

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

So, that's it for this video, I hope you enjoyed it, I'll see you in the next one, bye!
You know what I started doing during the day is watching Deal or No Deal, remember that show?
Deal or No Deal, is that the one where it's like a Plinko machine?
No, Sean remind me what happened, so the library's all ran out of books.
And so you found yourself with a few extra hours to start watching Date.
No, like I'll have a suitcase one, so this is on a game show network or something?
Yes, it's on a game show network, that's exactly right.
Right, so you're just crushing great ideas during the day and then doing theater at night?
No, I can't text and type because I want to save my hands because I play piano on the show,
and so I watched some games while I had my breakfast, so I watched Deal or No Deal, remember
that show?
Yeah, of course, what does breakfast look like these days right now when you're in production?
Let me guess, let me guess.
Jason, go first.
It's Eggs Benedict, because that's a breakfast with a sauce, and there used to be a sauce on every
meal.
Okay, let me have a guess.
It's kind of like a sausage muffin thing, but instead of like an English muffin on the sides are donuts.
They're cut in half like a bagel.
By the way, that sounds amazing.
The sausage is just loose, good in plenties, you know, but what liquor is?
Instead of, yeah, at a restaurant, instead of like that pepper grinder, they go,
good in plenties, and they just squeeze it out.
Shawn, remember that huge, Shawn, remember that photo of you and me and Scotty with that huge
pepper grinder
we were in Istanbul and the guy came over, you know, they come over and they go like,
would you like some pepper?
I can't hear about the European vacations anymore with you guys.
That was the second European trip we did.
So anyway, so Shawn and I were there, and the guy comes up, you know, they come up and go,
Who was your date, Will?
Who was my date?
Well, it doesn't matter.
I could have been your date.
We don't need to get into...
Every time we mention somebody now in the podcast, that person's like, I got 30 phone calls.
I know, they're like...
So anyway, you know the guy comes up and they go, you want some fresh pepper?
And they go, yeah, let's get some fresh pepper.
Give us a Turkish accent, Will.
And this guy, no, and this guy, do you think I want to have to write a fucking...
Your mystery guess is laughing.
A note's apology that I got to post.
His mic is hot.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

It's a mail.

I got to post on my Instagram a note's apology because you prompted me to do an accent of the guy who was my server in Istanbul.

No, thank you.

So anyway, he goes, would you like some pepper?

And I'm not, Shawn, I'm not exaggerating.

The pepper shaker was four feet long.

And two guys came out to hold it.

And two guys to hold it.

It sounds like my big bong year is back in my early 20s.

Yeah.

That used to be on my dating profile.

Takes two guys to hold it.

Listen, I have a...

All right, so listen.

Your guest is still laughing.

I know.

That's a good sign.

It's a good sign.

Wait, but you guys, I texted you one of those comments.

Did I text you both?

The comment was like a week ago and somebody wrote about my show.

No.

They said, didn't you get that, Jay?

A fat suit.

Yeah, another fucking fat suit thing.

Wait, what?

Well, somebody made a comment that Sean Davis is wearing a fat suit.

No, somebody asked me on my Instagram or somewhere, Twitter.

I don't remember.

And it was, Sean, did they...

Is that outfit that they put you in supposed to make you look bigger, which is, you know, code for fatter?

Right.

And it's just, I'm just fucking fat.

And tell them what your friend said you should say,

no, it's supposed to make me look thinner.

Why?

By the way, Sean, it reminded me, I was watching...

I was seeing what your dating profile reminded me.

I was watching alone that show, right?

And it reminded me of something that they say in that all the time, which is also in your dating profile, which is, hey, Bear.

Hey, Bear.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

Hey, Bear.
What's up, Bear?
No, well, you know, shameless plug here, you know...
I know, you have your new show.
Yeah, have you not watched Outlast yet?
Oh, no, I want to see that.
I haven't seen it yet.
Oh, come on.
You know, I'm going to watch it.
Sean, it sounds like you've got time on your hands.
Maybe instead of dealing with no deal.
No, no, no, man.
Are you kidding?
Dude, there's 11 seasons of deal there, no deal.
He's going to get through.
What was for breakfast, by the way?
I had, yesterday I had an egg, cheese...
We don't need the full week.
A cheese egg and bacon bagel.
And then today I did good.
I did yogurt with grape nuts and blueberries.
And a banana.
And a little bit of a candy bar.
Wait, was the candy bar like a fun dip for the yogurt?
No, it was a payday.
You called that the equalizer, right?
Just to cancel out everything else.
Time for the equalizer.
It was half a payday.
Listen, you want to talk about a payday?
Our guests.
Segway, segway, segway.
Our guests.
Let me just say this.
They've sold more than 100 million records worldwide.
Wait a minute.
54 songs in the UK singles chart.
17 top 10 albums in the UK chart.
If I name a song, you're going to, I don't know,
you're going to immediately guess.
They're incredibly, incredibly talented guys
who have been just such a huge part of the music scene
for so long.
I don't want to say so many years,

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

because then they're going to be bummed out
and be like, what?
That makes us old.
But I will say this.
We are all legitimate fans of theirs.
None more than Sean and me.
Sean and I have discussed these guys all the time.
It's Martin Gore and Dave Guy from Depeche Mode.
Are you fucking kidding me?
Wow.
This is fucking crazy.
A real bookie.
This is a legit fucking rave.
We were, this is like, I got ready, can I go?
Dave, Dave, hang on.
Dave, Dave and Martin, you should know.
Nice to meet you, both of you gentlemen by the way.
This is amazing.
Such an honor.
Thank you.
Pleasure.
Thank you.
And I knew that, and we've been sort of trying to work this out
to get you guys on here.
And Sean and I talk about you guys all the time.
And we talk about your music.
We talk about your songs.
And about, Sean, do you remember about a month ago
when we were talking about you guys,
and we were going to,
and I knew that it was going to happen.
And it took, it was one of the worst,
it was the hardest I've ever had to work
to keep a secret from my wife.
Oh, you knew.
It was before that.
I knew Sean when we had that conversation.
Oh my God.
You guys, I'm freaking out.
I have 17,000 things to say to you.
But we got time, Sean.
We got nothing but time, actually.
You said we have nothing but time.
Of course, Amy.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

It's just a question of time.
Right?
I know every word to every song.
Every word to every song.
This is so wild.
And I have to do this for you guys because,
okay, so I'm going to start out with this.
Martin.
I've never seen,
I'm freaking out.
So Martin, you came to a taping of Will and Grace.
That is true.
I did.
Yes.
What if he didn't remember that?
I've been trying to keep that quiet for years.
This is massive fun.
That's news to Dave.
I love it.
So wait.
So you came to a taping of Will and Grace
and somebody whispered in my mirror,
you're Martin Gors in the audience.
I'm like, what are you talking about,
Martin Gors in the audience?
He's, the passion is like my life.
What are you talking about?
And then you were there with your wife
and your wife's friends or something like that.
And then you asked, let's go out to grab some fish and chips
at the standard hotel on Sunset Boulevard.
And I was like, oh my God,
I'm going to go out for fish and chips.
I've never had fish and chips.
This is so exciting.
So we go out for fish and I'm walking down the street with you,
which was so surreal to me.
And I did, I did this bit for you,
which is waiting for the night off a violator.
And I'll do it for you now, which is,
wait, wait for it.
It will cut out the long bar.
Cause this is what I used to do in college.
Here it comes.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

