

Sawbones 534: Dr.. Odyssey: Shark Week

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Clint: *Sawbones* is a show about medical history, and 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 and not try to diagnose your mystery boil? We think you've earned it. Just sit back, relax and enjoy a moment of distraction from that weird growth. You're worth it.

[theme music plays]

Justin: Hello everybody, and welcome to *Sawbones*, a marital tour of misguided medicine. I am your cohost, Justin McElroy.

Sydnee: And I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Justin: And it is the MaxFunDrive, it is our second and final MaxFunDrive episode, and Sydnee what does that mean to me the listener?

Sydnee: Well that means—

Justin: Well, I mean I'm the host, but you get it.

Sydnee: Right. No, I understand. And also I think you should say, "MaxFunDrive 2025," because it rhymes and it sounds good.

Justin: Ooo, I like that! Yeah.

Sydnee: Right? We haven't said that rhyme enough. We're a listener supported network.

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: That means we count on you listeners to become members with a monthly donation to help us on our network make the shows that you enjoy, to make more of them, to make them better, to make them sound better, to make more research for the episodes, to spend more time on them, we count on you.

And so once a year we come to you and say, "Hey, if you can help us out and become a MaxFun member with a monthly donation, we would really appreciate it."

Justin: So this week, because we wanted to say thank you to you our listeners, we wanted to keep having a couple fun ones. A couple fun *Sawboneses*.

Sydnee: A couple fun *Sawboneses*. You didn't say the— You didn't say maximumfun.org/join.

Justin: Oh, is that my part in it?

Sydnee: You usually do the URL.

Justin: Oh, pardon me. Maximumfun.org/join.

Sydnee: There you go.

Justin: We'll just cut that in.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: Wherever, you know. [chuckles] We decided to just... cut yah some slack this week, yah know? Let's just have a little fun, right?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: We're gonna talk about the *Dr. Odyssey*.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Justin: Shark attack, and the follow up. [wheezes] *Dr. Odyssey* shark attack, orcas attack.

Sydnee: Orcas attack.

Justin: Yeah, it is actually called—

Sydnee: It was—

Justin: "Shark Attack! Part 2: Orca," that will be after the break.

Sydnee: Right.

Justin: First we'll start with shark attack.

Sydnee: First we'll start with "Shark Attack! Part 1." Now if you remember, we've talked about *Dr. Odyssey* before, right?

Justin: Indeed, we did an entire episode on it, and we will be talking about some story beats on the show. So if you're wanting to go in completely ignorant of the events of these episodes, just come back after you've enjoyed them yourself.

Sydnee: Sure. Sure. Now where we last left, I mean the plot of *Dr. Odyssey*'s pretty straightforward, he's the doc on a cruise ship, and wild stuff happens.

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: It's a Ryan Murphy show, so weird stuff happens.

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: And then there's like a it— Well there was a love triangle between him and his nurse practitioner and his nurse.

Justin: Avery and Tristan.

Sydnee: Yes, except then it was not so much a triangle as a... threesome.

Justin: Yeah, so at the end of the last episode of the season finale, we found out that Avery is pregnant, and don't—

Sydnee: But whose—

Justin: But whose baby is it?

Sydnee: We don't know.

Justin: We don't know, so we're gonna jump right into that.

Sydnee: Right.

Justin: With a shark attack. [wheezes]

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: With a shark attack, we just get in.

Sydnee: So that's what's happening, so it's only the crew onboard, right? We're in between cruises. We have no passengers.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: As this episode opens up.

Justin: Right. It is a empty— And that is ra— This has been the first week that hasn't been like themed to a—

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Justin: — a week of the cruise, right?

Sydnee: It was themed to sharks.

Justin: Right. It was themed about sharks.

Sydnee: Shark week.

Justin: Shark week.

Sydnee: One of the other crew members—

Justin: Which I bet they wanted to call it "Shark Week," 'cause the other ones have been phrased that, you know.

Sydnee: Aw man, I bet they did.

Justin: Yeah, I bet they wanted to like.

Sydnee: Do you think they weren't allowed to?

Justin: They probably can't, yeah. Legally, they can't.

Sydnee: So one of the other crew members is out surfing. They're taking a break, the first mate is out surfing and he gets attacked by a shark. And he gets a terrible shark bite on his foot ankle area.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: And they rush him back to the ship where Dr. Odyssey stabilizes him, but then is like, "[sighs] We gotta get him to a hospital to save this foot."

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: 'Cause the bloo— 'Cause the arteries have all been torn, this is the conceit. And so we are up against the clock to save his foot. Except, as they're headed quickly to the shore.

