

Sawbones Ep54: Spontaneous Combustion

Published on August 26th 2014

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[music playing, audience cheers]

Clint:

Sawbones is a show about medical history. Nothing the hosts say should be taken as medical advice or opinion. It's for fun. Can't you just have fun for an hour? Try not to diagnose your mystery boil. We think you've earned it. So just sit back, relax, and enjoy a moment of distraction from that weird growth. You're worth it. Ladies and gentlemen, *Sawbones*!

[audience cheers]

[theme music plays]

Justin:

Well, hello, everybody, and welcome to "Sawbones," a marital tour of misguided medicine. I am your co-host Justin McElroy.

Sydnee:

And I'm Sydnee McElroy.

[audience applauds]

Sydnee:

I don't, look at that.

Justin:

I don't know.

Sydnee:

It says prohibition bakery.

Justin:

Ooh, scintillating.

Sydnee:

I know. I'm excited.

Justin:

Well, we'll investigate that afterwards

Sydnee:

I bet. I know.

Justin:

Uh, so hey, everybody. How's it, how's it going?

[audience cheers]

Is everybody having a nice evening so far?

Audience:

Yeah! Woo!

Justin:

If you, if you spent the day like me, this is your fifth podcast of the day.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

And it's, it's starting to catch up with you a little bit, but you feel like, oh, I'm gonna push it back.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

I can't say anything. It's only my third.

Justin:

Gotcha. You know what, it's hard 'cause we've been prepping for this show, for these shows, shows, many shows.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Um, and we've been also prepping for a, a human that we're bringing into the world soon.

Sydnee:

Which is probably a little more taxing.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Yeah, well, technically she's bringing it into the world. I'm sort of, like, "Go get 'em!"

[audience laughs]

Justin:

But there's a lot of-

Sydnee:

"Can I get you some ginger ale?"

[audience laughs]

Justin:

"Let me get you some ginger ale." Yeah, I got her some ginger ale. Uh, actually, uh, Ronnie got her some ginger ale. I just asked Ronnie to get her some ginger ale.

Sydnee:

I know. Thank you. [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Thank you, Ronnie, wherever you are. Uh, but there's a lot to think about, right? We gotta decorate a nursery. Uh, uh, I can build a crib. Not from, like, wood and stuff.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Parts that-

Sydnee:

No, from the internet. [laughs]

Justin:

From the internet.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

They sent it to us and then he put it together. But it was a, but you did a great job.

Justin:

You gotta get clothes is another one.

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Justin:

Uh, you gotta find, play music, the like.

Sydnee:

Yeah. You gotta worry about them, you know, spontaneously catching on fire.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Well, I mean, I, I hadn't been worried about them spontaneously catching on fire until this exactly 9:37 on a Saturday night, but I, appa- is that a concern?

Sydnee:

I, well, I read about this. There's a, there was a baby in India, baby Rahul, who, since he was born last May, has, uh, caught on fire spontaneously four times.

[audience laughs and groans]

Sydnee:

He's okay. He's o- he's okay.

Justin:

But you, that didn't stop you guys from laughing.

Sydnee:

He's okay.

Justin:

You didn't check with us.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

You weren't worried about it.

Justin:

You were not, you were rushing headlong into that.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

If her next sentence had been something quite different—

[audience laughs]

Justin:

... it would've been a very different tone for the evening, I assure you.

Sydnee:

I was all prepared for everybody to be like, "Oh no!"

Justin:

"Oh my gosh, not Rahul!"

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Justin:

But he's, he's doing okay?

Sydnee:

Yeah, he's doing okay, but four times, his parents say they've come in the room and found him just on fire.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Um, so spontaneous combustion is happening to Rahul pretty regularly.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

That's what they think. The other option, and they've actually had to move. The other villagers have said, like, "We don't... Could you move somewhere else? [laughs] I don't know what's happening- "

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

"... but we don't want it happening to our kids. Could you guys take off?"
Um, one theory is that it has something to do with, like, the compound in the, the walls of the, the house that they use to, like, hold the-

Justin:

Are they, like, rubbing the baby on the walls? Like, what, it's, like, a static cling kind of phenomenon?

Sydnee:

I don't know. It's clearly a weird situation.

Justin:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

But, but most cases of spontaneous human combustion are weird.

Justin:

Well, why don't you take me back to the beginning and we can learn all about spontaneous human combustion.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Let's do that. First I want to thank Courtney, who, uh, suggested that topic.

