



WHAT IS A CAIMAN?

CATCH UP ON EUROVISION!



Q THE QUINTON CHRONICLE.



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EUROVISION

The Eurovision Song Contest (ESC), more commonly called Eurovision, is an event in which European countries unite to showcase their musical styles and cultures. It has been running since its first held contest in 1956, beginning with seven countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. Austria and Denmark missed the deadline so they did not take part, and the United Kingdom apologised for not participating as they were organising their own contest.

Apart from European countries, Israel and Australia also take part. Israel has been participating since 1973, being the first non-European country to participate. Its lengthy time on the show has granted its permanent involvement. Australia, however, doesn't have its position guaranteed. Australia had always been a fervent viewer of Eurovision since its first broadcast in 1983, many people waking up in the early hours of the morning to watch it. This granted its participation in Eurovision 2014 as an interval act. One year later, in the 60th edition of Eurovision, Australia was finally presented with the opportunity to compete. It was decided Eurovision would let Australia participate until at least 2023, so there is a chance they will not perform again next year, although it is quite unlikely.

This year's Eurovision has had to adapt to the current conditions. Even though last year's winners were Ukraine, because of the country's present state, obviously the show wasn't able to be held there. The UK's entry Sam Ryder happened to be the runner up, so it was decided Eurovision 2023 would be held in Liverpool. Alesha Dixon, Graham Norton, Hannah Waddingham, and Julia Sanina were the British hosts; Mel Giedroyc, Rylan, Scott Mills, Claire Sweeney, Sam Quek and Timur Miroshnychenko were the Ukrainian hosts.

The latest contest has pushed the usual Eurovision boundaries. For the first time ever, Eurovision was broadcast to international televisions, instead of in countries that took part in it alone, and it also allowed all viewers to vote too, unlike before when only people in or from the participating regions could take part. And like this, by the use of this new method, countries were awarded points, consequently eliminating Azerbaijan, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, and the Netherlands in the first semi-final (09/05/23). In the second semi-final (11/05/23), the countries eliminated were Denmark, Georgia, Greece, Iceland, and San Marino. All the countries left took part in the grand final (13/05/23), and after the presenters announced the juries' and the public's votes, it was concluded that Sweden had won, Finland as a runner up, and Israel right afterwards.

Loreen, this year's champion, has become the first female Eurovision winner to lift the trophy not once, but twice, and the second Eurovision winner overall to do so! The singer first won in 2012, with her song 'Euphoria,' and now she has won with her song 'Tattoo.' People's opinions about her double participation range from love and admiration to disgust, for some believe she should not be allowed back; she already has one victory and she should let others enjoy one too. Plus, rumours say that the song Tattoo is plagiarised, its similarities to the song 'Flying Free'

2023 ENTRIES

by Pont Aeri too great to be a coincidence. Yet, this has not been confirmed. Sweden, a country generally successful in the contest, happens to be hosting for the seventh time now, also precisely fifty years after Abba made Sweden proud. Sweden first won in 1974, with the unforgettable song of 'Waterloo.'

The United Kingdom joined this year with twenty-five-year-old Mae Muller's participation, who sang 'I Wrote a Song.' She wrote it with the help of Lewis Thompson and Karen Poole, the last having worked with other well-known musical artists like Kylie Minogue and David Guetta. In Eurovision, she only had to perform once because of the UK being in the Big Five, five countries that happen to be the contest's biggest financial contributors therefore get a free ticket to the finals (which includes France, Germany, Italy, and Spain too). The song received twenty-four points in total and was second to last, Germany only six points below.

The world of Eurovision is an intriguing, quite complex one. For more information visit the official website: <https://eurovision.tv/>.



