

**METRO
EDITION**

**CANCEL THE GUY
SITTING NEXT TO YOU:**

Our favorite noise-blocking
headphones p. 7

32 Netflix hidden gems

**WHAT TO
STREAM**

p. 10

NYC:

24 secrets it takes
years to learn p. 5

**CHEAP
STEAK**

p. 8

How to cook:

vs.

**EXPENSIVE
STEAK**

also p. 8

GIF p. 3

SOCIAL. MOBILE. RECYCLABLE.

MARCH 6, 2019

BuzzFeed



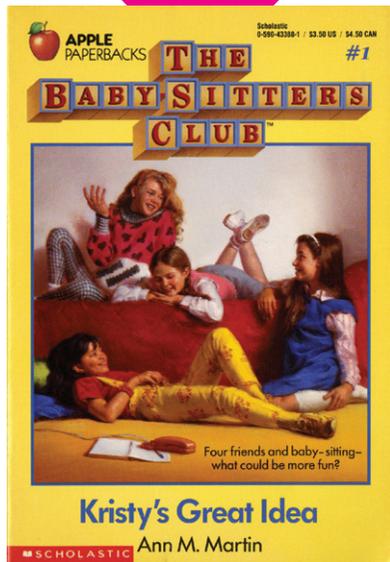
**“HELP!
I’M IN
LOVE WITH
MOMO”**

From hoax
to hottie

p. 3

**PLUS:
INCREDIBLE
SAVINGS!**

GET GREAT
DISCOUNTS ON THE
BACK PAGE!



"May the bridges you burned light the way to a better place, Luke Perry."

The Baby-Sitters Club Is Back

Say hello to Kristy, Mary Anne, Claudia, and Stacey.

Netflix has ordered a 10-episode reboot of *The Baby-Sitters Club* TV series based on the beloved children's books by Ann M. Martin.

"The themes of *The Baby-Sitters Club* still resonate 30 years after the original book series was released, and there has never been a more opportune time to tell an aspirational story about empowering young female entrepreneurs," said Melissa Cobb, vice president of kids and family at Netflix, in a statement announcing the series.

First published in 1986, the books following the adventures of a group of BFFs in the fictional town of Stoneybrook, Connecticut, became a global sensation. More than 200 books were published in Martin's series, with over 180 million copies sold.

HBO first adapted the series for a one-season show in 1990, while a movie was made in 1995 starring Rachael Leigh Cook (*She's All That*) and Larisa Oleynik (*The Secret World of Alex Mack*).

Like those projects, this Netflix reboot will remain sweet and wholesome, unlike the streaming service's *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*, which was closer to the comic book series featuring that character than the show *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, which first aired in 1996.

No word yet on casting, but all five main characters — Kristy Thomas, Mary Anne Spier, Claudia Kishi, Stacey McGill, and Dawn Schafer — are making a return.

Martin, the original author, will serve as a producer on the new live-action series. "I'm amazed that there are so many passionate fans of *The Baby-Sitters Club* after all these years, and I'm honored to continue to hear from readers — now grown, who have become writers, editors, teachers, librarians, filmmakers — who say that they see a reflection of themselves in the characters of Kristy and her friends," Martin said in a statement. "So I'm very excited about the forthcoming series on Netflix, which I hope will inspire a new generation of readers and leaders everywhere." —**DAVID MACK**

@Mat, Twitter

KEEPING AN ON THE NEWS THIS WEEK

► **Michael Cohen**, Donald Trump's former attorney/fixer, will be back on Capitol Hill Wednesday following last week's marathon before a House committee in which he called the president "a racist ... a conman ... and a cheat."

► Oscar winner **Brie Larson** takes on the role of Captain Marvel, the fighter pilot turned superhero, in the latest Marvel Cinematic Universe release opening Friday.

► Attention, *Serial* superfans: HBO's *The Case Against Adnan Syed* premieres March 10. The documentary explores the disappearance and murder of high school student Hae Min Lee, and the conviction of her ex-boyfriend, Syed.

THE SCOOP BuzzFeed News



WWF's Secret War

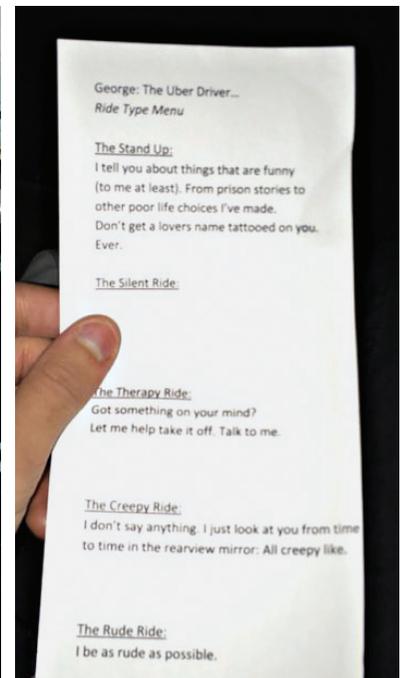
The human cost of WWF's war on poaching. A BuzzFeed News investigation.

In national parks across Asia and Africa, the World Wide Fund for Nature funds, equips, and works directly with paramilitary forces that have been accused of beating, torturing, sexually assaulting, and murdering scores of people, a BuzzFeed News investigation has found.

The charity's field staff in Asia and Africa have organized anti-poaching missions with notoriously vicious shock troops, and signed off on a proposal to kill trespassers penned by a park director who presided over the killings of dozens.

WWF has launched an "independent review," led by a human rights specialist, of the evidence uncovered by BuzzFeed News. "We see it as our urgent responsibility to get to the bottom of the allegations BuzzFeed has made," the charity said.

<https://bzfd.it/2SLLmvS>



Choose Your Uber Adventure

A Seattle driver created a menu to allow passengers to customize their ride experiences. Looking at you, NYC.

A Seattle-based Uber driver is being commended for a simple but very thoughtful idea to allow passengers to customize their rides: He created a "Ride Type Menu."

The options on the menu created by George Ure, 38, include "The Silent Ride," "The Therapy Ride," and "The Stand Up [Ride]."

Luis Arguijo, 21, who received the menu during a recent ride, said he was "immediately impressed" and amused by Ure's menu, so he tweeted a picture of it. Arguijo's tweet has since gone viral, with over half a million likes and nearly 120,000 retweets.

Ure's list of "menu" items was also accompanied by descriptions of each type of ride commonly experienced by Uber drivers and riders.

"Got something on your mind? Let me help take it off. Talk to me," read the description for the Therapy Ride.

Ure also joked about other common experiences, like "The Creepy Ride," which he described as: "I don't say anything. I just look at you from time to time in the rearview mirror."

Ure, who's been driving for the ride-hailing company for three months now, told BuzzFeed News he was inspired to print out real menus after joking about it with customers.

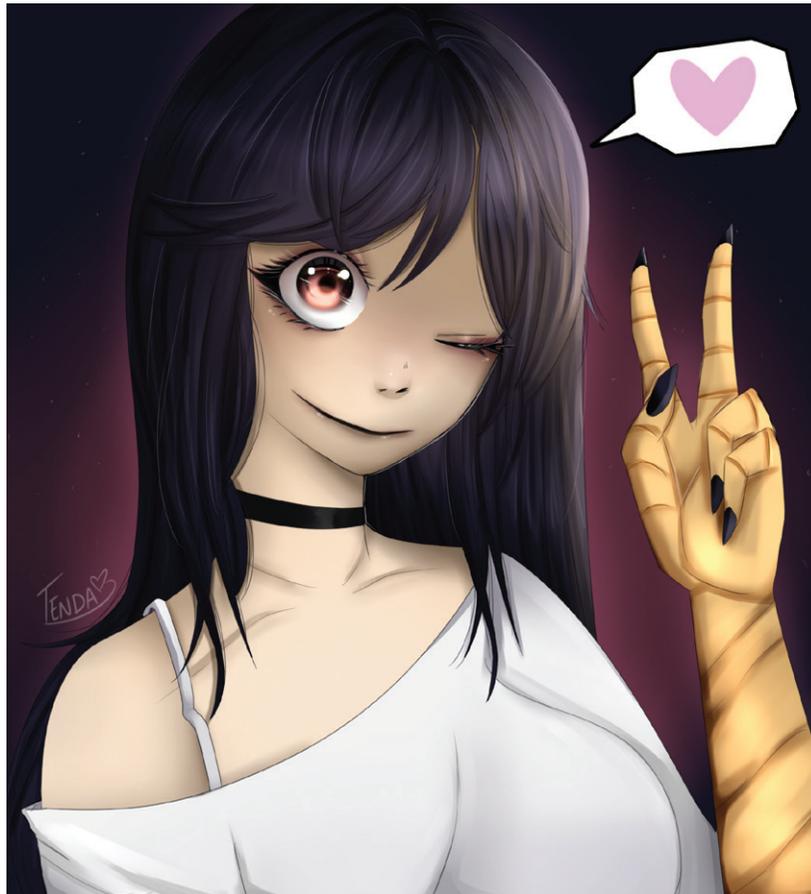
Ure even consulted with a chef friend of his about how to lay it all out like a restaurant menu. He then printed out 20 copies, and left them in the backseat for his riders to find.

