

Ulysses S. Grant: Middle Name Ulysses

By

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COLD OPEN

INT - FATHER MURPHY'S IRISH PUB

A not-particularly Irish pub.

EVAN MULLINIX sits alone in a corner booth reading a prominently displayed book - D.H. Lawrence, or one of the lesser Brontës. Despite a corduroy blazer and an attempt at a beard, he looks very young for 32.

A young WAITRESS cheerfully interrupts his reading.

WAITRESS

Have we decided yet?

EVAN

No, we haven't.

When he senses that the waitress is still waiting, he puts down his book, picks up the menu and tries again, this time more politely.

EVAN (CONT.)

Do you have a preference between, say... the Ice House IPA and the...St. Jerome's Ale?

WAITRESS

Like personally? I don't drink either of those. But they're both supposed to be good.

EVAN

How about the...Shaggy Dog Stout?

He finds it distasteful to have to say these names aloud.

WAITRESS

I mean, it's different. But also good. Do you like Live Oak Lager?

EVAN

Never tried it.

WAITRESS

Oh. Because I was gonna say, if you like the Live Oak, then you'd probably also like this beer called Mockingbird Pils.

EVAN
More than the other ones?

WAITRESS
Not necessarily.

Evan looks to the menu for help.

WAITRESS (CONT.)
Some people also like the Kerrville
Hefeweizen. It's German.

EVAN
Are all you beers equally good?

WAITRESS
That depends on what you're looking
for.

EVAN
What's your worst beer?

WAITRESS
(thinking)
We have a couple.

EVAN
Surprise me.

Evan hands the waitress his menu, but it's intercepted by a
MITCHELL SATZBURG, 33 years old and pounds overweight.

SATZ
Just in time.

He gives the menu a perfunctory glance and decides he
doesn't need it.

SATZ (CONT.)
We're gonna do an order of rings,
order of wings - extra hot, and
another one medium. Then we'll need
some BBQ 'dillas, some bleu cheese
poppers and -
(to Evan)
if I ordered a plate of egg rolls,
would you jump in on it?

He doesn't wait for a response.

SATZ (CONT.)
No, you're right. We'll take two
egg roll plates. Also, a glass of
water. With lemon please.

Satz happily takes off his suit jacket while the waitress finishes taking down the order.

WAITRESS
Will that be all?

SATZ
(re. Evan)
What type of beer did he order?

WAITRESS
It's supposed to be a surprise?

SATZ
Forget that. We'll have two
pitchers of the Midland Stout.

WAITRESS
That's a good choice.

She leaves. Satz flops into the booth.

EVAN
Why'd you order all that?

SATZ
Because it'll be free when we win
first place.

EVAN
If we win. Without Greg.

SATZ
We still have Alex.

Evan scoffs.

SATZ (CONT.)
And he's bringing a friend. Plus
Philip, maybe.

EVAN
Definitely.

Evan gestures towards a man approaching the table. PHILIP CATTON is possibly 35 years old and looks not unlike David Koresh.

PHILIP
(harried)
Sorry I'm late. I was on my way
here when I realized I was out of
glue, so I had to go to the glue
(MORE)

PHILIP (cont'd)
store, but it turns out they don't
even sell glue...

SATZ
What'd you need glue for?

PHILIP
At the moment? Nothing. Which is
lucky, because like I said, I'm out
of glue.

SATZ
Well, you haven't missed much here.
We just ordered food.

Philip's mood lifts.

PHILIP
Did you get that one thing I like?

EVAN
Probably. Satz got two of
everything.

PHILIP
You know what I mean?

SATZ
Probably not.

PHILIP
It's a kind of fried potato dish?
Not chips. But also not pizza.

SATZ
You mean fries?

PHILIP
Yes! I'm gonna go order me one of
those.

He goes. Evan and Satz are left alone and more than a little
confused. But a moment later Philip comes back.

PHILIP
Fries? Am I saying that right? With
a "p-h"?

