

Trends Like These 249: Did Trump Start WWIII with Iran?, Harry and Meghan's Royal Drama, Australian Bushfires, Impeachment Update, Model Fights Fire With Nudes

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Brent: This week: the royals say bye, war may be nigh, and is Trump high?

Courtney: I'm Courtney Enlow.

Brent: I'm Brent Black.

Courtney: And I love dramaaa.

Brent: With Trends Like These.

[theme music plays]

Courtney: Hello, Brent!

Brent: Hello, Courtney! And how you are this fine week, in the still new year of our lord, 2020?

Courtney: There is no lord in this year.

Brent: There is only Zuul?

Courtney: There's only Zuul. This is the year they warned us about in the foretellings!

Brent: Mama said there'd be years like this. We just didn't know they'd be 2020. Um, it still doesn't sound like a year to me, honestly.

Courtney: No, it sounds made up.

Brent: It sounds like either an eye acuity measure, or a show with Barbara Walters and Hugh Downs, may he rest in peace, blessed be he, peace be upon him.

Courtney: I just had to, um... so, uh, in my divorce, I got the house. And I just went and put the mortgage in my name, so I am now the owner of my house, and I had to keep putting the date. And so, it was a combination of, I kept forgetting to put 2020...

Brent: Mm-hmm.

Courtney: But also, I kept forgetting how to do like, the slashes in between the numbers?

Brent: Yep. I have definitely written—

Courtney: `Cause it's really hard when it's like, one, slash, and it was very—it—it looked bad and dumb.

Brent: I've written 2019 multiple times. I have also, little did you know, before I shared the Google Doc this week with you, I wrote 2019 on it, and then went, "That doesn't sound right." Oh, and by the way, I super biffed it just now. Hugh Downs? Still alive. He's 98, in my defense. But uh... still with us, as far as we know.

Courtney: I also thought he was dead. Maybe it's just `cause he retired, and that's basically the same thing. Um, in terms of the televisions, where they just stop living in our TVs.

Brent: Basically, people have no object permanence if you're on TV.

Courtney: No.

Brent: Sad to say.

Courtney: Once you leave the 2020, I no longer know you.

Brent: I wonder how he's doing, y'know? Like, 98 can actually be surprisingly spry, or like, not. And uh...

Courtney: My grandpa who just passed away was 98, and he was spry as fuck, until like, right before he died. He was driving. Like, the month before he died.

Brent: Man.

Courtney: Now, hear me out on this – he should not have been.

Brent: Well...

Courtney: He should straight up not have been driving. [laughs]

Brent: I hope it's more like that for me. Um, unsurprisingly. Like, I was talking to my girlfriend the other day about the notion of retiring, because of the nature of my working, is tantamount to death, because I... y'know, doing what you love is a complicated thing to say, but like, I do things that I really want to do, even if there's pain in the ass parts of them. And the idea of no longer doing that sounds like, oh, well, what am I, just around to like, play Nintendo and twiddle my thumbs? Fuck that! I'm gonna write some stuff. I wanna make some stuff.

Courtney: Well, also, like, we don't have 401ks.

Brent: No we don't.

Courtney: How are we supposed to retire?

Brent: No we don't. Oh my gosh, one of my professors from grad school, who's gotta be in her 60s, recently on like, our list serve email list from grad school, is like, scrambling to find a sublet in Brooklyn. And I'm like, the idea of being in your 60s and looking for a sublet last minute... I mean, it's the real world. There's no judgment from me. It's more just like, wow. That is... a situation I did not consider being in.

Courtney: Yeah, we kind of grope at this like, notion of what retirement is, where it's like, you move to Florida. You play golf. You—y'know, and it's like, that doesn't exist for our generation?

Brent: You move in with Betty White and Rue McClanahan.

Courtney: I would love to move in with Betty White and Rue McClanahan.

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: Rue McClanahan, who was 51 when that show started.

Brent: She was the youngest.

Courtney: That seems young as fuck.

Brent: Second youngest was... Estelle Getty.

Courtney: Estelle Getty.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: Yep. Uh, real quick, I do want to just tell you, uh, talking about like, y'know, resigning on my mortgage and everything, and now I am the sole owner of my home.

Brent: Eyy, nice! Nice.

Courtney: I mean, the bank is, but like, it's also just me. Um, but I literally signed one paper that said... [laughing] "This home is now the property of Courtney Enlow," comma, "an unmarried individual."

Brent: [laughs] That was your—was that your choice, or was that required?

Courtney: "Which will be the—" No, that's just on the—that's just like, on the document, I guess. Like, that's just a normal part of the document? And

I was like, "That would be the name of my prestige drama starring Carrie Mulligan, is Courtney Enlow: An Unmarried Individual."

Brent: And how do we—yeah, I was gonna say, how do we feel about that? That, to me, is like... it like—is that required legally? Just seems a little outdated.

Courtney: I guess.

Brent: Or something.

Courtney: I guess so that it's like, it's not someone else's. But that's like... it's weird.

Brent: Yeah. But I mean... whatevs. Um, real quick time stamp.

Courtney: Know what? Whatevs.

Brent: It's Thursday, January 9th, and it is about 5:30PM Eastern time. What are you drinking, you home owner?

Courtney: I am drinking the 40 ounce rosé wine that literally comes in a 40.

Brent: Nice.

Courtney: And I like it. I like it a lot. It's pretty good. Like, you wouldn't think it would be. 'Cause you seem like it's a—it's like a novelty wine. But it's actually really good.

Brent: Yeah. I—

Courtney: At my local wine shop, it's on sale for \$9.99.

Brent: Oh, nice. My tastes are changing with wine. I had a wine the other day called Quaff, and then, in parentheses, it said, "(The Pizza Wine)". And it

was a good price, and it's a Pennsylvania wine, which is not a region known for good wines, and there's a good reason for that.

It was like, sweet, but like, ahh... Apparently, it pairs very well with pizza, but I feel like they went, "Okay, this doesn't taste good. Let's find something it pairs with and pawn it off on that." So it's like, if you don't like it, it's pizza's fault.

Um... Yeah, my tastes are getting a bit drier. Like my sense of humor. That's not true.

Courtney: I cannot drink sweet wines. I can't. It's gross. It's nasty.

Brent: I mean, eh, y'know, I go back and forth.

Courtney: I'm not gonna judge anyone else. Like, to each their own. But for me, for my particular tongue, it's a nasty taste that makes me sad and mad.

