

## **MBMBaM 506: The Enchanted Horn of American Heroism**

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**Intro (Bob Ball):** The McElroy brothers are not experts, and their advice should never be followed. Travis insists he's a sexpert, but if there's a degree on his wall, I haven't seen it. Also, this show isn't for kids, which I mention only so the babies out there will know how cool they are for listening. What's up, you cool baby?

[theme music plays]

**Justin:** Hello everybody, and welcome to My Brother, My Brother, and Me, an advice show for the modern era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy!

**Travis:** I am your middlest brother, Travis of McElroy!

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

**Justin:** [singing] Isn't it rich?

**Griffin:** I think there's a—actually, there has to be a certain separation.

**Travis:** We can't use that.

**Justin:** [singing] Don't you approve?

**Travis:** There's so many songs.

**Griffin:** There's a lot of songs about, like, sort of...

**Justin:** [singing] One who keeps tearing arouuund...

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** [singing] The one whooo...

**Travis:** Is this the only song you know?

**Justin:** [singing] ... can't mooove.

**Travis:** It doesn't even apply!

**Griffin:** It might be the only song Justin's ever heard.

**Justin:** There's lots of—there's lots of songs I know.

**Travis:** But that song doesn't even apply to this! Are we the clowns?

**Justin:** No, it's the—we've always been the clowns. It's the ten year anniversary spectacular, that we are not putting extra effort into.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Why? Well, one, we did something different for our 500<sup>th</sup> episode, and you need consistency right now. We can't just throw another really special episode on you out of nowhere.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Travis:** Nooo.

**Justin:** The whiplash. Come on. Secondly, there's just... it's just a hard time right now, okay? So get off our backs. [laughing]

**Travis:** Yeah. And y'know what? Thirdly, we're tired! Ten years of this!

**Justin:** Ten years.

**Travis:** I mean, we... okay, do the math, folks. This is episode 506. In ten years, we have missed 14 episodes. Not bad!

**Justin:** Not bad.

**Griffin:** Not bad. Not a bad hit rate.

**Travis:** That's one point four episodes a year we've missed.

**Griffin:** Hey, everyone, let's go on a trip back in time to 2010. What were we all doing? Well, we were in theaters. We were watching The King's Speech. We were enjoying—

**Travis:** I still haven't seen it.

**Griffin:** We were enjoying Winter's Bone, as a nation.

**Travis:** Mm, no, didn't read it.

**Griffin:** Seems like a million year—Winter's Bone! Can you even remember? Toy Story 3? It's like decoding ancient hieroglyphs, isn't it?

**Travis:** I'll never forget when Justin called us and said, "Guys, I know how we can make a quick buck. We'll just start this podcasting thing. The money is there. We can do whatever. We'll just phone something in and get that sweet kaysh."

**Griffin:** He said, "We'll get that sweet kaysh."

**Travis:** And we said, "Yum yum, give me some."

**Griffin:** For inflation. Counting for inflation, he knew, like, in the context of this conversation, he was accounting for inflation. This is gonna be a lot of money ten years from now. And also, I just out of Winter's Bone in the theater, and I drove home listening to, um, Dynamite by Taio Cruz, because it's 2010 and that's how we fuckin' do things this year.

**Travis:** I did—I did a—I did a double feature of King's Speech and Winter's Bone. Uh, and now I'm ready for the yucks. So let's get that comedy moneyyyy.

**Justin:** Uh... wait, if we take a look back—I want to keep talking about 2010 for a second, in the different world we live in.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Justin:** Uh, I just wanted to mention, one of the big things that happened in 2010 is, 33 Chilean miners were trapped in a mine.

**Travis:** Oh, uh-huh.

**Justin:** A half mile underground, and then emerged, safely, from that, um, mine.

**Griffin:** That's cool.

**Justin:** After two months. So... that's ten years since the Chilean miners thing. That's wild.

**Travis:** And of course, the Xbox Kinect came out and changed gaming forever.

**Griffin:** The Good Wife with Julianna Margulies.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** How about that? How about that? How about them fuckin' apples?

**Justin:** And it's now Animorphed into The Good Fight on CBS All Access, if you wanted to check that out.

**Griffin:** Check that out. But in 20—what a difference ten years makes.

**Justin:** Yeah, right?

**Griffin:** The Good Wife, with a Julianna Margulies, going into the second season in 2010. Three young boys, with dreams in their eyes and their hearts, and sweat on their brow, put together a podcasting empire. Ten years pass... now it's The Good Fight on CBS All Access. Still a great show, not as much Julianna Margulies.

**Justin:** Mm-hmm. Too true. Couldn't hold onto Julianna. So let's just do a regular show...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And not make a big deal out of it. Okay? It's been ten years. Um... and I can't... I can't wait for ten more. And the ten after that.

**Griffin:** Can I listen to CeeLo Green's Fuck You, or Forget You, which also dr—damn, y'all. Can I just... 2010, real quick... Rolling in the Deep by Adele. Runaway by Kanye West.

**Justin:** Huge.

**Griffin:** Just the Way You Are by Bruno Mars. Super Bass by Nicki Minaj. Dancing on my Own by Robyn. California Girls by Katy Perry. Uh, fuckin', Firework by Katy Perry. Like... hello? One year? Are you sure? Moves Like Jagger by Maroon 5?

**Justin:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** Are you sure in one year, you wanna do all that? Okay... Call Your Girlfriend by Robyn. Fine. That's cool. Damn.

**Justin:** Hey, and let's just take a quick look over at the movies. It's just Avatar. That was the only movie in 2010.

**Travis:** Oh!

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** So, was Winter's Bone within—like, as we were watching Avatar, it was like, buried in it?

**Justin:** It was a spinoff.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Oh!

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** It was a spinoff. Hey, real—can I just say, though, real quick, though?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** If I could just say real quick...

**Griffin:** Yeah, give it to us real quick, Juice.

**Travis:** Yeah, please.

**Justin:** I'm lookin' at that box office for 2010. Right at eight, nine, ten, you got Despicable Me, Shrek Forever After, How to Train Your Dragon... are you okay? Is everybody alright?

**Griffin:** We're doing great. Holy shit.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Anyway, 2010 was a banger of a year. Zolo. Never forget it. Beats the shit out of our current sort of situation.

**Justin:** Yeah. So much better than our year.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Tight Rope by Janelle Monet, come on. Let's go back. Take me back.

**Justin:** "Earlier this week, I was doing some gardening with my sister. It was hard to concentrate, because two cats were boisterously making love beyond the hedge." [laughing] "Our yard is a cat hot spot, so this is likely not the last time it will happen. I want to spend more time in the garden, but I'm afraid the ambiance will be broken by a couple of cats getting down. What can I do about these feisty felines?" And that's from Yard Dweller.

**Griffin:** [inhales]

**Justin:** I hate doing animal questions. The problem is, I don't know fuckin' anything about animals, but a lot of people on internet deffo do.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** And they definitely want to talk about—I don't think we've ever answered an animal question that like, uh, a SWAT team of 30 animal experts didn't fall through the skylight. Like, "No, wait! The horse! You can't do that! Its feet are actually made of nails!" Or whatever.

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Travis:** Justin, you might not know from cats, but I know you know about fuuuckin'.

**Griffin:** Justin does know about—

**Justin:** I wish you hadn't said that.

**Griffin:** No, come on, dude. That's why we all call you the fuck ma—fuck master.

**Justin:** So now you're infringing on Blank Check's trademarks. That's great. That's great. Now we're in hot water.

**Griffin:** Okay, the fuck doc—the fuck doctor, uh, is here. Justin. He doesn't know anything about cats.

**Travis:** Professor Fuck.

**Griffin:** Professor Fuck is here, and um...

**Travis:** You don't need to know about cats. You just need to know how to stop people.

**Griffin:** But there could be lengths...

**Travis:** Uh, stop something from fucking.

**Griffin:** Justin's point could still hold, though, because we could be like, "Well, just chase 'em off so they don't have sex." And then we will get like, 50 tweets from people like, "No, cats have to have sex or they'll die!" And it's like, ah, man.

