

Brunch: Episode 7
Brunch in the Time of Corona

By

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Zoom meeting starts with Nick, Duncan, Vince, Lesley, Devon on video. Duncan has the Brunch background, and everyone else's is their house. Duncan's screen name is Will Hayward, Nick's is Nick Manolis, the others are Vince Anity, Lesley Wins, Devon Hill. Nick is muted.

DUNCAN
Hey hey hey hey hey.

LESLEY
That's too many heys.

DUNCAN
Never! Brunch cannot end!

DEVON
Those things are not connected.

DUNCAN
Here, everyone do the background I sent over. Like we're actually --

LESLEY
Nope.
(holding up her drink)
Get yer quarantinis though.

DEVON
It is nice to at least be looking at another human while I'm getting blackout.

VINCE
I just want a G-D caesar. But I don't have any of that wor-ches-ter-shire sauce.

DEVON
It's pronounced woose-ter-sheer.

VINCE
Sheer it is, Chowse.

LESLEY
What else is that sauce even for? I've actually never seen it outside of a caes.

VINCE
Caes? Are you too busy to say 'caesar'?

LESLEY

Probs.

NICK

(muted)

Chuck E Caes.

DUNCAN

Nick, you on mute.

DEVON

Or are you just laughing silently?

Nick unmutes himself.

NICK

Who, me?

Nick laughs silently.

DEVON

Hold on, why does your thing say
"Will"?

NICK

That's his actual name.

DEVON

No, it's not. Seriously? Where did
Duncan come from?

DUNCAN

I ate six donuts after swimming one
time when I was a kid.

DEVON

Doesn't take much, does it? Nick,
where's Maggie?

NICK

She's having a couple of friends
over.

DEVON

What? Who are these people that
aren't us?

VINCE

If you can call them people.

LESLEY

Is Emma juning?
(shakes head)

(MORE)

LESLEY (cont'd)
Join-ing.

DUNCAN
She said she's gonna be five
minutes late, so we should see her
in about an hour.

Phone rings.

VINCE
Hold on, dis her.
(picking up phone)
Just click on the link I sent. That
is literally all you have to do.

Vince hangs up phone.

LESLEY
She is the worst at technology.

DEVON
90.

VINCE
What do you - 90 what?

DEVON
Emma - at any time, she's always
either 9 or 90 years old - never
anything in between. Like she might
need someone to tie her shoes for
her, or she's knitting you a
sweater.

NICK
Do I have time to make another cup
of coffee?

LESLEY
Yes girl. Time isn't really a thing
anymore. You know, I could go for
another cup myself.

DEVON
Can I just say something? I
actually don't like the taste of
coffee.

LESLEY
What do you mean? You're always
drinking it.

DEVON

Yeah, but the taste is my least favourite part. I like the ritual of making coffee. Love the mugs. The warmth! It's got a great smell.

NICK

What about the caffeine?

DEVON

Sure, the caffeine is fine. But the actual taste? I could live without it.

NICK

Why don't you just drink tea? It has less of a ruin-your-guts vibe.

DEVON

I'm open to trying tea.

DUNCAN

Coffee's only for closers, anyway.

DEVON

For what?

DUNCAN

"Somebody doesn't want what you're selling. Some broad you're trying to screw. Talk about something important! Put that coffee down!"

LESLEY

Well this took a --

DUNCAN

"Coffee's for closers! I'm not fucking with you. I'm here from downtown. I'm here from Mitch and..." What is it? "Mitch and something or other. And I'm here on a mission of mercy."

NICK

Round of coffees.

Nick waves his hand over his head like an umpire indicating a home run.

VINCE

Ha, where's the server anyway? It's getting hard to hide my

(MORE)

VINCE (cont'd)
non-existent cooking skills. I'm
struggling to fry an egg over here
on the best of days.

DEVON
Wait, who has that restaurant with
the twelve eggs or whatever?

