

AT Banter Podcast Episode 315 - A Very Truffle Christmas

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SPEAKERS

Steve Barclay, Melissa Hope, Keisha Anderson, Chad Bouton, Lis Malone, Rob Mineault, Shawn Marsolais, Ryan Fleury

R Rob Mineault 00:07
Hey and welcome to another episode of AT Banter.

S Steve Barclay 00:13
Banter, banter, banter, banter

R Rob Mineault 00:18
Hey, this is of course the podcast where we usually talk with advocates and members of the disability community to educate and inspire better conversation about disability. However, we're going to do something a little special for you today. And my colleague, Mr. Ryan Fleury is going to tell us why and what we're doing today.

R Ryan Fleury 00:39
Well, it is that time of year that we pull out our annual Holiday / Christmas episode. And so we've gathered a few friends to join us in the frivolity and train wreck that will be AT Banter this year. And so to welcome our guests first we are welcoming back friend of the show, Shawn Marsolais, from Blind Beginnings and the Limitless Podcast. Welcome, Shawn.

S Shawn Marsolais 01:05
Thank you.

R Ryan Fleury 01:08
We also welcoming back to the show, Chad Bouton from the podcast Hindsight Is 20/200
Welcome, Chad.

C Chad Bouton 01:21
It's so so good to be back. Thank you guys for inviting me. I hope everybody has been well,
thank you again for letting me be on.

R Ryan Fleury 01:29
Absolutely. Woot woot. And also other friend of the show, longtime friend of the show, Melissa
Hope from Descriptive Video Works is returning. Welcome Melissa.

M Melissa Hope 01:42
Thank you very much. Good to be here.

R Ryan Fleury 01:58
And last but certainly not least, first timer on AT Banter, also from Blind Beginnings and co-host
of the Limitless Podcast, Keisha Anderson. Welcome Keisha.

K Keisha Anderson 02:08
Hello.

S Shawn Marsolais 02:13
Is it her first time though? Didn't she have the animals in the background? The sheep?

R Rob Mineault 02:19
Yes, she was she was part of the episode where we talked with the whole Limitless crew.

K Keisha Anderson 02:27
My family's sheep made an appearance in the background.



Chad Bouton 02:31

This sounds like an awesome episode.



Rob Mineault 02:33

Yeah. Definitely. Yeah, we've been trying to get the sheep back on.



Steve Barclay 02:42

When it comes to verbal input that baaaa was probably the smartest thing said here. Probably.



Rob Mineault 02:48

I've already screwed this up set up because I've already realized that we actually didn't introduce the rest of my other colleagues for the show. Of course Steve is here. Oops. And Lis is here.



Steve Barclay 03:01

Woot woot



Lis Malone 03:18

Not all woots are created equal.



Rob Mineault 03:30

All right. Well, listen, is everybody in a festive mood?



Shawn Marsolais 03:34

Absolutely.



Keisha Anderson 03:35

Yeah.



Chad Bouton 03:36

— Yes, indeed.

S Steve Barclay 03:38
Hear the woots.

S Shawn Marsolais 03:44
Oh, someone snorted. That was cute.

K Keisha Anderson 03:46
That was a Rob snort.

R Rob Mineault 03:50
Immediately followed by a drink. So I should we should warn the audience here that we may have some festive beverages. Some of us actually, let's go around the room. Chad, what are you drinking?

C Chad Bouton 04:06
So it's, it's a little bit later over here and my part of the world so I decided to keep me awake. I'd have an Irish Coffee. So I have some coffee. And I went with some Buffalo Trace, which is a go to for me when it comes to my whiskey.

L Lis Malone 04:25
Oh, I'm a huge fan of their bourbon cream by the way.

C Chad Bouton 04:29
I love anything they make.

R Rob Mineault 04:34
Chad, Have you ever heard of Frugal McDougal?

C Chad Bouton 04:40
I have

I have.

- L** Lis Malone 04:42
This is my Christmas gift. We're just gonna start like naming all the brands tonight.
- R** Rob Mineault 04:49
Shawn, what are you drinking?
- S** Shawn Marsolais 04:52
Well, you know it was in a hurry. So it's a winter ale. I feel like it's not fancy enough for this podcast.
- R** Rob Mineault 05:00
Well, don't worry ..
- K** Keisha Anderson 05:02
Wait till you hear what I got.
- L** Lis Malone 05:05
Shawn who is the purveyor of your fine winter ale?
- S** Shawn Marsolais 05:10
I don't know. It just came in a can. I can't read it. Sorry, I'll get have to get back to you on that. We can put it in the show notes or something, right.
- R** Rob Mineault 05:24
Lis is always angling for sponsorship. Melissa, how about you?
- M** Melissa Hope 05:28
All Vancouver tapwater.

R Rob Mineault 05:32
That's the best.

M Melissa Hope 05:33
Sorry, I'm being all grown up.

R Rob Mineault 05:35
No, it's okay.

S Shawn Marsolais 05:36
You the gotta be responsible one

S Steve Barclay 05:39
You need to drink so much of that stuff to get messed up.

R Rob Mineault 05:39
We need a designated driver of this podcast. Steve, how about you? Margarita on the rocks.

K Keisha Anderson 05:57
Wow. You took some time out of your night for this.

S Steve Barclay 06:00
I didn't blend it. It's just on ice.

R Rob Mineault 06:06
Ryan?

R Ryan Fleury 06:07
I'm doing a Roman eggnog and the rum is from a distillery in Nova Scotia.

M Melissa Hope 06:12
So which eggnog?

R Ryan Fleury 06:15
Probably Lucerne.

C Chad Bouton 06:19
Good old old spiked eggnog.

R Rob Mineault 06:21
Yes, indeed. Okay, now get ready. Get ready for the champion. Lis. What are you drinking?

L Lis Malone 06:33
This is I think my second glass of white made by Wente Vintners in California.

S Shawn Marsolais 06:41
Lovely, lovely.

R Rob Mineault 06:43
Refined. Okay. Keisha?

K Keisha Anderson 06:48
I'm drinking a Nutrl, which is good.

S Steve Barclay 06:52
What's a Nutrl?

S Shawn Marsolais 06:54
A healthy option.

K Keisha Anderson 06:56
They are a bit boring it's just like a it's like a vodka soda drink that comes with no sugar.

R Rob Mineault 07:04
Yeah, it's kind of no sugar in it. So it doesn't give you that sugar hangover.

L Lis Malone 07:11
Hard Seltzer?

R Rob Mineault 07:12
Yeah, that's right. Yeah, interesting. I am drinking a some tequila with a splash of ginger ale.

L Lis Malone 07:25
Is that Tarantula?

R Rob Mineault 07:27
No, it's not Tarantula, unfortunately.

S Shawn Marsolais 07:30
I have a question for Ryan. Have you ever tried eggnog with fireball?

R Ryan Fleury 07:35
No

S Shawn Marsolais 07:36
it's fantastic. It's so good.

M Melissa Hope 07:39
I have both of those things in my house.

S Shawn Marsolais 07:41
Oh, you gotta try. Dessert most nights during the holidays.

R Rob Mineault 07:51
Yeah, I mean, yeah, that's a good combo.

C Chad Bouton 07:55
I like Tennessee Fire a little bit more than Fireball.

S Shawn Marsolais 07:57
Oh, really?

C Chad Bouton 07:58
Yeah.

R Rob Mineault 08:00
I don't think we can get that up here.

C Chad Bouton 08:01
It's um, it's Jack Daniels. They make their own basically cinnamon whiskey. So it's called a Tennessee Fire. It's really really good. Like, I think it's better than Fireball to be honest.

L Lis Malone 08:13
So fireball is whiskey? Is that the actual base?

K Keisha Anderson 08:18
I was trying to figure that out the other day. I thought it was a liquer.

L Lis Malone 08:21



I have no idea what it is. Aside from all the damn cinnamon.



Shawn Marsolais 08:24

It's pretty sweet. I don't know. Yeah, whiskey.



Steve Barclay 08:29

It's rye whiskey. With cinnamon flavor.



Rob Mineault 08:34

Wow.



Shawn Marsolais 08:34

Anything cinnamon.



Steve Barclay 08:42

It has antifreeze in it.



Chad Bouton 08:44

The big thing like they were saying like you should just stop drinking it. Weren't they like almost not selling it at a point because of that?



Shawn Marsolais 08:51

Well, thanks for bursting that bubble.



Melissa Hope 08:54

If it hasn't killed you yet...



Shawn Marsolais 08:58

I'm gonna live longer than all of you because of all the antifreeze.

