

Trends Like These 250: Did Bernie Say a Woman Can't Win?, 'MY SANDWICH RECIPE' – a Dramatic Reading, The Rise of 'Manly' Baby Boy Names, Oscar Nods, Impeachment Update, Bombshell Revelations about Giuliani and Lev Parnas

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Brent: This week: Liz and Bernie feud, strange names for a dude, and sandwich recipe gets... chewed?

Courtney: I'm Courtney Enlow.

Brent: I'm Brent Black.

Courtney: And I'm the themes of this sandwich.

Brent: With Trends Like These.

[theme music plays]

Brent: Hellooo, Courtney!

Courtney: Hellooo, Brent!

Brent: And hellooo nurse! There's a reference all the kids get today.

Courtney: [laughs]

Brent: They remember that. Um...

Courtney: I don't know that I—I mean, I know that it's a thing. I didn't know it was a reference. I thought it was just a thing.

Brent: Animaniacs. And here's the thing, it might be—

Courtney: Ohhh, okay!

Brent: It might be a reference that they were referencing from before, 'cause boy, did that show really do a lot of that. So I don't know.

Courtney: I feel like it was like, referenception.

Brent: Yeah. To me, it always kind of just felt like one of those old silly, like, um... y'know, like the wolf cartoon. Like, the making fun of the male gaze bullshit. Like, "Hellooo, nurse!"

Courtney: "Awooga!"

Brent: Exactly.

Courtney: Mm-hmm.

Brent: Um, but it just felt right today. Why? Probably because I was just looking at stock photos for upcoming Use Your Words stuff. That's my party game. And there was this one of a nurse with a patient in a hospital bed, but she's blowing this huge, like, conch shell horn for no reason?

Courtney: Stock photos are fucking cray.

Brent: Dude, they totally are. And the weird thing about them, which makes it frustrating when you're trying to like, find something specific is... they're never titled in a way that actually helps you find them.

Courtney: Oh, no no no.

Brent: They're titled in an SEO way. Like, there's this one where like, this man's sittin' on the toilet, and there's a hand, like, coming out of the toilet and freaking him out, and it says like, "Caucasian man on toilet while reading scared." And it's like, no no no.

Courtney: [laughs]

Brent: [laughing] If I was looking for this, I'd never find it, you fuckers! Anyway.

Courtney: In my, in my uh, healthcare marketing days, we did a campaign for prostate cancer awareness month. The slogan was "get your butt in here."

Brent: Okay.

Courtney: And I had to go to various stock photo sites and just look for butts.

Brent: Yeah. It's like, you gotta have some time on your hands.

Courtney: And that's when I found out that stock photos are not all pure and innocent.

Brent: No. No. And I mean, and the thing is like, from my perspective, trying to find ones that are like, funny, that you can make a joke about is a real, like... it's not a fine science. Like, I put in—I think Santa is inherently funny for that kind of stuff. Just something about Santa is funny. And so like, I searched like, y'know, funny Santa. Nothin'. Cute Santa. Nothin'. Sexy Santa? I got like, three pictures out of that. Why? I don't know. Were they all sexy? No.

Courtney: [sings to the tune of 'Santa Baby'] Sexy Santaaa...

Brent: [laughs] And one of them was Santa pooping down a chimney. Um...

Courtney: Neat. Neat.

Brent: Why is that under sexy Santa and not regular Santa? I couldn't tell you.

Courtney: Well, I mean, it's some people's sexy.

Brent: Hey, and y'know what? I'm not trying to yuck their yum. Their... [laughs] Their Christmas poop fetish. I'm not laughing at them.

Courtney: I don't like 'yum' being associated with that. [laughing]

Brent: That's fair. That's fair. Um, not trying to shame anybody. It's just not our... not our...

Courtney: Not our cup of poo.

Brent: That's the thing. I almost said cup of tea, and then I was like, what are we doing? Um... hello.

Courtney: What are we doing? What are we doing?

Brent: We're doing a podcast called Trends Like These. Real life friends talking internet trends. We take the trending stories that you may have seen the headlines for on the internet, and we try to make sense of them and tell you how so many of them are bullshit. By that, we mean the headlines. And uh, many more of them just need a little more info, y'know? To kind of keep you up on the trends. Keep you on trend.

Courtney: Are you trying to say sometimes, we go beyond... the headlines?

Brent: I am. But we usually do after we talk about bevs and—

Courtney: No, I'm not—I'm not introing. I'm just referencing... like, a lot like the Animaniacs do, I'm referencing things that exist.

Brent: The thing is, like, I hated to waste that really good segue. 'Cause it would've been a perfect segue into going into the next segment.

Courtney: So say it again in like, two minutes, after we talk about what we're drinking.

Brent: Okay, that's a solid plan.

Courtney: You silly male.

Brent: That is a solid plan. I am a silly male. It's on my business card. I'm no longer hiding it. [laughs]

Courtney: [laughs]

Brent: It's what I do.

Courtney: 'Brent Black: Silly male.'

Brent: Silly male. Um... [laughing]

Courtney: [laughing] I don't know why that's so funny to me.

Brent: I don't—me neither, but it is.

Courtney: Probably 'cause that actually is kind of your job, is to be a silly male.

Brent: That's the thing. It's like, when I meet my girlfriend's parents in the next month or so, I'll... 'cause explaining my job is weird. I'll just be like, "Look. I'm a silly male. I'm a professional silly male."

Courtney: I have honestly explained my career as, I am a nonsense lady.

Brent: Hey, nonsense lady, silly male. I mean, really, pretty similar. There's definitely a Venn diagram there.

Courtney: Mm-hmm. Trends Like These: It's the show where we're a nonsense lady and a silly male.

Brent: Doin' the news!

Courtney: And sometimes another silly nonsense sense of—male! But he's fancy.

Brent: With a shock of purple hair.

Courtney: He's fan—so, okay. We've got silly male, nonsense lady, fancy man.

Brent: I mean, yeah. I think that about settles it. Uh, what are—what is this nonsense lady I'm speaking to drinking today?

Courtney: I am drinking a Ice Mountain summer strawberry, which I have done the science. I have done the testing. It is my favorite sparkling strawberry bev.

Brent: Your favorite strawberry.

Courtney: Yeah, of the strawberry kind.

Brent: Have you had—

Courtney: It's my third favorite sparkling beverage of all.

Brent: Man, you must have an amazing like, tier list. You should put it on Twitter.

Courtney: Well, it's because I—it's because I only, like... I've narrowed it down to just three that I just keep buying over and over again.

Brent: Yeah. I bought a Brita filter recently, hoping to spend less on sparkling water. I'm gettin' there. Like, I'm trying to make some New Year's resolution changes. I'm trying to like, stop buying Amazon unless it's totally necessary.

Courtney: You know what you do? You know what you do? You buy one last... well, you can't get it on Amazon I don't think. But get a 64 ounce clean

canteen like I do. Because here's the thing. Y'know what keeps me from drinking normal water? Laziness.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: But if I have a 64 ounce, like, *jug* of water in front of me, I'm gonna drink it.

Brent: And the—to me, the irony... `cause you're right about laziness. It's like, the difference between grabbing a can from the fridge and opening it versus pouring water that is free from the tap...

Courtney: It's so much more woork!

Brent: Apparently it is. Um, with that being said—

Courtney: I'm also drinking Kim Crawford sauvignon blanc.

Brent: I don't know... exactly what you're talking about, and I—

Courtney: You don't need to. You don't. Need. To.

Brent: Okay. Um...

Courtney: It's wine. It's nonsense lady wine.

Brent: Okay, gotcha. I was—something about Kim Crawford, I was like, "Am I supposed to know who this is? Oh no." But see, you teach me a lot about pop culture.

Courtney: It's my favorite sauv blanc. One of our—one of our listeners – shout out to you, listener friend – shared that they found... I don't want to presume. But they found, uh, Kim Crawford on sale for \$9.99. And uh, my friend, I am so happy for you. Because usually, for one thing, uh, a glass of it at a restaurant is like \$14, which is the same price you can get bottles for on sale.

Brent: Wow.

Courtney: So like, salute. Salute.

Brent: Now I want some wine. Oh well. Whatever. Maybe I'll have some later.

Courtney: Drink with meee.

Brent: Hey, speaking of later. Um, it is... we started recording just right around 5:30PM Eastern time on Thursday, January 16th, 2020. Ugh, it's still weird saying that as the year.

Courtney: What are you drinking?

Brent: I'm drinking, uh, store brand sparkling water. I guess the store would be Acme stores. I think also like, the Albertson's Acme mega conglom umbrella. But anyway, it's called Soleil. That's the name of the brand. And it is cherry lime flavored, and uh, it ain't bad. I don't know if you ever got into like, the Sonic burger or cherry limeade growing up, but it's kind of along those lines.

Courtney: Yeah, I like my—I like my flavors, uh, subtle.

Brent: Oh. We're different.

Courtney: And—and not cherry. Cherry—I only like cherry as popsicles.

Brent: Two ways in which we're different.

Courtney: Yeah. I like fresh cherries.

Brent: Sure, yeah. Which is—

Courtney: I don't like cherry flavor.

Brent: Right. Much like most fruit flavors, it's like they kind of found a fruit flavor that's... the spirit of the fruit, but like, much more enhanced, and made into something the fruit never was. So yeah.

Courtney: The way I feel strongest about that is banana. Like, fuck everything banana flavored.

Brent: Oh man, banana flavored stuff is so strange. It is so strange. Um...

Courtney: I have never had a banana of this kind.

Brent: Especially like, Runts. What is up with the banana Runt? Who likes it?

Courtney: I have not thought about a Runt... Runts and Nerds. I have not thought about them in so long.

Brent: Tell you something, though – if they came out with like, a banana Runts sparkling water? This is how I am. If somebody comes out with an outrageous flavor of a thing, I gotta try it. Twitter followers of mine know, I recently bought a box of Reese's Big Puffs that I think are only being sold at the most evil, uh, mega stores. Big box stores. But they are like, pinball sized Reese's Puffs. I'm not kidding.

Courtney: That seems like... like, seems too big.

