

**Trends Like These 234: Chrissy Teigen vs Trump, Water Vapor Discovered on Exoplanet, Trump Keeps Lying About a Sharpie, Andrew Yang Speculation, Breakthrough for Organ Transplants**

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[theme music plays]

**Travis:** This week: a story gets darker, circling in marker, and something something barker.

**Courtney:** I'm Courtney Enlow.

**Travis:** I'm Travis McElroy.

**Courtney:** And I just don't have any content.

**Travis:** With Trends Like These.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hello, Courtney!

**Courtney:** Hello, Travis!

**Travis:** And that's it.

**Courtney:** There's no one else here.

**Travis:** I mean, the audience is here, and Brent is with us in spirit. But Brent, uh, as he has been talking about for the last forever, was putting on a reading of his Star Trek Khan musical, and it done wore that poor boy out. He got worn down to a nub.

**Courtney:** He exists still. He's just not here.

**Travis:** Yeah. Yeah, he's just worn down.

**Courtney:** He exists on a different plane now.

**Travis:** A plane of uh, the sleepest. The sleepest boy, they call them.

**Courtney:** The sleepy boy plane. And north of Wigsville.

**Travis:** Yes. He's flying on the sleepy boy plane.

**Courtney:** A lot of hair. A lot of hair-Brent.

**Travis:** Did you ever... oh yeah. Oh, that wig. Oh, that wig.

**Courtney:** It's a weird feelin' seein' hair-Brent.

**Travis:** I've known that dude for half my life.

**Courtney:** Never had that.

**Travis:** Uhh, 30... I met him, uh, and at 18, he didn't have that. So it's very interesting to see. Um, it is... oh, let's see. What even day is it? September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, five PM eastern time. This is Trends Like These, of course, where we talk about, y'know, trending stuff. When you hear this – ooh, spooky – Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>! Oooh!

**Courtney:** Oooh!

**Travis:** Do you know about, uh, 13 sitting down to dinner? Or sitting down to table, I think, is the superstition?

**Courtney:** No. Is it because seven ate nine?

**Travis:** No, no, this is a real—well, a real superstition, however real a superstition is. But there's, uh, a superstition, old lore, that if 13 sat down to table, the first person to get up would be the next person to die.

**Courtney:** Oh, like—okay, so like, 13 people.

**Travis:** Yes. If 13 people sat down.

**Courtney:** Not the number 13. I was like—that's why I have a problem with this.

**Travis:** No, I—hold on, Courtney. You thought I meant a personification of the number of 13, like this was Sesame Street?

**Courtney:** [laughing] No idea what you were saying.

**Travis:** Oh my land sakes. Have I really been gone so long? Ugh. Why, there hasn't been a joke here in over 50 years!

**Courtney:** [laughing] Here's—here's the issue. I am—I'm broken. Like, Brent's literally broken, so he had to go. But I am also broken. I'm just—I just didn't—I broke second, so I couldn't just say like, "Hey, I can't come."

**Travis:** No, or else it would just be a monologue. Which, to be fair, we'll get on that later. [laughs]

**Courtney:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Uh, what are you drinking, Courtney?

**Courtney:** I am drinking a big, 64 ounce clean canteen of water.

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Courtney:** So I guested last night on, uh, Brent's other podcast, Question Box.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** I talked about... butts and batin', like you do on the Question Box.

**Travis:** Yeah. Uh-huh. That's their motto.

**Courtney:** I made a joke about Josh wine, and I was like, "Well, I might as well just open up some Josh wine." So I'm drinking Josh wine.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Courtney:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** I am, uh... I am doing... let's see. Uh, I am having a very interesting beer that I picked up. This is a local brew from here in Cincinnati. At least, I'm pretty sure. It's Ohio, at least. I don't know if it's Cincinnati. Uh, by Platform Beer Company, called S'mores Yammy, and it's a sweet potato ale that is flavored with stuff like marshmallow fluff, graham cracker, chocolate, uh, and it is delicious.

It is, in fact... here, let me crack it open... [sound of a bottle opening] It tastes like, uh... it tastes a little bit like a pumpkin ale, but not as sweet.

**Courtney:** Which is weird, because of all the sweet things in it.

**Travis:** I know, but it's—I should say, it's not cloyingly sweet. Which, don't get me wrong, I love pumpkin ale. But sometimes, you get pumpkin ale where they've gone way too heavy handed on the sugar. It's more pumpkin spice than it's pumpkin flavored.

**Courtney:** Interesting.

**Travis:** That, I don't care for. But this... this is basically what I want a fall ale to be. So if you can find it, Platform Beer Company, S'mores Yammy. It's really, really good.

**Courtney:** Yeah, flavor-y beers, I can have like, one sip. And I'm like, "That was a good sip, and now I will have no more of this."

**Travis:** Well, this is—what’s nice about this is this is not... I wouldn’t say this is—don’t get me wrong, it is flavored. Right? But it’s not like, the kind of flavoring where it’s just like, “Oh, this is a raspberry.” It’s not like a lambic, right? It’s not like a sour goze or whatever. It’s like, an ale, y’know? So it has flavor to it, but it’s more of a piece of the puzzle. I really like beer. I don’t know if that’s coming across.

Uh, but anyways, hoo ha.

**Courtney:** It’s a real hot take, though. Likin’ beer.

**Travis:** Hey, thanks. Beer. It’s great.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Well, do you know what time it is? Let me check, ohh, the old station master’s pocket watch, here... oh, the trains are runnin’ late! They must be stuck beyond the headlines!