Justin:

She's not here.

Sydnee:

Probably not. Um... [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Uh, not, not purely a medical topic, so to speak, but eh, we'll work with it.

Justin:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

I think it, I think it works. So usually I say that, oh, spon- whatever our topic is, it dates back to the Egyptians or the Romans or the Greeks. Not so much with spontaneous human combustion. I mean, if people were combusting, they weren't talking about it or-

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

[laughs] writing epic poems about it.

Justin:

Damn you, you must never mention this secret shame outside the walls of this home.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Um, the first case most people agree was in 1663, but I found one, one source that argued, "No, no, no, no, no, 'cause there was this one guy in the year 1400 who drank so much wine that he, that he started throwing up fire."

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Is that good wine or bad wine?

Sydnee:

Um, I don't, I, I'm not gonna consider that canon, though, so we're just gonna stick with 1663. [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

As the first, as the first case of spontaneous human combustion. And basically when I say that, I mean that the body is suddenly engulfed in flames. Um, you don't know why. Obviously, you know, it's spontaneous.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Uh, and you don't necessarily have to die from spontaneous human combustion. Usually you do, but it could just be—

Justin:

'Cause of the fire.

Sydnee:

Well, yeah.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

'Cause of the, the, the burning and fire.

Justin:

Gonna flex my medical muscles here for a second and, uh—

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Usually if you catch on fire a lot, or very much, or even a little... uh, a lot of times you're gonna, you're gonna die from that.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Uh, but you may just get burned.

Justin:

Not, not, not Rahul, apparently.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Rahul was fine.

Sydnee:

Well, and, and like, like Rahul, sometimes you can just get burned, and sometimes you can just smoke.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Just smoke comes out of you.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Nice.

Sydnee:

Yeah, like a Looney Toon.

Justin:

Like a Looney Toon.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Yeah, exactly like a Looney Toon.

Justin:

You're a physician, right? Like, a real one?

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

I don't know anymore. I was at the, at the 1:30 show. I don't know anymore.

Justin:

[laughs]

Sydnee:

So, okay, there was an article written in 1823 where they outlined, if we're gonna say that somebody spontaneously combusted, what, what traits can

we identify? And so they looked over all the cases and they said, okay, here's what we find in common most of the time in these situations. Um, number one, the person who spontaneously combusted is an alcoholic.

Justin:

Okay. That, well, that makes sense, right? Their, more of their blood is flammable.

Sydnee:

[laughs]

[audience laughs]

Justin:

That is, like, scientific.

Sydnee:

That's not how it works.

Justin:

Just go on.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Uh, number two, elderly females, more likely to combust.

Justin:

So far I'm a little worried about my Nonnee.

[audience laughs and applauds]

Sydnee:

It's funny because it's true. [laughs]

Justin:

I'm just kidding, Nonnee. Just gonna check in.

Sydnee:

Um, usually the body had contact with some sort of lighted substance, which—

Justin:

Okay, wait a minute, hold on! Wait, okay, I'm no fireologist. I'm not-

[audience laughs]

Justin:

I'm not, like, "In Living Color"'s Fire Marshall Bill over here. But I do-

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Deep there.

Justin:

What? Yeah, I used, listen, I used up all my good "In Living Color" references in the last five podcasts.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Um, the, the, the, okay, if there is, if there is a, a lighted substance, there was no spontaneous human combustion. It's, like, regular old human combustion.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

It seems a little, yeah.

Justin:

It's human combustion classic.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

But it was 1823. What did we know?

Justin:

Right. Nothing.

Sydnee:

Now, in most of these cases-

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

... another feature was that it was usually just the, the trunk or the chest of the body and maybe the head that burned, whereas the extremities were all spared.

Justin:

Wonderful.

Sydnee:

So you would just find, like, arms and legs lying there.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

And, like, in the right shape and, like, everything else just, like, ashes.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

That's not even how fire works.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Fire is very rarely like, "Well, my job here is done."

[audience laughs]

Justin:

"I've had a good run and, and you gotta know when to hold, know when to fold."

[audience laughs]

Justin:

"And I think I've consumed this torso and I'm just gonna move on."

[audience laughs]

Justin:

"Say hello to that big ash pile in the sky."

Sydnee:

That included surrounding objects. Like, there wasn't a lotta, that's another feature. There's no damage to anything else in the room.