**Justin:** I mean, eventually.

**Griffin:** Eventually, I mean, I guess that's true.

**Justin:** Broadly speaking. [laughs]

**Travis:** Yeah. [laughs] As a species. Maybe we need to focus more on like, what is making your yard conducive...

**Justin:** Ooh!

**Travis:** ... to cat fuckin'.

**Griffin:** Yeah. You've turned your yard into a sort of feline sort of Caligula den. What have you—do you just leave saucers of milk and also... what makes cat horny?

**Justin:** Hmm...

**Travis:** Well, I mean... like I said, I think that you could just universally describe things that would make anything horny. Y'know, like, as you've already said, a saucer of milk. Comfortable sheets. Um...

**Griffin:** Cats movie makes humans horny. What's a cat—

**Travis:** So, human movies.

**Griffin:** You think a human movie... huh.

**Travis:** Any movie about humans.

**Griffin:** So just, I guess, you have pornographic films running in your yard on like, little iPod Nanos.

**Travis:** That might be part of the problem.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Get rid of those.

**Justin:** Did you say sheets?

**Travis:** Comfortable sheets, yeah.

**Justin:** In your yard?

**Travis:** Well, I—no. This is just spit-balling. I was just throwing noodles.

**Justin:** You're assuming that this person has maybe left some comfortable sheets in their yard.

**Travis:** No, but maybe there's something replicating comfortable sheets. Like, maybe there's some really smooth ivy. Right? And they're like, "Ooh, this is the cat equivalent of sheets. I want to bone on this." Right? Need to get rid of that ivy.



**Griffin:** I like that Justin took umbrage with that, and not with my suggestion that you have iPod Nanos showing pornography, as if you've set in a bunch of different sort of drive-in smut theaters for borrowers and Honey, I Shrunk the Kid situations.

**Justin:** Counter argument... the iPod Nanos have to be somewhere. We bought a lot of them. Where are they now? I don't have one. You don't have one. He doesn't have one. So, they're somewhere. Right?

**Griffin:** We kept eatin' 'em, didn't we? As a dare?

**Travis:** Yep. [laughs] Just kept munchin' 'em. Y'know, maybe—

**Justin:** [whispers] Where'd all the Nanos go?

**Travis:** Maybe it's just that your yard is a place where cats feel comfortable having sex. Maybe it's not an arousal thing. They're just like, "Y'know what? I feel like I can really be myself here, and really let go." It's like the Sandals for cats. Y'know, they go. They feel comfortable there. It's all inclusive. And they're able to let their hair down and really make love. Really, I mean, this is not... this is, uh, for fun sex for these cats, maybe.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I mean... it could just be a snowball effect where a couple cats fucked in your yard once, and then, other cats saw that, and they were like, "Oh, it's safe to fuck in that yard." So I think you do need to... and this may be one of the more irresponsible suggestions I've sort of put out there, but get a lover... and you both dress up like kitty cats, and go in your neighbor's yard, and start boisterously... plowin'. But just be like, "Mee-yow, this butt is the cat's pajamas!" Or say whatever it is—

**Travis:** They would just say "our pajamas."

**Griffin:** "This is as good as our—yeah. This is the us meow!" So...

**Justin:** [bursts into laughter]

**Griffin:** But do it loud, and make it seem—

**Travis:** Boisterous.

**Griffin:** Make it seem appealing, like, "Oh, that yard must have better sexual energy, 'cause I see two enormous, bipedal cats."

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** "And so like, that's a part—that's the party I want to be on." Now, how do you do this without your neighbors seeing? Or anyone else seeing? Or God seeing. God in heaven, who sees all. You don't want him to see this one.

**Justin:** No, not this one.

**Travis:** Uh, I don't know, maybe a tarp.

**Griffin:** That's great, Travis. That's great.

**Travis:** Y'know, up on sticks, so you have room underneath it, so the cats can see from the side. But God looking down from the sky can't see around the tarp.

**Griffin:** He's afraid of tarps.

**Travis:** Can't see through 'em. It's like his lead.

**Griffin:** Hey, I have a Yahoo here. Can I read it?

**Justin:** [laughs] God can't see through tarps. That's funny, though.

**Travis:** Can't see through tarps. Thank you!

**Justin:** I'm sad you said that at the end.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** 'Cause I—if I wasn't bored of this question by now, I think I would've hang out there and play with that. But I'm—I'm done pretty good. I'm pretty good done at this point.

**Griffin:** Uh, this is a super cool Yahoo the the prospector, Merit Palmer, sent in. Thank you. It's an anonymous Yahoo Answers user. I really wish somebody had stamped their name on this one. So instead, I'm gonna call it, uh, Susannana. Susannannanna asks...

**Justin:** Sunanananana.

**Griffin:** “If the founding fathers left...” [laughs] “If the founding fathers... If the founding fathers left behind a magic horn that could summon the legends—”

**Travis:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** [laughing] “If the founding fathers left behind a magic horn that could summon the legends of American history, would now be the time to blow it?”

**Travis:** Oh! [laughs] That—man, that’s such a hard decision to make, y’know? `Cause you only get to do it once.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I mean, they specifically wrote that... [laughing] They specifically inscribed that on the magic horn when they left it behind and buried it, uh, beneath The White House. But uh, it goes on. “If the founding fathers left behind a magic horn that could be blown in a time of dire need to save America, but it would only work once...” Thank you, Travis.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** “... would now be the time to use it? They would stay...” [bursts into laughter] “They would stay `til the next new moon.” So there’s like, even more—

**Justin:** [bursts into laughter]

**Travis:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** Alright, let’s break this down. This continues on. “The founding fathers could come back and solve the political problems. Great inventors like Edison and Tesla and Curie and...” Joes... Salk? Jonas Salk? Could, uh... “... and such could find a vaccine and a cure for the coronavirus. The inventors and scientists could work out something for saving the environment. It would be cool to see the great composers, musicians, and singers again, who would bring us great music to inspire us through this crisis.”

**Travis:** Wow!

**Griffin:** "Andrews sisters could be back a while, just like they were in World War II. John Henry and Paul Bunyan could build us some new infrastructure."

**Travis:** What is happening?

**Griffin:** Well, blew magic horn, brought back all American legends. Let me finish.

**Justin:** Okay, now wait. I'm confu—a little—I do want to dispute... some of these are real human beings that invented fuckin' vaccines, and some of them are Paul Bunyan.

**Travis:** Yeah, right?

**Justin:** So I am try—this is a good horn! [laughing]

**Travis:** I also... I—I'm pretty sure... okay, Marie Curie, I'm, uh, kind of sure. But Tesla, I know, wasn't born here. I would not call them American legends. Maybe we know of them here. But it's not like... can we claim Marie Curie? Is that ours?

**Griffin:** You gotta let me—

**Travis:** I don't think so.

**Griffin:** You gotta let me finish, 'cause there's one last point here that is maybe the wildest one of all.

**Justin:** Sorry.

**Griffin:** "It would likely conjure... It would likely conjure the armies of the past who could restore peace in the middle east."

**Travis:** Oh!

**Justin:** Okay.

**Griffin:** I don't think that that's what they've been waiting on over there! I don't think they've been waiting on a bunch of old-timey soldiers to show up in old, heavy, woolen garb with their muskets and what have you, and been

like, "Oh! That was it! That was the piece of the puzzle that's been missing the whole time!"

Uh, final sentence: "If there was such a magic horn, would now be the time to use it?"

**Travis:** Well, okay. So, I think a couple things we can kind of maybe poke holes in a little bit.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Travis:** Like, I think if Edison, uh, Marie Curie, uh, Jonas Salk, uh, Tesla... if they came back now, I think they would have so much science to catch up on... like, I don't think that, like, that they would be able to get to it by the next new moon. Right? Because they'd come back and they'd be like, "Whoa! Let me see that iPhone." And you're like, "Yeah, but let's work on coronavirus." And they're like, "Give me a minute. Is that a TV? What the hell?" Right? Like... I don't think coronavirus—we're gonna get to that. Y'know what I mean?

**Griffin:** Well, they'd have to also jump through some hoops. Edison has fallen, I would say, greatly out of favor.

**Justin:** Yeah. He's gonna be doing... like, his main, first thing is gonna be just rebuilding the brand.

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** He has had it. He has had it rough lately.

