

MBMBaM 448: Bird Words

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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: I am your middlest brother, Travis McElroy.

Griffin: And I am your sweet baby brother, and th— I'm s— I'm Griffin McElroy. I think it's time to lose it.

Travis: Woah.

Justin: Woah!

Griffin: Yeah, I think it's time to lose it. It's starting to feel a little...

Justin: Played.

Griffin: ...like uh, "Yeah, I was a quarterback in high school..."

Justin: Like a little tiresome.

Griffin: "...now I work at this used car lot."

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: Kind of embarrassing. It's kind of feeling embarrassing.

Griffin: It's feeling like—

Justin: Kind of feeling played and embarrassing and tired.

Travis: Almost like nobody ever cared about it, like it wasn't that big of a deal.

Justin: It's like nobody ever cared. It's almost one of those things where it's— it's made it worse retroactively.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Ooh.

Justin: I can't listen to any of the episodes before 448, 'cause Griffin always calls himself a baby, and it's like, if that's your kink, good.

Griffin: All right.

Travis: See, Justin, I think Griffin was just talking about the 30 Under 30 media luminary, not like his whole identity on the show.

Griffin: No, I can...

Justin: Oh, shit.

Griffin: Let me try again. Let's try the intro...

Justin: Wait, is my thing--

Griffin: Let's do the whole intro again.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: And I'll try to do a good one.

Justin: Should we all have different sort of energies?

Griffin: Yeah, sure. That could be good.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: Different ablations.

Justin: Okay. Hey, what's up? [laughs]

Travis: Yeah! Woah!

Griffin: That's good.

Travis: A bold new direction for the Justin character.

Justin: [laughing] Okay.

Travis: He's a bit of a bad boy. He sits backwards on chairs.

Justin: [laughs] No. I'm not gonna do even my old, played, tired shit.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: So who are— okay.

Justin: I just— let me start.

[close to microphone] Okay. It's uh, Justin here. McElroy, that is. Um, one of three brothers that are bringing to you a new show, a new energy for an old show called My Brother, My Brother and Me, and I'm Justin McElroy in this neck of the woods.

Travis: [gruff] Yarr, I'm king of the pirates, Travis McElroy! Argh.

Griffin: Hey, I'm Griffin. My friends call me Zit, and Forbes gave me an award one time. Shit!

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Griffin!

Justin: Now, what is the— what is the shit? Is it in reference to the fact that your friends call you Zit, or you still brought up the Forbes thing?

Griffin: Um, the Forbes thing. The Zit thing I don't mind, because my friends love saying that about me because of how nasty I am...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: ...and how I don't give a shit about hygiene. I just want to be on my board, and ride either the concrete or the sweet blue ocean. And so like, I'm the nasty one of our skate crew, so they call me Zit. I don't mind that, but then I am embarrassed about the Forbes award and then saying I won it.

Travis: Can I be honest with you guys?

Griffin: Mm?

Travis: I'm not really a pirate king. That was—

Griffin: Yeah, we knew that much, yeah. It was fun roleplay.

Travis: That was just a thing that I said to try to impress you guys.

Justin: Your intro's gonna be that.

Travis: No.

[sound clip of a man shouting "Toronto!" plays]

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: I was just gonna thank Toronto. Is that Paul Stanley?

Justin: Yeah, that's Paul Stanley. I got my Paul Stanley board back. I'm building it, rebuilding it, piecemeal.

Griffin: It fell down that big escalator, and Justin's got all the parts. He's got all the widgets and screws.

Justin: Now, I've actually got— I got this soundboard. And I was trying to hook it up when you guys started your podcast...

Griffin: Mm.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: ...and um, the problem— here's the t— here's the good things and bad things about it. One.

[sound clip of Paul Stanley shouting "Toronto!" plays]

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Okay. The bad thing is, I don't know what any of the other buttons do.

Griffin: Oh, cool!

Justin: And I can't hear them.

Travis: [laughing] Okay.

Justin: So I was wondering if you guys can kind of describe to me, and that would help me just sort of figure out what each of these buttons are mapped to. I know they're mapped to something. There's preprogrammed stuff in this here RodeCaster Pro.

Travis: I like that, 'cause I feel like we can kind of meld these two things together, where we're trying to find our new identities.

Justin: Sure.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Maybe Justin, you could be like the tech bro.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You know?

Justin: The tech bro. I love that.

Travis: And you do machines.

Justin: Okay, so you guys just tell me what some of these do. Like, okay, so this is the orange button.

[audience laughter plays, continues in background]

Travis: Oh, that's a laugh track right there.

Griffin: That one's laughter. Uh...

Travis: We're gonna get a lot of use out of that one.

Justin: Useful.

Griffin: Old-timey laughter at, like, a movie theater from the '50s.

Justin: Okay.

[audience laughter continues]

Travis: Going on for a really long time. Still going.

Justin: It's going on for a while. Oh, man. I'm pushing it to stop it...

[audience laughter repeats]

Griffin: No, you're just starting it.

Travis: I feel like you're just starting it.

Griffin: You're actually starting it over again.

Justin: Starting it again. Okay.

Travis: Now I'm starting to feel mocked.

Justin: [laughs] Okay. What's this one?

[sad trombone plays]

Travis: Oh, that's sad trombone. Like you just...

Justin: Oh, a sad trombone button!

Travis: Like you tripped and your wiener fell out.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs] Okay, great.

[rim shot plays]

Justin: Now, what do we got here?

Travis: Oh, that was a rim shot!

[rim shot repeats]

[crickets chirp]

Travis: Oh.

Griffin: Well, this one's Laura Linney, saying, "Welcome to My Brother, My Brother and Me."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: So we need to play that one at the beginning of each show. Hey, Justin? These are the lowest quality audio files I have ever heard in my entire fucking life.

[rim shot plays]

Griffin: No.

Travis: Okay. [laughs]

Griffin: That one's decent, but the—

Travis: That was good timing.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: There's one of people clapping and cheering that sounds like it is maybe four kilobytes total, in size.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Like, it would hear a MIDI file and be like, "I wish."

[sad trombone plays]

Travis: Yeah. Okay.

Griffin: Yeah. It makes you think that about the sound of it.

We should do our show. This is, I think, so far unlistenable.

Justin: No, it's been very good. I'm very excited about this new direction, this new...

Travis: There was a whole thing about Griffin being Zit, and Justin being the tech bro...

Justin: Yes.

Travis: Um...

Griffin: Did you guys need to—

Travis: I think we'll find mine and Griffin's archetypes throughout the course of this— this episode, and this episode alone.

Griffin: You guys got why I was called Zit, right? 'Cause I'm a slimy fuck?

Justin: Yeah. It was so funny.

Travis: Yeah. 'Cause you're a real dirty boy, but not in like a fun, sexy way.

Justin: 'Cause you're a dirty...

Travis: Like, in a you maybe haven't bathed in months.

Griffin: Nasty, friendly way. Okay. Let's do a question, maybe.

Justin: "It snowed a silly amount here in the last few days. As I was shoveling my driveway, my next-door neighbor, who is a very nice guy, but someone I don't know terribly well, offered to lend me his snowblower. I declined his 'generoust' offer—" generoust? No. Generous. Okay.

Griffin: His Ellen Degeneroust offer.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: His regeneroust offer.

Justin: "...his 'regeneroust' offer, because I just generally feel uncomfortable taking help from people."

Travis: Yes.

Justin: "About an hour later, as I was wrapping up the task, the neighbor a few houses down wheeled over his snowblower, and suggested I take it to finish the task. Since he had already brought it over to me, I could hardly refuse the generosity.

"This left me with having to do the end of my driveway and the side of it with the snowblower, all of which is very visible through the next-door neighbor's living room window. How do I nonchalantly explain my snowblower snub to the next-door neighbor?" That's from Sorry, I'd Prefer Not to Be Blown in West Des Moines.

Griffin: Yuck. Gross. Yucky.

Travis: So just to be clear, 'cause that didn't track. Next-door neighbor offered snowblower. Question-asker said no.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: And then a different neighbor just went ahead and wheeled one over...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...and so question-asker used that one.

Griffin: Um, I mean, you have several outs here. One, you could say, you know, an hour of manual shoveling is enough to change a man's mind about so many things.

Justin: Yeah, I started doing it and I hated it.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Travis: I also think you could just say, like, "Well, yours was just words, Frank."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like, you— "What was I going to do, walk over to your house and get it? Jerry brought it to me."

Justin: Yeah. He hand-delivered this snowblower.

Travis: "Like, that was a palpable— that was a concrete snowblower that I could see and feel and smell. Your snowblower was but dreams."

