MBMBaM 552: Introducing Fredo Cooljazz

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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]

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

Travis: Oh, my name? Well, it's Travis, AKA Big Dog, AKA Wolf in Sheep's Clothing, AKA "Ruff, Ruff" McElroy.

Griffin: And I'm f—my name is Fredo Cooljazz. It's a new era of *MBMBaM*, baby. New song, new... p—new characters. New storylines, new love—new romance.

Travis: I feel like going with Fredo is a bold shot, Griffin. Fredo, famously the brother who was the biggest disappointment in *Godfather* of the three brothers, I believe Fredo...

Griffin: Who's Griffin? I'm Fredo Cooljazz, and that's a different guy, baby!

Travis: Okay. Alright.

Griffin: And we got new music, new characters, new storylines, new places. I've got a new cool cool F—T-bird car...

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: And that's gonna be in a lot of the scenes now, and uh...

Travis: Oh, is it like a character all in its own?

Griffin: Yeah. It's uh—and it takes place in New York City. And uh—

Travis: Whoa!

Griffin: Yeah, and that's also kind of a character.

Justin: So you just heard our new theme song, it's called "My Life (Is Better With You)!" by, um, Montaigne, who is a very talented artist who you should seek out immediately. Um, love to get her in—on the show—

Griffin: It would we cool if we could get her on the show in the next, like, 28 minutes. 28 mi

Travis: By the time a question comes along...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But we'll see.

Griffin: Yeah, like later this episode?

Travis: Yeah. We'll see.

Justin: Yeah, we'll see.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's gonna be in the works. Uh—

Griffin: It's wild to—it's wild enough to me that we *know* somebody who's gonna be competing on Eurovision, let alone that we are—have now worked with somebody, and will now be, on a weekly basis, sort of, you know, played on by somebody who's gonna be on Eurovision.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It's a lot.

Griffin: I mean, do you think that means we can... go to Eurovision?

Justin: Tix? Can we get tix?

Travis: Can we compete?

Justin: Will we be able to leave our nation, is a—is a huge question.

Travis: Can America rejoin Europe?

Justin: Can we re—[laughs] Oh, we're bringing this back.

Griffin: Sub in. Sub in. The UK's out, that's fine. Sub us in, baby.

Travis: I mean, if they're including Australia, I'm just saying, why not America?

Griffin: Let me st—we'll start out by doing—we'll infiltrate some backup dancers for some of the other—for some of the smaller countries that don't really have a shot.

Travis: I feel like we'd really blend it with, say, a Halloween thing. Maybe like, uh, France?

Griffin: France, yeah, I think we could get in there and get, like, experimental with it. And then we'll take off our masks at the end, and be like, "It's us, America. And we can do it—and we can hang out, too!"

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. And—

Travis: "Oh, what's that? We're building bridges? Both figuratively and literally, across the Atlantic Ocean?"

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: Oh, man!

Justin: If we're so cool, where's that bridge? Huh, community?

Travis: Thank you. Thank you.

Justin: Come on.

Travis: It's 2021. Let's build a bridge across the ocean. Or under the

ocean! Ooh.

Justin: [hums tune]

Travis: This is what I'm saying.

Justin: Bridge to Europe! [singing] Bridge to Europe!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [singing] Back to US. [hums] Drive in your car, you'll go very far,

let's hope it don't collapse. [hums]

Griffin: Actually, it's a walking... it's a walking sort of...

Justin: [speaking] Oh.

Griffin: It's like one of those um, escalator—ground escalator things.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You just kinda stand on it. And start a little life down there, and then like a month-and-a-half later... [in a strange accent] Good evening, governor.

Justin: What's that?

Travis: Oh, you're on the other side.

Griffin: You're—they—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: That means you're on the other side.

Travis: And we can change it to like, [British accent] "Oh, yeah, under the

pond."

[normally] And that's what we'll say, is that we crossed the pond. Like "[British accent] Oh, I came under the pond in the tube."

[normally] And then they're like, "On the subway?"

And you're like, "No, in the tube." There's a tube, it's about three feet wide, and like six-and-a-half feet tall. It's very tight, very dark.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Did you know there's a special British RSS feed of this show that just has content warnings in front of every episode?

Griffin: Everyone. Yeah. People in Eurovision who are responsible for Eurovision are gonna listen to the last two-and-a-half minutes of this show, and say, "Damn. Not yet. They ain't ready yet, to be called up."

Travis: I feel like in three minutes, we started to establish new bonds, and broke all those new bonds.

Griffin: Yeah. Severed them violently.

Travis: Oh, boy. Oh, boy. We should build a bridge over the Atlantic Ocean and then set fire to it as we're driving in the last golden spike.

