

MBMBaM 444: The 100 Wishes of the Pandemonium Cube

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Intro (Bob Ball): The McElroy brothers are not experts, and their advice should never be followed. Travis insists he's a sexpert, but if there's a degree on his wall, I haven't seen it. Also, this show isn't for kids, which I mention only so the babies out there will know how cool they are for listening. What's up, you cool baby?

[theme music plays]

Justin: Hello, everybody, and welcome to My Brother, My Brother and Me, an advice show for the modern era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

Travis: Uh, let me check my documents here. I'm your middlest brother, Travis McElroy.

Griffin: 'Sup, it's Griffin!

Justin: What's up, Griffin? We've got another Film Watch, uh, one— our great series where we pick a popcorn flick coming out that week, and pretend as though we are very excited for it, and that we've seen it or will see it. And this week, our uh, the funny one we got is They Shall Not Grow Old.

Griffin: [imitates alarm blaring]

Travis: Haha, wha—

Griffin: You guys ready for some fucking gags?

Justin: They Shall Not Grow Old. Watch Peter Jackson has taken a bunch of dope-ass footage from World War I and given it that— put Jar Jar in it...
[laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: ...cleaned it up. Cleaned it up, put Jar Jar in it, colorized it, smoothed it out, sexied it up.

Griffin: Crunchitized it.

Travis: Now— now, Justin...

Justin: Photoshopped away all the old man wrinkles, so it's a bunch...

Travis: Just put a bunch of Instagram filters on it.

Justin: It's just a bunch of sexy-ass Chris Helmsworths walking around.

Travis: Now, Justin, I of course know everything about this film. Uh, I studied up for the Watch, but that was a hum that made me wondering, is this like— is there like, a storyline?

Justin: It's an homage to British troops of the first World War with a bunch of footage that he has, like, remastered uh, with— overlaid with the narrative of those who partook in the war from interviews made in the '60s and '70s.

Griffin: What is— what's uncomfortable is they can't— it's like "Super Bowl." They can't actually say "World War I," so they call it "The Big Fight."

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: [laughs] The first Big Fight.

Travis: Yeah. The Huge Skirmish.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: I think that this— if you have— okay. If you've seen this footage, it is amazing what uh, Pete has done. He's taken this, like, really old, grainy footage, and made it feel so real, uh, which— which is extremely impressive.

The reviews are in on this one, and it is— I just— it's an amazing achievement that Peter Jackson has done, and the critics are all uniformly lining up to hail this outstanding, amazing achievement. But you know there's still one...

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: ...who's like, "I don't know." [laughs]

Travis: [laughs] "Where's the superheroes?"

Justin: "I've seen some other movies, and of the..."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "...of the never-before-seen World War I footage digitally remastered [laughs] for modern audiences, this one left me feeling a little cold."

Griffin: So I guess the thing that's on everybody's tongues is, what's— what's else can Peter put his magic touch on, and remaster? What— uh, maybe just wars, or maybe there's other stuff. It seems like war, he's got pretty much figured out at this point, so maybe it's cheaper for him to do wars.

Justin: Uh-huh.

Travis: I— I have some footage of me making a sandwich a couple years ago, but I didn't make it interes— I forgot to make it interesting, if I'm being honest.

Justin: The sandwich, or the footage?

Travis: I mean, both, honestly. I would like Peter Jackson to remaster my sandwich.

Griffin: I'd like to see him take a pass at The War of the Roses, but not the actual one.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: The Kathleen Turner film.

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Yeah. Punch it up. Punch up that Kathleen Turner-Michael Douglas classic. Punch it.

Justin: This guy can do anything.

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: Right? Pete can take a whole war, and make it feel like one movie.

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: He can take 50,000 orcs, and make 'em feel like one army. What I would like him to do is dip into the series Supernatural, which has just crested 300 episodes...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: ...and I would love him to just bring it on in [laughs] for me.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: What I want Pete to do, now that he's finished his World War I film, documentary...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...I want him to just take all 300 episodes of Supernatural, and just fucking bring it in, so I can get caught up on this series, see what all the fuss is about.

Travis: So...

Justin: Every other issue of Entertainment Weekly has it on the cover. I just want to get in on the hubbub, the fandom, the tumbling of this show, and I can't, 'cause there's 300 episodes, and I will be dead by the time that I watch all of those back-to-back. So I just need Pete to bring it in.

Griffin: To bring it on home.

Travis: J-man, I'm gonna do some quick math here. And let's assume that with commercial breaks, there's 45 minutes of actual Supernatural in each episode. And you're saying 300. So that's 13,500 minutes. Wouldn't it be amazing...

Griffin: [singing] 13,500 minutes...

Travis: [singing along] 500...

If Michael— if— if— who's Michael? [laughs] If Peter Jackson...

Griffin: Who's Michael, though?

Travis: I don't know.

Griffin: Where did Michael come from?

Travis: I was thinking of Michael Jackson. If Peter Jackson...

Justin: That's 225 hours of Supernatural.

Travis: Right.

Griffin: So much. So much show

Travis: Or— or...

Justin: 9.3— nine and a third—

Travis: ...in one hour...

Justin: Nine and a third days of Supernatural.

Travis: In one hour, he would have to squeeze 225 minutes into each minute...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...of an hour-long episode to get you caught up.

Griffin: Math is fun. I think that...

Travis: Thank you, Griffin! I agree!

Griffin: Uh, I think...

Travis: Learning!

Griffin: ...that can you even imagine, he did the whole war, I guess, in one flick.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: But The Hobbit, a 300-page long book, did take three flicks. That's kind of a fart in the face to people who did World War I, huh?

Justin: [laughs] I think so.

Travis: Well—

Griffin: If they can come back and watch one of the three Hobbit movies, where it's like, "Here's a 30-minute section on the kind of grass that Hobbits eat, or whatever."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: And they're like, "Wow, that's cool. My whole thing got blown up, but I guess that one got cut for time!"

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "Pete cut my whole place getting blown up for time, I guess."

Justin: I think that there is um, and I think this one is just coming out for one day in a limited-release situation, an event release, if you will.

Travis: What a hot Watch we're doing!

Justin: Yeah, this is a hot Watch. February 1, I think, is the one— is the time that you can see this one uh, out.

Griffin: Cool, man.

Justin: Yeah, man, cool.

Travis: Great.

Justin: Go see this flick. Let us know— well, I mean, let Rotten Tomatoes know what you think, and we'll definitely see it that way.

Um, we are an advice program, right? So we take questions from you, our beloved audience. You can send those to MBMBaM@MaximumFun.org. And send us your questions! Let us know how we can help. If you need real, actual advice, not pretend advice or you just want to tell us a story or anything like that. If you need actual advice, let us help you. Let us— that's our core competency, really, when all is said and done.

Travis: And that's gonna do it for us this week, so...

