

Podcast Christmas Special

by

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INT. STUDIO - DAY

This is a tidy room containing a microphone and a very complicated mixing desk at the front, manned by DAN (30) in casual clothes, and BEN (30) similarly dressed. Both sit on stools. Most of the walls are nicely painted grey, but the left wall looks very tacky. The orange bricks are exposed and the centre bricks are a different shade. On the right is a door. At the back and as far away from DAN and BEN as possible is a PIGEON (30 technically speaking) on a swivel chair. The ANIMAL wears tiny shoes and a tiny paper crown is on his head. A wireless microphone is on a stand in front of him. A camera is in the front corner pointing towards the STARS.

DAN

Hello listeners AND viewers! That's right, as today is a special, Christmassy occasion we're filming ourselves. We've certainly had lots of requests to film James. Yes, he IS actually a pigeon. We finally have proof. So, the happiest day of the year is coming up! You know what that means? It means everyone is happy! No one can be angry!

JAMES

Are you sure?

DAN and BEN turn to face JAMES.

DAN

Don't spoil things for me, James. Not again, not today. Please. Just the once. That's all.

JAMES

And how would I spoil things?

DAN

I don't know. Peck me and get me to hit you so it looks like animal cruelty? We all know what you are. If these shows are bad, behind the scenes, you're a relentless, provocative freak.

JAMES

Dan! I'm happy, too. All the aggression that was in me? It's gone.

DAN folds his arms.

DAN

Ok.

BEN

James, what DO you look like?

JAMES

Are you referring to my hat or shoes?

BEN

Both.

JAMES

Well, my shoes give me a sense of style, and my hat makes it look like I don't take myself too seriously.

DAN shakes his head and folds his arms more dramatically to get the point across.

DAN

Who would take you seriously???

JAMES

I knew you would say that, you're so predictable! I actually have a mental list of other things you're going to say.

DAN

Go on...

JAMES

James, no one likes you; James, the only reason no one has killed and eaten you is because you'll taste gamey; James, you may be a pigeon, but your sense of direction is absolutely terrible; James...

BEN

Ok, we get the point. Where the hell did you get your clothes?

JAMES

I had them made by someone who wasn't all there.

DAN

What does THAT mean?

JAMES

It was just his look... I didn't trust him...

BEN
Please, continue...

JAMES
He had a bag of materials and tools
by his side...

BEN
So?

JAMES
He also had no teeth and was carrying
a sword.

DAN
No...

JAMES
And he was completely naked.

BEN widens his eyes. The PIGEON looks down in shame.

BEN
Why in God's name did you talk to
him?

JAMES
He was really friendly, he was
smiling all the time. The biggest
smile I've seen in my life.

BEN
Where did you find him?

JAMES
It was easy, he was following me
everywhere...

DAN coughs awkwardly. BEN tuts.

DAN
Oh God, no. We HAVE to change the
subject...

BEN nods.

BEN
As this is special podcast that's
being filmed, will you do something
interesting for the camera, James?

DAN stamps his foot.

DAN
You (expletive) idiot, Ben! You have
no idea the can of worms you've just
opened!

JAMES flies to DAN and lands on his head. He poos on him
then flies back to his swivel chair.

BEN
He's just pooped on your head!

DAN goes red and clenches his fists. JAMES shakes his
feathers with satisfaction.

DAN
You sick b(expletive)!

JAMES
That's what you've done to me.

DAN
How???

JAMES
Oh. I wasn't expecting a follow up
question. That's what you keep saying
to me, but I don't know what you
mean.

DAN
I don't mean the phrase literally.
What I mean is, when I retaliate
towards you, that's what you've done
to me effectively.

JAMES
You pooped on me.

DAN
I don't have to deal with this, wipe
me clean with your wings, right now.

JAMES
No.

DAN
Right, I'll hire pest control, then.

JAMES
That's murder...

DAN
That's what you've done to me.

JAMES

Eh?