Brent: Oh, it's huge! But I kind of thought, like, this is probably similar to like, the um, ratio of like, the mouth of a child who's just starting to eat solid food to a Reese's Puff. What does that do for ya? I don't know. That's just a thought I had. Enjoy. Make of it what you will. But um...

Courtney: Y'know what? They're good for kids to not choke on.

Brent: Regular Reese's Puffs are. These are—well, that's the thing. Like, these, in one way, if they can just eat one and be slow about it, you're

probably fine. But honestly, these big Reese's Puffs, I feel like, are a choking hazard for like... humans.

Um, they're pretty good, though. It was an experience. It felt like a little bit of that Honey, I Shrank the Kids magic... which I recently watched on Disney+. Oh my god. Classic.

Courtney: [whispers] I love that movie so much.

Brent: Me too. And I also watched Honey, I Blew Up the Kid. Not a classic, but...

Courtney: Starring a baby Keri Russell.

Brent: That's true, who was not very good in it.

Courtney: But y'know what? So pretty.

Brent: She made up for it in Felicity. But yeah, not great in that movie.

Courtney: Dating back to the Mickey Mouse Club, I had like, a tiny child crush on Keri Russell from a very early age. And I remember seeing, uh, Honey, I Blew Up the Kid, and I just wanted to keep watching it, because the pretty curly lady. And then, later, I would understand things about myself.

Brent: I was more of a... the young woman in Jurassic Park slash also Alex Mack. That was kind of my... my jam. My groove as a child.

Courtney: You really just liked a lady in a baseball cap.

Brent: Basically, yeah. What does it mean? I don't know. Um, before we go into Beyond the Headlines, I just wanted to not go beyond a headline by giving you what I consider the headline of the week, which is...

"Newly discovered moth with blonde hair and small genitalia named after Trump."

Courtney: Love it.

Brent: That's what you get. You jerk.

Courtney: What you get. Yep. Jerk.

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

Brent: Alright. Now, ladies and gentlemen, we are going to reenact what I said in the intro. Probably not verbatim, when I was like, "Yeah, it's a trending news show where we take the headlines you see on trending news and we try to kind of elaborate on them."

Courtney: Brent.

Brent: Yes?

Courtney: Are you trying to say that we go... beyond? The headlines?

Brent: I am! Oh my god, that's the name of the segment!

Courtney: Holy shiiit! Pew pew pew pew!

Brent: I don't know why I'm like... some episodes, I feel like needing to catch up new listeners. Which makes me just feel like, there are some weeks where they just... they're just gonna have to figure it out themselves, y'know?

Courtney: Y'know what? We're all in this crazy journey together.

Brent: Yep. Difficult as it may be to understand a segment called Beyond the Headlines on a news show, do what you can! Alright.

Courtney: And if this is your first episode, you are in for an episode.

Brent: It's gonna be a doozy!

Courtney: That sure is an episode!

Brent: Alright, let's do some fun stuff first.

Courtney: Okay. So, this has been a week. It had been a week, like, beginning Tuesday. But the beautiful, precious balm for the bullshit was one gorgeous "Am I the Asshole" question on the glorious "Am I the Asshole?" Subreddit. And with that, we bring you... a dramatic a-reading.

[music plays]

Courtney: "Am I the asshole for trying to sell my sandwich recipe to various delis in my town?"

Brent: [laughing]

Courtney: "Recently, I came up with what I think is a very delicious and innovated sandwich recipe. The ingredients complement each other beautifully, even though the combination is unique. I came up with a basic business idea to generate some extra money from this sandwich.

The city I live in has a lot of delis. Old school kind of places, and also newer, hipster kind of places, and everything in between. I have been approaching the managers at these delis with the following proposal. For a one-time fee of \$50, I will sell them the recipe, and also conduct a training session for their staff on how to properly make the sandwich, and also to educate them on the themes present in the sandwich.

Then, I will take a 20% cut of the price for each sandwich sold. So, let's just say one deli took my deal, and they charged \$10 for my sandwich, and then

only sold 10 of them per day. I'd make \$140 per week. \$190 the first week, with my fee. And basically, \$560 per month. From one place. But to be honest, I have faith my sandwich would probably sell around 40 to 50 per day, given the volume of customers and the quality of my sandwich. So you do the math."

Brent: Oh god. [laughs]

Courtney: "Plus, I'd be having more than one deli sell it. Ka-ching."

Brent: [laughing]

Courtney: "I have approached 11 deli managers so far, and every one so far has said no, and a few of them have even acted weird or even rude to me on the matter. Twice, I got into a slight argument based on the interaction. They don't seem to understand the value of my sandwich. I think maybe many of them are too proud to take on a recipe from an outsider, but I feel I am being reasonable.

When I explained to my friends what I am doing, and that I intend to keep approaching delis on this matter, many of them claimed I was being an asshole by doing this. They think it is rude to basically ask a deli to sell my recipe, and that I shouldn't fight for my dreams.

I think my terms are generous, and I am really only helping these delis, if they would only open their minds. If they sold my sandwich, their profits would grow measurably, even after I take my cut. Is it really that rude to try and sell my recipe? My friends are threatening not to go to lunch with me anymore, because I have promised that I will try to sell my recipe when we do so." [laughing]

Brent: [laughing]

Courtney: [laughs] "But all I am trying to do is hustle. This has caused interpersonal conflict, because I defend my dreams with passion, which leads my friends to accuse me of overreacting. And yes, I am passionate when I try to sway the deli managers, too. I even cried once."

Brent: [laughing] Oh god.

Courtney: “But it is with their own interest in mind, not just my own. Am I the asshole?”

[music ends]

Courtney: Y'know what, I'm—I'm not here to answer that question.

Brent: Well I am, but not yet.

Courtney: I mean, like... I mean, the answer is yeah. But... mostly, I want to know what's in the sandwich. Someone—the original—

Brent: Would you—I have my hypothesis, but what do you think it is?

Courtney: I don't know. The original, uh, the person who posted this on Twitter initially, like, Paypal'd them \$50 for the recipe. [laughs]

Brent: Oh, amazing.

Courtney: I don't know that—I don't think they ever responded. But... most people on Twitter have commented like, clearly, it involves thousand island dressing.

Brent: Wow. Which is like, a classic special sauce. Um, I—my hypothesis, which, as you were reading, I typed up... you ready?

Courtney: Ready.

Brent: Based on this person's sense of taste, vis-à-vis their self-awareness, I would bet... cottage cheese on toasted pumpernickel with watercress and a slice of bologna. That's my final offer. That's what I think it is. [laughs]

Courtney: I mean, it has to involve some kind of, uh, structure issue, if this person feels compelled to have a training session on how to build the sandwich.

Brent: Hmm.

Courtney: Which makes me think something has to be melted.

Brent: That's interesting. I mean, like, if you go—

Courtney: Like there's some kind of like, a bread friction issue.

Brent: I recently watched one of those total junk food YouTube videos where they just do like a, um... it's similar to this, but instead, it's like... oh, y'know, true confessions Subreddit. Like, "Hey, y'know, Subway sandwich artists, what's the weirdest thing you've been asked to do?"

Courtney: Mm-hmm.

Brent: And they did talk a little bit about like, they're supposed to cut the bread in a very specific way. There's protocols. And so, this guy clearly takes his sandwich very seriously. I just... I just feel like, if your sandwich is that GD good, can you not open a stand? 'Cause like, the cronut wasn't a thing until it was a thing, and now, Dunkin' and Starbucks both tried to make their own version of it.

Like, if you believe in your sandwich so much... look, just find a way to start it yourself. We're in the internet age. Y'know?

Courtney: Brent, you small-minded, silly fuck. This person explained their reasoning for why they wouldn't do that, and it's part of the strategy! This way, they don't have to do anything other than provide the recipe! [laughs] Don't you understand?!

Brent: Workin' smart instead of hard, I guess.

Courtney: Yep. Yep. Yep. Now, this—

Brent: [sighs]

Courtney: Specifically the line, "the themes present in the sandwich..."

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: ... led to possibly my favorite thread in the history of Twitter, betwixt users @NotLikeFreddy and @vandroidhelsing. Brent will be playing the part of NotLikeFreddy, and I will be portraying vandroidhelsing.

[music plays]

Courtney: "The white bread represents the aristocracy."

Brent: "Removes all the ingredients and lays them out on the plate with the bread. Deconstruction."

Courtney: "When you get to the end of the dipping sauce, in the bottom of the paper cup is a mirror. The consumer is you."

Brent: "You give me money *for* the sandwich. I take the money, and just put it inside two pieces of bread and hand it back to you."

Courtney: "You pay for the sandwich. I blindfold you and walk you a short distance. I take off the blindfold. On a public sidewalk, three naked people stack themselves atop plexiglass. "Do you want mustard with that?" they chant repeatedly. "Do you want mustard with that?" It's about society."

Brent: "You order the sandwich, you give me your smart phone, I use it to take a picture of the sandwich, I hand the smart phone back to you. If you look at the picture, you become the art."

Courtney: "You order the sandwich. I hand you what appears to be the sandwich. Unwrapped, it is, in fact, a stack of leather cut and tooled to resemble sandwich components. "It's about the industrialization of human emotion," I hiss, slithering into a sewer grate." [laughs]

Brent: [laughing] “You pay for the sandwich. My assistant and I come out from behind the counter in bread costumes. We envelop you. “How long does this last?” you ask. “Until you feel whole,” we whisper back, in unison.”

Courtney: “You order the sandwich. I hand it to you. As you're about to take a bite, I pull out a branding iron and apply it to the top piece of bread. The bread now says ‘Disney’ in smoldering, black letters with a horrible caricature of Mickey Mouse.”

Brent: [laughs] [clears throat] “You order the sandwich. I lead you to the dark room in the back where a rapt audience watches a grainy, eight hour film loop... of a sandwich on a plate. You take your seat.”

Courtney: “You order the sandwich. I take you to a sterile, white room and give it to you, then leave. It’s okay. When you finish eating, images of butchery and mechanized farming are projected on the wall. I open the door. “That’s inside you now!” I say. “All of that! Welcome to reality!””