Griffin: And that's it for our episode. A lot of just sort of talking in this one, I feel like.

Travis: Yeah, but you know what—

Griffin: Hey, wait, let me get a hand on the talking ball.

Justin: We never--.

Griffin: No, no, listen, I wanna talk. I wanna talk. I just got a Google calendar notification popup that Kingdom Hearts 3 comes out tomorrow.

Travis: [gasps]

Griffin: And what— I can't believe it's actually here, folks. And I heard in this one, Mickey Mouse actually kills Sephiroth.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Why didn't we— why didn't we do a Watch on that? Why did we pick the hard one about the war that we have— don't know much about, and have to really kind of watch what we say? We could've talked about our— it's 'cause you're so very excited for it, huh?

Griffin: Oh, I just can't wait to watch Mickey Mouse fight.

Justin: [laughs] In this one, Mickey Mouse fights.

Travis: Do you think, when they're getting ready to make a new Kingdom Hearts game, they just do a deep dive on like, Disney fanfiction and steal a bunch of ideas?

Justin: They've stolen a lot of my uh, Wreck-It Ralph fanfiction.

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: I have one where his fists [laughs] grow to the size of buildings, and they're so big and sweaty [laughs]...

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah.

Justin: ...that he can't do anything with them, and they drag around, and um, Elsa and Moana and uh, Flynn Rider from Ench— Tangled have to come help him carry his fists.

Travis: That's pretty good.

Justin: And his pants get caught. [laughs]

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: His stupid overalls get caught on a rock, [laughs] and they tear off.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And so they're dragging him by his huge fists. And that is in Kingdom Hearts 3, I saw it in a trailer. So I'm gonna have to do something about that.

Griffin: Yeah, Kingdom Hearts 3 does have Wreck-It Ralph with his huge fists, and he teams up with Master Chief for an Ultima summon.

Travis: And his pants rip off, I guess?

Griffin: His pants rip off, and his...

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: But it's not addressed. It's not— listen...

Griffin: They— it doesn't—

Travis: ...it is not a 'sexual' thing.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It's just— it's just a funny thing that happens.

Griffin: And his jim-jam's all pixelated, and Master Chief's like, "What's— oh, I guess they're censoring your jim-jam?"

And Wreck-It Ralph's just—

Travis: "Oh, I'm so sorry!"

Griffin: And Wreck-It Ralph's just like, "No, that's what it looks like."

Travis: [gasps]

Griffin: "In the video game."

Travis: And Master Chief then just says a quiet prayer. And he's very religious in this one.

Griffin: There's a lot of praying to Christ.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: There's a whole Christ narrative in this one.

Griffin: Yeah. One of the movies that they, like, make a world out of is the Bible.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: It's great.

Travis: Yeah, the Disney movie, The Bible.

Griffin: It's sort of fully— it's saved. Let's do some questions.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs] "Finally, Mickey converts."

Justin: [laughs] Master Chief takes off his helmet. He says, "Finally, I can reveal my [English accent] identity!" It's Jack Sparrow.

Griffin: Ah, see!

Justin: The whole time, it's been Jack Sparrow underneath the helmet.

Travis: Woah. And then he becomes a Christian, too.

Griffin: This would've been a way— [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: This would've been a way better intro. It's a shame we didn't do this one.

Justin: "Saved by the power of Jesus Christ..." [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] Then Tron comes out. He's doing all these crazy stunts. And when the camera pulls back, he's spelled out with his light cycle. John 3:16.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs] Tron loves Jesus too. Cyber Jesus, of course, but...

Griffin: Alright. Alright.

Justin: Alright. So everybody—

Griffin: Here comes the question.

Justin: At the end of Kingdom Hearts, they all get saved by Jesus.
[laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs, coughs]

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Okay. [exhales, begins laughing]

Griffin: Nope. Pull it back in.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Pull it back in.

Travis: Oh, we were almost there.

Griffin: We were so close to doing our podcast that we do every week.

Justin: Here comes the podcast you've been waiting for.

Travis: See, then I'm picturing Lightning McQueen getting baptized.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: We can't. We can't. It's just a car— but it's a car wash. We can't. We can't. We can't! No!

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Go! Read the first question! Go, come on!

Travis: No, we can't do this!

Justin: I can't do it!

Travis: We can't do it! No!

Justin: I can't do this.

Travis: The chicken from Moana accepts Jesus. Okay.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: All right. So we're done. Okay.

Travis: We're done. That's it.

Justin: That's it. He swallows the Bible whole and he starts choking on it.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: All right. Here comes the first question.

Travis: But he does go to heaven.

Justin: He does go to heaven. Heihei, voiced by Alan Tudyk.

Griffin: "For the last year or so, I've been working in the mall as a retail assistant. Throughout—" I don't like the feeling of doing one of these questions. I don't like reading questions written by—

Justin: Come on nephew you feel froggy, do it, baby. You started.

Griffin: It's just, reading a question written by a sensible human being is uh, weird to me.

Justin: [sighs] "For the last year or so, I've bene working in the mall as a retail assistant. Throughout my time working there, I have gotten to know quite a few of the people who also work in the mall. A few weeks ago, a girl who works at the Mexican restaurant—" [laughs]

Griffin: Justin, come on!

Travis: You're good.

Justin: "...in the mall—" I'm fine. "...in the mall came to introduce herself. She told me her name, and that I should, quote, 'Drop by sometime,' and she would give me some— give me half-price burritos. I have now happily done so on several occasions. I just thought of this as the friendly thing to do, but my coworkers met her before; they have never been offered any discount.

"Some of my coworkers now think she's into me. This wouldn't be a problem, except for the fact that I have been happily part of a relationship for the past four years, and we have recently gotten engaged. My question is, is it okay for me to keep this burrito agreement and not tell this girl I'm engaged, so long as she doesn't ask?" That's from Questioning Quesadilla.

Griffin: That's a heavy one to start out with. What a tonal shift from Sora getting saved by Jesus Christ to...

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: ...this tempted by the burrito of another sort of situation. Uh, I feel like swinging on by for half-price burritos is a weird game, is some weird game, maybe, and...

Travis: I don't know. I think... I think it's, if you have something as powerful as half-price burritos to offer, I feel like that's a big old power move, because it almost ensures, like, "I'm gonna see this person again."

Griffin: Well, also, it shows, "I can provide for you."

Travis: Yes. Burritos.

Griffin: Which is important. My love language is half of the money that I would have to spend on burritos just being saved in my back pocket.

This is a tricky one, because there's so many ways it can play out. Number one, they're not actually into you; they're just being friendly. Also, what store do you work at? That's it! Maybe they're trying to get half price iPhone.

Travis: Mm!

Justin: Ooh. They're trying to get a reciprocal deal.

Griffin: That's entirely possible.

