MBMBaM 516: Radical Gamer Facts

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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, and welcome to My Brother, My Brother, and Me, an advice show for the modern era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroooy.

Travis: Uh, let me check my notes real quick... Oh, yep! I'm your middlest brother, Travis McElroy.

Griffin: You say that—you do that a lot these days.

Travis: Well, I have to write a lot of stuff down.

Griffin: I'm just curious... why you keep forgetting your name, or even why you have... are your notes, like—

Travis: I've got a lot going on, Griffin. [sighs]

Griffin: So much that you forget your own name and you need to refer to notes to look at it?

Travis: I don't have to explain myself to you! You're not my boss!

Griffin: Check this out – I'm sure I'm Griffin. Positive.

Justin: Uh, I wanted to do one of our great watch segments. Y'know, where we talk about the latest and greatest in cinema entertainment. So I just loaded up Marquee Cinemas over in Huntington, over at the Pullman Square Plaza.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: 16 screens of pleasure, there.

Travis: Oh, wow!

Justin: And I was just gonna run down—

Travis: Well, and that—hey, just real quick, Justin? 16 screens of pleasure... doesn't sound great.

Griffin: No, it sounds like they're showing a lot of... smut.

Justin: Well, let's take a look, 'cause I thought this would be a good way of figuring out what to do a watch on.

Griffin: 'Kay.

Justin: 'Cause like, if you think about it, it's weird, because there's... there ain't movies. Y'know what I mean? There's no movies.

Griffin: Nooo.

Justin: But they are opening up the theaters to show... I mean, there's no movies. Here's the great news. Here's great—

Griffin: Movies gave us Scoob. And they were like, "That's gonna tide 'em over for a while."

Travis: Yep.

Justin: Um, first up, Trolls: World Tour.

Griffin: Gotta get it.

Justin: I mean, got it. Got it. That was the last movie. We were in the last movie, which seems huge. Bloodshot. Great. Love Vin. Invisible Man, and Sonic the Hedgehog. Now, those...

Griffin: Holdin' on tight.

Justin: Those, I know I've seen at my house. Those have been at my house for a little bit. As well as Fantasy Island.

Griffin: Grippin' tight. Grippin' tight to the edge. Not lettin' go.

Justin: So, this is what—they're like, "Man, we got a lot of screens! Dang, I wish we hadn't put up this many screens. Maybe Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets is gonna play three times." [laughs]

Travis: Whoa!

Griffin: Thrice.

Travis: Whoaaa!

Justin: And once you finish that screening, you can get over and check out Jurassic Park. [laughing]

Griffin: The original Jurassic Park?

Travis: Get out!

Justin: [sings the music from Jurassic Park] Those dinos are back! You thought they were extinct, but they're back!

Travis: Listen, here's the thing. That is simultaneously ridiculous... but also, there is a part of me that's like, "Ooh! Back on the big screen, huh?"

Justin: Well, do you feel that way about this? You can, uh—maybe you'll go, Travis, and you'll have the time of your life, which is deliciously

appropriate, because we're gonna head on over and check out Dirty Dancing at 5:30.

Travis: Oh wow.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: Really make a day of it and enjoy...

Griffin: Let me risk my health, life, and lung capacity to catch a big, big, big performance of Dirty Dancing. Sounds cool.

Travis: And just to clarify, Justin – are they charging money for this?

Justin: Yeah, just the regular prices.

Travis: Oh...

Justin: Griffin, you may uh, risk your life and limb, but you will never say die, because at 8:20, we're gonna go over and see a screening of The Goonies. [laughing] The Goonies said let's make it a double feature of adventure, with Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark. Showing *six times* today. You will have six opportunities to see Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark.

Travis: Now, Justin, I am now looking at the website, too. And I see, on one of the screens, they're showing that black and white silent movie where the train came at the screen, and everyone dove out of the way.

Justin: You ain't that fuckin' far off, Trav, 'cause the last movie showing is The Wizard of Oz!

Travis: Wow!

Justin: Yeah! If you've just been 80 years too late on this one, on this 1939 flick, you can finally check out the lion and the scarecrow and all their great adventures.

Griffin: Metal man.

Justin: You got three chances to see Wizard of Oz.

Griffin: I mean... [sighs] I guess we could do Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets watch. It feels bad.

Justin: I—I want—there is going to be—this is a national chain. There is going to be someone who is like, "Well, I got the COVID. Dang it. I got the COVID." And someone's like, "How did you get the COVID?" It's like, "Well... I just wanted to enjoy all two hours and 41 minutes of Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, on the big screen, as it was intended."

Travis: Y'know, I've never gotten into Harry Potter before. Never been a fan. But now... uh, feels like the best time to do it!

Justin: It's the perfect time!

Griffin: And you forced both your grandpas and grandmas to go to it with you? Fuck you, it's got Kenneth Branagh! You don't know!

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: They need this!

Justin: I'm taking meemaw and pap-pap to see The Goonies! [laughing]

Travis: They didn't even start—they didn't even show Sorcerer's Stone? They were like, "Oh, y'know what? People are just gonna start right here."

Griffin: "We'll start 'em at two! The one with Kenneth fuckin' Branagh in it!"

Justin: Travis, there's a global pandemic. No one's gonna sit through the first Harry Potter movie in a movie theater. You gotta skip to two.

Travis: Yeah, you're right.

Justin: This is an advice show where we try to help you. Here's my advice. Don't go to the fucking movies.

Travis: No! You know what you should do instead?

Justin: You absolute maniacs.

Travis: Y'know what you should do instead?

Griffin: What, Travis?

Justin: Get My Brother, My Brother, and Me on streaming or on iTunes or

wherever you want?

Travis: Well, that. But—

Justin: Watch the TV show?

Travis: Also, I was about to give my brothers a quiz, so you could just play along at home.

Justin: Oh my god. This is heartbreaking. How could this be?

Travis: 'Cause you can play along at home in the safety of your own home, and y'know—

Griffin: It's the way—Juice—Travis, stop. It's the way he does it now, Juice. Where he's like, "Aw, shucks!"

Justin: Uh-huh. Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Yeah. It's like he's—you can tell he's like... he's not actually crankin' it, but he would if he fucking could.

Justin: Do you want to hear something monstrous?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Travis is the one that finds the questions and sends them to me to ask. And he hasn't done it. So I have no...

Griffin: Right.

Travis: You have no recourse. And I have them!

Justin: I have no recourse. I have no lifeline.

Travis: I have them sitting right here. I'll send them to you.

Justin: I have nothing. I have no recourse.

Travis: Uh, but first, I thought maybe we could play along at home!

Griffin: No, we know. Just do it. Just start.

Justin: Yeah, you keep saying it, but it's just making that bit longer every time you say it.

Griffin: It's not cute. Just fucking do it.

Travis: Now, correct me if I'm wrong... do you guys like video games?

Griffin: I do—he does got me there. He got me dead to rights. I love me a video game.

Travis: You like video games?

Justin: [defeated] Yeah, I like video games...

Travis: I picked some video games questions. 'Cause in the past, they've been a little too tough, and I wanted to give you guys a chance. Now I'm

worried. I will say that, as I did this, both of you, uh, are video games aficionados. And there is a part of me that's worried that you'll know all the answers. But I thought it would still be fun...

Griffin: Doubt it.

Travis: ... for those at home!

Griffin: Probably not. Let's try it, though. And let's just make 'em...

Travis: Okay.

Justin: No Googling.

Griffin: No Googling.

Justin: Griffin, let's make a no Google promise.

Griffin: I always make a no Google promise. Travis, please talk as fast as you possibly can. Justin, same to you, 'cause I'll be doing the same.

Travis: Okay, well, I'm killing time now so I can send the questions to Justin, 'cause I forgot to do that. But here we go!

So, uh, let's see. Who wants to go first? Who wants the first question?

Griffin: It doesn't matter.

Justin: Me.

Travis: Okay, Justin. Before settling on the name 'Sonic,' what was the name proposed by Sega for this iconic blue hedgehog?

Justin: Uh, he was originally called Mr. Needlemouse.

Travis: That is correct!

Justin: Thank you.

Griffin: Fuck off—how the fuck do you know that?

Justin: I read a book, Console Wars, if you ever read that one.

Griffin: Alright. Okay, fine. I just wanted—

Justin: Uh, where they talk about the design. He originally was also much more radical and had a lot of 'tude.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Mmm.

Travis: And he wasn't inherently fast. It was his sneakers that were fast. He had no inherent superpowers.

Griffin: [yawning] Who cares?

Justin: Needlemouse is, uh, if you literally translate the Japanese word for hedgehog. That's what you get, is needle mouse.

