

10.28.24 Inside J!

[00:00:00] From the Alex

Trebek stage at Sony Picture Studios, this

is Inside Jeopardy.

Michael: It's the weewee that really gets me every single time. Johnny Gilbert on the axe. What does that mean? That means we're back on Inside Jeopardy. Welcome your exclusive and official podcast destination for all things happening in the world of Jeopardy.

I'm Michael Davies. I'm, well, I'm not here. I'm in my remote studio. And then producer Sarah Foss is in the Jeopardy studio and joining us also virtually from his own studio. This is a, a, a, a surplus of studios. Uh, it's Sam Buttrey.

Sam: Happy to be here from the Inside Jeopardy Remote Studio, currently located atop the world's tallest thermometer, 134 feet above beautiful Baker, California.

Sarah: Wow.

Sam: Wow. Mm hmm. Baker, California.

Sarah: Beautiful. Who knew? Happy Halloween week, everybody. You know I love it. It's my favorite holiday. It almost might be my favorite holiday.

Michael: Yeah, it's tough to, um, it would be tough for me to make a list of your favorite holidays, Sarah, just [00:01:00] based on the efforts you make to, um, to, uh, I'm not gonna say force your family, to, to coerce your family, to ring lead your family into, um, into various holiday photos.

There's the, there's the Easter photo, there's the July 4th photo. Uh, we, weirdly, you do the Labor Day, uh, photo every year, which I think is interesting. The Flag Day photo. And then we get all the way to Halloween, Thanksgiving, uh, Christmas, Hanukkah, um, and sort of everything else in between. All the

Sarah: photos.

Yes. Well, you talk about my family being coerced. You know, I have an 11 year old and this year, This could be the last year of the family costume. I fear that this could be it because, uh, it's being met with a bit of resistance, but we have persevered. The Peter Pan ensemble is complete. My husband's Captain Hook.

My daughter's Peter Pan. My other daughter's Tinkerbell. I'm Wendy. My husband, I already said, is Captain Hook. My mom is Smee and our dog is the Tick Tock Croc.

Michael: Uh, which, which Newtonian law, Sam, [00:02:00] you will know this is to every action is an equal and opposite reaction. Um, it's a Newtonian law. It is, you, you cannot argue with Sir Isaac, um, whatever you're doing to your children now, I tell you from having slightly older children, there will be an equal and opposite reaction later on.

Uh, so maybe it's time to bail out of the, uh, of the Peter Pan. You know,

Sarah: knowing me as you do, Michael, it will all be worth it. I'll take whatever comes back, but in the moment. It's great. Uh, Sam, you offered some words of wisdom on our social channels this past week about dressing up perhaps as Sam Buttrey.

Sam: I did with thanks to Laura from the digital team. She kind of put me on the spot with her, uh, phone and said, go tell us what it's like to dress up. And I would like to say people seem to react. Uh, happily to that and I thought to myself, man, think how well I could do if I went to one of these events at colleges or universities, you know, I'm just throwing that out there.

Just spitballing. Yeah.

Sarah: Spitballing. Well, it was great. It was well [00:03:00] received. And you know, even Ken got in on some Halloween fun last year. He dressed as Ken. I dressed as Barbie and Buzzy dressed up as Alan. This is when the Barbie movie was really big, but because of all of the labor actions and the strike that was happening, they didn't want anyone dressing up at Halloween or at least promoting anything that was promoting the film.

So I'm going to put that out this Halloween, one year later, and we have to have our deathly double Halloween contest. Sam, you're new to this, but it's done every year and we ask people to dress up, you know, As people in the Jeopardy! community, I'm sure there'll be a few buttheads wanting to participate.

We've had Michael Davies in the past. We've had Johnny Gilbert. We've had James Holzhauser. Someone dressing up like him last year was a big winner. And you do get an autographed photo of Ken Jennings signed by Buzzy Cohen. He'll be here next week to announce the winner and also, you know, help judge that.

So hashtag deathly double [00:04:00] Get your costumes in now. I don't know who's going to win that coveted prize this year.

Michael: I didn't really understand any of that, but it seems we're doing a competition where people have to dress up like Sam. Sam, I cannot believe we missed out on this. We should have been the wild and crazy guys.

