

Getting Curious with Jonathan Van Ness & Mark Peacock

JVN: Welcome to Getting Curious, I'm Jonathan Van Ness, and every week I sit down for a gorgeous conversation with a brilliant expert to learn all about something that makes me curious. And this week is a very special episode. The call is coming from inside the house, our house! I'm sitting down with my husband, Mark Peacock, and for those of you who don't know—come on in babe—or maybe haven't picked up from the garden updates on my Instagram or the ones on Mark socials, but my husband has one big, green thumb and an even bigger dick. Mark grew up in England and if there's one thing the English love: it's a garden. He graduated from the University of Essex with a degree in landscape architecture and garden design. And I'll tell you what, that skill set has played out in spades and our very own garden. Today, we're going all in on how we take care of our garden family. And it's also going to help you out if you want to get some garden time in your life for next year or maybe this year, if you're in a climate that can handle that. So, today we're asking: how can I become a gardener with Mark Peacock. Babe, how are you doing?

MARK PEACOCK: I'm good, my babe.

JVN: Have you always been into gardening?

MARK PEACOCK: Yeah, I think so. I mean, being English, we pretty much come out of the womb gardening. So, um, yeah, I've always been into gardening.

JVN: Why do you like to garden? And what's like your earliest gardening memory?

MARK PEACOCK: I don't know, I just find it relaxing. You kind of switch off and you can just like putter around and, you know, be outside and getting your hands in the soil and, you know, trial and error, see what works, see what doesn't work. You know, we've moved several times so...and obviously, I've moved from one side of the Atlantic to the other. So, you know, it's like a learning thing because it's completely different gardening in Texas than what it was gardening in the U.K. Either being outside with a trowel and helping Mum just plant some bits or I do remember like my Nan having a greenhouse growing like gourds which are like, you know, the pumpkins you can't eat. Um and then in the summer she grew a lot of tomatoes. So it's that smell of tomatoes in a hot greenhouse. And then in the winter just these weird hanging wobbly pumpkin objects. That's probably my earliest memory of gardening.

JVN: Uh what's your favorite thing about gardening with me?

MARK PEACOCK: Gardening with you? It's been...

JVN: That I'm such a natural?

MARK PEACOCK: I wouldn't say natural, but I would say you have kind of thrown yourself into it. And what I like is that you kind of, you know, taking it all on board and you've grown with it and you're still wanting to learn and you...I think at first you were probably doing it for, you know, just to appease me. But then I think you've actually got into, like, liking it.

JVN: Our first garden was a, it was like, all stuff in pots because we weren't permanent in that house. It was, it was like our pandemic garden. Um, so I think that garden would be

good for like, renters or people who have like, very, like, you know, more limited space. So, what's your tips for someone who doesn't know if they like to garden? Um, or if they're newer to gardening; don't have a lot of space, uh, and they need to kind of use like pots.

MARK PEACOCK: Look at some books, magazines, Instagram for some inspiration to see what you like because there's no point doing something if you really don't like it. Then if you've got like a balcony, then yes, you know, get some pots. You will need to remember to water pots. If you haven't got an outdoor space, like a terrarium are really fun, or just like indoor potted plants.

JVN: If you do have limited space or only a balcony, that's enough space for you to garden.

MARK PEACOCK: Yeah, I mean, you can go anywhere. It doesn't matter on what space you have.

JVN: What do you think are some easier things for like a beginner gardener, to garden?

MARK PEACOCK: Um, I mean, like salad crops pretty easy. Like lettuce, you can just throw that on the soil and it will grow. So you can grow lettuce and then just have cut, cut and come again where you just like snip the leaves off and it'll keep producing lettuce. You don't need to pull the whole thing out of the ground. Tomatoes: I mean, they can be grown in the ground or even a hanging basket. You can have the trailing tomatoes. I mean, even if you just wanted to try it, you could get like a a meadow mix like which is a mixed bag of seeds, cosmos, whatever and then just sprinkle that on some soil and it will come up because they literally need nothing but water, soil.