Ure said the top choices among his riders are the Silent Ride and the Stand Up. He personally prefers rides where he can share stories and morsels of what he calls his own "ridiculous life."

Arguijo and his friends chose the Therapy Ride option and gave it a rave review. "He was really open-minded and a good listener." —**TANYA CHEN**



"BuzzFeed is the equivalent of those tabloids you buy at the grocery store on the way out that introduce you to Martians and tell you the story of three stars who had anguished lives that you never knew about." —Newt Gingrich, Jan. 18, 2019, on Fox & Friends



Fan renderings of Momo (clockwise from left): Tendaaf, Michael Burpo, and TheCittiverse

How Momo Went From Viral Hoax to Viral Hottie

She won't hurt your children, but she might break your heart.

By Katie Notopoulos

Momo has gone from nightmare to dreamy, in record time.

The creepy character, a hideous gargoyle with bulging eyes, first emerged on YouTube in the middle of a harmless kids video — where she told viewers to harm themselves.

Local TV news stations, New York City public schools, and even Kim Kardashian West's Instagram warned parents about the threat.

But there's no indication that Momo was ever more than a hoax — or that anyone got hurt.

And now the same digital culture that turned Momo into a global nightmare is transforming her into something else: a sex symbol.

"When I first laid eye[s] on Momo I fell in love," said an artist who goes by the name Whetsit-Tuya, who posted a photo of a custom body pillow with Momo's face on the site DeviantArt.

Momo is just the latest sinister pop culture figure to be remade by the internet in an entirely new way — a process that seems to have become faster and weirder in 2019.

There are people who celebrate the creature from the horror movie *The Babadook* as a happy gay icon, and others who find *Venom*

Original sculpture by Keisuke Aiso



from the recent Marvel movie sexy. Things have been done to Pokémon characters that we simply can't reprint in this family newspaper.

Momo, who began her life as a photo of a statue by a Japanese special effects company, may have undergone the most dramatic transformation.

"I just really dislike that a really impressive piece of art made by someone is being given such a bad reputation because of people just wanting a little bit of internet fame," said one Momo defender on Tumblr who drew Momo smiling with a heart.

"I was really scared of Momo at first," said Michael Burpo, 16, a digital artist from Hawley, Pennsylvania. "But after looking into what she is and stuff, I've grown to REALLY like her."

And so Momo joins a long tradition — predating the internet, even — of turning an object of fear into an object of lust. And while the panic that Momo could hurt your kids is a hoax, the real danger may be that Momo has caused adults to make some really weird images on the internet. ■

Cory Booker Thinks Margaritas Are Made With Vodka and Sir, No

You probably don't want the teetotaling 2020 presidential candidate to be the bartender at your next party.

US senator and presidential candidate Cory Booker appeared on BuzzFeed News' morning show *AM to DM* to discuss his fight to legalize pot.

We quizzed Booker — who doesn't drink alcohol — on what goes in a margarita. It didn't go so well.

"Um, so, margarita, there's fruit, and there is ice, and there is... uh, vodka," he said.

Someone off camera quickly corrected Booker.

"Tequila! I'm sorry!" he said.

"This is brutal. This might lose some votes from people in my family right now because they're embarrassed."

As of press time, margaritas are, of course, made with tequila, Cointreau, and lime juice.

—LAUREN STRAPAGIEL



BOOKER, GINGRICH: GETTY IMAGES (4); WOODSON: CARLOS DIAZ / HARPERCOLLINS; GETTY IMAGES (3); TENDAAF, MICHAEL BURPO, THECITTIVERSE; DEVIANT ART; ORIGINAL MOMO: COURTESY KEISUKE AISO / LINK FACTORY; CLOSE AND PORTER: ABC

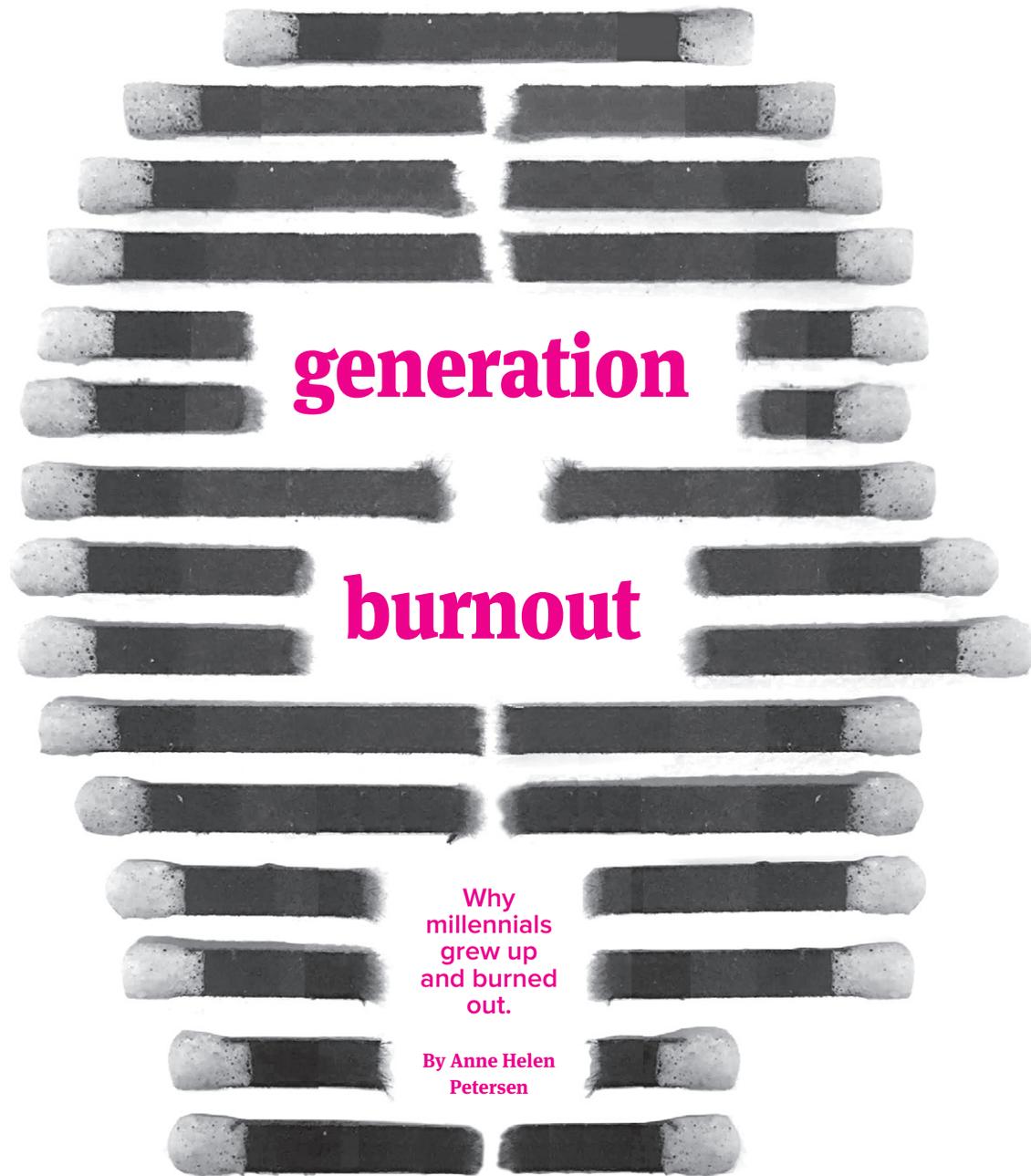


GET LIT Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment and BuzzFeed Books have selected five titles to be part of the annual **One Book, One New York** campaign: *A Place for Us* by Fatima Farheen Mirza; *Nilda* by Nicholasa Mohr; *Just Kids* by Patti Smith; *Another Brooklyn* by Jacqueline Woodson; and *Free Food for Millionaires* by Min Jin Lee. Beginning on April 1, New Yorkers can cast their votes to determine which book the whole city will read together. **More information:** nyc.gov/onebook. #OneBookNY

GIF'd

Glenn Close saw Billy Porter during the Oscars, and girl: same.





