

Trends Like These 226: Little Mermaid Casting Controversy, Trump's Big Dumb Parade, US Women's Soccer Team, Jeffrey Epstein Deep Dive, Ice Cream Licker, Nintendo Announces New Console, Kinda... Weird Melania Statue, MORE Marianne Williamson Tweets, Swalwell Drops Out

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Travis: This week: Ice cream licking, soccer kicking, and mermaid nitpicking.

Courtney: I'm Courtney Enlow.

Brent: I'm Brent Black.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Courtney: And I'm a gay, atheist socialite.

Brent: With Trends Like These.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Hellooo, Brent and Courtney!

Brent: Heello Travis, and hello, Courtney!

Courtney: Hey.

Brent: [laughs]

Travis: I'm feeling really good this week, y'all. Had a great therapy session on Tuesday. Which included the best thing a therapist, I believe, could ever say to you, which is, "I think you're doing great."

Courtney: That's awesome!

Travis: And it's like, "Aw, cool. Excellent."

Courtney: I went to my psychiatrist today, and she was really excited about me going to Comic Con, and thought my job was cool. And I was like, well, that's basically a lot like pills. This is like, the pills of conversation. Also, please give me more pills.

Travis: Well, see, that also happened. So my therapist, said, "You're doing a great job, *and* I'm gonna double your dosage."

Courtney: [laughs]

Travis: I was like, "Ah, cool cool, you're the best." I also had a great massage today. I believe in doing the self-care one would normally do after a convention, before it.

Brent: Hmm, yeah.

Travis: 'Cause that's when I'm most stressed about it.

Courtney: The audience might've just heard some crackle crackle, and that was me opening up a wine bottle that doesn't have a cork.

Travis: You're the best.

Courtney: It was a screw top, because I'm a classy lady.

Travis: Hey, what's everybody drinking? And then we'll talk about conventions.

Courtney: Maybe they're hearing a glug glug glug glug glug right now. I am drinking a Paxis red blend. It has 91 points. So...

Travis: Ooh, that's a lot of points, I think. I don't know.

Courtney: It's like... a lot of points. You're hearing a lot of wine sounds. I'm doing some wine foley. I'm trying to add that—

Travis: Yeah, a lot of great foley.

Courtney: I'm trying to add that to my resume, because I'm trying to like, open up what I can like, bring to the table. And so, what I bring to the table is: talking, words, wine foley. That's pretty much it.

Travis: Uh, I am having myself a kiwi-watermelon La Croix, because they had them at Aldi.

Brent: Ooh!

Courtney: I have not heard of these! How is it?

Travis: Yes, I was very excited.

Brent: Me neither.

Travis: Oh, it's good.

Courtney: Good!

Travis: Here's the thing – 'cause I also, just recently from Aldi, bought a bottle of like, sparkling watermelon soda. And what I have found, which Bebe just devoured in one day, and what I have found is that, watermelon flavored soda often smells like watermelon rind, but tastes like watermelon, like, y'know, the pink part. The meat. The fleesh.

Courtney: Yeah, the fleesh.

Travis: Because the rind is like... Watermelon doesn't really have a distinct smell, just y'know, it's not as—

Courtney: I feel like that's all rinds. Like lemon zest is why you get like, lemon scent in things, rather than the juice.

Travis: Yes. Brent, what are you drinking?

Brent: I am drinking the slightly less exciting but still somewhat controversial coconut La Croix.

Courtney: Still gross.

Brent: I love it. Some do not.

Courtney: Still gross. I'm happy for you.

Brent: More for me.

Courtney: But here's the thing. Guys, like I said, I went to my psychiatrist today. So I'm not gonna judge—

Travis: Brag.

Courtney: Anyone else's joy. I'm not gonna judge your joy juice. That sounds disgusting. I'm never gonna say it again.

Brent: Tomorrow, having not gone to the psychiatrist, much joy will be judged. But today? No.

Courtney: Not today.

Travis: So, as we mentioned, we're going to—well, at least Courtney and I are going to Comic Con next week. So we won't be here. Brent will still be here.

Brent: Yes, hello. I'll have some surprises. By that I mean, I still have to surprise myself for what I'm gonna do. but we're gonna figure it out! Come join me and probably some other people!

Courtney: The biggest surprise would be you just showing up at Comic Con with us.

Travis: Ooh.

Brent: [laughs] Unlikely.

Courtney: [laughs]

Brent: But you never know.

Courtney: Travis, do you think we're gonna see a monkey this time?

Travis: Man, I hope so.

Courtney: I hope we see a monkey.

Travis: That was one of the best parts. Um, we usually plug this at the end, but I don't want it to get lost. If you want to find out where I'm gonna be at Comic Con, go to my beautiful new website, TravisMcElroy.com. Listen – you might say, "I've already been to TravisMcElroy.com." But you've never been to it like this! 'Cause it's revamped, redesigned by a beautiful web artist named Eric Enlow.

Courtney: If that name sounds familiar, it's because... [whispers] He's my brother.

Travis: So, TravisMcElroy.com, and then I have like, my whole San Diego Comic Con schedule there. And also just, while I'm saying it, because uh, we need to sell more tickets to it, we're doing an Adventure Zone graphic novel book two book tour shows all over the country, if you count like, five places. But one of them is Los Angeles. Please buy tickets to it. That show will be July 17th, and buy the book.

Okay. Any other emergency plugs right here at the beginning?

Courtney: Uh, if you want to see where I'm gonna be at Comic Con, I guess go to Travis' website, 'cause I'm on a panel with him. So...

Travis: That's true.

Courtney: Yeah. I'm just gonna use your website. I did introduce you to the designer.

Travis: I'll use your website.

Courtney: So I can be like, "Here, have this." I just—I actually just like, am starting up my new website. Guys, I did it thanks to Squarespace. But I don't think they're sponsoring this episode, so nevermind.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Y'know what? For too long... for too long, we have stood on this side of the headlines, my friends. Afraid – afraid to see what might be over that hill, if one day, we just pushed beyond the headlines. But let me tell you – today is that day.

Courtney: What if I'm not ready?

Travis: Coward! You'll be court marshaled!

Courtney: Court marshaled is what they call it when I get marshaled.

Travis: Ohh!

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: Anyways, beyond the headlines.

Travis: Yes, that's where we are now. We charged, we went over the hill. Oh look, it's just more grass. We're beyond the headlines.

Courtney: This story involves grass. But not the Brent kind. Not the fun kind.

Brent: [laughs] The Brent kind!

Courtney: The Brent kind. All weed is the Brent smoke.

Travis: Mary Jane.

Courtney: I already said joy juice, and now it's just like, Brent grass. So like, all of the things are being branded. It's uncomfortable.

Brent: I don't hate that. The Brent grass. Okay.

Courtney: The Brent grass. That good, good Brent grass. This week, the US women's soccer team won the World Cup for the fourth time, becoming only the second ever women's team to get a ticker tape parade in Manhattan. And that's a hard thing to say, because my whole life, I thought it was like, tinker day parade. [laughs] 'Cause I had never seen the words before.

Brent: What, really?

Courtney: I don't know sports!

Brent: Happy tinker day!

Courtney: Happy tinker day for everyone!

Brent: We celebrate once a year!

Courtney: I don't know fuckin' sports. And then I just saw 'ticker.'

Travis: Tomorrow, Soulja day, and then spy day, and maybe Taylor day if they play their cards right.

Brent: Ohh, Travis, deep cut. Good reference. Dang, okay.

Courtney: [laughing]

Brent: I gotta step it up today to keep up. Shit.

Courtney: Anyway, they got a ticker tape parade in Manhattan, and they turned everyone gay. Haven't you heard? We're all gay atheist socialists now, because of the lesbian lady who won the soccers and destroyed America.

Brent: That explains so much about the last three days. Go on.

Courtney: I mean, yeah.

Travis: I misread your copy for a second, and thought it was 'gay atheist socialites.' And I was like, huh.

Courtney: That's my only goal. [laughs]

Travis: [fancy voice] Muffy, have you seen this soccer lady?

Courtney: I just want to be a gay, atheist fancy lady with like a fur and diamonds.

Travis: [fancy voice] I don't believe in your god! Ha ha ha!

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: [laughs] Because as ever, when women do something, the nation has been divided into two camps when it comes to team captain, Megan Rapinoe. Those two would lie down in front of a bus for her – [whispers] it's me – and people who are just so goddamn mad, and think she's ruining this country by being a loud lesbian.

Megan Rapinoe—

Travis: This is—

Courtney: No, they mad. They mad at her.

Travis: The hypocrisy of so many things. But like, also, how often are like, male sports figures celebrated for being, oh, a loose cannon, and like, heart, like, ohh. Like...

Brent: Right. Like that tennis guy who still, to this day, gets to like, jovially be in commercials. Why can't I think of his name?

Courtney: John McEnroe.

Brent: You know who I'm talking about. That's the one.

Travis: John McEnroe.

Brent: Yeah. But it's never that way with women. You're right.

Courtney: No.

Travis: But then you get Serena Williams...

Brent: Right.

Travis: Who like, gets frustrated, and people are like, "Ohh!"

Courtney: It's almost like there is a difference between the athletes who are allowed to have like, hot takes and big emotions, and those who are not. Spoiler – it's the white men ones. They're fine. They will always be fine. Sometimes the white women one, but not always. Not when they're a lesbian with purple hair who has feelings about Donald Trump.

Megan Rapinoe has used her platform for years to make a stand – or a kneel – for marginalized people. Speaking out against Donald Trump and spewing

such hateful, invective as, "We have to be better. We have to love more. Hate less. We gotta listen more and talk less. It's our responsibility to make the world a better place." What? Uh, bitch.

In fact, we have some audio from Media Matters featuring Fox News hosts losing their goddamn shit over Rapinoe and her confidence. How dare she. And her care for social issues. How very dare!

Speaker 1: Rapinoe's feud with Trump overshadowed, for many viewers, the actual joy of watching our team try and create, or, uh, to win.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm.

Speaker 3: She's an amazing athlete. It was an amazing platform. What a way to waste it with an anthem protest.

Speaker 4: Under ordinary circumstances, we would be right on. We'd be watching in the bars and high-fiving and back slapping.

Speaker 5: Because in the end, all the bile and invective didn't overwhelm Trump's salute to America.

Speaker 4: You have the whole world watching. Why would you take 50% of the country, or the 60 million that voted for President Trump, and make them—tell them—tell those people, now you have a reason to be angry at me?

Speaker 6: It's really unfortunate that she would take this opportunity to slam the United States, which is the most amazing and incredible country in the world.

Speaker 4: Under the guise of representing the oppressed. Really, they're just being selfish. Can't we watch a sporting event and not have politics put in your face?

Speaker 2: You want to talk about injustice? Let's talk about women in China.

Speaker 4: In France, ripping our country. The world's reporting it.

Speaker 7: Is using the platform, I'm sorry to say this, to, in some ways, mar or spoil or tar what could've been this great, unifying sport.

Speaker 8: Try to be more of a sort of inclusive, uh, team player, here. You pull people in, rather than push people away.

Speaker 9: The women are not helping their case by their behavior. If you go out, and you disparage the president, you act in unpatriotic ways, and then complain about not getting paid equally, well... what do you think is gonna happen?

Speaker 10: She has just been constantly giving interviews, dissing Donald Trump, dissing the White House, dissing the national anthem, and I think that is a shame.

Speaker 11: Ultimately wrong of her to do that.

Speaker 2: So should she be wearing the flag then, in your view?

Speaker 11: [laughs] Good question.

Speaker 2: Some people—well, that's what people are questioning.

Speaker 11: Why don't we just fire her as the co-captain? I'd love to see that.

Travis: I just want to... real quick, once again. I... fuck is nothing. The F-word. Using dirty words. Using bad language. This is nothing.

Courtney: Nothing.

Travis: This is nothing. Because—

Brent: And their number one boy, Trump, called the Chinese 'motherfuckers.' He said he was gonna 'grab them by the pussy.' Not the Chinese, but others.

Travis: That's—that's what I'm saying, is like—

Brent: And 'shithole countries.'