JVN: You built two sets of raised beds from scratch. You made it look pretty easy. But I feel like it's probably not that easy. Like is there like pre-done beds that people can order? Like if people see our stuff on Instagram, and they're like, "Ugh I want one just like that," but they can't build shit. How could they do it?

MARK PEACOCK: Number one, you don't need to raise the bed. You could just dig away some grass and then you know, cultivate it and enrich the soil and then you could plant. I raise the beds because we have very poor soil, so I could import better soil. But you can like pre-buy metal ones that you can kind of put together...

JVN: Yeah, I see the metal ones a lot. And we have three metal ones at the end of ours.

MARK PEACOCK: That is one from like Lowes that you just have to make sure you drill holes in the bottom because you need to allow for the water to drain out. Or you can buy like pre-fab like raised beds that you just slot together. The ones we currently have now, they were kind of half built. So it didn't have to like get huge planks of wood. So they kind of came in a packaging and then you had to like build them all. And that was from a company called Earth Easy.

JVN: You mentioned earlier about your like trans-Atlantic move. What were your gardens like in England growing up? And does England have the same like zones that America has?

MARK PEACOCK: No, we don't have any kind of zoning like you have. I'd say that English weather is probably more like the northeast of America. So, or maybe like Portland,

Oregon; that kind of like that band. So it's like kind of hot summers, cold-ish winters and wet, you know. But England, it rains a lot., so we don't have things like irrigation because we don't need it. Um we're like, we, you can grow a much wider range of plants, especially when it comes to vegetables. But there are certain vegetables that, you know, until I came to America, I'd never grown okra, just won't grow in the UK. Even like tomatoes, cucumbers: generally you would grow them in a glass house. I mean, in the Victorian times, they used to grow watermelons in glass houses with horse manure for soil because the horse manure as it rots, produces a lot of heat and it gives the heat to the watermelons that they require. So that's how the Victorians used to do it.

JVN: What do you really do for the garden? Like, what's a week in the life of maintaining that garden out there?

MARK PEACOCK: Weed and weed and a more weedin'...

JVN: I've never weeded out there before. I don't really do that. My mom used to make me weed as punishment so I don't really like weeding. I really like harvesting food from...I like to collect the food.

MARK PEACOCK: Yeah. See, I like cutting grass.

JVN: I hate that. I hate that more than anything in the world.

MARK PEACOCK: I love! The four...if we had acres and acres all I'd want for Christmas is a sit-on lawn mower and I'd be quite content just going up and down cutting grass.

JVN: Oh, my God, it's stressing me out just thinking about it. Um, but so what do you do out there? Like, what's a Monday and a Tuesday and a Wednesday?

MARK PEACOCK: Well, I tend to because we've got 10 beds or something, so, I might be like a bed and a half a day, like, glance at it, you know, that one doesn't really need anything today or that one might need something. And then, like, every, you know, couple of weeks I'll kind of feed the soil. Um, and then the paths need a lot of weeding because you didn't put a membrane down, so they need a lot. But generally the raised beds look after themselves. I try to plant stuff that I don't really need to do a lot of stuff because it's so hot here in Texas. You know, I only get from eight in the morning till eleven and then I'm like dripping with sweat and I gotta come in.

JVN: The first season of our garden: my favorite was watermelon. Um but then we moved into our first house in Texas and that one watermelon died. Um then our second garden at our first like house that we actually was like our house, um, that was the year of pumpkins, when they murdered our pumpkins, the six pumpkins that we had to harvest in July

MARK PEACOCK: Wasn't it tomatoes as well?

JVN: They murdered our fucking tomatoes died too

MARK PEACOCK: Because the squirrels kept stealing them.

JVN: Yeah, I hate those little fucks. I hate squirrels and chipmunks.

MARK PEACOCK: That was the squirrel...so that was the tomato and pumpkin era

JVN: Raised beds...

MARK PEACOCK: Raised beds, and that's when...

JVN: Oh, we had these ghost...we had these, we had these ghost peppers or what were those?

MARK PEACOCK: Scotch bonnets

JVN: Yeah, scotch bonnet peppers. We had these scotch bonnet peppers in 2021 that literally were like fervently producing like all these scotch bonnets through November. It was insane. Then in 2022, in that same house, you built that pumpkin addition to try...

