

MBMBaM 464: Face 2 Face: Peace with the Ground-Children

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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!

[audience cheers]

Griffin: And he has just got to finish this Sudoku!

Travis: I'm your middlest brother, Travis McElroy!

[audience cheers]

Griffin: And I'm your sweet baby brother and 30 Under 30 media luminary, Griffin McElroy.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Thank you.

Justin: Six. It was six.

Travis: Got it!

Justin: Six was the last one. Hello, everyone. Uh, like the Chilean miners, we have reemerged here in Nashville. We've been slumbering...

Travis: It's been 17 years!

Justin: We've been slumbering in your sewers since 2017, October 2017 at the TPAC, and now we are back here at the beautiful Ryman. What an honor it is to finally put this venue on the map.

Griffin: [laughs] With our twisted brand of comedy.

Justin: With our own sick brand of comedy.

Travis: You know, a lot of great performers have performed on this stage before. The Adventure Zone...

Justin: If you took the last seven days of like, if nothing else, like if history started in the last seven days at the Ryman, they would be, "Oh, I know that theater. That's where The Adventure Zone, and the Wu-Tang Clan, and My Brother, My Brother and Me played. I know the Ryman. Obviously."

Travis: "Oh, yeah, yeah." And while we've been in town, we've been enjoying a lot of your local culture.

Justin: We uh...

Griffin: Oh, my God.

Justin: We were looking for a lunch spot yesterday. We almost went to Kid Rock's Honky Tonk Rock N' Roll Steakhouse.

Travis: And I pitched really hard for Keith Urban's Flapjack Depot. [laughs]

Justin: Where the flapjacks never end.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: We looked a lot at Iron & Wine's High-Iron Wine, which sounded disgusting, frankly.

Griffin: Yes. It's like— it is blood.

Travis: It's just blood.

Justin: We almost started Toby Keith's I Love This Taco Truck.

Travis: I Love This Empty Building For Lease.

Justin: [laughs] I love this author for empty building.

Griffin: Toby Keith's I Loved That Bar And Grill.

Justin: [laughs] I loved this now-defunct bar and grill.

Travis: [laughs] I love this future paintball course.

Justin: But of course, we ended up at Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville. Sorry. Um, it has been— but we've had a beautiful time here. A lovely show last night. Everybody was so uh, loud.

[audience cheers]

Justin: In much the same way that you are loud. In fact, you remind me of them.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: In many ways.

Travis: Have you met them? You would like them.

Justin: I had a lovely uh, encounter last night with a couple of listeners who came up and were very kind, telling us how much our show had meant to them. It was very sweet, and we really appreciated it. Some hugs were exchanged. And then just as we were finishing...

Travis: And our good hugs, too. Not like the lazy hugs that we save for our family.

Justin: No, yeah, the hits.

Travis: Like, the good hugs that we give listeners.

Griffin: Not those high school reunion hugs.

Justin: And then I felt a grab on my arm, which is a little forward, but I thought, "You know what? I'm Justin McElroy. I've always got time for a listener."

So I spun around, and there was a middle-aged woman there, and she looked at me, and she said, "Hey. I saw you at Margaritaville."

[audience laughs, cheers]

Travis: And then walked away.

Justin: Walked away. She—

Griffin: Now, I know— are you wondering, "Was it an angel?" Yes. It was an angel.

Justin: Yes, it was an angel.

Griffin: Sent to tell Justin a message.

Justin: One of Jimmy's little parakeets that he sends out to watch over his followers.

Travis: And to keep the rumors coming.

Justin: Right. Anyway, as you've certainly guessed by now, this is an advice show. Uh, any people who've never heard of us before in the audience?

[silence]

Travis: Oh, good. Okay.

Griffin: Thank God.

Justin: We can get nasty.

Travis: That will save us a lot of time.

Justin: We can be weird. Uh, here's our first question, and we shouldn't be doing this question, because it sets a terrible precedent. This is an advice show. We want advice questions. Requests for advice. Do not follow this person's example. They snuck in...

Travis: We will never include it again.

Justin: ...when we weren't looking, but then we read it, and we thought we should at least take a crack. The question is this. "What if Godzilla was nice?"

[audience laughs]

Griffin: It almost felt like Yahoo Answers had crawled out of our TV screen like The Ring, and taken over our real Gmail inbox, where supposedly real human beings send us digital letters.

Travis: Now, here's what I really like about this question, the reason I included it in the question list. Is they could have asked, "What if Godzilla was good?" which I feel like is a question that has been answered by movies and TV shows and cartoons and comic books before. But what if Godzilla was nice?

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Yeah. He's not—

Travis: What if Godzilla was polite?

Justin: He's not good, he's not bad, he's just nice.

Griffin: When the tiger eats up the zebra, I don't think the tiger's not being nice. It's just doing what—

Travis: No.

Griffin: That's just what Godzilla do! Is he just does a big stomp on Tokyo.

Travis: You know, think about this. How many times in your life, walking around, have you maybe stepped on an anthill by accident?

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: Mm.

Travis: Now who's the Godzilla?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You are all the Godzilla!

Justin: Yeah, but if you think about it, no one's gonna watch that behavior, and be like, "Nice."

Travis: No, but—

Justin: "That was a nice thing to do that you did."

Travis: You don't know how many times, in the movies when Godzilla's looking down, Godzilla's thinking, "Aw, man. I feel so bad!"

Justin: "Aw, man. I feel terrible about this, but I have to! I'm trying to get to Panera Bread!"

Travis: "I'm just so hungry, and Travis doesn't know what I eat!"

Griffin: "I've got all this medicine for the hospital. Ugh! Eugh!"

Justin: "My bones cure—"

Travis: "I'm a Lyft driver, and I've got to go pick somebody up!"

Justin: "My bones cure diabetes, and no one knows! Please drink of my marrow! I'm offering myself up to you."

Travis: "I'm offering you shade! Why are you so mad?"

Justin: It is a tourist attraction, too. A lot of cities would love that kind of heat.

Travis: Yep.

Justin: "Come to the only city where Godzilla is." If you had just treated him with a little bit of kindness and consideration, it could've been a mutual beneficial partnership, you know?

Travis: Just make him a chair big enough that he could stop walking around.

Justin: Make Godzilla a big chair.

Griffin: Or leave big footprint-sized holes in your city design.

Travis: Yes!

Justin: Yes. Thank you.

Travis: Thank you!

Justin: Or cement over those bad boys, you got a swimming pool going!

Travis: Nice.

Griffin: That's fun.

Justin: Who wouldn't love that? What if he was nice, though?

Travis: What if he was nice?

Justin: I feel like he'd still mess things up.

Griffin: Oh, don't we all?

Travis: But not on purpose.

Griffin: We try to be nice, and we mess things up. Not destroying a metropolitan area, mind you.

Travis: Yet.

Justin: But metaphorically speaking.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I think about this every time I walk into, say, a china shop or some place that sells figurines. I immediately put my hands behind my back, because I don't want to just Godzilla around.

Griffin: Oh, my God.

Travis: But I still might!

Griffin: There's a toy store— a Toy Story. A toy store I take Henry to that has a whole big section of ceramic, like, Russian nesting dolls, and every time I walk in that section, I'm like, "Oh, I'm gonna fuck this up so bad."

I don't know why— like, I don't normally, like, reflexively crump, but I feel like I'm about to just start crumping.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, I have a— can I do a Yahoo Answer...

Justin: I'd love that.

Griffin: ...from the Yahoo Answers service?

[audience cheers]

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

Travis: My wife?

Griffin: "My wife!"

Travis: My wife.

Griffin: It's from uh, Caleb Fax, Yahoo Answers user Caleb Fax, who...

