

MBMBaM 535: Ethical Joker Termination

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

[theme music plays]

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

Travis: Hello. I'm Travis McElroy, and I'm running a bit late, so I recorded my part of the intro ahead of time...

Griffin: Oh.

Travis: ... and it will be filling in between everyone else's bits. But don't worry; I've done this show over 500 times...

Griffin: And this is Griffin McElroy...

Travis: ... so I'm sure that it will make sense.

Griffin: ... and I'm the youngest brother. Weird. It's already off.

Justin: It's already off.

Griffin: It's already weirdly off.

Travis: [forced laugh] Good one, Griffin!

Griffin: When Travis went to space on the big hero mission to stop the... the Hubble from falling on all of us?

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: I thought that was brave of him. I did not think about it being a scheduling... issue, a scheduling error.

Travis: Ross Perot? I haven't heard that name in forever!

Griffin: Shit, he told us to talk about Ross Perot.

Justin: Ross Perot. He fucking said that.

Griffin: And we fucking for—okay, let's try and get—let's get this shit back on track. Ross Perot, I remember that guy! He used to do political stuff.

Justin: He didn't—he didn't live to see Elon Musk shoot several people into space.

Travis: He's dead?!

Griffin: Okay, we're—this is sounding good, actually.

Justin: It's been an unfortunate...

Griffin: Oh, I remember—no, Travis, Elon Musk is very much alive.

Travis: Fuck Elon Musk!

Griffin: Wow, okay!

Justin: So this is interesting. [laughs] 'Cause what did—what did he think—how did—what bridge did he think we were gonna cross?

Griffin: Where did he think we were gonna go with that? I know he hates un—like, underground magnetic sort of, maglev tunnels.

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: That's, like, a thing he's always kind of talking about.

Justin: Travis is half train.

Griffin: Yeah... yes.

Justin: On his mother's side.

Griffin: Yeah, our mom was a train.

Travis: Toot-toot!

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: This is fucked up now.

Justin: It is actually getting a little weird. Um, Travis, are you here—

Travis: I don't think it's that weird, Justin.

Justin: Are you here with us, Travis, in the room?

Travis: Nope, still prerecorded.

Justin: Trav—[wheezes]

Griffin: Whoa.

Justin: [holding back laughter] Travis, give me a sign.

Travis: [singing flatly] Hit me, baby, one more time.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Don't really...

Justin: Travis, give me a few bars of "The Sign" by Ace of Base?

Travis: [singing] I saw the sign...

Griffin: Okay. So it's not a—there's not a recording.

Travis: [singing] And it opened up my eyes, and I am happy now living without you.

Justin: Just a few bars.

Travis: [singing] Let you go. Oh-oh-oh. I saw the sign, and it opened up my eyes—

Griffin: So did you bail out of your space mission?

Travis: [singing] I saw the sign!

Griffin: 'Cause you were talking about how you were gonna be a brave astronaut, save the whole country from Hubble's terrible—

Travis: [normally] Haha! Good one, Griffin.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: No, but the ans—fucking answer me. 'Cause you have been talking for months about this big, brave space mission you were gonna go on with all the astronauts.

Travis: Do you think the Mandalorian also puts a tiny helmet on his penis sometimes, just for fun?

Griffin: Wow, that sucks.

Justin: Sucks. It sucks. We actually should've pre-listened. Now I'm thinking that. Like, I kinda feel like now I'm the asshole, you know what I mean? It's weird that he didn't make this conversational, but it's not weird, 'cause it is Travis, right?

Griffin: It is a—yeah.

Travis: Is he just walking around, hanging brain with his helmet on?

Griffin: In a lot of ways, this is indiscernible from recording a podcast with live Travis.

Justin: Yeah, it's not really much of a difference. Interesting.

Griffin: Yeah. So I won—

Travis: It's worth thinking about, isn't it?

Griffin: Is there a satellite phone or something we can use to call... John Glenn, Houston, ask them to patch us through...

Travis: Hey, guys, I'm back.

Griffin: Are you—is this still the recording, or...

Travis: Haha, just kidding! Still prerecorded!

Justin: [laughs] Okay.

Griffin: Um, so I guess Juice and I can... just do the show ourselves.

Justin: I guess, right?

Griffin: And yeah. God, it would be great to have Travis here, though. Wow, this bit's gonna get long.

Travis: I hate Mondays, right?

Griffin: Little long in the tooth pretty fast.

Justin: Little long in the tooth. It feels long.

Travis: Yeah, it's getting pretty long in the tooth, huh?

Justin: Okay, so you're here now, right?

Travis: Nope, still prerecorded!

Griffin: [laughs] Oh, my God. It's—

Justin: Okay. I don't like it. I'm going to move on.

Um, this is an advice show, where we—

Griffin: I really liked *Mama Mia 2*. I don't know what people had against it.

Justin: Oh, Griffin's prerecorded now too. Or I'm having an episode. One of my many episodes. That's fine.

Griffin: Pee-yew, my feet stink!

Travis: Hey, Griffin, are you back?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: I'm not.

Griffin: Do you guys think the Mandalor—[forced laugh] Great one, guys. Another great one.

Travis: Good one, guys.

Griffin: Another great episode.

Travis: Squirrel nut zippers?!

Justin: We are fully fucking abstracted.

Griffin: So we have to stop now. We're really dissociating.

Justin: Anything at this point...

Travis: Okay, I'm back. No, I'm really back. This is me coming back to you guys.

Justin: I want to—

Travis: How did it go?

Griffin: Pretty bad, actually.

Travis: Aw, man!

Justin: This is an advice show. [laughs] And I got some advice for you, Travis. I'll give it to you privately after the show.

Travis: And cut. Okay, let's go! This is an advice show for the modern era.

Justin: "I want to give a handmade oven mitt to my drug dealer for Christmas."

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: "I think oven mitts are the perfect universal gift, since everyone uses them, but I don't know what pattern of fabric to use. The only thing I know about this person is that they both sell and smoke weed. Is a marijuana print too cliché? What fabric is sure to make my dealer know that I'm actually chill, and only seem sketchy when we meet, 'cause I'm an anxious person?" That's from Weed Wearing in Wisconsin.

Travis: Ugh. Isn't this an indictment of our modern society? You know, all we know... about our weed dealers... is weeds. You know, it used to be, back in 1930, you used to invite your weed dealer to dinner every Sunday, you know?

Griffin: [sighs] Yeah.

Travis: And you really got to know 'em, and now... ugh. This—this fly-by-night, just fast-paced, concrete jungle.

Griffin: Now, I know—you can know certain other things about your dealer. Like, for instance, I know what kind of car they drive, and how much money they like [laughs] in exchange for marijuana.

Travis: Yeah, that's true.

Griffin: Is there anything I can do—maybe just sort of go with like, a lic—a good novelty license plate for the kind of car, or a keychain that's like, "I'm a Honda man." Something like that?

Travis: What about a picture of their face... on the oven mitt, with like, their mouth open, so it looks like they're biting the hot pan to pull it out.

Griffin: That's funny! And fun!

Travis: Right?

Griffin: And it gets around a lot of the issues that were discussed in the message to us.

Travis: Also, an oven mitt that looks like a crab claw always lands.

Griffin: Wow, yeah.

Travis: That's always good.

