

The Advertiser Magazine

FEBRUARY 2026

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THE Advertiser Magazine is published every month, except for January. It is bursting with useful adverts for a broad range of businesses located in Mojacar, Garrucha, Vera Playa, Antas, Los Gallardos, Bedar, Turre, Albox, Alfoquia and Zurgena.

Hugely popular with readers, the magazine is known for its photographic reporting of local events. It also contains articles written by the local community, for the local community.

The Advertiser Magazine is delivered to over 200 local distribution points including our advertisers. The Advertiser Magazine is also available to download from our website www.advertisermojacar.com and approximately 2,200 downloads are recorded each month.

This means that you can always get a copy. To advertise please get in touch using the details below.

Editor: Andrew Goth & Cheryl Woods

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Welcome to the February issue of the Advertiser Magazine

This is our first issue of 2026 so we would like to wish all of our friends, readers and loyal customers a great year ahead.

As we step into this delightful month, the shortest in the calendar, we find ourselves surrounded by the signs of the celebration of love. Mark your calendars for the 14th of February, as it's Valentine's Day—a perfect occasion to express love, affection and appreciation for those special people in your life. Whether it's through sweet gestures, heartfelt messages, or shared experiences, this day is all about love.

Moreover, February also brings us an important fiesta, 'Día de Andalucía'. Andalucía is the most populated autonomous community in Spain, the second largest after Castile and Leon, and is home to more than 8.5 million people. It has eight provinces and a rich, natural, historical and cultural heritage known to all. A special day for all is February 28, when the community celebrates Andalucía Day.

Sadly, Brad H, one of our favourite and longest serving contributors, will no longer be writing for The Advertiser Magazine (see page 10) but the Lifestyle article is here to stay.

Here's to a great month ahead filled with cherished moments and vibrant celebrations!

Andrew & Cheryl

Local Markets

MONDAY

- * Antas
- * Huerca Overa
- * Vera Playa

TUESDAY

- * Albox
- * Cuevas de Alanzora
- * Los Gallardos

WEDNESDAY

- * Cantoria
- * Lubrin
- * Mojacar
- * Palomares
- * Velez Blanco

THURSDAY

- * Carboneras
- * Cuevas del Alanzora
- * Huerca Overa
- * Lorca
- * Olula del Rio
- * Purchena
- * Sorbas

FRIDAY

- * Chirivel
- * Garrucha
- * Taberno
- * Turre
- * Uleila del Campo
- * Zurgena

SATURDAY

- * Aguilas
- * Albox
- * Arboleas
- * Tijola
- * Velez Rubio
- * Vera

SUNDAY

- * Fines
- * La Alfoquia
- * Oria
- * San Juan de los Terreros
- * Villaricos





Sensations

RESTAURANTE

Valentines Evening



Saturday 14th February - Evening Set Menu

*Enjoy a romantic meal in a candlelit elegant environment
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STARTERS	MAINS	DESSERTS
Avocado Salad with Prawns	Fillet or Rib Eye Steak, Chips & Salad	Blueberry Cheesecake
Sauteed King Prawns and Scallops	Grilled Chicken Breast	Creme Brulee
Moules Mariniere - White Wine, Shallots and Cream	Iberian Pork Fillet Skewer	Panacotta
Caprese Salad (v)	<i>The above dishes are served with optional sauces - Peppercorn, Roquefort or Garlic Butter</i>	New York Cheesecake
Homemade Fresh Tomato & Basil Soup ✓	Oven Cooked Lamb with Honey	Chocolate Mousse with Strawberry
Sautéed Mushrooms with Herb Sauce & and Garlic ✓	Fillet of Sea Bass with a White Wine, Cream and Prawn Sauce	Compote ✓
Selection of 3 Pates on a Bed of Leaves and Crusty Bread	Salmon with Tartar Sauce	Ice Cream or Selection of Sorbets ✓
Chicken Wings (Spicy or Normal)	Tuna with Samfaina, Slightly Spicy	Cheese and Biscuits (v)
Angus Beef Carpaccio	Spaghetti with Vegetables (Optional Vegan Chorizo) ✓	
	Grilled Mediterranean Vegetables with Mixed Gourmet Salad ✓	
	Vegetable Lasagne served with Side Salad and Chunky Chips	

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STICKY BEEF WITH NOODLES, PICKLED CELERY AND MINT

This is one of those magic recipes where you do five minutes of work, walk away, and come back to something glorious.