**Courtney:** Does that mean they passed the station?

**Travis:** Uhh... yyyes.

**Courtney:** There’s holes in your logic.

**Travis:** I think in this example... yeah, let me check... uhh, yeah, y’know what? They are. They passed the station. We need to get some oxen out there to push `em back. Sorry about that, everybody. This is a huge inconvenience. Oh no. What are we gonna do? Okay, so!

**Courtney:** Our headline-based train transportation is frankly inconvenient for everyone involved.

**Travis:** Listen, we have a lot to work on, yes. There are improvements to be made, but it beats Walken! Christopher Walken.

**Courtney:** Christopher Walken. Hey, real quick, actually, before we start, because we did not to this into the intro. Um, this is going to be a Travis-heavy show?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** Because I uh, wrote a whole thing for my beyond the headlines, and I talked—I talked it up on the Twitter, saying that I was gonna tell y'all about the Caroline Calloway Cut article, and I am going to kind of talk about it? But some new—new developments—

**Travis:** Good, because I was—

**Courtney:** --arose...

**Travis:** I was really counting on you to talk about it, 'cause I read a little about it, and I was like, "Well, I'm gonna wait and let Courtney explain this to me." And now I don't know...

**Courtney:** Well, none of my copy...

**Travis:** Ooh?

**Courtney:** None of my copy is usable now, so...

**Travis:** Whoops.

**Courtney:** But um, we'll get to that when the time comes. But because of that, and me kind of just sitting there panicking after the fact, I have no copy for this episode. This is not a matter of like, "Oh, Courtney's unprepared!" Like, no, I was prepared. I just was caught by real life happening.

**Travis:** The dog ate your homework.

**Courtney:** Yes. Yeah.

**Travis:** It's fine. Listen, I've been gone for the last 18 weeks. I'm willing to pick up the slack and do a pretty Travis-heavy episode. It's okay.

**Courtney:** I'm just gonna chime in like some—

**Travis:** I don't know if you know this. I like talking.

**Courtney:** Like some real ass chimes here and there.

**Travis:** Hey, so y'know when someone talks about bringing a knife to a gun fight? It's the very image that occurred to me when I heard that Trump had decided to subtweet Chrissy Teigen. Ohh, oh y'all. Oh. Let's read these tweets, shall we?

[inhales] This is from Donald Trump: "When all the people pushing so hard for criminal justice reform are unable to come even close to getting it done, they came to me as a group and asked for my help. I got it done." With, uh... let me see... "I got it done with a group of senators and others who would never have gone for it. Obama couldn't come close..... A man named @VanJones68..." Now, here, it's interesting. He tags—he ats the person instead of saying their name, which, in this day and age of internet use, always is so silly to me. [laughs] When you're like, "A man named @VanJones68..."

Uh, "... and many others were profusely grateful at the time!" Which is such a weird way to phrase it. "Signed it into law. No one else did. And Republicans deserve much credit. But now that it is passed, people that had virtually nothing to do with it are taking the praise. Guys like boring..... musician John Legend, and his filthy mouth wife, are talking now about how great it is.

But I didn't see them around when we needed help getting it passed. "Anchor" Lester Holt @LesterHoltNBC doesn't even bring up the subject of President Trump or the Republicans when talking about..... the importance of passage of criminal justice reform. They only talk about the minor players, or people that had nothing to do with it... and the people that

so desperately sought my help when everyone else have failed. All they talk about now is impeaching President Trump!”

Y'know, I think my favorite thing about reading Trump tweets, especially threads, is that without fail, he uses so many dots. Way more than anyone needs for an ellipses. And it's... so... [sighs] He just has—listen. I...

**Courtney:** Donald Trump uses more periods than I've ever had.

**Travis:** They—okay, thank you. Thank you. I was trying to figure out the right way to get my point across, and you've done it for me as always, Courtney. His use of grammar is perhaps... I was gonna make a joke and say it's the worst thing he's ever done, but I can't even make that joke, 'cause it's not even close.

**Courtney:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Um, but some little things in these tweets that I really like, by the way, is that he puts “anchor” in quotes, as if “anchor” is like a subjective compliment thing, and not like, y'know, a job title.

**Courtney:** A literal job.

**Travis:** That Lester Holt actually... quote unquote “anch.” That's... [sighs] Now, if you said quote unquote “good” anchor, or whatever—anyways. So, before we get into what came after these tweets, I have a question to ask, and that question is... why? Why tweet this? Because there's no—like, some people, delusional, wrong people, like to try to say like, “Oh, Donald Trump is playing like, four dimensional chess!” Or whatever.

He's not. He's just a little pissy dude who whines about stuff. And when he sees people complimenting someone, or not complimenting him, or not giving him credit he thinks he deserves, he cannot help but whine about it.

**Courtney:** He's not playing any chess. I don't think he can play checkers. I don't think that he can play the like, the cloth checkers that they sell at Cracker Barrel. Like, they don't—



**Travis:** Yeah, the giant checkers? No.

**Courtney:** He won't. He'll just throw it at children. I did—I want to say, I did tell my boyfriend that if he doesn't, when upon proposing one day, ask me to be his filthy mouthed wife, I'm saying no.

**Travis:** That's fair.

**Courtney:** Yep.

**Travis:** That's fair. But that's the thing is like, when you look at this – and man, sometimes, I like to try to pretend like I know nothing about Donald Trump except that I know he's president, and that he tweeted the thing he just tweeted, and then try to, just based off of those two pieces of information, figure out the strategy for why he did it. And there is no—like, the only thing I can think here is that he wanted someone to say, "You're right, you did a great job in criminal justice reform."

