

SPRING 2020

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MAGAZINE

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OF
ATTRACTION

THE
BLINDNESS
OF
JUSTICE

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THE LYFE STAFF

Letter from the Editor

To The Lyfe Magazine family,

It is with great regret that I must inform you that the Spring 2020 issue will be the last printed version of the magazine.

The cost of producing a printed magazine coupled with low demand for the printed version, have led us to make this business decision.

We will continue producing great content on www.thelyfemagazine.com and each of you will have complete access.

Thank you for being a part of our family!

Be Blessed,

Gerald C. Anderson, Sr.

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SPRING 2020

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Just a Thought Book Review

By Beryl Brackett

We have all been there, at one point in our lives, wanting to lose weight. We have tried all the diets from Weight Watchers to starving ourselves. However, we find ourselves lured back into our old habits and continued to pack on the pounds. In Gerald C. Anderson, Sr's fascinating novel, *Weight Loss*, he paints a picture of a young lady, Stacy Friday, wanting to be more attractive, outgoing and loved. To do that, she must lose weight by any means necessary. Even if it means getting the mark of the beast.

Stacy was not very pleasing to the eyes because she was on the heavy side. All of her relationships were about one thing, intimacy. Once they have stolen what they wanted, they would leave Stacy in a mental health crisis. She would often fall into negative thoughts thinking about her weight. If she could just lose weight, then someone would want her.

Her best friends, Denise and Sherry, also noticed Stacy's mood and discontent with her weight. However, Denise has had issues with her weight, but she found a chip that has melted her pounds away, and is trying to convince Stacy to get the chip. Sherry is a fitness enthusiast and is trying to persuade Stacy to do it the right way, by exercising and eating healthy. What is a girl to do when she wants nothing more than love and value from a man?

In *Weight Loss*, Stacy's two choices conflict. Should she be brave and get the chip, or should she sweat it out at the gym?

Sweating it out in the gym is the right thing to do, but she tried it before and felt sore for days. Add that she sees Denise looking good with the lost a lot of her weight.

Denise used to look like her, but now she looks like a supermodel. When she enters the room, all heads turn. Denise tells Stacy how easy it is to have the chip implanted in her head. The procedure is a one-day process. Plus, she adds that she can eat anything she wants and most importantly Denise can have any man she wants. The temptation is overwhelming for Stacy.

Stacy was miserable. She wanted what Denise had, freedom to do and eat what she wanted. Stacy tried Sherry's idea, going to the gym and work off the weight by exercising and eating right. However, Stacy continued to struggle. Working out became frustrating because she wasn't seeing fast results. What did she want? To lose weight. When does she want to? Right now.

In this riveting yet thought-provoking novel, Gerald C. Anderson, Sr, lures you down a path of deception, greed, selfishness, depression and emotional distress. Anderson explores the *Mark of the Beast* by leading his readers on his own journey and interpretation of how things can get out of hand. Even something so simple as wanting to lose weight. No matter what you do in life, always watch, listen and pray.

What's Hindering Your Prayers from Being Answered?

By Shawn-Ta Wilson

I often say, "Prayer is not a magic wand. We cannot waive a prayer in front of God and expect it to be answered instantly." Prayer just doesn't work that way. Now, having said that, please know there are times God may choose to answer a prayer immediately, but it is not a guarantee by any means. More often than not, we see the manifestation of our prayers over an extended period of time.

There also are times when it seems our prayers are not being answered. When that happens, I believe it is wise to examine potential reasons why. First and foremost, we have to understand God's timing reigns supreme. He may not deem the timing right yet. His ways and thoughts are so much higher than ours. He may know something we don't which gives Him reason to delay or deny our prayer request.

As another option, is it possible that we are the reason our prayers are being hindered?

Our relationship with Christ is like any other good union. It involves give and take, and sacrifice. Prayer is a joint venture between God and us as individuals.

There is power in prayer. Yet, we forego that power when we fail to do our part, and our part is more than sending the prayer up to Him. This is where the give and take and the sacrifice come in to play. It is impossible to do our part if we don't know what it is. Without that level of understanding, our unanswered

prayers become a source of frustration, disappointment, and worse yet, they cause us to doubt God. I assure you saints, God is not the problem. Yet we will wonder to ourselves, "Did He even hear me?"

I would venture to say everyone has asked that question at some time or another while waiting on prayers to be answered. Our prayers never fall on deaf ears. God hears them all; every one of them. Whether the prayer is in the form of words, tears, or screams in the dark of the night, He hears them! Not only does God hear them, but He also wants to honor them. After all, our prayers are the desires of our hearts, right? Psalm 37:4 says, "...and He will give thee the desires of thine heart".

Here is where we may be falling short, saints. We have become proficient at eloquently reciting and proclaiming the portion of scriptures that work in our favor. The full verse of Psalm 37:4 reads, "Delight thyself also in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart." There are conditions. How much of our day/life do we delight ourselves in the Lord? Do we commune with Him for that purpose alone, not asking for anything? Do we even enjoy spending time with God or do we only reach out to Him when we're in need?

Could it be that our unwillingness to fulfill the conditions laid out in the word is the reason our prayers are being hindered? Let's take a look at a couple of other verses in their short form or their incomplete context, versus their fuller reading.

Psalm 84:11

Short form: “No good thing will He withhold...”

Full verse: “No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.”

How many times have we declared this verse in its short form and given an advance shout of victory to boot? There’s a condition that needs to be met though. Yes, our Father desires to let everything good flow to us but our part of the agreement is to be in position.

James 4:2

Short form & incomplete context: “You have not because you ask not”

Full context: The above is put into more complete context when we continue reading to James 4:3 which states, “you ask and receive not because you ask amiss, that you would consume it upon your lusts.”

Okay, wait! So now we’re on to something. Do we need to check our motives behind the thing for which we’re praying? Are our prayers being hindered because God knows our intentions are not pure or that we would not be good stewards over that which we’re praying for?

Maybe you’ve been praying and believing for a financial windfall but God knows you’re not ready to handle it, aren’t going to pay tithes on it, and may not even be spiritually mature enough to give Him the glory if He sends it. That would be asking amiss.

