

***Two Cents Plus Tax***  
**Episode Twenty-Four: “Gowns Beautiful Gowns”**

**TRANSCRIPT**

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

*(theme song plays)*

Krystal: I'm Krystal.

Caitlin: I'm Caitlin.

K: And this is ...

K & C: *Two Cents Plus Tax!*

C: Good afternoon.

K: Wow. *(laughing)* Okay!

C: *(laughs)*

K: Hello.

C: I wanted to try something new.

K: Sounded like—you know how when you call a recording, or call a—you know, customer service—and you think it's a real person but it's actually a recording? That's what that *(laughing)* sounded like just now.

C: *(robotically)* Good afternoon.

K: Yeah. *(laughs)*

C: So how are we?

K: Um ... fine?

C: *(laughs)*

K: Fine. I don't know. *(laughs)* It's been—it's been awhile—

C: It has been awhile!

K: —so I'm just like, uh, yeah. How are you?

C: Who knows?

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Who even knows? Who can say?

K: Truly.

C: Yes.

T: *(laughs)*

C: A lot has happened—

K: Yeah.

C: —since we have last spoken. You've gone to some weddings—

K: I went to one wedding, yes

C: —or at least one.

K: I went to a wedding last week, which was my first wedding in like two years almost, so.

C: And it was your wedding. Congratulations.

K: *(laughs)* Yeah. You know, I've been keeping it a secret, you guys, but thank you. No, it was—my cousin finally married his girlfriend. They've been together for like fifteen years *(laughs)* or something, like literally. So they finally got married last weekend. So it was really a nice time. It was my first like big event like since the pandemic—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —so it was very like nerve-wracking *(laughs)* going, you know, as we got closer to it. But I think because, you know, like lotta people are vaccinated, including myself, and also because they were like very good about masking and like—

C: Good.

K: —had masks like everywhere for people who like, you know, didn't feel comfortable, or for kids or whatever. It was—it made me feel very like, okay. Okay, I feel a little bit more like, alright. Everybody's taking this seriously, so—

C: That's a relief.

K: Yeah, for real. It was—it was a really nice time, though. And everyone was cute. My sister was in the wedding party, which was like, of course.

C: *(laughs)*

K: Cuz she—she and my cousin Brian are like really close, and it was just—it was a really fun, fun time, and like I said, I haven't been to any things—

C: Right.

K: —since like March 2020, so *(laughs)* it was—it was kind of a little bit overwhelming to have so much like stimulation and interaction with people, but—

C: Yes.

K: —it was nice! It was nice to see everyone. So yeah.

C: Well, that's great!

K: Mm-hmm.

C: I got my COVID booster this week.

K: Oh, nice! Yeah, I—

C: So I'm a triple threat.

T: *(laughs)*

K: *(laughs)* Your COVID booster and your—

C: Yup.

K: —the ceremonial COVID booster, or COVID shot burrito, also.

C: I did, yes. I get a celebratory burrito—

K: Mm.

C: —afterwards, which was very good. So.

K: Nice.

C: We're all doin great!

T: Love.

C: *(laughs)*

K: We are! *(laughs)* You had a burrito; I went to a wedding. You know.

C: Oh, and I quit my job. I forgot.

K & C: *(laugh)*

K: Yeah.

C: Yeah.

T: Yeah.

C: That happened. Which we'll discuss on a[n] ... episode for [the Patreon](#).

K: I'm sure. I'm sure. Yeah.

T: Ooh.

C: That's for—that's for paying customers only.

K: Yeah. They get to hear about our lives, for real.

C: Yeah. Yeah.

K: Yeah. *(laughs)*

C: Okay. So today we're gonna talk about a subject that is very close to my heart.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: And I thought this would be fun because also it is a topic where the definition is questionable. It has multiple meanings.

K: Right.

C: So today we'll be discussing divas!

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Now, some would say that [a diva is a female version of a hustler](#).

K: *(laughs)* I mean, I know one person specifically would say that.

C: One person specifically says that.

T: *(laughs)*

C: And her name is Beyoncé.

K: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

C: You may have heard of her. Some—do you consider Beyoncé a diva?

K: Yeah! Is that—

C: Oh, actually also, well what do you think a diva is? Let's just start there.

K: I mean—so, I mean, coming from the Italian Studies—like person—

C: Si. Si.

K: —I think opera. *(laughs)*

T: *(laughs)*

K: Yeah. I think—I think opera first.

C: Uh-huh.

K: So I mean, historically had thought opera first—

C: Right.

K: —cuz, you know, that's literally where the term comes from, but like obviously I think anyone who's our age or a little bit older probably thinks of, you know, VH1 *Divas*—

C: I know I do.

K: —and sort of like the way that (*laughs*) that sort of has ... it supplanted the opera definition of a diva, where basically it just means, you know, a famous female singer. But not just a female singer; I think you have to be a certain type of singer, so you have to be a person who can belt, I think. You have to be a belter, like someone who has a very powerful voice. But you also have to have a certain level of like ... you know, untouchability. Like you have to be at a remove. You have to be so famous that there are very few other people on your level. Or at least that's how I sort of think of it, so I mean, I have my list of people that I think kinda belong there, but you know—

C: Oh, sweet.

K: —you might have a different definition than I do.

C: No, I think that's great, and I think one thing we can't neglect to mention is attitude.

K: Yeah, exactly. Yeah.

C: You must have the attitude!

K: Mm-hmm.

C: And I was thinking too ... also not just women divas, but male divas, and—

K: Hmm.

C: —not to be all binary—

K: (*laughs*)

C: —cuz we don't do that here.

K: No. No no.

C: But, you know, it is a term that we generally associate with women, but there are certainly divas that are men.

K: Interesting. I would like to hear your ... your list, if you have one of those, cuz I didn't even—I didn't even think about dudes. For once in my life (*laughs*), like I never ... I didn't even consider men in this.

T: (*laughs*)

C: Yeah. You didn't even think about dudes.

K: Yeah. *(laughs)*

C: Oh, I love not considering men!

T: *(laughs)*

K: I know! Exactly. I—I, yeah. Usually I try not to, so I did not.

T: I love that too.

K: Yeah.

C: *(laughs)* Okay. So Toshio, when you think of divas, cuz we have not heard from you—I've neglected my man!

T: *(laughs)*

C: So when you think—

K: That's what we're doing this episode!

C: Yeah. We're not even considering you—

T: Good!

C: —except you are here.

T: I shouldn't be considered.

K: *(laughs)*

C: Now, when you think of divas, who comes to mind just initially?

T: I mean, [Mariah](#)?

C: Yes. Yes.

K: She's on my list, of course.

C: She was on my list too.

T: Yeah. Yeah.

C: Of course.

T: I mean, [Celine](#), if we're gonna talk—

C: Yes.

K: Yes. Also. Mm-hmm.

T: —music.

C: Of course. Yes.

T: You know.

C: Both of them were on the *Divas*—

K: Yeah. On the show. Yeah.

C: —VH1 special with [Aretha](#).

T: Right!

K: Another one on my list, yes.

T: Yup. Mm-hmm.

C: Which also—

K: Probably the number one diva, honestly.

C: Yeah! Aretha? Yeah.

K: Yeah.

T: Yeah.

C: Now I've mentioned [Mariah's autobiography](#) a few times, I think, probably.

K: *(laughs)*

C: [Call me a lamb](#).

T: Your bible.

C: My bible.

K: *(laughs)*

C: God, what is it called? *The Meaning of Mariah?* I think—yeah.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: So she discusses the infamous—

K: Oh, god. Yeah.

C: —*Divas* performance from VH1—

K: *(laughing)* Mm-hmm.

C: —which featured—well it was for Aretha Franklin.

K: Yeah.

