

Trapped in the Closet: Episode 2

A: Hello? I mean, should I give up, or do you want me to continue?

E: No, just - it's been like six hours, Alex. Just, just try knocking on the door one more time. Maybe someone's standing just on the other side of the door.

[knocking]

E: Hello?

A: No, I give up. Anyway.

E: Well, anyway, let's -

A: Welcome to episode two of -

Both: Trapped in the Closet!

E: With Alexander Vlahos,

A: and Evan Williams.

E: Your hosts from captivity, only slightly by choice.

A: We are still here.

E: Still here, it's been... how long has it been, Alex?

A: Three weeks.

E: Oh god. Luckily we were able to find some sustenance in the form of that delicious rat. What was the name of that rat? We gave it a name, didn't we?

A: Charles.

E: Yeah, Charles. I liked the flank.

A: Did you?

E: I know you liked the gray matter.

A: I did like the gray matter - I liked the fuzz. I'm using them as slippers.

E: Yeah, that's a good fashion statement. And also we were able to get that condensation off that pipe to get some -

A: You've built an impeccable funnel system.

E: I majored in ecological sustainability in preschool.

A: Thank god you're in the closet with me.

E: Please, or else it'd be just you by yourself, and that'd be dire.

A: For me, yes.

E: For you. I actually -

A: You'd be fine.

E: I'd be fine.

A: I mean also, that was a great night. Tuesday?

E: Oh, I mean -

A: That rat, and...

E: Sure, I was surprised you were able to build that fire with nothing but toenail scraps and -

A: Hope.

E: And Hope. Toenail scraps and hope. God. Things make all the world go round. So I feel like... out of ten, how do you feel, health-wise?

A: Well, I'm still surprised that we're here.

E: Yeah, absolutely.

A: You are wasting away a little bit.

E: Yeah but wasn't I before?

A: You were, but your wenis is now, we know...

E: We know my wenis is waning.

A: Waning. Still got the humor.

E: But the enthusiasm is...

A: Is waning.

E: It's lagging.

A: Your enthusiasm is waning.

E: Speaking of which, do you feel like, when Batman is getting tired of Batman, and he's just... not wearing the cowl anymore, would you say that he's waning? Like Bruce Wayne-ing?

[laughter]

A: Very good.

E: Sometimes I have to think of what I say before I say it, but not all the time.

A: Not all the time. And I hope that you never edit yourself on this podcast.

E: I don't even know how that'd be possible.

A: Well, we'd just press stop, and then what we'd do is we'd go back and cut that bit that you said that you shouldn't have said, and we'd just put it back in so that they don't know what we're doing.

E: Look at you, thinking outside the box.

A: It's called editing.

E: Wouldn't do it.

[Alex laughing]

E: Couldn't do it.

A: Okay, so I feel like now is a good time to lay on some useless.

[Evan beatboxing]

A: I've got three for you today, as I had last time.

E: I felt like you needed a little bit of -

A: That was an intro?

E: Music sting, yeah.

A: Beautiful. Anyway. It's animal themed.

E: Animal-themed uselessness brought to you by Vlahos's brain of many facets.

A: Facets and orifices.

E: Yikes.

A: Volts and valves.

E: Well, let's just stop there.

A: Volts and valves Vlahos. That was my nickname in school.

E: What? The nickname you gave yourself?

A: It was, because I had no friends.

E: [with a speech impediment] Guys. Call me volts and valves.

A: Why have I got a lisp?

E: [normal voice] Come on, Alex.

A: Come on.

E: [with a speech impediment] My name is Alexander. I'd like you to call me volts and valves because I like hydroponics and electricity.

A: I did like electricity.

E: Whatever, you should have seen me when I was in elementary school, man. My nicknames were Shortcakes and Stumpy because I was so short I was barely there.

A: Dude, that breaks my heart.

E: I wish you didn't take it that way.

A: Anyway. Right. Number one. Sorry, just completely moved on from your heartache then.

E: No, that's fine.

A: Just gonna let you wane and cry in the corner.