Travis: Oh! Now, Griffin, this is a more recent game, since you are—

Griffin: Crash Bandicoot. Crash Bandicoot.

Travis: Well, hold on. Hold on.

Griffin: 'Kay.

Travis: I do—I could ask you a Crash Bandicoot question, but I won't.

Griffin: How'd you say that?

Travis: What?

Griffin: Say his name?

Travis: Well, do you know what Crash Bandicoot was originally meant to

be?

Griffin: Say the second word in his name?

Travis: Crash Bandicoot?

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm pretty sure you were saying Bandy-coot, which...

Travis: Bandy-coot.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: See, he's doing it. He's doing it intentionally now.

Travis: Uh, Assassin's Creed was originally set to be part of what video

game franchise?

Justin: He's got this.

Griffin: It's not funny or good. I don't know.

Travis: Prince of Persia.

Justin: Yeah, Prince of Persia.

Travis: It was originally going to be Prince of Persia: Assassins.

Griffin: This is the worst one yet, guys.

Travis: That is an interesting fact!

Griffin: No it fucking isn't!

Justin: Very interesting.

Travis: You didn't know it!

Griffin: Why are we getting interesting gamer facts?!

Travis: Justin.

Griffin: We're talking about fucking—no! We're talking about Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets and giving out gamer facts. How far are we into the episode? Scrap it!

Travis: Justin.

Griffin: Scrap it!

Justin: [laughing] Yeah?

Griffin: Scrap it! Fucking scrap it!

Travis: In transferring Super Mario Kart to what—

Griffin: This is a 'best of' episode week. I'm gonna pull some of the best episodes from episode 200 to 250, and you guys do 250 to 300. We'll pull some funny fuckin' clips, and we'll put up a best of.

Travis: [talking over Griffin] So, Justin. In transferring Super Mario Kart to western markets, what censorship was done on Princess Peach and Bowser?

Justin: Uh, they removed—they made Bowser's dick smaller.

Travis: Well, they did do that. But also, the answer I was looking for is, they removed champagne from their victory celebrations.

Justin: Oh, okay. Had the dick thing.

Griffin: Bullshit.

Travis: And the dick thing. Griffin...

Griffin: Huge, scaly hog.

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: Griffin.

Griffin: His big fucking Koopa balls.

Travis: The entire game of The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past takes

up how much memory?

Griffin: I'm gonna say 16 megabytes.

Travis: Less than one megabyte!

Griffin: Wow. Cool.

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: Cool.

Travis: Justin.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Fuckin'... fuckin'...

Travis: The UK versions of—

Griffin: Fuckin' cooooool! [yelling in the microphone] Fucking cooooool!

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: [very close to the mic] Fuckin' radical, baby!

Travis: Justin. The UK version—

Griffin: Fucking gamers rise up and eat these fuckin' facts! Fuckin' eat

these-

Travis: The UK versions—

Griffin: E3's not dead, gamers. It's right here in the fucking studio, baby.

Justin: [laughing uncontrollably and wheezing]

Travis: Justin.

Griffin: This sucks shit!

Travis: The UK versions of FIFA 2001 and Gran Turismo 2 shipped with what peculiar feature?

Justin: Wings. On both. There's wings on the cars, wings on the players. Lots of wings.

Travis: They had scratch and sniff disks.

Justin: Ew. Really?

Travis: If you scratched FIFA's disk, it would—you could, quote, "smell the

pitch."

Griffin: Fuck yeah!

Justin: The stink of the pitch!

Travis: And rubbing Gran Turismo 2's disk would deliver an authentic pit

stop smell!

Griffin: Fuck yeah! Ooh, I wish you could scratch and sniff this episode of

MBMBaM, and it would smell like a dead body!

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: Now, I think you—

Griffin: 'Cause it sucks and reeks!

Travis: This question is for both of you.

Justin: [laughing uncontrollably]

Travis: 'Cause you'll enjoy it. Um, in—

Justin: [through laughter] It's for both of us, Griff!

Travis: In a guerrilla style marketing campaign...

Justin: Killzone.

Travis: Spoof, prostitute-style cards were placed in phone boxes around SoHo in London to advertise the original Crash Bandicoot. What did they

read?

Griffin: Uh, Randy the Dandy Randycoot.

Travis: Not—not too far off. Uh, they read, quote, "New in town! Young

Randy Bandicoot."

Griffin: That was fucking close.

Travis: And it had a phone number you could call, and a picture of Crash in his underpants.

Justin: I think he should get a half point for that.

Travis: Yeah, I'll give Griffin a half point for that.

Justin: 'Kay, what's the final score, Travis?

Travis: Uh, Justin wins.

Justin: Yaaay! "When I was in my junior year of high school, I went on—"

Travis: Oh, we can celebrate longer! Hold on, I don't feel like we really celebrated as long as we could.

Justin: "When I was in my junior year of high school, I went on a camping trip with some of my class. On one of the nights, I woke up having to pee more than I've ever had to piss, ever. I mean, breaking of the Hoover Dam piss."

Griffin: Okay. We know what—we know how much piss is.

Justin: God. You have to pee. "I tried to wake a friend up, but she didn't get up."

Griffin: No, stop. We're gonna tear this up. If you had to piss like the breaking of the Hoover Dam, your body would be torn apart by the internal pressure. So like, don't say shit unless it's real.

Travis: This is my favorite thing about starting an episode with Play Along at Home, is Griffin gets real feisty.

Justin: Yeah, real worked up.

Travis: For everyone else's questions.

Justin: We actually cut—cut out Play Along at Home, but we just harnessed Griffin's energy for the rest of the episode.

Travis: You cut it out?

Justin: "I tried to wake a friend up, but she didn't get up, so I barely made it to a teacher's tent, when the moment she answered me, the dams broke. I pissed my pants in the middle of the woods, and everyone knew about it. Literally everyone. That being said, it's currently three eventful years later, and I'm talking about recently the best friend, and he told me he forgot about it."

Griffin: [sings] No he didn't! No, he didn't!

Justin: [laughs] "So my question is, how do I ask people if they remember this without reminding them of the terrible accident? I think about this every. Single. Day." And that's Peepee McGee.

Griffin: Remember when you shit your pants during paw-paw's funeral? Nah, man, I forgot! I forg—that's funny! I forgot about when you shit your pants at my paw-paw's funeral! That's weird! That did happen, didn't it? No one would forget.

Justin: The things I remember in my life. With perfect clarity, and will until the day I pass off this mortal coil. One, every time I've seen someone pee their pants. Two, every time I've seen someone fall down. And I mean, really fall down.

Griffin: Really get a good fall goin'. [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Even saying it, you're thinking about a treasured memory you have of watching someone absolutely beef it.

Griffin: Oh, shit. Dude, I saw a serious bonk one time that I will—I just think about all the fucking time.

Justin: It's—it's hard trying to do comedy, a comedy podcast, and realizing you're never gonna do anything as funny as just seeing someone fall. [laughs] Like, really eat the cheddar.

Griffin: Not get hurt. Not like, get hurt.

Justin: Not get hurt.

Griffin: Well, a little hurt, but not like they break something or get—like, they get up right away. But like, y'know, they were—maybe they were running too fast with a backpack on, and they don't like, calibrate.

Justin: It needs to be bad enough that they, for a second, aren't a person. Y'know? Do you know what I'm saying? Like, for a second, they're just like—

Travis: Yeah, then it's almost like, "Oh, did you plan that? That was cartoonish."

Griffin: I was—

Travis: "No, I didn't plan it. I'm bleeding."

Griffin: I was running down a short, grassy slope outside of a Waffle House on my way to King's Island once, and my feet just... woop! And I landed assfirst on a metal grate and had to go to the emergency room. Uh, 'cause I couldn't, uh, move. And I didn't get to go to King's Island. But, I do... like, I know my friends were worried about me, but I do hope, while they were enjoying the King's Island rides and stuff, they thought about the truly spectacular spill that I took, and hopefully will never forget about it.

Justin: One time-

Griffin: And that's a sacrifice I'll make for my friends.

Justin: One time, I was coming home from Sydnee's parents' house, and I had brought my Xbox... original Xbox. Original ass Xbox over there. And then, I was going up the stairs to walk into the house... and I tripped on the stairs and sent the Xbox flying, and also, hit my knee so bad that blood started coming out of it. And I live in perpetual sadness that I could not see that amazing sight.

Griffin: Right. Big fall.

Justin: Y'know what I mean? Like, if I could ever astral project, just to see that one moment, 'cause I think I would—I'm sure Sydnee treasures it. She denies it, but I would love—I would just love to have that captured, uh, in America's Funniest Home Memories, up there in the bank.

