

MBMBaM 415: My Very Cool Telescope!

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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, "(It's a) Departure" by The Long Winters, 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, [awkward intonation] Justin McElroy!

Travis: I'm your middlest brother, Travis McElroy. Oh, no.

Griffin: I'm your sweet baby brother, 30 Griffin—are you okay?

Justin: [imitating radio host] Yeah, I've just been working on my radio voice.

Griffin: It sucks.

Travis: Okay, 'cause it sounds like you kinda, like, swallowed a POG slammer, and it got stuck.

Griffin: Yeah, like a real POG-throat.

Justin: [imitating radio host, garbled] Podcast [unintelligible] where radio was the future!

Travis: Oh, God!

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Now it sounds like you're melting in acid.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [imitating radio host] Time for some ads!

Griffin: We just started. I don't wanna do ads now.

Justin: [imitating radio host] We just had a great rock block of comedy, 90 seconds for you, now it's time to hear from our sponsor, Dutch Miller Chevrolet.

Travis: No, I don't wanna give free publicity to Dutch Miller Chevrolet.

Griffin: Yeah, I think that's pretty narrow casting to people living in Huntington who want to buy a new Chevy truck.

Justin: I'm so excited to—I'm, like, feeling so energized right now and fantastic. I—

Travis: Oh, you're excited 'cause that graphic novel is coming out?

Justin: The graphic novel is coming out, I guess. You can probably preorder it, I'm sure. But that is not why. It's because last night, I got to hang out with my good friend, uh, James Buffett, at his concert in Cincinnati. 51 sold out shows there in Cincinnati. He is the—just... the biggest deal there. Summer cannot start in Cincinnati until Jimmy and the Coral Reefer Band comes to town.

Travis: That was really frustrating this year, 'cause he waited until mid-July.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And we were like, "Jimmy! What about 4th of July? What about all the cookouts?"

And he was like, "You have to wait!"

Justin: No. Don't even try to go to him.

Griffin: He said, "That's Spring, motherfuckers."

Travis: But then he came and he saw his shadow...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Right.

Travis: And then, uh, Summer was able to start.

Justin: So it's so—I was so thrilled. Uh, me and the whole family got to meet Jimmy, performed on Jimmy's preshow—

Travis: Yeah, I had a great time there. I—I—I'm part of Justin's family, and he definitely invited me too, 'cause I *live* here *in* Cincinnati.

Griffin: Yeah, it's weird.

Justin: I—I invited Travis, and he didn't even wanna say hi to me. He didn't even wanna see me while I was in town. He was not interested.

Travis: You—you invited me to come in the brief window you had when you would not be busy with Jimmy Buffett if I wanted to come hi and wave you off like an old-timey cruise line, so that you could go have fun at Jimmy Buffett without me.

Justin: Didn't want you to, um, embarrass me [laughs] in front of James. 'Cause he would be sure—

Travis: That's fair.

Justin: Like, I don't think that that's unfair. That's not even what I'm, like, jized about, y'all. I'm on a new—I'm on a new mission. Can we talk about it real quick?

Griffin: Yeah, what level are you on right now, Juice?

Justin: This grind I'm in? It's getting good. It's getting—I'm in the thick of it right now, on this one. Um, It occurred to me recently that the third season of *Pete and Pete* isn't available on DVD. And for some reason, I had been talking or thinking about anything else now that I have the world's tiniest and most, uh, adorable bully pulpit that I wanna—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So I'm gonna try to shake a—shake a few trees. I'm on the case. See—see what I can shake out. And guys, I think—I think I'm making a little headway. Except for catching the attention of the giant corporation that would need to actually make this happen and could with, I assume, an email—uh, I haven't quite caught them yet, but things are going pretty good.

Here are the people that I've got involved in this case right now.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Jim—did you talk to Jimmy about this?

Justin: Didn't talk to Jimmy about this. Should've brought it up with Jimmy. God, kicking myself. Also, did see Emilio Estevez at the show. Did not bring it up to Emilio Estevez.

Griffin: Oh, Emilio's got some clout!

Justin: By the way, apparently Emilio Estevez is in your hood, Travis, so... get on it.

Travis: Oh, yeah! He's a big fan. He filmed a movie here, bought a house here. Loves it.

Justin: Loves it, Over-The-Rhine. Um, so okay, I've looped in uh, PJ and Alex from *Reply All*. 'Cause they do, like, some internet investigations, so I'm trying to get them on it. I do have Danny Tamberelli, Little Pete is involved...

Griffin: Okay. That's a big one.

Justin: ...with this discussion. It's big. And then [laughs] someone was like—someone was like, I think it was PJ actually, said like, "According to this, it's because of a single unlicensed Luscious Jackson song that was on this, uh—on an episode that Nick didn't get the rights to."

And then I tweeted about that, and then Luscious Jackson comes back on their official Twitter feed...

Griffin: Oh, my God.

Justin: ...and is like, "Um, pardon, no one has ever spoken to us about it from Nickelodeon. We are open to talking about it." So I don't know, Nick, you tell me.

Griffin: Oh, shit! Building bridges!

Justin: You tell me, y'all.

Travis: Let me check—oh, Justin, I just checked my GPS tracker, and it seems like the ball, err, is in their courts!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It seems like—listen, it's not up to Luscious, 'cause Luscious Jackson is down. It's not up to Little Pete, uh, 'cause he's down. That—that—and—and I haven't heard from Big Pete yet. I can't imagine *he's* the one standing in the way. So you tell me. Who is it?

Travis: Maybe it's Endless Mike.

Justin: Is it Endless Mike?

Travis: Is Endless Mike in the way?

Griffin: Might be Endless Mike.

Justin: Is it Pit Stain?

Travis: Rick Gomez! Get at us, Rick Gomez. Lift the van.

Justin: [wheeze-laughs] The problem—I think the hardest part about this campaign, and it has been difficult and challenging for me and mine, the problem is that I'm also trying to get into the movie *Trolls 2*, or *Trolls: World Tour* now, if you prefer. So I can only tap resources that I don't think necessarily will aid me in getting into the movie *Trolls 2*.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So I am trying to keep these two—I can't put the full force of my efforts behind it, right?

Griffin: Sure. Have you guys ever thought about the fact that the three of us are basically living our lives as if they are... big, dumb Christmas lists made by large children—

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: —who are just like, "I want to be in *Trolls*, and I want the *Pete and Pete 3* on DVD, and I wanna be Jimmy Buffett's best friend, and I wanna do a high five to Emilio Estevez!" And it's like...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: ...whatever forces govern, sort of, the universe, are like, "Okay, let's see—let's see what we can do. Let's see what we can do to get you in the picture. *Trolls 2*."

Travis: It really makes me think that, like, the McElroy brothers – not the three of us, but I mean the idea of us, our careers – might be dying. And everyone's just...

Griffin: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: ...really nice to us here at the end.

Griffin: Oh, no doubt about that. Yeah. Yeah. That's about—

Justin: That's—yeah.

Griffin: I've seen the numbers. I've seen the figures.

Let's get into the questions. Before we do, one quick update: I think I just gave myself food poisoning with the old hot dogs I ate for lunch?

Travis: [laughs] Oh, no!

Justin: [through laughter] Griffin?!

Griffin: They were from—now, they were from 4th of July.

Justin: You have to do better!