Griffin: Maybe you don't have to go so specific, you know what I mean? Like, mine—the oven mitt I use is a black rubber—just a tool. A kitchen tool.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: It's not funny. It doesn't have shit I like on it.

Travis: Right. And mine has a photo of Danny DeVito's face with his mouth open that looks like he's biting the pan.

Griffin: Yeah. And—

Travis: Universal.

Griffin: And every time—and it has a little sound chip in it, so when you grab it, he goes, “Ahh, it’s hot on my mouth!”

Travis: Yep!

Justin: [laughs] “Someone pass me some limoncello to cool this off!”

Travis: Exactly.

Justin: Hey... what about gingham?

Travis: Huh!

Justin: It’s a classic, you know?

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: Nice gingham. Gingham fits in so many different, uh, different kitchen styles. You don’t know what kind of kitchen...

Travis: You know what it fits, Justin?

Justin: Ye—what?

Travis: “Gingham Style.”

[pause]

Travis: [singing flatly] Op, op, op, op, op, oppan gingham style.

[airhorn blowing effect]

Griffin: Sometimes it’s like a contest to see how long we can go... to just let the fart kind of settle.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: To just get—'cause a lot of the times when there are three hosts on a podcast, and one of them just, like, really rips a beeper of a joke, the other two will immediately jump in to try and distract or light a candle, or try to wave it away, or open a window, or something.

Travis: [laughs] [normally] Oppan gingham style.

Griffin: Sometimes it seems like—sometimes it seems—oh, man, another one. Aftershocks. It seems like the two of us are sometimes willing to...

Justin: Marinate.

Griffin: Mari—just as an experiment against our listeners.

Justin: Well, against ourselves, too. Let's—'cause there is pride. There's ego on the I—

Griffin: Well, and money! And money, Justin. A lot of people forget about that—

Justin: Our family's living. Yeah, we're forced to put it all on the line...

Griffin: Our family's living!

Justin: ... to marinate.

Travis: Do you guys get it? 'Cause it's like the sign—it's like the PSY—it's like PSY.

Griffin: We fucking get it, Travis! It sounds like Gangnam! We've—

Justin: It's not—

Griffin: It's 2020! PSY is long dead!

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Here's a Yahoo that was sent in by Graham Roebuck. Thank you, Graham. It's Yahoo Answers user, Anonymous. I'm gonna call them, uh, Chevy, asks, "My upstairs neighbor pretends not to be the one playing the trombone at night. What do I do? About once a week for two months now, someone has been playing a trombone in our building. It came from above and was very loud, so I suspected my direct upstairs neighbor. I rang his bell once in the beginning, and he came to my door all, quote, 'sleepy,' and quote, 'upset,' telling me it wasn't him, and why now I was also not letting him sleep!"

Travis: Hmm.

Griffin: "I felt so sorry. But now I saw him playing it in the reflection of the window across the street."

Travis: Wha—

Griffin: "He's a stone-cold liar. What could I do?"

Travis: Huh! I—I was not anticipating that reveal of, "I've seen him doing it."

Griffin: This is—I—there are probably bolder lies that you can tell in this... life that we are all sort of sharing together, but I can't think of a bigger one. I can't think of a bigger lie than... [makes trombone noises] [makes knocking noise] "Are you playing the trombone?"

Travis: "Huh? What?"

Griffin: "No, I was actually..."

Travis: "What's—uhh, I was asleep! Aw."

Griffin: "I was actually asleep. See, my ears have a lot of waxy buildup in a way that negates trombone sound waves."

Travis: Now, here's the thing, though. Here's—I will—oh. Here's the thing, though, Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Maybe, just maybe...

Griffin: Maybe.

Travis: ... it's unrelated. Maybe he was playing it during the day, 'cause he has a trombone that he plays during the day.

Griffin: Oh, I see.

Travis: And there's more than one trombone on Earth. And if we can all acknowledge that universal truth, right?

Griffin: I've seen more than one—I've seen more than one in *one* room at the same time.

Travis: Thank you. I played trombone in band, and there were at least two other kids in middle school who played it too. So like, no—

Griffin: So there are three—there are three trombones on this Earth.

Travis: Now, if you get them together, and play at the same time, God. Oh.

Griffin: [laughs] The walls—the walls of Jericho will come tumbling down.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: That is why each of me, and Chris, and I believe Hunter, we all learned one third of the song, and we'd just trade off who was playing at a given time. Not because we were lazy, but to protect the universe itself.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So I would say maybe, upstairs neighbor plays during the daytime for fun. And knowing this, somebody's trying to frame him by playing at night.

Griffin: I see. So you're saying that the neighbor could bring out their trombone to show you that it is solar powered.

Travis: Oh, it's still cold!

Griffin: So the idea of him being a—"It's too cold for me to play it. I need the heat of the sun."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "Upon the brass, in order to produce sound waves."

Justin: [laughing quietly]

Travis: Yes. This is super bone, and he can only play with the power of the Earth's yellow sun.

Justin: This is Boktai, the trombone.

Griffin: [laughs] Jesus, that's a deep one. Um, this is so—I feel like you have... a sort of unofficial warrant to conduct a sort of citizen's arrest...

Travis: [gasps]

Griffin: ... investigation?

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: A citizen's—a citizen's breaking and entering warrant, is that anything?

Justin: That's stealing, right?

Travis: A citizen's a-rest, 'cause it's music. A rest.

Griffin: I thought we did talk about this once already.

Travis: Yeah. You know what? Even as I was saying it...

Griffin: You knew it was bad when you were saying it.

Travis: Maybe he's not lying, and maybe he was sleep-tromboning.

Griffin: Interesting.

Travis: Yeah! He's been practicing for the big concert, I guess, coming up?
And it's all—

Griffin: A solo trombone concert.

Travis: Big trom—he's got that big trombone solo...

Griffin: [laughing quietly]

Travis: ... in the middle of that Squirrel Nut Zipper song.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And maybe he plays with the Squirrel Nut Zippers, or the Brian Setzer Orchestra. I assume they're still going.

Griffin: It's one of those two.

Travis: And he's had it in his head now for a while...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And uh, now when he sleeps, it's all he can think about, and he rises, still asleep, from his bed.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Blasts out that solo. And then you knocked on his door, and he was like, "Why is this guy waking me up?"

Griffin: [sighs] I mean, it doesn't even have to be him dream-tromboning in his dream. He could be... blowing on a big foot-long hot dog to cool it off. Or—

Travis: That's true, yeah!

Griffin: Or something else of a sexual nature.

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: It could be one of those things, and you don't even know that... that's how—that's what—you're actually playing a trombone in real life.

Travis: Now, I will say, as someone who, admittedly, barely played the trombone for about two years in middle school... if you're doing something of a sexual nature at all, with the same method you play a trombone...

Griffin: [laughs] It's not great!

Travis: ... something has gone horribly wrong!

Griffin: [laughs] Not—

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Not great!

Justin: None of those movements match...

Travis: Not good. Yeah. Especially the arm movement. That's bad.

Griffin: Arm movement's not good. The—the—the necessitation of an embouchure...

Travis: Yep.

Justin: Mm.

Griffin: ... also not necessary, not great.

Travis: In any separate piece, the arm movement, the blowing, the embouchure, any of those individually, I could see that working and somebody enjoying it.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: All three [through laughter] at the same time?

Griffin: The on—the only person who's going to enjoy that is somebody who is just trombone from the waist down.

