

## MBMBaM 526: Why Not a Wizard?

Published on September 7th, 2020

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

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

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

**Travis:** I'm your middlest brother, Travis McElroy.

**Griffin:** [low voice] I'm the mystical, magical illusionist entertainer, David Blaine.

**Justin:** David, so happy to have you here! Wow, what an honor.

**Griffin:** Sorry, I got—I got delayed by some crosswinds over Milwaukee.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** So it delayed me coming into the studio today.

**Justin:** Just a few days after your dramatic ascent holding a—[laughs] holding a lot of balloons.

**Travis:** Yeah. Up—upping yourself, is what the kids call it.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I did an up, and it uh, was an exhilarating journey that brought the country together, and it was an illusion, and also I liked... doing it a lot and I had a lot of fun doing it.

**Justin:** So that's the only means of conveyance you're using.

**Griffin:** So now I do it all the time. Because when you get on an airplane...

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** ...they aren't doing a great job of the social distancing. Have you guys heard about this?

**Travis:** No, y—

**Justin:** No one was a social—you might've been, David, the mo—you got up to... 24,900 feet?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Um... You must've been the most—you might've been the most socially distanced person on the planet.

**Griffin:** Well, I was, until one of my balloons popped, and it released the stinky breath of a sick man.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** The balloons were all blown up by a lar—a big man with powerful breath, and it's—I found out later, he was sick with it. So I don't know. It was—again, the crosswinds may have diluted it somewhat.

**Justin:** That may have—that may have been Smilex gas. You know how the Joker do.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** The Joker's always on my nuts.

**Travis:** Can I—can I give you a—I just wanna say thank you, Mr. Blaine, because for—it is amazing how your balloon trip captivated the hearts and minds of everyone. And for days now, it's all anyone has been talking about

across all social—it's literally the only thing being discussed, it is I think the first thing that has distracted everyone from everything. It's amazing.

**Justin:** I actually—I—as interested as I am to hear about David's experience with the balloon...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** ...I'd like to talk about my experience, which is... I saw on Twitter, about a half hour after it ended, that it had happened.

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Justin:** I was like, "Aw, man, I didn't fucking hear about that. He did what?"

I like to pretend that David Blaine was like, if I could tell him that personally... [laughs] like—"I know you went up in the air with balloons you were holding."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** "But I didn't find out about it until later, and I couldn't be bothered. And then, David, by the way, when I did watch it, I did skip around quite a bit. Your journey—your ascension and decline, even your falling—even your falling through the fucking air, I was like, "Ehh..."

**Griffin:** You took a—you took a—

**Travis:** David, can I—may I ask, 'cause it kind of seems to me—

**Griffin:** Well, you sure aren't really giving me room to speak about my incredible sky journey, I'm sure [crosstalk].

**Travis:** No, because I do wanna hear about—I do, David.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** David, I do, but—to Justin’s point, it kind of seems to me like maybe that unlike, you know, where you uh, sat in a big fish bowl for a long time, or you claimed to be frozen in ice, even though our daddy did that. And you—

**Griffin:** Oh, wait, you’re Clint’s kids.

**Travis:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** The creator of the “frozen in ice” gag. Um, it kind of seems like this one wasn’t a publicity thing, so much as it was just something you were gonna do on your own, and somebody noticed and pointed a camera at you. It didn’t seem like it was advertised in any way beforehand. Is that true?

**Griffin:** No, we did a sort of street team advertisement, but with balloo—

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** We tied, the—like, with the URL, we put it on some paper and we tied it to balloons, but wouldn’t you know it, the dagnab things dang did flew up into the sky, so no one could see `em.

**Justin:** Um, David, I’d like to talk about one feature of your stunt that I thought was so captivating.

**Griffin:** Good.

**Justin:** Uh, your—I *believe* uh, there was a young woman there who I believe was your daughter.

**Griffin:** Hm.

**Justin:** I don’t know for sure.

**Griffin:** Me either. Me neither.

**Justin:** Uh, but she attached the final balloon that began your ascent into the sky.

**Griffin:** Put me over.

**Justin:** Yeah, put you over. That was so lovely. I wanted to know, did you consider the fact that if something did go terribly wrong, she would have, like, YouTube livestreamed evidence that she could revisit for the rest of her existence of that time she killed her dad with a balloon?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Did you think about that outcome?

**Griffin:** It's a part of the illusion, isn't it?

**Justin:** Well, there's no illusion [crosstalk]—

**Travis:** No, woah. What's the—

**Justin:** You were very clear about this.

**Travis:** That was you and the balloons, right? Unless... Unless that was the trick? That was you and the balloons, right?

**Griffin:** I never give away my secrets. But it's a—

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** I had an invisible—it was a very big... ladder.

**Justin:** There were some people—

**Travis:** Oh! Wait, hold on, Justin. I wanna hear more about this giant invisible ladder technology.

**Justin:** Okay. Okay.

**Griffin:** It was big. It's a big ladder. 10,000-foot ladder. I didn't even get up the whole dang thing.

**Justin:** Um, in these times, when things are changing so much, I would like to repeat a little bit of consistency in the world. I showed your stunt to um, my wife, who reacted the way she has reacted to all of your stunts for the past decade. She watched in silence, and then said, "That fuckin' idiot."

**Travis:** [laughs] How's that feel?

**Griffin:** Oh.

**Justin:** [holding back laughter] Every single time, David.

**Griffin:** Well, that hurts my... feelings. Or does it?

**Justin:** [bursts out laughing] What did Leo think of this?

**Griffin:** Leo loved it. I'm not sure who you're referring to.

**Justin:** Leo DiCaprio. Leo DiCap—your friend, Leo DiCaprio?

**Griffin:** Oh.

**Justin:** You're friends with a lot of celebs.

**Griffin:** Yeah, he liked it one time I'm—I—he had a big w—he had a watch, and I made it not there anymore.

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Griffin:** [laughs] Yeah. It was pretty badass. And then I [crosstalk].

**Travis:** Now, what did Edward Norton think?

**Griffin:** And then I threw up a frog, but that was unrelated.

**Justin:** Tell me about the time you set Edward Norton's shoes on fire.

**Travis:** Yeah, I wanna—

**Justin:** And then you spit water on them so hard that they went out.

**Travis:** Yes, please.

**Griffin:** Well, it was his—it was his fuckin' birthday.

**Justin:** [bursts out laughing]

**Travis:** Oh!

**Griffin:** [laughs] And I took him out to dinner at a Ruth's Chris.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And they were doin' it hibachi-style.

**Travis:** Okay?

**Justin:** [through laughter] Yeah, go on. This is a more thorough recounting than I was expecting! [laughs]

**Travis:** I'm not gonna say—I'm not gonna try to jump to conclusions here, but Chekhov's gun, you've introduced a hibachi, and his shoes were on fire.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I'm having a hard time not connecting the two.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Well, that's [crosstalk]...

**Justin:** That might be a feint, though. It may be a red herring.

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:** Let me get you looking over there at the hibachi table. And then what happens? Your watch is not fucking there anymore.

**Travis:** Woah, you stole my watch!

**Griffin:** Yep. And then uh—

**Travis:** And you replaced it with Edward Norton's shoes?

**Griffin:** Yep. And then what's that in my mouth? It's another frog. Damn it. Damn it.

**Travis:** [laughs] Now, so how did the shoes come to ignite?

**Griffin:** I'm not gonna give you all my secrets, but I—

**Travis:** Was that the trick, that you made his shoes flammable?

**Griffin:** Yeah. I ma—I took—I changed the stuff that it's made out of.

**Travis:** Oh!

**Griffin:** Into a sort of polyester of my own design. I have my own shoe line of extremely burnable shoes dropping this summer. Oh, wait, summer's over. I forgot. Man.

