

## 2. The Cotswolds

**Richard & Greta** 00:00

[Singing] Try make the best. How do you get the best? Try to get the best do you get the best How to get the best? How to get the best? Out of your partner.

**Richard** 00:22

Okay, check check.

**Greta** 00:24

Hello, check.

**Richard** 00:25

Yeah, it looks like we're both showing sound waves just rearrange my balls here for a sec for restart seats nice and high.

**Greta** 00:34

Just rearrange mine.

**Richard** 00:35

Okay,

**Greta** 00:36

That's good.

**Richard** 00:37

Yeah. Greta has fine balls you know she's got a nice pair.

**Greta** 00:43

You know? Yeah I'm happy with them I was lucky you know? They're smooth.

**Richard** 00:50

Yeah they are smooth. You can see yourself reflected and in them, if you dust them off

**Greta** 00:56

You know I'm only sad I can't raise my own cheek against them. [Singing] Richard & Greta... gonna make your life better....today. In some way

**Richard** 01:22

We took a course last week didn't we? Didn't we just we just take a painting course.

**Greta** 01:31

So it was textural portraiture wasn't, Richard?

**Richard** 01:33

Yes, textural portraiture. You know, and I cannot get enough it is a wild ride to say 'textural portraiture'. If you're at home, you know or you're in your car wherever you are in the tuuuuuube. You know, I suggest taking that for a little spin. Textural portraiture, textural portraiture.

**Greta** 01:59

Portrichard,

**Richard** 02:00

Oh Greta, you've made my day. Textural Portrichard, which is what I did, because it was a self portrait Richard.

**Greta** 02:09

It was your inner self. I think you drew.

**Richard** 02:12

Yeah. Yeah, because it looked nothing like me on the surface to tell you that.

**Greta** 02:16

Yeah, not too much like you will. But if that's how you feel, better that you draw that. We got photographs for the other. Who needs a you know?

**Richard** 02:27

Yeah, just take a picture yourself. Say, oh, there's me, you know, but when you're capturing it, and I'm just reiterating what Greta has spilled, capture something else the essence, you'll seek when you're doing textual portraiture.

**Greta** 02:43

Yeah, well, we spent a fine time in the Cotswolds for a couple of days. And eeren't we in an Air BnB shed?

**Richard** 02:51

Yes, we were a little green one.

**Greta** 02:54

Yes. At the end of somebody's garden. Yeah. And didn't that somebody come down? You know, knock on our shed in the morning.

03:02

Didn't she ever?

**Greta** 03:03

You know, I had to close my legs and pull up the duvet

**Richard** 03:06

didn't I lose my temper just a little bit and say 'God, why are they knocking?'

**Greta** 03:12

And you when you answered and a fine maiden was there.

**Richard** 03:16

Indeed, before me, some forest Goddess did stand. And didn't she blurt out these words thus... 'would you like to join in the morn for a short class in textural portraiture?' Yes. And didn't you, yell from beneath the duvet your enthusiasm for the idea. Yeah I shouted: 'It sounds perfect. We'll be there'. And pretty soon you're sitting around a table with three children, a strange painting teacher, and the Goddess from the day before

**Greta** 03:53

A fine textural portraiture class ensued.

**Richard** 03:57

Yeah. Didn't he teach how to tape a page to a board, and he was really into it just oooooooh

**Greta** 04:07

He was so excited about the presentation because it didn't it belie that he was probably a shitty artist. And also the frame was incredibly helpful to him. Lack of talent was

**Richard** 04:18

All about the fraaaaaaame. You know, it was more the frammmmmme than the textural portrait.

**Greta** 04:25

Didn't his example that he held up looks so shitty.

**Richard** 04:28

Oh god, did you lose faith when you pulled up that crappy picture of himself?

**Greta** 04:32

Are you a teacher at all? I couldn't look at the face. So I went for the feet.

**Richard** 04:37

Oh, sandaled were they.

**Greta** 04:39

Oh bare worthy But we got the pictures, didn't we? You know.