Travis: At this point, we should no longer be focused on classical dirty words, but more adult situations. Like, that's the thing more than anything is like, saying 'fuck' isn't as bad as half the shit like Donald Trump has said without ever actually saying a dirty word. Or sometimes, actually saying dirty words. Like, people clutch their pearls at this shit.

Courtney: They seem far angrier that Megan Rapinoe might consensually grab a pussy than Donald Trump non-consensually just grabbin' pussies left and right. Like, it really seems to be...

Brent: Pretty amazing contrast, there, isn't it? Wow.

Courtney: That she is just an outspoken lesbian. Guys, Ben... is it Sha—I don't give a fuck, actually. Is it Shapiro? Shapyro? I don't care.

Brent: It's definitely Ben Shapiro.

Courtney: That nightmare Ben person. That I feel like it should be Shapiro, but I've been corrected on that before. He—

Brent: About Ben Shapiro? By who?

Courtney: I don't know, someone said it was Shapyro.

Brent: Oh, they're way wrong. Sorry.

Courtney: I feel like he's just trying to sound less Jewish? I don't know.

Brent: No, it's Shapiro. I don't know. Okay.

Courtney: He uh—he did a whole show about how like, the reason that Megan Rapinoe is so popular is because she's an outspoken lesbian. Y'know, that kind of thing that makes people like huge, big stars.

Brent: [laughs]

Travis: That goes along the same line of the people who are like, "Oh, that person is just making a rape accusation for the money and fame."

Courtney: Yes.

Travis: Like, what are you talking about?

Courtney: Literally, what are you saying? But, rather than kowtow to the nonsense people, Rapinoe and her team have used their spotlight to draw attention to many issues, including fair pay. Because spoiler alert – they don't get it, despite more than earning it. This year's women's World Cup final got better ratings in the US than last year's men's World Cup. 10% of American households, versus 8.3. And it was the best rated US soccer telecast since the last time the women won the World Cup in 2015.

Women's teams also bring in more money. Between 2016 and 2018, and largely due to ticket sales, women's games earned 50.8 million dollars in revenue compared to the 49.9 million for the men's games. And yet... in 2014, US soccer paid the men's national team 5.375 million in bonuses for their World Cup performance. The team was eliminated in round 16.

But in 2015, the women's team won the whole goddamn thing, and made just 1.725 million dollars. According to a gender discrimination suit filed by Hope Solo in 2018, the women's team earned more than three times less than the men's team while performing demonstrably better. And it's gotten... better? Thanks to a new contract, female players only earn 28 thousand dollars less than a men player in a 20-game winning scenario, compared with 164 thousand dollars less under the old contract.

Again, only one gender is actually winning these goddamn games. And it's not just money – in the past, women's soccer teams have been forced to play on artificial turf while men get to play on real grass, going so far as to lay real grass down on fields with artificial turf. US soccer determined that this turf was acceptable, like, unacceptable for men. But totes kewl for women.

And it's... it's dangerous. It's hard on their bodies. There's a huge difference. Additionally, until recently, according to the New York Times, the women's team has only just recently been allowed to fly on chartered flights, rather than commercial, a luxury once reserved for only men.

Brent: Ugh.

Courtney: So... tell me more about how being a loud lesbian woman soccer player is just great and lucrative and awesome.

Brent: Um, here's me missing the point. First off, totally agree. Great coverage. Is Astroturf worse for your body? Is that true?

Courtney: Okay, I'm gonna ask you to picture this right now.

Brent: Okay.

Courtney: Picture you like, jumping up in the air and falling to your knees on Astroturf on top of cement...

Brent: Mmm, gotcha.

Courtney: Versus grass. Yeah.

Brent: That's a good point. Well, I learned something new today.

Courtney: I have, um—guys, I once danced at like, Disney World. I've danced in a lot of different places. I used to be a competitive dancer. And there's a big difference between doing like, an axle-turn into the splits on like, a dance floor, which has like, some bounce to it, versus fucking cement.

And it's... it's a big difference. So like, I totally understand what they're talking about here.

Travis: Hey, let's talk about ice cream.

Brent: Let's do it.

Courtney: I love ice cream. I bet this story is great.

Travis: Well... so, the so-called 'ice cream challenge' is yet another viral sensation that simply should not be. Unlike most challenges that center around raising awareness, or charity, or... uh, hurting yourself... the ice cream challenge seems to have the amorphous qualification of 'ruin a tub of ice cream at the store and put it back.' That's it. Not much of a challenge, and more of a dumb and weird prank. But it's 2019, and apparently, words don't mean anything anymore.

So, the most famous example of the challenge is a video of a young person opening a gallon of Blue Bell ice cream's Tin Roof flavor, licking the top of the ice cream, closing the lid, and returning it to the freezer. And this launched a manhunt. For real.

So, folks calling tip lines... yes, once again, for real... uh, identified the shelves as belonging to a Wal-Mart, and at first, said that the person in the video was a woman from San Antonio. They were then told to check Wal-Marts in Houston, because there were no Wal-Marts in San Antonio that had matching shelves to the video. Uh, and then they said, Houston is where the person in question's boyfriend was from, but then eventually, they identified the Wal-Mart in question in Lufkin, Texas.

Now, according to Blue Bell, the gallon of ice cream was not sold, and everyone was safe, and it was removed from shelves before then, and they've removed... I heard somewhere that Blue Bell claimed to have removed all Tin Roof flavored, like, gallons, or half gallons, from shelves in the... I don't know, that seemed like an over... but we'll see.

So, police also found the girl, and she turned out to be 17. Once they discovered that she was a juvenile, her case was turned over to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. Now, prior to the discovery that she was a minor, police had been saying that she could face up to 20 years in prison for felony tampering.

Now, this may all seem like an overreaction, and in many ways, it does. But, there have been a rash of copy cats since the video went viral. Since the video hit, in fact, another man was arrested for the same thing. When the cops questioned him, he said that he hadn't done anything wrong, and he said that he was "just trying to be famous." And after filming, he then bought the ice cream.

But this from the New York Times, "Mr. Martin was charged with criminal mischief for tampering with a product before he had purchased it, and with "unlawful posting of criminal activity for notoriety and publicity," a rarely-used Louisiana law that makes distributing a video of one's self breaking the law punishable as an additional crime." Which, by the way, just side note. Travis side note. I think that that is a good idea for a law.

Um, so, listen. Don't lick ice cream you haven't bought yet. Like, on one hand, I think a little bit of saying 20 years in prison, arresting people, all that is an overreaction. But... but. We start to get into like, health issues, and y'know, I also saw videos of people taking it one step further and like, reaching their whole hand to grab a handful of ice cream out of the container, and different things like that. And like, I don't want this to turn into the like... there are razor blades in the ice cream, and somebody injected PCP in them, or whatever.

Brent: Right.

Travis: Like, don't... don't mess with, like... it's dumb, and it's gross, and like, it's wrong. Which I know sounds dumb to say, but like, come on. Grow up. Like, it's not the way you want to be famous. Like, could we, as a species, could we just please try to be like, .0001% better and not fuck with ice cream that we haven't bought? Is that asking so much?

Courtney: You guys remember that time that Ariana Grande licked a donut?

Travis: Yes.

Courtney: Like... I just feel like... don't lick things.

Brent: True, but I think the reason that this went viral was because the ice cream licker... I mean, look. I think that it's about uh, the comparative nature between what a regular person for something comparatively harmless faces with 20 years of prison for felony tampering, whereas if somebody's white and rich and powerful as we're gonna find out in the next segment, they can get off super easy. Or your Brock Turners, or your whoever. Like, yeah, don't fuckin' lick ice cream and put it back. That's shitty.

But I guess I feel like you've got this black teenager who licked some ice cream. Like, it's... we all do dumb shit in high school. Not that I'm saying it should be done, but... the fact that like, the manhunt and the 20 years? I don't know, to me, I think that's why it went viral, and I think it's just something to keep in mind with this as we go forward through this particular episode.

Travis: No, that is the thing. Listen, I think that you are absolutely right that, in real world, in the real world in which we live, both the optics of it and the execution of the actual like, criminal justice system in regards to white, rich, and powerful versus basically everyone else, right? But I also think that a lot of this is like, scare tactic, scare theater of like... because when you have a thing like this that starts going viral, um, and people start getting attention for it, the copycat nature of it, and the speed at which it can escalate to like, well, it's gone from, 'that's gross and might give someone the flu or whatever,' to like, 'people might get hurt by this.'

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: So I'm sure a lot of it is like, posturing to be like, "Listen, it might seem fun, but you could face 20 years in prison and have your whole life ruined because you licked some ice cream!" Like, I think it's all scare tactic.

I guarantee you, I think you'd be hard pressed to find a judge that would really give 20 years to someone for licking ice cream.

Brent: Oh, you're right. You're right.

Courtney: No, it's—it's dumb. It's too much. But also, don't?

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: But also, don't do it.

Courtney: But also, don't do it.

Brent: It sounds like this is a story where every angle includes something dumb and too much.

Travis: Yes.

Courtney: It's one of those things where like—okay, I look at the reaction. Purely the reaction. And I'm like, calm the fuck down. This... you're doing this because this is a black teenage girl. When I look at the actual action, all I can picture is Logan Paul. And I'm like, just punch him in the face with the book.

Brent: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah. All I want is for like, the camera to pan up and just see another human being and they're like, "Hey, come on. Now you have to pay for that. Get out of here. What are you doing?"

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: It feels to me like something you would see in like, a TV show series or movie, where like, in the first episode, they'd be like, "This world is crazy. Look what's happening." And then like, every so often in the background of like, a gas station, you'd see someone doing it as like a weird, running joke for the series.

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: Right? This feels like we are in the last series of humanity, and this is the joke we can come up with. We've run out of better, like, better jokes than this, and this is what we're left with.

Courtney: So I've been watching a lot of Law & Order SVU lately. It's become my background screensaver while I work. Sometimes, it's cooking shows. Sometimes, it's Law & Order SVU. It's a calming thing for me. I will not be taking questions at this time.

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: But like, as the seasons progress, the cases start getting like, wilder and wilder, and stupider and weirder. And I feel like...

Travis: Yes, it's the same thing in CSI, which I watched every episode of for like, seven seasons.

Courtney: And I feel like an episode that's about a girl licking ice cream, but it turns into racism. [laughing] I feel like that is a very Law & Order episode. Like, Law & Order, season 20, is that. That's where we are. The world is bad and weird! It's very hard to exist in it! Don't lick the ice cream. Don't be racist. Just everyone, be cool.

[theme music plays]

Brent: Trends Like These this week is brought to you in part by Care Of. Give yourself support this season with a boost. Whether you're looking for energy, better sleep, to maintain stress, which is something a lot of us deal with, especially when we're talking about the news. Or something else to help you feel your healthiest.

Now, I did Care Of's fun online quiz. It's really easy. It asks you about your diet, your health goals, your lifestyle choices. Only takes about five minutes, and then your personalized Care Of subscription box gets sent right to your

door every month with personalized daily packs. And Care Of now offers protein powders, available in individual packets for on the go, and also tubs, all personalized to your fitness goals and dietary preferences.

Um, now, one of the things that I did when I took the quiz, I uh, have had a history of sleep issues. And that's part of uh, one of the options you can choose. You can also, like, if you have lifestyle choices like you're a vegetarian, you're a vegan, whatever, like, there are different options for you. It's really cool, it's really easy, and for 25% off your first Care Of order, go to [TakeCareOf.com](https://www.TakeCareOf.com) and enter promo code 'Trends.'

That's 25% off your first Care Of order by going to [TakeCareOf.com](https://www.TakeCareOf.com) and entering promo code 'Trends.'

[theme music plays]

Brent: Alright, content warning before we get started on this segment. It will include um, elements and mentions of sexual assault, including the sexual assault of minors, as well as sex slavery and sex trafficking. So, we're doing a deep dive on Jeffrey Epstein. He's been arrested for charges involving sex and misconduct with minors for the second time in the last 15 years or so, and the implications involve the Clintons, Donald Trump, and many others.