NICK
Oh man, that was me and my buddy
Mike.

DUNCAN
You have a restaurant? I'm
completely out of the loop.

NICK
Well not a real one. But if I did,
the flagship meal would be "Eggs,
twelve ways."

VINCE
Eggs, your way.

NICK
That could be one of the ways. What
we'd do is make a dozen eggs
individually - one fried, one
scrambled, one poached - you get
the point. One your way.

LESLEY
Who wants twelve eggs?

NICK
Hopefully everyone. So we'd
carefully place the cooked eggs
back into their shells and then
serve them in the actual carton,
ready to eat. And we present it by
pulling back a black curtain.

LESLEY
Sounds perfectly inefficient. Oh,
happy new year everyone! I don't
think I've talked to anyone -

NICK
2021, hey? Do you guys realize that
9/11 can legally get drunk?

DUNCAN

Finally.

VINCE

Stop. No more of this.

NICK

What?

VINCE

No more getting blown away by time moving forward. We get it. Jurassic Park came out 50 years ago, the person you used to babysit just retired. Time moves forward, and we all need to deal with it.

NICK

Geesh. I wasn't even that blown away.

DEVON

Yeah, Vince. Stop frontin'.

DUNCAN

I truly hate when people be frontin'.

LESLEY

I have to say, though, I love not having a job right now.

NICK

Man, I wish I could get laid off.

LESLEY

I'm livin' it up here in CERB-ia.

DEVON

It's up to like over eighty million cases worldwide.

DUNCAN

Hey now, no COVID talk. Brunch is a sacred place.

DEVON

This isn't even a real brunch. Anyway, it kind of seeps into every conv-

DUNCAN
No more! Come on. We can only talk
about the land before times.

LESLEY
You're a corona nazi.

DEVON
Which is still better than his
grandfather, the regular Nazi.

DUNCAN
Yeah, famous S.S. Officer
Reichsführer Doug Hayward.

DEVON
This whole time I've been telling
people your last name was Eichmann.

DUNCAN
Who was asking?

DEVON
Pretty much everyone.

EMMA
(off-screen)
Hey hey, I'm here, sorry.

NICK
Turn on yer vids, kids.

EMMA
Can I stay invisible? I look like a
pile.

DEVON
No!

Emma turns on video. She does, in fact, look like a pile.

EMMA
(taking a drink)
Fine. Hey, is anyone else drinking
way too much?

LESLEY
Everyone else. There's basically
nothing else to do.

EMMA
Oh my god, I was reading about that
Viking guy from the Capitol riots.
Don't you think -

DUNCAN

Okay, definitely no talking about politics. This one deserves a mute.

Duncan mutes Emma. She keeps talking anyway.

DEVON

You shouldn't have this power.

DUNCAN

Well I don't see anyone else shelling out twenty bones for an account.

LESLEY

Bones?

DUNCAN

Yes, bones.

(to Emma, while unmuting)

Don't let it happen again, my little pop tart.

VINCE

Hey Will, I'd shell out twenty bones to see you do a tucky.

LESLEY

Haha, a what?

VINCE

A tucky. Like what Andy Samberg did in - what's the movie - Popstar Never Popping? Never Stop Never Stopping!

LESLEY

Oh, never saw it. Devon?!

DEVON

Me neither!

VINCE

It's a parody of the Bieber doc. Andy Samberg played this --

LESLEY

Who's Andy Sandberg?

VINCE

From SNL? The other guy from "Dick in a Box".

LESLEY

Haha, what's a dick in a box?

VINCE

Okay, so do you know who Justin Timberlake is?

LESLEY

Yes.

VINCE

Good. So basically JT was in a sketch with a guy whose character in a movie you never saw did a tucky?

LESLEY

Glad we cleared that up.

DEVON

Wait, what's a tucky?

EMMA

Is it just me, or does Vince look very distinguished for some reason?

