutes to create a crust. Flip, add butter and baste for 2 minutes.
- 3 Remove fish when the internal temperature reaches 155 degrees. Rest and cover in butter. Fish will reach 165 degrees while resting.

Sauce Preparation

- 1 Melt butter in a pan, then add oyster sauce, sugar, sweet soy, grated garlic, coriander powder, white pepper and black pepper. Heat gently.
- 2 Plate the fish over a bed of rice. Spoon the black peppercorn sauce on top.
- 3 Pair with a vegetable, such as broccolini, and garnish with cilantro and spring onions as desired.



A comfort food I eat when no one is watching...

Chocolate candy. Galaxy chocolate bars or Swiss chocolate fruit and nut. Me and chocolate need to sit down and figure this out because our relationship is too obsessive.



A food that I don't like...

Angel hair pasta can f**k right off. It just can't hold any sauces. I love spaghetti. Angel hair pasta is literally the sign of a restaurant desperately trying to cater to clientele that don't care about food.

Us

musists

TV • MOVIES • MUSIC • AND MORE!

MOVIES

Mothers Gone Wild!

Brianne Howey coaches *Us* through *Kinda Pregnant*, a comedy with fake baby bumps but real-life birth stories



For **Brienne Howey**, *Kinda Pregnant* arrived at the perfect time: The actress had welcomed her first child just three months before getting the script for the Netflix comedy, about a newly single teacher, Lainy (**Amy Schumer**), who meets her perfect guy (**Will Forte**) while she's pretending to be expecting. (Long backstory.) The role: Megan, a no-nonsense mama who has another kid on the way. "I had never read anything that related so closely to where I was currently at in my life," Howey says. "It was the fastest page-turner and resonated so deeply with me." Here, the *Ginny & Georgia* star, 35, tells *Us* what to, er, expect.

Megan screams at a yoga instructor, drinks wine and has a very direct approach to motherhood. Do you vouch for her parenting style?

We find Meg at a point in her life where she's fed up. She's over repeating herself and every conversation she has to have. As a new mom going back to work for the first time, it was easy to relate to. As far as the wine goes, Meg was in her third trimester, and yes, I feel confident in her decision-making. I stand by it. [Laughs.]

How was it working with Amy?

Amy is a comedic genius. I admire the way she operates. She's savvy and gives

you so much to play off of, so it was really fun — and scary — to bounce ideas off of her and to improvise with her. That goes for the whole cast.

One hilarious scene involves a pregnant woman passing gas during a yoga class. How'd you keep your composure?

Nobody kept it together. We couldn't. It was impossible. I think [director] **Tyler Spindel** finally said, "OK, one take with



Howey brought her daughter, now 20 months, to the set; inset, from left: funny ladies **Lizze Broadway**, **Jillian Bell**, **Schumer**, **Howey** and **Urzila Carlson**.



"no farts," so we had to do one take with no sound effects and no farting to get the acting that we needed. It's distracting!

In a powerful scene with Lainy, Meg recalls her son's birth. How was it filming that emotional moment?

What's fun about that scene is that wasn't the original scene. Amy called me the night before and [said], "What if we told our own birth stories?" We both had children, what if we shared what that experience was like because it's not something that gets talked about a lot. So we did it, and I'm super-grateful to her. It felt really special. That is my birth story.

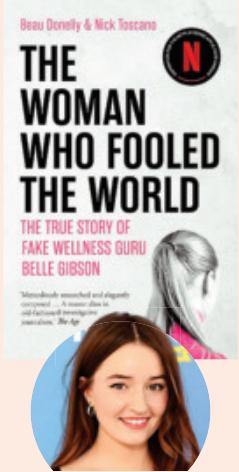
Would you be down for a sequel?

Yes, sign me up. Let's go. Let's do it now.

