

# Parade

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021 | PAGE 10



**'I've done  
a lot  

---

I've  
earned  
my rest'**

**Bette  
Midler**  
on her  
showbiz  
memories,  
her life in  
songs and a  
new book



WALTER SCOTT'S

# Personality Parade

WALTER SCOTT ASKS...

## Andra Day

The two-time Grammy nominee, 36, makes her breakout acting performance as the star of *The United States vs. Billie Holiday* (Feb. 26 on Hulu). The film focuses on the jazz singer's legal troubles, including being the target of a federal narcotics sting in the 1940s after she refuses to stay silent about racial injustice.



What does Diana Ross have to say about the new movie? Go to [Parade.com/day](http://Parade.com/day) to find out.

**Were you nervous about taking on the role?** Nervous is the understatement of the century; I was super terrified. I really had to pray a lot about it, but when [director] Lee Daniels explained to me what the movie was actually going to be about, and I read the script and heard his passion for her and for the story, that helped convince me.

**Why is this a movie that we need right now?** As a person of color, I think it's super important for us and for the nation as a whole. Unless we tell the truth about our history and everyone involved in our history, I don't think we can ever truly move on and heal. Her story, in particular, is a huge part of that, because she truly was the early godmother of civil rights.

**How old were you when you were first introduced to Billie's music?** I'm sure I heard her before then, but my actual memory of it is when I was 11 years old and my musical theater instructor, Bill Doyle, told me about her. I listened to three songs, but the two that struck me were "Sugar" and "Strange Fruit."

**What will your new album in 2021 sound like?** A lot of Billie's DNA definitely made it onto the album. Also, I'm a big *Star Trek* fan, so there will be some themes of that on there as well. Basically, dealing with social issues [related to] being a woman of color and where I'm from originally—all told in a creative, Trekkie kind of way.

## Jason Biggs' TV Jackpot

The *American Pie* actor hosts the new *Cherries Wild* (Feb. 14 on Fox), a pop culture trivia game show in which players compete for a chance



to operate an enormous slot machine in hopes of winning a grand prize of \$250,000. "I've always loved game shows," says Biggs, 42. "I love the game component, the high stakes and, of course, the thrill of giving away \$250,000 of someone else's money."

## Kim Delaney Searches for a Killer

The *Army Wives* TV alum, 59, stars in the true story of Mari Gilbert, whose daughter's disappearance led to the discovery of 19 bodies, in *The Long Island Serial Killer: A Mother's Hunt for Justice* (Feb. 20 on Lifetime). The movie covers Gilbert's search for what happened to her daughter Shannan, a sometime escort who disappeared after a "date" on Long Island. "Mari singlehandedly brought closure to families who never knew what happened to their missing sisters and daughters," says executive producer Deborah Norville, who covered Gilbert's story for *Inside Edition*.



EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS FOR WALTER SCOTT TO PERSONALITY@PARADE.COM

## LONG-LASTING LOVE

We celebrate Valentine's Day with a salute to some real-life famous couples whose relationships have endured the test of time. Here's how many years they've been together.



