

2015

FIERCE LIST

Hot for some
summer
inspiration?

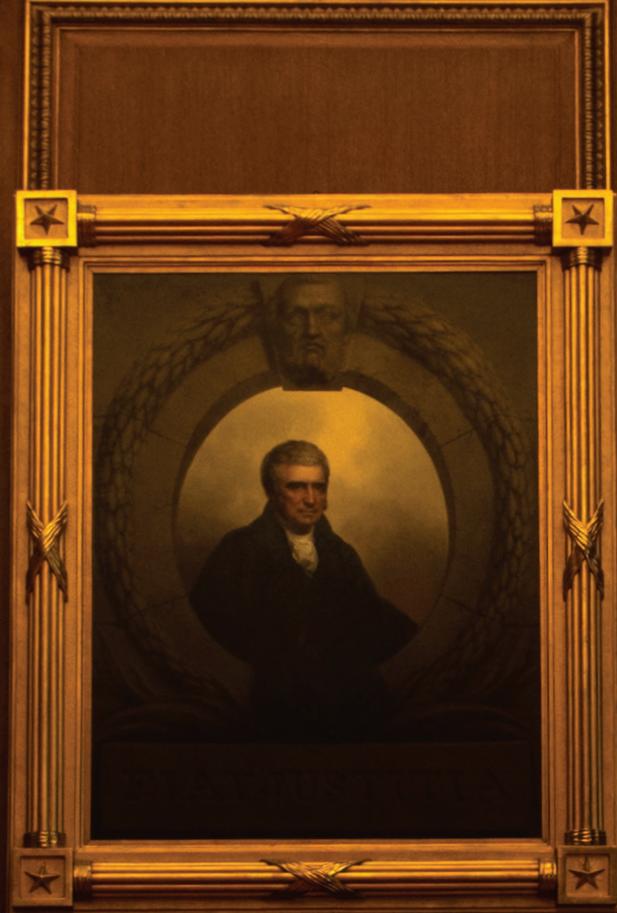
THEN
CHECK
OUT

OUR **FIFTH ANNUAL** CURATED COLLECTION OF **REAL-WORLD ROLE MODELS**. ON THE BENCH, ON THE SCREEN, ON THE SLOPES, ON THE INTERNET, THEY CREATED ART AND COMMERCE; THEY BATTLED SEXISM, INJUSTICE AND DISEASE.

AND **NOW THEY CAN EMBOLDEN ALL OF US** TO GIVE THE WORLD MORE OF OUR OWN AUDACITY, PERSPICACITY AND HUMANITY



I. RUTH BADER GINSBURG



1



NOTORIOUS RBG

Supreme Court Justice **RUTH BADER GINSBURG**, 82, is fine with her nickname: Notorious RBG, bestowed via a viral rap tribute by law students who admire her work, especially her blistering dissents from the majority in such cases as the Texas voter-ID law OK'd by the court last year. She even gives out T-shirts emblazoned with her hip-hop moniker. But while we cheer her good-natured embrace of the meme generation, it's her wisdom and acuity on the bench that wow us—and her refusal to bow to ageist pressure to retire so that President Obama can appoint one more judge before he leaves office.



2. IN THE HOUSE

ELISE STEFANIK, 30, a Republican from New York's northernmost district, is the youngest woman ever elected to Congress. "Many who didn't have the courage to jump into the campaign now say I got lucky," the former White House aide told *More*. "But I am confident it was because of my early courage to step into the arena."

3

Board minded

Earlier this year, **MANUELA SCHWESIG**, 41, Germany's minister for family affairs, senior citizens, women and youth, championed a law requiring that 30 percent of the seats on corporate boards be given to women. Germany isn't the first country to pass such legislation; that was Norway. And it doesn't mandate the highest percentage; Norway, Spain, France and Iceland have all set female-board-member minimums at 40 percent, and Italy's is 33.3 percent. Germany, however, is the richest country to pass a law of this kind and thus may be the most influential. It seems Schwesig is just getting started. Her newest challenge: She's called for a law (opposed by the private sector) that would require companies to let female employees see how their salaries compare with those of their male colleagues.