- S** Steve Barclay 09:00
I checked it it says it. It has propylene glycol, which is a common ingredient in antifreeze.
- R** Rob Mineault 09:16
Man See, look at that public putting out the public service announcements all over the place already. This episode is off to a stellar start.
- K** Keisha Anderson 09:23
It's very educational.
- C** Chad Bouton 09:25
Yeah. It doesn't kill you makes you stronger.
- S** Steve Barclay 09:30
That's right. It's why you should drink it when you're ice fishing.
- R** Rob Mineault 09:41
Okay, do we want to talk a little bit about Christmas? Since this is a Christmas episode.
- S** Shawn Marsolais 09:48
Sounds like good plan. I feel like you're slurring already.
- R** Rob Mineault 09:50
I thought that was in my head. I thought it was totally fine. I'll overdub it later.
- L** Lis Malone 10:03
Say Google Glass.
- R** Rob Mineault 10:04
Yeah, no. Anyways. Okay. So, okay, well, I have some I have some stuff that we can talk about. Spœaking of eaanoa ... Okav. do you prefer eaanoa or hot chocolate on a cold niight? Okav. so

Keisha? Let's start with you.

K Keisha Anderson 10:38
Hot chocolate. Hands down.

R Rob Mineault 10:40
Okay. Okay, Lis.

K Keisha Anderson 10:42
Um, I'm going to go with Option C, hot cider with brandy.

S Shawn Marsolais 10:51
I think you lost me at the brandy.

R Rob Mineault 11:02
Okay, Ryan.

R Ryan Fleury 11:04
There's usually hot chocolate in the house. So it'd be hot chocolate.

R Rob Mineault 11:08
Well, what's your preferences? You can have anything. You could have any you could you could have eggnog or hot chocolate which would you pick?

R Ryan Fleury 11:18
Probably eggnog.

R Rob Mineault 11:19
Okay, see you there you go. So you change your answer. Okay, Steve.

S Steve Barclay 11:24
It's a tough one. I don't like eggnog. But I'm also not a fan of sweet, sugary hot drinks. So if I did do it, I would probably go with something like a Grand Marnier, or monte cristo or something.

R Ryan Fleury 11:40
Okay, these weren't even options.

L Lis Malone 11:47
Steve and Lis are very out of the box.

S Shawn Marsolais 11:51
Very loose rules on this.

R Rob Mineault 11:55
Okay, Melissa?

M Melissa Hope 11:57
It's got to be Eggnog. And it's got to be Avalon. Good Canadian eggnog.

R Rob Mineault 12:03
Yes, I have seen that. Okay.

K Keisha Anderson 12:06
They all kind of tastes the same to me.

S Steve Barclay 12:13
Do you still have to mortgage your house for that stuff. Because that put an Avalon stuff is expensive by comparison to the other stuff.

M Melissa Hope 12:21

Oh, yeah. Yeah, you buy those a certain for when you're like blending it with coffee or something but you buy the like know that the Avalon for when you're like putting a little bit of good rum in it and sipping it by fire. Both in the house.

S Steve Barclay 12:35

Note to everyone. If anybody puts eggnog in my coffee, they're gonna die.

R Rob Mineault 12:43

Shawn?

S Shawn Marsolais 12:45

I mean, well, you kind of threw me off with the cold winter night. Like you're sort of setting us up for hot chocolate here. But no, I would pick eggnog because you can have hot chocolate any time of year. But eggnog only comes out at Christmas.

R Rob Mineault 13:00

Yeah, you're right. Why is that? Why don't they make eggnog year round? I don't even know. So here's my answer. I'm going on the Hot Chocolate side because I'm well, okay, true confession. Ready? I don't know what a nog is. I don't understand what nog is and I don't like eggs. I don't want eggs in a drink.

R Ryan Fleury 13:30

Steve, explain the process.

S Shawn Marsolais 13:31

Oh, okay. I have a story. I had an ex boyfriend was from England. Not that that has anything to do with the story. I don't think but maybe they don't have eggnog over there. I'm not sure. But anyway, she found out that I really loved eggnog. So she made homemade eggnog. It was so gross. And I think it probably had actual raw eggs in it. It was so disgusting.

K Keisha Anderson 13:59

Isn't that a recipe for salmonella or something?

R Rob Mineault 14:05

Need a little bit of Fireball, a little bit more, more....

S

Shawn Marsolais 14:14

There was no Fireball back then for me. I haven't discovered it yet.

L

Lis Malone 14:18

So you know, there's a whole trend of making cocktails with raw egg.

R

Rob Mineault 14:23

Oh, really?

C

Chad Bouton 14:25

You shake it up so it'll like froth. Wow. Yes. It's like a chemical reaction.

L

Lis Malone 14:30

A lot of times they'll just use the the the white, the raw egg white and it will it'll thicken, but I can tell you, I smell the raw smelling and I when I mean after it's empty. I'm like, oh my god, get that glass away from me. I can smell it just stinks of egg yolk.

R

Rob Mineault 14:52

Yeah, that's that's vile.

S

Shawn Marsolais 14:53

And we have to hear from Chad.

C

Chad Bouton 14:55

So I like both. Personally, I don't like hate one because I love both. But I guess since you know it's Christmas time I lean more towards the eggnog because there is that weird unwritten rule. You could probably buy eggnog year round, but I don't think it's like it's socially accepted. Like you can only drink this during Christmas. You can drink it any other time. Then you're a heathen. So eggnog for the win.

S

Shawn Marsolais 15:37

It actually only comes out it comes out at Thanksgiving here for like a weekend. And then it goes away and then it comes back on Christmas. Yeah, it's not around here. It's not year round.

L

Lis Malone 15:47

Is someone going to tell us what the recipe of eggnog actually is?

S

Steve Barclay 15:52

I just happen to have that in front of me. So according to this recipe, which comes from tastesbetterfromscratch.com, and it's, it is out of five stars, it's rated 4.96 based on 981 votes. So this is this is this is a solidly rated recipe here. So they say you take six large egg yolks, not the whites, the yolks, a half cup of granulated sugar, one cup of heavy whipping cream, two cups of milk, half teaspoon of ground nutmeg, a pinch of salt, a quarter teaspoon of vanilla extract, ground cinnamon for topping alcohol optional see note. You whisk the egg yolks and sugar together in a medium bowl until late and creamy and then in a saucepan over medium heat. Combine the cream milk, nutmeg and salt stir often until mixture reaches a simmer at a big spoonful of the hot milk to the egg mixture. Whisking vigorously repeat adding a big spoonful at a time to temper the eggs. So basically you're making Hollandaise out of it only without the butter. Once most of the hot milk has been added to the eggs, you pour the mixture back into the saucepan on the stove. Whisk constantly for just a few minutes until the mixture is just slightly thickened or until it reaches about 160 degrees Fahrenheit on a thermometer. It will thicken more as it cools removed from it stir in the vanilla and alcohol if using or the eggnog through fine mesh strainer into a pitcher or other container and cover with plastic wrap. refrigerate until chilled. Store homemade eggnog in fridge for up to one week.

S

Shawn Marsolais 17:35

That's a lot of work.

R

Rob Mineault 17:36

That sounds ridiculous.

S

Shawn Marsolais 17:38

I am happy to know that the eggs are kind of cooked sort of then.

S

Steve Barclay 17:43

Yeah, through that process cooked in the milk. Yeah.

S Shawn Marsolais 17:46
Okay. That makes me feel better.

K Keisha Anderson 17:48
Yeah, me too.

L Lis Malone 17:50
Well, you just got to use pasteurized.

R Rob Mineault 17:52
I don't know if any of you eggnog people want to change your answer. Fine.

S Shawn Marsolais 17:58
Loyal to the eggnog till the end.

R Rob Mineault 18:04
All right. Who here unwraps Christmas presents on Christmas Eve?

C Chad Bouton 18:11
Like, yeah, I was gonna say so since I was like a little little boy, like, you know, back and like, like, maybe as young as like five years old. It's always been a Christmas tradition for my family on Christmas Eve to unwrap at least one gift. And we don't get to choose to gift. It's chosen by our parents. And we still do this today. Like, we'll probably we'll probably do it this year again, as I'm 29 now, but we always at least get one gift on Christmas Eve. We don't pick it. I just like you know, say just give me something that usually is like, Give me something that I'm not expected. So like I surprised because nowadays, no of Christmas is like we mostly buy the gifts together. We ask them hey, I want this and we get it. So I always say on Christmas Eve give me the surprise that I'm not expecting on Christmas Day. And that's usually what we unwrap.

R Rob Mineault 19:13
Very good. Anybody else?

S Shawn Marsolais 19:16

S Shawn Marsolais 19:16

In my family the tradition was to open a present on Christmas Eve, but it was always Christmas pajamas that you wouldn't wear so that you could have clean new Christmas pajamas for the photos on Christmas morning.

M Melissa Hope 19:30

Yes, that's exactly what my family does, too. Yep. And I think I was 30 something before my parents stopped buying me Christmas pajamas.

