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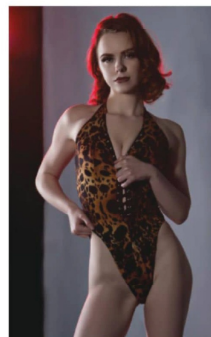
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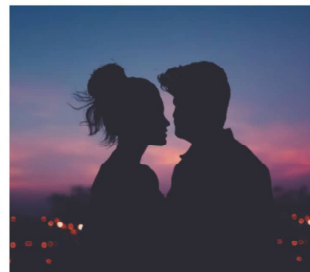
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WE HAVE
BIG NEWS
TO SHARE WITH YOU ABOUT
MODELSMANIA AND MODELSMANIA TV
COMING SOON!





LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB? HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SIXTEENTH-CENTURY EXECUTIONER?

By Stephen Koster

Job searching today can be such a hassle. You never know if you're meeting a potential employer or a black-market kidney thief. But never fear, internet layabout, for my advice is here to set you straight. No one has ever lost a kidney on my watch (or had to pay too much for a stolen kidney).

Many jobs are overlooked merely because they bear some kind of social stigma that is often based in misinformation. One such job is that of the sixteenth-century executioner. Many potential executioners steer clear of the mask simply because they don't know what the job truly entails. They only think of what the job entails.

Did you know that zero percent of all high school grads select sixteenth-century executioner as their career goal? How can this be? We've got to change this harmful perception.

Here's the thing: the pay is good, the work fulfilling, and the opportunities limitless. If you can get past your initial hang-ups, you can work as a sixteenth-century executioner just about anywhere you want (within the sixteenth century). It's that clean-cut!

Here are ten of the most frequently asked questions by people considering old-timey execution as a profession. Keep in mind these are very different from the nine most frequently asked questions of people who are about to be executed by old-timey executioners. We were going to write that list as well, but our time got cut short.

1. What are the benefits?

To answer this question you may have to adjust your definition of "benefits" a little. You see, being a sixteenth-century executioner does come with benefits, just not in the "traditional" sense. Benefits come in the form of satisfaction in a job well done. Or from knowing you are a puppet of the state. After a hard day's work, you may earn a pat on the back from a ruthless monarch, for example. By virtue of your position, you may avoid the fate of your victims, which is a whole other bonus. Who executes the executioners? No one. Well, maybe another executioner, I guess.

2. Why the mask?

Why not the mask? The benefits of the executioner's mask are twofold. One, they protect your identity so the families of your victims don't seek vengeance. Two, masks are cool.

3. Can I just behead the rich?

Even though we'd all prefer to spend our time beheading the rich, the nobility, the havas, sometimes we have to behead the poor too. It's just part of being a sixteenth-century executioner. We don't discriminate. Usually against the poor. But I guarantee you in this job you will always get the opportunity to execute the richest of the poor.

4. I want a different job...

Might I point out that in most jobs you only sometimes get to remove limbs, and usually only by accident? Plus, it's more often your own fingers and toes than someone else's. Why lose parts of your own body when you could help others lose theirs? Besides, being a sixteenth-century executioner isn't a dead-end job. It's a career with a rope



to climb. You could branch out into sixteenth-century torturer, sixteenth-century prison guard. You will certainly suffer from post-traumatic stress, but luckily that hasn't been discovered yet.

5. Do I have to have a working knowledge of knots?

Only one.

6. Can I be a sixteenth-century lawyer instead?

No. But you can execute a sixteenth-century lawyer.

7. But I'd like to expose systemic inequalities that have led to so many innocent people losing their heads. Can't I be a sixteenth-century lawyer?

I'm sorry, but if you want the big bucks that come from working as an executioner, you're going to have to learn to chop first and axe questions later.

8. What if I'm squeamish? About the blood and guts and such?

Generally speaking, being an executioner in or around the sixteenth century is not a place for the faint of heart. Actually, being alive in or around the sixteenth century isn't really for the faint of heart either. That being said, no one says you can't close your eyes right before the scary parts. You're wearing a mask, so no one will see. Except god. Or, as we in the biz refer to him: Ultimate Executioner.

9. I'm a student looking for a summer job. Is sixteenth-century executioner the right job for me?

If you plan on attending college or university for any sort of execution-related degree, then being a sixteenth-century executioner is the perfect job to help kickstart your education. It may not help your degree in fine arts, though. Your summer capital punishment experience will mainly help you in chopping and slicing disciplines, or those realms of study that heavily feature strangulation and asphyxiation. Similarly, you could also branch out into fashion,

with a focus in masks.

10. Will I get to say, "Any last requests?"

You sure will! Also, this is a bit of a segue, but you're going to develop killer forearms from all that chopping. That's not to mention all the core strength you'll get from slapping the condemned and telling them to "keep quiet, you!" Beach bod, here we come!

If you've reached the end of this list, you're probably saying to yourself, "Where do I sign up? I want to be a sixteenth-century executioner and enjoy all the perks of this glamorous lifestyle." This makes a lot of sense to say. There are so many opportunities in time-travel murder that the youth of today are just not taking advantage of. So many chances to see history being made (and unmade, thanks to you). Don't go to France this summer; go to sixteenth-century France! And hey, along the way, you might just find yourself on the brink of a cutting-edge career.



FORMAT
PlayStation 4

Nioh 2

MM
REVIEW

Master the lethal arts of the samurai as a mysterious half-human, half-supernatural Yokai warrior, in this challenging action RPG sequel. Explore violent Sengoku-era Japan and the deadly Dark Realm, both plagued with grotesque, merciless demons.