Brent: Fair. Speaking of sweet, I have not yet opened it, but here I go.
[can opens] Yeahhh.

Courtney: Ooh, ASMR.

Brent: I have opened a can of Soleil, which is the Signature Select brand. Really, it's the store brand at uh, Acme stores, I believe. Um, it is a sparkling water, naturally flavored, and the flavor is blackberry vanilla... and it's pretty good.

Courtney: Ooh, interesting. I uh, I finally—two weeks later, maybe three weeks at this point, I am, uh, happy to tell you all, I have decided how I feel about the hibiscus LaCroix.

Brent: Okay.

Courtney: And I don't like it.

Brent: I... that... that completely comports with my understanding of how tongues and taste works.

Courtney: Yeah.

Brent: Because to me, like, I used to smoke hookah. I'd have friends that were like, "Ooh, let's smoke the rose flavor!" And I'm like, I don't want... to inhale... a rose orally. I don't want to taste it. I don't want to, certainly, drink floral stuff. And people are like, "What about floral teas?" And I'm like, the only flower I want to drink is elderflower in the form of St. Germain's elderflower liquor, which is vaguely floral, but mostly like, I don't know, corn syrup?

Courtney: The weird thing is, I love, uh, floral things. It's what I like most about a lot of the IPAs I drink, is there's like, a floral quality to them. I love St. Germain. I love—if they had a rose LaCroix, I'd be like, yeah, I'll fuck with that. But it's hibiscus specifically that I just... I... I like as a part of flavors. I have a ton of loose teas that have hibiscus in them. But like, as its own, sole proprietary flavor, I don't like it.

And it's one of those few experiences where it's just like, the flavor is too strong in my LaCroix. You will never hear me say that ever again.

Brent: You're like, "Bye, biscus!"

Courtney: Yeah.

[theme music plays]

Brent: [singing] Hiii, Courtney!

Courtney: [singing] Hiii, Brent!

Brent: [singing] What's the story, morning glory?

Courtney: [singing] What's the word, hummingbird?

Brent: [singing] We're going Beyond the Headlines! Hi guys.

Courtney: [singing] Beyond the Headlines! Beyond the Headlines! Beyond the Headlines! Beyond the Headlines!

Brent: Doing a little bit of Bye Bye Birdie for your ass. Y'know, just like—

Courtney: A little Bye Bye Beyond the Headlines?

Brent: Mm-hmm-hmm! Yes. Instead of Bye Byebiscus. 'Cause that's the last thing they heard. They took a little break, but y'all didn't. Welcome.

Courtney: Fuck that biscus! But don't fuck biscuits. Biscuits are delicious.

Brent: If you fuck biscuits, I'm not gonna shame you for that. Just like, in the privacy of your own home.

Courtney: Y'know, I get it. It's soft.

Brent: Not right out of the oven.

Courtney: Buttery.

Brent: [laughs] Go on.

Courtney: Gonna go fuck a biscuit. Right now. That's how you get crumbs. That's how you get ants.

Brent: [laughing] Alright, what headlines do we have?

Courtney: If you—so, there are some people out there who don't care for, like, celebrity gossip, and really don't care for like, royal gossip.

Brent: Mm-hmm.

Courtney: To them I say, you can leave!

Brent: Okay.

Courtney: Because I love celebrity gossip.

Brent: Alright, later.

Courtney: That's how I got my start in this very industry. I started as the celebrity columnist for Pajiba, and I also love the royal... royal scandals. I love it.

Brent: Okay, I came back when you said scandal. Go on.

Courtney: I love scandals. Um, I love—I love draaamaaa. And royal drama is a special, glorious kind of dramaaa, especially this royal dramaaa.

Brent: Mm-hmm.

Courtney: Okay. So, Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, announced this week that they would be stepping back from their royal duties in search of their own financial independence. In a statement, they said, "After many months of reflection and internal discussions, we have chosen to make a transition this year in starting to carve out a progressive new role within this institution. We intend to step back as senior members of the royal family, and work to become financially independent while continuing to fully support Her Majesty, the Queen."

Brent: [snorts] Oh my god.

Courtney: Buckingham Palace was apparently completely blindsided by this, the Queen allegedly only hearing about it 15 minutes before the statement was released, according to Laney Gossip, my light, my life, my favorite website for my necessary draaamaaa.

The Palace then released their own response. "Discussions with the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are at an early stage. We understand their desire to

take a different approach, but these are complicated issues that will take time to work through.”

Brent: Uh-huh.

Courtney: Mm-hmm.

Brent: That sounds like, uh... [laughs] A little bit like a, “Not so fast, you fuckers!” Like, I mean, it’s all very royal. But like, that’s—

Courtney: [in an exaggerated British accent] That’s so royal.

Brent: There’s some—there’s some stuff goin’ on there, for sure.

Courtney: They're like, “You don’t leave the family, the family leaves you!”

Brent: Though like, this is—I mean, I know you've got more to go. I just, my first thought was... right after Prince Andrew. Like, boy. There is some palace intrigue in this era.

Courtney: I mean, for what it’s worth, I could see them being like, “Uh, we don’t want to be in the same family as that guy.”

Brent: I mean, yeah.

Courtney: “So we’re gonna go.”

Brent: Yeah. Would not be surprised.

Courtney: “We’re gonna go over here to Canada maybe.”

Brent: [laughs] We’ll just be like, prince and princess of, I don't know... what do you think of Mongolia? I don't know, what do you think of like, Norway? Is that how it works?

Courtney: Meghan Maple?

Brent: Yeah, why not?

Courtney: Meghan Maple. That's what we're going with.

Brent: Whee!

Courtney: Now, a big, significant portion of this is the UK media's mistreatment of Meghan. It has been atrociously racist and classist and horrific. The couple is suing The Daily Mail, and that goes back to, y'know, for years, like... back in October, actually, 72 MPs signed a letter of support for Meghan Markle, "calling out what can only be described as outdated, colonial undertones to some of these stories."

Brent: Hmm.

Courtney: Back in uh, 2016 actually, The Daily Mail spent *weeks* covering Meghan's mother, and talking about her dreadlocks, and calling Meghan, and I quote, "straight out of Compton."

Brent: Jesus Christ.

Courtney: Yeah. Uh, that was right after they went public with their relationship, and at the time, Kensington Palace released a statement saying, "Prince Harry is worried about Ms. Markle's safety and is deeply disappointed he has not been able to protect her." Well, this is his moment to do just that.

