DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Read herrings: Plays on book titles

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1453 we asked you to add a subtitle to a book title that would totally change the subject of the book. Hundreds of the 2,200 entries were sent in by Captain Obvious and Friends; the Empress yawned through "A Farewell to Arms: The Story of Venus de Milo" or "A Brief History of Time: 100 Years of the Newsmagazine." But the entries below woke her up.

4th place:

One Hundred Years of Solitude: A Jewish Mother Waits for Her Son's Weekly Visit (*Bill Kullman, Washington, a First Offender*)

3rd place:

As I Lay Dying: Memoirs of America's Worst Standups (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

2nd place and the 'naturally glowing edible scorpions':

Left Behind: Thirty Days to a Better Butt (Vol. 1) (*Seth Tucker, Washington*)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Silent Spring: The Year I Forgot About Valentine's Day (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

Weakly readers: Honorable mentions

Go, Dog. Go! Ten Steps to Being the Perfect Wingman (*Todd DeLap, Fairfax*)

1984: The Year That Gave Us Khloé Kardashian (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park)

A Farewell to Arms: How to Fit More Chairs at the Dining Table (Melissa Muckenhirn, Urbana, III., a First Offender)

A Raisin in the Sun: The Grapes of Wrath, Part 2 (*Luke Baker, Columbia*)

All Creatures Great and Small: A Carnivore's Cookbook (*Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.*)

All Things Wise and Wonderful: Donald Trump, in My Own Words *(Frank Mann, Washington)*

And Then There Were None: How Three Persistent Kids Discover Where Mom Hid the Snickers (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1457: What is Ask Backwards XL?

- Ken Jennings
- Zen Jennings
- Spinal Jeopardy
- Six hours without Facebook
 Curry Spice
- John Jacob Jingleheimer Fudd
- Not the next TikTok dance craze
- 30.000 steps
- Roads and Bridges
- A self-driving pogo stick
- 31/2 pounds
- A bun in the oven
- Still a Googlenope
- Not a future "Jeopardy!" category
- Such a stupid question
- Ask Backwards XL

At 40 go-rounds, it's *the* most repeated Style Invitational contest over our almost 29-year history. Unlike the contest it's vaguely modeled on, this one (like the Invite itself) passed from chief to chief without brouhaha (but, I hope, sufficient haha). **This week: You are on "Jeopardy!"; above are various "answers." You provide the questions,** up to 25 of them to any or all. AND! "Jeopardy!" legend and now co-host Ken Jennings has volunteered — as he did last year — to weigh in on the Empress's shortlist of Jeop-centric entries.

Submit up to 25 entries at *wapo.st/enter-invite-*1457 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, Oct. 18; results appear Nov. 7 in print, Nov. 4 online. See the entry form for easy formatting directions.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a real collector's item: a mint-condition **2004-08 Style Invitational Loser T-shirt** regifted by Invite GOAT Chris Doyle, who won it as one of his 188 runner-up prizes and never wore it, possibly because it's a generous XL and Chris is a generous S. The pocket-dripping-ink motif was created by Bob Staake Himself based on a

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

E21

Apples Never Fall: The Flat Earth Society's Guide to Gravity (Lee Graham, Rockville)

Becoming: My Life, by Melania Trump (*Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.*)

Captain Underpants: History's Worst Commando Unit Leader (*Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.*)

Catch-22: An Analysis of Last Season's 601 Washington Football Team Passing Attempts (*Jesse Rifkin, Arlington*)

Dial "M" for Murder: How Automated Messages Have Slowed Down 911 (*Jon Gearhart, Des Moines*)

Fahrenheit 451: A Guide to Precision Baking (Dan Galef, Tallahassee)

For Whom the Bell Tolls: A Former "Gong Show" Insider Tells All (*Diane Lucitt, Ellicott City*)

Goodnight Moon: And Other Inappropriate Endings to Bad Dates (*Dave Airozo, Silver Spring*)

Great Expectations: That One Week in June Before the Delta Variant Hit (*Todd DeLap*)

Harold and the Purple Crayon: A Child's Guide to Creating Their First NFT (Marc Sasseville, Burke)

Hop on Pop: Do You Know How Much Caffeine Is in Your Mountain Dew? (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Howard's End: The Shock Jock Tells About His Colonoscopy (Steve Fahey, Olney)

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie: ... He'll Ask for a Glass of Milk and Then Medicare: The Dangerous Creep of Socialism (*Robin Rowland*, *Potomac*)

It Ends With Us: 1001 Latin Singular Nouns (Mark Raffman, Reston)

Mark Twain: A Maryland Commuter's Daily Nightmare, by E. Fudd (Steve Glomb, Alexandria)

Never Let Me Go: My Quest for the Guinness World Record for Urine Retention (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

No Exit: 101 Cures for Constipation (*Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.*)

Smiley's People: The Creators of Emoji (Phyllis Reinhard, East

contest-winning idea by Sarah Worcester. Loser Steve Langer models his own shirt here; he sported it last month at the Losers' Flushies awards.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our new lusted-after Loser magnets, "A Small Jester of Appreciation" or "Close, but Ceci N'est Pas un Cigare." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at *wapo.st/InvRules*. The headline "Read Herrings" is by Chris Doyle; Jon Gearhart wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at *on.fb.me/invdev*; "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at *bit.ly/inkofday*; and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at *wapo.st/conv1457*.

