

MBMBaM 538: Shoegaze Mopeytones

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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!*

Travis: Huh!

Justin: An advice show for the modern era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm your middlest brother, Travis "The Middlest Brother" McElroy!

Griffin: And I'm Griffin McElroy. Thanks for listening, folks.

Justin: Yeah—

Travis: I—

Justin: What a joy it is—

Travis: Hey, shut up. I wanna talk about my thing.

Griffin: So fast. So furious.

Justin: It's really quick.

Griffin: It was really quick—

Travis: No, because it's gonna be—guys, it's gonna blow your mind, and you're talking about other bullshit instead of the very important thing—

Griffin: It's welcoming our guests to our house.

Travis: I don't care about them!

Griffin: Me and Justin have some fucking party snacks. We got some Ritz crackers with different savory delights on 'em, and you just ran in, and...

Travis: I—

Griffin: ...flying bicycle kicked—

Justin: [crosstalk] bucket of Kool-Aid on 'em.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's 'cause you guys are living in the past, and once I tell you what I'm gonna tell you about, you won't remember what it's like before. And it is this, my friends: just announced, big announcement...

Justin: Okay.

Travis: ...on the upcoming—

Justin: I already hear you laughing; I'm wondering if this even true.

Griffin: I'm wondering if you're even excited about what you're saying.

Travis: On the—in the upcoming premiere of *Last Man Standing*, the Tim Allen sitcom...

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: ...there will be a special guest in which Tim "The Tool Man" Taylor...

Justin: Fuck off.

Griffin: No.

Travis: ...will meet Tim Allen's character...

Justin: No. No.

Travis: ...in *Last Man Standing*.

Griffin: [laughs] Wait, what?

Justin: [holding back laughter] No, no. No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no.

Griffin: How does—the mind boggles—how does he—first of all, how are they gonna film that? Fucking impossible. You can't. There's no way.

Justin: Tell me everything.

Travis: So Tim "The Tool Man" Taylor will meet *Last Man Standing's* Mike Baxter...

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: ...uh, in the li—in the Fox comedy *Last Man Standing*. I know absolutely nothing about it. This is just—this is recent news o—the episode hasn't aired yet, so we can only speculate at the implications.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And let me also just say, I've watched a lot of TV before. We made, of course, a hit award-winning television show called *My Brother, My Brother, and Me*. I didn't know you could just fucking do that!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I didn't know you could be like, "Oh, enjoy this new episode of *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*, where Chandler Bing shows up, and hangs out with Matthew Perry!"

Justin: That would've saved the show.

Travis: It would've!

Griffin: It might have saved it. It might have—

Travis: Right now, uh, Matthew Perry's listening to this episode, and going, "Goddamn it! Why didn't we do that?"

Griffin: That would've been real cool. Um—

Justin: I think I speak for all of American when I say, [questioning Tim Allen grunt].

Griffin: Can they touch?

Travis: There's a screenshot, Griffin, accompanying the thing I saw, where they're shaking hands!

Griffin: No. Well, that's no problem. Is that if they do touch, I feel like they should... I mean, any number of sort of cataclysmic thing—

Travis: [simultaneously] They should fuck! Oh, wait, sorry.

Justin: Woah 'kay, now we're fucking cooking!

Travis: I thought that's what you were getting at. Where if they could touch, they—

Griffin: What are we talk—

Justin: [singing through light laughter] Turn down the lights...

[normally] I want—just want a sweet, tender, romantic love scene between [laughs] Tim Allen and Tim Allen!

Griffin: Well, we all want that.

Travis: But why stop there? Because Tim Allen circa *Santa Clause* could be up in there, too.

Justin: Oh, yeah! [laughs] We're three-way menage-a-Tim. That's pure Michigan, baby!

Travis: And maybe get Buzz—Buzz up in there.

Griffin: Yeah, can we get his voice—

Justin: You didn't stop to listen to me saying, "That's pure Michigan, baby," and I'm gonna need you to just take a second, okay?

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: So let me do it again. That's pure Michigan, baby!

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [questioning Tim Allen grunt]

If we can just get Buzz sort of doing commentary, like, "Yes, you're tou—you're stroking his butt!"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "You're about to—you're—you're putting your wiener near his butt and beyond!"

Justin: "You guys are going to sinfinity and beyond!"

Griffin: That's better.

Travis: That's pretty good.

Griffin: Um, cool, man. Cool [crosstalk].

Justin: [crosstalk].

Travis: No, sorry, Griffin. Tool Man.

Griffin: Tool, Man. Guess what? I'll fucking watch that! I don't like—

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: I won't like it. I won't enjoy supporting um, Mr. Allen's art, but damn it! He's got—he—damn it, he got me in his trap again.

Travis: You know what—

Justin: I wish that—

Travis: The first thing I sa—I thought of when I saw it, Griffin?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [lowly] Can I say something real quick, before we move off the sex thing? I just wanna say it's not fair...

Travis: Oh, sorry, yeah. Go ahead.

Justin: ...that, um... "home," like in *Home Improvement*, doesn't rhyme with "come," even though they're spelled the same way.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: 'Cause I think there'd be a really good thing there. There would've been a really—a really good thing.

Griffin: Maybe—maybe the thing would just be *Come Improvement*?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, but that doesn't—I—you know what—like, you know what I mean? I could've said that...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...without any sort of setup, and it wouldn't have really landed.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: *Come Improvement...* [laughs] doesn't...

Griffin: Doesn't work. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay.

Travis: Um, so here's the thing.

Justin: [questioning Tim Allen grunt]

Travis: Griffin, when I saw that announcement that you mentioned not—

Justin: [continues making Tim Allen grunts]

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: I don't think so, Tim.

Griffin: Ah, shit.

Travis: When I saw the [crosstalk] oh, Jesus Christ.

Justin: You know what we need? More power! He just brings out the biggest fucking Sibbie you've ever seen in your entire life.

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: [grunts]

Griffin: So Travis, you've been trying to say for the past four minutes—

Travis: And Wilson peeks over, and goes, "I'm gonna finish!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "I'm climaxing, neighbor!"

Travis: When you see an announcement like this – Griffin, you mentioned not liking Mr. Allen's art, and all I could think is, it must be that a lot of people don't, because this isn't the move you make when your show is doing super good and successful, right? Like...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I am actually pretty sure, Travis, that *Last Man Standing* has been canceled. Um, which—it means that they're just kind of... going for it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: This is the end.

Travis: I think—

Justin: This is end of this—

Travis: Here—okay—

Justin: This is season *nine*. How do we let this kind of thing happen, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: How do we let this sort of thing happen?

Griffin: Well, we [crosstalk]—

Travis: I had to look it up, 'cause the show was canceled in 2017. I thought I was having a weird *Berenstain Bears* thing, where I was like, "Wait..."

Griffin: This—we pointed our ire with far too focused a lens right toward *Young Sheldon*.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: And he deserved it, but also at the same time, Tim was over there, doing something sneaky in the fucking corner, wasn't he? Bringing it back, without us looking. What a stinker.

Travis: Wait, is Young Sheldon – the actor who plays Young Sheldon – also, like, a right-wing asshole? [laughs]

Griffin: We're just watching *Young Sheldon*, waiting for him to make a mistake.