But the only people who are gonna say that, right? Are sycophantic people who follow him and are already saying it. Even—maybe even remove the word 'sycophantic.' People who already agree with him. Nothing in this is going to make anybody else say, "Y'know what? We're not giving you the credit you deserve." Right? 'Cause it's just pissy.

So all this is is saying, "I need people to tell me how great I am. Tell me how great I am." Y'know? Like, it's just a pissy, whiny baby move. So, his tweet, in case you were wondering, is in reference to the First Step Act.

This from Fox news, "The First Step Act will give federal judges more leeway when sentencing some drug offenders and boost prisoner rehabilitation efforts. It would also reduce life sentences for some drug offenders with three convictions, or three strikes, to 25 years. Another provision would allow about 2,600 federal prisoners, sentences for crack cocaine offenses before August, 2010, the opportunity to petition for a reduced penalty."

Listen, that's all great! I agree with all of that. Like, I think as it says in the title, it's a first step, but it's a good first step. And like, there's other improvements it makes as well, and it's praised by both parties. But here's the thing – it was signed into law nine months ago. Like, this isn't new news. Like, this isn't... this is—this is not topical. Why is he... like, it's not even like, scratching at a scab. It's just like, the wound has healed, and so, he rewounded himself. Like, why... why open up this discussion again?

So... anyhow. Teigen responded with a tweet saying... [laughs] Courtney, would you like to read it?

**Courtney:** Oh my god, I was praying you would ask.

**Travis:** Okay. Go for it.

**Courtney:** "What a pussy ass bitch. Tagged everyone but me. An honor, Mr. President."

**Travis:** Now, in case you have been living under a rock, Chrissy Teigen is... how should I put this... uh, incredible. Uh, she's a social media darling, a powerhouse, a model, a host, a designer, and she happens to be married to John Legend, and they happen to have a beautiful, wonderful family. Like, my favorite follow probably on Twitter and Instagram.

The type of person who, I think, universally, you'd be hard pressed to find anybody who is not, y'know, racist and misogynist who wouldn't want to be friends with Chrissy Teigen. That's another thing that I should point out that is cropping up a lot as people are like, discussing Donald Trump calling her out, is that she is a prominent, outspoken woman of color who like, if you are picking like, the quintessential Donald Trump chosen target, that's... like, that's hitting the nail right on the head. Y'know? Outspoken woman of color, and chances are, Donald Trump's gonna say shit.

**Courtney:** And doesn't give a fuck what he says. Like, if there's anyone that at least gives the appearance of like, who will just like, give and give and give, and like, not be bothered. Even though, I'm sure that this, like,

the amount of pushback that she is probably getting from his like, awful people... if nothing else, it is—it's just a lot.

But like, she had—her entire social media persona is someone that like... don't fuck with this person, because she doesn't care.

**Travis:** Yeah, right?

**Courtney:** Also, she—like, before she was like, big famous, she was a big fan of Pajiba. And it's entirely possible she followed me before she followed you, and that's—there's only so many people I can say that about.

**Travis:** That's fair. That's fair. No, that's fair.

**Courtney:** I love her so much!

**Travis:** That's fair, that's fair!

**Courtney:** [unintelligible squeaking]

**Travis:** And here's the thing – what he really made me think of is like, y'know in movies or TV shows when someone makes a joke out of like... or like, there is a joke made out of someone going to prison the first day, and they like, pick a fight with like, the baddest person in the yard, right? And then they try it, and they just get like, whooped. Right?

That's kind of what I think of here, of like... yes, Donald Trump definitely has his supporters, and he has his, y'know, lackeys and followers and everything. But like... the people that love Chrissy Teigen... *love* Chrissy Teigen. Like, Chrissy Teigen should not be fucked with. Like, she is...

I always think about it like this, right? There are some people out there who have big followings, right? But their following is like this amorphous cloud of people. And everyone knows who they are, right? So somebody might have, for example, 20 million followers, right? And all of those 20 million followers know who they are, right?

Someone else might have 100,000 followers, but those 100,000 followers like, adore the person. Right? Like, they are an honest to god fan base. And that's what Chrissy Teigen has. Like, she has a devotedness of her followers that it's—and it's so weird. And especially since, man, you just can't get over the misogyny of tagging John Legend, and referring to his 'foul mouthed wife.' Like, fuck you, my dude. Like...

In many ways, I would say in this day and age, I think Chrissy Teigen... at least, if we're talking about like, social media and internet, is a more well-known name than John Legend.

**Courtney:** I think that there are plenty of people for whom, if they are not equal, they know of him, but they *know* her.

**Travis:** This is what I'm saying.

**Courtney:** Yes.

**Travis:** I'm saying, like, they probably each have their—

**Courtney:** Exactly, yeah.

**Travis:** Brent. Brent's not here, but Brent put it best one time where he talked about like, when you have an audience, right? You're like, the mayor of your city. And if you go to a different city, they may not know who you are, depending on like, how big the city or the mayor is. But, when you're in your own city, you're the mayor. Right? And I think that like... I think John Legend has his city that he's the mayor of, and Chrissy Teigen has a city she's a mayor of, but I would say their cities are probably pretty equal. [laughs] Like... anywho.

**Courtney:** Yeah, they're not president and first lady. They are definitely just like, co-presidents.

**Travis:** Right. They are, by any definition of the term, a power couple. Right?

**Courtney:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Like... man, I love them. I just want to hang out with them. And their Christmas special was really fun.

