

# The Sixth Beatle

*A Skeptics Guide to the Universe & Exaltation of Larks Puzzle Collaboration*

We've just received an important tip from our friends across the pond: The legendary Sixth Beatle has been confirmed to be in attendance at NotACon! Brian knows who it is, but he's keeping his lips tightly sealed and won't reveal their identity unless he's totally sure he can trust you.

Your task this weekend is to gain Brian's trust. To do this, you must solve the attached puzzles, which will lead you towards the Secret Pass Phrase. When you say the Secret Pass Phrase to Brian, you'll be in his Inner Circle™, and he will reveal the Sixth Beatle's identity to you.

This packet includes five puzzles. Each puzzle has a solution that's a word or phrase which, when combined with additional information on Saturday night, will reveal the Secret Pass Phrase.

The first solvers who complete this mission by the end of NotACon will receive a special prize in addition to 1) the identity of the Sixth Beatle, and 2) Brian's (highly valued and rarely given) trust.

Good luck!

## Ground Rules

1. Participants are encouraged to work in teams to solve the puzzles.
2. Answers to the five main puzzles may be checked by scanning the QR code below.
3. If you are stuck and don't know what to do next, talk to Brian. He's actually pretty nice, despite what you may have read online.
4. Reference materials, including search engines and the internet, may be used as solving aids.
5. The spirit of fair play is expected throughout. Don't spoil puzzles for other people, and don't do anything to hamper other people's solving.

## Your answers:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

**To check answers,  
scan this code:**



# 1. Don't Let Me Down

*Someone has been reviewing old movies for a genre website, but they seem to have been distracted by the music they're listening to.*

## REVIEWS

### Absolutely Horrid, Disgusting Noise

Sure, this 1968 "classic" invented an entire genre (or two) and spawned a bunch of sequels happening at different times of day, but was it worth it? I was expecting this movie to give me everything, but instead it just put me to sleep like a log.

### Abominable, Hideous, Dreadful, Noxious

This 1981 fantasy caper wants to be whimsical but is actually just plain upsetting, leaving the main character in the lurch at the end when his parents explode. If the sun has faded away, I'm not sure a supreme being is going to save us.

### Mostly Mindless Trash

This low budget 1984 classic is intense, but the life of someone doing the title job here is always intense. Is it the aliens? The cars? The beautiful people? The big brown bags? I sure as hell don't know, but what a thing to do.

### Total Bupkus

So much in this 1985 time travel hit reads as just plain creepy today, even if the (worse) sequel's alternate timeline feels kind of prescient. I did enjoy all the period pop culture references, like that airline B.O.A.C.

### Particularly Miserable

Why would someone make a movie like this 2014 action snoozefest about a dog-loving hitman hell-bent on revenge? You know how hard it can be to appreciate a film like this, the way things are going? Very.

### Ridiculous

Groundhog Day meets Aliens in this 2014 disaster about what would happen if time-looping extraterrestrials in Europe could anticipate humanity's every move on the battlefield. If you want to appreciate this one, turn off your mind, relax, and float.

### Bad For Sure

I know people love this 1982 sci-fi horror classic, but I just don't find it plausible. There's no way that dog could run that far in that weather, and from that point on I just didn't buy any of it, especially the guy's head turning into a weird bug monster. I remember the first time I saw this (people tell me I'm lucky to have experienced it in the theaters), but I felt that way then too.

### Pretty Mediocre

Is this 1996 fiasco patriotic or just dumb? THOSE SYSTEMS AREN'T COMPATIBLE!!! It's a miracle that a Sunday driver can steer the spacecraft the way he does. This is a one way ticket to boredom!

### Really Subpar

The space vampires in this campy 1985 horror classic with a Star Trek actor should have been terrifying, but they're not. I know I'll often stop and think about them and how they explode when they turn into zombies, even though some are dead and some are living.

### Horrible!

This 1997 action-driven mess posits the question: can two larger-than-life actors do impressions of each other for over two hours? (Answer: not really.) Forget the time or place — had it been another day, the film would have been just as dreary.

### What Total B\*\*\*\*\*t

This saccharine 1999 Pinocchio ripoff starring a guy who got his start playing an alien on TV couldn't be worse, and audiences knew it. Please, let me understand why this got made.

### Lacking In Believability

This 2019 sequel seems to be mostly about how much it sucks to live in Maine, especially if you grew up dealing with a homicidal shapeshifting monster. Seems like people in New England should already know this, but there is still a chance that they will see this wretched film.

### **Rubbish Squared**

This 1976 crapfest makes living in geodesic domes look even worse than it sounds, but at least a computer's in charge of everything and people's hands look kind of cool. Sanctuary? That's the end, little girl, and it can't come soon enough!