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: They find out that there's a distress call from another ship.

Justin: What?

Sydnee: And so then they have to go rescue this other ship.

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: Like they're bound by sea law, I think.

Justin: Sea law dictates.

Sydnee: Right. Is that— I'm assuming— Is that real, sea law? Ocean law?

Justin: Sea— Maritime.

Sydnee: Maritime. [groans]

Justin: Maritime law dictates.

Sydnee: That if a cruise ship hears a distress signal, it has to go.

Justin: Right, and so then it does, it goes to... see what's going on.

Sydnee: And they find a bunch of people in a raft, 'cause the boat's been sunk by...

Justin: You guessed it.

Sydnee: Well they—

Justin: [chuckles]

Sydnee: They— Actually maybe you didn't.

Justin: Actually you didn't guess it, 'cause actually it wouldn't make much sense.

Sydnee: It wouldn't, 'cause they're like, "The boat was sunk by a shark," and they're like, "That's impossible." But the shark did bite two of the people.

Justin: Yes. These— Sharks— Okay, these episodes are themed around aquatic attacks that are not depicted in the budget of this show.

Sydnee: No.

Justin: Not available to you.

Sydnee: The—

Justin: You are going to get a lot of talk about sharks, you maybe see one in a formation from time to time through the water, but—

Sydnee: There's a fin.

Justin: Yeah, you get a fin.

Sydnee: The— You get some brief flashes of a shark, and it— I'm gonna be honest, it's not really that much better than big shark.

Justin: Yes. But we are— That— The thing is the sharks are, for whatever reason, attacking the boat. And Don Johnson [chuckles] tries to contextualize this by saying “Yes, I too have been on a boat [wheezes] where animals have attacked us.”

Sydnee: Where sharks attacked.

Justin: Like— “Where sharks attacked.”

Sydnee: No, they say like, “We don’t think the shark attacked a boat, that doesn’t make sense.”

But anyway the shark attacked these people, so they rush ‘em back the ship, and they’re like, “Okay, this girl got bitten in the side, this is not a big deal. We clean these wounds out no problem. But her boyfriend has gotten bitten so badly in both his leg and arm that they’re gonna have to do a double amputation.”

There’s no time. He’s gonna die if they wait til they get to shore, he’s too unstable to take a tender boat. So we’re gonna perform a double amputation on this cruise ship.

Justin: Yes, now what is— Now Syd, when we’re— Just to make this somewhat redeeming, educationally speaking.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Justin: When we’re thinking about an amputation, because it is such a hot topic on this week’s episode.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: What are we really thinking about?

Sydnee: Do you mean what is it?

Justin: What are some of our primary concerns, right?

Sydnee: Oh.

Justin: Because to a layman it may seem... as simple as chopping off a limb, right? But there's obviously a lot more to it than that.

Sydnee: Well yeah, so—

Justin: And we've talked about it in episodes where I'm not asking for full... you know, recounting of our concerns here, but yeah.

Sydnee: So okay, first of all, I mean we're not gonna do this on a cruise ship. If you're talking about an actual amputation in an OR, you're going to be able to control for like sterilization. So like you know keep it from getting infected. You're going to be able to monitor the patient closely for blood pressure, vital, you know make sure they're stable throughout the surgery.

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: You're gonna watch for blood loss, obviously. This is a major surgery, you're having a whole limb removed.

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: So blood— And especially in these cases they've already lost a lot of blood, because they got, you know, bitten by sharks.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: And then what we need to do as we do the amputation is make sure that what is left is something that we can reform into an appropriate—

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: — you know, appendage.

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: So you want to— Usually like the bone is cut a little shorter, so that then the other tissues can fold over it. Does that make sense?

Justin: Sure, yeah.

Sydnee: So, and it's a stepwise process.

Justin: A little bit of overlap.

Sydnee: You don't just like lop through the whole thing.

Justin: Mm.

Sydnee: You usually cut through the layers of tissue and muscle and whatnot first to expose the entire bone, so you have a really clear-cutting surface to then saw through the bone.

Justin: They get a really terrifying saw from the— They don't have a saw on the boat that can do this.

Sydnee: Right, they don't have a bone saw.

Justin: The bone saw is not ready.

Sydnee: You know what was interesting to me, they don't have— [chuckles] They don't have a bone saw, but when I— So I have assisted in amputations in my life.

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: And we did not use the bone saw in the ones that I assisted with, we used this wire, this like toothed wire with handles on either end. And you loop it under the bone, and then if you can imagine sort of like pulling up and down to saw it back and forth.

