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the DS

A MAGAZINE ABOUT NOTHING

DIRTY SOAP MAGAZINE

DIRTY SOAP PODCAST. BTA THIS WEEK. SINGLE BLACK FEMALE: WHAT IT'S REALLY LIKE. PHENOMENAL WOMEN CROSSWORD PUZZLE. + MORE

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LET'S GET INTO IT

This week, we open up with a sentence any normal human would say... then we get into my favorite artists, fashion, Earth Wind & Fire, and some other stuff.

Dirty Soap airs every Thursday
Click below to listen to Episode 1.



Dirty Soap Podcast



BTA THIS WEEK

GETTING USED TO THINGS

I have to say- having a weekly schedule... and *sticking* to it??? Probably one of the toughest longterm challenges I've ever pursued. I'm definitely more of a "do what I feel in the moment" type of woman, ya know? *Libra gang*

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Normally when I start a routine, I'm all energized for it in the first week or two, then *pplffttt!* FLAT.

That said, week two of sticking to a social media calendar is coming to a close so here's the update: I think posting to Instagram has been the most challenging. I've been trying to figure out new and intriguing aesthetics for my content and main feed posts while also sticking to my symmetrical format. I'm also trying my best to stay encouraged being that the algorithm brought my like count from the 400s down

to an average of about 53 likes per post. Yeah. Terrible.

Nevertheless, I believe this past week will be the most tedious in my journey being that I'm just getting started and used to everything.

On the bright side, pray for me, y'all! This week, I'm applying for a huge grant which would really help me pursue my artistic career with steady income. I'm also submitting to NPR's Tiny Desk this week... so the pressure is on!



GABBY DOUGLAS. SIMONE BILES. ISSA RAE. ANGELA DAVIS. ELLA FITZGERALD. ERYKAH BADU. JILL SCOTT. IDA B. WELLS. ROSA PARKS. ASSATA SHAKUR. **PHENOMENAL** YARA SHAHIDI. KHERIS ROGERS. REGINA KING. MAE JEMISON. HARRIET TUBMAN. SARAH BAARTMAN. MICHELLE OBAMA. MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN. HENRIETTA LACKS. LAURYN HILL. MADAM C. J. WALKER. MARY JANE PATTERSON. SHIRLEY CHISOLM. RIHANNA. BEYONCÉ KNOWLES-CARTER. **BLACK** BILLIE HOLIDAY. QUEEN LATIFAH. PATRICE RUSHEN. ETHEL WATERS. AALIYAH. MISSY ELLIOTT. JAZMINE SULLIVAN. WHITNEY HOUSTON. SISTER ROSETTA THARPE. DESTINY'S CHILD. TLC. 3LW. BLAQUE. TOTAL. EN VOGUE. CHLOE X HALLE. ARETHA FRANKLIN. MARIAN ANDERSON. NICKI MINAJ. SUMMER WALKER. ARI LENNOX. ELIZABETH FREEMAN. ONA JUDGE. **WOMEN** NINA SIMONE. AUDRE LORDE. SHONDA RHIMES. AVA DUVERNAY. VIOLA DAVIS. MARSAI MARTIN. ZENDAYA. AMANDA GORMAN. RUBY BRIDGES. STACEY ABRAMS. LUPITA NYONG'O. KATHERINE JOHNSON. MARIE MAYNARD DALY. MAYA ANGELOU...



SINGLE

BLACK

FEMALE

WHAT IT'S REALLY LIKE

BEING A SINGLE BLACK FEMALE... AS A MILLENNIAL... IN 2022

If you happen to be a single Black millennial female and you've come here for the answers... I'm so, so sorry. For the both of us, babe.