Like, I would have, I would have, uh, I would have played one half. Maybe you would have, I imagine you'd have been in the Steve Martin role. It seems plausible. It seems plausible. Do you dress

Sarah: up for Halloween, Sam? I know Michael's not a big fan. Big Halloween guy, but do you, or have you, or any parties planned?

Sam: I take joy in giving candy out to children, so I usually stay at home, and sometimes I'll dress up. I happen to own an entire Detroit Tigers baseball uniform, which I got when I went to one of those camps. But occasionally I'll go lazy and just do the bunny head. Answer the door, wearing the bunny head, give out the candy.

This year, sadly, our house is being redone and it's not safe, so we're not going to be able to give out candy. Doesn't mean I haven't bought candy. I'm just not giving it out. You're just

Sarah: going to eat the candy.

Sam: The candy's got to go somewhere, Sarah. Does

Sarah: anyone knock on the door and say, you know, trick or treat and then go, Oh my gosh, you're Sam [00:05:00] Buttrey?

Sam: Children know, but adults have. Hey, I know you. Oh, wow. Wow. Pleased to meet you. Not when the bunny hat is on, though. The bunny head.

Michael: We should probably move off Halloween and get to actual Jeopardy, but just quickly, I am dressing up this year, but you know, I, I enjoy the day before holidays and the day after holidays far more than I enjoy holidays.

July 3rd, Sam, I throw a very big last day of dependents party every year. We celebrate the last day of dependents way back there, July 3rd, 1776. Um, and for me, November the 1st is the big day. I'm going to a costume party and, um, I'm going as Jason Statham from Transporter 11, an older Jason Statham, and I'm wearing the black suit with the white shirt and the black tie.

I have the driving gloves that he puts on at the beginning of, of Transporter. And a friend of mine is doing my makeup. And, uh, there's blood splatter all over me. And there's, there's like, I've been in a lot of fights by [00:06:00] the end of it.

Sarah: Will you share a photo?

Sam: I will share a photo. With hashtag Deathly Double.

It sounds like

Sarah: you're in, Michael. You're in. Very good. Alright, well, moving off of Halloween in J P T, we just came off of an exciting three days where we shot Celebrity Jeopardy! Or at least the first rounds. That was, uh, quite a few days, Michael.

Michael: Yeah. These were long days, hour long shows. Triple Jeopardy, Sam, something you've never played as a player.

You know, you're on this podcast because you've played the game. You've played the game at the professional level. We're like one of those sports shows where you have to have someone who's taken a down in the, uh, on the, in the pro game. But you've never played Triple Jeopardy. And Triple Jeopardy, I'm just reminded every single time, it just, wow.

It changes the game every

Sam: time it does it to see those crazy dollar values on the board every time But can you guys share any good celebrity gossip? We're not yet.

Sarah: Ooh too soon. I think too soon

Michael: Yeah, too soon, but excellent, you know, we're getting better at doing this We're getting [00:07:00] better at matching the material and keeping them at the level of the material high, because we're finding a way to, to figure out who in the world of celebrity, all celebrities are so smart Sam, but we're trying to find out a way to get at the higher end of the, of, of, of smart celebrities.

And we're doing better in the show, I think, and, and Ike winning and some of the other tremendous, you know, celebrity players we've had. I think it's raised the level of people on the whole coming into the game. And so we're definitely, we're definitely getting better at it.

Sarah: I will say if I was describing celebrity, what I kept saying was great gameplay.

And that may not be something people are used to associating with Celebrity Jeopardy, but really it's great. It was great gameplay.

Michael: Sometimes it's the unorthodox gameplay though, Sarah. It's the fact that you have players who, you know, just start looking at the board and they start top left and they go all the way down and then all the way down the next one and all the way down the next one and the daily double strategy changes, the final Jeopardy wagering strategy is sometimes a little off, but as a, as a, as a, as a boxing promoter friend of mine, [00:08:00] uh, Barry Hearn always used to say is it only takes two donkeys to make a horse race, add another donkey and it can sometimes be really, really, really good.