Brent: [laughing]

Courtney: “And then... and then a break in the fourth wall. Wait. Wait, Paul. Oh my god. What if this conversation was their endgame? We are the art.”

[music ends]

Brent: Wow. Man... that is—

Courtney: Sometimes I feel like Twitter was a mistake, and then sometimes, stuff like this happens, and I'm like, y'know what? Twitter’s okay.

Brent: That was... a pretty amazing sandwich journey. And I will tell you... I am just—I didn’t actually know much at all about this story until we decided to do this coverage. And even then, I just kind of looked over the stuff I was

supposed to read, 'cause I figured you'd elucidate. Um... do you not just badly want to know what the fudge this sandwich is?

Courtney: Like... I need to know. And it's gonna be disappointing, whatever it is. Unless it isn't. That's the journey.

Brent: Could... could... [laughs] ... we start a GoFundMe to raise the money to get access to the recipe? Thereby, making it—

Courtney: And then, we get the recipe, and then we give all the money to Flint. We are the art!

Brent: I love that. I love that.

Courtney: I raised my hands in victory!

Brent: Um... What a ride. Any final thoughts on that?

Courtney: I mean, what final thoughts can anyone have? I'm hungry for sandwiches. God, I love sandwiches.

Brent: For sure. For sure.

Courtney: Sandwiches are so good.

Brent: It's true. Although, you and Travis—

Courtney: Sandwiches, won't you?

Brent: —did not like that one time I talked about the sides theory of sandwiches, to finally put to rest the whole, like, "is a sandwich a hot dog" thing. Remember that?

Courtney: Oh, no. I'm—no, we're not fucking doing that. We have enough to talk about this week!

Brent: And by that, I mean, "is a hot dog a sandwich." We know that not all sandwiches are hot dogs... or are they?! No, they're not.

Courtney: Real talk, if things break bad in the next segment, we are— [laughs] We must call an immediate stop. Halt. Is a hot dog a sandwich? That's our safe word.

Brent: That's great. And also, when people at home might just be like, "Okay, drink." Um, actually, drink responsibly. You never know what's gonna happen in this episode. Here we go! Second headline of Beyond the Headlines!

Um, so it was a recent headline in MALE magazine that got some traction in social media, but it also truly is a trend in culture, and not just a trending story. The headline is, "Slayer, Striker, Shooter, and the Rise of the Extreme Baby Boy Name."

For a while now, the average name for baby boys has tended to be biblical and kind of boring. And by 'for a while now,' I mean, at least, I think in the United States, like, hundreds of years. Uh, if you look at the middle of the bell curve.

But a naming expert named Laura Wattenberg has combed through the annals of social security Administration data, and has noticed that in recent years, there has been an explosion of baby names for boys that she calls "doer names." She notes that names like Racer, Trooper, and Charger have risen more than one thousand percent between 1980 and 2000, and have increased exponentially ever since.

In a recent Namerology article, a publication I did not know existed 'til today, Wattenberg listed several of the more aggressive sounding names that have spiked, like – and I'm quoting MALE magazine here – Angler, Camper, Tracker, Trapper, Catcher, Driver, Fielder, Racer, Sailor, Striker, Wheeler, Breaker, Roper, Trotter, Wrangler, Lancer, Shooter, Slayer, Soldier, Tracer, Trooper, Blazer, Brewer, Charger, Dodger, Laker, Pacer, Packer, Raider, Ranger, Steeler, Warrior, Dreamer, Jester, and... Rocker.

Courtney: Dreamer? Color me a'feared of this macho baby!

Brent: [laughs] Don't beat me up, Dreamer! Please!

Courtney: [laughs]

Brent: Better watch out for that guy. His name is Dreamer.

Courtney: I gotta tell you, that was the most satisfying reading I've ever heard. I was literally like, swaying as you said the names. [laughs]

Brent: Honestly, it did not look that long on the page. That was a chonk.

Courtney: This was some Dr. Seuss realness.

Brent: Yeah! Like, I immediately thought of like, Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy... but also, like—

Courtney: Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy, Angler, Camper, Tracker, Trapper, Catcher, Driver.

Brent: [laughs] I mean, and some of these... Brewer? Like...

Courtney: Don't name your kid Packer! What are you doing?!

Brent: No! And it took me a second to realize, Charger, Dodger, Laker, Packer, Pacer, Raider, Ranger, Steeler, are all... and I guess, Warrior, are all sports team doers. Um, which like, okay.

Courtney: It's also how I vocally warm up before singing. Charger, Dodger, Laker, Pacer, Packer, Raider, Sue.

Brent: Irish wrist watch. Um, so, okay. Uh, is that the second week in a row I've said Irish wrist watch? Maybe. Um, okay. So, what I don't want to do here is sound like an old man who can't handle the changing times. And

to help me show you what I don't want to become, I'll refer to a bit from comedian George Carlin, back in 2002.

George: And this is Blake and Blair and Blaine and Brent. Where are all these goofy fuckin' boys names coming from? Taylor, Tyler, Jordan, Flynn... these are not real names!

[audience applause]

George: You want to hear a real name? Eddie. Eddie is a real name. Whatever happened to Eddie? He was here a minute ago. Joey and Jackie and Johnny and Phil, Bobby and Tommy and Danny and Bill. What happened? Toooodd.

[audience laughter]

George: And Codyyy. And Dylannn. And Cameronnn. And Tuckerrr.

Brent: Notice how he included 'Brent' in there. Uh, thanks, bro. Now, look, he's... a comedy legend, but that bit is... like a lot of his bits, and a lot of bits from, I don't know, before now, probably after now, uh... reflecting some toxic masculinity shit. Some white normative shit, among other types of shit. He was also born in the '30s, so like, whatever. Different time. Comedy legend. Problematic fave. Whatever.

Back to present day. I've gotten used to Hunter. Y'know? So, I may just need to get used to... Trotter. And Rocker. I mean, honestly, half of them sound like super obscure character classes in Dungeons & Dragons. I don't know, maybe just the changing times.

That being said, I'm really interested in the idea of nominative determinism. It's just a hypothesis, not really a theory, but the idea is that your name determines things about how your life will go. It reminds me of when I was a kid. I read a book with the—a protagonist named Taffy, and I told my mom about it, and she was like, "Ugh, Taffy? She's never gonna be a lawyer."

Which is like, glib and probably not something you'd publically say in case any Taffys are listening, but... there's sort of like... I mean, do we think of Taffy as a high powered lawyer, the way we might think of a Diana or a Morgan as maybe eligible for that? Is a boy named Camille gonna be a linebacker? Like, maybe. But do we like, picture that, or do we picture Derek or Ethan?

The reasons for all this are like... compound and complicated, and probably have all kinds of problematic shit. I just think this stuff is interesting, and I wonder how it's affected by a name like, I don't know, Brewer. Rocker. Jester.

Courtney: Having named two children, and I will only ever name two children unless someone asks me to name their children, because this factory be closed.

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: But there is something to the uh, the conversation of, "Will this get my kid made fun of?" And I think that—hopefully, it's presumably a lot of conjecture, but it also brings like, our own childhood shit up. Where it's like, there was a kid named this in the class, and blah blah blah.

My cousin is named Lydia, and I remember my uncle, uh, teasing my aunt saying, "They're gonna call her Chlamydia." And—

Brent: Uh, wow.

Courtney: On the short list of baby names for Jules, Clementine was the second one, and my dad said the same thing. He said, "They're gonna call her Chlamydia."

Brent: So basically, your dad can connect so many names to chlamydia.

Courtney: Well, my dad was just the second one. The other one was his brother. So apparently, my family...

Brent: Oh, I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Okay, this—

Courtney: My family can connect a lot of things to chlamydia.

Brent: Yes. Gotcha. Gotcha.

Courtney: But I think that that is a thing. I remember that being like, a lot of source of uh, discussion for me and my ex-husband, where it was just like, will this name get our kids made fun of?

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: He wanted, uh... [laughs] He wanted one of the—a boy name to be William Wallace Hall, which was our name. And uh, I was like, “No, they’ll call him Willy Wally Hally.” [laughs]

Brent: [laughs] That’s so—I mean... so like, imagine if in, I don't know, uh, 1989, you were born, and your last name is Cullen, and your parents name you Edward. You're doin’ fine ‘til Twilight comes out, right?

Courtney: Mm.

Brent: Um, I mean like, sometimes on Twitter, I get made fun of for that like, “they're good dogs, Brent” meme. When I was a kid, country star Clint Black was a big deal, and because I lived in Texas where my was pronounced “Brint,” [in a southern accent] Brint Black and Clint Black sounded like the same thing.

So, you never know. But I kind of like the idea of like, a comparatively contentless, quasi-boring name like Brian, because a child can fill it with their own personality instead of having like, Slayer or Warrior that gives you like, this built-in product packaging from birth.

Courtney: I—so... I feel like naming a whole entire person is a weirdly hard thing.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: Because you do kind of feel like, is this—this name is going to be—like, they're stuck with this for the rest of their lives, unless they change it. But like... like, my—[laughs] Not to like, rip my dad this whole episode. He doesn't listen to this show, so it's fine. He doesn't know how podcasts work. But he, um—my name was spelled wrong on my birth certificate.

Brent: Oh, really?

Courtney: Because my dad didn't know how to spell it. [laughs]

Brent: What—what kind of wrong?

Courtney: My middle name is Lynn, and my mom meant it to be spelled L-Y-N-N-E, and my dad spelled it on my birth certificate, L-Y-N-N.

Brent: Oh no.

Courtney: And it's just one of those things where it was like, it was always just a little point of like... kind of comedic, but you know she meant it contention from my mom.

Brent: Now, wait a minute. How do you spell it?

Courtney: I actually—when I got married, and uh, legally changed my name, I was like, "Hey, bee tee dubs. My middle name is spelled wrong on my social security card. How can I change it?" And they were like, "Oh, you can just do that now with this." 'Cause as long as they're changing my name... so they changed it then.

Brent: Wow.

Courtney: So now, I changed my name back to the Courtney Enlow that you know before you. I am now legally and actually this. Don't doxx me. Don't—be cool. But like, so, it's still—Lynne is still like, y'know, spelled correctly.