Travis: Justin, can I ask you a question?

Justin: Yeah, bud.

Travis: Did you make any kind of, uh, like, audible vocal noise when that happened? Did you do like a, "Whoaaa!"

Griffin: Were you like, "Master Chief, nooo!"

Travis: [laughs] My Bandy-coot!

Justin: Nah, not on an Xbox.

Griffin: Not an Xbox.

Travis: I know.

Griffin: Dipshit.

Travis: It's a funny word.

Griffin: Come on. Maybe Blinx the Time Sweeper.

Justin: Yeah. [crosstalk]

Griffin: So, you—hey—

Travis: I've never fallen down.

Griffin: Ever, yeah. That's true.

Travis: So I don't know.

Griffin: I've never seen Travis fall down. Let me just put this out there, and let people—

Justin: [laughs] What if he'd been like, "Why do we fall down, master Bruce?" And he's like, "I never fuckin' fell down. I don't know."

Travis: I don't fell down. I'm unfallable, dude.

Justin: "You tell me, you old bastard, why you fall all the time."

Travis: Why do you fall down? [laughing] "No, I was saying, master Bruce—" No, why do *you* fall down?

Justin: I had to give you a portable bat signal for when you fell down in the kitchen, and I had to come down from fighting the Joker to come help you back up after you fell down so many times, Alfred!

Griffin: You got—

Justin: I'm tired of it!

Travis: I'm Batman! If I fall down, I just put my arms out, and boom, I'm out! Y'know what I mean?

Justin: Do you know how bad it is? I gave the Penguin my home address so if I'm ever out of town, he can come help you sit back up, Alfred, 'cause you fall all the time and I hate it.

Griffin: I'm'a put this mantra out there, and whoever needs it, use it. So you pissed your pants.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: So what?

Justin: So what.

Griffin: You make a—you make a mess in someone's car, you clean it up. That's like, worst case scenario. So you piss your pants. It's just wata!

Travis: [laughs] That is one thing that I'll never forget, is when our friend Justin, uh, drunkenly had a very large, loose—

Justin: I'm your brother.

Travis: No, not my brother.

Justin: Okay, let's—

Travis: Had like, an extra-large 7Up from McDonald's in the back of Griffin's car, uh, and dropped it, spilling the entirety of it, and just said, "I made a nuh-oh!" [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, that sucked, man.

Travis: I do think about that. But we have a good time talking about that!

Griffin: No, we didn't. There was a fucking half inch of standing Sprite in the back seat of my fucking car. It was terrible.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] There is a certain, um... [laughs] I've learned this since I've had kids. I've had a lot more time to think about this. And a lot more opportunity. Um, there is a certain drink size where, if it spills in your car, it's kind of unfathomable. Like, there's a certain drink size where, if that's—I think that's something. If that spills, that's it for me.

Travis: That's the car!

Griffin: Right.

Justin: That's no—yeah, no—I don't have this car anymore. It belongs to

the, uh, Mr. Misty Slush at this point.

Griffin: Um, hey, can I do a Yahoo that was sent in—

Justin: Can we help this person?!

Travis: Don't worry about it, it's not a big deal!

Griffin: I just did! I just did. So you pissed your pants.

Justin: So you pissed your pants.

Griffin: I have a Yahoo here. And this one was sent in—

Travis: You do?! Oh my goodness!

Griffin: Okay. Alright. This one was sent in by a bunch of people. It was sent in by Adrian Cowles, first. Thank you, Adrian. It's Yahoo Answers user Iam, which is like Ian... but with an M. Who asks...

Travis: Or like Liam, but without an L.

Griffin: Or like Liam without an L.

Justin: Or like Chris, without the Chris, and plus an Iam.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, sure. So anyway, um, he says, "Why are old books so

boring?"

Travis: Thank youuu.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "Books from several centuries back are objectively less entertaining and fun to read than modern books. I would think that few people would consider Shakespeare actually interesting if they thought he wrote his plays ten years ago. Why is that? Were people simply bad at writing in the past, the way we were bad at medicine? Did people not care to make their books enjoyable? Is there a rational explanation for it?"

Uh, update, two days ago. "Shakespeare is a bad example of what I am trying to ask. Think of Dickens or Russian classics." So they definitely like, walked it back just a little bit.

Justin: Okay, I'll relent on Shakespeare. Still pretty good. [laughing]

Travis: Okay, alright.

Griffin: 'Cause here's the thing – Shakespeare's gots murder, stabbing, all kinds of witchcraft, dope shit, sex, jugs, dingle-dangles, all kinds of fuckin' dope shit. Uhh, but Dickens? Snore.

Travis: I do feel like they walked it back too soon, because the point of, if Shakespeare was like, publishing these works ten years ago, I do think

there'd be people like, "What is this shit?" [laughing] "I don't fuckin' understand this at all."

Griffin: I was reading Dostoevsky, and my nuts fell asleep, because of how I was sitting, I was so fucking bored reading this dumb dumb.

Travis: Now, Dickens is a bad example too, though, 'cause there's ghosts. And there's an old lady in a wedding dress with some old ass cake sitting around. And that sounds inte—

Justin: Orphaaans!

Travis: There's orphans. That's interesting. I think there's a guillotine?

Justin: Thieving orphans? That's so cool! Crime orphans? Come on, that's cool, though.

Travis: Yeah. I mean, if you can make a movie with singing dogs with songs about Billy Joel in it, based on the work, I don't think you can be like, "That dude's boring."

Griffin: Alright, let's... we've had a lot of fun, uh, takin' the piss out of this Yahoo Answers user. But... buuut... I can mention Dostoevsky in here, and say that name, because I think it makes me sound smart. Have I read Crime and Punishment? Fuck no, it's boring. Have I read Animorphs? Yes yes yes yes.

Travis: Yep.

Griffin: I've read a lot of Animorphs.

Travis: I just wanna—can I applaud you for twice saying that name with the confidence that you are pronouncing it correctly in a way that I simply could not?

Griffin: Yep.

Justin: I—I bought The Brothers Karamazov by Dostoevsky.

Travis: Nice.

Justin: And my wife and I were gonna read it together. Um, as part of this thing. This is even before I had kids, so I had no excuse. We were gonna read it as part of this like, book club. Online book club deal.

Travis: Nerd.

Justin: And we bought two exact same copies, and we both made it like, exactly 40 pages in, and then promptly put it back up on the shelf. And they sit next to each other. And it's worse, 'cause it's twice.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It's twice the book that is shameful.

Travis: It's the twin Brothers Karamazov!

Justin: And it can't... it can't just... because there's two, they can't just fade into memory. 'Cause every time I look at the books, there's two of these fuckers next to each other. [laughing] And I have to take that walk back, where I'm like, "Fuck. What was I thinking? 40 pages." And to this day, some 15 years later, Sydnee and I will be looking at books, and I'll still be like, "We gotta get back to The Brothers Karamazov."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: You remember where we were when we left off, right? [laughs]

Justin: What was happening? I still—there is like, a couple of points that are raised. I'll tell—I'll give you an example. One of the characters in Brothers Karamazov says, um, uh, "The more that I love humanity generally, the more I find that I cannot stand individual people."

Travis: Pretty good line.

Justin: That's fucking so dope and fresh.

Griffin: Powerful.

Justin: And it's powerful, and it stood out in my mind. That's in the first 40

pages! I don't know what incredible power... [laughing]

Griffin: [bursts into laughter]

Justin: What life-changing nuggets beyond that, that lie before me!

Travis: Here's the thing, Justin.

Justin: I couldn't do it! So many nicknames!

Travis: No one does. No one has read... I would posit, the thicker the book, the less chance there is that anyone has read it to completion, and the thing is that, they keep selling, so that people will, like yourself, put them on shelves. That they are—I've been in a lot of Zoom calls lately where I've seen a lot of bookshelves in the background, and there is a lot of unbroken spines in there with big, fancy names on them.

Justin: Mmm.

Griffin: Sure. Uh, I mean... no one has actually read Dostoevsky to completion, because readin' that fuckin' dude's books makes my nuts fall asleep.

Travis: There's that.

Griffin: And I couldn't even finish, if you know what I mean. Now, you know who gets me every time is K. A. Applegate. I'll tell you what I remember – Tobias turned into a fuckin' hawk too long.

Travis: Yeah, dude.

Griffin: Couldn't turn back.

Travis: That's a cultural touchstone!

Justin: Thank you.

Griffin: So I've read a lot of it.

Travis: Y'know what I love? Uh, R. L. Stein.