Justin:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

So the person is burned, but the chair they were sitting in and the carpet and the drapery and all that stuff that you usually think would burn in a fire is all fine.

Justin:

Yeah.

Sydnee:

So that's part of it, too. Um, they also find in the room a greasy residue on the walls. [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Ashes and a foul odor.

Audience:

Oh.

Justin:

Gross.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Justin:

But wait a minute, this doesn't happen. How, like, how did they find, like, what are you talking about?

Sydnee:

Well, they, the, they didn't know. Like, they, they had these cases that people were finding, you know, okay, they go to a house and they find a guy who's, or I guess an elderly female, I should say.

Justin:

Right.

Sydnee:

Who's all burned up except their arms and their legs and everything else is intact and there's nothing else on fire. And the idea was, well, if there was a fire in the house, it should have consumed everything.

Justin:

Right.

Sydnee:

So what happened? So what they took from all this is that this is the end result of alcoholism.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

This is, this is what happens.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Now I really do have to comment on... Shit.

Sydnee:

Stick to ginger ale, perhaps vitamin water.

Justin:

Justin remember to edit out the profanity that you used just a second ago. It was an accident.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

I had to remind myself, yeah.

Sydnee:

Sorry about that, you guys.

Justin:

You guys are, listen, if you're here for the "My Brother, My Brother and Me" show later, uh, and you're sticking around for that, y- you will hear many worse things.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

So I, I'm not worried about, I'm not worried about you folks. I'm worried about the fine people that are listening to this later. Sorry. Go ahead.

Sydnee:

So there was actually a, Charles Dickens had a character in "Bleak House."

Justin:

See, he's, like, a real, like, writer and stuff, and he, he-

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Yeah, and he, he, well, yeah, there was a character that was an alcoholic and died of spontaneous combustion.

Justin:

Hmm.

Sydnee:

Because that was also a belief.

Justin:

Uh, and he also used ghosts in his books, okay?

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Maybe he was open to other, other planes of reality.

Sydnee:

So overall, there have been around 200 reported cases so far. And that's when they've been, like, investigated and the coroners were there and the,

the police officers, and they all went, "Uh, spontaneous human combustion?"
And that's what's on their death certificate.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Actually, there, there's a picture of a guy going, hmm?

[audience laughs]

Justin:

"Huh?"

Sydnee:

It, it was even written up in the British Medical Journal. So it was at one point considered a real deal condition. That was in 1938, so not, not that long ago. And they all claim that no matter what other lighted sources they found, that that was not the reason that the person, person caught on fire.

Justin:

It was just magic.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

In the [laughs] in the 1970s, it became very popular that instead of it being an end result of alcoholism, that maybe, and this was kind of a Freudian belief, that you could get so depressed that you became so engulfed in your depression—

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

... that it [laughs] eventually manifested as flames and you became engulfed in flames.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Yeah, the, the, the, the rising popularity of "Jersey Shore" is actually directly proportionate to the rising number of people spontaneously combusting.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Is this– how popular? What, how popular is this program?

[audience laughs]

Justin:

By how much? Fire.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

There's, there's a great book, I want to find it, that was written in 1995, '95. It was called "Ablaze!" with an exclamation point. "Ablaze!"

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Um, by Larry Arnold, and he proposed a new mechanism that nobody had thought of yet, which is that there is a particle that we haven't discovered yet. It's an enzyme called a pyrotron.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Like an electron or neutron, there's a pyrotron. And that under certain circumstances when the body's already more flammable, it will cause you to catch on fire.

Justin:

Larry.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

And this can happen because of alcohol or stress.

Justin:

Okay, so Larry, Larr– I don't think that Larry really thought– thought this whole thing through. What Larry is saying is, like, everybody can sorta catch on fire.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

But sometimes you're really, really gonna wanna catch on fire. And those are the moments when you're, like, the most tempted. You can always, you're always in a situation where, like, you're a little flammable, but if you get really oily or angry or depressed and–

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Really oily. [laughs]

Justin:

Get super oily. I'm saying, you said more flammable, like–

Sydnee:

Teenagers in their acne years.

Justin:

I wanna know–

Sydnee:

Just left and right.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

I didn't know there were times in my life when I was more potentially flammable than others. I would like some sort of indicator. Is there bracelet I can wear, something that would tell me my risk of flammability?