Griffin: And I think what you could also say is um, "What, you thought I was gonna use a snowblower on yard snow? [scoffs] No way. Yard snow is good for shoveling only. You don't use blower on yard snow."

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: "That's— that's wild. God gave us shovels just for yard snow. Now, sidewalk snow, you can shoot that with a big gun, if you want to."

Travis: Or maybe just tell Frank, like, "You know, your snowblower was weak, and Jerry's snowblower was fleek."

Griffin: These gotta be potent, powerful snowblowers.

Justin: Sorry, Frank. Jerry doesn't pick his nose.

Travis: Wait, what?

Justin: I've seen you doing the dirty deed while you blow snow.

Travis: You and your friend Zit...

Justin: Blow snow, blow nose. Blow snow, blow snow.

Travis: ...are hanging out, picking snow— picking noses.

Justin: Yeah, you and Zit [laughs] hanging out in this—

Griffin: That's me. I mean, I'll do a lip trick off a half pipe, but also dig for some gold in there. But I don't fucking care.

Travis: Wait, are you cool but rude?

Griffin: Yeah. So I think that um... gosh, you're not— I'll tell you what stinks, is not knowing your neighbor very well, and then having an opportunity arise where you could maybe know your neighbor a little bit better, and you just fuck it up completely. And then you're confronted with the reality of, you know, before you were like, "I might not ever get to know my neighbor," and then this happens, and you're like, "Now I am actively moving away from the reality of knowing my neighbor."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: That's rough.

Justin: I know them less.

Griffin: I know them less.

Travis: I negative know them at this point. And you know what, I don't want to shame the question-asker though, because that impulse to be like, "Hey, I'd like to offer you something that would help you..."

...and your immediate reaction would be like, "No, don't worry about it!" Yeah, that's exactly the boat I— we are in that boat together, my friend.

Justin: One—

Travis: Look. Look to your left. There's me, also rowing this boat.

Justin: Once the person pushed the snowblower over, you should've gone back to Frank and said, like, "All right. Give it to me now. I'm gonna do twosies."

Travis: No!

Justin: "I wanna go double-fisted, blow all the snow away."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Why did you decline— hey, why did you decline it? Shoveling snow sucks.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Because— because it's— [sighs]

Justin: Here in 2019, as we're becoming the monster, I wanna really— I wanna re-examine that to include, like, looking at our own behaviors, right, and like, embracing who we are as people, but also changing it...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughing] ...to make it better. You shouldn't have declined the offer. Shoveling snow sucks, and it's nice to give people the opportunity to help you out. It makes people feel good. You should've just taken the snowblower.

Travis: Here's what I've been doing. This is a powerful phrase. If you're like me and your like, kneejerk response is to always say, like, "No, thank you," powerful phrase that you can introduce to your lexicon is this: "No, you know what?" Like, that— just that phrase will let you 180 on that—

Justin: That has— that has not told me anything.

Travis: You can say, like, "No, thank you."

Justin: What you s—

Travis: "...no, you know what? I actually will use the snowblower thing." Like, you can immediately turn around on 'em now.

Griffin: And then how psyched of it-- Yeah, sure.

Justin: Your revelation is waffling on things?

Travis: Yes.

Justin: That's your bold new direction?

Travis: Well, because I would do the same thing, when someone, like, "Hey, do you want to use my snowblower?"

And I would just immediately say, like, "No, I got it. Thank you." And in my head, I'm thinking, like, "What are you doing?"

Griffin: Yes. Get it.

Travis: "Take the snowblower. This sucks."

But then I would say, like, "Well, but it's too late now. I already told Frank I don't want the—"

So then I would say, "No, you know what, Frank? I would appreciate the snowblower, and let's become BFF. Coffee at my place?" Something like that. You know what I mean?

Justin: Hey, guys. [slurring] I would say, "Hey, you want to use my snowblower?"

And I would say, you— "No, you wanna use your snowblower?"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "Here's \$20. Do you want to use my \$20?"

Travis: And now we're in a gig economy.

Griffin: And that's what it is. Your neighbor's jealous. Your neighbor saw you didn't use his, and he's very jealous, because he wants to get his used by you. And that's all there is to it, so...

Justin: [laughs] He came out silently, and just started snowblowing your yard with his snowblower, like, "See?"

Griffin: "See?"

Justin: "This is good, too."

Griffin: He's very jealous.

Travis: "Is this better? Look at my clean lines."

Griffin: What you can do, you're outta snow, go in your house, if you have a spice rack, just knock that over to the floor. And then call your neighbor over, and say, "Look. More— more dusty stuff, just ready and raring to get blown out of the house."

Travis: [laughs] More to breathe.

Justin: It says to get— you gotta get over there before Frank has even done his own yard, and just borrow it. [laughs] Borrow it— you know what? Borrow it without him asking, next time it snows.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You gotta make this up to him.

Travis: And then ask him if he wants to use your snowblower.

Griffin: And then you get his second-grade class to all come to his house and tear up little pieces of paper and throw them up in the air, and you're standing there with a new snowblower, furnished by Lowe's, with a big bow on it, and you're just smiling. And he smiles.

Do you wanna Yahoo?

Justin: Yeah. Happily, thank you.

Griffin: Here's one that is sent in by Emma Kant or 'Kahnt'— thank you, Emma. It's Yahoo Answers user— well, they're anonymous, but I'm gonna call them bo... boba asks, "Why don't we eat fruit hot and microwaved?"

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: "I feel like this might be good. Hot strawberries, grapes, watermelon, pears. We eat spaghetti and pizza hot, so why not fruit?"

Travis: Okay. I will— we can play in this space, but there— like, you can grill watermelon and eat it. People do do that. So I will remove watermelon from the metaphorical plate, and we won't discuss watermelon.

Griffin: Well, you could do a fancy preparation of any of these fruits, right?

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: I don't think this question is saying it's impossible to eat these fruits hot and microwaved. The verb "microwaved" in there I think sets the tone of the question. Of course you can go to a fancy cuisine restaurant, and they'll, you know, put some strawberries on some, like, fancy ravioli. Whatever the fuck. And cook it 'em— cook 'em up hot, yum.

But they're talking about just cas', you pull some grapes out of the freezer, and instead of popping those little purple candies into your mouth, you change the heat of them a little bit. You get 'em hot. You get 'em hot or warm with the microwave.

Travis: I will say, having to say to another human being, the sentence, like, "Oh, don't eat those grapes yet; they need time to cool," it would make me feel like the weirdest pervert in history.

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah, sure. "Gon' burn your tongue on that sizzlin' strawberry."

"Get the fuck out of the house!"

Travis: No. "Hey, blow on that strawberry. It's not ready yet."

Griffin: No way.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Gots to go. Hey, also, if you put grapes in a microwave, I'm pretty sure it makes it explode— like, a little explosion.

Travis: I think they all do, Griffin. I'm thinking about all of the fruits you mentioned: the strawberry, the grape, the watermelon. I'm pretty sure we're talking about just a microwave mess.

Griffin: Oh, all the watermelon, I bet, would make a big wuh-oh accident in the mi— in the microwave, I bet.

Travis: If you could get a whole one in there, oh, Boise!

Griffin: That's a bad day.

Travis: You gotta get out of the house at that point. You're gonna just destroy the whole place.

Griffin: But we do— here's the thing, though. You do eat spaghetti and pizza hot.

Travis: That's true.

Justin: That's a great point, Griff.

Travis: Very salient. What if we put strawberries on pizza?

Griffin: No. Stop it. Stop it.

Travis: We put— we put pineapple on pizza.

Griffin: Why do we need to— let's answer the core question first.

Justin: Thank you.

Griffin: Why don't— why don't we eat fruit hot and microwaved?

Travis: 'Cause we're afraid.

Justin: But we do. [laughs] Like, what about cobblers? That's full of hot fruit!

Griffin: Oh, my God. Oh, my God.

Travis: Fuck.

Griffin: I'm gonna come through this mic. I'm gonna come through your sound interface, and I'm gonna start striking you. I wouldn't do that to you. You're my brothers, and I love you more than anything.

We're not talking about highfalutin preparations! I take grapes out of the mic— out of the fridge, and instead of just popping them in cold at a picnic, I get them hot in the microwave first, and now I'm eating grapes, ba-by.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm not talking about cooking the grapes; I'm talking about getting the grapes hot, ba-by, okay?

Justin: [laughs] Do you have to d—

Griffin: I'm not talking about cooked cobblers. I'm talking about hot—

Justin: [laughing] What is the difference between cooking them and getting them hot?