Travis: [sighs]

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: 'Cause once we do, [chuckles deviously].

Justin: [evil chuckling]

Griffin: "[gravely voice] Oh, bazinga..."

Travis: [laughs] Is there an episode of *Young Sheldon* where he finds "bazinga"? Where, like, a bunch of—

Justin: Each season, he gets one—in season one, it was "baz," and I hear in season two they're working towards "ing."

Griffin: Mm-hm. Um, he—okay. So this has been a good intro. I did think you were going—when you mentioned breaking news, I did think you were

gonna talk about the actual breaking news that just got announced that they're doing breakdancing at the 2024 Olympics? Which is—

Travis: What? Holy shit!

Griffin: How hard can—how hard am I legally allowed to watch the Olympics?

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: How hard am I allowed to watch that happen, and then do that? Are you fucking—

Justin: [crosstalk] pay-per-view, but I feel like this is maybe the moment.

Travis: I enjoy amateurs breakdancing. I can't imagine how much I will enjoy...

Griffin: Yeah, it's gonna be good.

Travis: ...Olympic-level professionals!

Griffin: Sure. So I've got, what, probably three-and-a-half years? Do you think... I can get there? Three-and-a-half years, do you think I can get there?

Travis: I think you can, Griffin, but I think it will be like – spoiler alert – *The Wrestler*, where you'll do it and then die.

Justin: Wow, that—man, the spoilers don't come much worse than that, do they?

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: Well, here's the thing, Justin. I've never seen *The Wrestler*.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: I just know what happened, 'cause other people have spoiled it for me.

Justin: They should call it *The Dier!*

Griffin: Yeah, you should call it that.

Travis: It's true!

Justin: You know?

Griffin: *The Wrestler and then He Dies* on it. But [crosstalk]—

Travis: [crosstalk] actually—the actual title is *Wrestler, parentheses, (Rip), end parentheses*.

Griffin: Yeah. They would lower the fucking... well, let's be honest. I would be lucky to place, but—so let's say bronze metal, just onto my dead-ass body slumped over the pedestal. [laughs] Yeah.

Travis: And you would still be all twisted up from your last super-cool move that you did.

Griffin: Oh, I would—I would definitely die a fucking Auntie Anne's pretzel man. For sure.

Travis: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: Well, uh, this is also an advice show, against all odds. This is also an advice show. And um, I'm ready to help people, if you guys are, unless you have any more great Tim Allen sex things.

Griffin: What do you think Tim Allen breakdancing at the Olympics looks like? I think it would go a little something like this.

Justin: This is gonna get too esoteric, but...

Griffin: Maybe.

Justin: ...they're gonna have breakdancing at the Olympics, which means that they're gonna have to get judges who are, like, experts in breakdancing, but aren't at, like, a competitive level anymore. And I bet that's gonna be hard to admit to yourself, because this is a new event, and you never got your moment.

Travis: Right.

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: Uh, okay! "I'm buying a fog machine for my band, for when shows happen again." This is the fucking perfect—you—supply and demand. Wise about fog machines you can get for a song right now.

Travis: Oh, absolutely.

Justin: This is a buyer's market for—for fog machines, 100 percent.

Travis: Why stop there? Get disco ball, get one of those things that's like, got all the different lasers inside of it, and kind of spins around?

Griffin: Yeah, that's what they're called.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: They—they need a name for those.

Justin: They gotta get a name for 'em, though. "So I'm buying a fog machine for when shows happen again. I'm excited, but whenever I see a band that has a fog machine, it's always super lame when the band turns on the fog machine and it slowly covers the stage. How do I distract people before the show when we are dispensing fog? PS, we are a shoegaze band." That's from Hazy in [[Haste?]].

Thank you, by the way – these are the details we need, folks.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Even if they don't make it into the—the podcast, we need this information. Shoegaze—

Griffin: If only we knew what shoegaze was. [laughs]

Justin: That is the one stumbling block. Maybe it's a—sort of a sample. 'Cause you know what we're about to do is draw parallels to somebody we think is shoegaze, and then get mocked mercilessly on—I was about to say Twitter, but it'll probably happen on TikTok. [laughs]

Travis: Maybe it's shoe-gazee.

Griffin: Shoe-gazay.

Travis: A shoe-gazay band.

Griffin: What—[laughs]

Travis: I actually—here's—I'll tell you what's bad, you guys. I looked it up...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...right after I read this question, and I have since forgotten.

Griffin: My Bloody Valentine's a big one. That's the one that keeps coming up.

Travis: Is it like when a band has really good shoes, and you can't stop looking at 'em?

Justin: No, I don't think that's probably it. I think it's just kind of mopey, huh?

Griffin: Mopey to—mopey tones.

Travis: Mopey tones, okay. So your band, The Mopey Tones...

Griffin: The Shoegazay Mopey Tones is what we're...

Travis: Shoegazay—[laughs] This is my friend, Shoegazay Mopey Tones. Um...

Justin: This is why *SNL* has new guests. [laughs]

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: You know what I mean? 'Cause then you bring in somebody. I bet Melissa Villasenor knows—knows what shoegaze is, you know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Fresh blood!

Travis: We need some younger McElroys. Let's get... Charlie in here.

Griffin: I am working on it.

[pause]

Travis: [through laughter] That's a weird way to put that, Griffin.

Justin: Weird way to put that.

Travis: "I put a baby up in my wife. What more could I do?"

Justin: Come on. Come on.

Travis: Now, here's—

Justin: Um—

Travis: Maybe this is what an opener is for. You have an opening act.

Griffin: Oh, yeah, make the opener come out to your fucking fog machine's weak, impotent, sputtering...

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: Aw, man.

Griffin: That is so—that is such a rough way to do them, though, isn't it?

Travis: Yeah. I—

Griffin: For them to come out—

Travis: I've worked in theater enough that, like, that—that [slurping noise], like, little bit of fog until it warms up, I guess?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like, I—no one knows how they work.

Griffin: Um, can—uh—alright, let's—mm, how long can you leave a fog machine on? Can you just have the fog machine going, like, before the venue even opens? Flood—flood that thing.

Travis: Well, then you're using—you're using up the juice, Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah, that shit's...

Justin: You're using up the juice. You do not a roadie rushing out mid-show...

Griffin: To swap that juice.

Justin: Yeah, absolutely.

Griffin: Fucking embarrassing.

Travis: You don't wanna swap the juice.

Griffin: Can you... put... a garbage bag...

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: ...up on the sort of exhaust tip of the fog machine...

Travis: Yep.

Griffin: ...until that fills with fog, and then you can just kind of take it on stage, and pop—like, pop it or tear it open to get, like, a *bunch of fog*, all at once.

Justin: Oh, just like, all at once!

Travis: Oh, yeah, I like that!

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: The problem is, I know you don't want people to notice... the fog machine. And I do understand that. But... they also have to notice a little bit, or they're gonna assume there's a fire.

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: Right? I mean, if you don't—if there's just, all of a sudden, a bunch of smoke, you're gonna think... well, where there's smoke, there's—there's fire. You're gonna think that. You know what I mean?

