

**Trends Like These 236: Trump Impeachment Inquiry BEGINS, Greta Thunberg and the Global Climate Strike, Phoebe Waller-Bridge DOMINATES the Emmys, Do Women Prefer Uglier Spouses?**

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[theme music plays]

**Courtney:** This week: the whistle gets blown, impeachment inquiry thrown, and is Donald Trump totally boned?

**Brent:** I'm Brent Black.

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

**Brent:** And I'm Benson *and* Stabler.

**Courtney:** With Trends Like These.

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** Hello, Courtney.

**Courtney:** Hello, Brent!

**Brent:** Hello again!

**Courtney:** [pause] Brent, hello?

**Brent:** Hello a third time.

**Courtney:** Brent, where'd you go?

**Brent:** I'm right here, saying hello a fourth time.

**Courtney:** Brent, you went so far away.

**Brent:** Nope, I've been here the whole time, in your heart. For the fifth time.

**Courtney:** Did you move away from the microphone, though? I think that's the problem.

**Brent:** Wait, did you really not hear me for a second?

**Courtney:** No, literally, you were like...

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** [distantly] Goodbyeee...

**Brent:** I thought you were just taking a bit in a direction, and I was like, "Okay."

**Courtney:** No, the thing is, I'm not talented enough with the bits.

**Brent:** [laughing] That's not true.

**Courtney:** You literally were just like, "Goodbyeee!"

**Brent:** That is so not true. You and Travis are way better at—at least on this show. It's hard for me to do bits when my brain is in like, "The news!" mode.

**Courtney:** Oh, they call me—

**Brent:** Travis will like, toss a very soft ball at me for a bit, and I'll be like, "Wait, no, I was thinking about facts and not comedy!" Anyway.

**Courtney:** They call me Bitsy Devasse.

**Brent:** Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Well.

**Courtney:** Mm-hmm.

**Brent:** Aside from my mic and Skype clearly being weird, how are you?

**Courtney:** Y'know, I'm good. I'm like, thriving. I am like, great. [pause]  
Brent knows I'm lying. But. Y'know what, like...

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** I'm doing my goddamn best, and that's all we can do in this world, people. How are you?

**Brent:** Well, between you and me, I think we are – and Travis, who is not here – I think we are holding this show together today like a hang glider that has split in half, only being held together and floating through the sky by sheer strength of will. Um, I am...

So, my current squeeze is sick, and my body seems to be trying to get sick, but it's manifesting as mental fog. And as I told you before we started recording, very light, like... like, weird visual changes? Like, not quite hallucinations, but like, hey, why is that shadow moving? Oh, it's not. What's wrong with me? So, between—

**Courtney:** Are you sure you're not getting a migraine? 'Cause that's how I get migraines.

**Brent:** Ooh, I've never had one. We'll see. We'll see.

**Courtney:** The next step is just like, throwing up, so like... cover your mic.

**Brent:** Okay, yeah, I don't want to ruin this mic with my barf.

**Courtney:** 'Cause like, I want to walk you through like... I want to walk you through my migraine process. My migraine process goes a little something like this. Courtney goes blind in one eye. That's how I know that it's

happening. The first time it happened, I was like, "What the fuck is this? I'm blind in one eye."

**Brent:** Oh man. That must've been so scary the first time, 'cause it's like—

**Courtney:** It was very scary.

**Brent:** You don't really want to go blind in any of your eyes.

**Courtney:** No!

**Brent:** Much less one of them.

**Courtney:** I don't want to go blind in any of the six of them. And then I got...

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** So I was in Chicago at the time. I didn't have a car when I lived in Chicago, which is good, 'cause I, y'know, shouldn't be driving. But like, so I took like, the bus or the L, whatever I got home on that day. And then, the next step is, I lose control of my motor functions. I couldn't figure out how to get my key in the door.

**Brent:** Oh man. Oh no.

**Courtney:** I was like, "How does keys? How does key door?" And I eventually got in, and I learned that over the years, I have learned, if I don't immediately go to sleep once the motor functions stop working, if I don't immediately go to sleep... the next step is, I just throw up.

**Brent:** Oh no.

**Courtney:** And then, after the vomit comes the pain. The horrible, relentless pain. And normally, luckily by then, I'm usually asleep.

**Brent:** Wow.

**Courtney:** But I want to shout out my poor, blessed angel of an ex-husband, who once drove me home from work, but didn't get there in time, and I threw up all over his car.

**Brent:** Oh nooo.

**Courtney:** Yeah.

**Brent:** The things we do.

**Courtney:** We were engaged at the time. He still married me. So like, y'know what? Mazel to him. Good work. [claps]

**Brent:** Yeah. Well, I mean, we'll see. Wouldn't it be interesting if I got my first migraine while we were recording? I think I'm fine. I don't want our listeners to be concerned. I just—y'know, I think we can all get some mental fog. I didn't have a great night of sleep last night. But also, just while we're talking about weird things that happen, um... [laughs] In going over my copy and thinking about doing an impression of the Ukrainian president while I read about that, I tried to do a Russian accent going over my copy, and I was like, "My Russian accent is missing. I don't know how to do it."

**Courtney:** Where did it go?

**Brent:** But I usually do. Wait a minute, hold on, hold on. Let me just see if I can—now that we're recording, and the pressure is on... [clears throat] [in a Russian accent] You think this bad neighborhood?

[normally] Okay, okay, we're good. We're good.

**Courtney:** You're good. You're in full Zoya the Destroya mode. You're good.

**Brent:** Yes. I think it was a lack of adrenaline. Now I'm back. Uh, from outer space. Okay, so, here's what I know. I don't have a migraine. I don't

think you have a migraine. And that's about as good as we can ask for today. So... what are you drinking?

**Courtney:** Y'know, I'm drinking wine. So, okay. I started getting this new wine, because it has a pretty bottle, and that is very honestly—and I've talked about it before. That's how I choose my wine. Pretty bottles, and \$15. And it's called Novinophobia, which is a clever... a clever word for no wine phobia, which I think seems a lot like alcoholism. But...

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** The bottle's pretty. It's a very like, uh... oh. Why am I forgetting the man's name? 'Cause of Topamax. Topamax is why I'm forgetting his name. But like, uh, Naked Lunch. But the movie. That guy. The director?

**Brent:** I am... I too am drawing a blank. It has gone the way of my Russian accent.

**Courtney:** Y'know what? At this point, who gives a whole entire fuck? It's a pretty bottle.

**Brent:** I love it.

**Courtney:** It's a pretty bottle of basically a man's head exploding in pretty colors.

**Brent:** Nice. I'm reminded of, uh... a bottle I recently—I don't usually drink rosé, but I'm dating a woman who prefers it, actually. And uh, found a bottle, when I was picking up some other alcoholic beverages... uh, instead of No Way Jose, this bottle said Yes Way Rosé. And I was like, I have to buy it.

**Courtney:** I've had that! Mm-hmm.

**Brent:** It makes me wonder if like—

**Courtney:** Sometimes rosé is good, and sometimes it tastes like church.

**Brent:** Yeah. It just makes me wonder if there are some vineyards out there that are like, "We know our wine is terrible, but if we can hire one funny person to make a great name for it, we might just be able to move this terrible product." I don't know. I haven't tasted it yet, but that could be the case.

**Courtney:** Mm-hmm. It's the same people who do those hideous shirts at Target that are just like, "Namaste in bed!" Like, that's the people who make the dumb wine names.

