## MBMBaM 502: American Psycho 2: The Squeakquel

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**Jesse:** Hi. It's Jesse, the founder of Max Fun. We promised you a Max Fun Drive this week, but things haven't exactly gone how we expected. So, given the pandemic, we're going to postpone this year's drive. Events are still fluid, so we're hesitant to give you specifics about new dates. Right now, we have late April penciled into our calendars. We'll keep you posted about that.

As it stands, a lot of our Drive machinery was already cranked up, so for one thing, you might hear a reference or two to the drive in our shows, which might've been recorded before we made this decision. And here's some good news, there's a bunch of great bonus content available for all of our Max Fun members. If you're a member and you missed the email with instructions on how to listen, check your spam folder or log in at MaximumFun.org/manage.

Also at MaximumFun.org/manage, you can change your membership if your circumstances have changed. We know this is a tough time for a lot of people, and we understand. You can also go to MaximumFun.org/join at any time, if you'd like to become a member.

During the next couple weeks, what would have been the Drive, we are going to do our best to be extra available to you. We've got some streaming events planned, some social media stuff. We know a lot of folks are isolated right now, and we wanna help provide comfort in the best ways that we know how. You can follow us on social media, and we'll let you know what's up.

During this tough time, I have been feeling really grateful for my community of colleagues here at Max Fun, and for you, the folks who make our work possible, goofy as that work may sometimes be. Stay safe out there. We're thinking of you.

**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, everyone, and welcome to—hold on, let me—[laughs] let me open this book to a new chapter. [creaking noise] Welcome to the new era of *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, a lifestyle experience guide.

Travis: Ooh!

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** My name is Justin McElroy. I'm your oldest guide.

**Griffin:** Hey, this is Griffin. I go second now.

Travis: Woah!

Griffin: And uh, yeah, I'm all about just sort of these orbs, guys!

Travis: Hi, I'm Travis.

[pauses]

**Griffin:** Alright.

**Travis:** Yup.

**Justin:** See, it's so weird. I will wait three hours for Griffin to do his now.

**Griffin:** Hey, it's me, Griffin, again. Just checking in about these orbs.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] You touched these orbs yet? No? You gotta get with

these orbs, man!

**Travis:** Hi, I'm Travis. I'm kind of the CFO of our lifestyle brand.

**Griffin:** Mm-hm.

**Travis:** I'm not so much on the creative, but I make sure everyone gets paid and that their health insurance stays current, so—

**Griffin:** He's afraid of these orbs! I keep telling him, nothing to be afraid of, unless you drop one on your foot.

**Travis:** I appreciate the orbs, but I am looking at the books, and it does say here in our ledgers that we still use for some reason...

Griffin: Right.

**Travis:** ... that it is time to pay the piper.

**Griffin:** Oh, that's right, yeah.

**Justin:** Oh, boy. Thank you, Travis, for bringing up this awkward—now, listen. We begged Travis not to do this. [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs]

Travis: Yes.

Justin: We begged him. We said, "It's a new era..."

**Travis:** Creatives over here, they were saying, like, "We're focused on this—on these artisanal paper..."

Griffin: Right.

**Travis:** "... and artisanal glasses... uh, artisanal air, Griffin, you said at one point, which I didn't... get... "

**Griffin:** Well, it's inside the orbs, isn't it?

**Travis:** ... I guess.

**Griffin:** Something's gotta be in there.

**Travis:** And I said, someone—there's a piper here, there's an artisanal piper that you guys ordered, and someone needs to pay them.

**Griffin:** Um, so we're gonna talk a little more about it later in the show, but should we um, just start uh, just you know, telling people about what kind of a new body slime...

Travis: Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** ... we're into... and what kind of... acupuncture needles we're all about these days?

**Travis:** Do you know what's way in, Griffin?

**Griffin:** What is it?

**Travis:** It's getting wet and rolling around in sand, and then just getting dressed over that and going about your day.

Griffin: Oh!

**Travis:** It's like, a natural exfoliant.

**Griffin:** Just having a little gritty time in the city.

Travis: Yeah.

**Griffin:** I like this. And it's the end of the day, your boss is riding your freaking jock trying to get you to file those reports, you get home, you take a shower, a pearl falls out of your butt. Crack.

Travis: Yup.

**Griffin:** It can happen! It does happen, every day, to people like you. And now it can happen—I'm afraid Justin died.

**Justin:** We're gonna start out with kind of a retro vibe, and take a question from our listenership, and then we'll ease into some of the bigger changes.

**Griffin:** [laughs] Sure.

**Travis:** We should point out—and you know what, we should also point out, we are recording this, for the first time ever, weeks ahead of time.

**Griffin:** [laughs] Right.

**Travis:** Which is why our first question is about Valentine's Day, which will seem weird...

Griffin: Right.

**Travis:** ... when you hear this, in like, mid-March.

**Justin:** "I collected money for a Valentine's Day singing gram for one my professors, and got one dollar from one girl and two dollars in quarters from a guy. The gram is five dollars. Then I got so dang busy, I didn't find the time to buy the gram. Their money is sitting on my desk. It's been three days. They haven't asked, but I know they didn't get a singing gram. Do I steal their three dollars, or awkwardly give it back?"

**Travis:** Now, I just wanna clarify, because Justin used the wrong word there, *they* know that the professor didn't get a singing gram. So the two people that this question asker collected money from are well aware that that money was not spent...

**Griffin:** On a gram.

**Travis:** ... on a singing telegram.

Justin: Okay.

**Griffin:** Is this not why Venmo was invented? Or PayPal? Or whatever your—

**Travis:** Oh, I—someone just—Sharon just sent you two dollars with the note, "I fucked up Valentine's Day."

**Griffin:** Yeah! Like, yeah! Like, yes. It's how you send money when you're embarrassed. It's how you pay for things you're scared about, you know?

Travis: Mm-hm.

**Justin:** You could call it an investment in next year's gram.

Travis: Ooh!

