



#### **SELFIE MAG**

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## SELFIE MAG

#### JANUARY 2017

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## Doutzen Kroes is back to looking freaking amazing

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#### LETTER from

#### THE EDITOR

#### Doutzen Kroes is back to looking freaking amazing

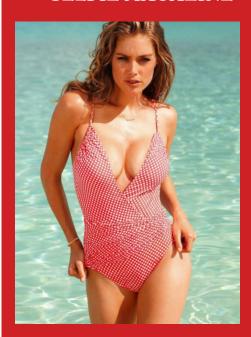
It's been quite a looong time since we've had the privilege of drooling over Doutzen Kroes' drop dead gorgeous bikini body and.. that's exactly what you're about to see this Monday morning. Pretty awesome way to kick off a new week, eh?

Here's Dutch supermodel Doutzen Kroes showing off her tight little body, which just so happens to be one of the sexiest bodies I've ever had the pleasure of gushing over for the newest collection of swimwear from Victoria's Secret. Hoochie mama! You have to give credit to a babe who knows she has the right curves in all the right places and loves to show 'em off for your viewing pleasure.

Doutzen was my favorite VS angel a couple of years ago (and that's a lot, knowing the other VS angels as well) but somehow she went a bit off our radar while she turned herself into a freaking hot mommy. Now that gorgeous body is back and she still has that mad dash of sex appeal that would make any of us melt in a matter of seconds. Enjoy!

Maurice Chevalier Editor in Chief

#### **SELFIE MAGAZINE**



Unlike most fellow top models, Kroes got acquainted with the fashion world relatively late. She is one of few highly successful professional models who was not discovered by any scouting agency. She got accepted at Paparazzi Model Management in Amsterdam after sending some of her holiday pictures. Her first breakthrough was when she was featured on cover of Vogue Italia in 2005. Steven Meisel shot her pictures for the cover. Just as she started her career as model for Victoria's Secret, she was voted as "Model of The Year" on Vogue.com in the year 2005. The year 2013 was a significantly successful year for her modeling career. In September 2013, she appeared on covers of four international editions of Vogue, making her the first model/celebrity in the history. The September issues are generally regarded as the most important issue of the year for fashion magazines, especially Vogue. She had been featured on a total of 9 Vogue covers, a count more than any other model, just in the year 2013.





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The future is here, and it's nothing short from being awesome.

#### Three Surefire Ways To Pump Up Your Sex Game This New Year

Have you been feeling that you and your partner's sex life needs a little bit more spice?

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#### **Sexy Genevieve Morton and her bodacious** curves are back

If you're into curvy, hot women you better pay attention, son! South African supernova hotness is coming your way, courtesy of super sexy supermodel Genevieve Morton as she's unleashing her bodacious curves once again in a sexy swimwear photo-shoot, for Nathan Paul and their latest collection. Hoochie mama, this girl looks amazing and I'd love to be that towel right now!

#### **How To Dress Like A Stylish Gent: Winter** Fashion 2017

Winter can be a bit daunting when talking about how dress like a true gent.

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Building a reliable wardrobe that could get you through all the different occasions of life is not that difficult if you know which items are the essential ones that you must not live without.

#### **How To Prepare The Perfect Mimosa That** Screams "Happy New Year!"

There's no drink that represents the happy holidays more than the mimosa, so I believe that every one (both ladies and gentlemen and yes, that includes you!) should be able to prepare this holiday drink.

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#### Seven Foods You MUST Have On Your New Year Table If You Want Good Fortune

It's a new year once again and everyone wants good fortune this coming year.

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THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF THE

# Dynamo Galaxy Light - Portable Cell Phone Charger





Don't be held hostage by power outlets. Break free and charge your devices in your pocket, purse, or luggage. Don't worry if you forgot a travel adapter when traveling abroad. Even if your Power Bank is empty, its charging cable is universal - any computer or USB port will do! - Compatible with all Apple and Android smartphones and other 5V input USB-charged phones. - Add more than a full charge to your iPhone 5 / 4 / 4S / 3G / 3GS Package Includes: - 1 \* Dynamo Galaxy Light 2600mah Power Bank - 1 \* USB to Micro USB Charging Cable Charging display - Red light on when charging - Light off when full charging Discharging display - Blue light on when discharging - Light off when power less than 5%



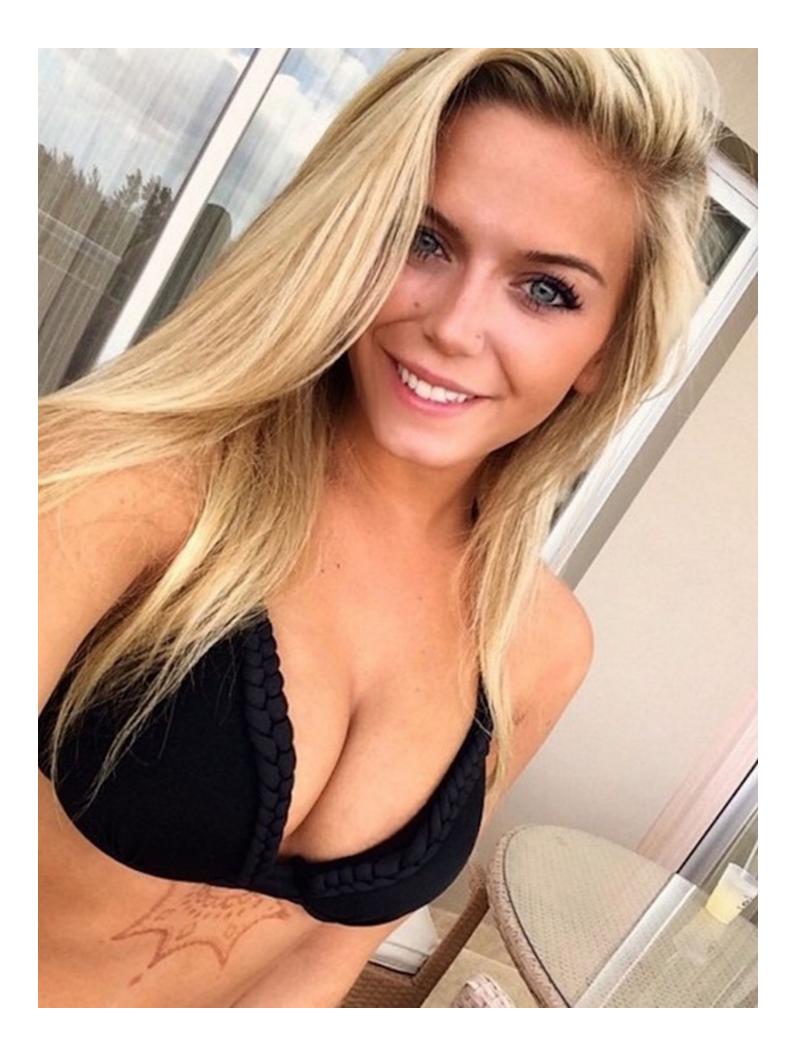
- > Stylish, mini, and light-weight design; Fits easily into any bag or pocket; Compact "Lipstick" Size
- > Provides you with some extra juice when you need it most. Its small size allows you to carry the power source wherever you go
- > Grade A cells high quality Lithium-ion battery ensures reliability; 500 + recharge cycles over the life of the battery
- > Package Contents: 1x Power Bank & 1x micro USB Charging Cable ((Apple Adapters- 30 pin and Lightning, NOT Included)

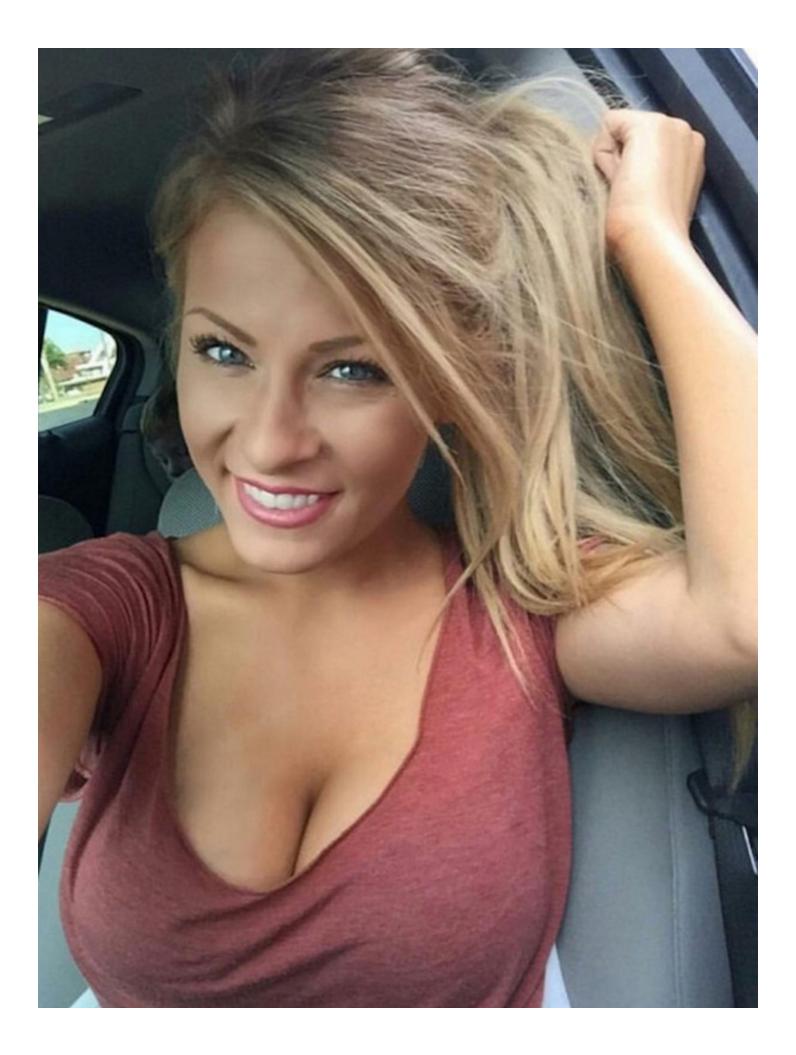
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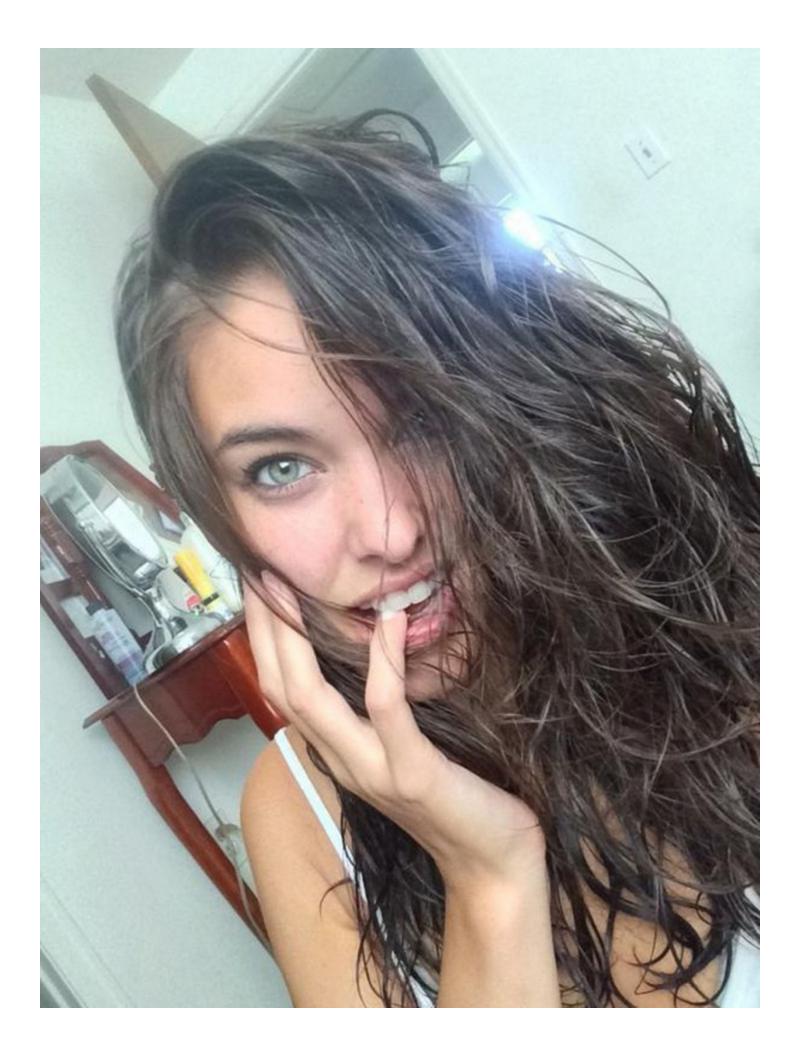


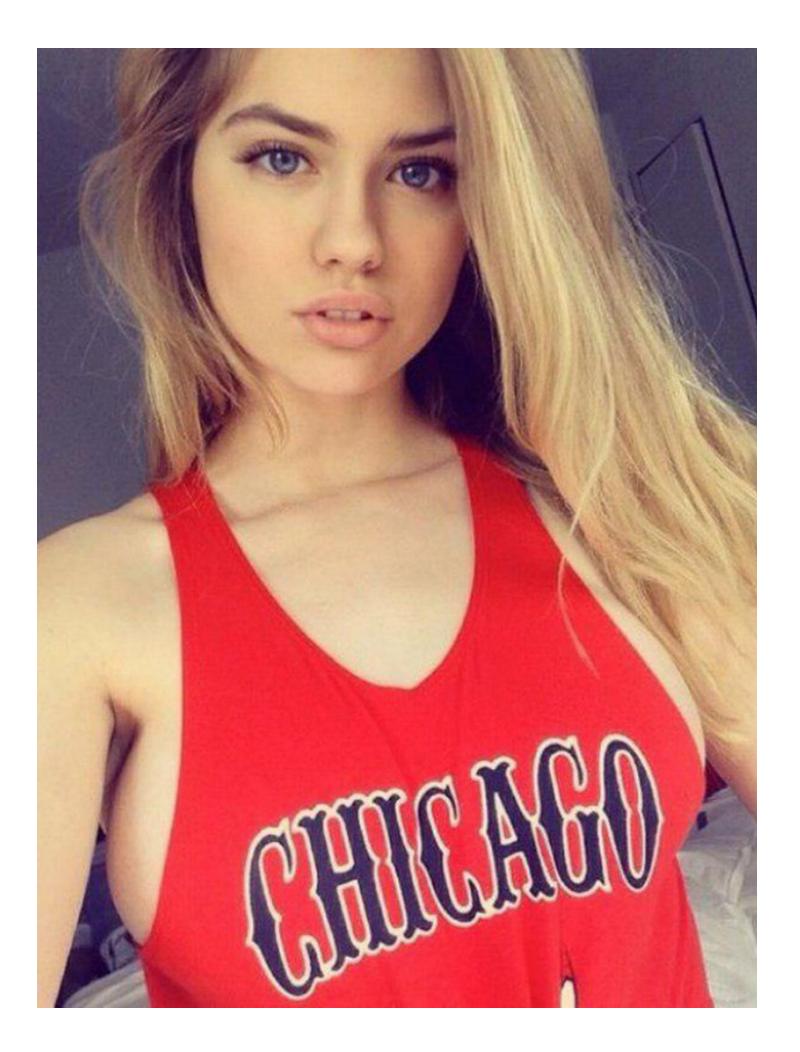
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#### Kid Cudi

Innovative rapper and producer who moved from an early hit single ("Day 'n' Nite") to a diverse career uniting hip-hop, rock, and dance influences.



Kid Cudi is a Brooklyn-based rapper from Cleveland whose debut single, "Day 'n' Nite," became an online favorite in 2008. Born Scott Ramon Seguro Mescudi in suburban Cleveland, his career took off after he moved to Brooklyn and became affiliated with Fool's Gold, the label of DJs A-Trak and Nick Catchdubs.

The label released the Day 'n' Nite EP in February 2008 and circulated a Crookers remix around the blogosphere, drumming up a good deal of buzz in the process.

It didn't hurt that Kid Cudi began to receive increasing press attention, including a nod from Rolling Stone (which touted him among the magazine's Top Five best indie hip-hop artists of 2008). Not long after the release of "Day 'n' Nite," Cudi began touring with the Fool's Gold collective, which performed at a South by Southwest showcase and subsequently joined forces with Steve Aoki and his Dim Mak collective for a North American tour.

After the remixed version of "Day 'n' Nite" climbed the U.K. singles charts, Cudi released his conceptual debut album, Man on the Moon: The End of Day, in the summer of 2009. A year later he returned with a sequel, Man on the Moon, Vol. 2: The Legend of Mr. Rager. In 2012, he teamed with "Day 'n' Nite" producer Dot da Genius and introduced their rock-rap band, WZRD. A year after that, Indicud arrived and included contributions from soft rock sisters HAIM and former Fleet Foxes drummer Father John Misty alongside rappers A\$AP Rocky and Kendrick Lamar.

In early 2014, Cudi surprised fans by dropping the next installment in his space odyssey with little warning. Satellite Flight: The Journey to Mother Moon, which featured a guest spot from Raphael Saadiq, was issued on February 25 on Wicked Awesome/Republic. The sprawling Speedin' Bullet 2 Heaven followed in 2015 with a grunge-inspired rock sound much closer to the WZRD project. Just over a year later, Cudi returned to the rap world with Passion, Pain & Demon Slayin', which featured André 3000, Pharrell Williams, Travis Scott, and Willow Smith.





