

1  
00:00:00,320 --> 00:00:03,989  
From the Alex Trebek Stage  
at Sony Pictures Studios,

2  
00:00:04,210 --> 00:00:04,750  
this

3  
00:00:05,190 --> 00:00:07,770  
is Inside Jeopardy!

4  
00:00:08,920 --> 00:00:09,350  
Hello and

5  
00:00:09,350 --> 00:00:10,919  
welcome back to Inside Jeopardy!

6  
00:00:10,920 --> 00:00:14,110  
Your exclusive and official  
podcast destination for all things

7  
00:00:14,110 --> 00:00:15,730  
happening in the world of Jeopardy!

8  
00:00:15,779 --> 00:00:18,670  
I'm Sarah Foss and today  
is a very special day.

9  
00:00:19,080 --> 00:00:24,720  
It is the long-awaited debut of Season  
40 and we are kicking things off with

10  
00:00:24,720 --> 00:00:30,420  
our Season 37 Second Chance Competition,  
highlighting the return of some of

11  
00:00:30,420 --> 00:00:32,570  
the best players from Season 37.

12  
00:00:32,580 --> 00:00:37,300  
We have invited 27 of them back and  
over the next three weeks they will

13  
00:00:37,300 --> 00:00:41,560  
compete in one-week competitions with  
the winner of each of those weeks

14  
00:00:41,599 --> 00:00:47,060  
advancing to our all-new Season 37  
and season 38 champions wildcard.

15  
00:00:47,440 --> 00:00:51,180  
We've obviously taped these episodes  
and I think what is the most

16  
00:00:51,180 --> 00:00:55,900  
rewarding is Season 37 was obviously  
a really difficult year for the show.

17  
00:00:55,910 --> 00:00:57,670  
It was the year we lost Alex.

18  
00:00:57,670 --> 00:01:00,610  
It's the year we had COVID  
stop things for quite a while.

19  
00:01:00,610 --> 00:01:03,979  
So, these are players who also  
played during guest hosts.

20  
00:01:03,980 --> 00:01:07,420  
Like, these are players who  
had very unique experiences.

21  
00:01:07,450 --> 00:01:10,289  
They weren't able to have  
their family in the audience.

22  
00:01:10,300 --> 00:01:13,710  
You know, they didn't have a  
traditional Jeopardy! experience.

23  
00:01:13,740 --> 00:01:14,050  
And...

24

00:01:14,305 --> 00:01:15,655  
having the chance to come back.

25  
00:01:15,655 --> 00:01:19,925  
So many of them shared with us just how grateful they were to have a chance to

26  
00:01:19,925 --> 00:01:23,825  
come back to the Alex Trebek Stage, to be a contestant, to have their family in the

27  
00:01:23,825 --> 00:01:26,205  
audience and just to have a second chance.

28  
00:01:26,495 --> 00:01:30,044  
I think it's something that many of our contestants have wished for for years.

29  
00:01:30,065 --> 00:01:33,695  
As we know in Jeopardy!, it's a lot of sliding door moments.

30  
00:01:33,705 --> 00:01:37,605  
You know, if you're on a show where your categories pop up, you may be a champion.

31  
00:01:37,605 --> 00:01:39,615  
Another night, you may not be.

32  
00:01:39,615 --> 00:01:42,685  
So when you watch these episodes, you're really going to see.

33  
00:01:43,090 --> 00:01:47,270  
Just how strong these contestants are and how so easily had just

34  
00:01:47,270 --> 00:01:49,040  
one small thing gone differently.

35  
00:01:49,050 --> 00:01:51,740  
How they could have been a champion on their first run.

36

00:01:52,069 --> 00:01:55,450  
Another exciting thing about Second  
Chance, this is the first time we're

37

00:01:55,450 --> 00:01:57,830  
getting to award our new prizing.

38

00:01:57,840 --> 00:02:02,240  
So as we had announced a while  
back, we are upping the second

39

00:02:02,250 --> 00:02:04,120  
and third place prizing.

40

00:02:04,440 --> 00:02:06,429  
Second place will now receive 3, 000.

41

00:02:06,430 --> 00:02:08,609  
Third place will receive 2, 000.

42

00:02:08,609 --> 00:02:12,640  
And just like in last year's  
Second Chance competition, That's

43

00:02:12,640 --> 00:02:14,030  
the prizing that was awarded.

44

00:02:14,030 --> 00:02:17,030  
It was kind of like a normal show's  
prizing for second and third.

45

00:02:17,330 --> 00:02:18,950  
If you win your game, you move on.

46

00:02:19,020 --> 00:02:21,299  
And that's obviously the ultimate prize.

47

00:02:21,360 --> 00:02:24,050  
And of course you have  
to win your initial game.

48

00:02:24,080 --> 00:02:27,320

And then there's a two  
day total point of fair.

49

00:02:27,620 --> 00:02:33,350

The winner advances to the season 37 and  
season 38 champion wild card competitions.

50

00:02:33,709 --> 00:02:35,289

We're going to have a few of those.

51

00:02:35,329 --> 00:02:38,950

And as you will know, last  
year, we did second chance with

52

00:02:38,999 --> 00:02:40,809

primarily season 38 contestants.

53

00:02:40,819 --> 00:02:45,510

So that's why we're having season 37  
second chance, but not season 38 second

54

00:02:45,510 --> 00:02:46,999

chance, because we already did that.

55

00:02:47,359 --> 00:02:52,169

But for our season 37 and season 38  
contestants, those who did win at

56

00:02:52,170 --> 00:02:55,980

least one game, you're going to see  
so many of them back, those who won

57

00:02:55,980 --> 00:02:59,690

one, two, or three games, they're  
coming back for champions wildcard,

58

00:03:00,430 --> 00:03:02,130

the winners from champions wildcard.

59

00:03:02,395 --> 00:03:04,405

Yeah, they go on to the T.

60

00:03:04,455 --> 00:03:04,675

O.

61

00:03:04,725 --> 00:03:05,185

C.

62

00:03:05,235 --> 00:03:08,965

And as we know now, that  
can lead to Masters!

63

00:03:08,985 --> 00:03:13,355

That can lead to the Jeopardy Pyramid  
that Michael Davies has created.

64

00:03:13,364 --> 00:03:17,125

So, so much excitement in the  
coming weeks, in this new season.