Brent: I see.

Courtney: Yeah.

Brent: Well, one thing I thought, um... going back to just like, the boy—the boyness of all this... is like, whether this—y'know just like, sometimes, there's, when we look back in history books, we sort of simplify things into Zeitgeist moments, like this big movement was an emergent thing in response to this other thing? It's easy when it's like, styles of art, and you go, like, "Oh, the young people were just flippin' off the older people." But...

I—I just want to speculate about the fact that like, y'know how, as we culturally have started to question traditional ideas about gender and identity, we've also see a rise in gender reveals? Like, are manlier, quote unquote, names just like, this emergent pushback against, I don't know, um, the way that in the last 10 or 15 years, the whole notion of gay people has gone from a joke to like, just another thing that people can be. Is this some kind of like, um, inadvertent backlash, like, as a big huge sociological organism? That we're just like... y'know what I'm saying?

I mean, I don't—obviously, neither of us know the answer. But like, does that sound like it could be a thing?

Courtney: I mean, maybe. I don't know. Like, it just seem—it seems like a lot of pressure to put on a baby.

Brent: That's how I feel.

Courtney: Yeah. It's like, here you are, Warrior. It's like, maybe this kid's a pacifist. You don't know.

Brent: That's true. That's true. And I think more likely to be one, when and if this kid rebels and becomes and independent person.

Okay, I want to know. If you—I know you're not gonna have any more boys. I know the manufacturing jobs in the—in your steel belt have left the

country. [laughs] But... if you had to name another boy, like, shootin' from the hip... go.

Courtney: I—so, because I had to come up with like, a whole list of names, like, I always—my boy names were always pretty classic.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: Like, my short list for Jack, which—Jack was kind of always gonna be Jack. Because my husband's name is John, my dad's name is John, and my ex-husband's dad is also John. So clearly, this kid was gonna be named John, but we couldn't call him John.

Brent: Right.

Courtney: 'Cause there's too many goddamn Johns runnin' around. So he was always gonna be jack. Um, but like, on the short list beyond that, Louis. If Jules was a boy, she was gonna be Louis.

Brent: Mm-hmm.

Courtney: Will and Ben. I just feel like if you name is Ben, you're cool. Unless you're Shapiro. Fuck! Ben Shapiro fucked it up!

Brent: Yeah, that's true. He does fuck it up.

Courtney: Goddamn it, Ben Shapiro. I'm glad I didn't name my fucking kid Ben.

Brent: Yeah. My favorite name for a boy for a while—

Courtney: No offense to all of our Bens listening. Ben Louis, I know you're a good guy.

Brent: No, you're all great. You're all great.

Courtney: All y'all are cool.

Brent: One Ben apple ruins the bunch. Um, so—

Courtney: On that note, by the way? The most judgy people have ever been about a baby name was when Gwyneth Paltrow named her baby Apple. That is, actually, I think, a really cute name. And the least problematic thing Gwyneth Paltrow has ever done.

Brent: Yeah. Perfectly cute name. Doesn't bother me. People, y'know, it just was a... a trending news thing before there was trending news, per se. For me, I simultaneously have my favorite boy name, and yet, it's one that, I think, in recent years, has really... [sighs] The pool of this name has been soured. But like, I have a great aunt named Billie, and I have a grandfather who went by Bill. And y'know, Bill Black is a pretty cool name, I think.

Courtney: I think it's very funny, the idea of a baby named Bill.

Brent: That's what I was gonna say! I don't want to name a child William, and then have him be like, "I'm Will. I'm Billy. I'm Billiam." They don't do Billiam. But you never know. I want to be like, "No no no no no, the name on your gift..." [laughs] I almost said gift certificate!

Courtney: [laughs] That's what you get for being born, is a gift certificate to life!

Brent: It's true! God's gift to you, mom. No. Um, your birth certificate. The idea of a birth certificate saying Bill... I think, is lovely. And y'know, if—if Gwyneth Paltrow can do Apple, well, then, maybe I could do Bill. Despite the fact that, god, are there any famous Bills who haven't turned out to be total fucking monsters? But maybe this one. Maybe my baby Bill. My baby boy Bill.

Courtney: It makes me think of a small baby wearing a polo and khakis and holding tiny golf clubs.

Brent: [laughing]

Courtney: And he's definitely got like, a big ass ring. Like, my—I have like—every uncle, like, great uncle that I ever met, and wears like, a big ass ring. Like a class ring or something. Or like, a—I don't know if the KC gives out rings, but it's some kind of ring. Like, give baby Bill a tiny, big ass ring.

Brent: I love it.

Courtney: And I'm into it. And a—and like, he needs to have like, a PBR. Or a Natty Lite.

Brent: Oh yeah.

Courtney: That's just what baby Bill drinks, because baby Bill's not fancy.

Brent: No. He's down to earth.

Courtney: No. He's salt to the earth.

Brent: But he also hits the links when he wants to.

Courtney: Yeah. Sometimes baby Bill needs a break.

Brent: He's his own tiny man.

Courtney: Yeah. He's a small man, but he's so tiny.

Um, so, this week, the Oscar nominations were releaaased! Jazz hands! Um, lots of things were snubbed. Like all of the women. Well, some of the women. Some of the women. The only person of color to be nominated in an acting category this year was Cynthia Orivo, playing Harriett Tubman. Which...

Brent: Hm.

Courtney: Really? Like, that's—the Academy has to know that like, they're called out for only nominating black people for playing slaves, right? Or do they not? Do they legit not know?

Brent: That's a great point. I mean, it's—the only thing I can say that's good about it is that it wasn't Julia Roberts at Harriett Tubman, as I believe we recently reported about.

Courtney: Yes. Yeah.

Brent: Or was—that was like, on the table at one point, right?

Courtney: Yes.

Brent: Aye yai yai.

Courtney: Goddamn it. [laughing] Um, but like, this was actually—and no women were nominated for best director. Not a goddamn one. And this was a year in which people of color, specifically women of color, and female directors, female directors of color, were like, all over the place, killing the game. And it's... none of them. None of them.

Joker got 11 nominations. Including... hair and makeup, which, as someone pointed out on Twitter, this is a movie in which a man with very dark brown hair just puts green dye on his hair, and his hair is green. That's not how it works!

Brent: [laughs] Yeah, it's not exactly like, amazing—

Courtney: You have to lighten that shit first!

Brent: —amazing practical effects. [laughs] I haven't seen Joker yet, and boy, I can't think of a more, like, polarizing... like, I mean, Return of Skywalker, which—or, sorry. Rise of Skywalker, which I also haven't seen. Um... yet.

Courtney: Skywalker be back!

Brent: But like, both of them... just like, I don't know who to trust, and I'm gonna feel bad liking them, and I'm gonna feel bad hating them. It's just gonna feel bad. It's why I need—

Courtney: What I mostly hear about, uh—

Brent: —schedule more, like, opening night premier viewings of movies.

Courtney: All of my friends who saw Joker... 'cause I have a lot of friends, obviously, who are film reviewers, so they had to see it. The general consensus is, it's just a nothing movie. It's fine. Like, it—the fact that it's about an angry man who like, is angry so he kills people? Like, honestly, we're fuckin' used to that. That's movies. But, as a, like, a product of quality? It's... fine. It's mediocre at best.

Brent: You think it's kind of one of those things that like, y'know, a certain kind of white guy who feels put upon, feels oppressed, and the world doesn't understand him, goes like, "Oh my god, you get me."

Courtney: Yes. Yes. That's why the incels love this goddamn movie. Um, but... I think, the way that the Academy sends out screeners, not everyone's watching the screeners. They literally will vote for what they've heard of. And the Joker got the most attention this year.

Brent: Just... sometimes—I mean, I feel like that's why Biden's the front runner. [laughs]

Courtney: Exactly. Exactly.

Brent: It's the same fuckin' thing.

Courtney: Some of the big snubs... so, I have not seen Clemency yet, but Alfre Woodard is supposed to be incredible.

Uh, Jennifer Lopez is a goddamn dream in Hustlers. And a lot of people were really bothered that she wasn't nominated, because she was just so great in

that movie. And she—she is someone whose career has never been taken seriously. It is, in large part, obviously, due to the fact that she is a woman of color. But also, like, she's considered a dancer, a sex symbol. And so, people just don't take her fuckin' seriously.

But meanwhile, Ben Affleck, who like, y'know, was also part of, y'know, Bennifer, is doing just goddamn fine. Ugh.

Brent: Yeahhh. It's almost like there's... I don't know...

Courtney: It's almost like there's a difference between them.

Brent: Yeah. Something.

Courtney: Awkwafina and Lulu Wang, and everyone in *The Farewell* were superb, and they got nothing. Um, and this was a great year for female directors. Like Lulu Wang for *The Farewell*. Greta Gerwig for *Little Women*. Marielle Heller for *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. Melina Matsoukas for *Clean and Slim*. Lorene Scafaria for *Hustlers*. Uh, Celine Siama for *Portrait of Lady on Fire*. Alma Har'el for *Honey Boy*.

Like, none of them got a single goddamn—like—and I actually—I read an article in, I believe it was *Vulture*, where they talked about how, y'know, Greta Gerwig has kind of like, had to have this thing on her shoulders of being 'the woman.' Like, if they're gonna nominate a woman, it was gonna be Greta Gerwig. And they didn't. And no other woman would've even been in contention if Greta Gerwig wasn't nominated. And that's so fucked up.

Like, women, and y'know, there can only be one, ever.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: And it's always gonna be a white woman. Because that's like, considered the default. And it's—it's a bummer. But *Little Women* was so good!

Brent: I also hear that. My girlfriend loved it.

Courtney: It's so good!

Brent: I haven't seen it yet.

Courtney: It's so good. I want to hug it.

Brent: Well, do better, Hollywood. Stop being jerks.

Courtney: Ya jerks!

Brent: I went through a couple different names in my head, and that's where I came to.

Courtney: Buncha jerks.