Griffin: I love it. Hey, can we do our show?

Justin: I would love that, actually. That would be fantastic.

Travis: That would be cool.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I feel like we haven't done it in a while, you know what I mean?

Like, I don't think we answered any questions last week.

Justin: Yeah, did we not?

Griffin: I don't know.

Travis: No.

Griffin: We got rowdy. We talked about *Frasier*—

Justin: This is going to be a regular one.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Oh!

Justin: [inhales] "My wife and I had our first baby last year, a girl. She's now 10 months old. My father-in-law bought her a gift, and he's very excited to see her playing with it. The problem is, it's clearly labeled a dog toy."

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Justin: [laughs] "The tags say to keep it away from babies. He ordered it online, so he might not have noticed this. How do I navigate this without hurting his feelings? I can't tell him that he accidentally bought our daughter a dog toy, but I also don't want her to play with a dog toy." [wheezes, laughs]

Travis: Helicopter parent, am I right?

Griffin: Yeah, really.

Justin: That's from Canine Free in California. I like the ones where they set it up so that there is no right—a—

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Here's—there's two things that can happen; both are bad.

Griffin: Yeah. So I've lived this.

Justin: Oh!

Griffin: We were killing time at some strip mall somewhere with Henry, and he picked up a dog toy at a Petland. We were just kinda walking around, 'cause we thought, "Hey, maybe he'll look at fish and be distracted for a little bit."

Justin: Just for a second.

Griffin: And he picked up a little—a li'l squishy dog toy and enjoyed it, and we took a picture, and it was posted online, and then um, my—my uh, my mother- and father-in-law sent that toy for Henry. And he was like, "Fuck yeah," and started to play with it, and then we looked at the tag later, like, "This is kid poison."

Justin: [snorts quietly]

Griffin: "This is—dogs love it, kids hate it, um..."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "Kids' bodies hate it, dogs' bodies can withstand it, but don't let a child put this in his mouth."

Travis: Whatever you do.

Griffin: Whatever you do, don't do that. So what we did is we immediately took the toy away, and we told the parents, and we said, "Hey, this is funny.

You got our human child a dog toy." And then we all had a good laugh about it, and it was a mistake that was never made again.

So really, you gotta say something, but make it fun. Be like, "Hahaha! You poisoned my child." That can be fun. And—and then it's like, they're not gonna feel bad, because it's like a funny joke.

Travis: What kinda toy is it? 'Cause if he got her a Nylabone, it might be on purpose. Maybe he's just being really mean.

Griffin: God, I hate brushing my son's teeth. If I could just toss a Nylabone in there, and let that do the work...

Travis: Yeah. "Here's a Greenie. Enjoy."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Oh, shit, that'd be cool.

Justin: The kids don't appreciate—if you have never tried to brush the teeth of a human that does not want their teeth brushed...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That is the one—any place where kids can flex nuts, they absolutely will.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And this is the one place where kids will—can absolutely flex nuts on you, and they do every single fucking time.

Travis: Yeah. If you ever wanna feel powerless, be brushing a kid's teeth and have them bite down...

Justin: You're done!

Travis: And you're like, "I—I can't pull on it."

Justin: We've got some, like, *Marathon Man* bullshit that's gonna have you staring into the mirror for the next two hours, like, questioning your very soul.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like, there's no play.

Travis: You just let go of it at that point, and you're like, "Alright, we're done."

Justin: Yeah! "You let your teeth fall out!" They don't need those teeth anyway.

Travis: That's what I'm sa—that's why it's kind of hard—

Justin: Our burner teeth.

Travis: We took Bebe to the dentist, you know, when it was time, 'cause we're good parents or whatever, and they were like, "Yeah, you gotta start flossing." And all I could think is like, oogh. I don't know if—

Justin: I'll bring her back. You can handle that, my friend.

Travis: How often can I bring her in?

Griffin: Yeah, if we could just chuck a bone in there, and let the bone do the brushing...

Justin: It's weird that there's not a ch—

Griffin: A child bone. We got that tech-

Travis: Chew toy?

Griffin: We got that tech for dogs...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: ... but we don't have that tech for toddlers? That's—hey, science, how's your priorities? Pretty fucking bad, I think, actually.

Travis: Yeah. Thank you. Also a squeaker inside those things! Ooh, they'd love that.

Griffin: I would love that! I might—

Travis: I'm just saying that I've bought Bebe a lot of stuffed animals, and now Dot a lot of stuff animals. And very few of them have, like, tough tech technology that let them really ragdoll them around to get that squeaker out. I'm just saying, let's keep our kids a little busier, and maybe make those chew toys last a little bit longer for the kids, okay?