Uh, this fall—I don't know if you saw this video, Brent. But there was a video of Meghan Markle being asked if she's okay. And—

Brent: No.

Courtney: Oh my god.

Brent: As you know, I'm a little bit—a little bit more of like a politics news follower than a pop culture and royals follower. But I'm intrigued. Tell me more.

Courtney: Well, this has—'cause this like... this is more than just like, y'know, celebrity drama, royal drama, which I fuckin' love. But it like—it hits on the stuff that like, really matters to me, like racism, misogyny, mistreatment of women.

Brent: Mm-hmm.

Courtney: But in the video, this reporter asked her if she's okay. And you can see her, like, biting back tears, and trying to answer the question, and she's kind of stammering. And then she says, "That's the first time someone has asked me that, so thank you." Like, that was the first time anyone has asked her if she's okay. After years of just unbearable, like, unrelenting racist shit being just like, poured on her.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: Um, like, beyond the UK tabloid machine, there has been a growing rift between Harry and Prince William. In the documentary, Harry and Meghan: An African Journey, Harry talked about how hard it's been worrying constantly about the safety of his wife and son, and that he and William are on, quote, "different paths."

The tabloids, obviously, blamed Meghan for this. That like, they're basically saying like, the royals are like, "Ew, she's black and poor! Gross!" And all the tabloids covered this response of uh, William saying that he is concerned for Harry, after Harry saying like, that they were on different paths. William, um, clearly leaked to the press, through his own team, he is concerned for 'fragile Harry' is literally one of the covers.

Brent: Yikes.

Courtney: Which, which, if he was concerned about, y'know, Harry and Meghan versus the media and everything, that's not the story the media

went with. The media went with William being concerned for Harry, what with this just—this gold digging American! Like, all that. Yeah.

Brent: Yeah. It's interesting how like, as much as classism is an absolute problem over here stateside, it's easy to forget just how entrenched it is in, y'know, British culture. And clearly, like, not all the cool kids that we know and interact with, but like, still, especially in their like, generally corporate owned, generally very conservative leaning tabloid press... yeah. Like, it still, I guess, gets eyeballs, which is such bullshit.

And like, I don't know. The whole thing. I mean like, and I don't know how much of it is like, she's an American, we don't like that. Like, it's just dumb. And then, beyond that, like, the whole—

Courtney: I mean, it's—it's the black thing. It's really the black thing. Because I remember, um, Kate Middleton, there was a classism issue there, too, where they were talking about like, "Oh, she's just some common—" Her parents were like millionaires, but they weren't, y'know, royal or billionaires.

Brent: Bluebloods.

Courtney: So therefore, she was disgusting. Um, and like, with Meghan, it's a million times worse, and the only difference there is, of course, race.

Brent: Yeah. That's fair.

Courtney: She also has—like, the white half of her family is disgusting, and just keeps like, selling shit to the tabloids, making it even worse. Ugh. Gross. Um, but so, another piece of this... so like, not only is William clearly like, him and his, y'know, press team kind of ending up making things worse, also not halting the treatment of Meghan and Harry.

Which, they have—there's a—it's a Royal Rota, which is a—R-O-T-A, not like, y'know, Rhoda Morgenstern.

Brent: Right.

Courtney: But it's... it's a group of palace-approved press that they like, deliver news to and have a relationship with. And that's part of what Harry and Meghan are departing from. They don't want any part of this like, specific media, especially when that media is—has been mistreating them since day one.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: But another piece is that, uh, William allegedly has had an affair with Kate Middleton's friend, Rose, and so, that started the rift, and then of course, as the rift began growing, the media was just like, "Meghan doesn't want to hang out with Kate and Will! She's such a bitch!" So, it just like, kept getting worse and worse and worse.

Harry and Meghan have been distancing themselves for some time, including not spending Christmas at the Queen's private country home. The scandal!

Brent: Gasp.

Courtney: Ultimately, I think Diana would look down at all of this and say, "Good for her."

Brent: [laughs] Yeah, well, she faced that stuff too, right? Like, she was comparatively a commoner and got shat upon, but then she became a hero. There was a whole bunch of drama. We were kids.

Courtney: Yeah. She was treated like some kind of like, harlot monster. Meanwhile, Prince Charles was having an affair with Camilla, and literally told her he wanted to be her tampon.

Brent: Oh, I remember that! There was like a SNL sketch about that that was um... that was quite something.

Courtney: Yeah, that's literally a thing he said. Romantic.

Brent: But y'know...

Courtney: Romantic.

Brent: If it destigmatized periods being gross for just one person... I ain't against it.

Courtney: Y'know what, yeah. Like, honestly, like, it's a—it's a weird thing that got leaked, and it's a real bummer that—

Brent: Great phrasing. Great phrasing. [laughs]

Courtney: Yeah. [laughs] I mean... that's why I spent most of high school with a sweatshirt around my waist for that very reason.

Brent: Oh my.

Courtney: But like... all of these women keep getting treated like shit, including Camilla. Meanwhile, these men... well, one of them is like, a sex criminal.

Brent: Mm-hmm.

Courtney: And they are clearly kind of standin' by him.

Brent: At least.

Courtney: Yeah. [sings] But everything's fine when you're a man and you're white and everything's cool! Da da da da da da!

Brent: Now, if you could personally, um, like, I don't know, flip a switch. Pull a lever. No consequences to you, that would change their whole situation over there from like, royal aristocracy and Queen having certain nominal powers, to like, just a straight up parliamentary democracy, and like, no kings, no queens, none of that shit, like... would you do it, or would you miss—like, would you do it in the service of democracy, or would you miss the like, following the royals and the intrigue and drama of that too much?

Courtney: I mean, I would never stick people with my drama love as a matter of entertainment, than denying them... [laughs] Y'know, a better world. Although, it would sting a little bit, I'm not gonna lie.

But, that's life. That's life, yo. It's fine.

Brent: Alright. Well, um... that's interesting. I'm interested to see where that story leads.

Courtney: I love it. Drama. Um, very abrupt shift. We're kind of, uh, divvying up the show in a weird way, unintentionally, this week, where I have two headlines, and then Brent has two politics.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: But uh, what that means is, I have no transition out of that nonsense into this.

We've heard from some listeners about the bush fires in Australia, but the story hadn't really broken in the US until this week. Nearly 18 million acres of land have burned across Australia, according to the Associated Press. By comparison, the 2018 wildfires in California, which were the deadliest and most destructive on record, it was about two million acres. Just to put kind of a comparison to see how massive this is.