The word of God tells us everything we need to know about why our prayers are being hindered. Take Jeremiah 5:25 for example. It clearly tells us that our iniquities (immoral or grossly unfair behavior) have kept good things from us. We owe it to ourselves, and God, to engage in a bit of introspection. What pattern of behavior (lying, stealing, cheating, fornicating) or condition of our heart (bitterness, jealousy, envy, lack of forgiveness, etc.) do we need to come clean about and fix? We proudly confess that we serve God and have faith in Him. Quite frankly, to the unbeliever, we’re making God look bad when He’s not answering our prayers, yet it’s because of us. They may wonder what benefit

there is to serve a God who doesn’t seem to be answering the prayers of the people who love and serve Him. In scenarios such as this, we water down our ability to be a living witness to His goodness, grace, and mercy.

God desires to answer the prayers of His people. He is more than willing and is certainly able to do His part. As for us, I guess you could say, “Watch and pray, that you enter not into temptation: the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41). More times than most of us care to admit, we’ve wanted to uphold our end of the prayer bargain but that feisty thing called flesh has gotten in the way and buckled to temptation. We found ourselves not speaking as kindly to someone for an extended period of time because of a dispute. The relationship we entered into involves more intimacy than it should. We’ve formed a habit of cutting corners at work in order to finish our days quicker. The flesh is weak and can cause us to miss out on God’s best.

If we do not know the word of God it is impossible to apply it to our lives and be partakers of the full, blessed life He has in mind for us to enjoy. 3 John 2 reads, “Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.” Our soul prospers when we allow the word of God to penetrate our heart, which ultimately changes our behavior. It’s a daily process especially when the ways of the world are more prevalent at every turn than the way of the word.

To maintain a consistently effective prayer life, we must do self-checks regularly. To paraphrase a portion of James 5:16, the effectual fervent prayers of the righteous avails much. Righteous certainly does not mean perfect. It simply means we desire to live a life pleasing to God, we are making sincere efforts to do so, and we study His word to know His expectations of us.

I want my prayers and yours to be answered, saints. We have to stay in His word to ensure we are not missing any key elements required to receive them!

The Law of Attraction Changed My Life



By Nathalia Andrea

Some of you may know me as Nathalia Andrea, twenty-five-year-old independent artist and singer-songwriter from Cali, Colombia. I am proud to have accomplished some incredible breakthroughs as an entrepreneur in the music industry, but today I intend to tell you a story of how I have thrived as a person. Take away all of the flashy titles and all you're left with is a human being that's just like you. Believe me, I am no stranger to pain, struggle, heartbreak, anxiety, fear and trauma. Life is full of difficulties that challenge us to face reality. However, I have learned that those challenges push us to rise above our fears and experience real growth.

Have you ever noticed that when you focus on your fears, you experience more frightening thoughts that continue to escalate? That is a prime example of how the law of attraction works. Our thoughts and overall mindset connect to this law. That is why it is so crucial to switch gears and focus on something that feels lighter and empowering for you. You are the creator of your own reality and it all starts from within your mind. The more you focus on a something, the more it will manifest into your reality. To put it simply in the words of Tony Robbins, "Where focus goes, energy flows."

Shifting your focus with empowering thoughts creates room for people, events and objects to flow into your life and bless you with something that is in alignment with your mindset. Think of it as a fun way to receive miracles. I was not always aware of how incredibly gifted we all are. It turns out that success takes a lot more than

action and determination. It takes having the proper mindset to get you from point A to point B. Our thoughts are beliefs and those beliefs drive us to do the things that we feel passionate about. They also reflect the outer reality that we experience daily. Believing that everything is working out will cause you to experience that reality in the physical world.

It took some time for me to get better at choosing more empowering beliefs, but I have made my beliefs work for me rather than against me. That is the beauty of having free will. Even if the circumstances in my life are not ideal, I can accept the present moment as if I had chosen it and believe that everything I desire is already on its way. Take it from someone who has experienced countless miracles through the law of attraction, having faith is your gateway to manifest your desires. It allows you to feel gratitude for both the present and future because everything already exists in your mind and you are no longer focused on the lack of something. This is a state of non-resistance to what presently exists and what you're trying to create in your life.

I encourage you to take a few minutes out of your day and ask yourself a few questions. What beliefs are shaping your reality? Are they limiting beliefs or empowering beliefs? How can you attract what you desire the most? These questions will help guide you towards a personal revelation. They are the same questions I had to ask myself to shift my focus and manifest wonderful things into my life. I cherish this ability because it is a powerful gift from God. It has proven that you can speak things into existence and happiness is a choice.



88.5FM
The Urban Cafe



THE PANDEMIC

By Shawn-Ta Wilson

Before this year, did you even know the definition of the word pandemic? If you did, had you used it in a sentence recently, let alone thought you would experience one in your lifetime? The majority would likely respond to these questions with a resounding 'no'! How about the term 'social distancing', is that new to you, too?

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), all 50 states have reported cases of the coronavirus.* But of course, this is a worldwide issue, which is what makes it a pandemic.

Executive Orders are being issued by our nation's President, as well as on the local and state levels. We are wearing masks and gloves with the hope we will be protected from contracting the virus. Medical workers are being quarantined due to virus exposure. Neighboring municipalities want to do what is best to keep their citizens safe but can't agree on a course of action. Unemployment claims are skyrocketing. We have checkpoints set up at our state lines to monitor who comes in one state from another. Curfews have been instituted and are being enforced. Entire sports leagues have been suspended until further notice.

Certainly, these are unfamiliar times. Lives have been lost and funeral services are streamed live on the internet as opposed to taking place in person. To add to the grief of those in mourning, we are told not to hug them. Masses of people are

unemployed. Cruise ships are docked. Airplanes are flying virtually empty of passengers. The loneliest of persons now find themselves isolated all the more. Restaurants and malls are closed. Those blessed to still be employed are teleworking for the first time ever. For those who remain in their places of employment, they are calculating the distance between themselves and their co-workers, customers, and clients to ensure they stay at least six feet away (Social Distancing). The education of our students is facilitated virtually. Major life events such as weddings, college and high school graduations, have had to be canceled. Church service is relegated to the internet. Our lives have changed dramatically and people are afraid and confused. "When will it end?" is the question on everyone's mind. Yet, no one has the answer.