LEANNE ACIZ STANTON

Read It Now, Watch It Later! A Book List of Cool Adaptations

Us recommends these eight bestsellers and can't-put-down-ers that are all making their way to TV or film



The Woman Who Fooled the World

She faked brain cancer! This **Nick Toscano**/ **Beau Donelly** exposé, retitled *Apple Cider Vinegar* for a series with **Kaitlyn Dever**, profiles brazen scammer Belle Gibson. (Netflix, Feb. 6)



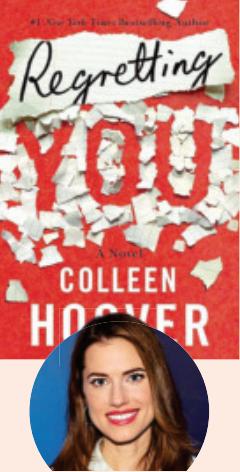
Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy

Helen Fielding's funny, chaotic Brit (Renée Zellweger) returns as a widow... who hasn't given up on being loved just as she is. Enter **Leo Woodall** and **Chiwetel Ejiofor**. (Peacock, Feb. 13)



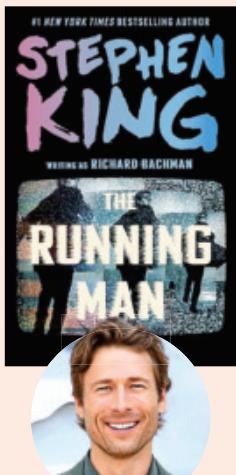
Mickey 7

On film, the darkly comic **Edward Ashton** novel dials it up as *Mickey 17*. An "Expendable" ice planet worker (**Robert Pattinson**) is caught in a cycle of die-clone-repeat. (In theaters March 7)



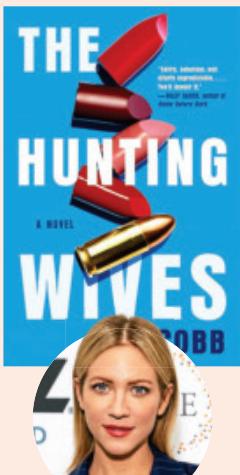
Regretting You

Another you're-gonna-cry drama from *It Ends With Us* author **Colleen Hoover**: **Allison Williams** (above) and **Mckenna Grace** go to war as a mother and daughter — then, tragedy. (In theaters Oct. 24)



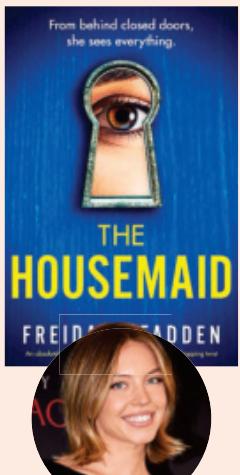
The Running Man

Stepping (or is that sprinting?) into Arnold Schwarzenegger's 1987 action role, **Glen Powell** flees assassins in the worst game show ever. Based on a **Stephen King** thriller. (In theaters Nov. 7)



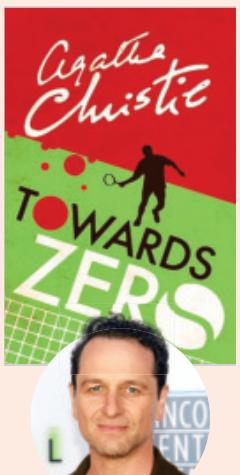
The Hunting Wives

With comparisons to *Desperate Housewives*, *Heathers* and *Big Little Lies*, **May Cobb**'s novel is a juicy one! New to Texas, **Brittany Snow** gets in with a wild crowd. (Starz, 2025)



The Housemaid

A rich couple hires **Sydney Sweeney** for the title job (from **Freida McFadden**'s popular read). Odd, the maid's room only locks from the outside... With **Amanda Seyfried**. (In theaters Dec. 25)



Towards Zero

This **Agatha Christie** whodunit series excites us for a few reasons: **Matthew Rhys** and **Anjelica Huston** in the cast, a 1930s period wardrobe and a swanky, scenic coastal England estate. (BritBox, spring)

Backstage Pass

Becky G

Nominated at the Feb. 20 Premio Lo Nuestro, the "Mamii" singer shares tour life



Preshow Ritual

I bring out my yoga mat and do a breathing technique called Wim Hof. It's a game-changer and fully challenges your lungs.

Favorite Song to Sing Live

When we [would] end the show on "Shower," which came out 10 years ago, during the tour, it felt like when you get back to home plate after a home run and you hug your team — like I was hugging little Becky.