Travis: Correct.

Griffin: Who like, their bottom—

Justin: Now, what—go ahead, Griffin.

Griffin: Just their bottom half got blowed up in an accident.

Travis: And now it's a trombone.

Griffin: Now it's a trombone down there. Go ahead, Justin.

Justin: Now, once—

Griffin: Now—now, Justin go ahead.

Justin: Once you crack into the spit valve...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Justin: Now you're really cooking.

Travis: Yeah, but it's really hard to do the spit valve while you're playing, Justin.

Justin: That's why there shouldn't be music in schools.

Travis: Huh!

Justin: Because you cannot give eighth graders a big metal tube... armed with a single button that, when you press it, it will dump... [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: ... a not insignificant amount of spit.

Travis: Correct.

Griffin: Just a sort of... a musical teen blowhole, if you will.

Justin: Yeah. This is a valve on brass instruments. If you don't know, it's a real thing. You press it, and all the spit falls out. You cannot give this technology to eighth graders! You cannot!

Griffin: No.

Justin: It made—it made school hell for me!

Travis: It's also a rare, complicated machine that still exists and has now been improved upon, in which you might say, "Oh, the problem with it is it's too full of spit." The only other thing that exists in is dentistry.

Griffin: Yeah. Um, how about another question?

Justin: "My wife and I recently celebrated our anniversary, which was lovely, except for one thing that I need a judgment call on."

I wish—can I say—I—we used to tell people, like, "This is just an anecdote. You don't need our advice." As we uh, get older and I am uh, I feel less

qualified to advise people, I wish we had more questions that were just like, "Judge this."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I feel like I'm more qualified now, as a 40-year-old man, to be judgmental.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: Than I am to be nurturing.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: Need a judgment call.

"Somehow, in the planning of our celebration, it became clear to me that my wife remembered the wrong date for our anniversary. I was going to point this out, but then I remembered that this year, our real, actual date was taking place on top of something that I wanted to take part in virtually. So I..."

Griffin: [groans hesitantly]

Justin: "... just kinda rolled with the wrong day, and we celebrated early. No harm, no foul, right?"

Griffin: Eh...

Justin: "Well, now the day is here, and we're getting cards and congratulations from relatives who have annoyingly accurate calendar reminders, and I'm not really sure what to do. Do I fess up? Do I play goalie and block the cards for the day? Do I feign getting the day wrong myself?"

Do we laugh at our relatives for getting the day wrong, et cetera? Bit of a pickle, this one.”

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: And that’s from No Way I’m Putting My Name on This. [bursts out laughing]

Griffin: Just a—so just uh, generally speaking, as a rule...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: ... I feel like, your wife remembered the wrong date for your anniversary, that’s—that is a—that’s a whoopsie. That’s a mistake, right? And then you kind of just rolling with it because you wanted to take part in this virtual event...

Justin: You wanna do a WoW raid.

Griffin: You needed to do a WoW raid.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: For the big—for the big drops. You got Shadowlands coming up soon, you gotta get fucking... best in slot, baby!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: But then the problem is that you... you both have one whoopsie at that point. It was an even distribution of whoopsies and uh-ohs. But then you... it seems like there was a slippery slope where it’s like, “Oh, we’re starting to get cards. I need to do a whoopsie on these cards, and throw them in the trash, and then I need to change all our G-Cals, and then I need to make fun of my parents for getting it wrong.”

It’s a sort of continuation of the whoopsies that makes the thing like, hey, you’re probably doing the baddest, wrongest thing here, a little bit, maybe?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: A little, don't you think?

Travis: Yeah, you should just come clean, because it will—here's the thing, as Griffin has pointed out, I think the whoopsies are balanced. Uh, they got—

Justin: They were.

Travis: Well, they were. Correct.

Justin: [wheezes softly]

Travis: They got the day wrong, and you said, "Oh, that works for me, scheduling-wise." And you went with it. Right? And so... now, let me be honest, what you should've done is said, "Uh, no, darling, our anniversary is actually two days after that, and let's do something almost all day, and I will take one hour for this raid that I need to do, so—

Griffin: Oh, that's bad. That's bad. That sucks, actually.

Justin: Oh, no.

Travis: No, no, no. It's bad, but you know that what they did was worse, right? We all know that.

Justin: My—my—here's—I kind of feel like, if you're go—we all lie. Everybody needs to lie to get through the day. We all lie. But I think before you do a lie...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: ... before you do a little fibberooskie, you need to... you should make it mandatory that you need to visualize... telling the other person [laughs] about the lie that you did.

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: You need to be able to—if you're gonna do the lie, you need to mentally walk through the pace—you have to have a plan for dismantling the lie. There has to be a way to walk it back.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: Give them the pa—you're like a little Hansel and Gretel in the forest of deception. You gotta leave yourself a little breadcrumb trail for how to get back to, uh, truth and honesty.

You had to have walked through in your head, and said, "Well, yeah, see, you got it wrong, and then I didn't correct you, 'cause I had to get that best in slot fury warrior..."

Travis: Oh!

Justin: "... DPS gear. So that is what happened, and there's the truth for you."

Travis: Okay, I feel terrible, because I think we're starting to border on, like, gaslighting.

Griffin: Yeah, don't do that. Clearly don't do that.

Travis: Yeah. No, no, no. No, no, no. But...

Griffin: Unless...

Justin: No.

Griffin: No, no, no, no, no, no! Trust. Unless...

Travis: Could you somehow blame it on Daylight Sa—

Griffin: Are you kidding me? I set you up for a fucking “unless” and you tried to swoop my unless with your own fucking unless?

Travis: Unless!

Griffin: We got rules here. Unless...

Justin: Unless...

Travis: You can say you didn’t correct her because you didn’t want her to feel bad.

Griffin: Justin, do you maybe—here, I’ll set up the unless, and then Justin, do you maybe wanna swoop the unless? `Cause Travis just did it twice. You technically could do two.

Justin: I don’t.

Griffin: I ca—I’ll go see if Rachel wants to go swoop my unless. Let me go grab her. Let me go grab my son, `cause he would show about the same amount of decorum that Travis just showed me...

Justin: Go ahead with your unless.

Griffin: ... swooped my unless two different times.

Justin: Unless...

Griffin: ... she got the date wrong on purpose, because *she* was doing a WoW raid.

Travis: [gasps]

Justin: Ohh!

Travis: Whoa! She’s WeedMan420!

[airhorn noise]

Griffin: She is WeedMan420, brave paladin.

Travis: [laughs] Hero of the land.

Justin: [singing to the tune of 'The Piña Colada Song'] If you like skipping anniversaries...

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: ... you get your best in slot gear. If you wanna get a no cloak...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: ... you found your lover right here. [sings notes quietly, ends]
[normally] And then in the raid, you're like, "Huh? Vicky?"

Travis: Come clean, and—

Griffin: Keep going.

Travis: Apologize the shit out of it.

Griffin: What are you apologizing the shit out of? If you—

Justin: First off, your um... your uh, AOE's were mistimed. I di—I di—

Travis: Whoa! A bold opener.

Justin: Your AOE's were mistimed. Gotta get your dots in order. But also, I love you so much...

Griffin: I love you so strong.

Justin: ... and I'm so glad we can share this. I always wondered what you did in your office with the door locked, and now I know, it was play with me. In World of Warcraft.

