

Simon: Hello! Feeling Christmassy?

Simon: Sure am. You?

Simon: Yip.

Simon: Good.

Simon: Awesome, as it's nearly Christmas, would you like to clear up any misunderstandings?

Simon: A while ago I said I jammed along to the Big Brother theme and said it was in the interesting key of Eb minor.

Simon: That's interesting.

Simon: Yes. BUT is the song really in that key or was my guitar tuned a semitone too low at the time of jamming?

Simon: No idea...

Simon: It's just if my guitar was out of tune and other people jammed along to the music after I told them about the key signature, they must have thought I was completely tone deaf!

Simon: Unless their guitar was out of tune, too...

Simon: That's at least some comfort for me.

Simon: But what if their instrument wasn't out of tune?

Simon: Exactly. I mean being one semitone away from a key is quite literally the most extreme dissonance possible!

Simon: Why not find out now?

Simon: Google says the theme is in B flat minor?? That sounds like I was well off, but to be fair Eb and Bb are closely related...

Simon: Ok...

Simon: No, I've played the theme on Youtube and I swear it's in Eb minor!!!

Simon: Is one of the chords an Eb minor maybe?

Simon: No, the whole key!

Simon: Is it possible someone tuned your guitar a perfect fourth lower without telling you?

Simon: See, I know what a perfect fourth is, too. It's not crazy music theory, but it hints that I'm at least partially educated.

Simon: What's a perfect fourth, then?

Simon: An interval.

Simon: And what's an interval?

Simon: The distance between two notes?

Simon: A mile?

Simon: Sure, a mile.

Simon: No it isn't.

Simon: Half a mile, then.

Simon: No it isn't.

Simon: I know.

Simon: Ok, let's move on. Any more thoughts on Deal Or No Deal?

Simon: I was half listening to the program, and I heard a contestant say something like 'I've been here for 13 years'. What on the show, waiting to play? No she's been living in England that long. Damn. To be fair though the show has been going longer for 13 years, so it was possible she really liked hanging around the studio doing nothing.

Simon: If so, get a life.

Simon: Exactly. She'd make a great homeless person, though.

Simon: Many people aren't cut out for that way of life...

Simon: If anything she has a skill.

Simon: Are you looking forward to seeing the date change on your computer this new year?

Simon: Sadly my computer doesn't show what year it is so I can't truly watch it change. :(I can definitely see the month and day of the month change, though.

Simon: 2024. What a number.

Simon: Yeah, not really. 2025 isn't TOO bad, though.

Simon: More round.

Simon: Yes. For some reason I prefer 2025 over 2030...

Simon: Well 25 is quarter, isn't it? 3 tenths on the other hand is pretty meh, you were right.

Simon: 2050 will be great.

Simon: Any thoughts on LinkedIn?

Simon: I don't bother checking who visited my page anymore as it's always a German steel company or whatever.

Simon: Would you like to be an engineer working with steel in Germany?

Simon: Never thought about it even once.

Simon: Would you like to be a professional music reviewer?

Simon: That wouldn't be so bad. I actually received an email from the Metal Rules boss and he said that I was the number one CD reviewer in the UK!!! Wow, so cool!! Then I asked if he meant the whole of the UK and for all music sites, or just for the UK version of the site I was working with. Then the guy said 'Yes! You're the most prolific UK reviewer for MR! :D' A bit of a let down, obviously.

Simon: Have you tried to be intellectual to compensate?

Simon: Yes, I heard that Finnegans Wake by James Joyce is basically impossible to read, and that's backed up by the fact even the first word of the title isn't recognised by my spellchecker. I was thinking to myself 'come on it can't be that bad'. I checked the audiobook of it online, which also showed the text, and... wow. I didn't understand a sentence. Hearing the narrator shout the 100 or so letter word (which can't be real) was very funny though, I assume it was unintentionally humorous, but that made it funnier. I was thinking 'is this really a book?' Then I read a Youtube comment saying how proud he was when he could work out what a single sentence meant, so I guess it does indeed mean something. Do you know what this word means: 'Noobi-busses'? Are they rubbish buses? My spellchecker certainly doesn't recognise that, the whole BOOK is filled with that kind of stuff!!! It's nonstop!! I'd go even further and say about half of the words were like that. At least at times, anyway. :O There are loads of words in the book that are in different languages, too. You have to wonder why.

