

MBMBaM 543: Charles Equality Cheese

January 12, 2020

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

[theme song plays, to the tune of *Rugrats*:

Griffin: [singing] Here come the McElroys! We got jokes and bits. We're gonna give advice, and do funny skits. Laughter, it is in store. Come inside, and see. It's time to start, it's *My Brother, My Brother and Me*.]

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: Woof, woof, dog pound! I'm your mangiest brother, Travis McElroy.

Griffin: Uh, who's got a bone? I'm Griffin McElroy. I—I—I'm s—I apologize, I did not commit to the bit.

Travis: I've been practicing mine all week.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: All week. [crosstalk]—

Griffin: So—sorry.

Travis: [sighs] I've been working with Bruce Vilanch to script mine, Griffin.

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: I can't—I put the time in, I paid premium top dollar.

Griffin: For that Bruce Vilanch educational cameo.

Justin: [imitates rock guitar] [laughs]

Griffin: Wow!

Travis: Oh!

Justin: [imitates rock guitar]

Griffin: Alright.

Travis: Okay...

Justin: [imitates rock guitar] I wanna munch!

Griffin: Squad!

Travis: Squad?

Justin: [singing] For America, bum-ba...

Travis: Oh.

Justin: I want to munch for America. Bum-bum-bum-bum-ba—[spoken] hello, welcome to Munch Squad. It's a podcast within a podcast profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating!

Travis: Justin, is this—sorry to interrupt, just to be a bit of a pedant—it is kind of a podcast *before* a podcast at this point. It's kind of our opener.

Griffin: At this point, yes.

Justin: It's a po—it's a pre-rolled podcast. So I guess, you know, it's a weird time to be recording a podcast. We usually record on Thursdays, and last Thursday, we were like, "We don't know what the fuck is happening." [laughs] Uh—

Griffin: Well, to be fair, we didn't want to record on Thursday, and our reasoning is we don't know—we don't know what Monday is like. But now we're looking at publishing this one Tuesday morning...

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: After recording at Thursday afternoon, and we're still like, "I don't know what fucking 5:00 PM looks like!"

Justin: Yeah. Or—so that's where we're at. And what is the question on everybody's lips? Well, it's where does pizza stand on, uh, election integrity as the bedrock of American democracy. And of course, everybody knows that um, this has been a wild time in America, and I feel like everybody's gotta speak out...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...and everybody's gotta speak up for—for what they think is important, right?

Travis: Hey, just—just real quick, is this a new indicator, much like the "It's been a tough year for everyone" kind of thing?

Justin: Yeah. This is—what do you mean a new indicator?

Travis: Is this something—like, a new buzzword, a new, uh—

Griffin: Is Domino's gonna be up there, and be like, "Election integrity is our whole... shit"?

Justin: No, Griffin, but Pizza Inn is.

Travis: Pizza Inn?

Griffin: Pizza—Pizza Inn?

Justin: Pizza Inn is a chain of pizza restaurants. Pizza Inn, there's like a bunch of them.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: And there may not be one near you.

Travis: Like *Captain N*?

Justin: But there's a—there's locations all over this great land of ours, mainly in the southeast... of America.

Um, there's some in Texas, Griff. You could go to a Pizza Inn right now, if you wanted to. There's 30—there's 32 in Texas.

Griffin: Cool. Based on this segment, it sounds like that, Justin, that might be a morally difficult dining decision on my part.

Justin: Okay, well, let's just talk about it, and let's talk about what's happening in America through the lens [through laughter] of their— of pi— pizza.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: 'Cause I'm taking a stand. And it's a very small stand, but it's a stand I feel like I, Justin McElroy, could impact.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: I'm gonna read you the press release, right? And Pizza Inn is— releases as a press release, and um, it—

Travis: Can I just say – I'm sorry – Pizza Inn is a terrible name for a restaurant. Unless you're allowed to sleep there if you eat too much, I do not get the tie-in.

Griffin: Yeah, confusing.

Justin: Yeah, it is confusing. I wanna thank Jasper and Megan for sending this one along. I appreciate this. I probably wouldn't have heard about it otherwise.

Um, Pizza Inn—this press release was sent to me; the original press release on PR Newswire ha—was deleted. So I actually don't know [laughs] what—what was happening there. The good news is, Pizza Inn has left this entire, um, 20-tweet chain...

Griffin: Uh-oh.

Justin: ... on their page. So let's just get—get right into it.

"Pizza Inn is calling for election reform."

Travis: [exhales]

Justin: Here's the tweets.

Griffin: Oh, yeah, get big money about politi—I'm all for that. Like, is that what we're talking about?

Justin: "Pizza Inn takes bold stance for election reform. Widespread concerns over fraud demand common sense changes to—"

Travis: Ho.

Griffin: Aw...

Justin: [crosstalk].

Griffin: Not that pizza, then.

Justin: #electionfraud. #washingtondc. #january6th. This was tweeted January 5th! Which, as far as timing for shit goes, it's pretty bad timing, Pizza Inn. I will go ahead and give you that one.

Griffin: Pizza Inn can't get on an airplane now.

Justin: Uh, it is squarely focused on creating a close-knit community centered on traditional American values.

Travis: Uh, ew!

Justin: [laughs] "These values include the preservation of American democracy, which millions of brave men and women have fought to protect." I'm with 'em so far.

Travis: Well, I'm not!

Griffin: Well...

Justin: Well...

Travis: Well, Justin, I don't know how I feel about—

Justin: Well, listen, no, we can all—as great Americans, we can all...

Travis: There's only Great American I like, Justin, and that's the cookie.

Justin: Well, Bill Nye, also.

Travis: Nope! I'm off Bill Nye now, too. Just Great American Cookie, and Great American Ballpark. Two Great Americans that I like.

Justin: "As the new year begins, our nation continues to be divided on the results of the recent election." I mean, not really.

Griffin: Not super...

Travis: No...

Justin: Not really.

Griffin: Feel like it's...

Justin: "Millions of Americans believe that widespread voter fraud may have changed the results of the presidential election."

Travis: [high-pitched] What? Really?

Justin: "Says Pizza—says Pizza Inn."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "We—" Now, the next tweet... Pizza Inn has laid out their—their theme, right? And you're like, "No way is Pizza Inn gonna go any harder than this."

And then Pizza Inn's like, "We believe this is probable. [through laughter] Take this from us: Pizza Inn, we believe the fix is in." [wheezes]

Griffin: Holy shit.

Justin: "Like most Americans, we are alarmed by the uncertainties and resulting lack of faith in our election system. Most Americans—" Huh!

Travis: Huh!

Justin: Brandon Solano, chief executive officer of Rave Restaurant Group, Incorporated.

Travis: What a bold... and incorrect stance.

Griffin: I am so sick of these fucking celebrity Twitter accounts telling me what to think, politicsey—politicsally.

Justin: Pizza Inn—this is so crucial. [laughs] "Pizza Inn is not advocating to overturn the election."

Travis: Oh, thank God.

Justin: “Nor do we think hastily certifying the results in Congress tomorrow is appropriate.”

Travis: Well, now, hold on...

Justin: Now, wait...

Griffin: Hold on, Pizza Inn. Those aren’t equal.

Justin: [crosstalk] the first part’s good. “We fully understand the risks of wading into such heated political waters.”

Now, here’s where I do wanna have you go ahead and take a step back here, January 5th tweet from Pizza Inn. Do you think you *fully* understand the risks of wading into such heated political waters on January 5th? Because I think, my friend, you don’t, actually! You actually don’t.