Justin: Yeah, I can imagine it, but should I?

Sydnee: And that—

Justin: Nope.

Sydnee: It feels like that's such a low-tech item that you could store that on a cruise ship.

Justin: You would think, yeah.

Sydnee: I understand—

Justin: Right?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: But no, they go for the power tool, which like—

Sydnee: I mean he's got a dialysis machine.

Justin: They make a lot of hay out of that.

Sydnee: This they do.

Justin: A lot.

Sydnee: They use the dialysis machine a lot in the first season.

Justin: They're very proud of the dialysis machine.

Sydnee: So anyway, he— they do the double amputation. And I should note, there was a trauma surgeon aboard the other vessel.

Justin: Oh yeah!

Sydnee: And so now we have hot shark doctor, is that what they call her?

Justin: That is her name, yes.

Sydnee: Hot Shark Doctor.

Justin: That is how she is credited on IMDb. No, she is Dr. Brooke Lane, a real person. Played by Adriene Palicki. [chuckles]

Sydnee: But they do call her "Hot Shark Doctor" on that episode.

Justin: We are— We have got a lot of people bringing the guest heat. Rumour Willis is there.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, as one of the shark bite victims.

Justin: We've also got the first character... on the autism spectrum. A— Let's see, Liam Johnson as played by Ray Baldwin.

Now, I don't know about Mr. Baldwin's particulars with his mental situation vis-à-vis playing an autistic character, but I do wanna say that he mentions a neurospice on his Instagram profile, so who knows. I don't know his journey.

But he does a really— I think it's a really interesting inclusion, Syd. As a physician, what did you think about this character, who is a first officer who had been more— a very capable first officer who had been working with Hot Shark Doctor, sorry Dr. Brooke Lane, excuse me. And—

Sydnee: They call her Hot Shark Doctor on the show.

Justin: This is not us editorializing.

Sydnee: We are not calling her that.

Justin: She is barely a person. [wheezes]

Sydnee: They say that on the show, so. No I mean I— Well I don't feel like as a physician it's for me to comment on like, you know, authentic representation of an autistic person.

Justin: No, no I don't feel like that— No, I just—

Sydnee: Yeah. Oh, I thought that's what you were asking me.

Justin: No.

Sydnee: I was gonna say, I'm not— I feel like you would have to ask somebody on the spectrum.

Justin: I mean as a TV viewer, we've seen— As a TV viewer, we've seen a lot— different... you know, depictions. I will say that I thought it was a little ham-fisted how early they had to work in the fact that this officer is on the autism spectrum. It is literally like almost the first conversation

that this person has, and it is in the context of them not tolerating like— Is it in their manner, right?

Sydnee: Well.

Justin: Is that the first time that we— when we meet Ray Baldwin.

Sydnee: That they're impatient. He's impatient.

Justin: Oh, he's impatient, right.

Sydnee: And that he wants to get his vitals checked the last time so he can be cleared to go back to work.

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: And he's being impatient with Tristan.

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: And Dr. Brooke Lane says, "Well, it's because he's autistic and autistic people are impatient," which is also kind of a sweeping generalization, but.

Justin: Making a lot of—

Sydnee: Yeah. [chuckles]

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: But I— I thought it was a little— All the other character seem to be somewhat unfamiliar with autism, which I thought—

Justin: That is what troubled me the most, honey.

Sydnee: I feel like—

Justin: That is like what— Listen.

Sydnee: Most people are somewhat like collo— I mean you don't have to be a medial professional to be somewhat familiar with the concept of autism spectrum disorder.

Justin: Hey listen, listen I recognize my road dogs almost instantly I feel like.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Justin: You know like you see— you know people. You see it, it's very recognizable I feel like that—

Sydnee: Are you saying you know each other like as a per— as a member of the community?

Justin: As a member of the community.

Sydnee: Okay.

Justin: Like I feel like I see— I see people, you know what I mean. Like I see the hints and I feel like there's been soooo many coded characters, right?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Justin: Like sooooo many, that it feels weird for it to be explicit, I think.

Sydnee: We—

Justin: You know what I mean. 'Cause then it's like— it's almost like we don't really— we run into lots of people in our day-to-day life, maybe this is just my life is [chuckles] cooler than most people's, but I run into a lot of people who would appear to externally be on the autism spectrum—

Sydnee: Well—

Justin: — or would have some of those characteristics. And like I don't feel like we necessarily are going around being like, "Hold up. [chuckles] Let me clarify something right now. Are you on the autism spectrum?" It's like okay, we could just be people. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Well that— I wondered about that too, just because we talked about the show *The Pitt* last week.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: And there is a character, we didn't really talk about this, but there's a character that I think is supposed to be autism spectrum coded, I believe— Now I have not seen the whole season and maybe they address this, maybe this is said and I just haven't gotten that far.