Epstein is a secretive, super rich, high-end money manager who is connected to many rich and powerful people. He's even palled around with Bill Clinton, Donald Trump, England's Prince Andrew, and his address book and phone message pads from the past include all manner of celebrities and politicians.

Now, back in 2005, the police in Palm Beach, Florida sought to charge Epstein with crimes tied to sexual assault of and misconduct with underage girls. And investigators interviewed five alleged victims, and 17 witnesses. As of last year, the Miami Herald had identified 80 women who say they were sexually abused by Epstein, 60 of which, they were able to physically locate.

But anyway, back in 2005, police said Epstein would bring girls to his house to give him massages. Air quotes. But then, they would turn sexual. He also had hidden cameras all over the house, according to investigative files. One witness said Epstein had even sent a dozen roses to the local high school for one of the girls.

Travis: Ugh.

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: It's all bad.

Brent: Yes. Um, Palm Beach police sought to charge him with five counts of various types of misconduct and assault. Quick rewind to three years earlier. In 2002, when Donald Trump described Epstein to New York Magazine saying, "I've known Jeff for 15 years. Terrific guy. He's a lot of fun to be with. It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side. No doubt about it, Jeffrey enjoys his social life."

Jump cut to this week when Trump claimed to have had a falling out with Epstein, and that he "was not a fan of his." Interesting. Um, Epstein had a private plane, grossly nicknamed 'The Lolita Express,' that Bill Clinton—

Travis: Wait, I—can you... fuckin' imagine? Like, the—the sheer hubris of that?

Brent: Yeah. Hubris really is—

Travis: It's like if OJ Simpson had a plane called like, The Wife Murder Express.

Brent: Yeah. Yeah. It's... and to be fair, or not fair. To be honest, I had a hard time finding out who nicknamed it that. I don't know if that's really pertinent to the story, but it has been reported at many publications that that was the nickname. But regardless—

Courtney: Can I go off on a very weird literature tangent very briefly, about the fact that Lolita, the book, is about an actual sex monster, and not like, what the public has portrayed as this like, sexy young girl who's seducing a man—like, that's not what it's fucking about. It's literally about a child molester, and all of the excuses he gives himself as to why that's okay. The Lolita concept has been bastardized and made fuckin' weird over time. Anyway, that's just my hot literature take.

Brent: That's the second time, Courtney, today, that I've learned something interesting and useful. So, thank you.

Courtney: About Vladimir Nabokov. This is Nabokov's life piece.

Brent: I'm gonna get back on this plane. So, um, the thing about this plane is, uh, among many, many others, Bill Clinton traveled on this plane many times. Clinton, at one time, claimed that he had only taken a small number of trips on the plane, accompanied by Secret Service; but reportedly, he left out a number of trips where he was unaccompanied by Secret Service, which is kind of a whole thing when you're an ex-president.

Uh, and going off my copy here, but this is one of the most variable parts of this story. I've heard as many as 26 trips for Clinton, down to as few as eight, in different publications. So the point is, he went many times, but he reported less times than the number we know, which were the ones where he was unaccompanied by Secret Service. I think I can commit to that as part of my coverage. A lot of this stuff is just wildly different from one reporting to the next.

But, investigators concluded that Epstein had knowingly enticed underage women to engage in prostitution, and traveled in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in illegal conduct with them. So, law enforcement at the local, state, and federal level concluded, at that time, that this guy was an abuser, pimp, and trafficker of underage girls.

So there he was, 2007, facing a life sentence for fairly open and shut charges. The prosecutor on the case was Alexander Acosta, who, today, is Trump's secretary of labor, which is the department that oversees laws

about sex trafficking. According to the Miami Herald, in 2007, Acosta met with Epstein and Epstein's defense attorney at a hotel for a breakfast meeting, and they came out having struck a sweetheart deal, guaranteeing that the federal government wouldn't even prosecute Epstein.

Acosta didn't even tell the victims of Epstein's crimes before he struck that deal, which is illegal. Remember, the prosecutor in this kind of case is supposed to be on the side of and working on behalf of the victims. Ultimately, Epstein pleaded guilty, and uh, he pleaded guilty to two reduced prostitution charges, and he ended up being sentenced to 13 months of work release prison, where he could leave all day, six out of seven days a week, and just come back at night like it was a prison hotel.

Again, I think stuff like this is why maybe there's different kinds of reactions to the ice cream licker in the last story. In 2017, Acosta defended the sweetheart deal, congratulating himself for "putting the world on notice by placing Epstein on the sex offender list," which is like, not even the bare minimum. Not even worthy of being called a slap on the wrist when you have done these things.

So, that's what happened before the current trending story about Epstein. Uh, I'd like to point out that so much of what we know, so much of why this is back in the spotlight, and also why Epstein could finally uh, get justice, or rather, his comeuppance, is because of outstanding investigating and reporting by Julie K. Brown of the Miami Herald. She gets the episode's first Wi-Five. Great job.

So, Epstein has been recently arrested and indicted by a Manhattan federal court for sex trafficking charges. Officials recently conducted a raid of his New York mansion, where they found hundreds of lewd or nude photos of women, many of which appear to be underage, some of which were found to—uh, they were found on CDs in a locked safe, with labels like, "girl pics nude." He pleaded not guilty, and faces up to 45 years in prison, keeping in mind that he has not been charged with every act of which he's suspected, but rather, some specific acts that are ostensibly easier to prove.

So let's review some stuff. Why was Epstein let off easy 11 years ago? We still don't know. But y'know, the guy has shit tons of money to throw

around. He's either a billionaire or a millionaire, depending on which publication you read. He's connected to presidents, titans of industry. So was it a bribe? Did Bill Clinton call in a favor? Did every billionaire's favorite guy, Satan, step in? Like, it's... it's a mystery, but kind of not. 'Cause clearly, some shit went down. Clearly, some very shady, nasty shit.

But we may never know. What we do know is that there's a woman who accused Trump of raping her when she was 13 at a party hosted by Epstein. Now, going off copy again, I think this is possibly the most credible accusation of assault against Trump. Not to like, y'know, dismiss any of the others. But the thing is that, we know beyond a shadow of a doubt, Epstein is the kind of monster that does this exact thing.

The fact that this woman remembers this happening at an Epstein party, in detail, to me just is like, I don't know, at least my gut is like, this is open and fucking shut. Um, especially if Epstein gets convicted, which, all eyes are on him now in a way they weren't back in 2008.

So the thing is, the woman - whose name I don't believe is actually known. I think it's a Jane Doe situation - who accused Trump of raping her when she was 13 dropped the charges a few days after Trump was elected president, allegedly because she received death threats. Remember - Michael Cohen, I believe, was still working for Trump at the time, and we know the kinds of things he is quoted as saying to people threatening Trump.

So who knows if it was him, but like, that tracks. What I think we're seeing here is the silhouette of a situation where Epstein just provided girls for powerful men to have sex with, and maybe none of them ever worried whether they'd be caught. He is said to have often chosen girls who were homeless, or would otherwise not be believed. And I guess that shows you the difference between how we think of these types of accusations now, versus 13 years ago. Like, we've got a long way to go. Don't get me wrong.

But the idea that a sex worker or a woman with no family or connections would be dismissed out of hand? I think we just look at it differently than we used to. But again, we're far from in a good place on that front. One thing I find interesting is the fact that Fox News is spinning all of this away from Trump, including an op-ed titled, and I'm not making this up - the op-ed is

titled, "The Jeffrey Epstein charges are revolting – but let's be careful about implicating others."

So I wonder... did they stick to that philosophy back when Hilary Clinton was running for president?

Speaker 1: There's smoke. And where there's smoke, it's worthy of an investigation.

Speaker 2: It's no secret that former president, Bill Clinton, had a friendly relationship with Jeffrey Epstein. Previous accounts stated Clinton flew with Epstein on his private jet 11 times, a jet accusers say was equipped for sex with underage victims, and was used to travel to Epstein's private island, nicknamed 'Orgy Island.' Newly obtained documents show Clinton actually took at least 26 flights on Epstein's private jet, to spots around the globe. On at least five occasions that they did travel together, Secret Service did not accompany Clinton.

Speaker 1: You don't just dismiss Secret Service. Detail paperwork has to be filed. There's an account of why the dismissal. In this case, there isn't paperwork, and the Secret Service is not responding to the foyer request.

Courtney: Well, would the left feel this way if Bill Clinton was implicated? Because all I keep seeing are people being like, "Yeah. Yeah, we would."

Brent: Absolutely. They always think people act like them. It's like, no, if there's finally some hard proof that Clinton is a rapist, fuck him! Drag him! Cancel him! What the fuck do I care? He's a fucking monster. So now, the feds want to talk to basically anyone who flew on Epstein's private plane, a list including Chris Tucker, Kevin Spacey, Ray Fines, Alec Baldwin, plenty of others.

So, here's the thing I've been thinking about with this. And I mean, y'know, this has been a thing since before the election, so I've had some time to think about this. Like, and what gets me is like, why was Trump's 'grab them by the pussy' moment such a huge story? In all forms of media. But his child

rape accusation, as well as a large stack of other assault and misconduct allegations... they just like, dissolve into the wind.

Like, sometimes, I think about movies like *Eyes Wide Shut*, or like, stories of the Bohemian Grove, or that weird video where super rich people like, put on an operetta about corporate tax avoidance. And I think... is there just this whole hidden culture of the rich and powerful behind closed doors? They're just like...

Travis: Yes.

Brent: They're the aristocracy that has always been what it is, and hasn't changed?

Travis: Yes.

Brent: Harems and concubines, and they don't give a shit about what the regular people think of as morality?

Travis: Yes.

Courtney: I mean, it's actually... okay. Here's how I feel. The 'grab them by the pussy' was a big deal, because A. it was caught on tape. There was proof that he said it. And it was a big deal, because it was divided, like I said earlier, into two camps – the people who were horrified, and the people dismissing it as "locker room talk."

Travis: Yes.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: But the child rape accusation. Their only source of information was this woman. And they're... the people who like Donald Trump, who are going to excuse 'grab them by the pussy,' are just not gonna believe a woman. They're just not, and it's really fuckin' upsetting.

Travis: I would also be willing to bet that there is some... no, there is definitely a contingent of Trump supporters that, hearing the recording of the 'grab them,' the Entertainment... was it Entertainment Tonight? Whatever. Hearing that recording—

Brent: Um, it was Access Hollywood.

Travis: Access Hollywood. Made them like him more.

Brent: Ugh.

Travis: That like, there was... that, to some people, feels like a... like we said, 'locker room talk.' Like, guys guy kind of thing, which is disgusting, but makes talking about it more palatable in a way that you could actually address it, discuss it, and like... whereas when you talk about child rape allegations, people are like, "I—I don't even want to talk about that. Are you kidding? Like, why would you even bring that up?" Y'know what I mean?

Brent: Sure. But I mean, y'all, do you sort of see what I'm saying about the credibility, right? Like, I just feel like... again, I don't want to sit here and adjudicate the credibility of all these claims.

Courtney: Oh, no. To me, this is not us saying whether or not these claims are credible. This is us addressing how, societally speaking, there are people who will never find these claims credible, because they can only accept claims that they can dismiss in some way, shape, or form.

Brent: Right. I guess I just feel like—

Courtney: Which is a fuckin' bummer.

Brent: Like, at this point, not that I was really doubting, but I kind of just want to like, call Trump like, Racist President Trump. Or, sorry, Rapist. I should not... okay. Hold on. Hold on. I mean, he's both. Y'know what? Let's keep it, 'cause he is fucking both. Let's not edit that.

But yeah, like, to me, I just don't understand why it's not like, yeah, our rapist president. Like, it's so obvious to me, and if all this stuff comes out about Epstein, y'know... [sighs] It's frustrating, 'cause like, I've seen videos of like, um, left-leaning journalists who will just go to a Trump rally and just talk to like, people that are probably in their own lives, fairly nice to their friends and just go about their lives.