Jeopardy. I mean, credit Mervyn Julian, when this is an evenly matched game, or when you've got two out of three players who are very evenly matched, Jeopardy always works. Which celebrity is the donkey in this metaphor? All of them.

Sarah: And he says that makes sense,

Michael: yeah. Donkeys, uh, donkeys are having a moment right now if you go on Instagram.

Mini donkeys. It's a big thing. Yeah,

Sarah: absolutely. Uh, one comment that people really were, you know, engaging in this past week was that not a single. Necktie was worn on the Alex Trebek stage last week by anyone other than Then Ken Jennings, is it shifting? Is it changing? Sam, not a lot of ties worn by you when you competed.

Sam: Well, when I was first on the show at the professor's tournament, we were sent a list of fashion do's and don'ts that had apparently been constructed, uh, for the tournament of champions. And so they inadvertently sent that to us in the professor's tournament. And it [00:09:00] included phrases like, Hey, this is the tournament of champions.

Dress up a little bit. This isn't regular Jeopardy. So at least I felt that, uh, They wanted us to look a little fancier for the tournaments, but this is regular jeopardy. I, it's true as the Redditors were saying, who wears a necktie to work, even among men, nobody wears a necktie to work. So I don't miss the ties.

I do think Ken looks sharp in a tie. He can pull that off. I wore ties all the time in my first couple of appearances. Backed off a little bit, so I, I think whatever clothing makes you feel most comfortable is probably what you ought to be wearing under the stress of the Alex Trebek stage.

Michael: Yeah, I went to a wedding, uh, a weekend before last, uh, very fancy wedding, lovely wedding, and, uh, put on my suit, put on my tie, and I got to the wedding and realized that there were only like two other guys wearing ties.

And we, we gave each other the eyes, and we, I rolled up my, took my tie off, rolled it up, and put it in my pocket, and wore it like a little jaunty, kerchief of sorts coming out of my pocket because people weren't wearing ties. So, [00:10:00] um, I would love, I mean, look, I just want, uh, Jeopardy, uh, contestants to dress up a little bit and express themselves.

And if expressing themselves means a tie or a neck scarf, which we don't see Uh, very often or a, you know, one of those Western ties. Like I would see anything I would, yeah, I'd see anything, uh, that people want to wear to express themselves and dress up a little, but it's fine. There's no, you know, I, I must say, I don't think I've ever turned to you at the producer desk, Sarah ever and said, Oh, why on earth is the contestant wearing that?

You know, we sometimes have some issues with things that Murray was some with some patterns that don't work on camera. But on the whole, I think our contestants dress fabulously. I love looking at what everybody wears every single day. I do think Ken looks good in a suit shirt and tie. No plans to ever change that.

But yeah, it's a you want to be comfortable. It's like I wear a certain outfit when I'm playing in a tennis tournament, you know, and I'm very strict about what that is. And I, because I want to be comfortable when [00:11:00] I'm playing.

Sarah: Yeah. And for Sam, I know you, you, you went from a tie to a signature sweater and boy, did you rock it.

Sam: I did. I have to say, and I don't want to spend too much time on this, but you bring your own clothes to Jeopardy and you run them by the wardrobe department, often featuring Steven, who is great at this, John, if you're lucky enough to be in the masters as I was, they give you a clothing allowance. So it is Jeopardy who purchased a number of the sweaters you get to see me wearing.

So thank you to the show.

Michael: Do you know what, where have we, what happened to the idea? I thought we were going to, uh, raise your canary slash mustard yellow sweater up into the rafters and, and, and retire it like Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Sam, when you, when you came onto the Jeopardy staff, we still need to do that.

The retirement of Sam Buttry's canary yellow mustard. I'm not sure what it is, Jersey.

Sam: I am bringing that thing down to Culver City next time I come as a last hurrah. Are you

Sarah: willing to part with it so we can raise it into the rafters?

Sam: ha It's like losing a part of yourself, Sarah. I don't know. Okay.

Sarah: Well, [00:12:00] we can always bring it back down if you get too upset.

And maybe we could put Ken's up there too. I think Ken was wearing ties back then. So maybe we can put one of his ties from 20 years ago into the rafters. I love this.

