

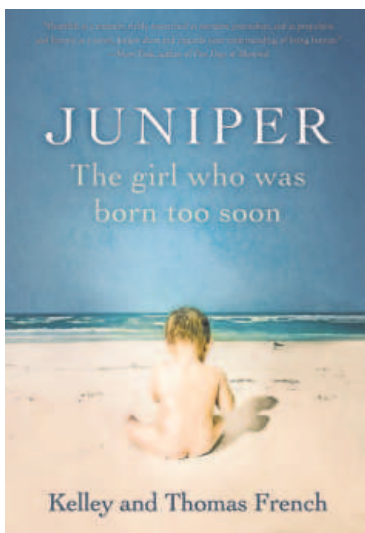
'Juniper': How love conquered all for a 'micro-preemie'

Sharon Peters
Special for USA TODAY

She was a partially formed, 20-ounce mess of unknown problems and unknowable prospects when she came into the world, one day short of the 24-week gestational period doctors believe is the lowest limit of a baby having a shot at survival. Her lungs, digestive system and brain were underdeveloped; her eyes were still fused shut; her papery skin was so thin she couldn't be touched.

She hardly looked human. But the love her parents had for her was huge.

And when they — two journalists — describe in alternating voices the very different ways they experienced the rushing cascade of postnatal calamities that befell this "micro-preemie," as such babies are called, the impact is raw, rough and wrench-



ingly tender. With *Juniper: The Girl Who Was Born Too Soon* (Little, Brown, \$19 pp., ★★★★★ out of four), Kelley and Thomas French chronicle the daily turmoil. With



COURTESY OF THE AUTHORS
Kelley and Thomas French with their daughter, Juniper, who was born at just under 24 weeks. Today, she's thriving.

great honesty, they lay forth their darkest feelings and fears during the months it was unclear whether Juniper would live. Would their daughter, if she sur-

vived, be so damaged she could never forgive them for their efforts to save her? How many times would they have to adjust their hopes and expectations for her childhood? Would their marriage fall apart?

They could do nothing but watch as their tiny girl lay in an incubator, tubes connected to machines that did the work her body hadn't had time to develop the capacity to do. There was the chance that if she lived, she would be blind because of the high volume of oxygen she required. She could become addicted to the narcotics administered to keep her more or less pain-free; her kidneys might be ruined by the antibiotics she needed to fight infection.

Tom French made it his business to learn all he could about every hospital caregiver, in the belief one might race faster to save his daughter when she plum-

meted into crisis. He sat by Juniper's incubator and read *Harry Potter* books to her, the massive page count testament to his desperate hope she could live through the many days required to get to the end of each volume.

Kelley taped a picture of herself and Tom to the incubator so the baby would see it when she finally opened her eyes. She loaded an iPod with womb sounds so Juniper would be comforted.

In less adept hands, this story might have been overworked and overwrought. The Frenches understood that straightforward was the only way to tell it.

Two parents, flawed in many ways, very different from each other, have written of a singular experience that is presented with such grace it is an almost universal story of love and determination and strength. Happily, in the end, their daughter survived and now thrives.

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Missing: Am. Ind. Race:
Aug 13, 2015 Hair: Brown
Age Now: 15 Eyes: Brown
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PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

BY Patrick Jordan

"WANNA PLAY?"

ACROSS

- Tight-fisted type
- Coco Chanel creation
- Slap the cuffs on
- Quitter's yell
- Butler's belle
- Notable period
- Street artist's signature
- Grafton's "___ for Homicide"
- Filming area
- "The Wrestler" actress ___ Rachel Wood
- Leggy wading bird
- Hugh Laurie role for eight seasons
- Copper-colored cat breed
- "Follow closely, Fido!"
- Without delay, poetically
- Walks aimlessly
- Emilio Estevez, to Martin Sheen
- Risk getting bleeped
- Seat for a mall Santa's visitor
- Practice, as warfare
- ___ Rica
- Part of a machinist's hammer
- Boone or Crockett, notably
- Calisthenics activity
- Touches on
- Psoriasis reliever
- Toothed tool
- Stylish, to Austin Powers
- Scam element
- Pet scolder's adjective
- "The Little Mermaid" mermaid
- Striped stone
- Boar's abode

