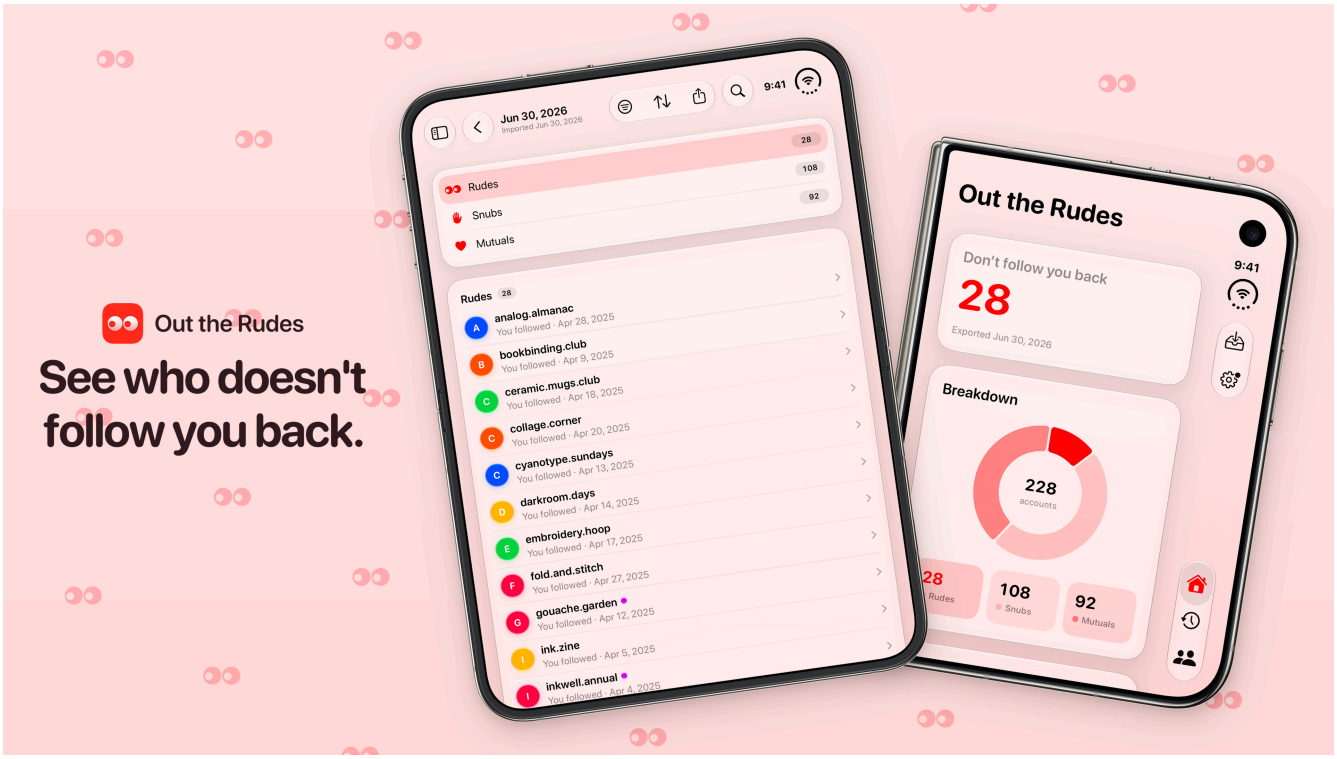
Nov 29, 2026

on Out the Rudes

Please do @ me

Akha Manjezi



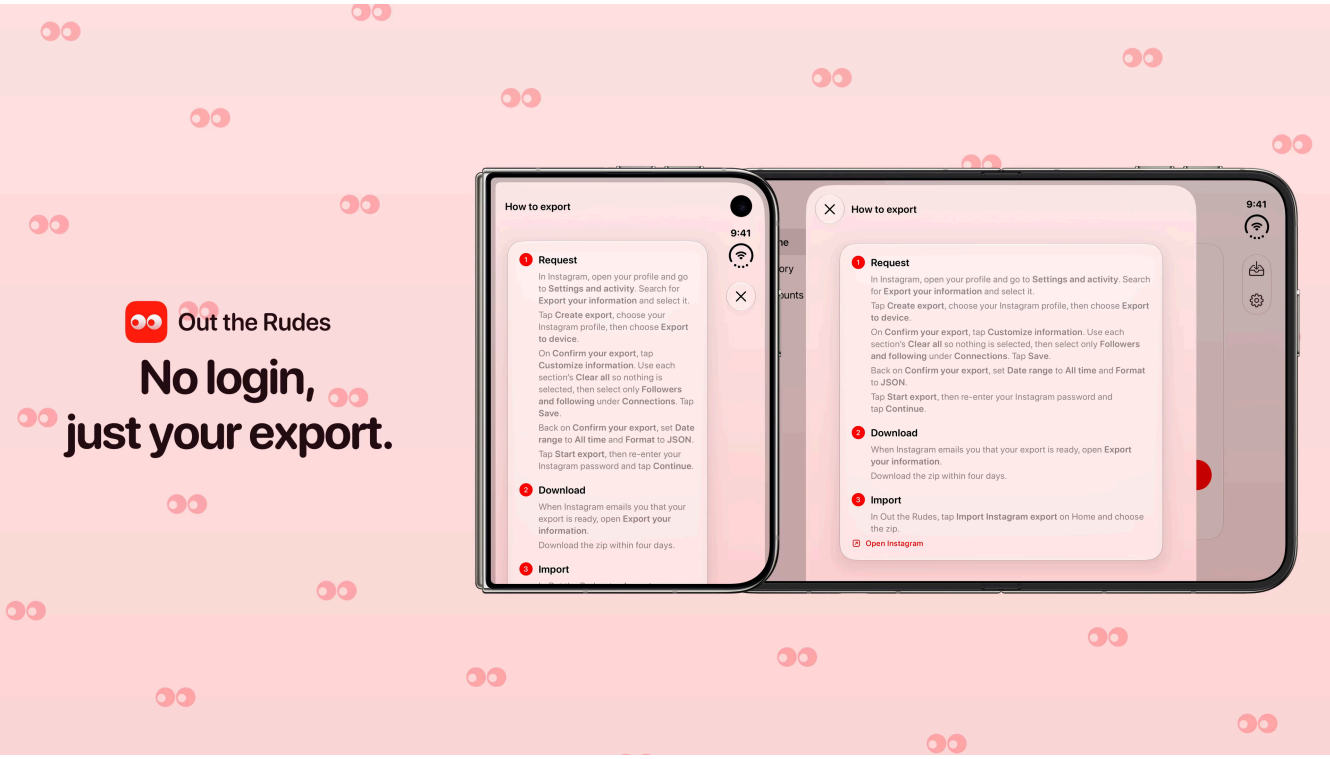
I think it's only polite to follow someone you know back. If you don't follow them back, I think you're being rude. I think you're a rude. A rude in need of outing…

Why?

Once upon a time, I used a website for this. I'd log into my Instagram account, the website would gather who knows what, show me a few ads, and then ipso facto I'd have myself a list of the people who don't follow me back. However, it stopped working.

Then I found a Chrome extension that would do the same thing. But that also stopped working at some point.