Griffin: Yeah. [stammers]

Travis: Don't. No, Justin.

Justin: No. Don't help him.

Travis: You're using fancy words like "cooked." Griffin's saying "microwaving them."

Justin: [laughs] What's the difference between cooking them, and getting them hot? I have to know!

Griffin: It's because it's— when you— okay. I'll tell you. I'll tell you. You got leftover uh, fried chicken, right?

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Right. Yeah.

Griffin: And you can either eat that hot, or you can eat that cold. When you put it in the microwave, you don't say you're cooking fried chicken; you're getting it hot. The grapes are—

Travis: You're heating it. You're heating it.

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: The grapes are good to go. You're on the fucking wrong— you're laughing at me. You're on the wrong fucking side of history right now...

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: ...and our listeners are gonna let you know that.

Travis: Nobody would say— Justin, what about this sentence? "Don't eat those grapes; they're raw."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's nothing.

Griffin: That's nothing. That's nothing.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "Oh, that's a raw strawberry. You eat that, you're gonna get tummy rot." No.

Griffin: No.

Justin: So if you microwave— if you dump a couple packets of oatmeal into a bowl...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: ...and then put some water in there and then microwave it, do you say that you are cooking oatmeal?

Travis: No, you're heating up the oatmeal.

Griffin: Uh, you're preparing. You're preparing it.

Justin: Preparing it. That seems like a middle ground.

Travis: But you mixed ingredients there.

Griffin: Okay. Let's—

Justin: Okay. So that is cooking. That's cooking.

Griffin: This is the fucking— Justin is so far outside of the space that Travis and I have, like...

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: Travis and I have one-and-a-half bouncy castles, because Justin's abandoned his, and we're like, taking turns sharing it. And that's fine, Justin. So like, let's, I guess, just dial into this: why don't we cook grapes in the microwave and eat them? You fucking fascist.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Um...

Griffin: If that's really what you—

Travis: You ever eat frozen grapes?

Griffin: If that's really what you want to limit the discourse down to, that's fine. Why don't we cook and eat grapes after putting them in the microwave first?

Justin: [laughs] Okay. Why don't we microwave steak?

Travis: No, Justin, we do!

Justin: Why don't we microwave bread? Like... it's nonsense.

Travis: If I have a steak that I, maybe I have some leftover sir-loin from the night before, I would pop that into the microwave and heat it up a little bit, if I would just wanna gnaw on it. Maybe a late-night snack. Like, of steak.

Justin: Is that for when you transform into a living dog...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: ...and you have to— something to nosh on in your bowl?

Travis: Of course.

Justin: Like, why...

Griffin: Hey, yo...

Justin: ...that's not food a human would eat.

Griffin: For real, do you all... do y'all see that in cartoons, where they give a dog a big, raw piece of meat, and you're like, "Nah, nah, nah, nah, nah. That's probably not good, right?"

Travis: Fuck. No, cook that.

Justin: That can't be good.

Travis: Why don't you like your dog? Or they give them, like, a whole chicken to eat or some shit. Don't do that.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Or like Fred Flintstone's about to eat just like, a big raw, like, leg of a dinosaur? Bud?

Travis: I always felt that that was the weirdest part in a Flintstones cartoon, when Fred Flintstone would chase after, like, a brontosaurus, and catch it, and just tear into its raw flesh.

Griffin: And just start eating— or getting its legs. Yeah.

So Justin, why don't we eat hot grapes, though?

Justin: If you put a bunch of fruit...

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: ...in the microwave...

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: ...in a cup.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: Okay. And then put some yogurt and granola on top.

Travis: Fuck.

Justin: Oh, you got a nice little breakfast going!

Travis: Your c— are you saying hot— hot berries?

Justin: That was a— that recipe was in the Washington Post. This is not hiding uh, you know, this is right there out in front of us.

Griffin: Let me actually—

Travis: You're saying put some hot berries in my— in my parfait?

Justin: I'm saying hot berries.

Griffin: How many— hey, Justin?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: You've been around this block for a while, and I know that—

Justin: Hot Berry Block?

Griffin: No. Stop it. Listen. Let me play. Let me play at you. If you're not gonna play with me, let me play at you.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: You've eaten grapes, yes?

Justin: Yeah, bud.

Griffin: I would say, throughout the fullness of time in your life...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: ...you've probably eaten a lot of grapes. Not— you know, maybe not the average, maybe not more than the average, maybe less than that.

Travis: Not an obscene amount.

Justin: No, no, no. I would say right down the fucking middle.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Right down the fucking middle. And what's the proce— go ahead, paint me a little word picture of you sitting in the living room. You decide you want some grapes. And then just sort of walk me through the whole process, up to you chewing and swallowing the grapes. So go ahead, give me the process.

Justin: So I would get uh...

Griffin: And hey, don't play with funnytimes, because it's me playing at you. You get to be Mr. Serious, fucking Ben Stein over there with [mocking noise], but I'm gonna be, like, having fun, so don't— no jokes, please.

Justin: I would— I would think I would— I would go to the 'frigerator.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: I would take out— I'm sorry, I said 'frigerator. I would go to the refrigerator, I would take out a bag with grapes.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: And then I would get a bowl, and I would put both— a bunch of the grapes off the stem.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Justin: I would give 'em kind of a rinsey-rinse.

Griffin: Got to. Got to.

Justin: Gotta— gotta do that. And then I would just proceed to chomp it, I guess.

Griffin: So that's been—

Travis: Now, Justin, let me ask you— I do have an important...

Justin: Wait.

Travis: ...uh, qualifier there just before Griffin jumps in with his point. When you rinse them, cold water or hot water?

Justin: Uh, cold water.

Travis: Okay. Oh, thank you.

Griffin: Okay. I'm glad that you've filled that out for me, Trav. And then, Justin, so you've done this quite a few times, yes, you would say?

Justin: Uh, just a regular— the regular amount.

Griffin: And you tell me now how many outlier times you have done it where you then take the grapes and you put them in the microwave before eating them...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: ...please, now, tell me, yes?

Justin: Um...

Griffin: How many times— a number, exact estimation, whatever you can get it to, please, thank you.

Justin: Uh, probably none.

Travis: Wait, hold on.

Griffin: And so I guess my follow-up question to that would be, why?

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Justify yourself, Justin.

Justin: Well, I mean...

Travis: The floor is yours.

Justin: Was the question about grapes specifically...

Travis: Why?

Justin: ...or was it about fruit?

Griffin: No. You have made it about grapes.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: By your actions, it is now about grapes. And Justin, I would take it even further and say that none of those times when you have consumed grapes did you ever even think— you weren't making the choice not to put it in the microwave. I don't think the microwaving even ever occurred to you, because you're scared.

Justin: Uh, I just didn't— I like them cold.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Lie.

Justin: Yeah. I guess— I guess—

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Where I'm at is, I like 'em cold.

Griffin: Well, I like diet Pepsi, but I drink other stuff too, so I guess if you're just not— this is the worst we've ever done on a question, because from the moment it was introduced into our lives, Justin wanted to throw it right out into the river.

Travis: Justin, who's the coolest celebrity, in your estimation?

Justin: Coolest— probably Jeff Goldblum.

Travis: Okay. If Jeff Goldblum took to Instagram and did, like, a live thing on Instagram where he— like, as he was answering questions, nonchalantly microwaved some grapes and started eating them...

Griffin: And he didn't make a big deal— didn't make a big deal.

Travis: ...it wasn't a big deal, the stream wasn't about that. It was just the thing he was doing as he answered questions. Do you think it would take off?

Justin: Maybe.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: All right. Pretty sure these things are bad for your microwave, folks. Don't do this; this is a joke for home. Pretty sure they explode.

Travis: But if you have done it before...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...do tweet @JustinMcElroy.

Griffin: About the hot grapes. Boy, I bet a hot grape, though... if you wanna talk about a dangerous food to eat, 'cause you have no idea what the temperature of the juices are gonna be in there.

Justin: No idea how hot it is in there.

Travis: And it's just a little, like, hot water balloon. Like, it's— all it is, is hot water inside of it that's gonna burn your mouth real bad.

Griffin: Yeah. Sure.

Justin: It's full of hot water. How about another question?

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: "My roommate recently bought a new value pack, eight rolls of paper towels, because we ran out." Hell yeah.

Travis: Wait, was that about the value pack, or the running out?

Justin: Hell yeah, it's about the value pack. There's nothing. No— okay, wait, hold on. "When I went to use the first roll, I discovered that I hate these paper towels." Oh, hell no, actually, it turns out. "They're weirdly soft and don't rip well off the roll, and kind of make my skin crawl when I touch them."