**Brent:** [laughing] Okay. The way you delivered that, though, was quite funny.

**Courtney:** [laughs]

**Brent:** Um, I am drinking... a LaCroix cran-raspberry. Um, 'cause sometimes when I shop, I just go, look, is it fizzy? Does it have a flavor? I'm not gonna delude myself. The flavors aren't wildly different. Um, this will be fine. Oh, this one's on sale? Great. So... cran-raspberry. Two great tastes you can barely taste together.

**Courtney:** So I have really important sparkle watch.

**Brent:** Sparkle watch.

**Courtney:** Uh, Kate Erbland, she's a writer that writes for Indie Wire, and we follow each other on the Insta. And she has been posting her uh, her recent polar... Polar Springs, or Polar sparkling water.

**Brent:** Polar Seltzer, yeah.

**Courtney:** Yeah, Polar Seltzers. And I would like to read to you the kinds that she has been trying.

**Brent:** Okay.

**Courtney:** Yeti Mischief. [pause] Dragon Whispers.

**Brent:** Mmm.

**Courtney:** Unicorn Kisses, which I know you've had at Travis' house.

**Brent:** I have, and I liked it.

**Courtney:** And finally... Mermaid Songs.

**Brent:** Now, that one is the hardest one for me to place. Like, I had a specific color in my brain, and also like a taste in my mouth. My brain mouth. My mind's mouth. For all of them except Mermaid Songs.

**Courtney:** I bet it tastes like sparkly fish.

**Brent:** Eugh!

**Courtney:** [laughs]

**Brent:** Like just salt water and salmon.

**Courtney:** Although, that's what I think kombucha tastes like, so I mean, whatever.

**Brent:** Mmm, you can think that and just more for me. I should have some of that, since it's good for the immune system.

**Courtney:** [gags] At what cost?

[theme music plays]

**Courtney:** [sighs] So, I don't know if you guys know this.

**Brent:** Oh, goddamn it Courtney, we didn't do a timestamp!



**Courtney:** It's... it's time. It's time for the time. Y'all, we do the timestamp now. We'll do it live!

**Brent:** We'll do it live!

**Courtney:** When I do the timestamp, that means I get to do it in central time. It's 5:47. Suck it.

**Brent:** Um...

**Courtney:** And we are—

**Brent:** Thursday, September 20... oh, sorry. Sorry, I thought you were gonna just—

**Courtney:** I don't give a fuck! [echoes] We're very busy! There's so much to talk about! It's Thursday. It's September 25<sup>th</sup>. It's...

**Brent:** Sixth.

**Courtney:** Okay. Y'know what?

**Brent:** Should we cut some of this?

**Courtney:** No! We're not cutting any of it!

**Brent:** [laughing]

**Courtney:** The news has broken us! And I mean me. Because I'm the one talking. Alright, so...

**Brent:** I'm pretty broken. Not gonna lie. We're in this together. Solidarity.

**Courtney:** What's funny is that like, I had to look at my phone to see what the date is, when tomorrow's date is literally just like an inch above this on the dock, and I know that. And I still got it wrong.

**Brent:** We are holding this hang glider together.

**Courtney:** With gum. Like, not even with like, tape or like, shoe string.

**Brent:** [laughing]

**Courtney:** Gracious me. Okay. So it's September 26<sup>th</sup>. It's 5:48 now, because that took... that took time and effort and energy. So, basically what's been happening is like, a lot of shit has been happening. And so, we've decided to just skip Beyond the Headlines, because there is too much to bother with headlines. There is only... impeachment time.

**Brent:** Mm-hmm.

**Courtney:** Do we have like a sound effects sting for impeachment?

**Brent:** I don't know. The thing is, I was thinking about the fact that... now, this is a little bit dark in the rear view, but I'm just gonna say it. For the Charlottesville episode, Travis was like, "Maybe we should sort of have like a serious theme for this one." And I was like, "Oh, okay, you got it." And then, what I made was like, serious but like, goofy in its attempt to be serious, so we never used it.

But uh...

**Courtney:** I'm really glad we didn't, and I'm glad I didn't know about that.

**Brent:** Yeah. It was just sort of lost to time.

**Courtney:** Because I think I might've been judgey. Uh, I have a song for this one. Don't worry about it. Because I've decided, we're gonna go a little Schoolhouse Rock on this one. So here's the song.

**Brent:** Nice.

**Courtney:** [sings] Millions impeachment! Peachment for Trump! Millions impeachment! [screams] That's the song. I did it. I'm a lot like Brent in that, I, too, have my masters in music things.

**Brent:** [laughing] Mm-hmm. Go on.

**Courtney:** So, let's break it down. What is impeachment? Some people think of impeachment as just kicking the president's trash ass out of the White House, and it's not that simple. An impeachment is the act of bringing charges against an elected official. It's essentially an indictment, but with peaches.

Now, I'm not the policy wonk that Brent is when it comes to politics and whatnot, but I have seen every episode of Law & Order: SVU, so... at the federal level, the House of Representatives is responsible for bringing the charges, making them like the prosecutor. And then the senate acts as the judge and jury.

But first, there comes the impeachment inquiry, or the investigation. This is Benson and Stabler part of the process, and it begins in the House Judiciary Committee. This committee, which is chaired by Jerry Nadler, will do their investigation, and when complete, will decide to move forward with the articles of impeachment, AKA, the charges. The charges then go to the full house, and if the house so moves by majority vote, the president is charged. And at that point, he is impeached.

Then, the senate determines whether to convict or acquit. That is why Bill Clinton was impeached, but stayed in office. He was acquitted, as was Andrew Johnson. Richard Nixon did not get the chance to be impeached, because he resigned before the house could bring the charges against him. Now, why am I explaining this? Because you ask, because you've been trapped under something heavy for several days with your phone just out of reach? Brent, please tell us.

**Brent:** I will, but first, I want you to know that I am so out of touch with pop culture, I had to Google who Benson and Stabler are. Uh, I guess I just

didn't know those were the two people that are, I guess, the leads of Law & Order... is it SVU?

**Courtney:** It is SVU. And it was. They were the leads, and now it's just Benson. Stabler left.

**Brent:** Ah.

**Courtney:** But y'know, the show stayed actually pretty decent. It's fine. Don't worry about it.

**Brent:** I really underestimated you in a way that is now shameful, 'cause I thought, "I think she means Statler and Waldorf." [laughing] And nope, dead wrong. I'm the asshole.

**Courtney:** I'm being serious, Brent. This is not time for the heckling of a Statler and Waldorf, but the very serious, real, documentary police work of actual police officers. Benson and Stabler. [laughs]

**Brent:** Uh, as you probably know, some politicians have been calling for Trump's impeachment for a while now. In January, congresswoman Rashida Tlaib was talking to a crowd about a conversation where she told her son, "We're gonna go in there, and we're gonna impeach the motherfucker." Then, the Mueller report came out, and ever since then, we've seen Alexandria 'Ocasio'-Cortez, or Ocasio-Cortez, as it's pronounced by everyone but me... as well as Ilhan Omar, and Elizabeth Warren. They've all come out for impeachment, among others.

And at this point, I didn't actually—I wasn't fully aware of this until, uh, I researched for today's story. Four different resolutions have been brought forward to begin an impeachment inquiry by four different members of the house, going all the way back to 2017 when Trump fired James Comey, in an act that many felt constituted obstruction of justice.

So, the typical pro-impeachment argument in 2019 is that Trump has committed impeachable offenses; particularly illustrated by the obstruction of justice evidence in the Mueller report, but also his campaign finance

violations with Stormy Daniels, at least 24 accusations of sexual assault and misconduct, including rape of a minor, potential violations of the emoluments clause involving his businesses, and possible obstruction of justice, just in the simple act of firing James Comey. And that list actually does go on and on.

