

BRUTALLY HONEST LIFE COACH

by Bradley Walton

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A Comedic Duet

by **Bradley Walton**

SYNOPSIS: Jordan's life is kind of a mess, and he's looking for honest feedback to turn things around. Jordan asks for Avery's help in getting his life back on track, but isn't prepared for the bizarre confidence-building exercises Avery has in store. Soon Jordan begins to wonder, is his new life coach even remotely qualified for the job?

TIME: Present day.

SETTING: A general place in the community; perhaps on the sidewalk.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 either)

JORDAN (m/f).....Lacking self-confidence. *(126 lines)*

AVERY (m/f).....Sells "honesty." *(126 lines)*

SET: Bare stage.

PROPS: Sign that says "HONESTY \$5", 4 pieces of paper money *(Props are optional if performed for competition.)*

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Avery's characterization could be interpreted in a couple of ways. Is Avery an adaptable scam artist preying on Jordan's insecurity? Or is Avery a brilliant and honest person with a rigid business ethic who's able figure out exactly what Jordan needs? If you're wondering which approach to take... the choice is up to you.

COSTUMES

JORDAN – A hideous plaid shirt that contains shades of red and green. Pants, brownish socks, and ugly shoes.

AVERY – Anything that looks better than what Jordan is wearing.

AT START: *AVERY, holding or standing next to a sign that says "HONESTY \$5". JORDAN enters, stops, and looks at AVERY'S sign.*

AVERY: Hi. How's it going?

JORDAN: Okay.

AVERY: Anything I can help you with?

JORDAN: I don't understand the sign you've got there. "Honesty \$5."
What does that mean?

AVERY: It means for five dollars, you can ask me a question and I'll give you a completely honest answer.

JORDAN: I just asked you a question without giving you money. Does that mean your answer was a lie?

AVERY: No, that was a free sample. Same as the answer I'm giving you right now.

JORDAN: How many free samples do I get?

AVERY: That'll be five dollars.

JORDAN: So two free samples.

AVERY: You catch on quick.

JORDAN: All right.

JORDAN hands AVERY money.

JORDAN: I was really torn as to whether I should buy this shirt. Does it look okay on me?

AVERY: The plaid on that shirt makes you look like a fungus covered apple.

JORDAN: Wow! That was brutal.

AVERY: I'm brutally honest.

JORDAN: Nobody's ever said anything like that to me before.

AVERY: Did you like it?

JORDAN: It was refreshing, but also painful.

AVERY: Truth frequently hurts.

JORDAN: I wish my friends and family would give me feedback like that, but they only tell me nice things. I know that they don't want to hurt my feelings, but I feel like it inhibits my growth as a person.

AVERY: I bet one of them told you those shoes looked nice.

JORDAN: What's wrong with my shoes?

AVERY: Five dollars.

JORDAN: Here.

JORDAN hands AVERY money.

AVERY: They're ugly.

JORDAN: Really?

AVERY: Five dollars.

JORDAN hands AVERY money.

AVERY: Yes.

JORDAN: I feel like such a pathetic excuse for a human being.

AVERY: Are you asking for my opinion?

JORDAN: I'm out of five dollar bills. Unless—do you have change for a hundred?

AVERY: You're in luck! Today is [insert day of the week], and it just so happens that I have a [insert day of the week] special—one hundred dollars for a completely honest thirty minute conversation.

JORDAN: Really?

AVERY: That'll be one hundred dollars.

JORDAN: Sure!

JORDAN hands AVERY money.

JORDAN: Do I get back the fifteen I already gave you?

AVERY: No.

JORDAN: Do you think I'm pathetic?

AVERY: Yes.

JORDAN: I knew it! That's exactly what I've suspected all along! I feel so lost and directionless, I don't even know what I'm having for dinner tonight.

AVERY: I'm sure all the prospective dinners in the universe are holding their breath waiting for you to decide, because none of them want to be eaten by you.

JORDAN: You think I'm a loser in the eyes of my food?

AVERY: If I was a bowl of mashed potatoes, I'd be embarrassed to get eaten by you.

