

Brunch: Episode 2
Brunchausen

By

Ian Smith

2019

ian@ismith.ca

INT. RED BARON RESTAURANT

Lesley, Vince and Nick are seated in a booth. Duncan waves to them through the window from outside.

NICK

If you could hang out with one person, living or dead, who --

LESLEY

No one, I don't care. Ugh, I feel like a pile of garbage.

VINCE

Aw, muffin. Need me to do everything for you today?

LESLEY

No, I did it to myself. I wasn't even going to go out. But then I got hungry. I basically got drunk so I could justify eating a late night pizza.

VINCE

You barely had anything to drink.

LESLEY

I did! How would you even know? You were talking to that girl who's in love with you the whole time. You need to stop leading her on.

VINCE

You seemed sober enough anyway.

DUNCAN

(sitting down)

Hey. Sorry I'm late.

VINCE

We'll be fine.

LESLEY

I don't know how you get away with shit like this every --

VINCE

She's not in love with me, and if she is that's on her.

(CONTINUED)

LESLEY

(to Duncan)

Here, what do you think? There's this girl that Vince slept with a while ago --

VINCE

We never fully slept together.

LESLEY

And now every time he sees her - she's clearly still in love with him - whenever she's around he gets her to buy him drinks the whole night.

VINCE

Here's the thing --

NICK

(without looking up from his phone)

With Alex Baldwin.

VINCE

She wants to do it. I'm not begging her or anything. Besides, her dad is rich, so really he's the one buying drinks for a guy his daughter might want to sleep with.

DUNCAN

Will you hook up with her again?

LESLEY

Definitely not.

VINCE

Probably not, but I still don't see what the big deal is. It's not like I love being broke.

Server arrives.

SERVER

(to Lesley)

A coffee and a caesar for you.

DUNCAN

Ah, that's what I want.

(CONTINUED)

SERVER
(to Vince & Nick)
Two saisons.
(to Duncan)
And a coffee and a caesar for you.

Duncan looks around, impressed.

LESLEY
You know I got you.

SERVER
Are you guys ready to order?

VINCE
I think so. I'll get a --
(to Duncan)
Actually, do you want to split the
benedict and the hash?

DUNCAN
(closing his menu, imitating
the Jaws theme)
Uh-huh.

VINCE
(to Server)
We'll get the pulled pork benny,
with home fries, and the veggie
hash.

NICK
(still looking at his phone)
Can I get the special?

LESLEY
I'll do the hash as well.

Server leaves.

VINCE
(to Nick)
Hey, why wouldn't you split with
me? Not worried about order envy?

LESLEY
Just leave him to his own devices.
Ugh, my insides are all wobbly.

NICK
(putting phone down)
Okay, I'm done. Maggie might meet
us in a bit. Nah, I'm a superior
orderer.

(CONTINUED)

VINCE
What do you mean?

NICK
(overlapping)
I will always pick the right meal.

INT. RED BARON

Food arrives.

VINCE
(looking at Nick's meal)
Ah, that does look good.
(to Server)
And can I get, like, a Pepsi?

SERVER
Sure thing. Is Pepsi okay?

Vince gives her a strange look and nods. Server leaves.

VINCE
Oh yeah, here's your single key
back. Forgot to give it to you
earlier.

NICK
Thanks. Probably gonna need that.

VINCE
(overlapping)
By the way, who has one key? It's
not even on a key ring or anything.

NICK
Me. I own one key, and I love it.

VINCE
How --

NICK
You know, when I lived back home, I
had a key for my place, my work,
key to my parents'. I carried
around - my car! The garage. I had
like fifteen keys, and it's nice to
simplify my life a little, even --

VINCE
You were like a janitor before. You
had to have, like, a stretchy thing
attached to your belt.

(CONTINUED)

LESLEY

Lanyard.

NICK

So from the one main ring, there were branches of rings and keys, you know? And I'm thinking, I don't want that whole situation happening in my pocket again, every time I leave my house. So yeah, I'm happy to just have this one key. All the same, I almost lost it a million times.

VINCE

I'd have it for a day and it would be gone. You could get one of those janitor things for your one key?

LESLEY

Lanyard!

NICK

I do have a birthday coming up.