But she seems to be, and I think in a lot of the ways she's interacting with patients, and some of the— some of her strengths and weaknesses, I think that's what they're trying to communicate through the character.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: Which I feel like a lot of people would pick up on without anyone having to say it.

Justin: I also would say though, as I'm sitting here thinking about it. We are— This is a mainstream, network TV, primetime drama. Like it is not— I don't think— Maybe you can't make the assumption that everybody watching is gonna be—

Sydnee: Sure.

Justin: — as familiar with some of this, so you're like trying to contextualize it.

Sydnee: Yeah, sure.

Justin: That makes sense.

Sydnee: And I tend to take a lot of things for granted if they're medical at all, because I know— I never know what I know because I'm a doctor, and what I just know because a lot of people know this.

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: But anyway, they do the double amputation, and... does the power— The power goes off in the first episode?

Justin: The— It's towards— So okay. Shark Doctor and Casey are not exactly caught in flagrante by Avery.

Sydnee: They're definitely flirting.

Justin: Yeah, she needs to take a— the— Dr. Brooke Lane needs to take a shower, which actually Dr. Brooke Lane sound worse than Hot Shark Doctor [chuckles] to me now that I say it out loud, it sound actually more made up. But yeah, they— Avery comes into the room, she had gone in to take a shower then realizes "Oh my gosh. Maybe he isn't the potential father that he tried to say that he wanted to be—"

Sydnee: Right.

Justin: "— in this potential baby's life, maybe."

Sydnee: Yeah, 'cause they— 'cause like what they've struggled with from the previous episode is that... Dr. Odyssey was pretty controlling, and kind of sexist about his reaction to the pregnancy.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like he should have a say in what she does.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Whereas Tristan was very much like, "Your body, your choice. I'm here no matter what."

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: "And if you have this baby, I don't care who the dad is, I'm a part of it."

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: "I'm a part of this baby's life." So like she's struggling with that.

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: And then she sees Max flirting with Shark Doctor. And she's hurt, and then the power goes out.

Justin: Well then she has the idea of taking— Right before the power goes out, they're in the middle of the amputation, I did wanna remind you, they had the idea of taking [chuckles] the arteries from the other foot.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: And like bra— Like Shark Doctor is like, "I have— I just have a foot in a bag." [chuckles] Holds it up.

Sydnee: Well, that's because— So our first mate, his foot is dying. Because we have delayed him getting to shore for so long, his foot is dying.

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: And he's gonna lose it. And they're trying to save it, so they take an artery from the foot they've amputated from the other guy, and they transplant it into him, which is a heck of a thing to do on a cruise ship.

Justin: Heck of a thing on a boat. Heck of a thing on a boat!

Sydnee: There are a lot of things—

Justin: That should be the name of this show. *Heck of a Thing on a Boat.*

Sydnee: Heck of a thing. There are a lot of things that are— Like is that something we do? Yes, I mean that is possible. Not on a boat.

Justin: She literally, gang! She literally pulls this rusty, dusty, crusty old, as our kids say, old foot out of— in a bag out of a trash can. No sorry, it is a cooler.

Sydnee: It is a cooler.

Justin: It is a cooler.

Sydnee: It is a cooler.

Justin: She pulls it out of a cooler, she's like, "I got your artery [chuckles] here," it's like, "Gross, no thank you."

Sydnee: My—

Justin: But yeah, the orcas or the sharks attack the ship.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: It's orcas. That's right folks, it's not just sharks we're worried about, Don Johnson's old enemy killer whales [wheezes] are back.

Sydnee: Orcas, so I guess— Now this is what is interesting. Orcas do— have been known to attack ships.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: This is not— I had to look this up, I don't know this 'cause of medical school. [chuckles] They don't teach you that. Orcas do— it looks like, from what I read, that they very specifically will attack like rudders of ships, which would I assume be bad for the ship.

Justin: Yeah, for the ship.

Sydnee: And that they also appear to have a behavior like they're teaching each other to do this? Which is terr— All of this is terrifying, by the way.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: I wasn't like not scared of orcas before.

Justin: Now you're extra.

Sydnee: But now I am scared of orcas, I guess, because they're very smart, we all knew that, and then also they attack ships. And so now that orcas are attacking the Odyssey, it shouldn't matter 'cause it's a giant cruise ship.