Griffin: Maybe he didn’t. Maybe w—you may have even underestimated it a little bit.

Justin: A little bit! Maybe just a pinch. Here’s a tweet. “We at Pizza Inn aren’t Constitutional scholars.”

Travis: Oh?

Griffin: Fuck yeah! Cool! Every—every pizza chain should have to tweet that!

Travis: [laughs] Hey, what about—“Hey, Pizza Hut!”

“Hi.”

“Well, we got one, don’t we?”

“Yeah, we got Robbie! Robbie—”

“No, I dropped out.”

“Ah, Robbie dropped out.”

Griffin: Oh, damn it. He didn’t get it.

Justin: Where not—

Travis: Two years, though! He did two years!

Griffin: Not bad.

Justin: “We at Pizza Inn aren’t Constitutional scholars. We’re experts at making amazing pizza and salads. That is, when governors and other elected officials aren’t shutting down our dining rooms.”

Travis: [grumbles] Now, hold on.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [makes fart noises with his mouth]

Travis: The second part does not change the first part, factually speaking. “We’ll now that our dining rooms are closed...”

Justin: Yeah. It’s almost like you’re tipping your hand a little bit. Congratulations to them by making a 20-tweets in being like, “Listen, we don’t know what happened here. We’re just thinking uh, transparency is important. Also, these fucking masked weenies, right? Anyway... ”

Griffin: Yeah. “Come get our dirty, sloppy, germie pizza with extra sauce and extra fucking... microbes, baby!”

Justin: Um—

Griffin: “It’s—let me get one mushroom sausage and some fucking spirochetes on it, baby!”

Justin: I’m not gonna read `em, `cause it’s garbage, but like... Pizza Inn then goes so far as to – we are literally 20 tweets in at this point. Pizza Inn

then goes so far as to spend two bullet-pointed tweets detailing exactly what changes they require, uh, in election integrity.

Travis: Oh, boy!

Justin: I would say voter suppression, from Pizza Inn. Pizza Inn wants to [through laughter] suppress your vote.

Griffin: Pizza Inn wants to definitely suppress the shit out of—

Travis: Now, to be fair, Justin, they did offer, in tweet 27, that if you bring in your mail-in ballot instead of mailing it in, they will give you one free personal pan pizza. Not bad there.

Justin: Pizza Inn, on January 5th, the last tweet in this chain, was, um, “Pizza Inn respects citizens’ rights to agree or disagree with us. Boycott us or visit us in solidarity. We simply ask that each of us remain civil in our discussions, confident in the knowledge...”

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: [sighs]

Justin: “... that we love our country, and want what’s best for it,” on January 5th. This is—this is...

Griffin: God.

Justin: ... hot shit from...

Griffin: If only they’d seen!

Travis: If only they knew how to delete tweets!

Griffin: If only they’d seen, if only they knew—I mean, they also—it looks like they have tweeted at every um, you know, secessionist... uh, member of Congress here, also.

Justin: Yeah, they basically copied all of `em like, "Hey, do you guys have our backs, or what? `Cause this is basically our big play."

Travis: "Hey, Nunes? Nunes, you got us, right?"

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: Can you imagine—

Justin: "We wanna become the exclusive pizza of the Trump train, so you gotta get us on board somehow."

Travis: "We don't know what pizzagate is, but we heard a lot about it. We wanna get into that."

Justin: Yeah, we wanna get [crosstalk]—

Griffin: [crosstalk].

Justin: [crosstalk] to us, Pizza Inn!

Griffin: Um, can you imagine anything sadder or, from our perspective, more kind of... ironic and delightful than somebody going to Pizza Inn and getting one of their super-sloppy microbe-pizzas that then—that gets them COVID? And that's not funny as much as then they can't taste anything anymore. And Pizza Inn's fucking shitty pizza is the last thing they ever taste.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Whenever they think about—they'll be eating a fine, fancy steak dinner. Oh, a Kobe Beef, lovin' it. [makes munching noises] This is that Wagyu.

"How's it taste?"

"I can't taste it. But when I think about what food tastes like, I think of fucking Pizza Inn. The Senator, Ted Cruz's favorite pizza. Ooh, I love it. Mm."

Travis: Did you guys see the Kevin Sorbo tweets?

Griffin: Kevin Sorbo tearing in—

Justin: Wait, wait, wait. We're not moving on—we're not moving on from this yet.

Griffin: Oh, sorry.

Justin: Uh—thank you. Um, Pizza Inn, um, tweeted this on, again, January 5th.

Travis: Uh-huh?

Justin: And did not have a big tweet after that, but—as like, recently as a few days ago, people started saying, like, "Hey, Pizza Inn. How do you think it's going right now?"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "Hey, Pizza Inn, how does this look in hindsight for you? How does this feel to you right now?"

I'll give you a sampling here, because a lot of people started coming for Pizza Inn. I like this one from Juan Brown, who said, "No comment on today's news, and no cactus bread. This is why Pizza Ranch will always be superior."

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Fuck yeah, Juan, get 'em! Get them!

Justin: Fucking get 'em!

Travis: Pizza Ranch isn't about sleeping there! It's about riding there! Yeah!

Justin: Pizza Inn responded to Juan Brown, which is absolutely where you need to make a statement like this...

Travis: Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: ... in the replies to—[through laughter] the replies to a tweet, uh, from a person with 164 followers. “We condemn the shameful display of violence shown at our nation’s capital. We have always – and we continue to call for civility and nonviolence from us.”

Travis: “Also, sorry about the cactus bread thing. [crosstalk]—”

Justin: [crosstalk].

Griffin: “Cactus bread was a real fuck-up on our part.”

Justin: Then, um, they responded to, um... literally, like, 15 other people [wheezes] with the exact same...

Griffin: With the same thing.

Justin: ... verbatim tweet. So I... I saw this today...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: ... in a rare—a rare example of, um, trying to shape Munch Squad to my own... um, means. And the reason I wanted to hold this episode’s recording until today...

Travis: Okay.

Justin: ... was I wanted to take—take a stand. And I’m asking the other pizza chains to take a stand, as well. I tweeted this incredible, um, Pizza Inn thread, and then I called on, uh, Domino’s, Marco’s Pizza, Papa John’s,

Pizza Hut, Chuck E Cheese, Little Caesars, Mellow Mushroom, and fuck it, DiGiorno...

Travis: Yeah. Nice.

Justin: ... to announce where they stand on the importance of a peaceful transfer of power as a core tenant of American democracy. And I told 'em it's time to take a stand. Now, right now, let me go ahead and see where we're at.

Griffin: Yeah, got any bites?

Justin: It seems like a grounder to me, right?

Travis: Yeah! It seems like an easy...

Griffin: This is an easy decision, yeah.

Travis: Especially with Shaq at the helm over at P. John's!

Justin: Okay. You know, I'm not—

Griffin: Shaq loves democracy.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I'm not seeing any... okay. So far, none of those brands have taken me up on my offer, which is weird if you think about it, because I'm opening the door for them to say the very easy thing...

Griffin: Right.

Justin: ... and they are declining that door.

Travis: Wow.

Justin: Pizza Inn wanted to say the hard thing, and no one asked Pizza Inn to say it, but they were like, "Hold—hold on a second. We've got something to say."

Griffin: They were like—they were—"Hold my beer."

And then everybody from 100 miles away was like, "Who are you talking to? There is no one—set your beer on the floor! 'Cause there's nobody around you right now."

Justin: [laughs] No one is there to hold your beer.

Travis: Hey, Justin?

Justin: Yeah?

Travis: Did you reach out to Totino's?