Sydnee:

He thought it was when you are stressed and drinking, which terrifies me. I mean, not now, but, I mean, I went through residency in the past. How am I still alive?

Justin:

I don't know.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Um, so, uh, there's some other theories that people have, have put out there. Maybe it's a buildup of methane gas, like, you know, in your intestines. And you just explode.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Uh- [laughs]

Justin:

You used, you used to get on my case for this, and I'm thinking of what you said [mumbles] for me not to.

Sydnee:

Is that, that's gonna be your new excuse now?

Justin:

That's gonna be my new excuse. "What, do you want me to burst into flames?"

[audience laughs]

Justin:

"I'm a father of a child that's coming soon."

Sydnee:

Um, static electricity has been proposed. Uh, sunspots and cosmic storms.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Very specific sunspots, I'm assuming.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Um, and so let's, let's talk about some cases.

Justin:

Okay.

Sydnee:

Let, let me give you some actual examples.

Justin:

Hit me.

Sydnee:

So going all the way back, in the 1700s, Countess Cornelia de Bandi was a victim of spontaneous human combustion. They found her one morning, she didn't get up—

Justin:

Just assume, by the way Sydnee's saying this, there's a lot of, like, supposed in there—

Sydnee:

Yeah.

Justin:

... somewhere, like, reported or imagined in there somewhere.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Alleged.

Justin:

Allegeds.

Sydnee:

So they found her laying on the floor between her bed and her window, uh, and everything was completely burned except three fingers and her lower legs. Everything else was gone. There were candles present, but the wicks were completely intact and not, nothing had been burned.

Justin:

Okay.

Sydnee:

There was soot everywhere. Nothing was damaged. And for some reason, there was still a piece of bread on her nightstand, and the thought from the investigators was, "Let's try to feed that to the dog and see what happens."

[audience laughs]

Justin:

What?

Sydnee:

And then the, the dog wouldn't eat the bread, and they were like–

Justin:

There it is. Case closed. This woman's been poisoned by fire bread.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Just, just cracked another case. Good job, old timey detective. You've solved another one.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

“Why can't we catch Jack the Ripper? Again? We're so good at this. We tried to give the dog fire bread and it wouldn't eat it. We're like, case closed.”

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

I just love the guy– who proposed that? Who was in the room and they're like, “I have an idea.”

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

“You see that bread.”

Justin:

“Why would you, if you had just made a delicious slice of bread, why would you burst into flames before you ate it?”

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Um, there was another guy, Jack Angel, who tried to blame burns, uh, he had [laughs] so he got burnt when he fell asleep next to a water heater. And he tried to sue the company, and then somehow they had a doctor come investigate it and examine him and said, "Well, the burns appear to have come from the inside out as opposed to the outside in."

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

I don't know, I don't know what doctor said that. And so then he said, "Okay, well, I can't make any money off it this way. It, I combusted." And so then he tried to go on, you know, go on the interview circuit as a case of (laughs) spontaneous human combustion.

Justin:

I, I don't, I don't actually believe this one, either, Sydnee.

Sydnee:

The most recent was in 2010, other than, than baby Rahul, I should say, but the most recent actually, like, the coroner declared it, this is what is written, like, this is in 2010. This is written down as the cause of death. Was, uh, Michael Faherty in Ireland, who was found dead in his home a few feet from a lit fireplace.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

[laughs] But they didn't think the fireplace had anything to do with it.

Justin:

Well, why would it, I mean—

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Because he was the only thing there was burned. Nothing else in the room was burned. It was just him and the arms and legs were spared and it was your usual...

Justin:

I, uh, maybe he just didn't wanna put it out. I've been that tired, listen.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Doing five podcasts in one day, if I caught on fire right now I'd be like, eh.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Ugh. It'll go out eventually.

Sydnee:

He-

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Now, he was, again, a known alcoholic, but if you're drunk and you fall asleep next to the fireplace-

Justin:

What a mysterious fire this is. What a mysterious avenging angel, punishes drunk people near open flame.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

How does it keep working, weaving its spell? What is the secret to your grand design?

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Now, just to be fair, we've only talked about human combustion. Animals can combust.

Justin:

No, Sydnee, they can't.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Well-

Justin:

I mean, they can combust.

