

FASHION BRAND COMPANY

QUARTERLY

THE LEADING NEWS SOURCE FOR YOU

★★★ ISSUE #3

Jessica Williams Confesses:

I
**WANT TO
BELIEVE AGAIN**



A Fun Hang With Jessica Williams



by Nicholas Gazin, photos by Kenna Sharp

Jessica Williams is somehow both a rising star and a weathered veteran of show biz. She entered the public consciousness in 2012 as the *Daily Show's* youngest correspondent. When Jon Stewart retired, many demanded that Williams supplant him as the *Daily Show's* new host, but Williams claimed to have no interest in the job. She had bigger fish to fry, and fry she did. She's fried up enough fish to open her own metaphorical Sizzler. Her podcast with Phoebe Robinson, *2 Dope Queens*, became an HBO show

called *2 Dope Queens*. She's been in the *Fantastic Beasts* and *The Incredible Jessica James*. These last few years she's been playing Gaby in the Apple TV+ show *Shrinking* alongside Jason Segal and Harrison Ford. Imagine being on a TV show with Harrison Ford. That's crazy. She was an Emmy nominee for best supporting actress in a comedy show in 2023. Her over-the-top fit of pretend-sobbing became a popular meme. She's nominated again for the same role and by the time you read this she will either have won or lost, unless the

Emmys are cancelled this year. She came by the Fashion Brand Company headquarters to model outfits while we peppered her with queries.

Kate Giambra: How close are you to achieving your childhood dreams?

Jessica Williams: When I was a child, I wanted to be Aaliyah really badly, so I think I've come pretty far. I feel good about where I landed. I can afford to pay my mortgage, which feels really tight as a millennial. And it's just from

being silly, doing jokes, having a good time.

Kate: Do you have any recurring dreams?

Jessica: I still have that one where I'm not prepared for the high school musical and I don't know my lines. I'm trying to make them up, and everyone's depending on me.

Kate: You've talked about being a big reader as a child. What were your favorite books?

Jessica: There was this series of Clue books where you could try

and solve the riddle. I remember taking a bunch of those out from the public library, racking up fines, and never returning them. Sorry, Los Angeles Public Library!

Definitely Harry Potter, all the fantasy stuff. I really liked mystery when I was a kid. So, Nancy Drew and the Babysitter's Club books.

Kate: Has that translated into your adult reading preferences?

Jessica: Absolutely, yeah. I love a mystery. I want to know who done it.

These days I'm just reading about these sexy fairies. You know sexy fairies are the new sexy vampires? I'm reading all this romantic shit. "Fae love." No vampires anymore, it's all fae. They can go out during the day and they're scary, but hot at the same time.

Kate: Do you collect anything?

Jessica: Well, I'm kind of like a magpie, I have all sorts of shit at my house. I got a Labubu for my birthday two days ago. It started with one Labubu and now I'm looking for Labubu clothes on Etsy. People make really, really cute Labubu clothes.

Penelope: That's cute. Should we get a Labubu?

Jessica: Yeah, you guys should, absolutely. I wish I had a lizard so I could get the lizard clothes.

Kate: We were in the Guinness Book of World Records for the lizard clothes. If you were ever in the Guinness Book of World Records, what would you want your world record to be?

Jessica: "Most fun hangs per capita."

Kate: How are your guitar lessons going?

Jessica: Oh my god, my guitar lessons are great. Right now I'm learning finger-style picking and how to play Fleetwood Mac's "Landslide."

I take lessons in Glendale. The setting is like a dojo, and you learn a certain amount of songs that teach you something fundamental, and then you get a different colored pick as you advance, like how karate students get colored belts. "Hey There, Delilah" is next.



"There's this moment at the awards show when they're announcing the names of the nominees where you think "What if?" I try not to think about it until then".

Kate: Wow. You know what would be a really good one to learn? "These Days" by Nico.

Jessica: That would be a fun one. I get so emotional when I hear that song. It puts me in a really weird mood.

Kate: There's a few Elliot Smith songs that affect me that deeply.

Jessica: "Smile Like You Mean It" by the Killers takes me back to *The OC* and my teenage years.

Kate: You're from Long Beach, home of Sublime—

Jessica: I'm from Torrance, but I went to Cal State Long Beach.

Kate: You went to Cal State Long Beach, home of Sublime. What are your twenty favorite Sublime songs?