**Ina and Jeffrey Garten**  
57 years

**Katharine Ross and Sam Elliott**  
42 years

**Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne**  
41 years

**Barbara Bach and Ringo Starr**  
40 years

**Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell**  
37 years

**Oprah Winfrey and Stedman Graham**  
34 years



**Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson**  
34 years

**Kyra Sedgwick and Kevin Bacon**  
33 years

**Annette Bening and Warren Beatty**  
30 years

**Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick**  
29 years

**Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen**  
27 years

**David Furnish and Elton John**  
27 years

**Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith**  
25 years

**Kelly Ripa and Mark Consuelos**  
25 years

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: TAKASHI SEDA/PARAMOUNT PICTURES; MIRIAM SANTOS/PARAMOUNT PICTURES; LITTLE MARY STEWART/GETTY IMAGES; STEVE GRANITZ/GETTY IMAGES; AMY SIESSMAN/GETTY IMAGES; ALBERT L. ORTEGA/GETTY IMAGES; KEVIN DIANE/SEAN/GETTY IMAGES FOR BAFTA; DANIEL WHEELER/GETTY IMAGES; BRUCE CLIKAS/ILLUMINATIONS; STEVE JENNINGS/WIREIMAGE.COM; TONY AWARDS PRODUCTIONS; STEVE JENNINGS/WIREIMAGE.COM; KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES; ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES FOR DISNEY; RICK KEENE/GETTY IMAGES; IAN WEST/PA IMAGES; JEFF SPICER/GETTY IMAGES FOR GLOBAL CITIZEN; JESSE GRANT/GETTY IMAGES FOR NETFLIX.

# Parade Picks

Visit [PARADE.COM/PICKS](http://PARADE.COM/PICKS) for more trending products

## Romance FOR THE AGES

Looking for love? In honor of Valentine's Day, we've got eight romantic stories—in books, onscreen and in real life—that will get your heart pounding. —*Kaylen Ralph*

### To Read

1. In Rachel Lynn Solomon's **The Ex Talk** (Berkley), one of our most nostalgic mediums, public radio, is injected with a steamy twist when work frenemies Shay and Dominic are forced to play amicable exes to co-host a new program. **\$16**

2. How can you resist a rom-com that begins with its female lead ruining an expensive wedding? You simply can't. In **Act Your Age, Eve Brown** (Avon, March 9) by Talia Hibbert, head- (and heart-) strong Eve meets her match in a calm B&B owner. **\$16**

3. Katherine Heiny's latest romance-adjacent work of literary fiction has been compared to Jane Austen's novels. In **Early Morning Riser** (Knopf, April 13), schoolteacher Jane and town lothario Duncan set the stage for an entirely unexpected ensemble cast of characters in the throes and on the edge of love. **\$27**

Available in bookstores and online

### To Watch

4. In **The Dating List** (UPtv, Feb. 21), Abby makes a deal with her too-busy-for-dating boss: She'll screen potential boyfriends in exchange for a promotion. But when she begins to fall in love, is she risking her promising career?

5. For a feel-good rom-com, check out **Breaking Fast** (video on demand), in which romance buds between Mo (**Haaz Sleiman**), a gay practicing Muslim dealing with a recent breakup while observing Ramadan, and Kal (**Michael Cassidy**), an actor who decides to fast along with him for the holy month.



6. The third and final installment in the series, **To All the Boys: Always and Forever** (Netflix) shows fans how lovebirds Peter (**Noah Centineo**) and Lara Jean (**Lana Condor**) navigate their final year of high school, with college just around the corner.



continued on page 6

from page 4

7. In the mind-bending love story **Bliss** (Amazon Prime), Greg (**Owen Wilson**) and Isabel (**Salma Hayek**) suspect the world as they know it might actually be a computer simulation.



### To Inspire

8. A real-life romance that reads like a movie plot.

**Happily Ever After: The Cougills, Indianapolis** Donna and Joe were high school sweethearts. But after finding out they were pregnant in 1968, Donna's parents made her give up the baby for adoption and forbade the couple from speaking. And they didn't for more than 50 years. That was until June 2019, when their daughter found Donna through the genetic profiling service 23 and Me. Eventually all three met, and less than a year after being reconnected, Joe, 69, and Donna, 70, were married. "Donna and I had a little over 50 years of life that happened to us apart, and now our goal is to spend the rest of our lives together," says Joe.



Go to [Parade.com/romance](https://www.parade.com/romance) for more real-life love stories.



# Still Divine

It's never too late to learn something new. On the week of her 75th birthday in December, Bette Midler was sitting in the kitchen of her country house, located outside New York City, talking by Zoom with *Parade* about her latest discovery: the seasons. "I'd never seen them change before," she says. "We're normally in the city, which is all steel, glass and brick. But since the lockdown, we've been up here and went through spring, summer and autumn, three of the most extraordinary seasons."