Unsheathe your deadly weapons and cut down all enemies in your path using a revamped combat system and the ability to transform into a full Yokai to unleash devastating paranormal powers.



SCHOOL OF ROCK LAUNCHES SCHOOL OF ROCK REMOTE

In response to the growing number of citizens being asked to remain in their homes or limit travel, School of Rock, the leader in performance-based music education, today announced virtual, one-on-one music lessons for its 40,000 students around the world through its School of Rock Remote program.

"At School of Rock, the health and safety of our students is our top priority, which is why we have rapidly adapted our operations in order to meet students' needs," said Rob Price, CEO of School of Rock. "School of Rock Remote along with our School of Rock Method App is a fantastic way to provide continuity and connection. Our instructors are gigging musicians, and they have shown their flexibility to make sure the music goes on."

Students will use video conferencing

during their regularly scheduled lesson times to gain access to their skilled music instructor. The new virtual lesson room coupled with School of Rock's proprietary Method App™, SongFirst™ approach and Method Books™ will offer a comprehensive music learning experience that is fun, educational and safe. In addition to meeting the needs of current students, School of Rock understands that millions of additional people can benefit from remote music education. New students are welcome to join the School of Rock community by contacting their local school.

Additionally, Hal Leonard, the world's largest print music publisher of performance and instructional material, has partnered with School of Rock to provide students a free 60-day pass to SheetMusicDirect.com, a nearly endless library of notation in virtually every

genre, including rock. Sheet Music Direct PASS is the world's leading digital sheet music subscription service.

School of Rock provides students of all ages an exciting and engaging learning environment for taking guitar lessons, drum lessons, bass lessons, keyboard lessons, and singing lessons. Drawing from all styles of rock and roll, School of Rock students learn theory and techniques via songs from legendary artists such as Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, and Frank Zappa. Thanks to the school's performance-based approach, students around the world have gained superior instrumental skills and confidence on the big stage, with some moving on to record deals and larger platforms such as American Idol, The Voice and Broadway.

For more information on School of Rock, please visit SchoolofRock.com

Brianna Dawn

Photography by Rick Trottier









THE GORGEOUS Brianna Dawn







GADGETS GALORE

Ex-Ferrari Designers Release Wireless Earbuds w/Solar Charging



Pearl Audio has released the new Pearl wireless earbuds on Indiegogo in a massively successful world premiere. Inspired by the flowing lines of Ferrari sports cars, former Pininfarina designer Crystal Li is the designer behind Pearl, a new wireless earbud that rivals Apple's popular audio product, the AirPods Pro.

The earbuds boast groundbreaking design, noise cancellation, and solar charging. Pearl earbuds allow for 60 hours of playtime when paired with the included solar charging case. In just three days, the brand has generated over \$120,000 in pre-orders and received praise from celebrities like Ne-Yo.

True wireless earbuds are becoming very popular, with the market growing at a staggering 31% every year. In 2018 alone, Apple sold over 35 million pairs of AirPods, becoming the world's largest TWS brand. Analysts project that almost quarter of American households will own at least one pair of true wireless earbuds by the end of 2020.

LG USA BEGINS ROLLOUT OF 2020 OLED TV LINEUP



LG Electronics announced initial pricing and availability of its 2020 TV lineup featuring 14 new OLED models led by the new art-inspired GX Gallery series, Real 8K ZX series and the award-winning CX series that was celebrated as "Best In Show" at CES 2020.

The undisputed world leader in OLED TVs, LG is expanding its range of screen sizes in the 2020 OLED lineup — from the stunning 88-inch and 77-inch class models to the all-new 48-inch class model.

LG OLED's self-emissive display technology enables precise control of lighting at the pixel level for the deepest blacks, most realistic colors and an infinite contrast while the stunningly sleek form factors of the new TVs are as breathtaking as the picture quality they deliver. For more information on LG's 2020 OLED TVs, visit lg.com.



1000 STORIES CONTINUES EXPANSION WITH BOURBON BARREL-AGED CHARDONNAY

On the heels of its third consecutive IMPACT "Hot Prospect" commendation,¹ 1000 Stories—an early catalyst of the skyrocketing spirits barrel-aged (SBA) wine category—has introduced the category's first ultra-premium Chardonnay, a rich and flavorful white wine aged in bourbon barrels (SRP \$20). The SBA space burgeoned last year to \$120 million in annual sales,² with ultra-premium clocking an impressive growth rate of 68 percent.³ With this latest release, 1000 Stories continues its category leadership, fusing America's favorite varietal⁴ and a track record of winemaking that wins accolades⁵ with the remarkable character arising from aging wine in charred bourbon barrels.

1000 Stories built a name for itself bringing together the adventurous roots of California winemaking with

the genuine Americana of Kentucky's storied bourbon culture. In its latest chapter, 1000 Stories has answered the resounding call for expanded SBA offerings, delivering another classic California varietal boldly reimagined for the craft spirits enthusiast. The release

of the pacesetter brand's next winning wine builds on the success of its game-changing Zinfandel—one of the world's original bourbon barrel-aged wines—and subsequent fan favorites, Gold Rush Red and Prospectors' Proof Cabernet Sauvignon.

Learn more about the collection and 1000 Stories, building a legacy of craftsmanship that boldly evokes the heritage of California winemaking and the traditions of bourbon making, at 1000storieswines.com.