- Albania: 'Duje' by Albina & Familja Kelmendi
- Armenia: 'Future Lover' by Brunette
- Australia: 'Promise' by Voyager
- Austria: 'Who The Hell Is Edgar?' by Teya & Salena
- Azerbaijan: 'Tell Me More' by TuralTuranX
- Belgium: 'Because of You' by Gustaph
- Croatia: 'Mama ŠČ!' by Let 3
- Cyprus: 'Break a Broken Heart' by Andrew Lambrou
- Czechia: 'My Sister's Crown' by Vesna
- Denmark: 'Breaking My Heart' by Reiley
- Estonia: 'Bridges' by Alika
- Finland: 'Cha ChaCha' by Käärijä
- France: 'Évidemment' by La Zarra
- Georgia: 'Echo' by Iru
- Germany: 'Blood & Glitter' by Lord OfThe Lost
- Greece: 'What They Say' by Victor Vernicos
- Iceland: 'Power' by Diljá
- Ireland: 'We Are One' by Wild Youth
- Israel: 'Unicorn' by Noa Kirel
- Italy: 'Due vite' by Marco Mengoni
- Latvia: 'Aijā' by Sudden Lights
- Lithuania: 'Stay' by Monika Linkytė
- Malta: 'Dance (Our Own Party)' by The Busker
- Moldova: 'Soareleși Luna' by Pasha Parfeni
- Netherlands: 'Burning Daylight' by Mia Nicolai & Dion Cooper
- Norway: 'Queen of Kings' by Alessandra
- Poland: 'Solo' by Blanka
- Portugal: 'AiCoração' by Mimicat
- Romania: 'D.G.T. (Off and On)' by Theodor Andrei
- San Marino: 'Like An Animal' by Piqued Jacks
- Serbia: 'Samo mi sešpava' by Luke Black
- Slovenia: 'Carpe Diem' by Joker Out
- Spain: 'Eaea' by Blanca Paloma
- Sweden: 'Tattoo' by Loreen
- Switzerland: 'Watergun' by Remo Forrer
- Ukraine: 'Heart of Steel' by Tvorchi
- United Kingdom: 'I Wrote a Song' by Mae Muller

SHORT STORIES: RUN

Abdul-Rashid Daud

Pay,” he said, “hurry up and pay.”

I ran.

I don’t know why I ran. But I did. I had the money but felt an urge to run.

Two hours before.

I out shopping for eggs, milk and fruit. So, basic necessities. That took me about 20 minutes and to drive back ten minutes. It wasn’t a long drive however because I was listening to a podcast about the Russia-Ukraine War.

The reporter proclaimed in a disappointed tone: ‘This war will cause an economic downturn as said by Piers Morgan yesterday.’

It was at that moment I turned the podcast off. I was two minutes away from home and didn’t want to hear anymore about politics. Not my thing.

I got home and put the shopping away, made myself a cup of coffee and sat down to watch Money Heist. Yes it was 12pm and I was watching Money Heist, however my Netflix subscription was finishing. Once I had watched it, I finished my coffee and decided to get some Pepsi. I got up to leave, put on my Jordans and hoodie and left.

I went to a 24/7 corner shop. I picked up a two litre Pepsi and waited in the line to pay. The door opened. The bell jingled. I took out my money. “Pay,” the shopkeeper said. “Hurry up and pay,” he said.

The man that had just walked into the shop pulled out a gun.

I ran.