C: But then you have the supporting cast, if you will, with Mariah; Celine; for some reason I think [Shania Twain](#), which is—

K: Mm.

T: *(laughs)* Yeah.

K: Questionable.

T: I recall that.

C: —an odd choice.

T: I recall that.

K: Yeah.

C: And was someone else there?

K: I'm sure. Was Celine at that one?

C: Celine was—

K: Okay.

C: —and [Celine caused some shit!](#)

K: Oh yeah. *(laughs)* That's the whole deal, right? *(laughs)*

C: The whole deal! Because Celine tried to outsing the diva.

K: Girl.

C: And in Mariah's memoir, she was like ... she didn't mention Celine by name, which I love.

K: *(laughs)*

C: But she was like, this diva was trying to outperform you know, the queen—

K: Mm-hmm.

T: Oof.

C: —and you don't do that.

T: No you don't!

K: Mm-hmm.

C: And then apparently Celine went on ... I think *Watch What Happens Live* or whatever, with [Andy Cohen](#), who, you know, we don't like. But he asked her about that moment, and of course Celine being Celine, she's like, "Oh, I had no idea; I didn't even know this was a thing."

K & T: *(laugh)*

C: Like she had no idea anyone was mad at her, or anything like that. But yeah, that was like an infamous diva moment where—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —and I think they were singing ... some kind of hymn or Je[sus]—something about Jesus.

K: *(laughs)*

C: And .... yeah, and she's like, "You don't—you don't outperform a diva when Jesus is around!" or something like that.

K: *(laughs)* I mean, generally you just—you just don't. Like I don't—it's just very strange that that would ever even be something you would consider.

C: Yeah, it's—

K: Be like, yeah, Aretha Franklin's here; let's have a duel.

C: Right.

K: No! Like—

C: No.

K: —she—you're not dueling with Aretha. You can't win. I'm sorry.

C: No. No you cannot.

K: Oh. So funny.

C: Aretha is—

T: No! Have—have a little respect.

K: Yeah, exactly! I mean, literally—

C: R-E-S-P-E-C-T!

K: —for her! Right!

T: *(laughs)*

K: Come on!

C: Now, there was a famous diva, and you know we're gonna have to bring her up, because it's this podcast.

K: Oh god! *(laughs)*

C: *(laughs)*

K: I'm already cringing.

C: Yeah. A cringeworthy diva.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: You know we're talkin about Madame X. [Madonna](#).

T: Ooh!

C: That is a diva.

T: The weekly—weekly Madonna update.

K: Oh, boy. *(laughs)*

T: You know I was thinking about this as you sent me this meme of Madonna—

C: *(laughs)*

T: —[getting up on the Jimmy Fallon show, on the desk](#)—

K: Oh my god. I saw that on ... yeah, it was Instagram. And they just—

T: *(sighs)*

C: You sent it to me, and I sent it to Tosh.

K: That's right, yeah. It was—I—

C: It was the *Two Cents Plus Tax* Madonna group chat chain.

K: I was like—it was per[fect]—it made me feel like, oh yeah, we're back to recording. Because like *(laughs)*—

C: Nice.

K: —I would never have come across this if it wasn't meant to be, because like—

C: Yes.

K: —ugh. What a ... ugh, she's just such a try-hard. It's—

C: *(laughs)*

T: Yeah! Yeah yeah yeah.

K: —really (*laughing*) embarrassing. I think people would have so much more respect for her if she just like leaned on the fact that she is Madonna, right?

C: Mm-hmm.

T: Right!

K: And she has done so much already. You know what I mean? Like Mariah kind of has like leaned into her like, “Oh, I’m glam and I’m like, a little bit aloof,” and like she’s leaned into that, but not so much that you’re like, this is embarrassing.

C: Mm-hmm.

T: Right.

K: Like why can’t Madonna do the same thing? Just like lean in, but no so much that you’re like, trying really hard to cling onto whatever the model—

T: Ew! Ooh. Ooh.

K: —version of relevance is. Like you could just be Madonna and have people be like, yeah, remember? She’s great!

T: Yeah.

K: Like I don’t understand it.

T: These reasons are some of the reasons why I would not consider Madonna a diva anymore!

K: Mm. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

C: Ooh! Controversial.

T: Because I was putting together a definition of what I would consider a diva, and—

K: Mm-hmm.

T: —you know, thank you for clarifying on the musical tip what the original definition is, Krystal. But—

K: Mm. Mm-hmm.

T: —the qualities that I came up with were, you know, knowing yourself; knowing what you’re good at—

K: Mm.

C: Mm!

T: —and not trying to play to some idea of what you think people wanna see from you all the time; also not surrounding yourself with people who are like yes people—

K: Mm-hmm.

T: —and kissing your ass all the time.

K: *(laughs)*

T: Like a religious leader.

K & C: *(laugh)*

T: And I think that's where Madonna's gone wrong.

K: Yeah. There's—there needs to be like a level of authenticity, like from a diva. You need to feel like the way that she is presenting herself is genuine.

C: Mm-hmm.

T: Yeah.

K: And that it's not like—there's not so much energy or effort, right? Like—

T: Right! Right.

K: —it seems effortless. You know?

T: Right right right.

K: And she seems effort-ful—

T: Oof. God.

K: —in everything she's doing right now. It's just—

T: She does.

C: Very much so.

K: Yeah.

C: And it seems like she can't evolve—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —past this notion of hypersexuality. [audio cuts out] What is interesting? Do you have other qualities? Do you have—is your only definition of being attractive and sexual literally showing your butt all the time?

K: *(laughs)* Yeah.

T: Yeah.

C: I mean, I just think it's like, she has—she feels like, “This is the only way I can get attention. This is the only way I can be attractive,” when like, there's so much more she could do—

K: But it's so funny, to that, because that used to be her whole thing! Right? Like she would reinvent herself like every—

C: Right!

K: —album, and it's just like—

C: And now she doesn't.

K: —what—what happened? *(laughs)* Like did we—did we, as a public, become more knowledgeable about how that works, and she feels like she has to do more, like go to another level than she used to go to? And I—I don't know why somehow she lost the ability to sort of do that. But it used to be like her thing. Like every album would be a different look; a different—

C: Right.

K: —*(clears throat)* sound. She was just trying stuff all the time, and now it's just like, no, it's this one note, and it's like—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —getting very old. *(laughs)* So—

T: Yeah.

C: And the note is out of tune.

T: *(laughs)*

K: *(laughing)* It's true. It is true.

T: Yup!

C: *(laughs)*

K: It is true.

T: Yeah. I know. That's—

K: But I also kind of don't ... ugh. I don't know; I've never thought of Madonna as a really great singer.

C: Well she's not.

T: Right. She's not.

K: Which is another reason that I'm like, I don't know that she fits this definition.

T: For sure.

K: At least for me. I'm just like—

C: No.

K: —she's definitely like ... a performer in the same way I would say like [Britney Spears](#) is a performer—

T: [J. Lo!](#)

K: Yeah, exactly! But like, I'm not going—they're not divas to me, cuz I think you have to have singing talent. Like—

T: Yeah.

K: —and it's not there for me.

C: [Whitney](#) was a diva.

K: Yes! My other one who's on my list. I have another one that I'm—I don't know if you guys would agree.

C: Do tell.

K: I mean, Whitney is like, she's almost up there with Aretha in like her whole like—

C: Yeah. Her abilities, and—

K: —just being a hundred percent herself (*laughs*), like all the time.

T: Yeah!

C: Yeah.

K: Mm.

T: And I, you know, there's still like a sexuality to it—

K: Mm-hmm.

T: —or a sensuality.

K: Mm-hmm.

T: The Madonnas of the world—

K: (*laughs*)

T: —you know, I love the idea of an elder diva—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: Mm.

