

MBMBaM 481: I Have Seen Every Bird

Published October 14th, 2019

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

[theme music plays]

Justin: [spooky voice] Hello-ooo, everybody, and welcome to *My Broother, My Boo-ther and Me*. I'm your oldest brother, Just-sin McElroy.

Travis: I'm your middlest brother, Travis Murderoy.

Griffin: [clacking noises] Those are bones. I'm Griffin.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: [bursts into laughter]

Travis: It's Spooky Christmas.

Justin: Those are bones.

Travis: Tell me more about these bones, Griffin. Where'd you get 'em?

Griffin: Uh, inside me. I guess I was—I guess I died, and now I'm a skeleton, and isn't that something? Isn't that something?

Travis: Okay. Cool.

Griffin: I—listen, my main Halloween exposure so far has been weird YouTube, which Henry is now...

Justin: Oh, boy.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: ...far, far down the oubliette, and now I live in that prison with him, and it just seems like a—boys, it seems like a market we are neglecting. Because apparently, you can just put Spider-Man and a skeleton in the same room, and now it's Spider-Man Halloween, and it has 3.6 million views. And it's making, like, \$55,000.

Justin: That's it. It's very easy.

Griffin: There's one, and it's a guy dressed as Spider-Man walking in front of a green screen while ghosts and skeletons walk by him, and there's a song in the background that goes, and I'm gonna sing it exactly, this is not a joke, "[singing] Halloween, Halloween! Creepy, spooky Halloween!"

Three-and-a-half million people...

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: ... said, "That's my shit." I'm thinking that many people are also being held hostage by their tod's.

Justin: I think eight kids watched it 400,000 times, and are just loving it.

Griffin: Yeah, sounds about right to me. So anyway, yeah, that's where I am. I guess my Spooky Christmas spirit has not kicked into overdrive yet.

Justin: You can put fucking *anything*—I don't know how you get—do you have to get, like, a permit to make weird YouTube videos?

Travis: No!

Justin: 'Cause it seems so ridiculously lucrative that I have to imagine there's only a few people allowed to do it. I don't know how you get in that game, but I would love to get a slice of that, if possible.

Griffin: That—the pie seems delicious.

Travis: I assume that the only qualification, Justin, to making weird YouTube videos, is that you have to always stay on the run, one step ahead of the government who's chasing you.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That, to me, seems like that only thing – like, "Oh, we almost got them." That kind of thing. Now, I will say, somehow, Bebe has not gotten into this, so I have not—I have been spared this.

Justin: Oh, that's—

Travis: The weirdest thing I watch is, like, *Sid the Science Kid*.

Griffin: I'm gonna s—

Justin: You've messed up. So you've messed up.

Travis: Oh!

Justin: The pro—the thing is, you've got—you've got to put more garbage [through laughter] into your kid.

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: [through laughter] I love—I love seeing my daughter watch these weird Russian monstrosities, and thinking, "Yes! Put that in there! Put that in that brain! Let's see where it comes out! I don't know where it's coming out. Maybe when she's 30? I—maybe when she's eight? I have no idea." [crosstalk]

Travis: Maybe when she's eight, she'll talk about Turbo Teen a lot for some reason?

Justin: Maybe?

Griffin: If there was a show on when I was 11—eh, I'll be honest, 16, and that show was just a box that every time they opened it, it did have a

different Pokémon inside of it, that's must see fucking TV! I would've faked sick even more often than I *did* to watch that show during the daytime on WB.

Justin: Love Halloween.

Travis: Love it!

Griffin: Love Halloween, though. I do—anybody got costumes?

Justin: Uh...

Travis: Well, uh, as is always the case, I now have to find either a costume that already has a beard, or any other costume that justifiably looks okay with beard.

Griffin: Ugh. I mean, there's not that many bearded heroes.

Travis: Correct. I don't wanna be Wolverine for the 18th time.

Griffin: Oh, God, your Wolverine is always so thirsty, Trav. Your Wolverine was always—

Travis: Wow.

Griffin: It was always so thirsty.

Travis: Well, I mean, it's really hard to be Wolverine and have it be like, "That is a conservative, super-calm, not-interested-in-attention Wolverine," you know?

Griffin: That's so weird, 'cause I am doing Wolverine this year.

Travis: But with no take different than mine?

Griffin: Eh, young Wolverine.

Travis: Maybe we could each of us do the many stages of Wolverine. And Justin, you could be a Wolverine, I could be a Wolverine. Griffin, you could be Wolverine.

Justin: Logan. I'm Logan.

"Hello. Aren't you Wolverine?"

"I'm not. I am Logan."

Griffin: "Wolverine's my dad. I am Logan."

"But you have the bone—you have, like, the bones, right?"

"Yeah. Fuck yeah, I got the bones. I'm Logan."

Justin: I—listen, can we just talk about *Spookley the Square Pumpkin* for a second?

Travis: What?

Justin: Do you guys have a second to talk—well, we just talked about Halloween and kids' programming, and it made me think about the only thing I'm allowed to watch on Halloween other than "Mickey's Monster Musical." Uh, *Spookley the Square Pumpkin*. You guys know this fool?

Travis: No.

Griffin: No, tell me about him.

Justin: Okay. Hold on. Let me stand up.

Griffin: He sounds—he sounds fun.

Justin: He's a real piece of garbage. Here's his deal—here's the deal with this idiot, okay? Um, I'm gonna tell you this story, I'm gonna weave this narrative for you based on the Wikipedia page. Now, I don't mean the Wikipedia page—I've seen it a thousand times, but I don't want it to be

color—I don't want you guys to think I'm coloring the story in any way. Is that fair?

Travis: Sure.

Griffin: Yeah, bud.

Justin: All right. I'm gonna tilt my monitor up, and everybody just gather around the fire. Gather around the hearth for this fucking spooky—

Griffin: Yeah. Can we play the haunting music over it? Can you—oh, Justin, sorry.

Justin: Absolutely your discretion—your decision.

Griffin: Okay. Yeah. I'll put haunting music over it, and make sure you do it like a spooky story.

Travis: [spooky voice] Yes, please.

Justin: Okay. This is the story of *Spookley the Square Pumpkin*, by Wikipedia.

Travis: You could be scarier.

[whimsical instrumental music starts]

Justin: I don't want to do it in a goofy voice. I just wanna read the story—

Griffin: Well, I've already—I'm playing—hold on, stop the music. I'm playing spooky music under it.

[music ends]

Griffin: So do a fucking—do a fucking voice.

Justin: Okay. That'll be the lift, then. There goes the lift.

Travis: You don't have to do a silly voice, Justin. Just, like, a committed voice with some energy.

Griffin: Give me—

Justin: Too ba—I'm not a fucking monkey. Just let me read it.

Griffin: Ju—now say, "I'm not a fucking monkey," but say it with, like, five percent spooky. Just so we know it's different. Five percent spooky.

Justin: [impersonating Dracula] I'm not a fu-cking mon-key.

Griffin: That's like [laughs] 65 percent spooky. That was so spooky.

Justin: "Two bats who live at Holiday Hill Farm..."

[whimsical instrumentals start again]

Justin: "...bug-eating Boris and bug-loving vegetarian Bella, discover an unusual sight in the pumpkin patch and rush to inform the farm's scarecrow, Jack, of their find: a young, innocent and square pumpkin, who identifies himself as Spookley."

Travis: Just real quick, is that different from other pumpkins in the pumpkin patch that are just, like, not innocent? They've seen some shit, and they naughty.

Justin: Yeah. Nasty pumpkins. "Jack takes a liking to Spookley, but Little Tom, a small pumpkin attached by a vine to a much larger Big Tom, another pumpkin, immediately begins bullying Spookley, and says only round pumpkins are real pumpkins."

Griffin: [simultaneously] Okay.

Travis: [hesitantly] Okay.

Justin: It's weird that they're able to establish bias that quickly, but there you go. "So Jack organizes the pumpkins in the patch to compete in the," quote, "Jack-a-Lympics..."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: ... which is so challenging. It's "an athletic competition" that is, quote, "not affiliated in any way, shape, or form with... those other games, and it's designed to determine the 'Pick of the Patch.'"