But the second that you tell them something that Trump did on tape, like for instance, when he said that he could shoot somebody on 5th Avenue and he'd be fine, they'd still love him. They'll just be like, "That's fake. That's fake news. You're lying." And it's like... they just... there is a contingent of people that will not be convinced, because they want so badly to believe in him, and I don't know. It's all just fucked up.

Travis: I would say that I think that it is too easy a dismissal to say that it is because they want to believe in Trump. I think that there are multiple different reasons why someone would be in denial about that kind of thing. I think a lot of it could be that they supported him, or they voted for him, or they defend him, and so, if that thing is true about him, what does that say about them, and so it's easier to deny that than to accept something about themselves.

Also, that they want to remain republicans. They want to remain having the same ideals, and if he is the leader of their party, what does that mean about that? Like, I see what you're saying, but I think that it's even more fucked up than that, because the amount that they will deny goes way deeper than whether or not they like Trump. And these are the same people who will deny and deny and deny.

I also want to address – I said yes to the thing about the, y'know, kind of secret society for rich people. I wish it was that insidious, 'cause I think, uh, there, y'know... there is... Jon Ronson has a book called *Them*, in which it's all about like, extremist and conspiracy theories and stuff.

And the thing is, I think what the idea of a shadowy kind of secret, y'know, society that runs everything, is a very concrete evil that we understand and could comprehend. Right? When I think it is way more amorphous than that, which is like, people have connections, and people end up being tied to other

people's financial welfare, and social welfare, and there are calls made and deals made, and it's not because they are mustache-twisting, robe-wearing evil... just 'cause they kind of are shitty people. And don't worry about the same kind of repercussions, because if they get in trouble, they know 18 people they can call, who know 18 people they can call, to work leverage on a thing to do a thing.

And y'know, we talk a lot about income inequality, but there's also like, status inequality. There's, y'know, connection, power inequality. Where it's like, y'know, there are plenty of middle-income people who are doing quite well, six figure incomes or whatever, who would still go to prison because they don't have connections with people who would get them out of prison.

Brent: Right. They can't have somebody call in a favor from the White House.

Travis: Right. Yes. And so, that's what I think we're seeing here. This is—'cause lots of people focus on the fact that he is a billionaire, as like, this is why it's unequal. But I think more than that, it's the connection inequality. It's the power inequality. Of like, if this dude goes down, think of all those names you said that are going down with—think of how many people are invested. Even if those people never had any connection to doing anything wrong—

Brent: Right, and when you look at the media, this is what I'm saying. George Stephanopoulos, head anchor of ABC, was on Bill Clinton's first campaign. He was like, one of the campaign staffers at the high level. Fuckin' Chris Matthews on Hardball, MSNBC. His wife is a, if I'm not mistaken, a big Clinton fundraiser.

Like, I'm not trying to Alex Jones this. I am saying, if these dominoes actually ever started to fall, I think we'd... in a way that was transparent, which is extremely unlikely for a lot of reasons. I am betting we would see some ugliness that is so ugly and so widespread, we honestly wouldn't be able to process it as reality. That's what I—I sometimes think, and maybe I'm wrong. But I sometimes think that's how far gone it could be if we really knew all the stuff going on behind closed doors.

Travis: But see, but that—that, I think that is kind of reaches to the point I'm trying to make, which is like, there are what we—what most people would consider 'good people' who would still deny this kind of thing, because consciously or subconsciously, they know how bad it could break. And I'm not defending that. I'm not saying that that is—no, no, no, no, no. The opposite.

What I'm saying is like, when you're like, "What the fuck is happening? Why are people—" It's because, on some level, it's some level of self, y'know, preservation of like, that connection of like, well... you see it all the time. You see it, nowadays, in basically any 'me too' kind of scenario. Any accusation made, friends of somebody, coworkers of somebody, will start off defending them, and then like, read something or hear something, or whatever.

Something comes out, and they're like, "Yeah, y'know, I should've said something a long time ago. Blah blah blah." And it's because that connection, like, nobody wants to be connected to somebody who goes down. Who is capable of, who is responsible for, things like this. Y'know? You want to think that you're a better person than that.

Or, you just don't want people to think you're not. That you're not a good person. And so it's like, well, yeah, I don't want people to think that I associate with... it's this really weird, fucked up self-preservation thing that kind of often keeps the truth, uh, covered up, y'know?

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: Hey. [sighs] It's a combination of things where we are dealing with people who will not believe, um, not only that rich, white men are capable of this thing, versus, y'know, men on either side that they respect. But also, in addition to that, it's a combination of these things with the fact that people, a lot of people, see very young women and girls as inherently sexual.

Travis: Mm.

Courtney: And therefore... wanting it? Or like, that it's different, or not a big deal. I mean, the fact that they called this 'The Lolita,' y'know, whatever, it is...

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: It's not based in the original text. It's based in the idea that like, these girls are like, down for it. That they want it. That this is all fine. And it's... and it's boys, too. It's young boys, too. Because Kevin Spacey came up in this conversation. And sometimes, weird... I don't even know how to assign them to a side. People will throw out the fact that like, well, if this was boys, it'd be a big deal.

Like, no. Underage boys are also victims that do not get attention. The fact is, I think pedophilia, and the fact that people... I've written for enough websites with enough comment sections that people feel compelled to say, "Well, it's not pedophilia, it's ephebophilia." Whatever. Like... I... this is wrong? It's just wrong in general? And like, it's wrong across the board. It's not—it's not less wrong because it's teens. It's all terrible, and it's all bad, and it's all... it's all not okay, no matter who did it.

Travis: We live in a society where people joke about counting down the days until a young celebrity is 18.

Courtney: God, remember the Olsen twins? There was a goddamn website.

Brent: Yeah. Lindsey Lohan. Yeah.

Courtney: Counting down the days until they were 18. Because that would make them okay to fuck. And that's insane. That's crazy. That's the fucking world we live in. Guys... [sighs]

Travis: It's... [sighs] I uh, it crops up all the time on Twitter. I see it all the time in discussions happening on social media, where it's usually women, but people talk about like, what age they were at when they were first sexualized. And man, y'know... it's one of those things that you already know

is terrible and terrifying, and then you see like, 300 responses to it, and all of them are like, below 15. And you're like, "Ah, fuck."

Like, it's... it's... it's... I don't want to play this card. Well, I'm going to play the card. But it's a card I don't like to play, because it always sounds like, "Now that I'm the father of a girl, it makes me think about this stuff." I— that's not what's going on. But God help me, I do think about that. Like, it is... it is... it is terrifying to have a child, like, out and about in the world. For a lot of reasons, but this is one that like, when I hear someone say like, "Oh, she's so cute." My like... I tense a little bit, y'know?

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: And she's not even three. But like, I tense, y'know? I get scared. And I think about like, my kid walking home from school. We're gonna get into—like, I don't want to spiral off into a whole thing. But, it is one of those things where, when you look at the jokes people are okay making in society, the references people think are okay to make, the, as you said, comment section jokes people feel comfortable making, and then you see people unwilling to believe that somebody actually did something like this... and it's... it's... it's unfortunately not surprising as like, that thing of like, "Well, I don't believe it."

Courtney: [sighs]

Brent: Are we cool to leave it there?

Courtney: I mean like, let's leave everything.

Brent: Want to put a bow on it?

Courtney: Let's leave everything there.

Travis: Yeah. I don't want to talk about this anymore.

Courtney: Y'know what? Okay, y'know what? I'm just gonna—

Brent: Yeah, same.

Courtney: I'm gonna do the fuckin' intro. No fun. No joy. It's fuckin' politics fuckin' round up. Fuck. Take that to your iTunes reviews, fuckers.

Travis: That should be the new name of our show, by the way.

Courtney: This swearsy lady said the fuck word too many times!

Travis: Hey, maybe that's the subtitle. Trends Like These: Take that to your iTunes reviews, fuckers!

Courtney: [laughs] I like it, actually.

Brent: I like it.

Travis: That might be a good way to go. Maybe that's what we'll do from now on. Okay. Big, deep breath, everybody.

Brent: [exhales]

Courtney: Okay. Real quick, there is a lot of Trump in this specific politics round up. We're sorry.

Travis: There is.

Brent: Yes.

Travis: There is.

Courtney: We're sorry.

Brent: We don't control the trending story on the interwebs. If only we did.

Courtney: We're in the bad times with the bad man, and we can't stop it.

Travis: So. A salute to America. So, Donald Trump threw a big, dumb 4th of July parade for himself, and we're gonna talk about the specifics in a minute. But first, I would like to talk about the optics of it. Because first, this is a dude who is already regularly depicted as a petulant child, throwing himself a parade.

Second, the parade is incredibly militaristic with jets and tanks and stuff, which is scary. And finally, he called it 'a salute to America' without a hint of irony. Like, the most aggressively like, Orwellian branding of a 4th of July parade. It's like, y'know, the freedom of information act. That kind of thing. It's like the fireworks display from 30 Rock.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: It's like a birthday party for like a three-year-old sociopath.

Travis: Right? It's like a joke you would make in the movie, Idiocracy. Like, this is... this is a joke, but it's not? But it's—this is a joke you would make in like, a romcom about somebody working for the—this is a joke they would make on Spin City. Y'know? Like, this is bad. [laughs] It is a bad, dumb thing that really happened.

Okay, so let's talk about it. Trump announced plans to host the event back in February, tweeting, "Hold the date! We will be having one of the biggest gatherings in the history of Washington D.C. on July 4th. It will be called A Salute to America, and it will be held at the Lincoln Memorial. Major fireworks display, entertainment, and an address by your favorite president, me."

Brent: Ugh. Blah.

Courtney: [sighs]

Travis: Um, it should also be noted here, because not every outlet is discussing this. But Washington D.C. already does an annual 4th of July celebration. He just like... he just took it. He just coopted it. Because they have already done one every year. And this year, he just made it his.

So, a few days before the event, it was discovered that the event would be way more partisan than normal. The normal White House, D.C. 4th of July celebrations are like, nonpartisan. Everybody come. Uh, but this time, the VIP tickets went uh, only to the RNC and Trump supporters, and no VIP tickets were allocated to the DNC.

Now, it is not a ticketed event. It is free to attend. But, there was a VIP section with like, better views and seating and stuff, and that was ticketed. And as far as anyone could tell, uh, the DNC did not get any of those tickets, unlike normal. Not only was it more partisan, it was also more expensive.

I found a stat that the usual D.C. 4th celebration costs about two million dollars. Now, according to rough estimates, this year's cost a little under five and a half million. And it should be noted that a big chunk of that, about two and a half million, came from the budget of, and money earned by the National Park Service.

Courtney: I mean, they don't need it, right? [sarcastic laugh]

Travis: Eh?

Courtney: [sobs]

Travis: Uh, and part of that cost, uh, is, I don't know, a pretty upsetting one, I think. It was reported this week that, between providing security and police expenses from handling protest around the event, the event cost Washington D.C. well over two and a half million dollars. This expense bankrupted a special line in the D.C. budget for keeping the capital safe from terrorist attacks, and to provide security at special events.

So that's just empty until September 30th when the new fiscal year starts. The mayor of D.C. also noted that they're still waiting to be reimbursed 7.3 million dollars in expenses from Trump's inauguration. Keep waiting.

Now, it wasn't just a parade and fireworks and a bunch of tanks for some reason. Trump also gave a big ol' speech. Now, mostly, the speech was just

a pretty blah history lesson with Trump sticking to the script. Uh, but there was one weird moment.

Donald Trump: The continental army suffered a bitter winter of valley forge, found glory across the waters of the Delaware, and seized victory from Cornwallis of Yorktown. Our army manned the... it rammed the ramparts, it took over the airports, it did everything it had to do. And at Fort McHenry, under the rockets' red glare, it had nothing but victory.

Travis: And it should also be noted, as far as you can tell, he's reading the teleprompter on that one, uh, reading a script, a script written, and it—

Brent: I want to see what the script said, and I haven't been able to find what they claim it said. So it makes me wonder if there was a typo that he was like...

Travis: Yes.

Brent: 'Cause, okay, he says 'airports' clearly. But earlier, he says, "Erhh... prrts..." It's like, wait, are you—

Travis: Yes.

