

1  
00:00:00,270 --> 00:00:00,540  
From

2  
00:00:00,540 --> 00:00:04,690  
the Trebek Stage at  
Sony Pictures Studios, this

3  
00:00:05,140 --> 00:00:07,110  
is Inside

4  
00:00:07,150 --> 00:00:07,790  
Jeopardy!

5  
00:00:08,569 --> 00:00:12,040  
Ah, take it away, Johnny on the Axe.

6  
00:00:12,149 --> 00:00:15,680  
Hello, welcome back to Inside Jeopardy!,  
everyone, your exclusive and official

7  
00:00:16,140 --> 00:00:18,700  
podcast destination for all things  
happening in the world of Jeopardy!.

8  
00:00:18,700 --> 00:00:20,929  
I'm Michael Davies, here today  
with producer Sarah Foss.

9  
00:00:21,110 --> 00:00:25,590  
Oh, so happy to have you in the  
pod in a busy time for us, Michael.

10  
00:00:26,030 --> 00:00:28,300  
Yeah, no, it has been a busy time.

11  
00:00:28,550 --> 00:00:33,300  
We've just wrapped in JPT,  
Jeopardy! production time, we have

12  
00:00:33,300 --> 00:00:36,330  
just wrapped Champions Wildcard.

13  
00:00:36,675 --> 00:00:43,995  
for the season 37, 38 champs, the hearts  
group, uh, the hearts group that concludes

14  
00:00:44,065 --> 00:00:46,285  
champions wildcard for us for that season.

15  
00:00:46,654 --> 00:00:52,394  
We can now go in when we return to taping  
in JPT, we're going to be coming in with

16  
00:00:52,394 --> 00:00:58,155  
second chance, uh, for, uh, Season 39  
and our delayed postseason because of,

17  
00:00:58,205 --> 00:01:00,035  
uh, various forms of industrial action.

18  
00:01:00,285 --> 00:01:03,085  
Those are going to be  
taking place from now on.

19  
00:01:03,095 --> 00:01:04,245  
We'll come back after the holidays.

20  
00:01:04,245 --> 00:01:05,705  
We'll do Champions of  
Wildcard for the season.

21  
00:01:05,705 --> 00:01:10,085  
Then we'll do the TOC, which I'm  
cannot tell you how excited I'm about.

22  
00:01:10,085 --> 00:01:12,375  
It's going to be the biggest TOC ever.

23  
00:01:12,425 --> 00:01:16,565  
The writers, uh, are all back  
at work, smiles on their faces.

24  
00:01:16,835 --> 00:01:20,085  
on both sides, frankly, not only from

the writers, also from all of us.

25

00:01:20,265 --> 00:01:21,415  
We're delighted to have them.

26

00:01:21,425 --> 00:01:26,135  
They are writing with vim and  
vigor and a great haste, um,

27

00:01:26,165 --> 00:01:27,664  
to have these episodes ready.

28

00:01:27,695 --> 00:01:30,384  
And we're just delighted to sort  
of get back on track, get through

29

00:01:30,384 --> 00:01:34,575  
this postseason, and then invite  
new players back to the Alex Trebek

30

00:01:34,584 --> 00:01:36,585  
stage, uh, for the rest of our season.

31

00:01:36,755 --> 00:01:40,435  
Yes, and we're gonna keep the train going,  
because as you mentioned, we're gonna

32

00:01:40,445 --> 00:01:44,835  
have, you know, 16 to 17 weeks of regular  
programming here at the end of the season.

33

00:01:45,255 --> 00:01:48,255  
And then we've got to kick off  
another postseason next fall.

34

00:01:48,265 --> 00:01:50,975  
So the Jeopardy! train is off.

35

00:01:51,005 --> 00:01:52,255  
It doesn't ever stop.

36

00:01:52,485 --> 00:01:55,844

We've now made it through the  
Spades and the Diamonds in Champions

37

00:01:55,855 --> 00:01:57,405  
Wild Card in Jeopardy! Airtime.

38

00:01:57,405 --> 00:01:59,644  
We're going to talk about  
those last few games and the

39

00:01:59,645 --> 00:02:01,535  
launch of the clubs coming up.

40

00:02:01,585 --> 00:02:01,725  
I

41

00:02:01,725 --> 00:02:05,285  
just must say, remember these champions,  
and I think about it all the time.

42

00:02:05,705 --> 00:02:09,035  
They never would have gotten the  
chance to come back and play on the

43

00:02:09,035 --> 00:02:11,595  
Alex Trebek stage in previous years.

44

00:02:11,924 --> 00:02:14,745  
Um, so many of them, you know, make that.

45

00:02:15,095 --> 00:02:16,895  
point how grateful they are.

46

00:02:17,015 --> 00:02:19,135  
Many of them played  
originally with no audience.

47

00:02:19,135 --> 00:02:20,915  
They played during COVID times.

48

00:02:21,355 --> 00:02:23,255  
Many of them played with guest hosts.

49

00:02:23,585 --> 00:02:27,674

And to get a chance to come back here and play with Ken in front

50

00:02:27,674 --> 00:02:31,085

of an audience, just the quality of the gameplay is so high.

51

00:02:31,094 --> 00:02:33,104

The quality of these players is so high.

52

00:02:33,425 --> 00:02:36,015

I think we've uncovered some new stars.

53

00:02:36,145 --> 00:02:40,335

Frankly, uh, who you're really going to enjoy and talking about our stars

54

00:02:40,335 --> 00:02:41,954

talking about the Jeopardy! train.

55

00:02:42,395 --> 00:02:46,725

Um, I had a run in, uh while I was back in New York, you know, I commute

56

00:02:46,725 --> 00:02:51,665

between New York Uh city and Los Angeles produce some shows over there My kids

57

00:02:51,665 --> 00:02:56,000

are over there and come to la to go and do the show Uh, out here at Jeopardy,

58

00:02:56,410 --> 00:03:00,270

we had sort of what I consider to be almost that sort of wonderful fall day.

59

00:03:00,270 --> 00:03:01,490

It's a real occasion in New York.

60

00:03:01,490 --> 00:03:03,980

It's the, it's the unofficial  
last day of summer.

61

00:03:03,980 --> 00:03:08,090  
It's the last day that it's super warm and  
the leaves are all golden on the trees.

62

00:03:08,090 --> 00:03:12,129  
And I was out walking with my son and some  
friends like after he'd played soccer.

63

00:03:12,130 --> 00:03:16,050  
And it was that beautiful sort  
of last breath of summer day.

64

00:03:16,440 --> 00:03:19,980  
And I'm walking up Hudson Street  
downtown and, uh, it's just

65

00:03:19,980 --> 00:03:21,170  
the weekend before Halloween.

66

00:03:21,200 --> 00:03:24,130  
And I see a guy walking  
towards me and I think.

67

00:03:24,490 --> 00:03:27,710  
That is the most amazing Matt  
Amodio Halloween costume.

68

00:03:28,350 --> 00:03:32,590  
And then I realized that it was Jeopardy!

69

00:03:33,030 --> 00:03:34,779  
Ultra Champion, Jeopardy!

70

00:03:34,890 --> 00:03:39,410  
Master, Matt Amodio walking towards me  
and he, suddenly we fixed eyes and he

71

00:03:39,410 --> 00:03:41,640  
looks at me and he just says, Michael.

72

00:03:41,990 --> 00:03:44,900

He was just found it extraordinary  
that I would be there on Hudson Street

73

00:03:44,900 --> 00:03:47,970

and introduce him to my son and we  
stopped and we're right outside.

74

00:03:48,230 --> 00:03:50,700

I forgot the name of the restaurant  
right outside of restaurant on on

75

00:03:50,940 --> 00:03:54,820

Hudson Street, Hudson Street in the  
West Village and there's sort of outdoor

76

00:03:54,820 --> 00:03:58,680

tables and everyone turns around to  
look at Matt Amodio in this moment that

77

00:03:58,680 --> 00:04:00,610

I'm having with Matt and we're talking.

78

00:04:01,080 --> 00:04:05,680

Matt had literally moved to New York  
City from Cambridge the day before,

79

00:04:06,049 --> 00:04:09,970

had unpacked boxes at his apartment,  
and he was walking down Hudson Street.

80

00:04:09,980 --> 00:04:12,130

It was so lovely to run into him.

81

00:04:12,610 --> 00:04:16,999

And when he walked away, the table  
of people, uh, well, several tables

82

00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:20,720

outside this restaurant were like,  
that was the coolest thing we ever saw.

83

00:04:20,830 --> 00:04:24,330  
And just the fact that you will walk up  
Hudson Street and you recognized him.

84  
00:04:24,740 --> 00:04:26,750  
And then my son, of course,  
and you've met George.

85  
00:04:27,260 --> 00:04:29,159  
He's like, yeah, my dad's  
the producer of the show.

86  
00:04:30,420 --> 00:04:31,410  
It's kind of it's kind of a big deal.

87  
00:04:31,670 --> 00:04:34,440  
Everybody was so excited,  
and they were huge Jeopardy!

88  
00:04:34,440 --> 00:04:37,460  
Masters fans, huge Matamodio fans.

89  
00:04:37,729 --> 00:04:41,069  
You know, fascinated that I lived  
and worked just down the street.

90  
00:04:41,100 --> 00:04:44,300  
And you just realize the power of this  
brand, the power of our champions.

91  
00:04:44,825 --> 00:04:47,165  
And Manomodio, maybe I'll walk  
past him on the street the whole

92  
00:04:47,165 --> 00:04:47,475  
time now.

93  
00:04:47,475 --> 00:04:49,575  
Yeah, in a small place like New York City.

94  
00:04:49,575 --> 00:04:49,865  
Yeah,



95

00:04:49,935 --> 00:04:51,515  
I know, I know, run into him.

96

00:04:51,765 --> 00:04:53,985  
On the first day, he's,  
he's, he's moved there.

97

00:04:54,315 --> 00:04:55,835  
That was one thing I  
wanted to catch you up on.

98

00:04:55,875 --> 00:04:59,375  
And then, um, there was a brilliant  
post that really got me thinking and

99

00:04:59,755 --> 00:05:03,525  
I've realized it's something I haven't  
spoken a lot about, um, here, because

100

00:05:03,525 --> 00:05:04,984  
it's another thing I've been working on.

101

00:05:05,205 --> 00:05:08,424  
There was a great Reddit post, and it was  
a, sort of a question about whether or not

102

00:05:08,424 --> 00:05:10,914  
there's a cultural barrier with Jeopardy!

103

00:05:10,934 --> 00:05:11,854  
internationally.

104

00:05:12,064 --> 00:05:15,834  
And I think the poster made the  
point that Millionaire is a game

105

00:05:15,835 --> 00:05:18,715  
that's worked in countries all  
around the world, and I think...

106

00:05:19,305 --> 00:05:22,664  
Last count, it had been on in

something like 104 countries.

107

00:05:23,105 --> 00:05:26,115  
Um, there's only 198, I think,  
according to the United Nations.

108

00:05:26,115 --> 00:05:27,645  
So it's been in like  
more than half of them.

109

00:05:28,104 --> 00:05:30,235  
And Jeopardy has just  
not traveled as well.

110

00:05:30,255 --> 00:05:32,004  
I think there's been a  
Russian version for years.

111

00:05:32,495 --> 00:05:34,904  
But this is something  
that's starting to change.

112

00:05:34,934 --> 00:05:40,370  
Just in the last year, we have  
Uh, launch the show in Sweden.

113

00:05:40,789 --> 00:05:43,900  
I think it's launching, uh, out  
of the Swedish production base.

114

00:05:43,900 --> 00:05:45,679  
They're going to make the show  
for the rest of the Nordics

115

00:05:45,679 --> 00:05:47,090  
for Denmark and Norway.

116

00:05:47,619 --> 00:05:52,599  
There is a new UK version with  
Stephen Fry that's shot in Manchester.

117

00:05:52,819 --> 00:05:54,939  
That's going to come out,

I think, around New Year.

118

00:05:55,445 --> 00:05:59,415

Um, at the same time they shot the Australian version with Stephen Fry.

119

00:05:59,595 --> 00:06:03,175

A Spanish version looks like it's going to be happening, uh, later in the year.

120

00:06:03,365 --> 00:06:06,504

And a German version seems, seems a little bit more likely.

121

00:06:06,504 --> 00:06:08,675

It was part of a sort of a, a special.

122

00:06:08,834 --> 00:06:10,375

But we're starting to see...

123

00:06:10,620 --> 00:06:17,030

Jeopardy and its unique answer question format start to spread because of

124

00:06:17,030 --> 00:06:18,390

obviously all the success of the U.

125

00:06:18,390 --> 00:06:18,469

S.

126

00:06:18,469 --> 00:06:18,750

Show.

127

00:06:19,340 --> 00:06:21,280

Yeah, I used to find it so interesting.

128

00:06:21,280 --> 00:06:24,679

We would travel internationally with the clue crew and for us, Jeopardy just seems

129

00:06:24,680 --> 00:06:26,549

like such an iconic, recognizable brand.

130  
00:06:26,550 --> 00:06:29,539  
And we'd go to these foreign countries  
and you would try to explain what

131  
00:06:29,539 --> 00:06:32,570  
we were shooting and yes, we're  
going to give them the answers.

132  
00:06:33,255 --> 00:06:36,415  
It was a bit lost on some people  
internationally, but not anymore, I hope.

133  
00:06:36,465 --> 00:06:36,715  
Yeah.

134  
00:06:36,715 --> 00:06:39,835  
One thing I do really enjoy, I think  
I shared this in talking to the

135  
00:06:39,835 --> 00:06:43,545  
British, uh, producers and network,  
that they were going to dumb down

136  
00:06:43,555 --> 00:06:44,715  
the show for the British audience.