Griffin: I'm gonna roll for need on your heart and your love.

Travis: I need it. Give me your heart.

Griffin: Give me a cyber-kiss, and then come give me a flesh kiss, 'cause we're just on opposite ends of the office right now. We really need to pay better attention to things.

Travis: You know what? Maybe this is where we learn to put down the—oh, wait! No, sorry! I just started an instance. Sorry, give me a second.

Griffin: Sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry. Just my timer went out. Um...

Justin: "Hey, uh, Vicky, I'm LFG. Looking for girlfriend."

Travis: "We are married—"

Justin: "We're actually married?"

Travis: [laughs] "You're what?!" [laughs]

Justin: "Come back, Vicky. Wait, come back, please. I'm so sorry. I did misspeak. We are married. That is true. I'm sorry, Vicky."

Travis: "I'm gonna turn off LFG." [laughs]

Griffin: I'm LFG, looking for good husband, to be one. On you—to you.

Justin: [snorts]

Travis: Now you like a mount?

Griffin: But the dots really are shitty. Travis has made a sexual—

Justin: The dots, you gotta get it in order.

Griffin: Travis made a sexy little joke, and I didn't think that was, like, the right time for it. Like, if me and Rachel Piña Colada-ed each other...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: ... and we laughed it off, like “Ha ha ha ha ha,” and I was like, “But let’s party”? Like, I feel like that’s... I guess, though, that song is about let’s—we’re trying to cheat on each other, but then we cheat on each other with each other! [forced laugh] Everything’s okay!

Justin: This is—yeah, this is the uh—this is the thing that I’ve actually been thinking about, Piña Colada Song.

Travis: Yeah, go off!

Justin: `Cause I listened to it a lot over the summer.

Travis: Go off, king!

Justin: If you’re a kid, a young—a young’un, it’s about somebody who puts a personal ad in the newspaper for the kind of lover they want to take, because they’re bored of their current lover. And then they—someone answers the ad, and it turns out that it is their current lover, who apparently liked all the things they thought that their lover didn’t like, but actually does. And then they are like, “Well, I guess we’re still together.”

That’s not—y—the next, like, couple months of that relationship is not a happy story of, “I’m so glad you told me you like champagne.” It is—this is, “We’re both deeply unhappy. We are deeply and profoundly unhappy with each other in lots of large and small ways.”

And I don’t—I don’t feel like it’s a happy ending, necessarily. It’s—

Griffin: They want it—

Travis: But Justin, they found in each other the unhappiness that clicked. You know? It’s like, “Your unhappiness is like my unhappiness, so we might as well be unhappy together.” But it turns out...

Griffin: Oh, I love that shit.

Travis: ... we like all the same stuff that, I guess, we're just not doing?

Justin: I wish there was one about kink. That would be fucking great.

Griffin: Mm! Yeah.

Justin: Wouldn't that be good? If that—I want a new version of that song that's just about different a different kink that you don't think your partner's into, and then—

Travis: [singing to the tune of 'The Piña Colada Song'] Do you like bondage and hentai?

Justin: There we go!

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: Exactly!

Griffin: [singing] Do you like wiener-based pain?

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [singing] If you like eating old shoes... I'm not sure that's a thing.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [sings notes] [normally] Let's head to the Money Zone.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Hey, nerd! Do you want a—you wanna fuckin' build a website? Yeah, you do! Get out of here with your wimpy websites, and get a cool, beefy website from Squarespace. Has the neighborhood bully been picking on—

Griffin: What's a wimpy website—

Travis: I'm not done.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Has the neighborhood bully been picking on your website? Then you need to get beefy, and kick the internet sand right back in that bully's face!

Griffin: Fuck yeah.

Travis: And you can get a beefy, muscle website from Squarespace.

Griffin: Squarespace is the fucking *Drillbit Taylor* of website-making apps.

Travis: Hell yeah, my dude! This website is swole, and it could showcase your work, sell products and services of all kinds, promote your physical or online business, and more! And that "more" is beat up their bully! With beautiful, customizable templates created by world-class designers, this website can kick any bully's ass!

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Everything optimized for mobile right out of the box. Analytics that help you grow your muscles in real time. Free and secure hosting. And nothing to patch or upgrade ever. But your bully will need to patch up their wounds.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: So go to squarespace.com/mybrother for a free trial, and when you're ready to launch, use the offer code 'MyBrother' to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain. Squarespace: we'll kill your bully!

Griffin: I don't think that they want... they don't necessarily want that.

Justin: I don't think that's actually it.

Travis: We'll kill your—we've killed before, and we'll do it again, motherfucker!

Griffin: Oh, that's better. Maybe it's something like, "We've killed bullies."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: They're not necessarily saying, like...

Travis: Squarespace: we kill bullies.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You can't prove it, though.

Griffin: Well, they did just—

Travis: Double jeopardy!

Griffin: That actually works here. Audible's up next, and they said specifically not to say that they... have killed before, will kill again, whether or not it's a bully...

Justin: [laughing quietly]

Griffin: ... a bad guy... uh, you know, the Joker, like, whatever. Even, like, the baddest dude. Um, but what they do—

Travis: You don't think Audible would kill the Joker?

Griffin: Eh, yeah, actually, you know what, I said it—

Justin: Actually, that should be a screening question for advertisers.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Like, "If given the opportunity, would you kill—would you finish the business that Batman is unwilling to, [crosstalk] kill the Joker?"

Griffin: A lot of people will be like, "What version of the Joker?"

Travis: Oh, good question.

Griffin: And that's a—and if you have to say that, like if you have to couch it like that...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: ... you've already lost our endorsement. Any version of—

Travis: 'Cause at a certain point, Batman's just not doing it, and the blood on the Joker's hands is on Batman's hands too, right?

Griffin: Oh, yes! For—for ages now, yes.

Travis: I'm not saying that I, like, am for the death penalty. Except for the Joker!

Griffin: Joker's the only one I wanna kill.

Travis: Right?

Griffin: Really, really, really bad. Even like, the fucking Adam West, like, "Hehe, I'm a silly clo—" [yelling] Fucking get him! Get him!

Travis: Get that fool! Right? You know—if you take your eyes off him for three seconds, he's killed 18 more people. That's on you! He's not coming back from this!

Griffin: Even when he doesn't kill 18 people, he's causing so much mischief and mayhem.

Travis: Oh, yeah, he's the clown prince of chaos, you know what I mean? He's like—

Justin: How about Audible?

Travis: Okay, right. Right, right.

Griffin: Yeah, they do audiobooks, um, and they're super, super, uh, good to listen to now, when we're all a little bit cooped up. They got uh, a lot of spoken word entertainment, they have Audible originals, they have daily news digest, and they have... [softly] soothing audio experiences to help you drift to sleep. [normally]

Uh, and anyone with children at home can use stories.audible.com, where anyone anywhere can stream hundreds of ad-free, hand-picked Audible titles, completely free! No strings attached!

It's a great way of hearing the, you know, kind of stories or news that you wanna hear without, you know, being locked to a screen. 'Cause God, we're all getting so much screen time. Maybe even a little bit too much.

Justin: Maybe a bit too much.

Griffin: Maybe just even a little bit too much screen time. So why don't you have ear time? Why not have sounds time?

Justin: I do!