Brent: Are you trying to say airports, but changed your mind halfway through?

Travis: It does—it sounds like, for a second, he gets really tiny.

Brent: [laughs] Yeah.

Courtney: It's that classic meme, err mah perts.

Travis: Errperts! It is weird, because he's speaking like, "And they took the ramparts, and the [tiny voice] errperts."

Courtney: [laughs]

Brent: Yeah. Yeah.

Travis: [tiny voice] Oil can.

Brent: I made a little video and Twitter of this, and like, during that part, the word was like, spelled weirdly, and like, just fell off the subtitle. Like, "Rrprt..."

Travis: [tiny voice] Errpert!

Brent: But what I find on top of the dumbness and the weirdness and what they explained it as, you'll probably talk about in a second. This is... I just think that it's so weird, when he's reading off a teleprompter and having a little bit of trouble with it, the posture his body goes into, I don't even know how to describe it.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Brent: His head kind of cocks to the side. His eyes do this weird, like—

Travis: And back a little bit, yeah. Well, I'll tell you exactly what it is, Brent. Do you want to know what I think it is?

Brent: Yes.

Travis: He needs glasses.

Brent: [laughs] Probably. But I mean, like, would he—

Travis: I think he needs glasses and refuses to wear them, because he thinks it'll make him look dorky or weak or whatever, or refuses to admit he needs them. 'Cause that—when you look at him reading something, he's squinting.

Brent: Yes, there's that. But he does this little dance. It's like his hands move in a way they never move otherwise. His head cocks, and he's like, trying—you can see him trying to sell it. But it's like... I don't know, I'm rambling. But I just want... what I really want is like, a super cut, five minutes long, of him doing this weird teleprompter dance, 'cause it's so odd. I find it so disconcerting. In a presidency with this much to be disconcerted about, it's miraculous that this does this to me. But it does. It's... odd.

Travis: Maybe at some point, he had some kind of like, speech prep, like, where his staff like, tried to coach him on like, how to do it. And they just kept giving him all these notes, like, "Okay, seem relaxed. Alright, kind of lean your head." And then eventually, they're like, "Okay, fine. Yes. What you're doing is perfect. Do that again. Ugh."

Brent: [laughs]

Travis: Um, here's the thing, right? It did... and I know that this is a weird criticism to make of a celebration. But it accomplished nothing. Like...

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: They increased the budget. Like, they spent more than double the budget. For what? Like, no one came away from it being like, "That was the greatest thing I've ever seen." At least, not the people who wouldn't have already said that if he had just shown up to the normal two million dollar budget.

Brent: Well, if you're really asking, it's so that his base, which he's really trying to hang onto for 2020, will, y'know, all jerk off to it and see it on talk radio, or rather, hear it on talk radio. But Fox News, conservative media of all kinds... there's this, as we well know, there's this swath of people who just are... are emotionally and sexually patriotic in a way that I just don't understand. And they cry about the flag.

And I mean like, there's an element of like, the military in there, which like, I don't exactly want to dis soldiers, because they're the ones actually going and fighting and dying. But, the grand picture of like, "Do you love

Amurrica?" It's like, what the fuck does that mean? It's like saying you're spiritual. It could mean anything!

Travis: One of the things I really love, and there's no possible way... maybe they could've planned—I don't know when they started preproduction or production for Stranger Things season three. And no spoilies here. But it's so weirdly appropriate to me that one of the three lines of Stranger Things season three is like, the mayor is throwing a big 4th of July celebration that he's plastered his name all over, while also, everything's going to shit.

Brent: Yeah. I will spoil one thing that's not a spoiler. Cary Elwes is charming, and really good looking, and cannot have a consistent American accent to save his life.

Travis: Aw, really? I thought he did a—he's doing a little hard thing.

Brent: No, no, no. In the first time you see him, he does a little bit of New York when he talks. And then later on, he's like, [in a southern accent] "I'm Cary Elwes. I'm a mayor, and I'm gonna tell you what's going on."

Travis: That's fair.

Brent: [laughs] No spoilers.

Courtney: He is historically bad at accents, as anyone who has ever seen the fine, fine film, The Crush knows, where he cannot say the name of his female co-lead.

Brent: [laughs] Yeah.

Courtney: Because it is too American and he can't do it.

Brent: That said, his English accent is extremely charming and I love it. But yeah, his American accents, Twister, Liar Liar, not a good track record.

Courtney: He's perfect, though, in every possible way, and I love him.

Brent: In all the Elwes.

Courtney: I'm glad we added this with Cary Elwes, guys. Because otherwise, I was like, "Fuck everyone!"

Travis: Unsurprisingly, Trump has already announced plans to repeat the whole dumb thing again next year.

Brent: Aye yai yai.

Courtney: Travis, in researching this story... because there were a lot of images of just this like, low attendance, and everyone was like, "Ha ha ha, no one cares." But then I also saw some images where the attendance was much bigger. And... people basically saying like, "We, as in America, need to come to terms with the fact that like, there are lots of people who are like, on board with this." Did you see, in your travels, if there were many attendees? Or minor attendees? Or whatever?

Travis: Y'know, oddly, it was not a point of—I read like, six or seven different stories about it from like, a bunch of different websites, and I watched like, even more, like, film coverage of it than that. And they never put a fine point on it. The only thing I understood was that it had been... it like, kind of rained that day, and people kind of came and went as the day went on.

Courtney: Yeah, I'm sure—like, I'm sure, regardless, the rain impacted things. Um, and the images of like, just kind of no one there were very funny.

Travis: Yes. Well, but also, if you think about it—

Courtney: But also, it does lull us into a false sense of security. Where it makes us feel like, "Okay, everyone hates this guy." And that's not necessarily the case.

Brent: No, it's not. I've seen polls with his approval numbers in the mid to high 40s. And I think we have to remember, fucked up though it is, there

are people that are somewhere between totally loving him and thinking, y'know, buying the idea that the economy's doing really well, and therefore, he's to be respected. It's weird how polarized things are, but there's also a swath of people that is huge that cannot understand why people would ever like AOC.

Courtney: Right.

Brent: Our society and its media and all that shit is real fucked and weird.

Travis: To your point, Courtney, there are... It seems like, from what I'm seeing, uh, there's a story about it where it's like, depending on what angle you took a photograph at, and if you found a densely populated area versus a sparsely populated area in the crowd, you could make different cases. There is no official head count.

Um, y'know, that if you're looking over there, there were a lot of people. If you're looking over there, there's not a lot of people. And people showed up, some to watch the parade, and then left. Some stayed for the speech and then left. Some just came for the fireworks. 'Cause it was free.

Courtney: Right, yeah.

Travis: You didn't have to buy a ticket for it. So people would just like, show up for it, because it was also... that's the other thing to remember at the beginning. He coopted the annual Washington D.C., like, 4th of July celebration.

Courtney: Yeah.

Travis: So I'm sure there were lots of people who showed up for it. Not because they supported him, but because they wanted to watch some goddamn fireworks.

Courtney: [sighs]

Brent: Sure.

Travis: Right? And then he was like, "They're here for me!" And it was like, my dude, they do this every year.

Courtney: I do feel like they probably would have had an official attendance record if it had been really good. Because y'know—and I feel like, given just the fuckery of this entire establishment, they probably had their attendance taken by like, people at the gates, like, clicking. Like, "I see a person. I see a person. I see a person." Like I used to do at like, the 5k that I used to work at.

And that is what it is, and everything's bad, and... [groans] So.

Brent: Let's move on.

Courtney: Well, I mean, we're not really moving on, is the problem.

Brent: That's true. We're just going to a different Trump thing.

Courtney: Normally, we just—exactly. We don't focus too much on the tweeted ramblings of Donald Trump, which, in and of itself, admittedly, is depressingly wild. Because we're just like, "Yeah, that happens. It sure does. Because this fuckery is our normal now, and we're all gonna die at his tiny, tiny, small hands."

Anyway, Donald Trump went on one of his bonkers Twitter threads again today and... I... like, I just... like, how did we get here? Oh, right, racism and misogyny. It's those things. Anyway, he started the day tweeting, "Will be a big and exciting day at the White House for social media!" That it was. That. It. Was.

Brent: Oh, God.

Courtney: Then, he said this shit. "A big subject today at The White House social media summit will be the tremendous dishonesty, bias, discrimination, and suppression practiced by certain companies. We will not let them get away with it much longer. The fake news media will also be there, but for a

limited period. The fake news is not as important or as powerful as social media. They have lost tremendous credibility since that day in November, 2016, that I came down the escalator with the person who was to become your future first lady.”

Brent: Jesus Christ.

Travis: Huh? What a weird way to phrase that.

Courtney: Everything about it is weird. “When I ultimately—”

Travis: But like, not the day I became president, but...

Courtney: No, it’s about the escalator.

Travis: Huh. Okay.

Brent: Everything is weird.

Courtney: Everything’s bad. Everything’s bad and weird.

Brent: It’s a simulation gone wrong.

Courtney: [singing] It’s all bad. “When I leave the office in six years, or maybe ten or 14... just kidding.”

Brent: Fuck you!

Courtney: Just kidding! [hysterical laughing] “They will quickly go out of business for lack of credibility or approval from the public. That’s why they will all be endorsing me at some point.” I don’t know how to emphasize the weird fucking capitalizations that he makes. But know that like, the words that don’t make sense to be capitalized are the words that are capitalized. Just fuckin’ picture whatever the fuck you want. It’s all bad.

"That's why they will all be capital-E-Endorsing me at some point, one way or the other." That sounds like a fuckin' threat.

Travis: What the fuck does that mean?

Courtney: Could you imagine having—

Brent: That means he's got dementia. That's what I think it means, personally.

Courtney: Okay, I feel like when people say that, people are like, "Oh, that's ableism." No, there's something fucking wrong with him! Or...

Brent: Yeah, I don't mean—I certainly don't mean to—

Courtney: Or, he's just really, really evil.

Brent: To dismiss people with dementia.

Courtney: That's wrong with him, too!

Brent: But I think he's possibly got some mental health issues, and I'm kind of... it's like, y'know, it's kind of shamey, but... I'm kind of not kidding, either.

Courtney: It's one of those things were like, he is a fucking broken, bad person. But so are his kids. Because they're like, "I'm on board with this!" And so, I feel like either they're all severely mentally ill, or they're all just fucking evil.

Brent: It's probably a compound issue, to be honest.

Courtney: And I think it might be, uh, both.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: [laughs] Anyway... I'm just gonna say this, but again, and not make any editorials. "When I ultimately leave the office in six years, or maybe ten or 14... just kidding. They will quickly go out of business for lack of credibility or approval from the public. That's why they will all be endorsing me at some point, one way or the other."

"Could you imagine having sleepy Joe Biden or Alfred E. Neuman or a very nervous and skinny version of Pocahontas, one one-thousand-twenty-fourth, as your president rather than what you have now? So great looking and smart. A true stable genius."

"Sorry to say that even social media would be driven out of business, along with, and finally, the fake news media."

Travis: There's so. Much. There.

Courtney: And the thing is, he tweeted all of this, and then deleted it, and then tweeted it again with random—

Brent: What? I didn't hear that. Really?

Courtney: I don't—I have not seen anyone report on this. It's literally what I saw with mine own eyes. In the original—

Brent: Now, I will say. First off, I want this to be true, but Twitter did have some serious server issues today.

Courtney: Okay, they did. But like, Brent—okay, literally go to my fucking Facebook right now and look at the tweet of his that I screenshotted my very own self.

Brent: Okay. Okay. Just trying to be helpful so they don't correct you on the very social media platform we're discussing.

Courtney: In the original tweet... in the sleepy Joe Biden one—

Brent: I believe you.

Courtney: When he was referring to, presumably Pete Buttigieg, he tagged Alfred E. Neuman. It's a fictitious fucking character.

Brent: Ahh.

Courtney: And he also originally put Elizabeth Warren's Native American ancestry results as one thousand slash 24th. Which means he heard it phonetically and just ran with it. And then he got corrected, and he was like, "Well, I'm just gonna need to tweet this whole thing again."