**Justin:** "Thank you for your early support of a building on a layaway plan, a layaway gram."

**Travis:** There you are. What I'm—listen, it's been a while. I've been in and out of the game for a while now when it comes to singing telegrams for professors. But five dollars seems awfully low, doesn't it?

**Griffin:** It seems like not very much money. I don't think you can buy any—this may be the only thing you can get with five dollars.

**Travis:** Yeah, a human being is going to have to use their mouth to sing in public in front of another human being who is looking at them, for *five dollars*?

**Griffin:** You could uh, *Uncut Gems* it, and put these—this three-ski on the horsies, on the ponies, let it ride.

**Justin:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** And say, like, if they come to you, like, "Hey, I do need those quarters back."

You can be like, "Listen, it's all—it's not liquid right now! It's tied up in the ponies, isn't it?"

**Justin:** [laughs] Tell 'em it's not liquid. "I gave this three dollars to the singing guy as a deposit for him to start learning the hit song you wanted to sing, 'Drops of Jupiter' by Train..."

Travis: Yup.

**Griffin:** Mm.

**Justin:** "...but he's a—'cause he's uh, one of those planet professors, you know?"

Griffin: Oh, yeah!

**Justin:** "And... [laughs] you know. And uh—"

**Travis:** Planetology.

Justin: "It's not liquid."

**Griffin:** He gets up there, day one, and he's like, "My very energetic mother just served us nine pizzas. That's the acronym, and I'll see you guys next year."

**Travis:** You know what's weird about that, Griffin? It's not pizzas anymore.

**Griffin:** Ah, we can't talk about fucking Pluto. Nobody cares about.

"It's a planet."

"It's not."

Travis: Clearly.

**Griffin:** "I like it, it's small, bluh." It's a big rock in space, guys. There's lots of 'em.

**Travis:** Not enough.

Justin: Would you guys like a singing telegram? Like, would you like if that

showed up at your place of—

Travis: No!

**Griffin:** You—right—from you right now?

**Justin:** Not from me right now, but like if you got one in your day-to-day.

Griffin: Mm.

**Travis:** I would feel threatened if that happened.

Justin: Okay.

**Travis:** If someone came up to me, and said, "Hey, I have to tell you something," and started singing at me, I don't know that the feeling I would feel would be one of love or gratitude.

Like, this is the thing, right? Can we all just be honest with ourselves that this kind of thing, or like delivering a big bouquet of balloons, while part of it, yes, is sweet and thoughtful, the other half is like, "I wanna embarrass you a little."

Griffin: "I wanna humil—I wanna fucking shame you."

**Travis:** Right? Like, that—"I'm gonna make a big spectacle." Because if you just stand there, nodding, like, "Yes, I deserve this and I appreciate it," like, that's not how that's supposed to go. You're supposed to kind of cover your face and be embarrassed by this thing happening.

Griffin: Yeah.

**Travis:** Why is that how we're choosing to show our love to one another?

**Griffin:** Yeah. "[gruff voice] For three dollars, let's see what we could— Huey, what could we do for three dollars? We could dump a bunch of pain on them. Do you want that? We can accidentally squeeze some toothpaste on their pants, and make it look like they did have a naughty accident. Do you like that?"

**Justin:** Uh, this is embarrassing. Um, about a—mm, probably th—oh, boy, it's been about 16 years ago. Um, the first Valentine's day we were together, my wife—my now-wife and I, then-girlfriend, Sydnee...

**Griffin:** [Borat impression] My now-wife!

**Travis:** [snorts]

**Justin:** No, you can't—I didn't even open the door to it. That's actually a bad—you have to turn around three times and throw salt over your left shoulder, or Borat will kill you in your sleep.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Um, you—I uh, for Valentine's Day, there was this group that was doing um, like, these sorts of things, but they were—they did a—they called it a VLQ, or a Very Large Quartet, and basically—

Travis: Ooh.

**Justin:** A—just a grip of the oldest fellas you've ever seen in your entire life...

**Griffin:** [laughing loudly]

**Justin:** ... show up at a place and sing a song, right? And uh, it was beautiful. It went perfectly. Sydnee was at rehearsal for a play, and they showed up at rehearsal, and just like, dazzled and it was very romantic. And it was like—it was really lovely.

Um, about six months ago, I started... [laughs] thinking, "Did I pay those guys?"

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Oh, no!

**Justin:** It was not a money-up—hold on. [laughs] Don't rush to judgment. It was not a money-up-front kind of deal. It was, you know, you do it and make a little deposit and then uh, we'll do the singing, and you can make it right later. And then I realized—

**Travis:** That's a bad business model, old dudes, by the way.

**Griffin:** That's not good.

**Justin:** Yeah, but they're so old and trusting. So I did this, and I got to thinking about six months ago, "I never paid these fucking guys for this thing."

**Griffin:** Stop, Justin!

**Justin:** And then I started thinking, like, "I gotta make this right," you know? I can get it liquid. I can get it liquid, however much—

**Griffin:** Get it liquid, dude! Get it wet!

**Justin:** I can get it liquid, however much it costs. And then I started thinking, and this was unpleasant to consider, but... most of those guys are [through laughter] probably... um... a lot of them are probably dead, and that is when I started to feel really bad. 'Cause at this point, I'd be paying money to, like, their sons.

**Griffin:** Their estates.

**Justin:** Their singing sons.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** Their estates, right? Kicking in a few bucks here and there.

**Travis:** Or it might be a tontine situation...

Griffin: Yes.

**Travis:** ... where the very large quartet has just been saving all the money that they make... and the last one kicking, which'll probably be the baritone, let's be honest...

**Griffin:** The only source of income the surviving members of this group need to worry about, is Justin's unpaid deposit plus the juice.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah, the juice has been flowing.

**Griffin:** My man, it's—it—we're talking six figures, bud.

Travis: Yeah.

**Justin:** Their page is still active. I mean, their website is still active, but there's no online option. So I would have to come—like, I would have to make a phone call...

Travis: Yeah.