T: —who is showin it off, like I'm (*laughs*) anti-ageism, and—

K: Mm-hmm. (*laughs*)

T: —when it comes to sexual matters, and so initially I was like, oh, you know, this is—this is kinda fun, like she's bringing ... sex to the uh, fifty-plus crowd, and—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Wait, are we talkin about Madonna?

T: I'm sorry to go back to Madonna, you know.

C: Cuz she's like—I'm—I'm—wait. I wanna say, to clarify—

K: *(laughs)*

C: I'm totally for that too.

T: Yeah.

C: But when it—

K: Yeah. We're not saying—shaming her for that, yeah.

C: —reeks of desperation?

T: Right. Exactly.

C: When it reeks of desperation—

T: Right.

C: —then it's like, why don't we take a step back and just see? Cuz I think you can still show it off, but when it's like, you are trying so hard, and it's so obvious, that is not sexy.

T: Oh, yeah!

K: Nuh-uh. Yeah.

T: No, absolutely. And she's ... I mean, she's been surrounding herself with people who ... I guess she identifies like, whatever—she's had some songs with [Diplo](#) or, you know, whoever—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Right. You are trying so hard!

K: Mm-hmm.

T: And it's like, this is just—

C: *(groans)*

T: Like, find ... the thing is like, don't—don't be in that lane; like make a new lane.

K: Mm. Mm-hmm.

T: And that's what people used to expect of her.

K: Yeah.

C: Yeah.

T: And that's not what she's givin.

C: No.

K: Yeah, she has the Madonna lane! Like why can't you just be in that lane?

T: Totally.

K: Like you don't have to try to do what these other like people who are like half your age are doing. Like—

T: Yeah.

K: —and sometimes more than that. *(laughs)* Like—

T: Yeah.

K: —you don't have to try to—

C: Yeah. She's sixty-one!

T: After she shut down—

K: Mm.

T: —or she like—she pulled like a Justin Timberlake on Britney—

K: *(laughs)*

T: —I would say. When Superbowl ... I don't know which Superbowl this was, but when Madonna performed with Nicki Minaj—

K: Mm-hmm

T: —and MIA, and [MIA flipped the bird](#)—

C: Uh-huh.

K: Flipped the—yeah. That was a whole deal.

T: And Madonna like strongly distanced herself—

C: *(laughs)*

T: —from MIA.

K: Weird.

T: And it's like, Madonna would do that—

K: One hundred percent! Yeah.

T: Like ... if she had thought of it first? *(laughs)*

C: Mm-hmm.

K: If it was 1990, like Madonna would have done that.

T: For sure!

K: Like not even close. Like not *(laughs)*—like no question.

T: Yeah!

K: So weird.

C: She was just mad cuz MIA got the attention.

T: Right.

C: And that's what it comes down to.

K: Yes. Exactly. Exactly.

T: Oh, yeah. Totally.

K: Ugh.

C: Okay. Well this concludes our Madonna podcast.

K & T: *(laughs)*

K: Yes. Back to—

T: I will not—yeah.

K: —our regularly scheduled program.

T: Will not utter the word.

K: No, so I—I actually really liked what you mentioned, Toshio, about like an elder diva. Like we don't really—I mean, I guess the only one that I can think of right now is like [Cher](#).

C: Mm-hmm.

K: And I kind of am like, why don't we have more ... women who are like, you know—were Aretha's age when she was doing *Divas* or whatever? Like why don't we have more of those? Even though we have a lot of like famous female singers, I just don't know that any of them really have reached those heights that some of the women that we're talking about have.

T: Yeah.

K: Unless we wanna consider like ... *(laughs)* I don't think we would consider like Mariah elder, necessarily.

T: Yeah.

C: No. Not yet.

K: Yeah.

T: I think—part of it—did you ever see that documentary [Searching for Debra Winger?](#)

K: Mm. Oh, right. I mean, yeah. That is part—part of the whole deal, right, is that like it's ... once women hit a certain age, you know *(laughs)*, kind of the industry, as it were—whatever industry they're in, whether it's acting or music or whatever, there's just a desire to like, "Alright. Let's push—push you out of the picture, because you're no longer able to be like"—

C: "You're disgusting."

K & T: *(laugh)*

K: I was gonna be a little more delicate, but like ... just cut straight to the point, yeah.

C: If you're forty, you're fuckin dead.

T: *(laughs)*

K: Yeah, ba[sically]—and I mean, it's even worse, kind of, now, with like—you know, in the current era that we're in, like ... literally people who are like forty-five were salivating over [Olivia Rodrigo](#), who is literally eighteen years old. *(laughs)* You know?

T: I know. Ooh.

C: Mm-hmm.

K: And then [Billie Eilish](#), and there's all the—and it's just like, do ... like, okay. Do people who are thirty-five plus not get to make music anymore? And also, do people who like aren't super conventionally attractive get to make music anymore, or be like super famous anymore? It doesn't seem like that's—

C: No.

K: —possible. *(laughs)* Which is depressing.

C: No uggos.

K: Yeah.

T: Although—yeah, no, I think it's true like in terms of yeah, the industry ... it seems like it is more possible to make it on your own, of your own accord—

K: Mm.

T: —if you can—I mean, of course being an “influencer”—

K: Right.

T: —is so much work, and like content production, and it's like, constant hustling. But ... it does seem like the record companies are a little bit less relevant.

K: That's true.

T: And even with Olivia Rodrigo, like I don't think her—her record wasn't the biggest record of last year.

K: Yeah, and I mean—and also too, it's funny that you mentioned the biggest rec[ord]—I couldn't even tell you what—

C: Yeah. Me neither.

K: —like albums were popular. *(laughs)* Cuz I don't feel like they're—albums as a general idea or concept are as big a deal, right? Like we went from ... the singles era, like in, you know, the fifties and sixties, to the album era in like the seventies, eighties, and even to the nineties, and now we're back to the singles era because of, you know, social media and streaming and like ... file sharing and all that. So it's like, I don't know what albums are *(laughs)* popular, cuz I don't—I do buy albums, but not from, you know, not the kinds of albums that would be on any kind of top 100 or hot 100—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —list or Billboard chart or whatever.

T: And I love that. I think it's like cable TV—

K: Hmm.

T: —in terms of pop culture, like—

K: Mm-hmm.

T: —changed the game, where like—

C: *(laughs)*

T: —there's so many network shows that are less popular than something that is a streaming show. I mean, so much of that has to do with money.

K: Right.

T: And where the money's at. But I mean, there's a lot more options. That doesn't necessarily translate into like, a lot more good options.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Yeah. Well who else do we have on our lists?

K: My—so mine that I was gonna ask—cuz I don't know if she was ever on any of the V[H1]—maybe she was and I just didn't—don't remember. But the one that I was thinking of, who I consider a diva, but that I don't really think she gets talked about in the same way, is [Mary J. Blige](#). Who I'm like—

C: Oh my god.

K: Yeah!

C: Yes.

K: She's gotta be in there, right? Like—

T: Yeah.

K: —you can't not have Mary J. I just—I feel like she deserves. So.

C: *(sighs)* I'm like, almost crying with you even mentioning her name.

K: *(laughs)*

C: I actually—I just watched her—

K: Okay! I was gonna ask you if you'd seen that, yeah.

C: —documentary! Yes.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: I—okay. I love Mary J.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Love Mary J.

K: Incredible.

C: Yes. And so I watched her documentary—I think it's just called [My Life](#)—about the album, [My Life](#), which is twenty-five years old, and she's talkin about it. I mean, it wasn't like an incredible documentary, but in some ways it is. If you—I guess also if you're like not familiar with her—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —story and her background—

K: I had to laugh cuz I'm like, that's funny. Who wouldn't be? But of course people aren't. Yeah.  
*(laughs)*

C: Some pe[ople]—people who aren't like you know, if you're—if you don't know her music, or ... you know, she's so raw—

K: Yes.