#### MUSICREVIEWS



Release Date January 13, 2017

**Duration** 01:01:53

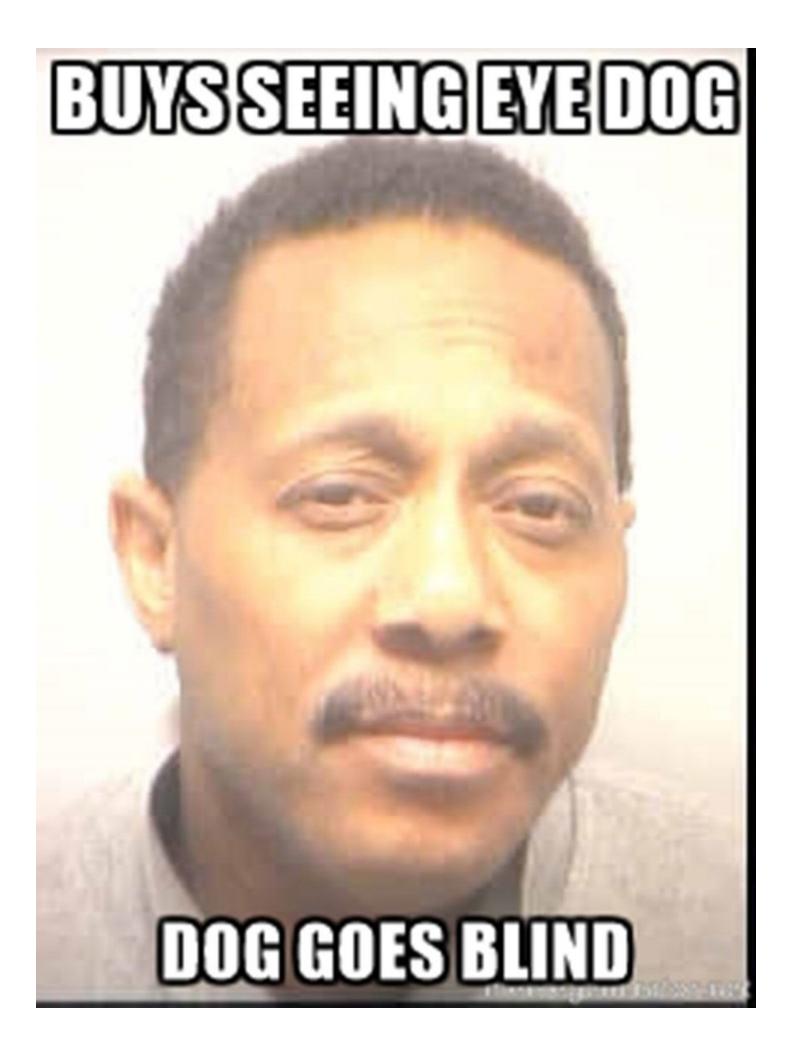
Genre Electronic

Styles Downbeat

**Ambient Breakbeat** 

Trip-Hop House

Following the release of his most successful album to date, 2013's The North Borders, as well as an even more triumphant world tour, British producer Bonobo (Simon Green) returned in 2017 with his sixth proper studio full-length, Migration. The album was partially inspired by his touring experiences, but also by the death of a relative. Green's family is spread out across the world, and they all reconvened in Brighton, England for the funeral. These types of experiences cause Green to question what identity means, and where a person is from if he or she is constantly moving. As with all Bonobo recordings, Green absorbs a multitude of cultural influences here, from the underground club sounds of London to American folk songs. Strangely enough, other than "Bambro Koyo Ganda," a collaboration with New York-based Moroccan group Innov Gnawa, the album somehow sounds less exotic than some of his other releases. This isn't meant as a complaint, though, as Green has always demonstrated a talent for blending disparate elements into a cohesive sound. As ever, he excels at incorporating acoustic instruments and drums in a manner that makes it difficult to tell if they're being played live or sampled and chopped up -- he devised an algorithm for the drum programming, yet it sounds human rather than computer generated. "Ontario" is built on booming, crackly breakbeats reminiscent of the classic '90s Ninja Tune sound, but the suspenseful swelling horns and delicate acoustic guitars and Rhodes keyboards take center stage. Other tracks are more club-focused and employ shuffling 2-step rhythms or thumping house beats, but the warm, emotive melodies are what drive the songs. Emotionally, Migration continues down the dusky path of The North Borders. It's not an outright gloomy or depressing album, but it's certainly not a carefree, relaxing chill-out record either. Tracks like "Grains" (built around an eerie yet homely Pete Seeger sample) seem world-weary but contemplative and quietly transcendent, and the Brandy-sampling "Kerala" is more outwardly ecstatic. The album ends on a subdued note with "Figures," which slices up vocal extracts from "Just an Excuse" by Elkie Brooks. House fans will recognize the sample from when Moodymann flipped it for his instant classic "Why Do U Feel" in 2012, but Bonobo's take is subtle and reflective rather than heart-wrenching, and it feels like it's approaching the sentiment from a different angle. With Migration, Green blends the unexpected with the familiar and emerges with some of his most affecting work yet.



# SELFIE MAGAZINE

#### **ARTIST** PROFILE



**Release Date** January 13, 2017

**Duration** 46:04

Genre Pop/Rock

**Styles Alternative Metal** 

> **Death Metal Heavy Metal**

**Speed/Thrash Metal** 

Fourteen albums in, Sepultura have no one's expectations to live up to but their own. The Cavalera brothers are long gone and songwriter/guitarist Andreas Kisser has remade this band in his own musical image. Machine Messiah continues to build on the diverse proggish elements displayed on Dante XXI, A-lex, and Kairos, while re-engaging with the thrash and hardcore that made 2013's The Mediator Between Head and Hands Must Be the Heart so compelling. From painter Camille Dela Rosa's amazing cover artwork on, this conceptual set is all of a piece. Kisser claims her painting inspired him to finish a story for the record he'd been working on for years. It illustrates a holistic (and apocalyptic) vision consistent through its sonic architecture (with help from producer Jens Bogren), plotting, pace, songs, and dynamics.

Kisser explores society's cult-like religious devotion to technological advancement with the idea of a savior God returning to greet humanity, but as a cyborg. This intense conceptual journey is illuminated musically through explorations of flamenco, Brazilian chorro, thrash, power metal, neo-psych, and edgy prog.

Vocalist Derrick Green's balance of dirty and clean vocals allows him to inhabit narrative roles seamlessly to get the story across (and firmly put him beyond any comparison to Phil Anselmo once and for all). Check his brooding intro on the opening title track that evolves to anguished intensity halfway through. His rhythmic growl on "Phantom Self" underscores drummer Eloy Casagrande's slamming grooves. The latter's playing forces all members to up their instrumental acumen. His fluidity is an ingenious combination of jazz syncopation, grooving breaks, blastbeats, Afro-Cuban tumbaos, exploding aggression, and improvisation. Bassist Paulo Jr. acts as his anchor, the centering place for the set's entire instrumental attack -- check the riff-driven "Alethtea" and the charging instrumental labyrinth "Iceberg Dances." "Sworn Oath," the set's longest track, is also one of its best, displaying the wide scope of Kisser's writing (and inventive playing). Commencing with a dark, doomy overture, the guitarist's meld of minor and major key chordal shards gives way to a slamming prog vamp, triple-timed by Casagrande. Inside of two minutes it shifts again to a death metal chug as Green's vocal is introduced. By its midpoint, a majestic crescendo -- complete with harmonic horn sounds and thematic variations -- winds through before the crunching riff returns and builds toward a thunderous climax.

The knotty throb of "Silent Violence" is pure mayhem while "Cyber God" displays a slow tempo, dissonant tones, and clean vocals during the first half -- recalling the best moments of Dante XXI -- and is almost experimental before morphing into a squalling, filthy-throated groover complete with razor-wire riffing and a fuzzed-out wah-wah guitar solo to close.

Machine Messiah is an ambitious, angry, hungry outing. Sepultura remain vital in their creativity; they expand their palette dramatically while fully integrating the sounds that brought them here.

#### ARTISTPROFILE



Release Date	January 13, 2017
Duration	46:04
Genre	Pop/Rock
Styles	Alternative Metal Death Metal Heavy Metal

Speed/Thrash Metal

Sohn's sophomore record may as well be titled 2016: The Album, in that it balances global anxiety with everyday hopes and fears. Although two tracks overtly glance at European and American politics, respectively, the rest of the lyrical content delves into Sohn's personal trajectory; in the last two years he has fallen in love, married, and become a father. The two approaches perfectly sum up the state of 2016, highlighting that while the world may have taken a turn for the worst, our lives have mostly continued as usual, potentially even for the better. With that frame of mind -- and a wealth of inspiration -- you would expect Sohn to have taken some evolutionary strides as an artist, and on Rennen's opening numbers that appears to be true. Opening track "Hard Liquor" has a lyrical style and content reminiscent of classic blues, albeit molded into a Sohn-like shape by the rolling rhythm underneath. It's no great revelation that this track was originally intended for someone else (Sohn has, after all, co-written for Rihanna in the past). It's easily the biggest departure from his debut, Tremors, and hints at artistic growth; unfortunately, it's a little misleading, as the album gradually realigns itself with Tremors the deeper into the record you go. In and of itself that doesn't make Rennen a bad record -- indeed, Tremors was something of an electronic gem back in 2014 -- but it does seem that the only sign of maturity and progression is in the lyrics, leaving the song structures and melodies feeling a little too familiar. Either way you look at it, Sohn hasn't exactly reinvented the wheel here.

The second track, "Conrad," is the first with political intent, reflecting on the deteriorating state of European politics -- and possibly the life-altering status that comes with being a father. Overall, the composition is way more assured than anything on Tremors, but structurally it follows Sohn's favorite path: a gradual buildup leading to a last-minute crescendo. The four tracks that follow are where Rennen really starts to stumble, with each lacking the urgency found in Sohn's previous work; "Primary" -- a song that reflects the beginning of the U.S. presidential election -- even has the unfortunate closing line of "Can I wake up now?" What's most confusing about this change of pace is that Rennen literally means "to run" in German, but here we are ambling along for nearly half of the album. Thankfully, "Falling" picks us back up again, serving as the best example of Sohn's self-set limitations; the choice to only use three elements per track really emphasizes his voice, and when you have a strong bassline and solid percussion, as on "Falling," then they become just as prominent.

Typically, the album ends with a last-minute crescendo (featured on five out of ten tracks, but who's counting?), which in any other case would make for a compelling climax, but when you can see it coming from two songs away, it lacks the element of surprise. Perhaps the biggest surprise of all, though, is that Sohn hasn't pushed his musical boundaries further; perhaps next time he will completely run wild.

#### **HIDDEN FIGURES**



In the wake of famed astronaut John Glenn's recent death, it seems appropriate that some of the unsung heroes of the Friendship 7 mission (and the NASA space program in general) have finally been given their due in director Theodore Melfi's new movie, "Hidden Figures." An incredibly timely and well-told story that serves as a nice counterpart to 1983's "The Right Stuff," the film shines a light on the African-American women who helped put Glenn into space during a time when neither African-Americans nor women were given those kinds of opportunities. Though it risks falling into the same traps as other feel-good dramas (after all, it's basically an underdog sports film for the STEM crowd), "Hidden Figures" rises above its formulaic plot thanks to some terrific performances from the cast.

In the early 1960s, the United States and the Soviet Union were locked in a race to see who could get a man into space first, and with the U.S. desperately lagging behind its Cold War rivals, NASA needed all the brainpower it could get. What most people don't know is that many of these employees were women (several of them African-American) who worked at the Langley Research Center in Virginia as human computers performing the complex calculations on the

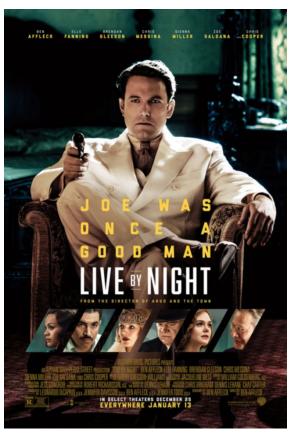
agency's various projects. But because they were black, these brilliant mathematicians were tucked away in a room on the segregated west campus and largely ignored.

That all changes when math whiz Katherine Gobel (Taraji P. Henson) is promoted to the all-white east campus to work under NASA official Al Harrison (Kevin Costner) on the Atlas rocket launch. Though she's treated like a second-class citizen by her co-workers (not only does she have to run half a mile across campus just to use the colored bathroom, but she can't even share the same pot of coffee), Katherine quickly proves herself instrumental to the program's success. Meanwhile, fellow colleagues Dorothy Vaughn (Octavia Spencer), a headstrong supervisor who takes it upon herself to learn how to operate the IBM computers that will eventually replace her, and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe), an aspiring engineer who's stymied by a law that prevents her from attending the classes required to advance in the field, make strides of their own through hard work and determination.

All three actresses are fantastic in their respective roles, and their scenes together are some of the best in the movie, but Henson is the clear standout as the shy, soft-spoken mathematician who lets her work speak for itself. This is a very different character than audiences are used to seeing from the feisty actress, but it's one of her finest roles yet. Although Spencer and Monáe (who impressed with her feature film debut in Oscar frontrunner "Moonlight") don't get quite the same level of development as Henson, their character arcs are just as interesting. Additionally, Kevin Costner delivers his typical workmanlike performance as the demanding head of the Space Task Force (a composite character based on several people), while Jim Parsons, Kirsten Dunst, Mahershala Ali and Glen Powell (as John Glenn) turn in good work in supporting roles.

"Hidden Figures" is a crowd-pleaser in the purest sense – it's a charming, heartwarming and inspirational tale that skillfully combines light-hearted comedy with racially-charged drama. Though it's refreshing to see a movie set against the backdrop of segregated America that focuses more on the barrier-breaking achievements of its subjects than the atrocities of the period, it's not afraid to tackle serious themes like racism and sexism either. Melfi stays out of the way for the most part, relying on his actors to do a majority of the heavy lifting, but he deserves credit for the ease in which he navigates between the film's three storylines. While Melfi takes a few liberties with the source material, mainly for dramatic effect, it's handled so gracefully that you don't really notice. This is the type of cinematic history lesson that's both socially relevant and highly entertaining, and although "Hidden Figures" hits a number of familiar beats, there's nothing ordinary about the incredible true story at the heart of it all.

#### **LIVE BY NIGHT**



Ben Affleck's adaptation of Dennis Lehane's 2012 novel "Live by Night" is apparently getting savaged by the coastal press. "Makes 'Black Mass' look like 'The Godfather" is a quote that my colleague Jason repeated (but the source of said insult won't be credited here). To be fair, the final 10 minutes are kind of awful (though faithful to the source material), but everything that comes before it is handled competently enough that putting it beneath "Black Mass" feels like the kind of thing an angry lover says. "You're dumping me? Well, you're nowhere near as good as 'Black Mass'!" "You take that back!" "Never!" Silly, silly, silly.

As Ben Affleck directorial efforts go, though, "Live by Night" is easily his weakest. It's stylish but a bit too familiar, lacking the intensity of Affleck's best work. It doesn't help matters that it's a Prohibition-era film that takes place mostly in Florida, inviting comparisons to "The Untouchables" and "Scarface" whether Affleck wants them or not.

Joe Coughlin (Affleck), a Boston-bred, disillusioned soldier from the Great War and son of a proud Irish police captain (Brendan Gleeson), is a petty thief who runs under the

protection of a local crime boss but doesn't think of himself as a gangster. He draws the ire of his boss' rival when he is caught having an affair with the rival's mistress Emma (Sienna Miller), so when Joe is popped in a bank robbery, he and his father seek the protection of Italian boss Maso Pescatore (Remo Girone) to make sure Joe isn't killed while in jail. Upon his release, Joe agrees to work as Maso's point man in Tampa, overseeing the rum shipments. He encounters a whole new set of problems (racism of a different stripe, mainly), but does a great job expanding the Pescatore business down south. And for his efforts, he is still treated like a second-class citizen, because he's the son of an Irish man working for Italians.

There are a myriad of subplots involving Emma, the Tampa police chief's daughter Loretta (Elle Fanning) and Joe's Tampa love interest, Cuban activist Gabriela (Zoe Saldana), and if any of those 'B' stories had connected on an emotional level, this would be a completely different movie. This is not a commentary on the actresses' performances; it's just that their story lines are a bit too easy, a convenient obstacle in order to establish Joe's super-awesome ruthlessness as the reluctant crime boss. Indeed, the entire film seems to be one obstacle after another that Joe has to overcome. He hardly has a second to breathe or think.

The film is impeccably designed though, both sets and costumes, and the rapport between Affleck and Chris Messina, who plays Joe's longtime, literal partner in crime Dion Bartolo, is superb. Their scene with a low-level Florida crime lackey has a brutally funny ending, and the scene where Joe gets his ass kicked by the Boston rival's goons will make every man in the theater wince.

The ending, though, is death, sucking all of the air out of the room. It is a collection of bits from other, better crime films (and even a scene from a better known but vastly inferior one), ending with some treacly narration. The audience is clearly meant to feel both happy and sad for Joe but is more likely to feel nothing. This is unfortunate, because his character deserved better than that up until that point.

Ben Affleck made his name as a director by adapting one of Dennis Lehane's books ("Gone Baby Gone"), so it makes sense that he would want to take a shot at another one, but it does not appear that "Live by Night" had Affleck's undivided attention as a writer or director. It's been nine years between the two films; perhaps it's time that Affleck finds a new, age-appropriate muse.

# GAMING

## The Walking Dead: The Telltale Series - A New Frontier Ep. 1: Ties That Bind Part One Review

Telltale Games kicks off the third season of its Walking Dead series by introducing a fresh cast of new characters--a logical start for a season dubbed "A New Frontier." The story's lens shifts focus across the country to peer into the lives of a struggling family, rather than the exploits of downtrodden survivors. Yet even with all of these changes and scant undead creeps, A New Frontier's premier episode will feel familiar to fans of the series. Episode one establishes a heady moral stew loaded with hard choices and heartbreak, and is one of the best additions to the series since it began in 2012.

