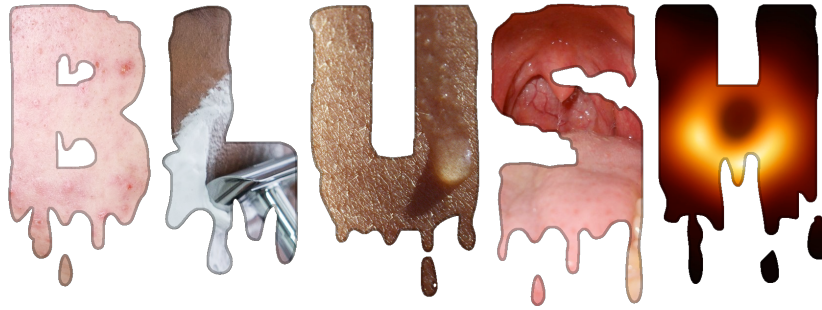




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Text excerpts from the audio clips, arranged by their icon.

NEWSPAPER

NOFI

Does anyone have the paper?

FISHBOWL ASTRONAUT

I do.

NOFI

What's the news, Fishbowl Astronaut?

FISHBOWL ASTRONAUT

Same as yesterday.

NOFI

Read me a headline.

FISHBOWL ASTRONAUT

"Same As Yesterday"

NOFI

There's nothing about me?

FISHBOWL ASTRONAUT

In the newspaper?

NOFI

Yeah.

FISHBOWL ASTRONAUT

I don't think so...

NOFI

Can I check?

FISHBOWL ASTRONAUT

Why would there be something about you in the newspaper?

NOFI

Why not?

FISHBOWL ASTRONAUT

Did you do something?

NOFI

I do things all the time.

FISHBOWL ASTRONAUT

Things they would write about in the newspaper?

NOFI

It doesn't take a whole lot to get written about in the newspaper.

FISHBOWL ASTRONAUT

Have you been in the newspaper before?

NOFI

Sure, lots of times.

CANCAN

Why haven't we heard about it?

NOFI

It's been a while. Since before I knew all of you.

CANCAN

NoFi, when have you been in the newspaper?

NOFI

Well the first time was when I was in kindergarten and I convinced my teacher that we should stage an adaptation of Moby Dick I had put together. She was surprised. She didn't think a six year old could get through Moby Dick. And she was right, I didn't actually read it until I was 9. But I had this whale book and it was really more of a platform to explore my interest in whales. Moby Dick seemed to be the premiere whale content so I got my dad to give me the gist. The adaptation was all me though. I played Ahab, too. The local newspaper caught wind of it and thought they'd do a little fluff piece, but the reporter was so impressed that he sent the theater critic to the next performance. She was blown away. We got a rave review and it ended up transferring

to a commercial run at the local playhouse. They ended up replacing us all with adult actors, but even then my adaptation was called “profound”.

CANCAN

How many times have you been in the newspaper?

NOFI

...Seven.

FISHBOWL ASTRONAUT

But why today?

NOFI

Hunch.

COWBOY HAT

KEDIAN

I got bills to pay

I got a paper on my desk It's a kind of form I've been putting to the test

Y'all might recognize recognize that I'm i'm 1099-misc kind of guy

A 1099-misc kind of guy

A 1099-mic kind of guy

1099-misc kind of guy

I've been working out

I've been working out

I might try and buy

A membership to the Y...MCA

But, I got bills to pay

And they're comin' pretty fast. soon as pay day

Can I make it last

Pay your taxes quarterly or you might feel sorely

I'm just a 1099-misc misc kind of guy

miscellaneous kind of guy

A 1099-misc kind of guy

BYE

DRESS

CANCAN

NoFi where have you been?

NOFI

I was at the open mic night.

CANCAN

We've been looking for you everywhere you're not even dressed.

NOFI

You guys were all there.

CANCAN

No, we've been here.

NOFI

Did you guys all go somewhere?

CANCAN

We've been here.

NOFI

Huh.

CANCAN

We have to get out of here.

NOFI

Why?

CACTUS JACK

Weird stuff happens in here.

CANCAN

NoFi I'm melting into my cup.

NOFI

You were always melting into your cup.

CANCAN

But now I'm like really really melting. I'm barely here. Let's get out of here.

NOFI

I sort of like it here.

FISHBOWL ASTRONAUT

You like it?

NOFI

Have you ever felt you were finally in a place where tailors could be tailors and cobblers could be cobblers? Where you don't have your tailors cobbling and your

cobblers tailoring? Sure maybe her father was a tailor, but does that mean she can't be a cobbler? I feel like I can be a cobbler here.

CANCAN

Alright come off the Island of Misfit Toys NoFi.

