

**Trends Like These 242: Warren Releases Healthcare Plan, Fake Bridezilla Dramatic Reading, Richard Spencer's True Form, Trump Owes \$2M for Sham Charity, Jeffrey Epstein Autopsy Findings, Massive Airbnb Scam, Trump Jr. is Still a Jerk**

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**Brent:** This week: McDonald's CEO gets canned, Elizabeth Warren's brand new plan, and Popeye's we stan.

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

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

**Courtney:** And I'm going to need an extra week off life!

**Brent:** With Trends Like These.

**Brent:** Hello, Courtney.

**Courtney:** Hello, Brent!

**Brent:** We are doing a show... get this, get this. And I can't stress this enough... about trending news!

**Courtney:** What? [laughs] Oh my god.

**Brent:** I know! Which timeline did we end up in?

**Courtney:** It'll never catch on.

**Brent:** Well, we'll give it a college try.

**Courtney:** Yeah.

**Brent:** Um... welcome to Trends Like These, real life friends talking internet trends. It's what we do. This week is a Courtney and Brent twofer. A two-hander, as you might say in the theater.

**Courtney:** And y'know what? I actually—this episode is where we are going to introduce the Courtney and Brent theatrical players.

**Brent:** Yes. Courtney and Brent repertory theater.

**Courtney:** Yes. It's going to be a thing of beauty and joy forever.

**Brent:** Well, at least your part. We'll see.

**Courtney:** [sings] Forevrrrr...

**Brent:** I'll dust off my acting skills. Um...

**Courtney:** Hey, Brent. Really important question. And I already know the answer, but it's basically like a pretend question to like, get us into like, a fun conversation.

**Brent:** Great.

**Courtney:** Are you one of those people for whom it's like, it's November now. It's Christmas!

**Brent:** Um, I mean, yeahhh. I have hang ups about Christmas... but I also love Christmas lights. So... yeee—I mean, like, I don't—you know me. I roll my eyes at the concept of American holidays, and I'm always like, "We should have a different one to celebrate a thing that nobody celebrates but me!" But um... yeeaaaah? What about you?

**Courtney:** [whispers] Brent, I love Christmas.

**Brent:** Ah, shocker. [laughs]

**Courtney:** [inhales deeply] I so, like—I am that person where it's like... oh, the Halloween costumes are off? It is Christmas. 'Tis Christmas time.

**Brent:** Mariah Carey rising from the coffin.

**Courtney:** Oh my gosh, yes.

**Brent:** I guess it's not a coffin. It's a bed in that one memey thing. I'm not trying to say she's dead. But uh...

**Courtney:** She can never die. She is with us forever.

**Brent:** Yeah, I gotta say, I feel like I'm struggling to think of a Christmas song... let me zoom out and say, I think All I Want For Christmas, the Mariah Carey version, is on the shelf with like, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, Santa Baby, it's like a perennial Christmas classic.

**Courtney:** Hundred percent.

**Brent:** Have we – and you're the pop culture expert between the two of us – have we had a song that has been such an essential Christmas song in the canon since All I Want For Christmas is You, which got popular, I think, reached its height of popularity around Love Actually time? Early 2000s?

**Courtney:** Well, I think that it was already a perfect, incredible classic.

**Brent:** It came out before that, but I think that was like, what gave it the—

**Courtney:** Yes. And then, Love Actually basically just made a whole movie about how good this damn song is.

**Brent:** [laughs] Yeah.

**Courtney:** Y'know, respect. Uh, but yeah, no. I feel like that is the most recent Christmas standard that we have in this world, and I'm fine with it.

**Brent:** Is it your favorite Christmas standard?

**Courtney:** It is up there. It is up there. I do have like an actual, like, breakdown. It is my favorite Christmas—

**Brent:** Well, hit me with just some like, basic like, gut reaction, like, rapid fire.

**Courtney:** Oh, okay. My number one favorite Christmas song is Baby, Please Come Home, the U2 version.

**Brent:** Interesting. Go on.

**Courtney:** Yes. But I have like—it's kind of like, um, it's one of those, like... like, Hallelujah, I have like, a million versions of it. Where it's like, anyone does a cover, it's like, I have this version. Yes. I just have a million of them. I really love, um, the Barenaked Ladies, Sarah McLaughlin version of God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman.

**Brent:** Wow, that is a specific cut.

**Courtney:** I am a specific lady.

**Brent:** [laughs] Um...

**Courtney:** I am specific! But I have a whole playlist of like, all my Christmas jams. I busted it out last night. It was a great time. Just a goddamn holiday wonderland.

**Brent:** Couple thoughts from me. My Chemical Romance has a cover of Mariah Carey's All I Want For Christmas is You, and it's hilariously screamy. I think my favorite is probably I Wish it Could be Christmas Every Day by Wizard, a UK glam band. Um, great tune. Uh, I like, um... Please Come Home for Christmas, the Eagles version of that. Though, there is a line in it where he says, uh, "My baby's gone, I have no friends," and I'm like, well, that's your problem.

**Courtney:** [laughs] That's not on us.

**Brent:** That's your issue, Eagles.

**Courtney:** That is not our deal.

**Brent:** And then, and then like, the other All I Want For Christmas is You, an entirely different song by Vince Vance and the Valiants.

**Courtney:** I love that one. Yes.

**Brent:** Mm-hmm.

**Courtney:** I used to—like, in the days of uh, where my preferred musical streaming service was Pandora, every year, I would do a different Christmas playlist. And no matter what I did, I would do some like, thumbs up, thumbs down situation where I would end up, no matter what, the only thing it would play me would be Eagles Christmas music. And I was like, what have I done?! What did I do?

**Brent:** [laughs] My um, my girlfriend has this thing she calls BTP, 'cause she tries to make every goofy thing in her life sound cool, and it's Blues Traveler Pandora. Pretty solid station. But there's this random Alicia Keys song that is not in the galaxy of Blues Traveler that's always just included for some reason. And like, no shade the Alicia Keys, but like, that's... incongruous. But hello and welcome.

Um, so—

**Courtney:** I will—okay. I give a lot of shit to Michael Buble, as does everyone, rightfully so, for making like, the very heteronormative Santa Baby version. Where he's like, "Santa pally..." Like, we get it. You're not gay for Santa. Be cool. Chill out.

But if we were going to have like a new Christmas classic, I would put in a real vote for his song, Cold December Night. That is a legit Christmas banger, and I love it a lot. So if you can get past the whole like, "Santa

buddy... don't kiss me under the mistletoe, because I'm not gay! No homo!" But yeah, other than that, like, that song's really good.

**Brent:** [laughs] Michael Buble. First time I became familiar with him, I was watching a commercial that I was sure was Frank Sinatra in the background. But then it showed him lip syncing the words, and I was like, odd casting choice, but whatever. [laughs] I had no idea it was him singing. Um, anyway, okay. What are you drinking? That's a thing we do on the show.

**Courtney:** I'm having a beer night. I'm doing a Goose Island IPA.

**Brent:** Lovely.

**Courtney:** Yeah, 'cause my friend and I are going to—we're going to go see Last Christmas. That's another—that's another wonderful Christmas song that I love all versions of. The band Travis has a really good cover of it. Um, but we uh, we sneak in secret beers to movies like monsters.

**Brent:** Nice.

**Courtney:** So we're gonna go see Last Christmas.

**Brent:** It's a victimless crime.

**Courtney:** Which I'm so excited for! I'm so excited for this movie! I don't care that it's been spoiled by the internet. It was spoiled for me when I saw the trailer and figured out exactly what this movie was about. And it's fine. I'm so excited.