Griffin: Yeah. Hey, you want a Yahoo?

Travis: Yes, please.

Justin: Yeah, I would love that.

Griffin: This one was sent in by several people. Thank you, everybody.

Justin: That was an extremely unhelpful answer, by the way. I just wanna tell 'em—

Griffin: Yeah, no, do tell them. I'm telling you, I've lived this, and I got through okay. And it's fun.

So thank you, everybody who sent this in. It's Yahoo Answers user Natalie, who asks, "Shipping a horse from Canada to Australia? I want to transport my horse from Canada to Australia in a few years. He is a gelding, and at that time will be four. Is this dangerous to do? Can he get sick for it? How much will it cost about? Has anyone else done this that can please give me

some information on this? What are some companies that can do this via ship or by air that can give me a quote?"

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: Gotta get s—and let's just go ahead and just say Operation Dumbo Drop out loud...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: ... and then we can move on to, like, more creative waters.

Justin: Okay. Operation Dumbo Drop.

Travis: I am—I am on a plane.

Griffin: Yeah. Um, now that that's out of the way... Here's the problem. I can think of *so* many ways to get a horse from Canada to Australia...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: ... if they can be dead at the end of it.

Travis: Oh! Oh, at the end of it.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: I guess the other way around wouldn't work, would it?

Griffin: Yeah, the way around doesn't work.

Travis: Unless you know some, like, powerful magicks.

Griffin: Unless you kill the horse, ship it left—left-ways over the International Date Line.

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: It shows up in Australia feeling hail and hardy. No, that would be tomorrow. Fuck.

Travis: No.

Griffin: Still dead. Dead for a day.

Travis: It might actually be easier to shoot the horse up into the sky in a

rocket...

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: ... let the Earth rotate underneath it...

Griffin: Oh, interesting.

Travis: ... and then have the rocket come back down.

Griffin: Oh, cool.

Travis: And landed on Australia.

Justin: Oh, yeah, Trav.

Travis: That might be easier.

Griffin: And we could really *Interstellar* it, and launch it around ol' Jupiter

up in the sky...

Travis: Yup. Yes.

Griffin: ... and have it come slingshot all the way back, and when it comes

back...

Travis: There we go.

Griffin: ... we have—it's been ten years on Earth, but for the horse, it's been, like, nine years and like 11 months, and...

Justin: Oh, God, yeah.

Griffin: They—it's still a lot of time. It's pretty—it's pretty—he would have to go very fast.

Travis: How many seats would you have to buy on a plane...

Griffin: Oh, to go with carryon.

Travis: ... before they let you take the horse on?

Griffin: Yeah. Carryon horse. Fuck, yeah.

Travis: I've seen—okay, for reference...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I once saw a large pit bull...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ... that was like a rescue animal that had been trained to be, like, an assistive animal.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And I would put him at probably... 80 pounds?

Griffin: That's a little horse.

Travis: That's—this is what I'm saying. So if we scale that up—that was like one seat, right?

Griffin: Right.

Travis: So a horse is what, like, 800 pounds? That's 10 seats!

Griffin: It's gonna be a four-year-old horse, though. We're not talking about a little foal straight out the—out the gate.

Justin: I'm checking the pet travel page on Delta.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Okay. And just control-F 'horse.'

Justin: Some pets can travel with Delta as a carryon shipped as very special cargo, depending on their size.

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Review the requirements—okay, I'm checking the guidelines and requirements...

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Um... There's a section here on inappropriate animal behavior, so all rude dogs need not apply.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Oh, no, not this—this pony's a real saint. This pony's a fucking gentleman.

Justin: [laughs] It's—one of the inappropriate animal behaviors is barking excessively, not in response to a handler's needs or distress.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I wanna—listen, does that dog sense distress? Because if so, I need him to let me in on what the problem is, 'cause we are on an airplane.

Griffin: This dog's having a chill time, and he's got his favorite tunes playing, and it's nice and cool in here, but he's being extremely loud. Now, are we 25,000 feet up in the air, and is that uncomfortable for a dog? Yeah, probably.

Justin: One of the things that'll get your pet kicked off the plane is "relieving themselves in the gate area or cabin."

Griffin: Aw, man.

Justin: If my dog relieves themselves in the cabin, obviously that's clear. I actually—that's actually 100 percent, I'm with you, I agree—I would love to have this dog off the plane too, because it's obviously not working out. What is your plan?

Travis: Right.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: What is your exfil for my dog?