Travis: See, but the element of this question that is kind of a— like, breaks the whole thing wide open, is that none of the question asker's coworkers have been offered the same deal. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So like, this is unique to them.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: But maybe— maybe it's just all of your other coworkers are drips, and you're awesome.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And this person's like, "I wanna hang out with this person more, and become friends, and—" it's a— [gasps] here's what you need to do.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Bring your fiancé with you.

Griffin: This is not good.

Justin: That's not good.

Travis: What?

Griffin: Um, I think—

Travis: The only other option— like, if you feel bad, is to say, "Hey, I appreciate the half-price burritos, but you should know, I'm in a relationship."

Griffin: No.

Travis: And that's, like, the worst thing I can think of.

Justin: No, but here's the problem. There's a very different version of this question that we could get that's like, "Hey, I've been trying to hit on this guy with some low-priced Mexican cuisine, and he just brought in his fiancé. Do I have to keep giving him these great burritos?"

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Damn. You're right.

Justin: Um, I'm also assuming the gender of the question asker, which I shouldn't do, 'cause I— we have no idea. But—

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Whoever it is, they— I feel like that's not— here's the thing. If you're getting half-price burritos, folks, the half of the price has to come from somewhere. And maybe it's coming from this employee, maybe it's coming from Mr. Bell, I don't know. But it's coming from somewhere.

Griffin: Mr. QDOBA.

Justin: Somewhere along the chain, a piper is not getting paid. And I think that he could do a couple times and feel okay about it; it's not a permanent solution, though. I don't think you could do that permanently. I don't feel great about that. I feel like somebody— eventually, the game's gonna get got. And uh, if you're just in it for the free burritos and not the camaraderie...

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: ...or the companionship, I feel like maybe it's time to let this particular hookup slide on by. Unless you can reciprocate with a hookup of your own.

Travis: And you start bringing them burritos.

Justin: You start bringing them a half of a burrito, Travis.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: From a different— a different, better place.

Travis: And then you glue it to the burrito they gave you, and you hand it back, and say, "Good as new!"

Griffin: And that's how they—

Justin: I got this at a QDOBA, and I know you're probably not legally allowed to go into QDOBA, so here's a QDOBA bur— burrito.

Travis: I like how you say that.

Justin: What, QDOBA? How would you say it?

Travis: I don't know. I've just never said it out loud, because I've been afraid of doing it wrong.

Justin: Well, I have— I live with no fear. I do not have any limits. It's 2019. I'm becoming the monster.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Let the big dog eat.

Griffin: Yeah, if Travis— if Travis actually says QDOBA out loud, he loses his powers.

Travis: I can't.

Griffin: That's why I'm always—

Travis: I can't say QDOBA out— oh, no!

Griffin: All my tricks have finally paid off? How about a Yahoo? I wanted to pivot.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Yeah. You're the only one— the power is in your hands.

Griffin: Here's a Yahoo. This one was sent in by Emily Schach. Thanks, Emily.

It's uh, Yahoo Answers user FN-2187, which I believe is the Star Wars guy. wait, when did the first Star Wars movie come out? The— I mean, the I guess seventh one, come out? That was when? That was fairly recent. That was while I was living in Austin. I think it was like 2014, 2015, something like that. FN-2187, which is the name of the Star Wars guy, has been a member since May 7th, 2007.

So they just happened to— I'm guessing the Star Wars stole their shit from this Yahoo Answers user?

Justin: Woah.

Travis: Or they changed their username.

Griffin: No. So they ask, "My dreams be having 10 to 30-second commercials."

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: "Is this normal?"

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: "No lie; I can't make things like this up." You could.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "I normally— I normally don't remember my dreams, but when this happens, it helps me remember them."

Y'all ever have sort of like, you're enjoying a dream, you're, you know, flying a, you know, a jumbo jet with Richard Dreyfuss, and suddenly he turns into a piranha plant from Mario, and then all of a sudden you're fully erect, and you're like, "What is this gonna—" and then it's just like, you know, you get to— you watch the, like, Gillette commercial. The one that everybody's talking about.

Travis: All the advertising in my dreams is native advertising. Like, it happens in the— I'm flying with Richard Dreyfuss, and...

Griffin: Oh!

Justin: Oh, I love that.

Travis: ...yeah, Mario would show up, and then he would pull out a Gillette razor and start shaving his mustache, and talking about how smooth a shave it is, and how it's making him a better person and not a jerk all the time.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: Uh, we do co-branded campaigns.

Griffin: Oh.

Justin: So it is original content...

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: ...and then at the end, it just says, like, "Sponsored by Chevrolet."
But it's like—

Travis: Oh, that's nice!

Justin: And it's not about the product, right? Like, the car might be in it for like a second, but really, it's more about like, I'm driving a— like, a car, and I'm naked, and my teeth fall out, and then the car explodes, and then I'm a lizard, and then I could fly, and then at the end, it's like, "Sponsored by Chevrolet."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Don't you guys think— isn't the weirdest part of a dream always where like you get to the end of the story in the dream, but you're not awake yet, so then everybody in the dream just kind of stands around.

Griffin: Waiting, yeah.

Travis: Kind of like, hands in pockets, and it goes on for like a long time until they look at you and say, "Wake up, please, we're really bored." And then you wake up...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...but you're still in the dream, brought to you by Chevrolet.

Griffin: Yeah. The problem is when you take one of the commercial pills that implants it in your mind...

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: ...so that you can see it when you dream.

Travis: That Morpheus gives you.

Griffin: That Morpheus gives you, it's hard to flush those out sometimes.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: So you get 'em stuck— I'm still getting commercials for the Fyre Fest.

Travis: Oh, no!

Griffin: I'm still getting those in there. So I'll be having a dream where me and Robert Loggia are uh, having a huge fist fight on the moon, and all of a sudden, Ja Rule pops up, and I'm— I'm like, awake enough to say, "Ja, you've gotta get out of there, bud. You've gotta get out of there, bud. Bud? It's not gonna happen for you this time. You need to go."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: But every time, it still goes, and he still does it. Ah, shoot.

Travis: You know, here's a thing that's really fucking me up, is...

Griffin: Woah.

Justin: Woah. God. Come on.

Griffin: Jeez.

Travis: What?

Justin: 10:13 in the morning, Trav. You gotta watch the language.

Travis: You're right. It's too early to curse. I bought ads in my own dream for my— and this was early days, early days of My Brother, My Brother and Me, just to try to get some buzz going, and so now I'm right now having a hard time telling if this is a dream that I'm dreaming with an ad for my own podcast in it, or if I'm actually sitting here recording.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Don't try to fucking freak my bean, dude, 'cause it's early, and it'll work. And I can't have that kind of schism.

Travis: I'm not trying to freak your bean. I'm living in my own beanfreak, and you're just here for the ride, you know what I mean?