An older man, wearing painter coveralls and a lanyard full of keys, enters restaurant.

LESLEY

Holy shit, look at this guy. He must have heard us talking. He was like, "I gotta show these guys my keys. They don't even know."

NICK

"You think you had a lot of keys?"

VINCE

"You guys think you know anything about keys?"

LESLEY

"I got so many keys, I don't even know what they're for."

DUNCAN

Keep it down. He probably owns this entire neighbourhood.

VINCE

The guarder of the keys! Protector of --

(CONTINUED)

DUNCAN

In some circles, that's how you prove your social dominance, based on your hoard of keys. And every key is a new skill acquired.

NICK

(overlapping)

I feel like that guy, like every key is a person he's killed or something. He sees someone half threatening and he's like, "I need this guy's keys."

VINCE

He saw your single key through the window and just laughed at you.

NICK

Yeah, I don't stand a chance. I surrender my key to the master.

DUNCAN

Your lonely key.

NICK

He's lookin' at me - "Pssh. I could get that single key off him, no problem." Then he moves into my house.

LESLEY

(overlapping)

Yeah, maybe the key is a sign of fertility.

VINCE

Does he gets Maggie then, too?

DUNCAN

(overlapping)

Yeah, 'cause he's kind of, like, flaunting 'em. He's peacocking.

NICK

Every female he seduces, he, like, gets her key. Is that how it goes?

VINCE

What?

(CONTINUED)

NICK

They're all keys to, like, different girls' apartments, that he's hooked up with. Or guys.

DUNCAN

(overlapping)

"Oh, these? They're my love keys."

LESLEY

How do you think that started? Did he just say to a girl one time, "Ah, okay, so can I have one of your keys, to prove we did the thing?"

NICK

No, no, the first one was an accident. She gave him the key. "Here, you let yourself out."

VINCE

Why would you need a key to let yourself out?

DUNCAN

Deadbolt?

NICK

Any deadbolt.

DUNCAN

He's left there holding her key and this look comes over his face. "Ooh, I like this feeling, of acquiring keys."

LESLEY

"Let yourself out and leave the key. Oh, and I'm carrying your child."

NICK

But he couldn't bring himself to leave it in the mailbox. Each key is a memory, you know. "I got this one back in '61, at a Korean brothel after the war."

(Spanish accent)

"This one once belonged to a street dancer in Guatemala!"

(CONTINUED)

DUNCAN
(Australian accent)
"Ah, I still remember my first
key."

LESLEY
(French accent)
"It was, comment se diche,
magique."

VINCE
Where did his accents --

DUNCAN
Once you have a taste for it, the
keys take over your life. "More
keys, gotta get more keys."

NICK
He's got so many, he doesn't know
what to do with them anymore. His
(looks at Lesley)
lanyard only has a fraction of his
full collection. "Everywhere I
look, more keys!" But he can't stop
himself.

INT. RED BARON

Server drops off another round of drinks.

SERVER
How's everything tasting so far?

LESLEY
Good, thanks.

NICK
Amazing. It's everything I've ever
wanted out of a meal.

VINCE
C'mon, give us a taste now.

NICK
(ignoring Vince)
Mmmm, every bite is like
discovering a new continent.

Duncan drops his fork.

(CONTINUED)

LESLEY

Oh man, if my grandmother was here, she's have something to say about that.

DUNCAN

About what?

LESLEY

If you dropped something, anything, she'd need to know what it is. She was all superstitious about everything. "What was that that fell?" "Nothing, Nan." "What was it?"

(sighing)

"It was a fork." "Ah, someone's gonna die."

VINCE

Well someone would end up dying, I assume. Is that the one I met, who kept calling the Simpsons "Bart"?

LESLEY

No, this one passed a couple of years ago. Actually, at her funeral, like during the part at the cemetery - oh god, it was ridiculous. So my aunt Paula, she has this - I don't know if you know anyone like this, who is obsessed with their religiousness in a way that, like, makes them evil. I mean my family's not crazy religious but they subscribe to - you know, you - you can't take the lord's name in vain around half of them.

DUNCAN

My family's the same.

LESLEY

(overlapping)

Like I could marry outside my religion and that would be okay, but we didn't eat meat on Fridays.