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

HOST'S TABLE - FIVE MINUTES LATER

The trivia HOST sits across the bar room behind a folding table. He registers less as collection of identifying physical traits - scruff, t-shirt, glasses - than as a person who, with no provocation, might ask you to come see his improv comedy troupe perform.

He leans into the PA microphone and mimes ringing a crystal glass.

HOST
Ding, ding, ding.

CORNER BOOTH - SIMULTANEOUS

EVAN
Where is everyone?

HOST'S TABLE

HOST
Cell phone's away, thinking hats on.

He puts on a large imaginary hat.

HOST (CONT.)
Question number one: who were the five tallest presidents in US history?

CORNER BOOTH

After a final look to the door, Evan and Satz begin to deliberate.

SATZ
Everyone knows Lincoln was the tallest, so there's one.

EVAN
Lincoln was *tied* for the tallest with LBJ.

SATZ
Ok. Lincoln, Johnson, then who?

EVAN
It's Lincoln-and-Johnson, and then
someone else.

SATZ
Right.

EVAN
They're tied.

SATZ
You said that.

EVAN
I'm not the only one to say that.
It's a fact. They were equally
tall.

SATZ
I know.

EVAN
Because you said Lincoln, then you
said Johnson. But it's
Lincoln-and-Johnson.
(off Satz' stare)
They're tied.

SATZ
What's your point, Evan?

EVAN
That Abraham Lincoln and Lyndon
Johnson were the same height.

SATZ
They're both in the top five. It
doesn't matter who's taller.

EVAN
Neither is taller.

HOST (O.S)
About two minutes remaining.

EVAN
Washington was tall.

Satz nods and writes down "Washington."

They think more.

SATZ
How tall was Chester Arthur?

EVAN
I have no idea.

SATZ
Neither do I, actually.
(pause)
What about Franklin Pierce?

EVAN
Let's focus on the presidents who
we've actually seen.

SATZ
I thought I saw Bill Clinton once.

EVAN
We've been over this. Why would an
ex-president be working the cash
register at a Bath and Body Works?

SATZ
I don't know. But whoever it was
was pretty tall. I'm putting him
down.

EVAN
Fine. Was Reagan tall?

SATZ
We were like a month old when he
was elected. Everyone seemed tall.

Evan and Satz have fallen into silence again when they're
joined by ALEX PRICE, probably the handsomest team member.

ALEX
Sorry, band practice ran late -

SATZ
- Quick, tallest presidents.

ALEX
Ok...well Lincoln, obviously.

EVAN
And LBJ.

ALEX
(skeptical)
Yeah, I guess.

(to a man behind him)
What do you think?

BRIAN SIRICA, is in his late twenties and speaks quietly.

BRIAN
FDR was surprisingly tall.

SATZ
(to Alex)
Who's that?

EVAN
New Deal, Yalta...

ALEX
This is the friend I said I was
bringing.

HOST (O.S.)
One minute.

SATZ
Are you some kind of Roosevelt
expert?

EVAN
...Social Security, FDIC...

SATZ
Not you. Him. Whatshisname.

BRIAN
Brian.

SATZ
(all business)
Great to meet you. Now are you
confident in this answer?

EVAN
...nothing to fear but fear
itself...

SATZ
Evan, we know *who* FDR is, we just
need to figure out how tall he was.

HOST (O.S.)
Thirty seconds.

BRIAN
He was six-one.

SATZ
In the chair?

BRIAN
Standing.

Satz gets up to turn in the answer sheet.

SATZ
New guy's good.

CORNER BOOTH - MOMENTS LATER

While Satz is still gone, Philip returns to the booth with another person and starts to make introductions:

PHILIP
Evan. Alex. Dude I don't know. I'd like you all to meet my friend, my optometrist, and our newest team member; Dr. Donald Ferro, MD.

DR. FERRO is a stout, half-bald man in his early sixties.

DR. FERRO
Please, just call me Dr. Ferro.

EVAN
Optometrists have MDs?

PHILIP
(ignores question)
Dr. Ferro's probably the best trivia player I know. Tell them that one thing you told me earlier.

DR. FERRO
The lateral rectus is the largest muscle in the human eye.