Justin: No, I figured I knew where they stand. Also, they've given us a lot of money to do a sponsored episode for them, so I'm not gonna put them on blast. What am I, some sort of free-thinking hippie liberal?

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] No, I kept our—this peaceful protest to the companies that have not lined our pockets.

Travis: Fair. Fair, fair.

Justin: Uh, at any point. That I know of.

Travis: I wanna talk about fucking Kevin Sorbo for a second.

Justin: Okay, yeah, bud! Kevin Sorbo!

Travis: Motherfucking Hercules, more like Jerkules! He uh, tweeted a series of tweets like, "It's happening."

Griffin: Four fucking rad tweets.

Travis: Like, "It's happening." And then, like, "Aw, yeah, this is awesome." And then, like, "Hey, everybody, don't act like Antifa." And then the fourth tweet is, "I'm hearing it wasn't really protestors; just Antifa dressed like Trump supporters."

Such a wonderful, like, "Uh, uh, uh, you know what I heard? [laughs] My uncle told me [laughs] that it was actually just Antifa."

And then fucking Lucy Lawless, 'My Girl,' came out of nowhere, and was like, "You look like a dumb shit." It was so good.

Griffin: Yeah. That was pretty fucking yummy. Where does Iolaus stand on all this, Trav?

Travis: Uh, he's—he's an independent.

Griffin: Our *Hercules* reporter on the ground.

Travis: He's an independent.

Griffin: What a fucking—what a fucking week, huh?

Justin: We went back and forth, guys, about how to do this one. I don't fucking know. It's wild out there! Some of it's—

Griffin: It's literally—while we are now—while we are recording, this—the US Department of State website just updated to say that President Trump's term ended just now. And everybody's like, "Is this real? Is this fake?"

Like, there's not a great window for us to do a show.

Travis: What?! What?! Hold on—

Griffin: I don't think it is. I think it's probably a goof. You know how they do a lot of great goofs?

Justin: It's probably a fun goof, but like...

Griffin: Um, I just wanna say, to sort of place a—a import on it as well, uh, you know, hit up the pizza places and ask them where they stand, but also I would encourage you to go to 5 Calls. Number 5calls.org, and contact your representatives. It's great; they have a list of active issues that you can kind of choose your own adventure, and it'll give you some tips on how to contact your—your reps. And there's so many of them right now! There's so many—there's so many—

Justin: There's just so many different things to.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: There's a lot of different issues. There's a lot of different things that you should—there's a lot of different accountability... subjects, that are—worth following through.

Travis: And the number one is, where does the pizza company stand?

Justin: No, that's actually—just the number one in the ones we might have some theoretical... possibility of...

Travis: Oh, okay.

Griffin: Yeah. That's the one that—we can move the chains on that one, but you can move the chains on everything else. Number 5calls.org. Do it. Make it a habit. Make that your fucking hobby for 2021. That's Big-Dog-Run energy right there.

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: Oh, yeah, it is!

Justin: Hey, can I say—can we speak on that for a moment?

Travis: Yeah, sure, yes yes yes yes yes.

Griffin: Let's speak on Big-Dog-Run for a moment.

Justin: I wanna speak on Big-Dog-Run. I was thinking about it, and I was having some fun, 'cause our friend—[chuckles] it's no big deal, it's just our—uh, a lot of our famous, beloved friends were calling me to tell me how much they love the episode.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: And they were like, "You did it, you crushed it."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I was chatting with them, and I was thinking, like... we did that on Monday... [wheezes] and then things got weirder – so much weirder and worse – like, right after that. And I was tr—

Griffin: Well, they got—they got—they g—hold on. They got really good Tuesday night. Tuesday night was like, "Fuck yeah. We're gonna—"

Justin: What happened Tuesday night?

Griffin: Oh, that's when—[laughs] That's when the Democrats took the Senate. Um, I can—

Justin: Well, that wasn't official until the next, you know what I'm saying?

Griffin: That's true. That's fair. That's fair.

Justin: It was so wild. But anyway...

Griffin: I was feeling—let's just say, I was feeling a lot of Big-Dog-Run energy...

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: ... from Tuesday evening to, I'll say Monday around 11 o'clock Central Time. And then that energy left me.

Justin: I was so grateful for Big-Dog-Run a—because... I was trying to think of what theme we could've picked in the year that would've been instantly undone and subverted by the events of the past week.

Travis: Yup.

Justin: And actually, Big-Dog-Run is [laughs] the literal only theme that wouldn't have been just like, absolutely trounced. Anything inspirational or uplifting would've been instantly undone.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: But Big-Dog-Run? It's—you know what it is? You know what Big-Dog-Run is?

Travis: What's that, Justin? What?

Justin: It's a—it's a mantra. It doesn't mean anything. It's something for you to meditate on, and you take away from it whatever—you come to it innocently and effortlessly, and you just kinda see what comes of it, [crosstalk] Big-Dog-Run.

Travis: I see. This is, uh—we learned about this on *Shmanners*. There is a—a German saying of, like, "This is sausage to me." And I love it, because like, I don't know how much that actually means, but it's a good response to a lot of things, much like "No Bones About It!" Like, that is something, like, you could say if someone was upset or happy or sad. You could be like, "Yeah, man, I know. No bones about it; that's bad."

Griffin: Yeah, that's bad.

Travis: You know, like it kinda fits a lot of different scena—no, "This is sausage to me." Which also kinda goes with Big-Dog-Run, 'cause them fellas love sausage.

Griffin: Let me just say, though, I'm worried—I got worried a little bit that maybe the insurrectionist terrorists have listened to our program...

Travis: No. That's—that's—

Griffin: ... and thought, like, "Here comes—here co—this is our brand of Big-Dog-Run energy."

I don't know about you guys, I was scanning that crowd, looking for—well, it would be Big Dog brand merchandise.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Just 'cause it—that would be a—that would, I feel like, be a week-two rearrange-o of the catchphrase.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I think we can all agree, though – that was like, little yappy dog energy, right? That's not big dog energy.

Griffin: That was fucking Ted Cruz energy. That's the opposite.

Travis: Ted Cruz is a little yappy dog. And listen—

Griffin: Ted Cruz is fucking—

Travis: Before you tweet us, I love little yappy dogs. I am talking about stereotypical little yappy dog behavior, you know what I mean? That Ted Cruz, he's a little yappy dog.

Justin: I could talk about how much I hate Ted Cruz all day long.

Travis: Please do!

Justin: Okay. Well, you see, the thing about it is, he's got this *clinical* case of dick face.

Travis: [laughs] Yeah, he does.

Justin: Which means I just—I see his face, I just wanna punch it!

Griffin: This—this—

Justin: I would never do that, because I'm a law-abiding citizen of these great United States, and I'll continue to just [through laughter] wish him ill from afar.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Like a great American citizen, and try to convince Griffin to vote against him one of these days. Well, I'll get you one day, won't I, Griff?

Griffin: Are you kidding me? You know I—you know I voted for cool-ass skateboard Beto! Hello!

Travis: Griffin's a Beto male, and you know that!

Griffin: I'm a Beto—I'm a Beto cuck, and I love that shit.

It's just like, when I see Ted—Theodore up there, and he's doing his thing, and he's like, "[nasally voice] And these... these Antifa—" Like, he's up there, and he's talking about how Antifa wants to come and take away all your guns and babies. And I think, like... it's like he's not even thinking about what I want! He's w—he represents my interests. Does he think, like, "Griffin's gonna love this shit"? It's—no! It sucks.