Travis: Now, Justin, in this, as I have not seen it, are the pumpkins mobile?

Griffin: Are they alive?

Justin: Uh, yeah, all the pumpkins are alive. There's Big Tom and Little Tom.

Griffin: Right. Yeah. We know about the Toms. Is it—and the farmer's just okay with this?

Justin: I guess he doesn't have other things to go—this is all in a farmer's imagination. [through laughter] That's what you find out at the—

Travis: Oh, at the end, you find out the farmer was hit by a car, and these are his last moments?

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Yes. This is the—these are the—

Justin: [laughing] The neurons in his brain firing all catawampus.

Griffin: "This is a weird-shaped pumpkin, and his name's a adverb! [groan]"

Justin: So these spider—I'm skipping ahead a little bit. These spiders decide to help him in the Jack-a-Lympics, so they can eat the prize, which is a crown made of candy corn.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And Big Tom and Little Tom get disqualified 'cause they're using their vine to give them an unfair advantage.

Griffin: They're just making this shit up as they go along. Why is that not allowed?

Travis: Where did the scarecrow get candy corn from?

Justin: "Spookley turns out to be—" this is a quote from Wikipedia. "Spookley turns out to be a total failure at all the events..."

Travis: Woah!

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: "...leaving him discouraged.

"Bobo is crowned the winner, and the spiders abandon Spookley to help themselves to her crown."

Travis: What!?

Justin: "And then a severe wind storm hits the pumpkin patch, pushing the pumpkins all over and pinning Jack under a flaming tree branch."

Travis: *What!?*

Griffin: What the fuck?

Justin: [through laughter] "Spookley—" this is so sweaty. "Spookley, because he is square, does not roll away when the wind hits him."

Travis: Well...

Justin: "And through some—"

Griffin: Okay, shut the fuck up! That's not how aerodynamics works! If it's hitting Spookley's flat-ass surface...

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: ... then Spookley's gonna get fucking launched.

Justin: "After the storm, the farmer goes to the patch to assess the damage, and discovers Spookley."

Travis: [laughs] And is horrified.

Justin: [laughs] Monsters. My children—my pumpkin children.

Griffin: Wait, how did he sur—how did he survive the flaming bra—did we just drop the flaming branch?

Justin: Uh, no, but Spookley saved him because he's not round.

Griffin: Okay. Okay, right.

Justin: Okay. Moving on.

Travis: Okay, okay, but I would argue that him not rolling away, okay, I'll give you that. In what way does that help him lift a [through laughter] flaming branch off someone?

Justin: So Jack uh—so he saves Jack. Uh, "The farmer goes to assess the damage and discovers Spookley. The farmer is charmed by Spookley's square shape and decides to make the square pumpkin his own personal jack-o'-lantern." That's right!

Travis: Wha—

Justin: His incredible reward...

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: ... for doing so good at being rectangular is to have his eyes hollowed out and his brains removed.

Griffin: Is evisceration.

Travis: Oh, no!

Griffin: This sounds like a ballin' movie, dude.

Justin: Yeah. So this is the film that you can watch, if you are so unlucky to do so. It is absolutely horrifying. I mean, it is—it is monstrous.

[spooky music grows]

Justin: And it is spooky, in a way.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: But uh, *Spookley the Square Pin*—uh, *Pumpkin*, that is the whole story.

Griffin: And that's Justin's Bucket of Pop—that's Justin's Popcorn Thoughts, another segment here on *My*—another successful segment on *My Brother, My Brother and Me*.

Justin: Another great segment. Uh, alright. I think we should actually start the show at this point.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah. Let's begin.

Justin: Okay. I'm pressing record.

Travis: Oh, no!

Justin: Now!

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: It's gonna be so weird when people just listen to Griffin and I react.

Justin: [wackily] Hey, everybody, welcome to *My Brother, My Brother and Me!*

Griffin: Hey, let's do our first question.

Justin: Uh, here is our first question. "I am bringing my boyfriend home to meet my family for the first time at *Canadian* Thanksgiving next week. However, my sister is also bringing her boyfriend home for the holiday. Although some of us have met him before, this marks the first holiday or major family even that any of my siblings or cousins or I have brought a partner to. How can I give my boyfriend an edge to help him become the clear favorite when my sister's boyfriend has already had a head start on winning some of the family over?" That's from Superior Significant Other in Ontario.

Griffin: [sighs] I'm in the fucking tall grass already.

Travis: Oh, my God.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I know we just started, but I used it all up at New York Comic-Con! I don't got any left!

Justin: We were a—we're being asked to basically wade into not only family dynamics, but also another culture that I have no insight into. In fact, there is only one man I can think to turn to in a situation like this. Uh, let me see if I can get him on Snapchat. Uh, John Ho—John—John—uh, here he is. Uh, hello? Ring-ring, ring-ring? Ring-ring, ring-ring?

John: H—hello, brothers? Brothers?

Justin: Hi!

Griffin: Hi, Snapchat John Hodgman!

John: I can't—I can't believe the emergency MBMBaM Snapchat that I set up three years ago finally rang!

Justin and Griffin: [laugh]

Travis: The—the excitement with which you answered, John, made me feel like maybe you're trapped in Snapchat, and we have to get you out of there.

Griffin: Yeah.

John: I've had a—I've had it opened on my phone – I guess that's where it is, right? That's where Snapchat is?

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] John, I—

John: I've had it open on my phone for three years, and I've—and I've just been waiting, and I'm so glad that you've finally reached out to me.

Justin: John, I'm so thrilled that you have a book coming out, because that's the legally only time you'll allow us to contact you.

John: [laughs]

Justin: Uh, so I'm thrilled—it lined up perfectly, actually, that you—that your uh, new book is coming out, and is—or is out currently, will be out—

John: Well, one—

Travis: One of them has been out.

John: Let me ask you this question.

Justin: Okay.

John: Not to pull back the curtain too much on the production of a podcast, but sometimes these things are recorded ahead of time, correct?

Travis: [laughs nervously]

Justin: Correct.

Griffin: Occasionally. Not this one. This one's live t—live and on air.

John: Okay. So—so what is today's date, then, if it is live?

Travis: Today's date—oh, this i—it's the 14th, John. It's October 14th.

John: The 14th of October?

Travis: How long have you been in Snapchat, John?

John: Of what year? [laughs quietly]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs] It's 2019!

John: Not only does my new book, *Medallion Status: True Stories from Secret Rooms* come out tomorrow in the United States and Canada, but speaking of Canada, today, brothers, do you notice? Today is Canadian Thanksgiving!

Griffin: Hey, happy Thanksgiving, everybody!

Travis: [simultaneously] We haven't missed it!

Justin: [simultaneously] Hooray!

Travis: We did it all in one night!

John: I happen to have the Canadian Thanksgiving Wikipedia page open before me right now.

Griffin: Oh. That's—okay. There's a lot of weird coinkydinks happening on this phone call.

Justin: I have observed Canadian Thanksgiving one time, when I was in Honduras.

John: [laughs]

Travis: Huh.

John: At the Consulate? The Canadian Consulate?

Justin: Yeah, there were some expats from Canada, uh, there who run—ran a, uh, a small inn. A resort, if you will.

Griffin: [laughing] A small opium den for Canadian opium.

Justin: [simultaneously] A small opium den.

Griffin: It's the only place to get the stuff from the Great White North.

Justin: And they—they celebrate—these two Canadians celebrated Canadian Thanksgivings, and were kind enough to have us as guests. Um, I don't know how that experience—

John: What did you have? Do you remember what you had for Canadian Thanksgiving in Honduras?

Justin: Turkey and pumpkin pie, but it had a little Canadian flag in it.

John: [holding back laughter] Mm-hm.

Justin: So I don't know if that's part of the bit, [laughs] that they put Canadian flags on a lot of stuff. That would seem weird, I think.

Travis: My—my brothers, my Hodgman, I don't want to derail us. I don't know that the individual trappings of Canadian Thanksgiving have so much impact on this question.