**To find out what happens next,
Read Issue 6.**

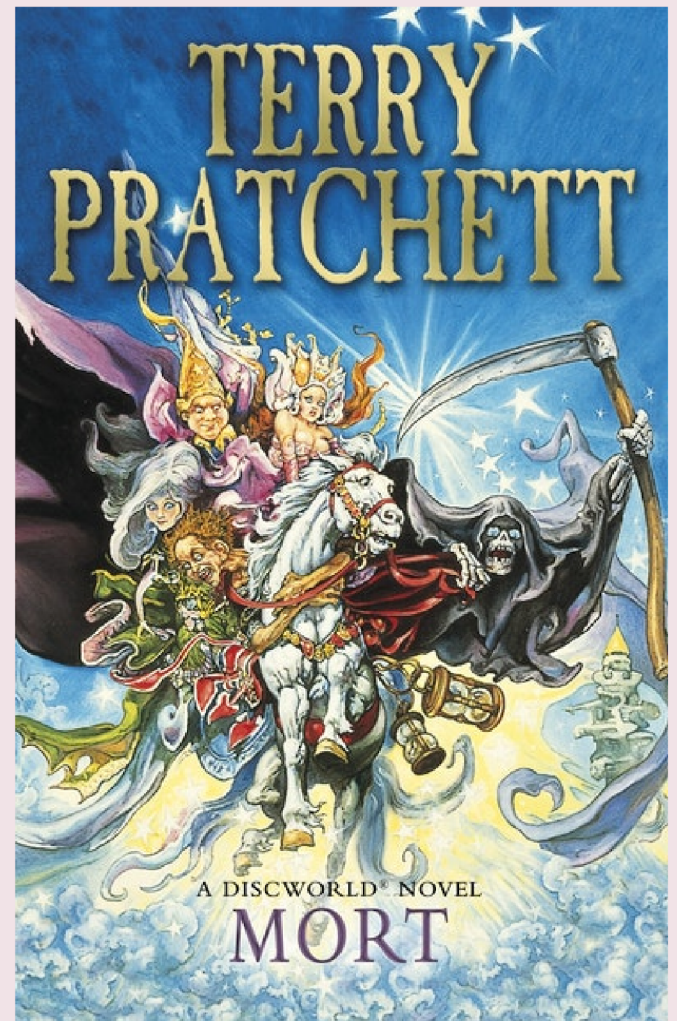
A REVIEW OF TERRY PRATCHETT'S MORT

When I was younger, I read quite a lot of Terry Pratchett, all revolving around very small people. Mort could not be any more different in that respect.

Terry Pratchett's satirical masterpiece centres on Mort, a winemaker's son turned Death's apprentice. At the beginning of the novel, he's a clumsy boy afraid of disappointing his father. Feeling his son needs to grow up and learn responsibility, his father takes him to find an apprenticeship and he's left in the cold until the last moment, when the clock is striking midnight in the town square. Then comes along Death – yes, the anthropomorphic personification of the end of a life – masquerading as an undertaker and offers Mort, in his voice that isn't really a voice, the position of his apprentice.

The characters in Mort, including the eponymous protagonist, are all incredibly well-written. Mort shows a lot of development and by the end he's guided souls into the place after death and is so real he can walk through walls. Other characters such as Death also mature, in this case learning about mortals and considering the responsibility of his role in the universe.

Almost more impressive than Pratchett's characters and plot work are his wit and how he weaves it in throughout the themes of growing up, responsibility, and death. He writes the most bizarre things, even from the foundation of the world: the Discworld is a flat disc on the back of a giant turtle swimming through space. I think perhaps the most absurd of all of the absurd jokes is the footnote in which he talks about the fictional philosopher Ly Tin Wheedle who reasons the 'only thing known to go faster than ordinary light is monarchy' which is transferred by made-up particles called 'kingons, or possibly queons.'



Average rating on Goodreads: 4.24

(But we think it's five-star!)

I know book reviews are supposed to contain both praise and critiques but, after sitting at my laptop for a while, I've come up empty. Even Wikipedia has failed me: all the article has under 'reception' is a quote about how great it is. I can find some criticism of the wider Discworld series and Pratchett as an author but they don't really apply to this review. I've certainly found a new favourite and a rare five-star read.

AROUND THE WORLD: FASHION

Martina Pastor Prado

Fashion is constantly evolving. New pieces of clothing are being made, new trends are appearing while old ones are dying, and what now might be considered hideous or unhealthy, a few hundred years ago it could have been a required element of your outfit. Furthermore, it not only changes throughout the years, but fashion also varies depending on the culture. Just like music, fashion develops around the communities that build it up. New York City, London, Milan, and Paris may be the Big Four fashion capitals of the world, but this does not restrict clothing across the globe to be as--or more--captivating.

UK

The UK has always been a popular place for clothing among other European countries, and its looks have expanded worldwide. In addition, London is considered one of the fashion capitals around the world because of its multiculturalism. Its level of openness allows designers to search for inspiration in a wide range of cultures, and to create pieces of intricate cultural mixes. London also is home to many prestigious fashion schools; Central St Martins, for example, was the university of great fashion designers, like **Alexander McQueen**. Other big British fashion designers include **Stella McCartney** and **Vivienne Westwood**.



BRUNEI

The small nation of Brunei, which is situated on the island of Borneo's northern coast, significantly incorporates Islamic customs and culture into its clothing. The **Baju Kurung, a loose-fitting tunic and a long skirt pair**, is the traditional dress for both men and women and is frequently worn for ceremonial occasions like weddings and religious rituals. The skirt normally ends at the ankle and has a slit to allow for movement. The top is often long-sleeved and falls below the hips. However, many locals prefer casual and fashionable clothing to traditional attire because, like many other eastern nations, Bruneian fashion has also been influenced by Western trends.

