Report from Week 971

in which we asked you to create a two-volumes-in-one book by pairing an actual title with another real title or a fictional one: “A Confederacy of Dunces” was bound with just about everyone’s particular favorite organization to disparage; “To Kill a Mockingbird” was often matched with “101 Unusual Poultry Recipes.”

2 Winner of the anatomically correct “she-cozy”
“Catch-22,” by Joseph Heller/ “Drop 23,” by Santana Moss (Mike Caslin, Round Hill, Va.)

3 “Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother” / “What to Expect When You’re Expecting” (Carroll Applegate, Reston, a First Offender)

4 Bill Clinton: “My Life” / “The Adventures of Captain Underpants” (Les Greenblatt, Ann Arbor, Mich.)

From bad to verso:

Honorable mentions

TWO REAL BOOKS

“The Euro Crash: The European Time Bomb” / “Angela’s Ashes” (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

“The Golden Apples of the Sun” / “The Bomb” (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

“The Book of Senior Moments” / “The Book of Senior Moments” (Jayne Osborn, Wellingtonborough, England, a First Offender)

“What to Expect When You’re Expecting” / “Pain” (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

“The Secrets of Captain America” / “Congressional Procedures and the Policy Process” (Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)

“Pain Free: A Revolutionary Method for Stopping Chronic Pain” / “Invitation to a Beheading” (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

“Learning the World” / “A Wrinkle in Time” (Chris Williams, Herndon, a First Offender)

“Prostitution Policy Reform in the UK” / “What No, Jeeves” (Brendan Beary)

“The Fellowship of the Ring” / “The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Becoming a Model” (Joe Neff, Warrenton, Pa.)

“Above Aerial: Visual Photographs of the District of Columbia” / “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” (Ari Unikoski, Tel Aviv)

“The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” / “The 783 Habits of Highly Obsessive-Compulsive People” (Dave Gersch, Poway, Calif.)

“The Six Myths of Pregnancy” / “The Other Side of the Story” (Brendan Beary)

“The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Becoming a Model” / “The Fellowship of the Ring” (Joe Neff, Warrenton, Pa.)

“Europe: A Selection of National Anthems” / “The Book of Senior Moments” (Jayne Osborn, Wellingtonborough, England, a First Offender)

“The Secret of Captain America” / “Congressional Procedures and the Policy Process” (Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)

“Pain Free: A Revolutionary Method for Stopping Chronic Pain” / “Invitation to a Beheading” (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

“The Lovely Bones” / “The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Becoming a Model” (Joe Neff, Warrenton, Pa.)

“Dances With Wolves” / “The Idiot” (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

“Above Aerial: Visual Photographs of the District of Columbia” / “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” (Ari Unikoski, Tel Aviv)

“The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” / “The 783 Habits of Highly Obsessive-Compulsive People” (Dave Gersch, Poway, Calif.)

“A Wrinkle in Time” / “Linen Clocks: The Downside”” (Diego Pedulla-Smith, Fairfax, Va., a First Offender)

“The Naked Ape” / “Honey, Hand Me a Towel” (Drew Bennett)

“The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Becoming a Model” / “The Fellowship of the Ring” (Joe Neff, Warrenton, Pa.)

“Above Aerial: Visual Photographs of the District of Columbia” / “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” (Ari Unikoski, Tel Aviv)

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More double-booked honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/inv975.

Still running — deadline is Monday night — is the Week 974 limerick contest. See wapo.st/inv974.

Winner gets the Week 971 “Invitational Loser” T-shirt, a yearned-for Loser Mug or the new, ardently desired Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders get a smelly, tree-shaped air freshener (“Fir Stink for my First Ink”). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, June 18; results published July 8 (online July 6). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include “Week 975” in your e-mail subject line or it might be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/inv975.

Other runners-ups: Winner of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt, a yearned-for Loser Mug or the new, ardently desired Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get a lusted-after Loser magnet. First Offenders get a smelly, tree-shaped air freshener (“Fir Stink for my First Ink”). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, June 18; results published July 8 (online July 6). No more than 25 entries per entrant per week. Include “Week 975” in your e-mail subject line or it might be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/inv975. The subhead for this week’s honorable mentions is by Roy Ashley. Join the Style Invitational Denizens on Facebook at on.fb.me/midvev

STYLE CONVERSATIONAL

Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join us at washingtonpost.com/styleconversational.

POP CD REVIEW

Mary Chapin Carpenter
“Ashes and Roses”

D.C.-bred country-singer-turned-folkie Mary Chapin Carpenter went through a serious illness, a divorce and the death of her father before making the wrenching catalogue of woes that is her 12th official album, “Ashes and Roses.” Carpenter (whose 2007 pulmonary embolism was also a subject of her last release, the comparatively cheery “The Age of Miracles”) picks her way through the wreckage in these mournful, minutely observed ballads about the omnipresence of grief.

These are woeful and beautiful coffeehouse folk songs, decorated with sparing, almost offhanded instrumentation that’s often limited to guitars and pianos. Sad songs such as "Learning the World" ("Broken wide open/Cut to the bone/All that you used to know/Is no use at all") and "What to Keep and What to Throw Away" feel more accurate than the hopeful songs ("I Tried Going West"), which seem like they’re there because they have to be, because they’re part of the inevitable journey, because no one wants to listen to an album about someone who got depressed and stayed that way, unless they’re a Ray LaMontagne fan.

Everything here is better than it has to be, even the songs that reach Lifetime TV movie levels of Lady Sadness, except for “Soul Companion,” a should-have-been slam dunk about the redemptive possibilities of new love. It’s just offsomehow, in a way that’s difficult to explain but ultimately proves so immovable that even James Taylor, that great redeemer of awkward duets, can’t fix it.

— Allison Stewart

MOURNFUL TUNE:

Mary Chapin Carpenter ruminates on grief.