**Travis:** I guess I just thought that the trick was how much water you regurgitated upon his shoes.

**Griffin:** No. Hey, you wanna see me float? Whoo!

**Travis:** Yep. Woah!

**Griffin:** Okay. I'm gonna float off. But anyway, yeah, I got launch plans with f—fucking Balloon Boy—

**Travis:** [laughs]



**Griffin:** Me and Balloon Boy are gonna hit a Ruth's Chris. And you know what he's in for.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Say goodbye to your kids, Balloon Boy. Cooking 'em up, hibachi-style.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [makes disappearing noises]

**Justin:** Aw, man. What a big get.

**Travis:** Aw, man. I had so many questions to ask him, and I forgot.

**Justin:** Yeah. There's a lot.

**Griffin:** [makes reappearing noises] What did you need?

**Justin:** [bursts out laughing]

**Travis:** Hey, sorry, David! Just real quick!

**Justin:** Attention!

**Travis:** How did you pu—how did you put my playing card inside the bottle?

**Griffin:** Oh, it was a—the bottle isn't real.

**Travis:** Ah, fuck! Yeah.

**Griffin:** [makes disappearing noises]

**Travis:** Okay. I see that now.

**Griffin:** [normally] Hey, guys. Oh, David just floated out the window with his big balloons.

**Justin:** Um...

**Travis:** Griffin, are you ready to start *My Brother, My Brother and Me*?

**Griffin:** Yeah, let's do it.

**Justin:** Alright. Just press "record," everybody, and...

**Griffin:** [laughs quietly]

**Justin:** So this is an advice show.

**Travis:** Obviously.

**Justin:** Obviously. So let's help people.

"I live in an apartment building, and today the windows are being washed. Since I am working from home in a tiny apartment, my desk is six inches away from the window, and the window-washing guy just dropped into view. We acknowledged each other, and I thanked him, and now I'm sitting here, pretending to work, staring at my computer screen while this gentleman is literally six inches from me, staring back at me while doing his job.

"I have a full cup of coffee and toast already at my desk, so there's no excuse to get up and putter around the kitchen. The anxiety I currently feel is unlike anything I've ever felt. How do I most effectively cover the fact—or convey the fact that I am definitely working, and not just trying to avoid eye contact with him?" That's from *Working in Washington*.

**Travis:** I think my favorite part of this question is the conceit, the belief that if you got up to go to the kitchen, the window-washer would be like, "Where are you going? You got a full—cup of co'!"

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** "Where are you going? Is this about me?"

**Griffin:** This is one of many questions, and it's a sort of—it's a genre of question that we get from our listeners – who I adore, because we are so very alike, us and our listeners – where you are assuming that this person's... sort of whole mindset is about you in this moment.

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** 'Cause that's what anxiety does to you. When really, you can get up. And they're not gonna—they're not gonna pay you—

**Justin:** No.

**Griffin:** They're not gonna pay you any mind. They're listening to the radio. They're—you know.

**Travis:** Or focusing on not falling to their death, which is what I would be doing in their position.

**Griffin:** Yeah, they're on the clock, and they're dialed in. They're probably not concerned with you or what you're doing or anything about you, because guess what? They're gonna go by a bunch of windows with a bunch of people working in 'em. If they gave a shit about every single person in every single window, it'd take up a *lot* of sort of emotional... lift.

**Travis:** Now... Okay, here's what I will say, though, Griffin.

**Griffin:** [distantly] Yeah?

**Travis:** See, if—putting ourselves in place of our listeners. If I was the window-washer, I would, upon looking at every window, think, "What are they doing?" I think that, like, that is—

**Justin:** No, of *course* you would—no, like...

**Griffin:** Hmm.

**Justin:** Obviously, you would. Because this is—

**Griffin:** Every time? Every time, [crosstalk]—

**Justin:** This is what I wanted to say. This is what I want to say. These people are doing an incredibly dangerous job, the fine people of the window-washing industry. That's a dangerous gig, I'm thinking. They probably have some safety protocols in place, but by and large, it's more dangerous than a lot of gigs.

**Griffin:** It's just a bunch of balloons.

**Justin:** Letting the—and it's boring. You know? It's probably a lot of times—once you get into the rhythm, it's probably boring. You owe them... They have the right... [laughs] What I'm saying is, we owe them a little bit of entertainment, a little show.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** Uh, I think. Just to help them pass the time on their—the boring, dangerous thing that they are doing for our—*our* edification.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** This futile—this futile act that will be undone by entropy and the ravages of time and um...

**Travis:** And birds.

**Justin:** ...in a matter of days—and birds, thank you Travis. Uh, and bugs. Just let them have a look-see at what you're doing!

**Travis:** [laughs] Give 'em a show!

**Justin:** Just give 'em a show. Don't let them know you're there, though, 'cause that's not their thing.

**Travis:** No, but I do—it has just now occurred to me that this is probably why Hitchcock called his movie *Rear Window* instead of just *Window*. Because it would be a way different experience in *Rear Window* if it was a cleaner six inches away, just like, “Hey, did you kill somebody?”

**Justin:** “Hey, I saw that, mister!”

**Travis:** [laughs] “I’m right—I am right here.”

**Justin:** “Right here. You can pretend I don’t exist, like that guy in Washington that one time.”

**Travis:** “But I’m right here, and I’m pretty sure you killed your wife, and maybe a dog in a bucket? It’s been a while since Travis has seen *Rear Window*.”

**Justin:** [holding back laughter] “Why are you telling me about when Travis saw *Rear Window*?”

**Travis:** “Well, I’m just trying to share a brief moment of humanity with you to bring us closer together. Oh! You went in the kitchen. Okay.”

**Griffin:** What do you do with all those creepy snecrets that you—that you find when you’re going down the windows?

**Travis:** You narc.

**Justin:** This is our code. This is the sacred code.

**Travis:** Ohh.

**Justin:** Yeah, the sacred code of the—the window-washer, is that you may watch all the secrets, but you must lock them in an amulet...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** ...that you keep uh, around your neck.

**Travis:** That powers you.

**Justin:** Yeah, you whisper the secrets into the amulet, and that's what keeps your floating, uh, hover platform aloft.

**Travis:** Correct.

**Justin:** The power of secrets.

**Griffin:** Oh, it's not cables! Like in movies?

**Travis:** No!

**Justin:** No!

**Travis:** No, no, no. Those are just there to keep up appearances.

**Justin:** It's an illusion created by the amulet.

**Griffin:** How come every time someone gets on one of those in movies and TVs, it always falls?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Always falls. Wouldn't get on one in a movie.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Like, I—I think the rate of incident in which the window-washer platform does fall would have to be exceptionally low. Or else we—I would assume we just leave these bad boys dirty.

**Travis:** Do you think when window-washers, like, see that movie, they're like, "Wait, no—that—come on. That's not—"

**Justin:** "Come on."

**Travis:** [crosstalk]

**Justin:** "Get your [crosstalk] on."

**Travis:** "Come on. That's not how it works! What, are you—it's got redundancies! Are you fuckin' kidding me? What is this?"

**Griffin:** You have to assume it has redundancies. Uh, can I do a Yahoo?

**Justin:** Well...

**Travis:** I would like to see—I would like to see a scene in a movie where somebody gets onto the platform, and everything is like tense music, but then it's just like a half-hour scene of them figuring out how the controls work, and then turning it on and then lowering themselves like 100 floors, and then getting off at the bottom. And then like, I don't know, getting in a cab. You know?

**Justin:** I'd like to see a scene where the Green Goblin knocks a window-washer's platform down, and Spider-Man's like, "Oh, fuck, I gotta get over there!"

And he swings over there, and the window-washer's like, "I had proper safety protocols in place, Spider-Man."

**Travis:** Yes. I mean, there's redundancies.

**Justin:** "I'm fine. There's redundancies, of course."

Uh, if you're a window-washer, uh, listening to podcasts, please get at us and let us know, I guess, everything that's going on over there.

**Travis:** Yeah, give us a play-by-play of what you see.

**Justin:** Yeah. And describe your amulet in detail. [laughs]

**Travis:** Yeah. Be honest; we'll know!

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** We'll know!

**Griffin:** Uh, here's a Yahoo that was sent in by Sean. Thanks, Sean. It's by Yahoo Answers User Nope, who has a—he's got a question here that is r—that has been on the tip of my tongue, and Sean—Nope has managed to put it into words in a way I never have. Thank you, Nope, for your bravery.

Nope asks, "Why hasn't there ever been a wizard wrestler?"

**Travis:** Huh.

**Justin:** Huh.

**Griffin:** "Like in WWE, the wizard wrestler would have special powers like controlling other wrestlers via telekinesis. He'd definitely be jacked and wear a speedo, but he'd also have a big white beard and a wizard hat." I did not read that part before...

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Did not vet that part correctly. I imagined a more of a sort of... Gandalfian vibe?

**Travis:** Yeah, absolutely. You were thinking more of a svelte—not so much beefcake, but perhaps um, you know, like a... a svelte, jaguar-esque... you know.