Michael: Okay. We've filibustered long enough. Okay. Uh, time to get into the highlights of the week, Sarah. Let's do

Sarah: it. On Monday, Kelly Gates returned and faced two tough competitors.

After multiple lead changes in this game, it was Tristan who secured the lead heading into final, and he was the only player to come up with the correct response, securing the win. The thing that went viral about this game? was

Kelly talking about her sourdough starter and all the various names that she wanted to give to it.

And of course, her favorite was Ryan yeast crest. And Ryan heard this, he loved it. He said, you know, he thought this was perhaps the best thing he had heard since sliced bread.

Sam: Delight to see worlds collide when Ryan is watching Jeopardy and commenting on that. I thought that was hilarious. He seems like a [00:13:00] very good natured guy.

Michael: Oh, without a doubt, without a doubt, uh, we share a floor with him now, uh, in the, uh, I share a floor with him in the, in the Sony offices. Our offices are just around the corner from each other. He stops by, we, we shoot the breeze. We talk about the world of, of Prime Access game shows. It's a big deal. Yeah.

Sarah: When he tapes his podcast, when he's here for Wheel, he's doing it right down the hall from our studio. So it's just one big happy family.

Michael: Okay. On Tuesday, Tristan returned for another great game. All three players were around the 10, 000 mark heading into final again. Only one player was correct in final.

This time it was Will Wallace who pulled off the exciting third to first come from behind win. Love those. We need a better name for it.

Sarah: Well, Stephanie made an unconventional wager in final jeopardy, you know, having the lead. She only wagered 5, 000 and after the game, Ken asked her, you know, what was going on with that final wager?

And she said as soon as the category was revealed, she started listing all of the detective authors, because that was in fact the category that she knew, and [00:14:00] she could only come up with a few. So really, It didn't end up mattering because Will was the only one who was correct, but I always love to hear what's in people's minds, and I really love it when an unconventional wager is backed up by, you know, something that the contestant is thinking or feeling.

And so it's not just a math error. It's really, uh, you know, a concentrated effort to make sure that they set themselves up in the best possible way.

Sam: Yeah, there are commentators who will insist they know what. That is right for you in Final Jeopardy without even considering the category. I think that's silly.

I'm delighted that Stephanie gave it some thought. You also have to try to gauge how you think your opponents will do in that category. And of course, that's much harder. I thought it was a reasonable bet. And as you say, it didn't end up mattering.

Sarah: Well, moving on to Wednesday, Sofia May Mudez was putting up a fight against Will, but after two late Miss Daily doubles, she fell out of contention and gave Will his second win in a runaway.

Sam: There were 18 triple stumpers in this game. It was a difficult game, uh, to play. A difficult game to [00:15:00] watch because Brett never got untracked and Sophia, uh, fell back late in the game as she tried to keep up with Will. So, a difficult game for everybody. Yeah,

Sarah: a lot of people saying this was what they are calling the toughest game of the season.

I also saw a lot of comments about Brett Kelly, who was one of our contestants. A lot of people recognizing him from Bad Santa. And, you know, one of the great things about being on this show, we, of course, instantly saw him in rehearsal and went, Oh my goodness, it's the guy from Bad Santa. But it wasn't something that

Michael: the guy, the kid from the kid, but

Sarah: then he went on to be in the movie recently as well as an adult.

So yes, kid, adult, and you know, I checked in with the contestant team. It wasn't a story that he had. You know, decided to talk about, and we very much respect that. So we just went on with the game and we couldn't help the people would definitely recognize him. But we knew that if that was something he wanted to talk about it, it is something he would have shared.

Michael: Could have been a contestant on [00:16:00] Celebrity Japanese. Pretty

Sarah: much. Yes. Well, Ken caught up with the players after the game. Let's take a listen.

Sophia, I want to start with you because you played very well in that game. You were on a tear early and then And then I started guessing at things I didn't know.

Well you know it's hard because you you hit a couple tough daily doubles and then it's true you got to take more swings. That's the problem the daily doubles were all things I would not have rung in on and you know when you have to answer them you have to answer them. Will, another win for you. Was it a little less stressful this time?

This one was a whole lot more fun than the first one, if I'm being honest. I don't want to get in the way of your fun, but Sophia actually had more correct responses than you did in that game. Oh, I was, I was silent for a lot of that game. There were a bunch of, a bunch of I should have been silent for a lot of that game.