The second part of the argument is that if we don't hold a president accountable for breaking the law, then we're all just saying that our president, who is currently Donald Trump, is above the law, and that sets a bad precedent. But the real road block to getting the impeachment process started has been house speaker, Nancy Pelosi.

In the face of all this evidence of Trump committing high crimes, she's continued to put it off or deflect questions about it. Sometimes she's said that impeachment would be too political and too divisive. In actual fact, Pelosi's position up to this point probably had more to do with the fact that democratic house representatives in purple or red districts could lose their next election if they were forced into voting for impeachment, as well as—well, impeaching Donald Trump, that is.

As well as the fact that impeachment in the short term can mean a ground swell of support, or at least a boost in the approval ratings for the president being impeached. And that was true, especially in the case of Bill Clinton. Uh, Pelosi knows Trump has an uncanny ability to avoid consequences for his worst actions. So if he, for instance, didn't get removed from office until after the 2020 election, he could ride the wave of support, in theory, that would be a backlash to the impeachment, and then leave us with the casually evil politics and policy of Mike Pence until 2024.

So, Pelosi's conundrum is... it's a hard choice, y'know? It's like a crossroads between preserving American principles, or making it easier for her party to win in 2020. As much as I think she's a corporate friendly centrist who like, needs to be replaced by someone more progressive, it is a very hard decision.

So that's where we've been up to this past week, when the Washington Post broke the story of a promise that Trump had made to a foreign leader that was, quote, "so troubling that it prompted an official in the US Intelligence

community to file a formal whistleblower complaint with the inspector general for the intelligence community.”

So, intelligence community inspector general Michael Atkinson, who, by the way, was not appointed by Trump, found it credible and troubling enough to be considered a matter of “urgent concern.” And that specific threshold legally requires the notification of certain committees in congress.

But, the acting director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, who was appointed by Trump, and who outranks the inspector general... he refused to share details about the whistleblower report with congress, and that created a standoff that finally ended this past Wednesday when congressional intelligence committees were finally allowed to examine the whistleblower complaint.

Along the way, members of the press figured out that Trump may have asked the Ukrainian government to do some digging into supposed wrongdoing by Joe Biden and his son, Hunter Biden, in an obvious attempt to smear and discredit a potential opponent for Trump in the 2020 general election.

See, Trump has been pushing this narrative that Joe Biden had threatened Ukraine in order to boost his son’s business interests. According to many mainstream media sources, there’s no truth to that claim. And that’s... I’m gonna say that’s probably true. Though, I’m definitely not saying Biden is without corruption; that’s just not what the story’s about today.

But anyway, meanwhile, on Sunday, Trump did admit that he had discussed Joe Biden on a call with the Ukrainian president. And he said, “We don’t want our people like vice president Biden and his son creating to the corruption already in the Ukraine.” That was not misspeaking on my part – he just, um, added a preposition for shittles.

Um, he also said that it was “a very innocent call.” He has used the phrase “very innocent” a couple times. Does he realize how it sounds when he uses the phrase “very innocent?” Like, it feels like when Bart Simpson says, “I

didn't do it, nobody saw me do it, there's no way you can prove anything." It's like, such a stupid fucking tell.

**Courtney:** It's one of those words that if you have to put 'very' in front of it, it means you're not.

**Brent:** Yes! Yes!

**Courtney:** [laughs]

**Brent:** I mean, like... [laughs] And also, just—just grammatically, philologically, there is innocent, or there is not innocent. To be "very" innocent is just... oh, it hurts.

**Courtney:** I like, super to the max didn't do it.

**Brent:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Courtney:** For super reals.

**Brent:** It kills me. It kills me that children think this is how a president should act. And it makes me feel old that I'm like, "The world's going to hell in a hand basket." But like, this one really is! Okay. Or maybe not. Maybe impeachment. Let's read on.

So it was revealed also that Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, had communicated on Trump's behalf to very high up officials in the Ukrainian government. And he went on Laura Ingram's show on Fox News, which should've been an easy, softball interview – but things went off the rails when Ingram asked him why he, as Trump's personal lawyer, and not a member of the federal government, needed to be the one to reach out to the Ukrainian government on Trump's behalf. Let's listen.

**Laura:** I get it. That should be investigated. But why is Rudy running the show on that? Why isn't it FBI and just—the main justice?

**Rudy:** That's a very good question. Uh, because the FBI's performance in this entire investigation, including up to this moment, is, uh, flawed. Why am I doing it, Laura? Can't you figure it out? I'm his defense lawyer. I'm defending him. He's my client. I don't know, only Donald Trump is not entitled to a defense in America.

**Courtney:** Why don't you tell me, gumshoes?

**Brent:** Exactly. [laughing] So that was a one on one with Laura Ingram. And then, a little later in that broadcast, liberal radio host Christopher Hahn came on, and accused Giuliani of making things up about the Bidens. Listen to how America's mayor, and the personal lawyer of the president of the United States, responds to this on live television.

**Laura:** Rudy, you've been listening to this conversation—

**Rudy:** Yeah, I sure have, and I'd like to say this—

**Laura:** Uh, go ahead to Chris Hahn.

**Rudy:** I'd like to say to Mr. Hahn, I should sue you for liable, because you irresponsibly said—

**Christopher:** Oh, please. [laughs]

**Rudy:** Yeah, well, you actually usually say incredibly stupid things.

**Christopher:** You're a public figure.

**Rudy:** Yeah, and uh... by the way, do you have any idea that the state department—

**Christopher:** So then you know the liable—

**Rudy:** Shut up, moron!



**Laura:** Let Rudy—okay, hold on.

**Rudy:** Shut up! Shut up, you don't know what you're talking about!

**Laura:** Chris, Chris, Chris.

**Rudy:** You don't know what you're talking about, idiot!

**Courtney:** Jesus fucking Christ.

**Brent:** [laughing]

**Courtney:** What is happening?!

**Brent:** I know. I know. [laughing] It's like... I mean, think about the image of Rudy Giuliani soon after 9/11. Just like, I mean... I feel like, in a way, George W. Bush got points for being seen with him. He was a hero. And y'know, I'm sure he did a lot of good things and made a lot of good decisions on that day. But like, who is this man? It's just strange.

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

**Brent:** It's just strange.

**Courtney:** I don't like to do the thing where people like, diagnose anyone. I don't like it. It makes me feel weird and uncomfortable.

**Brent:** Fair.

**Courtney:** But... there's something wrong. [laughs] Like, is this— something's wrong! I don't know if it's medical, or if it's like... the devil! I don't know what it is! I don't like it, whatever it is! Don't like it!

**Brent:** I tend to think... I tend to think that like, Rudy Giuliani, y'know, like, the soul of his poor mother was trapped in a box by an old witch, and the only way he can ever get her back is to like, embarrass himself over and

over again on Donald Trump's behalf. Like, I just don't know... what does Trump have on him that he honestly works this hard, and just makes himself look so foolish?

**Courtney:** It's like, none of these people... it's not like these were like, good, saintly people before, and now they have become wicked evil. Like, that is not the case.

**Brent:** Nah.

**Courtney:** But at the very least, I think they seemed... like people.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** Albeit, not great ones, but they could like, speak. And talk. And use words. And now, they're like... not... that.

**Brent:** Yeah. I think that there's different kinds of reinvention in the media. Like, I feel like my YouTube character in 2008 grew out of sort of a caricature of myself at the time. But like, after a while, I was like, "I don't really like mimicking my 24-year-old self anymore."