137  
00:06:44,725 --> 00:06:46,244  
They didn't use those words,  
but they were going to make it a

138  
00:06:46,244 --> 00:06:48,714  
little bit easier, um, in Britain.

139  
00:06:49,004 --> 00:06:52,524  
And I just, uh, so many of my  
British friends who look down upon

140  
00:06:52,594 --> 00:06:53,854  
the American levels of internet.

141  
00:06:54,145 --> 00:06:57,215

intellect and intelligence, but  
they couldn't handle our jeopardy.

142

00:06:57,215 --> 00:06:57,335

I

143

00:06:57,345 --> 00:06:57,845

love that.

144

00:06:57,895 --> 00:06:58,395

Yes.

145

00:06:58,415 --> 00:07:00,795

And there's that famous story about  
Merv Griffin, you know, when the

146

00:07:00,795 --> 00:07:02,715

executives at NBC first saw the

147

00:07:02,715 --> 00:07:03,025

show

148

00:07:03,404 --> 00:07:05,105

and they said, Oh, it's too hard.

149

00:07:05,105 --> 00:07:05,924

It's too hard.

150

00:07:06,154 --> 00:07:08,195

And Merv said, Make it harder.

151

00:07:08,244 --> 00:07:08,534

Yeah,

152

00:07:08,534 --> 00:07:09,054

exactly.

153

00:07:09,054 --> 00:07:10,125

He wanted to make it harder.

154

00:07:10,164 --> 00:07:10,705

He was right,

155

00:07:10,744 --> 00:07:11,164  
I think.

156

00:07:11,215 --> 00:07:11,515  
Yeah,

157

00:07:11,754 --> 00:07:12,094  
absolutely.

158

00:07:12,125 --> 00:07:14,534  
And we've seen that a little  
bit in Celebrity also in JAT.

159

00:07:14,844 --> 00:07:16,044  
We've been making Celebrity.

160

00:07:16,664 --> 00:07:18,895  
We've actually just concluded  
Celebrity for this year.

161

00:07:19,205 --> 00:07:22,174  
And just the standard of play.

162

00:07:22,520 --> 00:07:23,960  
amongst our celebrities.

163

00:07:24,009 --> 00:07:26,349  
I can't wait for you to  
see who makes the final.

164

00:07:26,580 --> 00:07:30,400  
And, um, the final was just tremendous.

165

00:07:30,409 --> 00:07:33,550  
And the level of play was  
extraordinary between, uh,

166

00:07:33,580 --> 00:07:35,020  
between the three competitors.

167

00:07:35,069 --> 00:07:37,825

So, you know, I do think  
that everything about U.

168

00:07:37,825 --> 00:07:37,975

S.

169

00:07:37,975 --> 00:07:41,145

Jeopardy and everything we're doing is  
trying to raise the standard of play, get

170

00:07:41,145 --> 00:07:45,875

the very best contestants onto the Alex  
Trebek stage competing against each other.

171

00:07:46,295 --> 00:07:50,835

You know, it's where daily doubles  
have become so important in the game.

172

00:07:50,865 --> 00:07:53,654

We're seeing their buzzer speeds  
increase and increase and increase.

173

00:07:53,654 --> 00:07:56,085

We're seeing these correct  
answer percentages, the number

174

00:07:56,085 --> 00:07:57,825

of Uh, correct answers given.

175

00:07:57,825 --> 00:07:59,835

We're seeing test scores on  
the anytime test increase.

176

00:07:59,835 --> 00:08:02,125

It's just really, um, tremendous times.

177

00:08:02,215 --> 00:08:04,675

Well, we're talking now about Jeopardy!

178

00:08:04,844 --> 00:08:08,235

Airtime, J A T, because we have

some big highlights to go over.

179

00:08:08,235 --> 00:08:12,195

Because last week we saw the conclusion of the Champions Wildcard Diamonds group.

180

00:08:12,235 --> 00:08:14,884

Emily Sands became our winner in a video.

181

00:08:14,895 --> 00:08:16,265

Very exciting final.

182

00:08:16,705 --> 00:08:19,025

And Emily will actually be joining us later in the pod

183

00:08:19,035 --> 00:08:22,215

to talk about her unexpected return to the Alex Trebek stage.

184

00:08:22,495 --> 00:08:26,085

Plus, we're gonna highlight the first two quarterfinal games of the Clubs Group,

185

00:08:26,095 --> 00:08:29,375

those season 37 and season 38 champions.

186

00:08:29,715 --> 00:08:32,524

But before that, it's time to take a quick look back at

187

00:08:32,524 --> 00:08:33,975

this week in Jeopardy history.

188

00:08:35,645 --> 00:08:38,132

Amy Schneider was in second place

189

00:08:38,132 --> 00:08:42,065

with 19,600.

190

00:08:42,085 --> 00:08:42,755

Her island?



191  
00:08:43,664 --> 00:08:44,505  
What is Manhattan?

192  
00:08:45,525 --> 00:08:48,775  
Albert Gallatin and Alexander  
Hamilton, buried Trinity

193  
00:08:48,995 --> 00:08:50,854  
Churchyard, downtown New York City.

194  
00:08:51,094 --> 00:08:52,295  
You will add how much?

195  
00:08:52,875 --> 00:08:53,564  
Quite a bit.

196  
00:08:53,935 --> 00:08:55,594  
Taking you to 31, 600.

197  
00:08:55,604 --> 00:08:56,644  
You are now in the lead.

198  
00:08:57,365 --> 00:09:00,014  
Andrew He, five day returning champion.

199  
00:09:00,014 --> 00:09:00,714  
What did you write down?

200  
00:09:00,724 --> 00:09:01,464  
Little head shake.

201  
00:09:01,564 --> 00:09:03,094  
Oh, what is Ellis Island?

202  
00:09:03,544 --> 00:09:04,635  
You're gonna drop down...

203  
00:09:04,930 --> 00:09:09,989  
12, 401, which means, Amy  
Schneider with 31, 600,

204

00:09:11,420 --> 00:09:12,459

you are our new Jeopardy!

205

00:09:12,459 --> 00:09:12,920

Champion!

206

00:09:14,920 --> 00:09:17,599

We'll be seeing Andrew again in the  
Tournament of Champions, I'm sure.

207

00:09:18,059 --> 00:09:19,790

And I hope we'll be seeing you tomorrow.

208

00:09:20,229 --> 00:09:20,680

Thanks for watching.

209

00:09:22,224 --> 00:09:27,415

Oh, yes, it was this week, just two years  
ago, when five game champion Andrew,

210

00:09:27,415 --> 00:09:32,545

he faced off against Amy Schneider  
in what would be an epic matchup.

211

00:09:33,065 --> 00:09:34,154

We had high hopes for Andrew.

212

00:09:34,155 --> 00:09:37,574

Remember, he kicked off his  
original streak with a 52,

213

00:09:37,585 --> 00:09:39,525

001 win in his first game.

214

00:09:39,995 --> 00:09:43,434

He had already made a huge impression  
with us on those big daily doubles.

215

00:09:43,434 --> 00:09:46,865

And with five wins, he had secured a  
spot in the Tournament of Champions.

216  
00:09:46,865 --> 00:09:48,485  
He was coming back for his sixth game.

217  
00:09:48,485 --> 00:09:49,454  
He was feeling good.

218  
00:09:49,825 --> 00:09:52,175  
But Andrew's streak ended that day.

219  
00:09:52,275 --> 00:09:56,105  
He did, of course, earn over 157, 000.

220  
00:09:56,665 --> 00:10:02,135  
And, uh, he did go on to be a contender  
in the TOC where he was reunited

221  
00:10:02,155 --> 00:10:04,705  
with Amy Schneider in the finals.

222  
00:10:04,945 --> 00:10:05,765  
He did.

223  
00:10:06,204 --> 00:10:07,035  
Amy, of course.

224  
00:10:07,170 --> 00:10:10,189  
Prevailed as the winner of the TLC rule.

225  
00:10:10,199 --> 00:10:10,589  
Yeah, yes.

226  
00:10:10,589 --> 00:10:14,589  
But Andrew did put up a tough fight  
and Amy actually spoke about going up

227  
00:10:14,589 --> 00:10:19,039  
against him saying I was both wanting  
to, and afraid of facing him again.

228  
00:10:19,139 --> 00:10:20,130

It didn't end there though.

229

00:10:20,130 --> 00:10:22,679  
Of course, Michael, they went  
on to compete against each

230

00:10:22,679 --> 00:10:24,849  
other in the first ever masters.

231

00:10:25,249 --> 00:10:29,069  
Where Amy came in fifth and  
Andrew came in fourth, both

232

00:10:29,079 --> 00:10:31,500  
securing their spots in the JIT.

233

00:10:31,540 --> 00:10:34,680  
We can't wait to welcome them  
back along with their fellow

234

00:10:34,680 --> 00:10:37,219  
TOC finalist, Sam Buttrey.

235

00:10:37,469 --> 00:10:39,000  
Can't wait for the return of those three.

236

00:10:39,189 --> 00:10:42,770  
Yeah, the JIT, that's going to be  
another big highlight, uh, of next year

237

00:10:42,770 --> 00:10:44,439  
at the conclusion of the postseason.

238

00:10:44,510 --> 00:10:45,589  
Our favorite.

239

00:10:46,055 --> 00:10:50,105  
Uh, Jeopardy players invited back,  
uh, to the Alex Trebek stage.

240

00:10:50,105 --> 00:10:50,825  
Can't wait to see how that turns out.

241

00:10:50,825 --> 00:10:54,165

See who still has what it  
takes to make it to Masters.

242

00:10:54,505 --> 00:10:56,635

All right, it's time now to  
head into our game highlights.

243

00:10:56,635 --> 00:11:00,064

We kicked off the week with our last semi  
final game of the Diamonds group with

244

00:11:00,104 --> 00:11:03,154

Dave Pye, Jelana Cotter, and Brian Adams.

245

00:11:03,294 --> 00:11:05,715

Dave had the lead heading into  
Double Jeopardy, but missed

246

00:11:05,725 --> 00:11:08,635

the first Daily Double, opening  
the doors for his opponents.

247

00:11:08,955 --> 00:11:13,184

Jelana, thanks to a 2, 900 Daily  
Double, clawed her way into

248

00:11:13,184 --> 00:11:14,564

the lead heading into Final.

249

00:11:14,920 --> 00:11:20,220

She was correct, so she goes from  
second chance to the finals of Champions

250

00:11:20,270 --> 00:11:20,900

Wildcard.

251

00:11:20,900 --> 00:11:24,859

Yeah, Jelana, one of those,  
uh, contestants who, you know,

252

00:11:24,880 --> 00:11:26,050  
captures the imagination.

253  
00:11:26,069 --> 00:11:30,150  
She's just got something about  
her that is so appealing.

254  
00:11:30,350 --> 00:11:32,859  
For me, I like that the sort  
of the nerves are written all

255  
00:11:32,859 --> 00:11:34,689  
over her face in some moments.

256  
00:11:34,699 --> 00:11:37,130  
She, she at some moments  
doesn't look at all confident.

257  
00:11:37,150 --> 00:11:37,770  
Other moments...

258  
00:11:37,960 --> 00:11:39,689  
just seems to be brimming with it.

259  
00:11:39,730 --> 00:11:42,080  
I really enjoyed watching her play.

260  
00:11:42,080 --> 00:11:45,790  
I enjoyed her interaction with  
her partner who was part of the

261  
00:11:45,790 --> 00:11:47,069  
audience on the Alex Trebek stage.

262  
00:11:47,070 --> 00:11:47,880  
What a wonderful player.

263  
00:11:48,390 --> 00:11:50,499  
Yeah, this was a tough  
final Jeopardy for Brian.

264  
00:11:50,500 --> 00:11:54,199

He was incorrect because he missed  
a letter in the word Republic.

265

00:11:54,199 --> 00:11:56,490  
He left off that L.

266

00:11:56,990 --> 00:11:57,890  
Always tough in those

267

00:11:57,910 --> 00:11:58,449  
matters.

268

00:11:58,535 --> 00:12:00,094  
Yeah, he was a great  
sport about it, though.

269

00:12:00,094 --> 00:12:02,905  
I must say it realized his  
mistake and understood that

270

00:12:02,905 --> 00:12:04,515  
it was going to cost him while

271

00:12:04,515 --> 00:12:08,195  
moving on to Tuesday for day one of  
the finals with Emily, Jelena and

272

00:12:08,235 --> 00:12:12,285  
Aaron, Emily and Jelena both got out to  
strong starts, but it was Emily who was

273

00:12:12,285 --> 00:12:13,935  
able to pull away on double jeopardy.

274

00:12:14,134 --> 00:12:16,365  
Thanks to an 8000 daily double.

275

00:12:16,614 --> 00:12:22,470  
Jelena unfortunately missed a huge  
9, 000 daily double herself, but a

276

00:12:22,470 --> 00:12:27,450

lot of still able to build her score  
back to 11, 000 despite that big loss.

277

00:12:27,730 --> 00:12:31,309  
But Emily did have the lead going  
into final both Emily and Aaron

278

00:12:31,310 --> 00:12:35,050  
were correct in final and Emily  
took a strong lead heading in.

279

00:12:35,205 --> 00:12:35,935  
to day two.

280

00:12:36,195 --> 00:12:41,755  
When asked about this game and how it  
feels to compete against, you know, two

281

00:12:41,755 --> 00:12:45,275  
finals within a month for Jelana between  
second chance and champions wildcard.