**Griffin:** Here's how it would go. [imitates blowing a horn] Fuckin' Tesla, Marie Curie, they're like, "What's up, what's up?" People are like, "Oh, fuck yeah! Cool, come on in!" Edison's like, "What's up? Your man Edison's here, too. Anybody need anything invented?" And they'll be like, "Yo, tell us about this elephant that you shocked to death, partner." And he'd have to be like...

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Aw, fuck. I think I can really whip this thing into—no, you're right. Okay. So, listen. It was a different time."

**Justin:** You have gone from like, world renowned inventor, father of like, the electric light, to literal Doctor Who villain in a literal episode of Doctor Who, my man. I know it's been rough since you kind of checked out with the dying, but things have not gone well for you in the interim.

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** You should've left a very sympathetic, like, memoir or something.

**Travis:** Yeah. Can you imagine, if Paul Bunyan comes back, and you're like, "Let's get to work on this infrastructure. How about some kind of universal Wi-Fi?" And he's like, "What? What are you talking—"

**Griffin:** "What the fuck do you mean?"

**Travis:** "I can dig a new Grand Canyon!" You're like, "No, we need highways. We need restructured bridges."

"Oh, I don't do that. I've never."

**Griffin:** "I've—I've—in my mindscape, I have thought of a deeper hole we can poopoo and pee in!" Like, nah, bud.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "John Henry, we're gonna need you to do some kind of light rail system."

"Uhh... no, I'm a steel drivin' man? Uhhh... I don't know anything about that."

**Griffin:** "You have 24 hours to learn all about electromagnets. Or else we're gonna blow the fuckin' horn again."

**Travis:** Okay. [laughs] Oh no! You'll send me back to hell!

**Justin:** [laughing] What?!

**Travis:** All of them are in hell.

**Justin:** They're all in hell. Okay, wow. Even Jonas Salk, creator of the polio vaccine. Oof! That's a tough break, Jonas.

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Travis:** [laughing]

**Justin:** Sorry—hey, you gave it away for free and refused to patent your vaccine, but you're in hell?

**Travis:** Yep. You don't know what other stuff he was into.

**Justin:** I—y'know what? That's a tough weight to counterbalance though, Trav. I mean, not by works are you saved. I do get that.

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** For sure.

**Griffin:** Um, alright. Let's put this—let's put this out there right now. The next new moon, uh, is gonna come April 22<sup>nd</sup>. So right now, right now, sort of chronologically speaking, is not the best time to blow this horn.

**Travis:** Nooo, no no no.

**Griffin:** April 23<sup>rd</sup>, we blow this horn, we get the maximum amount of time with these American legends.

**Travis:** But here's the problem, Griffin. What if...

**Justin:** There's a problem?

**Travis:** Yes. Between now and the 22<sup>nd</sup> is when it's the exact moment we most needed them. Right? So, we might not—it might be quality over quantity, right? Like, we would only have ten days with them, but in that ten days is when we need them most.

**Griffin:** Well, I would argue that we should've fuckin' blown this horn on, what, February or March 22<sup>nd</sup>?

**Travis:** Yeah, Griffin! Yeah, duh! We should've, but we didn't!

**Griffin:** But we just found the horn, didn't we? We just found the horn.

**Travis:** We just found it. They were repainting that one bathroom, and we peeled off the wallpaper, and there was a little door there. And we just never looked.

**Justin:** Never looked.

**Griffin:** I think...

**Travis:** We never looked. What do you think the founding fathers—like, if John Adams came back now and like, "Fix the American government!" He'd be like, "Ooh... I don't fuckin' know, man. Like..."

**Justin:** "I don't know."

**Travis:** And it's like, "Oh, okay." And he's like, "So I guess—I got, what, 27 days left? I'm just gonna go... well, I can't go outside, huh? 'Cause you guys fucked that up. Ooh..."

**Justin:** Yeah, sorryyy.

**Griffin:** I'm pretty sure that like, their shit aged pretty bad also. Pretty sure by the time bill—

**Justin:** Yeah, the whole brand...

**Griffin:** Pretty sure by the time Bill of Rights came out, most of 'em were like, "Aw, man, we fuckin' beefed it pretty bad on that one, huh? The whole foundational shit. Aw, beans." I don't think that's gotten better since, what, the 1700s.

**Justin:** Why didn't we put—we should've put "no scrubs" into the Constitution.

**Travis:** Yeah! Damn it!

**Justin:** Should've just written "no scrubs." That would've fixed everything.



**Travis:** And Ben Franklin's like, "I know, right?! That's what I said! I said that, and you said, 'But what about him? He's a scrub.' And I said, no scrubs!"

**Griffin:** Do you have to play a song on the magic horn, or is it just... is it sort of, um... like, one of those long Ricola horns that you just kind of like, emit a deep blow from? And then, do they come out of the horn? Huh?

**Travis:** No, I think it just summons it. You blow it. Knock knock knock. "Hey, you needed us?" Like, it would be weird if they sprung fully formed... how big is the horn, though, I guess? 'Cause if the horn is like, gigantic, and we found it like, in, y'know, I don't know, a desert or something... that's pretty cool. But if it's just like a handheld number, I don't want to see human beings come out of it.

**Griffin:** I bet fuckin' Alexander Hamilton would be pretty psyched about everything though, huh?

**Travis:** Yeah. [laughs] He'd probably enjoy it. He'd probably be cool with all this stuff.

**Griffin:** He'd be like, "How's the money stuff? Not good, not good? I'll do what I can, but hold on... first, let me enjoy... this moment."

**Justin:** Actually, it would be a little—that would be kind of fru—I think that would be difficult. 'Cause it's like, "They did a whole musical about me?"

"Yeah."

"How did people feel about it?"

"They fucking love it."

"Oh yeah? Can I go see it?"

"You cannot. That I cannot..."

**Travis:** Nope.

**Justin:** "That I cannot... I am so sorry about this, but you cannot do that."

**Griffin:** [laughing] You can't.

**Justin:** "Well, soon, right, though? Before the next new moon, right?"

**Travis:** Ooh...

**Justin:** This is challenging.

**Griffin:** "I can't wait to see the end when I shoot Aaron Burr right in his fucking head and waste that dude, right? That's how it happened, right? Did I waste him? I sure hope I did, right?"

**Justin:** "God, it's been so long."

**Travis:** Real quick, you guys.

**Justin:** Yeah, please.

**Travis:** Now that everyone's stuck at home, I thought that this would be a really good time...

**Justin:** Oh no, he's about to do something bad, isn't he?

**Travis:** Hi, everybody! I was just about to give a quiz to my brothers, so I thought it was a good time for you all to... play along at home!

**Justin:** [laughs] Yes! Yes.

**Griffin:** Yeah, y'know what? Actually, I like it now.

**Travis:** Oh good! Now, I've tried something new here. Rather than one question for both of you, I've written—

**Griffin:** Trav, the format was not broken, pal. You had crafted that.

**Travis:** I have written multiple questions, but uh, so, three questions for Justin, and three questions for Griffin.

**Justin:** Oh, so it's twice as long.

**Griffin:** Holy Christ, that's got a lot of questions.

**Travis:** But only Justin is allowed to answer Justin's questions, and only Griffin is allowed to answer Griffin's questions, but everyone at home is welcome to play along on all the questions! So let's begin!

**Griffin:** [sighs deeply]

**Travis:** Justin?

**Justin:** [strained] Yeah?

**Travis:** Of the original 150, please name the three ghost type Pokémon.

**Justin:** Uhh...

**Griffin:** This is easy shit.

**Justin:** [laughs] Gastly.

**Travis:** Uh-huh. That's one. [pause] Oh.

**Griffin:** Are you fucking kidding me?

**Travis:** Oh no!

**Justin:** Um... Gastly.

**Travis:** Oh, I'm sorry, Justin. Time is up. Griffin, do you want to...

**Griffin:** Fucking Gastly, Haunter, and Gengar. Get—get—and technically! And technically, that one Marowak that was Cubone's mom that was dead as hell at the top of, uh, the tower. So...

**Travis:** Now, Griffin... at Disneyland, which animal is given free rein to roam the park at night?

**Griffin:** What animal? A horse.

**Travis:** No, I'm sorry. The answer is feral cats. There's estimated to be over 200 feral cats that roam the grounds of Disneyland at night.