### **Look, It Blows**

This is a long-awaited 2015 sequel about a guy who spends most of his time getting carted around in a post-apocalyptic desert, then helps a bunch of women escape through the wild and windy night. You'll never know the many ways I've tried to like this movie!

### **Super Passionless, Like Hollywood Can Be**

This 2001 psychological "thriller" based on a Spanish movie from 4 years earlier features one of moviedom's most intense actors getting confused about what's real and what's just a result of him doing drugs (which he denies). He wanders from a boat on a river to a bridge by a fountain...the psychedelic imagery's a little on the nose here, don't you think?

### **All Right**

Watching this 1985 lycanthropic dud based on a previously existing work and starring a teen heartthrob would almost be worse for the residents of Tarker's Mill than the events in the movies. And guys, if you wanted to kill a werewolf, you should have made sure that he was dead. Bang! Bang!

### **Too Bad!**

This wry, special effects-heavy 1997 buddy comedy starring a politician's former roommate and a guy who sort of played himself on TV has promise, but it just never really gets off the ground. They should be chasing aliens instead of wasting their time singing in the dead of night!

### **Real Shame**

This 2013 catastrophe about a midwestern alien just doesn't have a point of view and doesn't know where it's going. Moreover, it's an origin story we've seen at least once before. At least they didn't CGI the lead actor's moustache off in this one.

### **Lackluster, Inane, Banal**

A great director helms this 2018 monstrosity based on a book about why Gen X pop culture will save the (real and virtual) world. Move over once, boomer, move over twice, boomer...move over, and try not to fall asleep while you do it.

### **Truly Boring**

Weird shrimp guys from New Zealand push this 2009 allegory into "why are we doing this" territory, and the sound collage aspect makes that even worse. What is this, King Lear? Clearly the director is getting a little bit older and a little bit slower. Hard pass.

## **RANKINGS**

1 / 3 2 9	5 / 4 2 3 6 2 3 1.1.1.1.
10 / 7'1 6 6 6	9 / 3 4 7 2 3
21 / 4, 3'2 1 4 4 3	7 / 5'1 3 3 4 4
8 / 2 2 9	13 / 1'2 4 4 1 4/3
6 / 3 2 7 3 2	1 / 4 2 3 7 3 4 8
11 / 4 2 8 5 5	7 / 5 6 3 5
9 / 7 3 2 5	5 / 12 3 7
24 / 3 4 3 7 3 3: 4 4	6 / 5 6 3 5 3
14 / 1 4 3'1 5 2 3 6 4	8 / 1 5 2 4 12 3
13 / 10 8 1	9 / 3 6 2 4 4 3 4

# 2. I'm Looking Through You

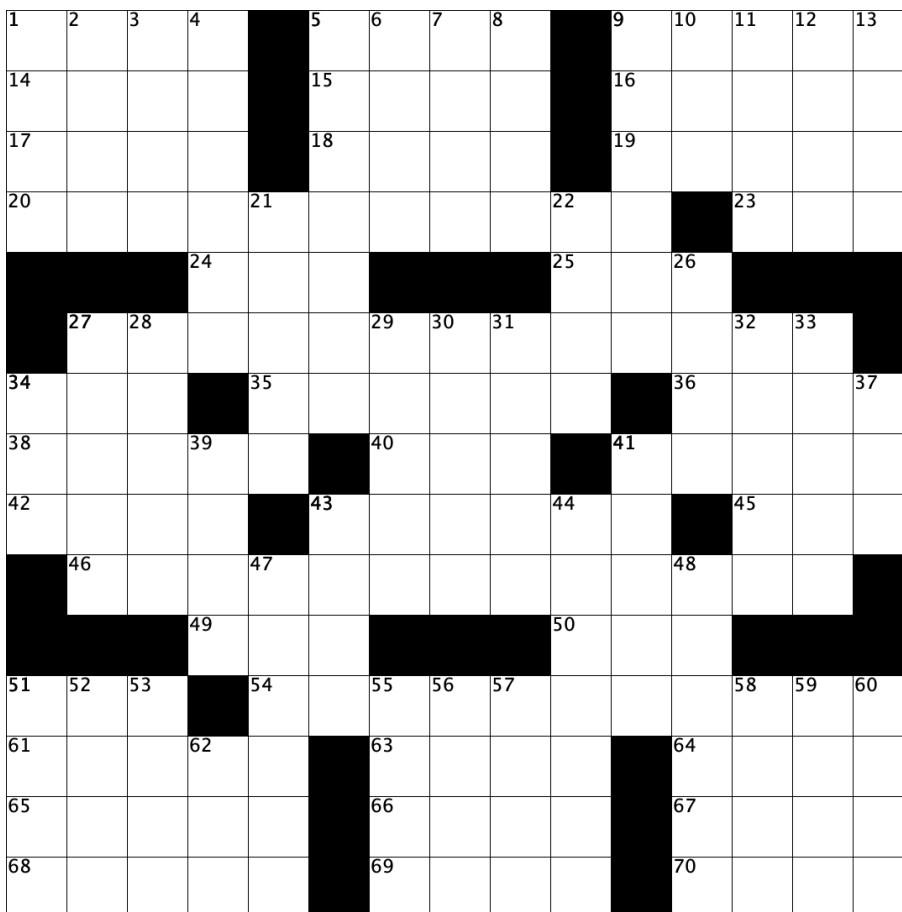
The Fab Four manage to squeeze in an appearance, but it's almost as if they're invisible.