PHILIP
No, the other one.

DR. FERRO
A high proportion of army snipers are colorblind.

PHILIP
This guy knows something about
everything.

ALEX
(skeptical)
Really?

DR. FERRO
It's true. Their eyes aren't
distracted by camouflage.

ALEX
No, I meant - well that's pretty
cool - but I meant, what trivia
category do you know best?

DR. FERRO
Optometry.

ALEX
Second best.

DR. FERRO
Hmmm. I'd say that's a tie between
general knowledge and...is there
a riflery category?

EVAN
There's sports?

Not quite what Dr. Ferro hoped for. He thinks some more.

DR. FERRO
I've also done a lot of research
into the Kennedy "assassination."

ALEX
So...history?

CORNER BOOTH - TEN MINUTES LATER

The food has arrived but the second round still hasn't
started. Everyone's seated at the booth, except for Brian
and Dr. Ferro, who're seen at the bar ordering drinks (beer
and a Mai-Tai, respectively).

Intercut between separate conversations happening on each
side of the booth.

SATZ

Do you spend a lot of time with
your optometrist?

PHILIP

To be honest I feel like we've
fallen out of touch. Why? How often
do you hang out with your eye
doctor?

SATZ

Mostly when I get my eyes checked.

CUT TO OTHER SIDE OF BOOTH:

EVAN

You know Brian from the restaurant?

ALEX

Yep.

EVAN

So he works with you?

ALEX

(this is obvious)
That's right.

EVAN

Like, as a waiter?

ALEX

There it is. I knew it was coming.

EVAN

Or server? What's the preferred
term here?

BACK TO:

PHILIP

I have perfect vision, so Dr. Ferro
and I really only get together when
we play squash.

SATZ

Then he's more like your squash
partner who happens to be an
optometrist.

PHILIP

No, my squash partner is Herb
Katzenbaum. We play doubles against

(MORE)

PHILIP (cont'd)
Dr. Ferro and his partner. You've
met Limo Darryl.

SATZ
Who?

BACK TO:

ALEX
You don't think a waiter's smart
enough to play on your trivia team.

EVAN
No I don't. I mean, I *do*. You're a
waiter and we let you play.

ALEX
Let me play?

BACK TO:

PHILIP
He came to my Mother's Day cookout.

SATZ
Which one was he?

PHILIP
Kind of a big guy. Chestnut hair.
Drives a limo?

BACK TO

EVAN
All I'm saying is we don't care
that you're no good at trivia.

ALEX
Or that I'm a waiter.

EVAN
That's right. Because friends don't
judge.

ALEX
Well as your friend, know that I
don't judge you for being a 32 year
old student who's never had a real
job.

EVAN
That's not true.

ALEX
Fine. I do judge you.

EVAN
I've had a job. The coffee shop?

ALEX
That was ten years ago.

EVAN
Nine years.

ALEX
You worked there for a week.

EVAN
That place was a sweat shop. I had
no choice but to resign.

ALEX
Baristas quit, they don't resign.

EVAN
Same thing.

ALEX
To resign you have to make more
than minimum wage.

Satz reaches across the table for the last onion ring. He
interrupts.

SATZ
Should we get more rings?

EVAN
(ignores Satz)
Anyone can resign.

ALEX
When a politician is caught having
sex with his kid's nanny, he
resigns. The nanny quits.

SATZ
(mouth full)
Or gets fired.

PHILIP
 (joining)
 Who got fired?

EVAN
 You guys don't know what you're
 talking about. I tendered a letter.
 It was all very official.

ALEX
 Maybe. But you're still the nanny.

PHILIP
 Nanny? I thought you were still at
 the coffee shop.

EVAN
 (fatigued)
 I quit.

ARCADE GAME - BACK OF BAR - SIMULTANEOUS

His hands occupied by a game of Space Invaders, Dr. Ferro
 sips on his tropical drink through an elaborate straw.

CORNER BOOTH - FIVE MINUTES LATER

Brian's back. Evan reads from his cell phone. Philip appears
 to be sleeping.

