

Joe-What You Have To Understand. Hosted by Joe. Written by Joe. Podcasted by Joe. Investigated by Joe. Developed for television by Joe. What You Have To Understand brought to your earholes by Joe. Thank Joe later. Cue explosions.

[Explosions]

J-Hi there. Welcome to another episode of What You Have To Understand. I'm your host, Joe. And today we're going to talk about the unsolved murder of Ken McElroy. Ken Rex McElroy was a resident of Skidmore, Missouri. He died on July 10, 1981 in front of the D&G Tavern on Skidmore's main drag. The cause of death was two bullet wounds from two different rifles. And to this day, his murder is unsolved. First, let me give you a little background on Ken and the events that led up to his death. Ken McElroy was a well liked local man, who loved kids and dogs and wouldn't hurt a fly. Well, ok, not really. Ken McElroy was actually a pedophile, arsonist, thief, and a whole lot of other things. He was a town bully, and he never hesitated to threaten or hurt anybody who got in his way. He'd shot at least four people, none of them fatally as far as I know, but you know, there might have been other people he did kill that we don't know. He was just generally a violent, ill-tempered guy. Let me tell you about Skidmore, Missouri. It was a tiny town of about 450 people back in the early 1980s when Ken's murder took place. It's about a hundred miles north of Kansas City. It's got two paved streets and no traffic lights. D&G Tavern was on Elm Street just east of Smith Street. If you're on Street View looking at it, I'm sure half of you are, the D&G is that low white building with metal siding and blue trim. It's no longer the D&G Tavern so the sign is gone, but the building, last I checked, is still there. Besides the tavern, Skidmore has a small Mom and Pop store, or excuse me, had. The store is not there anymore. It had a small Mom and Pop store, a cafe, and a gas station. The gas station is also gone. I mean, it's still there but it's no longer a gas station. They've kind of fallen on hard times. Apparently they've lost some population. Anyway, let's get back to Ken. Ken McElroy was a one man crime spree. And I think he had two real jobs his entire life, and he didn't hold on to those for very long. Mostly he made his living by stealing stuff, and he always seemed to have a lot of money. And in fact, not long before he died, he bought himself a brand new Chevy Silverado pickup and paid cash for it. So apparently he was getting money from somewhere. His main specialty was rustling cattle and hogs, and after his death, local law enforcement noted that rustling in the county, and actually in all of northwestern Missouri, dropped way down. He did have one legitimate job, which was training and selling coon hounds, and I'm told that he was actually a good dog trainer. Too bad he didn't do that full time. Ken was the 13th of 14 children. He grew up poor. His family moved to Skidmore in the 1940s. Bought 175 acres of farmland with a house on it about four miles southeast of Skidmore. So the house was, I think, three or four bedrooms, so it was probably kind of crowded in there with 14 kids and two parents. Ken took up stealing animals before he was 18. He bought an old Ford sedan, took the backseat out, reinforced the floor with plywood, and he added a switch so he could shut the brake lights off. And then started going around at night stealing hogs all over the northwest corner of Missouri. And sometimes he'd venture as far as Kansas and Iowa. Later on, Ken had enough to buy himself a horse trailer, and he started stealing cattle and sometimes horses. When Ken got caught stealing, and he occasionally did, he would use violence and threats to keep himself out of jail. There was one time a farmer caught him stealing two horses, and the farmer reported it to the police and he filed charges. So Ken McElroy went to see the farmer and, basically, with a rifle and butt stroked him in the face with it. The farmer dropped the charges, and so Ken got off again. Ken married his first wife when he was 18, she was 16. But being married didn't stop him from philandering. When he was 20 or so he started dating a 13 year old girl named Donna, who eventually got pregnant and gave birth to a boy. By the time that this kid was born, Ken was dating a 15 year old girl named Sharon, and they had a rocky relationship. They were having an argument and he shot her in the neck with a shotgun, which didn't kill her but it did leave her with scars. And eventually Ken divorced his first wife and married Sharon, and yes, you heard that right.

