

Transcription completed for: 266. LIFERS - Goodbye, Dolly  
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Transcript with identified speakers:

Dolly Parton: I think the fact that I have had enough nerve to do some of the things that I've done or look some of the ways that I've looked and wear some of the things that I've worn, I think it kind of, in some ways, I think it gives some women a chance to say, well, if I had the nerve, I would do that. Or don't get too out of hand because you don't know if any of it's real or not.

Dolly Parton: Probably, Probably. If I feel led to, you know, it's kind of like one of those things. If I. I would imagine I'll be quite a character when I'm older. I would love to always be able to just be whatever seems to make me happy. And I would love to be able to write songs and to write books and be sort of like Agatha Christie and always be productive and be an advisor to other people in the business. And so I'm trying to learn all I can, but I'm sure I'll be as ridiculous as an old lady as I am as young.

Unknown: I didn't think you would do that.

Dolly Parton: Somebody said to me once, what do you want people to say about you 100 years from now? And I said, I want them to say, boy, does she ever look good for her age.

Dave Letterman: The category tonight from the home office in Sioux City, Iowa. Oh, this is a good one. It's a good one. Get up real close to your set. Top 10 list tonight. Top 10, Dolly Parton pet peeves. Yes, sir. And now to assist us in the presentation of tonight's top 10 list, please welcome live from Dollywood, Dolly Parton her own self. Dolly.

Unknown: There you go.

Unknown: How are you, Dave?

Dave Letterman: Okay, the category tonight, top 10 Dolly Parton pet Peeves. Dolly, are you all set? Here we go.

Dolly Parton: I'm ready.

Dave Letterman: Okay, number 10, accountants who don't understand

Dolly Parton: how much it cost to make me look this cheap.

Unknown: Yes.

Dolly Parton: Number nine, trying to play guitar in these five inch fingernails.

Dave Letterman: They're great. When are we going to have them on the show? Paula? Five inch fingernails. I'm telling you, that's my favorite new band.

Unknown: Make that booking if you can.

Dave Letterman: Alternative number eight, when the county declares

Dolly Parton: my hair a fire hazard. Number seven, confused Dalai Lama constantly asking for theme park royalties. Number six, you can't get A wig repaired because Letterman's got some kind of a hairpiece crisis. Hey, come on.

Unknown: Hi. There, there.

Dave Letterman: It's like, it's like my goofy cousin is hosting the show tonight.

News Reporter/Announcer: Number five.

Dolly Parton: A rhinestone rash.

Unknown: Yeah, okay.

Unknown: Number four.

Dolly Parton: Number four. Okay, go ahead. You ready?

Dave Letterman: Let's just go home.

Scott Lucas: Dolly number four.

Unknown: Okay.

Dolly Parton: When he visits Dollywood gift shops, Garth Brooks always shop, shop. Lifts stuff under that big hat of his.

Unknown: Yeah, let's do go home. Okay.

Dave Letterman: Just three times Dolly been smoking her own self, I think.

Unknown: So we grow that.

Dave Letterman: Number three. Number three.

Dolly Parton: Okay. Smart ass MCs who introduced me by saying. And now here they are, Dolly Parton.

Unknown: Number two.

Dolly Parton: When the super bowl is over, winner never says, hey, I'm going to Dollywood. That's right.

Dave Letterman: And now the number one Dolly Parton pet peeve.

Dolly Parton: Nobody notices. I've got a great ass too.

Scott Lucas: It happened. None of us were looking forward to this. Rest in peace, Dolly Parton. She's out. What? I mean, what happened yesterday, right? It's a long day yesterday, guys.

Ben Reiser: I don't know if it was yesterday or she died the night before they announced it.

Scott Lucas: Well, we got the news yesterday and it started with Justine and I and Scotty and Karen. We were on this little vacation and it's like, should I put on a regular black shirt today or should I put on my Dolly Parton shirt? And she's like, of course. Put on your Dolly Parton shirt. And then she's like, what, are you afraid, you know, you're gonna get mobbed by your fans? It's like, haha, very funny. Put on the Dolly Parton shirt. I'm opening a tiny Fresca and someone sends a text. And Justin goes, don't open it, don't open it. And it's. It's Dolly. It's the news that Dolly is gone. And then five minutes later, my dad calls me. I said, well, I know what this is about. And he was bummed out too. Everybody was bummed out. But I had that shirt on yesterday and went into a supermarket and some guy just looked at me. He goes, dolly's dead. And everybody, you know, everybody wanted to

Ben Reiser: tell you instead of thinking, oh, maybe he already knows and that's why he's wearing the shirt.

Scott Lucas: Everybody. Well, everybody either wanted to say Dolly's dad, or they wanted to tell me how bad they felt or they wanted to talk about it. So I was basically absorbing everybody's pain and emotion with the Dolly shirt.

Ben Reiser: You were like a death doula.

Scott Lucas: Yeah, yeah, I guess it was.

News Reporter/Announcer: Hey, Everyone. My name is Brian Seaver, son of Cassie Parton, and I'm representing the Parton and Owens family today, announcing the passing of my aunt Dolly Rebecca Parton, Dean, sister, sis, aunt, granny to one generation, and Gigi to the next. This video announcement is something Dolly asked of me years ago, before I fully absorbed it as a future reality. As her head of security for more than two decades, a role my father Larry held

before me, I have imagined the heaviness of this moment, but haven't truly felt it until now. It is an honor. An honor that is mixed with absolute pride and great sadness. But sadness lies with us, not with Dolly. Dolly has lived in the light and is in the arms of Jesus, surely met by Carl, her parents, and countless others who have watched her and longed for her to meet them in the heavens. I first went on the road with Dolly as a kid, getting a taste of the road life in the early 1980s, Dolly opened doors not just for me, but for her entire family to reach the potential we didn't even know was possible. Dolly also opened doors for generations of singers, songwriters, musicians, and dreamers from every walk of life and across every continent. By her example, we believed that anything was possible. She never saw a door she couldn't open. And the doors she opened made and changed history. My family and I have shared a lifetime of beautiful memories with Dolly, but so have you. She has always been on your television, your record player, your cd, and on your phone playlist, becoming an extended part of your family, whether you liked it or not. Our family and the team she has entrusted with her legacy will work diligently to ensure her spirit will live with us forever. Dolly was a farmer, just like her daddy. He farmed the soil. She farmed songs and happiness. Dolly called me and said she wants to rest in a beautiful bed of plush cotton because after a life wearing heavy rhinestones, she finally deserves to be comfortable and. And have some rest. Rest in peace. Aunt Dolly. Aunt Granny Gigi. May God bless Dolly Parton, and may God bless you all. She will always love you.

Scott Lucas: But it was nice.

Dolly Parton (Interview): It was.

Scott Lucas: It was nice to be able to walk down the street and go, yes, you can talk to me about Dolly Parton. Because, I mean, that's the thing everyone's talking about, and that's the lesson of Dolly Parton is like, she was the one person that nobody seems to have a problem with. And I. And I'm waiting for this other shoe to drop. I'm waiting for some asshole to, like, you know, shoot out some tweet about. Well, I knew her, you know, in, in ways that you guys didn't. And you know, I knew the real Dolly and I just waiting for that person so that we can all find who that person is and, and kill them collectively as a country.

Ben Reiser: Well, here's the thing. If the, if, you know, if these celebrity deaths do indeed come in threes, we have these two 80 year olds who just passed away in the last couple days.

Scott Lucas: Yeah, I can think of another one

Ben Reiser: more 80 year old pooh. And this is the most miraculous thing. This is what I was, you know, usually you, you say something like you just said, which is that everybody turns out everybody loved Dolly. And you think like, except I bet this, but even he put out a tweet that was respectful.

Scott Lucas: And listen, Dolly Parton was not Rob Reiner. Somebody got to him and said, hey, look, you can't do your usual bullshit because you will not survive this. You know, but even the worst person in the history of the planet likes Dolly Parton.

Gabe Rodriguez: Yeah.

Scott Lucas: You know, not that we need him to, to be in our club that the, that the whole world is in, but apparently he's in it. But I don't know, if he had his druthers, I'm sure he'd talk a little bit of shit.

Unknown: I didn't really like.

Scott Lucas: Her book program seemed a little woke to me.