Griffin: I know. They were from 4th of July, and they were still in the package, so I figured that they were okay, but I'm starting to feel—you know how you start to, like, *feel* it? And I'm startin' to *feel* it. So let's... get going, and I just wanted to set you guys up for... that. We might have to stop.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Well, I—I—I consider myself warned now, I guess.

Griffin: Good.

Justin: Uh, let's get into it. Here's our first question. "I live on the third floor of an apartment building. One day, after coming home from a run, the lady who lives on the bottom left of my building whispered, [gravelly voice] 'Come here,' and gestured to her door. As I walked to her door, she went

inside, and I waited outside for a couple minutes. And then she came back with a box of chocolates.

"But before she could hand them to me, she asked me where I live. I told her I lived at the top right of our building.

Griffin: [simultaneously] [quietly] Hmm... no.

Justin: "She then frowned, shook her head, and put the box of chocolates away. She told me she thought I was the woman who lived on the top left, and then closed the door."

Griffin: [sighs]

Justin: "Couldn't have eaten the chocolate anyway, but I was very sad that she took them away. The woman she was talking about looks nothing like me anyway. What did the woman across from me do to deserve chocolate? How do I prove to the old lady that I am also deserving of chocolate?"

That's from Sad About Sweets in San Diego.

Now, normally, this is an advice show. But Sad About Sweets has asked us to dip our toes into, what, prognostication? Mind reading?

Travis: More like life coaching, I think.

Griffin: Yeah, I got some life coaching, and it's... I can highlight four different places you fucked up so bad! Just in this—it's almost a one per sentence, which is a pretty good ratio.

Um, let's see. A stranger opens the door in your apartment building, and they say, from their room, [gravelly voice] "Come here," and then you oblige. That's one. That's one.

Justin: Yes. Problematic.

Griffin: That's one off the bat.

Justin: Fair, yes.

Travis: Mistake.

Griffin: They say—

Justin: That's one off the bat.

Griffin: They hand out some chocolate, and then they pull it back real quick, and you continue staying there. That's two. They say, "Where do you live?" you [strained] *answer*, three.

Justin: [laughs loudly] This is—listen, I know it's too late to pick a theme for 2018, but I think part of it should be, "Don't tell anyone where you live."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Unless they know. Unless they know.

Griffin: That's a pretty good one... in general. They don't give you the chocolate, which you couldn't have eaten anyway, but you were still sad about. The fact that you were sad about that you didn't eat these *neurotoxin-filled cho-co-lates*, is, like, wild to me. It is wild to me.

Do you wanna know what the person did that lived on the floor above on the left, over them where they live on the bottom left? They stomp too loud. They do a stomp and they do a dance that's too loud.

Justin: [laughs] They do the stomp when the neighbor's parent is trying to sleep, and now they're having to die for it.

Griffin: Yeah, they're having to eat the neurotoxin to get very, very, very sick forever. So you're g—you're, like—it's weird, because you're so good, but you're also... s—so bad. And you gotta just take a look at it...

Justin: Right.

Griffin: ...and—and—and think a little bit better when you think your thoughts when people sort of confront you with a situation like this.

Travis: I will also say, um, one of my favorite, like top 10 favorite things about being an adult, is I no longer have to earn candy from—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like, I don't have to go trick-or-treating. I don't have to, like, hope that somebody in my class splurges on buying everybody those four chocolate peanuts, uh, Valentine's things. Like, if I want candy...

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: ...I can just go get it.

Justin: No question.

Travis: So the idea of wasting a single thought after this of, like, "I have to be living—" no. If you want something, go get it. You don't have to take handouts from anybody.

Griffin: I watched one of those YouTube movies where they made a—they made Skittles, but like in a kitchen, and I said, "Man, those look good." And it was about 11:30 at night. I was like, "Wow, those look really tasty." And then I was like, "Oh, that's right! I'm 31." And I went and I got in the car, drove to the gas station, got some Skittles.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Came home, ate 'em all. Had a hard time goin' to sleep, 'cause of all the Skittle energy inside of me, but... I—I did it, 'cause I could.

Justin: Sold my Spanish teacher some Skittles for a fundraiser once, and later, I asked how they were, she said they were really good, but they were so sweet, she had to cut 'em in half.

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: She's a thrilling woman. [laughs]

Travis: That doesn't make—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Unless, I guess, you're eating them... half at a time.

Griffin: Um, hey, y'all want a Yahoo?

Justin: Yeah, I'd love that, Griff.

Griffin: Alright. Alright. I mean, this one was sent in by Adrian Cowles. Thanks, Adrian. It's an anonymous Yahoo Answers user, but I'll call 'em the uh, the Geico lizard asks, "What would you do if someone laughed at your telescope?"

Travis: Aw, man.

Justin: Ugh.

Travis: Tell me about it.

Justin: Aw!

Griffin: You're just trying to get away from the jocks on Earth by putting your head in the clouds up in the stars, looking at, you know, God's great creation.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Checking out some of your favorite constellations. I'm talking about Virgo and Sagittarius and... all the great ones. Gemini is up there too. And—

Travis: The big ones.

Griffin: Then all of a sudden, a—you know, a bigger scientist comes over, and says, like, “Oh, is that—oh, is that it? Uh, you might as well be using a little paper towel tube, you... little putz.”

Travis: [snorts]

Griffin: And that makes me feel like shit.

Travis: I think the worst case scenario would be, like, you’re looking through your telescope...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...you look at, like, Mercury or Venus or whatever, and you see an alien with a telescope that’s way nicer than yours, and you can see through your telescope, though it’s a little blurry, that alien talking to their friends and pointing at you and laughing.

Griffin: Oh, no!

Travis: And you’re like, “There’s life out there, and they think I’m a dingus.”

Griffin: [holding back laughter] Uh-huh.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, they’ve like, written on the face of Neptune, like, “Huff my shorts, Darryl.”

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs] Yeah! Ow, that would hurt so bad! You spend your whole life dreaming of, like, “Oh, I wonder if there are aliens,” and you’re like, “There are, and they’re making fun of me.” Aww...

Justin: I don't like when people feel the need to point out that my telescope is made of cardboard... and has no lenses in it, and does not increase the... distance that I can see. Um...

Griffin: No. It's kind of—

Justin: And it is just a cardboard tube.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I can't—I can't—I don't know how to get one of the big telescopes, and if I did spend the money on it, I wouldn't know how to use it. So can't a kid just have some fun with a cardboard tube, pretending he's a space pirate looking for his next celestial plunder?

Griffin: Yeah. I don't see any problem with that, Juice. That's just an imagination.

Justin: [crosstalk] get off my case about it. Yeah, I know it's cardboard.

Travis: I think the power move—if somebody was like, "Oh, that's a real dinky telescope," you just suddenly tip it towards the ground and say, "It's a microscope, asshole!"

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: And now they look dumb.

Justin: [through laughter] "I just had it upside-down for a second."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "So I could polish the lens."

Travis: "Now *you* look stupid, Steve!"

Justin: Hey, you know—you know what I'm gonna—you know what I'm gonna use th—this to look at? Your dignity.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: `Cause it's miniscule, now.

Travis: Got `em!

Griffin: You can do that with their muscles, too. Like, "Oh, I guess it is, `cause I'm looking at your muscles, and there's nothin' there, noodles." Um...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And you can make fun of how weak they are, `cause they don't have any muscles. And you can't see `em even with a really good—a decent telescope. It's not the best.

Travis: It's not great.

Griffin: So... uh, there's a lot of things you can do with a—a telescope bully... to hurt them.