JORDAN: You've gotta help me!

AVERY: I am helping you.

JORDAN: No, I mean REALLY help me. Don't just tell me what I need to hear—teach me how to improve! Be my life coach!

AVERY: Life coach?

JORDAN: Yes!

AVERY: You don't know what you're asking. It wouldn't be pleasant.

JORDAN: I don't need pleasant. I need results!

AVERY: My methods would be extreme.

JORDAN: Extreme times call for extreme measures.

AVERY: When do you want to start?

JORDAN: Right now!

AVERY: You realize, I'd charge more for this kind of service.

JORDAN: Do you take credit cards?

AVERY: Not yet. I'm hoping maybe next week.

JORDAN: But I don't have any more money on me!

AVERY: Well, we could convert the remaining twenty-eight minutes of your honest conversation over to a seven minute life coaching session.

JORDAN: Yes! Let's do that! Thank you!

AVERY: Are you sure you're up for this?

JORDAN: I'm ready!

AVERY: (*Puts down sign if holding it.*) Okay...

JORDAN: Lay it on me!

Beat.

AVERY: Stand on one foot.

JORDAN: What?

AVERY: Stand on one foot.

JORDAN: For real?

AVERY: I thought you said you were up for it.

JORDAN stands on right foot.

JORDAN: I am! See? I'm standing on one foot.

AVERY: Huh. I wasn't sure you'd actually go through with it.

JORDAN: Am I missing something?

AVERY: I don't know. You'd have to tell me what you were missing.

JORDAN: You implied that standing on one foot is difficult or dangerous.

AVERY: Did I?

JORDAN: Kind of.

AVERY: Are you positive about that?

JORDAN: You said you weren't sure I'd actually go through with it.

AVERY: Does that imply danger? Or does it imply that I wasn't sure you'd actually go through with it?

JORDAN: I don't know.

AVERY: Do you know what else you don't know?

JORDAN: No.

AVERY: Well, there you go.

JORDAN: There I go what?

AVERY: We've exposed your vast ignorance.

JORDAN: We have?

AVERY: The appropriate response is "Thank you."

JORDAN: Thank you. Can I put my foot down now?

AVERY: No, the appropriate response is not "Thank you. Can I put my foot down now?" It's just "Thank you."

JORDAN: Thank you.

AVERY: Very good.

JORDAN: Can I put my foot down now?

AVERY: Do you think we're done?

JORDAN: This is going to get harder, isn't it?

AVERY: Much harder. Now listen carefully.

JORDAN: Okay.

AVERY: Put your foot down.

JORDAN puts foot down.

JORDAN: Like this?

AVERY: Was there another way to do it?

JORDAN: You said listen carefully. I just wanted to make sure I got it right.

AVERY: Did you listen carefully?

JORDAN: Yes.

AVERY: Are you sure?

JORDAN: Kind of sure.

AVERY: But not 100% sure?

JORDAN: I guess not.

AVERY: Do you need for me to repeat what I said?

JORDAN: Possibly.

AVERY: Fine. My exact words were, "Put your foot down."

JORDAN: So I did it right.

AVERY: Is that a question or a statement?

JORDAN: It was a... little of both?

AVERY: A statement that you hoped would prompt either a positive or negative response.

JORDAN: Yeah.

AVERY: We're going to move on to something else now.

JORDAN: You're not going to tell me if I did it right?

AVERY: Did you put your foot down?

JORDAN: Yes.

AVERY: What else do you need to know?

JORDAN: If I put it down correctly.

AVERY: Is the assurance really that important to you?

JORDAN: Yes.

AVERY: Why?

JORDAN: Because I'm pathetic.

AVERY: You're pathetic because even though putting your foot down is so impossibly simple, you're afraid you might've done it wrong? Or you're pathetic because you need the assurance that you did such a simple thing correctly?

JORDAN: I was thinking in terms of the first one, but since you put the second one out there too, I'm gonna have to go with both.

AVERY: I think you might've gotten more pathetic since this coaching session started.

JORDAN: I can feel myself slipping away. Please help me.