**Courtney:** I want to like, just hang out with them. A lot. Like...

**Travis:** I know, right?

**Courtney:** I want to like, eat her food.

**Travis:** I knooow! Um, so, Teigen received massive amounts of support, and even more praise for her handling of the insult. She also – and I love this so much – went on Ellen and said, “Those two things are true. John is boring. I do have a filthy mouth.” [laughs]

**Courtney:** I love them. So much.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Courtney:** Also, we do know... or maybe one of us knows... it is technically pronounced “Tie-gan.” But she got so just done with correcting people, even she is just like, “Yeah, I’m Chrissy ‘tee-gan.””

**Travis:** Wow, I didn’t know that.

**Courtney:** Yeah. Yeah. Okay, so, here’s... here’s... here’s this. I wrote about the Caroline Calloway and Cut article thing. Uh, okay.

Caroline Calloway is an Instagram influencer type person. She is, uh... she... she became somewhat internet viral earlier this year for throwing like, the pumpkin spice latte version of TanaCon.

**Travis:** What? I didn’t about that.

**Courtney:** It was just like... basic white lady Fyre Festival. It was a mess. It was a disaster. She got, uh, well known for being a scammer, largely thanks in part to my personal friend and colleague, Kayleigh Donaldson, a Twitter thread that she, uh, put together basically like, outlining every questionable, scammy thing that Caroline did.

And uh, to—because she was like, hurt by this, she... Calloway cancelled this national tour that she was in no way prepared for, blaming Kayleigh and her Twitter thread, and then started selling t-shirts saying “Stop hate following me, Kayleigh” and like, sic’ing her followers on Kayleigh.

**Travis:** Ohh, that was her!

**Courtney:** Yeah, that’s her. So like, I am—I’ve been well versed in this for a while, because I am friends with a person who was like, y’know, personally bullied by this person, who then played herself as the victim, saying like, “No, I am the bullied one.”

**Travis:** While capitalizing off of it.

**Courtney:** Yeah. While capitalizing on it, and sic’ing her, y’know, 900 thousand followers on my friend’s, y’know, 20 thousand followers, essentially. Uh... so then, this week, this woman—this woman essentially like, became known for a form of like, Instagram blogging where she would have very long captions that like, were very like, y’know, magical and blah blah blah. And they were ghost written by her friend.

The ghost writer friend wrote kind of an expose for The Cut this week, basically confirming that Calloway is... um, scammy.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Courtney:** But in a way that is like, also just kind of generally... messy. Like, I think there’s a very specific kind of, um... chaotic mess that... I have actually—so, I have... [sighs] I have friends. I have had friends from my past that I am no longer friends with that actually remind me a lot of Caroline Calloway.

And I have detailed this privately to um, to other mutual friends that we have, where I said, essentially, there is a certain kind of rich white person whose parents told them they could do anything, and then they did that. But they could only do that with their parents' money, and then they decided that they were like, an artist and influencer.

They didn't realize how hard life actually was. And then they were confused by having to do life, and then they're a victim of life. But they never have to face consequences, essentially. And when consequences happen, they don't know how to handle it, and they fall apart. And that is essentially what has happened over the last couple days with Caroline Calloway.

Her Instagram is just... in the last 24 hours, has been just a series of hundreds, if not far more, screenshots going back through her entire timeline and basically trying to explain every single thing she's ever done. It had been weeks of her being scared of this article coming out. Like, it's... it's very, very messy.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Courtney:** And it's one of those people you want to—

**Travis:** Would you say like, scrambling?

**Courtney:** Yes, scrambling. Spiraling I think is the better word, and it's one of those people you want to shake and say, "Get off the internet. Oh my god."

**Travis:** Hey, the ship is going down.

**Courtney:** What are you doing? Stop. This is making everything worse. Today, she uh, announced on Instagram, and I am not here to judge how anyone reacts in times of tragedy, even though it is not the way that I would. I—I think... I think... I don't know. But she did announce that her dad passed away, and so, I have scrapped every bit of copy that I have written, because it was snarky as fuck.

It does not excuse anything. You—no one gets a... no one gets a dead dad pass. Like, as shitty as that is to say, like, that doesn't make someone an automatic, like, good and decent human.

**Travis:** I don't think that's shitty to say. I think that's fair to say. I think too often, people will equate, like, well, we shouldn't... they went through... and it's like, yes, but I think we can... I don't think, uh, the human decency of understanding that someone is in pain necessarily, uh, includes forgiving them of all past debts.

**Courtney:** But I am not going to, um... Timing-wise, it does not feel right to read the copy that I had written. And because this story is so... social media heavy, and I had gone through so many tweets, and Instagram posts, and articles, and I spent a lot of time on this copy. What I'm saying is, I don't have copy for the rest of the show.

Because when I found this out, I sat there horrified, like, "Oh no." Like, I feel... terrible. And... and... what do I do? And also, oh no, my reaction to hearing this is, "What about me?" And so, double terrible. And now I'm telling you, and I'm hearing it, and I'm thinking, "Oh no. Triple terrible." So, it's been a... it's been a lot. It's been a lot today. Oh god. Oh god. Anyway.

Can we... can we talk about...

**Travis:** Yeah, we're done.

**Courtney:** Can we talk about something else? Like, before we get to— 'cause I feel like—I feel like our sponsors are gonna be like, "Why did you go straight into this?" [laughs]

**Travis:** Well now, now everyone's excited to hear about sponsors!

**Courtney:** I think they're really excited. Yeah. Like, oh my god.

**Travis:** Uhh, let's see. Uh, I was going to talk about... but maybe we'll talk about it next week, 'cause it just came out today. Uh, PewDiePie announcing



that he was cancelling his \$50,000 donation to the Anti-Defamation League, because his fans were upset about it.