4. VALUE ADDED



FATUMA ABDULKADIR ADAN, 37, is the first woman from her remote community in northern Kenya to become a lawyer. Twelve years ago, she founded the Horn of Africa Development Initiative to offer free legal services for the poor. Now the nonprofit's programs also create jobs, keep kids in school and promote peace. A brilliant example: Adan started boys' and girls' soccer teams made up of kids from feuding communities. Though their parents clash, teammates have become best friends. Adan, who's gotten death threats for her activism, has found a creative solution to another big problem. When women are killed, their communities have traditionally been awarded only half the compensation a man's life would command—say, 50 cows versus 100. Adan helped persuade local elders to OK an agreement declaring a woman's life to be as valuable as a man's.



5. ON THE MONEY

None of America's notable women has ever appeared on a banknote (except for Martha Washington, on a silver certificate). That's why **BARBARA ORTIZ HOWARD**, 62, created Women on 20s, a national campaign to get a woman's face on the \$20 bill. When Howard discovered that the president can order that the personage on existing currency be changed, she started an online campaign, in which more than 250,000 people have voted. A winner will be chosen from the finalists (including Eleanor Roosevelt and Rosa Parks) and presented to President Obama. Meanwhile, reinforcements: In April, Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) introduced the Women on the Twenty Act.



6

VIRGIN TERRITORY

The perfectly plausible premise of the CW hit show *Jane the Virgin*: A smart, devout 23-year-old Miami Latina working her way through college, engaged but saving sex for marriage, is mistakenly artificially inseminated by a drunk gynecologist, the sister of the sperm donor, who happens to be Jane's former crush and current boss. Then things get complicated. The perfectly wonderful star: **GINA RODRIGUEZ**, 30, who won a Golden Globe for her endearing, complex portrayal of Jane. Like *Ugly Betty*, which rocketed America Ferrera to stardom, *Jane* (which is doing the same for Rodriguez) is loosely based on a South American telenovela. The show deals cleverly and honestly with serious subjects: religion, immigration, reproductive freedom, *familia*, *amor*. And no matter how twisty the plot or surreal the situation, everything is anchored by Rodriguez's performance—believable, relatable, laudable.

7

Yay, Tay-Tay!

TAYLOR SWIFT, 25, mocked her reputation as an airhead and a serial dater in the shrewdly adorkable "Shake It Off," a hit single from her platinum pop album *1989*. She also made news by boldly pulling her entire catalog from the online music-streaming service Spotify, which she says devalues artists' work by not charging consumers enough and by not offering artists a fair cut of the take. Furthermore, she finally showed her belly button to the world—her terms, her Instagram.



8. NO BUTTS ABOUT IT

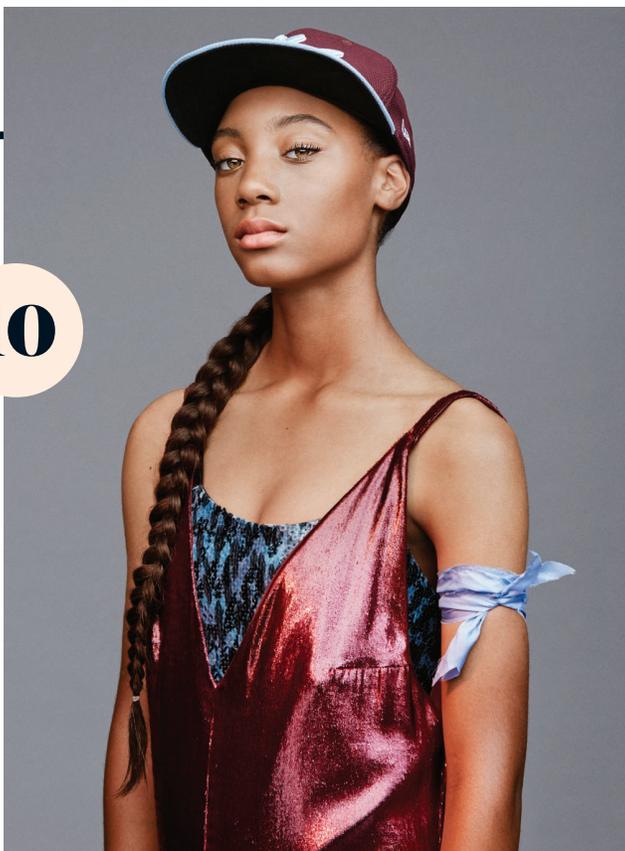
She knew it would cost her company \$2 billion in revenue, but **HELENA FOULKES**, 50, president of CVS/pharmacy—whose mother died of lung cancer—insisted on doing the right thing. In September 2014, CVS became the first drugstore chain to stop selling tobacco products. It also launched a cessation program called Start to Stop. »