Travis: [laughs] And they're made of human flesh.

Justin: "How do I use up all the paper towels, so I can have an excuse to buy a new pack from a better brand, specifically maybe a solution that doesn't implicate me for just wasting a bunch of trees?" That's from Damp in DC.

Griffin: I get it. I get it.

Justin: Ugh. I get it. I get it.

Griffin: Life's too short to put bad stuff on your bum. It ain't worth it. It ain't worth it!

Justin: No, this is— this is paper towels.

Travis: It is?

Justin: So I don't know what kind of grizzly monster you are...

Griffin: Oh. Listen, y'all. Listen, y'all. Listen. I'm just saying...

Travis: Sometimes you're desperate; you run out of toilet paper.

Griffin: I'm just— I don't wanna get gross. I don't wanna get blue. I know we get blue in this show, but I don't wanna get too blue, 'cause it could scare people off, but let's just say, I'm a Brawny man.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: Ugh, woof.

Travis: Hey, have you guys ever noticed that toilet paper is TP, and paper towels are PT?

Griffin: Never thought about it, yeah.

Justin: Yeah, I think about that a lot. Um, the— this is tough. You know what I have uh, run afoul of is—

Travis: I feel like that could've been a great chance for you to use your soundboard, Justin.

[rim shot plays]

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: Uh, I feel like um, the thing that I really despise is when the paper towels— you know the select-a-size, where it's like half a paper towel...

Travis: Oh.

Justin: ...or a regular paper towel, or a massive paper towel? Or like, four segments, it doesn't matter? I got two rolls that weren't like that recently.

Travis: What?

Justin: And that was heartbreaking to me, 'cause it's a lot more— I ended up using a lot more paper towel than I would ever want to use.

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: And that makes me really sad for the environment and stuff. There's people in other countries, like I think maybe England and stuff, that don't even use these— these motherfuckers.

Griffin: No, I get it.

Travis: They just phased them out, or they never used them?

Justin: They never used them. They're losing their minds over there.

Travis: Whoa. Hey, what about use those paper towels to write your manifesto.

Griffin: That could be fun.

Travis: And so that way, like, you unroll it as you're writing, and then you roll it back up, and you're like, "No, no, no. We can't use these to clean up that spill. It's me manifesto."

Griffin: Uh, that's one possibility. Uh, I mean, there's always the Mummy game.

Travis: Oh, yeah. But then you don't want to waste it, Griffin.

Griffin: I think me having a great afternoon with all my friends, playing Mummy...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: ...roleplaying our favorite Brendan Fraser film, Mummy 2: The Mummy Returns, I don't think is a waste of it, Travis. Just because I'm— I haven't used it to sop up, you know, some piss.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: I have a question. Do you...

Travis: Once again, wait, hold on. What? [laughs]

Griffin: It's all paper. Why are you guys being such dingleberries about it? It's all— it's paper. It's paper, paper, paper, paper.

Justin: The uh...

Griffin: Cleaning paper.

Justin: Did you buy eight rolls of paper towels that you hate, or did you buy a small mattress that you hate?

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Could be one of those— either one of those two.

Griffin: Mm.

Travis: Hm! Maybe uh...

Justin: Intriguing.

Travis: ...you could use them to clean up spills around town, just out and about. That way, you're not wasting them, but you're not— like, oh, next time there's an oil spill, you're on it!

Griffin: Yep.

Justin: Yep. "I'm here. I've got all these paper towels." What about—

Travis: "Here they are, if you need 'em."

Griffin: "Give me half of one pelican. I got this."

Justin: What if, for a while, you're just the person that shows up at parties with a roll of paper towels?

Travis: Yes, and you say...

Justin: "I brought my—"

Travis: "...I brought napkins."

Justin: [sighs] "I brought my own. I get super sloppy."

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: "Leave me alone."

Travis: Ooh. What if they're very practical, like, housewarming/birthday gifts?

Griffin: Yep.

Justin: That's a bad one.

Griffin: That's bad. That's a bad one.

Justin: That one's bad. That one's bad. There's no bad ideas, except for that. That's the first bad idea.

Travis: What if it's the world's most comfortable telescope?

Griffin: Yeah, that's another possibility.

Justin: [laughs] And least effective.

Griffin: Least effective.

Travis: Ooh, it's so easy to hold with all this cushioning!

Griffin: I mean, I'll go ahead and say the one so obvious that we're not even saying it. Eight. Eight paper towel rolls. You can catch a lot of frogs with that many paper towel rolls.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [stammers] I gue— what— wait. What are you—

Griffin: You can catch a lot of them tasty froggies with eight paper towel rolls, I think. You go through a forest, you know how to get back out.

Justin: That's good. I actually like that.

Travis: Yeah. Maybe um, like, use them to denote the end of a race, so people can run through them, like a...

Griffin: That's good. You can make little ends of races everywhere. That can be fun. I mean, you can take them to Washington, DC and [laughing] just, you know, use the— clean up the act of a lot of the— a lot of the people there that are supposed to be representing uh, us, but I think we can all agree are doing a pretty— pretty piss-poor job doing it.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And all that piss is just begging to be sopped up with these eight paper towels, if you know what I'm— if you get the...

Travis: Vote Griffin McElroy 2020, clean up the piss.

Griffin: No, it's— I'm trying to become a new political cartoonist, and that's sort of my first strip that I'm gonna pitch to um, newspaper.

Travis: Washington, DC? More like Washington, Pee Pee.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, and it's me with— and then you see me with eight big, bad paper towel rolls...

Justin: No, no, no. I wanna hear more of Travis's. He's got jokes.

Griffin: Well, he writes the words. I draw the illustrations.

Travis: Yeah. Griffin does the images, and I do the captions.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, so like, give me another one, Trav, and...

Travis: I really only have that one really good one.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: More like Washington, Dookie!

Griffin: Yeah, and so in this one, I'm in a big airplane, and I'm dropping the toilet paper down like bombs onto um, it's the Capitol Hill, but it's also poop emoji paper towels.

Travis: Oh, I see!

Justin: What if every— at your local grocery store, the next few times that someone reached to buy paper towels, it was just you appearing like an avenging angel, like, "No, no, no. No need. I've got a free roll for you."

Travis: Hey...

Justin: And then they're— it's their problem. And then they feel so guilty, 'cause you made such a big fucking deal out of it...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: ...that they don't even feel comfortable buying the paper towels that they really want.

Griffin: Okay. All right. But let's walk through this just step-by-step, Justin.

Justin: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Say you're at the produce aisle, eyeing a big soon-to-be-warmed-up box of grapes. And you're looking at those seriously, looking at the price, looking at the unit price and trying to figure out if you can make space for— in your fridge and in your life for these grapes.

And then a stranger comes up and says, "Mm-mm [negative], don't take those grapes. Take these grapes from me, for free."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: What's the— what's the first thought that's gonna enter into your mind?

Travis: Poisoned.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Nope.

Justin: They're poisoned.

Griffin: Nope.

Justin: Nope. That's not—

Griffin: It's gonna be— this person just picked up another box of grapes in the store, and said they were wonderful, free grapes...

Justin: It's a honey pot.

Griffin: ...that I can just take out of the store. This is a good— this is a good— this is a fun trap, right? It's like uh, getting everybody more comfortable with shoplifting by you're looking at paper towels, I walk up, and I say, "No, not those paper towels." And then I reach over and pick up over paper towels, and I say, "These ones are free," and I hand it to him.

Travis: [laughs] It's perfect.

Justin: I had a— I had a experience— this is not my cereal podcast, The Empty Bowl, you can find that on iTunes, but this is a cereal anecdote on a non-cereal podcast. I was at a local big-box grocery store, and they offered me a sample of um, banana nut uh, Frosted Flakes, and they put it in a little cup, and they handed it to me, and I ate one of the flakes, and I was like, "[eating noises] Num, num, num. Good, good, good," is what I said to the lady.

And she said, "Do you want milk?"

And I was like, "Yeah. I guess I do." And so I thought she was gonna pour me, like, a little shot glass of milk to go with my— no. She takes my sample cup back, and then pours— [laughs] pours milk into my tiny, miniscule sample cup of the cereal, and then hands me a very tiny spoon, and hands it back to me, all proud of herself.

So then I'm just standing there, in the middle of the aisle, looking like some sort of stupid giant...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: ...eating this tiny, tiny bowl of cereal, like, "[eating noises] Num, num, num, very good, ooh, thanks. Thanks for this little tiny bowl, lady." And uh, I was unimpressed with the flavor.

