

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Shelley you jest: Poems from anagrams

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1186** we asked you to rearrange the letters of someone's name, then write a poem about the resulting anagram. Many Losers chose a poet's name and wrote a parody of a poem by that writer. So, so many witty verses this week — and so, so many of them about the Great Orange Menace.

4th place

DONALD TRUMP anagrams to DAD = MR. NUT POL

When Donald Trump's your dear old dad
And you're his favorite daughter,
You're stuck; you've got to stump for him,
Although you shouldn't oughter.
You've been around, you know that he's
Too brazen for the bomb —
So what's to do but prove true blue
And vote for Chelsea's mom?
(Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

3rd place

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON to MONTHLY, AN OLD RICH LIAR

Not a month can pass us by,
Not without some Clinton lie.
Be it of Benghazi fight
Or the latest e-mail blight.
But she'll soon be president
Since Republican dissent
Foisted on us Donald Trump:
Tweedledemon, Tweedledump.
(Ray Gallucci, Frederick, Md.)

2nd place and the book "Butt Rot and Bottom Gas":

ROBERT FROST to 'TERROR'? OFT BS

I have been one acquainted with the Right,
And how they whip up stories with their spin
To scare you silly, keep you up at night
With fear we're letting nasty people in:
The sort whose creeds are not what "we" believe
And just look at those swarthy shades of skin —
"You'd have those people here? Don't be naive!
We can't trust those who love a different god,
They've got some dark intentions up their sleeve:
They're likely sleeper cells to plot jihad!"
The other pundits nod and say, "That's right;
Why do they hate us? Don't you find that odd?
They can't help they're not Protestant and white . . ."
I have been one acquainted with the Right.
(Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:

EDGAR A. POE to EGO PARADE

Once upon a dark convention, full of fear and
apprehension,
After many strange and hateful speakers from the
GOP—
Came the climax, pessimistic, altogether chauvinistic,
With an eminent, egotistic pledge to fix things by decree:
"Only one knows how to do it, and of course that one is
ME!"
Quoth the ravin' Donald T.
(Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

The Drab of Avon: honorable mentions

ROGER AILES to I OGLE REARS

I, I ogle rears. If I see one
On some hot babe, I pinch a bun,
And if it leads to sex, I thank her
By making her a Fox News anchor.
But if she turns away and sneers,
It's time for her to switch careers.
(Robert Schechter, Dix Hills, N.Y.)

II. I made quite a fair offer to Gretchen.

Who, like all the gals here, is quite fetchin'.
For just two or three lays
She'd have bagged a nice raise
And a gold-plated bucket to retch in.
(Max Gutmann, Cupertino, Calif.)

ROBERT FROST to TO FOREST? BRR.

Whose woods these are I do not care.
It's too damn cold to go in there.
My little horse finds no delight
In skating icy trails tonight.
Some folks may like to freeze their nose
And lose the feeling in their toes;
That stuff's the highlight of their year.
But not me, man. I'm out of here.
(Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

NATAL PREMIUM "by" MELANIA TRUMP

When women marry well and, well, by "well" I just mean
rich,
You have to sign a prenup, just a tiny little hitch.
As ex-wives will attest, you always get a larger share
When you deliver on your vows, delivering an heir.
You might stay wed forever; this may never matter —
maybe.
But if he earns big bacon, darling, you bring home the
bahey. (George-Ann Rosenberg, Washington)

JOYCE KILMER to LO, MICE JERKY

I think that I shall ne'er espouse
A morsel yummy as a mouse
That's cooked and sliced, and quickly dried —
It's tasty when it's petrified.
I'm sure it beats this liverwurst,
So let's go have some. You go first. (Duncan Stevens)

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE to

YO, CUE A STILL LARGER DOME

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan a stately pleasure dome
decree,
But no one builds a better one than Trump, believe you
me. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

EDNA ST. VINCENT MLLAY to

VENTS A DYNAMIC LENTIL

My candle burns at both ends, so, ah, my friends and
foes,
You'll want to stand some ways away, and maybe hold
your nose. (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

See many more honorable mentions in the online Invite at
bit.ly/invite1190 (all lowercase).

Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 29: our annual Limerixicon limerick contest, this year featuring "ge-" words. See bit.ly/invite-1189.



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New for Week 1190: You're workin' on a chain, gang

MICHAEL PHELPS, Mark Spitz, Anchor Hocking, "Anchors Aweigh," Frank Sinatra, Sean Bean, Ned Stark, "Naked Cowboy," Gene Autry, Kate Smith, Katie Ledecy, MICHAEL PHELPS.

DONALD TRUMP, Donald Duck, Ryan Gosling, "Catcher in the Rye," Holden Caulfield, Henry Huggins, Henry Higgins, Eliza Doolittle, Dr. Dolittle, Francis the Talking Mule, the Democrats, HILLARY CLINTON.

