

*Silence. They sip their beers.*

WADE

Did you know that Big Bird was supposed to be on the Challenger?

TREVOR

What? The shuttle that exploded?

WADE

Yup.

TREVOR

Bullshit.

WADE

No, it's true! NASA wanted to, like, drum up interest with kids in the space program, so they reached out to Sesame Street and asked if they could have the guy who played Big Bird wearing the suit on the Challenger mission.

TREVOR

Caroll Spinney?

WADE

I don't know, whoever the dude is who played Big Bird.

TREVOR

Huh.

WADE

But it got difficult to, like, logically have him in the capsule with the other astronauts, so they bailed on it. But just imagine, we could have seen Big Bird explode on TV as kids.

TREVOR

Well ... they wouldn't have shown it. I mean, we wouldn't have seen him explode. We didn't see any of the astronauts actually die. Up close.

WADE

No, but we would have known. We would have said, "Big Bird's going to space!" And then, KABOOM!

TREVOR

That's crazy. Do you think they would have addressed it?

WADE

Who?

TREVOR

Sesame Street.

WADE

What, like have Bert and Ernie talk about how Big Bird died in space?

TREVOR

Yeah.

WADE

I guess. They'd have to, right?

TREVOR

Not if-

*They both freeze in place, their eyes again on a single ride vehicle as it passes. The flash of a camera illuminates the scene. They wait until the vehicle is gone, then...)*

TREVOR

Not if they wanted to pretend like Big Bird wasn't in the Challenger after all.

WADE

Yeah, but wouldn't that mean they lied to all the kids? Isn't their whole thing about being honest, even when sad things happen? Like, remember Mr. Hopper's death?

TREVOR

Yeah, but that's because he actually died.

WADE

So did Big Bird! You know, in this example.

TREVOR

I'm just saying they used the death of the actor who played Mr. Hopper as a way to teach kids about death. Mr. Hopper dies, it's not a huge deal.

But they can't just kill Big Bird. They could have put someone else in a Big Bird costume and explained there was a misunderstanding and Big Bird was never in the Challenger, you know. So they could keep the character and NOT traumatize millions of kids watching at home.

WADE

I don't know, it's hard to come back from that. Like they probably would have shown him sitting in the shuttle thing with the astronauts, waiting for the countdown.

(Beat.)

Maybe they could have said he just flew away when it exploded.

TREVOR

And he didn't save any of the astronauts? No way. Besides, Big Bird can't fly.

WADE

He can't?

TREVOR

No, they sang a whole song about it.

WADE

All I'm saying is Jim Henson was a solid dude, I think he would have killed off Big Bird. He didn't mess around with kids emotions like that.

TREVOR

Listen to what you're saying.

WADE

I'm saying death is just another part of life, and he knew that.

TREVOR

I don't want to talk about this anymore.

*Beat. They both look at the floor.*

WADE

How's your beer?

*Trevor chugs the rest of his can.*