News Reporter/Announcer: Tributes are being held for the queen of country. Dolly Parton died Tuesday in Nashville. A spokesperson said she'd had a brief battle with cancer. Dolly Parton remained true to her Appalachian roots, and as NPR's Andrew Limbong reports, that influenced what many might describe as one of her most enduring legacies yet, a literacy program for young children.

Dolly Parton: Hello, kitties. You want me to read a book to you?

News Reporter: This is Dolly Parton at an event at the Library of Congress celebrating the Imagination library, sending out 100 million books. That was back in 2018. Now that number is over 330 million. The program started small in 1995, covering Parton's home county in East Tennessee. Parton has said that she was inspired by her father, who couldn't read or write. Since then, the Imagination Library has collaborated with local nonprofits and governments to expand access across the country and beyond, too, including Canada, the U.K. Ireland and Australia. At that Library of Congress events, she said that her goal was to deliver 1 billion books to kids. Andrew Limbong, NPR News.

Scott Lucas: Gabe, do you have anything that you want to get in about Tim Curry before we go back to Dolly?

Gabe Rodriguez: Was he sick or was he just, you know, it was his Time he

Ben Reiser: had a stroke, I think some kind something a while ago. He's been sort of like half paralyzed and I think in a way, maybe even in a wheelchair. He hasn't really been himself for maybe five years or so, maybe longer. Are you a Rocky Horror guy?

Gabe Rodriguez: I would go to the show and enjoy my. What do you call it?

Ben Reiser: I don't know, what do you call it?

Scott Lucas: Your little stirrings when you, when you saw Gabe would be waiting for him to get on the screen in Antisa Patient.

Unknown: How do you do? I see you've met my faithful hand in hand he's just a little brought down because when you knocked he thought you were the Candyman. Don't get strung out by the way I look don't judge a book by its color I'm not much of a man by the light, not a day but by night I'm. Well, I'm a lover I'm just a sweet transvestite From Transsexual Trans.

Scott Lucas: Tim Curry, rest in peace. You were truly a great one. But Dolly Parton, this is one of those people that, I mean, you could feel it, right, Gabe? Like you could feel the earth shift a little bit, right?

Gabe Rodriguez: Yes. Crossed all kinds of barriers with. I didn't think I'd be talking about it or hearing about it for days. I didn't think it'd be a story in the news that would go on for hours and hours and hours.

Scott Lucas: It's only been a day. What kind of heartless evil.

Gabe Rodriguez: No, I'm just saying I thought it'd be. I thought it'd be the top of the hour news, you know, five minute segment and a little, you know, remembrance. But it's been non stop and that, that's fine. I'm just saying I didn't think it'd be, you know, every station that covers news talking about Dolly for an hour.

Scott Lucas: I'm surprised that there's anything allowed to happen at all. We need to shut down the means of production in the name of Dolly Parton. I mean, think about it. When Steve Albini died, it was on the news, you know, all day. Do you think Dolly, do you think Dolly Parton deserves any less?

Gabe Rodriguez: I wasn't anticipating the whole thing. I was like, okay, we're gonna hear about it for a few now. Let's see what else is going on. Because, yes, it's a big deal. The big loss. I get it.

Scott Lucas: Born Dolly Rebecca Parton on January 19, 1946. She was born in Pittman Center, Tennessee. Now this is a town that in the 2000 census, they counted a population of 454, and that's in 2000. So in 1946, there's probably, what, 27.

Ben Reiser: Are you from Tennessee?

Dave Letterman: Tennessee?

News Reporter/Announcer: Really?

Unknown: Right from the hills of Tennessee, I'm on my ass.

Dolly Parton: We're by the Tennessee Mountains, right in the. At the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

News Reporter/Announcer: They say that's beautiful.

Unknown: I've never been there.

Dolly Parton: It really is. You should go. They have a resort area. It's a little place called Gatling, and they have a ski resort and all that. And I understand they have enough snow this winter to last for about three or four years.

Scott Lucas: So you grew up there until you were home?

Dolly Parton: Well, I lived there until I was 18 years old, of course.

Scott Lucas: What'd your family do?

Dolly Parton: Well, my daddy was a farmer, and I'm from a large family. In fact, there's 12 of us kids. 12. Six girls and six boys. And of course, we were just farm folks. We lived on a farm all my life.

Scott Lucas: That means everybody works.

Dolly Parton: We all worked because you have to. I think that's why people in the country have so many kids. You don't want to hire help.

Unknown: Easier to breed your own, I guess, huh?

Scott Lucas: Would you like to have 12 kids?

Dolly Parton: Huh? I don't know. I'll talk about it later.

Unknown: Okay.

News Reporter/Announcer: No, I didn't mean.

Scott Lucas: They're not at all. This wasn't an offer to go to stud. This was just. She was born in poverty.

Ben Reiser: Now that I want to make this comparison, but didn't Britney Spears come from, like, a trailer park or something? Or. Or Eminem?

Scott Lucas: Yes. Yes, she did. She did come from a trailer park. Now, did you see that letter that she wrote to Eminem?

Ben Reiser: Yeah.

Gabe Rodriguez: Britney Spears or Dolly Parton?

Scott Lucas: Dolly Parton. Britney Spears sent Eminem a severed head.

Gabe Rodriguez: What did D say to Eminem?

Scott Lucas: Okay, let's look it up.

News Reporter/Announcer: I'm.

Scott Lucas: I'm glad to read it now. Do you want me to do it? Dolly's voice?

Ben Reiser: That would be great.

Gabe Rodriguez: Nah, I didn't know she wasn't blonde. I thought she was blonde.

Scott Lucas: Yeah, man. You believe in Santa Claus, too, huh?

Gabe Rodriguez: Well, she never wasn't blonde when I seen her. Maybe there's pictures of her somewhere. I don't know.

Scott Lucas: No, it says Marshall. And then in parentheses, eminem, congratulations on your induction into the Rock and Roll hall of Fame. Your performance was amazing, and everybody. So even though I don't know a lot about rap music, I've come to know that you are the very best at it. Aside from that, I hope that What I have to say will not seem weird or strange to you. Oh, here we go. But I have always felt some unexplained connection to you. Like, I know you. Somehow. I had hoped to meet you at the show, but you know how nuts those things are. Personally, I hate them, and I miss my chance. But maybe someday we'll meet. In the meantime, you keep doing what you're doing. Because you do it so well. And no matter how complex your world may be, just know you are very special and touch people in ways you don't even know. With love and respect. Dolly Parton. Now, why would she take the time to do that?

Ben Reiser: She felt a connection. Maybe it was the trailer park aspect of him. Yeah, connection.

Unknown: Yeah.

Scott Lucas: Yeah. Wow. Can you imagine getting a letter like that from Dolly Parton?

Unknown: Fuck.

Scott Lucas: Gabe, your thoughts?

Gabe Rodriguez: I heard that she turned down an induction into the Rock and Roll hall of Fame. Is that correct?

Scott Lucas: Well, initially she said, well, I'm not a rock and roller. I'm a country artist.

Ben Reiser: And she said, if Iron Maiden's not in, I'm not going in. I'm waiting for Maiden.

Unknown: Thank you, Pete. I'm a rock star now. I tell you what.

Dolly Parton: This is a very, very, very special night for me. I'm sure a lot of you knew that back when they said they were going to put me in the Rock and Roll hall of Fame. I didn't really feel like I had done enough to deserve that. And I didn't understand at the time that it's about a little more than that.

Gabe Rodriguez: There won't be another dialing. That's it.

Ben Reiser: Did she got me wondering what kind of letters she might have written to Jack White, who has been covering Jolene for a while. They never collaborated, though, did they?

Scott Lucas: No, that was. That was Loretta Lynn.

Ben Reiser: Right. Okay. Because he seemed all. He seemed overwhelmed by it. He. I guess he did Jolene again last night in concert and was crying and stuff.

Scott Lucas: It was a very heartfelt performance. Maybe performative performance. No, it was good. Gabriel, thoughts? So I figured, like, I don't really know how to get into this. I mean, maybe we can play some clips of her talking about her life, but nobody want. I don't think anybody wants to hear us talk about her life. We just sort of. Let's talk about what we usually do on this dumb show. Let's talk about her movies and her songs. And I don't think we really need to get into a what's the best, Especially when it comes to movies, because there is only one what's the best and it is nine to five.