A New Frontier diverges from its two preceding seasons rather dramatically at times, rolling the clock back to the initial zombie outbreak. Here we are introduced to the Garcia family, located on the West Coast. Javier (Javy to his friends) is the new lead--a likable twentysomething and the black sheep of his family. In the opening scene, Javy races to his brother's house to see their terminally ill father before he dies. But traffic, due to the outbreak, stops him dead in his tracks. When he finally arrives, he's too late. Emotionally spent, Javy's brother David punches him in the face, followed by smack from his newly widowed mother. Once again, in their eyes, Javy failed to be there for his family when they needed him the most.



Where the first two seasons of the walking dead were mostly about forming familial ties with strangers you meet along the way, here we're dropped into the middle of a traditional family with preexisting issues; stepmom immediately whips out a joint to relieve the tension of life on the run. There's illicit yet unspoken romance, hatred between family members, and ghosts of past transgressions lurking beneath the surface. Telltale has come a long way from the melodrama of past seasons, which revolved around the too-often-hysterical Kenny. In A New Frontier, Javy, Kate, Gabe, and Marianna are completely authentic in the way that they act and talk among each other, drawing you into their plight and earning much-deserved empathy.

Like its predecessors, this is an adventure that calls for casual interaction with only a few rudimentary puzzles to solve along the way. Nothing here is wildly challenging--although the quick-time-event combat scenarios do seem a bit more involved than in the past. The meat of the game remains the tremendous dialogue and the sheer number of choices that need to be made when deciding upon a course of action. The plot changes depending on what you do, which can have ramifications on everything from what somebody thinks of you, to who lives and who dies. This pumps up the replay value, with different outcomes motivating you to replay the two-hour story and reconfigure your choices.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Walking Dead game without Clementine. The ballcap-wearing heroine of the first two seasons is back, a little more grown-up and much more of a badass than she was at the end of Season Two. Flashbacks reveal pieces of what she's been through in the interim, and it isn't pretty. As a result, Clem now totes a combat shotgun, and her character has become something of a mystery, who may or may not be trustworthy. This is a gutsy direction in which to take a character who, up until now, has been the stainless moral center of the bleak Walking Dead world.



Season three supports saves from previous seasons across various platforms, so you can port in your past progress--and Clementine's--no matter how you played Season Two. If you misplaced your old saves, however, the "Continue Your Story" option lets you custom-craft Clementine's personality through a series of questions related to the first two seasons' events. No matter how you go about it, when you choose to continue the saga, and you get flashbacks to Lee, Kenny, and the rest of the gang. Start an all-new game, and you get more generic flashbacks to Clem's life on the road.

While the game continues with the graphic-novel style of the visuals, they're not as bound to the comics as they seemed to be in the past. Scenes are set with more cinematic flair, with dramatic camera angles and evocative lighting setting the mood. The earlier games Walking Dead games from Telltale looked great in their own right, but this episode takes things to a higher level, exemplified when you see the Garcias' van speeding down a road under eerie moonlight, and when Javy rides on horseback to rescue his family as the sun rises over a run-down auto yard.

Telltale has crafted another entertaining chapter in the always-growing Walking Dead story. The Ties That Bind Part I takes the series in a welcome new direction with the Garcia family while still staying true to the moral dilemmas and zombie-chomping action that made the first two seasons so compelling. The New Frontier is off to a great start, and its troubled cast's harrowing journey is just getting started.

# GAMING

#### **Shadow Tactics: Blades of the Shogun** Review

With a trio of assassins, I prepare to breach the outer gates. I make one of my assassins toss out a tasty flask of sake to distract a guard, while another slit the throats of two unwary henchmen nearby. The third, a sniper, perches in a high tower and finishes off the remaining enemies. A few moments later, we're ready for the shogun--our real target.

Shadow Tactics: Blades of the Shogun is an elegant answer to a simple question: How do you make sneaking unnoticed from Point A to Point B compelling? Many games have built themselves around that concept, but few stealth-focused games manage to make sneaking as interesting as Gears of War makes shooting or Portal makes puzzle-solving.t

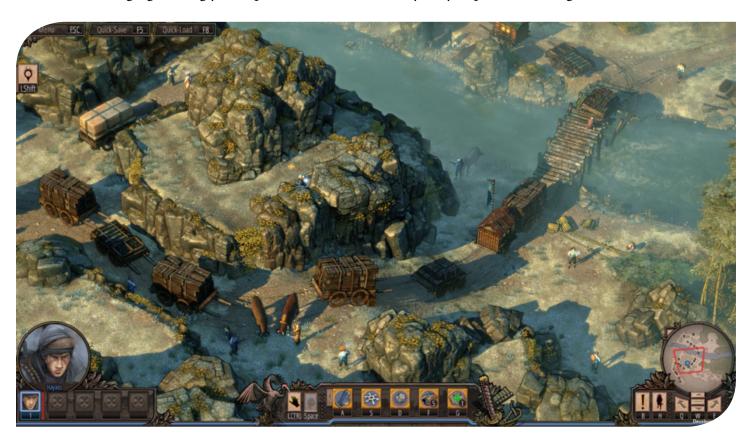
That's because the language of games, for better or worse, is usually conflict. But stealth games call for a subtler hand. Often you'll have to wait for enemies to be in the right place at the right time to make your move, and if you step out of turn and accidentally blow your cover, you may have to say goodbye to your progress and start from scratch.



Shadow Tactics can be challenging, but isn't as punishing as most stealth games. From the very beginning, you're taught to save--constantly. If you go more than a minute without saving, a timer appears onscreen to remind you, growing more intense with each passing minute. Once saving becomes a habit--executed with a single keystroke-you grow more comfortable trying out creative strategies without fear of risking hard-fought progress.

Shadow Tactics frontloads almost all of the training you'll need for the remainder of the campaign. You have five different assassins under your control, each with their own specific skills. Some can target two or three enemies in a single turn, while others can vault up onto rooftops to gain the upper hand. By the end of the first level, you'll have working knowledge of every major tactic and ability at your disposal. After that, it's just a matter of which specific combination of abilities you'll be able to bring to any one level.

From a serene, wind-swept snowscape to the towering castles of Japan's Edo period, Blades of the Shogun's cel shaded environments are all beautifully rendered, and each one introduces a distinct mechanic that alters the rules of stealth. Guards will track footsteps through snow on one map, for example, ratcheting up tension and forcing you to be more rigorous in your approach. With its rules in flux, Blades of the Shogun is consistently tense and challenging, forcing you to plan and react in new ways as you pursue one target after another.

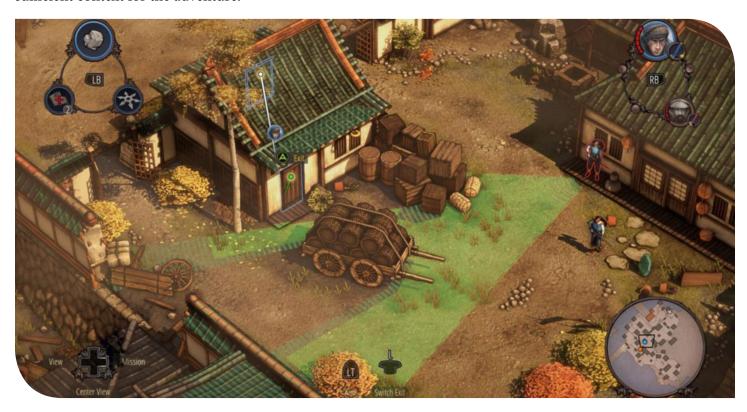


At times, the complexity of any given level--with potentially dozens of guards and obstacles--can seem over-whelming. But no matter how dire things appear, there are systems in place to give you a fighting chance. You'll never be surprised, for example, by a guard's sudden attention. Their cones of vision gradually fill with color-they confirm your location when it's full and sound an alarm to summon reinforcements. In the brief amount of time it takes for an enemy to take action, you have a chance to get out of trouble, either by throwing a shuriken or quickly ducking out of sight.

If you do trigger an alarm, however, a swarm of new enemies appear and stick around for the rest of the scenario. This presents a series of interesting choices for you to make. You can, if you so choose, take the spike in challenge in exchange for removing one or two particularly pernicious henchmen. They may be replaced, but the newbies won't pick up the exact patrol pattern or position, so, in some cases, it's still worth it.

Sudden turns also help develop the relationships between Shadow Tactics' five main characters. They'll trade barbs and anecdotes as they tell one another about how they came to this line of work and why they chose to fight. Party members range from the sturdy samurai, Mugen, to the lithe master of disguise Aiko. Hayato is the de facto leader, a dyed-in-the-wool ninja and master of stealth. The thief, Yuki, is faster and lighter, relying on traps and tricks to take down most foes. Last is Takuma, a wise old man and a patient sniper.

Each of their abilities can be chained into the skills of other characters, requiring extremely tight coordination. Over the 20-hour-plus adventure, they grow and learn together as they face mounting challenges and an uncertain future. The story isn't groundbreaking by any means, but the repartee is relatable and earnest, providing sufficient context for the adventure.



Across thirteen dense, beautiful areas that can each take a couple of hours to work through, you'll pick and probe, chopping through complex patterns against what seem like impossible odds. If there's one complaint, it's that while each of its parts work together seamlessly, it can often feel like there's only one correct solution--like you're trying to find the solution to a puzzle instead of working within a living, breathing world. However, those frustrations are blunted somewhat by ever-present tension, as you'll often face unexpected twists that prevent you from feeling too comfortable.

Shadow mode, as the game calls it, leads to glorious moments where you get to see all of your hard work, your observation, and attention to detail pay off. It tests your ability to keep track of all the moving pieces in a level and put a plan in motion. You can have a samurai kill off a small band of guards with his special ability, then snipe an officer as he moves in to investigate. Then you can have your other characters stash the bodies to avoid detection--all before the next set of troops rounds the corner. When a plan comes together, it's a thing of beauty--a symphony of action.

Shadow Tactics understands what makes stealth games so special. It pushes you to organize your own plans such that you're never seen at all, living up to Thief's thesis that masterful warriors are ghosts that wreak havoc on the unsuspecting. And it takes this concept step further, giving you enough options to ensure you're never trapped or stuck without recourse. Shadow Tactics' basic ideas are masterfully executed, making it one of the best stealth games in recent memory.



# **SPORTS**

# The Warriors return serve, annihilating the Cavs by 35 as Steph Curry shines



After the Cleveland Cavaliers came back from 14 points down in the fourth quarter to stun the Golden State Warriors with a Kyrie Irving game-winner on Christmas Day, Warriors superstar Stephen Curry shouldered his share of the blame for the loss, calling himself on the carpet for insufficient aggression.

"Honestly, I can't have 11 shots," the two-time-reigning NBA Most Valuable Player said. "I've got to get more looks at the rim. That's nobody's fault. I've just got to figure out a way to be more aggressive in that respect, and keep the defense honest and use all the talent we have on this team, including my scoring ability."

#### Well, mission accomplished.

Curry came out of the gate firing during the two teams' Monday night meeting, attacking Irving off the dribble for a layup on the opening play of the marquee matchup of the NBA's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day slate. Neither he nor the Warriors ever looked back, as Golden State incinerated the Cavs' defense en route to 78 first-half points in a 126-91 rout that was over way, way before the final buzzer.

Curry didn't hang half-a-hundred on LeBron James' crew, but he put his fingerprints all over the game from the opening tip, finishing with 20 points, a season-high-tying 11 assists and four steals. Perhaps most importantly, after head coach Steve Kerr called on his point guard to "be a little smarter" and "make better decisions" following the sloppy lead-blowing loss in Cleveland on Christmas, Curry posted just three turnovers in his 31 minutes of work.

As he has for most of the past three years, Curry teamed with frontcourt running buddy Draymond Green to orchestrate an attack that absolutely overwhelmed the Cavs with both physicality and finesse. Green was everywhere on both ends of the floor on Monday, notching his third triple-double of the season with 11 points on just six shots, 13 rebounds, 11 assists, five blocks, a steal and zero turnovers. Golden State outscored Cleveland by 43 points in Green's 35 minutes on Monday, and man, did it feel like it.

Klay Thompson led all scorers with 26 points on 8-for-17 shooting, including a 5-for-11 mark from 3-point range. Kevin Durant added 21 on 9-for-16 shooting, plus six rebounds, five assists, three blocks and two steals in just 29 minutes, as the former MVP continues to tick off every single box for the Warriors.

The Cavs entered a roaring Oracle Arena for the final game of a six-game, 12-day West Coast road swing, and they looked like it early, falling behind 7-0 just 97 seconds into the game and looking ill-equipped to match Golden State's offensive activity, ball movement and defensive intensity.

Curry led the charge on the offensive end, balancing the imperative to look for his own offense — after managing just 11 field-goal attempts on Christmas Day, he took seven shots in Monday's first quarter alone, scoring eight points — with the need to run the show, drawing defensive attention off the bounce and drive-and-kicking his way to five assists without a turnover in the first 12 minutes. The frontcourt of Green, Durant and Zaza Pachulia handled things on defense, invading passing lanes, protecting the rim, contesting shots and clearing the defensive glass as they helped limit Cleveland to just 22 first-quarter points on 7-for-23 shooting.

It took 6 1/2 minutes for Golden State to take a double-digit lead on a Durant 3, and they pushed the advantage to 20 on a Shaun Livingston and-one less than one minute into the second quarter. Despite their early struggles, though, the Cavs hung around, answering Golden State's spurts with drives and free throws of their own to stay within hailing distance.

Cleveland got within 14 after a pair of LeBron freebies with just over four minutes remaining in the first half. After Tristan Thompson snuffed out a Draymond drive, the Cavs just needed a score to bring single digits back within arm's reach, and bring the bad old vibes of Cleveland's four consecutive wins over the Warriors back like 3-1 ghouls rising from the grave at LeBron's Halloween party.

On this night, though, Steph and company aimed to put their ghosts to rest. On the next Cavs possession, Curry snuck in behind a napping James to knock the ball away — calling to mind a viral moment from last year's Warriors-Cavs MLK Day showdown — before pushing the ball down the floor for what wound up being a Thompson

Thompson paired his triple with stellar defense, smothering an Irving isolation before blocking his shot to once again send Golden State out on the break for a Durant dunk that pushed the lead back up to 19. With the Cavs reeling, the Warriors kept the pressure on, forcing contested looks, rebounding Cleveland's misses and racing out the other way; a heartbeat later, another steal turned into another fast-break dunk for Durant, extending the lead to 26 and leaving many onlookers — including Cleveland coach Tyronn Lue — absolutely stunned:

The fireworks didn't stop there, though. The Warriors put their foot down in the closing ticks of the second quarter, with Green and Durant each swatting James before Curry pulled up from somewhere in the vicinity of Napa Valley to beat the halftime buzzer with a 3-pointer that ended the first half with an appropriately loud bang:

Curry's long bomb sent the Warriors into half up 78-49; it is a testament to the terrifying power of Golden State's offense that 78 points represents just their third– halftime point total of the season.

Steph picking LeBron's pocket wasn't the only reminder of last year's mid-January massacre at Oracle:

After posting a 28-point edge over Cleveland in fast-break points through 24 minutes, the Warriors continued to pour it on after intermission. Cavs wings Iman Shumpert and Kyle Korver — whom Golden State attacked mercilessly on the defensive end in building their first-half lead — each missed 3-pointers in the opening minute of the third. Thompson and Curry didn't, inflating the Dubs' advantage to 35 points and rendering the game all over but the shoutin'.

James led Cleveland with 20 points, eight rebounds and two assists in 35 minutes of work, but the four-time MVP shot just 6-for-18 from the field and committed six turnovers in an off night that goes down in the history books as one of the roughest of his illustrious career:

Irving added 17, albeit on 6-for-19 shooting, with six cough-ups of his own. Kevin Love scored only three points in 16 minutes before missing the second half due to lower back soreness for the Cavs, who fell to 29-11 on the season and now lead the Toronto Raptors by two games in the race for the East's top seed.

How much Monday's shellacking actually matters, of course, is debatable.

Yes, the Warriors learned Monday that when they put the ball in Curry's hands, unleash the tandem of Green and Durant to wreak defensive havoc, and get dynamite performances from the likes of Livingston (13 points on 6-for-7 shooting) and Andre Iguodala (a season-high 14 points on 5-for-5 shooting, five assists), they can stomp a mudhole in even a LeBron-led opponent. But the Cavs learned on Christmas Day that they can still go toe-to-toe with the reloaded KD-edition Warriors, that they can still crank up their defensive pressure enough to force Golden State into mistakes, and that their formula of making life miserable on Curry, relentlessly attacking the glass and relying on the elite shot- and playmaking of James and Irving can still work.

Come June, if indeed we get the seemingly predestined rubber match in this three-year saga, the Cavs won't be coming off a 12-game road trip and the Warriors won't be coming off three days off. Perhaps J.R. Smith will be back in the mix to give Cleveland another shooter and perimeter defender. Maybe Kerr won't be able to get away with four- or five-minute test drives of wild card center JaVale McGee against five-out lineups featuring Love and Channing Frye, as he did on Monday. With months of tape and time to game plan, it's likely that what we saw on Christmas and on Monday will be less a predictor of what's to come than a starting point for a new round of tactical engagement.

After four straight losses to Cleveland, though, it's also likely that seeing what we saw on Monday — a smooth, confident, systematic beatdown — mattered quite a bit to a Golden State team that's taken some hits this season. There are worse things than reminding yourselves you're capable of reducing another member of the league's elite to rubble:

After splitting their season series, we'll now have to wait until the summer to find out what the next installment of the greatest rivalry in today's NBA — sorry, LeBron — has to offer. If the Cavs and Warriors do cross paths again, expect to see the ball in Steph's hands early and often; as he reminded us on Monday, he can make magic happen against even the best opponents the world has to offer.

