

Episode Title: Jimmie Allen's Family Ties

Episode Summary: In this week's episode, Sid Evans, Editor-in-Chief of Southern Living Magazine, talks to Jimmie Allen about growing up in Delaware, his love of fishing, and his family's Christmas traditions at Disney World. Plus, how he has been influenced by the strength of his mother and grandmother.

Episode Transcript:

(Biscuits and Jam Theme begins - Fiddler's Barn on Epidemic Sound)

Voice Over from SID EVANS: *Welcome to Biscuits and Jam, from Southern Living. I'm Sid Evans, editor-in-chief of Southern Living Magazine.*

My guest this week loves Disney World almost as much as he loves country music, and he finds that's a hard thing to quit.

JIMMIE ALLEN: We've kind of started a new tradition of kind of going to Florida every year, going to Disney for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Once you, uh, introduce Santa Claus and Mickey together. You can't really top that. So you gotta do that every year, But I love it. It's a way for families to come together.

Voice Over from SID EVANS: *Jimmie Allen was born and raised in Delaware, but his family introduced him to both country music and church music at an early age. He moved to Nashville in 2007, but struggled before his big break—at one point, living in his car. Now in 2020, he's got a critically-acclaimed EP called Bettie James—named for his father and grandmother—which finds Jimmie singing duets with Tim McGraw, Brad Paisley, Darius Rucker and Mickey Guyton. One cut in particular—"This Is Us" featuring Noah Cyrus—has become one of Jimmie's most popular tracks on Spotify. It's about a love that never quite happened earlier in life, supported by a melody you can't forget.*

(Jimmie Allen's song "This Is Us" plays: "Cause it was just you and that was just me / And that was just the way that it used to be / And we were just kids back then tryna figure out what it was / No, it wasn't that bad but could've been better / If only back then we'd have been together/ But it was just you and that was just me / Before we found love / Now this is us")

On today's show, Jimmie shares how those early adversities in Music City just fueled his drive.

JIMMIE ALLEN: You know, when you kind of go through things, you appreciate it more when you get it. Because I'm not afraid of failure. And I feel like failing isn't when someone tells you no, you know, for me, failure is when you quit.

Voice Over from SID EVANS: *All that and more on this week's episode of Biscuits & Jam.*

(Theme music ends)

SID EVANS: Well, Jimmie Allen, welcome to Biscuits and Jam.

JIMMIE ALLEN: Oh, thanks for having me, man.

SID EVANS: So Jimmie, you're from a little town called Milton, Delaware.

JIMMIE ALLEN: Uh huh.

SID EVANS: Which is a beautiful spot kind of right near the ocean. What was it like growing up there?

JIMMIE ALLEN: Man, growing up in Delaware was cool. You kinda got the best of both worlds. You know, my, my town was super small. We did the country thing, but at the same time, it was close to the beach.

So we got to like fish all the time, skimboard, you know we'd surf during like hurricanes and stuff like that. When it's bad weather, that's the only time we really get waves like eight or nine, eight or nine feet. Uh, but other than that it was pretty chill.

SID EVANS: Um, would you say Milton feels Southern at all?

JIMMIE ALLEN: I would say it's looks Southern. But it doesn't really feel Southern. I would say it looks Southern cause you know, we had, you know, the soybean fields, the corn fields and a lot of chicken plants and stuff up there, and you know, we did all the cow tipping and all the same stuff, but just the overall feel, it feels like you're in the North.

We're small town country people, but we're very blunt, very direct. It's a lot different than the South, you know, in the South, instead of people saying they don't like something or like you they'll kind of go around it. Say, you know, that's all right. Bless your heart. Up North, it's more of if you don't like some, nah, I don't like it. What else you got? Kind of, we're very straight to the point. You know, it's very, it's a New York attitude, but in a, in a small town.

SID EVANS: So Jimmie, who was the cook in your family?