**Griffin:** Well, I was more thinking about the—the hempen garments of a Christopher Lee. But not necessarily...

**Travis:** Oh, I see.

**Griffin:** ...a speedo with rippling muscles. But I guess wizards come in all shapes and sizes, and that's what makes the world go round.



**Travis:** Yeah, it is interesting to me, Griffin, that you assume that Gandalf, underneath that robe, isn't rippling with muscles.

**Griffin:** Isn't like, huge. Yeah.

**Travis:** You don't know that.

**Griffin:** Um...

**Travis:** Gandalf the Shredded.

**Griffin:** I—wrestling has some—requires remarkable athleticism.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** And there is a—obviously an inherent risk to every bout that happens in that beautiful—that beautiful cage. Um... but also sometimes, they do a make-believe.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** That's interesting.

**Griffin:** I know that there's been a wrestler who would... take off his sock and make you smell it so bad that you fall asleep.

**Travis:** [laughs] Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** So I don't see why there can't be a wrestler who... takes you over with his psychic powers...

**Justin:** Surely, the problem, though, is that—is that wrestling is already—has a sort of—we know this. This is not uh—there's a tenuous relationship to reality in wrestling. And they're constantly playing with that in—in a word that I will not attempt to pronounce, because I've been saying it for 10 years, and I've never managed to get it right.

**Travis:** Kayfabe?

**Justin:** Thank you. Sure. Travis said it this time. Tweet at him.

But I feel like introducing—it would be straining the bounds of believability if you did just have one wrestler show up, and this one does have...

**Travis:** Well...

**Justin:** ...magical powers.

**Travis:** It seems to me like people are okay with someone maybe being an undertaker, and maybe being dead in some way, and like having a manager who may or may not be dead...

**Justin:** That was an act.

**Griffin:** That was fake.

**Justin:** I think that if you're gonna have a magician character, the premise can't be, "I always loved wizards growing up, and so I've styled myself as a wizard." It must be "I am a wizard." [laughs]

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** "Who will win the fight with magic."

**Travis:** I find it hard to believe that there has not been a wrestler who could perhaps mesmerize or hypnotize—

**Griffin:** Well, ok—I mean, we do have something like that now. There is—there is someone who uses what I will just refer to as just sort of... swamp magic, to uh... to get—cast people into sort of uh, illusory hellscapes.

**Travis:** That feels real. Yeah.

**Griffin:** And—

**Travis:** That doesn't bother me.

**Griffin:** So we got that, right? Why not wizard? In the last WrestleMania, the fucking Undertaker *killed* AJ Styles.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Guys? Guys? He's a performer. He's an entertainer. Allen Jones. Fucking...

**Travis:** Killed.

**Griffin:** ...*killed him*, and buried his dead ass six feet under the loam. Dust to dust, baby. This dude's dead as disco. And then he's back the next week. So why not wizards, I guess?

**Travis:** What happened—when he came back—hold on, I am curious, Griffin. When he came back, was there any, like, zombie theme? Or like, was it—

**Griffin:** Nah, he was just—he was just kinda back, and he was pretty peeved at the Undertaker.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** But they only do the Undertaker at WrestleMania, so he kinda let bygones be bygones for another year.

**Travis:** [laughs] He got over it.

**Griffin:** [laughs] He got over it. Maybe next WrestleMania, he'll show up at the Undertaker fight, and be like, "I did not appreciate you *killing my ass dead*, and putting me in the ground like a dead body does!"

**Travis:** I think if you were going to have a wizard character...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** They would have to only be able to access their powers once x had been accomplished. They could not walk right out the gate, and blast you with a fireball or lightning or whatever. It would have to be, like, they gotta power up via getting punched enough, right, or something. Maybe it's rage-fueled magic... um, or it's the cheers of the crowd, perhaps?

**Griffin:** [hesitantly] Yeah, I mean, we got Finn Balor who turns into the Beast when he gets psyched up. There's a lot of people who transform into bestial characters, so why not a fucking wizard?

**Travis:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Please!

**Justin:** It's such a shame that live audiences aren't permitted at wrestling events now. Beause I would love to start seeing the crowd filled with "Why not a wizard?" signs.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Maybe once things—well, I feel like the heat of this is gonna be gone by the time... we wrap up the COVID stuff.

**Travis:** Could it be a social campaign?

**Justin:** Hmm.

**Travis:** Hashtag #whynotawizard.

**Justin:** Tweet it. Tweet at Vince [unintelligible].

**Travis:** Well, you don't have to—no, you don't have to tweet it at anybody. You can just tweet, simply, hashtag #whynotawizard.

**Justin:** How—that's so—there is no wrestling connection to that.

**Travis:** Oh, you don't think that's obvious? I didn't think it needed to be stated. I think that when someone sees that, they will immediately think of

the void in wrestling. They'll be like, "Yeah, you're right! Why not a wizard?"

**Griffin:** Bray Wyatt has swamp magic, *and* he transforms into a beast called the Fiend.

**Travis:** Well, he took both! He can't do that.

**Griffin:** That's what I'm saying! Why—there can—there should be—even if somebody's already got a thing!

**Justin:** Why not a wizard?

**Griffin:** Why not wiz—Roman Reigns, some people are still not over. Just fucking give him telekinesis! It's so easy.

**Travis:** Griffin, are—

**Justin:** There's gotta be some sort of babyface pers—like, one of the wrestlers that doesn't have a cool name, they just are their regular name?

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** And were—

**Travis:** Like John Cena.

**Justin:** Like John Cena, who could come back as the Wizard.

**Travis:** Maybe a character—ooh, ooh! Maybe that's the thing, is Roman Reigns, Griffin, you mentioned, people—he was supposed to be a hero, and then people didn't like him, is that correct?

**Griffin:** Uh, yeah. I mean, that was—that was it. Ancient history, but still, yes. He's not over in some people's hearts and minds.

**Travis:** Perhaps he discovers his powers. They manifest one day while saving someone...

**Griffin:** Oh, interesting!

**Travis:** And this is—it's not like—it's not retconned.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** This is a new development of like, "Yes, and *also...*"

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Travis:** "...I saw a child about to be hit by a car, and I magicked that car away."

**Griffin:** Okay. So he will be—

**Travis:** "And that's how I found my powers."

**Griffin:** He has this fantastical move where he cocks his arm like it's a shotgun.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** And then he jumps—he does jump in the air, and he punches somebody with this arm that I guess he has... prepared in some way? He has loaded it.

**Travis:** Loaded, yeah.

**Griffin:** So what if, the next time he does it, he just cocks it, and like, a fucking lightning bolt comes out?

**Travis:** There you go.

**Griffin:** And he's like, "Woah, what the fuck!? Did you guys see that?" And then we would do cussing.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** In the—in the WWE again, which...

**Justin:** Wouldn't it be cool if—one of the cool things about having a wizard is that you could—he's unbeatable, right, because of magic? But you could... like, there's an object outside of the ring in our world, where his power is contained.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** Oh!

**Justin:** Because I think one of the things about wrestling that sucks is that it's always in that—the um—the—you know, the square. And I feel like if they had an opportunity to do some storylines that was just... the Undertaker rampaging through Detroit, looking for the secret... dagger of... we'll get it in post.

**Griffin:** [bursts out laughing]

**Travis:** Yeah, we'll figure it out.

**Justin:** You know.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Oh, man, that would be so good, 'cause I would love to see Vince, like, taking part in it. Like, "[Vince McMahon voice] Hey, did you find the dagger?" Like, doing his very best acting.

**Travis:** "We have to stab the heart."

**Griffin:** "You need to go into the ancient vault of R'lyeh, and—"

**Justin:** I think what I've stopped—I think at some point, I've stopped describing wrestling, and started describing shows.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** But it would be cool if it was like shows.

**Travis:** What if there was a companion television show...

**Justin:** Okay.

**Travis:** ...to wrestling, where they were going on adventures, and maybe—

**Justin:** [laughs] I thought you were gonna say there was a companion character to the Undertaker, like, "I know I don't have wrestling powers, but I'm here to provide some levity. My name is Dirktaker. I'm your son."

**Travis:** [laughs] "I'm your son, and I will find the dagger, and I will stop the magic man!" Griffin, are there any wrestlers...

**Justin:** "I turned 17, Dad! I got my wrestling powers!"

**Travis:** [bursts out laughing]

**Justin:** "I'm proud of you, Dirktaker, son of [crosstalk]."

**Travis:** "Dad, I'm gonna be a nice guy who brings life."

"What? You've disappointed me again, Dirk."

