STUART

Ladies and gentleman, thanks so much for tuning into the first ever live broadcast of *Word Nerd!* I’m Stuart Olsen, and the man I’m here with needs no introduction. He’s Bob Otto, the show’s host since its very start, and one of the world’s most celebrated cruciverbalists—which is just a fancy word we use to mean people who make crosswords. First things first, Bob—is it true you write all the puzzles we see on *Word Nerd* yourself?

BOB

That’s true, yes.

STUART

How do you manage that? I’ve never constructed a puzzle, but I know enough to know there’s barely enough time in my week to write one puzzle, let alone three. What’s your secret?

BOB

There’s no secret. I just eat, sleep, and breathe words.

STUART

But maybe for the sake of any aspiring puzzlers out there, you could try and fill us in. What’s your technique? Your procedure?

BOB

There’s no secret. After so many years building puzzles, it’s just become second-nature. I could probably do them in my sleep. I didn’t get to tonight’s puzzles until pretty late last night, so that’s practically what I did.

STUART

You have tonight’s puzzles on hand right now, is that correct?

BOB

I sure do. But no peeking!

STUART

Of course not! Now, to give those of you the audience a little window into how we do things here at *Word Nerd*, Bob typically hands the puzzles off to the graphics team just before the show begins. That way, there’s no chance that anyone else could get a look at the puzzles or clues ahead of time. Is that right, Bob?

BOB

(*Slightly put off.*)

That’s right.

STUART

The next time we see those puzzles, they’ll be up on our game board. Speaking of which, let’s get to it! Ladies and gentlemen, get ready for *Word Nerd*, played live for the first time in the show’s history—coming up right after this commercial break.