**Courtney:** Mm-hmm.

**Brent:** And like, Trends Like These allowed me to like, stretch out a different part of my personality. But I tried to maintain myself in it. And I think some people, particularly in political media, can lose themselves in a persona because of what the audience wants. Like, so many conservative talk... I mean, I used to listen to conservative talk radio. I just can't stomach it anymore. But like, to hear what the other side was saying. And so many of them were anti-Trump until they saw which way the wind was blowing.

And Giuliani slooowly turned into this conservative figure. It's probably because, y'know, he was no longer mayor. He lost his bid for the presidency. And it's like, well, I need to get paid somehow. I need to stay in the media, sell some books. So, y'know, you slowly go over to the Fox News side, and

you realize you make more money and they bring you back on when you say more conservative stuff.

But how far off the deep end has he gone?

**Courtney:** I sometimes wonder, though, if I need to believe that, because other—the alternative is, these people genuinely believe this stuff. So like, you have like, your Tomi Lahren, you have your Candace Owens, you have your Ben Shapiros... you have your like, your idiots. And you have them saying awful shit. And like, stirring up evil.

**Brent:** Mm-hmm.

**Courtney:** Like chaotic gremlins of madness. And they're doing it for fun, and for the chaos, and for the attention. And I need to believe that it's just that, because the alternative is that they're also Nazis. And they probably are. But like, I want to believe that it's more about the attention than the Nazis, which does not help, because Nazis. But like, I just—it's... it's... it's a lot to take in as a person, to think about... about people. It's too much for me and my gentle soul.

**Brent:** My theory, which—my theory, which does not make them look good, and I don't want to. But again, the only prism through which I can see it is my career in media, and I never set out to like, make songs about video games. That wasn't what I went to school for. But when the stuff I went to school for wasn't making me any money, and then suddenly, making goofy songs on YouTube about video games started making me serious money, it was like... well, I guess this is what the people want.

But the thing is, it wasn't sacrificing my principles. And the question with Ben Shapiro, or a Tomi Lahren or however her name is pronounced...

**Courtney:** We will never fucking care. If anyone ever tries to tell us, we won't listen. We won't care. I will never care how to pronounce this person's name. You're gonna tell me, and I'm not gonna care.

**Brent:** Toh-mee. Toh-mee La-ha-ren. Just a bit. Just a bit.

**Courtney:** Turpentine. Turpentine. Um, I had—like, I had—I would not say... I was never like, an edgelord or anything. But I think that like, in the like, the mid to like, teen thoughts that I started writing professionally in, there was this... I'm gonna call it a James Gunn space, where people did say things that like, were... a little bit on the side of shocking. And in your mind, you're joking about something that is dark, and that's okay.

**Brent:** Yeah, well, then there was the—

**Courtney:** So there was some of that. And then there was also—like, I will fully admit that like, my—if you—you can Google me right now. You're not gonna like... if you call me out for stuff that I wrote between like, 2006 to 2013, you are not going to surprise me, or make me feel uncomfortable. I wrote some internalized misogyny bullshit that I do not stand by. And I wrote it from a semblance of like, "I'm the real feminist. They're not."

And so like, y'know, you grow and you change. The issue is that some people neither grow nor change. They either become more themselves, which is possible what Rudy Giuliani is doing, and before, he was just pretending to be a person, and now he is just like... y'know, six bugs. Just like, standing on top of each other, going like, "Idiot! Gar blar blar!" Like, I don't know!

**Brent:** [laughing] Six bugs. Ol' Six Bugs Rudy, they called him. Um, okay. So, I'm glad you and I have changed into what I think are better people over the last ten years, whereas Giuliani has turned into—

**Courtney:** We're people, and he's not people. He's bugs.

**Brent:** Alright. Um, so, on Tuesday, um... Nancy Pelosi dropped the bomb.

**Nancy:** The House of Representatives is moving forward with an official impeachment inquiry. The president must be held accountable. No one is above the law.

**Brent:** The next day, after Pelosi did that, which was Wednesday, the Trump White House went into emergency mode and said they were releasing a transcript of the phone call in question. First, I should say the so-called transcript was not... a transcript. It was a memo with a summary of the call. And that was clear from text on the memo, saying, this is not verbatim. This is basically what we could remember, and notes taken by people there, and possibly we used some voice recognition software... a lot of ways they could say, "Don't quote me on this!"

The first thing I noticed in the transcript... quote, unquote, air quotes, transcript... is how Ukrainian president Zelensky is kissing Trump's ass and using Trumpisms. And apparently, from what I understand, that's what all world leaders have learned to do with Trump. Like, for instance, Zelensky says at one point, "We are trying to work hard, because we wanted to drain the swamp here in our country."

So, what crimes might Trump be guilty of in this phone call? Well, the main thing is, you can't solicit a foreign government for aid in your election campaign. And this partial summary transcript does not prove that Trump is innocent of that. In fact, it only raises more questions.

Trump said in the transcript, "The United States has been very, very good to Ukraine. I wouldn't say that it's reciprocal, necessarily, because things are happening that are not good, but the United States has been very, very good to Ukraine." So, the idea of reciprocity is introduced. Okay. Next.

Zelensky butters Trump up a bit more, and then tells Trump that Ukraine is almost ready to buy some more anti-tank weapons from the United States. Trump responds, saying, "I would like you to do us a favor, though." That though is a huge though.

First, he asks for the favor of the Ukrainian government looking into a company called Crowd Strike, because they investigated the 2016 hacking of the Democratic National Committee, and maybe they have like, I don't know, Hillary's emails or some shit. I honestly don't know, and no outlet that I can find knows where he's going with that. It's almost like a conspiracy theory he like, made up in his mind. I don't know.

But Zelensky responds with, "It is very important, and we are open for any future cooperation. We are ready to open a new page on cooperation and relations between the United States and Ukraine." So, Trump says he'll have Rudy Giuliani call president Zelensky, which, again, is entirely improper. That's his personal defense lawyer.

Then Trump says, "The other thing... There's a lot of talk about Biden's son, that Biden stopped the prosecution, and a lot of people want to find out about that. So whatever you can do with the attorney general would be great. Biden went around bragging that he stopped the prosecution, so if you can look into it, it sounds horrible to me."

Now, here's where I should point out that Trump told his chief of staff to hold back almost \$400 million in military aid for Ukraine a short time before the phone call, even though congress had appropriated the funds. Trump's staff continued to use irregular and improper tactics to stall the payment for nearly two months. So for Trump to be like, "Hold these funds before this phone call!" And then say, "I would like you to do us a favor, though." It's no coincidence.

Um, and keep in mind, this is one phone call. We don't even know if the whistleblower thing was about this phone call. We don't. Um, in a hilarious turn of events, though, on Wednesday, the White House sent out an email with talking points for Republican officials and pundits to use to defend Trump, but the email was mistakenly sent to Democratic lawmakers and their staff.

Um, the email was recalled, whatever the fuck that means, but it was too late. And if you want to read that, you can go to a tweet from Bill Pascrell Junior who posted the whole thing. His handle is @BillPascrell. And one of the main talking points in that email was that there was no quid pro quo, meaning Trump didn't say he would *only* send aid *if* Ukraine investigated Biden.

And from a legal or technical standpoint, that's, I think, true, at least in the context of this transcript text. But that talking point is meant to distract you

from the crime that's easier to prove here, which is that Trump asking a foreign government for opposition research, basically for aid in an election campaign, is a violation of campaign finance law, which states that a president can't accept campaign contributions, in kind contributions, or a "thing of value" from a foreign government.

And while Trump's lapdog attorney general Barr had his justice department prosecutors say Trump didn't violate that law, the only way to investigate and prosecute Trump's potential crimes now is to open an impeachment inquiry.