[theme music plays]

Courtney: So... [sighs] Y'all knew we were gonna cover this. And there have been a lot of conversations behind the scenes, because as you know, Brent and I have our... have our picks. Brent—Brent's a Bernie man. I'm a Warren girl. And this week has been a rough one for Bernie men and Warren girls. [laughs]

Brent: It is true.

Courtney: It's been rough, rough stuff. So... we decided to talk about it in a structured way, and hopefully, a way that is like, beneficial to the conversation. And please note, the conversation is a conversation we shouldn't be having at all, 'cause this is stupid. This is a stupid nothing story and I hate it.

Anyway. First, let's talk about what we agree upon. Brent, you go foist.

Brent: Totally. Alright. Yeah. Here's what I agree with you upon. Uh, so, women definitely have a higher difficulty setting in politics, in everything

from the standards of their appearance, to sexist interpretations of their passion, to the fact that sexism among voters is likely to take a bite out of the amount of votes that an imaginary male version of them would get, like some fucked up allegory of the wage gap. Y'know what I'm saying?

Also, okay, so, we talked about me including where I stand on Warren and Sanders as my picks. As I've said before, like, I like Bernie's policies a little bit better. I like his consistency of record. Y'know, Elizabeth Warren's done some great things, but like, she was a Republican at one point. And without going through the whole litany, I'll just say, um... on the whole, I like her very much. I like her senate record. Um, Bernie's my favorite for specific reasons. But at this point, I would vote for either of them happily for the Democratic nomination.

Courtney: And that's—that's where I stand, too. Warren is my number one, and Sanders is my number two. In terms of pure policy, his gun record drops him for me.

Brent: Mm-hmm.

Courtney: And I feel like she can get things done in a way he can't. But I like Bernie. And I will vote for him in a heartbeat. Now, I have—I have been on the record, on this very show, saying, "Y'know what? Fuck Bernie." And that comes from the toxic behavior of a segment of his supporters. They turned me so off of him that it traveled, basically, to him.

And um, I realized I hadn't actually put into words to Brent, so I shared some of my experiences after my Hillary article in 2016, how scary that was. How much the attacks were. And the gas lighting afterwards by Bernie supporters, saying, "No, that didn't happen, you're lying." Um, and I will say this before anyone else has a chance to – not all Bernie supporters. The Bernie supporters that I am friends with are some of the best people with the best hearts. But all you need to do is look at Twitter right now, and that toxic segment is real, and it sucks.

But in the interest of, y'know, us surviving as a populous, I have separated the man from the stands, and I've never been 'never Bernie.' At my most,

like, fuck you Bernie, I was never 'never Bernie.' But I've let go enough to be like, yes, I like him, he would do great things as president.

Brent: Alright. So, um, next, let's just cover the facts of this story before we get into our analysis. So, it started off with CNN releasing a story this past Monday morning with the headline, "Bernie Sanders told Elizabeth Warren in private 2018 meeting that a woman can't win, sources say."

Courtney: So basically, the events described in this 2018 dinner that they had, uh, from CNN, was, "Warren laid out two main reasons she believed she would be a strong candidate. She could make a robust argument about the economy, and earn broad support from female voters. Sanders responded that he did not believe a woman could win. The description of that meeting is based on accounts of four people. Two people Warren spoke with directly soon after the encounter, and two people familiar with the meeting."

Brent: And Warren released a written statement, reading in part, "Among the topics that came up was what would happen if Democrats nominated a female candidate. I thought a woman could win, he disagreed. I have no interest in discussing this private meeting any further, because Bernie and I have more in common than our differences on punditry."

And Sanders responded to that saying, "It is ludicrous to believe that, at the same meeting where Elizabeth Warren told me she was going to run for president, I would tell her that a woman couldn't win," Sanders said. "It's sad that three weeks before the Iowa caucus, and a year after the private conversation, staff who weren't in the room are lying about what happened."

I'm skipping ahead a little bit, and he, uh, points out that Hillary Clinton beat Donald Trump by three million votes in 2016, as an example of why he wouldn't not believe a woman could win.

Courtney: Per the New York Times, Warren's advisors insisted that she had no intention of making this private meeting a public spectacle. However, after Mr. Sanders' team forcefully denied the reports, some advisors said they believed she had no choice but to offer her account firsthand.

The New York Times actually reported on this dinner shortly after it took place, and last March, when asked about it and if Sanders urged her not to run, Warren responded, “Bernie and I had a private dinner, and my view is that dinner stays private.”

So, surprisingly, this does not seem to be the 11th hour bomb it appears to be. It just only now got the significant traction and attention to force the candidates to respond.

Brent: Yeah. And then, at the CNN Democratic debate on Tuesday... which, I think Courtney and I would both like to cover more, but this just became, in a lot of ways, the bigger story of the week. Anyway.

Courtney: By fucking design, bee tee dubs.

Brent: Yeah. Mm-hmm. So at the CNN Democratic debate on Tuesday, they were both asked about it, and I'm gonna—we're gonna just play the audio of that whole exchange here.

Bernie: Anybody knows me, knows that it's incomprehensible that I would think that a woman could not be president of the United States. Go to YouTube today. There's a video of me 30 years ago talking about how a woman could become president of the United States. In 2015, I deferred, in fact, to senator Warren. It was a movement to draft senator Warren to run for president. And you know what? I stayed back. Senator Warren decided not to run, and I then—I did run afterwards.

Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by three million votes. How could anybody in a million years not believe that a woman could become president of the United States? And let me be very clear – if any of the women on this stage or any of the men on this stage win the nomination – I hope that's not the case. I hope it's me.

[audience laughter]

Bernie: But if they do, I will do everything in my power to make sure that they are elected in order to defeat the most dangerous president in the history of our country.

Speaker 1: So, senator Sanders—

[audience applause]

Speaker 1: Senator Sanders, I do want to be clear here. You're saying that you never told senator Warren that a woman could not win the election?

Bernie: That is correct.

Speaker 1: Senator Warren, what did you think when senator Sanders told you a woman could not win the election?

[audience laughter]

Elizabeth: I disagreed. Bernie is my friend, and I am not here to try to fight with Bernie. But look, this question about whether or not a woman can be president has been raised, and it's time for us to attack it head on.

Brent: Now, Courtney and I have discussed at length, uh, outside the show, this matter. I don't know why I needed to say it like Yoda. But um, obviously, neither of us can know exactly what was said in that meeting. So what we're gonna do now is each give our personal analysis, what we think might've happened and why. Uh, we're gonna alternate back and forth, but keep in mind, this is not a debate. We're just like, bringin' our thoughts to the table individually from our different perspectives. Uh, and I won the coin toss. Here goes. So I start.

I think the idea that Sanders said a woman can't win in 2020, verbatim, is extremely unlikely. But, the guy has spoken clumsily at times in the past, and despite his policies being popular with the young and the "woke," he's clearly still learning better and more inclusive ways of talking about some of these things.

Now, it's very possible Warren felt like that's what he was implying, or felt unsupported in some way, and I'm sure that is an easy thing to feel when you're a woman in politics, because so much of what female politicians hear is words like 'no' and 'can't' and 'don't' and 'smile more' and 'you're shrill' and 'you're this, you're that.'

But Bernie has basically said it himself. It's kind of ridiculous that he would say that, particularly in that setting in that moment and time. But I would say his record speaks for itself. There are plenty of videos goin' around the internet, uh, of his stance on the subject, going decades back. In terms of policies and votes, he's the most consistently pro-woman male senator.

Now, to be clear, I do like Warren's style and ideas, and anyone who listens to the show knows that. But this move on her part disappointed me. Some people assume her campaign didn't actually leak this on purpose. But I mean, right before the pre-primary debate?

The sources of the leak talk to her right after the meeting, or were "familiar with the meeting," so like, none of th—we're supposed to believe none of them... none of the sources are on her campaign? Like, if that's true, then it means the information is second and third hand hearsay? Like, I have to say, this was on purpose by someone. Do I think Warren spearheaded the whole thing? I don't know. But this was a calculation on someone's part.

And the fact that, y'know, you just mentioned the New York Times thing, Courtney, about the campaign not wanting to expound upon it. Uh, the fact that like, y'know, they thought, "Well, maybe she should explain it," at one time, and now she's given this very short, context-free description in both written form and the debate, y'know, out loud... what that allowed for is this narrative that Sanders is like, a sexist misogynist. And I just feel like his decades-long record – not to say that he's perfect. He's not. And probably on these issues, like, pretty much all men I know, doesn't have a perfect record.

But I just... I don't think it is fair to—this implication that, because of this, he is, in fact, a sexist misogynist.

Courtney: I will say that, to your point about, uh, her context-free response... I think she was in a place where like, there was no win. People were calling her a snake for not saying anything, so she couldn't just say nothing. And if—if she remembers what she remembers... why should she lie to protect him? So, that's my opinion. I don't think there was a win here. I don't think she had a move.

Brent: Let me think about that. 'Cause my gut says I disagree, but I'm not sure why. I'm gonna think about that. You've got some thoughts as well.

Courtney: Yeah, let me say the rest of my things.

Brent: Totally.

Courtney: I generally believe that they're both right. I think he said something about how Trump would attack her for being a woman, therefore... and what she took from that was that a woman can't beat him. Which I think is a fair assessment. She told the wrong person, or the wrong people, who took it to CNN, who ran with it, and turned it into this massive thing.

Again... it's—a lot of people are saying like, "Well, Warren leaked this before the, y'know, the debate." CNN ran it before the debate. Uh, and the thing is, progressive people commit micro aggressions all the time. What people say in public and private are very different. Um, and also, Bernie himself told a black female reporter, Brittany [Packiati], that most of the people who sell drugs are African American, as a response to a question about the disproportionate number of people of color in jail for minor drug offenses. He's not infallible.

And I disagree with the idea that this came from Warren's camp, or that she knew about it, because my evidence is... all of this. Any woman, every woman, knows what happens when we complain about misogyny of any kind, particularly from a beloved man. Elizabeth Warren and everyone woman on her campaign knew this is exactly what would happen. Women never get ahead by complaining. We gain nothing from it. Think Christine Blasey-Ford.

