

## **MBMBaM 545: Blood is Thicker than the Bun**

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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?*  
[laughs] An advice show for the modern era. I'm your oldest brother...  
[laughs] Justin McElroy?

**Travis:** Hello, my children. It is I, the ascended Travis McElroy.

**Griffin:** It's just the name. Griffin is here.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Hello. I'm so glad that you, my brothers, could meet with me here.

**Justin:** [laughs] Where are we?

**Griffin:** Aw, shit. Is—

**Travis:** You are here with me in the ascended plane.

**Griffin:** It's the keto, Juice. I told you, once he gets on that keto—

**Travis:** I have eaten...

**Griffin:** —he's gonna be different.

**Travis:** ... 21 days of salad in a row. And I have—

**Griffin:** Oh, wait, it really is dietary, but your ascension...

**Travis:** Yes.

**Griffin:** ... really is based in the s—the number...

**Travis:** Yes, Griffin.

**Griffin:** Yeah, okay.

**Travis:** I've had three weeks of salad, straight. And it seems that that was all it took.

**Griffin:** Okay. Let me just—let me just crack into your Blockchain real quick, hold on.

[tapping noises]

**Griffin:** Okay, let me just look at the cookie points. [shouting] Oh, my God!

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Yes, Griffin.

**Griffin:** Are you kidding me?!

**Travis:** I traded my cookie points in for, one, a dune buggy...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** ... and two, the ability to communicate telepathically.

**Griffin:** Yeah, so that's actually on here. There's a website where you can trade 'em in. It's kind of like jump rope for heart, and you did enough...

**Travis:** Yes.

**Griffin:** ... cookie points. I guess you got a dune buggy. Damn! That's, like, aspirational. Nobody actually gets the dune buggy.

**Travis:** I'm, right now, Griffin...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** ... coming to you. I'm tooling around in the dunes. While—

**Griffin:** But I'm hearing your fucking mind?

**Travis:** Yes.

**Griffin:** Your brain waves?

**Travis:** Yes. That is correct.

**Griffin:** That's so sick, dude.

**Travis:** Yes, and I had enough left over to get this paddle ball.

**Griffin:** Okay. Hey, be—be straight with me, now, though, psychic dune Travis.

**Travis:** Yeah?

**Griffin:** How yucky was it to eat all of those salads?

**Justin:** Here's the problem with salads. Sometimes you get a leafy bite! You ever get one of those?

**Travis:** This is true. Oh, that's it.

**Griffin:** There's no wet, and there's no crumble, and there's no beef. And those are the three...

**Justin:** [giggling]

**Griffin:** Those are—one of the three always has to be in there in order for me to have a good chewing experience.

**Travis:** Listen, yes, sometimes there was a leaf that snuck in betwixt my chompers...

**Griffin:** Right.

**Travis:** ... but that—then, those go straight to my brain. The crumble bits and the beef bits and the wet bits...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** ... they go to tummy town.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And the green bits, well, they go up to Brainberg, and in Brainberg, they get turned into—

**Griffin:** To brain fuel.

**Travis:** The ability to levitate objects.

**Griffin:** Oh, you can do that, too!

**Travis:** Yes, I can, Griffin. Look down...

**Griffin:** Huh.

**Travis:** ... you're not touching your chair anymore.

**Griffin:** Um, no, you're right. I've been floating. I just didn't know that that was...

**Travis:** Yes.

**Griffin:** ... you. Um...

**Travis:** I'm levitating your butt.

**Griffin:** Yeah, no, it feels we—I can actually—you know what's weird? You're levitating me, but I feel two... like, big hands.

**Travis:** And Griffin, I want you to know, that was optional. It could—it didn't have to feel like two hands, but I made it that way.

**Justin:** Trav, I know...

**Griffin:** What? Okay.

**Justin:** ... how many salads you've started. How many have you finished?

**Travis:** I finished every one, Justin.

**Justin:** Oh, no, no, no, no. [laughs] No, no, no, no. That's never happened. No one's ever gotten a salad and then—

**Travis:** Oh, let me—let me explain. I didn't *complete* them. I *was* finished.

**Justin:** Well, that's stupid. Now you're getting into semantics. I'm saying, everybody that's ever gotten a salad—

**Travis:** Justin, eating so many salads has given me the power of semantics.

**Justin:** No, it hasn't. Everybody gets their point in any salad ever where they're like, "I'm done. I quit. This is it. I'm done." I've—I would like to play in your salad game too, please. Please let me play with your salad game too.

**Travis:** You got it. Here's my trick, Justin, and I recommend this to everybody...

**Justin:** And it just keeps going! Goddamn it, Travis!

**Travis:** It's the power I have.

**Griffin:** It's the salad juice. He's in control. We need to just let him—

**Justin:** Ew, salad juice. [wheezes] Gross, it's everywhere.

**Travis:** Justin, you must build—

**Justin:** He's leaking it!

**Travis:** You must build your salad in a glass bowl, so that when you finish, you can lift it up, see through it, and say, "I have the clarity of salad now."

**Justin:** See, that was *nothing*.

**Travis:** Yes, it was.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** It was actually something on this plane.

**Justin:** [through laughter] Oh, my God.

**Griffin:** He's got me jealous. I'm gonna go open up my mini-fridge I have in my office, and eat the salad I've got here. [makes creaking noise] Wait a minute... it's gone!

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** There's just a calling card here. That—that says—it says, "Now it's mine," and it's from Professor Cabbage? Is that what you call yourself now?

**Travis:** Oh wait, hold on. Professor Cabbage? Griffin, you have to get out of the house right now.

**Griffin:** Wait, you're not Professor Cabbage?

**Travis:** You're not safe. No, Griffin. He is a salad eater slash serial killer.

**Griffin:** Okay, I'll get out of—

[thudding noise]

**Griffin:** [grunts] [exaggerated strange laughter]

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs again]

**Travis:** Oh, boy.

**Griffin:** [shrilly, in a funny voice] I have thrown a bottle of bacon bits at your brother so hard that he died!

**Travis:** Luckily, so much salad has given me the ability to resurrect Griffin.  
[makes humming noise]

**Griffin:** Oh, thanks, Travis. You really got—[thudding noise] [grunts]

[shrilly] You should've killed me first!

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** [exaggerated strange laughter]

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Okay, I recognize my mistake now. I'm gonna try to kill you. I'm—

**Griffin:** I'm gonna kill you first with my—

**Travis and Griffin:** [make humming voice]

**Travis:** [humming voice intensifies]

**Justin:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** Whoa!

**Justin:** I wanna change the name of *MBMBaM* year 2021. The subtitle is no longer “an advice show for the modern era.” Now, it’s “*MBMBaM*: characters welcome.”

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** `Cause this—this year, characters have been welcomed lovingly into every—and we’re not a big character show, but we’ve been lovingly welcoming characters in, and boys, I’m wild about it. I’m wild about it.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Professor Cabbage has got legs.

**Justin:** Not anymore.

**Travis:** Not ra—no, it’s rabbit legs, actually. He’s a huge rabbit.

**Griffin:** No, Travis. He’s a man with two long, big, sexy legs.

**Justin:** [wheezes]

**Travis:** Oh, I’m thinking of a different Professor Cabbage.

**Justin:** Don’t tell me what my fucking Professor Cabbage HC is.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I can be—whatever I want. He’s an audio character.

**Travis:** This is fair.



**Griffin:** [sighs] Glad—glad for ya, Trav.

**Travis:** Thank you.

**Griffin:** Glad for your salads, bud.

**Justin:** Hey, listen, folks. This is still an advice show, and we are so happy to be—

**Travis:** Is it?

**Justin:** It is! It is. Uh, we're so happy to be here with you, and we're so grateful that you've welcome us back into your uh, your incredible lives. Uh, we love you, and we're ready to uh, to help. We're here to help, and I think maybe with all the characters, we maybe lost sight of that a little bit...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I am so sorry about that.

**Griffin:** That's true. Let's—we should say at the top of the show, some exciting developments...

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Griffin:** ... vis-à-vis the theme song, is we've been terribly sued by Klasky Csupo, and this is our final episode, 'cause they said, um, they said that it's not funny anymore. And that they worked very hard on the *Rugrats* song...

**Travis:** Oh, boy.

**Griffin:** ... and that I—I actually am now in jail, and I'll have to go there, 'cause Klasky Csupo's gonna drive me there.

