

MBMBaM 540: Bubblestar Metallica

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

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

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

Travis: [sing-song] Just hear those T-R-A-V-I-S bells.

[normally] I'm your middlest brother, Travis McElroy!

Griffin: I'm your sweet baby brother, Dasher the Reindeer McElroy. Hold on, I'll be right back!

Travis: What?

Justin: I don't know if this is for the show or not.

Travis: I don't know either. I think he might've just flown off to take... Santa and all his crazy reindeer.

Justin: But we're still makin' show.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Just works just fine without Griffin, really.

Travis: Yeah, if you notice—I think it flows better, I think the chemistry's there...

Justin: Same show, basically, without Griffin.

Travis: A lot of—it feels like a lot of dead air is gone. Um, this is all 100-percent usable content.

Justin: Salvageable content. Well, you know what, I could go ahead and tell peoples this is our Candlenights special.

Travis: Indeed it is, yeah! Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: We're celebrating our fake holiday.

Griffin: Hey!

Justin: Hey, Griff. You okay?

Griffin: Yeah, I had a—I've been waiting on a gift for Rachel that I would need to sign for that I needed to intercept.

Travis: Oh, is it from Santa?

Justin: I tried to do that, 'cause I got Sydnee a rug to replace the rug that the cat pissed on. And there's just no—there was no cool way to do it.

Griffin: Yeah, I—

Justin: 'Cause we're all—we're both at the house all the time.

Griffin: I got her uh, like a nursery rocker too, and that one showed up in a big box from Wayfair that was like, "Hey, Rachel! Here's your nursery rocker! Griffin got it for you! Merry Crimmas!" There was no...

Justin: Did [???] do it? And I—I hope she's not a listener. 'Cause this...

Griffin: This isn't the show.

Justin: Oh. [through laughter] My mistake.

Travis: Oh, how embarrassing. Justin and I thought it was the show this whole time.

Justin: Yeah, the show was continuing. Some really choice, choice stuff.

So this is Candenights. It is our—our, uh...

Griffin: And I'm Griffin McElroy...

Justin: Okay, I...

Griffin: Let's start ov—what do you guys think about starting over?

Justin: No! No, are you kidding me?

Travis: There's three minutes of quality stuff there!

Justin: Sal—well, I was gonna say salvageable.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Um, this is exciting for so many reasons. One, it is our uh, Candenights spectacular.

Travis: Of course.

Justin: That means no cursing in this one.

Travis: Aw, beans!

Griffin: Can we just—it's our second Candenights spectacular, really, if you think about it.

Justin: Yes. The other one is a video that you can still watch, uh, if you go to bit.ly/candenights2020. It's available until January 4th. It's a two-hour-long spectacularful, tons of... uh, great bits and skits and goofs and songs

and dances and celebrity cameos and holiday festivities and cocktails and, uh, uh—it's got everything. It's 5—it's \$6.25 to get it, and proceeds are going to Harmony House, which is a shelter for people experiencing homelessness in our area. Um, so—my area, I should say. Uh, although we still claim the voice, so please go do that if you have not already, uh, done it. You got until January 4th to watch it.

But that's just a video. This is still the podcast *Candlenights*, uh...

Travis: This is the one that counts.

Justin: This is the—no, they both count.

Travis: No, this is the one. That one—

Justin: This one counts less 'cause it's free.

Travis: Aw, man.

Justin: Yeah, it's not as valuable.

Travis: This one's free?

Justin: We're gonna—we're gonna not be using swear words, so if you wanna gather your family around the, uh, radio, the Victrola...

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: ... we're just gonna be doing a show without swears. Now—

Travis: Can we use alternate swears? Sorry, just like... "beans," and "butterscotch..."

Griffin: Like, "aw—"

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: You guys remember, like, "frak," like from uh...

Justin: “Frak it.”

Griffin: *Bubbles*—from *Bubblestar*?

Travis: “Frak,” yeah. “H-E double—double hockey sticks.”

Justin: Did you say—sorry, did you say *Bubblestar*?

Griffin: [laughs] *Bubblestar*.

Travis: Yes. *Bubblestar*.

Griffin: [laughs] *Bubblestar Galactica*.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: *Bubblestars*—

Justin: *Bubblestar Galacticus*.

Griffin: *Bubblestar—Bubblestar Metallica*.

Justin: [bursts out laughing] Aw, frak, I miss *Bubblestar* [laughs] *Metallica*. Um, but that—we should—we also, also always mention this, and it is a fact that just because it doesn’t have bad words, it doesn’t mean it won’t have challenging ideas.

Travis: Yeah. [laughs] That’s—oh, boy.

Justin: And just to reinforce that, I would like to start with an anecdote.

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Two nights ago – or two days ago, rather – I was, um, in the shower, getting rid of all my um, filth, and uh, my two-year-old, as she is wont to do, just sort of barges in. And—because she wanted me to do

something. I don't know what it was. Probably to do something to one of her dolls, like wrap it up in toilet paper or throw it into the toilet.

Griffin: [laughs] Can she not do that last—from what I understand, toddlers *excel* at throwing things into toilets.

Justin: Yeah, but if I do it, she can't get in trouble.

Griffin: Oh, I see.

Justin: So she barges in—

Travis: And you and I both know Cooper likes making people do things, but like, she has her whims...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ... and she likes them to be, uh, acknowledged.

Justin: So she barges in while I'm mid-shower. I'm just wrapping up.

Travis: Where are you at, in this point?

Justin: In the shower?

Travis: Yeah, like, what stage of the process?

Justin: I'm rinsed—I'm ready to go. The shower's over, basically.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: And I—she barges in, and I am of course, caught unawares, and I um... you know, I rush to turn the water off so I can reach out and grab a towel, but in the way that little children are wont to do, she has already taken notice of my privates, and started scowling at them and pointing in a very angry way, as if to say, "What are you doing with those?"

Travis: [laughs] "How dare you?"

Justin: “Why do you have those?”

And so I cover myself up, and I go to uh, see—with a towel, and I—before I could say anything, she points at my now-covered crotch, and says, “Daddy, I’m sorry about your little jumble.”

Travis and Griffin: [burst out laughing]

Travis: Oh, great.

Griffin: What?! How would she know the worst imaginable thing to say?

Justin: [wheezing laughter]

Travis: Every word of that is the sickest burn I’ve ever heard.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: “I’m sorry,” is not what you want to hear about your little...

Justin: [coughing laughter]

Griffin: ... I don’t know, “jumble”?

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Jumble sug—jumble suggests that there’s things where they ought not be.

Justin: [laughs] Which, from her perspective...

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Alright. Fair.

But she said, "Sorry about your little jumble."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Oh, man.

Justin: And then she went on—she went on to inquire more, and I said, "No. It's 6:15 in the morning. I'm not doing this with you. We're not doing this. I'll put the doll in the toilet. You win. But we're not talking about my little jumble."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "So I'm sorry about... your little jumble." Uh—

Travis: Real quick, I just wanted to say, like...

Justin: Yet ano—this is our—

Griffin: This is [crosstalk] show.

Travis: [crosstalk]

Justin: [crosstalk] another interruption before the show can begin.

Travis: Well, I just know, like, this year is pretty different for people, and this Candlenights, people aren't traveling as much, but it's been a rough year—

Griffin: Not Sad—not Sad Libs, right?

Travis: No. It's been a rough year for everybody, and... you know, people are like, "What can we do at home?" We had a lot of questions about what kind of...