You may have read the story about the 27-year-old who isn't planning to register to vote: "I hate mailing stuff; it gives me anxiety."

This sort of thing gives millennials a bad reputation: We're spoiled, entitled, lazy, and failures at "adulthood." We're shocked at the realities of life: that you have to pay bills and go to work; that you have to buy food and cook it if you want to eat it; that actions have consequences.

And millennials, especially older millennials like me, at 38, love to complain about other millennials giving them a bad name.

But as I fumed about the 27-year-old's post office anxiety, I was deep in a cycle of a tendency I've come to call "errand paralysis." I'd put something on my weekly to-do list, and it'd roll over, one week to the next, haunting me for months.

These are simple tasks: getting knives sharpened, taking boots to the cobbler, registering my dog for a new license, sending someone a signed copy of my book, scheduling a doctor's appointment, vacuuming my car. A handful of emails festered in my personal inbox, which I use as a sort of alternative to-do list, to the point that I started calling it the "inbox of shame."

It's not as if I were slacking in the rest of my life. I was publishing stories, writing two books, making meals, moving across the country, planning trips, paying my student loans, exercising. But when it came to the mundane, the medium priority, the stuff that wouldn't make my job easier or my work better, I avoided it.

My shame about these errands expands with each day. I remind myself that my mom

was pretty much always doing errands. Did she like them? No. But she got them done. So why couldn't I get it together — especially when the tasks were all, at first glance, easily completed? I realized that the vast majority of these tasks share a common denominator: Their primary beneficiary is me, but not in a way that would actually drastically improve my life. They are seemingly high-effort, low-reward tasks, and they paralyze me — not unlike that 27-year-old too paralyzed to register to vote.

He and I are not alone in this paralysis. My partner was so stymied by the multistep, incredibly (and purposefully) confusing process of submitting insurance reimbursement forms for every single week of therapy that for months he just didn't send them — and ate over \$1,000. Another woman told me she had a package sitting unmailed in the corner of her room for over a year. A friend admitted he's absorbed hundreds of dollars in clothes that don't fit because he couldn't manage to return them. Errand paralysis, post office anxiety — they're different manifestations of the same affliction.

For the past two years, I've refused cautions — from editors, from family, from peers — that I might be edging into burnout. To my mind, burnout was something aid workers, or high-powered lawyers, or investigative journalists dealt with. It was something that could be treated with a week on the beach. I was still working, still getting other stuff done — of course I wasn't burned out.

But the more I tried to figure out my errand paralysis, the more the actual parameters of burnout began to reveal themselves. Burnout and the behaviors and weight that accompany it aren't, in fact, something we can cure by going on vacation. It's not limited

to workers in acutely high-stress environments. And it's not a temporary affliction: It's the millennial condition. It's our base temperature. It's our background music. It's the way things are. It's our lives.

That realization recast my recent struggles: Why can't I get this mundane stuff done? Because I'm burned out. Why am I burned out? Because I've internalized the idea that I should be working all the time. Why have I internalized that idea? Because everything and everyone in my life has reinforced it since I was young. Life has always been hard, but many millennials are unequipped to deal with the particular ways in which it's become hard for us.

So what now? Should I meditate more, negotiate for more time off, delegate tasks within my relationship, perform acts of self-care, and institute timers on my social media? How, in other words, can I optimize myself to get those mundane tasks done and theoretically cure my burnout? As millennials have aged into our thirties, that's the question we keep asking — and keep failing to adequately answer. But maybe that's because it's the wrong question altogether.

The answers to these questions are longer than I can fit in this throwback print column — only the sprawling internet has that kind of space. (You can find the long version at bzfd.it/burnout.) But I've come to the conclusion that its origins are about work and economics, not some generational quirk.

Our paths were defined by the 2008 financial crisis, and while the economy recovered, and we moved out of our parents' houses and found jobs, many of us never found financial

security. Because education was situated as the best and only way to survive, many of us emerged from those programs with loan payments that our post-graduation prospects failed to offset.

But we didn't try to break that system, since that's not how we'd been raised. We tried to win it.

I knew the system was winnable for only a small few. I just believed I could continue to optimize myself to become one of them.

And it's taken me years to understand the true ramifications of that mindset. I'd

worked hard in college, but as an older millennial, the expectations for labor were tempered. We liked to say we worked hard, played hard — and there were clear boundaries around each of those activities. Grad school, then, is where I learned to work like a millennial, which is to say, all the time. My new watchword was "Everything that's good is bad, everything that's bad is good": Things that should've felt good (leisure, not working) felt bad because I felt guilty for not working; things that should've felt bad (working all the time) felt good because I was doing what I thought I should and needed to be doing in order to succeed.

Now I realize that individual action isn't enough. Personal choices alone won't keep the planet from dying, or get Facebook to quit violating our privacy. To do that, you need paradigm-shifting change. Which helps explain why so many millennials increasingly identify with democratic socialism and are embracing unions: We are beginning to understand what ails us, and it's not something an oxygen facial or a treadmill desk can fix. ■

“
We didn't try to break that system, since that's not how we'd been raised. We tried to win it.”

It's a misdeed to fart in New York City churches. Up until World War II, everyone in the city who was moving apartments had to do so on May 1. Nov. 26, 2012, was the only day in recent history with no report of violent crime in the city.

Albert Einstein's eyeballs are stored in a safe deposit box somewhere in the city.

The Empire State Building has its own zip code: 10118.

Madison Square Park, Washington Square Park, Union Square Park, and Bryant Park all used to be cemeteries. (There are 20,000 bodies buried under Washington Square Park alone.)

Three-quarters of the crosswalk buttons in New York City are placebo. They haven't worked since the '80s. —KEVIN McSHANE

One in every 38 people in the US live in New York City. Eight hundred different languages are spoken in New York City, making it the most linguistically diverse city in the world.



Halal food is actually the best NYC street food — not hot dogs or those gross sugary nuts.

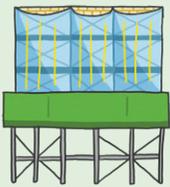


It's not raining, it's an air conditioner.



If a subway car is empty, it's empty for a reason. Half of the time it's because it smells terrible. The other half it's because it doesn't have AC.

European tourists are OBSESSED with squirrels. It's a thing. Just please don't feed them.



All scaffolding stays up for 4 to 20 years.

Your apartment will either be hot as hell or cold as ice. There is no in-between.



Yes, there are roaches and mice... but there are also HUGE flies that somehow always magically end up in your apartment.

The guy with the cat on his head is not nice.



Slush-puddle season will test your will to live. Snow is nice for five minutes, then huge puddles form and every corner is an obstacle.

Crust-punk season is April to October. Then they go back home.



All apartment pictures on Craigslist/StreetEasy/wherever you're looking for an apartment were taken with a potato. Basic rule: If it looks too good to be true then it 100% is. There are no deals or "steals."



There are no public bathrooms. Have fun waiting in that 20-person Starbucks line.

What No One Tells You About NYC

Once you have these facts down, you'll feel like a native New Yorker.

By Matt Stopera, Illustrations by Ben Kothe



You'll never, ever have time for those poor street canvassers. Just don't make eye contact or say "I already donated."

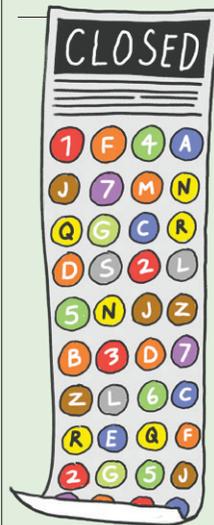
OK BUUUUT...the real truth is that while street canvassers are annoying, the people who work for TV shows and movies who ask you to cross the street or "wait a minute" are even more annoying. I HAVE TO GET TO WORK — I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR EPISODE OF CAKE BOSS.



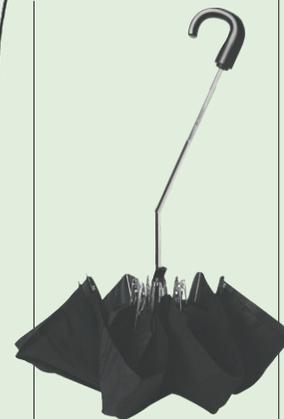
There is no such thing as spring. Also, fall is like two days.