DAN retrieves a mobile phone from his pocket and dials some numbers.

DAN

Hello? Pest control? Yes, I have a pigeon I want you to get rid of... Is it James, you say? How did you know? You're watching this podcast right now?... Look are you a pest controller or not?... No?... Right, that's it then!

DAN throws his phone to the floor, smashing it.

JAMES

Lol.

The PRODUCER (50), smartly dressed, opens the door and enters the room. He stares at DAN.

PRODUCER

What the hell's happened, here?

DAN

He's pooped on me!

JAMES

That's what he's done to me.

PRODUCER

Dan pooped on you?

DAN

NO I DIDN'T POO ON HIM!

DAN tries to stop himself crying. He wipes his eyes.

PRODUCER

Whilst I've given you more freedom to talk about you want on this one occasion, I really don't to produce a show like this...

DAN

I told you, I didn't!!!

PRODUCER

Ok. Just checking. What have you been talking about, then?

JAMES

Naked people stalking me and carrying swords.

PRODUCER

Wow.

DAN

This isn't ok!

PRODUCER

Right. It's not exactly Christmassy is it, James?

JAMES

I've eaten a mince pie...

DAN

Oh you've eaten a mince pie? Me and Ben have raised thousands for charity by going on sponsored runs, taking baths filled with baked beans, and all sorts of things and you've eaten a mince pie!

JAMES

I don't like mince pies.

The PRODUCER frowns.

PRODUCER

I'm going to make you pay for ruining my wall, James.

JAMES

I didn't know that I defied the laws of physics, did I?

PRODUCER

Listeners, if you're new to this podcast, James passed through a wall in a one in a gazillion event, and we had to smash the wall to break him free...

JAMES

Best day of my life.

PRODUCER

Why??

JAMES

It just made me feel special.

DAN
 Whatever happened to the scientist
 who studied you?

JAMES
 He gave me a psychiatric evaluation
 and decided he didn't want to speak
 to me any more...

DAN
 God.

JAMES
 Yes, it was very painful.

DAN looks thoughtful.

DAN
 Did he ever give an explanation as to
 how you floated through the wall?

JAMES
 No but he sure tried to copy me. He
 just kept punching the thing over and
 over again... For hours.

DAN
 You drove him crazy? I bet he's the
 same person as the naked toothless
 guy. That's what you do to people.

JAMES
 I don't THINK so...

BEN rubs his chin.

BEN
 It wasn't your dad?

JAMES
 There are similarities, granted, but
 I know my own father.

BEN
 This could be fun, we could turn this
 podcast into a detective special...

PRODUCER
 Well hurry up, because we're running
 out of time...

DAN
 No problem, it's clearly one of
 James' relatives...

PRODUCER

Agreed.

JAMES

Ok, to be fair he could be one of my relatives. But one of the less successful ones. At least give me that.

PRODUCER

He did have his own sword, James.

DAN

Ah. He's clearly too sophisticated to be related to him.

PRODUCER

Yep. Agreed.

JAMES

Thank you! Sorry, what?

A ringing sound is heard. BEN presses a button and answers the call.

CALLER

Hi! I'm the naked sword carrying guy!
I'm so glad I got through, I'm
calling on a stolen mobile phone!

JAMES

Please, for the love of God tell
everyone we're not related!

CALLER

We're SO related!

JAMES

Nooo!!!

JAMES flies to the mixing desk, presses a button and ends the call.

PRODUCER

James! That was just getting
interesting!

DAN

God dammit, James!

JAMES

Stop saying 'James'! Stop everything!
Just stop it!

BEN

It's ok, you know? Some people are just freaks.

DAN

Now we all know where James gets his rapier wit from. Well it's some kind of sword, anyway...

JAMES

You're dead!

JAMES starts pecking all over DAN'S body.

PRODUCER

Well that's all we have time for, today. It's been fun. Bye!

BEN

Bye!

DAN

James, would you get the flip off me?