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: ... traditions they could do at home, and so I thought maybe we could Play Along at Home.

Griffin: Alright!

Justin: Oh, my gosh.

Travis: Dutch Sinterklaas...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ... is believed to originate where?

Griffin: Norway.

Travis: W—where does he come from, to come visit the Dutch?

Griffin: Heaven.

Travis: Justin?

Justin: Iceland.

Travis: Uh, it is believed he come from Spain, and also believed that he travels with a group of elves who will take bad children back with them to Spain.

Griffin: Rad. Oh, God, please. Take—please! Get down to Barcelona, please!

Travis: Please!

Griffin: Yeah, I wouldn't mind. Take me away; I've been really bad, Mr. Elf.

Travis: The first artificial Christmas tree, developed in the 19th century in Germany, was made from what material?

Griffin: Asbestos!

Travis: [laughs quietly]

Justin: Well, come on.

Griffin: Human hair.

Justin: Cat hair.

Travis: It was goose feathers.

Justin: Dang!

Travis: Dyed green. But you were in the right realm!

Griffin: Man.

Travis: Uh—

Justin: This is so festive.

Griffin: Yeah. And fun—and funny!

Travis: Associated British Foods did a study, and found that the average American consumes how many calories on Christmas day?

Griffin: Oof. I mean, am I trying to stay in keto? `Cause uh, 3,500.

Justin: I'm gonna say—I'm gonna say 2,200.

Travis: 7,000.

Justin: Shut up.

Griffin: Shush.

Justin: I mean, shut up.

Griffin: How do you get—I mean—uh, I mean, how much calories is in cinnamon rolls? `Cause I kind of just eat one of those every half hour.

Justin: And then you get a pud.

Griffin: Yeah, you get a little bit of pud.

Justin: You get a little bit of pud.

Griffin: Cream on the pud?

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: Have a custard and cream on the pud? There's only—There's only room for one.

Travis: Um, one more. It's a two-parter. In 1950, the record-holder for world's tallest cut Christmas tree was erected in the middle of Seattle. In feet, how tall was it, and, for another point...

Griffin: Oh, man.

Travis: ... adjusted for inflation, how much would the tree cost in the year 2020?

Justin: I'm more interested in those uncut trees. [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: You know how I do it.

Griffin: It's more natural, if you... know what I'm saying.

I'll say... here's—and here's a problem that I feel like we are put up against from time to time on this show, which is my complete lack of sort of spatial...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: ... imagination. Because the first thing that came to mind—I wanted to say, like, 1,500 feet. But then I was like, “No.”

Justin: That’s so... yeah.

Griffin: That would be 150 stories.

Justin: Here, I’m gonna say—I’m gonna say 225 feet.

Griffin: I’m gonna say... 6—I’m gonna say 690 feet. Is that still a lot?

Travis: Wow!

Griffin: It still feels like a lot. [laughs]

Travis: I’m gonna give that point to Justin, ‘cause it was 221 feet.

Justin: No [censored beep], you’ll give the point to Justin. I was four [censored beep] feet off!

Griffin: [laughing in background]

Travis: Yeah, but you were right!

Justin: That’s Amazing Kreskin over here!

Griffin: Still wrong.

Travis: If you kicked a field goal that was four feet to the left, the referee wouldn’t be like, “I’ll give it to ya.”

Justin: What if it wa—but unless it was near the right post, in which case...

Travis: Well, yeah.

Justin: ... like, it'd be even better.

Travis: Now...

Justin: So the price...

Travis: The price... in 2020 dollars...

Griffin: When was the tree built?

Travis: This was 1950.

Justin: [groans]

Griffin: *1950?*

Justin: But we're adjusting for inflation now. [sucks teeth] I'm gonna give it a rate of – which is pretty typical for home-cut trees heard this on Planet Money – it's like, 10 bucks per foot, so I'm gonna put it 2,210 dollars.

Griffin: I'm gonna say 750,000 dollars.

Travis: Wow. You are both wildly incorrect. It was 185,000 dollars.

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: I mean, I got the right number of digits.

Travis: And at the time it was like, 19,000 dollars.

Justin: Yeah, Griffin was—I say give that one to him.

Travis: Okay, it's tied! One-one!

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: Okay. But that was the last one, right?

Travis: Well, I guess the tiebreaker will be: Who's been the best boy this year?

Griffin: I mean, not me. I'm trying to get to Spain. I've been real dirty.

Travis: That's true. Alright, Justin wins, 'cause Justin was the best boy this year.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: This is an advice show—

Griffin: I burned down a Whole Foods, stole a—

Travis: What?

Griffin: —cab. Stole a cab.

Justin: [laughing quietly]

Griffin: Di—take a Uber. Drove it into a river. Smashed it all up.

Justin: [through laughter] You just took the Uber drove through the river.

Griffin: Yep.

Travis: After burning down a Whole Foods?

Griffin: Yeah, it was on the way back home.

Justin: [laughs] His car was [through laughter] in the Whole Foods.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: He drove his car into the Whole Foods...

Griffin: Right.

Justin: ... burned the Whole Foods down, didn't have a ride home.

Griffin: It was embarrassing.

Travis: Called an Uber, took a Uber, drove it into the river.

Justin: [crosstalk] river.

Griffin: [laughs] Well, I asked the drive to please drive it in the river, and I was very convincing. Yeah, it's—it's—it was a fun day.

Justin: I did want to... We didn't have a traditional um, uh, Candlenights live show performance. We did have our—our, uh, *Sawbones* Christmas special that's part of the video, but I did wanna just tell you guys about a—a Lifetime Christmas movie I watched last night.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: If I—if I have a moment. 'Cause it was called *Dear Christmas*, and I thought it would really speak to you guys, because it is about a podcaster.

Griffin: Ooh, alright!

Justin: Um, so they really got into our territory. Melissa Joan Hart is up in the mix, and she is, um, the best podcaster. Now, what do I mean by that, how can you p—she has—her show is the number-one podcast in America.

Griffin: Whoa!

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Wait—by what rating?

Justin: Well, Trav, that's never specified, but...

Travis: Okay.

Justin: ... it's number one, it's on the Earmuffs Network. Um, and it's the number-one podcast in America, guys. And here's what it is: it's called *Holiday Love*.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Justin: And in each episode of the number one-podcast in America, she... it's called, like, "Dear" and then inputs the holiday there. So it's like, "Dear Halloween." And it's about, like, real love stories from that holiday, right?

Travis: Oh, boy!

Griffin: Okay...

Justin: Okay, but so this—so in this movie, *Dear Christmas*, she is do—the—people keep asking, "So what's the next episode about?"

[laughs] She's like, "Well, Christmas."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: And in my head, I'm thinking, "This is the number-one podcast. It's called *Holiday Love*. And you are *just now* hitting Christmas." So am I to believe there's like, a "Dear Arbor Day. Me and him both love trees, and we were like, let's do it."

Travis: I mean, it definitely means that roundabout, let's say, March to, like, July, *real* dry spell in there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: *Real* stretching for material. We—

Justin: "I love my dad and she loves her dad, so whatever!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: “We’re in love! That’s the whole bit!”

Okay, but the thing about this movie is that—that makes it really special, besides the fact that her love interest, played by Jason Priestley, um, his name is—[laughs] His name is—Well, I should turn you first off, he’s a volunteer firefighter, and an amateur glassblower.