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: [laughs] Maybe shine light through one end, so it magnifies it.

Griffin: Oh, a laser beam!

Travis: No, wait, hold on. Nope, that doesn't work. That's not right. I'm thinking of a magnifying glass.

Griffin: Um—

Justin: [holding back laughter] Could you tell them that this is a model of one that you are going to order?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And that the salesman is so eager to book this sale, that he brought you a model of the one you're considering, so you can really see if it's the right fit for you.

Travis: Ooh! 'Cause you're such a whale, but they're so happy to get you.

Justin: [laughs] Right.

Travis: And they're, like, really buttering you up.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: They left one of their samples there with you. [laughs]

Travis: Ooh, or maybe, like, scratch, like, "N.D. Tyson" in it, and when someone's like, "That's a dinky telescope," be like, "Oh, is it? Fwoomp!" And then spin it around, and they're like, "Oh, shit, that was Neil deGrasse Tyson's telescope!"

And—and—it—it's not true, of course. It's—it's a lie.

Griffin: Yeah, you say—yeah, "I stole it from him. I made it mine, because of I to—I took it, so, uh..."

Travis: "Now *I* see the stars."

Griffin: "Yeah, he's dropped off, hasn't he? Haven't seen him doing his tweets lately, his sort of, uh, holier-than-thou space tweets. Well, that's because he doesn't know how to see it anymore. Because I took his favorite telescope, so..."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "Now only *I* can see the moon."

Griffin: "And now I'm the space king, so." You could take your telescope and hit it against their telescope...

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: ...until it breaks, and you'll be like, "Hmm, it seems like both our telescopes are now bad."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "It seems like we both have bad telescopes."

Travis: How do telescopes work, Justin?

Justin: Here's one thing you could try—they have two different glasses on 'em.

Travis: Oh!

Justin: Here's something you could try. When they're not—they make fun of it, and you turn around, like they just hurt your feelings 'cause they're making fun of your telescope, and I bet when you turn around, they probably even go harder on it, you know what I mean? Like, they're making fun of even the color and the, um, the second-rate brand of your telescope.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And then when you turn around, you hold it up, and what have you written there on the telescope? It's their name. And it's like—

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [through laughter, unintelligible] actually, this one is your telescope, and I was keeping it for you for a second.

Travis: [laughs] Oh, okay! I thought you were saying, "This telescope is you, and you were making fun of yourself."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs] Okay, third possibility, it's also a "Well, I got it for you as a gift. [through laughter] It's actually a gift for you."

Griffin: Yeah. That's a good one, 'cause you have so many options you do once you pull off the move.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Another thing you could do is as you're looking at the telescope and something comes on, and said, "Hey, shithead, dumb telescope," you kinda pull away from it and smile and look at it. And you just kind of stand there smiling.

And they're like, "What are you smiling a—" and then a meteor hits them and kills them?

Travis: [laughs] That's pretty good. That's a good move.

Griffin: And you walk away, whistlin' "Don't Worry, Be Happy." That's a pretty good move, and it's like the end of my, sort of, science, coming-of-age movie.

Travis: Uh-huh?

Griffin: So...

Justin: How about another question? Would you all be okay with that?

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: "Greetings, brothers. I frequently go hiking, but my legs are very long, and I often find myself passing slower hikers. I don't like to raise my voice, especially out in the serenity of the wild, so I usually just try stomping my feet real hard to get their attention." What?

"Very often, though, people have headphones in or just don't hear me stomping, and I end up shouting, 'Hey!' or 'Excuse me!' just before I pass them, to avoid getting punched. This tends to scare the hell out of people,

and I'm wondering if there's something I could be doing differently. Do I need to speak up as soon as I see them? Should I carry a cowbell with me?" That's from Sneaking's Too Easy in East Tennessee.

Griffin: This is great.

Travis: Who are these people going hiking with headphones on? How are you gonna hear bears and shit?

Griffin: No, they're listening to bears.

Travis: Wait, what?

Griffin: On the—yeah, they're listening to, like, uh, [clears throats] bear sound... uh, playlist on Spotify. Just because like, you're not always seeing bears. So if you want, like, a 4—a 24/7 bear experience.

Travis: Griffin, I meant for safety. Not for, like, enjoyment, like, "Aw, I went hiking, and I didn't see any bears." That's good! That's good.

Griffin: Well, a bear is dangerous, but the sound it make's beautiful. Beautiful choir.

Justin: Is the impetus... on Tennessee... for making their hiking trails so conducive to sneakers?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It seems like they need to have, maybe, some more mirrors... on the trail, and some more, sort of, crackly tinder, perhaps? Is that something that's an option?

Griffin: Crackly tinder?

Justin: Just, like, tinder. Like, leaves and branches? You know, tinder. Like—I'm using it in like a fire sense, but like, you know, leaves and branches on the forest floor.

Griffin: The crunchy stuff.

Justin: The crunchy—[stammers] the crunchy stuff.

Travis: More crunchies. More croutons, more pretzels, more peanut shells.

Justin: More pretzels, thank you. More melba toast. [laughs] There on the border.

Travis: You know, crunchy things!

Justin: The crunchy stuff.

Travis: You know!

Griffin: I love this question so much. There seems to be, like, a broad category of flawed human interaction. And it starts with, like, baseline level, you're at the grocery store and you're walking towards a person, and you both overcorrect—like, you both try to get out of each others' way, but keep getting in each others' way, and you do it like nine times. Just sort of moving around other human beings is a real fucked up, bad process, it feels like.

Justin: God, there's nothing—

Griffin: And this is—this is the pinnacle of that, I think, because you already in sort of a heightened sort of, like, n—nature-defense state when you're out on the trails.

Justin: Can I—can I admit something I—about the little—the little grocery store shuffle? I am somebody who is desperate for human emotion—or human connection, rather.

Travis: What?!

Justin: I live in—like, I work out of my house, right? So, like, when I leave the house, and especially if, like, my family is not around that day or

whatever, I leave the house, it's like, "Oh, people," but I'm also like an incredibly awkward... person...

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: ...in, like, a social sense. There is nothing that I delight in—I—dare I say *revel* in—as the grocery store shuffle. Because just for a moment, I have a connection with another person that is based on the both of us fucking up.

Travis: Oh, yeah yeah yeah.

Justin: And that is so—and not me fucking up and dropping a big jar of pickles on my foot and everybody's having a laugh. That's a connection of another sort. This is one where we've both—we've started this conversation with the phrase "I'm human. I'm fallible. I'm Justin." [laughs] "What's up?"

Travis: Justin, to that same point, my favorite—that kind of connection, my favorite connection is the entirely perceived connection. So, like, when you find yourself similarly at a grocery store going the opposite direction of someone else, so you keep, like, meeting in the middle of aisles. So by the end of it, you have not interacted at all, but you have become familiar with them.

Justin: Yes. Very aware.

Griffin: Mm.

Travis: I love that. Or like if you're on a long stretch of highway, and you and the same car kind of keep passing each other.

Griffin: That's legit, though.

Travis: You have not—you have not, like, spoken. You don't know who that is. But you're like, "You and me, red car. We're in this together."

Griffin: Now, that's—that's real, though. That's that—that's [singing] real love. [speaking] The car thing is, like... that's where 50 percent of marriages get started. The other 50 percent is, like, Match.com.