**Richard** 04:44

We did, you know.

**Greta** 04:45

So I'm grateful to him and his horrible boney feet. Those toenails so thick and yellow. Oooh, do I feel them on my tongue when I described them? I needn't go there, Richard. Why do I go there? To the cheese beneath? They gotta get out.

**Richard** 04:59

Yeah, you've have taken me with you and you've gone down in there and you brought me along. You're my guide into this cave. How do we get the fuck out?

**Greta** 05:07

Let's crawl up this nasty looking leg up the trouser leg.

**Richard** 05:11

Oh god no this isn't the way out. I want your nice balls not these.

**Greta** 05:16

There are they are, Richard.

**Richard** 05:17

Oh, no thank you. Look at the monty scrolly. Charcoaled and hair coming out. Oooh Jesus Christ. It looks it took a fucking elephant and took it out of its skin and then piled the skin into a weird wad in the corner.

**Greta** 05:33

Oh, I'm stuck in the folds, but we got to creep up.

**Richard** 05:37

Greta...give me your hand.

**Greta** 05:39

Throw these pubes, we'll get to the navel they will drop out. Oh shit. It's awful in here.

**Richard** 05:44

Too many pubes in my mouth.

**Greta** 05:46

What is this in the navel, all this lint? I gotta get out, Richard.

**Richard** 05:50

It's horrendous What the shit

**Greta** 05:53

I never wanted to experience him in this way.

**Richard** 05:56

Nooooo in the moles. Ooh the moles. I'm in mole Valley or here just on his right side. God the rolling hills of Mole. Oh, isn't there a sweat stream the mole river... fuck you. Oh it's nasty leading up to a plumping nipple that shouldn't be protruding as much on a man like that. No, and it's the third nipple as well raised on a crutch.

**Greta** 06:20

We got to get out through this t-shirt, jump back onto our own portraits.

**Richard** 06:25

Yes, yes. Oh, that was a close call.

**Greta** 06:29

That was hard

**Richard** 06:30

A visual sojourn around the body of a depressed painter that's turned to teaching in the Cotswolds. Speaking of balls, while we're at it, you know Cotswolds is a fine name for a hanging ball sack. Why don't yo kick me in the Cotswolds, you freaking weirdo painting teacher.

**Greta** 06:53

Can I thank him for that beautiful portrait that you did of yourself which I fully intend to stick on the ceiling above where I lie.

**Richard** 07:03

But Greta....yours, oh didn't you capture the wisdom within?

**Greta** 07:08

Oh, and the wisdom within?

**Richard** 07:10

Yes, yes. Wisdom? No. Was it ever?

**Greta** 07:14

It was a small face that got smaller, into the very middle of a large face shape and scraggly hair, like a witch with a pinched middle face, almost like you're looking at her through the bottom of a glass from which she's drinking.

**Richard** 07:29

Well, it's not every day you go to the Cotswolds and it's definitely not every day you go to the Cotswolds and get offered a morning. textural portraiture class.

**Greta** 07:38

Five stars, you know, five star rating?

**Richard** 07:41

Oh, yeah, five stars for that just for the fucking out of this worldness of that, you know.

**Greta** 07:45

What an experience.

**Richard** 07:47

I love just crashing into an experience like that, that you're not expecting.

**Greta** 07:51

Right? Yeah.

**Richard** 07:52

So should we get into it?

**Greta** 07:54

Yeah, let's get into it. How to get the most out of your partner

**Richard** 07:57

How to get the most out of your partner. This is a podcast where Greta and I explore each other and challenge one another and dig deep and try to figure out how to get the most out of each other.

**Richard & Greta** 08:11

[Singing] How to get the best....How to get the best...out of your partner.

**Greta** 08:20

So, welcome this week, you know.

**Richard** 08:23

Welcome this week,

**Greta** 08:25

I mean, Richard hasn't mentioned it yet, but it is my birthday. A special occasion.

**Richard** 08:34

It's Greta's birthday.

**Greta** 08:36

Thank you, Richard.

