

Binge

[Fantasy Reality]

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[Fantasy Reality]

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Graphic Design MFA 2020

[My appreciation for mainstream pop culture is genuine, but I am not a passive consumer.]



[Drawing from embodied experience and contemporary feminist theory, I design as a participant, cultural surveyor, and critic.]



[From these vantage points, I binge-watch to discern the tropes of media such as reality TV romance and dead girl shows.]





[My data binging leads to a process of archiving, de/recoding, and making visible the algorithm structuring pop culture.]



[“Fantasy” is derived from the Greek *phantazein*, meaning “to make visible.”]

[In this thesis, I demonstrate that the reality-fantasy relationship is not an either/or.]





[Reality TV challenges this notion directly:
it is more fantasy than reality.]



18



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[The line between reality and fantasy is further blurred when real women play fantasy dead girl(s);]



20

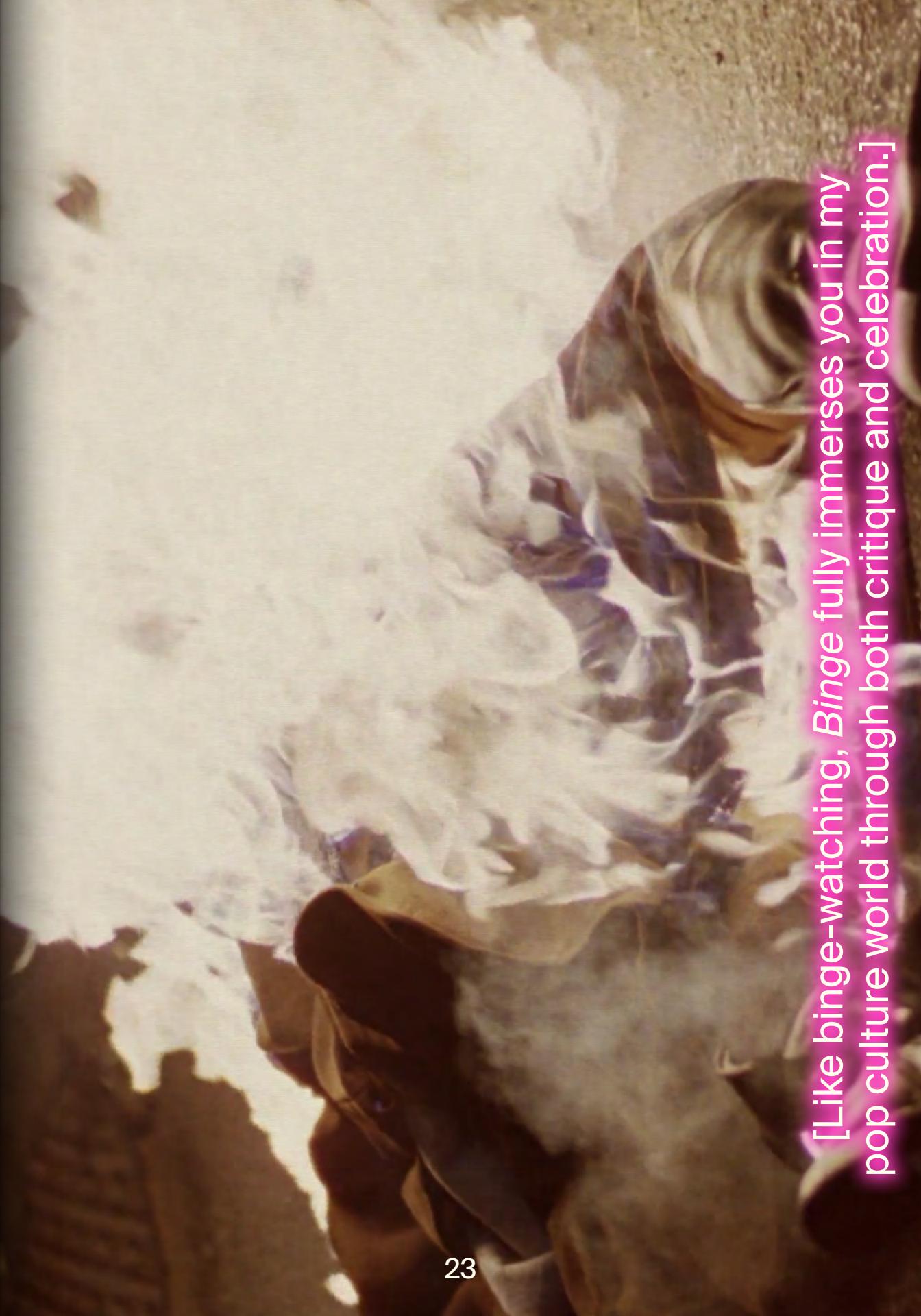


21

[The plotline may be fictional but
the violence against women is a reality.]



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[Like binge-watching, *Binge* fully immerses you in my pop culture world through both critique and celebration.]

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[romantic music]



Me before my 8th grade formal dance, 2007.

This is a story about a girl named Elena.

I grew up in the semi-rural, semi-suburban town of Keene, New Hampshire. I began my first day of sixth grade at Keene Middle School in 2004. The early aughts were a wasteland: our Abercrombie & Fitch jeans were low and cool girls' navels were pierced. I religiously collected and studied *Seventeen*, *Cosmo Girl* (less sexual than *Cosmopolitan*), and *Teen Vogue*.

[Early morning] I woke up to straighten my naturally very straight hair before school. I applied black eyeliner during the bus ride to school so my mother wouldn't see it. Once at my desk, my watermelon Smackers lip gloss was permanently fresh.

Sixth grade was the first year of my life that I was trusted to be home alone after school. While I was supposed to be doing my homework I secretly watched reality TV. As soon as I heard my stepdad's car driving up the long driveway, I turned off the TV, fluffed up the couch pillows, and ran into the other room. My favorite shows were *The Hills*, *Made*, and *Next*. This habit was my first true introduction to the concept of guilty pleasures.

16 and Pregnant A Baby Story A Shot at Love with Tila Tequila Ace of Cakes America's Worst Tattoos
America's Best Dance Crew America's Next Top Model American Idol Are You The One? Artstar Bachelor in Paradise Beat Bobby Flay Beauty and the Geek Below Deck Sailing Yacht Bethenny Ever After Bethenny Getting Married? Biggest Loser Blind Date Cake Boss Catfish Celebrity Fit Club Chopped Clean House Cutthroat Kitchen Date My Mom Dating: No Filter Doomsday Preppers Extreme Makeover Home Addition Extreme Weight Loss Family Karma Flavor of Love Fuck, That's Delicious Food Network Star Ghost Hunters Guy's Grocery Games, Hogan Knows Best Hollywood Love Story House Hunters Hustle I am Cait I Love New York I Used to Be Fat Ink Master Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution Jungletown Keeping Up With The Kardashians Kourtney and Kim Take Miami LA Ink Laguna Beach: The Real OC Life of Kylie Little People, Big World Love Is Blind Love Island AUS Love Island UK Love Island USA Made Making the Band Making the Cut Man v. Food Married at First Sight Marrying Millions, Masterchef Most Expensivest MTV Cribs My Super Sweet 16 Newport Harbor: The Real OC Next Next in Fashion Parental Control Payday Pimp My Ride Project Runway Punk'd Queer Eye Real World Road Rules Rob & Chyna Rock of Love Room Raiders Run's House Say Yes to The Dress Scott Baio is 45... and Single Shark Tank Southern Charm Summer House Teen Mom Teen Mom OG Terrace House The Bachelor The Bachelorette The Challenge The City The Great American Baking Show The Great British Bake Off The Great Food Truck Race The Hills The Millionaire Matchmaker The Profit The Real Housewives of NJ The Real Housewives of NYC The Voice Throwdown! with Bobby Flay Tidying Up with Marie Kondo Too Hot to Handle Top Chef Top Chef All Stars Top Chef Masters Top Chef: Just Desserts Total Bellas Total Divas Total Request Live Trading Spaces True Life Vanderpump Rules Very Cavallari Vice Does America WAGS LA What Not to Wear While You Were Out Wife Swap Wild 'N Out Yo Mama

Reality shows I have binge-watched.

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a vibrant green and yellow tropical print hula outfit with a black crisscross belt. She has a colorful flower lei around her neck and a single pink flower in her hair. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a lush green tropical setting.

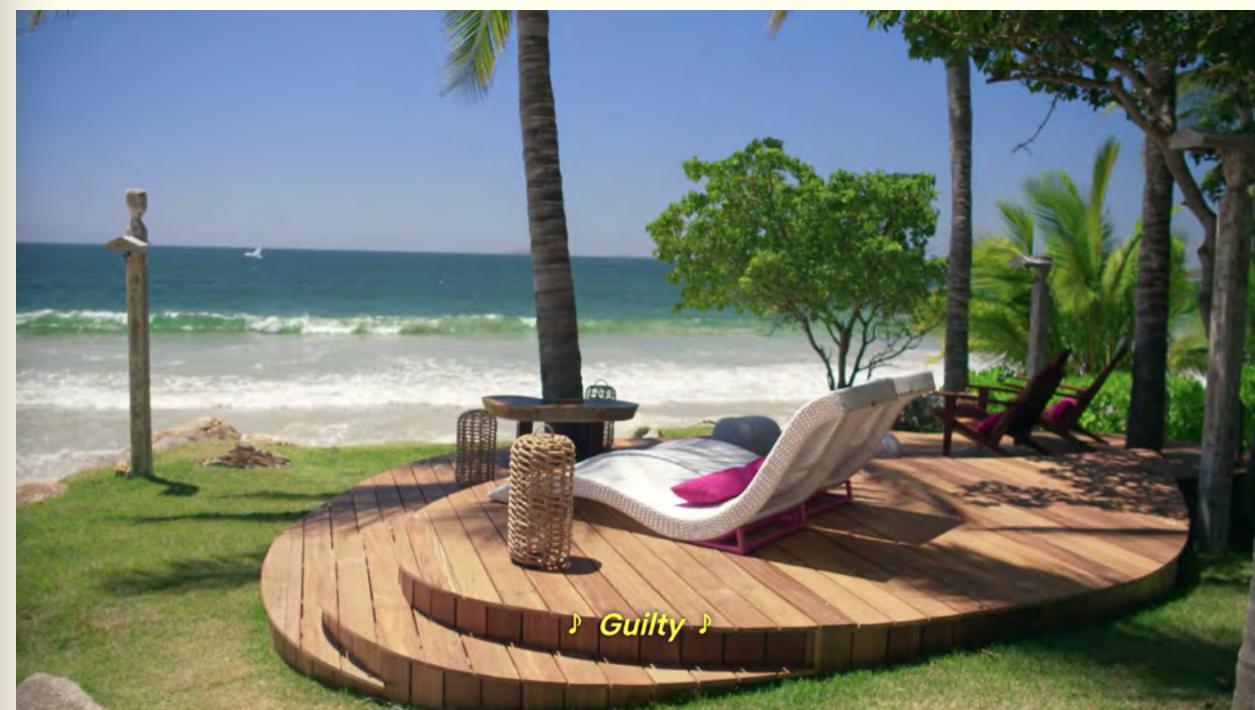
Trouble in Reality

[Essay]

In case you haven't noticed, reality TV paradise is in vogue. *Love Island* (UK) was recently satirized on *Saturday Night Live* with a voice-over narrator (correctly) stating, "You will watch 50 hours of this. You think you won't. But you will." In *Euphoria*, HBO's latest series about stylish teens doing drugs, the main character, Rue, becomes extremely depressed and watches 22 episodes straight of *Love Island*. As we see her struggle to get out of bed, she narrates, "That's why I love reality TV. It's pure, effortless entertainment." Binge-watching (and by binge-watching, I mean not-leaving-your-room-for-a-few-days binge-watching) a reality TV show fully immerses you in the contestants' world. After watching four or five hours of *Love Island*, you forget your own problems and are transported to an ambiguous sunny paradise where your biggest challenges are deciphering the heavy Essex accents and determining for yourself if the tears are genuine. Reality TV is the broke millennial's attainable form of escapism. I may not be able to afford to take a vacation, but I can afford to binge-watch, thanks to the Hulu account password that I "borrowed" from my parents.

Love Island is the latest reality show to enter the American pop culture zeitgeist, but there are a number of other reality TV shows set in a tropical island or "paradise." There is *Bachelor in Paradise*, which is filmed in Sayulita, Mexico, and features the rejects of *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette* franchise hooking up with other rejects; there is *Paradise Hotel*, which is filmed in La Paz, Mexico; there is *Love Island*, which films its UK and Australian versions in Majorca and its US version in Fiji.

This is not to mention the numerous other shows which, while perhaps not explicitly invoking the idea of



Top & Bottom: *Too Hot to Handle*, 2020.



1 "Paradise," Wikipedia, last modified March 20, 2020, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paradise>.



Top: *Temptation Island*, 2019.

Bottom: Hendrick Goltzius, *The Fall of Man*, 1616.

"paradise," are filmed in beautiful, "exotic," unnamed locations. Self-described "fantasy experience," *Temptation Island* filmed in Belize and Hawaii features four couples that come to paradise to cheat on each other and break up in a really painful and public way, and is *Are You The One?* has filmed in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. *Too Hot to Handle* is filmed in Punta Mita, Mexico. The Japanese reality show phenomenon *Terrace House* has filmed in Hawaii as well. *Ex on the Beach* has filmed in Bali, Greece, Thailand, Portugal, and Hawaii. *Dating Naked* has filmed in Panama, the Philippines, and Bora Bora. *Survivor* has filmed in over twenty "exotic" locations including Fiji, Thailand, and Vanuatu. My new favorite show I've never watched, *Pirate Master*, was filmed in Dominica. As the trailer for the show's single season states, "The name of the game is Booty!"

Wikipedia defines "paradise" as a place of "only peace, prosperity, and happiness ... a place of contentment, a land of luxury and fulfillment." In Judeo-Christian culture, paradise is a synonym either for Heaven or for the Garden of Eden. The Garden's Hebrew interpretation can actually be translated as "paradise of pleasure."¹ For many Americans, paradise is a beautiful, natural, temperate place of leisure and relaxation. Paradise is also conflated with romantic love, hence the destination weddings, honeymoons, and Paul Gauguin Cruises (big yikes). It's no wonder that the sub-genre of the reality dating show has co-opted paradise as the place to go to fall in love (or more realistically, get laid and gain Instagram followers). In Episode 2 of Season 1 of *Paradise Hotel*, the narrator waxes poetic—"Look at those palm trees and that beautiful ocean.

This should be the perfect place for the new guys to win over the ladies.”

On reality TV, the location of the island paradise is seldom named. The contestants, often re-dubbed “islanders,” reside in a nebulous tropical paradise. The walls of the villas are decorated with stock photographs of beautiful beaches. Comforters and pillows are illustrated with deep orange sunsets and a variety of tropical flora. The men wear Hawaiian shirts even when they aren’t in Hawaii and the women wear bright tropical flowers behind their ears. Leis are casually strewn around the set.

In almost all of these shows, contestants are confined to lavish villas for weeks at a time and are only allowed to leave the villa confines if the public votes or the producers decide they should go on a date to stir up some drama. They have no contact with the outside world and are drinking heavily. Producers make sure cocktails are refilled almost instantly. It’s actually kind of magical. As a result, contestants go crazy pretty quickly. To some, paradise becomes a prison. While watching her boyfriend Evan have sex with another girl on Season 1 of *Temptation Island*, Kaci proclaims, “I’m literally being tortured.”

Kaci’s melodrama has dark connotations. There is a long legacy of violence in “paradise,” specifically the violence of colonizing and subsequently enslaving the native peoples on tropical islands. Consider Fiji, for example: Britain invaded Fiji in the late 1700s, describing the archipelago as “a paradise wasted on savage cannibals.” The British colonists developed and disseminated the narrative that Fijian customs were “debased and primitive” and that cannibalism was rampant (it actually was not).² Exaggerated accounts of cannibalism gave colonists and religious



Top & Bottom: *Temptation Island*, 2019.



A Māori man at Whakarewarewa Model Village, New Zealand, 1905.

2 Tracey Banivanua-Mar, "Cannibalism and Colonialism: Charting Colonies and Frontiers in Nineteenth-Century Fiji," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 52, no. 2, (2010): 255–81, <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0010417510000046>.

3 "History of Fiji," Wikipedia, last modified May 1, 2020, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Fiji.

4 Will Higginbotham, "Blackbirding: Australia's History of Kidnapping Pacific Islanders," *ABC News*, September 16, 2017, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-17/blackbirding-australias-history-of-kidnapping-pacific-islanders/8860754>.

5 "Love Island (American Season 1)," Wikipedia, last modified April 13, 2020, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love_Island_\(American_season_1\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love_Island_(American_season_1)).

6 "Tiki," Wikipedia, last modified February 20, 2020, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiki>.

missionaries a "moral imperative for colonial intrusion."³ In 1865, the era of blackbirding (the Australian practice of kidnapping Pacific Islanders and coercing them into indentured servitude) began on the archipelago. About a decade later, Fiji officially became the British Colony of Fiji. It remained under imperial rule until 1970.⁴

During the pilot episode of *Love Island (US)*, bikini-clad newcomer Kyra gleefully exclaims, "Fiji is my sandbox and I'm ready to play!" CBS producers apparently chose to film *Love Island* in Fiji because it "feels like a place you would want to come and fall in love," and "it meant something to Americans."⁵ Indeed, Americans have a long history of glamorizing, exploiting, and commodifying South Pacific island cultures. One common manifestation of this is the popularity of Tiki aesthetics.

In Māori mythology, *Tiki* refers to the first man. By extension, a *Tiki* is a wooden or stone carving in human form. Carvings similar to *tikis* representing deified ancestors are found in most Polynesian cultures. They often serve to mark the boundaries of sacred or significant sites.⁶ The *Tiki* of the American imagination is a mash-up of multiple island cultures. Hawaiian culture is conflated with Tongan culture, which is conflated with Fijian culture. In bars with names like The Cannibal Room Cocktail Lounge, located in Fort Worth, Texas, fake shrunken heads dangle as part of the kitschy decor, and guests are served drinks with names such as *Head Hunter's Special*, *Black Woman*, and *Virgin's Lament*.

Kalewa Correa, a curator at the Smithsonian Institution's Asian Pacific Islander Center, describes the commodification and conflation of Pacific Island cultures as "just taking all those cultures and

⁷ Maanvi Singh, "Let's Talk Tiki Bars: Harmless Fun Or Exploitation?," *NPR*, September 7, 2016, <https://www.npr.org/sections/the-salt/2016/09/07/492974870/lets-talk-tiki-bars-harmless-fun-or-exploitation>.

putting them all in a blender and blending it all together to create this Isle of Tiki, which is this mythical place where tiki bars come from."⁷ My dad's partner, Lance, is native Hawaiian and recalls feeling confused about Tiki when he first encountered it: "I remember wondering where this tiki paradise was located. Because it did not represent what I grew up with."

In truth, Tiki as we know it is an entirely American invention. Northern California is the birthplace of the original Tiki craze, which lasted from the 1930s to the 1970s. It is also the epicenter of the contemporary tiki revival, which began sometime in the early aughts. The famous Mai Tai cocktail was invented at the Trader Vic's in Oakland, CA, which also happens to be where my aunt and uncle became engaged. I lived in Oakland for a few years and regularly visited another Tiki bar, The Kona Club, to slurp down sweet sweet Chi Chis, which are essentially the frozen cocktail version of coconut-scented sunscreen.

The Kona Club describes itself as a "little slice of paradise." Their website reads: "After work, take a vacation from the busy streets of Oakland without the five-hour plane ride! Inside The Kona Club, bamboo walls reflect the warm and cozy hues provided by our genuine blowfish lights, just as the moon reflects off the Pacific. In fact, every surface has something interesting on which to feast your eyes—that is, when they aren't glued to our life-sized hula girl and her gyrating hips." By my second Chi Chi, I would succumb to the swaying hips of the animatronic hula dancer and forget the trials and tribulations of my hour-long BART commute home during peak traffic.

In her 2009 TED Talk, *The Danger of a Single Story*, writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie states, "It is



Mai-Kai Polynesian Restaurant, Florida, 1963.



Cannibal Room Cocktail Lounge menu, Fort Worth, Texas.

⁸ Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, "The Danger of a Single Story," *TEDGlobal Conference*, 2009.

⁹ Hunter Oatman-Stanford, "Tiki Hangover: Unearthing the False Idols of America's South Seas Fantasy," *Collectors Weekly*, July 11, 2014, <https://www.collectorsweekly.com/articles/tiki-hangover/>.

impossible to talk about the single story without talking about power ... the ability not just to tell the story of another person, but to make it the definitive story of that person."⁸ Tiki culture obscures native traditions and diverts attention from the history of violent colonialism in the region. But, as Hunter Oatman-Stanford states in his article *Tiki Hangover: Unearthing the False Idols of America's South Seas Fantasy*, "At its heart, American Tiki worship reflected a longing for life outside the stressful confines of urban America, a desire to connect with the majesty of nature, as well as the baser pleasures of food, drink, music, and sex."⁹ By this logic, like binge-watching reality TV shows, embracing Tiki aesthetics is simply a form of escapism. And like the representation of Tiki paradise, the representation of reality TV paradise reinforces the idea that tropical islands are primarily places to vacation and escape. Kristin Cavallari (of *The Hills* fame) hosts a new show called *Paradise Hotel*. Contestants are referred to as "hotel guests," and the elimination ceremony is called the "checkout ceremony." New contestants enter the villa theatrically rolling a suitcase.

In 1959, Hawaii became the 50th and final U.S. state, igniting mainland America's obsession with the South Pacific islands. In their essay, *Packaging Paradise: Organizing Representations of Hawaii*, Jonathan Schroeder and Janet Borgerson articulate the appeal of paradise for Americans: "A Hawaiian vacation may represent the ultimate American consumer product—allowing anyone who can afford a ticket to participate in the colonial project through a re-creation of discovering Hawaii. This pattern emerges in the popular culture genre of Hawaii—including tiki culture, Polynesian paradise, Hawaiian

10 Jonathan E. Schroeder and Janet L. Borgerson, "Packaging Paradise: Organizing Representations of Hawaii," *Against the Grain: Advances in Postcolonial Organization Studies*, Copenhagen, Copenhagen Business School Press, (December 5, 2008): 32-53, <https://ssrn.com/abstract=1312015>

11 SeaLevelRise.org, "Hawaii's Sea Level Has Risen 10" Since 1950," *Sea Level Rise*, <https://sealevelrise.org/states/hawaii/>.

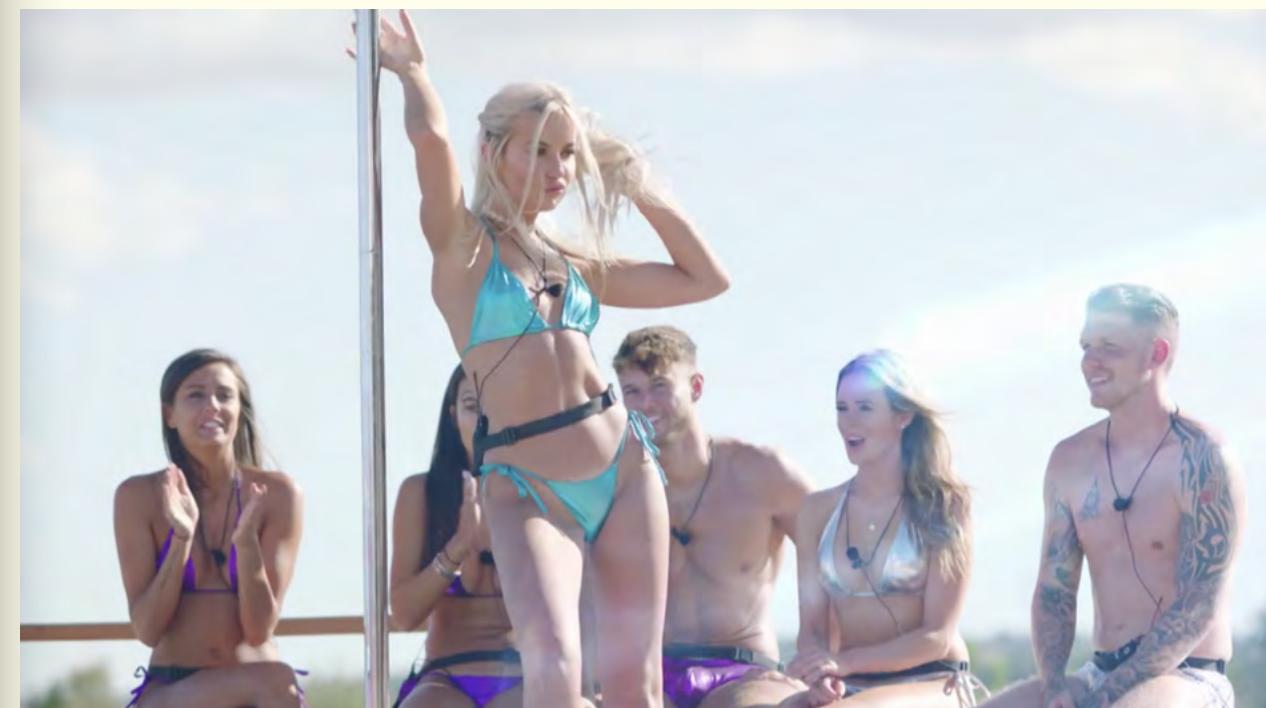
12 Schroeder and Borgerson, "Packaging Paradise: Organizing Representations of Hawaii," 32-53.

popular music, tourism, and surf fashion—each exemplars of cultural imperialism."¹⁰

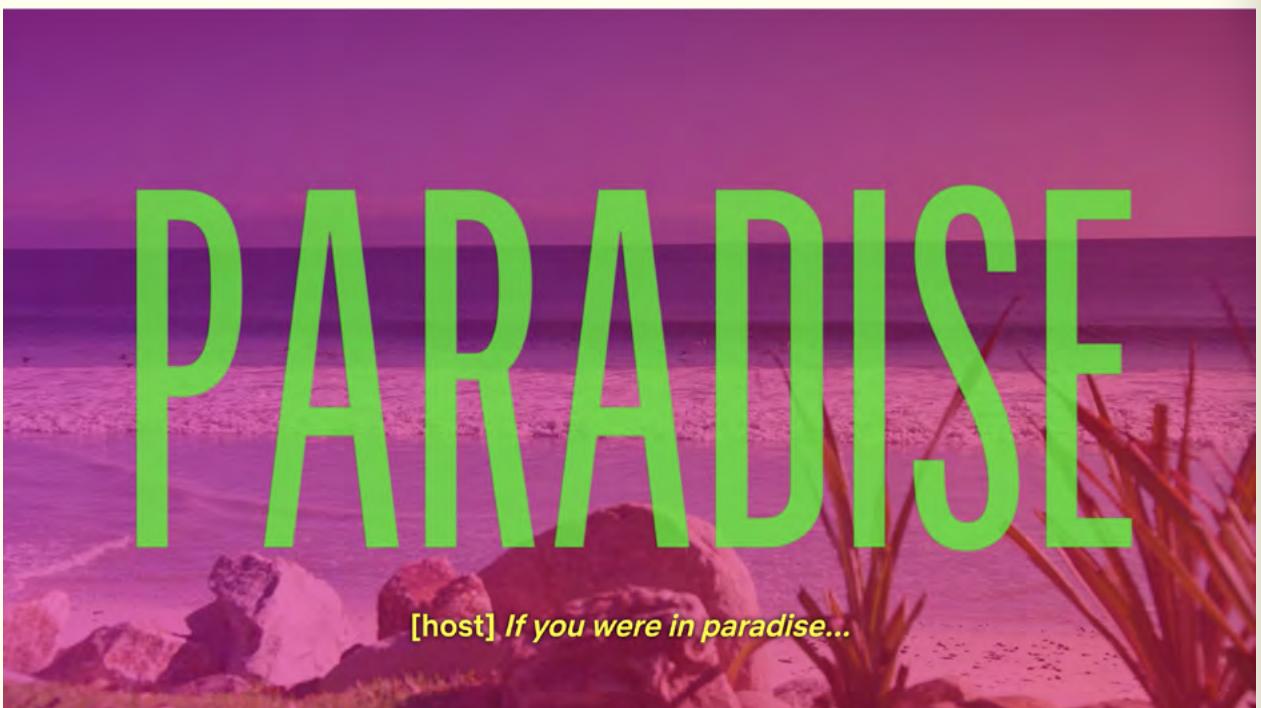
The fantasy image reinforced by the tourism industry, and now by Hollywood's reality TV machine, disregards and overshadows the real lives and real problems of native islanders. An influx of tourists strengthens the local economy of an island, but also potentially leads to issues such as overcrowding and habitat destruction. The reality is that climate change and sea level rise are putting these paradise islands at risk of disappearing. Average sea levels around the Hawaiian islands have risen ten inches since 1950 and are expected to rise another 6 inches by 2029.¹¹

Mid-century Hawaiian travel ads often featured native women in “typical sexist representations: comparing women to nature—woman as island—as the “lure” of the islands posed on waterfalls, always decorated with flowers, sexually accessible and unburdened by Western guilt, ignorant.”¹² The opening credits of *Temptation Island* quite literally overlay dismembered female body parts with island scenery, both visually and ideologically intertwining the exoticization of tropical paradises with the objectification of female bodies. The male gaze and the colonial gaze are often one and the same.

Reality dating shows and their contestants are extremely sexed up (excluding the good Christian boys and girls on *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette*). I could easily sum up many of these reality shows as sexy singles cavorting in exotic locations. By definition, exotic means foreign or other, but the term exotic dancer has come to be synonymous with stripping. On several seasons of *Love Island (UK)* and *Love Island (Australia)*, the islanders compete in chal-



Top: *Temptation Island*, 2019.
Bottom: *Love Island (UK)*, 2019.



Top: *Temptation Island*, 2019.
Bottom: *Too Hot to Handle*, 2020.

lenges where they are inexplicably required to perform a pole dance before answering whenever it is their turn. While both men and women participate in the pole dancing, the cameras certainly focus more on one gender over the other.

The phrase “trouble in paradise” refers to an unexpected problem in a romantic relationship. Trouble in reality paradise similarly connotes broken hearts, but this should come as no surprise given the colonial history of “paradise.” Like the palm tree wallpaper that lines the walls of the villas, reality TV projects a stock image, or single story of these locales. This story simultaneously denies native islanders control over the way their homes are depicted in mainstream Western media, and ignores the violent colonialist past and present of the British and American contestants. In her TED talk, Adichie concludes, “When we reject the single story, when we realize that there is never a single story about any place, we regain a kind of paradise.” When we reject the flattened view that is presented to us of these paradisal islands, we start to see the fuller picture of how these locations occupy American imagination.



Smells Like
Feminine
Fantasy

[Essay]

¹ “The Zone | Britney Spears,” accessed May 10, 2020, <https://www.britneythezone.com/>.

² Molly Oswaks, “We Are Still Obsessed With Britney Spears.” *The New York Times*, February 4, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/04/style/self-care/britney-spears-pop-up.html>.