**Justin:** People keep saying it's similar to *Rugrats*. I don't hear it.

**Travis:** I—I don't hear—

**Justin:** Do you hear it?

**Travis:** If anything, it's *Hey Arnold!*

**Griffin:** We—*Hey Ar*—I was also gonna say *Hey Arnold!* That... [sings tune] Was that *Hey Arnold!*? I forget. Um, but we are working—we are... partnering? Partnering makes it sounds like we're doing any work at all. We've—

**Travis:** No, no, no. We are relying fully upon.

**Griffin:** We're relying fully on a very talented, uh, artist, who is, uh... who's worked on a song for us that is very good! We're very excited about it! We'll have more news about that.

**Justin:** She sent us a demo recently, and um, it's gonna be very good.

**Travis:** It's gonna blow your asses right off.

**Justin:** Well, the—now you're getting a little crazy, Trav.

**Travis:** Okay. It's gonna put your asses back on.

**Justin:** No, the asses will be intact. It'll be an enjoyable song.

**Griffin:** Music doesn't do anything to your... butt.

**Justin:** Music doesn't do anything for your—

**Travis:** It depends on how loud you play it.

**Griffin:** I guess that's true.

**Justin:** "I just got an email today..."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Oh?

**Justin:** “I just got an email that today, my work is having a virtual team building exercise.”

**Travis:** Oh, you got me! Justin, you got me!

**Justin:** Finally. “To boost morale while we’re all working remote. The event is a virtual escape room over Zoom, not a video game. They are having us attempt a real escape room. The worst part is, it’ll be done by shouting instructions at a stranger in California who has a phone strapped to his head.”

**Travis:** Oh, boy.

**Justin:** [exhales] “How do I get through this unbearably awkward meeting while still showing my manager I’m a team player?” That’s from Sequestered in Seattle.

**Griffin:** They legally can’t make you go to an online meeting... if you have... diarrhea so bad you can’t get off the toilet. And this may be one of those times where you just gotta rip the—rip the—the ripcord off, and somehow—

**Travis:** Are you sure, Griffin? Because I think it would be easier to go to an online meeting if you had diarrhea so bad you couldn’t get off the toilet.

**Griffin:** It’s not proper. It’s not proper.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** It’s improper. And so tha—this—I mean, I hate to be that—that guy, but if you can get—get you some diarrhea, then they can’t make you do it. And this is so ba—this is so bad...

**Travis:** Griffin, do you need real—do you need real diarrhea there, or you can’t just like, say you have diarrhea?

**Griffin:** Um, I mean, for me, Trav, you know it's not an issue...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** 'Cause I can more or less, at will, change... my stuff in there.  
[laughs]

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Hatchi matchi.

**Griffin:** This—this sucks, dude. Wow, that's rough. So they want it—

**Justin:** So rough.

**Griffin:** They want it—everybody in your meeting's going to be talking to a real person who's trying—who's explaining...

**Justin:** [exhales]

**Griffin:** What?!

**Travis:** You know, I once worked, uh, in haunted houses for very rich kids' birthday parties. Amazingly – or Halloween parties – in LA for one October.

**Griffin:** I remember when you accidentally murdered Jonathan Lipnicki.

**Travis:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Do you remember that? And then you had to find a kid who looked like him to go out and play him, and you swore you'd never tell?

**Travis:** Of course I remember that, Griffin. I did, one time, scare Jonah Hill very... [laughs] Very solidly scared Jonah Hill.

**Griffin:** Oh, that's nice.

**Travis:** But I thought that that was maybe the most demeaning job that perhaps an adult person could do for a short period of time, for like a very specialized, like, "I don't think this is a job, but I'll do it."

**Griffin:** Mm.

**Travis:** I think having a phone strapped to your head while you are the homunculus for a bunch of people trying to do an esca—you're one person alone in an escape room while a legion of voices yell at you... could break a human being in 15 minutes.

**Griffin:** It's not that—we love an escape room, Jesus.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah!

**Griffin:** We're all about that life. It's just the idea of... your workplace... being the—the—this person being the conduit for all the sort of disparate voices in your workplace... scenario. It doesn't sound great. Um... so how do you get through it, I guess?

**Justin:** Yeah, I guess that...

**Travis:** Oh!

**Justin:** Maybe, like, most... being the most supportive.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** That's something that every puzzle room needs, but is rarely done. Like, just sort of like a hype, like, "You've got this." Or like...

**Travis:** "Good one!"

**Justin:** "If you ble—maybe it's magnets."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** If you say “maybe it’s magnets” every few minutes...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** You’re eventually gonna hit on something.

**Travis:** Ooh, yeah. Just say, “I bet that does something.” Any time...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** ... anybody, like—if they picked—“Oh, I bet that does something.”

**Griffin:** “That looks like a pattern to me!”

**Travis:** Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. And if anybody says “that looks like a pattern to me,” or “I bet that does something,” or “I bet it’s magnets,” you just go, “Yeah! No, that’s what I was gonna say!”

**Justin:** Maybe you’re the person who’s like, roping people back in... like, people who’ve like, kinda checked out. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Oh, [crosstalk]—

**Justin:** Every few minutes, you’re like, “What do you think, Carol?”

“Hey—hey—”

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** “Dougie, where you at on this right now?”

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

**Griffin:** Fuck, get agree—“Garrett hasn’t said anything in a while, huh?”

**Justin:** “Garrett’s being suspiciously quiet! Maybe he’s—”

**Travis:** “Are you part—[laughs] are you part of the escape room, Derek? I know you’ve worked at the company, but if you’ve been a plant this whole time...”

**Justin:** “You moonlighting, Derek?”

**Travis:** “Huh?”

**Griffin:** Um...

**Travis:** You thief.

**Griffin:** God, I—I feel like there’s the inverse solution to this, which may be better, which is that you get fucking down and dirty, hog wild as hard as you can solving this fucking puzzle room, with the hopes that you can just get through it the fastest.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Travis:** And if anybody else is like, “I don’t know, we can check the—” We’re not checking the tree! Alright, the tree had nothing in it! You—you’re done! Mute yourself!”

**Justin:** I went to an escape room with uh, our then one-year-old in the room with us...

**Travis:** Oh, boy.

**Justin:** ... and that—if you want to talk about a fucking real-life escape room. That brings some pulse-pounding thrills.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Do it like that, a little time bomb in there. The diaper is a time bomb.

**Travis:** Oh, boy.

**Justin:** There's no changing tables in, fucking, Sherlock Holmes' office.

**Griffin:** No, 'cause people—people rip them 'em down, and they'll be like, "Ha ha, Sherlock Holmes' didn't have a baby. This is a clue!"

**Travis:** And I just wanna say, nobody actually knows that for sure. Sherlock Holmes might've had a baby.

**Griffin:** Oh!

**Travis:** Yeah. I've been writing a...

**Justin:** And his name was Travis Patrick McElroy.

**Travis:** Thank you very much.

**Justin:** Son of Sherlock Holmes.

**Travis:** Son of Sherlock Holmes. Well, see, I froze Sherlock Holmes in a—in a cryogenic chamber, then he woke up in 1990s San Francisco to solve crimes, and he's my dad!

**Griffin:** Yeah. And you had to teach him a lot! About how...

**Travis:** I did. He didn't know about how phones work. What an idiot.

**Griffin:** The first time this dude had a Slurpee...

**Travis:** Blew his mind.

**Griffin:** ... blew his fucking gourd.

**Travis:** So I was thinking the other day, guys...

**Justin:** Okay.



**Travis:** I was thinking about Under the Table and Phishing.

**Justin:** Oh, my God.

**Griffin:** And how it's—

**Travis:** Can we talk about the biggest problem with Under the Table and Phishing? Is that—

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

**Justin:** I'm glad we're doing these, like—these sort of, like...

**Griffin:** Postmortems.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Well, production, really.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** We're trying to have, like, production conversations on the dime of the listener. For ear time.

**Travis:** Well, here's the problem. Here's the problem Under the Table and Phishing.

**Justin:** There's a problem with it?

**Travis:** Yeah, it's often so obvious which one's Dave Matthews because it's so fucking horny.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Travis:** And then it hit me, and now allow me to present to you...

**Justin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Under the Table in Phishing presents... Your Body is a Satellite: Is it Dave Matthews or John Mayer?

**Justin:** [shouting] Fuck!

**Griffin:** Ooh, that's something, huh? That's something.

**Justin:** That's something...

**Griffin:** I know—here's the thing, I know four of his songs.

**Travis:** Yep.

**Griffin:** So...

**Travis:** "It's me, Dave Matthews."

**Griffin:** What's—no—no, do John Mayer.

**Travis:** "[singing] Your body is a wonderland—"

**Justin:** That's just singing.

**Griffin:** No, that's—he doesn't just walk around, singing his fucking songs.

**Justin:** [laughs] He may as well be.

**Travis:** "[boldly] It's me, John Mayer!"

**Griffin:** There he is.

**Travis:** "Thank you for playing the game with me and my friend, Dave Matthews Man."

**Griffin:** Dave Matthews Man...

**Travis:** "I'm the Dave Matthews Man from a Dave Matthews Band, doing my court-appointed... [singing, high-pitched] community service!"