**Griffin:** Well they should do something about that!

**Justin:** God, Disneyland... Disneyland sucks.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Is that why you did this? To give me an opportunity to say, Disneyland sucks?

**Travis:** Oh, really? You're a Disney World man?

**Justin:** Only.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Justin:** Yeah. Disneyland is, uh...

**Travis:** I gotta give you that Disneyland...

**Justin:** It's pretty good if you can get past... *the feral cats*.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** I heard it's not even open.

**Travis:** So, Justin...

**Justin:** Yeah. I bet they're having a fuckin' hay day, by the way. 200 feral cats? You mean 2,000. The gates are open! Everything's made of feral cats!

**Travis:** Justin. Currently, Eevee has eight possible evolutions.

**Justin:** Come on.

**Travis:** Please name at least five.

**Justin:** Um... Eevee possible evolu—I mean...

**Travis:** Are you Googling?

**Justin:** No, I'm not Googling. Which you'll know, 'cause I won't, um... Eevee... eight? Eight seems like so many, right?

**Travis:** Yeah. Seems like a lot, huh?

**Justin:** That's a lot to keep track of. Um... maybe like, Clee... I wanted to say Clefairy for the last one, so I'm gonna say Clefairy again.

**Travis:** No, god! Come on!

**Justin:** Eve... Eeveechu?

**Griffin:** They all end in -eon.

**Travis:** Griffin, how many can you name?

**Justin:** Radi—Radeon. Is that one?

**Travis:** No. God damn it. How many can you name, Griffin?

**Griffin:** Well, you got Jolteon, Flareon, and Vaporeon from gen one. And then I think that's when they added Espeon and Umbreon, which are the psychic and dark type. You do have Leafeon and Glaceon, which is ice, and the fairy type one is Sylveon.

**Travis:** Damn. That's all eight right there!

**Griffin:** You guys want me to know—it's eight Pokémon. Are you fucking kidding me? It's eight Pokémon.

**Travis:** Griffin... and if you get anywhere close to the number, I will count it as correct.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** But how many churros are sold at Disneyland every year?

**Griffin:** A billion.

**Travis:** Jesus. No. Over 2.8 million. That's a lot of churros though, huh?

**Griffin:** That's quite less, yeah.

**Justin:** That's a lot of churros.

**Griffin:** Sorry, I'm just trying to answer these as quickly as possible.

**Travis:** I appreciate that.

**Justin:** I could sooner answer, by the way, questions about Pokémon than I could about Disneyland.

**Travis:** Oh, really?

**Justin:** With that bad theme park that no one enjoys.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Next week, I'll make them all Disney World questions.

**Griffin:** Or don't do it next week. Let's not...

**Travis:** So, Justin. Pikachu's name is a Japanese onomatopoeia portmanteau for what two words?

**Justin:** Pikachu's name is a...

**Travis:** Japanese onomatopoeia portmanteau for what two words?

**Justin:** You can't have an—okay. [sighs]

**Travis:** It is a two—it is a portmanteau of two onomatopoeical words, I guess. [laughing]

**Justin:** I—two—onomatopoeical English words?

**Travis:** Uh, no.

**Justin:** Okay, so just... yeah, no problem. Yeah, let me just dip into my knowledge of Pokémon and Japanese.

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** To come up with... uhh... pi... peek... I always thought it was like, peek at you.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Travis:** So like, y'know how he's a dirty perv.

**Justin:** Like he's a dirty pervert, and he peeks at you. [laughing] I Pikachu.

**Travis:** Uh, it's actually, uh—

**Griffin:** Oh, let me get a—ooh, let me!

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** I mean, ChuChu Rocket is about a mouse, so I think 'chu' is the onomatopoeic noise a mouse makes.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Which would mean that 'pika' is the sound that... electricity makes.

**Travis:** Wow, hey, y'know what? I'll count it, 'cause chu chu is squeaking, and pika pika is sparkle. So Pikachu is sparkle and squeaking.

**Griffin:** [snaps] M'kay.

**Travis:** Uh, Griffin, one last question.

**Griffin:** What doesn't he know? Who said that?

**Travis:** When Pirates of the Caribbean originally opened at Disneyland, what authentic props were used on loan from UCLA?

**Griffin:** Guns.

**Travis:** Incorrect. The answer is human skeletons!

**Griffin:** Aww. They shouldn't'a done that.

**Travis:** No! [laughs] Not at all! That's horribly, like, morally speaking, right?

**Justin:** Yeah, that's rough.

**Griffin:** They shouldn't have used those. Those were real dead... real deads.

**Travis:** And hey, just FYI – those were all returned, but there is still, according to the thing I read, one human skull still in use at Pirates of the Caribbean at Disneyland! So... guess times, they haven't a'changed that much!

**Justin:** Uh, so, who won?

**Travis:** Well, that would be... well, I guess Griffin.

**Griffin:** I fuckin' stomped your ass, dude.

**Travis:** Well, Griffin at least knew the answers to your questions.

**Justin:** That's true. Oh well. Uh, hey, we'll get 'em next time, but thank you, Travis, for that great segment. I think we all had a lot of fun, and it was a nice break from humor. Um... let's, uh, take a... break? And head on over to the money zone.

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** I want to tell you about Blue Apron.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Because I know that neither one of you have ever heard about it before. Get this.

**Justin:** Never.

**Travis:** Imagine being able to cook food at home, but without having to go anywhere to buy that food first!

**Justin:** Mmm!



**Travis:** Blue Apron sends you a box full of ingredients. Just random ingredients, you ask? No! Specific ingredients to make specific meals, that they also give you instructions on how to cook. It's just that simple. And I know what you're asking – is it the same three meals every time? No!

**Griffin:** Yes. Hamburger. Spaghetti.

**Travis:** No.

**Griffin:** And—oh.

**Travis:** No, it's different meals each time. And you can choose what kind of meals you want. And these are chef-designed, delicious, ready-to-cook meals with perfectly portioned ingredients, and a lot of flavorful options. And it's all sent to your door as low as \$7.49 per serving. And it's flexible! You can skip weeks or cancel anytime.

Feel good about your food and your environment impact with Blue Apron, the first and only meal kit to partner with How to Recycle, which takes the guess work out of recycling, and is committed to transparency and reducing waste. Find comfort in the kitchen with Blue Apron, and enjoy a delicious, home-cooked meal.

Check out this week's menu and visit [BlueApron.com](http://BlueApron.com). That's [BlueApron.com](http://BlueApron.com). Blue Apron: Eat your—no. Feed your soul. Excuse me.

**Griffin:** [laughs] Eat your own soul!

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** You think Shang Sung ever accidentally ate his own soul? And then he was like, "Aw, crap."

**Travis:** Probably when he was young, right? And first doing it.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Or he was like, kind of like this, like, "Nooo!" [gasps and gags] And he—maybe—well, then... is it still in your tummy, then? Huh.

**Griffin:** Well, the soul lives in the tummy, and as you ponder that, also ponder about Stitch Fix. It is a box that is also gonna come to your door, and can you build a robot costume out of these boxes? Sure. Nobody's gonna stop you from doing that. But there's other clothes, too, that come in these Stitch Fix boxes.

It's a personal styling company that makes getting the clothes you love effortless. You get sent a box of clothes that is set up for you, uh, via the Stitch Fix profile service. You punch in like, what kind of stuff you like to wear, and you work with an online stylist who will then send you clothes, and whatever you like, you keep and you pay for it. Everything else, you just ship back, and returns and shipping and exchanges are always easy and free.

You just pay a \$20 styling fee for each fix that gets sent to you, and it's credited towards anything that you keep. So, get started today at [StitchFix.com](http://StitchFix.com).

**Travis:** Well, Griffin, hold on. What if I like to wear clothes that are dumb and ugly and uncomfortable? Will they send me some of those?

**Griffin:** I mean, if you ask for it? I don't know.

**Travis:** Hey, Stitch Fix, give me dumb poopoo clothes. Give me the dooziest stuff you've got.

**Griffin:** I don't—they have never sent me poopoo clothes ever. They've only sent me good stuff, and I really like it. So, get started today at [StitchFix.com/MyBrother](http://StitchFix.com/MyBrother), and you will get 25% off when you keep everything in your fix. That's [StitchFix.com/MyBrother](http://StitchFix.com/MyBrother) for 25% off when you keep everything in your fix. [StitchFix.com/MyBrother](http://StitchFix.com/MyBrother).