Oops!... I Did it Again has really aged well. Released by Britney Spears on March 27, 2000, my favorite song just celebrated its 20th birthday. In the title track of her sophomore album, Britney accidentally leads on a man, yet the tone of her “oops” isn’t exactly remorseful. Britney has the upper hand; she toys with him.

Oops!... I Did it Again was the first CD I ever bought. I was seven. Later that year, the cool girls of Fuller Elementary School dressed up in red pleather jumpsuits and prop microphone headsets to go trick-or-treating around Keene, New Hampshire.

Those former cool girls are now Millennial women, and they’ll dress up in schoolgirl mini skirts, thigh-high stockings, and pigtail braids to visit *Britney Spears The Zone*.¹ Opened on January 31st, this 30,000-square-foot experiential pop-up museum in Los Angeles claims to be “The most immersive fan experience ever created—a life-changing experience that allows you to step into the world of Britney Spears!” *The Zone* ushers visitors through the re-creation of nine different Britney music videos, album concepts, and live performances.²

Like other immersive pop-up museums that have opened the past few years, these rooms are essentially sets made for taking Instagram photos. *The Zone*’s website displays quintessential Britney backdrops, all eerily empty. A classroom, airplane, and ball pit share a now-too-familiar vacancy, the same hollowing out of public spaces during the Coronavirus pandemic. Even before LA’s stay-at-home order forced *The Zone* to close, it sold tickets in 15-minute blocks, limiting the number of visitors allowed in each room at a time. *The Zone* was social distancing before it was cool.

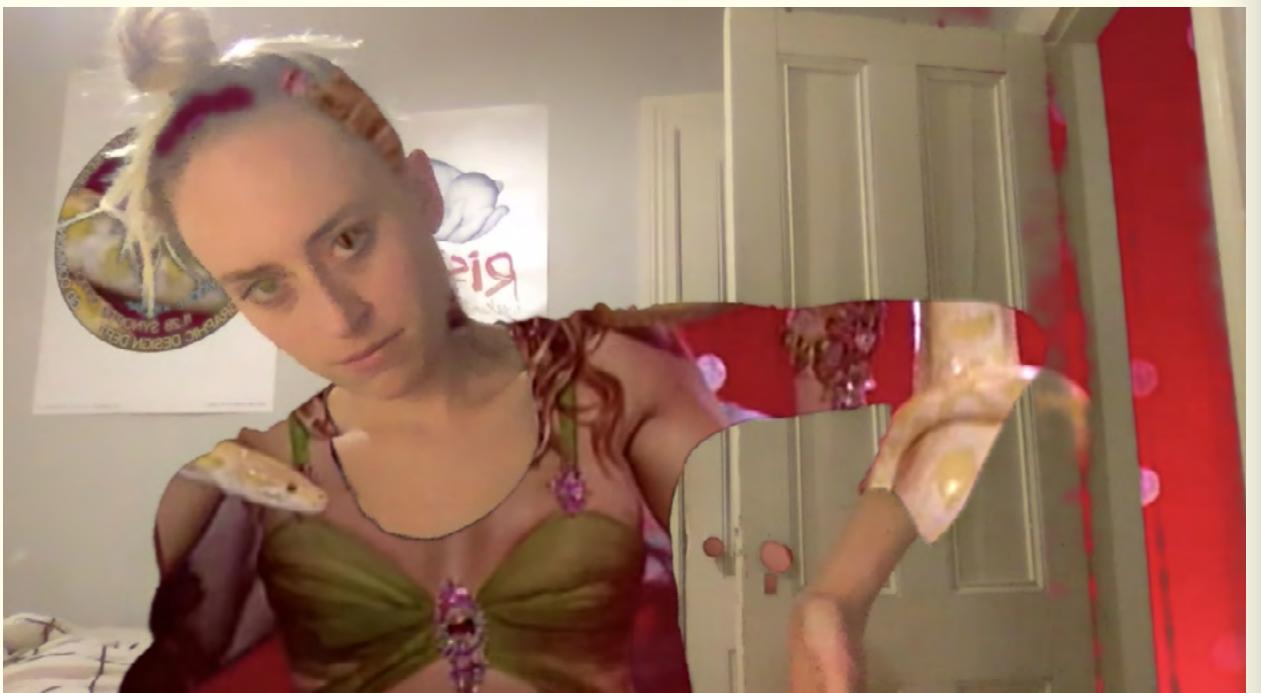


Top: *Oops!... I Did it Again* music video still, 2000.
Bottom: *The Zone*, 2020.



3 Amanda Hess, "Celebrity Culture Is Burning," *The New York Times*, March 30, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/30/arts/virus-celebrities.html>.

4 Hillary Hoffower, "Inside Britney Spears' Conservatorship and the #FreeBritney Movement," *Business Insider*, May 4, 2020, <https://www.businessinsider.com/inside-britney-spears-conservatorship-freebritney-movement-2020-2>.



Top: *Slave 4 U* VMA performance, 2001.
Bottom: Zoom screenshot, 2020.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has taken away *The Zone* and left us with *The Zoom*. My favorite Zoom background is Britney Spears holding the massive albino Burmese python during her iconic 2001 VMA performance of *Slave 4 U*. If I select the I-have-a-green-screen button within Zoom's virtual background settings, I can digitally morph into Britney. My mom wouldn't let me don a skin-tight red pleather jumpsuit as a little girl, but I can seductively pose with a seven-foot snake any day I want now.

Pop culture, too, seems to be morphing into Britney, or maybe it's merely revealing its latent Britney DNA. For better or worse, coronavirus memes have been filling up my Instagram feed. One of the most frequent posts is a new take on the ...*Hit Me Baby One More Time* meme, featuring young Britney in a face mask and the updated lyrics "My loneliness is saving lives." In her ability to unify, Britney has increasingly become an emblem for this moment. In a recent *New York Times* article, "Celebrity Culture is Burning," Amanda Hess offers, "Spears is an unexpected figure to lead us through quarantine, but a fitting one: She has been held under a conservatorship for 12 years, her movements and finances controlled by her father and overseen by the courts. When she posts about finding community in social captivity, she knows what she's talking about."³

Britney's court-ordered conservatorship under her father began shortly after her infamous 2007 meltdown.⁴ The image of Britney shaving her own head and subsequently beating a paparazzi's SUV with an umbrella is forever emblazoned in the public consciousness. No other contemporary celebrity's breakdown has been memed to the same extent. Britney has been to rehab and placed under

5 Judith Butler,
"Performative
Acts and Gender
Constitution:
An Essay in
Phenomenology and
Feminist Theory,"
Theatre Journal; 40
(December 1988):
519–31.

6 Ruth La Ferla,
"FOMO Is Over.
Give In to the Joy of
Letting Go," *The New
York Times*, April
21, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/21/style/self-care/fomo-is-over-not-wearing-a-bra-during-quarantine-coronavirus.html>.

involuntary psychiatric holds several times. She has been through a messy divorce, lost custody of her young children, and struggled with drug abuse. To put it succinctly: she has been through some shit. Unlike for some other celebrities, I have never felt schadenfreude for Britney. I genuinely want her to succeed. I had a hard time watching her (not really) singing on *Carpool Karaoke* with James Corden. The truth is that her strength lies in her abilities as a performer, not as a singer.

In both her stage performances and in her life, Britney is expert at what gender theorist Judith Butler terms performative femininity: How women speak, dress, move, and present so as to be perceived as feminine are all performative acts.⁵ Britney is both the expression of and captive to the socially constructed ideals and standards placed on women. In May 2020, *The New York Times* declared that this period of social isolation or quarantine is the time for women to "find joy in letting go" of our collective act. In this article, Ruth La Ferla asserts that "femininity is performance" and questions "what happens when no one is watching?"⁶ I have found that it is hard to stop performing when you have been doing it for so many years. I've been wearing perfume at home alone and putting on makeup before my Zoom calls.

I was 12 when Britney's second perfume, *Fantasy*, was released in 2005. I never wore this scent, but I distinctly remember watching the commercial for it. In a sort of sexy ASMR whisper Britney recites her fantasy: "Once upon a time there was a goddess and a hunter. She was beautiful and he couldn't help himself. There wasn't a single part of her that he didn't want to touch. But she was leaving soon on a goddess world tour. So he did something kind of



Oops!... I Did it Again VMA performance, 2000.

Are you still reading “Smells
Like Feminine Fantasy”?

Continue reading

Exit



7 BritneyTVinHD,
"Britney Spears
Fantasy Commercial
HD," July 27, 2009,
video, 0:30, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-LUDb-DDn60>.

crazy. And they lived happily ever after. Fantasy.
Everybody has one."⁷

In the commercial, Britney gracefully runs barefoot through a heavily-CGI'd forest. It is dark and misty, all aesthetically pleasing jewel tones. Her white-blonde hair against her white dress makes her stand out from the darkness. Leaving a trail of glowing green fairy dust/sparkles, she flees the sexy hunter pursuing her. The commercial intersperses real footage of Britney singing in front of a huge crowd. Back in the forest, she makes direct eye contact with the sexy hunter as he draws his bow. Britney turns to run but he shoots her in the back with a "magic love arrow." She screams and turns to face him. Britney and her hunter passionately make out with the arrow still lodged in her back.

Fifteen years after the release, Fantasy is still Britney's best-selling perfume. The scent is described on Macy's website as a lusty love story in three stages: "Enchantment: The story begins with an enticing mix of lush red lychee, golden quince and exotic kiwi. Chase: A playful tease, laced with a yummy cupcake accord, jasmine petals and sexy white chocolate orchid. Captivate: At the end, a spell is cast with a surprising finish of creamy musk, enchanted orris root and sensual woods."

Curious as to how sensual woods smell, I decided to order a bottle of Fantasy for myself. When it came in the mail, I excitedly unboxed my new perfume. The bulbous fuschia bottle was bigger than expected, roughly the size of a tennis ball, punctuated with rhinestone zits. I aimed a single spritz on my wrists and rubbed them together. The aroma was nauseating: kind of like overly sweet grocery store sugar cookies with the bright blue frosting mixed with a

Top & Bottom: *Fantasy* commercial, 2005.

8 Basenote Bitch (@basenote_bitch), Instagram profile, 2020, https://www.instagram.com/basenote_bitch/.

9 "Cultivation Theory," Wikipedia, last modified March 4, 2020, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultivation_theory.

floral-scented bath bomb from Bath & Body Works. I tried to wipe the scent off my wrists with some lemon-scented Clorox disinfectant wipes but it was too late. My whole house reeked of yummy cupcake accord and sensual woods.

The appeal of celebrity perfume is clearly not the scent itself. The somewhat twisted allure lies in spritzing some part of Britney onto my own skin. Like digitally melding with her in Zoom, wearing Fantasy perfume brings me one step closer to becoming Britney. As Elizabeth Renstrom asks in a *Basenote Bitch* Instagram post, "Who didn't want to be Britney before, and honestly, after her public meltdown?"⁸

The Fantasy perfume line currently has 17 variations on the fragrance: Fantasy, Midnight Fantasy, Hidden Fantasy, Circus Fantasy, Fantasy Twist, Island Fantasy, Fantasy: Anniversary Edition, Fantasy: The Nice Remix, Fantasy: The Naughty Remix, Fantasy: Stage Edition, Rocker Femme Fantasy, Fantasy: Renner Edition, Fantasy: Intimate Edition, Maui Fantasy, Fantasy In Bloom, Sunset Fantasy, and Fantasy: Pride Edition. The descriptions of these and other celebrity perfumes conjure up the fantasy woman. She is perfect and impossibly contradictory: delicate, sweet, sensual, vibrant, delightful, fancy, fun, lighthearted, joyful, upbeat, stylish, bold, exciting, wild, rebellious, mesmerizing, dazzling, playful, cool, seductive, smooth, daring, charming, and sparkling. I am exhausted just thinking about her.

Cultivation Theory posits that ideological messages transmitted through popular media heavily influence how we perceive our own reality.⁹ In her perfume commercial, when Britney chooses to stay with her sexy predator rather than pursue her



Fantasy perfume bottles.

To: Olivia

Details

5/4/20, 1:26 PM

I had a dream last night that I went to this crazy bar with a swimming pool and I saw Britney Spears sitting at the bar and I made friends with her. And I was like omg my friend is writing her thesis and would probably love to talk to you or interview you! And she was really excited about it and gave me her phone number to give to you.



5/4/20, 3:06 PM

Omg that is beautiful!



I'm going to put a screenshot of that text in my book!

Delivered



I feel you you should totally reach out to Britney Spears

I bet she would say yes

Lol

iMessage



music career, girls internalize that message. In middle school, I tried to emulate Britney with glittery makeup and low-cut jeans. Before quarantine, I would play *Oops!... I Did it Again* in the car for my friends on the way to the studio. Now, as I social distance, my fantasy is to have an occasion to leave my house. I fantasize about the act of getting ready to go out with friends: Britney singing “I’m not that innocent,” as I spritz my neck with my favorite floral perfume.

Elizabeth Renstrom

[Interview]



Elizabeth Renstrom is a photographer and photo editor at The New Yorker. Her personal work explores commodified feminism, adolescent identity, and gender-coded images.



Elizabeth Renstrom I'm obsessed with your work. Let me know how I can help?

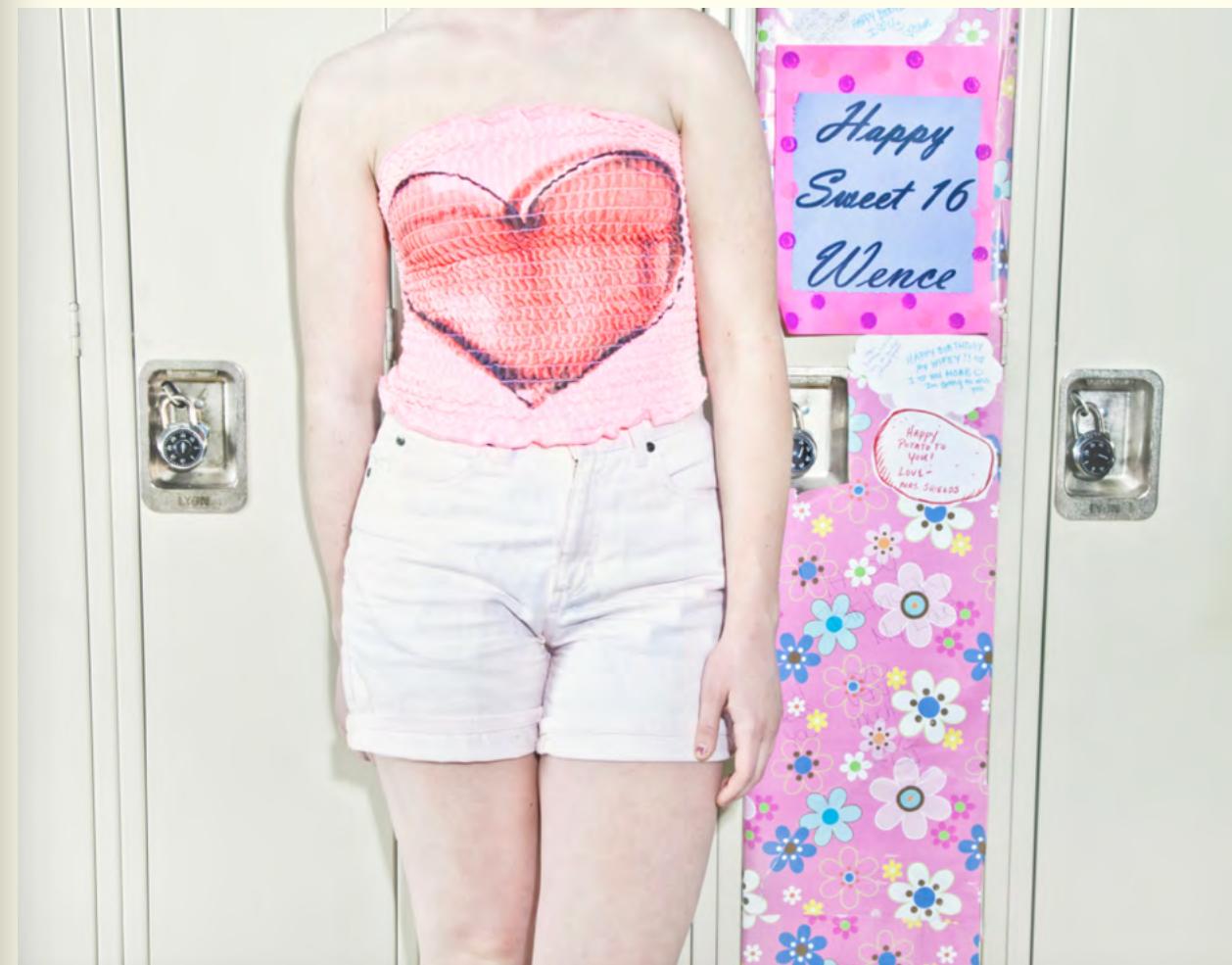
Elena Foraker No, I'm obsessed with your work! So basically, my thesis is about the effects of excessive consumption of mass media, specifically how women are portrayed in that media, and the effect that has on creating your own identity and femininity. I focus a lot on middle school because I think that was a period in my life that was super influential in learning how to be a woman.

ER It's so interesting for me to see it from

your standpoint as a graphic designer because I'm just honing in on the imagery and iconography of these things. And I never even thought about isolating a song that would have been used in the commercial. And all the language is so good.

EF Yeah! My thesis will have a web version so I can link to that perfume website. I'm excited about going beyond the book format because a lot of my work is web and gifs.

ER Do you know the artist Bunny Rogers? I think you'd really love her work, but a huge part of the archive of her work as an



Elizabeth Renstrom, *Lisa Frank Blues*, 2013.

artist is her building amazing **GeoCities** websites dedicated to different things.

EF I love Geocities!

ER I'll email it to you. I just love the idea of like dedicated websites to projects in the way that you're doing, too. It's such a throwback.

EF Yes, thank you! Ok, so I'm going to get into some questions now. Your work is loaded with symbolism to make these gender-coded images. Can you talk to the thought process behind some of them, specifically **BOGO**

Pussy Hat or Lisa Frank Blues? Those really, really spoke to me.

ER Yeah. I think similar to you, I kind of started making these really thought-through still lifes when I was in my own thesis year. And initially with *Lisa Frank Blues*, it was all sort of in relation to myself and things that were marketed to me growing up that I kind of wanted to pay tribute and make fun of. So that's where I obsessively Lisa Frank my hand and am clutching my **Razr phone**.

And I think it's kind of expanded. I wanted to revisit that work recently and I've been thinking a lot about commercial-

ized feminism and kind of the progression of feminism even in the past, like five years since Trump was elected. There's just so many products and counterculture in relation to the state of things for women. And I think I wanted to investigate the products that come out of that and white feminism and how much it misses the mark.

Whenever I make an image, I want it to be a little satirical and kind of cruel. *BOGO Pussy Hat* is kind of dedicated to an image I haven't shown yet from that series that's just kind of a display of pussy

hats and a Wal-Mart rollback sign, kind of showing like the failure of that. I think the women's march was a really inspirational thing but it quickly became stale and didn't represent a larger feminist call. So I tried to figure out how I can translate those messages.

EF *I definitely see now how it's about the commercialization of feminism.*

ER Yeah. And I think it's similar to you, you're marketed to so much. And even when you're watching reality TV



Elizabeth Renstrom, *Basenote Bitch*, 2020.

you're comparing yourself and strategizing how you can be these people that you're watching. And now through Instagram, there's a constant assault of product. And I love using the dead stock of those kinds of products in my work. It really kicked off with *Lisa Frank Blues* and *Waxy Chunks*, because I chose very specific things that I saw recirculating on Tumblr at the time. I saw how much 90s nostalgia was having a moment even in 2010. I wanted to really take that super far and kind of again make fun of that nostalgia, but also investigate things that were really important to me.

EF Yeah. I'm trying to.... [loud meowing] Sorry. My cat is only crazy when I'm on Zoom.

ER I totally understand. I've heard so many cats since quarantine started.

EF I'm also dealing with my personal adolescent nostalgia in a lot of my work, but there definitely are some professors that hate nostalgia or think it is unproductive.

ER A lot of teachers do!

EF Yeah! I was wondering what you think the role of nostalgia is. Is it productive? Does it need to be productive?

ER I mean, I use nostalgia as a way for people to enter my work outside of what it means to me because I think like what you're doing and also what I do in my work is, you know, these are personal things that we're talking about and they feel personal. But I think a lot of people can relate and sort of, you know,

get hit with that burst of nostalgia but then have it be a tool to explore the fucked up thing that we're discussing. When I was making that series during school, my professors didn't understand certain things that I was discussing, like Lisa Frank and the S symbol.

EF I see that S symbol behind you. I love it. I saw it immediately.

ER I did not plant it. But, yeah, I don't see it as a cheap tool. I really think it can be a useful way to sort of trick the viewer into looking at your work in a deeper way. I used to shy away from it, too, because the feedback I was getting was kind of a mixed bag. Some people would be really into it but some people would be like, this is boring, move beyond it. But I think it's always served the themes that I'm trying to discuss in my work. I don't just take a photo of Jonathan Taylor Thomas for the sake of remembering when. I'm talking about something deeper. Honestly, I think you just need to keep going with it.

EF Yes, that's kind of what I'm doing right now. So did you actually like Lisa Frank back in the day?

ER Yeah, I think that she was definitely a huge part of how I made my identity in school. You know, everybody has their back to school shopping experience. And as an artistically inclined ten-year-old girl that was sort of the cream of the crop for trapper keepers and things like that. I used Lisa Frank initially as an entry point into the obsessive nature of my scrapbooks and my sticker books from that time, so it doesn't even necessarily have to be just Lisa Frank. It's the small feeble

things that you can use to differentiate yourself from those around you. Even though everybody's doing the same thing. And I just love the kind of animals that come up again and again for girls. Lisa Frank definitely peddled dolphins and horses and puppies and kittens. And horse girls.

EF I was just going to ask you what you think about horse girls! My friends and I realized this summer that we are all sort of former horse girls. And horse girls are definitely having a moment again, but I haven't figured out why.

ER They 100% are. But things that I was talking about even eight years ago have now been rehashed again. Right now I live with a Gen X 19-year-old who is dressing like I would have in middle school and it's just so funny to me. Do you read *Reductress*?

EF Yeah!

ER There's so many great *Reductress* horse girl moments lately that I think people are reflecting like, Oh yeah, there definitely were a couple of horse girls in my middle school class.

EF I love horse girls.

ER [heavy sarcasm] It's that connection with animals that we naturally have as women.

EF Ah, yes, Mother Earth, Mother Nature. I actually have been really into Glitter Theory lately. Have you heard of it?

ER OK, I have not read about it, but I just heard that phrase recently.

EF It's basically like using the hyper-femme aesthetic as a political tool to challenge the notion that like masculine aesthetics is like more right or more powerful or like more respectable. Which I was sort of doing for a while but didn't know it had a name. Do you know or remember sticker earrings?

ER Yeah.

EF I covered my phone in them.

ER Oh, my God.

EF Yeah, so recently I've gotten really into this weird girly culture that I actually wasn't fully a part of in middle school. I was more of a jock who wished I was a girly girl.

ER Yeah, I would say the same for myself. I'm making these things as somebody who kind of felt like a spectator of them growing up, too. And now they mean something more to me.

EF That's super interesting! Have you seen *PEN15*?

ER Yes! I rolled my eyes at the premise of the show when I first read about it. And then I watched it in one sitting. And I think it is nostalgia done in such a great way. It's so well written.

EF There're so many cringy moments during it where I thought I was the only one experiencing that in

middle school, but I wasn't, so nice to see that.

ER Yeah, and just seeing how small boys are at that time period... I think it's brilliant that they cast themselves as adults to be these characters. But I think it's even more brilliant because you sort of see who you would have been interested in and how weird-looking we all were. That show is definitely an endless inspiration.

EF I'm such a fan. Recently, if I'm talking about something that I love I'll call myself a fangirl but in a kind of self-deprecating way. I think the term fangirl is definitely a little derogatory. And why aren't there fanboys too?

ER I don't know if I have thought about fangirls much like you have. I'm trying to think in relation to the work I'm making now versus what I made then.

EF Have you read this book called *Savage Appetites*? There's a really good quote: "Lovestruck girls have long been both condescended to and feared in the popular imagination. A girl in the thrall of a crush embodies every cliche about femininity taken to the most insulting extremes. She is brainless and unhinged, a body driven hysterical by hormones. She is dumb, but she is also scary. She grabs and won't let go. Contemporary culture is perfectly happy to objectify teenage girls. But when the same girls are the subjects of desire rather than the object, they're seen as beastly and threatening."

ER That's really interesting. When I was

growing up, being a fangirl of *Good Charlotte* was a way to find community online and also learn what I felt was sexy. My first crushes were not really in real life. They were all celebrities and bands because I didn't know how to put myself out there during those years. I think fangirl culture was the way for me to get out that sexual tension.

EF So you don't perceive fangirls negatively?

ER I think there's probably a reason it's perceived in such a negative way because it's so personal to the person fangirling and any kind of female desire is going to be open to criticism. That's so funny. I've got to read that book.



EF Can we talk about *Basenote Bitch*?

ER It's so fun for me. To be honest, I was looking for an excuse to get to my studio more. And I wanted a prompt that would also help me write and investigate things that I'm fangirling about. I think perfume can speak volumes to so many things because it's so tied up in memory. And I was thinking about how I can use certain bottles to reflect on generations and also certain moments in my life and I'm sure many people's lives. It's channeling nostalgia for certain products. I think that people have a deep, deep nostalgia and connection to beauty and smells. It's really easy for me to write about, and perfume bottles themselves are beautiful objects to photograph. So I knew it would also be a low



Elizabeth Renstrom, *Basenote Bitch*, 2020.

lift because they're small and I can create little worlds around them.

EF Good for quarantine.

ER It's very good for quarantine. I love reading fragrance reviews because they are absolutely ridiculous and so soothing to me. It's the same thing when you go on YouTube to watch somebody apply foundation. I like hearing people talk like something I can't smell. So I really wanted to take that to the next level and be really satirical about it because I feel like there are so many new beauty voices and beauty is really having a moment.

EF Yeah I have been watching all of the Vogue Beauty Secrets Youtube videos where all these celebrities do their makeup routine in their own bathroom. Have you read *Trick Mirror*?

ER Yeah.

EF I'm really interested in the concept of beauty work and how it's simultaneously enjoyable and taking up so much of your time.

ER I know, the *Always Be Optimizing* essay is so good. And there was also a really interesting interview with one of the Reductress founders on that because they are being critical of beauty culture in that way too, but also participate in it and love it, so where's that line? How do you know when you're being fooled into sinking a lot of money into retinoids? I had it in my mind forever that I wanted to do one stand-out beautiful photo of every celebrity fragrance from a certain period in the

2000s but I just never got around it. *Basenote Bitch* is just a massive extension of that, incorporating the bottles throughout time because there are so, so many.

EF What do you think is the main difference between a celebrity perfume and a designer perfume?

ER I'm sure you have read a ton about why celebrity perfume popped off so much in the early aughts but now I think it's kind of on the decline because people automatically assume that a celebrity perfume is not going to be as complex.

EF (Holding up Fantasy perfume bottle) My professor made me buy this for research purposes and I sprayed it and it's so bad.

ER Is that Fantasy?! I have Curious. It does smell bad. And honestly, a lot of people say that the Britney Spears scents are actually pretty good for what they are.

EF Yeah, I've been thinking about how celebrity perfume is as close or intimate you can get with the celebrity without actually knowing them. Which is kind of creepy in that sense.

ER But that's how people used to really shell products. And now the market is so saturated I don't think that people necessarily look to celebrities in the same way. Now we have so many other people to look to like influencers and just normal people who have been branded to be fantastic. I think that so

much has changed because of e-commerce on things like Instagram. Now you can follow a rando cool girl in Scandinavia and just buy the perfume that she is wearing versus J.Lo.

It was such a short period of time that celebrity marketing really, really worked. And I think it's just because someone like Paris Hilton or Britney did their first fragrance and then every pop star followed suit because the first one did really well. For designer fragrances it's similar and it's exactly what you said. It's the cheapest luxury you can buy from a designer house. I think that's why beauty is so big and accessible, because you're not going to be able to get a shirt from Chanel but you can pretend that you're a part of the brand if you have a bottle of Number 5. Even though it smells like powder.



Elizabeth Renstrom, *Basenote Bitch*, 2020.

EF *My favorite quote of yours is “spray a little holy water to get a little wet.”*

ER Oh, my God. *Basenote Bitch* gives me an excuse to really just be as gross as I want to be. The voice I'm writing in is obviously me and these thoughts are my internal dialogue. There hasn't been a project that I've really been able to pair of writing with in the same way as this. I was truly thinking about that whole *Fleabag* season arc trying to think of phrases and puns around that. I was very, very inspired.

EF *Basenote Bitch is obviously a take on basic bitch.*

ER Yes! Thank you for getting that.

EF *I got that immediately! How do you feel about the term basic or basic bitch?*

ER Basic is a loaded term at this point, but it's so effective. But you have to consider why these basic girls that I'm referencing think they have those choices. And of course, it all goes back to, you know, the patriarchal world that we live in. I think it's fun to poke fun at it and I don't think that it's an unnecessary conversation. I think it's important. I feel the same about investigating a lot of this fabricated empowerment. It is useful because it shows how you're marketed girl power for so long, and then you're marketed sex, and then you're marketed feminism. It's an interesting cycle.

EF *Is there a specific reason you are publishing the Basenote Bitch project on Instagram?*

ER I decided to use Instagram as a way to interact with the fragrance community and other brands and people who I thought could respond and provide me insight into future posts. I kind of saw it as a live project where I could ask questions of my audience as it grows and figure out which bottles are important to people and why. Not every single post is about my virginity or my first-hand experiences. Some are dedicated to people who have been kind enough to share stories like, “I like had sex on the beach for the first time with White Musk.” And as I get a bigger audience I hope that more answers come in.

EF *Yeah. I feel like Instagram is a good way to do a project that's interactive.*

ER It's funny because people have reached out to me for quotes and ask me if I am a perfume blogger. So there's been like a little bit of that, too, which is some funny and weird.



ER I worked at glossy magazines, *Marie Claire* and *Refinery29*, before Vice and *The New Yorker*.

EF *I'm definitely interested in the classic trope of women's magazines. I got a lot of my knowledge from Seventeen growing up. And like now I'm really interested in the context, really tabloid magazines. Did you read a lot of those growing up? Or how do you relate to them?*

ER I was always a really big magazine girl.



Elizabeth Renstrom, *BOGO Pussy Hat*, 2019.

And now I'm reflecting on your fangirl question. I was a magazine girl because I can like pepper in every decade why I would be buying magazines. When I was like maybe 8 to 12 it was because I wanted every poster of Leonardo DiCaprio. And from 12 to 16 it was Good Charlotte. And then from 16 to 20 it was because I wanted to learn how to have sex and *Cosmo* was obviously the best way to do that. So they serve different purposes in my life. But I was always so ashamed to buy *Seventeen* and *Shape* and I would always hide those under a *MOJO* or a music magazine.