JIMMIE ALLEN: My dad. My dad was a cook. My mom was definitely not a cook, as they say in the South, "bless her heart." Uh cause she could cook, but her thing was, she liked always cooking things separate, then mixing everything together. She called it "Angie's all together now." That's what she called it. And sometimes it was, it was hit or miss and it was hit or miss, you know, sometimes it'd be boom on point sometimes, like what the hell?

SID EVANS: So what did your dad like to make? What were some of his specialties?

JIMMIE ALLEN: Man, steak, spaghetti from scratch. I mean like lasagna, he would make lasagna from scratch. My mom could make lasagna and Shepherd's pie. That's kind of her

thing. Gosh, you name it. He cooked everything. Yeah, the fish we caught, we cleaned it, they cooked it.

The deer, you cleaned it, skinned it, cook that. There was even a couple of times we went down the street and picked cows out and butchered the cows himself and prepared the meat himself. So yeah he was pretty hands on.

SID EVANS: Wow.

JIMMIE ALLEN: You name it he can cook it.

SID EVANS: So what about the holidays? Was that a big affair at your house?

JIMMIE ALLEN: Yeah, like so my family, like we're pretty close with like our cousins and like, my mom has siblings and my grandma was alive at the time. So Thanksgiving and Christmas, you know, we'd get together. It'd be like 30 of us hanging out. We would make holidays kind of out of everything, you know, had, about two to three family reunions a year.

Cause like my grandma was, um, uh, she was Suseca Native American. So, you know, real big on, you know, family and tradition and kind of getting together and stuff like that.

SID EVANS: Now, will you guys head up, uh, for the holidays this year?

JIMMIE ALLEN: Oh, no, this year I'll be in New York for a day for Thanksgiving, then we'll hop on a plane and go to Orlando. We've kind of started, since my grandma died, we've kind of started a new tradition of kind of going to Florida every year, going to Disney for Thanksgiving and Christmas and the good thing is my in-laws have a house there. Um, they got a couple of houses, but you know, they've got one in Florida, not too far from Disney. So we'll go down there and have Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner there.

SID EVANS: Yeah, I've heard you're a big Disney fan.

JIMMIE ALLEN: Oh yeah. I'm all about it. I'm all about it. Disney, Universal are life. So, you know, you got to go Universal, get the Harry Potter in, you know. But yeah, man, it's a, it's fun, you know, it's a tradition that, you know, my, my son he's 6, my daughter she's 7 months.

Cause I think I messed up my son, you know, once you, uh, introduce Santa Claus and Mickey together. You can't really top that. So you gotta do that every year, but I love it. It's a way for families to come together. Cause you know, after a while when your families come in town to visit, after about two days you like "ain't nothing to do. Y'all got to go," but down there so much stuff to do, you know, you can hang out as a family at the house, watch movies, but yet you also got options to go to Disney, go to Universal. You've got SeaWorld and Busch Gardens, and it's just so much stuff to do down there.

SID EVANS: You got a favorite ride?

JIMMIE ALLEN: I'm a classic Disney fan. So my favorite Disney ride is Carousel of Progress.

SID EVANS: Oh, wow. Okay.

JIMMIE ALLEN: The Carousel of progress, Tomorrowland Speedway. But of the new rides, that Avatar ride at animal kingdom is good. Uh, the new uh Star Wars ride at Hollywood Studios is good.

SID EVANS: Yeah. You sound like an expert.

JIMMIE ALLEN: Oh man I don't mess around. I don't mess around.

(Biscuits and Jam Theme begins - Fiddler's Barn on Epidemic Sound)

SID EVANS: So Jimmie, you, uh, had a song called "Slower, Lower." I love the name of that, that says "we were raised on hallelujahs and amens." Was the church a big influence on you in terms of music?

JIMMIE ALLEN: Oh yeah. I grew up going to church all the time, you know, singing with my mom and my sister.