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: Woah.

Justin: "I have this occasional part-time job as kind of a secret shopper, where I go to restaurants, gas stations and the like—" okay. I'm gonna stop real quick. If you say my job is, quote, "kind of a secret shopper," I assume you are a thief.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Oh, I see.

Justin: Or a murderer. Like, out of the two. The most suspicious—suspicious intro possible.

Okay. "I have the occasional part-time job as kind of a secret shopper, where I go to restaurants, gas stations and the like, and attempt to buy alcohol or cigarettes, and test that the cashier/server checks for ID."

Travis: I cannot get over, Justin, you have made me realized how much "secret shopper" sounds like a euphemism for a shoplifter.

Griffin: Yes. For sure.

Travis: I shop in secret. [laughs] No one knows when I shop.

Justin: "Occasional part-time secret shopper" sounds like you're a shoplifter 100 percent.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "I'm 23, but I look 17, so most of the time the employee passes this weird test. I'm not given a script or anything, but the goal is to appear to be a somewhat normal shopper/diner.

"Recently, I've been tasked with attempting to buy vapes. I don't vape or have friends who vape, so I don't really know how to ask the cashier for a vape without sounding completely unbelievable. Brothers, how does one try to buy a vape without sounding like a cop?" And that's from Vexed about Vapes in Chicago.

Travis: [whimsically] "One vape, please!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Vape me." I—

Griffin: "Vape me up."

Justin: I am just now remembering— I just had a very vivid memory of being in high school, and another friend trying to recruit me into one of those programs.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: Like, to be an undercover narc, right? Where they, like, send teenagers in to buy cigarettes, and if they let them, then the place gets in trouble. It's only now occurring to me that this thing, where it's a real adult pretending to be underage, makes a lot more sense from sort of a legal perspective...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...than sending 16-year-old narcs in to buy smokes.

Travis: But also— though to that point, J-man, selling cigarettes or vapes to a 23-year-old is in no way illegal. Now, I get that you're supposed to check— like, check IDs if they "look under 35," which is bonkers, but like

that idea of like, woah, you're in trouble 'cause that could have been a teen. It's like, yeah, but it wasn't!

Justin: Yeah, but like, my thing was entrapment. [laughs] So I could see...

Travis: That's fair.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ... where that would be a problem.

Travis: And you did slink around in those leather pants to buy those things.

Justin: And I had a stippled-on uh, beard that was hol—

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: I thought was convincing, but...

Griffin: I um... I had to deal with this while working at Game Stop, because pretty close to the end of my tenure with that great company, they instituted a policy where you did have to, like, ID people if they were trying to buy a mature-rated game.

Um, because you know, an 18-year-old who comes in to buy Call of Duty 9 for sure is gonna have their ID on them. They are for sure— they do know how to drive a car, and they're very good at it.

And every time that someone'd come up and buy a mature-rated game, I would assume that they were a secret shopper.

Justin: Mm.

Griffin: Which never worked, 'cause I never actually got one, but if I had, boy, would they have been flummoxed. I would be like, "Oh, wanna buy this mature blood game, huh? Haha, gotcha!"

Justin: I uh, I— uh, okay, so it depends— part of this is like, if you're going into a vape shop proper or you're going into Speedway...

Griffin: yeah.

Justin: ...to just buy a vape. 'Cause at those, they don't give a shit.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You know, you can wander into there and say, like, "I need, I don't know, a vape," and they're not gonna have the sort of expertise...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: ...the expertise to guide you to the proper vaping experience. If you're at a vape shop proper, I think that becomes a lot harder. I think the— 'cause you're not gonna know, you know, the terms and all the slang, so as I understand it from my years in the game, you go in, you say, "I need to—" okay. Here's the thing. I got it. I got a solution.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Okay. Okay.

Justin: I got a solution. You don't go in equipment-focused, or slang-focused, or juice-focused. You go in outcome-focused.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: You go in and say, "I'm gonna— I wanna crank so much cotton that my mom has to leave the room."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah! And then reverse engineer.

Justin: Yes. Exactly. "Here's my end goal, is I'm wanna crank some serious fucking dragon's breath, my man..."

Griffin: Yeah

Justin: "...and I don't know how to achieve that. And I want it to also have nicotine, for sure. You know, the illegal stuff."

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: "So plea— that's my outcome. That's my solution. Now I need you to get focused on the steps we take to get there vis a vis equipment and technology and implants, whatever it takes."

Travis: Yeah. 'Cause it's like building a lightsaber, right? Like, you're gonna go through every step with them...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: ...and that's how you're gonna master it, right?

Justin: That's it.

Travis: And I guarantee someone working at a vape shop, and that's like, their job, is gonna be super excited to have some kind of, like, goal that they're chasing, and not like, "Just give me some grape flavor."

Justin: I imagine there's gonna be a lot of like, steepling of the fingers and "Hmm, let me just uh, [clicks tongue] do you like um, cinnamon?"

Travis: "We've gotten some new carbines from Vienna."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Right? And then they like roll out, like, kind of a jeweler's mat, you know?

Griffin: I'm sorry, I'm just so obsessed with this idea of your vape rig having to be like your lightsaber that you put together and choosing the—the kyber crystal that goes inside of it, and...

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: ...you have to ma— I feel like everybody should have to make their own vape rig.

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: I don't think you should be able to buy them. I think it should— there are— this is my vape rig, there are many like them, but this one is mine.

Travis: It's how you learn the responsibility, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Like, "Yes, I shape this with my will."

Justin: I was— I was thinking about vapes that look like other things, because I'm sure someone has made a huge lightsaber vape.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: The ones that I see on the street all look like lightsabers. Anyway, so I typed in "sonic screwdriver," and I'm very upset with Google and what Google thinks of me, because the autocomplete from "sonic screwdriver" is "sonic screwdriver vape."

Travis: Aah!

Justin: And so like, Google has my fucking number [laughs] in a major way.

Griffin: Oh, no. You could have, poking out of your shirt pocket, a ticket for an R-rated movie.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: And so you could walk in, and be like, "I would like to buy a vape."

And they're like, "Wait a minute. How—"

And then they'll look in your pocket, and what's that say? "Fatal Attraction? Well..."

Travis: [laughs] You must be 40 years old.

Griffin: If you have a Fatal Attraction ticket, you're good to go.

Travis: Or maybe just walk in with like, holding a baby.

Griffin: Mm.

Travis: And then you're like, "I would like to buy a vape."

And they're like, "Well, you have a baby with you."

Griffin: "Hurry it up. Me and this baby have to go see Fatal Attraction."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "And then I've gotta pay my taxes."

Griffin: "My taxes I have as an adult."

Justin: Um, I don't—

Travis: "Car insurance, am I right?"

Justin: I think you can't bring a baby into a vape shop. I'm not— I'm gonna revoke that advice. I don't think you...