Except it ends up with like it knocks something which causes a fire, which in order to fix the fire they have to shut down the power. So now they're plunged into darkness, and they've got... three patients basically at this point who are unstable, need antibiotics, need blood, have limbs in various states of amputation.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: And they're in darkness.

Justin: Yes. But— And credits.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: To be continued.

Sydnee: To be continued.

Justin: And also to be continued on this like podcast as well.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: Because it's MaxFunDrive time. Sydnee, in the past year I think we've seen the media landscape change so much. We've seen shows fold, we've seen companies collapse, we've seen— Really we've seen where people's interests lie.

And I think that's it's been so— Especially this year, it's been so gratifying and so... I've been so grateful to be a part of a network that's funded in a different way, with different priorities, and by you, the people that like it.

Sydnee: Yeah, I agree Justin. It means so much that you all are willing to put your money towards something you enjoy.

Justin: Mm.

Sydnee: To help support us in making the shows that we make, and hopefully in making more of them, making them better for you. It means the world. I love that you listen, but if you have the money and you have the time to, you know, become a member. This is also the time to do it.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Because during the MaxFunDrive, not only is it's kind of like a party, like it's a fun time, like you're part of the wooo, like it's fun.

Justin: Wow, you sound like somebody who's been to a lot of parties before.

Sydnee: Yeah, well that's what happ— [chuckles] It's a part where you go, and then they give you a present.

Justin: Whoa.

Sydnee: 'Cause if you become a member right now.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: There's stuff you get.

Justin: Yeah, 'cause at \$5 a month, if you could just do that, that is so helpful. I don't know if that seems like a lot to you, but to us it does, because all of those \$5 really adds up.

And you are gonna get days and days and days of MaximumFun bonus content. Special episodes, we've done videos, we've done— What have we done, Syd? We've gone to the drug store and looked at stuff, we've— you've done episodes with Charlie before, this—

Sydnee: We played *New York City Emergency Room Medical Mysteries*, will your patients survive the night game.

Justin: Yes, it was fantastic. It was a lot of fun, you can listen to all that. If you do \$10 a month, you are gonna get that bonus content, but you're also gonna pick up a show specific pin from whatever your favorite podcast might happen to be. The *Sawbones* one this year says, "Kill all the mosquitoes," and I think that's great.

Sydnee: Yes. I love this pin.

Justin: And I love that we get to be in a network that... is supported by you, the people. The— You know, the ad market is tough, you've probably

noticed that sometimes *Sawbones* episodes do have ads, and sometimes they don't have ads.

And that is because it's been tough out there with ads lately, and we are really lucky that we have you to rely on to help pick up the slack there, 'cause it allows us to be picky about who let sponsor on the show, and then also keeps us solvent, when things are really bad.

Sydnee: Yeah, we really— we appreciate all your support so much. This would be a great time if you can become a member, please do. If you already are a member and you're thinking "You know what? I would like to upgrade my membership," this is a great time to do it because you get a gift when you do it.

Justin: We really— I think that— You know, I don't— [sighs] I think the work we do on *Sawbones* is important. I think what you do is important, mainly.

I do jokes about it, but I think the work that this show does is important, and it really means a lot to me to have a place that I know people will come to and get reliable information about science when that seems to be under attack from— on so many fronts.

So thank you for letting us do *Sawbones* specifically, because it's— I really am proud of this show, and I really appreciate the support. And if you could find it in your heart to kick us five bucks a month, 10 bucks a month, to help us keep it going, I would really appreciate it. Thanks.

Maximumfun.org/join. "Shark Attack Part 2: Orca!" is the technical name of the 10th episode of *Dr. Odyssey*. Yes, that's right, the orcas are [chuckles] attacking the ship.

Sydnee: And what we've learned is that the orcas probably caused the initial ship to sink, because that makes more sense.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: Because what—

Justin: There's so many.

Sydnee: I guess sharks don't usually attack ships? Anyway, but the orcas do, and they have all these theories, I thought that was fascinating. "Why do the orcas attack the ships?" and they're trying to get the— get people to fall in the ocean to attract sharks, that then the orcas will eat the sharks.

Justin: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Sydnee: Their livers.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: So there you go.

Justin: There you go.

Sydnee: I don't know if that's true, but they say that on the show.

Justin: That's what they say. Yeah, and it is— they are scouring the ship for any drugs that they can find. They're running low on supplies, that is another thing that is like they're running low on supplies, but we really only ever see those few patients. There's just the three people, like nobody else comes in, I don't know where all the supplies are going.

Sydnee: Well, to be fair, I would bet this is a little more reflective of real life.