Uh, and it's kind of when I first started like singing and I was, I was a drummer first. Then I started playing piano at church and it was kind of where I really just kind of fell in love with not only singing, but performing, even though, you know, I would get told tons of times being in front of people at the church is worship, not a show. I was still trying to entertain a little bit, you know, gotta gotta keep the people happy, got to give God a reason to hang out, you know? So, uh, yeah, it played a big part in just, you know, music and kind of falling in love with music.

SID EVANS: Was there a song from the church that you love to sing?

JIMMIE ALLEN: Yeah, there were a couple, I think one was, it's a song called "Our Father" by Fred Hammond and I love uh "Jesus Freak" by DC Talk was my jam. Uh, then I, you know, I got into like Gaither Vocal Band. My grandma loved them. My mom loved this guy named Mike Perky. Not a lot of people remember Mike Perky.

He was like this guy used be on TBN, uh, Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, some cool stuff. Uh, I was a big Fred hammond, Kirk Franklin, Hezekiah Walker fan, BeBe & CeCe Winans, and I love quartet music too, like Dixie Hummingbirds, Fairfield Four.

SID EVANS: And so you mentioned your grandmother, was she a big influence on you in terms of music as well?

JIMMIE ALLEN: Yeah, you know, she wasn't much of a singer. Her influence came in with just her love for music and she knew that I loved it and I enjoyed singing. So she would kind of

always pushed me to, you know, keep doing it, whether it was in church or wherever I really wanted to do it.

SID EVANS: And was this on your mom's side?

JIMMIE ALLEN: Yes, my mother's mom.

SID EVANS: I heard you say that her favorite band was The Oak Ridge Boys.

JIMMIE ALLEN: Oh yeah that was her favorite group of all time. She loved The Oak Ridge boys, man. I wish she would have got a chance to meet them, but, uh, but yeah, she, she loved them to death.

SID EVANS: And tell me about your dad, in terms of country music, he was a big fan I'm told.

JIMMIE ALLEN: Oh, he loved it. That's all he listened to. And if you turn anything else on the radio, he'd slapped you in the back of your head. Say, "What the hell are you doing to my radio?" Like "nothing, nothing just messing around, just messing around." But yeah, his favorite artist Aaron Tippin, his favorite country song was "Lucky Man" by Montgomery Gentry.

He kinda introduced me to it, it was how I found out about the Grand Ole Opry. He loved it, you know he loved the stories in it. Reminded him of, you know, where we were from, where we lived. Uh, cause my dad grew up in Delaware and my mom's from California.

It was very nostalgic even still now when I listen to it. I try to pull out of, how I grew up in my music. As far as like lyrics goes. Like for production overall sound, I'm a huge rock fan, huge pop fan, huge fan of hip hop. So my lyric a lot of time is more of the country storytelling, but the production and my delivery's a little bit more pop than traditional country music.

SID EVANS: So, um, Jimmie, you've got a great song called "Warrior" that's a tribute to your mother and I think your grandmother too, is that right?

JIMMIE ALLEN: Yes. I wrote it about my mom and my grandma, you know, just about how strong they are, were.

SID EVANS: Well, I love the lyrics. I mean, there's a lyric that says "she's tougher than she looks / heart has a strong right hook." What were you thinking when you wrote that song?

JIMMIE ALLEN: I was just thinking about kind of everything they've gone through in the midst of life throwing things at them, whether it was extra bills, whether it was an car accident or a medical injury, they always found a way to bounce back, you know? Cause my mom's dad, he left my grandmom and four kids when my mom and them were young and he didn't live too far away. He was financially stable, but he did nothing. He just sat there and watched them struggle, watched them not have food to eat, watched them have their bills turned off and he didn't do nothing.