## **SPORTS**

## **Kevin Durant remains focused on settling in, not settling scores**

By the time Kevin Durant was standing under the rim, all alone, as the last line of defense against LeBron James, the Golden State Warriors had already unleashed seven months of frustration – resulting from that incredible NBA Finals collapse, those endless 3-1 lead jokes, those insulting Halloween party RIP cookies and that Christmas afternoon meltdown – on the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Draymond Green had already knocked James off his feet with a flagrant foul that he playfully mocked as a flop, and Stephen Curry had already offered a reminder of how special this team is when he's more aggressive and starts "Steph-ing." But when the Warriors needed to shut down all hope, it was on the newest participant in the league's greatest competitive battle – which James refuses to call "a rivalry" – to show that his efficient scoring is only the most talked about aspect of his considerable repertoire.

James came barreling down the lane and lunged toward the rim, where Durant – the Warriors' resident rim-protector – caught the ball clean, slapped it off James' head and watched as it landed in Green's hands to ignite a break. Durant's block, which also sent James crashing to the floor, was one of the many not-nice ways the Warriors snapped a four-game losing streak in the same building where the Cavaliers claimed their first NBA title last June. But after Monday's resounding 126-91 victory at Oracle Arena, Durant wasn't the least bit interested in hearing that the win also ended his personal five-game losing streak to James, dating to Jan. 29, 2014.

"I didn't know we were playing one-on-one out there," Durant told The Vertical. "I mean, it's eight other guys out there, it's not just me and him."

The NBA has long been a star-driven league, with superstars used as the primary foundation to market and promote the game. James and Durant have been two of the game's biggest stars for many years, but James has had a decided edge in head-to-head matchups, going 18-5 against Durant, including a 4-1 series victory in the 2012 NBA Finals. Even if he keeps score in his head and would rather ignore it, Durant wasn't going to act as if he cared.



"I never really looked at it as, 'I lost to this guy, I beat this guy that many times,' "Durant told the Vertical. "We're playing as a team. There is a lot of stuff that can happen for you to win a game, especially when it's good players. But I didn't know we were playing one-on-one. I didn't know that was a thing. Do you talk about any matchups against other guys? Does John Wall have more wins against Kyrie Irving? Do y'all talk about that, too? If you want to play one-on-one, look at the stat line across the line, me and him, individually. But we're not playing one-on-one out there. If we were, then you can start talking. It's a team game."

Durant's desire to be part, but not necessarily the center, of a basketball brotherhood is what led him to Golden State, where the self-less, pass-happy scheme of coach Steve Kerr has resulted in the NBA title Durant lacks and back-to-back Finals appearances. The move has Durant on a team that is 35-6 and only two games off the Warriors' record-setting 73-win pace of a year ago as he prepares for his second game against his former team, the Oklahoma City Thunder, on Wednesday at Oracle Arena. "I don't care about our record," Durant told The Vertical. "We've just tried to play some good basketball and not worry about the record. That's what's most important to us."

Before his first meeting against the Thunder in November, Durant went out of his way to explain his reasons for leaving in free agency and opened up about his relationship with former longtime running mate Russell Westbrook. Durant isn't taking that approach this time around, choosing to instead deflect questions about whether he and Westbrook have spoken, or if he'll have any emotions when he sees those blue and orange uniforms again. He does admit that the initial 122-96 win over the visiting Thunder went a long way toward helping him settle into his surroundings.

"I'm just glad I could get it out of the way," Durant told The Vertical. "I'm still getting used to being in a new environment, but I'm just trying to focus on each day, not worrying about what happened in the past or what's going to happen in the future. Just try to stay in the moment. I'm trying to focus on me. It's easier said than done, but I can't get distracted about that. I'm focused on the team I'm on now.""

The Warriors continue to work out a few kinks as they navigate how to effectively utilize so many talented offensive weapons. Curry and Durant, the past two league MVPs, knew they would have to make sacrifices for this experiment to work and that has included some manageable growing pains. But an example of their seemingly unfair alliance occurred in the second quarter of Monday's game, when they were on a two-on-one break against James, who had to decide whether to guard Curry at the 3-point line or Durant at the wing. In end, James chose neither and Curry whipped a bounce pass to a slashing Durant for a dunk.

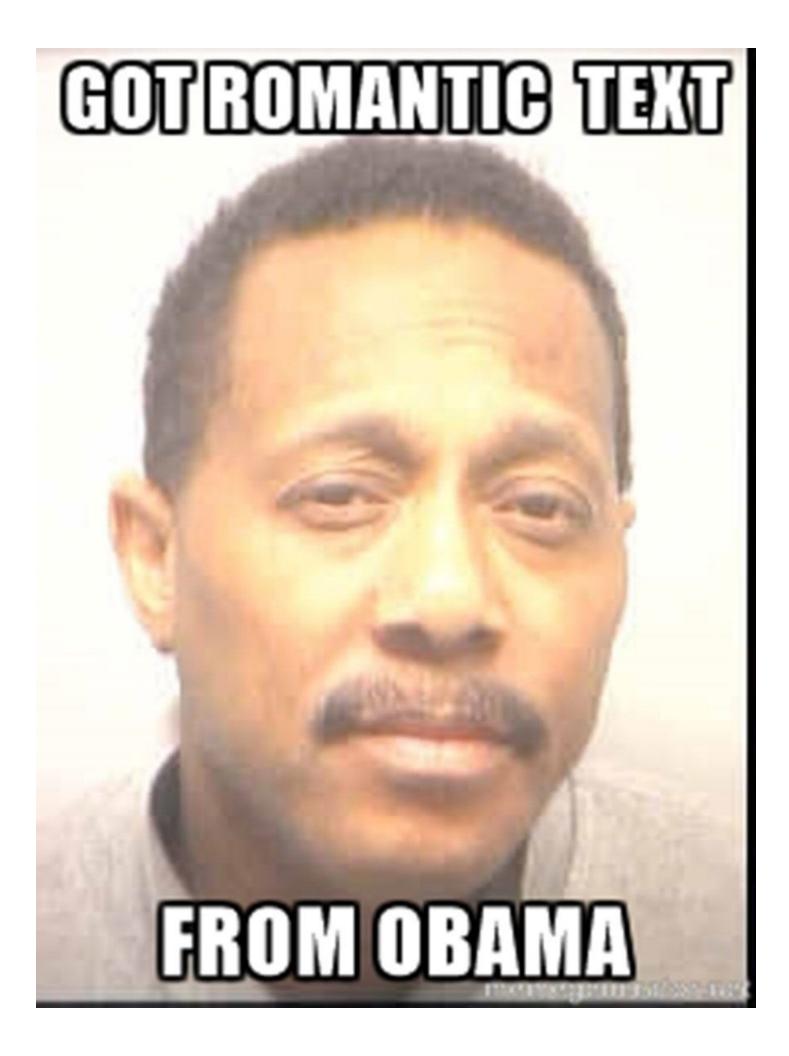
"I think we had chemistry since the beginning of the season, since training camp," Durant said of Curry. "I've been watching him a long time. He's been watching me. We know how we play, where he wants the ball and where I want the ball. It's a matter of experience and just getting out there and playing. But when you're familiar with someone's game and you respect someone's game, it makes it easy to play with them."

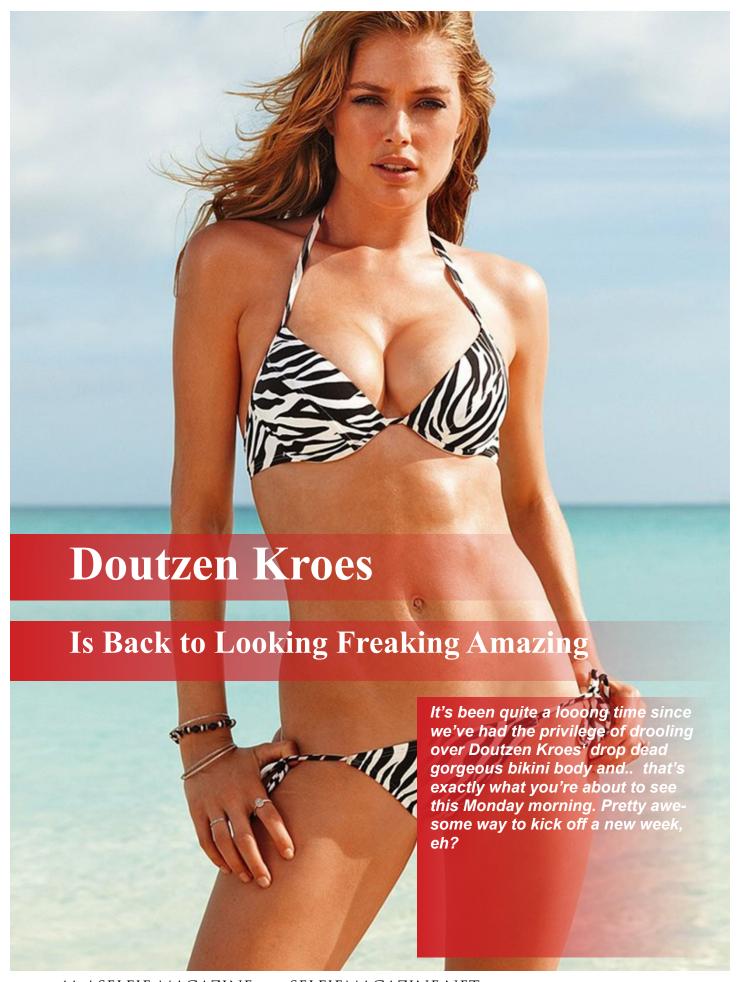
Durant has occasionally slipped into some of his one-on-one tendencies in those rare instances when the Warriors have been in close games, which contributed to a memorable exchange during a Jan. 6 home loss to the Memphis Grizzlies when an animated Green implored Durant to get that out of his system. But Durant has otherwise been an ideal fit for a Warriors team that has allowed him to adjust and learn through his mistakes. His scoring (25.8 points per game) and usage rate (27.6 percent) are the lowest since his second season, but his true shooting percentage (65.1) and rebound percentage (13.6) are at career-high levels - and he is committing fewer turnovers because he doesn't have to dominate the ball. Durant isn't surprised at how well he has blended with his new teammates.

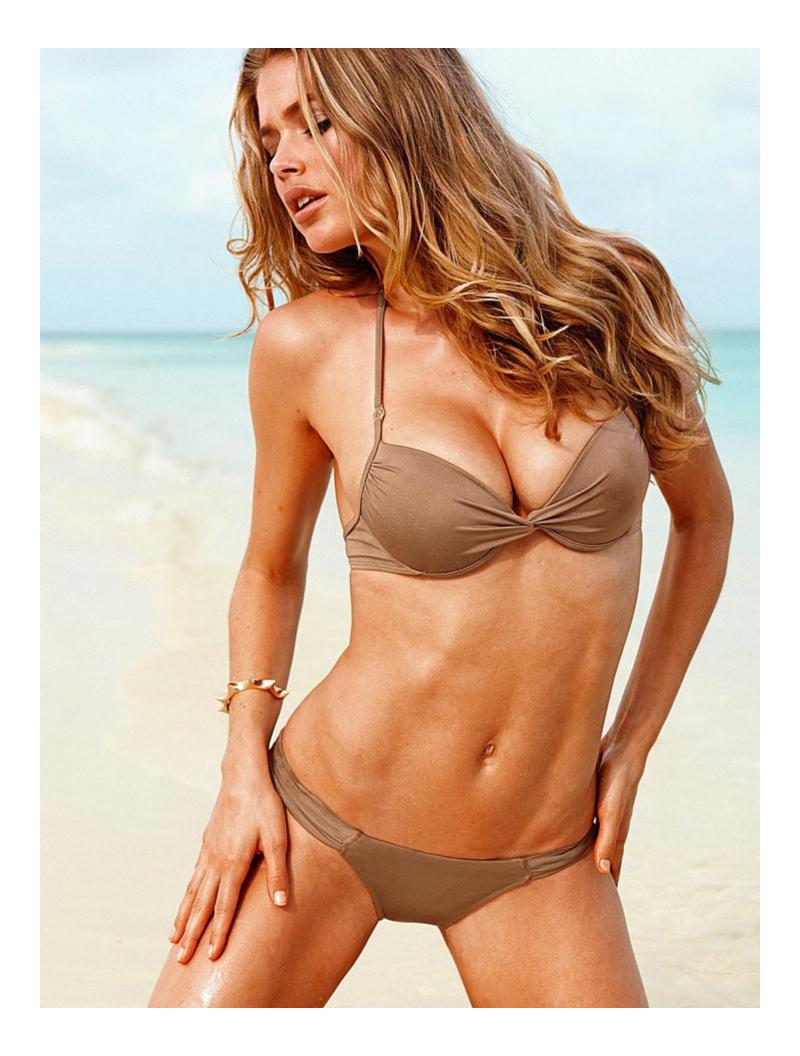
"Not at all," Durant told The Vertical. "You can ask other guys, but I feel like I'm easy to get along with. I feel like I'm easy to play with. I don't demand much. I feel like I've got a high basketball IQ. I'm still adjusting and learning the system and learning what coach wants from me, but for the most part, I'm good at improvising. I'm good at filling in. I can go out there and try to get a basket every possession. Or I can go in a corner and wait for the ball to come to me and space the floor. I feel I can do different things on the court, from being a No. 1 guy to the No. 2 guy to whatever. Setting screens and fighting in the trenches, playing the dirty game, I feel I can do all of that. I think that's what's making it easy. I don't feel like I'm a one-dimensional player."

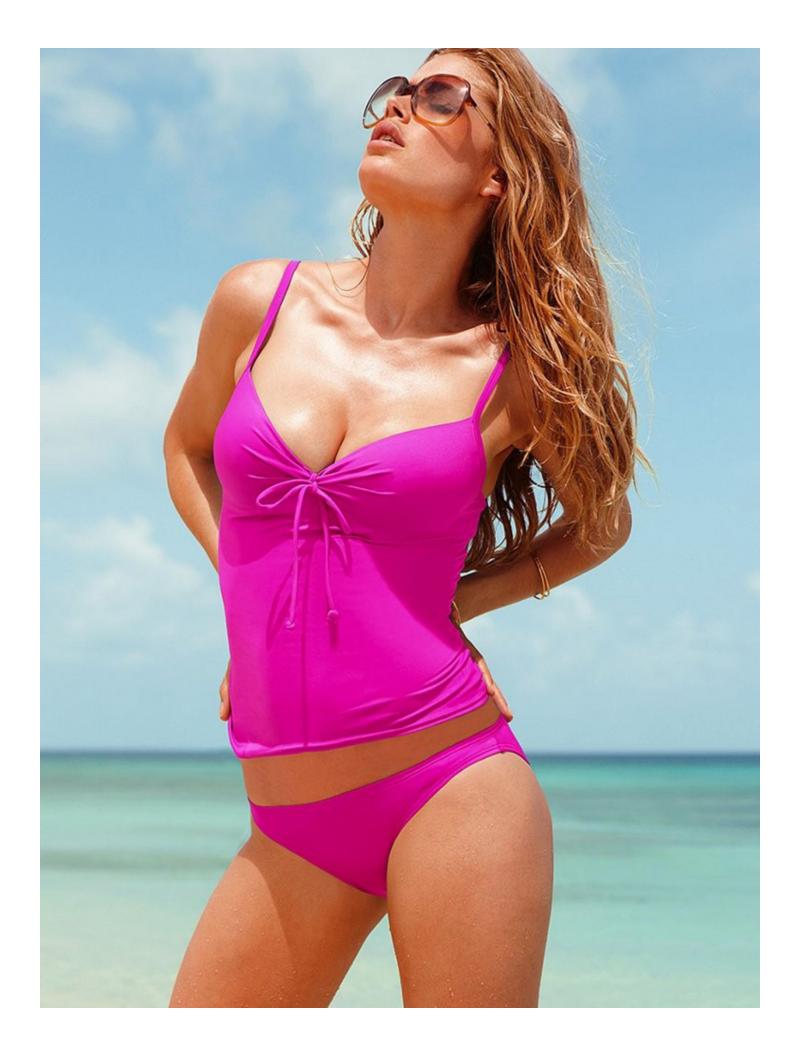
James' dismissive refusal to accept the Warriors as rivals, even as they appear headed toward a third consecutive Finals matchup, is an excellent form of gamesmanship. In addition to riling up Golden State – Green responded by saying, "I know he wants to beat us" - James has also given his teammates a mental edge because they haven't lost a series to the Warriors with Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love on the floor.

Durant was the consolation prize for that Finals defeat and had he avoided Richard Jefferson's foot and wasn't on his butt as he attempted a game-winning shot on Christmas, the Warriors could've had two wins against the defending champions this season. If these teams are destined to meet again in June, Durant won't concern himself with helping Golden State get revenge – or avenging his own loss to James – until that day arrives. "All I can control is how I come in here and how I approach the game, how I prepare for the game," Durant told The Vertical. "I try not to let nothing distract me. People have been doing a good job of that early on in this season. I just told myself not to worry about none of that, just focus on what I can do and contribute to this team in a positive way."