9.
EYE ON ISIS

NAREEN SHAMMO, 29, a member of Kurdistan's Yazidi religious minority, was a TV producer and investigative reporter in Iraq when ISIS viciously attacked her community last year, abusing and abducting women. She interviewed escapees and captives (who communicated from hidden cell phones), eventually quitting her job to focus on this issue. After documenting 4,000 abductions, she appeared in a BBC documentary, *Slaves of the Caliphate*. Despite death threats, she still works to keep victims in the public eye.

10



**DIAMONDS
ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND**

"I throw 70 miles an hour. That's throwing like a girl," says Philadelphia's **MO'NE DAVIS**, 14, the first female to pitch a shutout in the Little League World Series. She landed on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. Now she's earned a spot on the Springside Chestnut Hill Academy varsity basketball team, though she's only an eighth grader there. Her dream: future *SI* covers—for her performance on the University of Connecticut's women's basketball team and then the WNBA. Her current passion: She's teamed with the social enterprise M4D3 to design a sneaker collection; a portion of the proceeds from the Mo'ne shoe will benefit Because I Am a Girl, a global nonprofit helping impoverished girls.

12. / 13.
**GETTING
WARMER**



In her book *The Sixth Extinction*—which won a 2015 Pulitzer Prize—**ELIZABETH KOLBERT**, 53 (top), incisively alerts us to the many ways that man-made climate change threatens to wipe out 20 to 50 percent of the planet's species in this century. "We know as much as we need to about the dangers," Kolbert told *More*. "It's crucial that we act on that knowledge to avert the worst." Also hot on the case: journalist and activist **NAOMI KLEIN**, 45. We aren't doing what we know we must, she argues in her book *This Changes Everything*, because capitalism's hunger for profit has trumped common sense and common cause. She sees hope, though, in a burgeoning climate movement that is calling global polluters to account.



11

Transporting

Our favorite binge-watch this year has been the Amazon series *Transparent*, winner of a Golden Globe for best TV comedy. A nuanced look at grown siblings' reactions to their father's late-life gender change, the show was created by **JILL SOLOWAY**, 49, who was inspired by her own dad's sexual metamorphosis. Toggling between the hilarious and the heartbreaking, the characters are both idiosyncratically specific and movingly universal. In *Mort/Maura*, the pater/materfamilias, Soloway, formerly a writer and producer on the HBO series *Six Feet Under*, has given veteran actor Jeffrey Tambor the role of a lifetime; it earned him a Golden Globe, too.



14

Bloody good

ELIZABETH HOLMES, 31, made blood tests easier and less expensive—and became the world’s youngest female self-made billionaire. Holmes was a sophomore at Stanford University when she invented a new way to give accurate blood tests with just a finger prick. Dropping out, she started Theranos, a medical tech company, and this year was named to the *Time* 100, a list of the 100 most influential people in the world. She told *More*, “We have to move from a system designed to treat illness to one that prevents illness.”

15 / 16 ENGAGED CITIZENS



University of Missouri students **ALEXIS TEMPLETON**, 22 (above with megaphone), and **BRITTANY FERRELL**, 25, met as founding members of Millennial Activists United, a grassroots group—now a social justice collective—formed in Ferguson, Missouri, after the police shooting of Michael Brown. They marched, fed protesters, served as street medics...and fell in love. The two were plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit that successfully curtailed the use of tear gas by police against peaceful demonstrators. As they signed their marriage license at St. Louis’s city hall, friends chanted, “Black love matters.”