**Griffin:** Kind of turned into Tim Curry there. There's a lot of people in the studio, and we only brought so many chips.

**Travis:** Okay. Now, for this—

**Justin:** “[high-pitched] I'm here, too. It's me, James Blunt. [singing] You're beautiful...”

**Travis:** Get out of here, James Blunt. There's not room!

**Justin:** “You'll never guess which song is mine. I'll start. [singing] You're beautiful...”

**Travis:** Alright, James. James.

**Justin:** “[stammers]—”

**Travis:** You didn't make the cut. We talked about this.

**Justin:** “My life is brilliant.”

**Travis:** No—hey, you can grab something off of the table to eat, and we have some t-shirts on your way out, if you want one of those.

**Griffin:** “[exaggerated English accent] Hello, hello, hello; it's me, Ed Sheeran!”

**Justin:** [giggling]

**Travis:** Oh, boy. Oh, boy.

**Griffin:** “Hello, hello!”

**Justin:** “I don't know what to do!”

**Griffin:** “Look at me ketchup!”

**Travis:** Oh, man, Ed Sheeran and James Blunt are making out!

**Griffin:** "Hello, hello, I love the kissing!"

**Justin:** "[singing] You're beautiful, Ed Sheeran."

**Griffin:** "I love to fill my mouth with ketchup and do a kiss!"

**Travis:** Oh, man, it's really romantic, actually.

**Griffin:** Lot of fucking characters, though. Let's do this game.

**Travis:** Okay. Round one. Now, here's what I'm gonna do: I'm gonna give you one, uh, set of lyrics from both, and I want you guys to tell me which one's which, alright?

**Griffin:** Oh, this is gonna be confusing.

**Travis:** So it's like, head-to-head. You ready?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Option one: "The power of your kiss, your words, your lips, your flesh, your bones, exactly what you need."

Option two: "Am I the one who plays the quiet songs? Is he the one who turns the ladies on? Will I keep shining 'til my light is gone? Who did you think I was?"

**Justin:** Oh, so you're complicating things even more. We have to pair them? One is Dave, one is Mayer?

**Travis:** Correct. Correct.

**Griffin:** Number one is Dave...

**Justin:** Dave.

**Griffin:** Number two is Mayer.

**Justin:** Two is Mayer, yes.

**Travis:** Correct.

**Justin:** Yes!

**Travis:** Round two. "I will beg my way into your garden—"

**Justin:** I like that we don't pause to make any jokes or observations about the quiz show.

**Travis:** No, this is—this is a straight up-and-down real test.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** "I will beg my way into your garden. I will break my out when it rains. Just to get back to the place where I started..."

**Griffin:** That's John Mayer.

**Travis:** "...so I can—I can want you back all over again."

**Griffin:** This one's John Mayer, 'cause I've heard this song before, and the other one is Dave Matthews Man.

**Travis:** Damn it! "Let me drink you, please. I won't spill a drop, I promise you. Lying under this spell you cast on me, each movement, the more I love you."

**Griffin:** Is that—

**Travis:** Now, this one is where it's gonna get tough. Well, that was Dave. You were right.

**Griffin:** Then yeah, c—yeah.

**Travis:** This one's where it's gonna get tough.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Travis:** "Don't hold your love over my head. Don't hold your love under my head, yeah. Don't hold your love over my head. Don't hold your love under my head. Come on, come back to bed." And then—

**Griffin:** That's John Mayer's "Come Back to Bed." This isn't that hard, actually! I don't even know a whole lot of—

**Justin:** John Mayer's always in bad, and he just wants you to come back to bed.

**Travis:** How do you know so many fucking John Mayer songs, Griffin?

**Justin:** It's a vibe, isn't it?

**Griffin:** He's a major fucking recording artist, and I liked to make out in the early aughts.

**Justin:** [wheezes]

**Travis:** [laughs] I was feeling—okay. Just listen to this actual, factual Dave Matthews lyric...

**Griffin:** Okay!

**Travis:** ... the Dave Matthews Man wrote, and said: "This is a fine thing to project out into the world that I, Dave Matthews, thought up with my brain."

"I was feeling like a creep as I watched you asleep. Face-down in the grass in the park in the middle of hot afternoon. Your top was untied, and I thought how nice it'd be to follow the sweat down your spine."

**Justin:** [shudders]

**Griffin:** “And then I k—and then I killed you!” [laughs]

**Travis:** “And then I killed—the reason you were face-down is I’d stabbed you two minutes prior.”

**Griffin:** “It’s because I’m the Zodiac Killer, Dave Matthews Man.”

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** “Me and ol’ Ted Cruz did a two-hander on the Zodiac. That was us.”

**Travis:** Okay. Final round.

**Justin:** Alright.

**Griffin:** Alright!

**Travis:** Option one: “You can’t get too much love. Don’t you feel it in your belly? Go get some—go get *you* some,” excuse me, “You can’t get too much love. The time is right for loving, so come on, come on.”

**Justin:** [exhales]

**Griffin:** Or?

**Travis:** Option two: “Had a little love, but I spread it thin. Falling in her arms, and out again. Made a bad name for my game around town. Tore up my heart, and shut it down.”

**Justin:** Dave and Mayer. Dave first, Mayer second.

**Griffin:** Same.

**Travis:** Correct! Damn!

**Justin:** Ah!

**Griffin:** Alright!

**Travis:** Thought that'd be harder, Griffin. I didn't expect you to be such a May-o.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Uh, I mean, I don't really know his—his new shit. I... used to be so tender.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** And what—Griffin, what happened?

**Justin:** Yeah, where did it go wrong?

**Griffin:** Uh, hm, 9/11. Do you guys want a Yahoo?

**Travis:** [bursts out laughing]

**Griffin:** A lot of people sent this one in.

**Justin:** [laughs] I guess!

**Griffin:** It's from Yahoo Answers user Amelia, who asks, "Can you live in a restaurant, but not sell food?"

**Travis:** Oh.

**Griffin:** "I was wondering if you can buy a restaurant; for example, a Taco Bell. If the Taco Bell shut down for any reason, could I buy the property and turn it into a house? Just like your average living space. Keep the logos and signs up that advertise it as a Taco Bell..."

**Travis:** Ooh.

**Griffin:** "... but it won't actually sell food, and I technically won't be a Taco Bell anymore."



**Travis:** Why would you do that, though?

**Griffin:** `Ca—funny. But I also—

**Travis:** Yeah, but—[sighs]

**Griffin:** I think that... they wouldn't want you to keep up the logos and signs.

**Travis:** No.

**Griffin:** You might be able to get away with it for a while. I don't think they're gonna send, uh, Papa King to your house to like—and by "your house," I mean the former Taco Bell building. They're not gonna send him in to, like, tear your shit down or anything, but they aren't gonna like it. They aren't gonna like that.

**Travis:** Yeah, but you're just opening yourself up to people coming in your house, un—like, unbidden, and being like, "Hey, can I get so—"

And you're like, "Oh, it's not actually—I don't serve food."

And they're like, "Then why do you have all the signage, and everything o—you left the light on for me! Why wouldn't I—" Now, here's what's a way more interesting thing.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** There are some McDonald's that are open 24/7. Can I live in that McDonald's?

**Griffin:** What do you... Why would—

**Travis:** You know, like in the movie *Terminal*, where...

**Justin:** Yes...

**Travis:** ... like, he just lives in the terminal.

**Justin:** Correct.

**Travis:** Maybe I'm just, like, living in McDonald's.

**Griffin:** So you're saying, because it's open 24/7... then you could live in it? As opposed to a normal—like, a regular business hours McDonald's? This point doesn't make much sense, Trav.

**Travis:** That's fair.

**Griffin:** But could you buy that McDonald's after it goes under, and live in McDonald's?

**Travis:** I don't think I have it—

**Griffin:** "Hello, this is my house, McDonald's."

**Travis:** I'd want a buffet. If I was going to do this...

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** ... I'd want to get a restaurant that had a buffet in it, right? 'Cause that's just fun.