**Travis:** Stitch Fix: Wear your soul!

[music plays]

**Dave:** Hi, I'm Dave.

**Graham:** Hi, I'm Graham.

**Dave:** And we're two house DJs who have been trapped inside our drum machine.

**Graham:** We love it here, and we'd love if you stopped by and visited us every week, on Stop Podcasting Yourself.

**Dave:** Stop Podcasting Yourself, here on MaximumFun.org. We're just a couple of doofuses from Canada.

**Graham:** And listen to our show, or perish. [laughs] Stop Podcasting Yourself...

**Dave:** ... on MaximumFun.org.

**Justin:** I got another question from a listener. "Every time I video conference with my coworkers, they comment about the mirror on the wall behind me. I like having the mirror there, since it makes the room look bigger. But my coworkers comments are starting to get annoying. What should I do to hide that mirror that won't start more conversations about the dang mirror?" And that's from The Man in the Mirror.

Um, I have no idea.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Like, how do you move a—how do you move a mirror?

**Travis:** What do you do with it? Throw it in the garbage? You break it? No.

**Justin:** There's nothing to be done. Um, I'm gonna have to call in some outside help. Y'know, uh... Elizabeth Gilbert's an author, so she's probably just at home.

**Griffin:** And she's strong. Strong enough to move mirrors.

**Justin:** Strong enough to move mirrors. Let me call her. Elizabeth, I haven't called you yet! Shh! Okay, let me call her real quick. Bleep, bloop, blop bloop bleep.

**Travis:** Brrring! Riiing! Banana phone!

**Elizabeth:** [laughs] Uh, hi. Hi. Hi, this is Liz.

**Justin:** Liz, hey! It's Justin and Travis and Griffin.

**Elizabeth:** Hey!

**Travis:** McElroy.

**Elizabeth:** Oh, I didn't see your name come up on my ID. That's incredible. [laughs]

**Justin:** Yeah, you should get your phone fixed. It's broken.

**Griffin:** Yeah, it may be kind of messed up, 'cause I think your phone number does only have five numbers in it.

**Elizabeth:** [laughs] Just happened to be walking by the phone. Just a delight to hear you.

**Justin:** I have her on my speed dial, actually. But she's in the 20,000s. So it does take five button presses to get there.

**Elizabeth:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** Let me uh, text you the question so I don't have to read it again.

**Elizabeth:** Uh-huh. Yep. Yep.

**Justin:** Got it? Okay.

**Griffin:** And Justin, what is that? What would that sound like?

**Justin:** Let me take you inside the bit for that.

**Travis:** Do some prop work. Come on. Anchor us.

**Justin:** Okay. I'll do it. Hey, Siri? Text Elizabeth Gilbert.

**Travis:** Which Elizabeth Gilbert?

**Justin:** The only one in my phone. "Every time I've video conferenced with my coworkers, they comment about the mirror on the wall behind me. I like having the mirror there, since it..." No. [enunciating] "I like having the mirror there." Delete. Delete. Delete. Okay, start ov—uh, Siri, text Liz Gilbert.

**Elizabeth:** [laughing]

**Justin:** "Every time I video conference with my—" Oh, it auto completed. Okay, it auto completed with the entire rest of the question. Perfect. Okay. So there it is, you should have it.

**Griffin:** Liz, you're about to get like, that exact text from hundreds of thousands of our listeners, by the way. Just because of the way that Apple's technology works.

**Elizabeth:** It's weird, it came through, but it came through as like, a GoFundMe, directly to you guys. So, I don't know what that is, but yeah.

**Travis:** Well, these are trying times, Liz, and uh...

**Elizabeth:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I—I really like the sort of cyclical nature of this question, uh, being pitched to Liz Gilbert. Because the last time you were on this show, uh, 400,000 years ago...

**Elizabeth:** Many years ago.

**Griffin:** You dished out some truly, uh, helpful, and I would say, genuinely life-changing advice about working from home and taking it seriously and putting on clean pants every morning. And here we are now, 400,000 years later, in the grips of some... let's say, nasty stuff... um, and you're kind of—technology has changed, and now we got video conferencing, and we gotta worry about mirrors and stuff? It's just... it's like a beautiful book end. Y'know what I mean?

**Elizabeth:** Well, and yet, some things haven't changed. Y'know? And one of the things that hasn't changed, and I think that I would say you guys would agree with me on this, is that people should be themselves, still. So, y'know, this question asker is saying, how can I hide my mirror? Which sounds to me a lot like, how can I hide my light under a bushel?

**Justin:** Thank you.

**Travis:** Well, ehh...

**Elizabeth:** And we don't support that, right? Like, we want you to show your mirror.

**Travis:** Well, Liz, if I may, and this is gonna go against, I would say, your entire aesthetic... but, maybe people shouldn't always 100% be themselves, right? Like...

**Elizabeth:** [laughs]

**Travis:** There's some... there's something—y'know what I mean? Like, maybe one—hold one percent back isn't the *worst*...

**Justin:** You'll remember, in um, uh, Elizabeth's novel, *Eat, Pray, Love*, the woman learns the lesson, which is on the back page and the front page, is, be yourself. Within reason. And I've always—

**Elizabeth:** [laughing] Unless other people are looking.

**Justin:** Unless other—yeah. Dance like people that you sort of care about watching are, in fact, watching you dance.

**Elizabeth:** Dance like your coworkers are watching you. [laughs]

**Travis:** Right. Dance like your coworkers, who you've built up a kind of façade personality for, are watching.

**Griffin:** You've seen them dance. So like, keep that in mind as you dance for them.

**Elizabeth:** But I have two thoughts on this. One is that, I think you should write something on the mirror, backwards.

**Justin:** Ohh! That's good!

**Elizabeth:** And just—and not even make mention of it, and then pretend that you can't see it. Right? So you could just have very dark, satanic messages on the mirror.

**Travis:** Or happy ones. It could be a happy, satanic message.

**Elizabeth:** Yeah, that's good, too. [laughs]

**Travis:** Hey, it's me, Satan. Be safe out there. Wash your hands.

**Elizabeth:** What if you put their questions about the mirror on the mirror?

**Justin:** Ooh!

**Elizabeth:** Right? "Doug asks..." Y'know, and you just have it be like a whiteboard. Um...

**Justin:** Could you paint a small child, imprisoned just inside? Really.

**Elizabeth:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "I'm cold."

**Travis:** Can I take it one step further? 'Cause my idea was to like, I think if we combine that and my idea, which is to do that, and then cover it with some kind of black lace...

**Griffin:** Oh.

**Elizabeth:** Oh, very nice.

**Travis:** So that if I like, if I remove this—no, you guys don't want to see the mirror anymore, trust me.

**Griffin:** Yeah, 'cause you'll trade places with whoever you see in there. And then, they're gonna—they're gonna take over this meeting, and they're gonna waste a lot of company time.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Elizabeth:** Could you... could you make some sort of an optical illusion with your camera and your phone, or on your laptop or whatever you're using, so when they complain about the mirror, they mention the mirror, you go, "Okay, guys. I hear you. I'm gonna move it now." But when you go to move it, your reflection doesn't show up in it?

**Justin:** Ohh!

**Travis:** Ooh!



**Justin:** That would be so—there's gotta be some—somebody—we'll get the top people on that, and see if we can't... hey.

**Travis:** Let's call David Blaine. Hold on.

**Justin:** Call—someone get David Blaine on the phone. Let me call him, too. Beep boop beep boop beep.

**Travis:** "Hey, it's me, David Blaine."

**Justin:** I'm not done calling you, David Blaine.

**Travis:** "Uh, but I'm here to help."

**Elizabeth:** [laughing]

**Travis:** "I knew you were gonna call."

**Griffin:** "That's the trick."

**Travis:** "That's the magic trick."

**Elizabeth:** [laughing]

**Travis:** "Look inside the bottle. That's where the mirror is now."

**Justin:** Hey, uh, Liz, if I may call you Liz. Let me hit you—

**Elizabeth:** Yes.

**Justin:** Let me hit you with this. What if, y'know, you've crafted a lot of drama. What do you think about the drama of this moment? The next time your employee, or your coworkers mention the mirror, without missing a beat, you pick up an ash tray that you have there on your desk... and chuck it at the mirror and smash it into a million pieces.

