

THE 15 MINUTE SHOW

EPISODE ??: BRIAN'S BACK ALLEY ABORTION CLINIC  
WRITTEN BY BRIAN SKOWRON & JOEY NELSON  
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FADE IN:

BRIEF TITLE SEQUENCE & THEME MUSIC

DISSOLVE TO

1. BEN'S INTRO

INT. STUDIO

Ben (in suit) stands in the studio for the usual intro.  
He speaks into the camera.

BEN

How's it going, everybody? My  
name's Ben and I'd like to welcome  
you to another episode of The 15  
Minute Show.

Ben turns and begins speaking into another camera.

BEN

You know, we get a lot of mail here  
at the show. I think this would be  
a good time to answer some  
questions from you viewers at home.  
Follow me!

Ben walks off camera.

2. CHECKING THE MAIL/NAME EXPLANATION

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Ben (still in his suit) opens the mailbox. There is  
one small envelope inside. It is sloppily addressed in  
crayon.

BEN

All right! Let's check it out!

Ben opens the letter. We look over his shoulder and  
see that the letter says only "DIE BEN" in huge  
letters. Ben plays it cool.

BEN

Well that is a good question. How *did* our show get it's name? You know, a television program's success often hinges upon the appeal of its name, so needless to say we didn't take the task lightly. Nor did the selection of "The 15 Minute Show" take place overnight. Like a sculptor with a raw hunk of marble, we painstakingly chiseled away the perfect name for our show, meticulously analyzing every detail.

A soccer ball suddenly hits Ben in the head. Ben looks offscreen to the source.

BEN

GOD DAMN PUNKS!

### 3. NAME BRAINSTORMING

INT. MEETING ROOM

BRIAN, PATRICK and MARGO sit at a meeting table. Ben (still in his suit) stands and walks as he speaks to them.

BEN

Okay guys, if this show is gonna go anywhere we have to have a cool name. Something that'll get the public's attention. Any ideas?

PATRICK

Actually, I've been thinking a lot about this. How about "Sketch Buffet." You know, kind of like a buffet of sketches.

Ben sits down.

BEN

Uh, yeah. We'll consider that. Anyone else?

Everyone thinks for a few beats.

BRIAN

(excited)

Okay, I got it! How about "Brian's Back Alley Abortion Clinic?"

Everyone stares at Brian.

BRIAN

You know, shock value. It's like instant publicity!

BEN

Uh, right Brian. I'm not sure we could get that one approved for broadcast.

BRIAN

We could have a bent coat hanger for the logo!

MARGO

Brian. Just stop.

PATRICK

"Comedy Pizza!"

BRIAN

How about we talk to Patrick after lunch.

MARGO

What about "Dif'rent Strokes!"

PATRICK

Uh, that's already taken, Margo.

MARGO

I know, but it's a really good show.

BRIAN

I think we're overlooking the only good suggestion we've had so far.

BEN

Yeah, Brian, I don't think that's really the angle we're going for here.

BRIAN

Ok, how about "This Show SUCKS BALLS?"

PATRICK

(excited)

"The Taco Show!"

MARGO

(fed-up)

Patrick.

PATRICK

Hey Margo, why don't you come up with something better?

MARGO

Hm, how about "Patrick's a Scrawny-Ass, Jesus-Looking Bitch."

PATRICK

Hey!

BRIAN

It might be a little long.

MARGO

I think it could work.

Margo looks up and off into the distance.

DREAM DISSOLVE TO

4. PATRICK'S A SCRAWNY, SORRY-ASS, JESUS LOOKING BITCH

This is the title sequence to Margo's imaginary show. We see a series of shots of Margo dressed up like Patrick and acting really dumb. Margo raps the cheesy Fresh Prince-era theme song:

MARGO

Let me tell you all a story  
 'Bout a guy named Patrick  
 When it comes to whack show names  
 You know he scored a hat trick  
 But here's a fresh name  
 That your girl Margo pitched  
 "PATRICK'S A SCRAWNY-ASS JESUS-  
 LOOKIN' BITCH!"

CUT TO

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

VANESSA sits on her couch, watching Margo's title sequence. She looks at her watch and sighs. She changes the channel.

CUT TO

INT. STUDIO

The new show is a relationship advice show. A fake tv psychiatrist talks to some women.

DOCTOR

--And that's what I'm saying. When he shows up late, he's disrespecting you, and you shouldn't put up with that. You need to hold him accountable.

5. "BY THE TIME YOU HEAR THIS MESSAGE, I WILL ALREADY  
BE A MAN"

Vanessa watches the show earnestly and looks pensive.  
Her boyfriend, ROGER, walks in.

ROGER  
Hey! You ready to go?

VANESSA  
We need to talk, Roger.

ROGER  
(concerned)  
What's going on?

They sit down on the couch.