EF *Yeah, and you don't want to admit that you do want things like that.*

ER Of course.

EF *The patriarchy tells you what you want*

and you try to fight that in your mind. You know all of the reasons you want those things, and you want to not want those things, but you still do.

ER It's hard. I mean, it's hard to grapple with accepting the body positivity movement but also knowing that you've been on this planet for thirty years and you're way too fucked up to get those messages in.

EF Right! In your personal work you are poking fun at or critical of mass media, but now your day job is to create mass media. How do you reconcile those in your mind?

ER Oh, man. I've never been asked that. I think it's more obvious in certain places that I worked. I've been really lucky and also careful in the past five years of choosing who I want to work with in terms of how they align with my goals as an editor. After *Marie Claire*, I told myself I would never go back to being a photo editor unless it was for more of a fine art, editorial focused publication. So that's why when *Vice* called me up, I was really excited to do it because it would be all about the artists and not so much about serving a brand or a product.

And it's the same at *The New Yorker*. I work in the fiction section mainly. So I'm figuring it out based on people's writing, deciding which photographer would be best for interpreting that story. I've tried to have my media jobs be a way to empower and offer commissions to artists, versus selling an image that I don't believe in.



EF One of my projects is about how the concept of guilty pleasures is sexist, because the things that we think are guilty pleasures are just things that are marketed towards women or that women enjoy. That being said, do you have any pop culture guilt-free pleasures?

ER Oh, I'm sure they're similar to yours. I would not consider any of these guilty pleasures. But as I mentioned, I recently have really fallen into YouTube as TV and just listening to people's routines.

EF Do you watch it or just listen?

ER Sometimes I'll just be in bed and I'm literally watching somebody in their bedroom talking out loud about a bottle being like, "Oh, my God, guys, this smells so good." That is definitely a recent guilty pleasure. And then in terms of TV, I am not the biggest reality TV fan, but I love *The Real Housewives of New York*.

EF Have you watched the newest season of *RHONY*?

ER I'm watching the latest one on Hulu right now where Bethenny's boyfriend had recently died.

EF Oh, no, the newest season actually doesn't have Bethenny Frankel in it!

ER [Gasp.]

EF I know!

ER But I actually really like to watch TV when I'm setting up stuff and when I'm editing. And the TV I watch then is always



Elizabeth Renstrom, *Lisa Frank Blues*, 2013.

going to be reality like *The Housewives*. I did watch *Love is Blind* and all the new Netflix versions of reality TV, which is hilarious to me. Or I'll just rewatch a show I've watched a bajillion times. Like *Buffy*.

EF I haven't watched *Buffy*. But a lot of people have told me that I need to.

ER Now's the time, baby.

EF Why do you like *Buffy*?

ER You'll love it because it's all the drama of high school paired with a girl who's supposed to save the world. And she is ultra strong, but also super 90s and feminine. And there are so many great

metaphors like her losing her virginity to a vampire and how making that decision makes him turn into a demon, like a guy would. I think the apocalypse paired with high school is always a good premise for TV. And she was always such a strong heroine growing up. So love, love, *Buffy*.

EF Do you ever watch *Law & Order*?

ER Do you mean *Law & Order: SVU*?

EF I mean, I have watched it all, but yes, *SVU* is my particular brand.

ER I have never watched it from the start. I have seen episodes and I really think I'd love it because I definitely watched old *Criminal Minds* and all the other true crime shows. I had to stop binge-watching *Criminal Minds* though, because at the beginning of every episode it's like look at this brutally raped and torn apart woman! It doesn't set you in a good mindset.

EF Last winter I binge-watched almost 100 episodes of *Law & Order: SVU* in a period of a week and a half and then I couldn't go outside alone. It was horrifying.

ER Are you alone in your house?

EF Yeah, but I'm fine now. But I was walking from the restaurant to my car at night last winter after bingeing those and I was convinced a man was following me.

ER My God. Well, let me tell you, *Buffy* is a really good follow up. You'll feel empowered and strong. It's also a natural pairing with apocalypse and high school.

They're extreme emotions. I've always loved the horror trope because it's a genre that often puts female characters in peril at the lead. I think a lot of my favorite horror movies coincide with high school. That's sort of the first way I learned and understood how you can have a sense of humor about this time that is fraught with such extreme emotion. And then when you throw in a serial killer, what happens?

EF Do you love *Heathers*?

ER Yes, I love *Heathers*. It's a perfect example of the extreme dark side of the popular girl. And I also love *Battle Royal*. It's a really good representation of what happens when high schoolers are set loose on each other and have to decide who dies. High school is definitely a super cruel time.

EF Yes. Lot's of cruelty there!



EF Thank you so much!

ER Lovely meeting you. Watch *Buffy*.

EF Nice to meet you too! And I'll let you know what I think of *Buffy*.

ER Have a great evening!

EF Thanks, you too. Bye!



Buffy the Vampire Slayer, 1998.

In Order of Appearance

1. **Bunny Rogers**
American artist, b. 1990.

2. **Geocities**
Web hosting service founded in 1994.
Characterized by gifs, self-coded personal homepages, digital neighborhoods.

3. **BOGO Pussy Hat**
Elizabeth Renstrom photo series, 2020.



6. & 7.

4. **Lisa Frank Blues**
Elizabeth Renstrom photo series, 2012.



8.

5. **Razr Phone**
Popular cell phone for teens in the early aughts.

6. **Wavy Chunks**
Elizabeth Renstrom photo series, 2013.

7. **S Symbol**
Chunky S that is inexplicably drawn the same way by middle schoolers all across America.

8. **Jonathan Taylor Thomas**
American actor, b. 1981.

9. **Horse Girls**
Socially awkward girls with a strong affinity for horses and all things horse-related.

10. **Reductress**
Satire website that parodies media targeted towards women, especially women's magazines.

11. **Glitter Theory**
Way of understanding the presence of the hyper-femme aesthetic in fourth wave feminism.

12. **Sticker earrings**
Glittery stickers worn by girls without pierced ears during elementary school.

13. **PEN15**
TV series about middle school in 2000 by comedians Maya Erskine and Anna Konkle, first aired 2019.



5.



13.

14. **Savage Appetites**
Book by Rachel Monroe, published 2019.



18. **Fleabag**

TV series by Phoebe Waller-Bridge, first aired 2016.

19. **RHONY**

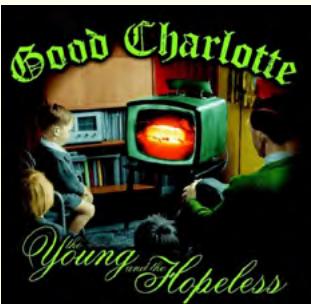
Acronym for *The Real Housewives of New York City*, first aired 2008.

20. **Heathers**

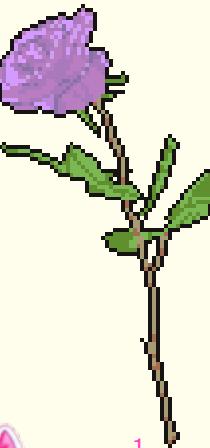
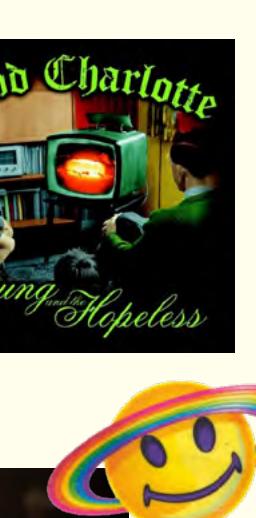
Black comedy teen film starring Winona Ryder and Christian Slater, released 1989.



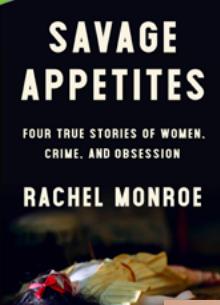
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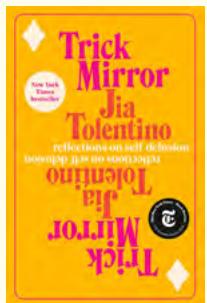
19.



18.



12.



17.



The background of the image is a tropical sunset. The sky is filled with warm, glowing colors of pink, orange, and yellow, with darker purple and blue hues at the top. Silhouettes of palm trees are scattered across the horizon and in the foreground. A single bright star or planet is visible in the upper right quadrant.

guiltfree
popculture
.com

[Website]





out following a
sports team is
perfectly respectable



when men enjoy
something they
elevate it



AFV



when women
enjoy something
they ruin it



when women
enjoy something
they ruin it



when women
enjoy something
they ruin it



it's time to stop
feeling guilty



it's time to stop
feeling guilty

A vertical collage of images related to pop culture. At the top left is a person in a bee costume. In the center is a person in a colorful, patterned outfit. To the right is a person in a yellow dress. Below them is a person in a blue dress. The background is a blue sky with white clouds.



A photograph of several palm trees with green fronds against a clear blue sky.

svudead
girls.com

[Website]

FOX

Season 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 17 18 20

DEAD GIRLS







**Maggie Sandomir
Kristy Meyerson
Marnie Owens
Annie Tassler
Irina Burton
Cassie Horner
Theresa Folsom**

Next



Maggie Sandomir
Kristy Meyerson
Marnie Owens
Annie Tassler
Irina Burton
Cassie Horner
Theresa Folsom



**Noncompliance
Pixies
Secrets
Manhunt
Parasites
Scourge**

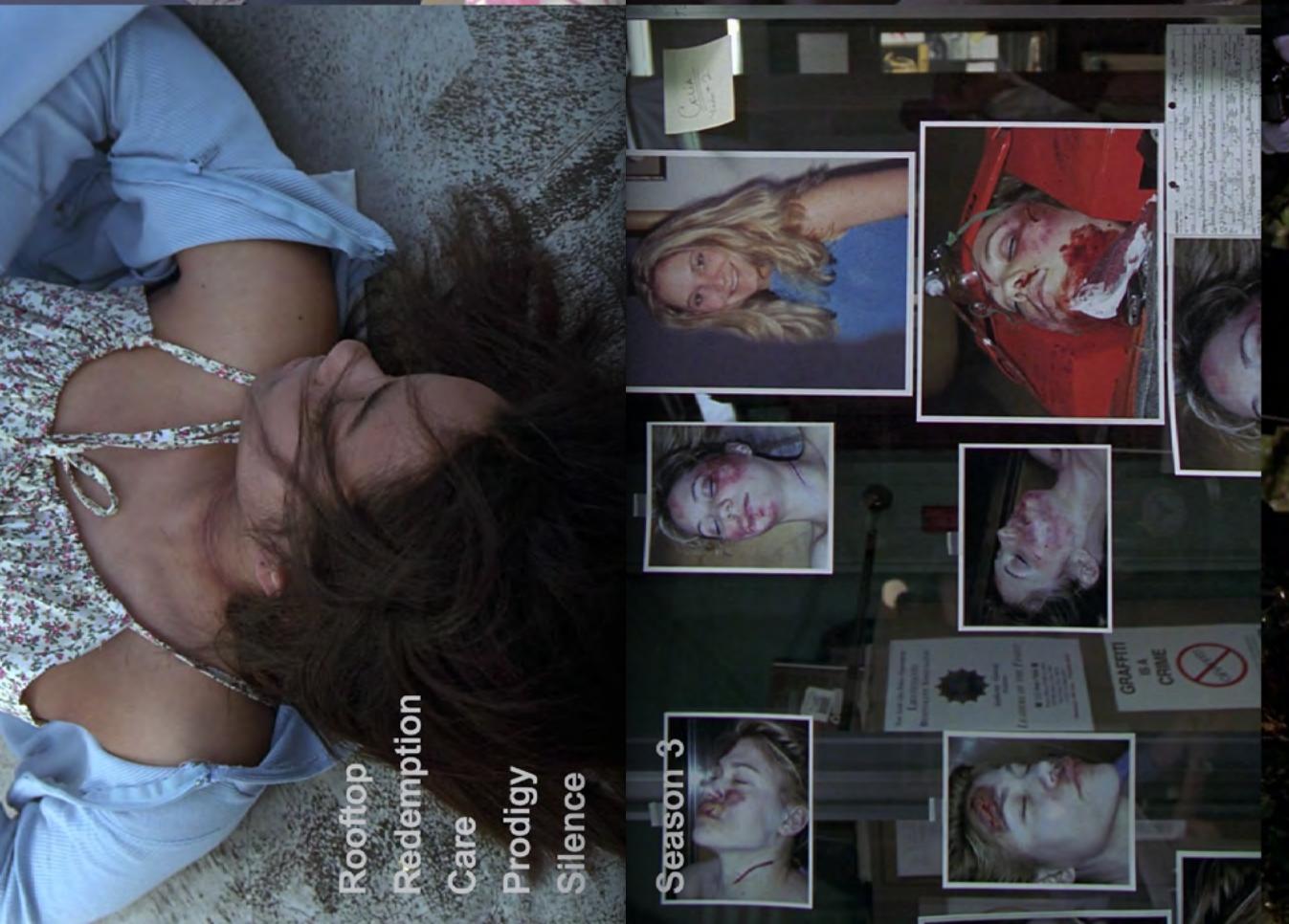
Season 2



Noncompliance Pixies Secrets Manhunt Parasites Scourge

Season 3

Next



Season 4

Next



Chameleon
Lust
Dolls
Damaged
Pandora
Tortured
Privelage
Appearances
Dominance
Grief
Perfect
Soulless

Season 4



Randy Colligan AKA Godiva
Unidentified sex worker
Greta Esterman
Mona Sidney
Susie Marshall
Rebecca Kurtz
Meredith McGrath
Kunsong Tashi
Carmen Trancoso
Cherie Lason
Melissa Liman
Regina Valerio
Darlene Weston
Iris Braverman
Vanessa Bevins
Samantha Tassler
Chloe Dutton

Next



Randy Colligan AKA Godiva
Unidentified sex worker
Greta Esterman
Mona Sidney
Susie Marshall
Rebecca Kurtz
Meredith McGrath
Kunsong Tashi
Carmen Trancoso
Cherie Lason
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Darlene Weston
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Samantha Tassler
Chloe Dutton

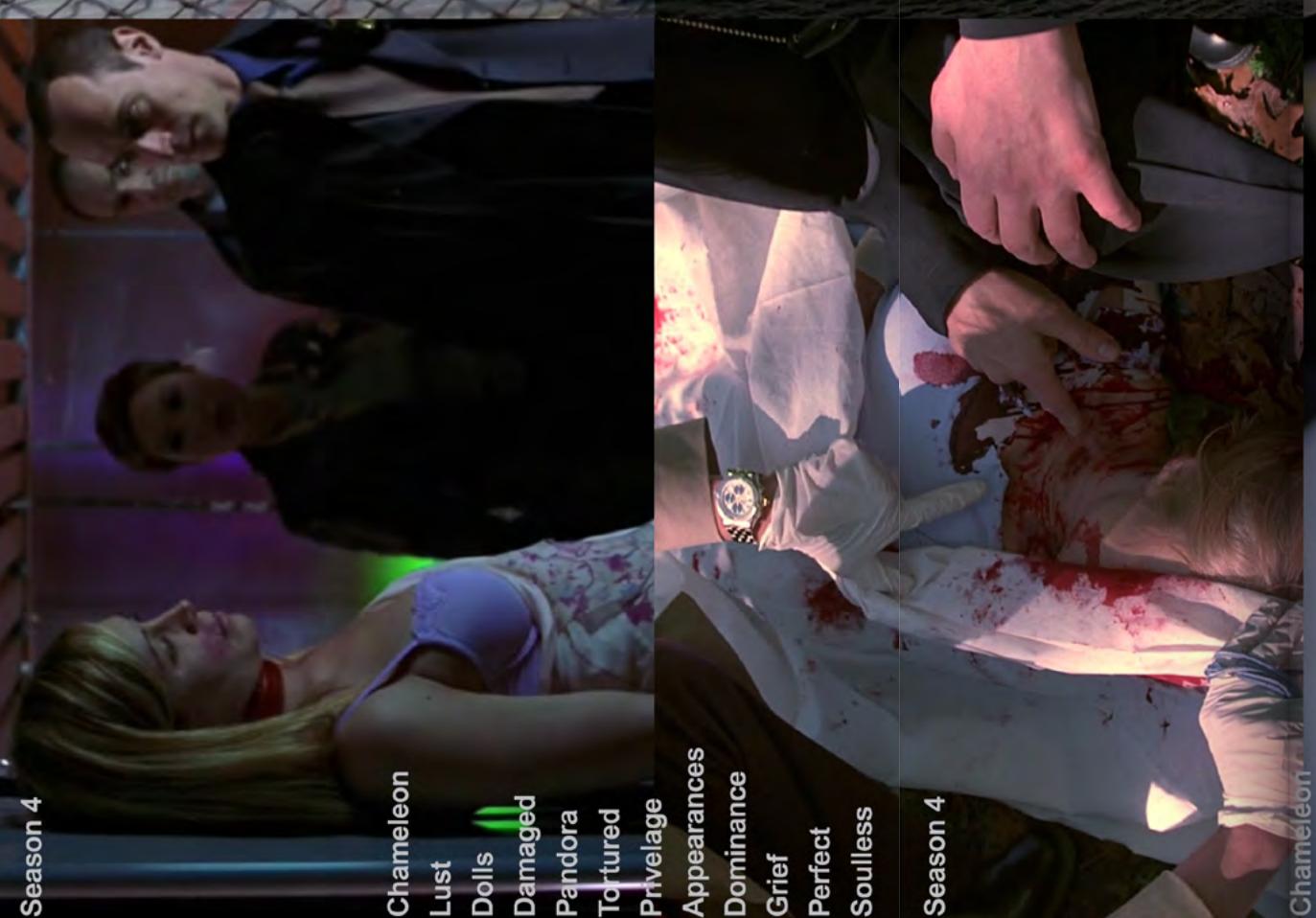


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Iris Braverman
Vanessa Bevins

Next

Season 4

Next



Chameleon
Lust
Dolls
Damaged
Pandora
Tortured
Privelage
Appearances
Dominance
Grief
Perfect
Soulless

Season 4



Randy
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Regina Valerio
Darlene Weston
Iris Braverman

Season 5

Next



Tragedy
Loss
Serendipity
Hate
Families
Mean

Season 5

Next

Annika Bergeron
Livia Sandoval
Brianna Morris
Mira Elbisi
Shannon Coyle
Emily Sullivan
Popular senior girl

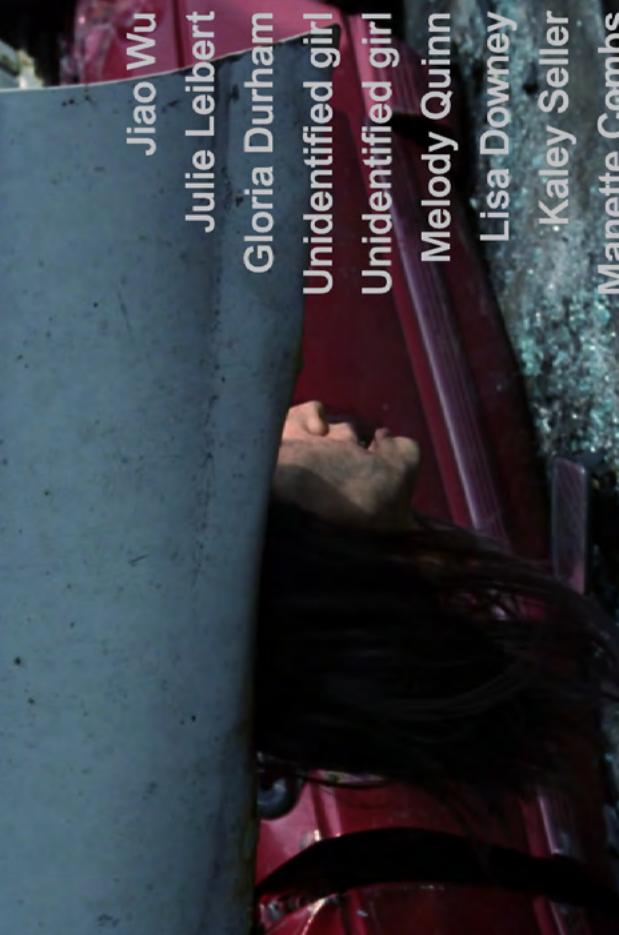
Rebecca Wheeler



Debt
Scavenger
Charisma
Game
Hooked
Pure
Parts

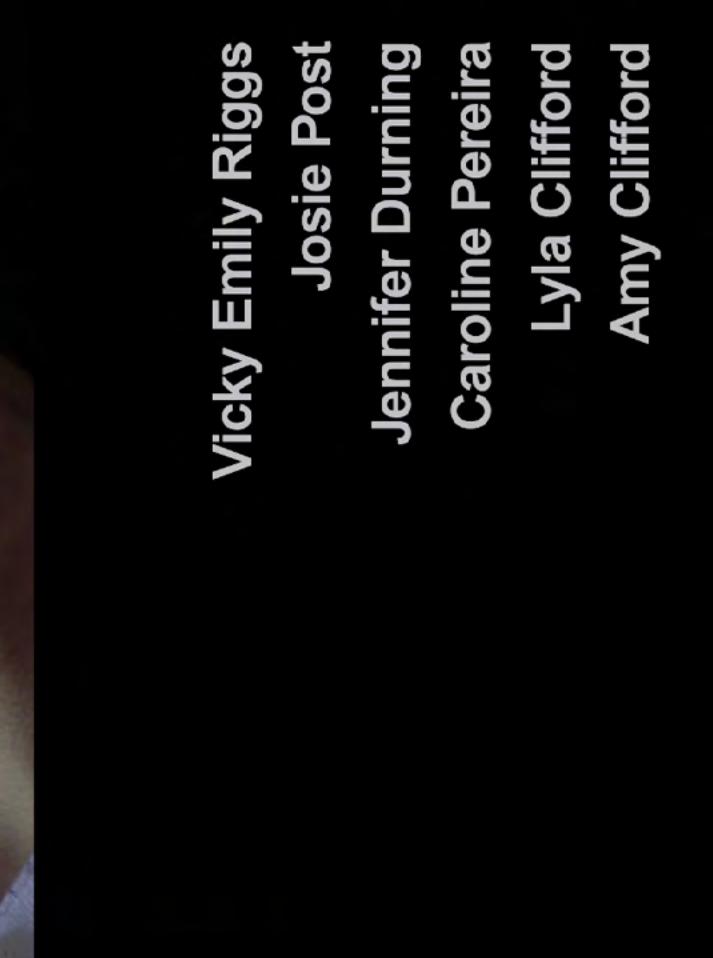
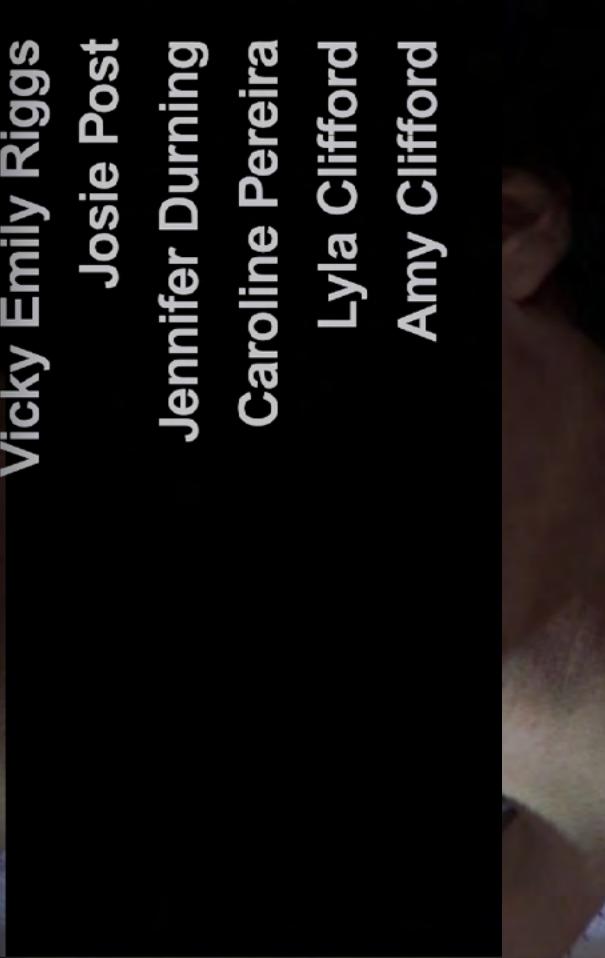


Jiao Wu
Julie Leibert
Gloria Durham
Unidentified girl
Unidentified girl
Melody Quinn
Lisa Downey
Kaley Seller
Manette Combs



Debt
Scavenger
Charisma
Game
Hooked
Pure
Parts

Jiao Wu
Julie Leibert
Gloria Durham
Unidentified girl
Unidentified girl
Melody Quinn
Lisa Downey
Kaley Seller
Manette Combs



Vicky Emily Riggs

Josie Post

Jennifer Durning

Caroline Pereira

Lyla Clifford

Amy Clifford

Manipulated
Gone
Class
Fault

Vicky Emily Riggs

Josie Post

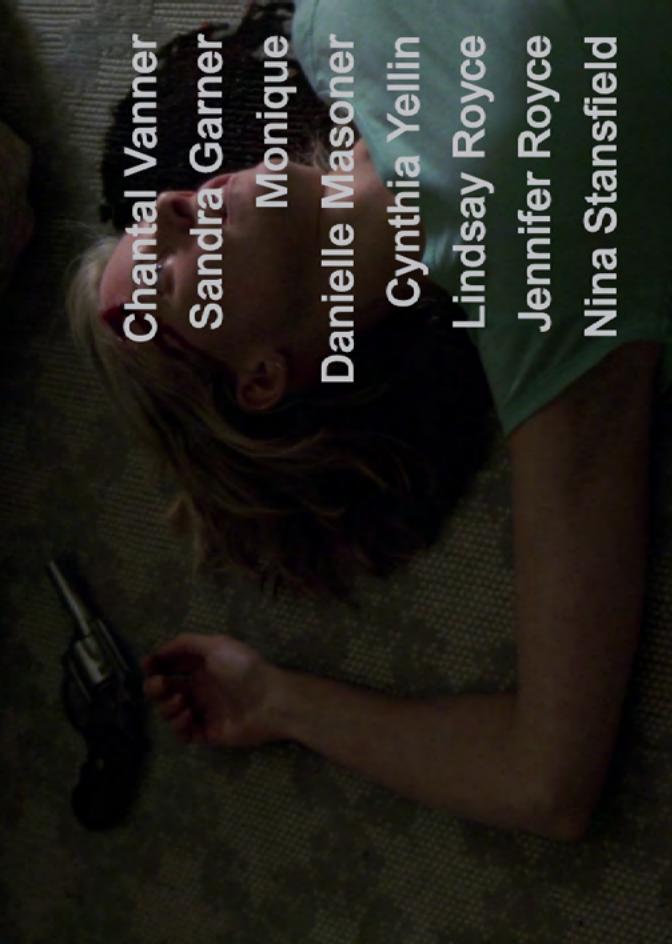
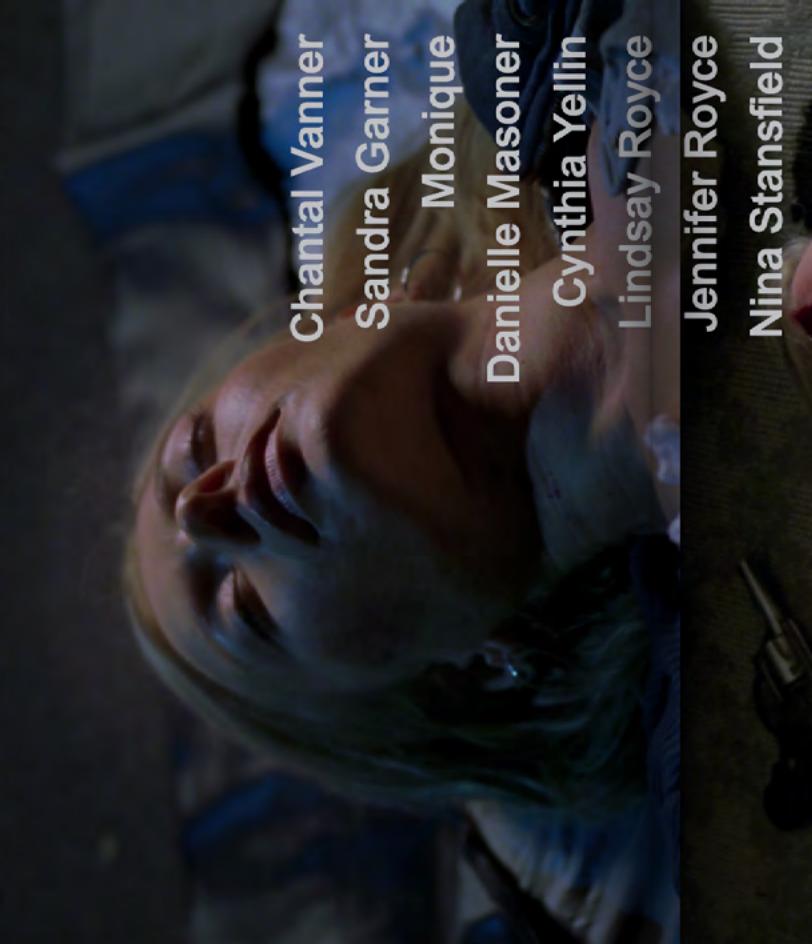
Jennifer Durning

Caroline Pereira

Lyla Clifford

Amy Clifford

Manipulated
Gone
Class
Fault



Underbelly
Choreographed
Annihilated
Screwed

Underbelly
Choreographed
Annihilated
Screwed

Chantal Vanner
Sandra Garner
Monique
Danielle Masoner
Cynthia Yellin
Lindsay Royce
Jennifer Royce
Nina Stansfield