"Nature," she says. "Who knew?"

The singer-actress's late-in-life discovery of "every leaf, shrub and flower" at her home likely ranks behind the marriage of her daughter, Sophie von Haselberg, now 34, as one of the rare bright spots amid this bleak pandemic year quarantining with her husband, Martin von Haselberg, 72. But it's one she's eagerly stoking with her latest project, a children's book she wrote to celebrate a real-life occurrence in the natural world. Her book, *The Tale of the Mandarin Duck: A Modern Fable* (Feb. 16), was inspired by the true story of a brilliantly colored, floridly feathered bird that arrived, out of nowhere, in New York City's Central Park in 2018 and instantly became a tourist attraction and media sensation. "There was a gleam in its eye, a look of innocence, as if it were seeing something brand-new too," Midler says. "And there was something humble about it, despite its fantastic colors. That really moved me."

**'I can be my own person and do my own show. Once I got that idea, I never looked back.'**



**Bette Midler is back with a trove of showbiz memories, inside stories of the music that meant the most and a book about a Central Park duck.**

By Jim Farber

COVER AND INSIDE OPENER BY JAMES WHITE/TRUNK ARCHIVE

1. EVERETT COLLECTION; 2. WARNER BROTHERS/EVERETT COLLECTION; 3. BUENA VISTA PICTURES/EVERETT COLLECTION; 4. BUENA VISTA PICTURES/EVERETT COLLECTION; 5. BUENA VISTA PICTURES/EVERETT COLLECTION; 6. 20TH CENTURY FOX FILM CORP./EVERETT COLLECTION; 7. BUENA VISTA/EVERETT COLLECTION; 8. EVERETT COLLECTION; 9. PARAMOUNT/EVERETT COLLECTION; 10. ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS/EVERETT COLLECTION

Of course, like all children's books, Midler uses the storyline in hers to send a message. In *The Tale of the Mandarin Duck*, everyone who sees the creature does something miraculous by modern standards: They put down their phones and experience what's right in front of their eyes. More, they interact with each other in physical space rather than through a glass screen.

Is it fair to conclude that Bette isn't a fan of modern technology? "I'm tortured by it!" she says with a laugh. "If I do anything with social media, it takes me at least 20 minutes to recover. I had an event recently where you had to tape yourself, then upload it to Dropbox, and I cried. I had to have a gallon of alcohol."

## An Odd Duck

It's clear Midler far prefers interacting with people in real time. She speaks chattily and openly about a career that includes four Golden Globes, three Grammys, three Emmys and a Tony and has lasted for more than half a century—a duration that staggers her. "I'm old," she says several times. "I don't know where the time went."

And yet, she embraces the inevitable result. "I'm a fogey. In fact, I celebrate my fogey-ness!" Such self-awareness has guided Midler through a life and career that suggests she's just as odd a duck as the one she wrote about in her book.

Growing up in ethnically diverse Hawaii, she never fit in. "I was the white girl, the only one for miles around," she says.

Her family was poor: Midler's father painted houses while her mother was a seamstress and homemaker. As a child, she didn't have enough money to buy records, but her parents had two compilations that set her on a far different musical path than most young people in her generation. "They were all songs of the '20s, '30s and '40s," she says. "That was my musical education. Those were the records that I sang along to until I wore out the grooves."

continued on page 10

## Role Call

From singing to sorcery, Miss M has always kept us entertained on the big screen as well as the stage.

**1. The Rose** (1979) Loosely based on the life of Janis Joplin, Midler's performance of a tumultuous '60s rocker won her a Golden Globe award and was nominated for an Oscar.

**2. Divine Madness** (1980) Telling jokes and singing songs, Midler and the Harlettes take the stage at California's Pasadena Civic Auditorium in this docu-concert film.

**3. Down and Out in Beverly Hills** (1986) **Richard Dreyfuss** and **Nick Nolte** star alongside Midler in this dark social comedy based on a French play, which also features a Little Richard performance.