Travis: Ted Cruz is like if there was a character in *Star Wars* who, like, worked for the emperor, that the emperor was constantly kind of slapping around, but then the next day also, that character showed up, and was like, dressing as the emperor, and kind of like, "[goblin voice] He is talking like the emperor."

And the emperor's like, "I still don't like you." And was still slapping him around—

Justin: Ted Cruz has got this energy like if you brought your nine-year-old nephew to TP some people...

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: ... and you got him all hyped up on the drive over, and he's like, "We're gonna fucking get him, aren't we?"

And we're like, "Yes, we are, Ted! Let's get these guys!"

And then you open the door and push Ted out, and he ran at `em, like, "Here we go, motherfuckers! It's on!" And you drove away. That's Ted Cruz energy right there.

Travis: Mm.

Justin: And he's just like, TPing, like, "Yeah, we're getting them, guys! This is happening now! We're getting them!"

Travis: See, he kind of seems to me like if you were planning to TP someone, so he just went ahead five hours early, at like 4:00 PM, and started doing it. And people were like, looking out the window like, "What the fuck is going on? Why is there a kid—what is this guy doing? We haven't even had dinner yet. Why is he TPing our house now?"

Justin: [laughs] "I'm getting you!"

Travis: I mean, you're not even making it up to the trees, Ted! You're not unrolling it first, you're just throwing whole rolls of toilet paper!

Justin: It's like he bought a black metal t-shirt at Hot Topic on the way to the concert...

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ... and he opens the door, like, "I love Satan. Do you guys—are you guys wild about Satan? Me too!"

Travis: He's like a non-narc narc.

Griffin: I also heard – and it's—maybe it's just a rumor, but he pisses his pants on purpose.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: 'Cause he likes the warm feeling against his legs.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: He does it—

Griffin: [crosstalk] And they can't—they can't come at me for saying that because of the First Amendment.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Also, I heard he likes to pee his pants, and then try to convince other people that they bet him he wouldn't for money.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: But it's like, after the fact, and they definitely didn't...

Griffin: Yes. Every day—

Justin: [laughs] They didn't.

Griffin: One of his staffers has to put with that, every day Ted Cruz, Theodore standing up and saying, "Ah! Pay up, sucker! I di—I pissed the front of my pants again."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, we don't normally like to get political on this show, but what the fuck else are we gonna talk—I don't know what—I don't mean to—

Griffin: [crosstalk]—

Travis: No, I'm just saying that Ted Cruz...

Griffin: I don't think that that's a fair thing to say, that we don't like to get political on the show. I mean, maybe never as explicitly that we do say...

Justin: Explicitly political, isn't that?

Griffin: ... that Ted Cruz pisses his pants on purpose, 'cause he likes the good warm feeling between his legs.

Travis: And to win money from staffers.

Griffin: And to win money from staffers, right.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I heard that he creates Facebook pages for TV shows that have been off the air for 20 years that only he watched, and then he gets mad when his friends won't join it.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Even though they didn't watch the show, and nobody's even really sure that it existed. That's just what I heard.

Justin: [through laughter] "Why won't you guys join my fucking *Johnny Bago* Facebook?"

Travis: [laughs] "Come on, guys!"

Justin: "Come on! It had—the show had both Jake and the fat man! What's not to like?"

Travis: He created one Facebook group that he just titled "That one show that was about a car race across the country, and I think that maybe Nathan Fillion was in it. It was on Fox for two episodes."

And people were like, “Ted, you don’t even remember the name of the show.”

And he’s like, “Yeah, but I watched every episode.”

Justin: [sighs] Okay, so... Yeah, we’re gonna do some advice. I wanna help—God. If we could just help somebody, you know what I mean?

Travis: Maybe we could like, uh—we could, like, *Christmas Carol* Ted Cruz? Is there something we could do—

Justin: Okay, what? Okay. If you were guys where gonna go scare Ted Cruz...

Travis: Uh-huh?

Justin: ... what ghost are you gonna call dibs on?

Travis: Oh, I’m Ghost of Future, baby! I want to shove that fool into an open grave!

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Griffin: Maybe the line—that was maybe the line... crossing.

Travis: [laughs] You think that’s gonna be the one that maybe gets ol’ Travis in trouble?

Griffin: Yeah. To be clear, government, Travis was talking about only in the context of if they were in a production of *A Christmas Carol* together...

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: ... and that was the stage directions. Um...

Justin: [through laughter] He's just—Travis meant he wants to push him into an open grave because he was about to fall into a much deeper, open grave right next to where...

Travis: [laughs] He was on fire, and there were three inches of water at the bottom of the open grave.

Griffin: Yes. I—Justin—Travis is dressed up as the Grim Reaper, and he uh—the director's like, "Alright, now push Ted Cruz into the grave, your co-star."

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: And then Travis is like, "Uh, I don't know if that's such a good idea. He's uh, in government." Um, but then...

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: And he smells like old piss.

Griffin: But he said—but Ted Cruz says it's okay to do it.

Travis: Yeah, that's what I meant.

Justin: I worry we might lose some people on this one.

Travis: [bursts out laughing] Well! If we haven't lost them by this point, Justin, good riddance, folks!

Justin: No, you fucking think that, but every time I tweet, there's always one person who's like, "Listen, I've stood by you guys for 10 years, but this is just too far," and it's like—

Griffin: Hey, listen—

Justin: What show have you been listening to?!

Griffin: The statement, Ted Cruz pisses his pants on purpose because he likes the wet, warm feeling between his legs, is about as bipartisan...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: As it... as it... as it gets.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Listen, if Joe Biden got up on inauguration day, and led with that?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Full, across-the-isle support.

Griffin: Yep! That's the unity that we need right now.

Travis: "Hey, State of the Union! It's me, J'Biden. Uh, can we all agree that, uh, we heard Ted Cruz pisses his pants to feel the warm feeling on his legs?"

And cheers! There would be—everyone's on their feet, except Ted Cruz.

Griffin: Yeah. 'Cause his embarrassing stain.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Do you guys think we could be sued... could we be sued for making a t-shirt... that—that sai—with all proceeds donated to a charitable cause...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ... could we be sued for making a t-shirt that says, "Ted Cruz likes to piss his pants because he loves the warm feeling between his legs"? Because the only thing that you could say is that's slander, or libel.

Griffin: Ooh, what if—

Travis: Justin, all we do—all we do is it has to start with—

Justin: That's what—no, that would require him to, in a court of law, say, "I actually don't like the warm feeling [through laughter] between my legs.

Griffin: [crosstalk].

Justin: [through laughter] It's unpleasant when I pee my pants.

Travis: "No, I—when I pee my pants, it is on accident, and I do not enjoy it."

Griffin: Okay, if it says, "When Ted Cruz pees his pants, he likes the warm feeling between his legs."

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: And then, if he takes it to court of law, the judge will say, "Alright, piss your pants. Piss your pants, Theodore."

Travis: "Demonstrate."

Griffin: "And then we'll s—and then tell us if you like it or not."

The shirt could also say, "I *heard*..." "

Travis: I *heard*. There you go.

Griffin: "... Ted Cruz likes to piss his pants, for the warm feeling."

Travis: And then he's just like, "I don't like to piss my pants to feel the warm feeling on my leg."

Then you say, "Listen, Ted. Just what I heard."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "It's just what I heard!"

And when someone says, "Where did you hear it?"

You say, "Well, it came out of my own mouth, and then I heard it with my ears." There it is.

Griffin: Maybe we print it on the inside of the shirt.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: And people—

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Here's what we do! Oh, we put the word "doesn't," but it's only in heat-reactive letters that you can't see...

Griffin: Yeah, that's good.