**Griffin:** "He's making his SmackDown debut, son of the Undertaker, everybody, here comes Dirktaker! Oh, he's got a dagger! You can't—"

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** [laughs] "He took that dirk."

**Justin:** "[goofy voice] No, he's got *my* dagger!" Oh, the wizard seems pretty worried about this!

**Travis:** [laughs] For the first time, the wizard *is* worried.



**Justin:** "My power has been compromised!"

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Oh, and it's the wizard's son, Tom! "Hi, I'm Tom. I don't... wrestle."

**Justin:** Oh, no.

**Griffin:** "Dirktaker is swiping his knife at the—we gotta call this, guys."

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Oh, no, the wizard! His skin is melting, and the roaches that were ambulating his body have started to disintegrate. That's right, he was just an ambulating, uh, skin-shield for a bunch of living roaches. And that is the twist.

**Travis:** We'll have to see how this affects the rankings or whatever.

**Justin:** I'm gonna run WWE into the ground just from like, budgets on the effects...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** ...we're gonna need for this show.

**Griffin:** I wouldn't want it to be some ratty-ass, *Men in Black 1* era, like PlayStation 1 low-poly, just sort of dissolving man effect. That would be so fucking good! God, we should write wrestling.

**Travis:** Uh, Griffin—

**Griffin:** God, they should let us do wrestling. Yeah.

**Travis:** Are there any wrestlers who their who gimmick – like, their whole thing – is that they always seem surprised to be in a wrestling match? Like maybe they were just like a fan who got up to go to the bathroom or like, buy a program or whatever...

**Justin:** [laughing]

**Travis:** ...and then they're just like, "Wait, I'm—what? Huh? Oh!"

**Justin:** Okay, Travis, this is perfect. The character's name is Phil Spigot, and he doesn't wanna wrestle.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And—what happens is the wrestlers have to go and find him, and start the wrestling against his will.

**Travis:** And he's just, like, in line for the men's room.

**Justin:** Right. [through laughter] He doesn't know the wrestling is about to—that's the problem, is that all these wrestlers are waiting until the match starts. If you wanna get serious about this, you need to start finding these people in their daily lives.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I'm pretty sure—

**Travis:** "Hey, where's Phil? I don't think he came to the wrestling match."

"I'm going to his house. I'm gonna find him!"

**Griffin:** I think Braun Strowman was just, like, getting some pretzels at SmackDown. And they were like, "What are you doing, man? Get up there!"

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs] "Go wrestle!"

**Griffin:** "Dude, look at your fuckin' body! Get up there!"

**Justin:** [wheezes] "Look at your incredible wrestler's body."

**Griffin:** "Holy shit!"

**Travis:** "No, I'm an accountant."

"Yeah, no accounting for how big and beefy you are. Get out there."

**Griffin:** Um...

**Justin:** "Actually, I'm an undertaker."

"Yeah, we get it!"

**Griffin:** "Yeah! Right!"

**Justin:** "No, I'm—I mean, I'm—like a mortician."

**Travis:** "Well, that's taken, so you gotta pick something else."

**Justin:** "You gotta pick something else."

"But I am an undertaker."

"That's taken!"

**Travis:** "It's taken! Can you be a wizard?"

"I don't have powers."

"Damn it."

**Griffin:** Fuck, that would be great, if like a s—like a big—a big wrestler got to be the wizard.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** [laughing]

**Travis:** Just a big beef-o.

**Griffin:** [laughs] If Brock Lesnar shows up to the next WrestleMania and they're like, "Uh-oh, baby! Here we go! Suplex City!"

And he's like, "No, I don't do that anymore."

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [wheezes] "Check out my beard."

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [through laughter] "My huge, bushy, full, real beard."

**Griffin:** He reaches into his fucking knife tattoo on his stomach and pulls out the actual dagger!

**Travis:** "He's opened a portal to hell?!"

**Griffin:** "Woah! Let me guess, you're gonna suplex the other guy to—"

"I don't do that anymore!"

**Justin:** [wheezes]

**Travis:** "I don't suplex anymore!"

**Justin:** [continues laughing]

**Griffin:** "I use my mind now!"

**Travis:** “I control time with the amulet around my neck, and I have a cape that moves on its own!”

**Justin:** Why would the wizard go into the ring? That’s the question for me.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Is if the wizard [laughs] has these incredible powers, what storyline reason is there for—he could be just waiting for the wrestler to wrestle somebody else, seeing—eating some nachos in 37G, and then just blaze him, right?

**Travis:** Well, the other wrestler said something mean about his girl.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Something along those lines.

**Travis:** So he wanted to—or maybe he smooched his mama, or something. I don’t know. I haven’t watched wrestling since, like, 1998.

**Justin:** That’s bad. Let me give you this. His spells are powered by punches.

**Travis:** That’s what I said earlier!

**Justin:** And in order to get one spe—well, no, he’s building spell energy.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** Okay? So he has to slap the person—you know how sometimes they slap their belly?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Don’t you love that?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** It's fun.

**Justin:** [laughs] That seems friendly.

**Griffin:** It's fun. 'Cause you see that—

**Travis:** Now, is it by punching others, or getting punched, Justin?

**Justin:** Sorry, what?

**Griffin:** It's not even punching, Travis. It's an open-hand belly slap.

**Justin:** Yeah, it's just an open-hand belly slap.

**Travis:** I'm just saying that maybe the wizard's powers are powered by being punched by someone else.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Travis:** So they have to get punched to power up their powers.

**Justin:** That's huge.

**Griffin:** That's cool too.

**Justin:** I love that. That's cool.

**Griffin:** Uh, we should write wrestling. Get at us, whoever.

**Justin:** I'm just saying, wrestling, if you want us to write you, uh, get at us.

**Griffin:** Get at us.

**Travis:** Maybe it has to happen in a geometric shape, and they're too lazy to make their own.

**Griffin:** Mm!

**Travis:** So they just use the ring to do it.

**Griffin:** What if the three of us filmed a sort of indie demo tape of *us* wrestling, using this great fiction, but we did it in the front yard?

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Griffin:** Where everyone could see it. And then that way, people wouldn't think that, like, something unsavory is happening. It's in the front—this is fr—this is three—this is three boys front-yard wrestling with—with supernatural elements.

**Travis:** I was going to suggest that, perhaps, we were all three wizards. And then I thought, what if that became the thing? Every wrestler is still themselves...

**Griffin:** Oh, fuck.

**Travis:** ...but also, everyone has powers now. We are basically—this is *Mortal Kombat*-level, "Oh, yeah, that guy, he studied, you know, karate until he became a master, *and also* can turn into a dragon." They are separate, unrelated, but two things that he can do. He is a very good fighter, and also can shoot ice out of his hands.

**Griffin:** I mean, again, you're just kinda making show now.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Griffin:** You're just kind of making *Mortal Kombat*, the TV show.

**Justin:** Yeah, this is just [laughs] a show.

**Travis:** But also, there's a real human element to it.

**Griffin:** Okay. It's too late. You've fucked up the pitch.

**Travis:** Fuck! Damn it.

**Griffin:** No one's gonna buy this.

**Justin:** It's—you know, we're—we're gonna have to fall back on our old, uh, funding model. Uh, advertising... podcasts.

**Travis:** Oh, okay. I thought you were gonna say selling plasma.

**Justin:** No. We'll [crosstalk].

**Griffin:** I thought we were gonna do the Max Fun Drive again, but I don't think... we're allowed to do that.

**Justin:** No. Jesse said no. Okay, let's go.

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

**Travis:** You know what I love?

**Griffin:** What do you—what?

**Travis:** Listening to things. And so that is why I enjoy Audible. They got audio books and so much more. They got original podcasts, they have, like, interviews with people. They got all kinds of cool stuff on there.

I—I recommended this to—I think I recommended it to Justin, and then we passed that on to Dad, and I passed it to all my friends. Audiobook that I thoroughly enjoyed, *The 7 ½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle*.

**Justin:** Oh, my god, it's the best!

**Griffin:** Oh.

**Travis:** If you love, like, mystery novels, and you wanna hear one like you've never heard before, *The 7 ½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* is *absolutely* incredible, and will blow you away.

**Griffin:** Okay.



**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** You haven't recommended this to me. I don't know why you guys were having this secret.

**Justin:** Stuart Turton, the author of that, actually has *another* audiobook...

**Travis:** What?

**Justin:** Yes! It's called *The Devil and the Dark Water* uh, that is coming out in October. So there's another Audible one for you to look forward to.