I love making it on a work-from-home day — I'll toss everything into the pot at lunchtime and switch it off later, just in time for dinner. The beef turns rich, sticky, and tender, perfect for tossing through simple noodles.

I finish it with quick pickled celery and mint for freshness and crunch. So yum and easy to throw together, great for weekday meals.

Prep time: 10 minutes - Cook time: 3hr - Serves: 3

Ingredients

- 1kg beef chuck, cut into large hunks
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 brown onion, sliced
- 3 garlic cloves, smashed
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- ½ tsp chilli flakes (optional)
- 2 cups beef stock or water
- ¼ cup kecap manis (sweet soy sauce)
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp sugar (caster or brown)

For serving:

- 200g noodles of your choice, cooked according to packet directions (Tip: Lidl sell amazing dried noodles)
- 2 celery stalks, finely sliced diagonally
- 1 tbsp rice vinegar or white vinegar
- 1 tsp sugar
- ½ tsp sesame oil
- Mint leaves, to serve (optional)
- Black pepper, to serve (optional)

Method:

Heat the oil in a large heavy-based pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add the beef and sear for 3 minutes on either side or until browned on all sides. Remove from the pot and set on a plate.

Add the onion and garlic and stir until fragrant for about 2 minutes. Sprinkle over the coriander, cumin, and chilli flakes. Pour in the stock, kecap manis, soy sauce and sugar. Stir to combine, scraping up any caramelised bits from the base.

Return the beef back to the pot, submerging it in the spiced liquid. Bring to a simmer and then cover with a lid or tightly with foil.

Reduce the heat to low (move to a smaller gas burner if you started on a large one as you need the heat to be consistently low and slow). Let it gently bubble away, covered, for 3 hours, stirring occasionally, until the beef is fall-apart tender and the sauce is glossy and sticky.

Pickle the celery: while the beef finishes, in a small bowl, toss the celery with vinegar, sugar, sesame oil, and a pinch of salt. Set aside for 10 minutes to lightly pickle before draining.

In the pot itself, shred the beef using two forks, mixing it through the sticky sauce.

Serve: pile the noodles into bowls, spoon over the sticky beef and its sauce, and top with the pickled celery and mint. If you'd like a little extra warmth, finish with a generous crack of black pepper.

Ismat Awan is Sydney-based multimedia culinary creative who blends her cultural heritage with modern cooking techniques. She works across a number of food publications and brands. She's on Instagram as @MadeByIsmat

Tips:

Beef tips and substitutes: Look for visible marbling and a little sinew — that's your secret to saucy, tender shreds.

You can also use:

Shin Beef (beef shank) or Brisket

Seasoning: There's no added salt in the recipe because of the soy sauces. Taste and season upon serving if needed.

Noodles: I used dried noodles from Lidl that I soaked in boiling water for 15 minutes, but any noodle works beautifully. The beef is also wonderful over rice, tucked into bao, or stuffed into a toastie or paratha/wrap.

Cooking methods: If stovetop isn't your thing, cook in a 150°C conventional/130°C fan-forced oven or a slow cooker on low for 6–8 hours.

Kecap manis: this is an Indonesian sweet soy sauce. You can find it at your local grocery or Asian grocery shop. If you don't have kecap manis, mix 2 tbsp soy sauce with 1 tbsp brown sugar or honey—it'll give you that same glossy, caramel-sweet flavour.





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Wow, wow, wow, stunning setting, fabulous friendly staff and the food was outstanding. My only complaint is we were too full to sample the desserts. Will definitely be back.



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LifeStyle

February: The Month That Forgot to Be Charming

February is winter with the pleasantries stripped away. The twinkle of Christmas lights is a distant rumor, spring is a known liar and the cold has settled in like it has signed a lease. If winter were a novel, February would be the long middle chapter where nothing happens, everyone is tired and you keep reading out of spite.

This is peak season for the winter blues. Not the dramatic, fainting-couch kind, oh no, February delivers a low-grade, background hum of blah. A foggy dissatisfaction that seeps into your bones. You're not sad, exactly. You're just deeply uninspired, as though your personality has put itself on airplane mode until further notice.

The causes are both scientific and personal, which is rude of them. For one thing, light remains scarce. By now, the novelty of "cozy darkness" has worn off, and our brains, which are solar-powered devices at heart, are operating at 12% battery. Serotonin dips. Sleep cycles wobble. You're exhausted despite having done nothing all day except stare into space and think about soup.