Travis: [laughs] If—those two should cancel each other out, by the way.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And um, an accomplished baker. And at the fire house, they make the best fried chicken in town. And also, um, he hangs Christmas lights and decorations on the side.

Griffin: Okay!

Justin: So this is a lot of side jobs that he does. And his name is... Chris Massey

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: That rules.

Justin: People call him Mr. Christmas, ‘cause...

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: But—which would’ve been a better name for the movie than *Dear Christmas*. But Melissa Joan Hart and uh—

Travis: They should’ve just called the movie *Is—Is that... Jason Priestley?*

Justin: *Is that Jason Priestley?*

Travis: *I Think it's Jason Priestley!*

Justin: He's 51 years—oh, he looks great! Uh, so Ja—[stammers] okay, the weird thing about this—

Travis: Hey, what's his—Justin, what's his core job? He's a volunteer firefighter, an amateur—

Justin: He does all the side gigs to support his glassblowing. Which is germane to what I'm about to talk to you about.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: The—the—the thing that is fascinating about this film is its relationship to the [laughs] ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Justin: Which is, is in—it's an interesting relationship. So he makes these little uh—he blows these little glass hearts, and puts 'em up all around town. And it's a way to thank our first responders, right?

Travis: [sighs]

Justin: And his sister is an ICU nurse in New York, right? So it is happening. We can appreciate this, right?

Griffin: Right.

Travis: I just want to say, real quick – 'cause I had a very loud sigh there – if you're trying to make a living as a glassblower, hanging up your product for free around town is not the way to do it.

Griffin: Not gonna cut it.

Justin: He mi—no, he does the other jobs to support the glassblowing.

Travis: But—but he’s doing it gratis? He is not attempting—

Justin: It’s art! It doesn’t matter! Listen—

Griffin: It’s art, Travis.

Justin: So, the interesting about this is—so that is happening. But also in this film, in like the first five minutes of this film, the—like, uh, her boss at Earmuffs is like, “Are you coming to the holiday party or not?”

And it’s like, okay, so what? Sorry? We’re having a holiday party?

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: We’re in the same universe, right? Uh, okay. That’s fine.

And then later in the movie, there is a ugly [laughs] uh, Christmas sweater party full of people. But they’re just on the outside of it, doing something else.

Griffin: Alright!

Justin: I don’t—yeah. And they don’t actually talk about—they don’t—you don’t see it. And then later, there’s a fireman’s ball that uh, she shows up too late to, so it’s just her and Jason Priestley. And that is the thing I wanted to talk to you about, really, is that this movie really is... it was *filmed* during—it’s not just set in a world that is sort of doing the COVID thing, but not *really* doing the COVID thing.

Griffin: Yeah...

Justin: It’s also filmed in a world that definitely does have the COVID thing going on. As such... [laughs] Jason Priestley...

Griffin: [laughing quietly]

Justin: ... Melissa Joan Hart... Ed Begley Jr. as her dad...

Travis: Huh.

Justin: ... Faith Prince is her mom. Two other, uh—her sister and her boss, end of cast in movie. [laughs] There are six people in this movie.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Which you don't really notice until, like, they're having—they're at, like, a restaurant, [spooky voice] and they're the only ones there. [normally] Because they can only get, I guess, enough COVID tests for these two, and nobody else.

So every once in a while, you'll see someone 30 feet in the distance, just sort of walking through the shot. But there are no...

Griffin: Extras.

Justin: No other people in the movie.

Griffin: There's no zany neighbor.

Justin: [through laughter] There's no zany neighbor. There's no waitress at the restaurant. They're like, getting their own drinks.

And it's this—and the wildest thing is, she doesn't hate Christmas. So if you know anything about these movies, that's the—that's the thing that has to be overcome. They both like Christmas fine. So there's no movie, either. It's literally...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: I sat there, 20 minutes literally Melissa Joan Hart to Ed Begley Jr. just shouting about how much they love candy canes. It's like *Waiting for Godot*. It's—it's madness.

Travis: Justin, is it possible... that there's a deeper underlying thing going on here in which the six of them are not just the only people in this movie, but in this movie the only people left on Earth?

Justin: Uh, n—well, no, because there is a—[laughs] There is a um, a brother. The sister—her job is that she's pregnant.

Griffin: [laughs quietly]

Justin: And she—and the other job she has is, her husband got stuck in, like, traffic or something, so he uh, hasn't been able to come to where she's about to have a baby.

Travis: Ah.

Justin: Um, she does eventually have a baby, and it is 100 percent a plastic doll that is completely obviously a plastic doll, and really ratchets up the... full-blown panic attack that this film is where they're just passing around this beautiful plastic baby.

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: And making [laughs] goo-goo eyes at it. Um, but she—he makes it just in time. But he doesn't... talk. [laughs] Because I guess, um, maybe it's particles, maybe it's somebody just not wanting to get—give him a—his after card, because I'm *pretty sure* he's the cinematographer?

Griffin: [blows raspberry]

Justin: I was looking at pictures, trying to figure it out. I'm pretty sure he's the cinematographer. Doesn't say anything when he finally makes it. Doesn't say anything to his plastic baby, just falls asleep.

Griffin: Mm-hm!

Justin: And he's asleep [through laughter] on the couch—

Griffin: Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

Justin: He stumbles in with suitcases, lays `em down, lays on the couch, goes to sleep for the rest of the film, does awesome.

Griffin: Mm!

Travis: Can I ask you guys something that's really twisted my noodle?

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: And it's something that I've never thought about before, but only now this—this movie is making me question. Do volunteer firefighters get paid?

Griffin: I think they're just in—I think they're just in it for the love of the game. Travis, they just hate fire so much. They hate fire more than anything else.

Travis: Okay... It just seems like a really hard job... to do...

Griffin: For sure!

Travis: ... for no moneys.

Griffin: So's fighting the Joker, but you don't hear Batman complain.

Travis: That's true.

Griffin: He does that for free.

Travis: Batman doesn't get paid?!

Griffin: We're not cutting Batman a check, no.

Travis: Somebody should!

Griffin: You think Commissioner Gordon's got him on the payroll? That would sort of go against the whole thing, huh?

Travis: No, I just assumed it was the mayor!

Griffin: He—he gets advertisements. That's why he has, like, you know...

Travis: Oh, endorsements?

Griffin: Yeah, he's got—on his cape, he's got, like, the thing for Razer keyboards, and uh...

Justin: [snorts]

Griffin: And a lot of gaming chairs.

Travis: Lot of gamer fuel.

Griffin: Lot of gamer fuel. Um, do we wanna try and sneak in a quick question before the break, or... ?

Justin: Just one quee—quick—yeah.

Travis: One Queecueg.

Justin: "I bought my little brother his favorite candy online as a stocking stuffer, but I accidentally made it a bulk order. I now have enough boxes of Swedish Fish to open my own old-timey candy shop, and I can't decide what's the best way to give him his candy."

Travis: If there was a candy shop in my town that only sold Swedish Fish, I'd—I'd be so 'gized about that.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. They have lots of different colors and shapes and sizes now. Anyway, "Should I stuff his stocking to the brim? Wrap them all up in a

giant box? Trim the tree with them? Any ideas are appreciated. Happy Candlesnights!" Candy Conundrum in California.

And you know what—can I just say? What a lovely problem to have.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Too many Swedish Fish.

Travis: Hm!