**Richard** 08:37

And I hadn't forgotten. You know, in fact, I have set up our recording studio with candles to make it a you know, and I know I often do that, but there's a certain sanctity, I was going for today to appreciate all that first day where Greta took her first... gasping breath all the wee babe. And now she's grown into a fine woman.

**Greta 09:02**

Mia, thank you for the fact that today is a special day. And so an attempt was made to make the day special. And yet because you make every day so special, there was nothing left to do. Every day. I could have been born, you know, the way we live?

**Richard 09:22**

Yeah, it's not coming around once a year. You know if your relationship that's how to get the most out of your partner, if your partner's nice to you once a year, you know, find a new partner.

**Greta 09:31**

Do you want to introduce a section?

**Richard 09:35**

Sure. Let's throw it over to you guys, listeners, because we've been bantering a lot. Let's do a few listener questions and we do appreciate that you've been writing in and we're very happy to answer your questions. I've taken a few of them myself to ask Greta and I know she's got a few questions to ask.

**Greta 09:52**

Got a couple here from you guys.

**Richard & Greta 09:54**

[Singing] Richard & Greta...gonna make your life...today...

**Guitar strumming 09:58**

**Richard 10:27**

Would you like to ask the first one or shall I? Maybe I should. The question, what is an item that makes you nostalgic?

**Greta 10:36**

I'm just gonna go with the first thing that came into my head. It's not an item I've seen in a while, but were I to see a shoehorn. I might become nostalgic for my grandfather, who I don't know how he, was so inept at getting a shoe on that this was a requirement. He had to create a slide for the heel along maybe shaped from bone like a yellowy bone kind of marbled. And there was a long marbly almost translucent bone and his nylon sock would get a good run up you know, like a slight at a waterpark and it would start up high and then woof, the shoe was on.

**Richard** 11:25

What a fine birthday gift that would have been for you, Greta. Oh, on your birthday. Had you had you unwrapped a shoehorn. Wouldn't that have filled you with the warmest delight? You know? Oh, yes.

**Greta** 11:36

Soft boil me an egg so that I may use the shoehorn to dip into that white and yellow and feed it myself.

**Richard** 11:44

Oh, God. Am I horny? Holy shit. Uh, you know, you never know what's going to really get you where you want it. But wow you found the sweet spot, I didn't know was there. Dip in a shoehorn into a soft boiled egg yolk? God, my dicks a diamond right now I'm cutting glass. Holy Christ.

**Greta** 12:05

Then do you have an object? Nostalgic object?

**Richard** 12:08

Oh, good question. What I'm gonna go with here is a landline phone. You know, and not a cordless landline. But what I'm talking about is that curly cord, you know, and you'd be in the hall and you'd be talking on that phone and you have that curly cord of the phone. Mine was beige, shiny beige, it was and you know, you, you loop it around your finger, your index finger causing the tip to go red. And as you're talking to some friend, you know, and we're talking about the 80s and 90s. So that friend is, you know, it's a special thing that they called maybe the phone rang, and maybe your mother had to yell out, 'hey, Richard, the phones for you', and you had to go get it and you had to tell your family to 'fuck off' because you were trying to take the call and you didn't know where and you wanted a long enough cord to get into the next room, and you talk to him for a while and you'd smell the sweet breath of the last family member that use the phone and it would gross you out but it was also kind of a home smell and cosy thing and that the phones used to have a sound effect. They still have a sound effect. Oh, this is what it sounds like when you're on the phone, they shorten movies and shit. Phones don't sound like that anymore. You know when you get on the phone and that you don't have the other person go [phone garbled noise]. You know, those are nice. They were big. You can lean your face into it. Just let it cradle your cheek like Greta's fucking balls.