Justin: I—another road phenomenon, I just drove to and back from Cincinnati in like 48 hours, so I've been on the road quite a bit. Another road phenomenon I was thinking about today, this is sort of in the same category of interactions with strangers... um, isn't it a weird moment where you watch someone be a total fucking idiot in the driving capacity for, I mean, miles and miles—could go on for, like, a long time. And you just watch someone do the dumbest shit. They're, like, tailgating trucks that can't see them, and cutting you off.

And there's that moment, if you pass them, where you get to look over, and you're like, "I'm about to see what the stupidest fucking person on the Earth looks like."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [through laughter] And you're imagining in your head, like, how dumb they're gonna look and what a piece of shit and how mean and stupid and petty their face is gonna be. And it's always a let-down. They never look as hateful and—

Griffin: Like a literal—

Travis: It's never, like, the Noid.

Griffin: [bursts into laughter]

Justin: [through laughter] Exactly! It's never, like, Oscar the Grouch, like [gravelly voice] "Yeah, that's right! I drive too! Argh!"

Griffin: Okay, we're so far away from it. What's the solution here?

Justin: I want to answer this. Why is it your responsibility that other people have made themselves so murderable?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Why are you—you're letting them pass the buck onto you and make you—they should be trying to not get murdered! And that is not your problem. They need to have their head on a swivel!

Griffin: It's not fair. It's not fair. But, if I was this person, and I was walking around, listening to my bear sounds, and I was on the trail, and, you know, I got those primal instincts just flowing through me, and then a shape that wasn't there before and suddenly is there inches away from me to my side, trying to pass me, I would react with a startled, you know, roundhouse kick.

Justin: Mm.

Griffin: And that's not—it's not fair, but that's the situation. So can you just sort of sprint—like, when you get close to a person, can you just run past 'em real fast? And the fun thing about that is you can also look back, and look really scared, as if something's chasing you, and now them.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs] I do like that. What if—

Justin: Do you really wanna give someone the experience of looking behind them and seeing a long-legged monster sprinting at them?

Griffin: No, you're in front of them. You're in front of them at that point. There's a scary monster behind them, though!

Travis: What if—okay. What if, rather than sprinting past them, just when you get close enough, you do a really, like... ballet leap?

Justin: Hmm!

Travis: That's just, like, super fucking graceful. And out of the corner of their eye, they're just like, "What? A deer? A gazelle? I wouldn't punch

that!" Right? And then, like, no, that was just... an amazing human being. And then you're off.

Griffin: That's a good point. You can do a little *Lion King* makeup.

Travis: [laughs] Yes. You know what? Lean into it.

Griffin: Yeah, borrow that *Lion King* makeup from the musical, and do like an antelope, and just go springing through the—you know, right past them. They'll be scared for a second, until they see how beautiful you look.

Justin: And graceful.

Griffin: Um, so here's a Yahoo that was sent in by Stacy Trombone. Thank you, Stacy. It's from a Yahoo Answers user who is anonymous, so I'm gonna call him, uh, Ted Heaton III, State Farm agent.

Justin and Travis: [laugh]

Griffin: Just got a ad here, for Ted, and he looks pol—he looks very agreeable. And so Ted asks, "What is the right way to scold my lovebird when he does something wrong?" [pauses] This is—

Travis: It's a real bird, isn't it?

Griffin: Yeah, we're talking about a real bird that's sort of, uh, a parrot. A type of parrot. Like, a little parrot guy.

Uh, if it wasn't, though—oh, shit. No, okay, it's in the category "pets: birds," so this is not, like—you could read this, like, [creepily] "What is the right way to scold my lovebird?"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: My fuckin' parrot.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: What's wrong, Justin?

Justin: [through laughter] I got an answer for ya!

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Justin: [through laughter] I decided to go ahead and give you guys this. You know, it's so rare [wheezes] that we are actually helpful on this show, that I just wanted to give you guys some real helpful tips.

Griffin: Okay. Punish this bird.

Justin: [through laughter] Okay. Here's the rules of avian training, according to, uh, TheSprucePets.com. There's three. There's just three. And let's hope we can [through laughter] keep these tips straight.

Number one, "Never hit a bird." [laughs]

Travis: [bursts into laughter]

Griffin: Yeah, guys. Yeah, for sure. Definitely, yeah.

Justin: "Birds are *extremely* fragile creatures."

Griffin: Yeah, no shit!

Justin: "The slightest force can cause severe injury or death."

Travis: Maybe an ostrich, I might feel comfortable hitting in an extreme circumstance.

Griffin: You still shouldn't.

Justin: Uh, rule number two, "Don't hold a grudge."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah! God!

Justin: “Birds are intelligent, but also very sensitive creatures. When you express displeasure with your bird’s behavior, make the lesson short and sweet. Prolonged negative attention can cause undue emotional stress for your pet.”

And rule number three is “Never compromise your bird’s health. Don’t punish your bird [holding back laughter] by withholding food or neglecting cage cleaning.”

What is the—it is so wild to me that there is a human being that is, one, an owner of a bird, and two, an owner of a bird that thinks that they’re going to let their bird live in filth to inspire it to better its existence.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like, I—it’s a *bird*!

Griffin: So how—this—they’re so delicate. They’re so, so delicate.

Justin: And we’re not gonna punch ‘em. We’ve got that.

Griffin: What is the right way, then, to scold my lovebird when he does something wrong?

Travis: You know what? Maybe love more. Maybe say, like, “I understand why you’re doing this. It’s my fault.”

Griffin: That’s probably the right answer, yeah, but the better answer, I think, is to—they’re probably in a cage. Put their cage right in front of the TV. Put on an episode of *Frasier*. And then right when it’s, like, two minutes from done, you stop it.

Justin: Oh, it’s gonna be stuck in—it’s gonna be stuck in their head all week!

Griffin: Oh, but how did he get out of this one? And you can keep doing that with the whole series. But you would go, like, in the bathroom and finish the last couple minutes yourself.

Justin: [laughs] 'Cause you don't want—

Griffin: Don't subject yourself to that kind of torture.

Justin: You didn't refuse to eat seeds. The bird did.

Griffin: Yeah. So... yeah, you didn't yell so loud that your cousin woke up. The bird did that.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: So the bird deserves the *Frasier* blue balls, but not you. 'Cause you didn't yell so loud, your cousin woke up from a big nap.

Justin: [laughis]

Travis: An important nap. That cousin had worked the night shift, and you *know* they were tired. But it wasn't you. It was the bird.

Justin: You didn't shit in one of your Burger King *Batman Forever* collectible mugs. Your bird did.

Travis: It was the bird!

Griffin: The bird did that.

Justin: That was the bird.

Griffin: And the bird can't pretend like they didn't know that cup was important to you; they clearly know how to speak English. So...

Justin: And they know how you feel about Jim Carrey as the Riddler.

Griffin: So... that mother—you can wash it, but then the frosting of the mug is gonna come off.

Justin: Thank you.

Griffin: It's not gonna look as nice.

Justin: Yeah, nobody wants to talk about it, but it's true.

Uh, let's take a break real quick and go over to the Money Zone. How would that treat you guys?

Griffin: Mm!

Travis: Okay!

Justin: Let's go!

[theme music, "(It's a) Departure" by The Long Winters, plays]

Travis: I want to tell you...

Justin: Mm.

Travis: ...about my unders.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: As it is colloquially known, MeUndies.

Griffin: Your dumpster guard.

Travis: What?