WHAT MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME ABOUT BEING FIERCE

“Write it all down somewhere.”
—**JILL ABRAMSON**

“Sometimes it’s better to be an independent individual than a team player.”
—**EMMA CLAIRE SULKOWICZ**

“That the word *objectivity* means ‘I object to your activity.’”
—**NAOMI KLEIN**

“Don’t make excuses for anything you did or didn’t do.”
—**CATHY LANIER**

“Be natural. Be you. When someone loves you for you, there is no better feeling.”
—**GINA RODRIGUEZ**

“This is a life to be lived on your own terms and in your own time, not anyone else’s.”
—**KAYA HENDERSON**



18. THE POWER OF LOVE

LUDMYA “MIA” LOVE, 39, is the first black female Republican ever elected to Congress. The mom of three, a convert to Mormonism, is also the first person of Haitian descent to be elected to Congress. She says her father, an immigrant, once told her, “Mia, your mother and I never took a handout. You will not be a burden to society; you will give back.” »

17. ROC STAR

SARU JAYARAMAN, 40, an attorney in Berkeley, California, is cofounder and co-director of Restaurant Opportunities Centers (ROC) United, created after 9/11 to support restaurant workers displaced by the tragedy. Now a national nonprofit with 14,000 members, ROC has won 15 workplace campaigns, recovering more than \$10 million in back wages and tips. Its current key concern: In 43 states, restaurants can pay tipped workers less than the minimum wage—as little as \$2.13 an hour. And the 70 percent of servers who are women often have to put up with sexual harassment to land those vital tips. ROC’s One Fair Wage campaign calls for changes in state laws so that tipped workers can earn a living—free of sexual harassment.

PHOTOS: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JENNY HUESTON, LAURIE SKIRWAN/POST-SPATCH/POOLARIS, PETE MAROVICH/GETTY IMAGES



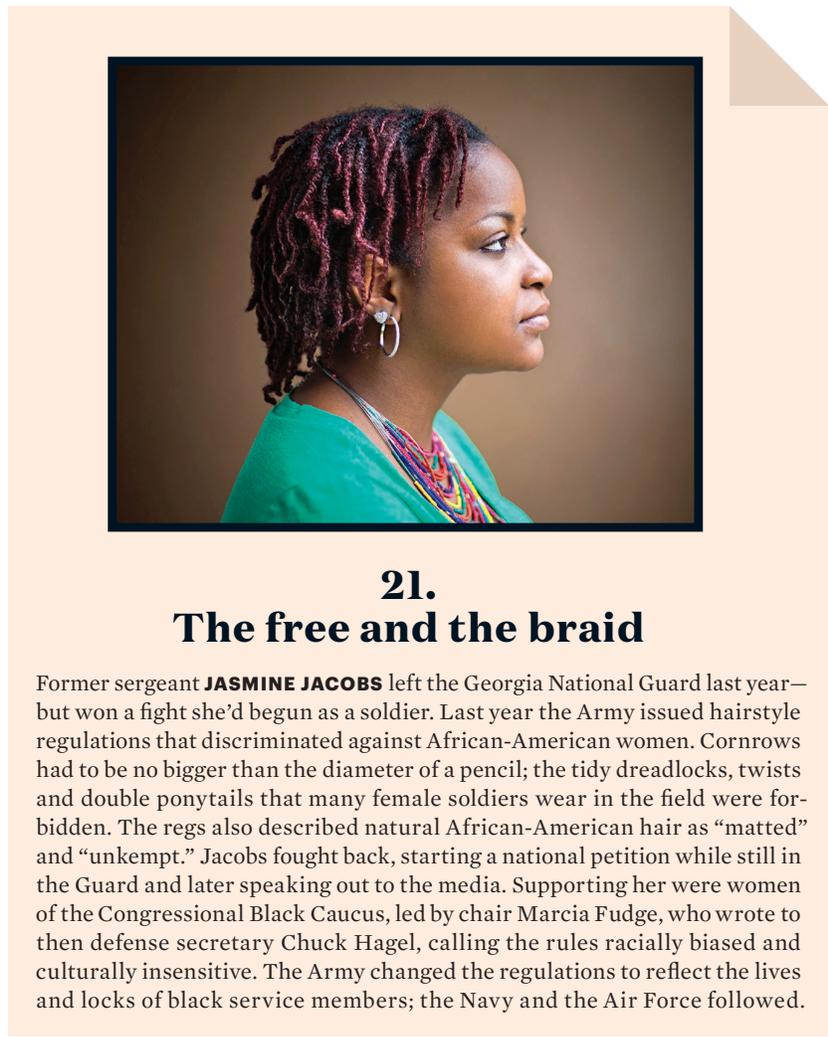
**19.
THE BEST
OF TIMES**

JILL ABRAMSON made history as the first woman to serve as executive editor of the *New York Times*. Less than three years later, she made headlines when she was fired for what insiders called her brusque management style. Undaunted, and without dissing her former employer, Abramson, 61, has rebounded with verve. In the year since her dismissal, she's taken on speaking engagements and a Harvard teaching post and announced plans to partner in a digital start-up that will pay investigative journalists advances of up to \$100,000. Now she's writing a book about the future of media, for a reported \$1 million. Despite her cool demeanor, Abramson told *More* she has a secret weakness: "My dog, Scout. I do whatever she wants, whenever she wants."