The guy that shot you, you married him (laughing). Sharon wound up having two kids by Ken, a boy and a girl. By the time the girl was born, Ken McElroy was regularly beating her, and he'd found himself a new girlfriend, a 13 year old named Sally. This was around 1961, so Ken would have been about 27, dating a 13 year old. Eventually Ken moved Sally into the farm house with him, his parents, his wife Sharon, yeah, really, and their kids. Sally had three kids and Sharon had two more. Ken wound up having a lot of kids. During this period, Ken was also seeing another underage girl named Alice Wood. In 1964 he left the family and took up her. He beat her and got her pregnant, etc. The usual stuff, and eventually she left the farm with her son and moved in with her mom and step-father in St. Joseph, which is a town not too far away. Ken McElroy called the step-father, whose name was Otha Embry [Sp?], and said he was coming to get his son, and that he would kill anybody who got in his way. Embry told him to pound sand. McElroy shows up not long after with a rifle, and he shot Embry in the thigh through his living room window. McElroy was arrested for felonious assault, but there was no case without Embry's testimony, so he started calling Embry and threatening to kill him, his wife, his kids. He also followed them in his car. He'd drive slowly past his house, or sometimes parked outside. And finally McElroy found Embry in a bar in St. Joe and threatened him with a knife. When that didn't get results, he left and went to his car and got a shotgun, came inside, shot the floor by Embry's feet. And Embry still refused to drop the charges, so Ken stormed out. He wound up getting arrested but the charges were dropped because none of the people in the bar would testify against him, so I'm assuming he had a chat with all of them too. Otha Embry eventually dropped this felonious assault charge. I'm assuming that he thought Ken would probably kill him if he didn't, so probably best to do so. And not long after this incident, Alice came back to live on the farm, but by this time Ken McElroy had a new girlfriend, Trena McCloud. She was 12. Ken was in his mid-30s by this time. She got pregnant at age 14 and moved on to the McElroy farm. And of course, Ken was abusive and violent with both Alice and Trena, and at one point they took their kids and left him and went to stay at Trena's parent's place. McElroy went and got them and basically forced them to come back to the farm. He beat Trena so badly he broke her nose and cheekbones, and then he got himself a can of gas and made Trena go back with him to her parent's house. He went inside, splashed gasoline all around, and torched the place. And then they headed back home. At this point you're probably wondering why hasn't somebody shot Ken already? Other people wondered about that later. After Ken's death, the local Church of Christ minister, Tim Warren, said to a reporter, and I quote, "My only regret about what happened to Ken Rex McElroy is that somebody didn't kill him sooner." Unquote. You got that? The town minister is glad he's dead. Back to our story anyway. Trena had to go to a doctor for her injuries. He was so appalled he called juvenile authorities because, that's right, at this point Trena was still technically a child. She and her son were put in foster care. McElroy was facing charges of rape, arson, and brandishing a deadly weapon. Ken was facing a little legal trouble by this point, but then his lawyer went to work. His lawyer, Gene McFadin, once said that Ken McElroy was his favorite client, because he was punctual, he always paid cash, and he always came back. And you can certainly see why. He used his usual strategy of getting court delays and continuances, and basically strung it out so long that, after a while, Trena came back. She got bored with being in foster care. And so she returned and Ken McElroy divorced his wife, Sharon, and married Trena so that she couldn't be compelled to testify against him. And she also signed a statement saying that Ken McElroy was guilty of nothing and that she'd been lying before when she said that he had been beating her and raping her and committed arson. So that kind of got him out of that squeak. The next major incident was in 1976 when McElroy shot a neighboring farmer named Romaine Henry. He shot him twice, in the stomach and the head with a shotgun. Luckily, most of the shot didn't actually hit Henry, and the gun was loaded with birdshot, too. He had to go to the hospital. McElroy was arrested, and once again his lawyer went to work and got the trial delayed until 1977. In the meantime, McElroy harrassed Henry by driving slowly past his house, or parking and shining a spotlight into his windows. Somebody, I'm guessing Ken McElroy, put sugar into the gas tanks of Henry's tractors. At the trial, his lawyer, Gene McFadin, produced two witnesses