Griffin: [laughs] You poke your head in...

Travis: No, no, no. The baby's 26.

Griffin: Poke your head in first, and say, "Can you guys not vape just for, like, a little bit? Just like, clear it out in here?"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "Can everyone stop vaping?"

Travis: The baby's a cop, too.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And it is a baby, but it's trained for this shit. It only exhales.
[laughs]

Justin: "This baby's getting too old for this shit, 'cause he's four and he's pretending to be a vape baby— a vape bait baby [laughs] that I bring into vape shops to see if they let me have a baby in here. You've been busted."

Travis: "This is my vape baby."

Justin: "This is my bait baby, Vapester. [laughs] And I want to bring Vapester into vape shops and see if they make me take the vape— my bait— my vape bait baby out..."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "...my bait bait vape bait bait bait baby, and the— it's illegal to have a baby in the vape shop. So the vape shop doesn't throw you out with the baby; then they're busted. That's a double..."

Travis: Yep.

Justin: "...illegal crime."

Griffin: Well, let's not throw the vape fog out with the baby water. Should we go to the Money Zone?

Justin: We're already there. Look around you; I built it when you weren't looking. Now I'm bricking over the entrance. [laughs] So you're trapped here forever.

Griffin: Oh, no, I've been Cask of Amomble— Amonolage.

Justin: No, you had it right first. It's Cask from a Mambo Number 5 Alado.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Correct.

[Money Zone theme plays]

Griffin: Hey, I wanna tell you all about MeUndies, because uh, our Valentine's Day—

Justin: Hard pass.

Griffin: What?

Justin: Hard pass. [laughs]

Griffin: Why?

Justin: I don't wanna know about your undies.

Griffin: Oh, I see. Oh, I'm...

Travis: This is a silly episode!

Justin: This is fun.

Griffin: Yeah, we're having fun not getting the things done that we've gotta get done in this one, contractually, but MeUndies is great for Valentine's Day. Uh, because they're, first of all, quality underwear. They're made out of micromodal fabric, which is three times softer than cotton, and you can choose from four different cuts of underwear. There's the prime cut...

Justin: There's the flank.

Griffin: There's the... the [laughs] flank, you can get a porter house underwear, all of which are available from...

Travis: Mine's a T-bone.

Griffin: Yeah. From classic colors to...

Justin: Ew, Travis!

Griffin: Gross!

Justin: Gross!

Travis: Yeah! That was a thinker!

Justin: It was a stinker.

Griffin: A stinker. Yikes.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Griffin: And it's got adventurous prints. Uh, I have uh, I recently Marie Kondo-ed my whole, like, wardrobe, and so now like, I am happy to say that pretty much all the underwear I own is MeUndies, and that's great. And for uh, Christmas, Rachel got me a MeUndies onesie that— while I was in town in Huntington...

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: ... uh, for the holidays you could not get me out of.

Justin: It's true.

Griffin: And uh, yeah, so Valentine's Day, it's a great gift. And they have lounge pants as well. So MeUndies has a great offer for our listeners. If you want to get 15% off your first pair, free shipping and a 100% satisfaction guarantee, go to MeUndies.com/MyBrother, that's MeUndies.com/MyBrother, all one word.

Travis: I would like to tell you about Stitch Fix.

Justin: Do it, coward.

Travis: Um, I don't know i— who was at— I don't know who was at PodCon. And I don't know who's seen pictures of PodCon.

Griffin: Oh, shit.

Travis: But I've got this sweater— well, one, okay. Everything [laughs] in, like, the getting ready room for all the podcasters...

Griffin: Everybody.

Travis: Everybody. I think Hank and I were wearing the same pants at one point.

Griffin: I fucking ran— I ran into Hank at the airport, wearing the sweater that I saw him wearing— I packed the sweater that I saw him wearing during like, the opening ceremony, and I had it, and it was my only clean shirt left on the day I was traveling home. And it's like, "Oh, f— it's fine. I won't see Hank." Saw him in the fucking airport line.

Travis: But basically, anyone who has tried Stitch Fix is, like, into it.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Um, I got this sweater that I wore at PodCon that had, like, a blue bowl on it, and like, nonstop...

Griffin: That was a Stitch Fix?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Damn, that's a good sweater.

Justin: Very good.

Travis: I know, like, nonstop, people were like, "Great sweater!"

"Great sweater!"

"Great sweater!"

And that's the thing, is if you're looking to up your game, Stitch Fix is the way to do it, because they don't just send you stuff. Like, they talk to you. They ask you questions. They say, "What do you like? Do you like this?"

And they also ask you, and this is my favorite thing, price ranges that you're comfortable spending on clothes. Because I know, like, I don't want a \$200 t-shirt. Like, me and Macklemore both agree that's ridiculous. And so you would say like, "I don't want to pay more than blank for a t-shirt." So they tailor not only the style, but the prices to you, as well.

And you work with a personal stylist who will hand-pick those items for you. And then if you don't like something, you send it back, and you don't have to pay for it. And that also helps them shape your profile, so that the next time it's even more accurate.

Griffin: How do I get this box? How do I get this wonderful box?

Travis: Thank you so much for asking, Griffin. You go to StitchFix.com/MyBrother, and you can get started now, and you'll get an extra 25% off when you keep all the items in your box. That's StitchFix.com/MyBrother to get started today. StitchFix.com/MyBrother.

Aimee: Hello, this is Aimee Mann.

Ted: And I'm Ted Leo.

Aimee: And we have a podcast called The Art of Process.

We were talking about how the creative process is in itself an art form, in our opinion, there underlying the forms and structures that serve as the scaffolding for any creative endeavor.

Ted: We've been lucky enough, over the past year, to talk to some of our friends and acquaintances from across the creative spectrum, to find out how they actually work.

Aimee: We weirdly don't know as many musicians as you would expect.

Ted: New episodes will be coming every other Monday...

Aimee: ... starting January 28th.

Ted: So please listen and subscribe at MaximumFun.org, or wherever you get your podcast.

Griffin: Do y'all want a Yahoo?

Justin: I would love that, Griffin.

Griffin: It's uh, sent in by Sid Ross. It's Yahoo Answers user Shh, who asks, "Can a locksmith break into every door?"

Travis: Mm.

Justin: Mm.

Griffin: This one I wanted to talk about...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: ... because...

Travis: Okay.

Justin: I would hope.

Griffin: ... a locksmith can just kinda get in there. A locksmith motto could be, "We just get in there." When you can't get in there, and you need to, and it's yours, the locksmith will be there for you.

That seems wild to me that there's a career, a profession in there— there's probably a career out there called lockmaker.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: And then there's an evil sort of in— I'm not saying all locksmiths are evil, but I'm saying if they could be, you know how they don't trust the X-Men because of their mutant powers...