Travis: That's an empty threat.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Hey. We're in the middle of the ocean. You gonna pop that door open? Even if you're that serious about it, that's putting others in danger. I'm gonna stare you directly in the eye while Rex pisses in coach.

Justin: Um, they do—they no longer allow, as of January 11th, 2021, they no longer allow what are listed here as "non-dog service animals." And I love—I think all animals love to think of themselves as non-dogs.

Travis: Non-dogs. Yeah.

Griffin: [sighs]

Justin: So here's what they don't permit. Small mammals or pocket pets,

like hedgehogs or sugar gliders.

Griffin: Okay, that's not a problem.

Justin: And chinchillas.

Griffin: This is a huge mammal, so we're fine so far.

Travis: You know—

Justin: No insects and spi-no insects or spiders, and to be fair, I believe I

will be the judge of that, because you will never know.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That's up to me. There's no rodents...

Travis: Okay.

Justin: ... mice, rats, hamsters. They list—they list out "rodents, mice, rats, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs." I feel like if I'm planning to bring an animal like that on a plane, I should at least know if it's a rodent or not, right? You shouldn't have to specify.

Travis: You don't mention chinchillas. Interesting.

Justin: Now, they do have—they list here, uh, amphibians...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: ... birds – obviously, they just get competitive. With the plane.

Griffin and Travis: Right.

Justin: Um, animals improperly cleaned or with a foul odor.

Griffin: That's fine. This—again, this pony's a gentleman. It's gonna smell

fucking amazing.

Travis: So far, we're in the clear!

Griffin: Yeah, this is looking good so far!

Justin: The last one: animals with tusks, horns, or hooves.

Griffin: Ugh!

Travis: Ooh. Now—

Justin: "E.g. goats and pigs." Does not specifically list horses, but they do

have hooves.

Travis: Okay—okay, I'm just saying, some large sneakers...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ... they'll never know.

Griffin: Well, but they x-ray, so the hooves... Can the hooves come off for

like a minute?

Travis: Do they regrow like toenails?

Griffin: Do they come ba—and I'm sure—this is a horrible thing to say. I'm sure it hurts, and there's probably some monstrous sort of practice that is being done to horses that is not funny in the least. But this isn't funny. This is ser—we're trying to solve a really serious issue, or else this horse is gonna get left behind.

Travis: Could the horse hang their hooves out the windows?

Griffin: Hey!

Travis: 'Cause then they're not "on the plane."

Griffin: That's good. That's good! You could also just bring 'em to the... to

the gate, and just be like, "[exaggerated] Please?"

Travis: "Look at his—look at his big, wet eyes.

Griffin: "Hey, that animal's got hooves!"

"Aw, fuck, you're right. He does. Oh, well. We can still get on, right?

Travis: "We're still cool, right?"

Griffin: "We're still okay, right?"

Travis: "I can tell, you're a pretty cool person..."

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: "... who probably likes a hundo dollars, am I right?" Cha-ching!

Griffin: Can you imagine getting to the gate with your hoofless, sneakerwearing horse that has been through hell, and you are walking up the tarmac, and then the horse lets out a dookie, and you're like, "Nooo!"

Travis: [laughs] Aw!

Griffin: "Mr. Chamberlin—we were so close, Mr. Chamberlin! Fuck!"

Travis: I—I just wanna say, for the record, I think that *Lost* would've been 25 percent better if there had been a horse survivor on the island. They had been on the plane, the horse lands, and then they just treated it like another—it was like, "Yeah, there's Jack..."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "... there's Kate, there's Sawyer, there's Horse."

Griffin: There's Mr. Chamberlin.

Travis: There's Hur—and every time they'd have to be like, "Horse, we

gotta get off this island!"

"Neigh!"

I would love that. Man, I'd be so into that!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: The one thing—

Travis: It's making me happy thinking about it.

Justin: One of the things they do list, I wanna—from the FAQ page – and this doesn't help us necessarily, but I did wanna mention it – one of the FAQ is "What if I have a service or support animal in training?"

Griffin: Oh!

Justin: And they say that "a service animal in training does not meet qualifications for a trained animal."

But I do love the idea of pulling up to the gate, and being like, "Listen, I'm gonna warn you right up the front, this guy's a fucking loose cannon."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "I cannot—[laughs] I can—he will ser—he services me, for sure, but sometimes he goes too far. I have asked for his badge and gun repeatedly, but he won't step down."

Travis: I actually have two. I have two support animals. One of them is very by-the-book. He's about six months from retirement. He's training this new rookie, but that rookie cannot be controlled. And they butt heads, but you know what, they get the job done, and you're gonna be glad they're on this plane. You're gonna be glad they're on this plane.