Griffin: [laughs] You know what I'm—boys, I'm going on a trip down memory lane and it's one of the many, many things from my youth that I really haven't relitigated since then, because if I would have, I would've realized how extremely busted it was.

We did the Easter pageant...

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: ...uh, every—every year. And at that great scene where Jesus... kicks open the—the tomb, and is like, “What’s up? I’m back.” Um, we had a fog machine for that. And as far as I can remember, they only used just one bottle of fog machine juice for every show, and it smelled so strongly of what its smell was, which was pina colada. Which seems...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: ...at our Southern Baptist Church... “Here he comes! Christ is king, the redeemer! He is—he’s back and better than ever, baby!” And also, some tropical themes happening in your nose. Celebrate Christ’s birth on the beach!

I’m just saying, maybe this is why enjoy pina colada so much, is because I... sort of think about them in the same way I think about the resurrection of Christ. I drink one of those—I drink one of those cold, fruity babies on a beach, and I just think about the... when they rolled that stone away.

Justin: Those bring—sometimes those can bring me back to life. Do you know what I’m—

Travis: Can I—

Justin: You know what—you—[stammers unintelligibly]

Travis: I—this is a fun experience, ‘cause what the listeners don’t know is I dropped out for, like, 30 seconds ‘cause of computer issues and have just rejoined, and I have no fucking clue how we got—the last thing I heard was, like, pop a big bag full of stuff...

Griffin: Yeah. Oh, boy.

Travis: ...to “Pina coladas make me think about Jesus.”

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: My uh—my brain does that for me, sometimes, while we're recording, and that's actually pretty nice.

Travis: Oh, yeah!

Justin: It can be fun—kind of a fun jumping off point.

Griffin: Do you want a Yahoo, fellas?

Justin: I'd love that, Griffin, thank you.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: This one was sent in by Graham Roebuck. Thank you, Graham. It's Yahoo Answers User Gary the Human Being, who asks—

Justin: Wait. How much fog could you get in your mouth at one time?

Travis: You talking about ripping mad cotton?

Justin: Just like, all at once—the show starts, and everybody's just like, [sucking in air].

Griffin: I guess it depends on if you want to... live with... cool lungs after that. 'Cause probably—the answer would be zero.

Travis: It's just juice, Griffin!

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: It's just juice.

Griffin: Pretty sure it's toxic. Okay, so Gary the Human Being asks, "As long as you never give up, you can't fail?" And then in the additional details: "Still time on the clock."

Travis: Um—

Griffin: I thought that this was one of the more powerful, motivational sort of... I guess not speech, but, you know, tagline, that if you don't stop trying, you can't fail!

Travis: But that's just wildly untrue!

Justin: [hesitantly] Mm...

Griffin: Okay, let's see. Let's see.

Travis: A ma—okay, Griffin. I'm a boxer.

Griffin: 'Kay.

Travis: Right? And I've just been knocked out.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: They ring the bell, and then I stand up and say, "Let's keep going."

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: I'm not done. I've lost!

Griffin: Well, you lost. You lost, but did you fail?

Travis: Yeah! I failed to win!

Griffin: Also yes. Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: But you don't give up boxing, do you?

Travis: Let's—I turn in my test in math class...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Oh, I've gotten all the answers wrong." But I just keep writing more numbers.

Griffin: Yeah. But if you keep working at math, you haven't—you didn't fail, did you?

Travis: But I failed the test!

Griffin: You did fail that big test.

Justin: You did fail the test, but here's the thing. You didn't give up, 'cause you can keep trying. You can keep asking, uh, "Are you sure I failed the test?" And then you can be like, "Can you check again?" And then you can be like, "This is illegal. The test is illegal, and I'm gonna go to court to prove it." And then you could lose, uh, currently 47 of those, uh, court battles.

And then—but you haven't failed!

Griffin: You didn't fail yet.

Justin: You're just still trying!

Griffin: Is there a "yet" missing from this sentence? That's what I mean—

Travis: You haven't failed yet?

Griffin: Yeah.

[pause]

Travis: You haven't failed completely. I think that [laughs] you—you've mostly failed. There is still one degree to which you have not failed. I think that the world needs to recalibrate a little bit, frankly. I've been thinking about this a lot, where we've got this whole chip on our shoulders, when it comes to like, "Well, you didn't give up, and you didn't fail," and like, you know, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail." Uh, sometimes the most respect

I have for someone is when they've realized they're not good at something, and stopped doing it.

Griffin: Huh.

Travis: And they say, "Maybe I'm gonna try something I *am* good at," and they find that thing. And this comes from someone who was really bad at wrestling in middle school, and Dad convinced me not to quit the team by saying, quote, "McElroys don't quit."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Which is wildly untrue.

Justin: Yeah, I...

Griffin: Did he say, "If you don't quit, you don't fail; there's still time on the clock"?

Travis: I think what he said is, "If you don't fail, then you haven't failed. And if you quit, then I won't have any children who even pretend to do sports. Oh, God, oh, God, please don't quit."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And so what I'm saying is, maybe what we should do is encourage people to give up more.

Griffin: This is—

Travis: Like, hey, you don't like that thing. That thing doesn't make you happy. Stop doing it!

Griffin: But you're—this is the opposite of this power—I came here with this powerful Yahoo, and I was trying to inspire a generation...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: Mm.

Griffin: ...but that didn't work. I can't remember what the genera—Z's? I can't remember what the generation—

Justin: Millennials.

Travis: No, we're back around. We're at A—A's now.

Griffin: Zillen—

Justin: [laughs] I don't think that's accurate.

Griffin: Zinnies.

Travis: I think that's true.

Griffin: These Zinnies, they don't know how to fail. We will teach—

Travis: Or they know how to fail too comfortably, Griffin!

Griffin: But they don't give up! And it's time on the clock.

Travis: Maybe they should!

Griffin: Okay, maybe they should. Or maybe they shouldn't.

Travis: This is what I'm saying, is we're so worried about debt forgiveness...

Justin: Mm.

Travis: What about debt permission? You know?

Griffin: [laughs] Okay.

Travis: You know? Like, when someone says, "Hey, you owe me a lot of money for your student loans," you just go, "No."

Griffin: "No. Forgive me!" How about that?

Travis: And they're like, "Please give me that money?"

And you're like, [laughs] "No!"

Justin: "I don't think so!"

Griffin: No, actually, um...

Travis: "Tough!"

Griffin: I just wonder if uh—I don't know. Can you just say, out loud, "I forgive you for all your debts"?

"You want me to say..."

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: "I forgive you for all your debts"? Oh, you said it! I tricked you, Mister Mxyzptlk. You said your own name; now I don't have any more student's debts.

Justin: I'm—I tried—

Travis: What you can also do—you can trick someone into your debt cave, and then it's their debt, and you're free.

Griffin: It's their debt. Yeah.

Justin: I tried this at college, and what I experienced—and sort of after college. [laughs] With credit card debt. What I experienced was a series of men with progressively lower voices...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...calling me [laughs] about the money that they would very much enjoy.