Jessica: Twenty is crazy. I'm gonna do my top three. "Santeria" is classic. "Summertime" is classic. *Lana Del Rey* kind of ate that cover. And then "Caress Me Down." That's my favorite.



Kate: You're nominated for an Emmy for best supporting actress in a comedy series. How much do you care about winning?

Jessica: I was nominated once before and when that happens you think "I'm not going to win." But then there's this moment at the awards show when they're announcing the names of the nominees where you think "What if?" I try not to think about it until then.

Everybody that I know who's won has said it's really cool. It's cool to be nominated. We get to wear cool clothes and get free food.

Penelope: How are the parties?

Jessica: Oh, the parties are cool. When I started working

on the *Daily Show* I was 22. My best friend and I would go to Emmy parties and we couldn't believe the food and drinks were free. But now that I'm older and tired, I need some *Sims* time when I get home. The allure of the open bar kind of starts to wane after a while.

Penelope: I've heard that nobody dances at these parties.

Jessica: I do, though. I'm a real sweaty dancer. Dancing until I sweat is like my favorite thing. Going to these parties allows me to learn a lot about other actors' personalities. Does Bryan Cranston dance? I don't know, but I want to find out.

Kate: We're putting photos of you on billboards all over Los Angeles during Emmy voting season. If you win, which we know that you will, how are you going to thank us in your speech?

Jessica: If I win and I go, "Oh my God, are you guys serious right now?" That's a shout out to you guys.



Kate: What do you think happens when we die?

Jessica: Is that a real question? Sometimes I think everything just goes black, and that's it. But I just listened to some podcasts where a guy who worked in the ER said people would come back from the brink of death and ask, "Why did you wake me up?" That's been tripping me out lately. They say it's like experiencing a deep peace.

Kate: Do you believe in ghosts?

Jessica: Yes.

Kate: If you were a ghost, where do you think you would haunt?

Jessica: I might haunt a Home Depot just to kind of double down on how awful of an experience I have there. It's already like Purgatory. You're at Home Depot asking some teenager where something is and they act like they've never seen a person before.

I think about ghosts all the time. I always tell my loved ones, "If you die, don't haunt me. I don't want to hear from you."

Kate: How did I do as an interviewer on a scale of 1 to 10?

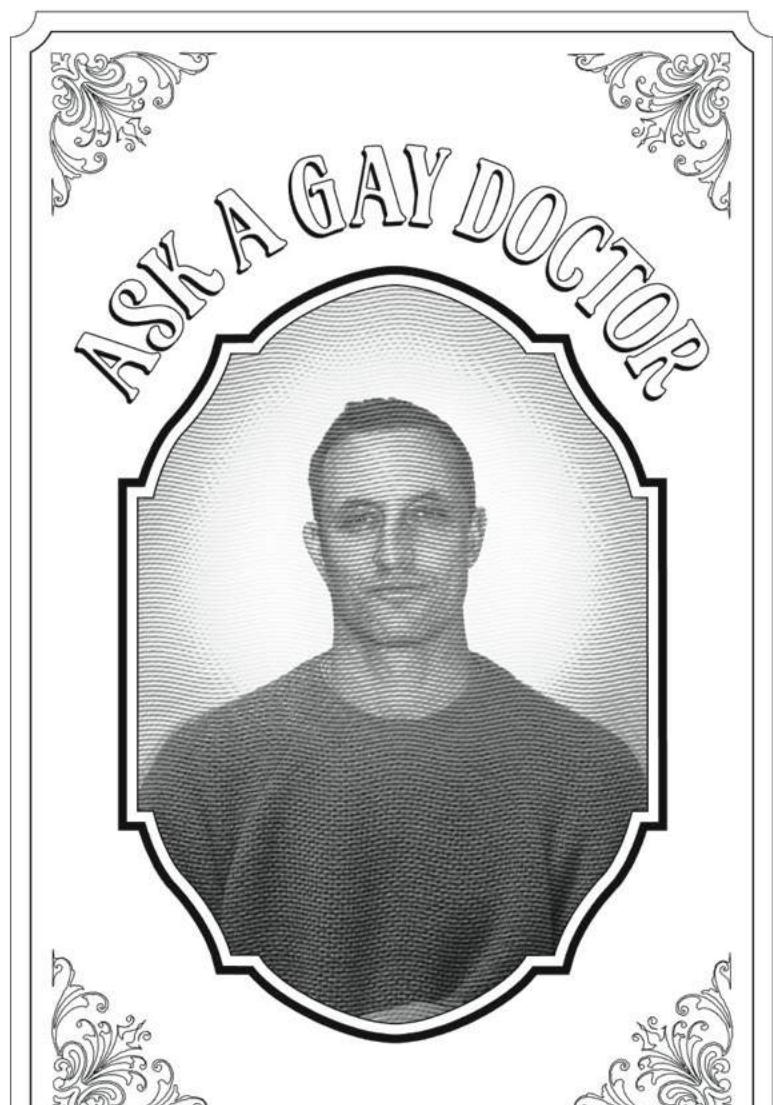
Jessica: You're at an 8 right now. That's like a B.