Then there's February's emotional architecture. It's an awkward month, all sharp angles and unmet promises. It wants to be romantic, but mostly delivers compulsory roses and prix-fixe menus you didn't ask for. It's short, yet somehow endless. It offers no real holidays, no sparkle, no satisfying sense of completion—just vibes and endurance.

By this point in winter, fatigue has compounded. We are tired of our coats. Tired of darkness at 6 p.m. Tired of answering, "Still cold where you are?" as if the answer has changed since November. The blues creep in quietly: a shorter temper, an alarming devotion to naps and a persistent feeling that life is happening somewhere else, probably somewhere warm.

So how does one survive February without dissolving into a

Some Sad News

Brad H will no longer be writing for The Advertiser Magazine. He has left us under a cloud of suspicion and rumour—only joking. In truth, Brad has departed to pursue other exciting opportunities that we are, regrettably, not at liberty to disclose just yet. We wish him the very best of luck for the future and thank him sincerely for his many years of witty, amusing, and thoroughly enjoyable contributions.

We will miss you Brad.

puddle of wool sweaters and unmet expectations?

First: light is your closest ally. Seek it shamelessly. Morning light is especially effective, even when filtered through clouds that look like unwashed fleece. Sit by a window. Take a walk. Stare directly at the sky like a houseplant begging for attention. A light therapy lamp can also help convince your brain that hope is still technically an option.

Second: stop demanding miracles of yourself. February is not the month for reinvention. It is the month for maintenance. Drink water. Eat food that contains at least one identifiable color. Move your body in ways that feel kind rather than punitive. Progress may look like simply not quitting everything.

Third: become intentional about pleasure. February does not hand it out freely—you have to cultivate it like a stubborn houseplant that's very close to dying. This is the season for extravagant soups, outrageously soft blankets and books you already know will love you back. Wear clothes that feel like a ceasefire. Let small comforts count as real accomplishments. Social connection matters too, even when your instinct is to cancel all plans and become a hermit with strong opinions. Low-stakes companionship, a walk, a phone call or sitting quietly near someone you like can puncture the isolation winter so thoughtfully provides.

And finally, remember this: February is not a moral test. Feeling flat does not mean you're failing at life. It means you're human in a season that demands patience while offering very little in return. The light is coming back, even if it's doing so reluctantly. Energy will follow. So will color, warmth, and ambition. Until then, be gentle. February will end. It always does, eventually.

Cheryl Goth



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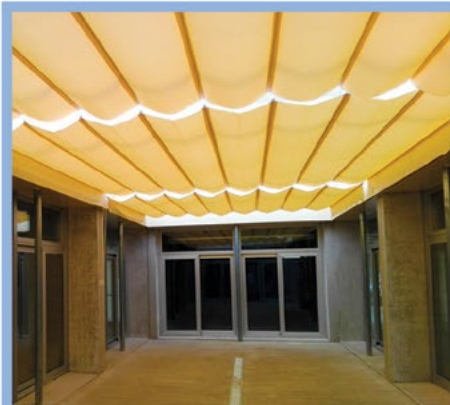
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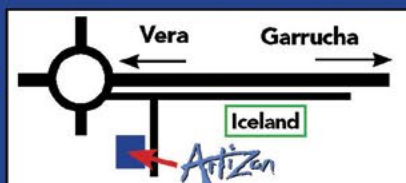
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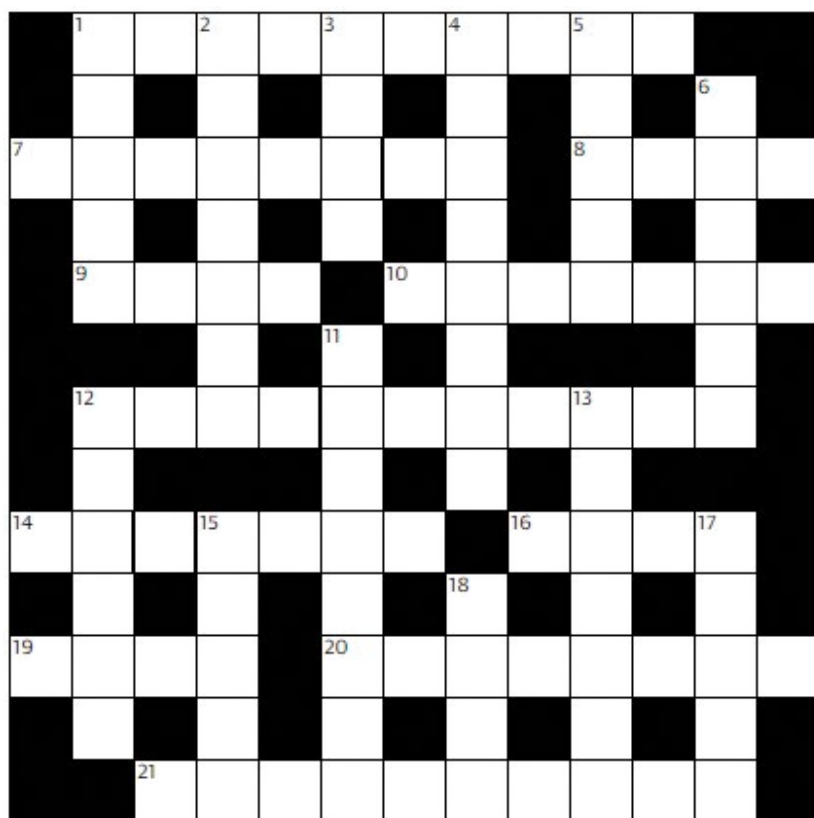