NEW 2020 TRIUMPH MOTORCYCLES



THE TIGER 900





TRIUMPH BOBBER TFC



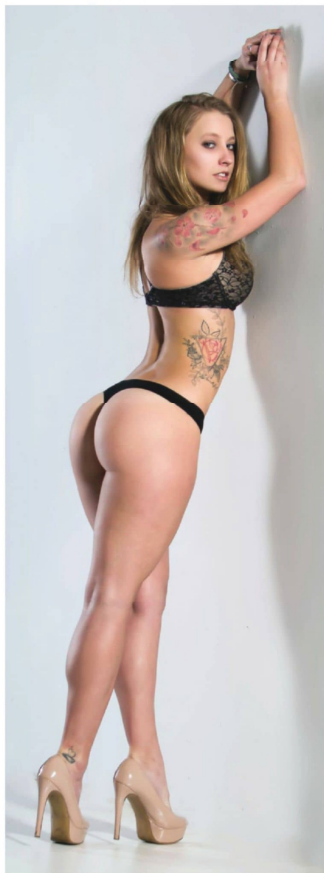
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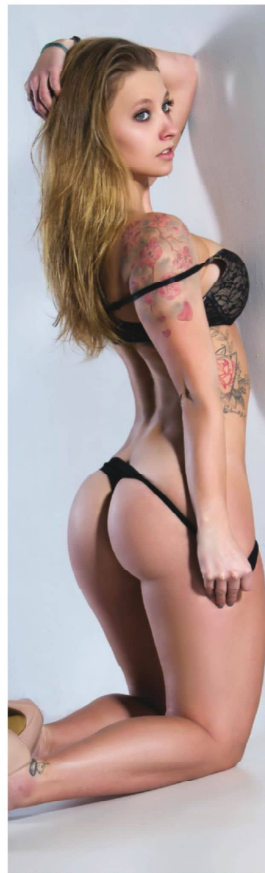
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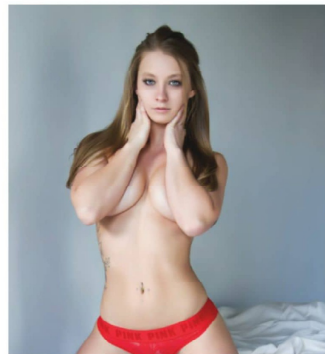


*Kaity
Pearson*

Photography by Rick Trottier







Kaity is
An Iconic Beautiful
woman!







15 Fun Things to Do While You Slowly Go Insane in Quarantine

So, it's day ten of not leaving the house, you haven't put on pants in over 72 hours, and Netflix is starting to wonder if you're okay. Of course you're not fucking okay! You're so sli-crazy that you started talking to your plants—and subsequently are now giving them the cold shoulder after that blowout argument you had with your succulents.

But never fear! We know how difficult self-quarantine can be, and with all this doom-and-gloom talk on the news we know that morale is probably at a low right now. That's why we've compiled 15 fun activities you can do in the comfort of your own home to keep your mind off of your loneliness and the ever-increasing probability of the apocalypse befailing global society. Let's get started!

1. Try cooking a new recipe.

There are lots of websites that have fun and new dishes for you to try. If

you're not into staples like Allrecipes or Delish, there are plenty of mommy blogs filled with weird casseroles and tales of divorce to draw inspiration from. I'm sure you can find a way to make a 5-star meal out of Ramen, half a bottle of mustard, and the crumbs at the bottom of the Pringles can, right?

2. Do some online shopping.

Retail therapy is always an option, even when you're stuck in your bedroom! Those earrings on Amazon look nice, and so does that new set of Japanese steak knives, and hey, who DOESN'T need a ThighMaster in these trying times?

3. Play with your dog.

They say dogs are man's best friend for a reason! Even if you can't take your canine companion for a walk, you can still play tug-of-war, or teach him tricks, or lie around on the couch together watching the paint dry for a while. Plus, your dog's naivety of the

state of the world during these trying times will certainly help keep your own mind off things—how enviable it is not to know your own mortality! Oh, wait, you don't have a dog? Um...

4. Steal your neighbor's dog.

Take social distancing to its EXTREME by distancing your neighbors from their own pet! You're sure that nice family of four next door won't miss their Labrador THAT badly. Their eight-year-old always cries like that, right? You could even name your new dog Sparky! He looks like a Sparky.

5. Teach your dog English.

Hey, if Kiki the gorilla can learn sign language and Helen Keller could learn to talk despite being blind AND deaf, you can definitely teach this dog to say "hello." You've always wanted to have your own Shaggy/Scooby dynamic! And having another voice in this house will help keep the ones in your head at bay!

6. Run from the cops when they come to take Sparky back.

Well, you wanted to get out of the house, right? Plus, sprinting from the police while carrying an 80lb dog will be a great way to get back into that exercise routine you've been neglecting since the gym shut down. THEY'LL NEVER TAKE YOU ALIVE!

7. Download a new app game to play while you hide out in an abandoned building.

You could always binge Fuller House while you're in a prison of your own design. But sometimes you just need a mindless game to distract you from how quickly you're losing your mind. Some of our favorites include 2048, Words With Friends, and Angry Birds. Those little rage-filled chickens are the only ones who truly understand your pain. Nobody ever understands...

8. Start a podcast.

Your friends tried to warn you against ever doing this, but who needs em? You're on the road now, you have no friends. All you need is Sparky, the Ramen broth-flavoring packet in your backpack, and your imaginary guests on your new podcast: WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH DINERS?

