

Reconditioned

Adam Maresca (ft. Nick Mitchell)

Answer: ***COMFORTABLY NUMB***

The entries in the Rolodex have all been edited (or you could say “doctored”) so the notes are mismatched with the names. The first names also spell out “SOMEONE IS THERE A DR IN THE HOUSE HELP” as an acrostic... so there’s something about doctors going on.

All the notes in bold suggest names or phrases with “DR” as their initials. Those phrases, minus D and R and plus an additional letter, are anagrammed to form the last names. Reconnecting the notes with their proper names forms a chain; take note of the extra letters. (The un-bolded sentences are unused here, included solely to keep the clues from being total non-sequiturs.)

Wrong/Attached Name	Clue Sentence	DR Phrase	Anagram – DR + [?]	[?]
Hoenigswald, Harry	Always part of serious proposals.	diamond ring	Mai-Downing	W
Mai-Downing, Doris	Working on that golf swing a lot.	driving range	Riggivernan	R
Riggivernan, Helmut	Lot of people get coffee from there.	Dominican Republic	Boileman-Piuccini	I
Boileman-Piuccini, Mike	Last practice before the real deal.	dress rehearsal	Salterra-Hesse	T
Salterra-Hesse, Ursula	Some holdover from the Nixon years.	Donald Rumsfeld	Moules-de-Fland	E
Moules-de-Fland, Norman	Brought us all the latest goings-on.	Dan Rather	Rathenau	U
Rathenau, Ellen	People there rarely make it out alive.	death row	Wheaton	N
Wheaton, Pat	Great with divisibility by nine.	digital root	Giocattoli	C
Giocattoli, Teresa	Keep your hands inside the vehicle...	dark ride	Kildare	L
Kildare, Elaine	He's going to the carnival tonight...	Desolation Row	Swaine-O'Toole	E
Swaine-O'Toole, Eric	Floors the gas pedal on green lights.	drag race	Garceau	U
Garceau, Steve	Every maternity ward needs one.	delivery room	Vinley-Moore	N
Vinley-Moore, Loretta	Source of seemingly endless love.	Diana Ross	Isaacson	C
Isaacson, Emily	A long time spent at the wheel.	Dakar Rally	Akroyalla	O
Akroyalla, Sally	At the Pizza Hut, at the Taco Bell...	Das Racist	Castanis	N
Castanis, Ethan	Some people think he's bonkers.	Dizzee Rascal	Selescazzia	S
Selescazzia, Stanley	Oboe, bassoon, something like that.	double reed	de Bouclee	C
de Bouclee, Olga	Big in developmental techniques.	dark room	Morioka	I
Morioka, Iwao	TOO MANY ALL-CAPS MISSIVES.	Drudge Report	Peugeot-Dorr	O
Peugeot-Dorr, Horace	A regular wiz kid, this one.	Daniel Radcliffe	Enfield-LaFauci	U
Enfield-LaFauci, Irene	Knows how to handle blowfish.	Darius Rucker	Krauss-Curie	S
Krauss-Curie, Agatha	Lots of mounting anticipation.	drum roll	Murallo	A
Murallo, Tina	Good place for drying out.	dish rack	Katchis	T
Katchis, Robert	Makes some great barbecue.	dry rub	Rugby	G
Rugby, Olaf	Frankly insulting sense of comedy.	Don Rickles	Mickelson	M
Mickelson, Rudy	Very useful for finding things.	divining rod	di Giovanni	A
di Giovanni, Niccolo	Lots of serious cowboy antics.	dude ranch	Duchaine	I
Duchaine, Edward	Treats those zombies like a game.	Dead Rising	Angelidis	L
Angelidis, Otis	A real trooper, or at least acts like it.	Denise Richards	Snaischneider	N
Snaischneider, Helen	Incredible D on the basketball court.	Dennis Rodman	Simonadonne	O
Simonadonne, Evelyn	All about forging cursed gold rings!	Das Rheingold	Hoenigswald	W

Following the instruction to send uncleunconscious@gmail.com an email, an out-of-office auto-reply from Harry Hoenigswald (the beginning/end of the chain) with ***COMFORTABLY NUMB*** bolded, italicized, and underlined is activated. This, unsurprisingly, is the puzzle’s answer.

Author’s Notes

Adam: The first draft of this was super boring, but Nick managed to spice things up enough to justify yet another puzzle where the content has been disguised as names. We really explored the populace of Gotham with this hunt! Maybe (almost definitely) I could have skipped the auto-reply and not made solvers paranoid about emailing a random address en masse, but when you don’t have the wisdom the avoid that sort of thing it seems like fun!