Griffin: Your dumpster guard? It guards your dumpster.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: I would like to tell you about... my caboose cover.

Griffin: Alright, MeUndies is our sponsor.

Travis: Okay, well...

Justin: It's true.

Travis: [sighs]

Griffin: They probably want us to say the name of their co—I mean, they make—it's a Venn diagram. They make a hell of a dumpster guard, but that's not the name of the company.

Travis: If you've listened to four episodes of *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, you've probably heard us talk about MeUndies at least once, and they are my favorite underpants. And it's not just underpants. They've got brassiere options. They've got pants options. They've got a really great hoodie, like, zip-up hoodie. Their socks are incredible.

So for right now, I want you to stop what you're doing, go to MeUndies.com and take a look, and I'm gonna make it even better for you, because we have a deal for our listeners. First-time purchasers are going to get 15 percent off their first pair of MeUndies and free shipping. That's 15 percent off plus free shipping and a 100-percent satisfaction guarantee.

So go to MeUndies.com/MyBrother, that's MeUndies.com/MyBrother, get 15 percent off your first pair, free shipping. Go, MeUndies.com/MyBrother.

Griffin: Hell yeah. Hey, can I tell you about Quip?

Justin: Uhh, not unless you love it more than I do, which is unlikely.

Travis: Whoa.

Griffin: Okay, well, why don't you tell me about Quip?

Justin: You know, most toothbrush brands focus on selling flashy gimmicks rather than better brushing, but not Quip. Quip is a fraction of the cost of bulkier brushes, and packs *premium vibrations* for a perfect two-minute clean, plus the guiding pulses remind you when to switch sides, and they'll deliver new brush heads on a dentist-recommended schedule every three months for just five dollars, including free shipping worldwide.

I have been using my Quip for quite a few months. I love so much about it. One, no dumb charger. You just put in a battery, and it works for months. You—it has a case that flips over and goes onto the top, and turns it into a travel case. Otherwise, it's like a very discrete stand that you can actually use as reusable adhesive to stick to something to get it out of the way. The pulses are nice, they remind you to brush.

The subscription thing is so cool, because who remembers every three months to change their toothbrush? You don't. But Quip shows up with a fresh battery, with a head for the toothbrush, as like, "Hey—" like a, like, "I don't wanna be, like, weird about it, but it's nasty now, and you should get a new one."

And, uh, and then you do, and it's easy. You don't have to go to the drugstore or anything. You just get it and use it, and it's nice to use, it looks great. I don't know, I love this toothbrush.

Quip starts at just 25 dollars, and if you go to GetQuip.com/MyBrother right now, you'll get your first refill pack free with a Quip electric toothbrush. It's spelled GetQuip.com/MyBrother. Check it out. You will not be disappointed.

Griffin: Hey, how about a Jumbotron?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Okay. This one's for JP, or perhaps Jape, and it's from Meg, who tells Jape, "Happy first anniversary, mybby!" That's M-Y-B-B-Y, one word, so mbb-bby! "This past year has been the best ever from an adorable roll for initiative first date to buying us a house. I couldn't ask for a better life partner. Also, thank you for letting me cry so much because you are my emotional vacuum. I love you and I like you. Your bby!" Your bby!

Uh, good love here, and one, it sounds like, very, very eventful year, from first date to buying a house.

Justin: Congratulations.

Griffin: Congratulations, and that's just a great—that's just a great partnership. I would give it a 10 out of 10, so.

Travis: Well... I'm gonna say 9.9 out of 10. 'Cause I always like to leave a little bit of room there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So that someone's like, "Yeah, we did really good, but you know what? Let's work on our communication and maybe buy some more plates."

Griffin: Yeah, it's aspirational, yeah. It still gives people a thing to shoot for.

Travis: This next message is from Michael and Jessie, and it's for Jackson Yoder. "Dear Jackson, may you always puff the fattest clouds in 2018 and beyond!"

Griffin: That's great.

Travis: "Happy birthday, my dude, from your companions in sadness, Michael and Jessie."

Griffin: And if you're enjoying a vape right now, let's just do one, a big rip, just sort of across the country. Let 'em see, like... like, you know what I'm saying? Cotton across America, just like...

Travis: The rip heard around the world.

Griffin: ...cover this country in cloud, and Jackson will know what's up. Three, two, one, rip!

[pause]

Travis: [coughs]

Griffin: Blow that shit, yes!

[holding back laughter] Uh, Justin, you wanna read this next one?

Justin: Hell yeah. This one's for the KGB, from Murphy. It says, "We have an event or a booth or elections or something. I'm so glad to share this wonderful McElroy content with you guys. Thank you for making my years at CMU so amazing and memorable. Keep being the awesome people you are, and I'll see you as soon as you can build a structural house in less than a week. Motion purple and get fo." Man, there is just a lot of coded language in that one. That was just...

Travis: Is that actually for the KGB?

Justin: Maybe it's—that's unnerving...

Griffin: It might have been. Um, that's cool, though, if it is, 'cause it's like, now we're part of it, you know? The—the—the c—the big conspiracy, I guess.

Justin: Yeah, we can't get back out at this point.

Griffin: No, we're too deep in it.

Justin: Too deep. Way too deep.

Griffin: And it's real exciting, and, um... also, I think you said, "Thanks for making my ears at CMU so amazing, and that..."

Justin: No, I didn't! My year—my years. There's two Y sounds.

Griffin: Oh, it sounded like you said ears, and so I just wanted to—

Travis: He did say ears!

Griffin: It did sound like it, so I just wanted to dunk on you real fast.

Justin: No, but, okay, listen to it: my years.

Griffin: Sky-high! [makes exploding sound] Dunk! That's a dunk sound.

Justin: Say—you say it, together, at a reasonable pace.

Griffin: Sure. Thank you all, for making my... years. [crosstalk]—

Justin: No, okay, do you see what you did there?

Travis: That was—sounded perfectly normal—

Griffin: [trilling sounds] Sky-high, half court! [makes exploding sound]

Justin: Completely unnatural. No one talks like that.

[advertisement plays]

Amita: Beginning this summer, you can listen to new episodes of *Inside Pop* every other week for an even deeper dive inside the world of pop culture.

Sean: Now, we're still bringing you our brilliant insight, always on-the-nose opinions, and insider-y inside information on the most interesting pop culture stories of the week.

Amita: And we'll also have interviews with the pop culture professionals who create the culture you crave.

Sean: For example, we'll speak to casting directors about how they find the right talent for the right role.

Amita: We'll talk to music supervisors about how they choose the music to create the right mood.

Sean: And we'll grill producers, who'll discuss what exactly a producer does.

Amita: Oh, man, Sean, how many times has someone said to you, "Oh, you're a producer, so what do you actually do?"

Sean: So... many... times!

Amita: [laughs] Same here. So make sure to catch *Inside Pop*, every other Wednesday on Maximum Fun, to indulge your pop culture obsessions.

Sean: And to hear in-depth interviews from the movers and the shakers in TV, music, film, and more.

[advertisement ends]

Griffin: Next question.

Justin: Next question. [imitates guitar solo]

Griffin: That's not a question.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: [imitates guitar solo]

Travis: Oh!

Justin: [imitated guitar solo continues, makes grumbling noises]

Griffin: God, in heaven!

Travis: Oh, no.

Justin: [continues guitar solo, shifts into something like the beatboxing part from "Freak on a Leash"]

Travis: The Korn remix is really weird!

