

# VOICE

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For The Students, By The Students.

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**EARLY  
LIFE  
NOSTALGIA**

# THE GHOSTS OF CREEPY PASTAS

By Ahmed Al-Yousef



*"You wake at 3AM. Disturbed by some subtle shifting sound within the room, just on the edge of hearing. Propping up on one arm, you survey the room looking for the source of the noise, hoping beyond hope that you won't find one. At first, your hopes are raised, everything seems to be silent, everything seems to be still. But it isn't.*

*From behind the long concealing drape of the curtain a voice, with a flickering serpentine hiss, whispers:*

*"Go to sleep.... Suddenly, you know what's about to happen and exactly who is waiting to meet you."*

**A**s recognizable and widely known as he is feared, Jeff the Killer, the villain of numerous stories littering the internet is one of the best known and most widely referenced Creepypasta characters to have emerged from the shadowy corners of the web over the past few decades.

What you just read is a creepypasta. -No, not actual Pasta- For those that have never experienced this internet genre of storytelling, creepypastas are horror-related stories, images, or videos. The name is based off the term "copypasta" because the stories are usually copied and pasted all over the internet. This genre of horror skyrocketed in early 2007 all the way till 2012-ish.

My question here is, what happened to them? Over the past few years, the popularity of the genre has gone down after numerous factors such as the over saturation of it, the shift towards realism and the evolution and birth of new horror genres derived from creepypastas.

This genre had to walk so SCP Foundation can run!

## The Birth of a New Horror Genre

Let me get into detail of what a creepypasta is. Creepypastas started as user-generated stories that were designed to be shared and circulated on the internet back in the early 2000s. They often involve supernatural or paranormal elements, such as ghosts, demons, and haunted objects, and are written in a way that is meant to be suspenseful and frightening. Some of the most popular creepypastas that I remember scaring myself with and not sleeping include "Slender Man," "Jeff the Killer," and "The Rake." These stories would be shared around chat rooms, forums and passed through the world by word of mouth, and over time, they became a kind of online folklore and a subculture around famous websites such as Reddit, Tumblr and 4chan. Fans created art, videos and even video games based on those stories (It's how Slenderman got so popular!).

Let's quickly tell the tale of Slenderman while we are here, shall we?

*"If only you hadn't looked back. Though it was autumn, the day had seemed long and the brief walk towards home short. As the sunlight began to fade, you and your two friends left the playground behind and trudged reluctantly home, knowing that you would be forced to pickup the games and conversations the next day. The next day never came. If only you hadn't looked back. But you had. Turning just for a moment, you had glanced back towards the treeline, saw the fingers of their branches clawing up toward the sky and beside them, the figure. At first you thought you must be mistaken. You thought your eyes in the hazy blur of twilight were playing tricks on you, but no. When you looked again, 'he' was still there. Taller than any man could be, thinner than even the willowy branches of the trees. He loomed in the distance, like the shadow of some horrible dark truth and you knew instantly that you had to look away, that if you didn't tear your eyes from that blank featureless face then soon the blank would wash over you, become you, and you would walk slowly but surely, towards him.*

*You turned. Screwing away your eyes, you forced yourself not to give in and go to him. You scream to the others telling them the same, telling them not to look. But as you open your eyes you realise, they had already looked. They were already gone."* -Look out for any skinny trees now alright?-

# Are creepypastas still Thriving?

Well, yes and no. First of all, the saturation of the creepypasta genre with repetitive tropes and cliches is a factor that may have contributed to its decline in popularity. As the genre grew in popularity, more and more people began to create and share their own creepypasta stories. While this flood of new content at first helped to fuel the popularity of the genre, it also led to an oversaturation of similar stories and tropes.

Many of the most popular and widely shared creepypasta stories feature related aspects, such as haunted dolls, cursed video games, and supernatural entities like Slender Man or the Rake. While these tropes were originally novel and intriguing, they became increasingly repetitive and predictable as more and more stories used them.

Don't get me wrong, there is still content creators making creepypastas on the internet, it's just sadly not under that name anymore. The name slowly faded out and became a folk story, how ironic.

Some similar horror genres but different in their own way are:

## The Backrooms

A recent trend that popped up around 2 years ago is the backrooms. A place outside of reality which, if you're not careful, you can sort of slip into or "noclip" as some gamers would say. It is full of yellow hallways and yellow rooms, it's damp with musty carpets, and the rooms are infinite.



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**SCP Foundation**  
Secure. Contain. Protect.

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## SCP: Foundation

SCP: Foundation is the fictional setting centering around the findings and activities of the SCP Foundation, an international secret society consisting of a scientific research institution with a paramilitary intelligence agency to support their goals. The Foundation is entrusted by governments around the world to capture and contain various unexplained paranormal phenomena that defy the known laws of nature (referred to as "anomalies", "SCP objects", "SCPs") They include living beings and creatures, artifacts and objects, locations, abstract concepts, and incomprehensible entities which display supernatural abilities or other extremely unusual properties.

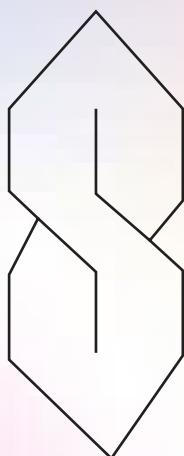
If left uncontained, many of the more dangerous anomalies will pose a serious threat to humans or even all life on Earth. You know I love something when it's this long of an explanation. This genre setting has thousands of horror stories about various SCPs and even a dozen or so video games! Check them out if you're into that sort of thing!

## r/nosleep

A subreddit filled with daily horror stories made up by users that are fond of the darkness. I highly suggest reading some of the stories there as they are actually good.

# FROM CLASSROOM DOODLES TO GLOBAL PHENOMENON

By Ahmed Al-Yousef



I was around 9 or 10 when I saw this weird pointy "S" Symbol.

Drawing it was VERY addicting, and I'm not sure why. I am 100% sure that everyone reading this has drawn this on their notebooks, the bathroom walls or even on their desks when they were bored during that 9AM Math class. *-I for sure did-*

So why am I writing this? Honestly, I just wanted to know where it originated from and why it was so popular! It has popped up all over the world. All North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

Some people think it's a 90s thing, so I asked my friends if they knew its origins. Some replied with "Probably something to do with Superman", while others said, "I heard that it belonged to some metal band during the 80s" and interestingly enough, 1 person said, "I think it was the original emblem for the clothing brand StÜssy."

So, ladies and gentlemen, that's why I will embark on this journey of discovery to find out the "S" symbol's meaning and origin.

## ***Super Names***

According to the sources that I have found, the symbol has many names, and I mean A lot.

So, its exact origin till this day is a mystery and no one knows if it even has an official title, which is sad. I found many names that are associated with it but for the sake of my own sanity and the ink of the printers I will highlight a few of them.

***# The Cool S:*** Perhaps the most straightforward name for the Super S is simply the cool S. This name emphasizes the symbol's status as a classic doodle that's synonymous with coolness and youth culture.

☞ **The Stussy S:** This is one of the most known names for the Super S, and it's based on the skateboarding and streetwear brand Stussy. The brand used a similar symbol in its logo in the 1980s and 1990s, which helped to popularize the symbol among young people. Alright, let's take a break here quickly. This does make it sound like the clothing brand could have started it and made it popular but that is not entirely true. See, I read over 10 sources, and none of them knows where it started from. Even the brand itself claimed that they have no idea! for a reference of what their symbol looks like here. I understand how the S in there could be similar, but I honestly don't see it.



☞ **The Super Swag:** Another popular name for the Super S is the Super Swag, which is fitting seeing how cool and trendy the symbol has become. It's not entirely clear where this name came from, but it's probably a play on the word "swagger".

☞ **The Superman S:** Some people believe that the Super S is actually an homage to the iconic "S" symbol that's associated with Superman. While I did find a source saying that according to Benjamin LeClear, who manages the comics library at their studio, he claimed that the "S" has nothing to do with Superman or any DC characters.

☞ **The Universal S:** Finally, some people refer to the Super S as the Universal S, since it has become a universal symbol that's recognized by people all around the world. Whether you call it the Super S, the Cool S, or something else entirely, there's no denying that this little doodle has made a big impact on popular culture.

## Youth Culture

There are some wild theories about the Super S. allegedly it was some sort of mind control or linked to the paranormal. Others believed it is a sigil that can activate magic. Okay, yeah, I'm definitely on the wrong side of the internet to have found this.

Coming back to the facts, it seems that every subculture thought it belonged to them. In Highschool subculture, a lot of people claimed the S as their own. "In South Florida, we called it a "surfers S." In 1994, it was impossible to draw one if you were a poser. I once linked together 16 Ss in white-out on the back of my skateboard, so everyone knew what was up." an unnamed Reddit user claimed. While many more have alleged that "I always thought it was a Metal thing." We keep coming back to Metal...there must be a connection. Asking around I found out that the Super S might have come about as early as the 1960s! According to a user on the internet who claimed to have graduated high school in 1975 says that he remembers the symbol during his younger years. Hmm.

### *It's Not the Stussy Logo, the Suzuki Logo, Or the Styx Logo*

Okay, let's break down this Metal band theory! First of all, I want to eliminate some possible candidates. A lot of people, including me, do not think it's from the Suzuki logo. Some think it's from the clothing brand Stussy, but we know that they replied with a negative when asked about it. So, that leaves us with one possible suspect. the Styx! An American rock band formed in 1972! and check out their logo!



<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fview%2Fsuzuki-logo-brand-company-japanese-suzuki-gif-16432079&psig=AOvVaw3RjU0sUneKrZDpD3yOvib&ust=1679074546740000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CA8QjRxqFwoTCMD1hKH-4P0CFQAAAAAdAAAAABAT>

## ***Understanding Doodling***

My last piece of discovery about why it's addicting to draw and why it got so popular is, while it may be a bland explanation of all time, it's fun to draw.

According to an expert in symbology and semiotics Paul Cobley, he claimed that giving how kids love to draw this is because it's a Moebius strip. So, what's a Moebius strip?

Remember that scene in Avengers: Endgame where Tony Stark discovered the ability to time travel via that weird loopy strip that his AI Friday created? the one where he doesn't think it's going to work?



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**“IT CAN’T BE DRAWN CONTINUOUSLY, BUT IT DOES HAVE A PERPETUAL FLOW.”**

He makes sense. Most kids can't draw that well, so when you hand them a magical S symbol, something fairly cool on demand, that'll go viral. Especially when the shape has the sophisticated, mathematical lineage of a Moebius strip. Yes, I learned the term ten minutes prior to writing this. Moebius strip.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I think we cracked the code! Not really, but I tried my best. What we figured out so far is that the symbol is still mysterious in origin, the name varies in multiple cultures, and kids can't draw! I think that's a win.