**Justin:** ... that's like, "Hello, this is Justin McElroy. You probably know me from how they talked about me at the meetings for a decade, but like, how's the juice right now? Like, what's—"

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Do you want us to sit here on the phone—like, on the call with you while you call them? Like, we'll be here for emotional support, if you want.

**Griffin:** Oh, that could be really good!

**Travis:** That would be, like, a really special thing for the Max Fun Drive episode.

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** Yeah, okay, hold on.

Griffin: [laughs] Alright, but hold on.

Justin: Hold on a second.

**Griffin:** This can't be like our prank episode. Travis, you and I have to

button it the fuck up, dude.

**Travis:** Yep, yep, yep.

**Justin:** You guys talk about that for a second while I uh—while I do this.

**Griffin:** And let's... have Justin do a very good phone call while me and

Travis really button it up.

Call Receiver: Hello?

**Justin:** Uh, hi. Uh, I had a question regarding the ThunderTones.

**Call Receiver:** Yes, what would you like to know?

**Justin:** Well, okay. Um, I didn't think anybody would answer, uh, so I'm a

little nervous, but um... in...

**Call Receiver:** [laughs]

**Justin:** ...I think it was—

**Call Receiver:** No reason to be nervous. You—

**Justin:** Well, you haven't heard... okay. So in 2005, you all did a singing telegram for my uh—she was my girlfriend then, and she's my wife now. She was very touched by it. And I realized about six months ago that I never paid for it, and I feel really, really bad about it, and I have for quite some time. And I know that there's juice on it, I know the interest has been

collecting for many years. I'm sure you all have been talking about it a lot. And I just wanted to make it right, and—

**Call Receiver:** Yeah, it's up to 3,000 dollars. No, that's not true. Um, we—I don't—I was not in the group at that time, and I don't even know what kind of record—we don't have any records, I don't think they go that far, or if they do, they're so buried.

I will tell you this. If you want to make that right, just so your conscience will be soothed, you may send a check. Uh, let's see, 2005. Do you remember how much it was for? 'Cause it's now 50 dollars. I don't know what they were back then.

**Justin:** I mean, 50 dollars sounds—that sounds more than fair. There was a whole lot of people there. I mean, there was a VLQ, they called it, a Very Large Quartet, which is a good joke—

Call Receiver: Oh, okay. Okay.

**Justin:** 50 dollars sounds fair, but if you want it to be more—I mean, I feel so terrible. You really got me over a barrel on this one.

**Call Receiver:** No. No, not at all. I appreciate your honesty, and that is no problem at all. Why don't you just send a 50-dollar check to The ThunderTones? Make it out to The ThunderTones.

Justin: Okay.

**Call Receiver:** And just send it to my address. I'm the president of the group. My name is [censored beep], but you don't need to know that. Just make the check out to the ThunderTones, and then my address is as follows: [censored beep].

**Justin:** Well, thank you so much. I really appreciate you letting me get my conscience clear. I feel like a new chapter has begun, and I'm ready to move forward with a clean conscience. I mean, for this. There's lots of other terrible things, but...

**Call Receiver:** Well, congrat—[laughs]

**Justin:** ... for this one thing, I feel good about.

**Call Receiver:** I was gonna say—I was gonna say, now you can go back and return all those books that you checked out at the library that you never returned. So uh—

Justin: [laughs]

**Call Receiver:** So—[laughs] So thank you very much for your patronage. By the way, we just finished that up, and we did 38 Valentine's this year. Had two quartets go out, it was very successful. Keep us in mind for next year, and I'm sure that you wouldn't mind uh, recruiting on something like that.

**Justin:** I love that you can trust me again. I—history, you know, is not on my side. I'm impressed that you're willing to forgive and forget.

**Call Receiver:** That is no problem at all. I wasn't expecting it in the first place, and like I said, we don't have a record of it, so don't worry about that.

**Justin:** But hey, y'all must be rolling in it now, though! 38 times 50, I'm loving that math!

**Call Receiver:** Well, I'll tell you what. It is our largest fundraiser. Even uh—we make more off this than we do even our annual show that we do in the fall.

**Justin:** Is that one spookier? Kind of a scary—scary thing, lots of haunted jump scares and stuff like that?

**Call Receiver:** We did—no, no. We did one of those. We did a show that was kind of—had that theme, but no, it varies from year to year, and recently we've been going with songs that everybody's familiar with. This last one was the British invasion, and we did a bunch from uh, Beatles and uh, Herman's Hermits, and uh, stuff like that. So it's a lot of fun.

And if you sing, heck, come by and see us.

**Justin:** Okay. Uh, I'll give you just a sample. Let me know what you think. [singing] Stay a while with me, just stick around and see what happens! What will be, will be, and we'll—

Call Receiver: We can work with that.

**Justin:** Yeah, we can work with that. That's excellent. Hey, uh, Rick, you've been so cool...

**Call Receiver:** [laughs]

**Justin:** ... thank you so much. My brothers put me up to this. I told them this story, and they forced me to call for our uh, our podcast, and you will—that check will be rolling your way here in a couple days.

**Call Receiver:** Tell me your name?

**Justin:** Justin McElroy.

**Call Receiver:** Justin McElroy. Well, thank you very much, Justin. I'll look forward to that check and that amount. And also, give me your contact information as well.

**Justin:** Yes, I'm at—now, this is for the lawsuit, isn't it? 'Cause I've had the juice running too long.

**Call Receiver:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Alright, thanks, Rick. Take it easy.

Call Receiver: Okay, you too. Thank you, Justin. Appreciate it.

Justin: Bye-bye.

Griffin: [alarm noise] You just got pranked, baby!

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs] I can't believe they had forgotten about it.

**Travis:** No, Justin, they didn't. I can't believe Rick acted like he had forgotten about it so convincingly.

**Griffin:** Yeah, and did you also hear how when you gave him your name, with a little bit of a smile, as if he was then gonna be like, "Oh, damn, Justin McElroy?" and then there was no recognition at all.