Justin: Caleb Fax?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That sounds like a kid's, like, something you'd see on a placemat. "Hey, I'm Caleb Facts! Did you know clouds are made of rain?"

[audience laughs]

Justin: It's true!

Travis: "I'm Caleb Badfacts!"

Justin: "I'm Caleb Facts. We have mac and cheese and grilled cheese!"

Griffin: "I'm Caleb Facts. Did you know that turtles are just frogs, with a big shell on?"

Justin: "What are they hiding?"

Griffin: "Did you know wolves are just mean dogs? It's me, Caleb Facts." It's F-A-X, for Caleb Fax.

Justin: We also have grapes.

Griffin: All right. Caleb asks, "What should I do if random bread appeared in my bird feeder?"

"Some bread appeared in my bird feeder outside. It might not sound weird, but I live in the forest, so it's creepy AF. None of my family members, so it means someone's walking around my house. What should I do? Update: No. I mean like a giant piece of bread that barely fits in the feeder."

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Hey, y'all, I'm scrolling through all of the responses to this question. There's not one that's like, "Do you mean a small piece of bread, Caleb?" So I don't know who the fuck Caleb's talking to with his...

Travis: "Yeah. Pfft. Yeah, honey, look. That's just way too big to have gotten in— did you do it?"

"No."

"Son?"

"No."

"Fuck."

Griffin: It's— first of all, when it's in the forest, the whole forest is a bird feeder.

Justin: That's a good point. We have systems in place for this.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Uh, it is obvious to me what has happened here. The birds are now taking care of Caleb.

"Ground-child!"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "You have fed and nurtured us for long enough, ground-child! We now shall sustain you!"

Travis: "We have taken advantage of your kindness for too long!"

Justin: "Sup of this bread, ground-child, and let it be known! There is peace between the sky-people and the ground-children! Our war has ended!"

Travis: "Henceforth, let us attack each other no more!"

Justin: "Eat no more of the flesh of the chicken! Let it be known, the sky-people and ground-children have made peace!"

Travis: "No more shall we poop on your cars. No more shall you eat of our brethren!"

Justin: "Caleb, spread the word to the other ground-children!"

Travis: "And they too shall have bread to sup upon!"

Justin: "The sky-people seek war no more! Sup of this grain, Caleb!"

Travis: [laughing]

Justin: "We shall teach you the ways of the skies, Caleb. Come be a wind-master with us."

Travis: "Together, we shall kill the raccoons!"

Justin: "Let us bring down the raccoons, Caleb. Let their jests and japes no more echo through the forest, Caleb!"

Griffin: "Bring us your sticks and vomit, and we will make you a home!"

Justin: Yeah. "We have seen the bow and arrow that your sister, Katie, has. Let us rid ourselves of the raccoons!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs] "Please get rid of the force field in your walls!"

Justin: "Open thine abode, let peace be made!"

Travis: "You can live in our house, as we live in yours!"

Griffin: "Teach us of the to-i-let."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: We all know birds are just jealous.

Justin: "Place your shame on the toilet like us, Caleb!" Um...

Griffin: Another option is that [laughs] they're hoping that you're gonna come out one day, and be like, "Do I put bread in the bird feeder? I guess I do."

And they're like, "Yes! It fucking worked! I told you that this was gonna fucking work!"

Travis: "Got 'em!"

Justin: [laughs] That's a good idea. Why have I been wasting so much money on bird seed? They probably hate these seeds! [laughs]

"My mom has been carrying around a dead butterfly for years. Literal years. And it has even moved through two different houses. It's 'lived' on different live plants, and insists that it is okay behavior." Now, this person didn't reiterate that that was their mom, but I'm assuming it's not the dead butterfly. "...insisting that it is okay behavior. But how should I handle this?" That's from A Dead Butterfly in Nashville. Are you here?

Audience Member: [cheers]

Justin: Hello.

Griffin: All right. Sound pretty lively to me. Uh, yowzers. This first hit me as "My mom has a butterfly pinned to some corkboard," which is some people's thing, and that's cool, that's fine. But it's not, because your mother's putting it on plants, and that's the wildest shit ever.

Travis: Especially since it has just occurred to me the possibility that the butterfly was on a plant, the plant died, and your mom got rid of the plant, but kept the other dead thing.

Griffin: That's favoritism, is what that is.

Travis: That is true, because lots of people have, like, butterflies pinned to walls or, apparently, on plants. But if you started saying, like, "Hey, that's a corpse," maybe they would reconsider. Because if you did that with, I don't know, any other animal...

Griffin: Any other thing ever.

Travis: Oh, no, but people do that with deer!

Justin: Oh, wow.

Griffin: Oh, shit.

Justin: What if God was one of us? Maybe we're the aliens. Uh...

Griffin: What strikes me is, when I beef it, I'm pretty sure I'll turn into bones. What happens to a butterfly after it beefs it? Has it got bones? Probably not. What were you gonna say, Justin?

Justin: We inherited a lot of decorations from Sydnee's grandparents, but a lot of them weren't their decorations. It's like stuff that had been left at their house by their kids, and a lot of things in our house we have no earthly idea of where it came from.

Travis: You don't know the provenance.

Justin: Yes. Exactly. So in our bathroom, there is a corkboard with a glass frame thing, and there's like 10 butterflies stuck to it. And not like—

Travis: Pinned to it. Not just stuck— they didn't get trapped there and they couldn't escape.

Justin: Certainly, this semantic distinction is worth doing here on stage.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: But not three weeks ago, Charlie was brushing her teeth, and she looked at me, and she's like— sorry. Sorry to brag. My kid brushes her teeth. Dad of the year over here. She was brushing her teeth, she said, "Dad, what's that?"

And I said, "Um, it's a bunch of dead butterflies."

And she said, "Why do we have that?"

And I had to answer honestly, and say, "I don't know, honey." It's just always been in the bathroom there, and it was in the bathroom at the old house, and we put it in the bathroom box, and then the bathroom box came to the new house, and then we unloaded the things from that box, and hung the dead butterflies on the wall again. So here we are, with the dead butterflies on the wall.

It's as if we hung it there— there is an implication of saying, like, "This is what our family believes in."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Like, "This is what we're into, is dead butterflies. That's where they belong."

Griffin: "Around this house, you better stay caterpillars!"

Travis: Now, J-Man, that was three weeks ago.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And it's very important...

Justin: Oh, yeah, it's still there.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Good.

Justin: For sure. Absolutely. Well, where would I put it? In the trash?
"Thanks, butterflies."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: At what point, in answering the question to Charlie, did you realize, like, "Well, I can't lie about what this is; she's four and a half."

Justin: It was actually like, I was pretty tired. Being a parent and lying takes energy.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Telling the truth is the easy way out.

Griffin: Travis, you have five seconds. Come up with a lie.

Travis: Well, that's fake butterflies.

Griffin: Yeah, that's a pretty good lie.

Justin: That's a wild thing to put in your house!

Travis: Better than some corpses!

Justin: Whatever. Disagree. Hard disagree.

Griffin: Here is another Yahoo. This one was sent in by Michael. Thanks, Michael. It's an anonymous Yahoo Answers user, who I'm going to call um, Diiiiiaane.

Justin: Okay. With four I's.

Griffin: [slurring] Diane. And an umlaut on the A, who asks...

Travis: And the N.

Griffin: "Is it unacceptable to eat lasagna with your hands at home?" At home.

Justin: At home.

[audience laughs, cheers]

Griffin: Not at a restaurant. At home. "I was eating lasagna with my hands in my aunt's house." So not your fucking home, but okay. "This is how I eat when I'm in my own house. I never use utensils. But in the restaurant, I do use fork and spoon."

[audience laughs]

Justin: For lasagna.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Like an arcade claw machine, just like...