## Across

1. "Left Hand Free" band named for the keyboard command used to produce Δ
5. Big party for charity
9. Steer clear of
14. Neighborhood below Astor Place
15. Aerial phenomena often debunked on SGU
16. Wood-turning tool
17. Food thickener derived from seaweed
18. Roman numeral usually found only on clock faces
19. With "The," satirical news outlet that is attempting to purchase Infowars
20. Mastermind behind John F. Kennedy's assassination, according to some conspiracy theorists
23. Key figure in many conspiracy theories
24. "Yes, Captain!"
25. Digital communication? (abbr.)
27. These can be used for shelter when camping, or to cover up evidence and thus fuel conspiracy theories
34. 60 secs.
35. Inputs, as data
36. Catcher's glove
38. Bear named for a President
40. See 37 Down
41. Cherry in music
42. \_\_\_ vera
43. Texas oil company whose name comes from the Spanish for "treasure"
45. Time of your life?
46. \_\_\_ Chicken? (Chinese food order option)
49. \_\_\_ Rosenkavalier
50. Early Beatle Sutcliffe
51. Sound of disapproval
54. "Something" might be the only Beatles song recorded by the band with this large ensemble (and no brass or winds)
61. Pass, as a law
63. Gagarin who might be one of the Lost Cosmonauts
64. Atkins of country music
65. Urban's opposite
66. Said "Not guilty," perhaps
67. First-rate
68. Diminish or recede
69. Mother of Castor and Pollux
70. Like some painting subjects

## Down

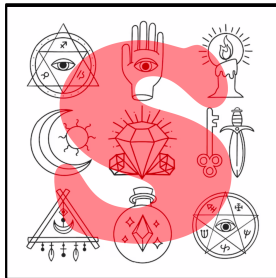
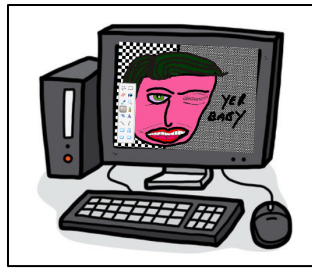
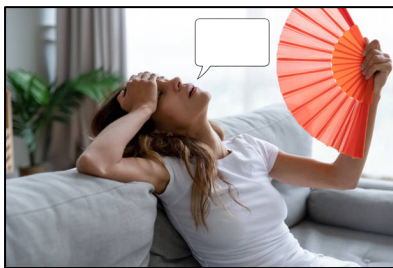
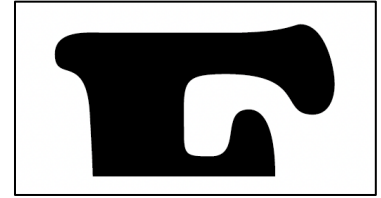
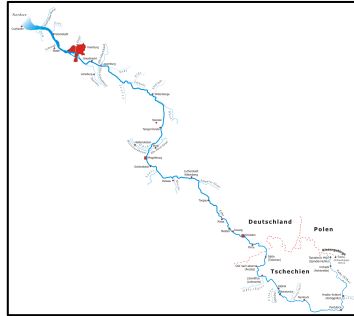
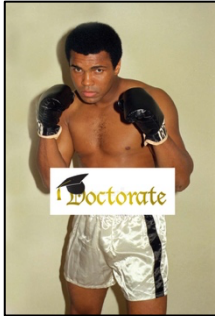
1. Uptight, informally
2. Sluggish from overeating
3. Larger-life link
4. NBA player whose 1993 retirement was rumored to be a concealed suspension



