

Sawbones 576: Ranking TV Medical Shows

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["Medicines" by The Taxpayers plays]

Justin: Hello, everybody, and welcome to Sawbones! A marital tour of misguided medicine. I'm your co-host, Justin McElroy.

Sydnee: And I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Justin: And yes, yes, it's true, Sydnee, it is your birthday today. As we are recording this—

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: It is your birthday.

Sydnee: Yes, it is my birthday. I have my birthday goblet with me.

Justin: Yes. And Sydnee, in recognition of your birthday—I know last week I researched an episode about movie medicines, TV medicines—

Sydnee: Fake medicines.

Justin: Fake medicines. But I wanted to keep it—keep it alive, keep the streak going, a classic Sawbones combo. And talk about medical TV shows. Now, this is something that we have done a lot of, we talked a lot of medical TV. But today—

Sydnee: Like individual ones, yeah.

Justin: Individual episodes. But this is your idea and—since it is your birthday. And even if it wasn't, I think it's a great one. We're going to go through, and here's what I've done, I've collected a list of, I think, every medical TV show released since you were born. Like just during your lifetime. We're only doing during your lifetime.

Sydnee: And now, you know I have not watched all of these, right?

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: Like, I've watched quite a few, but there are going to be more that I haven't, I would say, than that I have.

Justin: Right. So, this is not—the one show that is not in this list, obviously, is Mash, because it was much earlier, and you need a much longer—that is obviously an S-tier show for you.

Sydnee: So I don't get to talk about Mash?

Justin: Well, you—this is your moment to talk about Mash. . Every show that we're going to talk about today is in the shadow of Mash.

Sydnee: Okay.

Justin: I think. You can't even put them on the scale of Mash, because I think to rank it, to have a separate tier—

Sydnee: Mm-hm.

Justin: Legitimately, I thought about this, if you rank anything on the Mash tier, you're—it's ridiculo—right? Like in terms of like effect on you—

Sydnee: Yeah. No, there's—yes.

Justin: Effect on TV, effect on medicine on TV. There's literally no comparison. There's no comparison point.

Sydnee: That is—this is—

Justin: Mash in a class by itself.

Sydnee: This is all true, but can I have like 30 seconds to talk about it?

Justin: This is why I'm setting it up, right? The stage is about to be set by Mash.

Sydnee: Okay.

Justin: So, Mash.

Sydnee: Mash. Mash is my favorite TV show of all time, and I would say the best medical TV show of all time. And I bet most people would agree with that—

Justin: Mm-hm.

Sydnee: In that specific category. I think that although it is set on the, you know, front lines of a war—

Justin: Mm-hm.

Sydnee: Which would make it seem unrelatable to most of us who practice medicine—

Justin: Mm-hm.

Sydnee: Because while certainly there are other physicians who do, most of us don't—

Justin: Mm-hm.

Sydnee: Have that experience. I think that what it is reflecting is the core of medicine, the constant battle we're in, which is that we are trying to help keep people alive and keep them well. And ultimately, we are all mortal. And so, we always lose that battle. And I think that's what they're talking about in Mash, but in a very literal way.

Justin: Happy birthday to you.

Sydnee: Oh, I'm just saying—

Justin: Does this lady know how to party or what?!

Sydnee: I think that's why it is so universally relatable, despite being an experience that most of us will never have. Because of that, it's also funny. And a lot of times, working in hospitals and medical settings, it's very funny. We are all making really dark jokes, because it's how we cope. And I think that's, again, a universal experience.

And I think that it reflects a time in medicine when people thought doctors were like the doctors on *Mash*. I mean, if you look at just Hawkeye, who is my—the doctor that I try to be like most of the time, he is exactly what you would hope your physician would be like;

Caring and competent and will fight and advocate for you to the point of breaking whatever rules he has to, to make sure that the right thing is done for you. And I think that's what we all wish doctors were like. And I think it's interesting that there was a time where that was the way doctors were portrayed on TV. And that is not necessarily the case anymore.

Justin: All right—

Sydnee: *Mash* is great.

Justin: Sydnee, we're—

Sydnee: That's all I have to say.

Justin: We're going to be doing a tier ranking today. It is not a democracy. It is not a vote. It is just your call.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: I—

Sydnee: For my birthday.

Justin: Yes, for your birthday.

Sydnee: If you disagree, that's fine.

Justin: I have—

Sydnee: These are just my personal...

Justin: I have varying amounts of context for each one, because there's a lot to get through. Are you ready?

Sydnee: Okay. Yes.

Justin: Trauma Center, 1983. I've never heard of this, but it starred Lou Ferrigno. It made an entire season. It's kind of like an early ER.

Sydnee: Came out the year I was born.

Justin: Came out the year you were born, that's why we're picking it up.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: It was a show about paramedics, starring Lou Ferrigno. You know who Lou Ferrigno is? He is the—

Sydnee: He's the Hulk?

Justin: Yeah, the original Incredible Hulk, as a paramedic. Which this show already, can I just say, sounds good. [chuckles] I would like to watch this already. But this was a huge flop, that was airing alongside St. Elsewhere. St. Elsewhere began just briefly before that. That's another huge medical drama that is like—

Sydnee: And it was sort of like a soapy kind of situation, right?

Justin: That was—that was looming very large in the conversation, but—

Sydnee: Okay.

Justin: Just before you were born, just missed your cutoff.

Sydnee: I don't even know—honey, I don't know how to rank it? I never saw it, I didn't know it existed until just now.

Justin: Sounds like a D!

Sydnee: Okay.

Justin: Doogie Howser, M.D. Speaking of famous Ds.

Sydnee: I did see Doogie Howser.

Justin: All right, Doogie—

Sydnee: I forgot about Doogie.

Justin: Yeah, Doogie aired from 1989 to 1993. Starred, of course, Neil Patrick Harris as his breakthrough role as a medical prodigy, 16 years old. He becomes a doctor, navigating puberty and being a doc.

Sydnee: I haven't seen Doogie Howser in a long time. I have watched it, but it's been a while.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: I would guess that the medical expertise, like as far as getting it right—because that's always one of the things you consider; is it funny, is it entertaining, is it true, the experience of being a healthcare provider? And is it medically accurate? Like those are all sort of the things I think about. I don't know how medically accurate. I also would suspect that at that time in TV, you weren't demanding that level of accuracy yet.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: You know what I mean?