This is it.
This is coming up.
And I wrote my fucking senior thesis paper on this song.
Come on.
In college.
Wow.
Swear to God.
Here we go.
Here we go.
This is it.
You're taking off the glasses.
This is it.
Uh-oh.
Cause it's not like a bug.
I've never thought of that as sounding like a bug.
But now that you have given me that visual,
when we perform that song every night,
I will be thinking of you.
Time to reshoot the video.
So Dave and Martin,
how do you guys respond to,
Sean Hayes has just boiled your music down
to sounding like a bug.
Oh my God.
This is unbelievable.
Again, like, you know, not to belabor it,
but we talk about you guys all the time,
such massive fans of your music,
and have been, and all the way through.
And we've had the good fortune of having bands on the show
who have been played important parts of our lives,
but there are a few bands like you guys
who have been there consistently over time.
And that is also the mark of real greatness,
is showing consistency over time.
And you're still doing it.
And so I kind of want to go back to the very beginning,
if I may, and not to bore you,
because we're so interested to hear about
how Depeche Mode came to be.
And each one of you,
I know that you each have a different journey
is how you became part of Depeche Mode.
And I'd love to sort of hear from you guys

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

what that process was.

Shaking right now.

Well, Vince and Andy really started the whole thing.

They had like a little band going.

And I bought a synthesizer,

so that kind of like got me in the band.

By the way, that's a very common,

we've interviewed a bunch of bands,

and they're always like, I had a guitar,

I had a camera, whatever, right?

Well, there's a lot to do with that,

because what we found out was,

well, elaborate on this,

but you didn't need the amp anymore

and you didn't need to,

you could just DI straight into a PA system,

carried a little synth under your arm pretty much to a gig

and show up with our little drum machine

and three sims and kind of teetering on some beats

or teetering on some beer crates in a pub

or whatever as our stands,

and we could play, you know.

And Dave, did you know these guys when they first started

or did you meet them a little bit later?

Well, they were sort of infamous in the town that we grew up in

for other things,

but I did not really run in the same circles,

but it was a good thing for me

because they sort of, you know,

they gave me suddenly a focus

that I had something to kind of grab hold of

and maybe it was a way out of the town that we grew up in.

And they, yeah, I think how we met properly

was I was sort of hanging out with another band, right, Mark?

Yeah, yeah.

And we were just rehearsing in the same space

and one evening, and I knew Vince a bit,

but we were singing, sort of jamming together

the song Heroes or Bowie song.

I love it.

And Vince heard me sing in the song,

supposedly the story goes,

and asked me to join his band,

which was then a different band,

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

which Martin was in with Vince.
What was the name of that band?
Composition of Sound.
What an amazing name.
For sure.
Cause, cause for sure.
Cause.
Like OMD, you know, they were trying to be like OMD.
But meanwhile, it sounds like a manual
that you find in a music store.
I was like, that's got to go.
And I got such a, I got a better name,
Depeche Mode, which everybody also went like,
what?
Wait, but let's talk about that
because in French it's fast fashion,
so why, why, why fast fashion?
I'll tell you the story.
Look, I was, I was at art,
sort of art college in,
as we all were at one point.
And I was doing a fashion course there.
And there was this, this mag, there was magazines there.
I think, I think it was something like we had a gig somewhere.
We had to kind of, we were thinking about changing the name.
We had a little pub gig coming up,
and this was the moment to change the name.
So what should it be?
This magazine was a French sort of magazine,
a French fashion magazine lying there at the moment.
I had no idea what it meant or anything.
I just read it out over the phone to somebody.
I said, oh, we're Depeche Mode.
And that's a weird name.
I was like, yes, it is.
Did it put more pressure on you guys
to come up with fancy outfits?
No, we were already trying that.
Most of them homemade at that point.
So, you know, it would be,
it would be a pair of football socks with like, you know,
like up to the knees, you know,
pulled up to the knees with some cutoffs,
like to the knees and tuck them in.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

And some house slippers.
To make them look, you know,
some house slippers that would come out.
Sean is fully around.
So tell me, so then, so you guys form,
so Dave, so you join and then you name it,
and you guys call yourself Depeche Mode.
You start doing gigs.
How many, before you, your first record is Speak and Spell, yeah?
Yeah.
Everywhere to every song.
Yeah, I mean, Speak and Spell.
Yeah, and I want to get into that in a second
and into Vince, Clark and,
but what was, before you released Speak and Spell,
how does that come about that you guys get that record deal?
Like, what are you doing? Where are you performing?
Yeah.
We were playing most of the songs from that record,
right in my light, with mostly Vince Clark songs.
And it was, it's really the one album that,
because Vince left immediately after that album was released.
And Dave, he's saying on that.
Before it was released.
Oh, really? Before it was released.
But he's saying on that record too, yeah?
Well, we sang together.
It was a sort of three-part harmony thing,
sort of Beach Boy meets Ramones type thing
we were going for, I guess.
But the speed of the Ramones
and the harmony of the Beach Boys,
that was, I think, had Daniel Miller
from Mute Records who signed us.
He didn't really sign us though.
It was just a sort of handshake.
We never actually signed the contract.
Is that where the song, the handshake,
is the contract?
Martin was probably just,
Martin wrote that song and he was probably just angry
at everybody at that point.
Music business and being ripped off again and again and again.
So this guy from Mute Records,

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

he sees you, what, in a pub or you're playing clubs?

Yes, in a pub.

We supported one of his other acts called Fad Gadget at a pub called The Bridge House.

Fad Gadget.

You've got to check out Fad Gadget.

You guys are going to like Fad Gadget, great music.

Really?

Yes.

I'm actually going to write it down now that you say that.

Fad, F-A-D-G-A-D-E-T.

D-A-G-A-D-G-E-T.

Yeah, you've got to.

Martin went to school, I did not.

Oh, well then you're going to, I mean, Jason, anything?

Nothing.

OK.

So Daniel saw us supporting Fad Gadget with our synths set up on, by that time we'd gone to all synths.

We started off with a bass and a guitar in the band, but we'd gone to all synths and we had them set up on our beer crates.

And Daniel was impressed.

Yeah, we were.

We played really fast and he, his story goes he was mixing a sound for Fad Gadget, just a little pub in the east end of London, called The Bridge House in Canningtown.

And, you know, we had a residency there on like Thursday nights.

The guy, even though nobody would be there, would be like two people and a dog, you know, most of the time.

As Depeche Mode.

Yeah, as Depeche Mode.

And the guy that ran the pub, he took a shine to us and sort of let us play there Thursday nights.

So we got this support, which was a big thing because we loved Fad Gadget.

And, you know, and Jason loved it.

Yeah, you've got to check out Fad Gadget.

So you guys, so you go and you support these guys and then this dude from Ute Records like, yeah, you guys are supporting Fad Gadget are pretty good.

We actually had met him before.

Vince and I had trailed around all the record companies.

We had gone to Rough Trade Records in London thinking that we had made this masterful demo

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

that they were going to sign us immediately because we actually had melody and most of their other bands at that time did not.

They were just noise.

And we thought they could assign us immediately.

And the guy that ran the record company, Scott, he was not really interested, but he listened to our tape.

And while he was listening to the tape, Daniel Miller happened to walk into the office because Fad Gadget was being distributed by Rough Trade at the time. And he was shouting about something.

He'd gone in a record store and there was no records in there or something.

And so Scott shouted out, you know, Daniel, you should listen to this.

Maybe you'll be, this is something you might be interested in.