I, I picked, I picked my battles, um, cause there were a bunch of things I didn't know. Let me tell you the most worried I was was right at the end. When suddenly you took a swing on the hardest clue in the Trojan War and I was like, if she gets this wrong, she's in the hole and it's just Will. Trust me.

Like Final Jeopardy's all Will. If I didn't 100 percent know that I was not Rhiann, [00:17:00] absolutely. Well I have rarely been more relieved than to hear you confidently say, Who is Aeris? Will, you're gonna be back tomorrow in Game 3. How are you feeling? Uh, you know, I think I told my girlfriend, uh, that my goal was to win one game, so that I could at least hear, uh, Johnny Gilbert say, Who's cash winnings total?

And after that, I was good. So, I don't know. Third is I didn't have a plan for this.

Sam: Honestly, that's not the best Johnny Gilbert imitation I've ever heard.

Sarah: No, but the dream is the same for so many contestants. Just to hear Johnny announce the cash winnings. You've heard it many times, Sam.

Michael: Oh, William Wallace, he liberated Scotland.

What else could you ask of the man? Did you ever, I was trying to think back to your appearances, Sam. Were you ever like swinging and missing? taking risks, finding yourself in a place where you were attempting to respond to things that you didn't really know.

Sam: I, I'm going to say no. I think in my early appearances, especially I had, uh, I don't know how great I was at buzzing in, but I was, I had very high accuracy.

So I tried to stick with just the [00:18:00] stuff that I knew. I wasn't confident enough to buzz in first and then try to get my brain to come to the solution. I've been way behind in games, but I didn't find myself just trying to grab everything I could. Maybe it's just a question of temperament.

Michael: Yeah. You were always good on the buzzer though, Sam.

Sam: I was. And the buzzer is the big mystery of Jeopardy. We could have long conversations about this. I, I know Buzz's other podcast had a whole segment on the buzzer. The buzzer is the mystery. We did

Michael: have something happen during Celebrity Jeopardy that I have never, ever no seen happen on the show before.

It'll be a big social moment when this goes out. But one of our contestants broke the buzzer. They broke the signaling device and we literally had to stop in the middle of a game because they, they rang in so hard that they just broke it.

Sarah: The red part of the buzzer came off of the buzzer and I have never seen it in all my years either.

So it was, it was a moment. The buzzer had a moment.

Michael: Yeah. And it was not the rock. Or, or, or Jason Statham who [00:19:00] broke the buzzer. I was going to ask, it sounds like a Schwarzenegger move. No, it was, it was definitely not, it was, it was, it was highly amusing and unexpected. Okay. On Thursday, Will returned and after a well played game by all three players, he was able to take the lead into final where, once again, the only one correct to secure his third win.

Sarah: Well, I want to talk about Final Jeopardy in this game, uh, on the UK music charts was the category. Candle in the Wind 1997 knocked this song that asked a title question from the top spot as the UK's all time best selling song. Correct response, Do They Know It's Christmas, but my favorite part was Ken, after the game, talking to the contestants and saying, Will, I'm so impressed that you knew that because I saw these clues last night.

I looked at final for a really long time and All that I could come up with was who let the dogs out? And I knew that wasn't right.

Michael: Good question.

Sarah: Yeah. But then Will said, you know, he lived in the UK for a bit [00:20:00] and between that and Wham's last Christmas, it's unavoidable. So it's kind of just ingrained in his head from, from here on out.

And it helped him win another game.

Michael: Yeah, they're all the Christmas hits. There's, uh, there's Slade. Slade had a big song. Um, uh, Merry Christmas. Don't know the exact title of that song, but there are a bunch of the Pogues. Uh, there, there are, there are, there's sort of a Christmas playlist that happens in all British pubs and, and discotheques.

And, uh, certainly, Do They Know It's Christmas? Sir Bob Geldof's Pogues. Banger, uh, is definitely is the most famous of all. I'm

Sarah: guessing you would have gotten this as well, Michael.

Michael: I think I would have gotten this just based on the timeline.