The Empress was saddened to hear of the death last month of Mary Ann Madden, creator of the New York Magazine Competition, the 973-contest institution that ran from 1969 to 2000 and inspired the Czar — the E's predecessor and a luckless NYMag entrant — to engage in the sincerest form of flattery and start up this thing right here in 1993.

Like the Invite, NYMag presented a variety of wordplay contests, with many recurring ones. As Longtime Loser and occasional Maddenite Sandra Hull reminded us, one favorite was "The Game of Dan Greenburg," named for the humorist who suggested it; we've done this contest ourselves several times, this week we'll do it a bit differently.

This week: Create a chain of no more than 15 proper nouns — names of people (real or fictional), products, places, etc. — including one title of a work — in which each name relates somehow to the previous one, as in Sandra's examples above. New this time: You may bookend the list either with the same name, as in the first example, or with contrasting ones, as in the second.

The trick to this contest (and to much of the Invite in general) is to make a joke subtle enough so that people get a kick out of figuring it out, but not so subtle that people *can't* figure it out. Did Sandra's Frank/Bean or Stark/"Naked" or Holden/Huggins trip you up? Well, have mercy on someone who's about to read 1,000 of these chains: **For subtle chain links, please give brief explanations somewhere below your entry** so that the Empress can hide the answer when she reads the entry, but can check if she's confused.

Submit entries at this website: bit.ly/enter-invite-1190

Winner gets the Inkin' Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a **DVD of the 2010 movie "The Losers,"** which is a thriller about Special Forces operatives who seek revenge on the CIA, not a documentary about a group of overeducated newspaper readers with misplaced priorities. Donated by CIA-avenging Special Forces operative Andrew Hoenig of Rockville, Md.

Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug, the older-model "This Is Your Brain on Mugs" mug or our new Grossery Bag, "I Got a B in Punnanship." Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "Magnet Dum Laude" or "Falling Jest Short." First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). Deadline is Tuesday night, Sept. 6 (Heaven forbid you should labor on Labor Day); results published Sept. 25 (online Sept. 22). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. Both "Shelley You Jest" and the honorable-mentions subhead are by many-time New York Magazine Competition winner Chris Doyle. 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; follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

● **THE STYLE CONVERSATIONAL** The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

SUNDAY CHALLENGE

BY PATRICK JORDAN © 2016 CROSSYENERGY SYNDICATE LLC

ACROSS	38 Plucky quality	62 Perform high-tech surgery on	12 Squid's squirt	37 Brainy youngster
1 Brassy person's lack	39 They've never been union members	63 Reasoning capacity	14 Androgynous	39 Stimulating swigs
6 Word in the subtitle of Alex Haley's "Roots"	42 Joseph of frozen confection fame	DOWN	19 Purchase that may be padded	40 Convert to carbon
10 Letter that rhymes with its two successors	43 Vespers activity	1 Forms a blanket, in a way	21 Kevin Kline comedy whose poster features the White House	44 Pig in children's books
13 "Sorry, too busy"	45 Band with two cuts on the "Doctor Detroit" soundtrack	2 Partners of dreams or fears	25 Out to get	46 Regularly, in rhymes
15 "Ten-four" sayer	47 World capital near Lake Titicaca	3 1945 demo at Alamogordo	26 Standard & _____ registers	48 Defiant response to an accusation
16 First name in silent horror	48 Scorch slightly	4 Bowful near some cash	27 Change, as a hem	49 "Exceed Your Vision" printer company
17 Demand from a door pounder	52 Musical character who is told in absentia, "Our mothers all are junkies"	5 Birds that can jump seven feet straight up	28 Border colle's charges	50 Zoe who co-wrote the script for "Camille"
18 Showed reluctance	55 "Try that again"	6 Iago or Becky Sharp	30 Displayed irritation	51 Roxie portrayer in "Chicago"
20 1957 Broadway musical debut	57 Strands at a ski lodge, perhaps	7 Exploitation practitioners	31 Spot for a jumper cable's red clamp	53 Stud's scion
22 All traversers, once	58 Section of a circumference	8 Hardly harsh	32 Trail of Roger Rabbit's wife Jessica	54 Alternatives to Sonys
23 Caravan creature	59 Makes public	9 Vessel that visited Colchis	33 Randy's rink partner	55 Artistic touch?
24 PDQ alternative	60 Vic whose first hit was "I Have But One Heart"	10 Seeks favor from	35 Needing nursing	56 Stamp mill material
27 Admirers tenderly	61 Contest for film/dom's Akeelah			
29 "Cocoon" prop, for short				
30 Clips and clasps				
34 Savvy about				
36 Misgiving				
37 Chaotic jumble				