20

**NICE CHOICE,
BY GEORGE**

We hail **AMAL CLOONEY**, 37, because she's a smart, effective human rights lawyer (currently defending an Al-Jazeera journalist charged with terrorism in Egypt); because she's become a Jackie O-caliber style icon; because Barbara Walters named the Oxford and New York University Law School grad the Most Fascinating Person of last year. And . . . wait, there was something else. Oh yeah. She accomplished the seemingly impossible: motivating the determinedly single George Clooney to put a (7+ carat, ethically mined diamond) ring on it.



**21.
The free and the braid**

Former sergeant **JASMINE JACOBS** left the Georgia National Guard last year—but won a fight she'd begun as a soldier. Last year the Army issued hairstyle regulations that discriminated against African-American women. Cornrows had to be no bigger than the diameter of a pencil; the tidy dreadlocks, twists and double ponytails that many female soldiers wear in the field were forbidden. The regs also described natural African-American hair as "matted" and "unkempt." Jacobs fought back, starting a national petition while still in the Guard and later speaking out to the media. Supporting her were women of the Congressional Black Caucus, led by chair Marcia Fudge, who wrote to then defense secretary Chuck Hagel, calling the rules racially biased and culturally insensitive. The Army changed the regulations to reflect the lives and locks of black service members; the Navy and the Air Force followed.



**22.
LYNCHPIN**

LORETTA LYNCH, 56, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, was nominated in November to be U.S. attorney general. She would be the second woman, and the first African-American woman, to hold the post. As we go to press, there are signs she may finally be confirmed—after the longest congressional stonewalling in three decades. Praised for her litigation of cases involving political corruption, terrorism, organized crime and racially biased policing, Lynch will have been worth the wait.

PHOTOS: PAGES 10 AND 71, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LEFT, PETER VAN GELDEREN; LUCA BRUNO/AP/ICORBIS; AMANDA FRIEDMAN/TRUNK ARCHIVE; WHITNEY HAYWARD/PORTLAND PRESS; HEFALD VIA GETTY IMAGES; WHO'S GEORGE, ANDREW GUERNER; BRYAN MELTZER/NEW YORK TIMES; REDUX; ILLUSTRATIONS: MICHAEL HOEWELER; PHOTO REFERENCES: FROM LEFT, BRENDAN SMALOWSKI/AP/GETTY IMAGES; JENNIFER SILVERBERG



23. THE F-WORD

Feminist, sure. And fierce, yeah. Purdue University writer and professor **ROXANE GAY**, 40, a new op-ed columnist for the *New York Times*, is also funny, forceful, philosophical, freakin' awesome and... flawed. She wouldn't mind that last one. Her most recent and much-praised books, the essay collection *Bad Feminist* and the novel *An Untamed State*, are, among other things, illuminating explorations of imperfection. "I wholeheartedly embrace feminism and the equality of women throughout the world," she has said, "but I also find myself dancing to misogynistic music... I'm human, full of contradictions and a feminist."

24



Sisterhood

PATRICIA ARQUETTE, 47, won a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her role in *Boyhood*, and her acceptance speech had Meryl Streep and J.Lo cheering. "It's our time to have wage equality once and for all and equal rights for women in the United States of America," she said. Yeah, yeah, she's a highly paid actress, but she was once a struggling single mom. And as the hacked Sony emails showed, there's gross wage inequity in Hollywood. But Arquette was thinking about all of us: American women who work full time still earn on average 77 percent of what men earn. "If we continue with the pace we've been at since 1960," Arquette told *Forbes*, "we won't close [the wage gap] until 2058." We're pleased she's got us talking.