Sudokus

2		5		6				
9		3	1					2
				5			9	6
	7	4			1		3	
5	1		7		3		8	9
	9		8			1	7	
4	3			7				
7					9	5		1
				1		7		3

	6	5	3		8			
	3						1	6
8			6					
	7					5		
4			9		5			3
		2					6	
					4			1
9	1						4	
			8		1	3	7	

Cross Word



ACROSS

- 1 Disparaging (10)
- 7 Confined (6,2)
- 8 Swollen-headed (4)
- 9 Objectives (4)
- 10 Idiotic (7)
- 12 Small long-haired dog (4,7)
- 14 Feeling angry and upset (2,1,4)
- 16 Functions (4)
- 19 Abel's brother (4)
- 20 Out-of-the-way (8)
- 21 Circus compere (10)

DOWN

- 1 Unmanned aerial vehicle (5)
- 2 Swiftly (7)
- 3 Mars, Mercury etc (4)
- 4 Wall hanging, like the one at Bayeux (8)
- 5 Large crow (5)
- 6 First across the finishing line (6)
- 11 Oppressively hot or airless (8)
- 12 Rules for forming proper sentences (6)
- 13 Powdered coffee (7)
- 15 Indian language (5)
- 17 Queen Boudica's (Boadicea) weapon of choice (5)
- 18 (In music) concluding passage (4)

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What's the problem

At the Advertiser magazine, we recognise that everyone needs to reach out for advice now and then. Seeking the help of someone who can not only offer a completely objective point of view but, is also qualified to advise you, may not always be possible.

We are delighted to be able to offer the services of a qualified counsellor and psychotherapist, Theresa Wood, to answer any of our readers issues or problems.

Hi Theresa

I'm absolutely heartbroken. Myself and my partner broke up in the summer, his decision. We have two kids together. Christmas was really hard but I got through it. I suppose I hoped we would sort things out by then but he actually told me on Christmas Eve when I broached the subject that he had met someone else. This week he told me he would like her to meet our kids. I said absolutely not, he's only known her a short while and it's way too soon. I met his sister by chance today who said I'm being unfair to him as they are together now for nearly a year. I honestly nearly got sick when she told me. I reminded her we didn't split till July but she said "yes but he told all the family it was over since the previous year". Was it all a lie? I'm just devastated.

Emma

Hi Emma

I'm so sorry this has happened to you. First of all you are currently in complete shock and you need time to try to process this and take care of yourself. When you have had time to recover, you will see that the facts are still the same irrespective of the details. He is with another woman now, he has probably lied to her as well as you and his family, these are the facts that no matter how long you ruminate and torture yourself, will never change. This is who he is and he will continue to lie to her and the next woman he cheats on her with. You have escaped with your beautiful children, you are good and free. You won't feel it for a while but you have had a lucky escape. Write everything down that you feel today, keep it and read it next year, I promise you'll laugh!