Griffin: So f— take that!

Justin: Hey, uh, let's get— could we go to the Money Zone, just real quick?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Mm-hmm!

[Money Zone theme plays]

Travis: I would like to tell you about Blue Apron. Uh, we here in the McElroy collective household are huge fans of the meal service boxes.

Griffin: The big— in the big boat we all live in together.

Travis: In this big McElroy boat. And gosh darn it do I ever love Blue Apron, 'cause everything comes right there in the box, um, and you know what? I remember being in college and getting, like, frozen meals and that kind of stuff, which, you know, nothing wrong with those, I guess, but this is everything right there that you need, and when you make it, you feel, like, accomplished. 'Cause you really cooked it. You're making it yourself from ingredients. It's impressive, and it's delicious.

They offer creative and mouthwatering options designed to fit any table. There were some options here, in February you have pork chorizo burgers and roasted potatoes, spicy soy-glazed chicken thighs, a crispy chickpea grain bowl, garlic-caper chicken. I can honestly say, I don't think I've ever had a Blue Apron that I didn't thoroughly enjoy.

And you can check it out, this week's menu— oh, I should say, basically, you get a box that contains, like...

Griffin: And it's got stuff in it.

Travis: Three meals.

Griffin: Yeah, it's got stuff. Pictures and what-have-you.

Travis: And you can check out this week's menu and get \$60 off at [BlueApron.com/MyBrother](https://blueapron.com/MyBrother), that's [BlueApron.com/MyBrother](https://blueapron.com/MyBrother). Blue Apron, a better way to cook.

Griffin: So say you have a business or two, and you need to hire one or maybe 200,000 employees, because your new business is the biggest one ever. It's Amazon 2, and you're so excited to really beat Jeff Bezos's ass right into the ground.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: And you need to get some employees, and you need these guys fuckin' yesterday. You need these folks just with a quickness. Well, let me tell you what you're gonna do.

Travis: You're describing my exact situation, Griffin.

Griffin: That's so good. Um, so you're gonna— Travis...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: ...you're gonna wanna go to ZipRecruiter, because it's the place where you go that makes hiring simple, fast, and smart. They send your job to over 100 of the web's leading job boards, but that's not all they do.

Travis: What?

Griffin: 'Cause if that's all— if that's all they did, it would be bullshit. It's not. They also have powerful matching technology that they can use to scan thousands of resumes, like Skynet, and find people with the right experience and invite them to apply to your job. And the other people who don't have the right experience?

Travis: Uh-huh?

Griffin: They get nuked.

Travis: Woah! Like Skynet.

Griffin: By Skynet. ZipRecruiter's so effective that 80% of employers who post on ZipRecruiter get a quality candidate through the site within the first day, and the other 20%? They also get nuked.

Travis: It's— signing up for ZipRecruiter and being effective is the only way to survive the nuclear apocalypse.

Griffin: [laughs] Listen. You're flippin' a five-sided coin. One of those sides, it's got a big mushroom cloud on it. The other four sides has a new recruit for you that is gonna do your business just perfect. Right now, our listeners can try ZipR—

Travis: Now, we should say that nowhere in this copy does it say anyone gets nuked, but Griffin is reading between the lines...

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: ...'cause it's pretty obvious, if you look at what it says, that they're hinting at this.

Griffin: Our listeners can try ZipRecruiter and this grand roulette for free at this exclusive web address: ZipRecruiter.com/MyBrother, that's ZipRecruiter.com/MyBrother. ZipRecruiter, the smartest and deadliest way to hire. Shouldn't say that.

Travis: No.

Griffin: ZipRecruiter— they probably want you to— ZipRecruiter, the smartest way to hire.

Travis: And then it says, in parenthesis, "Not all will survive."

Griffin: No, it doesn't say that in parenthesis. There's no parenth—

Travis: I think I'm reading between the lines.

Griffin: There's no parenth— there's no lines. There's no lines.

Travis: It's in brackets.

Jo: Hi, I'm Jo Firestone.

Manolo: And I'm Manolo Moreno.

Jo: And we're the hosts of Dr. Gameshow, which is a podcast where we play games submitted by listeners regardless of quality or content, with in-studio guests and callers from all over the world!

Manolo: And you could win a custom magnet.

Jo: A custom magnet!

Manolo: Subscribe now, to make sure you get our next episode.

Jo: What's an example of a game, Manolo?

Manolo: Pokémon or medication.

Jo: How do you play that?

Manolo: You have to guess if something's a Pokémon name or a medication.

Jo: Oh? Medication?

Manolo: First-time listener? If you want to listen to episode highlights, and also know how to participate, follow Dr. Gameshow on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Jo: We'd love to hear from you.

Manolo: Yeah, and it's really fun.

Jo: For the whole family. We'll be every other Wednesday, starting March 13th, and we're coming to Max Fun!

Manolo: Snorlax.

Jo: Pokémon?

Manolo: Yes.

Jo: Nice!

Justin: Uh, I would uh, would love it if you all could uh, join me for— I'm really struggling about this, because it— I was gonna go Munch Squad.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: But it has nothing to do with food at all. It's just a press release. Um, but it is so challenging that I am gonna go ahead and bring it to y'all, and I hope that you'll join me for it. And this is not necessarily a segment, and it's kind of outside the bounds of what we would normally do, but it's so challenging that I would like to present it to you, my brothers.

Griffin: Could it not be a Munch Squad Jr., maybe?

Travis: Or how about Crunch Squad?

Justin: No. I mean, you need to listen to me. It has nothing to do with food.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Travis: Could you slip, Justin, references to food? Even if it's just side jokes that you make?

Griffin: And can I ask why you— you found this?

Justin: Uh, yeah. I mean, it came into my inbox by someone saying— someone tweeted at me quite rightly, and said, "This is a Munch Squad that has nothing to do with food."

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: And I was like, yeah, you're right. It is. Somehow, and this is not gonna be— I'm not expanding the scope of this very important segment. I'm just saying this is where we're at right now.

Travis: This is a one-off.

Justin: This is a one-off. This is a press release for Meghan Trainor's new album.

Travis: And also the new quick service restaurant she's opening?

Justin: No. It has nothing to do with food.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Again, I can't— I can't stress this enough.

"Valentine's Day is around the corner. And whether you're planning on smashing bae's junk to smithereens..."

Travis: Oh!

Justin: "...or making out with a pint of Phish Food, you need some fresh Valentine's Day bops." Griffin, have you hung up...

Griffin: No, I'm here.

Justin: ...or are you still in the call?

Griffin: I'm just challenged by it.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: If someone came up to me, and I mean, let's assume that I wasn't in a loving, committed relationship, or even if I was, if a loving, committed partner came up to me and said, "I want to smash your genitals to smithereens..."

Griffin: Yeah. Just goosh— turn 'em into goop.

Travis: That sounds terrible!

Griffin: It seems like there's gonna be a lot to this, so let's see if we can let Justin get through a little bit more before we stop him.

Travis: There's more?

Justin: "...you need Valentine's Day bops to get you in the mood for love, and Meghan Trainor's got her covered with her new EP, The Love Train.

"You know you want it."

Travis: Ugh.

Justin: "And you can freakin' get it, bitch."

Travis: Whoa. Whoa!

Justin: "On all digital platforms right here."

Travis: I want that to be followed up with, "You know what? I came in pretty hot there. What I meant to say was..."

Griffin: "Let's cool our jets a little bit. Anyway, you may know me for my old sound. It's evolved a little bit, and I'm excited about the new opportunities that brings. Now, anyway, bring your genital triangle over here, and set it on the corner of this table. Thank you. I'm about to blast it."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "We know you want to hear songs about all the hot newlywed sex Meghan and Daryl Sabara are having."

Griffin: Oh!

Travis: I don't.

Justin: And here, they spelled— spelled "ba" B-A-E. Um, and I guess— do you guys want to know about...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Do you guys want to know about the hot newlywed sex that Meghan Trainor is having with the kid from Spy Kids?

Griffin: Oh, yes, now. Yes.

Travis: Oh, wait, what?

Griffin: Sorry. Now that you're putting it this way, yes.

Justin: Yes. That's who she married. Yeah, it says here in this press released, "Meghan's seducing your ears this V-Day."

Travis: Ugh.

Justin: "And you know she knows a thing or two about romance. Unless your phone's been broken for a hot minute, you know that Meghan just got married to the ginger from Spy Kids."

Griffin: [laughs] What?