S Shawn Marsolais 19:40

Yeah, I don't get them anymore. But now my kid gets them so that's cool.

S Steve Barclay 19:46

We do exactly the same thing. Pajamas.

R Rob Mineault 19:48

Yeah. Oh, see, that's so interesting. See, my earliest Christmas memory is actually agreeing to do that. But then having a family full of people with really low willpower it just deteriorates right into this end up opening up all the presents. Yeah, just completely clean devolved and eventually it was just like yeah, we just open up them all on Christmas Eve because then we can we can sleep in Christmas day.

S Shawn Marsolais 20:18

Nothing to look forward to. I mean, except for the spirit of Christmas and all that.

R Rob Mineault 20:25

Whatever.

S Steve Barclay 20:29

But what about the ones Santa Claus leaves your house?

R Rob Mineault 20:37

I learned there was no Santa Claus fairly early.

C Chad Bouton 20:39

Talking about when we found out about the truth of Santa, I have a funny story about that. Because we didn't even find out about it during the like the the month of December. So I found out that about the secret of Santa actually during Easter. So what happened was that my sister found our Easter baskets in the garage. They weren't hidden well enough. And of course, we were still young enough to the point where we believed and of course, we're like, okay, if the Easter baskets are in the garage, why are they in the garage? Aren't they supposed to only appear on the you know, Easter morning? So my my sister found it. So she's like, alright, mom, dad, is there something you're not telling us? And you know, of course parents are like, okay, there's no Easter Bunny. It's us. And then of course she follows up. Okay, if there's no Easter Bunny, what about Santa? So on the same day that the Easter Bunny was killed, Santa was next. It was a very rough day for us.

R Rob Mineault 21:59

Oh, wait, did they confess up for the Tooth Fairy as well, like at the same time?

C Chad Bouton 22:06

Yeah. Already knew about the Tooth Fairy.

S Shawn Marsolais 22:07

Okay, good. I'm so happy to be here in this conversation. Because I have a nine year old who's a true believer. And all the movies aren't helping. And I am starting to feel kind of awkward about, you know, lying to my kid about this. I'm like, do I tell him he's like, yeah, the majority of the kids in my class don't believe anymore. But do you believe Mommy? And I'm like, Ah, yeah ... No, it's okay if you don't, he says. But I just can't shatter his illusion. But then he's gonna get teased at school. I don't know what to do. It's so hard.

C Chad Bouton 22:55

I know. It's it is so hard. Because that's like the best part of being young as you believe so much in the actual Santa's and everything about Christmas. And then it's still fun after you find out but there's just something about the innocence of believing and not wanting to let go of like that childhood wonder. Yeah, so it's so hard. I can only imagine as a parent to be like, you know, I'm gonna have to bring it to them one day, but how long do I let them believe because they're enjoying the holiday so much.

S Shawn Marsolais 23:32

Right? When he's 15? I feel like it's gonna be a problem.

M

Melissa Hope 23:38

Well, I was I was a stubborn late believer, I was nine or 10 before my parents outright said it. And I really think I knew, but I just kind of insisted on living in the magic. Yeah. Anyway. So there's a pretty good chance, especially if your kid is saying, Oh, it's okay. If you don't believe right, they actually do know, they just don't want anyone to say it.

R

Rob Mineault 24:00

See, I was I was the opposite. I was relieved to hear that there was no Santa, because there was always a lot of pressure. There's a lot of pressure to be behaving all the time. Once I knew that is my parents, I'm like, oh, okay, well, this means I can do whatever I want when they're not around. Like, you know, it's like I don't know what list I'm on. I don't know where he's watching. I don't know he's got spies everywhere...

S

Shawn Marsolais 24:32

And now there is Elf on the Shelf. We don't I refuse to get one because it's very creepy. Creepy. I told him he's a good kid. So we don't need one.

R

Rob Mineault 24:42

Is that where that came from? It's literally like a Santa spy?

S

Shawn Marsolais 24:47

It's reporting back to Santa on the naughty or niceness. No kidding.

M

Melissa Hope 24:52

And training kids to tolerate surveillance at a young age.

C

Chad Bouton 24:59

Though terrifying to me, it's literally you you move the elf every night. So basically you're making your kids believe that this elf on the shelf is alive then you're moving. Yeah, it's creepy. And you know how I know it's creepy because they made a horror movie out of it

K

Keisha Anderson 25:23

I never remember feeling terribly threatened by the prospect of Santa catching me.

S Shawn Marsolais 25:30
Because you were probably a good kid.

C Chad Bouton 25:33
Confident.

K Keisha Anderson 25:34
I mean, I was definitely way more nervous about my family catching me.

S Steve Barclay 25:54
The important thing with the elf on the shelf is you got to sneak up behind him and gag them and put them in, put them in someplace that your parents won't find them. Like the neighbor's trash can.

S Shawn Marsolais 26:06
But if you touch the elf he dies. This is the thing.


M Melissa Hope 26:11
He loses magic.


L Lis Malone 26:15
Find the body, Santa!

R Rob Mineault 26:20
Dismembered?


S Shawn Marsolais 26:21
I don't know Steve that sounds risky.


R Ryan Fleury 26:21


 Ryan Fleury 26:24
He knows when you're asleep when you're awake.

 Rob Mineault 26:27
I know that was creepy to me when I was a kid.


 Lis Malone 26:31
Now I realize why kids are so messed up right now.


 Chad Bouton 26:35
Elf on the shelf.


 Shawn Marsolais 26:38
Strangers sneak into your house at night while you're sleeping and do things stealing your teeth. Drop off presents and poop eggs all over the house.

 Ryan Fleury 26:47
Did you say steal your teeth? Like who's walking into your house stealing teeth?

 Melissa Hope 27:06
There should be a horror movie about the tooth fairy.

 Chad Bouton 27:10
There really should be.

 Rob Mineault 27:15
Okay, man. Okay, so let's see. Wait, did we get through the last question?

 Keisha Anderson 27:22
People are out here stealing teeth!

C Chad Bouton 27:26
I think was unwrapping gifts on Christmas Eve.

R Rob Mineault 27:29
Oh, thank God, someone's paying attention. Okay, so wait, so does any anybody else open anything on Christmas Eve? Just so we don't miss anybody?

R Ryan Fleury 27:43
Yeah we usually open one present.

R Rob Mineault 27:45
How do you okay? I don't know. How do you how do you guys do that?

C Chad Bouton 27:52
Oh, you're serious about this. So you just open one gift. You don't open the rest.

R Rob Mineault 28:00
It's like eating. It's like eating one Dorito. It's impossible. Okay. Okay, okay, here. Okay. Here's a great question for everybody. Okay. What's the worst thing that you've ever done on Christmas? I'll go first. I'll go first, because I have had time to think about this.

S Shawn Marsolais 28:32
Set the stage for us.

K Keisha Anderson 28:34
Was this after you decided Santa wasn't watching?

R Rob Mineault 28:39
long after. Okay. So this was this was when I would have been a teenager. And so one Christmas, I asked for a Bruce Springsteen box set for Christmas. So a week or maybe even like 10 days before Christmas, there's a present under the Christmas tree that looks suspiciously like a five album boxset of Bruce Springsteen. So one night, I sneak down into the living room

with a razor, one my dad's razors. And I'm like, this is like a Navy SEAL mission. So go in and like I made a slit and in the end of it and I opened up the end and sure enough, it's a Bruce Springsteen five album box set. So tape it back up, go back over to my room. And now I'm thinking about this and going, you know, this is a box set. And really, what if, what if I went down and what if I opened it back up and removed the records from the box set and, and replace them with like, just like other records. I'm like, wow, and then I can enjoy Bruce Springsteen 10 days before Christmas. And I probably debated for a good 15 minutes and then I went did it.

C Chad Bouton 30:20

Oh, so you did it.

R Rob Mineault 30:21

I did it. So there you go.

C Chad Bouton 30:41

Did you ever come clean to your parents?

R Rob Mineault 30:43

No, never. All right.

C Chad Bouton 30:44

Well, mom and dad know now.

R Rob Mineault 30:53

Okay, anybody else who's got something worse?

S Shawn Marsolais 30:57

I got nothing. I was a good kid. I never. I never like went looking for my presents. Like, I mean, I would shake them under the tree alone. doesn't do that. That doesn't count. No, nothing.

R Rob Mineault 31:09

What about, it could have been an adult maybe did something terrible as an adult during Christmas? Oh, no.

C Chad Bouton 31:16

I can't think of anything. I mean, like I would I would look for them, but I would never find them because my parents were pretty good at hiding the Christmas presents. And, you know, like he's, you know, shake them under the tree and see oh, is this that I asked for? Or could this be the that thing that I wanted? But I mean, like, other than trying to stay up and catch Santa. I mean, no, I can't think of anything.

