

***Two Cents Plus Tax***  
**Episode Nineteen: “Hope Everyone Likes Pancakes”**

**TRANSCRIPT**

**Transcript has been lightly edited for readability.**

*(theme song plays)*

K: I'm Krystal.

C: I'm Caitlin.

K: And this is ...

K & C: *Two Cents Plus Tax!*

C: Hi!

K: Hello. I feel like I have good audio today. I don't know why. It sounds extra crisp. Maybe I just—

C: Loving your audio.

K: I know! Maybe I just haven't ... we haven't recorded, so I'm like, oh yeah! This is what it sounds like. *(laughs)*

C: *(laughs)* Yeah. Everyone's here. Toshio, say hello to your fans.

Toshio: Hello.

K & C: *(laugh)*

K: That's exactly what people want, yep. Perfect.

C: *(laughs)* Yeah. So it's been a minute—

K: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

C: —since we recorded. We had to take off last week to prepare for [Meghan Markle's fortieth birthday](#).

K: *(laughs)*

C: A lotta prep—a lotta prep went into that.

K: I thought you were gonna say because we had to recover from [J. Lo](#)'s fiftieth birthday.

C: That too! A lotta—a lotta Leos—

K: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

C: —that we know of and wanna celebrate, so.

K: Too many! Honestly.

C: Too many Leos. Yeah, so here we are post-birthday season.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: And we have a very interesting topic today that I am personally very excited about.

K: *(laughs)*

C: Producer Toshio suggested this one. And I hope you will speak on this a lot, because you'll have some insights, Tosh. So today we're gonna be talking about ... conspiracy theories.

K: Mm.

C: Ooh!

K: I think fits well with we had the episode about ghostiness—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —and supernatural stuff. You know, there's a good dovetail with, you know, ghostiness and conspiracies, because people believe that ghosts and UFOs and all that stuff kind of exist, but there are entities that are keepin it from the masses.

C: Mm-hmm.

K: It's like, *(laughs)* okay. But yeah, I think it's a really interesting topic. Especially pop culture-wise—

C: Yeah.

K: —there are so many weird things that people think are true, and you're just like, how would you ever get there, like *(laughs)* why is this a thing that people believe?

C: The creativity involved!

K: Yeah.

C: I have got to say.

K: Yeah.

C: So this morning, I did a little research.

K: What about?

C: By ... which I mean googling. That's what I did.

K: *(laughing)* That's what everybody means when they say research.

C: I googled "conspiracy theories" and I have got to say, I was trying to eat a little breakfast, as you do, and I had a hard time doing it, because I was laughing so hard.

K: *(laughs)*

C: Some of these *(laughs)* were just absolutely outrageous and so funny. Just—

K: They—yeah.

C: I was dying! And I had never heard of most of these, so, you know, conspiracy theories very quickly can turn very dark.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: So we're gonna—we're not dealin with that today.

K: Yeah.

C We're doin fun, light—well, actually, I'm lying, because some of these do get dark, but—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —they're so outrageous that it's like, how can you take these seriously? But I do have to say—the creativity involved, I do have to give a shoutout to some of these people. I'm like, I do not know how you ... how you got there—

K: Yeah.

C: —but I do appreciate it. So thank you.

K: Me too. Yeah.

C: You—you—they brought a little light.

K: Thank you for using your brain for some weirdness? *(laughs)* I guess? It's just ... *(sighs)*

C: You know ... I—it's kind of amazing, so—and I did text you all some this morning.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: I don't know if you saw them.

K: Yeah.

C: You know, and some people ... there are some people who are just such huge cultural icons that they are magnets for conspiracy theories.

K: Yeah.

C: Cuz we all know them. It makes sense that they would become these symbols—

K: Right.

C: —for just this wild, out-there stuff! So of course, Beyoncé has many a conspiracy theory.

K: *(laughs)* Love the ones about her.

C: And some of them, I'm like, okay, we could see this. So as we all know, remember, you know, the "[Beyoncé's faking her pregnancy](#)" [conspiracy]—

K: Oh, yeah I remember that one. Mm-hmm.

C: —with Blue Ivy. Where—the infamous interview where her stomach kinda folds over on itself, do you know what I'm talking about?

K: Yes I do. I recall this video being very popular. Like it's very short—

C: It's very short!

K: —like that minute that they're talking about—

C: Yeah!

K: —it's like two seconds. You have to really hone in on that—that moment, but yeah. It really went—it made the rounds. A lot, like a long time ago. Yeah.

C: It did. And I remember being like, what is happening?

K: Yeah. I was just like, this is confusing! (*laughs*)

C: I remember being like, is she not pregnant? Cuz her stomach disappears so like ... I don't know what happens in that video.

K: I feel like I can kind of guess, because, I mean, if you think about it, like she did the "[Countdown](#)" video, like the music video for "Countdown"—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —when she was very, very hugely pregnant for Blue Ivy, and in that video, you can't really tell that she's pregnant, because they're doing a lot of trickery with her wardrobe, like her outfits, and they're—so if you look at it, you're like, how come her stomach's not big?

C: Yeah.

K: And it's like, well, she's dressed in a lot of flowy things, and then they're shooting her a certain way, from certain angles, and so I'm like, oh, maybe it's just one of those things where like--sort of an optical illusion, where you're seeing her from just the perfect angle that you can't really see the ... you know, the bulge of her stomach or whatever. Which isn't actually that rare, especially if you're somebody who was pretty thin and then you get pregnant, you maybe are the kinda person where you're just carrying your weight in a certain way. My sister was like this when she was pregnant. If you saw her from the back, you'd be like, oh, it's just, you know, [an] average woman—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —and then she'd turn around and have this giant belly (*laughing*) and you're like, what? It doesn't really make any sense. But yeah, I think it was one of those situations. Also she was, if I remember correctly, wearing like those bandage dresses kind of things? And those have like a lot of fabric crossing over each other—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —so I'm like, maybe it was a weird fold in the fabric? I don't know. But I feel like (*laughs*) that was a moment where everyone was like—

C: What is happening?

K: —wow, like what is going on?

C: Yeah. Yeah.

K: Yeah. It was a big moment in the Beyoncé conspiracy sort of world. *(laughs)*

C: Yeah. And there are a—so there's a lot of good ones. So that was one, which is like ... you know, not that scandalous. Like maybe Beyoncé had a surrogate, whatever.

K: Yeah.

C: Like that was—you know, that could be a believable story.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: So some of these others, though, I think are incredible.

K: Mm-hmm. *(laughs)*

C: Like they're—one of—one of the ones that I am ... I am in love with this story. And that is that [Beyoncé kidnapped Sia](#).

K: *(laughing)* Oh yeah, you texted me this one.

C: [The Australian](#).

K: Yeah.

C: And so there—I guess—and it seems like a lot of conspiracy theories, based on my very limited research this morning to like two websites—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —but a lotta conspiracy theories seem to come out of Brazil. So—

K: Mm! They have a very—

C: shoutout to Brazil. I like what you're serving.

K: —yeah, they have a really intense fan slash stan culture there, so I can definitely see how that would be *(laughs)* something that they—like yeah, we're just gonna create this—

C: Yeah!

K: —out of like whole cloth—

C: Yeah!

K: —and put the pieces together in a weird way.

C: Brazil is giving you conspiracy theories 24/7 and I'm here for it.

K: Mm-hmm. *(laughs)*

C: So in 2016, there was a hashtag [#SaveSia](#)—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —that was built up from Brazilian fans after they were convinced that Beyoncé was *(laughs)* holding Sia captive—

K: *(laughing)* Okay.

C: —for songwriting purposes. And Sia sent out a tweet that said "[Hope Everyone Likes Pancakes!](#)" And someone interpreted that as a cry for help. As H-E-L-P.

K: *(laughs)*

C: Hope everyone likes pancakes.

K: Oh my god! *(laughs)*

C: *(laughs)*

K: That is amazing. I mean, I kind of get it, how they could get there, because like you hear about stuff like that, like if people are—if you ever watch movies about spy stuff—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —and spy craft—I think that's not the right word for it. I think it's some other word—

C: Espionage?

K: Yeah, but no, there's—spies apparently don't call it spy craft; they call it something else. But—

C: I should know this.

K: —yeah, if you watch movies about that, they put ... you know, often they will put clues and things in—

C: Right.

K: —printed materials, so you're like, oh, look at the first letter of each word in this newspaper article and you get, you know, directions to some place, you know—

C: Yeah.

K: —where there's a drop happening or whatever. So I'm like, I'm kind of—I kind of am impressed by the (*laughs*) ... by the skill of the Brazilian fans to be like, no. Something else is happening. We're being told more (*laughs*) information than we—

C: Right.

K: —think. We just gotta, you know, piece it together or whatever. (*sniffs*)

C: Right. And “Hope Everyone Likes Pancakes” is an odd thing to tweet.

K: It is! Just randomly? Like ... I guess—

C: What does that mean, Sia?

K: If you're talking about ... I don't know. I feel like people have kinda forgotten how Twitter used to be used.

C: Mm-hmm.

K: Like that is kind of the way that people used to use Twitter, is just to say random things. Even celebrities. You know? But that is weird, for—

C: But what does that even mean? “Hope Everyone Likes Pancakes”? Like ... are you making them?

K: Maybe?

C: I don't understand. I don't understand Sia in general—

K: But is it—yeah. I don't know her career well enough to know what she was doing, what kinda stuff she was putting out at the time. Like was she—did she have some partnership with

something? Was she—yeah. It is on its face like a very strange thing to tweet just generally, but—

C: Yeah.

K: Yeah. I don't know. I do (*laughs*)—the idea of going from that to like, Beyoncé has kidnapped her—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —for (*laughs*) songwriting purposes is just a huge leap, though.

C: I love it.

K: It's really amusing. Yeah.

C: And we cannot mention Beyoncé without of course mentioning [the Illuminati](#).

K: Oh, okay. I thought you were gonna go some other place. Yeah. Definitely. People—

C: Ooh! I'm curious to hear what you have to say, but—

K: Oh, yeah. I'll get there.

C: —the Illuminati. One of my favorites was—that I read this morning—was that ... I mean, we've all heard the [Beyoncé, Jay-Z, Illuminati](#)—she references it in "[Formation](#)"—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: But that ... okay. So there's a couple—a couple about [Blue Ivy](#).

K: (*laughs*) Oh, yeah.

C: So one is that ... and this—this is dark, so I'll just skip over it, but that [Whitney Houston was murdered as a blood sacrifice for Blue Ivy](#)—

K: (*laughs*)

C: —though the timeline does not add up at all for that one.

K: (*laughs*) What?! Oh my god.

C: But also that Blue—Blue, her name—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —[is an acrostic for “Born Living Under Evil.”](#)

K: *(laughs)*

C: Which, I have to say, if that is—let’s just say that that’s true.. Like shoutout to Beyoncé and Jay-Z for like—

K: I mean ... I guess.

C: —really putting a lot of effort into that acrostic.

K: *(laughs)* Ohh.

C: Like not only do we have to come up with a name, but we have to come up with a message.

K: But all of us could—

C: And it is gonna be “Born Living Under Evil.”

K: You could—we could all take our names and create some weird acrostic—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —about them if we wanted to. Like you—you don’t really have to try that hard. That’s just really a reach that I—

C: It is a reach.

K: —I find very amusing. *(laughs)*

C: Though we’re gonna say, that probably isn’t true ...

K: Yeah. I mean, probably! *(laughs)*

C: But maybe. *(laughs)*

K: Just if we’re gonna, yeah, throw it out there. Yeah, that one is weird. I had not heard the acrostic thing about Blue Ivy, but it doesn’t surprise me. People have a lot of weird ... people are very strange to that kid online, for some reason. I don’t understand why. But yeah, that is really funny, *(laughs)* “Born [Living] Under Evil.” Amazing. I love it. I love it so much. *(laughs)*

C: Ooh! And Toshio mentioned that there's a [Madonna](#) song called “[Illuminati](#).” Which I—

K: That's not surprising.

C: No. It's not surprising.

K: Yeah. *(laughs)*

C: I just haven't heard it.

K: Mm—

T: She was considered Illuminati. There's lotsa videos about Madonna—

C: Madonna was—oh!

T: You know, this is the daily Madonna update for—

K: Yeah, exactly. *(laughs)*

C; Yes.

K: *(laughing)* We have to talk about it every episode.

T: *(laughs)* Not so much an update as for—as more of a history lesson?

K: Mm.

C: Yes.

T: I suppose. But yeah, it does directly reference Jay-Z and Beyoncé.

K: Mm-hmm.

T: Cuz she likes to put herself in—

K: *(laughs)*

T: —I mean, she's definitely as famous as them—

K: Mm-hmm.

T: —and I think at the time, they were all starting [TIDAL](#)—which—

C: Mm.

K: Oh, yeah yeah yeah.

T: —I don't know if that exists anymore, that music streaming service.

K: It does! But I don't know (*laughs*) if people use it. It definitely still exists.

C: Yeah.

K: I know they'll have like ... you know, they'll have art[ists]—albums that'll come out on there, and then people will be talking about it then, cuz they're like, oh, I need to create a new email address so I can (*laughing*) get my free TIDAL subscription!

T: Oh, right. Yeah. Good one.

K: Trial TIDAL subscription. But yeah, I don't know anybody—apparently it's supposed to be better than Spotify, especially in terms of royalties and also sound quality, but like—

C: Mm.

T: That was the idea, I remember.