Travis: Okay. Can I... for a moment...

Courtney: Yeah. [sighs]

Travis: This is another one of those things where none of this is the point, but also... [sighs]

Courtney: I feel like that's what he wants.

Travis: It makes me so mad...

Courtney: That's what he wants, is that there's so many not-the-points...

Travis: That the president tweets... that he tweets about himself, saying that he is so great looking and smart. And that's... overshadowed by everything else. Because in any other world, we could have a field day with that for weeks.

Brent: Yeah.

Travis: For weeks!

Courtney: Okay, can I—

Travis: So great looking and smart.

Courtney: Can I be—[sighs] I'm gonna be the hot take. I'm gonna be the hot take on this very day.

Brent: Hit us with the take. I want to hear it.

Courtney: Okay. So, when Donald Trump talks about like, how just like, motherfuckin' sexy he is. Things like that. People are quick to insult his body and his physical appearance. And then, people who are, um, good humans, is what I'm gonna call them. they're good humans. Gooder than I. Are quick to say, "Don't body shame Donald Trump, because that is the least of the reasons to hate him." And I agree that that is the least of the reason to hate him.

At the same time, I have a very hard time not reading this, "I'm so fucking good looking," tweet and thinking, "Bitch." Like, I don't know how to exist in these two realms of good person and my actual self. This actual person made of garbage that I am.

Travis: Well, here's the thing. My pointing it out isn't because like, "How dare he think he's attractive, look at him." It's that what he's saying is—

Courtney: And I know it's not, Travis, because you are a good person. And I'm not!

Travis: Yes. Listen. You said it.

Courtney: [laughs]

Travis: Um, but then, what he's—

Brent: [laughs]

Travis: What he's saying is, "Aren't you lucky to have me as president because I'm so great looking?"

Brent: This is a moment to invoke Obama's tan suit, by the way. Just, y'know, so we understand what was a scandal.

Courtney: Aren't you lucky to have me? This sexy-ass, stable genius?

Brent: This circus peanut of a monster man.

Courtney: Just an eight pack and dick for days.

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: Me. Donald Trump.

Travis: Is Alfred E. Neuman... is that Buttigieg?

Courtney: I think that's who he calls Buttigieg.

Brent: I think so.

Courtney: Because Buttigieg literally said, "I'm too young for that reference." And he is.

Brent: Yes. Which, by the way, is not true. I'm his... I'm only a few years younger than him. He just doesn't remember it.

Courtney: Yeah, but we are old for our age.

Travis: I also want to point out—

Courtney: To that, I would say, then maybe, Pete, if he's not old for his age, shouldn't be president. But like, that's not the point here. What I'm saying is, Brent and I should be president.

Brent: Hey, there's the ticket! Holy shit!

Travis: I—what's the deal with the 'nervous and skinny version' thing?

Courtney: Okay, I have been thinking about that all fucking day, where I literally tweeted this morning, "The bad man's tweets are bad. But can we go back to this weird Pocahontas fat shaming thing? Because wait, what?"

Travis: What does that mean?

Brent: [laughs]

Travis: One, I've never thought of Elizabeth Warren as 'very nervous.'

Courtney: No.

Travis: And also, this isn't a commentary on her body at all. Are people talking about Elizabeth Warren's, like, body? Is that a thing?

Courtney: I feel like he had some kind of reason to body shame Pocahontas.

Travis: Wait, is he body shaming Pocahontas, or Elizabeth Warren?

Courtney: I feel like he is, where like, did she turn him down for a date? Like, what the fuck?

Travis: What's happening here? What's the...

Courtney: Here's the thing about Pocahontas, is that she is from the very long, long ago. And I don't know—I only know what she looks like in art.

Travis: [sighs]

Courtney: In art, she looks... I mean, average.

Brent: I think what we can agree on is that Trump is not painting with all the colors of the wind, if I may be so bold.

Travis: Fair.

Courtney: Yeah. [sighs] Yeah. I—I just want to say. I don't want to—no, I don't want to sound... I don't want to sound like the Elizabeth Warren of problematics. But my aunt periodically tells me that I am... [laughs] A descendent of Pocahontas. And I am not gonna claim any of it.

Brent: Oh, wow.

Courtney: I'm just saying, my aunt who is real fuckin' into ancestry, has said that I am.

Brent: But y'know, like, on that point, Courtney—

Courtney: And maybe I am.

Brent: I thought that I was between half and a quarter Norwegian forever. I told Norwegians that. They were like, "Oh, you look Norwegian!" When I went there, right? And it turns out—

Courtney: On a scale of one to ten, you seem Norwegian.

Brent: [laughs] Well, thank you. Um, uh, the point being, 23 and Me was like, "Nah." And so, there I was, thinking, just assuming what I've been told was correct. I don't understand how that's such a big scandal with Elizabeth Warren. Like, I know that people want to paint her as um, deceitful. But it's like, if you've been told that—

Travis: It's not.

Brent: There wasn't 23 and Me back then. It's such a useless scandal.

Travis: That's the thing, Brent. It's not. It's not a scandal. This level of Donald Trump saying shit is like... here's the thing, right? We have been talking about politics forever on this show, it feels like. But we... Elizabeth Warren has been in the lead of the discussion, or at least, one of the leads of the discussion, for the last like, four or five months. People have been

talking about her, and I've been paying attention. There is no one outside of like, Donald Trump and Donald Trump cronies who are like, "Well, I'll tell you the issue with Elizabeth Warren."

People might disagree with her policies, they might not like her views on stuff, but I haven't seen many, if any, people like, "I'm not gonna vote for Elizabeth Warren because she lied about her ancestry." Like, that's not a thing.

Courtney: I think it is a thing that people trot out as... I'm not saying that anyone is wrong for being bothered by that. I absolutely understand, it is wholly valid. Particularly among the actual indigenous community.

Brent: Sure, yeah, I get that.

Courtney: But! I think that... my understanding is that actual people affected by that would still fucking vote for her if she was the nominee. And the people saying like, "I will never vote for her because of this," are the ones who would be ultimately unaffected by another four years of Donald Trump.

Travis: Yeah. I should point out – what I mean – thank you, Courtney. What I mean to clarify is, when we first covered the story of her like, ancestry test revealing that she wasn't, or that it was so distant that it might as well have not been, like, we said at the time, is her like, bid for the presidency done?

Courtney: Right, yeah.

Travis: Like, it seemed like it was going to be a scandal, a thing that would blow up and be like, any time she even opened her mouth to talk about wanting to be president, it would like, be like, thrown in her face, and she would be shouted down, and like, it would ruin her political career, basically.

Courtney: I feel like it's a testament to how very good she is, that it really hasn't been. The only thing that's affected—

Travis: Yes. And that's what I mean when I say—

Courtney: --her chances at the presidency is, woman? Is the woman.

Travis: Yes.

Courtney: So for what it's worth, that was not the first time that Donald Trump has trotted out the 'stable genius' thing. In January, 2018, he said the following: "Now that Russian collusion, after one year of intense study, has proven to be a total hoax on the American public, the democrats and their lapdogs, the fake news mainstream media, are taking out the old Ronald Regan playbook and screaming mental stability and intelligence." He couldn't even say 'instability.' He just said 'stability.'

"Actually, throughout my life, my two greatest assets have been mental stability and being like, really smart."

Travis: My God. [laughs]

Courtney: I feel like we all just kind of forgot about this fuckery. But it happened.

Travis: And here's the thing. I use 'like' all the time. I'm not... I am not mocking someone for—

Courtney: No, yeah.

Travis: I write it in my tweets, I write it in... I say it all the time. But...

Courtney: I love the word 'like.' I think it's a beautiful word. But when this fucker uses it, it's like, you are...

Travis: It's also the worst timing.

Courtney: You are stepping on the memory of Angela Chase and the My So Called Life cast.

Brent: [laughs]

Travis: It's the worst timing to use it, too. And being, like, really smart, is just... [laughs] That's called a joke. You just made a joke.

Brent: He's quoting himself.

Courtney: It's deeply Gretchen Wieners. It's very—like, it's just... it's very Mean Girls.

Brent: But it's also like a quote, that I think he's actually trying to be true to his own quote. 'Cause there's, I'm sure, video of him saying multiple times during his campaign, he's like, "I'm like a smart person. I'm like, a really smart person." It's just the thing that... I don't know why he does it. But I—maybe he just liked the way it—

Courtney: I mean, if he's saying 'like' for emphasis, which is a thing I do, I will change my entire writing style. Like, I will quit everything.

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: Anyway, I'm going back on. "Crooked Hilary Clinton also played these cards very hard, and as everyone knows, went down in flames. I went from very successful business man to top TV star to president of the United States on my first try. I think that would qualify as not smart, but genius..." Dot dot dot... "And a very stable genius at that."

Travis: [sighs] Okay, listen. I know. Once again, not the point. But just to nitpick, I think you should've written, "I think that would qualify as not *only* smart, but genius." And not what you have written, which is, "Qualify as not smart, but genius," as though smart and genius are two different exclusive things. You dumb piece of shit.

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: You know that thing where you do like a really hard work out, and it's like, okay, shake out your muscles. Shake out your muscles, 'cause we're gonna go onto the next thing. That is what reading Trump tweets is to me. It's like, okay, shake out everything. Bleach your body. Burn off your tongue. Everything's fine. Go on.

And I just want to say, for the millionth time, and I don't want to hear back on it. Please do not @ me. Please do not give me your nuance. I honestly don't care at this point. Whoever gets the democratic nomination, just fucking vote for them. I know there's nuance. I know there's problems. But we're literally all gonna die if this guy wins again. So please. Please. Vote for whoever. And just like, vote really hard in the primary so it's not the bad whoevers.

Now, speaking of tweets. I very tragically missed out on some true Marianne Williamson gems last week, and as promised, I will now deliver to you Laura Dern's former roommate's tweets, part two. Yes, she was Laura Dern's roommate in college.

Travis: No! No!

Courtney: Yes!

Brent: [laughing]

Travis: No!

Courtney: And people have pointed out, like, they guarantee that she passed Renata on Big Little Lies on Marianne Williamson, and I fucking see it. Okay.

Travis: Uh, I would just also like to uh, uh... we should say that the reading of these tweets is not an endorsement of Marianne Williamson. Okay, go on.

Courtney: Oh my God, no. Please—okay.

Brent: Turns out, no.

Courtney: Don't vote for Marianne Williamson. Don't vote for the lady with the dumb wedding dress code. Like, everything I dramatic read? Don't. It's... no! Why? How dare! Mustin, cue the fuckin' music!

[music plays]

Courtney: "Every feels, on some level, like an alien in this world - because we are. We come from another realm of consciousness, and long for home."

"The real you is not a body. Your body is merely a suit of clothes. Physical birth was not your beginning, and physical death is not your end."

Travis: But then what are my clothes? If my body is the clothes, then what are my clothes?

Courtney: Your clothes are vaccines, and should be destroyed.

Brent: Also, they are pregnant with your next clothes.

Courtney: [laughs] Oh my god. Is that what trunk club is?

Brent: Yep.

Travis: Yeah.

Brent: My pants are pregnant with my next underwear.

Courtney: Shit.

Brent: And if you don't understand this, get with the fucking program.

Courtney: And when underwear grows up, it becomes pants!

Travis: Man, I wish that was true. Wouldn't that be cool?

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: That'd be really cool.

"Mentally quarantine the government of Syria."

Travis: Huh?

Courtney: "See them and their minions surrounded by a golden egg that their malevolence cannot penetrate. Within the egg, let's see them showered with light to awaken them."

Travis: And this will be my first act as president.

Courtney: I—okay. So this... this... she... she tweeted it and deleted it, but it was still on Facebook. And so, she posted it on Facebook less than like, a week and a half after I gave birth to my first child, and I feel like this is a dream that I had while failing to breastfeed plus experiencing postpartum depression. Except it's real! Who knew! Thanks mayor.

"A new moon eclipse in Pisces tonight means huge cosmic forces make enlightened dreams come true. Just saying. ;)"

Travis: Huh? What's the 'just sayin' there to denote?