VANESSA  
I think it's time for us to move  
on.

ROGER  
What?!?

VANESSA  
It's just not working out.

ROGER  
But everything was going great!  
What did I do?

VANESSA  
You didn't do anything...

ROGER  
What?

VANESSA  
Well...

ROGER  
WHAT?

VANESSA  
Well you're late.

ROGER  
(looking at his  
watch)  
By like five minutes!

VANESSA  
(upset)  
I have to hold you accountable.

ROGER

But I was performing CPR on a homeless man.

VANESSA

It's over. Excuse me.

Vanessa is about to cry and she goes to the bathroom. An angry Roger looks around the apartment for a few seconds. He sees Vanessa's answering machine. Roger gets up and walks to the machine. He checks to make sure nobody's looking. He hits the button to record a new outgoing message.

ROGER

Hi, this is Vanessa-

He lets go of the button, realizing he needs to change his voice. In a squeaky, terrible approximation of a female voice, he starts over:

ROGER

Hi, this is Vanessa. I'm overseas right now, undergoing gender reassignment surgery. By the time you hear this message, I will already be a man, so if--

The bathroom door opens and Vanessa emerges, sniffing. She hugs Roger.

VANESSA

I'm sorry, honey. I didn't mean any of that.

ROGER

It's okay.

VANESSA

There was this tv show, and they said that-- It doesn't matter, I just want things back the way they were.

ROGER

Me too.

The phone rings. Roger's eyes go wide. Vanessa goes to check the Caller ID.

ROGER

Uh, aren't you going to answer that?

VANESSA

Oh, it's just my mom. I'll let the machine get it.

Roger stands there, looking extremely nervous. Right before the fourth ring, he suddenly darts out the door.

CUT TO

#### 6. RUN ROGER RUN

A series of shots. Roger runs from the apartment. In the shots that follow, he is running in more and more remote areas. He becomes sweatier and sweatier and his shirt begins to rip. In the last shot, he is running in a field. From behind a bale of hay, a leg sticks out and trips him. Roger falls on his face.

An academic-looking man emerges from behind the bale of hay. He wears a suit and glasses and has a beard. He looks down and smiles with satisfaction, pulls out a notepad, and makes a note. Freeze frame.

CG: "Look Out, it's...PROFESSOR AMBUSH!"

CUT TO

#### 7. PROFESSOR AMBUSH

Professor Ambush sits at a desk in his office, being interviewed in documentary style.

AMBUSH

Well, my research is very complex. It involves the way people routinely let down their guard and how other people can take advantage of this false sense of security. With the heightened awareness of domestic terrorism, the United States government recently awarded me a 1.3 million dollar grant based on my preliminary results.

While the professor continues to talk, we see the following series of shots:

1. Ambush on all fours next to a doorway. A waiter walks through the doorway and trips over him. Ambush picks up a tape recorder and speaks into it.
2. Ambush walks with a student. He and the student are reviewing a term paper that Ambush holds. The student is absorbed in the paper. Ambush walks the student directly into a telephone pole.
3. A woman with a baby in her arms walks down the street. Ambush approaches her and stops to talk to her. Suddenly he knocks the baby out of her

arms, slamming it to the ground. Ambush runs away. When the woman picks up the baby, her hands (and the baby) are covered with blood.

AMBUSH

My research is no way complete as of yet, but I'm finding that for the most part, people are generally open to ambush in nearly every situation. They can be at their home, on the street, at a place of work; really, we have a long way to go before we can call ourselves secure. Probably more disturbing though, is that people don't know how to react to an ambush. As we all know, failure to react appropriately can mean serious consequences.

AMBUSH

Well, the majority of people I ambush demonstrate the "Oh, shit" effect, wherein the subjects basically freeze, dumbfounded. (beat) This is not an effective reaction to an ambush.

AMBUSH

Along with my research, I also teach a small graduate level class on Thursday nights. These advanced students and I delve into the specifics of ambush mentality.

CUT TO

INT. CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Ambush lectures his small class. Behind him is a diagram of someone tripping over his tied-together shoelaces.

AMBUSH

So although each of the test subjects expressed quantifiable dismay at having been tripped, all of the subjects continued to wear laced shoes the following day. There was no evidence of a shift to sandals or boots. All right, read Chapter Seven for next week, it should provide a brief introduction to Pantsing.

## 8. RYAN MILLER IS A HUGE FUCKING TOOL

Students begin to pack up their stuff and leave. A few are talking to each other.

STUDENT #1

This class is really fascinating, and I think that ambush awareness has a lot of potential to help us on a national scale.

STUDENT #2

Oh, I agree completely. You know, I read that in Israel they teach these same tactics to children beginning at 18 months to prepare them for terrorist attacks. Can you imagine how our society could benefit if we adopted a similar program?

