

SUBTITLES, PLEASE

*Translate the look your
partner gives you the
second their mom calls.*

The Third Culture
Show Me the Sigh

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Your aunt says 'you've gained weight, you look healthy.' Compliment, insult, love letter – defend your reading.

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*Demonstrate your
family's silent 'we need
to leave NOW' signal.
Partner has to
interpret.*

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*Show – don't tell –
how your mom said 'I
love you' when you
were eight.*

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*Your partner just
sighed. In their family,
what does that sigh
mean?*

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*Name something you
assumed every family
did until you met your
partner's.*

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*What's a food from
your childhood that
horrified them the first
time?*

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*A childhood rule that
makes zero sense the
moment you say it out
loud.*

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WAIT, THAT'S NOT NORMAL?

*Something you stopped
doing in this
relationship that you
secretly miss.*

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WAIT, THAT'S NOT NORMAL?

The first house rule of theirs that genuinely confused you.

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*Bet your partner: do
you say 'I love you'
before or after you
hang up?*

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GUESS ME

*If your mom showed up
unannounced for two
weeks, who panics
first?*

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GUESS ME

*Predict the one thing
your partner cannot
bring themselves to eat.*

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*Who would your
grandmother have
liked more – you or
your partner? Be
honest.*

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GUESS ME

Finish your partner's
sentence: 'My family
would NEVER ____.'

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*Teach a word from
your language that
English absolutely
butchers.*

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*Demonstrate a sound
your culture uses that
means everything and
nothing.*

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*A gesture in your
family that says more
than any sentence ever
has.*

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Pick a word from your language. Partner has to use it correctly by the end of dinner.

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*Name a feeling your
language has – that
English doesn't.*

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*What does your
mother-in-law text you
that your partner
doesn't know about?*

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*Both your families
show up for one
weekend. What breaks
first?*

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*Whose family throws
the better wedding –
and why is yours
wrong?*

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*Name a relative you
love who would
absolutely hate this
game.*

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Finish the sentence:
'My partner's family is
wonderful, BUT...'

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PLOT TWIST

*A thing about your own
culture you secretly
don't love.*

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*Something your
partner does that you'd
never admit you've
started doing too.*

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*A tradition you'd
quietly Rest if it were
just up to you.*

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Name one stereotype
about your culture
that's ... kind of
accurate.

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PLOT TWIST

*When was the last time
you felt like a guest in
your own home?*

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The first word your partner said in your language that made your chest tighten.

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*Last time your partner
cooked something from
your culture – give an
honest rating.*

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*A thing your partner
learned that nobody
asked them to learn.*

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*The moment your
partner won over a
relative who was on the
fence.*

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*When did you realize
they were 'doing the
work'?*

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*Hot take: shoes inside
the house – civil war
starts here. Defend
your side.*

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*Whose hospitality
wins: the family that
overfeeds, or the one
that lets you starve
politely?*

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Loud chaotic family dinners > quiet polite ones. Make your case.

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*'Direct communication'
is overrated. Discuss.*

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*Punctuality is a
personality, not a
virtue. Yes or no.*

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*Whose holidays got
more airtime in your
home this year – and is
that fair?*

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*Which one of you has
had to explain
themselves more this
month?*

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*Whose family language
do your kids – real or
imagined – pick up
first?*

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*When you fight, whose
communication style
usually wins?*

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*Whose music is on
right now? Be honest
about who controls the
speaker.*

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Walk me through what happens in your culture when someone dies. Start at the phone call.

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*When your family says
'we'll figure it out' –
translate. Is that a
plan, a refusal, or a
lullaby?*

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*What does your culture
quietly sort people by
that mine doesn't even
notice?*

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Name a duty your family raised you with that mine doesn't even classify as a duty.

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*Something your family
does for relatives that
mine would call going
too far.*

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GUESS ME

*Bet your partner: in 30
years, what country
are we waking up in?*

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GUESS ME

Predict which of your relatives we'd put up first if all of them showed up at once.

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*Teach your partner the
word in your language
for the duty you carry
without thinking.*

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*A word in your
language for a kind of
family. One English
doesn't have a word for.*

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*Draw your family tree
the way your culture
draws it. Notice who's
missing from your
partner's.*

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Explain dowry to your partner. Or its absence. Or what your culture replaced it with.

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*Name a relative who
would only count as
family in your culture,
not in your partner's.*

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*A childhood rule you
swore you'd break.
Honest answer: did
you?*

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PLOT TWIST

*A piece of inherited
tradition you'd quietly
Rest — for the kid's
sake.*

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Name something you do for your partner's family that nobody asks them to do for yours.

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*A holiday in your
partner's calendar that
has crept onto yours
without you noticing.*

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*We have to retire in
one place. Pick yours
and defend it. Pleading
allowed.*

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*'Reading the room'
beats 'direct
communication.' Yes or
no – defend the family
that taught you.*

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*This week, who carried
the mental load?
Whose family raised
them to expect it?*

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*If we have a kid: whose
grandparent name,
whose religion's
wedding, whose
language gets cried in?*

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Your House. Your Rules.

*House Cards are blank cards you write yourself.
Every session, your household adds one new prompt
to the deck – something only you would ask.*

By session 30, half the deck is your marriage.

HOW TO USE

- 1 At the start of a new session, each player takes one blank House Card and writes a question.
- 2 Shuffle your House Cards into the main deck.
- 3 When a House Card is drawn, the person who wrote it becomes the Storyteller for that round.
- 4 After playing, date the card and keep it in the box. It stays in your deck forever.
- 5 After Session 5, draw one House Card per session before drawing from the main deck.

*The Vault Rule applies to House Cards too –
anyone can pass any card, no explanation needed.*

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Beta Deck · House Cards

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HOUSE CARD

Write your prompt here

Date played: _____

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Write your prompt here

Date played: _____

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Date played: _____

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Date played: _____

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HOUSE CARD

Write your prompt here

Date played:

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