**Greta** 13:31

Tell ya, I do remember making prank calls? That was fun back then. Because you do the area code. And then you knew we had six numbers that could be anything. And you type them in you get someone you go, 'Oh hi, this is James there?' And they'd like no James here. 'Well, I'm pregnant with his baby'. And then they'd go 'ooh, well it's the wrong number' and I'd go 'what am I going to do?' I would get an attack of guilt because I imagined this old lady that never gets a phone call. She thought her son was ringing and some dumb bitch pretending to be pregnant so I would giggle so that my friends didn't think I had a conscience. I just giggled to get my way out of it and I'd hang up and then they you know think it was cool.

**Richard** 14:18

Oh, that's so sad and all the peer pressure. Jeez.

**Greta** 14:23

Well, I have a question. Listener question for you, Richard. How do I grow my own mushrooms?

**Richard** 14:29

A fine question. How do you grow your own mushrooms? We're not talking about psilocybin and we're not talking about hallucinogenic mushrooms here are we?

**Greta** 14:39

Well, we don't know. It's a simple question.

**Richard** 14:42

You take a shit in the dark and you wait. I think I don't know mushrooms are frickin gross. Fine listener question. Okay, so shall we move on to another segment?

**Greta** 14:55

Yes. Product Review.

**Richard** 14:57

Okay, product reviews.

**Greta** 15:00

It's time to review a product, Richard.

**Richard** 15:02

Yeah, you know, okay.

**Guitar strumming** 15:04

**Greta** 15:10

I have a product review for you. You could review from a distance the neighbours grill.

**Richard** 15:18

All right. Our neighbour has a grill. I haven't seen it up close. But I can tell you this. He's out there grilling on it. You know, it's the kind of thing that the fucker can't stop talking about. It seems to be his only interest. And he talks about it and they throw... grill parties. And dudes come around. He's shirtless, mind you, and he stands around the grill talking to the dudes about his grill. I can't tell you how much it pains me to see some new sucker, get suckered into this guy's bullshit. You know, every week new guy wearing a khaki pair of shorts. And you might have shown up in a fine fucking, you know, high water gene or whatever. Who. Cares? Screw. You. Put on these khaki shorts and come out here and shut your fucking mouth while I tell you how my stupid grill works. Because the only damn thing I got going for me. All they're doing is burning fucking chickens. Get a fucking life. Holy shit. ONE STAR!

**Greta** 16:19

I think he makes new friends to bring him back to his grill.

**Richard** 16:22

He needs new customers. He's a fucking serial killer in a way, you know? Find and do it and bring them back and grill bar in them.

**Greta** 16:30

Oh, Richard. Oh. Oh, look what I've done. You know.

**Richard** 16:35

Oh my God.

**Greta** 16:36

Look what I did.

**Richard** 16:38

I made Greta so tense while I was complaining about the grill that she has pierced both of her nipples with uh

**Greta** 16:44

With my earrings.

**Richard** 16:45

It's a fine pair of earrings. Big hoop earrings.

**Greta** 16:49

They'd have to be True that. Hey, you want to do the new section.

**Guitar strumming** 16:55

**Richard** 17:00

How to get the most out of your partner.

**Greta** 17:02

It's time for the surprise segment. Richard. Okay, so it's gonna be a surprise and it's gonna come.

**Richard** 17:09

Okay, right now.

**Greta** 17:10

Okay, you ready for it?

**Richard 17:11**

I think so.

**Greta 17:12**

Okay, the surprise segment is, I like it a prank a call to random number, say what you will, but it has to be you know, magnanimous a magnanimous prank call. You know, like a like those fucks who hug you on the street when you didn't ask for it.

**Richard 17:35**

This is horrible. Ah, this is like karaoke. But worse.

**Greta 17:39**

Ask yourself the question. Can it be, you know, make the world better.

**Richard 17:44**

I don't know. You know? Yeah,

**Greta 17:46**

I don't know either. It wasn't the one I wrote on my notepad for you. But you know, I changed it. Yeah, he's got his phone.

**Richard 17:55**

I'm just dialling numbers. Yeah. 0 7... I shouldn't tell you what I'm doing. Oh,

**Greta 18:00**

0 7, my God. You gotta make it nice.

**Phone Network 18:04**

'It has not been possible to connect your call.'

