MBMBaM 547: Chili Wonka

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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've 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: Travy, I don't know that I have, um, questions.

Travis: Uh, I had emailed them to Christina, but I can email them again-

Justin: Oh, [crosstalk] the same. I'm sorry.

Travis: No, that's alri—no, no, no.

Justin: It probably didn't have ads in it, right?

Travis: No.

Justin: Okay. You can say—you could've just saved a little time and just say, "I fucked up."

Travis: Well, I've—I fucked up.

Justin: Just say I fucked—okay.

Travis: And I didn't anticipate your incompetence, and that was my fault.

Justin: No, no, no. It's not my incompetence, 'cause it—[crosstalk].

Griffin: No, you did definitely fuck this up.

Travis: No, I—I fucked up `cause I forgot the both of you don't know how to search in your email. That's fine.

Justin: No, no—the ads aren't—you didn't put the ads in, so you did fuck up.

Travis: Oh, right, right, right. I fucked up by not spoon-feeding you the ads like that.

Justin: [laughs] I'm glad we decided to start doing these cold opens.

Travis: What?

Justin: I feel like it lends a real air of, uh, excitement and intimacy to the program.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

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

Travis: I'm your middlest brother Travis McElroy, and I am a dog.

Griffin: My-this-

Justin: [wheezes softly]

Griffin: My name is Griffin McElroy, and I'm the youngest brother.

Justin: "I have the intro." That's what Travis's last words to us-

Travis: No, no. Can I tell you—that was—that was a completely separate thing.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I simply am a dog.

Griffin: That's consistency, Justin. With the—and we gotta respect that.

Justin: [laughs] Okay. Completely different thing.

Travis: Normally, my kind of bit there goes a little bit longer, but it's because I have an important presentation...

Griffin: Oh, good!

Travis: ...for you guys, and I—I appreciate you taking this time to hear said presentation.

Justin: Kind of unwilling—out of our hands. Not really willing participants, but...

Travis: Um, now, I think-

Griffin: Hold on, Travis. I need to sync—sync up into the Google Buzz...

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: ...meeting room that you set up here. And, um...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay, well hold on, I gotta download a flash update in order to see these slides. Hold on.

Travis: Okay. I didn't do slides. Was I supposed to do slides?

Griffin: Oh. Then what am I down—oh, virus.

Travis: So here's the thing. I think I'll leave a space here for you guys to answer: what is so hot right now?

Justin: Breakfast. Fast-food breakfasts.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: Everybody's wanting in on that game.

Travis: That's right: cryptocurrency.

Griffin: Aw, shoot.

Travis: And so I have been thinking that now here, at the very start of the very idea of cryptocurrency, that the McElroys should get in on the ground floor. And that is why I have created McElbucks.

Justin: [holding back laughter] McElbucks?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Finally!

Griffin: How much is it, Trav?

Travis: Well-

Griffin: Give me a number. Just give me a number! Don't bullshit me.

Travis: Griffin, this—let me tell you, that is point one of two points that separate McElbucks from all other cryptocurrency.

Griffin: Mm.

Travis: One, McElbucks will always equal one dollar. So it'd be one McElbuck to one dollar, all the time. It will not change.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And two, it is paper currency.

Griffin: Oh, so it's just like do—you would just call them bucks, then.

Travis: They are McElbucks.

Griffin: Do they look dif-do they look different?

Travis: Uh, they look slightly different.

Griffin: How slight—'cause there's people—

Travis: I've taped our pictures onto dollar bills.

Griffin: That is noticeable enough, I feel like. We're not gonna get—we're not gonna get dinged.

Travis: No, it's different. Uh, and they're wor—sorry, I should actually take that back. They're worth one dollar and one cent.

Griffin: Ohh!

Travis: Because of the paper that I have taped onto there. So each McElbuck, if you could trade—if you could trade one regular dollar with a McElbuck with a friend, you have made a penny, basically.

Griffin: Okay... I think you've actually lost a penny, in that exchange?

Justin: Someone has; I think we can agree on that.

Griffin: The penny has been abandoned. Um...

Justin: Trav, I said—I'm looking at the—there's a Udemy course... uh, \$12.99...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: ...to learn how to make your own cryptocurrency, just like Bitcoin. That's what it says, actually.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: It says right here: "Create your own cryptocurrency, just like Bitcoin."

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: So...

Griffin: Hmm!

Justin: Is \$12.99 gonna be a sunk cost into this, and does that need to be amortized into the cryptocurrency, the \$12.99 I'm gonna need to spend just like, nothing of the time.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Da-

Justin: Obviously.

Travis: Are you just talking about, like, funding McElbucks?

Justin: I'm saying there's a sunk cost [wheezes] in McElbucks...

Travis: Well, yeah!

Justin: ...of \$12.99.

Travis: I just Xerox all the pictures of us. Like, it wasn't free. I had to go down to Kinkos.

Griffin: [sighs] Yeah, Trav, I'm afraid you've forgotten one important facet of cryptocurrency, and that is the block chain.

Travis: Oh.

Griffin: And what the block chain is, is math puzzles that computers work on...

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: ...and that gets you money.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: So for this—but listen, we don't gotta toss all this out. I'll tell you why: because I'm gonna write down the math problem right now...

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: ...on this—on a scrap of paper. [soft writing noises] Okay. And then, once there—once there's enough McElbucks out there, maybe we can solve this bad boy.

Travis: Can I just say, this is kind of getting away from me a little bit, and I was wondering if it would be okay if I just muted real quick, and I called my friend – I don't want to say his name, so let's just call him Melon Usk?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Let me call Melon...

Griffin: Yeah, the only—my only—

Travis: Griffin, I'm just gonna mute-

Justin: [crosstalk] not, uh, calling the person whose name sounds like that and is—has some hugely, hugely terrible ideas about life and existence and science and—

Griffin: And this is the second—

Travis: No, no, no, no. No, no. Fuck that guy. I'm calling Melon...

Griffin: Right.

Travis: ...Usk.

Griffin: It's a different guy.

Travis: Hold on, hold on. I'm muted now.

Justin: Melon Tusk is kind of...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: 'Cause that's, I mean—

Travis: Hey, Jeff Bezos? Yeah, it's Travis.

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: Yeah, no, I tried—I tried the cryptocurrency thing and—yeah, no, it —I told them I'd tape their faces on dollars, and they weren't int—what's that? I mean, I could try... Okay, let me try.

Griffin: This—wait. If he's getting advice – like, money advice – from Bezos, this might actually be good, Justin.

Travis: Okay, bye. Unmute.

Um, if you don't buy into this, I'll kill you.

Justin: Ok—that's—that's nothing.

Griffin: That's not...

Justin: Trav, I love the idea; the problem is you're not thinking big enough.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: A million McElbucks isn't cool. You know what's cool? Well, it's not a billion McElbucks. That's not cool, either.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: There's not an amount of McElbucks that's cool.

Travis: Well...

Griffin: A trillion?

Justin: That's still not [laughs] no, actually.

Travis: Okay, no, picture it, Justin.

Justin: Yeah?

Travis: You have a trillion McElbucks, that's not cool? A trillion of anything —

Justin: I don't think it's cool. That's gonna be a storage issue at that point. Where am I putting this stuff?

Travis: Oh, they're very small.

Justin: Okay, that wasn't clear.

Travis: Oh, yeah, sorry. I—I cut—

Justin: So people have to get their own wallets, that's another sunk cost.

Travis: I cut dollar bills into tiny strips, and each one is a McElbuck.

Justin: Okay. [crosstalk] hidden them in fortune cookies.

Griffin: Oh, now wait a minute. That's great, Trav.

Travis: Yeah. It's like confetti that was money.

Griffin: Uh, maybe there's just one McElbuck, and that's what makes it so valuable?

Travis: Hm, yeah, but I don't have to keep track of how much it's worth at any given time. That seems like a lot of work for me.

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

Justin: When did the show gets so corporate.

Griffin: Oh, no, no.

Travis: Oh, when we started doing ads, probably.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So... Uh, this is an advice show, and what we do is we help you to buil—build your wealth. [wheezes] That's the number one thing—

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: That's our thing.

Justin: Our thing is to help you tr—get that dream of living on the beach and just raking in the dividends that help you build your wealth, uh, by following our simple tips—

Travis: Here's a—can I give a piece of advice?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: A piece of advice: um, if you can figure out time travel – and that's gonna be a big hurdle here...

Griffin: Big one. Huge one.

Travis: ...but go back and buy Bitcoin when everybody was like, "Ha, ha, ha, Bitcoin. How stupid."

Justin: That's very good. That's very good.

Travis: And then sell it before everybody was like, "Ha, ha, ha, Bitcoin, how stupid," again.

So if you can figure out the—how to split that upright, you're rich.