E: Yeah, I suffer in silence.

A: You do.

E: That's what I do.

A: Right. Number one. More people are killed annually by donkeys than airplane crashes. Discuss. Can you believe that?

E: Worldwide?

A: I'm guessing so.

E: How many people are around donkeys worldwide? I mean, like, have you ever seen a donkey in the wild?

A: Not in the wild, no.

E: Are there donkeys, are there wild donkeys? The wild donkeys...

A: The wild donkeys...

E: Of the Sierra Nevadas.

A: And they all meet up like every day and they sort of have a little council meeting and go, "Well we haven't killed anyone in the last ten minutes, get out there!"

E: He-haw!

A: Get out there!

[Evan makes whip sound]

A: Are there killer donkeys?

E: You know...

A: That's what the fact makes it sound like.

E: Yeah, I bet they don't mean it. I bet they're just surly, and they have incredibly strong hindquarters.

A: How would they kill them? Do they, like -

E: Kick them. I'm sure they kick them or bite them.

A: Kick them, bite them.

E: Kick them and bite them.

A: And then what?

E: Trample them.

A: Trample them. And then roll them up in a sort of burrito.

E: Yeah, and put them off the pier.

A: A pier?

E: Yeah.

A: When have you seen a donkey on a, you mean like on fairground rides and stuff?
E: Yeah.
A: Like, ride a donkey, get murdered by a donkey.
E: That's right! It's part of the waiver that you sign, but you don't read the whole thing.
A: You just want your child to get on the donkey to stop crying.
E: Item 76A, you will be killed...
A: Sandra, just stop crying. Can we just put little Sandra on the donkey, Sandra never comes back. Sandra's gone man.
E: It's part of the deal.
A: It's because you didn't look at the little form.
E: Ladies and gentlemen, read -
A: The fine print!
E: Read the fine print, I beg of you. If we never get out of here, and there's one thing that we have to tell the world, it's read the fine print. Especially Apple products. I know I've got a big target on my back when I say this, but... [whispers] They're taking over the world! [normal voice] I feel like we're in a bit of a gilded cage here, anyway, like we can say anything we want.
A: I just love the fact that your last words would be to try and break down Apple.
E: Well everybody's got a dream.
A: You're dreaming low, bud. You're dreaming real low.
E: I don't think you know how high that goes, bro.
A: Bro.
E: Alright, bro?
A: Bro.
E: I bought this tinfoil hat.
A: You are gonna be one of those guys, aren't you?
E: Safety.
A: Mr. Safety Williams.
E: Do you block the camera on your computer?
A: From spies?
E: Well, yes.
A: And hackers and FBI and stuff?
E: Mm-hmm. More the former than...
A: No, what I do, I do the opposite, I give them a show.
E: Just in case anyone's watching.
A: I give them a little puppet show.
E: I don't find that hard to believe at all, Alex.
[Evan sings]
A: I give them like a little music intro, I make little sets.
E: Yeah, you make podcasts.
A: Make podcasts.
E: Metatheatrical.
A: Meta meta. So anyway, back to the facts.
E: Right. Yeah.

A: Donkeys kill more people than plane crashes.

E: If you say it, I believe it, not because I think it's plausible.

A: I get that.

E: Mm-hmm. But, you know they do pack a punch. Or a kick. And they have incredibly strong jaws, because what do donkeys eat? Straw, hay...

A: Carrots.

E: Carrots. Do they eat carrots in the wild though? It goes back to wild donkeys always. I guess maybe donkeys have been domesticated for so long.

A: Yeah.

E: That there's been such a burgeoning revolution growing inside them for so long that now is the time.

A: The revo-donkey.

E: Yeah. I wonder if there's some sort of, like, secret code they give to each other, like the way that they kind of [makes donkey sound].

[Alex imitates donkey sound]

E: Yeah, like that means kill him now.

A: Like, "He's the one?"

[more donkey noises]

A: That's when they're satisfied with their death. That's when they're satisfied that they've murdered them enough.

E: Sounds like they're just really surprised at whatever you said.