VINCE

At T.G.I. Friday's?

(CONTINUED)

LESLEY

Yeah, we could only order the veggie options from T.G.I. Friday's. It's the main tenet of our very specific denomination. Anyway, in my mom's family there was a lot of emphasis placed on your seniority in the sibblingship. Paula was the oldest so she was the de facto leader. Which was funny because my older brother is useless, and Mom would always put him in charge and we'd be like, "No, he can't be responsible for anything. Look at him." He's like, "Let's put potato on pizza." No way, fuck that. Although secretly I do love potato on pizza, so probably not the best example, but you know what I mean.

NICK

I would accept a yam first. Give me a flavoured potato before you throw on a regular one.

DUNCAN

There's a place near here that does a Moroccan pizza thing with yams. It's really good.

LESLEY

I actually had a pizza in Morocco once, but marinara doesn't mean what you think it does over there. It's marinara like the ocean.

DUNCAN

What?

LESLEY

You know when the same word somewhere else means something different than we know it?

NICK

No?

DUNCAN

But there's no marinara pizza here. Was it, like, Mediterranean?

(CONTINUED)

LESLEY
No.

NICK
Mariana's trench?

LESLEY
No!

NICK
Well that's as close as we're going
to - wait, marina?

LESLEY
Marina! Ordered a marinara pizza -
marina-ra pizza - it came out
covered in shrimp.

Lesley slides down chair.

VINCE
Where are you going?

LESLEY
I feel like gravity is stronger
than it used to be.

NICK
First of all, you didn't order a
marinara pizza. You ordered a
marina pizza.

LESLEY
No, marinara. I'm certain of it,
cause we talked about it later and
were complaining that it was
covered in fish instead of just
tomato sauce and basil.

NICK
You mean like a margherita pizza?
Did you even look at the menu?

LESLEY
I seriously can't talk about this
anymore. Yes, we looked at the
menu.

NICK
And did it say "with shrimp"?

(CONTINUED)

LESLEY

Who remembers? Anyway, it was gross.

DUNCAN

(overlapping)

I like shrimp on pizza.

LESLEY

I couldn't even look at it. Threw it away. What was I talking about again?

VINCE

Ocean pizza?

LESLEY

Before that.

NICK

Your grandmother's funeral. Your aunt, being in charge.

LESLEY

Right, right, right. So my aunt was very religious. She was the senior sibling. Remember earlier I said her daughter died? Well she was actually murdered, just for some back story as to why she is how she is.

DUNCAN

You said she "passed away"!

VINCE

She passed peacefully away by being stabbed repeatedly. Uh, sorry.

LESLEY

My aunt, at the funeral, she made us all say the rosary, like she always would. Have you ever said a full rosary?

VINCE

I don't believe I've ever tried.

NICK

Can we hear more about this murder?

(CONTINUED)

LESLEY

I'll tell you after. The rosary - it's based around this Jesus necklace, that's full of buttons. To start, for every button you say a Hail Mary. So "Hail Mary full of grace, hallowed something" - I actually can't remember how it goes.

DUNCAN

Do not dare trespass against us. Heathens.

LESLEY

Yeah, that's the gist of it anyway. But there's way more. It's like a forty-five minute process of talking to yourself. She would always make us do it, but she'd have to make sure she was the last one praying, to prove she prayed the best.

VINCE

Great pray-er. 11 out of 10 at praying. Cannot be beat!

LESLEY

At the end, I was like, screw this, I'm not standing up. I'm going to be the last one praying. This time. This is the time. I'm doing it. So one by one, everyone else gets up - and it's just me and my aunt left, kneeling on opposite sides of my grandmother's grave. Eyes closed, hands crossed.

(grunts)

Really praying - ooh, that's some good Jesus. Like really seriously. And my mom, she knows what I'm doing, but what's she gonna do, come over and make me stop worshipping God or whatever? "Your dead grandma would not want you to pray this much." And my aunt is really digging in too. She won't stop. But she's a fifty-year-old woman in a praying contest with a kid. I only did it just to prove how crazy she is.

(CONTINUED)

NICK

You proved your point.

LESLEY

I'd like to think so. So after twenty minutes my mom just picks me up and drags me away - she's had enough. And my aunt, as soon as I'm done, she gets up and blesses herself like I wasn't even there.