Griffin: Mm-hm. Or go into the future when Bitcoin crashes, and buy it then, and bring it back to now. And sell it. That's another option.

Justin: Or if you can know what's gonna happen you could just... I don't know if you could put out, like, a put order on—on, uh, a cryptocurrency. [crosstalk]—

Travis: [makes puffing noise] "It's me! It's me, Travis from the future!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "McElbucks is gonna be huge! Everybody buy into McElbucks now!"

Griffin: [laughs] Oh, shit.

Now, wait. Maybe this is what Jeff actually told him to do. Is to pretend to be a time traveler—

Travis: "Don't miss your chance to buy into McElbucks now, before it's too late!"

Griffin: 'Cause that's what we just did.

Travis: "The squids! The squids! [retches]"

Justin: Hm. That's not what I expected.

Griffin: I think it's effective, yeah. Well, I mean, that's how—why he got to be where he is, is with that kind of lateral thinking.

Justin: This is an advice show. Oh, my God, it's an advice show!

Travis: Oh, right.

Justin: We help people! I—I wish—I'd love to have one episode in the past five years where I didn't have to say that line defensively, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Also like a "Uncle, Uncle, let me up!" Like, that kind of vibe every time I'm like, "This is an advice show, I promise!"

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: "Why is this happening? It's advice!"

Griffin: I mean, we're doing our best.

Travis: I'm not.

Justin: Are—are we?

Griffin: No, I guess not.

Justin: Is the que—yeah.

Um, so this is an advice show. I'd like to help a lot of people today.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: I feel like we haven't helped—yeah, I know. I feel like we haven't been particularly helpful lately. The vote—the—everybody—

Travis: The votes are in. [laughs]

Justin: The votes are in. Not, uh... not helpful, say the—say the iTunes reviews. Um, so I would like to be a little bit more helpful, so I've got some questions here, and we're gonna get right down to 'em.

"I've been talking to this girl for a little over a year..."

Travis: Ooh, la la.

Justin: Yeah, ooh, la la.

Griffin: That's a long—that's a long time to be "talking to someone," I feel like.

Justin: Uh-oh, folks, it looks like we got we got a [rolling R] Romeo.

"A little over a month ago, we got into an argument that ended with 'Don't call me,' and her hanging up. I tried to text her a couple of times, and haven't received any, uh, response, so I'm assuming we're done."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Safe assumption.

Justin: "My problem is, my drill is at her house, and I'd really like it back. How soon is too soon to call her for my drill back without her assuming I'm using it as a way to reach out to her." That's from Sick of Screwing Around in Charlotte.

Travis: "Don't call me."

"I—I—I won't, but I do need to call you—oh, but I do—oh, if I could just my DEWALT back. Ooh!"

Griffin: There is—you know the situation better than we do, but, like Doctor Strange, I do not see that many scenarios where this pans out good for you. In most of these scenarios, you are go—the drill is—the drill's gone, and you need to be okay with that.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: That's—

Justin: I want to talk to you about sunk cost. [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: I wanna help you build your wealth. And here's how to start your portfolio: negative one drill.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That is the beginning of your portfolio, and let's build from there.

Travis: Do you have anything of hers that you could organize a neutralparty swapsies situation.

Griffin: Yeah, maybe on a—a long bridge.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah! They send out their representative, you send out your representative...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Each representative is walking halfway there and back...

Griffin: [sighs]

Justin: Maybe it's time to upgrade...

Griffin: That's—yes.

Justin: Maybe the universe wants you to upgrade your drill.

Griffin: Mm-hm!

Justin: Maybe treat yourself to a nice Milwaukee, or a nice Makita.

Travis: No, DEWALT's the way to go.

Justin: Milwaukee...

Travis: DEWALT. You gotta—

Justin: What?

Travis: You gotta go DEWALT, baby!

Justin: I've already sunk so deep into the—the battery system for Milwaukee. I don't have a choice in cordless tool. That's a—that's [crosstalk]

Travis: Well, you lost the battery too, Justin. Do you think the question asker took over a [slurring] battery-less drill?

Justin: If the per—

Griffin: That word was one of the-

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That was one of the worst.

Travis: It got away from me, yeah.

Justin: If you're not—if you don't have two batteries, you don't own a drill.

Travis: But now they have a battery.

Justin: Nobody says, "I wanna drill later." You know what I mean? Nobody's ever thought, "Later, I hope to do some drilling. I better charge up."

Travis: I've said that.

Griffin: Uh-huh. "I wanna drill now. And then not drill for an hour, while I recharge this, and then start drilling again." That's no [crosstalk]

Travis: That is a good way to get out of—like, to excuse yourself from a job you gave yourself. That was like, "Ooh, I was gonna put together the end of this cabinet, but..."

Justin: Who doesn't want to get some drilling done?!

Griffin: I would love to.

Travis: I mean, sometimes you're tired. You know, sometimes you have a headache.

Griffin: Never too tired to drill. Uh, the drill's gone. Go buy a new drill. I'm so sorry.

Justin: [laughs quietly]

Griffin: It's expensive—that's—a good drill is not cheap.

Travis: What if it was like, their grandpappy's drill?

Justin: It's not.

Griffin: I mean, if it's your fucking grandpappy's drill, you need to dump that garbage, because drill technology has gone a *long* way since your grandfather's time.

Travis: This is a—this is a, uh, hand crank, like, drill that Grandpappy used to cross the plains. It's been in our family for... 2,000 years.

Griffin: He burrowed through the plains.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Like a—like a mole man.

Travis: He dug the train holes with this.

Justin: That may be true, Trav, but now it is in her family for a couple weeks, and that's just another chapter in its incredible story. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: No one saw this coming, but the drill is gone.

Griffin: Um-

Travis: I think for me, if that happened to me, the greatest—the *greatest*, uh, like, fart in the face would be that if I had left, like, a drill bit in there that was part of a set...

Justin: Aw, man.

Travis: Like, that would be worse than anything, 'cause then it's like, "I gotta buy a whole new set, just to replace the quarter-inch bit. Or am I gonna try to find just a quarter-inch bit that matches that set, and fits in the same—" Ugh, don't even get me started!

Griffin: Nightmare. Nightmare scenario. Have we ostracized—do you think that was the question we ostracized the rest of our listeners with?

Travis: Yeah! We hit—

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: —cryptocurrency, and then business, and then...

Justin: Why are people ostracized?

Griffin: I just don't know that there's a big market for... people who listen to our shows who are like, mega into hard *hardware*.

Justin: Griffin, you do not—you have no concept of the restraint that I just brought to that question. I find it so disheartening that you think that was me chatting about tools. Like, I brought—

Griffin: You can go so much-

Justin: I brought a light dusting of expertise.

Travis: Justin, I'll make you a deal. You can have two minutes unfettered if I can have two minutes to talk about my new favorite show, *Forged in Fire*.

Justin: No. I don't want either of these to happen.

Griffin: No, we're not gonna fucking do that.

Justin: I'm–I'm–I'm responsible, you know what I mean?

Travis: [makes hesitant noise] I'm not.

Justin: To know—to know and have the passion for tools that I do and not bring it to me—to a show like this, after 10 years of doing it...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: When I think I've earned it, you know what I mean? In the words of Chris Fleming, that's grace. That's poise. You know?

Travis: I mean, Justin—the only thing that eclipses Justin's love for tools is his love for the band Tool.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: That's the only thing greater.

Justin: And my passion for the fabric tulle.

Griffin: [snorts softly]

Travis: That's true. Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, can I read a Yahoo-

Travis: And cookies called twiddles.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [wheezes] And a pair of the letter L.

Travis: Uh-huh!

Justin: Yes, two L's!

Griffin: Uh, so—

Travis: [laughs] Oh, God. Oh, we just got canceled! Aw.

Justin: We got canceled for a podcast? That can't be right.

Travis: Yeah, just right there. Just—it came through the wire.

Griffin: This one's set in by the Wizard, Ben Kantt. Thank you, Ben. It's Yahoo Answers—they're an anonymous Yahoo Answers user, uh, so I'll call him, uh... Patrig. With a G at the end.

Travis: Mm!

Griffin: So yeah, it's a hot new name.

Uh, Patrig asks, "I don't like my dad's song?"

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: "So I recently started playing guitar, and I've shared the few I've learned with my parents. I'm in college, and still live with them. So my dad had the idea to write lyrics and for me to play. I thought he was joking at first, but we just now spent an hour dragging through his very depressing song. I don't like it, but I don't want to hurt his feelings. What should I do?"

A very first-

Travis: "I have a new song, boy. I've wri—I've written the lyrics: the song is called 'My Disappointing Son."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] There's—there's a very well-thought-out, I would say, heartfelt answer that is the only answer that has been left on this—this, uh, Yahoo Answers question, uh, but the first two words of this answer are they very much sum up how I'm feeling about it, and it's just, "Phew, tough one."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] Yes. It is. That should've been the name of this podcast. *Ugh, Tough One*.