[audience laughs]

Griffin: "My aunt saw me, and got mad at me, and was like, 'Is that how you eat in the restaurant? Use your fork!' when technically, I wasn't even in

the restaurant, and I was in her house. Did I only further infuriate her, because I just showed up at her house as an unexpected visitor?"

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Much like lasagna, this one's got layers!

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: So... wait, is that the end?

Griffin: Did you need more?

Travis: I love that right there at the very end, you get this like, twist of like, "So is my aunt mad at me because of the eating with my hands thing, or 'cause I broke into her house to eat her leftover lasagna?"

Griffin: "I threw one of her flower pots through the kitchen window, climbed in, and started having a lasagna sandwich, which is what I call it."

Travis: "And also, she's not my aunt; she's just a stranger."

Griffin: "She's not my aunt. She's my stranger."

Travis: "What's the big deal? You're welcome, I didn't dirty your utensils."

Griffin: Yeah! Good point!

Travis: "Now, open the safe!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: The problem is, is if you don't eat with your hands, how do you shuffle the lasagna together and make one big stack? [stacking noises] And then you have double-slice lasagna.

Griffin: Yeah, sure, sure. That's great.

Travis: And then you unhinge your jaw.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Justin: 'Shlorp' it up.

Travis: And you eat it in one bite.

Griffin: You go get the Jenga box out of the closet, and use the little shelf to have a stack-em.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yes. Hey, what do you use the spoon for?

Griffin: This is a good question.

Travis: In the consumption process of lasagna, where's the spoon come into play?

Justin: I guess I'll be the asshole and point out that your aunt's house is just a restaurant where the selection is bad, and the prices are good.

Travis: How's the service?

Justin: Service seems a little surly, honestly. Especially if you don't have a reservation. Zero stars on Yelp, Aunt Kathy!

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't have to throw a brick through the Olive Garden door in order to go eat my uncooked fettuccini.

Travis: I mean, I do.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But I don't have to.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'm adding a tag to your house, Aunt Kathy. It says, "Bad for kids." Because I'm a kid, and I love lasagna, and your making this bad for me.

Travis: You're 35, Derek! Stop coming over and eating my lasagna!

Griffin: "Have you seen how I eat lasagna? I'm a kid at heart."

Justin: [laughs] Still having joy. Joy in my spirit.

Griffin: Yeah. Watch this, tell me you don't get a little laugh out of it.
[gobbling noises] Come on, Aunt Kathy!

Justin: It's the wor— I've been running the numbers in my head, and I'm happy to report it's the worst food to eat with your hands.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: There's no world in which that is acceptable to eat with your hands.

Griffin: Soup, yes, of course, but...

Travis: Soup, [laughs sarcastically].

Griffin: No, actually, you know what? You're fucking wrong. It's lasagna.

Justin: You're actually wrong.

Travis: Because here's the problem. Here's what I've just realized.

Justin: If you use your fingers to strain your soup, then you have a meal of broth and fixins. Think about it!

Griffin: You've just separated 'em out.

Justin: You've just separated 'em out.

Travis: The problem with eating lasagna with your hands, is lasagna is a tray bake. So either at some point a utensil was used, or you grabbed a mitt full of fucking noodles and sauce and cheese and shit.

Griffin: You use your fucking five-finger exploding heart technique. Just like [eating noise].

Justin: They can use a utensil in the serving of it! This isn't a religious issue. Like...

Travis: But then you can make an argument of, like, "I didn't want to dirty a utensil." You already did.

Justin: But you're dirtying a second utensil. I'm on this person's side now. You guys have flipped me. Now I'm mad. Now I'm really steamed.

Travis: Well, if you're gonna use the spatula, just keep using the spatula. It's just a big spoon, if you think about it. A big, flat spoon.

Justin: Why don't you use that spoon to keep digging your grave, guys? 'Cause you fucked up.

Griffin: I wanna be on this person's side, but I know if they're doing lasagna sandwiches, you know that they're doing tortellini brass knuckles. And that's no good.

Justin: "My husband and I were once at one of our favorite burger joints for dinner, and halfway through our meal, a couple was seated next to us. We could tell it was a first date." Okay. "But then we noticed the guy still had a price tag hanging off the armpit of his shirt."

Griffin: My man.

Justin: "Wanting to be a good citizen, what would've been the best way to remove the tag for him?"

[mixed audience reactions]

Justin: Now, Shannon B., I don't want to put you on— I'm assuming the B stands for Blast, which is what I'm about to put you on. I don't think, if I can get ahead of this, removing the tag for him is gonna be your best path forward.

Griffin: Are you here, Shannon?

Audience Member: Woo!

Griffin: All right, all right.

Justin: Nashville, can I say, very restrained wooing. We normally get, like, 30 woos when we ask if people are here.

Griffin: Somebody wants a taste of the limelight.

Justin: Yeah. Laser-like focus. Excellent.

Travis: I also just realized that the context of your question is, "If this exact scenario happens again..."

Justin: Right.

Travis: "...what do I do?" At which point, I don't know, maybe write a book about your life and how you got to this point. What choices you've made.

Griffin: Oh, you've got so many options, is the good answer— the good news. You can um...

Travis: Tickle check.

Griffin: Tickle check is also great.

Travis: Tickle check! And then you could go armpits. And if they laugh, say like, "Okay."

Justin: 2019, we don't tickle check people anymore. It's 2019.

Travis: All right. Tickle check is out.

Justin: No more tickle checks.

Griffin: Tickle check's gone.

Justin: That's out.

Griffin: What is in is you get a couple knives, hold on, and you go to their table, and you start doing a little hibachi cooking preparation on it. And then while you're doing your tricks with the egg and the onion volcano, you just real quick, hah! Without even— they won't even notice.

Justin: Okay. So I'm gonna walk, you go ahead, and we're gonna head on out to the end of this little one-act drama you've created. "I'm sorry, officer. I didn't mean to stab him in the thorax. I was trying to surreptitiously remove a tag from his shirt, and then I plunged a knife into his chest and ended his young life."

Travis: "Now, open your mouth and catch this shrimp. Good job."

Griffin: Hey, Justin. I'm just joking. [laughs] It's just— hey, Justin? I'm just being a little stinker over here.

Justin: [laughs] Okay.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Okay. That's good, but I want Shannon to have actual advice, 'cause Shannon's planning on being in this exact scenario again. And so far, your suggestions to Shannon have not been strong.

Travis: Okay. Uh, maybe say like, "Steven, you jerk!" And then punch him in the armpit, grab the tag...

Justin: So wait, hold on.

Griffin: Let him fin— let him finish.

Travis: It's not as bad— and then you say, "Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you were Steven. He knows what he did." And then maybe as you walk by, just lean in and whisper, "I got the tag."

Griffin: "I got you."

Travis: Now what?

Justin: Okay...

Travis: Now poke holes in that rock-solid logic!

Griffin: Say, "Pay it forward."

Travis: "I also shop at H&M."

Justin: I thought of a funny thing you could lean in and whisper. Um, "I almost punched you, but I didn't, because it's 2019 and I'm a human being, and you've got a tag on your shirt you should surreptitiously remove."

Griffin: I'm pretty sure Travis was being a stinker, though.

Travis: Yeah. Let me check.

Justin: You didn't even—

Travis: Yeah I was just— let me check the clock. Oh, yeah, it's joke time. I was just making jokes.

Justin: No, no, no. You did not— let the record show you did not poke your finger into your dimple as you were saying it, so you were not being a little stinker.

Travis: Let me try again. You punch him in the arm-pit.

Griffin: Can— can you just goosh a lot of ketchup onto him?

Justin: How is this your best idea so far? This is the best one so far.

Griffin: And then when he goes to the bathroom...

Justin: Stab him. [laughs] Right? Just stab him? Now I'm a 'stinkew.'