And through all of that, my grandmom, till the day she died, never talked bad about him. But she found a way to keep a roof over their head. But it's just watching them go through all that, watching my mom and you know she was a nurse and she got injured at work. She fell down some steps carrying a patient, and she had some slipped disc in her back and stuff like that, but still through all that, you know, she managed to find ways to keep money coming in and keep a roof over our head and food on the table. And I kind of pull a lot of my strength from them, so I wanted to write a song that kinda highlighted that, them and their strength.

SID EVANS: Jimmie, would you mind saying a little bit of that song?

JIMMIE ALLEN: (*Singing*) “She's tougher than she looks / Heart has a strong right hook / For all the hard times we went though / There's nothing she wouldn't do / For me and my baby sisters / And that woman in that picture / Ain't just a woman in that picture / That's my Mama”

(*Song begins to play: “and I call her a warrior, a fighter / The get back up, and never say dire / Keep on gettin' stronger A hangin' just a little bit longer / For every one step back Is two steps forward / a warrior.”*)

SID EVANS: Wow. What a great tribute to them.

JIMMIE ALLEN: Yeah man, I love that song. I don't, I don't play it as much as I should, or as much as I'd like to, but every time I do play it, it's special.

SID EVANS: You know, family is such a strong theme in your songwriting and everything that you do. And I'm just wondering, what is it about family stories that lend themselves to great songs?

JIMMIE ALLEN: I feel like everybody has a family, whether your relationship with them is great or not. Even in the midst of not having the best relationship with the family, man, there's always some sort of good memory that's conjured up, you know, when you hear a song and it kind of takes you back and, no matter what you look like, or where you're from, you know, when you say, man, you got, someone in your family, you love, someone thinks of a family member, whether it's the parents, their siblings, the grandparents, their uncles, whatever. They think of a family member, you know, and they think of whether it's watching sports. They remember that family member that they would watch sports with. So it's the one thing that intertwines us all.

(*Biscuits and Jam Theme begins - Fiddler's Barn on Epidemic Sound*)

Voice Over from SID EVANS: Stay tuned for more with Jimmie Allen after the break.

BREAK

(*Biscuits and Jam Theme begins - Fiddler's Barn on Epidemic Sound*)

Voice Over from SID EVANS: *Welcome back to Biscuits & Jam, from Southern Living. I'm Sid Evans, and we're talking with Jimmie Allen.*

SID EVANS: So Jimmie, I've talked to a lot of artists on this show about their move to Nashville and what that experience was like, but I don't think anyone went through quite what you did in terms of accommodations when they got to Nashville. Can you talk about that a little bit?

JIMMIE ALLEN: Yeah. Accommodations were great, you know, I got to move into a trailer with no electric for a while. That was amazing. It was just like a zero-star hotel. I got to live in my car for a couple months. Uh, yeah, I'm not gonna lie. It was rough, you know, but I feel like, you know, when you kind of go through things, you appreciate it more when you get it.

And at the same time, you're not afraid to take risks. I'm not afraid to be broke. I've been broke and I'm not afraid to go a couple of days without eating. I've done that too. I feel like the struggles prepared me for now. I can really create the music I want to create, you know, write the books I want to write, write the screenplays and scripts for TV shows that I want to do, because I'm not afraid of failure.

And I feel like failing isn't when someone tells you no. For me, failure is when you quit, when you give up, cause even in the midst of struggling to get a record deal and trying to get my songs put on the radio, when I was working, at Walmart or when I was a server, when I was collecting trash or a janitor, there was still something special and exciting that woke me up every morning, knowing that singing is what I love to do.

And even though for a while, singing wasn't paying the bills and I was playing at bars. I still was living my dream because the dream is singing. The dream isn't being rich from singing and performing, the dream is to sing. And I got to do that. No matter the size of the stage or the size of the people at the show, you know, and then waking up every day, knowing "Cool, today could be the day where I get a record deal." Or after I got one, "today could be the day where my song goes number one," or et cetera. That was always exciting to me. And it still is. You know, I think living in a car, I think it kinda got me to the point where I'm kind of addicted to the struggle now.