Sarah: Yeah. Well, we closed out the week with Will in a dominant performance, another runaway, and he heads into the weekend as a four game champion.

Sam: Yeah, it wasn't obvious after Will's first two wins that he was going to be a TOC contender. He came from third place in his first game, and his opponents had trouble in his second. But in the next two [00:21:00] games, he really showed that he could play with anybody. And, uh, after this game, it's, uh, we're gonna have to see if he can make it, uh, five games.

Under his belt.

Sarah: Yeah, big stats in this game. 26 correct responses ran the Rocktober category, 22, 200 in double jeopardy alone. So, you know, a 20, 400 Coriat score. Very impressive game for him. Let's hear how well was feeling after the impressive fourth win.

Well, congratulations, Will. 26 correct responses.

I'll take it. Dominant performance. What do you chalk up the improvement to? I, I think it's practice. Um, it was, uh, my first game, my heart was racing real bad, and I actually, like, my hand was shaking a little bit in my first game, and that went away by the second game. Uh, and now, I'm just kinda, like, I feel like I know the buzzer, and also, so I grew up as, like, Uh, a hardcore space fan, and I'm a huge rock fan, so when I saw the board come up with those two categories on it, I was really happy, although I'm going to be kicking myself for weeks over [00:22:00] Carl Sagan, so.

You ran Rocktober, and I think you were one Carl Sagan away from running the, uh, Space Hot Fables. And I'm sure that I know several people at home who will not let me forget that. I was pretty impressed. I mean, Warren Zevon just from a picture. I, I remember the Letterman appearance, but, uh, are you a fan?

My dad took me to see Warren Zevon at Liberty Lunch in Austin in like 1996 or 1997. And it was amazing. That is good parenting. I think we would all agree. Congratulations to all three of you for making it on Jeopardy! And, uh, Will, you are going to hear Johnny Gilbert say your name at least one more time.

How does that feel? I've got flights to change. Well, I hope you can stick around. We will see you next week. Congratulations.

Sarah: All right, Sam. It is time for my favorite part of the podcast, Michael's two But wait, there's more. Two T's in the but. What clue did you select for us this week?

Sam: It's funny you should ask, Sarah.

I was really hoping you'd bring that up. This week's clue comes from Monday's show. The category was a pup quiz, and this was the 1, 000 [00:23:00] clue. Bring it! Uh, pup quiz, 1, 000.

Despite a fluffy white coat, the Bichon Frise is considered this 14 letter adjective, making it easy on the sneezy. Tristan. What is hypoallergenic?

That's right.

Sam: Hypoallergenic. So the prefix hypo means low or under. If you have hypothermia, you have low heat. Your temperature is dangerously low. Its opposite is hyper. In hyperthermia, you have a high fever. That's easy enough to

tell apart if you're from the Midwest, like me, where we say hyper. Not so much if you're from the East or possibly England, where they probably say hyper.

That was actually a pretty good Michael Davies imitation right there. And apparently it didn't confuse the ancient Greeks. We get both those prefixes from that language. So anyway, the Bichon Frise can indeed be hypoallergenic, at least to a large extent.

Sarah: But Sam, why are only some dogs hypoallergenic?

Sam: Well, people with pet allergies react to certain proteins found on the skin and saliva [00:24:00] and urine of animals. These skin flakes off in microscopic pieces called dander. Cat allergies, it turns out, are more common than dog allergies because cat dander is smaller and stickier, and also because cats are always licking, grooming themselves, so we get more exposure to their saliva.

One thing about the Bichon Frise That I did not know, and I'm guessing dog people know. I'm gonna ask Michael in a second if you knew. But it turns out the Bichon Frise has hair rather than fur, and apparently this is different. Some breeds have hair, some breeds have fur. Hair produces less dander, and it also helps trap the stuff.

So if you're looking for a hypoallergenic dog, you'll want one. with hair rather than fur. Michael, did you know this distinction?

Michael: Wow, I'm just going back to my, uh, to my French A level and trying to figure out frisé. What does frisé mean, uh, in hair? Because maybe the clue is in that. Yeah, it

Sam: is. The Bichon part of the name comes from a dog family called Barbichon.

of which the Bichon Frise is a member. And frise with an [00:25:00] R on the end is the French verb for to curl. So frise with an E acute is the adjective. In other words, Bichon Frise just means curly haired dog. If you're wondering, and I know you were, the French word for hypoallergenic is hypoallergenic.