Griffin: Until you—

Travis: No, that's fair. I did have to fill out a series of more and more complicated paperwork explaining to people how I didn't have money to give them, and it wasn't just that I didn't want to give them that money; it's that I physically did not have it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Any amount of money they asked me for, I wouldn't be able to give them. One time, I filled out a piece of paper that explained where all of my monthly, like, income went. And I fudged it to not show being in debt. And made it seem like at the end of the month, I had five dollars surplus.

Justin: [laughs loudly]

Travis: And they wrote back, and told me that I owed them 275 dollars a month. And I then contacted them, and said, "Hey, this seems like a bad system."

Justin: "You've seem the number—[through laughter] you've seen the numbers."

Travis: "Dude, I showed you."

Justin: "We crunched them together."

Travis: "I showed you the math. I was very detailed." And I said, "I even – I'm gonna be honest – lied to make it seem like I had more money than I did."

And they said, "Oh, no, no, no. You don't need to do that. Just show the negative. We expect there to be a negative."

And I said, “[reluctantly] Okay.” So then I did the actual math, and they lowered my expected payment to 150 dollars a month.

Griffin: Okay. So now that they know you have negative money, now they want a sensible 150.

Travis: Yes. So what I’m saying is, maybe everybody just stop paying people money.

Justin: America is [crosstalk].

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Just—we’re all just gonna stop.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: But if we—

Travis: They can’t—they can’t collect on all of us at once.

Griffin: But here’s the problem. Here’s the problem.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: And this is maybe—God, I’m thinking about it, I definitely just inspired a generation with this thing from Yahoo, but to use your example, the debt collectors heard it. And the debt collectors heard, as long as you never give up, you can’t fail. And they’re like, “I can’t fail to get Travis’ negative 200 dollars. Because if I do—”

Travis: Oh, they can try!

Griffin: “If I give up, then I failed at it. There’s still time on the clock.”

Justin: They’re still trying, too.

Travis: Well—okay. Then I know how to fix that.

Debt collectors, if you're listening – and I assume you are – you can still collect debt from each other.

Griffin: Okay! Yeah.

Travis: You can go live in a little debt collect society where every debt is just passed from one to another, and no actual money is ever exchanged.

Griffin: [laughs] Hey, let's try something else, too, okay?

Travis: Okay. Yeah.

Griffin: Everyone listening to this...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Everybody currently under the power of my voice... I forgive your debt.

Travis: [makes explosion noises]

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: You—listen, you did nothing wrong. You needed the money. You got it. Then you didn't have it to give it back to them. I forgive—

Travis: But Griffin—

Griffin: I *forgive* you!

Travis: Do you forget the debt?

Griffin: Oh, man.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: [lowly] No.

Travis: [laughs loudly]

Griffin: I'll never—I'll never—here's—I forgive your debt! Go, fly free!
[lowly] But I'm—I'm watching. I'll be watching.

Justin: Uh, would you guys like another question?

Griffin: Please.

Justin: Okay. Um, "Since COVID, my mom has been—" What? COVID?

Travis: Oh, it's a disease.

Justin: Oh. "My mom has been spending *lots* of time writing within the paranormal romance genre." Uh, spooky sex, as some...

Travis: Oh, thank you.

Justin: ...uh, prefer. "Unbeknownst to her, I have been doing precisely the same thing, except instead of a trilogy of original YA novels, I have been working on a well-received anthology series of fanfiction. When she describes her plots to me, I often find plenty of interesting parallels between my stories and hers.

"I want to discuss them, but I know she assumes all fanfiction is inherently poorly written and/or pornographic. How can I talk to her about a respective sense of ghost-whispering lovebirds without admitting to such a taboo hobby?" And that's from *Sexy Séance* in Central Florida.

Travis: So you... you are worried that your mother, who is also writing paranormal sex stories...

Griffin: So it's—

Justin: She's writing ghost sex stories, and is gonna look down on your fucking *My Hero Academia* slash fic.

Griffin: Woah, Juice.

Justin: Come on!

Griffin: Oh, damn.

Their mom is working with OCs, original characters. Original content.

Travis: Well, but... [sighs] Nothing's original anymore, Griffin. Like, Shakespeare did it all, you know what I mean? Like...

Justin: Thank you.

Travis: So Shakespeare had all kinds of ghost sex up in there. You know what I mean? So like, it ain't new.

Griffin: Just fi—

Travis: I'll never forget that one scene where it's Laertes/Old Hamlet.

Griffin: Yeah...

Travis: You know what I mean?

Griffin: I guess so, but if you got one where it's like... "Here's fucking... here's the Grinch, and he's gonna do it..."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You can't be like, "Is there anything new anymore?"

Travis: Have you been reading mine, Griffin? That's mine.

Griffin: I've been reading your—

Travis: My Grinch—Grinch/Grinch, when uh, it's the Grinch from the animated one has sex with...

Griffin: Jim Carrey.

Travis: ...Jim Carrey's Grinch.

Griffin: Fantastic stuff.

Travis: And also the Tool Man's there. [laughs]

Griffin: Fantastic stuff. He's gotta be there. He's become, like, the observer. He's...

Travis: Yes. Indeed.

Griffin: He's always there.

Um, God, this is—can I say something? This is kind of cute. It's kind of—

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: It's kind of cute. You guys—

Justin: Yeah, it's kind of cute.

Griffin: Like, it's gonna be good. And it's gonna be, like, a good commercial for... I don't know, the paper...

Justin: Something. McDonald's?

Griffin: McDonald's, where you guys show each other your fictions? And you both go, "Ah! [singing] The best part of wak—" [normally] I don't know why coffee is there. Your friend coffee is there. We can get anything in there.

Travis: This—this would make a plot for a movie, you could call it [creepy voice] *Freaky Friday*.

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah. No, we would have to do a lot of press, Trav, for that one to—to just sort of get it out there, to get *our* messaging out there, that you have to say “freaky” in a way that lets people know it’s not that *Freaky Friday*.

Travis: You can do that with font, Griffin.

Griffin: Describe that to—is it just italics?

Travis: Well, there’s a—there is some slant to it, yes.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Uh, but there is also—clearly, it’s emphasized, and maybe a little sex-u-al.

Justin: Hm.

Griffin: Just share—

Travis: The letters themselves are some LILFs.

Justin: [snorts]

Griffin: Jeez, man.

Justin: [laughs] That’s some nice squishy holes in the G’s.

Travis: Oh, yeah!

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: Hey, listen.

Griffin: Now we gotta go through...

Justin: Every—every—

Travis: [crosstalk].

Griffin: Now we gotta go through the alphabet, picking out the letters you could have sex with.

Justin: We were just—you know your—God, [crosstalk]—

Travis: Can you count eight in there?

Justin: We've done that with numbers.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: This is vulgar.

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: I don't enjoy this. And we have, you're remembering. We can't—yeah, listen. All the different Arabic characters are just really horny. Um, I—you know, every genre and subgenre and type of new media is looked down upon by its forebearers until something comes along that is... irrefutable. And maybe your slash fiction is that. At first, the world uh, looked its down—no—down its nose at, you know, the novel, and then here comes... fucking *Pilgrim's Progress*, or something.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like, an old novel or something that's, like, these are legit.

Griffin: Very, very sexy book, *Pilgrim's Progress*.