**Justin:** Okay, yeah.

**Travis:** You have friends over, it's already halfway done.

**Justin:** Treat yourself, yeah.

**Griffin:** But okay, wait, wait, wait. I need you to understand something. If Taco Bell goes under, and I move in... I buy the building, and I move in, and I refuse to take down the Taco Bell signage... The beef that's in there... is— is one day going to rot.

**Travis:** You don't think they took the beef?

**Griffin:** Okay, but you suggesting it—"I want a buffet, so when friends come over, we can have buffet," you realize you're gonna have to—

**Travis:** No, I don't mean the food is there. I mean all the equipment, Griffin.

**Griffin:** So you just wanna have fun with buffet equipment.

**Travis:** I'm saying that the locations are there. I can make, you know, big things of, say, spaghetti, or salad, or yogurt, or whatever, and just dump 'em in.

**Griffin:** I can do that in my house. I can do that in my house. With the bowls.

**Travis:** Yeah, but you have to put it—[sighs] You have to put it on a table, Griffin.

**Griffin:** When you shop around for houses, do you look and pay attention to, "Well, here's a—here's a cold hole that I could put pudding in. This is why I'll buy this one."

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** That doesn't even—

**Travis:** You don't see the pudding—

**Justin:** You don't see the pudding hole at buffets much anymore. I don't think my kids have ever seen a pudding hole in a buffet.

**Travis:** That's true. Especially not—oh, the current days? Oh, God.

**Griffin:** That was—that was—

**Justin:** They closed down our Golden Corral here...

**Travis:** No.

**Justin:** ... in Huntington, guys. I don't know if you knew.

**Griffin:** Damn.

**Justin:** If Golden Corral can't make it in Huntington, I don't know what to tell 'em. Although I guess this... this unpleasant time—this challenging year was uh, rough on buffet restaurants, I think.

**Griffin:** Yeah, probably.

**Travis:** You know—[sighs] I think I would rather – and I know this wasn't the question, but that's never stopped me before – I think I'd rather live on a Putt-Putt course than I would...

**Griffin:** Wow, that's—that really has nothing to do with what we're—

**Travis:** No, I mean, just a restaurant feels so restrictive.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Travis:** I think—like, with the Putt-Putt course, you can have, like, "I live in the windmill, and this water trap is my pool." I just feel like it's more flexible as far as the things you could do with it. And more fun over time.

Because after a while, I think, living in a Taco Bell, it would wear off pretty quickly, where then you're just in a Taco Bell, and you're like, "Well, there's no rooms, and no real place for a bed."

**Griffin:** Just right.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I think with a butt-butt—[laughs] I think with a Putt-Putt course, there's a lot more options as far as, like, designing it goes.

**Justin:** There's a lot more options as far as dying of exposure. [laughs] Because it's an outdoor venue you've chosen.

**Griffin:** It's so, so insane what you just said, Travis.

**Justin:** It's maybe the—can I say... you've got a checkered past, and I think we would all be lying to ourselves. It may be the dumbest thing you've ever said on the show.

**Griffin:** It's so wild to say—to go into a Taco Bell building, and be like, "No room for a bed in this one!" It's got two bathrooms in it, the Taco Bell does, already.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And a break room, and a kitchen, and a living space. Like, where are you—

**Travis:** When was the last time you guys went Putt-Putting? There's almost always a cave you walk through or some shit. There's always at least some interior part of the Putt-Putt course. There's like, a little waterfall. That's cool.

**Justin:** It's still exposed to the elements, you monster!

**Griffin:** It's so wild.

**Travis:** Fuck! Man—oh, you guys are being so close-minded right now. You're telling me you would rather live in an old, stinky Taco Bell, than in a fresh-air...

**Justin:** [wheezes]

**Griffin:** What you just said is fucking hateful, first of all.

**Travis:** You don't think that the fucking smell of beef is so baked in—

**Griffin:** Pleasant—pleasant and good? Yeah, no, for sure, dude. For sure, for sure.

**Travis:** Maybe pleasant for, like, ten minutes when you're in the Taco Bell. But if it was all the time—I'm telling you right now. Hey, any Taco Bell employee listening to this, you tell us right now. You tweet @griffinmcelroy, @justinmcelroy, tell them about how your clothes smell...

**Griffin:** Oh, great...

**Travis:** ... when you come home from Taco Bell. And I'm not even going to lead the witness. You just tell them how they smell.

**Griffin:** Your family—your family comes up to you after you get home from a shift, and gives you big hugs and huffs deeply, 'cause they love it.

**Travis:** You're chased by dogs down the street.

**Griffin:** "Ooh, what is that spicy beef smell? Dennis is home!"

**Travis:** All the neighborhood's stray dogs are com—trying to kill you [laughs] and eat your shirt.

**Griffin:** "Everyone, grab Dennis and huff him quick before the smell—before the scent goes away!"

**Justin:** I don't need those tweets, by the way. I worked at Olive Garden, where we always came home coated in something called OG water.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah. We've talked about OG water, I believe.

**Justin:** So yeah, I don't need a—I don't need a lesson in that. My man, Tommy Redd, used to give me a ride to school every day...

**Griffin:** [laughs gently]

**Justin:** ... and he would have his Fazoli's clothes in the back seat.

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** [through laughter] And God, every time—every time I got into his car, it was like an assassin was trying to suffocate me with garlic bread. It was the worst.

**Griffin:** I'm just saying, a Taco Bell establishment is one bed away from being a home. That's it!

**Travis:** That's beautiful. You could actually, like, cross-stitch that into a sampler.

**Justin:** And every Taco Bell staff is a family!

**Griffin:** It is a family.

**Justin:** You know what I mean? Like, that's what I've been trying to get you guys to realize. We're a family here! We look out for each other.

**Travis:** Is that why you keep giving me those applications?

**Justin:** [laughs] I'm just saying it's a family. Travis, you can finally have a family of your own. Imagine it.

**Griffin:** Blood is thicker than the bun. [laughs] That doesn't make sense.

**Justin:** [snorts] Think inside the blood.

**Griffin:** Inside the—inside the blood.

**Justin:** "I recently quit my job at a certain fast-food place." Wow. "We didn't part on the best terms, as I told them I was quitting in the middle of a mandatory quarantine." Mm-hm. "While I'm happy to never make the food again, their salads were once a regular lunch for me."

**Griffin:** [mumbling] This is what—this is—

**Justin:** “My question is this: what is the appropriate amount of time to wait before I could head back to the drive-thru window I used to clean?” That’s from, uh, Wendy’s Widow in West Virginia.

**Travis:** Right away.

**Griffin:** A weird conflux of, uh, talking points in this episode already, here. Um, ‘cause you left the familia, and that’s gotta—there’s a price to pay with that, I feel like.

**Travis:** I would say zero amount of time. Like, I think the best thing you could do is walk out, get in your car, drive through the drive-thru, and get a salad.

**Justin:** Yeah, I mean—I—Trav, I completely agree. I feel like you quit, you get in your car, you pull up to the window. “One southwest avocado chicken for me to go.”

**Travis:** [laughs] Because the best part about that, is possibly you do that before the other person realizes you don’t get an employee discount anymore.

**Griffin:** Ooh, yeah.

**Justin:** It might be the only—if you timed it right, it might be the only way to guarantee you’ve got the most sumptuous foods, is if you prep the chicken and all the salad ingredients...

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** And you’re like, “I quit!”

**Griffin:** Oh, yes.

**Travis:** “Hey, could you hand me that salad I just made?”



**Justin:** "I already made it, and I made it perfectly. Don't fucking touch it."

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "I put the two giant ice cream scoops of guacamole on top, just like I like. Don't mess it up."

**Griffin:** Um, man, this is—y'know—

**Justin:** This is the taco salad at Wendy's, if I may. The taco salad at Wendy's is—has um, uh, chips, and it's got chili, right? 'Cause it's a taco salad.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** There's two things I'd like to address here. One, the chili on top is the same chili that they serve if you buy chili.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** The chili at Wendy's is chock full of big chunks of ground beef that are just cut-up hamburgers.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Justin:** So when you get a taco salad, you're eating twice-repurposed beef, which I don't love. The thing I do love, though, is the bag of chips that Wendy's gives you says "it's crunch time" on it.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Awesome.

**Justin:** And what I like about that is, they're s—they're branding the chips that I have had no pa—you cannot order these chips. You do not need to sell me on the chips. I'm gonna enjo—they might as well just say "chips" in crayon.

**Griffin:** "Chips—chips?" with a question mark, you're still gonna fuckin' eat 'em.

**Justin:** You're gonna eat them, 'cause these are the chips. But no, it says "it's crunch time," so you get even more excited.