AVERY: I'm trying.

JORDAN: Try harder!

AVERY: Are you sure?

JORDAN: Yes.

AVERY: It won't be pleasant.

JORDAN: I need to not be so pathetic.

AVERY: Then do exactly as I say...

JORDAN: Wait!

AVERY: What?

JORDAN: You never said if I put my foot down correctly.

AVERY: We are moving on.

JORDAN: But I have to know!

AVERY: The universe is filled with infinite secrets beyond the comprehension of mortal minds.

JORDAN: That's so unfair!! What happened to honesty?

AVERY: I'm still being honest. But as your life coach, I choose which questions get straight answers.

JORDAN: Being life coached is hard!

AVERY: You were warned. Now stand on one foot!

JORDAN: Again?

AVERY: Yes!

JORDAN: The same foot, or the other foot?

AVERY: You have to choose.

JORDAN: What happens if I choose wrong?

AVERY: What do you think will happen?

JORDAN: I don't know! That's why I'm asking!

AVERY: What do you think MIGHT happen?

JORDAN: I could regret it for the rest of my life?

AVERY: I bet you could.

JORDAN: What if I can't choose?

AVERY: You must choose.

JORDAN: But this is such an enormous decision!

AVERY: Every decision is an enormous decision!

JORDAN: Really?

AVERY: Yes!

JORDAN: What about choosing my socks in the morning?

AVERY: What day is it?

JORDAN: [Replies with current day of the week.]

AVERY: What month is it?

JORDAN: [Replies with current month.]

AVERY: What day of the month?

JORDAN: [Replies with current day of the month.]

AVERY: What year is it?

JORDAN: [Replies with current year.]

AVERY: Today is the only [repeats full date] that will ever be. It never existed before, and it will never exist again. You will never have a chance to go back and do this day over. Once it's gone, it is immutably fixed forever in the records of eternity as what was. Only through the choices we make in the present can we affect the future past before even the smallest details are locked down forever. Including the color of your socks. A detail which will become eternal as history stretches out behind us. And that which is eternal is infinite. There are no small decisions. So choose your socks wisely. And choose the foot you will stand upon with equal wisdom.

JORDAN: You've made me really worried.

AVERY: About which foot you should stand on?

JORDAN: About my socks. I can't remember what color I put on today. And I'm afraid to look.

AVERY: It's best to confront reality no matter how terrifying it may seem.

JORDAN pulls up a pant leg.

JORDAN: They're brownish. That's not so bad, is it?

AVERY: Brownish?

JORDAN: Yes.

AVERY: You are the only person on the planet who could describe that color as "brownish."

JORDAN: What color would you say it is?

AVERY: Poopbarf.

JORDAN: Really?

AVERY: Yes.

JORDAN: I have a pair this exact same color with little flecks of red and blue. What would you call that?

AVERY: Poopbarf with sprinkles.

JORDAN: Is poopbarf not a good color?

AVERY: If it was a good color, it wouldn't be called "poopbarf." Now cover that sock back up. It's making me nauseous.

JORDAN covers sock back up.

JORDAN: I'll be wearing these socks today in my past for all of eternity.

AVERY: Indeed. Poopbarf... forever.

JORDAN: I need to choose exactly the right foot to stand on so I can make up for wearing the color poopbarf.

AVERY: You will never be able to make up for wearing the color poopbarf. But a good decision made now will pave the way for good decisions to come.

JORDAN: And then all of the decisions I make after this will be good decisions and I won't be so pathetic anymore?

AVERY: Think of it as laying a gravel path and this is the first piece of gravel.

JORDAN: How long is the path?

AVERY: How long are you planning on living?

JORDAN: I'm hoping for at least sixty more years.

AVERY: Then the path you're laying will hopefully be sixty years long.

JORDAN: That's a lot of gravel.

AVERY: It's metaphorical gravel.

JORDAN: Does it come with metaphorical dust? I don't like dust.

AVERY: The metaphorical dust is completely optional.

JORDAN: All right. I need a minute to think about this foot lifting thing.

AVERY: Take your time. You're the one paying for the session.

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