Justin: D—let your mom see your—your uh—your stories. And I think, honestly, I know that even if they look down—your mom looks down at that kind of work a little bit, I think if you were the one doing it, their precious, precious child, I think that it is—they're going to be supportive of you, and they're gonna turn around.

And if you wait... *too* long, and the stories are *too* similar...

Travis: Mm.

Justin: ...Mom is gonna start feeling like maybe you're being a little sus when she finds out later.

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: "Oh, what's that? You've been cribbing—yeah, I have—I had the two dead ghosts, and you put that in your story, too."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: And she's not gonna believe that it's a wholly... you know, it's just an invention of your—of your third eye.

Griffin: Yeah. A poke-her-geist?

Travis: Uh!

Justin: I'm thinking about him. Uh, why are you—

Travis: Sexorcist!

Justin: Sexorcist is fucking great, Trav. Congratulations. Oh, there's a medal. Uh...

Travis: Oh, it's floating down from the ceiling!

Justin: Yeah, it's being handed to you by Jad Abumrad, [laughs] just bringing you this medal.

Travis: I did it! I won podcasting!

Justin: You did it. Oh, there's a ghost of fucking [crosstalk]—

Travis: Oh, and he was Roman Mars with a bouquet of flowers!

Justin: Roman Mars—that's so nice. And Joe Rogan's at his house, I guess. I don't know what he's doing right now.

Travis: Well, he's the one I beat.

Justin: Uh, let's uh, let's take a break and go to the uh, the Money Zone very quickly.

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

Travis: Listen, real quick. I don't have a lot of time. Are you paying attention? They're coming. We need to hurry. This holiday season, more people will be mailing stuff than ever before. That means the post office is gonna be busy, okay? Stamps.com brings the post office and now UPS shipping right to your computer. Are you listening, sheeple? Simply use your computer to print official US postage 24/7 for any letter, any package, any class of mail, anywhere you want to set. Wake up!

Once your mail is ready, just schedule a pickup or drop it off. It's that simple. And with stamps.com, you get five cents off every first-class stamp, and up to 40 percent of priority mail and up to 62 percent off UPS shipping rates. Don't spend a minute of your holiday season at the post office this year. Sign up for stamps.com instead. There is no risk.

With *my* promo code, "my brother..."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: ...you get a special offer that includes a four-week trial plus free posting and a digital scale. No long-term commitments or contracts. Listen to me, just go to stamps.com, click on the microphone at the top of the homepage, and type in "my brother." That's stamps.com, "my brother." Stamps.com, never go to the post office again. [strained yelling] Ah, they got me!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I wish we could—I wish—I—you know, those conspiracy podcasts are obviously detrimental to... the fabric of society, but man, I bet it'd be fun. I bet that's a fun set to work on.

Justin: Yeah, it'd be a fun—fun space. Fun space to play in.

Travis: Speaking of space, Squarespace... [laughs] I'm not gonna do both of them.

Griffin: Yeah, I'll do—lemme try it, and I'll try to do what Travis did, like his character, like conspiracy guy.

Travis: Okay. Do it, do it, do it.

Griffin: Aw, man, the internet's—the internet—everybody's watching you on it, and tracking your every move. [slurping noise]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Fuck, vaccines, man.

Travis: Wait, were you drinking vaccines?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's what I got.

Griffin: So—

Travis: Yeah, it kind of sounded like you were just slaking your thirst with some frothy vaccines.

Griffin: I was trying to make, like, a bong noise, but then I do like better— [low voice] Yeah, so you don't need government vaccines, 'cause the—them —the spes—the stuff in `em, but my vaccines are good. You drink `em... and it's—I mix `em in with some Danimals. You're gonna go nuts for it.

And I'm selling these on my website I made with Squarespace. Because Squarespace lets you make a beautiful website, and it's easy, and you can showcase your work, or sell products, like vaccine-infused Danimals, uh, or services of all kinds. You can promote your physical or online business! And they give you a bunch of—

Travis: Now, Griffin, I—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Just one quick note, if I may. Your conspiracy theorist character...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...is kind of drifting into a very pleasant Squarespace spokesperson.

Justin: Yeah. I'm enjoying my time with him, [crosstalk].

Griffin: Oh, okay, I'll try to take it back. [low voice] Beautiful, customizable templates created by world-class designers. Whose world?!

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin: Whose world?

Travis: *Beakman's World*. [laughs]

Griffin: Not my—not my—maybe my world. Everything's optimized for mobile right out of the box, if you're silly enough to still have a phone with a screen on it, way to track you. And pictures. And it's got free and secure hosting. I don't know if they do dark web stuff, but I think I like that, maybe. And there's nothing to patch or upgrade, *ever*. And go to sq—

Justin: Never?

Griffin: Never. You don't. It's like a good... machete.

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: [sputtering]

Griffin: So go to squarespace.com/mybrother for a free trial. When you're ready to launch, use the offer code "my brother." [makes slurping noise] To save 10 percent off your first purchase of a website or domain.

Justin: Now *I* wanna do an ad!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Okay. What are you doing an ad for?

[pause]

Travis: We don't have any more.

Justin: [low voice] I wanna do one too, with this guy! [laughs]

Travis: [laughs] Okay, what are you doing—

Justin: Everybody's having such a good time.

Travis: But you need to talk about a product, then.

Justin: Well, okay. [mumbling] [shaky voice] Are you guys giving to charity?

Travis: [bursts out laughing] You're becoming, like, Doc Brown.

Justin: [wearily] Yeah, that's good. Everybody, support your local bookstores. [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] [muffled] Buy local produce. Farm to table, Marty!

[soft music plays in background]

Renee: Well, hello. I'm Renee Colvert.

Alexis: Hi, I'm Alexis Preston. And we are the hosts of *Can I Pet Your Dog?*

Renee: And we got breaking news, we got an expose, and all the beans have been spilled via an Apple Podcast review that said, "This show isn't well researched."

Alexis: [gasps]

Renee: Well, yeah, no, duh. Of course, it's not—not since the day we started has it been well-researched. Guessing and anthropomorphizing dogs is what we do.

Alexis: The *Can I Pet Your Dog?* promise is that we will never do more than 10 seconds of research before telling you excitedly about any dog we see.

Renee: I'm gonna come at ya with top 10 enthusiasm, minimal facts.

Alexis: We're here for a good time, not an educated time.

Renee: So if you love dogs, and you don't love research...

Alexis: [laughs]

Renee: ...you know what, come on in to *Can I Pet Your Dog?* podcast. Every Tuesday on Maximum Fun Network.

Alexis: [giggles]

[music and advertisement end]

Justin: I would like to do the Munch Squad bit, though.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: [imitates rock guitar] [blows raspberry]

Travis: Oh?

Justin: [imitates rock guitar] [blows raspberry]

Travis: Ugh!

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

Griffin: Squad!

Travis: Squerd!

Justin: [sings tune] I want to munch!

Griffin: Squad!

Travis: Squerd!

Justin: [ends tune] [normally] Do you guys know what... Do you guys know what the Munch Squad is about this week?

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Okay. Travis, do you?

Travis: I can guess.