He kind of growled a bit, looked over at me and Vince sitting there and just, you know, and walked out.

And we were like, well, fuck him.

That's Daniel Miller from Ute Records.

We walked out there and this was, I guess, the chance, the next chance meeting when we were opening for Fad Gadget.

Daniel was mixing the sound and he came back afterwards and started talking to me, actually,

because he thought I'd written the songs because I was singing them.

And I said, and he asked me some questions and then you write the songs.

I was like, no, that bloke over there does.

And that was Vince.

And so he left me, of course, and went off and talked to Vince.

And after that night, he said, can I come back?

And I think we said we were playing next Thursday.

He did.

And he came back and he asked if we wanted to make a 45.

Wow.

A single, which is, yeah.

That's like 1981.

Mark, is that correct, Mark?

Is that kind of correct?

Yeah, that is correct, yeah.

Does that check out?

It was a 45.

It was a 45 then.

We called them a single.

It was a 47-inch single, a 45.

And he said, I've got enough money to do that.

I will, we don't have to sign any contracts or anything.

But so that's like 1980, 81 probably.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

That was 1980.

And Daniel was still involved with us today.

No kidding.

Oh, wow.

First of all, that's incredible.

And that's a, that you have that kind of long-lasting relationship.

So it's 1980.

And what were you, you guys write this record.

What were you listening to at the time that you wrote that in 1980?

Yeah, I was going to say the same thing.

What were you listening to?

And also were you, did you think back then you were following a trend like where this, the music business is going into synth pop and maybe we should do that, or was that truly a genuine love?

It hadn't really started yet, had it?

We were fans of mute records.

Yeah.

So, you know, the fact that Daniel was offering us a one-off single deal, that was amazing to us.

Yeah.

But who were the bands that were, at that time that you were playing on your tape cassettes?

Well, like Fad Gadget.

Like, I mean, Daniel also for a while had DAF, Deutsche Amerikanische Freundschaft.

Check them out as well.

Yeah.

DAF.

DAF.

They sing in German.

The normal.

Yeah.

The normal was Daniel himself.

Warm leatherette.

You must know that track.

You must know that song.

Grace Jones made it famous, I guess.

I don't know.

She covered it.

I was just listening to this afternoon, this morning,

I was just listening to Trio.

Do you remember the da-da-da?

Da-da-da, yeah.

Yeah, that they made up the little Casio.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

I was just listening to that.
I was listening to some Blomage and I was listening to...
Blomage, yeah.
Blomage played with us a lot.
In fact, there was an album at the time called
Some Bazaar Album.
It was by this guy who put it together.
His name was Stevo.
And he put together...
Actually, our first recording that came out was on that record.
It was a song called Photographic,
which was on Speak and Spell too.
But we did...
We were part of that album.
And on that album, there was anyone from
an early track from Soft Cell?
Oh, yeah.
From Blomage?
Yeah.
From us?
Who was it, Mark?
Da-da.
Da-da.
Oh, man.
So it was a complements called Some Bazaar Album.
And so a lot of those acts after that got signed.
Well, that was...
You guys kind of were right at the forefront of that to me,
musically.
Da-da, you know, listening to...
Great band.
Especially that first great band.
That first...
You know, this is the day is still just such an anthem.
It reminds me of getting my first cool haircut when I was 12.
Yeah.
And then...
But listening to that, you know, listening to you guys,
listening to...
And then Vince, of course, went on to form in the U.K.
known as Yazoo and America known as Yaz with Allison Moyet.
And then he went off with Andy Bell and formed Rizzer as well.
But you guys were right there at the forefront of all of that.
And I always wondered, like...

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

Well, these are bands that not a lot of people know,
but you guys weren't listening to...
It was post-punk.
You gotta remember, like, in England, it was coming out of the ashes of...
It was over.
Punk was over in England.
We listened to Clash, though.
Like, was that your thing?
Yeah.
Well, there was the Pistols, the Clash, the Damned,
Susie and the band.
All these bands were kind of either evolving towards the end of,
like, 77, 78, into whatever that was coming,
or they were kind of...
It was over, you know.
Yeah.
And we kind of...
That do-it-yourself attitude, I think,
is what we brought into...
Well, you guys were...
You guys had your own unique sound coming out of that,
in the same way, sort of, in the punk world,
that, like, Paul Weller and the jam never really fit quite into the punk.
Right.
And Paul...
And then he ended up, of course,
and you guys probably know him,
and he's amazing, and went off and did style counsel.
But in that same way that you guys kind of took from...
Or were born out of a different era,
and then created your own genre in a way.
I mean, not to put you on the spot,
but...
Because there weren't a lot of people who were making
what you guys were doing.
People just started doing...
And I don't...
Like, Bronsky beat, you know, they were doing stuff,
but they came after you guys,
like, two years after speaking stuff.
Yeah, it's almost like we had Bono on,
and we were talking about how, you know,
when all these pop stars, like Madonna, Michael Jackson,
all these other kind of, like, big pop stars...

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

And here comes Joshua Tree, this album that was so, like...
Wait, what?
It's so alternative.
And then you guys came along, I think,
in the same kind of way, where it's just like,
it was left of center from what everybody else is listening to.
Back then, in, like, 98.
We didn't really fit in any of that stuff.
Yeah, that's what I mean.
Yeah, that's what I mean.
It was like, we always...
We always kind of were the odd one, banned out,
in that there was a wave of stuff that came,
but we never quite fit.
And I think that was a really good thing,
and I think a lot of that was to do with Daniel Miller,
and his guidance in kind of allowing us to slowly,
like, develop into what it was we wanted to be.
And by the time we got to Black Celebration,
I think we had kind of found, a bit before that,
but we had found our own way, right, Mark?
We sort of found...
Yeah, it took us a while, yeah.
Yeah.
And we will be right back.
SmartLess is sponsored by BetterHelp.
I think every week to week,
if I were to look at how much time I spend in myself
versus how much time I spend on other people,
I don't know if I do a very good job.
I don't know if I do a good job with taking care of myself,
and I don't think I'm alone in that.
I think that that's something that we can easily
kind of let get away from us.
It's easy to get caught up in what everyone else needs from you
and not take a moment to think about
what you need from yourself.
And sometimes that's just sort of a quiet moment.
Sometimes that's a reflection
and looking at my role in things
and trying to understand the dynamic
or looking at what I need for my own mental health
to feel better.
I'm not alone, you know, in this idea

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

that when we spend all of our time giving
and feeling that we're putting out a lot of energy,
emotional and otherwise,
it can leave us feeling pretty stretched,
thin and pretty burned out.

I have found that therapy can give you the tools
to find more balance in your life
so that you can keep supporting others
without leaving yourself behind.

I've really benefited from therapy over the years
and it's given me the perspective
that I can't always get on my own
and that I need to get from a therapist
through talking about my experience.

If you're thinking of starting therapy,
give BetterHelp a try.

It's entirely online,
designed to be convenient, flexible
and suited to your schedule.

Just fill out a brief questionnaire
to get matched with a licensed therapist
and switch therapists at any time
for no additional charge.

Find more balance with BetterHelp.

Visit betterhelp.com

slash smartless today

and get 10% off your first month.

That's BetterHelp.

H-E-L-P dot com slash smartless.

smartless

smartless gets support from Viori clothing.

Are you tired of sacrificing style for comfort
or vice versa?

Look no further than Viori.

Viori is the performance clothing brand

that combines both

style and comfort.

And you know what?

You know this.

I've told you a lot about Viori before.