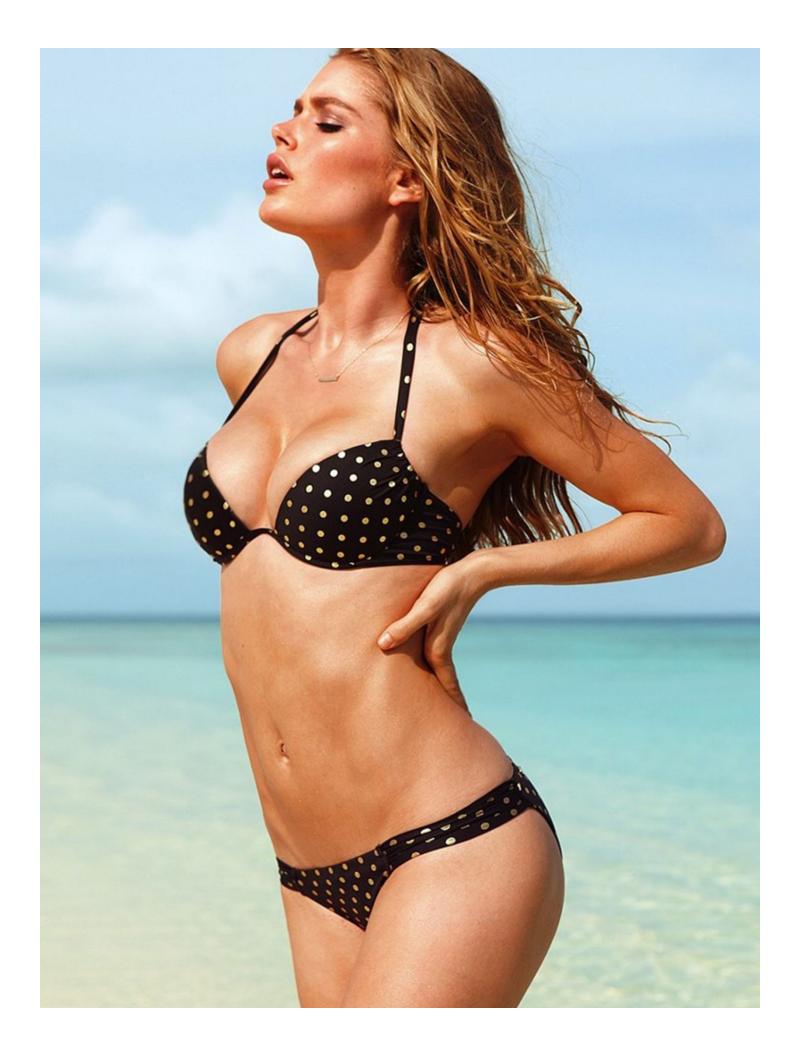




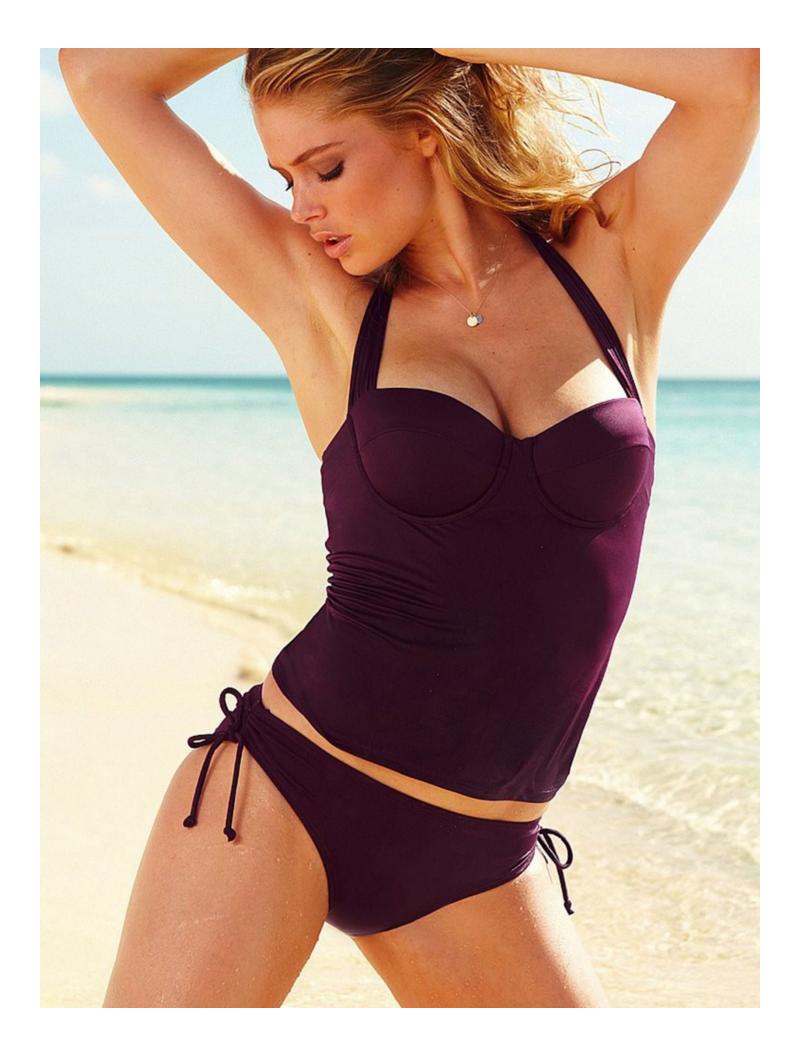




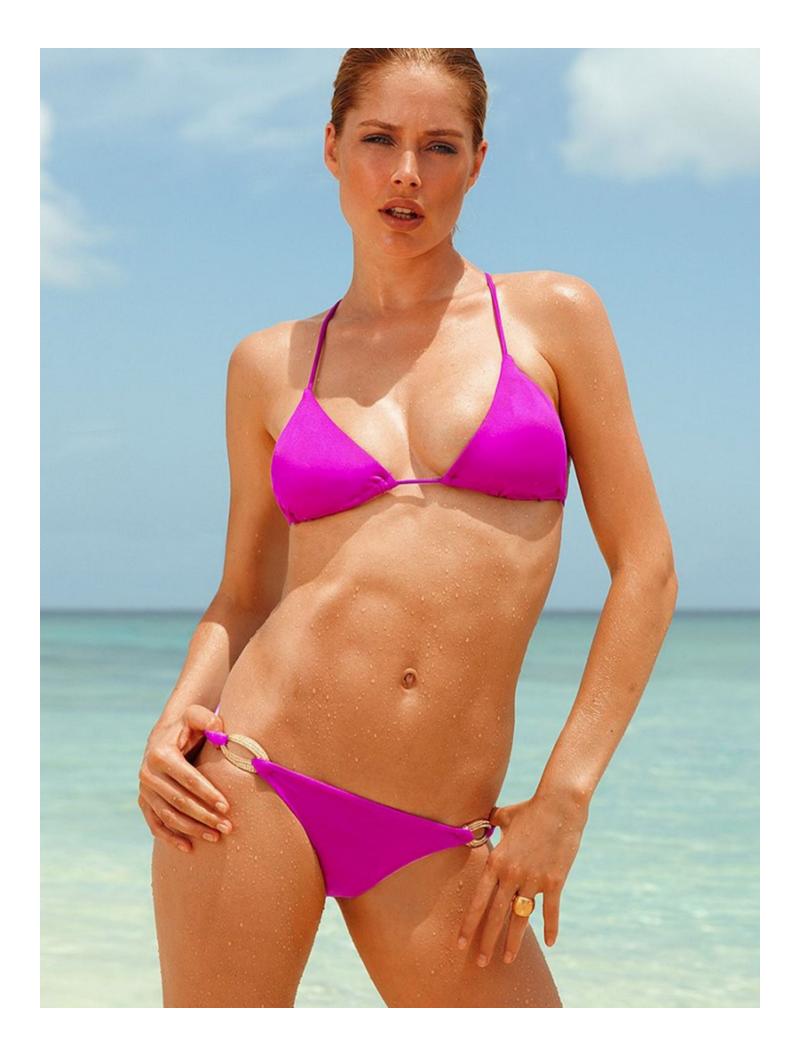


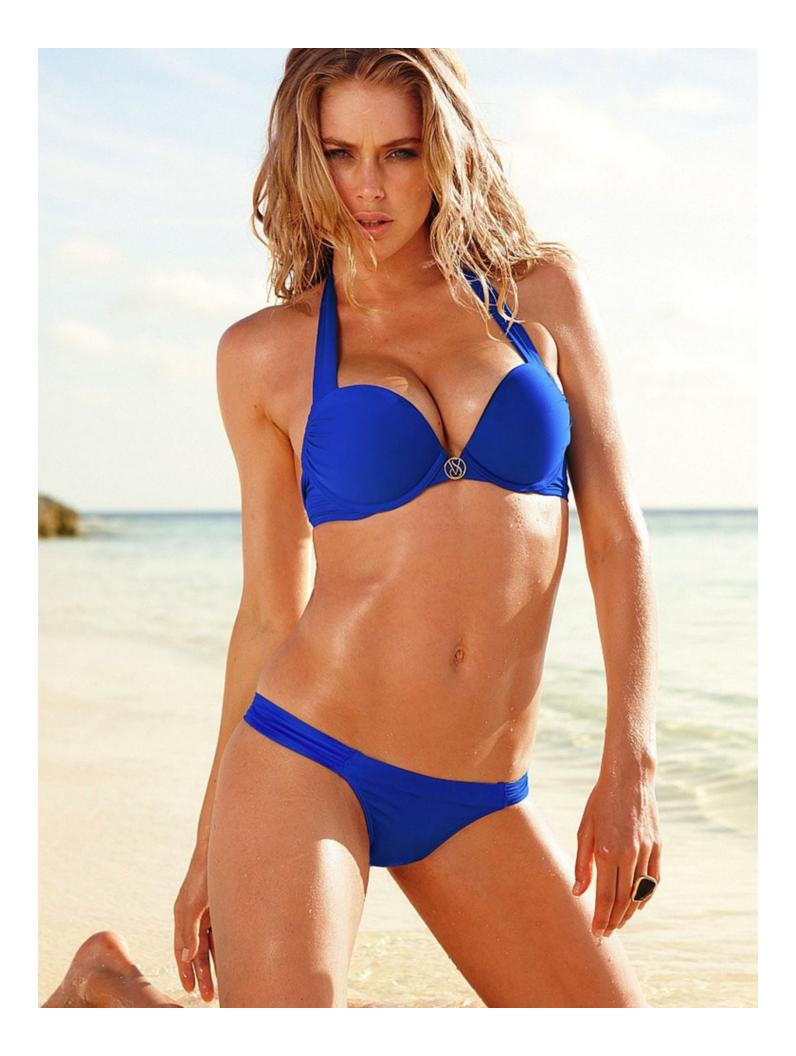












# CARS & BIKES

## Honda Finally Gets It! The Honda Civic Type R, Or Why You Should Buy This Car For Christmas

Let's face it, Honda is not the kind of company who can make us hold our breaths whenever they release a new car. Sure, they produce a lot of awesome family-friendly and cost-efficient cars. In fact, the missus might have a car that she has in mind as a "gift" to your family this holiday season. However, legendary cars that look like a race car version of the Bat Mobile (that you can actually buy because it's not as ridiculous expensive as other brands) – my goodness, Honda's finally got it!



We are talking about Honda's latest Honda Civic Type R. Have you taken a look at this thing? It doesn't even look like a Honda at all, because it's NOT your regular Honda. If you're looking to buy yourself a nice car to drive to work next year and feel like a winner every damn day, then this is the car for you.



There are a lot of details that have not been shared to the public just yet, but we have reason to believe that it's going to pack a turbo 2.0 liter engine that can give this baby up to 340 horsepower.

## **But, oh my God, the looks!**

Yes, let's forget the mechanics of this car for a minute and focus on how gorgeous it is. Let's start with the bumper. It's widened along with the fenders both in front and it's sexy back. This baby also gets some side skirts made out of premium carbon fiber, and let's not forget the front spoilers of this thing, also made out of carbon fiber.



But the best view of this car is the rear view. I haven't seen a sexier ass coming from a Honda like this one. It's got triple tailpipes and a huge wing. I can definitely see myself driving this thing and probably giving some free rides to Victoria's Secret Angels. I sincerely hope that this is only the start of more awesome Honda cars in the future. And I'm also keeping my fingers tightly crossed until they release the digits of this thing. We can't blame them if they're going to pump up the price range because this is a pretty badass car, but a guy can still dream.





## CARS & BIKES

## **The Most Exciting Car News This 2017!**

The new year is always an exciting season for car lovers. It helps us answer the age-old question: should I really need to buy a new car this year?

Here's a bit of an advice though: if you're not willing to pay the price of next year's model, then you can buy this year's model – only near the end of the year because that's when the prices of the year's model are at its cheapest (in preparation of the upcoming year, AND also because sales peeps are hustling to meet the year's quota).

And now, enough chitchat. Let's hustle.



### **Apple Car**

Ads point that it's going to be named iMove (or a single word with the iconic "I" in front). For now though, the tech giant is said to have been "collecting" car experts from all over the world to work on the top secret project code named "Titan". Chances are, it's going to be a self-driving car, or something much more awesome, so legendary, that we can't even imagine it yet! There's not much info being released about this baby, but I bet 2017 will hold some pretty sweet announcements and teasers for us.



#### **Toyota MkV Supra**

Ahh yes, I still remember the Toyota MkIV Supra that became pretty popular in the sports car scene during the nineties – why? Because it had the power minus the price tag. Now, fast forward to 2017, another Supra is going to be released, with an all-new turbo inline-six engine while promising a more stylish design.



#### **Chevrolet Bolt**

Here's the problem with electronic cars: they just don't have enough juice. Even the latest Nissan LEAF could not go for up to a hundred miles without needing a full charge once again before it can go any further. This upcoming Chevy might just be the car that we've long been waiting for. The Chevrolet Bolt is being designed to go to up to two hundred miles per charge. The name might change however due to branding issues. You see, the company have a plug-in hybrid called Volt, but nevertheless we can expect to ssee this car hit the markets thus year. Exciting times indeed!

## GADGETS & GRAR

## 3 Workout Gear You Simply Can't Live Without...Any Further (Or The Perfect Gift For **Gym Buffs)**

There are a LOT of workout gear out there, probably millions, and they all claim the same thing. That you can't live without one of them. You buy one, spend a couple of dollars (sometimes even more), try it out, and then you realize that you've been duped. You CAN live without these buggers, and worse, you're even better without them. So, brokenhearted, you go and buy yourself a new one. Convincing yourself that this product is indeed better than the last one you've bought, only to find the same damn thing.

But today, we're going to list down the three latest gears that the fitness experts have created, and this time, it's real. This time around, the things that we are going to list down are the top three fitness gears that you simply should not allow yourself to live without any further. Having said that, if you have a certain bro in mind to give the perfect Christmas gift to, then you're in the right place. Promise, these things are awesome.



## **Fitbit Surge**

You think you already own a cool fitness tracker? Think again. The Fitbit Surge can monitor your heart rate, record your sleeping patterns, locate where you are through GPS, and finally also become your personal assistant who can play music for you and read your text messages.



#### **Nike Metcon 2**

Every pair of shoes you buy is an investment, or so they say. Then why, for the love of sanity, do you keep on buying crappy shoes? Is it because of the price? The style? Well, whatever the reason is, the Nike Metcon 2 can put your current fitness shoes to shame. TO SHAME I tell you! This pair is lightweight, fits snuggly to its users feet to prevent injury, and even boost your performance!



## **Gear Beast Running Backpack**

Sick of all the bands and chains you attach to yourself while running? You have a band for your iPod, another for your wallet, an attachment for your water bottle, then another for your keys. When will it end? Today. Or more specifically, the day you purchase your very own Gear Beast Running Backpack. It is small yet spacious, and most of all, styled in a way that won't get into your stride.

# GADGETS & GEAR

## See The Future Through These Devices: New Gadgets To Be Released This 2017

I'm the type who doesn't want to age. I know a couple of guys who just can't wait to age up like a bottle of wine, but me? No. I hold on to my youth like holding on to my dear life itself. Sunscreen. Moisturizers. You name it, I might just be trying it.

Ironically, I also can't wait for the future. Self-driving cars. Sex robots with artificial intelligence. Legendary robotic killing machines that can eat biomass. Invading Mars. We are indeed living in a very exciting and fast-paced technological era. Hence, you really can't blame me when I say that I am just freakin' excited for a lot of different gadgets to be released this year. I'm even saving up (which basically means denying myself of other worldly pleasures) in order to be able to get my hands on some of the items I'm about to list down here.

I know, I know, you're excited too. Don't let me keep you waiting, by all means.



#### iLuun Air

Don't you think it's rather problematic how the management of data is being handled right now? Sure, we have the Cloud, Dropbox, data cards, among many other things – but all of them, every single one poses a problem. Compatibility with your different gadgets, the need of multiple cables, internet connection, threat of having your data compromised, these are but some of the problems we commonly face every single day in order to access our own files.

Let that not be a bother to us anymore with iLuun Air. iLuun is a wireless USB flash drive that allows us to store and access our files through our different gadgets through its own personal WiFi network which you don't need an internet for. No cables. No internet access needed. No threat to hackers because of its private WiFi system. No compatibility issues, as long as your gadget can connect to a WiFi.



### **Jot Flip**

The future of writing is here with the Jot Flip pen that I'm sure comes straight out of a James Bond film. It's the most precise stylus to date with a dampening tip that can mimic how you actually write (calligraphers, assemble!). Flip it, and you have....an ACTUAL PEN! Who would have guessed? A pen that's really a PEN!