K: Yeah. Everyone has kind of already made their choice. (*laughs*)

C: Do you remember the ... video of them—like the artists signing the contracts for TIDAL and Madonna, speaking of, [she goes to sign the contract and she like puts her leg up on the table to sign her name](#)—

K: God. She's so extra. She's way too much.

C: She's very embarrassing.

K: Too much.

T: (*laughs*)

C: Very embarrassing, Madonna is.

K: Oh, my god. Yeah. It's funny that we talk about her all the time—

T: (*laughing*) I know!

C: I know.

K: —but very rarely is it positive. I was just like, what are you doing, Madonna? *(laughs)* It's like—

T: It doesn't—I know! I also just like—it doesn't feel like she's culturally really relevant? Like she's always—

K: No, but she's trying really hard.

T: Yeah.

K: To like, stay there.

C: Very hard.

T: I appreciate that.

K: Mm-hmm.

T: Because I try really hard, I think—

K & C: *(laugh)*

K: You relate—it's relatable content for you.

T: Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah. I think people see that in me and I see that in myself, and I see that in *(laughs)* Madonna.

C: *(laughs)*

K: *(laughing)* Oh, no.

C: Oh my goodness.

T: Anyway. Go listen to the song “Illuminati” by Madonna—

K: Mm.

T: —off of her second-to-last album, and be horrified.

K: *(laughs)*

C: Well some of the lyrics that you posted in our chat say [“It's like everybody in this party shining like Illuminati. Ooh! Oh whoa. Oh whoa.”](#)

K: Nuh-uh.

C: So ... songwriting genius.

K: I mean ... *(laughs)* maybe they shoulda kidnaped Sia for that one. *(laughs)*

C: Yes. Let's go kidnap Sia. Holdin her captive.

K: So the other Beyoncé [conspiracy]—the one that I think of is the one that this weird politician sort of kind of highlighted on Twitter, but [this idea that Beyoncé is not Black](#)? That she's like an Italian woman named Ann Marie Lastrassi.

C: *(laughs)* What?

K: Like have you heard that one?

C: I have not, but I'm lovin it already.

K: Okay. No, it's—so there's this weird politician named ... okay. KW Miller. That's ... that's their name. And so they basically were like, Beyoncé, like you're on notice! Like you are—

C: *(laughs)*

K: —perpetuating like, she's faking this for exposure! It's like, she's been famous for like twenty years—

C: Right.

K: —and you're really saying this now? But he's like, she's Italian, and she's not really Black, like this is all like a [deep state](#) Black Lives Matter op, and like everyone needs to stop *(laughs)* falling for it or whatever, and it's like ... first of all, like the pieces do not add up.

C: No.

K: Like Beyoncé is a Black Lives Matter op? Beyoncé's been famous since like 1996 or something. *(laughs)* Like ... I mean, first of all, [the] timeline is just way off.

C: Right.

K: And secondly like ... I mean, I've not met every Italian person, *(laughs)* but I've not met any Italian people that look like Beyoncé.

C: No.

K: And also like, her parents are very publicly also in the ... you know, they're also in the public eye. Like we know her mom and her dad and stuff, and I'm like ... like her—she looks exactly like her mom—

C: I know.

K: —and her mom's clearly a Black woman, like I don't know. It's—I don't know. It's just one of the really—it's one of the most—the funniest, kind of weirdest conspiracies that I can think of, and I like that it's around because [we've talked about him on the podcast before](#), but [Jaboukie](#)—

C: (*gasps*) Oh, we love Jaboukie.

K: —on Twitter—he has sort of run with it (*laughs*) and changed his display name to be Giabuchi, like spelled like Italian—

C: Yes! Okay, that comes from the Beyoncé thing?

K: Yes, it does. (*laughs*)

C: Oh! Okay.

K: It was like a reference he did a long time ago. He was really on it for like ... probably weeks. He was just harping on it, how he's like, of Italian American persuasion—

C: Oh my god.

K: —and it was just the funniest thing.

C: Okay.

K: He really ran with it.

C: I love that. I never knew why. I just thought it was a joke.

K: No. (*laughs*)

C: So wait, is—

K: (*laughing*) He was spelling it the way they would in Italy.

C: I love that. So is the politician who's saying she's Italian—is he Italian? And he's like trying to get her—

K: No!

C: Oh. Okay.

K: He's just like a white dude from like Florida who's like—

C: Of course. Of course. Yes, okay.

K: Exactly. Right? Like all you have to do is say he's a politician from Florida and you're like, got it. *(laughs)*

C: Got it!

K: Like, I understand what's happening here. But no, he's just like a conservative white dude—

C: Mm.

K: —from Florida who's like, this is all a deep state—first of all, it's deep state and Soros and Black Lives Matter? Like ... I mean—

C: That's complicated.

K: Yeah. I'm like *(laughs)*—

C: *(laughs)*

K: —it seems like a bit much, but maybe that's just me. But yeah. It's so silly. To the point where like, I believe [even Snopes had to get in](#) and be like, look. This is nonsense. Like it's—obviously she's a Black person, like we know her whole back—history and backstory. Don't believe the hype.

C: Yeah. Beyoncé is not Italian.

K: Yeah. It's—

C: *(laughs)*

K: It's—I mean, it's such a weird—it's so weird. But yeah, and the fact that not only she would be Italian, but that he would say her name is Ann Marie Lastrassi, like *(laughs)* what?! Where did that even come from?

C: I love that. I love that name! I don't know where—

K: It's—

C: You know, that is interesting and a good segue, because when I—again, when I was doing my hardcore research this morning—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —there's a lot of these conspiracy theories where people are saying, you know, this is, you know, this person is not who they say they are—

K: Right.

C: —but they come up with other identities, which I find fascinating.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: So like Ann—what did you say? It was Ann Marie ...

K: Ann Marie Lastrassi.

C: Okay.

K: I think. Yeah.

C: Kudos for coming up with that—

K: *(laughing)* I know.

C: —beautiful Italian name. We do know she is Beyoncé Giselle Knowles-Carter.

K: Exactly. Yup.

C: But I guess in that man's heart, she'll be Ann Marie. So—

K: *(laughs)* She'll never be that. Yeah.

C: —love that. So there are a few other examples of that where they're like, no, this is not—they have this other alter identity with a completely different name and like where they come up with these names, I do not know.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: But I texted y'all the ... the link to [the Avril Lavigne replacement conspiracy theory](#).

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Which I had not heard of—

K: Oh, really? Oh. I have.

C: —until a couple of years ago—

K: Yeah.

C: —when my former co-worker, who was really into conspiracy theories, was like, oh yeah, there's this conspiracy theory—and I think she may have believed it—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —that Avril Lavigne ... it's that she died in 2003 and was replaced by another woman named Melissa something. Like Melissa Valera or something like that.

K: Yeah. Mm-hmm. That sounds right.

C: So there's another name. We've got this name; we've got this person; and why Avril—oh! It was said she was depressed, so she died.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Because her grandpa had died, and she was just like, mm, I'm done. And so then this Melissa steps in and the—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —the record company kinda grooms her—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —and has her look like Avril, and teaches her to sing like Avril, and then, you know, Melissa is actually Avril.

K: *(laughs)*

C: Which I love.

K: Okay. I mean, yeah. It's—again, it's such a wild—like the thing about conspiracy theories that *(clears throat)* always just like makes me laugh is that for them to be true, people would have to be putting in so much time and money and energy into making this thing—this weird thing happen. Like I just don't—I mean, because we know how people use their time, and how people who have a lot of money use their money, I just don't *(laughing)* think people would be

interested in spending a ton of time to be like, oh, we have to replicate this artist who was popular, but kind of a little bit of a flash in the pan—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —but we can't let people know that like she's not around anymore, so we have to find another person—*(clears throat)*—find another person who looks exactly like her and then train her to know everything that she knew and be able to do stuff the way that she did it. It just does not seem like a good use of resources *(laughs)*, so—

C: No.

K: —I don't know. They always are just like, yes it would have to—and also too, the reason I think conspiracies just—on their face always feel ridiculous to me is like, it's really hard to get people to all do the same thing, or run in the same direction, and so this idea that like, oh no no, like—and I'm thinking more of like the gi[ant]—bigger conspiracies, like, oh, [NASA faked the moon landing](#), like okay—

C: Well, they did.

K: I mean, let's—they didn't. *(laughs)*

C: *(laughs)*

K: And don't say that to [Neil Armstrong](#). [He will punch you in the face](#).

C: Wait, don't say that to who?

K: Oh, Neil Armstrong.

C: Oh!

K: Yeah. [There's a whole video](#) of him—

C: Yes! Yes.

K: —punching a moon landing sort of denier *(laughs)* in the face at some event or whatever—

C: Right.

K: —cuz the guy was *(clears throat)* I guess he was trying to do his own documentary, and so he decided to ambush Neil Armstrong while he was speaking at this event, and kept getting in his face being like, “Tell the truth,” and “You know it's ...” you know, whatever, “You know it's not real. You know it's not real.” And they told ... *(laughs)* they told whoever was filming to be like,

“Don’t film this, like don’t film this interaction, like it’s”—you know, whatever. And so the person put the camera down but didn’t stop filming.

C: *(laughs)*

K: So you can see the camera—

C: Right.

K: —angled up and *(laughing)* you can see just Neil Armstrong just like haul off and punch this dude in the face *(laughs)*—

C: And it’s satisfying.

K: —and it’s amazing. It’s really good. Like it’s one of the—

C: It’s very satisfying.

K: Yeah. Yeah. That’s what—

C: You know—

K: —yeah.

C: Oh, I’m sorry.

K: No no, go ahead.

C: So apparently—cuz I thought of you when I read this, that apparently [Steph Curry](#), the basketball player—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —[does not believe that we landed on the moon](#). So here’s what I don’t get.

K: *(sighs)*

C: So I don’t understand why people think that that’s a conspiracy theory, like is it because they think that like, oh, this is supposed to be a distraction for the people? Is that why it is?

K: I think maybe a part of it is like, that people ... I think people have a hard time imagining that something like that is just generally possible. You know, I mean, if—*(laughs)* we live on Earth and can’t keep people housed and fed and whatever, but somehow we can like, send—

C: Whitey's on the moon!

K: Exactly! We can like come up with the technology, and use math and science and whatever, to be able to create these huge machines and all of these, you know, equations or whatever so we get things correct, and then we launch people and humans—like they have to do all this testing on humans to figure out how it's going to affect their bodies and all this—I think it's just that people, again, like I was saying, you have to get everybody going in the same direction and towards a shared goal—

C: Yeah.

K: —and it's really hard to get people to do that. And so I feel—I totally get why people would be like, nope, this is totally fake and never happened. No one would (*laughs*)—

C: Right.

K: —you know, we could never have the resources or the know[ledge]—you know, the knowledge, the know-how, to be able to build these rockets, and put humans in them, and all the computer stuff that they would have had to create from whole cloth, because none of that existed before, like ... I think people are just like, well obviously that didn't happen, cuz it's so much work. And (*laughs*), you know, of course no one's gonna do all that much work for that much money. It's just not a thing. But yeah, I remember when that moon landing—the—Steph Curry said that he was (*laughs*) ... was like—I forget. It was a[n] offhand thing, like it was an offhand mention about how they were like, "Have you ever been to the moon?" And he was like, "Oh, no, we can't talk about that, cuz people are gonna think we're crazy," and it's just like, well, if—do you believe it or do you don't—do you not believe it? And then they were like, you know, skeptical or whatever. So yeah. But I think he walked it back, because NASA was like, you—cuz he's Steph Curry, they're like, come to our lab; come to our—

C: (*laughs*)

K: —you know, whatever. (*laughs*) We'll show you ... you know, we can prove that it actually happened. It's just ... and he actually apologized later and was like, yeah, I was just speaking off-the-cuff and being silly on a podcast, like I'm not a (*laughing*) moon landing truther or whatever. Yeah. It's just very funny to me that that happened, cuz it's like—it's one of those unforced errors, kinda things, where it's like, no one—you didn't have to talk about how you don't (*laughs*) believe in the moon landing! You're just on a podcast to talk about basketball. Maybe just talk about basketball.

C: Yeah.

K: (*laughs*) Like you don't have to go there at all. But yeah. Very funny to me.

C: So, yeah. We all agree that we did actually land on the moon.

K: Yes. I'm—I'm glad you agree. *(laughs)*

C: Yes. Yeah—

K: Cuz that would be awkward.

C: —thumbs up. That did happen.

K: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

C: So another one of my favorites is that—when people think that [the earth is flat](#).

K: Oh, man.

C: That's another one where I'm like, why do you think this? Why is it that people think—

K: Again, I think it's just people have a hard time conceiving of ... especially when you're talking—

C: A round structure. *(laughs)*

K: But I mean, when you're talking about stuff that involves really sort of complicated physics or, you know, science and stuff, because people themselves don't understand it, they're like, well no one can understand it and it can't possibly be true! And it's like ... well, I mean, there are people who are experts *(laughing)* in this stuff, you know?

C: Right.

K: Just cuz I don't understand medicine doesn't mean medicine isn't real, but like, obviously there are people who believe that too, you know?

C: Right. *(laughs)*

K: So I mean, it's just kind of a thing that people have a hard time—if they can't wrap their heads around it, then obviously it's some kind of op, and, you know, everyone's being duped into believing something that's not actually true. But like, it's funny to me because that one—at least the flat earther one—because, again, it's like, a lot of famous people go on about it, and again—it's a totally unforced error.

C: Mm-hmm.

K: Like they do not have to talk about like—*(laughs)* like about how they don't believe that the earth is round. But like, it's—

C: But we love it when they do.