**Travis:** Uh, also, let's say, Maureen Johnson's *Truly Devious Series*.

**Justin:** All the best.

**Travis:** Is incredible, can't recommend it enough. I just listened to *James Acaster's Classic Scrapes...*

**Griffin:** Ooh!

**Travis:** ...which is so funny.

**Justin:** That sounds good. That sounds really good.

**Travis:** It's so good. And listen, let's all be honest. You've got some free time, right? We all have a little bit more free time this year than we were expecting. So why not sign up for Audible? Go to [stories.audible.com](https://stories.audible.com), and you can check it out. You know, you can stream hundreds of ad-free, hand-picked Audible titles completely free, no strings attached.

So, go check it out by visiting [audible.com/brother](https://audible.com/brother), or text "brother" to 500-500. That's [audible.com/brother](https://audible.com/brother), and check it out. You won't regret it, I promise. I love you.

**Justin:** Woah!

**Griffin:** Woah.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Oh. It's a weird energy.

**Travis:** Well...

**Griffin:** Guess we gotta say that after all our ads now, or else people are gonna think we're assholes.

**Travis:** Well...

**Griffin:** I [crosstalk]—

**Travis:** I mean, listen, I know I—it's the first time we've said it out loud in each other's presence, uh, let alone to each other.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Uh, but—

**Griffin:** Well, I thought you were talking about—to the audience, to them.

**Travis:** No, no, no, I am. Oh, let me be clear. That wasn't to you guys.

**Griffin:** Okay. Well, okay, let me take this for a spin. Raycon makes uh, very, very, stylish premium earbuds that have great sound and uh, they got this new model, Raycon does, called The Everyday E25 Earbuds. I love you guys so much.

**Travis:** Woah!

**Griffin:** But these are their best earbuds yet. They got six hours of play time, seamless Bluetooth, pairing more bass, a more compact design, and a noise-isolating fit.

And you guys are so special to me, and these earbuds are—

**Travis:** Are you talking to us, or the audience?

**Griffin:** The earbuds are stylish and discrete. There's no dangling wires, or unsightly stems. Just pure machine. Just you and the machine, baby! I love you. Give `em a try, though.

**Travis:** Wait—

**Griffin:** They have a 45-day free return policy, so you can make sure they're the pair of wireless earbuds for you, my special—my special little guy.

And for a limited time, you can get 15 percent off your order, isn't that great? If you go to [BuyRaycon.com/mybrother](http://BuyRaycon.com/mybrother), that's [BuyRaycon.com/mybrother](http://BuyRaycon.com/mybrother) for a special 15 percent discount on Raycon wireless earbuds. Make sure to check it out now while the deal's running! [BuyRaycon.com/mybrother](http://BuyRaycon.com/mybrother), my... my eternal flame.

[rock music plays in background]

**Raleigh:** I'm Raleigh Smirl.

**Sydnee:** I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Taylor:** And I'm Taylor Smirl.

**Sydnee:** And together, we host a podcast called *Still Buffering*, where we answer questions like...

**Raleigh:** Why should I not fall asleep first at a slumber party?

**Taylor:** How do I be fleek?

**Sydnee:** Is it okay to break up with someone using emojis?

**Taylor:** And sometimes we talk about butts!

**Raleigh:** No, we don't! Nope!

**Taylor:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Find out the answers to these important questions and many more on *Still Buffering*, a sister's guide to teens through the ages.

**Raleigh:** I am a teenager...

**Sydnee and Taylor:** ...and I... was... too.

**Taylor:** [quietly] Butts, butts, butts, butts, butts!

**Raleigh:** No! [laughs]

[music plays, ends]

**Justin:** How about another question?

**Griffin:** Oh, sure.

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah.

**Justin:** "Yesterday afternoon, my roommates and I had a tie-dye party, where I brought the dyes and we were gonna do a bunch of shirts."

**Travis:** Of course.

**Justin:** "At least, I thought we were."

**Travis:** [gasps]

**Griffin:** [gasps]

**Justin:** "My roommates both only brought one shirt each..."

**Travis:** Ugh.

**Justin:** "...and then had fun dying some of my old t-shirts as well. Looking at their shirts now before washing, I'm 100 percent certain that once I unwrap one, it's just gonna be solid yellow, because she used too much dye and I didn't notice. This is gonna be so disappointing, especially since now I have five cool shirts to her one solid yellow shirt. What should I do?"

**Griffin:** Oh, gosh.

**Justin:** "Try to fix it before giving it to her? Tell her now, almost 24 hours later, that I didn't notice she messed up? Throw it away and start a whole new shirt? Please help. I don't have much time before I have to give the shirts back."

Holy shit. This is actually a surprisingly challenging question!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** This is a tough one. That's from Tie-Dying for an Answer in Chicago.

**Griffin:** Wow.

**Travis:** Fuck!

**Griffin:** There's a lot of hair on this one. There's a lot of—there's a lot of uh, a lot of flies in the ointment.

**Travis:** Oogh. 'Cause they only got the one shirt. They took one crack at it.

**Griffin:** This was a mistake. You don't show up to a tie-dye party with one shirt, 'cause that's saying, like, "Hey, everybody, it's me, the world's best tie-dyer."

**Travis:** Right.

**Griffin:** "Sit back and watch me do my fucking thing."

**Travis:** It is a called shot. It is "This one shirt is going to be better than your five."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Like, I wouldn't trust myself to do that.

**Griffin:** It is a competition. You are competing.

**Travis:** Yeah! Yeah! What, are you gonna tie-dye for the fun of it? No! You tie-dye so that you have a good product at the end.

**Justin:** Yeah, it's not *that* fun. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Oh, okay.

**Justin:** It's like, maybe for a child. You know what I mean? For a child, it's fun, but you really want the finished product.

I went—uh, uh, my girls tie-dyed a shirt somewhere—I—God, I can't even forget, it's been years, but they were so excited they tie-dyed their shirts, and then they said, "Now, you just leave it in this bag for 24 hours."

Are you fucking kidding me? You might as well have told my kids to throw this in an incinerator and forget it ever existed.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** For as long as that sounded.

Tie-dying isn't fun.

**Griffin:** Some people like it, Justin. A lot of it—it's very hot right now.

**Justin:** I'm saying it's pleasurable as a craft, but as a layman, [laughs] it's not fun.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Well, there are many things...

**Griffin:** There you have it.

**Travis:** ...Justin, I would argue that for some people are fun to do, and for others are incredibly boring.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Justin:** This is obviously—do I have to codify everything I say on the show as “This is just my perspective, but...”

**Travis:** “This is just my skewed view.”

**Griffin:** Right. Um, here's—here's—let's start doing options, okay?

**Justin:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Number one, you give her the yellow shirt, and you say, “Congratulations, you made a shirt yellow.”

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And you didn't do—you didn't do what you were trying to do, but this shirt wasn't yellow before, and now it is, and isn't that empowering?

**Travis:** You have accomplished something.

**Griffin:** You have accomplished something.

**Travis:** You changed the nature of something, its very nature.

**Griffin:** And if they're like a bright summer, then it's gonna—this is really gonna complement them, you know what I mean?

**Travis:** Yes.

**Griffin:** I love a yellow. I look great in a yellow. It's my favorite color. If you told me, "Hey, Griffin, you didn't—your attempt to iron on this picture of the cast of *Night Court* on this shirt didn't go so well..."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** "...but you did dye it straight yellow." I'd be like—

**Travis:** You smudged Bull.

**Griffin:** [laughs] You smudged Bull and made the shirt [through laughter] stre—just a big, stretched out—[laughs]

**Travis:** He looks like a thumb, 'cause you smudged his face, and now he's just a thumb.

**Griffin:** No, he takes a—he now take a—Richard Moll takes up the entirety of the shirt. Just his bloated, stretched-out, ruined face. But uh—

**Travis:** But you nailed Larroquette. Nailed it.

**Griffin:** Larroquette's great. He's just on the back.

Um...

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** But no, if it's just yellow, then I'd be fine! 'Cause it's still a good shirt! It's still my shirt—

**Travis:** But if that wasn't your goal, Griff—it's like if I set out to make chicken soup, and I ended up with a fine gazpacho, like, I think I'd be disappointed and confused, no matter how good the gazpacho was.



**Justin:** You have to have—I think you can fix it. Because when they open it, one, they're gonna be so delighted by this amazing thing. These co—circles of color, come on. They're gonna be loving it.