65

00:03:17,525 --> 00:03:19,824

It all starts today, September 11th.

66

00:03:19,835 --> 00:03:23,975

Season 40 is here, and as we mentioned,  
it will kick off with Second Chance.

67

00:03:24,375 --> 00:03:27,655

Now, today on the pod, to kind of  
help celebrate the launch of Season

68

00:03:27,665 --> 00:03:29,695

40, we are really taking you...

69

00:03:29,870 --> 00:03:31,190

Inside Jeopardy!

70

00:03:31,480 --> 00:03:35,130

You've heard us talk over the past  
year that we've had this pod about,

71

00:03:35,140 --> 00:03:39,400

you know, those audience Q& A sessions

and the, the interesting things that

72

00:03:39,400 --> 00:03:41,249

we get to learn about our hosts.

73

00:03:41,320 --> 00:03:45,219

This was something that, of course, Alex  
always loved doing and it's something

74

00:03:45,220 --> 00:03:47,200

that Ken and Mayim are now doing as well.

75

00:03:47,590 --> 00:03:50,369

It's such a special moment  
for our studio audience.

76

00:03:50,399 --> 00:03:53,309

You know, you can see the look on  
their face when they get to raise their

77

00:03:53,309 --> 00:03:57,460

hand and ask the question that they've  
always wanted to know the answer to.

78

00:03:57,460 --> 00:03:57,690

But.

79

00:03:57,920 --> 00:03:59,700

We thought it would be fun  
for our Inside Jeopardy!

80

00:03:59,700 --> 00:04:02,079

audience to get to hear  
some of those responses.

81

00:04:02,160 --> 00:04:06,190

So we've gathered some of our favorite  
Q& A moments to share with you today.

82

00:04:06,569 --> 00:04:08,239

Let's get right into it.

83

00:04:13,489 --> 00:04:17,690  
We start off with a question for Ken,  
and I would say this is the one he

84  
00:04:17,690 --> 00:04:21,249  
gets asked probably the most often.

85  
00:04:21,399 --> 00:04:24,840  
For Alex, I feel like the thing  
that people would always ask him

86  
00:04:24,840 --> 00:04:26,569  
was, What's your favorite meal?

87  
00:04:26,929 --> 00:04:29,380  
It was chicken, rice, and broccoli,  
in case you wanted to know.

88  
00:04:29,799 --> 00:04:34,669  
And boxers or briefs became a really  
hit trend, and he would often like

89  
00:04:34,669 --> 00:04:38,215  
to say, Alex always loved a joke.

90  
00:04:38,244 --> 00:04:42,114  
One of the other questions that he got  
asked so frequently was what he thought

91  
00:04:42,114 --> 00:04:46,455  
about the SNL sketches, about Will  
Ferrell impersonating him on those famous

92  
00:04:46,464 --> 00:04:48,455  
Saturday Night Live Jeopardy parodies.

93  
00:04:48,474 --> 00:04:52,604  
And he always said, you know, that's  
the reason I shaved off my mustache.

94  
00:04:52,605 --> 00:04:55,865  
I was trying to make it easier  
for Will Ferrell to impersonate me



95

00:04:55,915 --> 00:04:59,535  
because he always had that silly fake  
mustache that looked so ridiculous.

96

00:04:59,535 --> 00:05:01,035  
So he had a lot of humor with that.

97

00:05:01,450 --> 00:05:05,150  
And I learned a lot about Alex over  
the years from those Q and A sessions.

98

00:05:05,150 --> 00:05:07,870  
And I continue to do  
that with Ken and Mayim.

99

00:05:07,880 --> 00:05:10,739  
So as I was saying, I think the  
question that Ken gets asked the

100

00:05:10,740 --> 00:05:16,870  
most often is, do you enjoy being  
a contestant or the host better?

101

00:05:17,530 --> 00:05:18,750  
Let's hear what Ken had to say.

102

00:05:19,369 --> 00:05:22,930  
Well, here's the thing, you know, being  
host, you have the responses in front of

103

00:05:22,930 --> 00:05:25,110  
you, you have a lot more job security.

104

00:05:25,980 --> 00:05:29,140  
As these people well know, two  
thirds of all Jeopardy contestants

105

00:05:29,140 --> 00:05:30,210  
are gone after half an hour.

106

00:05:30,210 --> 00:05:30,549

You know, it's.

107

00:05:30,830 --> 00:05:34,290  
It's the worst job security  
in the business, but a host is

108

00:05:34,290 --> 00:05:35,490  
actually doing a lot more things.

109

00:05:35,490 --> 00:05:37,580  
You know, as I, as I told her, I'm  
playing the game along with the

110

00:05:37,580 --> 00:05:40,799  
contestants at the same speed, but  
I'm also trying to, you know, frame

111

00:05:40,800 --> 00:05:42,000  
the game for the home audience.

112

00:05:42,000 --> 00:05:44,160  
I'm having to make some  
judgment calls along the way.

113

00:05:44,160 --> 00:05:46,739  
So, you know, Alex just made  
it look easy for so many years.

114

00:05:46,740 --> 00:05:49,660  
So it seems like the host has the  
easy gig, just reading stuff, but

115

00:05:49,969 --> 00:05:51,500  
I find that it's pretty difficult.

116

00:05:51,960 --> 00:05:52,100  
All

117

00:05:52,100 --> 00:05:52,280  
right.

118

00:05:52,280 --> 00:05:55,780

Our next question is from  
Mayim and she was asked, did

119  
00:05:55,780 --> 00:05:57,150  
you watch Jeopardy as a kid?

120  
00:05:57,339 --> 00:05:58,430  
Here's what Mayim had to say.

121  
00:05:59,280 --> 00:06:00,630  
Did I watch Jeopardy as a kid?

122  
00:06:00,630 --> 00:06:02,400  
I had watched Jeopardy as a kid.

123  
00:06:02,400 --> 00:06:06,049  
I wasn't like an every night everybody  
sit around and watch Jeopardy family,

124  
00:06:06,090 --> 00:06:12,125  
but yes, and when I was Fourteen  
years old, I was on a TV show where

125  
00:06:12,125 --> 00:06:14,815  
Alex Trebek guest starred as himself.

126  
00:06:15,005 --> 00:06:18,515  
So I have like a couple Jeopardy  
connections from my youth ish.

127  
00:06:18,795 --> 00:06:21,015  
Um, we were a trivial pursuit family.