Griffin: Yeah, I don't think—unless you all are playing a wild angle. I think that this could be a more sort of neutral "How do I make my boyfriend the best boyfriend?" in a way.

John: Hey, you guys—

Travis: Unless you're saying, like, how to plant the largest Canadian flag in the smallest pumpkin pie.

Griffin: Yeah.

John: Um, excuse me. I have no idea what you're talking about, because you called me after you posed the question. So—

Travis: Oh.

Justin: No—in fiction, the person we're calling has already heard the question somehow.

John: Oh, okay. [laughs]

Justin: We—yeah, 'cause why would we reread it? The listener, we shouldn't waste their time. [laughs] So yeah, in fiction...

John: Sorry.

Justin: ... you have somehow already seen this. [wheezing laughter]

John: I thought we were trying to build a world here. I thought we were trying to create—

Travis: No!

John: Okay.

Justin: We are, and it's a world in which you have already heard the question. [laughs]

John: So here's the question. Superior—Superior Significant Other in Ontario is bringing home her significant other for Canadian Thanksgiving for the first time.

Travis: Or *their* significant other. I don't know that we know...

John: That's true. Very well put. Their significant other for the first time, and they want to do better than their sibling...

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Right.

John: ... whose significant other has been attending Thanksgiving—Canadian Thanksgiving for years. Maybe—maybe even as far back as 1957, the first official Canadian Thanksgiving.

Griffin: [bursts into laughter]

Justin: Here he goes.

Travis: Mm.

John: I mean, we all know that Canadian Thanksgiving has been celebrated since November 6, 1879, uh, but it wasn't officially proclaimed until January 31st, 1957, when Vincent Massey issued a proclamation saying: "A day of general Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada," that's the important part, "has been blessed..."

Travis: Ah.

John: "...to be observed on the second Monday in October." Vincent Massey. So...

Travis: Could it be possible that a good way to give your significant other a leg up is to have him roll up and verbatim, from memory...

John: Yeah!

Travis: ... deliver what John Hodgman—

Griffin: What John just said.

John: That's what I'm saying. I'm saying...

Justin: Okay.

John: ... that Superior Significant Other in Ontario's boyfriend—right? Boyfriend, right, we do know that?

Griffin: Yes.

John: Okay. The boyfriend should steep him or themselves in this Wikipedia page, and just roll off with a ton of Canadian Thanksgiving fun facts. 'Cause like—

Travis: People love fun facts. I love fun facts.

Justin: We love fun facts.

John: The problem is, I am looking at this Wikipedia page, and there are no fun facts.

Travis: Ohh.

Griffin: [bursts into laughter]

Justin: [laughing] Oh, no!

John: Just fact facts.

Justin: Not a trivial... holiday. There's just no trivia surrounding it. It's just a regular...

John: Yeah!

Travis: Now, I don't want to step on John Hodgman's toes, so I will not posit fake facts. What I will posit is perhaps embellished true facts.

Griffin: Oh!

Travis: You can talk about this Massey fellow proclaiming Canadian Thanksgiving, and maybe he did it while, like, stealing, like, an official turkey from America, and saying, like, just...

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: "My holiday now!" and it was—it was kind of like, uh, when one college pranks another.

John: Yeah.

Griffin: This holiday was invented in 1956 BC.

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: You can talk about all the dinosaurs.

John: We should say—he should say that Vincent Massey proclaimed this after he stole across the border with the turkey that had just been pardoned by the United States President at that time.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Yes.

John: He snuck into the White House, into the law—the lawn. '57, that's gotta be uh, Eisenhower? Right, Eisenhower?

Griffin: ... Sure, man. Yeah. Totally.

Justin: Yeah. We love it.

Griffin: Yeah. Good.

Justin: Ike!

John: Ike. Stole—

Griffin: The big dog!

John: That was his nickname.

Justin: [wheezing laughter]

Travis: And he did not like to stay on the porch or uh, be second.

Griffin: No!

Travis: And sometimes he hung out [through laughter] with Big Johnson.

Justin: Hey, listen. This is all you guy—this isn't—this isn't that hard. Your boyfriend's just gotta help out a little bit by taking out the trash. You take out the trash one time and make a big production out of it.

John: [quiet wheezing laughter]

Justin: I'm saying a big—make a real big deal about this [laughs]— "Hey, where is—" ask every single person where the cans are. Ask every single person on the premises where the trash goes, and have two bags. One in each hand, like, "Where does this go? I'm happy to—can you just direct me to—" make sure everybody sees it. They should make a big production out of it.

You will skate—you will *skate* into the number-one position.

John: Yeah, just say, like, "Where is the—" like, make sure you ask them. "Where's the compost? Where's the plastic recycling?" Make a—and also sing a—and make a big production of sing a song about it. "[singing] I'm taking out the trash."

Griffin: Contingency—the contingency plan is, if their—uh, their relatives' partner is already on that trash game and not leaving you any trash to take out yourself.

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: And if that's the case, good news. You're not out of luck. You go outside to the trash cans after he's done his work, and you rip up the bags, and you pour 'em all over the yard, and then you go back inside, like, "Jeremy, what did you do?"

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: "That's not how you take trash out, Jeremy!"

Justin: [laughs] He did it incredibly incorrectly.

Griffin: "The bags go in the cans!"

Travis: "Did you leave it open? Did you leave open the cans? 'Cause some raccoons got in there, Jeremy."

John: Yeah.

Travis: "Some raccoons got in there, and now what—you know what? I cleaned it up already, and I put a—" oh, yeah. Skip Griffin's thing, 'cause that seems like work.

Griffin: [bursts into laughter, clapping]

John: "And look, Jer—and look, Jeremy, maybe I shouldn't have brought a raccoon to Canadian Thanksgiving."

Travis: Yes.

John: "But that doesn't mean you shouldn't have been on this."

Justin: Say, "Don't worry, Jeremy. I'm gonna fix your fuck-up. I'll take care of this." And grab a trash bag and go outside to the big pile of trash and then wait for a raccoon to come, and capture him in the trash bag.

John: It's only a mat—yeah.

Justin: The family will not see that—that's great for the boyfriend, 'cause he's just gonna be able to get a minute to himself out there, waiting for—for the raccoons. So he'll love it. Uh, but he'll also be able to help out the family. And maybe give a raccoon a great new home... in a trash bag.

Travis: Well, you wouldn't leave it in there.

John: Is Jeremy the boyfriend that we're trying to beat here? Is that—do I understand this?

Travis: I believe that that's where we've come up—and I also want to remind you, Justin, that in this moment, that raccoon is innocent.

Griffin: Yeah.

John: Yeah.

Justin: Right. The raccoon didn't actually—

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Well, you know, you can't—you can't make an omelet without breaking a few raccoon eggs wide open.

John: That is one of the great sayings of Canadian Thanksgiving.

Griffin: Now, this is my experience. You're going to have to collaborate with your boyfriend to some extent, which is to say, you have to tell your

boyfriend that this is a priority. Because then, your boyfriend's going to have to balance out doing this—this scam that you're orchestrating while also spending large chunks of time in the bathroom just anxiety-Facebooking and waiting for the day to end.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs] It is also incredibly hard to execute a scheme when one has just eaten a lot of food. That is—you don't see a lot of cat burglars about to go into a heist and stopping at a Golden Corral first.

John: [laughs]

Justin: Okay. Okay. Okay. You let Jeremy take the trash out, and then, when no one's looking, you go out and get the trash, and then put it in your parents' bed.

Travis: [laughs] Okay.

Justin: [laughs] And then your boyfriend storms the room, and he's like, "God damn it, Jeremy! What—can you explain this to me? Why on Earth would you think the trash bags go in Melony's parents' bed? I cannot fathom why you think that's right."

And he's gonna be stuttering and stammering and owned.

John: "I just—you know, I don't know what the traditions are in Ontario. Maybe that's where the garbage goes, on the bed."

Travis: So John, you've taken on the role of Other Boyfriend?

Griffin: That's fun. We've never had anybody be the antagonist before.