# WHO NEEDS THERAPY WHEN THIS SERIES EXISTS?

By Monirah Alswailem

I remember the day like it was yesterday. My mother had just returned home from the supermarket with everything she bought. She pulled out a VHS tape that she got because a stranger recommended it to her. I read the title and had no idea what it was about. Eagerly, I sprinted to the basement because that's where we used to watch all our movies and pressed play. Little did I know that very moment would change my life forever. It wouldn't be hard to guess the movie franchise since it's that popular, but yes, the movie was *"Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone"*.

18 years later and I still geek out about sorting my friend's Hogwarts houses based on all the information I know about them or buying an actual plane ticket to see the Harry Potter Studios in London. It's safe to say, this franchise is a 2000's pop culture phenomenon. Globally, over 500 million Harry Potter books have been sold, which is the highest selling series of novels to ever exist according to Wordsrated. This series has been so successful that it is still relevant to this day. *"The story of the boy who lived, and his trials and tribulations through school has been able to reach out and touch all ages"*, stated a journalist on the website. *"Thanks to Harry Potter, children are interested in reading again"*. I believe this has been the novel's most significant cultural impact. To get children from playing video games/watching tv all day to reading books is a huge shift. Every character was so well rounded and delicately thought out. Additionally, the storyline is ravishing that anyone could find themselves in it. This magical universe that J.K. Rowling created has become a comfort place, a solace, a home to me personally and millions of others.

"Why though?", you might ask. Why does an entire generation of people resonate so profoundly with the series? Other than the magical aspects of the story, the characters are very authentic and go through a lot of common teenage struggles. Many complex themes are explored too such as loss, family, and friendship. Young Harry entered the Wizarding School as an orphan who had a very rough childhood. He lived with his aunt in a tiny cupboard under the stairs and was constantly bullied by her and the rest of the family. Despite everything he went through, like witnessing his parent's death, all he wanted to do is be good and do good. The most beautiful thing, for me at least, is the friends he made and how they became his chosen family. He had a lot to carry on his shoulders while fighting the evil and yet they didn't leave his side for a second. Harry Potter taught many crucial messages such as the importance of believing in yourself, how true friendship can get you through anything, and that it's okay to ask for help. The latter resonated with me a lot. Many people loath to ask for help and this story makes you realize that some battles can't be fought alone.

Speaking of popular trends in the 2000's, Harry Potter's iconic "look" turned into a favored Halloween costume. It became the best-selling costume by the end of year 2001, according to Reader's Digest. Both children and adults were stoked about the famous cloaks, wands, and of course the glasses. Nowadays, any round shaped glasses are referred to as the "Harry Potter glasses". Not only that, kids and young adults are obsessed with taking online quizzes that sort you into one of the four Hogwarts Houses (Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, Slytherin). It became such a fun topic to see which one of your friends is in the same house as you. I've seen many people joke about a specific behavior of a friend and comment something like "That's such a Hufflepuff thing to do". Even the people who have not read/watched the series are at least familiar with those terms. The popularity of this series is insane, and I don't think it's going to downturn anytime soon.



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# 2000S ROM-COM CHARACTER TROPES

By Safeia Mubarak

**D**ifferent movies stand out for different reasons, but we all know an element that can make or break a movie is the characters. The movies of the 2000s focused heavily on putting most of its characters into boxes and stereotypes. Let's look at some character tropes from rom coms of the age and discuss whether they had any impact in their respective movies or not. While some of the listed movies are late 90s and not 2000s, they still played a big role in the childhoods of 2000s kids.

## THE EVIL PRINCIPAL

Movies with an evil principal made it easy for audiences and movie characters to band together against a common enemy. Some examples that feature this trope include:

***The School of Rock*:** In which the principal is an uptight and type A kind of educator who focuses the students' music lessons on classical instruments such as the piano, the cello, and the violin. When a rock and roll guitarist becomes a substitute teacher at the school, he decides to transform his students from classical music players into rock and roll stars.

***Matilda*:** Throughout Matilda we see Miss Trunchbull show us a perfect example of both a terrible principal and a terrible human being. She bullies the children for no reason and calls it discipline. She also bullies Miss Honey by manipulating and verbally abusing her. If you think the principal of your elementary school was scary or bad, just remember that at least you didn't have Miss Trunchbull.



## THE DITZY BLONDE IS ACTUALLY SMART

Movies with this stereotype often apply it to create the illusion of a "damsel in distress" without the need to employ fighting or kidnapping, but they usually just come off as offensive because it is a strongly inaccurate and illogical stereotype.

*Legally blonde* is one of the few movies that does a great job of applying this stereotype then flipping it on its head by giving viewers a strong, smart, and resourceful character in Elle Woods. She originally seems to be on the path of being a trophy wife, but when her boyfriend dumps her because she's "too blonde" which is to say she won't be the best arm candy for a man of politics, Elle applies to the same law school her now ex-boyfriend goes to. While not knowing anything about law school, she studies hard and applies herself, managing to not only successfully graduate, but she becomes the valedictorian of her class.

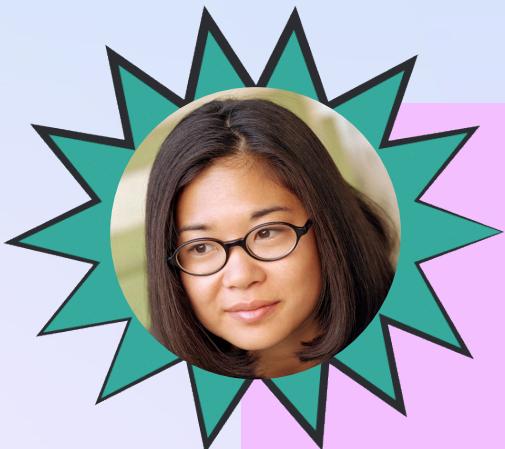


### THE MEAN POPULAR GIRL

Movies featuring this stereotype would create humor out of bullying.

It would also perpetuate the notion that in order to be popular or successful, the popular girl had to beat everyone else down which simply isn't true.

*Mean Girls* centered its story around high school life which many of us think back on as not being the best time. The movie has the main character change who she is to fit in with the popular girls to get revenge on the queen bee Regina George, who basically ran the school. Through this façade the main character loses who she is and realizes the cliques and high school drama is worthless. This movie is a classic 2000s movie that gave us the iconic "burn book" While we all loved this movie, do you think this stereotype worked?



### THE LOYAL POP-CULTURE OBSESSED SIDEKICK

*Gilmore Girls* gives us many things to love through its one of a kind premise, but one thing it does that is not so unique is with Lane Kim. Lane is Rory Gilmore (The main character)'s best friend. She fits in alongside a long-lasting list of characters who are mainly put in for the show to meet a quota. Many movies have the main character's best friend be a minority and then make them obsessed with a specific pop culture genre, be it comic books, video games, or in the case of Lane Kim, music. These shows and movies try to balance between having diverse characters but then write them to have their personalities completely go against the values that come with their diverse family background.



### THE DUMB JOCK

*John Tucker Must Die* gave 2000s kids the iconic ex-girlfriend group of John Tucker banding together to break his heart. We have the womanizing John Tucker who is dating several women and calls them all pet names to avoid mixing up their names. Upon the girls finding out, they all dump him and have a girl he's never dated, make him fall in love with her and then break his heart. Forcing him to experience the pain he put all of them through. This movie was iconic as it introduced "girl power" which was a very popular concept in the 2000s.

WHICH OF THESE TROPS  
DO YOU THINK WORKED?  
SHOULD ANY OF THEM MAKE A  
COMEBACK TODAY?

# 2000S TRENDS

By Safeia Mubarak

What are the most iconic things you remember from the 2000s? Some people refer to it as the golden age of *"cool weird stuff."* It was a time when advancement had just begun in many industries.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK DOWN MEMORY LANE, SHALL WE?

## ELECTRONICS

### IPOD



iPods were made by Apple and were the electronic device to have in the 2000s. Everyone was using them and wherever you went, everyone had one. They were just as common as having a phone is today (which back then it wasn't too common.) The iPod evolved from being screenless, to having a screen. Eventually, they even sold little Apple watch-sized iPods and you could buy various wrist bands to help you wear them on your wrist.

### PHONES



We started out with the indestructible Nokia phones. It was the electronic brick of the age. You could aggressively throw that thing so far and it wouldn't even have a scratch on it. As time went on, we evolved to flip phones. These phones gave you some attitude and sass with every phone call. You got to aggressively flip open your phone to answer a call, or aggressively flip it shut when you were upset and ready to end it. There was even a little hole where you could hang cute little charms. Then came the sidekick phone which was an upgrade to the flip phone. The sidekick was basically a flip phone but horizontal as opposed to vertical. The sidekick type of phones made a brief comeback with BlackBerry when it was popular but then it died out with time.

## FUN FASHION

### SLAP WRAPS



Also known as Slap Bracelets, these wrist slap wraps were invented by mistake by Stuart Anders who was a high school teacher. When playing around with steel ribbon, which is basically the same material tape measures are made of, he created what would be known as slap wraps which are rulers you slap onto your wrist, so they wrap around and become a bracelet.

### HEELYS



Heelys were invented by Roger Adams, who decided it would be fun to wear shoes that easily became skates with the shift of your foot. 2000s kids agreed with him because having Heelys back then was the definition of being a cool kid.

## GAMES

### COMPUTER GAMES (PINBALL, MINESWEEPER)



When the internet was dialing up, we all remember playing pinball by mashing the keyboard like crazy to keep the ball from falling; were you a keyboard masher or a tactical player? We can't forget about minesweeper. Did anyone else not understand the game as a child or was it just me spamming those little grey squares in confusion all on my own?

### CRAZY TAXI

This game was found in every arcade as it is a game that defined the era. Every 2000s kid remembers chaotically picking up customers and chaotically dropping them off as fast as you could to move on to the next one.

### VIDEO GAMES INVOLVING CARE



For some odd reason 2000s kids were obsessed with playing games where they had to keep things alive and healthy. We had the Tamagotchi, which made it so everyone can become a responsible parent and it was always so sad when your little guy or girl would die and you had to start all over. Another game that is similar is Nintendo Dogs, where every kid could finally have a cat or dog even if mom and dad said no.

### WII SPORTS

Wii Sports kept us physically active indoors, as well as cost many families new TVs. Who else remembers having to wear the remote on their wrist or risk it hurdling towards the TV?

# TOYS

## POLLY POCKET



While little girls already had Barbie dolls, they couldn't take their barbie, all her things and her big doll house everywhere with them; and so the toy makers of the 2000s had a solution. In came Polly Pocket, she was a tiny doll that came with little foldable houses or various locations. The container or "pocket" would fold like a clam shell and when you opened it the house would pop out like a pop out book. This allowed kids to take their Polly and her pocket with them everywhere they went.

## BEYBLADES

Beyblades were made by Takara Tomy who is a Japanese company that also made Transformers. Beyblades were a way for 2000s kids to play against one another without getting physical. We all remember stealing a wide bucket from our household and launching as many Beyblades as we could into it to see which one would outlast the rest.

## YO-YOS



The earliest patent for Yoyos is documented to be from 1866, but the toy wasn't popularized until 1928 by Pedro Flores. He worked in a hotel in Santa Monica and was showing the guests all the tricks he could do with the Yoyo and so it took off. Many people might remember watching a show on SpaceToon known as Blazing Teens which especially helped Yoyos get popular in Kuwait.