who swore under oath that they had been with Ken McElroy at his house at the time of the shootings, so he got off again. Then time goes by. There were, of course, all kinds of minor incidents, but the next big one happened in April 1980. This was kind of the beginning of the end for McElroy. Two of his daughters went into the B&B Store, which was just around the corner from the D&G Tavern. It was owned by Bo and Lois Bowenkamp. The oldest McElroy daughter, Debbie, was a teenager. She bought cigarettes and cookies, and on their way out the door, the younger one, Oleta, who was five, grabbed a few pieces of candy from a rack. When the store's clerk said something about the candy, Debbie grabbed it from Oleta, threw it back into the rack, and stomped out of the store. A little later McElroy and his wife, Trena, who was by this point about 25, they showed up. McElroy had himself a knife. Trena did most of the talking, which basically consisted of chewing out the Bowenkamps and their clerk, and finally Lois Bowenkamp had had enough. She told them to leave the store and never come back. Nobody in the McElroy clan was welcome in the store anymore. Well, that didn't sit well with Ken McElroy. Another campaign of harassment and intimidation started. He, once again, would drive slowly past their house or park outside their house. One night he got out and fired a shotgun into the air. Two days later he came back and fired the shotgun again, twice this time. This kind of stuff went on for months. And then one night in July 1980, Bo Bowenkamp who, by the way, did I mention he was about 69 when this happened? He was on the loading dock at the rear of the B&B Store when Ken McElroy drove up in his pickup. He got out with a double barreled shotgun and shot Bo in the neck. Bo survived. McElroy was arrested, again, by a state highway patrol officer and taken in. He posted bail and began a campaign of harassment against the officer and his family. Also, the local minister fell out of favor with him. The minister went and saw Bo Bowenkamp in the hospital, and also went to see Lois Bowenkamp to just, you know, give her little support. When McElroy found out about this, he was upset and so he started harassing Tim Warren. He told him at one point on the phone that he was going to castrate him and then cut his little boy to pieces in front of him. So Tim Warren, and did I mention that he's a minister? Yeah. He started carrying a gun. The officer's wife, remember that patrol officer I talked about, started getting threatening calls. His daughter worked at a store in Maryville, which is a town not too terribly far away. Ken McElroy got in the habit of showing up at the store and he'd load up a shopping cart totally full of stuff, wheel it over to her checking station, and when she'd start ringing stuff up, he would walk out of the store. Meantime, his lawyer kept getting the trial delayed, so McElroy had lots and lots of months to threaten Bo and Tim Warren and everybody else. He would sit in the D&G Tavern and talk openly about killing Bo. He would also sit outside the B&B Store in his truck and scare away customers, and the B&B's business did drop off by quite a bit. Eventually the trial finally happened, on June 25, 1981. McElroy was convicted of second degree assault and he was sentenced to two years in prison. But the law allowed him to remain free during the appeal process, so he was still free to walk around. Four days after that McElroy was in the D&G Tavern when Trena walked in with an M1 Garand rifle with a bayonet on it, and handed it to Ken. At this point Ken was not actually supposed to be in possession of a gun because of the terms of his bail. He was essentially out on bail during the appeal thing. Ken McElroy chambered a round and started making jabbing motions in the air with the rifle and his bayonet, saying he was going to shoot Bo Bowenkamp in the face with it. And a local farmer named Pete Ward left the tavern with his sons at this time and shortly after took up station on the road between the D&G Tavern and Bo Bowenkamp's house, and he had a rifle. He said his plan was to kill McElroy if he was headed over to the Bowenkamp house. And luckily for Ken McElroy, he didn't head that direction when he left the D&G so he lived for another day. Ok, I mentioned already that McElroy was out on bond and he violated the terms of the bond with the rifle. The prosecutors filed a motion to revoke that bond, and a hearing was set for July 10th. That was, of course, the day that Ken got shot. A bunch of locals showed up in town that morning to drive over to the town of Bethany, which is where the hearing was going to take place. Their plan was to support the witnesses who had actually seen the rifle brandishing. When they showed up they found out that McElroy's lawyer had gotten the hearing postponed for ten days. Needless to say, that was upsetting to

everybody. Everybody went over to the American Legion meeting hall nearby, and they called the county sheriff and they asked him to come by. He showed up about 20 minutes later, and advised everybody to keep an eye on McElroy, and keep a call list so if Ken showed up at somebody's house, then they could summon help from others quickly. And then the sheriff got in his car and left town. Around this time McElroy and Trena arrived in town and went into the D&G. Word got over to the guys in the meeting hall and somebody said "Let's go have a beer." The crowd headed over to the D&G and they found Ken and Trena drinking a beer. And I don't know if Ken was intimidated or not, but I hear Trena was. McElroy finished his beer, bought a six-pack to go, and left. At about the same time, two or three people were outside forming an action plan. Reports vary as to the number. These guys got rifles out of their trucks. Remember, this is farm country, so people are driving around with rifles in their pickup trucks. The crowd in the D&G followed Ken McElroy out into the street. Ken got into his truck and started it, and then a number of shots rang out. Two of which hit Ken McElroy, one in the neck and one in the head, and he went off to that big trailer park in the sky. His foot stomped down on the gas pedal and stayed there, and the truck basically sat there running at full throttle for a little while until it finally seized up and quit. And about 45 minutes later, somebody got around to calling an ambulance. Now, here's our mystery. At least two dozen people were there on the street in Skidmore that morning, and according to some accounts that I've read, there may have been as many as sixty people, but nobody saw the shooters. So this one is a real head scratcher. How could it be that Ken McElroy was gunned down in broad daylight by two, maybe three, guys in front of dozens of people, and yet nobody happened to notice who pulled the triggers? Well, there's some theories out there. But before we start discussing out theories, I'd like to introduce a couple of guests. My guests are Steve and Devin, from another podcast. Guys, come on out.