MARK PEACOCK: That was when you were like, "I want, I want to cover the pumpkins so the boars couldn't get it."

JVN: Yes. And so that was a good lesson if you're... so, so Mark built this cage over our raised garden bed to keep the squash bore vine moss out. If you're in Texas, you know what those are: they're these horrific. Will you tell everyone what squash borer vine moths are, babe?

MARK PEACOCK: They're basically, uh like a nymph, like a maggot thing, that kind of goes into the plant and then eats the plant from the inside out, essentially.

JVN: Well, they are these fucking moths that look like wasps...

MARK PEACOCK: That lay an egg and then it pulls away and you can see like these eggs in like an open wound. And then from that, when the eggs hatch, the maggot crawls down the hollow vine eating it, resulting in killing the plant.

JVN: It kills it. Yeah, and it kills it really fast. So then Mark builds this cage, and so then I was like, "Oh my God, we're going to be able to survive them." So then I was like, "I'm gonna plant eight pumpkins in here," and then Mark was like, "That's way too many fucking pumpkins for such a little place," and I was like, "You don't know what you're talking about. It's perfect. This is going to be great." And then...

MARK PEACOCK: I am their mother, is what you said. I know full well what I'm doing and I want to plant twelve.

JVN: I did eight.

MARK PEACOCK: Well, originally you wanted twelve.

JVN: Yea, so then I planted eight...

MARK PEACOCK: After I spent ages building this Fort Knox cage that nothing could get through.

JVN: Yeah, so I planted eight and then, and then we pulled out two of them, so there were six, because we realized that they were going to suffocate each other; there wasn't enough light. So that, that pumpkin patch only produced one pumpkin, which was devastating. Um, but it was a gorgeous, big pumpkin.

MARK PEACOCK: We did so much better when we just threw them in the ground.

JVN: Yeah, that was devastating. And then...

MARK PEACOCK: We should speak to [BLEEP] and get, use one of his cold frame, one of his greenhouses, which he's got empty and we'll rent it from him and you can plant 50,000 pumpkins in there because it's big enough. You wanna do that?

JVN: No.

MARK PEACOCK: Mmm why?

JVN: Because [BLEEP] just wants to fuck you, Mark. Um and everyone knows, everyone knows and in fact, they're probably already having an affair, ok, because he's trying to fuck you and everybody knows it. Ok? I know it.

MARK PEACOCK: He has a kid.

JVN: He's...that has never stopped anybody before. He wants to get in that ginger goodness. He wants his own gingerbread man. So fuck him. He was trying to, I could tell when he was at the garden, I could tell he was trying to undress me with his eyes.

MARK PEACOCK: Or he was just being nice.

JVN: No, he was trying to undress me with his eyes, my tiny little frame...

MARK PEACOCK: He was just being nice.

JVN: No, he was trying to undress me with his eyes and I know it. I know what it feels like when the lusty stare of a man...

MARK PEACOCK: Well, [BLEEP] is gonna take our citruses is this winter and look after them.

JVN: Well, we need to get our own greenhouse because I feel like he's probably gonna try to fuck my citrus plants too.

MARK PEACOCK: Ugh, move on. Next question.

JVN: So then we moved and then this year, I became way more obsessed with tomatoes, which I think was from that last garden when they got murdered and then still pumpkins. But we had this amazing---I learned on Instagram---it was called like volunteer pumpkin because it just like planted itself. We didn't plant it, it was just there.

MARK PEACOCK: Well, no, because we feed the chickens pumpkins. I threw the chickens down there. And then when they moved the gravel from where the chicken coop was, where I had the chickens, they brought one of the random seeds that the chickens must not have eaten. And then it like just was in the gravel and...

JVN: Seeded itself. And so we grew like seven pumpkins from rogue one. It lasted from March to September probably it was really...and squash borer vine moths tried to murder it...Couldn't, didn't take it down. It just calloused it and just, like, made new vines. Yeah. It was like, it...

MARK PEACOCK: I should have kept a seed from that one. It was resilient to the bores.