Scientists and chemists (and certainly not policy makers) don't have the answer. They can't cure it and it seems they can't stop it. "It" - the thing we are unable to see with our eyes. "It" has inflicted pain, suffering, and a devastating domino economic impact that may take years to recover from. For these reasons and many more, we are living in unnerving times, as well as unfamiliar.

However, I would caution you about seeing only the doom and gloom of the situation. Good has and will continue to come from this. Families are actually spending time together. The quiet time we often say eludes us is in abundance now. An appreciation for the simple things is returning. Time now allows for the hobbies (painting, singing, writing, baking,

cooking, reading, drawing, mechanics, sewing, crafting, etc.) we enjoy but seem to be too busy for otherwise. People are reconnecting with God. Others are turning to Him for the first time ever! Neighbors are assisting one another again. Our faith is being challenged, yet strengthened.

Silver linings exist. It may take an intentional and focused eye to find them right now, but they do exist! If you are having trouble seeing them, I would encourage you to read and re-read the following scripture:

Philippians 4:8 KJV

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Our thoughts can calm our fears or incite them. This verse can help keep our thoughts focused on all that is still good and right in our lives, despite the pandemic.

Lastly, we must be aware of how much doom and gloom we take in each day by way of news reports and conversations with others. These are times to pray, stay in faith, and be wise. This too shall pass!

* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/summary.html>



Image by Juraj Varga from Pixabay

Life isn't perfect, but it has its perfect moments. ®

Magic

By Tina M. Scotland

Have you ever had reflected back to a particular time that allowed you to experience a happy or sad emotion. How about a time that triggered excitement, but you're not sure why?

For example, when you stop at a red light and your mind wonders. The song playing on the radio takes you back to a time and when you felt a certain way. For 120 seconds, it becomes your reality again.

And then "LIFT OFF" your journey begins. You smile as you stare into the steadiness of the red light. Then you take a deep breath and shake your head to the song. You say, "Wow" and laugh.

Meanwhile, the light has changed, the car behind you honks their horn at you. You snap back into reality and start cursing, and yelling about how patience is a virtue.

Okay, that part was me, but I apologized to the nun for calling her all those terrible words. I was having a glorious time in my head while listening to Jodeci.

How about when you're hanging out with your girlfriends at one of your favorite local spots? You know. Yeah! that one. The one that seems to always have the perfect lighting or spot-

light, if you will. The lighting allows you to get an accurate surveillance of the landscape.

You and your girls walk in like Nala, when she's greeting Simba in their bedrock to show her appreciation for him catching such a great kill today. Sitting at the bar, you surveil the landscape once again. You set your sights on a potential Simba and order a strong looking pretty virgin drink. Then it happens... Happiness arrives. A mixture of excitement and joy revolve in your spirit at the same time.

Your feet tap on the barstool's footrest. You try to keep your sexy cool sexy, but before you know it, your sexy cool sexy leaves the building!

The DJ played one of your favorite songs. You went onto the dance floor and dropped it like it's burning. Who cares that you have no clue what they're saying in the song? It's all about the beat though, right? It's one of those beats that will get you moving and hurting for the next 7 days; (is that what Toni Braxton was referring too?).

Anyway, it's "your song" and you're able to get your dance on every time you hear it.

It's something in music that makes it magical. No matter the mode, it finds the path to your joy or sorrow. It knows how to dissect the



code to create a smile or a frown. Music is a language that doesn't speak words. It speaks in emotions and if it's in the bone, it's in the bone.

I think of my mom, who has passed on whenever I hear Stephanie Mills song "Home".

"When I think of home, I think of a place where's there's love overflowing.....I wish I was home; I wish I was back there with the things I've been knowing".

Every time I hear this song, it brings me to tears because it was one of my mom's favorite ballads. We played it at her home going.

Music will help dissolve your perplexities and purify your character and sensibilities. In a time of care and sorrow, music and its magic will

keep a fountain of joy alive within you forever because when it hits you, you feel no pain.

I often wonder if my mother felt the power to feel no pain or hurt when she listened to a few of her favorites like Diana Ross' "The Boss", Sade's "The Sweetest Taboo" and Meat Loaf's "I'd Do Anything For Love".

Where words fall, music speaks and music and its magic is the strongest form of magic. Songs give your feelings words and music helps you remember those feelings and connects you to that special person, place or thing. Without music, life would be a mistake.



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CHRISTOPHER KING, THE GENTLEMAN BEHIND THE GENTLEMEN'S COURSE

By Tina M. Scotland

Christopher King is the founder of The Gentlemen's Course, a nonprofit organization based in Florida. This course is a program in partnership with United for Human Rights and teaches youth proper etiquette and their human rights. Prior to that, he was a fashion designer, entrepreneur, U.S. Marine veteran, and grandson of Blues legend B.B. King.

Christopher King was not born with everything handed to him on a silver platter. A troubled youth

in his teens, King knows that proper speech, attire, manners, and respect for human rights all lead to personal and professional success in life. He has a deep commitment to empowering Florida's youth with civility and the knowledge of human rights. His goal is to arm them with this knowledge, to prevent them from becoming trafficking victims or traffickers themselves.

When Christopher started, he stated it was not a simple task. After the military, he searched

for his task in life. Christopher involved himself in many things and did not know what he wanted to do. Christopher managed talent, operated two nightclubs, a restaurant, and took a peek into modeling himself.

He was in search of his purpose. Christopher told himself, "Everything is making revenue, so why not just facilitate the mayhem and keep trucking". Then he understood that he needed something stable, grounded and had goals. In 2015, he sold the clubs, shut down everything he was doing and moved to Florida. Arriving in Florida, he wanted to focus on fashion. "Designing men's blazers and bow ties led me to add philanthropy to my platform."

Christopher's introduction to Human Trafficking came after appearing as a model in a fundraiser supporting victims of human trafficking. After learning and volunteering with the program, Christopher developed the 30 rules of a gentleman with an effort to teach youthful men and women how to be gentlemen and ladies. "It was funny because I had to use a variety of shoes from my

closet, a dish set from my cabinet, and glassware and silverware of my own to get this started. I did what was necessary to make this work.

He got a community partner to reserve the library in Hillsborough county for his initial class. They invited kids from everywhere, with a concentration on organizations that housed human trafficking survivors. After a few classes he met up with United for Human Rights, Florida. The Florida chapter is the nation's largest NGO—educating humanity on Human Rights and Universal Declaration of Human Rights. His projects strive to educate youth.