Oh, now I'm gonna need to google "shelf life of Swedish Fish."

Griffin: Oh, forever. There's—there's—

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, they keep, man. That's astronaut food.

Justin: And I think they get better, honestly.

Griffin: Oh, sure.

Justin: Like, less fresh.

Griffin: When they get that crust on 'em—like, you gotta kind of...

Justin: Little bit of chitin.

Griffin: Yeah, I like that. I like that. Um...

Travis: They do not spoil easily, yeah. Absolutely! Okay.

Griffin: The problem is, box candy... candy in boxes is not great stocking stuffer material.

Travis: Mm...

Justin: Mm-hm.

Griffin: You know what I mean? `Cause it's not an efficient use of stocking space. You gotta have a candy that can get down in the toes, fam. So you're gon—

Travis: Yeah, that's why the chocolate orange is such a classic.

Griffin: Perfect! Perfect!

Justin: Perfect.

Griffin: By the way, weirdly sold out everywhere.

Travis: Chocolate orange?

Griffin: Cannot find a chocolate—cannot get a b—I think I'm—folks, I may have to go to Cracker Barrel. And I—and I don't want to! I—I made a promise, and I keep my promises. But Swedish Fish, you're gonna have to grip it, rip it, and tip it into the stocking, so that it's... just loose fishies in there.

Travis: Here's—here's what you could do. I think this would be fun. And this is a legit suggestion – I am gonna preface that, `cause sometimes it's hard to tell – every day, uh, slap a stamp and an address on one of those boxes, drop it in the mail. And eventually, what will happen is, every day, your brother will receive one box of Swedish Fish in the mail.

Griffin: Oh, that's so good. That's so good. Better yet—

Justin: That's a really good suggestion.

Griffin: When you're putting in the address, put my—put mine in, maybe, sometimes!

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: Oh, that's fun!

Griffin: Here's an idea! Maybe your brother, you start doing this, and then he's tir—starts not thanking you, or stops thanking you, as a normal person would say it, and when he gets sort of like that, to teach him a lesson, send it to me. 'Cause I will enjoy it quite a bit. I won't thank you like your brother does, but I will still eat it, and you'll know that.

Justin: The problem with Travis' idea is...

Travis: Oh! Oh, please.

Justin: It's a small one, but is that... let's say 12 packages, right? That's probably what we're talking about here. I'm looking at the bulk assortments on Amazon; it looks like 12 packages.

So you get 12, he gets a—d—fresh, delicious pack [laughs] of uh, Swedish Fish maybe once per week. And then week 13, his mouth starts watering.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: “[licks lips] Cherry!”

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [licks lips] “Yellow!” And then he opens it, and the bag's not there. And then he has to start wondering, like, “What did I... ”

Griffin: What did I do wrong.

Justin: “... *do*? Why did—I've been enjoying every delicious fishy—”

Griffin: “I was a good boy this week. I want my candy.”

Justin: [laughs] “I shared 'em.”

Travis: I think that's worst—that's best-case scenario, Justin, 'cause worst case scenario is then he gets that Swedish Fish hunger.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And he's out there, you know, like, ripping up mailboxes, trying to find where his Swedish Fish went, and it just becomes a real mess. You gotta tranq him, you know? Until—until the madness passes.

Justin: [laughs]

Or you get some more, I guess.

Travis: Oh, yeah. Or you can just, I guess, keep buying 'em.

Griffin: I guess you could just some more.

Justin: I just feel like if you do this for 12 weeks, then you have to do it for at least, like, the rest of the year. Or it's like, six—it's like when you have to pick the duration of a gift subscription. Which is always the worst. It's like, "I thought you might want this for three months, and then not want it again."

Travis: Yup!

Justin: "So that's what I went with."

Griffin: I might suggest though, again, just to circle back to sending me some of your great candy, that I think eating 12 boxes of Swedish Fish would make your brother pretty sick, even if spaced out over a long period of time. You're gonna gum up—you're gonna gum up the works so hard in there that he will become gum—more gummy than man, at that point.

Travis: Then alternate between Swedish Fish and Metamucil.

Griffin: Okay! Just to clear out—just to make room for more Swedish Fish.

Travis: Just to keep—just to keep the aisles clear, you know?

Griffin: Okay. Maybe you dust the Swedish Fish, like, with Metamucil, like it's uh, the—the acid powder that they put on Sour Patch Kids.

Travis: There you go.

Griffin: That's fun.

Travis: Ooh, what do Swedish Fish like to swim in? Oh, that's a big drink of Metamucil, my friend.

Griffin: Yeah! And it'll treat your body like one of those tubes that they blast the salmon out of.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: I have always—I have very little interest in marine life. I've *always* wanted to blast one of those salmon cannons.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: You seen those? It's like, "Oh, we'll help you get up this waterfall, salmons. Here's your bl—here's your salmon blaster." And it's like, well, first of all, that's cheating. Um, but also it looks like a lot of fun, and I would love to just, like, really launch these boys.

Travis: Now I—now I just want to go down a deep rabbit hole of YouTube watching videos of that, Griffin, so—

Griffin: Of salmon blasters? Yeah, let's do that—

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Let's do that—we'll do that together while Justin does the ads by himself.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Oh. Fantastic. Well, let's go to the Money Zone.

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

Griffin: I googled "salmon blasters..."

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: That's not anything...

Justin: Uh—

Travis: It does kind of sound like a new, uh, like, appetizer at TGI Fridays.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: There's no—listen. This is perfect. If you are planning on mailing any of your siblings uh, a piecemeal bulk order of Swedish Fish, there is only one place that is going to let you do that from the comfort of your own home, and that's stamps.com. Last-minute holiday gifts, or holiday gifts that will go throughout January and February and some of March that are fish shaped and cherry-flavored? Well, uh, the post office is—is a little busy. And you know, with the ongoing unpleasantness, maybe not the best place to go hang out.

But you can do all the post office stuff from your house! Stamps.com brings the services of the US Postal Service and UPS right to your computer, wherever you are. You can send out uh, invoices to big warehouses sending out lots of packages every day, or maybe smaller operations that's more focused on, uh, transporting Swedish Fish around this great country.

Stamps.com can handle it all with ease, and with stamps.com, you get five cents off every first-class stamp. You can't beat that! They got deals on, uh, printing mail and UPS shipping rates as well.

Skip the post office, and go to stamps.com instead! There's no risk, and with our promo code, "my brother," you get a special offer that includes a four-week trial, plus free postage and a digital scale.

Travis: [gasps]

Justin: There's no long-term commitments or contracts. Just go to stamps.com, click on the microphone at the top of the homepage, and type in, "my brother." That's stamps.com, promo code "my brother." Stamps.com, never go to the post office again.

Griffin: We'll know! We'll know if you do!

Justin: We'll know! They track your phone. [laughs]

Travis: Uh, to celebrate the holidays, you guys, I've a new invention.

Griffin: 'Kay.

Justin: What's that?

Travis: I call it Red Apron.

Griffin: Alright...

Travis: And with Red Apron, you get a—it's kind of like a loose, really thin-material plastic bag, full of just a random assortment of ingredients that don't really go together.

Um, no clear instruction—there's like, snippets of instructions that I've included in there—and—oh, and I should be clear: all the food is room-temperature or worse.

Griffin: Okay... or worse... ?

Travis: Uh, and you get that at random times. There's really no way to predict when it will come, what will be in it.