128  
00:06:21,104 --> 00:06:22,835  
Uh, well, really more me and my brother.

129  
00:06:22,875 --> 00:06:26,274  
My dad was a teacher, and so  
he was always grading papers.

130  
00:06:26,585 --> 00:06:30,235  
And my mom was also a teacher, but was

usually making dinner and also breakfast

131

00:06:30,235 --> 00:06:31,715  
for the next day and also lunch.

132

00:06:31,775 --> 00:06:33,405  
So evenings were a little different.

133

00:06:33,405 --> 00:06:35,335  
It was kind of a divide and conquer.

134

00:06:36,004 --> 00:06:38,704  
I can relate to being a  
trivial pursuit family.

135

00:06:38,705 --> 00:06:43,195  
I think Mayim and I are of a certain  
age, and that was certainly very much

136

00:06:43,204 --> 00:06:44,914  
a part of our childhood growing up.

137

00:06:45,574 --> 00:06:50,054  
Ken is also often asked about  
when he started watching Jeopardy.

138

00:06:51,040 --> 00:06:54,630  
I started watching shortly after  
the show came back on the air in 84.

139

00:06:54,860 --> 00:06:57,660  
I was a 10 year old kid and my  
family lived overseas, but every

140

00:06:57,660 --> 00:07:01,520  
day after school, we had the armed  
forces radio and television service.

141

00:07:01,800 --> 00:07:04,539  
And for whatever reason, the Pentagon  
decided we were going to watch

142

00:07:04,540 --> 00:07:06,070  
Jeopardy every day after school.

143  
00:07:06,070 --> 00:07:07,500  
There was literally nothing else on.

144  
00:07:07,670 --> 00:07:10,490  
So me and all my friends  
became huge Jeopardy devotees.

145  
00:07:10,789 --> 00:07:14,180  
In the fourth grade and it really meant  
a lot to me at that age, you know, seeing

146  
00:07:14,180 --> 00:07:17,360  
smart people show off a little and I  
feel like it really made me who I am.

147  
00:07:17,360 --> 00:07:18,500  
I feel so lucky to be here.

148  
00:07:19,420 --> 00:07:22,870  
This next response from Mayim is  
probably one of my favorite that I

149  
00:07:22,870 --> 00:07:25,120  
remember her answering the question.

150  
00:07:25,140 --> 00:07:29,609  
It was regarding how she got the  
role in Beaches and I was a huge fan.

151  
00:07:29,750 --> 00:07:31,470  
beaches fan growing up.

152  
00:07:31,470 --> 00:07:34,870  
So I was, you know, leaning forward  
at the judge's table to hear

153  
00:07:34,870 --> 00:07:36,550  
Mayim's response to that question.

154

00:07:37,830 --> 00:07:40,010  
Gosh, I haven't been asked  
about beaches in a minute.

155  
00:07:40,240 --> 00:07:43,169  
I was the young Bette Midler in  
beaches in case people are wondering

156  
00:07:43,170 --> 00:07:44,469  
why we're talking about that.

157  
00:07:44,840 --> 00:07:45,340  
Thank you.

158  
00:07:45,449 --> 00:07:50,280  
Um, I had recently started acting  
because I liked acting in school

159  
00:07:50,280 --> 00:07:52,660  
plays and I thought that meant  
I should audition for things.

160  
00:07:53,090 --> 00:08:00,830  
And I was, uh, I guess And I went through  
a series of like four months of auditions

161  
00:08:00,920 --> 00:08:05,650  
and I was one of the only non redheads  
auditioning, um, to play Bette Midler.

162  
00:08:05,650 --> 00:08:08,470  
My parents always said I looked like  
Bette Midler and Barbra Streisand from

163  
00:08:08,470 --> 00:08:11,309  
the time I was old enough to look like  
Bette Midler and Barbra Streisand, which

164  
00:08:11,340 --> 00:08:13,280  
apparently was like at age three or four.

165  
00:08:13,699 --> 00:08:17,400  
And so, yeah, I would go in and I,

you know, was competing with girls

166

00:08:17,400 --> 00:08:19,250  
who had been acting their whole lives.

167

00:08:19,250 --> 00:08:20,860  
So I was really kind of out of my league.

168

00:08:20,860 --> 00:08:21,670  
I remember I would...

169

00:08:22,125 --> 00:08:25,615  
You know show up in like tie dye shirts  
and sneakers like I was not a polished,

170

00:08:25,625 --> 00:08:29,435  
you know, hollywood kid So felt very  
out of place never thought I would

171

00:08:29,435 --> 00:08:32,314  
keep getting called back And then I  
got to meet bette midler and barbara

172

00:08:32,314 --> 00:08:35,664  
hershey in like a big sound stage  
for our final audition It was down to

173

00:08:35,664 --> 00:08:40,274  
me and one other girl Very exciting  
and then it filmed on coney island.

174

00:08:40,344 --> 00:08:43,835  
It was supposed to be atlantic city,  
but we filmed it in coney island Um, and

175

00:08:43,835 --> 00:08:45,245  
it came out the week of my bat mitzvah.

176

00:08:45,265 --> 00:08:45,865  
That's just a fun

177

00:08:45,865 --> 00:08:48,045

fact And that's how it happens.

178

00:08:48,125 --> 00:08:53,375

That's how she ends up as that famous CC balloon in beaches.

179

00:08:53,855 --> 00:08:57,555

As a follow up to that, an audience member asked her, do you still

180

00:08:57,555 --> 00:08:59,314

keep in touch with Bette Midler?

181

00:08:59,505 --> 00:09:00,465

And here's what she had to say.

182

00:09:01,094 --> 00:09:02,405

I have interacted

183

00:09:02,405 --> 00:09:06,995

with her, but you know, back in 1986, seven and eight,

184

00:09:07,005 --> 00:09:08,285

there were no cell phones.

185

00:09:08,915 --> 00:09:13,574

You know, grown adults who were very famous and, you know, 13 year old kids

186

00:09:13,574 --> 00:09:17,175

often didn't have a lot to socialize about, but I think we were both on

187

00:09:17,194 --> 00:09:20,984

like Access Hollywood or, you know, like a, a talk show and she had been

188

00:09:20,984 --> 00:09:24,134

on the week before me and she recorded a little message for me, which was

189



00:09:24,134 --> 00:09:27,144  
very sweet, just saying she's really  
proud of me and all that I have done.