They got joggers to leggings, to crewnecks
and they have everything you need to stay comfy
while you've heard me say all that before.

Okay, now, keep that in mind.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

Don't throw it away.

But I'm going to tell you something right now.

Of all the times that I've talked about Viori
and how great it is, you can wear it to the gym
and then you can wear it to the office
and you can wear it to the car wash
and you can wear it to the dentist.

You can also wear it while you're making a podcast.

So yeah, as you're listening to me right now,
I'm sitting here in my core shorts.

Okay?

The core short from Viori is so...

This is like a...

I wish I could wear it to like a fancy dinner.

I wish I could wear it to like a wedding.

I just never want to take my core shorts off.

End short.

This sounds like some sort of high-fluten actor
who lives in California.

Guess what?

You don't need to be.

You can just be you

and you can wear the core short anywhere.

And here's the thing.

For our listener,

they're offering 20% off your first purchase.

Get yourself some of the most comfortable
and versatile clothing on the planet

at Viori.com slash smartlist.

That's B-U-O-R-I dot com slash smartlist.

Not only will you receive 20% off your first purchase,
but you'll also enjoy free shipping on any U.S. orders
over \$75 and free returns.

Just go to Viori.com slash smartlist

and discover the versatility of Viori clothing.

Hey, smartlist listener.

Amazon Five Star Reviews presents Works Better Than B.O.

Our first customer review is from Rico.

Rico writes,

I purchased this crafting with cat hair book on Amazon
as I was tired of people sitting too near me
on public transportation.

The book worked like a charm.

Five stars.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

Rico, my friend,
that is some next-level problem-solving
and that's how to make every day better.
Five stars.
Now let's hear about Jennifer's Miniature Miracles of Life.
She writes,
bought 200 mini-plastic babies on Amazon
to hide for my fiancée to find.
He thought I had one or two.
He thought wrong.
Hearing him find baby number 175
brought me more joy than I could ever describe.
I give trolling your spouse with Miniature Miracles of Life.
Five stars.
Way to put anybody baby-shaped plastic to good use, Jennifer.
That's how you make every day better.
Another five stars.
Real Amazon Customers Real Reviews, really.
And now back to the show.
Martin, so Vince Lee,
like I alluded to,
Vince leaves and goes and with Alison Moyet
and goes and does, first does Yazoo.
And Martin, did you, so then you started writing more,
because Vince had written,
or were you guys equally writing,
or how did that happen that you sort of
stepped into that position?
I don't even mean to put it, I don't know how to.
No, yeah, I wrote a couple of songs on the first album.
And yeah, because I was the only one who actually wrote songs
when Vince left, I kind of had to do it.
Right.
It was just like we were like,
and Daniel literally was like,
does anybody else write songs?
Because you're right or is left.
And we were like, does that mean it's over?
And it's sort of, mine was like,
I'll go a couple of songs.
Well, I was lucky.
Well, the album was a very weird collection of songs,
because some of them I wrote when I was 16,
and then some of them I was making up in the studio

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

when we were trying to finish the album.
Which album? Black Salvation, you mean?
A Broken Frame.
Okay, so what was the,
after he left and you stepped into that role,
as Dave says, because everybody else is looking around
going, who the fuck is going to do this?
What was the first, when you started writing,
what was the first sort of like big hit that you wrote?
And everybody's like, ah, fuck yeah, Martin, well done, man.
It was straight away actually.
The first thing we recorded was See You,
and then you released that as a single,
and that was a massive hit, so.
Wow.
We actually went the highest, we'd gone in the charts,
and then we went to number six,
was a big thing, and Martin had this new synthesizer
called the PPG.
So we didn't use much equipment in the studio.
There was like a few pieces,
Dan, you had a couple of pieces of electronic stuff,
and so you kind of were very,
and there was no sampling then,
there was no, you know,
it wasn't like, how now you just kind of like,
it's almost too much.
Like, but we picked,
we had these few pieces,
so this one synthesizer
dominated the sort of sound,
I would say, right, Martin,
of that song in particular.
And it was a good song,
it was a great pop song,
it was like a sort of Everly Brothers song or something,
and we, you know,
went on TV,
and it was a big hit.
I think it was more Herman's Hermits.
Mrs. Brown, you've got a lovely song.
I was going to say to me,
I thought that was too fast.
Give us a break.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

My grandparents used to have a Herman's Hermits record
for some reason,
and we used to play it when we were kids.
Do you remember that Mrs. Brown, you've got a lovely daughter?
Yeah, yeah, yeah.
You've got to remember, I was only 10
when this was happening.
Are you guys so shocked that your song
Just Can't Get Enough is used everywhere,
always, all the time?
It's mad, it's like,
it's in the cocaine bear,
it's like, you know what,
it fits everywhere.
I mean, of all your songs,
I really do know,
probably every word to every song,
and I'm like, that's the song everybody plays everywhere.
I know.
Wait, what?
You know, it's funny, when Vince wrote that song,
I think we were,
the first publisher that he had,
we were at the offices, and I think,
what I'm saying,
he said something like this to the rest of us,
we were sitting on the couch,
we kind of squashed together,
and he looked at Vince and he said,
he is going to be driving a Rolls Royce,
while you three are on the tandem,
and we were like,
you know, bicycle,
and we were like,
why?
And we all signed this deal,
I think he gave us 100 quid each,
for like, to sign,
he did.
We were like, he's giving us 100 quid for nothing,
you know,
signed this deal.
We can buy a tandem for that.
We were like, yeah, we will buy that tandem.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

But Vince, you know,
he told Vince, you know,
you'll be driving in a Rolls Royce,
and he said, this song is going to
continue, like forever,
and we were just kind of like,
don't think so.
But we were very impressed,
because he took us out for lunch,
and Errol Brown from Hot Chocolate
was in the same restaurant.
Yes, that's right, I remember that.
Do you remember the band Hot Chocolate?
No!
I believe in Lucas!
Oh, yes!
Hot Chocolate, they were called.
We were like, holy shit,
there's Errol Brown from Hot Chocolate.
So, you have some hits in the UK,
obviously.
What was your first recognition in the US
that you knew that people were listening
to the band in the US?
Well, I think that Just Can't Get Enough
did get some underground play,
like obviously club play and stuff like that.
But I think the first radio thing
was probably People Are People.
Yeah, it was huge.
And it was still, like, really underground.
It was...
We were never really
played on mainstream radio,
right.
And then talk about, like,
first of all, I used to get,
I look like exactly like Dave Gahn
all the time in college.
People were like, you look just like Dave Gahn.
I could see that.
Wow!
You better look in though.
The Rose Bowl,

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

wasn't that just life career changing
when you sold out the Rose Bowl to everybody?
That was later.
It was a very happy accident, to be honest.
It was...
But it blew everybody's mind.
I remember the press was like, wait, what?
It blew our minds.
I mean, we were not prepared, really.
It was one of those things that
I think it was suggested to us
that we could do this
at the end of that particular tour,
Music for the Masses tour.
A big show somewhere where all the fans
would travel like in a grateful dead way.
We kind of had that kind of following.
And they did.
We ended up doing it.
And D.A. Penny Baker filmed the whole thing for us.
Which was also kind of iconic
to be now looking back.
I see pictures from then.
I see Penny is not with us anymore.
But we used to think
he was extremely old.
When we were on that tour
and he was documenting the whole thing with us.
He was like this old guy.
We used to help him around the stage.
Be careful with that 35mm.
You're going to fall over, dude.
And he was like
maybe 50?
I don't know.
And we were like so old.
Like this guy. Who's this guy?
And he was just amazed with
what he was amazed with. Not really the music
or anything. It was the
scale.
It was the fans.
It was kind of a cult.
It was the fandom. It was like the cult