K: *(laughs)* I mean, we—

C: *(laughs)*

K: It's just very funny. Especially the collection of people who have said it. You're like, what?

C: I know. So who do we have?

K: We have—

C: Who do we have? We mentioned [Sherri Shepherd](#) before we started recording.

K: [Yes](#). Another basketball player who [is], again, saying stuff they shouldn't—[Kyrie Irving](#), who used to play for the Cavaliers, and then the Celtics, and now plays for the Nets with [Kevin Durant](#), he basically [is a known flat Earther](#).

C: Mm-hmm.

K: He's very—he's—*(sighs)* I don't know. The thing about Kyrie is he's kinda like ... what we as Black people would call a hotep.

C: Yeah. *(laughs)*

K: Just to say he's very into like alternative kind of beliefs, and he's always like, you know, "You gotta question the system, man!" It's like, okay, bro. Relax. *(laughs)* But yeah, so he doesn't believe that the earth is round. Or maybe he's come around on that. *(laughs)* Literally speaking.

C: *(laughs)*

K: But I know that was a big deal for a couple of years. He just would talk about how he's *(laughs)* a weird flat Earther.

C: That is a take. And—

K: It really is! But also, who—

C: —it's somethin ... it's a very odd one—it's an odd hill to die on.

K: Yes. Yes. Especially because that, and where we are currently with vaccine—

C: Ugh.

K: —beliefs right now, it seems like it's cyclical, right? Like every couple of centuries, people *(laughs)* want to be—have to be convinced that the earth is round—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —and that like the germ theory of disease exists *(laughs)* and whatever, and it's like, why do we keep having to have these conversations? I thought this was settled many hundreds of years ago, *(laughs)* that the earth is round. I mean, that was the whole point of travel by ship, right? Is that people were able to do it and they didn't fall off the edge of the world. Like that—I don't know, I'm just like—

C: They just got lucky.

K: *(laughs)* Yeah, maybe. Maybe.

C: *(laughs)*

K: But I mean if—if the case is you're traveling by ship and you're going for so long, eventually you would think you would get to the edge, if you believe that the world is flat. But like ... how come no one did? It's just—and we have like airplanes, and people have gone to space. *(laughs)* They can see the earth and other planets—

C: Allegedly.

K: Right. Yeah, it's all phony. *(laughs)*

C: *(laughs)*

K: Yeah. It's just wild that we have to keep having these conversations with people—

C: Mm.

K: —you know, every couple centuries, we have to convince everyone they gotta wash their hands, cuz like, you can't see germs.

C: *(laughs)*

K: And then also *(laughs)* we have to convince people that like, no no no, you can't just burrow through the earth and come out the other side. It doesn't work that—I mean, you can, I guess maybe—

C: Well we haven't tried that.

K: *(laughs)*

C: Personally. I don't—don't put words in my mouth.

K: I mean, yeah. But it's just—yeah.

C: I have an aside. I have an aside.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Quickly. I would like to ask for a moratorium on white celebrities—

K: Oh, god.

C: —talking about how they do not bathe their children.

K: I mean ...

C: I don't know why this is happening.

K: [Not just their children! Themselves either.](#) Like *(laughs)*—

C: *(sighs)*

K: —they don't bathe themselves. Like we have had—I think it was [Jake Gyllenhaal](#) just recently—

C: Yes. [He joined in.](#)

K: —talking about how he doesn't, you know, bathe that often, and I'm just like, again, unforced errors.

C: Right.

K: No one is making you (*laughs*) talk about how often you shower, but because it came up once, now everyone's being asked about it, and everyone—

C: Or just offering it!

K: —is being given an opportunity to show how gross they are. (*laughs*)

C: Right. Yeah.

K: Just like, please. Take a shower.

C: Take a shower. You literally have those resources.

K: Mm-hmm. Yeah. It's very—[Tressie McMillan Cottom had a good thread or tweet](#) about how it's particularly frustrating if you're a person of color or an immigrant or whatever, and you had to deal with people just assuming your savagery and dirtiness for basically your entire existence, and—but like white people can go around talking about how like they don't bathe, and everyone's like, oh, what a quirky—

C: Right.

K: —what a quirky choice. (*laughs*) You know?

C: How quaint!

K: They literally would drain pools because Black people—

C: Right.

K: —got in them. You know? So it's just like very frustrating because it's completely ... they're not ... [they're overlooking the privilege that exists in statements like that](#). Like it's not great. It's not great.

C: Right.

K: But yeah. Just everybody, if you can bathe, please do. (*laughs*) Like ... just do it. If you can't, we need to get people who can't the opportunity to be able to do that, for hygiene reasons.

C: Right. [And feeling good!](#)

K: Yeah I mean, again, I always talk about this. I hate showering. I find it super tedious.

C: *(laughs)*

K: Whenever I'm doing it, I'm like, man, I could literally be doing anything else right now. Like I could be sleeping; I could be watching a movie; eating; listening to a podcast; like *(laughs)* I'm always annoyed that I have to do it. And every day, and sometimes multiple times a day depending on what you get into. And it's just like, ugh, it's so annoying! But you still do it, because, you know, hygiene, and also the social contract. Right? Like you make a pact with your fellow people that are in the vicinity that you're going to take care of your hygiene, so that you're not offending their senses and they're not offending yours. That's *(laughs)* how it works. Yeah. But yeah, please just shower if you can, people. If you can't, we need to give you the opportunity or resources to be able to do that.

C: That is a big thing.

K: Yeah.

C: Because I cannot shower as much as I would like to. And—

K: Yeah. I mean, it's—

C: —to me, showering is like ... I mean, we could honestly talk about this all day.

K: *(laughs)*

C: But yeah. Like if I could shower every day for like an hour ... seriously, I mean I wouldn't. Well—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —actually, I'm not gonna say that. Cuz like, you give me a luxurious shower?

K: Mm-hmm.

C: I could have—I'm reading [Mariah Carey's memoir](#) right now, which I—

K: Oh boy.

C: I've got to say, it's so good.

K: *(laughs)* I bet.

C: It's so good. And like, so I'm kind of absorbing her energy, I think, maybe a little bit.

K: Mm.

C: But if I could have like a long bath, like a huge bathtub and just like—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —a nice long soak—oh yeah, Toshio mentioned [the iconic MTV Cribs bathtub](#).

K: *(laughing)* Oh, yeah.

C: Yeah, where she's in lingerie. Taking a bath—

K: Oh my gosh.

C: Oh, my god, Mariah.

K: She's a ridiculous person. *(laughs)*

C: So ridiculous. I love it. But anyway.

K: Yeah, no. I mean, when people talk about the whole bathing discourse or whatever, I always feel like there is an inherent assumption, or you know, there's exceptions made for people who obviously, you know, can't physically do it every day—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —or there are reasons for—you know, medical or health reasons that they can't—like I'm not saying those people should put their health in danger by like, you know—

C: Clearly! We know.

K: Yeah, exactly. I'm just saying like, everyone take care of your hygiene. *(laughs)*

C: Right.

K: And if you can't, then we need to be able to give people resources so they can, and if you can and you just choose not to? Like ... that's just a different thing altogether. *(laughs)*

C: Yeah.

K: But yeah.

C: Once again, I never—this is why I love our podcast, cuz we can just go everywhere we want to.

K: *(laughing)* I know!

C: But I—*(laughs)*—

K: I mean, that had to be addressed, honestly.

C: It did have to be addressed!

K: It's too much, everybody. It's too much.

C: Somebody—somebody had to have the courage to say it, and we did.

K: Mm-hmm. *(laughs)* Yeah, no one spoke up before us.

C: No. So, one of my favorites that I found out today that I did not ... I don't know if I'd ever heard this before.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: But there's a really ... this one was shocking to me, that [Katy Perry](#)—

K: Oh no.

C: —[is actually the adult JonBenét Ramsey](#).

K: Oh, I have heard this one. Yeah.

C: I had never heard this.

K: *(laughs)* Oh boy.

C: Uh ... I don't even know what to say.

K: I mean, it's—that one is really—I mean talk ab[out]—when you're speaking about dark—

C: That one's dark.

K: That's pretty dark, *(laughs)* like—

C: That's real dark.

K: Yeah.

C: And also, how did we ... like why?

K: Because people want—

C: Why is Katy Perry JonBenét Ramsey?

K: Because people want to believe that something positive—

C: That's true. Yeah. That's true.

K: —came out of that like—

C: Tragedy. Yeah.

K: —situation. They don't want to believe that this little girl was killed, and ... you know, so people have to—

C: By her brother.

K: Okay, so that's another conspi[racy]—there's a lot of JonBenét conspiracy theories, honestly. But there's like, okay, it was the brother—

C: [It was her brother.](#)

K: —it was like the mom; she was jealous of the like—her success, and—

C: No. No, it was her brother and her family covered it up. They're—if you—

K: I don't know. I can't say I know what happened there—

C: I can.

K: —but it's just a very suspicious thing where your child dies in your home but you don't know—although they did live in a big house. They're very wealthy (*laughs*) people, so I mean, it probably would be easy to be in their home and not—for them not to know it. But like ... yeah, just a weird sad series of events, honestly.

C: It's very sad. They're—if you—so I've listened to a lotta podcasts about it—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —and what actually happened with the investigation and all this stuff—

K: Oh, it was terrible! Well, it was a bad investigation because again, they're very rich right? And so every—they get to basically dictate how things are gonna go—

*(banging noise)*

C: Oops.

K: —and the police interact with them in a certain way—

C: Yes.

K: —in a way they wouldn't have if they weren't a very wealthy and, you know, powerful family.

C: Yeah. And—

K: So yeah. It was totally botched. Every part of it was botched in a way that's like ... *(laughs)* concerning.

C: Yeah.

K: But also like it's a sad thing.

C: It—yeah. It is very sad.

K: But yeah, I get why people would go and be like, no, Katy Perry is her! I ... I get it, but it's also like very much a coping *(laughs)* mechanism kind of thing—

C: Yeah.

K: —where you're like, uh, I don't want to believe that this bad thing happened. But yeah, that's a creepy one. Especially one that I'm like, I hope she never addresses it—

C: *(laughs)* I know.

K: —*(laughing)* because that would be too sad, that she would have to tell people like, "Stop bringing this to my attention!"

C: Yeah.

K: Yeah. What's your—I mean, maybe we could save this for *Two Cents, No Tax* but like ... do you like Katy Perry? What's your opinion on that?

C: Uh ... I don't—I'm just kinda like ... meh?

K: Yeah, I don't—

C: That's my feeling on Katy Perry, like I don't—

K: —dislike her, but I don't get the interest—like the fervor. To me, she—the thing about her though, that—I'm like, she is actually a very good singer. She can sing—she has an amazing voice.

C: She does have talent; I'll give her that.

K: But I just don't—her whole deal is not for me. But like, she was huge for that little period she was huge for, and I'm like, what am I missing? *(laughs)* Like why don't I—

C: Yeah.

K: —understand what's happening here? But yeah, okay. I just wanted to know if you were like, into it. Toshio's like ... he's ... *(laughs)*—he's like, she's at the bottom of his list of gay icons. Which—

C: Yeah.

K: —you know. Respect. And she did do—

C: Ugh! "[I Kissed a Girl](#)." Yeah.

K: Yeah. I mean, I think—

C: Please, Katy.

K: —people moved past that pretty quickly, which is weird. But yeah, there are a lotta good singers. So you know, you don't have to be into ones that are just kind of like, their persona or whatever is meh to you. I just don't get her deal at all. *(laughs)*

C: I don't either. Although I did see the footage of her ... I guess it was her documentary or something, when they show her like ... she's right about to perform—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —and [Russell Brand](#) sends her that text—

K: Oh yeah.

C: —[saying that he's gonna get divorced](#), and she is like—

K: It's rough. Yeah.

C: —understandably losing it, because her husband has just fucking texted her—

K: *(laughs)* Yeah. Cool timing!

C: —saying he wants a divorce, and she has to go onstage in front of millions of people.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: And that did make me like her more. *(laughs)*

K: Yeah.

C: Just cuz I was like—and hate Russell Brand, and root for her.

K: Oh yeah, he was already annoying before, and I was like, now I have free rein to be like, you're garbage. *(laughs)*

C: Yeah. What a disgusting thing to do to someone. But—

K: Yeah. He sucks.

C: Yeah. But as a singer or whatever, I'm just kinda like neutral.

K: I think if she made more like R&Bish pop—like if she did stuff that was more similar to like [Ariana Grande](#), who's also a really good singer, I think I probably would like it more. But I just don't go in for the kind of pop that she does, really.

C: Mm-hmm.

K: I wish I did, but ... I don't know. Not for me, mostly. And I also *(laughs)* was like ... when she was on the Superbowl—did the Superbowl halftime show that one year, that was a little bit irritating to me, because like [Missy Elliott](#) had to play second fiddle to her in that show—

C: I know.

K: —and I was like, are you fucking kidding me? *(laughs)*

C: I know.

K: Like Missy Elliott doesn't play second fiddle to anybody, let alone this random white lady. *(laughs)*

C: Mm-hmm.

K: I'm sorry. Just not—I was not okay with that. Although I did love seeing Missy Elliott, cuz that was at a point where she had kind of receded from the spotlight and we weren't seeing that much of her, so I was like, oh my gosh, I love that she's out here and doing this! But I was also just like, why couldn't she have just done this halftime show? She has definitely more hits than Katy Perry, so—

C: Yeah.

K: Very weird. But yeah. I—I don't know. Not a huge—huge into—huge fan of her.