Justin: [imitating the beatboxing part of "Freak on a Leash"] I wanna munch!

Travis: Squad.

Justin: [imitates guitar solo] I want to munch!

Travis: [laughs] No! I don't care for that at all!

Justin: Yeah-wow!

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

Justin: Ow! [Disturbed impression] Ooh-ah-ah-ah! [snorts]

Travis: I—no.

Justin: "The Hummus and Pita Co. Prepares to Launch Hummus Ice Cream." It's comin'.

Griffin: [sighs] Didn't we do the hummus milkshake?

Justin: We *did* do that in Detroit, so no one will ever hear it, 'cause it was part of our *Star Wars* show.

"On the heels of the successful May launch of the first hummus shake," I'm so glad to hear it went well, by the way – and also, I should have mentioned this earlier, you can do the hummus shake. [sings tune to "Harlem Shake" by Baauer]

Griffin: Oh, that's fun.

Justin: Remember that meme?

Griffin: Yeah, sure, sure, sure.

Justin: The metacontent?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: “The brand’s first ice cream will be available at the Hummus and Pita Co’s Chelsea location beginning on National Ice Cream Day,” have they no shame, “this Sunday, July 15th,” oops, “at all locations beginning August 1st.” Okay, so you still have time to prepare.

“It’s all natural.”

Travis: Huh.

Justin: “And made with good-for-you ingredients like protein-packed chickpeas, real tahini, and pure vanilla. The four available flavors get their sweetness only from ripe dates, and creaminess from either almond milk or coconut cream. The indulgent chocolate flavor is made with almond milk.” Their goal here, as near as I can tell, is to talk long enough that you forget that they put hummus in your ice cream.

Griffin: Yeah. Sure.

Justin: Oops! Gotcha.

Travis: Alright. Straight up, though, can I tell you fools something?

Justin: Uh-oh.

Travis: The idea of, like, sweet hummus? I’m on board! Graham crackers and chocolate hummus.

Griffin: I’ve heard it’s good. I’ve heard it’s good.

Justin: I’ve had dessert hummus. That’s not what I’m saying. I’m saying... it’s just a lot of hummus to eat. It’s just—the idea—I just have a problem with “I put a scoop of hummus on this cone; do you want to enjoy it?” I’m sure it’s very delicious.

Travis: Well, sometimes—sometimes, you sit down in front of some hummus, and maybe you're talking with friends – for me, the best time to have hummus.

Justin: Oh, dude.

Travis: And suddenly, like, all the hummus is gone! And you realize, like, "I just ate a shit ton of hummus." Maybe that's what this is for, like, "Oh, I accidentally ate a lot of hummus."

Justin: I um—[laughs] the quote is very good on this one. It's from founder Dave Pesso. We never get 'em from the top, and this one comes straight from the top, from Dave.

"We were so blown away by the popularity of the hummus shake," indeed. [laughs] Indeed, yes, I would imagine, yes. "That we knew we had to keep inventing new treats," says founder Dave Pesso. "This all started when I developed the dessert hummus as a healthier alternative for my daughter, and the response..."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "...from my family was so great..."

Griffin: Oh, God!

Justin: "...that we wanted to share it with the Hummus and Pita Co. guests..."

Griffin: [laughs] As a—as a prank. As a goof.

Justin: The fiction that Dave wants you to believe is...

Griffin: Oh, my God.

Justin: ...he's at home, from his day job of being the founder of the Hummus and Pita Co. He invents dessert hummus at his house, and then as

an afterthought, decides to add it to the menu of his hummus company. Are you shitting—

Travis: “Oh, I've made some delicious hummus—oh, you know who would like this?”

Justin: “Do you know who would like this? The fucking company I founded...”

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: “...that has Hummus in the name!” Are you fucking with me, Dave?

Travis: “Hey, guys, I've got a weird thing to pitch at this board meeting. You know how we make hummus, yeah?”

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: “You're all nodding, okay. I made some hummus!” [wheezes]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: “[through laughter] Do you think we could maybe sell it? Who would I talk to about getting—oh, me?”

Travis: “It's me? Okay, great!” [laughs]

Griffin: “Great idea, self!”

Justin: [through laughter] It's also—it is also so good, the idea that Dave Pessa would make a treat that he would—he would forced on his daughter, but it may not be good enough for the guests of the Hummus and Pita Company; it's just good enough for his family.

Travis: Well, and here's what you don't know, is that he also made her a hummus dog, and a hummus bed.

Justin: [laughs] Everything—

Travis: And bought her her first hummus car.

Justin: —is hummus.

Griffin: Um...

Justin: I bet it tastes fine, though.

Griffin: I bet it tastes good.

Justin: I bet it tastes good, it's just a lot.

Griffin: I enjoy hummus, and I've heard good reviews of the sweet hummus. It's just—it's the—when you—for me, it's the removal of the act of dipping.

Justin: Mm.

Griffin: That then makes it—hummus shake, hummus ice cream, I'm sure they taste good. I still know that I am scoopin' heapin' helpin's of just pure chickpea sort of mash into my gob. And that's the thing—that's the thing I have trouble sort of gettin' over, I guess.

But—wait, is this—they call it ice cream. Is it non-dairy? It sounds like it. It sounds like it's just chickpeas and vanilla and tahini and almond milk or coconut cream, right?

Justin: It's dairy-f—it's, uh, gluten-free, dairy-free, and vegan.

Griffin: Fuck.

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: I bet it's—damn, actually, I bet this would go down real smooth.

Travis: Hold on.

Griffin: Okay, is this the first—this might be the first Munch Squad you've done where I'm like, alright, I might fuck with this.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I think it's only in New York, but we're gonna be there after it launches. Let's get over there. Let's give it a shot.

Griffin: How about a Yahoo?

Justin: Yeah, do it.

Griffin: Okay. This one was sent in by, like, virtually every person who emailed us this week. Um, I have not seen a consensus like this in some time. It's from another question mark user, so I'm gonna call 'em, um, uh, Four Dogs Working Together to Use a Computer, asks...

Justin: [laughs softly]

Griffin: "Would you be embarrassed if someone tried to kill you in public?"

Travis: [bursts into laughter] "Oh, God! Oh, golly, is my face red!"

Griffin: You're at the party, and there's a bunch of, you know, college drinking going on, partying, dancing, uh, listening to LMFAO, just the staple college party stuff, and then Scream-face smashes in through the window, and you're like, "Aw, fuck. I'm so sorry. I will pay for the window. This guy sucks ass, and I am so sorry. I did not invite him. He keeps trying to do a killing to me, and it sucks. I'm so—I'll leave. He's gonna chase me, like, down into the tunnel, but then he gets lost in the tunnel, and he gets really tired, 'cause he's, like, not good at killing.

So I can be back here in like a half hour? I can actually swing by a SuperAmerica and pick up another 18-pack of, uh, you know, Coors."

Travis: "Okay, bye!"

Justin: "Bye!"

Griffin: "Alright, see ya. I gotta go."

Travis: Ahh. See, I was picturing more of, like, you're walking through, perhaps, like a square in Venice.

Griffin: Mm.

Travis: It's beautiful buildings everywhere. Perhaps you're walking through, like, an outdoor café, where people are sipping their espressos. And suddenly, as a sniper shoots at you from atop a cathedral, they miss, but you're really embarrassed.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Ugh! Everybody looks up from their espressos. And they're like, "Who are you?"