**Elizabeth:** Oh, it's so good!

**Justin:** After that moment, right? You are someone who is capable of anything.

**Elizabeth:** [laughs] And don't even respond beyond that.

**Justin:** Yeah!

**Elizabeth:** Like, you're right back in that Zoom window, and you just like... y'know, I've got the quarterly reports here now for Dan.

**Justin:** [laughing]

**Elizabeth:** And people will be—that's more terrifying than if your reflection doesn't show up in the mirror.

**Justin:** Yeah, I bet—there's one thing they're not gonna do again, and that's trifle with you! There will be no trifling!

**Elizabeth:** They also won't complain about the mirror anymore, 'cause it will be destroyed.

**Travis:** Yeah, right.

**Justin:** It's gone!

**Travis:** Can I—I would like to pitch something. Uh, along the lines of the optical illusion. You made me think of this. What if, before the next meeting, you cut a hole in the wall, the exact size of the mirror. And then you put the mirror frame up without the mirror in it. And then, behind that hole, on the other side of the wall, you put a mirror. Right? So it looks like it's reflecting. And the next time someone mentions the mirror, you say, "I've had enough of this." And then you step into the mirror world and disappear.

**Elizabeth:** The amazing thing that you just did, Travis, is that sentence itself sounded like a mirror reflected in a mirror.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Thank you!

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** Someone has a—

**Elizabeth:** I just got lost in there. Like, bouncing from the... [laughing]

**Travis:** If you go back and track it, it all makes sense. It diagrams perfectly.

**Justin:** Someone has an absolutely banal problem, and Travis decides to build Pepper's ghost behind them.

**Elizabeth:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** [laughing] I think this is fun. I think—'cause listen, we could be in this mess for quite a while. What I love about Travis' solution is, you can build on it every week. Maybe the first week, you go in and come out, and you're like, "Oh, that's weird. Everything's in there, but it's backwards." And the second week, maybe you come out with a glowing orb. And you're like, "Yo. This mirror world..."

**Elizabeth:** Oh, that's really good.

**Griffin:** I want you to build up—I want you to make it as difficult as possible for your coworkers to reconcile your at-home fiction with your in-the-office fiction, once you are headed back to the office. Like, once you get back to the office, do not mention the mirror world. Do not mention the orb. They'll be like, "Yo, we saw some wild shit when we were talking to you on Zoom. Are you okay?" And you go, "I have no idea what you're talking about."

**Elizabeth:** If you've got a friend among your coworkers, if you could coordinate it somehow where you could send them a film so that you appear to be walking through the mirror and coming out into their home...

**Justin:** [laughs] Worth it.

**Elizabeth:** Right?

**Justin:** Worth it.

**Elizabeth:** Even worth risking COVID-19, I think, to actually go film that at your friend's house. [laughs]

**Travis:** Now, let's be clear – you're going to be fired.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Because your boss is gonna put together how much time and effort you have put into this, instead of, I don't know, reports or whatever. Right? You're gonna lose your job, but you're gonna be a legend!

**Elizabeth:** Yeah, I think that's good. I've never had a job, so I don't know how these things work. [laughing]

**Justin:** [laughing]

**Travis:** [laughing]

**Justin:** Now, that's not true, Elizabeth Gilbert. You do have a job. You're an author, and you just published... well, you didn't. I'm assuming you have people for this. Things are tough, but—

**Elizabeth:** I got a little printing press. We're all doing it from home now. [laughs] Just printing books by hand.

**Justin:** The paperback copy of uh, *City of Girls*, which I read and enjoyed. It's a rollicking tale of life in New York City. I thought it was very, uh—it painted a lot of beautiful pictures in my mind.

**Elizabeth:** Nice. Thanks, buddy.

**Travis:** [laughs] What a great way to describe reading!

**Justin:** It's the power of books, as I like to say when I talk about the good things that books do.

**Elizabeth:** [laughs] I made you hallucinate.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs] That's the benefit of publishing out of your own, like, Xerox printer at your house, is you can just douse each page in a sort of hallucinogenic, touchable drug.

**Justin:** Hey...

**Elizabeth:** Yes?

**Justin:** I have a ques—I know that was like, an off-ramp, but I do have a question for you. You're a creative person, and you've written and thought a lot about creativity, and this is like, a complete pivot, and I apologize to our listeners, 'cause this must be so jarring for a show as consistent and structured as ours.

**Elizabeth:** [laughs]

**Justin:** What—I tend to think of creativity as like, putting a bunch of different garbage in your mind and rearranging it in interesting ways.

**Elizabeth:** No, that's podcasting. [laughs]

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Fuck. Hang up! Hang up the phone! I can't with you, Liz Gilbert! I can't! Okay, so...

**Elizabeth:** Okay, go ahead. I'm listening. I'm sorry.

**Justin:** I don't have—in this world of ours... I mean, like, I can still watch YouTube, and I'm loving it, for sure. But I'm definitely feeling myself a little starved of, like, the sort of outside impulses of the world that sort of like, feed into the uh, the creative, uh, engine. Is that something you're struggling with at all? And if people are, like, what do you think? Do you have a hot take?

**Elizabeth:** So, are you saying that, in order for you to be inspired, you kind of have to go out in the world and roll around in it, and enter—

**Justin:** Don't have to, but it certainly—

**Elizabeth:** But you, personally, that that's how it works for you, Justin.

**Justin:** I didn't think so before, 'cause I do not like going out there.

**Elizabeth:** Well, that's what was surprising me about your question.  
[laughs]

**Justin:** But I'm forced out there frequently by touring and obligations, right? And apparently, I was drawing more on the outside world than I thought, 'cause I got nothing right now.

**Elizabeth:** Right. Well, I guess you have to just do, like... like, it's kind of like the difference between Emily Dickenson's poems, and like, Walt Whitman's poems.

**Justin:** You've chosen the exact right people to make this reference with. Go on.

**Elizabeth:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Elizabeth:** So, Walt Whitman's poetry is all about, y'know, going and rolling in the earth and taking it in, and Emily Dickenson never left her bedroom. But she still wrote an incredible body of work. I think you just have to start looking at the world through the eyes of a 19<sup>th</sup> century spinster poetess.  
[laughs]

**Travis:** Now, if I may, Ms. Gilbert, you probably know way more about this than I do. I know, I think, one thing about each of those people, and it is this – wouldn't you say Walt Whitman was, I don't know, happier than Emily Dickenson? [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Elizabeth:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Listen, Travis, do you want to be happy, or do you want to make great... was it poems? Poems.

**Elizabeth:** It was poems that she made. I think he might've been a little bit happier, yeah. Um... yeah, I think—y'know, I'm actually surprised by the opposite, because I am a traveler. And yet, I'm finding that I'm quite enjoying my little quarantine time at home, and um...

**Travis:** Did you guys Freaky Friday?

**Elizabeth:** Maybe.

**Justin:** Maybe we Freaky Fridayed.

**Elizabeth:** Yeah! It could be. Um, not sure—'cause I'm doing different kinds of creativity now. Like, I have gotten—I ordered a bunch of watercolor paper, and pens, and I'm actually drawing. I haven't done that since I was a kid. That's a good thing to do when you're inside. So do some art. Do some

art art. And then make jokes about that, I guess. [laughs] How that turns into... how you turn that into comedy gold, but um...