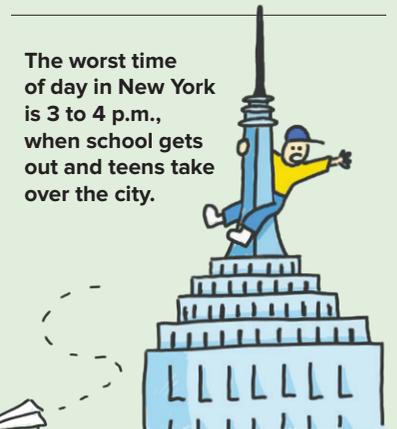
SantaCon day, whenever it falls, is the scariest, most awful day of the year. It's like that movie *The Purge*, but with drunk people from Jersey and Long Island puking all over everything.



Yes, the subway never works, but it REALLY never works on weekends. Good luck reading that sign.

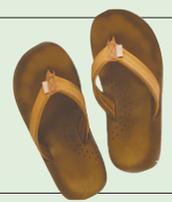


You will buy 700 of these cheap umbrellas and they will always break after one or two rainstorms. You will also never have an umbrella when you need one.



The worst time of day in New York is 3 to 4 p.m., when school gets out and teens take over the city.

It's never OK to wear flip-flops.



JFK is the worst airport in the world. You will never have a good experience there. Everyone is very mean.

And most important, never call yourself a "real New Yorker" unless you were born and raised in the city. "Real New Yorkers" will freak out. Everyone likes to argue.

Tune in and Dip Out

19 books coming in 2019 that you'll want to keep on your radar, because we could all use a distraction right now.

By Arianna Rebolini and Tomi Obaro

Bowlaway by Elizabeth McCracken
Bowlaway revolves around the eccentric Bertha Truitt and the New England bowling alley she owns. It's a Dickensian saga spanning the 20th century, full of whimsy (Bertha opens the bowling alley after being found unconscious in a cemetery with nothing on her but a bowling ball, a candlepin, and 15 pounds of gold) — and it's a heartfelt portrait of human relationships and entanglements. [Available now](#)

Normal People by Sally Rooney
Rooney's novel follows the relationship between Connell and Marianne — the former a popular football star, the latter more of an introvert — as they weave in and out of each other's lives through high school and then university, at Trinity College in Dublin. As the pair discover new desires and temptations, they redraw the boundaries of their identities and

navigate intimacy as new adults. [Pub date: April 16](#)

Black Leopard, Red Wolf by Marlon James
Black Leopard, Red Wolf is the genre-bending first installment in James's Dark Star trilogy, and it's rich in mythology and full of vibrant characters. It focuses specifically on a mercenary called Tracker, who travels across a fantastical Africa in search of a kidnapped boy, encountering strangers who warn of shapeshifters, necromancers, and witches along the way. But who is this boy everyone is looking for — and why is he so important? [Available now](#)

Coventry: Essays by Rachel Cusk
Cusk's highly anticipated Coventry is the provocative author's first essay collection, comprising new and previously published writings that expand on themes prevalent

in her fiction — family, gender, politics, art, and the conflicts between private and public selves. [Pub date: Aug. 20](#)

We Cast a Shadow by Maurice Carlos Ruffin
In We Cast a Shadow, Maurice Carlos Ruffin presents a biting satire of anti-blackness in the US, imagining a near-future South so plagued by violent racism that many black residents are turning to Dr. Nzinga for a "complete demelanization." When a father sees his biracial son seemingly getting darker every day, he considers the procedure, worried for Nigel's fate — but there's such a fine line between protection and harm. [Available now](#)

Women Talking by Miriam Toews
Between 2005 and 2009, in a small Mennonite community in Bolivia, more than 100 girls and women were drugged and assaulted by men in the colony — who then told the women these were the acts of demons. This sharp and devastating novel imagines the aftermath: While the men leave to post bail for the attackers, eight women gather to decide their next steps. What follows is a two-day-long discussion about justice, forgiveness, faith, and anger. [Pub date: April 2](#)

Good Talk by Mira Jacob
Mira Jacob's graphic memoir is a frank but warm examination of the world as it is distilled and understood by Jacob's 6-year-old son. Looking for the best way to answer

the many questions her son, who is half Jewish and half Indian, asks about not only the world but also his place in it, Jacob turns to her own history, and the conversations about race, sexuality, injustice, and love that have helped her. [Pub date: March 26](#)

Gingerbread by Helen Oyeyemi
Oyeyemi's latest beguiling novel tells the story of an oddball mother-daughter duo who live in London and make delicious gingerbread — a family recipe supposedly quite popular in the mother's homeland. As daughter Perdita grows older and more curious about her mother's mysterious upbringing, she digs into the past and ferrets out a thorny family legacy. [Available now](#)

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous by Ocean Vuong
Vuong's debut novel is written as a letter from Little Dog, a man in his late twenties, to his mother, who can't read. The letter dives into their family's past, beginning in Vietnam before Little Dog's birth and continuing into the US. Through this history, the son is able to welcome his mother into parts of his life he's never shared, contemplating issues of race, class, masculinity, and trauma. [Pub date: June 4](#)

The Collected Schizophrenias by Esmé Wang
Wang's intimate essay collection opens her experience of schizoaffective disorder to those who live with it, as well as those who want to better understand it. Wang writes generously about the manifestations of schizophrenia in her life — how she's learned to present it to (or hide it from) the world, how it shapes her relationships and affects her body — and lends her keen analysis to the big, ethical questions about how we treat those whose experience of the world differs from ours. [Available now](#)

Lot by Bryan Washington
Washington's debut short story collection is an ode to Houston, Texas, and a vibrant portrait of the myriad people who call it home. There's the young boy figuring out his sexual identity while holding down a job at his family restaurant; around him, a city of creators, survivors, and hustlers. Throughout is Washington's effervescent prose, exploring family, community, and love. [Pub date: March 19](#)

Lost Children Archive by Valeria Luiselli
As thousands of families are being separated and detained at the US-Mexico border, another family takes a cross-country trip from New York to Arizona, in search of the stolen home of the Apaches and listening to the news about this "immigration crisis" along the way. As tension mounts in the car and outside

of it, Luiselli's novel focuses on the ways in which empathy, justice, and passion play out within one family's summer. [Available now](#)

The Affairs of the Falcóns by Melissa Rivero
Rivero's novel presents the long and exhausting struggle of living undocumented in the US, as seen through the experience of one family. When Ana Falcón fled Peru for New York with her husband and two young children in the 1990s, she was looking to escape economic and political hardship, to give her family a chance — now, she is struggling to keep them afloat. Up against inhumane working conditions, an intimidating loan shark, and a cousin who might throw them out at any moment, Ana is forced to consider just how much she's willing to sacrifice. [Pub date: April 2](#)

Magical Negro by Morgan Parker
From dating white boys to imagining what Diana Ross was thinking in that famous photo where she licks her fingers after eating a pair of ribs, Parker's second poetry collection runs the gamut. But each poem is written with her signature wry humor and caustic honesty. [Available now](#)

Miracle Creek by Angie Kim
In rural Virginia, Young

and Pak Yoo run an experimental medical device known as the Miracle Submarine; patients enter the pressurized oxygen chamber with the hope that it will cure a range of ailments and issues like infertility or autism. When the machine explodes, the couple are put on trial in a case that upends the entire community, unearthing shameful secrets, rivalries, and scandals. [Pub date: April 16](#)

American Messiahs by Adam Morris
Journalist Adam Morris pulls from years of research into the messianic figures that have captivated Americans throughout history — like Father Divine and Jim Jones — and demonstrates their function within our nation's culture. These self-described prophets and leaders could only exist in a country promised an impossible "American dream," and this fascinating investigation illuminates the ideals underpinning the work of these flawed, larger-than-life characters. [Pub date: March 26](#)

City of Girls by Elizabeth Gilbert
Gilbert's novel focuses on 1940s New York City through the perspective of 89-year-old Vivian Morris reminiscing about her wild years in the theater. Her story is rich with memorable characters — the eccentric aunt she moves in with, the intimidating leading lady, the chorus of