Take Care

Theresa

Readers Answers

Just move on, he obviously has. If it has been a year then I guess she can meet the kids, but do ensure that is what the children want. Perhaps you and your ex could talk to the children together and explain the changes in their life and how you both hope the future will be regarding the children. For the sake of the children they have to see a united front and be able to decide for themselves if they wish to be involved with new partners. Suzy

I think Suzy is right about the children, sit them down tell them what's going and involve them every step of the way. I wish you well. Margaret

I think it really depends on how old they are - it's really difficult for you, believe me I do understand. But it's for the best to try to move on, in that if you want them to maintain their status quo with both parents, make it easier for them to do so. Your sister in law says 'you're not being fair to him' but (apart from her behaviour to you being hurtful) it's not about him, it's about the children and what's fair to them.

As for you, it's a really horrible place to be, you have to be brave; face it and be the better person. Good luck.

Lynn

You need to meet her first and between you lay ground rules. It is very sad and I feel for you, his family are not very supportive to you either. Stay strong and positive.

Sue

Been there, absolutely horrible! Be honest with the kids and let them decide what they want to do!! Move on and be happy.

Sandie

Firstly your doing really well surviving Xmas and reaching out. Having been in a similar situation many years ago try to take care of you and your own well-being.

I agree it seems very soon for your children to meet his new partner BUT I'm sure despite what you say to him he will do what he wants to do. Maybe tell him how you feel like you have done here. Try your best to self care and focus on your own life now. I know it is hard but honestly it really works and is empowering.

You will move on from this place it won't stay like this, I promise you! Stay strong, be confident in yourself, try new things and meet new people. Focus on your children. Plan your time, retain your dignity and all will be well.

Karen

I think you should be glad you are rid of him. He obviously mentally checked out of the relationship a long time ago and has moved on. Perhaps he was completely fooling you about when the relationship broke down or perhaps you were in denial. Only you can answer that. Also, I know this is going to be hard to hear, but you don't get to decide who he introduces his children to. Sorry but that's his decision, theirs if they are old enough. He has as much say over their lives as you do. Sorry to be so blunt but that the reality of the situation. Take care.

Lisa

Theresa Wood M.I.A.C.P. - M.Phil. Psychoanalysis - Bsc. Counselling & Psychotherapy

Would you like to ask for Theresa's advice? Email in confidence at: theresa@advertiseremojacar.com

Top Ten Self-Care Tips That Don't Require a New Personality or a 2nd Mortgage

Self-care doesn't have to mean a 5 a.m. routine, green juice or suddenly loving yoga. At its core, it's about treating yourself like someone you're responsible for. Here are ten realistic, actually doable ways to do that.

1. Sleep like it matters because it does. No supplement replaces rest. Protect your sleep the way you protect your phone battery.
2. Drink water before you diagnose yourself. Many crises are just dehydration in a trench coat.
3. Eat food that looks alive. You don't need perfection, just aim for color and something that didn't come from a vending machine.
4. Move your body gently and often. Walk, stretch, dance in your kitchen. Exercise shouldn't feel like punishment.
5. Lower the bar on bad days. Some days, "doing your best" means showing up at all. That counts.
6. Create small pockets of pleasure. A good book, warm

shower, favorite song. Tiny joys add up faster than grand plans.

7. Say no without writing a novel. "I can't" is a complete

sentence. So is "not right now."

8. Limit doom-scrolling. If the news makes your shoulders live near your ears, step away. The world will still be there later.

9. Stay connected, but keep it low-pressure. A text, a voice note, or sitting quietly with someone you trust still counts as connection.

10. Talk to yourself like you would a friend. If you wouldn't say it to someone you love, reconsider saying it to yourself.



Self-care isn't about becoming a better, shinier version of yourself. It's about supporting the person you already are, especially on the days when everything feels heavy. Small, consistent kindness will always beat dramatic overhauls.

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MOJÁCAR COUNCIL LAUNCHES NEW APP FOR CITIZEN SERVICES 'MOJÁCAR RESPONDE', *A press release from Mojácar Town Hall*

Mojácar Council has launched "Mojácar Responde," (Mojácar Responds) a new mobile application designed to improve communication between residents and municipal services. This tool allows residents to easily report issues related to beaches, cleaning, street furniture, and other public services.

Available free of charge on Google Play and App Store, the app also offers access to useful information about municipal services, as well as data on weather and bathing conditions at the municipality's beaches. All of this is presented through an intuitive and easy-to-use interface.