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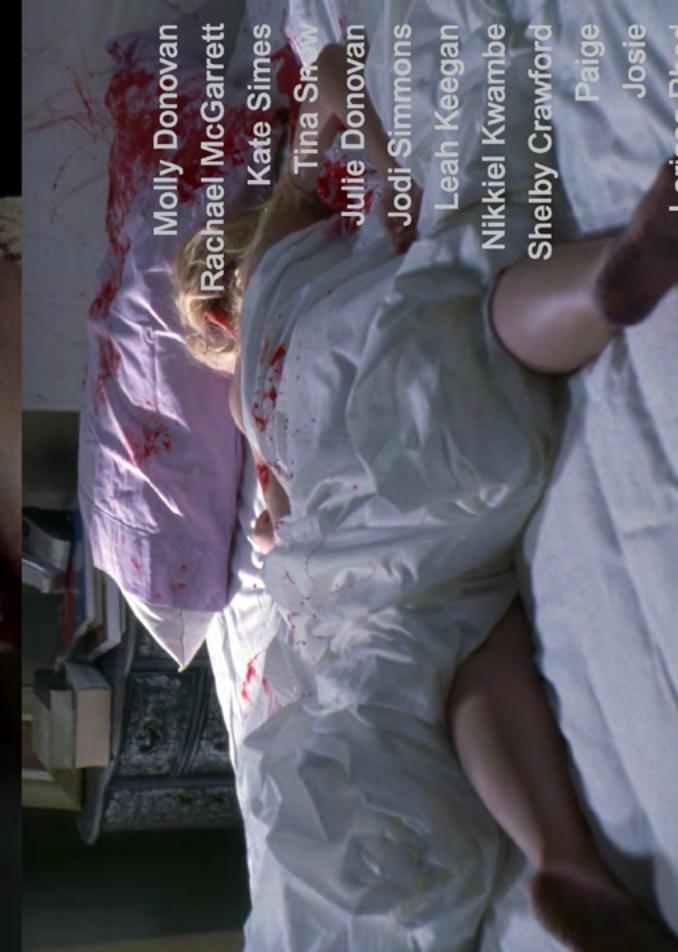
Molly Donovan
Rachael McGarrett
Kate Simses
Tina Snow
Julie Donovan
Jodi Simmons

Next



**Leah Keegan
Nikkie Kwanabe
Shelby Crawford
Paige
Josie
Larissa Rhed
Kate Barrow
Jenna Ludlow**

Next



Molly Donovan
Michael McGarrett
Kate Simes
Tina Show
Julie Donovan
Jodi Simmons
Leah Keegan
Nikkie Kwanabe
Shelby Crawford

Kate Barrow
Lonna Ludlow

Next



Molly Donovan
Rachael McGarrett



Alternate
Avatar

Season 9



Harm Svengali Fight Paternity Snitch Streetwise Signature Trade

Season 9



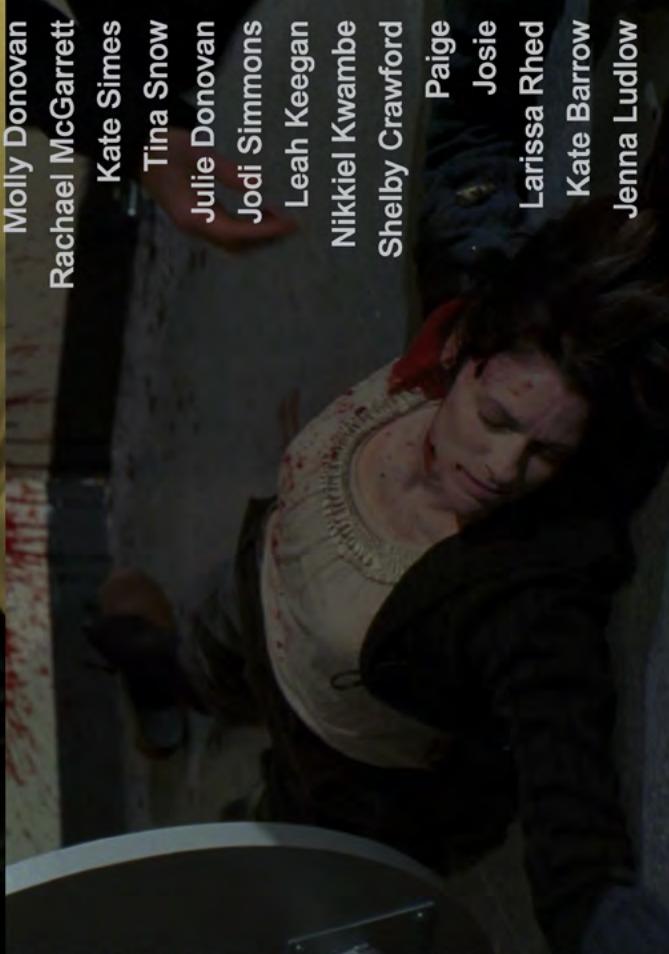
Alternate **Avatar** **Harm** **Svengali** **Fight** **Paternity** **Snitch** **Streetwise** **Signature**

season 8

season 8



season 8



[Alternate](#)
[Avatar](#)
[Harm](#)
[Svengali](#)
[Fight](#)
[Paternity](#)
[Snitch](#)
[Streetwise](#)
[Signature](#)
[Trade](#)

Molly Donovan
Rachael McGarrett
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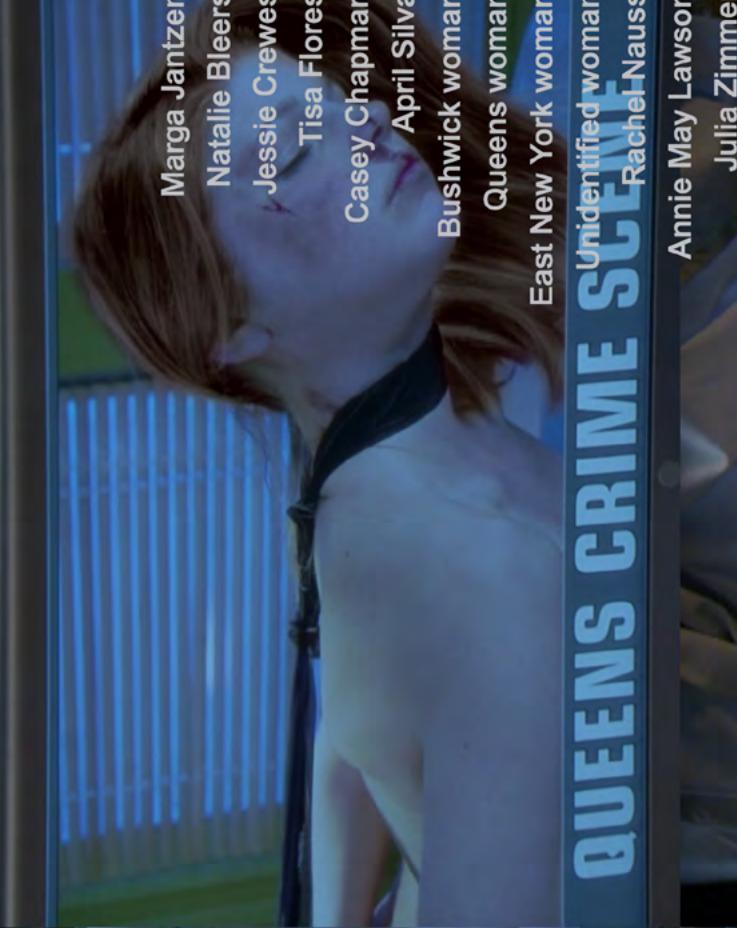
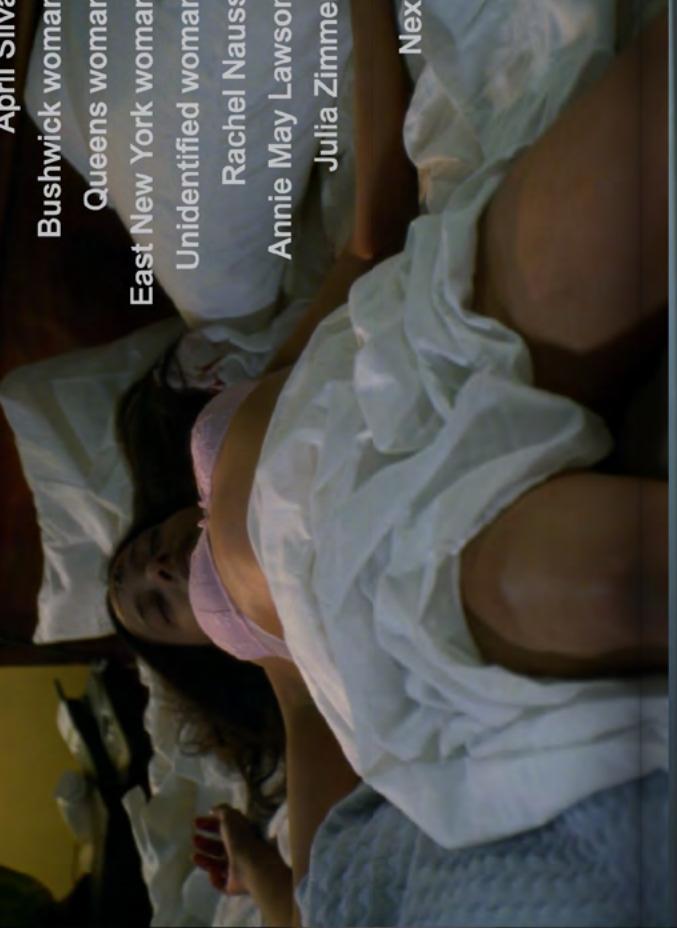


[Alternate](#)
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Molly Donovan
Rachael McGarrett
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Paige
Josie

Season 9

Next



Season 10

Next



EAST NEW YORK CRIME SCENE

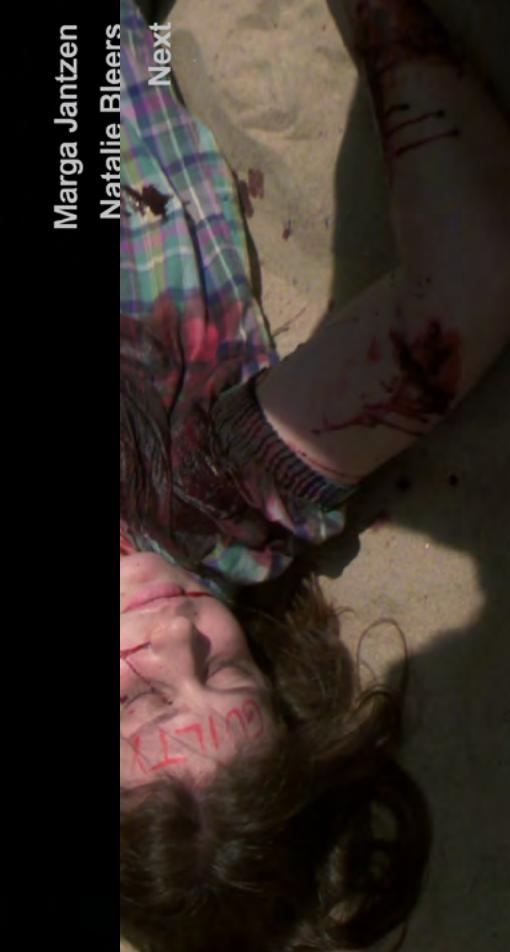
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Natalie Bleers
Jessie Crewes
Tisa Flores

Casey Chapman
April-Silva
Bushwick woman
Queens woman
East New York woman
Unidentified woman
Rachel Nauss
Annie May Lawson
Julia Zimmer

Season 10



Next



Marga Jantzen
Natalie Bleers
Jessie Crewes
Tisa Flores

Next

Marga Jantzen
Natalie Bleers
Jessie Crewes
Tisa Flores
Casey Chapman
April Silva
Bushwick woman
Queens woman
East New York woman
Unidentified woman
Rachel Nauss
Annie May Lawson
Julia Zimmer

Lunacy
Wildlife
PTSD
Ballerina
Baggage
Zebras

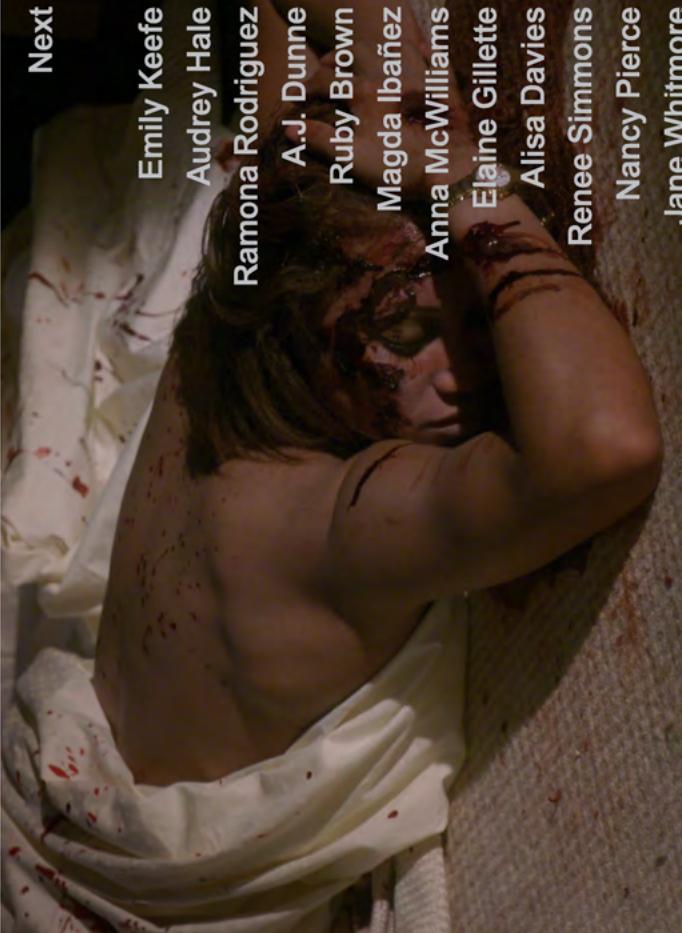
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Ruby Brown
Magda Ibañez
Anna McWilliams
Elaine Gillette
Alisa Davies
Renee Simmons
Nancy Pierce
Jane Whitmore

Gloria Kelly
Elizabeth Giles
Anne Witherspoon
Emily Cutler
Catherine Price
Laura Santiago
Kedzie Sullivan
Faye Sullivan

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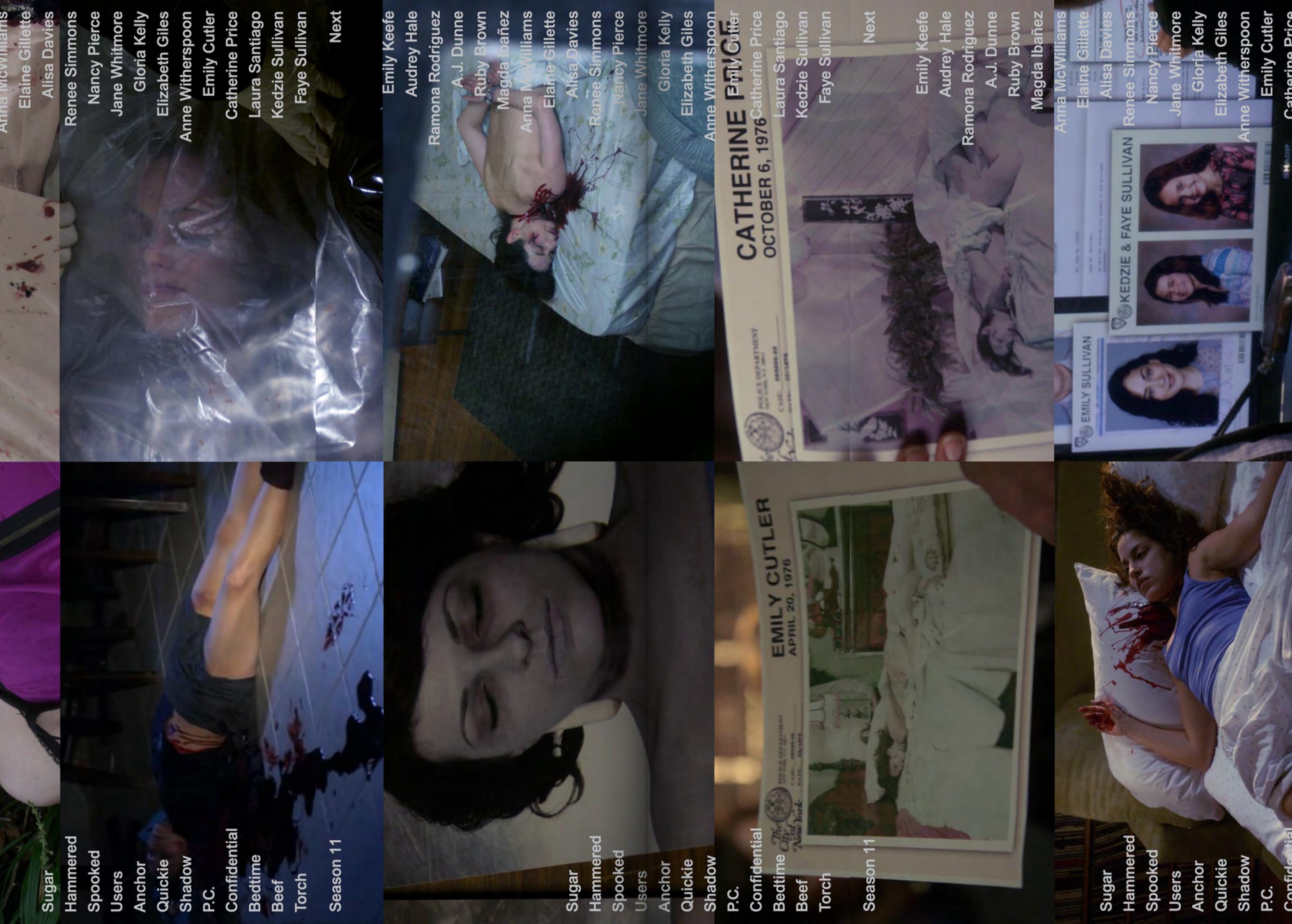
Emily Keefe
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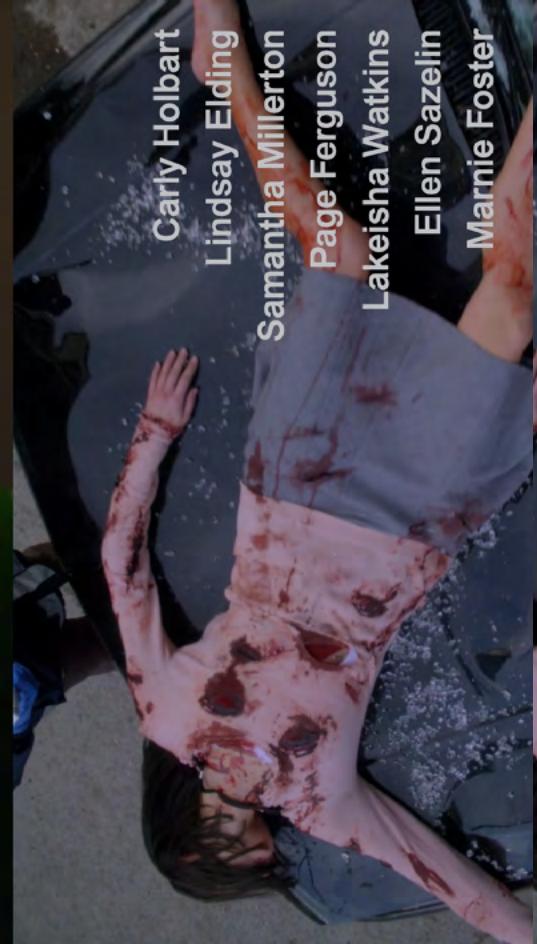
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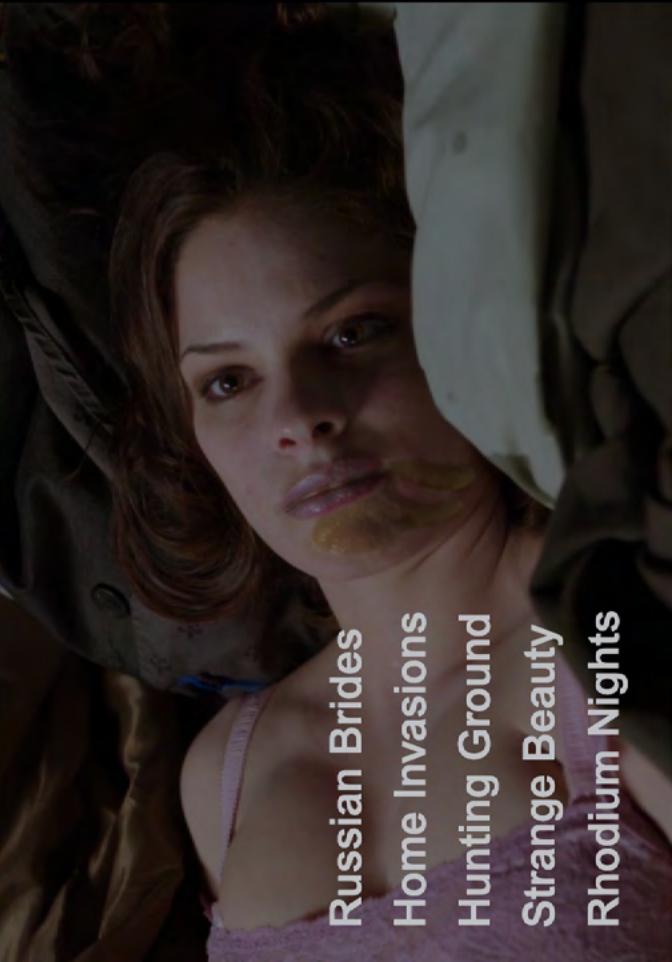
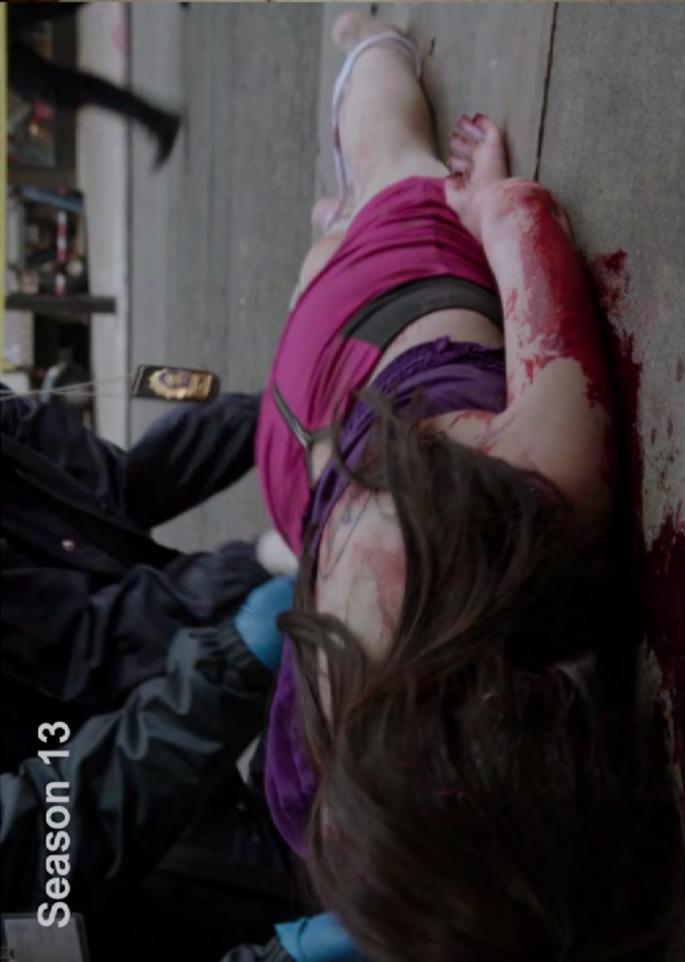
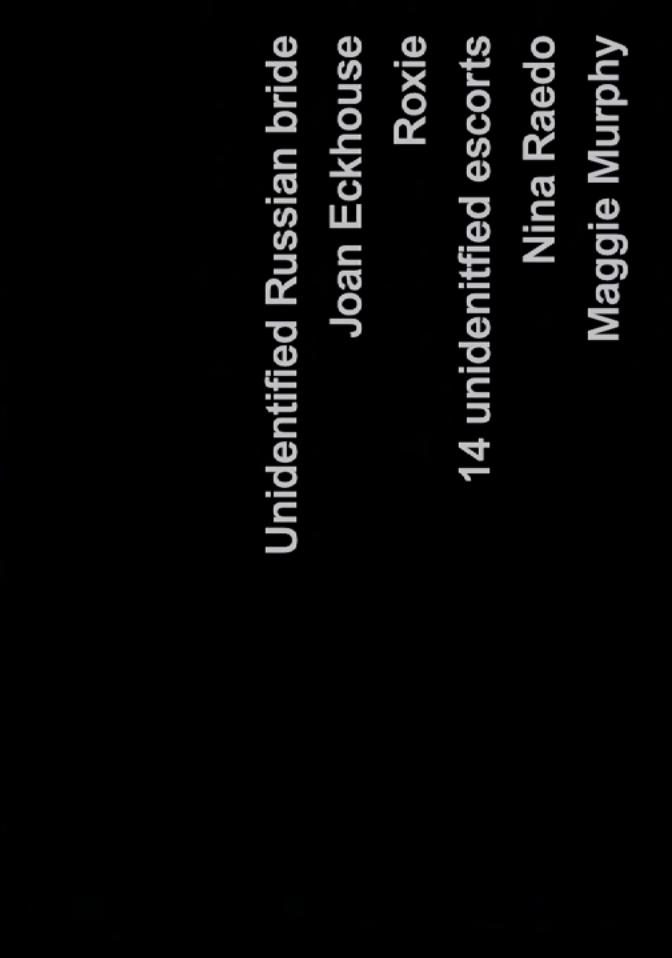
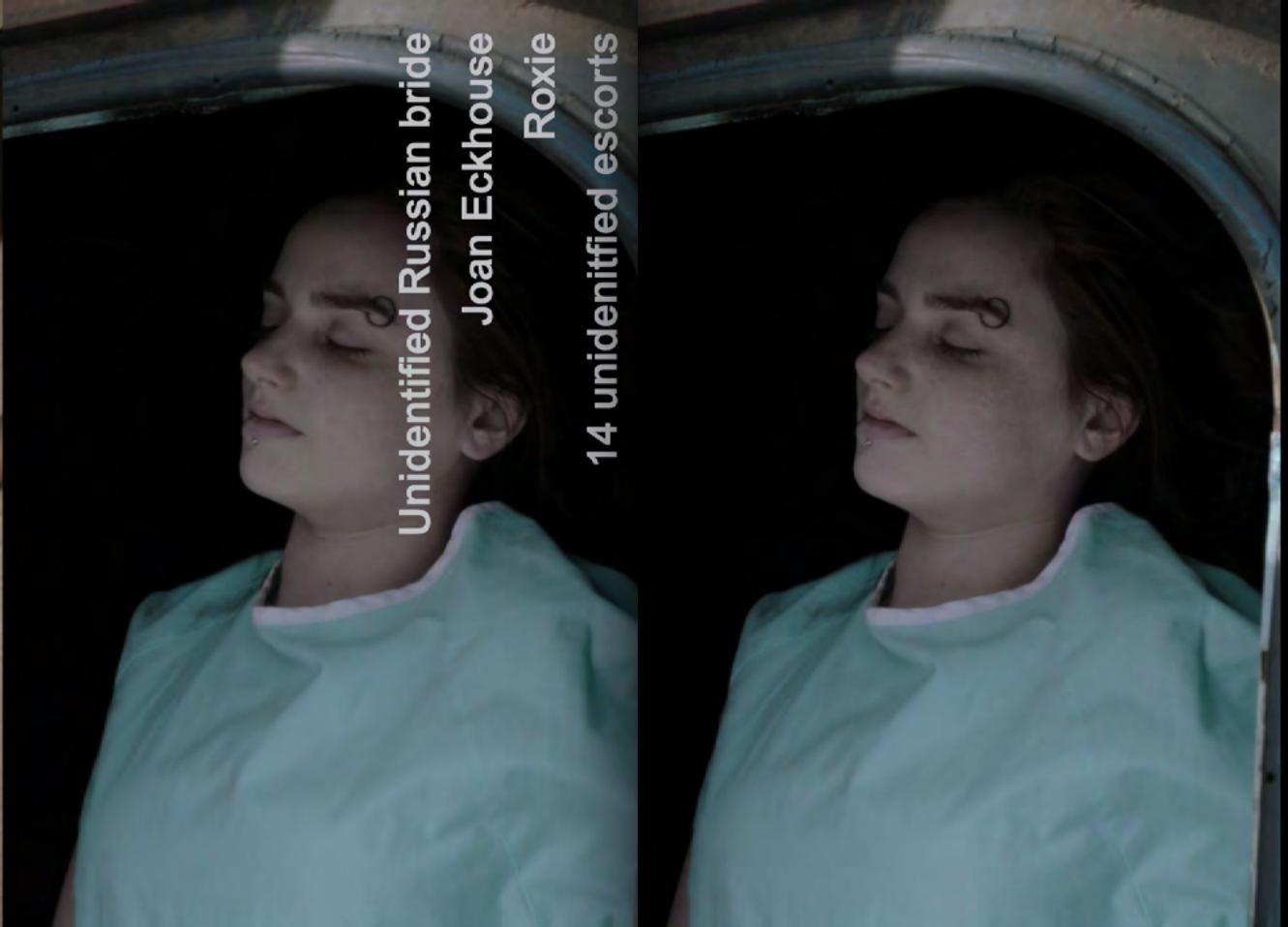


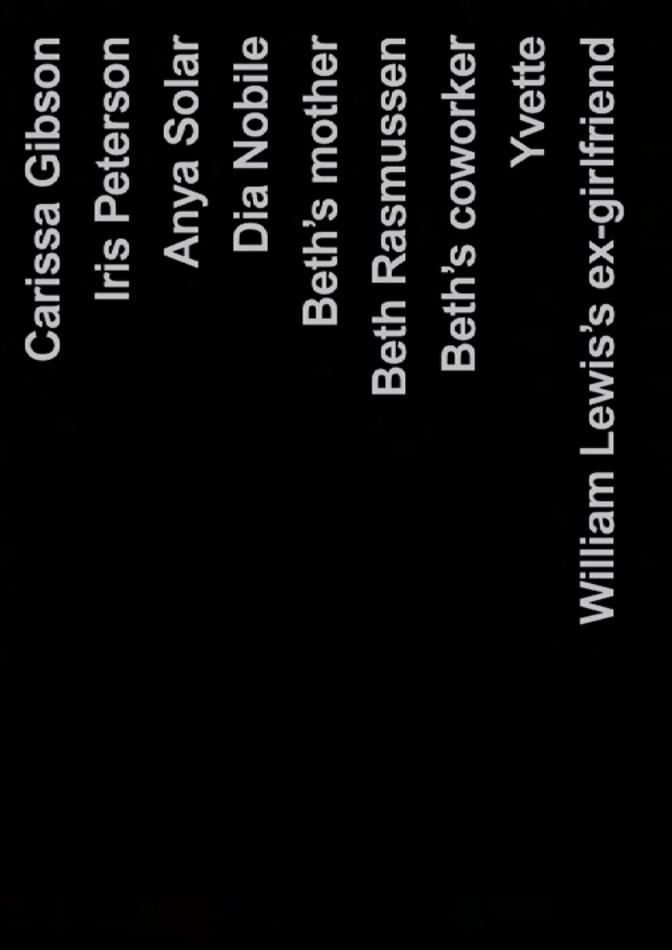
Season 12

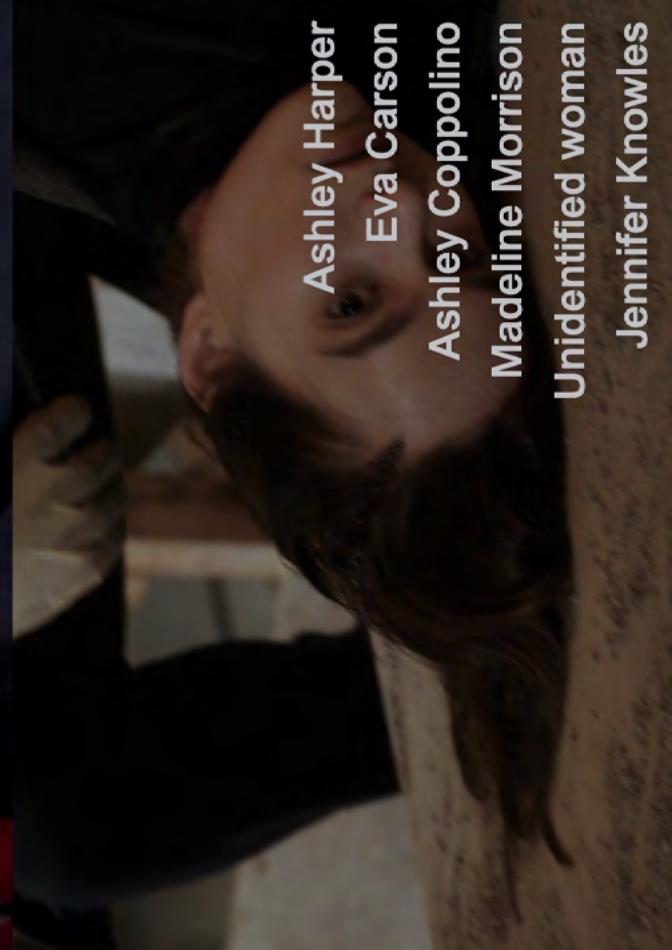
Next



Merchandise
Wet
Trophy
Dirty
Bully
Totem









Accredo

Vicky Parson

DEAD GIRLS



A close-up photograph of a salad. The salad consists of dark, possibly arugula or spinach, leaves and some lighter-colored, shredded ingredients like cheese or lettuce. A light-colored dressing is visible on the leaves. The background is blurred.