Justin: [through laughter] You just switched your character! You ha—John, for the rest of the episode, the portrayal of Enemy Boyfriend will be played by John Hodgman!"

John: Jeremy, the enemy boyfriend.

Travis: Yes, as he will become known.

John: No, I'll take that heat. I'm the villain Canadian Thanksgiving needs and deserves.

Travis: That's true.

Justin: Hey, John, tell me about your, uh, your new book.

John: Well, coming out the day after Canadian Thanksgiving is a brand-new book by me, John Hodgman, called *Medallion Status: True Stories from Secret Rooms*, and uh, it's another book like *Vacationland*, that you—that you guys were very kind to read and talk about before. In the same vein.

It's first-person funny stories that are also sometimes um, thoughtful and, dare I say, very profound, about my implausible career as a uh, very famous minor television personality, and all of the secret rooms and first-class lounges and exclusive parties that even the minor-est of fame allows you entry to until you are slowly kicked out of those rooms, one by one by one, and you're not on television that much anymore, and now you're not even as famous as the least famous corgi on Instagram.

That's kind of my story! *Medallion Status*. Comes out tomorrow.

Justin: Now, John, what if this—this book is such a massive hit that you get super famous again?

Travis: Oh!

Justin: You're back in the mix all of a sudden.

John: It—ano—

Travis: Wouldn't that be embarrassing for you? [laughs]

Justin: [through laughter] Wouldn't that be horribly embarrassing?

Griffin: *Back on Top*, by John Hodgman!

John: I'm getting chills thinking about that worst possible outcome.

Justin: [laughs]

John: I mean, I didn't really have a plan B for this book succeeding at that level.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: [laughs]

John: Uh, that'll be fun!

Justin: Everybody should go buy it. It's a very good book. I've been reading that and uh, I—now, I say that, you know, it sounds like bullshit, but this book really speaks to me, and I think John Hodgman is one of the great uh, observers of, sort of, our uh...

Griffin: Earth?

Justin: ... our culture...

John: Aw.

Justin: ... as it is right now, and he speaks to it beautifully. And it's also hilarious! At least a joke per sentence, and that is a—that's a hit ratio that anybody could be proud of.

John: Well, that's really kind, and thank you for letting me uh, come on and talk about it, and say these words! Bit.ly/MedallionStatus, that's where you can check it out and maybe order it, if you want!

But listen, did we solve this for Superior Significant Other in Ontario?

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: Oh, yeah!

Justin: No, we don't actually fix them.

John: Alright.

Justin: We just sort of...

John: Look. Look. I know I—I come from the *Judge John Hodgman* podcast, where we—

Justin: Here he goes. Alright. Alright, motherfucker, hold on.

Griffin: Alright. Plugging one thing. Let's go.

Justin: We had you—the agreement was the book.

John: [wheezing laughter] Okay.

Justin: The agreement was the book, okay!? How dare you? How dare you get on [through laughter] and plug your comedic podcast?

Travis: And try to tell us how to do our jobs?

John: Yeah, don't worry. It's not a competition. Don't worry about it, you guys.

Griffin: [bursts into laughter]

John: You got it covered. You got it covered. Much like Canadian Thanksgiving, it's not a competition! This is what I want to say to Superior Significant Other in Ontario. Like, we all know Jeremy's a creep. We all know that everyone likes Jeremy, even though he's—you know, and the family fawns over Jeremy, 'cause he's got that smile, but he's actually kind of a jerk, and he secretly badmouths everyone behind their back.

We all know this. Jeremy deserves to lose. But your significant other, Superior Significant Other, your boyfriend doesn't need to be drawn into a Canadian Thanksgiving fight. It's going to be great.

Griffin: And then...

Justin: And then...

Griffin: Save your machinations for tomorrow, when everybody's all turkey-drunk...

John: Right.

Griffin: ... and susceptible.

Justin: And enjoying the new book by John Hodgman...

Griffin: Right. [bursts into laughter]

Justin: ... *Medallion Status: True Stories from Secret Rooms*.

Griffin: While they're distracted, that's when you start—maybe you start moving some trash around. That's one thing.

John: Yeah, once—once Jeremy's asleep with my book on his face...

Griffin: [laughing]

John: ... as everyone else is watching—

Justin: "He drooled on this book! Jeremy, we gotta buy another one! You gotta go buy another copy of this book that you drooled on."

John: Right. As everyone else is watching Canadian football in this weird alternate universe parallel dimension of Thanksgiving...

Justin: [through laughter] On their oval television sets.

John: [laughs] Exactly.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Thank you, John. We appreciate you.

John: All right. Thank you very much—so much indeed.

Griffin: Uh, I have a Yahoo here.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Delicious!

Travis: Brag.

Griffin: This Yahoo was sent in by Michelle Smith. Thank you. It's an anony—oh, no, it's Yahoo Answers user Ricky, who asks, "Is birdwatching just guesswork?"

Justin: [snorts]

Griffin: "So far, I've seen about 20 odd birds and noted them down." I don't know if they're saying 20 birds and change, or if they have seen exactly 20 very strange birds. "I've seen about 20 odd birds and noted them down. I'm just getting into birdwatching, and it's late in the year, so I don't have a serious list yet.

"The birds I've seen particularly at a distance I'm only about 60% sure I've correctly identified them. I can never totally be sure. Right now, I saw a fleeting glimpse of what I think, basing a Google search on a memory, was a buzzard. Can I really count that?"

Travis: Woah.

Justin: Ugh.

Travis: Hey, I've never birdwatched in my life. I know that that's not how you do it!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] By the way, the first Yahoo Answer respondent to this says, "Sure, personal finance."

And I was like, "What the fuck does that mean?" It's the section that this question has been posted in.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Oh, I see.

Griffin: Business and finance. Personal finance. Is birdguessing just guesswork?

Travis: I'm pretty sure one is supposed to, like, have a book and maybe take a picture, you look at them with, like, binoculars, and you see, like, "Yes, that is that," right? You don't just, like, see a bird in the distance, and say, "I'm gonna remember that and remember it 'til I think about it later."

Justin: Is there any hobby that is as susceptible to fucking speedruns as birdwatching?

Griffin: Oh, shit.

Justin: Like, there's no—I mean, I can just stand near a book and—with a notepad and just, like, start writing names of some birds.

Griffin: [increasing laughter]

Justin: And if someone's like, "Uh, is this a purple-bellied starling? Those aren't native to West Virginia at all," I'd just be like, "Yeah, 'cause I fucking kick ass at this!"

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "I'm so good at this, I found one that's, like, super hard to find, 'cause I'm killing it!"

Griffin: "I'm so dope. I saw this—this afternoon, just looking out my kitchen window, I was not even properly birdwatching, I just like yawned and looked out the window, and I fucking noscoped a—a dick-billed prebus, and it was..."

Travis: Woah!

Griffin: "...so choice."

"That's not a bird."

"It i—I know. I found a new bird today while I was yawning."

Justin: "Yeah, and I found the first one! It's amazing!"

Griffin: "I no-scoped a prebus. It's pretty tight."

Travis: I really like that this question, uh, basically is positing, like, that we are all kind of birdwatching all the time. Like, if you see a bird, whether you meant to or not, you are birdwatching. It is up to you whether you want to follow up on [laughing] step two, which is "look up bird."

But I could now sit down after 35 years of consecutive birdwatching and try to remember all the birds I've seen...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ... and write them down. Just as—[crosstalk] I saw a purple one once.

Justin: Watching is challenging. Um, a challenging way of putting it, if you think about it, 'cause like, I'm sure the birds would prefer you to say, like, "birdlooking."

Griffin: Birdseeing.

Justin: Birdseeing-and-then-moving-on-with-your-life. Birdwatching, like—

Travis: Birdglimpsing.

Justin: Birdwatching's like, "What's up next, you nasty woodpecker? What else have you got planned for the day? I'm just gonna watch you." It's perverse!

Travis: By the way, I think the only reason a woodpecker does what it does, and like hits its head against a tree, is 'cause it knows someone's watching. Like, because there is no way that evolution...

Griffin: [simultaneously] Boy, have I fucking done that.