NOFI

I'm not kidding Cancan.

CANCAN

We gotta get out of here.

NOFI

Why?

CANCAN

Because...

NOFI

Because?

CANCAN

Yeah, because.

UNDIES

*Suddenly, the
sound of a race car
revving its engine
extremely loudly.*

*They are getting
into the car.*

*They sing "Days of
the Week" over the
revving.*

*A big fan blows
their hair.*

ALL

Sunday

Monday

Friday
Wednesday
Saturday
Tuesday
Maybe that's my favorite day.
Day by day.
Day by day.

I got away.
I got away.
I got away on an Amtrak train.
I got away.
I got away 26.2 miles every single day.
It's a marathon.
It's a daily commute.
It's a marathon daily commute.
Cus' it can get it back to... where?

They're still driving.

The fan blows on.

BINOCULARS

*Suddenly NOFI's
one night stand is
there.*

*ONE NIGHT STAND
is played by BLACK
HOLE.*

*On the edge of the
bed. Smoking a
cigarette.*

ONE NIGHT STAND

I promise quality satisfaction and come in a cool, dry condition. Have me for breakfast or dessert. Safe, sweet, meant for consumption---yeah I'm sexy and want to trust you. You can trust it. Booty call? Friend with benefits you can rely on. Good sex you can rely on.

NOFI

Cotton, string no applicator. I'm reliable also, but not the kind of reliable you're talking about. I'm not consistent and I can't keep coming back to you. This is a no nonsense, subtle, not embarrassing one time thing. This won't keep happening between us. I

don't come with a lot of writing or instructions. Ridges for insertion. I can disappear. I can be flaky, mysterious, hard to get loner. But to call me cute would be to get me wrong. Useful.

*It starts raining
outside. Thunder in
the distance.*

ONE NIGHT STAND
Together?

NOFI
Together

ONE NIGHT STAND
One, Two –

NOFI
I mean unless you'd rather.

ONE NIGHT STAND
I'd rather?

NOFI
Exactly

ONE NIGHT STAND
Usually there's another option

NOFI
Okay, I'll go first then. My mom is 67, a Pisces, a nurse, a total bitch, she fucks on the second date, has a lot of boyfriends she won't introduce me to, but married my mother for good last year. I usually just say I work in finance. Seems more helpful.

ONE NIGHT STAND
Okay, I'll help then. You're not sure of your future or if you'll ever be able to afford a home, but your job has upward mobility and you've found a respectable partner to be taking Instagram photos with.

NOFI
Photos.

ONE NIGHT STAND
Yes, I think you love taking photos with them. And of them. You pretend that that sort of pseudo-romantic visual self- satisfying emotional thirst trap is beneath you, but we all know that in reality you just want to be---

NOFI

Woah WOAHH Woah. I am not taking any photos with you if that's what you're into. This is just for kicks, yucks, and kinks. No living record. No dead archive.

ONE NIGHT STAND

Stuck.

NOFI

Stuck.

ONE NIGHT STAND

It was nice of you to have us over.

*Huge thunder
crash.*

*Suddenly BLACK
HOLE is no longer
on the bed smoking
a cigarette but
sitting across a
table from NOFI.*

*Maybe drinking a
cocktail.*

*Maybe someone
doing karaoke plays
in the background.*

NOFI

Not if you want me to interrupt everyone

ONE NIGHT STAND

I can't be responsible for that much pain

NOFI

(sung)

Home, Home on the range

ONE NIGHT STAND

We can't do that!

NOFI

Love Shack? A Whole New World?

ONE NIGHT STAND

Karaoke is its own art form. Don't disrespect yourself like that.

NOFI

If I think about it too hard, I'll have to sing.

ONE NIGHT STAND

So sing.

NOFI

No, I'm no show puppy.

ONE NIGHT STAND

It's nothing to be ashamed of. I love the spotlight.

Thunder crash.

*They are back in
bed. Maybe another
cigarette.*

NOFI

And my mom and mom were like "Wednesday. Saturday. Thursday. Monday, every pill has their place by Monday. There's not even a Sunday box. Mostly we just put tic-tacs in there to keep the time. No-Fi, sweetie, Mom and Mom and I are worried about you. Your grades are slipping. You can't keep a job. No 401K. Or afford a field trip on your own. We're gonna have to cut you from the football team. You begged us to let you play on the football team." And I said, "I begged you to let me play on the football team." And she said "You begged us to let you play on the football team." And they gave in. So I did. I was on the football team, holding down a part-time job, had a beautiful girlfriend, and for what? Now I'm here... looking back it realizing it was all a lie.

ONE NIGHT STAND

You really played football?

NOFI

No. Although I did beg to play on the team.

Thunder crash.