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

of the following that we had.
Why are they obsessed
with this band?
And still to this day
we carry that
sign.
It's like
The Church of Depeche Mode or something.
Does that feel
heavy sometimes?
Or is it something that changes
your relationship to it? Does it kind of
shift?
No. One thing
I've realised recently though
is I'm a big soccer fan.
And soccer fans always
think
they know better than the manager of the team they support.
Oh, yeah.
So our fans,
you've gone on any of the forums,
all of our fans, they're always complaining.
They're never happy with what we do.
They're basically arsenal
supporters.
Wait, Martin, are you an arsenal
supporter? I am.
Did you grew up in north London then?
No, east London.
I thought you were going to be West Ham.
Yeah, I should have been a West Ham supporter, but
no.
You make a decision when you're like
9 or 10, don't you?
And you stick with it, you can't change.
Where we came from, it was like Arsenal,
West Ham or Chelsea basically.
That was kind of like
Dave, are you a football supporter?
I was a Chelsea fan.
And I stopped going into Chelsea
after getting a total beating
actually at Arsenal.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

I got chased down the street
by a bunch of Arsenal fans.
Ended up rolling underneath a car
to escape death.
I just got such a beating.
I think I was about 15.
That was the last time I went into it.
I led them away, by the way.
You finally led them away.
Martin's done that a few times for me, by the way.
You showed them where you was at first,
and then you're like, this is too much.
I just read this book by this writer, Bill Buford,
called Among the Thugs, which is about
the Chelsea crew were called
the Crazy Gang, and it was
basically people went to soccer to fight.
That was kind of what it was.
There was this huge, and it got
scary. It got really
to the point where it was very dangerous.
There's a movie that Gary Oldham's in, actually.
The Firm. I've seen it.
That's very much what it was.
About the West Ham supporters.
It was Chelsea supporters and
West Ham supporters, I think. Millwall, too.
Oh, Millwall. That's tough.
That's tough.
Hey, guys, where did the...
I just remember always being
so taken by the mood you guys set
with your music, and also
just your stage craft.
The whole aesthetic of the band,
it was, it is so
sort of, I don't know what the right term would be,
dramatic, cinematic, dark.
Yeah, but I mean, I don't remember
that anybody
blazing a trail before you guys in that world.
There's many, many sort of
people that try to replicate that
since then, for sure.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

But where did that come from?
Was that deliberate?
Or was it just kind of where you guys were at?
Were you inspired by something?
I think we were lucky
when we wrote
Black Celebration, that we got involved
with Anton Corbin,
who became
the visual head for the band.
Who's that? I'm an idiot. Who is that?
He's an incredible director. There are a lot of videos, yeah?
But he's a film director.
He's a very tall Dutchman.
He started out as a photographer.
Okay.
For the NME,
with New Musical Express in London,
he got to be the front cover guy
that would do
the covers of that paper.
It would always be like this amazing photograph
of Joy Division, or Echo and the Bunny Men,
or Susie Sool from the band.
She's in there, always with Anton's shots.
Wow.
At that time,
working with Anton
were pretty slim, but
the first time we worked with him,
I think it was 81,
actually, and then we didn't work with him again
until 85, Mark.
86 with Black Celebration, yeah.
81, we got the cover
of the NME,
and Anton was shooting it.
He had to shoot us.
He had to shoot us.
I don't think he really wanted to,
but we were cool,
and we weren't.
I mean, we were trying to be cool, but...
And did he style that shoot

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

in such a way that you guys
sort of borrowed from
and adopted going forward?
I think it sort of began there,
even though we weren't probably aware of it,
but by the time we got
to Black Celebration,
we had been working in Berlin,
Hansa Studios,
the very famous iconic Hansa,
David and
Iggy and
various other people that we
looked up to
and were influenced by.
And
I think that's where it really started for us.
Martin had moved to Berlin as well
for a short period of time there as well,
and we started working there a lot.
West Berlin.
When the wall was very much still up,
and we used to work right...
There was a studio called Hansa,
which was on the wall.
So when you were on the balcony of the studio,
you literally were looking over the wall
and you'd see these soldiers,
hence the Bowies
lying in heroes,
but about the wall,
I think.
Heroes always reminds me of Christiane F.
Remember that film's in West Berlin?
It was on the soundtrack.
That's a great film.
Do you guys also...
I'm sorry for the dumb, dumb question,
but I don't know.
Is there why the religious undertones?
So many of them.
I don't know.
Spirituality, bro.
They both just turned poetic.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

I've never been religious.
I'm always searching.
Aren't we always searching?
Yeah, sure.
And then it's this...
I feel often, especially when I'm singing
Martin's words,
there's this kind of...
Sometimes it's like a...
It can be like an experience
that when you're singing and sometimes
you're kind of in a big place,
like we just did The Garden
or whatever.
There's certain gigs that you do.
It's this sort of experience.
It is like a sort of, I don't know,
spiritual experience.
There's something that's there.
And it's also that I have a kind of disdain for it, too.
It feels like...
you know...
a lot of bollocks as well.
It's at the same time.
I mean, you even sort of take it...
I mean, I've always loved
Blasphemous Rumors because I just love that
lyric. I don't want to start any Blasphemous Rumors.
Blasphemous Rumors, but I think that God's got
a sixth sense of humor.
And when I die, I expect to find him laughing.
Laughing, yeah.
I've always been obsessed.
People miss the comedy, see?
They miss the comedy in what we do.
They just sort of miss the humor
from Martin.
And they miss the delivery from Dave.
But, you know,
it's all there.
You just got a little...
The only reason I brought it up, because I love the comment
and the cleverness of the
language that you choose.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

It's really cool.
But then it also did fit into Jason kind of what you were asking about
into the...
Yeah, it became...
And you get that...
I think we like that.
You have to bring that imagery.
A bit of theater and...
Well, what was it about the writing though, Dave,
that always sort of kind of presented a block
for you? Because obviously,
you're a very intelligent man.
Know how to speak, know how to write, I'm sure,
and tell stories and whatnot.
But when it comes to lyrics,
is it...
And Martin, I'm sure you can speak better to this too.
Is there an attempt to tell a story
when you write a lyric or just to
set some poetry that then obviously
comes later to fit that or vice versa?
What was the thing that
kept you away from it early on, Dave?
Well, in the early days
and also, you know,
even now when we're singing a lot of these
great songs that Martin's written,
they always change too.
They change over the years,
depending on what's going on in your life.
They represent something different
and they take...
their memories.
Songs and memories, you know.
They're there and they're there also
to develop
new memories
of yet to come.
You know.
But I feel like
if you really tap into a good song
when you're writing and there's something
and it doesn't, you know, you kind of have to
work at it sometimes, but sometimes

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

if you really let go of control
of the lyric or whatever and allow
something to just,
you know, it's a combination of things
that might happen at the same time,
you could just follow the idea.
You know, it's just allow it to just, you know.
And other things you have to
kind of like, you know,
move...when we're working in a studio
together, for instance, if Martin's,
you know, is always right in the majority
of the songs,
I try and create...
I've worked with a song
for a long time before I
actually go to finally sing it.
So I want to live with that song for a long
time and when I step up
to the mic, I already know where I want to go
with it and it's always somewhere visual.
It's a visual voice.
But the melody that perhaps you've written
to go with it or chosen to go with it,
I would imagine would
inform what words
work or what words don't work anymore.
It can. They serve each other
and it's a lot of the time it's
about removing stuff. We did that a lot
on this record. We sort of...
We...there's a lot of clutter
that you automatically put in place
because you think it's supposed to be there,
but quite often it's removing things
to allow a simple
idea to really
come through. Alright, and I love like,
you know, almost all your melodies
that you guys write are...you think
it's going to go to the
obvious one that the ear is familiar with
and BOOM! You take a left turn.
That's mine. He'll take one

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

of my songs, for instance, that we were working to say a song like Wagon Tunk, which is on this record, and I sent my little demo to Martin of me, like, ham-fistedly playing on a guitar trying to get the song out and find the chords and that, and I send it to Martin and then Martin sends it back with this beautiful like, Kraftwerk-esque like chords and arpeggiating synths and stuff, and I'm like, oh, okay.