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: ... was like, "This is the best way to do this: [through laughter] slam your face into a tree."

Justin: I used to have an app, I think it's called Merlin. I may still have it installed. And I got into a habit of, like, I would see these birds out on a tree outside our house, and I'd think, "I wonder what kind of bird that is." And so I would enter into the Merlin app the color of the bird, approximate size, whether it's on the ground or the trees, and then I would figure it out what bird it was, and then I would see the name of the bird, and I would know it...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] ...and then I would tell my wife and children, and then I stopped that. Because it turned out nobody gave a shit.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Including myself! I would just get this knowledge, and be like, "I don't give a shit about this. Why did I do all that? I could've just been like,

'Aw, pretty bird. How chill. What a chill way—okay, I'm moving on with my life.' But no, I had to fucking poke at my phone like an asshole for 20 minutes, trying to figure out what kind of bird's out there!"

And they know! They watch me, like—

Griffin: They knew it.

Justin: I'm not gonna be able to play it off like I'm fucking Euell Gibbons. Like, I'm clearly just poking my phone like an asshole!

Travis: This is one of my favorite weird facts about, like birds, one of the only things I know about that Audubon dude, is he went around, spotting birds, listening to other people talk about birds and drawing birds, and even today, there's some birds in that book that people are like, "Uhh, no one else has ever seen that bird."

And it makes me think that every so often, he was just like, "I don't know. What if a bird looked like this?" [laughs] No one knows. It's like 1870 or whatever. They can't look u—they can't Google to see if this bird exists. I'm that—this is my dream bird.

Justin: "My publisher says I can charge more if there's more [through laughter] pages of birds."

Travis: "Ooh, I'm eight pages shy of my d—of my goal. Uh, I'm just gonna draw some—now a silly one."

Griffin: Let's—oh, my God. Here's my problem with it. I just googled this. Please don't google it; we'll make a fun game out of it. But how many different types of birds do y'all think there is? Answer now.

Travis: Uh, I'm gonna say roughly, like, 10,000.

Griffin: You piece of shit.

Justin: I was gonna say 8—I was gonna say 8,000.

Griffin: It's 10,000.

Travis: Really?

Griffin: "There's about 10,000 species of birds described worldwide." It's about. "The one estimate of the real number places it at almost twice that." [sarcastically] Hey, good numbers, science!

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: It's either this one or double it! So I'm going through, and there's so many different taxonomies, these bad boys. And that's why I could not get into this, is because like, there's 10,000 options! Is that a frogmouth, or is that a nightjar? I don't know, 'cause I just saw those words on the internet, and I'm never gonna learn what they mean.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: I think we need to pair this down to, like, a dozen birds.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: That's—that I can do. And I can—

Travis: That's a big, blue one.

Griffin: The big, blue one would be, like, "color bird." And we can get parrots in there. Flamingos, I think, could go in there, but I think flamingos you could also taxonomize as the "tall bird."

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: With ostri—and we'll put ostriches in there. And then we'll get, uh, "eatin' birds." Those are birds that are delicious.

Penguins get their own little nook, I think.

Travis: Oh, you know what's fun about eatin' birds? We can make that birds that are good *for* eatin', and birds that are good *at* eatin'.

Griffin: At eatin'! Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Pigeons.

Travis: I do like this. Because I know myself well enough to know that if I tried to be a birdwatcher, right, I would say, like, "Oh, there's, you know, whatever, a greenbilled honeyhammer."

And somebody would be like, "No, it's not."

And then I'd never do it again. So I like this idea of being able to say, like, "There's a big bird."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And somebody'll be like, "Yes, it is." And now we have something to talk about. It's gonna bring us closer together as friends and as people.

And like, there is no, like, "No, that is not a—that is not, like, an eatin' bird."

I'm like, "Yes, that is a bird I would eat. You don't know."

Griffin: I'll decide what's an eatin' bird!

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Um, I'm very—

Travis: "That's one of those weird dancy birds."

Justin: I'm very disappointed, because I just googled "I have seen every bird," and there's no re—

Griffin: [bursts into laughter, clapping]

Justin: There's no—nothing written [laughs] about it.

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: "Hi, my name is Todrick Plebbins, and I've seen—you may know me as the man who's seen every bird."

Justin: Yeah, there's no—it's—there's no um—

Travis: It's 2019. How is there not someone whose whole deal is they've seen every bird?

Justin: They—there's no one who's said, "I've seen every bird." The closest I've found is this—this editorial in the Washington Post that's titled, "I never meant to be a birder, but the birds didn't give me any choice." And I'm not gonna read it; I'm just gonna leave it just like it is, right there.

Travis: That's—does that mean the birds are just—[banging] "Hey, look at me! Alright. Write me down. Okay. I gotta go."

Justin: I'm—I'm not gonna read it, but...

Griffin: Damn. Wikipedia's got a list of—holy shit, y'all. This is my new life! Wikipedia has a—a list of—I'm sorry, not a list – a fucking *scoreboard* of who's seen the most birds!

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: And it's—it's Claes-Göran Cederlund has seen uh, 9,637, but then it says slash 9,636. There has to be one disputed bird.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: How many? How many?

Griffin: 9,637. You got close, but you missed out on 400, didn't you, there, Claes? Ooh!

Justin: I've seen—I've seen 9,738.

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: Oh, shit! Well, call Wikipedia!

Justin: Yes, I'm number—I'm number one [wheezing laughter] now, I guess.

Griffin: [bursts into laughter]

Justin: Is what I'm saying, that I'm the number one bird guy now.

Travis: Do they—what if you've only seen one bird, but you've seen a lot of that one bird?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's—yeah.

Travis: I've only seen one kind of bird ever in my entire life, but one time, I saw like 50,000 of them at once.

Griffin: Damn.

Justin: That's fair.

Griffin: You have to clear 8,000 even for Wikipedia to even give a shit about you.

Travis: I don't have time for that!

Justin: Uh, hey, I got an idea. Let's uh, take a break and go to the Money Zone!

Travis: Okay!

[Money Zone theme, instrumental guitar, plays]

Griffin: Uh, Squarespace! Squarespace, Squarespace, Squarespace.

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: What was it, again? Squarespace.

Justin: Squarespace.

Griffin: They make a service that you can use...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: ... to do a website uh, for the internet. And whatever you do with the website at that point, it's all up to you. You can—so you want to showcase—

Justin: All—it's all legal.

Griffin: It's all—yeah, if you do it illegal, then it's all okay by Squarespace. They will look the other way while you showcase your work, blog, or published content, sell products – wink – and services – wink – of all kinds, and more.

And Squarespace—

Travis: I don't like what you guys are positing here. I'm uh—because I'm afraid that you mean I could set up a website that I could sell marijuana to people who I also then assassinate...

Griffin: No. No. No, no, no, no.

Travis: And Squarespace will be like, "This is totally cool."

Griffin: Listen. Travis, Justin's 300 birds away...

Justin: So close to seeing all of them.

Griffin: ... from getting the big—getting the big certificate.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: And a lot of these birds, Trav, you can't just go outside and find 'em. You do have to go into the darkweb to get this—to get these birds.

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So we could make a darkweb for birds. Well, not *for* birds; *of* birds.

Griffin: Well, we could make a darkweb for birds also.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: They deserve their own. Uh, anyway, they do the—we're not getting paid for this one, because they're going to take it away, but anyway, it's got beautiful customizable templates created by world-class designers and they are optimized for mobile, and you can buy domains or choose from over 200 extensions. Fuck, man, you could do both those things!

And they do have built-in search engine optimization, and if things get broken, then they've got 24/7 award-winning customer support.

And—so I want you—I want you to go to [Squarespace.com/MyBrother](https://www.squarespace.com/MyBrother) for a free trial, and when you're ready to launch, use the offer code, "My Brother" to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain! That wasn't very good.

Justin: I liked it, though!

Griffin: No, I didn't do a very good—no, I fucked it up. I didn't do a very good job.

Justin: Don't neg yourself. I thought it was great.

Travis: I thought you did a great job, and I'm very proud of you.