Griffin: Sometimes, you'll get two boxes on the same day, and then not get another box for the next month and a half.

Travis: Right. But you'll still get charged, let's be clear.

Griffin: Absolutely.

Travis: You'll still get charged at regular intervals. Um, and I just of—my—if, you know, it's a dinner innovation – or as like to call it, a dinnovation. What do you think?

Griffin: I'm sorry, y'all. I've just—I've been watching this salmon cannon video for the last, like, four minutes. And it's entrancing. Can you imagine if a big, giant man...

Justin: [sighs]

Griffin: ... picked up your body and shoved it into a white tube, and then all of a sudden you were in Illinois, and you were like, "Thanks, giant—giant, human-like being. I guess."

Travis: Well, then let's put it this way. Blue Apron is like a salmon cannon...

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: For your ingredients to your door.

Griffin: Exactly.

Justin: Including, but not limited to...

Griffin: Salmon.

Justin: Salmon.

Griffin: Right—yeah.

Justin: You blasted a bunch of salmon out a cannon, maybe you want a little caper sauce with those.

Travis: Yup.

Justin: And a little bit of jasmine rice.

Griffin: Yep. It's a series of uh—series of uh, salmon tubes that run all over this beautiful country of ours, and you get it, and you make a tasty, home-cooked meal, and they're really good. And they come with super clear recipes that are easy to follow, and uh... yeah.

They also have meal prep options now, which allows you to cook one time and get eight servings of food. Uh, that can all be prepared in under two hours using one streamlined set of, uh, steps. That sounds pretty—pretty convenient, if you ask me.

Don't miss out on all that Blue Apron has to offer this season. See what's on this week's menu, and get 30 dollars off across your first two deliveries when you visit blueapron.com/mybrother. That's blueapron.com/mybrother.

Travis: Okay, here's my new invention—

Justin: Blue Apron: never go to the post office again.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Here's my new invention. It's a salmon cannon.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That, as the salmon passes through the cannon, it gets slowly roasted until it arrives at your door, fully cooked and seasoned.

Griffin: Yeah...

Justin: And then it lands right in your ears.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And you're like, "I cannot hear my music with these."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And someone's like, "Why are you putting cooked salmon in there? You should be using Raycon!"

Travis: Okay. I mean, I gue—that's not really great for my pitch for *Shark Tank*, Justin, but I guess...

Justin: No.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Well, Raycon, uh... you—if you want to get a gift – and for me, it's hard to shop for—there's one that so many people would love to have and use, and they're, uh, wireless earbuds! And Raycon makes a great pair. I've got a pair that I use; they are my, like, around the house. The kids are maybe still asleep, I don't— want to pop in a podcast or music—

Travis: Or the kids will talk about your jumble.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Okay. They fit my wife's weird, shameful ears.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Which is, uh, a real feather in their proverbial cap. They're great earbuds! And you're not gonna, uh... it's comparable quality to what you get from the other *premium brands*, but Raycons start at half the price, so that makes them a great gift, in my book. Um, you can use them for calls, music, for work, for play, home, or on-the-go! It's a gift that keeps on giving.

Griffin, let's say I wanted to get a pair. How would I do it?

Griffin: Well, you can get a pair, and you can also get 'em for 15 percent off if you go to—

Justin: What!?

Travis: Griffin knows a guy.

Griffin: Yeah. I know Ray. And so go to buyraycon.com/mybrother, and you're going to get 15 percent off your Raycon order. That's buyraycon.com/mybrother. Just one more time, for good measure: buyraycon.com/mybrother.

Travis: And while you're there, if you need tires or a stereo, or like, I don't know, a new jacket, you let Ray know...

Griffin: Just ask Ray.

Travis: Just ask Ray; he'll take care of you.

Griffin: But whatever you do, [through gritted teeth] do *not* go to the post office.

Travis: [gritting teeth] Don't go to the post office! Ray will know!

[upbeat piano plays in background]

Jo: Hi! I'm Jo Firestone.

Manolo: And I'm Manolo Moreno.

Jo: And we host *Dr. Gameshow*, a podcast where listeners submit games, and we play them regardless of quality with a dozen listeners from around the world.

Manolo: We've had folks call in from as far as Sweden, South Africa, and the Philippines.

Jo: Here's an example. This is a game we called Zoo-Ey Deschanel, where you turn a celebrity's name into an animal pun. You have an example, Manolo?

Manolo: Brad Gorilla Pitt.

Jo: Oh, that's a pun on gorilla pits?

Manolo: Yup.

Jo: I don't know if that's—

Manolo: That's Brad Pitt.

Jo: Oh, okay!

Manolo: That's a high-quality game that you should expect.

Jo: Yep! *Dr. Gameshow* has new episodes every other Wednesday on Maximum Fun.

Manolo: Check us out, please!

[music and advertisement end]

Griffin: Uh, how about a Yahoo?

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Yeah, I'd love that.

Griffin: Okay. Are you gonna interrupt me with a bit?

Justin: Nope.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Not on this most sacred event.

Griffin: Sure. I'm just saying, if you were sucked up into a human-size salmon cannon, wouldn't you just be like, "Oh, I'm dead."

Justin: You're interrupting your own bit. [laughs]

Griffin: Like, before you even got to the other end, you'd be like—

Justin: Your own interruption.

Griffin: Okay. Uh—

Travis: But that assumes that the salmon is aware of what's happening, Griffin.

Griffin: Absolutely they are not. Absolutely they are not. Brian has sent this one in. Thank you, Brian. It's from Yahoo Answers User Daddy Bear 1964... who asks, "How do you start a new city or town in Texas?"

Travis: Hmm!

Griffin: "Would like the area where I live become a city."

Justin: Mm.

Griffin: "What do cities have?"

Travis: I have wondered about this... for a good, long time.

Griffin: Yeah. Gotta—

Travis: 'Cause there used to be a time in this great land of ours where you just walk into a big, empty space, and you're like, "Alright. This is Traviston now."

Griffin: "This looks like a city."

Justin: Yup.

Griffin: Um—

Justin: Collis P. Huntington did it, thank God. Walked into... I don't know, Holderby's Landing.

Travis: Correct.

Justin: It's like, "Hey, this place sucks. I wanna build a train right through the middle of this pit, and you're all gonna love me for it, and I'm gonna call it Huntington, after me."

Griffin: Um, cities have... uh, mayor. City hall—

Justin: Mayor. That's you.

Griffin: That's—

Justin: I think if you start the town, you gotta be the first mayor.

Griffin: That's it. Hey, everybody, welcome to Coolville! Order number one, I'm the mayor. Order number two... we gotta get a Chili's up in here!

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Does anyone know how to start a Chili's franchise, 'cause that's gonna put Cooltown on the map! Did I say Cooltown or Coolville? I forgot.

Justin: How long—you have to have an area that is separate from other town, right?

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: Town won't—real city will not take kindly to you sort of annexing...

Griffin: Making a middle city in the c—

Travis: You know what I did?

Griffin: What?

Travis: Uh, and it's been long enough now that I think I can reveal this. I started my own city here in the middle of Cincinnati. But what I did, was my city was also called Cincinnati, but with one extra N in there, and I won't tell you where.

Griffin: Oh, no!

Travis: So, like, nobody knows yet.

Justin: Nice.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And I've been slowly pushing the fence... one inch every year.

Griffin: Yeah. And Travis also has his own, uh, like pirate bootleg version of *Babes in Toyland*, where they sing...