EVAN
 Wikipedia said Lincoln, Johnson,
Jefferson, Clinton and FDR.

SATZ
 Nice. Now we just have to wait
 another hour for the next question.

BRIAN
 What's the holdup?

EVAN
 The host - the man presiding over
 this contest of knowledge and
 intellect - is an absolute moron.

ALEX
 (more forgiving)
 It takes a while for the him to
 record all the team names.

SATZ

But it's the same teams every week,
he should know their names. Has
Cheers taught us nothing?

EVAN

We should go somewhere else.

ALEX

I don't know. A hundred dollar bar
tab for first place, that's reason
to stay.

EVAN

Listen to us make excuse. We'll
never leave. We've got battered
trivia team syndrome.

HOST'S TABLE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Having already listed the correct answers, we pick up as the
host is announcing each team's score. He sells each line
more than necessary.

HOST

With one point, we've got *Otrivia*
Newton John. Also at one, *Know*
Fact Chicks.

CORNER BOOTH - SIMULTANEOUS

The group's conversation is separate from the announcements
of the host, who's heard off-screen or shown in quick shots.

EVAN

(groaning at team names)
Why do we still come here?

HOST

We're with Stupid, you've got two
points.

SATZ

It's either this or staying home
and watching *The Bachelorette* with
my wife.

ALEX

You love that show, Satz.

HOST
Nephrologists with Attitude, three points.

SATZ
Yeah, but I get stressed out by the rose ceremonies.

HOST
Quiz Que C'est, with *trois*, uh...
(not knowing the French)
...points. Three points. And then the A-Team, four points.

EVAN
Every week. We're not *the* A-Team. We're a team, like a team without a name.

HOST
And with a perfect score of five points, Kateam Abdul Jabar.

ALEX
Who?

SATZ
Must be new.

BRIAN
Maybe they changed their name from the Lew Alcindorks.

EVAN
(impressed)
You know sports? We need a sports guy.

HOST
Alright, question two. Geography. By population, what are the ten largest cities south of the equator?

Philip rouses suddenly from his nap.

PHILIP
Gimme. I got this one.

He takes the answer sheet from Satz and scribbles furiously. No one talks. Philip leaves to turn in the answer sheet, and the conversation resumes.

ALEX
(nonchalant)
Greg was our main sports guy.

BRIAN
Wait. What just happened?

ALEX
Oh. Philip knew the answer. He's never wrong.

BRIAN
Is he some kind of a genius or something?

ALEX
Or something. Have you ever seen *Good Will Hunting*?

BRIAN
Yeah.

ALEX
Well Philip hasn't. But one time, for a bonus round, he answered exactly how much it made at the box office.

SATZ
Foreign and domestic. He got both.

ALEX
Philip knows when handball became an Olympic sport.

EVAN
1936. Apparently.

ALEX
He knows that National Soup Month is January.

SATZ
And that the second largest city in Lithuania is...I don't remember. Some city in Lithuania.

EVAN
Keep in mind, we're talking about the same guy who once asked me if hot tubs could ever run out of bubbles.

ALEX

Who claims to have never heard of Hillary Clinton.

SATZ

The crazy thing is I believe him.

BRIAN

So he's an idiot savant?

EVAN

Not exactly. He's just...Philip.

Brian looks to the back of the bar, where Philip has joined Dr. Ferro at the arcade game.

Philip bobs and weaves as he watches the onscreen action.

BRIAN

How'd you meet him?

ALEX

Through this. Trivia. Greg just brought him along one night. Said he was our newest team member, and that was that.

BRIAN

This is sports guy Greg?

EVAN

He was our sports guy. And my best friend.

ALEX

You make it sound like he died, not moved to Dallas. And he was my best friend too.

EVAN

But I knew him first.

ALEX

You were randomly assigned to the same room freshman year. We actually chose to be friends.

SATZ

(diplomatic)

This isn't a contest. *But* if it were - which, again, you guys are children and it's not - I would point out that Greg was the best

(MORE)

SATZ (cont'd)
man at my wedding, so by definition
we're best friends.

ALEX
That would only matter if *he* chose
you to be the best man at his
wedding.