Travis: Yeah. Tough One.

Griffin: Um-

Travis: I think it is—a parent's greatest wish is to be eclipsed by their child.

Justin: Um... no, I'm good.

Travis: I–I–let me just say: good parents' great—not mine.

Justin: Right, a good—

Travis: That's not my thing. But I think that if you come back and say, "Dad, a few notes on this song you've written," and you've changed every lyric and it's better...

Griffin: Right.

Travis: But you still make him feel like he's part of it? That's really all he's looking for.

Griffin: Huge. Huge for dads.

Travis: What do you think this depressing song's about?

Griffin: Um...

Justin: I mean, it could be about anything, you know, with dads. Um...

Travis: [laughs] You know how dads are.

Griffin: You know how dads get sometimes.

Justin: You know how dads get. I have a solution to this.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: Take—say—you say to your dad, you say, "Dad, I love this track, and the thing is we gotta get it out live. We gotta get it out there."

Travis: Mm.

Justin: And so you go with your dad, and you get him on guitar, lead vocals. And then this part is important: you're on drums. So you get upstairs, and um... then the announcer guy's like, "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the stage [crosstalk]—"

Travis: Wait, what announ-wait, what announcers?

Justin: 'Cause announc—somebody's announcing your show about to start.

Travis: But you're in your hou-where-what sh-where did you-

Griffin: It's livestreamed.

Justin: No, 'cause you're doing the show! I just said you gotta play it at live. Please try to keep up.

Travis: But you said... they go upstairs, and it made it sound like they went into the bedroom or something.

Justin: [through laughter] I didn't say "Go upstairs." That wouldn't make sense.

Griffin: The greenroom was downstairs, Travis.

Travis: You said, "They go upstairs."

Justin: [unintelligible laughter]

Griffin: It's a second-floor stage, Travis. Shut up!

Justin: [wheezes] Why would I s—I didn't say to go upstairs.

Travis: You said.

Griffin: You did say they go upstairs.

Travis: You said they go upstairs.

Justin: Rachel, Rachel, please play back whatever I played, and we'll move forward.

Griffin: Okay.

[tape rewinding noise]

Justin: And this part is important: you're on drums. So you get upstairs, and um—

[tape stops]

Justin: [through laughter] No matter what just happened there, I think what we can all agree is they're on stage.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: And the announcer says, "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the stage of the YMCA, Dad and Him!"

And it's—and then you get up...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...and you get out your sticks, and you put on your shades, and you're like...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [drumming noises] And you're picking up the pace. Your dad's looking back at you, like, "It's too fast! It's too fast!"

And you're like, "Sorry, Dad, this song's a banger. And we had to-"

Travis: "And Steve Zahn's like, "Let's roll with it."

Justin: "Let's roll with it! Let's go with it, I love it." [makes guitar sounds]

Griffin: "[singing] Snowy Sunday, thinking about the friends we lost!"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [spoken] Like, I don't know. This is it. This is that sound!

- Justin: "[singing] I never [unintelligible] the war!"
- Griffin: [laughs]
- **Justin:** [spoken] But that is another option.
- Griffin: "[singing] Broken promises and broken dreams!"
- **Travis:** [makes drumming noise]
- **Griffin:** [makes drumming noise]
- Travis: And all the kids are like, "Woah, yeah!"
- Justin: "Yeah! I guess it sounds like your ex-wife really is a piece of work!"
- Griffin: [laughing]
- **Justin:** "You got—you got me!"
- **Travis:** "Everybody do the *Ex-Wife*!" [makes drumming noise]
- Justin: "I just said everybody already has kids, take it from me!"
- Travis: "Oh, no!"
- **Justin:** [makes farting noise]

Griffin: Yikes.

Justin: I'm canceled. [laughs] We had a short career; burned out, better to burn bright than to fade away.

Uh, how about another question?

Griffin: Okay!

Justin: I love this. I just—I love this energy [crosstalk].

Griffin: Yeah, me too. It's so helpful.

Justin: Uh, I have a question here.

Travis: You do?

Justin: Uh, yeah. Uh, let's see. When the—[imitates rock guitar].

Travis: Oh?

Griffin: [laughing softly]

Justin: [imitates rock guitar] Interrupting myself? [imitates rock guitar] [singing] I want to munch!

Travis and Griffin: Squad!

Justin: [imitates rock guitar] I want to munch!

Travis: Squad.

Griffin: Squad. I'm not—

Justin: [imitates rock guitar]

Travis: That wasn't—you didn't interrupt yourself, Justin. You possessed yourself, is what happened.

Griffin: Yeah, and also I'm not—I'm not—I don't know that I'm ready for the Munch Squad. The Munch Squad is a little post-ads, like, foothold that I get while climbing the mountain of jokes.

Justin: We got other exciting stuff. We got exciting stuff for after the ads...

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: So I wanted to get it out.

Travis: It would feel weird, though, if you were like, in the middle of a fancy dinner party, and they said, "Uh, yeah, the—we're gonna have the main course out in a second, but first here's some brandy and cigars!"

And you're like, "Oh, not yet."

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Travis: You guys know those parties, right?

Griffin: Sure, sure, sure.

Justin: Uh, this is a Munch Squad. It's a podcast in a podcast. Uh, only slightly Munch Squad related, because my Munch Squad is not related to this, but I did want to say, um... it's wild that we didn't talk about the Big Game. I can't remember the last time a Big Game rolled around and we did not talk...

Travis: Oh, I just assumed they canceled it, because it wouldn't be safe to, like, play sports and stuff in the current pandemic.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [sighs] Yeah...

Griffin: How are they doing, then? Because I haven't watched any football this season, but I just assumed they were doin—they were Zooming it.

Travis: Well, what it is, is from six foot away, uh, like, a—one of the, you know, the defense men will say, like, "I tackled you."

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Travis: And the runner's like, "Aw, man. You got me."

Griffin: Ooh yeah, maybe they all have lances. Like, six-foot lances.

Travis: Yeah. They've got Nerf—Nerf guns.

Griffin: That's good, yeah.

Justin: Yeah. Um, can I—

Travis: Can I just say—paintball football would be amazing.

Justin: Uh, I got a few sort of Juniors. I just wanna hit you all with it. Um, the first is just the beginning of the story on, uh, QSR, which is one of my quick service restaurants—one of my, uh, sources, main sources.

Griffin: It's your fucking homepage.

Justin: It's, like, basically my homepage. Um, they have—the headline is, "How Wendy's Got People Talking About Breakfast in a Pandemic."

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Subhead: "One of the biggest launches of 2020 was derailed by COVID-19. Or was it?"

Travis: I don't know, dude. You're writing the story!

Griffin: Yeah, this—yeah, it's not fair.

I'm not gonna do your work for you!

Justin: And I did wanna say um, that handsome-ass Carl Loredo is in this one. Everybody knows Carl Loredo, CMO of Wendy's.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Uh, he—it's a breakfast—he said it was a better—a competitive landscape that Carl Loredo, in classic Carl Loredo style, um, uh, referred to as the world of frozen arches.

Travis: Hoo, boy!

Justin: It says here here's a not-so-veiled reference to McDonald's.

Travis: Yeah, yeah!

Griffin: Just say fucking McDonald's, Carl, at that point.

Justin: Carl doesn't—then it wouldn't be uh, Loredowe! It would just be a regular burn, if he didn't have a little spin on it. A little poetic license.

Travis: You know how Carl is.

Justin: So they're wild out there. Um, Taco Bell's got a new five-dollar "build your own cravings" box for the people.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: It—you take a boring burger bun, you add a celebrity in the mix, you put it online, and you got the perfect recipe for, well, eating someone else's favorites.

Travis: What?

Justin: Taco Bell wonders, "Why not just eat like you?"

Griffin: A lot of people watching the fucking throne right now, huh?

Justin: [laughs] A lot of people.

Griffin: Lot of people.

Justin: Making a run at the king.

Griffin: Huh.

Justin: No, not the king. That's confusing.

Travis: Is this—is the statement here the accusation of like, "You don't want to eat some famous person's favorite meal; you wanna eat yours! And only with our help will you be able to do that."

Justin: That's exactly right. You're gonna be able to uh—"Rewarding their most passionate fans first, the new 'build-your-own cravings' box will be exclusively—uh, available exclusively to Taco Bell rewards beta members..."

Travis: Oh, boy.

Justin: "...on the Taco Bell app." Uh, as a beta member myself... [wheezes]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: I have to say, this is fair, and they got me.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "Stretching customers' dollars further than ever before, the buildyour-own-cravings box is the ultimate Taco Bell eating experience." So basically, you tell them what you want to put in this big box of garbage, and they're gonna serve it up to you right, no problem, and no questions asked, and no judgment.