Justin: Oh, I didn't think it was—

**Griffin:** And I got a shiver down my spine.

**Justin:** I didn't think—[laughs] I didn't think he'd be like, "Aw, shit, Justin McElroy from podcasts." I literally thought he was looking for a list of, like, shitheads.

Travis: Yeah.

**Justin:** I said to him to remember me from the shithead list, not—

**Travis:** Yeah, when you said Justin McElroy—

**Justin:** What, do you think he's a fucking *Things I Bought at Sheetz* fan?

**Griffin:** [laughs loudly]

**Travis:** [laughs]

Justin: I was expecting Rick to be a fan of my YouTube series? Come on!

**Travis:** When you said, "Justin McElroy," he just reached over to the notepad in his passenger seat and marked off your name under "People I need to kill."

Griffin: Yeah.

**Justin:** There is also—he's from Huntington. If I said my name, it was not that he would know me, it was probably that—thinking that he'd know my dad.

Griffin: Yeah.

**Justin:** And would say, like, "Oh, this fucking figures."

**Travis:** Hey, you're gonna, like, bleep out his address and stuff, right? So we don't doxx Rick.

**Griffin:** [groans] I hope so. I hope so. Ooh, I hope so. But sometimes, I don't pay very close attention to these, don't I?

**Travis:** Hey, maybe this could become, like, a new segment where Justin just clears his conscience, like, one thing at a time.

**Griffin:** Ooh, cleaning out the closet! I like that!

**Justin:** Only bad thing I ever did, though.

Griffin: Oh.

Travis: Well...

**Justin:** That's the only one.

**Griffin:** Okay.

Hey, I've got a Yahoo here. Do you wanna hear it?

Justin: Sure.

**Griffin:** Sent in by Jeannette. Thanks, Jeannette. It's Yahoo Answers

User—oh, there's anonymous. They're anonymous.

Travis: It was Rick.

**Griffin:** It was Rick, asks, "Should the Queen move to America to get a new experience?"

Travis: Yes!

**Justin:** [wheezing laughter]

**Griffin:** I know—

**Travis:** Thank you.

**Griffin:** I know so very little about the monarchy, or anything. Really, government. To speak of, worldly speaking. So this might be coming from an uneducated place. In fact, I can confirm it is. But it seems like maybe... if the Queen came to America, she could have a new experience. And not just came here—not only—not just came here to visit. Got a flat, you know?

**Travis:** Okay. Took a lift. But we call 'em... elevators.

**Griffin:** Lyft. Oh, well, I thought you were talking about a rental car. But yeah—

**Travis:** Oh, no, we call those cars.

**Griffin:** Uh, yeah, or buggies, lorries, whatever. That's—maybe, yeah, maybe she starts calling them different shit, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: So...

**Travis:** Yeah, what if she went back to Britain, and was just like, "Hey, from now on we're calling them elevators and apartments and shrimp, enough of this shit, right?"

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: "Sorry, I bumped my shopping cart into your shopping cart."

Travis: Right?

**Griffin:** "And that's what we now call them."

**Travis:** "Look, there's a truck."

Justin: "Bring me some cookies. And if you don't know what I'm talking

about, I'm going to behead you."

**Griffin:** [holding back laughter] Mm-hm.

**Travis:** Hey, can I ask you guys a for real, serious question?

Griffin: Uh-huh?

Justin: Yeah.

**Travis:** I'm sure that there's like, you know, some courtesies extended to her, and like, diplomatic immunity and stuff, but if the Queen were to come

to the US of A...

Griffin: Yeah.

**Travis:** ... and I were to offend her...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** ... she's got no power over me, right? [laughs] Like, she couldn't

get me in trouble.

Justin: No.

**Griffin:** She could—I mean, okay, she could get you in trouble, probably, if

she told an adult or a teacher.

Travis: Okay.

**Griffin:** But I think she—

**Travis:** But not like, in Britain, where I didn't bow right, and now I'm gonna

go to prison or something.

**Griffin:** Right, right.

**Justin:** You know, I made that joke about the Queen having someone beheaded for not knowing what cookies are, and it made me start to think about something.

Griffin: Okay.

**Justin:** Back, like, several hundred years ago, the Queen could definitely have someone beheaded...

Griffin: No doubt.

**Justin:** ... if she felt like it.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** We agree on this, right?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Def, def, def.

**Justin:** Today, the Queen would say, like, "Off with their head."

And everybody would be like, "I don't think so," right?

**Griffin:** [groans]

**Justin:** So my question is this. The last time that happened, do you think there was a sense of, like, "Been a good run, but I think this is the last one."

**Griffin:** [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

**Justin:** "I think we're wrapping up on being able to do—this has been extremely satisfying and fun, but I think we are wrapping—" Like, the last one must've felt pretty bad for [through laughter] everybody to be like, "I don't think we do this anymore, actually."

**Travis:** I don't think it was a switch flip, J-Man. I don't think it was like, "Oh, you know what, I don't wanna do it." I think it was more of, like, a fadeout.

**Griffin:** Mm.

**Travis:** Of just, like, over time, people were getting less and less okay with it. And then there was one where it was kind of a squeaker, where it was like, "Ooh, are we gonna..."

Griffin: "Ooh, yikes."

**Travis:** "Ooh, are we gonna do it?"

**Justin:** Like, the person's in the guillotine, and they're like, "This feels unnecessary to me. You all agree, right?"

Travis: "We probably shouldn't!"

Griffin: "We should do jail."

**Travis:** [laughs] "Hey, what do you guys think about jail? We've got them."

**Griffin:** "It's not perfect, but I think it might be better than this..."

I think instead of a fadeout, Travis, I think it's possible that there was a sort of crescendo, where there was one day where they just beheaded, like, so many people, and they were like, "It's not even fun anymore."

Travis: Yeah.

**Griffin:** "Like, I can't—I don't feel it."

**Travis:** You know what's fun—it's like jazz, you know? What's fun is the beheadings you don't do.

Griffin: Right.