**4. Ruthless People** (1986) Danny DeVito hates his wife (Midler) so much that, when she's kidnapped for ransom, he "ruthlessly" turns a blind eye, confusing her money-hungry captors, including **Judge Reinhold**.

**5. Beaches** (1988) Childhood friends CC (Midler) and Hillary (**Barbara Hershey**) show up for each other during the best and worst times of their adult lives.

**6. For the Boys** (1991) Midler received her second Best Actress Golden Globe win and Oscar nomination as a WWII singer and dancer performing for the troops alongside a famous entertainer (**James Caan**).

**7. Hocus Pocus** (1993) The Halloween classic featuring three immortality-seeking witches (**Kathy Najimy**, Midler and **Sarah Jessica Parker**) is now set for a Disney+ sequel.

**8. The First Wives Club** (1996) Mourning the death of their friend, former college pals (**Diane Keaton**, **Goldie Hawn** and Midler) seek revenge upon their cheating ex-husbands.

**9. The Stepford Wives** (2004) An all-star cast of **Nicole Kidman**, **Matthew Broderick**, **Glenn Close**, **Faith Hill** and Midler appear in this comedic remake of the 1975 horror film about a mysterious Connecticut suburb.

**10. The Glorias** (2020) History-making journalist-activist **Gloria Steinem's** life story is told in this biographical drama starring **Julianne Moore** and **Alicia Vikander** as Steinem and Midler as U.S. Rep. **Bella Abzug**.

—Dillon Dodson







# My Life in Seven Songs

**“Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” (1972) How surprising was it that your first hit—a version of the Andrews Sisters’ World War II tune—became so popular in 1972?** “I was pretty shocked. But there’s this thing called nostalgia. There was a youth movement then, but there were people who were more conservative. They were looking back.”

**“Friends” (1972) Why did you choose this from your debut album as your theme song?** “It was very welcoming. It was an opening number. Also, I loved the sentiment. The odd part is, as the years go by, it gets harder and harder to keep friends. It’s the speed of modern



life, where you’re reduced to texting and you feel like you’ve made a connection. But you haven’t.”

**“The Rose” (1979) You won the Best Female Pop Vocal Grammy for this one.** “I instantly knew that was for me. I think I broke down crying after I heard it the first time. I love that song. That was 40 years ago! My God! It seems so long ago, it’s almost like it never happened. I have to remind myself it did.”

**“Hello in There” (1972) You were one of the first to cover John Prine, who died in 2020 of COVID-19.** “Everything he sang was wonderful. ‘Hello in There’ perfectly expressed what old age is really like. The minute you hear it, you know that’s how it’s going to be. I’ve grown into that song. It’s ironic because I’ve become that old person.”

**“Married Men” (1979) and “My Knight in Black Leather” (1979) Are there any songs you regret recording?** “Everybody’s bound to do some stinkers, like ‘Married Men.’ Please, God, shoot me now! ‘My Knight in Black Leather’—save me! That was the label saying, ‘You have to record this.’” (Both appear on her disco album *Thighs and Whispers*.)

**“Wind Beneath My Wings” (1988) One of your biggest hits (it won a Record of the Year Grammy in 1990) has been described by critics as sentimental. Do you agree?** “I don’t think there’s anything wrong with sentimentality. Is it mawkish? I don’t think so. I think it’s human. ‘Wind Beneath My Wings’ was a country song at first, and I didn’t want to sing it because I thought it was too sentimental. One of my oldest friends,



[songwriter] Marc Shaiman, said, ‘If you don’t sing this song, I’ll never speak to you again.’ So, I said, ‘OK.’ As the years have gone by, I revised my opinion because I could see how moving it was. That was my failure of imagination.”

from page 9

She also was drawn to acting, studying it for a year at the University of Hawaii before dropping out. A very small part in the film *Hawaii* earned her enough money to move to New York in 1965. Soon after, she landed a key part in the hit Broadway musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. And although she spent three years in the production, afterward she couldn’t find another show, auditioning for many but never getting the job.