Christopher King believes people have the choice and the power to not only respect and protect themselves, but to respect and protect others. His goal is to stop human trafficking by teaching human rights, respect, and moral values.

When King discovered that Florida ranked third for human trafficking, he knew he needed to take action. Our goals are to grow the Gentlemen's Course to a national organization and mentor youth





across our country. Christopher hope is that one day one of his youth will run for Governor of Florida and who knows what from there.

Upcoming Events: April 14th is the Election for my current seat for City Commissioner Group 5 in Dade City Florida and also June 6th we have our annual banquet The Gentlemen's Ball in Clearwater, Florida and tickets are available on Eventbrite.

Social Media

Website: <https://thegentcourse.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/therealchristopherking>

Twitter: www.twitter.com/thegentcourse

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/therealchristopherking>





Tithes & Technology

By Shawn-Ta Wilson

Recently there was an article circulating on social media about a pastor who made CashApp an option for church members to pay tithes due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19. The comments, angry and sad face emojis that followed, surprised me.

The use of Apps to pay tithes is not a new concept. There are several to choose from and churches have been making this option available to their members for some time now. Quite frankly, I use it! It's convenient. Generally I write checks to pay tithes or give an offering. However, if I've run out of checks I appreciate having the ability to do so through an App. When I have to miss a Sunday service due to work, travel, or illness, it's nice to be able to still send my contribution.

What am I missing here? What are we angry about? What are the sad faces and negative comments for?

Technology is used in our lives every day and in a myriad of ways. It's for convenience. Why not use it to help us keep up with our desire to give to our church? These are the times churches depend most on the regular tithes and offerings of their members. People are being adversely affected as they have been laid off from their jobs or have had their hours cut back. Churches will be called upon to assist their members and those in their communities. The ability to do that comes through tithes and offerings.

Services are being streamed live, which is another good use of technology. Giving an offering and/or paying tithes with the use of technology seems to be a logical part of that.

There will likely be an increase in the number of churches who begin offering Apps as a means to send monetary contributions. COVID-19 may have succeeded in closing the doors of churches for now, but the needs of the church must still be met. With or without the doors open, here is a very

small list of expenses churches are responsible for:

- mortgage or rent
- electric bill
- water bill
- staff salaries *

I put an asterisk by staff salaries to address the notion that people should work for the church for free. While many churches have several volunteers on days of services, there can be an entire staff of people who work for the church five to seven days a week as their paying job. Just as we are concerned about the potential for loss of income during this worldwide pandemic, full time employees of churches are as well.

Heaven forbid a ministry is televised. That brings about an entirely different level of financial support the ministry needs to sustain itself.

Church and money have been a source of contention with people for as long as I can remember. Growing up I can even recall hearing negative comments made in my home about the church and finances. As we (Christians) grow and our relationship with Christ deepens, we should have a better understanding and appreciation for the inner workings of ministry. Having assisted a couple ministries (as a volunteer), I have seen first-hand the regular financial needs a ministry has.

Some people have experienced “church hurt”. It could be from that perspective those negative comments, angry and sad faces were generated. However, we can’t let that overrule our common sense. If we frequently pay our bills electronically, why not have the option to do the same with our tithes and offerings?



Parliament-Funkadelic

By Gerald C. Anderson, Sr.

In the Beginning

When I first started enjoying music my favorite group was Earth, Wind & Fire. The groove of their music was awesome. The melody of songs like “That’s the Way of the World” and “Reasons” were unmatched.

You Can’t Resist The Funk

However, one summer afternoon my childhood friends Maurice and Jessie turned me on to Parliament. We were in Jessie’s house and they played the album, “Mothership Connection”. I didn’t want to show it outwardly because everyone knew I was an Earth, Wind & Fire fan but it wasn’t long before I gave in to the funk.

Later, I learned the group was truly called Parliament-Funkadelic. They were lead by mastermind, George Clinton. After that afternoon in Jessie’s house I went home and tried to listen to anything that was made by them. The more I heard the more I loved it. Most people didn’t like the hardcore Funkadelic sound but I loved the screaming guitars and catchy chants.

Why I Love This Group

“Maggot Brain” still is my favorite Funkadelic song of all time. The guitar solo is unmatched by any even today. Sure, arguably Jimi Hendrix was the best back then but Eddie Hazel wasn’t far behind (Although, Billboard wouldn’t agree). I heard the original recording of “Maggot Brain” in 1971 and was captivated by the sound of that guitar. It was almost a spiritual sensation.

In 1978, Hazel’s replacement, Michael Hampton recorded his version of “Maggot Brain” live. Again, a masterful piece of work. Like Hazel,

Hampton was a truly great musician. Then again, all the musicians in the group were great.

Bernie and Bootsy

Bernie Worrell and Bootsy Collins were integral parts of Parliament-Funkadelic. Their talent combined with George Clinton and rest of the band launched a legendary movement that still lives today. With the release of “Mothership Connection”, Parliament experienced it’s highest level of success.

Oh That Sound!

After “Mothership Connection”, the trademark of the P-Funk sound became the strong synth runs accompanied by powerful horn arrangements and Bootsy’s unique bass playing.

Parliament had a distinctively different sound from Funkadelic. It was once said that the musicians comprised Funkadelic and the singers comprised Parliament. I never confirmed if that was true or not but it didn’t matter to me. They were all Parliament-Funkadelic.

The Hits

Parliament-Funkadelic had too many hits to list here. But some include “P-Funk”, “Flashlight”, “Bop Gun”, “Do That Stuff”, “Aqua Boogie” and “Dr. Funkenstein”. Funkadelic hits include “Testify”, “One Nation Under a Groove”, and “Knee Deep”.

Conclusion

The P-Funk sound has stood the test of time and anyone who hears the beat of “Flashlight” will smile, reminisce on the days of old and get up and dance! That funk never grows old!



*The Lyfe
Magazine
Movie
Reviews*

**JAMES
MARSDEN**

**JIM
CARREY**





By Rob Jefchak

When it comes to movies, I always do my research before shelling out \$10 to go see it in the theaters. I like to know who's in it, what's involved and get an idea of what I'm getting myself into. Sometimes trailers make or break a film and determine right away if it's going to earn their cash. When the first trailer for "Sonic" came out, people were instantly horrified at the bizarre (and frankly, flat out ugly) design for the titular SEGA mascot. The film was met with instant scorn and hatred from the internet and forced the studio to spend thousands of dollars to go back and fix Sonic's design; making him look less "realistic" and more towards his traditional design. The change was greeted warmly by fans but...what about the rest of the movie?