DR MAX'S

PHYSICIAN FORMULATED REMEDIES FOR ALL AGES

Hi, my name is Dr. Max Dean Goldstein. I am Penelope Gazin's gay family doctor! I've been formulating products for my patients for many years and just started making more of these to distribute to more people and wanted to share the love with the Fashion Brand community. Everything is all-natural, made with organic ingredients, no petrolatums, and meant to be used across all ages. Enjoy!!

Love,
Dr. Max



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY

DR. MAX GOLDSTEIN

This is our gay doctor, Dr. Max. Dr. Max Goldstein is a board-certified physician who practices family medicine from his beautiful clinic in Santa Monica, California, where he provides care for individuals of all ages. He graduated from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. We trust him with our lives.

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Dear Dr. Max,

Why do most lubes burn my butthole?

— The Anal Queen

Dearest Anal Queen,

When you apply something on the skin and it burns, it's usually because there is a breakdown of the skin barrier. Without a strong skin barrier, anything you apply topically can burn. The first thing I would do is start applying a healing balm or salve to your rectum on a daily basis to build up the skin barrier. Something like the Baby Balm I sell on my website would be great or you can use coconut oil.

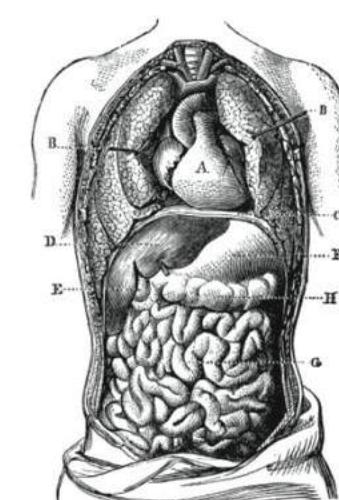
Apply on a daily basis for a few weeks and your skin health will improve. If you are in a relationship and don't need to use a condom for sex, you could consider an oil-based lubricant such as coconut oil. If using condoms, try a condom-safe lubricant that doesn't include any scents or harsh chemicals which can irritate the skin even more.

Good luck and have fun!

— Dr. Max

Dear Doctor Max,

I was diagnosed with SIBO, but I haven't done anything about it because the antibiotics they use to treat it are going to cost me \$1000 per dose, and also, I sometimes doubt it's a real thing, even though my stomach feels terrible all the time. I already eat gluten-free, is there



anything else to be done about it that won't result in an eating disorder?

Thanks for your input!

— SIBO

Dearest SIBO,

I agree with you, SIBO is kind of a "hot diagnosis" that may be overly diagnosed/treated, and can cost a lot of money to do so. SIBO is an acronym for "small intestinal bacterial overgrowth," which, simply put, means that the balance of bacteria is off in your gut. Blasting the gut with antibiotics is one way to take care of the burden of bad bacteria, but balancing it out with probiotics and foods that are alive (think kimchi, fermented foods, sauerkraut...) is probably a better and gentler way to go. Something to think about is that SIBO and IBS (irritable bowel syndrome) often go hand in hand. There are more nervous system cells in your gut than there are in your brain, meaning you have an entire gastrointestinal nervous system which can experience anxiety, fear, and depression. When it does, you can experience bloating and abdominal discomfort. So, before spending \$1000 on antibiotics, I'd try to focus on increasing fermented foods in your diet, prioritizing your mental health, and getting into deep-breathing exercises — which stimulate your vagus nerve and can calm your gut down.

Good luck!

— Dr. Max

Dear Gay Doctor,

When I swallow pills, it feels like they are stuck in my throat. I can't tell if they are actually stuck or if it just feels like it but it is the worst feeling. I will go so far as to try to stick my finger down my throat to dislodge the pill because it is so uncomfortable, but it doesn't really work. This happens probably 85-90% of the time when I swallow a pill. Also when I wear turtlenecks it feels like I can't swallow, even when



they are not applying any pressure to my throat.