Brent: Wow.

Courtney: At least 27 people have died. Two thousand homes have been destroyed or displaced. But the... a very—the biggest, not to say, y'know, human life is less than or anything. But like, you cannot look at these numbers and not be horrified. Millions of animals have been killed.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: It's estimated a billion animals have been impacted, including nearly a third of all existing koalas have died.

Brent: Jesus.

Courtney: And according to the Washington Post, "We're not just talking about koalas. We're talking about mammals, birds, plants, fungi, insects, other invertebrates, amphibians, and bacteria and microorganisms that are critical to these systems," said Manu Saunders, a research fellow and insect ecologist at the university of New England in Armidale.

"Individual animals might survive, but when their habitat is gone, it doesn't matter," Saunders said. "They'll die anyway."

Brent: Ugh...

Courtney: So, what can we do? Uh, Save the Children is collecting donations to build child-friendly spaces for child evacuees so they can have a safe place to play and be together and kind of express their feelings and their experience at this horrible time. So you can visit, uh, Save the Children for that.

You can donate to the Australian Red Cross at RedCross.org/AU. WIRES, the Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service, is based out of South Wales, which was hit really hard, and they go in and rescue animals once it's safe. You can visit and donate at www.WIRES.org.au.

You can also donate to the RSPCA of South Wales at RSPCANSW.org.au, and specifically, their bush fire appeal.

Brent: Um, and if you want to pause and do that, that would be awesome. I just had a thought before we switch to, uh, the next segment. Did you see – and this is related – did you see that documentary called Don't Fuck with Cats?

Courtney: I will not, because... spoilers to follow. It is... not being presented as what it is. What it *is* is a documentary series about Luka Magnotta, a horrific murderer. And my understanding is that, at the end,

they're like, "You're watching this whole documentary. You're complicit!" And it's like, you didn't fuckin' market this as a Luka Magnotta documentary!

Brent: Yeah. I—

Courtney: You're trying to get people to watch the documentary about the cats!

Brent: I mean, yeah. It starts with this group of people that saw a really terrible video of a man, uh... ostensibly, a man, at the time, uh, killing two kittens. And I don't need to get more detailed than that. But the thing is, they formed this whole Facebook group to find this person, 'cause they were so enraged by the video.

And it turns out, like you said, to be Luka Magnotta, who's a whole different thing. I enjoyed it. I can see—but at the same time, like, um... it was weirdly preachy at the end, that made it sound like we shouldn't be watching this thing that they spent millions of dollars and years to make. But here's what I'm getting at.

It's a little weird, and it continues in covering trending news to surprise me that people can see something that is visceral and personal and very intimate, one or two animals being hurt, and be so moved and enraged that they immediately need to act. But the idea of millions of animals... we just can't wrap our head around it. And I wish we were able to. I wish we had evolved to do that. Though, I think, sometimes, our sadness would be unbearable if we could.

And I guess that's just my way long way around way of saying... if you're moved by some, um, small scale, uh, infliction of pain or violence on a creature that cannot defend themselves, maybe think about... even if it's just five dollars' worth of thought about, um, all of these animals. And how... the remaining animals and the remaining people in the country, in their homes and all this stuff, they do need your help.

Courtney: And the ecology, too. I mean, I think that that—I think it's part of um, why some people don't get particularly passionate about climate

change, because it doesn't feel like something that is directly affecting them right then and there.

Brent: And it's hard—it's hard to know what your—

Courtney: Because fuck our future generations, I guess. But like, you also don't know what to do. But like, this is literally, like, an ecological disaster of massive, massive magnitude, and like... these animals, these people, this entire continent, is suffering.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: And so, if you are capable of giving anything, great. If nothing else, if you don't have like, the funds, which we totally get, like... just signal boosting, I think. That is something. That's something that you can do, because maybe someone sees it, and they can give five dollars here and there. Y'know.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: But it's hard when it's something this big and you feel so fucking helpless.

Brent: Yeah, and I will say, um... y'know, we haven't seen a lot of trending coverage of the indigenous peoples in Australia.

Courtney: Right.

Brent: And that's... I mean, it's a shame. I guess that just goes to show... y'know, sometimes it's hard with trending news, because sometimes, important stories aren't the ones to be most prominent. But um, I just want to... want to speak up for them briefly and say, I hope people don't forget them, as opposed to just the, y'know, the people that are in a different situation, that are typically... I don't know—[laughs] I don't know where they live. I'm not great at geography. But you know what I'm saying. Give a thought.

Courtney: There is a GoFundMe that you can find. Just Google 'fire relief for first nations.' There's a GoFundMe, and it's to support fire relief efforts for the indigenous people of Australia. They have so far raised, uh, let's see here... over a million! So uh, but I mean, if you can give—if you can give anything, like, I think that's important. It will help seek temporary and ongoing living arrangements for people, and so, it's a wonderful, uh, thing that this person, Neil Morris, has started.

Brent: It is indeed. Okay, and forgive us for what'll probably be a bit of a turn in the next segment. Here we go!

[theme music plays]

Brent: So, folks, more and more people are starting their own business or are self-employed, going into business for themselves. I know I've been, essentially, freelancing for a long time. We're in this gig economy, where so many people are taking that kind of control of their lives, or they're starting a more traditional small business.

Well, HoneyBook is a service, if you're a creative business owner especially, that can help you know how to make your clients look good. But who's helping you look good? With HoneyBook, you can take on the day knowing everything's in one place, so you can stay organized and always look professional.

HoneyBook's an online business management tool that organizes your client communications, bookings, contracts, and invoices, all in one place. And I don't know about you, Courtney – I am a creative professional. That does not mean I am organized!

Courtney: Oh, hell no.

Brent: Like, there was a time when I was much more paper-based, so you'd see a bunch of like, Post-Its all over the place. Like, my office looked like Charlie Day in *It's Always Sunny in the Park*, with like, that wall that's just got all the like, pieces of paper and strings attached. Like, that's how I had to run my business, 'cause nobody, y'know, told me how in my early 20s.

Now there's HoneyBook, which is perfect for freelancers, entrepreneurs, small business owners, that want to consolidate services they already use, like QuickBooks, Google Suite, Excel, and MailChimp. You can also simplify your to-do list and stay in control, which is hard for me too, all by using HoneyBook.

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Courtney: The—y'know what? [sighs] Healthy or not, my form of comfort and coping with hard times and hardships is eating.

Brent: Relatable. Super relatable.