And then something exciting happened: Invited to an open-mike night at a cabaret, she sang the songs she loved. “It was the first time I had an out-of-body experience,” she says. “After that, I said, ‘I don’t have to wait for someone to tell me I got the job. I can be my own person and do my own show.’ Once I got that idea, I never looked back.”

The show Midler created made full use of old songs by everybody from the Andrews Sisters to Mabel Mercer. “I am an insane recycler,” she says. “In my home, you never wasted anything. You used it again. That’s basically what I do with my art—it’s collage.”

In that spirit, her debut album, *The Divine Miss M* (co-produced by Barry Manilow, whom she met during their time performing cabaret at the famous Continental Baths—a popular gay hangout in New York), married old songs and new. It became an instant smash, though it sounded nothing like what was on the charts in 1972. Oddly, its success struck her as inevitable. “I sort of took it for granted because I had



Midler and her husband of 36 years, actor-artist Martin von Haselberg, in 2010

such a fabulous response to my live show,” she says. “Those shows were completely over the top. The audiences acted like they found water in the desert.”

The success of her debut opened doors, including starring roles in hit movies such as *The Rose* (which resulted in a Best Actress Oscar nomination) and *Beaches* to top singles like “Wind Beneath My Wings” and “From a Distance.” And about two years ago, Midler enjoyed Broadway success by starring in a beloved revival of *Hello, Dolly!* (She won a Tony for her performance in the lead role.) Still, she says her proudest achievements are her one-woman shows. “That’s the time I was the happiest because I got to do it all,” she says. “I got to be funny, to play characters, to sing and wear fancy clothes, to slap on

makeup and wear silly wigs. And I was the boss. I didn’t have to be part of somebody else’s dream. I was doing my own dream.”



Midler and her daughter, actress Sophie von Haselberg, in 2014

## A Happy Old Fogey

It’s telling that when Midler speaks of her career these days, it’s in the past tense. “My time on the stage is basically up,” she says with a shrug. “I’m 75. I don’t have the impulse to prove myself anymore. I feel like ‘I did that.’ And I’ve done a lot. I’ve earned my rest. Am I going to make an announcement? No. I’m just going to fade away.”

She sounds happy to do so, especially given the new calm she has found in nature. While Midler fears the final stages of the pandemic, she remains optimistic about its aftermath and feels secure in her legacy. “I did the best I could to give people joy,” she says. “And I had a lot of fun myself. I overcame my circumstances, and I would like to help other people overcome theirs. I have high hopes for humanity.”

Visit [Parade.com/bette](https://www.parade.com/bette) for 25 photos of Midler through the years.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: AL LEVINE/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES; ROBERT KNIGHT ARCHIVE/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES; ZAK BRIAN/SPA/NEWS.COM; TOUCHSTON/GETTY IMAGES; FRED SABINE/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES

WALTER MCBRIDE/GETTY IMAGES





## Ask Marilyn

By Marilyn vos Savant

I am attracted to highly intelligent women, but I find it hard to break the ice with them. What do you think is a good way to approach them?

—Mark O'Bar, Van Buren, Ark.

Judging from my experience with intelligent women, I recommend telling them outright that you find their intelligence appealing! This is a nice compliment (and has the benefit of being true, which is not always the case with compliments), and it implies that you are also quite intelligent, which you probably are. If you were not, you would often find very intelligent women—no matter how pleasant and personable they are—intimidating or bothersome instead.



Send questions to  
[marilyn@parade.com](mailto:marilyn@parade.com)

## Numbrix®

Complete 1 to 81 so the numbers follow a horizontal or vertical path—no diagonals.

43	41	39	29	25
51				23
59				19
81				3
79	73	11	9	7

Visit [Parade.com/numbrix](http://Parade.com/numbrix) for more Marilyn vos Savant Numbrix puzzles and today's solution.