# **Nancy Ajram: The Rise of a Middle Eastern Pop Star**

By Ahmed Al-Yousef

Popular Arabic music in the early 2000s was everywhere, and in my opinion, Egyptian music has led the Arabic musical world in terms of pop songs. Today, I am going to focus on a specific singer that is known in every household.

Nancy Ajram is a name that has become synonymous with Middle Eastern pop music. With a career spanning over two decades, she has become one of the most popular and recognizable singers in the Arab world. But how did she get her start, and what was her life like before she became a household name?

*Let's take a look.*



## **Early Life and Upbringing**

Ajram was born on May 16, 1983, in Beirut, Lebanon. She grew up in a middle-class family and was the youngest of three siblings. Her father was a dentist, and her mother was a housewife. Music was always a big part of Ajram's life, and she began singing at a young age. She would often perform at family gatherings and talent shows, and it quickly became clear that she had a natural talent for singing.

## GETTING STARTED IN MUSIC

At the age of eight, Ajram entered a talent competition called "*Noujoum Al-Moustakbal*" (*Stars of the Future*) and won first place. This was a big moment for her and gave her the confidence she needed to pursue music more seriously. She continued to enter talent competitions and performed at local events, gaining more and more recognition in the process.

Ajram's big break came in 1998 when she released her debut album, "*Mihtagalak*" (*I Need You*). The album was well-received, but it wasn't until she released her third album, "*Ya Salam*" (*Wow*), in 2003 that she really started to make a name for herself. The album was a massive success, and its lead single, "*Akhasmak Ah*" (*I Will Upset You*), became an instant hit. Nancy's unique voice and catchy songs quickly made her one of the most popular singers in the Arab world.



## RISING TO FAME

The early 2000s were a time of great success for Ajram. She released a string of hit albums and singles, and her music videos were played on TV stations around the Middle East. Her songs were played at weddings, parties, and clubs, and she quickly became a household name. Her popularity even earned her a spot as a judge on the popular TV show "*Arab Idol*." I can hear the theme song of *Arab Idol* right now as I'm writing this.

Ajram's music has always been known for its catchy beats and emotional lyrics. She sings about love, heartbreak, and the ups and downs of life. Throughout her success, Ajram has won numerous awards for her music, including the World Music Award for Best Selling Middle Eastern Artist in 2008 and 2014.



## FROM HEARTBREAK TO HAPPINESS

Nancy Ajram has released a plethora of songs that range from playfulness to beautiful melodies all the way to emotional and heartbreak songs, as she incorporates an Egyptian singing style alongside the beats! Here are some iconic songs and what makes them stand out!

**"Akhasmak Ah" (I Will Upset You)** This upbeat and playful song is one of Nancy Ajram's most popular and enduring hits. It features catchy beats and playful lyrics that tell the story of a young woman who is unapologetically herself and isn't afraid to go after what she wants. The song's music video, which features Ajram dancing and singing in a variety of colorful outfits, has become a classic of the early 2000s pop era.



**"Ah W Noss" (Yes, and a Half)** With its beautiful melody and romantic lyrics, "Ah W Noss" is one of Nancy Ajram's most beloved songs. The song tells the story of a woman who has found the love of her life and is sharing the ups and downs of their chemistry. The music video, which features Nancy in a beautiful white dress, has become an iconic image of Middle Eastern pop culture.

**"Ya Tabtab Wa Dallaa" (Either I pat or pamper)** This catchy and energetic song actually tells a rather sad story. Ajram is singing of a relationship in which she must cater to her selfish partner's every need, or she will face his anger and accusations. If you are new to Ajram's music, don't get too carried away with the beat and listen for the hidden messages she may be leaving there. Leave it to Arabic pop music to have the catchiest beats and saddest lyrics.



**"Mogabah" (Admirer)** This powerful and emotive song showcases Nancy Ajram's ability to convey deep emotions through her music. The song's lyrics tell the story of a woman who is heartbroken and angry after being betrayed by her lover. The song's slow tempo and haunting melody perfectly capture the pain and sadness of heartbreak.

**"Inta Eyh" (What Are You?)** This song's unique melody has made it one of Nancy Ajram's most recognizable hits. The song's lyrics ask a potentially ex-lover why he has found it so easy to abandon their love and leave Ajram with a lifetime of suffering. This heartfelt ballad has become a staple for young women in the Middle East and proved Ajram is not only a pretty face with catchy tunes, but she can actually belt out beautiful notes.

## FROM POP PRINCESS TO ICON

I want to touch upon Ajram's evolution as an artist, because it is a reminder that no matter how successful or established we are, there is always room for growth and exploration.

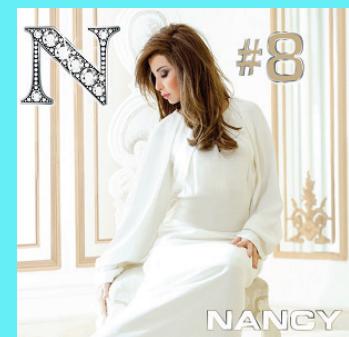
Ajram's willingness to push boundaries and try new things has allowed her to evolve and stay relevant over the years, and it serves as an inspiration to all of us to continue to challenge ourselves and strive for new heights in our own lives and careers.

As Ajram's career progressed, she continued to release pop hits, such as "*Ah W Noss*" and "*Ehsas Jdeed*," that were beloved by fans and paved her status as a pop princess. However, Ajram's music was also evolving, and she began to incorporate elements of traditional Arabic music into her songs.

In the mid-2000s, Ajram's music began to take on a more mature and sophisticated sound. Her album "*Ya Tabtab*" featured a mix of pop and Arabic music, and her hit song "*Oul Tani Keda*" showcased her ability to infuse traditional Arabic melodies with modern pop beats.

In the years that followed, Ajram continued to explore new sounds and genres. Her album "*Betfakkar Fi Eih*" featured a mix of pop, rock, and Arabic music.

As her music evolved, so did her status as an artist. She began to collaborate with other musicians and producers, and her music became more sophisticated and layered. Her album "*Nancy 8*" featured a mix of pop, R&B, and Arabic music, and her hit song "*Ma Tegi Hena*" showcased her ability to tackle complex social issues through her music.



# THE QUEEN OF 2000'S POP MUSIC

By Batool Albousabih

**T**he 2000's was an era of music. There are numerous songs from different genres that are familiar to almost everyone for example "*Complicated*" by Avril Lavigne, and "*Poker Face*" by the one and only Lady Gaga. Pop music was the most popular genre at that time, and it remained that throughout the 2010s and it is still the most popular genre in the 2020's. From K-pop bands like BLACKPINK and BTS to The Weeknd, Beyonce, Dua lipa and many more. More importantly, the first singer who comes to mind when hearing the queen of 2000's pop is Britney Spears.



Britney Jean Spears is a star born on December 2nd, 1981. I'm sure everyone knows that she is a legendary American songwriter, singer, dancer, and is a little-known actress and a gymnast as well! She is one of the most influential pop stars in the 2000's. What can this woman not do? Britney started her career at a very young age. Surprisingly, it did not start with singing but with acting! Spears first wanted to act as an eight-year-old in a children's TV show "*The all-new Mickey Mouse Club house*" but was rejected for being too young. So, she began her education attending arts school, but only after two years of art school, in the early 90's she finally was casted for the role in the kids TV show. Shortly after, Spears wanted to explore what else she could do. It was definitely her best decision. At only 15 years old she released her hit "*Baby one more time*" and it received huge amounts of success. Later on, she released her debut album which sold over 10 million copies in the United States alone. Did you know that spears wasn't only a solo star? She was also in a girl band named Innosense! Girl bands were so in during that time, but sadly Innosense didn't last for long since spears' solo career has taken off so successfully.

Spears quickly became the most idolized star in that era. Many young girls looked up to her and mimicked her way of fashion and hair style. Spears introduced merch like T-shirts with printed of pictures of her face alongside perfumes and board games like monopoly, which all sold out very fast as they were in high demand. She was and still is loved by most teenage girls and young adults as she left a huge impact on pop culture. Spears' career only grew stronger as she continued to release more record-breaking hits such as "*oops!... I did It Again.*" As the title implies, she has once again left her print with an unforgettable song. Spears received her well-known title as the princess of pop music, one I believe she deserves. Surely, I can't continue this article without mentioning her single "*Toxic*", a groundbreaking hit that gained so much attention worldwide.

Spears has many great solo hits and albums alike that did not go unnoticed by the public.

In a way, she has set a path for newer pop musicians and has shaped the industry's expectations. Spears' songs are not just songs, but they are a platform that offers fans a layered look onto her life and allow them to connect deeper with the artist as he has incorporated many empowering lyrics into her songs. To be frank, if you cannot remember the cultural value of that era, then it is safe to say you missed out! Other than music, her film *Crossroads* was such a classic for teenage girls. *Crossroads* was a movie released in 2002 and spears was the main character which inevitably created huge popularity. Spears's talents are uncountable, and I find her to be a truly inspiring woman.

**MY FAVORITE SONG OF HER'S IS ONE OF  
THE MOST Underrated ones, "Every  
TIME", WHICH ONE IS YOURS ?**



## THE SUPPOSEDLY “UGLIES” FASHION PERIOD

By Fatima Kobeissi

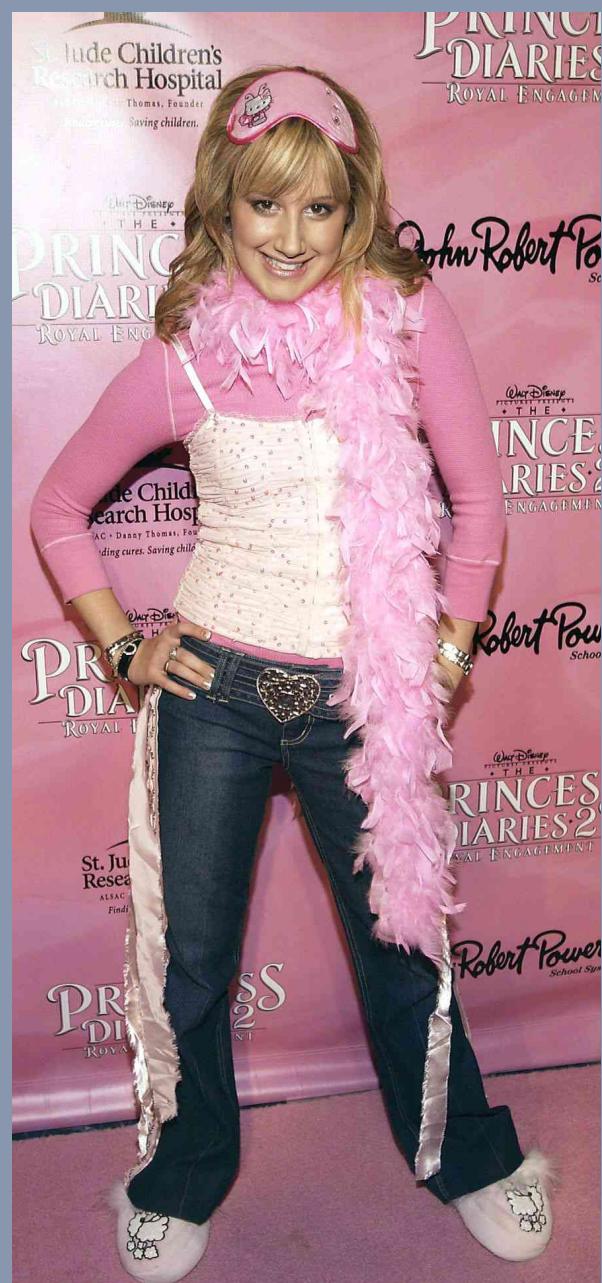
**A**s we get older, we tend to look back on the past and the things we have gone through in life and feel nostalgic. There are many firsts in life, and nostalgia gives them great significance. Firsts can take many different forms, such as receiving your first click-wheeled iPod and downloading *Destiny's Child* or *Eminem* songs onto it, receiving *Beyblades* for your birthday, and beaming with joy because you wanted them so badly, playing with *Slinkys* with your friends at school, and how can we forget about *Mean Girls*? The list is endless. The 2000s were marked by many things, but if you asked a random person what made that period unique, they would definitely mention fashion.