[Cheering crowd noises]

Steve-Hey Joe.

Devin-Hey.

J-How you guys doing?

D-Uh, you know...

S-Good.

D-...fine.

J-Yeah. Ok. Cool. So you guys are on a podcast, right?

D-Y..yeah.

S-Yeah, you're, you were just there like...

J-That's not important. Alright, let's talk about theories. Ok, well, the theories that have been floated, first theory, UFOs. What do you guys think about that one?

S-It's always the aliens.

J-Pretty much.

D-Yeah.

J-Yeah. But as you know, when alien abductions happen, they're always accompanied by memory loss, so I'm thinking that perhaps there was a UFO nearby blasting the town with brain wiping rays at the moment the shooting was taking place.

D-Well, I mean, here's the dealio about that. It's just, that's just, it's silly. I mean, it's, uh...

S-It's a little hinky.

D-Somebody would have remembered it.

J-Uh huh. Well, one person actually did claim to remember it.

D-Oh.

J-Yeah. And that was Treva.

D-I'm sorry. I read the Wikipedia page on this thing. I didn't do any, any research further than that. Actually, I just skimmed that summary at the top. That's all.

J-Uh huh. I know. That's pretty much all you ever do.

D-I'm sorry, yeah.

J-So the one person who saw, who witnessed it, was Trena, who said she saw Del Clement, who was co-owner of the D&G Tavern, pulling a rifle out of his pickup truck. She was sitting inside Ken's truck at the time. So what I'm thinking happened is maybe the metal in the cab roof was shielding her from the brain wiping rays.

D-Oh, from the UFO.

J-Yeah.

D-Oh, the UFOs wiped the brain waves, they didn't have anything to do with the actual murder?

J-Yeah, no. They just, yeah, that's our mystery here, is how could there have been no witnesses...

D-Oh, I see.

S-But here's the dealio with that, is people put on the tinfoil hats, but the roof of the truck doesn't work as a tinfoil hat, cause it's got windows all around.

J-Hm. That's fair. All right, let's talk about our next theory. Our next theory, squirrels. There are squirrels in Skidmore and a lot of people did say something in the order of they were looking at the squirrels and didn't notice the two guys with rifles.

S-Cause they're what, obscenely cute?

J-They are cute. I like squirrels.

S-They're little chupacabras.

J-Nah. No they're not.

D-Yeah.

J-All right, so squirrels. Devin, you got any thoughts on squirrels?

D-Um, they're cute.

J-They are cute. Ok, let's move on. Our next theory. Ergot. Grain mold causes hallucinations and such. I've talked about this before. It's, you know, everybody's favorite go to theory for things like the Mary Celeste and everything else.

S-Here's what you have to understand.

J-Hey! That's mine.

S-Ok...

D-Oh my God (sighs).

S-Ok, so did the town share a common bread source? Were they all eating the same bread?

J-Well, they were buying their bread at the B&B Store, so yeah, it's, I think very likely the supply was tainted by ergot and they were all high as kites, and not really in a position to remember their own names, much less who killed who.

D-Hmm.

J-Yeah.

S-That's the dumbest thing I've ever heard.

J-Well, ostensibly I guess. I'm going to go with squirrels. You guys have a favorite?

D-I think that dude was just a huge [bleep] and everybody wanted him dead.

S-Uh, that's...

J-That's a little out there, don't you think?

S-A little bit.

J-Yeah.

S-I think you're reaching on that one.

D-Hm.

J-Yeah, I'm sticking with squirrels. In the aftermath, just about everybody in town was interrogated by the police...

S-This is a little weird.

J-...and no one saw a thing...

D-Yeah, I really do not like it.

J-Later on the FBI came in...

S-He is totally acting like we are not here.

J-...and they took a stab at it.

D-I'm very very uncomfortable with this situation.

J-Hey! Hey! I'm talking here. This is my show, remember? All right, let's get back. Oh yeah, the FBI. The FBI, nobody saw a thing once again. Various grand juries looked into it. They declined to indict anybody despite Trena's claim that Del Clement was one of the gunmen. For his part, Del Clement said, quote, "Boys, I wish I could say I done it, because he sure had it coming. But I didn't." Unquote. And I'm taking his word over Trena's. I think she must have hallucinated that. There was another local named David Dunbar who told reporters quote, "To be honest with you, my only regret about the way Ken Rex died is that I didn't pull the trigger myself." Unquote. So ends the story of Ken McElroy, killed by invisible gunmen. All right, at this point in the show, this is where I tell you where to find my email, find my Facebook and all that stuff. I'm not going to go through all that. Just Google the most awesome guy in the world. You'll find me. Now you guys, you guys had something, you wanted to talk about your podcast a little bit, right?