Lucky Charm

I have a photo of my grandpa taped inside my trunk. He's a compass for me, for sure. I dedicated a song to [him], the first grandparent I gained as an angel in Heaven; fans bring things to the shows that represent their abuelitos.

Embarrassing On-Stage Moment

Being the opening act for **Fifth Harmony** in Argentina and getting dragged off stage [in 2017]: **Dinah Jane**'s pants ripped and I tried to [help, but security] thought I was a fan. It's funny now, but I was mortified.



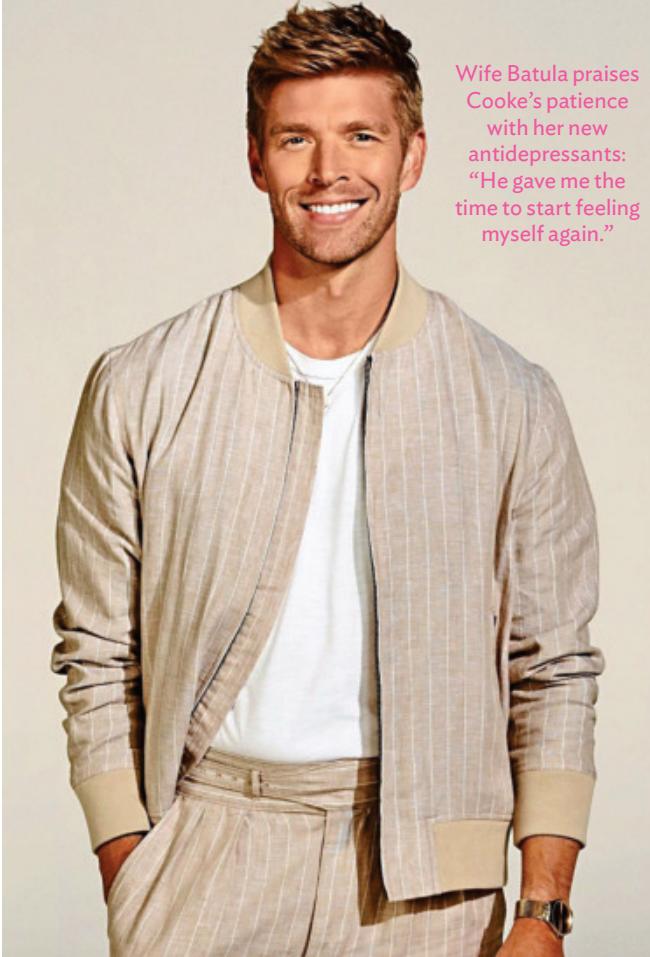
Breakups, Babies and Big Changes

Don't forget your sunscreen! **Kyle Cooke** invites *Us* out to the Hamptons for a new season of the roller-coaster reality show **Summer House**

► What's a polar vortex when we're partying poolside? *Summer House* is back for its ninth season (Bravo, Feb. 12, 9 P.M.) with a slew of dramatic developments, including the formerly engaged **Lindsay Hubbard** and **Carl Radke** in the *House* again — except she's pregnant! **Kyle Cooke**, 42, who's married to castmate **Amanda Batula**, dives into the drama for *Us*.

What were your expectations going into this latest round?

It's like, control what you can control. There were certainly moments where I was scratching my head just wondering, how are we going to make this work? But



Wife Batula praises Cooke's patience with her new antidepressants: "He gave me the time to start feeling myself again."

but I'm going to bring joy.

Surely she was feeling the joy already?

If you know Lindsay, you know that she's wanted to be a mom, and you could see the excitement. I mean, she came to the house with a foamcore board of her sonogram!

We'll see cracks appear in Paige De-Sorbo's three-year relationship with *Southern Charm's* Craig Conover. Were you surprised when they announced they were over in December?

I thought they might go the distance. As one couple on Bravo to another, I was rooting for them.

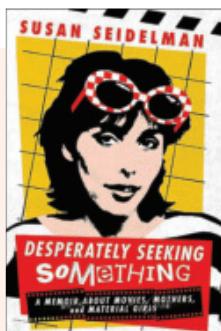
Imrul Hassan and Lexi Wood are new. What did they bring to the season?

Well, Imrul brought a lot of women. He certainly ended the drought of guys coming on and not bringing any tail home from the Hamptons nightlife!