**Brent:** Well... I hope you don't feel the need—

**Courtney:** I'm not gonna spoil it for the people, though.

**Brent:** Okay. Okay.

**Courtney:** 'Cause they don't need to know.

**Brent:** No.

**Courtney:** If they haven't figured it out from the trailer, and they haven't been spoiled by the reviews or anything, like, I want them to figure out this magical journey for themselves. But I'm about to go in, drink some secret beers, and watch my very good Christmas rom com, and I'm so excited.

**Brent:** Well, I really hope it stuffs your stocking. Um, so, I'm drinking—

**Courtney:** Henry Golding can stuff my stocking, and so can Amelia Clark for that matter. Everyone in this movie can stuff my stocking.

**Brent:** [laughs] Mazel tov.

**Courtney:** What are you drinking, baby cakes?

**Brent:** I am back on my bullshit with... [can opens] A Polar Seltzer brand orange vanilla seltzer.

**Courtney:** Oh, we missed you so, you creamsicle son of a bitch.

**Brent:** Yes, I did not get the 96 pack this time, as I did in a ridiculously money-saving move about a year ago.

**Courtney:** [laughing] We are all very glad to not spend the next like, four months of our life hearing like, "Well, today I'm drinking an orange vanilla nonsense beverage."

**Brent:** This time, out of a glass harmonica! Uh, anyway. So, yeah, no, it's good. I have a pretty good rotation of seltz' goin' on right now, but this is... this is just like... I'm beside myseltz.

**Courtney:** Oh my god.

**Brent:** Yep.

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** Alright folks, there are so many stories this week, and it's just Courtney and I on the show, and we talked about it on our Slack, and we were like, y'know what? Instead of breaking it up into Beyond the Headlines and Politics Roundup, let's just do what we call... a Tidblast! [echoes]

**Courtney:** Tidblast! [echoes] Pew pew pew pew pew!

**Brent:** Which is a blast of Tidbits, for those of you listening for the first time and not knowing what the fuck we're saying.

**Courtney:** It's where we blast our tids all over the place.

**Brent:** It's true. Ow, my eye. Uh, so, okay. It's Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> as we record this. We started around six PM eastern time, just so you're aware of how much we know, in case a lot happens between now and tomorrow, or whenever you hear this. Now, there are headlines that we put in the doc that we share that are not fully fleshed out, but I feel like we can kind of wing some of them. Courtney, are you down for that?

**Courtney:** I'm down to wing it. Speaking of wings...

**Brent:** Uh-huh, take it away. Great segue.

**Courtney:** Speaking of wings... chicken... the Popeye's chicken sandwich is baaack!

**Brent:** Yes. I had planned to do some research by eating one... and then I didn't.

**Courtney:** I... did. So I went to—[laughs] Not only did I sit in line for like a half an hour, I went to two Popeye's. [laughing]

**Brent:** Wow.



**Courtney:** Because the first Popeye's that I went to, like, the line... the line is not, um... basically if the line gets long enough, it kind of backs out into a very busy street. And I was like, no, I'm going to the other Popeye's that is more conducive to long lines. So um, I waited in line for like 30 minutes, which was pretty decent. It was straight up at like, eleven o'clock exactly. My children were patient, question mark? Julian was like, "Mom, this is taking forever." I was like, "I don't care."

**Brent:** [laughs] Well... I mean, when I tried—when it first came out, when I like, just walked by a Popeye's in Philly, I was like, "Oh, y'know, it's about lunch time. I've heard this thing is a big deal." And the place just looked like there was a rollercoaster. A Six Flags rollercoaster behind the counter that everybody was just waiting to get on.

And then that bread thing. That was one of the weirdest things I ever heard, that they were like, "Look, we still got the stuff that goes in the sandwich. Bring your own bread." Like, what? I don't know. I just don't understand how the world of... I worked in fast food in college, but I just didn't understand, I guess, the supply chain of buns. But like... those must've been pretty popular.

**Courtney:** Well, what's wild, too, they used to have spicy chicken po' boys that was basically just this. Just on like, a different bun.

**Brent:** So is it the bun that makes it?

**Courtney:** Yeah, they no longer have the po' boys, so like, this is literally just... it's just different branding, I think. It's the same thing.

**Brent:** I mean, it's just one of those things, y'know?

**Courtney:** But it is delicious. It is like, legit delicious. I was worried—I was worried that like, memory would've like, built this thing up, and it was not gonna be as good. No, it was just as good as I remember it. It was delicious.

**Brent:** Okay, so you didn't have to go all Grizzabella and sing a song about it in the moonlight?

**Courtney:** Not yet.

**Brent:** Okay.

**Courtney:** But if they run out of bread again, I'm gonna be like, "Okay, hey. A, what the fuck?"

**Brent:** I cannot wait to talk about that movie on this show when it comes out, but we're not there yet. Okay. [clears throat]

**Courtney:** Real talk, can we do an entire episode that's just the Cats?

**Brent:** Love it. Yes. Done.

**Courtney:** Especially if it's like a really bad like, Trump week that like, we just can't. Like, it's just gonna be Cats.

**Brent:** I love that.

**Courtney:** Cats Like These.

**Brent:** Um, so, real quick, uh, McDonald's in Portugal did a really dumb thing. Um, it makes me wonder how much people are paying attention to history, which... I don't always, so who knows. But here's what I'm saying. Um, McDonald's Portugal had like, Halloween themed sundaes with like, I think it was like, red strawberry blood-looking syrup. Like, okay. Okay, so far so good. Spooky sundae.

Well... on an ad, they wrote, "Sundae Bloody Sundae," with like, an E instead of a Y. And the problem is, that refers to a U2 song, which itself, refers to like, essentially a small atrocity that is a blight on the history of Ireland. That's part of the troubles. I don't know much about it, but like, y'know, the British opened fire on Irish protesters, killing over a dozen of them. Not something that you necessarily want to like, parody with a Halloween ice cream dessert. McDonald's apologized.

**Courtney:** Did they think it was just a good U2 song?

**Brent:** Turns out, it's even more. Um, and did you hear about this third one in the fast food threefer, Courtney?

**Courtney:** I—yes.

**Brent:** I don't know much about it, but we may as well just touch on it.

**Courtney:** I... [laughing] I heard about it, because, okay. So, basically, the CEO of McDonald's was fired due to a "consensual affair." Now, that is not why I saw the story trending. The story was trending because the piece had two photos. One of the CEO with Ronald McDonald, and one of the CEO with Chrissy Teigen. [laughs]

**Brent:** [laughs] Neither of them being the object of the affair, I suppose.

**Courtney:** Chrissy Teigen posted the image on Instagram and said, "I will be hosting a press conference in the morning," basically.

**Brent:** [laughs] Yeah. I mean, I don't know much about it. I guess it was a consensual affair with an employee. Um, that's not cool. Other than that, I don't know.

**Courtney:** Yeah, that's the thing.

**Brent:** Um, and I just thought three little mini headlines about fast food just felt thematic. And I will say, first off, I've had kind of a vaguely cranky day, and I know for sure I've written some angry copy. But there is sort of a through line to this show that is not fast food, and I'm gonna call on the powers of Courtney's good sense of humor and quick brain to uh, keep it fun in between my cranks.

Okay. So, let's jump into it. Richard Spencer. He is the Nazi who got punched, and then liberals, and even I initially were like, "Hey, we don't hit people! That's not a precedent we want to set!" I came around. But anyway.

Milo Yiannopoulos of all people recently leaked audio of Spencer in the immediate aftermath of the 2017 Charlottesville Unite the Right rally, ostensibly in response to protests and the murder of activist, Heather Heyer. The audio speaks for itself, but to be clear, there are a number of racist and anti-Semitic slurs in this audio, so if you don't want to hear that, skip ahead about one minute.