26. / 27. EBOLA WARRIORS



When **KACI HICKOX**, RN (top), landed at a New Jersey airport after treating Ebola patients in Sierra Leone, Governor Chris Christie ordered her into quarantine. Hickox, 34, protested on the grounds that she'd tested negative for the virus; she said she felt treated like a criminal, and she threatened to sue. At a time of growing national hysteria, Hickox insisted on the primacy of science over politics. After **BINTU MASSAQUOI**, 34, of Bo, Sierra Leone, recovered from Ebola, she was shunned and harassed by many. Nonetheless, she volunteered to counsel patients at a Doctors Without Borders clinic and started an organization for survivors. They educate communities about prevention and early treatment, encourage the sick and care for Ebola orphans. >>

25

TOO BIG TO NAIL?

As a young lawyer in the mortgage-securities department of JPMorgan Chase, **ALAYNE FLEISCHMANN**, now in her late thirties, tried to alert the big bosses to shady practices. Laid off in 2008, she began giving confidential testimony to federal prosecutors four years later. In September 2013 it was being reported that JPMorgan might be under criminal investigation for massive securities fraud, partly as a result of her whistle-blowing. Then, suddenly, the bank was allowed to settle out of court, paying a \$9 billion fine in a civil case. The Department of Justice declared victory—but Fleischmann did not. In her view, Morgan and other banks whose shenanigans caused economic disaster for the country had gotten away with wrongdoing while the DOJ looked the other way. Fleischmann went public last year, hoping concerned citizens will insist that the corporations and individuals responsible be prosecuted.





28 / 29 / 30

THE TROLL TAMERS

On her Web series *Feminist Frequency*, **ANITA SARKEESIAN**, 31, pointed out that video games generally present women as sexual objects, and she suggested that game designers avoid stereotypes. Ferocious online harassment ensued, including threats of rape, bombings and death, and the creation of a video game called *Beat Up Anita Sarkeesian*. She continues to speak out against misogyny on the Internet. **MARY BEARD**, 60, a Cambridge classics professor, is also a bold feminist writer and blogger whose opinions often generate menacing tweets and emails. Instead of ignoring the ugliness (“I’m going to cut off your head and rape it”), she retweets or posts the insults. She has even met with some who’ve apologized, including a 20-year-old for whom she ended up writing a character reference. We love that she’s both unflinching *and* compassionate. **ASHLEY JUDD**, 47 (left), experienced a new kind of March Madness this year. During a college basketball game, the actress, activist and Kentucky Wildcats fan tweeted that she thought the Arkansas team was playing dirty. The response: an avalanche of sexually explicit, violent, gender-based abuse. Judd said she would file criminal charges against the perpetrators—and Twitter has responded with a new option that makes it easier to report threats to law enforcement.

Killer serial

With more than 80 million downloads, *Serial* is the most popular podcast ever—and maybe the most addictive. Cocreated and hosted by **SARAH KOENIG**, 45, it’s a spin-off of the radio show *This American Life*, where Koenig was a producer. In the first season of *Serial*, which tells a single story over 12 episodes, Koenig, a former newspaper reporter, reinvestigated a murder case. In the first season of *Serial*, which tells a single story over 12 episodes, Koenig, a former newspaper reporter, reinvestigated a murder case. In 1999, Adnan Syed, then a Baltimore high school student, was sentenced to life for murdering his girlfriend, after two trials that some consider flawed. Koenig was a relatable surrogate for the ambivalent listener, sincere in her struggle to remain impartial as she and her team uncovered missteps on the part of Syed’s first, now-deceased attorney that included overlooking an alibi witness. The Maryland Court of Special Appeals has agreed to hear arguments that Syed received ineffective counsel; a new trial could result. *Serial* will return this year with a new, noncrime story.

31



32.
SNOW
BIZ



Champion skier **LINDSEY VONN**, 30, tore up her knee in 2013; surgery and rehab followed. Then she crashed during practice for the 2014 Olympics and had to withdraw. More surgery and rehab. Naysayers declared her toast. But Vonn trained like a demon and in January won the Super-G, beating a World Cup Alpine women’s record that has stood for 35 years.



33.
HER HONOR

The murder trial of South African Olympic runner Oscar Pistorius was tricky, but Judge **THOKOZILE MATILDA MASIPA**, 67, handled the proceedings with great grace. (Her verdict: culpable homicide, i.e., manslaughter.) Bonus: Seeing the white lawyers address this apartheid survivor as “m’lady.”