Hey.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Um, I would like to tell you, it's a very special time of year. Spooky—it's spooky o'clock. It's Spooky Christmas. And that means—

Griffin: Oh, they have fucked up so bad, haven't they!?

Justin: Why's that?

Griffin: It has here a written down introduction. "Ghost noises." Yes. "Please give us your rendition of what ghost noises are."

Travis: Yes. I'm very excited about this.

Griffin: What does—what does *that* mean, MeUndies?

Travis: Griffin, can I hear your ghost noises, please?

Griffin: [exaggerated scream] Oooooaaah!

It's not what—it's not fun and playful like people think. There's a reason people are scared of these guys.

Travis: Yeah. I think mine would be like, "[deep, gravelly voice] I'm gonna kill you."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Right? You're not please—now, Justin, you do it.

Justin: "[deep, gravelly voice] Four times softer than cotton kill you."

Travis: Very good. Yes, it's a wonderful time of year.

Uh, and they're bringing back—they've got spooky prints and Halloween costume onesies. I love that! That's exciting; that's fun!

Justin: So fun. That's so fun!

Travis: MeUndies also has, like, the most comfortable underpants, and like, they have sizes from extra small to 4XL.

Um, listen, it's time for you to trick your bits and treat yourself with these comfortable—

Griffin: [laughs] Treat your ass!

Travis: Treat your ass with these comfortable underpants!

Griffin: [laughing] Trick your bits and treat your ass with [unintelligible, laughing] this Halloween.

[laughing] Get 15% off your first—do it! Say it!

Justin: Say it! Do it!

Travis: Get 15% off—you were enjoying your own joke so much, Griffin, I didn't want to interrupt!

Griffin: It's not a joke! It's what they say to tell people!

Travis: It does say—it says right here.

Griffin: "Trick your bits, and treat your ass."

Travis: [simultaneously] It says, "This section is mandatory: Trick your bits, and treat your ass."

Griffin: [laughs] Is this our first not-for-profit episode of *My Brother, My Brother and Me*?

Travis and Justin: [laugh]

Travis: So get 15% off your first pair, free shipping, and 100% satisfaction guarantee. Go to MeUndies.com/MyBrother, that's MeUndies.com/MyBrother. Treat your ass.

Griffin: Trick your bits.

[music plays]

Rachel: Hi, this is Rachel McElroy!

Griffin: Hello, this is Griffin McElroy!

Rachel: And this is Wonderful!

Griffin: It's a podcast that we do as—uh, we are married. And—how's the ad going so far? 'Cause I think it's going very good.

Rachel: [laughs] We talk about things we like every week, on Wednesdays!

Griffin: One time, Rachel talked about pumpernickel bread. It was so tight. You cannot afford to miss her talking about this sweet, brown bread.

Rachel: We also talk about music and poems and, you know, weather!

Griffin: There was one—weather?

Rachel: [laughs]

Griffin: One time, Rachel talked about "Baby Beluga," the song, for like 14 minutes, and it just really blew my hair back.

Rachel: [laughs] So check us out on MaximumFun.org.

Griffin: It's a cool podcast with chill vibes. Amber is the color of our energy, is what all the iTunes reviews say!

Rachel: [laughs] They will now!

[music ends]

Justin: Uh, here is another question from a beloved listener.

"I was driving through a parking lot and almost got hit when another driver decided to cross without looking. My natural reaction was to, of course, yell and flip off the driver."

Travis: Yes.

Justin: "As soon as I did that, however, I realized I recognized the car, and after getting a glimpse of the driver, I'm 90 percent sure it was a woman whose kids I babysit all the time. Brothers, I get along really well with her, and I love her kids like they are my own family. Do I address it and apologize, or do I pretend it never happened?" And that's from Kayla in California.

Now, Kayla, you probably know which one we're gonna say. Um, it's the one where you pretend it never happened, obviously.

Griffin: Yeah. It's—you said 90 percent sure? Good news. I found a new home for you, and it's inside that 10 percent. And that's where—

Justin: You live there now.

Griffin: You live *there* now. And you don't even look at the other one.

Travis: I'm also gonna give you this, right? If some—if your boss—I guess they'd say, like, "Hey. This is gonna sound weird, right?" and then ask you about it.

You're gonna say, "That's like the third time someone said something like that to me," right? And you are just gonna, like, "Oh, yeah, I guess there's someone else who looks like me who's just flipping people off."

Justin: Walk into a room and just loudly announce, "God, I hate my twin sister!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Ooh, yeah!

Justin: And your boss would be like, "What?"

And you're like, "She's a real shithead, and she's such a bad driver, and she takes it out on everybody else."

Griffin: But then they're gonna think that you've been Parent Trapping them every time you come by to babysit, and they're never gonna trust you again.

Travis: Then you could say, like, "I think I have a doppelganger, spooky-scary."

Griffin: Oh, yeah, yeah! "Someone took my face off, but I got it back! I love your kids."

Travis: "Someone took my face off for a day. I bodyswapped." Oh, that's it.

Griffin: Oh, no.

Travis: "I bodyswapped with a real jerko, and I fixed their life and they ruined mine. I rebuilt their relationship with their kids while they were going around, flipping people off in parking lots all day. I am exhausted from fixing all of my social relationships because this jerko who took over my body flipped everyone off."

Justin: "It was—yeah, it was my mom—what day was it? Did that happen?"

Travis: [laughing]

Justin: "Friday? Oh, no, no, no. That was my mom. It was a Freaky—"

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: "Yeah, we Freaky Fridayed. It was um, there was a lot of other story beats, and we grew as people..."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "... but one of the things that did happen is my mom was a total shitbag to you. And that was the freakiest thing of all. I am so sorry."

Travis: [simultaneously] "You probably saw her right at the beginning of the arc, before she learns about, like, responsibility and love and stuff."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "It turns out in this one, I was the responsible one who had to learn to loosen up, and she was the jerko who had to learn to, like, be more responsible or whatever. It was the sequel."

Justin: "Did you hear about that hospital administrator that got on the intercom and was like, 'Hey, everybody, there's free ice cream in the caf'?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "That was actually—that was—that was me. That one was me."

Travis: "That was at the end of my arc."

Griffin: "Did you hear about the assistant principal who did skateboard tricks in the cafeteria? Yeah, that one—that was me too. This is this the fifth or sixth time we've done this."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "You would think, at this point, we'd stop neglecting each other, but here we are. 'Cause that's when it happens. That's when it happens."

Justin: "It's like every Friday."

Travis: "We've got a lot of lessons to learn."

Justin: "It's like every Friday this happens."

"Eventually, I'm going to teach my mom how Snapchat works, and she's gonna have to give me her keycard to the elevators."

Travis: Yes.

Justin: "Because I'm so fucking tired of walking up the stairs at that fucking hospital."

Travis: "It's also really weird, because in this—"

Justin: Sorry, kids, by the way. Sorry. Sorry, kids. Sorry, sorry.

Travis: "Yes. Also, I'm 25 at this point, and I have a daughter, and so it's weird that my mom and I keep Freaky Fridaying at this point, like we're both adults. We both, like, have responsibility—like, we haven't even said, like, 'You don't know how hard it is,' or 'You don't understand what it's like to be me.' We haven't said anything like that in *years*."

Justin: "And of course, of course, every Friday, I come home to the kids, fucking full of sugar."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "It's like, thank you, Mom. Thank you, Mom, for misusing my body to get all the sugar out and get it to my fucking kids."

Travis: "At this point, it's Normal Friday. We're not surprised when it happens—a Freaky Friday would be if I got to spend a Friday in my own body."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Right.

Travis: "I haven't gotten to do one casual day since I was, like, 16. Ugh."

Justin: "I got—I came back to my body last Saturday, my belly button ring had been removed."

Travis: Yep.

Justin: "Can you fucking believe that shit?"

Travis: "Which I actually—I appreciate. I did appreciate that."

Justin: [simultaneously] "That's my mom for you."

Travis: "You know, last Friday, I spent the whole time fixing her credit."

Justin: "Yeah. That's what I did—she was like, 'Can you keep this virus off my computer?' That was my Friday."