The story leads our speedy blue hero, Sonic (Ben Schwartz) arriving on Earth to escape dangerous forces trying to steal his speed powers from his home dimension. After living in isolation Green Hill city and secretly watching local cop Tom (James Marsden), Sonic's existence eventually alters the attention of the government. They dispatch Dr. Robotnik (Jim Carrey) to capture and

study the other worldly hedgehog. Now Sonic and Tom embark on a road trip to escape Robotnik, get Sonic back home and enjoy life on Earth one last time before his time runs out.

When I first heard this was a combo CGI/live action blended film, I was deeply worried we were going to get another unwatchable heap of dumbed down, brain dead garbage like the live action "Alvin and Chipmunks" movies or the "Garfield" films. Thankfully, "Sonic" proved this film as more going for it than just a shiny, updated new design for the Blue blur. This story is about family and friendship; first and foremost. That may sound like a cheesy, sappy kinda message you'd expect to be beaten over the head with in any typical kids film, but here, it treats Sonic more like someone longing to connect rather than relying on typical fish-out-of-water jokes. There is a connection being made here and it's working on the cast as well as the audience.

Having Sonic be lonely and longing to connect with someone creates a warmth and a sense of purpose that feels very real and touching without playing it up for laughs or making it too serious to stomach. I've seen many incarnations of the iconic speedy hedgehog and this is by far

the most likable and, more importantly, the least obnoxious. The humor goes hand in hand with the film's values and morals and relies on the strength of the character's bonds rather than overloading it with Easter eggs and in-game references. "Sonic" manages to strike the near impossible perfect balance of quality storytelling and effective hat tipping to please all audiences.

Schwartz is the perfect voice for Sonic. His youthful energy and quick witted one-liners make him likeable enough that, no matter how long he's on screen, he never wears out his welcome. I adored his relationship with Tom and felt Marsden was a great companion for Sonic's juvenile antics to work off of. But as everyone has no doubt already announced on every media platform, Jim Carrey is the real core of the film as Dr. Robotnik. Carrey is back in top form; cranking out the zaniness and gold comedic timing he hasn't whipped out since "Batman Forever." He's energetic, funny, fully commits to the eccentricities Sonic's nemesis is known for and never ever misses a beat. There's

never a dull moment or disappointing scene with him in it and I greatly look forward to see what he will do with Robotnik next when sequel time comes.

Overall, if I had any negative points with "Sonic" it's that I feel there were missed opportunities with the government's involvement in trying to catch Sonic. They vanished as quickly as they came and it felt like some more could have been done there. However, the warmth and surprisingly spot on humor more than makes up for whatever the film lacks. Marsden and Schwartz make a top notch duo, the fun and humor work with many ages on many levels and Jim Carrey is back in full force and he makes it impossible not to have fun when he's around. "Sonic" is a prime example of how quality video game movies can be and here's hoping that will continue into a franchise with many sequels to come.

I give "Sonic The Hedgehog" 3 stars out of 4 stars.



WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE
CAN HURT YOU

ELISABETH MOSS

THE
INVISIBLE
MAN

FEBRUARY 28





By Rob Jefchak

At one point, sharing cinematic universes were all the rage thanks to the successful formula perfected by Marvel studios. Universal Studios wished to have their own “Dark Universe” with remaking classic Universal monsters and bringing them together in an “Avengers” like story. After the colossal failure of Tom Cruises’ “The Mummy,” the “Dark Universe” concept was scrapped and all other Universal monster films were either killed on the spot or morphed/reworked into something completely different/original, like with what Guillermo Del Toro did with his award winning masterful piece of work, “The Shape of Water.”

“Saw” director Leigh Whannell also made a significant turnaround with his new take on “The Invisible Man.” This time, the focus is not on the titular monster but rather one of his victims: Cecilia Kass (Elizabeth Moss) barely manages

to escape her barbaric ex-boyfriend Adrian (Oliver-Jackson Cohen) and go into hiding. Two weeks later, she received word he’s committed suicide and left his entire billion dollar estate to her provided she remains mentally competent. Things seem to be going better for her until she starts noticing odd events, strange instances leading her to one disturbing and horrifying conclusion: Adrian isn’t dead, and worst of all, he’s found a way to disappear completely and is back in her life with no one believing her.

While clearly being fueled and influenced by the “MeToo” movement in the narrative and structure of the film, “The Invisible Man” rarely skews off into implausible territory and keeps everything from the emotions, the relationships and even the science to a fairly intense lens of reality. Cecilia’s story is entirely relatable and cleverly uses that victim perspective to make the story connect on levels no other take on

the “Invisible Man” story has ever managed to accomplish. This is very much her story and that paranoid sense of being followed manages to be amplified brilliantly by simple camera shots of basic landscapes and environment. Every hallway, front lawn or parking lot becomes a potential death trap with a faceless enemy looming out there.

This is a fresh take on an old classic that anyone can sit down and understand through its excellent filmmaking and simple but effective story cues surrounding the concept. Elizabeth Moss truly exemplifies the longing for power sensation after feeling so powerless for so long and striving to conquer her fears and her enemy. You feel every shiver across her spine, every disturbing sound possibly signaling his presence, so much is said in the most silent of scenes. The family that takes Cecilia in contributes to the dangers and risks this unseen threat is presenting. Even when the titular character is making a move, it’s carefully planned and calculated and feels very natural and dangerously realistic to how someone with this power would act.

I think the best thing to commend this film on is its unpredictability. While some of the

supporting cast fall into predictable roles and lack any real growth in comparison to Cecilia, the movie has some “blink and you’ll miss it” shocker moments that will leave your jaws firmly planted on the floor; all without the use of jump scares I might add. The secret behind the “Invisible man” is quite a clever one (no spoilers obviously) and is actually something I could see being a real possibility with today’s technological advancements. It seems the collapse of the “Dark Universe” project has ultimately been for the best. It’s given directors creative opportunities to recreate these monsters in new and exciting ways through top quality films.

