

## People &amp; Places

## Television

## 20-season TV show ends

## A journey back thru Kardashians drama

NEW YORK, June 8, (AP) — It's almost time for all those famous Kardashians to shuffle off to Hulu and new projects as their 20-season reality TV mainstay comes to an end.

But before they do, here's a journey back through the tears, tantrums and togetherness that propelled the "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" clan to superstardom:

**The Men & the Marriages**

With five sisters and a brother, along with the Kris and Caitlyn drama, the years have taken us through many a man, a woman or two, and a myriad of love tangles. And the action started at the get-go. The very first episode references the sex tape with Brandy brother Ray J that launched the show and their megacareers.

Before that, there was **Kim's** first husband, music producer Damon Thomas, followed by a 72-day marriage to second husband, basketball player Kris Humphries, and a third trip to the altar with Kanye West. All three unions ended in divorce.

Kim's divorce from Humphries dragged on far longer than the marriage, threatening to keep her legally tethered to Humphries at the birth of her first child, with West. That didn't happen. North West was born two months after mom's second divorce was finalized in 2013.

And that's just one sister!

There's Kourtney's on-again, off-again relationship and three kids with Scott Disick, who makes his first appearance in Kardashian TV land on Episode One. The two never married amid his alcohol and drug abuse scandals, but they co-parent and he's a die-hard on the series. Disick has become a fan favorite to some as the K family has embraced him as one of their own.

Sister Khloe married basketballer Lamar Odom in 2009 and filed for divorce in 2013, but she withdrew the papers after Odom suffered a drug overdose and went into a coma for several days. He was found slumped on the floor of a Nevada brothel. The divorce was finalized in late 2016.

Khloe never married the father of her child - another basketball player, Tristan Thompson. He cheated on her while she was pregnant - and again with her younger half-sister Kylie Jenner's best friend, Jordyn Woods. But Khloe and Tristan are now more than a little friendly and co-parenting 3-year-old True, even quarantining together during the pandemic.

Are you keeping up?

Let's not forget Kylie's relationship with rapper Travis Scott. They never married but also have a child together. And there was Kylie's romance with Tyga, who just happens to have a child with Blac Chyna, who just happens to have a child with Kardashian bro Rob.

Does your head hurt yet?

Chyna and Rob had a tailspin of their own, leading him to post revenge porn on Instagram that got him banned from the platform.

Kardashian stepparent Caitlyn Jenner is OG "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" and continued to appear after her divorce from Kris. She's the parent with Kris of Kylie and Kendall. Kris filed for divorce before Caitlyn became Caitlyn.

Caitlyn publicly came out as transgender in a Diane Sawyer interview in April 2015.

**Name Those Children**

The Kardashian-Jenner clan has oh so many kids, and they're creative name-pickers.

Caitlyn has six children with three successive wives, including Kylie and Kendall with Kris. Kris had four children with her first husband, the late O.J. Simpson attorney Robert Kardashian before she divorced him, too: Kourtney, Kim, Khloe and Rob.

Kim had three kids following North: Saint, Chicago and Psalm. Oldest sister Kourtney has her three with Scott: Mason, Penelope and Reign. There's also Khloe's True, Kylie's Stormi and Rob's Dream.

Some of the Kardashians brought viewers along while giving birth, and we've been treated over the years to home movies showing Kris bringing children into the world. A 12-year-old Kendall watched herself being born. Recently, during the final season, 11-year-old Mason watched his mom pull him into the world herself.

**Spin-offs of Spin-offs**

They're in LA. They're in Miami. They're in New York. No, wait, the Hamptons.

Part of keeping up has been chasing all the spin-offs. Is there a record number? It depends on how spin-off, franchise and canon are defined.

But it certainly is a lot in the reality TV genre, and several had various sisters "taking" various cities. In all, there were 11 spin-offs on TV - many short-lived. Like the show, they were driven by Ryan Seacrest Productions and the E! network.

The first was "Kourtney & Khloe Take Miami" in 2009. It morphed into "Kourtney & Kim Take Miami" after Khloe spun herself back into real life to do other work. There was a plethora of bikinis and big boats as the ladies sought to broaden the reach of their boutique Dash with new locations.

True fans, especially Scott watchers, will remember the 2013 web series "Lord Disick: Lifestyles of a Lord" that was shown weekly in the third season of all that Miami taking. Scott bought himself the royal title in 2012 while on a trip to London and showed off his high-life trappings like fleets of fancy cars while offering tips on how we, too, can live like lords.

In 2011, "Khloe & Lamar" began as the two tried to figure out married life. And there were three seasons of the fitness fest "Revenge Body with Khloe Kardashian" after the marriage didn't work out. Khloe also had a short-lived talk show, "Kocktails with Khloe."