Nikkie Lawson, who's sort of like that Carl Loredo of Taco Bell...

Griffin: Right.

Justin: ...uh, says, in honestly one of the most inscrutable quotes that we've had in this segment, and that is saying something: "As we see it, there aren't a lot of choices out there when it comes to value."

Travis: Huh!

Justin: "Forcing customers to play by others' rules?"

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "But when your fans have different favorites on the menu..."

Travis: Uh-huh?

Justin: "Why not celebrate that?"

Travis: Oh, God, I feel free for the first time.

Justin: "The Taco Bell I'm proud to lead..."

Travis: [blows a raspberry and bursts out laughing]

Justin: "The Taco Bell I'm proud to lead—"

Travis: "[gritting teeth] This is my Taco Bell!"

Griffin: "[gritting teeth] This is my Bell!"

Justin: "The Taco Bell I'm proud to lead does it differently. We put fans in the driver's seat and allow them to eat what *they* wanna eat! And not how someone, irrespective of how famous they may be, tells them to."

Travis: Can I just say that that's a horrible kind of phrase to use, because if I went to a NASCAR race, and they put fans in the driver's seat, horrible things are going to happen. It is not going to be—it's going to be a bloody massacre.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: I want experienced eating professionals in the driver's seat, thank you very much. Like your Travis Scotts, I think?

Griffin: Travis Scott did the McDonald's meal. What's wild about that quote is that... it's not *rules*. Travis—Travis Scott wasn't like, "You got this new McDonald's meal, and it's all about me, and it's a weird burger, and a flurry, and a lot of fucking fries."

Justin: [laughs] "And just a massive, unconscionable amount of Sprite."

Griffin: "And that's the—those are the fucking rules!"

Travis: That's it now.

Justin: And it's the only thing they sell!

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Um, Taco Bell is—this is a great part. They've got a digital and social campaign for this...

Griffin: Mm.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: ...this initiative. That includes some of Taco Bell's most influential fans, including actor Noah Centineo, TikTok influencer Nava Rose, K-pop star CL, iconic drag queen Onyx Black, and BMXer Brad Simms. I wonder if all of them agreed on BMXer way back in the day. I can't imagine.

But the celebrities aren't gonna be sharing their own order.

Travis: Oh, okay!

Justin: "They're gonna be reminding consumers to [gritting teeth] never settle [normally] for someone else's taste buds."

Travis: Then I'm gonna make my own fucking tacos at home!

Justin: This is the weird thing. Don't listen to the celebrities when they tell you what to eat at Taco Bell, but do listen to the celebrities when they tell you *to* eat at Taco Bell.

Travis: Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin: Right. If you have the opportunity.

Justin: [laughs] Noah Centineo will walk you right up to the door, and you'll turn around to thank him, and he's gone.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You can do a passionate TikTok duet with Noah Centineo, by the way, which I plan on doing right away.

Griffin: How many items do I get to... put in this box? This is like—you get four items to put in the box, or is it how—however much ground beef you can stack—

Travis: Griffin, it's anything they have.

Justin: [wheezing laugh]

Travis: It's whatever can fit in the box.

Justin: It's like a yogurt place; it's by weight.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You can get a box full of hot—loose hot sauce, and that's it. And it still is five dolla—you can ask for the employees to put their wallets in the box, and they have to do it, because there are no fucking rules.

Justin: Um, they have—you choose from one of, like, four different categories, basically.

Travis: Sounds like a rule to me.

Justin: So they got specialties, which is like a signature item, like the Chalupa Supreme.

Griffin: Rules.

Justin: And then they had the charminy—[laughs] charmingly-named "starters," and one of those "starters" is a beefy five-layered burrito.

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: Like, just an amuse-bouche.

Justin: "I'm just feeling a bit peckish, I think I'll just have a fucking beefy five-layered burrito for the table, please."

Travis: I couldn't possibly eat six layers. Eh, I'll take a five layer one, please.

Griffin: [laughs] That would be outrageous..

Justin: Just five layers to begin. [laughs]

Um, I do want to do that TikTok du—look for that on my TikTok, my duet with Noah Centineo.

Travis: Griffin, when are you gonna get on that TikTok?

Griffin: As soon as somebody tells me... [holding back laughter] how it works.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Real—for real, quick, la—before we uh, head into the break real quickly, I did want everybody to know that the—this is just kind of a public

service announcement. The, uh, Shamrock Shake, coming back February 15th.

Travis: Just in time for Valentine's Day.

Justin: And I hear you saying—I hear you saying, "I don't give a shit." Well, that's not what McDonald's thinks. They're welcoming back not only the Shamrock Shake, but also the fan favorite Oreo Shamrock McFlurry.

I always like when restaurants call something a fan favorite, because the alternative is that they're bringing back something that no one seemed to enjoy, but it was cheap.

Travis: "We're bringing back real underdog, the Shamrock Shake."

Justin: Yeah. "We're giving you one more chance to enjoy spicy chicken nuggets."

Travis: "We think that this is an acquired taste, and one more time... please give it a try. We ordered so many of them. Please."

Justin: This is—if you learn to read behind the lines in these things, they're actually pretty sinister.

"The Shamrock Shake features creamy vanilla soft-serve, blended with our... unmistakable Shamrock Shake flavor, and finished with a whipped topping."

Travis: Hm.

Justin: "For a minty treat." Now, there's a lot of things that they said in there, and there are a lot of thing they didn't say as well.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: As like, what is in this? [wheezes] Like, why is it like this?

Travis: Why is—

Justin: It's "minty." It's not mint, though, is it?

Griffin: They explained the burning that you feel when you eat it.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: `Cause you could ju—you could justify that. That is—that must be that there mint that they mention. But everything else, is—is a puzzle box.

Justin: I know Chef—Chef Mike would not do us dirty like that.

Griffin: Oh, no.

Justin: But it—no, no, no.

Griffin: But as he—I got s—I have allergies, you know?

Justin: "For more than 50 years." Like, it strains credulity at this—this point, some of these quotes from the marketing people, and I—I—I—this is —this cat, Chad Shafer, is the director of culinary. The—sorry, sorry, sorry, *senior* director of culinary.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Justin: "For more than 50 years, fans have eagerly awaited the annual return of the Shamrock Shake, counting on the arrival of Shamrock Shake season to mark the unofficial start to spring."

Travis: Huh.

Justin: "And we heard they especially enjoyed getting a taste of the oneand-only Shamrock Flavor in a new way last year with the Oreo Shamrock McFlurry.

"We know this winter may feel longer than others."

Travis: Oh.

Justin: "So we're—" had to do it.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: Had to get it in there. "So we're thrilled to give customers something to look forward to by bringing both fan favorites back to the menu this month. So hang in there – the Shamrock Shake is coming."

Travis: I cannot wait for, like, the first hint of like, "Now everything's like, on the upswing, 51 percent of the population's vaccinated, like, we're seeing daylight." Because at this point I feel like, uh, quick-service restaurants have run out of euphemisms for saying, like, "I don't fucking know, man."

Griffin: Mm.

Travis: Give them some new material about hope on the horizon, and just watch 'em fly.

Griffin: Yeah. [crosstalk].

Travis: I cannot [crosstalk].

Griffin: They're gonna sup on that for-

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Forever.

Justin: You know, it's funny; you always see these announcements for, like, [makes bell noise] "Dinner bell's on, dipshits. Your favorite green shake is back in stock."

Griffin: Right.

Justin: They never have a press release that's like, "Funeral for a friend: saying goodbye once again..."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "We—we know you've all looked forward to it, and fucking clung to it to get through these cold winter months, but ah well, it's March 18th, so this shit's going right in the dumpster."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [through laughter] "Come get if it a lick, if you want—if you miss it, assholes. It's gone."

Anyway, that's the Munch Squad. Let's take a break for, um, more positive commercialism, uh, in a segment we like to refer to as the Money Zone.

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

Travis: [British accent] You know, when I was a young man... I was told quite often that I was something of an upstart. "Upstart!" They would say to me, "you whippersnapper," they would say. But now, upstarts are having their day, aren't they? Because if you have multiple credit cards, you know that tracking multiple balances, due dates, and website logins can be stressful!

Upstart makes things simple with one monthly payment in one place.

Griffin: What?

Justin: Unlike the premise of this bit... [crosstalk].

Griffin: Right. Like, why do you even need to be British?

Travis: I am not British. I am just old.

Griffin: You don't turn British when you get old.

Travis: I'm an old-timey man. I'm from a time before... when we lost our British accents here in America. I'm so old that I still have—

Justin: Vestigial British accents!