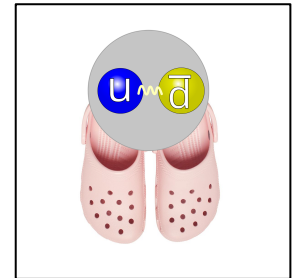
5. Conakry native
6. Certain irregular heartbeat, for short
7. Cut of pork
8. Garage sale caveat
9. Mets slugger Pete
10. "Sitting on a cornflake, waiting for the \_\_\_ to come..."
11. Cindy who wrote "True or False: A CIA Analyst's Guide to Spotting Fake News"
12. Restaurant chain that advertised a fake "flip" from P to b to promote its new burger
13. Oft-used media strategy, whether the accusations are true or not
21. Yiddish "Yikes!"
22. Rowers' needs
26. Fruit in a gimlet or a margarita
27. Sky, in Spain
28. Disney+ title character played by Diego Luna
29. Dutch painter Jan
30. High-strung
31. Intense feeling of love
32. Girls of Guadalajara
33. Prefix for a -saurus with armored plates
34. Kingston Trio hit with the lyric "Fight the fare increase!"
37. With 40 Across, aptly titled final song recorded collectively by all four Beatles
39. "Paul is \_\_\_" (hidden message in a Beatles conspiracy theory)
41. Nick of "Cape Fear"
43. Wrongful act, in law
44. Quincy's daughter, star of "Angie Tribeca"
47. Swiss corporation in a notable baby formula marketing controversy
48. Native of Florence or Pisa
51. Giga- times a thousand
52. Give the cold shoulder to
53. Tech journalist Swisher
55. Its main branch on Fifth Ave. features two famous lions (abbr.)
56. Golden \_\_\_
57. Rep on the street
58. Ten Commandments pronoun
59. Tear apart
60. To \_\_\_ (exactly)
62. Domestic animal that might be an alien spy, according to some theories

# 3. Eight† Days a Week

*There's one more stuck in there than there should be. That's all mixed up!*



	4	-	5	
Florida Panthers (0 - 1)				Toronto Maple Leafs (1 - 0)
Round 2 - Game 1 (TOR leads 1 - 0)				
Team				
Florida Panthers				
Toronto Maple Leafs				
	1	2	3	T
	1	0	3	4
	3	1	1	5



## 4. Magical Mystery Tour

*We're ROCKIN' AROUND THE WORLD (using capital letters). But what countries will we visit?*

If you're a vocalist, to look your best while you \_\_\_\_\_ cleansing soap is recommended.

It sounds crazy, but "Pau \_\_\_\_\_ kers" might have been less controversial than saying he was dead.

When recording, you might have to over \_\_\_\_\_ es that you mess up on the first take.

Are George's guitar sol \_\_\_\_\_ ved more than John's?

Many metal bands' lyrics \_\_\_\_\_ ted, filled with cursing and violent imagery.

Every time I go on tou \_\_\_\_\_ in 10 pounds from all the crappy food I eat.

Most people would r \_\_\_\_\_ m Khachaturian as the greatest Armenian composer of all time.

Hot take: I thin \_\_\_\_\_ lfrog would sound better than Paul does on "Oh Darling".

I'd cal \_\_\_\_\_ gine" the best song written by any of the Beatles.

After I quit as a recording assistan \_\_\_\_\_ studio of my own for a while.

Professional conductors prefe \_\_\_\_\_ on to using just their hands.

Can you guess which \_\_\_\_\_ vish with praise in my new love song?



# 5. I Want to Tell You / Oh! Darling

*For a duo like Lennon & McCartney, songwriting is easy – they just figure out the bits and put everything together.*

All-knowing bad guy (10 7)

One who's anti-sleeplessness (8 7)

Charged particles in rump broth (6 4 7)

Craniosacral smut (11 7)

Unobjectionable vowel combinations (9 10)

Belief system of a large bird (7 8)

Suddenly no longer available, like a book (3 2 5 9)

Whiskey for an underground worker (4 5 7)

North African grain dish with a lot of data (11 8)

All the President's henchmen (4 6 7)

Shop owner who sells Rorschach tests (7 10)

Sinful beginnings (7 7)

Not the real Emma or Hunter (8 8)

Weird popes from Tulsa (3 8 8)

Deserves ravioli filling (2 6 2 7)

Required certified produce (10 8)

Happy-go-lucky brother of Nick and Kevin (10 3 5)

Notwithstanding unhealthy substances (2 5 2 6)

A ANTJ BL C CA CECR CER CH CS CU DD DE EJ ENTV ES ET FF FFS FPR FR FT G GAT GHT  
GY KLAH L LLA LS MAP MM MN MN MP MPS N N N N NAS NERB NF NGS NKBL NM NN NS NS  
NS NS NS NSP NT NT PATH PTH PP PR R R R RAL RGAN RMA T RTH RTHY RY SC SER ST  
STE STR SW T T TE TPR TTA UC UPPR URB US USC USD UT VAL VEC VERN X XTA