Dolly Parton: Tumble out of bed and I stumble to the kitchen Pour myself a cup

Unknown: of ambition and yawn and stretch and

Dolly Parton: try to come to life

Unknown: Jump in

Dolly Parton: the shower and the blood starts pumping out on the streets the traffic starts jumping with folks like me on the job from 9 to 5 working 9

Unknown: to 5

Scott Lucas: it's a movie that I've got, like, a real connection to. I mean, I remember seeing it in Zion when it came out in 1980, and everybody loved it. It was a huge hit and the whole audience was singing along to the theme song. Or when Dolly Parton threatened Stabney Coleman with shooting his balls off. Everyone hoots and hollers and applause. And it was. It was. It was like a rock concert. It was great.

Dolly Parton: So you've been telling everybody I'm sleeping with you, huh?

Unknown: No.

Dolly Parton: Well, that explains it. That's why these people treat me like some dime store floozy. They think I'm screwing the boss.

Scott Lucas: That's not it at all.

Dolly Parton: Oh, and you just love it, don't you? It gives you some sort of cheap thrill, like knocking over pencils and picking up.

Scott Lucas: Now, let's don't get excited.

Dolly Parton: Get your scummy hands off of me. Look, I've been straight with you from the first day I got here. And I put up with all your pinching and staring and chasing me around the desk. Cause I need this job. But this is the last straw.

Unknown: All right, now wait.

Gabe Rodriguez: Let's just sit down.

Dolly Parton: Look, I got a gun out there in my purse. And up to now I've been forgiving and forgetting because of the way I was brought up. But I'll tell you one thing. If you ever say another word about me or make another indecent proposal, I'm gonna get that gun of mine and I'm gonna change you from a rooster to a hen with one shot. Don't think I can't do it.

Scott Lucas: And then I saw it again. I don't know, maybe five or six years ago at Music Box. They were doing a Dolly Part City in the big.

Ben Reiser: In the big city, Chicago city.

Scott Lucas: Drag queens everywhere. And the reaction in liberal Chicago was exactly the same as the reaction in Zion at the. The beginning of the Reagan era. Exact same. It's just people enjoying themselves and loving it. And that made a huge impression on me. And I. I honestly think I had a kid a few months ago, asked me what my favorite movie was. Just a little kid, like 10. 10 years old at one of the shows. And I told him 9 to 5 and I told him why, and I told

him that story. And to me, seeing 9 to 5 in a theater is peak movie going. That is what going to the movies is about for me. Like, did none of the between us matters. None of it. It's just everyone's into the movie, and they're into it for the same reason. And it's not, you know, it's not like it's not a political movie. It is, but it doesn't seem to rub anybody the wrong way. And I gotta think most of that has to do with Dolly. Even though it seems like a. A project that would have been spearheaded by Jane Fonda.

Dolly Parton: I was getting to be popular in country music, and Jane Fonda called me up and said, you're Dolly Parton. I said, yes, I am. She said, well, I'm Jane Fonda. And I said, yes, you are.

Dolly Parton (Interview): You know that I wrote that song, you know, with my nails, you know,

Scott Lucas: like I was gonna ask you about that.

Dolly Parton (Interview): I was so starstruck being, you know, just watching how a movie is made. Even if I wasn't in the scene, I was there every day because I wanted to watch it. So I would be watching what the other girls were doing, what the scenes were, and I would just be thinking, you know, like, working 9 to 5, and I would watch whatever was going on, and I would just be like, you know, because I couldn't get a guitar out on the set, so I would just kind of. You got to have acrylic nails to make that real percussive sound. But I would just. I thought it sounded like a typewriter.

Dolly Parton: Can you hear that?

Scott Lucas: Yeah.

Dolly Parton: What a way to make a living.

Dolly Parton (Interview): Barely. Then I would write verses, I'd write things, and then I go back to my hotel at night and get my guitar out, and then I'd put it down on. On tape. And I wrote it over a period of. Of weeks. You know, the whole song before I actually sat down and then just assembled it and put it all together.

Scott Lucas: I mean, did you see 9 to 5 in the theater, Ben?

Ben Reiser: Of course. Yes. More than once, I'm sure. And it was, you know.

Scott Lucas: Well, it wasn't in the 70s, so I don't know if you're allowed to see movies that weren't in the 70s.

Ben Reiser: Are you saying you don't want to be part of my next podcast? 80 movies we saw in the 80s?

Scott Lucas: Well, I think I need to lead that one, but go ahead. We don't want to get ahead of.

Ben Reiser: But I was. I watched 9 to 5 again today. And, yeah, totally love 9 to 5. And I watched it again today and I was thinking two things. One, like, did we laugh at Jane Fonda's outfits when we saw them in 1980? Were they a joke or they're just a joke now because of how insane they are?

Scott Lucas: Gene Fonda, I think, like, she was probably playing against type.

Ben Reiser: Right.

Scott Lucas: Like just being the most.

Gabe Rodriguez: She's the.

Ben Reiser: Yeah.

Scott Lucas: Suppressed. Of the three.

Ben Reiser: Right.

Scott Lucas: I think that might have been the joke.

Ben Reiser: Sure. A joke. But I. But yeah, but I also wonder because not like everyone else is dressed so much better or, you know, more fashionably. But anyway, what it really reminded me of was like, oh, you know, how, you know what a movie that is actually trying to hit some of these same themes. And also is this incredible, like, sort of like generation defining.

Gabe Rodriguez: Yeah.

Ben Reiser: Crowd pleaser. Tootsie. And what's the common denominator? I don't think you can. I don't think you can downplay this. Or you should. I don't think you should downplay this. Dabney Coleman, such a genius. So great in both of those movies playing basically, you know, the same. Although in Tootsie, I guess that role gets sort of split in half between him. Did you say Tootsie, who's playing the titsy? Yeah, that's how we say it.

Scott Lucas: Yeah.

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: All right.

Ben Reiser: Titsy from Albany.

Scott Lucas: That's what. That's what Dab Dabney Coleman calls Tootsie. Hey, Tootsie, I'm a goddamn good looking man.

Ben Reiser: Here's the crazy thing about about 9 to 5 and about Dolly as an actress is that she's playing against Jane Fonda, who, you know, was probably considered by a lot of people to be the actress of that generation, and Lily Tomlin, who was no slouch in the acting department. And Dolly comes in and she probably gives the best performance out of the three of them. Like, she kind of carries the movie. She's the most charming. She's the funniest and the smartest. She's got the best interplay with Dabney.

Scott Lucas: Oh, she's clearly the most charming because she's got. She's got charisma, she's got star power.

Ben Reiser: But I mean. But so do Lily and Jane and they've had more experience at the movies.

Scott Lucas: Dolly was a supernova. It didn't matter where she was. It was like you. You wouldn't look at anybody around her. Right.

Dolly Parton (Interview): Who.

Scott Lucas: Who had that. You know, people would talk about Elvis having that. Not even close.

Gabe Rodriguez: I did see the movie on cable. I didn't see it in the theater

Scott Lucas: is on HBO quite a lot.

Gabe Rodriguez: But it was. It was just as strong of a movie back then. And it holds up.

Scott Lucas: I've got a VHS around here somewhere.

Ben Reiser: So you. So, Gabe, did you.

Scott Lucas: Did you know, I'm gonna watch it on VHS later?

Ben Reiser: Even. Even as a kid in Zion, you didn't go to the movies in high school, you weren't going to the movies when Scott was working at the theater, did you go to the movies?

Scott Lucas: Definitely not. I put a picture up of Gabe that he wasn't allowed.

Unknown: I saw.

Gabe Rodriguez: I saw the Dark Crystal as a kid.

Scott Lucas: The commercial for the Dark Crystal was like this. I gotta see. There was nothing that will stop me from seeing the Dark Crystal.

Ben Reiser: You telling me these guys are like Muppets but scarier?

Gabe Rodriguez: Is that Jim Henson? Was that Jim Henson?

News Reporter/Announcer: Yeah.

Gabe Rodriguez: I don't know.

Ben Reiser: Yeah.

Gabe Rodriguez: Who knows?

Ben Reiser: I know, but Jim Henson, that was Jim Henson's big bid for, like, an older audience. And it. And it fell flat on its face.

Gabe Rodriguez: I thought it was a blockbuster.

Scott Lucas: No, it was not. It was not a hit. And actually, it's funny. I saw the Dark Crystal in Waukegan. Double feature with Krull and another not hit. Yeah. So it was at the Academy, which is what, across the street from Genesee and waiting for a ride after the movie. The ride was late and I got beat up by gang members.