Justin: "And trust us when I say— when we say, girl is feeling the love. She took a break from her busy schedule to record some fire tracks in Los

Angeles," who gives a shit? [laughs] "...alongside frequent collaborators and producers..." it doesn't matter.

"We know you want to hear songs about all the hot newlywed sex Meghan and Daryl Sa-bae-ra are having. Did you see what we did there?" What they did there, for the record, is turn the— the "ba" in Mr. Sabara's name, it's a B-A, E, aligned with the nomenclature of the day.

Griffin: You just called the kids from Spy Kids Mr. Sabara. Handle that.

Justin: Eh— oh, sorry. Dr. Sabara. "Which is why you'll love the banging single, All the Ways. Billboard was wet for All the Ways."

Travis: Oh, no.

Griffin: Billboard did not become wet!

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

Justin: "Billboard got wet for All the Ways..."

Travis: No, no, no.

Justin: "...calling it 'another fun, danceable track to fall in love with,' and would Billboard lie to you, girl?"

Griffin: Holy shit.

Justin: "Would Billboard lie to you girl?"

Griffin: This outlet cannot become wet. This outlet cannot become wet. The outlet can't be wet.

Justin: "But perhaps the piece de resistance, that's French for 'wig snatch...'"

Travis: It's not!

Griffin: Not.

Justin: It's not. "...is Marry Me, a romantic acoustic guitar—" hang in there, folks.

Griffin: You cannot fucking backpedal this. You just said a magazine got wet.

Justin: [laughs] Just— you know what? You're gonna be impressed. You're gonna be impressed. You know what? You're about to feel— what you're about to feel is being impressed.

Uh, "...it's a romantic acoustic guitar and ukulele-tinged 'aww' fest, which delivers all the feels, and then more feels."

Griffin: Holy...

Justin: So they did actually bring it back to absolutely disgusting. Just in a different way.

Travis: Is the "aww" fest gonna get me wet? I'm having a hard time following the metaphor.

Justin: Uh-huh. There's no metaphors, it's just words and letters and images and time.

Um, "...it's a ukulele-tinged 'aww' f—" oh, my God. I can't fucking say it again. "...'aww' fest which delivers all the feels, and then more feels."

Travis: Is one of the feels "It feels wet"?

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] "Meghan wrote the song 30 days after meeting Daryl, and it was so good she walked down the aisle to it. We know that's a little bit #VomWorthy, but also, am I chopping onions right now, or are those tears running down my face? I'm not crying, you're crying."

Travis: I am actually chopping onions.

Griffin: You're actually wrong. My eyes are wet. My eyes are getting wet. It's not crying, though.

Travis: My eyes are getting moist.

Griffin: Yeah. I'm still thinking about all the ways that you and the Spy Kid Man, I guess, now, are making love.

Travis: Spy Man.

Griffin: The Spy Man and you are making love in, I guess, all the ways, and just hearing that makes my eyes glisten.

Travis: I would like to say, I don't want to just gloss over that Meghan Trainor wrote, produced, recorded a song that then she walked down the aisle to her own song.

Griffin: I— fuck that. That's powerful.

Justin: That's fucking fresh as hell.

Travis: No, that's what I'm saying. That's great.

Justin: I know. It's so sad that Meghan Trainor, who I think rules, is saddled with this— anyway. Moving on. Unless she wrote it herself, which would be hysterical.

"As always, our Grammy-winning, Diamond Single-having queen didn't just come to play. She came to slay."

Travis: She's murdering left and right. Get outta here!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "She's serving vocals." Like, yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I'd hope so.

"On the passionate, Celine Dion-esque power ballad, After You."

Griffin: Now, Celine Dion, there's a singer that can get a magazine wet.

Travis: Oh, yeah. And it can make a...

Justin: Plus—

Travis: ...hell of a quick service restaurant.

Justin: You guys are such cowards, because you're trying to break up the delivery of this poison with your japes and hilarity. You need to just buckle in, okay?

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Let me get through this. Please, let me get through this. Okay.

"She's serving vocals on the passionate Celine Dion-esque power ballad—" this is the most insane thing that's ever been in a press release. And I just—

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: I just— I read a lot of press releases, and the turn this press release takes, it's— it's really... it's really challenging, and I am so sorry about putting this press release into y'all's heads, because I was actually woken up at 3:00 AM last night by my daughter, and unable to fall back asleep, because I kept recounting several choice segments of this entire press release. But this is the one that uh— one of the more challenging segments.

"Meghan's serving your insatiable thirst for dance-ready bops with the upbeat banger that is Foolish. It slaps so hard, you'll be stanning for days."

Travis: Whoa.

Griffin: My— my feet would get tired.

Travis: Whoa.

Justin: Uh...

Travis: Like, it slapped my bottom so hard, I can't sit down?

Justin: "It slaps so hard, you'll be stanning..."

Griffin: Is that what they did to Billboard?

Justin: Sorry, no, bud. Stanning.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: S-T-A-N-N-I-N-G for days. That's how— that's proper usage of that, right? Just you stan for certain amounts of time, and then cease stanning after you enjoy something deeply.

And then there's a quote in the same paragraph, and the quote is this: "'As if all the PDA, including foot massages, butterfly kisses, and piggyback rides aren't cringe-worthy enough,' says her brother and videographer Ryan. 'I've got to film it all.'"

Griffin: Uh, what?

Travis: Whoa. Whoa. Wait, what?

Justin: What?

Travis: Whoa.

Justin: It's the same— guys, it's the same— guys, it's the same paragraph.

Griffin: [laughs]

[rim shot plays]

Griffin: "Check out this dope track, better than Celine Dion. She's gonna slap your ass so hard with her one dance track that you'll never be able to sit down for the rest of your life. 'I have to watch them kiss, and it's my job,' says her brother."

Travis: [laughs] "And Meghan makes me filme them kissing."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Hey, Justin, I just— Justin, uh, I'm very successful now as a pop artist, and I wanted to hire you into my entourage, so that you basically will never have to work again, except for me. Um, one thing though.

Griffin: One li'l thing.

Travis: You will have to film my sensual sessions with my lover.

Justin: [laughs] Film me with my lover. Anyway, "Choo-choo..." "Choo-choo, betch." It says, B-E-T-C-H. You tell me how to say it. You tell me how that's is said.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: You say it. B-E-T-C-H.

Griffin: I'm not going to say it. This press release...

Justin: Betch.

Griffin: ...has no power over me.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "Choo-choo, betch! The Love Train is leaving the station, and you better get on board."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Now, you're threatening me.

Justin: Get on board, or um— actually, could I vote for the sweet release of being crushed under its wheels?

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Is that an o— is that an option?

Griffin: [laughs] I mean, here's the thing, though. I'm sure the album is the slap. I have no doubt about it. There's probably some good tunes on here. It doesn't make— I don't need to know that your brother filmed you kiss, and...

Travis: [laughs] I also don't want to hear about your sensual make-out session with a magazine that got it all moist.

Griffin: Yep. Or with the— with your husband. And I'm not here to shame you for that. I just uh, I wasn't previously curious about it before this press release had entered my life, and uh, as I find my way, you know, on the off ramp of this press release, I gotta say, I still kind of am not curious about it, thank you very much.

Justin: Oh, by the way, All the Ways— the video for All the Ways is a song that uh, she sings asking a guy to tell her all the ways in which he loves her. It is not about all the different ways that the lady from All About that Bass and the ginger from Spy Kids are doinking. It's not about that, as far as I can tell. The video probably features— features a man-sized teddy bear.

Travis: Hmm.

Justin: I don't know what to say about this.

Travis: Wouldn't it be be— like, I would— I think it would be funny to hear a song in which the singer just listed all the different ways that they and their partner had had sex, like...

Griffin: I'm watching this video right now. They're in a bus, they're walking down a dark New York City street. What was— what was that? Hold on. There was like a flash frame, I'm running it back, it's around 2 minutes... Yeah, she's fingerblasting the shit out of that bear.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: You're wrong, Justin.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: So you wanna Yahoo?

Justin: [groans]

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Um, I have a Yahoo here that was sent in by uh, Sid Ross. Thank you, Sid. It's Yahoo Answers user— they're anonymous, I'm gonna call them... um, I'm gonna call this Meghan Trainor asks, "Can a self-driving car get its own job as a taxi or uber, and live a life of its own?"

Travis: Ooh! I like that final twist there at the end.

Justin: Yeah, I didn't see that coming.

Griffin: I know that it can't— right, it's programmed to do a certain thing, right?

Justin: Right.