## **Air Charge**

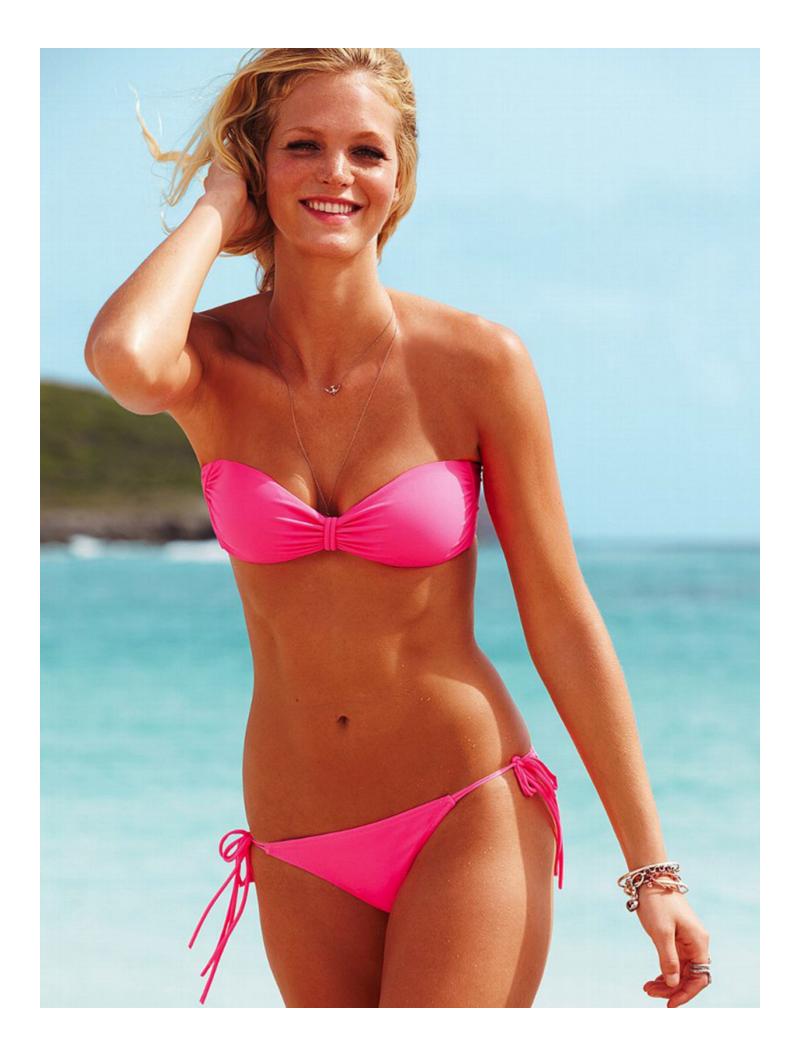
And finally, what better way to end this list than with a gadget that everyone needs. A charger. The Air Charger is a levitating charger designed for iPhone 7 that can also work for iPhone 6. Yes, that's right. It levitates your phone while charging it, It's a thing of real beauty. Honestly, I've never seen a more beautiful charger. It's still a Kickstarter campaign for now, but if you're lucky to still have slots, you'll get your own come February 2017 at a lower price.

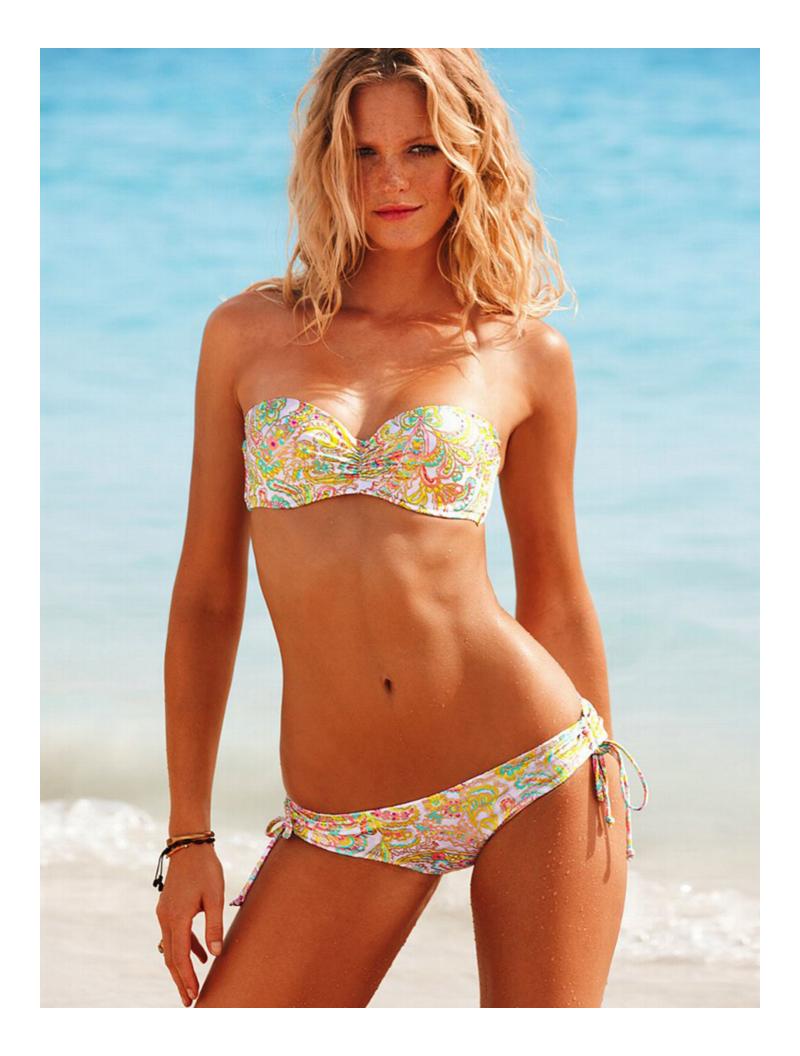


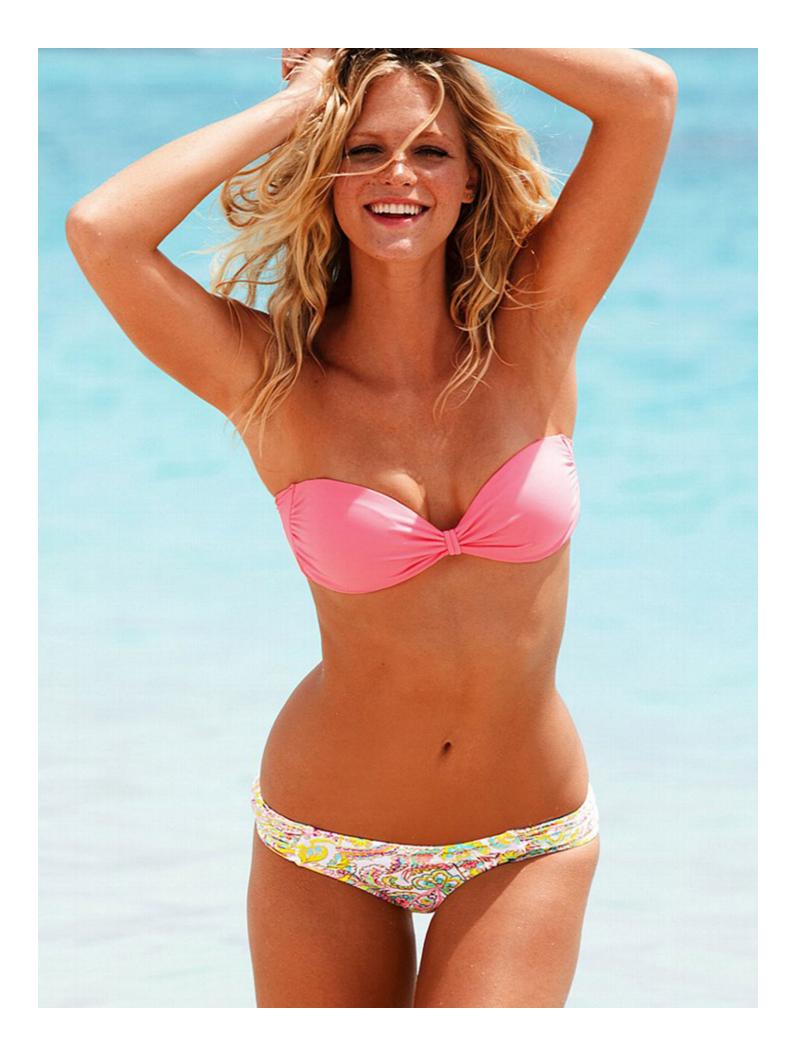
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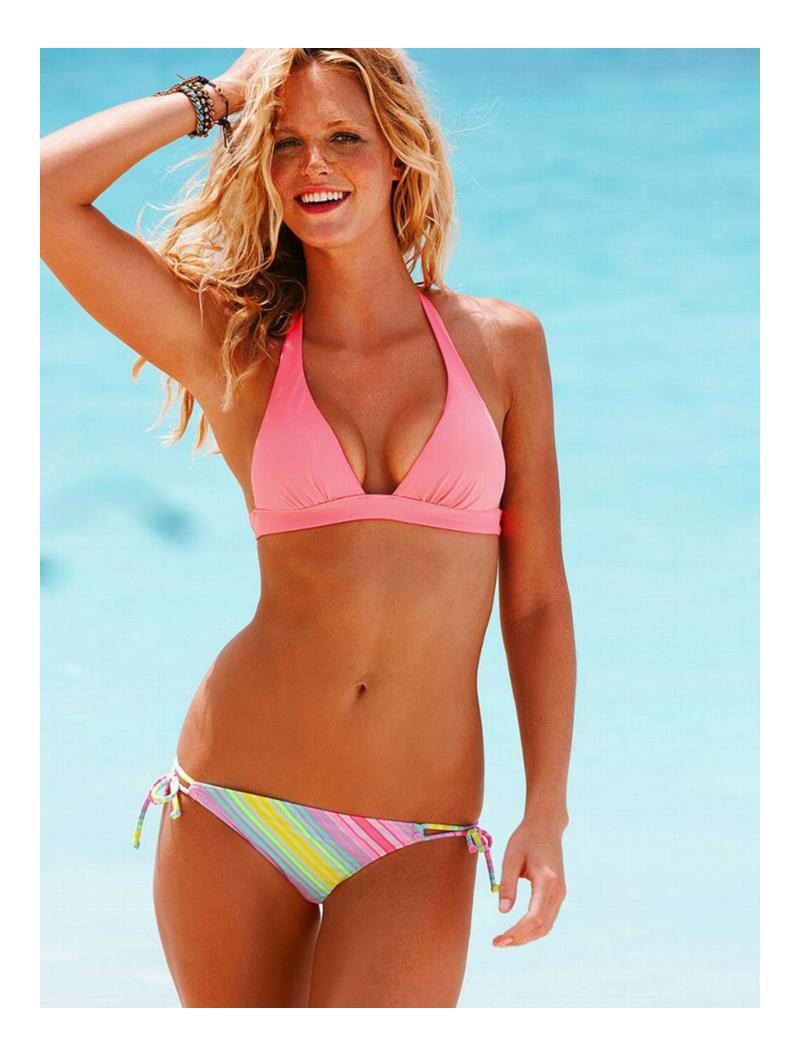
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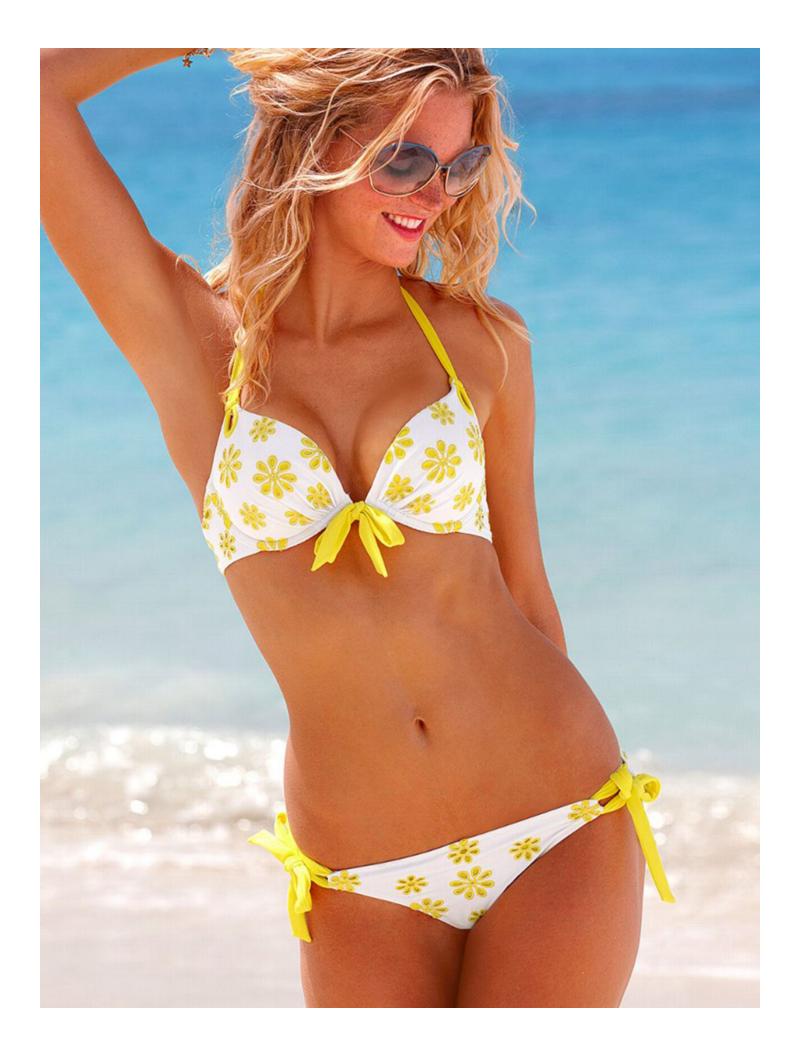