C: Nor am I.

K: But I was just like, ooh, I wonder what your deal is.

C: Mine is just—my feelings are very just lukewarm.

K: She's just blah. Yeah, she's just ... yeah.

C: Yeah.

K: I can't muster any (*laughs*) ... you know. Strong feelings one way or the other.

C: There's another hot Brazilian conspiracy theory—

K: Oh boy.

C: —which, again, I don't know why Brazil! But I'm lovin Brazil.

K: (*laughs*) They just have a lotta time.

C: They—they got a lotta time and a lotta people.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: So there's a conspiracy that [Justin Bieber is a lizard person](#)? Which—

K: Oh. Is this related to Illuminati? Cuz I know some people believe that Illuminati are also lizard people.

C: It probably is related to the Illuminati.

K: Mm.

C: I'm not a member yet—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —of the Illuminati, so I cannot speak to that. But apparently it was like, people said that he transformed into a lizard—

K: Oh my god.

C: —in broad daylight.

K: Everyone.

C: And that there's a video—maybe he got arrested or something.

K: *(laughs)*

C: And they're like, [he's blinking like a lizard](#). Which I don't know what that means either.

K: *(laughs)* Oh my god. That's amazing.

C: Yeah.

K: I have not looked at enough lizards to be able to, you know, grasp what their blinking looks like, so I don't think I'd be able to—

C: That's your homework.

K: Yeah. No, I hate lizards. They're creepy.

C: Do you really?

K: Yeah! They're creepy! I don't like em.

C: You know, I just started watching this TV show last night called [One Lane Bridge](#)—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: And it's this show in New Zealand, and there was actually a whole thing with lizards last night in the episode.

K: I—

C: So it's weird that tonight we're talking about lizard people. Or today, whatever.

K: *(laughs)* I mean the one thing I—

C: Time. Time is an illusion!

K: The one thing I do like about lizards is they can regenerate their tails if they lose them.

C: Right.

K: That's pretty cool.

C: That is cool.

K: But everything else, I'm like ... no, thank you. *(laughs)* No thanks.

C: So are we saying probably not on Justin Bieber is a lizard person?

K: I mean, *(laughs)* yes. If I had to render a verdict, I would say he's probably not a lizard person? I mean ... yeah. I ... I don't see it being true. But it's just weird that people would be like, yeah, he transforms, and then you—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: First of all, how would you ever know if it was true or not? Like he's not doing it in public, so like—

C: Supposedly he did. In broad daylight.

K: Mm. Okay. Where's the video? *(laughs)* Like—

C: Yeah.

K: —Justin Bieber is one of the people who has grown up with social media. Like his whole deal was getting discovered via YouTube. There's no video of this?

C: Mm-hmm.

K: Come on. If this was happening, we'd know.

C: Come on, people!

K: We'd have seen it. I mean, Toshio does raise a good point, like if we did have video, would we believe it?

C: Mm!

K: You know, we are in the era of [the deepfake](#)—

C: Yes.

K: —and photoshop and whatnot. But this is another reason to not believe that that's true, right? *(laughs)* I mean, cuz if no one's seen it with their own eyes, then like ... you know, why is everyone being like, yes, this is really real? I think it happened and he was blinking like a lizard. Like what does that even mean? *(laughs)* Yeah. No, that—not true.

C: Maybe they think a little differently down in Brazil.

K: Maybe. I don't know. I think ... they definitely do have a strong stan culture there, and I don't know what that's about. But like yeah, they—they're intense.

C: And that's where the guarana fruit is, isn't it? That Toshio's such a fan of?

K: *(laughs)* Oh, is it Brazilian? I forget.

T: It surely is.

C: I believe it is, yeah.

K: Oh, nice. Nice.

C: I think that's the real conspiracy.

K: *(laughs)* What?

C: I think there is a connection between the guarana fruit and Brazilian stan culture.

K: Mm, maybe. Just cuz it's super creepy.

C: I think we need to start some theories on this one.

K: *(laughs)* Yeah! Start our own conspiracy theory about Brazil and why it's so weird. *(laughs)*

C: I'm saying it's the guarana fruit.

K: Okay. Maybe.

C: You hear it here first!

K: I mean, it does look pretty gross. It's—it's not great.

C: Yeah! That's what I was telling Tosh. He hadn't seen [the photos](#)—

K: Oh!

C: —cuz Toshio is not on Instagram.

K: Yeah, google it.

C: Follow us on Instagram at [@TwoCentsPlusTax](#)! We post lots of photos, and I posted a photo of the guarana fruit, and I had no idea what I was in for.

K: Don't like it.

C: It's like a gigantic red eye.

K: It's very creepy.

C: It was so weird-looking! Yeah.

K: Yeah. I do not—I do not enjoy looking at it. But yeah, I don't know. I—yeah. Lizard people, again. A conspiracy theory I cannot get behind. Cuz it's just—it's just too—it's a little too silly.

C: Mm-hmm.

K: Like the ones about—I mean, yeah. The one about Beyoncé being an Italian woman named Ann Marie Lastrassi, that's also silly, but that's like not hurting anyone, and it's like, okay. If they wants to believe it, fine.

C: *(laughs)*

K: It's low-key funny. But the lizard people one is kind of—like I said, it's kind of related to like Illuminati, which is more political, and I'm just like, *(clicks tongue)*, I don't really ... I don't really go in for the political conspiracy theories. Even though there are like—

C: Right. They're nowhere near as fun.

K: —a ton of those, so. I mean, [we kinda talked about the one](#) where you're like, [JFK Jr.](#) *(laughing)* and stuff. That whole family.

C: Oh, and [murdering Marilyn](#)—

K: *(laughing)* Yeah.

C: —which unfortunately, I do think that she was killed by the Kennedys.

K: Oh my god. *(laughs)*

C: Or at least someone in their circle! That one—

K: We're not going—we're not trying to get on the bad side of the Kennedys. I mean—

C: *(laughs)*

K: —maybe we are. Actually. *(laughs)* I'm fine with being on their bad side.

C: We are not gonna have another argument about JFK Jr. on this podcast.

K: But yeah, no. There are so many political ones—

C: Yeah.

K: —that I'm like, I don't—I just can't go ... even about the Kennedys.

C: True.

K: And I just, I can't go there with the political conspiracy theories.

C: One of—oh, sorry.

K: One of the ones that I—oh, go ahead!

C: Well I was just—that made me think of the—and maybe you'll know what I'm talking about, but—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —isn't there [something with JFK and Abraham Lincoln](#), like having all those similarities ...

K: Oh, yeah! There's like a[n], oh, they had a like a ... their vice presidents had similar names and then there—there's all these—but then I read something about that, how like it's not actually true that like—

C: Mm. It's probably not! *(laughs)*

K: —it's just a meme. Before memes were memes *(laughs)*, you know?

C: Right.

K: And that some of it is just like—

C: They both had kidneys!

K: —massaged. Yeah, exactly! Like, they were both presidents. Like yeah, duh!

C: *(laughs)*

K: *(laughing)* You know what I mean? Like ... not that weird.

C: Okay.

K: But yeah.

C: I thought you might have known. But anyway, I interrupted you. What were you gonna say?

K: No, no. I remember that one. There's like the urban legend that they're like ... you know, that they have all these similarities—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —because—I think people want to connect them, just because obviously, you know, they died in the same way.

C: Yeah.

K: And so people want to like ... you know, ascribe more similarities to their lived experiences than actually there were, which I mean, whatever. I get it. But also like it's not ... you don't have to do that. Like they both were president, and they both were assassinated. That's pretty ... you know. In terms of similarities, that's ... those are pretty significant.

C: Yeah.

K: Don't have to *(laughs)* ... you know, look for other stuff. But yeah. I had heard that one. But I also had read that it was, again, kind of phony.

C: Yeah.

K: But yeah. So I was gonna talk about one conspiracy theory that I know of and heard of for many years, but that I find very irksome.

C: Okay.

K: And that is the conspiracy theory that [Stevie Wonder is not blind](#).

C: *(gasps)* Yes. Yes.

K: Like ... this is one of my absolutely most hated *(laughs)* conspiracy theories, like—

C: Yes.

K: —biggest pet peeves. And I get that other people think it's one of those ones like I was just talking about, where it's like, kinda harmless and kinda funny, and I get why people—

C: But it's not harmless, is it?

K: Yes! And that's why I don't love it.

C: Yes.

K: Because I feel like there is this desire for people to say, well how could he possibly be disabled if he's done all of these like creative and amazing things? Well, obviously disabled people can't accomplish stuff, like how could he play the piano and write songs and like be incredibly talented? Like he must not really be blind.

C: Right.

K: And it's like, *(laughing)* people with disabilities can do all kinds of stuff! You know? So this idea that you have to sort of remove that from his actual lived experience is really irritating to me.

C: Yes.

K: And I don't know. It's just ... people want to make fun of disability without making fun of it. And it's like well, you kind of are by saying like ... yeah, he can't possibly be a disabled person, cuz like why would he be so good at stuff? *(laughs)*

C: Yeah.

K: I have some rebuttals to that belief.

C: Mm-hmm.

K: But yeah. I just—I can't stand it. I cannot stand it. *(laughs)* Like it's so irritating to me.

C: Yes. To all of us. That's a—that's a thumbs-down from everyone on this one.

K: Yeah. Yeah.

C: We do not condone that one. So stop saying it!

K: Yeah. Stop saying it. Also I—you know it's not true, because Stevie Wonder's constantly talking about how he's blind—

C: *(laughing)* Right.

K: —and talking about like Braille and disability representation, *(laughs)* like—

C: I know.

K: I mean, he's been in the public eye for—I mean. Ha. Public eye. For like, you know. Whatever, fifty-plus years at this point. Sixty years, almost. I feel like we would have known if something weird was happening. I also think people too are hesitant to believe that he's blind because they're like, "Two blind musicians and piano players and singers?!" You know, "We have both Stevie Wonder and [Ray Charles](#)? That's too much of a coincidence. Like we can only have one. Only one of them can actually be really blind." And it's like, ugh. Come on, people. Just like, do better. *(laughs)*

C: Yes.

K: Just do ... do better. But yeah—

C: That's a good—good one you brought up, yeah.

K: —that's one I don't—I don't love it. I don't really love that one.

C: Yeah. No, that one sucks! So—

K: Yeah.

C: What are some other good ones? One I had read today—I had never heard this one. So a lot of these conspiracy theories that we're seeing [are], you know, rooted in let's say ableism—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —or misogyny or whatever. So this one I hadn't heard, which was—and this is I think a—this one might be Illuminati; I'm not sure.

K: *(laughs)* So many of them are.

C: Cuz there's lots of ones around Jay-Z. So Jay-Z and Beyoncé are like supposedly king and queen of Illuminati, but—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —this one was that [Nicki Minaj is actually Jay-Z's vocals just sped up](#).

K: *(laughs)* So weird.

C: Which is so—it's like—

K: So easily prova[ble]—like disprovable. *(laughs)*

C: Yeah! Yeah. Yeah.

K: *(laughs)* That's funny. That's really good.

C: So it is interesting ... what causes people to be like, oh, yeah, I couldn't possibly—it couldn't possibly be this woman; it must be Jay-Z.

K: I mean, we've seen her rap live!

C: I know.

K: *(laughs)* I mean, I guess people are like, oh, well she's just reciting what he did, but like ... she sounds exactly the same, and *(laughs)* ... you know? I don't know. I feel like I'm—again, yes. It's very—it's a very sexist sort of belief to be like she—this woman couldn't possibly—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —have this talent. Like it has to be this man fronting for her, or whatever—

C: Right.

K: —and it's like, uh, I don't know. Also too, if that was the case, Jay-Z shoulda had a better verse on "[Monster](#)" then, because—

C: Oh my god!

K: —as Jay-Z because ... she washed him! Like I mean, absolutely washed him on that verse, so like—

C: Oh my god. I am so glad you brought that up, because that is one of ... okay. First of all, that—her verse?

K: It's like all-time.

C: So fuckin fire.

K: All-time.

C: His verse—

K: It's not good! *(laughs)*

C: I'm embarrassed for him.

K: She washes all of them! It's so wild on that song. You're like, okay, these are all established people. You're like, fine. And then she just comes in and just destroys—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —and you're like, you guys should have tried harder. *(laughs)*

C: God.

K: Like you all should have given it a better shot than that.

C: And Jay-Z coming on with—he—it's so corny. It is ... so cringey.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Jay-Z's verse on "Monster" is so cringey.

K: I honestly think a lot of his—I mean, [My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy](#) is not that recent. But I feel like a lot of his recent stuff is kind of cringey, like his—

C: Yeah.

K: —on "[Drunk in Love](#)," I'm like, kinda cringey, and like—

C: Oh, god. Yeah. "[Your breasteses are my breakfast](#)"?

K: —and stuff on [THE CARTERS'](#) [[EVERYTHING IS LOVE](#)]. I'm just like, ohh ... this is what happens when people age, you know? *(laughs)*

C: Really? Really, Shawn?

K: I'm like, don't ... don't age! I mean—

C: Ugh.

K: —you can age, but like ... be better at it. *(laughs)*

C: I actually—”Drunk In Love” is not a good song. I'm just gonna put that on record.

K: I like it. I think it's a ridiculous song—

C: Ugh.

K: —but I think he's bad on it. *(laughs)* And I'm like—

C: And it doesn't—that's also the “[Eat the cake, Anna Mae](#)” [line](#) too, right?

K Yes! Yes. Yes. And people were not happy about that. *(laughs)*

C: So you know what? Fuck Jay-Z. Fuck Jay-Z.