JVN: It really was. That was a hardcore...that was a really good pumpkin. Um, we did

watermelons over arch this year, which was beautiful. People were really impressed with that on the 'Gram: our archway. Yeah if you like want to do an archway in your garden then grow like vined fruits. That's pretty fun.

MARK PEACOCK: Well, it's like good if you haven't got a huge amount of space, you know, you can like just grow stuff up and over. You could have flat trellis...have a bed and then have a flat trellis at the end and have beans going up the flat trellis and stuff in the bed and then like an obelisk, you know, like a like a pyramid plant support.

JVN: Is it hard for you to stay focused on gardening with me when I have my, with my fat ass? Because you just look at my fat ass like, "Oh that fat ass, I just want to get in that fat ass of his fat as a gorgeous fat, fat, gorgeous ass."

MARK PEACOCK: Especially when you bend over to do weeding.

JVN: Yes, I just turn to you. Ok. Ok. But that's why I don't because I know it turns you on so much when you see my ass up like that, you freak out, you know, you're gonna just like ravage me in the middle of the garden, babe. We really like the show, Gardeners' World, with Monty Don. Mark introduced it to me. We watch it a lot and Monty is always going on about like right plant, like right place or whatever. And one thing like Mark really loves rhubarb. We tried to grow it like all these years, it just never really works. It's just like too fucking hot here.

MARK PEACOCK: I'm going to keep trying.

JVN: I'm not saying that you shouldn't. But I just, there are certain...

MARK PEACOCK: There are certain things that...

JVN: And same thing with like tomatoes here in Austin, it's like, it's so hot. We're probably just like not in the right zone for it. So it's like ,a lot of gardening, it's like if there's something you really want to grow, but you're just not in the right place. Like you could try to fool it with like a greenhouse, you can try to do a shade covering, like there's things that you can try to do. But ultimately, if it's not the right plant for the right place, like it's going to be a way harder slog. Um so now it's, it's been fall, we recently like we took out one of our okras cause it was like deady, our watermelons were over, the pumpkins are over. We did take out two beds and made winter vegetables. So, what did you plant in the winter beds?

MARK PEACOCK: So, we have savoy cabbage, which I love um, some garlic and then we still have a few...and then I've got, um, actually I need to do that; a green manure to put in, which will be like clover or something like that, that will sprinkle down and then I'll just get the fork in the spring and then dig that plant into the soil and then it will rot down and enrich the soil with nitrogen.

JVN: Flower wise, you really like daffodils.

MARK PEACOCK: But then that's like a very English thing. So, like in January we have snow drops and then we have the daffodils, then we have the tulips, then we have blue bells. The whole, the whole woods are like completely blue.

JVN: Yeah, we have blue bonnets which, you know, are gorgeous. Yeah, they're very pretty.

MARK PEACOCK: But imagine that in like winter when there's everything's brown and then in the woods it's just like a sea of light blue.

JVN: That's pretty.

MARK PEACOCK: Yeah, we've actually, we've never been to England when the, when the blue bells are out. So that must be the month we've never been. So maybe April.

JVN: What has been your--because, you know, we have shown some of our little meals from our uh garden---what's been your favorite meals that we...the pumpkin pies and purees; the pumpkin purees we made have been really good, I think. Not that that was a question for me, it's a question for you. But I keep talking.

MARK PEACOCK: Stir fries. Well, we have got the sweet potato that's kind of come out. So I feel um, you have sweet potato pie, don't you?

JVN: Yeah. And we just had like straight up like, you know, our sweet potatoes, we made like, like sweet potato hash, like mashed sweet potatoes which has been good.

MARK PEACOCK: Using the peppers in like, um, fajitas and stuff have been good. The baba ghanoush and like roasting it...

JVN: Yeah, I just wish I liked grilled eggplant, like I like baba ghanoush but I hate like just eggplant by like just like cubed eggplants it's like so I just don't like it. It's so fucking different. Baba ghanoush is like with all this other stuff in a food processor where it like just cubed eggplant is just like mushy, nasty like stringy. You know, it's like the texture of it like just cubed. I'm like, oooof

MARK PEACOCK: I love moussaka. But you hate it, so...

