

PRICE \$8.99

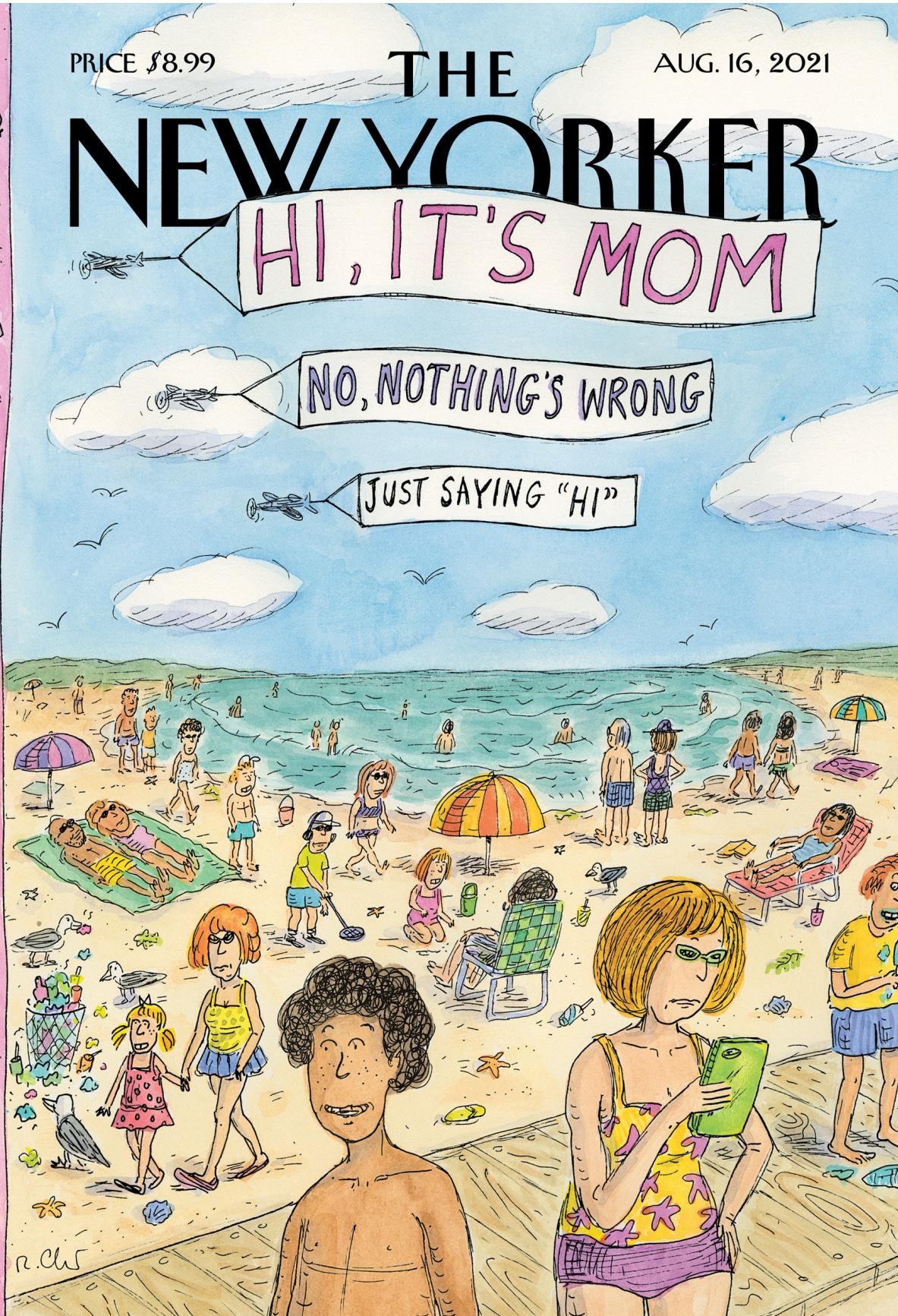
AUG. 16, 2021

THE NEW YORKER

HI, IT'S MOM

NO, NOTHING'S WRONG

JUST SAYING "HI"



r.c.w.

Cover Story

Roz Chast's "Hi, It's Mom"

The artist discusses her inner Jewish mother and why she doesn't like warm seawater.

By **Françoise Mouly**

Art by **Roz Chast**

August 9, 2021

Over the years, Roz Chast has demonstrated a remarkable talent for imagining the vast taxonomy of things that can—and sometimes do—intrude on a day of fun at the beach. They include but are not limited to: depressed poets, “ultra-hairy” men, greedy seagulls, sunburns, and, as on this week’s cover, a different kind of text message from mom. We recently spoke to the artist about becoming a grandmother and why she prefers oceans that are a little too cold.