Travis: "Yeah. That's what I did the whole time."

Justin: "Excellent."

Griffin: [laughs] How many Fridays would you spend, though, helping out with a router?

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, yeah. That's good. Do you guys wanna do a Yahoo?

Travis: Sure.

Justin: Sure, bud.

Griffin: Here's a Yahoo. It was sent in by uh, Emma Kant. I'm gonna go with that for now until I figure out how it's actually pronounced. Thank you, Emma.

Uh, it's anonymous Yahoo Answers user I'm gonna call uh, Jarvis, asks, "How do I learn to hate soda?"

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: I'm get—there's no—there's literally no other details. I'm assum—

Travis: There's no other details?

Griffin: No. I'm assuming they want to kick it, want to kick the habit, and maybe they also have—

Justin: The habit of soda?

Griffin: Maybe they also had a doctor who, after some kidney stones, said it's because of all the brown soda? And I can't—you know—and you know what, Dr. Howard? I don't know why it was brown sodas. Does the color brown add the kidney stone juice?

Travis: Yes.

Justin: You want the—just the nice, filtered, pure Sprite.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Right. [bursts into laughter]

Travis: That's why Crystal Pepsi has actually been run through 18 Britas.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: To get to it. Yeah. Little known fact.

Griffin: Uh, yeah, you wanna kick the soda, but you love it so much, 'cause you're a red-blooded American, and what now? How do I hate this stuff? I wanna hate it.

Travis: Here's what you do. Alright. You know that kid that you do not like, the kid in your class, maybe they're a bully, or maybe they're, like—you know, they're the goody-two-shoes who always gets away with everything? Uh, pay them five dollars to drink soda and tell you how good it is. Right?

Griffin: Oh!

Travis: And then you're gonna be like, "Oh, fuck you, Josh! Fuck you and your Pepsi Cola! I'm not—ugh!" And then every time you go to drink a Pepsi, you'll think of Josh.

Griffin: "This is Josh's drink!"

Travis: "Ugh! When I drink this, I think of Josh."

Ooh, but then maybe—oh, no.

Griffin: Uh-oh.

Travis: My plan has backfired, because then you have something in common with Josh, is that you both love Pepsi, and now you're in love.

Griffin: Share a Pepsi! Stop fighting, everybody, that's w—

Travis: Yes! Damn it!

Griffin: That's what everybody's trying to get across. That's what the whole Coca-Cola thing is.

Travis: Yes. And you learn that Josh was only a bully because he was self-conscious, uh, about his love of Pepsi.

Griffin: Now, Travis's thing didn't make any sense, and it was bad. Justin, how do you make it hate? How do you make hate?

Justin: Ho—for the drink? Hate of the drink?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You just have to find something that you like better than soda, and do that. Can you—is coffee—[sighs] probably not.

Travis: I mean, coffee does it for me.

Justin: Coffee instead—ooh, wait, coffee instead?

Griffin: Yeah, but—[sighs]

Justin: What about that? What about that? You get a Starbucks triple shot with protein, you get that can from the store every day, and when the urge—this is just a substitution. When the urge to have a soda kicks in, then you drink 300 calories of that delicious brown water...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: ... right down your throat. You pay four dollars for a can of this delicious 300-calorie brown water.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You get that—that's gonna give you every—that's got—that's more! It's more caffeine and sugar.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's more—more caffeine than soda, more sugar than soda.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Justin: More just liquid than soda. In every way, it's an improvement over soda.

Travis: The only problem I have...

Justin: Zero.

Travis: ... is that it's different flavor palettes, right?

Justin: Mm.

Travis: When I go for that soda, it's that sugary blast. I feel the fizz, you know? Oh, it's carbonated, too! Could we get carbonated sweet coffee?

Griffin: [laughing quietly]

Justin: This is why Coca-Cola Black should still be on the market.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Our dad, uh, never drank—our dad worked a morning shift in radio for 40 years, never drank coffee, and that is unfathomable to me.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: And the man would have a tall, cool can of diet coke poured into the biggest glass possible, chock-a-block full of ice, dump diet coke on top of it. Folks, if you—I used to deliver papers and wake up at the same time as my dad. If you'd ever tried to drink Diet Coke at 4:30 in the morning...

Travis: Oh, boy.

Justin: ... I highly fucking recommend it. It is *brutal*.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: It's a kick in the face.

Justin: It's savagery.

Travis: It's so much sugar, your body will rebel against you as you attempt to drink it.

Justin: Not—I mean, I did say Diet Coke, so it's not sugar that you have to worry about in this case. It is a—it's like a *burn*. There's a *burn* to it.

Griffin: There's a heat.

Travis: Your throat isn't ready for fizzy. Like...

Justin: That's it, right?

Travis: It's been sleeping all night; it's not awake enough for fizzy. And it's confused by the sensations.

Griffin: Whenever Henry drinks a carbonated beverage, he complains that it is spicy, and I have always made fun of him for just not knowing a lot of stuff because he's just so young still, but you know what? He's not wrong!

[beat]

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: A powerful, strong, virile Diet Coke at 4:30 in the morning is a spicy fucking drink.

Justin: Maybe every time you do something you don't like to do...

Griffin: Oh.

Justin: ... you also have a nice soda with it.

Travis: Oh, I like this.

Justin: If you have to—you gotta go um, I don't know, fold the laundry? Between every fold, and I do mean every fold, you have a sip of that delicious brown brew we call soda.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: And then by the time you're done, you will so closely associate—or like, you have to go to your aunt's funeral. Whatever it is, you will so closely...

Griffin: [holding back laughter] Every time you go to your aunt's—

Travis: Every time.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: So closely associating.

Travis: [simultaneously] Thankfully, your parents are from big families.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Yeah, a lot of aunts to go around. You gotta have one aunt per soda, this is like Coca-Cola was for Darlene.

Travis: Mm.

Justin: And then Mountain Dew was for Aunt Steve, like just different ones.

Travis: I get it. Uh-huh.

Griffin: Man, I'm starting to worry, guys.

Justin: What's that?

Griffin: What if Pepsi hears this episode...

Justin: Uh-huh?

Griffin: ... and they start using these brilliant techniques to make people hate Coke? And then there's an imbalance.

Travis: Oh, no.

Justin: We've created an incredible weapon in the—[holding back laughter] in the Cola Wars.

Griffin: What if they start—like, Pepsi starts slinging Coke outside of people's aunts' funerals? Like, "Oh, I'm so sorry for your loss, but you're not gonna—"

Travis: Well, that'd backfire, right? You come out, and you're like, "Oh, my God, I feel—this is the saddest I've ever been. I loved Aunt Judy; she taught me, you know, so much about life, and—oh, what's this? Oh, a soda, thank you. Oh, this is delicious! I feel so much better!"

Griffin: Well—

Justin: "It's a little spicy, but I like that!"

Griffin: You can pour 'Tabatsco' in it.

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Sorry, what was the word? Sorry, Griffin, my recording of your track dipped out for a second. It was the word "Tabatsco." [laughs]

Griffin: Guys—and I said that to throw off Pepsi. 'Cause I don't want them to use these ideas.

Justin: [through laughter] They got their text-to-speech robots—they'll rather get their speech-to-text robots crawling—their spiders crawling this episode.

Griffin: Searching for ways to burn Coca-Cola to the ground.

Justin: [laughing] So you throw a little Tabasco in the mix.

Griffin: [shouting] All I'm saying is that the Pepsi CEO goes and sells Coca-Cola—probably not sells it. That would be cool, though.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: With spicy stuff in it outside of funerals, so that people now hate this Coca-Cola so much.

Justin: Hey—

Griffin: But then once they get to their car, you run up to them, and you're like, "Oh, hold on, hold on. I know your mouth burns. Drink this Pepsi instead."

Travis: Hey, Pepsi, have you ever thought about that? Buy a bunch of Coca-Cola. Sell it for 10 cents more than you bought it. Right? Why isn't Pepsi doing this? Pepsi should just start selling Coca-Cola for a slight markup. You're welcome.

Justin: And then it's like, "We don't care which one you like; we sell 'em both."