No one seems to notice Brian slip out of the booth.

SATZ
Except for Greg's never been
married, so, shows how well you
know him.

ALEX
Why are we fighting about this?

EVAN
We're not fighting. And you started
it.

CUT TO:

BAR BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Brian enters the empty bathroom, looking grateful to be
alone for a second. He walks to the urinal. Philip enters.

PHILIP
Mind if I pee with you?

CORNER BOOTH - SIMULTANEOUS

The host finishes listing the answers from round two.

HOST (OS)
...then Buenos Aires and, finally,
Nairobi.

A small celebration from Evan, Satz and Alex.

ALEX
Ten for ten! I don't know how he
does it.

SATZ
(astounded)
Lima? Durban?! He's a goddamn sage.

BAR BATHROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

Philip and Brian stand at adjacent urinals. They're silent in the way two people peeing in close proximity often are. After a moment, Philip attempts small talk.

PHILIP

So, any siblings?

CORNER BOOTH - MOMENTS LATER

The host wraps up the score update.

HOST

Victorious Secret, coming on strong with 12 points. The A-Team, 14 points.

Dr. Ferro approaches the table.

DR. FERRO

We won the bar tab?

HOST (OS)

But Kateam Abdul Jabar, holding on to first with a perfect 15.

Alex, Satz and Evan are surprised to hear they're behind.

ALEX

(to Dr. Ferro)

The game's not over yet. And we're losing.

DR. FERRO

Oh. Then could one of you lend me a tenner? I need another drink, but that Japanese video game ate all my quarters.

(off their stares)

You know five might be enough if I don't leave a tip.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

CORNER BOOTH - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Now everyone's back and crowded into the booth. Dr. Ferro sips on a fresh drink.

HOST

Round three is the picture ID round. You should have a handout with pictures of nine people. I'll give you a point for each person you correctly identify, and three bonus points if you tell me what they all have in common.

The group studies the pictures, which remain unseen by us for now.

ALEX

Ok, in this top row here it looks like we've got Pablo Picasso, Billy Idol, and maybe David Souter?

EVAN

That's William Rhenquist.

ALEX

Which one?

EVAN

The one who's not Michel Foucault or Sting.

ALEX

(squinting at sheet)

I missed all three? I can't tell any of these people apart.

DR. FERRO

Do you wear corrective lenses?

ALEX

(annoyed)

No.

DR. FERRO

I want you cover your left eye, and tell me if that's better or worse.

BRIAN

(ignoring Dr. Ferro)

Should we put Sting's real name? Does anyone know Sting's real name?

DR. FERRO
It could be astigmatism.

ALEX
My eyes are fine, ok?

SATZ
(pointing at sheet)
If we put Sting's real name then we
should do the same for Weird Al
here.

ALEX
Albert Yankovic?

SATZ
That sounds weird. Not, Weird Al
weird. Wrong weird.

DR. FERRO
Pretty ethnic.

They let this pass.

EVAN
(re. another picture)
Isn't this the dad from *Everybody
Loves Raymond*?

SATZ
It is. I want to say his name is
Jim, or James. Or Ted...something.

ALEX
That's an obscure person to choose.

SATZ
He's a lot less popular than his
son.

BRIAN
(pointing to another picture)
This guy looks likes Yo-Yo Ma.

PHILIP
Come on. Not all Asian people look
the same.

BRIAN
He's got a cello.

SATZ
 (thinking out loud)
 Is his name Eric Berman?

BRIAN
 I'm pretty sure it's Yo-Yo Ma.

SATZ
 Raymond's dad?

They stare at each other, not sure which picture is being discussed. Philip tries to help:

PHILIP
 He could be adopted.

ALEX
 Lennox Lewis!

This silences the group.

ALEX (CONT.)
 (pointing at sheet)
 This guy. It's Lennox Lewis.

EVAN
 You mean Evander Holyfield?

ALEX
 Son of a...Is it racist that I just mixed them up?

EVAN
 Sort of. But you can redeem yourself by figuring out who this other black guy is here,
 (points to a picture)
 in the suit.