While some people may consider fashion to be nothing more than just pieces of clothing they may put on and go about their daily lives, it is actually more than that and plays a vital role in everyone's life. Every clothing item serves a purpose, and fashion maintains a vibrant culture by introducing fresh trends and ensuing tweaks. It respects social traditions and conventions while occasionally promoting social change. Also, it adjusts or amends all the outdated, strict customs that are necessary because without them, no year would be linked with a particular fashion trend, and every year would be monotonous and the same. While pop culture cannot exist without fashion, the repetition of memorable events causes nostalgia whiplash. Like anything else, fashion has had positive and negative aspects. Fashion has always been important in history since it symbolizes and influences how people show themselves in every era.

### SO, WHAT MADE FASHION IN THE 2000S STAND OUT?

2000s fashion, often known as "*Y2K fashion*," was influenced by technology at the time in addition to its monochromatic neon hues and bizarre motifs. Animal designs, neon or vivid colors, glitters, and sequins can all be incorporated in a single outfit during the 2000s fashion era, as well as the era of flash technological advancement. Celebrities wore a variety of outfits, including baggy jeans, trucker hats, capri pants, dresses over jeans, over-sized bags, and juicy couture tracksuits, which inspired audiences and fans to copy them. This resulted in one of the most significant visualizations of the 2000s, which is now regarded as pop culture.

So, how can nostalgia and fashion intersect? Why are so many designers attempting to reintroduce big pieces and statements from the 2000s? Perhaps because they have run out of ideas and originality, or perhaps they use nostalgia as a safety net since they are aware of how people often feel about those things.



Recently, *Y2K fashion* has been spreading all over social media, particularly on *TikTok*, and many people have ideas and share their thoughts on it. Several people find it absurd to bring back such an “*ugly*” fashion era and would prefer to pick another, but the majority are eager to welcome it with open arms. So, why are many people opposed to *Y2K fashion* being resurrected? It’s because it’s so distinct from today’s fashion. Today’s fashion is believed to be the most “*basic*” and “*minimalist*”. From makeup to clothes and jewellery, minimalism is the cornerstone to the “*Clean Girl Aesthetic*”. It’s crucial to put together a simple, radiant, and chic beauty look. Your makeup should highlight the delicacy of your skin by using just nudes or your natural undertone tones while your hair will likely be pulled back and away from your face. The secret to dressing up is to keep in mind the cliché “*less is more*” and to constantly look put together, like a “*model who is off duty*”. A plain white t-shirt, a black or nude button-up blazer, sunglasses, a pair of not too baggy or skinny-tight denim, and the simplest pair of sandals or sneakers make up most of the outfits.

**NOTICE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN  
THE TWO PERIODS IN COMPARISON?**

While looking at the most popular looks from the 2000s, individuals were more daring with their outfits and style choices back then. During that time, fashion was primarily centred on the clothing itself, not the person wearing it; the attire was utilized to wear the person rather than the other way around. The emphasis was on the costume itself, which was the intention! Whereas now, the outfit is worn by the person, and the focal point is the person's physical attractiveness. Today, as well as the internet's influence, *TikTok*, in particular, is showcasing and disseminating how faces should look and what is considered "*pretty*" and the "*beauty standard*," which undermines the focus on clothing and shifts it to the physical body.

*Y2K fashion* isn't about certain wardrobe pieces. It's more about the spirit of defying fashion norms and pushing aesthetic boundaries and feeling confident doing so without caring what others think, which is not the case in today's fashion.

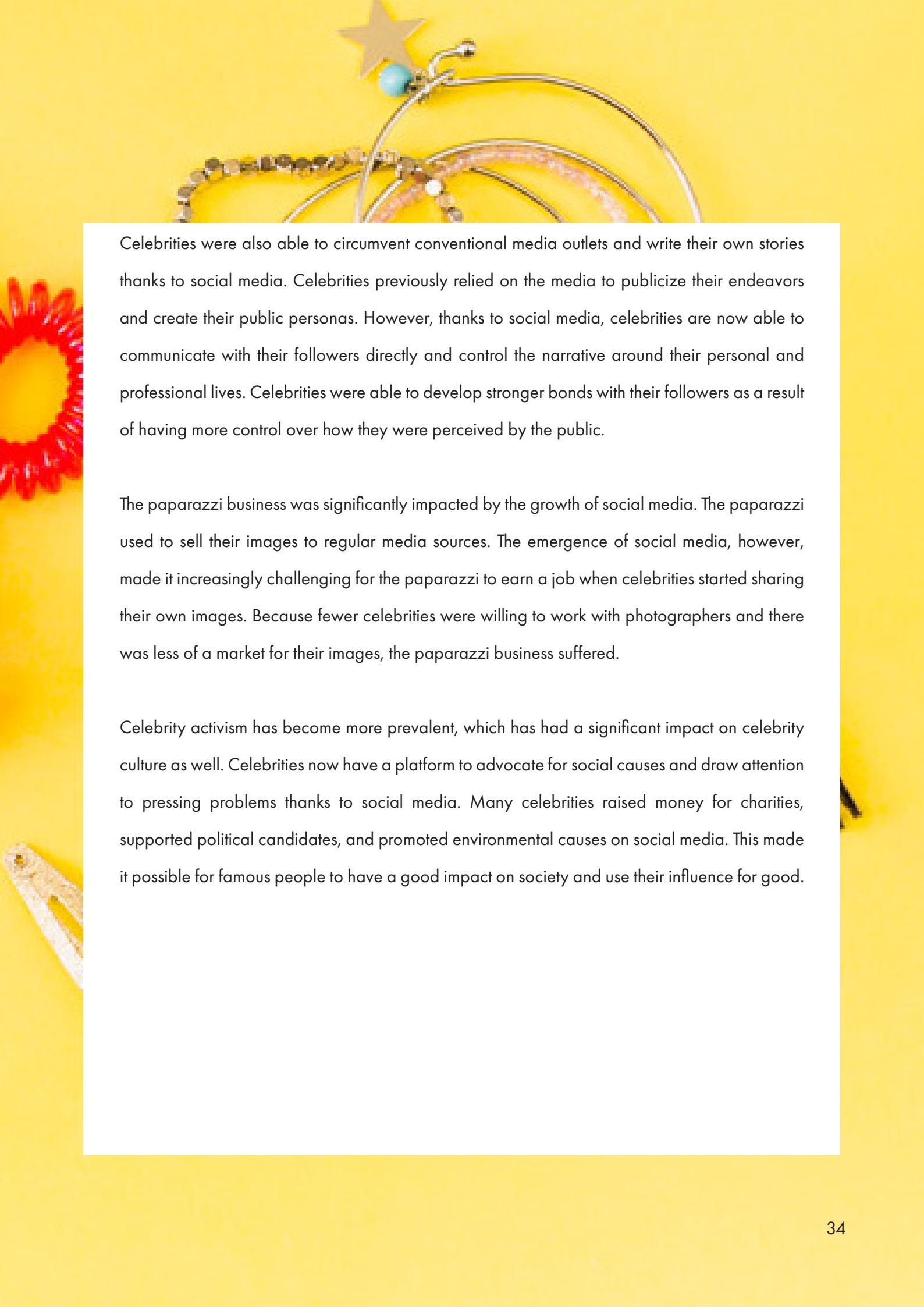
# THE RISE OF THE DIGITAL CELEBRITY: EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON FAME AND INFLUENCE

By Joanna Elchanti

Celebrity culture was significantly impacted by the rise of social media in the 2000s. Social media sites like *MySpace*, *Facebook*, *Twitter*, and *Instagram* have allowed for direct communication between celebrities and their fans. Celebrities have created public personas on these platforms and interacted with their audiences through them. The celebrity culture has been greatly impacted by social media, which has led to the emergence of new celebrity types, created new issues, and changed our perceptions of fame and power. This article will look at the good and bad effects of this cultural shift on social media's influence on celebrity culture in the 2000s.

Prior to the emergence of social media, celebrities had little control over how they came across to the public. Celebrities were forced to rely on conventional media outlets to promote their endeavors and sculpt the public's perception of them because the media controlled the narrative. However, with the development of social media, famous people were able to forgo conventional media outlets and communicate with their followers directly. Celebrities now have the ability to control the narrative surrounding their personal and professional lives as well as their own public image.

The rise of the influencer was one of the biggest changes brought about by social media. Celebrities were frequently slow to adopt social media in its early years because many thought it was just a passing fad. Celebrities, on the other hand, began to realize as social media grew in acceptance that it could be a potent tool for developing their individual brands and interacting with fans. Many people started showcasing their lifestyles on social media and promoting their projects and products. The influencer, a new category of celebrity known more for their social media presence than their traditional media appearances, was born as a result of this.



Celebrities were also able to circumvent conventional media outlets and write their own stories thanks to social media. Celebrities previously relied on the media to publicize their endeavors and create their public personas. However, thanks to social media, celebrities are now able to communicate with their followers directly and control the narrative around their personal and professional lives. Celebrities were able to develop stronger bonds with their followers as a result of having more control over how they were perceived by the public.