Now think of the far lesser crime of just implying a woman might not be able to beat Trump, something a lot of people agree with. And when called to confirm or deny, as I said, she shouldn't have to lie to protect him. Like, women have to like, protect men's shitty behavior all the time, and it sucks.

As many people have pointed out, people make sexist or racist comments thoughtlessly all the time with zero memory of them. But the people they make these comments to, they seethe over it for years.

Brent: That happens all the time, for sure. And I'm going off my—go ahead, sorry.

Courtney: Well, and no, 'cause we actually... we, just before the show, talked about like, we actually have a very recent example of this—of this very thing. Just a couple weeks ago, Brent said something on the show that he meant nothing by. Thought nothing of. I took it as kind of sexist. And I mean, it happens... it happens all the time. This is just normal human communication as we know it.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: Why is it so hard to think that like, this happened, and no one meant anything by it?

Brent: Well, and see, that's the—

Courtney: But that's just how humans work.

Brent: And that's the thing. I'm going off copy, so I may end up being repetitive, but... they have been friends for a long time. If they've been friends for a long time, she must know his heart. And so, when you say there was no good way for her to address this, I'm risking writing the script for her and being a mouthpiece that, y'know, like the wrong mouthpiece for it.

But if she knows his heart, and knows that he, like... either she believes that he straight up said a woman could never win, which I have a very hard time believing, or she knowingly omitted the fact that we—I mean, she pointed out 'we're friends' after that, in the debate. But she didn't connect the two, like, "He said a dumb thing. It actually hurt my feelings. It made me feel like he was saying a woman couldn't win. But I know his heart, and he's not a sexist."

Like, now, am I telling her, like, "That's what you should've said, and you should smile more, too." No. But when you ask—if you were asked—if you were to ask me, I'm magically her campaign advisor, right? Like, how do we deal with this? Well, if you wanted to preserve the friendship, and preserve the possibility of a progressive winning the nomination... that might've been—something more like that might've been the way to go.

It's not really my place to say that, but like, that, to me, was a thought that I had when you mentioned, like, she had no good move. I'm gonna go back to my copy now.

One thing to note is that her poll numbers have dipped ever since she started leaning a bit towards the establishment lane in her policy positions, but more so, in her rhetoric. And now, look, in her defense, any campaign worth its salt would take an opportunity to get a leg up on their opponents in this situation, particularly at this time in the race.

But to me, the sad part is, I think she actually traded in a lot of support from Bernie stans who would've gladly been her cheerleader if she'd won the nomination. Listening to her at the debate, I was reminded of what I like about her and her policies. After, y'know, a day and a half of being pretty mad at her. But for me, I think this makes her, um... well, it makes me like her a little bit less, and it feels like she's finally decided to stop dipping a toe into the dark side, and like, put her whole foot in it.

So like, TL;DR, Bernie may well have said something clumsy. He could be a well-meaning man who commits sexist micro aggressions. But the way this thing is being spun, like for instance, if you watch a clip on The View where Meghan McCain just ran with like, trying to call him a misogynist as many times in 60 seconds as she could? I don't think any of that is anywhere near

accurate, and I do think, at a certain point, it stretches into the category of like, a somewhat coordinated smear, at least among mainstream media outlets.

Courtney: Meghan McCain sucks. Let's just put that out there right now.

Brent: I think we can agree on that.

Courtney: I think that's the most important takeaway from this whole segment. If you take nothing else away from this segment, it's just that Meghan McCain sucks.

This idea that like, this was her dipping her toe into the dark side... I mean, the day before this, there was a leak of another leak of Sanders talking points distributed to canvassers, calling out Warren for being only appealing to the highly educated and financially secure. And she was blamed for that, too.

People thought like, y'know, she must've leaked them and all this. And like, sure, there is—there are statistics that back up the fact that like, she has a sizable, y'know, highly educated, financial secure following.

Brent: Well, and that's—yeah.

Courtney: But like, they know what they're saying when they say that.

Brent: Well, what they—so, here's what I'd say to that. Two things. First off, by dark side, I mean establishment. Y'know, the Biden lane. The more center, mainstream, y'know... just kind of getting spooked by bad poll numbers, and going, "Well, I have to run to the right," which is like an oold Democratic thing.

But... the thing that, um, I want to just point out about the Sanders volunteer who said that, y'know, Warren appeals to the highly educated and financially secure... point was that those are the kind of people who are going to vote against Trump no matter what. The argument was that Bernie

brings in, uh, young people, leftists, people that otherwise might not vote at all.

Now, and I think that's substantiated by data. And then, of course, when Elizabeth Warren came out and said, "I don't know why the Bernie campaign is trashing me," um... or maybe she said Bernie volunteers. But like, to me—again, now, she's being strategic in the way that like, this is how primaries work. I don't blame her for saying that. But that is, I would say, somewhat of a mischaracterization of what happened.

Um, and this is what politicians do. But to me, like, am I blaming her for that? No. But I guess, in my perfect world, y'know, she and Bernie kind of get along to the last, because we know that they are similarly, uh... they certainly come from similar backgrounds ideologically.

And to see—when I talk about the dark side, to see her, um... kind of turn—y'know, the gloves come off, is simultaneously like, this is what happens in politics. We cannot think, especially not in a sexist way, like, "Well, why can't she just be sweet to Bernie?" Like, this is what she does. But because I am more for Bernie, it also turns me off more from her.

Courtney: But why, then, is it easier to believe that he had nothing to do with this, this is just like, y'know... it's easier to give him the benefit of the doubt, I guess. Whereas it's easier for people to believe that she is just... a liar, that she responded wrong, and all this stuff.

In terms of, um, what you were saying, that like, she should've said, y'know, "this hurt my feelings"... One thing that women know is to distance yourself from emotion. Because if you imply that you have feelings, basically, you're seen as weak.

Brent: That's fair. That's fair.

Courtney: She can't say what she felt about what happened. And if she makes excuses for him, that sucks, too. And seems weak, and seems like she's giving in, and it sucks. There—literally, this is a no win situation for her.

I don't think Bernie Sanders meant anything by it, and I don't think he remembers it. But I think what people need to look at is why it's so easy to blame the woman, to see her as a snake, to call for her to withdraw her campaign, which is like a big, annoying thing on Twitter right now, because she's a liar, than to consider the possibility that he's wrong.

Brent: Hmm. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Courtney: Now, to me, his campaign would do themselves a massive favor by addressing, at the very least, that she took the wrong message from what he said. But no one's calling on him to do that. They're calling on her to apologize to a man for the shitty thing that got under her skin. And that's why women don't complain.

Brent: Well, now, wait. I'm confused.

Courtney: That's why we just shut up and take it.

Brent: I totally hear that. I am curious about like, don't you feel like... his campaign, as well as just his rhetoric on this topic, has been, uh, like, trying to contextualize and say like, "No no no, what I said was this." Which is like, I guess a few doors down from what she remembered. And you're right. He may not remember it. Like, I honest to god do not always remember something I said a couple days ago, just absentmindedly. Like, these things happen.

Courtney: I mean, there's an aggression to how he's responded. He used the word 'lying.' Y'know, I...

Brent: The way that I feel okay about that is the fact that he knew, as we all do, the mainstream media would run with this regardless. So he had to have a strong, uh, response.

Courtney: And that's fine. I—like, I don't feel like Warren fucked up by saying, y'know—and fuck CNN for releasing the audio, frankly. But saying like, you just called me a liar on national television.

Brent: Yeah. The audio of which... did we... did we skip over that before?

Courtney: I thought we played it.

Brent: Okay. Well, so, we played one debate clip. Just so you're clear, I think we—I think I did actually accidentally skip over it in the copy.

Courtney: Oh, okay.

Brent: At the end of the debate—

Courtney: I thought that was the after the debate part you played.

Brent: No worries. Well, and just pulling back the curtain, y'all listening at home, we don't always listen to the whole clip if we've already heard it.

Courtney: We don't have time for this.

Brent: Correct. So...

Courtney: We've got stuff to do.

Brent: So what I'm gonna play now is, at the end of the CNN debate, Sanders approached Warren, attempted to shake her hand. She declined to shake his hand back, and this is the exchange that occurred.

[audience applause]

Elizabeth: I think you called me a liar on national TV?

Bernie: [unintelligible]

Elizabeth: I think you called me a liar on national TV.

Bernie: Let's not do it right now. You want to have that discussion, we'll have that discussion. You called me a li—you told me—alright, let's not do it now.

Courtney: And y'know, everyone talked about the handshake. Um, but y'know, at the end of that, he kind of throws his hands off in dismissal. Because like, again, they remember things differently.

Brent: Mm, yeah, I just... I don't know.

Courtney: This is an argument—no, but I—again... we're givin'—we're givin' one of them a pass... and not the other one.

Brent: Well, look. So, let me be clear, because I—what I just said sounded dismissive, and also was completely, uh...

Courtney: You threw your hands up at me Bernie-styles!

Brent: [imitating Bernie Sanders] Listen! I've got to conduct an invisible symphony!

Anyway, um... so, it's—I will say, that moment, to me... I mean, look. She's decided to trade in, uh, let's all be pals. Which like, this is the time in her campaign to do this. If she's gonna do it and not just run for VP or run for cabinet, this is the time to take the gloves off. This is what happens, and she is not some child. She is a politician trying to win.

But this was, to that end, this was... I think she knew what she was going to say, and she did it. And... y'know, like, they are friends, and she... he—it's not that I'm "giving him a full on pass," but he approached the situation differently. And I'm not going like, "Oh, poor Bernie!" I am saying, this felt... it's like the word 'staged' sounds too conspiratorial, but I feel like she was prepared to have this moment. She knew she was still on a hot mic. It was right after the thing ended.

And so like, if that's how she feels, that's how she feels. And if it's a campaign tactic, it's a campaign tactic. She's in the middle of a campaign.

Courtney: Can I ask you...

Brent: But it—

Courtney: Real quick.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: Um... in a world where the gloves remain on... let's say she didn't leak this, because I genuinely believe she didn't, because, again, women know this shit does not work. Um, this seems like the leak of someone who thought that it might work, which seems kind of like a Trumpian thing? Where it's just like, "Y'know what women don't like? Is this."