**Richard Spencer:** [yelling angrily] We are coming back here like a fucking hundred times! I am so mad! I am so fucking mad at these people! You don't do this to fucking me! We are gonna fucking ritualistically humiliate them! I am coming back here every fucking weekend if I have to! Like, this is never over! I win! They fucking lose! That's how the world fucking works! They're all fucking kikes! They get ruled by people like me! Little fucking octaroons! I fucking—my ancestors fucking enslaved those pieces of fucking shit! I rule the fucking world! Those pieces of shit get ruled by people like me! They look up and see a face like mine looking down at them! That's how the fucking world works! We are gonna destroy this fucking town!

**Brent:** Yeah, so... wow. Sometimes, somebody just shows you exactly who they are. I mean, this guy was covered years ago by various publications as like, "the dapper young face of white nationalism." Like, almost in a way that threatened to kind of normalize this sort of thing. Um, and Spencer and people like him love to be kind of mysterious and slippery and pretend they're not monsters, and instead, that they just want to like, protect their culture and possibly have their own geographical space in which to live apart from others.

Uh, I lived in... this is inconsequential to the story, but when I lived in Canada, that was around the time he was in the news. And I just tried to like, listen to some of his speeches. But the speeches he would give publically, I would find myself going, "Well, I agree with a lot of the basic things he's saying. Is he that bad, aside from talking about other stuff? Is he holistically bad?" Because the front facing brand of this guy doesn't want to be the ugly, terrible, racist monster part. And that's how they kind of get you.

This is all tied to like, uh, alt right radicalization, and all kinds of shit like that. Um, by the way, Courtney and I discussed, not on the air, uh... there

was a word that we'd never heard that I had to look up. And I don't think that it is so... I hope it is not so offensive that I can't just say it. It's a silly word, to me. It's "octaroons," which is apparently a dated term meaning someone who is one eighth black. But if you think about—

**Courtney:** There's a lot of like, race words that um, are very old-timey that I think... I would imagine a lot of people probably haven't heard before. And I remember, um, I'm not gonna say what the word was, but I remember hearing that there was a word Sarah Palin referred to Obama as being. And I'd never heard this word, and it's like, it just speaks to like, how much, um, like, racism really does travel through generations that these fuckin' old ass words still exist.

**Brent:** Right. Well, at one point, she said he was—yes. At one point, she said he was "shuckin' and jivin'," which might not be what you're referring to, but like—

**Courtney:** It's not, but it's... I mean, it's of that... general... bullshit.

**Brent:** Yeah. And if you think about the etymology, what "octaroons" is talking about, it really shows you the value of purity of whiteness in the culture that Richard Spencer is a part of, and I guess would um, promote and proselytize, or clearly, he wants to spread it. Feels – and he said this publically – feels like the president is making it easier for him and people like that.

Um, but this is just the heart of white supremacy laid bare, and I feel like it's been hard for me... I mean, look. [scoffs] It's been a journey for me to understand all the ways in which I have it good, and all the ways in which people who do not look like me have a harder time systemically, and how I can unfortunately perpetuate that if I'm not very careful.

And so, I've tried sometimes... like, I remember I had a conversation with a guy I knew, in a room of us that were all white, and he made kind of a vague, but like, not cool comment about black people. And I called him on it, and he was like, "Look dude, if they're not around, it doesn't hurt anybody."

**Courtney:** The fuuuck.

**Brent:** And I remember being like, yes it does, because it makes it okay. I'm not trying to like, pat myself on the back and preach to the choir here. What I'm saying is that, what this shows is like, the stuff that is made more okay by little comments and little jokes and little acknowledgements, and not an attempt to push back against the status quo and make things better than they are for more people.

What do you think?

**Courtney:** [sighs] Nazis should be punched.

**Brent:** Yeah, I'm okay with it.

**Courtney:** Punch early, punch often, punch all the Nazis. Every time.

**Brent:** Punch, rinse, repeat.

**Courtney:** Never not be punching. It's like that line in Glengarry Glen Ross, always be punching.

**Brent:** ABP. Always be punching. [laughs]

**Courtney:** Yeah.

**Brent:** Um, in the doc, I have one, but I think I should make that one after your next one, which is also something I'm gonna help you with, and then I'll copy-paste it to afterwards. I've done it! I've done it in real time! It's on the show!

**Courtney:** You did the thing! The people know!

**Brent:** I did it! Wow, that rhymed. That was great.

**Courtney:** This week, a series of purported Facebook posts from a greedy bridezilla hit our various timelines, and immediately, we were enraptured. Of course, nothing gold can stay, and the detectives of Reddit quickly discovered the posts were fake, designed to just drive traffic to a new website. You can read on BuzzFeed. BuzzFeed put together a lot of the Reddit stuff. They did some like, sourcing and all that stuff.

Honestly, we knew this had to be the case. We all have that exact moment when things get just a little too nonsensical, and they overplay their dramatic hand. So fuck that. Gross. Not even saying the name of their dumb site. That said, who are we to deprive the people? The posts are fake, but the joy... the joy was real.

**Brent:** Yes, and I would proffer, this is at the heart of trending news. The phenomenon that happened that we are going to bring to you in this form.

**Courtney:** I'm never gonna be mad about like, all of us coming together to just enjoy something.

**Brent:** Yeah.

**Courtney:** Like, I missed—I missed when the goats got out. Or the llamas got out. Whatever it was. It happened the same day as the dress. I missed it, 'cause I was at an OB/GYN appointment, 'cause I was very pregnant. So like, every time something like this happens, and I get to be part of it, I just like—I—life's short, y'know? Embrace the viral moments that you get to have.

**Brent:** Wow.

**Courtney:** And so... we present to you, for the first time ever, featuring Brent Black...

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** A dramatic reading. [clears throat]

[soft music plays]

**Courtney:** "Hi, invitees!" Okay, real quick aside, just right off the bat. 'Invitees' here has an accent over one of the Es, and that's not a—

**Brent:** "Invitaes."

**Courtney:** Yeah, "invitaes," and that's not a thing. You don't need to do that. "Hi, invitees to the blank blank wedding! After much reflection and tear-filled conversation with our closest family members, we have decided to cancel our upcoming winter wedding. We will further notify this group when we are in a better place to reschedule.

We thank each and every one of you for your generous early donations to our money fund. Can you believe we have raised over 30 thousand dollars? Unbelievable! Don't worry – the money you've donated will not be spent in vain, but rather used towards a honeymoon in the coming months. After we regain financial stability and hold calm in our hearts, after our honeymoon, we will announce a new wedding date and reopen our money fund for any further gifts. Weddings are expensive!

We are blessed to have generous family members who gave us these large donations. It will help offset honeymoon costs, and to scale an even better future wedding. We really couldn't have made it this far without you. Please, stay tuned. In the meantime, I'll be updating our gift fund registry on Amazon if anyone would like to gift us something to take on a honeymoon.

If you have any ideas on where we can go, please PM me or Edward. As mentioned, we will keep you updated when we are reopening our money fund and have a new wedding date in the works. Don't be too sad – the new wedding is gonna be a hit! Love you. – Pam."

**Brent:** [clears throat] Me, family member of groom... "Is this a fuckin' joke? After raking in 30k, you decide to be greedy and use it all for yourselves?"



**Courtney:** Me, bride's friend. "Pam, what did I tell you about day drinking? In all seriousness, is the wedding really cancelled? I've already gotten time off for December 1<sup>st</sup>, which is less than a month away."

**Brent:** It's me, bride's friend two. "Alright, step the fuck back. What?"

**Courtney:** It's me, the bride again. "All, please calm down. You're making me feel very attacked and ganged up on." It says 'hanged' up on, but I think she means ganged. "You chose to donate to me. If I want to use the money, who cares how? I told you the wedding is getting rescheduled, not cancelled."

**Brent:** It is I, unknown family member. "Please, give me a call when you can."

**Courtney:** Back to me, the bride. "Why am I calling anyone? I've told you in the nicest way possible that the wedding will be rescheduled at a later date. Don't you all have better things to do? Jesus. Crying laughing face."