Courtney: I love food. I love food.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: And also, sometimes, like—I work from home, and you'd think that would mean I would have the flexibility to kind of like, get around and run errands and things like that. Usually what it means is that I don't. I don't leave the couch. [laughs] And the idea of having to like, get up and make food, or go out and get food, like some kind of world traveler?

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: Seems impossible. And that is why I am so very happy that DoorDash exists. Um, DoorDash connects you to your favorite restaurants in your city. They have a ton. They have so many. I believe that they have like, at least in my area, DoorDash has way more than any other food delivery service.

Ordering is easy. You open the DoorDash app, you choose what you want to eat, and your food will be delivered to you wherever you are. There are

340,000 restaurants in 3,300 cities. So you might find a new favorite, too. And I'm a very loyal DoorDash user, and so, some places offer free delivery over a certain amount. Some places, it's... y'know, it kind of varies, so it's only like, \$2.99 for delivery. I will gladly pay three dollars to not leave my house. Please and thank you.

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: So, I literally just had DoorDash today. Like, y'know, again, the world's trash. I needed a Popeye's chicken sandwich. DoorDash brought one to me. Like, I lived my best Popeye's life. Thank you DoorDash.

But you can also live your best Popeye's chicken life, or whatever you want. You can get five dollars off your first order of \$15 or more when you download the DoorDash app and enter our promo code, 'TrendsPod.' That's five dollars off your first order when you download the DoorDash app from the app store and enter the code 'TrendsPod.' Again, it's 'TrendsPod' for five dollars off your first order from DoorDash.

[theme music plays]

Brent: This next segment is one we do very often, because trending news, more and more these days, includes the topic of politics. So we're gonna round up a few politics stories and present them to you in... a segment we call The Politics Roundup.

And again, as Courtney mentioned earlier, as it happened, as we were preparing today's episode, I had some politics stories, she had some Beyond the Headlines stories, and we were like, "Y'know, let's mix it up and just like, kind of have our own little zones this week." And so far, it's workin' out. Let's see.

Got a bit of a book report for you, but it's important. You won't be surprised to find out, we're gonna talk about Iran. If you've got a drink in your hand, um, drink every time I say 'Iran [pronounced eh-ron]' and then switch back to 'Iran [pronounced eh-ran]', because it's—when you're reading the news, it's a tradition. If you are talking about Iraq, you have to say 'Iraq

[pronounced eh-rack]' sometimes and 'Iraq [pronounced eh-rock]' sometimes. You'll notice it everywhere now.

Courtney: But like, y'know what? Trends Like These headquarters does not endorse you dying.

Brent: Please drinking game responsibly. [laughs]

Courtney: Yeah. Do it with water. Then you'd be hydrated.

Brent: Yes. Now, watch, I'm gonna say 'Iran [eh-ran]' every time. We'll see, though. It happens.

Alright. So yeah, we're talking about Iran. Within hours of us ending our recording on last week's episode, phrases like 'World War III' were trending on Twitter, and we saw reports that the military, our US military that is, took our Iranian major general Qasem Soleimani in a drone attack near the Baghdad airport.

It seemed like an act of war against Iran, and a lot of people immediately thought, "Oh no, this asshole thinks going to war will help his reelection, so he's trying to start one!" But what really happened, what were the reasons for it, and where do we go from here?

Well, let's go back, long ago into the beforetime of 2019. US officials had been claiming for months that Iraqi militias, backed by Iran, had been firing rockets at Iraqi military bases that contained US troops and contractors. A few days before Christmas, a rocket attack killed a US contractor. Our government blamed a militia called Kata'ib Hezbollah, which is not the same as Hezbollah, but they're sort of like the militia version of a Hezbollah cover band.

Anyway, they were blamed for the attack that killed the US contractor. And at the time, we responded with five air strikes on their strongholds. They say 25 of their members were killed in those airstrikes. That was all before the current stories happened. And so far, pretty straightforward. Their rockets killed an American, so we strike back at their strongholds.

But, what made this different is that the militia is backed by Iran. So now, it's more dangerous for us to retaliate, because that means we're kind of fighting them by proxy. For the moment, that was that, though.

Then, on Christmas Eve and Christmas day, there was rioting in Iraq, led by some, uh... the same, rather, led by the same militia, Kata'ib Hezbollah, as well as a generalized angry mob. And over two days, they stormed the US Embassy in Iraq, set fire to parts of it, and threw stones at it.

On New Year's Eve, Trump tweeted, "Iran will be held fully responsible for lives lost, or damage incurred at any of our facilities. They will pay a very big price! This is not a warning – it is a threat. Happy New Year!"

[sighs] According to The Daily Beast and Rolling Stone, he had also begun telling people at his Mar-a-Lago club that he was working on a "big response to the Iran regime," and that they would be hearing about it very soon. Meanwhile, according to the New York Times, the Pentagon gave Trump a menu of options for how to deal with Iran after the recent violence on the Embassy.

He could've struck Iranian ships, missile facilities, or gone after the Kata'ib Hezbollah militia a second time. I hope I pronounced that correctly each time, but you know the militia I'm talking about by now. Um, he could've attacked them a second time, since they were purportedly the ones leading the attack on the Embassy.

Pentagon officials included the option to kill general Soleimani, mainly to make the other options seem more appealing, which apparently is a common tactic for military officials advising presidents. But Trump elected to go with that option, the most extreme option, to the surprise and chagrin of many advisors.

So the strike happened, and Soleimani was killed. Let's stop here for a second. I saw a meme that's going around in conservative circles that essentially says, "Obama sent Iran billions of dollars, whereas Trump sent them missiles!" And multiple voices on Fox News have been saying that

Obama paid for the weapons Iran used against us, because Obama sent so much money to them in what became known as the Iran Deal, which Trump reversed after taking office.

Trump has often said that Obama sent \$150 billion to Iran. Just to be clear, no. Obama did not do that. What we gave Iran was \$1.7 billion, because 40 years ago, they paid us for military goods. We never delivered, and we hung onto the cash. So, y'know, while you might be like, "We shouldn't give them billions of dollars for reasons," the money was rightfully theirs, and Obama offered to give it back to them as part of a deal that slowed or stopped them from getting nukes.

Which, in general, was a step in the right direction – but you know Trump. He'll get any opportunity. Or rather, he'll take any opportunity to undo something Obama did.