Griffin: But then it's just cruising down the chicola-- Chicago streets, and it uh, pulls over, you know, it gets stopped at a stop light on, you know, State Street, and uh, just a dude runs in and opens up the back door and hops in,

and is like uh, "20 bucks if you take me up to uh, the bean, the big bean, baby." 'Cause that's how they all talk up there. It's fucking wild.

And then the car is like, "Well, that's not normally what I do, but okay." And it drives up, and it takes the money, and now this car robot, driving robot, has \$20 to spend...

Travis: Ooh.

Griffin: ...and I think at this point, like, is thinking— having some thoughts that are maybe a little off the grid.

Travis: I personally welcome the idea of robot Lyft drivers...

Justin: Uh-huh.

Travis: ...'cause it would be nice to know, when I get in the car, that I won't have to explain what a podcast is...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...after they ask me what I do.

Griffin: Yeah. [laughs] Yeah, that's a fun— yeah. Um...

Travis: That the robot would be like, [robotic voice] "Podcasts are my blood." Like...

Justin: [laughs] "I run on podcast energy."

Griffin: I don't know what you're talking about, Travis. I'm a line cook in a hotel.

Travis: What, the robot?

Griffin: That's— no, that's sort of my go-to.

[crickets chirp]

Travis: Oh, I see. Good joke. Nice.

Griffin: Hold— stop. Are those crickets?

[cricket chirping stops]

Griffin: Those are the worst fucking sounding crickets I've ever heard in my entire life.

[crickets chirp]

Justin: [laughing] It's some good crickets.

Travis: That sounds like a foley cricket that some dude in a studio in 1930 is making by rubbing two nails together, or something.

Justin: I don't know why the clip has to be so long. Okay, it's finally over. Sorry. [laughs] It's like— it's a cricket sound effect that's so long, that after it gets the desired effect, it actually needs another cricket sound to come in after it, 'cause it went on so long that no one's laughing anymore. So it's like a recursive— a recursive cricket sound effect.

Griffin: So can this happen? Probably not. You want a different one?

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: This one was sent in by Emily. Thank you, Emily. It's an anonymous Yahoo Answers user...

Justin: What are you supposed to do with that big bean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I've seen the bean. Um, I wish— I want to just stand there with a chart, and write on the chart what people do once they have reached the bean that they have traveled to.

Griffin: Well, you can go inside, and take the same picture everybody takes, or you can do what I do. Grease on up, and try and climb on top of the thing.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] Why do you grease?

Griffin: To make it harder.

Travis: To give the challenge, Justin.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Anybody can climb on top of the thing.

Justin: [singing] I went skydiving, I went rocky mountain climbing. I climbed up that dumb bean, and I was greased up all the way.

Griffin: [normally] Here one from Emily. Thank— Emily sent it in. Thanks, Emily. It's from Yahoo Answers user uh, Maddy, who asks, "I need 50 words to describe birds visually. Let me know what words come up when you think of how birds look." I'm just gonna start a count, I guess.

Travis: So— wait.

Justin: Wait.

Travis: Does it have to be—

Justin: Do you— wait, do you actually have a counter?

Griffin: I'll get a— I'll get the calculator open, and I'll just press plus— push um, press one.

Justin: You actually need one plus one, and then you press equal.

Griffin: Is that a calculator—

Justin: Equals every time. I think that could work.

Griffin: No, it just keeps saying two, so maybe it's a different...

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: ...calculator. Um...

Travis: Maybe something— you could make hash marks on a piece of paper.

Justin: I might have a counter app.

Travis: I have a step counter. I can take a step every time we say...

Justin: A step.

Griffin: This is good. 'Cause it'll buy us some time to um, think of good bird words.

Travis: I'm gonna write— let me write down here.

Griffin: Okay, I got it. I got it. I got it.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: All right.

Justin: Okay. I'm ready.

Griffin: Let's just start firing 'em off, and I don't think we should go in order. I think we can just...

Travis: Beak!

Justin: Oh, okay. You actually fucked up with the first one.

Travis: Beak.

Griffin: [laughs] I mean, it describes a bird visually, technically, if you think about it.

Travis: Yeah. Do you want me to describe a beak? 'Cause that wasn't the challenge, Justin.

Griffin: Okay. Listen. We're only one in, and we've got 49 to go, so we can't quibble this much on all of 'em, but I'm gonna put— I'm gonna say no more anatomical terms, because otherwise then that could just be the whole thing.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Pretty.

Griffin: Up.

Justin: [laughs] Did you say up?

Griffin: Yes. That's three. God, guys, we have 47 to go. This bit is gonna last fucking forever.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I thought for sure we'd be done by now.

Travis: I'm saying flappy.

Griffin: Flappy.

Justin: Uh, aloft.

Griffin: Mm... worms. Because they usually have worms in their mouth.

Travis: Oh, okay. Hoppy.

Griffin: H— that was a bad one, but it's on the list.

Travis: They— they hop. They hop.

Justin: Betailed.

Travis: Betailed, I like it. Bewinged!

Justin: [laughs] Bebeaked.

Travis: Bebeaked!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: That's 10. Um...

Travis: Befeathered.

Griffin: Yep. All right. We can't— nope— that's it for the "be-"s.

Justin: No more "be-" ones.

Griffin: No. Um...

Justin: Blue.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah, okay. Hold on. We're up to 12. Red, yellow, white, gray. That's 16. That's...

Travis: Yeah, I think that covers it.

Griffin: ...covers most of the bird colors...

Justin: For sure.

Griffin: ...like, families.

Travis: Um...

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Squawky.

Griffin: Squawky's good. I would say just blanket, number 18, just noisy. Uh...

Travis: Noisy.

Justin: Wait. Is this— what is the question?

Griffin: Uh, "Describe birds visually." [laughs] Shit. Minus one.

Justin: Okay. So "squawky," I don't think, is gonna cut the fucking mustard.

Griffin: Okay, we're at 16. We're at 16.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: Beady-eyed, but it's hyphenated.

Griffin: Okay. We'll accept it.

Justin: Intimidating.

Travis: Nice.

Justin: Inspiring.

Travis: Okay. Threat— no, we already said intimidating. Harbingers.

Justin: Harbingers is a noun.

Griffin: Yep. Minus one.

Travis: Harbinging.

Justin: And not visual. And not— [laughs] harbinging...

Travis: Harbinging.

Griffin: Okay. We're back up to 20. Um...

Justin: Okay. Uh, unnerving.

Griffin: Unnerving. Shitty.

Travis: [laughs] Okay. I like that.

Justin: They look— you think birds as a whole look shitty?

Griffin: I think they can be. I think birds can look shitty.

Justin: Okay. Sexy.

Griffin: Elegant.

Travis: Goofy.

Griffin: Mysterious. We are at 26, boys. We are past the halfway point.

Justin: Um, what about this? Horny.

Travis: Yeah. That bird looks horny. [laughs]

Justin: It looks horny.

Travis: You can just tell.

Griffin: Well, yes. Once you see the two birds and they have their wings way out, and they're just like walking towards another bird's ass, like, that bird's ready to fuck. Um...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Let me say, how about this one? Delicious.

Travis: That bird looks delicious? Okay, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: Delicious. That's a great point.

Travis: Um...

Griffin: Small!

Travis: Kickable.

Griffin: No.

Justin: No.

Travis: Wait, we can go with delicious, but not kickable?

Griffin: No, because it's mean and it's too edgy, and it's too...

Travis: Huggable.

Griffin: ...Spencer's Gifts. Huggable, we'll allow.

Justin: Huggable all the way. Yeah.

Travis: I would like to hug an ostrich.

Justin: Like Big Bird?

Griffin: Two— we're at 30 right now. Could we do two words together, and it could just be "my pet."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: 'Cause they can be my pet.

Justin: They look like your pet?

Griffin: My...

Travis: My savior.

Griffin: My pet is 31 and 32. You say "my savior"?

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: I did, yes.

Griffin: 33, 34. Justin, you wanna get...

Travis: And I'm talking about The Crow.

Griffin: Everybody gets a two-word one. Mine's "my pet..."

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: ...Travis did "my savior," and Justin, what's your two-word one?

Justin: My immortal.

Griffin: "My immortal," which gets us up to 36. We love these birds.

Travis: Half-angel.

Griffin: No. Without— is it hyphenated?

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: It doesn't make sense. We're still at 36.

Justin: Criss Angel.

Griffin: I'm torn on that one.

Travis: [laughs] I could go either way.

Justin: Hey, birds don't look like Criss Angel. Criss Angel can sometimes look like a bird.

Travis: That's true.