**Brent:** Back to me, unknown family member, who is getting a bit more George Takei. [in a George Takei-esque voice] "No, I'm wondering what the hell is happening. Everything was fine, even yesterday, and now you're taking a huge sum of money and ditching. It doesn't seem right."

Oh, now I'm rich uncle. [in a strange British accent] "You aren't responding to my calls or texts, so I'm just going to tell you. You are to return more than..." Shit.

**Courtney:** [laughs]

**Brent:** I'm keeping it! Not editing it out. [in a strange British accent] "You are to return my more than generous 12 thousand dollar donation on behalf of the family in one week. If on 11/13/2019, I do not see the money in cash in my bank account..." [laughs] That's not how it works.

**Courtney:** Nope.

**Brent:** [laughs] Sorry. Ahem. [in a strange British accent] "I will be seeing you in court. This is unacceptable, and is a betrayal towards your family members."

**Courtney:** Tis I, the bride. "You're putting this on social media? Have some freaking class! No, it's my money now. You gave it to me. I'm going through a tough time, so now you want it back? That's not how donations work."

**Brent:** Me, rich uncle again. [in a strange British accent] "My donation was given under the fair assumption that you and Edward would be married on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and that my entire family would attend. We donated early and trusted you to respect that. You've broken your plans, and now we want our cash back. Now!"

**Courtney:** "Hey, hey, no reason to get all lawyery on me right now. Let's think about this. You will attend my wedding for sure, just on a different date. We'd like to use the money for various undisclosed personal purposes until then, alright?"

**Brent:** Rich uncle, me. [in a strange British accent] "That doesn't make me feel much better, Pam. I'll be waiting to get my money ASAP."

**Courtney:** Pamalamadingdong. "Look, what difference does it make if I use the money fund now versus later? If I was going to scam my family, don't you think I'd be more sneaky?"

**Brent:** Rich uncle again. [in a strange British accent] "I'd like my money back." Rich uncle yet again. "Sorry to make you do this." Am I the bridesmaid?

**Courtney:** You're the bridesmaid now.

**Brent:** Awesome. [clears throat]

**Courtney:** Always a bridesmaid, that Brent.

**Brent:** Never a bride, turns out. "Hey girly, I hope you're doing okay. I only gave \$200 so I don't care what you do with it, but just to be clear, this is really all I could afford, so please enjoy. To everyone else giving her ultimatums, could you please consider Pam's feelings here, and just know she isn't conning anyone. She just needs to reschedule."

**Courtney:** "Aww, thank you! I don't know why everyone's so upset at me! Could you help me try and to knock some sense into them? Girl, I'm so stressed out with this right now!"

**Brent:** "People care way too much about their money. If you were just rescheduling, they wouldn't be mad."

**Courtney:** "Exactly. It's all about the money. Greed takes the best of us sometimes."

**Brent:** "I'm so sorry this happened to you." Groom's friend. [clears throat] [in a southern accent] "I took a week off of work, donated a hundred dollars, and now you're telling me you're gonna use 30 thousand fuckin' dollars for a honeymoon before a wedding? Are you insane? I got your lump sum, and you say hasta la vista to your family and friends? 30k is financial stability and a couple of bags of crack! But after your grand honeymoon, you're gonna need a few months to regain "financial stability"? And then the cherry on the cake, you have the motherfucking Christ on a bike's audacity to request more gifts? Have I unknowingly digested any drugs, because this is insane!"

**Courtney:** "Lmao, you're funny. You have the wrong idea. Actually, as long as your gift left your bank account and into mine with your own consent, how is it any of your business how I actually spend that money? It's going to a pre-wedding honeymoon, and then to some of the extra we'll fund an even more extravagant wedding. So I wanted to cancel, but I really don't even need to tell you what I'm using it for now, did I?"

**Brent:** [in a southern accent] "Is this a joke, or a bunch of excuses? 'Cause I can't tell anymore."

Now it's me, grandmother of groom. "Please answer your phone."

**Courtney:** "Right now I can't. Edward and I have a lot to deal with right now."

**Brent:** Grandmother of groom. "It will take five minutes. Please answer it now."

**Courtney:** "Read my update!"

**Brent:** Now I'm a snitch, probably. "You're trending on Reddit. Alright, who's the snitch?" Some guy. "Holy shit." Some family member. "Knew we'd get on the news somehow! Italian pride!"

**Courtney:** Honestly, I was starting to flag and think like, oh, this is fake. It's the Italian pride that I was like, "Oh, y'know what? This would be my people."

**Brent:** [laughs]

**Courtney:** "Everyone, I am here to address each and every one of you. I will not be accepting calls or applying to texts or emails. Edward and I have been bombarded with them all day and night. Someone has even taken my post out of context and put me on blast on the tabloid website, Reddit. Now my name has been tarnished and left out to rot.

And to think, I trusted you. Now I am nothing. You've whittled me away until I am shaking with tears. Edward had to bring me to urgent care because I felt light headed and distraught. I was even questioned on my mental state. Not fun! The bill came out to \$765. Thank god you'll be forced to pay for that with the money fund. I will need to take an extra week off life in order to recover."

**Brent:** [laughing]

**Courtney:** "I'm going to embark on a social media, phone, and internet black out. Do not contact me! I need to put my emotional zen first. I need to

fully heal from the emotional damage I have endured as a result of this slanderous attack from my own family and friends and you can fucking foot the two thousand dollar bill. I don't care.

Once I recover, I will decide when we could all talk in person to discuss the situation. I hope to have a wedding, but I am not sure if this trust will be rebuilt. In the meantime, please consider donating any spa or personal care items to my home address if you even care about me at all."

**Brent:** [laughing]

**Courtney:** "We've lost close to three thousand from the money fund due to medical expenses, and we would like the more affluent members of the family to consider donations as a courtesy. Remember, I will be on a social media blackout starting in an hour. You can contact my..." It's supposed to say fiancé. It says finance. "... if you must."

And here's the exact moment that I realized it was fake. "As Genghis Khan once said, silence isn't empty. It's full of answers."

**Brent:** Profound. That's deep. Especially when you misspell Genghis.

**Courtney:** Y'know what, like, here's the thing. They shot way too far.

**Brent:** Mm-hmm.

**Courtney:** But... it was pretty good.

**Brent:** I mean, it's definitely on the order of a 50 Shades of Gray or a Twilight, in terms of realism and writing quality.

**Courtney:** Yeah.

**Brent:** Alright. Well...

**Courtney:** It's a solid Caroline Calloway.

**Brent:** Any other thoughts about that? I mean, it sort of speaks for itself, doesn't it?

**Courtney:** It's made up. It doesn't need more thoughts.

**Brent:** Alright. Now onto AirBnB. There was a fascinating long form story in the publication Vice by writer Allie Conti that I found this past week. She basically uncovered an elaborate scam by landlords who post AirBnB listings, and then move their guest to another location right before they're set to arrive. Like, they post a fake listing that looks great, then they go, "Oh, there's a plumbing problem, but I've got a bigger space for you to stay in if you don't mind!" And the bigger space is like some run down, not great, y'know, creepily not great apartment that clearly no one lives in.

Um, and so, the piece that Allie Conti wrote is this great, in depth piece of writing. But, TL;DR, AirBnB's terms of service and general business practices allow for shady types to advertise a fake location, and then switcheroo the guest into a much crappier place. I guess I just said that. Then they rely on the fact that most AirBnB guests don't want a bad review, so they give the place a decent review, or don't leave a review out of fear that they'll get a bad review as a guest from the host.

Meanwhile, the company, AirBnB, is very slow, apparently, to give refunds regardless of circumstances, and people often had to jump through hoops and call them over and over and over again and wait on hold forever to even get partial refunds. So, I had planned on covering this topic in the last 24 hours, but—or rather, sorry, I said that wrong. I had planned on covering this topic in the first place, but in the last 24 hours, it's been reported that AirBnB will be instituting some serious changes to its platform in order to earn back the trust of potential customers.