**Travis:** Because that's the—think of the joy on someone's face when you get them into the guillotine, and like they're blindfolded or something, and you go, like, "Do it!" And you have the sound of a lever going, and a sound of a thunk over there, and you're like, "Hey, guess what? You're not gonna get beheaded."

**Griffin:** That's fun!

**Travis:** Right? That person's never gonna do something wrong ever again.

**Griffin:** Give 'em the old *Skyrim* treatment.

**Justin:** It's basically the premise of *Undercover Boss*.

**Travis:** Yup. It's exactly like *Undercover Boss*.

**Justin:** "A friend and I often work together during class, and I wanna ask for his number, so if I have any questions, I can just text him. However, I don't want him to get the wrong idea and think that I'm getting his number for any sort of romantic purpose or ulterior motive. What is a completely normal way to ask for someone's number without perpetuating the wrong idea?" That's from Gmail.

**Griffin:** [clapping rhythmically] You cannot do this. Don't even try!

**Justin:** [rhythmically] Griffin is right. You just can't do it.

**Griffin:** [laughs] It's not—it's not—this is very relatable. 'Cause I had this exact scenario, and it's just—it's not—uh, it's just not possible, I don't think, right?

**Travis:** We can all agree that any time you've ever had to say to another human being, like, "Can I get your number?" it's...

Justin: Yeah.

**Travis:** It's so hard, and it's so much, I would argue, harder to say when it is not for a romantic intent.

**Griffin:** Mm.

**Travis:** Because then you worry you have to then explain yourself, and say, like, "In case you wanna play video games together. Not—I don't wanna smooch!"

**Griffin:** Do you know what's fucked up? And this is—I genuinely cannot answer this. If I ask for—you know, if I was in college or whatever, and needed to get in contact with somebody that I was, like, working with on something, I would feel zero presh to ask for their email address. But it's still, like...

Justin: Yeah.

**Griffin:** It's still, like, talking, isn't it? So why does that...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Why is phone just, like, the sexy one, I guess?

**Travis:** Yeah, I don't know. I think it's because of the connotation of, like, "Can I get your number?"

**Justin:** Yeah, but I think there's more to that. In this modern era, I think that it's because it's so private. Like, I don't even know your guys' phone numbers.

Griffin: Wait.

**Justin:** You know? Like... it's extremely private.

**Travis:** I definitely...

**Justin:** Because my phone—

**Travis:** ... gave you my phone number.

**Justin:** My phone knows it, but I don't know... Yeah, my phone knows it.

Travis: Oh, okay.

**Justin:** I don't know it. So it's private to you. You know what I'm saying? It's a private thing.

**Travis:** Yeah, but I'm gonna stick with my point, because I've never seen a movie where somebody, like, looked at their friend across the table at a bar and, like, cockily said, like, "She friended me on Facebook! Ha ha!"

**Griffin:** I mean, that's what you've got mails about, so what are you saying?

And the second thing... maybe it's just that the pho—with the phone, it is intimate, because you're saying, "Give me the buttons to press on my phone so that I may gently nestle your warm voice close to my face." There's really no way to talk to somebody on the phone without confronting the fact that you're doing whispers into each o—like, directly into each other's ear, basically.

Justin: Mm-hm.

**Travis:** Now, that's fair. That is fair.

**Justin:** You al—you also, I think there's an immediacy to this, of like, "Give me your phone number." That's like saying, like, "Hey, if I need help with

the school, I want you to, the second that it crosses my mind, I want you on fucking call. I want to send an email that you'll respond to in a couple of hours."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "I wanna know that you know I need you then."

**Travis:** It's 2020—it's 20Funny. Can I pitch an idea that you've just given

me, Justin?

Justin: ... Alr-

Travis: Every phone—

Justin: Wait, hold on. You didn't even let me think about it.

[sighs] Yeah.

**Travis:** Okay. Every phone should have two numbers. One that you can call, and one that you can text. And you should, like, only give out the one that can text, and reserve the one that can call for like, if you are dying, you are allowed to use this number.

**Griffin:** [laughs] That's great.

**Justin:** No one is—

**Griffin:** That's great, Travis, because you set "Drops of Jupiter" by Train as your ringtone, and then you're out at dinner with your friends, and you hear, "[singing] Now she's back in the at—"

And you gotta be like, "Aw, shit! Something happened with my uncle! Oh, shit! Oh, no, my dad! I gotta go!"

**Travis:** Yep!

**Justin:** As I understand it, though, this is already how people are using

phone. No one calls on phone, right?

Travis: Yes.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Travis:** This draws the line, though. Instead of getting a friend's number to

work on homework, you got the number all at once, what if you did it in

stages?

Griffin: Mm.

**Travis:** Where you're like, "Okay. I'm comfortable enough with you to so

far give you my area code."

Griffin: Yeah.

**Travis:** "We're doing it," right?

**Griffin:** That's good.

Justin: Narrow it down.

**Travis:** That way, it doesn't feel like a commitment yet.

**Griffin:** Uh, the real answer to this is, you gotta reel in a third person into

this, and be like, "Hey, we should all exchange numbers." That's great.

That's powerful.

Justin: Mm.

Travis: Yes.

**Justin:** Thruple.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

**Travis:** Maybe just plan to be a group paying to all go see that new movie

together?

**Griffin:** "We'll work on the—"

Justin: You're making it weird again.

**Griffin:** "We'll work on the paper at some point. Hey, you guys like

Outback Steakhouse?"

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Yeah, maybe we can work on it [crosstalk]."

**Travis:** "I was just walking by. I'm not even in your class!"

**Griffin:** "We should all exchange numbers, the three of us, equally. The

same number."

**Travis:** "Who are you?!"

Griffin: "Yeah!"

**Justin:** Here is the best advi—okay. I've got this.

Travis: Okay.

**Justin:** You need to give them your phone number, and give them a reason

to reach out to you that is non-romantic, okay?