Travis: I have a vestigial British accent!

Griffin: Hold on. Wait, how-how-

Travis: And a lot of credit cards!

Griffin: Yeah, no, that's for sure. Like, a lot of older-

Travis: When I was a whippersnapper...

Griffin: Right.

Travis: ... I signed up for a lot of credit cards to get the free things that they offered at baseball games.

Griffin: Right. And how old are you?

Travis: I am 175.

Justin: Upstart is a fast and easy way that gets you a personal loan to pay off your debt, all online. You can pay off credit cards, or consolidate high-interest debt, whatever. Upstart is going to find smarter rates, 'cause they assess more than just your credit score.

There's a five-minute online rate check, and see your rate up-front for loans from 1,000 to 50,000 dollars. So you can find out how Upstart could lower your monthly payments today when you go to upstart.com/mybrother. That's upstart.com/mybrother. Don't forget to use our URL to let them know that we sent you.

Loan amounts will be determined based on your credit, income, and certain other information provided in your loan application! That's upstart.com/mybrother.

Griffin: Brooklinen sells very soft-

Travis: When I was a young man, people used to call me Brooklinen.

Griffin: [groans]

Travis: "Brooklinen," they'd say. "Get off my bed!"

Griffin: Now he's rolling his fucking R's, dude!

Travis: "Get off my bed, Brooklinen!"

Justin: It's getting worse, weirdly.

Travis: [pirate voice?] They'd say, "Ach! Ach, [unintelligible]!"

Justin: It's weirdly getting worse.

Travis: They'd say, "Get off me bed, Brooklinen."

Griffin: What?

Travis: And I'd say, "This is my bed."

And they'd say, "No, 'tis my bed." And then we'd fight in the street with pistols.

Griffin: Yeah, but we don't do that anymore. We just chill in our beds with our comfy sheets and stuff that Brooklinen provides us. 'Cause they got the really good stuff—I sleep on some—

Travis: Yeah, they do.

Griffin: I sleep on Brooklinen sheets, and I sleep like an absolute baby, and whenever I used to travel... [sighs] I didn't sleep in Brooklinen sheets, and that made me sad. Sorry, I just realized that I have slept in my own bed every day for the last year [laughs] and it got me—it got me good.

But they got a bunch of different colors and patterns and materials to fit your needs and your tastes, and they got comforters, pillows, and towels, and—if you wanna just feel like you have a sheet on you all fucking day, get a lounge wear! So that's great!

Go to brooklinen.com and use the promo code "mybrother," all one word, to get 25 dollars off when you spend 100 bucks or more, plus you get free shipping! That's B-R-O-O-K-L-I-N-E-N dot com, and enter promo code "mybrother," all one word, to get 25 dollars off when you spend 100 bucks or more, plus free shipping. Brooklinen.com, and use promo code "mybrother" at checkout.

[relaxed instrumentals play in background]

Speaker One: Welcome!

Group: Thank you.

Thanks.

No problem.

Thank you.

Speaker One: These are real podcast listeners, not actors. What do you look for in a podcast?

Speaker Two: Reliability is big for me.

Speaker Three: Power.

Speaker Four: I'd say comfort.

Speaker One: What do you think of this?

[loud clanging]

Group: [groans]

Speaker One: That's Jordan, Jesse, Go!

Speaker Two: Jordan, Jesse, Go?

Speaker Four: They came out of the floor?

[thud]

Speaker Four: And down from the ceiling?

Speaker Two: That can't be safe.

Speaker Four: I'm upset.

Speaker Three: Can we go now?

Speaker One: Soon.

Jordan, Jesse, Go! A real podcast.

[music and advertisement end]

Justin: Uh, another question... that I would like to shoot your way.

"This summer, I moved into a new home. Everything was good, apart from each Friday, when a loud ice cream van would park right outside my house at 8:00 PM, and serve customers 'til late. However, it is now well into December, and the van still shows up each week."

Travis: Aw, man, we're getting to this question pretty late, huh?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Man. What are you gonna do?

Justin: Well, "We're well out of December, and 8—and music well after dark. No one is buying ice cream at night in winter, and at this point, I'm

too nervous to go out and talk to the owner, in case this is some front for illegal activity. How should I discover what they're up to, and do I even want to know?" That's from John in Norwich, UK. I've got no idea.

Travis: Yeah, I don't—I don't see us being capable of answering this, but I have very good news...

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Uh, my friend Krystina Arielle, uh, who I recently did some game streaming with, uh, she was telling me that there was a ice cream truck outside of her house all the time.

Justin: Mm.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: So I think we should call her, and get her opinion on this. Let me ring her up on the phone real quick. [makes repeated beeping noise]

Griffin: That's too many numbe—you don't have to hit that many numbers.

Travis: [makes ringing noise]

Griffin: Are we hearing the bells of Krystina's phone through the phone?

Travis: Oh, I put a—I put a microphone in Krystina's house, so we could record her side of it.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: [makes ringing noise]

Krystina: Hello.

Justin: Oh, thank God.

Travis: Hi, Krystina. It's Travis. Travis McElroy?

Krystina: Who?

Travis: Travis McElroy.

Krystina: Who?

Travis: Travis Mc-

Krystina: Who?

Travis: Travis Mc—Travis McElroy?

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: We did—we did that uh, game stream together where we played—we played that postapocalyptic game, and...

Griffin: You probably stream with a lot of people, though, so like... if you don't remember him, let's just clean alate it right now.

Krystina: Oh, that Travis McElroy! Hi!

Travis: Hi—hi! There's another Tra—that's not important. We had a question here, and I'm going to repeat it. [makes rewinding sounds]

So now, we wanna get your opinion on this, 'cause I know that there is an ice cream truck that seemingly lives outside your house. So what—what should the—what's going on here, do you think?

Krystina: Well, I think if you wanna know if this truck is actually up to something—actually, I have the perfect plan for you, and this works in any case if you suspect that an ice cream truck in your neighborhood is maybe not just selling ice cream. Go and order a Sonic the Hedgehog ice cream with bubblegum eyes...

Griffin: Mm.

Krystina: ...or a Ninja Turtle ice cream.

Justin: [wheezes, laughs]

Krystina: And how much frost is on top of it, determines...

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Okay.

Krystina: If this truck actually sells ice cream.

Justin: So you're s—what you're suggesting, Krystina, is that they have a freezer, and inside that freezer is one Sonic the Hedgehog popsicle with gumball eyes, and one Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle popsicle with gumball eyes and nothing else.

Krystina: There might be an ice cream sandwich, or a Bomb Pop.

Justin: One of each item, [wheezes].

Griffin: Yes, there's one of each. And you gotta be careful—

Krystina: Yes, it's an "Ah."

Travis: It's an Ah, yes. An Ah ice cream pop.

Justin: Don't you think—

Griffin: You gotta be careful, because one of them is also going to be the code word for the drugs that you are also selling today. So if you are going down the list of menu items, and it says, like, "An Itzakadoozie is 400 dollars."

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin: Then you can assume that that is... some sort of slang for a drug of some sort.

Travis: I bet it's pretty frustrating if you have an ice cream truck that's a front for your drug-selling business, but nobody knows it's a front for a drug-selling business?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And just keep buying ice cream, and you're like, "Aw, man, nobody bought drugs from me today. I need to work on my branding."

Krystina: Well, I mean, it's an interesting occupation, but it's a... entrepreneurial in... tent... I don't know what it is. It's funny, though.

Justin: [laughs quietly]

Travis: Do you know—this happens in New York City, there are trucks that drive around, and they have, like, pot leaves all over 'em and stuff. And like, the candy will be called, like, "hemp and honey" or whatever, but like, there's no... there's no actual marijuana in any of it? It's just implied? But it's completely il—it would be completely illegal if it was actual—if it was actual THC in these things.

Griffin: [laughs] Okay.

Travis: But it just looks like it, and so tourists are like, "Oh, my God! Big City!" And then they just buy what is, essentially, regular candy for like 20 dollars an ounce.

Griffin: So this... the impropriety—the appearance of impropriety here is a feature, and not a bug, is what you're saying.

Travis: Yes, exactly.

Griffin: And you know that if you go to this ice cream vendor who is selling in such a shady way, you know that this Itzakadoozie's gonna fuck you up, fam. It's not a question about it.

Travis: It is, actually, a kadoozie. Oh, boy.

Griffin: It is—there's no doubt about it. This one's a kadoozie.

Justin: Krystina, how do you deal with your children constantly asking you to, uh, uh, patronize the ice cream truck that has taken, uh, root outside your home? 'Cause that would be, I feel like, a basically constant struggle between, uh, my children and I.

Krystina: Well, I think the best way to interfere with that is that my husband is an ice cream junkie.

Griffin: Mm.