D-Yeah, well since you left us, we have to do a new one.

J-Uh huh.

S-So we've been working on some material.

D-Yeah, so...

S-We brought that. You said you'd let us...

J-I forgot to tell you that on the way out the door I stole a tape that had a lot of embarrassing moments on it.

S-Great.

D-Oh no.

J-Uh huh.

S-Thanks, Joe.

J-Yeah. Your lives are over. Cue explosions.

[Explosions]

D-Oh no, your book!

S-My little black book!

D-Your little black book that ruins everything!

S-Some people have little black books with, you know, names and phone numbers in them. Mine are full of all these weird details about crazy cases (laughing).

J-I know.

D-It's going to be awesome when you die and somebody finds that.

J-Yeah.

D-They're going to be like, "Wow, this dude was crazy."

J-Yeah. Where'd you get that? I need to get one of those.

S-Uh, I think I got it at Powell's.

D-Borders?

J-Oh, oh really?

S-Yeah. No, it's got little illustrations of shootings to try and figure out angles and stuff in it.

D-Oh my God.

S-I [bleep] you not. It's all in there (laughing).

D-Ok.

J-Yeah.

D-Let's do this thing.

[Explosions]

J-(Imitating Reagan) Well, ok.

D-(In funny voice) Well, ok.

J-(In voice) Well, all right.

D-(In voice) Ok then Stevie. Whatever you say.

[Explosions]

J-But until 19 thou...excuse me (Steve laughing). Until 19 thousand...

S-(laughing)Until 19 thousand.

D-19 thousand?

J-Ok, let's try that again. Until 2 thousand...

[Explosions]

D-I talk really fast.

S-Reallyreallyreallyfast.

J-Yeah, yeah. No putzing around.

S-What I want what I want what I really really want.

D-So tell me what you want what you really really want. I wanna, I wanna (continues singing song).

J-Yeah.

D-You can't start Spice Girls and not expect me to go with it, I'm sorry.

J-Ok.

[Explosions]

J-Yeah, I thought that he was the royal consort?

S-Prince Philip is the royal concert.

J-Consort.

S-Consort.

D-Concert (Joe laughing).

S-He's the royal concert. It's the greatest show on earth!

J-Dun nun nun. Dun nun nun. Dun nuh nuh.

S-Pyrotechnics galore.

J-Encore.

[Explosions]

J-So that was a response to what? (very muffled).

D-It's just says can't wait for the Thinking Sideways hundredth podcast.

J-Oh.

D-Already hyped.

J-Ok.

D-Ya'll going to make me...

J-Ok, you guys ready?

D-Up in here, up in here.

S-Shouldn't have said anything.

D-Ya'll going to make me lose my cool (singing). We're all family.

S-All right, you want start the recording there?

J-Looks like we are already.

S-Oh thank God you are.

J-All right.

D-I know when I'm being hilarious (S and J laughing).

S-Not bashful about it either.

D-Uh uh. And humble.

S-Humble. Totally. Totally.

J-Uh huh.

D-Ok.

[Explosions]

D-Let's assume it was an accular...

J-Accular.

S-An accular. I've never seen an accular (laughing).

D-(Sighs) I'm so worried about saying nuclear the wrong way that I'm just saying everything else the wrong way (laughing).

[Explosions]

J-Hi there. Welcome to another episode of Thinking Sideways. I'm the host. No. Excuse me. I'm Joe (Steve laughing). Ok. I'm a host. I know.

D-I am host.

J-Yeah. I am host. That's supposed to be I am your host or something like that.

S-I am host, joined by Ed.

J-Yeah.

S-And Bar.

J-Let's start over from the top. Ok.

[Explosions]

D-...of this group is a man by the name of Showzen Yamashita, who...

J-Or is that "Yamashta?"

D-It's Yamashita.

J-It is? I thought it was "Yamashta."

D-Yamash... Ya-ma-shi-ta.

J-You remember Yamashita's Gold?

D-I do, but that's how she told me it was pronounced today.

J-Oh (bleep). (S and J laughing).

D-We'll just call it "Yamashta" and...

S-No. Just call it Yamashita and let it go.

J-Yamashita. That's fine.

D-Ok.

[Explosions]

D-In 1989, a Swedish immigrant...

J-Wait. Wait a minute. That wasn't 1989, was it?

S-No (Devin laughing).

D-It was 1898 (Steve laughing). 1898.

S-In 1998 on VH1.

D-On VH1.

J-Uh huh.

D-On "My Super Sweet 16"

[Explosions]

J-Yeah.

[tapping on mic]

S-All I'm doing is tapping the cable.

J-Yeah.

S-Rattling the connections. So no touchy touchy.