And you're like, "Oh.. I'm sorry."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "I'm sorry. Please get back to your espressos. I just—I have some international secrets..."

Griffin: "I'm Doug Bourne. And um, let's just say, I'm sort of a hot target for the..."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "You name it, man. CIA, KGB. I'm the other Bourne, Doug Bourne."

Justin: Hey—

Griffin: "Do you wanna see me—Do you wanna see me jump super high?"

Justin: Do you think Damon has the guts to star in a movie called *Doug Bourne: Hot Target*?

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Justin: [laughs] 'Cause I think if I saw that in the DVD shelf, I might still give it the pass on by, but I'd give it a good think about real quick.

Griffin: [sighs] I was just doing a reading about the Bournes... movies.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Did you all know they made one, and they didn't want to do the director they'd done for the other ones, and so Matt Damon, uh, from *The Martian*, said, "No, I'm not gonna be in it, 'cause I love that director."

And so they said, "Okay, we'll get Jeremy Renner instead, and just Jason Bourne won't be in this *Jason Bourne* movie."

So really, the idea of *Doug Bourne: Hot Target* has precedent in—it would be a Bourne movie without the right Bourne in it, he's the wrong Bourne, sort of a-man-who-knew-too-little situation, just stumbling around and, uh...

Justin: That one didn't even have—like, *The Bourne Legacy* didn't even have any Bournes, right? It's, like, Bourne-free.

Griffin: *Bourne Free* would've been a way better title.

Travis: Aw, fuck!

Justin: *Bourne Free* would've been good.

Travis: I think at one point, somebody saw the back of Jason Bourne's head, and they were like, "Was that Jason Bourne?" But then he was gone, and that's how they, like, tied it in.

Griffin: Yes, I would be pretty embarrassed, I guess. I would be embarrassed because of, you know, me. I would probably not make some great noises.

Justin: Right.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: If I was running away from the *It Follows* monster. 'Cause you think about the *It Follows* monster, and you think, like, "Wow, that must suck, having to constantly stay on the run," but then you also gotta think about, sort of, you're at the grocery store, and you're walking down the aisle. There's another person walking down the aisle towards you, and you go to the left, and they go to the left, and you go to the right, and they go to the right, and you're like, "I need you to get the fuck out of the way, 'cause if this thing touches me, it's gonna fuck my body up."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: It sort of adds multiple layers to it. That or they are actually the *It Follows* monster, and they're just stopping at the store.

Travis: If there's one thing I know about the *It Follows* monster, it's that it follows.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And so I don't—I've never seen it, so I don't know at what distance, but it's not called the *It Catches* monster.

Griffin: Oh, no, it ca—oh, Trav, it does a catch in the movie!

Travis: Oh, it does?

Griffin: [through laughter] Oh, boy, it does a big catch!

Travis: Then it's really misnamed! It should be called the *It Catches You* monster.

Griffin: Yeah. It wants to, and when it does, yow-za!

Justin: Yeah. It ain't pretty.

Griffin: You gotta see that movie, Trav. It bangs, dude.

Travis: Is it scary?

Griffin: Oh, fuckin' yeah!

Justin: Yeah, yeah!

Travis: Then I'm not gonna watch it. Why would I do that?

Justin: Anyway, this has been our movie review segment.

"I work at a very successful startup with a casual atmosphere and very friendly people."

Griffin: Net Nanny.

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: What?

Justin: It's Net Nanny. The company's Net Nanny.

Travis: The startup, Net Nanny?

Griffin: They're still—they're still trying to get some investments.

Justin: They think like a startup, [laughs] and that's why they've been so successful.

Griffin: That's—y'all ever think about Net Nanny 2018? I don't think it exists anymore, but there was a period where we were like, "I don't want all the internet."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "I just want—"

Travis: "Some of it's real dirty."

Justin: Haven't—hi, as Justin McElroy, a 37-year-old man in the year 2018, can I get Net Nanny?

Griffin: Yeah, for sure.

Justin: 'Cause I would love to have less of it. If you could give me less of it.

Travis: I need an adult to tell me—like, to be the voice of reason, of like, this is—you don't get all the internet you want.

Griffin: I need—

Travis: Here's the internet you need, and that's all you can have.

Griffin: I need like one eighth of Wikipedia and Club Penguin, and I am good to go.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Everything else is just a fucking distraction.

Justin: Anyway. [laughs] "We have a large, open office with an employee kitchen in the center. Oftentimes, you'll be getting coffee or your lunch and another employee will walk in and do their own thing. Usually, there's a polite 'Hi, how are you,' and that's it.

"However, there's one employee, a higher-up with the company, who also does this, but instead of moving on after the greeting, stares at me expectantly, waiting for more to be said. When there never *is* more to be

said. He then says... [pauses] [sighs] 'Well, I guess that's the end of *that* conversation.'"

Griffin: Christ almighty.

Justin: [laughs] "And continues to do his thing in the kitchen around me." Holy fucking shit. "This also isn't a one-time thing per employee. He has done this to me and others multiple times." This is—

This is *monstrous*. "What should I and the rest of my office do when confronted with this awkward character?" That's from *Anxious in the Big Apple*.

Griffin: Ohhh, my God.

Justin: We've been in the game long enough that I worry, now, people don't even want help. They just want, like, us to take a little of the load. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: They're just trying to take a couple of the packs that they have and sling 'em onto our backs, just a little help on the road.

Griffin: We've—our rind has been toughened by doing this podcast, so I think we can—we can haul a little bit more than the average bear, but good lord, this person's a literal demon. An absolute demon. It's just so—

Alright. What can we do? Um, what I think you should do is they walk up and they say, "Hey, how's your day going?"

And you say, "Well, I guess that's the end of *that* conversation!" And you walk away.

Travis: Ho!

Griffin: 'Cause they can't do it.

Travis: What if you just skip the middle, and you say, "Well, thank you for asking!" and then you walk away.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: 'Cause that acknowledges, like, "Hey, I appreciate you," which is probably [hushed voice] exactly what they wanna feel...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...but you don't have to say anything more than that. Or say—"You know, that's not what matters. What matters here is, how are *you*?"

Justin, I'd like to roleplay this out with you.

Justin: Oh, happily, yeah, for sure.

Travis: You say to me—I have an idea. You say to me, "How are you?"

Justin: Okay. That's as far as the script goes?

Travis: No, that's what you say. And then I have a response. We're gonna see how it works.

Griffin: Qui—what do I do? What could I be?

Justin: Can Griffin—

Travis: Griffin, you be, uh, Jim in the back. Jim Halpert, makin' some coffee.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: How about Griffin has just made a delivery, and he's saying his goodbyes to everyone, and then he'll see us again soon, and then our scene will commence directly after Griffin's goodbyes?

Travis: Oh, I like that. And where do we work? Can we get a suggestion from the audience? Where do we work?

Griffin: [loudly] Staples! Staples!

Travis: Sta—I heard Staples. Okay. Staples Corporate?

Griffin: Alright.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Uh, I got a delivery here. Uh, it's for, uh, the rest of the Staples. And... go ahead and sign here for me. This is a nice place y'all have here.

Travis: Oh, thank you.

Griffin: Do you mind if I use your, uh, toilet?

Justin: [quiet, wheezing laughter]

Travis: Oh, we don't have one.

Griffin: Huh?

Travis: We don't have one.

Justin: [continues laughing]

Griffin: Well, I see you've got a big, open elevator shaft over there. Do you mind if I sort of figure it out in there?