According to their CEO and cofounder, Brian Chesky, they're going to undertake a year-long project to make sure that every home listed on AirBnB is accurately advertised. How are they gonna do that? I don't know, but it's about fucking time after 11 years. They're also—I mean, they're not some plucky little start up anymore, y'know.

Also, they're promising to rebook the guests a new listing of equal or greater value, or give them a full refund, if the rental they've booked isn't up to snuff with their new accuracy standards, and that will apparently start next month. So they must be hauling ass, because that sounds like a... that sounds like a potential Popeye's bring your own bread situation if they don't really have their shit together.

So, I guess this is an example of how corporations are not always inflexible overlords. Like, if you hurt their bottom line by shining a light on them, I guess sometimes they'll change and actually become a better, safer business. So yeah, let's hope it works for AirBnB, because I don't know about y'all, but for the time being, I think I'm just gonna book a hotel.

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** This week, Trends Like These is brought to you in part by Care Of. Fall is a great time to set some new goals, get back into a healthy routine, and reprioritize yourself. And Care Of's online quiz lets you know exactly what you need. About what, you ask? Well, let me tell you, 'cause I've taken the quiz.

Basically, when I go to places that carry supplements, or vitamins, or this or that, I don't always know what to get. I don't always know what I need. All I know is, in my particular case, I have problems sleeping in my natural state, and I also would like to improve my short term memory. Especially now as I'm getting into my mid-30s, I'm like, "Am I just forgetful, or am I getting older?" But like, I'd like to help that.

Well, okay. So with Care Of, you take this easy, online quiz, and you answer easy questions about your diet, lifestyle, and health needs. You get a research-backed, customized recommendation with the vitamins, supplements, and or protein powders that will help you. Specifically you. And your Care Of order gets shipped right to your door in convenient, daily packs, perfect for a busy, on the go lifestyle.

They've got vegan and vegetarian options. Whatever you need to match your dietary needs. And so, for 50% off of your first Care Of order, go to TakeCareOf.com and enter promo code 'Trends50'. That's 50% off your first Care Of order by going to TakeCareOf.com, and enter promo code 'Trends50'.

**Courtney:** Hiring the right person takes time. Time that you often don't have. I mean, like, you just spent an hour in the line at Popeye's trying to get a sandwich, and you're gonna do it again tomorrow. You don't have the time! But you shouldn't let time get in the way of finding your right candidate for your business. That's why LinkedIn is the best place to post your job.

LinkedIn Jobs screens candidates with hard and soft skills you're looking for, so you can hire the right person fast. Things like collaboration, creativity, adaptability... LinkedIn looks beyond the work skills and connects you with candidates who match your business perfectly. It's no wonder great candidates are hired every eight seconds on LinkedIn.

Find the right person meant for your business today with LinkedIn Jobs. You can pay what you want, and the first 50 is on them. Just visit [LinkedIn.com/Trends](https://www.linkedin.com/jobs). [LinkedIn.com/Trends](https://www.linkedin.com/jobs). Terms and conditions apply.

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** So this is normally what we would call the Politics Roundup, but we're still kind of in Tidblast mode. Oh, excuse me. [echoing] Tidblast!

**Courtney:** [echoing] Tidblast!

**Brent:** So, it's a political one, though. Gonna start off with a quick Trumupdate. Recently, we told you Trump was booed at a baseball game. Well, last week, he was booed at an MMA fight. I hope he continues to get booed in public until, I don't know, the rest of his life.

Meanwhile, Democrats in the house are taking depositions and testimony from various people involved with the Ukraine situation. A lot of it is just



confirmation of what we already knew or assumed. Multiple diplomats or diplomat-adjacent people saying they were concerned about contacts Rudy Giuliani had with Ukraine, as well as the attempt to get Ukraine to investigate the Bidens, and even announce independently that they were investigating the Bidens.

That's one thing that apparently Trump wanted the Ukraine to be like, "Yeah! We got some interesting stuff we're digging up about the Bidens in our country, turns out! Come to find!" Like, that's what Trump wanted to happen, or rather, how he wanted it to happen.

Um, and there have been accusations about the state department getting unprecedentedly politicized under Trump crony, Mike Pompeo. Generally, house Democrats are still in the fact-finding phase, and are slowly starting to make these depositions and testimony public. And so, as all that kind of solidifies, we'll be telling you more details about it, but there's a bunch coming out, and a lot of it's pretty repetitive.

Meanwhile, Trump and his surrogates are trying to out the whistleblower that got this all started in the first place. We have federal protections for whistleblowers in this country for a reason. That's why they're... [sighs] That's why they're not like, filing a lawsuit. They're blowing the whistle. I— [sighs] Okay.

So like, people from Trump, even down to Rand Paul, who I used to like, vaguely respect Rand Paul for like, being one of the few isolationists, like, let's end the wars overseas Republicans in Congress. That's all fucking gone. Rand Paul at a rally said, more intensely than Trump has, the media should "do their job" and print the name of the whistleblower.

And I think the Republican party, particularly its high level operatives and members of Congress... I think they're fully aware that we live in a world where Christine Blasey Ford had to move her family multiple times because of threats of violence, just 'cause she opposed Trump's nomination for the Supreme Court. We live in a world where Trump supporters mail pipe bombs to his critics, or just mow them down with semi-automatic weapons, or run them over with their car.

So, outing the whistleblower means endangering their life and sending a message to anyone else who wants to blow a whistle on Trump. It is draconian. It is authoritarian. It is fascist, and it is illegal. This whistleblower went through all the proper channels, nothing about it leaked, their testimony was deemed urgent and credible by the person whose job it is to determine that. Outing the whistleblower would be an attack on the rule of law, and a new law for the state of our government.

And it really... I know I'm getting real preachy, but like, it's just.. [sighs]  
Okay, I'm gonna just keep going, 'cause we've got a lot to cover.

Let's shift gears to like, a thing that's actually kind of good about Trump. Not about him, and what he—let me just move on and say it. One little coda to this Trumpdate. Remember how Trump was shown to have abused his charity, the Trump Foundation, like, using money that was supposed to go to charity, but instead, buying himself not one but two portraits of himself? And misappropriating three million dollars that were supposedly raised for military veterans?

Well, a New York state judge has just ordered Trump to pay two million dollars to a group of nonprofits as part of a settlement for a lawsuit against him and his family for their corrupt abuse of that so-called charity. So, at least in a small way, booyah.

**Courtney:** Donald Jr. and his girlfriend, Kimberly Guilfoyle, were on The View today, promoting—well, today—it's yesterday when you're listening to it, but it's today when I'm talking. Time is weird. Uh, they were on The View, promoting his new book, Triggered, because of course that's what it's called. The conversation almost immediately turned to Jr.'s outing of the whistleblower in a tweet, and how dangerous and illegal that is.

Guilfoyle, who is a lawyer, was asked by Sunny Hostin, who is also a lawyer, basically, what the fuck? Why is he too dumb to know what crime is? To which Guilfoyle said, "I did come out of the bathroom and say, "I left you alone for ten minutes. What happens when mamacita is gone?"" Now, that is the part of this that got the most attention, 'cause ew.

But it was a generally just shitshow disaster of an interview, and Jesus. He—for one thing, speaking of mamacita, Guilfoyle is a year older than Melania and also looks like Melania. And according to The Atlantic, rumor has it that Trump himself had inquired several times about whether or not she was single. So... that family's fine.

Um, but during the interview, Jr. accused Joy Behar of wearing blackface at one point. He called out Whoopi for her comments about Roman Polanski, which is very rich, coming from the son of a rapist whose entire base is white supremacists. Honestly, fuck everyone, especially ABC, who between putting this fuck clown on the show in the first place, and addition to the daily Meghan McCain bullshit, just... ugh.