**Griffin:** But that would be art art art, at that point.

**Elizabeth:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Yeah, that's too many arts. Too many. Okay.

**Elizabeth:** Too many—hey, can I just congratulate you guys on your 500<sup>th</sup> episode, very recently?

**Justin:** Oh, thank you so much.

**Griffin:** Oh, thank you.

**Elizabeth:** That's incredible.

**Griffin:** I actually think this is for next week's episode. This is our ten year anniversary celebration.

**Justin:** Believe it or not.

**Elizabeth:** That's so incredible.

**Griffin:** We've been podcasting for ten years.

**Elizabeth:** You have brought this woman so much joy over those ten years. I can't even tell you how I've taken you all over the world with me. We've gone on extremely long walks together in interesting places.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Elizabeth:** I'm so grateful that you exist, and I also wanted to say, I was a little jealous. On your 500<sup>th</sup> episode, and your kids were on, and you were



interviewing your kids about what their favorite MBMBaM episodes were. And um, I was like—my hand was raised. [laughs]

**Justin:** Except we didn't call on you. [laughing] So rude.

**Elizabeth:** I wanted—I want to answer that. Can I answer that, just to get it out of my system?

**Justin:** Sure, please.

**Griffin:** Please!

**Elizabeth:** Um, it would be the ballad of tit liquid. [laughing]

**Travis:** Oh yeah!

**Griffin:** Wow!

**Justin:** Thank you. Yeah, that was a—

**Elizabeth:** I have listened to it several times. Whenever I need a lift, I go back and just listen to that little bit, because it's so incredibly funny. So um, thank you for letting me get that off my chest.

**Justin:** Uh, I'm glad that you could share that, at great personal cost to me.

**Elizabeth:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** [laughing] What a generous hosts we are. Uh, so, City of Girls is out on paperback. There's lots of other books you can buy by Elizabeth Gilbert, and you should probably buy them.

**Travis:** I mean, I'm glad you clarified, 'cause there are lots of other books you could buy, but...

**Justin:** Yeah. No, buy Elizabeth Gilbert's, specifically.

**Travis:** Buy City of Girls. Or don't. There's lots of—

**Elizabeth:** Actually, I'd rather—Travis, I'd rather, right now, we just focus not on the lots of other books people can buy. [laughing]

**Travis:** Oh, okay. Right right right.

**Justin:** Yeah, just these few books.

**Travis:** Just City of Girls, or... another book.

**Elizabeth:** This little handful. This little—

**Justin:** Call your uh, call your local bookstore. I bet they could maybe ship it to you. And that's nice, then you're supporting two great people. Your local bookstore, and Elizabeth Gilbert.

**Elizabeth:** There's also a new, really good alternative to Amazon, which is called BookShop.org. And you can just go to BookShop.org, and you can buy books from independent bookstores online as easily as you could do it on Amazon. So if you don't know how to support your local, independent bookstore, that's an easy way to do it wherever you are.

**Justin:** Excellent.

**Griffin:** Hey, this is uh, Jeff Bezos. I listen in on all the podcasts while they're makin' them. I just need you to delete that one part. If you could delete that one part for me, I don't like it. I don't want it. And uh, delete that for me, please.

**Justin:** [laughing]

**Elizabeth:** Elizabeth Gilbert, this is Jeff Bezos. We're cancelling all your books.

**Justin:** Jeff, Elizabeth, pleasure to meet ya. I'm Jesse Thorn. I heard you guys were doing free ads. Uh, without anybody paying for them, and I'm gonna cut that out, too. I listen to all the shows, too.

**Elizabeth:** [laughing]

**Justin:** This is what I've always sounded like, really.

**Elizabeth:** While you're relaxing on your Casper mattress, you can buy yourself a book from BookShop.org.

**Griffin:** Oh no.

**Justin:** [laughing] You're giving away thousands of dollars.

**Travis:** Hey, it's me, John Casper. Please don't mention my mattresses unless I pay for it. I'm a very upstanding young man, and I won't stand for it! That's robbing from you, the creator! And I respect you!

**Elizabeth:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** Aw, hey, John. John Capser, uh, Jesse Thorn, it's me, Jeff Bezos again. I just wanted to say, I'm excited to see you two at our secretive billionaires hunting party. And uh, we'll catch you all there.

**Justin:** Hey, uh... [laughing] I love all these—it's uh, it's me—

**Elizabeth:** Hey, this is... Jimmy... Squarespace.

**Justin:** [bursts into laughter]

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Travis:** [laughing]

**Justin:** Oh god. Alright. Elizabeth Gilbert, thank you. Y'know, the standing offer to just permanently join the show still stands.

**Elizabeth:** Oh, please!

**Justin:** Any time you want to take us up on that.

**Elizabeth:** Anytime. [laughing]

**Travis:** I'll quit anytime to make room for you.

**Elizabeth:** I love you guys. Be safe.

**Justin:** You too.

**Griffin:** We love you too! Bye!

**Travis:** Bye!

**Justin:** [begins singing the Munch Squad theme]

**Travis:** What?

**Griffin:** Yes!

**Justin:** [sings a softer tune]

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Griffin:** Okay!

**Justin:** I wanna grow! [continues singing a guitar riff]

**Travis:** Huh.

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** I want to heal! [continues singing] Fix this failing planet! [continues singing] With fast food meals! [continues singing] Welcome to Munch Squad, colon, brands are here for you.

**Travis:** Oooh!

**Justin:** A lot of people have been thinking the—in this crisis... have the brands abandoned me? Have my favorite fast food brands abandoned me? And I've been feeling it too, 'cause they stopped cranking out, uh, hot new menu items for me to discuss. So I felt abandoned. So I started digging, and I realized that the brands haven't had time to make great new menu items for me, because they're busy fucking doing their part to help heal this, uh, incredible crisis that our entire planet finds itself embroiled in.

So, with a spirit of sort of, um, a well... a good-natured and, uh, a pat on the shoulder, and maybe a slightly patronizing nod, I want to give you some of the updates on what our brands are doing to help sort of do their part. Um, Carl's Jr. slash Hardee's are providing an eat—a lot of people are doing family meals. Let you get a big ol' mess of food for a good price to take home to your family, save you a bunch of hassle, which is great.

Carl Jr. and Hardee's are still charging you money for them. This is still a transaction.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Justin:** They've adjusted their product to meet the current demand. Carl's Jr. and Hardee providing—but they—boy howdy, do these brands feel pretty proud of the fact that they froze their food for you. [laughing] Carl's Jr. and Hardee are providing an easy solution for family meals, in an effort to help people focus on taking care of their families while we take care of the burgers and biscuits.

**Travis:** [laughs] While we keep the burgers and biscuits safe. Keep them warm.

**Justin:** We're protecting the burgers and the biscuits. In support of the families across the country that are coming together around meal time, Carl's Jr. and Hardee's are launching the new family bundles menu that includes signature items like charbroiled burgers, hand-breaded chicken tenders, and made from scratch biscuits, providing everything you love for everyone you love, bundled up and priced right.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I'm talkin' about little Jeffrey. I'm talking about sweet Susan, your wife. Let's get her filled up with these charbroiled broils. We love 'em. We love you. Please eat our broils.

**Justin:** That's gonna be pit-kickin' off Thursday. Family menu bundle by drive through. You can pick 'em up, as Carl's Jr. and Hardee's remain committed to serving their communities, for a reasonable fee. [laughs] And helping everyone to feed their happy.

Boston Market, they got a little bit more of a religious focus.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Huh.

**Justin:** They got their own meal deals. Their own frozen meal deals. "With all that's happening around the world right now, we know that Easter celebrations will be different and smaller this year," says Boston Market chief executive officer, Eric Wyatt. "Our team at Boston Market would like to help with any type of Easter meal you might be planning, with numerous convenient options available for pickup, home delivery, or home shipment. The health and safety of both our guests and our team members is our top

priority, so we want to do everything we can to ensure everyone has a safe and healthy holiday this Easter.”

I appreciate you, Boston Market. Thank you.

Zaxby’s got their own meal deals. “We wanted to create an affordable meal, featuring our signature menu items for families during these challenging times,” says Zach McLeroy, Zaxby’s CEO and co-founder. Have you noticed how we never hear from the CEOs, but now that they’ve frozen a lot of food in big boxes, now they’ll come down from their fucking sedans to waltz amongst us commoners?

**Griffin:** [laughing] Well, Justin, they did it for our families, and our sick cousin...

**Justin:** For the communities, and the families.

**Griffin:** Our sick cousin, Dave, and everyone. All of `em.

**Justin:** Zaxby’s, uh... Zaxby’s is always focused on bringing people together with flavorful comfort food, made with uncompromising quality.