9. Call your mom.

You were meaning to visit her and Dad before all this happened. Now you're sobbing in the back room of an abandoned warehouse and Sparky keeps pawing at the door and whining for his old family back and you just really need some support right now. Also you were wondering if she'd be willing to share the first episode of your new podcast on Facebook.

10. Play hide-and-seek.

If you're really starved for excitement, you can make the game even higher-stakes by hiding with a noisy dog and the seekers are a team of FBI officials who are unsure if you're armed and dangerous and aren't taking any chances. Just remember NOT to fall for the old "Only oldy oxen're" trick, that's how they get you.

11. Choose a new ringtone.



Preferably something a little quieter than the "Bohemian Rhapsody" guitar solo you have set right now. It's really distracting and totally gives away your hiding spot when you're hiding from the police and your mom calls you back because she's wondering if you want her to send you any of your old clothes while you're stuck in quarantine.

12. Write a story.

Doing artistic things can be really cathartic. Besides, what is writing if not just creative lying? You're going to be doing a lot of that in questioning later today when the prosecuting attorney wants to know why you stole a Labrador and evaded the police for six hours.

13. Clean out your wardrobe.

You're never gonna wear those old sweatpants with the ketchup stains on them, right? Or that old fedora from your 1920s mobster phase. You may wanna hold onto those business-casual slacks, though; you may need them for your upcoming court date over that whole "stealing your neighbor's dog" business.

14. Work on your public speaking skills.

Quarantine is a great time to hone those skills you've been letting fall

to the wayside. Why not take all this sudden free time to learn a new language, or teach yourself origami, or practice your ability to address a crowd while you're being questioned by the prosecuting attorney during the hearing regarding your charges of theft and evading the police?

15. Get to know your new roommate. Hey, maybe jail isn't so bad! The rent's free, you're definitely not lonely anymore, and your new bunkmate Jackhammer seems like he's really popular around here. He even offered to give you a stick-and-poke tattoo to match his! Hopefully it isn't a gang sign. The last time you asked him a question about his past you got a toothbrush shank to the cheek, so you don't really feel comfortable asking.

We hope that all of you are safe at home and that you're doing your best to entertain yourselves during these weird, unpredictable days. Maybe some of these activities will prove to be fun and stimulating! If you try them out, be sure to send us pictures with the hashtag #notquity. Inquiries and invoices for bail money can be sent directly to your rich uncle who said you'd never amount to anything—you sure showed him today! Happy quarantine!



DO YOU BELIEVE IN CHEMISTRY?

BY SHAWN JONES

What exactly is Chemistry? Is it that inexplicable feeling of connection you have with someone? Is it the feeling of instant familiarity you have with someone you just met? Or maybe it's purely lust in overdrive. Even if I could provide a good explanation of chemistry, there's still more about it I couldn't even begin to explain. For example, why is it that in some cases, chemistry only flows one way? Is chemistry generated from within? Or can external factors help create it? Are you one of those people that HAS to have chemistry in order to stay connected to a potential love mate? More importantly, is chem-

istry something that can be created in due time? Or must it spontaneously combust from the mixture of the right combination of people, place, and time? Does chemistry equal attraction? I know. That's a lot of questions. But think about it. How many people do you know turn someone away because there was a lack of "chemistry"? I can tell you that I am one of those people. That's right folks...I must have chemistry.

The chemistry question has haunted me my entire adult life. I would say that 99% of the time, if I felt what I thought was chemistry for a guy, the guy did not feel it in return for me. When the chemistry WAS returned, there usually ended up being something wrong with the guy. He was either geographically, physically, or emotionally unavailable...or all three! That says a lot

about the conditions that lead me to believe I'm attracted to someone. So now I'm immediately suspicious when I meet someone that I feel chemistry with. Most guys that I've experienced this phenomenon with have had no desire to pursue a true relationship, or for some reason, couldn't pursue one. Often times, it was a train wreck waiting to happen.

I really don't take too much stock in the fact that a man may feel chemistry with me when I don't feel it for him, because in most cases, a man is initially reacting to visual stimuli. Many men "think" they have chemistry with me. They usually just like what they see. I think there's a difference. To me, chemistry is generated when I meet someone who has had similar experiences and seems to understand where I've come from without a lot of discussion. We tend to have a lot in common, or are intellectually on the same level. Throw in a few good looks and a smidge of attraction and BAM! I don't know if I've chosen to feel chemistry under these conditions, or if it just happens that way. I know that I would prefer someone who can really be comfortable and secure with me and who doesn't let me get away with dumb stuff. That turns me on! When I have to do too much explaining,



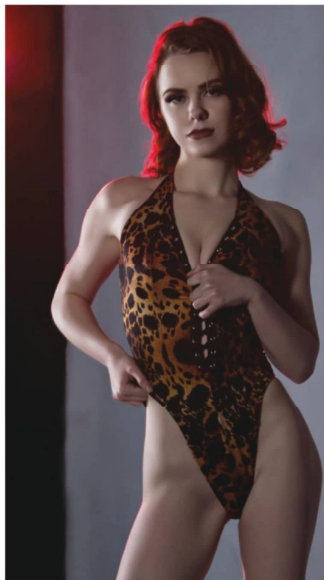
I eventually lose interest.