**Brent:** Yeah, that reminds me of a story that didn't trend, but while we're at it... Donald Trump was talking at a uh, fundraiser this past week about house minority whip, Steve Scalise, who was, if you remember, he was shot. I think that was during a Congress—I don't know, like a baseball—like a softball game they were playing? I don't know. That doesn't matter.

The point is, Steve Scalise got shot, Trump was discussing Scalise's injuries, and described the guy as someone of tough character and took note of the way his wife reacted to his injuries. Trump said – and pay attention, here – of Steve Scalise's wife, "She cried her eyes out when I met her at the hospital that fateful day. I mean, not many wives would react that way to tragedy. I know mine wouldn't."

Just in case you were wondering how that marriage is going.

**Courtney:** Yoikes.

**Brent:** Okay. So, content warning for this next story – it involves suicide and sexual assault. If you want to—and more than we've mentioned thus far, to be clear. If you want to skip it, Mustin, who edits the show, is gonna tell you how long to skip ahead.

**Mustin:** 57 minutes, 30 seconds.

**Brent:** Thanks, Mustin! Okay, so, there are two new developments about Jeffrey Epstein, who you'll remember was jailed after they found child pornography in his apartment. He had been implicated in child sex trafficking and statutory rape, among other crimes, about ten years ago, but mysteriously got a sweetheart deal with a lawyer who later turned out to be in Trump's cabinet.

Epstein is known to have partied with Trump, Bill Clinton, Alan Dershowitz, many other famous and powerful people, and he flew plenty of them on a plane – or rather, hosted them on flights, on a plane called the Lolita Express, where allegedly, women under the age of legal consent would be present for essentially forced or coerced sex work, to put it clinically.

So you can see why a lot of people would rather him be dead than able to flip in order to lessen a prison sentence. Well, in jail awaiting trial, he apparently killed himself under mysterious circumstances, including a nearby security camera, mysteriously not working, and two security guards, apparently falling asleep around the same time it happened. Uh, and so, the New York medical examiner, at the time, concluded that he had hanged himself.

Well, fast forward to last week, when we heard from Dr. Michael Baden. Baden is the former New York City chief medical examiner, who has become something of a celebrity, hosting an HBO show called Autopsy. Strangely, Epstein's brother hired Baden to examine the body soon after he died. Now, keeping in mind that Baden has sometimes had opinions that oppose those of many experts in his line of work, and he's a fairly regular Fox News contributor.

Keeping all that in mind, he revealed his findings that certain injuries found in his autopsy of Epstein are rarely seen in a suicide by hanging, which of course, raised the suspicion that Epstein was actually killed, which is a thing a lot of us assume anyway. And the fact that Baden is a Fox News contributor doesn't actually make me believe him less in this particular case. Because even though Epstein's disgusting, decades-long crime spree implicates the likes of Bill Clinton, the UK's Prince Andrew, uh, absolutely implicates Donald Trump...

And here's the thing – Donald Trump is the guy for whom Fox News has basically become a 24 hour pep rally. So like, again, Baden saying this is not made less credible to me by him being a Fox News contributor. Now, is anyone surprised by this news? Like, this feels like one of those things that's just fishy in plain sight, like the JFK assassination. And I think most people who are paying attention think it's more likely that Epstein was killed than killed himself.

I saw an Onion – I believe it was The Onion – headline that said like, y'know, "Wing nut conspiracy theorists thinks Jeffrey Epstein committed suicide," or something like that. Uh, which is dark, but like, I take the point. Um, my point is, most people who are paying attention think it's more likely that Epstein was killed than killed himself. Look, he got off cheap ten years ago, probably because of his ties to power, so he likely thought he could do that again, or something like it.

And y'know, just like any human being, he probably wanted to live, so there's that. But the whole fishy in plain sight element of this saga got turned up to 11 when ABC news anchor, Amy Robach, was caught on a hot mic, talking about a story she had investigated and wanted to report years ago after she interviewed alleged Epstein victim, Virginia Roberts-Giuffre.

Let's listen to that audio.

**Amy:** I've had the story for three years. I've had this interview with Virginia Roberts. We would not put it on the air. Um, first of all, I was told, "Who's Jeffrey Epstein? No one knows who that is. This is a stupid story." Then, the Palace found out that we had her whole allegations about Prince Andrew, and threatened us a million different ways.

We were so afraid we wouldn't be able to interview Kate and Will, that we— that also quashed the story. And then, um, Alan Dershowitz was also implicated, 'cause of the planes. She told me everything. She had pictures, she had everything. She was in hiding for 12 years. We convinced her to come out. We convinced her to talk to us. It was unbelievable what we had. Clinton... we had everything.

I tried for three years to get it on, to no avail, and now, it's all coming out, and it's like these new revelations, and I freaking had all of it. I'm so pissed right now. Like, every day, I get more and more pissed, 'cause I'm just like... oh my god. What we had we unreal. Other women backing it up. Hey. Yep. Brad Edwards, the attorney, three years ago, saying like, "There will come a day when we will realize Jeffrey Epstein was the most prolific pedophile this country has ever known." And I had it all three years ago.

**Brent:** By the way, that heartbeat sound effect was added by Project Veritas, which... they're usually a totally full of shit news source, but in this case, you can see the footage for yourself. It's not doctored, it's only edited to have like, the heartbeat noise, I guess to make it seem more dramatic.

But um, what do we take from this? Um, well, okay, first off, Bill Clinton's a rapist. Um, and this feels weirdly like a distant relative of the Richard Spencer audio we heard earlier. There is a class of rich and powerful people, some of whom... who don't value human life the same as the average person in the bottom 90%. Richard Spencer feels entitled to rule over people who aren't white, and it's clear that plenty of one percenters feel entitled to use the bodies of women, including minors, to abuse just on a whim.

And when I talk about corporate-owned media versus independent media, these are the kinds of things I'm talking about. If a media outlet is run by a corporation, and the corporation is ruled by the rich and powerful, then the urge to look out for other rich and powerful people and their companies will trickle all the way down to those delivering and preparing the news.

So when Biden and Buttigieg get the benefit of the doubt in corporate owned media, and Warren and Sanders are spun negatively, there's a reason for that. And this comes on the heels of finding out that NBC news killed the Harvey Weinstein story until it just was impossible to keep it under lock and key. Again, the rich and powerful protecting the rich and powerful.

And sometimes it's for access, which I don't even know, is that more or less disgusting? It's hard to say. One part of the Amy Robach ABC situation was that ABC was getting threats from, essentially, the royal family. They didn't want to piss off the royal family to out Prince Andrew, 'cause they were hoping to get an exclusive interview with Prince William and Kate Middleton.

And it's not unlike how all kinds of mainstream outlets gave Trump a platform to spew his bullshit during the 2016 campaign. They did it because it got eyeballs on the screen, and they all kid gloved him and let him say all this shit and get away with it because they wanted continued access. This is what I mean when I criticize the mainstream, corporate owned media.

And I—so, look, I hope we get to the bottom of the Jeffrey Epstein situation. I hope outlets and reporters who have a spine stand up and say we're not gonna be like Russia, where journalists get killed if they cross the government. We're not gonna be like North Korea, where state-run media filters everything to benefit those in charge. We're not gonna have our collective common wisdom filtered through what a handful of oligarchs want it to be and not to be.

So... for her part, Amy Robach released a clinical statement – sounded like a hostage statement – saying her reporting hadn't been verified to ABC's editorial standards, and that's why the story never ran. ABC said in the statement that the work Robach and other investigators have done, well, the investigation never ended, and it will lead to a two hour documentary and a six hour podcast—or, sorry, a six part podcast that'll air in the new year. Yeah, I'm sure that was the plan all along.