BRIAN
 He looks familiar.

PHILIP
 Because all black people look the same to you too?

BRIAN
 I'm not racist.

EVAN
 For the time being let's assume that none of us are -

DR. FERRO
Well actually -

EVAN
- and with that in mind, let's not judge each other as we throw out ideas about who this very distinguished looking *African-American* man might be. I'm thinking he's probably a retired athlete.

ALEX
And *I'm* the racist one?

PHILIP
(re. Brian)
No, he is.

BRIAN
I'm not!

HOST (O.S)
One minute remaining.

EVAN
We don't have time to get sanctimonious. You have to admit, the mustache is kind of Reggie Jackson-ish, or maybe Walt Frazier.

ALEX
Walt Frazier played basketball. This guy's not even tall.

EVAN
First off, he's sitting down so it's impossible to tell.

BRIAN
The FDR principle.

EVAN
Exactly. And second, it could also be Dave Winfield.

SATZ
I don't *think* it's Brad Garret.

ALEX
(confused)
Brad Garret's an actor. Who's white.

SATZ
Yeah. From *Raymond*.

ALEX
(understanding)
He played the brother, this guy's son.

Satz studies the picture.

SATZ
You know, I could see that. They've got the same eyes.

HOST (OS)
Start bringing up your answer sheets.

BRIAN
It could be anyone. Frazier, Winfield, Reggie Jackson, Eddie Murray...

Evan scribbles down an answer and gets up.

EVAN
What's the difference?
(then, rather awkwardly)
I mean, what's the difference because we're out of time. Not what's the difference black people are all the same.

He turns to leave.

BRIAN
Wait, the bonus. What do they all have in common?

EVAN
(grandiloquent)
We all have so much in common, regardless of race.

ALEX
What are you talking about?

SATZ
Some of those people looked pretty old. Is it possible - and hear me out on this - that they all died today and we haven't heard yet?

PHILIP
 (worried)
 Weird Al died?

HOST (OS)
 Come on A-Team. I pity the fool who
 don't turn in their answers.

The host's Mr. T impression is by far the most racist thing that's been said or done by anyone tonight.

EVAN
 Damn it.

He goes to turn in the sheet. Satz has taken out his phone and after a moment reads from it.

SATZ
 According to Wikipedia, Alfred
 Matthew Yankovic is...it's
 loading...loading...not dead.

HOST'S TABLE - TEN MINUTES LATER

Another answer recap is underway. As each person's name is listed, their picture is displayed on a TV screen.

HOST
 Next is Gordon Summer - aka Sting -
 then Weird Al Yankovic, and Peter
 Boyle, from *Everybody Loves
 Raymond*.

CORNER BOOTH - SIMULTANEOUS

SATZ
 Apparently *he* did die.

HOST (OS)
 Then we have Evander Holyfield.

SATZ
 Raymond's dad. Weird Al's still
 alive. As of a few minutes ago.

HOST
 And last but not least is Neil
 deGrasse Tyson, the astrophysicist.

The host brings up a picture of a middle aged black man. He has a mustache and wears a suit. It's Neil deGrasse Tyson, the astrophysicist.

EVAN

He's an *astrophysicist*? That's a trick question.

ALEX

Are you saying a black man can't be a scientist?

EVAN

I didn't say - that's not what...Listen, I know plenty of African-American scientists.

ALEX

You do?

EVAN

George Washington Carver.
(blinking)
Eddie Murphy, in *The Nutty Professor*.

ALEX / SATZ

Doesn't count. / Great movie.

EVAN

Doctor...Dre?
(winces)
It's not a racist thing. Honest. I don't know what any astrophysicist looks like. I mean there's Stephen Hawking, but you gotta assume he's an outlier, with the whole chair situation.

ALEX

Chair situation?

EVAN

Is that not the preferred term?

BAR - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Evan stands at the bar by himself and rubs his eyes.

WAITRESS

You look like you could use a drink.

Evan stops rubbing his eyes and sees that it's the waitress from earlier.

WAITRESS (CONT.)
Need help deciding?