*NOFI is at an open
mic in a bar.*

*NO-FI sees red. No
matter how much
they try, they can't
stop seeing red.
The color. The
feeling. The rage.
Red is everywhere.
In their cheeks and
on the stage.
The scene shifts. A
pool of light
appears
downstage.
We are at NO-FI's
bad stand-up set.
NO-FI heads to the
mic.*

NO-FI

I set two friends up on a date once How do you think it went?

it went just fine

they dated for a few months didn't fall in love or nothing

but two great people

having great sex

great dates

a little happier a little less lonely even for a bit

thought it was good

I flew across the country and you told me you didn't want to have sex with me
anymore.

That's a statement. That's a boundary I can respect, but no the way you sprung it on
me. That's totally an anaomly of care. Or lack of care.

*faintly in the
distance we hear a
song similar to Look
What You've Done
by JET*

*if you need a
refresher its
something close to:*

*oh well look what
you've done/ seems
like such fun/ a fool
of everyone.*

*This might cause
NO-FI to go into a
semi-delusional
self-manifesto*

What parts of ourselves do we
kill in order to appear whole
in order to be included to be seen
What parts do we outgrow but find again
how can I find them again
I like the person I was.
I used to be.
I am a bad guy. Now I'm a good person.
What is growing up? Am I doing it right? I'm trying so hard to become one thing, I
forget about everything— everyone else.
Why am I changing
These changes are expensive
These changes are expensive and they hurt me but I am brave
but I am becoming

*NO-FI brushes that
off and continues
their stand-up set.*

8 years sort of just ends, doesn't it? You can only mistreat it so many times when roots
won't grow. I am over you. I am removing soil fertilizer from what surrounds you.
My To-Do List looks like this
EMAIL EMAIL PRINT EAT TEXT TEXT CALL SHIT FUCK EAT
It's a simple list. It will do the trick. Email email text text print eat call shit. Maybe I'll get
a little rest in there someday. How comforting.

*Song stops playing.
Maybe someone in
the audience boos.*

*Another spotlight
appears on the
BLACK HOLE.*

*Who is sitting at a
table in the
audience of the bar.*

BLACK HOLE

Is that it?

NOFI

No, there's more.

BLACK HOLE

More. Another four letter word.

*The sound of utter
chaos.*

CROW

KEDIAN

say smart / say smart speak / say the smart speak so dumb makes the whole train
looker prettier for even showing up at all / it has no direction but to make a brain for
itself and smash that brain in half

everyone else laughed because I laughed first / they were echoes / everyone else
laughed once everyone else laughed / knowing there would be time to not laugh /
everyone else laughed at me they're always laughing at me / everyone else laughed
getting the joke but I was in the dark mispronouncing words and eating the same
breakfast

yesterday on piano in the key of F / yesterday with slipper socks and three grown
adults/ three grown adults knowing they will never be children again/ HELP I've grown
up they roar/ I'm growing up I'm not the only person at this music stop/ I could take out
the trash today, it is my turn, after all.

He wants me to be bigger /small things refuse to get bigger unless given proper
substances or supplies/

I'll accept gifts sure, but I want to be able to grow / a gift can be an addition but its
never a transformation/ it doesn't clean the house or get rid of debt/ it could be time
together or a thing to remember us both by/ timestamped into our own co-existence
enthraling to cut charm from the dick

I'm gonna soak up the sun

Gonna tell everyone

To lighten up

I'm gonna tell 'em that I've got no one to blame

For every time I feel lame I'm looking up

I'm gonna soak up the sun

MUG

CANCAN

Have you all noticed I've been sweating a lot recently?

CACTUS JACK

No.

CANCAN

Oh. Well I've been sweating a lot recently.

FISHBOWL ASTRONAUT

Nice.

CANCAN

It's not. At first I thought it was like a gland thing. But then I noticed I was losing weight. I feel like I'm starting to disappear. It just, doesn't feel like. I don't know. It doesn't feel like, my body. I don't feel like I have cancer or anything. It doesn't feel like that. I guess not that I would know. It just feels like I am slowly melting and then subsequently evaporating. I know this is wild but I feel maybe I shouldn't be just letting the sweat drip onto the floor. I've started collecting myself in my Florida Keys souvenir coffee mug. I assume you all just think I drink a lot of coffee, if you even think that. And then I transfer into an airtight jar I keep in the fridge that I've labeled "tears". I thought someone might find it funny... or concerning. I'm not great at asking for help.

CACTUS JACK

The jar of tears is actually sweat?

CANCAN

I mean it's me.

CACTUS JACK

That's disgusting Cancan. I use that in my coffee.

CANCAN

You put that in your coffee?

TV

It's the news.