C: —and vulnerable in her music, and they were showing live footage of her at some concert, and she's crying. And then they show her at a meet-and-greet in Atlanta, and these—you know, it's all Black women. All Black women—

K: Yeah. Of course.

C: —coming up to her and they're—you know, women being like, “You literally saved my life.”

K: Mm.

C: “I would not be here if it were not for you.”

K: Aw! *(laughs)*

C: And you know, I'm sure she hears that all the time.

K: Yeah.

C: And because she's so real with her struggles, and you know, talking about how she grew up, and the abuse, and she doesn't like get into details or anything about like her—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —the abuse that she went through, although she does get into it a little bit about her relationship with K-Ci—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —from K-Ci and JoJo. And like, how dare anyone disrespect Mary J. Blige?

K: I mean—

C: How dare you?

K: The best. She's the best.

C: She just ... incredible. So yeah, I did actually watch this week, and I recommend it. Like, I'm sure I cried watching it, just like watching her—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —she's just amazing. But absolutely, diva. Like—

K: Yeah. Exactly.

C: —that woman ... not only her talent, but just ... what a beautiful person.

K: Mm-hmm.

T: Yeah.

K: And it's really cool that she's had so much staying power, because I definitely think that when she came out, like in the mid-nineties, I think people maybe were like, okay, she's gonna be part of the *(clears throat)*—cuz that was a real big era of like girl groups and like, you know, female—

C: Yeah.

K: —R&B singers or whatever. Like, wow, Mary J.'s still doin it, huh? Like *(laughs)* that's like ... I don't know. It's such a nice story, even though, like you said, she has a lot of like ... she had struggles with addiction and you know, like you said, being in sort of abusive relationships and stuff, but she—I don't know. It's just been so nice to see her just like ... she's just like livin. And I—

C: Yeah.

K: —I really appreciate a woman just livin and doin—

C: Yes!

K: —doin what she wants to do and bein super successful. Like, good for her.

C: Yeah. Absolutely!

T: Ooh, she's workin though. *(laughs)* She's workin!

C: *(laughs)*

K: Yeah, she's—she's really—she's always doing something, which I—I like.

C: Yeah.

K: And always interesting things, too, especially like in the last couple of years, and she was doing a lot of acting, and I was like—

C: Yeah!

K: —oh, Mary J. Blige? She's acting now? Okay! And she was like actually good. So—

C: Didn't she ... didn't she—did she win awards for [Mudbound](#)?

K: She was nominated for a Golden Globe, I think, for *Mudbound*.

C: Okay.

K: Yeah. Which was like very surprising, but also like cool? But also like, of course the Golden Globes are gonna nominate like a ... someone who's already famous for a Golden Globe—

C: Yeah. *(laughs)*

T: *(laughs)*

K: —because they want famous people to come to their awards show! So—

T: Exactly.

K: Yeah.

C: Okay, so Mary J. is obviously a great choice.

K: Obviously.

C: What about classic divas, like [Diana Ross](#)?

K: Yes. Of course.

C: I don't—

K: Can't not have her.

C: I'm not like a huge Diana Ross fan. I love some of her songs.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: But I'm not a huge huge fan. But I can appreciate what she did.

K: Yeah. I guess that could be like—her and Cher are like our elder divas.

C: Mm-hmm.

K: I kind of feel like I wish more elder—I mean, they're older women; they don't have to be performing. But I kind of wish there was—

C: Yes they do.

K: —*(laughs)* they absolutely must. We require it. No, I—I just kind of was thinking like, it would be cool to see a 2022 *Divas*—

C: Yes!

K: —on, you know, an actual reboot of the show. And see who they would get on there, cuz I think it would be some interesting choices, and I think people would be mad about who got excluded.

C: Anything else about divas?

K: I—so I mean, we kinda touched on Britney. I feel like you can't talk about Britney without talking about [Christina](#).

C: Yeah.

K: Is she a diva? Do we think?

T: *(sharp inhale)* Ugh.

C: *(laughs)*

T: I would have said yes—

K: I mean, she definitely has the singing—the singing down. Like that's—she's—no one's questioning that. But like—

T: She's got talent.

K: —I don't know. Yeah.

T: But I think that she still—I heard a clip of a recent interview with her—

K: Mm-hmm.

T: —where it felt like she still had some kind of ... you know, and maybe this is me reading into her affect during the interview, but she was asked if she felt like she had been thrown out of the conversation when it came to the Madonn[a] ... ugh. I—I should be—

K: Oh god. *(laughs)* Here we go.

T: —banished from this podcast.

C: *(laughs)*

T: Put a quarter in a jar every time ... a bitcoin in a jar every time I fuckin—

K: *(laughs)*

T: —say that word! That name! But the kiss—the MTV kiss—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Yes!

T: —given that Britney's [conservatorship](#) is on the way out, hopefully—

C: Mm-hmm.

T: —it's been in the news! And of course people are asking everyone who's ever had a connection with Britney. And [when Madonna swapped spit with Britney and Christina Aguilera](#) at the MTV VMAs, Christina was kind of—you saw it for a second!

K: Yeah. And basically like—*(clears throat)* in all of the replays and clips from whatever that you can find, like ... you don't really get to see Christina's reaction because as soon as Madonna and Britney kiss, they cut to Justin Timberlake—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —in the crowd *(laughs)*, so like ... kind of she's been excised from public memory about the event, about the moment, because like she didn't literally *(laughing)* get to be on camera for almost any of it, so—

C: She kissed Madonna for nothing.

K: I know, right? Like *(laughs)*—

T: I know! *(laughs)*

K: So, poor Christina.

C: Mm.

T: So she—

K: Poor girl. She's always second to Britney.

T: —was still kinda feelin some kinda way out of—about that!

K: I guess, but who cares? Like—

C: Right. That was so long ago!

K: Yeah! (*laughs*) Like—

T: I know.

C: So long ago!

K: I mean, what did you want from it? Yeah, like I—I don't—what a weird thing.

T: So that made me kinda feel—like this is based on a short interview. But just having any kinda feelings about ... what was that, 200 ... 5, maybe?

K: Hmm. I feel like it was before, but—

C: Yeah.

K: —maybe I'm wrong. Yeah.

T: So like ... yeah. To have issues with that so many years later ... I don't know.

C: Yeah.

K: It was 2003. Wow.

T: I think it's kinda cheesy.

C: I think it's sad. So no, Christina, you're not a diva.

K: Okay. Well, yeah. I—I just was—she's—she's on the margins, I think, for me. Because I do think you gotta have the singing talent.

C: Mm-hmm.

K: And you gotta have like the staying power, because—but I mean like if you think about the *Divas* show, like they had people—like you mentioned Shania Twain; I know ... [Gloria Estefan](#) was in there. And I'm just like, I mean I—

C: Why?

K: —I guess! Like ... I—again—

T: No.

K: —that's who they invited, so I—that's why I would really like to see a current version of that. So that we could see like—

C: Yeah.

K: —who these producers like consider divas.

T: Right.

C: Although I don't wanna underestimate the influence of [Miami Sound Machine](#).

K: *(laughs)* Right.

T: *(laughs)*

K: I mean, they had us in a chokehold in the 1980's, so, you know.

T: They had us hatin Cuba.

K & C: *(laugh)*

T: Not cool. No, I guess it was cool at the time—

C: *(laughs)*

T: —to hate on Cuba. But I think ... they were probably goin for multiculturalism.

C: Probably.

K: Right. Right.

T: And appeal to as white an audience as possible.

C: Yeah.

K: Ooh! I just thought of another one. Like we kind of have been talking about divas'—I mean, obviously I used this as part of my criteria, but—singing style. Or singing talent. But what about somebody like [Missy Elliott](#)? Like cuz she's not technically a singer—

C: Right.