**Travis:** Aw, yeah!

**Griffin:** It could say—it could say fucking "poison" on 'em, and you would still open them and be like, "Oh, no, these are the chips that go with the salad that I have to put on there."

**Travis:** I'm not examining the packaging. I'm not looking for a best-consumed-by date.

**Griffin:** You can't take that back to the register and be like, "Give me different chips."

**Justin:** [laughs] "I want a refund for these poison chips."

"No, sir, they're not poison. It's just to scare away the fair weather fans of our chips."

**Travis:** Yeah. "These are for the real Wend-o's."

**Griffin:** We've uh... I mean, we've had jobs in food service before... I think not counting the concession stand at the movie theater that I believe we all worked at? Or maybe just me and Travis, 'cause I did definitely haunt...

**Justin:** Yeah, I didn't—I didn't.

**Griffin:** I did haunt that particular theater after I quit there, but like, the TCBY where I cut my teeth? I didn't fucking darken the doorstep of that particular—we can talk a big game here, but it does feel... I don't know... wrong to me, in a way.

**Travis:** I never went back—let me—uh—

**Griffin:** Did you ever go back to the—Justin, the Olive Garden. Did you ever return to it? Extracurricularly?

**Justin:** T—oh, constantly! Yeah, of course!

**Griffin:** Oh, okay.

**Justin:** Obviously.

**Travis:** It is the only OG in town, Griffin.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** That's true, I guess so.

**Justin:** Yeah. It's the OG OG.

**Travis:** I never went back to the Jimothy John's that I worked at.

**Griffin:** Oh, right.

**Travis:** I never went back to the hotel breakfast restaurant that I worked at.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** But I think, aside from the Shakespeare company, I have not returned to *any* job I have ever worked at.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I hardly ever leave them on what might one call, uh, warm regards.

**Justin:** I don't have—I mean, I don't have a lot of options here, so I kind of have to—I can't burn any bridges. Like, if I burn a bridge with, uh, the Chipotle in town, I just—I just [laughs] don't ever get to eat Chipotle again, you know?

**Griffin:** No—yes, you no longer get burritos.

**Travis:** I—I take that back. I did return to the Best Buy I had worked at after I quit. And even though it was six months later, many of the people I encountered, uh, were surprised to learn I didn't work there anymore. So like, just make—

**Justin:** You hate to see it.

**Griffin:** You hate to see that.

**Travis:** Maybe just take that in, and if you're worried about going back, chances are none of them care. So...

**Justin:** [sighs]

**Travis:** ... that's something.

**Griffin:** Well, Trav, it's called Best Buy, not Best Friends.

**Travis:** That's true, Griffin, but fucking I bled blue for that place. You know I did.

**Justin:** Yeah, he was always, like, five, seven, three, on top. He was always like...

**Travis:** That's right!

**Justin:** ... repping the—the store.

**Travis:** This is a fun thing, because Huntington's not that big of a place: there is an overlap of jobs Justin, Griffin, and I have worked at different times.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** It's a fun Venn diagram that I think we have, six degrees of separation, connected every business in Huntington.

**Griffin:** I don't think we've had...

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** ... the sa—except for Cowabunga, a—the WTCR mascot, a job we worked very illegally, at *very* young ages.

**Travis:** [laughs] Indeed.

**Justin:** Well, in fairness, we weren't paid in money, but rather in company trades, so that probably helps.

**Travis:** Yeah. We were paid in grit.

**Griffin:** [laughs, snorts]

**Justin:** Yeah, radio skrit. I traded it in on a friggin' couch for my parents, who gave me 100 dollars.

Uh, hey, listen, this has been so fun, and I'm loving it, but let's um, let's take a quick break and go to the Money Zone.

[theme song plays, instrumentals to the tune of *Rugrats*]

**Travis:** [sighs]

**Griffin:** Oh, no.

**Justin:** What's wrong, Trav?

**Griffin:** What's wrong?

**Travis:** "It is I, Beep-blork."

**Justin:** I'm not—actually—

**Griffin:** We don't want—

**Travis:** I'm so—

**Justin:** I don't want to handle Bleep-blorp. I'm going to the bathroom.

**Travis:** "I'm so th—"

**Justin:** Have a good one, Griff. Love you, bud.

**Griffin:** But I don't wanna have to do it.

**Travis:** "See, Griffin, this is what I'm talking about. I came to this planet to get what you human call love."

**Griffin:** Yeah...

**Travis:** "Perhaps it is Bleep-blork's bad breath?"

**Griffin:** Let's start—can we do something else?

**Travis:** Hey, Griffin!

**Griffin:** Yeah?

**Travis:** Gum. What is it? Nobody's really sure.

Quip. It's the good habits company. You've heard us say that a thousand times. What does that mean? Flossing, yes. Brushing, yes. But what about the rest of the time, right? We all like to, you know, eat some candy, maybe even chew some gum. Are those good habits? Well, they can be now, because gum from Quip... it's new, it's there, and it's good for your oral health!

It comes in a really cool dispenser that'll make you look like some kind of, I would say, cool, like, spy... with a cool spy gadget.

**Griffin:** Do you want to hear it? Do you wanna hear the dispensers?

**Travis:** Yes, please, yes.

**Griffin:** It's like... [clicking noises] Isn't that cool?

**Travis:** Whoa. That is pretty good.

**Griffin:** The gum—the gu—it does actually warn you on the directions ot not do it into your mouth, 'cause the gum does come out with, I will say this, Quip... a not inconsiderable amount of velocity. So you do—

**Justin:** Yeah, more stink than you needed to put on there, I think.

**Griffin:** Yeah, so just do that into your hand and then eat the gum.

**Travis:** No, I—I think it's the exact right amount of stink.

**Griffin:** Okay. Yeah.

**Travis:** And Quip gum can help prevent cavities and freshen breath when chewed for 20 minutes after eating. It's sugar-free and has tooth-friendly xylitol with zero calories.

Now, let's be clear – it's not a substitute for brushing and flossing, but it is a great support for your oral health, and you can go ahead and pair that with your Quip electric toothbrush and refillable floss.

And if you go to [getquip.com/mybrother](https://getquip.com/mybrother) right now, you can get a free plastic dispenser with any refill plan. That's a free dispenser at [getquip.com/mybrother](https://getquip.com/mybrother). Spelled G-E-T-Q-U-I-P dot com slash my brother. Quip, the good habits company!

**Justin:** It says in here, we have to say it's not a substitute for brushing and flossing. Folks, if somebody made a gum that was a substitute for brushing and flossing, I don't think they'd need to run ads.

**Griffin:** No.

**Justin:** I think you'd probably hear about it, right?

**Travis:** It'd be all over the place.

**Griffin:** You'd go to CVS, and they'd be like, "Uh-oh, it looks like you can only have COVID vaccine, or... toothbrush gum." You'd go with toothbrush gum.

Now, listen. It still gets you nice and clean. I like to pop one in there after—after lunch.

**Travis:** You know what I like to do? Brush my teeth, then after I've drank my coffee, chew some gum.

**Griffin:** Chew some gum.

**Justin:** The ad's over, guys. You don't have to keep shilling gum.

Uh, you know, I've been, uh... The seasons are changing.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm. Yes.

**Griffin:** Alright.

**Justin:** God, we're like, right in the middle of it. It's the least applicable that could possibly be, but things are cold here. And I realize that I don't have a lot of cold-weather clothes, right?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah?

**Justin:** But twist: I don't go outside.

**Travis:** Oh!



**Justin:** So I've got all these cold-weather clothes, and they're all ill-fitting, and also, like, I don't wanna wear 'em.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** And so I need to stock up on all kinds of different looks, and there's only one place I ever turn to for that, and that is Stitch Fix.

It's not like online shopping – that's such a stretch, man. You get the clothes, you don't know what size they're gonna be, you don't know any of that. But Stitch Fix does all the hard work, and just makes it fun!

You uh, talk to one of their stylists about your—your style, your budget, what the size of your different body segments are. And they're gonna mail you some clothes to try on. You keep the stuff you like, you send back the rest.

Stitch Fix has free shipping, easy returns and exchanges, and a prepaid envelope is included, and there's no subscription required!

Uh, half my uh—the clothes probably—or around that, came from Stitch Fix. And the other half are Jimmy Buffet t-shirts, so...

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Uh, I—we really believe in this company, and we love the fashion that they are able to uh, extend to us and anybody who's willing to uh, to join up.