JVN: Um all right, Mark: the Getting Curious listeners have spoken and we've got a Q & A for you. Oooo, let's role play. You know I love that. You're the expert, obviously, so you answer these and I'll play the part of the Getting Curious listener. Are you ready? Can you propagate any plant?

MARK PEACOCK: Yes, but you can't propagate every plant in the same way.

JVN: What makes a weed a weed?

MARK PEACOCK: It's just a plant in the wrong place.

JVN: But who says what's wrong is; it's giving colonial, it's giving like colonizer, like, labeling things weeds.

MARK PEACOCK: That's what I'm saying. It's just a plant in the wrong place.

JVN: But I bet it was a bunch of white explorers that said it was like the wrong place. I just think we need to revisit weeds, like they're gorgeous.

MARK PEACOCK: If you've got a plant in the middle of your path and you're walking over it or falling over it...

JVN: They're just our displaced relatives!

MARK PEACOCK: Okay, displaced plant.

JVN: Yes! The leaves on my hydrangea turning yellow. What does it mean?

MARK PEACOCK: If it's yellow and dry, then it may not have enough water. It's yellow and like droopy, you could be over watering it. Or if it's kind of anemic yellow, it could just need a feed and it could be like um like chlorosis, like yellowing of the leaves. It could be the wrong place. I mean, if you look at a plant, I always think you should look at the plant and where it is in the wild. So like a hydrangea lives in woodland edges in Japan or China. So it's gonna like dappled shade, not full sun, you know, woodlandy so, so like damp but not soaking wet.

JVN: Can you break down full sun, partial sun, no sun? Like if it says that on the planet, like what does it really mean?

MARK PEACOCK: I think it's due to the number of hours. I think my partial sun is kind of like full four hours ish. So it's like half in the, it might get like the morning sun and then the sun goes around your house and there's nothing in the afternoon that's kind of partial sun. Or like full sun is, if it's like from nine o'clock in the morning till six o'clock in the afternoon, it's like sun beating down on it, full sun. North facing, the sun doesn't go north. So if you've got a house and a plant that like shades, then find where north is in your garden and plant it there.

JVN: What other types of gardens are there?

MARK PEACOCK: Dry gardens, wet gardens, damp gardens, bulk gardens.

JVN: Tropical gardens, slut gardens, grey gardens.

MARK PEACOCK: Grey gardens. Funny.

JVN: Oh, the black and white garden or whatever. Tanny's garden.

MARK PEACOCK: Well, he's done a green and white garden, yes. Just white flowers solely.

JVN: Is there really a difference between potting soil versus potting mix? Isn't dirt just dirt?

MARK PEACOCK: Potting soil and potting mix: I think that might just be an American vernacular versus like an English vernacular. I'm not sure. But the potting medium you use is generally lower in organic fertilizer because the plant doesn't necessarily need such a rich soil to like germinate. And also it has like a gritty mix in it. So it allows for water to penetrate, so the seed doesn't rot, so it's that. But if, I would never use compost that you make in your garden to, to sow seeds in. The bacteria in your compost may not be good for seed germination. So it's better to use uh like a commercial potting soil which has been like heat treated to kill the kind of unnecessary bacteria. And also that's peat free.

JVN: Yeah, tell us about what peat it.

MARK PEACOCK: So peat comes from bulks. So generally horticulture would like dig up the peat and the peat takes a long, long, long, long, thousands of years to kind of regenerate and also peat locks in carbon. So it's one of the biggest forms of carbon

trapping that we have. So the carbon from the atmosphere goes into the peat. But then when we go and dig them up, so we have plants so we can like buy plants at the garden center, they put their big spade and they dig it and they release it all out into the atmosphere again. And basically what peat does, because it's like moss essentially, is so good at retaining water. So that's why garden centers like to use it because they put it into their mix. So then it adds moisture and holds moisture in the plant once it's gonna be on sale and a lot of companies will sell it. There's one company called um Heirloom Soils or something like that and it's called "The Works" is the name of the product. But yeah, or sometimes you can find like coconut, you know, the fluffy stuff on the coconuts, coconut fiber that they put into it. It's not as good as peat. I mean, people love peat because it's so good at what it does. But you have to weigh up environmental carbon releasing versus wanting your brussel to survive in the garden center.