Travis: Correct.

Griffin: “[singing] I come from C-I-N-C-I-N-N-N-N-N-N-N-N-N-N-A-T-I, Cincinnati!”

Travis: And I've got my own four chili here, and what's—what do I put in it? Well, the extra ingredient is salt, my friends.

Griffin: Only beans! This is Travis' 50-bean chili.

Travis: It's loose, dry beans!

Griffin: Um—

Travis: I call it the chili that crunches!

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: It's Travis' crunchy garbanzo surprise! Welcome to Cincinnnnati.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: That's not where the N is, Griffin. You'll never guess.

Justin: You won't—and you wouldn't tell if you got it right.

Travis: No, I wouldn't tell you, 'cause that's how they get you.

Justin: If my—if my town had an army, I feel like that would help me to be respected by—by nearby towns.

Travis: Absolutely.

Justin: And maybe wouldn't rec—recognize—

Griffin: Now, Justin's making a...

Justin: —my sovereignty.

Griffin: Justin's making a joke point that many a militia has actually made this terrible world of ours, that...

Justin: Alright. Now that I backed into it myself, I can see the logic. I'm sorry I've been so hard on militias.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Thank you for defending us from the government. You're all doing a great job.

Griffin: A cool, cool time.

Travis: Now, let me say this. Speaking of government, I think if your city immediately starts paying taxes to the government, the federal government

probably isn't gonna do anything to stop—the city that you are annexing from is gonna be like, “Hey, government, do something!”

And they're like, “Mm, we recognize it. They're giving us money, and you're giving us money. It's win-win.

Griffin: It's double money. That's a good point, Trav. How big's a city gotta be? Big enough for a Chili's and a town hall. And...

Travis: You start with a hamlet. You gotta start with a hamlet...

Griffin: Okay, then a hall—

Travis: And then your township.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Then you're a town, and then you're a town burgh, and then you're a burgh city, and then... you're a citiot.

Griffin: Then you're metrop—metro—metropolis, and then you're a super metropolis.

Travis: Right.

Griffin: And then...

Travis: Then, uh...

Griffin: It's a kingdom. I think kingdom comes after that.

Travis: Yep. That's right.

Griffin: How are we gonna get statehood, though, for my cool city that's just a town hall and Chili's? So I—we can get two senators there.

Travis: Hmm. This is a good question. I really—

Griffin: I think—

Travis: First, you need a professional sports team.

Griffin: Everybody's always fighting about the senate, and we gotta take it, and we absolutely do need to take it, but gosh, that would be easier if Chili's Town could just put up two more. And let's say Chili's Town is also the most progressive city on the map! San Francisco, San Francisco seems like a very conservative city compared to Chili's Town.

Travis: Could you get your city sponsored by Chili's...

Griffin: Mm.

Travis: ... and have them... get you statehood?

Griffin: I bet someone at Chili's knows a guy.

Travis: I'm just saying, everyone eats at Chili's, probably including the Supreme Court Justices.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: You could probably make this happen.

Griffin: Yeah. It's like how, uh, NBA players eat at Cheesecake Factory so much when they're on the load, 'cause they just know the Cheesecake Factory's gonna—this is not a joke. Whenever—it's, like, a thing. NBA players just like, when they're going to a city, and they don't know what the food's like at that city, they're like, "I know what Cheesecake Factory has."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "And I [crosstalk]—"

Travis: Justin, you're laughing, but that's also what we do! [laughs]

Justin: Yeah, we have st—I'm laughing out of familiarity, because we have stumbled into this exact practice. When we're traveling, I know they're gonna have something that everyone will eat. 'Cause it's Cheesecake Factory.

Travis: We have five children. Six adults.

Justin: Yeah, throw cheesecake in there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You ready for another question, you think?

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: Okay. [makes high-pitched beeping noises]

Travis: Okay!

Griffin: Oh, wow, what a surprise!

Justin: I interrupted myself, though. It's a present to you, a holiday present.

Griffin: Thank you.

Justin: Um, welcome to Haunted Doll watch. It is a uh, dip into the paranormal, where we're going to talk about the... uh, hottest, sexiest...

Griffin: [snorts]

Justin: ... paranormal items.

Travis: Is it, now? Hold on.

Griffin: Probably not that.

Justin: On eBay. Now, this week is very special – and of course it’s special, because this is Candlesnights, so... that’s—

Travis: Ooh, do we have a holiday spirit?

Justin: We do, Travis. We do have a holiday spirit. But you know what we don’t have for this one?

Travis: What?

Justin: A doll.

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: Okay...

Justin: So that begs the question. What’s the question?

Travis: What’s the haunted thing?

Griffin: The it—what is it? What are you talking about?

Justin: This is listed as “Haunted, not doll. Christmas elf spirit will be sent to you.”

Griffin: [exhales, laughs quietly]

Justin: “New. Never before seen.” That part... I bet, is very accurate.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Um, so... ugh. It’s a spirit...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: ... of a Christmas elf...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: They're gonna send it to you.

Travis: Just—wait, sorry. Just a loose—loose, jingling-around-in-that-box spirit?

Justin: "Christmas elf special mystery spirit will be sent to you."

Griffin: Mystery spirit. So it's like a Slime Bag.

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: It's like, you have to chase elf.

Justin: Uh, ghosts actually hate it when you call them Slime Bags, and...

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: ... so, uh—

Travis: "We're not all Slimers, okay?"

Justin: Yeah. "New, never before seen—" very true, "—this mystery spirit will travel on his or her own—"

Travis: Or "their." Come on!

Griffin: Come on.

Justin: "Or their pa—once you submit payment."

Travis: Wow!

Justin: "About this mys—about this mystery's spirit: these mystery spirits come from many creatures. Of course, the one we're talking about today is

the ghost of a Christmas elf, I guess, but we sell spirits from ancient unicorns...”

Travis: Oh!

Justin: “... single-headed dragons...”

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: “... double-headed dragons.”

Travis: Oh.

Justin: “Wolves, centaurs, mermaids.”

Travis: Wow, way to just drop “wolves” in the middle those other—

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Like, wolves are like, “Uh, hey. Hey, Debbie? You know I’m real, right?”

Justin: “Mermaids, mermen, chickens, giant moths—”

Travis: [laughs loudly] Chickens!

Justin: Sorry, back up? Sorry, did you say “chickens”?

Travis: [crying laughter]

Griffin: Was that really in there?

Justin: Yeah, bud. “Mermen, chickens, giant moths, orcs, phoenixes, gryphons.” Oh, no!

Griffin: No!

Justin: [laughs] "Fauns, naiads, dryads, cyclopes... and more!"

Travis: Oh, boy. I'll take, uh, one wolf and eight chickens, plea—or is this a grab bag thing?

Justin: They can't put them both in the same b—[wheezes]

Travis: Oh, God, no. But I'd also take a spirit of a bag of grain, please.

Griffin: Yes, and it's up to you.

Travis: Oh, how do I get how do I get it across the river? Ugh.

Justin: "Upon winning this auction, we will send you a message when mystery spirit will come to you after you submit your payment." They can't be more clear about that.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Justin: "Different kinds of spirits travel at different times of days."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: "But each mystery spirit arrives within 24 hours. These mystery spirits travel very quickly, since they are only in spirit now... "

Travis: Ah.

Justin: "... and are not weighted down by their bodies." [snorts] They do not need to travel in a box!