Ben Reiser: Oh, wow.

Scott Lucas: So the Dark Crystal.

Ben Reiser: Can I give you a crawl anecdote?

Dave Letterman: Yes.

Scott Lucas: You can crawl even harder, by the way.

Ben Reiser: You know, crawl, crawl. Which is a terrible.

Scott Lucas: I don't really blame the Dark Crystal for getting beat up. I blame Kroll for getting beat up because I believe it was the second feature. So if I hadn't stuck around for Krull, I'd be a much different person today.

Dave Letterman: Do you remember your first visit to New York City? Did you come as a school girl? Did you come for a gig? What was your first time here in New York City?

Dolly Parton: Actually, the very first time I was here was in 1964. I came here on our senior trip from the Smoky Mountains. We made up our money, and it was the year that the World's Fair was here and hello, Dolly was in town. Just these little country kids from the mountains. All over the cabs, all over the subways was hello, Dolly. I thought they knew I was coming, so I rubbed that in real good on all my friends. And so now here's Dolly.

Dave Letterman: Did you find in 1964, of course, a different era, People friendly and welcoming. And what were they like? Tennessee kids come Up. Were they nice to you?

Dolly Parton: Well, actually, we were all a group, so we were pretty much together. We thought we'd kind of landed on the moon because it was so different with all the lights and everything. But it was only, like. After I moved to Nashville in about 1968, I guess. My friend Judy and I, who was on the senior trip with me, we were friends all our lives. We came up here a second time, and we just had a bad, bad experience at that time. Well, we didn't know where to stay. We didn't have any money, so we got us a room in the cheapest place. We didn't know that it was down. We were walking around on 42nd.

Dave Letterman: Oh, yeah. In those days, that's where all.

Dolly Parton: It was bad. And that's where all the prostitutes run. And they run in pairs because it was for safety. And we looked like we might be them.

Unknown: So that was awesome.

Dolly Parton: Still had the big hair, looking trashy like I do. And.

Unknown: No, I'm serious. It's a true story.

Dolly Parton: But this guy kept putting. You know, he's trying to put the make on me, and he's pushing me up against the wall. And my friend was laughing because she'd never seen me mad, and I was cussing him and everything, and she was laughing just because I was mad. So he wasn't taking us serious. And at that time, I. We were just country girls, and our daddies had given us both a gun when we left home.

Unknown: Really, I had a gun.

Dolly Parton: And I was so scared of him, and I just threatened him. I said, look, if you touch me one more time, I'm gonna shoot you. Which reminds me of one of the lines in the 9 to 5 musical and in the movie where it says, I'm gonna change you from a rooster to a hen with one shot. So that was kind of like the way I felt there was. So I thought I'd never come back. We got back to the hotel, but

Ben Reiser: anyway, Crawl, directed by Peter Yates, who directed Breaking Away, which is probably my favorite movie. If I'm just, like, dropping all genre things out of. Out of the equation. Great movie, so. And the only other movie I can remember, really, that Peter Yates has directed, his Bullet, which is fine, but it's weird that somebody made my favorite movie, but I don't really care about the rest of his career. About your guy. Colin Higgins, who directed 9 to 5.

Scott Lucas: Thank you. Thank you. I was wondering when we were going to get back to this. Colin Higgins, the director and co writer of 9 to 5. He's got to go back to him. Well, I don't know his next movie. His next Dolly movie is Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, which, before we talk

Ben Reiser: about second best Dolly movie, by the way.

Scott Lucas: It is a steep.

Ben Reiser: That's a steep drop off.

Scott Lucas: But that's why we're going to talk about it next.

Unknown: Fellow Texans, I am proudly standing here to humbly see. I assure you, and I mean it. Now who says I. I don't speak out as plain as day and fellow Texans, I'm for progress and the flag long may it fly

Scott Lucas: I'm a poor

Unknown: boy come to greatness so it follows that I cannot tell a lie what the hell did he say?

Scott Lucas: Same as you.

Dolly Parton: Not a damn thing.

Unknown: I love to dance a little sidestep now they see me now they don't love my man I love to sweep

Scott Lucas: But Colin Higgins as a director does four movies, and two of them star Dolly Parton. Now, the Best Little Whorehouse in Texas. This could be a movie that you saw a lot on television as well, right, Gabe?

Gabe Rodriguez: It could be, but I never really watched it.

Ben Reiser: Burt Reynolds.

Gabe Rodriguez: I've never really watched it.

Ben Reiser: Burt Reynolds.

Scott Lucas: Now, this is the question. So we're talking about Dolly Parton sort of like outshining Everybody in 9 to 5. So these next two movies that we'll talk about might be like, who would be her equal?

Gabe Rodriguez: Right.

Scott Lucas: And maybe Burt Reynolds would be her equal. He's not, but he certainly does his best. I think Best Little Horror House in Texas has aged pretty well. I remember hating it when I was younger. And the last time I saw it at this Dolly Festival, I thought it

Gabe Rodriguez: was

Scott Lucas: definitely your second best movie.

Ben Reiser: I think it's pretty good. I. I saw it for the first time not too long ago, and I was like, oh, you know what? I don't know why this movie has a bad reputation. It's kind of fun. Who is it? Is it Paul Sorvino who's in as like a. Doing kind of like a Charles Durning part?

Scott Lucas: Charles Durning. It is Charles Durning. And the best scene in the movie is when Charles Durning dances.

Ben Reiser: Yeah.

Scott Lucas: Charles Durning dancing like that at that film festival got a standing ovation.

Unknown: I love to dance a little side step. Now they see me now they. I love the sweep around the wide step a little.

Scott Lucas: I remember turning to some stranger and going, how is that for something? Did you ever think you'd see that? Now, Charles Durning, also in Tootsie.

Ben Reiser: Yes, but Charles Durning in the Coen Brothers movie. Where he also does a little song and dance. Do you think that that's tribute to. Do you think they only had him do that because they saw him do it in Best Little Whorehouse?

Scott Lucas: Dude, that scene in Bessel Horse, it's so great. Now, did you ever think that the one person that would outshine Dolly Parton would be Charles Durning?

Ben Reiser: Maybe. I mean, Charles Durning is an underrated, and he's not all that underrated, but he is like we just talked about recently. Mm. At Walsh. He's one of those guys, he walks into a movie, you're like, okay, this is gonna be worth my time, because this guy's Gabe.

Scott Lucas: You must know who Charles Durning was, right?

Gabe Rodriguez: It's not ringing a bell. I'm gonna look him up, see if I know him.

Ben Reiser: You'll know him. You'll know the face.

Scott Lucas: Yeah, but he won't know him from movies.

Ben Reiser: Was he in Evening Shade with Burt?

Gabe Rodriguez: No, he was in something.

Scott Lucas: He was in Dog Day Afternoon.

Gabe Rodriguez: Hold on, don't tell me.

Ben Reiser: Oh, he's great in Dog Day Afternoon.

Scott Lucas: So good.

Ben Reiser: He's just always great. What are you gonna do?

Scott Lucas: Ben's favorite True Confessions is in the Muppet Movie.

Unknown: Yes.

Ben Reiser: Yeah.

Dolly Parton: Folks sometimes forget that we're just everyday people.

Unknown: Yeah. Yeah.

Scott Lucas: You want to talk about it?

Dolly Parton: Not really.

Dave Letterman: You want to sing about it?

Dolly Parton: Well, I'd love to, Kermit, but I have a frog in my throat.

Unknown: I'm just croaking with you.

Unknown: Me, too.

Dolly Parton: Come on, let's sing.

Dave Letterman: Okay.

Unknown: I can be right, I can be wrong My humble ear A song, a butcher, a baker, an amphibian it makes no difference what you come in Cuz

Unknown: I am everyday people.

Unknown: That sounds good.

Unknown: Yeah.

Unknown: There is a blue one that doesn't

Dolly Parton: like the green one.

Unknown: And there is a chubby one trying

Ben Reiser: to be a skinny one.

Unknown: Different strokes or different folds and so on and so on.

Unknown: It's dooby dooby doo O sha sha ribbit, ribbit. We got to live together. Cause I am no better and neither are you we are the same Whatever we do. You love me.

Unknown: You're hating me. You know me and them.

Unknown: You can't figure out what space I'm in.

