

Please Don't Ask

Note: a — indicates an external voice heard only by Bea, not by the audience

i.

From light & ideally an introduction, but none too specific.

Hi, hi

Thank you so much for the introduction

Um

So

It's really great to be here

Thank you, you know, to everyone involved for making this happen

Um

So

My name, as probably know, is Bea. That's short for Beata, but you can call be Bea.

Um

It's been a weird year or so. When I got the call for this, part of me was just really shocked by it. Which is strange, I know, but as with everyone, we're all just individual people. What makes me worthy of, you know, getting up here, giving a talk, answering questions like this? But I guess that's also the reason that I'm even here, is from – well – I don't need to get into it. You've heard the stories. You read the news. Anyway. So, all that is to say that on some level, you know, I was *not* surprised. When they asked me here. And yes, I can hear what that sounds like. I am very modest. But with everything that's going on, you know, with the news cycle, and the ubiquity of social media, and, you know, not just the ubiquity but the importance of social media. We're seeing more and more people like me on stages like this.

So

That was a longer introduction than I meant to give, but here we are. So I'm really excited to hear from you, answer some questions. Yeah, and thank you for having me.

So

I guess they're coming around with microphones now, so I guess, you know, use good technique. Close to the mouth. The microphone. You get it. You know these are the things you pick up when you're the daughter of an opera singer.

Okay!

ii.

—

Yes, please go ahead.

—

Mhmm

Sure

Did everyone hear the question?

Yes?

No?

Okay, I'll repeat it

What this

I'm sorry, what was your name?

—

Cecil? Great.

Thank you, Cecil.

What, um, Cecil asked was

“What is it like being Greta Thunberg's sister?”

You know

I don't

Think about it that much

I guess it's different than with other sisters, or siblings more generally

You know, she's always away

But when she's home, um, we share a bathroom, which is awful. She uses almost no products and yet takes so long to get ready. Very confusing. So that's annoying.

But I mean, she's great.

I don't know.

You see her more than I do.

Next question?

iii.

Sure yes, go ahead

—

Mhmm

—

Yeah um

So, you mean in the United States of America?

—

Sure, um

So

Sorry what's your name?

—

Oscar

Oscar

That's a fun name

Like the grouch

—

From, uh, Sesame Street?

—

Eh it's okay

A joke for me I guess

Okay, so, Oscar

What Oscar asked was if I had any thoughts on the fires happening in California, in the United States.

I mean I haven't read too too much about them

But they seem awful

I would not wish them on anyone

And my heart goes out to the people who are dealing with that

And also thank you, to the people who are dealing with that

You know what?

I'm actually remembering this article I read

It said that the fires were actually not as bad this year as in years past

So that's interesting I guess

—

Sorry?

—

No I understand they're still awful

But they just

—

Yes, definitely

Would not, um

Want that

Okay!

iv.

Please, yes

—

Mhmm

—

You know that's a great question

What the question was was

Sorry what's your name?

—

Oscar

Huh!

Do you two...?

—

No, that's fair

So, um

What Oscar 2 asked is

Why did I want to speak at a conference like this?

And that is a uh

Great question

Thank you

I

And you know the answer has, there are a couple different reasons, if I'm being honest about why I wanted to do this kind of a thing

And, you know, I've spoken to some of them already

Um

So

In my Instagram bio – I promise this is related

I think Instagram bios are such an interesting thing

I think Instagram is such an interesting thing

So my bio says, among other things, it says "I love dance, music & warm hugs." Which is true.

And like, would I say that to someone in person? No. Just a person I'm talking to? No. I

mean, well, I've said it to all of you now, so, there's that. But, in conversation, no. So why then

do I say it on my profile? What does that tell you about me? I think it's so easy to embody a

character. And to define yourself when you can apply this curatorial eye to everything that

you do. And there's a real easiness to that, as much as there is this difficulty. I try so hard to

not care about social media, and yet, I do. Which is crazy. It's disappointing. Why do we care

so much? I truly don't care so much. I say that with total conviction. I do not care so so so so

so much. But also I do. I post professional photos to Instagram! That's crazy!

Wow

Sorry

Oscar

I think people often see me through my music. And, um, that is wonderful. That is what I

want. But music is limited to only so many words. And it is so often the same words over and

over and over again. So something like this is an opportunity for new words. Yeah.

And something about Instagram. I guess.

Maybe one more question.

v.

Go 'head

—

Ah

Do I think climate change is real?

Yes. Please don't ask me about that again.

—

Hm?

—

Based on what evidence?

I don't know.

Look around.

Look at my sister.

You know what. You should ask my sister. Don't ask me. I don't know. Why would I know that?

—

Why *does* she know? I don't know why. It's crazy that she does isn't it? Doesn't that seem weird to you?

—

No, I don't. Do you? Do you feel responsible?

—

Great. Good for you. You should.

—

Yes, of course my sister does. Because she's insane. She's insane. She cares so much. She has cried about this so often. She is so worried.

I don't want to engage all the time. Because it's scary. It's scary to think about. It's scary to see your sister cry. You know, you start to wonder, what is she crying about?

Why is she crying?

I don't know how to comfort her in those moments.

It doesn't feel like I should have to. But also it does feel like I have to.

So

Yes

It is real. Duh.

Thanks

Anyway

You can find me on Instagram @beataernman

And give my music a listen on Spotify — Beata Ernman

Thanks for coming out. See you online.

Leaves. The audience moves on.