DEVON

I thought that earlier. You look so highfalutin.

VINCE

I'm just high.

EMMA

High fluting? When did this become a thing?

DEVON

It's highfalutin.

EMMA

Faluting? How do you falute?

DUNCAN

In this economy, it's really not safe to falute anymore.

EMMA

Hold on, coffee's ready.

Emma leaves screen.

NICK
Fresh pots!

LESLEY
Pots out!

DEVON
Pots out?

LESLEY
Pots. You know, tits. Tits out.
Take yer titties out.

EMMA
(returning to the screen,
holding a coffee mug)
Dev, come on. Pots are tits. You
should know that by now.

DEVON
Apologies. Titty pots, got it. Ooh,
I don't think I told you guys yet,
but I saw this homeless guy
yesterday and he yelled at me, "Not
the llama, not the llama!"

VINCE
Like in Dinosaurs?

DUNCAN
Oh man, me and Nick once ran into a
llama. We went to this farm --

NICK
Everyone here already knows this
one.

LESLEY
I don't!

DUNCAN
With the mushroom picking? Anyone
else?

EMMA
Yeah, I've heard it fifty times.

Duncan pauses.

DUNCAN
Ah, never mind. It's not worth it
just for you.

LESLEY

Fine.

NICK

Les, I just remembered this even happened the other day, and I've been meaning to ask, about your religious aunt who got murdered.

LESLEY

It was my cousin. The aunt's daughter. What about her?

NICK

What do you mean "what about her"? How did she, you know, get murdered?

LESLEY

Ah, right. The whole thing was actually pretty shady.

EMMA

I find that most murders are.

LESLEY

Right. So she'd just gotten engaged a few weeks earlier, and had this ring that costs more than my house.

VINCE

You don't have a house.

LESLEY

Well if I did, the ring would cost more than that.

DUNCAN

My brother's godfather was killed by pirates.

Everyone cracks up.

DUNCAN

Not particularly funny.

NICK

Hold on. What about that ring?

DUNCAN

So one of my dad's good friends was a sea captain, and one day his boat was boarded by pirates, and

(MORE)

DUNCAN (cont'd)
apparently he was being a nuisance
so they shot him.

EMMA
Holy shit. Where?

DUNCAN
Right in the head.

EMMA
No, where in the world?

VINCE & NICK
(rockapella voices, in unison)
... is Carmen Sandiego.

DUNCAN
In the ocean. You should not trifle
with pirates.

LESLEY
Good advice. You can trifle with a
lot of things, but pirates aren't
one of them.

NICK
Guys, seriously. Don't be trifling.

EMMA
There's this guy I read about the
other day, and he like, left his
family to go be a pirate. Some
really rich Australian dude - his
wife was driving him mad, so he
went to go be a pirate - that was
like his lifelong dream. He ditched
his family, bought a boat, and
started pirating. But it turns out
he was really bad at being a
pirate, because he would just
randomly board people's boats and
be like, "Arggg!" But then like,
"What do I do now?" Eventually some
other real pirate took over this
guy's boat.

Nick switches his background to the pirate one.

DEVON
He was pirated by a pirate?

NICK

He got totally out-pirated. Been there, man.

VINCE

(eureka moment)

Coronazi! Ah shit, hold on. I gotta drop the kids off at the - toilet. Actually, I might get fomo. Do you guys mind if I bring you into the bathroom? I'll mute myself.

NICK

Yes.

DEVON

Yeah, we definitely mind.

VINCE

(leaving the screen)

Fine, whatever.

DUNCAN

Are there any other felonies that sound as charming and wonderful as pirating? Because like, stealing and murdering don't sound great. But a pirate, he's got this great costume, with the eye patch, a parrot as a best friend -

EMMA

Ooh, how about cat burgling?

DEVON

Oh yes, fersure.

NICK

That's not a felony.