Justin: Mm!

Sydnee: Because what they're running low on specifically are IV antibiotics and blood products.

Justin: What are blood products? Like plasma?

Sydnee: Like blood. Like— Yes, plasma, blood, blood.

Justin: Blood.

Sydnee: To give people who need blood. I would bet they don't store a lot of those things [chuckles] on cruise ships. I mean, because

traditionally you wouldn't think you would need a lot of those things on cruise ships.

Justin: You would— Yeah.

Sydnee: So I think it— that actually is pretty realistic. But they start scouring the ship to look for any sort of antibiotics specifically, because right now what you have are— And this is one thing that did— I mean there are a lot of things that stretch the bounds of credibility medically on this show, right?

Justin: That's not the point of *Dr. Odyssey*, we— Yes, absolutely.

Sydnee: But [chuckles] they— All these patients are becoming septic from their wounds, like immediately.

Justin: MM-hmm.

Sydnee: And I will just say that the way infection works is that generally speaking, [chuckles] you do not become septic from a wound infection within hours of receiving the wound.

Justin: What if you were already a super dirty dog, Syd? What if you're already a super dirty dog colonize by lots of funky stuff? [chuckles]

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Justin: Could you get septic then?

Sydnee: There's— It's actually...There's an acronym, or there's a mnemonic that you learn for post-op infections, and it's Ws, there's wind and water and wound and wonder drug. But the point is, what are the causes of a post-op fever? And the things that you think of first, like they're in the order of more common things, wound is further down the line.

Justin: Mm.

Sydnee: There are other things that cause fevers.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like urinary tract infections, or you could have a blood clot.

Justin: Is that all Ws? Or is that—

Sydnee: Wind, it has to do with catalexis, meaning collapsed areas in the bottoms of your lungs.

Justin: Mmmm.

Sydnee: That can cause a fever sometimes.

Justin: What about—

Sydnee: Or like a clot, or like a UTI.

Justin: Or like a wshark— Or a wshark tooth. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Wshark tooth.

Justin: [wheezes]

Sydnee: No I don't think that would be—

Justin: It just happened to cause the infection.

Sydnee: Wonder drug is all the— also like sometimes antibiotics can cause fevers.

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: Which is rare but it happens. Anyways, wound is further down the line because if somebody just had a surgery and they are gonna get an infection in that wound, in that surgery site, you wouldn't expect it to happen overnight. It takes a while for like the bacteria to grow.

Justin: Mm.

Sydnee: I mean just think about like petri dishes, you don't like inoculate a petri dish, and then have bacteria on it an hour later. Generally

speaking, that's not how things work. So the rate at which all these patients become septic.

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: Is strange, and it feels like something that someone should have known. But whatever, it's because one of them has a shark tooth floating around in her body.

Justin: They finally reach the distress call earlier, you know the raft that they were dealing with, the— But out there, there's one of the key scenes of the episode where we see— By the way, I don't know if this is important, but Avery I think has sort of decided that Tristan is more deserving of her affections, and she seems to be leaning that way. She plants a smoocherooskie on him.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: And then she's in the tender ship.

Sydnee: Well no, they're trying to get the tender ship to shore. They're trying to get the two most critical patients to shore, in the tender ship.

Justin: Yes, I'm jumping forward a little bit.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: Doc— Shark Doctor and Avery are in the tender ship together, and Avery's asking for her feedback on med school, and I wanted to get your thought on that Syd.

Sydnee: Yes, so Avery as we know from last season has been accepted to medical school, and so she's asking this fellow female physician for advice on medical school. And I just thought it was so strange. Surely they have a doctor tell— I don't know.

But the advice we "First of all, you already know everything that's in the lectures because you're a nurse practitioner." Okay, well that's probably fair, there's probably a lot of overlap there in that training, and so there's probably a lot of stuff that would— she would know.

But then she says, "Find your favorite professor and go visit them during all their office hours and go bring them coffee, and that's how you'll learn what kind of doctor you wanna be." And it was just the strangest— It's— I think maybe for undergrad, like find a mentor to help you is good advice, maybe.

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: But in medical school, you don't... I mean, first of all, like your mentors would probably end up being physicians. Most of my initial classes were taught by like basic science professors. And so they wouldn't have been able to tell me what kind of doctor I'd want to be.

Justin: What made 'em so—

Sydnee: 'Cause—

Justin: What made 'em so basic, Syd.

Sydnee: No. [chuckles] Like they weren't physicians, and so by the time I started—

Justin: Whoa, that's what makes them basic?!

Sydnee: No, I mean that's not what I'm—

Justin: Sheesh!