Krystina: So there's always ice cream in my house. And so it's like, "Oh, let's go to the ice cream truck!" But why would we do that when we've got Good Humor Strawberry Shortcake bars in the fridge?

Justin: Oohohoho!

Travis: Oh, [crosstalk].

Krystina: We've got Oreo ice cream. Do you want a FatBoy? Like, we—they do like...

Justin: [crosstalk] Crunch bars.

Krystina: ...FatBoys with peanut butter. You can't do that with your hard ice cream you're gonna get from the ice cream truck that's been sitting there for 14 years.

Justin: Krystina, my wife calls the strawberry Good Humor bars "scooter crunch bars," and I didn't know if I should divorce her or not. What do you think?

Krystina: I think that you should say, "You know what, hon? You call it whatever you want to, and I'll call it what I want to. You can be wrong, but we can continue on."

Justin: We don't talk about it that much, to be fair, actually. [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah, how often does that come up, J-Man?

Justin: It doesn't come up organically.

Krystina: To each their own. To each their own. And also—it makes me think about—do you remember those commercials for Six Flags, and they had that old dude and he had, like, a bald head and a black tuxedo, and there was, like, [sings notes]

Justin: Yeah.

Krystina: You can't see me, but I'm doing, like, this...

Justin: Yeah.

Krystina: ...little jig. But that's what I always think about, because there was like a '90s commercial for Good Humor, they were like, [sings notes].

Travis: Oh! "I'm the Good Humor Man!" Yeah, okay.

Krystina: Yeah! Like, they would play those commercials, and I think the—the—long—the short part of the story is, I really like Good Humor bars, man.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Hey, Krystina, so just to clarify: talking about an ice cream truck made you think about the Six Flag guy, which then made you think about the Good Humor guy, and not the other way around?

Justin: No.

Krystina: Yeah!

Justin: The Good—I'm confused.

Krystina: No, the—I thought about the—okay, so I said we have Good Humor bars in the fridge...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Krystina: ...which then made me think about that song, which then made me think about the Six Flags commercial...

Travis: Okay, great.

Krystina: ...where the guy's doing the dance, which then brought me back to the Good Humor stuff.

Justin: Well, speaking of...

[Good Humor commercial plays]

Krystina: It's going so hard right now.

[Good Humor commercial continues]

Krystina: Jamming.

[Good Humor commercial continues, stops]

Justin: I wish to God I could be there when this—this ad exec pitched this.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Like, "You know what the kids are so into right now is Scatman."

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Love Scatman John.

Travis: That's—the wildest thing about that is, it's a parody of Scatman, but not, like—the syllable count is so far off...

Griffin: They are jamming two extra—they are doubling the syllables of the term Scatman. It's wild. It's hubris.

Travis: It's so strange that—that someone heard "I'm the Scatman," and thought, "You know what that makes me think of? Good Humor Man." That's wild.

Krystina: You know what's great about it, is that it was like, during that area—where—not area. But during that era where it was like, *Alley Cats Strike* came out as a DCOM...

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Krystina: There was like, a big boom in like... what are those guys called? The little, like... not the "Tubthumbing" dudes. But uh—

Justin: Chumbawamba?

Krystina: A big band, swing kinda like...

Travis: Oh, like the Brian Setzer Orchestra...

Krystina: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.

Justin: Yeah, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.

Travis: Yeah. Like, the Squirrel Nut Zippers.

Justin: Every band had the worst names! It was the worst.

Griffin: Terrible.

Justin: What—miserable.

Travis: It seems like they drew their names, syllable by syllable, out of a hopper.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yes, it was quite terrible.

Griffin: Why couldn't they have a cool name, like Staind?

Travis: Or Puddle of Mudd? [laughs]

Griffin: Or Puddle of Mudd.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs] Jars of Clay.

Griffin: Jars of Clay.

Krystina: Blur.

Justin: Blur.

Griffin: Aw, man.

- **Travis:** Ah, Creed!
- Justin: Perfect.

Griffin: You can't even tell.

Krystina: You can even take me higher with that name.

Travis: I'm pretty sure most of the bands we just mentioned were undercover Christian rock bands?

Justin: Sure. It's a great subgenre.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, okay. Not just rock, not just Christian... undercover Christian rock band. You might listen to *several* of their albums before you figure out.

Griffin: Gotcha.

Justin: Gotcha.

Krystina: Didn't that big—like, Insane Clown Posse story come out...

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Krystina: ...where they were talking about, "Oh-"

Travis: The *most* undercover undercover Christian rock band.

Justin: [bursts into laughter]

Griffin: [laughs]

Krystina: They're like, "The juggalos were a Christian rock band all along."

Travis: They—the juggalos are like, uh, if you—like, they were a plant at a criminal organization, but they were under so long that they forgot how to live a clean life. And they're like, "I think we—did we start as a Christian band, or did we just decide what—what's happening here, guys?"

Griffin: They got—they got—they got departed. That's what—that's it.

Travis: Aw, man.

Justin: Yeah. The juggalos got raptured.

Travis: Yep.

Griffin: [laughs]

Krystina: It's like the great philosopher once said: "50 told me 'Go ahead and switch your style up. And if they hate, then let 'em hate, and watch the money pile up."

Travis: Yeah. That was from the Bible, I think, right?

Griffin: That's also from the Bible.

Justin: [wheezes]

Krystina: [laughs]

Griffin: The 50 he was talking about was... some... what—Je—uh, Jesus Christ.

Travis: Oh!

Justin: Oh, okay.

Griffin: Sometimes they called him 50, 'cause he took the bread and the fish, he turned it into 50 bread and fish.

Travis: Oh, that's cool! Good job, Jesus!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's not enough for everybody. There were hundreds of people there.

Griffin: Not even close. Not even close. But still, it was more than one, so...

Travis: Yeah, that's true. That is true.

Krystina: One thousand.

Travis: So Krysti-

Justin: So Krys—oh, my God, Travis, this is so awkward, but you can go ahead and ask your question and I'll ask my different question.

Travis: Okay. I just wanted to thank Krystina for taking time out of her incredibly busy schedule of hosting the *Star Wars: High Republic* web series. Uh, the official *Star Wars* show discussing the *Star Wars: High Republic* series. Um, it must be uh, so much more fun to do that than to record this show with us...

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: ...so it means so much to us that you took the time to come on our show to talk about dumb things.

Krystina: I like talking about dumb things, and I like you!

Travis: Oh, well, thank you.

Griffin: We talk about *Star Wars* sometime on this show, but people... weirdly don't like it.

Travis: No, no, no.

Griffin: Like, really don't—really don't. We think *Star Wars* is cool! Spaceships and...

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: ...laser blades, and all that shit.

Justin: All that shit.

Griffin: It's radical, um, but I guess our—we got a lot of just jocks. Just a lot of jocks listening to our show.

Justin: [simultaneously] Truckers. A lot of truckers and jocks.

Krystina: You know what you could talk about, though? And just change all the discourse, because it's one thing that everyone can agree on?

Justin: What's that?

Krystina: Ivan Ooze is one of the greatest villains in all of cinema...

[clapping]

Krystina: ...and he deserves his flowers.

Griffin: The courage! The bravery required to come on our show and say-

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And be a proponent of Ivan Ooze.

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Griffin: It took my breath away, Krystina.

Justin: [laughs]

Krystina: That's the audacity of hope, that's what that is.

Justin: [wheezing laughter]

Griffin: Some people say, "He's a bit much. I prefer Zedd, I prefer Goldar," but no...

Justin: I-no-I-

Krystina: I'm a—that point is entire—no, no, no. The best part of this entire movie. Listen to, "Think of all the things I've missed—the Brady Bunch reunion!"

Travis: [laughs]

Krystina: Are you kidding me?! That is—ugh, I'm sorry.

Justin: Good.

Krystina: I have a lot of feelings about this [crosstalk].

Griffin: Good shit.

Travis: Who do you think is a more iconic movie villain: Ivan Ooze, or, uh, Raul Julia as M. Bison in the *Street Fighter* movie?

Griffin: Oh, man. Don't make me choose.

Krystina: Oh, why would you do that?

Travis: I know, right?

Justin: Don't make me choose. Don't make me choose!

Travis: They—I think the reason it popped in my head is I think they're both playing at the same level. In like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like, just acting choice wise, the same incredible level.

Krystina: It's high camp!

Travis: The entire movie. Yeah, oh yeah.

Krystina: It is high camp, and it is a—a fine art, and I think they are both incredible artists when it comes to the camp, and I refuse to make a choice on this, but I will continue to say, Ivan Ooze as a villain had bars.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's fair. That's fair. I think it's just that—uh, now that we're into the new year and it's 2021, I wanted to make sure that I could reference the best line in cinema ever, and make sure we get it in before we have to worry about it, which is "The day that M. Bison invaded your city is the worst day of your life."