What I'm Obsessed With

Julia Stiles

The first-time feature-film director — *Wish You Were Here* is out now — mixes it up



Desperately Seeking Something

I'm eating up Susan Seidelman's memoir. Her [1985] movie *Desperately Seeking Susan* was seminal in my childhood. It also was very much a reference for my new film in terms of colors and design.



Chappell Roan

I'm a little late to the party, but I cannot get **Chappell Roan** out of my head. She broke a year ago, but it's such a nice party to join. First it was "Hot to Go!" — yes, I know the dance — and then "Pink Pony Club." I think she's amazing.



Bluey

The show I'm watching the most is [the Australian cartoon] *Bluey*. I mean, I love the Mum character — obviously very relatable. I like the dad too. Dad's pretty fun. Dads always get to be fun.



Make a Day of It!

Of course you're going to watch **Super Bowl LIX**. So why not commit to all the on-air fun?

- Kickoff on Feb. 9 between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles is at 6:30 P.M. — but players much cuddlier than **Travis Kelce** start the action hours earlier. Yes, puppies! First up: the *Great American Rescue Bowl* (Great American

Family, 12 P.M.), which incorporates kittens too, for maximum cuteness. Then it's the *Puppy Bowl* (Animal Planet, Discovery, TBS, truTV, Max and Discovery+, 2 P.M.), with 142 rescue dogs falling all over each other in some semblance of the game. (That's Saquon Barky, right.) Plus, a new trailer for this summer's *Superman* airs during the special.

- Sweaty jocks aren't the only ones expected to perform at Caesars



Superdome in New Orleans. Pregame on Fox and Tubi, have a listen to four Louisiana natives: **Jon Batiste** on the national anthem, **Lauren Daigle** and **Trombone Shorty** on "America the Beautiful" and **Ledisi** on "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Halftime should hit around 8 or 8:30 P.M., and the anticipation for rapper **Kendrick Lamar** (far left) — joined by tourmate **SZA** — is already killing Us!

- The best part of the day, according to, like, everyone: the commercials! Harry and Sally meet condiments in a **Billy Crystal–Meg Ryan** rom-com reunion (near left) for Hellmann's. And look for **Chris Pratt** and **Chris Hemsworth** (Meta's Ray-Ban smart glasses), **Doja Cat** (Taco Bell), **Shania Twain** (Coffee Mate) and **Charli XCX, Matthew McConaughey and Martha Stewart** (Uber Eats).

- The coveted postgame slot (around 10:30 P.M.) goes to... the **Rob Lowe**-hosted game show *The Floor*. Which is where you may already be, due to victory cheering, defeat-related depression or just too many nachos.

ask Us

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q: With the Oscars coming up, I was wondering: Who are the most criminally overlooked actors?

— Sara P., Galveston, Tex.

A: So many, Sara! **Samuel L. Jackson, Sigourney Weaver, Bradley Cooper, Meg Ryan, Glenn Close and Amy Adams** are among the deserving names who've never taken home that 8½ lb Academy Award. One person we'd really like to see rewarded is never-been-nominated **Jennifer Lopez**. Early on, the former Fly Girl was considered a lightweight. She dazzled in 1997's *Selena*, 1998's *Out of Sight* and 2019's *Hustlers*, but no go. *Us Weekly* film critic **Mara Reinstein** blames her J.Lo status ("She's too famous to allow audiences to separate the star from the character") but, after seeing the musical *Kiss of the Spider Woman* at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival, believes that's the film Oscar won't be able to resist. "This triple threat finally gets to show off all her talents."



Spider Woman's Lopez plays a screen queen from Hollywood's Golden Age.

Q: Netflix's *The Night Agent* is my new favorite spy show. Is it based in reality?

— Jason L., via email

A: It's a tantalizing idea, that someone's sole job responsibility is to man a sort of U.S. government Batphone. **Matthew Quirk**, whose book *The Night Agent* was adapted for the series, tells *Us* he was inspired as a young Washington, D.C., journalist by an FBI friend: "Every night, he would disappear at 10 o'clock for some mysterious national security job. I imagined him sitting by a phone that would only ring in a life-or-death emergency." The author adds *Night Action* is "a real thing," although not exactly what's on screen. "A network of officers work all day and night in the White House Situation Room and other watch desks around D.C., ready to field any crisis," Quirk says. "As I understand it, *Night Action* is the code for an event so critical, they have to wake the country's most powerful men and women."