282

00:12:45,275 --> 00:12:48,215  
She said, the questions  
keep getting harder and the

283

00:12:48,215 --> 00:12:49,925  
opponents keep getting tougher.

284

00:12:50,354 --> 00:12:52,215  
And that's certainly  
something we have seen.

285

00:12:52,530 --> 00:12:53,580  
Here in this game.

286

00:12:53,580 --> 00:12:56,790  
She also talked about, ironically,  
even though she lost in this first

287

00:12:56,790 --> 00:13:00,750  
game of the final, that it was  
actually her best choreo 20,000



288

00:13:01,020 --> 00:13:02,520  
and her best buzzer performance.

289

00:13:02,520 --> 00:13:04,980  
She had 55 attempts in that game.

290

00:13:04,980 --> 00:13:05,040  
Wow.

291

00:13:05,045 --> 00:13:09,180  
So she said, you know, it came along with  
her worst jeopardy loss and it still.

292

00:13:09,680 --> 00:13:10,180  
Hurts.

293

00:13:10,249 --> 00:13:14,139  
Champions talk about those losses like  
that when you know you play so well and

294

00:13:14,139 --> 00:13:18,649  
yet you come up with a loss, again, really  
on the heels of that big daily double.

295

00:13:18,649 --> 00:13:19,379  
It was tough.

296

00:13:19,420 --> 00:13:23,869  
Yeah, second part of that two day  
final on Wednesday, another intriguing

297

00:13:23,869 --> 00:13:24,199  
game.

298

00:13:24,249 --> 00:13:29,519  
Yeah, Jelana found the first two daily  
doubles, gained a total of 13, 200 on

299

00:13:29,519 --> 00:13:34,750  
her way to a strong score, putting her  
into contention heading into final.

300  
00:13:35,269 --> 00:13:40,810  
Both Emily and Jelana were incorrect,  
though, so Jelana's All in, big

301  
00:13:40,810 --> 00:13:43,939  
wager, which you got to admire her  
for doing it because she could have

302  
00:13:43,939 --> 00:13:47,489  
won had she gotten it correct and  
Emily was incorrect, but that didn't

303  
00:13:47,489 --> 00:13:50,189  
happen and Emily secures the win.

304  
00:13:50,520 --> 00:13:54,250  
Have to talk about Aaron in this  
game, he wasn't able to play final.

305  
00:13:54,765 --> 00:13:57,445  
in day two, but he was the  
first one to go onto Reddit and

306  
00:13:57,445 --> 00:13:59,095  
congratulate his fellow competitors.

307  
00:13:59,485 --> 00:14:02,895  
Whoever gets pitted against Emily  
and the TOC, good luck to them

308  
00:14:02,895 --> 00:14:04,535  
because they are going to need it.

309  
00:14:04,865 --> 00:14:07,785  
And count me in among those  
who would love to see Jelana

310  
00:14:07,795 --> 00:14:09,595  
back on the Alex Trebek stage.

311  
00:14:09,595 --> 00:14:10,214

Yeah, I would

312

00:14:10,214 --> 00:14:12,204  
love to see Jelana back  
on the Alex Trebek stage.

313

00:14:12,264 --> 00:14:15,135  
I would love to see all  
of our great Jeopardy!

314

00:14:15,135 --> 00:14:17,945  
players, of which Jelana is one,  
back on the Alex Trebek stage.

315

00:14:17,945 --> 00:14:20,590  
That is sort of the way we're  
trying to build Jeopardy.

316

00:14:20,610 --> 00:14:24,800  
We also, at the same time, want to find  
new Jeopardy players who can be stars,

317

00:14:24,800 --> 00:14:29,760  
who can be the next Jelas, who can be,  
you know, the next Matt Amodios, uh, the

318

00:14:29,760 --> 00:14:32,149  
next Aarons to go and play on this stage.

319

00:14:32,149 --> 00:14:34,080  
And it's just all part of  
what we're trying to do.

320

00:14:34,444 --> 00:14:34,625  
Well, and

321

00:14:34,625 --> 00:14:37,295  
if you think about Jelana coming  
back in second chance, essentially

322

00:14:37,295 --> 00:14:40,735  
winning four games to get to champions  
wildcard, then winning her quarterfinal.

323

00:14:40,735 --> 00:14:43,524

But I mean, you're talking  
about a 6 7 game champion.

324

00:14:43,535 --> 00:14:46,474

So that's a whole different level  
when you come back in these new

325

00:14:46,485 --> 00:14:49,514

competitions we've added and you get a  
chance to really show what you can do.

326

00:14:49,714 --> 00:14:53,504

You know, down the road, where I still  
talk about this, that I would, uh, as I

327

00:14:53,515 --> 00:14:58,624

furiously check on a daily basis, my UTR,  
my Universal Tennis Rating, uh, for any

328

00:14:58,624 --> 00:15:01,744

of you tennis players out there, you can  
go on Universal Tennis and you can look at

329

00:15:01,744 --> 00:15:04,674

my UTR, I think it's currently around a 7.

330

00:15:04,675 --> 00:15:06,155

56, but I would like  
everyone to have a Jeopardy!

331

00:15:06,155 --> 00:15:06,614

index.

332

00:15:06,614 --> 00:15:10,050

I'd like everybody who plays this game,  
we have a not UTR, data of everybody who

333

00:15:10,050 --> 00:15:13,550

plays the game now to sort of build an  
index and see it against other people.

334

00:15:13,550 --> 00:15:15,350

And for the players that play  
the most, we're going to have

335

00:15:15,600 --> 00:15:18,340

more accurate indices, indexes.

336

00:15:18,539 --> 00:15:22,409

So I think that's sort of part of where  
we're going in the future, is we want to

337

00:15:22,409 --> 00:15:24,109

just be able to rank all of our players.

338

00:15:24,660 --> 00:15:28,290

Well, congratulations to Emily  
and to Aaron and Jelana for

339

00:15:28,290 --> 00:15:30,060

a well played two game final.

340

00:15:30,420 --> 00:15:32,300

Ken caught up with our  
players right after the game.

341

00:15:32,310 --> 00:15:33,110

Let's have a listen.

342

00:15:34,380 --> 00:15:35,010

Now, Jelana,

343

00:15:35,010 --> 00:15:36,010

you, uh...

344

00:15:36,220 --> 00:15:36,520

I should have

345

00:15:36,520 --> 00:15:37,770

read that Final Jeopardy better.

346

00:15:39,064 --> 00:15:42,194

Well, you finished in third place,  
but I think we can see that, uh,

347

00:15:42,194 --> 00:15:43,744  
you know, there are two clues there.

348

00:15:43,744 --> 00:15:48,035  
What is Ethiopia and the Daily Double and  
such that, that really separated you out.

349

00:15:48,035 --> 00:15:50,734  
I mean, you were playing at  
Emily's level throughout and

350

00:15:50,744 --> 00:15:51,724  
really took her to the limit.

351

00:15:51,744 --> 00:15:53,785  
That was, that was a well played final.

352

00:15:54,074 --> 00:15:54,964  
Both games of it.

353

00:15:55,025 --> 00:15:55,685  
Thank you so much.

354

00:15:55,685 --> 00:15:57,045  
And you have something to celebrate.

355

00:15:57,064 --> 00:15:58,755  
Not too long after this airs.

356

00:15:58,755 --> 00:15:59,944  
You've got a new member to the family.

357

00:16:00,074 --> 00:16:01,604  
You can show this jeopardy to you someday.

358

00:16:01,885 --> 00:16:02,594  
He's kicking

359

00:16:02,594 --> 00:16:02,805  
now.

360  
00:16:02,944 --> 00:16:03,364  
I can feel it.

361  
00:16:06,714 --> 00:16:07,704  
That is so cool.

362  
00:16:08,244 --> 00:16:09,974  
You think he's a little  
stressed out by Final Jeopardy?

363  
00:16:09,994 --> 00:16:13,324  
Probably because up until these  
two games he hasn't lost yet.

364  
00:16:13,405 --> 00:16:13,974  
I haven't lost

365  
00:16:14,994 --> 00:16:15,145  
yet.

366  
00:16:16,405 --> 00:16:17,844  
He's like what four and  
one now or something.

367  
00:16:17,844 --> 00:16:18,005  
Yeah.

368  
00:16:18,844 --> 00:16:21,824  
That is pretty good in utero to  
be like four and one on Jeopardy.

369  
00:16:22,720 --> 00:16:24,170  
Yes, hard to imagine.

370  
00:16:24,210 --> 00:16:28,900  
She's expecting a baby at the beginning of  
next month at the beginning of December.

371  
00:16:29,190 --> 00:16:32,360

So not only did she just prove  
what a great competitor she is,

372

00:16:32,379 --> 00:16:34,930  
but she did it well, very pregnant.

373

00:16:34,940 --> 00:16:38,150  
And many of us who have been pregnant  
don't always feel that our brains

374

00:16:38,150 --> 00:16:39,759  
are functioning at full capacity.

375

00:16:39,759 --> 00:16:42,675  
So I think it's, All the  
more impressive something.

376

00:16:42,675 --> 00:16:43,905  
I know you can't relate to Michael.

377

00:16:44,145 --> 00:16:44,340  
No, I can't.

378

00:16:44,340 --> 00:16:45,765  
But I know you've been there in support.

379

00:16:45,855 --> 00:16:46,815  
Yes, absolutely.

380

00:16:46,845 --> 00:16:50,145  
Well, moving on to Thursday where we  
kicked off the quarterfinals for our

381

00:16:50,145 --> 00:16:54,705  
clubs group with Charlie Fonville,  
Jen Jazwinski and Matt Takemoto.

382

00:16:54,885 --> 00:16:57,615  
All three players were off to a  
strong start, but Jen took the

383

00:16:57,615 --> 00:16:59,115



lead heading into double jeopardy.

384

00:16:59,505 --> 00:17:02,805

They all continued to battle it out and Matt was able to pull ahead and tell

385

00:17:02,805 --> 00:17:08,860

the final clue where Jen tied his score of 15,400 heading into final jeopardy.

386

00:17:09,849 --> 00:17:15,460

All three players bet it all, but Jen was correct for the dramatic double up win.

387

00:17:16,210 --> 00:17:19,920

Interestingly, had they all been incorrect, we were going to have

388

00:17:19,920 --> 00:17:23,669

to go into a three way tiebreaker because this is a competition.

389

00:17:23,669 --> 00:17:24,470

We need a winner.

390

00:17:24,804 --> 00:17:30,975

Yeah, has not happened, uh, very often, if ever, uh, in Jeopardy.

391

00:17:31,084 --> 00:17:34,675

The amazing thing, this was also the first, uh, game where

392

00:17:34,745 --> 00:17:37,834

Michelle and Billy, our head writers, had returned post strike.

393

00:17:37,844 --> 00:17:38,135

Yes.

394

00:17:38,164 --> 00:17:41,114

And there they were at the judges table, and there's a three way tie

395

00:17:41,145 --> 00:17:41,834  
possibility.

396

00:17:41,934 --> 00:17:44,865  
I know, and they're refreshing themselves  
with the rules, and we're all like,

397

00:17:44,955 --> 00:17:46,485  
yeah, that's what would happen.

398

00:17:46,485 --> 00:17:49,104  
But thankfully, it didn't happen.

399

00:17:49,134 --> 00:17:52,094  
All right, heading into Friday,  
we closed out the week with Alan

400

00:17:52,094 --> 00:17:54,014  
Johnson, Dennis Chase, and Kate.

401

00:17:54,139 --> 00:17:58,939  
Lazo, all three contestants played strong  
throughout both rounds with Kate and Alan

402

00:17:58,939 --> 00:18:01,220  
each scoring big on true daily doubles.

403

00:18:01,560 --> 00:18:06,320  
There were seven lead changes in  
double Jeopardy alone, but Alan was

404

00:18:06,320 --> 00:18:10,369  
able to take a small lead over Dennis  
on the last clue heading into final.

405

00:18:10,750 --> 00:18:14,159  
Both Dennis and Kate were  
correct, but Alan was not.

406

00:18:14,159 --> 00:18:17,829  
So Dennis comes from

behind to secure that win.

407

00:18:17,929 --> 00:18:18,360  
win.

408

00:18:18,939 --> 00:18:20,669  
Yeah, another one of those games.

409

00:18:20,679 --> 00:18:24,530  
We've seen so many of them in champions  
wildcard where really any of the three of

410

00:18:24,530 --> 00:18:27,459  
them could have won this and proceeded.

411

00:18:27,820 --> 00:18:31,250  
Dennis told a great story in his  
interview about his older brother who is a

412

00:18:31,250 --> 00:18:31,750  
disabled

413

00:18:31,769 --> 00:18:34,419  
veteran hand had to  
move in with his sister.

414

00:18:34,419 --> 00:18:38,249  
And so Dennis actually used his  
winnings to help with that transition.

415

00:18:38,699 --> 00:18:43,430  
And he said they have an Alex Trebek  
memorial cellar and on the doors.

416

00:18:43,440 --> 00:18:47,280  
It in fact says the Alex Trebek  
Memorial Cellar doors and he actually

417

00:18:47,280 --> 00:18:49,260  
sent us the photo so we could see.

418

00:18:49,260 --> 00:18:53,860

So we have the Alex Trebek stage and,  
you know, Alex is in many, many places.

419

00:18:53,889 --> 00:18:56,840

All right, well, it is now  
time for our host chat.

420

00:18:57,250 --> 00:19:00,769

An audience member asked, Ken,  
do you ever go to pub trivia?

421

00:19:04,030 --> 00:19:06,639

I don't love playing pub  
trivia the way I used to.