Hypoallergenic. And so I think probably the very first sentence you listeners should try to teach your young child when you're teaching them French is, Mon bichon frisé est hypoallergénique. I think that'll come in handy maybe at the airport. Très,

Michael: très hypoallergénique. Um, I love that. We were talking before the podcast about the languages and the languages we speak or understand, uh, or get, I have a little bit of French, but this is my advice to anybody Who, who wants to speak a little bit of a language, learn some really complicated words.

I dined out for years just on the fact that I know the Russian word, which means hydroelectric power station. And you can really, you can put that into a few sentences and people think you're, people think you could have been a Cold War spy. [00:26:00] It's just, uh, it's just really useful. So is a, is a great word to have at your fingertips for your, for your trips to France.

Or the French Caribbean,

Sarah: Sam, but wait, I have one more question for you because I remembered I was going to ask you if you noticed what change happened on the set between last week and the week before. Did your eagle eye spot anything?

Sam: Oh, my goodness. You know, Sarah, I spend so much time staring at the contestants and at Ken.

That I don't spare up enough time to look at the set. Perhaps you could explain the change that was made. Well,

Sarah: just one small change. Obviously, it's a work in progress, our new changes to the set. And after the first week, we noticed that the final Jeopardy! monitor, the colors weren't quite right. It wasn't reading the rest of the stage.

And so we did make a change. It's now a blue with a gold on the inside, and it really does kind of complement the stage well. And then when we're into actual Final Jeopardy, it goes to a blue on blue and deep when it goes into red. So that was [00:27:00] the change. Very hard to spot if you didn't know it. You did not.

Succeed in this, Sam, but you succeed in all other things in my mind.

Michael: And this was all Sarah, Sam, so, uh, we, we need to, we need to notice the things that Sarah is uniquely responsible for.

Sam: There you go. I put it as a challenge to our viewers, the Jeopardy! logo has an exclamation point that is not as tall as the other letters, except in one place on the set where the exclamation point is precisely the height of the other letters.

Today's quiz to our listeners, where on the Jeopardy! set is the exclamation point full sized? I leave that to you. I love this.

Sarah: Wow. All right. Well, we're going to wrap up the show with our host chat while the listeners think about that. An audience member asked Ken, does a perfect show exist for you as host when you haven't had to do any pickups?

I think there have been shows where I don't do any pickups and it certainly existed for Alex who routinely did no pickups. But I think even in that case, I would not be satisfied. You know, I would be like, ah, the interviews could have been a little [00:28:00] funnier or, uh, You know, I could have read that clue more crisply or something.

I'm a, I'm a little hard on myself. But, uh, you guys are seeing how the How the, how the donuts are made. That is not the expression. How the sausage is made. There we go. You're seeing how the sausage is made.

Michael: Well, it could be donuts. It could be sausage. It could be pork pies. It could be anything you want to really, uh, put in there at the end.

I would say that Ken, uh, Ken is such a mensch. He very often, you know, will come to him at the end of a round and say, we're going to pick up this, this, and this. And he will add pickups where he didn't think that he read it to the quality, to the standard that he wanted to read it, and he'll add the pickups, uh, to his own list.

Sarah: Yeah, he is his toughest critic, and often times when we're like, that was great, he's like, uh, just, you know. Wasn't my best. Like it's really, he's always wanting to be better. And that's a great quality, I think, in him as a host.

Michael: Absolutely. Okay. Well, that's it for today's show. Maybe we should all go back and re listen to this podcast and see where we can all do better.

Yes. Um, led by myself, led by [00:29:00] myself. I hope everyone has a happy Halloween, particularly, uh, your 11 year old, uh, Sarah. And it is not too angry about the Peter Pan costume. Don't forget to share all of your costumes for the hashtag deathly double contest. And join us back here on Monday with Buzzy Cohen.

We'll be selecting this year's winner. See you then.

Sarah: See you then. Happy Halloween.

Michael: Bye [00:30:00] [00:31:00] now.