[more donkey noises]

E: It's like a very high-class donkey.

A: Mine's got a monocle.

E: Those are the most dangerous.

A: Mine's got a monocle and a cane.

E: A cane. How does a donkey carry a cane? Just strap it to its back.

A: Like donkeys do, they carry things. He's just a normal donkey.

E: It would be weird, like a three-legged donkey with a bag full of canes on its back. That's irony folks. Don't ya think? So that is a truly useless fact, unless you're gonna be handling donkeys, in which case, watch your back, and your front, because they're coming for you.

A: They are.

E: Just like Apple, ladies and gentlemen.

A: Stop it. Just get off it.

E: I wish I could but I'm addicted. [whispers] You know it's true.

A: I've got some... I think now's a good time to - Are you taking off your shoes?

E: Well, what am I gonna need them for? We're not walking anywhere.

A: I'm surprised you've had them on for this long. I'm completely naked right now.

E: Whoa, I'm gonna put them back on. Putting my shoe back on. Luckily it's not smell-o-vision.

A: Oh god.

E: Wasting away.

A: I just think now is a good time to say some thank yous for the incredible fan art that was sent.

E: Yeah!

A: Like Stuart Bowman butt-naked on a unicorn shouting “YALDY,” I did not expect to see that.

E: I can die happy. I will die because of that.

A: You will die in this closet if we don’t get out.

E: That’s a thought I’ve been trying to avoid.

A: So that was a good one.

E: Wow.

A: Also just the amazing response that we had from episode one. Right?

E: Yeah, thank you for listening. And thanks for nothing in terms of the help that you sent, because like I said we’re still here. I’ve been dreaming about... T-bone steaks. I’ve been dreaming about...

A: Corn on the cob?

E: Corn on the cob, and off the cob, I’d even go for a can of corn at this point. That’s what we’ve sunk to, ladies and gentlemen. Send help.

A: And apologize to Charles the rat’s family for murdering their father.

E: Yes, but he was so delicious. In fact, no no no no no, come looking for him, am I right? Come looking for him, rat family.

A: Come!

E: Yeah, we have him safe, and he wants to talk to you, about investment opportunities. Rats are greedy.

A: Rats are greedy? Investment opportunities?

E: You know the old phrase, greedy as a rat? Come on, rats.

A: Great.

E: Come on down.

A: But just, um, thank you very much, listeners, for listening to us trapped in a closet.

E: We can’t do it without you.

A: Well, we could.

E: But it wouldn’t be a ... thing.

A: Beneficial.

E: Not the way that it is now.

A: No, because now we are still here.

E: Still here, wow.

A: Are you ready for laying the useless numero duo?

E: I’ve never been more ready. Do you want a drumroll?

A: No, I’m good. A pregnant goldfish is called a twit. What?

E: What? First thing off the top of my head: They got the icon for twitter all wrong.

A: Right?

E: All wrong.

A: Good shout, dude.

E: So a twitter is one who produces twits. Not tweets. But twits. So what it should be is a pregnant fish spewing baby offspring just, spewing twits...

A: Maybe that’s what the eggs were in reference to. Remember when you first joined twitter you were just, there was just an egg?

E: Yeah, like what came first, the twitter or the egg?

A: You went to a dark place there, my friend.

E: Yeah, a little existential.

A: Yeah. Meta meta.

E: Mm-hmm. Can you blame me? I mean, I'm trapped in here with this guy.

A: [surprised] Oh god! I didn't see him over there! [laughing] Don't worry it's just us two.

E: Just us. And that guy.

A: So yeah, so a pregnant goldfish is called a twit.

E: You know...

A: Which reminds me of Jessica Clark's twitter handle. Clark_twit.

E: Clark_twit!

A: Does she know?

E: I doubt she knows. I mean on a scale of 1 to Jess knows things... I would usually put her at like a 6.8.

A: I wanna see a picture of Jessica Clark swimming around in a goldfish bowl with some pregnant fish. I wanna see @Clark_twit with a bunch of twits. With the twits.

E: Clark and the Twits.