**Travis:** I have always said that. Zaxby’s? Their number one thing is bringing people together.

**Justin:** Now, more than ever, we’re all family. Just, y’know, family that will charge you \$20 for a large tray of frozen chicken fingers. [laughing]

**Travis:** Oh wait, are you guys not doing that in your house? Like when Bebe comes to eat, I’m like, “\$12.”

**Justin:** “\$12, please.” Uh, this is good. Zaxby’s is like, this is all very well and good. What if they don’t know our name? “An alternative to fast food...” Fuck off. “Zaxby’s serves fresh, prepared at order, hand-breaded chicken fingerz,” with a Z, “and wings that can be tossed in a variety of nine sauces.”

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Justin:** "The menu also features four zalads." I'm not reading the rest of the things they have for sale. Next quote. "Zaxby's has been serving up premium chicken fingers and wings for 30 years."

**Travis:** "Read a book!"

**Justin:** "We want our guests to know we're here for you now, and we're not going anywhere!"

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** "We'll weather this storm together, and come through it stronger than ever!"

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** [whispers] Zaxby's. They're here forever, for you!

**Travis:** You can't kill Zaxby's by conventional methods!

**Justin:** You cannot kill us. We are immune. We had it once. We got over it. We're immune now.

**Griffin:** We have no lungs to infect! We're Zaxby's!

**Justin:** We're all fingers! And we don't wash 'em.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** We do at some point.

**Travis:** Yeah.



**Justin:** Uh, lastly, the one that I do want to especially hold up as I tear down, is White Castle. Because they are actually doing anything that is charitable. [laughs] "From April 7<sup>th</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>, healthcare workers and EMTs can go through the drive through of any White Castle restaurant each day to receive one free combo meal or breakfast combo. They just have to show their work ID."

**Griffin:** Fuck yeah!

**Justin:** So I want to say, White Castle, that is wonderful. "White Castle team members will be delivering crates of sliders to hospitals, and other healthcare facilities in the regions where White Castle has restaurants." That's good. [laughing] The alternative would've been insane.

**Travis:** "We're gonna be air-dropping White Castle all over this nation!"

**Justin:** [laughing] We put 'em in a White Castle cannon and blasted them off. "On April 6<sup>th</sup>, White Castle delivered 1,200 sliders to four hospitals in the Detroit area." That is very good. Although, I cannot imagine that the smell of 1,200 White Castle sliders has made that situation a lot more appealing.

**Griffin:** It's about the taste, Justin. You don't smell these wet squares. They say that. They print that on the napkin. "Don't smell our wet squares. Just eat 'em, 'cause they taste good."

**Justin:** "In the midst of this pandemic, healthcare workers have put it all on the line to serve and take care of us. Now it's our turn to serve them," says Jamie Richardson, vice president at White Castle. I'm hoping the president was extremely, extremely busy, 'cause they couldn't come out for this one. "Providing free sliders and meals to healthcare workers is a way for us to show our appreciation for everything they're doing right now."

So White Castle, a little good-natured fun at your expense, but good on you for really supporting people. And that's what's going on as our brands are taking care of us. So thank you, brands. I know we're gonna get through this together.

**Griffin:** Stronger! Stronger!

**Justin:** Stronger, apparently.

**Travis:** Stronger together!

**Justin:** Zaxby's says 'stronger than ever,' we're gonna come through this one.

**Griffin:** It's gonna be better after, even. Zaxby's is like, it's gonna be even better after! You're gonna be like—

**Travis:** We have been looking for—Zaxby's has been looking for its chance to grow. Y'know? And sometimes... sometimes, uh, that little tree in the forest... needs another tree to maybe fall over to, uh, get a little more sunlight on that little tree. Zaxby's is hoping some of its, uh, big siblings... maybe go down in this, so Zaxby's ends up being stronger than ever.

**Justin:** More pow—yeah, extremely powerful. Thank you, Zaxby's. Folks, thank you so much for listening to our podcast. Uh, and sincerely, I know we got all mushy at 500, so we're not gonna do all that again. I will say, though... ten years. Come on.

**Travis:** Ten. Years.

**Justin:** You're too good to us. It's really very kind of you to continue to hang in there with us. We know our best years are behind us. We know that, you know that. Uh, but the fact that you've clung in here, even in the twilight years, is very meaningful to us, so thank you so much.

**Griffin:** Um, yeah. It's, uh... I do not know what we can say that we did not say, like, what, five episodes ago at this point?

**Justin:** Sure.

**Griffin:** But uh, I feel like ten years is a sort of different milestone, at least on our end, chronologically speaking, to... it is easier for me to look back at

where I was ten years ago and where I am now, and uh, where I am now is because of you all listening at home. So, thank you all so much.

Thank you to Elizabeth Gilbert, who is so good. Just like, the best.

**Justin:** Just so good. Just like, a really good person.

**Griffin:** Good person, and funny, and very talented. Um, and... I don't think we mentioned this during her segment, but if you are, like, struggling with creativity during this time, uh, check out Big Magic. It's another book of hers that she wrote, just about being creative. Even if you aren't struggling with creativity, read Big Magic, 'cause it's, uh...

**Justin:** It's fantastic.

**Griffin:** It's a life changer.

**Travis:** We have—so, this is a big thing we should talk about, too. Uh, because with our ten year anniversary, we decided to do, uh...

**Griffin:** Oh, god.

**Travis:** ... a little bit of rebranding.

**Griffin:** Oh, okay.

**Travis:** Well, I'll get to that in a second. Uh, some new designs, new logos, that kind of stuff. Um, and you can check that out. We'll be sharing it, and you'll see it on all our new stuff.

Biiiig credit to Sarah McKay, who did the redesign, and it's just absolutely gorgeous. And I love it so much.

**Griffin:** Wild about it.

**Travis:** We're gonna have, uh, some new merch up with that rebranded stuff up on McElroyMerch.com, uh... including... uhh... a ten year commemorative plate... that made a lot more sense... to make... three months ago when we started working on it. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Right.

**Travis:** Not—whoo. Not so much... ooh.

**Justin:** Right... yeahhh...

**Griffin:** Sometimes it's January, and you come up with a funny joke... that does cost money. Right?

**Travis:** Yes. Yes.

**Griffin:** And then it's April, and the face of the world has been forever changed. But the plates are still there, huh?

**Justin:** But you still made `em. [laughing]

**Griffin:** You still made `em.

**Justin:** There's nothing you can do about it. You don't have to—listen. You don't have to buy the plates. We get it. We do have to try to—we have to put them up for sale, because the alternative is just us hoarding plates with our faces on it. They're really good, but like, I just like—before you, like—we get it. Okay? Like, this is—we get it.

**Travis:** So anyways, check it out. McElroyMerch.com.

**Griffin:** Yeah, check that out.

**Justin:** We also have, uh, for you stalwarts, there is a shirt with the old logo on it, protesting the new logo. And I do want to thank... in that spirit, I want to thank Justin Russo, who, a friend of ours who, ten years ago, uh, made that original logo. And he's still alive today.

**Griffin:** [laughing] Well...

**Justin:** So thank you, Justin, for that—for that shirt.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** You can support Justin. We're giving him a—y'know, he gets his beak wet when you buy one of these protest shirts. So they're there, too, if you want to.

**Griffin:** 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. Fantastic little diddy.

And uh, thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. Go to [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org) and check out all the great shows there. Shows like, uh, Stop Podcasting Yourself, and uh, Judge John Hodgman, and Switchblade Sisters, and a whole bunch more.

And uh, like Travis and Justin I think both have said, we have other stuff at [McElroy.family](http://McElroy.family). Hey, go check out the movie, Trolls: World Tour, featuring, uh, ya bois.

**Justin:** Yes!

**Griffin:** And... I think that's it.

**Justin:** Yep.

**Griffin:** So, here is a final Yahoo that was sent in by, uh, a bunch of people. Graham Robuck, Adrian Cowles, bunch of folks sent this one in. Thank you all. It's from Yahoo Answers user Mike, who asks... "Can science make a Spider-Man?"

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs] My name is Justin McElroy.

**Travis:** I'm Travis McElroy.

**Griffin:** I'm Griffin McElroy.

**Justin:** This has been My Brother, My Brother, and Me. Kiss your dad square on the lips.

[theme music plays]

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