K: —she does a lotta singing on her songs, but like, she's not a belter; she doesn't have like, you know, the voice necessarily. But I mean like the staying power, and the like, being fully herself, and like, she's—she's kinda over-the-top at least in her image she projects. Not maybe necessarily in her personality, but like I don't know. I wonder if she—would she be considered—cuz she's definitely done a lot of work with the other divas. Like—

C: Right.

K: —you know. At least the ones from, you know, the nineties and 2000's. Anyway.

T: Yeah. She's been the—she's written a lotta their songs.

K: Yeah, exactly, and like been on them and stuff.

T: Yup.

K: Like her and Mariah, and like Whitney—yeah. I don't know. I'm just like, I—

C: Well—

K: —I would like to see her included. But I don't know—

T: I guess—

K: —if like she fits the criteria. Yeah.

C: Yeah, I mean if we're gonna expand the definition just from singers into other areas—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Although she doesn't ... she—she's so humble.

K: Yeah. Her personality's so low-key. Yeah.

C: Even with everything she does, like to me ... I think she's incredible. Is she a diva? She's so humble about everything!

K: That's true.

T: Mm! So the attitude. Attitude.

C: To me the attitude—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —is such a part of it, and (*laughs*) she's just really gracious, and—

K: (*laughing*) She's very nice, I know. sweet.

C: —and nice, and you know, is always like, really positive, and I'm like, huh, I don't know. It's—

K: But I mean, so is Mary J., though.

T: Yeah.

K: Like Mary J.'s not—

C: Yeah, but Mary J. has an edge to her. Like—

K: That's true.

C: —you don't wanna fuck with Mary J.

K: I—yeah.

C: Whereas Missy just seems like a really kind, like ... “I just want you to have a good day.”

K: (*laughs*) Did you ever—

C: Like that's what Missy Elliott strikes me as.

K: —see her—she did a—she was on [Desus & Mero](#) like ... maybe a year ago, or two years ago. It was definitely before the pandemic. And I—that's one hundred percent the like ... impression you got from her, is they were just like, “How is she so nice?” And so—

C: Yeah.

K: Cuz they were just like, you know, “When did you feel like you had made it?” and like whatever, and she was like, “I never feel like that.” And it’s like, you’re Missy Elliott! Like how do you not feel like that every moment of your life? Like you’re—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —so talented; you’ve done so many things. She was just like, “You know, I just always think about the next record,” and you’re like, Missy. Please. Like—

C: *(laughs)*

K: —stop being so sweet. Like it’s just—be like *(laughs)*—you know? Recognize you’re amazing. I mean, she does—

C: Yeah.

K: —but it’s just ... she’s so ... yeah. She has a sweetness to her that I think these other ones don’t necessarily. So maybe—maybe she’s not like the traditional definition of diva. But I think—

C: Right.

K: —just in terms of her ...

C: Her impact!

K: Yeah! I just feel like she’s—she’s gotta be up there, but I don’t know. We—we don’t have to ... hash out every single one now. I am interested in hearing about your male divas. Like what’s—what’s that about? Who’s on that list?

C: Well, in terms of male divas, this is not—my definition had nothing to do with talent—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —or singing. I was thinking strictly ... honestly in terms of like, being kind of a bratty, entitled ...

K: *(laughs)*

C: ... jerk?

K: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

C: So like [someone we’ve spoken about before on the podcast](#), who ... I just like—oh, it just like makes me mad even thinking about him, but [Daniel Day-Lewis](#).

K: Oh! Okay, so you're thin[king]—you're talking about diva in the sort of negative connotation.

C: Exactly. I'm—

K: Yeah.

C: I've gotta bring it into the negative. Cuz that's what I do.

K: *(laughs)* Especially when you're talking about dudes, like yes. Of course.

C: Yeah. So now we're considering men.

K: *(laughs)*

C: And ... yeah. So this is strictly in the definition of like bad behavior—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —divas. So, you know, pivoting from the traditional definition of, you know, talented singer strictly to like, oh, you're a diva. Like, diva behavior.

K: Yeah. There's—there's an entitlement, right? Like a sort of—

C: Yes.

K: —I'm holier-than-thou; I'm like, you know, everything has to revolve around me because of my talents, and I'm so important. Yeah.

T: And that's—so you can ... you can be both definitions. You can be the—

C: Mm-hmm.

T: —be a more positive and negative, as with Mariah.

K: I mean—I was gonna say. Mariah, Aretha, like those are ...

T: Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah!

K: —you know? That's kind of part of it.

C: [Gowns! Beautiful gowns.](#)

K: [Beautiful g\[owns\]](#)—*(laughs)*—

T: Had their—

C: *(laughs)*

T: [No brown M&Ms](#).

K: Some of the best moments—god. Yeah. It's just—ugh.

C: Yes.

K: So good.

C: And you know ... I gotta say, sometimes I just love this behavior. I love it. Like—

K: I love it from women. I don't care about it from dudes.

C: I want it from women! No—

K: Cuz they always get to act like that.

C: I don't want it from men.

K: Yeah, so it's—

C: No, I don't want it from men.

K: Yeah. Yeah yeah.

C: But I do want it from women, and I wanna hear all about it.

T: Yeah.

K: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

T: I know. And we—we do tend to like—

C: *(laughs)*

T: —I mean, if a—somebody—if a Mariah slips a “No brown M&Ms” clause on her rider—

C: Yes. You do that, Mimi.

T: —maybe as a joke? I'm guessing?

K: So I always thought—I mean, the way that I heard it, or at least for those kinds of stories, is that like, they put those like silly things in to make sure that the people—or whoever’s handling the, you know, arrangements—are actually reading it.

T: I totally believe that. I totally—

C: Mm!

K: Right? Because if you say “No brown M&Ms,” and then they just miss it, then you’re like, okay, what else did they not get correct?

C: Oh!

T: Then it becomes part of their story, and then—

K: Right.

T: —that’s what people associate with Mariah Carey—

K: Right, and then they get branded—

T: —forever. And ever.

K: —as like difficult, and like yeah. Exactly.

T: Yeah. Which is some ... BS, cuz she is ... no matter how many times she gets carried across that stage—

K & C: *(laugh)*

T: —I think she’s workin—she’s workin hard!

C: *(laughing)* Yeah!

K: Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah. Oh, Mariah.

C: Her and [Tanaka](#).

K: Mm. Gosh. One thing about Mariah that I just love is that like, she’s so talented. She’s so good at singing. But like ... oh, she just tries her best at dancing. And I’m just like, oh, bless her heart.

C: She can’t.

K: She—it's so bad! *(laughs)*

C: Nope.

K: *(laughing)* It's so awful, and I'm just like—

C: I think she recognizes it now, though.

K: —how can you be so bad at it? Oh, she definitely does.

C: Now she just—now she just sits onstage and just—

K: She does not try.

C: No.

K: I remember the moment when the “[Honey](#)” video came out. I remember my aunt, who's like only thirteen years older than I am, so we were always more like sisters than aunt [and niece], and she—we were watching it, like watching MTV at the time when it came out, and you know, “Honey” was the first video where—I don't feel like young people know this, but they don't—they didn't get to see like modest Mariah—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —like when she first came out and she was very like, long-sleeved dresses, and you're just like, what's happening here? And then like “Honey” was when she had divorced Tommy Mottola and she's like, “I'm bustin out! I'm doin exactly what I wanna do all the time,” and she had on like the bikini top—

C: Oh yeah.

K: —and the like short skirt, and ... she was like dancing in the video, and me and my aunt were just like, what? *(laughing)* Like what is happening right now? Cuz it was not good dancing! But it was kinda like, you know what? Good for her. *(laughs)* You know?