K: But also too, it's so funny because all of Beyoncé's fans basically feel that way. They're just, ugh, why you keep bringing him along?

C: I know. God.

K: *(laughs)* It's like ... nobody wants it.

C: No, she's so much better than him.

K: Nobody wants it. Like it's hilarious when you watch [Homecoming](#) and he comes out to do stuff and people were just like ...

C: “Boo!” *(laughs)*

K: ... okay. Yeah. *(laughs)* They're like, fine. When your husband's done, we'll get into it again.

C: Yeah.

K: Yeah, no, it's just really funny. But yeah, that's so weird, the Nicki Minaj thing. It's like, no, it's clearly not. Like she's very good at rapping.

C: Yeah.

K: Let's accept it. *(laughs)*

C: She's a lotta things, Nicki.

K: Yes.

C: But one thing she is talented [at] is—she can rap. She can write. She's a very clever woman.

K: Yep.

C: She gets caught up in a lotta bullshit that she doesn't need to be.

K: I think she's like ... she reminds me ... I feel like some famous people just have this, and [Kevin Durant](#), the basketball player, is another one of these people, where they're just like ... they can't revel in the fact that they're already talented and successful; that they have to be engaging every single comment about them—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —every single weird internet take, and I'm just like ... you have so much money. *(laughs)*

C: Yes!

K: And so many—like you have so many other things to do! Why are you on the internet, on Twitter, arguing with random dudes? This is KD's thing that he does all the time, and like, *(laughs)* he has a—he has a tweet where he—somebody was like—wrote like, “You need to just relax,” and he's like, “No! There's no relax.” He's like, “When I'm on Twitter, I'm on ten the whole time until I close the app.” He's like, “You relax!” *(laughs)*

C: *(laughs)*

K: *(laughing)* And I'm just like, dude, you have two championships, two finals MVPs, and you're the best player in the world. Like what are you even doing right now? *(laughs)* What's happening? If I was rich, people—you couldn't even pay me to look at Twitter.

C: No.

K: I would just be like, no, I don't—why would I? What ... *(laughs)* what use of—it is it to me? I do not understand. But yeah, she has some of that, where she's just like, no, I have to be always engaging with nonsense.

C: Yeah. She can't help herself.

K: And I'm like, don't—just don't *(laughs)* ... be fine. Be like [Rihanna](#) and be like, engage on your own terms. You know? Like—

C: Yes! I was just thinking that. Take—take a page out of Rihanna’s playbook.

K: Yeah. And Beyoncé too. She’s the same. Yeah.

C: Yeah! Yeah. They will ... they have all the money—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —they could ever want, and they—they’re unbothered—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —or at least they present that.

K: Exactly.

C: And that’s how you want to be.

K: If you’re not, that’s fine! You can feel however.

C: Yeah.

K: Yeah. You don’t have to get on Twitter and be expressing it all the time.

C: Right.

K: But Toshio makes a good point, that he said “Trump had a personal Twitter. Everyone rich should.” And I’m like, yeah. You can have it like—an account and whatever; just have someone else handling it, right?

C: Mm-hmm.

K: So they are able to better shape your *(laughs)* personal interactions or, you know, public interactions, instead of you getting on it after some game that you lost, getting mad at the people who are like, “You’re trash” or whatever. *(laughs)* It’s like, ugh. I don’t—I don’t understand it.

C: No. I don’t either.

K: It’s just very funny. But that one’s—no. That one’s ridiculous.

C: Yeah. That one is ridiculous.

K: She's a good rapper. Whatever else you think about her, she's good at that part of it.

C: Right.

K: Yeah, are there any—I mean, (*laughs*) I was thinking too when I came—when I was talking about the Stevie Wonder one or thinking about that one, about how there was that TikTok trend, or meme, from a couple of months ago—maybe even a year at this point—about how [people don't think that Helen Keller is a real person](#)? Also? (*laughing*) I'm just like—

C: Oh yeah. I tried to ignore that, because I knew it would make me mad. And—

K: Yes. Mm-hmm. Well, you were right to. (*laughs*)

C: Yeah. She did exist.

K: Yeah. People—again—

C: (*laughs*) Helen Keller did exist. Yeah.

K: She did! It's all rooted in ableism—

C: Yeah.

K: —of people not wanting to believe that someone who has a disability—it's actually a disability that people consider like ... “severe,” right?

C: Mm-hmm.

K: Not being able to hear or speak, or you know, not being able to see, people are like, “Oh, that's so serious! You obviously can't be able to engage with the world like a ‘normal’ person, like how could you ever do the things that people say that you did?” But yeah, that one was so—not only—because it wasn't like people were like, oh, she wasn't really deaf and blind; people were like, no. She's not even a real person. (*laughs*) Like ... what? That's so weird. It's so much further than any other ableist conspiracy theory, to that point, that I'd heard. But yeah, again, it mostly was on TikTok, and all these people on TikTok are like seventeen, so they don't know anything. (*laughs*) They think everyone who didn't exist when they existed is fake, so I ... I couldn't get too mad about it, but it was a little bit irksome also.

C: Mm-hmm. Maybe the children really aren't our future.

K: I mean, maybe they were and now they're not anymore. (*laughs*) I mean, though I don't know. Sometimes I see the youngs and I'm like, okay, good for you, young people. Good for you for doing the young people things and not putting up with stuff that we had to deal with. But also, on the other hand, I'm like ... you know. Maybe read some stuff. (*laughs*) I think it's partially just the

... again, the young person thing of “Well, I’m encountering the world, so everything that is not happening right now as I’m alive and I can’t—you know, living; it’s all either bad or wasn’t real.” It’s like, I guess, but ... yeah.

C: Well, any other thoughts on conspiracy theories?

K: No, there’s just so many. There’s so many from a pop culture perspective. We could do five more episodes—

C: I know!

K: —and (*laughs*) barely scratch the surface of these. Cuz people want to make sense of the world, and they use what, you know, resources and knowledge they have to do that, and sometimes they just get weird places. They get to some weird conclusions. But Tosh had put a list in the chat about, you know, personality traits—

C: Mm.

K: —that are linked to the tendency to, you know, believe in conspiracies, and one is narcissism. Low agreeableness. [Machiavellianism](#), which I love—

C: (*laughs*)

K: —as an Italian studies person. And openness to experience, which I find really interesting especially in the—as a contrast to narcissism.

C: Mm-hmm.

K: It’s like, okay, you’re very narcissistic, but you’re also open to experience? And you’re not agreeable, but also open to experience? I don’t know. It’s very funny. But yeah, I think people want to ... they just wanna make sense of the world—

C: Yeah.

K: —and sometimes it doesn’t make sense, and you can’t—you get to a conclusion that, you know. With flawed logic. (*laughs*) And like Toshio says, it’s like [the hippies and the wellness people that are into Q-Anon](#).

C: Mm-hmm.

K: Or, you know, all of the blog ... [mommy bloggers who are like anti-vax](#)—

C: Ugh.

K: —or whatever. You know? It's like—

C: Yeah. Yeah.

K Yeah. Again, [a] lot of it [is] rooted in ableism and weird political—

C: Uh-huh.

K: —beliefs or whatever. But yeah, people are trying to make sense of it, and sometimes they just get way off-track. (*laughs*)

C: Right.

K: I like the pop culture ones, though, because those are the ones that are like basically harmless, and just kinda funny.

C: Right. I love that Beyoncé's Italian.

K: Yeah! Like why is ... that's a joke! That's a great running joke that we can all enjoy.

C: Right. (*laughs*)

K: It doesn't hurt anybody. Yeah. It's just really fun. The "Avril Lavigne is a clone," like what?

C: Mm-hmm.

K: Okay. I guess. (*laughs*) You know? It's not hurting Avril; it's not hurting any of the people who believe it. It's all fine.

C: Mm-hmm.

K: So yeah. I'm a huge fan of these ones. They're just very silly.

C: Yeah. We'll have to revisit this one. Cuz there are some other good ones that of course we—we can't cover it all in one day.

K: Yeah. We only have so much time in a day.

C: (*sighs*) Le sigh. Okay. Well, I hope you enjoyed that conversation. I did.

K: I did as well.

C: Well done, everyone.

K: Yeah, good job, us.

C: How bout a little *Two Cents, No Tax*?

K: Yeah!

C: I'm up this week!

K: Okay. I was gonna say. And Toshio, do you have questions for Caitlin, or am I just gonna be the person? I mean, it's fine if you don't. I can—

T: I'm totally down to start, yeah—

C: Yay!

K: Okay! Yeah, yeah! Go! Go!

T: —throwing some questions out.

C: Woo woo!

T: But I actually started a list.

C: Oh, I love it.

K: Oh my gosh, I love it.

T: But I don't have it on me. But I—

K: *(laughs)*

T: I should have clarified.

C: It does exist, though.

K: Yeah. *(laughs)* It's ... somewhere.

T: I swear I'm not lying and trying to like, I don't know, flex that I did my homework.

K & C: *(laugh)*

T: And then I was—

C: This is a no-flex zone.

T: I was on—

K: No flex zone.

C: Zone!

T: *(laughs)*

C: I love [that song](#).

K: It's such a silly song.

T: I do—it's a good song.

C: *(vocalizing)* No flex! Zone!

K: Yeah.

C: Sorry. Okay.

T: It was cute when they stopped doin' "[Up Like Trump](#)."

C: Oh! I'm glad that they did.

T: Yeah!

K: Yeah.

C: Cuz that was—why would you do a song about—

T: Why would you?

K: But also speaking of *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, [there's a line in there](#) about how Donald Trump is taking dollars from everyone, that Kanye says, and I'm like, you went from that to being—wearing a MAGA hat—

C: MAGA hat.

K: —in the white house? Ugh. It's so depressing.

T: Oof.

C: Yes.

K: But anyway. *(laughs)*

T: I know. That he was the secret on the Kanye ... the new album?

K: Mm.

T: Like he's got like a little line at the end—

C: Jay-Z does?

T: —and that was like ... the surprise? Yeah, it's—

K: Donald Trump?

T: No, no no no no. Jay-Z.

K: Oh, okay. I mean, I guess.

T: Sorry. That would have been more—

C: *(laughs)*

K: That'd be hilarious.

T: —interesting, actually.

K: Yeah.

T: More of a surprise.

K: I was gonna say, are they like friends again? Is that what that was ...

T: Yeah, yeah.

K: Oh, okay. Good for them, I guess. *(laughs)*

C: *(sighs)*

K: Repairing their relationship.

C: What the Illuminati will do.

K: Yeah, exactly. They gotta be ... you know, aligned. So yeah. So should I start with *Two Cents, No Tax*, or did you wanna start?

C: Yeah!

K: Okay. So—

C: We'll just start with you. Whatever.

K: Okay! So mine is sort of in ... I'm like ... one thing of being on social media, you realize that there's like a ton of different kinds of nerds—

C: Mm!

K: —and that you're just not—you don't align with those other types, many other types of nerds. And one type of nerd that I feel like I'm not is there's people who are really into certain books and book series, and I'm just like—

C: Oh.

K: —these aren't for me.

C: Yeah.

K: And so one people are super into is [Dune](#)—

C: Right.

K: —which is like, I don't get that. But then also people are into [The Green Knight](#). Did you ever read that?

C: No.

K: Well basically they made a movie about it and people have very strong feelings, and it has [Dev Patel](#) in it.

C: Mm. Okay.

K: So I wanted to know, what are your thoughts on Dev Patel?

C: You know, I think I've only seen him in [Slumdog Millionaire](#), right?

K: Mm. Yeah, that was his breakout—

C: Is that him?

K: —well, he was in [Skins](#), also.

C: In what?

K: *Skins*? That UK—

C: What's that?

K: Really?! (*laughing*) Oh—

C: What is *Skins*?

K: *Skins* was a show in—it was like a drama comedy from the UK from ... I wanna say like a decade ago. Oh, maybe even more. It was probably like 2008 or 9 or something?

C: A good year.

K: And basically a lot of the actors who are in it are like—were young. They were teens. And it was just following British teens and like, you know, them—it's basically like [Gossip Girl](#), but not with rich people. It's just all kinda like teens—

C: Mokay.

K: —doing teen things. But a lot of the actors from that show are famous in america now. So it's like, [Daniel Kaluuya](#) was on it—

C: Ooh!

K: —Dev Patel was on it; [Nicholas Hoult](#) was on it. Just a lot of, you know, people who have kinda like come up—

C: Okay.

K: —and Dev Patel was on it and he was like ... I guess he was like the ugly one? (*laughs*) I'm like—

C: What?!

K: —the ugly one? I know, exactly. That's why I was like, I would like to know your opinion. But you've only seen him in *Slumdog Millionaire*. That was after *Skins*. So.

C: Okay. Yeah. So I guess ... I don't have feelings on Dev Patel.

K: Interesting!

C: Is he nice?

K: I mean, I don't know. I just think he's very attractive. Like ... very attractive.

C: Yeah, I thought that was his thing, was like, he's a handsome guy.

K: But yeah, he wasn't though! That's what's funny, is that he kind of dev[eloped]—blossomed into a very handsome man.

C: Okay.

K: I mean, cuz in *Slumdog Millionaire*, he's pretty young.

C: Yeah.

K: That was like, what, twelve years ago?

C: I have no idea.

K: Something like that? Oh my god, it came out in 2008. (*laughs*) I am so old. I was like, yeah, it was like a couple years ago! But yeah, he ... he was on that, in that, and I—he looked like a kid in that movie—

C: Yeah. Yeah.