**Courtney:** Uh, for the record, David Mandel, who was the show runner for Veep, shared the White House talking points email with the tweet, "Once again, this is why season eight of Veep was fucking impossible to do."

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** So today, Robert Maguire, the acting director of national intelligence, testified before the house intelligence committee. Maguire is in trouble, because despite Trump and William Barr being the subject of the complaint of the whistleblower, he went to the White House and the Justice Department first, like when I would warn my brother, "Yo, mom is pissed."

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** Then, when asked if he discussed the matter with Trump, he said, "I will not divulge privileged information that I have as director of national intelligence with the president of the United States." Which is very convenient.

The general gist of the testimony seems to have been, "I cannot tell you what the president and I talk about," and, "I do not know what Rudy Giuliani does. I do not know this man. Sorry to this man."

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** Trump is handling things well, basically saying the whistleblower should be *murdered*. He said, "Basically, that person never saw the report, never saw the call, he never saw the call. Heard something and decided that he or she, or whoever the hell they saw, they're almost a spy. I want to know who's the person. Who's the person who gave the whistleblower the information? Because that's close to a spy. You know what we used to do in the old days when we were smart, right? The spies and treason, we used to handle it a little differently than we do now."

Now, what he's saying is murder. That's the different. That's the differently. The differently handled.

**Brent:** That's how they handled spies and treason during the days where monarchy was typically, uh... the style of government. I don't know if we... did we do that? Maybe—historians, please, tell me on Twitter. I know you will. But what is he... what is he talking about?

**Courtney:** I don't know.

**Brent:** I feel like any time he says "the old days," he just means, "I wish that they got hurt."

**Courtney:** "I wish that I could kill people."

**Brent:** Yes. Well, like that terrible thing he said during a rally where he was like, "In the old days, they would've carried him out of here in a body bag!" And it's like, what are you saying? Anyway, we know what he's saying. Fuck this guy. I interrupted you.

**Courtney:** We know what he's saying. It's not even a dog whistle. It's just like a whistle whistle with a firecracker attached to it.

**Brent:** And speaking of, does he not understand the word 'whistleblower'? He shouldn't even use it if he feels this way. 'Cause whistleblower inherently means blowing a good whistle for a good reason.



**Courtney:** Yeah. He's bad and dumb and his brain's bad. The New York Times reported that Donald Trump said that, and then they reported details narrowing down who the whistleblower could be. Jesus fucking Christ. I'm not gonna say who the details are. I don't think Donald Trump's listening to this. But I feel weird, because I have integrity, as opposed to the New York fucking Times, apparently.

**Brent:** Yeah, that's... very not good. There are people that straight up, like, commit murder, and sometimes mass murder, to defend the president, or...

**Courtney:** And especially, this motherfucker's unhinged supporters? Seriously.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** Meanwhile, today, Fox News reported on pancakes. I'm not joking.

**Brent:** [laughs] I'm not surprised.

**Courtney:** Brian Kilmeade literally said, "When I go into IHOP, I'm always amazed. I'm always amazed about the way we're coming up with different ways of flavoring syrup. I mean, just, you thought a lot of sugar and sap and just putting a funnel in a tree was enough, but now there's blueberries."

**Brent:** Sugar and sap indeed. Well.

**Courtney:** Blueberries! Can you believe it?

**Brent:** Blueberry!

**Courtney:** That's all that's happening in the news today!

**Brent:** Strawberry!

**Courtney:** Strawberries!

**Brent:** Do you remember that muffins sketch on YouTube from like a million years ago?

**Courtney:** I don't know that I do.

**Brent:** Blueberry! Strawberry! Fiyah! Okay. Anyway.

**Courtney:** When I think about blueberries, I think about Eli Roth, and I'm not getting into that. You can Google that and have your whole day ruined if you want.

**Brent:** Alright, well. Um, let's move to discussion on this. And there is... it's like there's so many—

**Courtney:** There's discussion to have here.

**Brent:** There's so many things to discuss, and yet, because of that, it's like, what do we even say? Basically, okay, first off, um... the thing that annoys me here is that, while I'm not gonna go entirely into it, and frankly, I haven't done the research to be precise... I do think that Biden and his family have, uh, corrupt and nepotistic skeletons in their past, as do many elites.

Not that it's good – I'm saying, like, if Fox News wants to run with the idea that Biden has actually done something bad ever, I'm sure he has! Um, y'know, this is why I think a lot of people... like, look, y'know, Bernie and Elizabeth Warren? It's not that they have no skeletons. But they're kind of squares. Like, their skeletons are more that they're not like, pure leftists, or that Bernie went to Moscow once. As opposed to like, y'know... anyway. I'll go into that further in the future, 'cause I hate to be like, "I know some stuff! Not gonna be specific about it!"

But point being, I think, clearly, Trump is breaking laws in trying to investigate Biden for this weird international opposition research thing that he's doing. But that doesn't mean Biden is as squeaky clean as the corporate funded, y'know, NBC, ABC, CBS media would have you believe.

**Courtney:** I think, also, though, that like... I'm sure he's not squeaky clean, but also, he's given us plenty of shit to dislike him for that has nothing to do with breaking laws. He sucks.

**Brent:** That is true. Yes.

**Courtney:** He can go. Goodbye, Joe.

**Brent:** I wish he would. I wish he would. Just...

**Courtney:** I would love it if he would go.

**Brent:** Go the way of Corn Pop. Anyway, um... oh, that means die. I don't mean die. I just mean...

**Courtney:** RIP Corn Pop.

**Brent:** Politically, career wise, go away. Um... but uh, yeah.

So, here's the thing. This was the big story. For good reason. And y'know, one of the most intense experiences I had in researching this was listening to Steven Colbert in his monologue, where he said... I'm gonna paraphrase. He said, "There are so many things that have happened where we thought, "This is the thing! This is the thing that'll get him! This is finally the thing!" And that turned out not to be the thing. But this is a thing that could be the thing."

And the audience applauded that for, I swear to god, it must've been 20 or 30 straight seconds. It felt so long, and so loud, and so joyful. And... so, I don't fault anyone for getting excited about this news, because we... I think for so many people, around the world, but certainly here... this presidency has been a traumatic, uh, just fount of psychological damage and difficulty and anxiety, or whatever. Negative shit. In many ways.

It has for me, and I have it about as good as you can have it under a Trump administration.

**Courtney:** The thing—and I know that this is probably an unpopular opinion. I am of the belief that actually... oh, god, I know this is gonna sound—I'm gonna get yelled at for this. But I actually think Nancy Pelosi played her cards as safely as she could. Like, would I have loved if she could just go like, full, like, "The revolution!" And y'know, declare impeachment proceedings way earlier? Yes. But I think... his base is fucking unhinged.

**Brent:** Mm-hmm.

**Courtney:** And the last thing that this mess of a human and his nonsense cronies need is any wiggle room. I think she needed to wait until the exact moment that there was no wiggle room. And I think that was a smart play, honestly.

**Brent:** Yeah, I mean, look. You might be surprised to find out – I basically agree with you. I think that this is a very hard choice between strategy and principle.

**Courtney:** When we agree, it's like music starts playing in my head, and it's just like... [sings] Sometimes, when we touch...

**Brent:** [sings] Why do birds... Anyway, um, yeah. So, I mean, we line up on this one. 'Cause basically, and I mean, in doing so, we find ourselves, in some ways, opposing AOC, and in some ways, in a camp with Tulsi Gabbard. Which doesn't bother me as much, but like, it's weird. It's weird to feel like... I mean, again, this is just one of those things. Do you go strategy minded, or do you go principle minded?