190  
00:09:27,484 --> 00:09:28,425  
So that was really nice.

191  
00:09:28,425 --> 00:09:30,344  
So a connection of sorts, I guess.

192  
00:09:31,300 --> 00:09:34,870  
So, not exactly the same, but  
along the same lines, Ken was

193  
00:09:34,880 --> 00:09:40,030  
asked, did you ever imagine you  
would become a television star?

194  
00:09:40,240 --> 00:09:41,430  
Here's what he had to say.

195  
00:09:42,549 --> 00:09:43,039  
No.

196  
00:09:43,620 --> 00:09:44,589  
I was talking about this one.

197  
00:09:44,629 --> 00:09:47,959  
My friend Earl, who I tried out for  
the show with in 2003, is here today.

198  
00:09:48,209 --> 00:09:51,479  
And at lunch we were talking about  
how, even after all my shows had

199  
00:09:51,479 --> 00:09:54,780  
taped, my wife and I were like, it  
doesn't really, nobody really gets

200  
00:09:54,780 --> 00:09:56,310  
that excited about who's on Jeopardy.

201

00:09:56,310 --> 00:09:58,520  
You know, you're going to  
get recognized like 10 times.

202  
00:09:58,805 --> 00:10:00,635  
Tops, like we had the over under at 10.

203  
00:10:00,875 --> 00:10:03,635  
So everything that's happened since  
has been an incredible surprise.

204  
00:10:03,635 --> 00:10:06,334  
But what a delight to be still  
be associated with my favorite

205  
00:10:06,334 --> 00:10:07,655  
show after all these years.

206  
00:10:07,925 --> 00:10:09,495  
I feel like the kid that  
wins the chocolate factory.

207  
00:10:10,219 --> 00:10:13,050  
Uh, the other hosts all got sucked  
into the chocolate tube or whatever.

208  
00:10:13,439 --> 00:10:14,390  
Like, Dr.

209  
00:10:14,390 --> 00:10:15,790  
Oz is still up there somewhere, I think.

210  
00:10:19,210 --> 00:10:23,440  
That wasn't the first time that he was  
asked that question, and when he answers

211  
00:10:23,440 --> 00:10:28,929  
it, you can just so genuinely see that he  
still can't believe that this is his job,

212  
00:10:28,930 --> 00:10:33,290  
and when you picture him as this little  
10 year old kid in South Korea, you know,

213  
00:10:33,290 --> 00:10:35,359  
hopping off the bus and watching Jeopardy!

214  
00:10:35,359 --> 00:10:38,239  
to think that one day you'll  
be hosting your favorite show?

215  
00:10:38,845 --> 00:10:40,985  
It's a pretty great story.

216  
00:10:41,365 --> 00:10:44,515  
Now, for Mayim, an audience  
member once asked, You've been

217  
00:10:44,515 --> 00:10:46,645  
in the business for a while now.

218  
00:10:46,974 --> 00:10:50,984  
Looking back, which of your roles  
brings you the most happiness?

219  
00:10:52,264 --> 00:10:53,135  
You know, there's different kinds

220  
00:10:53,135 --> 00:10:55,105  
of happiness as an actor.

221  
00:10:55,115 --> 00:10:56,944  
You know, Blossom was very special.

222  
00:10:57,200 --> 00:10:59,340  
You know, I was on that from 14 to 19.

223  
00:10:59,520 --> 00:11:02,190  
You know, the Big Bang Theory  
was nine years of my life that...

224  
00:11:02,880 --> 00:11:05,740  
Thank you, that obviously  
changed my life in so many ways.

225

00:11:05,740 --> 00:11:07,510  
I was right out of grad school.

226

00:11:07,510 --> 00:11:10,990  
I had a toddler and an  
infant, um, who are now...

227

00:11:11,624 --> 00:11:13,534  
older gentleman sitting  
in the front row here.

228

00:11:13,925 --> 00:11:18,104  
So it was a really, you know, it was  
nine years of my life that I think I saw

229

00:11:18,104 --> 00:11:20,264  
the most change, you know, career wise.

230

00:11:20,564 --> 00:11:24,114  
Um, and this is obviously a different  
level and very, very enjoyable.

231

00:11:24,805 --> 00:11:25,115  
All right.

232

00:11:25,115 --> 00:11:26,925  
The next question is for Ken.

233

00:11:27,564 --> 00:11:31,194  
We've talked a lot about the  
contestant interviews here on the pod.

234

00:11:31,235 --> 00:11:32,935  
You know, I'm a big fan.

235

00:11:32,965 --> 00:11:34,444  
Buzzy said not as much.

236

00:11:34,785 --> 00:11:38,964  
But, you know, for Ken, he  
did win 74 games initially.

237

00:11:38,965 --> 00:11:40,444  
He played in 75.

238

00:11:40,454 --> 00:11:42,694  
So that's a lot of stories.

239

00:11:43,105 --> 00:11:47,384  
And one audience member wanted to  
know, How did you come up with so

240

00:11:47,384 --> 00:11:48,864  
many stories for those interviews?

241

00:11:49,775 --> 00:11:52,025  
That really is one of the hardest  
parts of Jeopardy, is having to come

242

00:11:52,025 --> 00:11:53,845  
up with the interview facts, right?

243

00:11:54,115 --> 00:11:56,515  
Before I would show up to come back  
on the show, I'd get a call from

244

00:11:56,515 --> 00:11:59,924  
the contestant folks, Hey Ken, if  
you could give us like five to ten

245

00:11:59,924 --> 00:12:02,155  
new facts, that would be great.

246

00:12:02,265 --> 00:12:03,554  
And of course, like most people...

247

00:12:03,969 --> 00:12:07,219  
I was out of good stories  
on day three, maybe?

248

00:12:08,440 --> 00:12:11,150  
What I learned, and maybe I  
shouldn't reveal this, is that

249

00:12:11,190 --> 00:12:15,239  
you can lie to Alex Trebek.

250

00:12:15,439 --> 00:12:17,600  
Nobody's fact checking these  
stories, quite honestly.

251

00:12:17,630 --> 00:12:20,380  
I mean, there's not a staff of reporters.

252

00:12:20,529 --> 00:12:22,979  
It's not like I claim to have a purple  
heart or something, but sometimes

253

00:12:22,980 --> 00:12:25,880  
I would just write down whatever,  
and Alex would be like, Now, Ken,

254

00:12:25,880 --> 00:12:27,720  
it says here you like airplane food.