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: He's got the puppets. The puppets talk and come alive, and it's spooooky! I saw the movie, Count of Monte Cristo, with Jim Caviezel. And I thought—

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: What a cool—this is a cool thing. I need to read this book.

Justin: Cool. It's cool.

Travis: I started reading the book, and I got about 100 pages in, and I was like, "Wait a minute. This isn't the Dantes that I know! This isn't—what is happening?"

Justin: Boring book.

Travis: "This book is quite different from the movie that I enjoyed so much!" Now, here's the thing I will tell you. I finished it. I read that book, and I am impressed with myself, and you should be, too. But it is, in many ways, way more boring that the Jim Caviezel movie!

Griffin: [laughs] Sure.

Travis: And way longer! I did the Jim Caviezel movie in like an hour 50!

Griffin: Cranked it out.

Travis: The book? That was like six months of reading!

Griffin: Yeah. Um...

Travis: Maybe that's the problem.

Justin: Do you—the—okay. I'm—the—I'll give you an example. Okay?

Leatherstocking Tales. Right?

Travis: What?

Justin: James Fenimore Cooper's Leatherstocking Tales. You got

Deerslayer, Last of the Mohicans...

Griffin: Sounds sexy.

Travis: Oh, right right right.

Justin: Yeah. The other ones. Right? You try to read that... it's unthinkable. It's unthinkable. It's so terrible. I'll give you an example. Okay? Uh, Leatherstocking Tales is about Natty Bumppo, which rules. I'll give him that. Natty Bumppo is fuckin' good.

But then, he's known in these books as Leatherstocking, the Pathfinder, the Trapper, Deerslayer, uh, *La Longue Carabine*, which is 'long rifle' in French, and Hawkeye. Those are all names for him.

Y'know how many names Judge Dredd needs? One!

Griffin: [laughs] Right.

Justin: 'Cause he kicks ass, and he's just Judge Dredd! And that's what his name is, and then he goes out there and rule—he doesn't need eight other names! They're not like, "Oh no, the mis—doc—y'know, Mr. Law. Mr. Biglaw." No one has to call him Mr. Biglaw.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And call me Stomp Boots!

Justin: He doesn't need a bunch of names.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Y'know, I remember, like... I think it was Deerslayer. Having to read that for a summer reading program, and the first page is, as far as I can recall, a nonstop run-on sentence that is just like, one date about like, one—like, "There was a war on this date," and it's just so dense that I had to reread that one page like, 18 times.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: And I specifically remember, at like 17 years old, being like, whoof! Okay, not setting me up for success here, James Fenimore Cooper!

Griffin: [laughing]

Travis: Oh boy, you couldn't start off with like, I don't know, a sunrise or something? Give me some kind of—no, you're just starting off with like, a history lesson! Oh, boy! I remember reading Wuthering Heights, and it just kind of ended. And I remember being like 16, and being like, "This suuucks." And like, throwing it down. [laughs] That fuckin' Heathcliff dude? He doesn't terrorize the neighborhood at all!

Griffin: No. No.

Travis: And then, when he does, it is just gas lighting and psychological, and not like, fun—

Griffin: It's not pranks. Right.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Here is how to free yourself. And I have actually used this specific technique that I'm gonna share with you. Um, what you do is, if there's like, a fancy old writer that you think you should be reading, and you feel all guilty about it... find another also good writer that takes a shit on them.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: And then it frees you from—I'll give you an example. There is actually a pretty famous piece called, uh, Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offenses by Mark Twain. And Mark Twain writes a whole essay where he's like, "Fuck James Fenimore Cooper! He sucks ass!"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: And that, to me, is like, cool. I don't have to read that. Mark Twain says he sucks. Here's actually—here's a quote from that. Quote, "In one place in Deerslayer, and in the restricted space of two thirds of a page, Cooper has scored 114 offenses against literary art out of a possible 115. It breaks the record." He fucking dunks on him the whole time.

Travis: Nice.

Justin: That's so fresh, right? So now I don't have to read James Fenimore Cooper. But, the rabbit hole goes deeper, 'cause some people criticize that piece. There's a, uh—there's a quote here. This is from John McWilliams. "Hilarious though Twain's essay is, is valid only within its own narrow, and sometimes misapplied, criteria." Fucking great! Now I don't have to read Mark Twain! I'm out on him, too!

Griffin: Keep markin' off the—if you keep going down that chain, eventually, all you're left with is the Worlds of Power novelizations of old NES games. Which is fine!

Travis: To be fair—

Justin: Only the work of FX-9 will survive!

Griffin: Right.

Travis: If you go deep enough, you will find like, Mark, Luke, and John being like, "Those novelizations of Mario fucking rule, dude."

Griffin: Right. [laughing] In the—in the old gospels. Man, the Blaster Master novelization of Worlds of Power is some real bullshit. They left out a lot of really cool levels and power ups.

Justin: That seems like a pretty good place to head on over to the Money Zone. But first, Trav, why don't you tell us a little bit about this week's organization that we're donating our ad revenue to?

Travis: Yeah, we're gonna be donating to the Sylvia Rivera Law Project. Uh, Sylvia Rivera was partners in work with Marsha P. Johnson, did a lot of work for the trans community, uh, and the Sylvia Rivera Law Project... basically, they are working hard to provide legal services and project the rights of trans people.

They focus specifically on people of color and poor people, and fighting discrimination against gender nonconforming folks. So, it's a great organization. You can check them out at SRLP.org.

Griffin: Let's get the money to give... to them. Now.

Travis: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

Travis: Guys, can I tell you about an experience I had this very weekend?

Griffin: God, I hope it's related to Stitch Fix, 'cause that's who we're supposed to be telling people about.

Travis: It is, don't worry.

Griffin: Okay, thank god.

Justin: Oh, thank god.

Travis: I got me a Stitch Fix. I opened that there box. And I lifted out a shirt that made me gasp in delight, and run across the house to find my wife and say, "Look at this absolutely winner I have just received!" I will post a picture of it. It is a beautiful shirt.

And here's the best thing—

Griffin: Covered in anime babes.

Travis: No, there are no anime babes, Griffin. They just—it kind of looks like fireworks on it, but like, in a really cool, like, way. And the thing is like, I didn't like, pick that shirt out. It was because my stylist has worked with me, and I've answered questions that they were able to say like, "Travis is gonna love this." And they were right!

Because that's what Stitch Fix does. They like, ask you questions, they work with you to figure out what your style is, and then they send things that are your size, your style, and you try them on, you keep what you love, and you only pay for what you keep.

And, one of my favorite things about it – you can say like, "This is how much money I'm comfortable paying for a t-shirt. This is how much money I'm comfortable paying for shorts." Right? And so, they won't send you super expensive clothes that you don't want to keep! It's amazing.

So, to get started, go to StitchFix.com/MyBrother and set up your profile, and they'll deliver great looks personalized just for you, in your colors,

styles, and budget. You pay a \$20 styling fee for each Fix, and that's credited towards anything you keep.

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Griffin: Sheet pan pesto salmon.

Travis: Whoa!

Griffin: Hot honey butter glazed chicken.

Travis: Whoa!

Griffin: [pronounced strangely] Fettuccine.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Meatballs. And you're hearing me say this, you're thinking like, "What is he talking about, a restaurant? You shouldn't be going out to one of those—a place as dangerous, and you could possibly get COVID from, if they're doing a bad."

Well, no, you goofball! I'm talking about doing it at home with Blue Apron, where it's safe in your house and you can make fettuccine pasta and mushrooms like it's, like... like it is a—like you're doing food art. And right now, cooking at home matters more than ever. I think I've outlined that pretty well, so I don't have to go into more detail about why home cooking matters right now.

But Blue Apron is a really good way to do that, because you get a box of fresh, quality ingredients delivered straight to your door, and then you follow these recipes, and you make tasty, tasty meals, and... you learn how to cook!

Uh, did Blue Apron for a long time. Got good at learnin' how to cook, and now I can make whatever! Stew. Uh, pasta. Uh, bread. Pudding. Uh, and it's great. You create a plan that works for you with Blue Apron's ever-changing mix of menu options, and prices start as low as \$7.49 per serving.

Don't sacrifice flavor. Don't settle for boring meals. With Blue Apron, you can enjoy top rated recipes all month long. Check out this week's menu and get \$30 off across your first two deliveries when you visit BlueApron.com/MyBrother. That's BlueApron.com/MyBrother. Blue Apron: Feed your soul!

Travis: Whoa!

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[music plays]

Speaker 1: I started listening to Oh No, Ross and Carrie shortly after I broke my arm, and the doctor had told me I'd never walk again.

Speaker 2: I couldn't get my book started.

Speaker 3: I was lost.

Speaker 4: Honestly.