Scott Lucas: This is the worst tribute episode of all time.

Ben Reiser: Franchise. He's a terrible tribute, Gabe. You don't know Evening Shade. I feel like you should know who the women on Evening Shade were.

Scott Lucas: Why are we talking about Evening Shade?

Ben Reiser: Mary Lou, Hannah, Elizabeth, Ashley. Michael Jeter was on that show.

Gabe Rodriguez: Who?

Scott Lucas: So it seemed like. Like Dolly Parton, Burt Reynolds. Good match. It seemed like they probably understood each other.

Ben Reiser: Yeah, absolutely. As far as I know where you're going with this, because I know what number three film is. Go ahead.

Scott Lucas: Okay. The next film we should. We should talk about is Rhinestone, directed by Bob Clark. Bob Clark, who's had a hell of a career, a roller coaster of a career. And you know, Gabe, you know how roller coasters, they. They have tremendous highs and then really, you know, precipitous lows. This is a precipitous lows. Bob Clark in 1984. Now, if Burt Reynolds would be the 70s version of somebody that could go toe to toe with Dolly, who would be the 80s version?

Ben Reiser: Okay, before we even say who it is, can I ask you a question? Did these. Did these two guys ever make a movie together? I don't think they did.

Scott Lucas: Burt Reynolds and this other guy we're

Ben Reiser: about to talk about. Yeah, I don't think so.

Scott Lucas: I don't think so.

Gabe Rodriguez: Sylvester Stallone.

Unknown: Hello out there.

Scott Lucas: You ever sing in front of a live audience before ever?

Ben Reiser: Singing?

Unknown: No. Never. Any little work?

Dolly Parton: Well, now, if you're gonna sing country, you're gonna have to think it, walk it, talk it, sleep it. It's gonna be a lot different where we're going.

Unknown: Where we going?

Dolly Parton: Tennessee. This man's gonna be a country singer.

Unknown: Dog, dog.

Dolly Parton: That's country.

Unknown: That's rigor mortis. What's the matter? You rocking? My dignity. I'm a cabbie, I'm not a rider. Stone laundry bag.

Dolly Parton: I mean, first time I was ever on stage, I thought I was going to die.

Unknown: What you do?

Unknown: I threw up.

Unknown: What are you.

Dolly Parton: Jane Wayne, you got to admit you're a strange looking hero.

Unknown: Look at the way you dress. You look like a moving violist. Hey, y', all, this man's from New York. Buzzer.

Unknown: Let's go.

Unknown: Wait. Wait a minute. I'm supposed to say that.

Dolly Parton: What's the difference?

Unknown: The difference is it's my horse.

Dolly Parton: And I'll help you work hard if you'll help me.

Unknown: But you got yourself a deal, cowgirl. Like a rhinestone cowboy. Hey, Tennessee, you've been a fine audience.

Scott Lucas: Now, the problem is Rhinestone is a comedy. And Sylvester Stallone doesn't understand comedy like I think he does.

Ben Reiser: He really funny.

Scott Lucas: He really thinks he's funny. He's like. He's like Rob Lowe. Rob Lowe thinks he's hilarious.

Dolly Parton: Working with Sly was totally different. And Sly Norbert are great singers. Neither one of them claimed to be, but what they did do, they were willing to do it. You're not going to do that to me.

Unknown: Oh, honey, I love seeing you.

Dolly Parton: But anyhow, I'm not squirming. I'm trying to make you not squirm. I'm trying to make you sound.

Unknown: I never said I was in Lucerio or Othello or Pavarotti, but it was

Dolly Parton: a lot of fun. And I really admired Sly's singing. And working with two of them was just totally different.

Unknown: I've never heard her say this many times. Okay, you hit it. Good.

Dolly Parton: You go, bud.

News Reporter/Announcer: As usual, Parton wrote all the songs for the movie. Stallone says that didn't make his musical debut any easier.

Unknown: I don't speak quite Kitty. And sometimes I have a difficult time with articulation. So she would write songs that were impossible to sing. Okay. With more words. She would sit there with Websters and write every word in Western singing.

Dolly Parton: It was a test.

Unknown: It's incredible. It's like a scroll.

Scott Lucas: What happens? Who's she betting with? Some guy. And it like, if she doesn't do this, he gets to have sex with her.

Ben Reiser: It's the guy who owns the super popular country western bar in New York City. Because, you know, New York City, if you want to break. Break out in. In country. Yeah. Head over to New York City.

Scott Lucas: Head over to New York City like Stallone the cab driver, where they make paste picante sauce.

Dave Letterman: Yeah.

Scott Lucas: So is this Ron Liebman who owns the thing?

Ben Reiser: Yes, Ron Liebman. That's exactly who it is.

Unknown: Okay.

News Reporter/Announcer: Total.

Scott Lucas: When I think of country, I think Ron Liebman as well, you know. So if she doesn't get this guy to become a country singer, she can't turn this guy into a country singer. He gets to have sex with her. Awesome. So she finds Sylvester Stallone. Now, at the beginning of the movie, he can't sing, she gets a hold of him, and at the end of the movie.

Ben Reiser: Can I do a spoiler? He can't sing.

Scott Lucas: He can't sing.

Unknown: All right. Don't messing up my pillows and sheep with your powder and. Perfect. If you don't have some understanding of me don't be knocking. Oh, my God. If you don't want to play in my fantasy Stay out of my bedroom, baby, if you can and take the if you want it Come on and get it, baby Satisfaction guarantee I'm a pleaser Free and eager I ain't never had as much as I need Easy love that's down my alley I might be easy but at least I achieve Stay out of my baby, you can't take a he. Stay out of, stay out of. Yo. Hey. What can you do with the heat?

Scott Lucas: It's a terrible.

Ben Reiser: But in the universe of the movie, right, they kind of insinuate that he can sing, right? You're sort of supposed to. And that last song he sings, you're supposed to be like, yeah, yeah, all right. He found his groove.

Scott Lucas: But as little as Sylvester Stallone understands about comedy, he understands about singing even less. And he understands about how you're supposed to gyrate or move. It's just like, what are you doing?

Ben Reiser: Imagine how Frank Stallone felt watching this.

Scott Lucas: That's right. That's my job. He seems to think that, like, being a Chippendale dancer is the same as being a country star. It's a truly abysmal movie. But of course, Dolly is great in it. She's cheerful, she's. I think she gets the joke, but I mean, it's not a very good joke.

Dolly Parton: I'm very real where it counts and that's inside. And as far as my outlook on life and the way I care about people and the way I care about myself and the things that I care about, but I just chose to do this. And it's. Show business is a money making joke. And I just always like telling jokes. But do you ever feel that you're a joke that people make fun of you? Oh, I know they make fun of me, but actually, all these years the people has thought the joke was on me, but it's actually been on the public. I know exactly what I'm doing and I can change it at any time or I make more jokes about myself than anybody because I enjoy. I know, like I say, I am sure of myself as a person. I'm sure of my talent and to me and I'm sure of my love and for life and that sort of thing. I'm very content. I like the kind of person that I am. So I can afford to piddle around and do diddle around with makeups and clothes and stuff because I am secure with myself.

Scott Lucas: Gabe, have you seen Rhinestone?

Gabe Rodriguez: I have not seen Rhinestone, but in the background, Islands in the stream behind me. Can you hear islands in the stream behind me right now?

Ben Reiser: Oh, yes.

Scott Lucas: I thought that was just in my head. I'm having a stroke, a Dolly Parton stroke.

Gabe Rodriguez: My wife doing her tribute right now. She's. She's shook by this.

Scott Lucas: She wants to be on the show.

Gabe Rodriguez: Heidi is.

Scott Lucas: She wants to be on the tribute show.

Ben Reiser: Yeah, bring her on

Scott Lucas: the Livers podcast.

News Reporter/Announcer: What's the worst.

Scott Lucas: All right, so since rhinestone is so bad, I have to provide an alternate. Now, you can't really see this unless you want to watch a really shitty version on YouTube, but it is a movie from 1991. It's a TV movie, and you kind of have to see it. It's called Wild Texas Wind. And Dolly plays a country singer who is meets and is becomes managed and svengalied by Gary Busey. That's right. 1991 Gary Busey. Not cool. Gary Busey from straight time. Ben, look at me. I don't want you looking this up. Listen to me relay the horror of this. When they first kiss, it is the most. On stage, Dolly Parton's America's sweetheart. But off stage, you'll see the pain behind the fence.