34. KA-PAO!

She may have lost her gender-discrimination suit against the venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, but **ELLEN PAO**, 45, dismissed as a junior partner there and now the interim CEO of Reddit, brought much-needed attention to the rampant sexism of Silicon Valley. “If I’ve helped to level the playing field for women and minorities in venture capital,” Pao told reporters after the verdict, “then the battle was worth it.”



35. IN THE HOUSE

NADÈGE VANHEE-CYBULSKI, 37, the new artistic director of women’s ready-to-wear at Hermès, is known for being spotlight-shy. Good luck with that; her first show for the luxury brand, during this year’s Paris Fashion Week, was praised for delivering timeless elegance with subtle pow.

36

Tough cookie

Behold the power of **TARAJI P. HENSON**, 44, star of Fox’s hit hip-hop family saga *Empire*: A *More* contributor was mid-haircut when the woman in the next chair began raving to her stylist about Oscar nominee Henson’s portrayal of Cookie Lyon. (A quick catch-up: Newly sprung from 17 years in prison for selling the drugs that bankrolled the now-huge record label owned by her conniving, still-hot ex-husband, she wants back into the business and the lives of her three sons.) Another customer chimed in, “Love her! She’s so smart and resilient.” This salon, and *More*, both salute you—cool, complex Cookie, graduate of the School of Hard Knocks, Phi Slamma Glama.



37

THE SECRET SHARER

Edward Snowden chose investigative journalist and filmmaker **LAURA POITRAS**, 51, as one of two people to whom he revealed evidence of widespread surveillance abuses by the National Security Agency. (The other was journalist Glenn Greenwald of the *Guardian*.) Poitras, a 2012 MacArthur genius, knows what it’s like to be watched: After she made documentaries about postwar Iraq and a prisoner at Guantánamo, federal agents detained, questioned and released her more than 40 times at U.S. airports. Her risky reporting on the NSA disclosures helped the *Washington Post* and the *Guardian* win the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. And this year she picked up a Best Documentary Oscar for directing *Citizenfour*, an account of her and Greenwald’s first secret meetings with Snowden. “When the most important decisions ... affecting all of us are made in secret,” she said in her acceptance speech, “we lose our ability to check the powers that control.”

38. PARKS AND CREATION

SUZAN-LORI PARKS, 52, who won a Pulitzer Prize in 2002 for her play *Topdog/Underdog*, has knocked us out again. Her latest play, *Father Comes Home from the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)*, about a slave whose master offers him freedom—but only if he’ll fight for the Confederate side in the Civil War—won the 2015 Edward M. Kennedy Prize for a theatrical work inspired by American history. The *New York Times* called it her finest work. In the play, Parks takes on, as always, America’s complicated racial legacy; and as always, she does so with brilliance, humor, humanity and a startlingly fresh perspective. »

39

SENSE OF SCHUMER

We admire **AMY SCHUMER**, 34, for her brains, her raunch and her honesty. We're happy that her Comedy Central series, *Inside Amy Schumer*, won a prestigious Peabody Award, and we're thrilled that she's about to star in a movie she wrote, the entertainingly astute, (realistically) romantic comedy *Trainwreck*, directed by Judd Apatow. "I like tackling the stuff nobody else talks about," Schumer told a reporter, "like the darkest, most serious thing about yourself." And when she does, we laugh our asses off.



40. MATH APPEAL

MARYAM MIRZAKHANI, 38, an Iranian-born professor of mathematics at Stanford University, is the first woman ever to receive the prestigious Fields Medal, the math world's equivalent of the Nobel Prize. The award, Stanford announced, recognizes Mirzakhani's contributions to "understanding the symmetry of curved surfaces, such as spheres, the surfaces of doughnuts and of hyperbolic objects." OK, we know what doughnuts are. We think a hyperbolic object is Kim Kardashian. But we definitely get that Mirzakhani's theoretical work is impressive to mathematicians (one said, "She has the ability to generate her own vision")—and that she's very down to earth: When she got the email saying she'd won, she told *Wired*, she thought it was the work of prankster hackers.

41. THE GOOD, THE BED AND THE UGLY

It was an art project and a protest: When Columbia University decided not to suspend or expel the fellow student she says raped her almost three years ago, **EMMA CLAIRE SULKOWICZ**, 22, vowed to carry a dorm mattress, like the one on which she says she was assaulted, wherever she went on campus until her alleged attacker left school, was expelled or graduated. The project, Carry That Weight, was meant to spotlight the problem of unpunished campus assaults. Along with 22 other Columbia and Barnard students, Sulkowicz, who graduated this spring, also filed a complaint against the administration, saying officials haven't taken sexual assault seriously.