Speaker 5: I knew it was time to make a change.

Speaker 2: There's something about Oh No, Ross and Carrie that you just can't get anywhere else.

Speaker 1: They're thought leaders. Discoverers. Founders.

Speaker 5: I'd call them heroes.

Speaker 3: Ross and Carrie don't just report on fringe science, spirituality, and claims of the paranormal. They take part themselves.

Speaker 4: They show up so you don't have to.

Speaker 5: But you might find that you want to.

Speaker 1: My arm is better. I can walk again!

Speaker 2: I wrote an entire book this weekend! It—it's terrible, but I did it!

Speaker 4: Just go to MaximumFun.org.

All: Thank you, Ross and Carrie!

Speaker 1: Oh No, Ross and Carrie is just a podcast. It doesn't do anything. It's just sounds you listen to in your ears. All these people are made up. Goodbye.

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Justin: Hey, who's that on the—who is—it's Lin. Hi, Lin. I wasn't recording before, but now I am. Hi, Lin!

Travis: Hi Lin!

Lin: Hi!

Justin: Welcome to the podcast. We were in the middle of doing the podcast, and now we're just like...

Lin: Thank you.

Justin: ... in it. You're on it. This is the podcast.

Lin: Longtime fan, third time caller. Thrilled to be here.

Justin: Is that right?

Griffin: There's no way it's been just three.

Justin: I feel like you were just on the one time when you were at the

public...

Lin: And then, that time you guys, uh, did the Margaritaville blue carpet.

Travis: Oh, right right. Yep yep yep.

Lin: And then, the other times were live times when you indulged me saying, "Hey guys, I wrote another song about you. Can I play it at your show?" [laughs]

Travis: I mean, we've given you a lot of opportunities, huh?

Justin: Yeah. You're so welcome.

Lin: But I think this is my—I think this is my third time on the podcast.

Justin: That's great. Wow. What an honor for you.

Lin: Make 'em say hammer proper.

Justin: Um... how are you doing, though?

Lin: Eh, I'm alright.

Justin: Whoa!

Griffin: Oh, fuck! There's a story behind there. There's a sadness. Sadness behind those eyes.

Lin: [laughs] I'm—I'm actually—I'm quite hash tag blessed, all things considered. You're catching me after spending an hour and a half putting together a play set involving tools. And as soon as I finished putting together the play set, my son yelled, "Yay!" And then stubbed his toe, starting bleeding, and started screaming. [laughs] So...

Justin: Oh my god.

Travis: Did he stub it on the play set?

Lin: Uh, no. No, he stubbed it on being five.

Travis: Yep.

Lin: [laughs] And running funny.

Justin: So, we're—I'm—I don't really want to talk about Hamilton. It is, if anybody cares, it's coming out on Disney+, July 3rd. You can watch it on Disney+.

Griffin: I'm sure you're fuckin' sick of talkin' about it, too, right?

Justin: Sick of talking about it. I'm sick of talking about it.

Lin: I'm happy to talk to you about aaanything else.

Justin: Any other musical.

Lin: Any other musical.

Justin: What's going on with Tootsie? I have this feeling sometimes like, Tootsie is still going.

Lin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah?

Griffin: [laughing] Like they're doing it to no crowd.

Justin: They're still doing it. [laughing] Yeah. I feel like they're still doing

Tootsie, probably.

Lin: It—it's come and gone. Uh...

Justin: Oh, man.

Griffin: Fuck.

Justin: It was so funny, though.

Lin: Pour a little Henny out for Tootsie.

Justin: Um, any musicals goin' right now? [laughs]

Lin: There is a Phantom of the Opera playing in Seoul, South Korea. That is the one musical playing in the world right now, because they... uh, were serious about their shit, and locked it down, and now they can do Phantom.

Griffin: Hm.

Lin: Which is all about a guy in a mask, weirdly enough.

Griffin: Perfect.

Justin: Yeah, that is weird.

Griffin: That's the prize you get for takin' it seriously! You get to see

Phantom!

Lin: I—I was gonna ask about the musicals that formed the DNA of who you are. I'm so grateful every time we get a little—we get a little Night Music, courtesy of Justin McElroy, when he sings in that ineffable...

Griffin: It's really just that one track, though, right Juice? You're not like a biiig Night Music, like, head.

Justin: Didn't know it was from that. [laughing]

Griffin: [bursts into laughter]

Lin: [laughs]

Justin: So that's where I'm at, as far as that. I just—I had it on a Lou Rawls CD when I was younger, and so, I got it in my heart that way. Musicals that really form—man. Y'know, obviously, uh, Rent was huge for me. As Tim Robins told me at your show, Hamilton, Rent taught my generation tolerance, which is huge. Uh, so huge thank you to Rent.

Griffin: Huge for Rent. Big ups to Rent.

Lin: Did you ever dream cast yourself in Rent? Did you ever give a thought who you might play?

Justin: I'm pretty sure that I would be the window washing guy. Honest living! Honest living!

Lin: Honest living!

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: That would be a good part. Honestly, I would be—and I would be lucky to have it. Um, y'know, um... Man of La Mancha was a big one for me. Used to do—

Lin: That's cornerstone for me.

Justin: That was my audition song, was uh, Man of La Mancha for a very long time. Was my... was my go to.

Lin: The title track, Man of La Mancha?

Justin: Yeah. Oh yeah. Not Impossible Dream. I can't carry that off. But I could do like a sort of spoken word intro into the song, and then, um... 'cause that gets you like, 30 seconds in. Then there's only 30 seconds of singing after that, which is perfect.

Travis: Uh, Lin and I share this. Playing Birdie. Conrad Birdie in Bye Bye Birdie. Um...

Lin: It is... how old were you when you did it?

Travis: Uh, I was—I wanna say like, 17, 18?

Lin: That's huge. When you are—when you are at your gangliest and teeniest, and you play a role in which everyone has to pretend to be in love with you... I mean, it kind of explains everything about Travis.

Travis: Well, it goes one step further than that, Lin. Our father was the director – nepotism – and uh, one of the creative decisions he made was to have Conrad Birdie, myself, enter from behind a 12-foot-tall photograph of myself. Uh, backlit, with like, fog, while everyone cheered for me.

Lin: Your reckless confidence is entirely justified.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. It's not his fault. Can't blame him.

Travis: It's all Dad's fault.

Justin: Griffin, you like musicals?

Griffin: Ohh... King Kong.

Travis: [laughs]

Lin: [laughs]

Griffin: The King Kong Musical.

Lin: Seen it! Seent it! I saw it!

Griffin: Yeah! Love that big guy.

Lin: I'm a, um—as of last year, I'm officially a Tony voter, and so, I did my due diligence, and I saw every show of last season.

Griffin: [laughs] I thought you were gonna say voted for King Kong!

Lin: I did see the King Kong.

Griffin: Voted. Biggest gorilla. Yes.

Lin: It won a special award. There are...

Justin: A King Kong award.

Travis: Yeah. Biggest King Kong.

Lin: [laughs] A special, honorary Tony for being the biggest King Kong. For

taking 14 people to, uh, manipulate. It has a special Kong Tony.

Justin: It knocked the shit right of Noises Off's King Kong.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: That King Kong sucked. That King Kong sucked. The one in Tootsie was cool, though, 'cause he sunglasses and he came out on a skateboard. He was like, "Oh yeah!"

Travis: But only 13 people.

Lin: [laughs]

Justin: Yeah. Hey, Lin, are there musicals that you are... I get this way with pop culture sometimes, where I become fixated or obsessed with the idea of something, without actually like, having any actual affection for it, or actually maybe even seeing it. I'll give you an example to give you a little time to think.

There is this musical, um, called Chocolate: The Musical. And it's a one woman show that this woman, um, tours around with, and does Chocolate: The Musical for like... I guess if you have like, a meeting of the red hat ladies, or something like that. She'll come and do musical—Chocolate: The Musical.

Lin: The red hat ladies is such a deep pull, Justin!

Travis: Yeah, dude.

Justin: Not if you know our nonny, man. It's pretty much top of mind 24-sev.

Lin: Is she a red—is she a red hatter?

Travis: Hell yeah, dude.

Justin: Absolutely.

Lin: The red hat ladies, in case you don't cut this, is like, a society of ladies who wear, like, red Sunday brunch hats, and go see shows. It's very benign. It's not the current connotation of red hat.

Justin: No, it's a very different vibe. The other one is the High Fidelity musical, which came out for like, a few weeks, and then wasn't anymore.