Travis: And when people are like, "I'm gonna sue you!"

You say, "Uh, hold on right there." And you take an iron...

Griffin: "Let me take you to the club, where the blacklights shall reveal... "

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: Um, I actually just got an email from this week's sponsors, and they said, "Thank you so much for choosing this episode to feature our products in."

Travis: Oh, you're so welcome!

Justin: "We're so excited to have this be the one."

Um, let me check—sorry, real quick check of my... replies... No. Okay, nothing... yet.

Travis: Nothing yet. Okay, cool, cool, cool.

Justin: Uh...

Travis: I expected that from delivery, but not... DiGiorno.

Griffin: It's pretty good.

Justin: Should we go to the Money Zone?

Travis: Sure. We've helped so many people already. Why not take a break?

Justin: [crosstalk]. We can do a question, if you want. Just to cleanse the palate. Or we can like, come back with a cleansed palate and help some people out.

Griffin: Yeah, how about before we do go to our sponsors this week, we do uh, just a quick Yahoo. I got a lot of really good ones this week, and I'm very excited. In fact, that's another thing I hate Ted Cruz about, is that he occupied a lot of good Yahoo jokes time.

This one was sent in by Graham Roebuck. Thanks, Graham. It's Yahoo Answers User—they're anonymous. Um, Jed Cruz asks...

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: "Ideas for celebrating 13-year-old's first Monster Energy?"

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: Huh!

Griffin: “My son, Jaxsun, bought his first Monster today, and he promised me he wouldn’t drink it before I could throw together a party. What should I do for the party?”

Travis: So proud.

Griffin: Huge.

This is—this one rides the line of, is it... one of those fucking *Shrek* trolls again...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: But after this past week, I feel like there’s probably some people out there who would... celebrate their 13-year-old son, Jaxsun, spelled J-A-X-S-U-N’s first Monster Energy he bought with his own allowance, 13 years old.

Justin: I tell you, of all the reasons to violate COVID protocols... I think throwing a Monster Energy party is [laughs] probably the worst one.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Um, I don’t know. I think maybe Saint Peter might like hearing a new one, you know?

Justin: Yeah, just a new—“Oh, for Monster Energy? Oh yeah, we love those up here.”

Travis: “Oh, really? Huh! A party for it! Okay.”

Griffin: Make the point that you don’t want Monster Energy to be the last thing you tasted. It’s gotta—make it something good, at least.

Justin: Yeah. Um, I think that it’s all about the ceremony...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: ... of the fla—of the flavors. I think—

Travis: Oh!

Justin: He's gonna be tempt—the first time it uh, crosses his lips...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ... and he feels the sort of—the sort of hot burning... [laughs] of real energy...

Griffin: It's so hot. The energy comes in fucking so hot.

Justin: He's gonna be tempted to bail.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I think you need enough peer pressure in the room that, like, he can't. And after he finishes the can, I think one really important thing to do is pull up a whole case of it after that, and be like, "Oh, you're so tough."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "You think you're so cool and tough. Let's—"

Travis: "Let's smoke the whole case."

Justin: Yeah, you make them smoke the whole case of Monster Energy.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Monster Energy's flavors are not as fun and exciting as I hoped that they would be.

Justin: Aw.

Griffin: Like, I hope there would be one that was like, [intense voice] Psycho Strawberry, and fucking—[normally] Oh, wait, never mind. I was looking at the wrong part of the website. They definitely are pretty out there.

Justin: [laughs] Give me a sampling.

Griffin: I mean, um... oh, my. Uh-oh. Uh-oh. Uh-oh! There's a camo one... there's a camo can, and it's got—it's got the usual Monster stuff in it, I guess, but it is uh... oh, it's classic Cola plus Monster. It's Monster Assault!

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: And this on the website: "At Monster, we don't get too hung up on politics. We're not for the war, against the war, or any war for that matter."

Travis: Oh, boy. What—really?

Griffin: [sarcastically] Cool shit, Monster!

Travis: You're not for the war against the war... or *any* war.

Griffin: "We'll leave the politics and the politician—we'll leave the politics and the politicians to keep doing what we do best: make the meanest energy drinks on the planet, declare war on the ordinary." Yikes! Oh, no!

Travis: Wait...

Griffin: "Grab a Monster Assault and a viva la revolution!" It says this on the website. Monster, you need to update your shit!

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Now, what I—

Griffin: You gotta update it.

Travis: What I would recommend for the party is to just do, like, the traditional kind of thing where you put the—the can of Monster Energy on one side, and then you get uh, just like lines of warriors with painsticks on either side, and as Jaxsun moves down, he gets shocked by the painsticks as he chants, “Today I am a warrior.”

Justin: “I’m a warrior now.”

Travis: “I show—I’m gonna show you my heart. I travel the river of blood. Uh—

Griffin: And if you do—if you’re doing this, you gotta do Muscle Monster, the protein chocolate energy shake.

Travis: Oh, absolutely. And then he reaches the end... uh, he drinks it, uh, and now he has reached the age of ascension.

Griffin: Yep.

Travis: Now he is officially a warrior. Uh, at that point.

Griffin: What’s the—what’s the point of getting, you know, jacked on Monster Energy energy, and fucking punching the side of a Hardee’s so hard that you break the bones in your hand if you’re not gonna be super strong from all the chocolate protein energy...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: ... in it as well. So it’s got—you need the energy, absolutely. You need all this wild energy. But you also need the power to use it. And that’s—

Justin: The wisdom. The wisdom.

Travis: Yeah, why not offer him a choice? Put the muscle energy drink there, but then also put maybe, like, the spiritual energy drink there, and the emotional energy drink there?

Griffin: Yep.

Travis: And he has to choose between the three of those?

Griffin: No, 'cause it says on the Muscle Monster thing on the website: "Not recommended for children, people too sensitive to caffeine, pregnant women, or women who are nursing." And that's—

Travis: Oh, cowards!

Griffin: And let me just say, it's another one of the First Amendment things!

Justin: That—it's just another First Amendment thing. They're stacking up. You know where it doesn't say that, is over on the page for M Hydro.

Travis: Oh!

Justin: You know how water... [laughs] fucking sucks and it's just so weak?

Griffin: Water fucking sucks, dude. I drink it, and I'm still as tired as I was before.

Justin: Here's what it says on the website: "Waterworld. 70 percent of Earth is covered in water."

Griffin: It just says that? It just says "Waterworld"?

Justin: Tell me—tell me that you—this copywriter was not, uh—had a wordcount they had to hit? Okay, this is what it says: "Waterworld! 70 percent of the Earth is covered with water. You got bottled water from mountains... "

Travis: [laughing]

Justin: "... glaciers, Virgin Springs, tropical islands, and the arctic. There's mineralized, fortified... "

Travis: Jesus.

Justin: "... ionized, electrified, pH balance, triple filtered, and straight out of the city tap. What's the point?"

Griffin: [snorts]

Justin: "You gotta hydrate every day, so you might as well enjoy a boost while you're at it. Monster Hydro: non-carbonated, and lightly sweetend with natural flavors, to make it thirst-quenching and easy drinking. We added just enough of that Monster magic, by which we mean Monster we put in water... "

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: "... to get you fired up." Here's some flavors, and one of them's called Red Dog!

Travis: Oh, boy.

Justin: And the next one's called Blue Stream!

Griffin: There's those names.

Justin: I'm getting so thirsty over here. [laughs]

Travis: You know, I would like this same energy and copywriting to be put toward, like, sleep aids? 'Cause it's just like, "Hey, man, are you ready to sleep, like a Viking, huh?"