**Courtney:** Like...

**Travis:** Um... yeah.

**Courtney:** This fuckin' guy.

**Travis:** But he announced—he said, "I'm giving \$50,000 to the Anti-Defamation League." And his fans were like, "Boooo, the Anti-Defamation League!" And he was like, "Oh, okay, then never mind." [laughs]

**Courtney:** I... [sighs] I hate him.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** And y'know what, like, I'm gonna—mmm. I'm gonna say it. There is a whole thing with this like... this Caroline Calloway thing, and I have actually written about this when it comes to the Kardashians, too. Please, stay with me, people. They are... awful. But... we hate them more than we hate other people, and it's got an inherent misogyny to it. But it's also—it's—we fall down just like, these rabbit holes of like...

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Courtney:** I could—I could—[sighs] My goodness. I need to like—years of therapy to unpack some of this stuff for myself, personally. I'm actually—y'know what, the best example, I'm gonna say. Lena Dunham. Lena Dunham. Where she is a goddamn disaster. She just keeps saying horrible, problematic, horrific shit. She is also completely unaware that she keeps doing this. But also, I know that people hate her far more than, and beyond, the stuff she has said and done.

And it's a really fucked up line to try to walk. But also, she's done and said so much problematic shit that it's like, I'm not dying on this hill of defending

Lena Dunham. I'm just instead going to walk away. It's very hard to be a woman is what I'm saying.

**Travis:** I do understand that. Well, I don't. But I understand you saying it. Does that make sense? So here's the thing. I think about this all the time, and this is something that, uh, it—regular listeners of our show will have, uh, absolutely no surprise that this is a thing that I'm fascinated by.

But I am fascinated by the impact of both social media, but also, the ability of the internet, uh, to kind of allow people to feel like they know, "know" a celebrity, or know—whether that celebrity is internet based, or like, older media, like movies and TV or whatever, or writers, or whatever. Right? And so, so much more now is based off of—like we were talking about, right?

We were talking about people who are committed to Chrissy Teigen. They don't *know* Chrissy Teigen. I don't know Chrissy Teigen. But, I feel on some level like I do. Like, if I ran into her, I would feel some kind of deeper connection to her than just running into, I don't know, uh, like, who's a stranger in a movie? Uh, Chris Evans, right?

If I saw Chris Evans, I would be so terrified. But if I saw Chrissy Teigen, I would feel like, in some way, we were supposed to talk to each other, because I know her so well. Right? And I think that this is true of like, when you look at, you mentioned Tana, and once again, listeners of the show will know my feelings about Tana. Tana Mojo? Mongeau? Mo... whatever. Do you know that she's engaged to Jake Paul? Anyways.

**Courtney:** [sighs]

**Travis:** Not Jake Paul. Who's the other one?

**Courtney:** They're married, right? But not really, but like... it's a whole to do, yeah.

**Travis:** Sure. It's not Jake Paul, it's the younger brother. Paul Paul. And here's the thing is like, that is, when she does something horrible like TanaCon, or says something horrible like she often does, people are so quick

to forgive her, because they think they know her. And they see her as like, uh, parallels to themselves. Right? So they see themselves in her.

Anyways, it's just a really interesting kind of mentality to me that I fall into, too. Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying, "Oh, there are dumb people out there who—" I do it too. Right? But it's just such an interesting phenomenon that did not exist, y'know, 30 years ago. Like, this idea of knowing celebrities. Like, we saw their pictures, and they were in movies, and maybe somebody wrote a story about them. And that was it.

And not like, "I know the names of their dogs, I know how many tattoos they have, I know why they got those tattoos, I know what they had for breakfast, I know what their work out schedule is, I know what movies they like. Oh, they like this new TV—" Like, we didn't have that information. And now we know so much about people that it's changed the face of like, celebrity and fan relationships.

**Courtney:** I mean, I agree. Like, it's... I think that there has been a—and I... a lot of people being on Instagram and social media, it's this... [sighs] We feel entitled. We feel we're part of the story. We are part of their story. And uh, I would imagine that, y'know, you're not gonna come out and say this, and y'know, nor should you. But I feel like there's a sense of like, this person is my friend that I think that you and your family know probably more than anything else. Where it's like, this is a person I know.

And I actually—I remember when I talked to Lin about you guys, because for those of you who don't know, I met Travis actually because I was doing a profile on him and his brothers that was originally for... [whispers] Vanity fair. But it ended up not being there, because you're not supposed to become friends with your person.

**Travis:** It happens. I was just too charming.

**Courtney:** It happens. And so um... but Lin... Lin even said, he was just like, "These are your friends that live in your ears, even though you don't really know them." And it's very true, and that's true of Instagram, that's true of—like, people don't necessarily realize, they're giving you a small part

of their lives. But to people who consume it at really high volumes, like, it doesn't feel like that. And it's a weird line to rock in terms of fandom.

**Travis:** Here's the thing, though. From my point of view about it is, I think it can be healthy and mutually beneficial. Right? Because I think the difference is... I think the reason... and man, I don't know why I'm talking about Tana Mongeau so much, but here we go. I think the reason she infuriates me so much is, she represents, to me, the polar opposite of how I feel about my relationship with my audience. What I owe them. Right? The healthy way in which I believe a creator does owe an audience.

So for example, we had to cancel our live—well, we didn't do it. The venue decided to cancel our live show in Orlando, because of Hurricane Dorian. And like, the amount of weight that was on that, and our discussions on when can we reschedule, and how can we make it work, and y'know, us giving feedback to the venue about keeping people safe, and all of that, like... we take that very seriously. Like, the relationship we have with our audience matters. And I don't take it for granted.