K: —so I'm like, I can't tell if he's hot or not. But now he's like, oh yeah, I'm—I'm here and I'm very handsome.

C: Handsome, yeah. That's what—I just thought he was a handsome actor, and—

K: Yeah. That's what he's known for now (*laughs*), for sure.

C: Yeah.

K: For being a handsome guy. (*laughs*)

C: Toshio said he saw a headline saying it's the "summer of Dev."

K: Ooh. I hope so. I mean, I'm probably not gonna see *Green Knight*, but—

C: Yeah, I—

K: —I'd like to see more photos of him on the internet. *(laughs)*

C: So I know nothing about *The Green Knight*. I've seen people talking about it; I assumed it was like a ... what do you call it, like a superhero thing? Is it not?

K: I know! It sounds like it. No, but it's like a[n] Arthurian ...

C: *(sighs)*

K: ... you know. It's for people who like [Game of Thrones](#)—

C: Yeah.

K: —and, you know, [Lord of the Rings](#) and [The Hobbit](#) and stuff, and I'm like, that's not for me. *(laughs)*

C: That's not my thing.

K: *(laughing)* Yeah, that's not for me either.

C: That's not my thing. So—

K: But people are really excited about the movie—

C: Ugh. Okay.

K: —and excited for him in it.

C: I'll just say, you know what? I wish Dev all the best.

K: Yeah. Okay, good. Good. *(laughs)*

C: *(laughs)*

K: I'm glad? *(laughs)* I mean, I don't know what I wanted from you on that, but—

C: I don't know either, but I'm glad you asked.

K: —yeah, I was like, I know that she'll have an opinion! *(laughs)*

T: You don't wish ill upon him.

K: Yeah, exactly.

C: I do not wish—no, I wish him well.

K: Yup.

T: *(laughs)*

C: In his summer. It's the summer of Dev, and I wish him well.

K: In his—yeah. Exactly. The summer of Dev. We hope it goes well. *(laughs)*

C & T: *(laugh)*

K: Okay Toshio, do you have one, or should I go again?

T: Sure!

K: Okay.

T: *The words "fast casual" and also the ...*

K: Idea?

T: ... noun. And what it represents.

K: Yeah.

C: Fast casual?

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Like a restaurant?

T: Yes.

C: Okay, so explain this to me, cuz—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —Krystal, [you mentioned this on an episode](#). Fast casual.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: So is this like ... fast food?

T: Yeah, it's—

K: It's like a step up from fast food.

T: Mm-hmm.

C: So like gimme an example.

K: So like ... like an Applebee's. Or like a Chili's, or like an Olive Garden.

C: Oh, I love Chili's.

K: Those are fast casual. Cuz it's like ... the food isn't—*(laughs)* okay, good. Well we know how you feel about it!

C: *(laughs)*

T: Yeah! Okay.

C: I have good memories of Chili's.

T: Quick. Easy.

C: I have good memories of Chili's.

K: Mokay.

C: And I have really good memories of [Ruby Tuesday](#). When I was a kid, going to the mall—

K: Yes.

C: —and eating at Ruby Tuesday and being like, this is fucking fantastic! Like—

K: Oh—this is fancy, yeah.

C: Yeah! Yeah. I don't know why. I think they had like stained glass in the booth or something and I was like, wow.

K: Remember when that was like a thing? Like Pizza Hut even had that? *(laughs)*

T: Oh yeah!

K: The stained glass? Like what?

C: Oh yeah! I love that.

K: It was a very different time.

T: Yeah.

C: Yeah. And Chili's, like they had good na[cho]—or cheese dip. And I love fajitas. Love love love fajitas, so—

K: Mm. Me too.

C: —you know, I can get with some Chili's.

K: Okay, good.

T: And cheese—[Cheesecake Factory](#)'s not fast casual?

K: *(laughs)*

C: So I've never eaten at a Cheesecake Factory, or maybe—

K: I would say it is.

T: I really want to.

C: —I don't know if I have, actually, now that I think about it.

K: Guys, my sister works at a Cheesecake Factory—

T: You can take out.

K: —just FYI.

T: Okay.

C: Ooh.

K: She'll give you the hookup.

T: Ooh. Cuz—

K: If you're ever in like *(laughs)* Central California—

T: Okay. Okay.

K: —and want the hookup.

T: Okay. Okay!

K: She could hook you up, for sure.

T: I am so curious about just [a menu that takes you around the world](#)—

K: It's wild.

T: —and the architecture?

K: Not even the menu also—yeah. The actual restaurant is very like a weird mix of styles and time periods—it's a—it's a weird place to be in. It looks ... from the out[side]—at least the ones that are more modern-ish—like from the outside, they just look like strip mall restaurants, you know? They don't look like anything fanc[y]—like spectacular, but then you go in and you're like, what's happening in here? (*laughs*) It's very weirdly lit, and yeah, it's a weird style. And the menu is humongous.

C: Mm—hmm.

K: That's like their thing, so they have a giant menu and they have all of these different kinds of food, and yeah. Like a million calories in every entree—it's like—

C: Mm!

K: —it's intense. It's a really intense place. But yeah, I think that's fast casual, but maybe I'm wrong.

T: Okay. There's an article that I'll—I'll link to for the [Patreons](#)—or I—

K: Mm.

C: Yes!

T: —maybe even beyond—

K: Mm-hmm.

T: —that just kind of goes deep into the look—

K: Mm.

T: —of the restaurant, and how it—you know, there's like a Greco-Roman statue over there—

K: Yeah.

C: *(laughs)*

T: —and then there's like a pagoda on the other end—

C: Oh!

K: *(laughs)* It's super intense.

T: —and everything is marble, or fake marble.

C: Oh! See, that sounds fun to me.

T: Me too!

K: Yeah.

T: Me too.

K: It's very—yeah. It's—people like ... I don't know. Maybe I feel too—I get weirdly touchy about stuff, cuz my sister's worked there for so long, and I feel this way about when people talk about factory work, but people feel like they're above certain stuff—

T: Right.

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —and they're like, “This is too low-class for me, a fancy person!” And it's like, it's just food. I'm sure you eat garbage food all the time *(laughs)*—

C: Right.

K: —like how is—somehow this is not as good because you didn't order it from some place on Seamless or whatever, cuz you live in New York and you're too good for chain restaurants, like—

C: Ooh! [P.F. Chang's](#). That's—

T: That feels like it's—

K: Oh, that's a good one!

T: Yeah! Agree.

C: Yeah! Toshio, that's our special place. When he comes to visit—

K: Aw!

C: —we go to P.F. Chang's. He orders the ma-po tofu.

K: *(laughs)* Nice.

T: [I get to use a coupon](#). Coupon, or gift card—

K: *(laughs)*

C: He always has a coupon handy!

K: Course.

C: You know he does!

K: *(laughing)* Of course he does.

C: God, I was thinking last week, I was like, "I miss Toshio so much. I really wish we were at P.F. Chang's right now." So—

K: Oh my god, that's so funny.

C: Yeah, I say thumbs-up on fast casual!

T: Yeah!

K: Okay! Cool. Yeah.

C: That's a good one!

K: I—I am ... mine is actually sort of related to that. It's like a food thing, cuz you know I always like to add a food—ask a food thing.

C: Yeah!

K: How do you feel about *mushrooms*?

C: That is hilarious that you asked me this—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —because I was thinking about this earlier this week when I was eating them!

K: Mm!

C: And I was like, I wonder if Krystal likes them or hates them.

K: I love em.

C: Do you?! Okay!

K: Yes.

C: So we share that.

K: Good.

C: I love mushrooms. Yeah, give me a portobello. Give me a baby bella. Some cremini.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Whatever. They're so good! They're so good.

K They're very good. I'm a mushrooms on pizza person.

C: Me too.

K: I know not everybody is, but I love a mushroom pizza.

C: I do too! Mushroom and green pepper—

K: Yeah! Same!

C: —is my go-to. That's my go-to!

K: People don't like that! People don't like—ugh. I love it. I love—that's a great combo.

C: It is a good combo! Yeah, what do you think about [microdosing](#)?

K: I've never done a drug—

C: Right.

K: —so myself, I'm like, probably not, but maybe—people say it's supposed to be like ... helpful? Beneficial?

C: Yeah.

K: I don't—I don't know. I know [Michael Pollan](#) has [that whole book](#) about like how he started doing it and it changed his way of thinking and whatever. But yeah, I feel like it's a trend for like ... again, it's kind of along with the legalization of weed and stuff, like it's a trend that, you know, people who have a lotta privilege can get into because they're not gonna face any negative consequences from it, but yeah. I don't know (*laughs*) anyone who actually does it. Although probably a lotta people here with like Silicon Valley tech people.

C: Yeah. I know some people—

K: How do you feel about it?

C: Oh, I'm for it. I know some people who do it and it seems to be really, really helpful for them.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: So, you know. I think whatever works. Whatever helps you get through the day in a healthy way—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —and that seems to be—cuz it's not like you're like you're tripping.

K: No.

C: It's like an elevation, and it seems like the research is really pointing to it being, you know, genuinely helpful for people with ... especially certain kinds of medication-resistant depressions.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: So yeah! I'm here for it. I mean, I don't use—or I've never microdosed, but if it works for ya, it works for ya. So mushrooms, thumbs up. All-around.

K: (*laughs*) Yes. Both kinds. (*laughs*)

C: Okay. Toshio, do you have any? If not, it's okay.

T: *Microwaveable dinners?*

K: *(laughs)* We're really on a food kick on this one.

C: Yeah. I—I'm here for it.

T: *(laughs)*

C: I—well, one, I don't have a microwave anymore, because microwaves kinda scare me, just with the—

K: *(laughing)* Okay. Let's talk about that.

C: Well, it's not like the microwave itself—but when you microwave plastic?

K: Oh, yeah.

C: Or microwave like microwave popcorn. Like there's stuff within those products that are—

K: Not healthy. Yeah.

C: —you know. Legitimate carcinogens. So somethin about the microwaves kinda freak me out. I mean, I—obviously I've used them in my life and I've had them—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —and relied on them. I am a toaster oven girl, though.

K: Mm.

C: I much prefer that ... that style of cooking.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: And shoutout to [Sonja Morgan](#) from [Real Housewives of New York](#)—

K: *(laughs)* Oh, god.

C: —who's going to have her own toaster cooker cookbook line, but that never materialized. But I don't know. I've eaten some microwave dinners. They're fine.

K: Yeah *(laughs)*—

C: Whatever you like! I am ... you know. I support—I support anyone—

K: I used to be way more into them when I was like, you know, in college and stuff—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —just cuz it was like, I don't have to do anything. But I sort of fell off, and I'm like, I don't remember—and it's been so long since I've actually bought any that I'm like, I don't remember which ones I used to like, and I don't wanna spend *(laughs)* money on ones that will be really gross. So I really only have like one microwave thing that I like, and those are just those [Amy's burritos](#)—

C: Oh, yeah. Those are good.

K: —that like those are my jam. Those are my go-to like, I'm really lazy and I don't wanna make anything for dinner. I'm definitely gonna eat an Amy's burrito.

C: You know, too, with the Amy's burrito, they're like, it'll be a minute in the microwave or an hour in the oven.

K: Yeah, exactly. *(laughs)*

C: And it's like, what are you talking about?!

K: All Amy's products are like that, yeah. *(laughs)* You're just like, um, I'm definitely using the microwave.

C: Yeah. So, yeah, I understand that.

K: *(laughs)*

T: Ooh. I went to the Amy's fast casual—

K: *(gasps)*

C: —well, I suppose you could say it's the fast food, but—

K: Mm-hmm.

T: —[restaurant at SFO!](#)

K: Oh my gosh.

C: Ooh! I didn't know she had her own restaurant!

T: The international airport! Amy does. Amy does.

K: Yeah, I think there's also one—

C: Yay Amy.

K: —there's like a couple here in the Bay Area.

K: Yeah.

T: Yeah.

C: How was it?

T: It was—you know, I had an orange creamsicle shake.

K: Whoa.

T: And it was really good!

K: Mm!

C: Okay! She's really like—

T: Especially for an airport.

C: Yeah. Does she—

T: I mean, SFO has an elevated food kind of selection.

K: *(laughs)* I guess so.

T: *(laughs)*

K: Mm. I mean, I—yeah. I don't wanna give SFO too much credit for being good. I hate that airport. *(laughs)* So much.

T: No no. Nope.

K: Mm-hmm. That's funny. Yeah, I never—have never been. I don't think they have a location in Oakland, so I never have been.

T: I feel like the only one is like in ... what is it called ... Walnut Creek, maybe?

K: Mm. That makes sense.

T: Somewhere over there.

K: That is where they would put an Amy's restaurant, for sure.

T: Like fancy—

K: Yup.

T: —area ... I only know it for like ... it's like a big [Anthropologie](#) with the doors open in a hundred degree heat.

K: *(laughing)* Yeah.

C: Mm.

T: Letting the AC just kind of—

K: Right, just blast. Yep.

C: *(laughs)*

T: Mm.

K: Mm-hmm.

T: That's what I think.

C: Cool the outdoors.

T: The great outdoors.

K: *(laughs)*

C: Well, thank you for those ... for those topics. Those were good!

T: Spicy!

C: That was a spicy meatball.

K: Yeah. There's a lotta food stuff! We have to—maybe we're just all hungry or something.  
*(laughs)*

C: Yeah, I think *(laughs)* —

T: *(laughs)*

K: I did have mushrooms on my list before any of this, so that was something I wrote down.  
*(laughs)*

C: Okay.