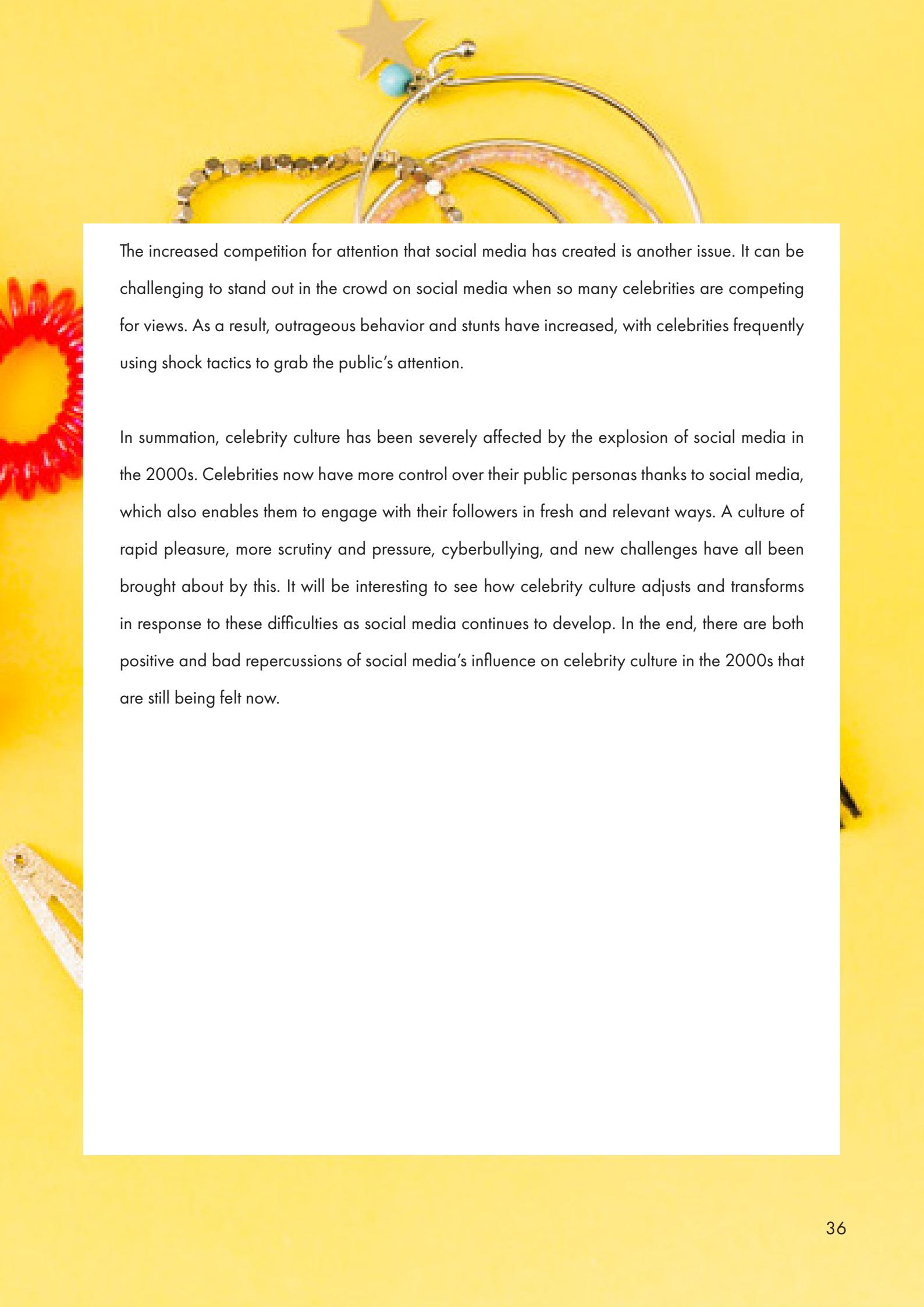
The paparazzi business was significantly impacted by the growth of social media. The paparazzi used to sell their images to regular media sources. The emergence of social media, however, made it increasingly challenging for the paparazzi to earn a job when celebrities started sharing their own images. Because fewer celebrities were willing to work with photographers and there was less of a market for their images, the paparazzi business suffered.

Celebrity activism has become more prevalent, which has had a significant impact on celebrity culture as well. Celebrities now have a platform to advocate for social causes and draw attention to pressing problems thanks to social media. Many celebrities raised money for charities, supported political candidates, and promoted environmental causes on social media. This made it possible for famous people to have a good impact on society and use their influence for good.

Social media's ascent has not, however, been without its difficulties. Celebrities now face a higher level of scrutiny and criticism from fans and the media as a result of social media's increased visibility. Fans now have unrivaled access to their favorite celebrities thanks to social media, which enables them to express their opinions and criticisms to the stars themselves. As a result, there has been an increase in the cyberbullying and harassment of celebrities, which can seriously harm their mental health and wellbeing.

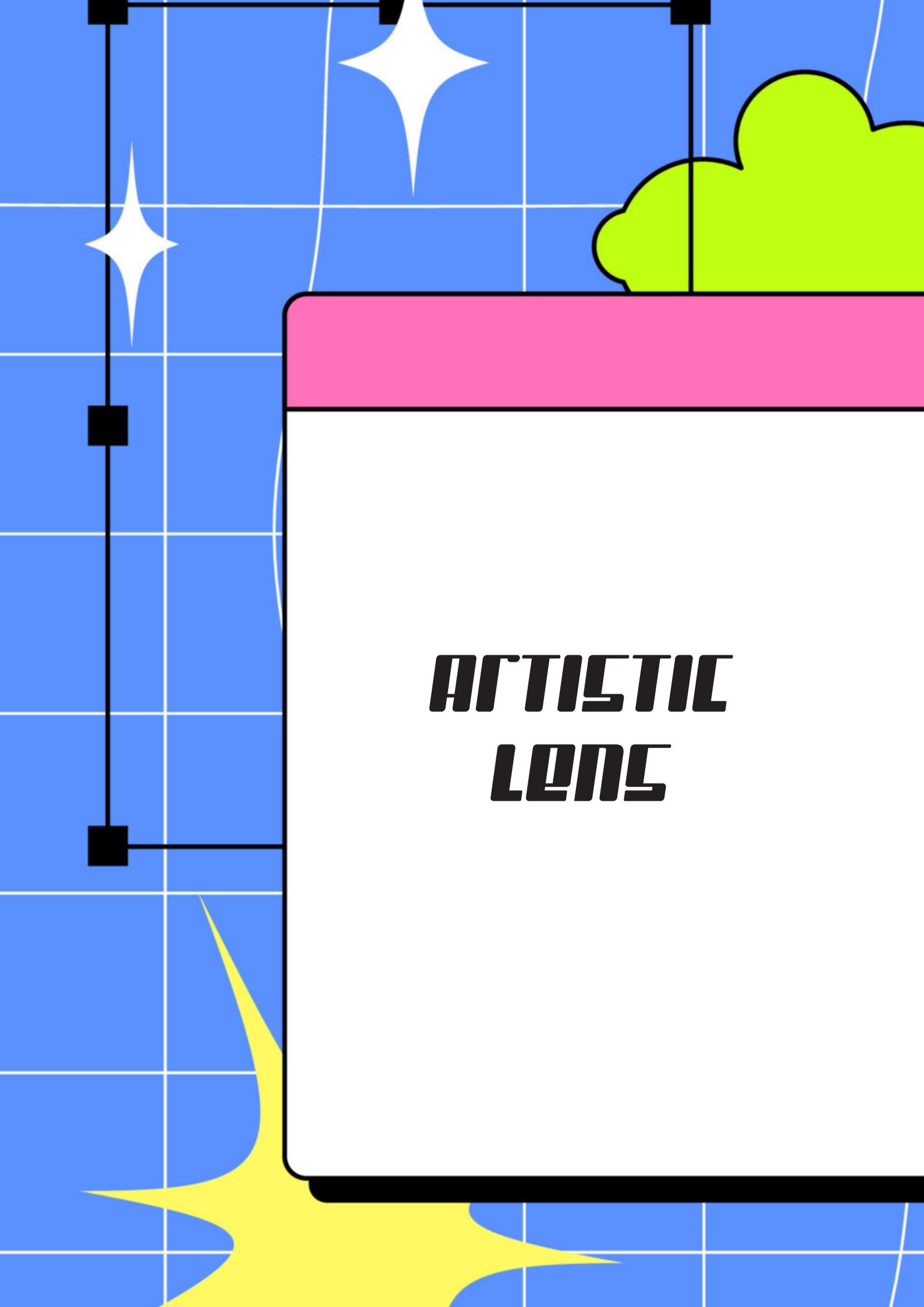
Social media has also blurred the distinction between traditional celebrities and ordinary people. Many people are now using social media to reach levels of fame and influence that were previously unattainable thanks to the rise of the influencer. Because of this, celebrity culture has become more accessible to everyone who owns a smartphone and has a sizable following on social media. Concerns over how social media is affecting our culture and how much we value fame and celebrity have risen as a result of this. According to some critics, social media has cultivated a narcissistic and superficial culture in which people prioritize their personal brand over sincere connections and relationships.

A culture of instant gratification has also been cultivated by social media, where stars are expected to be accessible and responsive to their followers at all times. Celebrities who feel they must constantly maintain their social media presence in order to stay relevant and connected to their fans may feel under a lot of pressure as a result of this.