But I also don't take it for granted the other way, of like, I keep some distance for myself that is important to me, and I think it's important for the audience that like, I hold stuff back, right? Like, we don't post pictures of Bebe. Right? I think that there are too many creators out there in this day and age of the internet social media celebrity that don't worry about finding a good balance.

And it leads to burn out, it leads to unhealthy behavior, it leads to disappointing your audience, it leads to an unhealthy relationship with your audience. All of these things where I see people be so reckless with their relationships with their audience, without thinking about the gift they've been given of having people out there who support them, and people who they rely on, and people who appreciate the thing that they create, that they will use it up. Or just use it, and they clearly have no respect for their audience. And that kind of shit frustrates the hell out of me.

**Courtney:** Well, and beyond audience and y'know, kind of relationships that exist with your, y'know, whatever your community that you have

cultivated and created, there is also just this... this sense of... some people have this idea that like, I can do anything. And so, they try to.

And so, people who go into something like... "I'm going to put on a national tour. I'm going to put on a convention. And I'm going to do it myself. And I'm going to cater it myself, and I'm going to do all the gift baskets, and I'm going to do every single thing myself." And how that's not a thing.

**Travis:** Yep.

**Courtney:** That's not a thing that exists in this world. And if you... if you—if you are your business, you need to treat it like a business, and have anyone doing anything. But, a combination of... I will just say, ignorance, greed, um, recklessness..

**Travis:** Inexperience.

**Courtney:** Inexperience. But also like, I honest—I really do—I mean, that's the thing. I really do think, though, some of those other things drive the inexperience. Where it's like, "I'm inexperienced, but I don't need to ask for help. Because I know that I can do this." That's why I've always thought of this thing where it's just like... some people's parents said, "You can do anything," and never told them there are limitations to that.

Because like, I... and I see a difference in those of us who grew up, like, middle class or lower income, versus kids who grew up, like, very wealthy with all of the resources in the world. Because frankly, they could do anything. And they do do anything. And it doesn't occur to them that they can't, and then they don't have consequences. And when consequences happen, they fall apart. They don't know how to handle it.

And that's... it's a weird world to exist in. Fame is very fucked up. Fame is weird. And I don't think anything can prepare people for it. People want it, but they're not prepared for it. And it's—it's dark and weird sometimes. The people who want it most are probably the least prepared for it. Because they don't have the pieces in place to cope with the dark side of it.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** So let's talk about Care Of! Hi everybody, we're back. Oh, what a good break we've all had. What a nice reset. Now, we would like to tell you about Care Of, because we're 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 or something else to keep you feeling your healthiest, Care Of's fun online quiz asks you about your diet, health goals, and lifestyle choices, and it only takes five minutes. Your personalized Care Of subscription box is sent right to your door every month with personalized daily packs, great for busy, on the go lifestyle, and they even say your name on them. Oh, I love my name. That's so nice.

Care Of now offers protein powders, available in individual packets for on the go and tubs, all personalized to your fitness goals and dietary preferences. So, for 25% off your first Care Of order, go to [TakeCareOf.com](https://TakeCareOf.com) and enter the promo code 'Trends.' That's 25% off your first Care Of order by going to [TakeCareOf.com](https://TakeCareOf.com) and enter the promo code 'Trends.'

**Courtney:** Trends Like These is also supported in part by Dashlane. Dashlane is a password management app that keeps all your online information safe, secure, encrypted, and easy to access. But not for the bad people – just for you.

Dashlane remembers all your passwords so you don't have to. Can't remember the special characters, capitalization, and length requirements for every single website you've ever visited in your entire life? Dashlane can. Dashlane seamlessly auto-fills all your login information, syncing automatically across your computer, phone, and tablet. It even stores payment details.

Go ahead and get weird with your passwords, or let Dashlane generate a real stumper. Like, they're gonna get weird for you. And they'll keep it safely stored in a password vault only you can unlock. So check out [Dashlane.com/Trends](https://Dashlane.com/Trends) to get Dashlane free on your first device. As a special

offer for Trends Like These fans, they're even offering a 30 day free trial of Dashlane Premium, including VPN, dark web monitoring, and more.

If you like it, use code 'Trends' at check out to save 10% on your premium subscription. That's [www.Dashlane.com/Trends](http://www.Dashlane.com/Trends). Use code 'Trends' at check out.

**Travis:** One more, we want to tell you about Quip. Listen, I know we've talked about Quip before, but Quip is my favorite toothbrush. And believe me – I'm 35 years old, and I've had a lot of cavities. I've used a lot of toothbrushes in my life.

But Quip features sensitive, sonic vibrations, a built in two minute timer that pulses every 30 seconds to remind you to switch sides, and to help you clean your whole mouth evenly, and a multi-use cover that doubles as a stand and a mirror mount and a travel cover, which is what I use it as. I love it, and listen – it's not even telling me to say this in the copy. I'm telling you this. The best toothpaste I have ever used. Best tasting. I love it so much. Doesn't burn. Doesn't burn my mouth. Not too strong. I like it.

So you can enjoy it, too. And there's no wires or clunky charger. It runs for three months on a single battery charge. That's incredible. Brush heads are automatically delivered on a dentist-recommended schedule every three months for just five dollars. And a friendly reminder when it's time for a refresh, and to stay committed to your oral health.