Because I'm the type of person, once I accomplished something I'm appreciative. I'm thankful. "All right, what's next?" Then I'm ready to get back working hard on something else. Cause I like working for things. I don't know what it is, but, I love it.

SID EVANS: Did you ever reach a point where you were about to pack up and move back to Delaware?

JIMMIE ALLEN: Honestly, I thought about it, but nah. There were a bunch of points where other people told me I should pack up. But nah I always saw myself where I am now as crazy, as that might sound, I always saw myself, you know, with a number one. I always saw myself playing

the Grand Ole Opry. I saw myself presenting at award shows, performing at award shows and being nominated.

I never saw myself winning, but I saw myself nominated and performing. I see myself in arenas one day, you know, I see myself on television, whether it's hosting or in a movie or in a sitcom. I see myself writing books and I see myself on Broadway one day. Cause I definitely think about taking six months off and, doing a Broadway show one day. Cause I love musical theater. I've seen all these things and I feel like the more you see it in the more you dream it and the more you put the work in to get there, you know, eventually you'll meet a person or two that can help you achieve all those goals.

(Instrumental music begins)

SID EVANS: So this has been a crazy year, an emotional year, a difficult year, you know, it's been a year of protests and really hard conversations. And as someone in a very public role, what has this movement been like for you personally?

JIMMIE ALLEN: It's been cool to see, you know, we're all human, we all bleed. We all have our heart broken. We all get happy. We're all going to die one day. That's just a fact. And it's cool to see, some of the world, and the country start to kind of wake up to the fact of, "yeah, there is some things that Black people go through," that whether people ignored it before or didn't really think it was real until everything was on pause with the whole COVID thing. And you really got a chance to see it, like "oh crap." There's some people that are still, you know, denying it, but you can't deny it.

Some people, when they're driving down the road and the cop pull them over, they're nervous. I'm like, it wasn't designed to be like that. You know, these are people that are supposed to protect us and keep us safe. Now some of my best friends are cops.

My cousin, a police officer. If I was still living in Delaware, I'd have been a police officer. You kinda got the good cops that have to put up with the negative shadow that's been cast around them. But at the same time, it's crazy that people legit feel that way, like even me, like I'm not gonna lie, you know, a couple of weeks ago I got pulled over and I was looking legit nervous for a little bit. And I asked my band, I said, uh, my band are all white guys said, do you ever get nervous when you get pulled up by the cops? They said, no and like, my bass player is like, and it's crazy that I never feel nervous. And it's crazy that there's times where you do feel nervous and I'm slowly starting to see it.

And, I tell people, how you make an immediate change on how things are handled is vote locally, with your mayor and your governor. Because, if I'm not mistaken in most places, the mayor elects the police chief.

So you have a mayor that's for equality and treating people fairly. He's going to elect a police chief that does the same. So if anybody does step out of line and does something crazy, they're not going to tolerate it. I feel like two things will happen when you have a police chief that don't

put up with BS. People's hearts will change, or people will hide it. Either way, it won't happen, you know what I mean?

So that's kind of how I look at it and I, I don't, really see it changin today. Or tomorrow or next year, or the year after that. It's going to take time. But I honestly believe by the time my son gets my age, it'll be a lot better.

SID EVANS: Do you think that country music is becoming more welcoming to Black artists and Black fans?

JIMMIE ALLEN: I do for sure. And it's cool because it's pretty much how it started. When you look back where country music came from, with blues and DeFord Bailey in the 20s purposely playing blues sounding harmonica riffs to introduce this new genre of country music. The country music fans, for the most part, people who listen to country music have been ready for it.

Cause if that wasn't case you wouldn't have Charley Price selling out shows in 60s, you wouldn't have Darius selling out shows. Wouldn't have me selling out shows, you know, you wouldn't have Mickey Guyton right now. So it's like the fans are ready for it. There's a lot of times it's the people, whether they be in radio or at record labels that are still kind of "ehh," and I tell people, if you don't evolve with the world, you'll get left behind.