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: ...and they could do infinite evil with it?

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: I'm just saying, I don't know why we're sort of allowing locksmiths to be so footloose and fancy free with their stuff.

Travis: I don't know— I'm sitting here, trying to think of another profession that is so closely related to, like, burglar-ing...

Griffin: [laughs] Yes.

Travis: ...you know? Like, there is not another— it's not like, "Oh, yeah, I'm a wall-scaler."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like "If you need me to scale walls, like, I'm— you know, I'm a professional guy who cuts holes in skylights."

Justin: If you—

Griffin: Yeah. [laughs]

Justin: If you've ever, like, locked your keys in your hou— in your home, and then had to call a locksmith to come help you out, I think it is a u— it is a universal human experience to watch someone break into your door in 20 seconds, and go, "Huh!"

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "Huh! Yeah, okay. Huh!"

Travis: Locksmith, if you could at least pretend like it's a challenge. And sit there and be like, "Well, this is the toughest lock I've ever seen." Something like that, just to make me feel like, "Oh, this is gonna take me at least an hour and a half, giving you plenty of time to call the police, if you needed to."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: You know...

Griffin: It's like—

Justin: "Opening this lock requires an extremely loud drill."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "A rare tool that only I own, and will melt down after I'm done opening this."

Justin: "Here, I'm gonna leave this with you. This is gonna—"

Griffin: "Only I know how to unlock this door. Now kill me."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: You can say, "That'll be \$150. Good. Now kill me."

Travis: [laughs] "Kill me. That's the only way you're safe."

Justin: "That'll be \$150. For another 50, you can clip out my tongue with these hedge trimmers."

Griffin: Uh...

Travis: "Now, drive this ice pick up my nose. No, a little to the left. Got it."

Justin: That's good.

Griffin: There he goes.

Justin: Marble me.

Griffin: It's just— right? Now that you think about it right? There's this— it's like paying somebody to point a knife at you, and it's like, I don't know why— I don't know why— I'm not saying that there shouldn't be locksmiths. And I'm not saying that all locksmiths are using their powers for evil. I'm just—

Justin: Probably most aren't. That's probably a pretty good way to lose—

Travis: Yeah, I'm gonna say most locksmiths are not.

Griffin: Yes. But I mean, right? It— right? There needs to be— there needs to be a checks and balances system.

Travis: Do you think they, like, show up for like, monthly meetings of like, a locksmith union or something, and they're like, "What, where's Debbie?"

And it's like, "Oh, she went rogue."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Oh, no!"

"Yeah, she went to the dark side."

Griffin: Debbie's a rogue nation now.

Travis: "Yeah. Well, we're gonna have to hunt her and bring her in, so that she doesn't give other locksmiths a bad name."

Griffin: But she's in a house behind 11 locked doors.

Travis: "Oh, no!"

Griffin: Are you guys tough enough for this challenge?

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, yeah. Just saying.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: So anyway, let's keep an eye out. Uh, become the monster, but like, still, be— just keep an eye on locksmiths.

Travis: Do you think that every locksmith owns in their possession a small locked box that they cannot open, and if they do, they die?

Griffin: Mm. The paradox lock.

Justin: [laughs] Gotta make the locks—

Travis: Because they wanna open it, 'cause it's a challenge, right? Like, they— they love doing— they love picking locks.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And it's like, "Hey, here's a lock that's unique to you. No one else has ever picked this lock before."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "But if you open it, you die."

Griffin: Well, there's the Pandemonium Cube...

Travis: Yes. Obviously.

Griffin: And locksmiths— locksmith Reddit is always blowing up about the Pandemonium Cube.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Because somebody's like— Debbie shows up, and Debbie's like, "I think I got it! I think I got it." And then she tries to pick it. And then she, of course, gets turned into a skeleton.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Because she didn't— she forgot to turn that one sort of uh, bust of the devil.

Justin: And there's also the Million-Faceted Crystal of Akimara.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: That a lot of people o— of course, you need a lot of souls to unlock that, and uh...

Griffin: That one's tricky.

Justin: ... sunlight and eclipse.

Travis: And some people will tell you they're connected, and you need one to unlock the other, or vice versa.

Justin: Mm.

Griffin: You don't.

Justin: You don't.

Travis: I mean, we can talk about it in the forums all day, you know what I mean? But when it comes down to it, I guess I'm just afraid of the power of the locksmith that opens it.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] Yes. Yes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And what they might become.

Justin: Especially because they will definitely need to be in possession of Igalacia's Screaming Blade, and I feel like...

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: ...that is what really trips me out.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And the 100— the 100 wishes you get from the Pandemonium Cube just seems excessive.

Justin: [laughs] Seriously.

Griffin: Because you're gonna— you're gonna change everything with that.

Justin: It seems like that amount of wishes is designed to make you lose track of how many you have left.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, right?

Justin: 'Cause it's not as though there's a counter on there. [sings Munch Squad theme casually]

Griffin: Well, there might be. Nobody's been inside the Pandemonium Cube. There might be a little, like—

Travis: Well...

Justin: Let's just... [sings Munch Squad theme]

Travis: Not necessarily true, Griffin, because I have heard voices from inside the Pandemonium Cube whispering to me the lock combination, and I—

Griffin: That's a trick. That's a trick. They want to turn you into bones, Trav, that's a trick.

Justin: [sings Munch Squad theme]

Griffin: That's an old trick.

Travis: Well...

Griffin: You should— you know fucking better than that.

Justin: You know better than that. [sings Munch Squad theme]

Travis: What?

Justin: [continues singing]

Travis: This is what the voice sounds like!

Justin: [imitates guitar solo] I wanna munch!

Griffin: Squad!

Travis: Squad!

Justin: [imitates guitar] I want to munch!

Griffin: Squad!

Travis: Squad!

Justin: [imitates guitar] It's a little sad this year for Valentine's Day.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: Because of the Necco company going out of business, we're not gonna have the Conversation Hearts. Just like...

Travis: What?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I didn't know that— I didn't know that happened.

Justin: Yeah, bud. Necco's out of business, and there's no uh, candy hearts. It seems wild that someone hasn't, like, swooped in [laughs] and just like...

Griffin: Um, swooped in and— in and inherited that incredibly successful business plan of making yucky chalk candy that got them closed down?

Justin: They have been bought. They're— or they're like, the Necco company's been bought by the people who make um— uh...

Travis: Chalk.

Justin: No. The uh, Dum Dum people. But they didn't have time to make the new ones this year. So there was a gap, right?

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And anywhere there's a gap in culture, you can count on one company uh, that's always one K away from disaster. It's Krispy Kreme, and they're introducing a line of Valentine's Conversation Heart Doughnuts.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: Um, and they are basically just doing the thing that— they're not sure if anyone could sue them, is what I would guess. Currently...