Travis: [laughs]

**Justin:** Make sure of this. You sta—

**Travis:** "If you ever need emergency toilet paper."

**Justin:** You walk up to this person. You be like, "Hey. Listen, I'm not spreading this around, but I got a fucking *choice* sourdough starter..."

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** "... that I would like to slice you off a bit of."

Travis: Yes.

**Justin:** "Here is my phone number. Here is an empty jar. Let your imagination run wild..."

**Travis:** [laughs loudly]

**Justin:** "... of how a little sourdough starter would look in here. The price—let's not—that's not between friends. We're not gonna worry about that. But you go ahead and give me a textarooski, and this beautiful bread baby could be headed to your house immediamente." And then the cool thing about that is, you get their number, and they owe you for the sourdough that you hooked them up with that one time.

**Travis:** Okay.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Justin, just to clarify so I don't do this wrong when I attempt this...

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: ... do I need to actually have a sourdough starter to use this?

**Justin:** Travis, if you do not have a sourdough starter, they will assume you are *American Psycho 2: The Squeakquel*.

**Griffin:** [laughs loudly]

**Justin:** [through laughter] There is fucking no reality in which you cannot also have a sourdough starter on hand. Ancient grains, ready to rip!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Ready to turn that beautiful sugar into carbon dioxide and crank that bread up to its maximum fluffy potential.

**Travis:** Now, here's the thing. I do have a sourdough starter, I just don't know if I'm ready to give it away.

Griffin: Right.

**Travis:** Like, that just seems like such a big commitment.

**Griffin:** I think this works on the platonic level, yes, Justin. Can we tweak it a little bit for a different person who wants it for a romantic level? At the bar, hanging out, someone catches your eye, can you wander over there with an empty jar and a promise of fermentation?

**Travis:** I think in that case, the sourdough starter has to already be in the jar, and like you just say, "If you wanna know more... give me a call. My number is written on the sourdough starter."

**Griffin:** They're not gonna buy the baker when they got the starter for free, you know?

**Travis:** Maybe you have nine out of ten of the sourdough starter ingredients in there, and you're like, "The missing piece is me."

Griffin: Oh.

**Travis:** "Give me a call, and we'll start something together and feel the power of sour and let the dough flow."

**Justin:** Not how sourdough starters work, but okay.

**Travis:** I don't know anything.

Justin: Yeah. That's kinda thematic.

Travis: Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah. How about a Yahoo?

Travis: Yeah.

**Justin:** I'd love that.

**Griffin:** This one was sent in by Level 9,000 Ya-Drew Druid Drew Davenport. Thank you, Drew. It's from Ya-Drew Answers User... they're anonymous, so let's call them Jamothy, asks, "Why do Siberian tigers need to be so huge?"

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: "Their prey seems much smaller. They need to fight Kodiak bears."

Travis: Huh.

**Griffin:** So I don't know enough about, I think, animals in general to answer why the Siberian tig—like, what environmental sort of, like, challenges they had to overcome by becoming just fucking jacked, these Siberian tigers. But I'm extremely here for the idea that the Siberian tiger, big and powerful and beautiful...

**Justin:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** ... could challenge itself... a little bit... bet—like, more.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

**Griffin:** Like, it's going after small rodents and uh, rabbits and uh, probably unlucky birds, unlucky slow birds.

Travis: Yeah.

**Griffin:** Uh, the—

**Travis:** Or just, like, sleepy birds.

**Griffin:** Sleepy birds, unfortunate explorer, adventurer, uh...

**Travis:** Whatever beef it finds on the ground, just laying around.

**Griffin:** Just random beef.

**Justin:** Ground beef.

**Griffin:** Ground beef.

**Travis:** [laughs] Yes.

**Griffin:** But like—

Travis: You know what animal I think about this all the time with, Griffin?

Griffin: Nah.

**Travis:** The panda.

Griffin: Well, okay. That's not—

**Travis:** Panda—well, hear me out.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** The panda's just eating bamboo. It's not built to do that.

Griffin: No.

**Travis:** It should be eating meat.

**Griffin:** It is a bear, huh?

**Travis:** That's why it's sleepy all the time and does so very little and doesn't really have the power or the energy to make love.

Griffin: Right.

**Travis:** 'Cause it's so sleepy all the time. And so at some point, a panda must've been chasing, like, a bird or a rabbit or something and been like, "This fucking sucks. [laughs] That plant is just sitting there. I'm gonna eat that from now on!"

**Griffin:** "There's so much of it everywhere. What if that was food? Damn, that's—"

**Travis:** "I'm gonna sit here and do shit-all, and eat this stick and not bone anymore."

**Griffin:** And that's the problem! Pandas aren't boning, so the numbers are going down. If we could get one just fucking battle-horny, come back from defeating the *huge* Siberian tiger...

Travis: Yes.

**Griffin:** ... which there are *billions* of, probably...

Justin: Yeah.

**Griffin:** ... you know, an unlikely victory, and it comes back home, and they're like, "Oh, shit, Ron, what's up? You look like heck."

And then Ron can be like, "Ugh, I am different now! Who's ready for Ron?" And then they would...

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** ... fucking pork like they've never porked before.

Justin: [laughs]

**Griffin:** And then, like, all of a sudden, pandas are back, and they are—

**Travis:** There's too many. They're like pigeons and squirrels.

**Griffin:** Squirrels—pigeons, for all the—you can talk shit about pigeons, but pigeons are *out there*, aren't they? Pigeons are working out there, and they are up against forces that are so hysterically beyond their control—like, what ass can a pigeon kick? Probably not any.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And so they go, and they, like, sit on a—like, the third rail of the subway, and they get totally just bamboozled out there, and then they fly home to their nests, and it's like, "Oh, shit, rough day in the city?"

And they're like, "Yeah, it was a rough day in the city. I'm battle-horny."

Travis: [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Now let's go!"

**Travis:** Has anyone told pigeons that, like, 10 miles that way is probably just a bunch of corn? That they don't have to just be there in the middle of New York City?

Griffin: [simultaneously, through laughter] Guys, the corn is right there!