Griffin: Why not have sounds time instead? Uh, check out Audible right now by visiting audible.com/brother, or text "brother" to 500500. That's audible.com/brother.

Travis: Okay. Here's what I'm saying. Batman knows people that kill people a lot. Right?

Justin: Right.

Griffin: That's a good point.

Travis: So even if Batman is unwilling to do it, he could facilitate it easy.

Griffin: He'd find—yeah.

Travis: Where is his line, right? Like, his line in the sand of morality, it seems pretty flexible, up 'til a certain point. And he's like, "Oh, I arbitrarily draw the line at killing for some reason, even though the Joke—oh, fuck."

Griffin: This is still—

Justin: What if Bruce Wayne hired Deadshot to kill the Joker?

Travis: Right!

Griffin: This is still part of the Audible ad copy.

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: I'm just saying...

Justin: We're giving them—we're really over-delivering on the value end of this ad. This is a very long ad.

Griffin: They've got—they've got stories for children, and they also have a detailed plan on how Batman could ethically terminate the Joker's life.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Thank you! Sometimes inaction alone would have allowed it to happen.

Griffin: Still part of the copy.

Travis: Right? It's like Batman opted not only to not kill Joker...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...but to not allow Joker to die!

Griffin: Lot of handwringing here.

Justin: His unwillingness to kill the Joker, I think at this point, it's—it's hard—it's becoming—I'm not a fan of capital punishment.

Travis: Uh-huh. Obviously.

Justin: Let me just say that up front. That said, Batman's unwillingness to kill—maybe inability, honestly, at this point. His unwillingness to kill the Joker, it's like a trolley problem, but on one end, there's a bajillion people...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: ... and on the other end, there's a jail cell that is open in both the front and the back, and a million other people beyond that. So that's basically what you're—you're basically gonna plow into a bunch of people, or like, cruise through jail cell, and then go kill some other people—

[phone ringing sound]

Travis: And the track is lined with people. Oh!

Griffin: Is someone gonna answer that?

Justin: Oh. Hello?

Griffin: "Hey, boys. It's me, Bob Carrigan, CEO of Audible, and I just wanted to say, you guys did a bang-up job with that ad spot."

Justin: [laughs] The—

Griffin: "You said all the things that we needed you to say about the stories..."

Justin: [wheezes, laughs]

Griffin: "... and the great audiobooks that people could have delivered to them, and..."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "... and you said the stuff about ears time, and I love that. But then, where you really landed the plane, I gotta tell you boys..."

Justin: [crying laughter]

Griffin: "... was how you let everybody know how Batman could ethically kill uh, the Joker and end his life and his reign of crime. And that's important to me, Bob Carrigan, CEO of Audible."

Justin: [coughs, laughs]

Travis: Hey, Bob? Bob, can I ask you a question?

Griffin: "Yeah. Yeah, please go ahead."

Travis: Why do you think at this point, Batman hasn't just like, cut off one of Joker's legs?

Griffin: "Well, Travis, you'll see that if you continue reading the ad copy. I do have a sort of... a second branch of ideas here, of just sort of um..."

Travis: Oh, it does say—it says right here, "Why not chop him right in half? Love, Bob."

Griffin: "Chop `em in half, and then—yeah. And then let him—let him waste away on the dirty ground."

Justin: Hey, Bob?

Griffin: "Yeah?"

Justin: Justin McElroy here.

Griffin: "Go right ahead."

Justin: Don't you think, at the end of every Joker story in Batman, there should be a prolonged sequence where Batman is investigating Arkham Asylum to see where...

Griffin: "Why they're so bad? Yeah, the whole..."

Justin: ...just some of their different [laughs]—

Travis: Why the whole jail was made of swiss cheese, apparently?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: "Yeah, you will see I have a lot, actually, in this sort of, like, book of an email I sent to you boys..."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "...with all the ad copy points. And then if you keep reading, it's—reveals our big plans in 2021."

Justin: Wow. Hold on, I'm having to delete some stuff to make room for thi—this is—

Griffin: "Yeah."

Travis: Oh, now I like this. You put—there's an additional PDF here that just says, "Bob thoughts."

Griffin: "Bob thoughts. Yeah, and if you read that, there's some good stuff in there, like 'yelling books.' And it's like audiobooks, where we scream them as loud as we can at you."

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: The one I really liked here, though, in Bob thoughts, is you've put, "Why not put him in a permanent coma," question mark?

Griffin: "Well, I actually misspelled the word 'cone.'"

Travis: Oh! Put the Joke in a cone, like a dog cone?

Griffin: "Like a big dog cone, yeah. And then I feel like that would really hamper his ability to do... do dastardly crimes."

Travis: It really would. I believe it really makes him less scary.

Griffin: "God, I hate the Joker. I really do."

Travis: Yeah, we all do.

Justin: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: "I really hate that man."

[relaxed music plays]

David: I can remember, as a child, thinking it was odd that here was this can full of meat.

Jesse: I'm Jesse Thorn. This week, on my show *Bullseye*, David Letterman on shame, regret, and canned hams.

David: Is this the best delivery version of—of pork?

Jesse: That's this week on *Bullseye* from MaximumFun.org and NPR.

[music and advertisement end]

Justin: [imitates rock guitar]

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: [continues, then stops] [normally] I started doing it before I'm even sure if I wanna do this.

[continues rock guitar]

Griffin: Cool!

Justin: [singing] I wanna munch!

Griffin and Travis: Squad!

Justin: [sings notes] [normally] Munch Squad Junior. I have a brief—I have two brief notes. This is just two brief notes.

The first is that Krispy Kreme has introduced a new caramel glaze. I—this is such a Munch Squad Junior, I’m not even gonna bring Count Donut out for—or Count Party Bagel, if you prefer, out for this one. I just want to read you the first line of this, um...

Travis: I miss him so much.

Justin: I know. Um... ask the world of donuts to do better.

“Krispy Kreme introduces new caramel glaze.”

Griffin: [quietly] Cool.

Travis: Wait, sorry, was the first line, “Ask the world of donuts to do better,” or is that...?

Justin: No, no, sorry.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Justin: That was me editorializing.

Travis: [laughs] I thought that’s what they were leading off their press release with! [laughs]

Justin: “Krispy Kreme introduces new caramel glaze.”

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Krispy Kreme is helping fans melt away from 2020..."

Travis: [sucks air through teeth]

Justin: "... and into a delicious and creamy world, by introducing an all-new glaze flavor: caramel." Hey...

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Are you—is ever—are you guys doing okay in marketing? Are things going alright for you? I mean, I know they've been bad for us here in, uh, the real world for a while, but I can't read a fucking Munch Squad anymore without them being like... [sighs raspily] Everyone sounds like fucking Lobo waking up from a three-day drunk.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: It's miserable. Everyone is so miserable. "God, this year. Fucking dookie, right? Anyway, we got some new caramel party bagels for ya."

Griffin: Is it—

Travis: "Is that anything? Are you happy?"

Griffin: It's very evocative, though, 'cause they've handled it in a different way, which is like, "Melt away into a different world." They make it sound like if you can somehow climb through the hole of the donut...

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: ... without breaking the bread completely, it'll take you to fucking Donut Narnia.

Travis: Well, here's what they don't tell you. Take a bite of this party bagel, and that caramel glaze, it flows right into your brain ducts.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And it's gonna take you into kind of a virtual world. Your body will still exist here, on this plane...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...but your brain is off into kind of a creamy, *Matrix*-like scenario...