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like I feel like ER short a—sort of changed that game.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Where you have consultants who tell you like, "No, that's fake. No, no—no, no, we would never." I feel like probably Doogie was pre that, so I bet if I watched it now I'd be like, "This doesn't make any sense." And I'd do it like that, "This doesn't make any sense."

Justin: Is that a C? Is that a D? Is that a B? Where are you feeling a Doogie Howser goes?

Sydnee: Oh, but for Neil Patrick Harris, it gets a B.

Justin: Wow. It's your list.

Sydnee: It's Neil Patrick Harris!

Justin: Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman. 1993 to 1998, created by Beth Sullivan. It aired on CBS for, get this, Syd, 150 episodes!

Sydnee: Do you know what is embarrassing? I've never seen this show.

Justin: It's so—

Sydnee: Not once. I have googled—

Justin: How is that possible? It is so you coded. That should be—

Sydnee: I know!

Justin: A miniseries we do.

Sydnee: Oh, I have been called Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman more times in my career than I could count. And during my college, like the week that I— before I started college, because of the scholarship program I was in, the Yeager Scholarship Program, it's a wonderful program, I was able—

Like we had this little retreat where we all got to know each other, and we played games. And one of the games was, what celebrity do I look like? And the celebrity they told me I looked like was Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman. This is before I went to med school, before I was ever a physician!

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: So, the only reference I have was me looking up a picture of her to know who was this person that they thought I looked like—

Justin: Mm-hm.

Sydnee: At this point.

Justin: [chuckles] So, Syd, it is a wealthy—

Sydnee: It gets an A!

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Justin: So, okay, you've never watched it, you look like her. I haven't told people what it is yet. You didn't give me a chance to give the synopsis yet.

Sydnee: It gets an A.

Justin: It's about a wealthy Boston doctor, who is a huge racist? Whoa, Syd! Dang! I can't believe you gave this an A?

Sydnee: No, she goes out to like—

Justin: She kicks—pushes kids into wells!

Sydnee: The rural areas, like in the wilderness—

Justin: She pushes kids—

Sydnee: And takes care of people, right?

Justin: Into open well—no, yeah—

Sydnee: No...

Justin: She's a wealthy doctor from Boston, who moves out to the Wild West to prove women can—

Sydnee: Be doctors.

Justin: Be doctors! And she addresses like social issues, too.

Sydnee: I bet I'd love it. I should watch it. I should—I need to watch it. I'll watch it.

Justin: You should watch it. Will you promise?

Sydnee: I promise. I make this promise—

Justin: Promise. And it's an A.

Sydnee: And I'm making the promise on the podcast, so I have to—

Justin: This one isn't even going to be close, but—

Sydnee: I have to do it.

Justin: 1994 brings us ER.

Sydnee: ER.

Justin: 331 episodes.

Sydnee: I've watched every episode of ER at least once, some multiple times.

Justin: May I—can I just—I love that you're so excited to talk about these, but if I could just set up what this show is before you tell me how great it is.

Sydnee: I mean, it's an emergency room.

Justin: I mean, for each—

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Justin: It's an emergency room, yes. The title does give it away. Thank you, Sydnee. Now you may proceed. [titters] It's a massive, massive TV hit, created by Michael Crichton, the dude behind Jurassic Park. It's a—I mean, this thing, if you weren't alive during this time period, which was 1994 to 2009—that's a long time for a TV show to be on, by the way! That's like a super long run.

Sydnee: And I think a lot of people, when they talk about ER, they think about like sort of how there was all the relationship stuff happening.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like there were—like George Clooney, like sexy doctors who were saving lives, and also being super sexy. And I think a lot of people talk about it in that context. What gets lost in the conversation is that I really think, watching ER, most of the time, they're getting it pretty right.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Sydnee: It's not 100%. No medical show really ever is. But they're getting it pretty right. The stuff they're saying makes sense. The stuff they're doing makes sense. I'm always impressed by how real it feels. Now, I have never worked in an ER that's busy to that level.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Sydnee: We live in Huntington. Our ER is busy, but not like that busy. But it is true to the feeling. And the very first episode follows, you know, Mark Green through a shift. And the intensity of that nonstop 36–40-hour shifts that we used to work, that aren't legal now, don't worry, but they were back in my day, it's there. It's a wonderful show It is. And I can't talk about Mark Green too much or I'll start crying.

Justin: Okay, so, what is it again?

Sydnee: It's—wait, what's—is there—

Justin: S is the best.

Sydnee: S is the best.

Justin: Yes. It gets a S?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: S tier?

Sydnee: Yeah! ER changed the game.

Justin: ER changed the game.

Sydnee: And it gave us John Carter.

Justin: Yeah. Of Mars.

Sydnee: John Carter. And it made me want to go to—it made me want to go to Africa—

Justin: Now, the—

Sydnee: Because they went with Doctors Without Borders! It changed my whole life! It changed everything for me.

Justin: And at the same time, for not for as long, was Chicago Hope. Now, do you have any Chicago Hope familiarity or love?

Sydnee: Never watched any Chicago Hope.

Justin: Okay, now—

Sydnee: This one feels—again, I have this impression that these were soap operas. Is it a soap opera?

Justin: So, that one is regarded as more soapy. It starred Mandy Patinkin and Adam Arkin. Two of your—

Sydnee: Oh, it's got Mandy Patinkin?

Justin: Yeah, and Adam Arkin, who I love. And it's—

Sydnee: But I love Mandy Patinkin.

Justin: Well, you love Alan Arkin, right? You can't shave off a little love for Adam Arkin?

Sydnee: I just don't—I don't know who that is. [laughs]

Justin: He's Alan's best friend and brother!

Sydnee: I don't know—I don't know what you—I mean, I'm not—I don't dislike this individual, I just don't know—I don't know who it is.

Justin: So, it's a soapier version of the medical approach. Doctors at the time thought it was less realistic than ER, but it was more about bioethics.

Sydnee: There's plenty of bioethics in ER.

Justin: Created by—

Sydnee: You can't—

Justin: David E. Kelley, by the way.

Sydnee: Oh?

Justin: The creator of—

Sydnee: Friends.

Justin: Got a dud double—

[papers rustling]

Justin: God, I double printed these. We gotta—

Sydnee: You can't—

Justin: We must move faster.

Sydnee: You can't—okay. But you can't—you can't... It's just, as a doctor, if I want a doctor show, the relationships can be sort of in the background or around the edges, but I want to see the... doctoring.