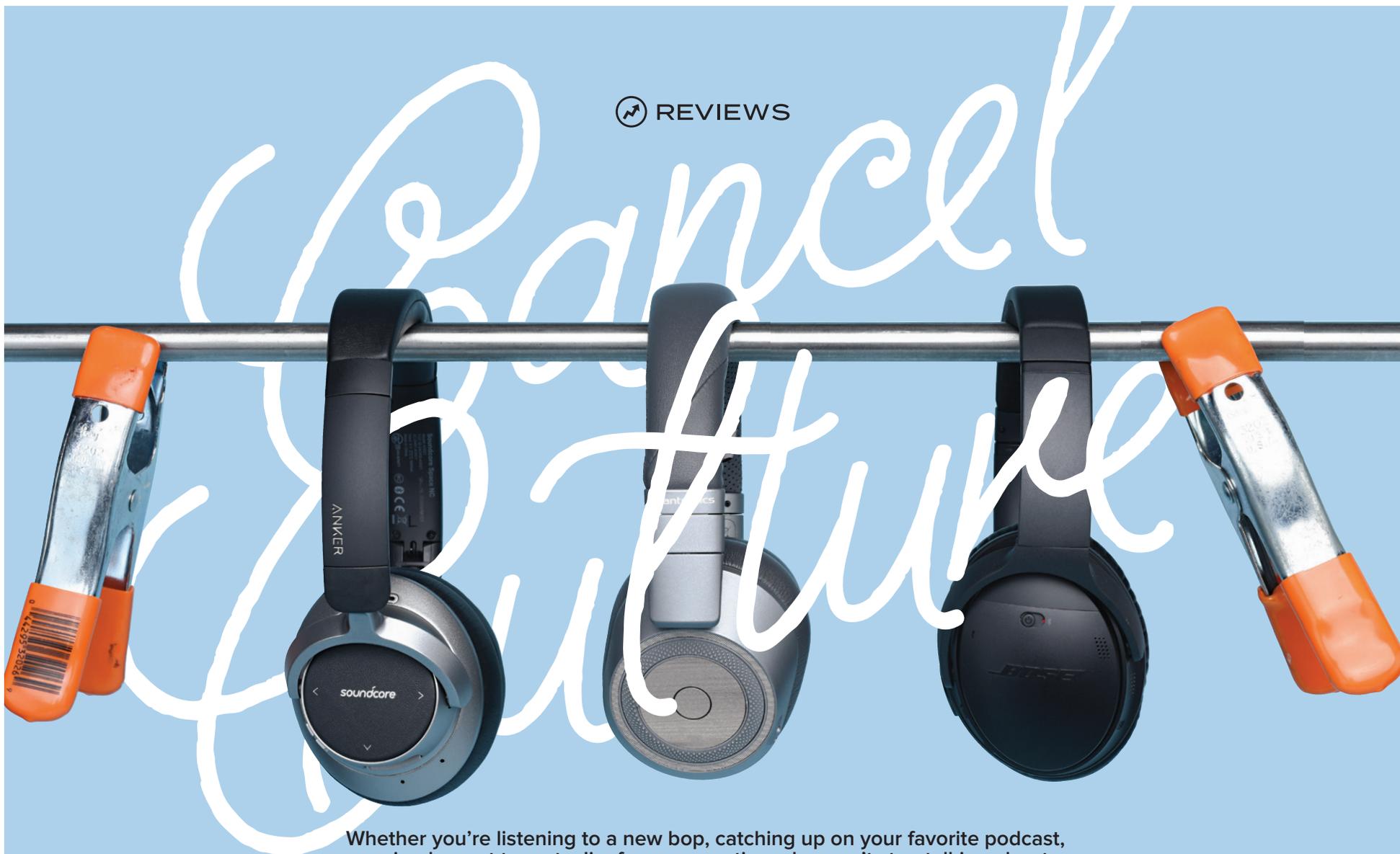
showgirls — and a vibrant setting, all of which come tumbling down when Vivian finds herself in the midst of a sex scandal. [Pub date: June 4](#)

Mostly Dead Things by Kristen Arnett
When Jessa-Lynn Morton finds her father dead by suicide in the middle of his taxidermy shop, the family business falls on her while the rest of her family falls apart. Her mother is sneaking into the shop and putting the taxidermied animals into compromising positions; her brother goes silent; her sister-in-law (who Jessa happens to be in love with) walks out. As Jessa struggles to keep her family afloat, she realizes she must come to terms with who these people are — and how they've made her who she is, too. The novel is hilarious, deeply morbid, and full of heart. [Pub date: June 4](#)

Exhalation by Ted Chiang
Chiang's second fantastical short story collection returns to those eternal questions about the nature of the universe and the meaning of our existence within it, sharing profound insights about ethics and accountability in stories of time portals, AI pets, alien tech, and more. [Pub date: May 7](#)

GETTY IMAGES; ECCO (2); ONE WORLD (2); RIVERHEAD BOOKS (2); SARAH CRICHTON BOOKS; TIN HOUSE BOOKS





Whether you're listening to a new bop, catching up on your favorite podcast, or simply want to mute Jim from accounting who won't stop talking about his standing desk (no one cares, Jim), below you'll find the best noise-canceling headphones across three different price points.

By Colin Gorenstein

ANKER SOUNDCORE SPACE NC HEADPHONES

- WHO IT'S BEST FOR**
- ✔ Thrifty listeners picky about comfort
 - ✔ People who need a soundtrack for long walks (on the beach, or elsewhere)
 - ✔ 9-to-5ers looking for a go-to office pair

WHAT YOU GET
Surprisingly affordable cans that deliver better-than-average sound and comfort that should satisfy the casual and budget-conscious music listeners among us.
Starting at \$99

PLANTRONICS BACKBEAT PRO 2

- WHO IT'S BEST FOR**
- ✔ Working stiffs who rock out at their desks
 - ✔ Anyone who wants an eclectic pair to match their eclectic taste
 - ✔ Music buffs looking for premium sound sans the premium price

WHAT YOU GET
An office-friendly pair that will excel at muffling side chatter and the moderate- to high-volume chirps of the outside world.
Starting at \$199

BOSE QUIETCOMFORT 35 (SERIES II)

- WHO IT'S BEST FOR**
- ✔ Folks who argue that FLAC sounds better
 - ✔ Long-distance flyers
 - ✔ Audiophiles looking for best-in-class noise cancellation

WHAT YOU GET
The undisputed, most widely recognized best-in-class noise-canceling headphones on the market, now with added voice control. Just don't ask it to play "Freebird."
Starting at \$349



Quiz: Is "Baby Shark" Bigger Than Bieber?

If you haven't heard "Baby Shark" by now, chances are you will soon. The song started charting on Billboard's Hot 100 in January 2019 — and on YouTube, the video has hit 2.4 billion views (and counting).

Which got us thinking: Is there any artist that has yet to be devoured by the "Baby Shark" juggernaut?

Circle all the music videos that have outlasted the viral hit. By Whitney Jefferson

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Pharrell's "Happy" | Fifth Harmony's "Work From Home" | Drake's "Hotline Bling" | Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance" | Justin Bieber's "Baby" |
| Carly Rae Jepsen's "Call Me Maybe" | Meghan Trainor's "All About That Bass" | Miley Cyrus's "Wrecking Ball" | Dua Lipa's "New Rules" | Sia's "Chandelier" |
| Katy Perry's "Firework" | Taylor Swift's "Bad Blood" | Psy's "Gangnam Style" | Jennifer Lopez's "On the Floor" | Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars's "Uptown Funk" |

TASTY

Steak Out

Whether you're cooking a cheap cut or an expensive one, here's how to do it right.

By Adam Bianchi and Claire King
Photograph by Kate Bubacz

Steak is just a term for a cut of meat that doesn't have a lot of connective tissue, which makes it suitable for quick cooking. Whether you're buying a cheap or pricey cut, it's more about how you treat it and how you're cooking with it that's going to make the biggest difference. A cast iron skillet is a great option no matter what type of steak you're working with, as it holds heat really well; ideally you should use any oil with a high smoke point.

Cheap Steak

Look for: hanger steak, tri-tip, flap, chuck-eye, and chuck tenders

PAN-SEARED FLAP STEAK

Servings: 2–4

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound flap meat
- ½ cup low-sodium soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons ground black pepper
- 4 large cloves garlic
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil

Gallon-sized plastic zipper bag
Cast iron skillet

PREPARATION

1. Place flap meat, soy sauce, and pepper in the gallon-sized plastic bag.
2. Place garlic cloves on a flat surface and crush with hand using palm. Just enough to crack the clove open a bit.
3. Add garlic to bag and seal, removing as much air from the bag as possible.

4. Massage the contents of the bag to ensure the soy sauce mixture is completely coating the meat.
5. Leave bag in the refrigerator to marinate for 1–12 hours.
6. Place cast iron skillet in cool oven and preheat to 475°F/240°C.
7. Remove steak from marinade and thoroughly pat dry.
8. Once oven is preheated, transfer skillet to stovetop and place on high heat.
9. Add oil to skillet.
10. Once oil starts to shimmer, but before it starts to smoke, carefully place steak in pan.
11. Flip steak every 30 seconds to a minute, moving the steak to the hottest parts of the pan each time.
12. Once internal temperature reaches a few degrees below 135°F/57°C, remove steak from pan and place on a cutting board to rest.
13. Let rest for 8–10 minutes.
14. Slice steak against the grain and serve!