Griffin: Yeah

Travis: "For me, [weathered voice] it was a Tuesday."

Krystina: [laughs]

Travis: It's just the best.

Griffin: It's very good.

Justin: It's the best.

Griffin: And as long as we're quoting *Street Fighter*-adjacent things, um, I —I gotta—I mean, I can't let the opportunity pass me by to quote the interview that somebody did with Jean-Claude Van Damme when it was revealed that he had an affair with Kylie Minogue on the set, and he said, "Okay, yes, yes, yes. It happened. I was in Thailand. We had an affair. Sweet kiss, beautiful lovemaking."

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Griffin: Thanks, Jean! Thanks, Jean-Claude!

Travis: To be fair, I hope Jean-Claude Van Damme says this about me some day.

Griffin: "Sweet kiss, beautiful lovemaking." Thanks.

Travis: "Beautiful lovemaking."

Griffin: Awesome.

Krystina: All I can say is, Jean-Claude Van Damn!

Justin: Do you guys know that the bad guy from *Raiders*, uh, Belloq, was played by the same guy [laughs] who played Ivan Ooze?

Griffin: No!

Travis: Really?

Justin: That's quite a trajectory, huh? He must've had one moment where they were putting on the applique on your face, the blue—the purple tentacles, where you're like, "This is where *I'm* at, currently."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "That's okay. I mean, it's okay!"

Travis: "What's Harrison Ford up to? What's he doing?"

Justin: "Yeah! I bet Harrison is maybe in the *Mighty*—" you think he called Harrison Ford like, "Hey, Harrison! Are you in this *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* movie, too?"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "I assume you got the offer, right alongside me."

Griffin: "Got an opportunity for ya. It's a rocket, baby! Going all the way to the top."

Justin: "Uh, Harrison, can you put on your helmet?"

"[gruff voice] I'm not putting on my helmet. [laughs] Less-"

"You're the black ranger, Harrison. Please."

"I'm not doing it."

Uh, where can people watch your program, othe—I mean, I guess the internet, right? You get everything on the internet these days.

Krystina: Yes. You can watch the *High Republic* show on the *Star Wars* YouTube or on starwars.com, and you can check out more information about the *High Republic* in that little tab about said show. And other than that, you can find me—oh, on Mondays, I host a show called *Improvised Champions*, with Mark Meer, who is the voice of Commander Shepard in *Mass Effect*.

Griffin: Oh, yeah!

Justin: Oh.

Krystina: And we—as someone plays through the game, *Idle Champions*, we voice act all the characters, and we also commentate as two of our original characters. So it's really fun!

Griffin: That's fun!

Krystina: It's on the CNEgames Twitch!

Justin: Cool!

Travis: I also highly recommend, uh, if you are subscribed to, uh, *Dropout*, uh, you can watch *Dimension 20*, uh, and Krystina just did a, uh, series there on *Dimension 20* called *Pirates of Leviathan*...

Griffin: Ooh!

Travis: ...where she played Barbarella. It's very, very good. Bringing, of course—

Krystina: Oh, I need to say it for you.

Travis: Okay, please.

Krystina: "[soft voice] Her name is Barbarella Sasparilla Gainglynn, but you can call her Barb."

Travis: God, I love that, folks.

Griffin: That's really good. Yeah, fantastic.

Justin: Talented people make me so angry.

Griffin: Yeah, right?

Justin: It must be so stressful to have talent. I can't imagine-

Krystina: You were in *Trolls*! You were in *Trolls*, you are an icon in this house.

Travis: Eh, barely.

Justin: They only let us—they only let us talk at the same time, and then they put it through a bunch of... [holding back laughter] computers.

Griffin: You know how it is, the music industry.

Krystina: We watched it the other day, and—just watched—like, my son's in a trance by it, so like, my oldest comes in right at the part where it's the incredibly sad Kelly Clarkson song...

Justin: Yeah.

Krystina: ...and out comes the tumbleweed!

Justin: Aw, yeah!

Krystina: "You suck!" And everyone in my kitchen [unintelligible through laughter] "You suck!".

Griffin: Busting up. Busting up. Some debate amongst the *Trolls* community and our community about which one of the three of us that... is.

Justin: Credited in the books, in the IMDb books to the J-Man. Definitely if you listen to the voice—

Griffin: Credited to my ears-

Justin: It's absolutely Griffin. [laughs] It's 100 percent Griffin.

Travis: It's 1000 percent Griffin, yeah.

Krystina: [laughs]

Justin: No question. But I'm on the poster, so...

Hey, Krystina, thank you so much for joining us. We really appreciate you being here.

Krystina: My pleasure!

Justin: I think we've really helped this time. This person, we've helped.

Krystina: Yeah. Buy that ice cream, man. Buy that ice cream.

Justin: Hey, Griff, how about a Yahoo?

Griffin: Yeah, I have a very fast one here. I think this is gonna be a... just a heads-up call... like, which way you're leaning on it. It was sent in by a bunch of people. Thanks, everybody. It's an anonymous Yahoo Answers user, uh, who I'm gonna call, um, Dumpty asks...

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: Hm. Challenging.

Griffin: "Do you wish your bath could be the soup?"

Travis: Huh!

Griffin: "Imagine taking a warm, relaxing bath, and you can drink the savory, fragrant soup as you bathe and dip crackers in it."

Justin: [wheezes softly]

Travis: Mm. Mm, mm, mm.

Griffin: Now, now, now. Let's talk about doing it... in the Japanese style, because there is a sort of—usually, you'll shower off, and then you'll get in the bath, right? And the shower gets all the... particulate...

Justin: The gunk.

Griffin: The *gunk*. 'Cause you don't wanna get in the bath and get your gunk all over the bath, and then somebody else gets in the bath later? No, no, no, no, no. You shower off first.

So I would need a pre-soup bath...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: ...to even consider this, and even then...

Justin: And you would never—I'm sorry, you would never... I mean, you would never. We are, all of us, made of stardust and gunk. We are—we are made of gunk.

Travis: I-

Justin: If we clean off all the gunk, we'll make more gunk. That's human.

Travis: Here's—but okay. But let me—let—can I add an element here, which is to say, how big a container...

Griffin: Huh.

Travis: ...before it would be dispersed enough...

Griffin: That's what I'm saying.

Travis: ...that you would be okay—like, if you got into a lake of soup...

Griffin: [hesitant noise]

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And you knew there were no fish, or like, rocks or anything. It's just you and the soup.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Is that then dispersed enough? Because I would posit the issue comes down to—the twist is, unless you have, like, a super-long spoon, you're still eating the soup from immediately around your body.

Justin: [muffled] Mm-hm.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: Mm...

Griffin: You would wanna get—you know, you would wanna dive down deep into the depths, far from... where your butt stuff and your pee-pee stuff might accidentally be in it...

Travis: Yeah, oh yeah, obvs. Obvs.

Griffin: ...and your foot stuff, and armpit stuff, like, those are the worst parts—

Travis: Your body stuff.

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: Griffin, just say, your human body stuff—

Justin: All parts.

Griffin: Well, no, they're saying—if I spill some soup on my thigh, I'll eat that right there, it's not a problem.

Travis: How?!

Griffin: If I spill it on my—but if I-I've-I'll spoon it up there. But if I drop soup on my foot or my penis or butt or my armpits, then that's going in the trash.

Travis: Or your hair, or your face, or your ears...

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Shoulders, I think, would be okay.

Griffin: You've never gotten—you've never been eating soup excited, and you get soup on your face, and you just kind of [slurp] lick it off?

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: No! No, no, no. I have a beard, friend. I *can't* do that.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: But—I—God, Travis really fucking knocked this one out of the park, because the question is, "How big a body of soup do you need to be in?"

Travis: Right.

Griffin: Um...

Travis: 'Cause I would argue a bathtub is too small. Too small.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: `Cause, like, at that point, so much of that soup has come in contact with—

Justin: Can we just—can we—okay. Can I—let me—in the interest of—we can all agree we're made of gunk.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's undrinkable at any—

Griffin: I [crosstalk].

Justin: It's like Ralph Nader wrote, "Undrinkable at any size."

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: No—but let's pretend, in a world where, like, we can divorce ourselves from, like, hygiene, right...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: The—what are you asking?

Justin: I don't know, you get—you get laminated before you get in. I don't know. But like, let's talk about all other elements of this question. Because I feel like, will you enjoy the sensation, you know, of floating in a lake of chunky chicken noodles?

Travis: Now, hold on. Now, that is the other question, Justin. Because I would argue...

Justin: Huge.

Travis: ...I would fight so hard for tomato soup.

Griffin: Yeah! Wait, I go tomato basil bisque. Which is my shit.

Travis: I mean, sure. As long as I can't see my own body in it, so no broth...