Justin: What are you going to give it? What does Chicago Hope get?

Sydnee: I'd have no reference? What's the—

Justin: A, B, C, D, S.

Sydnee: I don't know.

Justin: S, A, B, C, D. It aired for six years—

Sydnee: C!

Justin: In a—

Sydnee: Just because Mandy Patinkin was on it.

Justin: It gets a C for Mandy Patinkin.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: Thank you so much.

Sydnee: Because Inigo Montoya is on the show, I'm gonna do—I'm going to give it a C.

Justin: Mercy Point, started in 1998. I've never heard of this one.

Sydnee: Never heard of this.

Justin: It was on UPN, for seven episodes. Starred Joe Morton and Brian McNamara. It was—it was ER, but in deep space, in the 23rd century.

Sydnee: Oh, no, I don't want this.

Justin: [chuckles]

Sydnee: I can't judge anything. I can't—

Justin: Very quickly.

Sydnee: No, I—you are taking away the reason that doctors watch medical shows, if they do. It's one of two things. Either it's me who wants to try to relate to it and see how much they get right, or you're the doctor who watches it to see how much they get wrong and criticize it. If it's set in the future in space, I can't do any of that.

Justin: Some of these are like blips on the TV radar, so like you're not going to have much awareness of them.

Sydnee: I don't know what—

Justin: You give it a D—

Sydnee: What do we even say—

Justin: I mean, you can give it a D—

Sydnee: A Z.

Justin: A Z?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: Z, I love that. Z!

Sydnee: Z, for no context.

Justin: No context.

Sydnee: I don't even know where to put you.

Justin: Check this out.

Sydnee: Should I even give you a letter? Should we give you a number? Should we say you're—

Justin: This is interesting, another one—

Sydnee: You're 13.

Justin: This is created by Steven Bochco, the NYPD blue guy. City of Angels, 2000. Starred Blair Underwood and Vivica A. Fox. It was a drama that centered on a predominantly black medical staff operating an underfunded public hospital in Los Angeles. Hm. It was about managing chronic illnesses in populations without access to primary care. Hm, sounds interesting.

Sydnee: It does sound interesting.

Justin: It did not—it's 24 episodes, looks like. So like one se—one season, I would guess, of a drama at that time period.

Sydnee: It sounds superior to the movie City of Angels.

Justin: Okay. Yeah. Low bar.

Sydnee: So, B.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: Can I say, by the way—

Justin: Wild rubric, I love it.

Sydnee: NYPD Blue—

Justin: We're gonna branch off into cop shows—

Sydnee: No—

Justin: Because you—

Sydnee: Did you ever watch it? I just wanted to know.

Justin: [chuckles] No, I was too little. My parents said I couldn't.

Sydnee: My parents had—like they—we watched it together. It was like family TV for us, for like a year.

Justin: You saw his—you saw Dennis—not Dennis Farina's butt. Was it Dennis Farina's butt?

Sydnee: I don't know, but I—

Justin: Someone's butt.

Sydnee: I just know that there was a year of my life where I watched NYPD Blue, which is weird to think about. I wouldn't—

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: I do not watch cop shows now, of any kind.

Justin: In the words of Ian Malcolm, let's go faster. Scrubs, 2001 to 2010.

Sydnee: Scrubs.

Justin: Another one of your faves. 182 episodes. Very complicated relationship. Now, this is kind of—kind of like both, right? This is both airing now and then.

Sydnee: I'm going to be honest, this is tough for me because if you had asked me before this new—it's not a reboot, it's just a continuation.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Of the series. If you had asked me before I watched that, Scrubs would be S tier for me.

Justin: Wow.

Sydnee: I don't know if I have to drop it one.

Justin: Whoa!

Sydnee: And it's not because it's bad, it's because I don't know what they're doing.

Justin: There's an episode of Still Buffering people can go listen to for more context on this. Is that fair?

Sydnee: Yes. The TLDR is I—in the original Scrubs, there was a very clear morality. "This is hard, but we do everything we can, even if it means breaking the rules to take care of our patients, because this is bigger than a job. This is more than a job to us." And that is the central morality, usually Dr. Cox representing it, if you toss aside the sexism and homophobic comments. That is the morality of Scrubs. In this new iteration, I don't know if that's the case.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Sydnee: It may—it may be heading towards a heel turn, where like JD is wrong with the things he's saying. With being like, "Well, this is the system, and we just have to accept the system, and that's it." If that's the new message from Scrubs, it's going to drop to an A for me. So I don't know.

Justin: Scrubs was a TV show about young doctors—

Sydnee: [titters]

Justin: Who were just getting started. It starred Zach Braff and Donald Faison, and I'm curious to hear what Sydnee thinks of it. Sydnee?

Sydnee: It's very funny, and it was very true to the—I will say, the original series felt exactly like the residency—

Justin: Is it getting an A?

Sydnee: Experience.

Justin: Is it getting an A?

Sydnee: Yeah, I'm giving it an A. It would be a—it will be an S, if—

Justin: If it can stick the landing.

Sydnee: Yes! If we see that Zach Braff's character, JD, is wrong, and he learns a very important lesson. Especially from Elliott, because Elliott was really treated badly in a lot of the first seasons. And so if she is the new moral center, yes.

Justin: This is one that I, again, another one I've never heard of. It was on ABC, it was called MDs. It aired in 2002, starred William Fichtner and John Hannah. Here's the—here's the plot. Two renegade docs wage a war against their hospital's evil HMO administrator.

Sydnee: [chuckles] I like the sound of that, but I—

Justin: [chuckles] No one watched it no one liked it. Real doctors liked it, I guess. Real doctors were like, "This is good! I like this show."

Sydnee: Yeah! I give it a B. [laughs]

Justin: It's a B? Nice!

Sydnee: I mean, I—listen, as a doctor who worked in a hospital, and I mean, I didn't have an HMO person to fight, but I did feel like I was fighting admin quite a bit—

Justin: Okay, this is—we have a Ryan Murphy series on here, Nip Tuck, that was about—

Sydnee: Uh-oh.

Justin: That started in '03 to '010—'010. To 2010. [chuckles] It was about plastic surgeons in Miami, who were terrible people, and they did a bunch of plastic surgery stuff, body modifications, and a bunch of soapy stuff—

Sydnee: This is—this is not—

Justin: It was a Ryan Murphy show.