**Courtney:** [monotone] Yes. That is what they have been going for. The whole time. The podcast.

**Brent:** [laughs] Yeah. We were just saving this all for a six part podcast! That's really what—and I mean... [sighs] Ugh. I could go on and on about this.

**Courtney:** There's also like, a Epstein podcast, bee tee dubs. But... [sighs] That's not what they were doing.

**Brent:** No.

**Courtney:** They were not like, “Y’know what we’re gonna do? We’re gonna do a whole like, uh, riding on the coattails of the thing about Pam here, and uh, really work some Epstein magic in your podcast feeds.”

**Brent:** Right. [laughs] Well, like, and it’s kind of obvious when you follow the money. George Stephanopoulos is ABC’s head anchor. George Stephanopoulos was Clinton’s campaign manager, or very, very high up in Bill Clinton’s campaign in 1992. Like, it’s not like he wants to turn around and completely torpedo Clinton’s legacy.

But the thing is, if Clinton did this stuff – and he did – fuck him! The end!

**Courtney:** One hundred percent fuck him.

**Brent:** Yeah. And so like, they’re gonna do this documentary. They’re gonna do this six part podcast. Will it implicate the high profile monsters who almost definitely raped minors and trafficked them in connection with Epstein? We will have to see. But I... I hope that—like I said, I hope that the people that are either less afraid, or more just valuing the truth, will keep investigating, keep poking at this, and get to the bottom of it.

Because... again, this whole episode feels like, you’ve got a class of people that get away with shit. And sometimes it’s about race, a lot of times it’s about class, and you can just feel that, with the increasing inequality in the country, that it’s getting more exaggerated. And like, is there always gonna be a class of people that essentially thinks they’re the aristocracy? Well, probably. But... this is... I guess I just feel like we’re in a really crucial time to swing back the other way before we become a really, like, authoritarian oligarchy? I don’t want to do that.

**Courtney:** Elizabeth Warren laid out her plan for Medicare for all. Centrists are being real annoying about it. Like, Googling around to find a breakdown is just so much, “She will kill us all!!!”

**Brent:** [laughs] Yeah.



**Courtney:** Mixed with like, a couple usages of the phrase “fairy dust,” and a smattering of your usual slate Bernie bros who are all like, “Honestly, how dare she?” Uh, my personal favorite take, though, is that it might have negative outcomes like “overuse of healthcare.” Because that’s what people with insurance do! Go to the doctor for funsies all the time!

**Brent:** [groans] I overdosed on care!

**Courtney:** I got my sixth pap smear of the year this morning just for fun. Just to feel alive.

**Brent:** [laughing]

**Courtney:** Essentially, here’s how the brunt of it breaks down. Employers would pay fees to the federal government, equivalent to about 98% of what they presently pay for employee healthcare. Unionized work forces would be able to pay—they would lower that by increasing worker wages.

State and local governments would also make similar payments to the federal government, approximate to what they now pay for healthcare benefits. Corporate taxes would go up, the top one percent would pay new capital gains taxes, and billionaires would pay a higher wealth tax. Warren had originally said three percent, but now the plan states six percent.

Y’know, I don’t know why people are freakin’ out on behalf of the billionaires. Billionaires aren’t freakin’ out on behalf of you. Calm down.

**Brent:** Wow, that’s very well said. I may have to steal that.

**Courtney:** Steal it!

**Brent:** So like, yeah. I’m so tired of both Warren and Sanders being asked, constantly, “Well how you gonna pay for that?” ‘Cause the question doesn’t want an answer. They’ve both given some various kinds of answers multiple times. Like, Bernie’s Medicare for all bill has like, I think something like ten different suggestions of like, “Well, here’s what we might take it from.” And the flexibility there has been criticized by some as like, “Well you don’t have

a plan!" And it's been praised by others as being like, "Well, he knows how Congress works, and he knows at least to be flexible with the funding."

And so, Warren's being bold here by being like, "No, here's, specifically, how I think we could do it." And for different reasons, these people both get pushed back, and sadly, with Warren, there's a sexist element. There is, in some cases, just people that are Bernie apologists that want to find a problem with hers. Though, I was happy to see the Young Turks, which is a source, very progressive, that I sometimes crib from, disagreeing on whether it was truly brilliant, or like, just a watered down Bernie thing.

But the point is that there is disagreement there, and it is a just fucking—and I haven't scoured every word of it, but it is miles... miles better than anything these corporate-friendly, Pete Buttigieg, Biden, even Harris, Booker, other people on the debate dais are proposing. So, y'know, while I need to take a harder look at both versions of the Medicare for all proposals, I will still say – Sanders and/or Warren, and/or Warren and/or Sanders all fuckin' day, but none of these other clowns.

**Courtney:** So like, in the actual debates, y'know, Warren has gotten the, y'know, the hard hits from opponents on not having a plan. Less than Sanders. Why do you think that is? Do you think that it's just a matter of the fact that like, frankly, they know that she's easier to knock down? Because like, the Bernie people, they're not goin' fuckin' anywhere. The Bernie people are do or die. But with Warren, like, there's wiggle room. Like, if they can scare enough people, they can knock her down.

**Brent:** I don't see it that way. And I think that there are more—there are more quote "Bernie brethren" that would, y'know, be fine, ultimately, voting Warren instead of Trump. But that's not what you're asking.

**Courtney:** No, I'm not saying that they would like, literally like, do or die Bernie. No, but I mean like, in terms of saying like, "Well, Bernie doesn't have a plan," the people who support Bernie are not like, "Oh, he doesn't—Pete Buttigieg said that Bernie doesn't have a plan! I'm questioning my loyalty to this guy!" Like, that's not gonna happen.

**Brent:** Right. I think the reason... it—to the extent that Warren has gotten more pushback, I think it's because she has emerged in the common wisdom – particularly the corporate media common wisdom – as the most viable answer to Biden. And for a while there, people thought Biden was like, the hot shit. And at first, it was like, "Oh, Buttigieg is the new hotness."

And so, she's emerging as this, uh, some people think more electable than Bernie, and there's definitely an argument for that. Uh, person. So it's kind of like in the same way that Kamala kind of like, tried to really mark her territory on Biden right out of the gate and be like, "Hey, I'm running the show here. I'm strong, I'm bold, and I'm gonna call you out on this shit you need to be called out on."

Well, I think that people are going, Warren is now rising. We need to get on her. And I think that that's a combination of the fact that she typically is polling higher than Bernie, and again, there is a common wisdom that she is more electable than Bernie. And we can debate that, but I think that's why she's gotten more push back. Is there a sexism element? Probably. I can't really speak to that. But I think that it's, in a weird way, a compliment in part to be like, "You are more viable, we are more afraid of you, so we are gonna push back harder on you."

**Courtney:** Hey, speaking of people trying to knock her down... Petey B. and Joey B., coming this fall at NBC, are engaging in the kind of gendered criticism that shows no one has learned a goddamn thing from 2016, and we're all fucked. Huzzah.

This was highlighted in a Washington Post article titled, "Is Elizabeth Warren angry and antagonistic, or are rivals dabbling in gendered criticism?" Y'know, you don't need to ask the dumb questions. You don't need to ask, "Is climate change a real thing, or does the Lord just want us to have more fun beach days?"

It started with Buttigieg criticizing Warren's "my way or the highway approach," and said that she is "so absorbed in the fighting that it is as though fighting were the purpose." Biden, historically great with women—

**Brent:** [snorts]

**Courtney:** --spoke of Warren as representing an “angry, unyielding viewpoint that has crept into our politics.” Elizabeth Warren is many things. There are valid criticisms to hurl. But this powerful librarian energy radiating off of her entire being does not begin to reflect anything resembling angry. Maybe play the tape back when you shouted at her during a debate, and she didn’t even flinch, Joe.