Griffin: Yeah. I want no chunks, either. I want a smooth bisque.

Travis: No chunks! I got too many crannies and/or nooks in my human body to do chunks.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I want—if I don't have chunks, I'll be hungry after.

Travis: Oh, so—Justin, we're not talking about sati—I assumed we were in a *Fear Factor*-esque scenario here, and not like, "Well, this is my life now."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: No, but like... what, is somebody gonna bring you bread? Like, it doesn't make sense, what you're saying.

Griffin: Okay, but here's me.

Justin: If I'm already gonna—okay, listen. Okay, shut up.

Griffin: [wheeze-laughs]

Justin: Shut up. [laughs] If you bathe in soup...

Travis: Uh-huh?

Justin: ...and an hour later, you tell your significant other, "Hm, I'm feeling a little peckish!"

They're gonna look at you, like, "Didn't you just fucking bathe in soup?!"

Travis: Okay, but—

Justin: "How are you hungry?"

Travis: Justin, the other side of that is, like, if you said, "I'm starving; what should we do for dinner?" And then you saw a lake of soup, and you said, "Never mind." [laughs]

Griffin: "Not that! Not that!"

That would be ins—that would be completely bonkers. Here's me, though. I'm over here, getting sho—showering off, my pre—my pre-soup shower. Or maybe it's a burning, like in *Andromeda Strain* where they just kinda blast you with hot light, and your outer later of skin cells just—

Travis: [crosstalk] de-hairing.

Griffin: De-hairing. You are a perfectly hairless, beautiful, just... harp seal.

Travis: You're Neo in the Matrix, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: When he first comes out of the pod.

Griffin: And then, I walk over to the kitchen real quick, and I do whip myself up a grilled cheese sammie, cut it in half. One half in each fist, run and jump into the tomato basil bisque lake...

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: ...now, I'm having a—and *now* I'm having a fucking party.

Travis: I mean, the ideal is you have a sandwich big enough to float on.

Griffin: Oh, my God!

Travis: Got that grilled cheese out there, you're floating on the grilled cheese, you're just ripping tiny pieces off, dipping it into the tomato soup lake. That's the ideal, but admittedly that is not the question, right? I understand that.

Griffin: If I did enough... deep grouting... I would get in a bathtub of tomato basil bisque, and I would eat some of it. And I don't think that makes me nasty.

Justin: I mean, you can think whatever you want to.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Can't you.

Griffin: Okay!

Travis: Now, listen, Griffin, we can talk about if it's okay or not, but you the way you said it made it a passionate thing—like, a thing you wanted to do actively, and that bothered me.

Justin: Since we got rid of the chunks, I feel like everybody has kind of lost the passion for this.

Griffin: Oh.

Justin: You know? 'Cause it just doesn't make—it's not appetizing.

Travis: I—wait, Justin—

Justin: I don't like soup—

Travis: Can I follow you down this path in for a second?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: When you're talking about these chunks...

Justin: Oh, you—wait, did you want me to list some of my favorite—

Travis: No, we'll get there. When you're talking about chunks-

Justin: Orzo for this dude, thank you.

Travis: Okay. Are you talking about a lake with now-in-the-can, as exists on Earth-sized chunks, or that this whole thing is scaled up...

Justin: In the can?!

Travis: No, no, no. Here me out.

Justin: I'm not bathing in canned soup!

Griffin: No, no, no. You're misunderstanding Travis' question.

Justin: Please! This is freshly made.

Travis: What I'm saying—what I'm saying is, someone has taken soup that now exists on Earth, and filled a lake with it, or rather we're in a *Honey*, *I Shrunk the Kids* scenario where now you have shrunk down the bowl as you size, and all the chunks are gigantic!

Griffin: Right. Yes.

Justin: I don't want that. Nobody wants that.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Okay. So you're just talking about small chunks...

Justin: No, I'm just talking about opening my open my mouth, let a little orzo slip in, you know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You're gonna munch, munch, munch around this lake...

Griffin: Well, no. I think Justin's talking about filtering orzo through his teeth like baleen.

Travis: Ah!

Justin: [laughs] And I'll actually have to filter out the bay leaves, too, 'cause it's a very fancy soup.

Travis: A very fancy soup! Now, if you could get me, oh, a matzah ball, perhaps, to float on...

Griffin: Now, that would be fucking great, is if there was lake-sized matzah ball soup with one big fucking matzah ball right in the center that you had to sort of climb, king of the hill style.

Travis: Aw, yeah!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You can't just make a soup wonderland for you to play in! You're like, inventing this... Chili Wonka...

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: ...style of landscape.

Travis: Yes. Yes. Yes.

Griffin: [distant laughter]

Justin: Where you're just floating—"[singing] Come with me, have a bean."

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: Like—you can't just make it a playground. It's just soup! Fuck!

Travis: But why not, Justin? Why can't we dance on moonbeams and have big old chunk'ems?

Justin: You're like—you're like—[laughs] you are perverting the whole idea of a theoretical question. It would be like, saying like, "Hey, imagine you could take a bath in soup, and also your right arm becomes incredibly strong and powerful, able to lift anything."

And it's like, well, yeah, I'd go ahead and do that, but you're not! You're just talking about taking a bath in soup. It's not hard! It's just a question.

Travis: [sighs]

Griffin: I apologize; I thought that was gonna be a quick one.

Justin: Well! No dice.

Thanks for listening to our program. Uh, we hope you have—

Travis: I feel like we, by the way, that—we didn't—that is unanswered still. I feel like we did not reach—

Griffin: I answered it. I said yes.

Justin: I just feel like what we answered is something more important, which is that we're three different people with different priorities about certain—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, but I feel like this is the first time in like 547 episodes that the three of us have been so divided on an issue.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That like, I feel... I feel like I don't know you, Justin.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's an exciting new chapter to end our show on.

Thanks for listening, uh, to our program. We hope you've enjoyed yourself. Thanks to Max Fun for having us as a part of their extended podcasting family. Um, thanks to you for listening.

I think we got some new—is there some new merch up in the store?

Travis: Oh, yeah, there is, Justin. Let me tell you about it 'cause it's very exciting. We've got a really great Boycar pin of the month.

Justin: God, it's so fucking good.

Travis: It's so great. Designed by Zachary Sterling, to benefit No Us Without You LA. No Us Without You is providing food security for undocumented back-of-house staff and their families in Los Angeles.

We've also got the Taste of Luxury stemless wine glass. We got the Taste of Luxury shirt designed by Kevin Budnik.

Justin: So cute.

Travis: Uh, the Candlenights video on-demand is there, from our virtual Candlenights show. Uh, it's pay-what-you-want, and all proceeds are still going to Harmony House.

And hey, if you like books, you can get *The Adventure Zone: Crystal Kingdom* preordered now over at theadventurezonecomic.com. That comes out July 13th. And *Everybody Has a Podcast (Except You)* is out now in eBook, in paper, in... uh, audio, all those. Go get it at bit.ly/mcelroypodcastbook.

But the main thing is our Adventure Zone live virtual show...

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Travis: ...happening February 19th at 9:00 PM. Uh, it's—9:00 PM Eastern, I should say. It's virtual and interactive, so there will come, uh, major points where you, the audience, will get to vote on what the player characters will need to do. Uh, and we're going to be playing Honey Heist

with special guest Erika Ishii, which is very exciting. Erika is amazing. Tickets are only 10 dollars, and you can get them at live.themcelroy.family.

Griffin: Uh, we're close on that new theme song.

Travis: Oh, so close.

Griffin: So watch this—watch this space. And when I say "we," I mean the people who are actually working on the song, but it's nearly finished. It's almost ready.

Travis: We had input in it, like, "[goofy voice] That's real good!"

Griffin: I guess so, yeah.

Justin: "[crosstalk]!"

Travis: "[goofy voice] Do a good job!"

Justin: "[goofy voice] Maybe more drums, or maybe less?"

Griffin: "Uh, have you thought about adding in a note here that's like, [hums notes]?"

Uh, so here's that final. It was sent in, also, by the Wizard, Ben Kantt. Thank you, Ben. You crushed it. [sighs] It's from uh, Yahoo Answers User Vick, who asks, "If Michelangelo painted the Sixteen Chapel, who painted the first 15 chapels?"

Travis: Oh, boy!

Justin: [laughs] Hey!

Travis: Hey!

Justin: Thanks for listening to our podcast. This has been *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. Kiss your dad square on the lips!

Griffin: Wait, are we supposed to say our names?

Travis: Travis.

Justin: Wait. Oh, my name is Justin Mc—It felt off. It felt off.

Travis: I'm Travis!

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis!

Griffin: I'm Griffin.

Justin: I'm not saying it again.

[theme song, 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.]

[chord plays]

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