**Travis:** Do you think if a pigeon, like, heard someone mention, like, there are just fields of corn, they'd be like, "What the fuck!? I have been, like, mistaking cigarette butts for food for the last, like, 30 years."

**Griffin:** "For the last 30 generations!"

Travis, farmers are listening to this right now, like, sweating, like, "Please don't tell pigeons about farms!"

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "Please, no!"

**Griffin:** "Please don't tell pigeons about my farm!"

"Hey, where did all the tomatoes go? We had 'em last night. Let's look outside. Uh-oh, it's two million pigeons!"

**Travis:** [laughs] They're all just here now, looking for statues to sit on.

**Justin:** Do you think pigeons in the city regularly get letters from their country cousins that are like, "Well, shit still sucks out here in the country. Fucking nothing to eat. I wish I was living it up with you, eating one fourth of a hotdog bun out of a gutter. God, it sounds good. Anyway, yeah, it's all bullshit out here. Yeah, anyway, I gotta go use the bathroom. I mean, uh, look for food."

**Griffin:** Uh, yeah.

**Justin:** "That's all I get to do."

**Griffin:** Man, I'm just gonna be thinking—everybody's talking about unlikely animal pairings, and when they say that traditionally, they mean... friendships. I'm thinking about it like top 10 anime battles...

Travis: Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** ... 'cause Kodiak bear versus Siberian tiger, boy, that would be one for the ages, wouldn't it?

**Travis:** It'd be pretty good.

The problem with Jamothy's question is, like, once you start going down the road of, like, "Why is that tiger so big?" you do that with pretty much every animal.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Be like, "If that animal was smaller, it could eat less food."

**Griffin:** Yep.

**Justin:** Yeah, it's a good point. Uh, I—

**Travis:** Hey, why is the blue whale eatin' krill? It should be eating, like, smaller whales.

**Griffin:** It's—oh, my God, we need a worthy challenger for the—we all need to team *up* and breed something for the blue whale to sharpen itself against.

**Travis:** It is time for the killer whale... [laughs] to live up to its name.

**Griffin:** To—yeah! You've got it—you don't have it in size, right? But you got it in ferocity, for sure. You are an x-wing, like, going up against a star destroyer at that point...

Travis: Yes.

**Griffin:** ... but the star destroyer, guess what? It only eats, like, little weird barnacles. You are totally good.

**Travis:** This is my pitch for *Free Willy 6*.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Where Willy just goes ham on a blue whale.

**Griffin:** right. And it's two hours long, and it's really hard to watch that.

**Travis:** But then what's that? The blue whale and Willy team up to fight a giant squid!

**Griffin:** Animals are great. I love nature.

**Travis:** Yeah. And we know a lot about it.

Justin: I love nature too.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. We're very smart about 'em. [imitates guitar]

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Huh.

**Justin:** [imitates guitar]

Travis: Oh.

**Justin:** [imitates quitar solo] [sings] I wanna munch!

**Griffin and Travis:** Squad!

**Justin:** [imitates guitar] [sings, high-pitched] I want to munch!

**Griffin and Travis:** Squad!

**Griffin:** [laughs]

Justin: [imitates guitar] I'm sorry, I got a cold, and I realized it sounded

weird.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Like Alfred E. Neuman or something.

**Travis:** I kinda loved it.

**Griffin:** I kinda enjoyed it too.

**Justin:** I got a Munch Squad Mini, and then a full Munch Squad for ya. I

got a combo. "Dunkin' Adds Snackin' Bacon to the Menu."

**Griffin:** [laughs]

Travis: What?

**Griffin:** Please tell me they used apostrophes in there.

Justin: Aw, yeah, they did!

**Griffin:** [laughs loudly]

Justin: Dunkin' Snackin' Bacon.

**Travis:** Is bacon apostrophized too?

Justin: What is it? No, bacon's not. That'd be wild, though. They missed

a trick, huh?

**Griffin:** [laughs]

Justin: Yeah, so Dunkin' adds Snackin' Bacon to the menu. This one's

bacon in a little bag, my friends.

**Travis:** [laughs]

Griffin: Oh!

**Justin:** It's just bacon in a little, stinky... greasy bag.

**Griffin:** [laughs loudly]

**Travis:** I'm glad it's not just loose bacon, though. That is better.

**Justin:** It is basically loose bacon, Travis. It's as close to loose bacon as

you can get without being loose bacon.

**Travis:** Without going to prison. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

**Justin:** Here's how it starts: "Sack the sad snacks with the new Snackin' Bacon."

**Travis:** Oh, God.

**Justin:** "For anyone who's seeing a satisfying snack—seeking a satisfying snack, but is—" this one seems designed to fuck me up. I see you.

**Travis:** We've got him.

**Justin:** "For anyone who's seeking a satisfying snack, but is stuck with a sad selection at their desk, office kitchen or vending machine, Dunkin' is adding some extra sizzle to its menu." Hey, friends? If there is a sadder snack than bacon from a [through laughter] greasy little bag that you bought at the store and carried into your office, I don't know what it is.

"Dunkin' Wednesday unveiled new Snackin' Bacon..."

**Griffin:** [snorts]

**Justin:** "... with sweet black pepper seasoning to help on-the-go customers conquer—" nothing. It's not help—help is the wildest word you could've picked. You're not helping them to do anything. They say they're helping their customers "conquer their cravings without settling for tired and typical snacking choices."

Travis: "Hey, Roger, what're you snacking on out of that bag there?"

"Bacon." [laughs]

"Just uh, some bacon in a bag, huh, Roger? You okay? Hey, Roger?"

**Justin:** Yeah, the—the only sad—the only thing that you have to imagine with this is actually walking up to the counter, and they're like, "What food do you want here at Dunkin' that you've gone into willingly?"

And the person says, "Um, I want a bag of Snackin' Bacon, for the road!"

**Travis:** I actually think saying, "For here," would be worse.

**Justin:** That would actually—"I'm gonna sit in the corner, and listen to a podcast!"

Here's the full one. Einstein Brothers is gonna launch a bagel and burrito mashup.