Can chemistry be created? Can we make ourselves be attracted to a good person, or must there be a chemistry that's already there? I know many women that say chemistry can come later after you've known someone awhile. I'm told stories of how after many futile attempts to form a productive relationship where chemistry was overflowing, they gave up or the relationship eventually crashed and burned because it was based on all the wrong things. I have heard the stories of women who thought they had settled for a relationship that didn't sizzle, only to find out later that love had grown and that, in itself, had created its own form of chemistry. And usually, it didn't feel exactly like the raw chemistry they had been searching for...it was better. So yes...I know it happens (from what I'm told).

Does Chemistry last forever at its same intensity or does it ebb and flow? Well I can imagine like most feelings we have for our partner, chemistry definitely can ebb and flow. Some days you feel like you're in lock step with your mate, and other days you wonder what you ever saw in them in the first place. I imagine that's normal. Why can one person feel chemistry for another, but the other person not feel it back? And when two people both feel chemistry at the same time, can one feel it more than the other? This is just my stab at why these things happen, but what I really think is that many times when we feel this "chemistry" stuff, it's really a part of ourselves that is latching on to a person that may or may not help us heal a broken part of ourselves. Ok, I know that was a mouthful, so let me break it down. Looking back on my experiences with men, those that I felt

the sizzle with usually ended up having something about them that would ultimately cause me to relive a painful experience with some man from my past. Most of them were eerily similar to my father... detached and unable to commit. It's almost like it's a test to see if we'll make the same mistake, or if we'll actually figure it out and have a life changing growth spurt. There was always this decision to make when I'd feel the sizzle because deep down, I knew something was about to happen. Should I go forward and see what lesson awaited me? Or should I back up quickly and run like hell. I always thought that maybe THIS time would be different. I'm sure you can guess what typically happened. I think that the reason one may feel it when the other doesn't is that people have different emotional agendas at the time... different wounds they're trying to heal. So sometimes, it just doesn't match up. That's my take on it, regardless of how hokey it might sound.

Do we NEED chemistry? At one time I went through this phase where I thought that chemistry didn't matter and I didn't need it to move forward with some kind of relationship with a man. Now, I'm afraid, I've come back full circle. And I'm back to hoping that maybe...just maybe...I can find a mature, handsome, funny, gainfully employed man...that makes me wanna holla! This is why I'll probably be single the rest of my life, unfortunately. If it's not there in at least the smallest quantity, I feel like I'm settling for someone that I haven't really connected with. Can I connect over time? Probably, if I tried real hard. But it might require a lot of work and sacrificing a part of myself that I'll come to be resentful about later. I've also seen relationships that appeared to work on the outside, only to have one or the other leave because they never really loved the person they were with. They just didn't feel it. Never did. They were there because it "worked on paper" or somebody told them to be there. I don't want that to happen for me. I know that chemistry isn't always there and you don't always feel lovey dovey towards your partner. But for me, there needs to be a certain level of connection, along with trust and comfort. Too much to ask for? Well, we'll just have to see.

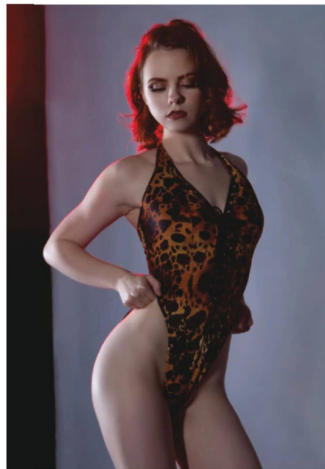


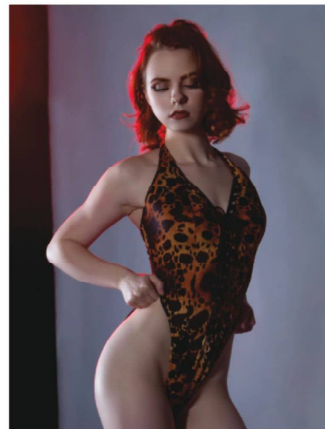
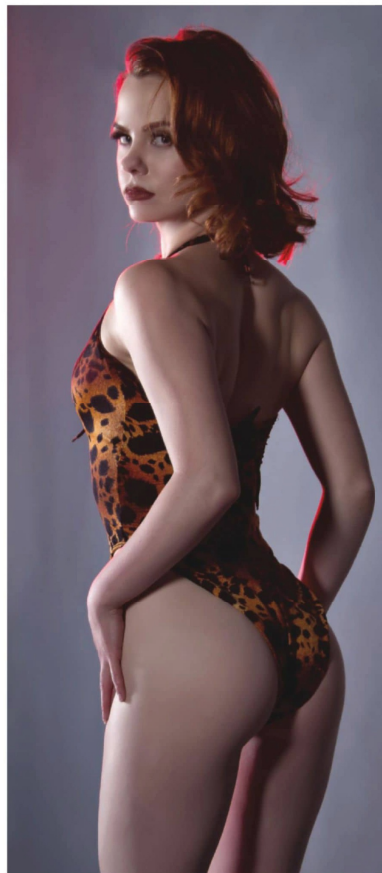
KRISTEN VEAYO

Photography by Rick Trottier

Hair & Makeup by Katherine Veayo









AN INNER LANDSCAPE UNEXPLORED



"THE BLESSINGS ASSOCIATED WITH EMBRACING SOLITUDE"

Written by Rick Trotter – RJT Images/Light Works Studio

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.