Sydnee:

D- dead whales can. They can fill with methane and blow up. Th- they can.
[laughs]

Justin:

I mean, they can, but it's grody.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

There, there's an ant- there's an ant that has a big, has, like big
poison-filled sacs and they can contract their, the muscles in their thorax and
make them explode to, like, protect the colony. It's like a, I guess it's sorta
like a kamikaze pilot that-

Justin:

Hard way to go.

Sydnee:

Yeah. Yeah. Like, it's the, I mean, they're, they're, they're going, too.

Justin:

Much respect.

Sydnee:

The ants are going, too.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Much love. Much respect to that ant. That's, that's legit.

Sydnee:

Which is-

Justin:

That's real right there.

Sydnee:

There's some, some toads that, [laughs] that get-

Justin:

I don't want anything that much except, except you and our child. But if the rest is, somebody comes for you guys, I'm not gonna blow up to protect you.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Do you have, do you have poison-filled sacs that you can contract your muscles and-

Justin:

You can't let 'em know beforehand because then they'll find out.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

[laughs] There are some toads that develop this as a defense mechanism against crows, but I don't know what kind of defense mechanism it is if you explode.

Justin:

It's it's like, ah, ah, ah, ah, mm, remember on my back? I got explody things. Don't do it.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

[laughs]

Justin:

It's an empty threat. They're never gonna go through with it. They might've made it up.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

You know, you know how, you know how frogs.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

[laughs] You think they're lying?

Justin:

What?

Sydnee:

You think they're lying?

Justin:

Wily. They're wily. Of all the amphibians, I think frogs are probably the trickiest.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Except chameleons, obvs, which probably aren't amphibians, but, like, this isn't a show about biology.

Sydnee:

Aren't they, like, yeah.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

That's okay. I'm not an expert on that, so I can't say anything. I can't correct you.

Justin:

Then don't.

Sydnee:

Yeah.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Easy.

Sydnee:

Um, so let's talk about some real explanations.

Justin:

Sure.

Sydnee:

So obviously, most people think that spontaneous human combustion is a pseudoscience. It's not a real medical condition. Um, almost all of the cases involve somebody who isn't very mobile. So that's w- when we talked about older females, a lot of them, unfortunately, were the elderly or somebody who was morbidly obese or somebody who was very ill and maybe if they caught on fire couldn't get up right away? So that was part of it.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Cigarettes are almost always found. And they don't tell you this.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

They almost [laughs] they almost always find a cigarette laying on the ground half burnt or completely burnt.

Justin:

Cigarettes.

Sydnee:

Uh-huh.

Justin:

How does this keep happening?

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Some of the people who have been called spontaneous human combustion were found to have h- had heart attacks. So if you have a heart attack and you're smoking a cigarette, you know.

Justin:

Why, but why is there a greasy stain there?

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

Well, that's interesting. So that's something called the wick effect.

Justin:

Okay.

Sydnee:

So this really is, so this is really gross, by the way.

Justin:

I'm ready.

Sydnee:

So get ready for it.

Justin:

Everybody cool? We're cool? Everyone cool, cool? All right.

Sydnee:

So what happens with the wick effect? This is how they've tried to figure out, okay, but still, why are their arms and legs spared and why are they burned in these weird kind of patterns? So, something catches on fire. So let's say the person has had a heart attack or they're completely passed out drunk, something where they're not gonna wake up instantly. There's some sort of fire source, an ember from the fireplace, a cigarette, whatever. It catches your clothes on fire and it burns very slowly and it burns the skin a little bit, creating an opening in the skin to the fat that lies beneath.

Justin:

Okay.

Sydnee:

Then the fat starts to liquefy. Sorry, it does.

[audience laughs and groans]

Sydnee:

It comes out and soaks the clothing, and then it's like a, like a wick in a candle. It just keeps the fire going.

Audience:

Ugh.

Sydnee:

'Cause it's liquefied fat. It's just oil.

Justin:

So it turns you into a human candle.

Sydnee:

So it turns you into a human candle. And you have– all of us, even the thinnest among us, have plenty of fat to completely burn yourself up, so don't–

Justin:

Don't even trip. I don't care how fit you are.

Sydnee:

We all–

[audience laughs]

Justin:

You could be a candle.

Sydnee:

There's plenty of–

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Keep on jogging, man. You're nothing but a walking candle.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Salad? Doesn't matter, I'm a candle anyway.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Gonna eat a hamburger.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:

And that's, that's [laughs] part of the theory as to why arms and legs are spared is because there's not as much fat there and they've already burned enough up and they kind of, the fire just burns itself out by the time it gets to the extremities.