Griffin: 'Murdew!'

Justin: Now I'm a little 'stinkew.'

Griffin: No, you say, "You have a tag on your armpit. You should get it off."

Justin: Go around and say you're taking up a collection for the needy, and you're taking up a collection of price tags, and do they have any? And then he'll say, "No."

And you say, "Are you sure? Can you check? 'Cause we feel like you might."

Griffin: I have another one, but Justin's not gonna like it again. You slip outside, you pull on a balaclava over your head, you go back in, finger in your coat pocket, say, "Listen up. I'm a very specific robber looking for extremely new shirts. And I'll know which are the new ones. His. Because of the tag!"

And then the— but that would— that's not good, because then they would find out—

Justin: Then you take the shirt...

Travis: That actually blows it on the spot, and also you're robbing him. Maybe just start loudly discussing with your, you said husband, I believe, start loudly discussing with your husband how cool it is when people have armpit tags. "Aw, yeah, people, when they leave the price tags in their armpit, isn't that the coolest?"

And okay, now this is gonna take some pre-discussion for your husband to buy into it...

Griffin: He pulls a balaclava over his face, and he says, "Let's do this, honey bunny," and then you...

Uh, I have a Yahoo here, and uh, this one was sent in by Emma Kant. Thank you, Emma. Crushing it. It's from another anonymous Yahoo Answers user. This one's from Pay...bis, and they ask, "How do I get a dog without my parents knowing? I want a mini corgi. We already have a dog, so I know how to look after one. I am 14?"

Uh, update. "Google mini corgi. It's not a breed, but it's bred to be a bit smaller." Update 2. "I can also spots signs of diseases and problem. Our oldest cat is 16! I spotted leg problems before anyone else, and hip problems."

[audience laughs]

Travis: [laughs] Ow! My little brother— for those at home, my little brother just punched me while flossing. Ugh.

Griffin: And now you fucking know.

Justin: [laughs] So those last two things are qualifications, I guess, for how good a...

Griffin: The child spotted the cat diseases with the leg and the hip problems!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: How can we help him get a secret dog?

Justin: You spotted a hip problem in a 16-year-old cat. You want a medal?

Travis: [laughs] Nice work, eagle eye!

Justin: Yeah, good spot.

Travis: Oh, maybe— wait. How mini is a mini corgi?

Griffin: Well, this is gonna be adorable, but probably not like, you know...

Travis: Oh, not small enough to put in your pocket?

Griffin: No, you can't slide this thing into your Trapper Keeper, yeah.

Travis: Never mind. I rescind my suggestion.

Justin: Tell your— go to your parents, and say, "I have a very important thing to tell you, and I want you to respect my decision. This is my adopted son, Robert. And he's very furry, but he is just like a little boy, and he's my son. And I've adopted him, and I know I'm young, but this is the right choice for me. I've adopted this small boy."

Travis: Could you...

Griffin: [sarcastically] Hey, Justin, I don't think that would work. Hey, Justin, I don't think that that was reasonable.

Justin: Yeah, but you're not gonna go to fucking prison for it!

[audience laughs]

Justin: Worst case scenario in mine is you don't get to keep the dog.

Travis: Maybe replace the 16-year-old cat with the dog. And convince your parent that it's still the cat.

Justin: Yes.

Travis: Because they're not paying close enough attention to notice the leg and hip problem...

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: ...maybe you can slide it by 'em.

Justin: You know, you know—

Travis: That's the cat. I don't think it is, but I've never really paid attention to the cat before.

Justin: Our cat, Mr. Fluffers, died, but was reincarnated into this beautiful dog that's still our cat, it's just a different shell.

Griffin: It's like you motherfuckers haven't even seen Fluke! It's like you don't even think dogs have a purpose!

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Shit, I hope you guys have seen Fluke and A Dog's Purpose.

[scattered audience cheers]

Griffin: That's 12 people. Shit.

Travis: [laughs]

[Money Zone theme plays]

Griffin: Hey, everybody, this is Griffin real quick. I want to tell you about our sponsors this week. My mouth is really dry, and I don't have a drink in my office, so let's just get through this one together. Please show some um, some sympathies for my current struggle that I'm going through vis a vis the very dry mouth.

I don't need a wet mouth, though, to tell you about Squarespace, because it's a mouth-watering experiencing using Squarespace to make a website. They got all these tools that you can use that just make all your stuff look really good and really functional.

And you can make a website that showcases your work or promotes your online or physical business, or promotes an upcoming event you got coming up. They've got beautiful customizable templates created by world-class designers. They've got ecommerce functionality, they've got just everything optimized for ya for mobile right out of the box. They've got analytics. They've got customer support just 24/7. That's all day, all week, all year, baby.

And yeah, we've used it a couple times to make a couple websites, and it's very, very useful and helpful, and really slick. So go to uh, Squarespace.com/MyBrother. You can get a free trial. And when you're ready to launch your website, use the offer code "mybrother," all one word, and you will save 10 percent off your first purchase of a website or domain.

Also, My Brother, My Brother and Me is brought to you in part by Audible this week. Listening makes us smarter, more connected people. It makes us better partners, parents, and leaders, and there's no better place to start listening than Audible.

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Thank you to everybody who came out to the live show in Nashville and Indianapolis. In Nashville, we played at the Ryman. If you're not familiar, that's where Grand Ole Opry is, and that was a pretty wild experience, and we were very grateful to those who came out, and to the Ryman for having us.

Real quick, the audio during the audience sections gets a little bit dicey. Everything is still, like, totally listenable, but we get picked up in the audience mics in a way that kind of sounds a little bit weird, so just wanted to give you a heads up about that. And yeah, we are all, you know, recovering from the tour. We will be back next week, though, with a new episode of MBMBaM. So we'll talk to you then.

Carrie: Hey, Max Fun listeners! Have you been listening to Max Fun for a while, and you've just been wondering, "Where's the new flat Earth podcast I keep hearing about?"

Ross: Well, here it is. We give you all the facts on NASA's lies and how we know that the Earth is actually flat.

Both: Just kidding!

Ross: This is Oh No Ross and Carrie, and we join fringe religious groups, we undergo alternative medical treatments...

Carrie: ...and we hang out with people like 9/11 truthers, flat Earthers. We find out, why do people believe strange things?

Ross: We join them, and we tell you all about it. We have a lot of fun, we make a lot of friends.

Carrie: Yeah, we do. We joined the Mormons. We joined the scientologists. We got acupuncture. We got fire cupped. We got ear candled. We've done it all, and we're gonna keep doing it all. Why don't you check out Oh No Ross and Carrie at MaximumFun.org?

[bass outro]

Justin: "I work at a bank, and a new guy just started training in our branch for two months. He also works part-time in a liquor store nearby. Around the time he started training, I mentioned to him I'd been looking for a bottle of specific Game of Thrones whiskey for a watch party I had been planning."

Griffin: [haughty voice] If it was the finale, it sounds like you needed it. [nasally] I mean, just reshoot the last two seasons, right?

[audience laughs]

Justin: "The other day, he came in, very excited, and told me he got his boss to order the very expensive whiskey for me, and I can come in and buy it next week. Now that Game of Thrones is over, I'm not throwing these parties anymore, and I drink so rarely that it isn't worth it to me to buy an \$80 bottle of whiskey for myself. How do I tell him I'm not interested anymore? Am I required to purchase this whiskey, or since he will only be at our branch training for another month, can I just ignore it?"

Griffin: Ooh, that's a long time to go!

Justin: That's from Boozeless Banker.

Griffin: Are you here?

[two audience members cheer]

Griffin: Holy shit.

Travis: Was that Tuvan throat singing?