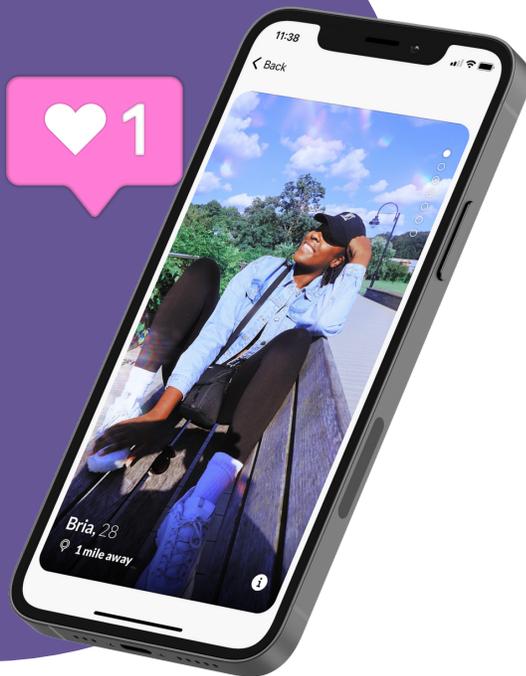
Now let's get transparent. I've been single since 2015. I've been *SINGLE*, single since 2017. Yes, that's it. Do the math. With all that me-time, it was only natural for me to ponder all the unhealthy reasons I might be mateless—especially with the way my last "situationship" ended. I would constantly ask myself questions like, "is there something wrong with me?" or "why do I keep attracting narcissists?" with a healthy side of "do men just think I'm ugly and no one's telling me?". Yikes, I know. If I'm being completely honest with you (and me), although much less frequently, those thoughts still cross my mind from time to time. However, I now find myself embracing my singleness once more with fresh perspective.

WHAT IT'S REALLY LIKE

As an introvert with a lot of decorated emotional walls, I've constantly had a hard time opening up to people in general, let alone men. In 2020, I tried BLK, the dating app for Black singles [*not a sponsor*]. I thought it could be a great way to get my feet wet without all the anxieties of waiting for some random handsome man to approach me in person. I soon realized I was already invariably an inconsistent texter. How would an online dating app work if I barely like looking at my phone!? Don't get me wrong— my profile is still activated. I just don't use the app anymore unless I'm bored. I mean *super* bored.

Getting Out of the House

Unfortunately, I also don't get out much. I know, I know— my last therapist (and my mom) already told me "how are you going to meet someone if you don't leave the house?" or something like that. Again: I am an introvert. That's not to say I don't think I should branch out of my comfort zone. In theory, I'm all for that! It probably helps that I don't mind going out alone as I thoroughly enjoy my own company and most of the time, prefer to be unbothered by awkward human interaction. On the flip side, that could also be to my detriment.



The Approach

Anyway, If you're a single Black millennial female (let's just use SBMF for short), I'm sure I don't have to tell you that it's tough to snag a first date in this day and age. Of course there are extenuating circumstances that contribute to the level of difficulty here, i.e.: whether or not you're willing to put out, whether or not you expect to pay for the first date, whether or not your heart and mind are open to dating, etc. But if you're anything like me, you don't get approached much— and especially not asked on dates by men in your age group. As common as this may be, I still find this to be an annoying and peculiar thing. So what's keeping them from approaching?

What My Guy Friends Had to Say

Naturally, I had to ask my male friends: why is it that I'm not being approached? Now here's the funny thing— after revisiting the question with various men, year after year, I frequently got the same answer: "you come off intimidating."

If you're making a face right now, imagine my face when I heard this for the first time in college. I can go on and on about this, my "RBF", the *real* reasons I come off intimidating... but if I could just wrap that mess up, I've come to adopt the notion: "I am not intimidating; you're just intimidated."



My Perspective

As a little girl, I think I was always secretly boy-crazy (or maybe it wasn't so secret). By that, I mean although I didn't even start dating until college, relationships have always occupied my thoughts. As an adult, I constantly found myself fantasizing about being in relationships— those thoughts often turning into obsessive daydreams. As fun as those unrealistic fantasies are, unfortunately there's a plethora of questions left to be asked as it relates to SBMF dating. More personally, I still find myself wondering if Mr. Tall Dark and Handsome I see at the grocery store is even into dark-skinned women, or if he's even emotionally available. Is he healed? Does he love his mother? Does he even have a sense of humor? I don't believe the questions will magically stop once I'm in a relationship, but to get the basics squared away, one must begin to open up to another.

It's a rare thing for me to be in a neutral state of being where I don't actively yearn for a romantic relationship. That said... that time is now.