A: Clark and the Twits.

E: That could be like a.... Like a...

[laughter]

E: I got nothing. It could be like, you know like, Scooby Doo, you know, like she runs around with all of her pregnant fish buddies and they solve crimes.

A: Clark and the Twits.

E: Yeah.

A: But it's set in the seventies.

E: Yeah, clearly it's set in the seventies, I mean.

A: Flares...

E: Flared everything.

A: And she's a detective.

E: Not just pants, but like flared lenses...

A: And there'd be like that sergeant that's always like, "Dammit, Twit! Get in my office, Twit!"

E: You stay in that bowl! She's in a fishbowl.

A: Yeah, I got it.

[laughter]

A: Can you tell that we're going out of our minds?

E: I wanted nothing more than escape for the last two and a half weeks. But I feel like, very close to you in a way that I never wanted to be.

[laughter]

A: You never wanted to be this close to me?

E: Weeeeelllll, not literally.

A: Sure.

E: Figure that out.

A: Yeah, I already figured it out, you're dissing me.

E: No, no no no. I ... um, I have nothing but love and affection for you, Alex. I just wish I didn't have to display it in such close quarters.

A: I'm really glad that we have set up a little sort of you know bed scenario where I'm on, you know, this side, and you're over there.

E: Well I don't mind sleeping in the hamper.

A: You've never given me a try in there. I'd love to... Can we swap tonight?

E: Yeah, sure.

A: Great, thanks.

E: That's what friends do.

A: You heard it here first.

E: That's what friends do.

A: Okay, useless fact numero trois.

E: Trois.

A: Animal-themed.

E: One, two, three, go.

A: All polar bears are left-handed.

E: What?

A: How do they find that out?

E: Yeah, man. How many lives were lost in the pursuit of that knowledge?

A: What, do they just throw pencils at them and see which ones they pick up?

E: Yeah, here.

[violent bear sound effects]

A: I don't understand how you figure- do they throw them a measuring tape and some Ikea furniture and they go, "Go on, build this," and they pick it up with their left and they're like "Aha! We've figured it out!"

E: It's like when polar bears drive they always signal with their left hand.

[Alex laughs]

A: I would love to see that! You pull up at like a red light, looking to your left, you're having a lovely time, maybe with your wife, and your kids are crying in the back, and the radio's on, and you're listening to something like I don't know, the Osmonds, say. You know, and it's a red light, and you're thinking about your life, and -

[Evan starts beatboxing]

A: That's not, the Osmonds have never released a track like that.

E: I'm sorry, I'm not -

A: Is that Back Knee Tsunami kicking in again?

E: Yeah I might not be as familiar with their catalogue as you are.

A: Well it's definitely not [beatboxing]. And then suddenly, you just look over, and there's a family of polar bears driving a car.

E: What kind of car?

A: A Prius?

E: Prius, clearly. Because they care about the environment.

A: Right?

E: Yeah, they're like, we live on an ice floe.

A: So, right. They're driving a Prius, and you go, "Oh, that's weird, the shift's on the left."

E: "Must be left-handed." And then you look back in traffic and all the other cars being driven by all the other polar bears are also shifting with their left hand.

A: And then you realize you're a polar bear.

[Explosion sound effects]

A: Mind blown.

E: Just like M. Night Shyamalan's new film: *Everyone's a Polar Bear*. Except the twist has to be something you'd never ever think of, so uh...

A: What would that be?

E: It would be like, you're a polar bear...

A: Uh-huh.

E: But it's not Earth. It's actually a tiny little universe reality that exists on the end of a pin that is inserted in a costume of a television show set in the late 1600s.

A: That thought got away from you a little bit, didn't it?

E: Little bit, but, in my defense.

A: Yeah.

E: So yeah...

A: Cool!

[Evan clears throat]

A: So what do you think, polar bears are left-handed?

E: I like the idea of it.

A: Yeah.

E: But I don't wanna test it out.

A: Okay. I get you. I do get you. I never said that you had to. All I'm asking you to do, Evan, is believe me.