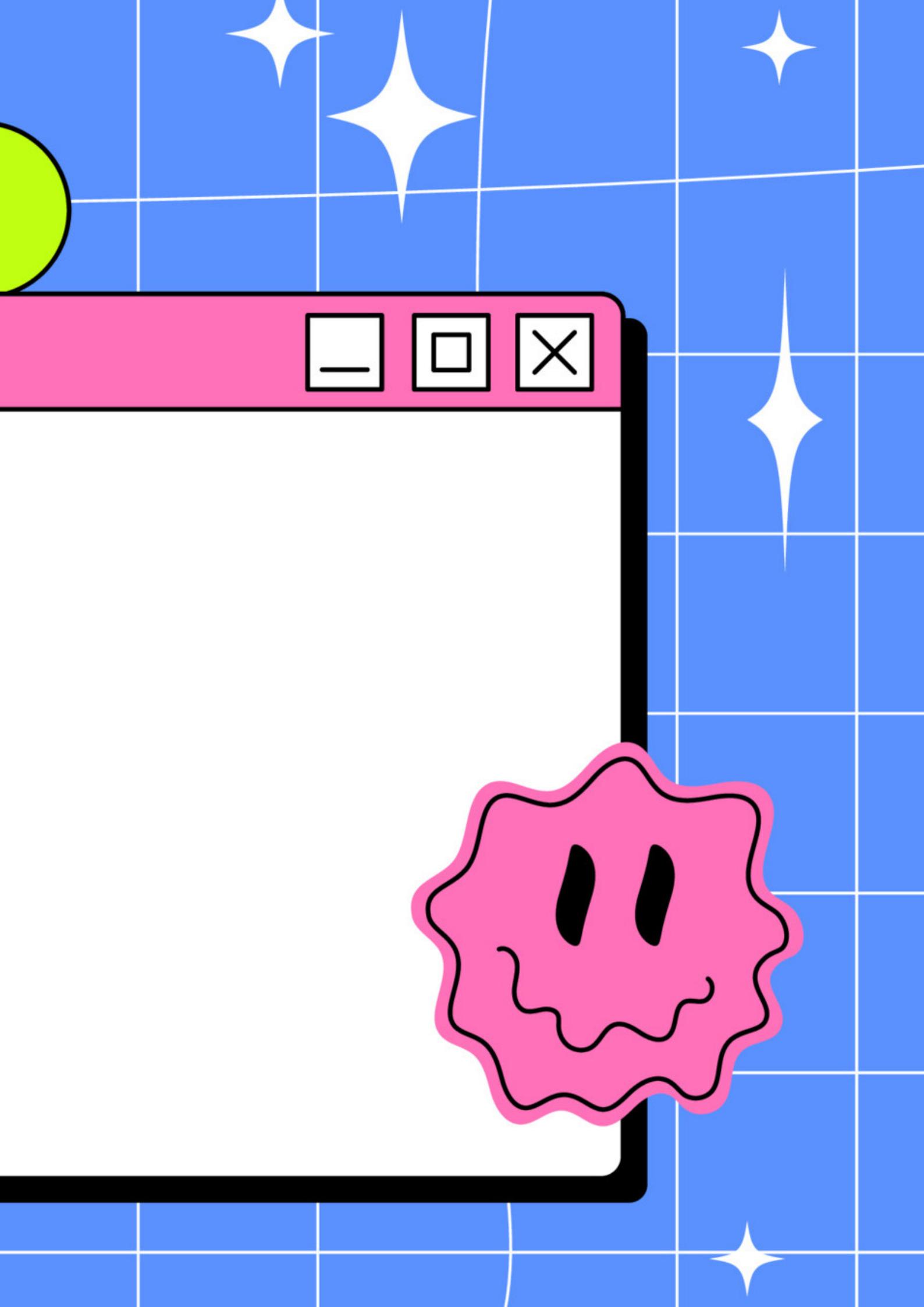


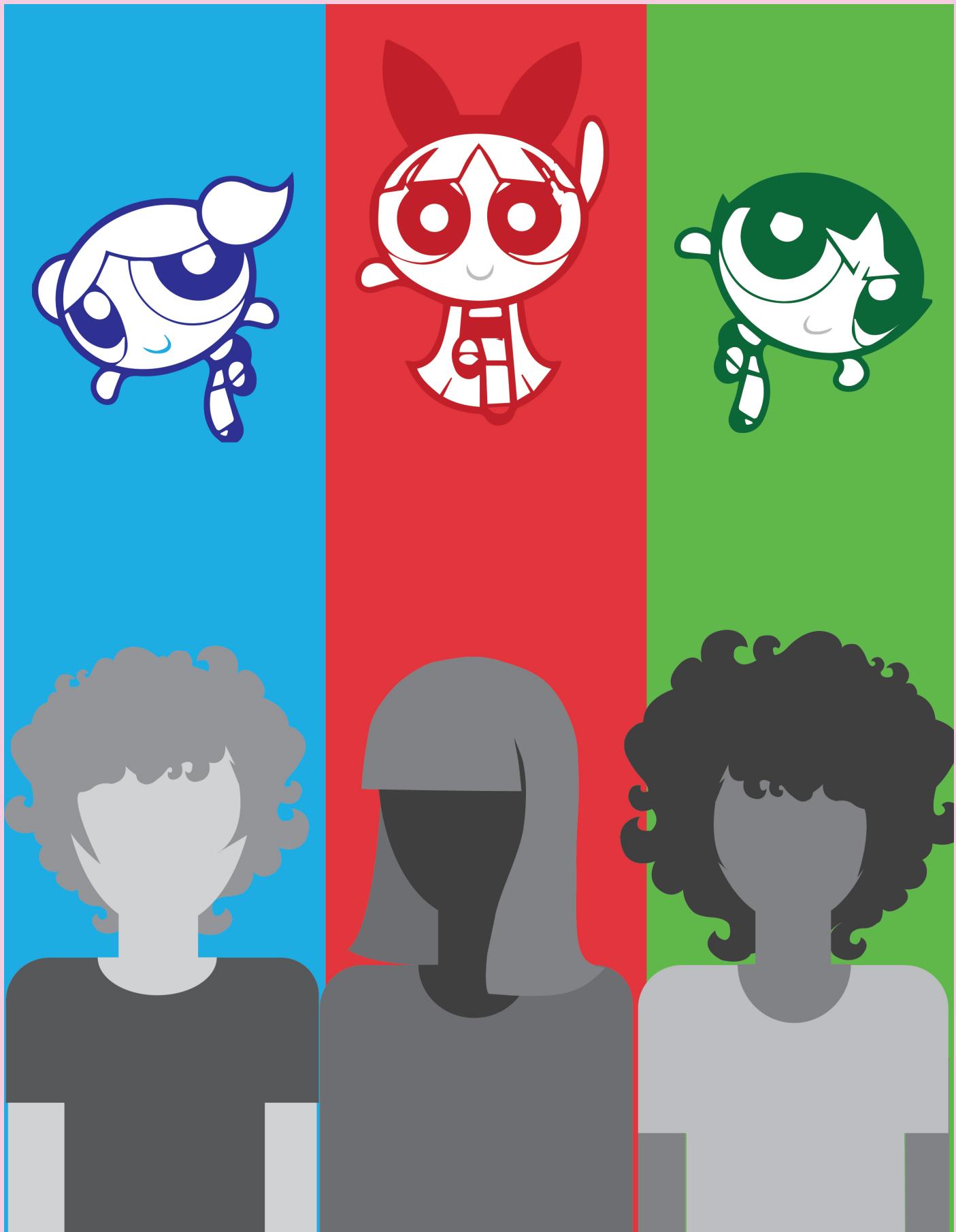
The increased competition for attention that social media has created is another issue. It can be challenging to stand out in the crowd on social media when so many celebrities are competing for views. As a result, outrageous behavior and stunts have increased, with celebrities frequently using shock tactics to grab the public's attention.

In summation, celebrity culture has been severely affected by the explosion of social media in the 2000s. Celebrities now have more control over their public personas thanks to social media, which also enables them to engage with their followers in fresh and relevant ways. A culture of rapid pleasure, more scrutiny and pressure, cyberbullying, and new challenges have all been brought about by this. It will be interesting to see how celebrity culture adjusts and transforms in response to these difficulties as social media continues to develop. In the end, there are both positive and bad repercussions of social media's influence on celebrity culture in the 2000s that are still being felt now.



# ARTISTIC LENS







# **I wish relationships can last, like they did in the past**

By Raghad Mohammed

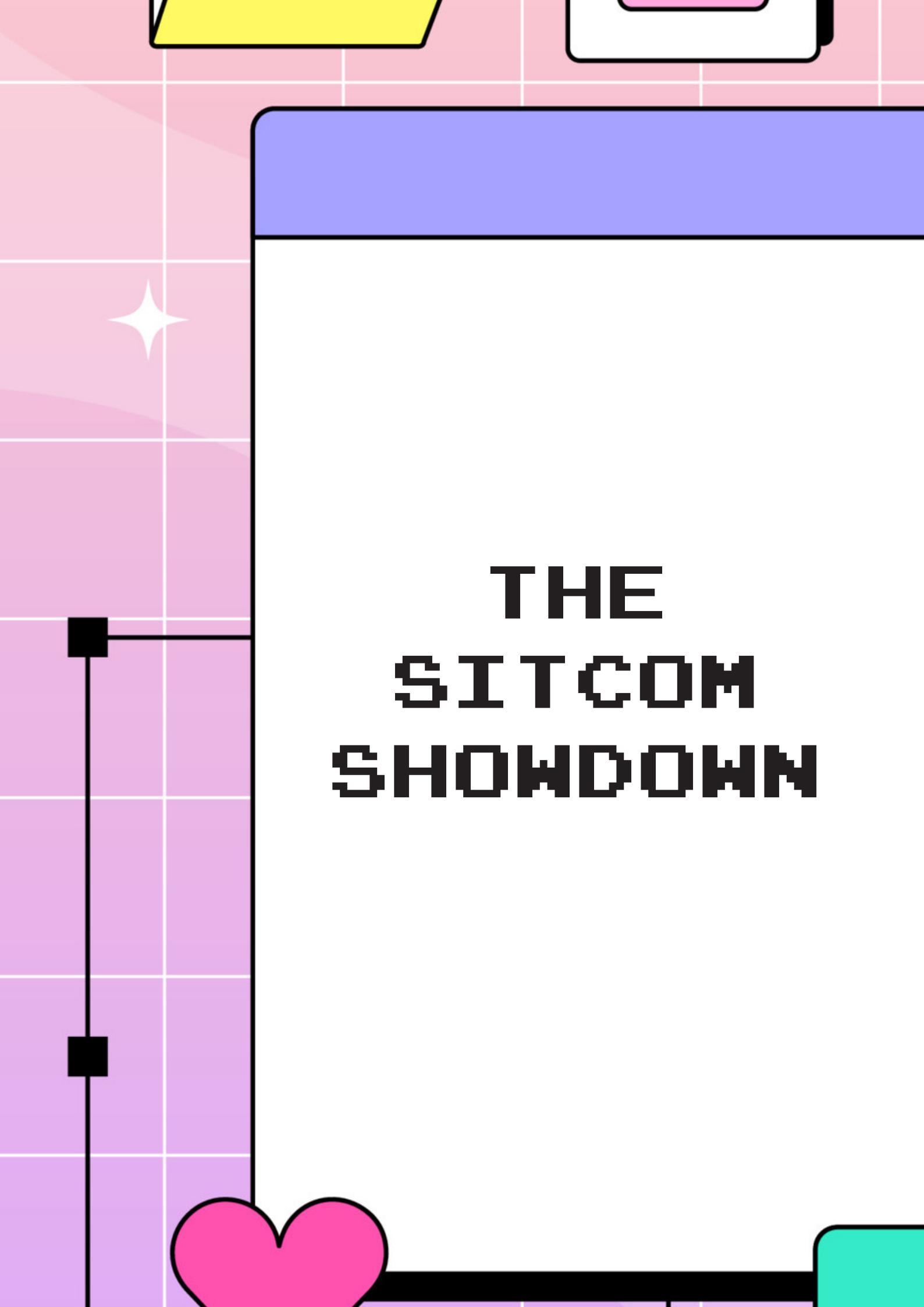
But it's no longer 2007, and we grew past being eleven. Past all our favorite activities and our childhood memories. We no longer ride our bikes til the end of the street to buy ourselves some ice cream. And what was once laughter filling our chest is now smoke and flavored nicotine. From cassettes and comics we exchanged, and calling each other once a week on a specific day, to calling you everyday with so little to say. And sending Spotify links of songs i like, instead of asking if i'm okay.

And it seems like the wires between our telephones connected us. The movies with a lower quality left out the room for our insecurities. And the cassette strings that tangled as we pulled them out, taped our hearts and hands, tangled us together, and bound us to a common ground.