Given the **hot and humid climate** in Brunei, lightweight textiles with good breathability are typically used. These include materials like cotton, linen, and silk. Traditional batik prints and embroidery are also commonly combined with modern fashion designs. Overall, Brunei's fashion is a special fusion of traditional and modern elements, with a current emphasis on comfort and modesty, although the world wide web unfortunately does not offer much information, which does not encourage global attention towards the country's culture.

TUVALU

The Tuvaluan custom to crochet is not so known around the world as it should be, for kolose crochet is an art of cultural importance that represents Tuvalu in robes and other crocheted items, and counts of a high cultural importance. For centuries, Tuvaluan women have been teaching their daughters and granddaughters the Tuvaluan art of kolose crochet, which is typically made using a single crochet stitch and a small hook, and consists of creating intricate and delicate lace-like designs. Over the past few years, international interest in kolose has risen quite a bit, with artisans and designers using the technique in their work.

BOLIVIA

Before the Spanish colonisation, the natives of Bolivia had an established system in their country, including their own ways and styles.

Even though the colonisers attempted to impose the European ways onto the Bolivians, several elements of their culture remain untouched; their fashion is a representation of the country's cultural heritage and history.

Generally, traditional clothing of Bolivia is characterised by **bright colours, intricate embroidery, and captivating patterns.**

The pollera skirt is one of the most recognisable traditional garments they own. It is a full skirt usually made from **cotton or wool**, and decorated with **embroidery**. Its multiple layers give it the shape of a bird cage, therefore its name ('pollo' is one of the words for chicken in Spanish). This skirt is most worn in rural areas and in festivals. Men instead, wear ponchos. **The chullo hat** is an example of Bolivian headgear: it generally is from Andean areas, therefore commonly made from sheep, llama, alpaca, or vicuña wool. Its original purpose was to protect the wearer of the harsh conditions of the mountains by being thickly knit and including ear flaps.



A Bolivian chullo hat

Bolivia Fashion Week is an annual event that commemorates Bolivian fashion and designers since 2016.

GUATEMALA

Guatemalan fashion is heavily influenced by the country's Mayan culture, which is known for its vibrant colours and intricate weaving techniques. Traditional garments include the huipil, a loose-fitting tunic or blouse usually characterised by bright colours, elaborated designs, patterns, and embroideries. Huipils have varying lengths and are generally sleeveless, usually hand woven.

Plus, the details across the top help identify from which Mayan ethnicity they belong to. The corte is a wraparound skirt for women, usually woven by men on a treadle loom, an instrument introduced by Spanish colonisers.

Before then, women were trained to use a backstrap loom, which unlike the treadle loom, could be used to make brocades with the fabrics. Both weaving forms are still used in Guatemala today.

Keep in mind that certain features apply to certain villages, because weaving techniques, designs, thickness, and other characteristics depended on where they came from.

Both the huipil and the corte are still worn by many women in rural areas.

SENEGAL

Fashion is an essential component of Senegalese culture. It has evolved to what it is today by fusing Islamic and African elements with contemporary European styles, and adding some unique features of their own. These elements have produced the Senegalese fashion that is known today, which possesses **vibrant colours, bold prints and patterns**, and **complex details**, especially when referring to embroidery.

The boubou, for example, is a traditional Senegalese robe worn by anyone regardless of their gender, and is not only found in Senegal but in other West African nations too.

For Senegalese traditional celebrations, like weddings, jeans and suits are considered inappropriate attire, so traditional clothing like the **boubou** should be worn instead.



Ankara fabric

On special occasions long gowns are also worn by Senegalese women, typically with turbans. There are several types: **Ankara gowns, chiffon gowns, and lace gowns.** Traditional fabrics such as wax prints, tie-dye, and batik are commonly used in Senegalese fashion, as well as some occasional Indian (or Asian) elements. Informal garments for everyday use include kaftan style clothing, such as the dashiki, and usually are worn over t-shirts paired with trousers, jeans, or shorts.