Travis: Huh.

**Griffin:** Is it—are they just gonna jam it in the fucking hole?

**Justin:** Basically. They announced it—"Einstein Brothers announced it's launching a first-of-its-kind bagel innovation..."

Travis: [snorts]

**Justin:** "... the Bagelrito." [sighs] "A bagel and burrito mashup, the Bagelrito was available at five test locations in the Denver area for a limited time in October 29th," and it's gonna shock you all, [shouting] but it fucking cleaned up!

Travis: [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "It sold out within hours of its announcement to the world." Why did you announce it to the world?! Let Denver get a fucking crack at that beautiful bastard.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "Due to the wild success of the test launch, and countless requests from guests who wished they could try the Bagelrito—"

"Valerie, how many requests have we gotten about the Bagelrito?"

"I can't count them! There's too many! They're pouring in! They're throwing them through the window!"

**Travis:** "The Bag-O-Matic is broken! This place has exploded everywhere, it can't count that high!"

Griffin: "It's like the end of Miracle on 34th Street in here!"

**Justin:** "Why did we set up a complex system of pneumatic tubes from every Einstein Brothers location into our home base?"

So the "Einstein Brothers Bagels is making the game-changing breakfast item available to guests across the US at participating locations." And the tone of this announcement is that they think they're ready for Bagelritos, but they're not fucking sure, okay? They're on the very edge.

Quote, "We heard our guests loud and clear,' says Teka O'Rourke, VP of marketing for Einstein Brothers Bagels." They always have to clarify what company they're the VP of marketing of. It'd be wild if the VP of marketing at Ford is like, "They got nasty new bagels!"

**Travis:** [laughs]

Justin: "Hey, this place got nasty new bagels!"

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** [laughs] "Cars are still cool, but check out these nasty new bagel tubes."

"Given the popularity of the Bagelrito during the Denver test, we knew we couldn't keep this breakfast innovation from the rest of the country for too long. We just needed a bit of time to ensure our bakeries are set up to meet the volume of orders we're expecting. On February 27th, we will be ready!"

"Constantly pushing the boundaries of the classic bagel, Einstein Brothers Bagels has taken it to the next level with the Bagelrito."

**Travis:** "Has taken it too far." [laughs]

**Justin:** Too far. They've cross the Rubicon and made a shame before God. "It's loaded with two cage-free eggs," for that—for—you know—you know...

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** ... for that animal cruelty-conscious consumer that also wants to eat a bagel shaped like a fucking tube! And it's got thick-cut bacon from, I'm assuming, inhumanely raised pigs.

**Griffin:** They made the case—

Justin: And turkey sausage. Let's get 'em all in there!

**Griffin:** They make the pigs watch the chickens run around.

**Justin:** "Come back here, cow. You don't get out. We need three cheeses from you."

Griffin: [laughs] Oh, no!

**Justin:** And potatoes, your non-sentient state will not preserve you. There's hash browns in this bad boy, and salsa and green chilis and a flour tortilla, all hand-wrapped in an Asiago bagel dough and baked fresh. And what a relief that machines aren't involved in this process. I'm glad humans have to use some of there time here on this big, blue globe to roll these bagel tubes for me.

"Its substantial size, high flavor and portability has earned... "

**Griffin:** High flavor is a good term.

**Justin:** High flavor is good.

**Griffin:** I like high flavor.

**Justin:** "The high flavor and portability..." Folks...

**Travis:** Thank God. Bagels have been so cumbersome up 'til now! And burritos, too.

**Justin:** Yeah, friends, I'm here to ask you, what is the last item that you bought at a fast food place where you were like, "Well, I can't take this anywhere."

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "Look at this. Look at this heavy—I can't carry—what, am I supposed to carry it to another location?"

"The high flavor and portability has earned its slogan: 'big, bold, and easy to hold.""

**Travis:** Oh, boy.

**Justin:** Who are these people...

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** ... that have a regular bagel, and they're like, "Oop! Dropped the damn thing!"

**Travis:** [laughs loudly]

Justin: "Aw, fuck, again!?"

Travis: "Now it's rolling away!"

**Justin:** "Again?" And hey, hey, friends, I'm looking at this thing. It's a big, loose tube full of garbage!

Travis: [laughs]

**Justin:** This is not a portable solution! Just is closed at the bottom, you're gonna have bagel juice slipping out!

Anyway, that's the Bagelrito. Looks pretty good. I would probably eat one.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And it's available at Einstein Brothers now.

**Griffin:** Next time I'm out to eat at a restaurant, I'm just gonna silently open up the salt shaker and dump it out all over my meal, and then when Rachel asks, like, "Hey, what are you doing?"

I can now confidently answer, "I am turning the flavor to high."

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "The flavor is not at high right now. I need maximum flavor."

**Justin:** "It's what I deserve, as a consumer."

**Travis:** Yup.

**Griffin:** "I deserve no less. We rarely go out, it's hard to find a babysitter..."

Travis: [laughs] "What am I gonna eat, regular flavor?

**Griffin:** "I deserve high flavor."

Uh, we'll get out of your hair now. Once again, MaximumFun.org/join.

**Travis:** [laughs] That sounds like we're, like, backing out the door, and we've been trying to sell you some brushes and combs.

**Griffin:** Alright, well, uh, you've been a gracious host.

MaximumFun.org/join. Thank you so much, and 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. Um, and we're about to put this episode to bed, 'cause uh, fish and friends go bad after three days, right, guys?

Justin: [laughs shakily]

**Travis:** I don't—what is that? Are we... fish?

Justin: Griffin, do you have a final Yahoo?

**Griffin:** We're friends. This one was sent in by Johannes. Thank you, Johannes. It's from uh, Yahoo Answers User T, who asks, "[shouting] Dude! I just recently discovered a new way to eat oats?!"

**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, "(It's a) Departure" by The Long Winters, plays and ends]

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