**Richard 18:08**

Fucking...thank Christ for that, you know,

**Greta 18:10**

You know? Oh...exonerated

**Richard 18:13**

Exonerated. Shall I try one more?

**Greta 18:15**

Yeah, you better. [Richard dialing]

**Phone Network 18:25**

'It has not been possible to connect your call'.

**Richard** 18:30

You know, two strikes? Third time's a charm. Would you like to dial a number just to prove them up? Do you want to leave this?

**Greta** 18:39

I don't even like it.

**Richard** 18:41

I don't either. I hate it.

**Greta** 18:42

Yeah awful. [Richard dialling] You just say wrong number. You know, just do what you're supposed to do when you get the wrong fucking number. [Voicemail]

**Richard** 19:02

Okay, I'm sorry that you're getting this message. Don't worry. It's nothing bad. My name is Richard. And I gave a bunch of prank calls when I was a kid, none to you because it was in a different country. But I'm just calling to give a friendly hello, prank call instead, just to say I hope you're having a great day to make up for the prank calls that are made as a kid. So I'll send you a little song and I'm gonna make up right now. And it's called 'Happy birthday To You', even if it's not your birthday...'Happy birthday to you. Even if it's not your birthday', and that's the whole frickin message and yeah, please no offence to you and I'm really sorry I've done this. Have a wonderful day and all the best to you and yours...That was murder. That person has my number now. This is horrendous.

**Greta** 19:51

Richard you know, I think that's the best you could have made it. I gave you a horrible right.

**Richard** 19:56

That was awful.

**Greta** 19:58

You know, I really hope you never give that you know how to get too much out of your partner,

**Richard** 20:04

How to get less

**Greta** 20:05

You mustn't ask too much of them. That's the point here.

**Richard** 20:09

You know, I was praying. You're praying to me.

**Greta** 20:12

I'm so sorry.

**Richard** 20:16

Oh Jesus.

**Greta** 20:17

But I think you did a beautiful job.

**Richard** 20:21

You know? I hope you're not having a bad time today. Oh, God, it'd be really weird though. If I just called somebody and their friend Richard just died. That's worst case.

**Greta** 20:34

Yeah. If it was actually their birthday. Yeah, it's their birthday. Richard just died.

**Richard** 20:41

And Richard died on it. Look, covering our bases. That's how my mind works to it always goes to the worst case.

**Greta** 20:50

You can only think it was great.

**Richard** 20:53

I would like to give you a surprise segment now Greta. We were talking about landline phones earlier. And what did landline phones have that modern phones do not...dial tones. You know? And so this surprise segment, we're both gonna hum. I don't know you ever done this? And try to hit that point where the two notes are banging off each other. That sweet spot of a dial tone?

**Greta** 21:24

Yeah. Okay.

**Richard** 21:26

So let's just sync into this nice and gently...[Richard & Greta humming] you know, sorry. The party, you know, trying to reach you know, can't be reached or whatever. Let's try another one. A little higher in pitch. [Richard & Greta humming]. Oh god!

**Greta** 21:54

Yeah, we're too far from each other. We got to get closer right.

**Richard** 21:58

Closer to the mics.

**Greta** 22:00

Let's journey [Richard & Greta humming dial tones into 'Richard & Greta, gonna make your life better....tooooooday]

**Richard** 22:30

Hi. Good to start, Richard. Take it from there Fuck yeah. If you've enjoyed Richard and Gretel's podcast, you might also enjoy following us on our social media. Yeah, we're on Twitter @RichardandGreta We're on Instagram, @RichardandGreta.

**Greta** 22:45

We have a Patreon page 'Richard and Greta' if you want to give us money, we're totally open to that.

**Richard** 22:50

What else are we on Facebook? Did you say that?

**Greta** 22:51

Facebook, you know, it's my favourite.

**Richard** 22:53

Yeah, everyone's. I mean, fuck Facebook. But look if you're there, get on in the waters nice.

**Greta** 22:59

Oh, controversy

**Richard** 23:02

You know.