The Night Agent, now in its second season, stars **Gabriel Basso**.





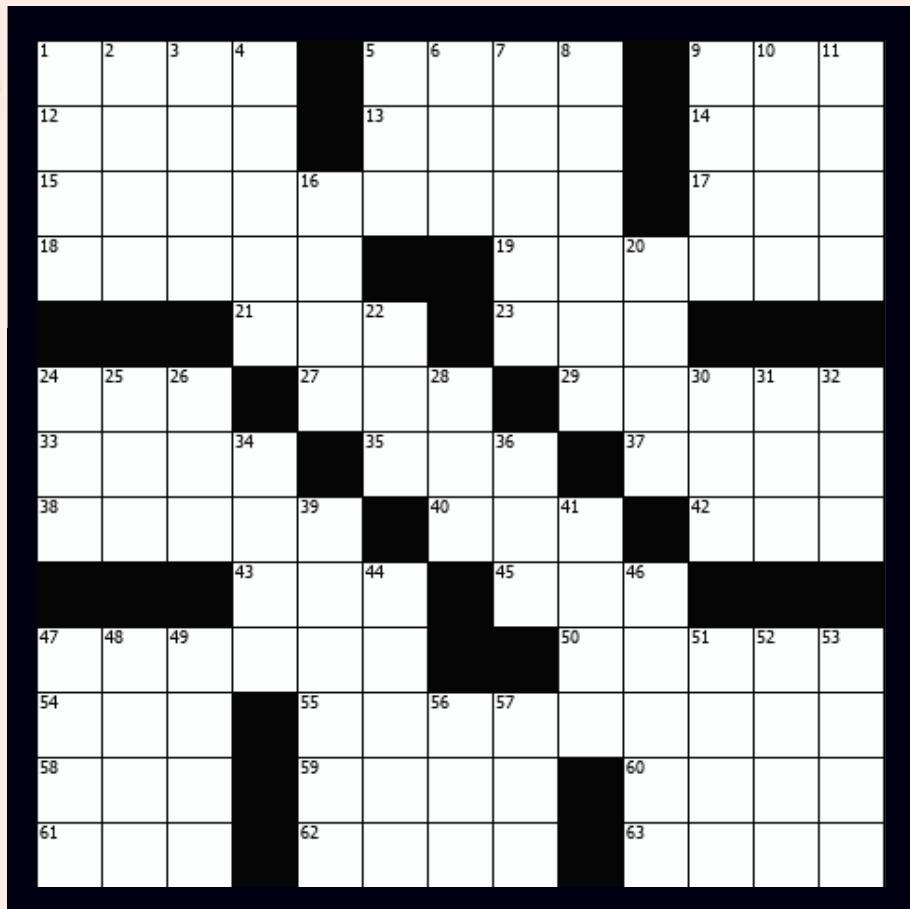
crossword



USWord

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Across

1. An arm or a leg
5. Cowardly Lion actor
9. Curve shape
12. Song by Romeo Santos, featuring Drake
13. Medley
14. Brazilian actress Blanco
15. "You're __ Invited" stars Reese Witherspoon
17. Monogram of "The King of the Blues"
18. TV series starring Jennifer Garner
19. Actress __ P. Henson
21. Fields of "The Upshaws"
23. Stallone's nickname
24. Feathered scarf
27. TV series starring Tom Payne: "Prodigal __"
29. Alexander of "Rizzoli & Isles"
33. "__ Enchanted"
35. Time travel drama: "The __ Home"
37. Austin Stowell stars in "__: Origins"
38. Tim Allen & Kat Dennings are "Shifting __"
40. Jenna Fischer in "The Office"
42. Mischievous creature
43. Michael of "Saturday Night Live"
45. Yoga equipment
47. Album by Tate McRae: "So Close __" (2 words)
50. Natasha Lyonne in "Russian Doll"
54. Listen: Lend an __
55. TV series starring Jason Segel
58. "Take on Me" band
59. Abound
60. Sofia Carson in "Descendants"
61. Informal greeting
62. Actress Korot
63. Comedian Bargatze