T: At least you made a list first. I need to—

K: I mean, I wrote like three things, so *(laughs)*—

C: Well, you made a list too!

T: I'm—I did! I—

K: I brought my list with me. That's the difference. *(laughs)*

T: *(laughs)*

K: That's—that's all that happened.

T: I'm gonna transfer it to my phone. Stop using notebooks and pen and paper.

K & C: *(laugh)*

C: Okay. Well now we're gonna move onto what we are delving into this week.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: So Krystal and Toshio, what are you listening to or reading or watching, et cetera, et cetera?

K: So I watched [the Woodstock 99 documentary](#). Have you guys watched that?

C: Oh, boy. I'm scared to watch that.

K: I mean—

C: I don't think I can handle that.

T: I was into it.

C: I don't think I can handle it.

K: It's ... it's intense. Okay, so basically ... I mean, I don't know who I need to explain Woodstock '99 to, but like [Woodstock '99](#)—

C: *(laughs)*

K: —the sort of continuation of [Woodstock '69](#), but also [Woodstock '94](#), the promoters from both of those concerts were like, we're gonna do it again, you know, on the thirtieth anniversary. And so instead of having it in a big open space, they had it at a decommissioned army or air for[ce]—or, you know, military base. Because they're like, well, we'll have everything that we need; like it'll be an enclosed space; we can set up all of the stuff we need to set up in terms of, you know, electricity, and, you know, bathrooms, and—

C: Oh, god.

K: —you know, we'll have water and all this stuff, so we're already set for that. So it was in the summer of 1999, and the promoters ... I just really don't think that they were *(laughs)* the right people to handle this concert, because they're like, oh we want it to have the same vibe as 90 ... as '69 and '94, but then they basically just all invited new metal—

C: Mm.

K: —and rap rock bands? And then they had like—

C: Let's get [Limp Bizkit!](#)

K: Yeah! And then they had one female act a day. So they had like—

C: Too many!

K: —[Jewel](#) for one day and—yeah, exactly. They're like, we can only max do three, so I mean, that's *(laughs)*—

C: Yeah.

K: So they had like Jewel for one day and [Alanis Morissette](#) for one day, and ... [Sheryl Crow](#) for another day. And I was like, what a weird ... but then they also had like ... like [Moby](#) was there, which I was like, why *(laughs)* was Moby there? But anyway, so the movie is very interesting because you not only get to hear from the people who were promoting the ... you know, the promoters of the concert, but you also get all of the footage, obviously, that MTV was shooting because at the time, it was being simulcast—

C: Mm-hmm. I watched it!

K: —so parts of it were being reco[rded]—aired on MTV, but then you also could dial—not dial in. You could order a pay-per-view viewing of it and watch it basically live, like as it was happening. And so I remember watching it at my grandma’s when—’99 in the summer, and being like, this is ... what is happening? (*laughs*)

C: Yes.

K: I remember watching it and thinking, I’m never going to a music festival.

C: Yeah.

K: Like ever ever ever. Because what ended up happening was after the first day, which is pretty you know ... normal music festival stuff, except for the intense heat, it was, you know, pretty manageable. But then everything started to sort of break down after that first day. People couldn’t get enough water; people were being—getting lost; not being able to find their groups that they had come with, because this is ‘99 and there’s no cell phones; people were ... you know, not being able to shower, and the facilities were breaking down, and so people were bursting pipes and then there was all this mud, or what people thought was mud, but maybe wasn’t mud ... it was just a whole thing. But the movie is really good because it kind of contextualizes what was going on in the world at—in 1999, right? And it tries to sort of put it into a context of we’re coming out of the grunge movement but we weren’t yet, you know, we were pre-9/11, so it was kind of like this generation of people that were a little bit aimless and were like what is our deal? (*laughs*) You know, what are we doing; what—what is our purpose? And I think they were trying to make the point that like a lotta people at these concerts and who were in this demographic of young white suburban males—although there are a lotta women obviously too—that they sort of felt like they didn’t really have anything, and everything they had been promised was kinda like not really attainable. And so there was kind of an aggression and a kinda anger that kinda was bubbling up at that time. Yeah, it was really ... it was a lot. (*laughs*) And they do go into sort of the treatment of women at the concert—

C: Yeah.

K: —and how there were so many assaults.

C: Yeah. I just don’t think I could handle that, yeah.

K: —and so many—I definitely think if you’re sensitive to that kinda thing, it’s probably not a good thing to—

C: Yeah.

K: —check into, but it was wild. And they talked about how one of the women who was there after the fact set up a website to basically be like, if you had an experience like this at

Woodstock ['99], write in; let us know; we would love to get you support and services (*laughs*), because there were so many people that were just like—

C: Jesus.

K: —you know. But they didn't have anywhere to go, because—

C: Right.

K: —they talk about how the—oh my god. The security that they hired were just like, people that they hired?

C: Yeah.

K: It was just wild to see it from like all of these different perspectives, and see some of the artists talking about how they were just like, "We're out of here! We're leaving."

C: Yeah.

K: The MTV people were like, "We're leaving!" (*laughs*) Like, "We're not gonna be here." It was—it's just really intense, and they also had like ... one of the things I thought was really interesting was like, everybody kind of knows that it was a shit show; that it was terrible and all these bad things happened. But apparently there was a lot of actual health issues in terms of like people being—running around in what they thought was mud, but was probably actually human filth—

C: Right.

K: But also like, people died at Woodstock. (*laughs*) Like, people—all of Woodstock, basically, I think, except '94. But people died because of the heat, and the crowds, and not having any water, and people were passing out and it just was—it was wild. There was just stuff that I was like, I didn't know it was this bad.

C: Jeez.

K: I really didn't know it was this bad. But it sounded awful. So yeah, I don't know. I thought it was a really interesting documentary and I liked the way that they sort of tied what was happening in music to sort of a larger political trend, because we were kind of—it's still in that "end of history" period in the late nineties, where people were like "Well, everything is kind of good, and nothing's happening, so what do we ... what do we do?" It's like only two years later we'd have 9/11 and then like, you know, the Iraq War, and recession and all this stuff, so there would be other stuff to fight against. But I think there was kind of a like, oh, people are angry and they really have no reason to be angry, and I was like, well, I mean ... everyone has a reason to be angry, but (*laughs*) yeah. I don't know. I thought it was interesting. But yeah. It was

pretty intense. And I hope that the promoters die in a fire. *(laughs)* They're terrible people. Again, trigger warnings. All the trigger warnings. *(laughs)*

C: Right.

K: A lot's happening. But what have you guys been watching and listening to and reading?

C: Well, I read a really good book—

K: Mm.

C: —that I would love to talk about, and ... I've read actually a number of really good books—

K: Course.

C: —this summer. Maybe I should make a list of—

K: Oh yeah, that'd be good!

C: Yeah, cuz they're—I've read a lotta different kinds—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —but I read a book that I am really excited about, and which I highly recommend, called [Nightbitch](#).

K: *(laughs)* Okay, I love the title already.

C: Yes. Exactly. So *Nightbitch* by [Rachel Yoder](#), I believe is her name.

K: Mm.

C: It's a debut novel, and just so you know, this is how you know it's a good book. It's already been optioned by [Amy Adams](#).

K: Of course. Amy Adams! Weird, I didn't know she had a production thing.

C: I didn't either, but I can ... so I knew—I knew that going into the book, just cuz like I bought it. Cuz I—I'd seen it as a, you know, this is coming out, and I was like, ooh—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —this sounds really interesting. So I bought it when it came out and it was already optioned by Amy Adams, so then of course I'm reading it, then, picturing the protagonist as like Amy Adams—

K: *(laughs)* Right. Not fair.

C: —which is going to be wild. So let me just tell you what the premise is, cuz it is like, nuckin futs.

K: *(laughs)*

C: It's this woman who's thirty-seven—

K: Hey!

C: She's—yay! *(laughs)*

K: *(laughs)*

C: She's got a two-year-old boy. She's married to a “nice guy,” but he is always outta town on business. She's a former artist and she's had to give up her dream job, her career—

K: Mm.

C: —to raise her kid. Because her husband makes more money and ... you know. Blah blah. We know the story. Okay. So we never know her name. She's only referred to as “the mother.”

K: Hmm.

C: And the mother—so she's, you know, going through the daily rigamarole of raising a toddler, which I cannot imagine, and this book really reaffirms my decision—which wasn't even a decision, like no one's ever wanted to have kids with me. But I'm like, you know, not having kids. Good thing. So she is convinced that she's turning into a dog.

K: *(laughs)* Okay.

C: Yes.

K: I'm going with you there. Uh-huh.

C: Yes. And so she is starting to like develop *(laughs)* ... sharper canine teeth. And she's like, I've got these weird spots on my back and now I'm growing fur and hair, and—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —it is really, really funny. It made me laugh out loud.

K: Mm.

C: It's obviously very unique—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —and disturbing at parts. I have not read anything like this book before.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: At least, if I have, I do not remember. And it was something that I had a really hard time putting down.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: It was just really engrossing and engaging and really funny.

K: Mm.

C: Like some of the stuff that happens in the book, I ... I don't wanna give anything away. But it—

K: I mean, I feel like what you just described is good—it's a good enough hook for people. *(laughs)* Like, pretty good! Yeah.

C: Yeah. It's a really, really interesting take on motherhood—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —and, you know, relationships, and her fury as a woman who's kind of had to give up all these things even though she obviously loves her child, but ... so highly, highly recommend *Nightbitch*.

K: Hmm! It's interesting—when you sort of started ... when you were first describing it, it reminded me a lot of—did you ever read that book the [Dept. of Speculation?](#) By [Jenny Offill](#)?

C: That's on my to-read list. Yeah, she—

K: Okay! It sounded like that at the beginning, cuz basically it's the same. It's an unnamed woman—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —she's living in the city; she marries this man; they have a great—you know, they have a whirlwind romance; they get married; they have this kid; and she's like—same. Has an art career that she really loves, but gives it up to become a stay-at-home mom, and like in that book, it's mostly domestic drama fiction, where you're sort of getting these quick ... the way the book it's written, it's like these quick paragraph snippets and bites. Sometimes they're about what happens in their lives; sometimes it's just like what seem like unrelated kind of events or whatever, but it sounded like it was gonna go that way, (*laughing*) but then you were like, "No, something else happens."

C: Yeah.

K: She starts to develop other like ... obsessions—

C: Yeah.

K: —than just like, oh, their apartment might have bedbugs or whatever. (*laughs*)

C: She's turning into *Nightbitch*, so—

K: That's fun.

C: —and so she's referring to herself as Nightbitch and not only is she thinking she's turning into a dog, she's loving it. She is loving it.

K: Oh, she's into it! (*laughs*)

C: Yeah. She is into it.

K: I like it.

C: Yeah. Yeah. So I really recommend it.

K: I'll put that on my list, yeah.

C: I would—I would love to hear your thoughts on it, cuz I—I was genuinely laughing out loud to myself—

K: (*laughs*)

C: —on certain parts, and (*laughs*) the idea of this being made into a movie ... I do not know (*laughs*) how they're gonna do this, and it'll—

K: That sounds good, though. It sounds like a good idea though, for a movie.

C: Oh, yeah. I think so. And the other thing that I have gotten into is [Making the Cut](#)—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —on amazon prime. Starring [Heidi Klum](#) and [Tim Gunn](#).

K: Yup. Mm-hmm.

C: So I have to say, I've never seen *Project Runway*—

K: *(grumbles)*

C: —and I can't find a way to watch the old episodes, cuz I feel like I would like it a lot more than *Making the Cut*, though I have been enjoying it.

K: So it used to be on Bravo, and then they moved it to like ... VH1, maybe? Or some—some other place? Oh, Lifetime.

C: Cuz like—oh, Lifetime!

K: That's where they moved it. Yeah.

C: Yeah! So I tried to—

K: It was someplace, though I don't know where it would be streaming at this point.

C: Yeah. When I looked, they were like, "Videos are un[available]"—okay. Toshio says he'll figure out a way for me, wink wink.

K: He will figure it out through methods. We won't say how. *(laughs)*

C: Yeah. So *Making the Cut* is basically one big advertisement for amazon, and a way for them to get free labor—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —and then sell dresses and cute clothes for free. So it's like a capitalist's dream.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: But I am enjoying ... I—you know, I do like a good competition show—

K: Mm.

C: —when people are friendly toward each other. This season—so they had two seasons. I think I liked the first season more. I think overall, the people were more talented on the first season.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: However, in the second season, there's a guy on there, Gary, who I just love—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —who is so, so talented, and ... I won't spoil anything for anyone, but let's just say that Gary is an artist and—and too good for amazon.

K: Okay, Gary.

C: He is too—too good for amazon. He had a collection and he's like, this was ins[pired]—he's just a real out-there, kinda goofy sweetheart, and he's like, before his collection he's like, this is inspired by the women that I grew up seeing and watching, so this is for [Laura Ingalls Wilder](#) and [Nellie Olesen](#)—

K: *(laughs)* Okay.

C: —and they're like ... is he talkin about *Little House on the Prairie*?

K: I assume so, yes. *(laughs)*

C: I was like, yes! Yes. So and he makes his own kind of textiles—

K: Mm.

C: I mean, genuinely, he is an artist. And way too good for amazon.

K: I never understand the people on these shows. I'm just like, how do you even ... again, I'm not creative in that way, so I'm just like, how does that even work? Like how do you even come up with ideas for stuff?

C: I don't either!