Griffin: What was that? I heard one high voice going "Whoo!" and then I heard another voice going "Oooooaaah!" That was fucking awesome.

Uh, yeesh. You could just wait for another dragon-centric television show to work its way into America's hearts.

Travis: Listen, that's gotta be the thing. Everyone has to be scrambling to pitch dragon content. Someone, somewhere is saying these words: "So he's a by-the-book cop, and she's a dragon." Yes.

Griffin: If we can have fucking Frankenstein cop, I do not see why we can't have dragon cop.

Travis: I have just pitched dragon cop, and I would watch the fuck out of it.

Justin: Travis...

Travis: "So are you gonna drive, or am I? Oh, right. You're a dragon."

Justin: ...time has proven you would watch literally anything.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Yes. Replace "dragon" with "the devil" and I'm already watching that show, and loving the hell out of it.

Justin: Travis...

Griffin: So you haven't seen Fluke or A Dog's Purpose, but you'll watch Lucifer.

[audience cheers]

Travis: On Netflix now. You've gotta watch it.

Griffin: I was wrong about Nashville.

Justin: Griffin and I were talking about how we had a hard time getting to sleep last night, and Travis said, "Uh, not me. I went home, had some leftovers, and uh, went right to sleep. Well, I watched two episodes of Lucifer." It's like, what? That's not going straight to sleep!

Travis: I can't put it down, Justin.

Justin: You don't—

Travis: It's so good.

Justin: [sings Munch Squad theme]

[audience cheers]

Justin: [singing] I wanna munch!

Audience: Squad!

Justin: [singing] I want to munch!

Audience: Squad!

Justin: [finishes theme] [spoken] Hello, everybody, and welcome to Munch Squad. It's a podcast...

[audience cheers]

Justin: ...within a podcast. I want to thank whoever brought me this official Dairy Queen Happy Tastes Good shirt. Uh, I need complete silence before I ask, are you here?

Audience Member: [hoarse scream]

Griffin: Jesus! Calm— holy shit!

Justin: Thank you. I really appreciate it.

Travis: I also like how everyone keeps scaring Griffin. It means a lot to me.

Justin: Munch Squad is a podcast within a podcast that profiles the latest and greatest in quick-service dining.

Travis: That Justin keeps threatening will die soon, and then he keeps—

Justin: It's on its last legs. This is its farewell tour.

Travis: But it has a million last legs.

Justin: Like a millipede. Um, "KFC Launches First Exclusive Drink with..."
Guess.

[scattered audience replies]

Justin: Mountain Dew. I heard Mountain Dew.

Travis: Someone said Chick-fil-A, and that would be the most fucking bonkers thing. KFC announces it's partnering with Chick-fil-A for Chick-fil-A to make a drink for them. [laughs] I love that.

Justin: It's lemonade.

[sighs] You're gonna think I'm having some sort of episode.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: And I assure you, I'm not. I'm just literally reading a press release released to the press by Kentucky Fried Chicken.

"Mountain Dew and KFC are partnering to electrify their beverage lineup with Sweet Lightning, a refreshment lit up with a punch of peach and a touch of honey flavors. Available exclusively at KFC restaurants nationwide by July 1st, Dew is fixing up a true-to-its-roots soda that will brighten each and every one of your taste buds."

Now, here's where things get a little weird.

Griffin: Hold on, wait. It didn't get weird at "Dew is fixing up, just like Pa used to make!"

Travis: Yee-haw!

Griffin: On the mountain!

Justin: "How did this come to be?"

Travis: Money!

Justin: Well, it's obviously money. And uh, they're owned by the same company. That's another thing. They're owned by the same company. "How did this come to be? Meet Sweet. He's the Mountain Dew pitchman who is—" Do you know the official way to write Mountain Dew, by the way? The official legal way of writing Mountain Dew is MTN DEW. That's the official name of Mountain Dew.

"...the MTN DEW pitchman who is sweet, smooth and lightning-fast enough to become a mainstay at KFC, where the food is finger lickin' good. How did it go down? With a glass of— with a 'glass is always full' swagger, Sweet strolls into Colonel Sanders' office with his Southern charm..."

Griffin: Holy shit.

Justin: "...and wins him over quicker than a bolt of lightning could strike."

Travis: Fuck you.

Justin: The—

Travis: No, Justin, I'm saying to you, my brother, fuck you.

Justin: It's not me; it's Topsy Pete, the tale-spinner. "The Colonel and Sweet shook on it."

Travis: So wait. Right now, you're saying that this...

Justin: Can I read my fucking fanfiction?

Travis: Yes, but—

Griffin: This is— I was about to say, this is some legit AO3 shit for sure.

Justin: "The Colonel and Sweet shook on it, agreeing that Sweet Lightning would not be served in any other restaurant, and one sweet deal was struck.

"Mountain Dew Sweet Lightning is the first exclusive beverage to be offered at KFC."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "For Dew, this is only the second time the brand has partnered with a quick-service restaurant.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Been around the block, huh? I can dig it. "The first being the hugely successful..."

Audience Members: Baja Blast.

Justin: Baja Blast.

Griffin: Of course. Of course.

Justin: That's my Munchies! I knew you were out there. Baja Blast uh, at Taco Bell. Uh, a nearly decade and a half ago. Wow, time flies when you're measuring it by the amount of time that Baja Blast has been available.

Here's a quote.

Griffin: From...

Justin: From Sweet.

Griffin: Oh, God!

Justin: No, it's not from Sweet. I wish. "Like KFC, MTN DEW is inspired by bold ideas and flavors, making this an authentic relationship from the start." Now, just take a fucking second.

[audience laughs]

Justin: Just take a fucking second about words. Can we take a second about words, and how we just use the words "an authentic relationship from the start" to describe how two brands, one of them a grease peddler and the other one selling, like, soda meth, and how they got together to do peach syrup, and they're like, "This is auth— this is authenticity."

Griffin: "We are fucking!"

Justin: "This is real."

[audience cheers]

Justin: "To come together on an exclusive product, Sweet Lightning, is a thrill, and we look forward to delighting our customers' taste buds and pushing the envelope on creativity." You made a peach drink!

Travis: Woah!

Justin: You made a peach drink!

Travis: Like da Vinci before us!

Justin: "Sweet Lightning was developed in partnership with the food and beverage innovation experts at KFC and Mountain Dew to create the perfect pairing for KFC's Original Recipe fried chicken." Don't eat it with— with the crisp stuff! Don't eat it with the hot stuff! This is perfectly prepared to be a perfect pairing with the Original Recipe. Original Recipe—

Griffin: They've left us hanging this whole time?

Justin: Original Recipe is a—

Travis: You know how it's been missing something?

Justin: "Original Recipe is a KFC-brand staple, and the innovation experts for each brand wanted to create a beverage that is unique as the fried chicken it was created to complement."

At some point, somebody went into somebody's boss' office, and the boss said, "Um, this needs to be 700 words. I don't care what words are in it, but it does need to reach 700 words."

Griffin: There are no press sites at all that cover this stuff. It's only for Justin. So we gotta give him some runway.

Travis: What I love about this is, they started the story saying, "Listen, how did this happen? It's not our fault. Sweet showed up and talked to Colonel Sanders, and they did it." And then later, in their own goddamn press release, said, "Our innovators here made it happen."

So what's the real story, KFC and Mountain Dew? Was it Sweet and Colonel Sanders, or was it your innovators? And I won't rest 'til I get to the truth. Hi, I'm Travis McElroy, cop-reporter.

Justin: Now, if you think about it, if you boil this down to a practicality, this is an entire press release to announce the fact that around the country, Americans are gonna walk up to a soda fountain, look at the choices, and go, "Sweet— eugh. No. Eugh. I'll have Pepsi. I'll be having a Diet Pepsi today. None of that for me."

Griffin: Can I— is there— and this may be asking too much. But is there an image of Sweet Lightning... because like, is this an MC Skat Kat situation where the f—

Justin: I have a picture of Sweet that I am going to show to our friends here in Nashville.

Griffin: Oh, Jesus. He does not look like what I thought he was gonna look like. It's a handsome fella in a yellow suit.

Justin: A handsome yellow devil.

Travis: He's the world's most caffeinated man.

Justin: He looks like Satan, if Satan wore a yellow mustard suit instead of the usual— he looks like Lucifer, basically.

Travis: Yeah. But if Lucifer were made of piss.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: "Hi, I'm Pissifer."

Justin: No, it's not piss. It's pre-piss! It's Mountain Dew.

Travis: That is their slogan!

Griffin: It's piss ingredients.

Travis: It's adjacent.

Justin: This'll be piss in a while! Mountain Dew. Anyway, that's Munch Squad.

Griffin: Uh, should we do audience questions?

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: All right. So we picked some audience questions out, you've sent them in in advance, and we appreciate it. Thank you, Paul...

Travis: Paul!

Griffin: ...with some nice refreshing water. Thank you, Paul, from Paul and Storm.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Yes. Let's start here. Hi, hello!

Ko: Hi!

Griffin: What's your name?

Ko: Ko.

Griffin: Hi, Ko! Uh, your question, please.

Ko: Um, I have to walk to class every day.

Griffin: Yes.

Ko: A fourth of a mile, um, and I have asthma, and I have to use an inhaler.

Griffin: Right.

Ko: And I was wondering, how do I use my inhaler in a way that the other students think I look cool?

[audience laughs, cheers]

Justin: When you— let me ask you this, 'cause this is gonna be very instructive. When you blow it out, how much cotton are we...

Travis: Important. Very important.

Justin: Like, could you do like a pirate ship, like Gandalf?

Ko: Only if I blow it out immediately, but I need that medicine.

Justin: You need it.

Travis: Well, how cool do you wanna look, Ko?

Justin: Yeah, do you wanna look cool or not, Ko? Come on! Come on.

Travis: Maybe when you finish, just look at somebody, and say, "It's weed."

Justin: Or write "weed" on it.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Just write the word "weed" on it.

Travis: Or just write "bong."

Justin: "Bong!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "This is my cool, portable bong!"

Travis: How long can you hold it?

Ko: I have to—

Travis: Like, hit it and then just keep 'em waiting. And eventually, they'll be like, "This is the coolest thing I've ever seen. Their lungs are gonna be so open."

Ko: I have to hold it for 10 seconds. But...

Griffin: That's pretty long.

Travis: Could you do 10 minutes?

Justin: Like David Blaine.

Griffin: If somebody's—

Travis: "Hi, I'm gonna do a new magic trick today. I'm having a hard time breathing, it's just a lot of pollen in the air. Ten minutes. Put it on the clock. Wait, please come back!"

Griffin: You did way longer in the pool. What are you...

Uh, can you, if somebody catches you doing it, can you do like in Animal House and just pop the whole thing in your mouth?

Ko: Yeah. I can. It's that small.

Griffin: That's good. That's good.

Travis: Maybe pass it around. 'Cause you know what's cool? Sharing.

Griffin: Yeah. By the way, if you need advice on how to fit things that are about that big in your mouth...

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Uh, can you spin it around like a fucking cowboy gun?

Travis: Aw, yeah! A holster! Oh, you can do a whole, like, [spinning noise] and like— well, 10 seconds still. Ten— do hold it for 10 seconds, but like, the fastest 10 seconds anyone's ever seen, right?

Justin: It's a fixed measurement of time.

Travis: Well...

Justin: It's the one—

Travis: Not— you know, Einstein believes...

Ko: [laughs]

Travis: ...that if you inhaled in space, in push you backwards.

Griffin: All right. No more callbacks. You know what this means.

Justin: Does that help?

Ko: It does. Thank you.

Justin: Excellent.

Griffin: Thank you.

Justin: Glad we could help, Ko.

[audience cheers]

Justin: Let's go right over here. To a microphone I like to think of as house right.

Charlie: What?

Griffin: Hi.

Charlie: Hi.

Griffin: Hello. It's you.

Charlie: Hello.

Griffin: What's your name?

Charlie: Charlie.

Griffin: Hi, Charlie.

Justin: Hi, Charlie.

Griffin: What's your question?

Charlie: Okay. So last year, I was bit by a snake in my backyard. While I was taking out the trash.

Griffin: Was it one of the cool snakes, or one of the snakes you wicked don't want to get bit by?

Charlie: I mean, it was like a garter snake, but it was like four feet long.

Justin: I think Griffin was asking about the poisonousness...

Charlie: Oh. It was not—

Justin: And not necessarily the length.

Charlie: It was not poison.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Okay, good. That's a good start.

Travis: Unless it was, and you're invincible.

Griffin: Oh, shit!

Justin: Unbreakable.

Travis: Unsnakeable.

Griffin: So you need help finding and killing this thing, or what's up? Is this a vengeance thing? Do you need to hire us? 'Cause like, \$5,000 and we've got it handled.

Charlie: Um...

Griffin: I'll kill any snake if y'all want— and this goes for everybody. \$5,000, I'll kill any snake.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: I'll go into a zoo and kill a snake there for \$5,000.

Charlie: Well...

Justin: Charlie, what's...

Charlie: [laughs] Well, I'm afraid of snakes now, but it's been a year, and my parents are still saying I have to take out the trash, despite the fact we've seen more snakes in the backyard.

Griffin: [laughs] This sucks, but...

Justin: For the past year, are you still taking it out, or are you pulling a Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout and just leaving it— letting it pile up?

Charlie: I've been able to do it, but with like, extreme caution.

Justin: Sure. You just chuck it out the back door, like, "Best of luck!"

Travis: Have you thought about some kind of leg armor?

Griffin: That's good. Platemail solves those problems.

Justin: What about soccer pads?

Travis: Are your parents making you do it because they want you to, like, face your fear, or 'cause they're just really lazy?

Charlie: Um, both?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Okay. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: Is there a chore maybe they hate doing, that you could barter with them? Like...

Charlie: That's what I've been trying to consider.

Travis: Maybe they got bit by a raccoon while hanging up Christmas lights.

Griffin: Hey, why do you have so many fucking snakes in your backyard, though?

Charlie: My house borders, like, a forest, which is near a river, so...

Griffin: My house borders a forest. I have yet— not seen hide nor hair nor scale of one snake!

Travis: To be fair, if you saw the hair of a snake, it's probably the end of the world, and that's Quetzalcoatl.

Griffin: I mean, they say lightning doesn't strike the same leg twice.

Travis: So wait. In your universe, a snake would go to bite Charlie, and then they'd be like, "Eh, been there."

Griffin: "It's Charlie."

Justin: It is a wi— I mean, if you think about it, the story you just told us was not super wild. If you ended the story with "And anyway, that's happened three times now," it would be wild. So if you'd just run the numbers, you probably won't get bit again. I'm pretty sure that's how statistics work.

Charlie: Well...

Griffin: Unless you do, and then [crosstalk].

Travis: Charlie, let me let you in to a secret that parents won't tell you. And I've realized this recently; Justin and I were talking about this earlier. So I have a two-and-a-half year old, and I've come to the realization that the number of times I've said, like, "Hey, don't open that door," or "Hey, it's time to sit down."

And my kid just goes, "No." And I suddenly have the overwhelming realization I have no power over her.

Griffin: Can't do nothing.

Travis: So the next time your parents are like, "Take out the trash."

Just go, "No."

Justin: "No."

Travis: They'll be upset. Don't get me wrong.

Justin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: They'll be upset.

Justin: They'll take away your Nintendo, for sure.

Charlie: Okay.

Justin: But you—

Griffin: Or, next time they ask you to take out the trash, you say, "Okay. Hold on one second." And you bite him in the leg really hard.

Justin: Does that help?

Charlie: Yes.

Justin: Excellent.

Travis: There we go.

Griffin: Hello.

Sam: Hi.

Griffin: Hi. What's your name?

Sam: Sam.

Griffin: Hi, Sam.

Justin: Hi, Sam.

Griffin: Uh, you can bend that mic down. Get right up on it. Hello. Oh, we messed it up.

Sam: It was a mistake. You shouldn't have let me.

Travis: Oh, no.

Griffin: And that's it. Welcome to our prank show, My Brother, My Brother and Me.

Travis: Mic stunts.

Sam: Hi.

Griffin: Hi, Sam.

Sam: Sorry I messed up the email like four times.

Griffin: Oh, no, it's fine. What's your question.

Sam: Uh, so a few yea— like, last year, we were gifted some birds for our Christmas gift. I suspect the person didn't want them. But anyway, so they were more a gift for my brother.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Okay.

Sam: Uh, but he goes to school, so I was interested with the birds and uh, so-and-so happened to the birds, and one of them died.

Griffin: Stop, stop, stop, stop.

Justin: Stop, stop, stop.

Justin: You cannot so— I saw, like, three people in the audience go, "Woah, woah, woah, woah." You cannot so-and-so mortality.

Sam: It's not my fault!

Griffin: Sam, I need you to get right up on that mic and say what happened to these birds.

Sam: I dunno.

Travis: You don't know?

Justin: You know, Sam. You know. You know.

Travis: You know. Look in your heart.

Justin: Say what happened to the birds, Sam.

Sam: So it was only one of the birds.

Justin: Unburden yourself here, at the Ryman.

Sam: We had two birds. One for me, and one for him.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Okay. So you each had your own bird, and you know we're gonna get to the part where one of them died, so maybe we should skip to there.

Sam: I don't even know which one died, TBH. Um... I hate these birds. I did not kill them. I suspect they were old. 'Cause when you get a bird from the pet store, you don't know how old it is.

Griffin: You kill count the rings and then...

Justin: I feel like...

Travis: The fact that you felt the need to say "I did not kill it..."

Sam: Relatively sure... anyways. That's not the point.

Justin: Okay. Hold...

Travis: Hold on! Wait— "Yeah, I held it underwater for a long time, but..."

Sam: Unless harsh words...

Griffin: "It needed a bath!"

Sam: Unless harsh words can kill a bird...

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: We haven't gotten to the question yet.

Sam: So uh, it happened two times.

Justin: Okay.

Sam: Uh...

Travis: But there were only two birds!

Sam: No! No, no, no! So I—

Griffin: "And I have no birds. Bye!"

Sam: So with the first bird...

Travis: "What do I do with this empty cage?"

Sam: With the first bird, we replaced it with a bird that looked exactly the same and didn't tell him. And then it happened again, and we replaced the bird, but I sent my dad to get the other bird, and the bird that he brought back looked nothing like the other bird.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Good job, Dad.

Sam: Like 100 percent nothing like the other bird. And I was like, "Well, I can, I guess, maybe convince him that it molted funny, maybe."

Griffin: Cool.

Sam: And it just looks like that now.

Travis: Is your brother here?

Sam: He is.

Griffin: Okay. Yeah.

Travis: Okay!

Griffin: The jig is up-ah!

Travis: Question answered!

Sam: He's also— he already knew, though! He already knew. I had to come clean and I had to tell him, but now he doesn't trust me.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah! "Yeah, I stabbed a guy trying to get a tag off his shirt, and now he doesn't trust me."

Griffin: I don't trust you.

Sam: I did it because I thought he would be very, very sad. My brother's my best friend. I thought he would be very, very sad...

Travis: Yeah.

Sam: ...if I told him that his bird passed away, and I couldn't get anybody else to do it.

Griffin: Victimless crime!

Sam: And I didn't want to do it, so...

Justin: Sam, I want you to know, as somebody with a four-year-old daughter who has in the past two years bought seven fish, and only had to come up with two names...

[audience laughs]

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: ...I'm on your side.

Sam: But your daughter's four, and my brother's 25.

Justin: I mean, the animals are still dead, Sam. I don't know what to tell you.

Sam: They sure are.

Justin: I mean, there's some point that you're making that I can't connect the dots on...

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: ...but I think mine's pretty clear, that I'm trying to say I'm on your side. I'm with you on this.

Sam: Thank you.

Justin: Um, you do need to get ones that look similar, though. Because...

Griffin: That's a rookie mistake.

Travis: That's where the second name comes in.

Justin: Princess Aurora has to be pink. And you can get another pink fish, that's fine. If you get a blue one, though, he's gonna know it's not Princess Aurora, okay? Trust me on this one. That's why we have Belle, and Daughter of Belle.

Griffin: [laughs] Well, that's convenient!

Justin: Yeah. Yeah.

Griffin: We all wanna leave something behind in this world.

Justin: It's a legacy.

Travis: Maybe next time, just say, "Your bird moved." "Bird moved away. Got a job out of state."

Griffin: If your family is gonna be so bad at doing the Indiana Jones pedestal switch with these birds, you need to buy so many fucking birds that your brother can't even keep track of how many birds...

Sam: I was 100 percent invested in being, like, 60 years old, and when the other bird died, like, sneaking into his house and like, replacing the bird. Like, I was in for the long haul. I was gonna do that. But then it ended up that my dad dropped the ball, or the bird, and then we had to get a different bird.

Travis: It's a tropical... Got it. And you know what? Most of the time when you're dropping the bird, it's probably fine. Birds, they fly.

Sam: They're very resilient.

Travis: Oh, I dropped the bird, and I dropped it— up!

Sam: Exactly.

Griffin: Except it was a penguin, and also it was a ten-story building, so that was a mistake on my part...

Travis: To be fair, the bird owes Sam's dad a lot of money.

Griffin: Yes. The feet aren't so happy now, are they?

Travis: The juice is running!

Griffin: Does that help, Sam?

Sam: I reckon. Thank you.

Justin: That's fair. That's as much as we deserve. Thank you, Sam.

[audience applauds]

Griffin: Hello. Hey, what's up?

Zack: Hey, guys.

Griffin: Hey.

Justin: Hey.

Griffin: Zack?

Zack: Zack.

Griffin: Hey.

Justin: Hey.

Griffin: What's your question? I mean, I know what it is, and it's amazing, but I'm excited to hear it from you.

Zack: So I was at TPAC two years ago, and I asked you guys how I need to get my dad to not think it's cool for his grandfather name to be Tarzan.

Griffin: Yes!

[audience cheers]

Zack: Um, so he still wants that to be a thing.

Griffin: Yeah.

Zack: So I have two nephews, and now my wife is pregnant, and so I think this is a much more...

Griffin: Congratulations.

Zack: ...pressing matter now.

Griffin: Yes.

Zack: Um...

Travis: Now it affects you.

Griffin: Now you got skin in the game.

Zack: Yeah. So please help me.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And to be clear, we didn't help you last time.

Zack: No. No.

Justin: I just want to get the stakes...

Travis: So since then, you say he wants it to be a thing. Has it been a thing up until now?

Zack: Okay, and even more, "skin in the game" is a great segue, because he got a tattoo of Tarzan.

[audience groans, laughs]

Travis: Hey, bad news: it's a thing!

Zack: Yeah.

Travis: He made it—

Griffin: Your dad is Tarzan now!

Travis: He made it a thing!

Griffin: Oh, God, yes!

Justin: It's over, bud!

Griffin: I need a fucking cigarette!