**Courtney:** Do not mistake me. I remain firmly fuck you on Tulsi. And I also think, I am glad that people like AOC were speaking out and saying, like, "Start the proceedings. Start the proceedings." I'm glad. There needed to be people calling for it and declaring it. I'm glad that Nancy Pelosi waited until like, the shit was rolling downhill, so that there was no way out of it. I do not care for Tulsi still being like, "Oh, but divisive!" Like, calm down, Tulsi. Calm down. Don't be that girl.

**Brent:** I mean, the thing is, I think divisive is the wrong word. We're a country that cannot agree on vaccinations or climate change. So like, we're divided, Tulsa.

**Courtney:** How much further can we divide? Like, if we divide any further, we come back together. But backwards. And inside out. And our skin is under our bones.

**Brent:** Or we would just have that thing like in uh, that... wasn't it Plato that told that story that ended up in Hedwig and the Angry Inch where the gods just split everybody in half? Um, that's about as divided as we are at this point.

But like... okay, so that being said, we've had this talk, you, me, and Travis, many times. The Al Capone thing. Because like, Al Capone did all these terrible things, and then was finally, they got him on... I think was tax evasion, or something very mundane. And in the same way, Trump has done aall these terrible things. Plenty of them not technically illegal – just terrible.

But... it's sort of ironic to me. This is such a dumb... like, here's what I'm saying. I don't think that saying, "Hey, other country. Want to do a little digging against the other guy?" I don't think that's... in a place like Washington, I just look at that and go, okay. If you go out and you hire an opposition research firm, are they not gonna go to other countries and just ask anyone they can, because that's why they get hired?

I'm being very cynical, and I know that. I'm just saying, there's an irony to... and there's also evidence, uh, that... I mean, basically, it seems like many campaigns do this, and I feel like, uh, there—it's like, this is a thing that the mainstream media particularly, uh, everybody but Fox, is upset about, because it's an opening to get him the fuck out of here. Which, good. Get rid of him.

But I mean, am I alone here? This seems like... if this is the thing that tipped the scales, it's such a mundane yawn of a thing.

**Courtney:** I just... I... [sighs]

**Brent:** No?

**Courtney:** So, I just like... here's the thing. Like, Brent... should we get our hopes—should we get our hopes up?

**Brent:** Um... here's the thing, Courtney. Impeachment is designed to be very hard. I think my tone sounds like I'm patting you on the head. It was supposed to be comforting.

**Courtney:** When a man and a woman come together and love each other very much...

**Brent:** But then he calls the Ukraine... [laughs]

**Courtney:** And he moves on her like a bitch...

**Brent:** Oh. [laughing] Yeah. To quote the great Donald Trump. Blessings be upon him. Um, look... I—I hate to be, again, so cynical and so cut and dry about this. But... it'll never get past the senate. It'll never get past the senate, folks. Hear me now. It'll never get past the senate. 20 or so extra Republicans voting against this president with every Democrat also? I mean, there are conservative Democrats in the senate that might not vote for impeachment. Joe Manchin? He's a Democrat for where he comes from, but he's not really like, y'know... he's no AOC is all I'm saying.

And so, it could send a message. It could have positive effects in theory. I mean, Bill Clinton had one result from being impeached, but Donald Trump is not Bill Clinton. So as far as getting our hopes up for Trump being impeached, and thereby, y'know, drummed out of the White House? I mean, I'd give... I'd give my big toe for that to happen, but I don't think that's how this plays out.

**Courtney:** Well, I will say like, I am—like, the whole, y'know... well, if this happens and it doesn't work, Donald Trump will be even stronger, and blah blah blah. And I'm not interested in hypotheticals at this point. I'm as

interested in that as I am the whole, like... well, Joe Biden's the only electable one! Bluh bluh bluh! Like, I am—like, no, I'm not—I don't fucking care. I am going to vote for my candidate with every ounce of my heart and my soul, and her name is Elizabeth Warren.

But like, I'm not going to—I'm not gonna—I'm not gonna buy into the whole like, well, if we don't do this, then we're not gonna win! Like, I don't fucking care. Like, just... just do the thing. Have—someone has consequences. Please, for fucking once.

**Brent:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Courtney:** [groans loudly] That's how I feel.

**Brent:** I think you've summed it up perfectly.

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** Alright, folks. We are talking about toothbrushes. But not just any toothbrushes! How would you feel about simplifying the morning and evening with a simpler electric toothbrush from Quip? Now, long time listeners know, I have had my Quip toothbrush for now lo these two whole years, and I have used it every day since I got it.

Quip is a toothbrush brand, and it basically... here's why I like it. I'm gonna read you the things we're supposed to read about it, but here's why I genuinely like it. It is portable in a way that most electric toothbrushes are not. It has these cool, sonic vibrations. It has a built in, two minute timer. Because I don't know about you, but in the morning, I don't always know, when I'm still waking up... how long is two minutes? How long should I brush my teeth?

This thing vibrates in a way that tells you, "Okay, you've been doing this side of your mouth. Now do that side." I love it. And it's got a multi-use cover that doubles as a mirror mount. What else? Um... so, brush heads, you can switch them out on the same, like, handle part of the toothbrush, and those are automatically delivered on a dentist recommended schedule every

three months for just five bucks. A friendly reminder when it's time for a refresh, and to stay committed to your oral health.

And Quip is one of the first electric toothbrushes accepted by the American Dental Association. They're backed by over 25 thousand dental professionals, and they have thousands of verified five star reviews. So, if you don't have a good tooth brushing routine going on, maybe you work at home... I certainly know, in years past, working at home, sometimes you go, "Yeah, I'll get to the tooth brushing."

Quip is perfect for getting back into a routine. It starts at just \$25, and if you go to [GetQuip.com/Trends](https://www.getquip.com/Trends) right now, you can get your first refill pack for free. That's your first refill pack free at [GetQuip.com/Trends](https://www.getquip.com/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. Dashlane remembers all your passwords, so you don't have to. Dashlane seamlessly autofills all your login information, syncing automatically across all your devices. It even stores payment details.

Go ahead and get weird with your passwords, or let Dashlane get... y'know what? I was gonna say let Dashlane get weird for you. But... they're gonna put it a little bit like this. They're gonna generate you a stumper. A real stumper. And they will keep it safely stored in a password vault that only you can unlock.

So check out [www.Dashlane.com/Trends](https://www.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 a VPN, dark web monitoring, and more. If you like it, use code 'Trends' at check out to save 10% on your premium subscription.

[theme music plays]



**Brent:** [laughs] It's time for Tidbits. We're doing it as a segment unto itself today. Not the end of politics roundup, because dang, did we round up a bunch of one politic today.

**Courtney:** The show is peaches and tids.

**Brent:** My kind of show. Okay. Go on.

**Courtney:** I love a good peach and a tid. Uh, so, the Emmys were Sunday night, and Phoebe Waller-Bridge got all of them. All of them.

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** Technically... look, she created Killing Eve, so she got Jodie Comer's Emmy, and I'm just gonna give her Tony Shalhoub's Emmy. 'Cause he doesn't need it. He got a whole bunch for Monk.

**Brent:** Yeah, he's got some to share.

**Courtney:** He doesn't need it. He's fine. He's thriving. But seriously – Fleabag got so many Emmys, and our like, Fleabag loving hearts exploded all over the place. And I'm just... I'm so happy. Also, Succession got one Emmy, and next year, I'm hoping they get all the Emmys. Because Succession is perfect, and if you're not watching Succession, I'm mad at you. We're in a fight. We'll only get like, made up if you start watching Succession.