But even if that moment passes – and it will, like all pleasure – I don't think they're going to have a moment where they say, "Wait a minute. Did they tie-dye my tie-dye? Did—did you—"

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Well, unless...

**Justin:** It's so inconceivable—no. I will not. I shan't. I can't grant you this. No.

**Travis:** You have to go. You have to go, it's in the contract. Unless...

**Justin:** [sighs]

**Griffin:** Unless.

**Justin:** Unless.

**Travis:** They didn't want a tie-dyed shirt; they wanted a yellow shirt.

**Justin:** Fuck. God damn it. I hate—I hate their—just once, I'd like to find some fucking black and white in this world, rather than living my existence in perpetual shades of gray.

**Travis:** Yup.

**Justin:** But Travis is right, of course. [laughs] That's entirely possible. They just wanted—they had a shirt that was one color, they wanted it to be yellow instead. That's entirely possible.

**Travis:** You said, "We're gonna tie-dye!"

And they thought, "I'm never gonna wear a tie-dye shirt. But..."

**Justin:** Free—but hey, free dye. [laughs]

**Travis:** "But hey, free dye. I have been looking for an excuse to turn this shirt yellow."

**Griffin:** Um, hey, can I do a Yahoo?

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

**Travis:** We didn't help that person at all.

**Justin:** Not a bit. Not a lick. It's too hard. Can't do it. Things are rough.

**Travis:** I don't—you finally hit something we can't help with.

**Griffin:** I think it's 'cause we don't know anything about tie-dye.

**Travis:** No.

**Justin:** That's the problem. [crosstalk]

**Travis:** I don't know if you can tie-dye on top of tie-dye. Once the shirt is yellow, can you dye it again?

**Griffin:** Um, so this—

**Justin:** You can dye it another day.

**Griffin:** Hm!

**Travis:** Oh!

**Griffin:** This Yahoo was sent in by the Wizard, Emma Kant. What do you think about that?

**Travis:** Ooh! Okay.

**Justin:** I like that.

**Griffin:** Emma, thank you. It's an anonymous Yahoo Answers—

**Justin:** Why not a wizard?

**Griffin:** Why not a wizard?

**Travis:** [simultaneously] Why not a wizard?

**Griffin:** Uh, this one's by Yahoo Answers User—they're anonymous, so I'm going to call them Preston, asks—

**Travis:** Oh, like prestidigitation.

**Justin:** [laughing quietly]

**Griffin:** What?

**Travis:** Like prestidi—

**Justin:** [through laughter] Like prestidigitation.

**Travis:** Preston-digitation.

**Griffin:** Oh.

**Justin:** "My name is Preston Digitation, and I'm here to change the world of wrestling!"

**Travis:** [laughs] "I also flip real good!"

**Justin:** "Look at these flips! They are not magically enhanced. They're physical flips!"

**Travis:** "And also, lightning!"

**Justin:** That's hard—that's hard. If you practice really hard to do cool flips as the wizard wrestler, you have to keep reassuring people that "No, I trained to do those!"

**Travis:** Yes.

**Griffin:** [laughs] Uh, Preston asks, "If you could combine two sports to make a new sport..."

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** "...which two would you pick, and why?"

There's room right now for a new sport to take off. Uh...

**Travis:** Football and jousting.

**Griffin:** Football and jousting. Travis did not even think about it before he went for football and jousting, which is kind of like... polo? Sort of?

**Justin:** Walk me through it, Trav. What's it look like?

**Travis:** Well, it's, uh—you have the big linemen, but they also have big, pointy sticks!

**Griffin:** Does anybody else have pic—are they on horseback?

**Travis:** No, the wide receivers and the running backs are sitting on the lineman's shoulders.

**Griffin:** Oh, so playing like chicken, like at a pool. But they have—but they have—

**Travis:** They have big sticks.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Big, pointy sticks. Also, what about water polo and regular polo?

**Griffin:** That's cool.

**Justin:** [laughing]

**Travis:** Now there's horses in the pool.

**Griffin:** Yeah! Forever.

**Travis:** And don't get me wrong, the pool is shallower. The horses can touch the bottom. This is not—the horses aren't swimming.

**Griffin:** Oh! So yeah, you've basically created the most dangerous sport for if you do fall off the horse.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:** And get trampled underwater. That's a doneski, right there.

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:** That's a season wrap.

Um, let's think—let's think about this, because I think—I think there's some sports that could serve as, like, a really exciting modifier for virtually every other sport.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Like, I think if we took... NASCAR...

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** ...and blended it with literally anything else.

**Travis:** Jousting.

**Griffin:** That's rough. I'm trying to think of the safety of the athletes, Trav. And I guess I'm alone in that.

**Travis:** Okay, well, then, soccer, but with car—no, that's a game, isn't it?

**Griffin:** That's a game. Yeah, I think so. Um... yeah.

**Travis:** You know what, I—I'm gonna say—okay, picture this.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** NASCAR.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Right?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** They're going real fast.

**Griffin:** Uh-huh.

**Travis:** But in order to win, you have to hit a ramp, pass by a basketball net, and slam dunk it out of the car window.

**Griffin:** Dunk it! That's cool! See, now we're talking!

**Travis:** Yeah, right?

**Griffin:** Um, I think NASCAR, and can I just say, the X Games?

**Travis:** Huh.

**Griffin:** That's not really a—

**Travis:** I would love to see a snowboarding car. Like, replace the wheels I guess with, like, rails? With, like, skis?

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And now they're doing a big jump. I like the big jumps.

**Griffin:** I mean, boxing and any other sport is like, now they—but they fight. It's like, baseball, but they fight!

**Travis:** Well, they already fight in baseball sometimes, but they're not supposed to. But you do, like—

**Griffin:** But you can win.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** You play baseball, and you're doing great, but, you know, say the Angels are down, you know, 9-zip, bottom of the 9th, and they're like, "Hey, wait a minute. Let's just fucking get these guys!"

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And so you go over there and you just start punching the other people in the dugout until the ump is like, "Game, Angels! Come from behind victory!"

**Travis:** Oh! Okay. Here's my pitch. Here's my pitch. Here's my pitch.

**Griffin:** Okay. Okay. Okay.

**Travis:** Combine *every* sport...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Individually. Not, like, into one big mass. I'm saying, like, this... like, with capture the flag. Where you're playing baseball, but also, in each dugout, right, there's a flag.

**Griffin:** Oh, my God.

**Travis:** If the other team is distracted, then you can get over there and get it. Same with like, football. There's a flag on the sidelines. Soccer, there's a flag in the side—like, there's just a flag. But if you can get their flag back over to your side...

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Travis:** ...while they're busy playing the game, you win.

**Griffin:** It's gotta be baseball, right? 'Cause I'm thinking about it now. Every other of the major sports has had the sexier version made of it. We got slam ball for basketball, we got XFL for NFL. But baseball, I'm not even thinking of it like, NASCAR can modify everything better. I'm thinking about baseball... needs-a that sauce.

**Travis:** What's it need? Yeah.

**Griffin:** What it need's a little bit of that sauce. And I think—I think having some other sort of excitement on top of baseball is the secret.

**Justin:** I got a good one.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** Shot put... and curling.

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Justin:** Sorry, no, wait—yes—no—yes. I got it. Discus and curling. So you're doing your curling, right? And you're scooting the thing down the pipe, and then at any moment, someone can come and [holding back laughter] scoop up your—your uh, your disc, and hurl it as far as they can. And then your sport has stopped, and their sport has begun. So you have to get it over across before someone can storm out of the darkness and take your disc and throw it as far as they can.



**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** That's neat. That's a neat idea.

**Justin:** In fact, shot put plus anything is very good.

**Travis:** That is true.

**Justin:** Like, you could be playing football, and you're like, holding the ball, but ooh, you better pass it quick, or else someone's gonna—a strong person's gonna run out of the shadows, and grab it and throw it as far as they can. And it won't be in a way you like.

**Travis:** I am pretty sure American football is soccer plus shot put, right?

**Griffin:** Yeah, I'm pretty sure they—

**Travis:** "I'm gonna kick the ball! No, wait, that guy grabbed and threw it!"

**Griffin:** There's always just big fellas trying to take the ball away from you. That's sort of, like, inherent. That's like, important—an important facet of the sport.

**Travis:** What about—

**Griffin:** I got a great one.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** What about... cross-country skiing...

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** ...and rifle-shooting?