422

00:19:06,639 --> 00:19:10,129

It's a little bit of an awkward  
situation now if I show up at pub trivia.

423

00:19:10,500 --> 00:19:12,779

You know, it's kind of  
a weird vibe if I win.

424

00:19:12,779 --> 00:19:14,760

It's a weird vibe if I lose.

425

00:19:15,389 --> 00:19:17,169

It's not a great situation either way.

426

00:19:17,379 --> 00:19:19,199

So, of course, I just wear  
a series of disguises.

427

00:19:22,340 --> 00:19:26,379

Can you just picture Ken in  
his series of various disguises

428

00:19:26,379 --> 00:19:26,795

that he would wear?

429

00:19:26,795 --> 00:19:28,560

Yeah, I could picture Ken in disguises.

430  
00:19:28,570 --> 00:19:30,299  
He's sort of a cypher in that way.

431  
00:19:30,299 --> 00:19:32,060  
I think that we could  
dress him up as anything.

432  
00:19:32,419 --> 00:19:36,280  
Well, and now that the SAG AfterStrike  
is concluded, maybe we can release our

433  
00:19:36,280 --> 00:19:40,610  
Halloween costume photo, where Ken was  
Ken and I was Barbie and Buzzy was Alan.

434  
00:19:40,610 --> 00:19:42,229  
So maybe a delayed...

435  
00:19:42,324 --> 00:19:43,334  
Halloween thing.

436  
00:19:43,344 --> 00:19:45,534  
You could see Ken in  
some sort of a disguise.

437  
00:19:46,004 --> 00:19:46,324  
Fantastic.

438  
00:19:46,804 --> 00:19:48,554  
All right, Michael, I  
know you have to run.

439  
00:19:48,554 --> 00:19:50,674  
So we will see you back soon on the pod.

440  
00:19:50,674 --> 00:19:52,074  
Thanks for joining us.

441  
00:19:52,424 --> 00:19:55,284  
But now it is finally time to  
welcome to the pod Champions Wildcard

442  
00:19:55,294 --> 00:19:57,715  
Diamonds Group winner, Emily Sands.

443  
00:19:57,725 --> 00:19:58,924  
Thank you for joining us.

444  
00:19:59,250 --> 00:20:01,000  
Oh, Sarah, I am so excited.

445  
00:20:01,140 --> 00:20:04,410  
How have the last few days been  
basking in the glow of being

446  
00:20:04,410 --> 00:20:05,790  
a Champions Wildcard winner?

447  
00:20:06,210 --> 00:20:09,190  
You know, I watched the  
final final last night.

448  
00:20:09,500 --> 00:20:12,429  
And again, right before we recorded  
because it's still not quite

449  
00:20:12,430 --> 00:20:14,350  
sunk in exactly what happened.

450  
00:20:14,470 --> 00:20:15,310  
It's awesome.

451  
00:20:15,330 --> 00:20:16,890  
I'm thrilled to have won.

452  
00:20:16,899 --> 00:20:19,880  
I'm thrilled to have played in  
some really, really good games.

453  
00:20:19,930 --> 00:20:21,680  
And maybe we'll get to  
talk about this a bit.

454

00:20:21,680 --> 00:20:26,330  
But I mean, the final scores  
of the final do not reflect.

455  
00:20:26,640 --> 00:20:32,120  
How difficult that gameplay was  
and how all three of us were, we're

456  
00:20:32,129 --> 00:20:34,330  
really battling to, to try and win.

457  
00:20:34,420 --> 00:20:36,320  
It's the kind of game I like to watch.

458  
00:20:36,360 --> 00:20:39,379  
And it's like, it's really fun to be  
a part of one too, when you're up on

459  
00:20:39,379 --> 00:20:39,760  
stage.

460  
00:20:40,104 --> 00:20:41,304  
Would you describe it as fun?

461  
00:20:41,304 --> 00:20:46,094  
Because I know from my position at the  
judges table, I was anxious and nervous.

462  
00:20:46,114 --> 00:20:48,475  
I mean, it was just back  
and forth for all of you.

463  
00:20:48,485 --> 00:20:51,694  
So, to be up there at the  
podiums, what was that

464  
00:20:51,694 --> 00:20:52,164  
like?

465  
00:20:52,844 --> 00:20:56,195  
Uh, I try to have fun when I'm on stage.

466

00:20:56,254 --> 00:20:59,424  
Leading up to my first appearance, I  
was so worried about making some, like,

467  
00:20:59,425 --> 00:21:02,554  
dumb, meme able face that I decided...

468  
00:21:03,055 --> 00:21:05,365  
I'm going to get up there at my podium,  
and if I don't know what I'm doing

469  
00:21:05,365 --> 00:21:06,665  
with my face, I'm just going to grin.

470  
00:21:07,175 --> 00:21:10,205  
And it kind of was one of those like,  
fake it till you make it moments,

471  
00:21:10,225 --> 00:21:15,324  
where you're smiling, and it makes you  
feel happy, and of course it's such an

472  
00:21:15,325 --> 00:21:20,335  
amazing experience that, yeah, no, I'm,  
I'm happy, but I'm incredibly stressed.

473  
00:21:20,415 --> 00:21:25,245  
I remember a couple times looking down at  
my hand to realize it was shaking and just

474  
00:21:25,255 --> 00:21:30,745  
being almost in like this detached kind  
of noticing like, Hmm, I am very nervous.

475  
00:21:30,915 --> 00:21:31,725  
Interesting.

476  
00:21:31,765 --> 00:21:33,575  
I hope I didn't show it too much.

477  
00:21:34,675 --> 00:21:35,005  
No,



478

00:21:35,005 --> 00:21:38,265  
I think your smile technique worked  
because whenever we looked at you,

479

00:21:38,265 --> 00:21:41,865  
you just looked joyful and that  
you were enjoying all the moments,

480

00:21:41,865 --> 00:21:44,385  
the highs, the lows, all of yes.

481

00:21:45,155 --> 00:21:46,655  
Well, let's take it back a bit.

482

00:21:46,715 --> 00:21:47,765  
I want to know you.

483

00:21:47,860 --> 00:21:49,930  
How your Jeopardy journey began.

484

00:21:49,940 --> 00:21:53,760  
Obviously you first came to us in  
season 37, but had you been trying

485

00:21:53,760 --> 00:21:55,240  
to get on the show for a while?

486

00:21:55,250 --> 00:21:56,460  
What was your journey like?

487

00:21:57,000 --> 00:22:00,390  
You know, it's funny because Jeopardy  
had always been kind of present

488

00:22:00,399 --> 00:22:02,130  
growing up here in Minnesota.

489

00:22:02,319 --> 00:22:04,340  
They always showed it at weird times.

490

00:22:04,660 --> 00:22:07,080

Um, so they would show it at  
like 11 o'clock in the morning.

491

00:22:07,090 --> 00:22:11,190

So if like I wanted to watch  
someone on Celebrity Jeopardy.

492

00:22:11,615 --> 00:22:15,965

I would maybe have to tell my mom I was  
sick so I could stay home and watch David

493

00:22:16,105 --> 00:22:18,834

Duchovny, X Files era, uh, compete, right?

494

00:22:18,834 --> 00:22:21,524

So like, it wasn't one of those  
things where we all gathered around

495

00:22:21,524 --> 00:22:23,094

the television every night to watch.

496

00:22:23,095 --> 00:22:24,345

It just, that wasn't the deal.

497

00:22:24,644 --> 00:22:26,804

But I, I've always loved Jeopardy!

498

00:22:26,824 --> 00:22:30,695

And I think I probably bring the same  
kind of intensity to my, my game on the

499

00:22:30,695 --> 00:22:35,164

Alex Trebek stage as I did to, like,  
middle school geometry review Jeopardy!

500

00:22:35,225 --> 00:22:37,445

I just love that competition.

501

00:22:37,804 --> 00:22:38,985

Uh, and I think it's so much fun.

502

00:22:39,245 --> 00:22:40,855

I took the online test.

503

00:22:41,005 --> 00:22:43,275

I missed the scheduled test a couple

504

00:22:43,275 --> 00:22:43,945

of times.

505

00:22:43,995 --> 00:22:46,225

Okay, because we used to  
do it just once a year.

506

00:22:46,235 --> 00:22:46,265

Right!

507

00:22:46,275 --> 00:22:49,105

So if you didn't get there on  
those three nights in January,

508

00:22:49,325 --> 00:22:50,665

you were out of luck for a year.

509

00:22:50,945 --> 00:22:54,045

Yeah, and I think we had like a  
blowout diaper, something else, and

510

00:22:54,045 --> 00:22:55,904

then completely spaced it, right?

511

00:22:55,904 --> 00:22:57,614

So, then okay, I'll take it again.

512

00:22:57,895 --> 00:22:58,945

I took the test once.

513

00:22:58,975 --> 00:23:00,885

I got invited to an in person audition.

514

00:23:00,905 --> 00:23:04,435

I was so excited until I looked  
at the calendar and realized...

515

00:23:04,575 --> 00:23:07,285  
that in person audition was the  
day before my sister's wedding

516

00:23:07,345 --> 00:23:08,825  
where I was the matron of honor.

517

00:23:08,825 --> 00:23:11,435  
So I'm like, Oh gosh, okay,  
I can't do it this time.

518

00:23:11,775 --> 00:23:12,555  
And I thought, I'll try again.

519

00:23:12,565 --> 00:23:13,134  
No big deal.

520

00:23:13,205 --> 00:23:13,775  
And I did.

521

00:23:13,795 --> 00:23:14,804  
And I tried again.

522

00:23:14,804 --> 00:23:19,974  
I got invited to audition in person  
in Milwaukee in November of 2019.

523

00:23:20,075 --> 00:23:22,615  
I thought that, would have  
been an amazing Jeopardy!

524

00:23:22,615 --> 00:23:23,315  
experience.

525

00:23:23,375 --> 00:23:26,844  
Like, the in person  
audition was like Jeopardy!

526

00:23:26,844 --> 00:23:28,895  
Fan Fest or something, right?

527

00:23:28,895 --> 00:23:31,764  
Because Jimmy was there  
from the Clue Crew.

528  
00:23:31,774 --> 00:23:32,314  
Oh, wow.

529  
00:23:32,314 --> 00:23:33,264  
I totally geeked out.

530  
00:23:33,304 --> 00:23:34,104  
Right, Jimmy?

531  
00:23:34,104 --> 00:23:34,464  
Yeah.

532  
00:23:34,614 --> 00:23:35,705  
I mean, I love him.

533  
00:23:37,574 --> 00:23:40,754  
And, you know, they had the big board  
up and we got to play with our buzzer.

534  
00:23:41,185 --> 00:23:44,364  
I distinctly remember during my,  
kind of, audition game where we

535  
00:23:44,364 --> 00:23:45,754  
played, what, like, 10 questions.

536  
00:23:45,784 --> 00:23:47,114  
I guessed on response.

537  
00:23:47,114 --> 00:23:48,195  
I buzzed in and I guessed.

538  
00:23:48,545 --> 00:23:51,455  
And One of the producers  
kind of clocked it.

539  
00:23:51,475 --> 00:23:51,955  
She looked at me.

540  
00:23:51,955 --> 00:23:53,715  
She said, did you just,  
did you just guess that?

541  
00:23:53,965 --> 00:23:57,050  
I said, Yeah, you know, it's  
an educated guess, right?

542  
00:23:57,230 --> 00:23:59,360  
And I'm convinced that's  
what got me cast on the

543  
00:23:59,360 --> 00:23:59,710  
show.

544  
00:23:59,780 --> 00:24:03,000  
Knowing that you were willing  
to make those educated guesses.

545  
00:24:03,040 --> 00:24:03,220  
Right.

546  
00:24:03,540 --> 00:24:04,039  
I think it makes

547  
00:24:04,039 --> 00:24:04,789  
for a good show.

548  
00:24:04,789 --> 00:24:06,280  
It makes for fun TV.

549  
00:24:06,300 --> 00:24:08,659  
So, I don't know if that's what sealed it.

550  
00:24:08,740 --> 00:24:10,849  
I still think my trivia  
skills are pretty weak.

551  
00:24:10,879 --> 00:24:13,239  
Says the champion of Champions Wildcard.

552

00:24:13,790 --> 00:24:14,340  
I know.

553

00:24:14,390 --> 00:24:16,890  
I'm dealing with some real  
imposter syndrome right now, Sarah.

554

00:24:17,350 --> 00:24:22,735  
But, as one of my Diamonds  
colleagues, has said to me, it's a

555

00:24:22,735 --> 00:24:26,535  
disservice to the champions you beat  
to say that you're not very good.

556

00:24:26,785 --> 00:24:30,324  
I'm grudgingly coming around to this  
idea that I know how to play Jeopardy

557

00:24:30,325 --> 00:24:31,734  
and that I'm actually pretty good at it.

558

00:24:31,955 --> 00:24:31,995  
I know

559

00:24:32,015 --> 00:24:33,504  
you're heading to the  
tournament of champions.

560

00:24:33,875 --> 00:24:38,645  
I, I mean with like real  
Jeopardy people though, Sarah,

561

00:24:38,665 --> 00:24:38,974  
like.

562

00:24:38,974 --> 00:24:39,774  
Yes, like yourself.

563

00:24:39,774 --> 00:24:40,705  
Chris Panulo.

564  
00:24:40,725 --> 00:24:41,134  
Yes, like

565  
00:24:41,435 --> 00:24:42,114  
yourself.

566  
00:24:42,475 --> 00:24:43,044  
Thank you.

567  
00:24:43,074 --> 00:24:44,145  
Thank you, but like.