Perfection Salad

[Website]

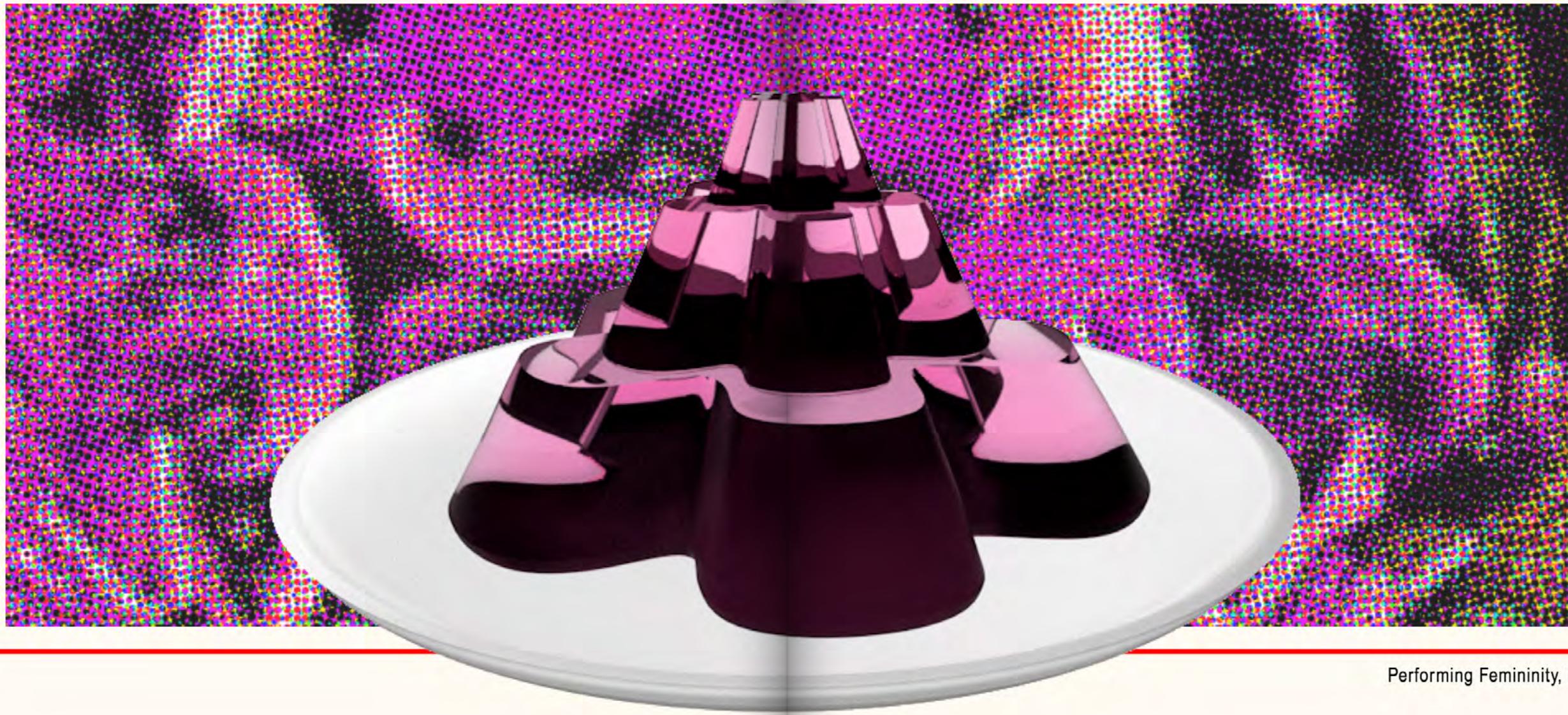
FOREVER YUMMY



Performing Femininity, LLC

CLASS ACT	LIGHTEN THE MOOD	SATURN IT UP!	WHERE'S MY CHAUFFEUR?
CLOTHING OPTIONAL	LIKE A GIRL	SECRET STORY	WICKED
<u>CUTE AS A BUTTON</u>	LIMITED ADDICTION	SEXY DIVIDE	WILD CARD
FISHNET STOCKINGS	LIMO-SCENE	SHE'S PAMPERED	WIRE-LESS IS MORE
FOREVER FAMILY	LIQUID POWER	SHERIOUSLY STRONG	WITH THE BAND
<u>FOREVER YUMMY</u>	LIVING LEGEND	SHERO	YOU, ME & THE SEA

BODICE GODDESS



Performing Femininity, LLC

BEAUTY NAP	HAUTE TO TROT	NEED A VACATION	SPIN THE BOTTLE
BETWEEN THE SEATS	HELLO PRETTY	NICE IS NICE	STAY CLASSY
BIKINI SO TEENY	HEROINE	NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE	STIRRING SECRETS
<u>BODICE GODDESS</u>	HI MAINTENACE	ON FLEEK	STOP, DROP & SHOP
BOLD BOUNDARIES	HIGH CLASS AFFAIR	PICTURE PERFECT	STYLE IN EXCESS
BON VOY-AGE	IN THE LOBBY	PR STUNT	SUGAR DADDY
BOSS BABE	JUST GETTING STARTED	PRE-SHOW JITTERS	SURROUNDED BY STUDS

TROPHY WIFE



Performing Femininity, LLC

BUN VUY-AGE

BOSS BABE

BOSS GLOSS

BUBBLES ONLY

BUTLER PLEASE

CLAMBAKE

CLASS ACT

IN THE LOBBY

JUST GETTING STARTED

KILLER HEELS

LADY LIKE

LADY MILLIONAIRE

LAST NIGHTIE

LIGHTEN THE MOOD

PR STUNI

PRE-SHOW JITTERS

PRINCESS CHARMING

RISE UP

RULE BREAKER

RULE THE WORLD

SATURN IT UP!

SUGAR DADDY

SURROUNDED BY STUDS

TAKE THE REIGNS

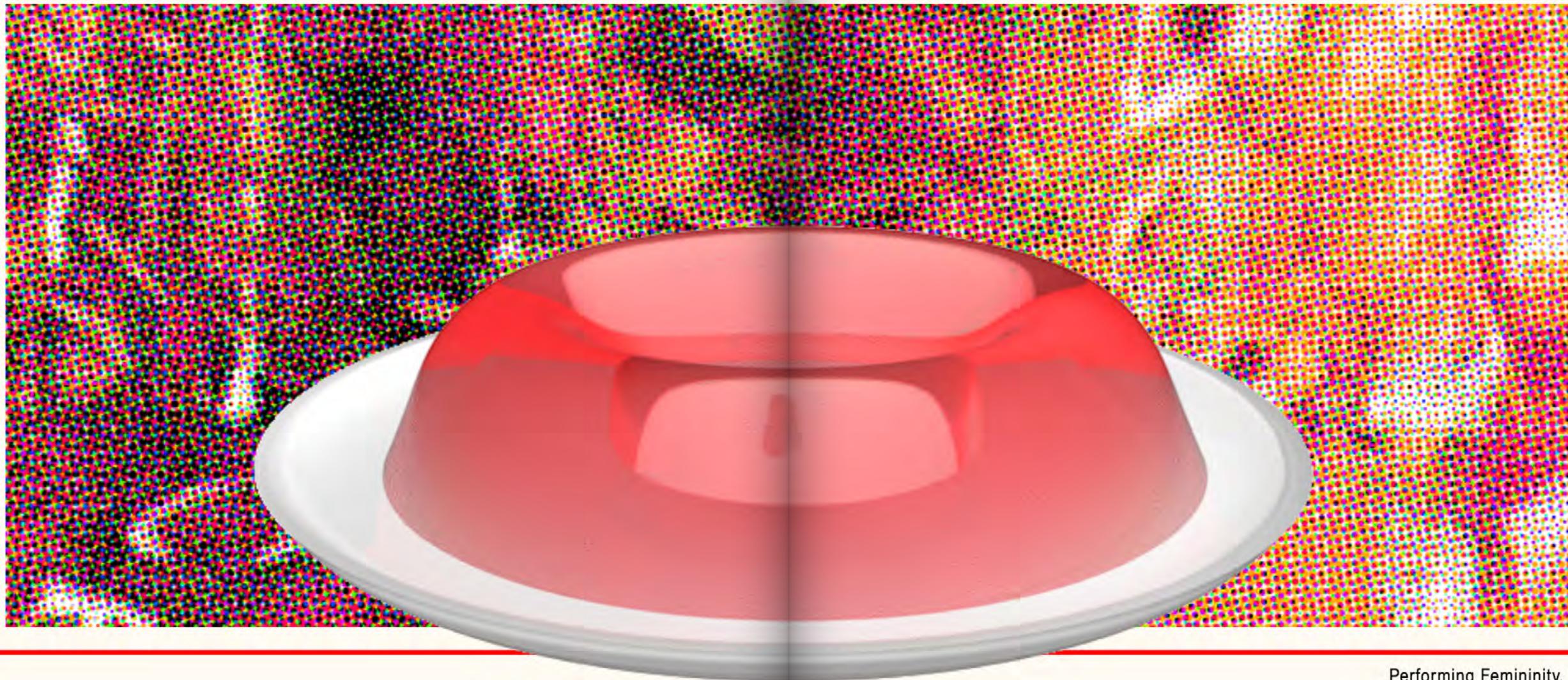
TROPHY WIFE

TURN N' POSE

UDON KNOW ME

WHERE'S MY CHAUFFEUR?

CUTE AS A BUTTON



Performing Femininity, LLC

A-LIST
ALWAYS EXTRA
AS IF!
BACK IN THE LIMO
BE ICONIC
BEAUTY MARKED
BEAUTY NAP

FRILL SEEKER
GET PAID
GO GO GEISHA
GOING STEADY
GOOD KNIGHT
GUILTY PLEASURES
HAUTE TO TROT

LUCKY DRESS
MAKE HER STORY
MAKE THE CUT
MASTER PLAN
MIND-FULL MEDITATION
NEED A VACATION

SIGNATURE SMILE
SLAY ALL DAY
SMALL BUT MIGHTY
SMART EASE
SORRY NOT SORRY
SPAGHETTI STRAP
SPIN THE BOTTLE

'S EXTRA	GET PAID	LUCKY DRESS	SLAY ALL DAY
IN THE LIMO	GO GO GEISHA	MAKE HER STORY	SMALL BUT MIGHTY
ONIC	GOING STEADY	MAKE THE CUT	SMART EASE
TY MARKED	GOOD KNIGHT	MASTER PLAN	SORRY NOT SORRY
TY NAP	GUILTY PLEASURES	MIND-FULL MEDITATION	SPAGHETTI STRAP
EEN THE SEATS	HAUTE TO TROT	NEED A VACATION	SPIN THE BOTTLE
SO TEENY	HELLO PRETTY	NICE IS NICE	STAY CLASSY
<u>E GODDESS</u>	HEROINE	NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE	STIRRING SECRETS
BOUNDARIES	HI MAINTENACE	ON FLEEK	STOP, DROP & SHOP
OY-AGE	HIGH CLASS AFFAIR	PICTURE PERFECT	STYLE IN EXCESS
BABE	IN THE LOBBY	PR STUNT	SUGAR DADDY
GLOSS	JUST GETTING STARTED	PRE-SHOW JITTERS	SURROUNDED BY STU
LES ONLY	KILLER HEELS	PRINCESS CHARMING	TAKE THE REIGNS
R PLEASE	LADY LIKE	RISE UP	<u>TROPHY WIFE</u>
BAKE	LADY MILLIONAIRE	RULE BREAKER	TURN N' POSE
S ACT	LAST NIGHTIE	RULE THE WORLD	UDON KNOW ME
IING OPTIONAL	LIGHTEN THE MOOD	SATURN IT UP!	WHERE'S MY CHAUFF
<u>AS A BUTTON</u>	LIKE A GIRL	SECRET STORY	WICKED
ET STOCKINGS	LIMITED ADDICTION	SEXY DIVIDE	WILD CARD
/ER FAMILY	LIMO-SCENE	SHE'S PAMPERED	WIRE-LESS IS MORE
/ER YUMMY	LIQUID POWER	SHERIOUSLY STRONG	WITH THE BAND
	LIVING LEGEND	SHERO	YOU, ME & THE SEA



Garden of Reality Delights

[Collage]













Blimey!

[Magazine]

Captain Morgan®

SURRENDER TO THREE NEW TROPICAL FLAVORS



BLIMEY!

A large, detailed illustration of a man with a prominent mustache and dark hair, looking slightly to the side. This portrait is enclosed in a blue circle. Behind the portrait, there's a scene depicting a group of people on a ship, possibly pirates, in a dramatic, historical style.

Captain Morgan HORRIBLE CRUELTIES!

BLOOD STREAMED DOWN THE DECKS!

☠ 'No prey, no pay' ☠ He robbed his own crew!

PLUS: SPANIARDS ROASTED ALIVE ON WOODEN SPITS!

HE ATE THE HEART!

RICH GALLEON FULL OF GOLD, PEARLS, JEWELS & NUNS!

MANY MEN WITH SEVERED FINGERS!

0 36000 29145 2

Goway
GOWAY.COM.SG

World's Most Idyllic Islands

+ BOUTIQUE CRUISES

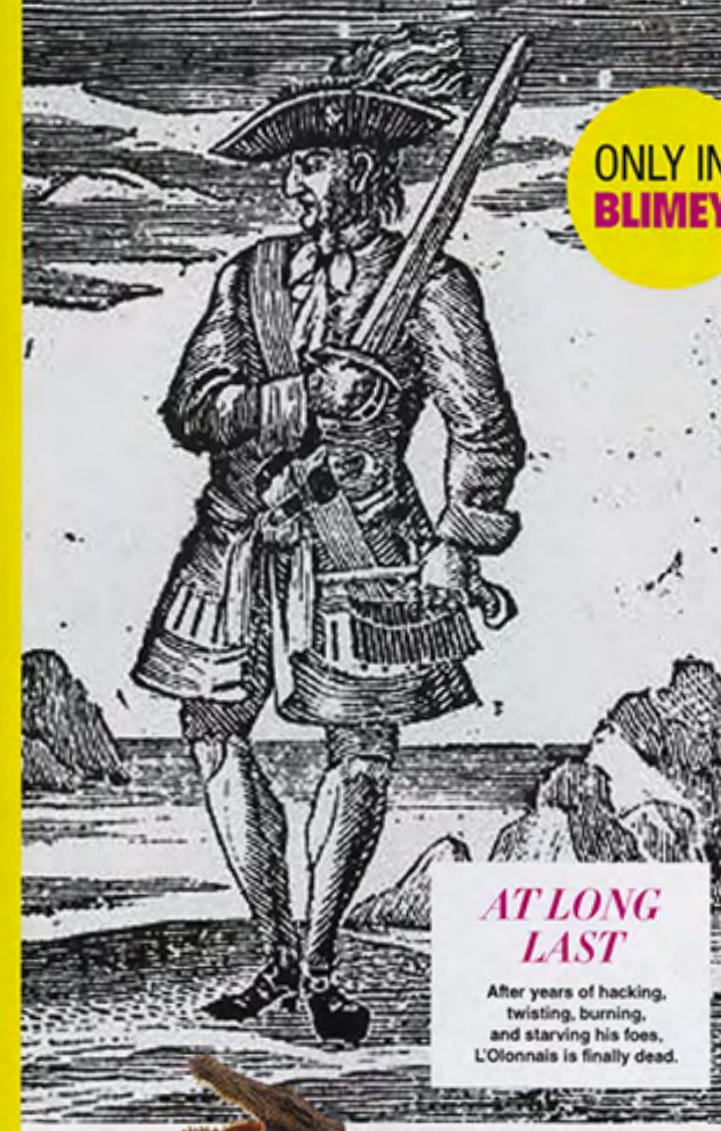
TAHITI • FIJI • COOK ISLANDS • BALI • MAURITIUS • SEYCHELLES
MALDIVES • GREECE • CROATIA



islands
BY GOWAY

LUXURY & ROMANTIC ESCAPES TO PARADISE

BLIMEY! OCTOBER CONTENTS



ONLY IN
BLIMEY!

AT LONG LAST

After years of hacking, twisting, burning, and starving his foes, L'Olonnais is finally dead.



Captain's
near-death
experience:
Crocodiles
terrorize the
pirates!

FROM THE CROW'S NEST

According to a source, the Europeans resembled cannibals at the dinner banquet, with blood running down their beards onto their bodies.

HEAPS OF BOOTY

It was a successful month at sea for the Buccaneers, who brought home gold, pearls, cows, and more.

SINKING SHIPS

Captain orders the crew surgeon to cut a hole and sink his own ship. Find out why inside!



CANNIBAL CAPTAIN

Captain L'Olonnais steals and eats the hearts of enemy Spaniards. According to a close source, he doesn't mind the taste of blood.

WORKER'S COMP

Find out how much losing your left leg, right arm, finger, etc. is really worth.

WE PAY FOR PIRATE TIPS!

Email or text to tips@blimey.com.
Send messages in bottles to 1 Buccaneer Way,
Panama City, Panama.

BLIMEY! BABBLE

HEARD FROM THE CROW'S NEST

PIRATES SAY THE DARNEST THINGS!



"HERE I ATE VERY LARGE OYSTERS, THE BIGGEST THAT EVER I ATE IN MY LIFE, INSOMUCH THAT I WAS FORCED TO CUT THEM INTO FOUR PIECES, EACH QUARTER OF THEM BEING A GOOD MOUTHFUL."

- ON THE BOUNTIES OF THE SEA



"WE WERE REDUCED TO SUCH EXTREMITY THAT MANY OF US DEVOURED OUR OWN SHOES, THE SHEATHS OF OUR SWORDS, KNIVES, AND OTHER THINGS OF THIS KIND."

- ON NEAR-STARVATION DURING THE TREACHEROUS JOURNEY

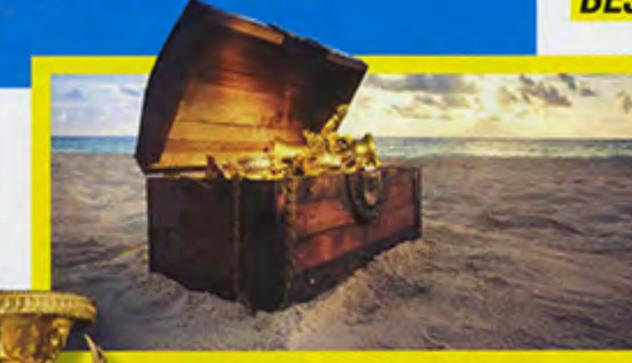
"FOR SUCH WAS THEIR HUNGER THAT THEY MORE RESEMBLED CANNIBALS THAN EUROPEANS AT THIS BANQUET, THE BLOOD MANY TIMES RUNNING DOWN FROM THEIR BEARDS UNTO THE MIDDLE OF THEIR BODIES."

- ON PIRATES' FIRST MEAL AFTER PILLAGING

PIRATE'S PLUNDER!

BUCCANEERS REVEAL THEIR
BEST BOOTY EVER!

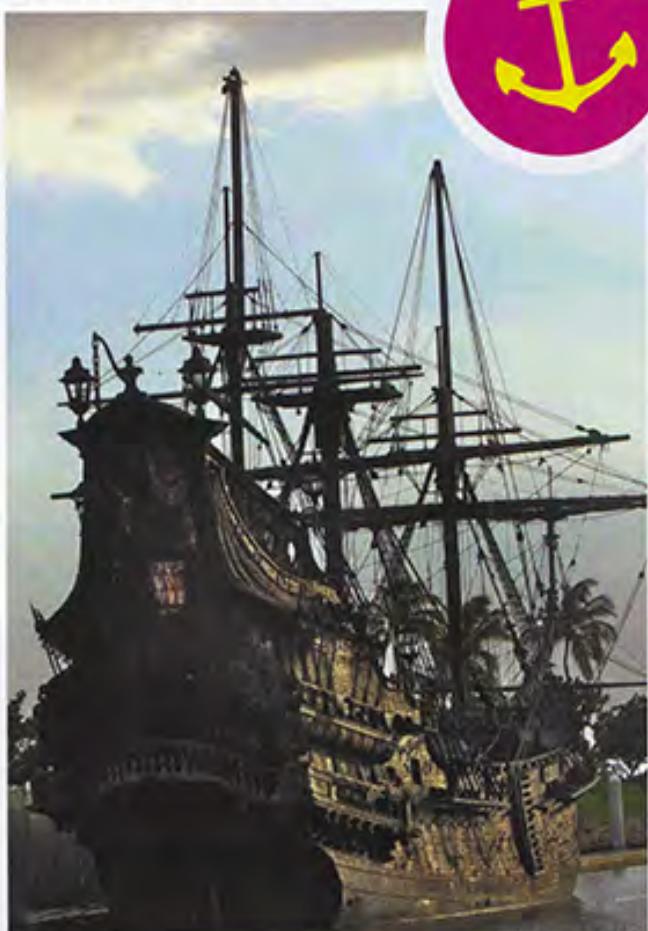
"If our number is small, our hearts are great. And the fewer persons we are, the more union and better shares we shall have in the spoil."



COCOA PODS, 500 COWS,
GOLD, SLAVES, JEWELS,
PEARLS, & PLATANOS!

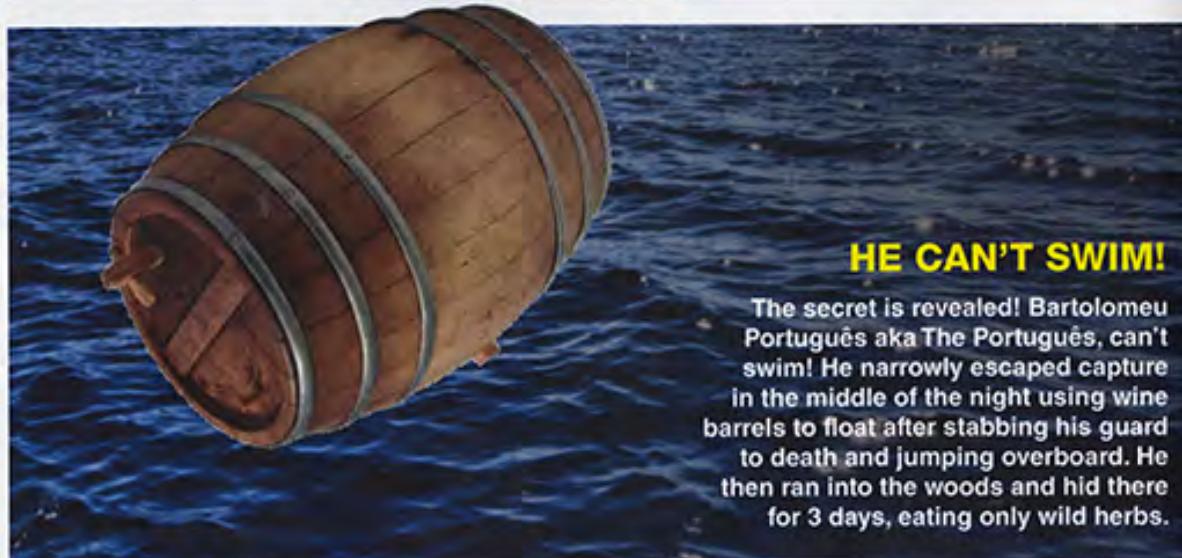


BLIMEY! OVERBOARD



SWORN TO SINK!

Pierre le Grand ordered the surgeon of his crew to cut a hole in the side of his own boat so his men would be more motivated when attacking the Spanish ship. "To the intent that, their own vessel sinking under them, they might be compelled to attack more vigorously and endeavor more hastily to run aboard the great ship." All Captains of the galleons belonging likewise are solemnly sworn to sink, but, or otherwise to destroy their ships rather than permit them to be taken by an enemy, for fear of enriching him not so much with those their great vessels as with the treasure they bring home.



HE CAN'T SWIM!

The secret is revealed! Bartolomeu Português aka The Português, can't swim! He narrowly escaped capture in the middle of the night using wine barrels to float after stabbing his guard to death and jumping overboard. He then ran into the woods and hid there for 3 days, eating only wild herbs.

CRUEL CANNIBAL CAPTAIN!

BLIMEY! COVER STORY

EXCLUSIVE



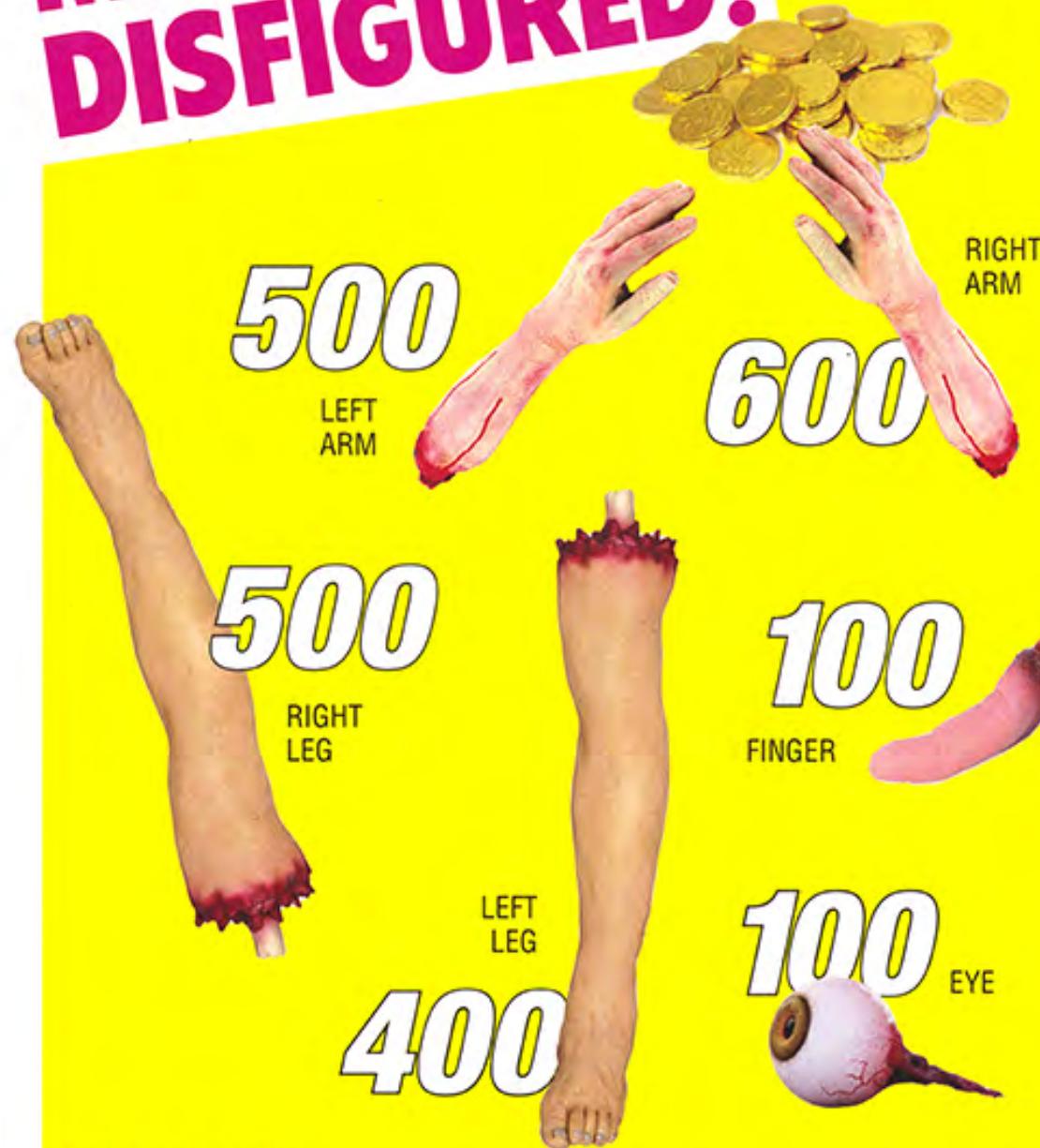
INHUMANE THREATS!

L'Ollonais grew outrageously passionate; insomuch that he drew his cutlass, and with it cut open the breast of one of those poor Spaniards, and, pulling out his heart with his sacrilegious hands, began to bite and gnaw it with his teeth like a ravenous wolf, saying to the rest: "I will serve you all alike if you show me not another way."

BLIMEY! BY THE NUMBERS

MAIMED & DISFIGURED!

HOW MUCH
IS YOUR BODY
WORTH!?^{*}



BLIMEY! UP CLOSE

TROUBLE IN PARADISE!