R Rob Mineault 31:43

Okay Lis come on. You must have gotten drunk and knocked down the Christmas Tree or something.

L Lis Malone 31:55

So apparently this was a story that my mom used to enjoy telling me was that I was apparently a little shitty kid at times. And I got this doll. And I really had it in my head that I wanted the certain kind of doll and it was not the one I opened it. It was not dollar one and apparently I flung it across the room. across the table broke some you know, I mean, I was like what so it was always my Christmas tantrum.

R Rob Mineault 32:30

Okay, and that's not bad. But that is disappointing as a kid like I do remember opening a present where you think oh, yeah, this is gonna be totally be that Luke Skywalker action figure and --

S Shawn Marsolais 32:39

And it's a sweater from Aunt Hilda.

R Rob Mineault 32:44

Yeah, and you're like what? And like, as a kid, you can't process that like you can't. You don't know how to be graceful when when you're a child.

L Lis Malone 32:52

Yeah, and apparently after that it was, Oh, be careful. Make sure you get a good present or it's going across the room.

K Keisha Anderson 32:58
At least you set a standard.

R Rob Mineault 33:02
Last time they did that.

L Lis Malone 33:03
Don't mess with my damn presents. Stick to the script and we'll be okay.

R Ryan Fleury 33:11
How about you, Melissa?

M Melissa Hope 33:13
No, I was I was a good kid.

R Rob Mineault 33:17
See, we made a mistake. We screwed up we invited angels to this show.

C Chad Bouton 33:23
I'll ask a tack on question. So it had we've all gotten close during Christmas. But as a child, there's no worse feeling when you go to open a gift. And it's a shock you know, socks or you know, undergarments. And you know, I've just I can only imagine like it's so hard to like, fake the smile. Thank you so much. This is exactly what I want. I mean, has anyone had to really dig deep to fake that smile? Because I know for sure I've had to, because I hated getting clothes. I like it now as an adult, but as a kid, I hated getting clothes.

R Rob Mineault 34:19
I never I never even learned the mastery of like faking that I was pleased with it. I just went straight to, like what the hell is this? As a kid like you get that stuff anyways. Like as an adult, I'm totally I'm totally into it. Like I'm just like, oh socks sweet. I don't have to have to go to Winners and buy my own socks. Sweet. Same with underwear, you like socks and underwear as an adult. But as a kid, you already get that stuff. So you're just like, well, what is this a joke? Like is this what is this?

- K** Keisha Anderson 34:52
Awesome. Most kids are like ripping off their socks and throwing them across the room
- L** Lis Malone 34:58
they don't do as much damage
- C** Chad Bouton 35:02
I guess it is interesting to see how as we get older like the guests that we used to like, really we ended up actually be like, Oh, thank god I needed more of these. I guess it's just interesting to kind of like see how as we get older we we actually kind of like those gifts that we used to have to fake to appreciate when we got them.
- S** Shawn Marsolais 35:25
I love getting clothes now. Someone else picked out something they think would look good on me.
- R** Rob Mineault 35:33
Perfectly.
- M** Melissa Hope 35:34
The toothbrush in the stocking was mine as a kid. I was just like, I don't understand why. And now it's like, oh, good. I needed one.
- S** Shawn Marsolais 35:47
My mom put nail files in the stocking always and like Chapstick. Now it's like, bring on the chapstick. But yeah.
- R** Rob Mineault 36:01
Yeah, stockings are weird. That whole whole concept. It really just people just go to the dollar store and just they should just call the dollar store the stocking stuffer store.
- K** Keisha Anderson 36:11
.....

Well, I hate to say it, but I bought a \$20 stocking snapper for somebody.

S Shawn Marsolais 36:18
I put good things in the stocking.

S Steve Barclay 36:20
Stocking Stuffers are things that are small, not necessarily inexpensive. You should celebrate the stocking.

M Melissa Hope 36:28
At work we do a stocking exchange instead of a gift exchange now because it's just and then you get a kind of a little mix of practical things and fun things.

K Keisha Anderson 36:38
Yeah, a great story that relates, my friends and I do like friends Christmas sometimes. And we thought it'd be hilarious to just grab like the most grimy boot that we each own and use them as stockings. I have a friend who works like does field work like a biologist and boy does she has some grimy shoes.

S Shawn Marsolais 37:03
But then you put stuff in them?

K Keisha Anderson 37:05
Absolutely. Food items chocolates, we wrapped them in sweaty socks or tissue paper.

M Melissa Hope 37:19
I feel like Lis can probably smell this in her imagination.

L Lis Malone 37:26
Yeah.

R Rob Mineault 37:26

Does anybody remember the worst gift that they've ever got? Okay, I'll start on an already I already have one. I remember this specifically. Okay. So I asked for a Luke Skywalker, Chewbacca, and Han Solo action figures, I had this whole plan, how I was going to play with them. All the scenarios I was going to work. And I ended up on Christmas Day, open up the present and it was a Chewbacca and a Stormtrooper. Now, I know you don't know anything about Star Wars. But listen, there's no there's not a lot of scenarios that you can make work with. Like, what am I going to do with this? What scenario is Chewbacca and a Stormtrooper going to work together? I was stuck. I was stuck. So that was I remember, I was being I was very upset.

C

Chad Bouton 38:51

I mean, I've never gotten a precedent that I don't like, but you know, there's been those moments where I asked for a particular video game, and then I got the wrong video game. And you know, that feeling of joy when you when you know, in your hands in the wrapping paper, oh, this is a game. And then you're right. It's like, oh, it's got to be the game that I asked for. And then it's the same game. It's just a different version. So you're just like, Oh, this isn't what I wanted that.

R

Ryan Fleury 39:22

Oh, this is Miss Pac Man.

K

Keisha Anderson 39:25

Exactly. It's like that or it's like, it's like a an older game in the series. It was just like, oh, I wanted the newer one, though. Like, that's the only way I could say like, I've gotten a gift. Where I was really upset. It's like, you know, I was always really big in the Pokemon. So it's like, I wanted a new one. And instead I got one of the older ones. Like I didn't want this one. I wanted the new one.

S

Steve Barclay 39:52

Right. I've got a really doozy of a Christmas gift story. Okay. And it wasn't the gift that was being given to me, it was a gift that my mum bought for me to give to my grandfather. Now I'm about probably 13/14 When this happens, and my grandfather's getting on, we know he's not around for for much longer, but I wanted to buy him something myself. I wanted to buy him, you know, something, something personal, something that I thought he'd like. So my mom comes home with this birdhouse. And she says you're giving this to your grandfather for Christmas. I said, No, I don't want to give that to him for Christmas. I want to buy him something myself. Well, I'm gonna mom freaked out and started yelling at me and telling me how ungrateful I was and how I was damn well gonna give him this this for Christmas. Then my parents had gotten a huge fight over it. And three days before Christmas, my dad and I ended up leaving and moving into a hotel room and we spent Christmas in a hotel.

C Chad Bouton 40:59
Over a birdhouse?

S Shawn Marsolais 41:01
Now, clearly, there was other issues. I'm just curious, did you ever move back? Or was that like truly the end?

S Steve Barclay 41:14
That time they were for probably about five or six months. And then we did move back home. And then at 17 I moved out because I couldn't take her anymore. And my dad moved out about a month later. That time I ended up moving back in with him because I had terrible roommates and was probably about another year and a half before he discovered that he couldn't afford to be divorced. So they got back together. And yeah, they were together to the end.

R Rob Mineault 41:59
Wow. Wow. Merry Christmas everybody, goodnight!

R Ryan Fleury 42:02
I think we need to stop doing Christmas episodes.

S Steve Barclay 42:05
So when it when it comes to Christmas, like I had a terrible time with Christmas for years because because Christmas was always this time of stress. You know, I also had a paranoid schizophrenic mother and, you know, Christmas put a lot of stress on her and there was a lot of alcohol around Christmas, which led to it. So I I, you know, for most of my young adulthood, I hated Christmas, I absolutely hated Christmas. And it wasn't until Jackie and I got together and I started spending Christmas with her family that I started to come back around again because they they really love Christmas. They absolutely adore Christmas so they they cured me of my goodness.

S Shawn Marsolais 42:49
The Spirit warmed your cold your your your small heart or shrunken heart.

S Steve Barclay 42:55
They did. Yes.

R Ryan Fleury 42:56
Three sizes.

R Rob Mineault 42:59
See that's like a Netflix show.

S Shawn Marsolais 43:01
Netflix. That's right. Melissa can organize the description. Amazing.

R Rob Mineault 43:12
Okay, okay. Okay, here's I got I got a good one for you. If you could spend the holidays in a foreign country, which one would you choose and why?

K Keisha Anderson 43:24
Easy.