Lin: Eight performances on Broadway, written by my good friend, Tom—that was my the musical that put the fear of god in me, because um, the same producers produced High Fidelity that produced In the Heights, my first show. And like, for years, they were like, "Well, we're gonna get High Fidelity on. 'Cause that's a no brainer hit. Everyone loves the book. Everyone loves the, like... tunes?"

Uh, and then it like, lasted eight performances. And they were basically like, "Once High Fidelity is a hit, we'll take a chance on your little show with Latins in it." And uh, and uh... then it didn't... nothing happened.

Travis: How did your show do?

Lin: Turns out... [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Lin: Our show—our show did okay. But it was—it was scary. It was sort of like, that was such a sure fire hit, it had a well-known director, a great composer, and uh... it just... y'know, no one wants to see Rob sing.

Justin: I guess, yeah. It's also when you're making—

Lin: I mean, the thing is that he listens to music.

Justin: You're making something about the best music ever. When there's uh, frequent arguments about like, the best song of all time.

Lin: And you're not allowed to use that music! Totally.

Justin: Yeah. Yeah.

Lin: It was impossible—it was an impossible task.

Justin: You wanna hear my favorite song? [sings] I own a record store!

Travis: [laughs]

Lin: [laughs]

Justin: That's my favorite song. It's always been my favorite song.

Griffin: Um, we don't have questions... a question from the audience for you like we sometimes do for guestpert stuff. And I've been asking the last few guestperts, like... y'know... COVID related stuff, like how are you do—what are you doing at home to—but I think it would be better to do a Ya—just a Yahoo.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And just like, get you on that Yahoo with us. Do you feel like, qualified to... to do one of those?

Lin: Uh, completely unqualified, but happy to be along for the ride.

Justin: Wait, okay. Just one more quick thing. Just Starlight Express... have you seen it, Lin?

Lin: Can I tell you?

Justin: 'Cause that's a musical about trains. And I fuckin' would love to see that shit.

Lin: I never—and it's—by the way, it's based on Thomas the Tank Engine.

Travis: Get out!

Lin: And his company is the Really Useful Company, because he wanted the rights to Thomas, and it didn't quite happen, so he did his own train musical.

I've never seen it. I actually have liability on that one. I remember seeing the commercials and being like, "Well, trains, musicals, where do I sign?" But my parents didn't have the money, so I never saw it. [laughing]

Justin: Unfair. Okay, Griffin, I'm sorry. I won't talk about any other, uh, bizarre musicals.

Griffin: Lin, I'm so excited for you to put your spin—we've never allowed anyone into this particular sanctum. And I think you're gonna crush it.

Michelle sent this one in. It's a Yahoo Answers user, um, who I'm gonna call Jim... Jamuel Miranda. Asks, "Super Mario versus yourself in a few scenarios. For some random reason, Super Mario is teleported into the real world with the sole goal to hunt you down and kill you. Mario is—"

Travis: What?

Lin: [laughs] Why?

Griffin: "Mario is still bound to his game physics and can still jump just as high. I'll give you three scenarios that could occur, and I want you to tell me how they would play out."

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: Oh boy!

Griffin: So we can just run down these...

Justin: [laughing]

Lin: [laughing]

Travis: That went such a different direction than I—

Justin: Yeah. Before we get too deep, I need to make sure I understand the premise.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Mario has been teleported in... [laughs] Into our world.

Lin: Sonic movie style.

Justin: Earth 616.

Griffin: Go down a pipe.

Justin: Or wherever.

Griffin: Go down a pipe, come up a earth toilet. And he wants to kill you so bad. And that's—

Travis: Okay, so he wants to kill you, or he's been tasked with killing you?

Griffin: He needs to kill you to go home.

Travis: Okay. That is important, 'cause I could maybe talk him out of it if it's just a job.

Griffin: No. No, you got the pipe inside you that gets him home. So anyway...

Travis: [laughs]

Lin: [laughs]

Travis: Well now, even that, though, is a different scenario than him just wanting to kill me!

Griffin: Okay. He can jump really high. Scenario one, you are casually walking outside like any normal day. You feel safe and are unarmed. Suddenly—

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: Suddenly, Mario, who is also unarmed, comes running at you with the purpose to end your life. You know this and prepare to fend off the ambush. What happens?

Travis: Wait, is he mushroomed or not?

Griffin: He's unarmed.

Justin: This is actually huge. I need to know scale. Right? That is my biggest question. On the TV, he doesn't look very big. But in—

Lin: Human-sized Mario.

Justin: Is he a human-sized—okay, so he's a human-sized Mario.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Is he human sized at the same proportions?

Justin: 'Cause density there is a huge factor.

Griffin: He's a dense fella. I mean, he's... he's quite thick. Uh, in all the right places. But he's running at you. It says he's *running* at you.

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: He's not like, walking at you slow, imposing Terminator style. This fucking plumber is *sprinting* at you, Lin.

Lin: You have to get high!

Travis: You gotta get high.

Lin: You have to get high.

Griffin: Higher—higher than—

Lin: If his whole thing is jumping on you, you gotta get high.

Justin: Yeah, you gotta get the high ground.

Travis: But now we're at a Donkey Kong scenario.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. He's not gonna stop. He's coming for you.

Lin: You gotta—you gotta throw barrels!

Travis: You gotta throw barrels!

Griffin: Gotta throw some barrels at this fucking guy.

Justin: Could you get under something... under something that will protect your head from bouncing?

Travis: Oh yeah.

Justin: Because if it's just Mario running at you, he does not have a pu—I mean, I guess he could spin, couldn't he?

Griffin: He can spin, he can punch. He can punch in some games. Here's my thing – there are enemies in Mario that walk slowly at you, and you wait for them to end you. Or sometimes, they run really fast at you, or sometimes they jump. I don't think there is an enemy in Mario that like, can fucking punch and kick the way I do.

So like, Mario may not—he may run at me and like, start to jump, and I just like, kind of move out of the way, and then I fucking punch him in the face. He's like, "A-what's-a this?" And I'm like, "Yeah, motherfucker. I punch back."

Lin: He will not—he won't understand it.

Griffin: He won't get it.

Justin: No. He can't process that.

Travis: There is also... I'm now thinking that the Mario games would be much different if like, when a Koopa saw Mario coming, they ran away from him. [laughs] Like, "I don't want—I'm just walkin' around, dude!"

Lin: Yeah. I'm a hopping turtle.

Griffin: Alright. Let's do a bit of a—let's do some opposition research, here. Lin, you're gonna play the role of Lin. You are quarantining where you are quarantining. Uh, Travis, Justin and I are gonna be Mario. And let me pitch you scenario two.

You're inside your house like any normal person during quarantine, and you see Mario trying to break into your house. You can defend yourself with anything in your home, and Mario is armed with a hammer throw power up.

Lin: Wait, a hammer throw power up? That's like Donkey Kong... he's got the hammer, and he's swinging indiscriminately?

Griffin: No, he throw.

Travis: Or like the hammer bros?

Griffin: Yeah. He can throw it.

Lin: Oh, got it. Okay.

Griffin: So I guess take a moment, look around your house, and in 15 seconds, Justin, Travis and I are gonna come at you with a hammer throw power up.

Travis: And don't say a Tony or anything, 'cause like, that's cheating.

Griffin: 'Cause it's very heavy. The Tony is a heavy thing.

Travis: Very heavy and impressive.

Griffin: What if Lin is like, "I pick up the big gun. By the way, guys, I'm huge into guns, and this is how I'm..."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "This is how I'm announcing it to the world."

Lin: Yeah. Um...

Griffin: Alright, Lin, your time is up. I smash in through the window with my big, powerful carpenter's boots or plumber's boots, and now Mario is in your house.

Lin: I activate... I activate the Play Mobile water table I have spent the last fucking hour assembling. You're so much slower in water. Get at me.

Griffin: Okay. Okay. So you've... okay.

Lin: You're so much slower in water, and now I'm just a squid who moves slowly, and I'm a threat.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Ooh.

Griffin: Oh, that's pretty good. I don't know how a water table would flood an entire house. You shouldn't...

Lin: I'm putting on all the water. All the water. I'm just—I'm flooding everything. I'm flooding the basement. I'm flooding the room.

Griffin: Okay, Lin floods the house. Justin and Travis, take the Mario wheel.

Justin: We're just still trying to kill Lin? Is that the idea?

Lin: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, the three of us are trying to kill our friend Lin.

Justin: Are we three different Marios?

Griffin: No, we're the same Mario.

Travis: Okay, I'm gonna take over.

Griffin: Travis—okay.

Justin: Travis, you can be Mario now.

Lin: I'm turning this into a water level. Get on my level.

Travis: Okay, so you've begun flooding your own home.

Griffin: Yeah. Hammer throwing is no longer—you can't do that in water. That's silly.