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "You wanna crash at the end of the day like a lightning bolt hitting a tree? Well, then you need to get Big Dog Slumber!"

Justin: "History tells us that Vikings like to sleep on a floating bed of sticks that was on fire!"

“Well, actually, that’s not—they are not asleep. Why did you think they’re asleep?”

Travis: “You can, too! With a—[laughs] with—”

Griffin: “A fucking Monster Bed Fire! Come [crosstalk]—”

Travis: Melatonin Valhalla! [laughs]

Justin: “It’s a—no, it’s a ritual. [laughs] They’re not asleep. Did you think they’re asleep? [laughs] Certainly not.”

Travis: “Did you know that Vikings didn’t even wear horns on their helmet? Now, take this sleeping pill and have a good night’s sleep, little baby!”

Justin: “Did you know every Viking owned 16 axes? It’s true.”

Travis: [laughs] “Now, take a little nap, sleepy boy!”

Griffin: “How would you like to have the most visceral nightmare you’ve ever had in your life?”

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: “The drink is literally called Monster.”

Justin: [laughing] Oh, gosh. Okay, well, let’s take a quick break, and we’re gonna go to the Money Zone. This week’s sponsor is, of course, Monster Energy. Who I have recently realized in the past few minutes we have likely alienated it as a future sponsor.

Griffin: Uh, bud uh, did you hear me talk about Monster Assault Energy? I don’t know that I love that brand!

Justin: We are calling on Monster Energy [laughs] to change their Assault branding. Alright.

[theme song instrumentals play]

Travis: Griffin?

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: I would like to issue you a challenge.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I want you to pretend that I am an alien who's landed on Earth, and I have no idea what socks are, and I want you to describe them to me.

Griffin: Um, soft shoes inside... uh—

Travis: “[high-pitched voice] What do—what are shoes?”

Griffin: Is this the alien?

Travis: “I’m the alien Bor-bork!”

Griffin: Uh, Pork-bork—

Travis: “Bor-bork, please!”

Griffin: Blor-blork, feet, you got `em?

Travis: “I have 18 feet! [makes nasally sounds]”

Griffin: Okay. Do you cover `em, or do you just walk around on your spaceship or whatever?

Travis: “I cover them with foot condoms.”

Griffin: Yeah, that's socks, pal!

Travis: “Gross!”

Griffin: Um, no, they're really good and—and, like, soft, and they feel good.

Travis: "Are yours also made of Aluvian skin? [garbling laughter]"

Griffin: No, they got—they're made out of, like, really comfortable stuff. Um, um, um, I mean, I'm talking about Bombas socks. I've worn, like—

Travis: "Oh, Bombas? Why the fuck didn't you just say that?"

Griffin: Alright. Yeah, I didn't know. 'Cause you seemed—you didn't know what shoes were, so I assumed you didn't know what this brand was, but—

Travis: "But everybody knows how comfortable and wonderful Bombas socks are!"

Griffin: You asked me what socks were. Why did you waste my time?

Travis: "Hey, don't be an asshole, man. I'm trying to help you out."

Griffin: Alright. Hey, by the way, bud, partner, it's not a good time to visit...

Travis: "Oh, yeah?"

Griffin: Yeah. It's cool, and we've all been waiting for it in, like, you know, *Arrival* and all that shit.

Travis: "Yeah."

Griffin: You know, give us—give us time-travel powers or whatever. But can you come back once we sort of got it all... sorted?

Travis: "Should I talk to your leader first?"

Griffin: No—fuck no! Listen, Blor-blorp, no! Just go to the moon for, like, a month or so... It's still gonna be, you know, not great in a month or so, but if you could just—we're kind of in it right now, Blorp-blorp.

Travis: "Bor-blork, please."

Griffin: Anyway, if you buy a pair of Bombas socks, uh, you also give a pair to people experiencing homelessness. Nice warm and comfortable pair of socks from your friends at Bombas. It's a small comfort that's especially important right now. So if you want, you can give a pair when you buy a pair, and get 20 percent off your first purchase at bombas.com/mybrother. That's B-O-M-B-A-S dot com slash "mybrother" for 20 percent off your first purchase. [Bombas.com/mybrother](https://bombas.com/mybrother).

Travis: "I am still here, oldest brother Justin. Tell me what is a Brooklinen?."

Griffin: Don't—it's a trap! He knows! He fucking knows!

Travis: "[stammers] A sheet for a bead?"

Justin: [laughs] You're mispronouncing it, but you got the idea. Uh, not just any sheets there, Bleep-blorp. But—

Travis: "Bor-blork, please!"

Justin: Yeah. I'm sorry about that. I apologize.

Travis: "Bleep-blorp was my father."

Justin: I mainly know human names. Um...

Travis: "Oh, pretty closeminded of you."

Justin: I love this character. Brooklinen—

Griffin: He kicks ass.

Justin: All our ads are gonna be so, so fucking cool.

Travis: "I'm not going anywhere!"

Justin: I bet he's sexy, too. [laughs] Like if you depicted him in fanart.

Travis: "Oh, yeah!"

Griffin: Yeah, what do you look like, Blor-bork?

Travis: "I got 18 legs and 6-pack abs!"

Justin: That doesn't—[through laughter] The math on that doesn't exactly track with aesthetic pleasure.

Travis: "I've got four boobs!"

Griffin: Oh, cool.

Justin: Brooklinen works directly with [laughs] manufacturers. [laughs] Blor-borp, you're making me wish I had six hands! The other two are to choke you to death.

Travis: "Oh, no, my beautiful swan-like neck!"

Justin: Brooklinen, where some people will skip our ads, Brooklinen—

Griffin: Blorp-blorp made me wish you had six boobs.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "I have six boobs in your heart, Griffin."

Justin: [laughs] Blor-bork, you make wish I had eight knives.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Brooklinen works directly with manufacturers to make luxury available directly to you without the luxury level markups. They got a variety of sheets, colors, patterns, and materials to fit your needs and taste. And—

Travis: “Even *my* needs and tastes?”

Justin: Notori—uh, Brooklinen is also notoriously forgiving for podcasts, and uh, don’t get mad at `em when they talk about things that are not directly sheet-related. Um, but Blork—Blee—Bork-blork, you’re gonna love these sheets if you haven’t tried sheets yet. They’re still gonna be the best ones you’ll ever have.

Travis: “Oh, I’ve tried sheets. I got Brooklinen sheets and comforters and pillows...”

Griffin: I told—I fucking told you.

Justin: [crosstalk].

Travis: “... and towels, even loungewear!”

Justin: It’s 2021. Do something nice for yourself to start the new year. To help you do that, Brooklinen has a special offer. Go to brooklinen.com and use promo code “my brother” to get 25 dollars off when you spend 100 dollars or more, plus free shipping. That’s B-R-O-O-K-L-I-N-E-N dot com, and enter promo code “my brother” to get 25 dollars off when you spend 100 dollars or more, plus free shipping. Brooklinen.com and use promo code “my brother” at checkout.

[light music 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: uh, this is a game we played called "Cotton Candy Chicken Nuggets," where you have to sing any eight-syllable phrase to the tune of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*. You have an example, Manolo?

Manolo: Yeah, here's one. [singing] Little baby turkey turnips!

Jo: Oh, nice.

Manolo: Thanks.

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

Manolo: Please!

[music and advertisement end]

Justin: [imitates rock guitar] [singing] Update! [spoken] Um, real quick breaking update. Um... we still have not gotten any responses...

Travis: Okay.