Sydnee: I know. And there's no way it was about the medicine, right? Like it—

Justin: No, sur—the plastic surgeons—

Sydnee: It would have been about—

Justin: Thought it was pretty bad.

Sydnee: The relationships and the—yeah, and like sext stuff. And I don't—there are a lot of plastic surgeons who do like really important work for people—I don't—I... it's... no.

Justin: No? Okay.

Sydnee: No. That's my rating, no.

Justin: Well, you have to—can you—

Sydnee: I'll never watch Nip Tuck! Like Nip Tuck—

Justin: You wanna give it a D—

Sydnee: Is the opposite of me.

Justin: You wanna give it a D then?

Sydnee: Yeah. It's the—the antithesis of Sydnee is Nip Tuck.

Justin: Now, okay, I just—

Sydnee: If you—if you were—if we were on opposites of a color wheel, the opposite color of Sydnee is Nip Tuck.

Justin: Okay, so I do—I thought it was—okay, so, I have to ask—

Sydnee: Wait, we have to go to the Billing Department before—

Justin: Okay! Okay! Okay! Yeah, yeah, yeah! Okay, but like, we've only made it through eight shows. Must go faster!

Sydnee: I told you, we did too many.

Justin: Let's go. [chuckles]

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[break]

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[break]

Justin: Okay. [giggles] Okay, so you gave Trauma Center a D, but it sounds like we need something that's like with prejudice. Like you need like, you don't hate Trauma Center the way you hate Nip Tuck.

Sydnee: No, no.

Justin: So, you need something that's like a F.

Sydnee: Can I—[titters] I like—[chuckles] I—yeah, I don't know what—what is that? F.

Justin: F, like if you're flunked. You flunked it.

Sydnee: You're flunk, you're flunk. I...

Justin: It goes kerplunk, you're sunk. You're flunked, you're out.

Sydnee: Here's the thing that, I don't think our listeners know this about me, but I guess it's appropriate to learn it on my birthday. I will write things off without having any familiarity with them. [laughs]

Justin: Really no context.

Sydnee: Just based on vibes. And it's a flaw in my personality—

Justin: Honey, I have —

Sydnee: And I'm working on it!

Justin: I have so many pages here to get through.

Sydnee: And I'm sorry.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: I've gotten better. I'm 43 years old, I'm better than I used to be.

Justin: Okay, I think I let you have too much bathtub birthday Prosecco.

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Justin: Okay. Dr. Vegas came out in 2004, and it starred Rob Lowe as Doc Vegas. And the fact that you haven't watched Dr. Vegas is actually wild. You would probably love Dr. Vegas. [chuckles]

Sydnee: I probably would love Dr. Vegas. There's only one problem—

Justin: I can tell you the plot of it, but it's like, it's Dr. Vegas!

Sydnee: It's Dr. Vegas.

Justin: He's doctor—he's a house doctor for a Vegas casino. It was 10 episodes. He left West Wing to do it.

Sydnee: Would the—okay! That's what—

Justin: That's—

Sydnee: No, that's what I was about to say. The only reason I don't want to give it a higher grade is that I know he left West Wing for it. And I love Sam Seaborn on West Wing. And so, he... there's no way—I mean, how can he counterbalance the harm he did to this other show I love?

Justin: What's the—what's the rule, Dr. Vegas? First, do no harm.

Sydnee: [titters]

Justin: You've already done harm!

Sydnee: You did harm! You left West Wing, Sam!

Justin: You left West Wing, Sam! What is it—is that an F for Dr. Vegas?

Sydnee: No...

Justin: Okay. Really?

Sydnee: I probably would like it, because I do—I also enjoy Rob Lowe. So, probably a C.

Justin: But don't get—C.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: I was about—

Sydnee: I would probably like it! Let's be honest.

Justin: House. 2004.

Sydnee: Listen—

Justin: I mean, House—

Sydnee: Go ahead and say what is House, really.

Justin: House is a parallel to Sherlock Holmes.

Sydnee: Yes. It's a secret Sherlock.

Justin: It's a modern secret Sherlock. He's got a best friend named Wilson.
Wink!

Sydnee: Who's a doctor, but also House is a doctor in this one.

Justin: Yeah, House is a doctor in this one. He has a—I guess probably the main differentiator is he does have Sherlock's battles with drug addiction, but it stems from a physical injury. Like a—was it a motorcycle accident he had? Or something—

Sydnee: No, he had a blood clot in his leg.

Justin: Blood clot in his leg. But it was—he had—the motorcycle accident was later, wasn't it?

Sydnee: Mm-hm.

Justin: That did happen.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: I'm not imagining it. But anyway!

Sydnee: And there's a bus crash, there's all kinds of stuff.

Justin: There's all kinds of stuff. What—okay, starring Hugh Laurie, who, America, I wish—I wish—if you didn't know Hugh Laurie was British back then, nobody knew. And when he came out as British—that's not the right way of putting it. But when he started saying British stuff, everybody kind of freaked out, because I don't think anybody—on this side of the pond! I know over on your side of the pond—

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: If you're listening to this from England.

Sydnee: Yeah, if you're British, you knew this.

Justin: You know this.

Sydnee: You don't know—whatever—however he learned to do an American accent—

Justin: Go to that school.

Sydnee: That's the way—he had us all fooled. He had us all—and sometimes you all are not fooling us, but he had us all fooled.

Justin: The only person who's close, I think Emma Thompson is a run for the money.

Sydnee: But Hugh Laurie—

Justin: I mean, Emma Thompson is—

Sydnee: Is—

Justin: American.

Sydnee: I was shocked when I learned he was pleasant and British, because he seems so surly and American.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Sydnee: And here's—okay. I love the character House. I like antiheroes. I like complicated characters like that. And so, I was drawn to the show and the characters as much as the puzzles. There are quite a few of the puzzles that hold up in terms of like presenting medicine that way, because that's how it is, right? Instead of just like this person's sick, it's a puzzle to solve. And truly, a lot of them are accurate.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Sydnee: There definitely is a lot about the system of medicine that is just so... out of left field. Like, none of these physicians are doing the job that that physician with that training would be doing. Nobody—like you're not in the lab prepping specimens for yourself and looking in microscopes and running centrifuges. You're not—you can't be doing biopsies and surgery, and you're intubating people, and you're taking the history. And you're also like robbing their houses sometimes, like breaking into their houses...

Justin: They didn't wanna—

Sydnee: This is all—

Justin: It was a while—

Sydnee: This all got a little ridiculous.