So, the drone strike happened, Soleimani was killed, and according to some very right wing sources, there was dancing in the streets in Iraq, because Soleimani was so hated. Anecdotally, a high school class mate of mine claimed a friend of his who lives over there confirmed the dancing in the streets. But do Iraqis celebrating Soleimani's death mean that it was necessary to kill him?

Well, immediately, you saw right wing pundits and outlets making sure everyone knew what a bad guy he was! They claim he was responsible for 17% of the deaths of US personnel in Iraq, to which my first thought was, um, well, your boy, George W. Bush, was responsible for fucking 100% of them, but whatever.

Anyway, Fox News and other conservative sources said Soleimani's death was more significant than Bin Laden, and noted that a former CIA officer once said Soleimani was "the single most powerful operative in the middle east."

So look, this dude is definitely a terrible person, whose leadership has resulted in a lot of violence and suffering, and we are not defending him on this show. But... the premise that he was so bad, he had to be taken out,

doesn't like, line up with our principles. Certainly not the principles of this administration.

If this administration's principles were to assassinate every terrible, murderous leader in the world, we would've probably killed North Korea's Kim Jong Un, Turkey's president Erdoğan, King Salman in Saudi Arabia, Vladimir Putin, and others. But what has Trump done with these kinds of leaders?

He says he "fell in love with Kim Jong Un," and calls him a "very smart guy." And he calls Erdoğan "a tough guy who deserves respect." He praises the Saudis and defends our alliance with them because they "spent \$400 billion in our country over the last number of years," as well as saying, "Saudi Arabia pays cash." And we've all seen how he acts toward Putin, so let's not pretend we go around toppling the worst of the worst world leaders as a matter of course or a matter of principle.

And we—[laughs] I mean, I don't know if we should. It's like, the whole world police thing. That's a whole—y'know what, that's a whole different topic. Not gonna go there. But y'all can guess my thoughts.

Meanwhile, our state department urged US citizens in Iraq to evacuate after the airstrike, and our Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, went on various TV shows, saying the killing of Soleimani happened in order to disrupt a "imminent attack" that would've cost American lives.

But even though Pompeo has been asked to elaborate numerous times, he won't actually give any details about what the assassination of Soleimani prevented. And like, my first question was, how does killing one general prevent an attack from a whole army, or any of its proxy militias? Like, obviously, it doesn't.

And one thing that sucks about this is the fact that... it is, actually, normal for the state department in any administration to keep certain secrets about the reasons for various diplomatic or military tactics. So, conservative politicians and Republican voters can just like, say, "Oh, that's a military secret! Of course they'd keep it under wraps!"

But again, that's not what Trump does. When he has one grain of sand in his favor, he does a victory lap about how great his new fuckin' beach is. He took Mueller's report and said that there were ten—or rather, he took the report, which said there were ten counts of obstruction of justice, and he somehow turned it into 'total exoneration.'

So, if he and his people aren't taking a victory lap on any specifics of what they prevented, the odds are, they're full of shit. Trump did, however, tweet, "The United States just spent two trillion dollars on military equipment. We are the biggest and by far the best in the world!" To which I say that thing that mainstream and conservative media outlets love to ask about universal healthcare, which is, uh... how you gonna pay for that?

Anyway, back in Iran, the line of people attending Soleimani's funeral was almost four miles of wall to wall people. Here's where I'm gonna muddy the waters and get a little confusing. Some people were forced to attend. Shops were ordered to shut down, and the government provided free transportation to the funeral. So it's hard to know who was genuinely attending and who was there sort of under duress.

And like, I know you're like, "Brent, who's side are you on? What's the narrative?" Well, the narrative is that the truth is rarely black and white, and shit is complicated, and Iran is not... they're not some poor, put upon country with no problems that we're just being mean to. It's just fucking complicated.

So Iran's supreme leader, the Ayatollah Khamenei, tweeted, uh—he tweeted, vowing, "Severe revenge awaits the criminals who bloodied their foul hands with Soleimani's blood." Trump shoots back with a tweet thread that included, "Let this serve as a warning that if Iran strikes any Americans, or American assets, we have targeted 52 Iranian sites representing the 52 American hostages taken by Iran many years ago, some at a very high level and important to Iran and the Iranian culture, and those targets in Iran itself will be hit very fast and very hard."

So... that is a war crime. Um, the UN Security Council unanimously passed a resolution in 2017 condemning the destruction of heritage sites. And not only have we found out that Trump just pulled this out of his ass, but he's also been contradicted by Mike Pompeo and the Pentagon, who are like, "Pfft, fuck no, we're not gonna attack 52 cultural sites."

So anyway, Iran retaliated by firing missiles at two airbases in Iraq that housed US forces. As far as we know, no Americans were killed in the attacks; though, Iranian media outlets, at one point, claimed 80 US soldiers were killed. But like, I read a report just before we went to record that Iran actually let our military know before they attacked. It's confusing.

What we do know is, they did send missiles and fire that—or rather, y'know, shot them at airbases that housed US forces. At one time, anyway. I don't know if the US forces left before. It's confusing.

But soon after the attacks, Trump posted a tweet that began, "All is well! Missiles launched from Iran at two military bases located in Iraq." Like... before anything else, this president's a fucking weirdo. Anyway.

Courtney: Everything's fine! Things are good!

Brent: Yeah! [laughing] Like... bud. Anyway... whatever.

So, while Iran kept talking tough, it seems like they did that in order to carry out like, a nominal retaliation. And y'know, like, save a little face. But it seems like, if they'd really wanted to kill Americans, they would've just found a way to kill some Americans. Sorry to be dark, but like, that's the situation.

Then, Iran warned that any further US attack would result in attacks on Israel and Dubai. And part of why we don't like Iran geopolitically is because they are typically at odds with Israel, who is, um, for better or worse, our friend, geopolitically.

Trump gave a speech on the matter where he seemed... pretty out of it, and slurred his words, which gives fuel to speculation that he's either addicted to

uppers, and so, he has sluggish downs. Y'know, that's been, um... there's some evidence of that, including, uh, like, drawers full of UK Sudafed, which uh, they work as uppers when abused. And the fact that various people who have worked with him in the past say he's on various kinds of uppers. One person said Adderall. I forget what the other person said.

So like, you can, if you're—and also, he's been, um, seen with really dilated pupils in rooms that had too much light for that. Now, I'm not trying to pull a Hillary has Parkinson's on Trump. But like, there is evidence that this may be the case, even though I would still put it on the level of speculation.