Travis: Thank God!

Justin: "Since they are in spirit form, they travel you to in spirit on their own."

Griffin: [laughing quietly]

Travis: Hey, um, seller? I recognize that they don't *need* to travel in a box, but could they just, so I feel like...

Griffin: Could they just.

Justin: What will the kids open?

Travis: Just so something is—and maybe, also, you could put a little note in there that says, "Definitely a spirit in here." Something.

Griffin: Just put, like, some smoke in a box – I don't know if it'll keep, but just something. I need something to come out of a box, or else my kids are gonna be pretty ticked off.

Justin: "Warning: these mystery spirits have different personalities."

Travis: Mm.

Justin: "We cannot guarantee one personality over another one; however, we will let you know what kind of personality the mystery spirit you buy has, and any other information that would be helpful to you."

Travis: Wait, what? We can't—wait. You're gonna buy one...

Justin: They can't guarantee a personality, but after they've shipped it, they'll be like, "This is a mean one." [laughs]

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: Hang on for the ride of your life.

Griffin: It's a mean minotaur. Uh, so, uh-oh.

Travis: Hey, can I um, just real quick—I just wanna put up some—uh, just a curtain here real quick, and say, this is all made up. Why don't you guarantee the spirit? Why don't you say, like, "They're gonna be super nice"?

Griffin: I'll tell you exactly why, Travis. You—pretend that you are this mystical seller, and I am the recipient. "Hey, I would—I want a triple-headed dragon. Oh, you don't have those? Then I guess give me two-headed dragon and one-headed dragon at the same time, please."

Travis: "You got it."

Griffin: "When will they be here?"

Travis: "They'll be here within 24 mystical hours."

Griffin: Okay. 25 hours later, I'm partying with my ghost dragons, and I call you up. "Hey, I didn't get `em."

Travis: "Uh, are you sure? `Cause I hear—"

Griffin: "I didn't get—I want my money back. I didn't get `em."

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: "I hear a party going on in the background, and I know that these were radical dudes."

Griffin: "It's my son's birthday. It's my son's birthday, and we got an entertainment dragon."

Travis: "But I hear him saying... "

Griffin: "That's not the dragon [crosstalk]."

Travis: "... I'm partying with a two-headed dragon and a one-headed dragon."

Griffin: "You can send me three more dragon heads arranged on as many bodies as you want, but it—or my money back."

Travis: "I'll just keep sending you dragons."

Griffin: "Alright." 25 hours later again, "Hey, where are those dragons?"

Travis: "I sent the drago—you didn't get `em?"

Griffin: "No, but just send me a few centaurs, I guess."

Travis: "Oh, I'm fresh out."

Griffin: Pretty sure I got my own fantasy ghost menagerie.

Travis: "Mm."

Justin: Uh, "How will you know mystery spirit has started preparing to travel to you when—what—when we submit—" I'll just read it exactly word-for-word.

Griffin: Please.

Justin: "You will know your mystery spirit has started preparing to travel to you when we send you a message via the eBay messaging system. Your mystery spirit will arrive promptly, within the next 24 hours."

Travis: That is not "prompt," by the way.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: That flies in the face of the definition of prompt.

Justin: Uh, "Each mystery spirit comes with one or more feelings that come with—"

Griffin: [sputters]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Oh, I can relate to that. Ah, 2020, you are...

Travis: "How are you, man?"

"Happy, still!"

Justin: Yeah. [laughs] "You will know that your mystery spirit has arrived when you sense the feeling that is included in the message that we send you. This feeling may start small and be hard to identify at first..."

Travis: [growing laughter]

Justin: "... but it will set in soon. This is because some—'cause some mystery spirits take longer than, uh, other to completely move in, and they like to make sure they are welcome. So make your special mystery spirit feel at home! And they will get more comfortable around you, and your feeling of will increase before long. Finally—" this is fascinating to learn, and I really appreciate them sharing this last tidbit—"—most mystery spirits like to have the company of other mystery spirits, too."

Travis: Huh!

Griffin: Oh... [singing] Gotta catch 'em all!

Justin: "So feel free to come back... "

Griffin: Gotta catch 'em all!

Justin: "... for more mystery spirits, if you enjoy what you receive."

Travis: Now, I have been dying to know, Justin, how much—

Justin: Ask me anything.

Travis: How much...

Justin: Okay. Okay, well. God, so much of this is not gonna seem real to you. Uh, well, sir, it's \$49.99, which...

Travis: Whoo!

Griffin: Alright, alright! Alright.

Justin: But if you buy two, it's \$49.49 each. [wheezing laughter]

Travis: Oh, Boise.

Griffin: That's a—that's awesome.

Justin: That's a discount. You buy three? Well, friend, you're getting them for \$48.49 apiece!

Travis: Wow!

Justin: That's big savings, baby!

Griffin: Just a real quick sidebar: do you think, in the Pokémon universe, there's shady individuals are like, "Hey, kid, you wanna buy a Gastly? It's a... yeah, that'll be 20 dollars."

"Okay, where is it?"

"It's right here, in my hands. Can't see it?"

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "Yeah. It's a dead—it's a dead person."

Justin: There's two more things I wanted to share. First is that this is sold by a seller named, uh, OmarD0, and they uh, have gotten a few complaints because they sell, um, uh, mystery boxes, and they don't tell you what's in 'em. And then people are leaving reviews that say it's a rip-off.

Travis: Huh!

Justin: And they say, "Well, I don't know. It's a myster—it specifically says... "

Griffin: "You solved it, though!"

Justin: "The list—the listing specifically says they are worth more or less than you pay."

Travis: [sputters]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: I didn't know you could just do that!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Don't buy this. A flashlight for 25 dollars is the only thing I got. Rip-off."

And it says—the response from OmarD0 says, "You paid \$24.99 for electronics. Please tell me how a 25 dollar flashlight is a rip-off."

Griffin: Yeah, it makes light.

Justin: Got 'em.

Travis: That's a miracle—you travel back in time, you pull out that flashlight, you're a king!

Griffin: Yeah. You're in charge.

Justin: Um, the last thing I wanted to tell you things about this Christmas elf... They, um—[clears throat] this Christmas elf spirit, sorry. Uh, they can't guarantee delivery before Christmas. [laughs]

Travis: Huh!

Griffin: [bursts into laughter]

Justin: 28th is the—December 28th is what we're looking at.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: [laughs] Excellent. We know it might make it a bit more appealing if you could get your Christmas elf before Christmas, sure, that's the ideal, but they cannot... guarantee... Christmas arrival of this spirit, December 28th is the best they can do. Now, does that make sense? Judging from what I know about these mystery spirits, I'm not sure I'd have the sort of emotional bandwidth to be able to focus on them in the way that they need, uh, in the run up to—

Griffin: Well, and also they're booked up right now, trying to convince old jerks—old, rich jerks to be nicer.

Justin: Mmhm.

Griffin: And as you might know, that isn't an easy thing to do. So maybe we can cut them a little bit of slack.

Travis: Well, and I—

Justin: And maybe after Christmas, Santa kills a bunch of—cuts down food costs.

Travis: There it is. Well, that's it. In order for a new elf to be born...

Griffin: Mm.

Travis: It has to rest in a pool of blood from an old Christmas elf. They don't talk about this, but every year, the workforce has replenished or else... We'd run out of magical elf spirits pretty quickly.

Griffin: Pretty fast, yeah. You wanna do one more question?