E: Alex, you know I believe you. Well, there's half of me that believes that you're making these facts up off the top of your head.

A: Do you know what? No, I know exactly what it is, we're saying that they're throwing pencils or they're getting a tape measure to build Ikea furniture, but what they're doing, one guy went up to one and went, "Friend," and put out their hand!

E: Yes!

A: Right? To help them out of the water, cause that water is cold, and he leant down and he said, pointed to himself and he went, "Friend," and pointed to the polar bear, and offered his right hand.

E: Mm-hmm.

A: And that polar bear went -

[growling sound effect]

A: Took off with his left and went, damn they're left-handed! And then they went off and built them a left-handed utensil shop in polar bear land.

[laughter]

E: You know, I like that.

A: Do you?

E: I do. Because it makes polar bears friendly.

A: Yeah, you're always going for the scratch and the blood, but I'm going for, like, building Ikea furniture.

E: I'm from Canada, man, I think I'm -

A: You are from Canada!

E: I'm more intimately acquainted with bears than you are. In fact, this is a little-known fact, well maybe a little-known fact by people who don't live in Canada. When you're in a tent, when you're camping, any sound you hear outside the tent is basically magnified by ten. So if you hear like, something like, that sounds the size of a dog clomping around in the grass, it's probably the size of, like, a mouse. And if you hear something that sounds, like, scary?

A: Yeah?

E: Then it's probably just, like, a fox or something.

A: I see.

E: So imagine how scary a bear sounds. It sounds like -

A: Like an airplane!

E: Yeah, if an airplane had, like, eating powers. Imagine that kind of plane. That is the war plane of the future, I'm telling you.

A: Just comes down and scoops them up and -

[chomping sound effects]

E: "Did you hear about Clark? He was eaten by a plane." So uh, so yeah, like, bears are no laughing matter. And the conventional wisdom was always like kind of lie down and play dead. But then for a while it became cool to say "No, stand up to bears, and punch the bear in the face," but then that didn't work, so I think it's just like, hope you don't run into a bear. But if you do run into a bear, climb a tree. Unless it's a black bear, in which case they would climb that tree and they will eat you.

A: I've read, aren't you supposed to make yourself big? Is that right?

E: Make yourself big compared to a bear, though? It's like, that's like - that's like the conventional wisdom of, like, house flies, being like, "If you run into humans," [buzzing noise] "just make yourself big!"

A: Well, say if there was four of you, right, and you all had the same idea to make yourself big for one bear, you could totem pole it.

E: Oh, like the Power Rangers?

A: Like the Power Rangers making megatron or whatever it's called.

E: Super mecha.

A: But the time you're doing that, I mean, the bear's completely ripped you to shreds.

E: Totally, yeah.

A: But you know that your last moments was, "I'm going to try and create a Power Ranger."

E: At least you tried.

A: Yeah.

E: And you can put that on your tombstone! "Here lies Alex Vlahos. At least I tried."

A: "Here lies Alex Vlahos, he wanted to be the Pink Ranger."

E: With just a big bear scratch mark on the tomb. Okay, so, that's awesome.

A: That was laying the useless, more animal themes. We've got pregnant goldfish, we've got donkeys that kill.

E: Killer donkeys.

A: And we've got left-handed polar bears. All three would be invited to a lovely dinner party around mine, whenever you're ready.

E: Yeah, whenever you wanna let us the eff out of here. So, uh, you were asleep the other night, and I was going through my back catalogue here in this dusty corner, and I actually found this track and uh, I thought you might be interested to hear it.

A: Are you gonna play me something right now?

E: Well, I uh, yeah, lemme just uh, lemme just see like uh, I was hiding this from you, and

A: You were? How did you manage? This closet is tiny and you managed to hide that.

E: Well - [clears throat]

A: Where do you want me to stand?

E: I need you to do nothing.

A: Okay.

E: Yeah.

A: Kind of useless for a podcast, but sure.

E: Well no, I mean, nothing besides the...

A: I can breathe heavily down the microphone just so they know my presence is still here.

