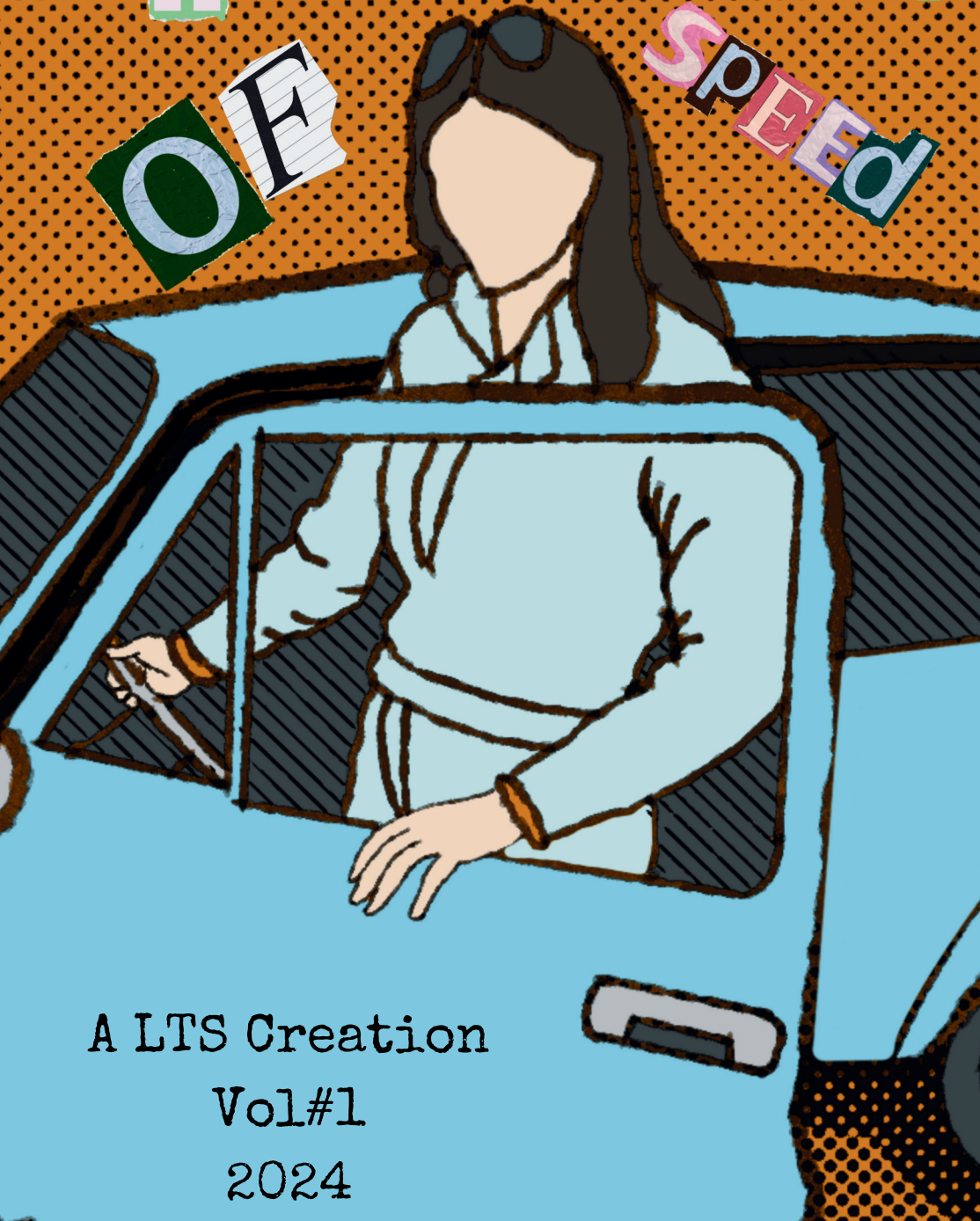


THE QUEEN

OF

SPEED



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“What do you feel as the finish line approaches?”

“I don't feel at all.”

Yes that's right, this bad ass made strides and dominated group B rally racing in the 80s with the Audi Quattro. We're talking about

**Michele Mouton.**

Launching her career in the Sanremo Rally of '81 she became the first woman to win a World Rally Championship event.

1982 was even better for her, winning 3 World Rally Championships in Portugal, Brazil, and Acropolis, and finished 2nd overall in the 1982 WRC season, just missing the championship title.



The haters will say that the new and emerging Audi Quattro with all wheel drive (something relatively new to the world rally stage at that point) was her claim to fame, However.

The victory and new course time record set in the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb of 1985 further encased her speed, determination, and capabilities behind the wheel.

oh, and did I mention she was also the first gal to ever win AND set a record on the peak!





She just doesn't stop, and she wouldn't have had group B racing not closed for good in 1986 due to the inherent risks in pushing the limits of the sport.

Guess what, that didn't stop Mouton from trailblazing.

Along with Fredrik Johansson, Mouton co-founded the Race of Champions, an annual event that brings together the world's finest drivers from various motorsport disciplines to compete in identical cars.

That's actually bad ass



Winning doesn't always come so easy. Critics and fellow drivers were largely skeptical and many even embarrassed to lose to Mouton simply because she was a woman driver.

Her longtime rival, world champion Walter Röhrl, once said

“This is not because I doubt her capabilities as a driver, but because she is a woman.”

The media and male dominated sport brought out this bitter behavior in fellow drivers like Röhrl, believing that the defeat to a woman would have devalued their legacy. It took 4 decades for him to apologize



But for every jackass remark about her capabilities, she remained sassy and strong. I present to you 5 bad ass quotes from the Quattro Queen herself:

“I’m not here to prove I’m as good as the men. I’m here to prove I’m better.”

“Critics gonna criticize. Winners gonna win.”

“I didn’t break the mold. I created a new one.”

“Don’t call me a female driver. Call me the driver who beat you.”

“It was not easy to be accepted, but I didn’t care. I just wanted to drive and win.”



If there's one thing Mouton has  
taught, it's that

no matter what people say or who  
try's to stand in the way of your  
success,

you CAN achieve.

She achieved not to be first, but to  
prove to herself that she COULD.



# MICHELE MOUTON



This one's for all the  
women who were told that  
they couldn't;

YES YOU CAN,