In addition to facilitating communication with residents, "Mojácar Responde" includes an internal platform for the technical management of incidents. This tool enables municipal workers to receive notifications, record completed tasks, attach graphic documentation, and leave a record of the final status of each intervention. The system incorporates statistics modules, a viewer for geolocated incidents, filtered queries, a clock-in control for cleaning staff and a professional web platform (PGSU) with restricted access based on user profiles.

The Mayor of Mojácar, Francisco García Cerdá, highlighted that "this advancement represents a firm step towards a more accessible, modern, and efficient Local Council. We want citizens to feel heard and to have a useful, simple, and direct tool at their fingertips to improve their surroundings."

"Mojácar Responde not only improves the internal management of services but also reinforces the image of a municipality committed to quality, sustainability, and the experience of our visitors. It is something new, easy, and convenient, both for residents and for those who enjoy Mojácar."

With this initiative, Mojácar Council reinforces its commitment to the continuous improvement of public services, backing modernisation, efficiency, and greater accessibility for its residents.

To start using it, citizens only need to download the "Mojácar Responde" app, register as a user and select the option corresponding to the service they wish to communicate or consult.

MOJÁCAR RESPONDE
NUEVA APP DE ATENCIÓN CIUDADANA

El Ayuntamiento de Mojácar lanza "Mojácar Responde", una nueva app para reportar y recibir información del estado de las incidencias en todo el municipio. Los ciudadanos podrán comunicar problemas en playas, calles y espacios públicos, y seguir su resolución.

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DESCARGA LA APP

Android

Apple

Ayuntamiento Mojácar

The graphic features a central smartphone displaying the app's interface with options like 'Limpieza viaria' and 'Recogida de residuos'. Surrounding the phone are icons for various services: a hand holding a document for 'Información útil', a speech bubble with a question mark for 'Consultas', a thumbs up for 'Fácil de usar', a beach umbrella for 'Servicio de playas', and a magnifying glass over a document for 'Reporte y estado de incidencias'. A QR code in the top right corner links to the app. The background is a dark blue gradient with a city skyline silhouette at the bottom.



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by
Tony Matthews

STRANGE SPORTING FACTS....

CONTINUED FROM THE DECEMBER ISSUE...

81) West Bromwich Albion were the first team to top the first Division table after an opening day 2-0 win at Stoke in September 1888.

82) The first outfield player to appear on 900+ Football League games was Tony Ford who starred for Grimsby Town, Sunderland, Bradford City, Stoke City and WBA etc. 1977-2000.

83) The first player to successfully score a penalty at Wembley was Huddersfield Town's winger Billy Smith against Preston North End in 1922.

84) The first player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup football match was Bert Patenaude for the USA against Mexico in Uruguay in 1930.

85) Sheffield United's hard man Vinnie Jones received a yellow card after just five seconds of a League game against Manchester City in March 1992 – the fastest on record. Jones later received a second yellow in this same game and was subsequently sent off.

86) Perhaps the quickest-ever yellow card shown to a player in an English Premiership game was shown to the Tottenham Hotspur defender Yves Bissouma for an awful 14 th second challenge on Manchester City midfielder Phil Foden in November 2024. Liverpool's Sadio Mane was shown a yellow card after just 15 seconds playing against Chelsea in 2022.

87) Perhaps the earliest (quickest) yellow card brandished in an international football match came after just 17 seconds of the England v Czechia U21 encounter in June 2025. The culprit was England defender Elliot Anderson of Nottingham Forest – cautioned for foul on Matej Hadas.

88) Several sports stars have a nickname – here are a few to set you going: darts champions Phil 'The Power' Taylor and Luke 'The Nuke' Littler; Frank 'Typhoon' Tyson, 'Fiery' Fred Trueman; Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff; snooker stars Alex 'Hurricane' Higgins and snooker ace Mark 'The Jester from Leicester' Selby; boxers Mohamed Ali 'The Greatest', 'Marvellous' Marvin Hagler, 'Sugar' Ray Robinson, 'Smokin' Joe Frazier, Thomas 'The Hitman' Hearns and 'Jersey Joe' Walcott; cyclist Mark 'The Manxman' Cavendish; golfer Eldrick 'Tiger' Woods; tennis stars 'Pistol Pete' Sampras and Rod 'The Rocket' Laver; ice hockey heavyweight William 'The Refrigerator' Perry; basketball genius Earvin 'Magic' Johnson and footballers Lionel 'La Pulga'/'The Flea' Messi, Gerd 'The Bomber' Muller, Stuart 'Psycho' Pearce, goalkeeper William 'Fatty' Foulke (who weighed 25 stone at one time in his career), Leeds hard man Norman 'Bite your legs' Hunter; 'Golden Balls' David Beckham, Allan 'Sniffer' Clarke, Franz 'The Kaizer' Beckenbauer and 'Pele', namely Edson Arantes do Nascimento. Plus there are more, hundreds more!