Justin: They didn't want to pay for other—they didn't want to establish a broader world of the hospital. I think this was the issue, right?

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: They didn't want to establish a broader world of the hospital outside of this team. They didn't want you to have to meet... the oral surgeon of this hospital. [laughs] Like they—

Sydnee: Or any tech who like—

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: They were running the CT scanner. Do you know who you don't want running the CT scanner? Me.

Justin: Yeah. So, what do you give it, Syd?

Sydnee: All that said, I love it. I loved the characters and it was enjoyable. But not an S. I don't even know if it... no, I think it gets an A.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: It gets an A.

Justin: This isn't my list, but for whatever it's worth, I think—

Sydnee: Also, Lynn is great in it.

Justin: Lynn is great in it.

Sydnee: Lynn is so good in it.

Justin: You have to take it—I think you have to take House holistically, because I think it really falls off in the latter seasons. But first half I think is S tier, second half I think is B tier. [chuckles] That's my—

Sydnee: Well, I'm averaging it out to an A, because I do think—like, he shoots a corpse at one point.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's not... I don't want people to think doctors do this stuff.
[chuckles]

Justin: Hey, hey, hon? Grey's Anatomy has been airing since 2005. I don't need to tell you what Grey's Anatomy is, but it is a medical drama. It is, in an—in some ways, I feel like it is sort of the—there is always one flagship medical show. Is that fair to—like, it feels that way, right? It feels like it was like—you had St. Elsewhere, you had ER, you had—

Sydnee: Scrubs and House both filled those voids.

Justin: I think that they were both sort of that. And then once Grey's Anatomy came—well, you know, Grey's Anatomy, I think is more that, because it—House and Grey's Anatomy started within a year of each other.

Sydnee: And Grey's Anatomy definitely was bigger. I think it—

Justin: Its' the—it is more the doc—the hospital show.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: You know what I mean? To which other shows will be referenced.

Sydnee: And you had a cast of characters that you could follow, not just sort of—not just—

Justin: 400 plus episodes.

Sydnee: Yes. And there was a lot of romance and it was sexy. It is the show, when I talk about how real Dr. Scrubs—

Justin: By the way, you should say present tense, unless the sexiness has been banned, which would be quite a—

Sydnee: I assume that—well, I stopped watching it at some point.

Justin: Okay. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Well, I'll tell you when I stopped watching it, is when McDreamy was no longer on it. Because that seems sad to me. But I—the—when I talk about how scrubs in real life don't fit the way that doctor's scrubs on TV fit, I'm usually talking about Grey's Anatomy.

Everybody looks fantastic all the time, and that is not how most of us look in hospital-issued Scrubs. That's just the truth. That being said, when it started, I really did love this show. I think that the struggles of the residents—I was not a surgical resident, but as a family medicine resident, I did have to do a rotation on surgery. I lived that life for a little bit, and I know what it's like. I know how hard it is.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: There is a lot that's true about their experience, for sure. But it just—I feel like there's this impression on media portrayals of doctors that we're all a lot sexier and having a lot more sex. And that like sex is a lot—is a— is a much bigger part of practicing medicine than it really is. Why is that?

Justin: I think it's every TV show, right? I mean like, if you did like—I mean, any career—I bet shows about like universities, like Boston Commons, I bet there was a lot more romance and sex in Boston Commons than you have at the actual university. And I bet like Star Trek—

Sydnee: [chuckles]

Justin: You feel like—I don't feel like NASA and like—

Sydnee: There's more sex than you would have in space?

Justin: The ISS, I don't feel like there's been any sort of stuff like that happening. So, there is—I think that that addition is more of a TV convention.

Sydnee: They also were much more willing to do really outrageous things medically, to try to—instead of just like—there really is outrageous stuff that happens in the human body and in actual medicine that you don't have to fake.

And instead they're like, this person has like a live round of ammunition in them that could explode at any second. And this person's encased in concrete. And these two people are impaled by a shared steel rod, and only one life can be saved. Those situations generally aren't happening in hospitals.

Justin: Mm-hm. So, a letter for Grey's.

Sydnee: I... I'd give it a B. I mean, for nothing else, like it's hung on this long.

Justin: You ever heard about 3 lbs? That came out in 2006. It starred Stanley Tucci and aired for eight episodes. [chuckles]

Sydnee: No.

Justin: No, sorry! It air for three episodes. Eight of which aired—

Sydnee: This does not merit discussion.

Justin: Yeah. Eight were created, three were aired, starring Stanley Tucci.

Sydnee: That's too bad—

Justin: It was about—

Sydnee: Stanley Tucci, sorry about that.

Justin: It was about a brain surgeon arguing with his protege about like the soul and science. Its named for... they say its named for the average weight of a human brain?

Sydnee: I don't know, these are—this is the—this is why we do weird medical questions episodes, is sometimes people will say things like this and be like, "Is that true?" And because I'm a doctor, I feel like I'm expected to know. But like, they don't—we don't talk about—[chuckles] I don't talk about that in med school. I talk a lot about the function and like—

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: Pathology and how to fix it.

Justin: What are you gonna give it?

Sydnee: I don't—I have no—I don't—it sounds like it wouldn't be very enjoyable. So, a D.

Justin: Okay, there we go!

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: Private Practice, did you get a—it was a spinoff of Grey's, that aired for 111 episodes.

Sydnee: It's not the kind of show that I would enjoy watching.

Justin: It was about a—

Sydnee: I was familiar.

Justin: Yeah, well, I was just, I was gonna say, it's about one of a—one of the doctors does like a wellness clinic. She quits there and goes to do...

Sydnee: Yes—

Justin: Beach doctoring—

Sydnee: It's just—

Justin: I guess?

Sydnee: It's not the kind of—I don't—it's not the kind of show I'd be interested in, because I don't—the kind of medicine I am drawn to is not as polished, it's not as pretty. So, I don't know. But a lot of people liked it, especially people who like Grey's I think liked it—

Justin: Hm! So you will be give—

Sydnee: So maybe a C.

Justin: A C?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: Now, we have not watched Nurse Jackie. That stars Edie Falco, her follow-up to Sopranos.

Sydnee: I did have a nurse Jackie, she was great.

Justin: It was a New York Hospital that she worked in, and she was kind of like, I guess, holding the whole thing together. But we never watched it. She, I know that she like—

Sydnee: But like it won a bunch of awards?