Overall, “The Invisible Man” is a masterfully sculpted horror thriller that invokes the essence of a supernatural threat but modernizes it for today’s day and age with relatable subtext, moral messaging and empathic motivations. The simplest pan shot creates incredible tension every time and Elizabeth Moss embodies everything flawlessly from start to finish. This is how you update a Universal monster character and THIS is how you make a great film.

I give “The Invisible Man” (2020) 3 ½ stars out of 4 stars.



College Savings Plans: The Future's Lifesaver

Accessible College Savings Plans: the Future's Lifesaver

Saving is a sure way of investing for the future, whether for buying a property or for your college education. However, the state programs that sponsor savings plans don't make it easy or cheap. This is because they're layered up with fund management fees and commissions.

There are a number of fund options available like aged-based fund management that can cut market risks. This can empty college funds before the student gets closer to college age. In fact, a Chicago-based financial information rating company is ranking plans throughout the US. The company aims to find the most appealing plans for college savers and strong investment options with reasonable fees and capable oversight.

Here are some of best college savings plans available:

529 College Savings Plan

The 529 plan is a tax-advantaged savings plan meant to encourage savings for future college costs. These costs include tuition, books, and other education-related expenses. 529 college savings plans are operated by a state or educational institu-

tion designed to help families in setting up funds for their kids' college.

The costs of getting a college degree are increasing nonstop which outpaces the household salary of a median family.

So, Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code created educational savings plans in 1996. These plans are used to meet the costs of qualified colleges nationwide. But families have other financial goals such as paying off debt, investing for retirement and saving for emergencies. They also take care of their elderly parents which make it quite hard for them to save for their kids' college education.

Prepaid Tuition Plans

Availing prepaid tuition plans allow parents and families to pay in advance to lock in on the current tuition rates at eligible public or private universities and colleges. These plans help them manage future tuition costs, excluding the costs for room, board, and other extra expenses. Parents can choose a mode of payment like a one-time payment of the total school fees or a regular installment plan.

Prepaid tuition plans are applicable for community colleges and 4-year universities in 11 states. Meanwhile, several hundreds of private colleges are



offering prepaid tuition fees. When parents avail a prepaid tuition plan, the contract covers 1 to 5-year tuition for community college. It also covers a 4-year university or a combination of both.

UGMA and UTMA Accounts

The most common trusts for minors are custodial accounts such as UGMA and UTMA accounts. The Uniform Gift to Minors Act (UGMA) allows a minor to own securities such as stocks, mutual funds, annuities, bonds, and life insurance policies. The Uniform Transfer to Minor Act (UTMA) is the same although other types of property such as fine arts, real estate, royalties, and patents are transferred through inheritance.

The donors who are usually parents appoint a custodian or trustee who's either a bank or a brokerage. His/her role is to control and manage the trust until the age of trust termination is met. This can be used to finance the kid's college education.

Roth IRA

Under the US law, Roth IRA or Individual Retirement account is an untaxed retirement plan as long as certain conditions are met. Tax reduction is allowed under the US tax law on limited amounts of retirement savings. Parents or grandparents who want to have their children or grandchildren attain a college education can fund it through Roth IRA.

Deposits in Roth IRA receive no tax deduction and these accounts can grow tax-deferred. Thus, withdrawals from Roth IRA are exempted from withdrawal penalties if funds would be used for qualified education expenses such as tuition, books, fees and room and board.

Are you ready to save for your kid/s' college? Once you're ready, just choose from these college savings plans to help you finance your kid/s' future for college. Weigh the best option and start saving one-third from your monthly household income.





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10 Ways to Love Your Spouse Unconditionally

By Andra Richardson

Most people say they fell in love. I prefer to say I rose in love. I knew there was something different about my husband when we first started dating. He made me want to give—to be selfless. I believe love is all about being selfless. If you're looking for ways to be more giving in your relationship, here are my top 10 ways to love your mate unconditionally

1. Forgive constantly

Forgive constantly and quickly. If you are struggling with an issue, be sure to communicate with your mate, so you don't hold resentment. Now, a forgiving heart does not come overnight. It is something most of us must strive for. As long as we keep at it, swift forgiveness will begin to come naturally.

2. Be patient and supportive

Be patient in all things with your spouse, especially if he or she has big dreams. Life has taught me things that come fast are lost fast. The things worth having take time to build. One of the best things you can do while you wait is support and assure your spouse that you trust in him or her.

3. Be slow to anger

It's so cliché, but it couldn't be truer—don't go to bed angry with one another. Communicate your frustrations thoroughly and calmly, so you can both

reach a resolution. Feel free to walk off and take a few moments to gather your thoughts. Remember, the tongue is a sword. You don't want to say anything you'll regret later.

4. Spend time doing something they love

Again, love is all about being selfless. You may not like going bowling or (gasp!) shopping, but going anyway will show your mate that you care about the things he or she enjoys.

5. Pray for and with your mate

Always pray for your mate's well being. It's even more powerful to pray with your mate. It may seem awkward at first, especially if you're not used to praying out loud for anyone. You'll get comfortable with it over time, and your spouse will appreciate it.

6. Listen to understand

This is perhaps one of life's hardest lessons. Most people only listen to respond, which leads to a bunch of assumptions. If your mate says something that negatively triggers you, ask questions first to understand the intent behind it. It could be harmless and come from a good place. Communication is another skill that takes time to strengthen, but asking questions will show your spouse that you care about and respect him or her enough to not judge first.

7. Learn their love language

This will make your life together so much easier. There are five love languages, according to Dr. Gary Chapman. They are physical touch, words of affirmation, receiving gifts, acts of service and quality time. I highly suggest learning yours and your spouse's, so you both feel understood and loved.

8. Sacrifice

There will be times when you have to put your wants aside for your mate's needs. Your love may be tested in these situations, but stay strong. Life always comes full circle. In my experience, the peace on my husband's face always makes the sacrifice worth it.

9. Praise them

Always be your spouse's biggest cheerleader. When it feels like the world is against him or her, you should always be the one your mate can turn to for encouragement.

10. Do one of their chores

This may seem simple, but depending on your mate's love language, it can be a huge gesture to show your love.

Though there can never be a definitive handbook on love because every love is different, these ten tips hopefully make a great starting point. I believe the Bible gives us the best advice, though.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away." 1 Corinthians 13:4-8



Who Are We?