Courtney: I'm just fuckin' sayin'.

"Just spent time in silence, showering the president of Syria with a love so great that his insanity could not stand it in its presence."

Travis: What?

Brent: Jeeze. [snorts]

Courtney: "All films were good, but Avatar has changed the world. He didn't win an Oscar tonight, but James Cameron deserves a Nobel Peace Prize."

Brent: What?!

Travis: Should be... should be noted there. 'Prize' spelled P-R-I-C-E.

Courtney: That's true. Nobel Peace Price.

Brent: Don't even know.

Travis: I haven't even seen Avatar yet, and it's changed Marianne Williamson's world.

Courtney: That's because no one has. Did she give all the billions to this movie? Because I feel like she's the only person who's ever seen it.

"Yin is feminine. Earth. Yang is masculine. Sky. When God is seen as he, the soul is seen as she, just archetypes. Spirit impregnates soul."

Brent: [snorts]

Courtney: Hey. Hey, guys. It's your friend Courtney, here.

Brent: Yes.

Courtney: 'Bout to read you some good words from Marianne Williamson.

Brent: Hit me.

Travis: Okay.

Courtney: "You're a lamp."

Brent: [snorts]

Courtney: "God is the electricity."

Brent: Okay. [laughing]

Courtney: "You're a faucet." [laughing] "God is the water. You're a human. God is the divine within you. Allow the flow." [laughs]

Travis: Now, hold on. Hold on. Marianne? Marianne? Can I talk to you about your metaphor here for a second?

Courtney: All of these things together equal getting a very bad electroshock!

Travis: Yeah, Marianne? Hey, this is Travis. I'm no engineer, but a lamp... okay, God's electricity. Electricity powers the lamp. You know water doesn't power a faucet, right? And you know that you can... like...

Brent: Look, she's just pregnant with mixed metaphors, okay? That's how she works.

Travis: Are you saying that if I open my mouth, God will flow out of me? [laughs] Do I need to keep my mouth closed to that I don't lose God?

Courtney: You're a blender. God's the smoothie.

Travis: 'Cause that's what happens.

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: You're the floor, God is... puppy shit. I've got a puppy. That's pretty much what I'm dealing with. All my metaphors are just gonna be puppy shit. Anyway.

[music plays]

"God is big. Swine flu, small."

Travis: Honeycomb big.

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: [laughs]

Brent: What? What?! I'm not reading along, I just wanted to get the fresh effect. Oh my God, you're kidding.

Courtney: I need to start over now that you guys know where this is going.

"God is big. Swine flu, small. See every cell of your body filled with the divine light. Pour God's love on our immune system. Truth protects."

Brent: [singing] God is big, yeah, yeah, yeah. Swine flu small, no, no, no.

Travis: I've got a big God hunger. Now, here's the thing...

Brent: [laughs]

Travis: That is funny, and maybe the funniest one. Admittedly, arguably, the funniest one. But also, another great indication of why you should not vote for this woman. She is literally saying—

Courtney: Generally begging. Don't do the thing.

Travis: Hey, you want to cure your swine flu? Just fill up your body with God's love, and that will work with your immune system. Done.

Courtney: You want to solve international strife and genocide? Just pour some love on it. I did it. I'm president. I'm president Marianne Williamson. Girlfriend, you are so on.

"When it's time for a chicken to hatch, the eggshell fills with a noxious gas, causing the chicken to start pecking. The baby is literally dying to be born. We, too, are dying to be born to a greater expression of ourselves. The spot we're at now at having becoming an inhabitable place."

Travis: That's not true.

Courtney: I don't know what it means. Like, I think she—

Travis: Wait, hold on—

Courtney: I think she made, like... she had a thing where she was just like, "Oh, I heard about like, baby chick eggs and the gas." And then just like, went for it. But it's all bad.

Travis: Let me just do a quick Google. "Do eggs fill with gas?" Hmm.

Brent: This is either going to be—

Travis: Nope! "Do eggs make you fart" came up. [laughs]

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: Do they? I mean, I feel like they do. I feel like that's more believable than, they fill with noxious gas that makes them just die to be born.

Travis: It's just not true, Marianne. Oh, no, I take it back. This last one's the best. [laughs]

Courtney: Guys. Hey. Fucking listen. It's me, Marianne Williamson. [slurring] Marianne Williamson.

"Visualize the oil spill plugged. Close your eyes for five minutes and see angels coming over it, filling it with sane and sacred thoughts."

Brent: [laughs]

Travis: [sighs]

Courtney: Can you believe she's gonna solve climate change? [laughs]

Travis: Marianne. Marianne, can I talk to you for a minute?

Courtney: Will all of her—[slurring] Yes, you can. It's me, Marianne Williamson. What do you have to say?

Brent: Girl, you are so on.

Courtney: [slurring] Travis Mc—

Brent: Girl, I am so on.

Courtney: [slurring] Travis Mc—Mic-hell-roy.

Travis: Close enough. Marianne... how would sane and sacred thoughts plug the hole?

Courtney: [slurring] Oh, Travis, I would say, girlfriend, you are so on. You put the thoughts in the hole. And the—

Travis: Hey, Marianne. Marianne, please put that glass down.

Courtney: [slurring] And the thought—oh, God—you don't get to tell me what to do!

Travis: Why are the angels there if it's my sane and sacred thoughts? Why do the angels need to be there?

Courtney: [whispering and slurring] Travis. Travis.

Travis: Yes? Yes, Marianne?

Courtney: [whispering and slurring] Travis. It's me, Marianne Williamson.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Courtney: [whispering and slurring] The angels are always there.

Travis: Okay. Please put the knife down, Marianne.

Courtney: [slurring] If the angels are in this...

Travis: Okay, no, you're scaring—Marianne, please, take a step back. Please. Marianne.

Courtney: [slurring] This fancy blade... Travis, look it. Look how shiny it is.

Travis: Okay, Marianne, I'm gonna go. We've gotta get to tid bits.

Courtney: [slurring] I'm gonna just do a little dance, and... [hums]

Travis: Okay. I'm gonna go over here to tid bits now, Marianne. Creeeeaaak.

Courtney: [slurring] Okay. You guys go. I'm gonna go watch—

Travis: Thump, thump thump thump! Slam!

Courtney: [slurring] I'm gonna go watch Avatar.

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: [slurring] I know all the characters' names, like blue—

Travis: We're in tidbits now. No, you have to leave her behind, Courtney.

Courtney: [slurring] And like, other— [laughs]

Brent: I gotta say, this is among the most interesting and unusual bits of audio this show has ever seen, but I loved it.

Courtney: [slurring] Oh no. Can you believe that—

Brent: But also—

Courtney: [slurring] Can you believe that Courtney's gone, and it's only Marianne Williamson?

Travis: No, Marianne? You have to stay in tidbits, Marianne.

Brent: Oh God, oh God. If Mikey Coco finally becomes the co-host, we'll have a show with Marianne Williamson and Michael Cohen.

Courtney: [slurring] It's on now. There's gonna be a crazy show.

Travis: Okay, Brent, you have to start talking.

Courtney: [slurring] Girlfriend.

Brent: I am going to start tidbits now.

Courtney: I need an exorcism at once!

Brent: Here we go, ready?

Courtney: Please save me from this crazy woman! [slurring] Courtney, shut up.

Travis: I need a young priest and a hot priest.

Courtney: [laughs]

Brent: This fluffy Nintendo content will exorcise the demons. This week, Nintendo announced the upcoming release of its newest console, kinda. For

those of you who don't know, Nintendo, since the late '80s, has had two sets of game systems: the ones you can hold in your hand, and the ones you hook up to your TV. If you don't count the Virtual Boy – and you know we don't – they reinvented to concept of a video game console—

Travis: Some of us don't. Some of us do.

Brent: In 2017—say again?

Travis: I owned and enjoyed the Virtual Boy, sir.

Brent: Um, I believe one of those. Anyway, so, Nintendo reinvented the concept of a video game console in 2017 with the Switch, which can be connected to a dock and played on the TV, but you can also take it out of the dock and seamlessly continue playing and take it with you on the go. Now they've announced a system called the Nintendo Switch Lite. Unlike the Switch, which has modular controllers and docks with your TV, the Switch Lite is a hundred dollars cheaper, the controllers are permanently attached, and it will not dock with your TV. It's also a little bit smaller.

So like, what's the point? I think the point is that like, Nintendo's long running portables, like the DS, 3DS, then 2DS or 3DS... it's all pretty obsolete when you have this level of power in a small, portable package. So as many have predicted, they're merging their portable and home console products into one brand. Now, if they would just offer digital versions of DS and 3DS games... Nintendo, are you listening? So we wouldn't need to like, fire up the ol' portables to play the old portable games.

Courtney, you'll excuse me if I don't ask you what you think, 'cause you don't... you always tell us you don't know anything about video games. Travis, what do you think about all this?

Courtney: [slurring] Brent, I don't know anything about video games.

Brent: Oh God, she's still there! Oh God!

Travis: No, that's actually just how Courtney sounds when we talk about video games.

Courtney: [unintelligible slurring]

Brent: [laughs]

Travis: Um, I would say that I have a lot of thoughts about this. I think it is uh, a bad move. But I also think it is probably in response to both Sony and uh, Microsoft, more or less, pushing their next next-gen consoles out. Not yet, but soon. Y'know, like, that Nintendo is trying to stay in the conversation, um, and I'm sure, trying to get out that cheaper option to keep people in the loop.

But when it comes down to it, I think the only thing that it offers as an improvement is better battery life, if I'm not mistaken. Which, the whole draw for me of the Switch is being able to, y'know, switch between being a console and a handheld. And this is just a handheld. Like, if you can't dock it to your TV, then it does not, y'know, switch.

Brent: Right.

Travis: Like, it's... it's... I think the only people who are going to want this is Nintendo comple—or video game completionists who like to buy the next thing that comes out. And that exists. Y'know, that will probably happen. I think there is more color options for the Switch Lite than there is for the Switch. I think the Switch is just black with different color handles.

Brent: Yeah, it's like—well, it's like gray, yellow, and turquoise. So like, yes, but if you consider the Joy-Con controllers that can be different colors, like, yes and no.

Travis: See, this just feels like a placeholder, keep the conversation going around the Switch until the next thing. I hope it is not an indicator of where they think they should head with it, because it... like, the thing is, this is the problem with the Switch as Nintendo's latest and greatest console is, where do you go from there to improve it? I mean, you could say the same thing

about an Xbox or a PlayStation where it's like, well, all you can do is improve, y'know, the quality of it.

And that's true. But people get used to that, y'know? Like, right now, I think the portability and the flexibility of them being able to play it on your TV, I now just want the Switch but better each time. I don't want them to design a different thing. But that's hard, because Nintendo has always thrived on selling peripherals, and different, y'know, accessories for it, and y'know, new innovations in their consoles, and not just new versions of the...

I mean, if you look at Nintendo, their history from, y'know, the Nintendo to the Super Nintendo to Nintendo 64, it's all completely different consoles. Different concepts, different cartridges, different applications of console.

Brent: Right. But then, right around the DS, they started to do the DS. The DS Lite. The DS XL. The 3DS. The 3DS XL. The 3DS XL Lite. The new 3DS. The 2DS.

Travis: Yes.

Brent: Like, this is their shtick now.

Travis: This is what I'm saying. 'Cause they found a thing that worked and couldn't think of a different version of it in a different shape, so they just released the same thing over again, something with new features, sometimes with features removed, and sometimes just cheaper. And that's what they're doing with the Switch, too.

Okay, enough about video games. Uh, California representative Eric Swalwell has become the first democratic candidate to officially end his 2020 presidential bid. He first announced his candidacy in April, but since then has gained little to no traction. Swalwell was among the candidates hoping that time on the national debate stage would help increase his following, but it did not play out that way.

He told CNN on Monday, "If we didn't see a path to winning, there was no reason to stay in. I want to narrow this field and let others have their shot so that we can get a nominee that can beat Donald Trump."

Courtney: Last week, as we were recording, news broke that Chloe X Halle singer, Halle Bailey, will play Ariel in the Disney's live action remake of the Little Mermaid. People were mad.