Justin: Had a secret—oh, she had a secret opioid addiction.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: It was very well received I think critically, I just, it always seemed a little dark for our tastes.

Sydnee: It seemed dark, yeah. I mean, well, a lot of these shows also will echo the kind of perception of healthcare and the medical practice and people who do it. And so, I think sometimes you're seeing a show that's echoing like Americans don't trust doctors and they don't trust health care, and they don't trust the establishment and they feel mistreated by it. And

so, we see a show where like it is portrayed in a darker light, where nobody can just be in it purely for the right reasons and with all of the right—

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know, nobody can just be a hero, I think that you see that. I don't know, but it won a bunch of awards, so it's probably like a B, right?

Justin: Okay, B. B for Nurse Jackie. Trauma, it's a high-octane, explosion-heavy show about San Francisco paramedics. It aired for 18 episodes on NBC in 2009-2010. Paramedics did not find it very plausible. [chuckles]

Sydnee: Then I give it a D.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: I trust paramedics know about their jobs better than I do.

Justin: [sings] Do-do-do you know what's good for you? The doc's gonna make you feel better. Doc McStuffins.

Sydnee: Are you talking about Doc McStuffins?

Justin: 2012 to 2020. [chuckles] And if you don't know about Doc McStuffins, Doc McStuffins was a show about a doctor to pets. Now—no, sorry.

Sydnee: No, toys.

Justin: No, this is important.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: This is an important distinction!

Sydnee: Very important.

Justin: I got it mixed up in my head. Doc McStuffins is a show about a little girl that is a doctor—pretending to be a doctor to her toys, right? There is a spinoff that is about just animal toys.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: Where she is a vet. But Doc McStuffins, those are just—

Sydnee: It's just toys. Because—

Justin: It's just toys, even though they're animal shaped toys, she is not a veterinarian.

Sydnee: Right, because—well, because if you take it out of this fictional reality, if it was a child who was trying to practice medicine on actual animals, that's terrifying and disturbing and please don't do that. So...

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: No, I—you know what? I liked we watched Doc McStuffins with our kids. They're of the right age that we engaged with Doc McStuffins. I thought it was a sweet, clever show, and it led to us having some doctor toys that the kids really enjoyed. Remember the little doctor Doc McStuffins medical kart?

Justin: They enjoyed pretending doctors.

Sydnee: And we did little fake X-rays on it and took fake blood pressures. And I liked that, because then they're like playing things that I understand and can explain to them. So, I mean, for kids, this is probably S tier, right? Like for kids?

Justin: Yeah. That's fair. We're giving an S tier to Doc McStuffins. Now, I—

Sydnee: Not for me.

Justin: I don't know if you have any memory of this show, but we did watch one episode of The Mob Doctor. I think we talked—

Sydnee: I was obsessed with that—

Justin: We did an episode about it, yeah.

Sydnee: We never—yeah. And I never—we never watched anymore because I don't know that it would—I would really enjoy it.

Justin: It made it for 13 episodes, but it's about a young surgeon who is forced to moonlight for the Chicago mafia to payoff—

Sydnee: I love this idea, and if I'm ever offered this deal, I will take it.

Justin: There it is.

Sydnee: It's the kind of thing I would be good at. It's the kind of skill set I would have. You need me to adapt, and also, you don't want me to chart. It's perfect. You don't—you don't need me to do any notes about this, but you do want me to figure it out on my own? I was made for that job.

Justin: Apparently, some of the mob doctor techniques, trauma doctors said mirrored stuff that would happen on battlefields, and those sorts of mechanics—

Sydnee: I would have been a good—I feel like I would be good in those situations!

Justin: Be a great mob doctor.

Sydnee: I would be a great mob doctor—

Justin: Did you ever hear—

Sydnee: Hey, listen—

Justin: Did you ever hear about Do No Harm? Do you remember Do No Harm? It was in 2013.

Sydnee: Sure, but I don't—

Justin: No, no, no, it was about a neurosurgeon who—[chuckles] every night at 8:25, he would transform. Go from like Jekyll and Hyde—it was a Jekyll and Hyde thing where he had two different personalities. I'm sure it was treated with the utmost respect of whatever real—

Sydnee: Was it Hugh Jackman.

Justin: No.

[both chuckles]

Justin: No, it was...

Sydnee: Just feels like something he would do.

Justin: Yeah. It was about a person with a split personality that happens every day 8:25. [laughs]

Sydnee: No.

Justin: What do you wanna give it?

Sydnee: No... I'll give it a like... This is for theater kids or something, right?

Justin: You can't make up—no. A, B, C, D, F, Z, I think is where we're at. You gotta give it one of those.

Sydnee: I mean, it sounds like a D, I guess.

Justin: The Knick!

Sydnee: Oh, yeah!

Justin: Remember The Knick?

Sydnee: Oh! I almost forgot about—

Justin: I know, very short—

Sydnee: The Knick! I loved The Knick!

Justin: Very short run.

Sydnee: Yes!

Justin: But a grea—I mean like, a short run. Probably not for Cinemax, though. 20 episodes. Starting Clive Owen.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: Do you want to tell people about The Knick?

Sydnee: Well, it was set in—the hospital was the Knickerbocker, the Knick, that's where the name came from. And it was, what, 1912? Ish. In that time period.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Sydnee: I think that was about when it was set. And it was about medicine at the time, he was a surgeon at the hospital at the time. And he also did cocaine and then heroin, or heroin and then cocaine.

Justin: I don't remember.

Sydnee: No, he was an opiate addict, who was given cocaine to help him get over his opiate addiction.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: And then he became addicted to that. The medicine of the time, because we do a medical history show I feel like I can say this, is pretty accurate. Disturbing in the ways that it should be disturbing, because it was—I mean, you know—I mean, into this day, we do stuff that probably is disturbing—

Justin: So—

Sydnee: Or will be in 100 years. Anyway, I loved it. I thought it was very well-done. John Hodgman was in it, remember that?

Justin: Oh, yeah! Yeah, yeah!

Sydnee: John Hodgman was in it, he was great. As a—he was the doctor who was pulling out all the women's teeth, because they were—because—

Justin: Hysterical.

Sydnee: Hysterical.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Yeah. Anyway.

Justin: Anyway.

Sydnee: That was a great show. You know, that's an S tier show.

Justin: Okay!

Sydnee: That was a great.

Justin: Wow, joining the proud company with—

Sydnee: That's a great show.

Justin: Doc McStuffins.