By Fredrick Beaty

Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in this article are the views and opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Lyfe Magazine. Any content provided by our authors are of their opinion, and are not intended to malign any religion, ethic group, club, organization, company, individual or anyone or anything.

Allow me to begin here....

On Thursday evening, March 5, 2020, The State of Alabama executed Nathaniel Woods. The execution stems from a 2005 conviction that charged him as an accomplice to the murder of three Birmingham police officers.

Kerry Spencer, who was in the house with Woods, fired the shots that took three police officers' lives. Spencer also maintains that he acted alone, and that Woods did not know what he planned. As of this writing, Spencer remains in prison on death row; the State may never execute him.

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey denied any appeals for clemency for Woods, stating that his "... lawfully imposed sentence should be carried out."

Lawfully imposed? Egregious is the word I would use to categorize the sentence imposed in this case. Before you say anything, hear me out.

First, Mr. Woods did not have a weapon on him at the time of the shooting. Prosecutors did not nor could provide evidence that Woods had a gun, but argued that Woods "conspired" with Spencer. Keep in mind that Alabama has a law that makes a person accountable in

a court of law for the behavior of another person, if the other person "... procures, induces, or causes [a] person to commit [an] offense."

Wait, what? So let me get this straight. If my actions are benevolent, and the person that I am with commits a malicious act, the State of Alabama will hold me accountable for their malicious act? Even though they can't prove that my actions caused the other person to act malicious? The answer is yes, according to the law.

Many advocates called for the Governor to stay the execution and grant clemency, and it was a hotly debated topic in the state's House Of Representatives. US Senator Doug Jones called Ivey's office to complain about the case. He stated, "A delay is warranted to provide time for a thorough review of all the facts and circumstances to ensure that justice is done."

The US Supreme Court stayed the execution to consider outstanding motions in the case, including those dealing with inadequate counsel. The Court later dismissed the motions without comment and the State proceeded with the execution. He was the first person executed in Alabama this year.

Let me end here.....

One of the slain officer's widows said something that struck a chord with me, but not in the way you think. Susan Bennett said, "Too much publicity has been given to someone who doesn't deserve an ounce of recognition."

That statement was profound to me because it is the opposite of my thought process. The State of Georgia executed Troy Davis for the murder of a Savannah, Georgia police officer. However, several witnesses recanted their testimonies, and additional evidence came to light, yet the State went through with the execution

even though someone else confessed to the crime. Cases like Troy Davis, and Nathaniel Woods deserve recognition.

Martin Luther King Jr III's letter to Governor Ivey pleaded with her to stop the execution process concerning Woods. "Killing this African American man, whose case appears to have been strongly mishandled by the courts, could produce an irreversible injustice," he wrote. Bart Starr Jr., son of the legendary NFL Hall Of Fame Quarterback told a CNN affiliate WBRC "Simply being at the wrong place where someone else shows up and then starts firing at police officers is not a reason to assign culpability to someone else," he told the station.

There are two very certain facts in all of this. The first fact is that an innocent man (Woods) was more than likely executed, and the man that committed the act (Spencer) will for the foreseeable future not be executed.

Retired defense attorney Charles Flowers stated that this case should be the "stimulus to showing people how terrible the death penalty is because you can't administer it fairly." He also mentioned a likely scenario. "If what I think is going to happen happens, meaning if the Supreme Court bars Kerry's execution, which I certainly hope they do, and Woods was executed, you're going to have a situation where a man who probably didn't have a thing in the world to do with something was executed, and the man who pulled the trigger is not."

Lady Justice is not blind, she sees what happens, and turns the other way. This is nonfeasance at its finest. This is the same system that we vote for time and time again, with no apparent change. It grants benefits those who can circumvent it, and deters those who lack the navigational skills (knowledge of laws), or the money (ability to hire competent counsel) required to do the same.

I have never been a politically correct person, and I probably will never be (because of how I have been hard-wired politically, and in how I respond to social injustices). Executing a man who had no material part of the crime is a gross miscarriage of justice.

Period!



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BIBLE CROSSWORD I

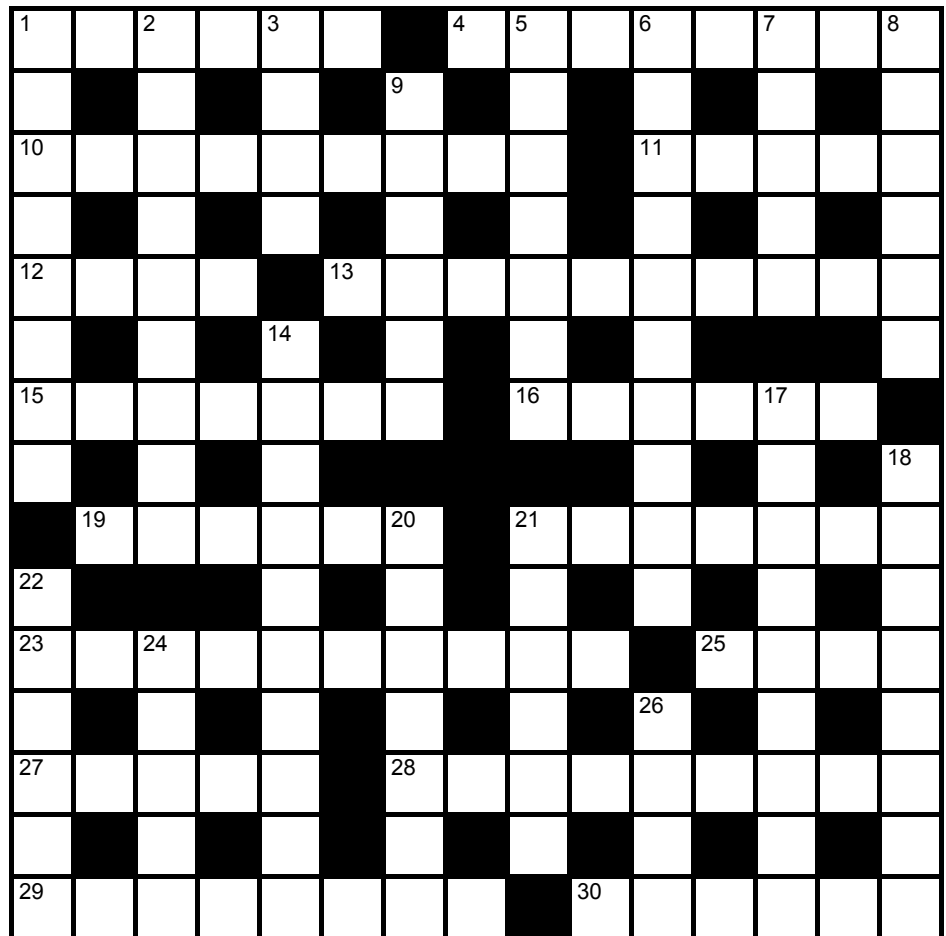
Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
- 4 Seemed (8)
- 10 New Testament book (9)
- 11 Unit of length (5)
- 12 '...it is a ____ thing the king requireth' (Dan 2:11) (4)
- 13 Contemplation (10)
- 15 Abigail supplied David with one hundred clusters of these (7)
- 16 A son of King David (6)
- 19 Concurred (6)
- 21 Light sources (7)
- 23 Propitiations (10)
- 25 A false god (4)

