Morrison

Continued from Page 1D

ies to type up her manuscript for 1970's "The Bluest Eye" by baking the ladies one of her famous carrot cakes.

2. She was castigated by early critics for not writing about white people

In a 1973 review of "Sula," The New York Times criticized Morrison, saying her work was boxed in by her insistence on writing about her own community – without including confrontation with whites. "Toni Morrison is far too talented to remain only a marvelous reporter of the black side of provincial American life," wrote the critic.

In the documentary, Morrison addresses such claims. "I have had reviews in the past that have accused me of not writing about white people ... as though our lives have no meaning and no depth



Oprah Winfrey talks with Toni Morrison at an awards dinner in 2010. FRANK POLICH/GETTY IMAGES

without the white gaze," she says plainly. "I have spent my entire writing life trying to make sure that the white gaze was not the dominant one in any of my books.

3. She went on a book tour with Muhammad Ali

While promoting Ali's book "The Greatest: My Own Story," the two got off to a rocky start. "When I first met him

and asked him a question, he would answer and look at a man and never looked directly at me while he was giving the answer. But then I remembered he respects older women," Morrison recalls, saving she realized she should act more like his mother. "So I just crossed my arms as I walked in the room and said, 'Ali, get up from there, you have something to do.' And he would look up and recognize ... a grown-up. And from then on, he did everything I said," she chuckles.

4. Oprah got creative trying to get her phone number

After reading "Beloved," Oprah wanted to call Morrison personally, but the famous author's number was unlisted. So the TV star called the fire department and asked for it.

Morrison remembers picking up the phone. "She said, 'Toni Morrison, this is Oprah Winfrey.' I said, 'How did you get my number?' " she laughs. Oprah made her plea to turn "Beloved" into a movie,

ultimately convincing a skeptical Morrison. Oprah made the 1998 film and starred as Sethe, an escaped slave who murders her own daughter rather than see her child returned to a Kentucky plantation to live as a slave.

5. Morrison called time's up on equal pay in the 1970s

"Navigating a white male world was not threatening; it wasn't even interesting," says Morrison candidly, recalling her first job as an editor. "I knew more than they did and I wasn't afraid to show it. You have to be a little tough and rely on yourself, and tell people 'no.' "

In her first job, the single mom noticed her male counterparts were getting more money when the raises were given out. "So I went to my boss and I said, 'You didn't raise me as much as my colleagues who are men.' He said. 'Yes, but.' And I said, 'I don't want to hear 'but.' I want to tell you something: I am head of the household. Just. Like. You." She got the money.

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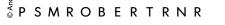
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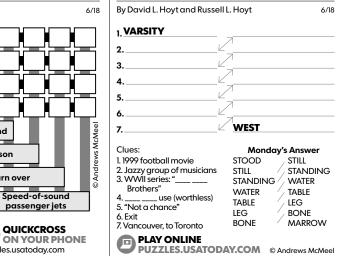
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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).

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