Simon: Can you Google Noobi-busses?

Simon: Google's explanation is equally cryptic... Something about bus riders from Clapham.

Simon: It's not an intuitive word...

Simon: Right. Apart from the 'bus' part of the word, anyway.

Simon: Is your writing better?

Simon: At very least it does make sense. How would the Metal Rules boss feel if I put words like this in the review: 'Musicwaiatamusiiikkiaewuisboahea'?

Simon: A word that uses lots of different languages?

Simon: Yep, like in the book.

Simon: I guess he'd be confused?

Simon: Right. My writing isn't perfect though, my Diviner review wasn't so much a review, it was more a (long) list of all the bands the band are similar to. I write a weird review, the band feel unoriginal. No one wins.

Simon: And has working for MR led you to any interesting discoveries?

Simon: When looking for band pictures to add to a review, I saw a pic of a guitarist on Facebook who looked like me and had the same special ears! Surely a close relative. I wanted to point that out in my critique, but it seemed he wasn't one of the musicians I had to write about, he was just tagged by the band I was reviewing. I think. 4 out of 5 for the music 5 out of 5 for the ears. And would you believe he was from Italy? I think. Very strange.

Simon: The Italian version of you?

Simon: Simon Wiedecinni.

Simon: And do you have any things you're curious about?

Simon: Can you get death by supernatural causes?

Simon: What, like crashing your car into a UFO?

Simon: Yeah!

Simon: It's only a matter of time. There has to be life elsewhere in the universe...

Simon: I think I'd rather that way than to die of natural causes.

Simon: Or you could be the first person to be zapped by an alien.

Simon: Yip.

Simon: Have you ever nearly been charged way too much for a milkshake?

Simon: Yes, I nearly paid over £30 for one!

Simon: Why??

Simon: I nearly paid for someone else's petrol by mistake at the same time...

Simon: Ah. Very funny. And do you have a weird tap for your bath?

Simon: Yes, the tap goes red hot instantly when hot water is running, then it cools down straight away when switched to cold water. Not only that, it takes ages to cool down once you turn the hot water off. You'd think it would cool down quickly. I don't know what metal it's made of, I actually think it defies the laws of physics.

Simon: Makes having a bath like a sci-fi adventure?

Simon: If you like.

Simon: And do you have any amusing stories about historical figures?

Simon: I was watching a program about Julius Caesar, and an ancient Roman called Mark Anthony was discussed. I was thinking 'I know him! He's the bassist for Van Halen!'

Simon: The most prolific musician of all time?

Simon: No, he had a very long period of inactivity...

Simon: A couple of thousand years?

Simon: Yes. It's still impressive how he's lived so long, though. I wonder what his secret is.

Simon: Maybe he's an alien...

Simon: That means if he was driving me in a car, he crashed and we died, it would be death by supernatural causes...

Simon: Wow.

Simon: Yeah. It's not worth the funny anecdote, though.

Simon: We all know how you hate cardboard CD cases, do you have any more insights on how they're worse than plastic cases?

Simon: Yes. Trees do have lives, you know? They may not be fulfilling lives, but is chopping down trees really better than making things out of oil?

Simon: An excellent further argument on how digipacks are worse than jewel cases.

Simon: Even the name 'jewel case' is better than digipack. The former name is bit of a lie, but still.

Simon: And any last thoughts?

Simon: Yes, check out Finnegans Wake, I mean seriously, it is nonsense. It would definitely make a good gift for Christmas, you'd just be like 'Check out this lighthearted read!' And then you get THAT. Also, it's interesting how some of the people commenting on the audiobook looked like James Joyce.

Simon: Great, bye!