Senegalese fashion designers include **Selly Raby Kane** and **Adama Paris**—both have achieved international recognition. Senegal also has several fashion weeks, such as Dakar Fashion Week and Saint Louis Fashion Week. **Senegal is referred to as West Africa's "centre of style" by National Geographic's Traveller Magazine.**

Fashion is a way of a person to express themselves and present their figure how they want to be seen. Fashion is also a way of proclaiming a community's style and changes in a society's style. Whether it is in a personal or public way, fashion is a way of representing the present, and instead of being associated with the stereotype of girlish interest, it should be looked at with an open mind.

THE QUAC

By Autumn Harley

Hello everyone, and welcome back to another issue of the QUAC! Finally, the school year is nearing its end, and everyone can agree with me when I say it was tiring. Tiring and amazing.

Yeah. Summer is the best part of the year, but if you're like me, it can get boring. There's nothing to do, yet there's also so much you can do. Mindlessly scrolling only takes you so far. So, to prevent this summer boredom from becoming an epidemic, I will be here to give my own tips of preventing boredom.

1. DO THE SUMMER HOMEWORK

I can hear the booing from here. But hear me out!

If you are so utterly bored that you would do anything, it's a good idea. And there's loads of homework to get done anyway (thank you, school), so you might as well make a start, but if you are a A+ student and have already done the homework, not really a good tip.

2. VISIT FRIENDS.

Obvious, I know, but a lot of people forget this. Grab a friend and do whatever you enjoy doing together, may that be adventurously stepping outside or taking the safe option of staying indoors.

Everything ends up being more exciting when you have company.

3. TAKE A NAP.

Can't be bored if you're asleep, right? And anyway, isn't everyone's goal for summer to catch up on the sleep they missed in the school year?

Except if you're one of those people who ends up sleeping in the day and are awake at night. I admire and fear those people, whoever you are.

4. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

It's been a long year; you need to take care of yourself so you aren't falling asleep on the first day of term.

Prioritise your mental health, take a walk, lounge in the sun, keep in contact with your classmates, and keep yourself grounded to the real world.

Don't drown yourself in the internet.

And...that's it. Hey, never said I was an expert. I'm just as much of a victim to boredom as the next guy. Just saving the world one tip at a time. Anyway, I guess the QUAC will see you all after the summer. Have great one!

- Quackers 

HAVE YOU HEARD OF...?

THE CAIMAN

Andreas Constantinou

QUICK FACTS

- STATUS: **Least concern**
- NUMBER OF SPECIES: **6**
- LENGTH: **2.2 - 4.3m**
- WEIGHT: **6 - 40kg**
- SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Caiman Crocodilus**



There are six species of caiman found in the genus *Melanosuchus*, all sharing habitats around North and Central America. These habitats depict shallow, freshwater-like streams and rivers usually leading into wetlands and flooded savannah where you can spot the caimans basking and staying still for most of the day to preserve their energy to hunt at night. Caimans are also keystone species meaning their role in the ecosystem is huge and without them it may change drastically. The way they help their

habitats is by assisting the nutrient cycle and preying on otherwise unchecked species like piranhas and catfish. They are quite docile to humans and will stay



away from people unless they are too far in their territory and are capable of forming bonds with people if kept in captivity.

Caimans have been classed as apex predators not only for their excellent hunting but for their incredible way of protecting themselves: they use their tail in a similar way to a cub and hit the attacker as best they can, hopefully dazing it long enough for an escape. Being an apex predator, caimans can gain a rather simple life once in

adulthood other than the occasional jaguar attempting to get a meal. However, juveniles are incredibly vulnerable to opportunistic predators, including anacondas and jaguars, which is why mothers lay up to seventy hard eggs and build a nest to protect them before they hatch. After they hatch, the mother will teach them how to swim and hunt until they are ready to be alone.

Caimans are very similar to alligators with only a few minor details separating the two. These six species of caiman vary in size so much some are bigger than alligators and some are smaller. Teeth of an alligator aren't as long as those of a caiman but are instead short and stubby and the armour plates of an alligator are far less capable being much softer than an caiman's overlapping bony plates. However, their snouts are both a rounded 'u' shape different to those of a crocodile which has a 'v' shaped nose. These limited differences are so subtle the only safe way of knowing the difference is their chosen habitat as alligators prefer lakes and coastal areas where caimans may find them too cold due to their sensitivity.

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