Justin:

Perfect sense.

Sydnee:

So, eh, that kinda makes sense. And they do think that there could be people who are at higher risk because of higher acetone levels in the blood, which would include alcoholics, so you were kinda, you were kinda right with that. Perhaps diabetics.

Justin:

I don't wanna brag.

Sydnee:

Or maybe people on Atkins.

Justin:

I haven't been on Atkins for four years.

Sydnee:

I know, but- just another good reason, don't do it again.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Okay, I'm sorry, I, I...

[audience laughs]

Justin:

A- of all the risks that I have, the risk of, like, still being fat forever versus the risk of maybe you'll catch on fire-

[audience laughs]

Justin:

'Cause you love bacon so much. Maybe, maybe if you eat a lotta bacon, you'll catch on fire. I don't think that's-

Sydnee:

I just miss not having bread now.

Justin:

Okay, it was literally four years ago. What is-

[audience laughs]

Justin:

[crosstalk] like the BeeGees, like, what are you talking about?

Audience:

[laughs]

Sydnee:

I get it. People are probably doing-

Justin:

Digging up old dirt.

Sydnee:

... so well-

Justin:

And he would always watch "Remington Steele" and he wouldn't pay attention, I'm like, what are you saying?

[audience laughs]

Justin:

Two decades ago, let it go.

Sydnee:

Well, people have, like, done so well on their diets and now they're like, ah, I don't have a podcast. I can't do that.

Justin:

Yeah, I can catch you on fire.

Sydnee:

I can catch on fire.

Justin:

That's a little weird for me.

Sydnee:

So I'm back on the bread.

Justin:

Back on the bread.

Sydnee:

Um, now, one researcher wanted to prove the acetone theory, by the way. And this is my la- I just have to tell you this 'cause I think-

Justin:

Tell me.

Sydnee:

So to prove it, this is how, he was like, "Well, how can I simulate this? Okay, I'm going to soak pork in acetone, marinate pork in acetone, and then I'm going to [laughs] I'm gonna form it into a little person."

[audience laughs]

Justin:

[mumbles in squeaky person voice]

Sydnee:

And put clothes on it.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

That's just for him.

[audience laughs]

Justin:
Weirdo.

Sydnee:
And then I'm gonna set him on fire.

Justin:
Sure.

Sydnee:
Of course this is what I'm gonna do. I'm gonna set him on fire. And whatever results he had he thought proved his point. I don't know.

[audience laughs]

Justin:
I have told you once, I told you 100 times, and I do not care what your mother says, I am a scientist!

[audience laughs]

Justin:
I do science! Bring me another Mr. Pork Man, please.

[audience laughs]

Justin:
Uh, and get the red polo shirt. He likes that one.

[audience laughs]

Sydnee:
[laughs]

Justin:
If he's gonna go, he should be wearing something stylish.

[audience laughs]

Justin:
Anyway, that, friends, is spontaneous human combustion. Uh, if this is your first, uh, we wanna say, uh, thank you so much to the [crosstalk] for having

us here. Thank you to you for coming out and, uh, listening to our show. It really means a lot to us. If you have not listened to us before, if maybe you just came for the other show and you haven't heard us, we, uh-

Sydnee:

You are like, "What was that?"

[audience laughs]

Justin:

"What was that?" Uh-

Sydnee:

"What? Why am I here?"

Justin:

We get a new episode every Tuesday at sawbonesshow.com, so you can, uh, listen to us there. Wanna thank the Taxpayers for, uh, their, uh, song "Medicines," which is our intro and outro.

Sydnee:

They're a band, not just, like, the taxpayers.

Justin:

Yeah, not just, like, general taxpayers.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

The taxpayers are great, too. Thanks to my dad for doing our disclaimer, uh, before the show started. I don't know why he didn't wanna watch the podcast?

[audience laughs]

Justin:

But, but anyways, he wanted to chill backstage. We got a lot of Pepsi Max back there.

[audience laughs]

Justin:

And, uh, I think that's gonna do it for us, Syd. Thank you so much to all of you—

Sydnee:

Yeah, thank you, thanks.

Justin:

... for, uh, being here. My name is Justin McElroy.

Sydnee:

I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Justin:

And as always, don't drill a hole in your head.

[audience cheers and applauds]

[theme music plays]