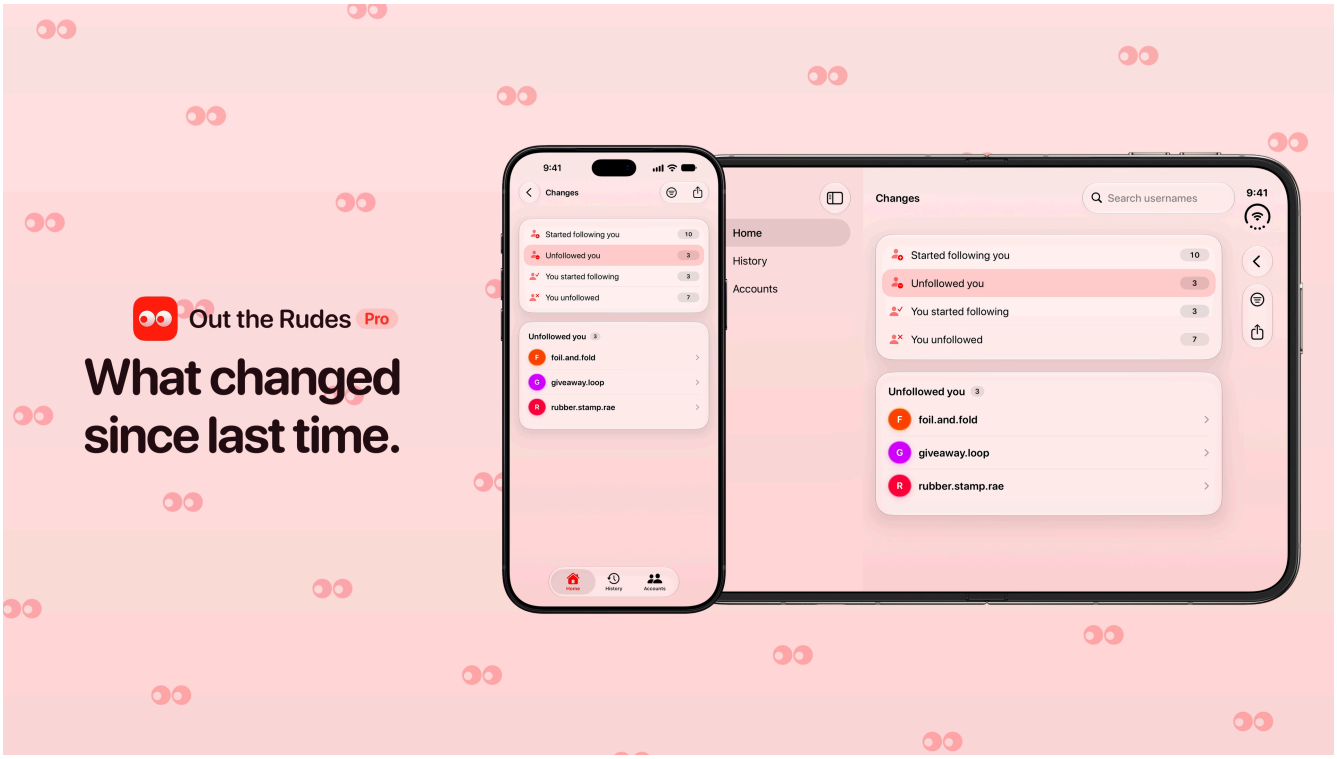
Then I realized you could just export your information from Instagram and compare the lists. I speak in snake (python) from time to time, and this predated the agentic era, so I wrote myself a little script that got the job done.



That script was fine, but eventually I stopped using it. I'm not sure if it's because the list stopped changing, or because I stopped caring…

And then?

Well, I was with a friend and we were trying to figure out who followed who first. So, he whipped out his phone and opened Instagram, but en route to our shared activity, his thumb took a pit stop on my profile's following button, and he "accidentally" unfollowed me.



I put it in quotes to be funny, but that must've been an accident because he promptly corrected his mistake by following me again. However, Instagram showed he only just started following me, so we had no answer.

But, the next morning while brushing my teeth, I remembered my script! I just had to find an old export between November last year and this May.

You see, I don't clear my iCloud Downloads folder. Only my iPhones (*no, no duo. i have no duo. please subscribe so i can get a duo*) put stuff there, and I'm usually not downloading anything large on iPhone Safari, so why bother clearing anything out, you know? One day, the hoarding might just come in handy.