Down

1. Ricky Martin is "Livin' la Vida __"
2. Lionel Richie judges "American __"
3. Malaysian city
4. Cardi B's hit single: "__ Yellow"
5. Mauna __
6. John Legend sings "__ of Me"
7. Sword handles
8. Lorde song
9. Napoleon's first exile
10. Chem or P.E. in school
11. H.H. Munro's pen name
16. Egyptian goddess
20. Reynolds of "Deadpool"
22. Cut grass
24. Plead
25. Grand __ Opry
26. Pie __ Mode (2 words)
28. Doze
30. __-fi movie
31. Kevin Costner stars in "Let __ Go"
32. Snake
34. St. Louis, MO's Gateway __
36. Sweet potato
39. Type of daisy
41. Leslie of "This Is 40"
44. Lucy Ricardo's friend
46. Film franchise for Liam Neeson
47. Green & oolong
48. Hawaiian island
49. Filming's complete: "That's a __"
51. Song by Beyoncé
52. Jake Owen's song (2 words)
53. Arthur of "Hoop Dreams"
56. Lil __ Howery
57. "__ __ Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!" (2 words)

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Robin Roberts
Presents *I Will Survive: The Gloria Gaynor Story* premieres Feb. 8 at 8 p.m. on Lifetime.

25 THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME

BY

Gloria Gaynor

The legendary singer belts out some fun personal facts, including the interesting trinkets she's racked up, for Us

1. Listening to Gospel music is my favorite way to get myself in a good mood because it reminds me of the goodness, mercy and grace of God.

2. My go-to fast food order is two [chicken] thighs, French fries, cole slaw and a biscuit from Popeyes.



3. One thing I'm excited for people to learn from my biopic is that I'm not a one-hit wonder and have recorded 20 albums.

4. My favorite song that I've recorded is "I Will Survive" because it blesses my audience.

5. David [Nelson] from *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet* was my celebrity crush growing up.

6. My favorite workout is CrossFit, which entails different muscle strengthening.

7. My favorite book is *More Than a Carpenter*.

8. To decompress after a long day, I study the Bible. Proverbs Chapter 3, Verses 5 and 6 are my favorite passages.

9. The three singers I looked up to when I was [young] were **Nancy Wilson**, **Nat King Cole** and **Frank Sinatra**.

10. The proudest moment of my career was having "I Will Survive" recognized in the National Recording Registry at the Library of Congress in 2016.

11. My first job was as a sales auditor at Bamberger's Department Store.

12. *The Long Kiss Goodnight* is my favorite movie.

13. I collect teapots that don't look like teapots and I have one that looks like Santa Claus.

14. Scrabble is the app I use the most. My highest score is 420.



15. My secret talent is sewing. I used to sew all of my stage clothes, and my favorite one that I made is a fuchsia, sequin crepe-backed satin gown.

16. Myrtle Beach is my favorite place to vacation. When I'm there, I love going to Aquino's Japanese Steakhouse.

17. "Willow Weep for Me" brings back the best memories because my mom asked me to sing it at a time I didn't even realize she knew I could sing.

18. My favorite way to spend the weekend is by ordering food and binge-watching my favorite series. Right now, I'm watching *The Equalizer*.



19. My most starstruck moment was meeting **Mark Wahlberg**. He was personable and friendly, especially after he realized I mistakenly thought he was his brother **Donnie Wahlberg**.

20. My first car was a Chevrolet Monza. My favorite memory is driving to my inspection and telling my husband that my car doesn't have a stereo, boom box speakers [or] a CD player — it's [just] a car, and takes me where I need to go!



21. **Gerard Butler** is the most famous person in my phone book.

22. My favorite comfort meal is fried chicken wings, cornbread and Brussels sprouts.

23. Kissing is my favorite Valentine's Day activity.

24. Math was my best subject in school, and my alternate profession would be a teacher.

25. The one item left on my bucket list is seeing the northern lights.





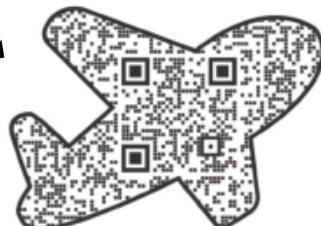
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