E: Can you put that on your business card, please?

A: You heard it here, folks.

E: "Will breathe heavily on command."

A: "Laying the useless on you and breathing heavily."

E: "Uselessly heavy breathing since... uh whatever year you were born." Now, it's a little ditty you might recognize.

A: Sure.

E: From the back catalogue.

A: Am I in your way here?

E: No, no, you're good.

A: Are you sure?

E: You're good, I mean -

A: Are you gonna strum or are you gonna pluck?

E: We've been - we've been...

A: Pluck?

E: We've been basically living on top of each other for the last, uh, seems like a millennium, so uh...

A: You sound bitter. Don't be bitter, don't be hating. Don't hate the player, hate the game. And the game is closet.

E: The game is closet. Fair enough. You know, when life hands you closets, make closet-ade. So we'll be drinking some -

A: Some sweet-ass closet-ade.

E: Sweet, sweet, sweet-ass closet-ade. So uhm, this is a little song you might recognize, it's called "Back Knee Tsunami."

A: Oh, you didn't.

[Evan playing guitar and singing]

Back knee tsunami

I remember it was so hot that day

Back knee tsunami

Somebody better save us, I don't wanna die this way

Wash me away [x8]

Back knee tsunami

Though it may sound cute, I guarantee that it's not cute

Back knee tsunami

Running down my legs and soaking right through my tap shoes

Floating away [x4]

Tidal wave [x2]

Now I'm afraid that I can't get away.

E: This is your solo.

A: I'm just in awe of you.

E: Oar?

A: Yeah like, the thing in a boat.

[laughter]

Back knee tsunami

I remember it was so hot that day

Back knee tsunami

Somebody better save us, I don't wanna die this way

E: This is where it gets real gruff. [growling]

A: Oh god. You're a different man!

E: Just get it out! Rock n roll! I haven't showered in months, and we've only been trapped in here for weeks! That's a confession.

A: That is a confession. You stink.

E: I'm gonna have to work on this more.

[song ends]

A: Do you know what, man. That, I am, uh, can I say that I've just got a major man-crush on you?

E: You know, Alex, I knew that.

A: Even more so now.

E: Well you know what, it's mutual, man.

A: You are talented.

E: Hey, you know what?

A: Could we sell this guitar and get out of here? Could we put this on eBay and get maybe like some locksmith to come out? Yu know, not that I don't appreciate what you've just done -

E: You know what we could do is we could say that we will, and then when they come to collect -

A: Just let them open it -

E: Yeah, when they open it, then we'll bash them -

A: With it.

E: With it.

A: And get out.

E: And get out, yeah. In fact we don't even have to bash them! We'll just say, "You know what, we didn't mean it. Because Evan needs that to live."

A: Hey, hey, hey. I wanna bash them.

E: Okay, fine. You wanna bash, we'll bash. Fine. You bash, we bash. I bash, you bash, we bash.

A: Dude, that was so good.

E: Thanks, man.

A: And, um, when is that available on iTunes?

E: It's gonna be coming out, um, the fifth of never? Or... depending on uh, if people like it...

A: You trying to balance that? Do you wanna do that now?

E: Yeah, I'll be balancing this for days and days.

A: Right. I think that's time.

E: Mm-hmm. Yeah, I think, I think we should just finish with one more plear. And by plear I mean plea. It's an especially clear type of plea.

A: A specific plear.

E: A specific plear. Ladies and gentlemen. This is not for fun.

A: This is not for games.

E: We're not joking around.

A: There's no laughs here.

E: We're not taking the piss.

A: We're not having fun.

E: We are in dire straits.

A: Dire need of some straighteners.

E: Because our hair is curling in this heat.

A: I mean, you know my hair is curly already, but damn girl!

E: If you could see him now, he looks like -

A: I've got a wafro, everyone. A white afro.

E: Yeah, mm-hmm. Yep. Ladies and gentlemen, send help. We'll be wasting away without you. Bring us provisions. And with that.

A: Oh look, another rat.

E: I've got it, I got it!

A: Get it, get it!