R Rob Mineault 43:26
Okay, okay. Let's go Chad.

C Chad Bouton 43:28
Okay, so Japan. I, my dad, so my family was stationed in Okinawa in the mid 90s. But I don't remember any of it because I was one and a half years old when we moved there. My sister was only like six months old when we moved. But I don't know what it was. But something must have stuck with me because I love everything about Japan. I've always been big into video games. I've been big into anime, manga. I love Japanese food. I love everything about it. It's what got me into history, which ended up being my major in college. So for me, it's an easy pick. I would absolutely spend Christmas in Japan.

R Rob Mineault 44:17
Okay, awesome. Keisha sounds like you are ready.





Keisha Anderson 44:22

Well, I mean, I would I would miss having a white Christmas but I would love to have a have a barbie on the beach in Australia



Rob Mineault 44:33

We have had this Australia discussion with you before, everything wants to kill you there. Stop going. Okay. Anybody else? Anyone else?



Melissa Hope 44:46

Yeah, yeah, I would go to Germany for Christmas. So I was just in Berlin a couple of about a month ago for a conference. And literally they're setting up all the Christmas markets all over the city, but none of them open before I leave. And so you can just picture me looking very sad standing outside the fence watching them a little huts that are gonna be full of delicious food and just go oh, the week after I go home.



Rob Mineault 45:15

That is true that would that would be pretty amazing. Like they they know how to do Christmas and feel like in like Europe. Yeah, yeah. Shawn?



Shawn Marsolais 45:24

I don't know, I was in England for Christmas once and I was really lonely and homesick and things were closed.



Rob Mineault 45:36

Okay, okay, everybody stopped telling depressing stories for Christmas.



Shawn Marsolais 45:43

I think I just like being here I want to be. It's not about where you are it's about who you're with.



Steve Barclay 45:48

True. With a lotto win your family can be with you in Costa Rica.



Shawn Marsolais 45:57

That's true. That's true. I mean, I wouldn't be opposed to that. I've also been in Mexico for Christmas, but that was like the year after my parents divorced so that was really hard. Sorry.

R

Rob Mineault 46:09

Ryan. Ryan, what about you?

R

Ryan Fleury 46:12

I haven't been to many other countries. So like I said, I have no idea because I'm just not familiar with, you know, Christmas and other countries and what goes on so, you know, I'm just content to stay at home.

R

Rob Mineault 46:31

All right. Okay. Lis?

L

Lis Malone 46:38

So I've spent Christmas in London. And I've been to Amsterdam for Christmas. Both beautiful. Yet I think I would think I need to be on an island. An island Christmas.

R

Rob Mineault 46:55

Any particular one? Being somewhere in the Caribbean, maybe. Island.

C

Chad Bouton 47:04

I will I will say Maui is nice during December. It's quite nice.

L

Lis Malone 47:12

Not really a foreign country for me.

R

Rob Mineault 47:14

Yeah, that's right. Well, that's okay. Hey, okay, I've got it. Okay. I'm spinning off of that. I have an unusual answer. I'm gonna go with I'm gonna go with Kasshykk. Which is the Wookiee homeworld. If you watch the Star Wars Holiday Special, their Life Day which is the big Wookiee holiday that happens to coincide with Christmas. So I'd love to go to there and spend Christmas with Wookies.

- S** Shawn Marsolais 47:56
Okay, if you're doing that, then I'll go to Hogwarts.
- R** Rob Mineault 48:00
Okay, that's fair. That's fair. I think that'd be fine. What's what's what's the name of that pub?
- S** Shawn Marsolais 48:09
Hogsmeade. Yeah, yeah. The popular name Let's see Steve say where he wants to go.
- S** Steve Barclay 48:46
Well I did I did think Costa Rica initially. I think I'd probably I probably want to try Bali. I've seen I've seen so many pictures of Bali and Bali just looks unbelievable. So yeah, I'm gonna go with Bali.
- R** Rob Mineault 49:05
That's cool. Favorite Christmas carol. now I'm not talking about Christmas song, I'm talking about Christmas carol.
- K** Keisha Anderson 49:12
A lady named Carol that you hang out with on Christmas?
- S** Shawn Marsolais 49:21
What what constitutes a carol?
- R** Rob Mineault 49:26
So a traditional song like old traditional. Not like Michael Buble singing Step Out on Christmas or anything like that. Anyways, just like something that's been written in like in the past 20 years is not a classic Christmas Carol So okay, classic.
- L** Lis Malone 49:50
Something that was not sung by Mariah Carey.

R Rob Mineault 49:59
Okay. So, anybody ready?

S Shawn Marsolais 50:03
Please, daddy don't get drunk this Christmas by John Denver.

R Rob Mineault 50:12
Is that a real song?

R Ryan Fleury 50:13
Yes it is.

S Shawn Marsolais 50:14
It's on the Rocky Mountain Christmas album. And John Denver's old so I feel like that qualifies.

R Rob Mineault 50:21
Well, I guess it's gonna have to count because I did say 20 years I guess? At least 20 years since he died, so okay, fine. All right, we'll allow it. Anyone else?

C Chad Bouton 50:32
Well, I want to ask does White Christmas count as a carol or is that more like just a Christmas song?

R Rob Mineault 50:39
Ah, dammit you guys. Yeah, it counts.

C Chad Bouton 50:45
Because if we're letting it count, then that's my favorite Christmas song. So all right.



R Rob Mineault 50:51
Okay, well, I will say my favorite one is Good King Wenceslas.

S Shawn Marsolais 50:56
Really?

R Rob Mineault 50:57
Yeah.

M Melissa Hope 50:59
That's my spouse's favorite too.

L Lis Malone 51:05
Can someone sing it? Like who could sing?

S Shawn Marsolais 51:16
It's not a popular one. That's kind of why I like it. Oh, okay.

L Lis Malone 51:23
I really need someone to sing it. Okay. Ready? Here we go.

R Rob Mineault 51:56
Okay, so that's okay, so that's mine. Who's next?

S Steve Barclay 52:01
I got one. What Child Is This?

C Chad Bouton 52:04
I liked a good song.

S Shawn Marsolais 52:06
Yeah. Like John Denver sings that one too.

S Steve Barclay 52:10
To the tune of Green Sleeves. But it is. Yeah, it's a good Christmas standard.

R Rob Mineault 52:15
I see. Melissa?

M Melissa Hope 52:16
Not much into the Christmas music, I don't really have a favorite.

R Rob Mineault 52:23
No, no, that's totally okay. Ryan?

R Ryan Fleury 52:32
Sorry, just have to be a song or a carol?

S Shawn Marsolais 52:36
But I feel like Rob doesn't know the difference.

R Rob Mineault 52:38
I don't know the difference.

C Chad Bouton 52:42
The difference?

R Rob Mineault 52:44
20 years old and you're good.

S Shawn Marsolais 52:46
Carols are religious, aren't they?

R Rob Mineault 52:48
I believe so. Yeah, really?

S Steve Barclay 52:52
Did you say over 20 years old? I might have to change my answer.

S Shawn Marsolais 53:04
Still under 20.

S Steve Barclay 53:05
I got it. I gotta do research here.

K Keisha Anderson 53:11
Okay. It's yours, Ryan.

R Ryan Fleury 53:17
I grew up listening to AV Turnquist. And so a song that I always listen to every year is called
Come on Ring Those Bells.

S Shawn Marsolais 53:24
Okay, I think I know that.

R Ryan Fleury 53:26
think we probably want to hear it. Yeah.

R Rob Mineault 53:28
Hmm. Wow, you guys are really digging into the digging in the deep cuts. Okay, I like it. Lis?

L Lis Malone 53:35
Ah, I think I like the 12 days of Christmas.

C Chad Bouton 53:41
Oh, that's a classic.

M Melissa Hope 53:43
It just goes on and on.

L Lis Malone 53:44
I think that's what I like about it. It's like the Christmas version of like, 99 bottles of beer.

C Chad Bouton 53:52
I like all the silly ones. They come up well.

R Rob Mineault 53:56
I love it. Lis's favorite stuff is just like trolling. Amazing. I love it. Keisha?

K Keisha Anderson 54:06
Well, I mean is probably more than 20 years old though. Santa is Coming and He's Gonna Kick Your Ass by the Arrogant Worms.

R Ryan Fleury 54:17
Classic.

C Chad Bouton 54:31
Love to have carolers knock on my door and sing that.

R Rob Mineault 54:38

Rob Mineault 54:30
You guys have turned a beautiful bit and you've really ruined it.

S Steve Barclay 54:45
I changed my answer. Now. My answer released in 1986. Yeah, that's over 20 years now. Christmas at Ground Zero by Weird Al Yankovic.

S Shawn Marsolais 54:57
What tune is it? It's

S Steve Barclay 55:01
Need to update the repertoire.