With social media now and everything you've seen artists of all genres create this huge fan base and sell out arenas without a record label, without radio play. I had a friend at radio tell me, he said I had to wake up to the fact of, "Do I want to have a job five years from now or not?"

If you're so out of touch with what the rest of the world is doing and what they want, they'll turn your radio station off and turn on Spotify, where they can hear what they want to hear. And it's a lot more power now in the artist's hands, which I think it should be, uh, because, um, I even have somebody from a label telling me this a couple of weeks ago. They were like, "I think it's weird that the artists, we make our money from the artists creating music. So why are we the ones that say what the artist should record or when they should put it out? When if all the artists said we're not making no more music, they don't have a job." And when he told me that I was like, "Hmm, you got a point."

He said, "Jimmie, say every country artist right now saying we're not making music for three years." He said, "What will we do?" He said, "cause think about it. Y'all can still go play shows. He said, artists can still go play shows. Could still go do interviews but if y'all don't put out no new music?"

SID EVANS: Right.

JIMMIE ALLEN: So, I was like, so I think the thing is, man, you know, you have people slowly starting to wake up to the fact that music is made by everyone, you know? It's not weird when you see White guys doing hip hop or R&B, so it shouldn't be weird when you see Black people

doing country music, you know, and I've kind of gone through that where it's like, if I'm Black, I have to prove how country I am.

Well, you could take a White dude from New York City, put a cowboy hat on him, let him move to Nashville and nobody will question it. Nobody won't say nothing. But you take a Black guy, you don't even got to put a cowboy hat on him, put some boots on him, or just say he wants to do country music. "Well, why do you want it? What makes you want to do country music?" I've never heard an interviewer ask a White country artist, "What got you into country music?" No, they don't. They don't ask that question. They ask you: "What made you want to be a singer? What got you into music?" They don't specify what got you into country music because, the stereotype is country music is for White people. That's why I think representation is so important. You know, when people can turn on the TV and see someone that looks like them doing what they want, they no longer feel like they have to hide what they want to do.

It becomes normal to where it gets to the point one day where you don't have to say Jimmie Allen was the first Black country artist to have a debut number one single. It's not a thing anymore. It's just cool. Jimmie got a number one. What's next? Cause you don't hear em say. You know, Riley Green was a 2,021st White guy to get a debut number one. Nobody says that, you know what I mean? Nobody says it. If I was White, I'd be, I'd be mad. I'd be jealous. Why don't I get all the attention? I'm doing all the same things, but since he's Black, you know, he's the first to do this and I'd be mad as hell if I was White. What about me?

SID EVANS: So Jimmie, you mentioned Charley Pride as a inspiration and I think he's become a friend. Is that right?

JIMMIE ALLEN: He has.

SID EVANS: What has he meant to you as an artist?

JIMMIE ALLEN: A lot. In the time where people were still publicly hanging, hosing Black people in the streets, he's putting on concerts, being called tons of crazy names and keeping his cool and still putting on the show. He showed them that people didn't really care what you look like, because if that was the case, you wouldn't have thousands of White people going to see this Black dude on stage and paying money to see him.

It's super inspiring, and growing up, even though he was, he was one guy. It was like, man, if he could do it in the 60s, why can't I do it now?

SID EVANS: Yeah. And Darius Rucker has become a friend of yours as well, right?

JIMMIE ALLEN: Yeah. I love Darius, man. He's a cool dude. And seeing him kill two genres that were considered predominantly White. The rock game, Hootie and the Blowfish was one of the biggest rock bands of all time. And now he's considered one of the biggest country artists too. He did it twice, you know, been waiting to see him put out a folk album. He needs to do that next.

SID EVANS: He was on this podcast and he mentioned to you as someone he was a big fan of.