Expensive Steak

Look for: New York strip (also known as Kansas City or sirloin) steak, tenderloin, and rib eye

REVERSE-SEARED RIB EYE

Servings: 2–4

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½- to 2-inch-thick rib eye steak
- Salt
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- Pepper (optional)

PREPARATION

1. Liberally season steak on all sides with salt and (optional) pepper. Place steak in fridge for 1 to 24 hours. If leaving for more than an hour, cover with plastic wrap.
2. Preheat oven to 275°F/140°C.
3. Transfer steak to a wire rack on top of a baking sheet.
4. Bake for about 20–30 minutes, until the internal temperature reaches about 95°F for medium-rare.

5. Preheat cast iron skillet on high heat for 10–15 minutes.
6. Add oil to skillet.
7. Once oil starts to shimmer but before it starts to smoke, carefully place steak in pan.
8. Cook for about 1–2 minutes per side, or until the internal temperature is a few degrees below 135°F/57°C and a dark crust has formed.
9. Rest the steak on a cutting board or wire rack for about couple minutes.
10. Slice steak against the grain and serve!

Tip:
It's always a good idea to have a kitchen thermometer on hand. For a medium-rare steak, you'll want to serve it at 135°F, but you can take it off the skillet a few degrees earlier because it'll carry over cooking slightly.



RECOMMENDATION

The Best Cast Iron Skillet

By Jessica Probus

Ozark Trail Skillet Who It's Best For:

Camper, fire-pit cookers, DIY-ers
A rugged budget option for the great outdoors, this skillet is the ideal campfire companion. It's also light enough to fend off bears if need be. \$10

Victoria Long-Handled Skillet Who It's Best For:

People with fine-motor issues, people with small hands, frequent movers
You've heard of Lodge — now meet Victoria. She sears and braises just the same, but with a longer, curved handle for better grip. \$20

Field Company Skillet Who It's Best For:

Aesthetes, eco-conscious cooks, people with limited hand and arm strength
Field Company ups the ante with next-gen cast iron that's lighter, smoother, and, somehow, still made like it used to be. Unbox it and get straight to cookin'. \$100

JPG

EAT AN APPLE PIE

How did this sweet, buttery dessert rise to the level of American icon?

By Gabriel H. Sanchez



From top: Six-year-old Richard Baranski caresses a full belly after being crowned cranberry pie-eating champion, upon eating a 10-inch cranberry pie in 15 seconds flat; winner of the 21st Annual National Cherry Pie Baking Contest, 16-year-old Maxine Walker of Huntsville, Alabama, tastes a sample of her prize-winning entry; Teddie Hoff (left), 8, takes a peek at his pal, Rex Lott, 9, as they practice for the big, twice-daily pie-eating contests at the 1950 Los Angeles Food Show.

BETTMANN ARCHIVE / GETTY IMAGES (3)

As American as apple pie — it’s a phrase synonymous with American identity, aligned with those red-blooded, patriotic symbols like baseball, backyard BBQs, and bald eagles. But how did this sweet, buttery dessert rise to the level of American icon? What is it about pie that conjures, by its mere mention, those American values we hold so dear?

The origins of the pie predate the United States by entire millennia with records of pie-like dishes enjoyed among Egyptian societies as far back as the Neolithic Period, around 6,000 BCE. Later, pies were a staple in medieval Europe that were often served as savory dishes filled with meats like magpie or turtle. When the Pilgrims made their journey to the New World in the early 1600s, they brought with them family recipes along with apple seeds and other ingredients from Europe. Bakers also began to incorporate local berries and fruits native to America into their pies. While pies have since become a cornerstone of Thanksgiving celebrations, there are actually no recorded mentions of pies at the first Thanksgiving of 1621.

As consumerism modernized in the early 20th century, pictures like these aligned baking products for pie making with American values as a mass-marketing strategy. Apple producers, baking suppliers, and other produce growers seized the opportunity to portray their products as vital to upholding American identity — and it worked. Advertisements quoted the fictional Betty Crocker: “If I were to create a coat of arms for our country, a pie would be its heraldic symbol.” During World War II, a phrase often repeated by soldiers when asked what they were fighting for (perhaps a little sarcastically) was “For mom and apple pie!”

“As American as apple pie” has since become more than just a catchphrase. It’s become synonymous with the American dream, with the pursuit of happiness. But hey, chasing pie in the sky is always better than the alternative: “Let them eat cake.” ■



Sex Education (2019–present)
This British teen TV drama is based on awkward, insecure high schooler Otis, whose mom is a sex therapist. Using skills he learns from eavesdropping on his mom, Otis teams up with classmate Maeve to set up an underground sex clinic.



Derry Girls (2017–present)
Chronicling the lives of 16-year-old Erin and her group of friends in the 1990s as they navigate the world during The Troubles conflict, this Northern Irish sitcom is a must-watch for anyone who loves dark humor and coming-of-age pieces.



Bodyguard (2018–present)
In this contemporary psychological thriller, a sergeant with London's Metropolitan Police Service becomes the bodyguard to a conservative and controversial politician after preventing a suicide bomber's attack on a train.



Roma (2018)
This Oscar-winning film directed by Alfonso Cuarón is set in early-1970s Mexico City and follows Cleo, a young domestic worker for a middle-class family, on an emotional journey amid political turmoil.



Gotham (2014–present)
Based on the *Batman* franchise, rookie cop James Gordon takes on Gotham City crime and political corruption to avenge the murder of Bruce Wayne's parents — perfect for fans of DC Comics and thrilling crime dramas alike.



The Good Place (2016–present)
Eleanor wakes up in the afterlife and finds that she's landed in a utopia for highly righteous people. She realizes she was sent there by mistake — and has to cover up her less than morally sound behavior in this smart and hilarious fantasy-comedy series.



Maniac (2018)
Two strangers struggling with deep-rooted issues connect during the late stages of a clinical trial for a psychotropic drug that promises to solve their problems in this dark comedy-drama mini-series starring Emma Stone and Jonah Hill.



The Magicians (2015–present)
In this chilling sci-fi drama, Quentin Coldwater is a grad student studying magic who learns that the magical fantasy world he's been obsessed with his whole life is indeed very real — and it poses some very serious concerns for humanity.



Lucifer (2015–present)
This comedy-drama series follows Lucifer, the OG fallen angel, after he gets bored with life in hell — and decides to head to Los Angeles, open a nightclub, and work with the LAPD on a murder case.



Lilyhammer (2012–2014)
Ex-gangster Frank Tagliano testifies against the Mafia, joins the witness protection program, and asks to be sent to Norway, where he's sure no one will find him, in this quirky crime TV drama rife with deadpan humor.



Hi Score Girl (2018–present)
In this anime rom-com based on the manga series by Rensuke Oshikiri, a passionate gamer meets his match, his rich classmate Akira, while hanging out at his usual arcade in 1991 Japan.



Round Planet (2016)
Marrying entertainment with education, comedian Matt Lucas takes on the persona of a natural history doyen in this parody nature documentary series that uses footage from the BBC archives.



Dumplin' (2018)
In this coming-of-age comedy film based on the YA novel of the same name, a Texas teen enters a beauty pageant run by her ex-beauty queen mother to prove a point about societal standards and fitting in.



Murder Mountain (2018–present)
A docuseries exploring the business of legal marijuana in Humboldt County, California, and the disappearances that have occurred in the surrounding area, notably a cannabis farmer who was found murdered in 2013.



You (2018–present)
A psychological thriller TV series that follows a bookstore manager with a crush on an aspiring writer — and what happens when he uses social media to get closer to her and the crush turns into something more obsessive and grim.



Instant Hotel (2018–present)
In this Australian reality TV show, homeowners who have transformed their homes into hotels compete for the title of best instant hotel. Contestants stay in one another's rentals and judge their stay based on value, location, and more.

TV & MOVIES

32 Netflix hidden gems you need to watch right now, as recommended by the BuzzFeed Community.

By Spencer Althouse and Emmy Favilla

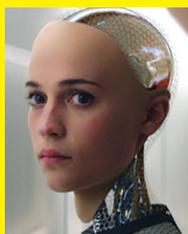
BINGE WORTHY



The Farthest: Voyager in Space (2017)
A documentary about one of humankind's greatest achievements: NASA's 1977 launch of twin space probes, sent to capture images of remote planets, which continue to beam information from space, 40+ years later.



Gaga: Five Foot Two (2017)
This documentary goes behind the scenes with pop icon Lady Gaga as she releases a new album and preps for her Super Bowl halftime show, and explores her personal struggles.



Ex Machina (2015)
When a coder wins a weeklong retreat to stay at his CEO's home, he's asked to test a new female humanoid robot who's been made with artificial intelligence — but things take a dark turn when he starts growing close to her.