**Travis:** Oh! Is this *The Most Dangerous Game* kind of thing?

**Griffin:** No, you wouldn't be shooting at each other.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Griffin:** You would cross-country ski for a while, and, you know, go for a long time, so you're kind of racing like that, but then you get to, like, a target range where you then have to shoot a bunch of targets with your rifle. Then you set it down, and you just keep on skiing, baby!

**Travis:** [laughs] Okay, so—uh-huh. What's—how does this—what's the addition here?

**Griffin:** What do you mean?

**Travis:** Like, how is this improving both sports?

**Griffin:** Um, 'cause you'd scot—you're watching people cross-country ski.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** And then you're like, "This is getting boring. Woah, what are they doing?"

And then they get out a rifle, and they're like, "[makes shooting noises]."  
And you—

**Travis:** Now, there is downhill skiing with lasers, right?

[pause]

**Griffin:** I'm doing a joke. You fucking guys, I'm doing a joke.

**Justin:** It's a joke.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** It's called the biathlon, [crosstalk].

**Griffin:** It's called the biathlon, you fucking guys, but you weren't even—sometimes I do—fucking, sometimes I do a fucking joke on this show, and it like, doesn't work because you guys don't get it.

**Justin:** "Joke's" interesting. "Joke's" an interesting thing to call what you just did. Let's speak on that.

**Griffin:** It makes me pretty pissed—it makes me pretty pissed off, if I'm being honest.

**Justin:** [imitates rock guitar]

**Travis:** Oh, no, wait, I've got to—wait, before we go on! Baseball and ballroom dancing.

**Justin:** [imitates rock guitar]

**Travis:** You catch the ball, and then you have to do a little dance, and you get judged on it.

**Griffin:** That's good.

**Justin:** [imitates rock guitar in the background, through laughter]

**Travis:** And you hit the ball, and you do a little dance before you can run. Or you do the dance while you're running, and you gotta samba to the first base, you gotta run for the second base, tango to third...

**Justin:** [imitates rock guitar] [singing] I wanna munch!

**Travis and Griffin:** Squad!

**Justin:** [imitates rock guitar] [singing] I want to munch!

**Travis and Griffin:** Squad!

**Justin:** [imitates rock guitar] [normally] Welcome to Munch Squad, it's a podcast within a podcast about the latest and greatest of brand eating. I'm gonna—

**Griffin:** Did you say “*brain* eating?”

**Justin:** Brand eating. I'm trying to do more headlines...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** ...uh, right now, because there's not as many deep-dives, but there are some things that I do wanna pass on...

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** ...to you. Wienerschnitzel...

**Travis:** Oh!

**Justin:** ...is a chain uh—

**Travis:** You kiss your wife with that mouth?

**Justin:** Wienerschnitzel announces, “Line up for new cheesy Ooze Fest.”

**Travis:** Ugh.

**Griffin:** Oh, fuck, Wienerschnitzel.

**Travis:** Oh, God.

**Justin:** Steel yourself. Uh, Ooze Fest has arrived at Wienerschnitzel...

**Travis:** Oh, God.

**Justin:** And it's going to be epic! “Experience unsurpassed deliciousness with the chain's new cheese sauce taking the spotlight on three fan favorites.”

It later says—it says in the—in the quote—and this is from the CMO of Wienerschnitzel, Doug... Koegeboehn. “We’re confident our Ooze Fest event will be a big hit. If you like cheese, you’re gonna love these! After one bite, you’ll be requesting an encore.”

**Travis:** Oh, God.

**Justin:** I’m assuming after this, he said, “Are any of those anything?”

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** “I have other things to do.”

And the press release says, “No need to trek to a desert to experience these amazing headliners.” That possibility had not occurred to me, Wienerschnitzel.

**Travis:** Wha—wait, what?

**Griffin:** Why did you go there, Wienerschnitzel?

**Justin:** `Cause this tasty trio will be touring your nearest Wienerschnitzel for a limited time only.

**Travis:** Where did the desert come from?

**Griffin:** Are they doing a Burning Man thing? What’s the desert?

**Justin:** I guess it’s a Burning Man thing. That’s it. That’s the festival that Wienerschnitzel has heard about.

**Travis:** Hey, Justin, is it—is it E-W-W-S, Ewws?

**Justin:** [groans] Fucking got `em. This is a very brief one, `cause it’s just a sad story, but I do—this is in the general actual news category. No—Taco Bell was not done with their absolutely, like, slash-and-burn...

**Travis:** [astonished] No!

**Griffin:** You're kidding me.

**Justin:** ...crusade against their own shit.

**Travis:** Their scorched earth policy?

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Yeah, the final revamp of 2020...

**Travis:** We're just doing empty shells!

**Justin:** No. They're getting rid of—[prolonged pause] They're getting rid of Mexican pizza.

**Travis:** [shouting] No!

**Justin:** One of the more authentic dishes, um...

**Griffin:** [bursts out laughing] Yeah.

**Justin:** ...at Taco Bell, they're getting rid of uh, Mexican pizza, they're getting rid of Pico de Gallo...

**Travis:** What?

**Justin:** ...and they're getting rid of shredded chicken.

**Travis:** Wow!

**Justin:** Now, if you said you want chicken, you won't be able to specify that you want that shit shredded. You're gonna just only have one style of chicken.

**Travis:** Huh.

**Griffin:** Wow.

**Justin:** Removing, um—this is actually gonna trip you out pretty bad. [laughs] “Taco Bell said removing Mexican pizza will help it leave a lighter footprint, since the Mexican pizza’s packaging accounts for more than [close to mic] seven million pounds of paper board material per year in the US. Are you fucking shitting me right now?”

**Griffin:** Holy *shit*.

**Travis:** What?

**Griffin:** We’re crazy for this pizza!

**Travis:** What?!

**Justin:** I want to see a graph, now, with—which is like, “human waste of all year,” and then one sliver of it is like, a not inconsiderable portion [through laughter] is Mexican pizza packaging.

**Travis:** Wow!

**Justin:** So that’s mind-blowing. And our last story... Rest in peace, shredded chicken. Our last story comes to us from the Hershey company. “The Reese’s brand... the Reese’s brand is here to save your morning with the new Reese’s snack cakes, a first of its kind...”

**Travis:** Huh.

**Justin:** “...mid-morning cake treat by the Reese’s brand you love. You read that right: a Reese’s treat to enjoy in the morning.”

**Travis:** But—

**Justin:** “Forever.” [laughs] That’s what it says.

**Griffin:** It says forever?

**Justin:** “Yep, you read that right. A Reese’s treat to enjoy in the morning, forever.”

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** It just—that just means, like, “This is not a limited-time thing, friends. This is a called shot—”

**Justin:** “We’re doing it forever.”

**Travis:** What is a... morning cake?

**Justin:** “Research shows 83 percent say they have indulged in dessert before noon in the past month.” Hey, Reese’s. Can you think of *any* other fucking reason that might be?

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** You absolute—the Colonel is like, “No, no, no! Careful, no, no, no! It’s the COVID thing! I know I ignored it for six months, too, before I changed ‘Finger lickin’ good.’ It’s the COVID thing. You’re wandering right into it!”

“So we had a crazy idea...”

**Travis:** Oh?

**Justin:** “Give Reese’s fans permission to have cake as a mid-morning snack whenever they want.”

So Reese’s sees us at the bottom of the wall. In the—a deep global depression.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** And rather than extend a hand down to us, to help us swim out, it just starts dumping peanut butter and cake onto us.



**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** Like, "Here, we'll help you! This is helping! I'm helping!"

**Travis:** "Here's a shovel! Dig down!"

**Justin:** "Dig down! There's [laughs] gotta be something better."

"With Reese's snack cakes, Reese's fans can enjoy a delicious combination of chocolate and peanut butter cream without having to wait until lunch."

"We wanted to create the perfect treat for Reese's fans to satisfy that mid-morning sweet tooth," said Mike Orr, Snacks brand manager. "We know sometimes you just don't want to wait until lunch. That's how Reese's snack cakes were born."

**Travis:** [stifled laughter]

**Justin:** It's like... "The Reese's brand first-ever mid-morning treat offers real milk chocolate, Reese's peanut butter cream in a two-cake back, available in December 2020 in convenience stores nationwide. Now you can —now you can indulge in a Reese's treat any time of day. Consider morning officially saved. Hashtag #notsorry."

**Travis:** Okay. First of all...

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** That put it over.