Sydnee: You know what I'm saying.

Justin: Whoa!

Sydnee: I don't know, it was just very strange advice. I mean like the advice I give when somebody asks me about medical school, is "Study harder than you think you have to in the beginning."

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: It's always easier to dial it back than to get behind, and then try to catch up and learn study skills. Study too much.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Because I mean you're learning a whole new language, it's hard, it's hard. And so study as much as you possibly can, and then keep an open mind, try every specialty.

Justin: Oh.

Sydnee: Walk into every one with the mind like, "Maybe I'll love this," and then see what happens. She also gives her the advice of "In you med school and residency interviews, they're going to ask you if you wanna have kids, and you should lie and say you don't." Okay.

I'm— This is nitpicky. It is a major match violation [chuckles] to ask residents, and generally speaking you're not supposed to ask incoming medical students either, but I will speak about the match and residency process. You cannot ask potential residents for your program about their marital status, about anything about their relationship status, about whether they have children, want to have children, any of that.

You cannot ask any of those things. If you even hint that you're trying to figure out if the person in front of you is going to have kids during their residency, if it is— You can get in so much trouble, you can get so many violations, and I will tell you that we go over this rigorously every match season with all the people currently in the program to make sure that no resident makes some—

'Cause it's really easy to make some inadvertent comment about like, "Oh, I had kids during residency. They were so supportive. Were you thinkin' of starting a family?" It's so easy to say something, and then you've broken a major rule.

That being said, there are always people who break rules, of course, and if you are somebody who is going through this process and somebody asks you one of these inappropriate questions, you should report it, because it's unacceptable. Because whether or not you wanna have a family has nothing to do with whether or not you're going to be a great match for their program.

Justin: And obviously we can't expect *Dr. Odyssey* to be 100% accurate in all things, but I think for this specific thing, I thought it was worth

mentioning it just so that we don't start to normalize that, right? Like people should know that it's an abnormality, and they should know that it's not allowed.

Sydnee: Exactly, and they should also know that there are a lot of programs like the one that I went through where they didn't ask me, they told me from the jump "We're not asking if you wanna have kids, but we are telling you that if you decide to start a family, we will support you, we have special rotations for new parents, and we embrace families in this family medicine residency."

So there are programs out there that are welcome and opening, or open and welcoming [chuckles] to that. So was that a problem? Yes, it's why we have rules. [chuckles]

Justin: I wanted to touch on one of the wilder— Sometimes *Dr. Odyssey* asks its character to do wild stuff just to keep the plot beats coming. One of the wilder things in this episode is after the foot is reattached, that's— they go to Spencer's bed, First Officer Monroe's bed and it's empty, and they're like, "Where is Monroe?" And he— [wheezes] They find him on the— He's on the stairs.

Sydnee: He's like crawling up the stairs.

Justin: Crawling up to where— Like crawling up to the deck, he's like, "They need me up there." It's like dude, listen, you know bet— No-one's doing this, right? No-one's tossing themselves [laughs]

Sydnee: He does it again later!

Justin: He does it twice, they bring him up to the— It's wild, it's such a wild beat.

Sydnee: He does it again later, he escapes twice. I thought that was wild, I thought the use of an acetylene torch to—

Justin: [wheezes] To cut through his—

Sydnee: To cut through a six-inch steel door.

Justin: It was great.

Sydnee: Was pretty wild. To get to the part of the ship where the inter— like where the power's— I don't even know what was happening, they had to find where the power was out and they found it and they fixed it.

Justin: Yeah, that was part of the acetylene torch, and they were like mid— they're looking for the thing while the lights are off and they're like trying to close her up, but they haven't found the thing that's bleeding yet. This is Rumour Willis, the—

Sydnee: Yeah, well you haven't even got— So Rumour Willis is going septic and they don't know why, so they have to open her up and that's who they find a shark tooth inside.

Justin: I did wanna mention, just because it's so funny, they— All the doctors are wearing these flashlights. If you can imagine a flashlight that like wraps around their necks with two light— like a light on each end, like two circles of light sort of where their, what would you, here—

Sydnee: Collarbones.

Justin: Your collarbones would be, there's like two beams of light coming down. And I swear to God gang, the have go 'em angled exactly on Dr. Brooke Lane's chest, to where they have gotten like discrete cleavage lighting that she is constantly wearing in every scene. It is one of the weirdest thing I have ever seen.

Sydnee: It feels so Ryan Murphy.

Justin: It's like— Yeah.