JVN: Does it really matter if, uh, does it really matter if I plant similar plants next to each other? Like vegetables with vegetables or flowers with flowers? I don't have that much space in my garden, so I want to maximize.

MARK PEACOCK: Uh it's probably better to do a mix of vegetables and flowers.

JVN: So there's like beneficial planting.

MARK PEACOCK: Beneficial planting, you know, some of them uh the flowers will attract the insects that bring them in. So you'll get more like ladybirds, butterflies and then in result that those insects coming in will help pollinate the vegetables. So it's kind of like that symbiotic kind of relationship.

JVN: It's like why we do marigolds with something right?

MARK PEACOCK: Marigolds like basil with tomatoes. Or yeah, marigolds with tomatoes or um I think marigolds with carrots is another state of carrot fly.

JVN: Um and then what about like if you have raised plant beds, like is it truly you really need to like cycle the plants, like not do pumpkins in the same bed two years in a row or whatever? Like do you need to like because one thing takes like a nutrient out and another one puts one in.

MARK PEACOCK: Yeah, so it's like it's two fold. So certain, so like I can never remember the exact order, but like beans, for example, and sweetcorn have nodules on their roots that fix nitrogen into the soil. So whatever you put, so if you've got a plant that's going in, that needs nitrogen, then you'd put that in the following year in the bed the beans were in the previous. So then the nitrogen is already in the soil.

JVN: So you don't need to rotate your bed.

MARK PEACOCK: So yeah, it's called crop rotation. You can only do a three year or four year crop rotation. But it's also done so pests and disease doesn't build up. So if there's like like potato scab, I think, is prone to potatoes. So you don't want to keep planting potatoes in the same place because if it's starting to build up, you want to move it on to another patch of soil which it hasn't got a build up of. And by the time you come back around in four years time, it's not going to be affecting it.

JVN: Is there a way to prevent outdoor plants from suffering from frost? Like can you put a blanket over them or like greenhouse vibes?

MARK PEACOCK: Greenhouse, wrap him in horticultural fleece.

JVN: We've done that before. It works sometimes and it doesn't work other times it depends on how cold it gets, right?

MARK PEACOCK: Yeah, but also like if they're in pots, move them closer to the house and because the house is radiating heat...cold generally won't kill plants. It's prolonged cold.

JVN: What if it's too prolonged?

MARK PEACOCK: Well then, yeah, move them inside or cover them up. But I mean, you can cover them with the fleece and they'll be fine. But so that, and then, um, oh, we always do that. I forgot what I was gonna say.

JVN: Frost, suffering from frost.

MARK PEACOCK: Frost, suffering from frost.

JVN: Cuddle it! Give it a little cuddle. Give a little kiss.

MARK PEACOCK: Uh, oh, yes. And then there are some things that you like, you don't really need to lift dahlia bulbs. People always like lift dahlia bulbs and you don't really need to bother doing that. You can just put a thick layer of mulch on top and they'll be fine as long as the soil doesn't get really wet and waterlogged. So if things rot, then that's fine.

JVN: Okay, so before we wrap, this has been fun. Have you had so much fun, babe? Okay, well, we love the Gilded Age and now that the strike is over and we can like talk about television again: Um if we were going to assign characters of the Gilded Age onto our plants, uh what would they be? This is rapid fire. Um Christine Baranski/Agnes Van Ryan: who would she be?

MARK PEACOCK: Lily

JVN: Why?

MARK PEACOCK: Kind of old school but overbearing?

JVN: Oh! What about Ada Brooks/Cynthia Nixon: who's about to get fucked by that reverend, hopefully.

MARK PEACOCK: Priest! Um probably like uh like a viola or flower. She's kind of like wallflowerish, you know, quiet.

JVN: And then Carrie Coon/Bertha Russell, honey. She don't, she don't fuck around with nobody.

MARK PEACOCK: A rose.

JVN: Oh because she's prickly!

MARK PEACOCK: Prick like good on top, like...