They continue their discussion as we zoom into Ryan Miller.

RYAN'S THOUGHTS

Finally, an intelligent conversation amongst my peers! I've waited for this day since birth! I've yearned to let the current of my intellectual river flow freely! Have they thought, for example, of the possible negative repercussions of perpetual ambush anticipation? Is life really worth living if it is spent drowning in fear? Can the benefit of a few thwarted attacks outweigh the hell spent preparing for them? Was it not Franklin Delano Roosevelt who said, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself?" This is my chance to finally claim my rightful place in the academic community!

RYAN

Dude, I know, terrorism blows.

The students turn and look at Ryan indignantly, then rejoin their conversation.

STUDENT #2

Yeah, so have you studied for the sports psychology midterm? I haven't read the chapter on hockey brutality yet.

STUDENT #1

Oh man, you should, it's really interesting. It suggests that the unabashed brutality of the sport has ties to separation anxiety developed at birth.

We zoom back to Ryan.

RYAN'S THOUGHTS

Damn! Once again the eloquence of the mind is betrayed by the baseness of the tongue. Like a penguin cursing the sky, I'm grounded by a useless appendage. Blast this foul existence. Yet... Perhaps all hope is not lost, for my love of academia is surpassed only by my passion for the spectacle of professional sports. Each game is a microcosm of life's own eternal struggles. The athlete does not merely attempt to score goals against his opponent, he engages in the battle of his own life, fighting against those eternal pitfalls in hopes of obtaining the holy grail of enlightenment. Alas, this goal is unattainable, as every triumph is followed only by another trial. Every season gives way to the next. Like each life, each victory is short-lived at best.

RYAN

Dude, the Dallas Stars fucking RULE. I'm talking Stanley Cup, bro.

STUDENT #1

What?

RYAN

AAAAAARGH!

Ryan storms out of the room, passing Brian and Margo, still gathering their things. Brian zips up his backpack and walks over to Margo.

9. 555-NOPE

BRIAN

Hey, Margo.

MARGO

Hey, are you going to the writing

meeting tomorrow?

BRIAN

Yeah, I guess. But actually I was wondering if you wanted to hang out sometime.

MARGO

Uh, really? Well yeah, sure.

BRIAN

Cool, why don't you give me your number.

Margo writes her number on a scrap of paper and gives it to Brian. From his POV we see that it says "555-6673."

BRIAN

Margo, what the hell is this?

MARGO

Uh, what?

BRIAN

(angry)

This is a fake number. It starts with 555. That's what they use on TV shows.

They both start talking in hushed voices, and they're both mad.

MARGO

Brian, this *is* a TV show.

BRIAN

Yeah, I know, but—

MARGO

I'm not giving you my real number.

BRIAN

But—

MARGO

No.

Margo walks away. Brian watches her go. He holds up the scrap of paper.

BRIAN

So yeah, I'll give you a call.

10. "BRIAN, IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN."

INT. MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Brian's POV as he looks at the scrap of paper with the number on it and crumples it up. He looks up. Ben (still in his suit, but it looks a little rumpled now that we're burning the midnight oil), Margo and Patrick are also there.

BEN

Okay guys, we start filming tomorrow morning, so it's pretty important that we come up with some kind of name.

BRIAN

Well, you already know what I think.

BEN

Brian, it's not going to happen. "Brian's Back Alley Abortion Clinic" is not an acceptable name for a show.

Brian glares at Ben.

PATRICK

What's up with him?

MARGO

He's just bitter.

Brian begins writing something, but hides it from the others. From over his shoulder, we can see that it is the "DIE BEN" letter that Ben received at the beginning of the show.

PATRICK

That name ate ass anyway. Check this one out: "Project Funnypants."

MARGO

Hey, that's pretty good!

BEN

Are you guys serious?

PATRICK

Yeah. Why?

Ben stares at them for a few beats, trying to contain his disgust.

BEN  
I hate all of you.

DISSOLVE TO

11. BEN'S OUTRO

BEN  
And that's how the show got its  
name. Well, thanks for watching, I  
hope you--

Suddenly, Professor Ambush pops out.

AMBUSH  
What? That's it? You didn't tell  
us anything.

BEN  
Well, sorry, but that's really how  
it happened.

AMBUSH  
Piddely Poo! I have much more  
important matters to attend to!

12. CREDITS

Tech credits roll over this series of shots:

1. We follow Ambush as he walks out of the studio. He passes a student and clotheslines him.
2. He sees a person drinking at a water fountain and kicks them swiftly in the ass.
3. Two people are talking near the exit door. One of them has his back turned. Ambush gives that person a huge wedgie.

CUT TO

ACTOR SHOTS/CREDITS

Then, Ambush exits and walks to his car. A soccer ball flies out of nowhere and hits him hard in the head. He falls onto his car.

THE END