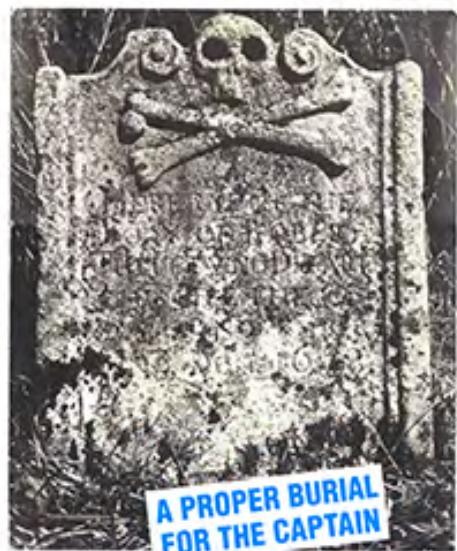
BEAUTIFUL ISLAND RULED BY VICIOUS CROCODILES

We were constrained to keep watch and ward every night, for fear of the crocodiles, which are here in great plenty all over the island. For these, when they are hungry, will assault any man whatsoever and devour him, as it happened in this conjuncture to one of our companions. The furious animal with incredible agility assaulted the Pirate, and, fastening upon his leg, cast him upon the ground, the negro being

fled who should assist him. Yet he, notwithstanding, being a robust and courageous man, drew forth a knife he had them about him, and with the same, after a dangerous combat, overcame and killed the crocodile. Which having done, he himself, both tired with the battle and weakened with the loss of blood that ran from his wounds, lay for dead upon the place, or at least beside his senses.

HOW THE
HORRIFIC
SCENE
UNFOLDED!

BLIMEY! LAST LOOK



L'Ollonias Finally Meets His Match!

Infernal wretch L'Ollonias, who, full of horrid, execrable, and enormous deeds, and also debtor to so much innocent blood, died by cruel and butcherly hands, such as his own were in the course of his life.



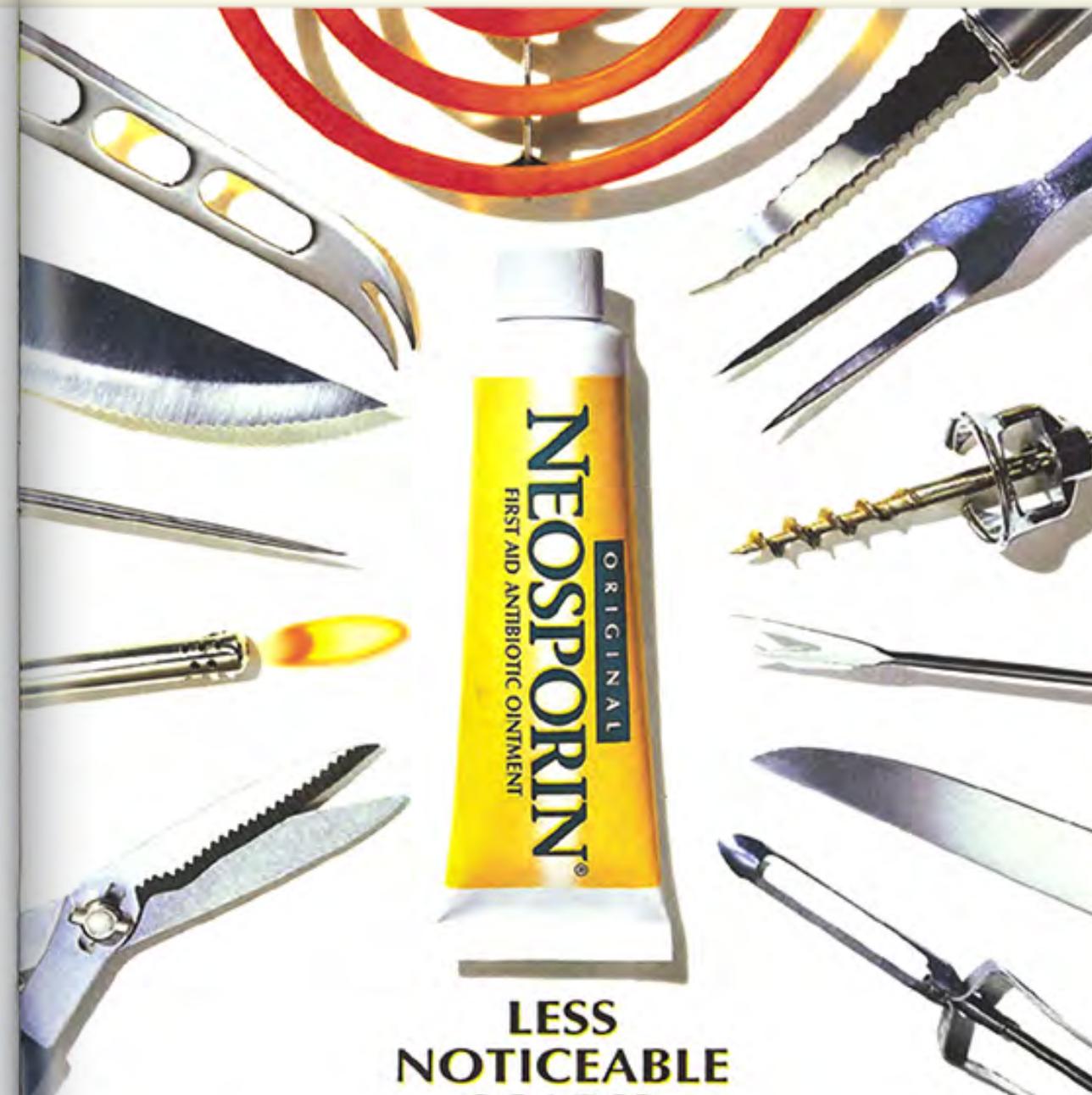
MISERABLY PERISHED!

NO MAN CAN ESCAPE
**THE BLACK
SPOT!**



Captain Beats Himself to Death!

For with them, after a miserable manner, he did beat himself and lacerated his own flesh, till he lost the very shape of man which nature had given him, not ceasing to howl and cry, without any rest either by day or night. Thus he continued to do until he died, in that condition of raving madness wherein he surrendered his ghost unto the same Spirit of Darkness who had tormented his body.



LESS NOTICEABLE SCARS?

That's the point. A clinical test shows that treating scrapes with Neosporin® helps minimize the appearance of scars.* And Neosporin® kills the bacteria that can cause infection. Make it your recipe for healthy looking skin.

NEOSPORIN® Every Cut. Every Time.

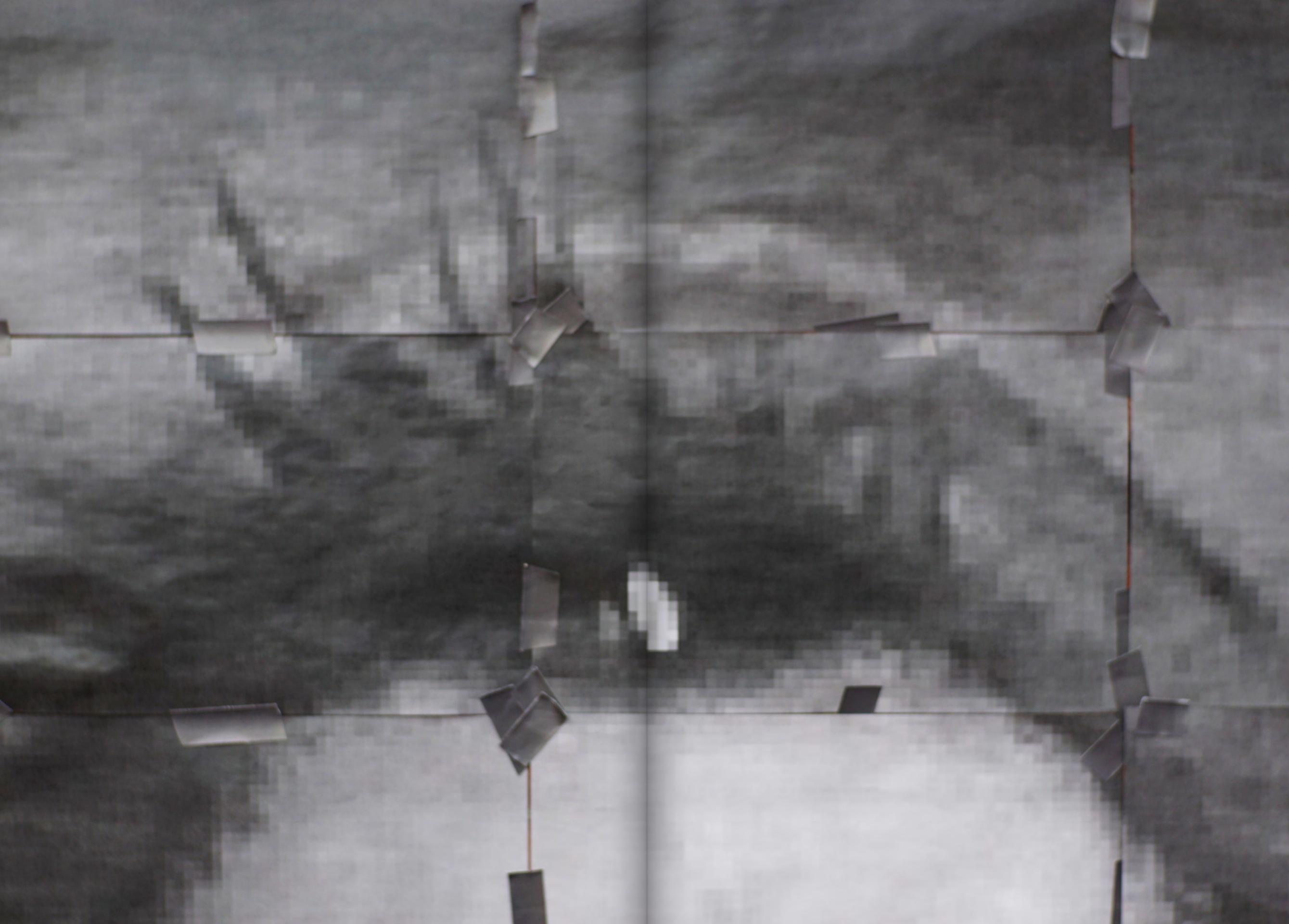
*Based on a clinical study comparing the appearance of treated and untreated minor abrasions when used as directed twice daily until healed. Not indicated for use longer than one week unless directed by a physician. Use as directed.
©2001 Warner-Lambert, a Pfizer Company

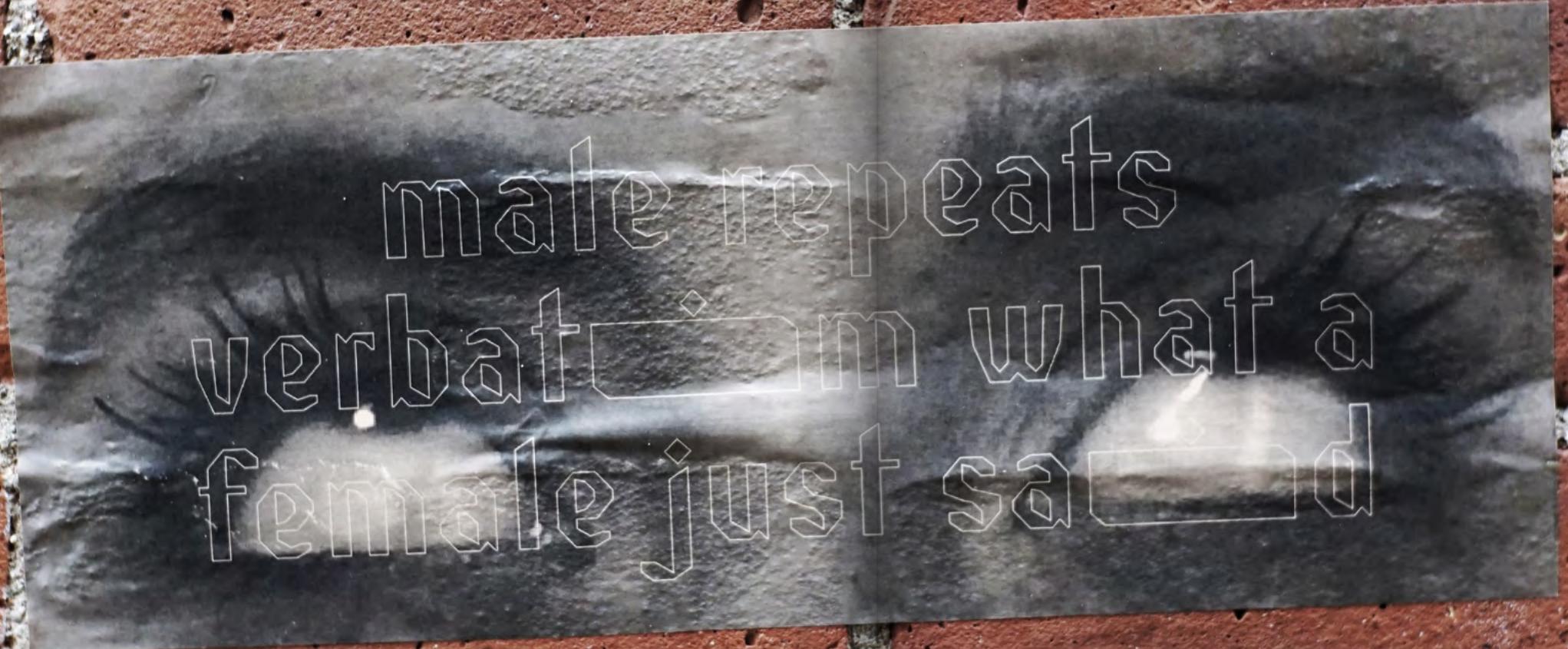


Tell Me
to Smile

[Installation]







male repeats
verbatim what a
female just said



random man on the
street tells me I
should smile

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with clouds illuminated by the setting sun, transitioning from deep blue at the bottom to warm orange and yellow at the horizon. The ocean waves are dark and textured in the foreground. Overlaid on the right side of the image is a large, semi-transparent text area. The word "Real" is written in white, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, "Housewives" is written in a larger, bold white font. Underneath that, "Remixer" is written in a slightly smaller white font. A small, bright starburst or lens flare effect is positioned above the letter "e" in "Real".

Real Housewives Remixer

[Website]

I DON'T KEEP UP WITH THE JONESES;
I AM THE JONESES.

IF IT DOESN'T MAKE ME MONEY,
I DON'T DO IT.

I'M AN INDEPENDENT WOMAN,
DOING IT FOR MYSELF.

PEOPLE CALL ME A GOLD DIGGER,
BUT THEY JUST WANT WHAT I HAVE.

WHEN I WALK INTO THE ROOM,
I OWN IT.

I HAVE ARRIVED,
AND THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON ME, HONEY.

DON'T CALL IT A COMEBACK,
CALL IT A TAKEOVER!

CALL ME A BAD SERVER,
BECAUSE I ALWAYS SPILL THE TEA!

MUSIC MAY BE MY PASSION,
BUT FAMILY IS FOREVER.

I HAVE FAME AND FORTUNE,
AND I'VE EARNED IT.

I MAY BE SMALL,
BUT MY EMPIRE KEEPS ON GROWING.

DON'T MESS WITH THE BOSS,
'CUZ YOU MIGHT GET FIRED.

NOW THAT I'VE GOT MY ACE,
I'VE GOT A FULL HOUSE.

MY BUSINESS IS BEAUTY,
AND I'M THE BOSS.

BEAUTY FADES,
CLASS IS FOREVER.

I KNOW HOW TO WORK IT,
AND BE SEEN.

I'M THE ULTIMATE SOUTHERN BELLE,
I GET WHAT I WANT.

I DON'T KEEP UP WITH THE JONESES;
IF IT DOESN'T MAKE ME MONEY,
I'M AN INDEPENDENT WOMAN,
PEOPLE CALL ME A GOLD DIGGER,
WHEN I WALK INTO THE ROOM,
I HAVE ARRIVED,
DON'T CALL IT A COMEBACK,
CALL ME A BAD SERVER,
MUSIC MAY BE MY PASSION,
I HAVE FAME AND FORTUNE,
I MAY BE SMALL,
DON'T MESS WITH THE BOSS,
NOW THAT I'VE GOT MY ACE,
MY BUSINESS IS BEAUTY,
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I KNOW HOW TO WORK IT,
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CALL IT A TAKEOVER!
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I'VE GOT A FULL HOUSE.
AND I'M THE BOSS.
CLASS IS FOREVER.
AND BE SEEN.
I GET WHAT I WANT.
AND I AM PRICELESS.
UNLESS I TWIRL FOR YOU.
AND I JUST LET THEM.
BUT I AM ALWAYS THE WILD CARD.
AND I DO.
SO STAY OUT OF MY WAY!

MY BUSINESS IS BEAUTY,
BEAUTY FADES,
I KNOW HOW TO WORK IT,
I'M THE ULTIMATE SOUTHERN BELLE,
A TRUE SOUTHERN BELLE KNOWS HER WORTH,
DON'T COME FOR ME,
PEOPLE GET EXHAUSTED TRYING TO FIGURE ME OUT,
PEOPLE MAY THINK THEY HAVE ME FIGURED OUT,
PEOPLE SAY I HAVE A PICTURE PERFECT LIFE,
I'M ABOUT TO GIVE YOU LIFE,
FRIENDS COME AND GO,
I'M TOO BLESSED TO BE STRESSED,
FAITH, FAMILY AND CAREER --
I AM STILL STANDING,
I MAY BE AN OPEN BOOK,
10 YEARS IN THE GAME,
I LIKE THINGS THAT ARE ELEGANT AND SOPHISTICATED

CALL IT A TAKEOVER!
BECAUSE I ALWAYS SPILL THE TEA!
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SO STAY OUT OF MY WAY!
BUT FAMILY IS FOREVER.
AND TOO SEXY TO BE THIRSTY.
THOSE ARE THE FACTS OF MY LIFE.
AND I AM MAKING MY OWN RULES.
BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN I AM EASILY READ.
AND I'M STILL THE TASTIEST PEACH IN ATLANTA!
JUST LIKE ME.

I'M A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.
JUST BUILD A BIGGER CLOSET.
NOT TO FIGHT.
IF YOU LIVE IN A BIG OLD MANSION.
AND YOU DON'T MESS WITH ME.
BUT FAMILY IS MY FORTUNE.
BUT IN DALLAS I'M NEVER ON THE SIDELINES.
SO I NEVER GET PLAYED.

SO I'M NOT TAKING YOUR BU

I'M NOT A TROPHY WIFE,

WHEN LIFE GETS MESSY,

I CAME HOME TO DALLAS TO SHINE MY LIGHT,

I'M THE GIRL NEXT DOOR,

YOU DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS,

I MARRIED INTO MONEY,

I WAS A COWBOYS CHEERLEADER,

I CHEERED FOR THE COWBOYS,

THIS ISN'T MY FIRST RODEO,

I STARTED FROM THE DALLAS DYNASTY,

THE WORD ON THE STREET IS,

IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE ME BEING THE WORD ON THE STREET,

I'VE PLAYED BY POTOMAC RULES,

KARMA IS A BITCH, BUT LUCKILY,

YOU MAY SAY I CAUSE TROUBLE,

I DON'T HAVE A COOKIE CUTTER LIFE,

LIFE HAS ITS UPS AND DOWNS

SO STAY OUT OF MY WAY!

BUT FAMILY IS FOREVER.

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LIFE HAS ITS UPS AND DOWNS

NOW IT'S TIME TO PLAY BY MY OWN.
I'M ON HER GOOD SIDE.
BUT I SAY I KEEP THINGS INTERESTING.
AND I'M NOT APOLOGIZING FOR IT.
BUT MY GAME IS ON THE REBOUND.
I'M AS REAL AS THEY COME.
THE SHORTER MY PATIENCE.
AND THE VIEW IS SPECTACULAR.
THE GRAND DAME STILL HOLDS CENTER COURT.
BUT THE GRAND DAME NEVER CRUMBLES.
THEN YOU'RE NOT WORTH KNOWING.
WHEN YOU CAN LAUGH OVER CHAMPAGNE.
BUT BABY, SO ARE DIAMONDS.
BECAUSE I'M THE WHOLE DARN PACKAGE.
AND I'M IN IT TO WIN IT.
THIS SLEEPING BEAUTY IS WOKE!
BUT I WANT MORE

YOU CAN TRY TO TEAR ME DOWN,
IF I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE,
WHY CRY OVER SPILLED MILK,
I MAYBE ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES,
YOU'LL NEVER PUT ME IN A BOX,
LIFE IS A PAGEANT,
NOW THAT I'M MARRYING MY PRINCE,
IT MAY LOOK LIKE I HAVE IT ALL,
I FINALLY FOUND MY VOICE,
KNOW YOUR FRIENDS,
HAVING IT ALL IS EASY,
MONEY IS WHAT I HAVE,
I WAS A CHILD STAR,
EVERYBODY LOVES A COMEBACK STORY,
I'VE BEEN RICH AND I'VE BEEN FAMOUS,
IN A TOWN FULL OF PHONIES,
I'M NOT THE RICHEST GIRL IN BEVERLY HILLS.

NOW IT'S TIME TO PLAY BY MY OWN.
I'M ON HER GOOD SIDE.
BUT I SAY I KEEP THINGS INTERESTING.
AND I'M NOT APOLOGIZING FOR IT.
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MONEY IS WHAT I HAVE,
I WAS A CHILD STAR,
EVERYBODY LOVES A COMEBACK STORY,
I'VE BEEN RICH AND I'VE BEEN FAMOUS,
IN A TOWN FULL OF PHONIES,
I'M NOT THE BIGGEST GIRL IN BEVERLY HILLS

BUT NOW MY MOST IMPORTANT ROLE IS BEING A MOTHER.
ESPECIALLY STARRING ME.
BUT HAPPINESS BEATS THEM BOTH.
I'M NOT AFRAID TO BE ME.
BUT I AM THE LUCKIEST.
BUT MY HAPPINESS STARTS AT HOME.
BUT IT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO BE YOURSELF.
AND I CAN ALWAYS SPOT A FAKE.
BUT FRIENDS SHOULD NOT.
THE TRUTH ALWAYS HAS A WAY OF RISING TO THE TOP.
AND I KNOW EVERYONE.
BUT IT SHOULD BE.
AND I LIKE TO TAKE THE LEAD.
LEADING THE PACK.
JUST NOT CRAZY ABOUT BITCHES.
BUT WHILST YOU'RE THERE, KISS MY ASS.
IT JUST GIVES YOU MONEY

PLANES AND YACHTS ARE NICE,
IN BEVERLY HILLS YOU CAN BE ANYTHING,
I'M AN EXPERT ON LUXURY,
IN THIS TOWN, FAME AND MONEY COME AND GO,

IN BEVERLY HILLS,
IN BEVERLY HILLS IT'S WHO YOU KNOW,
LIFE ISN'T ALL DIAMONDS AND ROSÉ,
LIFE IS A SEXY LITTLE DANCE,
THROW ME TO THE WOLVES AND I SHALL RETURN,

I'M PASSIONATE ABOUT DOGS,
YOU CAN STAB ME IN THE BACK,
MONEY DOESN'T GIVE YOU CLASS,
I LIKE TO HAVE FUN,
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE MY FRIEND,

CHARACTER ISN'T WHAT YOU HAVE,
FAKE FRIENDS BELIEVE RUMORS,

IN MY WORLD

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BUT I'VE PLAYED ONE ON TV.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'LL STICK TO YOUR SCRIPT.
BUT I SEE AND HEAR EVERYTHING.
BUT IT'S ONLY TRUE WHEN IT COMES FROM MY LIPS.
DON'T HUSTLE THE HUSTLER.
'CAUSE I ALREADY OWN IT.
IT'S RINNA TAKE ALL.
JUST MARRY A PLAYER.
WRAPPED IN A RIDDLE, AND CASH.
BUT I'M NOT TWO-FACED.
BUT THAT'S NOT ICE. IT'S DIAMONDS.
YOU CAN SPEAK IN ANY ACCENT YOU WANT.
EXCEPT MODERATION.
I WEAR MANY HATS... AND HAIRSTYLES.
BUT BEING MY BEST IS.
BUT I'LL NEVER DO YOUR DIRTY WORK.
I'M WORTH IT!

I'M NOT A BITCH,
I MAY BE AN ACTRESS,
I SPEAK NO EVIL,
YOU'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT ME,
MY ADVICE TO YOU:
I DON'T HAVE TO BUY IT,
IN THE GAME OF LIFE
DON'T HATE THE GAME,
I'M AN ENIGMA,
I MAY BE TWO PEOPLE,
SOME PEOPLE CALL ME COLD,
WHEN YOU'VE TRAVELED THE WORLD,
I BELIEVE IN AN EXCESS OF EVERYTHING...
IN BUSINESS AND IN LIFE,
HAVING THE BEST ISN'T IMPORTANT TO ME,
I'M NOT AFRAID OF HARD WORK,
I DESERVE ONLY THE BEST...

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I'M IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT.
YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU.
AND NOW I'M LOVING LIFE.
I DO IT MY WAY.
AND I LOVE FRIENDS.
I STILL GET TREATED LIKE A PRINCESS. I DESERVE IT.
YOU CAN ALWAYS RELY ON OTHERS.
SO WATCH OUT.
BUT THEY DON'T COME HOTTER.
FREEDOM ONLY MAKES ME HOTTER.
AND I HAVE GOOD AIM.
I'M JUST GETTING BOLDER.
AND I'M WILLING TO PAY.
AND MY ASS ISN'T BAD EITHER.
AND HIGHLY PRIZED.
AND, THE TOUGHEST, TOO.
I LOVE IT ALL.

I STILL GET PAMPERED,
NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY YOU HAVE,
I'M NOT THE NEW GIRL ANYMORE,
HOUSEWIVES COME YOUNGER,
I'M DONE BEING A TROPHY WIFE,
I CALL THE SHOTS IN MY LIFE NOW,
I'M NOT GETTING OLDER,
BOLDNESS COMES AT A COST,
MY FAITH IS STRONG,
I'M PINT SIZED, BAPTIZED,
I'M STILL THE HOTTEST HOUSEWIFE IN ORANGE COUNTY,
I LOVE THE BLING, I LOVE THE JEWELRY,
DON'T CALL ME A PRINCESS,
WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH,
IT'S NOT ABOUT HOW MUCH MONEY YOU HAVE,
GOD IS MY SAVIOR, MY HUSBAND IS MY KING,
I THANK GOD EVERY DAY FOR MY LIFE.

I'M IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT.
YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU.
AND NOW I'M LOVING LIFE.
I DO IT MY WAY.
AND I LOVE FRIENDS.
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GOD IS MY SAVIOR, MY HUSBAND IS MY KING,
I THANK GOD EVERY DAY FOR MY LIFE.

I AM THE PARTY.
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.
CUZ THERE'S A COUGAR ON THE LOOSE IN THE OC.
ONE SPORTS CAR AT A TIME.
YOU COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS...ONE DIAMOND AT A TIME.
EVEN IF IT SOUNDS FUNNY WHEN I SAY IT.
BUT I THINK THEY'RE JUST JEALOUS.
NO ONE CAN KNOCK ME DOWN.
YOU LEARN WHO YOUR REAL FRIENDS ARE.
BUT I JUST LOVE, LOVE, LOVE.
NOW I'M TURNING THEM.
THEN GET THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY.
I ROLL WITH THEM.
BUT I'M NOT ONE TO BRAG ABOUT IT.
I WILL CALL YOUR BLUFF.
BUT I'M TOUGHER THAN I LOOK.
YOU BETTER RUN.

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED,
YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE, BUT IF YOU WORK IT RIGHT,
IF YOU CAN'T TAKE MY SPARKLE,
THE O.C. IS FULL OF SECRETS,
WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS,
KARMA'S A BITCH,
THE TRUTH IS ORGANIC,
NOW THAT I'M IN THE O.C.,
IN THE GAME OF LIFE,
I CAN HANDLE A BABY,
I DON'T THROW PARTIES,
IF I WANT YOUR OPINION,
CALL ANIMAL CONTROL,
I'M LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM,
WHEN YOU COME FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS,
I SPEAK THE TRUTH,
PEOPLE MAKE FUN OF JERSEY GIRLS.

I AM THE PARTY.
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.
CUZ THERE'S A COUGAR ON THE LOOSE IN THE OC.
ONE SPORTS CAR AT A TIME.
YOU COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS...ONE DIAMOND AT A TIME.
EVEN IF IT SOUNDS FUNNY WHEN I SAY IT.
BUT I THINK THEY'RE JUST JEALOUS.
NO ONE CAN KNOCK ME DOWN.
YOU LEARN WHO YOUR REAL FRIENDS ARE.
BUT I JUST LOVE, LOVE, LOVE.
NOW I'M TURNING THEM.
THEN GET THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY.
I ROLL WITH THEM.
BUT I'M NOT ONE TO BRAG ABOUT IT.
I WILL CALL YOUR BLUFF.
BUT I'M TOUGHER THAN I LOOK.
YOU BETTER RUN.

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED,
YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE, BUT IF YOU WORK IT RIGHT,
IF YOU CAN'T TAKE MY SPARKLE,
THE O.C. IS FULL OF SECRETS,
WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS,
KARMA'S A BITCH,
THE TRUTH IS ORGANIC,
NOW THAT I'M IN THE O.C.,
IN THE GAME OF LIFE,
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I DON'T THROW PARTIES,
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WHEN YOU COME FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS,
I SPEAK THE TRUTH,
PEOPLE MAKE FUN OF JERSEY GIRLS

TAKE A PAGE FROM MY BOOK.
BUT NOW I THINK LIKE A BOSS.
BECAUSE I'M A BOSS.
SO DON'T CROSS ME.
WE BELIEVE IN RESPECT.
GET OUT OF MY KITCHEN.
YOU'RE SEEING TROUBLE!
NO ONE IS BRINGING ME DOWN.
AND YOU'LL FIND MY FACE.
BUT I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU BEHIND.
LEAVE THE REST TO YOUR PLASTIC SURGEON.
THE PIGTAILS AND THE PARTY.
YOUR CHOICE.
AND CHANEL.
AND ONE KICKASS LIFE.
STATUS IS EVERYTHING.
BUT NOW PEOPLE KNOW IT

IF YOU'RE GONNA MESS WITH MY FAMILY,
LIFE IS ABOUT CHANGE,
LIFE IS SHORT,
LOVE ME OR HATE ME,
IF YOU THINK I'M A BITCH,
I NEVER THROW THE FIRST PUNCH,
SEXY LIFE, LOYAL WIFE,
I ALWAYS ACT LIKE A LADY,
DON'T TRY TO BULLY ME,
PEOPLE SAY THAT I'M SWEET, BUT I'M TOUGH,
WE'RE OLD SCHOOL,
IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT,
YOU'RE NOT SEEING DOUBLE,
I'M A SURVIVOR,
LOOK UP LOYALTY IN THE DICTIONARY,
I MAY PUT UP A TOUGH FRONT,
MY MOTTO IS KNOW YOUR WORTH

TAKE A PAGE FROM MY BOOK.
BUT NOW I THINK LIKE A BOSS.
BECAUSE I'M A BOSS.
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I'M A SURVIVOR,

LOOK UP LOYALTY IN THE DICTIONARY,

I MAY PUT UP A TOUGH FRONT,

MY MOTTO IS KNOW YOUR WORTH

AND I'M NO EXCEPTION. HOPA!