Lastly, sometimes when I am laying down and have my head propped up it feels like my throat gets stuck or like caught on itself or something and it can hurt a tiny bit. When I stretch my neck out it gets better. Do you think this is something I should get checked out? Any ideas what it could be? I have some hyper-mobility, I don't know if that is relevant. Thank you in advance!

— Choking in Cumberland County

Dearest Choking in Cumberland County,

I'm sorry this is happening to you. This is a situation where I think you need to see a gastroenterologist for an endoscopy to take a look at your throat and esophagus. It may be related to chronic acid reflux, eosinophilic esophagitis, esophageal dysmotility or simply nothing other than the way your body swallows (or can't) pills. There are plenty of adults that need to take medications in liquid or crushed form, but we would want to rule out anything more serious going on.

One thing you could do as a trial, is to take an anti-acid medication such as Omeprazole or Zantac and see if this helps, but this shouldn't replace seeing a specialist to take a look at your throat and esophagus.

Take care!

— Dr. Max

Need advice?

DROP US A NOTE AT:



quarterly@fashionbrandcompany.com

Freedom Worth Fighting For



I was just peaking on acid at Big Bend National Park next to the Rio Grande river when a harem of wild white horses just galloped through my small, primitive backcountry campground. I realized, as they crossed the river into Mexico, that these wild horses had no nationality or names. They simply existed as horse citizens of the world, and were truly free.

The Dueling Horse Jacket

AVAILABLE IN: faux plant-waste leather, and linen

Gift wrap print!



On next page! ➔





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DEAR DR. BRANDY

Please Help Me, I'm So Crazy

By Dr. Brandy Multiples

Doctor Brandy is licensed to fix your life and it's all she can think about. She is a regular on many daytime talk shows and is the published authoress of many informative pamphlets. Dr. Brandy will ONLY respond to requests for advice and NOT regarding the recent lawsuits she's been embroiled in over her wellness centers.

Dear Dr. Brandy,

A person I had a crush on and a homoerotic friendship with in high school has re-entered my life and I yearn for her once again. (I'm a lesbian. She's bisexual.)

I really like her and want to pursue a relationship, but she has an objectively bad boyfriend. He's cheap—making her pay for things even while she is struggling financially—and he is supported by a wealthy family. They've been dating for two years.

I know it's bad to go after someone in a relationship, but does that still apply when the person they're dating sucks?

— *Gay and Miserable in Missoula*

Dear Gay and Miserable,

Being a young lesbian and falling for your best friend seem to go hand in hand, I'm afraid. While I have never met your best friend, I can already tell that she sucks. She almost definitely knows that you like her and she's using you for attention and validation. Some bi girls will mess around with other ladies but only ever actually date men. These women are poison for lesbians. If she'd rather be in a relationship with a man who sucks over a nice lady (I'm assuming you're nice) then you would have a terrible time dating her anyway.

— *Doc Brandy*

Howdy Brandy,

I live alone in a two-bedroom apartment, and I'm kind of a hoarder but like, a cool one. I love vintage furniture, 90s/00s decor, and I have a lot of clothes. It's literally festooned all over my apartment and my home is an appalling mess. I could downsize but I don't want to—sounds lame. So I'm looking for advice on how to live successfully as a maximalist, and how to convince my family and friends that I definitely do NOT have a problem. Thank you!

— *Jenni (they/them)*

Dear They/Them Jenni,

The quality of the garbage a person collects isn't what differentiates hoarders from collectors. It's the way that they display their collection that reveals their relationship to object appreciation. Take it from me, I have a junk drawer full of Fabergé eggs and it looks like absolute shit.

Hoarding is often seen as a response to fear of death. I personally don't know why a person wouldn't be afraid of death, personally. It's really the only thing worth being afraid of. Once you die you can't take your clothes, DVD box sets, or art collection with you, so you're right to be scared.

However, hoarding isn't a good outlet for that. If you have people who show concern for your mentally unwell behavior, that's the real treasure. Hoard the people who care about you like it was a big plastic storage bin full of Spice Girls dolls.

My advice is to think "Would I keep this if it was covered in dogshit?" Then use that to decide what to keep and what to get rid of. Another exercise is to imagine your loved ones coming in to deal with your things after you die and pitchforking it all into a dumpster.