568  
00:24:44,695 --> 00:24:50,245  
Ben Chan, The Green Bay Runaway, Luigi  
Da Guzman, America's Sweetheart, Chris

569  
00:24:50,245 --> 00:24:52,165  
Manulo is America's other sweetheart.

570  
00:24:52,175 --> 00:24:52,934  
These are big names.

571  
00:24:52,955 --> 00:24:56,434  
So I'm, I'm not feeling that yet,  
um, that level of confidence.

572  
00:24:56,625 --> 00:24:58,684  
But I've got some time to  
hopefully figure that part

573  
00:24:58,684 --> 00:24:58,984  
out.

574  
00:24:59,115 --> 00:24:59,814  
You do.

575  
00:24:59,875 --> 00:25:05,564  
So you have that in person audition and  
then how long until you get the call that

576  
00:25:05,655 --> 00:25:07,584



you are in fact coming to Los Angeles?

577

00:25:07,754 --> 00:25:09,895

And you're going to be  
on the Alex Trebek stage.

578

00:25:10,405 --> 00:25:13,335

Well, my in person audition  
was in November of 2019.

579

00:25:13,675 --> 00:25:16,035

And a couple of things  
happened after that.

580

00:25:16,125 --> 00:25:18,495

Um, things shut down for COVID.

581

00:25:19,205 --> 00:25:20,565

Alex Trebek passed away.

582

00:25:20,734 --> 00:25:22,095

And I thought, you know what?

583

00:25:22,095 --> 00:25:24,494

They said I'd be in the  
contestant pool for 18 months.

584

00:25:24,945 --> 00:25:26,385

I think that's going to sunset.

585

00:25:26,854 --> 00:25:27,614

I'll try again.

586

00:25:27,784 --> 00:25:28,824

This was really cool.

587

00:25:28,954 --> 00:25:30,335

So I wasn't expecting a call.

588

00:25:31,065 --> 00:25:33,915

But then I did get the  
call in February of 2021.

589

00:25:34,255 --> 00:25:35,885

And I taped in.

590

00:25:36,470 --> 00:25:38,720

February, March of 2021.

591

00:25:38,850 --> 00:25:39,290

Wow.

592

00:25:39,330 --> 00:25:44,390

And you had not one, but two guest hosts, Anderson Cooper and Bill Whitaker.

593

00:25:44,720 --> 00:25:44,879

Oh

594

00:25:44,879 --> 00:25:45,339

my gosh.

595

00:25:45,350 --> 00:25:48,450

As someone who was like a journalism major in college, it was

596

00:25:48,955 --> 00:25:50,794

Awesome to meet those two folks.

597

00:25:50,835 --> 00:25:53,804

Yeah, they're both legendary in their fields, for sure.

598

00:25:53,835 --> 00:25:54,205

Yes,

599

00:25:54,245 --> 00:25:55,475

amazing stuff, amazing folks.

600

00:25:55,475 --> 00:25:59,114

And I still have, you know, a certain fondness when I see them on 60 Minutes

601

00:25:59,114 --> 00:26:00,705  
or CNN or wherever they show up.

602  
00:26:01,244 --> 00:26:02,065  
We've got that connection.

603  
00:26:02,074 --> 00:26:02,434  
It's kind of cool.

604  
00:26:02,435 --> 00:26:05,154  
You have a total connection,  
I think, for them as well.

605  
00:26:05,175 --> 00:26:09,884  
Because it was a time when we weren't  
seeing a lot of multi day champions.

606  
00:26:09,914 --> 00:26:10,815  
You win 37.

607  
00:26:18,330 --> 00:26:21,669  
Yeah, you know, I felt good about it,  
and I'll tell you, sir, for the longest

608  
00:26:21,679 --> 00:26:25,760  
time, I was watching the, like, Tournament  
of Champions Tracker, and I thought,

609  
00:26:25,760 --> 00:26:30,209  
okay, I only won three games, but we're  
coming up on the season of Super Champs.

610  
00:26:30,270 --> 00:26:34,699  
So I was cheering for Matt and Matea  
and Amy, I'm like, keep those streaks

611  
00:26:34,719 --> 00:26:39,639  
running, because then when we get down to,  
like, the numbers, maybe I can sneak in.

612  
00:26:39,899 --> 00:26:43,740  
And then, You know, shortly after  
my episodes aired was when Buzzy

613  
00:26:43,750 --> 00:26:48,889  
hosted the tournament of champions  
that year and I had the worst case

614  
00:26:48,930 --> 00:26:55,800  
of FOMO because I saw these champions  
connecting and having fun and playing

615  
00:26:55,840 --> 00:26:57,729  
a really, really high level Jeopardy.

616  
00:26:58,110 --> 00:27:00,390  
And I just thought, Oh,  
I wish I could be there.

617  
00:27:01,200 --> 00:27:01,780  
So this is.

618  
00:27:02,340 --> 00:27:03,799  
This is beyond being a dream.

619  
00:27:03,879 --> 00:27:04,779  
It's, it's awesome.

620  
00:27:04,959 --> 00:27:05,419  
Right.

621  
00:27:05,459 --> 00:27:05,939  
Because

622  
00:27:05,969 --> 00:27:07,810  
that ship had sailed.

623  
00:27:07,820 --> 00:27:09,049  
You were a three game champ.

624  
00:27:09,049 --> 00:27:11,840  
You were so close, but there  
wasn't any world of Michael

625

00:27:11,850 --> 00:27:13,559  
Davies Pyramid that you fit into.

626  
00:27:14,689 --> 00:27:18,599  
Fast forward to you hear about  
Champions Wildcard, but that's

627  
00:27:18,600 --> 00:27:21,169  
going to be for Season 39 Champions.

628  
00:27:21,219 --> 00:27:21,699  
And I was

629  
00:27:21,709 --> 00:27:22,570  
thrilled for them.

630  
00:27:22,580 --> 00:27:23,959  
I thought that's awesome.

631  
00:27:24,019 --> 00:27:25,499  
Can't wait to see these folks.

632  
00:27:25,529 --> 00:27:26,289  
But right.

633  
00:27:26,299 --> 00:27:28,529  
The door was shut on  
my Jeopardy experience.

634  
00:27:28,810 --> 00:27:29,679  
And then.

635  
00:27:30,060 --> 00:27:34,900  
It opens right back up because we come  
up with this plan, which I have to

636  
00:27:34,900 --> 00:27:39,829  
say, I'm so thankful for at this point  
because I think all of you champions

637  
00:27:39,830 --> 00:27:43,639  
have just proven you absolutely deserved

another chance on the Alex Trebek stage.

638

00:27:43,990 --> 00:27:45,000

So you get the call.

639

00:27:45,405 --> 00:27:46,845

And you're coming back, Emily!

640

00:27:46,845 --> 00:27:47,095

You're coming

641

00:27:47,535 --> 00:27:47,835

back!

642

00:27:47,995 --> 00:27:49,225

I'm coming back on Jeopardy!

643

00:27:49,255 --> 00:27:50,285

It was so exciting!

644

00:27:50,315 --> 00:27:53,605

And, you know, this time, I guess I alluded to this in one of my interviews,

645

00:27:53,615 --> 00:27:57,715

but this time I could bring people with me to, to share in the experience.

646

00:27:57,775 --> 00:28:01,134

I was super excited to bring my husband and my son with.

647

00:28:01,145 --> 00:28:02,405

Now, my son's only five.

648

00:28:02,734 --> 00:28:06,285

So we at first thought, yay, you know, he's gonna get to come.

649

00:28:06,295 --> 00:28:09,185

I have no idea what he's gonna think of sitting through

650  
00:28:09,265 --> 00:28:11,125  
multiple tapings of Jeopardy.

651  
00:28:11,184 --> 00:28:11,744  
And.

652  
00:28:11,955 --> 00:28:15,164  
Then we saw in the final paperwork,  
they have to be eight to show up.

653  
00:28:15,164 --> 00:28:18,844  
And we thought, Oh man, we got to find a  
sitter and someone who's going to get them

654  
00:28:18,844 --> 00:28:21,284  
to kindergarten and all these logistics.

655  
00:28:21,614 --> 00:28:24,125  
I asked thinking I was going to get a no.

656  
00:28:24,225 --> 00:28:27,324  
And graciously, you folks came  
through and allowed my son to attend.

657  
00:28:27,395 --> 00:28:28,205  
So that was.

658  
00:28:28,545 --> 00:28:29,065  
Awesome.

659  
00:28:29,105 --> 00:28:31,445  
Well, that's what worked out for  
us, that we both have five year

660  
00:28:31,445 --> 00:28:35,105  
olds, because when I was approached,  
Emily wants to bring her five year

661  
00:28:35,105 --> 00:28:37,545  
old, and I said, absolutely, yes.

662

00:28:37,574 --> 00:28:40,874

Because I know I could bring my five year old, and I bet Emily's the kind

663

00:28:40,875 --> 00:28:42,424

of mom who could bring hers as well.

664

00:28:42,435 --> 00:28:43,825

So let's make that a yes.

665

00:28:45,504 --> 00:28:46,005

And he did.

666

00:28:46,014 --> 00:28:46,974

He did really well.

667

00:28:46,985 --> 00:28:47,755

So well.

668

00:28:47,795 --> 00:28:49,825

My husband was probably whispering.

669

00:28:50,334 --> 00:28:53,054

tiny threats in his ear the whole time, um, and playing

670

00:28:53,054 --> 00:28:54,144

him with snacks, which worked.

671

00:28:54,154 --> 00:28:56,644

Yes, there were some snacks, which is understandable.

672

00:28:56,684 --> 00:28:58,354

You know, you get hungry in a, in a studio.

673

00:28:58,404 --> 00:28:58,624

You know,

674

00:28:58,624 --> 00:29:00,524



if you're five, you have  
a lot of snacks, right?

675

00:29:00,534 --> 00:29:02,814  
So, yes, it was fantastic.

676

00:29:03,014 --> 00:29:07,574  
I still don't know if he fully understands  
what's going on, but he, he had a blast.

677

00:29:07,574 --> 00:29:11,394  
He thought it was so much fun  
to see Mom playing Jeopardy.

678

00:29:11,794 --> 00:29:14,445  
I got to do truly one of my  
favorite things in the world.

679

00:29:14,980 --> 00:29:16,550  
with my family there to see it.

680

00:29:16,590 --> 00:29:17,810  
It was amazing.

681

00:29:17,920 --> 00:29:18,100  
And

682

00:29:18,100 --> 00:29:19,910  
it was quite a game in the quarterfinal.

683

00:29:19,920 --> 00:29:21,240  
You come just shy of a run away.

684

00:29:21,240 --> 00:29:25,910  
I mean, you showed off why you  
were a three game champ for sure.

685

00:29:27,060 --> 00:29:27,200  
You

686

00:29:27,200 --> 00:29:31,370  
know, Sarah, I wasn't sure how my

buzzer skills were going to stack up.

687

00:29:31,670 --> 00:29:31,910

Right?

688

00:29:31,910 --> 00:29:35,515

You know, when I taped with Um, Anderson  
Cooper and Bill Whitaker, I didn't

689

00:29:35,515 --> 00:29:38,115

know until I showed up that morning  
who was going to be reading the clues.

690

00:29:38,315 --> 00:29:41,235

So I didn't really spend any  
time trying to figure out

691

00:29:41,235 --> 00:29:42,494

like their timing or whatever.

692

00:29:42,735 --> 00:29:44,835

I just showed up and did  
what I did on the buzzer.

693

00:29:44,935 --> 00:29:48,795

To prepare this time, I did work  
a lot more on my buzzer timing,

694

00:29:48,915 --> 00:29:50,485

listening to Ken specifically.

695

00:29:50,845 --> 00:29:53,204

And so I hoped that would translate.

696

00:29:53,515 --> 00:29:55,605

to the games on stage, and  
it seems like it really

697

00:29:55,605 --> 00:29:55,925

did.

698

00:29:55,985 --> 00:29:58,665

Yeah, 25 correct responses  
in that first game.

699  
00:29:59,155 --> 00:30:00,335  
No big deal.

700  
00:30:01,885 --> 00:30:05,905  
Also that day, I, I really  
struggled with wardrobe.

701  
00:30:06,295 --> 00:30:09,905  
Apparently when I get the, the sheet  
that says, don't wear white, don't

702  
00:30:09,905 --> 00:30:12,955  
wear stripes, that's my cue to go  
out and buy a white striped sweater.

703  
00:30:12,965 --> 00:30:13,075  
Of course.

704  
00:30:13,145 --> 00:30:14,825  
Like, I was ready to wear it.

705  
00:30:14,855 --> 00:30:15,935  
I felt super cute.

706  
00:30:16,635 --> 00:30:17,675  
Didn't pass wardrobe.

707  
00:30:17,885 --> 00:30:21,165  
I didn't pack enough TV  
appropriate tops, right?

708  
00:30:21,165 --> 00:30:25,735  
Like my tastes tend to run towards  
prints and stripes and that's like

709  
00:30:25,735 --> 00:30:27,455  
exactly what you're not supposed to wear.

710  
00:30:27,515 --> 00:30:31,045

You know, I love a jewel tone blouse as much as the next Jeopardy!

711  
00:30:31,045 --> 00:30:33,855  
contestant, but yeah, I was not prepared.

712  
00:30:33,864 --> 00:30:38,015  
So on the day after my quarterfinal match, I watched two games and

713  
00:30:38,015 --> 00:30:42,445  
then I booked it to Macy's because I'm like, I gotta figure out if I

714  
00:30:42,535 --> 00:30:44,095  
potentially could play three more games.