Good Girls (2018–present)
Three suburban women in Detroit struggling to make ends meet decide to hold up a local grocery store and no sooner realize they're in deeper than they expected after the store manager recognizes one of them.



God's Own Country (2017)
In this British drama, a young gay farmer in Yorkshire with an affinity for binge-drinking and casual sex as a means to numb the hardships of lonely daily life meets a Romanian migrant worker who changes everything.



Broadchurch (2013–2017)
The body of an 11-year-old boy is found in a small seaside town in England, leading to a heavily publicized investigation. The serial crime drama explores how it affects the community as well as the working relationship between the detectives on the case.



Big Mouth (2017–present)
This adult animation show voiced by comedy veterans like Maya Rudolph and Nick Kroll chronicles a group of seventh-graders as they navigate puberty and growing up in the New York City suburbs, gleaming advice from unlikely sources.



The Invitation (2015)
After Will accepts an invitation to a dinner party at the home of his ex-wife (with whom he had a child who died accidentally) and her new husband, things turn sinister in this suspenseful and violent psychological thriller.



Wind River (2017)
A wildlife officer finds the body of a missing 18-year-old woman in Wyoming and teams up with an FBI agent to investigate the case. The duo soon discover their own lives are in danger in this chilling neo-Western crime drama.



The Last O.G. (2018–present)
After a 15-year stint in prison, kindhearted Tray (Tracy Morgan), a former drug dealer, returns to Brooklyn. He's shocked to find his neighborhood newly gentrified and his ex-girlfriend raising their children with a white man.



Elite (2018–present)
In this Spanish drama, three working-class teenagers land scholarships to an elite private school where the wealthiest in the country send their kids — and the clash between lifestyles leads to murder.



The Rain (2018–present)
Six years after a virus wipes out most of Scandinavia, two Danish siblings leave their bunker and join a group of other young survivors. Looking for signs of life, they discover their struggles are still similar to a world before the virus.



Terrace House: Opening New Doors (2017–present)
In this Japanese reality show, six young strangers — including a chef, a snowboarder, and an ice hockey player — meet for the first time and live together in a house in the woods while pursuing their dreams.



Sleeping With Other People (2015)
Twelve years after a one-night stand, a couple run into each other at a sex-addicts meeting and attempt to maintain a platonic relationship in this rom-com starring Alison Brie and Jason Sudeikis.



Cable Girls (2017–present)
Set in 1920s Madrid, this Spanish-language series follows four women with jobs at Spain's first national phone company, focusing on their personal relationships as well as the hardships that working women faced at the time.



The Sinner (2017–present)
In each season of this mystery crime series, a troubled detective investigates why an ordinary person with no apparent motives would commit a brutal crime — searching for answers and discovering shocking secrets in the process.

NETFLIX (14); COURTESY EVERETT COLLECTION (10); GOTHAM, LUCIFER, FOX, LILYHAMMER, NETFLIX, FARST, PBS, EX MACHINA, A24, BROADCHURCH, BBC AMERICA, WIND RIVER, WEINSTEIN COMPANY, LAST O.G., FRANCISCO ROMANITBS, SLEEPING WITH OTHER PEOPLE, IFC FILMS, CABLE GIRLS, MANUEL FERNANDEZ/NETFLIX, SINNER, USA NETWORK; GOOD PLACE, COLLEEN HAYES/NBC, MAGICIANS, NBC, WORLDWIDE; MURDER MOUNTAIN, BBC; ROUND PLANET, FUSION; GOOD GIRLS, NBC; GOD'S OWN COUNTRY, ORION PICTURES; INVITATION, DRAPTHOUSE FILMS



REVIEW

All the Sad Ex-Military Men

Ben Affleck plays the sad-dad role of our dreams in Netflix's thriller *Triple Frontier*.

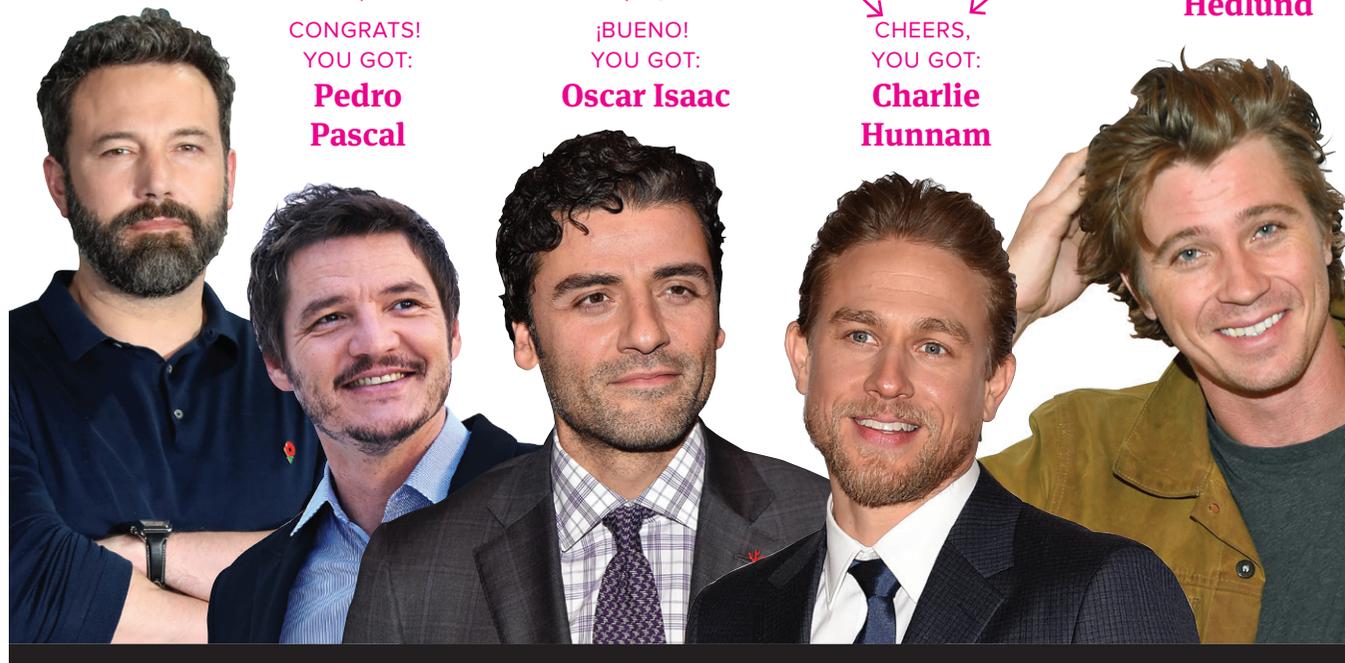
By Alison Willmore

In the annals of Ben Affleck's career, there may be no moment in which the personal and the professional have converged as masterfully as when the star took on the role of Tom "Redfly" Davis in J.C. Chandor's new Netflix movie *Triple Frontier*. It was while shooting the heist film last year that Affleck was famously photographed taking a break on an Oahu beach, gazing out at the ocean, towel wrapped high around his waist, with the sizable back tattoo he would initially deny as real on full display. Even for Affleck, a celebrity whose paparazzi shots frequently demonstrate an almost novelistic eloquence, speaking wordlessly of a man who appeared to be Going Through Some Stuff, including the well-publicized end of his marriage.

It'd be a year before any of us would be able to lay eyes on the actual movie he was making, but it's a reverberant pleasure to watch *Triple Frontier*, now out in theaters and headed to Netflix on March 13, and to realize that Affleck is playing an *actual* sad dad in it. A divorced ex-service member struggling to sell undesirable condos in order to cover his bills, Tom's a former tough guy brought low by civilian life. He's humiliated by how much he's been floundering — so much so that when Santiago (Oscar Isaac), a former brother in arms, comes calling with a paid recon mission in South America, it doesn't take much for him to say yes.