A New Me

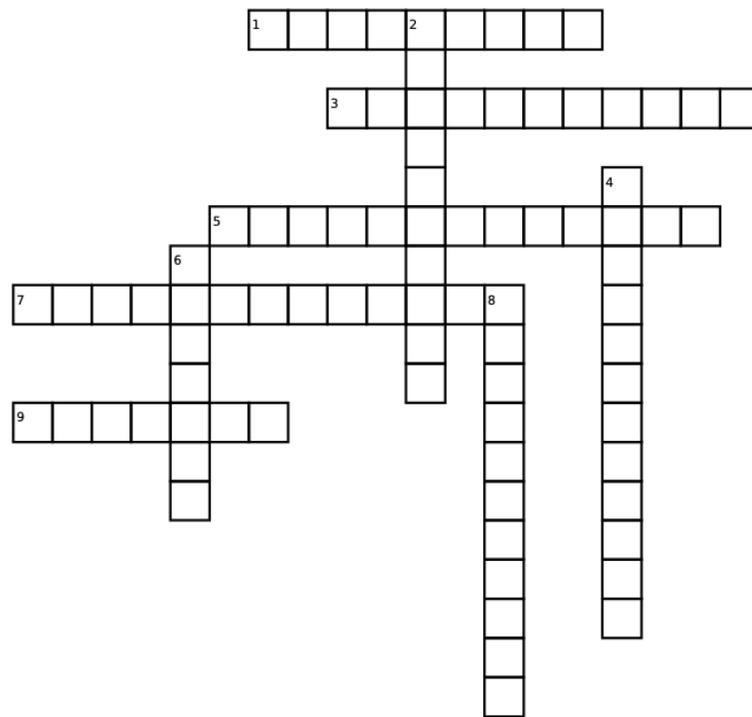
What I've noticed is that the more I don't think about something I want— I mean truly let it go— the faster and more easily it flows to me (such is the law of the universe). Being that I've proclaimed 2022 to be my Black Girl Luxury year, I can't just talk about it— I have to be about it. I'd like to start taking myself on solo dates, making space and preparing myself for the relationship that future me deserves.

In Conclusion

In conclusion, I know God hears me. I know God is working on me. I know that I don't want anything that doesn't want me. So when I'm ready, I know he will be, too.



PHENOMENAL WOMEN CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Down:

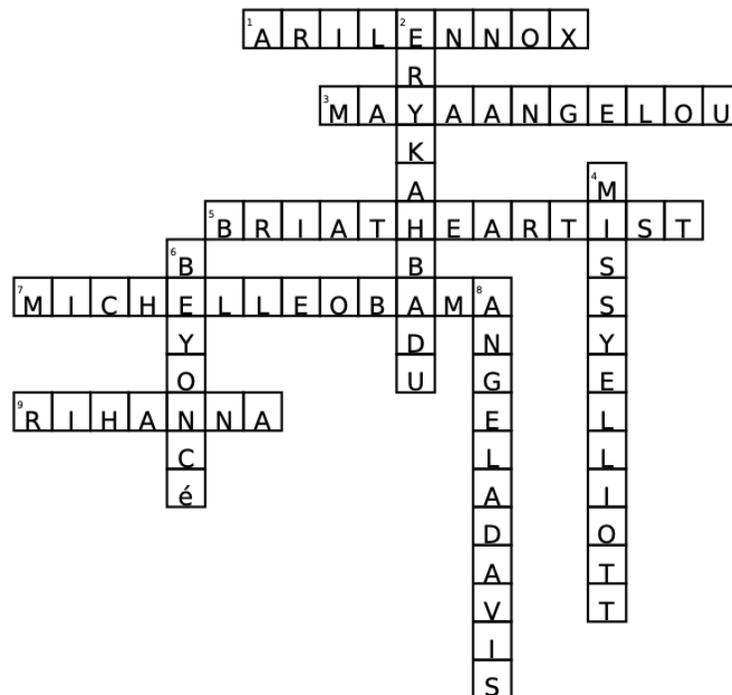
2. I think you need to call tyrone for the answer.
4. ti esrever dna ti plif nwod gniht ym tup l
6. This queen has won the most Grammy awards in history as a female artist.
8. "I'm no longer accepting the things I cannot change...I'm changing the things I cannot accept."

Across:

1. This shea butter baby's been applying pressure.
3. Phenomenal woman, that's me.
5. The ORIGINAL Bri-Dimensional.
7. "[...]When they go low, we go high."
9. Bad Gal needs to drop that album A\$AP!

Answer key: page 11

PHENOMENAL WOMEN CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWER KEY



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Gyal

Bri-dimensional! Woot woot 😊 This is bringing me back to the 90's/00's Era. A grown "Nickelodeon Magazine please!"