J-I'll try. If I do do it, I'll call it out (Steve laughing).

D-This is fun.

S-Are you making music?

D-Yeah.

S-Or destroying our equipment?

D-Both. Why are they mutually exclusive, Steve?

J-Well, it's time for new gear anyway.

S-It's a very black and white world I live in, Devin.

D-Is it? Sorry to hear that.

J-Ok.

[Explosions]

D-Sometimes I just like to hit record as soon as the mixers plugged in, just in case (Steve laughing). So that's, that's been happening.

S-I know.

D-Uh huh.

S-I have noticed this. I'm ok with it.

[Explosions]

S-I found that female officers really appreciate it when you call them "sir."

D and J-Uh huh.

D-Usually how you end up getting beat up.

J-You want to compliment their breasts (Steve laughing).

D-You want to just be like, "Yeah, sir. No problem, sir." (S and J laughing).

S-Yes officer. "Wowooga ooga!"

D-It's just the "this."

S-The staring downwards?

J-Yeah, yeah.

[Explosions]

(Steve laughing)

D-Oh my God.

S-(Valley girl) Like, oh my God.

D-"Becky, look at her butt. It is so big (Steve laughing). She looks like one of those rap guys' girlfriends, but I don't know. Who understands those rap guys? She's like a total prostitute, ok. I mean, her butt, it's just so big. I can't believe it's just so round, it's like, out there, and it's gross. Look! It's just so, black! I like big butts and I can not lie..."

S-Sir Mix-A-Lot, Joe.

J-Uh huh (Devin still rapping in background).

S-I can't believe you knew that entire thing by heart.

D-Oh no, I know the entire song by heart.

S-So is that your, like your favorite karaoke song?

D-I don't do karaoke, but...

S-I think you should karaoke that.

D-...when I get drunk and I do karaoke I do do that song.

S-A five foot tall white woman (laughing).

J-Uh huh.

D-No, I do.

S-Doing it. That would be awesome.

J-Yeah. Call me and let me know so I can video tape it (Steve laughing).

D-No, I do it. I genuinely, that's my song.

S-Ok. Can we start this?

D-Yes.

[Explosions]

D-...and a lot of people believe that the Springfield Three's bottles are in that concrete.

J-That their bodies?

S-Not their bottles.

D-Remains. What did I say? I said bottles?

J-You said bottles.

S-You said bottles (laughing).

J-Yeah.

D-God.

S-They're a slowly aging wine (still laughing).

D-They are, at this point.

[Explosions]

J-Yeah.

D-It's like someone's trying to make themselves throw up, where they're like (makes gagging noise).
(Steve laughing).

J-Ok (Blowing nose)

D-And you're like, that's not going to help you. Like you just making a noise isn't going to help you.

S-"Bleeh." You sound like a stupid ghost.

D-"Bleeh" (laughing).

J-All right.

S-All right, seriously.

J-Enough of that.

S-All right, are you ready?

D-Ok.

S-You ok?

J-Oh yeah. I'm fine.

[Explosions]

D-Too spooky for me.

J-I know. Seriously.

D-Yay.

J-I'll get my night lawn on.

D-This is Thinking Sideways, if you didn't know. The podcast.

J-Yeah. Can we start over again? I just buggered that all up.

D-What did you do? (Joe laughing)

S-He was going to say "night light" and then he said "my night lawn."

J-(Tripping over words and laughing).

S-(Mocking voice) My nigh-nigh (laughing).

D-Ok, stop.

J-Yeah yeah.

D-Ok, I'll start again.

[Explosions]

D-I save when I pause, sir.

J-Argh. Ok.

D-Psychic.

S-(In funny voice) Gerard Croiset.

J-Uh huh.

S-"Croy-set."

J-Huh. It's actually "Gher-ard Crwa-say."

D-"Caw-say."

J-"Caw-say."

S-"Crah-sohn."

D-"Craw-set."

S-"Crah-sont."

J-Yeah yeah.

S-"Cor-set."

D-Please put this in bloopers sometime. So people can hear how hard, so people can hear...

S-This is why I don't do accents (laughing).

D-I know. This is why people need to hear how hard we try (laughing). We're trying!

J-Yeah. I was able to find a pronunciation for this guy's name on the interwebs.

D-"Cro-saht." Ok. Let's just...

S-Let's start talking about this guy.

J-"Cro-say. Cro-say." Oh yeah, ok.

D-Croissant.

J-All right. Are we recording? Yeah, ok. Good.

[Explosions]

(All laughing)

D-I like how sometimes, Joe, it's like, it's like when you take a bite of your chips in a quiet room, and you go (makes crunching noises).

J-Well, you know you get those people who sit behind you in the theater, and they're unwrapping a candy bar, and they're trying to do it ultra quiet.