So you can get started today at [stitchfix.com/mybrother](https://stitchfix.com/mybrother), and you'll get 25 percent off when you keep everything in your fix. That's [stitchfix.com/mybrother](https://stitchfix.com/mybrother) for 25 percent off when you keep everything in your fix. [Stitchfix.com/mybrother](https://stitchfix.com/mybrother)!

[energetic piano music plays in the background]

**Jackie:** I'm going first! It's me, Jackie Kashian.

**Laurie:** Man, she's always this bossy.

**Jackie:** [laughs]

**Laurie:** I'm Laurie Kilmartin. Uh, we're a branch of standup comics, and we've been doing comedy, like, 60 years total, of both of us.

**Jackie:** [laughs]

**Laurie:** But we look amazing.

**Jackie:** [laughs] It's all working out. We drop every Monday on Max Fun, and it's called *The Jackie and Laurie Show*, and you can listen to it and learn about comedy and learn about anger management, and all the things.

**Laurie:** And Jackie is married but childless, and I'm unmarried but childfull, so together, we make...

**Jackie:** [laughs]

**Together:** One complete woman.

**Kyle:** Is that just how it's gonna end?

**Jackie:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Laurie:** [laughs] And we try to make Kyle laugh just like that, and say "Oh, my God" every episode.

**Kyle:** It's a good job. [close to microphone] *The Jackie and Laurie Show*: Mondays, only on Maximum Fun.

[music and advertisement end]

**Justin:** [imitates rock guitar]

**Travis:** Huh!

**Justin:** I'm not cutting anybody off today.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** I'm done with that. [imitates rock guitar]

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Griffin:** Alright.

**Justin:** [imitates extensive rock guitar solo]

**Griffin:** Fucking nice. Give me that shit!

**Justin:** [singing] Here I am!

**Travis:** [singing] Ba, ba, ba, ba!

**Justin:** [singing] Munch me like a Squadicane!

**Travis:** Ooh.

**Justin:** [singing] Ba, ba, ba, ba, ba. [spoken] Hello, welcome to Munch Squad, it's a podcast within a podcast focusing on the latest and greatest in brand eating, and this is a subseries of this podcast, called um, Letters from the Poultry Front.

**Travis:** Hey, Justin, can I give you a quick note?

**Justin:** Yeah. Yeah, please.

**Travis:** "Munch me" is not something I ever wanna hear you say again.

**Justin:** It's too late. It's in your, uh, hippocampus. It's just gonna live there, rent-free, as the TikTok kids say.

**Travis:** Oh, damn it.

**Justin:** Uh, guys, this is—this is intense out there, and I don't know if you've seen some of the bodies lying in the streets, but the war is, uh, bloodier and more brutal...

**Travis:** What?

**Justin:** ...than ever, and it is not showing any signs of slowing.

**Travis:** Hey, what the fuck are you talking about?

**Justin:** I am going to read, today... not in their entirety, but I'm gonna give you a sampling of, uh, five press releases, all released within a – no bullshit – two-week window. Understand?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Okay. Let's check in on, um, Checkers and Rally's. We'll start there, okay?

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** They're uh, talking about how they're going to, um, uh, speed up turnaround. You go into Checkers and Rally's, and you're gonna get out quicker. Which is good, because the ambiance isn't what you go to Checkers and Rally's for; you go so you can get your wings and your, uh, best fries in the fast-food biz, and you move on with your life.

But this press release, from January 14th, proudly announces that they have – and this is the, um, the wording that they use... they've launch a new chicken sandwich platform. "The mother cruncher chicken sandwich platform."

It's not a literal platform; it's just a place to bounce your ideas off of. But it's the mother cruncher, okay?

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** And they think that you're going to love it. Let's go over to, uh, Boston Market, where they—

**Travis:** Wait, you just said a thing...

**Griffin:** You just said a thing, and you need to explain what a chicken sandwich platform is.

**Travis:** A platform to bounce your ideas off? What the fuck are you talking about?

**Justin:** I don't know. [laughs] It's just in the press release.

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** What am I, an interpreter?

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** I'm just telling you what it says. Okay?

**Griffin:** Alright.

**Justin:** McDonald's—let's—I'm actually gonna go over McDonald's, okay? McDonald's, January 4th: "The chicken sandwich wars aren't slowing down."

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Justin:** They're gonna roll out new chicken sandwiches in February. "We've heard our customers loud and clear; we know they're craving more chicken options. We're confident all chicken fans, from traditionalists to spice—" that is a fucking hell of a clause, guys.

**Griffin:** That's a sentence.

**Justin:** "Will discover a new menu favorite. They'll come back for it time and time again." Uh, and this is all in service. They wanna be the best in the biz in the chicken wars!

Um, and they're—they got three new sandwiches to prove it. And uh, Erlinger, uh, who's the president of, uh, McDonald's US...

**Travis:** Of course.

**Justin:** ...says, "Developing a reputation for great chicken represents one of our highest aspirations. We want customers to choose McDonald's for chicken, because of the unique craveable flavor that they can only get under the arches."

**Travis:** Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

**Justin:** "To get started, we listened to cust—consumers to understand our current barriers and potential." The only barrier that could be is people don't like your chicken. [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** So they're trying to—they're trying something different.

Over at KFC, they've launched – this is from January 7th – "KFC has launched the best chicken sandwich ever!"

**Travis:** So fuck you!

**Justin:** "They weren't gonna sit out the latest round of the quick-service chicken sandwich wars."

**Travis:** What?

**Justin:** "The chain introduced its best chicken sandwich ever Thursday in select markets. It's simply labeled, 'the KFC chicken sandwich.'"

**Travis:** [gasps]

**Justin:** Bold. "It's got uh, a buttery brioche bun topped with crispier, thicker pickles, and the perfect amount of the Colonel's real mayo."

**Travis:** And no chicken.

**Justin:** No, sorry I want to just isolate one for everybody.

"The Colonel's *real mayo*."

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I did see a commercial with one of these sandwiches in it, and fellas, they are not kidding about the size of these pickles. It's—it's obscene, the size—the depth of these pickles is obscene!

**Travis:** [sighs] Fuck, I want a chicken sandwich.

**Justin:** Za—

**Travis:** Okay, go on.

**Justin:** Zaxby's is offering General Tso's.

**Griffin:** Okay. Okay, Zax—okay, Zaxby's. Now you have me! Now you have me, Zaxby's!

**Justin:** Zaxby's is doing General Tso's chicken wings for a limited time.

**Griffin:** Oh, not a chicken sandwich.

**Travis:** But even that, I think, is bo—when it's like, "We're all doing sandwiches."

And Zaxby's is like, "We're over here *fucking partying*."

**Justin:** Zaxby's has got Texas toast and napkins. You can make a fucking General Tso's sandwich if you want to get nasty.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** Zaxby's says, "An alternative to fast-food—" Alright, bud. "— Zaxby's serves fresh prepared-to-order hand-breaded chicken fingerz," with a Z, "and wings tossed with a variety of sauces."

"Zaxby's recently introduced a new signature sandwich in test markets, with a choice of Zax sauce, or a new spicey Zax sauce. The company has plans for nation-wide rollout, because the chicken sandwich war ain't over yet."

**Travis:** Oh, boy.

**Justin:** I have one more. Boston Market, the—January 19th, okay? "Boston Market boldly launches Nashville hot crispy chicken sandwich, declaring the chicken sandwich wars are over," which was recently declared... [laughs]

**Travis:** [humps triumphant tune]

**Justin:** ... continuing...

**Griffin:** You can't just declare that! You have to kill everyone else.

**Justin:** This is—I think this is what they are claiming to have done. Zaxby's just reassured us [through laughter] on this exact same day the chicken sandwich wars are not over. Boston Market leads—

**Travis:** Yeah, they are!

**Justin:** —that actually, they are over.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [through laughter] Both on January 19th! Actually, they're not over. [normally] Boston Market says they actually are.



**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** “We’ve entered the fray with our own take: the Nashville hot crispy chicken sandwich. It’s the first crispy chicken sandwich in the company’s 30-year history, and it’s been available for a limited time.” Which if you’re telling this is the sandwich to bring peace to the galaxy, you should probably keep it on the menu on the while, just to limit the number of mothers and sons being separated by the Grim Reaper.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** “Alongside launch, Boston Market will introduce new crispy chicken BLT sandwich and crispy chicken and white gravy.”

**Griffin:** See, that’s—here’s what’s up. Here’s what I appreciate. McDonald’s... they done took the damn grilled chicken sandwich off the menu. They said, “If we’re gonna g—if we’re gonna get—if we’re gonna join, voluntarily, this chicken sandwich war, we’re gonna put all of our fucking resources behind it.”