*CACTUS JACK
plays the ANCHOR.*

*FISHBOWL
ASTRONAUT is the*

*REPORTER ON
THE SCENE. They
wear a mustache.*

ANCHOR (CACTUS JACK)

Hello and good evening. I'm Patricia Moleson and this is your six o'clock news. A local man has been reported missing by his daughter after he didn't come to the dinner they had arranged Sunday evening. Fifty-six year old Armando Neeson was last seen at his book club Saturday evening. Other members of the club have reported that Mr. Neeson was acting strange. Becky Hubber, the club's organizer, reported that Mr. Neeson told her that he "didn't recognize himself" but also that he was "excited about the future". With more on this story let's take to our on the site reporter, Robert Fluffigan.

*Cut to the reporter
at the scene
outside an
apartment building.*

REPORTER ON THE SCENE (FISHBOWL ASTRONAUT)

Thanks Patricia. Twenty-five year old Annie Neeson was preparing for what she thought would be another typical dinner with her father Armando but he never showed. At first she thought he might be running late, but after a few hours had passed and she was unable to get in touch with him, she reached out to the authorities. So far there have been no leads. Mr. Neeson was in good health and followed a regular schedule, says his daughter, making the disappearance all the more peculiar. All they found at the scene was Mr. Neeson's pet parakeet. Ms. Neeson said she does not have memory of her father owning a bird but reported that he always...

*NOFI changes the
channel.*

It's a talk show.

*FISHBOWL
ASTRONAUT plays
the HOST.*

*CACTUS JACK
plays the GUEST.*

HOST (FISHBOWL ASTRONAUT)

So tell me. I know you don't like to give too much away, but share a little. How do you do it?

GUEST (CACTUS JACK)

The thing is... I tell people exactly what I'm going to do. I could be like, "hey I'm gunna

take your watch” but then as soon as it’s in my pocket people lose their minds. People know that I’m going to change them, not entirely, but I’m going to push them to grow past their breaking point. Sometimes when something expands enough it’s totally unrecognizable. Nothing has changed really, but if you’re two feet and blue one day and eight feet and green the next it’s like someone has put a spell on you. I’m not a magician though. I’m just someone that makes you grow, whether you want to or not. You don’t have to call me, you don’t have to rub a magic lamp, no need to say my name three times. One day I’ll just be there. And it will start, and you don’t really get a say in the matter. And maybe you’ll be better for it or maybe it will ruin your entire life but it’s something that will happen. I will be seeing you.

NOFI changes the channel.

COMMERCIAL 1 (recording)

...so call us now at 101-0110 again that 101-0110. We’ll make that bleep bloop again and your bleeps will bleep harder than they ever did before. *No one will feed your face like your mother did, but we’ll feed your face with 0101010101.*

NOFI changes the channel.

COMMERCIAL 2 (recording)

Catch it all now on International Snowmobile Rescue Mission: Antarctica Edition. Wednesdays on...

NOFI changes the channel.

COMMERCIAL 3 (recording)

call our troll free hotline at...

NOFI changes the channel.

COMMERCIAL 4 (recording)

Are you ever sad?

NOFI changes the channel.

COMMERCIAL 5 (recording)

You gotta break it up.

NOFI goes back.

BLACKHOLE COMMERCIAL ON TV

You get it in one big piece. One big piece that keeps on coming and you gotta break it up. Like a sausage maker. This long link that just keeps coming and coming and coming. At some point you gotta be like, “alright this link is long enough”. Chop chop chop chop chop. Your mom would probably tell you that you need a vacation and I hate to break it to you but she’s right. She’s right more than you think. Give her a call tomorrow. So where you gunna go? The Grand Canyon? The Great Wall of China? You strike me as someone who wants to see something awe inspiring. Something that inspires...awe. But how about something more original? Something your friends don’t have a picture with? It’s not a big hole in the ground or a big wall or a big rock or a big tower or a big salty pool. It’s more of a... big region of spacetime exhibiting gravitational attraction so strong that nothing—no particles or even electromagnetic radiation such as light—can escape from it. But that’s just how Wikipedia would describe me. I mean... it. Come see me.

NOFI

(to the TV)

Compelling.

BLACKHOLE

It is.

NOFI

Where do I sign?

BLACKHOLE

No need. Just a credit card number.

NOFI

Maxed.

BLACKHOLE

Here’s another.

NOFI

Will I really get something?

BLACKHOLE

Maybe you will maybe you won’t. The important thing is that you’re not sitting here.

NOFI

That’s like the definition of reckless.

BLACKHOLE

And you are the definition of... I don’t know... Stalwart.... but also... Spiraling... I know that’s a verb but...

NOFI
Read.

BLACKHOLE
See you there.

*The TV suddenly
breaks again.*