K: It's wild. I should be more into these kinds of shows, cuz it is all basically like magic to me—

C: Yeah.

K: —like how any of this stuff happens. But yeah, I just—I can't really do—I don't—I don't know. I just can't really do reality shows. Although competition shows are the ones that are much more palatable when I can stomach them. Just cuz I like to see people like ... either learning to do stuff, or doing stuff they're already good at.

C: Yeah.

K: But yeah, that sounds interesting. *(laughs)* Also, I do love when people are like, I'm too good for this, but I am gonna go on your show. It's like, well, you don't have to. *(laughs)* You could have not done that.

C: Well, they're not like that. That's purely me.

K: Oh. *(laughs)*

C: Everyone else is like, "We're really excited—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —you know, to get this contract," blah blah blah. In my head, I'm like, "Don't do this. They're exploiting you."

K: *(laughs)*

C: But yeah. That's purely me. Everyone—

K: Mm.

C: —you know. No, they're excited, and ... it is really gross, like a lotta the stuff—they're like, "We're—we're lookin for the next global brand!"

K: Mm.

C: "And we're not just lookin for a designer. We're lookin for an entrepreneur."

K: Okay.

C: So that part is really gross.

K: *(laughs)*

C: But I do like the—seeing people coming up with fashion—some of it is atrocious. There is a ... a woman in the second season, Andrea, from Colombia, who—I was like, this is ersatz Forever 21 clothing. Like everything is sequins and flash.

K: It would all be lost on me. I don't have any fashion sense (*laughs*), so I would be like, this looks like fashion to me! Yeah, I don't have an eye for that stuff, so.

C: You ... I think—I think you are doing yourself a disservice. I think you have an eye—

K: I mean, I know what I tend to like, but my style is very basic and very like preppy, so fashion—you know, in like—with a capital F-fashion—

C: Fashion!

K: —is like something I don't have a—I don't have an eye for. I can be like, oh, I think that looks fine, but then people will be like, "That's horrible. Let's do this! Let's do that!" And I'm like, okay, (*laughs*), like, you guys know. You're the experts on fashion. I'm not. But yeah.

C: I really wanna do a fashion episode, actually.

K: It would be very ba[sic]—it would be you talking about a lotta stuff and me being like, yeah, that looks fine (*laughs*)—

C: (*laughs*)

K: —or I thought that was good or not good! Like I don't have—I'm ... I very rarely even go shopping for clothes—

C: Yeah.

K: —so I just don't have a ... I don't have—I don't have it. Whatever that thing is that makes you know about fashion (*laughs*) and like care about it. It just ... it skipped me, unfortunately.

C: Well, what about you, Toshio? What are you into this week?

T: Let's see. I will plug this book that I wrote a piece for—

C: Ooh!

T: —(*laughs*) about [YIMBYs](#)—Yes In My BackYard—

C: Yeah. (*laughs*)

T: —which is not [Not In My BackYard](#) (NIMBY), although they tend to have the same kind of Karen-like—

K: Mm-hmm.

T: —personality that makes someone in the YIMBY—Yes In My BackYard—they call it a movement—

K: Yeah.

T: Anyway. It's a little takedown that I wrote for this book. It's called [Counterpoints: A San Francisco Bay Area Atlas of Displacement and Resistance](#).

K & C: Mm!

T: So there's lots of like maps—like pretty maps and charts. It's hot off the press!

C: Okay!

K: Yeah. I feel like people don't really—I mean, for us, Toshio, because we live in the Bay Area, we're super steeped in all the NIMBY, YIMBY stuff—

C: Mm-hmm.

T: Yeah totally.

K: —but I feel like for other people, it's just not on their radar. *(laughs)* But it's ... basically they're just always in fights here because we have a huge—I mean, obviously everyone knows this part, but [we have like a huge housing crisis](#) where there's not enough housing being built, and the housing that is here is way too expensive for almost everyone, and so yeah, there's these two factions: the Not In My BackYard, which are mostly like property owners and, you know, landlords and stuff who are like, “No, don't build new housing,” or particularly multi-family housing, because it will make their property be less—you know—

T: Right. Right right.

K: —worth less or whatever. But Yes In My BackYards are like, “Yeah, we should! We should build more,” but they also are like, [we're not talking necessarily about affordable housing all the time](#).

T: No. Rarely.

K: We're talking about like market-rate housing—

C: Rich people housing. Yeah.

K: Yeah. Basically housing that is at the prices that are—currently exist, which are already too high.

T: Yeah.

K: So yeah, it's a whole *(laughs)* ... it's a whole political thing that's very like ... if you live here, you're always hearing about it and reading about it and stuff—

T: Yeah.

*(dog barks)*

K: —but if you're elsewhere, people are like ... doesn't register.

T: Unfortunately—yeah. Unfortunately—

*(dog barks)*

T: —I don't know if I'm just giving it more air by, you know, continuing to write about it—

K: No, I think people need to hear about it, cuz I feel like California, especially the Bay Area—there are other places that are going to be experiencing this kind of thing pretty soon.

T: Yeah.

K: Like Austin, probably, is on the way to being a place like this—

T: They have a big [YIMBY] chapter.

K: —that is very unaffordable—yeah. Oh! See? Well, yeah *(laughs)*—

T: *(laughs)*

K: —I mean, there are lots of places that like going through this—

*(dog barks)*

K: —the processes that the Bay Area just has already gone through, which are very bad.

C: *(to Chico the dog)* Sh! Sh sh sh.

*(dog barks)*

T: Yeah. I think the interesting thing for me about this particularly group is just how [astroturfy](#) they are—

K: Mm-hmm.

T: —because they use kind of like the language—

K: Mm-hmm.

T: —of social justice.

K: Yup.

T: So they did an event with [the Cato Institute](#)—

K: *(laughs)*

T: —which is like a very conservative think tank, or maybe it's a membership organization as well. And it's funded by [the Koch brothers](#) ... they're bad people.

K: Yeah. They're like nominally libertarian, but they're basically super right-wing. Right-wing.

T: Yeah, like anarcho-libertarian—

K: Mm-hmm.

T: —and [anarcho-capitalists](#). *(laughs)*

C: Oh my god.

K: Wow, we're getting really into it. *(laughs)*

C & T: *(laugh)*

T: You're gonna have to ... yeah. Google that!

K: Yeah, we went from talking about Beyoncé's Italian to *(laughs)* anarcho-libertarianism.

C & T: *(laughs)*

T: Yeah, anyway. My piece is not the most interesting piece in there. And there's charts and maps of ... of, well, what are some depressing—

*(dog barks)*

T: —you know, kind of statistics, but ...

K: Mm-hmm.

C: So you're in this book.

T: —made to look in a very beautiful way.

C: You're in this book.

T: A piece that I wrote, yeah.

C: And it's called, again ...

T: *Counterpoints: A San Francisco Bay Area Atlas ...*

C: Okay.

T: And it's on [PM Press](#).

K: Mm!

C: Congratulations.

T: Well thanks! I don't know. That felt like super-pluggy, but—

K: No! I mean—

C: It really wasn't! You were really plugging—

K: People wanna know what you're into, Tosh.

C: Yeah.

K: They wanna know what you're up to—

T: *(laughs)*

K: —what you're workin on. Everybody's asking about it. They're interested.

*(dog barks)*

C: *(to dog)* Chico!

T: Oh, yeah. Absolutely.

C: You're plugging the maps and the charts—

K: Yeah, exactly.

C: —not your piece.

T: True. True, absolutely.

K: *(laughs)* If you want, yeah. Look at it that way. *(laughs)*

T: And—

K: Thinkin of books, actually—oh. Did you have other stuff, Toshio? I don't wanna cut you off.

T: Oh! Just that I finally got around to starting—Caitlin got me a copy of [Casey Wilson's book](#).

K: *(laughs)* Oh, nice.

T: Which ... lovin it!

C: Yay!

T: I love—I love like ...

C: I love Casey Wilson.

T: ... even though she's like basically my same age, I feel like she has a life that is ... like she's got kids and, you know, a ... a real job and shit?

C: Mm-hmm. *(laughs)*

K: *(laughs)*

T: And so she can ... I don't know. It's—it's kind of #momlyfe.

K: Mm.

T: Even though she specifically calls out that term. Especially as spelled with a—a y instead of an i in the "lyfe."

C: Oh!

K: What? That's a real thing? Oh no.

T: *(laughs)*

K: I'm outta the loop on #momlyfe.

T: *(laughs)* Yeah, you gotta get into the ... the mommy blogger.

K: Mm. I had—I did my time in the early 2000's.

T: *(laughs)*

K: Paying attention to mommy blogs. I think I'm over it.

C: Yeah.

T: Okay. You've—fine.

K: Mm-hmm.

T: But yeah, the book is funny, and just so happens that it's the same week that I was given the orders by my therapist to watch [Happy Endings](#)—

K: Oh yes! You should.

T: —which Casey Wilson stars in.

C: I love that.

K: [inaudible] me and Caitlin. *(laughs)* Like we ... we were telling you to watch it!

T: Yeah.

K: It's very funny.

C: I love that your therapist said that.

T: So now I have a subscription.

K: Yeah. *(laughs)*

C: Oh my god. I love your therapist.

K: That's amazing.

C: What a genius therapist!

K: It's such a good show. I honestly do think people need to check it out. It's so underrated. Especially in the—

C: It is. And it's on Netflix now!

K: Yeah!

T: Yeah.

K: And especially in the wake of all the like [Friends](#) clones that were happening around that time, I think it's the best one, because—

T: It's way better than *Friends*.

K: —it's the one that takes itself the least seriously, and that's kinda what you need in a show. Like you can't be all trying to be like, oh, we're too cool for all this stuff! It's like, nope, we gotta make fun of everything and everyone.

C: Mm-hmm.

T: Yeah. Yeah.

K: Yeah.

C: And it's got Casey Wilson.

T: It's great.

K: And um—

C: Friend of the podcast, Casey Wilson.

K: And ... [Adam](#)—

C: Pally.

K: —Pally, who I have a huge crush on.

T: So cute.

K: And [Damon Wayans Jr.](#), who is very good in that show.

C: He's so good!

T: Uh-huh.

K: He's very good.

T: He's so cute too.

K: And his wife, whatever her name is, I don't know the actress's name, but that plays his uptight wife. Alex's sister.

C: Yeah.

K: They're very—they're a great foil—

C: Yes.

K: —to each other.

T: Totally.

K: But yeah. I was just gonna say I had gotten the book you had recommended [a couple episodes ago](#), Caitlin, [Ring Shout](#).

C: *(gasps)* Oh! Yay!

K: I got that book, so—I just got it from the library, so I'm very excited to check it out.

C: Oh, I am excited for you!

K: I know it's gonna be intense. It's really short! I was like, okay.

C: Yeah.

K: I was like, *(laughs)* it's very—it's gonna be a quick read, but I'm interested—I'm excited to like dig into it, so.

C: Ooh, I cannot wait to hear what you think about it, yeah.

K: Yeah yeah yeah.

C: Well guess what?

K: What?

C: We have another new patron.

K: *(gasps)*

C: On [our Patreon](#).

K: Exciting stuff.

C: It is! It's from Gabby in D.C.

K: Mm!

C: And Gabby is famous for giving [Ray Liotta](#) mouth-to-mouth.

K: *(laughs)* Okay.

C: And even when—he didn't even need it, but she gave it to him anyway.

K: I feel like that would be a thing he would not be a fan of, but, you know—

C: No, he did press charges.

K: Okay, great. That makes sense. *(laughs)*

C: But she was able to beat him. She had a good lawyer. She—you know. She found herself a good lawyer. It is D.C. You know, there are, you know, good lawyers there.

K: Mm-hmm. A lot of them.

C: But yeah, Ray was not amused at all.

K: *(laughs)*

C: Kind of a—he's a scary person. That takes some courage.

K: Yeah, for real. *(laughs)*

C: In my opinion. But yeah! Shoutout to Gabby. Thank you! You know, you can support [our Patreon](#).

K: Yup.

C: We're not gonna be mad.

K: *(laughs)* Yeah, we won't be upset if you want to help us keep this thing going. Obviously.

C: You can support [our Patreon](#). You can also follow us [on Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). So do that, and we'll appreciate it. How bout that?

K: Yeah. Yeah, we will very much appreciate it. If you wanna send us questions ... if you wanna suggest topics for the show, that would be cool.

C: Yeah!

K: I know it's always me and Caitlin and Toshio being like, *(laughing)* what are we talking about this week?

C: Right.

K: Which usually obviously works super well, but, you know. *(laughs)* We would love for other people to throw out some ideas that they might have, or even stuff that they want to hear us specifically talk about—

C: Yeah!

K: —which—that's really funny to me, that people are like, I want you to talk about this! It's like ... okay! Cool, *(laughing)* we'll do that.

C: *(laughs)*

K: But yeah, definitely reach out to us. We are always responsive and happy to hear from [the IRS](#).

C: The fans, yeah. The IRS.

K: The good IRS, not the bad one.

C: Yes. Yes. Okay, well remember, [everything's gonna be fine!](#)

K: Yeah, it is. I feel this more—I feel that more than I did last time we recorded, so I think that's actually true. Everything is gonna be fine. *(laughs)*

C: Good.

T: It sure is.

C: We're just speaking it into existence, I think.

K: Yup. Every week.

C: Every week. Every long week.

K: *(laughs)*

C: *(laughs)* Okay! Well, until next time. I'm gonna say goodbye.

K: Bye.

T: *(whispers)* Bye!

C: *(whispers)* Bye.

*(theme song plays)*