MY FAVORITE QUOTE, MOTTO OR MANTRA

"Either I will find a way or I will make one."
—**NAREEN SHAMMO**

"Luck favors the brave."
—**CONGRESSWOMAN ELISE STEFANIK**

"Wendell Berry: 'We don't have the right to ask whether we're going to succeed. We only have the right to ask, "What is the right thing to do?"'"
—**NAOMI KLEIN**

"When I hurt another being, I hurt myself."
—**ASHLEY JUDD**

"*Pa'lante*—a contraction of *Para adelante*, 'Forward and onward.'"
—**BARBARA ORTIZ HOWARD**

"Jorge Luis Borges: 'Centuries of centuries and only in the present do things happen.'"
—**ELIZABETH KOLBERT**

"It always seems impossible until it is done."
—**FATUMA ABDULKADIR ADAN**

"Ernesto 'Che' Guevara: 'At the risk of seeming ridiculous, let me say that the true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love.'"
—**SARU JAYARAMAN**

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain."
—**JASMINE JACOBS**

"Be relentless. Be excellent. Own your ambition. It's something I tell myself when I worry that I want too much."
—**ROXANE GAY**

"Being focused and flexible is the key to success in business and in life."
—**HELENA FOULKES**

"Jackie Robinson: 'A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.'"
—**MO'NE DAVIS**

"Speak the truth, even if your voice shakes."
—**ALAYNE FLEISCHMANN**

42 / 43 / 44 D.C. power trio



Washington, D.C., is the only major municipality in which women hold the three highest-profile positions. When former D.C. councilwoman **MURIEL BOWSER**, 42 (center), won a hard-fought mayoral election, she quickly announced she would keep Police Chief **CATHY LANIER** (far left) and Schools Chancellor **KAYA HENDERSON** in their positions. Capital!



45

WE ALWAYS WANT MOORE

Justice prevails! Consistently brilliant **JULIANNE MOORE**, 54, a five-time Oscar nominee, won Best Actress gold (plus a Golden Globe and the SAG and Independent Spirit Best Actress awards) for her work in *Still Alice*. Her portrayal of a professor facing early-onset Alzheimer's is searing, endearing, enduring; it's hard to stop thinking about the character. We readily consent to being shattered by the performance because we know that always, ultimately, Moore's heart and artistry bring us joy no matter what the role.



47. BRAVE HEART

Diagnosed with a fast-growing brain tumor, **BRITTANY MAYNARD**, 29, made a decision. She moved with her mom and husband of a year from California to Oregon, where an aid-in-dying law allows terminally ill patients to end their lives. She also started the Brittany Maynard Fund, to lobby for such laws. On November 1, 2014, she took a cocktail of drugs and died painlessly, having written in an open letter that having a choice calmed her during a time "that otherwise would be dominated by fear, uncertainty and pain."



46. Je suis pissed

ANNE HIDALGO, 55, the mayor of Paris (and the first *femme* to hold the post), threatened to sue Fox News for throwing shade on the City of Light. After the *Charlie Hebdo* massacre, Fox News suggested that parts of Paris and England are "no-go zones," where Islamic law rules and cops are afraid to enter. Though the canard was debunked and Fox apologized, Hidalgo is still angry. "The honor of Paris has been prejudiced," she told CNN. "When we're insulted... I think we'll have to sue." For legal reasons, the suit isn't likely to go anywhere, but we admire her esprit.

48. PAX MALALA



Two years after the Taliban shot her in the head for advocating girls' education, **MALALA YOUSAFZAI**, 17, became the youngest person ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize. (She shared the award with children's rights advocate Kailash Satyarthi.)

49. TRUTH AND BOOTY



The most delightful earworm of the year is singer-songwriter **MEGHAN TRAINOR**'s "All About That Bass," a sly, sunny anthem celebrating women who aren't skinny. Trainor, 21, preaches body acceptance, and we listened, to the tune of more than six million copies sold.

50. SLAM DUNK



The men of the NBA have elected **MICHELE ROBERTS**, 58, a successful attorney, to be the new executive director of the National Basketball Players Association—the first woman in the country to head a major professional sports union. ©