JIMMIE ALLEN: I love Darius, man. He's a a good dude, man. A hard worker. Um, he's inspired me a lot, you know, and I got a chance to do that song with him and Charley, that was crazy to me. It's amazing.

SID EVANS: So I want to ask you about your new album, uh, called *Betty James*. And you collaborated with some of the biggest names in country music. I mean, Brad Paisley, who you talked about before, Darius, Tim McGraw. What was it like performing with all these people?

JIMMIE ALLEN: It was cool getting the chance to, you know, hang out with them. And then, you know, when I asked them to do songs with me, they were all in, you know, and as an artist, that's one of the biggest compliments ever when someone you look up to, as an artist or, uh, appreciates what you do enough to do a song with you. I'm sure they get asked all the time to do songs with people and they're probably like, "I'm good. I'm good." Cuz they don't need the money. They're good. So the fact that they would do it with me, it meant a lot. You know, and I got to have some of my dad's favorite artists there, mine, as well as my grandmother's.

SID EVANS: Well, it's such a fun album and, uh, there's a, there's a song on there called "When This is Over" and it starts with a line that says, "When this is over, I hope I take a little less for granted / hope I'm a little more understanding." Do you feel like the experience of the last few months has changed you in some ways?

JIMMIE ALLEN: Uh, definitely. It's kind of changed me to the realization that there's a lot of people that honestly want to do better, you know what I mean. That, um, if given the opportunity they'll and they see that they need to change, they will. For me, it's definitely made me not want to take moments for granted, you know, cause you never know when that's it. It's made me really pay attention to how you treat people and what you say to people. I feel like if you've gone through this and you haven't changed at all, I don't know what to tell you. Your heart might be broke. Might need some fixin'.

SID EVANS: That's the truth. Well, I got to ask you about fishing real quick, Jimmie, I've seen a lot of fishing pictures on your Instagram. I'm a fisherman myself. What does fishing do for you? It almost seems like you love to fish as much as you love country music.

JIMMIE ALLEN: I do, man, it's uh, I might like fishing more. It's relaxing. And I get to think and, plan, just relax, you know, something hopefully I can get my kids into. I remember it's so funny. I posted a uh, a picture of me with this drum fish, I caught and I use the caption "I love fishing it's where I come to think and just plan." This lady comments. "So you think and escape from all the killings happening right now by killing fish?" I said nothing about escaping from the killings. What are we talking about here? Like what? Like I normally don't, but I'm that guy on social media, I respond to people.

Because people have this idea to where they can say whatever they want to an artist, but the artist can't say nothing back? That's when I that's, when I'm act that's when I act like a hip hop

artist. No, I'm coming back. I'm going to, we're going to have this conversation. If you want to have this conversation on a public forum, we're going to have it. Like I said nothing about escaping from killings to go kill. And I was like, don't you don't eat fish? She's like, I do eat fish. You eat them while they're alive? Do they stay alive through your digestive system? Let me know. I didn't know. I didn't, I didn't know you ate whole cows while they were still mooing. And I didn't know they'd go through your stomach mooing all in one piece. Let me know.

SID EVANS: You're like, don't mess with my fishing.

JIMMIE ALLEN: No, no. Don't touch that.

SID EVANS: Well, Jimmie Allen, thank you so much for being on Biscuits and Jam.

JIMMIE ALLEN: Alright, man. Thank you. Now you got me wanting some biscuits and jam, where's the biscuits and the jam? Send them to me.

SID EVANS: We can hook you up.

JIMMIE ALLEN: My man.

Voice Over from SID EVANS: *Thanks for listening to my conversation with Jimmie Allen. His latest EP, Bettie James, is available wherever you get music.*

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Biscuits & Jam is produced by Heather Morgan Shott, Krissy Tiglias and me, Sid Evans, for Southern Living. Thanks also to Ann Kane, Jim Hanke, Eliza Lambert and Rachael King at Pod People.

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