Griffin: Well, he can turn into nine birds, but that's not— I don't think that visually describes birds, as much as it sort of generally describes Criss Angel and his abilities. We are still at 36. I'm gonna say biblical.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: They look— they look biblical?

Griffin: Yeah, just like, you see a dove, and you're like, "There's one of Jesus's..."

Travis: "Oh, shit."

Griffin: "...good friends."

Travis: Uh, deliverers.

Justin: Oh, man, you don't know what adjectives are.

Griffin: Let's stop. Let's stop. Let's stop. We're at 37. I feel like we're gonna get really chunked up here if we don't, like, get back to basics real quick.

Travis: Beak.

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: Beak, we d— bebeaked, we already...

Travis: We've already got beaked, yeah.

Griffin: I think we got bebeaked. I think— I feel like we're missing um... What about, like, extant?

Travis: Yeah. I like that.

Griffin: They're there.

Travis: Corporeal.

Griffin: Corporeal.

Justin: They look there. They look um, not transparent, and not translucent.

Travis: Opaque.

Griffin: Opaque?

Justin: Opaque.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Birds are opaque.

Justin: Yes, most birds are opaque.

Griffin: Can I hit you with this one? Birds.

Travis: Ooh, okay!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Now it's gonna be—

Travis: I feel like that's describing birds in one word.

Griffin: But see, that's good. What's good about that one is that um, is it does describe— birds look like birds, but also if somebody just finds this list sitting on the street, they're gonna kinda know what we're talking about when they get to "birds." I mean, it is number 41, so they're gonna be confused up to that, but when they see "birds," it's like a, you know, the secret codex of...

Justin: Let me see what you guys think about this one.

[sound clip of Paul Stanley shouting "Toronto!" plays]

Justin: Like the Blue Jays.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Toronto Blue Jays...

Travis: Toronto works.

Griffin: ...is 42.

Justin: Toronto should be one.

Travis: Now, here's my question. Maybe the last three words, Griffin, because it didn't say we can't use punctuation, can just be, "You know, birds?" And it's just "you know," comma, "birds," question mark?

Griffin: No. We've already done our compound ones, we already said they're birds. We have eight words left, and these are the...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: ...this is our home stretch, and we really gotta make 'em count. We've gone really long in this recording, but this is an important thing now.

Travis: Hungry.

Justin: Fatherly.

Griffin: Sorry, you both over-spoke.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: I wanna hear Travis's first.

Justin: I'll go second.

Travis: Hungry.

Griffin: Birds do, can look hungry.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Birds do, can look hungry. Um— uh, paternal.

Griffin: Paternal. How? Just because they're on the nest?

Justin: Like, a bird kind of looks like it would be a good dad.

Griffin: Okay. Ooh, I've got it. Thieving.

Travis: Ooh, I like that. Is show-off one word?

Griffin: Um...

Justin: It's a noun. It's a noun.

Griffin: Vain is a word.

Justin: Vain's an adjective.

Travis: Vain. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Guys, this is gotta stop. Hold on. We got four left, and I don't want 'em to be slams on birds. I want the last four to be good words about birds.

Justin: Can I give you this one? Avuncular.

Griffin: What's that mean?

Justin: It— uh, "like unto an uncle." A nature that is like an uncle. An uncle-style nature.

Travis: So wait, you're saying you would look at a bird, and say, "I would let that bird, maybe, like, hang out with my daughter, who would be its niece?"

Justin: That bird could be my— my dad's brother.

Travis: [laughs] Okay. Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin: We cant--

Travis: That bird, I would go to a baseball game with.

Griffin: I'm not gonna put that one on the list.

Justin: Okay. That's fair. You know what? That one may have been too far.

Griffin: We're at 46.

Travis: Did we say delicate?

Griffin: Delicate? Uh, yeah, we'll allow that. Um...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [sighs]

Griffin: I did— we said up, right? Pretty early.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: What about zany? 'Cause they look so zany.

Griffin: They can be funny. Yeah, they can be funny.

Travis: Zany. I thought you said veiny.

Griffin: We're at 48. They can be veiny, that's 49. Okay, we got one word left, so let's make it count, and you know, we may have a few here and have to pick the top contender.

Travis: I'm gonna...

Justin: Okay.

Travis: ...if we haven't said it before, proud.

Griffin: Uh, I think— I'm almost certain we've done that one. Hey, how about this one? Eggs.

Travis: Well.

Justin: Um, around.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Well, we kind of did a whole round of "they exist." I feel like "around" just kind of acknowledges their existence again.

Travis: Dinosaurs.

Griffin: Dinosaurs is bad, yeah.

Travis: Well, 'cause birds used to be dinosaurs.

Griffin: Yeah, but they ain't now. What about pointless?

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Um... [laughs] That's so mean.

Griffin: I mean, what have they done for me lately? How about shirt-ruiners?

Travis: [laughs] I think shitty, because that covers a lot.

Griffin: I already did shitty.

Travis: Damn it.

Griffin: Pay attention. God, we've been in this bit for too long. We need a 50th word.

Justin: Just give him the 50th word.

Travis: Beak.

Justin: No. We did beak at the beginning, although I do like that. [laughs] I do like it coming around like that.

Travis: Yeah, I like the, we'll call them beak-ends.

Griffin: What abo— oh, I got it.

Justin: Oh, wait a minute.

Griffin: Oh, I got it, I got it.

Justin: What about presidential?

Griffin: That's pretty good. What about, hyphenated, the-end, and that could be the...

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: ...and we turn the list in and the teacher will know that that's where we finished.

Justin: [laughs] I love that. That's so good.

Griffin: All right. That's 50. Thanks, folks.

Justin: Thanks, folks. We've had a great time with you this week on My Brother, My Brother and Me. We hope you have enjoyed yourself as well. Uh, you're always so nice to us, and listen to our podcast and stuff, and we just think that that's real swell of you, honestly.

Travis: We just think the world of you guys, bar none.

Justin: All things considered, I think it's really nice [laughing] that you listen to our podcast.

Travis: And I also think it's really nice that you listen to All Things Considered.

Justin: Yeah. Thank you. They really need your support, now more than ever.

Travis: Um, we're doing some live shows coming up April 2nd, 3rd, and 4th in San Jose, California, and Salt Lake City, Utah. You can get tickets for those at McElroy.family and then click on tours there.

And actually, the San Jose ones sold out so quickly, we had to open up new tiers of the theater, like new levels and balconies and stuff, so there are more tickets available. So if you tried to get those tickets, you know, a couple days ago and weren't able to, try again, 'cause we've put some more on sale. So go check that out, McElroy.family and click on tours.

And while you're at McElroy.family, you can check out all our other shows, you can check out like, YouTube videos and stuff we've done there. Um, you can check out our merch page, and see all the awesome stuff we have on sale there. Uh, yeah, a lot of things. McElroy.family.

Griffin: Um, and thanks to John Roderick and The Long Winters...

Justin: Mm.

Griffin: ...for the use of our theme song, (It's a) Departure, off the album Putting the Days to Bed. It's a very good song, very good album that you should totally have by now.

And also thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. Go to MaximumFun.org, check out all the great shows there. It's a bunch of new shows just added to the lineup, like Mission to Zyxx, and you know, old favorites like Stop Podcasting Yourself, all at MaximumFun.org.

Justin: Uh, is that gonna do it for us?

Griffin: I think so.

Justin: Yeah?

Griffin: Here's a final one. It was sent in by Merit Palmer. Thank you, Merit. It's Yahoo Answers user Henry, who asks, "Who out there hates BMW or Mercedes like me? I hate those cars with a potion."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] 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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[gavel bangs]

Jesse: I'm bailiff Jesse Thorn, and justice is within your reach!

Speaker 1: My mom refuses to take my phone calls.

Speaker 2: My boyfriend says I should take our cats with me to graduate school, but I think he should keep them.

[cat meows]

John: In the court of Judge John Hodgman, justice rules!

Speaker 3: My partner's board game collection is out of control!

Speaker 4: My sister won't stop stealing my clothes!

John: I'm Judge John Hodgman. I'm tough, but fair.

[echoing] Tough, but fair!

[normally] I'll bring you justice, and I'm only a click away.

John: Tipping.

[gavel bangs]

John: Automotive etiquette.

[gavel bangs]

John: Siblings.

[gavel bangs]

John: Roommates.

[gavel bangs]

John: If you've got a case, go to MaximumFun.org/JJHO. Judge John Hodgman is tough, but fair.

[echoing] Tough, but fair!

[normally] Subscribe to the podcast today.

Speaker 5: Judge John Hodgman rules.

[gavel bangs three times]

That is all.