DOWN

- Makes a duck face, maybe
- Concerning, on a gridiron
- Some jazz improvisation
- Tiny toymaker
- "Zebra," on the gridiron
- Declining stage
- Serengeti charger
- Graze, say
- Mrs., in Mexico
- Western grouse
- Jacket variety popularized by the Beatles
- Sign of spring
- Pour pan drippings over
- Carrier's parter in lithography
- Klondike strike
- Maker of the Sierra and the Yukon
- Perlman of "Cheers"
- Number on an almanac cover
- Slider's target
- Second word of "The Raven"
- Sounded like a carillon
- Fraternity membership
- "When all ___ fails..."
- Review on Yelp, say
- Sail support
- "As ___ on TV"
- KFC piece
- Date with an M.D.
- Kimono-clad entertainers
- Red-and-white soda container
- Come-___ (enticements)
- In a feeble way
- Program-launching symbol
- Doorframe pieces
- Convoy menace of WWII
- Like the Missouri River's waters
- World-weary
- Oater badge shape
- Doesn't just sit
- Amusement park cry
- Hothead's emotion
- Quit running
- Gone by

Wednesday's Answer

NASAL BONE ACRE
CROCE OVID URAL
REARS ZANE DUNK
APOLLON LANDING
SITIS ETC
BASTED SPAN HAT
ASTI SWAMI TSA
SPECIAL OLYMPICS
SEA GLARE AMOK
INK LAME RESETS
HBO PINT
COLOSSAL OLIVE
BLUE HIKE ICARE
ROSE ARIA SHIRK
APEID WENT TENSE

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WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek 10/6

Find and Circle:
Six words with OR in the middle
Five three-syllable countries
Four one-syllable colors
Two eating utensils
Dolphin's fin

Wednesday's answer: TABLET THIRST THROAT TROUT TINT / TAURUS LIBRA ARIES LEO / FAVORITE MEDICINE POSITIVE / CUBA PERU IRAQ / EAST WEST

QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes 10/6

Cracker brand
Sharpen
Actress Gray
Cracker brand
"Believe" singer
Actress Loughlin
Component
Actress Julie

Wednesday's Answer
SAFE
KNOX
INRE
PATS

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SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).

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

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SUDOKU FUSION

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).

6					1
	1		4		
3		2	6		
		4	5		2
		6		4	
4					6

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★★★★
Wednesday's Answer

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

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UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt 10/6

1. **NOT**

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____ **JOB**

Clues:
1. Like a human
2. 100, often
3. Make the initial goal
4. "Star Trek: ___"
5. Business card data
6. Helpful spot
7. White-collar position

Wednesday's Answer
SAY NO RETURN HOME OFFICE TOWER OVER WITH

DON'T QUOTE ME

Basketball coach Pat Summitt offers this advice.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.
CLIMB GOALS HARDER IS MAKE SEEK STAY TOP

“IT'S _____ TO _____ ON _____ THAN IT _____ TO _____ THE _____ CONTINUE TO _____ NEW _____.”

© WIGGLES 3D GAMES 10/6

Wednesday's Answer: "Music can change the world because it can change people." - Bono

TXTPERT

Across
1. 242735
6. 2354383
7. 44638476
9. 6665
10. 746

Down
2. 4355
3. 7673
4. 7224
5. 737666
8. 686

Today's theme: **Religion**

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues.
For example: 2 could be A, E or C, and 5678 could be OBT

Yesterday's solution

PEOPLE

Bill Cosby loses another bid to get charges tossed

Maria Puente @usatmpuente USA TODAY

The long-delayed effort to prosecute Bill Cosby on aggravated sexual-assault charges advanced — albeit slightly — Wednesday when the ailing comedian lost another attempt to get the charges tossed in Pennsylvania.

Even so, Cosby's criminal trial is still a long way off: no later than June 2017, to be exact. However, his lawyers are not done yet attempting to get the case thrown out.

That campaign suffered a setback Wednesday, when a Pennsylvania appeals court upheld a ruling by Judge Steven O'Neill's that Cosby's accuser, Andrea Constand, did not have to testify

in person about her allegations that Cosby drugged and molested her when she visited him at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004.

In his decision, O'Neill said that state law allows prosecutors to use hearsay testimony, such as a police report.

The comedian's lawyers argued, unsuccessfully, that he had a right to confront and cross-examine Constand in person.