Justin: I'd love that. "My girlfriend and I are celebrating our first holiday season living together, and have loved decorating and getting into the holiday spirit. But there's one very obvious hole in our decorations. What should we put on the top of our Christmas tree? Should we stick with the

classics? Should it reflect 2020? Or should we be thinking outside the box?" And that's from Hatless Tree from Down in D.C.

What do you guys put at the top of your trees?

Griffin: [groaning] I mean, a bow. A bow. It's so easy—you don't have to balance a big, heavy—we used to put a big, heavy metal star. What was I thinking? Dangerous, is what that is. A bow? Blech. You just kind of throw it up there. Whatever.

It's—it's at a crooked angle. It's a bow. It's a bow.

Travis: I like to—I put a picture of myself up there.

Justin: Of course.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But it's me—it's very tastefully done. It's me as an angel, fully nude.

Justin: Uh, every year, we, for the past 10 years—

Travis: Yeah, Justin, I know you're wondering. My jumble is out.

Griffin: [laughing quietly]

Justin: [laughs] Uh, every year for the past 10 years, we put a—our little Yoda up there. And we've had this Yoda tree topper for 10 years. You plug him in, his little lightsaber lights up; it's fantastic. And then I see on Twitter trending topic yesterday, "Millennials are going wild about putting Baby Yoda at the top of their tree." And it has infuriated me. 'Cause I got here first.

Griffin: Well, and also—

Travis: They're all putting Go-Gurt up there, and it makes you look like a real boob.

Griffin: [laughs] They're putting tiktok up there. It should make you angry, Justin, because now you got a old... busted... ugly, dirty Adult Yoda up there.

Travis: Yep!

Griffin: Gross! I wanna—

Justin: [laughs] He's so gross.

Griffin: We've been watching some *Star Wars* stuff here at the house, and whenever I see old adult Yoda, it makes me want to freaking barf.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That dude makes me sick, because I know—

Travis: He looks like a green prune!

Griffin: Yeah. And know I know what he *could* look like, which is the baby 'Yoba', and it does—it's not even close, and it makes me sick. So I don't wanna—I don't wanna come to your hou—I'm not going to be able to anyway, but even if I could, I wouldn't, 'cause of how gross your Old Yoda is.

Travis: You know what'd be cool up there? Go the next step: right, you got Old Yoda, and then you got Baby Yoda. Put some, uh... Yoda sperm up there.

Griffin: Alright! So that's it!

Travis: It would just—and—and here's the weird thing that we don't know about the—the—well, I do, and I'm gonna tell you – about the Yoda species. It's just one big sperm. Not a bunch of little ones; just one big sperm.

Griffin: Alright!

Travis: And they—hey, can I tell you? It's adorable!

Justin: [Yoda impression] One shot, I will have. You better start swimming.

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: Here comes my blast! No, no, no, don't move! I only have one blast!

Griffin: [laughs] Uh, y—

Justin: We're getting dangerously close in fringing on *Magic Tavern* territory...

Griffin: Yeah.

What would be sick is a full-sized basketball hoop. And then you could just do some—

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin: Do some powerful dunks, and drain some threes!

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: What about a live owl?

Griffin: That's pretty good.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: But can it be perched on the basketball hoop, just blocking shots?

Travis: [laughs] "Don't bring that weak stuff here! Hoo, hoo!"

Griffin: Dikembe Mutombowl.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Another tree?

Travis: Huh!

Griffin: Hmm.

Travis: What about, uh—and this isn't weird, it's just funny. A cowboy hat. And then on the bottom, what's that? Spurs.

Griffin: That's cool. That is funny. I'm glad you told me that was gonna be funny before you said it, or else I wouldn't have—

Travis: Well, 'cause I [crosstalk]—

Griffin: Or else I—honestly, Trav...

Travis: What?

Griffin: If you hadn't said it, I wouldn't have known.

Travis: Huh. Well, it's just that sometimes, you know, things just get sillier and sillier on this show, and I wanted to bring it back in to, like...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Possible, actual.

Griffin: And sure, we escalated—we deescalated from Yoda sperm back to when the—

Justin: Yeah. That's was the obvious off-ramp.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Um, thank you so much for listening. Uh, very quick, just to reiterate, our... Phew. Our fundraiser special is still available until January 4th. It's bit.ly/candlenights2020.

Wonderful! is doing a live fundraiser for the Austin Bat Cave.

Griffin: Which is about books, and not bats!

Justin: Tickets are five bucks, it's December 29th at 9:00 PM. More info and tickets available at bit.ly/wonderfulabc. We've got a, uh, book launch event for our book, *Everybody Has a Podcast (Except You)*. January 26, 9:00 PM, it's free.

We've partnered with a bunch of independent book sellers; if you preorder from them, then you get an exclusively-designed book plate signed by one of us with your copy while supplies last. Go to bit.ly/mcelroypodcastbookevent for bookstore links and more event info. Travis, take over, I can't.

Travis: You got it. Uh, we got lots of cool merch over at mcelroymerch.com, including a Festo pin of the month from *The Adventure Zone: Graduation* that benefits the Transgender Law Center as well as a Thunderman LLC patch.

Uh, Candlenights merch, which you need to get on now, and proceeds for those items go to Harmony House for all sales through January 1st. Once again, mcelroymerch.com. You can preorder *The Adventure Zone* graphic novel book 4 *Crystal Kingdom* over at theadventurezonecomic.com.

Also, *The Sawbones Book* is out in paperback on December 29th. It's new and revised for uh, 2020, and that's at bit.ly/sawbonespaperbook—paperback. Uh, and MBMBMBMBMBMBM Angels is back. Go to mbmbamangels.com to claim a stocking!

Justin: I wanna give a quick plug for that. That's a program that has been going for a long time, and we sort of got the ball rolling, but we've had a lot of amazing fans pick it up since then. Uh, every year, people in our area,

um, have this list called the “empty stockings” that is published in the newspaper, uh, and it’s for people who aren’t going to have a Christmas, um, uh, without some help.

And every year, our uh, listeners take that list, and they demolish it. They burn it down with generosity.

Travis: Yeah, in a good way.

Justin: In a good way. Um, and if you can join in with them, t—it’s not a big push this year, because honestly it’s been a hard year for people, and it seems weird to—to force it really hard, but if you can... it looks like they’re—judging by the progress bar, it looks like they’re about 75 percent of the way there, so Christmas is coming soon. Please, please, please. Go to mbmbamangels.com.

You can just donate money, if you don’t feel like calling. But there’s like, specific stockings. You can claim one and... and help people out, and there’s a lot of uh... really deserving folks in there, so please go help out.

Griffin: Yeah. Uh, thanks to John Roderick and The Long Winters, for the use of our theme song, “(It’s a) Departure” off the album *Putting the Days to Bed*. It’s getting me through this long winter, if you know what I’m saying. And thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the Network. Go to maximumfun.org, check out all the great shows there! You got shows like *Triple Click*, they got shows like *Mission to Zyxx*. They’ve got all kinds of fun stuff, all at uh, maximumfun.org.

Do you want the final?

Justin: Yes, please.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: This one’s actually holiday themed. I know the other Yahoo wasn’t, but this one is. It was sent in by Graham Roebuck. Thank you, Graham. It’s from Yahoo Answers User Brian, who asks, “Is it weird to find the *Monty Python* foot crushing thing sexy?”

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

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

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