The grilled chicken sandwich is a distraction. Everybody else is like, “Yeah, we’re—we also are kicking ass with our chicken sandwich, but also... check out this one—this one’s got zesty Italian flavors!” Like, no! That’s not the war, though!

**Travis:** Can I tell you guys what’s really fucking me up right now?

**Griffin:** What’s that?

**Justin:** What?

**Travis:** Is that we’ve heard from these five companies, and it’s like, there’s been so much carnage already in the chicken wars...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** But we haven’t heard from fucking Popeye’s yet. And—

**Justin:** Popeye's launched—no, no, no.

**Griffin:** They—they launched the first shot the bow, dude.

**Justin:** They—it was opening—

**Travis:** No, but this is what I'm saying is, like, they launched it, and if anyone's gonna finish it, I have this feeling that Popeye's might...

**Griffin:** They're the most likely ones.

**Travis:** ... actually, factually kill KFC and or Bo—I mean, Boston Market seems like they'd be the first to go, right?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Then Zaxby's?

**Griffin:** Yeah. Zaxby's is gonna make it pretty far, I think. I don't know.

**Travis:** Yeah, you think? I could see them being like, the—like, "We have these, like, swamp fighter techniques," where it's just like, you know, like, how we won the Revolutionary War?

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Travis:** I see Boston Market is out there, like, "Oh, we're fighting the chicken wars, in like, perfect, you know, formation."

**Griffin:** Formation, yeah.

**Travis:** And Zaxby's is like, "We dropped down from trees, and our sandwich."

**Griffin:** Zaxby's wearing a fucking ghillie suit.

**Justin:** Listen, Boston Market is not fucking around, because I want to bring you my new favorite CEO in the *biz*...

**Griffin:** Wo—okay, last week, we learned about a sentient potato king, so let's be careful about the words we use.

**Justin:** Okay. Let's check it ou—actually, not CEO. He's President Randy Miller.

**Griffin:** [blows raspberry]

**Justin:** "It's me, Randy Miller, the president of Boston Market!"

If you leave the "market" off, it's a man announcing...

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** "... I'm Randy Miller, the president of Boston! Deal with it! 2020 is behind us, and so are the chicken sandwich wars!"

**Travis:** [gasps]

**Justin:** "We've been bringing the heat in our rotisserie ovens for more than 30 years, and our new Nashville hot crispy chicken sandwich proves there's only room for one chicken expert in this country."

**Travis:** Really?

**Justin:** "Bo—[holding back laughter] Boston Market will always be king."

**Travis:** [blows raspberry]

**Griffin:** Jesus, God.

**Justin:** "With this new menu, we wanted to introduce Music City's legendary hot sauce flavor to all our guests across the country."

I—brief—uh, if I may interrupt, Randy—

"You may not!"

J—please, it's my show. I just want to say it's wild that, um... If you want to bring another city's flavor, you should... probably not name your restaurant after a city. People are gonna start to wonder where your allegiances lie.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** "There's no better way to do that than alongside our legendary rotisserie chicken and a crispy chicken sandwich that will quickly become the best thing our guests – and probably our competitors – will have ever tasted. Our Nashville hot crispy chicken sandwich is no doubt the best sandwich out there today."

**Griffin:** Well, there you have it.

**Justin:** "An we challenge everyone to put it to the taste."

**Travis:** Oh!

**Justin:** "A taste *test*, of course."

**Travis:** [bursts out laughing]

**Justin:** Okay, you fucking fell apart at the end, Randy.

**Griffin:** Awesome, dude.

**Travis:** Oh, you had me. You have me.

**Griffin:** That's so sick, Randy.

**Travis:** You have me.

**Justin:** You're doing so good, Randy. "Everyone, put it to the taste. A taste taste."

**Griffin:** "Test taste."

**Travis:** "Test the—you gotta tast—taste it to waste it. Fuck!"

**Justin:** "Ten to win."

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "Taste taste."

**Griffin:** I just—

**Justin:** "Hey, I'm here for my taste taste at the best Coun—best music city sandwich on Earth."

**Travis:** Seems like we might need to scrap whatever we were planning for next week's episode, and just like, get into these crispy boys.

**Griffin:** Get some chicken f—I just want everybody to realign their focus on—like, why we're doing this in the first place, and that is because it is unethical to eat Chick-fil-A, but nobody's really doing... their weird, wet, flat pickle mess that I—I haven't eaten in many years now!

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Just from a principle standpoint. But, hey, I've tried some of the other ones!

**Travis:** I remember there was one week, for a second, where we all maybe got tricked for just a second into thinking Chick-fil-A had turned a corner, and then like four days later, they were like, "Ah, just kidding! Here's a million dollars!"

**Griffin:** It wasn't even four days. It was—yeah, it—just ma—uh, listen!

**Travis:** I didn't eat during that period, is what I'm saying. What I'm saying is I was like, aw man, this weekend, I'll make a—

**Griffin:** That's hope. I mean, that was hope. We miss the weird, wet pickle mess, but like, it's a principle thing, but nobody's really going for that weird, wet pickle mess aesthetic. And that's kind of—

**Travis:** It would be great if they could all get together to crush...

**Griffin:** That's what I'm saying. Team up.

**Travis:** ... Chick-fil-A.

**Griffin:** Just—yeah.

**Justin:** Uh, that's—I will continue to bring everyone, um, updates, by the way...

**Travis:** From the front.

**Griffin:** Please.

**Justin:** If I could just mention one more thing...

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Justin:** This is the last one before—and I just wanna—"Tropical Smoothie sees increased demand in Cajun shrimp menu offerings."

**Travis:** Huh!

**Justin:** Okay? I just wanna—this is the name of the press release. And then you're reading through, "Mm-hm, mm-hm, mm-hm, mm." Sounds all very reasonable. And then, the first line of the story is, "Many of its largest competitors continue to fight the long raging chicken sandwich war. And then the end of it is a quote that says, "We provide a fresher, flavorful alternative, and it's outperforming any food item in our history. Maybe 2021 will mark the end of the chicken sandwich wars."

**Travis:** [blows raspberry]

**Justin:** Wha—[laughs] This is from January 19th also, guys. I don't know what's *fucking happening*, but three different places say, on this exact same date, okay?

Zaxby's is like, "Uh, the chicken sandwiches are really continuing this, it's uh—they're not over yet."

And then Boston Market said, "They actually are over."

And Tropical Smoothie said, "I don't know. Maybe they are, maybe they aren't."

What ha—these are not the same company! They're different companies! How the fuck did everybody just decide, like, "The war is on. We're calling it a war. Yes, it's a war. We're all doing a chicken sandwich war right now, and it's not over 'til we all agree that it's over."

**Travis:** Is there maybe some kind of a shadowy organization that is like...

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Travis:** ... actually, all of these chicken places are owned by the exact same, like, company...

**Griffin:** Yup.

**Travis:** ... and like, "We drum up the war just to like—" I don't know. I don't know!

**Griffin:** Big Tyson's.

**Travis:** "We drum up the war to get more ASMR people to do taste tests and compare the sandwiches."

**Griffin:** Mm-hm.

Um, hey, I have a Yahoo here. It was sent in by Graham Roebuck. Thanks, Graham. It's Yahoo Answers user—they're anonymous. Their name is gonna

be... for this one, their name is gonna be uh, Tra—Trey, asks, “Family-safe Scrabble game modifications.”

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** “My nana won’t play the game Scrabble with us anymore because she doesn’t want to feel pressured to use an unpleasant or dirty word out of desperation...”

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** “... slash lack of other options, just to keep the game moving along. I understand her concerns completely.”

**Travis:** You do?

**Griffin:** “Is there a way to modify Scrabble to make it safe for her to play, so she doesn’t have to spell a word she didn’t want to? I was thinking of either removing the P, F, V, B, T, C, and D tiles...”

**Travis:** Wow.

**Griffin:** “... or adding in a lot of the other letters from other sets of the game. Does anyone have any other suggestions?” Uh, updated two weeks ago: “We don’t allow dirty words, but if it is the only option left, Nana feels like she is forced to, and it upsets her.”

**Travis:** Ooh.

**Griffin:** Updated *six hours* ago...

**Justin:** Wow.

**Griffin:** “The tile swap rule is akin to gambling, so we refuse to that rule.”

**Travis:** [makes unintelligible dumbfounded noises]

**Griffin:** A lot happening here.



**Travis:** I was jokingly going to suggest removing the F tiles.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And they just done went ahead and said, "Hey, I'll see your joke, and raise you a scary suggestion."