— *The/These Doc Brandy*

Dear Dr. Brandy,

Help! I am literally being tortured with emotions as I debate having another baby or not. My daughter is 13 months old and still fights sleep every night of her life. I watch families everywhere trying to see who looks most happy. Will I be a better mom if I can just focus on what I have? Can I pull it together to somehow handle two under three?

— *Mahalo, Casey*

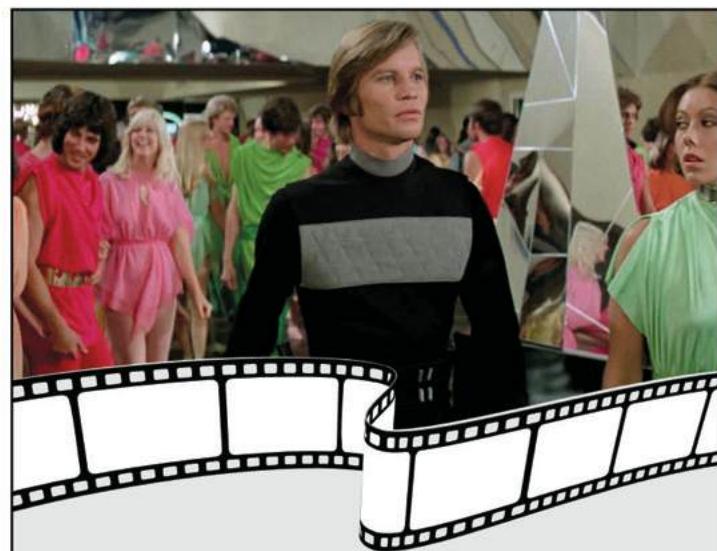
Dear Casey,

You are writing into a fake newspaper for advice on one of the most important choices a person can make. This makes me think you probably shouldn't have another child, at least not right now.

— *Dr. Brandy*

Well that's all from me. Happy Halloween to all of those who observe the holidays!

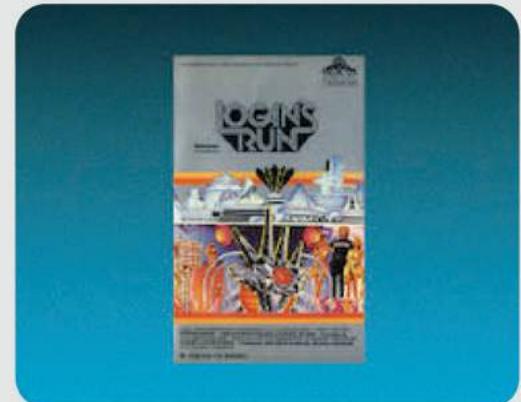
Need advice?



GALA'S VIDEO SHELF

My name is Gala Avary. I'm a millennial/gen-z cusp baby who is stuck in the year 1973 and loves all things retro. You may know me from The Video Archives Podcast where I chat about VHS with Quentin Tarantino and Roger Avary. I have a rotating VHS collection in my house, and here's a tape from my shelf...

LOGAN'S RUN (1976)



I'm turning 30 this year and I'm excited about it, but if I lived in the world of *Logan's Run* I'd be shaking in my boots. In that world, when you turn 30, you head off to Carousel and commit suicide to maintain the equilibrium of the perfect utopian world. In exchange for this, you get to live your life in extreme hedonism and debauchery.

The story follows Logan 5, a "Sandman" whose job it is to track down "Runners" who don't want to go to Carousel. The computer overlord asks Logan 5 to track down the hypothetical outside land of "Sanctuary" and the 1,054 runners not accounted for. At first Logan believes in his mission, but as he falls in love with a woman named Jessica and discovers the truth outside the dome, his mind is opened. This is Plato's Cave to the max.

Directed by Michael Anderson with performances from Michael York, Jenny Agutter, and a very funny Farrah Fawcett, *Logan's Run* has some of the coolest production design of the 70's, thanks to Dale Hennessy. After you see the movie I swear you'll want the poster in your house. Welcome to the 23rd Century!

A film by Alan Resnick

Yucky Guy



Coming Soon



Video Brand Company

y



Capricorn

(December 21- January 20)

Do not go into a new endeavor without properly arming yourself with information, and perhaps an entry-level weapon (nunchucks will do). Remember, failing to prepare is preparing to fail. Mommy doesn't like it when you fail, Starla. Look at your sister, surviving hardships in high fashion, and what have you done, Starla? Do you even know where Little Craig goes after Little League on Wednesdays? Straight home, like his loser mom. He could at least go to the nearest Dave & Buster's.