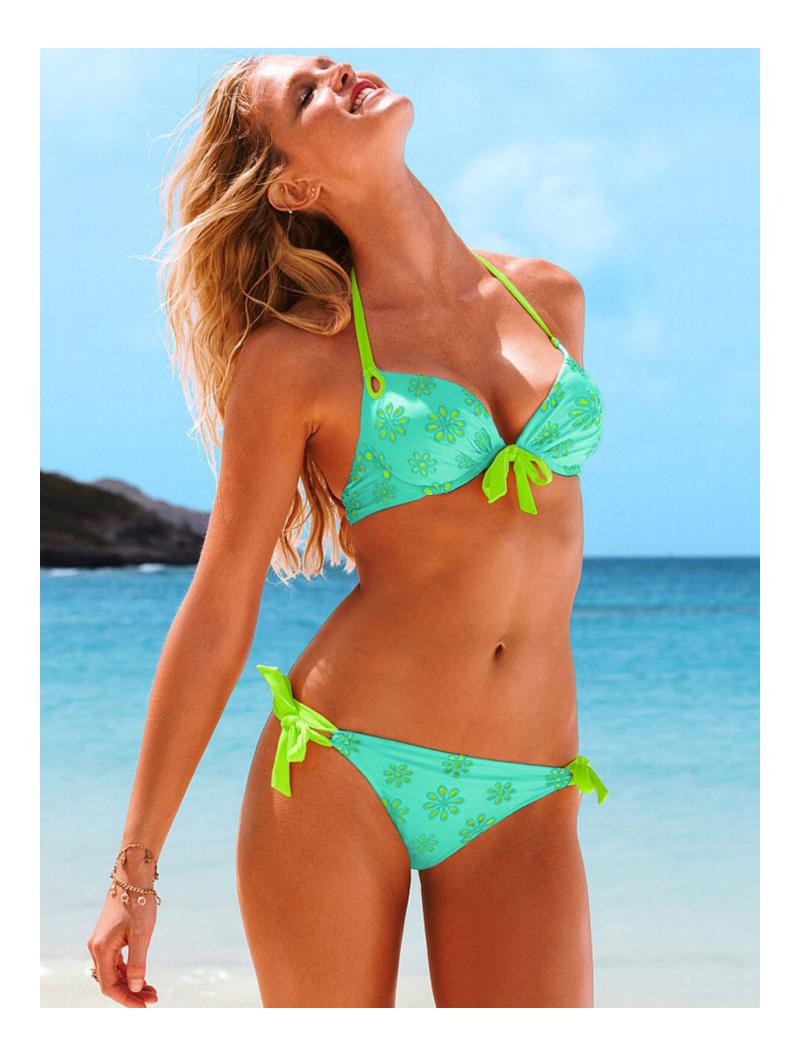


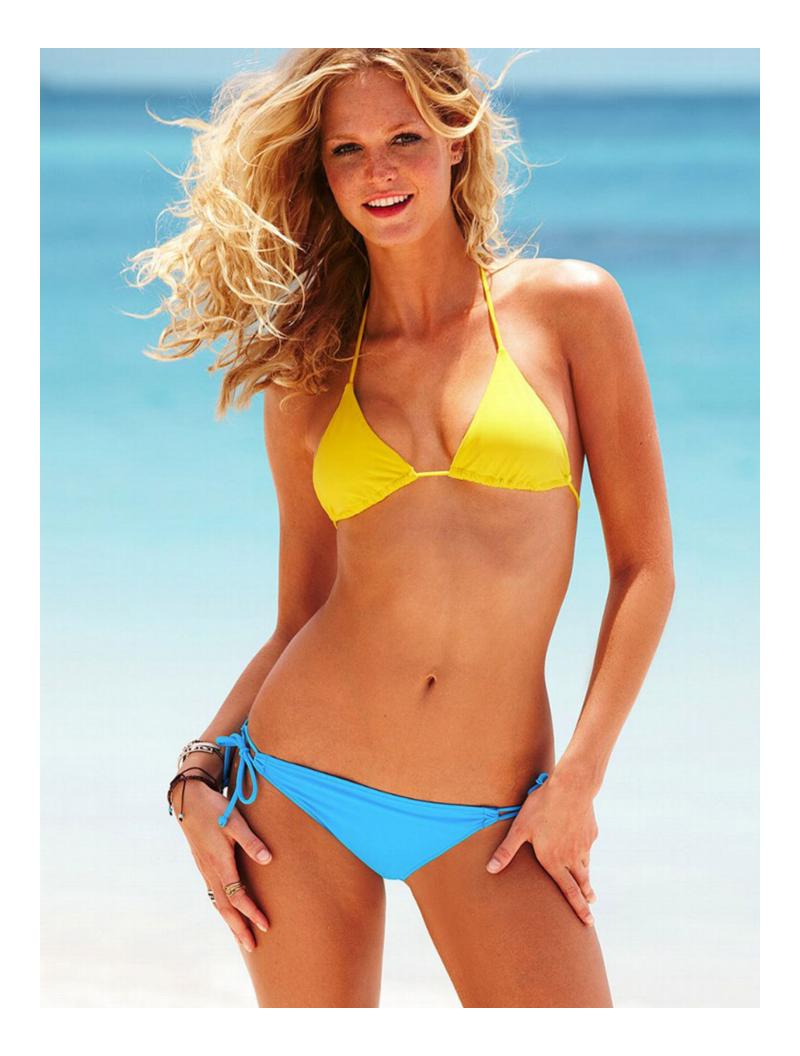


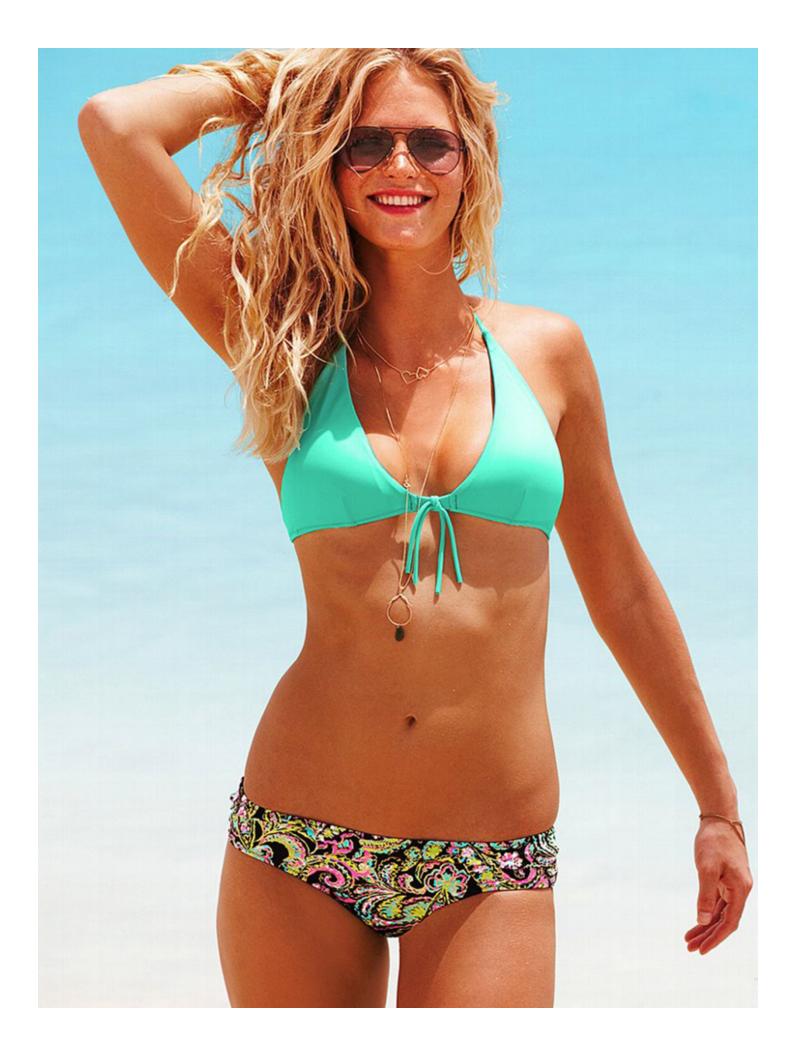












# TRAVEL& MONEY

### **New Year Money Goals And Resolutions For** 2017!

The New Year means a fresh start, and if you're thinking of pumping up your financial game, then this is actually a good time to do so. Take advantage of the motivation that the season's giving you and take charge of your money once and for all.



Don't worry, I am also well aware that this is also a season when people are most prone to get demotivated and fall flat on their faces with their resolutions getting thrown under the bus after only a failure, or two...or more. So, this year, in order to spare yourself the unneeded drama, here are tried and tested tips coming from financial experts themselves.

#### **Start Tracking Your Spending**

Since we all get a fresh start, it's also the best time to start tracking your spending. You don't have to be an accountant to do this effectively. Thanks to genius developers there are already more than a dozen apps that you can download for free to help you do just that.

#### **Set Short-Term Financial Goals**

Have a big financial dream? Break it down into simple and short-term financial goals. For instance, if you want to have a million dollar savings account, you can start by setting a goal of saving a hundred dollars this month. It's simple. And most of all, it's easy to do. Again, there are a lot of apps that can help you out with this.

#### **Build An Emergency Fund**

Everyone wants to become debt-free. Everyone wants to invest on something. However, it's still best to set up an emergency savings account first before even thinking of achieving other financial goals. Why? Because life happens. You're paying your debts then all of a sudden the car breaks down. Before you know it, you're borrowing money again. You're investing money on a seemingly profitable start-up. Someone gets terribly sick. And just like that, poof, the investment money gets withdrawn faster than you can say "oh no". The secret in order to accomplish all of this? Set up an emergency fund as fast as you possibly can. Prioritize this first. Put all your money here until you ramp up an amount that's worth more than three months your monthly salary. With this account as your safety net, you'll never start worrying that a sudden life event would ruin your financial goals ever again. You'll be able to pay off your debts without creating new ones.

# TRAVEL& MONEY

## **The Best Places On Earth To Spend Christmas In**

Looking for the perfect holiday destination? Then here are five places that you must visit, Christmas or not – but seriously, these places are simply perfect during this season, so why not take advantage of them?



#### Tromso, Norway

We're talking about the Arctic Circle here. There's nothing more "Christmasey" than being this close to the North Pole (Are you imagining my hand gesture going like this? Good.) and witnessing the northern lights, while riding on sleds. What's more is that the Christmas dinner over at the Clarion Hotel Bryggen is just divine. Basil-glazed Filet of Catfish. Whole Roasted Filet of Pork. French Salt-baked Rosewald Potatoes. And more. And a whole lot more.

#### **Lapland, Finland**

Dreaming of a perfect winter wonderland? That's the perfect description for Lapland this time of the year. You can even go for a ride on an actual reindeer-pulled sled! The igloos of Hotel Kakslauttanen are made up of thermal glass, making sure that you can still enjoy that warm and cozy feeling while still getting to enjoy the northern lights.

#### **Quebec City**

Want to walk by old and lit cobblestone streets just like Ebenezer Scrooge? Then why not enjoy the 16th to 17th century old houses of Quebec while you're at it as well? History and holidays always go so perfectly well together, don't you think?

#### Munich

Here's a perfect destination for skeptics. Munich and its hundred-foot-tall Christmas tree. If that doesn't get you in the mood, then maybe the numerous Christmas markets can do the trick. That, mulled wine, and freshly-baked gingerbread.

#### **Castleton, England**

Warning, this is definitely not the place to go to for those who HATE Christmas, else risk increasing your chances of performing a hara kiri in this town's historic streets. Why, you ask? It's a tiny romantic village with Christmas trees as lampposts, plus there's caroling inside candlelit caves. I'm pretty sure the Grinch would love to steal Christmas from this town any day soon.

## DATING& SEX

## The Best Christmas Event To Go To Is The **Christmas Sex Robot Festival!**

The future is here, and it's nothing short from being awesome. It was just a couple of months ago when Tokyo announced that there are going to be robots escorting us to our seats in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics along with an artificial night sky. And wasn't it just last month when we've talked about really scary robots currently being developed? Killing machines capable of eating biomass (I'm thinking about corpses here) is surely the stuff of nightmares, but it's still pretty awesome!



But the robots that we are going to talk about today are probably the best thing about our robotic future – Sex robots.

#### The Christmas Sex Robot Festival

I firmly believe that even the worse holiday scrooges would agree that the international sex robot conference this December that's going to be hosted by the Goldsmiths University in London is going to be legendary.

The word awesome is not even enough to sum up the things that we are going to witness here. This event is going to feature the controversial expert Dr. Kate Devlin as host. She argues that there is more to sex robots as being sex objects created by men, for men, and that it's time to discuss the issues of sexuality behind artificial sex. I couldn't agree more! I personally believe that this is going to shed a positive light on critical issues like sexual abuse, violence against women, and prostitution.

Now before we get all serious here, let's focus on the boobs that we're going to see here. The robots that are going to be featured in this event are soooo sexy that they got banned and deemed illegal in Malaysia! Oh man. They even have artificial intelligence capacities already!

Say goodbye to your inflatable toy. I'm going to create the girl of my dreams. Yes, there's a sex robot that allows you to create the lady that you want – how she looks, tweak her personality (D'you want a smart babe, or how about a shy girl? It's up to you.) AND have sex with her. I CAN'T WAIT!

Cue music: "Oh there's no place like London..."

# DATING & SEX

## Three Surefire Ways To Pump Up Your Sex Game This New Year

Have you been feeling that you and your partner's sex life needs a little bit more spice? Is improving your sex game on your list of New Year's Resolutions? Are you simply thinking of new things to do in bed to surprise your partner as a New Year present?



Well, if you've answered yes to all our questions, then you've come to the right place. Today, we are going to share with you three surefire ways to pump up your sex game this 2017.

#### **Get Jealous**

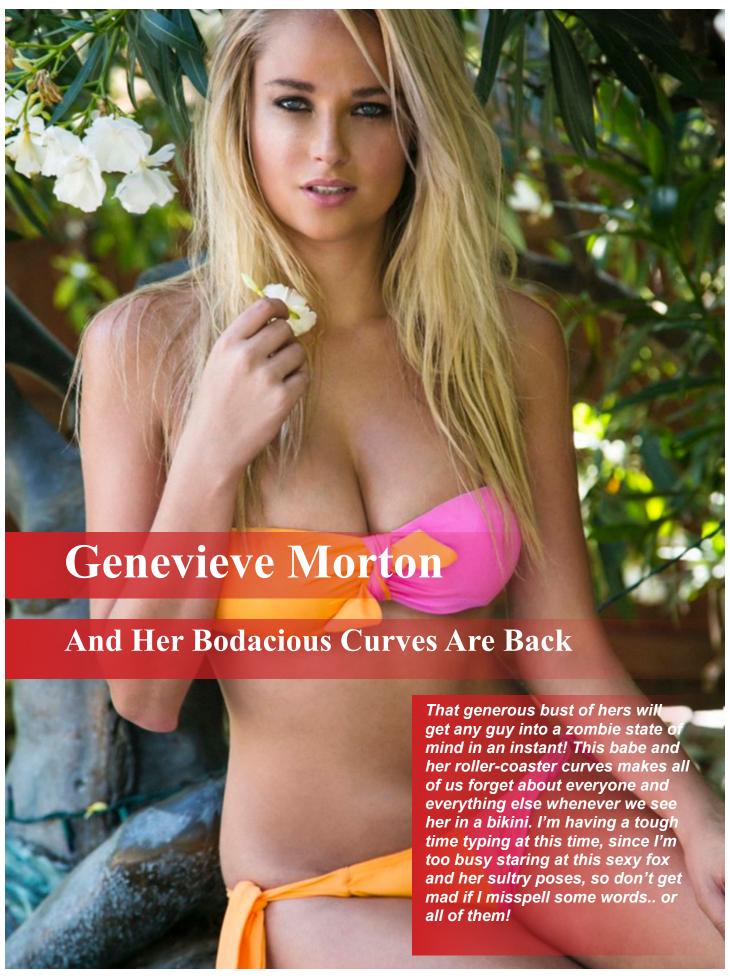
No, I'm not kidding, and I'm not trying to look for a fight with your partner. I'm actually really serious here. Jealousy is a strong emotion that will help heighten up testosterone levels, not to mention getting you in that highly motivated mood to just do better in bed. It's said that ladies who hang around with other guys will make her partner vie for attention a little bit more compared to those who don't have any reason to make their partners jealous.

#### **Watch Porn Together**

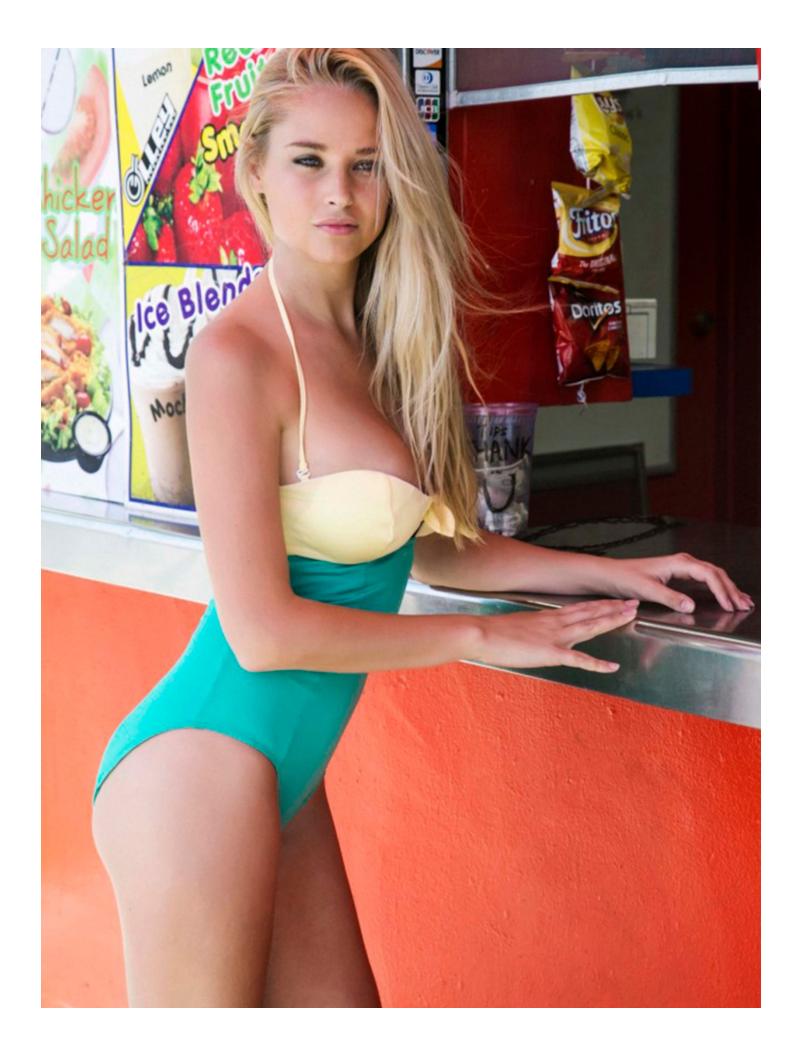
Are you feeling that spark losing its flame? Chances are, it's still there but the only problem is no one is fanning the flames! But here's the challenge: how DO you fan these flames? The answer is quite simple but not always easy to do. You can rekindle that spark by trying something new. Unfortunately, creativity can sometimes be tiresome so if you're running out of ideas, then watching porn together might do the trick. Watching these videos will give you new ideas of positions and things to try out for yourselves, and also while getting you visually stimulated. Win-win!

#### **Take Your Time**

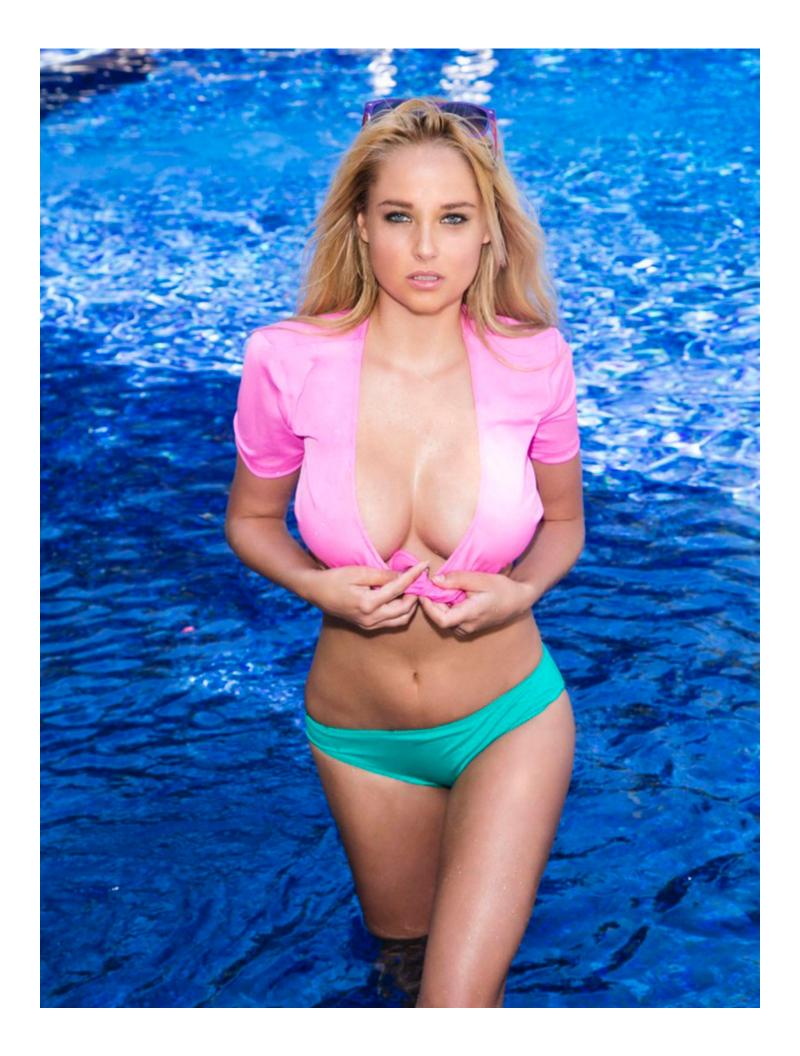
Finally, sometimes, the sweetest love only takes a little bit more patience. Sex is not a competition. It's not a race on who gets to climax faster, or who gets the price as the couple who orgasms most. No. Making love takes time. You will be surprised on what taking your time will do not only in bed but in your relationship in general. Happy New Year!