D-Yeah, like (bleep) you guys (Steve laughing).

J-Yeah, I mean don't you...

D-(Bleep) you (laughing).

J-I mean, don't you just want to like, I just...

D-Yeah. I just want to grab it and be like "enough!"

J-I know (laughing).

D-Yep.

J-Yeah.

S-All right (laughing).

D-Ok.

[Explosions]

D-It's ok, cause this whole story is just a giant (bleep) show (Steve laughing).

J-Yeah, I know.

D-It is. The whole thing. That's why we're doing it.

J-That's a lot of horse (bleep).

S-Ohh. I love it, I love it, I love it.

D-Guano.

S-Guano! Festival.

D-Guano. Guanofest.

J-Do you want the map?

[Explosions]

D-Ready?

J-Yep.

S-Phones on silent?

D-Testing.

J-Don't know.

D-My phone is on "do not disturb."

S-Is Siri going to come on again?

D-(Whispers) I don't know. Hey Siri. (Phone beeping). (Bleep).

[Explosions]

D-I just like that two of the people are Beep and Meep.

J-I know (laughing).

D-Sorry, that...

J-Actually, it's not Beep, it's "Bep."

D-I don't care. It's Beep and Meep (Steve laughing).

J-That's it, ok.

S-Why didn't you save that till we're recording?

D-Well, no, because I don't want to offend people and I don't want...

S-I'm the mispronouncing offender. It's ok.

D-I know, but I'm just saying he's going to say it first. I don't want to be the one who's like "Ha ha, Beep and Meep." Because I got in so much trouble about the offhand "Snee-ha" mispronunciation (Steve laughing). I don't want, like...

J-Oh.

S-Oh, that was why, yeah, the whole brother versus her naming, yeah.

J-Oh yeah, yeah. Snee-ha.

S-It's a micro-aggression, that's why.

D-Yeah, I'm really just racist.

J-Yeah, pretty much. Yeah.

D-That's true.

S-Yeah. Wearing your wife-beater.

[Explosions]

(Steve laughing)

D-(Funny voice) Whatever you say.

J-Yeah. Let me shift around a little bit here. Ok. Ready?

D-You want to use a coaster underneath that thing, man?

J-Oh yeah.

D-Cause you're going to set it down and it's going to make a noise.

(Sound of can hitting table)

S-Like that (all laughing).

D-Just like that.

[Explosions]

D-The son of the Poverty Island lighthouse said that he watched a salvage crew...

J-Uh, wouldn't it be the son of the Poverty Island lighthouse keeper?

D-No (laughing).

S-Yes (S and J laughing).

D-No.

[Explosions]

S-Okayyyyyy.

D-I'm glad I was not recording when we were talking about my boyfriend's gang initiation.

J-Yeah.

S-Yay!

D-Yay.

[Explosions]

S-Good. Let's gooooo.

J-Argh.

S-Argh.

J-Ok. You all right?

D-Uh huh.

J-Ok.

D-No.

J-Ok.

S-Yeah.

J-Ok, here we go.

D-Huh?

S-Yeah.

D-Ok.

S-What? (laughing)

D-Huh?

J-Who's on first?

D-God damn it. Argh!

[Explosions]

D-What were you saying? Sorry.

J-I think with the collective consciousness, it should just be an hour of silence. And if people can hear our thoughts, then great.

D-Yeah. I just want to collectively conscious...consciousize. Is that not a word? Collectively consciousize.

S-You're butchering the English language.

J-It's a word now.

D-What...how do you say that? What's the, like, active verb of being conscious? To be conscious.

S-Conscize?

D-So that's the infinitive of it, so.

S-It's conch. Like the shell.

D-Oh, it's like the shell (Steve laughing). That's why you can hear the shell when you hold it to your ear. It's just everybody else's thoughts you don't know how to interpret it.

J-I, I...you know...

D-I am way too sober for that thought (laughing).

S-Or you are high as a kite, one of the two.

J-Drink another beer, huh.

D-Yes! (Steve laughing). You know that? When somebody's high, and you're like "how high are you?" And their response is "yes." That's where I need to be right now. We should just get high and record an episode on collective consciousness.

S-(sighs).

D-It's legal here. Stop looking at me.

J-I know. I haven't...

[Explosions]

D-Ok, so let's maybe do this.

S-Can we please start?

J-Do you want me to pause it and save it and start again?

S-(Bleep). Just go. Just go.

J-Ok. Pause.

D-Pause.

J-Pause.

S-"Boop."

J-Ok. Here we are. Ready?

D-Ready.

S-"Boop." (laughing).

D-God damn it! (laughing). Every single time it's going to happen.