Dolly Parton: If you hurt me, I'll swear I'll kill you.

Scott Lucas: Trapped in a murderous scandal. Dolly Parton, Gary Busey, Willie Nelson. A world premiere movie, Wild Texas Wind on NBC Monday. Now here's the interesting thing. It's directed by Joan Tewksbury.

Unknown: Oh.

Scott Lucas: Oh. Now Ben's in.

Unknown: Oh, yeah.

Ben Reiser: We had a whole Joan Tewksbury series a couple years ago.

Scott Lucas: And you didn't have this, huh?

Ben Reiser: No, and I don't remember even hearing about it at the time. Are there other.

Dave Letterman: Are there.

Ben Reiser: Are there other Dolly movies? Was she in any more movies?

Scott Lucas: She is listed in this letterboxd app as being an actor in 105 films, and I've logged 1% of them. Which brings us to the music. Gabe, what would you say is the number one Dolly Parton song?

Gabe Rodriguez: Well, in my household, it's always been her duet with Kenny Rogers, Islands in the street. But that's okay, right? It was very. Gift we're give. But that. But she's a star in that song.

Scott Lucas: We can start. We can start with that.

Ben Reiser: She seemed to ask you about that

Scott Lucas: song because, like, more than anybody, more than Burt Reynolds, more than Sylvester Stallone, more than Gary Busey, she seemed to have a nice relationship with Kenny Rogers. Kenny Rogers seemed to be the yen to her. Yang. Not her equal in any way. Not the male version of Dolly Parton, but just a perfect partner, right?

Gabe Rodriguez: Yes, he was. It was.

Scott Lucas: They seemed to have a genuine affection for her. And when he died, it was. It was very. It was very sad to watch her reaction to it.

Ben Reiser: I think. I think the thing they shared in common other than. You're right, they seem to have good chemistry and their voices sounded good together, but they also had. They both had, like, iconic hair and for him also facial hair. Yeah, but like they had these iconic images that just told you everything most people knew about them, Right.

Scott Lucas: I mean, we're all probably too young to remember her partnership with Porter Wagner, right? Well, definitely. Gabe is

Gabe Rodriguez: way before my time.

Unknown: Watch.

Scott Lucas: Now I don't even want to talk about. One of the reasons I didn't want to bring this song up, Gabe, is because, you know, I don't even want to talk about it. I want to talk about Barry Gibb.

Gabe Rodriguez: He's doing all right.

Scott Lucas: No, you don't know that. Now here's the thing. You're right, because like, remember when she had to cancel the, the Vegas residency? Everyone's like, something's wrong with Dolly. Something's wrong with Dolly. I remember wearing my Dolly Parton shirt on tour and people are like, you know, she's probably pretty sick. She's probably not doing too good. People kept telling me like, Dolly's not doing too good. I'm like, shut up. And so finally like, she like made a video.

Dolly Parton: Well, hey there, it's Dolly. And I'm here to give you an update on a few things going on in my life. First, it's concerning my health. And I have some good news and

Dolly Parton (Interview): a little bad news.

Dolly Parton: But the good news is I'm responding really well to meds and treatments and I'm improving every day. Now the bad news is it's going to take me a little while before I'm up to stage performance level because some of the meds and treatments make me a little bit sweet headed, as my grandma used to say. And of course I can't be dizzy carrying around banjos, guitars and such on five inch heels. And you know that I'm going to be wearing them. Not to mention all those heavy rhinestone outfits, the big hair, my big personality.

Scott Lucas: Turns out she was of course dying and she just didn't want us to worry. Right. But I don't think that's happening with Very good. All right, number one song of all time.

Ben Reiser: Wait, hang on a second. I, I just want. I. I had a question for you and you were so busy talking about other good stuff that I went and looked it up myself. I was wondering if the Bee Gees. Because if you know the Bee Gees wrote Island in the Stream and then you listen to it, you're like, oh, of course, like they're doing Bee Gees harmonies. So then I was like, wait, did the Bee Gees record their own version of it and then they covered it? No, they gave it very good.

Unknown: Wrote everything.

Ben Reiser: Right. But they did record their own version of it, but not until 2001.

Scott Lucas: There was a time when Barry Gibb wrote every hit on the radio, and then after that, Prince wrote every hit on the radio. And, you know, and now it's that dweeb that kicked us off the. The New Jersey show.

Ben Reiser: Oh, God.

Scott Lucas: But let's go back to Dolly. I mean, honestly, if you want to. The number one greatest Dolly Parton song is Jolene. It's. I can't really think of any other country song, like. Has a lot of drama to it.

Unknown: It's.

Scott Lucas: It's darker than most of her other stuff. It's barely a country song. Jolene's not a witch, but she almost could be. You know, it's almost like it's a. It's a nascent Stevie Nicks song, huh?

Ben Reiser: Yeah. It also exists in that same dramatic universe as some Roy Orbison songs, I think. Like that. Not really a country song, but country adjacent.

Scott Lucas: No. I see.

Commentator: Yes.

Ben Reiser: But also the drama of it. Of course.

News Reporter/Announcer: Yeah.

Scott Lucas: I mean, there's a lot of songs about other women, but, you know, are there songs where the other woman has a name?

Ben Reiser: That's a good question. I don't think so. You're right. Usually the other.

Scott Lucas: And Charlotte the Harlot, Nameless by Iron Maiden doesn't count. Gab.

Gabe Rodriguez: Not the other woman. I wouldn't compare it to Iron Maiden. Come on.

Scott Lucas: Why not? What's the matter with you? What are we doing here?

Commentator: What about.

Scott Lucas: We can't talk about Iron Maiden?

Ben Reiser: What about Ranon? Does it have that witchiness to it?

Scott Lucas: That's what I'm saying. Yes. It's definitely. I'm sure it was a big influence on Stevie Nicks.

Ben Reiser: Yeah, that makes a lot of sense.

Scott Lucas: But even as great as that song is, it still hasn't sold as many copies as, I gotta say, number two, I will Always love you, which is. Was written for Porter Wagner. Now, I've never seen her say there was anything romantic going on between them, but if that's the song that you write for the guy who is your mentor and producer and TV partner, and you write, I will always love you. Come on.

Ben Reiser: But I read today. Maybe you already know this, that it's about her leaving Nashville or whatever and going to New York, realizing she had a. She could be bigger outside of those country walls.

Gabe Rodriguez: Yeah.

Scott Lucas: It's her leaving Porter Wagner, who.

Ben Reiser: Sure.

Scott Lucas: Who had a stake in her career. It's like a breakup song to him. But it's a professional breakup song. But I just think. I mean, you know, I put it on yesterday, and I predictably bawled my eyes out. But it. It's not. It's not what Whitney Houston turned it into. You know, it's not this romantic song about Kevin Costner.

Unknown: It's.

Scott Lucas: It's this. It's something else.

Gabe Rodriguez: I heard the story where she gave up some of the royalties to that song after Whitney Houston made it a bigger hit.

Dolly Parton: We both right.

Gabe Rodriguez: Is that what happened?

Scott Lucas: No, that's the thing about Dolly. She never gave up her royalties. What you're probably getting confused with is Elvis wanted to record a cover of it. But Colonel Parker told her that, like, if you want Elvis to record your song, you have to give up at least 50% of your royalties to Elvis. And she's like, I can't do that.

Dolly Parton: Elvis was ready to record it. I told my friend. Friends and people that he was recording it, and they were in town to do the recording. They had invited me down to the session. And Colonel Tom Parker calls me the day before and says, now, you do know that Elvis is recording your song, and you do know that Elvis don't record anything that he don't publish or at least get half the publishing on. I said, really?

Scott Lucas: Which is to say he would have the rights.

Dolly Parton: He would have the rights, at least half. Half of the song rights to the publishing of the song. I said, I can't do that. This song has already been a hit with me, and this is in my publishing company, and obviously this is going to be one of my most important copyrights. And I can't give you half the publishing. Of course. That's stuff that I'm leaving for my family. And he

said, well, then we can't record the song. And I was just heartbroken. I said, well, I'm really sorry, but I can't do that. So I did.

Ben Reiser: That took guts.