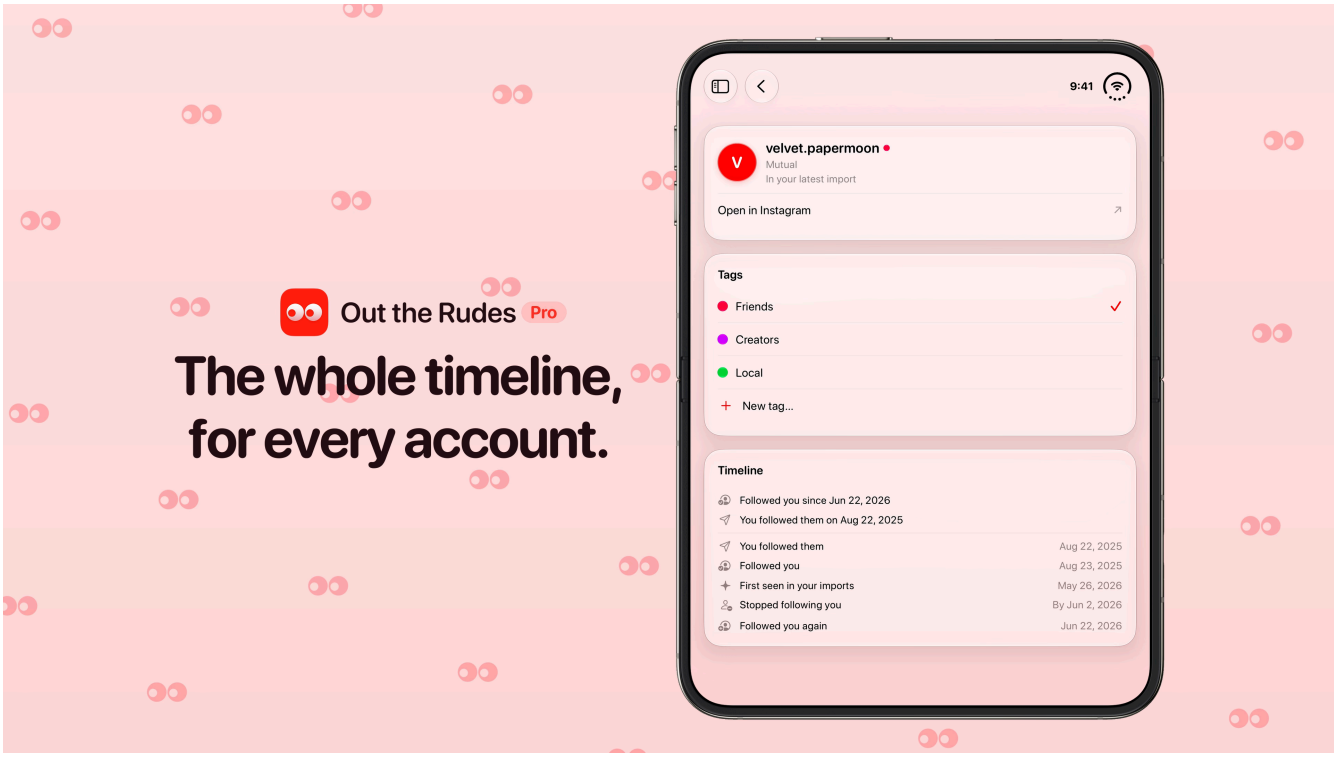
And that day, was that day. But when I ran the script, it didn't work. *Et tu, monsieur python?* Well, at least this is fixable.

But, I'm lazy

You see, why go through the hassle of unarchiving a zip and passing two JSONs into an iTerm window, when there could be an app for that.

Was there already an app for that? Probably… I honestly didn't check. But if there was one, it probably wouldn't let me do anything without starting a free trial.

And who needs a free trial when you have tokens, an idea, and an app-itch to scratch.