Justin: No, I don't wanna guess. I just wanna know if you know.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Okay. Uh, well, let's just enjoy this together, then. Um, this is just gonna take a minute and 12 seconds, but I think it is well-earned. Can I have silence from my brothers, please? Here we go.

[audio clip begins]

Speaker 1: What the hell are you doing?

Narrator: A Lifetime Original mini movie.

Speaker 2: You don't answer my proposal, and now you're not answering my call.

Speaker 1: I think I'm falling for the new chef.

Speaker 3: [quietly] Jessica is falling for Harland.

Speaker 2: The cook?

Speaker 3: Leave Jessica alone, and skip town.

Speaker 1: He has a secret recipe that's gonna change the world.

Speaker 3: Harland claims to have some secret recipe.

Speaker 2: A secret recipe? [blows raspberry] Spare me.

Speaker 3: We all have our secrets.

If you marry my daughter, I promise there'll be more long weekends in your future.

[dramatic music plays in background]

Speaker 1: Mom, I have to tell you something.

Speaker 3: We have a problem.

Speaker 2: Secret's out, chicken man. I'll take care of this.

You're ruining everything!

Speaker 4: Just kill him already!

Speaker 2: Who the hell are you?

Harland: Harland Sanders, the new chef.

Narrator: Mario Lopez is Colonel Sanders in *A Recipe for Seduction*.
Premiers December 13th at noon. Only on Lifetime. Presented by Kentucky
Fried Chicken.

[audio clip ends]

Griffin: But like, what if it's good, though? What if it's, like, really, really,
like, Oscar-contender good?

Justin: Sexual. You know what I mean?

Travis: I don't think we can jump right to the "What if it's good?" take,
Griffin. There's so many other things I think we need to get out of the way
first. Um, the one that I wanna touch on is there at the end when they felt
it necessary to clarify that it was sponsored by Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: Yes, thank you. I was about to highlight that. What a wild whirl it
would be if it was like, [laughs] "Unofficial. Not approved or endorsed in any
way." [laughs]

Travis: "Inspired by true events."

Justin: "Currently in pending legislative—legal action from Kentucky Fried
Chicken."

Griffin: "It's fucking—"

Travis: "Secret's out, chicken man."

Griffin: "Mario Lopez is just crazy about these buckets, so he's funding it himself."

Travis: Uh, I would also like to point out that *prime* debut slot.

Justin: Yeah, noon.

Travis: Noon!

Justin: Noon! [laughs] Classic. Uh, so here's the press release: "Kentucky Fried Chicken and Lifetime are teaming up to bring consumers the perfect distraction from all things 2020: the holiday Lifetime original mini movie, *A Recipe for Seduction*. Featuring veteran actor and star of Lifetime's *Feliz Navidad* Mario Lopez is Colonel Harland Sanders, the first of its kind—" let's fucking hope so —Lifetime original mini movie. It's full of mystery, suspense, deception, 'fowl' play, and at the heart of it all – love, and fried chicken."

Travis: Huh!

Justin: "To enhance the viewing experience of deep-fried holiday romance, consumers can order KFC on Uber Eats for delivery, and get six free extra-crispy tenders with a 20-dollar purchase or more. While enjoying the delicious taste of the Colonel's secret 11 herbs and spices, viewers can share in all the drama of this steamy holiday love affair, as they watch a young heiress contend with the affections of a suitor handpicked by her mother."

Now, it does beg the question—I've just spent 20 dollars uh, at KFC, and have gotten six free *extra* tenders. How much of this can I eat in a 15-minute film?

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: Because I am already... dreading that experience. Um, uh, "When a handsome young chef with a secret fried recipe and a dream arrives, he sets in motion a series of events that unravel the mother's devious plans."

Griffin: That's the whole movie, then, huh?

Justin: Yeah, that's the whole thing. Quote, "We're no stranger to heating things up for the holidays, just like our famous..." How do you think this sentence ends?

Griffin: Fried chicken meals?

Travis: Huh.

Justin: An interesting guess. Travis, do you have a guess?

Travis: F—spices and flavors?

Justin: "Just like our famous fried chicken..."

Travis: Huh.

Justin: "...scented Firelog."

Travis: Ohh!

Justin: "But let's face it, we could all use a little distraction this holiday season—" Fuck it, they got it, folks! [clapping]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: They got it!

Griffin: [laughs] [crosstalk]

Justin: Hit the buzzer! [laughs] Hit the buzzer. COVID's been hard, so we put a fake mustache and goatee on [laughs] [[Macy Slater?]].

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: And we're just fucking going for it. 'Cause this'll—this'll do it, right? Will this do it?

Travis: KFC Slater.

Justin: [laughs loudly] "Why not fill some of your—" aw, man, it's just right here, "—let's face it, we could all use a little distraction this holiday season, so why not fill some of your time at home."

Travis: [laughs] "[high-pitched voice] But Grandpapa, what was 2020 like?"

"[gruffly] Well, it wasn't *all* bad."

Griffin: [laughing quietly]

Travis: "There was—right there at the end, it was a real buzzer-beater of a [crosstalk]."

Griffin: [gruffly] I'll be straight with you, Bryson. It was mondo-fucking boring.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: But then my boy, KFC Slater, rolled in.

Justin: [laughs] "We were saved at the end of the year by President Lopez. Well, he was just Mario to us back then. Uh—"

Travis: "But you know what? I could track it all back [laughs] to that one December 13th at noon. When the whole world changed."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: “There was—there was of course, BRS, *Before Recipe for Seduction*, and of course ARS, *After Recipe for Seduction*. Now, pass me the KFC bible, and I’ll tell you more.”

Justin: [laughs] “*A Recipe for Seduction* is Lifetime and KFC’s first ever branded custom mid-form content.”

Travis: Oh!

Justin: “The Lifetime original movie is a playful addition to—” well, I mean, you get it.

Griffin: Yeah, once you get all business-ey, it’s like, ugh.

Justin: Yeah, it’s like, so like—

Griffin: “Look, can we just have fun here?”

Justin: It is a good question, though: what will you do for the other 15 minutes, Lifetime? What is your—this is the first 15-thing you’ve made. What, are you gonna put—throw in an episode of [through laughter] *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*?

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Good question.

Justin: What are you doing after this? “After its linear premier, *A Recipe for Seduction* will be *unbound from reality*.”

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] “It will continue to be available throughout the holiday season on mylifetime.com/christmas-movies, all Lifetime apps, and VOD platforms.” Quote, “Lifetime is the perfect holiday home to bring this spicy, unexpected tale to life,” said, uh... David DeSocio... path, I’m assuming.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: EVP of ad sales and marketing partner partnerships at A+E Networks. “Through a terrific cast, and with a wink to the unique sensibilities celebrated in Lifetime movies. This coproduction spotlights—”
Can we just have something nice? I mean, can’t we just have something nice?

Griffin: “We did a Chri—we did a KFC Lifetime movie.” Just say that.

Justin: That’s fun!

Griffin: Don’t—“We’ve blended the beloved sensibilities of the Lifetime—”

Travis: This is dumb as shit, and you’ll like it.

Justin: I [crosstalk]. You’ll like it for 15 minutes, and you’ll forget about it.

Griffin: We made a chicken log!