Justin: ... from—from the—the pizza chains, but I do think there's a reason for that. Um, as—as a couple people pointed out in my Twitter responses – uh, Heder Shurl was the first, I believe. Um... there hasn't been a lot of tweeting going on, actually, from these particular brands. Let's check and see when their last tweets were: uh, Domino's, January 6. Marco's Pizza—

Griffin: In the morning—in the morning-time?

Justin: Uh, ye—Marco's Pizza, January 6. Uh, Papa John's last tweet there was January 5th!

Travis: Huh!

Griffin: And, Juice, I don't think Papa John's is gonna be on the right side of history...

Justin: Well, they got Shaq in there now.

Griffin: They got Shaq in there now, fuck.

Justin: I don't know. Pizza Hut's last tweet was on January 5th.
[wheezes]

Travis: I'm noticing a pattern, for sure.

Justin: Little Caesars' last tweet was, uh, January 5th!

Travis: It's taking them a long time to figure out how to denounce the violence in our nation's capital, huh?

Justin: A real long time. DiGiorno, uh, January 5th. Then none of the brands, uh, have tweeted since uh, the events of January 6th and the, uh, the failed coup attempt on our nation. Except for one brand!

Griffin: Who?

Justin: It had the guts to speak out... after these uh, shameful, shameful attacks on our democracy, and it's Charles, uh, E. Cheese.

Griffin: Charles Entertainment Cheese, you're telling me, took some—

Justin: So wait—so what was that, Griff? Charles Entertainment Cheese? Interesting. Okay. January 8th: [clears throat] "Have you ever wondered what the E in Chuck E. Cheese stands for? So have we. Join Chuck E's friends as they go on the gameshow, Championship Chuck E. Challenge, to guess Chuck E's middle name.

And then there's a video that's four minutes long, of puppets talking about Chuck E. Cheese. And that was tweeted on January 8th.

Griffin: Okay! Well, not—not—not great.

Justin: Not great, also, 'cause it's Entertainment, and everybody fucking knows it.

Griffin: And everybody fucking does know that. Um...

Travis: You know what, Justin? If it helps... this wasn't a response to the failed coup at our nation's capital, but... on the 3rd, we could pretend like this tweet is in response to that. "We're bummed to hear your experience wasn't what you had hoped for."

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: "We want to let our guest relations team know about your experience. Could you message us with your name, phone number, email, store location, and visit date, please?" So that's—that's not bad.

Griffin: Fuck. And they tweeted that—

Justin: That was tweeted to Blork-blork. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That was tweeted at Q Anon.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs] Oh, no! Oh, no!

Travis: But they were working with the FBI, Griffin. It was a sting operation.

Griffin: Yeah. May—we didn't watch the video. Maybe at some point during the Charles Entertainment Cheese puppet video, they're like, "Let's explain how these accusations of voter fraud are historically mired in white supremacy..." "

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: "... and let's just all unpack that right now. It doesn't end with Trump." Um, maybe there is a very thoughtful discussion of that. 'Cause everybody knows the dude's middle fucking name is Entertainment.

Travis: Equality.

Griffin: Yep. Yeah.

Justin: It's—it's not. Okay.

Travis: It's Charles Equality Cheese! Wait, what were you gonna say?

Justin: I am so—what I'm gonna say is, I'm really excited to read the split-sider uh, article about this episode, or perhaps the A.V. Club will get this one where they're like, "I can't believe they did it." [laughs] "A lot of people thought they couldn't do it, they couldn't thread the needle and make an episode in the wake of the failed coup on our nation, and uh—but they did it. The boys have the perfect tone throughout the entire episode. Never second guessed themselves—"

Travis: You almost forgot the kind of tumultuous landscape we were living in, as they whisked us away to entertainment town.

Justin: But not in an escapist way, do you know what I mean?

Travis: Nope!

Justin: It still kept you grounded.

Travis: They fixed it all.

Justin: Well, they didn't fix it, because that would've been disingenuous. No, they had the perfect balance.

Hey, Griffin, what do you think was the most effective thing about this episode so far, and how it's dealt with the ongoing strife in our nation?

Griffin: I think it's probably when we talked about the fact that isn't it silly that Chuck E. Cheese did a funny video right after the thing happened. And—but also, that's what we're doing... right now. Right now.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Not really! Not exactly the same!

Griffin: It's kind of, a bit the same.

Travis: We're at least mentioning it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We're talking about it, and we are taking something of a stand—

Griffin: But we don't—but we don't have skee-ball. We don't have skee-ball.

Travis: You're right. We don't have skee-ball. So that—it pretty much balances out. We're taking a stand, and Chuck uh, Equality Cheese has skee-ball. So... it's balanced at this point.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: I just don't know—we didn't know what to s—I don't know what to say. I didn't know what was appropriate—we've talked about this in like—

when is a good time—we don't wanna be like, a distraction from the important things going on, because I think it's important to pay attention...

Travis: Right.

Justin: ... and to act. What's that address again, Griff? The URL that people should go to right now?

Griffin: Number 5calls.org.

Justin: 5calls.org. You should go there and do something. But at the same time, like, there's not gonna be a cool time to do jokes. Hopefully in the future! You know, I hope!

Travis: This is a wild suggestion, right? This might be completely out of left field for us, it's not something we normally do, but maybe we could, like, answer a question...

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: ... from somebody, for advice?

Justin: "I know this may sound peculiar, but I'm wondering how to find a child, preferably more than one." [pauses] That's the end of the question.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: No, no, okay, they go on. Sorry, there's more. I missed it. There's more. "To read my middle-grade sci-fi novel." It must be a—maybe it's a British thing.

Griffin: Who knows.

Justin: Middle grade?

Travis: Like a middle school? Maybe it's like for middle school—

Justin: Oh, I know, I used context clues to figure it out, I'm just trying to figure out who says middle grade. Anyway. "I've just finished my first book, and I would like a kid's opinion. Unfortunately, I'm 25, and none of my friends—"

Travis: Man, I wish I was 25.

Justin: [exhales] You are a kid. "And none of my friends are old enough yet to have kids in middle school. I don't have any younger siblings or cousins I could poach either. When my fellow adults read it, the reactions are good, but their opinions, while nice, are not the most important ones. I'm willing to pay said kids for their time, but asking to rent a child seems like a tricky subject to broach with a stranger."

Travis: Nope! [laughs]

Justin: "How do I find children who can tell me ways to improve my writing?" And that's from Jamie. And here's my advice, Jamie: maybe you could upload it to *Fortnite*.

Travis: No, that's not bad!

Griffin: Do they do, um, books in *Fortnite*?

Travis: Yeah! There's—when you're hiding from other people trying to dance on you or whatever, there's—

Justin: They're like, "Do you wanna—do you want a book to read."
[wheezes]

Travis: Yeah, you can—they leave 'em around, like a doctor's office. You just pick up a manuscript, leaf through it real quick. Oh, and then a laser fight! That's pretty—oh, no, he flossed me or whatever!

Griffin: Okay. Yeah! Okay. I think I follow.

Travis: You know, another one: you could just, uh, loiter around, like, a park. No. No. N—you know what, never mind.

Griffin: There's no way—let's rule out physical, in-person—I mean, there's an ongoing pandemic, also, is another thing to keep in mind.

Travis: Right. Right, right, right.

Griffin: I think purely digital strategies, and so far... I think it's gonna be difficult to beat *Fortnite*.

Travis: Um... what's the one—you know, I think it's unfair that the website is called AO3, and there's also a very well-known person named AOC...

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Because I have a really hard time separating those two, and I always wanna say, you could upload your story to AOC, and that would be a completely different—

Griffin: But hey, she might give you some good feedback, hm?