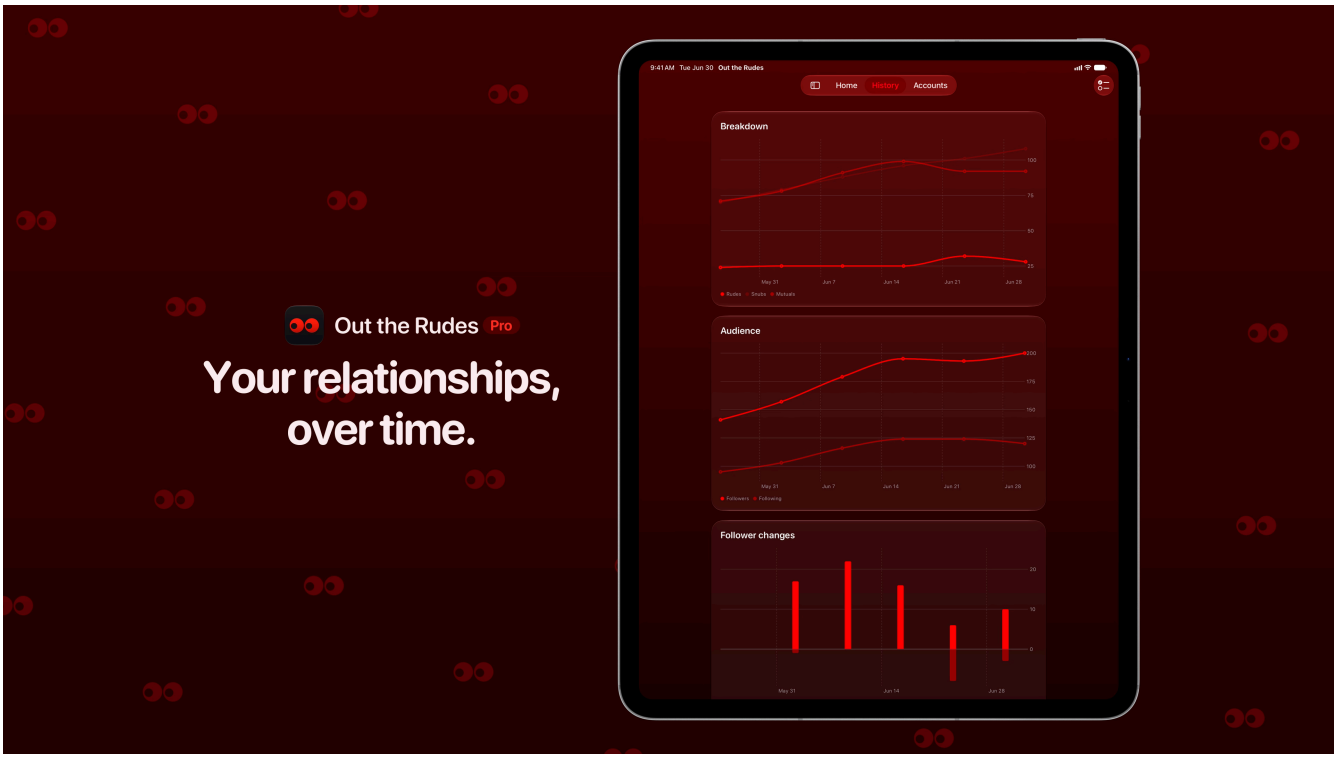
Outed!

So, that's how Out the Rudes app came to be. A side-quest.

As with Shared, you can do the thing the app says you can do without paying. You can find out who doesn't follow you back without subscribing—or starting a free trial.

However, if you want to change the app's appearance, keep past snapshots, see what's changed since last time (with graphs!), use all the widgets, and some other things, you'll want to go for the trial—and forget to cancel.

Actually, the *real* pro move is to build up a backlog of exports, start a trial, import them all at once, play with the app for a week, and then… also forget to cancel.