255

00:12:28,240 --> 00:12:28,950  
That's crazy.

256

00:12:28,960 --> 00:12:29,500  
Is that true?

257

00:12:29,750 --> 00:12:30,150  
You know.

258

00:12:32,824 --> 00:12:33,954  
You've heard it here first.

259

00:12:34,355 --> 00:12:35,735  
Ken Jennings lies.

260

00:12:35,875 --> 00:12:38,355  
He doesn't actually love airplane food.

261

00:12:39,164 --> 00:12:39,614  
Who knew?

262

00:12:39,805 --> 00:12:43,884  
But we learn something in these  
audience Q& A sessions every time.

263

00:12:44,344 --> 00:12:48,785  
For Mayim, someone asked, what surprised  
you most about hosting Jeopardy?

264

00:12:49,874 --> 00:12:55,634  
I did not expect to enjoy as much kind  
of watching while I'm up there as I do.

265

00:12:55,814 --> 00:13:01,630  
And it's, it's hard not to get honestly,  
you know, sort of by, um, the contestants

266

00:13:01,640 --> 00:13:05,530  
up here, and I have to remember that I  
can't be exceptionally surprised when

267

00:13:05,530 --> 00:13:07,290  
they get things right, which I used to be.

268

00:13:07,300 --> 00:13:10,620  
I think I used to be like,  
Wow, yes, you got it!

269

00:13:10,910 --> 00:13:14,109  
So I try and be more chill about it,  
but it really is very impressive to

270

00:13:14,109 --> 00:13:15,919  
get to watch the show from up there.

271

00:13:16,690 --> 00:13:19,685  
And I can say, this is  
really True for Mayim.

272

00:13:19,694 --> 00:13:25,425  
She is Constantly impressed and  
often even surprised at just

273

00:13:25,425 --> 00:13:27,275  
how many things our Jeopardy!

274

00:13:27,335 --> 00:13:30,235  
Contestants can recall so quickly.

275

00:13:30,485 --> 00:13:34,645  
So it was something that we talked about  
in the beginning that as impressive

276

00:13:34,645 --> 00:13:39,984  
as it is Just say yes, correct You got  
it because they are amazing and you

277

00:13:39,984 --> 00:13:45,505  
are going to be continuously impressed  
by their knowledge All right Next up

278

00:13:45,515 --> 00:13:48,305  
Ken was asked Is there a Jeopardy!

279

00:13:48,444 --> 00:13:50,535  
champion alumni group?

280

00:13:51,855 --> 00:13:54,115  
Yeah, mostly because nobody  
else wants to hang out with us.

281

00:13:56,795 --> 00:13:57,595  
No, I'm just kidding.

282

00:13:57,815 --> 00:14:00,984  
Actually, that is one of the nice things  
that kind of happens in this show,

283

00:14:00,985 --> 00:14:02,635  
especially today in the social media era.

284

00:14:02,635 --> 00:14:04,114  
You know, people find each other.

285



00:14:04,395 --> 00:14:07,524  
They actually enjoy kind of, you  
enjoy hanging out for the day, right?

286  
00:14:07,745 --> 00:14:08,995  
I mean, maybe you three hate each other.

287  
00:14:08,995 --> 00:14:09,345  
I don't know.

288  
00:14:09,345 --> 00:14:13,255  
But, uh, like, like in general, you,  
you know, you hang out together all day.

289  
00:14:13,255 --> 00:14:14,445  
You're sequestered like a jury.

290  
00:14:14,445 --> 00:14:14,805  
So.

291  
00:14:15,965 --> 00:14:18,955  
You know, you don't really think about  
how it's a zero sum game and you're

292  
00:14:18,955 --> 00:14:19,945  
going to try to cream each other.

293  
00:14:19,945 --> 00:14:21,545  
You're just kind of enjoying  
each other's company.

294  
00:14:21,545 --> 00:14:24,375  
Everybody's a Jeopardy fan,  
the same kind of person.

295  
00:14:24,715 --> 00:14:27,085  
Um, people tend to feel like  
they find their tribe here.

296  
00:14:27,085 --> 00:14:30,615  
And then they catch up on Facebook  
and there's alumni groups.

297

00:14:30,615 --> 00:14:33,854

And, you know, a lot of our championships recently, like Masters,

298

00:14:33,854 --> 00:14:36,455

those people will all go out to dinner together and they'll, they'll go

299

00:14:36,455 --> 00:14:37,965

to each other's baby christenings.

300

00:14:37,985 --> 00:14:40,135

And, you know, they're friends for life, I guess.

301

00:14:40,530 --> 00:14:43,060

Maybe they secretly hate each other, but, uh, it looks like no.

302

00:14:43,750 --> 00:14:47,290

And this is something so many of our former champions and players have talked

303

00:14:47,290 --> 00:14:52,930

about, this alumni group that you get to be a part of after competing on Jeopardy.

304

00:14:52,930 --> 00:14:57,930

It really is a very special fraternity that you become a part of, and I

305

00:14:57,949 --> 00:15:00,429

think it offers lifelong connections.

306

00:15:00,429 --> 00:15:04,079

You're always going to have a great Bar Trivia team with some of your former...

307

00:15:04,265 --> 00:15:04,765

Jeopardy!

308

00:15:04,805 --> 00:15:05,375

players.

309

00:15:06,035 --> 00:15:07,985

Next up, a question for Mayim.

310

00:15:08,314 --> 00:15:10,134

What is your favorite book?

311

00:15:11,545 --> 00:15:14,665

Well, I'm a person of faith, so the Torah, that would be the, you

312

00:15:14,665 --> 00:15:17,425

know, the Old Testament, which kind of, it's an awkward answer.

313

00:15:17,774 --> 00:15:22,434

Um, but I, I do like a lot of, um, non biblical books as well.

314

00:15:22,435 --> 00:15:24,365

I'm trying to think what I'd say my favorite is.

315

00:15:24,860 --> 00:15:26,240

Um, a history of love.

316

00:15:26,380 --> 00:15:27,600

That is a favorite of mine.

317

00:15:27,620 --> 00:15:31,030

Confederacy of Dunces, which we actually spoke about, was one of my favorite

318

00:15:31,030 --> 00:15:32,930

kind of first novels that I enjoyed.