I love that. But then that takes me then to another place, you see. That changes the perception yet again. I'm sure it's the same with you guys when you're working in film and behind or in front of the camera. Yes, and... You feed off an audience in theater, I'm sure, and then when it's... you're just in a room together and you've got a bunch of crew standing around you and you've got to create it for yourself. Otherwise, there's just this bunch of crew around you.

Well, it is true that I can speak because the three of us, I've worked with both these guys and neither none of us really sort of come in prepared in the sense that we don't fully have it memorized a certain way. You can't. You have to kind of have a loose relationship with whatever you're doing because so much of it is informed by what the other person is bringing. You sort of leave room for the effect of the other. Yeah, like that's a...

Well, can I just really quick, and then we'll get off this. Jay, I'm going to send you this song because it's one of the most famous songs.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

It's such an old song. It's called Somebody.
But you'll love it because, and I love this
because the dum-dums didn't quite get it
back then about the comment.
I want somebody to share, share the rest
of my life, share my innermost thoughts,
know my intimate details. It goes on
and on in this gorgeous lyrics about
sharing your life with somebody.
And the last lyrics at the end is
though things like this
make me sick in a case like this, I'll
get away with it. Which completely
obliterates the whole song.
Like as a kid, I was like, wait a minute,
I was about to cry this.
Because love is bollocks, that's why.
Love is bollocks.
It still gets played at lots
and lots of weddings.
I'm sure.
So Martin's just having a laugh at everybody
else's expense.
So for a dummy
music listener like me, I always
struggle to hear what
the words...
What did they say? What did they know? Back it up, is it?
I'll screw it, I'll just listen to you.
Martin, have you ever had a
point where you've gone to Dave and you said
this is a beautiful line
and I can't understand what you're saying.
Annunciate more.
Don't just mumble that because it sounds
right?
You're sort of missing this word
structure that you're doing.
It depends how drunk you are.
There's that tipping point.
We all know the tipping point.
It's great and then
it's not Greg anymore.
Back in the day.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

We were lucky that we sorted something out before you actually had to do a guide vocal in the studio because there's a track that didn't go on the album that's coming later in the year and it's called Life 2.0.

What did you think it was called, Dave?

Oh, yeah.

Do you do?

No. Life...

What was it, Mark? I forgot.

Life 2...

To...

To perform or something?

I don't know. Life 2.0.

I think I even wrote it down.

When Mark sent me the song

he often doesn't send the words.

He'll send a demo or whatever

and so I kind of listened.

Life 2.0.

That was it.

Life 2.0.

I was like, okay, alright.

Life 2.0.

I don't think anyone's ever used the word life 2.0.

Dave, when you're performing it later

in the year you've got to

or if you're performing it now on stage

you've got to get the audience going

saying life 2.0.

That can happen. I said the other night

let's go Nick's

because at the end of everything counts

I just shout out in the garden

let's go Nick's.

A lot of people sigh.

Oh, that must have gone big.

We'll be right back.

This episode is brought to you in port by

8 Sleep.

Did you know that temperature is one of the most important factors in improving your sleep quality?

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

Did you know that?

Did you? Be honest. I don't think you really did.

Science.

Okay, now you're paying attention.

Science has shown that

your body temp actually needs to

drop in the early and middle

part of your sleep and rise

in the morning so that you can fall asleep

fast and get more deep

sleep.

So why am I saying all this?

Because the pod cover

by 8 Sleep fits on any

bed like a fitted sheet.

The pod cover will improve your sleep by

automatically adjusting the temperature

on each side of the bed based

on you and your partner's individual

needs. It can cool down

and warm up and adjusts

based on the phases of your sleep

and the environment that you are in.

Guys

talk about a revolution.

I just got my 8 Sleep

pod cover just

sent to me. Can I tell you something?

I have been battling

with heat issues

with my sleep forever. Trying to get

that right

temperature to fall asleep. I want

it to be cool and then I get too hot.

I'm so excited

to snug in with my 8 Sleep.

I can't even tell you. I wish I could go

to sleep right now. It's the middle of the day.

But I can't wait till tonight.

I am going to try it out and wait until you guys

hear the result. They are going to be

amazing. While temperature

is the biggest game changer, the pod cover

has other amazing features. For example, thanks

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

to the pod sleep and health tracking, you can wake up to a personalized sleep report for you each morning that offers insights on how certain behaviors like late night exercise or caffeine impact your sleep and overall health.

Invest in the rest you deserve with the 8 Sleep pod.

8Sleep.com

for exclusive Memorial Day savings on the pod cover through June 6.

Stay cool this summer with 8 Sleep.

Now shipping within the USA, Canada, the UK, select countries in the EU and Australia.

Well, I'd be remiss if I didn't say that our next partner is Athletic Greens.

First of all, let me just start by saying I take AG1 by Athletic Greens literally every day.

I gave AG1 a try. I'm going to say it was about maybe just under two years ago because

I kind of wanted to, I felt like I was missing something. I've never been like a huge supplement guy or done doing any of that kind of stuff but I thought AG1, Athletic Greens, I'd sort of heard about it.

I started doing it but I maybe started taking it because of the show.

There's a possibility that that's what happened but whatever happened was I started doing it and then the boys and Rob and Bennett started doing it and we all started noticing first of all

I had better gut health. I felt more energized and I knew that they'd said it would optimize my immune system which that

sounds good, sounds better than not getting an optimized immune system but I hated taking vitamins and all that stuff. Anyway, so we started doing it. It is the best option for easy

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

optimal nutrition out there. You take one scoop of AG1 and you're absorbing 75 high quality vitamins, minerals, whole food source, superfoods and probiotics and adaptogens to help you start your day right and this blend of ingredients supports your gut health, your nervous system, your immune system, your energy, your recovery focus, aging, all of that. For me it's been such an unbelievably positive experience. I love talking about, first of all I annoy a lot of people with AG1 because everybody in my house is like, why don't you try it? I want to get, you know, Alessandra on it. I'm always talking. Bateman gets annoyed, I mean Bateman gets annoyed by pretty much everything because he's so cranky all the time. And maybe Jason would be a little less cranky if he'd just listened to me and take it every single day. I bet you if you could look at the days he's cranky, those are the days that he missed taking AG1. And right now it is time to reclaim your health and arm your body with convenient daily nutrition. It's just a scoop of AG1, a scoop in a cup of water every day and you don't need a million different pills and supplements to look out, you know all that stuff just to look out for your health. No, Athletic Greens is going to give you a free one-year supply of immune supporting vitamin D and five free travel packs with your first purchase. Go to athleticgreens.com slash smartlist to give AG1 a try. That's athleticgreens.com slash smartlist. All right. Back to the show.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