715  
00:30:44,114 --> 00:30:45,005  
I don't have three more.

716  
00:30:45,455 --> 00:30:46,395  
through more looks.

717  
00:30:46,545 --> 00:30:50,365  
I did the Macy's, like, order online and curbside pickup and the Uber,

718  
00:30:50,575 --> 00:30:52,175  
stick my hand out, we're rolling past.

719  
00:30:52,995 --> 00:30:56,995  
I think I've got, like, two really cute tops and then I got one jewel

720  
00:30:56,995 --> 00:30:58,945  
tone shell as, like, my backup.

721  
00:30:59,065 --> 00:31:02,255  
The two shirts that I thought were gonna be super cute did not pass wardrobe.

722  
00:31:02,265 --> 00:31:03,795

No, I didn't know

723

00:31:04,214 --> 00:31:05,085  
this, Emily, I'm so

724

00:31:05,545 --> 00:31:05,875  
sorry.

725

00:31:06,375 --> 00:31:08,795  
Oh my gosh, no, this is,  
this is on me, right?

726

00:31:09,025 --> 00:31:11,520  
I, well, and it's, Reflection  
of how much I thought I would

727

00:31:11,520 --> 00:31:12,960  
play one game and be done.

728

00:31:13,270 --> 00:31:13,660  
Right.

729

00:31:13,690 --> 00:31:13,920  
Yeah.

730

00:31:13,920 --> 00:31:17,110  
So thanks to the fine folks at  
Macy's and our very fine wardrobe

731

00:31:17,110 --> 00:31:20,189  
department for helping me be dressed

732

00:31:20,260 --> 00:31:21,260  
throughout the, the run.

733

00:31:21,370 --> 00:31:25,910  
So you watch some of the rest of the  
quarterfinal games and you kind of see

734

00:31:26,260 --> 00:31:29,929  
these other people who are emerging as  
winners and you're trying to kind of start

735  
00:31:29,929 --> 00:31:32,840  
sussing up the competition in the finals.

736  
00:31:33,090 --> 00:31:36,770  
Who were you thinking, wow, I, I don't  
know that I want to be paired up against

737  
00:31:36,770 --> 00:31:37,110  
them.

738  
00:31:37,430 --> 00:31:37,970  
Oh man.

739  
00:31:37,990 --> 00:31:39,490  
You know, Dave Pye.

740  
00:31:39,725 --> 00:31:44,875  
From the first rehearsal had the buzzer  
dialed in and I thought, oh man, he's

741  
00:31:44,875 --> 00:31:45,915  
just gonna wipe the floor with me.

742  
00:31:45,915 --> 00:31:47,825  
I'm not gonna be able to buzz  
in if I play against him.

743  
00:31:47,875 --> 00:31:48,815  
And Jelana caught her.

744  
00:31:49,195 --> 00:31:51,995  
Jelana is an amazing Jeopardy!

745  
00:31:51,995 --> 00:31:52,595  
champion.

746  
00:31:52,745 --> 00:31:56,244  
She had just come off winning  
her second chance tournament.

747

00:31:56,545 --> 00:31:58,024  
So she knows the tournament thing.

748  
00:31:58,035 --> 00:32:01,655  
She gets like the green room that we  
didn't get to have during COVID and she

749  
00:32:01,655 --> 00:32:04,055  
racks up to the green room, pregnant.

750  
00:32:04,400 --> 00:32:07,800  
So already I'm thinking, oh my gosh,  
this woman is like super charged.

751  
00:32:07,830 --> 00:32:09,900  
I lost 10 IQ points when I was pregnant.

752  
00:32:09,940 --> 00:32:11,720  
Like I was dumb.

753  
00:32:12,060 --> 00:32:16,230  
She's got her toilet paper buzzer  
that she's working and she's

754  
00:32:16,400 --> 00:32:17,760  
on it from what I can tell.

755  
00:32:17,940 --> 00:32:20,470  
She's got a bunch of books,  
like she's studying, cramming.

756  
00:32:20,749 --> 00:32:22,309  
I'm basically here to have a good time.

757  
00:32:22,630 --> 00:32:23,840  
And she's like, I'm working.

758  
00:32:23,860 --> 00:32:24,450  
This is it.

759  
00:32:24,460 --> 00:32:25,290  
Like, let's go.

760  
00:32:25,330 --> 00:32:26,000  
I was.

761  
00:32:26,385 --> 00:32:27,205  
Scared about Jelana.

762  
00:32:27,535 --> 00:32:28,545  
The Brohawks?

763  
00:32:28,855 --> 00:32:30,835  
Like, you wanna discount them,

764  
00:32:30,875 --> 00:32:31,235  
right?

765  
00:32:31,375 --> 00:32:31,715  
Right?

766  
00:32:32,045 --> 00:32:33,435  
He's got fuchsia hair!

767  
00:32:33,445 --> 00:32:34,675  
How good could he be?

768  
00:32:35,224 --> 00:32:35,354  
Right!

769  
00:32:35,355 --> 00:32:35,915  
Dave Rapp.

770  
00:32:35,915 --> 00:32:36,109  
Dave Rapp.

771  
00:32:36,490 --> 00:32:39,260  
Really damn good, Dave Rapp, and T.

772  
00:32:39,260 --> 00:32:39,400  
J.

773



00:32:39,420 --> 00:32:40,550  
Talley's no slouch either.

774  
00:32:40,740 --> 00:32:42,590  
Truly, it was a contest of champions.

775  
00:32:42,730 --> 00:32:45,810  
Every time I step foot on the Alex  
Trebek stage, I'm convinced that

776  
00:32:45,829 --> 00:32:49,260  
that's the game where it's going to  
come out that I'm a total imposter.

777  
00:32:49,810 --> 00:32:51,250  
And, like, jigs up!

778  
00:32:51,480 --> 00:32:53,219  
Again, I'm getting over that  
kind of feeling, or trying

779  
00:32:53,219 --> 00:32:53,489  
to.

780  
00:32:53,840 --> 00:32:57,600  
Good, because we talk about that semi  
final where you do go up against Dave

781  
00:32:57,600 --> 00:32:59,970  
Rapp, one of the BroHawks, and Yoshi Hill.

782  
00:33:00,255 --> 00:33:02,465  
You find both Daily Doubles  
and Double Jeopardy.

783  
00:33:02,465 --> 00:33:06,800  
You add a mere 10, 000 to your score  
and you secure a runaway to the final.

784  
00:33:06,800 --> 00:33:09,835  
So you put like an exclamation  
point on that finalist spot.

785

00:33:10,384 --> 00:33:12,055

That was amazing.

786

00:33:12,165 --> 00:33:15,535

Um, and I'll tell you, Sarah, when I realized, when we kind of went to break

787

00:33:15,535 --> 00:33:19,735

and I was doing the math and I realized it was a runaway, I got really emotional.

788

00:33:19,955 --> 00:33:24,015

I didn't think that I would be in that position to make it to

789

00:33:24,015 --> 00:33:25,865

the finals, to do that and to.

790

00:33:26,415 --> 00:33:28,135

Beat Dave and Yoshi.

791

00:33:28,215 --> 00:33:29,965

My gosh, those guys know stuff.

792

00:33:30,135 --> 00:33:32,425

I'm just disappointed now I didn't take the time to write something

793

00:33:32,425 --> 00:33:35,895

fun or funny because I didn't, like, put it together in my mind.

794

00:33:35,904 --> 00:33:37,335

So, anyway, all good.

795

00:33:37,335 --> 00:33:37,394

It's okay.

796

00:33:37,404 --> 00:33:37,454

There's

797

00:33:37,455 --> 00:33:39,755  
a lot to think about up on that stage.

798  
00:33:39,845 --> 00:33:44,014  
And then you know, okay, you're going into  
the finals, which means for someone, as

799  
00:33:44,014 --> 00:33:47,595  
you have declared, who loves Jeopardy,  
this means you get to play more Jeopardy.

800  
00:33:47,595 --> 00:33:50,385  
You get to play at least two  
more games of the show you love.

801  
00:33:50,605 --> 00:33:50,845  
I was

802  
00:33:50,845 --> 00:33:51,485  
on cloud nine.

803  
00:33:51,535 --> 00:33:52,865  
I'm like, this is amazing.

804  
00:33:52,875 --> 00:33:54,195  
I get to play those two more games.

805  
00:33:54,335 --> 00:33:56,605  
I'm definitely playing two more games.

806  
00:33:56,625 --> 00:34:00,555  
I'll tell you though, Sarah, I don't  
remember anything from that morning.

807  
00:34:00,665 --> 00:34:02,384  
I don't remember playing  
in that semifinal game.

808  
00:34:02,384 --> 00:34:06,394  
I remember the outcome, but watching it  
was like watching it for the first time.

809

00:34:06,795 --> 00:34:08,874  
And same deal with the  
other semifinal games.

810  
00:34:08,904 --> 00:34:13,415  
I don't know if I was just in a state of  
shock or if I was really trying to kind

811  
00:34:13,415 --> 00:34:17,725  
of get mentally prepared to just dial  
in and really play Jeopardy after lunch.

812  
00:34:17,775 --> 00:34:18,155  
I.

813  
00:34:18,305 --> 00:34:19,065  
I don't know.

814  
00:34:19,205 --> 00:34:20,425  
It's kind of a surreal

815  
00:34:20,425 --> 00:34:21,085  
experience.

816  
00:34:21,125 --> 00:34:25,745  
Well, after those three semifinals,  
you all do head to lunch, and Buzzy

817  
00:34:25,745 --> 00:34:29,024  
isn't here to ask the burning,  
pressing questions, but I have

818  
00:34:29,024 --> 00:34:33,235  
to know, what is your commissary  
order here at Sony when you're...

819  
00:34:33,410 --> 00:34:35,830  
When you're playing for, for big stakes,

820  
00:34:36,620 --> 00:34:38,830  
it's so funny to say,  
Oh yeah, my usual order.

821

00:34:38,830 --> 00:34:41,950  
When I'm at Sony playing Jeopardy,  
like, you know, it happens is

822

00:34:42,069 --> 00:34:43,400  
it's so often does for us all.

823

00:34:43,720 --> 00:34:47,619  
I'll tell you the first day I played,  
I stuck with the Chris Panulo route.

824

00:34:47,670 --> 00:34:50,870  
I said, I'm going to do salad,  
some protein, keep it super simple.

825

00:34:50,970 --> 00:34:54,460  
The next day when I didn't play,  
I had a poke bowl and survived.

826

00:34:54,850 --> 00:34:58,150  
So like not realizing Sarah,  
I'm taking my life into my own

827

00:34:58,150 --> 00:34:58,830  
hands.

828

00:34:59,440 --> 00:35:02,210  
I have to say, I have since  
talked to Ken Jennings about

829

00:35:02,210 --> 00:35:04,810  
this because I'm so appalled by  
all the lovers of the Pokeball.

830

00:35:04,840 --> 00:35:08,240  
And Ken, huge fan, has  
never been sick once.

831

00:35:08,240 --> 00:35:12,939  
So, you know, I'm starting to maybe doubt  
my own knowledge about such Pokeball.

832

00:35:13,339 --> 00:35:16,450  
Sarah, if that knowledge is,  
is well earned, I think you're

833  
00:35:16,450 --> 00:35:17,979  
probably wise not to disregard it.

834  
00:35:18,165 --> 00:35:20,865  
But yeah, I, I ate the poke bowl.

835  
00:35:20,885 --> 00:35:21,635  
I survived.

836  
00:35:21,715 --> 00:35:24,915  
It was kind of fun because at  
lunch, only the three finalists.

837  
00:35:24,915 --> 00:35:29,315  
So myself, Jelana and Erin, we were still  
kind of sequestered away from everybody.

838  
00:35:29,324 --> 00:35:31,625  
And we sat at the same table  
and we just had a good time.

839  
00:35:31,625 --> 00:35:32,755  
We learned about each other.

840  
00:35:33,055 --> 00:35:34,904  
We learned about each other's  
backgrounds some more.

841  
00:35:35,384 --> 00:35:37,805  
We talked about what  
we love about Jeopardy.

842  
00:35:37,845 --> 00:35:39,295  
Like it was, it was really cool.

843  
00:35:39,335 --> 00:35:39,505  
So

844

00:35:39,525 --> 00:35:43,045  
you, you break bread, if you will, with  
your fellow competitors for the finals.

845  
00:35:43,200 --> 00:35:47,140  
And then you've got to come back right  
after lunch and play back to back games.

846  
00:35:47,420 --> 00:35:51,700  
You kick off that first game of  
the finals, and it is dominant.

847  
00:35:51,770 --> 00:35:55,089  
You go into Day 2 with 30, 400.

848  
00:35:55,090 --> 00:35:58,640  
I know it's such a quick turnaround  
between Game 1 and Game 2, but what

849  
00:35:58,640 --> 00:36:01,150  
are you feeling heading into Day 2?

850  
00:36:01,835 --> 00:36:04,585  
Which is really day three,  
which is really game four, which

851  
00:36:04,585 --> 00:36:06,215  
is, you know, all the things.

852  
00:36:06,235 --> 00:36:06,685  
The fact that

853  
00:36:06,685 --> 00:36:10,555  
you can keep, like, Jeopardy time and  
real time straight is, is a gift, Sarah,

854  
00:36:10,604 --> 00:36:12,755  
because it, it really is disorienting.

855  
00:36:13,075 --> 00:36:17,975  
Um, I remember telling  
Mitch, Mitch the Sound Guy.

856

00:36:18,115 --> 00:36:18,854  
Oh, yes.

857

00:36:18,895 --> 00:36:19,404  
We love Mitch.