Griffin: It's a Donut Zone.

Travis: Yeah, that's what—oh, you've read my thesis. That's what we actually call it, the Donut Zone. And once you're in the Donut Zone, Griffin, it all kind of melts away into a creamy world of pleasure.

Justin: I wanted to mention the Mountain Dew cookbook. Which feels like Munch Squad bait, to the extent that I'm not gonna luxuriate in it. Um, they're "paying tribute to the world's greatest fans with the release of its first-ever cookbook, just in time for the brand's 80th birthday. With nearly 40 dishes to satisfy every craving," provided, presumably, that that craving involves [snorts] consuming uh, Mountain Dew, "the *Big Bold Book of Mountain Dew Recipes* is a compilation of fan-made, fan-inspired, and fan-favorites creations from some of the most imaginative culinary minds on the planet. Ranging from the quick and easy two-ingredient cupcakes treats to the advanced—"

Travis: Wait, really?

Griffin: Wha—[laughs] what—[laughs] what do you a—what could you possibly add to Mountain Dew to make cupcakes come out of 'em?

Travis: Is it, like, flour and Dew?

Justin: No, it would be—it'll be cake mix. 'Cause you can make, like, a...

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: ...any—you can do 12 ounces of soda...

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: ... plus any box cake mix, and make a cake. It's like a 7-Up cake.

Travis: Okay. How complicated does it go, Justin?

Justin: Well, there's an "advanced Code Red Brisket that will entice any BBQ pitmaster." I wanna say this... if your adva—if the Code Red Brisket is advanced, that means there is a possibility for a failed Code Red Brisket, that I don't think it should be legal to consume. I don't think it's fair to say, like, "Did you—I'm not sure you did this right. It's a very advanced recipe. This is a bad version of the Mountain Dew Code Red Brisket."

Travis: The real problem is, is if you enter a catastrophic fail state on the Code Red Brisket, there's no way of letting anyone know...

Griffin: Yeah. [laughs]

Travis: ... in a clearly communicable way.

Justin: Right.

Griffin: Same if you succeed wildly!

Travis: That's true.

Griffin: "This is Code Red—Code Red Brisket." Fucking call the fire department!

Travis: No!

Griffin: "No, that's a good thing! It's got bold flavors!"

Travis: [laughs] "And uh, it's got—look at this crust!"

Griffin: I love that the cookbook had to specify this is the big *bold* Mountain Dew cookbook, the sequel to the *Big... Tasteful...*

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Right.

Griffin: ... *Reserved... Restrained Mountain Dew Cookbook.*

Travis: This ain't your grandma's... Mountain Dew cookbook. [laughs]

Justin: It's got six chapters. I'm gonna do a quick rundown. "Badass Breakfasts."

Griffin: Ah...

Justin: Except the S's in the "ass" are uh, dollar signs.

Griffin: Even better!

Justin: Cowards. "Dew lovers can whip up fluffy green short stacks and icon green eggs and ham that are worth getting out of bed for."

Travis: Ew!

Justin: What do I get out of bed for? Fucking green eggs and ham made with Mountain Dew. Yeah, my life's not going so good.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] It's a fair criticism, thank you, Dad.

"Dippin' with Dew." I actually don't think it's legal to consume Mountain Dew unless you're dippin', but I think this means...

Griffin: [laughs loudly]

Justin: This means food-based dips.

Griffin: As some—as somebody who used to clean up movie theaters after movie showings in Huntington, West Virginia, I can pretty much confirm those two are not strange bedfellows!

Justin: Uh, “Dew Does Dinner: Seriously epic entrees like Mountain Dew Code Red Brisket...”

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: “... and Mountain Dew Livewire Brined Turkey...” [wheezes quietly]

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: Wow, yeah.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Justin: “... will have you calling for seconds. And the—”

Travis: These are not cheap cuts of meat you’re ruining here, Mountain Dew.

Justin: No. They’ll have you calling for seconds, and probably calling your ex, uh, spouse, to ask her what went wrong...

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: ... and will she take you back.

Travis: And when you get to see the kids again. “I’m learning to cook, Debbie, don’t you see?”

Justin: “I’m trying, goddamn it!”

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] "Satisfying Sides: With snacks like jalapeno poppers and Mountain Dew infused pickles, now you'll never have to choose between your go-to party sides and a can of Mountain Dew ever again."

Travis: I wasn't! What—what world do you think I was in in which I had to decide between either a jalapeno popper or a drink of Mountain Dew? What is this scenario?

Griffin: You're counting—you're counting your calories. But it's Super Bowl day.

Travis: Oh! You're right.

Justin: This is uh—it says that this will be out the week of November 16th, which is where we are now.

Travis: In time, yes.

Justin: Um, it is not... available on the store... currently.

Travis: Like, it's sold out?

Griffin: So another lie—another lie from a QSR press release, then.

Justin: It's a classic QSR calling their bluff. Like, "Okay, I'll engage with this."

"Oh, no, no. You weren't supposed to come in here! No, no, no, it's not real! It's just a thing!"

Griffin: "T—Tony Hawk didn't really make a burrito! Ahh!"

Justin: I'm gonna share this t-shirt that I found with you guys, um, and Griff, if you wouldn't mind describing the image that you've just been sent, uh, I would—I would love that.

Griffin: Sure, yes.

Justin: But I do think I will claim—it's on Slack.

Griffin: So this is actually...

Justin: [wheezes quietly]

Griffin: ... something that I'm going to buy immediately, and wear it until the pits fall out.

Justin: [laughs] I'm buying it right now. I—

Griffin: This is a white, and sort of—

Travis: Hey, Juice, can you go ahead and give me one of those in a large, please?

Griffin: Yeah, go ahead and grab a—uh, get a large for this guy, too. Um, so—

Justin: I'm not gonna also ship it to you.

Griffin: Oh, that's a fair point. Uh—

Travis: No, Christmas is coming up!

Justin: Oh, Christmas is coming. That's a good point.

Griffin: So this is a white and sort of me—

Justin: What'd you say, medium, Trav?

Travis: Large, please.

Griffin: Large—large here, too, yeah.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: This is sort of a neon green and white tie-dye design...

Justin: [softly] They don't have any kid's size.

Griffin: ... with big, bold black text on it, all uppercase letters, that reads, "Ma—"

Justin: Is Dad gonna feel left out? No, it's fine.

Travis: No, it's fine.

Griffin: No. Uh, in—he will if we all wear them at the same time. Which I assume we will.

Travis: Oh, yeah. In photos and stuff.

Griffin: Big, bold marquee letters: "Make MTN," Mountain, "Dew—Make MTN Dew Baja Blast available in stores all the time."

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Griffin: They—they haven't—

Justin: [laughs] I'm gonna pass out.

Griffin: They have the Mountain Dew logo right on the sleeve, too, to let people know that this is an officially licensed product, but um... that is strong.

Justin: It is Mountain Dew... lobbying Mountain Dew...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: ... to make their product available uh, in sto—their Mountain—Mountain Dew Baja Blast available in stores all the time.

Travis: The call is coming from inside the house.

Justin: Right. Or inside the mountain, as they say.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: This is like when uh, *Roswell*, like, fans sent in hot sauce, to like, save *Roswell*, but it's like when *Ros*—if *Roswell* sent hot sauce out to people to send right back to them, to prove that they really wanted to keep watching *Roswell*.