Brent: [snorts] Mm-hmm.

Courtney: Um, but... how do you think she should've responded? Because I genuinely believe there was no win here. But... what do you think?

Brent: Well, okay, but the thing is that she—she went out of her way in the actual answer about this question to be vague, be concise, mention that she and Bernie are good friends, and then pivot to this prepared thing about, y'know, like, the male candidates having lost and she and Klobuchar have only won. Which was, y'know, like a clever pivot. Good piece of rhetoric.

But what I'm saying is, she was all about "we're friends, we're friends, I don't want to go there, we're friends," and then... completely a different tone, a different feel. And this is all her prerogative. But when you asked like, what should she have done, if we accept that Bernie was going to approach her in that way, um... I—I don't know. Because for me to be prescriptive is kind of a losing game here. It's more just like, comes down to what she ultimately wants.

If she wants to win that nomination, and uh, y'know, beat Bernie and Biden, this is a tactic to that end. But, she is also trading in the sense that, if you

like Bernie, that she's very much in that vein, so if he doesn't win the nomination, still vote for her. That's why when you're talking about like, what should she have done, well... it comes down to, what's her goal? Is her goal to get the nomination at all costs and burn bridges? Or is her goal, y'know, um, to keep options open? I don't know.

Courtney: And either way, I feel like it just keeps going to back to me that there's no way she could have leaked this. And I want everyone—I really encourage everyone to read Rebecca Traister's new article, um, The Third Rail of Sexism. Because calling out sexism... doesn't fuckin' work for us. It only works against us. And I genuinely believe she did not want this coming out. That's why she said that thing about why the dinner should be private.

It came out, and she's a big nerd and couldn't lie. That's just the way I see it.

Brent: You might be right. Um, so, I feel like we've had a pretty decent discussion. We have different, um...

Courtney: No one cried.

Brent: Correct.

Courtney: [claps]

Brent: Which I'm all about. Um, and y'know, if you—I will say this. Um, I won't speak for Courtney, but like, there are times with political discussions where I can be somewhat thin-skinned. So like, inevitably, some of you will want to discuss this with me. And because I can be a defensive little infant on Twitter, I would only say that... I want to hear from you. Um, if you can help me understand things.

But unfortunately, I cannot fully escape this body and this brain, so like, if you—if you want to help me understand something, awesome. If you want to tell me I'm a fuckhead, well... like, I will mute you. I really want to have a conversation with all of you.

Courtney: Say F-head. Be nice.

Brent: Sorry. Sorry.

Courtney: I'm saying it to the people.

Brent: Yes. Oh, right.

Courtney: But and I said this recently on Twitter too, and I really think it was important. It was after we had that last little tatta-tat. Um, Brent and I are friends. Brent and I are very close, very good friends who understand each other, and this is, y'know, for both of us... identity politics is a thing, because literally, your identity is tied up in the politics that you most passionately believe in.

Brent: Yeah.

Courtney: So this is always going to be a... y'know, a passionate discussion.

Brent: Right. And I feel like this story—

Courtney: And we had to learn how to have it. [laughs] That's the biggest thing.

Brent: Yes. And I think this story actually like, broke a lot of ground, because what I realized... I was like, distraught about this story. And we didn't talk about it for about, I don't know, 24 hours. But during that time, I was like, I cannot imagine a story that is more perfectly the fulcrum between the places Courtney and I see things differently.

`Cause like, we talk about a bunch of stuff on this show. If I liked a movie and you didn't, usually it's fine. This is one of those things. And I think it's `cause we both care deeply about our way into situations like this.

Um, but yeah. So like, let's keep the conversation going. Always. Just like, y'know, you get out of me what you put in in a Twitter conversation, and uh, so... y'know, if you want to help me understand, uh, I'd love that. Anywho.

Courtney: And what I would say to everyone is... like, it's—it's the drum I will bang for the rest of time. Listen. Just listen to other people. If someone says, like, this is how this makes me feel, or this is my experience... you can't debate or argue someone's lived experience. So just listen. Let people tell you, like, their stories, why they feel a certain way... 'cause it's all fair. It's all real. It's all valid.

Um, snake emojis aren't. They're not. They're dumb. That's a dumb thing to do.

Brent: Well...

Courtney: But yeah.

Brent: So I think we've covered kind of both of our viewpoints on what we think happened, and why. At this point, let's talk about what we think will happen next.

Courtney: Uh, I'm a negative Nancy, and I think she'll either lose, or if she gets the nomination, we'll never hear the fuckin' end of it how she only got it by fucking over Bernie. It'll be 2016 for the rest of our lives like a broken Groundhog Day, and I'm tired.

Brent: This is off copy, but I feel like... the saddest part of this race, and I'm not trying to make an equivalency between men and women, as if they have the same experience. But I can't think of a candidate who will escape some kind of 'we'll never hear the end of.' Like, if Biden wins, good lord.

Courtney: Good lord. I have multiple time—

Brent: And if Bernie wins, y'know, he'll in some ways never hear the end of X, Y, and Z. But you're right, there is going to be a specific kind of thing

that'll happen if, uh, Warren wins the nomination. And maybe even, oh god, if Biden wins it and people kind of like... try to make her the Yoko.

Courtney: She lost it for us. Yeah.

Brent: Which... I have some thoughts about that. I'm a little more optimistic. I think there are a lot of reasons Warren's a better candidate for leftists and progressives than Hillary Clinton was. Um, and that's just a matter of policy.

And to be real, I think she's running a better campaign. But there are absolutely some shitheads and assholes who are just Bernie or bust. I think we're gonna see less of that this time, because more people have seen Trump's true colors, and would vote for a can of soup if it would get him out of office.

And the people behind the #NeverWarren hash tag and the snakes... I want to believe they were mostly bots. I don't know, and I feel like people, y'know, from your perspective, you're someone who gets a certain kind of hate and bullshit in your notifications that I typically don't. So like, that's just me looking from my little peephole into the world. I want them to be mostly bots. I have no idea.

Courtney: No, they're not. [laughs]

Brent: But I want to believe, at least, that they're in the minority of people that would potentially vote for Bernie, and I'm sure plenty of them, um... would eventually come along and vote for Warren, or even Biden, Buttigieg, Klobuchar, to beat Trump.

That being said, this doesn't seem to have actually given much of a boost to Warren, whereas Bernie had a massive fundraising spike since the debate. That's kind of a thing you pointed out early on that like, this doesn't ultimately help her.

Courtney: It only fuckin' proves my point. [laughs]

Brent: I mean, I—y'know, at worst, it seems like it could've been a desperate ploy by her campaign. But to your point that it probably wasn't is, they also might've seen coming the fact that this wouldn't be good for her in the end. I don't know. I can't read their minds.

Courtney: Yeah, it never is. It literally never is.

Brent: That being said, the mainstream... not the Twitter bubble and the leftist bubble... the mainstream, uh, is running with the idea that—in some corners, that Sanders is just unfortunately a misogynist. Oh, it's too bad. So we could see a scenario where Sanders and Warren cannibalize each other and hand the nomination to Biden.

I don't see it going to Buttigieg or Klobuchar. Like, miracles happen, but I don't see that happening. I think it's a three way race right now. Um, but we'll see. It's kind of a tossup.

Courtney: And I really hope you're right, but this stuff... y'know, it breaks me. I've been very open about that, that this is emotional to me. I've very sadly seen other women mock other women for saying this, but it genuinely is triggering, this idea of, he says he didn't do this, so she's lying. That's massively upsetting at a very deep place. Everything I've said about how women know well enough what happens when we complain? That hits a place for me of all the things I've not stood up for, not called assault or abuse, because who would believe me, and what do I have to gain from it? I only have things to lose.

Brent: And I cannot invalidate that experience, no matter what facts I could bring to the table.

Courtney: No, I think the best note for both of us to end on is, it comes courtesy of Ilhan Omar, who, of course, is a Bernie Sanders supporter, and part of the squad with, y'know, other Bernie Sanders supporter, and at least one Elizabeth Warren supporter.

“Trump wants progressives pitted against each other. Corporate media wants progressives pitted against each other. Billionaires want progressives

pitted against each other. Pitting progressives against each other weeks before the Iowa caucus hurts all of us. Let's not give Trump an arsenal of attacks to use against us. Bernie Sanders is not a sexist, Elizabeth Warren is not a snake. Let's stay focused on the task ahead – defeating Donald Trump in November, and fighting for the America we deserve.”

Brent: Well said.

Courtney: I didn't say it. She said it. But yeah.

Brent: That's what I meant.

Courtney: You go, Ilhan! We love you.

[theme music plays]

Brent: So, that was political, but we also have, uh... y'know what, I was gonna say a Politics Roundup. It's basically, if I'm not mistaken, we're just doing an impeachment update real quick.

Courtney: It's "Trump tried to kill a lady" roundup.

Brent: Yeah. Yeah. It starts with impeachment, but then it goes much deeper. So we've been talking about impeachment for months. Finally this week, it's moving to the Senate, after House Democrats led by Nancy Pelosi finally sent articles to the Senate.

And real quick, she did so in a way that was kind of weird. Kind of over-ceremonial, like, signing with all these different pens and handing them out... I don't know. The Democratic establishment is on, obviously, the better side of the US political spectrum, but I just don't understand why they do what they do sometimes.

Anyway, unfortunately, due to the timing of when we record this show, we don't really have much to report about the Senate impeachment trial itself. I mean, the chief justice was sworn in just an hour or two before we went to record, so we're gonna have to give you the infos on that next week.

However, we do have some bombshell news about Trump's Ukraine scandal. While House Democrats do act strangely at times, they did release incredible new documents about Rudy Giuliani, including his two goons whose names, as you know, are literally Lev and Igor. If the name Rocker determines your life journey, I think Igor probably does a little bit of that, too. Let's be real.

So anyway, it's established at this point that these guys were working for Trump, and they told people they were given a special assignment for the president, which they thought of as a James Bond type thing. In fact, I feel like one of them was quoted as saying that.