**Griffin:** Okay, but here's the thing: F, you remove that, what do you get rid of? You know, the big one...

**Travis:** Fucking fart.

**Griffin:** The F-bomb.

**Travis:** And fart!

**Griffin:** If we could stop—if we could try and be very careful not to just George Carlin it up on this segment, because I want us to be sort of clinical about this.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** If you take out the—the U, I feel like that's gonna cover a lot more cuss words per... letter.

**Travis:** What about the K—no, the C.

**Griffin:** C's...

**Travis:** The C's in a lot of them.

**Griffin:** C's in a lot...

**Justin:** C's doing a lot of work, yeah.

**Travis:** 'Cause you got the B-word, the F-word—I mean, the C-word... uh...

**Griffin:** The B-word meaning butt?

**Travis:** No, Griffin, the five-letter B-word!

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah, that one.

**Travis:** You got the D word in there...

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I feel like C covers a lot.

**Justin:** C would cover a lot, actually.

**Griffin:** C would actually ge—C is—so we've covered—we figured out that C is the nasty letter.

**Travis:** Now, bad news: that does also remove "cat." So that—that's a problem right there.

**Griffin:** Um...

**Travis:** You can't use "cat."

**Griffin:** You know what the fucking problem is? Is that because it's Scrabble, you would have to get the blank tiles out, too. 'Cause some fucking... naughty boy could use those tiles, and like, put down blank, blank, blank, K. And people would be like, "What is that?"

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And he'd be like, "Grandma... it's a *fuck*."

**Justin:** [laughs] "That right there you're looking at, Grandma, despite appearances? Is a *fuck*."

**Griffin:** Or even worse: Grandma is the one that—Grandma's the one that plays that, 'cause it's the only legal move she has.

**Travis:** And then she just bursts into tears.

**Justin:** This I wanna question: we don't allow dirty words, but if they're the only option, Grandma feels like she ha—I would argue they're not an option. If it's against the rules...

**Griffin:** I mean...

**Justin:** That's all these games are, like... it's just not an option.

**Travis:** Is it possible that, secretly, Grandma's been dying to play them dirty words?

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** And she knows that you all are very controlling, and you'll judge her, and so that's why she's gonna be like, "Oh, I'm so uncomfortable. Oh, my God, this is—I can't move—this is the only option, but... [sighs] okay, but I'm just gonna go ahead and put it down. Fuck butt fart—"

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** [laughs] "Now, Grandma, you've—you've just played nine letters, all at once, to make three different words!"

"Yes. No, I know, I feel [laughs] terrible. I get—"

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "Well, where did you get—there's like two extra letters there."

"I just found them under my leg. I can't believe—I'm so embarrassed."

**Griffin:** [laughs] I think a really great house rule for your game should be that your Grandma can play cuss words, but whenever she does, nobody's allowed to... say them, or acknowledge that they are a dirty word.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** So Grandma just spells out “fuck” on the board, and everybody just kinda looks at it, and then looks at each other, and then quietly writes down however many points it’s worth. And they just don’t—

**Travis:** [laughs] Man, that’s the worst part. “Fuck” is not worth a lot of letters, really—I mean a lot of points, really, when you think about it. There’s not any big—now, if you can spell it “F-U-Q-U-E,” now we’re talking.

**Griffin:** Which is how they do it in Montreal.

**Travis:** [laughs] Of course.

**Justin:** French Canadian style.

**Griffin:** There—hm. It sounds like maybe just d—you need Scrabble, but with numbers. But then, even then, you can do 69.

**Travis:** Oh, what about graph paper and pens? And you just write down whatever letters you want. But then, oh, what if the letters accidentally line up, and you’re doing it, and you’re like, “Well, shit!”

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah. You could also have, like, a nasty cousin.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And then she calls in the nasty cousin, and the nasty cousin’s like, “What’s up, Grandma?” And she just, like, gestures down to her tiles, and the cousin’s like, “Oh, say no more! I understand...”

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Griffin:** “... what needs to be done, and I have the will to do it.”

**Travis:** A pinch-cusser, if you will.

**Griffin:** A pinch-cusser, yeah.

**Travis:** What if it was just—hey, this, uh, no joke, sounds like a pretty restrictive household. What about just one day a month, it's like the fucking *Purge* when it comes to cussing.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And it's just like, that day, that's when we get out the nasty Scrabble set that's all *only* F, U, C, K tiles.

**Griffin:** Yeah. But then everybody's so wild for it. It's like, "Grandma, you just—you just played 'fnck.'"

"Yeah, I know. Just use your imagination and pretend."

**Travis:** [laughing]

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "Does this say 'cuff'? Does this say 'cuff,' Grandma? What the fuck?!"

**Griffin:** "What does that mean? You wrote 'baftard.' 'Baftdard'?"

**Travis:** [wheezes, laughs] "This just says 'baftda.' Like the award? Is that what you were doing? Like, the British animation and film reward?"

**Griffin:** I don't think that's what BAFDA stands for.

**Travis:** I don't think it is, either, but...

**Justin:** No.

**Travis:** British and film... [laughs] television award...

**Griffin:** British and film televisions...

**Travis:** It's an award for both film, television, and being British.

**Griffin:** Mm.

**Travis:** Maybe you're like, "Aw, man, you did some good British-ing this year. Here you go. Oh, and also..."

**Justin:** Extremely British.

**Travis:** "... I enjoyed you on that television show. Baking and film and television. The BAFATADA."

**Griffin:** The BAFATA's.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Well, you think that's a lid?

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** That's a lid. Let's put a lid on it.

**Justin:** That's a lid. Thanks so much for joining us, uh, on this episode. We hope you had fun. Um, we hope you're hanging in there and doing well. We care about you a great deal. The chicken wars are—

**Travis:** It's tough out there.

**Justin:** I'm gonna check right now. I'm gonna say—I'll make a ruling on this that they're not over currently.

**Travis:** No.

**Justin:** So please let me know how—try as many as you can, and just let me know how they are.

**Travis:** Listen, this is a big week for us. Uh, many, many months in the making. This week, our how-to podcast book, *Everybody Has a Podcast (Except You)*...

**Justin:** Years in the making, I would argue.

**Travis:** Years in the making, yeah, that's fair. It is the culmination of all of our knowledge on podcasting, uh, up to this point. Um, that book comes out this week. Comes out January 26th, uh, and on January 26th at 9:00 PM, we're going to have a free virtual event to celebrate the launch of *Everybody Has a Podcast (Except You)*.

Uh, we've partnered with six independent bookstores. If you preorder from them, you'll get an exclusively-designed bookplate signed by one of the three of us with your copy, as long as supplies last, and you can go to [bit.ly/mcelroypodcastbookevent](http://bit.ly/mcelroypodcastbookevent) for bookstore links and more event info.

We're really, really proud of this book. I really think you're gonna like it. There's an audiobook version of it, too, that we did, that we narrated. Uh, if you have anyone in your life that is thinking about starting a podcast or is just, like, a fan of podcasts, I really think they'd like this book.

So one more time: [bit.ly/mcelroypodcastbookevent](http://bit.ly/mcelroypodcastbookevent).

We've also got some new merch to check out over at [mcelroymerch.com](http://mcelroymerch.com). We've got that Cerberus pin of the month benefiting the NARAL, designed by Zach Sterling. Uh, the NARAL fights for access to abortion care, birth control, paid parental leave, and protections from pregnancy discriminations.

We've also got that Knights Templar II sticker designed by Tyler Reed over there, and a whole lot more.

And one last thing: uh, *The Adventure Zone: Crystal Kingdom*, uh, the next book in our graphic novel series is available for preorder now. That's over at [theadventurezonecomic.com](http://theadventurezonecomic.com).

**Griffin:** Uh, thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network! Go to [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org), check out all the great shows there! They have shows like,

uh, you know, *Stop Podcasting Yourself* is on there. They got *Triple Click*, is on there, and a whole bunch more at [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org)! And you can check out the other stuff we do at [mcelroy.family](http://mcelroy.family).

I think that's it. You want the final?

**Travis:** Yes.

**Justin:** Absolutely.

**Griffin:** This final Yahoo was sent in by uh, the Wizard, Ben Kantt. Thank you, Ben. It's Yahoo Answers User Nadiya, who asks, "Are you still considered a Frankenstein if all the body parts came from the same body?"

**Travis:** Oh, shit!

**Justin:** [wheezes, laughs quietly]

**Travis:** Shit!

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

**Travis:** Fuck! I don't—oh, man!

**Griffin:** I'm Griffin McElroy.

**Travis:** Aw, man.

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

**Travis:** My bean!

[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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