Sydnee: [chuckles] So—

Justin: PS by the way, over on *Rescue 91*— or over on *911*.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Justin: The other Ryan Murphy show, this season began with a bee-nado, is what's happening over there.

Sydnee: Oh my gosh. I— So as you may imagine, they get the energy back on, they use sound cannons to scare off the orcas, and then they—

Justin: By the way, one of the most unfortunate things I think, as for in terms of the [chuckles] character on the autism spectrum is very hesitant to use the sound cannons on the whales because he doesn't like loud noises.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: Hey listen. [chuckles] We— Okay. Let's calm down a little bit, alright.

Sydnee: It was life or death, I think.

Justin: I think he— Yeah, I think I'll— Listen, I... You'd have to really, really hate loud noises to not wanna save yourself from an attacking orca, I think.

Sydnee: They— So they save everybody's life.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: With their many surgeries, they do so many surgeries.

Justin: Lot of surgeries, yeah.

Sydnee: They do so many surgeries and they save everyone's life, and then the couple, Rumour Willis and her boyfriend who were in the shark attack, get married.

Justin: Thank you.

Sydnee: Immediately after, when they wake up from their surgeries.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: And then they set off—

Justin: Is this the first-time people have been married on the boat?

Sydnee: I don't think so.

Justin: It feels like we've already had it.

Sydnee: I think we've already had weddings. And then they have a fireworks display.

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: To keep the orcas from following them home, which I guess they keep fireworks on the cruise ship, and maybe that's standard, don't know about that. I would like to point out, they— they freeze Monroe at one point because he's like septic.

Justin: Oh yeah.

Sydnee: And they're trying to lower— they're trying to freeze him. Oh no, they're trying to— Yeah, freeze him to save his foot. Anyway. [chuckles] They pull an IV— They say he needs more fluids, "Give him cold fluids," which you can do. But they pull an IV bag out of the like liquid nitrogen or whatever.

Justin: [chuckles]

Sydnee: I don't know, there's fog everywhere. And it is a glass rectangular...

Justin: It always looks— Everything on the show is like designed to death, like they— Everything is gold trimmed, you know, forceps and all this nonsense.

Sydnee: I still don't know what those little pulse oxy things on their fingers are, the things that read their vitals.

Justin: It looks like Lady Gaga jewelry? Yeah, I don't know.

Sydnee: Yeah, it's like it's wild. It looks like you know in the movie *Death Becomes Her*.

Justin: Sure.

Sydnee: The vial.

Justin: Of course I do.

Sydnee: With the stuff in it that you drink.

Justin: Exactly, perfect reference, yeah.

Sydnee: Everything in the OR looks like it designed by—

Justin: Designed by—

Sydnee: — whoever made that vial.

Justin: That's such a good call.

Sydnee: Like that's what everything— Well I mean don't you think? Like that's a—

Justin: Good read.

Sydnee: — a reference that everybody would get.

Justin: HUUUUUGE *Death Becomes Her* energy, yeah. So—

Sydnee: Anyway.

Justin: Anyway. They save the day, and Dr. Odyssey sails out for casino week next week, so we won't be covering that 'cause—

Sydnee: We won't be covering it, but—

Justin & Sydnee: [simultaneously] – we will be watching it.

Sydnee: And—

Justin: And hopefully you'll be listening to our show, *Sawbones*.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: Which is supported by you, our beloved listeners. And we're so thankful to you, by the way. And—

Sydnee: We are so thankful.

Justin: If you haven't gone to maximumfun.org/join, this is the last chance we get to ask you to do it, and if you like our show and you want us to keep making it, please go do that right now. Maximumfun.org/join. You got other subscriptions to other stuff and they gate things, right? Like they won't let you watch it unless you give 'em money for it. That's not the kinda thing we like to do here.

Sydnee: Yeah no.

Justin: If you don't have money, we still want you to listen to it, right. If you can't afford to support the shows, I get it.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: It's— I understand.

Sydnee: Maybe tell a friend.

Justin: Go tell a friend.

Sydnee: Share the show, tell somebody you like it, that always helps us out.

Justin: Yeah, we appreciate it, and either way, you listening and being here, it means the world to us. But if you are able to give, it really is a huge help. Maximumfun.org/join is that address. I wanna say thanks to the Taxpayers for the use of their song "Medicines" as the intro and outro of our program. And thanks to you, Sydnee Smirl McElroy for marrying me.

Sydnee: Aw, well that's—

Justin: And thanks to you the listeners, for listening yet again.

[theme music fades in]

Justin: That's gonna do it for us. Until next time, my name is Justin McElroy.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

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

[outro theme music plays]

[ukulele chord]

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