Cosby's lead lawyer, Brian McMonagle, says he hopes to join an appeal related to this dispute — about when accusers must appear in court — which is pending before the state supreme court.

Cosby's legal team has filed multiple motions at various court levels and citing various grounds in attempting to get the charges (three counts of aggravated sexual assault) dismissed; he has lost



Bill Cosby and lawyer Brian McMonagle, left, leave the Norristown, Pa., courthouse after a pretrial hearing Sept. 6.

each time.

Their latest motion, filed last week, argued that Cosby was deprived of his due process rights

because the charges were filed 11 years after the alleged crime, when witnesses have died and the 79-year-old comedian is ailing,

nearly blind and suffering memory problems.

District Attorney Kevin Steele vowed in his 2015 election campaign to pursue Cosby, citing "new evidence" from a released Cosby deposition from Constand's civil suit against him, which was settled in 2006. Steele filed the charges against Cosby in December 2015, just before the statute of limitations was about to expire.

By that point, five dozen women had accused Cosby of drugging and/or raping them in encounters going back several decades.

Cosby has denied all the accusations and has pleaded not guilty in the criminal case — the only case of criminal charges filed against him since the allegations first resurfaced in October 2014.

Contributing: The Associated Press

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PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

BY Frank Longo

CHEESY ENTERTAINMENT

- ACROSS: 1 BART stop (Abbr.) 4 Circle bits 8 Lhasa ___ (dog breed) 12 Sty dwellers 14 Be on the throne 15 Part of a hat trick 16 Oscar winner in "Mister Roberts" 18 Paella pot 19 Auto extra 20 Bovine mouthful 21 Yoga class offerer 22 Jockey's strap 23 Kill, as pain 26 Karaoke need, for short 28 AEC successor 29 2001 title role for Chris Kattan 31 Mandel of "Deal or No Deal" 32 Dog to beware of 33 Skedaddle 36 Store for an athlete 38 In the vicinity 39 Can't live without 40 "Dynasty" role for Joan Collins 43 Reel partner 46 "House" figs. 47 Largest of the Windwards 48 Machu Picchu's land 49 Top pilot 51 Women with kids, for short 52 Set the stage at a gig 54 What Ritalin treats, in brief 55 Oscar winner for "Room" 57 Patchy in color 58 Golden ___ (senior) 59 Ripped off 60 British conservative 61 Fluids with antibodies 62 Cancel abruptly

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-62.

- DOWN: 1 Daytime drama, informally 2 Bit of strategy 3 Alan of "Argo" 4 Escort's offering 5 Liquor-soaked 6 Like gray days 7 Bounce message recipient 8 In awe 9 One with wide-ranging knowledge 10 "Exodus" Oscar nominee 11 Schnozz extension? 12 Borg of tennis 13 ___-mo replay 17 Gives, as a grant 24 Quaker State port 25 Unimportant sort 27 Part of NBC (Abbr.) 29 "Chill out!" 30 Air ball, say 31 Put-on 33 15th-century "Impaler" 34 Spotify or Pandora alternative 35 Optical illusion artist 36 Clobber with eggs 37 Invoice anew recipient 39 Less quiet 41 Brazilian dances 42 Attack the matador 43 American League team 44 American League team member 45 Irene of "I Remember Mama" 48 Beginning section of a form 50 Circular current 53 Treaty grp. since 1948

Wednesday's Answer crossword solution grid.

WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle: Seven shapes Five mollusks First two Greek letters Real estate ___ Nighthowler, for example

Wednesday's answer: CHARACTER ELEPHANT VEHICLE AREA / DRESSER TABLE CHAIR SOFA / BRAZIL EGYPT CHINA CHILE / LIME PLUM PEAR KIWI / CAT DOG

QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes

Quickcross puzzle grid with clues.

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).

Sudoku puzzle grid.

10/13 SUDOKU FUSION ON YOUR PHONE mobilegames.usatoday.com

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UP & DOWN WORDS puzzle grid.

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt

UP & DOWN WORDS clues and answers.

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).

Sudoku puzzle grid.

10/12 SUDOKU FUSION ON YOUR PHONE mobilegames.usatoday.com

Small crossword puzzle.

TXTPERT puzzle with clues.

Today's theme Art puzzle.

Small crossword puzzle.

DON'T QUOTE ME puzzle with motivational quote.

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