Leaf Peeper's Guide to New England (John Klayman, Fairfax)

The Neverending Story: Climbing to the Next Floor at M.C. Escher's House (Jesse Frankovich)

The Neverending Story: Mrs. Greene Next Door Talks About Her Bunions (*Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church*)

The Overstory: How to Convince Friends and Family That the 2020 Election Is Done (*Terri Berg Smith, Rockville*)

The Ox-Bow Incident: Why You Shouldn't Dress Your Farm Animals in Cutesy Costumes (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

The Poky Little Puppy: Caring for Your Dog After a Porcupine Encounter (*Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.*)

The Story of 0: Part 2 of "Tic-Tac-Toe: A History" (Andrew Elby, Arlington)

The Tempest: My One-Hour Career With Kelly Services (David Terry, Arlington, a First Offender)

Wuthering Heights: A Collection of the World's Finest Wuthering (Todd DeLap; Peter Jenkins, Bethesda)

Little-Known Facts About Well-Known People: Did You Know Jeff Bezos Owns The Washington Post? (David Shombert, Harrisonburg, Va.)

And Last: **Pat the Bunny:** The Empress Goes Undercover at the Playboy Mansion (Jesse Frankovich; Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn; Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

Still running – deadline Monday night, Oct. 11: our contest for "Is that your ____, or . . . " insults. See wapo.st/invite1456. BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Oct. 10: You're charming and entertaining. At times your enthusiasm can make you confrontational. You like to surprise. Personally, you are well-organized. This year is a time of learning and teaching for you. Many of you will explore your inner, spiritual world so you feel stronger and more grounded. This will also be an exciting year for you.

HOROSCOPE

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Sagittarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

This is a great day to study or make travel plans. You also might want to explore opportunities related to publishing, the media, the law or medicine. Doors will open for you, and things will tend to go your way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You are the financial wizard of the zodiac. You'll be glad to know that this is a good day for discussions about shared property, inheritances, taxes, debt or shared wealth. Tonight: Your attitude is positive and proactive!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

You will encounter energetic people today, which is one of the reasons it's in your best interests to go more than halfway when dealing with others. Today it's best to go along to get along. It's a playful, fun-loving week for sports, children's activities and social plans.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You will get a lot done today. You're motivated, energetic and not afraid to begin something challenging. This is also a fun day to play with your pet, because your energy is high. Tackle home repairs and family discussions, and enjoy entertaining at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Enjoy playful activities with children today. Accept invitations to party and enjoy social outings. Sports events will appeal to you. It's a busy week full of short trips, fun outings, romance, study and writing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You also might be involved with family in an energetic discussion. Someone wants to get the ball rolling about something. Focus on money and earnings. Redecorate and enjoy entertaining at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Discussions with others are enthusiastic. You won't hesitate to share your thoughts. Because you are so mentally alert, this is also a good day to study or travel. Romance, vacations, parties and short trips will please you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Write down your moneymaking ideas today, because you are mentally alert and creative, especially about financial matters and your possessions. It's a good money week. You might boost your earnings and make a big purchase.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with Mercury, Mars and the Sun. This heightens your energy and determination. It's the perfect day for you to wrap up old business. Schmooze with friends, groups and organizations. Shop for wardrobe goodies.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You have been high-viz. This also means you have had to stick your

neck out about a few issues. Nevertheless, the publicity has been good. Today, however, you want to hide and hibernate. Be gone. People admire you. You might boost your earnings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You will enjoy schmoozing with others today, especially with a female acquaintance. Group interactions, political matters, foreign events and higher education will go well. Be friendly. Travel and further education appeal to you. An artistic friend will be good company.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) People notice you today. Some are discussing the personal details of your private life. You might be involved in a public discussion about how to spend a certain amount of money or how to do raise funds. You look good. Bosses and VIPs admire you. Meanwhile, financial matters and shared property look good.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

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Fallowfield, Pa.)

Jensen, Baltimore

So Big: Nicki Minaj's Cousin's

Friend's Covid Vaccine Memoir

People: Delegate, Delegate,

Delegate, Delegate, Delegate,

Delegate, Delegate (Dave Prevar)

Highlights of Page 2,391 of the

2021 Infrastructure Bill (Jonathan

The Color Purple: A Photo Essay

The Hunt for Red October: The

of Carpenters' Thumbs (Bill

Cromwell, Keswick, Va.)

The Bridges of Madison County:

(Marty Gold, Arlington, a First Offender)

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective