

MBMBaM 498: Single Sleeved Sweater

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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: [laughs] Hello, 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'm your middlest brother, Travis McElroy.

Griffin: [laughs] This is your baby brother, Griffin McElroy. Are we really doing the intro?

Travis: Uh, baby—uh, Griffin, don't sell yourself short. Baby brother, and... mouth sounds aficionado.

Griffin: Okay, but it's just like, sometimes I say things when we're scrambling to think of an introduction...

Travis: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Griffin: ... and then there's a, uh, an earned period of astonished silence...

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: ... and then we decide to do something else. But you guys are sure you want this one?

Travis: Well, Griffin, why don't you walk it out, take this horse out for a trot, and see how she gallops?

Griffin: Yeah, let's hop in. Let's check out the mileage on this bad boy. I was just telling the fellas.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: And there's a lot going on. Oscars, politics, and this is the one we decided to do.

Travis: Yes. Roll it out.

Justin: The other ones aren't funny. This one's funny.

Griffin: Well, I got this new mouth noise I can make. That I just found out about.

Travis: Let's hear it.

Griffin: And y'know, it's—I made such a big deal out of it now, that I'm almost certain I'm not gonna be able to do it again.

Travis: Oof.

Griffin: And that's gonna be hugely embarrassing for me.

Travis: Oh, absolutely.

Griffin: Alright. Here goes nothing. [makes sustained blubbering sound]

Travis: Now, Griffin, as you pointed out before we started recording, this is an audio medium.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Can you describe visually...

Griffin: [makes blubbering sound]

Travis: ...what we might be seeing, watching you?

Griffin: Well, it would be impressive. You'd see just sort of my left cheek convulsing wildly as I created sort of a wet...

Travis: Meat slap.

Griffin: ...sort of meat slap sound. [makes blubbering sound] Of my cheek against—[exhales] Nope. See, it's hard to do it sometimes.

Travis: Now, Griffin, if you were doing foley...

Griffin: [makes blubbering sound]

Travis: ... what would you say that this sound i—'cause I would say that this sound is recreating, perhaps, a nude person with a penis skydiving.

Griffin: [makes blubbering sound] Yeah, just sort of flippin' and flappin' around in the wind.

Travis: Yeah. That might be the...

Griffin: Juice, what's it—

Justin: This is—this is it, isn't it, guys? This is... the last thing to joke about.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: This is—we've joked about all the other things. We've done jokes about all other things.

Travis: Oh. Yeah.

Justin: This is the last thing we haven't done jokes about.

Travis: It says right here, "499," then it just says, "Griffin mouth sound."

Griffin: Yeah. Uh... Yeah, I mean, it might be, Juice, but can I say something? That sounds like the jealousy talking. That you can't do this—

Justin: [laughs] No, it seems like this is the end of it. Like, this is—

Travis: Justin, can you make the mouth sounds?

Griffin: I gotta say, Juice, green's not a great color on you, bud.

Justin: [does a horrible, wheezy exhale noise]

Griffin: Nope. That's not it at all.

Justin: [sputters]

Griffin: Nope. That's not it, either.

Justin: [sputters]

Travis: I can kind of hum and whistle at the same time.

Griffin: No, that's not anything. We've done that one before.

Travis: [hums and whistles]

Griffin: Episode 302 was all about Travis's whistling noise. Justin learned how to do that funny clicking noise back in 103. Like, we've—this is the last sound. Justin's got a point here.

Justin: I'm not saying it's the last sound. I'm saying this is the last...

Travis: Joke.

Justin: ... joke. [laughs] This is the last one. And I mean, it's not even... We used a lot of our best material early on, and that's fine.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: But... this is it.

Griffin: Yeah. I think it sounds like the inside of a cat while it's purring, you know what I mean? Like, if you could really hear in it?

Travis: Yeah. Or maybe a thin steak in front of a high-powered fan.

Griffin: That's a good one, yeah. Or like—yeah. That's probably what it is.

Travis: Well, okay, wait, Griffin. I'm gonna set it up like this is an old-timey radio drama.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: And you just cue the noise when you think I'm setting you up. You ready?

Griffin: Yeah, alright.

Travis: "Yeah, it looks like—"

Griffin: Justin—hold on. And, Justin, if you wanna play along in the bit too, and play in the space with your two brothers who are out on the playground and having a lot of fun together, uh...

Justin: My mouth hurts. I have a sore on my mouth, okay?

Griffin: We've all got—we've all got fucking sores on our mouths, Justin!

Travis: You can be maybe the femme fatale in this radio drama I'm creating.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Just play—we just wanna fucking play with you, dude, 'cause you're our brother and our cohost.

Justin: [laughs] Okay, alright. Let's get the drama started. I'll do the opening narration, okay?

[imitating radio drama host] "Well, it started out like any other day in my detective office that I have."

Griffin: [quietly makes blubbering noise]

Justin: "And I've propped my feet up on the desk, and there he was in the doorway, making a sound... that sounded like this."

Griffin: I can't do it if I'm smiling.

Travis: No, okay. Justin...

Griffin: [makes blubbering noise]

Travis: I'm sorry, uh, hey, pause. Time out, real quick.

Griffin: I just ramped up to it, Trav.

Travis: I know, but Justin, maybe you've never listened to radio dramas before. Rarely is the Foley set up... [through laughter] as "Now, listen to a character make a noise."

Justin: That's actually bullshit. There's a lot of those radio dramas where it's like, "And the clomping of hooves was very loud, and it was like this."

Travis: No, okay. That's fair, Justin. But... you've proved my point, because what you did not say is, "Then someone walked in, making it sound like the clomping of hooves." [laughing]

Justin: [laughs] No. They were making this sound. My newest client... at Slim Leads Detective Agency.

Travis: Ooh, I like that!

Justin: Which is—if you'd let me get to it...

Griffin: That's good.

Justin: ... was the good name of it. And that was my next client. So let me please pick the—I'm gonna need to drum it back up...

Griffin: I wonder if I can do it.

Justin: ... and yes, this is gonna last the entire episode, before you ask out loud.

Travis: If you can say something about, like, wet jerky to establish the sound, I think that would be good.

Griffin: Hey, can I see if I can do it with my right cheek?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [makes a wet sputtering noise] Nope, I can't.

Travis: No, that's more of a broken-down jalopy.

Griffin: Can we starting doing the show? Is that enough intro?

Justin: If Travis—if Griffin uh, making these bizarro horse noises is making the hair on the back of your neck stand up, we call that Neigh-SMR.

Travis: Oh, no, that's the last joke.

Griffin: Good shit, man.

Travis: That was the last joke, if one might even call it that.

Justin: [imitating radio drama host] "So there he was, making the sound, see? With his voice."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [makes blubbery sound]

Justin: "And he said, 'I have a case for—'" Well, no, he would—you would say... you would say what—you would say to Slim Leads.

Griffin: Um, hey, I've got a case for you. Um, I do—hold on. [makes blubbering sound] And... my dog...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughing] ...is sick.

Travis: And also, hey, I'm here, the guy who set up the radio drama. I guess I'm sweeping the floor outside in the hallway.

Griffin: Yeah, Travis, so actually, we've been talking to the casting director on this one...

Travis: Yeah. But I'm the casting director!

Griffin: Sure, but this happens a lot in this business, is that you've gotten boxed out a little bit. [laughs]

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: Damn it!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I can't believe I cut myself out of this.

Griffin: It's your look, honestly, Trav.

Travis: Yeah. Yeah. I get that.

Griffin: It's just not right for this one. We had Justin come in, and sometimes an actor... just really takes a role.

Travis: 'Cause he was supposed to play the femme fatale, and he took over—I was gonna be the detective.

Griffin: He took over. Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: He's got the look.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [imitating radio drama host] "What were these two talking about? I couldn't make a hill of beans out of it."

Griffin: He's so in it.

Travis: He is in it.

Griffin: He's so fucking in it.

Justin: [imitating radio drama host] "I didn't know what I—this had to do with me, but I could smell mystery was a case."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Good.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: [imitating radio drama host] "So, what brings ya to Slim Leads, huh?" [inhales]

Travis: [laughing]

Justin: [whispering] Crackle, crackle, crackle. Cigarette, cigarette, cigarette.

Griffin: Hey, what's our first queeestion?

Justin: [imitating radio drama host] “Ah, here’s my first question! What brings you in? What’s the case? I’m ready to get cracking.”

Travis: Y’know, in retrospect, I don’t think I sent out the questions.

Griffin: [bursts into laughter]

Justin: “Tough guy, huh? Playin’ tough.”

Griffin: Oh my God!

Justin: “I’m about to send out a few questions. Here’s my first one.”

Griffin: “Ah, you just punched—you punched me in the mouth! That’s not a question at all!”

Justin: “Yeah, a little chin question. And you.”

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: “You.”

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: “The smart-looking one over there.”

Travis: You’re giving me a hug.

Justin: “Where—now I’m hugging you again.”

Travis: Oh! Oh, I feel better.

Justin: “It’s less threat—it’s less threatening now.”

Travis: Oh, I feel funny—

Justin: “See? Unconscious guy on the floor, snap out of it.”

Griffin: [makes blubbering noise]

Justin: [laughs] "Oh, the noise persists."

Griffin: "Hey, it's me, the plumber. I got a call about your pipes making a funny noise." [makes sputtering noise]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I can't do it anymore.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I've formed a callous on my cheek that's made it impossible to make the noise. I'm gonna read the first question, if Justin doesn't.

Justin: I don't have the questions.

Travis: I just sent them.

Justin: [imitating radio drama host] "There's a lively security officer at my office, who walks around and has a rhyming nickname for everything, like Mrs. Brown from downtown, or Mr. John who's rocking on." [speaking normally] I got too depressed by this person to continue with the great character of Slim Leads, but Slim Leads will return later in the podcast sometime.

Travis: Oh, yeah. That's a breakout. We might have to do a spinoff.

Justin: "When they come to—when they come up to me, they just say, 'Hey, Zach.' I don't have any beef with the security officer."

Griffin: Are you sure?

Justin: "And I've been here for over six months. What can I do to get a great nickname?" That's from Default Name in DC.

Griffin: Yeah, there's not a lot of words that rhyme with Zach.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Zach Jack Nickel-sack?

Griffin: Here comes a Zach's—a sack full of Zach snacks.

Travis: That's pretty good.

Griffin: There's a lot of good ones that you could do. So you want this? You want this to happen to you?

Travis: [laughs] Hey, um... you want this?

Griffin: You wanna be nut Zach? Like, you want that?

Travis: Why—Griffin, why would that be it? The other ones are Mrs. Brown from downtown and John who's got it going on, and nut Zach?

Griffin: He clearly doesn't like you.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: So if you say, "Hey, I want a nickname too," he's gonna be like, "Okay... *nut Zach.*"

Travis: Got `em.

Griffin: And then he's gonna give you noogie, and um, that's not gonna be any good. I don't know why you would want that. I don't, uh...

Travis: Mm. Mm-hmm.

Griffin: I had a gym teacher that called me... Macaroni. And I fucking hated that dude.

Travis: Oh! That hurts!

Justin: Yeah, dude.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I used to get that.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It's the worst.

Travis: I think that this security guard has come up with mnemonic devices to remember people that he thinks, or they think, are shady.

Griffin: Huh.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: So maybe Zach just seems like a real upstanding individual, and the security guard's not worried about remembering anything about Zach.

Justin: Or he's the only Zach. Zach—and he didn't want to call you Zach, Zach, the only Zach.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: The prime Zach.

Travis: Either one of those are great nicknames. If I was called Zach, Zach, the only Zach... [laughs] I would love that.

Griffin: That'd be good.

Justin: It would be good.

Griffin: There's a lot of—and you know what, Zach? You really should count your blessings. Because there's probably a lot of people that can't even—

that aren't eligible for this treatment. Por example, there's a Phillip. What are you gonna do with that?

Travis: Yep.

Griffin: Here comes Phillip.

Travis: Phillip the tank.

Griffin: There's nothing that you can do with that. So like, you should at least celebrate that you could, one day, earn a nut Zach.

Travis: Hey, Griffin, did my microphone cut out when I said "Phillip the tank"?

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: I'm just making sure, because I thought that that was a really good one, and you didn't acknowledge it at all, and I thought maybe my microphone might've gone staticky for a minute.

Griffin: No. I just didn't think it was funny.

Travis: Phillip the tank, right, because it sounds like you would fill up a tank.

Griffin: It might just be, like, a brain thing that I've got going on.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Oh, okay.

Griffin: Yeah. Um...

Justin: Zach Braff.

Travis: Now, maybe it is Zach Braff. Zach Braff, did you write us a question?

Justin: [through laughter] That's why he doesn't need a nickname, 'cause it would be absolutely wild to think that he wouldn't instantly recognize the star of Alex, Inc. and Scrubs.

Griffin: Yeah. Hey, can I fucking lay it out on the line for you here, Zachary? Um, you don't know his name.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: You wicked don't know the security officer's name, or else you wouldn't have called him "this security officer," so that's for damn sure.

Travis: Well, okay, Griffin, though, counterpoint. Zach wouldn't have written an email that was like, "Hey, there's this guy, Ted, who doesn't know my name."

Justin: He's not gonna dox this poor fool. [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: But they'll be so cavalier about Ms. Brown from downtown.

Travis: Fair.

Griffin: I'm just saying, you don't know the security officer's name. If you do, say their name is uhh... uh, Craig, you can just be like, "Craig, Craig, to the bitter dregs!"

Travis: Whoa.

Griffin: And then, like, you know that he is... that you're safe to play with.

Travis: Oh! So maybe you're going to initiate play.

Griffin: You've gotta start the play in a safe, comfortable place, so that Craig feels safe to play.

Travis: I like that.

Griffin: Hey, can I do a Yahoo?

Travis: I wish you would.

Griffin: This one was sent in by Emma Kant. Thank you, Emma. It's Yahoo Answers user Noah, who asks, "Is Buzz Aldrin allowed to climb into the exhibits in the Air and Space Museum?"

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "If Buzz Aldrin wanted to go to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C., and climbed into the original Apollo 11 capsule that they have on display, could the museum staff stop him? Regular people can't do this in museums, but he's the whole reason it's in the museum in the first place.

This question also applies to other situations, like if Leonardo da Vinci was alive, and he went to the Louvre, could... took the Mona Lisa off the wall and walked out with it? Could he do that?"

Travis: Okay, now, these are two different questions.

Griffin: These are two different questions. Unless—

Travis: Wildly different questions.

Griffin: Unless, once Buzz Aldrin got inside the Apollo 11 capsule, and he blasted off with it out of the museum to take it to his backyard, where he could charge children five dollars to climb inside and experience a space adventure. I don't think that that's the same thing, though.

Travis: Now—

Justin: Could Buzz Aldrin go in and just... take a moon rock?

Griffin: That's—

Travis: Is it his?

Justin: Like, "This was my gift to you. I'm gonna take this back now."

Griffin: "I let you all hold my moon rock for a while."

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: "But I need it for a project at school."

Justin: Was that an option, do you think, that he had, like, one for them, and then he had like, another one bulging out of his space pocket, and he's like, "No, this one's for Buzz. I wanna keep this weird moon rock for myself."

Travis: Okay, first of all, Justin, Buzz Aldrin would swallow it if he was trying to smuggle it. Come on.

Justin: Yeah, that's true. And that's how he became Moon Man.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: The great hero.

Travis: This is the di—here's why I think these are two wildly different questions. Because if Leonardo da Vinci was alive today, I think he could do whatever the fuck he wanted.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Right? He's Leonardo da Vinci. Maybe—maybe a zombie, but at the very least, he's Leonardo da Vinci, and he's like, 800 years old or whatever.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Right? Buzz Aldrin...

Griffin: He's only 90. So...

Travis: Right.

Griffin: ... nice try.

Travis: I don't think—like, do you think—like, say Tom Banksy, the street artist, walked into a museum and said, "That's mine, give it back"?

Griffin: No. Okay, this is foolishness and I'm gonna curtail it right now, because we're not talking about stealing.

Justin: Thank God.

Griffin: I've been to the Air and Space Museum. It's pretty radical. You go there. You see these big space ships, and there's only like, one of them that they let you actually, like, get in.

Travis: Yes. And it doesn't go anywhere. Just a side note.

Griffin: It doesn't fucking go anywhere. You can't touch the steering wheel, or the go pedals. Like, it's dog shit, but whatever. It's the closest you get to that big, beautiful, starry sky. But if you're Buzz Aldrin, and it's your, essentially, space car...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: ... that you drove to outer space and landed on the fucking moon?!

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Then I do not see—I do not see—okay, putting aside the question of legality, is there anyone working at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum that would have the fucking gall to say, "Hey, Buzz Aldrin..."

Justin: [laughs] "Get out of the rocket."

Griffin: "Get out of the rocket ship, Buzz!"

Travis: No, be—and I can tell you right now, all Buzz Aldrin would have to do is to say, while looking in the eye of this person, "I'm allowed to do this."

Griffin: "I can do this. Smithsonian said I could do this."

Travis: And you would say—I don't even think you would need to invoke the name of the Smithso—I think you could just say, "I'm allowed to do this," and no living human being would say, "No, you're not, Buzz Aldrin."

Griffin: "I—oh, I'm sorry, I'm not stealing it. I left my wallet in here."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "Back in like, 1969, when I plonked this shit down on the lunar surface. So, like..."

Justin: "Bad news, you little dipshit. I've gotta go back. I promised. I promised the moon lords. Aw, I didn't—shit. I shouldn't have mentioned that, actually."

Travis: "I checked a book out from the moon library, and I need to return it."

Justin: [laughs] "The fines are piling up!"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: You can use any excuse. And that's why you don't have to use any, I don't think, 'cause they're just gonna assume you have moon books that you need to return, or something like that.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Yeah, they're just gonna assume you've got a hankering for some moon chow.

Griffin: We were telling a lot of fun jokes about the moon and space right now, but I do not believe there's somebody working at that museum that would tell 90-year-old Buzz Aldrin to get the fuck out of the spaceship he drove.

Travis: This is what I'm saying!

Justin: Yeah, but you are gonna need to see ID, right? 'Cause you probably have a grip of old men trying to get in that rocket all the time.

Griffin: [bursts into laughter]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: You are gonna need to see ID on that.

Travis: "I'm Fuzz Maldrin!"

"Ah!"

Justin: "I heard you."

[makes high-pitched repetitive beeping noise] Haunted Doll Watch.

Griffin: Hi, Haunted Doll Watch.

Justin: What do you think about that?

Griffin: I feel good about it.

Justin: It's been a little bit. Bum-Bum. In sort of our—the closest we're gonna get to a haunted doll named after our show, Bum-Bum.

Griffin: Oh, okay. I didn't know—I thought that you had just sort of said...

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: ...like, a fun little onomatopoeic sort of, like—like a drum leading us into the bit. It's called Bum-Bum?

Travis: Yeah, I thought it was like a new sound, like, bum, bum, bum! Like that.

Justin: This one's called Bum-Bum.

Griffin: Okay. Is this Tom Green's haunted doll, or what's up?

Justin: No. He's Bum-Bum, the haunted clown doll vessel, super freaky. And I have a—actually, before I get into this, I do wanna ask you guys, there's nine bids. There's 26 minutes left.

Griffin: Hmm!

Travis: What's the highest bid?

Justin: What do you think—\$17.50.

Travis: Ooh, that's not bad.

Justin: Should I try to get in here, do you think?

Travis: Well, let's hear the descriptors. We have time to read.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: Give us the info.

Justin: We'll make a decision at the end. This is like a—we've turned this into a reality show.

Travis: Now we can play along at home.

Justin: Oh, don't even. "Bum-Bum, the haunted clown doll vessel. You are purchasing a tangible doll."

Travis: Okay.

Justin: "He is a 21-inch plush doll. Meet Bum-Bum, the haunted clown doll."

Travis: Can—I—we've done a lot of haunted dolls. Is this our first plush haunted doll? Usually, they are like a porcelain...

Justin: Porcelain, yeah, creepier—this one's f—pretty bad, though. This one's pretty creepy. So Bum-Bum is a haunted clown doll, and here's the description. "I know this'll sound so weird, but I can honestly not tell you where in the world this doll came from."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] Okay.

Justin: "I have asked everyone that comes in and out of my house if they brought it and put it in my office as a joke, and everyone denies it." I bet you're fun. I bet you're a fun person to talk to.

Excuse me? Do you have a second? I have a couple questions for you. "I don't know how we got here." That's what it says.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: Not "how he got here."

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: "I don't know how we got here." Neither do I, Trisha. Neither do I. "But I definitely want to get rid of him."

Travis: Okay.

Justin: "I think he may have been passed around a lot..."

Griffin: Ooh, God!

Justin: "...for he is not—"

Travis: I don't enjoy that verbiage at all.

Justin: "He is not in perfect condition, as you can see from the pics."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Take that, Bum-Bum!

Justin: Take that, Bum-Bum.

Griffin: Someone has rowed Bum-Bum hard and put him down wet!

Justin: Yeah. Bum-Bum has had what I would describe is a challenging life. "Bum-Bum is not in perfect condition. I have given him, or the spirit that resides in him, the name 'Bum-Bum.'"

Travis: "Because I hate it."

Justin: "I named it 'cause I want to be murdered in my sleep." Uh, "I named him that because, in the middle of the night, I will hear a sort of chanting in a very low, weird voice, saying, 'Bum, bum, bum, bum, bum, bum, bum, bum, bum, bum,' and then laughter." So fucking maybe Tom Green, actually.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. This is like why our son's original name was "Guh!" Just because that's the sound he liked to make, and that's how names do work sometimes.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "Almost every morning, when I come down into my office, he is on top of one of my other dolls."

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] Okay.

Travis: Do you have any kids in your house, mayhaps?

Justin: "He has also pushed things off the shelf, and has made strange laughing sounds when I'm not in the room."

Griffin: Well, you didn't call him Ha-Ha, did you?

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: No. And also, "made strange laughing sounds" is maybe the wildest way of saying "laughs."

Travis: Yep.

Justin: Like, we're just—okay. Not an efficiency of language. "I honestly don't think my other spirits like him very much."

Travis: Oh.

Justin: "I just need to be honest about that."

Travis: Wait, hold on.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "I honestly don't think my other spirits like him very much. I just need to be honest about that."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Finally.

Justin: “I gotta get this off my chest.” Yeah, he seems like kind of a predator. I don’t really enjoy Bum-Bum, and I can see Trisha doesn’t, either.

“I’m guessing that if you had time to spend with him and figure out what the backstory of the spirit that resides in him is, then he probably would settle down and act better.” Yeah, Trisha. It sounds like you’re taking some pretty fucking big logical leaps to get this thing out of your house, huh?

Griffin: [laughing]

Travis: I also—I love it, in these haunted dolls, when you can see where the seller reali—remembered, like, they’re trying to sell something. Where they’re like, “Yeah, this doll, real creepy—mm... I do want someone to buy this. You know, if you really took the time with Bum-Bum, I bet he’d come around and be a great friend.”

Justin: A great friend. “At this time, I have too many dolls, and cannot spend enough time with all of them.” I hear that, though. I hear that. That’s a tough—that’s a tough scenario. “Most of these dolls do not need so much attention, but for him to settle down, he will need it. Handle with care!”

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: And then it has a thing about, y’know...

Griffin: “This is fake bullshit and...”

Justin: “This is fake bullshit.”

Now, here’s what’s up. \$17.50. Let me go ahead and crank 20 dollars down on it, and you all can tell me when to—okay. That was not high enough. I’ve been instantly outbid. I can do 24, 25, 26. What do y’all think?

Travis: I think you should do 26, 'cause frankly, Cooper's birthday is coming up, and...

Justin: Outbid. Outbid.

Travis: Damn it! 30.

Justin: Wow. People—you think 30?

Travis: Don't let Bum-Bum slip through your fingers.

Griffin: I think cut your losses, Juice.

Justin: 30. No. I've been outbid again. I am driving up the price of this.

Griffin: [bursts into laughter]

Travis: Yes.

Justin: This poor—this doll.

Travis: 30—

Justin: 36 dollars? Yes! That got it!

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: What are you gonna—

Justin: Oh, wait, I don't—I don't want it. [laughs] Oh, no. This wasn't funny enough.

Travis: Well, looks like we got ourselves a new mascot.

Griffin: That was so fast.

Justin: It should be here before our show in Cincinnati.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: So I can—I can throw it into the crowd, throw Bum-Bum out there into the crowd.

Travis: He'll love that.

Justin: I'm just gonna raise my maximum bid, 'cause now I really want him. 5,000.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Yep. eBay just emailed me, "Your bid's winning now, but watch out for competition for Bum-Bum, the [through laughter] haunted doll vessel super freaky." He is super freaky. He's a nasty little doll.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: He's a nasty little—nasty boy, and uh—

Travis: The kind you don't take home to mother.

Justin: So I just raised that bid one more time. Now I'm s—now I feel comfortable. I just don't wanna get an email during the show that's like, "Bum-Bum is gone," and I have to interrupt the entire show to go get it.

Griffin: "Hey, how's the show going? Bum-Bum died."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "You and your brothers telling fun jokes? You'll never see Bum-Bum again."

Justin: I miss Bum-Bum already.

Griffin: Can you read the next question? It'll get the taste out of my mouth.

Justin: I'd love that, Griff. "I work at Dunkin'... Donuts." They put "Donuts" in parenthesis. Have the strength of your conventions. You're just called Dunkin' now.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: "And I have many customers that I see every day. One of my regulars is a guy, maybe late-20s, that smells really fucking good. Every time he walks in, the whole store suddenly smells better. How do I compliment him on his good smell without it being weird? Could I at least ask him where/how he got this good smell?" That's from Good Smells in the Smoky Mountains.

Travis: Ooh.

Justin: I recently, um, got a new cologne from like, a service that tells you what cologne would be good for you.

Griffin: Oh, interesting!

Justin: And I'm not gonna fucking name 'em, because they didn't pay, but like, basically I did this. And the first day I put it on, I was signing my daughter in at school, and there were several parents gathered 'round. And one of the moms walked up, and was like, "Hmm, somebody smells good!"

And this woman next to me has the *fucking audacity*...

Griffin: [bursts into laughter]

Justin: ... has the sheer gall to announce that it's probably her body splash.

Griffin: Oh...

Justin: Is it, Trisha?

Griffin: ... shit.

Travis: Wow.

Justin: Is it probably your body splash?

Griffin: She fucking sniped your stink, brah!

Travis: Wow!

Justin: Is this—or is it the fucking heat I am bringing today with my new perfect stink? No, it's not you! It's not your body splash. It's my amazing aroma.

The point of this is, I knew that compliment was for me, and my ego dined off of it for the rest of the week, just feeling like a cool, good-smelling person.

Travis: I think—J-Man, I think that that was a win-win scenario for you, because I think everyone knows it wasn't her, and everyone knows it was you. So not only did you smell great, she sounded bad.

Griffin: Yeah. That's great. I would argue that if somebody walks into a room and changes the entire aroma dynamic of that chamber, it doesn't matter how good or bad that smell is. I think that smell is probably too... assertive.

Travis: Especially a bakery!

Griffin: A bakery has its own cologne—well, are we calling Dunkin' a bakery?

Travis: I mean, it is a lowercase-b bakery.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: There is stuff bake-ed there.

Justin: Is that—do you know that to be true?

Griffin: I don't think you do.

Travis: I don't. I don't, now that you mention it. I assume so? Hmm.

Justin: Something's baked there. I'm sure I've seen an oven...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: ... for my sandwiches.

Griffin: So... let's just try a few things, okay?

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: "Hey, that smells good. Is that you?"

Travis: Nope. Nope.

Griffin: Why not?

Travis: I don't think you'd say, "That smells good."

Griffin: "Hey, what's that good smell? Is that you?"

Travis: Mm...

Justin: Is that a—hey, choice aroma.

Travis: Ooh, that's getting closer.

Justin: Why didn't you just say that? Just say it, folks! YOLO! Just tell somebody they smell fucking good!

Griffin: Well, well...

Travis: Okay, let me try something. Let me try something. "What cologne are you wearing? It smells great."

Justin: Umm, presumptuous.

Travis: "What's your scent?"

Griffin: That's bad. You obviously know that you've...

Justin: That's worse.

Griffin: ... ramped into a bad sort of zone.

Travis: "Tell me about your musk."

Griffin: That's—

Justin: "Enumerate your musk."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Let's play a fun game, and we'll—

Travis: "You've got a lot of great notes."

Griffin: Let's try and say an innocuous thing in a terrible way, or a terrible thing in an innocuous way.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: I don't think either one is gonna get you there.

Justin: Okay, let me try it. [laughs] "This is gonna sound a little weird, but I would love to eat your smell."

Travis: Mm. Now, which one was that, Justin?

Justin: [laughs] Yeah!

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Okay. So obviously don't say that.

Travis: Let me try this.

Griffin: "Is someone wearing perfume? Mm, yummy!" is not gonna get you there, either.

Travis: No.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "Hey, I was just huffing what you're bringing, and I love it."

Justin: "Hey, can you walk a little closer? I'd love to get another huff."

Travis: Ooh, I like that.

Justin: I think what we're hitting on is, it is intensely personal to comment on another person's aroma.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Right? Yeah, but—

Justin: It's intensely personal.

Travis: Unless.

Griffin: Unless...

Justin: Unless?

Travis: They went and put on an order that waffable, if they didn't want to get waffed!

Griffin: I don't know that that... checks out in this—

Travis: If you walk into the room and change the scent matrix of that room...

Griffin: Right. Which you shouldn't be doing.

Travis: ... you put on a scent, hoping it would be detected by others.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I tell you this – sometimes, I get ready in the morning, and I shower, and maybe I put on a little lotion afterwards and I'm feeling very cute, and then I go to find my family, and my daughter smells and says, "You smell great!" And that makes me feel nice!

Griffin: Yeah, she's a child, though.

Travis: But here's what I'm saying. Maybe the problem is, you do not have a previous relationship with this customer.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Maybe, "You smell great!" needs to not be the first thing you say to them.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So you're saying you develop a relationship so you have a pretext for complimenting their smell.

Travis: Correct.

Griffin: That seems backwards to me.

Justin: Well, some more—that's weird. That's actually the weirdest possible...

Travis: I'm not saying, like, you date for six months before you do it. I'm saying, maybe it's not the first thing you say. Maybe it's like, "Hey, thanks for stopping by. It's good to see you again."

Griffin: If I could get some people to cosign my legislation mandating that the only smell people are allowed to put on their body is Old Spice's Pure Sport, the default smell for human beings, we wouldn't be running into that situation. We'd be working at Dunkin', and someone would come in, and be like, "Who smells like Old Spice Pure Sport?"

And everybody will crane their necks. "Why, that's me, because legally, the only smell you're allowed to have is Old Spice Pure Sport."

Justin: I have some challenging news here.

Griffin: Nobody wants to get behind this with—nobody wants to get behind this with me?

Justin: I'm not giving fucking free plugs to anybody. It's 2020. I'm gonna fill my life with laughter and love, and fill my wallet with that fucking advertising dollar.

Travis: And get down to bees-ness.

Justin: And no, you can't. You shan't, you can't. I have a troubling alert. There's 13 minutes left in the race for Bum-Bum, as I've come to think of it, and now Bum-Bum—I've been watching the bidding price creep steadily up, just refreshing the page and it keeps jumping up by twos as someone tries to get to what my reserve is.

Griffin: [laughing quietly]

Justin: And it's 66, 68, and now I've seen it go to 70. And now... now we're at 72, and they're just fucking chilling. And I'm so—somebody wants this fucking doll terribly.

Travis: And Justin, what's your reserve?

Justin: They want it terribly.

Travis: What's the reserve?

Justin: That's not the... important thing.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: The important thing is that it's for the bit. That's huge. There's someone with a W at the beginning of their username, and they just bid—I'm looking at the history of this now. 60, 62, 65, 67, 69 – nice – 71, and I'm still sitting pretty. And apparently at 71, they were like, "That's too much for this—"

Travis: "Too rich for my blood!"

Justin: Here's the thing that is tripping me out about this I want to talk about right now. If you're going to bid... 71 dollars for a very bad doll, you believe that it is haunted with a ghost, correct?

Griffin: Right.

Justin: You must, on some level – unless you're doing a competing podcast. Let's rule that out. You must, on some level, believe this is a doll with a ghost inside it, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So what is it in your psyche where you're like, "I'll buy a ghost for 71 dollars, but I'm not gonna buy a ghost for 73 dollars. That's too much."

Travis: Well, Justin, I'll tell ya. I've been doing a lot of budgeting. And I think the problem is, we're only halfway through the month, and they're worried that they're gonna use up all of their haunted toy budget early on in

the month, and then at the end of the month, they're gonna see something they *really* want for 73 dollars...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And oh, no. They don't have it left in the budget.

Griffin: Relatable.

Travis: Speaking of budgets, let's go to the Money Zone!

Justin: Yeah, I'm gonna need to go to the Money Zone after I've raised this fucking reserve again.

[theme music plays]

Griffin: Gonna brush those tee—

Travis: Hey guys—oh!

Griffin: Now, let's talk. 'Cause I was excited about mine.

Travis: Okay, what was yours? 'Cause it's probably better than mine.

Griffin: Gonna brush those teeth with Quip. [pause] So that's like saying—that's like me planting my flag in the ground. Like, "Hey, everybody."

Travis: Oh, okay. Can I try mine?

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: You gotta Quip it! Quip it good.

Griffin: Ah, shit. That was pretty good.

Travis: I feel like they were both good. You take this one.

Griffin: Ju—sounds like Justin wants to get a hand on the ball.

Travis: [laughs] Justin, you wanna...?

Justin: I put my hand up on your hip. When I Quip, you Quip, we Quip!

Travis: [laughs] That's pretty good!

Griffin: Fuck. I think that's the end of the ad. Thanks, Quip!

Travis: Quip!

Justin: [laughs] Too—Quip, it's tooth!

Griffin: "Quip, it's tooth!" is pretty fucking good, man!

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: I Quip my hair back and forth. I Quip my hair back and forth.

Justin: I Quip my hair back and forth. These people make toothbrushes.

Griffin: Yep! Can you believe it?

Justin: What?

Travis: [laughs] In this day and age?

Justin: [laughs] The audaci—the audacity.

Griffin: These are toothbrushes with electricity in it – that's right, the stuff from lightning – and they...

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Quip, ride the lightning!

Griffin: ... they go for two minutes. It's got sensitive sonic vibrations with a built-in timer and 30-second pulses. Uh...

Travis: Are there tiny people in there who are shaking the toothbrush? We don't know! The science isn't back yet.

Griffin: We don't know! Is the electricity hurting the little toothbrush people? Probably! But your teeth are gonna be so clean, and your mouth so fresh. Go to GetQuip.com/MyBrother right now, get your first refill for free. That's a new—

Justin: Stand in defiance of God and hold electricity in your hand and let it touch your teeth.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Quip is the Prometheus of tooth brushing.

Griffin: You will harness the power of the cosmos. Go to GetQuip.com/MyBrother, and that's Quip, that is the good habit's company.

Justin: Hold on just one second. I need to email Max Fun, and just figure out when we're gonna reschedule this ad that we're gonna have to make up for Quip.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: If you just give me a second. Oh, you know what? I don't have to email 'em. I could send a letter.

Travis: [gasps]

Justin: Because sending a letter can be as easy as sending an email, when you can do it at home!

Travis: Fuck off!

Justin: With Stamps.com!

Travis: What?!

Justin: You know, if you got a busy day ahead of you...

Travis: I do.

Justin: ... and maybe you don't have time to get to the post office, well, good news: you can do the stamps... for yourself.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Everybody, do the stamps! [clapping]

Justin: With Stamps.com, you can save 5 cents off every first-class stamp, and up to 40% off shipping rates. That kind of savings really adds up, especially for small businesses. If there's a business listening to this, that—hello. [laughs]

Travis: Hi, business.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Hi, business. You sentient weirdo. Why are you listening to podcasts? Get back to earning capital.

Stamps.com brings all the services of the US postal service right to your computer. Whether you're a small office sending invoices—that's impossible. You can't be a small office and a person listening to a podcast. It just doesn't make sense!

Travis: It says, "small office," Justin. The office is inside one person.

Justin: You don't need me for this. It's a computer that lets you print stamps, okay?

Travis: Oh, no, don't give it away!

Justin: A lot of businesses use it. Stamps.com. It's a website that does stamp. Right now, our listeners can get a special offer that includes a four-week trial plus free postage and a digital scale without any long-term commitment. Except the commitment of telling people it's not for drugs every time they see it at your house. That is a commitment you are making.

Just go to Stamps.com, click on the microphone at the top of the home page, and type in "MyBrother." That's Stamps.com, enter "MyBrother."

[music plays]

John: Hey, everyone. It's I, John Hodgman of the Judge John Hodgman podcast.

Elliott: And I, Elliott Kalan, of The Flop House podcast.

John: And we've made a whole new podcast, a 12-episode special miniseries called I, Podius, in which we recap, discuss, and explore the very famous 1976 BBC miniseries about ancient Rome called I, Claudius.

We've got incredible guests such as Gillian Jacobs, Paul F. Tompkins, as well as star of I, Claudius, Sir Patrick Stewart. And his son, non-sir, Daniel Stewart.

Elliott: Don't worry, Dan. You'll get there someday.

John: I, Podius is the name of the show. Every week from MaximumFun.org for only 12 weeks. Get 'em at MaximumFun.org or wherever you get your podcasts.

[music ends]

Travis: [singing] Doo-doo doo-doo doo-doo.

Justin: What?

Travis: [singing] Reach for the Stars!

Justin: Oh, okay!

Griffin: Alright. I got scared there for a minute.

Travis: No, it's the only one of my bits that's any fun. Reach for the Stars! I'm going to give you reviews from the service Amazon. I'm going to say the number of stars and the review, and you're going to try to guess the product.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Now, this is one out of five stars. The subject line is, "Dirty, and looked used."

"I bought this as a gift for a friend. She liked the thought, but when she opened it from the shipping package, it was dirty, sticky, and looked gross. I wish I had opened it first, 'cause I would maybe have been able to clean it up and make it look new."

Griffin: Hmm. See, I was gonna say some sort of funny prop, like a fake—well, hold on. I feel like my best bet here is to always lead with fake poop of some kind... so I'll start with that.

Travis: I will say, along that vein, you are in the right ball park. These are all gag gifts.

Griffin: Okay. I'm just saying, this bit's gonna get awfully easy if it's always fake poop or throw-up or pee-pee.

Travis: It's not always gonna be fake poop or throw-up.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: They're just—the reviews for them are so good. [laughs]

Justin: X-ray specs?

Travis: Oh, good guess, good guess. Okay, this next one, there's another one out of five stars. Subject line: "Not cute."

"I bought this for a gag gift, but it wasn't funny. It was just ugly."

Griffin: Hmm.

Justin: Hmm.

Griffin: Maybe like a nasty face? Like a mask that makes your face look like a nasty face.

Travis: Mm. Mm-hmm.

Justin: A—fake teeth? Like funny, fake teeth?

Travis: Ooh, that's a good guess! Okay, one more. One out of five stars. "Hollow plastic. Not durable. Got it for a gag gift for the wife. Knocked it off the counter before ever using it, and it broke."

Justin: [bursts into laugh]

Travis: "The plastic is hollow, and is not durable for drops and use. With wine," dot, dot, dot, "things will be dropped," dot, dot, dot, "eventually."

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Wait, okay. Is it a giant novelty wine glass?

Travis: No!

Justin: Damn.

Griffin: Is it a wine glass, but it's kind of supposed to be a wiener?

Travis: Ooh, so close, Griffin! It is the Sir Perky Novelty Bottle Stopper, where the stopper is his penis.

Griffin: Shit! So it's like a guy, but his dick's out, and he fucks your wine to keep it fresh?

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Correct!

Justin: So someone got that, and they were like, "This isn't cute."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "I don't know what I was doing."

Travis: Now—

Justin: "This isn't cute."

Travis: This next product, I normally tend to stick to the one-star reviews or the five-star reviews, but I've found a new plethora of fun in the three-out-of-five-star reviews. The nice, middle of the road. This is three-out-of-five stars. "Not sure how good it is going to be."

Griffin: What?

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Is that it?

Travis: Yup!

Griffin: Three stars, not sure how good it is going to be.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Okay, I'm not—

Travis: This was a kind of pre-emptive review.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: There's literally nothing I could use.

Justin: A preview, if you will.

Travis: [laughs] This one's another three-out-of-five stars. Subject line, "Nah."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: And the text is, "Nah."

Justin: [laughs] You know we can't guess it from these clues!

Travis: Oh, I know. Don't worry. I've got one at the end here. But here's another one. This is another three out of five. Subject line: "Fair." The text: "Not a bad product." So kind of the perfect...

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: ...three-out-of-five-star review. It's not bad.

Justin: That's like, life minutes you don't get back. You know what I mean? Like, "I sort of like this. Okay, I'm gonna go let everyone know. I'm gonna go spread the word."

Travis: Now, this one I think is gonna give it away. This is a four-out-of-five-star. "Bought this—" and it's gonna give it away, 'cause it says what it is in the review, but I like the direction the end of the review takes. "Bought this for a random gift exchange with friends. Cute, easy to use, held up well over multiple uses in the microwave, and enjoyable for most people who love s'mores, even when not camping or near a fire. Otherwise unnecessary. Just use a plate on top of the s'more on top of another plate..."

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: "...so it prevents the marshmallow from puffing up too much rather than melting properly!"

Justin: [through laughter] Is this just a microwaveable s'more maker?

Travis: That is correct! But this person just chose to just undermine...

Justin: Holy shit.

Travis: ...the whole industry [laughs] by giving away the secret of, just use another plate on top of it!

Justin: "Hey, wait a minute, you don't need this! No one needs this! Wait a minute, what am I doing?!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "What are any of us doing?! Aaah!" How about another question?

Griffin: Yeah, how about a Yahoo, actually?

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: Oh, sure...

Griffin: I have a hole in the armpit of my sweater that I just found, and like...

Travis: Oh.

Justin: Is this the Yahoo?

Griffin: No, this is just, like, my day.

Justin: I got him, by the way. I didn't want anybody to worry.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Oh, yeah, Bum-Bum! Good!

Justin: Cincinnati, Bum-Bum is coming for you.

Travis: Oh, Jesus Christ. This is my home where I live.

Justin: [laughs] Yeah, well, now Bum-Bum lives there too, 'cause I'm gonna hide him somewhere in the rafters.

Travis: Oh, Jesus.

Justin: Of the city. [laughs]

Griffin: [ripping noises] [grunts]

Justin: [through laughter] Are you ripping your shirt open like the Hulk?

Griffin: [grunts]

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: [grunts]

[pause]

Justin: [through laughter] What did you do?

Travis: Did you just live, on-camera, destroy your shirt?

Justin: [through laughter] Griffin has—Griffin has now—Griffin has now— [laughs] Boy, I'm glad I'm recording this call. Uh, Griffin has now [through laughter] ripped his shirt sleeve off. [laughs] He's ripped his shirt sleeve off, uh, and is flexing... [laughs] for us.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Which one do you guys want? The bare barracuda here? Or this guy that's still in a big, long sweater sleeve?

Justin: What are my options, again?

Travis: Hey, Griffin? Why did you ruin your sweater just now? [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] What are my options again?

Griffin: Do you want this guy? Who—it could be—you know what you're gonna get when you go through this door. This door, you don't know. Maybe it's weaker—it has to be weaker than this one, 'cause this one's fucking huge. But maybe it's not, right?

Justin: Right. Yeah. That's true.

Travis: I'm very—I'm half-intimidated right now.

Griffin: Good. You should be. Um, the sweater was already ruined. It had a huge hole in the armpit, and that's no good for me. Here's a uh—I gotta get this big, intimidating picture of Buzz Aldrin off my fucking screen.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay, here's a Yahoo. This one was uh, sent in by Michelle. Thank you, Michelle. It's by Yahoo Answers user Carol, who asks, as I turn my video off, "Would you like pinecones more if they were alive and could crawl around?"

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Huh.

Travis: You know, okay. I have been looking for a way to like pinecones more.

Griffin: Yeah, I don't... I don't dislike pinecones. I certainly wouldn't say, like, if we were walking through a pine forest...

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: ...and somebody pointed at one of these little spikey bastards on the ground, and said, "Do you like that?" I think I would probably say, like, "Eh, it's—it's fine."

Travis: I'm pretty ambiv—I'm pretty, like...

Griffin: "It's okay."

Travis: Yeah. Now, smear one in peanut butter, roll it in bird seed, hang it up on my porch? I love the thing.

Griffin: Who's that ever—who's that been for? I've seen peo—I have done that before, I think. I did that at, like, a church camp almost certainly at some point, but like, even when I was doing it, I was like, "Who is this for? Like, is a deer gonna come eat this?"

Travis: It's for the birdies!

Justin: [sighs] It's for birds.

Griffin: Oh. Do birds like peanut butter? That's wild.

Travis: I think that peanut butter is just a means of conveyance for the bird seed treat.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: I—we had a bird feeder out back of the house, and we had to get a little ladder, and we filled it up, right?

Travis: Was the little ladder for the birds, Justin? 'Cause they have wings.

Justin: These fucking birds ate it in 24 hours. So then it was just like—I had this moment where I was like, "I'm not gonna fill—these guys are obviously starving."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: And also, I'm not gonna get into this fucking codependent relationship...

Griffin: Right.

Justin: ... where I am, like, every 24 hours, getting out the ladder to go feed these birds. And before you tweet at me, yeah, it might've been squirrels. I don't monitor it, okay?

Griffin: [laughs] They're the same to Justin! It's the same outdoors animal to Justin, essentially.

Travis: Here's the pro—this is the problem with bird feeders in general, and I'm sorry to get up on my soapbox again about this, but I am providing... food!

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Well, one of like the top three most important things for living beings. And I guess—maybe they're helping with, I don't know, pollination or bugs or whatever, but I don't notice that.

Griffin: They don't bring your newspa—they don't pick up your newspaper and fly it in. They certainly aren't making you fucking dresses, so that you can go to the ball. That's some bullshit that—

Travis: And I've asked them!

Griffin: Yeah, that's some bullshit Hollywood's trying to shove down our throats.

Travis: And here's the thing. I feed my kids, they do cool stuff.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I feed my dogs, they do cool stuff. Feed my cat, she sometimes lets me pet her. What's this bird bringing to the table that I'm—I'm going out there, I'm getting it seed?

Griffin: Yeah. Let's—

Justin: What do you want a bird to bring to the table, Travis? Like, a scrap of hair? A small twig? They're birds.

Travis: I read about these birds who are bringing shiny rings and lost camera lenses and stuff back to people. Where's my army of birds?

Griffin: So let's—I mean, I've had some time to think about it while you two have been talking a bunch of bullshit that doesn't mean anything. And I think it would be pretty badass if pinecones were just scuttling around.

Travis: What if they did it whenever you weren't looking?

Griffin: Uh, that's a fun little Toy Story thing. But I think you know what would be better? If they did it while I was looking.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Griffin: So I could see it and be delighted by it.

Justin: See it. Yeah.

Griffin: I do think, though, that if you go to a Michael's, and they have craft pinecones, those shouldn't move around. 'Cause Michael's is a place of business. It's not the forest.

Travis: That is—that is true. In 99.9% of cases, that is absolutely true.

Griffin: But you know what'd be fucking funny, guys?

Travis: What?

Justin: What, dude?

Griffin: When like, kids make little craft turkeys out of pinecones. Would those move around, too?

Travis: I have never seen that.

Griffin: You've never seen it?

Justin: Oh, that would be cool.

Griffin: They use it like the body of the turkey, 'cause it looks like a turkey's body.

Travis: Oh, okay!

Griffin: So it would be, like, crawling around, and it would have sort of turkey paper stuff on it.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I like that.

Travis: That would be great. But then why not just look at turkeys? What if the pinecones were turkey-sized?

Griffin: What if—okay. Here's a fun thing that Travis just said, and he didn't even know it, 'cause that's not how his brain works. If pinecones could move around, but turkeys, now, could not.

Travis: [laughs] So you just shifted it all one to the left.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I think it—I think—and just to keep things fresh, I think we should probably do that every once in a while. Now, does that mean that eventually...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: ... human beings won't be able to move around anymore? And then—

Travis: Yeah. Like in Wall-E. Wall-E, sitting on scooters.

Griffin: Well, no, it'll be more... it'll be more sort of just, like, we can't move around anymore. Tulips can. And it's like, well, it's our turn to cycle out.

Justin: I just installed Pluto TV. I'm basically there right now.

Griffin: Yep.

Justin: How am I supposed to get up? They're showing Guts.

Travis: Oh, really?

Justin: Yeah, dude.

Griffin: Do you think if pinecones started to move around...

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: ... then we would start eating more of them?

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Huh.

Griffin: Like, if you're—

Justin: Well, would they develop...

Griffin: A meat?

Justin: ...sort of sinew and a meat? [laughs]

Griffin: [laughing]

Travis: Yeah. And an attitude that would make you feel kind of superior when you eat `em?

Griffin: Ah, shit! I mean, what we're saying is basically how hedgehog did happen.

Travis: That is true.

Justin: [bursts into laughter]

Travis: I would—

Justin: Have you guys been imagining pineapples this whole time, and you just now realized?

Griffin: No.

Travis: What's a pine-apple?

Griffin: No, that's different.

Travis: No, no. You mean the fruit, pineapple?

Justin: Travis, did you just forget the word pineapple for a second?

Travis: You said—you said—

Griffin: You have it tattooed on your bod, bud.

Travis: Okay, but to be fair, you said it like it was two separate words. A pine apple, as opposed to pineapple.

[ripping sound]

Travis: Hey, guys, lean in. What I've been picturing?

Justin: Yeah?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Is like, hermit crabs of the forest carrying the pinecones on their backs.

Justin: Okay!

Griffin: It's funnier to me, though, if it's just the pinecones.

Justin: Yeah, what you're describing, Travis, is sort of a natural phenomenon that could—Griffin, the video's back on accidentally.

Griffin: [laughs] What happened?

Justin: Accidentally, your video's back on, and I see you again.

Travis: And I see a nipple.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I can see a nipple.

Justin: I can just see a nipple, and if you could just—

Travis: It seems like maybe you tore your shirt—[laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: All the way down the side!

Justin: Oh, God, Griffin. Somebody got a light dusting of cinnamon on your armpit, Griff. You should try to get that seen to.

Griffin: I got it—I got it out. I don't want to do this show anymore.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [through laughter] This has been My Brother, My—see, the problem is we did one Monday. And this is Wednesday...

Griffin: [bursts into laughter]

Justin: ... we did one two days later, and here's the problem. That's the fucking grand reveal, okay? Just—we didn't have a lot of good jokes saved up.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: And I'm sorry, okay? I'm sorry! But it had some good jokes. Just go tweet about other episodes. If you didn't like this one, we'll do another one in a week, and you'll like it more, okay?

Griffin: You'll like that one, yeah. The next one—guys, the next one's gonna kick ass.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs] That's what we have to tell ourselves after every recording. The next one is gonna kick ass.

Griffin: Not this one, though.

Travis: Hey, can I give everyone a little reward for sticking around?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: We're gonna announce our neeew tour dates!

Justin: Oh, well, shouldn't we have done that after a good one?

Travis: Oh, damn it!

Griffin: I think we maybe—yeah, let's not announce that.

Travis: Uh, we're going to be at the Orpheum Theatre in Boston, Massachusetts April 1st with My Brother, My Brother and Me and Sawbones, and then April 2nd with The Adventure Zone. And then, on April 3rd, we're going to be at the Grand Theater at Foxwoods in Mashantucket, Connecticut, with My Brother, My Brother and Me and Sawbones.

Then – like, believe it or not, three weeks later – we're going to be in Baltimore on April 22nd at the Hippodrome with My Brother, My Brother and Me and Sawbones, and the 23rd with The Adventure Zone. And then on April 24th, in Norfolk, Virginia, at the Chrysler Theatre with My Brother, My Brother and Me and Sawbones.

So that's a lot of April shows, and they bring... May flows.

Justin: May shows.

Griffin: May shows, yes. [laughs] May—

Travis: Oh, May shows.

Justin: May shows, probably.

Griffin: May will probably have some shows, as well.

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: So—

Travis: And also, just so you know, we're really excited to see everybody on the JoCo Cruise. That's not a thing you need to buy tickets for or whatever. I'm just excited about it.

Griffin: That's a thing you can't buy tickets for, one might even say.

Justin: Yeah. I don't even know why we're talking about it right now.

Travis: I'm just so excited. We are gonna need questions for that, by the way. If you're gonna be on the JoCo Cruise, and you would like us to do questions, we're doing two of these bad boys on there, so you can go ahead and start emailing those in. Uh, JoCo Cruise questions.

Griffin: Is that the email address?

Travis: No, just in the subject line.

Griffin: 'Cause it doesn't have an @ or anything—oh, okay.

Travis: And if you know, like, if you're in the red group or the gold group, let us know.

Griffin: So uh, thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. MaxFunDrive's coming up soon. We got a fun bonus episode ready for everybody that we all had uh, just a squealin' good time on, I would say.

And uh, thank you to John Roderick and The Long Winters for the use of our theme song, "(It's a) Departure," off the album Putting the Days to Bed. You can find a link to that uh, online.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: You can find a link to that in your pocket.

Griffin: You can find that song, uh, for sale... You can find that song for sale.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: This is the end of the episode.

Griffin: Yep!

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: I do have a final Yahoo. This one—

Travis: Oh, wait, hold on!

Griffin: Mother—

Travis: Sorry, there's one more thing. If you're listening to this on Monday the 17th, we still have a couple days before the Cincinnati shows. Go to McElroy.family, click on Tours. We're gonna be at the Taft Theatre with My Brother, My Brother and Me on February 19th, and uh, on February 20th we're doing The Adventure Zone. I assume Sawbones is performing on Monday—or on the 19th as well.

So go get those tickets and check out all the merch, McElroy.family, hugs and kisses, Travis.

Griffin: Alright. Here comes the final Yahoo.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: This one was sent in by Adrian Cowles. Thank you, Adrian. It's Yahoo Answers user Disco Stew, asks, "Is it me, or... is The Purge totally implausible?"

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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[music plays]

Manolo: Hey, you've reached Dr. Gameshow. Leave your message after the beep.

[beep]

Caller: Dr. Gameshow is my favorite podcast, and the only podcast my parents let me listen to, because I'm 12. But even old people love this show. Basically, you call in, play games, and have fun. If you win a game, a baby will send you a magnet in the mail.

I have sooo many magnets, and put them all on my locker, and pretty much everyone at school is jealous, because they are very cool custom magnets, and it also means that I'm really good at winning games. And they even let me practice my recorder live on the air! [plays Hot Cross Buns on recorder]

Listening to this show is like going to a real doctor, but pretty much kinda better. Dr. Gameshow rocks! [plays Hot Cross Buns on recorder]

[beep]

Jo: Listen to Dr. Gameshow on Maximum Fun. New episodes every other Wednesday.