Kris briefly had an eponymous talk show in 2013, culminating in an appearance by Kanye West and his reveal of the first photos of North. The Fox network did not offer her a second season.

After Caitlyn came out, she got her own show: "I Am Cait." It was a serious dive into her transition and whether she was up to being a role model as new friends educated her on issues facing the trans community. It was canceled after two seasons amid low ratings.

**Robbery and more moments**

Perhaps the scariest of all developments was Kim's 2016 armed robbery in a luxury Paris flat during fashion week. Season 13 of the series took on the case and the emotional aftermath. She has openly discussed her terror at being tied up at gunpoint and robbed of her jewels. Kim said she thought she was going to die.

Among their far happier moments: All those over-the-top birthday bashes, lavish weddings and baby showers, let alone the weddings themselves.



Kim



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows, (from left), Noah Catala, Gregory Diaz IV, Corey Hawkins and Anthony Ramos in a scene from 'In the Heights,' which releases in the US on June 11. (AP)

## Books

## Online challenge inspires writers worldwide

## Fiction, poems spring from '1,000-word'

NEW YORK, June 8, (AP) — A. Stella Oloye, a Washington, DC-based writer working on an Afrofuturism novel, was at a low point this spring when she learned of an online challenge she likens to a "gift from God": #1000wordsofsummer.

The rules: Set down 1,000 words a day for 14 days. Fiction or nonfiction, poetry or dialogue, inspired or uninspired, for a future book or simply for the sake of writing.

"I was feeling really isolated plugging away, 2,000 words a day in the first quarter of the year, and had been looking for a writing community to stave off my lonely writer blues," she told The Associated Press recently. "So when the 1,000 words of summer challenge crossed my (Twitter) timeline, I knew I had the opportunity to pair some much-needed community with targeted accountability to finish what I've started. I joined to combat the end-of-the-road fatigue I was experiencing."

Organized and presided over by Jami Attenberg, #1000wordsofsummer has grown from around 2,000 participants in 2018 to more than 14,000 this year, drawing in emerging writers such as Oloye and such established authors as Attenberg, Roxane Gay and Deesha Philyaw.

Rachel Yoder wrote some of "Night-bitch," a novel which comes out in July and has been optioned for a film starring Amy Adams, during a previous 1,000-word challenge. Attenberg herself worked on her memoir "I Came All This Way To Meet You: Writing Myself Home," scheduled for release in January.

"One of the real reasons I started this, and persisted with it, is that writing gives me so much joy and I want that same joy for other people," Attenberg says.

The 2021 challenge began May 31 and ends Sunday.

Online writing events aren't new. The nonprofit organization NaNoWriMo has unofficially declared November to be National Novel Writing Month, with Sara Gruen's bestselling "Water for Elephants" among the

books to come out of it. The internet also is home to author Rebecca Fyfe's ChaBooCha, which gives writers the month of March to complete an "early reader, chapter book, middle-grade book or YA novel," and author Julie Hedlund's 12 x 12, for which participants attempt 12 picture books in 12 months and might see their names on a "Winner's Wall."

Attenberg's project is more informal and open-ended, with no honors or promises, no kind of writing favored over another, and no specific goal beyond the number of words. The concept arose spontaneously three years ago. Attenberg and a fellow author based in New Orleans, Anne Gisleson, decided to start a writing "boot camp" for themselves, 1,000 words a day. Attenberg shared her idea on Twitter and Instagram, and friends and strangers alike wanted to be included.

**Advice**

"It was very organic and natural. I've learned that on social media you try not to force things. You just let people respond to things rather than force things to happen," says Attenberg, whose other books include the bestselling novels "The Middlesteins" and "All Grown Up."

Attenberg offers encouragement on her Craft Talk newsletter (https://1000wordsofsummer.substack.com), and has brought in Celeste Ng and Lauren Groff among others to share advice. One of this year's contributors is Rumaan Alam, whose novel "Leave the World Behind" was a National Book Award finalist in 2020.

"Advice about writing is mostly pretty awful, but a long time ago, another writer said something to me, really an aside, a stray thought, that has stuck with me, as advice about writing, or maybe advice about life itself. 'No one is ever going to ask you to write a book,' she said, and she'd know, having published three at that point," Alam writes.

"Take the 'book' out of it; no one will ask you to write, full stop. It's up

to you. You probably already knew that, which is why you're trying to produce 1,000 words a day right now."

Participants follow different paths to 1,000 and have different reasons for trying. Nicole Stellon O'Donnell is primarily a poet, but also writes "little bricks of prose" to reach her quota, and when finished looks for lines she can use for standalone poems.

Fiction writer Dantiel Moniz struggled to set down any words in 2020, whether because of the pandemic or stress over the presidential election. The writing challenge has helped assure her she can still "remember how to do it, and it was so nice and exciting."