Travis: Can I just real quick? Just, show of hands. Everyone listening. When you first saw this, and you just kind of glanced at it, did you read Halle Berry? 'Cause I did for a second.

Brent: Yep. I did.

Courtney: We all did. And we were all like, "She's a little old..."

Travis: Okay. I had—I literally—I like, did a literal human double take, where I was like, "Ah, Halle Ber—wait, no. Oh, okay. Halle Bailey. Okay."

Courtney: And this poor child. That's gonna be just her whole entire thing.

Travis: Yes.

Courtney: And like, again, people were fucking outraged. They were so mad. And I don't really have much more to say about this other than, if you are mad that a black teenager will play a mermaid because you think mermaids should be white, you're dumb, racist trash. The end.

[slurring] But wait, it's me, Marianne Williamson, and we are all mermaids. Feel the sea. You're under it. The voice is yours, and it is taken by hate, and it is given back by love.

Travis: Okay. Um, I think it actually might've been you, Courtney, that wrote... but somebody tweeted about like, "Well, but the Little Mermaid's supposed to be white." And they responded, "Supposed to be a fish."
[laughs] And just—

Courtney: [slurring] That was me, Courtney Enlow. I am technically Marianne Williamson, minus the anti-vaxx because of wine. The end.

Travis: Okay. Uh, one last tidbit here. Uh, a statue of Melania Trump was erected, uh, last Friday in her home town of Sevnica, Slovenia. The statue is her in the light blue dress she wore at president Trump's inauguration. It was commissioned by an American artist named Brad Downey, who is based in Berlin, and it was made by an artist local to her home town named Ales "Maxi" Zuperc. Sorry, I know I mispronounced all of that.

It was carved out of a tree using a chainsaw. And it's bad. I think it is bad. I think it's bad looking.

Brent: It's atrocious.

Courtney: It's real bad.

Brent: It looks like—

Courtney: It's like, not good. It's... it's...

Brent: It looks like something in a horror movie that's supposed to make you know that something's not right.

Courtney: It looks like—

Brent: It's like a Blair Witch statue.

Travis: Yeah, it looks like something from the Wicker Man. Yes.

Courtney: It looks like any of us that thought like, "I could totally make a sculpture of a person." And then we tried to make a sculpture of a person, and then we were like, "Oh no."

Travis: Yes.

Courtney: We can't.

Travis: It looks like a toy that a child in like, a really sad movie would have, because the family couldn't afford real toys. It feels like that. But here's the thing – we've had a lot of those runs, by the way, in this episode. And it's one of my favorite kind of things to do of like, "It's like... it's like... it's like this. It's like..." I love those.

Anyways, aesthetics are different in different countries and cities, so here's some quotes from the locals. "The sculptor worked a long time on this," one resident told Reuters. "And she does not look as beautiful as she normally does." But this one's my favorite. "BBC news reported that others called it a 'disgrace,' and said it looked "like Smurfette.""

Courtney: Okay. I actually think that's too fair. Because you know the weird monkey Jesus painting?

Travis: Yeah.

Courtney: It's just the sculpture version of that.

Travis: That is correct.

Courtney: It's just that. It's... it's real... it looks like it was discovered in a cave from a million years ago. [laughs]

Travis: Yes. This is what it looked like before we realized that we could do better than this.

Brent: Yes.

Courtney: Whatever... whatever you're picturing, just fucking Google it. It's so much sillier. It's... it's great. [imitating a Slovenian accent] Hello, it is me, tiny child. This is my doll.

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: [imitating a Slovenian accent] I love president lady doll. She beautiful. She does not haunt me in the night. The end.

[beeping]

Adam: The Greatest Discovery is a podcast about Star Trek: Discovery and so much more, Ben.

Ben: We watched the entire first season of Star Trek: Discovery. But now, we're finding all kinds of interesting, ancillary topics to get into.

Adam: We're interviewing our favorite people.

Ben: Reading comic books.

Adam: And we're updating you on the news about season two of Star Trek: Discovery.

Ben: It's news you can use, and it's every two weeks on MaximumFun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts.

[music plays]

Sean: Unless you wish you could trade in your own family for the Pearsons, Inside Pop is definitely not for you.

Amita: Sean, that's a little extreme, and also not quite true.

Sean: Okay, Amita, how about, Inside Pop is the podcast for people who love and appreciate the best pop culture has to offer?

Amita: Oh, much better.

Sean: In every episode, we interview the people who create the culture you crave.

Amita: Past interviews include the production designer for Fargo, and Tony Decray from the Dreamworks story department.

Sean: You'll also get the very best pop culture recommendations in our big sell segment.

Amita: Plus, the opinions of two TV producers who are pop culture obsessives, and actually do wish Sterling K. Brown was our cousin.

Sean: Kissing cousins, that is.

Amita: Listen to Inside Pop every other Wednesday on the Maximum Fun podcast network.

[music plays]

Brent: Now it's time for our Wi-Five of the week. Each week, we scour the internet for examples of folks doing good things and being good people, and we choose one or more to whom we'd like to give an internet high-five, or Wi-Five.

[high five slap]

Brent: This week's Wi-Five goes out to Grand Rapids First Church in the city of Wyoming, Michigan. Now, look. When I think about churches and money in 2019, unfortunately, my mind goes straight to mega church leaders like Kenneth Copland, who we heard about a few weeks ago, or others who promise salvation and riches for their parishioners, but meanwhile, they ask for and take ridiculously huge sums of money, and nowhere near enough of it goes toward helping people.

There's a swath of televangelists out there who praise Trump as a godly man, whereas they think Obama was attached to demonic forces. So you would be justified if your first thought about churches and money wasn't something that'd be worthy of a Wi-Five.

Well, enter a pastor named Sam Rijfkogel. He and his church, along with a nonprofit group, paid off about 1.8 million dollars' worth of medical debt. During last Sunday's service, Rijfkogel said, "There are many people whose medical debt they cannot pay. There is no way. It's looming over their head. Most of these folks are in poverty levels or below poverty levels, and there's no way it can be repaid. But they feel the creditor banging on their doors."

The church did this through an organization called RIP Medical Debt, which has, itself, zapped more than 600 million dollars' worth of medical debt in the five years it's existed. The generous help of Grand Rapids First Church eliminated the medical debt of nearly two thousand local families. Rijfkogel also said, "They owe us nothing. We can be peacemakers. Just as Jesus forgave and cancelled the debt of our sins, we also cancelled the debt of those in our community."

So like, nice to see some Christians being Christ-like. Would be real nice if our whole society looked a bit more like this. So to Sam Rijfkogel, the RIP Medical Debt organization, and Grand Rapids First Church of Wyoming, Michigan – Wi-Five.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Alright, folks, that's gonna do it for us. Thank you so much for joining us. Like I mentioned at the beginning of the show, I got a brand new website. TravisMcElroy.com. Go there. See where I'm gonna be at San Diego Comic Con. The Adventure Zone graphic novel book two, *Murder on the Rockport Limited*, comes out on July 17th. You can still preorder that if you haven't yet by going to TheAdventureZoneComic.com.

And if you are in New York City, Austin, Texas, Portland... well, no, Portland's sold out. Los Angeles, California, or if you're going to be at San Diego Comic Con, there's still tickets available for the book tour which includes the price of the ticket, includes a signed copy of the book. And then, we're doing a Adventure Zone live show at San Diego Comic Con as well.

You can see all of those tour dates and get tickets if you go to McElroy.family and click on tours. You can also check out McElroyMerch.com

for all the latest McElroy merch, including Monster Factory merch, which has never existed before. So if you're a fan of Monster Factory like me—

Courtney: Ooh!

Brent: Ooh!

Travis: Yes, it's really good.

Courtney: Is it my time to get that Final Pam shirt? 'Cause I'm gonna get it.

Travis: Ooh, there's a really cool Final Pam pin.

Courtney: Ohh, fuckin' shit.

Travis: Ohh, I really like it.

Courtney: Uh, you can find my stuff at SYFY Fangrrls. If you like my very dumb, stupid words here, I have so many more dumb, stupid words at SYFY Fangrrls. And you can enjoy them. You can also see me at San Diego Comic Con next week. I don't... I don't 100% know what I'm doing just yet. I will just kind of be there. We are all hands on deck. It is emergency kind of like, throw the people at the things.

Uh, but I will be doing a panel with Travis and his dad, Clint. And then, my friend Riley, who has been on the show before. And we're gonna be doing a panel on um, raising the next generation of nerds and influencing them. And I am presumably gonna talk about like, what it's like being the mom of some kids who are probably gonna be big fuckin' nerds, and I'm very excited for that.

So if you see me at Comic Con, say hi. Like, I'm excited to see you. you're great.

Travis: It's gonna be great. That's, uh... if you want to come to that panel, by the way, it's Saturday, July 20th, one PM to two PM.

Courtney: It's at the Marriott.

Travis: Uh, don't—it's at the Marriott, yes.

Courtney: The Marriott grand ballroom. And that is like, not in the convention center, but it's like, next to the convention center. So like—because last year, I ran around a lot. I ran back and forth between the Marriott and the Hilton, and they like, book end the goddamn convention center. I just want you all to know so you can go.

But I will say, like, for those of you who have never been on the JoCo Cruise, um, last year, Clint McElroy did a whole like, speech on what it was like to raise little fuckin' nerds. No offense.

Travis: Yeah. No, that—yeah, you're right.

Courtney: I mean, like, not offense, like, actual... like, your whole entire gig. And it was incredible. So if you can get the opportunity to see Clint McElroy talk about being a dad, I fucking recommend it. It's so good. I like, took stuff from that, and I have like, raised my kids with it.

So I really recommend this panel. I think it's gonna be great.

Travis: Brent?

Brent: Well, as for me, I grew up playing party games that made me laugh. And uh, right around 2015, I decided to make one. It's a digital comedy party game called Use Your Words. And as I've said before on this show, it is not a joke. If you buy this game and you do not like it, I will personally pay you back for it, much less whatever console you bought it on. I will give you the funds. Because I believe in it. It's a comedy game. Uh, it's a party game, rather, for funny people and their unfunny friends.

You can get it on all the current generation consoles and the Wii U and Steam, which allows you to get it for PC and Mac. More information about it at UseYourWords.lol.

Courtney: And very seriously, eventually, we are gonna do it on video. Like, next time we're all together, I say we do it on video.

Brent: Oh my God, please. That would be amazing.

Courtney: Because the people need to see that I have lost every time we've played, and that this game is inherently misogynist, and I will take this game down from the inside!

Travis: [laughs]

Brent: Okay, but when Travis wrote the answer 'hurtler,' which I still think about...

Courtney: That's still very fucking funny.

Travis: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Courtney: Also, Travis made his username "Brent's Farts." How do you lose?

Brent: That's true.

Travis: That's also true.

Courtney: You can't.

Travis: Listen. I'm just saying, I am a professional comedian and it shows.

Courtney: [laughs]

Travis: Alright. That is going to do it for us. Check out all the other amazing shows at MaximumFun.org. You can tweet at us @TrendsLikeThese. Lots of cool things. Uh, Courtney, am I forgetting anything?

Courtney: [slurring] Courtney has to leave, but it's me, Marianne Williamson.

Travis: Oh no.

Courtney: [slurring] Chickens are people, and people are eggs. And we are all—

Brent: See you next time!

Courtney: [slurring] We are all angels in the quiche, and I'm Marianne Williamson.

Brent: See you next time!!

Travis: No, we have to go.

Courtney: [slurring] And the crust—

Brent: Seeeeeee youuuu next time!

Courtney: [slurring] Marianne 2020!!

[theme music plays]

Courtney: I'm seriously so proud of Eric. He did such a good job on your website.

Travis: He did.

Courtney: My little baby brother.

Travis: It made both my brothers jealous. Making my brothers jealous is what I always want.

Brent: Maybe it'll happen someday.

Courtney: [laughs]

Travis: Ah, funny.

Brent: [laughs]

Travis: That was a funny joke you made with your mouth.

Brent: Thanks.

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