319

00:15:33,140 --> 00:15:36,530

You know, I read a lot of existential French stuff as a mopey teenager.

320

00:15:36,559 --> 00:15:38,980

And I keep trying to get my teenager  
to read it, and he's like, The whole

321

00:15:38,980 --> 00:15:40,609  
world is mopey and existential.

322

00:15:40,629 --> 00:15:41,420  
I don't want to read

323

00:15:41,420 --> 00:15:41,930  
that.

324

00:15:43,980 --> 00:15:45,910  
And now, a quick word from our sponsor.

325

00:15:47,870 --> 00:15:50,260  
That's the sound of  
another sale on Shopify.

326

00:15:50,470 --> 00:15:54,050  
And the moment another business  
dream becomes a reality.

327

00:15:54,225 --> 00:15:58,155  
Shopify is the commerce platform  
revolutionizing millions

328

00:15:58,155 --> 00:15:59,715  
of businesses worldwide.

329

00:15:59,915 --> 00:16:04,605  
Whether you're a garage entrepreneur  
or IPO ready, Shopify is the only

330

00:16:04,635 --> 00:16:09,025  
tool you need to start, run, and grow  
your business without the struggle.

331

00:16:09,034 --> 00:16:12,204  
Shopify puts you in control  
of every sales channel.

332

00:16:12,235 --> 00:16:17,405  
Whether you're selling satin sheets from  
Shopify's in person POS system or offering

333  
00:16:17,425 --> 00:16:22,425  
organic olive oil on Shopify's all in  
one e commerce platform, you're covered.

334  
00:16:22,605 --> 00:16:26,405  
And once you've reached your audience,  
Shopify has the internet's best

335  
00:16:26,445 --> 00:16:30,125  
converting checkout to help you  
turn them from browsers to buyers.

336  
00:16:30,185 --> 00:16:33,344  
One of the things I really love about  
Shopify is that no matter how much

337  
00:16:33,345 --> 00:16:36,695  
you want to grow or how fast you  
want to grow, Shopify is ready with

338  
00:16:36,695 --> 00:16:38,825  
the tools you need for every level.

339  
00:16:38,834 --> 00:16:42,445  
Shopify powers 10 percent  
of all e commerce in the U.

340  
00:16:42,445 --> 00:16:42,565  
S.

341  
00:16:42,665 --> 00:16:47,995  
And Shopify is truly a global force,  
powering Allbirds, Rothy's, and Brooklyn,

342  
00:16:47,995 --> 00:16:53,014  
and millions of entrepreneurs of  
every size across over 170 countries.

343  
00:16:53,065 --> 00:16:56,885

Plus, Shopify's award winning help  
is there to support your success

344

00:16:56,935 --> 00:16:58,415  
every single step of the way.

345

00:16:58,635 --> 00:17:01,575  
This is a possibility powered by Shopify.

346

00:17:01,655 --> 00:17:05,385  
Sign up for a 1 per month  
trial period at Shopify.

347

00:17:05,385 --> 00:17:08,075  
com slash Jeopardy all lowercase.

348

00:17:08,105 --> 00:17:09,185  
Go to Shopify.

349

00:17:09,214 --> 00:17:13,284  
com slash Jeopardy to take your  
business to the next level today.

350

00:17:13,305 --> 00:17:14,105  
Shopify.

351

00:17:14,105 --> 00:17:15,645  
com slash Jeopardy.

352

00:17:17,714 --> 00:17:18,925  
Travel plans for summer?

353

00:17:18,994 --> 00:17:21,714  
Learn to speak like a local with Babbel.

354

00:17:21,825 --> 00:17:24,254  
Because with Babbel, you  
can start speaking a new

355

00:17:24,264 --> 00:17:26,224  
language in just three weeks.

356

00:17:26,284 --> 00:17:30,085

Babbel is designed by real  
people for real conversations.

357

00:17:30,145 --> 00:17:33,065

All of Babbel's tips and tools  
for learning a new language are

358

00:17:33,075 --> 00:17:37,294

approachable, accessible, rooted in  
real life situations, and delivered

359

00:17:37,324 --> 00:17:39,554

with conversation based teaching.

360

00:17:39,594 --> 00:17:43,625

With Babbel, you can learn everything you  
need to have real world conversations,

361

00:17:43,635 --> 00:17:47,254

from vocab words to culture, and  
all it takes is 10 minutes a day.

362

00:17:47,460 --> 00:17:51,540

Babbel is helping millions of people  
quickly and confidently have real

363

00:17:51,540 --> 00:17:53,560

world conversations in a new language.

364

00:17:53,639 --> 00:17:56,220

I'm so thankful that I had  
Babbel to help me get confident

365

00:17:56,230 --> 00:17:57,830

before my family trip to France.

366

00:17:57,850 --> 00:17:59,320

And now I can be the tour guide.

367

00:17:59,360 --> 00:18:02,929

Here is a special limited time deal

for our listeners to get you started.

368

00:18:03,100 --> 00:18:07,029

Right now, get 55 percent off  
your Babbel subscription, but

369

00:18:07,100 --> 00:18:09,389

only for our listeners at Babbel.

370

00:18:09,389 --> 00:18:11,399

com slash InsideJay.

371

00:18:11,439 --> 00:18:13,229

Get 55 percent off Babbel.

372

00:18:13,239 --> 00:18:19,149

com slash InsideJay, spelled B A  
B B E L dot com slash InsideJay.

373

00:18:19,219 --> 00:18:21,209

Rules and restrictions may apply.

374

00:18:21,615 --> 00:18:23,585

Now, back to Inside Jeopardy.

375

00:18:24,504 --> 00:18:27,264

This next question is an interesting one.

376

00:18:27,264 --> 00:18:30,764

I think it's something people  
have always wondered about when it

377

00:18:30,764 --> 00:18:35,964

comes to Ken and when he finally  
had to face James Holzhauer.

378

00:18:36,174 --> 00:18:40,284

One of our audience members asked,  
Did you do anything differently

379

00:18:40,325 --> 00:18:42,915

to prepare for playing James?



380  
00:18:44,515 --> 00:18:47,415  
I mean, I knew I was going to be  
playing James Holzhauser in that GOAT

381  
00:18:47,445 --> 00:18:48,695  
tournament a couple of years ago.