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: ...they're not sure who would sue them, so they're just gonna go ahead and do it. And it's just doughnuts that look like those, except they're very big, and they have phrases like, "I heart you," or "Pick me," or [pause] "All the feels." [sighs]

Griffin: Oh, yowza!

Travis: No, no, no, no, no, no.

Justin: Hatchi matchi, folks. Hey, folks? This is from me to you.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Real quick sidebar. Emotions are the thing that um, make life worth living and separate us from sort of the animals and refrigerators and all the other things that aren't people. Can we not reduce the entire human

experience to the word "feels"? Can we just be sad or happy or horny for doughnuts or whatever it may be?

Anyway, so these are giant Conversational Hearts that say things— and they also say "DM me" on them, so fuck it, I guess.

Griffin: Fuck it, anything goes.

Justin: They got clo—

Travis: Why do they want you to play Dungeons and Dragons with them?

Justin: They got— hatchi matchi, they got four classic Krispy Kreme fillings. That classic is spelled with a C, do not fret!

Griffin: All right.

Justin: Uh, cake batter, strawberries and cream, raspberry-filled, and chocolate cream.

Travis: Mystery.

Justin: Mystery.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Power. Um, finding—

Travis: [laughs] Loose flour.

Justin: [laughs] Spare change. "Finding the right word can be like, I don't know, hard." And there's a four-dot ellipsis here, so I'm trying to punch my monitor, and I'm just hurting my hand. I can't shatter the screen.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Uh, "But eating a doughnut is easy. So—"

Travis: Well...

Justin: "So we printed the right words on the doughnuts for you, so you can't mess this up." Save—

Travis: [laughs] "Again."

Justin: Says Dave Skena, chief marketing officer for Krispy Kreme Doughnuts. In, I would say, a rare display of how these companies do, in fact, feel about your— uh, their core customer base.

Hey, Dum Dum?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know how you can't express how you feel good? We wrote "DM me" on a fucking doughnut, so you can shove it in your gob and cry. Anyway, eat these! No one's gonna sue us. We're invincible.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: This year, uh, you can get uh, one of these for free...

Travis: [questioning grunt]

Justin: ... if you're a Krispy Kreme rewards member. You can get a free Conversation Heart Doughnut of choice with any purchase on Wednesday, February 6th. If you're not already a rewards member, don't miss out. Sign up at [slowly, punctuated] <https://www.KrispyKreme.com/Account/Create-Account>.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: I look forward to someone remixing that.

Justin: That is the address to sign up for it.

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah. Yeah, they couldn't get a bit.ly link on that.

Justin: Couldn't get a bit.ly going. "And don't forget to show how you hashtag #SayItWithDoughnuts this Valentine's season by tagging @KrispyKreme with a photo of your favorite Valentine's Day doughnut phrase." And then it doesn't say this, but I would say you wanna definitely append the hashtag, hashtag #SayItWithDoughnuts. [sighs]

Travis: You know what I like to say with doughnuts?

Griffin: What?

Travis: Ooooooooooooo!

Justin: [laughs] You dumb piece of shit! I can't believe we share genetic material. You make me so angry.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] I hate your guts.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] The only thing I say with doughnuts is, "It's Saturday morning," and "I've given up." Those are the two things...

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ... that I've...

Griffin: This is my day.

Justin: This is my day, I guess. I guess I'm putting me on this trajectory of the day.

Griffin: Uh, another question?

Justin: Yeah, I'd love that. Thank you, Griffin. Thanks for reminding me of what we're here for.

"I hate getting haircuts for a lot of reasons, but the main one is I have no idea what level of enthusiasm I should be displaying while I get my haircut. I'm pretty awkward, so usually I don't talk with the hairdresser, meaning that I sit there in silence, looking at my reflection, and it seems to me to have my resting, non-smiling expression."

Griffin: "It seems mean."

Justin: "It seems mean," thank you, "to have my resting, non-smiling expression. I always feel like the hairdresser thinks I'm judging them, but then it feels even weirder to be smiling the whole time. Am I supposed to smirk? Should I close my eyes, and pretend to be asleep? Please help." That's from *Anxious in the Hair Sea*.

Griffin: Deep in your own feels.

Justin: Deep in there, huh?

Griffin: It seems like.

Justin: You're deep in the pocket. You need to— you need to pull up, my friend. Pull up! We're all just in this thing together, you know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We're all just here together, trying to work it out.

Travis: I'm willing to bet money that the hairdresser is not looking at your face. They are autopiloting haircutting, a thing that they've done 20 times a day for the last X number of years, and they're like singing a song in their head, or they're thinking about their grocery list, or whatever. I think you're probably okay to make whatever face you're making. But...

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: ...let me offer this. Come in with just a powerful scowl, and like stay scowling, but close your eyes while they're cutting your hair. And then open your eyes, and let your face break into a smile, and then reach up and like, touch your own face...

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: ...like you can't imagine the feeling, "What is this?" And then like, hug them and begin to weep, and then tip them 25 percent.

Griffin: Yep.

Justin: That's all— I mean, that's all excellent. Thank you, Travis. Um, I want to— I want to dwell on the um, "I'm awkward, so I don't talk." I think that part of that is just practice, my friends. It's...

Travis: Hmm.

Justin: Awkward just means "I don't know what to say," so maybe start thinking of some things that might be good to say while they're cutting their hair?

You know what I like to do? I like— I have different people cut my hair every single time. I used to go to my guy, Sunny, up at MasterCuts. Can't always get Sunny reliably, so now I'm a vagabond. I go where the wind takes me.

Travis: Ooh.

Justin: Last time I had my hair cut, it was in the basement of this hotel in Cincinnati, when I was gonna go to Bebe's birthday party. I got my hair cut at 8:00 in the morning down in some basement of a hotel. I'm— I— it's random for me, but you know what I like to ask somebody? "How did you get started cutting hair?"

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: 'Cause I'm curious. "How long you been doing it?"

Travis: That's pretty good.

Justin: "How long you been doing it? Do you like doing it?" And you know what? That's just t— when somebody's telling you their life story, you're gonna learn a lot about the industry, the business, you're gonna learn about them. I think asking— asking questions, folks...

Travis: Yes.

Justin: ...it is very rare that you're gonna go wrong. Everybody, read your— your Dale Carnegie. People wanna talk about themselves, and if you are uncomfortable talking, then you're never gonna go wrong just asking the person about their life. You're gonna learn something, you're gonna connect a little bit. It goes down smooth every time. I—

Griffin: Let the fear make you the monster.

Justin: The last time I had my hair cut, it was by a guy on Route 60 who had a little stand with a sign outside that said, [laughs] "Cash only. \$12." And I—

Griffin: Justin, what are you— what's your game?

Travis: Are you okay?