858

00:36:19,434 --> 00:36:19,914  
Okay.

859

00:36:20,255 --> 00:36:21,835  
I love Mitch.

860

00:36:21,845 --> 00:36:21,875  
Yes.

861

00:36:21,885 --> 00:36:25,830  
He's got the coolest job because  
When you win a game of Jeopardy, you

862

00:36:25,830 --> 00:36:29,440  
come off stage and you get whisked  
away to go change or whatever.

863

00:36:29,480 --> 00:36:31,740  
But before you can do that, Mitch  
has to take your mic pack off

864

00:36:31,790 --> 00:36:35,050  
and he says, Way to go champ.

865

00:36:35,930 --> 00:36:39,539  
And he might be like the first person  
to say like champ to you to call you

866

00:36:39,539 --> 00:36:42,410  
champ because once you're Jeopardy  
champ You're always a Jeopardy!

867

00:36:42,410 --> 00:36:42,700  
champ.

868



00:36:42,710 --> 00:36:44,160  
Like, it is amazing.

869  
00:36:44,400 --> 00:36:45,610  
I love Mitch, the sound guy.

870  
00:36:45,980 --> 00:36:50,180  
Um, but between the games, he was  
mic'ing me back up, and I looked to him

871  
00:36:50,180 --> 00:36:52,460  
and I said, Mitch, I might win this.

872  
00:36:52,530 --> 00:36:54,029  
And we just kind of giggled together.

873  
00:36:54,270 --> 00:36:57,720  
And it was just such a  
moment of like, I don't know.

874  
00:36:57,750 --> 00:36:58,719  
Yeah, it was really

875  
00:36:58,720 --> 00:36:59,130  
funny.

876  
00:36:59,250 --> 00:37:01,310  
And so then we head into game two.

877  
00:37:01,445 --> 00:37:05,435  
And this one, you had to  
work for it, obviously.

878  
00:37:05,575 --> 00:37:05,735  
I did.

879  
00:37:06,525 --> 00:37:11,915  
Jelana finds those first two Daily  
Doubles, she's on a tear, and it's all

880  
00:37:11,915 --> 00:37:14,485  
going to come down to Final Jeopardy!

881

00:37:14,875 --> 00:37:19,405  
And I loved seeing Jelana go all  
in on that first Daily Double.

882

00:37:19,435 --> 00:37:20,055  
I was like...

883

00:37:20,380 --> 00:37:23,620  
Yes, you can't be the best until  
you beat the best and, and I

884

00:37:23,620 --> 00:37:27,320  
thought the two of us battling  
together was, was pretty appropriate

885

00:37:27,320 --> 00:37:27,940  
for a vinyl.

886

00:37:28,050 --> 00:37:29,210  
Yeah, it was amazing.

887

00:37:29,240 --> 00:37:33,840  
And, you know, I know in the end Jelana  
comes up with a third place prizing,

888

00:37:33,909 --> 00:37:39,030  
but because She just said, hey, I'm  
either gonna win this whole thing or

889

00:37:39,030 --> 00:37:42,850  
I'm going home with third place, but I'm  
not gonna, I'm not gonna play it safe.

890

00:37:42,860 --> 00:37:45,909  
It's not how she'd played all  
the way through and you both are

891

00:37:45,909 --> 00:37:47,709  
obviously incorrect in final.

892

00:37:48,350 --> 00:37:51,239

You are able to not wager as much and...

893

00:37:51,239 --> 00:37:51,449

Yes.

894

00:37:51,515 --> 00:37:53,645

You're declared our champion.

895

00:37:53,765 --> 00:37:55,775

It was a near thing  
though, wasn't it, Sarah?

896

00:37:55,775 --> 00:37:56,045

I mean,

897

00:37:56,255 --> 00:37:56,375

yes.

898

00:37:56,465 --> 00:38:00,335

It was crazy that it was still anyone's  
game at that point between the two of you.

899

00:38:00,335 --> 00:38:00,905

Yes.

900

00:38:01,055 --> 00:38:01,445

Well,

901

00:38:01,450 --> 00:38:04,895

yes, and especially because we had  
that scoring adjustment before we

902

00:38:04,895 --> 00:38:07,235

actually saw the final Jeopardy clue.

903

00:38:07,505 --> 00:38:07,745

Yes.

904

00:38:07,775 --> 00:38:10,655

Which Sarah, oh my gosh.

905

00:38:10,660 --> 00:38:16,905  
That was really just a wild thing to  
have happen at such a a moment of.

906  
00:38:17,540 --> 00:38:21,390  
tension, like, with the game and  
everything else, and then all of a

907  
00:38:21,390 --> 00:38:25,060  
sudden this lawyer in a vest comes  
out and tells me they're taking

908  
00:38:25,060 --> 00:38:27,100  
my money, and I'm like, what?

909  
00:38:27,429 --> 00:38:27,820  
No, just kidding.

910  
00:38:27,820 --> 00:38:28,520  
But not until

911  
00:38:28,520 --> 00:38:30,840  
we had done a lot of  
discussion, obviously.

912  
00:38:30,880 --> 00:38:31,440  
Yes!

913  
00:38:31,460 --> 00:38:33,499  
So, how does that get initiated, right?

914  
00:38:33,529 --> 00:38:39,880  
Because Ken ruled very quickly that it  
was a correct answer, and Then it wasn't.

915  
00:38:39,880 --> 00:38:39,990  
What

916  
00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:40,660  
happens?

917  
00:38:40,920 --> 00:38:41,250

Yes.

918  
00:38:41,270 --> 00:38:45,300  
Well, Ken can only hear  
what he can hear, obviously.

919  
00:38:45,680 --> 00:38:50,980  
And then there are researchers  
and writers back in the library,

920  
00:38:50,980 --> 00:38:55,239  
the Jeopardy library, and they are  
listening to a live feed of the show.

921  
00:38:55,650 --> 00:39:00,330  
So Any time anyone gives a response,  
even though we've moved on, we always

922  
00:39:00,330 --> 00:39:04,570  
love to stop right in the moment if we  
can, but additional research is done.

923  
00:39:05,100 --> 00:39:10,269  
So, it is then deemed whenever it's  
a good time to stop and discuss

924  
00:39:10,270 --> 00:39:12,009  
it, which in this case was...

925  
00:39:12,745 --> 00:39:17,385  
Right before Final Jeopardy, because  
we weren't able to stop any, the Daily

926  
00:39:17,385 --> 00:39:18,965  
Doubles had already been discovered.

927  
00:39:19,315 --> 00:39:22,105  
We have to go back, and  
we really have to listen.

928  
00:39:22,135 --> 00:39:24,175  
And I don't know if you could  
see us over at the judges

929

00:39:24,175 --> 00:39:25,605  
table, we have our headsets on.

930

00:39:25,625 --> 00:39:30,564  
They're playing it back from the booth,  
and we're looking at your mouth exactly.

931

00:39:31,065 --> 00:39:34,695  
Is it coming out Colossum or Colosscum?

932

00:39:34,875 --> 00:39:39,785  
And we listened to it several times and we  
realized that we do in fact have to take

933

00:39:39,785 --> 00:39:46,785  
away your money and it's not done, you  
know, out of any lack of love or support.

934

00:39:46,785 --> 00:39:48,464  
We just have to make the right call.

935

00:39:48,474 --> 00:39:51,065  
But, you know, it's rare that  
we make a call that could impact

936

00:39:51,065 --> 00:39:55,244  
something so drastically at  
the culmination of day two of a

937

00:39:55,244 --> 00:39:55,464  
final.

938

00:39:57,190 --> 00:39:59,500  
I wish you would have just asked  
me because I learned it wrong.

939

00:39:59,610 --> 00:40:03,190  
I learned that it was corpus  
callosum, um, and was surprised

940

00:40:03,190 --> 00:40:04,360

to find out that I was just wrong.

941

00:40:04,460 --> 00:40:05,380

Yeah, so.

942

00:40:05,940 --> 00:40:07,360

Isn't that interesting?

943

00:40:07,590 --> 00:40:09,300

So you're saying we didn't  
have to go to the tape.

944

00:40:09,320 --> 00:40:10,730

We could have just said Emily.

945

00:40:11,090 --> 00:40:12,750

Did you put a K in there?

946

00:40:12,760 --> 00:40:16,410

Because if I would have been like, of  
course, that's how it's pronounced.

947

00:40:16,650 --> 00:40:20,900

Yeah, I just learned it wrong  
Yeah, so nope, that was easy.

948

00:40:21,040 --> 00:40:27,720

Although I will say Sarah so that took  
forever Uh huh from my perspective, right?

949

00:40:27,739 --> 00:40:28,450

I'm standing up here.

950

00:40:28,450 --> 00:40:31,990

It's just me and Jelana because  
Aaron is off in negative

951

00:40:32,110 --> 00:40:33,730

contestant purgatory for that

952

00:40:33,730 --> 00:40:34,040

game.

953

00:40:34,070 --> 00:40:35,430

Yep, and

954

00:40:35,920 --> 00:40:38,880

And once the ruling had come through, I turned to Ken and I

955

00:40:38,880 --> 00:40:40,240

was like, did you know that one?

956

00:40:40,940 --> 00:40:45,090

And Ken, Ken Jennings,  
does he know that one?

957

00:40:45,720 --> 00:40:46,410

Yeah, he knew it.

958

00:40:47,070 --> 00:40:51,730

Um, and he just kind of nodded  
and he was like, yes, yes I did.

959

00:40:52,000 --> 00:40:52,619

Well, I

960

00:40:52,619 --> 00:40:55,570

have to ask, heading into the TOC.

961

00:40:55,750 --> 00:40:59,520

What do you do with  
this time that you have?

962

00:40:59,540 --> 00:41:02,950

Because you didn't have as much time when  
you came back for Champions Wildcard.

963

00:41:02,960 --> 00:41:05,220

Definitely less notice was  
given to you, but now...

964

00:41:05,370 --> 00:41:05,790

Right.



965

00:41:05,800 --> 00:41:07,379  
you have months, you have time.

966

00:41:07,380 --> 00:41:08,550  
Is that a good thing or

967

00:41:08,550 --> 00:41:09,950  
is that a bad thing?

968

00:41:10,099 --> 00:41:16,189  
I took a break from training because I had  
been just cramming so hard to really not

969

00:41:16,189 --> 00:41:20,899  
just build my knowledge base, but to build  
kind of that meta skill of knowing whether

970

00:41:20,899 --> 00:41:23,149  
you're going to know something, right?

971

00:41:23,149 --> 00:41:24,089  
Like, I'll buzz in.

972

00:41:24,710 --> 00:41:26,670  
And figure out the clue, right?

973

00:41:26,740 --> 00:41:28,990  
The Jeopardy writers are amazing,  
and they put in like all these

974

00:41:28,990 --> 00:41:31,480  
little hints, and if you can follow  
their breadcrumbs, you've got it.

975

00:41:32,810 --> 00:41:35,129  
However, I think I'm  
going to go back to it.

976

00:41:35,160 --> 00:41:40,150  
I have an idea of where  
my weaknesses are, still.

977  
00:41:40,210 --> 00:41:44,649  
Things that I probably should have studied  
for Champions Wildcard, but didn't get

978  
00:41:44,649 --> 00:41:47,740  
around to, or it hasn't sunk in yet.

979  
00:41:48,100 --> 00:41:51,360  
Also, I'm really pleased with how  
well I did on the buzzer, which was...

980  
00:41:52,785 --> 00:41:54,615  
You know, in my initial  
appearance, Jeopardy!

981  
00:41:54,615 --> 00:42:00,655  
wasn't publishing statistics, so I  
didn't know, like, am I buzzing it?

982  
00:42:00,665 --> 00:42:04,944  
Like, all those statistics and things  
that, like, John Falk has this amazing

983  
00:42:04,945 --> 00:42:11,150  
website where you can compare the  
Buzzer timing to the clue value, and

984  
00:42:11,390 --> 00:42:12,820  
probably get all kinds of insights.

985  
00:42:13,380 --> 00:42:16,549  
I don't get it, I'm not a sabermetrics  
type person, but seeing if I can

986  
00:42:16,549 --> 00:42:20,350  
dig into some of that information  
to really help improve my gameplay.

987  
00:42:20,920 --> 00:42:22,770  
Um, of course, I'm going  
to keep watching Jeopardy.

988  
00:42:23,000 --> 00:42:24,520  
Always the best way, yes?

989  
00:42:24,529 --> 00:42:25,310  
Well, right!

990  
00:42:25,599 --> 00:42:29,370  
When you think about it, I bet  
I've seen every episode of Jeopardy

991  
00:42:29,380 --> 00:42:33,090  
since I got a DVR in like, 2005.

992  
00:42:33,730 --> 00:42:34,970  
Um, so that's...

993  
00:42:35,610 --> 00:42:37,990  
Quite a few hours put in with Jeopardy!

994  
00:42:37,990 --> 00:42:38,690  
material.

995  
00:42:39,170 --> 00:42:41,790  
You know, when you tune in,  
you're gonna get 61 clues, and

996  
00:42:41,790 --> 00:42:42,820  
you're gonna learn something.

997  
00:42:42,880 --> 00:42:43,270  
I also

998  
00:42:43,270 --> 00:42:46,850  
like that you talked about that you  
really learned that you don't have to

999  
00:42:46,850 --> 00:42:49,139  
ring in if you don't know something.

1000  
00:42:49,150 --> 00:42:50,300  
This was earth shattering.

1001

00:42:50,670 --> 00:42:50,979

You know,

1002

00:42:50,989 --> 00:42:53,080

yes, hear it from the champ.