89) Harry Maguire's winning goal for Manchester United against Lyon in May 2025 was the first scored in the 120 th minute in Europa League history and the first in a major European game since Atletico Madrid beat Liverpool in 2020. Also, it was only the second time that United had won a game 5-4... the first came against Arsenal in the old First Division in 1958. And also, United's narrow win over Lyon was also the first game in major European football history that five goals were scored in extra-time.

90) In 2019, pitcher Edwin Jackson became the first player in history to play for 14 different MLB teams.

91) The world record for limbo skating, a sport where you roller skate under cars, is 6.94 seconds for limbo skating over 50m. This world record was set by Shrishti Dharmendra Sharma from India.

92) Until 1991, soccer was illegal in Mississippi.

93) Labatt Park in London, Ontario is the oldest continually operating baseball ground in the world, dating back to 1877.



94) Before a National Ice Hockey game, the pucks are frozen in order to make them glide smoother and reduce bouncing.

95) In the original rules of basketball, dribbling was not allowed. Instead, a player had to throw the ball to a teammate to keep the game alive.

96) Alzain Tareq of Bahrain holds the record for being the youngest competitive swimmer in the world, debuting when just 10 years-old in 2015

97) Shaquille O'Neal amazingly missed 5,317 'free throws' during his NBA career.

98) The fastest KO in professional boxing history happened when Mike Collins floored Pat Brownson with the first punch and the contest was stopped, without a count, 4 seconds after the bell.

99) North Dakota has the most golf courses of any state in America.

100) Baseball umpires are required to wear black underwear, just in case they split their pants.

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BOOK REVIEW

YELLOWFACE

Rebecca F. Kuang

Rebecca F. Kuang's Yellowface is the kind of novel that grabs you by the collar and refuses to let go. It's sharp, propulsive and unsettling in the best possible way. It's a literary thriller that reads like a satire until you realise, with a creeping chill, how close it is to reality. I devoured it, equal parts horrified and exhilarated, marvelling at Kuang's ability to make such an uncomfortable story so compulsively readable.

At its center is June Hayward, a writer whose envy and resentment feel painfully human. When a shocking opportunity falls into her lap, June makes a choice that sets off a chain reaction of lies, rationalisations, and moral contortions. The author excels at writing an unreliable narrator who is disturbingly convincing; you don't have to like June to understand her, and that's what makes the novel so effective. Page after page, you find yourself thinking, Surely she'll stop now, only to watch her dig deeper.

What elevates Yellowface beyond a simple story of theft is its incisive critique of the publishing industry, social media outrage cycles and the commodification of identity. Kuang skewers performative allyship, public apologies and the way narratives are packaged and sold, often with little regard for truth. The prose is lean and biting, perfectly matched to the story's escalating tension. This is a book that moves fast, but it leaves bruises.

Reading Yellowface feels especially electric in days when podcasters and public figures are being accused of plagiarism, their credibility dissected in real time across platforms. Kuang's novel taps directly into that cultural moment: the fear of being exposed, the ease with which content can be repurposed, and the slippery justifications people use when success is on the line. It's impossible not to draw parallels between June's story and our current landscape of call-outs, cancellations and half-hearted accountability.

Ultimately, Yellowface is both a blistering satire and a deeply entertaining thriller. It asks uncomfortable questions about who gets to tell which stories and, what we're willing to overlook when the final product is "good enough." The brilliance of Yellowface lies in how long it lingers after the last page, leaving you unsettled, thoughtful, and acutely aware of the stories we consume and who we choose to believe.



Cheryl Goth

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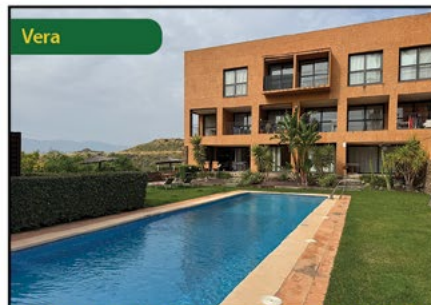


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