Justin: And I went and sat down, and he spent— I asked a couple of questions about this person, and then he spent 30 minutes telling me the story, the grand tale of how his wife always wants to buy things that are too large for rooms, and then pick paint that's too dark for the rooms to make them seem even smaller. And he is so tripped out about this that he spent half an hour walking me on a journey through his home, which I can now picture in perfect clarity...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: ... and all the things in each room that are too large for the individual rooms. And uh, he actually told me that when he— he hated the

last color of paint so much, that he asked the person to paint— that painted it to leave him his number. Because if his wife broke up with him, he was going to call them to have them come back [laughs] and paint it a different color, 'cause he hated it so much.

It was a fucking great 30 minutes, and I got a great haircut out of it!

Travis: Okay, but please walk me through, you were driving past and you saw a sign that said, "Cash only. \$12."

Griffin: Yeah, Juice. Come on, bud.

Travis: And you were like, "Screech!" and pulled in.

Justin: Yeah. I mean, pretty mu— I Goo— I was at Google Maps, I stopped at a stop sign, and I typed "barber" into it, and I went to the closest place that was arou— that was there.

Griffin: Your game is so wild.

Travis: Does that make you feel alive? Is that the point?

Justin: I have two hairstyles. Cut, and not. [laughs] So the end is a binary— is a binary thing that has taken me from longer to shorter. That is it. That is— those are my styles.

Griffin: I— my go-to barber here in Austin made the mistake of one of our first sort of sessions together...

Justin: Mentioning Pokémon.

Griffin: She talked about wrestling.

Justin: Ah. Close.

Griffin: Yeah, she mentioned a wrestling thing she had gone to around town.

Travis: It was one of two things, Justin. I thought that was—

Justin: Well, Pokémon is basically animal wrestling, so I'm...

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah. I mean, especially with like a Machop, who's, you know, got that style, or an Incineroar, like that one's fully all about—

Justin: And that's 15 seconds. Sorry, Griff.

Griffin: There—

Justin: Save it for next week. [laughs]

Griffin: There it goes. Uh, one last Yahoo to close it out?

Justin: Wait, no, no, no. Do tell me about the wrestling. You're only allowed to talk about—

Griffin: Well, she talked about wrestling, now every time I go see her, I'm like, "See any good wrestling lately?" And— but it was really just the one time. It's like how, like, when you're young, and you mention in front of your grandparents that you are into dinosaurs 'cause Jurassic Park just came out, and then for the next 25 years, you're getting dinosaur books, dinosaur bones, actual ones they stole from the museum.

Justin: I hate— Griffin, I feel really bad, because that was the way that my brain completed that anecdote, and you told it with perfect efficiency. You only told the first ten seconds...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...'cause that's all you needed.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: The rest of it shook out exactly the way— I'm so sorry.

Uh, I wanna thank everybody for um...

Travis: You're welcome.

Justin: Oh, come on, now. Trav, come on, bud.

Griffin: Razzed ya! Another famous Travis razz.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Uh, I uh, want to thank everybody for listening to our show. If you want more stuff that we make, go to McElroy, McElroy.family, and you can find all the shows we make, all the zany videos.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: Um, books, and most importantly for this particular vignette is uh, tours. Um, you can go on there and buy tickets to our next round of shows that are gonna be Thursday, uh, February 7th, Birmingham, Alabama, and uh, Sunday, February 10th, in New Orleans at the Orpheum. We're gonna be doing MBMBaM at both of those, and both of those, the websites don't even say this yet, both of the shows are going to feature both Sawbones and Shmammers...

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: It's a whole lotta show.

Justin: ...as opening acts. It's a lot of show, and if you go to McElroy.family and click on "tours," then you can um, get tickets to those.

Griffin: Also, I believe there's a new Monster Factory out this week, and y'all, it's— it's a good— it's a good one!

Justin: Oh, no. I— then we gotta go— we gotta do the other part of that that I have not done yet, but I will.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Uh...

Travis: Also, on February 9th in New Orleans, we're doing The Adventure Zone.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: So get tickets for that as well.

Justin: I uh, man, we haven't sold a lot of tickets for those, and we're probably gonna take a fucking bath on this one, folks.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Come on out, please...

Travis: We're just so excited to come here.

Justin: We're just super excited to come, but we also don't want this to be the only time we ever do because we're bankrupt 'cause nobody came to our show. So please come to this show in uh— I— we knew that we didn't have a ton of listeners out there, but...

Griffin: What are we do— why are we negging ourselves? This show's gonna kick ass.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: We're gonna sell all the seats on the last day.

Justin: No, the show's gonna kick ass.

Griffin: If you fucking miss it, you're gonna be kicking your own butt in your—

Justin: When you put us in a corner, when you don't— when we don't fill a room, and we're desperate and hungry, that's when we put on the fucking

best shows ever. Ask anybody. Ask Detroit. Ask any city in this great country.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Don't— don't ask Detroit.

Justin: Don't ask Detroit.

Griffin: Don't ask Detroit specifically. Ask anywhere else.

Justin: McElroy.family. Just get the fucking tickets. Please. Please, I have children.

Griffin: Yeah. Thank you to John Roderick and The Long Winters for the use of our theme song, (It's a) Departure, off the album Putting the Days to Bed. Fantastic, fantastic album.

Uh, thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. You can go to Maximum Fun, check out all the great shows there, shows like Switchblade Sisters and Beef and Dairy Network and uh, there's some— there's a bunch of new shows. The JV Club with Janet Varney, um, there's a ton of shows there all at MaximumFun.org that you should definitely go check out.

Travis: Also, real quick, 'cause we haven't mentioned it in a while, The Adventure Zone Graphic Novel Book 2 is coming out this summer, and you can preorder that at TheAdventureZoneComic.com.

Griffin: Yeah. Uh, should I tie it all off with a nice little ribbon?

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Uh, this final Yahoo that was sent in by Seth Carlson, the delivery man, thank you. It's Yahoo Answers user anonymous. I'm gonna call them Joe, asks...

Travis: Ooh.

Griffin: "The sun? Is that sucker big, or what?"

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

Justin: This has been My Brother, My Brother and Me. Kiss your dad square on the lips!

[theme music plays]

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[relaxed music plays]

Allegra: I'm Allegra Ringo, a small dog owner. My dog, Pistachio, howls when she's excited.

Renee: And I'm Renee Colvert, a big dog owner. My dog, Tugboat, tips over when he's sleepy.

Allegra: And we cohost a podcast called Can I Pet Your Dog that airs every Tuesday. We bring you all things dog.

Renee: Yes. Dog news, dog tech, dogs we met this week. We also have pretty famous guests on, but, 'Legs, we're not gonna let 'em talk about their projects.

Allegra: Just wanna hear about those dogs!

Renee: We don't wanna hear about your stuff. Only your dogs.

So join us every Tuesday, on Max Fun.