EVAN
Do you have anything that'll wash
the taste of foot out of my mouth?

WAITRESS
(confused)
Maybe like an IPA?

EVAN
Sure.

WAITRESS
We have seven on tap.

Evan looks very alone at this moment.

CORNER BOOTH - SIMULTANEOUS

ALEX
It was a stupid bonus anyway. How
would anyone know they were all
born in the same month?

SATZ
Kateam Abdul Jabar knew.

ALEX
They got lucky.

CUT TO:

Brian, Philip and Dr. Ferro's talk on the other side of the
booth.

DR. FERRO
It's a common misconception that
Stephen Hawking has Lou
Gehrig's disease.

BRIAN
It is?

DR. FERRO
Think about it. How could he have a
disease named after a baseball
player, when they only play cricket
in England?

BRIAN
Don't they play soccer too?

DR. FERRO
No. They call that football.

PHILIP
So soccer is football, baseball is cricket, and Lou Gehrig's disease is...?

DR. FERRO
Stephen Hawking's disease.

CUT TO:

Satz and Alex continue their conversation.

ALEX
We could still come in second, right? Ten dollars off the bill is better than nothing.

SATZ
That's not even enough to cover the egg rolls we ordered.

ALEX
Which *you* ordered.

SATZ
Which I ordered *because* I knew we were going to win.

ALEX
Which we're not going to do.

SATZ
Well not with that attitude. Alex, don't you know that trivia is ninety percent mental?

ALEX
Trivia's all mental.

SATZ
Just trust me, ok? I've got a plan.

SMASH CUT TO:

CORNER BOOTH

The waitress sets down a steaming plate of egg rolls.

ALEX

How is eating more egg rolls a plan?

SATZ

(this is obvious)

Psychological warfare. When the other teams sees us order more food, *they'll know that we know* that we're gonna win the hundred dollar gift card.

He points to his head, egg roll in hand.

SATZ (CONT.)

We're in their heads now.

BRIAN

But why do they serve egg rolls at an Irish pub?

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

HOST'S TABLE

A loud swell of music comes from the front of the bar-Strauss' "Thus Spake Zarathustra," or something else bombastic and in the public domain.

HOST

It all comes down to this. The final round. Make or break, do or die, winner takes all. Before we begin though, I'd like to invite everyone to open mic Thursdays, hosted by yours truly, nine to eleven, beginners welcome.

(dramatic pause)

The category is celebrity divorce.

On the projection screen, a list of names comes up; Lisa Marie Presley, Pamela Anderson, Kim Kardashian, Marilyn Monroe, Britney Spears, Liza Minelli, Angeline Jolie, Elizabeth Taylor

HOST (CONT.)

For each of these divorcees, name
the husband she was married to for
the shortest period of time.

CORNER BOOTH - SIMULTANEOUS

Evan rushes back to the table from the bar, beerless.

EVAN

This is perfect, Satz! You know
more worthless celebrity trivia
than anyone.

SATZ

I wouldn't say worthless. Trivial,
yes, by definition, that's what the
game is. But no more *worthless* than
stupid sports facts, like
(top of his head)
how many home-runs someone made in
a baseball match.

ALEX

Baseball match?

PHILIP

(helpful)

It's what Americans call a game of
cricket.

EVAN

What is he talking about? Never
mind. Satz, this is all you. Step
up to the plate.

SATZ

(determined)

Time to make a home run.

BRIAN

Well, *hit* a home run.

SATZ

What'd I say?

BRIAN

Doesn't matter.

Satz turns to the projection screen and studies the list of
names for several seconds.

EVAN

What's wrong? Do you know the answers or not?

SATZ

Of course I know the answers. But I left my glasses in the car and can't really see what I'm supposed to be answering.

DR. FERRO

Typical.

BRIAN

(reading from screen)

First celeb is Kim Kardashian.

SATZ

No really, who's up there?

BRIAN

Kim Kardashian.

Satz looks disappointed.

SATZ

That's the best he can come up with? Well if that's how it's gonna be... Kris Humphries.