Travis: Yeah, go for it.

Justin: [strained voice] Jeffrey said we don't have a toilet. That means we don't have a toilet. Are you saying my friend Dillup is a liar?

Griffin: No, yeah, no, I believe you. I'm just gonna use the big elevator shaft.

Travis: Go piss in the elevator shaft. That's what we all do.

Griffin: Oh, it's not—no, it's the—uh, the o—the other one.

Travis: You can do that in the elevator shaft, too.

Justin: [strained voice] Hey, I have a question before you go.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [strained voice] If you were a hot dog...

Griffin: Yeah, great.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Yeah. I haven't heard anything like this before in my life, so go ahead and keep talking. Like, I don't—if it's a reference to something, I don't know what it is, so I just assume you're having a conversation with me, 'cause I don't know it.

Justin: [high pitched laughter]

Travis: Just a quick—quick timeout for the people at home, this is going exactly how I thought it would play out in this scenario.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So I hope someone's taking notes.

Justin: [laughing continues]

Travis: Okay. Time in.

Griffin: Yeah, okay.

Uh, yeah, I don't have a TV or anything, so I miss a lot of references. So I just assume right now you're telling me that, um, you're a big hot dog enthusiast, so... go ahead and keep going?

Justin: [through laughter, strained] Would you eat yourself? [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, that's a hell of a question.

Travis: Wow, that is such a—yeah, it's a good question. I have never heard that either. Um...

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Uh...

Griffin: Probably not, 'cause I recently ate old 4th of July hot dogs. I'm pretty sure I have food poisoning right now...

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: We've all been there.

Griffin: ...hence the sort of elevator shaft panic, so that's a no.

Justin: When I play a character, a lot of times, um—

Travis: Oh, wait, hold on. Is this a timeout?

Griffin: This is another timeout.

Justin: [coughing] Yeah, quick time out from the scene.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Time out, time out.

Justin: When I play a character, I guess... I guess I just kind of accidentally sounded a little bit like Will Ferrell's impression of Harry Caray.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: Oh, is that what it was?

Justin: And then I just wanna—I kinda wanna do a bit from that.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: No, I got that. I definitely got that. It's just that Avery, my character, didn't know that.

Justin: [wheezes] Okay. Well, let's—can we—

Travis: Here's the weird thing. My character, Dillup, did get it, but me, Travis, didn't.

Justin: [coughing] Can we get back into the scene?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, let's get back in.

Justin: Alright. Have you left yet, Griffin?

Griffin: I guess so. Are you really that tired of the Avery?

Justin: [through laughter] No, I love it.

Griffin: Time out, time out, time out, time out.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Do you want Avery to leave?

Justin: No, I actually think Avery's bringing a lot to the scene, but I feel like the tone...

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: ...of Avery's exit has to match the...

Griffin: Yeah, that's fine.

Justin: ...the rising tone of our scene.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: So—

Travis: Or maybe Avery can—Avery can always re-enter, Griffin. I mean, we found that test audiences really enjoy Avery. So we're willing to make it kind of the Urkel character of the whole thing.

Griffin: Okay. Yeah, okay. Uh, time in.

Later, suckers. I'm crotch chopping.

Justin: [wheezes] [pauses] So how are you?

Travis: I know, right?

Griffin: Ding! [makes door noise] Uh, the elevator got the doors open. No car. Sure enough, this thing is empty as hell. Well, here I go! Can I get a spotter? I'm just sort of—does somebody have a belt I can use to kind of tie myself to this guardrail? 'Cause I'm really—oh nooo!

Travis: We find out in episode 2 that he survived 'cause he landed on the pile of shit from previous times people had used it.

Griffin: It's a real Shawshank situation. Let's end this fucking show.

Justin: Thank you so much for listening to *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. We hope you have enjoyed yourselves. Have as much as we have.

We, uh, are gonna be heading out on the road for a book tour this week, as you are—this week, as the crow flies, as you're listening to this. Uh, most of those are sold out, but I think we do have some tickets available for the Cincinnati show that's gonna be on Wednesday, the 18th at the Taft.

You can get tickets to that at McElroyShows.com/Tours, as well as our show in Orlando and Atlanta on August 31st and September 1st respectively, so get tickets to those and we hope to see you there.

Travis: I have something to say, real quick, because this is the episode, yeah, the week of it, so San Diego Comic-Con is this weekend. We do the *Adventure Zone* thing Friday night, and then Saturday, I am doing autographing with Dad and Carey Pietsch, who is the artist on *The Adventure Zone Graphic Novel*. Uh, from 11:00 to noon at table AA19. It is ticketed – tickets are free, I believe, but it is a limited number of tickets for that.

I am also doing one with the cast of Maximum Fun's *Bubble*, which I am a member of. 1:00 to 1:45 at table AA08, once again that is ticketed. And then from 2:00 to 3:00, we're doing a panel, *The Adventure Zone Graphic Novel* of me, Dad, and Carey Pietsch, moderated by Jackie Jennings, who was one of the story producers on the *My Brother, My Brother and Me* TV show.

Griffin: Oh, hell yeah!

Travis: Location is 28DE. So that's hall 28DE. And then 5:00 to 6:00 on Saturday, I'm doing a panel with Maximum Fun's *Bubble*, and the location for that is Neil Morgan Auditorium, San Diego central library.

Uh, one more, Sunday, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, How to Be a Nerd for a Living Panel: Breaking into Careers in Geek Culture, and that's location Grand 1 and 2, Marriott Marquis, San Diego Marina.

Some come to those! And you might also probably just, like, see me around.

Griffin: Yeah. But not us, 'cause we're fuckin' out of there. We're takin' off. We're scootin'. I might not make it to next week, actually, depending on... how the next couple days goes. Uh, I—

Travis: 'Cause of the—the—the hot dogs?

Griffin: Yeah. So thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network, though. You can go to MaximumFun.org, you can check out all the great shows. Shows like *Stop Podcasting Yourself* and *The Flop House* and *Story Break* and *Switchblade Sisters*, all on Maximum Fun. And you can check out other stuff we at McElroyShows.com.

And thanks 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*.

And... is there anything else?

Travis: Uh, McElroyMerch.com.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah. For sure. Anything else?

Travis: No, that's it.

Griffin: Here's one that's sent in by Jordan Brandon. This is our final Yahoo of the day. It was asked by Yahoo Answers User... sorry, something has gone wrong. So I'm gonna call them... Amazon. Asks—I mean, there's an Amazon ad, and there's a Discover Card ad, but also—

Travis: No, you did great.

Justin: No.

Griffin: Amazon asks, "What is the name Todd short for?"

Justin: [snorts] 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, "(It's a) Departure" by The Long Winters, plays and ends]

[chord plays]

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Paula: Hi, I'm Paula Poundstone.

Adam: And I'm Adam Felber.

Paula: Adam, I haven't gotten one thing done today.

Adam: Well, let me see your to-do list. Ah, yeah, well, here: make 30-second promo for *Nobody Listens to Paula Poundstone*, so at least you're getting that done.

Paula: Score!

Adam: Except you haven't said what the show's about.

Paula: We're like a comedy field guide to life, starring me and you! I give useful advice, and we have real experts to talk about things like how to keep a friend, or what to do when you encounter a bear.

Adam: Bully for you, but you haven't said where people can find the show.

Paula: Oh! MaximumFun.org, or wherever you find your podcasts!