**Justin:** It's a lot.

**Griffin:** That was over the top, the hashtag was over the top.

**Justin:** It's a lot.

**Travis:** What was stopping me from eating a Reese's cup in the morning?

**Justin:** That's—fucking clearly nothing, because according to your own *fucking* research, 83 percent of us are enjoying a little mid-morning sweet.

**Travis:** Yeah! So why is now, making it a little bread-ier, make it okay for me to do?

**Justin:** Yeah. And y'all—like, listen. You're not looking at these cakes. They're cakes. You're not maki—this is not like a fucking biscotti. It's like a layer of cake wrapped in chocolate with Reese's on it. It's a dessert. And you're just saying that you can eat it at 10 o'clock in the morning. [laughs] That doesn't do anything.

**Travis:** "We give you permission." Oh, I didn't—I clearly didn't need it, when 83 percent of me was already doing it.

**Griffin:** Do you think that 17 percent was waiting on cake?

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** They're just waiting for it—"I'd love to eat a Reese's right now, but 17 percent of us say it's no good. Maybe those 17 perswem—cent will be swayed by cake.

**Griffin:** Possibly.

**Justin:** Perhaps, if cake.

**Griffin:** Um, that's wild...

**Travis:** I do want it, though. I want it.

**Justin:** I wanna eat—I'm so hungry, looking at it. You have no idea. I would do anything to eat this cake right now. [laughs]

**Travis:** I wanna time travel to December 2020 when it's done, so I can eat it.

**Justin:** You know what? It's \$1.39. And maybe the vaccine too; you don't know.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** We might be having celebratory Reese's snack cakes with a delicious vaccine [crosstalk]—

**Travis:** Alright, Justin, you can only have one. December 2020, what do you pick?

**Justin:** Oh, the ca—the cake, for sure.

**Travis:** Okay!

**Griffin:** 'Cause the cake might fi—the ca—we don't know the cake *won't* fix COVID.

**Travis:** Yeah. That's true.

**Justin:** The cake—the cake definitely isn't a hoax.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Let's just leave it at that.

**Griffin:** Jeez.

**Travis:** Oh, boy.

**Justin:** [laughs] Oh, golly.

**Travis:** I will also wait until Reese's gives me permission to get a vaccine.

**Griffin:** Mm-hm.

**Justin:** [through laughter] But 83 percent of you are getting mid-morning vaccines.

**Griffin:** [laughs] Can I—I—

**Travis:** I'm just waiting for the Reese's scientists to determine that it's safe.

**Griffin:** Just so you know, just in the future, if you do bring Wienerschnitzel into the Munch Squad, I am gonna go—'cause I did now. I was in my hole for a while. Whenever anybody brings up Wienerschnitzel, I climb into my hole that exists in my fucking mind palace, is a rage hole.

Because Wienerschnitzel is a hotdog restaurant, and Wienerschnitzel... is not hot—is not a hotdog. It's a breaded veal cutlet. And the guy that started Wienerschnitzel was like, "I need a name for my hotdog place." And he was looking in one of his wife's recipe books, and saw "wienerschnitzel" in there, and he was like, "That's—that's a great name."

**Travis:** Got "wiener" right there, doesn't it?

**Griffin:** It's got "wiener" right there in it. And I hope his wife was like, "Oh, John... stop. Look at the picture, John. John, look at the—"

**Travis:** "I wish for a more attentive reader and lover."

**Griffin:** He said, when he started the restaurant, quote, "Nobody wanted to call their company Wienerschnitzel. Three days later, I said, 'Hell, it's better than John's Hotdogs.'" No, it's not!

**Travis:** It's not!

**Griffin:** It's not. And you know why, John? 'Cause it's ho—John's Hotdogs has hotdogs in it.

**Travis:** And I'm pretty sure Nathan's Famous Hotdogs is a very popular brand.

**Griffin:** Yep. It's not Nathan's Famous Sushi that sells hotdogs! They got the name right, it has the right food in it!

Anyway. Apparently, they sold Wienerschnitzel for a few months in 2017, I assume that was just to get me off their case.

**Justin:** Did it work?

**Griffin:** Nope.

**Travis:** He can see right through it.

**Justin:** Hey, guys, be quiet for 30 seconds. Can you do that?

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Travis:** Sure.

[recording plays]

**Speaker 1:** Here you go! Double cheese fries, double cheese chili fries, and a double cheese chili dog. Enjoy!

**Speaker 2:** Wow, everyone seems to love our Ooze Fest event!

**Speaker 1:** Yeah, we are actually running low on cheese sauce.

**Speaker 3:** Weird. I just made a bunch. I'll go check it out.

Oh. That explains it. C—

[recording stops]

**Justin:** At this point, I should just pause real quick to say that there's a person in a giant hotdog suit, and they've got a jacuzzi tub filled with cheese sauce, and they're ladling more into it...

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** ...and they're about to climb into it, and they're wearing a towel, because they're about to get into the cheese sauce.

**Griffin:** I'm glad you broke that down for us, 'cause I was confused.

[recording resumes]

**Speaker 4:** Floaties!

[recording pauses]

**Justin:** The towel has dropped from the hotdog while this young man looks on.

[recording resumes]

**Speaker 4:** Dive into all the new cheesy goodness during Ooze Fest at Wienerschnitzel!

[recording ends]

**Justin:** So...

**Travis:** Do they reference the hotdog's genitals?

**Griffin:** Do they say—does the dude—

**Justin:** Wouldn't it be amazing if they had another, smaller hotdog?

**Travis:** I mean, that's what it has to be, Justin.

**Justin:** Has to be. Has to be. Thank you for listening!

**Griffin:** And the employee pushes his sunglasses down the bridge of his nose, like, "[deep voice] Oh!"

**Justin:** "[deep voice] Oh, yeah!" Thank you for listening to *My Brother*—you don't work there if you don't find hotdogs sexy.

**Travis:** Right?

**Justin:** Thanks for listening to...

**Griffin:** [bursts out laughing]

**Travis:** I would actually think you can't work there without later fin—like, you just handle them so much...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** It's going to creep its way into your brain.

**Justin:** Let this end—let this end. This has been *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. It's an advice show for the modern era. Thank you so much for listening. We so appreciate you being here. Um, we uh—it's a new month, which means there's some new merchandise in our store.

**Travis:** Including those bee pins!

**Justin:** We got hilarious bee pins.

**Griffin:** Oh, are those out? Fuck, those are good.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** Yeah. So funny. Um, uh, and uh, so go check that out. And also, you can preorder our book!

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** It's uh—it's there for sale. It's—it's on Amazon or—

**Travis:** You can go to [McElroyPodcastBook.com](http://McElroyPodcastBook.com) and preorder it there. It is a practical how-to guide on how to make a podcast that you are proud of. *Everybody Has a Podcast (Except You)*, written by the three of us. It comes

out in January. Preorder it now. [McElroyPodcastBook.com](http://McElroyPodcastBook.com). It's also kinda fun! You'll like it.

**Griffin:** It's fun! It's got jokes in it, and games for the kids. Doesn't have games.

**Travis:** No. No.

**Griffin:** Uh, thanks to John Roderick and The Long Winters for the use of our theme song, "(It's a) Departure," off the album *Putting the Days to Bed*. Uh, and thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the Network! Go to [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org), check out all the great shows there. Shows like *Jordan, Jesse, Go!* Shows like *Switchblade Sisters*. And so many more, at [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org).

Um, I think that's it? Oh, and check out *The Besties*, if you haven't. It's mine and Justin's video games podcast...

**Travis:** It's very good.

**Griffin:** ...uh, that we do with our buds, Russ and Chris. You can find it on Spotify for free. Uh, check it out! The last episode we did was on a bunch of games, and it was a lot of fun!

Uh, do you want that final?

**Justin:** Oh, yeah.

**Griffin:** This final one was sent in by the Wizard, Emma Kant. Thank you, Emma. It's Yahoo Answers User Brian, whose fucking profile picture is a very intimidating closeup of Santa Claus.

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Griffin:** Like, he's got this—he actually has his little Santa Claus spectacles pushed down the edge of *his* nose, as if he's saying, like, "[suggestively] Oh, yeah!"



**Travis:** "Yeah, I love that hotdog's wiener!"

**Griffin:** Uh, so, Brian asks, "Can I order a Subway sandwich... deconstructed?"

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

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

**Griffin:** We talk about Subway a lot, don't we?

**Justin:** They do salads. This has been *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. That's Griffin. Kiss your dad square on the lips!

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

[chord plays]

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