I KNOW WHO I AM AND I OWN IT.

AND I LOVE LIVING IT.

ONE MISTAKE AT A TIME.

BUT I'M PRETTY!

BUT I'M JUST GETTING STARTED.

LIVING ELEGANTLY JUST COMES NATURALLY.

NEVER COUNT OUT THE COUNTESS.

I FIND THAT AN APHRODISIAC.

IT'S REALLY NOT MY PROBLEM.

BECAUSE IT'S TURTLE TIME!

I'M A WORK IN PROGRESS.

I JUST GET BETTER WITH TIME.

IT DOESN'T MATTER!

BUT MY SHIP IS COMIN' IN.

WHY DOES IT FEEL SO RIGHT?

BUT LATELY I PREFER BEING A BOTTOM

A TRUE NEW YORKER NEVER BACKS DOWN,
GOOD OR BAD,
I'VE CREATED A GREAT LIFE,
I'M LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM,
I MAY NOT BE THE SHARPEST TOOL IN THE SHED,
I THOUGHT I HAD IT GOOD BEFORE,
TO SOME PEOPLE,
ONE SHOULD KNOW...
I LIKE MAKING MY OWN MONEY,
IF PEOPLE CAN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH,
GET THE PINOT READY,
I KNOW I'M A PIECE OF WORK, BUT NOW,
LIKE A FINE WINE,
AGE IS AN ISSUE OF MIND OVER MATTER: IF YOU DON'T MIND,
MY YACHT MAY HAVE SAILED,
IF BEING SONJA IS SO WRONG,
PEOPLE CALL ME OVER-THE-TOP
AND I'M NO EXCEPTION. HOLLA!
I KNOW WHO I AM AND I OWN IT.
AND I LOVE LIVING IT.
ONE MISTAKE AT A TIME.
BUT I'M PRETTY!
BUT I'M JUST GETTING STARTED.
LIVING ELEGANTLY JUST COMES NATURALLY.
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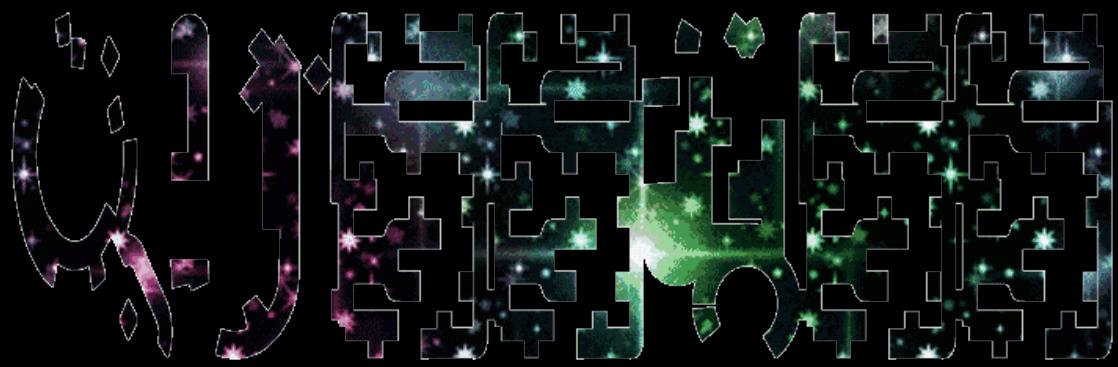
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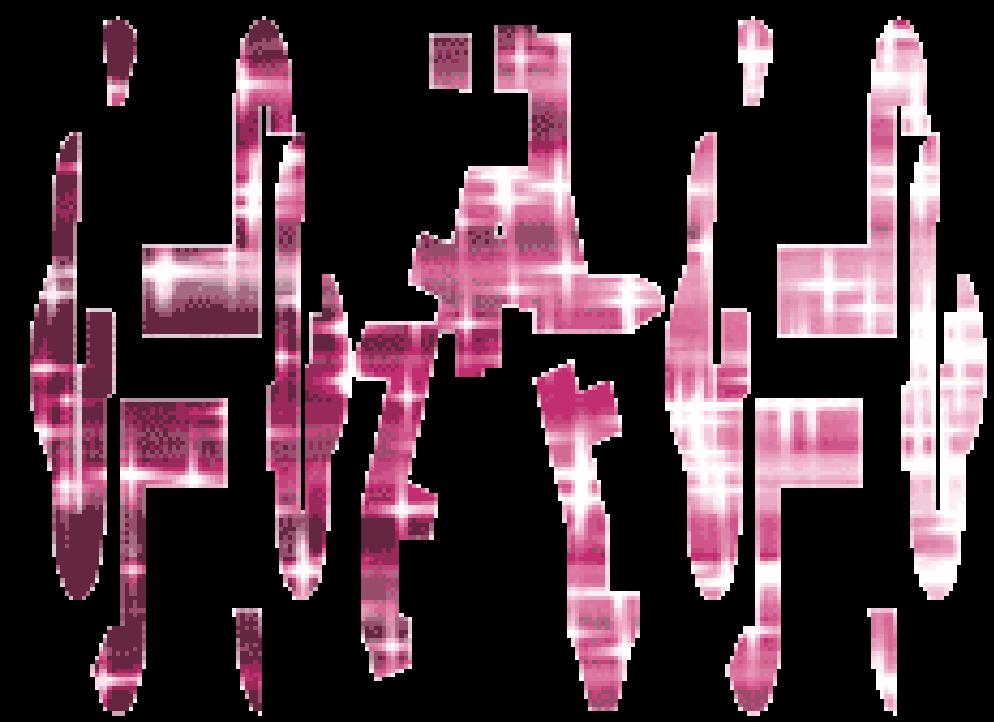
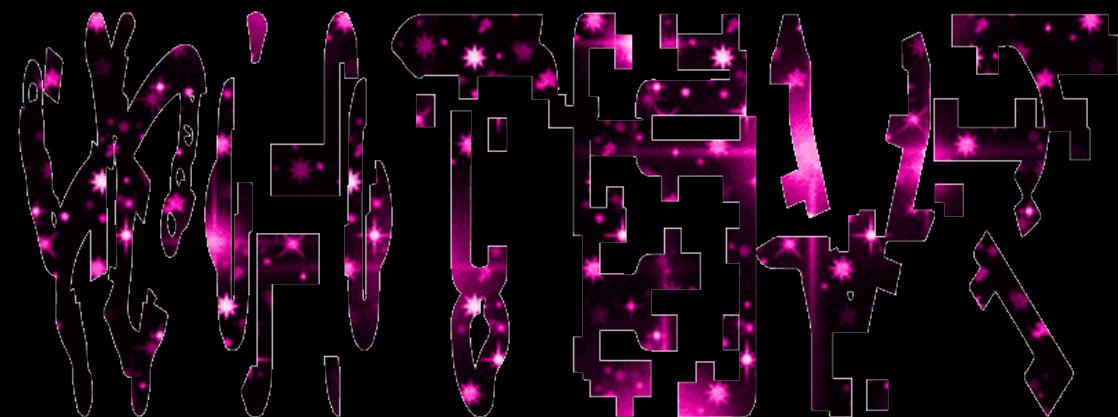
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Episode

[Magazine]



Episode

1: Reality TV



45

Sexy Unique Think Piece

By Everett Epstein

"The world has cried out against us both, but it has always worshipped you. It always will worship you. You are the type of what the age is searching for, and what it is afraid it has found. I am so glad that you have never done anything, never carved a statue, or painted a picture, or produced anything outside of yourself! Life has been your art. You have set yourself to music. Your days are your sonnets."

— Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

"Dude, I'm crying every day."

— James Kennedy

How does one begin? How do you start talking about *Vanderpump Rules*? What makes it so fucking good? This question animates everyone's experience of *VPR*. It makes the show endlessly vital, endlessly

demonic. We are all perpetually entering this text; we're all just starting; we're all on the verge of arriving.

We could begin with Jax Taylor, a sociopath who looks like a centaur. Or James, a demon who looks like a troll doll. Or Katie, who just sucks. Or Tom Schwartz, Katie's husband and a human limp dick. Or Tom Sandoval, whose hair makes relentlessly no sense. Or Kristin Doughty, whose soul is broken and who spends at least two seasons in a medicated fugue state. Or Lisa Vanderpump herself, an assemblage of Swarovski Crystals, QVC, and bedazzled blouses. I'd gladly die for Lisa.

We could begin with how perfectly their personalities map onto our current political moment: their pettiness,



I READ 440 SUR YELP REVIEWS SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO. HERE ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS.

52

EVA B. 10/4/19
1 STAR

THE FOOD WAS WAARY
OVER SEASONED. LIKE
SUPER DUPER OVER
SEASONED. I HAD
TO DRINK WATER ALL
NIGHT ALL THAT SALT MADE ME
SO DEHYDRATED. I'M STILL
GUZZLING WATER TODAY.



LINET O. 2/5/19
3 STARS

SUR: SEXY, UNIQUE, RESTAURANT.
ONE OUT OF THESE THREE IS
TRUE AND YOU CAN GUESS WHICH
ONE...

ANGELA R. 6/18/19
1 STAR

FLIES WERE SWARMING EVERY-
WHERE AND IT WAS ABSOLUTELY
DISGUSTING. I'M NOT ONE TO
LEAVE A BAD REVIEW UNLESS
IT'S REALLY BAD AND THIS
PLACE WAS TERRIBLE!

HILARY P. 9/25/19
1 STAR

VIBES WERE OK AND IT WAS KIND
OF FUN, BUT HONESTLY THERE
IS ONE PART OF THE BAR THAT
SMELLS LIKE A FART. YOU'LL
KNOW IT WHEN YOU SMELL IT.

GEANA N. 3/31/19
2 STARS

THE RESTAURANT IS WELL-AP-
POINTED, WITH A RUSTIC BA-
ROQUE STYLE (THINK
VELVET COUCHES AND
WROUGHT IRON CHANDE-
LIERS AND DISTRESSED
WOOD). THE STRAWBER-
INI, WAS THE WORST
COCKTAIL I'VE EVER HAD
IN MY LIFE. IT TASTED
LIKE STRAWBERRY COUGH SYRUP
WITH A SLICE OF STRAWBERRY IN
THE MIDDLE TO TRICK ME INTO
DRINKING IT.

ALISHA V. 5/26/19

4 STARS
WHEN WE FIRST WALKED IN, THEY
HAD A SIGN SAYING BASICALLY
BY WALKING INTO THE RESTAU-
RANT YOU'RE AGREEING TO BE ON
FILM. THE HOSTESS BROUGHT US
RIGHT TO OUR TABLE, BUT LISA
WAS FILMING AS WE WERE WALK-
ING THERE. WE HAD TO DUCK UN-
DER CAMERAS WHICH WAS PRETTY
COOL. AND REALLY FUN TO SEE
HER FILMING.

TARETTA D. 8/6/19

2 STARS
I'D HAVE TO SAY, LISA IF YOU
READ THIS. DITCH THE DE-
COR UPGRADE TO THE SOMETHING
LIKE VILLA BLANCA, PUMP OR
TOM TOM, THIS IS SUR - WHICH
NOW STANDS FOR SLOPPY, UGLY,
RESTAURANT. TIP FOR LISA:
CHANGE YOUR DÉCOR, MATTER OF
FACT, START OVER WITH THIS
RESTAURANT. GOING TO THE RE-
STROOM WAS A SCARY EXPERIENCE,
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING INTO AN
"ESCAPE ROOM". REMINDS ME OF
HALLOWEEN, WITH THAT CREEPY
LOOKING PINK CAR OUTSIDE.

EMMA S. 9/29/19
2 STARS
IT WAS A BIZARRE EXPERIENCE.
MY HUSBAND AND I WERE SHOVED
IN SOME WEIRD CORNER OF THE
RESTAURANT WHERE HE HAD TO
LITERALLY DUCK AND WEAVE
AROUND A HUGE POINTY STAT-
UE TO GET TO HIS SEAT (WHICH
ENDED UP GETTING THE BEST OF
HIM ON THE WAY OUT).

MARIA F. 5/6/19
5 STARS

AS WE WERE LEAD TO OUR TA-
BLE WE WALKED PAST THE LARG-
ER THAN LIFE PRESENCE OF JAX
TAYLOR. HE'S HUGE. THERE WAS
A LINE OF WOMEN WAITING TO
MEET HIM.

SIN B. 3/28/19
3 STARS
IF YOU'RE A FAN OF VPR, DO YOU
REMEMBER THE EPISODE WHERE
LISA HAS A SECRET SHOPPER
AND THE STAFF IS JUST KIND OF
LAZILY DOING THINGS? YEA, WE
HAD A SIMILAR EXPERIENCE.

KRIS M. 2/11/19
2 STARS
THEN IT HAPPENED, THEY
BROUGHT ME OUT A SPARKLER IN
AN EMPTY CUP BECAUSE NO ONE
ORDERED DESSERT. I FOUND THAT
TO BE INSULTING AND TACKY,
YOU COULD'VE JUST KEPT THE
SPARKLER.

JOSEPH F. 9/14/19
5 STARS
ALSO, AND THIS DOESN'T HAVE
ANY IMPACT ON MY SCORING BUT
EVERY SINGLE MEMBER OF THE
STAFF WAS DROP DEAD GOR-
GEOUS AND POLITE AS HELL!
LISA KNOWS WTF SHE'S DOING!!
PLEASE COME TO ATLANTIC CITY
WE NEED YOU!! MRS. VANDER-
PUMP CALL ME UP WE'LL SET-
UP A FRANCHISE/PARTNERSHIP
SITUATION!!





12

chose to become gladiators—our *America Ninja Warriors*, or *Survivors*, and those who were forced into performance—our *Ca\$h Cab* contestants or *Punk'd* victims.

Colosseum events would usually start with the latter events and work up to the gladiator battles—today as in Roman times they enjoy the greater popularity. They would start by rounding up a bunch of victims—often criminals, runaway slaves, or people forcibly taken from far off lands that had been incorporated into the empire. Or in modern times, say, actor Zach Braff, Season 4, Episode 3 of *Punk'd*. The spectacle would be hosted by wealthy individuals or emperors (like venerable Ashton Kutcher, co-creator and ringmaster of *Punk'd*). And then they would be exposed to the beasts, just as Zach Braff's \$100,000 Porsche was exposed to young pranksters with fake spray paint.

The entertainment in *Punk'd* lies in the emotional arc of the celebrity being pranked. It's tense—he, they get angry just like us plebs! Pleb being a Latin word meaning "normie"—one who is neither enslaved nor patrician (the wealthy ruling classes) who would've made up the majority of the audience back then as they do now. Resolution lies in the prank's big reveal, Zach Braff's relief is palpable, the audience also unclenches. The resolution at the amphitheatre would have come too, but when the lion or whatever enormous creature had torn its hapless victim to pieces. Chalk it up to cultural differences. But in both situations we could imagine the viewer thinking to herself, "What would I do in this situation?"

In an unaired scene, Zach Braff apparently punched his teenage prankster in a rage over destroying his car. Editing out a casual punch to a lower status individual? The Romans probably couldn't fathom how we'd gotten so soft.

Gladiators were more likely to become fighters by choice, inasmuch as they were usually low status people who chose their path in order to get free housing and nutri-

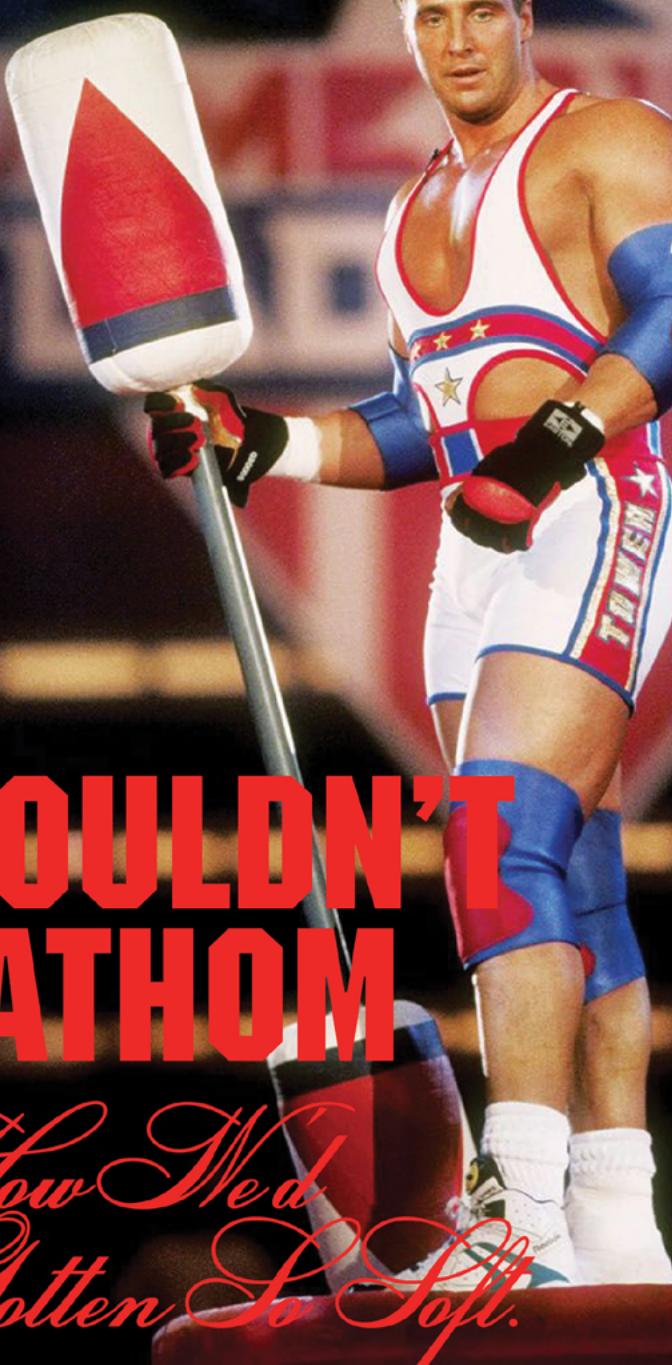
tion, and the possibility of wealth and freedom, should they be successful in combat. Our modern competition reality shows attract contestants for similar reasons, usually either for glory or for needed money, although the presenters tend to really lay on the sob stories thickly. It's a juxtaposition between mindless entertainment and real tragedy: David Alvarez from *American Ninja Warrior* needs press to find his sister who he was separated from in foster care; every *Chopped* contestant needs money for their ailing child/father/mother/partner/Shiba Inu.

The 20th season of *Survivor*, considered one of the best, pits "heroes" vs "villains." Like gladiator events, the producers brought back the more popular contestants for another round of challenges. In the very first competition of the season, a sort of beach volleyball meets capture the flag meets wrestling event, we see toes become misaligned, breasts pop out of bikini tops and shoulders pop out of their sockets. The breasts are blurred out, the shoulder is not. Rough stuff for television.

These survivor contestants have been invited back because they're the most tenacious, or two-faced, or sexy. They make for good television. Not because, as in Roman times, they're the only ones actually survived a previous event. *Survivor*, then, is a bit of a misnomer. Those yesteryear arena events could go by *Survivor*, and the show could be called *Willingly Making Yourself Uncomfortable*. No one hasn't survived *Survivor*.

As our contemporary contestants, gladiators enjoyed an infamous popularity. On one hand, their blood was considered a cure for impotence, and parting a young woman's hair with a spear was said to result in fertility. They were extremely popular entertainment, and people might have a favorite gladiator. In modern day competition one competes from home with friends as well—cheering on the chosen contestant, bragging about their accomplishments from the couch as they

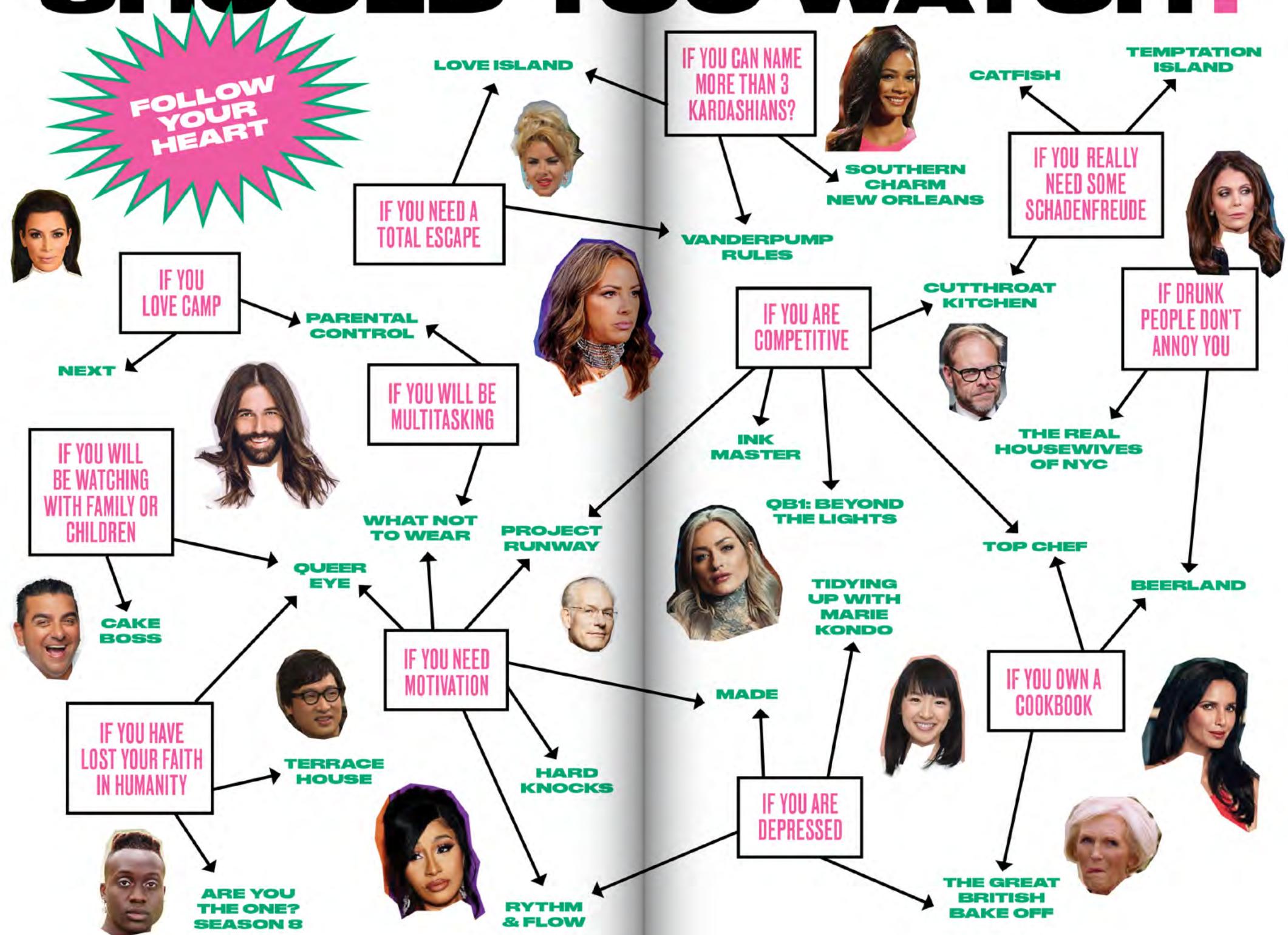
THE ROMANS PROBABLY



COULDN'T FATHOM

*How Ned
gotten so soft.*

WHICH REALITY SHOW SHOULD YOU WATCH?



23

The Legacy of An American Family on Instagram

By Ashley D'Arcy

In May, 1971, Sue and Alan Raymond moved to Santa Barbara, California for a job shooting a new PBS documentary series. The married filmmakers would spend seven months filming the show, which was released as *An American Family* in January, 1973. The series was a document of, as the title suggests, an American family: The Louds. The family consisted of Bill and Pat Loud, who met in their shared hometown of Eugene, Oregon and had been married over 20 years, and their five children ranging from age 13 to 20. Four of their kids—Kevin, Grant, Delilah and Michele—were still living in the picturesque California home while Lance, the eldest son, had recently moved to New York where he was staying at the Chelsea Hotel.

An Amiercan Family takes place largely in the Loud's airy kitchen and dining room

at family dinners, around their pool, and in the driveway which curls around the side of the house and is host to after-school hijinks. Over the course of 12 one-hour episodes, the Loud children and their friends orbit the force that is Pat Loud, a beautiful, sophisticated woman often donning large sunglasses and always in a fashionable garment. Sometimes the crew follows the patriarch Bill Loud as he travels across the American Southwest selling replacement equipment to miners and occasionally watching as they blow apart the desert landscape. We are also privy to Lance's life in New York and his travels to Europe, a vivid, Andy Warhol-adjacent document of gay culture in the 1970s.

It wasn't until after shooting began that it became clear that Bill and Pat Loud's marriage was on the rocks. Craig Gilbert,



REBECCA R. 9/15/19

2 STARS

A DISGUSTING SAUNA, BASICALLY.

EMMA O. 6/30/19

4 STARS

MY ONLY PROBLEM WITH SUR WAS THE CHAIRS OUTSIDE. FOR THE PRICE I AM PAYING I WANT MORE COMFORTABLE CHAIRS.

ASHLEY A. 3/3/19

2 STARS

THE AMBIANCE WAS VERY WEIRD AND DESPERATE.

JASMIN C. 8/22/19

2 STARS

IT WASN'T BUSY, BUT WE WERE SAT IN A WHITE BACKROOM WHERE I CAN ONLY PRESUME THEY PUT PEOPLE THEY DON'T WANT SEEN LOL (I BLAME MY HUSBAND'S SANDALS AND BASKETBALL SHORTS FOR THAT) BUT THE CHANDELIERs WERE A CHEAP LOOKING DIRTY PLASTIC WHICH JUST ISN'T THE GLAMOR I EXPECTED FROM SUCH A POSH RESTAURANT.

REV. EMILY G. 2/17/19

5 STARS

US SIX SASSY, MIDDLE AGED, BASIC SUBURBAN BITCHES DROVE TO SUR ALL THE WAY FROM THOUSAND OAKS.

KAREN L. 6/26/18

3 STARS

THE TOAST WAS TOO BURNT AND IN SOME BITES, IT TASTED AS IF I WAS EATING A TOASTED MARSHMALLOW MIXED WITH A TACO.

TONI P. 5/8/19

3 STARS

THE RESTAURANT WAS BROKEN UP INTO SECTIONS AND THE DECOR DIDN'T MAKE SENSE - WASN'T COHESIVE THROUGHOUT. BUDDAS IN ONE AREA, A COPPER LOOKING ANGEL ON THE PATIO, SOME FAKE PLANTS AND DIFFERENT COLOR SCHEMES THROUGHOUT.

AMEER S. 5/18/19

3 STARS

COOL INTERIOR VIBE, BUT KIND OF CHEESY THAT THEY PLAY THE SHOW ON THEIR TVs.

ANDREW L. 7/5/19

5 STARS

HOPEFULLY, THAT ONE GUY WHO IS THEIR BARTENDER IS BACK (I GUESS HE'S OUT OF TOWN GETTING MARRIED AT THE TIME WE WERE THERE). I WANT HIM TO MAKE ME A DRINK AND I THINK MY WIFE HAS A CRUSH ON HIM. FINE BY ME IF HE MAKES A KILLER MANHATTAN.

ALLY N. 7/1/19

1 STAR

IT'S LIKE GOING TO THE ZOO AND GETTING SPIT IN THE FACE BY A LAMA. DON'T PUT YOUR FACE NEXT TO THE LAMA.

CHRISTA S. 3/26/19

2 STARS

IT'S VERY LA, COOL VIBE, KEEP YOUR SHADES ON WHEN IT'S DARK, TOO MUCH MAKEUP, HAIRSPRAY, YOU NAME IT, IT'S FAKE KIND OF PLACE.

SHAY N. 7/25/18

1 STAR

WHY WERE WE CRAMMED NEXT TO A PLANT? I LITERALLY REQUESTED GREAT SEATS FOR THIS DINNER AND WE GOT THE WORST SEATS.

THADDEUS G. 2/1/19

3 STARS

THE BREAD IS HANDS DOWN THE WORST I HAVE EVER HAD. IT TAKES A LOT OF EFFORT TO FIND BREAD THAT IS SO BAD TASTING.

CHRISTINA H. 1/7/19

1 STAR

WILL NOT BE RETURNING, EVEN IF IT WAS THE LAST RESTAURANT ON THE PLANET.

TIFFANY M. 8/21/19

1 STAR

WE WAITED AT THE BAR FOR ANOTHER 10MINS WITH NO SERVICE! NOT ONE DRINK WAS SERVED TO TWO BEAUTIFUL GIRLS!

CANDICE R. 6/29/19

5 STARS

CAME TO SUR WITH A FEW FRIENDS. OUR COLLECTIVE GUILTY PLEASURE IS THE HOUSEWIVES OF BEVERLY HILLS. EEEEEEK MY TEENAGE SELF FROM MANY MOONS AGO EMERGED LOL

ASHLEY B. 5/12/19

5 STARS

I GENUINELY FELT LIKE I WAS IN AN ENCHANTED FOREST.

LISA RAFFI JESIAH D. 4/24/19

1 STAR

I GAVE THE HOST A COMPLIMENT ABOUT HER SHOES AND SHE JUST STARED AT ME BLANKLY AND TURNED AWAY.

ANGEL W. 9/12/18

2 STARS

I KNOW THE ONLY REASON WHY DUMB TOURISTS LIKE US COME HERE IS BECAUSE ONE PERSON IN YOUR GROUP WATCHES THE TELEVISION SHOW (OURS WAS THE BIRTHDAY GIRL) BUT THE ONLY OTHER PATRONS ARE COLLEGE GIRLS TAKING INSTAGRAM PICTURES AND WANNABE SUITS TRYING TO HIT ON THE WAITRESSES (WE SAW THIS HAPPEN ABOUT 27 TIMES)

KELLY M. 4/16/19

5 STARS

I SWEAR THEY MUST PUMP A LIGHT INCENSE MIST THROUGHOUT THE VENTS. IT SMELLS SO GOOD IN THERE!!!

JESS V. 8/2/19

2 STARS

MY SPICY MARGARITA WAS GROTESQUE.

STEPHANIE S. 2/12/18

3 STARS

IF YOU'RE GOING SPECIFICALLY TO SPOT AN EXOTIC ANIMAL THAT IS THE PUMP RULES CAST, SKIP EATING AND JUST NURSE ONE DRINK THAT YOU CAN ACTUALLY STOMACH UNTIL YOU SPOT SOMEONE "COOL".