T: *(laughs)*

K: I'm—I'm glad she's trying new things *(laughs)* cuz—but also like, uh, maybe dial it back—

C: Right.

K: —on that—on that effort. But yeah. It's just so funny to me that I'm like, how can you be so good at singing and so bad at dancing?

T: I agree with you, Caitlin, though, that yeah, she—that she has to recognize ... I mean I think that coming out on stage and just kind of hangin out with—

C: *(laughing)* Yeah.

T: —four guys—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: *(laughing)* Right.

T: —underneath you is a diva move.

K: Yeah.

C: Yes.

T: No dancing necessarily involved. There's choreography in that—

K: Oh yeah, for sure.

T: *(laughs)*

C: Spin me around, boys.

K: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

T: *(laughs)*

K: So—so Daniel Day-Lewis is a good one. I think probably you could throw like a male diva—another one is Ed Norton, even though I like him—

C: Yes.

K: —as an actor. I know he has a lot of that same like—

C: Diva.

K: Oh, and there's a lot of stories about like [Pacino](#) and like—

C: Of course. Yeah. And [Marlon Brando](#).

K: —and [De Niro](#), yeah. All of that—it's weird there's not that many like male singers—I mean maybe you could throw like the hair metal guys in there—

C: Mm.

K: —from like the eighties and stuff. But yeah, I don't know. It's a[n] interesting sort of distinction between like male diva behavior and like female diva behavior cuz like, men get to act like this all the time. *(laughs)* So it's like—

T: Right.

C: Right.

K: It's not—

C: And they're just called like committed to their craft.

K: Yeah.

C: I think all male method actors—

K: Mm-hmm.

C: —must be divas.

K: Oh! Especially like the new—the young ones, like [Jared Leto](#). Like he's—

C: Oh, my god.

K: —a weird—a weirdo. *(laughs)*

C: Exhausting. Exhausting.

K: So tiring. Yeah.

C: Well any—any other thoughts on divas before we move on?

K: No, I just—I hope—I mean, VH1 doesn't even really exist. *(laughs)* But like I hope some network or what have you gets—gets together another group just to see what it is like now. I wanna see those modern, like current—current divas. I wanna see them come together.

T: It feels—I don't know if that's even possible anymore in these—in 2021.

K: I feel—you know what I feel like? You might be able to do it with like ... like [Verzuz](#)? Like a *Verzuz*—

C: That's what I was thinking, yeah.

T: Mm!

K: —kinda thing? Cuz that's kind of what that is.

C: [Brandy](#) and [Monica](#)!

K: Oh, my god. That whole thing. (*laughs*)

C: We don't even have time to get into Brandy and Monica.

K: (*sighs*) I know. I—we could dissect that (*laughs*), like for an entire episode.

C: Yeah.

K: But yeah, I mean I—that's probably what it would have to be. It'd have to be some like streaming thing or like some weird segment in like, The Grammys or whatever. Like it—I don't know that we have the (*laughs*) infrastructure—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —for an entire divas televised program anymore.

T: No! Yeah.

K: But I—I think it'd be cool.

T: I mean, cuz some people are only getting—like the bands that are on TikTok that only exist on TikTok—

C: (*laughs*)

K: On the internet, yeah.

T: —and nowhere else!

K: Mm-hmm.

T: But ... oh, one diva that is not—no longer my diva—

K & C: Ooh!

T: —[RuPaul](#).

C: (*gasps*) Oh.

K: Oh, yeah.

C: RuPaul [who famously watched a man die](#)—

K: What?!

C: —and instead of calling 911, decided to hang up the phone and send him positive energy.

K: Wait, what are you talking about? (*laughs*)

C: We do not talk about this enough. So—

T: I agree.

K: (*laughing*) I do not know what you're talking about.

C: —there—there—this is not something I made up. This is real. There is a—I don't know. I emailed it to Toshio one time, cuz I was like, um ... what?

K: (*laughs*)

C: So there's some news report or interview and I don't remember where it's from. Just look up—google RuPaul, man drowning. So—

K: Ugh.

C: —RuPaul was like in his apartment in New York, I think, and looks out onto ... I don't know if it was the Hudson, or something, and I think a guy's boat capsized, or something to that effect. And he's like, "Hey, I better go call 911." So he goes to the phone, and then he's like, "You know what? I'm just gonna hang up, and I'm gonna send him positive energy instead." And ... that's the end of that story.

K: What?! No—that—

T: Yeah.

K: I ... (*laughs*)

C: *(laughs)*

K: I'm just like ... *(laughs)*

T: Yeah.

K: I—I am at a loss—

C: Yes.

K: —because I'm just like, what? Is this like—

T: And [the fracking farm](#). I still cannot—

C: Yeah.

K: Oh, that is not surprising to me, because—

C: Yeah.

K: —you know. When you—when you become someone—when you hit a certain level, there's like all kinds of stuff that you would do to make yourself more money—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —and you don't really care about the environment, or—

T: *(whispering)* I know!

K: —you know, whether or not it's safe or healthy for other people. You know.

T: Or the people on your own show!

C: Yeah.

K: Mm.

T: I mean ... you have—at that point you have some creative liberty, cuz it's like, a popular show, [RuPaul's Drag Race](#)!

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Mm-hmm.

T: And you won't ... you know it's—it's not—it's all fake. It's kinda like *America's Next Top Model*.

K: Mm. Mm-hmm.

T: Like ... you still gotta bow down—

C: Right! Kiss the ring.

T: —and it's like ... it feels like a lack of confidence there. Because the people who are the progenitors do not wanna give up any kind of control of—of this whatever lane that they—

C: Mm-hmm

T: —think they own.

C: Yeah.

T: And so if you go against them, they will come for you.

K: I kinda think though that the *Drag Race* contestants kind of have it a little bit better than the *Top Model* contestants because we like—you know, *Drag Race* is happening in the social media era. And so anyone now can have a like subset of fans, and can like, you know, have an audience that is—

T: True.

K: —just dedicated to them and follow[s] them regardless of whether or not they have a good relationship with the show or whatever. Like they can kind of—

T: Yeah.

K: —transcend whatever their experience was on the show, which I do not feel like was true for *Top Model*.

T: No.

K: Like you went on it and then you got bounced and then that was it, right?

T: Bye.

K: Like there was no (*laughs*) social media or like internet audience that you could take advantage of in the same way that they can now. So it's like—

T: Absolutely.

K: —even—even worse for the *Top Model* contestants.

T: You couldn't spin it off, yeah.

K: Nuh-uh.

T: At least like you could become maybe an influencer, or—

K: Yeah. I mean, you can now, right?

T: —have [inaudible] shows.

K: Like you can sort of, you know, spin off the previous fame. If you were one of the people good enough to like have made a little bit of a name from the show. But like yeah, in the immediate aftermath, there was no ... there was nothing else.

T: Or even like, people who got kicked off like second on *RuPaul's Drag Race* are out there—

K: Yeah!

T: —touring. (*laughs*)

K: Exactly. Exactly. Anyways, that was a good one. I'm glad you brought that up, cuz I had never heard that story and I am definitely gonna google it (*laughing*) when we are done.

C: Yes RuPaul is a murderer.

K: I—(*laughs*)—I mean—

C: Now we're gonna move on to our next segment.

K: —allegedly allegedly allegedly! Allegedly.

C: Well—well he—what's the word?

K: Nope. No no. Nope.

C: He didn't actually murder someone, but he—

K: Manslaughtered? (*laughs*)

C: He let it ha[ppen]—he—he wasn't—he was unbothered by this person dying in front of him.

K: Oh my god. Allegedly. Allegedly. *(laughs)* We are not—

C: I mean, he said he did it, so I'm assuming it's true.

K: *(laughing)* He didn't say he murdered someone!

C: No. No no.