R Rob Mineault 55:27
Do people still carol? Like, is that kind of a thing? I mean, obviously, I guess COVID kind of ruined it.

S Shawn Marsolais 55:34
Yeah, maybe? Well, so, during COVID I live in a townhouse complex. And on Christmas Eve, we all went outside at six o'clock and stood in front of our units and sang Christmas carols. And actually, this year, one of the neighbors put an invite in our Facebook group, saying anyone who's around on Christmas Eve, we're gonna have hot chocolate and caroling in front of our unit. So come out and join us. So it's kind of Yeah, it's become a thing. I went caroling in high school, but I was in choir and our choir. Went caroling, but yeah, I've never had any. I think it's cool. I wish it was more of a thing.

R Rob Mineault 56:13
Yeah, kinda.

C Chad Bouton 56:14
I think it still happens in a lot of smaller towns for sure. And maybe with COVID it might have free and reignited some people's passion for it so it might be on a comeback. Who knows?

R Rob Mineault 56:28

Really? Are you supposed to give carolers money?

S Shawn Marsolais 56:31
Yeah, they're usually collecting for charity.

R Ryan Fleury 56:34
Well, they're not going to get up to the ninth floor Rob so you don't have to worry about it.

S Shawn Marsolais 56:38
You work for a charity you shouldn't be grumbling

R Rob Mineault 56:48
You should be giving people the joy of Christmas music for free.

S Steve Barclay 56:53
I usually just opened the front door leave the screen door closed and let Daisy throw herself

R Rob Mineault 57:01
Oh dear Okay, we got time for one more. Does anybody have a holiday hot take?

C Chad Bouton 57:27
Well, okay, it's not so much controversial but it's a hot take. Um, I hate that the second it turns November first people are already putting up their Christmas trees and they are already playing Christmas music in all of the malls. I believe that is only acceptable the day after Black Friday. I feel like we should have an agreement on when Christmas starts because some people are like oh it's it's October, all right, it's Christmas time. It's like no we still have a couple of holidays to get through before we go to Christmas. It's just annoying at the amount of pushing down your throat Christmas has become because I like Christmas already enough. I don't need it forced down my throat in October.

R Ryan Fleury 58:19
Yeah needs to come after Remembrance Day or Veterans Day.

- S** Shawn Marsolais 58:23
I think December 1. No Christmas music till December.
- C** Chad Bouton 58:28
That's the rule my mom wants to play it in November but Mom, December 1. Play all you want but not a second or an hour before.
- R** Ryan Fleury 58:37
The problem with that though is Hollywood has given us Christmas in July.
- C** Chad Bouton 58:45
Christmas specials like ready, queued up since October. I'm like what are you releasing a holiday special in October 1 If it's Halloween?
- R** Ryan Fleury 58:53
Pretty soon it's gonna be year round.
- R** Rob Mineault 58:56
Oh, well. That would be interesting. Year round Christmas.
- R** Ryan Fleury 59:00
Oh, that'd be Christmas stories year round.
- R** Rob Mineault 59:02
It is getting that way now.
- S** Steve Barclay 59:05
I got a hot take. Okay If I hear one more person say that there is a War on Christmas to find Rupert Murdoch stuff him like a turkey.
- M** Melissa Hope 59:17

I'm with you. Yeah. I love it.

S Shawn Marsolais 59:22

Well speaking of turkey, I'm just not a fan and I don't get what all the fuss is about. I like all the things that go with the turkey but why are we eating turkey at Thanksgiving and then again at Christmas, like can we not pick something different?

C Chad Bouton 59:35

Do you not do ham for Christmas?

S Shawn Marsolais 59:38

Sometimes a ham and a turkey when the big family gathers but Turkey seems to be the standard. and Okay. I'd rather than have like steak or ribs.

C Chad Bouton 59:48

We've done that. We've done that one year for Christmas. We really decided we're not doing ham because we don't do Turkey on Christmas. We always do a Christmas ham. So Turkey is saved for Thanksgiving. Ham is Christmas. But one year we just got fed up so we literally did steak and lobster one year.

S Shawn Marsolais 1:00:05

Oh yeah, now you're talking.

L Lis Malone 1:00:09

I know nothing of this Christmas turkey.

R Rob Mineault 1:00:12

Really? What do you what do you use?

L Lis Malone 1:00:14

Yeah, it's usually ham or roast beef. Oh, maybe the Americans know what they're doing. Yeah, after we're done with Turkey and Thanksgiving, I mean, who wants it again?

M Melissa Hope 1:00:36

Yeah, your Thanksgiving is too close to Christmas. Because it's too much chaos and it's too close to Christmas.

C Chad Bouton 1:00:47

Well, I was just saying earlier when I was out and about it is funny how, you know the last three months of the year all have major holidays. Why do you have Halloween then Thanksgiving then Christmas? You like there's no spread out as one right after the other. It's kind of insane how we're sprinting towards the holidays.

S Shawn Marsolais 1:01:11

Interesting that you think Halloween is a holiday?

S Steve Barclay 1:01:16

Of course it is.

S Shawn Marsolais 1:01:17

Well, we don't get the day off or anything.

M Melissa Hope 1:01:24

Aren't you the boss?

S Shawn Marsolais 1:01:25

I guess my birthday is the day before Halloween.

L Lis Malone 1:01:28

Okay. Any Wiccans out there, do not work for Shawn. She does not respect your holiday.

S Shawn Marsolais 1:01:35

Oh, no. I like Halloween. I'm just a little mad at it because it kind of spoils my birthday.

- C** Chad Bouton 1:01:40
I can't imagine that. You know, because you don't really get to have a day because your parents are like oh, let's make it a Halloween birthday party.
- S** Shawn Marsolais 1:01:52
Carving pumpkins on my birthday every year.
- C** Chad Bouton 1:01:56
Like like the kids who literally their birthday is Christmas day. That's the worst. Yeah. It's like you know, you don't get a birthday. I'm sorry. Try again. And another life?
- R** Rob Mineault 1:02:05
I'm telling you this podcast is full of childhood trauma.
- K** Keisha Anderson 1:02:12
Hot take. Okay. Yes. Brussel sprouts rock.
- S** Shawn Marsolais 1:02:17
Total hot take.
- K** Keisha Anderson 1:02:19
Whoa. No, it is hard.
- S** Shawn Marsolais 1:02:23
I don't like brussel sprouts. Not on Team Brussels.
- C** Chad Bouton 1:02:29
So if this was a year ago, I would say no, but I just started liking brussels sprouts this year.
- R** Ryan Fleury 1:02:39
...

Garlic and Parmesan cheese and

- M** Melissa Hope 1:02:41
Balsamic airfryer
- C** Chad Bouton 1:02:43
Oh my god. Yes.
- L** Lis Malone 1:02:46
You know what, I think people just recently discovered how to actually cook brussel sprouts.
- S** Steve Barclay 1:02:53
Yeah, everybody used to boil the crap out of them. So they were these mushy little nasty things.
- C** Chad Bouton 1:03:02
That's why I literally hate it. It's like these are gross. No one knows how to cook these the right way. And then like, just over the last five years, people discovered you know, these could be good and we made them right.
- M** Melissa Hope 1:03:12
I've also heard they've been crossbreeding them to make them less bitter. So if somebody on the call hated them years ago, you might try again. Apparently they actually do taste different.
- L** Lis Malone 1:03:24
Interesting.
- S** Steve Barclay 1:03:25
My wife used to say that.
- S** Shawn Marsolais 1:03:27
I used to have to plug my nose and drink water to get those puppies down.

S Steve Barclay 1:03:35
Yeah, my wife used to say she refused to deprive a cabbage of its young.

S Shawn Marsolais 1:03:41
Good I'm with her.

S Steve Barclay 1:03:44
And then and then we went to a pub called St. Augustine's on Commercial Drive here in Vancouver. And they've got some damn fine brussel sprouts and she actually had something there and it changed her life. Now as long as you smother brussel sprouts and bacon and parmesan it it goes down just fine.

L Lis Malone 1:04:02
Yeah, it's all preparation.

C Chad Bouton 1:04:04
That one time and then you can get hooked on him. Yep.

R Rob Mineault 1:04:09
Keisha touched a nerve with with the brussel sprouts.

S Steve Barclay 1:04:17
I got another one. I got another one. This goes alongside the turkey of course. But cranberry sauce. Eww.

K Keisha Anderson 1:04:25
Disgraceful.

S Shawn Marsolais 1:04:28
Dry turkey? .