There's also evidence and speculation about the fact that he might be experiencing early onset dementia, or both of those things. He's also been said to be just bad at reading, certainly bad at cold reading, teleprompters. It's hard to tell. I'm just giving you the facts on what the possibilities may be, but he definitely had some trouble with the teleprompter there.

Courtney: Yeah, that's kind of the thing. I've always ignored people saying stuff like that, because to me, it kind of felt like an explanation or even an excuse for his general evil and ineptitude. And I don't think we need to blame that on anything. Uh, but honestly, would we even be able to tell?

Brent: Actually, I think maybe. 'Cause here's—so like, I think that it's, um... y'know, on the whole, when people go like, "He's an idiot." Well like, effectively overall, yeah. I will say, though, when he does rallies, um... he's really on. Like, he doesn't seem like—I mean, of course, at that point, he's like, just doing the show he's done, at this point, probably thousands of times, and just, y'know, riffing.

But there are also times when he'll be like, talking business, like, in a room where they've got a camera on him, and he seems like he's pretty with it. So like, I think that that is part of why people are like... it's not like he seems impaired at all times. And that's what weird about it, is that sometimes, he seems, despite being a total asshole who I wish would just fuck off into the sea, he seems with it sometimes. And other times, totally not. So it's kind of strange.

Like, I imagine we'll find out the real situation someday. And again, it could be both. It could be dementia plus an uppers habit, plus not being great at reading a teleprompter, or any of the three or none of them. Um, it is hard to say. But like, to your point, he's always been erratic, so in that way, I don't know that we'd be able to tell unless somebody just came out and said like, "Here's the diagnosis, and I'm his doctor," which will never happen.

Um, so, then he said in the televised presser that Iran appears to be standing down. He also said he would implement new "punishing economic sanctions on Iran," which... y'know, while I agree with representative Ilhan Omar, who said that was not a measured response, I still think sanctions... should've been considered as retaliation for the Embassy attack *before* considering the assassination of one of their generals.

Okay, so, that was a big book report. I want y'all to have a good grip on it, so I'm gonna do a quiz review. The quick and dirty version. Okay.

Tensions were escalating between Iran and the US. A militia backed by Iran attacked a US Embassy. Trump was presented with options, and he shocked officials by choosing the most extreme one. One of our drones killed general Soleimani. Iran was like, "We're gonna retaliate!" Trump was like, "You better not! We've got 52 sites targeted!" The Secretary of State and the Pentagon were like, "Lol, no we don't."

Iran did strike back at bases that should've contained our soldiers, maybe did, but no one was killed, as far as we know. And it seems like neither side actually wants true war for the moment, so like, at time of recording, it seems like the US and Iran are takin' a breath.

But why did this need to happen now? Uh, many have speculated, including me, that Trump may have just wanted to look strong and shore up votes in an election year, since historically, incumbent war presidents are reelected. And in the wake of the drone strike, pundits on Fox News and Fox Business were suggesting that Trump couldn't be impeached because of the possibility of war with Iran.

Was that his plan? Was that a happy accident? I have no idea. I wish this were all simpler. But it's not. What I do know is, Trump doesn't seem to be bent on actually starting a war. He could have with North Korea, he could have with Iran... I mean, this guy could have with Canada. Um, but... I guess what I'm saying is, he could've pushed harder or struck back harder or provoked them more after they retaliated.

And so like, in that way, that is a pro. That is a good thing. Whereas, a con is... he's still the president. Um, and comparatively, real quick, just an impeachment update. Uh, the impeachment news... it's not terribly exciting, but I just want y'all to know what's going on with it.

You see, once the House votes to impeach a president, they then send the articles of impeachment to the Senate, so the Senate can begin its trial proceedings. Some of this is retread from last week, but I'm just making sure we are all on the same page.

Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the Democratic-controlled House, knows Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader of the Republican party, won't be fair or seek any kind of justice in the trial. And so, she's been holding off on sending the articles of impeachment for weeks. She said in a news conference on Thursday, earlier on the day we're recording this, that she'll likely send the articles of impeachment soon, but she declined to give any more details than that.

She may be holding them up because she wants to pass the USMCA trade agreement before the Senate trial gets underway. It could be like, holding up the articles is really the only leverage she has on McConnell, who says he won't take up USMCA until after an impeachment trial.

As I understand it, the House actually could conduct more hearings to gather more evidence and try to continue making Trump look bad. But as we've seen, the evidence that will come out there will only be absorbed by people specifically paying attention to the news, particularly mainstream or left wing news outlets. It'll never make it to Trump's base.

Any news they absorb, in general anyway, is either from a cursed boomer meme on Facebook, or it's filtered through Fox News or some other white—uh, sorry, right wing. Though, perhaps white ring. [laughs] Damn it.

Courtney: [laughs]

Brent: I was trying to play it off, and then I said white ring. That's not what I meant. Y'all know what I meant.

Courtney: Ya know.

Brent: Some terrible right wing spin machine. Um, Irish wristwatch. But Republicans probably—

Courtney: You're giving yourself actual tongue twisters at this point. I'm amazed you got through any of that.

Brent: Well, I shaved a cedar shingle thin, and the... I slit the sheet, the sheet I slit, okay? So like, it's just right wing spin machine that threw me for a loop.

Okay. Republicans probably do want to get the trial done sooner rather than later. By that, I mean Republicans in Congress. Mitch McConnell has no shame when it comes to the way Republican party leadership operates. See, Merrick Garland. So he'll do anything he can to stop any damage to the president, and he's already said he's working in lock step with the White House, which totally goes against the notion of the Senate being an impartial jury.

And he announced this week that he has the votes to pass an organizing resolution that starts the impeachment trial, and also doesn't use witness testimony as part of the impeachment. We heard so much during the House investigation about—by 'we heard so much,' I mean, from loud Republicans in Congress, about how this is unfair, they're not doing this right, the defendant should be able to face his accuser, and they described the investigation part the way you would describe a fair trial.

Now, we're at the trial part, and it'll probably be like that trope in movies where someone escapes in the laundry cart. But instead of the person escaping, it'll be, y'know, justice.

[music plays]

Allie: Hi, I'm Allie Goertz.

Julia: And I'm Julia Prescott. And we host... Round Springfield!

Allie: [simultaneously] Round Springfield!

Julia: Round Springfield is a new Simpsons podcast that is Simpsons-adjacent. In its topic, we talk to Simpsons writers, directors, voiceover actors, you name it, about non-Simpsons things that they've done, because, surprise, they're all extremely talented!