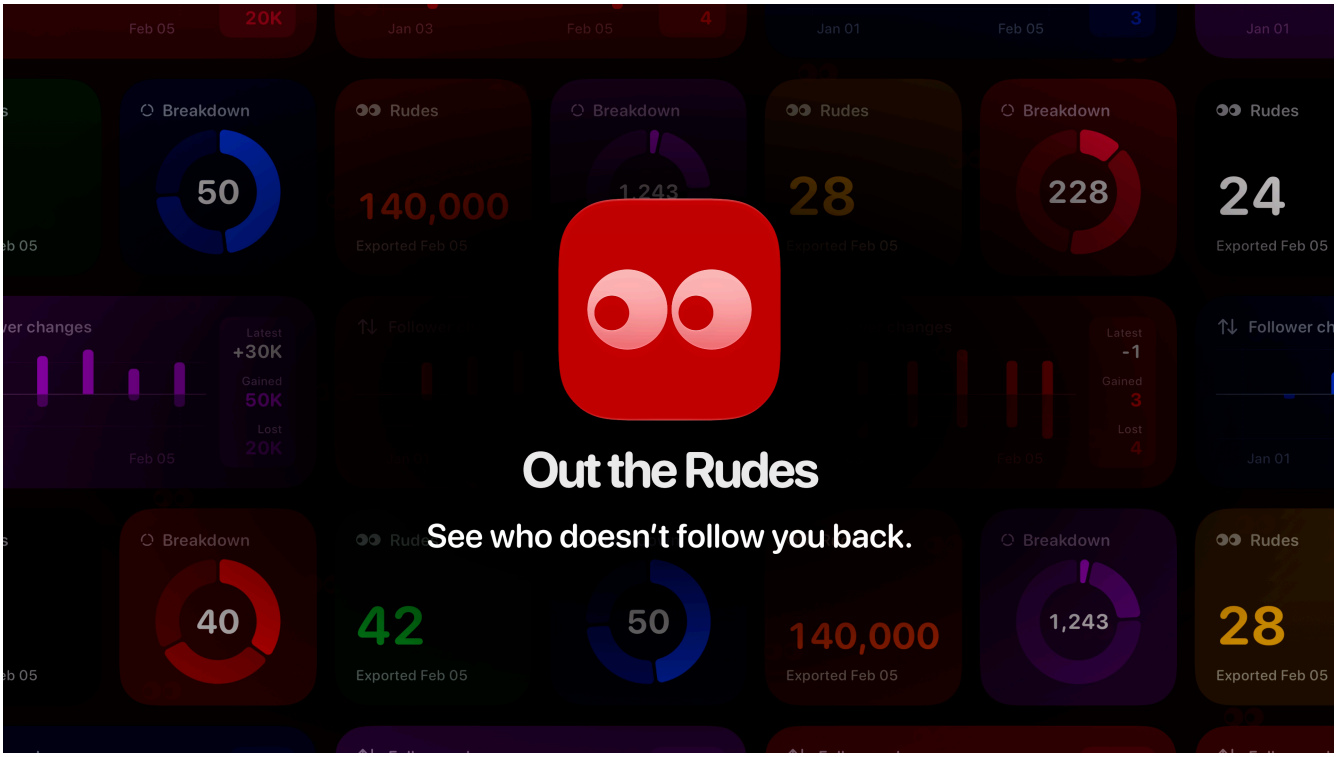


Fin.

Now, if you will allow me a moment of candor, I don't like using the app that much. I mean, it does its job, it's kinda sassy and pretty, and I genuinely do like it. But, I don't really like finding out that an old schoolmate—or his fiancée—unfollowed me. It kinda makes me a bit sad for a bit. Just a bit. I swear.

But alas, I have this tool, and now you can have it too. Use it wisely—but do not ask someone why they unfollowed you.

If you choose to ignore my advice, be sure to tell them you used Out the Rudes :)



Originally available at https://akha.manjezi.com/thoughts/on-out-the-rudes/