- S** Steve Barclay 1:04:31
Don't overcook your turkey.
- C** Chad Bouton 1:04:33
I used to hate it. But honestly, I like it.
- S** Shawn Marsolais 1:04:37
Yeah, I like it.
- K** Keisha Anderson 1:04:39
Yeah, so stuffing is delicious. That's the best part.
- C** Chad Bouton 1:04:44
I like dressing more than stuffing.
- S** Shawn Marsolais 1:04:46
It's the same thing.
- C** Chad Bouton 1:04:47
It's different. You don't put the dressing inside of the turkey. Stuffing goes in the turkey. Dressing is prepared usually using cornbread meal, onions and other different spices and ingredients. So there's a very big difference between stuffing and dressing which I think people don't get.
- S** Shawn Marsolais 1:05:14
I don't know if we have dressing in Canada. Dressing is something you put on your salad.
- K** Keisha Anderson 1:05:20
I've definitely met people who make dressing it like Canadian Christmas I've been to or

- C** Chad Bouton 1:05:25
it's huge here in the southern of the US dressing. It's really big. So growing up, we've always had dressing now I have had stuffing and I like stuffing. But gun to my head. I will take dressing over stuffing any day.
- S** Shawn Marsolais 1:05:38
Okay, I have to revise the foreign country I want to go to for Christmas is the USA.
- L** Lis Malone 1:05:47
Exotic country.
- C** Chad Bouton 1:05:49
Especially because of like Florida, or Alabama and Georgia. Yeah, yeah, you'll have a whole another opinion of the United States.
- R** Ryan Fleury 1:05:57
They have so many more varieties of food than we have up here. Oreos, Doritos, all that sort of stuff. There's stuff we can't get here. that you guys have so Oreos and Doritos. Not the same
- R** Rob Mineault 1:06:07
Funky flavors.
- L** Lis Malone 1:06:09
We have like 30 flavors.
- C** Chad Bouton 1:06:11
So what kind of flavors do you have for Oreos and Doritos? Let's let's talk about that.
- K** Keisha Anderson 1:06:17
Firework Oreos..



R Rob Mineault 1:06:21
You're in a fever.

K Keisha Anderson 1:06:24
I saw them once. I know they were there.

R Rob Mineault 1:06:29
We occasionally get like Pumpkin Spice Oreos.

R Ryan Fleury 1:06:34
Oreos or like the chocolate. Traditional Oreos.

S Shawn Marsolais 1:06:39
Oreos are glorious Yeah, and Double Stuff Oreos.

L Lis Malone 1:06:43
Remember at the supermarket by me I went to the Oreo section one and I was almost overwhelmed. So why do we need 30 varieties of Oreo

R Ryan Fleury 1:06:53
So you can send them to Canadian friends.

L Lis Malone 1:06:57
Yeah, every freaking frosting flavor.

C Chad Bouton 1:07:01
Yeah, it's crazy.

L Lis Malone 1:07:04
Carrot cake.

C Chad Bouton 1:07:06
Yeah, Candy Corn.

L Lis Malone 1:07:08
Birthday Cake.

S Shawn Marsolais 1:07:12
Also have more flavors of m&ms. Really exciting.

M Melissa Hope 1:07:18
Smarties are a better candy.

S Shawn Marsolais 1:07:20
So no, I don't like Smarties they taste funny.

K Keisha Anderson 1:07:23
Now. Are you referring to Smarties? Or Rockets?

M Melissa Hope 1:07:25
I'm Canadian, I'm referring to proper Smarties.

S Steve Barclay 1:07:31
Not the sugar candies you guys get down there.

L Lis Malone 1:07:43
Yeah, no, you're Canadian Smarties that that chocolate tastes funny. I agree.

S Steve Barclay 1:07:48
Yeah, it's chocolate.

- L** Lis Malone 1:07:52
Waxy chocolate.
- S** Steve Barclay 1:07:53
It's made with cocoa.
- S** Shawn Marsolais 1:09:45
By the way, they all taste the same.
- R** Rob Mineault 1:09:48
We talking about a hot takes...
- S** Steve Barclay 1:09:51
In England, the orange ones have orange flavoring in them.
- S** Shawn Marsolais 1:09:57
That's cool. Now you
- R** Rob Mineault 1:10:04
Okay, well okay, real quickly then rope rapid fire. favorite Christmas treat can be chocolate could be baking anything, Chad go.
- C** Chad Bouton 1:10:16
So, funny enough. This is a tradition from my dad's grandma. So my maternal my paternal grandma, every year she will make homemade rice krispies in the shape of Wreaths and Christmas trees. And they are absolutely delicious. Yeah, I'm
- R** Rob Mineault 1:10:33
okay, I'm gonna go Ferro Rocher.

S Shawn Marsolais 1:10:35
I hate that

C Chad Bouton 1:10:38
It is chocolate. Oh, okay.

S Shawn Marsolais 1:10:46
Well, so many things I like. I don't know if it's a Christmas thing. Toffifee? Yes. Weirdly, have hazelnuts in them. But they don't taste like hazelnuts. They're it's more caramel. And then chocolate on top of the little bit of nut. Yeah, quite good.

M Melissa Hope 1:11:05
It's always been a Christmas treat in my household at Nanaimo bar. Yeah, I know that's available year round, but it's it's it's Christmas.

R Rob Mineault 1:11:15
Still counts. Steve.

S Steve Barclay 1:11:18
Oh, it's a tough one. I'm gonna go with Mince Tarts.

R Rob Mineault 1:11:27
What is in a Mince Tart?

S Steve Barclay 1:11:28
It's fruit and fruit and are there nuts in it? Yeah, I think so. Yeah, I think so.

M Melissa Hope 1:11:35
So if you're vegetarian, you don't eat it.

S Shawn Marsolais 1:11:39



Minced meat? Because it actually has meat?



Melissa Hope 1:11:41

yeah, it says it's a meat derivative.



Chad Bouton 1:11:44

I have not known the last part. So these are all new to me.



Rob Mineault 1:11:51

Yeah, I hate when they put fruit and nuts in it. Like that just annoys me. Like just put sugar and icing and that's it.



Keisha Anderson 1:11:59

Simple, simple man with simple requests.



Rob Mineault 1:12:02

That's right. Right. Ryan?



Ryan Fleury 1:12:09

My would be flapper pie.



Chad Bouton 1:12:13

What is that?



Ryan Fleury 1:12:14

Basically a vanilla pudding with a graham cracker crust.



Chad Bouton 1:12:19

Delicious. Amazing.

R Rob Mineault 1:12:27
How do you eat that?

S Steve Barclay 1:12:28
Do you put merangie on top?

R Ryan Fleury 1:12:29
You can? Yep. merangie or whipped cream. Whatever you prefer.

L Lis Malone 1:12:33
It's not like check. Have you heard of chess pie? It's like a graham cracker crust with like a a creamy custard and then they relay the top so it's very similar. It's I think they call chess pie.

C Chad Bouton 1:12:50
I'm gonna have to try flapper pie.

R Ryan Fleury 1:12:52
Sounds very similar.

R Rob Mineault 1:12:54
Yeah, where do you where do you get you get? Yeah.

R Ryan Fleury 1:12:57
Some stores but it's very easy to make that hard.

S Steve Barclay 1:13:03
Very easy recipe.

R Rob Mineault 1:13:08
Lis?

L Lis Malone 1:13:11
Lindt truffles.

R Rob Mineault 1:13:13
Nice. Yeah,

C Chad Bouton 1:13:14
Never had truffles. Good.

R Rob Mineault 1:13:18
Well, wait a minute. So truffles talking about truffles because when when they say chocolate truffle is that like a is that the same thing as a truffle? Like where the pig goes and digs up?

K Keisha Anderson 1:13:44
There's a really funny Stuart McLean bit about this. I don't know if you guys ever listened to the Vinyl Cafe. But he basically know. The truffle mushrooms are one thing. And truffle chocolates are very different.

R Rob Mineault 1:14:01
They didn't teach you that in elementary school.

K Keisha Anderson 1:14:09
It threw me off when it was like you're eating like you're going out for pasta and it's like a truffle sauce. And I'm like, oh I don't want chocolate on it.

L Lis Malone 1:14:22
But the differences though is that truffles as in the fungus. Mushroom kind of truffle is an ingredient, where truffles and chocolate is a form of chocolate that you have to make. It's not a it's not an ingredient.

C Chad Bouton 1:14:39
.....

I will agree with Rob though. Like it growing up. If you have two things that are named the same thing and you don't know the difference. I can see how that can be confusing. It's like I don't want mushrooms or vice versa. I don't want chocolate.

M Melissa Hope 1:14:54

Yeah, totally laughing because I remember as a little kid wondering where the pig finds the truffles, the chocolate truffles. Are they already foil wrapped when the pigs find them afterwards?

R Rob Mineault 1:15:08

The Easter Bunny actually plants them for the pigs.

S Shawn Marsolais 1:15:13

That makes a lot of sense.