Sydnee: [titters]

Justin: Next up, The Night Shift, aired in 2014 to 2017, on NBC.

Sydnee: I don't remember this show.

Justin: It was about military doc—ex-military doctors, who work in night shift at a San Antonio Hospital.

Sydnee: I don't remember this show at all.

Justin: I vaguely remember this like so barely. It aired for 45 episodes, but I do not remember it.

Sydnee: I'd have no context.

Justin: Give it a—give it a letter then, we'll move on.

Sydnee: A D.

Justin: Okay—

Sydnee: I feel bad, it could be great—

Justin: Did you watch Chicago Med?

Sydnee: No.

Justin: That hasn't aired in forever. It's a Dick Wolf show, it started in 2015. It's conne—it's the Chicago universe, which I—

Sydnee: There's the Chicago universe.

Justin: There is a pa—I know I'm not—this is not my episode. There's a part of me that sometimes wishes I watched all the Chicago shows.

Sydnee: I love Chicago, so it feels like I should watch all their shows, but like some of them are about like police and firefighters and stuff, right?

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Do they have an SVU over there? I don't ever—listen, I'm never watching an SVU anywhere. I don't care where it's set.

Justin: Chicago Med, created by Dick Wolf. It is 2015 to the present.

Sydnee: B.

Justin: B.

Sydnee: I love Chicago.

Justin: Code... code... Code Black?

Sydnee: I don't know—

Justin: Oh, that was about the one that does a—is it at an LA trauma center. And she—Marcia Gay Harden and—god, this is—

Sydnee: What are they—

Justin: I stopped watching—

Sydnee: What are they using Code Black to ref—like what is a code black in this reality?

Justin: Hm...

Sydnee: Because I can tell you what a code black is in the hospital I worked at.

Justin: It's about an un—it's about the systemic failure of an underfunded trauma center, so I don't—

Sydnee: Code black is when the EMR goes down.

Justin: Mm-hm. I don't know if that—I don't know—

Sydnee: So they'll call like, "Code black, Cerner." Or code black like the radiology stuff you can't see. So, it's not like scary. I mean, it's not scary to me.

Justin: Dr. McElroy, I do need a letter.

Sydnee: I don't—I'm—if they're misusing code black, I guess it gets a D.

Justin: Okay. [chuckles] They may be not misusing it, it could be different context you're not aware of, but of course.

Sydnee: I think generally code black just means like some sort of electronic system has gone down.

Justin: [chuckles]

Sydnee: Not nearly as scary as other codes.

Justin: Oh my god, Pure Genius aired from 2016-2017, had Dermot Mulroney in it. And it was about a Tech Valley billionaire that opened up a hospital to cure rare diseases using futuristic at base medicine and unlimited funding. [chuckles] Aired for 13 episodes.

Sydnee: F. [chuckles]

Justin: No one liked it. F, with a vengeance. The Good Doctor—

Sydnee: At base—

Justin: The Good Doctor!

Sydnee: The Good Doctor—

Justin: Freddie Highmore is the good doctor.

Sydnee: I mean, I have seen a lot of—

Justin: It is a—

Sydnee: Clips of this on Tik-Tok.

Justin: It is about a surgical resident who has autism and savant syndrome. And that was—I've never watched it. I don't know how well—

Sydnee: What is the—what was the—

Justin: How I handle stuff, but it air for quite some time!

Sydnee: I would love to know, I—see, I don't—I don't like to—I would love to know what the autistic community has to say about this show.

Justin: Sure, right.

Sydnee: I mean, I hate to—I think that when you are—when your entire thing is about something that is specific to a population of people—

Justin: Mm-hm.

Sydnee: They are the people who should tell us if it's a good show or not. It's why I feel like I can weigh in on a doctor show, right?

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: So, I don't—I don't feel qualified to weigh in on it, because I want to know like, do you feel like this was a fair depiction, do you feel like you were well represented, like this was part of the conversation and an added to it in a positive way? Or do you feel like it—I mean, we have this sort of like stereotypical like Rain Man autistic version of a person that maybe isn't completely accurate, right? And it's certainly not generalizable. And would you say that that was true about The Good Doctor? I don't know.

Justin: I per—I personally, without having watched The Good Doctor—this is not a judgment on The Good Doctor, just on the ads. I am typically suspicious of media that presents autism as some sort of superpower that, you know, that you can turn on, that must be charged by the Sun. [chuckles] And if you're—if you—in the moment of most dire need, if you activate your autism at its full power, that you can solve the most complex equations. Like if you could just be a little bit more autistic right now, you

could—you could finish the long division. And I am—I am suspicious of media that presents autism in that fashion.

Sydnee: Right. I will—I will also say this one thing, before we move on. I have worked in medicine a long time. I have a lot of colleagues who, because of our age, maybe weren't diagnosed with anything.

Justin: Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

Sydnee: But are my age or older, who probably, if they were kids now, would be diagnosed on the spectrum, right?

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like I—I think I have a lot of coll—and they—and I'm not saying this that I've diagnosed them, I'm saying they have self-diagnosed. They have come to this conclusion within themselves. And I will say that they—that even if some of the social skills and some of the like communication things are harder for them, they have learned how to do it through their medical practice, and grown. And so, I would hope that The Good Doctor will show that, that even if that is not—even if your skill set is different, that everyone can learn and grow a new skill set that is helpful to their job, right? Because you need to, to be a good doctor.

Justin: Even a great one. What—give it a letter. Give it a letter.

Sydnee: I don't—I mean, I don't—I told you, I feel like that's not fair.

Justin: So a A?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: [titters] A! Okay, the A in this case just stands for "autism," because we don't know how well the autism is represented on there.

Sydnee: Yes, and I wish—

Justin: So, this is a conditional A!

Sydnee: I would love for people—

Justin: Just let—

Sydnee: Who have autism, to tell me.

Justin: And who have watched The Good Doctor!

Sydnee: Well, yeah—

Justin: This is the crucial missing ingredient! We need that overlap of the autism and Good Doctor fan community.

Sydnee: I've seen some clips on Tik-Tok. [chuckles]

Justin: Yeah. Oh, good, The Resident. Syd, do you remember The Resident?

Sydnee: It's the lowest F. It's the—what's the lower?

Justin: It is about—

Sydnee: I don't—Z wasn't lower than an F. Z was just like—

Justin: It's about an—

Sydnee: I don't know, I threw you over there.

Justin: Anti-establishment doctor who goes against the system.