Travis: And—and made the fans pay for the hot sauce.

Griffin: And made the fans pay for 35 dollars [laughs] for the hot sauce. That's a lot for a t-shirt, Baja Blast. Are you sure? Okay.

You know something? I haven't drank Mountain Dew, let alone Mountain Dew Baja Blast, in many moons, but if I was at the store and saw Mountain Dew Baja Blast on the store shelves, I would take a little journey. I would take a little trip back into my own psyche, just to see what—where I go. I have no idea.

Travis: I would just like to say, if Mountain Dew – I don't know if you have reign over what you're connected to, but if you wanna release a series of these that's like, "And also Josta, and maybe some Surge in there."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Put—like, bring back Orbitz." Like, sure.

Griffin: I don't know that they own all those, but... um, hey, can I do a Yahoo?

Justin: Uh, sure. I'd love that.

Griffin: This one was sent in by the Wizard, Ben Kantt, whose superlative I uh, omitted this week, shamefully. Thank you, the Wizard, Ben Kantt. It's Yahoo Answers User—they are anonymous, so I'm gonna call them, um, Jasom, asks, "What are some ways to force hotel guests to go to a free breakfast?"

Travis: Hmm.

Griffin: I'm assuming this is—uh, I don't think that, like, a—like, a La Quinta is particularly concerned about whether or not every single guest shows up to the mandatory free continental breakfast. I assume this is sort of a mom-and-pop operation. Um, mom and pop-pop. And they really need to get some of these, you know, old bis—these old biscuits out of here.

Travis: How to—and I—let's—let's take a current pandemic scenario off the table, 'cause I think that presents far too many uh, you know, hurdles.

Griffin: Yeah. Like the one big one, where they could go and then die from it.

Travis: Right. Exactly. Yeah, yeah, yeah. So let's say that this is in, uh, the before or after-times.

Griffin: The problem is, I forget what the first one is, and I can't even visualize that imagine the second one.

Travis: I know. We've been wandering in the desert for a while now.

Griffin: It's all desert. Like, I keep—it's all desert to me, now. All I can—all I remember is sand.

Travis: But we used to have, like, laser dogs that could, like, bring you—I think I remember, like, laser dogs.

Griffin: I don't even remember that!

Travis: Like, laser dogs that would bring you an orange.

Griffin: I—that sounds right...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Um, but if you did wanna force hotel guests to go a free breakfast, um... any time you walk by like, a, you know, a well-ventilated restaurant making smoky foods...

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: ... it makes you wanna go in there and just like, see what's up. I'm not, like, the biggest barbecue fan, but if I walk by a barbecue joint that's venting their barbecue—their meat stink out into the universe for everyone to enjoy, I—I kinda want to poke my head in there, and be like, "Oh, what you guys got going on?"

And they're like, "Super spicy sausage links."

And I'm like, "I will be going, then. I'm glad I found out, though."

Is there any way to do this in an environment where you do control the air conditioning system, and where it goes?

Travis: Well, what if—

Justin: Disney does it. You know this, right?

Griffin: Yeah, Disney does do it.

Justin: It's called smellitizers.

Travis: It's—it's called what?

Justin: Smellitizers. They blast out the—like when you're on Main Street? They blast out those, uh, like candy and baked good scents to try to lure you into the shops.

Griffin: Yep.

Justin: And to give you just a fond... a fond scent.

Griffin: Fond feeling.

Justin: It's artificial. It's not—they're not—it's just—they're just blasting, like, nostalgia scents at you.

Griffin: But then, at nighttime... at nighttime, when they wanna get everybody out of the park, they blast a bad smell, like Goofy's dick.

Justin: [snorts]

Griffin: Like, Goofy's gooch.

Travis: Why would you think Goofy's dick smells bad?

Griffin: At the end of a hot day, working at Disneyworld?

Travis: Well, that's fa—yeah, that's fair. That's fair.

What i—you know, here's—the only thing you need to get people into a continental breakfast is one of those make-your-own waffle bakers. People go fucking crazy for that. There's a line—and when I used to travel, back in the before-times, if there was one of those babies, no matter how long it took to make that goddamn waffle...

Griffin: All of them.

Travis: ... people would stand there and wait. They *loved* pouring that tiny solo cup of batter into that bad boy. Oh! Timer went off. Time to flip it. Oh, gotta use my little plastic fork to flip that bad boy outta there! People love that shit!

Griffin: That is a wild... I don't wanna get, fucking, *Seinfeld* on it, because I'm less, like—it's not as wild to me that there was a make-your-own waffle maker system, as much as it is wild to me that there was a batter gun that you kinda just put a little cup under...

Travis: Mm-hmm!

Griffin: ...and then let—and milked it like a ki—like a moo cow did? But pancake—

Travis: Yep, mm-hmm, yep!

Griffin: But pancake juice comes out. [laughs]

Travis: It's a terrible system.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It's a *terrible* system! Also, biscuits and gravy. I'll do that any day of the week, if I see it in a thing. Even if I'm not hungry.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: There's biscuits and gravy available? I'll take it.

Justin: That's a—that's a—that's a real day determiner right there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: Biscuits and gravy first thing in the day, that's really setting a tone that you won't be sh—

Griffin: Yeah. You're not getting out of there by 11:00 AM.

Travis: And hotels, since you asked, get that fucking, like, terrine of oatmeal out of there. Nobody's touching that shit. What is that? Get that out of there. And you know what? I also don't wanna see any plain Kellogg's flakes. Get that shit out of there. Nobody wants that.

Justin: Sorry, what are you thi—what are—sorry, stop it. What are plain Kellogg's flakes?

Travis: Like, not the Frosted Flakes. It's just like, the Kellogg's flake. You know, it's just like—

Griffin: Oh, this is great! [laughs]

Justin: No, Travis, stop it. Stop the podcast. What are Kellogg's flakes?

Travis: They're like, you know, just like the... plain cereal flakes, without any, like, sugar on them. No frosting.

Griffin: And those are called... tell me one more time again?

Travis: I can't remember the exact name, but you know what I'm talking about! Kellogg's flakes!

Justin: Is that—are you doing a bit?

Travis: No, you know with the—with the green and red rooster on it!

Griffin: What are the bee circles called? The ones that the—the ones that the bee endorses, and makes so sweet with his stick. And it's a—I think they're called—

Travis: I—you know what I'm talking about!

Justin: Kellogg's flakes.

Griffin: I think they're called bee circles, or bee-o's.

Justin: [wheezes, laughs]

Griffin: Are they bee-o's? Little bee-o's?

Travis: Corn Flakes! Corn Flakes!

Justin: There it is!

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: Ah, I got there. Alright, thanks, boys.

Griffin: We've talked a lot about the carrot. Let's talk about the—let's talk about the stick. There's lots of ways to entice your guests to go to your free breakfast.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: That's not what the question is. The question is, "How do I force hotel guests to go?"

Travis: You gotta get them out of their rooms.

Griffin: Yes. That is—yes.

Travis: You vacuum-seal their room, you shut off the air. 6:00 AM, we're out of their to go get um, some—

Griffin: You've sealed it, though, so they are dead now. [snorts]

Travis: Damn it.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: It's definitely not gonna be—

Travis: Okay, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Justin, do you wanna try?