Aquarius

(January 21 - February 20)

For the rest of this year, your assignment is to pick what you want to do and do only that. Exercise military precision in your decision-making and stick to it until it delivers the results you desire. Apply this to anything in your life and you will reap something, I guarantee. Variety is not the spice of life. At least not for you. Prepare a meal of steamed chicken and veg (sub chicken with ranch dressing if you are vegetarian) and let the discipline take over your body like Prion disease, but for success.



Pisces

(February 21- March 20)

There's a shift in your luck. And, with Uranus entering Gemini, you'll be lucky for the next few years as well. Here's the fine print: You must stay receptive and believe that everything the universe throws at you is a blessing. You never know if your next fender bender is a meet-cute with the love of your life, or that foul ball that strikes you square on the noggin might reveal that an aneurysm is about to burst and that the impact of the ball magically dispersed the blood clot. It's all a blessing for you! How lucky!



Aries

(March 21 - April 19)

There's been an eerie feeling that's followed you since the last Saturn transit. Right around that time, there was a mysterious "rock" your car ran over that made a weird sound. The non-denominational gods have begun to call your name, and you must make your voice heard by any means necessary. Yell to the person to the right or left of you. Share your most unhinged and baseless conspiracy theory with the class.



Taurus

(April 20 - May 20)

What happened to you on September 17, 2024? Think hard about what you could've done that day, because it has set off a chain reaction that you will feel for the rest of your life. Improve your chances by beginning to remember as early as September 11th and, to be safe, continue to never forget until the 21st night of every September until you taste the sweet kiss of death. Your horoscope for the rest of the year? I forgot. Check back later.



Gemini

(May 21 - June 20)

September 7th is an important day for you, Gemini. The universe has scheduled a mandatory audit of your contributions to the world, and you must attend—no rescheduling, no excuses. Pay attention, or you will regret letting this moment pass you by for the rest of your life. Your life sucks right now, but it doesn't have to forever. A haunted fax machine will try to warn you about this on September 3rd—do not ignore it.

In YOUR STARS

Insights for Every Zodiac Sign



Art by Penelope Gazin. Feel free to use these images for tattoos. Starla Portrait by Nicholas Gazin



Cancer

(June 21 - July 20)

This is the year when everything will change for you, Cancer. It's time to keep your head down and at the same time hold it up high (very simple, do not clarify) and honor yourself and your boundaries. Create your special economic zone where you are the king (or woman king, depending on your gender expression) and bestow your closest girlfriends small parcels of land. Allow them to select the structure of government that suits their needs.



Virgo

(August 22- September 20)

The world is yours for the taking should you choose to adjust the guardrails that keep you within the zone where you feel most free. A big reward comes with your change of heart and your newfound commitment to reframing your values as part of your evolution. You might even consider Adrien Brody as the greatest modern artist of our time. I hear his work has been sold for top dollar at galas like the ones they have at the Rotary Club near my house!



Scorpio

(October 21-November 20)

You're doing something Uranus isn't quite happy with. It has entered into your sign and will stay there for the next seven years. It's in your best interests to prep for this event like you are being investigated by a government body. There's no one you can trust, and nothing will be as it seems. Go dark, change your name. If that's too much work, act like Uranus is a roommate you found on Craigslist, and only emerge from your room once they are gone.



Leo

(July 21 - August 21)

On September 19, 2014, champion racehorse Wigmore Hall shattered his knee on the track and was destroyed by a veterinarian with a .22 caliber bullet straight through the dome that sits between his cute little ears. At the time of his death, he was worth \$1.5m, but due to a miscalculation by a man who was 5'3" on the very best of days, his life was cut short at his prime. There's a moral to this story that contains layers for you to unpack at your own time.