Travis: Yes, and she could maybe signal-blast it to some of her middle-school-age followers.

Griffin: Maybe, if she has those. I assume she probably does.

Travis: She probably does. She's a big influence on the younger generation.

Griffin: I—I had to—[sighs] In middle school, I had to read grownup books.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: I had to read *Red Badge of Courage*.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Classic grownup book.

Griffin: I had to read—I—

Travis: *Call of the Wild*.

Griffin: *Ca*—I had to read *Hatchet*! No, uh, I had to r—you gotta read, like, grownup, old-ass books, so I don't see why...

Travis: I fucking read *A Good Earth*.

Griffin: I don't know—

Travis: I read *Ordinary* fucking *People* in middle school.

Griffin: I just think that good literature is good, and so you don't need a kid's seal of approval. If kids can read grownup books... can we—I guess we can't read teen books, huh.

Travis: Well, I'll tell you—well, Griffin, you have reminded me of something. Hey, Jamie, kids don'ts gots money! Just sell it to grownups. Grownups are buying it for their middle-school kids.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: If your grownup friends like it, put on the cover, like, some space aliens and laser gun fights, but also they're reading books and respecting their parents.

Griffin: [groans] But it's the parents, yeah. It's the parents who are getting it, so you need a character on the front book who is...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: ... respectful...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: ... and doing homework...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: ... and will sit still for video calls with Uncle Sh—Uncle Sh—Shaq. Whoa. That name just came out.

Justin: [laughs] You know, I wish they didn't talk about the importance of reading for young people and, gosh, it's so important.

Travis: Are we?

Justin: I'm just sitting—I'm sitting here, being reminded [laughs] of when—Griffin was talking about the boring adult books he had to read, and it reminded me of—when I was in elementary school, there was this program where like, you got points.

Griffin: Oh, yeah, Accelerated Reader.

Travis: Book It!

Justin: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Except no, not Book It. That's for fucking pizzas.

Travis: You got pizza points, though!

Justin: Accelerated Reader was like, this program in school where you read books and you get points for it, Accelerated Reader program. And I'm just recalling how if your parents read books, they could get points for you as well.

Griffin: Whoa!

Travis: What, really?

Justin: I remember Dad reading *The Virginian* [wheezes] to get points. And now—and he had to do a quiz where he answered questions about *The Virginian*. And I'm just sitting here, thinking about that now as a 40-year-old man. I'm thinking, how the fuck did that help me?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Hey, Justin?

Justin: I don't understand what I gleaned from that.

Travis: Is that real, or was Dad cheating for you?

Justin: No. Dad was—I mean, this was in-person. He had to go in.

Travis: He came down to the school... to take a test on *The Virginian*?

Justin: It was pre-COVID. You have to remember that.

Travis: Of course it was pre-COVID, Justin. That's not the part I'm worried about.

Griffin: Travis, we did things a little differently back then.

Justin: A little differently back then!

Griffin: I remember Accelerated Reader, that—it showed you the points that—how many points you could get based on the... boring-ness of the book, basically...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: ... is essentially what it was. And I *loved* running the arithmetic in my head that I could *Last of the Mohicans* or, for an equal number of points, I could read 12 *Animorphs*.

Travis: Haha!

Griffin: I think I'll go for 12 *Animorphs* this time. Mr. Fenimore Cooper, catch you next time!

Travis: I won Accelerated Reader for reading the Bible.

Griffin: Oh!

Travis: Uh, and I aced it. Aced that test. Uh, which I wasn't expecting, but now I can tell you every word of the Bible to this day.

Griffin: That's true. Travis knows it. Travis, give me um, what's John 3:15?

Travis: It's "Hey, wait for this great one."

Griffin: [through laughter] "This next one's gonna be a real humdinger!"

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: It says, um—it says, "Hold on to your asses, I'm about to blow 'em away."

Justin: It's—it actually says, "One two, one two, here comes the new shit."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: It actually says DJ Khaled we the best music.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Which is bizarre to me.

Travis: It says, "Back me up, Pitbull." Which is weird.

Justin: Which is weird, 'cause Pitbull's not even in the Bible much.

Travis: Well, not much.

Griffin: It says, "My name is Jesus, and I'm here to say... "

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: And then it just stops there.

Travis: [laughs] It says, "Listen to this joke I'm about to make."

Justin: [wheezes, through laughter] "Hey, this one's not—this next one's made up."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "All the other stuff—"

Travis: "Hey, it's Opposite Day!"

Justin: [laughs] "Here—here's some dumb shit my uncle Kevin told me."
[through laughter] John 3:17

Travis: John 3:17 is, "Sike!"

Griffin: John 3:15 and John 3:17 are actually both "Get 'er done."

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: [bursts out laughing]

Griffin: A lot of people don't know that.

Justin: It's all gonna be fine.

Uh, thank you so much for listening to our podcast, *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. We did our best. I don't know. Hang in there. We're all hanging in there. We don't know. You don't know. By the—by—you know what? Here's a weird thing. You're listening to this on Tuesday, we're recording this on Monday. You are infinitely smarter about the world.

Travis: Yep.

Justin: Than we are currently. But um...

Travis: It's kind of like that thing where it's like, you get one penny every day, but then, like, you double it, and how much do you have in the end—every day, the world's entirety of knowledge seems to double. And it's a lot to keep up with.

Justin: *The Great Gatsby* just entered public domain, so we're gonna be reading all that next week. We don't normally promo—

Griffin: Uh, that one's six *Animorphs*.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Hey, thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network! Lots of cool shows there. Cool shows with, uh, jokes. Some serious ones, and uh, stories ones.

Travis: There you go.

Griffin: They are all there on maximumfun.org.

Travis: I do wanna say real quick, over at the merch store, we got a new pin of the month.

Griffin: Yep.

Travis: It is the three of us as Cerberus, and those go to benefit the NARAL, which fights for access to abortion care, birth control, paid parental leave, and protection from pregnancy discrimination. Uh, go check it out. And there's a bunch of other stuff over there, too, at mcelroymerch.com.

Um, let's see... uh, you know, we got a book coming out—

Justin: *The Sawbones Book*... the *Sawbones* paperback, uh, came out a couple weeks ago. I'm not gonna keep, you know, plugging it every week, but if you like weird medical history, uh, and we're really proud of it, um, it's a new version—the original hardback had some issues. This one doesn't. It's real good. So please go buy it, wherever fine books are sold.

Travis: It's like two weeks? Two weeks until our podcast book, *Everybody Has a Podcast (Except You)* comes out.

Justin: Oh, yeah!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: We're having a book launch event for that on January 26th at 9:00 PM Eastern Time. It's a free virtual event. We've partnered with six independent bookstores. If you preorder from them, you'll get an exclusively-designed bookplate signed by one of us. You can get that at bit.ly/mcelroypodcastbookevent for bookstore links and more info.

Uh... also, you're great.

Griffin: You're great.

Justin: You're great!

Travis: I think you're the bee's knees.

Griffin: Get in—get in there. Get stuck in.

Travis: Nope, no bones about it.

Griffin: Y'all want some final?

Travis: Yes, please.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, this final Yahoo was sent in by Brett, it's from Yahoo Answers User Question Mark, um... so I'm gonna call them Devin, asks, "Which lizard can be held the most for teen boy?"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy! Woof, woof!

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

[theme song plays, to the tune of *Rugrats*:

Griffin: [singing] Okay, that was the show. Hope you had some fun. Talked for an hour, and now our job is done. Go back into the world, face the day ahead. Please don't tell our grandparents all the cuss words we said.]

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