Travis: You’ll pretend like you didn’t like it, and you’ll be all ironic about it, but you were sincerely happy we did it...

Griffin: Yeah, you’re...

Travis: And you can admit that here.

Griffin: You know us!

Justin: Yes!

Griffin: You know us, what we do with our chicken log! You know what this is!

Justin: They’re still making it into a fucking business thing. You’re not gonna sell any more chicken because of this!

Travis: This is the problem—

Justin: Let's just have fun! It's a nice thing! 'Cause apparently, it's been a challenging year, according to this press release.

Travis: It's been a hard year for a lot of us.

Justin: Apparently.

Travis: Here's the thing, is that kind of brand explanation, that's where you get into *too* self-aware, where I'm like, "Oh, you did this for money, you *business.*"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And that's where I forget that KFC isn't my fun friend.

Griffin: Yeah, sure. Um, hey, who wants a Yahoo? Hey, Yahoo?

Justin: Yahoo!.

Travis: I'll take one [crosstalk], sir!

Griffin: [sings tune] Ah, Yahoo!

Travis: A Yahoo here for the boy!

Griffin: Here comes Yahoos. Okay, this one was sent in by—

Travis: Oh, too hot! You've burned my boy's face!

Griffin: They don't have temperature.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: He's dead! Oh, God, my boy is dead!

Justin: [crosstalk].

Griffin: There's something—did you dump something else hot on him, sir? `Cause they don't have temperature.

Justin: [laughing quietly]

Travis: You—I put the Yahoo on my boy's head, and now he's melted!

Griffin: But look at it—is it—wait—

Travis: Oh-ho, he was my only boy!

Justin: Just as you instructed, we blended it with laudanum, and gave it to him thrice daily!

Griffin: Um, so this Yahoo was uh, sent in by Ellie. It's from an anonymous user, who asks—oh, but they need a name. I forgot that I do that. Uh, [makes muffled noises].

Travis: You—did you say Travis?

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: Ssscr—the Scrunch asks...

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: "Could you have a normal relationship with someone who is *very, very* psychic?"

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: "Like, they can see *everything*. You wonder if anything about you is a mystery."

There are five updates. Update one: "Oh, yes, it has happened already. Trust me, every day it happens." Update two: "That said, not looking for an

answer from those who don't believe it. It's a real issue I'm dealing with here from a guy who's not very open in talking to me about it."

Update three: "He's proven he's psychic already!" Update four: "No, he was talking about me eating a donut yesterday before I even knew my sister bought one at the store for me. I don't have donuts every week, so it's not a regular pattern." [laughs] Update five...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "Thinks?" in quotes, "No, he *is*. There is proof. If you're in denial about psychics, don't answer the question." Okay!

Travis: Can I—this is the first time, Griffin, in which the additional details has made me retroactively wonder about the scenario that led to the specific question. Do you think this question-asker wants to date this person?

Griffin: No, I think they're in a relationship with this person, and I think that they live together. And I think that they woke up one Sunday morning, uh, and they are having a slow start to the day, and the husband says, "You're gonna eat a cake donut."

And then the—the sister brings a cake donut. And then this woman is like, "Holy fucking shit. You are very, very psychic."

Travis: I would ha—I think I would happily be in a relationship with someone's who's very, very psychic.

Griffin: Travis, Travis, Travis.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Not—you're not—we're not talking about fucking, uh, *Crossing Over with John Edwards*.

Justin: Or *Ghost Whisperer*.

Griffin: Yeah, or *Ghost Whisperer*.

Travis: Yeah, not bullshit like that.

Griffin: No, we're t—they're just psychic. I'm talking about someone who is very, ho, just super psychic, Trav. Real, real psychic.

Travis: Here's the thing, though, Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: The question is not about their level of psychinicity. The question is how accepting are they of me and everything that I am. Right? Do they accept me for who I am, with all my flaws? Because if so, I have nothing to hide from them.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: It is only if they are judgmental...

Griffin: [gasps]

Travis: ...that I would feel embarrassed if they knew everything about me.

Griffin: But we gotta have secrets, don't we? Little sne—little snecrets that nobody gets to see.

Travis: [hesitantly] No.

Griffin: Stuff that we get to do that no one else gets to see, that we do them? Do you all not have—

Travis: I'd just rather—I'd rather share my snecrets with my partner.

Griffin: Uhm, hm...

Justin: I—could we get down to the real issue of this question, please?

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Sure.

Justin: Okay. I feel like we've been dancing around a bit.

Travis: Obviously, yes.

Justin: Okay. If you're at the grocery store...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: ...and you're looking at donuts...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: ...what prompts you to think, "Well, Paula doesn't frequently eat donuts."

Travis: Right.

Justin: "In fact, it's probably a less than likely occurrence."

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: "But I'm gonna bring her one single grubby donut." [bursts out laughing] "Just to show Paula I'm thinking about her, I'm gonna pick one—I'm gonna get some of this paper, I'm gonna open this up, I'm gonna get one grubby little donut, [laughs] to bring to my sister who does not enjoy them enough to eat them frequently."

Travis: Well, Justin, ironically enough, just like my favorite procedural mystery, *Psych*, it is all now laying out before me. I could see the timeline.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: Jim called Paula, and said, "Hey, remember when you ate that donut?"

And Paula said, "I haven't eaten a donut in at least a week and a half."

And Jim said, "Oh, man, I look like such an idiot." So he called Paula's sister, Paula 2, and said, "Hey, uh, can you get Paula a donut today? And don't make a big deal out of it, and don't tell her I called. Thank you!"

Griffin: And the sister's going through a *real* bad divorce, so she's got lots of time...

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: ...to go get the—on a single donut run.

Travis: Yeah. And also, the librarian wasn't dead. He faked it...

Griffin: Okay!

Travis: So that he could sneak back in and get the jewel himself!

Justin: It's just that grocery store donuts are the worst. I mean, if you're gonna get—eat a donut, you're gonna treat yourself to a donut, don't eat one from the grocery store!

Travis: Well, but the convenience factor is there, Justin. You're getting everything else, I can't get, you know, my roasted beef from a Dunkin'.

Griffin: Yeah. Man, it would be cool if you were in a relationship with somebody who could let you win the lottery every day.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: Until there was no more lottery money left, 'cause you got all of it.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: But then they—on the other end of the sword, they would be like, “You’re gonna fucking waste that. You’re not gonna—”

Travis: Well, Griffin, you’re just thinking of someone who’s *very* psychic. Imagine someone who’s *very, very* psychic, so you could be like, “Hey, does Janice want to hang out with me on Saturday?”

And they could be like, “She doesn’t.” [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You’re so psy—I could see, though, I buy that you’re—see, that’s what I wanted—I want to just be like, “I’m extremely psychic.”

“Oh, really? Tell me the lottery numbers.”

“I would love to, but honestly, it doesn’t work out well for you, in most of the regr—the futures that I can see, so I’m unfortunately gonna have to w—”

You could withhold whatever, and just say, that that’s, like, it’s better that way.

Travis: Right.

Justin: I’m making that call. It’s better, trust me.

Travis: Hey, it turns out winning all that money is bad for you.

Justin: Yeah, butterfly wings.