Answer to last week

E	M	I	N	E	N	T	G	E	T	S	F	A	R
G	O	T	O	S	E	A	O	N	E	M	O	R	E
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T	I	N	E	T	I	L	D	E	E	T	R	E	
I	K	O	C	O	N	S	O	L	E	H	E	N	
S	E	T	T	O	G	A	L	N	T	E	S	T	
T	R	Y	O	U	T	S	A	R	N	E	T	T	
O	U	C	H	S	I	E	R	I					
D	U	R	H	A	M	I	N	A	R	M	O	R	
N	O	R	S	E	A	D	D	D	E	E	R	E	
O	F	S	I	L	I	C	A	S	A	B	I	N	
V	R	A	I	S	T	E	A	L	E	E	E	E	
I	M	U	S	T	B	E	D	R	E	A	M	I	N
C	A	L	L	O	U	S	D	U	R	A	N	T	E
E	N	T	E	N	T	E	S	T	A	G	G	E	R

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HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Aug. 28: This year will be smooth sailing, as long as you don't get involved with someone who needs to be in control. You will initiate a very positive year financially starting in mid-September. If you are single, you meet people with ease. A friendship might be the source of a special relationship. If you are attached, the two of you seem to interact with renewed interest and excitement. Cancer enjoys and respects your intellectual process.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You could feel torn between two different perspectives. Each viewpoint seems to pose at least one problem. You might not be able to mediate the situation yourself, so it would be wise to reach out to a friend or loved one for some feedback.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You have a lot on your mind, so clearing your thoughts could take some time. You may feel pressured by an implicit demand or an important conversation. You may not know how to handle the matter, but what you do will surprise others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

You may feel as if you must convince someone else of the rightness of your ways. This person could have a hidden agenda, which you'll notice once you distance yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Be more forthright when explaining why you have made the decisions you have. Others might be overly interested in your plans. You

always seem to be in the midst of a good time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You may want to pull back from everything that is going on. Make it okay to devote a few days to spending time with a loved one. All relationships benefit from this type of bonding.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Honor a need to be more expressive than you have been in the past. Others will respond to your efforts in a big way. Be sure to continue a discussion with your friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You could be excited about getting together with a friend. You may experience some negativity, as this person seems intent on having things go their way. Once you get past this issue, you will feel secure and as if you can enjoy the moment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You will need to detach to understand the interpersonal dynamics of a situation. Do yourself a favor and opt not to get

involved without first understanding what is happening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You may discover that a loved one seems to need more of your time and attention. Do your best to schedule some time for the two of you to get together. You will relax as you start sharing some memories of your friendship.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Defer to others, especially if you have confidence in them. A loved one may want to show off their strengths, but they could get into a power struggle.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You may want to express your fatigue at all the constant socializing. A matter you would prefer not to discuss could rear its ugly head. You may not have a choice but to address this issue.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Allow your creativity to flourish, especially when you are with a special someone. The unexpected occurs, most likely around your finances. You could make a costly error if you are not careful.

Boyfriend's social scrutiny is troubling

Ask Amy

AMY DICKINSON

Dear Amy: I have been dating my boyfriend "William" for 2½ years. We are both divorced with children. William's ex-wife had a horrible two-year affair that hurt him deeply. Knowing this, I have always tried to assure him that he is the only man in my life, and I make sure to go above and beyond to reassure him that I am thinking about him whenever we are apart.

However, in the past six months, William has become extremely jealous of my very dear gay friend of many years "Kevin" (who also happens to be an important client of mine).

It started out with snide comments and then recently escalated to him accusing me of having an "inappropriate intimate relationship" with Kevin. He says that Kevin is a bad influence, that he is inappropriate and, most recently, that he feels like I am having an emotional affair.

I have made it very clear that we are just friends — exactly like all of my female friends — but William refuses to accept this.

William has gone so far as to create secret social-media accounts to monitor my daily activity. He also monitors Kevin's. It became somewhat of an obsession. He has been checking several times a day and screen-captures anything he deems inappropriate with any of my friends — but is focused on Kevin.

This volatile situation had been building over the past six months. We have been arguing a lot without my full understanding as to what was going on behind the scenes. I have been unjustly accused of many completely fabricated scenarios.

Apparently I spent too long in the ladies room at a restaurant several months ago, and now I'm being accused of conspiring with Kevin to get together without William knowing.

One Friday night I fell asleep and didn't text William to say good night. This caused a week-long argument. William would not take my calls, canceled our plans for the weekend and refused to believe that I didn't sneak away to New York to see my friend.

I also have a female friend

who William has decided is "undermining" our relationship and frowns on me seeing her as well.

This man is wonderful in so many ways, but I can't seem to fix my relationship and keep my friends in the process!

Heartsick in PA

Heartsick in PA: I'm not a therapist. But I can see a pattern building. Even if you are not telling me an objective version of this story, it seems like a bad situation for you.

Anyone who sets up secret accounts to monitor you — and also friends of yours — is not someone who respects your right to have relationships and friendships with other people. I don't believe you should try to "fix" this relationship.

And I hope you don't expose your children to this craziness.

Amy's column appears seven days a week at washingtonpost.com/advice. Write to askamy@amydickinson.com or Amy Dickinson, Tribune Content Agency, 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, Tex. 75001. You can also follow her @askingamy.

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