Justin: [laughs] It's over, bud! If I had a month to plan, maybe, but this? No. Here, I cannot help you. It's Tarzan, and it's a thing.

Griffin: Okay. Hold on. All right. Let's go through all of our options. 'Cause maybe we weren't thorough enough last time.

Justin: Did you just say—

Griffin: I thought we had this fucking squared away, but uh...

Justin: Yeah. I thought we made it pretty clear to your dad that he couldn't be Tarzan.

Travis: I actually think we were on board with it last time.

Justin: What was our advice last time?

Zack: Well, I think it was Griffin that said just to have the kids just yell "Tarzan" a lot in public places, and maybe it'll be embarrassing enough to—

Griffin: Well, that backfired, huh?

Zack: Yeah.

Griffin: Shit.

Justin: He just loved it. He lived it up, huh?

Zack: He's literally doubled down.

Travis: Oh, maybe see if you can get the kids to start saying 'Torzan.'

Zack: Yeah.

Travis: Now he feel— he's like, "Ah, they misspelled my tattoo."

Griffin: Wait, does the tattoo say the word "Tarzan" on it?

Zack: No, it's like—

Griffin: Okay. We got options. We got options.

Zack: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Can he just say, like, "Well, my grandpa name is Paw-Paw, like a normal one, and this is just a generic..."

Travis: "This is just Brendan Fraser."

Griffin: "...this is a swinging jungle-man."

Justin: "My grandpa name is George. Like George of the Jungle? That's who's on my tattoo."

Griffin: Is your dad's name George?

Zack: No.

Griffin: Fuck.

Travis: Damn it.

Justin: Give us something!

Travis: Is it Brendan Fraser?

Zack: It's not.

Travis: Is your dad Brendan Fraser?

Zack: [laughs]

Travis: Talk!

Zack: No.

Travis: That would've been cool for a lot of reasons.

Griffin: Zack, you're not leaving us many options, pal.

Zack: I know.

Justin: Do you have any other grandpas you could use?

Travis: Do you have any back-up grandpas?

Justin: Yeah. Is there— this one's done with. This one's cashed. We need a new grandpa. This one's all used up.

Griffin: You know when you get food from like DoorDash or something like that, you can leave special instructions in there, you can say like, "You have to say that there is grandpa and that they have a normal grandpa name, like uh, Jim-Jam or something like that."

Zack: [laughs]

Griffin: "This is your new grandpa. He brings us pizza from the Domino's."

Justin: Griffin's suggesting a grandpa escort service.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: And I'm very into it. In the shareconomy, grandpas are the next big thing. I'm not using my grandpa all the time, and now you can.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Now, warning: my dad calls himself "Peeps," so...

Griffin: Yep.

Zack: All right.

Justin: I don't know why...

Griffin: Damn, dude.

Justin: You should've gone...

Zack: [laughs]

Justin: If we didn't do it, you probably should've asked a different podcast.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You don't go to a second opinion from the same doctor, two years later.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: You know? You get a different, smarter doctor, like...

Griffin: "Yup. Your butt's still weird. I don't know, man."

Justin: You go ask Marc Maron or My Favorite Murder [laughs] to fix your dad problems.

Zack: So what we can do is...

Travis: Okay. Yes. You give us advice.

Zack: Yeah. All right.

Travis: Thank you.

Zack: So I— I guess my counter here is, when you guys are doing a show in two years at Bridgestone, I'll just ask the same question to you guys again.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Just keep us in the loop.

Griffin: Yeah. This is the new 7UP. It's just—

Justin: And for the love of God, next time, Zack, please do bring your dad.

Zack: Yeah. Yeah.

Travis: Thank you. Thank you.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Yep.

Justin: Okay. You can lower their lights and bring back up the Justin lights, as I think of them.

Griffin: Huh. Interesting.

Justin: Thank you.

Travis: Hey, everybody.

Justin: Hey.

Griffin: Hey, everyone.

Travis: We've had a lot of fun here, but you know what's not fun? Stabbing people in restaurants.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Hi, I'm Justin McElroy. Uh, no, this has been— you all have been so fun for the past two nights, honestly.

Griffin: Yeah, thank you all so much, Nashville.

Justin: What a great, fun city. What an amazing, like, fun group of people y'all have been. Thank you so much.

Travis: Also, you also last night at The Adventure Zone did the arena stomp, which I don't think I've heard, like, anywhere else.

Griffin: It was wild!

[audience begins cheering, stomping]

Travis: I— no!

Griffin: Okay, okay, but stop! It's a lot. It's a lot.

Justin: This building's so old. Please don't. Thank you.

Griffin: Old and beautiful— I cannot fucking believe that we got to play at the Ryman twice.

Travis: It is wild.

Griffin: This is the best, life-changing dream come true imaginable.

Justin: Absolutely wild. I wanna say, a huge thank you to Paul of Paul and Storm.

Griffin: Thank you, Paul.

Justin: Um... who ate some of my drunken beef noodle before I could tonight.

Griffin: Neat.

Travis: Wait, you know what, Paul?

Justin: He got in there first, ate four bites, looked at me and said, "Good news: it's not poisoned," and then left the room.

Griffin: That's a good tour manager right there.

Justin: Love Paul. Good— good guy. Good dude.

Travis: I also wanna say thank you to our daddy.

Griffin: Thanks, Dad.

Justin: Thanks to uh, Evan Palmer for the poster designs.

Griffin: Yes! Very cool.

Justin: Those are um, in the lobby. Those are only gonna be on sale for this show and tomorrow.

Griffin: Thank you to Sawbones and Shmanners.

Travis: Whoo!

Justin: Whoo!

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: Uh, Maximum Fun, thank you for having us on the network.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: And uh, 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.

Travis: Thank you. So real quick, so we're traveling with our families and we gotta get out really early tomorrow to head to Indianapolis, so we're not gonna be able to hang out after the show.

Griffin: We've rented— this is fun. This is the first time we've ever gotten a bus, because there's like 50 of us now, and I uh— I flew into Nashville, but they came up from Appalachia, and I have just—

Travis: I came from Cincinnati!

Griffin: That's basically Appalachia. I literally, backstage tonight, just learned there are, of course, bathrooms on the tour bus; you're not allowed to poop in them. There's a sign on the door that says "Don't poop here," in a bathroom!

Justin: I'm sure you'll be hearing a lot about that in our live show we record tomorrow night in Indianapolis.

Griffin: Indianapolis. Yeah.

Justin: But thank you so much. You've been amazing. Uh, every week on My Brother, My Brother and Me, Griffin asks a Yahoo question at the end of the show that we think about, and talk about, and then return to next week with uh, some of our answers to. And Griffin, have you prepared one?

Griffin: Sure. This is one that was sent in also by Emma Kant. Crushing it. Thank you, Emma. It's Yahoo Answers— it's an anonymous Yahoo Answers user. Uh, their name is uh, Jim-Jam, and they asks— "they asks."

Justin: They asks.

Griffin: "How to get frosted tips like my boy, Guy Ferrari?"

[audience cheers]

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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Patton: So the vampire from the future sleeps in the dude's studio during the day, and they hunt monsters at night! It's Blade meets The Odd Couple!

Speaker: Adam Scott and Jane Levy.

Jane: Come on, Cory. She's too serious, too business-ey. She doesn't know the hokey pokey.

Adam: Well, she'll learn what it's all about.

Speaker: Busy Philipps and Dave Koechner.

Dave: Baby, this is family.

Busy: My uncle Tell, who showed his wiener to Cinderella at Disneyland, is family. Do you want him staying with us?

Dave: He did stay with us, for three months!

Busy: And he was a delight!

Speaker: A new pilot every month, only on Dead Pilots Society from Maximum Fun.