### 02/14/21 MAGAZINE

43	42	41	40	39	30	29	26	25
44	45	46	47	38	31	28	27	24
51	50	49	48	37	32	33	22	23
52	53	54	55	36	35	34	21	20
59	58	57	56	65	66	17	18	19
60	61	62	63	64	67	16	1	2
81	76	75	70	69	68	15	4	3
80	77	74	71	12	13	14	5	6
79	78	73	72	11	10	9	8	7

### BLUEBERRY

43		41		39		29		25
51								23
59								19
81								3
79		73		11		9		7

# What America Eats

MEATLESS

## Meatball Pho

San Francisco-based chef Traci Des Jardins created this meatless version of Vietnamese pho for **Impossible: The Cookbook**. It features traditional rice noodles and plant-based “meatballs” in a soothing long-simmered broth to deliver all the umami richness of the traditional soup.



### Vietnamese Pho

*Charring the onion and ginger lends deep, smoky flavor to the broth, which can be made up to three days ahead, then cooled and refrigerated. Reheat over medium-low. Assemble the meatballs and chill up to two days ahead before baking as instructed.*

**BROTH** In a small cast-iron skillet over medium-high, cook 1 unpeeled **yellow onion**, halved, and 1 (3-inch) piece unpeeled **ginger**, halved, 20 minutes or until blackened. Transfer to a stockpot. Add 2½ quarts **vegetable broth**, 1 cup dried **shiitake mushrooms**, 4 whole **cloves garlic**, 4 **star anise pods**, 1 (1-inch) piece **cinnamon stick** and 1 piece **kombu kelp** (optional; available in Asian markets and on amazon.com). Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer 2 hours. Strain through a fine-mesh strainer; discard solids. Stir in 2 Tbsp **coconut aminos** (available in the soy sauce aisle) and 2 Tbsp **soy sauce**, or more to taste. Keep warm over medium-low.

**MEATBALLS** Preheat oven to 500°F. Line a large rimmed baking sheet with foil. In a medium bowl, combine 1 (12-oz) pkg **plant-based ground meat** (such as Impossible



Burger); 1 **shallot**, minced; 2 tsp peeled, minced **ginger**; 1 **clove garlic**, minced; 1 Tbsp **soy sauce**; ½ tsp **sugar**; and ½ tsp **kosher salt**. Form mixture into 16 (1½-inch) meatballs; place on prepared baking sheet. Bake 5–7 minutes or until browned on top; transfer pan to a wire rack.

**ASSEMBLY** Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add 2 cups **mung bean sprouts**; cook 30 seconds. Use a slotted spoon or mesh strainer to transfer beans to a colander; rinse with cold water. Set aside. Remove pot of boiling water from heat; add 1 (14-oz) pkg **rice stick noodles** and let stand 15–20 minutes or until softened. Meanwhile, thinly slice 1 bunch **green onions** (white and green parts) and 1 **jalapeño chile**. Drain noodles. Divide noodles and meatballs among 4 bowls. Top evenly with half of green onions. Ladle broth into bowls. Serve with remaining green onions, mung bean sprouts, 1 bunch **Thai or Italian basil**, ½ bunch **cilantro**, **lime wedges**, **jalapeño**, **hoisin sauce** and **sriracha**.  
**Serves 4.**

Head to [Parade.com/meatless](https://www.parade.com/meatless) for a vegan all-American burger recipe.

## Good News for Plant Lovers

America's appetite for plant-based alternatives to animal-based products (meat, dairy, eggs) is one of the fastest-growing food trends.

264%

That's how much sales of plant-based meat—like Impossible Burger and Beyond Meat's Beyond Burger—jumped in 2020.

40%

of Americans have tried plant-based products.

50

That's the number of new additions to Kroger's Simple Truth Plant Based Collection, including meatless chicken and dairy-free cheese, ice cream and queso dip.

33%

of households include someone who went vegan, vegetarian, pescatarian or flexitarian in 2020.