Travis: Sell 'em both!

Justin: "We sell Coke and Pepsi!"

Travis: Right! Why doesn't Pepsi just sell Coke?

Griffin: Why don't they just buy Coca-Cola...

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: ... ship it to terrorist cells around the world, and then when they get their pictures taken, people will start saying that Coca-Cola...

Travis: Griffin!

Griffin: ... is the official soft drink of terrorism.

Travis: Stop helping Pepsi!

Griffin: I'm just—I'm on fire, guys!

Justin: Here's what you do. Coke, buy all the Pepsi. Then, relabel the cans as Coke Platinum. Sell it for a dollar more than regular Coke.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: There's no Pepsi on the market.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: yes.

Justin: People are losing their minds. The two options they have are Coke and Coke Platinum.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: They're buying them both. The profits are through the roof.

Travis: Yes!

Justin: You've done it. You've won the Cola Wars. They're over.

Travis: And we use that Cola money to, like, feed the hungry and give people homes and maybe destroy all the weapons out there.

Justin: Boom. Whatever we wanna do.

Griffin: Good one, guys. Okay, Pepsi, now it's your turn for a tip. 'Cause we've gotta keep this arms race fair. Just have people in masks go to grocery stores and smash up all the Coca-Cola good, right onto the floor.

Justin: No, no, no, no, no, no, no. Pepsi needs to smash all the Pepsi, 'cause that way Coke can't buy it and resell it as Coke Platinum!

Griffin: [excited stammering] And you can have them wear Coca-Cola masks when they smash the Pepsi up!

Travis: Yes. Damn it, that's too good!

Griffin: Then people will say—'cause then, people will say, "Oh, my God. Can you believe these dirty business practices Coca-Cola is doing?" But then—and then they're like, "There's no more Pepsi," and you're like, "Don't worry; we have secret—we have new Pepsi. You're gonna love this."

Justin: Do you know when you go to the store...

Travis: Uh-huh?

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: ... and you're the Pepsi distributor...

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: ... and you go to the store, and you put, like, 100 Pepsis on the shelf, you know that?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: We've all been there.

Justin: Let me hit you with this. What if, next time, just put one.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: And that way, people come up, and they're like, "Oh, fuck! Last Pepsi!"

Travis: Even if they weren't gonna get it, they're not gonna miss it.

Justin: They're not gonna miss out, and they're also like, "Does no one like Coke anymore? Because... "

Griffin: Ooh, rough!

Travis: Good!

Justin: "... there's a lot of Coke on the shelves right now, and just the one Pepsi, which I'm definitely gonna snatch up."

Griffin: You can hang a plaque right next to that one Pepsi, and say, "Sorry, folks, there's not more Pepsi. The bad Coca-Cola men came and destroyed all of it."

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: Yes. And that's why this one's 25 dollars.

Griffin: Yeah. This one's a little bit more expensive, but we've gotta recoup the cost, because the bad Coca-Cola men came and smashed away all the Pepsi.

Travis: "Signed, The Lorax." This is the last Pepsi.

Griffin: [laughing]

Travis: Who will protect it? Who will be there to protect this Pepsi, until more Pepsi can grow?

Griffin: Is this our last episode of *My Brother, My Brother and Me* before we all get snatched up by Pepsi Corp, or Coca-Cola? I anticipate a bidding war, because whoever loses this one is gonna lose the big one.

Travis: Whoever loses, we win.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: Whoever wins, water loses.

Travis: Yeah. That is true.

Griffin: And our dad loses. His kidney loses.

Travis: Our—yes.

Justin: Do you guys know Pepsi sells Dasani?

Travis: Yeah. That's the same bottle.

Justin: Did you know that—okay, I tricked you, 'cause it's Aquafina is Pepsi.

Travis: Sure.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Dasani is Coke, I think. So even when you're trying to enjoy a nice bottle of water, you're still choosing a side in the Cola Wars. Isn't that heartbreaking? Just trying to enjoy a water.

Travis: Yes, but Pepsi robots, if you are listening, if you could make caffeinated water for me, that would be just great. I would love that.

Justin: Damn, that's good. When I googled that to double-check my facts, Google told me people also search for "Coca-Cola tap water," and I wonder why.

Griffin: [laughing softly]

Justin: [holding back laughter] I wonder what they were trying to figure out.

Griffin: God, this is so embarrassing. I hope Google's not watching, but um...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: ... can I get Coca-Cola to come out my sink?

Justin: The next one right after that is, "How to produce Coca-Cola?"

Travis: Okay.

Justin: I respect you. I respect your brain.

These prices? Yeah, those—"The recipe's right here! It's on MetaFilter, who knew?"

Folks, thank you so much for listening to our program. We appreciate you so much, uh, and you're a dear friend of ours. We don't ask this a lot, but if you wouldn't mind going to iTunes and leaving us a rating or review, that really helps us out, and...

Griffin: I don't think iTunes exists anymore. Do they?

Travis: Aw, bummer!

Justin: What? What happened?

Griffin: Didn't they get rid of the app, and it's all...?

Justin: I mean, wherever. You know.

Travis: Go to your podcatcher.

Justin: Maybe not iTunes.

Griffin: So where are you listen—where are people listening to this now?

Justin: That's a good question. The only one that I know about is iTunes.

Griffin: [laughs] Oh, no! Boys, is this just for us!?

Travis: I have somebody who just brings me a compact disc once a week of all my podcasts.

Griffin: Fuck! Okay.

Travis: But hey, if you like the show, thank the delivery person who brings you the compact discs. Uh, tell them how good the show is, so they'll tell their friends. And that really means a lot to us.

Uh, we've got some shows coming up, uh, this week in Philadelphia and Brooklyn. Uh, I think there's still some tickets left for the last Brooklyn show; if you want to come to that, please do. But send in your questions! We've got to make so much show, so send in those questions.

Griffin: There's so much show we're doing this week. It's a—

Travis: Uh, put what show you're going to be at in the subject line, like "Brooklyn" and then the night, or "Philadelphia," so that we can make sure to do your question the night that you are there.

Um, what else? Well, we've got new merch. Well, we always have new merch. Each month, we put up new merch, so go check that out if you haven't yet. McElroy.family and then click on "merch." You can also click on "tours" to see what's coming up.

Griffin: Well, thanks to John Roderick and The Long Winters for the use of our theme song, "(It's a) Departure" off the album Putting the Days to Bed. Uh, badass. Badass tune, badass track. Uh, five stars.

And thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. Go to MaximumFun.org, check out all the great shows there. Shows like *Switchblade Sisters* and *Can I Pet Your Dog?* and *Stop Podcasting Yourself* and so many more, all at MaximumFun.org. We got other stuff at McElroy.family. Including merch and shit. I think Travis just said all that.

Anyway, y'all want that final?

Justin: Yes, please!

Griffin: Sent in by the uh, Prospector, Merit Palmer. Thank you, Merit. It's uh, an anonymous Yahoo Answers user who I'm going to call Lazarus, asks...

Travis: Nice.

Griffin: "Barack Obama is a smart guy. But do you think you can beat him on Call of Duty?"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: You can't!

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Griffin: He beats ass at Call of Duty.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

[theme music plays]

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Aimee: Hello, this is Aimee Mann.

Ted: And I'm Ted Leo.

Aimee: And we have a podcast called *The Art of Process*.

Ted: We've been lucky enough over the past year to talk to some of our friends and acquaintances from across the creative spectrum to find out how they actually work.

Speaker 1: And so I have to write material that makes sense and makes people laugh. I also have to think about what I'm saying to people.

Speaker 2: If I kick your ass, I'll make you famous.

Speaker 3: The fight to get LGBTQ representation on the show.

Speaker 4: We weirdly don't know as many musicians as you would expect.

Speaker 5: I really just became a political speechwriter by accident.

Speaker 6: Realizing that I have accidentally uh, pulled my pants down.
[laughs nervously]

Ted: Listen and subscribe at MaximumFun.org or wherever you get your podcasts.

Speaker 7: And second, the guinea pig was complicit and helping the scientist.

[guitar outro]