JVN: I was gonna say habanero like a habanero pepper. She's fucking spicy and she'll fucking burn your face off. She'll fucking burn you right to death, you stupid bitch.

MARK PEACOCK: I'll go with a rose.

JVN: Because that Metro, she's fucking, she's gonna get that Met popping. You guys, I love the Gilded Age so much. I haven't loved to show this much in a minute. Uh George Russell, Who...that Morgan specter? Like the way I wish you both would just railroad me into last week. Like he's so attractive in that scene with his top off in season one. I just don't think people in like the 1875's were like that muscly but whatever. I don't know, he's really giving me like...he's giving me like modern, modern, like I have like a modern trainer at Equinox. Whereas back then they were more of like, you know, those like bodybuilder like photo shoots from like 1900's they were like different looking, a little different physique.

MARK PEACOCK: Okay, I think um I don't know what he would be. Maybe a dahlia. Quite, no...

JVN: I think he's asparagus. Nice and firm; stout to the ground, that takes like 11 years. Quite rich.

MARK PEACOCK: Alright, you can have that.

JVN: A nice oak tree, but that is easily succumbs to Dutch Elm disease and the financial crisis of 1928 when they lose the house.

MARK PEACOCK: Well, they're based on the Vanderbilts, that family. So they're still around.

JVN: I turn into Moira when she's trying to buy the car.

MARK PEACOCK: Oh, how does she say that?

JVN: She's like...

MARK PEACOCK: Hello, governor? I have interest in buying a car.

JVN: She said, "My husband's an ex tennis player, he is."

MARK PEACOCK: And we've had a death in the family. It's such a terrible news.

JVN: I wonder if I should try to do, perform that. All right. So, um, so you be, you be everyone who's not Moira. [MOIRA ROSE VOICE] The truth is that, um, we, we really struggle with pennery for quite some time now, but just two years ago we were practically homeless. [NORMAL VOICE] I need to warm it up better. [MOIRA ROSE VOICE] And the truth is, is that I'm, we've, we've struggled with pennery for quite some time now. Well, just two years ago, we were practically homeless.

MARK PEACOCK: Car salesman: where are you from?

JVN: You don't have to say the car salesman, just say the thing.

MARK PEACOCK: Well, there's two characters and I never got to do the same voice.

JVN: You're gonna have to change them a little bit.

MARK PEACOCK: Should I try one in an American accent?

JVN: They're both...No, they're both. You're all American, babe, I'm doing the British one.

MARK PEACOCK: So I have to do in an American accent?

JVN: Yeah, it has to be American.

MARK PEACOCK: God. Where, where, where are you two from? You know? Oh, God. You know, I've been wondering that myself.

JVN: [MOIRA ROSE VOICE] I'm from London. I was one of two identical twins. Tragically, I was snatched from me crib at birth by Russian mobsters. Mm. They looked at my fair skin and my dazzling eyes and they said we'll make a pretty penny on that one of them on that in black market, we will.

MARK PEACOCK: And what about the twin?

JVN: What's that, love?

MARK PEACOCK: Well, you're an identical twin. I thought you'd both be valuable. Oh, yes, you wouldn't, you?

JVN: She wasn't born yet. Yeah. She wasn't born till three minutes later and the brethren that work very quickly.

MARK PEACOCK: Jesus. Hey, folks, how are you doing today?

JVN: Oh, excited beyond compare, yes, especially with this being our first ever purchase of an automobile.

MARK PEACOCK: Yes, it's our first car. I hope we can afford it.

JVN: Yes, my poor husband been lost his job recently as a tennis pro. Yes. It's a, in a public resort, that is, yeah.

MARK PEACOCK: Well, let's get you folks settled inside and see what we can do.

JVN: Oh, thank you. It'll be nice to get off the streets and be indoors for a change. Yeah? [NORMAL VOICE] That's really good, babe we did it. Um, was that hilarious? We'll see if it makes the final edit. I...it might, it might not. Um, ok. Uh, Peggy Scott/Denée Benton; Denée Benton, Audra McDonald's daughter. I think she'd be like a gorgeous...

MARK PEACOCK: Iris.