It doesn't take much for his other old colleagues to say yes, either. Tom's the most grandly downtrodden of the bunch, but there's also Francisco (Pedro Pascal), whose pilot's license was suspended after a coke bust. Ben (Garrett Hedlund) channels his frustration into MMA fights, while his brother William (Charlie Hunnam) gives pep talks to enlistees that include a less-than-uplifting story about choking someone out in a fit of rage in a cereal aisle. While they've all been struggling with life after the military, Santiago never really left it — he just went private, leasing out his expertise to local police in their battle with the cartels. He has to do a little coaxing to get them into what turns out to be a robbery and assassination

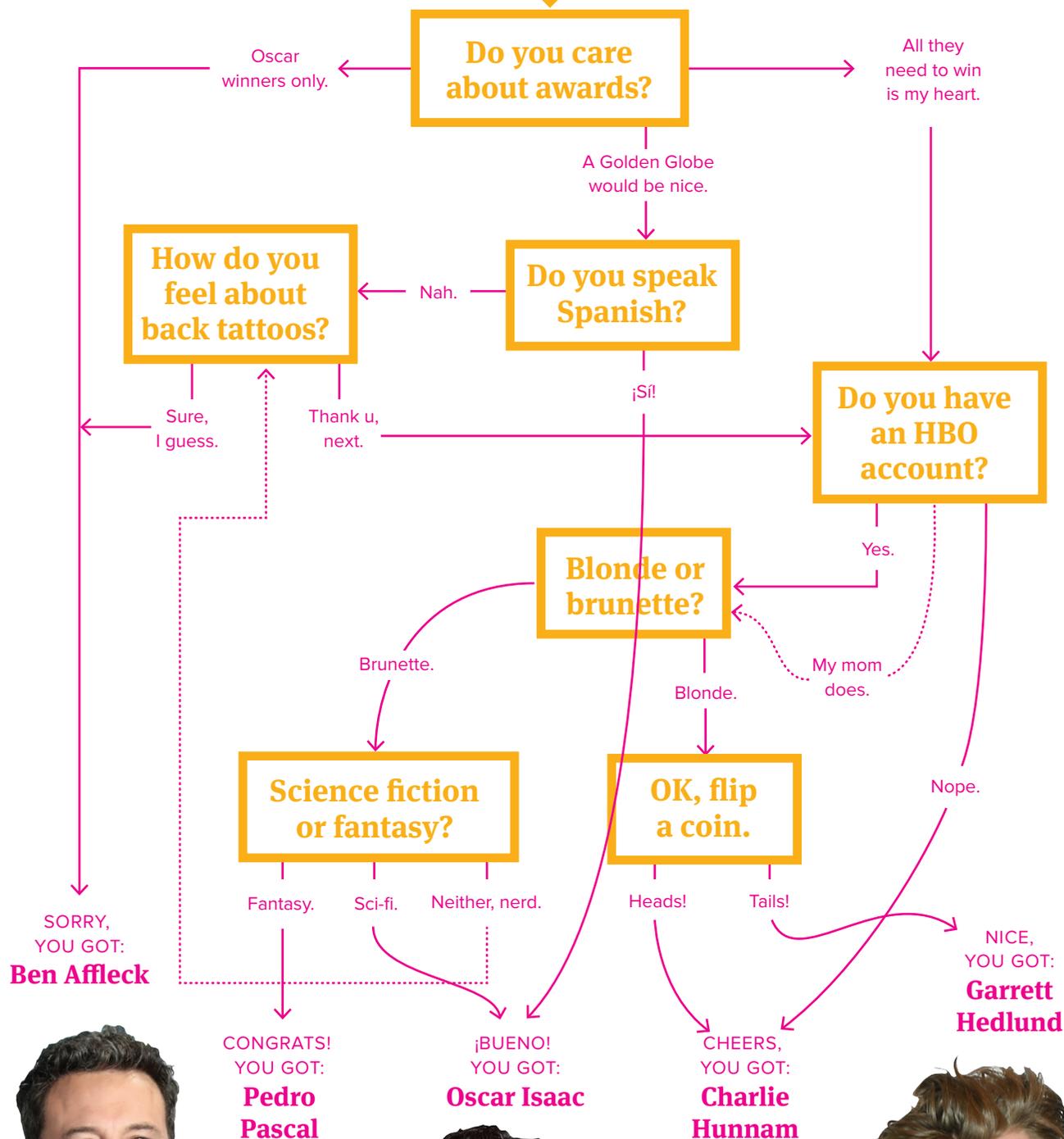
NETFLIX; GETTY IMAGES (5)



QUIZ Very Special Forces

Triple Frontier, quintuple hunks. Which one should you crush on?

By Rachel Sanders



attempt on a drug lord, but the truth is they all want to go. They need the money, but even more than that, they need to feel like highly trained warriors again, instead of drifting failures — even if what they're doing is criminal.

Triple Frontier kicked around for years before it landed at Netflix — at one point, it was a Kathryn Bigelow project with Tom

Hanks in talks to star. Bigelow stayed on as an executive producer for this incarnation, which was also written by her frequent collaborator Mark Boal, and helmed by *Margin Call*'s Chandor. The result is a deftly made, intentionally uneasy thriller that oscillates between can-they-pull-it-off thrills and oh-god-how-many-people-will-die dread. But it's not hard to wonder what Bigelow's ver-

sion might have been like had she been able to apply her distinctively feminine, almost romantic gaze to this hypermasculine environment. As is, *Triple Frontier* is a movie about masculinity adrift, with Affleck as its mournful heart, but it doesn't have the right degree of vulnerability to fully balance out the macho posturing. Where's a beach towel when you need it? ■



NEW!

BuzzFeed **SAVER!**

SCORE MAJOR DISCOUNTS SHOPPING SOME OF OUR FAVORITE BRANDS!

MANUFACTURER COUPON

Yes!
Yes!
Yes!

Ritual
JUST GOOD-LOOKING SCIENCE

10% OFF



ALL ORDERS WITHIN YOUR FIRST 90 DAYS

OFFER EXPIRES 3.31.2019 AT 11:59PM ET. FOR NEW CUSTOMERS ONLY.

RITUAL.COM PROMO CODE **RITUALBUZZ**

MANUFACTURER COUPON

BURROW
FURNITURE FIT FOR MODERN LIFE AT HOME

15% OFF



ALL ORDERS **BURROW.COM** PROMO CODE **BURROWBUZZ**

OFFER EXPIRES 3.31.2019 AT 11:59PM ET. VALID FOR 15% OFF ALL ORDERS—NO MINIMUM. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY ON BURROW.COM.

MANUFACTURER COUPON



jet SHOP UPGRADED EVERYDAY ESSENTIALS AT JET.COM



TAKE \$5 OFF EXCLUSIVE UNIQUELY J PRODUCTS WITH YOUR PURCHASE OF \$15

JET.COM PROMO CODE **BUZZUJ**

OFFER EXPIRES 3.31.2019 AT 11:59PM ET. MINIMUM ORDER OF \$15 REQUIRED. CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS APPLY. LIMIT ONE PER HOUSEHOLD. OFFER MAY BE COMBINABLE WITH UP TO TWO OTHER ELIGIBLE OFFERS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. EXCLUDES PRODUCTS MARKED AS INELIGIBLE FOR PROMOTION ON THE PRODUCT DISPLAY PAGE.

MANUFACTURER COUPON



Frank And Oak
MONTHLY CLOTHING SUBSCRIPTION

TRY STYLE PLAN RISK-FREE + GET \$30 OFF YOUR FIRST BOX

FRANKANDOAK.COM PROMO CODE **BUZZFEED30**

OFFER VALID FOR NEW STYLE PLAN MEMBERS THROUGH 3.31.2019 AT 11:59PM ET. OFFER WAIVES FIRST \$25 MONTHLY STYLING FEE. VALID ONLY IF TOTAL ORDER VALUE IS EQUAL OR GREATER THAN \$30. DISCOUNT APPLIED PROPORTIONALLY TO ALL ITEMS IN BOX.

MANUFACTURER COUPON

SPECIAL



AMERICA'S #1 RATED MATTRESS*

CASPER.COM PROMO CODE **BUZZIRL**

\$100 OFF A CASPER** \$200 OFF A WAVE**

*ACCORDING TO A LEADING INDEPENDENT CONSUMER PUBLICATION'S RATING OF THE CASPER MATTRESS. **OFFER EXPIRES 3.31.2019 AT 11:59PM ET. LIMIT ONE CODE PER CUSTOMER. EXCLUDES ESSENTIAL MATTRESS. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY ON CASPER.COM/TERMS.

MANUFACTURER COUPON

tarte
HIGH-PERFORMANCE NATURAL BEAUTY

GET 25% OFF SITE-WIDE

TARTE.COM PROMO CODE **NYCBUZZ**



OFFER EXPIRES ON 3.31.19 AT 3:00AM ET. ONLY VALID ON TARTE.COM. MUST ENTER PROMO CODE NYCBUZZ AT CHECKOUT. CANNOT BE COMBINABLE WITH OTHER PROMO CODES/OFFERS/DISCOUNTS. OFFER SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. EXCLUSIONS APPLY. ADDITIONAL FEES MAY APPLY. TARTE HAS THE RIGHT TO CANCEL ANY ORDERS VIOLATING OUR TERMS OF USE. OFFER BEGINS ON 3.3.19 AT 12:00AM ET.