"I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practice resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck the marrow out of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life." ~ Henry David Thoreau

Most people, when they read Thoreau's words about his sojourn at Walden, miss a portion of the point. They understand the importance of living life to the fullest and embracing a "Carpe Diem" existence. What they fail to grasp is that Thoreau did this by distancing himself from distractions to the mind and soul as much as was possible and taking hold, two-handed, of a life that was lived primarily in solitude.

It is almost impossible to imagine most of the people of this nation under the age of 50 doing such a thing. But the sad reality is that to achieve varying

levels and/or components of true self-actualization, it is absolutely necessary to find a long-lost inner landscape, a country of one's own thoughts and feelings and be completely and totally at peace with the topography of our own minds and hearts. It is only through accepting the contemplative mantle and the blessed burden of solitude that we can truly look at ourselves through a lens that is as darkly clear as days alone can make it, so that we truly know who and what we are.

It is only as the latter stages of life cast aside the veils, fogs and filters we are forced to peer myopically through

what came before in our younger days and how we related to the life we led. Like most people my age, when I wasn't in school, working some type of job, playing sports or spending some time with friends or family, I spent a great deal of time alone. When I was little, I played and found ways to entertain myself. As I got a little older, I discovered pastimes like reading, writing, fishing, building models or hiking/exploring, and I rode my bike whenever and wherever I could. While I enjoyed social activities, the amount of time I spent alone sowed the seeds of enjoying and appreciating solitude.

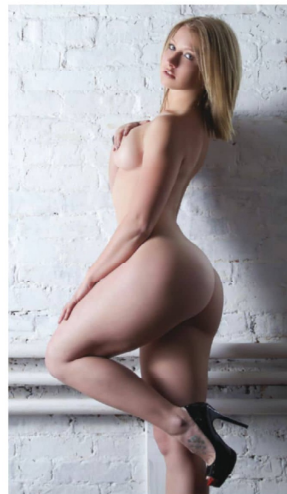
It is as I aged and moved into and then more deeply through adulthood that I came to understand that life ROBBS us of our right to solitude and the pleasures therein. Our internal chemistry prods us to be involved in romantic relationships. Our need for work and being connected to a workplace forces us to interface on and off the job with our co-workers. The constraints of family are an obligation we must take seriously. None of these things and so many other social engagements of a myriad nature are bad in and of themselves, but they seem to multiply at an alarming rate. In addition, they are time and energy-consuming and are deemed "acceptable" behaviors in our modern society. Solitude has somehow become a bad thing, so much so that we are tolerant of a cell phone culture that promotes being in touch at every moment, no matter how despicable that truly is, but look askance at someone who seeks the solace of their own thoughts and label

them "a loner".

Solitude does NOT have to be and is often confused with isolation. Life in isolation can be deleterious in nature, but it depends on the person. Dick Proenneke's sojourns in the wilds of Alaska are a testament to happy, productive isolation that has left a positive mark on environmental science and personal philosophy. But far too often isolation is something foisted upon a person due to circumstances not fully within their control. Both Thoreau and Proenneke chose isolation so that their opportunities to fully appreciate the joys and benefits of solitude could be maximized. Too often, people are provided with opportunities to turn solitude into periods of personal growth, but most commonly people run from solitude, afraid of the vast inner silences and what lies behind them.

A the very core of why solitude can be such an incredible chance for improvement is the journey deeper into Self-Discovery and the Self-Knowl-

edge gained from that discovery. Far too often in this life, people do NOT know themselves. That deficiency has become far more acute as the means to self-distract and self-indulge through electronic media has turned the intellectual focus outward rather than inward. True self-discovery is best done when a person is forced into reflection, evaluation, analysis and finding productive and positive ways to pass time (my mother used to prod me to find ways to entertain myself and keep her hyperactive son from driving her nuts). When a person self-reflects, evaluates and analyzes, they come face to face with their true self, which means coming to terms with strengths and weaknesses, successes and mistakes. Most people don't often want to look into the mirror and admit what is really there. It is difficult to accurately do such a thing in social settings as outside assessments are not always accurate or honest. Most people, when asked for an opinion, are not always





willing to give unalloyed assessment and they dissemble. Being honest about what lies within ourselves and how it can be improved or at least addressed is the first step towards making periods of solitude an engine for progress.

Having interests and pursuing pastimes is the next step in the process. When we are little, our parents urge us to take part in activities, wanting us to use time efficiently and hoping we gain an appreciation for a wide range of "hobbies". The problem is that far too often children are nudged in the direction of group activities like sports under the belief that socialization is important to later growth. The problem is that too much of one thing is never a good idea. A social activity has value, but also having an individual activity or two is just as valuable. Many "group activities" like after school sports are not activities that we can easily maintain throughout life. There are opportunities to play sports in leagues like softball, tennis or basketball, but those can be hit or miss and they come and go. But most individual activities like music, art, writing, hiking, fishing, hunting or gardening, just to name a few, can be pursued throughout life as often or as little as a person wishes. They can be done alone, in pairs or even in small groups and the opportunity for deeper knowledge acquisition is impressive to say the least. My understanding of geology grew due to hiking in the mountains. My grasp of chemistry, physics and biology all increased due to years of fishing. And reading has opened my mind to topics I never would have batted an eye-lash at had a book not been put in my hands by friends, family or teachers. The deeper the knowledge, the more profound the mind and the more peaceful the spirit becomes. Knowledge causes fear to slowly but steadily sluice away, so the more learned the person, the stronger the spirit. Learning can be done in social settings, but it accelerates and intensifies when an individual pursues it with the vigor and desire of their own heart. Solitude offers the opportunity to chase this goal with abandon.