Libra

(September 21 - October 20)

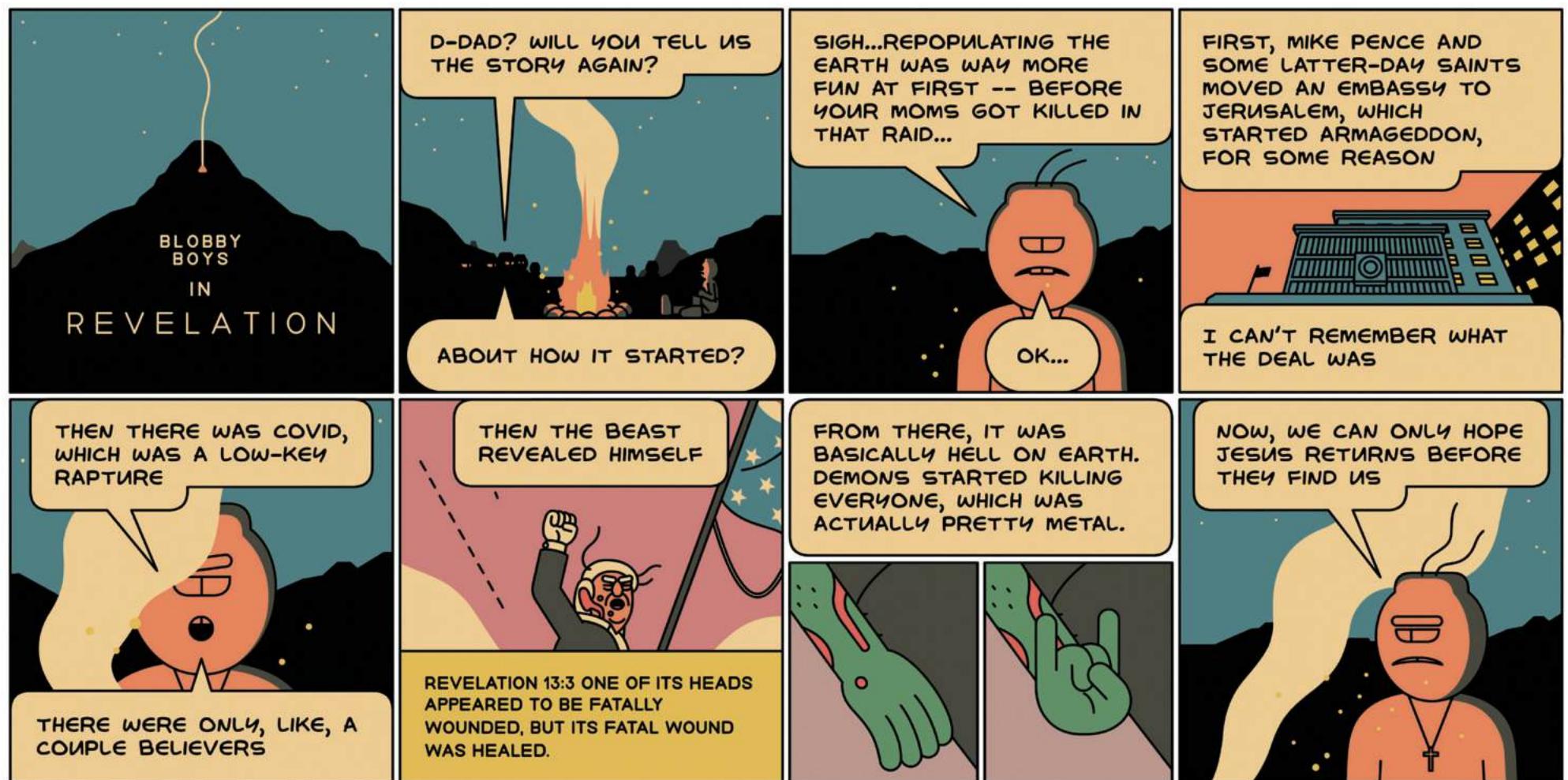
You are as righteous as you are fair, and you are harsh, mostly to yourself. It's time for you to enforce these standards on others and ensure that you move the goalpost further before they even meet your expectations. Walk 50 yards ahead of your companion and then declare "Race ya!" whenever the opportunity arises. It's not enough that you win, but others should also lose. Stay the course, and you will be rewarded.



Sagittarius

(November 21-December 20)

I was visiting my sister in Daly City and we got jumped behind a strip mall getting pedicures. We hobbled to her car in those disposable slippers. I got the nice French tips, looked great. Anyhoo, a man in sensible shoes runs towards us and swipes my sister's Dooney & Burke handbag, but not before stabbing her in her True Religion jeans. Oh, where was I? Anyway, since we're just sharing, use the code StarlaSisterGotStabbed15 (15% off, you can do a full return, without being stabbed*).

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