JVN: Oh, is that like a gorgeous flower?

MARK PEACOCK: Yeah, it's the one that's on that painting with the blue.

JVN: Oh, yeah. Pretty, gorgeous. Marian Brook/Louisa Jacks, Jacobson. Louisa Jacobson. That's Meryl's daughter.

MARK PEACOCK: Maybe a blue bell or a snow drop.

JVN: I think she's a snow drop, I say. Oscar Van Ryan/Blake Ritson. Blake Ritson. He's like a gay, he's gay and hot. A gay...

MARK PEACOCK: Maybe a daffodil...narcissist

JVN: Daffodil, yeah, you're so right. Um, Tom Raikes/Simon Jones.

MARK PEACOCK: Which one's Tom Raikes?

JVN: Tom. He's that slut, two timing whore of a bitch who fucked that other. So, he's that social climbing bitch.

MARK PEACOCK: Oh, he can be a...

JVN: He's a fucking piece of shit, I say.

MARK PEACOCK: Piss nettle.

JVN: He's a piss nettle. Um Church Jack Jip Gilpin, Jack Gilpin. He's, he's the guy who went across the street and Miss van Rhijn found him.

MARK PEACOCK: He'd be um well, he's English in it. So um, I don't know what he could be.

JVN: I'd say he's a traditionalist, I say, I think he's a maple tree. I mean a huge, he's a big old, he's a big old

MARK PEACOCK: A maple is from Canada.

JVN: Yeah, he's a big old, that's in the commonwealth. I say he's a big old...Um he's a big old, he's a, he's a blade of crab grass.

MARK PEACOCK: Why don't we say like an apple tree?

JVN: Yeah, he's an apple tree, I say. Um Kelly O'Hara/Aurora Fane. Aurora: she's that pretty blonde girl, she's trying to set everybody up, darling. Yeah, she's a matchmaker; who is like a matchmaking plant. Makes it happen. Sees, gets in where she fits in?

MARK PEACOCK: Marigold.

JVN: Okay. Uh Mrs Astor/Donna Murphy; she's a rich bitch. She's like a...

MARK PEACOCK: Peony.

JVN: Yeah, she's a peony, Armstrong/Deborah Monk. Isn't she the one who comes back as the mistress whore? Oh, I love Armstrong. She's, oh, no, she's a racist. She's a racist. She's racist.

MARK PEACOCK: Oh, she can be, she can be something shit like a, what's like a crap plant?

JVN: Who's like a white supremacy plant? I don't know. We'll skip her. She's a dumb bitch. Ward McAllister/Nathan Lee was a big old gay gay thing. Big old gay flower.

MARK PEACOCK: Oh, we've done peony um....carnation.

JVN: Yeah, then that dumb whore who's just back who tried to fuck um Mr van Rhijn: she is that stinky Amazonian flower that smells really bad.

MARK PEACOCK: She would be a corpse flower.

JVN: Yeah, she's a corpse flower. Whore. I bet she's nice in real life though. Um well, babe, what a rousing episode of Getting Curious.

MARK PEACOCK: It was such a good show.

JVN: It really was. We had so much fun and my last question for you is, do you love being married to me, babe? We have fun, huh? Yeah, babe! Thanks for coming on Getting Curious, my babe.

MARK PEACOCK: Thanks for having me, my babe.

JVN: You've been listening to Getting Curious with me, Jonathan Van Ness. You can learn more about this week's guest and their area of expertise and the episode description of whatever you're listening to the show on. You can follow us on Instagram @CuriouswithJVN and can I just say our social work has been so good? We are just slaying over there. So give us that follow. You can catch us on here every Wednesday and make sure to tune in every Monday for alternating episodes of Curious Now and Pretty Curious. Still can't get enough, honey? Neither can I. You can subscribe to Extra Curious on Apple podcasts for commercial free listening. And our subscription only show Ask JVN where we're talking sex relationships and so much more. Our theme music is Freak by Quinn. Thank you so much to her for letting us use it. Our engineer is Nathanael McClure. Getting Curious is produced by me, Chris McClure and Allison Weiss with production support from Julie Carrillo, Anne Currie and Chad Hall.