S Steve Barclay 1:15:17

I would laugh at this, but I was about 30 before I figured this one out.

R Rob Mineault 1:15:21

Yeah it does amaze me sometimes when I realized how much how little I know.

S Shawn Marsolais 1:15:29

So, Keisha, what's your favorite?

K Keisha Anderson 1:15:30

So, um, one of my Auntie's makes this crazy, really insane. delicious dessert. It's like a mousse trifle. It's like, it's just like everything you could ever want in a bowl. There's like whipped cream and chocolate and pudding and cake and then Skor bits and booze. Get that into my bloodstream You have to have like three helpings.

R Ryan Fleury 1:16:08

I think I see a recipe exchange coming.

R Rob Mineault 1:16:10
Yeah, I mean, do piggyback off what we were talking about. So now I'm realizing I don't know what trifle is and it sounds like you just mix a bunch of stuff in together and that's a trifle.

S Steve Barclay 1:16:32
Cake. Yeah, some cake, some custard, some whipped cream, and usually sherry.

S Shawn Marsolais 1:16:39
Sure. Yes.

R Rob Mineault 1:16:53
Oh, my gosh. See, there you go.

C Chad Bouton 1:16:55

K Keisha Anderson 1:16:57
There's a there's a little deli in Surrey BC called Greco is on King George highway. And anybody who is in the neighborhood and can get down there. It's like Costco, you cannot escape this tiny little deli for under \$300. It's not, it's not actually a possibility. You're going to find way too much stuff in there that you're going to want to buy. But they have some of the most amazing cheeses from around the world. And some of them are truffle. They have a truffled brie, which I think I think I'm gonna have to fight Jackie for. Wow.

R Rob Mineault 1:18:09
I'm sorry I know we have to get out of here. And we're running long. But really, I have to know this. So are truffles expensive? Because pigs have to go find them?

C Chad Bouton 1:18:17
Yep, yeah, they can be they can.

R Rob Mineault 1:18:21
Because they have to pay the pig, I guess to feed the pig to find that.

C Chad Bouton 1:18:26
But it's also like labeled like an exotic, like an exotic food.

M Melissa Hope 1:18:37
Wild food for sure. Like it can't be domesticated. It can't be farmed. Really. So yeah, there's something about it. That just means that yeah, the the people with the pigs have to go out and find it.

S Steve Barclay 1:18:49
Yeah, the current the current price for truffles per pound. ranges between \$361 A pound up to \$1,581 for an Italian white truffle. Yeah. Wow. Yeah.

C Chad Bouton 1:19:05
That is so we all quit our podcast and just open a truffle form together. Yes. Seriously.

S Steve Barclay 1:19:13
Pigs. Yeah. And then there's ones that are exceptional. Like there's there's a story here from 2018 two pounds of truffles sold for \$85,000.

R Rob Mineault 1:19:29
Yeah. Hey everybody, I'm I've just put a pig on my Christmas list.

C Chad Bouton 1:19:34
Maybe we circle back to Wilbur whiskey.

S Steve Barclay 1:19:40
Wait, I got on your Christmas list.

R Rob Mineault 1:19:46
Well, listen, I'm exhausted. I learned a lot.

- C** Chad Bouton 1:19:51
You learned a lot today.
- R** Rob Mineault 1:20:01
I've learned a lot. I feel like we've celebrated the Christmas season we've given some hot takes. Create some controversy some buzz as they say.
- C** Chad Bouton 1:20:16
And healed some trauma.
- R** Ryan Fleury 1:20:17
Yeah because the tooth fairy is evil
- K** Keisha Anderson 1:20:26
The guy stealing our teeth.
- S** Shawn Marsolais 1:20:30
Christmas Steve's parents split.
- S** Steve Barclay 1:20:34
Kill an elf on the shelf.
- R** Rob Mineault 1:20:39
Wait, Steve, did you burn down a cabin on Christmas too?
- S** Steve Barclay 1:20:41
Oh, that wasn't a Christmas. That's another episode. It was close to Christmas, though.
- R** Rob Mineault 1:20:54
Okav. well. aood. I think we I think we told that story is on an episode back there. All riight. Well.

listen, we've, we've had a good time. And we've celebrated Christmas. I think our job here is done. I would like to thank all our guests for coming to join us. And let's why don't we just go around the room. And everybody can give a little plug of what's going on with them and what they're up to and anything they want to plug. So Chad, where can people find you on the old worldwide web?

C

Chad Bouton 1:21:39

Yeah. So right now I am on Anchor Spotify and Apple podcast Hindsight is 20/200. And, you know, just plugging along getting episodes up for season three, and coming in 2023. I'm opening my own small business called Unsighted LLC, And I'm hoping to help people here in Florida in the United States who are geographically isolated from getting assistance from local government organizations to accommodate them for their vision loss. Because for me, that was a very big struggle of not being able to drive and being like two hours away from my local division of line services. So I'm just trying to figure out ways to better help this community that has given me a lot and just trying to pay them back in the best way I can do possible.

S

Shawn Marsolais 1:22:54

Limitless Blind Beginnings podcast, you can find it anywhere you listen to podcasts, and we release episodes every Tuesday. And of course, www.blindbeginnings.ca is the main gig and that is a nonprofit that supports children and youth who are blind or partially sighted across BC

M

Melissa Hope 1:23:17

I'm not really on social media myself, because cuz I work a lot, a lot, a lot right now. So www.DescriptiveVideoworks.com. And we're doing audio description for a lot of Netflix, including a lot of Christmas specials, and a lot of Disney including a lot of Christmas specials, and a lot of Hallmark including Christmas movies. So, so you know, enjoy listening to my various narrators. And just a request out to the community. If anybody knows any screen reader accessible software for project management, please reach out to us at Descriptive Video Works where we're actively looking to switch project management software. Cool.

R

Rob Mineault 1:24:00

All right. Steve, give a plug. What the heck.

S

Steve Barclay 1:24:06

Okay, well,

R

Rob Mineault 1:24:07

it's Christmas.

S

Steve Barclay 1:24:09

Thanks, buddy. You can find me at Steve@canasstech.com. And yes, it is spelled exactly the way you think. I put my ass back into assistive technology after a little bit of personal tragedy. Yeah, www.canasstech.com is where you can find all of the neat stuff that we represent. And of course, we're also here with AT Banter but I'll leave that to somebody else.

R

Rob Mineault 1:24:39

Fair. Hey, Ryan, the only thing to plug what do you what do you have to Hey, plug AEBC or plug your YouTube channel or something.

R

Ryan Fleury 1:24:46

Well, I was just gonna say people can find me at Canasstech as well. It's ryan@canasstech.com. Steve made me follow his ass into assistive technologies. But they can also find me at the Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians. director1@blindcanadians.ca Or what's my website? blindcanadians.ca

S

Steve Barclay 1:25:15

I would go with that. Yeah, yeah.

R

Rob Mineault 1:25:32

Wow. Hey, Lis.

L

Lis Malone 1:25:36

Hey.

R

Rob Mineault 1:25:38

What do you what do you got going on?

L

Lis Malone 1:25:40

Oh, what do I have going on? Well, when I am not bantering with you find people I am running my marketing and PR business. So if anyone is interested in reading about some of my clients, so my projects that I work on, mainly working with, with some very talented, best selling and

independent authors, my website's lismalone.com

R Rob Mineault 1:26:16
Hey, Keisha, you got anything to plug with what's going on with you?

K Keisha Anderson 1:26:21
I mean, other than you know when I'm not working with Blind Beginnings and you know we already plugged Limitless which is awesome. Great podcast. Yeah, I mean, you can find me skiing but yeah, I don't really have much to plug these days.

R Rob Mineault 1:26:52
Oh damn, I don't think I have anything to plug either. All right, well, I think I think that's going to I think that's it for this year, right?

R Ryan Fleury 1:27:28
I think so.

S Steve Barclay 1:27:34
Put a put a bow on it. Rob. Nice.

R Rob Mineault 1:27:36
Oh, look, you guys

K Keisha Anderson 1:27:39
Are on fire.

R Rob Mineault 1:27:46
Christmas tree

C Chad Bouton 1:27:48
On fire.

R Rob Mineault 1:28:05
All right. Well, hey Lis

L Lis Malone 1:28:08
Hey, Rob.

R Rob Mineault 1:28:09
Where can people find this?

L Lis Malone 1:28:12
We can be found at www.atbanter.com

R Rob Mineault 1:28:16
I'm exhausted after all these plugs. Hey, they can also drop us a line at cowbell@atbanter.com

K Keisha Anderson 1:28:44
The socials. Steve where can people socialize us?

S Steve Barclay 1:29:03
Well they can find us on Twitter they can find you can find us on Instagram.

R Rob Mineault 1:29:58
All right. Well, listen. That's it. This is why don't have to tequilas.