Embracing solitude is one of the most important parts of the journey towards self-actualization and the ability to be a more productive part of the community. It seems oxymoronic that living a life

that is more thoroughly tied to time alone makes a person a stronger citizen, but the results of actively making solitude a time of self-discovery comes with a whole host of benefits. A person's self-reliance and self-confidence can be and should be improved by understanding and crafting a healthier inner landscape. This in turn leads to the highest levels of personal inner growth, improved empathy and altruism, both essential for the existence of humanity. Empathetic and altruistic people are patient, concerned with others, and concerned with important tasks that benefit the community as a whole. It seems strange that a journey inward would lead to being better at looking outward, but that is the essence of the best parts of philosophy and religion. The greatest prophets and philosophers delved deep into their intellects and souls to find meaning and when it had been ascertained,

they made the effort to spread the word about how to find peace and fulfillment. However, since the message was aimed at those who, had as yet not taken the first step towards enlightenment through the silences of solitude, their wise counsel has fallen on deaf ears. It still goes unheard today, because to truly find peace, one must seek solitude and find satori in silence. Such a course demands perseverance and self-denial, it demands delayed gratification, all of which are in short supply today. But inner peace is an achievable objective and it starts with time spent alone, exploring the very essence of who and what you are. It invites action and inaction, gain and loss, success and failure, for in all of those outcomes, learning must follow.

"What you think, you become. What you feel, you attract. What you imagine, you create." - Buddha





Hilda

Photography by Rick Trottier









A WORLD OF EMPTY WORDS AND EMPTIER THOUGHTS



"Messaging, Social Media and the Decline of Language"

Written by Rick Trotter – RJT Images-Light Works Studio

From the earliest days of recorded human history, mankind has marveled at his uniquely separate nature when it comes to language. We are not alone when it comes to creating artifacts like lodging. Creatures other than man build structures of all sizes and shapes. Mankind is not even singular in his use of tools, for a few other animals do that as well. It has become apparent through years of study that we share the planet with other species that have methods of communication. But it is mankind's use and consistent development of language for a wide variety of reasons, both practical and fanciful that has set us apart from all the other denizens of this Earth. That is until this recent age of language denigration and academic decline. Today, we have a greater number of means of communicating with our peers and "keeping in touch" than at any other

time in history, but we say little of consequence and much of what passes for communication is not all that different from the squawks of seagulls and the chattering of chickens. As our technology advances and allows us greater ease of almost everything, some of the most uniquely human traits of which we should be most proud are draining from us like blood lost from a wound. There are many examples of how language has declined in complexity and beauty, from the common use of "text speak" to the saturation of abbreviated forms of slang that render understanding nearly impossible. But one of the most egregious losses is that of "letter writing". Sitting down and thoughtfully composing a letter is a lost art and we are worse for its disappearance from the landscape of language. Even though parents use to "require" children to write "thank you"

letters to family and friends for birthday and Christmas gifts, and schools taught varied styles of business letters, writing to someone and mailing out that letter was once a regular occurrence. I wrote A LOT of letters, all the way to the point where my arthritis made my handwriting illegible. People wrote for myriad reasons. Sometimes it was as formal as a letter to a company's customer service department or fan mail to an admired sports hero. But more often than not, letters had deeper emotional and intellectual meaning. When looking at the historical record, there are some incredibly moving examples. Over the last decades of their lives, former presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson conducted a correspondence which has since gone down in American History as one of the most important and influential series of political and personal discussions ever.

Each exploring their thoughts cogently and voluminously, the two Founding Fathers set forth philosophical ideas and expressions of deeper friendship that are beacons to us as a people for what language and communication of the very highest order should be.

American writers Walker Percy and Shelby Foote also corresponded back and forth over the majority of their lives, examining ideals, thoughts and feelings in such a manner as to be both charming and insightful, as well as intimate. Throughout history, the object and action of writing a letter to a family member, friend or colleague was one of the most important endeavors humanity has undertaken. The opportunity to share experience and beliefs through words and to then have those words set down in such a manner that posterity COULD benefit from them if those letters were preserved is priceless. The transmission of experience and knowledge from one person to the next and one generation to another is how mankind has forged links with the past and built bridges to the future. But as the electronic age progressed and our adherence to methods of communicating through its channels deepened, written letters slowly faded from the stage of language as texts or other forms of instant messaging shouldered them aside. The problem here is simple, the whole idea of "instant messaging" is that of speed. So messages tend to be short, without depth and they convey only tiny bursts of thought and virtually no consideration when it comes to crafting language. Most electronic messaging is commonly deleted and lost forever. I once had some texts on a phone that really mattered to me, words of affection from someone dear that were deleted when my phone was replaced. But I still have letters from people, written long ago, that I treasure, just as John Adams and Thomas Jefferson once treasured each and every exchange that became the pattern of their lives until both men passed away on July 4, 1826. I remember walking to mailboxes filled with eager anticipation, hoping in earnest for the arrival of a special letter. To see hand-addressed envelopes and then to read a hand-written letter, sometimes fancifully decorated was a delight the like of which is absent from today's world. As

decorative as Snapchat has become, it just isn't the same.