Travis: Yeah. So uh, I'm gonna break a wall sconce. I assume you have sconces. Uh, off the wall, and attempt to electri—

Justin: Don't fucking doxx Lin!

Lin: I live in an apartment building in Manhattan. [laughs]

Travis: So you have sconces?

Lin: I have no sconces.

Travis: Ah, fuck! That was the only thing I had. Well, now you just see Mario looking for sconces. And he's just pawing at the walls.

Griffin: Travis wastes his turn.

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: Lin, how are you gonna kill Shigeru Miyamoto's best friend and video game son, Mario?

Justin: [laughing]

Lin: I—I am going to—um, because I know that just touching me will kill him, because that's how it works in this world, I'm going to edge and swim until Mario is close to the window, and then I'm gonna try to open the window.

Griffin: Okay. Justin? He fell right into—

Lin: Because I live several stories up.

Griffin: He's right in your fuckin' trap, Justin. Get him.

Lin: [laughing]

Justin: I'm gonna, um, push beloved Tony winner and multitalented artist, Lin Manuel Miranda, out the window.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: I'm pushing—

Lin: I got a Wario scowl as I fall out the window! [laughing]

Griffin: Alright, we won!

Justin: We killed Lin!

Lin: Good job, guys.

Griffin: What is scenario three? Let me just read it off.

Justin: Hey, who lives, who dies, tell us your story. It turns out, Mario is who tells your story! That's so weird! You didn't see that coming.

Griffin: Oh, well this—

Lin: Sorry, but our princess is in another fuckin' castle.

Griffin: Lin, I know you're busy and we've kept you for a long time, but I would be remiss if I didn't read scenario three. "You've successfully evaded Mario this whole time, and managed to locate where he lives while he isn't trying to kill you. You now have the element of surprise."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: The sewer, right?

Griffin: [laughs] "You now have the element of surprise, and can bring with you whatever you can reasonably afford, get ahold of, or make. There is no way of knowing what Mario has, though." So now the tables have flipped a little bit.

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: Mario Lin is in his Manhattan apartment. This is getting a little, uh, aggro for my tastes.

Travis: Yeah, this is like John Wick shit, where it's like, okay, now you have to go after them.

Lin: This is that Van Damme hard target. "How does it feel to be hunted?!"

Griffin: That was pretty good.

Justin: [laughs]

Lin: I assume he's like, little. He's not eating a mushroom when he's chilling at home.

Griffin: Oh, no.

Travis: No, he's on the run now. If he's hiding out from you...

Justin: No.

Lin: He's in his most vulnerable...

Griffin: We don't talk about this, but when he eats the mushroom and gets big, it hurts his bones so fuckin' bad. His bones and muscles and skins all grow so fast, so much. So y'know, when you get home...

Travis: And when he gets small again, his bones don't shrink. They just kind of bend? It hurts so much! [laughing]

Griffin: And some of them come out.

Justin: He doesn't do the mush—eat the mushroom at home, uh, unless the princess makes him, if you know what I mean.

Lin: Yeah.

Travis: I don't understand.

Griffin: Oh, I had a mouthful of water! Hang on!

Justin: For his hog. For Mario's hog.

Travis: Oh, he eats it to...

Justin: For his hog.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: For his—for his hog.

Travis: The mushroom makes his hog bigger.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Just... just...

Griffin: Lin, we're gonna explain to you in excruciating detail the premise of Justin's joke.

Travis: What Justin is saying is that, when Mario eats a mushroom, his penis, uh—

Griffin: All of him gets bigger.

Travis: Not only becomes engorged, but embiggens.

Griffin: Right. All of him becomes bigger, Lin, right? And so, that would include his genitals. Which, I guess, in this scenario, the princess would want, like, a bigger... like, zone. Down there.

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Does that make sense?

Travis: So it would make him eat the mushroom, so that his penis would become larger, for when they engage—

Griffin: Explain it back to us, Lin, just to make sure that we know that you understand it.

Justin: [laughing uncontrollably]

Lin: So the—so, Mario is at home, but he's in his half man form. His lowercase form. Unless the princess asks him to eat the mushroom, in which case...

Griffin: Why would he want—why would she want that? And explain it, 'cause I need to know that you got it before we can move on.

Lin: It would grow him to double the scale, including his genitals.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Correct.

Justin: [still laughing]

Travis: And why—why would that be, uh, desired by her?

Griffin: Why would she want that? Yeah.

Justin: [laughing] I'm gonna hang up.

Lin: [laughing]

Justin: I'm gonna hang up. Everybody gets it. This is great.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: No, I need to know that he understands the benefit.

Justin: No, it's gone. It's all good stuff. It's all good, fun stuff! July 3rd.

Lin: Welcome to Warp Zone.

Justin: July 3rd. Check it out. Disney+. Do a double feature. Hamilton, and the—

Griffin: [laughing] No one—no one tell Disney+ about this episode!

Lin: It feels funny. I don't—I don't like the—I don't like the plug after this! I don't like the plug!

Travis: [laughing]

Justin: Disney+, you could do a double feature of Hamilton and the Journey of Natty Gann! Fire it up!

Griffin: Call up Bob Iger and say, "Hey, I got a podcast for you, bud!"

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Gonna love this one!

Justin: Gonna kill our chances of getting on there. Actually, I'm starting to freak out about it.

Travis: So would you stab him, or...

Griffin: I think Lin has—

Justin: Lin doesn't have time to kill him.

Lin: What would I do with—I mean, getting close to him would kill him in that moment, when he's most vulnerable.

Travis: Yeah, but would you enjoy that as much?

Lin: I mean, that's the thing.

Justin: Are you saying that you're going to get—[laughs] Wait. I just want to—I just want to be clear, Lin. Are you telling me that you are going to kill Mario in—while he's in flagrante? In the middle of sexual congress? Is that what you're gonna wait for your moment? [laughing] You fucking nasty dog!

Lin: Come on the podcast, Justin said! We'll talk about musicals, Justin said!

Justin: July 3rd. Disney+.

Griffin: We talked about—we did the prerequisite musical conversation before we got the meat. The pearl of this oyster.

Justin: In my—in my defense, I did want to talk about more weird musicals, but Griffin made me change. You heard that happen. You heard him.

Just real quick, though, did you see Spider-Man?

Lin: I didn't. I never did.

Justin: It was—

Lin: I had a friend who was at the first preview, and he was a big Spider-Man fan, and he was like, "This isn't even about Spider-Man, dude."

Justin: Fucking kicks ass.

Lin: The guy got—the guy got, uh, like, hung up, and everything stopped, and he left. That's all I know.

Justin: That's how it ended every night. You never knew when it would... when it would happen. [laughing]

Lin: [laughing]

Justin: Eventually, Spider-Man would get stuck, and everybody would bow underneath him. That was the end of the musical.

Uh, okay, Lin. Thanks so much for coming on the show. Uh, it's always such a joy, and we're so—

Griffin: Lin, I'm sorry. No, now I feel bad that we made you talk about like, dirty video game stuff.

Lin: I was—I'm kind of into it. I'm good.

Griffin: Oh, good! Alright, I got some websites for you to visit!

Justin: Weird. Okay.

Travis: [laughing]

Griffin: And I'm sure the rest of Twitter will help you out with that as well!

Lin: Oh, great! [laughing]

Justin: Uh, thanks so much, Lin. Um...

Lin: Thanks, guys.

Justin: Appreciate you. [imitates a guitar riff]

Travis: Huh?

Justin: [sings a more relaxed tune]

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: I wanna munch.

Travis: Squad?

Griffin: Squad?

Justin: [continues singing] I want... to... munch!

Travis: Squaaad!

Griffin: Squaaad!

Justin: [continues singing] Welcome to Munch Squad. It's a podcast within a podcast. It features the latest and greatest in brand eating. I wanted to get a bit more of an introspective tone, because I wanted to start off with a bit more introspective of a Munch Squad today. Or at least, an introspective lead in to, um, a Munch Squad.

Y'know, things are hard right now. I don't know if everybody heard about it.

Travis: Oh? Do tell!

Justin: But uh, our—yeah. It's just earth. And um, there—I have one shining light, and... I have two kids, so you know it's not them. I have one shining light that keeps me kind of going when things are hard, and that, I do include my children in that.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And it's the fact that, somewhere on this big, blue marble we call earth, every once in a while, the board room doors at Papa John's fly open, and you hear—and there is a, uh, a large dent made in the top of the door jam, which then cracks, as Shaq blows into the room and announces, "Hey, idiots. Here's the new shit. I'm going to lay it out for you, and you're gonna do what I say, because everybody hates you, except for me, Shaq, the only thing keeping everybody from hating you."