EMMA

Sure it is. They get to dress up all in black with those cute little maska and -

NICK

I'm a big fan of art heists. Like the van Gogh one from the other day.

LESLEY

What happened?

NICK

Someone ran into a Dutch museum,
smashed a window and took this
painting off the wall that's worth
like five million euros.

DEVON

That's the museum's fault at that
point, though. You gotta have
security good enough that someone
can't steal five million bucks -
five million bones by throwing a
garbage can or whatever through the
window.

VINCE

(off-screen)

Hey, what's everyone talking about
now? I heard someone say 'bones'.

EMMA

How do you even move a van Gogh
these days?

DUNCAN

Sadly, many of these great works
get destroyed when the thieves
can't find a buyer.

LESLEY

At this point, I'd throw a trash
can through a window just so I can
feel something.

EMMA

With everyone working from home all
the time, house burglars must be
having a rough time.

LESLEY

Well, they need to adapt, like
anyone. Start burglin' empty
offices and take their chairs.

DUNCAN

But the audacity of someone just
like walking by a museum and
deciding to throw a trash can
through the window to steal a
painting.

DEVON

I like how in your head he was just strolling past the museum, saw a trash can, and was like "Hmmm, maybe I'll steal that billion-dollar painting."

NICK

To be honest, it wasn't one of van Gogh's best, but these days, you take what you can get.

EMMA

Smashers can't be choosers.

DEVON

I feel like I haven't left the house in two months.

EMMA

I don't usually, but Nick drug me out last night.

DEVON

He drugged you?

EMMA

No, he drug me out last night.

DEVON

Drugged you out?

NICK

I did not drug you.

DUNCAN

Remember when that random girl came back to your house, did all your coke, then told everyone you drugged her?

NICK

That was you. That happened to you.

DUNCAN

Was it? I've been telling people it was you.

NICK

You've been telling people some woman accused me of drugging her?

LESLEY

You probably shouldn't do that.

DUNCAN

Ah, Les, you'll like this. I was at dinner the other night and finally had my olive moment.

LESLEY

Holy holy, welcome to the clurb.

EMMA

Please explain.

DUNCAN

My whole life, I could not get into olives. People would force them down my throat, I'd find them disgusting, and then they'd treat me like a lower class human.

LESLEY

Rightfully so. Olives are -

DUNCAN

I get it. You all love olives. And I'm here to tell you that now, I think I do too. I was once again strong-armed into trying one, and for some reason, it was entirely delicious. All these thoughts went through me, and I accepted my ignorance in all of my younger years.

EMMA

There's so much more we can let you in on. I can't believe it took you so long.

DUNCAN

I don't even know what changed in me, but I now see my future of devouring olives and blue cheese while laughing over chardonnays from Châteauneuf-du-Pape during intermission at the opera. I might be, dare I say, a fancy man.

DEVON

For months, I was full-on addicted to olives but I knew I had to stop.

NICK
Yeah, we had to wean her off.

VINCE
(returning from bathroom)
I've never lost a wiener off. Here,
I wasn't going to say anything -
actually, I probably was. Anyway,
so you guys know about ghost poos,
right?

EMMA
Ghosts don't poo.

LESLEY
Wait - in what context?

VINCE
Like when you have a perfect pinch
so you don't even need toilet
paper.

LESLEY
There's still a courtesy wipe, I
hope.

VINCE
Sure.

LESLEY
Okay?

VINCE
Well I just had one of those, but
at the same time as a phantom poo.

EMMA
A phantom poo? What the? Where are
you getting all these spirit shit
terms?

VINCE
That's where you look in the toilet
after you're done, but there's just
nothing there.

EMMA
Jesus.

NICK
So it's entirely possible you did
not actually poop?

VINCE

Exactly. Like my body feels like it did, including while it was happening, but there's no evidence one way or the other.

LESLEY

Who gives a shit?

VINCE

I don't know what to believe anymore. These truly are unprecedented times.