- 27 Gather (5)
- 28 Abimelech was hit by this (9)
- 29 Instructors (8)
- 30 Hastily (6)

Down

- 1 Skilled animal workers (8)
- 2 Inspiring (9)
- 3 Compass point (4)
- 5 Intense emotion (7)

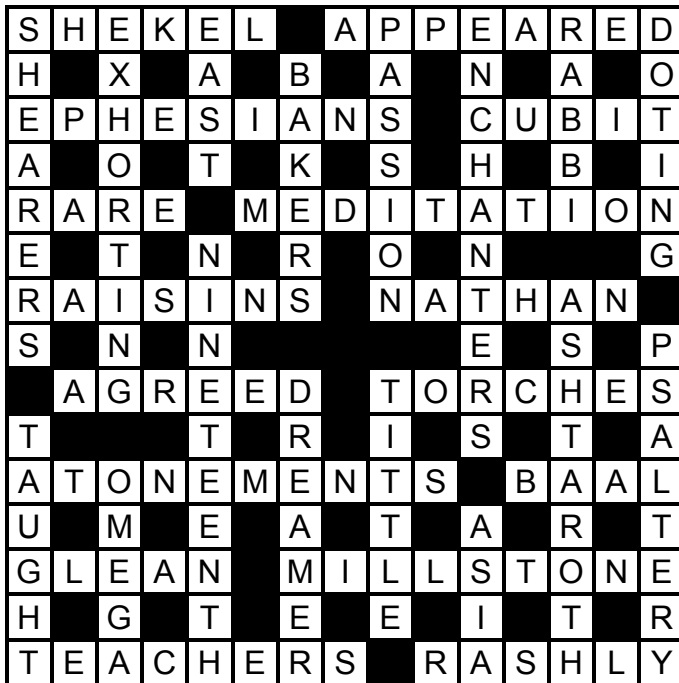


by Philologus

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- 6 The words of Jeremiah said not to listen to these (10)
- 7 Jewish leader (5)
- 8 'He is proud, knowing nothing, but _____ about questions and strifes of words...' (1 Tim 6:4) (6)
- 9 Bread makers (6)
- 14 In this year of King Nebuchadrezzar's reign, Nebuzaradan arrived in Jerusalem (10)
- 17 Ancient city of Og, King of Bashan (9)
- 18 Stringed instrument (8)
- 20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)
- 21 Tiny amount (6)
- 22 Jesus did this with authority (6)
- 24 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 26 Province of the Roman Empire (4)

BIBLE CROSSWORD I - SOLUTION



Across: 1 Shekel, 4 Appeared, 10 Ephesians, 11 Cubit, 12 Rare, 13 Meditation, 15 Raisins, 16 Nathan, 19 Agreed, 21 Torches, 23 Atonements, 25 Baal, 27 Glean, 28 Millstone, 29 Teachers, 30 Rashly.

Down: 1 Shearers, 2 Exhorting, 3 East, 5 Passion, 6 Enchanters, 7 Rabbi, 8 Doting, 9 Bakers, 14 Nineteenth, 17 Ashtaroth, 18 Psalter, 20 Dreamer, 21 Tittle, 22 Taught, 24 Omega, 26 Asia.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

BLACK HISTORY: WHITNEY HOUSTON

Whitney Houston was an American singer and actress whose first four albums, released between 1985 and 1992, amassed global sales in excess of 86 million copies.

Who Was Whitney Houston?

Whitney Houston released her debut album at age 22 and scored three No. 1 singles. Whitney (1987) delivered four more No. 1s and earned Houston a Grammy, with later albums including I'm Your Baby Tonight (1990) and My Love Is Your Love (1998) as well as soundtracks to The Bodyguard (1992) and Waiting to Exhale (1995). With her marriage to singer Bobby Brown in 1992 and ensuing drug use, Houston's career got off track. She eventually made a comeback with 2009's I Look to You and also co-starred in the musical film Sparkle. Houston died from accidental drowning in a hotel on February 11, 2012.

Albums and Songs

'Whitney Houston' Album: "Saving All My Love for You," "How Will I Know"

In 1985, the artist released her debut album, Whitney Houston, and almost immediately became a smash pop sensation. Over the next year, her hit singles "Saving All My Love for You" and "How Will I Know" helped the album reach the top of the charts, where it stayed for 14 non-consecutive weeks. Houston won a Grammy in 1986 for "Saving All My Love for You"; the award was presented to the singer by her cousin Dionne Warwick.

'Whitney' Album: "I Wanna Dance With Somebody"

Houston followed the monumental success of her first album with a second release, Whitney, in 1987. That record, too, went platinum many times over and won a Grammy for the single "I Wanna

Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me)," with a successful world tour following. During this time, the singer also appeared at a concert for Nelson Mandela's birthday and founded the Whitney Houston Foundation for Children, a nonprofit organization that funds projects to help needy children over the world.

By 1992, Houston was on top of the world, but her life was about to get very complicated very quickly. That year she married the R&B singer Bobby Brown, formerly of New Edition, after a three-year engagement. At first, the marriage was passionate and loving, but things turned sour as the decade progressed. Both Brown and Houston battled substance abuse and increasingly erratic behavior, with Houston later alluding to emotional abuse from Brown and domestic violence.

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