

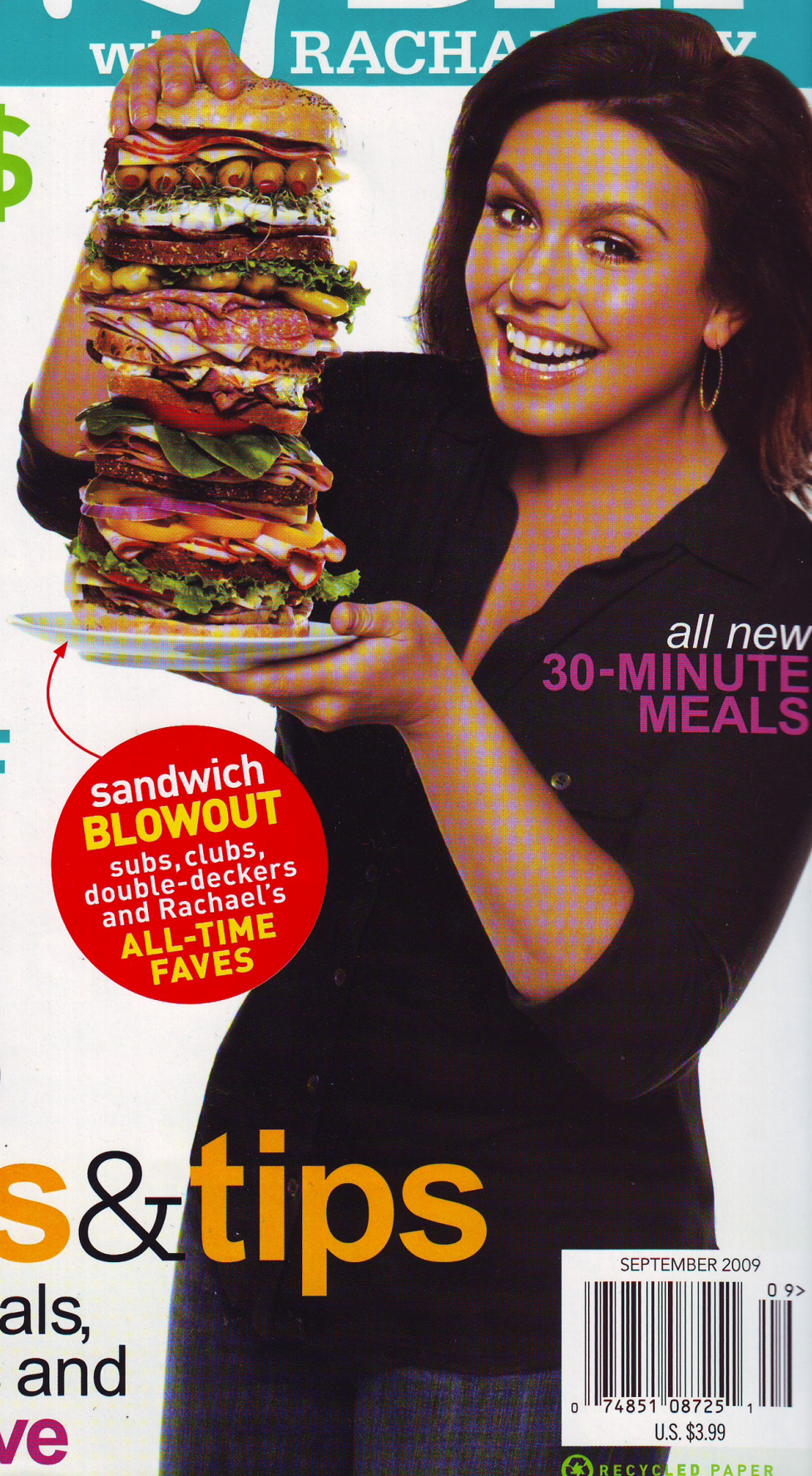
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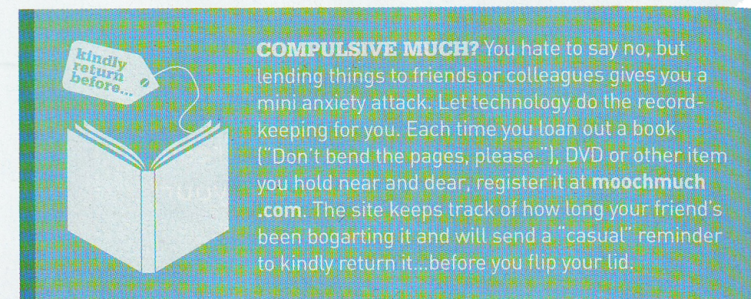
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RECYCLED PAPER