1003

00:42:53,309 --> 00:42:56,250

If you don't know an  
answer, don't buzz in.

1004

00:42:56,380 --> 00:42:58,570

It's tough though, Sarah, because  
you also want to balance that

1005

00:42:58,570 --> 00:43:01,630

with the fact that You know a lot.

1006

00:43:02,040 --> 00:43:03,570

That you don't even know you know.

1007

00:43:03,830 --> 00:43:04,470

Thank you.

1008

00:43:04,520 --> 00:43:08,370

Yes, so as you look at that clue,  
as you read, as you see those

1009

00:43:08,370 --> 00:43:11,760

different triggers, there might be  
something that tickles that, like,

1010

00:43:12,189 --> 00:43:14,380

tiny neuron in the back of your mind.

1011

00:43:14,780 --> 00:43:16,470

that gets you to the right response.

1012

00:43:16,730 --> 00:43:21,500

I also loved when you talked about that  
you feel bad if no one's ringing in.

1013  
00:43:21,510 --> 00:43:25,650  
Like you feel this pressure to ring  
in so that the host doesn't feel like

1014  
00:43:25,650 --> 00:43:27,349  
no one wants to you know, respond.

1015  
00:43:29,210 --> 00:43:33,780  
That is the worst reason to buzz  
in and yet here's my thumb doing

1016  
00:43:33,790 --> 00:43:36,100  
things that I swear I'm not telling

1017  
00:43:36,100 --> 00:43:36,510  
it to.

1018  
00:43:36,715 --> 00:43:39,725  
Well, you talked about in your first  
run, we didn't have the box scores.

1019  
00:43:39,725 --> 00:43:41,645  
You didn't have access to your stats.

1020  
00:43:42,035 --> 00:43:43,135  
Now you do.

1021  
00:43:43,195 --> 00:43:46,404  
Is there a particular stat  
or a game moment or something

1022  
00:43:46,405 --> 00:43:49,835  
that stands out to you as being  
something you're the most proud of?

1023  
00:43:50,445 --> 00:43:50,885  
So

1024  
00:43:51,004 --> 00:43:53,005  
I would say there's two  
things, one stat related.

1025  
00:43:53,305 --> 00:43:58,415  
And that is when Ken turned to me after  
the conclusion of our quarterfinal game.

1026  
00:43:58,415 --> 00:44:01,895  
And he said, Emily, you buzzed in like I  
forget what it was, like 40 some times.

1027  
00:44:02,215 --> 00:44:04,145  
That's TOC caliber work.

1028  
00:44:04,145 --> 00:44:04,374  
49.

1029  
00:44:04,555 --> 00:44:05,425  
49 access.

1030  
00:44:05,995 --> 00:44:10,655  
And I looked at them and I was just  
like, I've got a case of the butt fours.

1031  
00:44:10,724 --> 00:44:13,815  
Like, yeah, yes, but no.

1032  
00:44:13,905 --> 00:44:19,535  
Like, I'm, I'm not an elite level player,  
but I can bring some elite level stats

1033  
00:44:19,544 --> 00:44:20,985  
so maybe I've got something going on.

1034  
00:44:21,515 --> 00:44:24,595  
The other thing that I'm really proud  
of is actually in the game I lost.

1035  
00:44:24,815 --> 00:44:29,545  
In my initial run and I watched it  
kind of preparing for this again, you

1036  
00:44:29,545 --> 00:44:32,865  
know, build kind of that knowledge of  
what I know and what I don't and try

1037  
00:44:32,865 --> 00:44:38,675  
to get some timing tips But on the game  
I lost I was in negative digits in the

1038  
00:44:38,675 --> 00:44:41,774  
double jeopardy round I was flailing  
I was trying to catch someone who

1039  
00:44:41,774 --> 00:44:47,215  
eventually had to run away and I got  
back to zero Just as bill whittaker said.

1040  
00:44:47,515 --> 00:44:50,365  
All right one minute left And  
I could see on my face and

1041  
00:44:50,365 --> 00:44:51,815  
it was like, okay, let's go.

1042  
00:44:52,475 --> 00:44:53,225  
I didn't win.

1043  
00:44:53,285 --> 00:44:55,285  
I scored some more points and  
I was really proud of that.

1044  
00:44:55,285 --> 00:45:00,125  
But that was kind of the attitude I wanted  
to bring was that it is such a blessing to

1045  
00:45:00,125 --> 00:45:04,375  
be up here on stage playing the game you  
love, make the most of the opportunity.

1046  
00:45:04,544 --> 00:45:04,764  
And

1047  
00:45:04,764 --> 00:45:08,054  
you got final correct in that  
fourth game in your initial run too.

1048

00:45:08,074 --> 00:45:08,435  
Let's just say.

1049  
00:45:08,525 --> 00:45:09,105  
I did.

1050  
00:45:09,125 --> 00:45:11,335  
I was four for four on final.

1051  
00:45:11,605 --> 00:45:14,765  
Now I'm not batting a  
thousand on final, let's just,

1052  
00:45:14,765 --> 00:45:15,445  
let's say that.

1053  
00:45:15,465 --> 00:45:18,385  
I want to take a minute to  
talk about your Diamonds group.

1054  
00:45:18,435 --> 00:45:24,345  
Obviously we had TJ and Dave  
on last week, the Brohawks.

1055  
00:45:24,404 --> 00:45:29,185  
And, you know, we've heard that  
you guys have a group chat going.

1056  
00:45:29,235 --> 00:45:30,985  
And just that you really are...

1057  
00:45:31,430 --> 00:45:35,650  
In your minds, you're the best of the  
suits, that it is all about the diamonds.

1058  
00:45:36,260 --> 00:45:37,790  
Talk about that camaraderie.

1059  
00:45:38,560 --> 00:45:40,349  
Sarah, I just want everyone  
to have a good time.

1060



00:45:41,070 --> 00:45:42,800  
Um, and I want to win.

1061  
00:45:43,040 --> 00:45:44,550  
So, yeah, I'll say it.

1062  
00:45:44,550 --> 00:45:45,930  
Yeah, the diamonds are the best.

1063  
00:45:46,050 --> 00:45:47,670  
Watch out, everybody else.

1064  
00:45:47,699 --> 00:45:52,839  
But, um, I will say, being on Jeopardy!

1065  
00:45:52,849 --> 00:45:55,379  
sometimes feels like getting  
hit by a truck, right?

1066  
00:45:55,379 --> 00:45:59,000  
You live your whole life,  
potentially, with this anticipation

1067  
00:45:59,000 --> 00:45:59,920  
of something happening.

1068  
00:46:00,450 --> 00:46:05,160  
And, uh, You get there and  
it's over in less than a day.

1069  
00:46:05,550 --> 00:46:08,430  
You walk out with a tote  
bag, knowing you're a loser.

1070  
00:46:08,690 --> 00:46:11,839  
There are people who can't watch  
Jeopardy after they've been on Jeopardy

1071  
00:46:11,859 --> 00:46:14,929  
because they're just like embarrassed  
by their performance or something

1072

00:46:14,930 --> 00:46:16,010  
doesn't click for them anymore.

1073  
00:46:16,330 --> 00:46:18,449  
So, you know, I would say to.

1074  
00:46:19,145 --> 00:46:23,645  
future competitors is, is form  
that support group now, because

1075  
00:46:23,725 --> 00:46:28,755  
it is such a crazy experience  
and you can't tell anybody for

1076  
00:46:28,835 --> 00:46:30,595  
several weeks after it's happened.

1077  
00:46:30,875 --> 00:46:33,985  
So, you know, like set up that group  
chat, set up that support group.

1078  
00:46:34,045 --> 00:46:35,115  
They're good people to have on your

1079  
00:46:35,115 --> 00:46:35,375  
side.

1080  
00:46:35,395 --> 00:46:37,834  
And in your case, your  
group chat group is?

1081  
00:46:37,985 --> 00:46:38,165  
The

1082  
00:46:38,435 --> 00:46:38,945  
Botches.

1083  
00:46:39,255 --> 00:46:44,785  
We're the Botches, yes, after a clue  
from one of the quarterfinal games.

1084  
00:46:45,355 --> 00:46:49,805

I will tell you, Sarah, when that category came up, it was like not naughty words.

1085

00:46:49,815 --> 00:46:51,645

Non naughty words, yes.

1086

00:46:51,695 --> 00:46:55,284

And we saw TJ up there  
and we knew who TJ was.

1087

00:46:55,525 --> 00:46:58,515

I don't know, like, do you have  
like a bleep button somewhere handy?

1088

00:46:58,685 --> 00:47:00,135

Because I thought for sure this was going

1089

00:47:00,135 --> 00:47:00,745

downhill.

1090

00:47:00,865 --> 00:47:03,735

I know, because you had  
to name five letter.

1091

00:47:03,960 --> 00:47:06,390

In that case it was a five letter B word.

1092

00:47:06,420 --> 00:47:08,400

That means to bungle a task.

1093

00:47:08,400 --> 00:47:10,020

Of course we were going for botch.

1094

00:47:10,020 --> 00:47:10,860

So you're the botes.

1095

00:47:10,860 --> 00:47:11,310

Botch.

1096

00:47:11,750 --> 00:47:12,650

We're the botches.

1097  
00:47:12,770 --> 00:47:12,980  
Yep.

1098  
00:47:13,010 --> 00:47:13,670  
We'll own that.

1099  
00:47:14,090 --> 00:47:17,510  
It's funny too because I think each of  
us who've played has their own category

1100  
00:47:17,515 --> 00:47:22,370  
where they're just like, oh, that did  
me dirty, so don't dare bring up Phish.

1101  
00:47:23,185 --> 00:47:24,235  
Triangles.

1102  
00:47:24,345 --> 00:47:26,045  
Um, there's a few others  
in the group chat.

1103  
00:47:26,045 --> 00:47:27,515  
It's still a little bit  
of a sore subject for

1104  
00:47:27,515 --> 00:47:27,915  
some of us.

1105  
00:47:28,465 --> 00:47:30,575  
Maybe the Jokers for TJ as well.

1106  
00:47:30,595 --> 00:47:31,615  
That one was tough.

1107  
00:47:31,905 --> 00:47:32,475  
Oh, Lord

1108  
00:47:32,505 --> 00:47:32,975  
Almighty.

1109  
00:47:33,035 --> 00:47:35,015

Heath Ledger comes up  
daily in the group chat.

1110  
00:47:35,015 --> 00:47:36,545  
Let's, let's just say it that way.

1111  
00:47:36,745 --> 00:47:36,895  
I

1112  
00:47:36,895 --> 00:47:41,195  
think one of my favorite quotes you  
had, Emily, was The Real Daily Double

1113  
00:47:41,225 --> 00:47:44,355  
is the friends we met along the way.

1114  
00:47:44,355 --> 00:47:46,455  
I mean, it was a Hallmark  
card in the making.

1115  
00:47:46,455 --> 00:47:47,875  
How did that come out at that moment?

1116  
00:47:47,885 --> 00:47:48,005  
You

1117  
00:47:48,005 --> 00:47:51,334  
know, I think I'm going to have  
to embroider that on a hand towel

1118  
00:47:51,335 --> 00:47:52,755  
or something, as Ken referred to.

1119  
00:47:52,755 --> 00:47:54,965  
You know, that's truly the  
camaraderie that we had as a group.

1120  
00:47:54,995 --> 00:47:59,385  
TJ had said that at lunch  
leading into the final two games.

1121  
00:47:59,415 --> 00:48:01,505

And I really do believe that.

1122

00:48:01,720 --> 00:48:03,030  
Coming back to play Jeopardy!

1123

00:48:03,100 --> 00:48:05,400  
with the Diamonds was a true gift.

1124

00:48:05,480 --> 00:48:05,740  
Well,

1125

00:48:05,750 --> 00:48:06,870  
Diamonds are forever.

1126

00:48:06,870 --> 00:48:09,790  
I know many of them are going  
to be cheering you on in

1127

00:48:09,790 --> 00:48:11,340  
the Tournament of Champions.

1128

00:48:11,340 --> 00:48:13,980  
We're so excited to welcome you back.

1129

00:48:13,980 --> 00:48:17,790  
I can't wait to see what wardrobe  
you've come up with, and I will look

1130

00:48:17,790 --> 00:48:19,689  
forward to welcoming your smiling face.

1131

00:48:19,689 --> 00:48:22,499  
Whether you're enjoying  
yourself or completely nervous,

1132

00:48:22,520 --> 00:48:23,710  
I know you'll have a smile

1133

00:48:23,750 --> 00:48:24,200  
nonetheless.

1134

00:48:25,490 --> 00:48:26,720  
This has been a blast, Sarah.

1135  
00:48:26,730 --> 00:48:27,590  
Thank you so much.

1136  
00:48:28,435 --> 00:48:29,525  
That's it for today's show.

1137  
00:48:29,545 --> 00:48:32,735  
We'll be back next week with more  
Champions Wildcard highlights and

1138  
00:48:32,735 --> 00:48:36,565  
Celebrity Jeopardy, which returns  
this week with Macaulay Culkin,

1139  
00:48:36,825 --> 00:48:38,855  
Rachel Dratch, and Becky Lynch.

1140  
00:48:39,055 --> 00:48:41,985  
And I'll be speaking with second  
chance winner and Champions

1141  
00:48:41,985 --> 00:48:44,455  
Wildcard finalist, Jelana Cotter.

1142  
00:48:44,534 --> 00:48:45,894  
Can't wait to catch up with her.

1143  
00:48:46,155 --> 00:48:49,135  
You won't want to miss it, so as  
always, subscribe to the podcast

1144  
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