J-Stop. Yeah, I know. We're just not going to get this.

D-Oh (bleep). Before I forget. I'm sorry. This is one last thing. I promise, last thing. Just so you know, some of our listeners want us to release a, like, PG-13 slash R version of bloopers (laughing). So they can hear how we actually speak, just so you know.

J-Hm.

D-Just so you know. As a thought.

J-Ok.

D-Ok.

J-I'm willing to do that.

D-Ok. "Boop."

J-Cause I know, you talk like a longshoreman.

D-"Boop."

J-So do I.

S-(Bleep) that (laughing).

J-Ohh. Not the balls, not the balls!

D-Let's go.

J-All right.

[Explosions]

J-But the Joyita was a huge deal back in the 1920s, and of course after the whole concept of Bermuda Triangle was floated...

S and D-The Joyita?

J-What? Did I say what?

S and D-You said the Joyita.

J-Did I say Joyita?

S-Yeah.

J-Oh (bleep). (S and D laughing). Ok, sorry.

[Explosions]

J-Uh, I bumped my microphone.

S-Mother(bleep)!

J-I know (laughing). Sorry. So.

S-I'll start the whole thing over.

J-No, not the whole thing. Just, uh...

S-I will just do from the beginning of that sentence. That's all I'm going to do.

J-"Blair was a Canadian man," yeah.

[Explosions]

S-It's "hert-ford-shire" I believe is how you would say that.

D-Great.

J-Oh really.

D-I'm going to just let you guys say it.

J-I think it's, since this is Britain we're talking about, it's probably "her-sher."

D-"Her-sher" (laughing). "Her-fer-sher."

J-Yeah. "Her-sher."

[Explosions]

D-It's the "thay-ms," right?

S-"Temz."

D-"Temz?"

S-The Thames.

D-God, how? How do you...whatever.

S-How do I know that?

D-No, just how does, how do you get that pronunciation from that.

S-Cause the Brits (bleep)ed up and they were taught by the Romans.

D-I can't wait for that to make the cut into (S and J laughing). Ok.

[Explosions]

S-It's something on this...

D-Yeah, it doesn't matter. Anyway, no it doesn't matter, it doesn't matter!

S-Joe, Joe, Joe, let's, it's not major.

J-It's bugging me now.

D-No!

S-We'll figure it out after post podcast.

J-All right, all right, sounds good. Ok. Yeah. Hang on (burps).

S-Serious voice.

J-Ok, there we go.

D-(Deep voice) Hello. Yes. This is dog.

J-Hm. Ok, ready?

S-Yes, Walter Cronkite.

J-Ok.

[Explosions]

D-I was just checking Twitter, I'm sorry.

J-Ok. Uh, I, uh, stop. Ok.

D-"Bleheheh." (Steve laughing)

J-(Stumbling over words). Accor...ok, stop. Let Devin get herself under control.

D-I'm good. I'm fine.

J-You under control? You good? Ok.

[Explosions]

S-...turned on.

D-Woah.

(Blowing into mic)

Devin makes explosion noise.

S-Devin's greatest hits (laughing).

D-No, I think that's "My Heart Will Go On." (Steve laughing harder).

J-Hm.

S-All right, let's get going here.

D-"Near, far..."

S-Ok.

D"...wherever..."

J-(Falsetto) "Wherever you are." Ok.

S-Ow. Dogs, three counties away, howling, because of Joe.

J-Sorry.

S-All right.

[Explosions]

J-Are you ready? You want to go?

D-Uh huh. The.

J-Cycle.

D-Of.

J-Having.

D-Enough.

J-Food.

D-Followed.

J-By.

D-Short (D and J laughing).

S-See. I told you it wasn't going to work.

D-Ok. All right, I'll just do it now.

J-All right, fine.

D-We're good. That's probably enough.

[Explosions]

D-...at least according to Wikipedia.

S-Ok.

J-All right.

D-Which is all the fact checking I'm willing to do.

[Explosions]

D-...and Du Rose revealed that Ireland had been identified as a suspect shortly after the murder of Bridget O'Hara. I just said something very weird (laughing).

S-Murder. She didn't get merged with anybody, Devin.

D-No.

[Explosions]

J-Well hi there.

D-Et cetera. (Burps and laughs). Sorry.

J-All right, that's it. I quit (Steve laughing).

D-Ok.

J-Yeah. I'm going to start my own podcast. Screw you guys.

D-With blackjack, and hookers.

J-Yeah (S and J laughing).

D-Actually, screw the podcast!

J-Yeah. Yeah, I'm just going to go pro. I'm going to go professional and be a gambler.

S-There you go.

J-Cause it worked out so well for [can't understand name he says].

[Explosions]