**Brent:** I just want to say... I got on the Fleabag train at the exact right time. Um, 'cause the woman I'm currently dating blew me away with the fact that the first TV show she suggested we watch turned out to be good. That never happens. I don't know about you, Courtney.

**Courtney:** I will tell you... you good people out there... if you are worried, like, "Oh, this show's been so overhyped." I don't think that's possible, honestly. I genuinely think it is so good that it's... it's not been overhyped for you. It's just so very good, and I've... I love Phoebe Waller-Bridge so much. I'm so happy she exists, and I'm happy that she got recognized this way.

Game of Thrones also won the uh, best dramatic series Emmy, and that, y'know, we knew that was gonna happen. And now it's...

**Brent:** We did? I don't watch it.

**Courtney:** Its reign of tyranny is over. It did not deserve it. Like, do not mistake me. Like, I watched every episode of Game of Thrones, and like, my feelings about it shifted like the tide. But this last season did not fucking deserve anything. Except for Peter Dinklage. Peter Dinklage always deserves things, 'cause Peter Dinklage is great.

**Brent:** That's true.

**Courtney:** But yeah, the show itself was like, hot garbage this year. It absolutely should've gone to Succession. If you're not hearing me, what I'm saying... is watch Succession.

**Brent:** Ohh. That decodes it. Alright. Moving on.

**Courtney:** Listen to me! For once in your lives!

**Brent:** [laughs] Um, moving onto the the next Succession of tidbits. So, you may have seen a headline this week stating, "Study says women are happier with uglier partners!" Well, let's talk about it.

So, researchers at Florida State University reviewed the relationships of a cohort of newlyweds between the ages of 20 and 29 in an attempt to understand whether attractiveness is a factor in overall happiness. And the results suggested that women who had particularly attractive husbands were much more likely to be insecure about their own bodies, and therefore, less happy with themselves and less happy in their relationships.

Whereas, women who had less attractive husbands didn't feel any pressure to diet and get fit, which, according to their research, allowed them to be happier in their relationship. Meanwhile, according to this study, men's dieting motivations do not depend on their partner's attractiveness, or lack

thereof, which... as someone who has been intimidated by a partner and stepped up my diet and exercise regimen because of it, I found that result surprising. But I didn't marry them, so who knows.

Ultimately, the cohort here was just over 200 newlyweds, so like, not exactly an extremely extensive, super mega laser double blind hoobajoob. Courtney, what do you think? Would you be happier marrying a less attractive man, or someone more like me?

**Courtney:** A literal supermodel, my stars! Uh, I...

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** So I had a uh, a brief period where I was dating a, um... an actual former model. And what I felt like was... [laughs] Horrible. All the time.

**Brent:** Mm.

**Courtney:** And my... my boyfriend is... like, the most handsome, like, beautiful person that's ever existed. But like, he's also... he's also like, super tall. And he is like... I—he has like a human body. A body like humans have.

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** And so, and he also just like... I think that's the thing. I think there is a difference between people who are like, crazy attractive, and they make you feel bad about yourself. And then there are people who are crazy attractive, but like, they think you're crazy attractive, too, no matter what you think about yourself. And you actually feel beautiful. Or handsome. Or whatever you want to feel like. And so, I feel like... good about myself. I don't feel the need to like, y'know, stop eating, or y'know, my usual resting state when I'm dating someone that I feel like thinks they're hotter than me.

**Brent:** That makes sense.

**Courtney:** So what I'm saying—and if you have... if you heard about this story and have not had the song, [sings] “If you want to be happy for the rest of your life, never make a pretty woman your wife!” Like, you—I don’t understand you, ‘cause that’s all I've thought since I first heard this story.

[pause]

**Courtney:** No response? No, that’s fine. Okay. Maybe you didn’t grow up watching Mermaids.

**Brent:** I was just ready for that next bit. That next bit of the tid.

**Courtney:** Nope, you were just—y'know what? I watched Mermaids a lot as a child, so like, that song... I grew up hearing it a lot.

**Brent:** No, I just listened to oldies as a child.

**Courtney:** And then I got older, and I looked at the lyrics, and I was like, “This song’s fucked up.”

**Brent:** Oh yeah. The philosophy espoused by that song is um, uh... just a bit problematic.

**Courtney:** “Marry an ugly girl. She’ll be grateful.” Thanks, song.

So. Greta Thunberg is a 16-year-old girl who wants us not to boil alive in the molten oceans. So naturally, adults are freaking out. You have probably seen where people are... they’re saying that she’s been coached. They’re saying—someone on Fox News called her a mentally ill Swedish girl, which is a reference—

**Brent:** Jesus.

**Courtney:** I mean, yeah. That’s a reference to the fact that she has, uh—she has Asperger’s syndrome, which she’s open about, and she has called it her superpower. Which, as the mom of two children on the autism spectrum, I goddamn love. And I am very happy that she exists. Um, but the things

people have said about her are hideous and disgusting, as they always are when someone is faced with a... very specifically, girls. It's always gonna be girls.

Um, but just children in general. Like, these brave heroes will just attack children for being against what they think are their unalienable rights to destroy the planet. Um, one of the big comparisons that I keep seeing is saying, "Why is it okay to attack the Covington kid versus Greta Thunberg?" And that kid, I cannot overstate this, was a fucking asshole.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** That smiling MAGA kid? Like, no.

**Brent:** What did he ever have to say that was intelligently phrased, or important, or had to do with something he was passionate about? Fuck that argument.

**Courtney:** No. And I saw some people say like, y'know, maybe it wasn't fair, because we judged him before all the facts came out. No! No. Do not get it twisted. We did not judge him before the facts came out. We judged him before his parents got him a very fancy PR firm, and they started spinning it. We had the facts. The facts were, that kid sucks. I'm not sorry. I'll judge that kid. He sucks. Little racist shitbird.

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** And then, just yesterday, or just, y'know... it went viral yesterday. It came out actually on the 24<sup>th</sup>. But a person I'm not gonna say his name, because he shouldn't matter. But he went very viral, and he tweeted, "Not even being provocative, but if you think Greta Thunberg has the maturity to guide global policy making, then you cannot object to Jeffrey Epstein paying 16-year-olds for sex."

**Brent:** Ohhh no no no no no.

**Courtney:** What?! What?!

**Brent:** Wowww.

**Courtney:** The fuck?!

**Brent:** Jesus. They're so afraid of her! The need to make these ridiculous arguments just shows how afraid of her they must be.

**Courtney:** I mean, I... the... [sighs] To say this is a reach is accurate, but like, there is a reach, and then there is a reach to... to imply that, uh—

**Brent:** Stretch Armstrong?

**Courtney:** Raping. Raping children is okay. Like, I don't know what to— [sighs]

**Brent:** Yeah. That's, uh...

**Courtney:** I'm glad I don't know what to do with that, because it means that I am still a person. I still have humanity. I'm still okay. Because y'know what? I'm not excusing child rape. [sighs]

And finally, another tweet went viral, which is like, more innocuous, but still like, assholes. But it's not like... it's not that kind of asshole at least, which is a... a pleasant respite, I guess. Um, it's a picture of Greta Thunberg on a train, eating. That fuckin' monster. And this person, uh, shared it with the caption, "Oh, she looks so frightened about the immediate climate catastrophe, as she sits there on a train, surrounded by plastic containers and processed foods! A picture paints a thousand words. This tells you she knows nothing about what she speaks of."

So, the food she's surrounded by includes... reusable water bottles. Vegan salad. Bread. Some kind of like, hummus. Bananas. Also, she's on a train, so she's not using a car, or any other mode of transportation. Also, she's a child, and she's eating.