Allie: Absolutely. For example, David X. Cohen worked on the Simpsons, but then created a little show called Futurama. That's our very first episode, so tune in for stuff like that with Yeardley Smith, with Tim Long, with different writers and voice actors... it's gonna be so much fun, and we are every other week on MaximumFun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts.

[music plays]

Stuart: Friendly Fire is a podcast about war movies, but it's so much more than that.

Elliott: It's history.

Speaker 1: It was just supposed to be another Simon.

Dan: It's comedy.

Speaker 2: Under no circumstances are you to engage the enemy.

Elliott: It's cinema studies.

Speaker 3: That's a hell of a combination.

Stuart: So subscribe and download Friendly Fire on your podcatcher of choice, or at MaximumFun.org.

Elliott: And also, come see us at San Francisco Sketchfest on January 16th.

Dan: You can get tickets at SFSketchFest.com.

Speaker 4: Accomplished.

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: Today's Wi-Five is a rare, uh, you could say, porn-related Wi-Five. I've literally heard someone in my lifetime say nothing good ever comes from porn. Weeell...

Courtney: I mean, lots of good things come from porn, TBH.

Brent: I mean, I agree.

Courtney: I got lots of—I've had lots of good experiences thanks to porn. Thank you, porn!

Brent: I'm glad we're on the same webpage with that. Or rather... okay. Yeah. You got that. Tee-hee.

Anyway, um, take that—we're probably not on the same webpage, actually. [laughs] We're probably on the same metaphorical page, but I betcha we're not on the same. Anyway, let me—

Courtney: Gazzin' up a storm. Thanks, porn.

Brent: [laughs] The case... let's take the case of Los Angeles based model, Kaylen Ward. Upon hearing about how bad the Australian fires had gotten, she tweeted, "Every \$10 you donate equals one nude picture from me to your DMs. You must send me confirmation that you donated." Within

minutes, her DMs were absolutely bombarded with hundreds of people sending their receipts.

Her post received more than 100,000 likes, and her efforts so far have raised nearly a million dollars in aid. Now, she posted on Twitter and Instagram. Twitter is okay with nudes. Instagram is not, and she apparently violated Instagram's community guidelines, and was quoted as saying, "My Instagram got deleted, my family disowned me, and the guy I like won't talk to me all because of that tweet. But fuck it, save the koalas." I love that.

And y'know what? That, plus the fact that like, let's think about the reality of this. She now has effectively tens of thousands of order fulfillments in DM. This absolutely fits the bill for going above and beyond. It's a great example of using your gifts to do good, and for that, Kaylen Ward, you get this week's Wi-Five.

[theme music plays]

Brent: Well, I think that's gonna do it for another Trends Like These. Couple little housekeeping notes. Uh, it'd be great if you would give us a good rating and a good review on whatever platform you use. I haven't mentioned this in a while, but I composed the theme song, so if you like it and you would like your phone to make those noises without our show, uh, for instance, a ringtone, a text alert, or whatever. Just to jam out to it.

Um, you can go to BrentalFloss.Bandcamp.com, and it—this is, by the way, if you are an Android user, or you just want it on your computer for a download. BrentalFloss.Bandcamp.com, and you'll see the Trends Like These theme song in the grid. And if you have an iPhone, you can go to the iTunes app on your iPhone, and uh, get it as a ringtone.

What else? Um, please listen to all the other amazing Maximum Fun podcasts. And you can check out our newly revamped and beautiful Maximum Fun website. That is MaximumFun.org. Courtney, what do you have to plug today?

Courtney: Well, first, I just want to say congratulations to Travis and Teresa! Baby Dot is here!

Brent: Yes! Yes, that's right!

Courtney: Yaaay! Oh my god, she's beautiful. She's adorable. Congratulations you guys, and to big sister Bebe. We're very happy for our beloved friends, and y'know, so Travis is obviously gonna be on paternity leave for a little while as he deserves. Let's let that good, good family have some good, good snuggles.

Brent: Absolutely.

Courtney: You can listen to my other podcast, Strong Female Characters, which is back after a brief holiday hiatus. And you can read my stuff at SYFY Fangrrls, where we are celebrating the Fangirltopia, and we have an entire month of content dedicated to what the world would be like if we were in charge. [whispers] The matriarchy.

Brent: Nice. [laughs] And uh, speaking of podcasts that are not this one, um... I have started a new podcast called Question Box. And by 'have started,' I mean, have started it in July of last year. We just recorded episode number 26, and it is called Question Box.

If you've ever noticed that I have a little bit of a TMI streak, well, it's kind of a show that grew out of that. And we get nice DMs all the time about how we allow people to look at themselves and open up to themselves or to others about topics that they normally wouldn't talk about. That's a bit of a brag, but that's what this is for, and um—

Courtney: I want to be on again! I have more I to TM.

Brent: We definitely will probably have, uh, return guests, because sometimes after an hour, you're like, "Well, there was more to talk about!" Y'know, we talk about sex and politics and family and parents and childhood and death and career stuff. Stuff that is really rude to ask people, 'cause it's the game show of deeply personal questions.

Courtney: I told a story that I had never told anyone before of the time that I got really uncomfortable at work and pretended to faint. [laughs]

Brent: Yeah! It's that kind of show.

Courtney: So if you want to hear that story, listen to my episode of Question Box!

Brent: Yes.

Courtney: Where I got so uncomfortable that I fainted. On purpose.

Brent: It's a great story. Guests have included Courtney, as well as Travis, Dave Bulmer, our UK correspondent, and all of these amazing people that you might've heard of, or maybe you haven't. But you're gonna learn a lot about them right off the bat. Maybe about their dicks, maybe about their dads... who knows! That's the show.

So, check it out. Again, it's called Question Box. It's on all the major podcast platforms, or you can just go straight to QuestionBoxShow.com.

But again, I think that's gonna do it for another Trends Like These. Courtney, am I forgetting anything?

Courtney: Um... I forgot about that part again.

Brent: That's okay.

Courtney: Like, I just—hey!

Brent: I used to have to do it and it sucks.

Courtney: Donate to Australia. They need anything you can give, and if you can't give anything, like I said, signal boost. Talk to people. Let people know that maybe they can.

Brent: That is a big agree from me. Alright, we'll see you next week.

[theme music plays]

Courtney: Cut Brent.

Brent: Cut Brent out!

Courtney: Cut him!

Brent: My quite fragile paper-like skin! Okay.

Courtney: Courts like these!

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