Em

I LOVE IT HERE! This magazine is giving 90s with a splash of nostalgia and I love hearing about your inspiration for the magazine. You got a subscriber out of me! Can't wait for the next one. I tested as a Bri-Dimensional Hybrid! Girl we are Sisters! Lol See you in the next next magazine ♥️😊

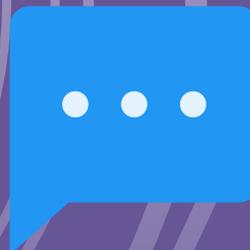


Rory

Definitely becoming a patron for the visual podcast! #DirtySoap

Valerie Not Val

I love being a Bri-Dimensional! Can't wait for next week's issue!



**ENTER THE
CHAT**

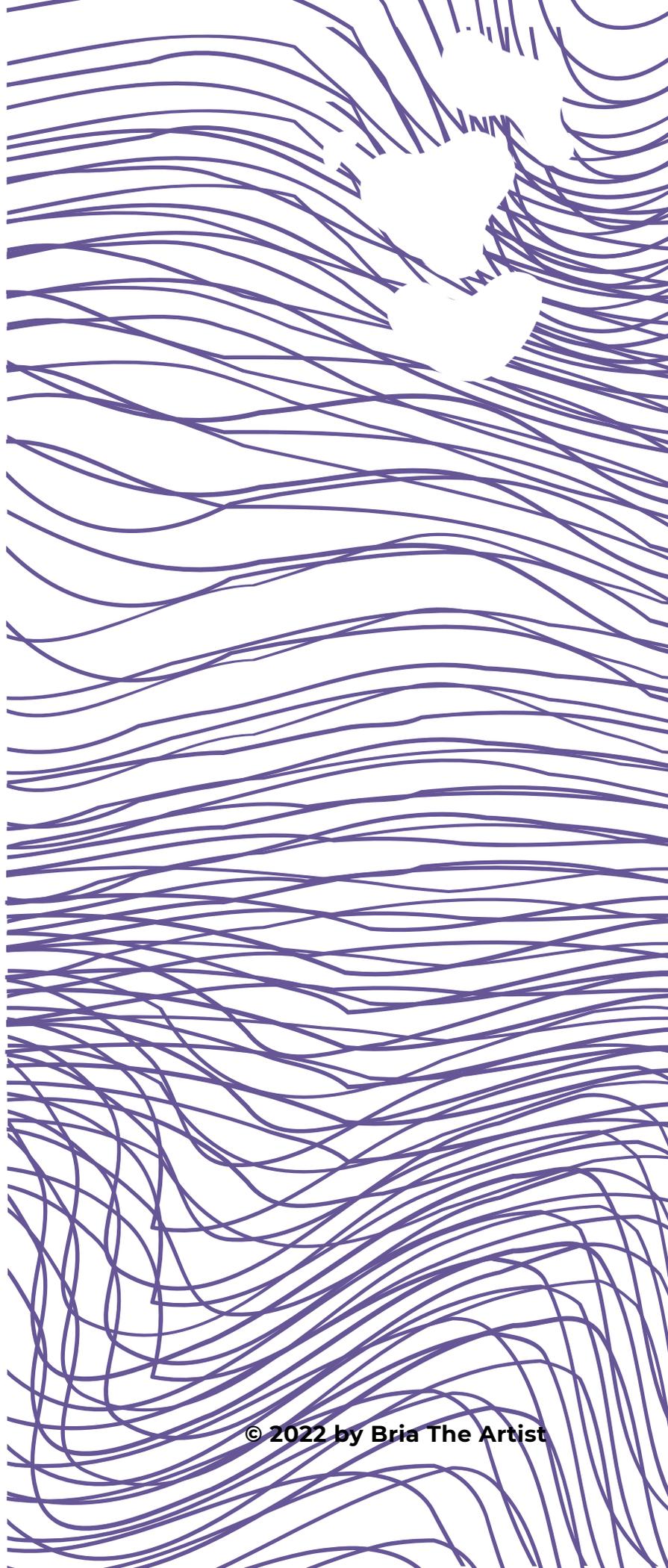
Look to your left. Okay now look to your right. Now look into a mirror. Did you do it? Statistically speaking, at least one of you is reading this. Also, statistically speaking, I just made at least all of you look stupid. Haha. We have fun.

Come back next week for another issue of The DS. Submit your comments in the **Spaceship Chatroom** for a chance to be featured in next week's "Enter the Chat" page. Only in The DS.

The DS magazine 2022

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SEE

YOU

NEXT

WEEK.