The most complicated change in our use of language, especially the written expression of thought is in the realm of "writing for an audience". There is still a lot of this kind of writing going on today and there is a medium by which it is easier to reach an audience than at any time in history. But such kinds of positive outpouring of the written word are often overshadowed by the crass, coarse and crude modes of reaching an audience that are the preferred vectors of transmission today. Once upon a time, people wrote in thoughtful and persuasive ways to explore points so that others might benefit from their efforts, even if it was just themselves. Whether it was writing as public as a letter to an editor of a newspaper or a magazine or as personal as a diary entry (what we now refer to as journaling), they were lucid efforts to put thought to paper and come out of the experience emotionally and cognitively better for the time and energy spent. Long ago, one of my favorite activities was to read the letters sent to the editors of Time Magazine, National Geographic and Sports Illustrated. Whether the missives were paeans to a job well done exploring a worthy topic in a past issue or an attempt to thoughtfully refute a point and add another intellectual perspective, most

of the letters were deeply engaging and an audience was reached. I stopped reading such fare when I began to realize that many letters were shallow exercises in self-absorbed raving or ponderously stating the obvious. Instead of examining a concept in a compelling fashion, letters to the editor became regurgitations of material far less pleasant. Similarly, diaries/journals that have come down to us through history are often some of the most absorbing reads. A TRUE journal is an attempt to make meaning from the day's events, often times mundane on the surface but never trivial when set against the backdrop of human experience, emotion and reflection. To delve into the thought processes of anyone who takes the time to really explore matters of the mind and the heart is beyond fascinating, it is a blessed gift. But today, what passes for journaling, even though there are people who still do such a thing, are often miserable rants on Facebook and Twitter, short and useless invective, diatribes without meaning and with even less value. Instead of thoughtful analysis, they are pungent in their venting of emotional gas pent up inside that is not addressed in a mature, adult manner; it is simply allowed to burst forth. But just as the persons writing such garbage have no patience to sit and create something meaningful, too many





people today have even less patience to actually read something of merit. And therein is the tragedy for in the early years of the internet was birthed the concept of "blogging". And while blogging can be insipid, it can be and often is something quite useful from an informational and educational standpoint, not to mention entertaining. The problem with blogging is that people have to be able to easily find worthwhile blogs and wade through the thinking of someone who MAY or may NOT have some authority to speak on a subject. If I were reading a blog on military history, I would want the writer to have more than just an affinity for such a topic, I would wish to read the thoughts of someone who has actual life or academic experience, just as a blog on French cuisine should be written by someone who learned from a luminary like Jacques Pepin. Blogs are certainly a wonderful possible place of audience-centered writing to burgeon, but too many people turn to the "recommendations" post on Facebook or the feed of their Twitter account and receive the dubious ramblings of those who really aren't writers or experts on much.

It is simply amazing how many skills mankind has amassed over our long history, only to lose them when some new and popular trend comes along. These "Lost Arts" should be sources

of shame and sadness that we have allowed something worthy to pass from us, rather than preserve it. There are forms of metallurgy that we can no longer duplicate today that were commonly practiced a few hundred years ago. Many building techniques of long ago can no longer be replicated and that continues today, I hear many older contractors complain that finish carpentry is fast becoming a lost art. And language, especially writing, is rapidly finding its way onto that list of losses. I often hear young people make cute commentary about my 19th century manner of speech when it comes to word choice, old sayings or other linguistic embellishments. And that is just my speech. I can only imagine how challenging it was for them in high school to read Shakespeare, or Thomas Hardy or Jack London. Maybe they don't read those authors or ones like them anymore. I remember glorying in the style and usage of Nathaniel Hawthorne and being awed by the audacity of James Joyce's language in classes I once took. I have striven ever since to find a voice of my own whose use of the written word would reflect credit on the impact they had on me, those men and many other writers both male and female. I wonder how many people today will walk forward into a world where not only their voice, but those around them are so simplistic as



to convey little or nothing to the mind and the silence that is created by our misuse of language and the inability to find beauty in it becomes one of our vilest deeds in a long history of such misery.





LYDIAN DEVERE YARD

Photography by Rick Trottier

HMUA by Katherine Rose Veayo







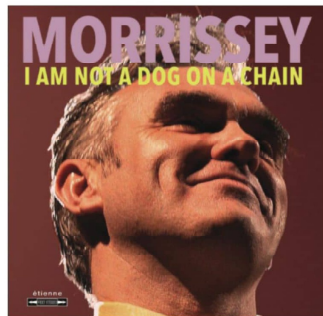


Morrissey

Releases

'I Am Not A Dog On A Chain'

Morrissey has released his 13th solo studio album, 'I Am Not A Dog On A Chain'. The alt-rock pioneer's third release on BMG, following last year's covers album 'California Son,' is being hailed as a collection of music "as great as anything he has ever written" by The Telegraph and "his best in years" by NME. 'I Am Not A Dog On A Chain' was produced by Grammy Award-winning producer Joe Chiccarelli (Beck, The Strokes, The Killers). It was recorded during sessions at Studio La Fabrique in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, France and Sunset Sound in Hollywood, California and was preceded by several well-received singles including 'Bobby Don't You Think They Know?', featuring backing vocals by legendary R&B icon Thelma Houston, 'Love Is On Its Way Out,' and "Knockabout World." He is an incredible vocalist. For future tour dates go to morrisseyofficial.com.



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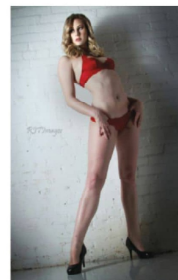
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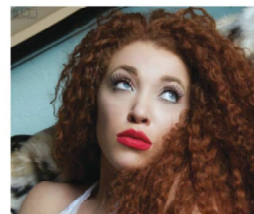
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