Dolly Parton: Well, it didn't to me. It seemed to be the thing to do. It hurt me because I was so disappointed. I was going to have to tell my friends Elvis didn't record it. But I just knew that that was not right and that that was not. If it had been, maybe if I didn't have my own publishing company, had the song not already been a hit, it might have been different. But I couldn't give somebody half of a song that had already been number one. And that was, you know, was evident, had already proved itself.

Scott Lucas: Well, you had some redemption, Whitney Houston.

Dolly Parton: Then, many years later, that's true. When Whitney recorded, I was like, oh, good, because Now I own 100% of the publishing 100% of the writing. And I did really well with that. But I didn't blame Ellis, and I didn't blame Colonel Tom either. It was a decision I had to make at the time, and I'm glad I did.

Scott Lucas: And she stood her ground. And so then when Whitney recorded it for the Bodyguard soundtrack and it became like, the biggest selling song of all time, man, she went cha Ching. And it was like, fuck you, Colonel Parker.

Gabe Rodriguez: Well, she didn't give up the royalties. What she did was she donated some of that money that she got from the royalties to some charity. That's what she did.

Commentator: Now, family, I need us to talk about something that may surprise some people. Because Dolly Parton might have looked like the queen of country music, but baby, black folk were part of Dolly's story too. Whitney Houston took I will always love you and turned Dolly's song into a global phenomenon. Dolly reportedly earned millions from Whitney's recordings. And what did she do with that money? She invested it in an office complex. It was then predominantly black Nashville neighborhood, and Dolly herself called it the house that we. That speaks to me, because she could have taken that money anywhere, but she understood where that blessing came from, from and put part of it back into a black community. And when this country was having that uncomfortable conversation about black lives, Dolly didn't run from it. She made it clear that black people deserved to be seen, heard, and valued. She belonged to anybody who ever heard her music. Any child who opened one of those free books, and any community that experienced the generosity behind all those rhinestones.

Scott Lucas: I mean, you can kind of see where she was coming from. She wasn't somebody that was gonna hoard all the money she made. She wasn't like some tech bro that is in a race to become the richest person on the planet. She could have. She could have held on to all of it, but she just. That wasn't in her. It's too bad. It's too bad that she has to be such an anomaly. It's too

bad. She's gone and they're not. Dolly was a gracious person. I'm not. All right. Number three, coat of many Col.

Unknown: Back

Dolly Parton: through the years I go wondering once

Unknown: again Back to the seasons of my youth and I recall a box of

Dolly Parton: rags that someone gave us and how

Unknown: my mama put the rags to use There were rags of many colors but every piece was small I didn't have a coat and it was way down in the fall Mama sewed the rags together Sewing every piece with love she made my coat of Many colors that I was so proud of While mama

Dolly Parton: sewed she told a story from the

Unknown: boy Bible she had read About a coat of many colors Joseph War.

Dolly Parton: And then she said I hope this

Unknown: coat will bring you good luck and happiness and I just couldn't wait to wear it and mama blessed it with the kiss My coat of many colors that my mama made for me Made only from rags but I wore it so proudly Although we had no money I was rich as I could be in my coat of many colors Mama made for me. So it patches all on my britches Holes in both my shoes in my coat of many colors well, I hurried off to school Just to find the others laughing and making fun of me and my coat of many colors Mama made for me and oh, I couldn't

Dolly Parton: understand that Cause I, I felt I was rich and then I told em of the love my mama sewed in every stitch I even told em all that story Mama told me while she sewed and why my coat of many colors Was worth more than all their clothes

Unknown: they didn't understand it and I tried to make them see One is only poor Only if they choose to

Dolly Parton: be oh yeah, it's true we had no money But I was rich as

Unknown: I could be in my coat of many colors Mama made for me Made just for me.

Scott Lucas: Now, Gabe, you're a huge fan of the View, right? You watch it all the time. What is this deal between Joy Behar and Dolly Parton? They get to a fight on one of the shows at some point.

Gabe Rodriguez: I'm not following the story. You guys know more than I do. What. What's going on?

Scott Lucas: You like Dolly Parton? Tell Joy Behar to you. To you. You don't tell people to. You don't tell people to you, do you? I'm gonna tell you to you. Did she say you to Joy Behar is what I'm I'm asking.

Gabe Rodriguez: I'd have to look it up. You know the story more than I do.

Scott Lucas: No, I thought. I thought you watched the View session with Whoopi Goldberg.

Gabe Rodriguez: Yes, I know what that View is, but some people work during daytime hours.

Scott Lucas: So you work while you watch the View. Yeah, we know that.

Gabe Rodriguez: I don't have regular TV to even get the View. I don't watch it. You watch it. Tell me, what did Dali do on the View?

Scott Lucas: Well, why don't you look it up and you tell us? Because this episode's been pretty dry so far.

Unknown: We.

Scott Lucas: We need some game and to, like, liven it up.

Gabe Rodriguez: Live in Bastard and Joy Behar on the View. Let's see what they say. Had a memorable Exchange interview in 2018 when Behar asked pardon if she considered herself a feminist, leading Dali to famously respond, well, I guess I am. And then, what's fake? I don't know.

Ben Reiser: The interview ended warmly with no anger or insults. The videos claiming that Parton and Behar had a heated argument and walk out on the View are entirely fake. Clickbait.

Dolly Parton: Wow.

Ben Reiser: See, Dolly?

Scott Lucas: So you bought a cave.

Gabe Rodriguez: I didn't buy anything. You were trying to buy the whole thing. No, I just read it. I read that. She said I. There was no conflict.

Ben Reiser: You read it, you bought it.

Gabe Rodriguez: So

Ben Reiser: you brought it up on this podcast. You own it. Yeah.

Scott Lucas: All right, well, what else you got, Gabe?

Gabe Rodriguez: About Dolly Parton.

Scott Lucas: Yeah,

Gabe Rodriguez: I was a bystander.

Scott Lucas: That's not what I thought he was gonna say.

Gabe Rodriguez: I didn't know she wasn't blond, but she had a big impact on most culture in the 70s and 80s. She was a big icon, and she should have been an icon on those MTV icon shows. I don't know if she ever was ever on there, but she was larger than life.

Scott Lucas: Yes. Larger than life.

Gabe Rodriguez: I don't know how tall she was, but she stood tall.

Scott Lucas: She was probably even shorter than you, but with her hair, taller than you.

Gabe Rodriguez: I mean, probably even shorter than me.

Scott Lucas: I'm saying, as hard as it is to believe, Dolly Parton was probably shorter than you. I know doesn't seem possible,

Ben Reiser: but what's your. What's your height, Gabe?

Gabe Rodriguez: I'm about five, five and a half. Don't.

Ben Reiser: Don't give me this about, you know what you are.

Scott Lucas: He's five. Four. He's five' four.

Gabe Rodriguez: No, I'm not five' four.

Commentator: He's.

Scott Lucas: He's five' four.

Gabe Rodriguez: I'm not. Bet.

Ben Reiser: Dolly Parton. Let's play. This is gonna be a fun game. Who's. Who's taller or shorter than Gabe? Do you think Dolly is taller or shorter than Gabe?

Scott Lucas: I think Dolly is shorter than Gabe.

Ben Reiser: You are right. Dolly is 5 foot 0 inches.

Scott Lucas: 5 foot.

Unknown: Wow.

Ben Reiser: 5 foot.

Scott Lucas: No wonder she was in that gnome movie. You wouldn't think she was that short. Is that what you said?

Gabe Rodriguez: Yeah, she doesn't appear to be that short, but maybe.

Scott Lucas: No, the heel stars like that.

Ben Reiser: All right.

Scott Lucas: They don't appear short.

Ben Reiser: Taller or shorter than Gabe. Is Sylvester Stallone taller or shorter than Gabe?

Scott Lucas: I think Sylvester Stallone is taller than Gabe.

Ben Reiser: Gabe, what do you think?

Gabe Rodriguez: I think we're about to the same height.

Ben Reiser: Sylvester Stallone. There are estimates all over the place.

Gabe Rodriguez: But the.

Ben Reiser: The lowest one is 5 7. So even if that's the right one, he's still a little taller than you. Three inches tall.

Scott Lucas: All right, here's a good question. Tom Cruise.

Ben Reiser: That's what that was.

Scott Lucas: My next one, taller.

Gabe Rodriguez: He's. I know.

Ben Reiser: How taller?

Scott Lucas: Shorter than he was. Never in a movie with Dolly Parton, but we. This. We got to know. Taller or shorter than Gabe? Guessing they're the same height. 5 4.