K: He said he watched, and then he—

C: He watched a man die.

K: Oh my god. I—I can't be in this conversation. *(laughs)*

T: From a yacht, or, you know.

K: Yeah. *(laughs)*

C: Yeah. *(laughs)* Okay. Okay, well now it is time for—

K: Oh, my god.

C: —*Two Cents, No Tax!*

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Which we've not done in so long.

K: I know! It feels like forever. I'm like, oh right! Right right. We had more segments on this show. *(laughs)*

C: Right?!

T: Oh no, it was—sorry. It was a condo in Chelsea, that he watched—

C: Okay, so, clarification. RuPaul murdered a man from a condo in Chelsea.

K: No! Oh my god. *(laughs)*

C & T: *(laughs)*

K: *(laughing)* I am ... yes, that was from Caitlin—

C: Yes.

K: Caitlin's own mouth. Not Krystal; she is not involved in any of this conversation.

T: Not allegedly.

K: No, allege—Krystal is not allegedly (*sighs*) not involved in this conversation. Yeah. (*laughs*)

T: (*laughs*)

C: Okay. What y'all got for me?

K: Okay! Toshio, do you wanna go first, or?

T: Sure!

K: Mokay.

T: *Best* [Black-Eyed Pea](#)?

K: (*laughs*)

C: Oh, my god, Toshio.

K: That's funny. That's really good.

C: Well, I only know ... a few of them. There's obviously [Fergie](#), the Duchess—

K: Oh god.

C: —and [will.i.am](#). And then ... Tattoo?

K: Yup. And there's—

C: Or [Taboo](#).

K: —one more! Taboo.

C: Taboo.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: Who's the other one?

K: [aple.de.ap](#)—

C: What?!

K: —is the fourth guy.

C: Okay. *(laughs)*

K: Listen, I didn't make up the names, okay? *(laughs)* Like th[ey]—they gave themselves those names, not me. *(laughs)*

C: Well let's see. Cuz [will.i.am was a hologram](#). I liked that about him.

K: *(laughing)* I mean, he was a—he's a man, but yeah. He's also a hologram, sure.

C: But I like that he—I like that he was a hologram in ... space or something?

K: *(laughs)*

C: I don't know. I don't—

K: No, it was for like—it was for—

T: CNN.

K: I believe it was CNN or something, like CNN did—

T: New Year's Eve.

K: Yeah.

C: Didn't they like [play will.i.am on Mars or something](#)?

K: What are you talkin about, Caitlin? *(laughs)*

C: I don't know!

T: I could see that.

K: *(laughing)* I don't know either! This—this is not—

C: I feel like there was something where, for some reason—

K: How would they play it on Mars? What—how would that work?

C: I don't know, or there was some kinda space mission and they were like—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —“will.i.am is gonna be the first music we ever play here.”

K: *(laughs)*

T: Well, I think he—he is a—

K: Oh my god.

T: —isn't he [the judge on that avatar competition with Grimes?](#)

K: Okay, what—okay. So I was home for the week—like I said, I was visiting my family—and I was home for the weekend—

C: *(laughs)*

K: —and I saw commercials for that show and I don't understand how it ... like how does it work? Like are there pe[ople]—cuz [Grimes](#) is also a—

C: Ugh.

K: —judge on that, and like ... someone else. I don't know who the third person is, but like ... I—what do they do? Cuz it—okay, so basically what it looks like is there is like the judges, and then they are ... like, set up like [The Voice](#), basically. And then they have the stage, and then you, as the audience, or the viewer, you see like an avatar video game character-looking person, and they're singing, but then there's a singer who's like backstage or somewhere else, and they're wearing like ... [mocap](#) suits? I do—I do not understand what that show is—

C: It sounds way too complicated.

K: It sounds—

T: Yeah.

K: —like a fever dream. *(laughs)* I'm just like, who—

T: It sounds—

K: —thought of this? Why—why does it fully exist? Like ... it makes no sense.

T: It feels like it's ... yeah, like it's like a ... I don't know if I'm gonna go conspiracy theorist—

K: Oh my god. *(laughs)*

T: —on us to move us closer to accepting robots as our—

K: Oh my—this episode.

T: —overlords.

K: What is happening right now? *(laughs)*

C: *(laughs)*

T: *(laughs)*

K: I do not know what's going on. Oh, Cait—

T: Humanizing the robot.

K: Okay. Yeah.

C: I mean, I think—I don't think he's wrong.

K: Oh, of course you don't. Like why would you? *(laughs)*

C: So—*(laughs)*—

K: Like, you of course—no. Okay, so what—so you—so you like Fergie? Is that your choice for your—

C: I don't like—I don't like any of em.

K: *(laughs)*

T: Wait, Fergie doing a single-handed—what was—[what do you call it, like a cartwheel?](#)

K: Mm?

T: On *Good Morning America*?

K: Oh, right—

T: That was a moment in time.

K: —when they performed—yeah. When she was performing—

C: No! You know what? I'm gonna go with Fergie only for [her version of the national anthem](#).

K: Oh my god!

C: And if you don't know what I'm talking about—

K: One of the best moments—please go—

C: Yes! Obviously Fergie. I can't even believe I forgot about that. Obviously Fergie—

K: Well, I didn't forget, because it's a basketball thing and you know I'm sportsy.

C: Oh my god.

KL So it happened at the all-star game in ... I wanna say 2018? It might be 2017. But it was—I think it's 2018. So (*laughs*) they—they had Fergie singing the national anthem, and she decided, “You know what I'm gonna do? I'm gonna go out there; I'm gonna put my own little spin on it.” And (*laughs*) one of the things that they do at like the all-star game—and at like all k[inds]—a lot of different events like this—is like, they're cutting to shots of the players as they're standing and watching, and the funniest, funniest bits are as—they're—they're—the players are listening and they're hearing what we're hearing, (*laughing*) and [they're trying not to react, and some of them can't help it; they're like cracking up](#)—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —they're breaking into smiles; and it like started a whole drama. Because Draymond Green, one of the players on the Golden State Warriors, like literally [was] full-on laughing. Was just like—

C: Yeah.

K: —“This is ama[zing]”—you know, like we all were. Cuz she was very bad. (*laughs*)

C: Yes.

K: At singing the national anthem. Even though she's a great singer—

C: Is she?

K: —I just don't know what she was doing that day. It just went off.

C: Is she a good singer?

K: I think she's a pretty good singer. I think she could—she could probably sing that if she was like not trying to be extra. But—

C: She's trying to jazz it up.

K: —she was definitely trying to be extra. Yes.

C: Let's get jazzy on this anthem.

K: It was not great. And so [Draymond was laughing](#). But he wasn't the only one. [Steph](#) was laughing; [Karl-Anthony Towns](#); like a lotta players were laughing. And I guess afterwards, Josh Duhamel, her like now-ex-husband, saw—I guess he was watching. He was in an interview and he basically called out Draymond and was like—

C: Ooh.

K: —you know, “You're—that's like clown behavior, bro,” basically. *(laughs)* And it started a whole drama between like Josh Duhamel and Draymond, and then the Warriors made like a ... a reaction video where they like—

C: Ooh!

K: —there was like a remix? [Somebody remixed Fergie's national anthem into like a really fun dance song, and the Warriors played it backstage](#)—

C: *(gasps)*

K: —or played it in the locker room after a game *(laughs)* and were like dancing to it. I will—I'll like—

C: Oh my god. I love this!

K: —send you guys the clip. It's so funny! But yeah, god. What a great moment—

C: Yes.

K: —that moment was. *(laughs)* It was—it was—it's—it's just all-time. All-time classic.

C: Yeah. Okay. I'm gonna go with Fergie, then.

K: *(laughing)* Okay.

C: Good one, Toshio!

K: That's really good! Toshio, you have such good ideas. How do you like—

C: Yeah.