Did I hear you say
that it got kind of Kraftwerk-esque?
Did you say it? Yes, yes.
It's so funny because you're like the third
band that's referenced Kraftwerk and I was
just listening to Tour de France this morning
as well, which is such a, I love that tune.
And I think
it was Jay when you had the boys
from Radiohead were talking about Kraftwerk
as well. Like it was just
what an influential band these guys were.
It's unbelievable. Well, they were probably
instrumental in getting a synth, I was
really imagined in the first place. Really?
Yeah, and we were talking
about the early bands that influenced us.
We mentioned that wave that was
coming up with us, but they were obviously way
before that. You know, Autobahn was
like 74. Yeah.
Wow, man.
That's wild. I think Daniel as well.
Daniel Miller, like he's sort of
once he cut his influence,
he was listening to, you know, he's a little
bit older than us. So there was like
Neue and there was all these like German
kind of, those that kind of
stuff, Mark, that like
we wouldn't have probably heard really
if it wasn't for him. And it's that
sort of kraut rock that was called
like that stuff as well.
A lot of like the, like waiting
for the ninth to fall for instance, it's got that
continuous kind of like
rolling progression all the time.
These influences definitely
we were lucky
to work with a lot of people,
engineers, producer, people that were
all on that cusp as well
of wanting to do something

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

new with pop music.

Well, you guys had that, you guys also embodied that too, Martin, you know, that sort of, like you said, Dave, that progression, you guys understood the importance of it that sort of drove so many of your songs.

Atmosphere. Atmosphere and almost hypnotic, right? Atmosphere over a lot of other things sometimes. We would go around with like tape machines into like scrapyards or building sites and record like weird shit noises

that you heard. Everything Counts has all that stuff at the start, right? Yeah, I don't even know what that was now. What was that?

That was like a saw or something.

Industrial. That was like a Chinese violin that was badly something. Oh, yes.

That we couldn't play. It was an instrument that we couldn't play that you just might have played. Jason, do you want to hear me say that again? Yeah, no, I think we got it.

You guys are uniquely

qualified to comment about where we find the music industry today and are you guys a big fan or is it a love hate with what technology and digital and all that stuff has done as far as the way in which music is sold nowadays and what that's done to the touring business and whatnot because you guys obviously have the best of both worlds. I mean, you're still playing Madison Square Garden and you're still selling albums but so how does all that sit with you today's current makeup of the business? Sorry and be honest.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

We came up. It's kind of good and bad, right?

We came up.

It was like albums, vinyl

get in

that record

going to having enough money

to go buy a 45 or 70

which was I think at the time

when I'm in first probably 45p

or whatever that was

something like that.

To go, you stole it from somewhere

and you went to the market

and you looked through the singles and looked at the covers

and go, this one looks weird and interesting

and what is this?

Of course, we had one

show in England, this TV show

called Top of the Pops where you

on Thursday nights or whatever

you'd see music like Bowie

and Gary Glitter

and Slade and T-Rex

and all these sort

of 70s things

of Roxy Music.

That was our thing.

That was where you get lost in it

but I think the album,

I know Martin does as well

we both still play albums

and buy albums and stuff

and listen to music

digitally too.

There's something has been lost

of course in that

the specialness of an album

and how you listen

to that, how you play

one side and then turn it over

and you've got to actually make the effort

to do something.

Right.

I love that.

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

I remember sitting in a room
and taking it out of the sleeve
and putting it on.
The smell of it.
You'd have a cleaner
you'd have the duster
the brush and you'd let it go around
and clean off the needle
and drop the needle on it and sit there
and maybe you would have lyrics.
Sometimes if a record came out you were waiting for
and it had lyrics, you were like
and this one's got lyrics.
That was so, I mean the Bowie stuff
I remember I stole from
my friend Phil Gurry.
I was around his house and he had
and I was
around his flat and he had
the Double Live David Live
at the Philadelphia Tower album
and I opened it up and I saw
that this lyric sheet like the sleeve
fell out and I was just
kind of like sitting there and he went off to the toilet
or something for a minute and when he was gone
I took it, I folded it up
and I shoved it in my jacket and I was like
stole, I would steal everything
if it wasn't tied down by the way
but I stole this and I got it home
and I had the lyrics myself
and I was thinking about a week later
Phil was like I know you stole my lyrics
I denied it
but you know
that's how special it was
to have something like that because you couldn't look it up
I had a roommate in college who was obsessed
with albums and I took his
Beethoven, what was that group?
Beethoven?
Yeah, take the skinheads bowling.
Yeah and I took that

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

I was really
sitting in his room, we were listening to albums
and I took the jacket and I was so hot
and I took the album jacket
and I started fanning myself
and completely bent the whole thing
and he never heard from him again
he wouldn't talk to me again
I remember how
I have so many like different record memories
the one that I remember
when that First Simple Minds record came out
and they did a clear record
do you remember that?
We have a red vinyl right now
Memento Mori
Do you really?
It came out in red vinyl
There's a clear one as well
and there's a red one
180 gram
it's cool, it's really cool
Well now I'm going to buy it because I'm going to come full circle
so you have this
this record came out
by the way, I was just thinking about the video
that I just saw
also has like sort of like
I guess religious
you guys are in a graveyard
Yes, well it's a big camp too
come on let's face it
I'm crawling around on my hands and knees
in the grave of Martin sitting playing
oh so thoughtfully
his guitar
I'm crawling around him like
sniff the glove
Yes, so we have to
when Anton Corbin says to me
so Dave I want you to get on
hands and knees
this graveyard is just
set up in a studio by the way

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

as well of course
and it looks already very
as soon as we get there we're like
this looks
like somebody set this up
I wanted to look kind of fake
Dave and I was like ok
he's the only person
that would get me to do something like that
and I think we did about 20 takes
of me crawling around
I'm surprised he didn't do that actually
Snout the leash
Yes, the only way
we got away is because I'm the one
crawling around of course
you know, beautiful girl
or guy to do that or something
we would be in big trouble now Dave
I have a question
how do you guys determine who sings
what track
it's kind of obvious sometimes
it's usually obvious
it's usually obvious
just because of where
the range is
well, the soul with me
on this album I knew
I thought to myself Martin would just be
able to sing that so much better than me
we have a different
tone, a different way we sing
but together
it's just unbelievable
I used to get bent out of shape a bit
I used to years ago I wanted to sing
everything and I used to feel like
my voice wasn't good enough
and that's why Martin would sing a couple of songs
it was back in
years ago
but now I don't
what it means you got a break on stage as well

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

I get a break too
it's a two hour set
plus I need that 10 minutes
or so in the middle to get some
oxygen but isn't that funny
now see this to all of us
all gentlemen over 50
isn't that funny you get to this age
all the things that you take personally
or bother you or whatever
it's so stupid
I'd rather take the break
I take the break
I will take the break for sure
what are you doing on your breaks
nowadays like at the garden
during your 10 minutes versus what you were doing
30-40 years ago during your 10 minute break
has that changed back stage
that's changed a lot
for Jason and me it's changed a lot
we don't partake
it's changed a lot
we probably squeezed in a nap
we would have been
looking for something
to just get a little bit more electricity
into that set
was that fun playing the garden
it must have been fantastic
it always is
it's the church of New York
they must have gone there
we've been lucky enough to play there a lot of times
over the years
it's always one of those gigs that you're
you know it's the anticipation
and everything about it
I was lucky enough this time as well
my daughter's band Stella Rose and the Dead Language
they we got
had them open for us
so it was
the nepotism was out of the charts