Gabe Rodriguez: Well, the question is, is it actual? Is it. Is it accurate what they say? How, Talia? Because he might be. He might be like Trump and saying he's 6 foot 2 and 215 pound.

Scott Lucas: What does it say? We have to take you. We have to take you at your word.

Ben Reiser: You know, he's the same as 5 7.

Scott Lucas: There's no way he's as tall as Stallone.

Ben Reiser: All right, Daniel Radcliffe, otherwise known as Harry Potter, taller or shorter than Gabe Rodriguez.

Scott Lucas: Taller.

Ben Reiser: Gabe, what do you think?

Gabe Rodriguez: I don't know if he was fully grown when he shot those movies. Was he fully grown?

Ben Reiser: I don't know either. By the end of them, I think he probably was.

Gabe Rodriguez: I mean, that's like.

Scott Lucas: He wasn't. He wasn't in the Hobbit movies. We're not talking about. We're talking about a boy wizard.

Ben Reiser: So taller and shorter than you, Gabe. Daniel Radcliffe. Make a call.

Gabe Rodriguez: I was looking up Emmanuel Lewis the other day and they said that he was three foot. Three foot nine or something.

Scott Lucas: On Webster, you would look up to Emmanuel Lewis, Is that what you're saying?

Gabe Rodriguez: Yeah, I wouldn't look up to him. I was referencing him on the Internet, but that was. That wasn't his top height. He got taller. So this Radcliffe fellow. Yeah, when he was on the show. I'm gonna say I'm taller.

Ben Reiser: Okay. He is officially listed as the same height as you. 5 5. Now, going back to music, Bruno Mars, who came up early in his conversation, is Bruno Mars taller or shorter than you, Gabe Rodriguez.

Scott Lucas: He might be shorter than Gabe Rodriguez.

Gabe Rodriguez: I could tell you this much. He's a worse gambler than me. I know that for sure.

Scott Lucas: Oh, yeah.

Ben Reiser: Oh, tell us that.

Gabe Rodriguez: Owed 80. He owed \$80 million to the casino.

Ben Reiser: 80 million.

Scott Lucas: He's got a habit.

Gabe Rodriguez: Look at him.

Scott Lucas: It's not just gambling.

Gabe Rodriguez: No, it's gambling.

Scott Lucas: He has, you know, he has a well known habit. The Bruno Mars kid of what? Just say there's a reason why he's got so much energy.

Gabe Rodriguez: No, it's gambling. No, he had a residence.

Scott Lucas: More than one thing in this case it's not.

Ben Reiser: The point is, you're saying he owed 80 million to the casino because they supplied him with coke?

Scott Lucas: I don't know, because I'm not saying that. I'm saying he's gambling so he can buy more coke so he can gamble some more.

Dolly Parton: Now I write a lot of songs about my growing up days and about my mama. And most of them are really good because I have a great mom and daddy. Now this is the song mama loves me to sing, the good ones about her, sure, but this is one she hates. So social.

Scott Lucas: So, mother, you're gonna get yours.

Unknown: Yeah, right.

Dolly Parton: I'm gonna sing this so she'll get better faster. Cause she'll get her spunk back. She's gonna be mad at this. This is called traveling man. And if I can remember it, I've never just played it in the guitar. Not wild. The man I loved had a selling

Unknown: route Selling goods from house to house Now I knew my mama would never

Dolly Parton: stand for me Stepping out with a

Unknown: traveling my mama about things that he

Dolly Parton: was a selling but mama didn't know and I sure wouldn't tell him that behind her back I was making plans to meet somewhere with that traveling man that traveling man was a good bit older But a girl needs arms to hold her mama didn't know cause I didn't told her cause she wouldn't understand me Stepping out with a traveling man My mama didn't allow me a going course and I tell lies I reckon

Unknown: I ortn't or she'd have given me the back of her hand if she'd

Dolly Parton: have seen me with that traveling man so I'd tell my mama that I reckon I oughta run to the spring and fetch her some water but what mama didn't know is I had a plan to meet down there with that

Unknown: traveling man Now I made plans to

Dolly Parton: run away with that traveling man on a Saturday well Saturday's here and here I stand and there goes mama with my traveling man.

Unknown: That traveling man with a two time lover he took my love and he took my mother I didn't know cause

Dolly Parton: mama didn't told me and I don't understand mama running off with my traveling man and I am really gonna miss that traveling man.

Gabe Rodriguez: Point is, no, I'm taller than Bruno mars.

Ben Reiser: You're not. You're the same. Same height as Bruno Mars. Five. Five is what he's listed.

Unknown: Wow.

Gabe Rodriguez: I said I'm five and a half. I'm five and a half. My driver's license has five, six by

Scott Lucas: the way, I. I'm calling on this whole thing.

Dave Letterman: Are you.

Scott Lucas: Gabe's 5 4, and he knows he is.

Ben Reiser: Are you shorter and taller than Danny DeVito?

Scott Lucas: He's offended that you even have to ask.

Gabe Rodriguez: Come on, say.

Ben Reiser: I didn't say Emmanuel Lewis. You brought him up.

Gabe Rodriguez: Gabe, I'm taller than Joe Pesci and Danny DeVito.

Ben Reiser: Are you taller than Joe Pesci? I'm gonna look that other.

Gabe Rodriguez: There's no chance I'm shorter than him.

Ben Reiser: Really.

Scott Lucas: You know, once I followed.

Ben Reiser: I followed Joe Pesci short.

Scott Lucas: I followed Joe Pesci down Michigan Avenue because I was like, is that Joe Pesci? And he was in town shooting. Shooting home alone. So it was Joe Pesci. And he realized I was following him, so he stopped and looked in the Bloomingdale's window. And I was like, this is my chance. I have to go up to him and say, I love you. Enraging bowling Goodfellas. Or I just keep walking. What do you think I did?

Ben Reiser: You kept walking.

Scott Lucas: Oh, I kept walking. I walked the on. I did not mess with Joe Pesci. Have any of us ever met Dolly Parton?

Gabe Rodriguez: Here's the. Real quick.

Ben Reiser: What's the closest any of us have come to Dolly Parton? How many steps removed from Dolly Parton or any of us? I'm assuming, Scott, you probably are somehow the most closely tied to Dolly.

Scott Lucas: No, I've been to Nashville.

Ben Reiser: You know, I've been to.

Gabe Rodriguez: Now I've been to. I've been to Pigeon Forge.

Scott Lucas: I've been to Dollywood. I've been in Dollywood. We went to Dollywood a couple years ago. So me. We were hoping she was going to be there. We looked for her. She wasn't there.

Ben Reiser: Okay. I'm friends with the guys in Ruth. Ruth, which is named after the Lily Tomlin movie, the Incredible Shrinking Woman. That's the name of one of the characters. And Lily Tomlin was in nine to Five. So there you go. I'm four steps from there.

Unknown: You go.

Ben Reiser: Five steps removed.

Scott Lucas: Perfect. Gabe is just as tall as Dolly Parton. So we all have connection to Dolly Parton. I know you wanted to do this yesterday, Ben, but it would have just been too difficult to do it yesterday. What can we say? I mean, everyone is going to miss Dolly Parton. Everyone is going to miss her. And. And we're all really lucky for being around, you know, while she was around. So what else is there to say? Just try to be. Try to be 10% as good of a person as Dolly Parton.

Ben Reiser: Was yeah for you non religious types, just ask yourself what would Dolly do?

Scott Lucas: What would Dolly do? And for your religious types, you know what would Dolly do?

Unknown: Well, I dreamed I saw the knights in armored kind Saying something about a queen There were peasants singing and drummers drumming and the archers lit the tree There was a fanfare blowing to the sun There was floating on the breeze. Look at mother nature on the run in the 20th century look at mother nature on the run in the 20th century. I was lying in a burned up basement with the full moon in my eye I was, I was hoping for replacement when the sun burst through the sky There was a ban in my head and I felt like I could cry. I was thinking about about what a friend had said I was hoping it was a lie Thinking about what a friend had said I was hoping it was a lie. Well, I dreamed of saw the silver spaceships flying in the yellow haze of the sun There were children crying and colors flying all around the chosen ones all in a dream all in a dream had begun. Flying Mother Nature silver sea to a new home in the sun Flying Mother Nature silver sea to a new home.