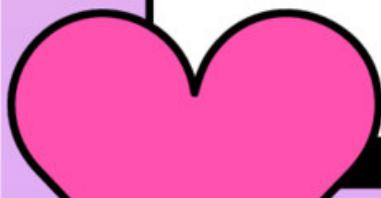
## 2000s Pop Culture

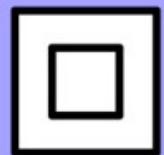
By Nourah Al-Mutairi

Glitter and gloss  
And everything nice  
Studded jeans that make you look twice  
And those hair bows that blind your eyes  
While the wave of nostalgia begins to rise  
We go back to our roots like the tree flows  
With the howling wind that comes and goes  
The taste of sweetness that comes in the morning,  
Stains your tongue and leaves with a warning  
Days past and we still look the same  
Do you know that actor? I forgot his name  
Living vicariously through the television  
Opening magazines like a treasure hidden  
Oh, I wish to turn the clock of time  
To a time where we could all define  
Ourselves through the stitch of a design  
Those 2000 days were long gone  
Yet we strive for them thereon.



# THE SITCOM SHOWDOWN





## HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER

By Ahmed Al-Yousef

*How I Met Your Mother* and *The Big Bang Theory* are amongst the most popular sitcoms of the 21st century. In an era where everyone is binge watching shows dropped in one setting, these two shows are throwbacks to another time.

But shows being older does not automatically mean that they are a monumental success in their genres. In my opinion, these two shows differ in many ways. However, I am not here to talk about both Sitcoms, as I dislike one and adore the other, even though the ending is very controversial. What's the show you ask? well none other than the clever wordplay of combined humor and emotions, many inside jokes, hidden references and easter eggs, the meaningful relationships that feel real, and of course, *Neil Patrick Harris* portraying *Barney Stinson* Perfectly. I can't imagine anyone else playing *Barney*.



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I am talking about the hit sitcom that aired from 2005 to 2014, *How I met Your Mother!* (*HIMYM* for short).

It follows the lives of five friends living in New York City, as we see the main character, Ted Mosby, tell his children the story of how he met their mother over the course of nine seasons.

In this Article I'll explore the different aspects of the show from its premise, the character development, the overall themes and messages, and of course I have to mention the hidden references and Easter Eggs scattered throughout the show, which leads to one of the saddest episodes in the series in my opinion.

From this point onwards, **Spoiler Alert** to all who intend to watch the show or the ones who are currently watching it! While I won't reveal all the story beats, as there is a lot, it's still nice to be cautious.

## ***SPOLIER ALERT!***

***You have been warned!***

### **THE PREMISE**

At its core, *How I Met Your Mother* is a show about the search for love and the importance of friendship. The show's premise centers around **Ted Mosby**, a lovable but somewhat awkward architect who is on a quest to find the love of his life. In the year 2030, **Ted** is telling his children the story of how he met their mother, and the show's narrative unfolds as a series of flashbacks to the various events and relationships that led him to this point. Basically, the show's episodes aren't in chronological order sometimes.

Throughout the show, we see **Ted** traverse the ups and downs of dating in New York City, often with the help and support of his best friends: The flirtatious **Barney Stinson**, the sweet and nurturing **Lily Aldrin**, her devoted husband **Marshall Eriksen**. Along the way, **Ted** also develops a complicated relationship with his on-again, off-again love interest, **Robin Scherbatsky**, who is also a close friend of the group.

As the show progresses, we see the characters grow as they face challenges in their personal and professional lives, and the search for love becomes intertwined with the bonds of friendship. All these elements combine to make *How I Met Your Mother* a beloved and endearing TV show, one that captures the essence of what it means to be young, hopeful, and to search for love in the modern world.



*First off is Ted.* He starts out as a hopeless romantic who is always looking for "the one", but over time, he learns to let go of his idealized notions of love and appreciate the relationships he has with his friends. He also faces many setbacks and heartbreaks along the way, which make his eventual meeting with the mother all the more satisfying.

*Robin*, on the other hand, is a fiercely independent woman who struggles with the idea of commitment and settling down. As the series progresses, we see her evolve from a career-focused journalist to a more emotionally open and vulnerable person who eventually comes to realize that she wants a life with the man she loves.

*Barney*, also undergoes significant growth over the course of the series. Initially, he is portrayed as a one-dimensional character who is only interested in dating, but as we learn more about his past and his insecurities, we see a more vulnerable side of him. He eventually falls in love with *Robin* and becomes more open to the idea of settling down and having a committed relationship.

*Marshall and Lily*, the show's quintessential couple, also experience their fair share of ups and downs over the course of the series. They start out as newlyweds who are deeply in love, but as they face challenges such as job loss and infertility, they must learn to navigate the complexities of marriage and compromise in order to stay together.

## **CHARACTERS EVOLVE, LAUGHS CONTINUE**

Now, the tackiest thing a sitcom could do is have a laugh-track, but it is impressive seeing the amount of respect from both critics and fans that *How I Met Your Mother* still receives. Sure, people hated the series finale, but disappointment in a show's finale often speaks to how invested they got in the show in the first place. Ultimately, the finale's biggest problem was that it was written years in advance and so much happened between when they wrote and filmed that moment and when they aired it. Maybe because one of the show's strengths lies in the way it develops its characters over the course of the series. Each of the main characters- *Ted, Robin, Barney, Marshall, and Lily*-undergoes significant changes and growth, which makes them all the more relatable and endearing to viewers.

**A**s I like to say, the characters on *The Big Bang Theory* may be geniuses, but the gang on *How I Met Your Mother* knows how to have a good time. No, I'm not sorry.

## LESSONS IN LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP

One of the show's overarching themes is the importance of friendship. The central group of friends, *Ted, Robin, Barney, Marshall, and Lily*, share a bond that goes beyond just casual acquaintances or coworkers. They are there for each other through thick and thin, offering support, advice, and a shoulder to cry on when needed. The show portrays friendship as something that can withstand the test of time and distance, as the group remains close even after they move to different parts of the country.



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Another theme that the show explores is the pursuit of happiness, particularly in regards to finding love and meaning in life. Each of the main characters has their own idea of what will make them happy, whether it's finding "*the one*" (*Ted*), *pursuing a successful career* (*Robin*), or *living life to the fullest* (*Barney*). The show encourages viewers to pursue their own happiness, even if it means taking risks or going against societal expectations.

The show also delves into the complexities of love and relationships. It acknowledges that finding true love is not always easy and that relationships can be messy and difficult to navigate. The characters experience their fair share of heartbreaks and setbacks, but they also learn valuable lessons about communication, compromise, and forgiveness. Ultimately, the show portrays love as something worth fighting for, even when it's not perfect.

*I mean The Big Bang Theory may have the Nobel Prize, but How I Met Your Mother has the Bro Code  
- a document that's more binding than any contract.*

## CRACKING THE CODE

Easter eggs, or hidden messages and symbolism, are fun since they allow the biggest fans of a TV show or film to delve deeper into the storyline, characters, and settings. They prove that there is always something else to think and talk about, since we never want to feel like our favorite TV show is over. To name a few:



The episode in which Marshall's father dies is inarguably one of the most hard-hitting and gut-wrenching of the series. Fans continue to talk about how well this episode was done and how powerful the moment **Marshall** founds out was. One thing that is credited to this is the countdown of numbers that can be seen throughout the episode, hidden in the scenes leading to the news.

Conan O'Brien



<https://i.ytimg.com/vi/oNxeQyl52v4/maxresdefault.jpg>

In season 7's episode "*No Pressure*", **Conan O'Brien** can be seen in the background when **Ted**, **Marshall**, and **Lily** are all talking and sitting at the bar. Although he is just an extra, he wanted to have a bigger role but couldn't because his schedule was very busy.

The Pineapple



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In the deleted scene, after we find out that **Lily** is pregnant and the captain is with the "*Boats, Boats, Boats*" lady, **Ted** learns of the captain's "*old sea captains' tradition*" of leaving a pineapple outside his home as a symbol of hospitality, which is apparently a real thing.

## THE BIG BANG THEORY

By Safeia Mubarak



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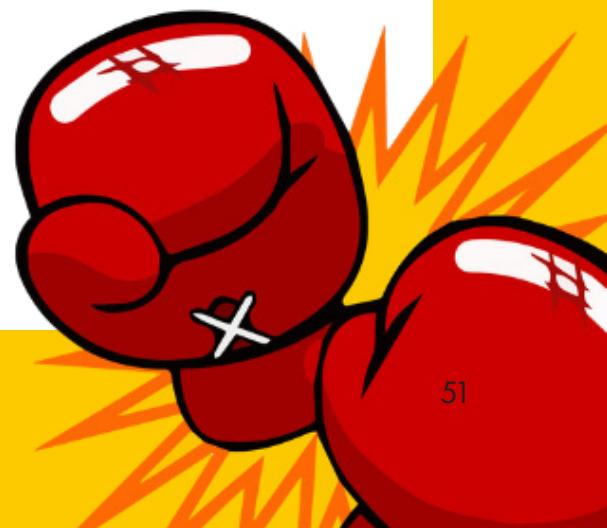
*The Big Bang Theory* is one of the most popular sitcoms of all time. The show follows a friend group of four scientists throughout their personal and professional lives. Viewers of the show get to be a part of their lives as they progress for the better on the course of 12 seasons. The show first aired in 2007, reaching its finale in 2019. Over the years, *The Big Bang Theory* has won many awards and has become an international cultural phenomenon.

One of the main reasons why *The Big Bang Theory* was so successful was because of its humor. The show is known for its one-liners, clever puns, and pop culture references. The humor is often centered around the nerdy interests of the characters, mainly focusing on comic books, video games, and science fiction. The humor in *The Big Bang Theory* is both intelligent and accessible, making it appealing to a wide range of audiences as well as making sure you learn a thing or two while laughing.

*The Big Bang Theory's* main characters have a range of different personalities, each with their own quirks. **Sheldon** is known for his lack of social skills and obsession with routine, which often causes him to go on long rants that we can all secretly relate to. Needless to say, *How I Met Your Mother* gives us **Ted Mosby's** romantic monologues which are only relatable if you are a lonely and mediocre middle-aged architect. The rest of the iconic Big Bang group is **Leonard**, who is the more grounded and reasonable of the group, **Howard** who is the ladies' man, and **Raj** who struggles with social anxiety and a fear of talking to women.

The show also introduced several wonderful female characters who played a huge role throughout the show. We had a regular non-science focused person in *Penny*, a successful businesswoman who financially supports her household in Bernadette, and a science-driven neurobiologist who does not let anything stop her from getting her way in *Amy*. These women brought a new dynamic to the group as well as added some very much needed women representation in both the world of science and video games. The characters in *The Big Bang Theory* grew throughout the show, and my favorite growth would be that of *Penny's*. She grows beyond being the "dumb blonde" stereotype as she starts to become more branched out and richer than her male counterpart *Leonard*. As for *Raj*, he eventually gets over his fear of speaking to women. Well, without being under the influence at least. These are only a few of the many developments and growth these characters experienced. Even though most of us aren't scientists, we all manage to see parts of ourselves in these characters.