382  
00:18:49,050 --> 00:18:51,870  
And I had watched him play,  
and he just seemed unbeatable.

383  
00:18:51,880 --> 00:18:53,800  
You know, I knew he had a  
very different style of play.

384  
00:18:53,800 --> 00:18:57,650  
Very aggressive, um, looking for  
the daily doubles very early,

385  
00:18:57,690 --> 00:18:59,340  
making huge daily double wagers.

386  
00:18:59,730 --> 00:19:02,810  
And I realized that that's not my  
style at all, and I'm not comfortable

387  
00:19:02,810 --> 00:19:05,040  
playing that style, but I was  
gonna have to try it to beat him.

388  
00:19:05,040 --> 00:19:08,069  
So, I watched a lot of tape  
of James playing, you know.

389  
00:19:08,070 --> 00:19:09,990  
I figured the only way to beat  
that guy was to become him.

390  
00:19:10,120 --> 00:19:11,910  
And it ended up working, but...

391

00:19:12,680 --> 00:19:13,940  
Ain't gonna be no rematch,  
I'll tell you that.

392  
00:19:15,010 --> 00:19:19,190  
You heard it here first, there's not  
going to be a rematch, I think Ken

393  
00:19:19,210 --> 00:19:22,719  
is very happily retired as the GOAT.

394  
00:19:22,750 --> 00:19:27,039  
I think he likes that very much and  
he'll stay behind the lectern as opposed

395  
00:19:27,050 --> 00:19:28,780  
to behind those contestant podiums.

396  
00:19:29,190 --> 00:19:32,569  
Mayim was asked, do you still  
work in your chosen field?

397  
00:19:33,740 --> 00:19:35,200  
Do I ever work in my chosen field?

398  
00:19:35,200 --> 00:19:37,149  
Well, this is my chosen field right now.

399  
00:19:37,860 --> 00:19:40,310  
Um, you mean because I'm  
trained in neuroscience?

400  
00:19:40,905 --> 00:19:45,294  
No, I, I taught neuroscience for, for  
several years in the homeschool community.

401  
00:19:45,595 --> 00:19:48,294  
Um, I designed a curriculum for  
junior high and high schoolers.

402  
00:19:48,294 --> 00:19:51,520  
I also taught High school biology  
and a little bit of chemistry.

403

00:19:51,550 --> 00:19:54,699  
But I was home with my kids is what  
I did after getting my doctorate.

404

00:19:54,729 --> 00:19:56,379  
They're now 14 and 17.

405

00:19:56,679 --> 00:20:00,280  
But, um, I started on Big Bang Theory  
when they were, you know, still

406

00:20:00,280 --> 00:20:01,989  
a, a nursing baby and a toddler.

407

00:20:01,989 --> 00:20:04,419  
So my life took a very  
different direction.

408

00:20:04,419 --> 00:20:08,709  
I still do a lot of advocacy in kind  
of the science world, and I, I love

409

00:20:08,715 --> 00:20:11,020  
teaching, but obviously in different ways.

410

00:20:11,020 --> 00:20:11,770  
Now I get to.

411

00:20:11,990 --> 00:20:13,270  
to share knowledge where I can.

412

00:20:14,409 --> 00:20:19,679  
Not bad when you have a neuroscientist  
behind the host lectern.

413

00:20:19,770 --> 00:20:20,669  
Very impressive.

414

00:20:21,010 --> 00:20:23,140  
All right, the next question is for Ken.

415

00:20:23,150 --> 00:20:26,385

He was asked what Is your favorite?

416

00:20:28,645 --> 00:20:31,595

I mean, really, your fondest memories are, like, the one you get right.

417

00:20:31,605 --> 00:20:33,895

Like, the very first game, the final Jeopardy!

418

00:20:33,895 --> 00:20:37,044

clue was about who won the most medals at the 2000 Olympics.

419

00:20:37,594 --> 00:20:40,015

And the answer, you know, personally means little to me.

420

00:20:40,035 --> 00:20:42,534

Marion Jones has since had those medals stripped away, in fact.

421

00:20:42,985 --> 00:20:45,785

But, like, that's a very fond memory for me, just realizing...

422

00:20:46,420 --> 00:20:47,310

I'm going to be a Jeopardy!

423

00:20:47,310 --> 00:20:47,710

champion.

424

00:20:47,720 --> 00:20:48,670

Like, this is amazing.

425

00:20:48,680 --> 00:20:51,640

Everything after that, including this, has just been kind of icing on the cake.

426

00:20:52,450 --> 00:20:55,499

Interestingly enough,

in Ken's final Jeopardy!

427

00:20:55,500 --> 00:21:00,749  
where he talked about Marion Jones,  
he actually said, what is Jones?

428

00:21:01,050 --> 00:21:05,740  
And had the judges, in this case, you  
know, they make decisions early on as to

429

00:21:05,740 --> 00:21:07,210  
whether or not they'll need a first name.

430

00:21:07,470 --> 00:21:11,160  
Had the judges decided on that  
clue that they needed Marion Jones?

431

00:21:11,970 --> 00:21:13,980  
We would not know Ken Jennings.

432

00:21:13,990 --> 00:21:18,370  
He would be a contestant who would have  
made a great second chance player, but

433

00:21:18,370 --> 00:21:20,340  
there wasn't second chance 20 years ago.

434

00:21:20,350 --> 00:21:24,420  
So, again, I talk about these  
sliding doors moments in Jeopardy,

435

00:21:24,730 --> 00:21:28,010  
and not surprising that that  
final Jeopardy sticks out.

436

00:21:28,235 --> 00:21:32,765  
in Ken's mind because it really did  
change everything for him and totally

437

00:21:32,775 --> 00:21:34,645  
changed the course of his life.

438

00:21:34,955 --> 00:21:38,365  
All right, next up from Mayim,  
she was asked, what is the most

439  
00:21:38,365 --> 00:21:42,124  
helpful or meaningful advice that  
you received when stepping into

440  
00:21:42,124 --> 00:21:44,085  
this position as Jeopardy host?

441  
00:21:47,524 --> 00:21:51,304  
Well, usually like when people  
say, be yourself, that's

442  
00:21:51,304 --> 00:21:52,554  
supposed to be encouraging.

443  
00:21:52,574 --> 00:21:55,645  
But here being myself is  
actually not what I want to be.