**Brent:** Yeah. It just reminds me of that comic... I wish I could credit it, but it's like, "Oh, so you complain about society, yet you live—"

**Courtney:** You participate in society. [laughs]

**Brent:** Exactly. Exactly. Um... yep. That's the one. And like, the fact that they're all just needing to gang up on this kid just shows you, again, like, they see these protests, which were not anywhere near as intense in the United States, because a lot of us, including me, didn't even know about them. Thanks, mainstream media.

**Courtney:** Exactly, yeah. Of course, Greta's not alone in saving the world. Other young people are deserving of our support. There's Autumn Peltier. She's 15 and a first nations person from Canada, fighting for clean water. Mari Copeny, AKA Little Miss Flint is 12, and she's been an advocate for the Flint water crisis since she was eight. And there's Xiye Bastida. She's 17 and lives in New York. She grew up in Mexico, and her family left Mexico due to flooding, and arrived in New York just in time for Hurricane Sandy. And she says she realized then that the climate crisis follows you.

There are many, many more young people fighting to save the world, to have a world when they become adults, and they deserve our attention, our support, and for adults to leave them the fuck alone.

[music plays]

**Speaker 1:** Dead Pilot Society brings you exclusive readings of comedy pilots that were never made, featuring actors like Patton Oswalt...

**Patton:** So the vampire from the future sleeps in the dude's studio during the day, and they hunt monsters at night. It's Blade meets the Odd Couple!

**Speaker 1:** Adam Scott and Jane Levy...

**Jane:** Come on, Corey. She's too serious, too businessy. She doesn't know the hokey pokey.

**Adam:** Well, she'll learn what it's all about.

**Speaker 1:** Busy Philipps and Dave Koechner.

**Dave:** Baby, this is family.

**Busy:** My uncle Tell, who showed his wiener to Cinderella at Disneyland, is family. Do you want him staying with us?

**Dave:** He did stay with us! For three months!

**Busy:** And he was a delight!

**Speaker 1:** A new pilot every month, only on Dead Pilot Society, from Maximum Fun.

[music plays]

[music plays]

**Renee:** Well, Alexis, we got big news.

**Alexis:** Uh oh.

**Renee:** Season one, done.

**Alexis:** It's over.

**Renee:** Season two, comin' atcha hot.

**Alexis:** Three years after our season one.

**Renee:** Three and a half. Three and a half. Technically, almost four years.

**Alexis:** Alright.



**Renee:** And now, listen, here at Can I Pet Your Dog, the smash hit podcast, our seasons run for three and a half years. And then it's season two.

**Alexis:** We can match you with new, hot co-hosts named you. Hi, I'm Alexis. We also have a field trip, dog tech.

**Renee:** Yeah?

**Alexis:** Dog news...

**Renee:** Dog news.

**Alexis:** Celebrity guests...

**Renee:** Oh, big shots. Will not let them talk about their resume.

**Alexis:** Nope, only their dogs.

**Renee:** Yeah, only the dogs. I mean, if ever you were gonna get into Can I Pet Your Dog...

**Alexis:** Now's the time.

**Renee:** Get in here!

**Alexis:** Every Tuesday...

**Renee:** At MaximumFun.org.

**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.

[Wi-Five slap]

**Brent:** So, about one in 150 people have some form of an autoimmune condition called vitiligo. You may have seen it, but not know what it is. So

like, everybody knows that a mole or a birthmark is a concentrated amount of skin pigmentation. But vitiligo creates areas of a person's skin that have no pigmentation, and it can range from a few small spots, all the way to most of a person's body.

And it can be hard, because you don't see a lot of people with vitiligo in the mass media. Kids with vitiligo get made fun of, and adults with it might get stared at or have a harder time feeling attractive. And y'know how I know? Uh, ever since I was about 20, I have had it.

Well, one man is doing something to counterbalance the lack of representation. His name is João Stanganelli. He's a 64 year old Brazilian grandfather who began crocheting last year after health issues forced him to take a step back from his day job. He got good enough to make a doll for his granddaughter, and the doll had vitiligo patches on it, so she would remember him.

She shared a photo of it online, and now he's making these dolls he called vitilindas, or vitilindos, for all sorts of children. He's even branched out into dolls with cochlear implants, dolls in wheelchairs, dolls with alopecia, and others. He told People magazine in Portuguese, "The stains of vitiligo are beautiful. What is ugly is stains on people's character."

It can look like a small thing for a child to find themselves represented on TV, or in toys, or games, or dolls. But to that one kid, it can be everything. So to João Stanganelli of Brazil... Wi-Five.

[theme music plays]

**Courtney:** That is gonna do it for us. Thank you for joining us. Y'know what? Thank you. Thank you for joining us. All of you. I'm not gonna thank Brent, 'cause Brent, you had to be here. Like...

**Brent:** That's true.

**Courtney:** But like, I'm glad you were.

**Brent:** But even Donald Trump, who definitely listens to our show... thank you for tuning in. Now, please quit your job.

**Courtney:** And thank you, like, once again, fourth co-host, Mikey Coho, for like, not fucking showing up. Jesus fuckin' Christ.

**Brent:** Yeah. They don't let him Skype in from prison, but uh...

**Courtney:** Are we losing money by paying him?

**Brent:** I have to look into that. We'll have to ask Maximum Fun. I don't know.

**Courtney:** I feel like at this point, we're probably losing money on him.

**Brent:** That's possibly true. I didn't think of that. He could be something of a financial hole in the boat.

**Courtney:** Ohh shit.

**Brent:** Yeah. We will check that out.

**Courtney:** Y'know what? You always do your plugs last. Brent, what do you got going on?

**Brent:** Oh my god, thanks for noticin'! Okay, so, what do I want to plug? I've got a show November 30<sup>th</sup> in Montreal. For more information about that, you can check out... I'm literally putting in the website name right now. Follow me, folks, it's gonna be real interesting when we finally get there! You can find more information about my November 30<sup>th</sup> show in Montreal at [BrentalFloss.com/Live-Appearances](http://BrentalFloss.com/Live-Appearances), and you can find out about my super fun comedy party game, Use Your Words, at [UseYourWords.lol](http://UseYourWords.lol).

**Courtney:** You can read my stuff at SYFY Fangrrls. I'm going to be at New York Comic Con next week, and I have not had this confirmed yet, but I am pretty certain that I am going to be interviewing one Mr. Travis McElroy, and one Mr. Clint McElroy on stage. So if you're going to be at New York Comic

Con, come join us, and watch that good, good interview, 'cause I bet it's gonna be great. I will mostly talk to Clint, because he is my favorite McElroy. I am on the record stating that.

Uh, and I think that's gonna do it for us. Brent, am I forgetting anything?

**Brent:** Yes. You're forgetting that you and I did a great episode of my new podcast, Question Box, that...

**Courtney:** [gasps] We did.

**Brent:** That out listeners love, that listened to that episode.

**Courtney:** We talked about some real chicanery. We talked about behind the scenes stuff. We made fun of Travis, which is kind of my favorite thing.

**Brent:** It's true. So more about that at QuestionBox.com. Sorry to do a plug as that thing, but I literally did forget.

**Courtney:** No, but like, I need people to know. I talked about my biggest secret. My *biggest* secret. I talked about it.

**Brent:** QuestionBoxShow.com. But for now... We'll see you on Trends Like These next time.

**Courtney:** See ya next time.

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** I miss being so small that Power Wheels seemed big and powerful.

**Courtney:** I know.

**Brent:** They really did. Like... I mean, I was 25 at the time, but it really was cool.

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