Anyway, one thing that the House released was a set of handwritten notes by Lev Parnas on hotel stationery about the plan to get Ukraine president, Zelensky, to announce that the supposed Biden case would be investigated. How clear was it? Well, the verbatim text is, "Get Zelensky to announce that the Biden case will be investigated." Then it says, "Do my magic," and, "Cut a deal." So it's pretty open and shut on a big piece of this whole story.

But much more scary were text messages between Lev Parnas and another man named Robert Hyde, who's a Trump supporter. He ran for Congress. He also owns a landscaping business in Connecticut. It seems that Hyde, just like Parnas, has posed for multiple photos with the president. I mention that because I want you to know, they've definitely met.

Hyde was working with Parnas to track the whereabouts of the then-ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, who some of you may have seen in impeachment hearings from the House. Here's a string of texts from Robert Hyde to Lev Parnas.

"What should I do with this? They are moving her tomorrow. The guys over there asked me what I would like to do, and what is in it for them." Typo, there.

Then, later, after more texts about the ambassador's whereabouts, Hyde writes, "That address I sent you checks out. It's next to the Embassy. They are willing to help if we/you would like a price. Guess you can do anything in

the Ukraine with money, what I was told." To which Parnas responded, "LOL."

And the part that makes it real clear, if it wasn't already... "My contacts are asking what is the next step, because they cannot keep going to check. People will start to ask questions. If you want her out, they need to make contact with security forces."

So like... these guys who were working for Trump, through America's mayor, Rudolph Giuliani... swear to god, I still just—it's so weird that he is involved in all this in the way that he is, based on who he was in our childhoods. But um... they were hired to like, track and kill the US ambassador to Ukraine. And it looks like, at one point, there were texts saying something along the lines of, "Oh, are we cancelled? Are they calling it off?" That kind of thing.

The phone call that led to the whistleblower complaint happened in July of 2019, whereas these texts were sent in March, and Yovanovitch was fired in May. And there are plenty of other damning documents in what the House released. The question is, will it have any teeth?

I talked recently to a friend of mine in Texas who brought up the term 'fake news,' and I thought a lot about the fact that a good amount of the mainstream media news is spin. Does have at least implications that are essentially fake. And that mainstream media dangles shiny things that feel juicy and they get eyeballs, but they're hiding more substantive things happening in the background.

And yes, y'know what? They do go after Trump for everything. Even though the man is shit in a suit, the mainstream media goes after everything large and small, if you don't count the times he's pro-war, in which they sometimes call him presidential.

Meanwhile, whenever I read something anti-Bernie in the mainstream, y'know what I think? I think fake news. Like, I think, of course this is anti-Bernie. The media will do anything it can to bring him down. And like, while obviously, Trump is genuinely a monster, and in my estimation, Bernie is not... I think you've got this huge swath of people, even more than just

Trump's base who might look at the evidence and go, "Well, how do we know it's real? How do we know Lev Parnas didn't make this up to get out of hot water?" Or they just won't even look at the documents.

Um, and... I want the American people, broadly speaking, to understand this Ukraine thing as well as the ten counts of obstruction of justice from the Mueller report, and like, all the other plainly criminal things Trump has done before and after assuming office. But I don't know if they will.

Y'know, I don't know if it'll even move the needle in the Senate impeachment trial, especially since Mitch McConnell's in charge of that. I want to say maybe it will... but I—I don't know, y'all. I don't know.

Courtney: [exhausted sigh]

Brent: Um, with that being said—

Courtney: That's honestly all I have left to say on this. [laughs]

Brent: [laughs] Fair. I think that is a capital M mood. Uh, we're skipping Tidbits this week, and I'm going to just... Mustin, I'm keeping it on the record, just like my other show. We're movin' forward. Movin' onto the Wi-Five right now.

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

[Wi-Five slap]

Brent: So, start off the story, I'd like to tell you about the year 2016 for me. As longtime listeners may have guessed at the time, I was like, not exactly homeless in the way that word is normally used, but... um, almost all my stuff was in storage, I lived with my parents for a few months, I bounced around North America, including staying with our audio editor, Mustin. Thanks, bud. And crashing at AirBnBs or with friends in New York and Toronto.

I had hit financial and mental health rock bottom, and that lifestyle was a solution to a problem that ultimately got solved by the party game that I made. But the reason I bring this up is because, for the better part of a year, I had no permanent address. This messed with voting, banking, mail, all other kinds of things, because so many institutions, including the government, assume that you have a permanent address.

And the people affected by this don't necessarily have a housing problem. Performers can go on tour for long stretches. Never be in the same place for very long. And the consequences of not having a permanent address can range from annoying to crippling, depending on what you're trying to do.

Well, HSBCUK is a bank that's working with a UK charity called Shelter that helps people struggling with bad housing or the lack of it, and they've launched a new type of bank account called the no fixed address service. And in selected branches – this is in the UK, by the way – in selected branches, people without ID or a fixed address can still open a bank account, which means they can also receive wages, claim benefits, and in general, just get their independence back.

It's a small step, but for the people it'll help, it's huge. So to HSBC bank and the Shelter charity in the UK, Wi-Five.

[music plays]

Renee: Hi! I'm Renee Colvert.

Alexis: I'm Alexis Preston!

Renee: And we're the hosts of the smash hit podcast, Can I Pet Your Dog? Now, Alexis.

Alexis: Yes.

Renee: We got big news.

Alexis: Uh oh.

Renee: Since last we did a promo, our dogs have become famous.

Alexis: World famous.

Renee: World, like...

Alexis: Stars on the Hollywood walk of fame.

Renee: Second big news.

Alexis: Mm-hmm?

Renee: The reviews are in.

Alexis: Mm-hmm?

Renee: Take yourself to Apple Podcasts. You know what you're gonna hear? We're happy.

Alexis: It's true!

Renee: We're a delight. A great distraction from the world.

Alexis: I like that part a lot.

Renee: So if that's what you guys are looking for, you gotta check out our show. But what else can they expect?

Alexis: We've got dog tech, dog news, celebrities with their dogs, all dog things!

Renee: All the dog things. So if that interests you... well, get yourself on over to Maximum Fun, every Tuesday.

[music plays]

Jesse: Hey gang! Jesse here, the founder of Maximum Fun, and with me is Stacey Molski, who is, among other things, the lady who responds to all of your tweets.

Stacey: Hi everyone! I also send you newsletters.

Jesse: Uh, so anyway, something really awesome. You, Max Fun listeners, have given us the chance to do something really cool on behalf of our entire community, and we wanted to tell you about it.

Stacey: Last summer, following the MaxFunDrive, we put all of the enamel pins on sale to \$10 and up members, with proceeds going to the The National CASA/GAL Association for Children.

Jesse: Your generous support and enthusiasm raised over \$100,000. Our bookkeeper staff would be quick to tell me exact total is \$109,025, to be exact.

Stacey: Your money will go toward pairing kids who've experienced abuse or neglect with court-appointed advocates, or Guardian ad Litem volunteers.

Jesse: In other words, kids in tough spots will have somebody in their corner. Knowledgeable grown-ups who are on their team through court dates and life upheavals and confusing situations. Whatever.

Stacey: The money we raised together is going to help a lot of kids.

Jesse: Whether you bought pins or not, you can help us build on that \$109,000 foundation. Make a donation to support The National CASA/GAL, and help some of our nation's most vulnerable children at MaximumFun.org/CASA. That's MaximumFun.org/CASA.

Stacey: And seriously – thank you. Our community rules.

[music ends]

Brent: Well, that's gonna do it for another episode of Trends Like These. Um, let's see... It would be great if y'all would give us a good review and a rating on whatever podcast platform you prefer. Um, and there are so many other awesome Maximum Fun shows in the network. You can see—well, you probably shouldn't try to see more of them, since they're like, an internet

radio thing, but you can try. You can see the website, which is MaximumFun.org.

And aside from that, our theme song, which was composed by me, is a ringtone. If you want to get it on your iPhone, you can go to the iTunes app on your iPhone. And otherwise, you can get the mp3 at BrentalFloss.Bandcamp.com. Can't miss it. It's in the grid of tunes, and you can just download it that way.

Courtney: So I will be doing an AMA on the Trends Like These Facebook group next week, Wednesday, January 22nd at seven Central, eight Eastern. I believe it's called the Trends Like These Fan Group?

Brent: Yes.

Courtney: And you have to join it. You have to join it. Like, we're not just lettin' in any old riff raff. But if you join, you can totally participate, and I hope that people have good questions for me, and not like, y'know... ask me about my feet or anything.

Brent: I know my man Ben Louis and other moderators who are awesome will definitely—

Courtney: They have—they have let me know that they will step on anyone who asks about my feet. But now I think I've triggered something in other people, where they're gonna ask me to step on things. Look, I don't know what happens on the internet!

Brent: [laughs]

Courtney: More like internet!

Brent: [laughing] Um... am I cutting you off, or were you good?

Courtney: No, I don't—y'know what, just like—it's the same shit I say every week. Whatev.

Brent: So, uh, I made a party game called Use Your Words. You can find more about that at UseYourWords.lol. But I want to tell you about my podcast, Question Box, that I do with Kate Sloane, who some of you have heard on this show as a guest host when Travis and Courtney have been out of town. And yeah, it's the game show podcast of shockingly personal questions.

Y'all know that I'm kind of a TMI guy, but that doesn't always work when we're talking about the news, 'cause it's not about me! But, it's a show that kind of goes there, and our guests have included such illustrious human beings as Courtney Enlow, Travis McElroy, Dave Bulmer, but also cool people like author Lane Moore, voice actor Sung Won Cho, um... all kinds of sex educators. Uh, it gets really interesting, and everybody basically admits something they've never said publically, or sometimes, to anyone.

So you can check that out on your favorite podcast platform. It's called Question Box, and I hope you'll check it out.

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

Courtney: I just want to know what's in that fucking sandwich!

Brent: God, me too!

Courtney: [groans angrily]

Brent: See you next time.

[theme music plays]

Brent: We—that was a long intro, but I feel like it's 'cause we're both just like, putting off...

Courtney: [laughing] Yeah, I know!

Brent: Doing the actual show. [laughing]

Courtney: [laughing] Like, but I don't want to do the show!

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