While some shows such as *How I Met Your Mother* focused most of its characters' time worrying about love interests and who should marry whom; *The Big Bang Theory* gave us characters who managed to find love, have accomplished careers and all the while making us laugh and giving us iconic references. With the latter not using outdated, corny one-liners. *Sorry, Ahmed.*





*The Big Bang Theory* is well known for its legacy. It gave us classic catchphrases like ***"Bazinga!"*** and ***"Soft Kitty"*** making them part of everyday dialogue for fans. We also can't forget about ***"Rock, Paper, Scissors, Lizard, Spock"*** which takes a well-known classic game of ***"Rock, Paper, Scissors"*** and elevates it to a whole new level, while a certain other show only has ***"The Slap Bet."*** The show's ability to take nerdy interests and show them in an engaging way helped to make those interests more understandable and accessible to everyone.

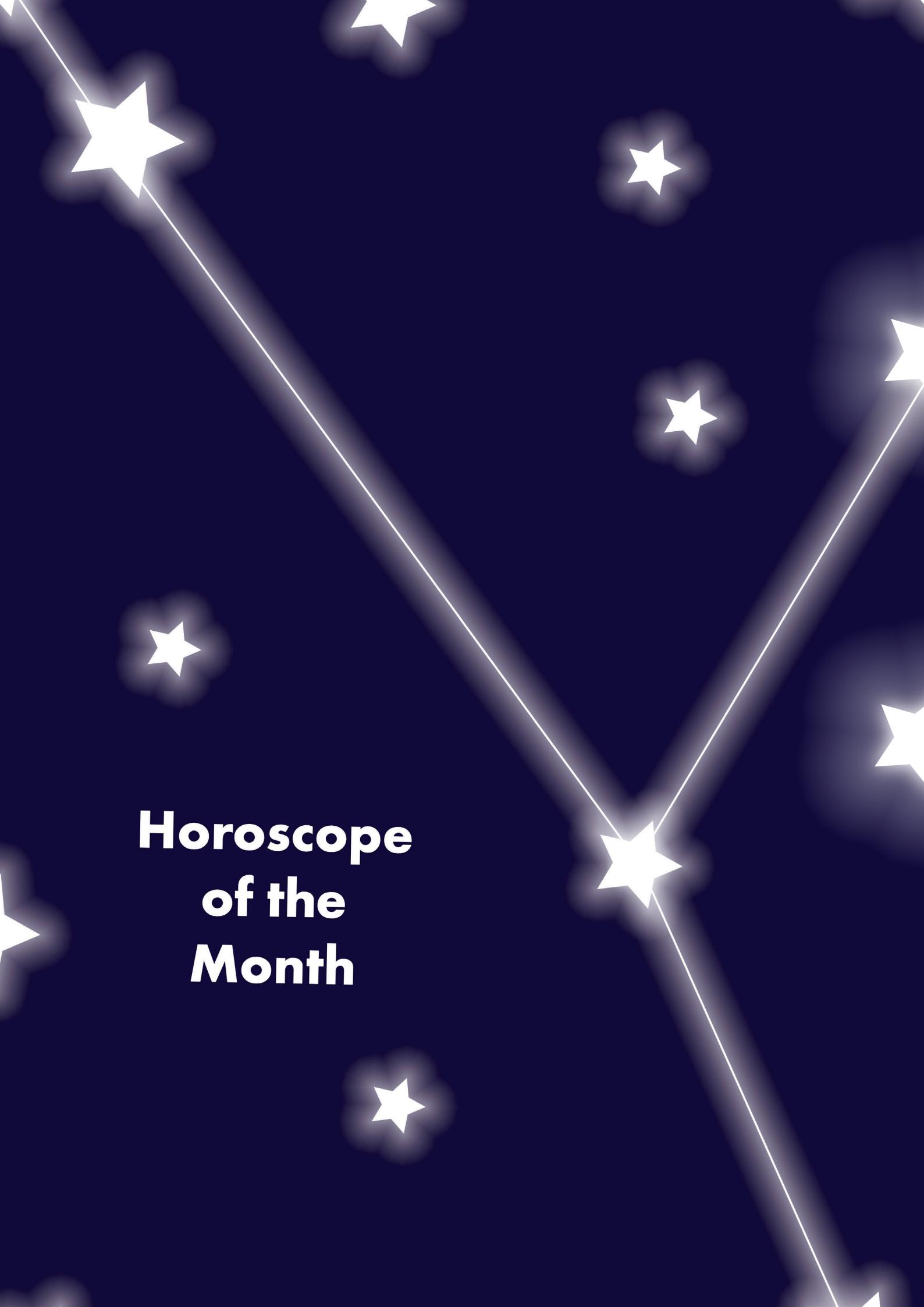
*One thing Ted Mosby can't brag about is having a spin-off based on his childhood. I mean, who has ever heard of Young Ted?*

*The Big Bang Theory* did not only have accessible and intelligent humor, but its characters were also well-developed and easy to relate to, and its legacy will continue to be felt for years to come. While the show may have ended, its impact on pop culture will never be forgotten and people around the world will forever sing "**Soft Kitty**" in joy. If you are unsure which sitcom to start binge watching six hours before your 8AM lecture,

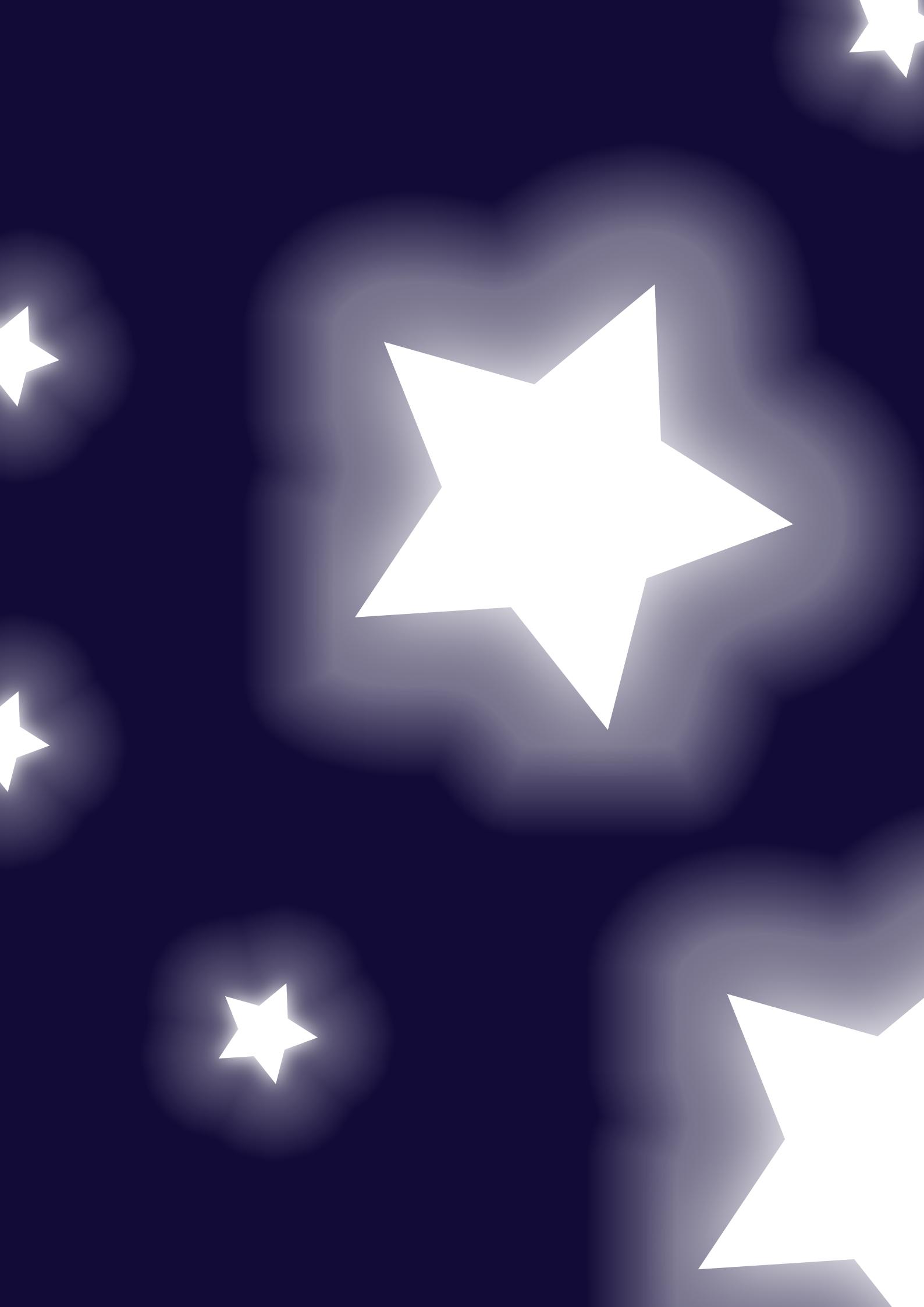
*The Big Bang Theory is a no brainer.*



<https://pyxis.nymag.com/v1/imgs/951/24e/2df97c835f4fcac13e0bfe86dc9950fb2d-02-big-bang-theory.rsquare.w700.jpg>



# Horoscope of the Month



## **Taurus (April 20th – May 20th)**

**Symbol:** Bull

**Element:** Earth

**Planet:** Venus

**Birthstone:** Emerald

### **Facts about Taurus:**

- ★ The symbol of Taurus is the head of a bull with two horns. This symbol comes from the historical view of the constellation in the sky.
- ★ Venus is the ruling planet of Taurus, Venus is the name the Romans gave to their deity of love whose Greek counterpart is the deity Aphrodite.
- ★ The myth of taurus is known as the “wandering bull” in which the bull betrays the goddess Hera and is condemned to wander the earth in search of freedom.
- ★ Taurus has two myths, the wandering bull is one, the other is a story of the deity Zeus’s infidelity to his wife Hera, and this story comes in two versions.
- ★ The stars in Taurus host two open clusters, the Pleiades, and the Hyades.
- ★ The ancient mythologies of Sumer, Akkad, Assyria, Babylon, Egypt as well as Greece and Roman all have mentions of the bull of Taurus referenced in them.

### **Celebrity Taurus:**

Dwayne Johnson, Kelly Clarkson, Adele,  
Lizzo, Rami Malek, Joe Keery

**Gemini (May 21st – June 20th)**

**Symbol:** Twins

**Element:** Air

**Planet:** Mercury

**Birthstone:** Citrine

#### **Facts about Gemini:**

- ★ The word Gemini is the Latin word for twins which is the symbol of Gemini.
- ★ The earliest recorded mention of Gemini was in Aristotle's "Meteorologica".
- ★ Pollux is the brightest star in Gemini and Castor is the second brightest.
- ★ The story of Gemini comes from the myth of Pollux and Castor who are sons of the deity Zeus.
- ★ Castor was known as the mortal twin, while Pollux was the immortal one.
- ★ The symbol of Gemini is also the Roman figure for the number two.

#### **Celebrity Gemini:**

Marilyn Monroe, Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter,

Tom Holland, Morgan Freeman, Peter Dinklage

# VOICE

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