DANIEL B. 9/19/18

1 STAR

VISITED FROM TEXAS AND I HAD NO CLUE IT WAS PART OF A TV SHOW UNTIL MY WIFE EXPLAINED IT WAS PART OF THAT ANNOYING SHOW I SEE HER WATCHING. IF YOU ARE GONNA HALF ASS IT WITH THAT JOKE OF BEFORE DINNER BREAD DON'T WASTE MY TIME OR YOURS. THERE WASN'T ENOUGH BUTTER IN THE WHOLE PLACE TO HELP THAT FOSSILIZED CARDBOARD GO DOWN SMOOTH. NO DESIRE TO RETURN UNTIL MY WIFE MAKES ME AGAIN SOMEDAY.

ARIAN H. 2/19/19

1 STAR

I'M SORRY THAT MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF SUR HAD TO BE THE HOSTESS WHO DEFINITELY DID NOT HAVE THE MOSTEST.

MONICA T. 2/12/18

3 STARS

WON'T BE RETURNING UNLESS I KNOW ARIANA IS MAKING MY PUMPTINI, KATIE IS MY SERVER, AND JAMES IS THERE DJING... OH AND LISA IS WALKING AROUND WITH GIGGY.

PAM M. 7/28/19

4 STARS

I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND TAKING CHILDREN AS THERE WAS A VERY DRUNK GIRL FLASHING HER BOOBs A LOT.



A photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a dark, silhouetted forest. The sky is filled with warm, orange, yellow, and red hues, with darker clouds at the top transitioning into lighter ones near the horizon. The sun is partially visible, showing a bright yellow center and a surrounding ring of orange and red.

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It is bound to
leave you
feeling
soulful and
free intended

for daytime
use, it is
perfect to wear
on a ~~pequiní~~
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♪ summer day.
Do you make it
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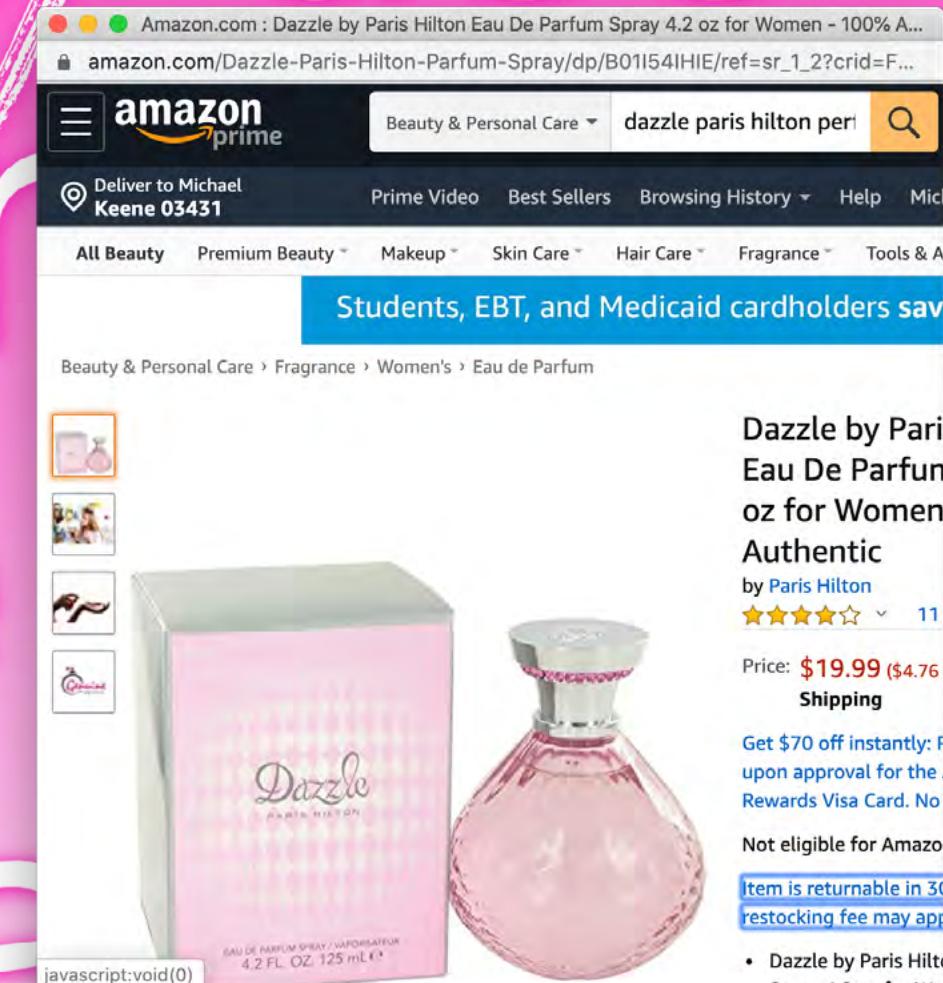
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Price: \$17.49 Prime

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Size: 2.7 FL Oz

everyday use
by women
embrace
yourselves
timeless



♪ Everybody has
one. It is a
magic love
potion of sweet
temptation that
lays a

leaves a
tantalizing
trail of
bracing
sensuality.
Like a secret

Amazon.com: Fantasy/Britney Spears Depp Spray 3.3 Oz (W): Beauty

amazon.com/Fantasy-Britney-Spears-Depp-Spray/dp/B000ZJW6TY/ref=sr_1_1?k...

amazon prime

Beauty & Personal Care

Deliver to Michael Keene 03431

Prime Video Best Sellers Browsing History Help Michael

All Beauty Premium Beauty Makeup Skin Care Hair Care Fragrance Tools & A...

Students, EBT, and Medicaid cardholders save

Beauty & Personal Care > Fragrance > Women's > Sets

i Purchased 1 time.
You last purchased this item on April 2, 2020.
[View this order](#)


Fantasy/Britney Spears Depp Spray 3.3 Oz (W)
by [Britney Spears](#)
 335 ratings | 3 ans
Amazon's Choice for "fantasy perfume"

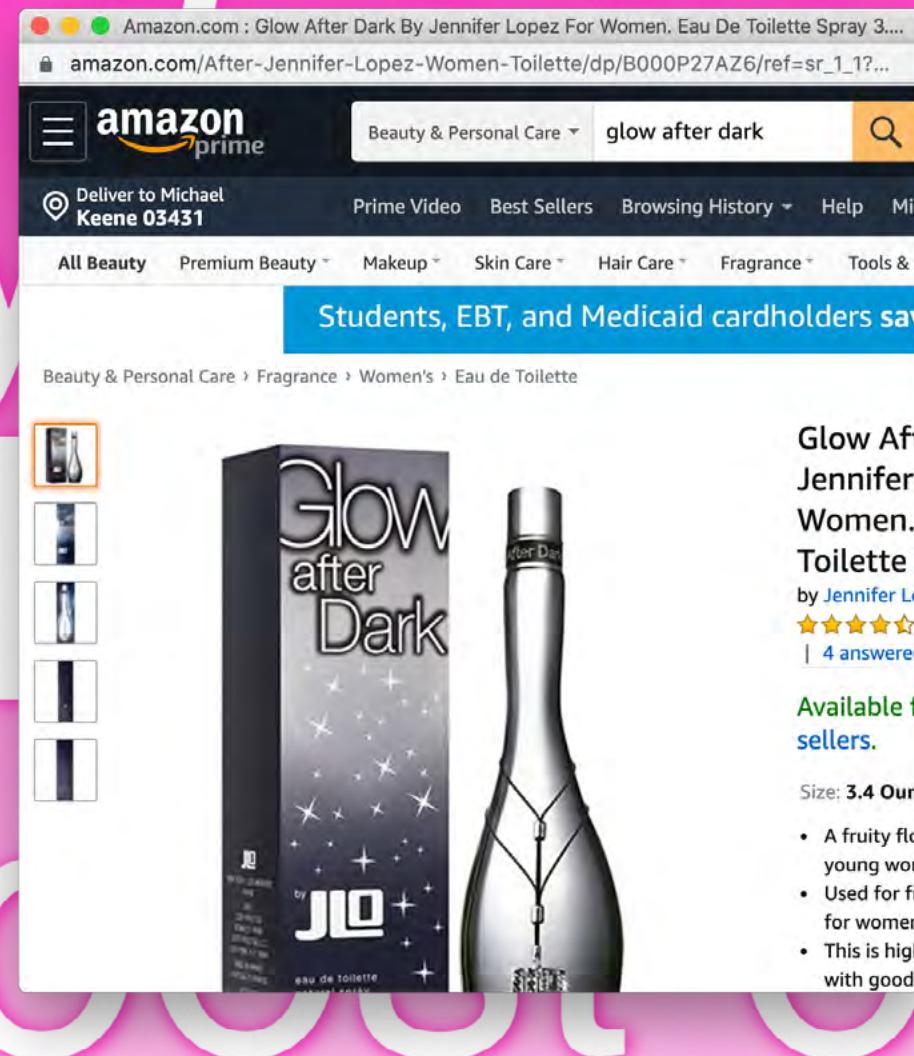
Price: **\$27.60 (\$8.36 / Fl Oz) Prime FREE**
Get \$70 off instantly: Pay **\$0.00** \$27.60
the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Card. [Learn more](#)

Available at a lower price from other sellers without free Prime shipping.

an intimate
fantasy.

Intriguing,
sensual and
romantic, it

hanging out
with your
friends. Gives
you a boost of
confidence
and lets your





occasions
when you want
to sparkle and
shine.

*Captivating,
it unleashes a*

♪ beauty. Get
ready to be
seduced. What
do you have to
hide?

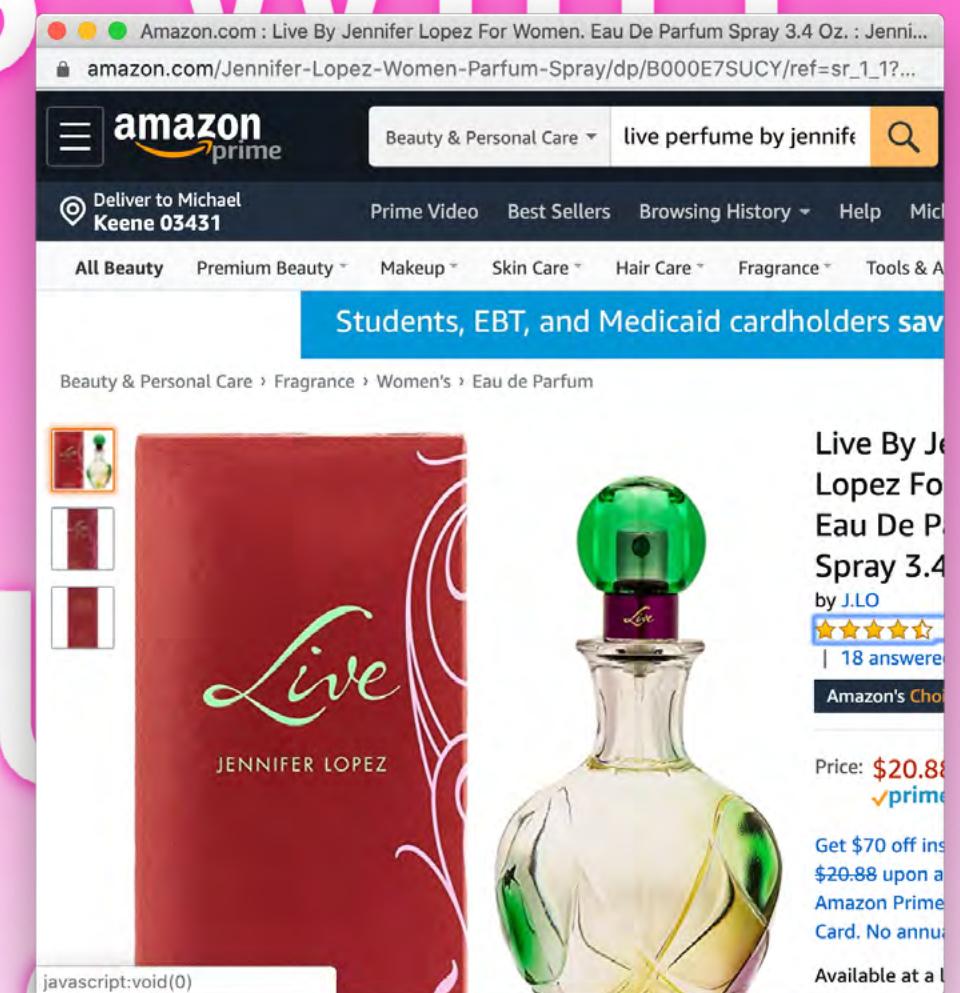
Confidential

♪ Sweet,
young and
reminiscent of
a tropical
island
paradise. it is

♪ exciting night
of drinks with

the girls,
make you

young and
adventurous



♪ except for the
stylish modern
woman. Let
out your wild
side. Bold,
fierce, it's

♪ exciting it is
hip and
youthful to
inspire your
rebellious
spirit. Wear it

of sweetness.

Smooth and
seductive, all it
takes is a
touch to set
inner passion



stirring. A

The screenshot shows an Amazon product page for 'Christina Aguilera Touch of Seduction'. The product is a 30ml Eau de Parfum. The price is listed as \$10.82, marked down from \$10.82. There is a promotional offer for \$70 off with a Rewards Visa Card. The product has a 4.5-star rating based on 49 reviews. The page includes a sidebar with other perfume options and a main content area showing the product packaging and a small bottle.

wining combination that will leave you wanting



more. A *sensual* combination radiating femininity the way every



way every
woman does.

Feel
charming to
let you make a
sparkling

first
impression.

This website playfully proposes that women should not feel guilty about enjoying pop culture. It is designed as a single-page scroll filled with layers of pop culture and junk food floating atop a slowly moving cloudy sky background. Each gif and image is draggable, and the user must sift through these pop culture references in order to read the text beneath. Hovering over the semi-transparent bubblegum type makes it become opaque, signaling a link to an external website.* There are several Britney Spears gifs scattered throughout the page and, when clicked on, her 1999 hit song (*You Drive Me*) Crazy plays. The text reads:

Pop culture is often compared to junk food; something to feel guilty for consuming. But the term “guilty pleasure” is a defense mechanism used to elevate oneself from the disdain for pop culture. Specifically the disdain for mass media geared towards women. Watching reality TV is considered frivolous and shallow, but religiously following a sports team is perfectly respectable. In the words of writer Jaya Saxena, “When men enjoy something, they elevate it. When women enjoy something, they ruin it.” It’s time to stop feeling guilty about enjoying pop culture. Women are socially conditioned to feel guilty about so many things: what we eat, what we wear, saying “no,” feeling guilty, working too much, etc. Pop culture needn’t add to the list.

*<https://www.jstor.org/stable/41810307?seq=1>

<https://www.yelp.com/topic/tampa-guilty-pleasures-unique-junk-food-edition>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/fulfillment-any-age/20110/the-essential-guide-defense-mechanisms>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTjLBjpqSA>

<https://www.manrepeller.com/2018/04/the-problem-with-not-caring-about-pop-culture.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2017/sep/08/princess-nokia-destiny-frasqueri-rap-riot-grrrl>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/posteverything/wp/2018/06/14/no-my-book-is-not-a-guilty-pleasure-just-because-im-a-woman/>

<https://babe.net/2018/03/02/why-people-hate-the-kardashians-39091>

<https://www.espn.com/fantasy/football/>

<https://www.newyorker.com/sports/sporting-scene/the-mind-of-the-sports-superfan>

<https://www.tastecooking.com/women-arent-ruining-food/>

<https://www.health.com/mind-body/dealing-with-guilt>

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/7079068/Women-feel-more-guilt-than-men.html>

<https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2015/06/ariana-grande-issues-important-feminist-manifesto>

After reading *Dead Girls* by Alice Bolin, I began to seriously consider the ethics of my own fascination with true crime and the “Dead Girl” genre of television. Why am I entertained by depictions of real or fantasy murdered women? Seeing girl after girl brutally killed on dead girl shows has desensitized me to violence against women.

I am not only desensitized; I am fascinated. I listened to season one of the *Serial* podcast in one day. I binge-watched *Making a Murderer*. *Zodiac* is one of the few movies I watch on a regular basis. I am an evangelist for *The Jinx*. In *Savage Appetites*, Rachel Monroe explores the world of women who love Dead Girl entertainment: At a true crime conference, she and other women “found pleasure in these bleak accounts of kidnappings and assaults and torture chambers, and you could tell by how often we fell back on the language of appetite, of bingeing, of obsession.”

On Dead Girl shows, the murdered women are treated as props while the focus is given to the (more often than not) male murderers or detectives. Bolin writes, “There can be no redemption for the Dead Girl, but it is available to the person who is solving her murder. Just as for the murderers, for the detectives in *True Detective* and *Twin Peaks*, the victim’s body is a neutral arena on which to work out male problems.”

This website is both a memorial to and archive of the 148 women and girls murdered during the first twenty seasons of *Law & Order: SVU*. While binge-watching the entire series, I took screenshots of each Dead Girl and recorded her name, cause of death, age of death, and murderer. This exercise proved to be somewhat traumatic.

The website’s landing page is a gravestone engraved with one of their names at a time. The user must click on the name to advance through all 148 of the murdered women and girls. The *SVU* opening credits “dun dun” plays with each click. This sound is humorous at first, but quickly becomes grating. Fake flowers rest at the bottom of the page as well as links to individual *SVU* season pages. Within each season page are gridded screenshots of the Dead Girls killed during that season as well as their names and the titles of the episodes in which they were killed.

Perfection Salad
Website, 2019
[p. 136–147]

Published on February 19, 1963, *The Feminine Mystique* is widely credited for second-wave feminism in America. In the book, Betty Friedan describes “the problem that has no name” as the unhappiness felt by suburban housewives on account of their inability to live up to the feminine ideal. This problem was amplified by advertising. Ads depicted beautiful, smiling women in the kitchen, happy to be the domestic caregiver. Mid-century food trends are inherently linked to femininity.

Perfection Salad is named after an actual aspic recipe. The appeal of Jell-O salad was that it is a salad completely in control of itself. Taste was unimportant as long as it looked beautiful. The ubiquity of instant Jello-O should have meant less domestic labor, but society pressured women to add more work into the cooking process, so as not to be perceived as a lazy wife or uncaring mother. Elaborate Jello-O dishes were a physical representation of the pressure to perform femininity.

Jello-O salads have mostly fallen out of favor (except in some Midwestern states), but performing femininity has not. One means of performing femininity is wearing nail polish. From a young age, my mother stressed the importance of having “presentable” hands and unchipped nail polish. Nail polish names are amusing and absurd, but they reflect society’s impossible expectations of women. Women should be hyper-sexual yet innocent. Perfect yet carefree. Independent yet desirable to men.

The design of this website formally mimics mid-century recipe cards with speculative Jello-O salads wiggling in front of vibrant close-up food textures. The recipe title on each card corresponds to the real nail polish color that the salad is rendered in. With a click, the website animates as if flipping over to reveal the back of the recipe card. Instead of ingredients, it lists names of contemporary nail polish colors. Hovering over a nail polish name changes the text to its hex color.

Garden of Reality Delights
Collage, 2019
[p. 148–159]

Temptation Island is a reality TV show featuring four couples putting their relationships to the test in paradise, aka Belize. The couples separate for twelve weeks to live in villas full of “sexy singles” of the opposite sex. The ensuing hours of television consist of many drunken nights that bear a striking resemblance to the central panel of Hieronymous Bosch’s *The Garden of Earthly Delights*.

The triptych’s central panel depicts figures cavorting and shamelessly engaged in amorous activities. It has been described as a “playground of corruption.” Like the fates of the men and women on *Temptation Island* who inevitably break up on national television, it is a paradise lost.

Garden of Reality Delights is a collage of more than 1,000 screenshots I took while binge-watching *Love Island (UK)*, *Love Island (USA)*, *Love Island (AUS)*, *Temptation Island*, and *Paradise Hotel*. Inspired by the stock photos of paradise wallpapered throughout the villas, I printed the collage on a piece of inexpensive silk at tapestry scale. This material is both sexy and cheap, like reality TV romance.

Given the prompt to design with a historic artifact as primary source material in the Providence Public Library special collections, I selected *The Buccaneers of America*. Written in 1678 by Alexandre Exquemelin, this book caught my attention with an equally repulsive and amazing illustration of a man eating his enemy's heart. *The Buccaneers of America* is an exciting read, featuring the original pirate celebrity Captain Morgan and many hyperbolic tales of plundering and dismembered limbs.

Blimey! Is a campy gossip magazine for pirates to read and enjoy some schadenfreude. With the exception of the headlines and captions, all text is sourced directly from Exquemelin. The imagery is a combination of stock photos and scans of the book. The magazine includes found advertisements for Neosporin, Captain Morgan rum, and tropical “island escape” cruises.

Eye-rolling is widely associated with teenage girls, but psychologists believe that, evolutionarily, women would roll their eyes as a form of indirect aggression in order to survive. Inspired by a gesture workshop in my Decolonizing Design course, I shot a closely cropped video of myself rolling my eyes. I selected still frames and overlaid text listing examples of sexist things I have personally experienced. This text was typeset in Résistance by A collective.

In the spirit of the Guerilla Girls and public protest art, I posted my eyes in various RISD elevators and stairwells before stealthily wheatpasting others elsewhere around Providence. For the final installation, I posted the eye-roll at a much larger scale (seven feet wide) outside the RISD auditorium. The accompanying text was posted next to the installation:

During my day-to-day at RISD, and more generally as a female in public, I find myself eye-rolling a lot: at the random man on the street who tells me to smile & at my dad who says I should appreciate being cat-called & at the male student who repeats verbatim what a female student just said in crit & at another RISD class taught by a cis white male professor & at my graphic design textbooks perpetuating the myth of the creative male genius & at the male student who interrupts and talks over a female student during crit.

Since 2006, Bravo's *The Real Housewives* series has documented the lives of rich women's small social groups in Orange County, New York City, Atlanta, New Jersey, D.C. Beverly Hills, Miami, Potomac, Dallas, and [coming soon!] Salt Lake City. This reality series was inspired by *Desperate Housewives*, but these women need not actually be housewives. A Bravo press release describes the series concept as depicting "real-life 'desperate' housewives with an authentic look at their compelling day-to-day drama."

The opening credits of each episode feature the housewives posing in glitz dresses and stilettos while reciting their own aphorism or catch phrase. This aphorism changes each season, often in relation to the events that transpired the previous season. As a long-time fan of *The Real Housewives of New York City*, I have always enjoyed the campy quality of these opening lines. After collecting and archiving the aphorisms from every franchise, I noticed they are generally compound sentences split into two clauses.

This website lists a total of 356 aphorisms spoken by 97 housewives from every released season of seven franchises. Both the left and right sides of the website are scrollable, enabling the user to remix the aphorisms. The resulting aphorisms are sometimes ridiculous but often plausible, making it difficult for the user to correctly re-align the halves to.



A few years ago, a friend and I invented our own emoji-only texting style. An emoji is often used in place of typing out the full word it represents, but we reinterpreted the emojis to be purely formal. In our system, words and phrases are spelled using emojis as Roman alphabet characters. For example, the party hat makes a great "A" and the snake is a real go-to "S." There aren't any strict rules, so the basketball could be an "O" now and the crystal ball could be an "O" later.

Given the prompt to create a set of 50 glyphs using only Excel, I found the software's icon/emoji palette and sorted them by which roman character they could represent. Next, I distorted the icons' forms and stretched them to the common proportions of an iPhone, referencing the original emoji texting concept. I chose the icons that yielded the most interesting results to compose the final set of 50 glyphs.

I was then prompted to typeset a collection of found text in the font to create a type specimen of sorts. I chose to use found vanity plate language because the seven character limit on vanity plates forces creative spelling. I specifically selected vanity plates with internet/texting language such as "BOYBYEE" and "SRYHNNY." With this language, I designed a final set of glitter gif stickers available for download on [GIPHY](#).

Given the popularity and scale of the reality TV industry, the amount of critical discussion about the genre is disproportionately lacking. Reality TV is the perfect choice for escapism and effortless viewing, but at the same time, it reflects societal desires, anxieties, and biases. In a sort of *Entertainment Weekly* meets *The New Yorker*, this magazine is a critical celebration of reality TV.

Working as both designer and editor, I commissioned my friends and colleagues to write humorous and insightfully critical articles about the genre. In “Times New Roman” Anja Lutz compares reality competition shows to Roman gladiator events. In “Tempted by *Temptation Island*” Mary Kate Foraker describes what makes this show ludicrous and amazing. In “The Legacy of *An American Family* on Instagram” Ashley D’Arcy gives us an in-depth look at what is considered the first reality TV show. In “Queers Against Algorithms” Chris Lee examines the “chaotic queerness” of season eight of *Are You The One?*. In “Sexy Unique Think Piece” Everett Epstein explores the grotesque world of *Vanderpump Rules*.

Episode also features a number of lighthearted features including Sara Park’s celebration of Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie’s early-aughts fashion on *The Simple Life*, a best-of SUR Yelp reviews, and a quiz to guide readers on their next reality binge.

I have always been intrigued by the business of online perfume sales. Who would risk buying a new scent without being able to actually smell it first? Perfume marketing is selling an idealized image of femininity, not a smell. Celebrity perfumes are generally cheaper and less esteemed than designer perfumes, but America’s celebrity obsession has given them a market. As Lindy West writes in *The Witches are Coming*, “Media overpowers our conscious minds, no matter how hard we try to hang on—our knowledge of what is right, who has an agenda, what we are really worth. Marketing is powerful and beauty culture is powerful....”

This website is a karaoke-like continuous scroll of 41 descriptions of perfumes released by female pop stars including Britney Spears, Shakira, Beyoncé, Ariana Grande, Mariah Carey, J Lo, Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, Rihanna, Lady Gaga, Nicki Minaj, Kylie Minogue, Gwen Stefani, and Christina Aguilera. The descriptions are sourced from a variety of websites* and edited for consistency. Each one is also a hyperlink so the user can easily purchase the perfume on Amazon.com. I am in the process of becoming an Amazon affiliate so I will receive a small portion of each sale that originates from my website.

Every adjective on flirty-sweet-perfect-sensual-fun-confident-feminine-fantasy.com is typeset in a script font, in reference to the typography found on celebrity perfume packaging. This script font changes with each new perfume description, allowing the user to see where one description ends and then next begins. The user can also click on the music note icon to play the karaoke version of the Britney Spears song *Everytime* while the text scrolls.

*<https://www.perfume.com/>
<https://www.fragrancenet.com/>
<https://www.shakiraperfumes.com/us/en>
<https://www.macys.com/>
<https://www.kohls.com/>
<https://www.theparfumespot.com/>
<https://store.beyonceparfums.com/collections/fragrance>
<https://www.beyonceparfums.com/>
<https://www.ulta.com/>
<https://www.fragranceex.com/>
<http://fragrances.christinaaguilera.com/>

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Credits



The Bachelor, 2020.

Mom, Michael, Papa, and my family: for making RISD possible and supporting my dreams since forever.

HGP <3

My 2020 Sheeple: Seyong [*What Would Seyong Do?*] Ang, Lizzie Baur, Mukul Chakravarthi, Aleks Dawson, Hilary duPont, Calle [*Caleb RISD*] Ewerbring, Fabian Fohrer, Emily Guez, Yoon Kim, Sophie Loloi, Vai Mahendran, Caroline Smith, Bobby Joe Smith III, and Weixi Zeng.

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Class of 2018 and 2019: Thanks for showing us how it's done.

Class of 2021 and 2022: Can't wait to see what you get up to.

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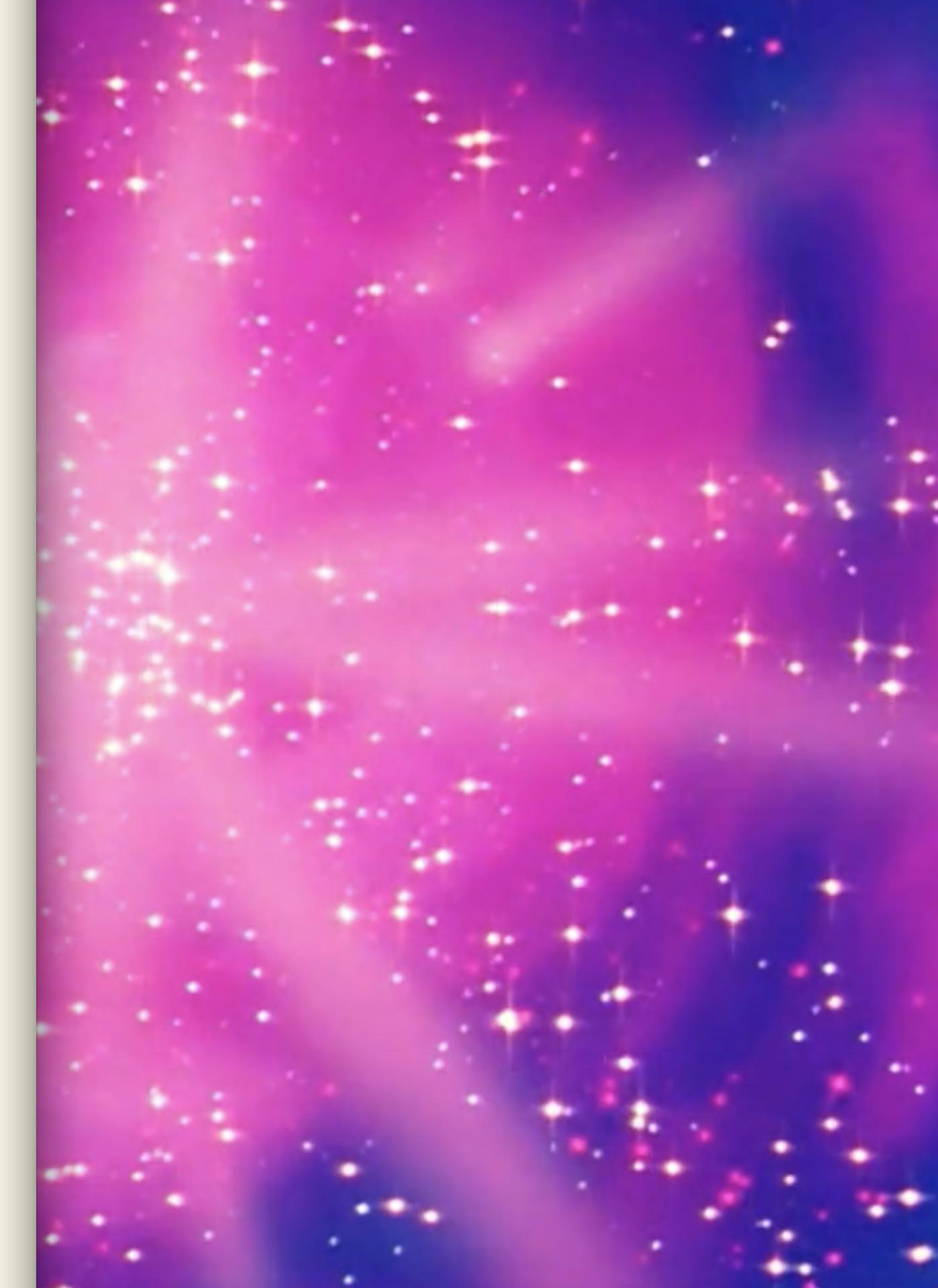
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