T: *(laughs)*

K: —do this? I don't know! I—I feel like so inadequate next to—

T: No no no no no.

K: —to you. I mean, *(clears throat)* my question was gonna be about like ... it's like less cool, but—

C: *(laughs)*

K: —*(laughs)* how do you feel about *the Disney renaissance movies*? So I guess the Disney renaissance is considered ... [\[The\] Little Mermaid](#); [Beauty and the Beast](#); [Aladdin](#); and [The Lion King](#). Like that's—those—

C: Like remaking them?

K: No. The original versions. Like—

C: Oh!

K: —how do you feel about those? I mean, *(laughs)* you can say how you feel about that too. Cuz—

C: I mean, I—even as a kid, I didn't really watch Disney stuff. Like—

K: Oh, interesting!

C: Well, we've gotten into this before, but like, I was never watching age-appropriate *(laughs)* ... TV or movies!

K: I mean, we weren't either, but for some reason we got into those, heavy.

C: I just—I never watched them! So for me, Disney is like ... okay.

K: Interesting. *(laughs)*

C: And I don't really have anything interesting to say about it, because it was never ... my thing.

K: Mm-hmm.

C: I never ... got into it. If you like Disney ... okay.

K: *(grumbles)*

T: So you were a Nickelodeon girl.

K: *(laughs)*

C: I ... I was like—no. I was like, ten years old watching [Twin Peaks](#) girl. Like I was not—

K: *(laughs)*

C: —I was not watching things that like probably I should have been watching that would have made me turn out into a more functional adult.

K: I mean, I was ten years old watching [ER](#). That was like my favorite show. *(laughs)*

C: Yeah.

K: So I mean, you know, we—we are on that same page. That's interesting. Yeah, I—I feel like there's a subset of people our age who like didn't see those movies and so like they don't have any particular like—we watched them all the time, but like—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —mostly *Aladdin* and *[The] Lion King*. But we don't—I don't have any strong allegiance to Disney either, and so it's weird to me that there are adults who are like, ride-or-die for like—

C: Yeah.

K: Disney? As a—

C: That's weird.

K: —as a brand? I'm just like ... I guess. *(laughs)*

C: Right.

K: Like, like what you like, but—

T: It's a huge—

K: —it's strange.

T: —gay thing. Gay—

K: Oh yeah, there's a whole—there's lots of different subsets. There's the like, thin blue line, sorta blue lives matter-type Disney people; there's like—

C: Blech.

K: —yeah. It's ... yeah. And we don't (*laughs*)—we don't wanna look under that rock. It's ... it's scary, so.

C: (*laughs*)

T: Halloween! How bout ... what do you think of some of the classic candies that have—

K: Mm.

C: (*laughs*)

T: They're not selling as well these days, but like candy corn.

C: Ick!

K: Yes, Caitlin. Thank you!

C: Okay!

K: Correct answer.

C: Here's another thing. I am sorry to be such a bummer, but—

K: (*laughs*)

C: —I'm not really a sweets person. So—

K: Okay. Now we're ending this podcast. I'm sorry. (*laughs*)

T: (*laughs*)

C: Okay. I'm sorry. Let's start talking about Madonna again!

T: (*laughs*)

K: (*laughing*) No. No! I mean, you can—you can like what you like, obviously. So you just don't really—you're more savory than sweet?

C: I'm like, [a] give me salt with my salt person.

K: Mm. Mm-hmm.

C: If someone said you don't have—you like—you can't eat sugar ever again, I'd be like, okay.

K: Whoa.

C: Like it just—but if you take away my salt, I will kill you.

K: Wow! Yeah, I can't relate to that at all. Cuz I am the opposite. I mean—

C: Yeah. Sweet tooth.

K: —probably the only thing that I like that's—I mean, obviously I like lots of things that are salty, but like ... sunflower seeds are like my favorite like little—

T: Mm!

C: Mm.

K: —snack that I do, just when I'm just like—

T: Yeah.

K: —bummin around or whatever.

C: Yeah, give me nature's candy.

K: Yes, nature's treats! Nature's chips. But yeah, that's interesting. I—I love sweets. I have to have like, soda and like—

C: Mm-hmm.

K: —some ice cream. Like these are things I always have in my (*laughs*)—in my home, like all the time, cuz—

C: Yeah.

K: —you never know when you're just gonna get an attack—a sweet tooth attack. But that's ... that's not surprising, though. We are very ... different in our (*laughs*)—our—

C: Our food tastes.

K: —our palates, yeah.

C: Yeah. It's true.

K: That's so funny.

T: And will you both be keeping your lights on for the children?

C: I can't!

K: I mean, *(laughs)* I live in an apartment, and no one ever comes, cuz we have no kids in this building. So *(laughs)*—

T: *(laughs)*

C: No. I—I can't with my dogs.

T: Mm.

K: Oh, right, yeah. Mm-hmm.

C: My dogs—

T: Good point.

C: —go buhzaza if anyone knocks on the door, and—

K: Mm-mm.

C: —it's headache city, and I don't need that in my life.

K: Yeah. That's fair.

T: Save some energy.

K: That's fair.

C: Yeah. Okay, well as always, please follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) @TwoCentsPlusTax, and please support our Patreon—

K: Yeah.

C: —at [Patreon.com/TwoCentsPlusTax](https://www.patreon.com/TwoCentsPlusTax). It helps us cover transcript costs and keep it—keep it accessible! Thank you.

K: Thank you! *(laughs)*

C: Thank you!

K: I feel like you're doing a presentation, like, "Thank you, and my time is up!"

C, K, & T: *(laugh)*

C: I don't know—

K: But no, seriously.

C: —what's wrong with me today!

K: It's good! I love this energy. It's like, you know—

C: *(robotically)* Good afternoon! Thank you!

K: *(laughs)*

T: I think [everything's gonna be fine!](#)

K: Yeah.

C: Alright!

K: Definitely.

C: See, I can't even remember that—

K: It's been so long!

C: —that everything's gonna be fine! It has been so long.

T: *(laughs)*

K: Anyway, yeah. Thank you everyone for listening.

C: Yes.

K: Follow all of our socials. Send us questions, or, you know, anything you wanna send us in our DMs, or in our—via email. It's [twocentsplustaxpodcast](#). Is that correct? At gmail.com?

C: I think so?

K: *(laughs)*

C: Honestly I haven't checked our email in awhile. *(laughs)*

K: I—what if we have so many emails that were people being like, what the heck? They're so like, rude to their listeners! But yeah—

C: There's a lot going on!

K: —get in touch with us. We—we—you know. We've been off for awhile, so we're gettin back into the hang of it. But we—we—

C: Right.

K: —are back. We're—we're almost there. We're almost there.

C: *(laughs)*

K: But yeah! I—I would recommend, if you're gonna follow us, definitely Caitlin does a really great job of our [Instagram](#) presence—

C: Thank you.

K: —which I—I love it. I love—

C: *(laughs)*

K: —on Tuesdays, when the podcast comes out, I'm like, what is she gonna put *(laughs)* in the photos for Instagram? It's gonna be—I am as excited as the other listeners, I'm sure.

C: Aw. That's super sweet.

K: So yeah. It's great.

C: Thank you.

K: You are welcome. Yeah, so that's it for this week. Guess we'll be back next week? With *(laughing)* another exciting episode.

C: I sure hope so!

K: Now I feel like a host of some weird show.

C & T: *(laugh)*

K: But yeah. *(laughs)* Yeah! I guess that's it, right?

C: Yeah, everything's gonna be fine, right?

K: Everything's gonna be fine.

T: Everything.

*(pause)*

C, K, & T: *(laughs)*

K: *(laughing)* Bye, everyone!

C: Bye!

T: Bye.

*(theme song plays)*