So, Quip is perfect for getting back into a routine, and you can get it. It starts at just \$25. If you go to [GetQuip.com/Trends](http://GetQuip.com/Trends) right now, and you can get your first refill pack for free. You get your first refill pack free at [GetQuip.com/Trends](http://GetQuip.com/Trends).

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Okay, Courtney, what time is it? What time is it? What's it time for?

**Courtney:** Uh, uh, tool time.

**Travis:** No. Well, no. Court—no. Courtney. Check the clock again. Try again.

**Courtney:** Oh, oh, I'm sorry. I was—poolitics roundup!

**Travis:** That's right. But it's not really so much of a roundup, 'cause we only have one story. Okay. So—

**Courtney:** But y'know what? That story—that story is, it's unwieldy. You can kind of round it up with a Sharpie.

**Travis:** We do. Let's round it up with a Sharpie. So, on Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, Donald Trump tweeted about an impending hurricane, Dorian. You know it. We're all familiar with it. And as he tweeted about Hurricane Dorian, he included Alabama among the states that were projected to be hit by the disaster. Except... it wasn't one of the states at risk.

The Birmingham National Weather Service was quick to correct this mistake, and that could've been that. Then, folks noticed what appeared to be an additional bubble drawn on in Sharpie on the map, predicting Dorian's course in Trump's office. There were a couple, uh, updates from Trump's office via video where he was pointing to a map, and there was a bubble drawn in Sharpie to include Alabama.

Well, that's silly, for sure, but certainly, it's done now, right? Nope! Trump continued to assert his correctness. Then, the NOAA, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, released an unsigned letter saying that Trump was right, and that the National Weather Service was wrong. And this led many to speculate that Trump had ordered the letter.

Now, listen. At the end of the day, is this a big deal? Well, I think you could, and should, make the argument that erroneous statements about who is going to be impacted by a disaster that are not correct are dangerous. It could spark panic and lead to issues. This, of course, didn't have any major impact, thank goodness.



However, as is usually the case, while folks were caught up in the ridiculousness of Sharpie-gate, some way worse stuff was going on, including but not limited to the Trump administration announcing that they would be redirecting 3.6 billion dollars in funds from domestic and international projects to build Trump's border wall.

The biggest chunk of the domestic funds, 402 million dollars, is coming from projects in still recovering Puerto Rico. So I guess what I'm saying is, that we should give equal time to both how dumb he is, and how much he sucks.

**Courtney:** He also, uh, shared a tweet that was a meme of a cat looking at a laser pointer in front of the Sharpie thing, because we live in the worst timeline.

**Travis:** Indeed.

**Courtney:** Things are bad. Hey, so tonight is the Democratic debate. And that means tomorrow, when this comes out, people will already have seen it. So we're gonna do a little thing. Uh, Andrew Yang is going to do something. Allegedly, it is going to be big and unprecedented. But they won't say what it is.

So let's speculate wildly! Travis, what's Andrew Yang gonna do tonight?

**Travis:** I'm... maybe he's gonna... I think he's gonna challenge someone to a fight.

**Courtney:** A duel?

**Travis:** A duel! Ooh! A duel, mayhaps! Ooh! What do you think?

**Courtney:** I—okay, so my real answer is I think he's gonna drop out and like, endorse someone else.

**Travis:** Live? On camera?

**Courtney:** I mean, no one's ever done it. It would be big and unprecedented.

**Travis:** I guess that's true...

**Courtney:** Or just like, just dab? Just dab a whole bunch?

**Travis:** Oh, he'll probably dab. That'll probably be it.

**Courtney:** Just like, the biggest dab in the history of... dabates. [gasps dramatically] Dabates!

**Travis:** I get it! Hey, let's do some dab bits.

**Courtney:** Yeahhh.

**Travis:** Tid... it's like tid bits, but Courtney will be dabbing the whole time I talk.

**Courtney:** Dab dab dab dab dab dab dab dab.

**Travis:** No, you don't have to say it.

**Courtney:** Oh, okay, sorry.

**Travis:** Okay. NASA has announced the discovery of water vapor on an exoplanet known as K2-18B. K2-18B, or, I'm just gonna start saying Cute from now on, 'cause I don't want to say the whole thing every time. Cute exists in what is known as the habitable zone.

**Courtney:** Dabitable zone.

**Travis:** Which means it is—dabitable zone. Which means that it is the range of distance from its star which may allow water to pool on its surface. Now, this will only happen is the planet is terrestrial in nature, rather than resembling a planet like, say, Neptune. If this finding is confirmed by further

studies, Cute will become the first exoplanet to have both water vapor and temperatures capable of sustaining liquid. That's a pretty big deal, scientifically speaking.

However, before you start packing your bags, the star Cute circles is pretty active, which could mean higher levels of radiation on the planet's surface. That surface is also eight times bigger than earth, which means significantly higher gravity. However, it's still very exciting, because the presence of water could be an indicator of the possibility of life on another planet. Possible, y'know, this could just be single-celled organisms, but still – life.

[wolf howls]

**April:** Hello there, ghouls and gals. It is I, April Wolfe. I'm here to take you through the twisty, scary, heart pounding world of genre cinema on the exhilarating program known as... Switchblade Sisters!

The concept is simple – I invite a female filmmaker on each week, and we discuss their favorite genre film. Listen in closely to hear past guests like the Babadook director, Jennifer Kent; Winter's Bone director, Debra Granik; and so many others, every Thursday, on MaximumFun.org! Tune in if you dare!  
[spooky laughter]

[thunder clap]

**April:** It's actually a very thought-provoking show that deeply explores the craft and philosophy behind the filmmaking process, while also examining film through the lens of the female gaze. So like... you should listen. Switchblade Sisters!