Justin: Um... [clears throat] Uh, tra—a trail of Cheerios. They'll eat the first few and be like, "Mm, pretty good!" And then they'll be forced, by your—to use your logic, they'll be forced...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ... to continue, by their hunger and their taste for Cheerios.

Griffin: That'll work on a three-year-old who has bad parents.

Justin: Worked on ET.

Travis: Okay, listen. We got the key cards, right, that open all the doors. They wake up, there's someone with the breakfast right there!

Justin: Key party.

Travis: Oh! Well, that's not at all what I said.

Justin: Advertise a key par—you ever—have you guys ever stayed at, like, a resident's inn where they advertise the key parties that they have every weeknight?

Travis: Hmm!

Justin: Like, you can mingle with other young singles...

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ... at the Resident's Inn hotel for a little while.

Travis: Can we all agree that a key party with 'blank' keycards, with no discerning identification on them, would be... I don't know, almost fun? "We're gonna run around, and see what door we could open now."

Griffin: It takes forever.

Justin: It doesn't matter, 'cause you'll get down there, and you'll be anxiously eating breakfast, and then by the end, you'll be like, "I don't even actually feel like doing it anymore."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs] I'm not into the—

Travis: I ate a lot of biscuits and gravy. I am not—

Justin: I'm not actually—have you guys ever noticed—experienced the phenomenon of, if you go to a hotel breakfast where everything is like, prepackaged, you know what I mean? Where it's like, all prewrapped, prepackaged foods. Like, not prepared onsite, all—all sort of premade. You'll see this a lot at, like, Holiday Inn Express.

Um, does it just trigger your urge to steal?

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: I see that, and I'm like, I'm gonna load every fucking pocket I got. I don't know what this day is gonna bring, but I am gonna have a yogurt at the ready for it, whenever it comes.

Travis: I'm always surprised that there's not someone standing by there when I'm just like, "Oh, I'm gonna, uh, get a plate and some coffee, take it back to my room."

They're like, "You eat it here, or you leave it."

Justin: Yeah. That has monetary—if it's prepackaged, this is a monetary value. There's a value to this, you know what I mean? A sc—if I bring a loose scoop of scrambled eggs in my hand...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: ... no one's gonna pay me for it.

Travis: No. It's on you.

Griffin: But as soon as you contain those scrambled eggs in some way, it has value.

Justin: [laughs] In some sort of baggie or satchel, yes.

Griffin: Sure. Okay. So nex—you're saying, next time I go, I should bring a tote bag that I could just dump the batter blaster, like, right into, and then that's my batter now, and I can resell it on the street for... dollars?

Justin: Well, it's—it's not that so much as like, if you—if you—if they have, like, the little prepackaged containers of Raisin Bran, you take one...

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: ... that's perfectly fine. You take two, no one's gonna bat an eye. But there is definitely, at the other end of the spectrum, if you just, like, *Supermarket Sweep* 'em right into your backpack...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: ... and walk away, they probably will detain you. So what is—there is a number in the middle in which you are no longer...

Griffin: Welcome at this establishment.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: There is—there's an a part of me that acknowledges that, on some level, the people working the counter know an answer to, "How many yogurts can I take?"

They know it. They won't tell you, but you'll pass that point, and they'll be like, "Hey, you know that's too many."

Justin: They've also gotta clean it up. So for every yogurt you don't take, that's another yogurt they have to lug back to the fridge.

Travis: Goddamn, you're right.

Justin: You know what I mean? So they'll probably let you take [laughs] whatever the fuck you please.

Travis: "I'm just gonna keep taking yogurts. You tell me when to stop."

Justin: You tell me. Give me a nod, or a sign. Speaking of telling you when to stop, Travis, I'm gonna tell you to stop podcasting.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Because we've reached the end of another episode of *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, an advice show for the modern era. Thank you so much for joining us for another one of these dalliances. We hope you are doing well.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: Yes, that's right. A dalliance.

Travis: Hey, I wanna tell everybody about a couple exciting things. One, this weekend, like five days from the 16th – which, I assume, is when you're listening to this, but who knows – 9:00 PM Eastern Time, we're doing a virtual *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. With S—

Justin: This Saturday.

Travis: This Saturday. With *Sawbones* opening 9:00 PM Eastern Time. It's going to be, eh, let's say it – weird, and probably very enjoyable. Tickets are only 10 dollars, and you can get them at live.themcelroy.family.

Also, we have a lot of exciting merch, including a pin of the month that is a beautiful Voidfish, if I do say so myself, from *The Adventure Zone*. It benefits the Loveland Foundation, which is committed to showing up for communities of color in unique and powerful ways, with a particular focus on black women and girls.

There's also a Steven the Goldfish keychain by Cait May, a vaccines bumper sticker that benefits the Immunization Action Coalition, which works to increase immunization rates and prevent disease. There's—

Justin: Lots of other stuff.

Travis: Yeah, *lots* of other stuff!

Justin: We—yeah. Lots of stuff. McElroyMerch.com.

Travis: McElroyMerch.com. Oh, boy.

And we got our book! *Everybody Has a Podcast (Except You)*. You can preorder that at themcelroypodcastbook.com, which comes out January 26th, and preorder *The Adventure Zone: Crystal Kingdom* at TheAdventureZoneComic.com.

Griffin: Um, thank you to John Roderick and The Long Winters for the use of our theme song, "(It's a) Departure," off the album *Putting the Days to Bed*. Um, and—or I wouldn't mind puttin'—I wouldn't mind putting these days to bed.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: To get back to bet—and get back to better times.

Justin: To—the world of caramel is waiting for you.

Griffin: Let me—let me in that sweet hole! And—

Travis: And crème-o-verse!

Griffin: So—and then also to MaximumFun.org. Thank you. Um... the sincerest thank you. Uh, go listen to all the great shows there. They got shows uh, that will really blow your fucking mind, man.

Travis: Whoa!

Griffin: Shows like, uh, *FANTI*, and uh, *Story Break*, and a whole bunch more! MaximumFun.org. Do you want the final one?

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Uh, several people sent in this final, uh, Yahoo Answers question that was asked *ten years ago*.

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: Uh, User Donnie Onions asked... [laughs] "In what year did Bill Gates invent Michaelsoft?"

Travis and Justin: [burst out laughing]

Justin: [through laughter] My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: [through laughter] I'm Travis McElroy.

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

Justin: [through laughter] It's so—[coughing laughter] Kiss your dad square on the lips.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

[theme music plays and ends]

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[upbeat music plays in background]

Rachel: Congratulations! You've won a ticket to attend an exclusive opportunity in a relaxing environment with two lovers.

Griffin: Wow!

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: Well, this sounds like a sort of proposition of sorts, but really, it's an ad for our podcast, *Wonderful!* It's a show we do here on Maximum Fun, where we talk about things that we like and things that we're into.

Rachel: I'm Rachel McElroy, and you just heard Griffin McElroy, and we are excited for you to enjoy us as we talk about movies, and music, and books!

Griffin: Things like sneezing, or the idea of rain.

Rachel: [laughs] Can you get news or information you could use? I don't think so.

Griffin: Absolutely you cannot. Because we're here to talk to you about pumpernickel bread.

Rachel: You can find new episodes on Wednesdays.

Griffin: So catch—[intense voice] Catch the wave!

[music ends]