Travis: [crosstalk] has been every single person who’s ever won the lottery ever.

Griffin: Oh, that’s a fake statistic. That can’t—

Travis: Well, yeah, Griffin, of course it is. I just said “every person ever.”

Griffin: Well, anec—

Travis: I clearly don't have any information to back that up.

Griffin: But anecdotally, everybody always talks about, "You win the lottery, man, it's gonna ruin your life." And have there been a few cases of that? Sure.

Justin: Sure.

Griffin: But in—most of the time, getting a big [laughs] fucking bag of money like that is pretty cool shit.

Travis: Hey, Griffin?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Can you step over here with me for a second?

Griffin: Uh-huh? Uh-huh?

Travis: Of course I fucking know that. I'm—

Justin: Sorry, do you want me to—sorry—sorry, do you—

Travis: No, Justin, you can stay over there. You can stay over there.

Justin: Should I bring jokes with me, or can jokes go with you guys?

Travis: No, you and jokes can hang out. You and jokes can hang out.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: Griffin, I'm trying to increase my odds...

Justin: [crosstalk].

Travis: ...by getting less people to play in the lottery.

Griffin: Oh, geez!

Travis: So I tell them the lottery's bad for them...

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: ...so that they won't buy tickets, so I can play.

Justin: [mumbling] I like the rubber chicken thing. You probably love [crosstalk]—

Travis: Okay, Griffin?

Griffin: Yes, this is a good idea. Forget the—forget what I said, it was a joke!

Travis: No, wai—we haven't—let's go back over.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Hey, we're back over here!

Griffin: Y—yeah. Don't do—don't play lottery. Don't play lottery.

Travis: Why, Griffin? Why?

Griffin: Oh, it's—it makes you sad... to do it.

Travis: What kind of stuff would happen to you if you won the lottery?

Griffin: No one ever—no one's a—you get a big pool? Fall in.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: And you're carrying a big bucket of coins. And you don't wanna let go of the bucket—

Justin: Yeah, guys, can you excuse me, please?

Travis: Oh, sure.

Justin: Could you guys—I'm gonna step over here.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: [quietly] You shouldn't beatbox. I know you've been practicing a lot, Justin, but... this is not the time to—to show off your beatboxing skills. And I know it seems like it would make the podcast really good and funny, and it would be really cool, but I need you to not beatbox—

Travis: Hey, Justin?

Justin: [shouting] Excuse me!

Travis: I—I'm sorry to interrupt you.

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: I couldn't help it overhear, from... here. I would love to hear you beatbox.

Justin: [blows raspberry] [wheezes]

Travis: Was that it?

Griffin: Wait, no, Travis. That's just his open—that's just his open hi-hat. Clearly—

Justin: [laughs, wheezes] [blows raspberry]

Griffin: Closed hi—closed hi-hat.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

Griffin: Let's hear the—let's hear some toms, Juice?

Justin: Toms, toms, toms, toms.

Griffin: That's right. Textbook.

Justin: [laughs quietly]

Travis: Now just—now just lay all those together.

Justin: [through laughter] Okay, Griffin will get it in post.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'm sure.

[remix of Justin's beatboxing plays]

Justin: [laughs] I'm sure—hey, thanks for listening to our podcast, *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. It's uh, it's so fun to do it for you every—every —

Travis: [laughs] We're just having a good time over here.

Justin: We're just having a good time here. You know what? Don't—we'd do it even if people didn't listen, but it would be—the more erotic content [laughs] would be uh, more questionable, I think.

Hey, December 19th at 8:00 PM, clear your calendar, because we're gonna be celebrating Candlenights together. Though we can't all be physically in one area, we are still—the season arrives regardless. This is going to be a filmed Candlenights spectacular. We have filmed almost all of it at this point, and it is going to be... buck wild! [laughs]

Griffin: It's a wild one.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: We got segments from *MBMBaM*, *Sawbones*, *Shmanners*, *Wonderful!*, *Still Buffering*, special guests, uh, and it is going—it is going to be something else.

Griffin: Tickets—

Justin: Tickets are pay-what-you-want with a five-dollar minimum. And all proceeds go to Harmony House, which is a local, uh, shelter for people experiencing homelessness. Uh, they help so many people. Sydnee volunteers there, and can vouch for it. It is uh, an amazing place, and uh, we are so proud to be supporting them again.

Bit.ly/candlenights2020 is the address. Please go there and—and give what you can, and come join us for the show.

Travis: Oh, just to clarify—sorry, real quick, it is five dollars minimum, but there will be a dollar and 25 cents, uh, fee to—to cover the expenses of the people helping us do the show, so it'll be \$6.25 total.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Just to—[crosstalk] you all.

Justin: Perfect. And you will be able to watch it through January 4th, 2020, so you got a long... period to—to enjoy it. You don't have to watch it right there at December 19th at 8:00 PM, uh, but that is when it will—we'll go live.

Griffin: That would be—[crosstalk].

Travis: Uh, we also have a lot of cool McElroy merch that—

Griffin: Well, I just—I wanted to say real quick that it's a really fun—that it's a really fun video, and we made it really fun for you 'cause we know everybody's had a hard year.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: It's been a rough year.

Justin: It was a hard year.

Griffin: For all of us.

Travis: And so we made it with a bunch of herbs and spices. [laughs]

Um, we got a lot of cool merch over at mcelroymerch.com, with some Candlenights stuff over there, stuff that you might've seen before, maybe you haven't, but the thing that I wanna highlight is the Festo pin of the month, uh, which is Festo from *The Adventure Zone: Graduation*, if you haven't listened yet. And that benefits the Transgender Law Center, which employs a variety of community-driven strategies to keep transgender and gender non-conforming people alive, thriving, and fighting for liberation.

Uh, so you can check that out as well as all the other stuff at mcelroymerch.com.

[sucks in air] And here we go. Three books I wanna tell you about, my friends. One, *Everybody Has a Podcast (Except You)* is our how-to podcast book. It's available for preorder now. Go to themcelroypodcast.com. That comes out January 26th. So I think that's within a window that you could give that preorder to someone as a Candlenights present.

Uh, you can also preorder *The Adventure Zone: Crystal Kingdom*, which is book four of our graphic novel series. Go to theadventurezone.co—oh, theadventurezonecomic.com, I should say. And that comes out July 13th, 2021.

And *The Sawbones Book* is out in paperback on December 29th. It's newly revised and updated for 2020. You can get that at bit.ly/sawbonespaperback.

Griffin: Um, y'all want the final—oh, 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. Great tunes, great tracks. Um...

Travis: Oh, one more thing I wanna say, we're doing the MBM or the MBMBaM Angels is happening again. If you want to participate to help fill those empty stockings in our hometown of Huntington, West Virginia, you can go to mbmbamangels.com.

Griffin: Uh, and thanks to maximumfun.org, for having us on the Network. Um, do you want the final? Yahoo?

Travis: I do, Griffin. I'd really love that.

Griffin: This one was sent in by Amy. Or—yeah. Thanks, Amy. It's Yahoo Answers User Hiram, who asks, "Let's chill. Do you Christians like V8?"

Justin: [sputters, laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

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

[chord plays]

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