**Brent:** Yeah, it’s interesting how this stuff gets framed. Like, there’s definitely the sexist like, you’re shrill, you’re loud, you’re a nasty woman. There’s that like, vein of it. And I also think that there’s just, in general, like if a candidate is loud and passionate, but they are playing by sort of corporate media rules, then the corporate media will probably be more likely to be like, “They’re bold, they’re passionate, they’re blazing a trail.”

But if you’re being loud and passionate about something that like, perhaps our oligarchical overlords don’t want, there are different ways to frame that. And Washington Post, owned by Jeff Bezos, you might’ve heard of him, not exactly sticking up for the little guy, that multi-bazoonga-billionaire.

So like, just one more thing I’ll say... I don’t want to say Elizabeth Warren sounds or is angry in a way that I think is bad, but I think that if anyone’s paying attention to what’s going on in this country – not just with Trump, but the things that led to his rise, and y’know, all of that.

**Courtney:** Oh yeah, totally. Like, everyone should be angry. But...

**Brent:** That’s the thing. Like, I don’t mind her having a certain kind of passion and a certain kind of indignance, but I do see what you’re saying, like, Joe Biden yells at her, and—

**Courtney:** Yeah, it’s very specifically... it’s very specifically angry, shrill, bossy. There are words that are hurled at—that are used against women specifically, that are not used against men unless it’s... like, picture an angry man. What you might picture is someone who is just like, screaming, spewing, and just like, losing his shit, like Brett Kavanaugh in his hearings.

**Brent:** Mm-hmm.

**Courtney:** When a woman displays any kind of emotion or passion of any kind, she is dismissed. It is harder for women to be taken seriously, and these men know that. I think a lot about—it's one of the things that made me angriest about... I swear to god, this is related.

Um, Doctor Who. One of my favorite shows of all time. And it's the David Tennant era, which is my favorite doctor. But his very first episode, he essentially ruins the career of Harriet Jones' prime minister by saying she looks tired. And because a woman can be taken down, literally just by a man implying that like, she looks tired.

And I think about that all the time. Any time any of these other candidates say like, y'know, "She's angry, she's this," it is... it is gendered. It is. And it's not policy. It's nothing other than making sure that this woman, who is a threat to them, is seen as something to be dismissed and not taken seriously, because she's just too womany, and you gotta take those down sometimes.

**Brent:** Well, it's bullshit. Um, and to wrap up our Tidblast is a thing that I just wrote down. I didn't put any real copy about it, but I don't think it needs any. Facebook, capital F, and the rest of acebook being lowercase, is now, "FACEBOOK!" All caps.

**Courtney:** [laughs]

**Brent:** Did you like that?

**Courtney:** [slurring] "It's FACEBOOK, you guys!"

**Brent:** [laughing] I think it's that, in order to um... I'm just pulling this out of my ass, but fuck it. I think Mark Zuckerberg is trying to *capitalize* on the fact that the news media will trickle down to social media on a story like this. Everyone will scoff and roll their eyes, and maybe, just for one, brief, shining

moment, forget that Facebook has been shitting the bed with privacy and all kinds of things.

So yeah. I guess now, instead of friending me on Facebook, you'll friend me on FACEBOOK!

[beeping]

**Ben:** Hey, we're Ben and Adam, and we're here to tell you about our Star Trek podcast, The Greatest Generation.

**Adam:** Why should I listen to a Star Trek podcast, you may be asking yourself? Well, ours is actually good and funny.

**Ben:** We joke around, we have a lot of fun, we talk about film production, techniques that are used in Star Trek. We love to break down the stories and characters, and we just have a blast while we're doing it. It's kind of like sitting around with a couple of buds, having a beer, and talking about an episode of one of your favorite shows.

**Adam:** So go to [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org), or wherever you get your podcasts, and subscribe to The Greatest Generation.

**Ben:** Yeah, and whatever you're using to listen to this, just have it find us, and subscribe.

[music plays]

**Janet:** We are so thrilled at your interest in attending Hieronymous Wigenstaff's School for Heroism and Villainy! Wigenstaff's beautiful campus boasts state of the art facilities and instructors with real world experience. We are also proud to say that our alumni have gone on to be professional heroes and villains in the most renowned kingdoms in the world!

But of course... you are not applying to the main school, are you? You're applying for our Sidekick and Henchperson Annex. You will still benefit from

the school's amazing campus, and you'll have a lifetime of steady employment. Of course... there's no guarantee how long that lifetime will be.

**Travis:** Join the McElroys as they return to Dungeons & Dragons with The Adventure Zone: Graduation. Every other Thursday on Maximum Fun, or wherever podcasts are found.

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

[Wi-Five slap]

**Brent:** This Wi-Five starts out sad. As you've probably heard, Alex Trebek, the legendary host of the game show, Jeopardy, is terminally ill and probably doesn't have very long to live. But today's Wi-Five goes out to an 18-year-old man named Avi Gupta from Portland, Oregon. He's a freshmen at Columbia University, but he recently won the Jeopardy teen tournament and the \$100,000 grand prize.

Now, I think it's safe to say that most 18-year-olds would think only of themselves if they won that much money. But Gupta did something pretty great. He donated ten thousand of those dollars to an Oregon cancer research institution in honor of Alex Trebek. Gupta says Trebek has been a role model for him his entire life. He was quoted as saying, "Everyone knows someone or has been affected by cancer in some way. I believe scientists are winning the fight against cancer, we just need to help them do more."

It's a little reminder that we could all do a bit more to help out our fellow humans, especially in the moments when the universe has helped us out a lot. So, to Avi Gupta of Portland, Oregon, Wi-Five.

[theme music plays]

**Brent:** That's gonna do it for another Trends Like These. Before we go, please do check out all the other amazing shows on Maximum Fun. You can

find out more about that at [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org). Uh, little point of pride here – I composed the theme song to this show, and it's a ring tone! If you want to grab it, it's on the iTunes app on the iPhone, or if you're an Android user or just want to download it, you can find that at [BrentalFloss.Bandcamp.com](http://BrentalFloss.Bandcamp.com).

Courtney, where can people find you on the interwebs?

**Courtney:** Well, you can find me at SYFY Fangrrls. You can also find me sometimes at Pajiba. Sometimes I go hang out over there. And you can listen to my other podcast, Strong Female Characters. Yeah!

**Brent:** Awesome. So, I am the creator and co-designer – or rather, the co-creator and designer of a comedy party game called Use Your Words, that is gonna have some sales coming up, so like, uhh, if you have a particular console in the current generation you want to get a fun party game for, perhaps to entertain people during the holidays and not argue with your conservative uncle about Trump, um, it's on all the current generation consoles. Plus, the Wii U, plus PC and Mac via Steam, and there will be sales. They're all different for all the different consoles, and I don't have them on hand, but check it out. Put it on your wish list.

And also, I have a new podcast called Question Box that is the game show podcast of shockingly personal questions that I host with my friend, Kate Sloane. Our guests that answer ridiculously personal questions have included Travis McElroy, Courtney Enlow, um, our recent guest was Lane Moore, author of How to Be Alone. Um, and we've just had a bunch of really cool, interesting people. Oh, and Dave Bulmer, who is our UK correspondent on Trends Like These.

So, Question Box is on all of your favorite podcast platforms, or you can find it at [QuestionBoxShow.com](http://QuestionBoxShow.com). And I think that's going to do it for another Trends Like These. Courtney, am I forgetting anything?

**Courtney:** Yes. Facebook!

**Brent:** [slurring] Facebook!



**Courtney:** [slurring] Facebook!

**Brent:** [slurring] Facebook!

**Courtney:** Ahhh!

[theme music plays]

**Courtney:** [coughs] Sorry, I feel like I—either a cough or a sneeze or something is about to blow out of my face. Okay.

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