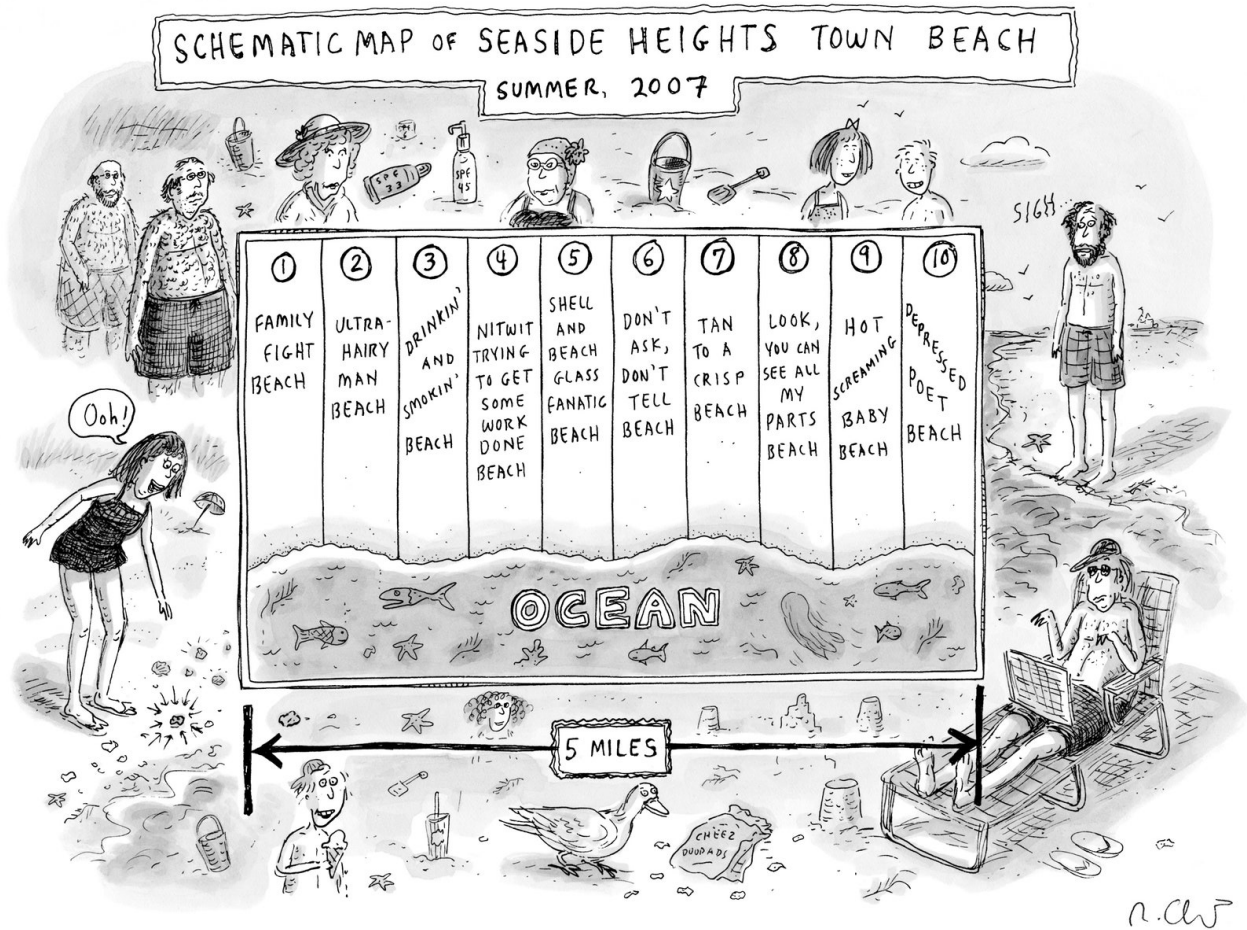
From the July 12, 2004 issue.

You are a self-professed worrier who recently became a grandmother. Has the new addition to the family brought back the Jewish mother in you?

It never left. I just came back from a visit to the pediatrician with my daughter-in-law and the baby: they looked inside the baby with all of these instruments; they measured the size of her head, how tall she is, and weighed her. The poor little kid was, like, “Ehhhhhh, enough, enough!” It was just a checkup—everything was absolutely fine—but you never know what to expect. They might tell you that there’s absolutely nothing inside of the baby’s head, that it’s totally hollow.

What do you do when you go to the beach—read, swim, snooze, or check your phone?

I love to play in the waves—having to decide whether I’m going to jump over or dive into them. I love the North Atlantic. I like that it’s a bit too cold. Cold water is what I got used to growing up going to Brighton Beach and Manhattan Beach. It’s



From the July 30, 2007 issue.

always been a part of my life. It feels familiar. One time, I was in the South and the ocean was warm. It sort of felt disgusting. I was, like, is this clean?

You embroider, write, and paint. You've even had your Ukrainian Easter eggs (known as *pysanky*) shown at an art gallery. Is there a medium you would like to try?

Vegan-butter sculpture.