444  
00:21:55,645 --> 00:21:57,804  
I want to be the best  
Jeopardy host I can be.

445  
00:21:58,205 --> 00:22:02,325  
Which means, um, you know, kind of curbing  
a lot of the, the inner monologue, and

446  
00:22:02,325 --> 00:22:04,195  
in many cases inner criticism about...

447  
00:22:04,580 --> 00:22:07,860  
The way I say things, or the way I  
speak, or the way, you know, I'm trying

448  
00:22:07,860 --> 00:22:09,300  
to facilitate what we're doing here.

449  
00:22:09,379 --> 00:22:12,709  
So, you know, be like Alex Trebek,  
I think is the best advice that

450

00:22:12,729 --> 00:22:14,330  
I sort of, you know, think about.

451

00:22:14,340 --> 00:22:15,360  
To the best of my ability.

452

00:22:16,460 --> 00:22:18,000  
Be like Alex Trebek.

453

00:22:18,119 --> 00:22:20,989  
Maybe impossible, but  
certainly a great idea.

454

00:22:21,120 --> 00:22:25,919  
Goal to have along the same lines  
for our final question today.

455

00:22:25,919 --> 00:22:30,330  
Ken was asked, What is the most important  
lesson that you learned from Alex?

456

00:22:31,629 --> 00:22:33,129  
I mean, I learned a  
lot from watching Alex.

457

00:22:33,129 --> 00:22:36,500  
I mean, from from watching him host, the  
real lesson was, and this was remarkable.

458

00:22:36,679 --> 00:22:38,319  
He always said the game  
should not be about him.

459

00:22:39,159 --> 00:22:42,830  
You know, in the sixties, Art Fleming was  
always announced as the star of Jeopardy.

460

00:22:43,110 --> 00:22:46,750  
And Alex was like, No, no, save the host  
of Jeopardy because I'm not the start.

461

00:22:46,750 --> 00:22:47,879  
The star should be the players.

462  
00:22:48,129 --> 00:22:49,310  
The star should be the game.

463  
00:22:49,469 --> 00:22:53,199  
He wanted the spotlight off himself,  
and that's such a beautiful and,

464  
00:22:53,209 --> 00:22:55,800  
you know, rare thing in this  
business for somebody to say that.

465  
00:22:56,340 --> 00:22:58,330  
And, uh, I really learned from that.

466  
00:22:58,340 --> 00:23:00,749  
You know, like, you watch him  
on tape and you can't believe

467  
00:23:00,749 --> 00:23:02,499  
sometimes how little he's doing.

468  
00:23:02,499 --> 00:23:03,289  
You know, less is more.

469  
00:23:03,289 --> 00:23:05,050  
He has such a light touch.

470  
00:23:05,810 --> 00:23:08,230  
When it comes to, like, the  
bigger questions of life...

471  
00:23:08,945 --> 00:23:10,705  
I remember one of the  
last times I saw him.

472  
00:23:10,825 --> 00:23:13,615  
He was hosting through the cancer  
diagnosis, and sometimes he was in a

473



00:23:13,615 --> 00:23:16,455  
lot of pain, but I went back to see  
him, and he was actually pretty chipper

474  
00:23:16,455 --> 00:23:19,244  
that day, and he, he said, Ken, I'm  
just getting like, I think I got a

475  
00:23:19,245 --> 00:23:22,764  
hundred thousand emails and letters,  
and people are just sending me stuff.

476  
00:23:23,135 --> 00:23:26,384  
He said, it's so great, most people  
don't get to hear these nice things

477  
00:23:26,385 --> 00:23:27,605  
about them until they're dead.

478  
00:23:27,754 --> 00:23:30,905  
And I got to hear it all when I was  
still here, and he, he genuinely

479  
00:23:31,350 --> 00:23:33,030  
realized what a blessing that was.

480  
00:23:33,430 --> 00:23:34,880  
I'm getting a little choked  
up thinking about it.

481  
00:23:34,880 --> 00:23:36,570  
But like, what a moment of clarity.

482  
00:23:36,730 --> 00:23:38,770  
Like, for somebody to realize  
what they meant to people.

483  
00:23:39,889 --> 00:23:40,819  
I think we should all  
try to live that way.

484  
00:23:45,059 --> 00:23:47,309  
Yes, Ken says it so beautifully.

485

00:23:47,360 --> 00:23:52,189

To be here and to see the outpouring  
of love for Alex and for him to be

486

00:23:52,189 --> 00:23:57,419

able to receive it before he passed was  
really something unbelievable for all

487

00:23:57,419 --> 00:23:59,469

of us who were here to experience it.

488

00:23:59,899 --> 00:24:04,459

And it was something beautiful in a really  
awful time that we all had to go through.

489

00:24:05,890 --> 00:24:06,520

There you have it.

490

00:24:06,530 --> 00:24:08,060

That's the Q& A session.

491

00:24:08,110 --> 00:24:10,920

I hope that you loved hearing  
those responses as much as we

492

00:24:10,920 --> 00:24:12,570

love hearing them in the studio.

493

00:24:12,950 --> 00:24:16,320

This is something we hope to do more  
of in the future because it's a little

494

00:24:16,330 --> 00:24:19,210

window into our two fabulous hosts.

495

00:24:19,510 --> 00:24:22,629

How their minds work, what  
they like, how they got here.

496

00:24:22,740 --> 00:24:23,579

It's all great.

497

00:24:24,149 --> 00:24:28,200

Well, we're going to be back next week to discuss the highlights of

498

00:24:28,200 --> 00:24:30,170

our first week of Second Chance.

499

00:24:30,810 --> 00:24:33,969

Next time we meet up here on the pod, we will know the first player

500

00:24:33,969 --> 00:24:38,520

who is advancing to the Season 37, Season 38 Champions Wildcard.

501

00:24:38,850 --> 00:24:40,669

I hope you will join us for that.

502

00:24:40,980 --> 00:24:45,050

As always, be sure to subscribe to the podcast, rate us, leave us a comment,

503

00:24:45,050 --> 00:24:49,380

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504

00:24:49,380 --> 00:24:51,919

YouTube, on TikTok, on Twitter, or X.

505

00:24:52,370 --> 00:24:56,840

And send us your questions to InsideJeopardyPodcast at gmail.

506

00:24:56,840 --> 00:24:57,189

com.

507

00:24:57,810 --> 00:24:58,550

See you next week!