PHILIP

Next is Carmen Electra.

SATZ

Bush league. No respect for the game.

(heavy sigh)

Dennis Rodman.

BRIAN

Marilyn Monroe.

SATZ

Joe Dimaggio. See, I know sports.

ALEX

Julia Roberts.

SATZ

Lyle Lovett. Now let me guess; they probably ask about Liza, Liz and Lisa Marie?

BRIAN

Liz?

SATZ

Taylor, as in the most obvious
celebrity divorcee in trivia
history. Put down Conrad Hilton for
her, David Gest for Liza Minelli
and Nic Cage not Michael Jackson
for Lisa Marie Presley.

Philip reads the next name from the screen.

PHILIP

Angelina Jolie?
(for purposes of comedy,
pronounced An-jell-ina Jolly)

SATZ

Johnny Lee Miller are we done yet?

BRIAN

Few more. Pamela Anderson.

SATZ

Ok, *most* people would say Kid Rock,
but they're ignorant, because she
was married for an even shorter
period of time to that guy from the
sex tape.

ALEX

Tommy Lee.

SATZ

No, not *her* sex tape. I'm talking
about guy from the Paris Hilton sex
tape.

This catches Dr. Ferro's attention.

DR. FERRO

Rick Saloman.

SATZ

Correct. And a little weird that
you know that.

BRIAN

Last one. Britney Spears.

ALEX
Kevin Federline, right?

A smile comes across Satz's face as he looks to the host.

SATZ
That sly son of a bitch. Maybe I
didn't give him enough credit.

ALEX
Kevin Federline?

Satz turns his attention back to the table and launches into
a lawerly monologue.

SATZ
Britney Spears has only divorced
once - from, yes, Kevin Earl
Federline in November of 2006. But
her earlier marriage to Jason Allen
Alexander was *annulled* after a
single day.

ALEX
So...I'm wrong again?

EVAN
Despite your best efforts, I think
not. The category is celebrity
divorce.

SATZ
Annulments don't count. That's
tricky. So devious, yet so elegant.
Like a Bond villain.

PHILIP
Or a monkey, in a tuxedo.

SATZ
The perfect trivia question.

SMASH CUT TO:

HOST TABLE - MINUTES LATER

A team of attractive young guys and girls - Kateam Abdul
Jabar - accept a \$100 gift certificate from the host.

SATZ (OS)
What a terrible question.

CORNER BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

SATZ (CONT.)

Divorce and annulment are *completely* different. I'm not even Catholic and I know that.

ALEX

It doesn't matter, we would've lost anyway.

SATZ

The truth doesn't matter? Alex, we're the victims of a blatant act of historical revisionism.

ALEX

It's Britney Spears, not Holocaust denial.

SATZ

Slippery slope, man.

CUT TO:

On the other side of the booth, Evan and Brian read over the bill.

BRIAN

Here's five dollars for my beer.

EVAN

Keep it. You can buy a round next time.

BRIAN

Next time?

EVAN

You're coming back aren't you?

CUT TO:

Philip and Dr. Ferro talking in the middle of the booth.

DR. FERRO

If Herb's out of town, we can always play singles.

PHILIP

What about Darryl?

DR. FERRO
Limo D's busy. Prom season.

CUT TO:

SATZ
Federline is a *German* name. Connect
the dots.

Brian leans across the table with the check and asks:

BRIAN
Did anyone order something called
an Irish Mai-Tai? Four times?

A moment passes as no one takes credit. The team members
look at Dr. Ferro. Dr. Ferro sips his Irish Mai-Tai.

DR. FERRO
That *might* be me.

ALEX
Throw in your card.

DR. FERRO
I'm cash only.

ALEX
Then can you put in thirty?

DR. FERRO
Dollars?

PHILIP
(puts in money)
He can pay me back next time.

ALEX
Next time?

PHILIP
Yeah. We're all coming back, right?

DR. FERRO
Of course we are. We're the A-Team!

EVAN
We're a team.
(it's hopeless)
Never mind.

DR. FERRO
You guys are my best friends.

END OF SHOW