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: That announcement recently that Shaq made to the board room of Papa John's... Papa John's introduces the extra-large... Shaqaroni pizza.

Griffin: Get-

Travis: Oh! Huh! Huh! Huh! Does he now!

Griffin: It's the—is the... pizza... large? Or are the individual... I'm sorry, Shagaronis?

Justin: Shaqaronis. [laughs] There's no pepperoni on it. It is a pepperonifree pizza, covered in pepperonis, which are now Shaqaronis. Papa John's announced Monday the launch of the new Shaqaroni pizza. [laughing]

Griffin: [laughing]

Travis: Uh-huh? Uh-huh, uh-huh?

Justin: In collaboration with board member and restaurant owner, Shaquille O'Neal.

Travis: No shit.

Griffin: Oh, you don't say!

Justin: Now, I wish that it had said, in strict defiance of the wishes of Shaquille O'Neal, who begged us not to make a Shaqaroni pizza! [laughing]

Griffin: Is it—

Travis: How does—

Griffin: Are they smoky, cured, spiced, chunks of Shaq? I don't want that!

Justin: No, it's Shaq-free. Uh, Papa John's will donate one dollar from every Shaqaroni sold through August 23rd, 2020, to the Papa John's Foundation for Building Community, which is a very general and non-threatening name of a group which supports communities as they work together for equality, fairness, respect, and opportunity for all.

Here's the quote. "It was important to me for the Shaqaroni to be bigger than just pizza. By giving my new pie a try, one dollar will be donated to the Papa John's Foundation for Building Community to support COVID-19 relief, the fight against racial injustice, Boys and Girls Club of America, the United Negro College Fund, and general community involvement," says O'Neal, Papa John's board member and franchise owner.

Conceived by O'Neal himself, the Shaqaroni is an extra-large pizza made with Papa John's fresh, never frozen, six ingredient dough, topped with extra cheese and extra pepperoni – Shaqaroni, I think they meant to say – and then cut into Papa John's largest slice size to date.

Travis: Well, now, so, I... I don't mean to be obtuse here. But it sounds like what your describing is... a big pepperoni pizza. I guess I'm just confused as to where... the Shaqaroni part comes in. And let me just say – why not make it like, a macaroni and cheese pizza? 'Cause then Shaqaroni totally applies!

Justin: Well don't even fuckin' worry about that, Travis.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: Because the larger than life pizza is also accompanied by an exclusive Snapchat AR experience.

Griffin: Oh, good!

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: For fans who order the Shaqaroni. Using the Snapchat app, customers simply point their camera at the pizza box to reveal a 3D surprise. I don't know what the 3D surprise is, but I assume it's Shaq dressed as Kazam, announcing that your pizza wishes have been granted.

Travis: Yeah, what else could it possibly be?

Justin: I don't know what else... what else it could possibly be other than that.

Travis: Can I—can I just real quick, uh, just dial in on the implications of using the phrase, 'larger than life' when describing a pizza, which would imply that this pizza is larger... than existence, I guess? [laughing] Larger than anything you could conceive based around your time here on earth.

Justin: Here's what's very interesting, is that nowhere in the press release does it define the bounds of the pizza. It is only in relation to other... pizza products, from Papa John's.

Travis: It's large. Maybe it's bigger than Shaq.

Justin: It's a lot. It's big. It's very big. We can't tell you how big, because the law. Legally, we can't tell you how big it is, but it's extremely big. Wait 'til you see this thing.

Travis: Perhaps the diameter is one Shaq's worth.

Justin: It's a Shaq of pi—it's a single Shaq of pizza. Actually, they say it's a... okay. So, the CEO of Papa John's, the new, good one, I guess... not the old one...

Griffin: Right.

Justin: ... says, uh, "We're excited to combine all the best ingredients for coming together in support of our neighbors. A Shaq-sized pizza."

Travis: Yep.

Justin: Now that, to me...

Travis: Yep.

Justin: ... is—I think that's false advertising. That could be criminal.

Travis: Or...

Griffin: Or...

Justin: 'Cause if it's a Shaq shaped pizza, then I—I think—if it's Shaq sized, like... you have to have... how tall is Shaq?

Travis: Well, no, that could mean... that could mean...

Justin: He's seven one. So this motherfucker—even Reggie Fils-Amie's great shame, The Bigfoot Pizza, was nowhere near seven foot one.

Griffin: Not even close.

Justin: Not even close.

Travis: But what I'm saying is, perhaps it could be the pizza to satiate Shaq. This is a Shaq-sized pizza. This is, you have your human-sized pizza, and then you have your Shaq-sized pizza, which is far larger, much like a baby bear, mama bear, papa bear situation. This pizza, for Shaq, is just right.

Justin: So, okay. Theory. The reason that the dimensions are not listed is because it is on a sliding scale, during which, in the morning, Shaq consumes an amount of pizza. He is continually brought pizza until he announces, "Shaq is sated. I will have no more pizza."

Travis: Yeah. And then you know, for that day...

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: That's the day—for that day, that is the size of the Shaqaroni pizza.

Travis: Much like you used to measure, like, the length of the king's forearm. Right?

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And that was the unit of measure, and then it would fluctuate, based on who the royalty was in question. It depends on Shaq—maybe Shaq is feeling a little stopped up, hasn't had a good BM in a while, isn't all that hungry... that's a tiny pizza that day.

Griffin: Skips pizza. He skips pizza that day, 'cause he has terrible—he has a terrible stomach bug. And that day—

Travis: 'Cause he's only been eating pizza.

Griffin: And that day, you order the Shaqaroni pizza... you get nothing. You get absolutely nothing.

Travis: Good day, sir.

Justin: Good day, sir! You lose! And that's the Shaqaroni pizza. I think that that's wonderful. I'm so happy that, uh, Shaq is finally, uh, getting his hands on the dough over there.

Travis: Yeah. I'm glad—I'm just glad he's finally found something he's comfortable putting his name on.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I have been sitting here trying to think of another way of blending

an NBA all-star player's name with a type of salami. And... I think it—

Justin: How's it going?

Griffin: Oh, so bad, man. So poorly. Um...

Travis: Mugsalami.

Griffin: Mugsa... like... like the Mugs—

Travis: That feels like—that feels like Punxsutawney Phil's brother. [laughs]

Griffin: That's nothing.

Travis: Mugsalami Phil.

Griffin: I thought, in my head, Dikembe Chorizo, but that felt like

absolutely nothing.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Yeah, that's... I mean, I like the fla—it tastes—

Griffin: Chorizo—Chorizo Barkley? Like Charles Bar... no, 'cause you can't say that. That's like naming—I have named this pizza Chorizo Barkley. It's

its name.

Justin: That's no good.

Griffin: That's no good.

Justin: Uh... huh. Yeah, well. It sounds like a good.

Griffin: Scottie—Scottie Pippenroni! But the—we already did pepperoni. We just said Shaq in there.

Justin: Hm. That's true.

Griffin: Fuck.

Justin: Folks, thank you so much for listening to our podcast. We hope you've enjoyed yourself. Uh, we hope you're staying safe, staying cool. Uh...

Griffin: [laughs] Staying cool?

Travis: Keeping the heat off!

Griffin: Just as important as staying safe, Justin says. Staying cool.

Travis: And you gotta be safe with those fans! Sometimes those fans, those blades move really fast! Be careful!

Griffin: They go so fast. No thanks. Sorry, guys. I'm just looking at a list of NBA all-star names, and I'm really down a fuckin' well right now. But 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. Uh, it's a powerful song. Powerful anthem of, uh, summertime rejuvenation.

Uh, and... uh... thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. You can go to MaximumFun.org, check out all the great shows there. Uh, and uh, also, check out the Sylvia Rivera Law Project. We'll have a link to that in the episode description of you want to support them as well.

Travis: Uh, there's only a couple more weeks to preorder The Adventure Zone graphic novel, if you haven't already. Petals to the Metal. I believe it comes out, what, the 14th? Something like that.

Griffin: Something like that!

Travis: It's comin' out real soon! It's like two weeks! Don't miss it! Go to TheAdventureZoneComic.com. You're really gonna enjoy it. It's really good. I'm very proud of it.

Griffin: It's way better than... Dickens, or...

Travis: Yeah, get 'em!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Any of them old jerks. Uh, here's a final Yahoo. This one was sent in by a bunch of people. Thanks, everybody. It's from Yahoo Answers user, uh... Ash Lelise asks, "How long after back tattoo can I have sex?"

Justin: [laughs] My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: Is that too naugh—is that naughty?

Justin: Say your name!

Griffin: This is 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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