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

yeah good
you give the shit about this nepo baby
I don't give a fucking shit about the nepo baby
shut up
you do it if you could too
wait here's the other thing man
that is a great name for a band
I know nepo baby
no Stella Rose and the Dead Language
the Dead Language is
fucking great
they're pretty cool
they're like way cooler than us
you know
but we were the headline in acts
so yeah yeah
because it's me I have to ask
have you ever been approached or would you ever do
from the ground up
with new songs
a Broadway musical
we did get asked once somebody had this idea
they showed us a script
but it was all about like a bunch of heroin addicts
five six seven eight
so you know we politely
turned it down
Jason and I would like to
and Sean's gonna
obviously gonna run it gonna direct in seven
it's about a bunch of middle aged white guy golfers
you got something there for sure
you definitely got something there
I just want to say before we let you guys go
because this has been absolutely mind blowing
incredible
Sean and this is really Sean
to you
what would you say Sean can you believe
that the college is you
you guys I can't even describe it
I have to tell you guys right now to your faces
this is the honest to God truth
I'm doing a show here in New York Broadway show

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

and every day
I walk to the theater sometimes I get a ride
sometimes I walk
every time I walk
I listen to you guys
I literally as I'm walking I'll go
hey Siri play depeche note
and tell in the Broadway show is about a heroin addict
that's a true story though
and I want to say this before you leave
such a massive
massive influence on me
and my life in such a huge way
just incredible
all of us
the posters up in college
and the concerts I've been to
to see you guys it's just everywhere
it's just I can't
I mean that's a cool thing about
what we get to do
is that over the years
that we get to hear from somebody
like you or other artists
other musicians and stuff
what we've done somehow has influenced
like them to do what they do
and this is
how it goes around and that's
I think an amazing thing
about music and film
and stuff like that how it can
come to be the soundtrack to our lives
for sure I mean it's inside
of my DNA now
and when you guys just popped on screen here
I was shaking
and Sean I mean can you
what I was going to say was
what would college Sean Hay
say to this moment
like what would you
say to this idiot and be so over the top
and trying to be funny and then

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

you guys would be like that guy's too much
and then you would move on
we would probably let you hang out
we would probably let you hang out
if he was entertaining for a bit
you would have been hanging out with us
a bit as being kind
well you've been the soundtrack
to so many millions of people's lives
and you're both such great guys
on top of it all what an absolute
just pleasure and honor
congratulations on the new record of the tour
I really want to come and see you guys
are you in LA in September right
we're coming
we just finished a little run in the states
but we're coming back I think
September October November December
we're doing
a much bigger North American tour
we're off to Europe
we're going to come and see you guys
oh please yeah thanks
for having us on your show
it's really
this has been a dream come true
yeah
in all three of you
in some way shape or form
also have been
in my life so I can say that
we apologize
we don't always have to say that
honestly as well
but I mean that
sincerely thank you
cheers guys all the best
we'll see you on the road
see you guys
thanks guys thank you
wow
well are you guys alright
I mean I was really honestly truly shaking

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

like I haven't done that
Sean are you sitting on plastic did you lay down some plastic
Scotty
just under frame lay down some plastic for you
that's why Scotty came in at the middle
yeah I mean
not since the Michael Jackson concert
in 1983 was I shaking
I mean they really
care to god listen to them every day
no I know that's crazy
unbelievable
why is that something that kind of
gets you going for the show
I think a lot of
they have a big gay following
and I think because it was
they were cool
and underground
and like left of center
and they weren't like machismo
hard
big hair rock and you know
there was something kind of interestingly glam
about them kind of like Bowie was
beforehand yeah Sean I
get that I think I know what you're saying
it's not a gay straight thing or anything
it's just I had a lot of gay
friends in college that we found
this band and were like oh they're so cool
I think I know what you mean and there was
there were some bands that sort of came
certainly erasure were a band
that were big and gay culture
back in the 80s right because
I guess a lot of the Peshmoons songs were turned
into dance songs and they would play them in
the clubs and so I think
that personal Jesus everybody knows personal Jesus
and you know all those
earlier songs they're they have
they have a beat that you can dance to
and so they turned those

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

into club mixes and I think
that's probably one of the reasons we're like
oh what's this band it's so cool plus they were like
dark would it be funny if I got a personal
assistant named Jesus
no
why would that be funny because then
I'd have a personal Jesus
oh
wow I'm slow today it's a long
walk around the block but boy the address
is nice
but
just blown away and there was
there a huge part of my life yeah
yeah same I
have so many it's kind of like when we've
had other but for these guys
I have those markers
in my in my mind of where
where I was when that came out just
can't get enough
personal Jesus
all those things people are people
people just like
you know
Jay you would know like no all those
you just mentioned I know yeah
I'm
very very aware of Depeche Mode I just I wasn't
I didn't have the glow stick
in my teeth like you did Sean and Will
you know I was just fucking like
how was I supposed to find my way home
you know
I believe before Jason really got into
classical music you'd get in his
car with him I'm not kidding
and the fucking music that Jason would
I know so it would be so random
not necessarily bad but it would be like
random and some would be
brutal yeah by the way I got into it with
a woman on Instagram about two months

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

ago Sean maybe I told you because she was
saying it's actually you're thinking of
Yazoo it's not Yaz and I said no in
North America Yazoo was called Yaz for
legal reasons and I had to
don't fucking correct me anyway
what was Soft Cells Big Hit
Tainted Love
I listened to that too and I love
Classic Rock but I also loved so much
I loved Bronsky Beat
I just loved it so much
I loved all those bands I loved
and of course Depeche Mode
I don't know
but you know like
when they first came on I was looking
here we go boy man I tell you
something you know what it is
it's a look in your eye and it's
you kind of take a breath
here comes my moment
so thank god
I had my glasses on
when they came on because I couldn't believe
my eyes so I thank god I saw
them with my reading part
of my lower glasses which are
sometimes called
what's those glasses called
don't go up high
bye
that's a Depeche Mode
version of goodbye
it's Martin taking it left
instead of right
that's right
bye
focals
smart
less
smart
less
smart less is 100% organic

[Transcript] SmartLess / "Depeche Mode"

and artisanally handcrafted
by Rob Armjurf
Bennett Barbaco
and Michael Grant Terry
our next episode will be out
in a week wherever you listen to podcasts
or you can listen to it right now
early on Amazon Music
or early and add free
by subscribing to Wondry Plus
in Apple Podcasts or the Wondry app
hey listeners you need to know
that Wondry's shocking true crime podcast
over my dead body is back
for a fourth season gone hunting
this newest season covers the
story of Mike Williams
it was Mike's sixth wedding anniversary
when he set off on a hunting trip
into the gator infested swamps of north Florida
he figured he'd be back in time
to take his wife Denise out to celebrate
but he never came back
friends and loved ones feared he met
his fate through bad luck
Wondry Alligators
leaving his young family behind
except that's not what happened at all
and after 17 years
a kidnapping and the uncovering
of a secret love triangle
the truth would finally be revealed
enjoy over my dead body
gone hunting on the Wondry app
or wherever you get your podcasts
you can listen to over my dead body
early and add free on Wondry Plus
get started with your free trial
at Wondry.com
www.wondry.com