Sydnee: Do you know what sucks? Is that, if you give that pitch, that's me. Like, I feel like that's kind of—my career has been that.

Justin: Oh? It's your birthday, so I'm not gonna try to rush you for that, but go ahead.

Sydnee: Go ahead, Justin. In what way am I not an anti-establishment doctor?

Justin: Please, prepare yourself there—I'm just kidding. Please don't make me back this up.

Sydnee: Okay. No, I—well, I don't know that it's something to be proud of. I think it's just—

Justin: You should be proud of it.

Sydnee: Stating a fact. I am an anti-establishment doctor who goes against the system. But The Resident I think missed who—and this is why I talk about like that there are times in this country where we just decide like doctors are part of the evil that is the American health care system. And then other times where we see them as like fighting to save us from it. This is, in The Resident, at least a little bit we watched, the physicians were part of the big evil.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: And I think that's so unfair. I'm not saying there aren't bad doctors. There are bad everything. Whatever profession, there are people in it who suck, right?

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: We know this. But the problem with the American health care system, you could certainly say doctors not fighting it harder allows it to happen. I think that is a fair criticism to level at us. But we did not create it. We do not perpetuate it. We did not—we are not—and we're certainly not trying to like make money off of—what was—there was like a fake cancer clinic in it?

Justin: Yeah, it was—it was like a cover-up of like there was—it wasn't just the ways in which the system was bad, it was like the system is also an extra level of secret hidden bad.

Sydnee: What you can level at us as doctors, and I will say this as a—I can speak as a physician. We do not fight hard enough because we are

exhausted, because we are suffering moral injury, and we don't feel like we can push back.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Sydnee: And so, we just keep getting crushed under the system and trying to find ways to escape it. We fight back in little ways, but we do not collectively act to change—fundamentally change the American health care system. The numbers among us who are actually acting to try to harm people are small, and should not be the focus of an entire television show.

Justin: Do you remember New Amsterdam? It started in the same year as—

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: That one. It was about a medical director trying to fix a hospital by just shaking things up.

Sydnee: Well, I feel like that one was better intentioned. We watched like an episode or two of it—

Justin: And you—

Sydnee: We did.

Justin: And you were gonna give it a...

Sydnee: A C.

Justin: Brilliant Minds is inspired by Oliver Sacks, who also inspired Awakenings, which is a movie that came out a long time ago—

Sydnee: Oh, then it probably should get an A, BECAUSE like that stuff's really interesting.

Justin: Okay! Then we have—

Sydnee: I just haven't seen it, so—

Justin: The Pitt. It came out in 2025—

Sydnee: I love The Pitt!

Justin: We're getting—we're getting there. Yeah, The Pitt.

Sydnee: I love The Pitt. I watched an episode of The Pitt right before we recorded this episode.

Justin: You can look up—

Sydnee: It made me cry.

Justin: All right, what's the—can you give me like 30 seconds on The Pitt? For people that don't watch—

Sydnee: The Pitt is for the Pittsburgh hosp—but it's a busy Pittsburgh ER, at a busy Pittsburgh hospital. And it is—the big hook is that it is in real time, so an entire season is one shift.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: Each episode is an hour and it is—like, what happens is what could happen in an hour. So, you don't get any of the outside stuff that ER would show you, like their relationships and then whatever. Like, it's all just through the interactions that they're having while engaged in patient care. This season is set on the 4th of July, so you have stuff specific to that. And then you've got doctors at all levels of training students and residents. You've got nurses in training, and then the seasoned physicians. Noah Wyle is back, Dr. John Carter all grown up.

Justin: That's not actually the character, it's just your head canon.

Sydnee: As Dr. Robinavitch.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: He's John—

Justin: Okay, so—

Sydnee: From John Carter.

Justin: Is this an S tier?

Sydnee: This is an S tier show. This is—this show, I will tell you among people who work in health care—for me, I watch it because it's cathartic. It makes me cry. There are moments where I have to pause it because I can't catch my breath, because it's too realistic to what it's like to work in health care today. Even though I haven't worked in a busy ER to this level. I have colleagues who cannot watch it because of that, who feel that it is triggering and too traumatizing and too real.

Justin: Too real!

Sydnee: So, thank you for making this show. I hope that people see that most of us who work in health care aren't jerks and are genuinely just trying to survive this system with you. I hope that's what The Pitt is teaching people.

Justin: There's two more here. Doc, that's a new one about a chief of internal medicine that loses her memory in a car crash. And Pulse is, I think—I think it was—that was a...

Sydnee: They're too new—

Justin: Yeah, too new.

Sydnee: You have to let me watch them.

Justin: It's too new! You can't rank 'em yet.

Sydnee: You didn't mention Doctor Odyssey.

Justin: Ah, god, that's a really good point, Sydnee. That was—that was not on my list. Where would you put Doctor Odyssey?

Sydnee: Oh, that's an S tier show—

Justin: That's an S tier show.

Sydnee: Are you kidding me? Are you kidding me?

Justin: Wow, Dr. Odyssey—

Sydnee: The medicine isn't—

Justin: Is an S tier show!

Sydnee: Yeah, the—listen, all of those categories that I used to assess, if you really like excel in one, it can overshadow that you didn't do so well in another. And Doctor Odyssey was hilarious, it was perfectly casted top to bottom. I don't understand why it was happening, but I loved it. It felt like something that I like... had the flu and had a fever and dreamed, and then I got to watch on TV.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: I am so grateful for Doctor Odyssey.

Justin: Okay, that's an S tier for Doctor Odyssey. Those are like the highlights, but I gotta be honest with you, Syd, I got like 40 others that we can get into at some point. But that—I think that's a really great start, ranking the medical shows from your lifetime. Thank you so much for doing that with me, I—that was fun.

Sydnee: Oh, well, thank you. I really wanted to for my birthday talk about medical shows that I enjoy.

Justin: And—and...

Sydnee: And you allowed me to. Even though you tried to stop me from talking about Mash, I don't know.

Justin: Thank you The Taxpayers for the use of their song "Medicines" as the intro and outro of our program, and thanks to you for listening! And happy birthday, Sydster.

Sydnee: Thank you. And thank you, Mash.

Justin: And thank you, Mash, as always, as we say always. Thank you, Mash.

Sydnee: As always, thank you, Mash.

Justin: [chuckles] As always, don't drill a hole in your head.

["Medicines" by The Taxpayers plays]

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