Philyaw, whose debut story collection, "The Secret Lives of Church Ladies," recently won the PEN/Faulkner prize for fiction, welcomed the 1,000-word challenge as a way of focusing on a planned novel. Yoder worked on "Nightbitch" for the 2018 challenge, when she had recently become a parent, and found the experience "really good for generating material" and "just the right amount of pressure."

Cheryl Strayed, best known for her memoir "Wild," joined this year after initially being a "cheerleader" and "observer on the sidelines." She is writing another memoir, and credits the summer challenge with helping her recall details from her teens, when she had a summer job working in the woods in her native Minnesota.

"I knew it was there in my memory, and it came up in the course of my writing and suddenly it was fertile. Who knows if it would have come to the surface if I hadn't started this thousand-word thing?" Strayed said.

"1000wordsofsummer" isn't just a path to discovery or a test of dedication, but a way for writers to find each other. Thousands have joined a Slack channel started by Attenberg and many set up subgroups; Oloye's is #queer-blackwritersroom. Philyaw said the writing challenge gave her a feeling of "community" and likened it to the Zoom conversations she had during the pandemic.



This image provided by HarperCollins shows Jami Attenberg, organizer of the online writing challenge #1000wordsofsummer. (AP)



Bieber



Snoop Dogg

## Variety

**TBILISI, Georgia: Rezo Gabriadze**, a legendary Georgian theater director and film screenwriter who has won broad fame across the former Soviet Union for movies he wrote, has died. He was 84.

His relatives and colleagues said he died Sunday of an unspecified illness in Tbilisi.

Gabriadze, an iconic figure in the former Soviet Union, wrote numerous movies, including Mimino and Kin-Dza-Dza, the cult comedies by Georgian director **Georgiy Daneliya**.

Gabriadze also was an artist, sculptor and a very productive book illustrator. In 1981, he founded a puppet theater in Tbilisi and was best known internationally for its productions. (AP)

**MEMPHIS, Tenn: Singer Shemekia Copeland** and guitarist **Christone "Kingfish" Ingram** are among this year's top winners at the Blues Music Awards.

Veteran musicians **Charlie Musselwhite** and **Elvin Bishop** also won multiple awards for their album "100 Years of Blues" during Sunday's awards show, which was held online due to COVID-19 pandemic precautions.

Winners were chosen by members of The Blues Foundation, based in Memphis. The awards have been held for 42 years.

Copeland won the B.B. King Entertainer of the Year award, the show's top honor. She also won the contemporary blues female artist and the contemporary blues album awards.

Ingram, who won five times last year, took home the contemporary blues male artist and guitar instrumentalist awards.

The collaboration between Bishop and Musselwhite led to awards for album of the year and traditional blues album of the year.

**Mike Zito** won in the categories of blues rock artist and blues rock album for "Mike Zito and Friends-Rock 'n' Roll: A Tribute to Chuck Berry."

Blues Hall of Fame members **Bettye LaVette** and **Bobby Rush** also won awards. (AP)

**NEW YORK: Snoop Dogg** is getting ready to bark out orders at Def Jam Recordings — he's joining the label as an executive creative and strategic

consultant.

Def Jam announced Monday that newly created role for the iconic rapper "will allow (Snoop) to strategically work



Brazilian musician Sergio Mendes poses for a portrait at home, May 18, 2021, in Los Angeles. The documentary "Sergio Mendes & Friends: A Celebration" will be airing on PBS in June. (AP)

across the label's executive team and artist roster." Acts signed to the label include **Kanye West**, **Nas**, **Justin Bieber**, **Big Sean**, **Logic**, **Jadakiss**, **2 Chainz**, **Jeezy**, **Jhené Aiko**, **Bobby Sessions** and late rapper **DMX**. Def Jam is a division of Universal Music Group, also home to Interscope Geffen A&M, Capitol Records and Republic Records.

Snoop Dogg, 49, will be based in Los Angeles and will report to UMG CEO and Chairman **Lucian Grainge** as well as **Jeffrey Harleston**, Def Jam's interim chairman and CEO.

Snoop Dogg released his debut album nearly 30 years ago, and has had a successful run since. He's sold 30 million albums worldwide, earned 16 Grammy nominations and topped the charts with several hits, from "Gin and Juice" to "Drop It Like It's Hot."

He emerged from the West Coast on the gangster rap scene, with music produced by Dr Dre and released on Suge Knight's Death Row Records.

He's become a multi-format entertainer and has appeared in several films, launched businesses and is a media personality, even earning an Emmy nomination alongside Martha Stewart in 2017 for "Martha & Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party." He's also released gospel and reggae albums. (AP)