DUNCAN:

So she still won?

LESLEY

Sure, but then she died last year too, so I like to think I'm the real winner.

INT. RED BARON

Conor, a tall Irishman, walks up to table.

CONOR

Hey, how goes the battle?

VINCE

This is it.

CONOR

(overlapping)

Have ye heard what went down at the show there last night?

VINCE

What show?

CONOR

At the Clyde. Kev Penney, his new band was playin' - can't recall their name - but yer man was loadin' out, went to a car he figured was his drummer's and dropped a few things in there. He was right pissed apparently and didn't even notice when he finished putting his gear in the proper car that it was a different one. So now he's without his amp, the Silverface. He posted it --

(CONTINUED)

VINCE

So at the end of the night some random went back to his car and found an amp in the backseat? Guys, this is Conor. Here's - a bunch of people. That's wild, man. Hopefully he gets it back anyway.

CONOR

I expect he will. We'll be up at the park all day if ye all wanna join. Good laugh, should be.

VINCE

Yeah, maybe. Get some games on the go?

CONOR

Alright, see ya later.

Conor leaves.

NICK

You wanna head up after this?

VINCE

(pronouncing "show" as the first syllable in "shower")
Nah, not really. Maybe. I gotta get a show show before tonight.

LESLEY

Get a show show. Hit the road road, grab a coff coff. Then we'll be on the way way.

NICK

We'll be Ai Weiwei.

LESLEY

Well, we can't all be Ai Weiwei.

VINCE

I think I'd rather just bang around town for a bit. It's Record Store Day, so wouldn't mind checking that out.

Lesley spills her drink.

LESLEY

Nooooo.

INT. RED BARON

LESLEY

Who was your friend again? He looks familiar.

VINCE

Who, Conor? He's a man about town. I think he's single if that's --

LESLEY

Not what I meant.

VINCE

Hey, I'm single too, you know.

Vince removes the tab from his can of Pepsi, hands it to Lesley and winks at her. She looks at him strangely.

VINCE

Wait, did you guys have skin tickets growing up?

DUNCAN

What's a skin ticket?

LESLEY

Nope, don't think so.

VINCE

These tabs or whatever, from pop cans, in junior high they became this kind of token. You'd give one to someone you wanted to hook up with, whatever that meant in those days, and they'd trade it back to you. For skin, so to speak.

NICK

We always just used money.

LESLEY

Oh yeah, we had something similar, but we never called them that. And we were a bit older. You'd peel off the label of a beer bottle and give that to whoever, for the same reason.

DUNCAN

Ah, the regional differences in adolescent seduction techniques.

(CONTINUED)

VINCE

Were there like some guys who were really good at peeling the labels off? Like very precise?

NICK

Who would, like, practise --

VINCE

Hold on. And a perfect peel would be like peacocking, and impress everyone, so they'd get all the girls.

LESLEY

It was mostly girls who used them, as far as I remember. We ran the show.

DUNCAN

Did you ever use one?

LESLEY

Probably. It was just an easy way to tell someone you wanted to make out with them.

NICK

Old people use a similar thing too when they want to hook up. They pull off a piece of excess skin from their arm or face and give the other person a skin tag.

LESLEY

Gross. So if the other person doesn't throw up then they're usually good to go?

NICK

Exactly.

LESLEY

Apparently old people in nursing homes are getting loads of STIs these days. It's like their husband or wife dies and they get a chance to have sex with someone else for the first time in like sixty years. And nobody uses condoms.

(CONTINUED)

DUNCAN

Well they're not worried about getting pregnant or anything. And the old men only have so much time to get it in before they lose their mojo.

VINCE

"It's like 'Beat The Clock'."

LESLEY

(overlapping)

A few random sex diseases is probably low on their list of things to care about, way past, you know, being so close to death they can taste it.

Server arrives.

SERVER:

Are you guys all done here?

LESLEY

Yup, just the bill is fine.

SERVER

All together?

NICK

Nah.

VINCE

(to Lesley)

Can you get mine? I left my card at the bar.

LESLEY

Where's your girlfriend? Maybe she can pay for everyone's.

VINCE

Ah, I wish.

ROLL CREDITS