bound
for greatnessThe latest **DIY books** make impressive (well, some more than others) strides toward changing our ways.

COMPULSIVE MUCH? You hate to say no, but lending things to friends or colleagues gives you a mini-anxiety attack. Let technology do the record-keeping for you. Each time you loan out a book ("Don't bend the pages, please."), DVD or other item you hold near and dear, register it at moochmuch.com. The site keeps track of how long your friend's been bogarting it and will send a "casual" reminder to kindly return it...before you flip your lid.



The Indispensable Book of Practical Life Skills by Nic Compton, Kim Davies, David Martin and Sara Rose (\$25, Hammond)



EcoBeauty: Scrubs, Rubs, Masks and Bath Bombs for You and Your Friends by Lauren and Janice Cox (\$20, Ten Speed Press)



Jam It, Pickle It, Cure It and Other Cooking Projects by Karen Solomon (\$25, Ten Speed Press)



Jurassic Towel Origami by Alison Jenkins (\$15, Andrews McMeel)

living

Indispensable? We had our doubts. But the title doesn't disappoint. You'll learn how to hang wallpaper, open a champagne bottle, win at Monopoly (it calculates odds and reveals the most visited squares on the board) and chop onions without crying.

beauty

Chances are you've tried making spa products at home (avocado face mask, right?), but this guide brings something new to the table. Recipes use fridge and pantry items we never would have dreamed of, like hummus as a mask, ground cinnamon to make toothpaste, and chocolate milk as a bath soak—but the benefits are for skin and hair, not your tummy.

eating

Like the rest of us, Solomon grew up spreading Miracle Whip and other classic supermarket condiments on her sandwich bread. But her new recipe book offers fresh versions with tips so flavor-boosting (think a hot sauce with double the chiles), they made us want to snub the squeeze bottles filling our fridges.

boredom

If you have fluffy bath towels (and free time), you can turn them into prehistoric relics. Of the 15 ideas—rated by skill level and illustrated with painstaking step-by-step photos—our favorite designs were the tiger-skin-clad cave men (complete with hunting spears) and the full re-creation of Stonehenge.

HOW TO...
FAKE IT
THROUGH YOUR
KIDS' HOMEWORK

Next time your child asks for help calculating the area of a triangle, don't start plotting a "dog ate my homework" excuse. Even if you didn't hold fast to any grade school math rules, John Stevens and Barry Poznick, executive producers of TV's *Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?*, have the cheat sheet to help you fake your way to success.

Trick kids into teaching themselves.

You know more than you think—you just need a quick refresher. Before you start spouting off any (potentially incorrect) tidbits, buy yourself some time by turning the question back on your child. Start with, "Great question. Why don't we look up the answer together?" says Stevens. You can check each other's work as you go.

Pawn it off on a family member.

You know how your husband is always saying you never give him any credit? Now's the time to toot his horn. Remind your kid how great Daddy (or Aunt Jeannie or Uncle Jeff) is at math, says Poznick, and pass the curious little bugger on.

Turn to technology. If your memory is taking a moment to click in (and Dad's not answering his cell phone), help jog it with a little visit to the Web, says Stevens. Start by looking up some keywords like "cross multiplication" or "radius of a circle." (If you're desperate, ask your kid for help.) At least you're teaching your child to be tech-savvy, and you'll still come out looking like a wiz.

—AMANDA WAAS