[music plays]

**Travis:** Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

**Teresa:** And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

**Travis:** And together, we present Shmanners.

**Teresa:** It's extraordinary etiquette...

**Travis:** ...for ordinary occasions!

**Teresa:** We explain the historical significance of everyday etiquette topics, then answer your questions relating to modern life!

**Travis:** So join us weekly on MaximumFun.org, or wherever podcasts are found.

**Teresa:** No RSVP required.

**Travis:** Check out Shmanners.

**Teresa:** Manners, Shmanners. Get it?

**Brent:** Hey, folks. This is Brent. I wasn't on the show this week, but uh, I am doing the Wi-Five. And unlike last week, we're back to a Wi-Five appealing to the better angels of my nature, or rather, coming from the angel on my right shoulder, not the devil on my left shoulder.

So with that being said, it is 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.

[Wi-Five slap]

**Brent:** So... human organs. Pretty much all of us... got `em. But some people need one of theirs replaced. Uh, in many cases, it's a matter of life and death. But one big challenge in organ transplantation is the fact that livers, for example, can only be kept outside the body for nine to 12 hours before irreparable damage is done. That's not very long, especially if it's a surprise donation from, y'know, someone who was suddenly surprise dead.

Problem with freezing an organ is that when ice crystals form, they damage the cells in the organ and render it unsafe for transplant. The United States has a pretty serious shortage of organs for transplant, with about 14 thousand people on the liver waiting list alone.

Well, Reinier de Vries of the Harvard Medical School, as well as a team of scientists, have developed a promising method of cooling organs that could multiply the current time window by a factor of four. As those of you who did well in chemistry class may recall, some liquids don't freeze until they're much colder than 32 degrees Fahrenheit, the freezing point of water.

So, this team has found a way to perfuse an organ with a subzero liquid in order to keep it cold without forming ice crystals. Then, when it's ready to transplant, they put blood back in it. And when you do that with a liver, in the case of their lab tests, it starts working. It starts producing bile again, which is pretty cool. And at one time, the scientific consensus was that it would work only in rat livers, but not human livers.

That being said, thanks to a combination of technologies, it is now possible. The extra time this new technique could buy could make the difference between the success and failure of a liver transplant, according to Shannon Tessier, a research fellow at Harvard who is also involved with this breakthrough.

Hopefully, if the method gets rolled out across the board, it could allow for significantly more people to get the lifesaving organs they need. So, to everyone at the Harvard School of Medicine responsible for helping this technology come to fruition, Wi-Five.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Okay, so that's gonna do it for us, folks. Thank you. I know this episode was a little shorter. Uh, but y'know, that's how it goes sometimes. Umm, let's see... first, thank you all so much for being here. It really means a lot. Thank you for listening to this episode. I had a lot of fun, Courtney, talking in this episode with you. I think we went some places. I think we figured some stuff out. I think we grew closer as friends. And I appreciate it, so thank you.

Uh, I also want to say to everybody, go to [McElroy.family](http://McElroy.family), check out all the other amazing stuff that's there, all the other shows that me and the other McElroys do. Also, I'm gonna be at New York Comic Con. We're doing a reading and a reveal of some of the panels and pages for The Adventure Zone graphic novel book three, *Petals to the Metal*. I'm gonna be doing some panels and everything. So if you want to see my whole schedule, it'll be up on [TravisMcElroy.com](http://TravisMcElroy.com) very soon.

Also, if you're listening to this on Friday, this Sunday, here in Cincinnati, I'm going to be doing a show that I call the Cincinnati Underground Society Show, or CUSS, in which I bring in some special guests that I will not tell you ahead of time, but I promise you they are fun. It is a secret society show that you have to come to to find out who is there and what we talk about, and you can get your tickets. It's [Bit.ly/CUSSSeptember2019](https://bit.ly/CUSSSeptember2019). That's CUSSSeptember2019. The show is September 15<sup>th</sup>, in the evening, Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup>, so come and join us.

What about you, Courtney?

**Courtney:** You can find my stuff at SYFY Fangrrls. On the very—if you're listening to this today... so today is Friday, ostensibly. [whispers] In real life, it's not. It's Thursday. [normally] But if you're listening to this like, the day that it comes out, tonight, I am taking over the SYFY Fangrrls Twitter, and I will be live tweeting the movie Mandy starring Nicolas Cage. 'Cause we have been doing some uh, some actor-specific live tweets this month, and I have now done two Nicolas Cage movies, and they've been great.

So you can uh, join me along for that tonight at seven central, eight eastern. You can also see me at New York Comic Con, where I will be on the SYFY Live stage, interviewing people. I don't know who. I haven't found out yet. I just bought my plane ticket. So it'll be fun to find out for all of us. For you, for me, for all the people.

Uh, and yeah, listen to, uh—if you haven't subscribed to Brent's new podcast, Question Box that he does with Kate Sloane, my episode will be on Monday, I believe, so please listen to that where I talk about... batin'.

**Travis:** Well, there we go. Um, also, go check out all the other amazing shows on MaximumFun.org. And I think that's gonna do it for us. Courtney, am I forgetting anything?

**Courtney:** Um, I think that Andrew Yang is gonna dab dab dab dab dab dab dab dab dab.

**Travis:** Alright, we'll be back in a couple days. See you next time.

**Courtney:** Dab dab dab dab dab.

[theme music plays]

**Courtney:** Bup bup, Chrissy and Teigen. Someday, I'm gonna write lyrics to our theme song.

**Travis:** Well, yes, we all will. Are you ready?

**Courtney:** Yes!

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