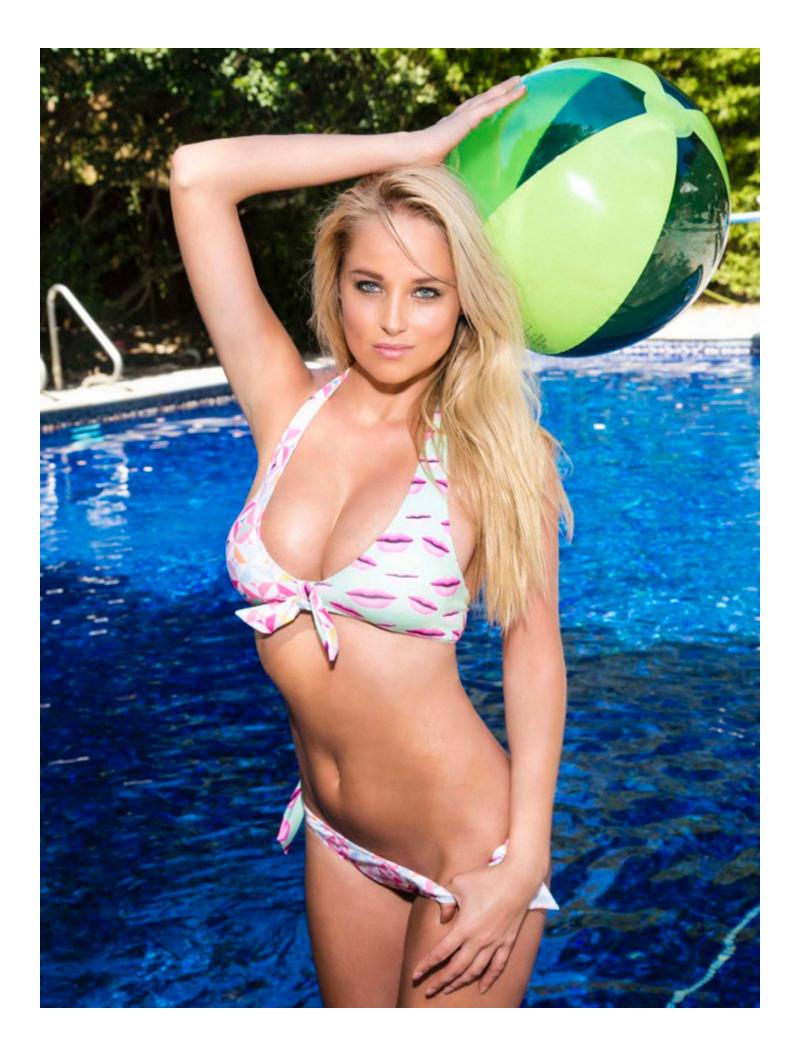


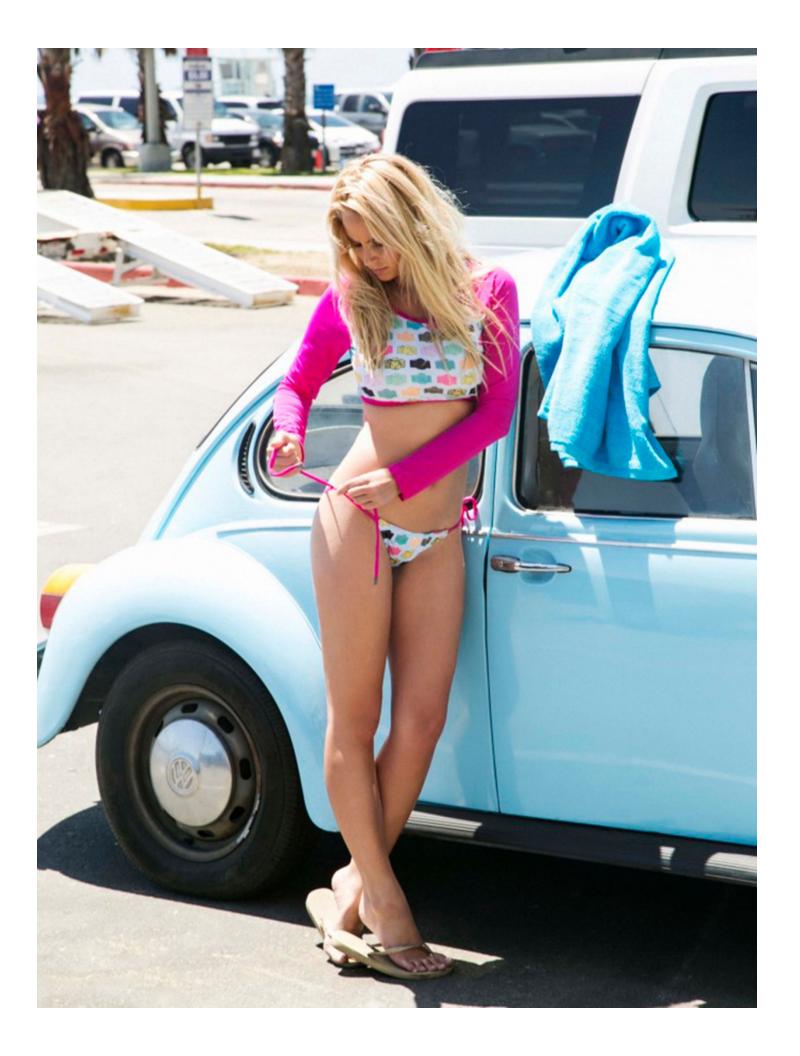


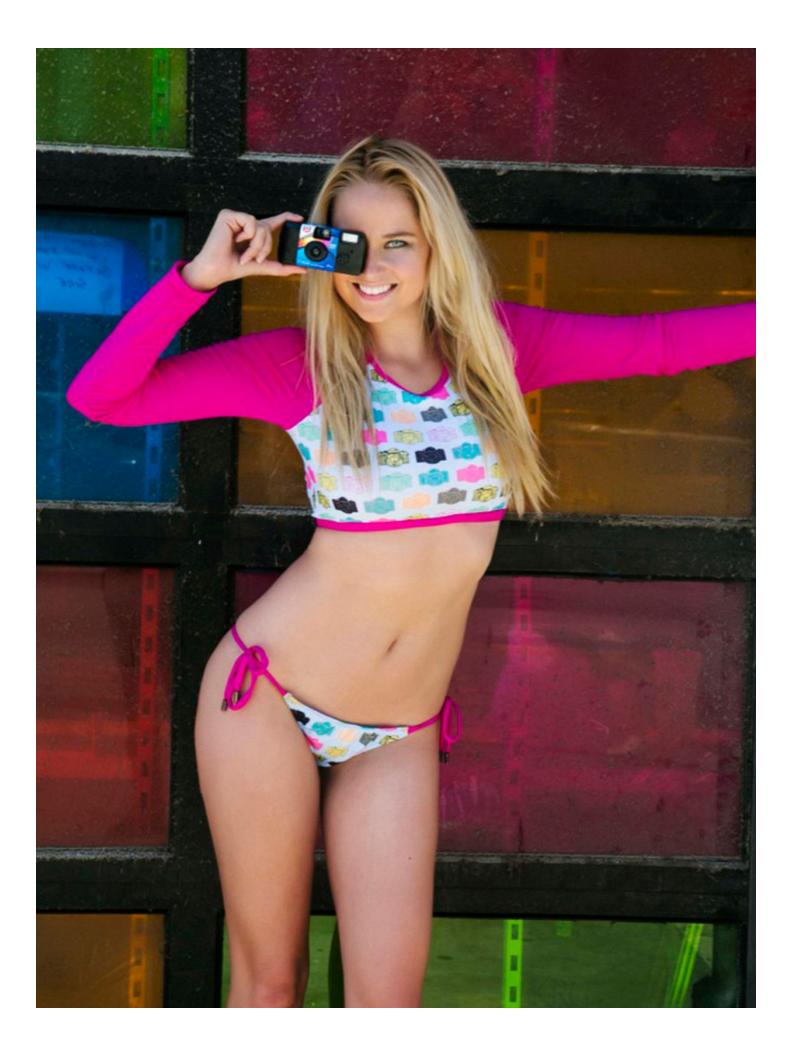




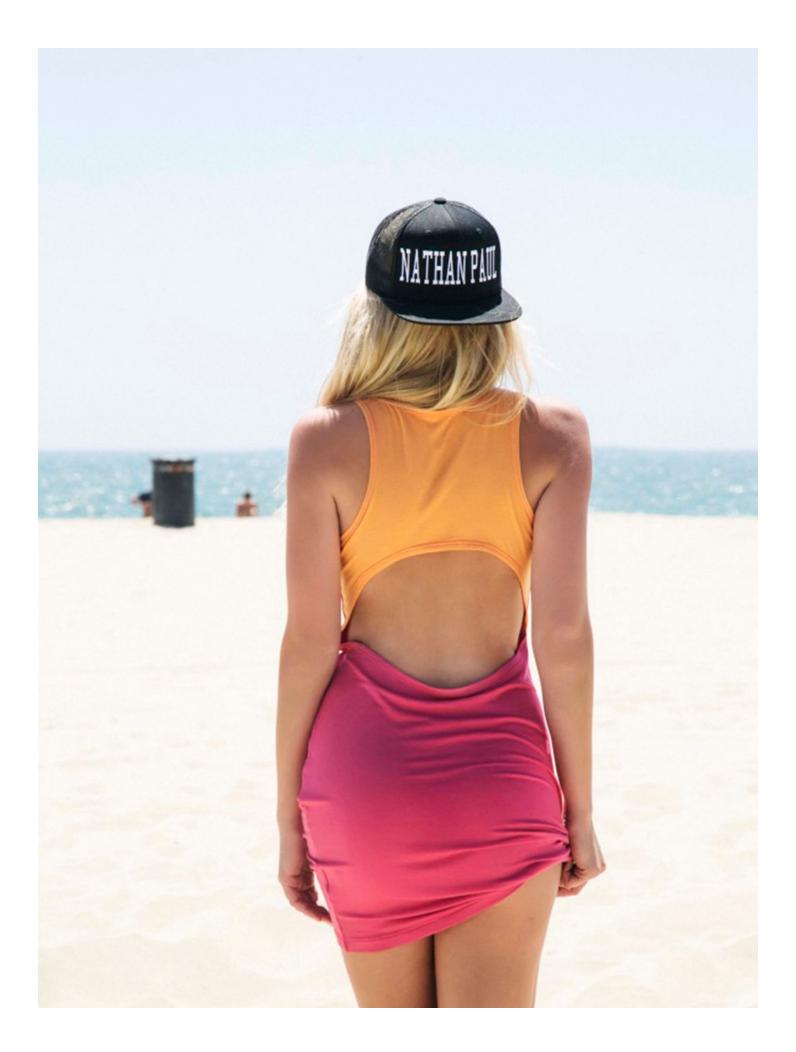












# FASHION & STYLE

## **How To Dress Like A Stylish Gent: Winter Fashion 2017**

Winter can be a bit daunting when talking about how dress like a true gent. There are certainly a lot of choices available but care must be taken if you don't want to be a bulky piece of mess. Here are some sartorial tips that you can keep in mind though when dressing up for this year's winter time along with some, hopefully, inspiring pieces.



#### Do some layering.

Like what I have already mentioned above, you would not want to look bulky – unless that bulk is actually your muscles. However, you don't want to be underdressed as well, with your ass freezing underneath. The right way to do it is through strategic layering.

There are a lot of lightweight fabric that can keep you warm minus the additional padding. Cashmere for one, is a good choice. Layer that with a coat made of another lightweight fabric would be nice.

#### Invest in a stylish outerwear.

After keeping yourself warm underneath, it's time to top it all off with a reliable topper. Remember that this piece will put your look together while giving you protection from the harshest winter winds. Hence, it would be best for you to invest in a nice classic piece that you can wear even ten years from now, and still look smart.

#### Accesorize like a pro.

Finally, your winter look will not be perfect without the proper accessories. Skip the cravat for now and opt for a cozy scarf. As for footwear, there are a lot of stylish winter boots this season for you to choose from. Choose a versatile piece that will go great with whatever you choose to wear – whether that means jeans, or something a little bit more formal. Again, the trick is to invest in classic pieces that you know you can depend on, winter after winter. After all, pieces with this kind of history will serve a great conversation starters for Christmases to come.

# FASHION & STYLE

## The Three Pairs Of Shoes Essential In Any **Man's Closet**

Building a reliable wardrobe that could get you through all the different occasions of life is not that difficult if you know which items are the essential ones that you must not live without. Having said that, here are the three shoes that every man's closet must have. Footwear get neglected a lot - and why not? There are definitely a lot of cool shirts and pants! But know this: footwear can make or break an outfit. You can't pull that sneakers and suit look every single time (if at all).



#### **The Sneakers**

Speaking of speakers, the first item on our list is a pair of canvas sneakers. It doesn't really matter what color, although I personally prefer white because it goes with a lot of stuff. It requires careful maintenance though. Anyway, wear your sneakers for all sorts of casual events both with pants or even with shorts.



#### **The Boots**

Brown leather boots can go a long way to level up any outfit. You can use it for casual clothes, up to semi formal, and the people wouldn't really mind that rugged look. On top of that, it's ever reliable for giving that much needed comfort during hectic days. The manly touch isn't too shabby either.



#### The Oxford

Finally, the gentleman of footwear, the black oxford leather shoes. Every gent must own a pair of black leather dress shoes. Forge a relationship with it because it will be with you for all important occasions and life events: graduations, promotions, formal birthday parties...even deaths. Sure, the trusty oxfords could be a big pain in the ass to wear if you're not used to wearing them, that's why you have to break them in. Show some love for your shoes and it will love you back.

And there you have it, the three most important shoes you'll ever use. As final note, you might want to throw in a reliable sports shoes in there if you're into physical activities. Just make sure that it's something that can support your footwork perfectly in order to boost your performance and even prevent serious injuries.



# FOOD & DRINKS

# How To Prepare The Perfect Mimosa That Screams "Happy New Year!"

There's no drink that represents the happy holidays more than the mimosa, so I believe that every one (both ladies and gentlemen – and yes, that includes you!) should be able to prepare this holiday drink. It's not too late to make one now! After all, it's still practically the beginning of the year.



#### The Wine

The first step in order to create the perfect mimosa drink is finding the perfect wine. And for this recipe what you need is a dry sparkling wine, preferably the "Cava" coming from Spain. Just remember to get dry sparkling and not sweet. That's where a lot of people usually gets it wrong.

#### The Juice

Next, remember that this drink is fifty percent orange juice, so you might want to get it fresh. Freshly squeezed is still the best way to go as opposed to canned or boxed, unless you have a personal favorite that you can stake your life on.

#### The Ratio

Ideally, the perfect mimosa is still equal parts juice and equal parts wine, but feel free to experiment when it comes to how much wine you're going to put in especially if you're serving it earlier in the day. To prepare, start by cooling both the wine and juice. Nobody, and I mean, NOBODY wants a warm mimosa. It's a refreshingly cool holiday drink so let's keep it that way.

Once they're cool, ready the glasses and pour your wine first. Then, pour in the orange juice. You'd want to put both the wine and orange juice back into the fridge after preparing. And that's it! That's how to prepare mimosa. You also have the option to add in a bit of orange liqueur or triple sec but that's totally optional. Everyone's got different tastes so feel free to add in a personal touch. Just don't forget the heart of the drink: the wine and the juice.

# FOOD & DRINKS

## Seven Foods You MUST Have On Your New **Year Table If You Want Good Fortune**

It's a new year once again and everyone wants good fortune this coming year. Seriously, who doesn't? If you want to start the new year right, there are certainly a lot of practices coming from different cultures that provide wisdom to achieve just that - good luck!

At times, these beliefs verge on the magical and the super natural, but to those who believe...or if you're like me, you're willing to take that extra step (After all, you're not going to lose anything anyway, right? In fact, if it works then you have only to gain), here are seven foods believed to bring good luck if you serve it on your New Year table.



#### Greens

Leafy greens, fruits and other food that's colored green is said to bring good fortune in the next year because the color is a symbol of wealth.



#### **Beans**

Much like the greens, beans are said to bring good fortune as well. this time, because their appearance symbolize coins. More beans = more coins = a wealthy year ahead.



#### **Pasta or Noodles**

Enough about money, let's talk about life. Want many more new years to come? Then pasta, or basically anything that's long like noodle strands, will bring long life.



#### **Grains**

If you're opting for overall luck, and by that I'm referring to something beyond wealth, then the right food option is to serve lots of grains. Grains, even way back to Ancient Egypt, have always been a symbol of abundance.



#### **Fruits**

Our Mexican brothers have this practice of eating twelve pieces of grapes for each of the twelve counts leading to the start of the new year. Each grape symbolizes a month. A sweet grape will mean a sweet month, while a sour or a bitter grape...well, let's just say that you would need to take note of that month and be extra careful in making big life decisions. Asian cultures on the other hand collect round fruits and serve them on the New Year table. Much like the beans, round fruits look like coins and thus, they symbolize wealth. Finally, to those who are starting a family (or to those who want to avoid it), fruits with a lot of seeds symbolize fertility.



#### **Pork**

Pigs are said to be a symbol of good luck because all they do is move forward. I must say if you're going to serve pork, then that would mean that it wasn't particularly lucky for the pig.



#### **Cakes**

Finally, some cultures serve ring-shaped cakes for dessert because they symbolize the year coming to a full circle, tying lose ends, which would lead to a fresh start for the next year. And basically, their sweetness would also symbolize a sweet life for the next upcoming year.