Justin: Yeah, you might need... some real service done. Maybe off-book service.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Service they don't teach you in [laughs] service dog school.

"Recently, my girlfriend and I moved into a new house, where the landlord conveniently already provides the internet. We're both biologists in our late 20s, and today discovered that safe search is on through some entirely innocent and work-related web searches. How do we ask our landlord to remove safe search without him immediately jumping to the conclusion that we want to desecrate his house with filthy, unspeakable pornography?" That's from Not So Lewd Lodgers in Leeds, UK.

Well, my theory—my supposition would be that if you have some sort of safe search software enabled—some sort of net nanny...

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Justin: ... that there's some sort of white-listing that you could do.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Which makes me—I feel like all you have to do is go to your landlord, and tell them *exactly* the nasty URLs that you are going to be exploring.

Griffin: Yeah. Um...

Travis: Ugh.

Griffin: This is tough. Why do we—

Travis: 'Cause you—I understand that it's probably, 99.9 percent of the time, not for unspeakable things...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ... but [quietly, muffled] what about that .1 percent? [normally] You don't want to go to them and be like, "Hey, thanks for letting us look at, like, I don't know, bird genitals or whatever 'cause we're biologists, but also..."

Griffin: But we acc—I gotta tell you, Mark, we accidentally did look at a dick today. And we need you to tighten up the algorithms, Mark. 'Cause this is a cool—this is a Christian house.

Justin: [laughs] That's his deal. His deal is he'll turn off safe search, but it's an honor system.

Travis: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: If you see anything that you're not supposed to, you have to come to—[laughs]

Travis: Let me know, and I'll explain it to you.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I'll make what you saw make sense. I promise I won't leave you alone in this.

Griffin: [laughs] This is—

Travis: Hey Mark, I saw some—and they look like adults—doing some stuff to each other? Like, okay, sit down. I've watched so many tenants do this. Okay, listen, here's how this works.

Griffin: It's uh—it was the mommy-daddy hug. Do you know what I'm talking about?

Travis: You know, Mark.

Griffin: You know.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Also, our disposal's broken.

Griffin: The disposal's broken, and I can't get my sites to load where they do special mommy-daddy hug. Can you come tweak both?

Travis: Why are they dancing so hard, Mark? They seem so angry at each other. There's no music!

Griffin: There's—

Justin: If you're like—we are fairly positive that your landlord is able to see your entire internet history, right? Is this the setup? Like, 100 percent, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah... I guess, I don't—

Travis: It is literally like—this sounds like you're going straight to his Gmail account...

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: ...so yes.

Justin: Yeah. He—you're using all his logins.

Griffin: Yeah. You have to go borrow his uh, his lappy. His laptop. Any time you—

Travis: I can't tell if the computer is in the dining room that you all share, and your landlord is also your dad.

Justin: We all—[wheezes]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You can just admit it.

Griffin: Your dadlord—

Justin: [laughs] Whenever complementary internet access, you just have to come to my place, and ask to use my web book.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We'll crack it open for ya.

Griffin: My web book, and there's a sticker on it that just says "the internet" on it.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: When the dadlord lets us use the internet, sometimes we see some sites.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: I think you should have a conversation with Mark about whether he keeps the nanny on, on his computer.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Because if he's doing that, fair—you know, fair play. Fair play.

Travis: Ask him—

Justin: He needs to let you [laughs] to all the nasty corners you need!

Travis: Ask him if he can pay extra for the dirty sites in your—in your rental agreement. Just like how you have a pet addendum, this is just like, "Yeah, you could look at whatever you want for an extra 50 dollars at month. I'll take that money now."

Griffin: Let me choose three dirty sites on your premium package. On internet—

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, that sucks. And I don't think it's legal. I think you should be able to do something about—I don't know who you complain to. The Better Business Bureau? Um...

Justin: Somebody.

Griffin: Somebody. I don't know if they do that in the UK, but um, there's got to be—there has to be an answer to this that we don't know, 'cause it's such a preposterous situation, it shouldn't be happening.

Travis: Do you have a 14-year-old nephew who you could ask for, like, the creative spellings of words that he uses...

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Travis: ... to like, search.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: He'll probably hook you up. He's probably got some weird ones.

Griffin: He's like, "[slightly high-pitched] Have you tried typing in 'stiffy'? 'Stiffy' sometimes gets through."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "Stiffies, and uh..."

Travis: "Surprisingly, 'teats' works going off the—"

Griffin: "If you type in 'teats' but not cow, sometimes you can get

through."

Travis: [laughs] "Teats minus cow. There's a thin crack in the wall."

Justin: [imitates rock guitar]

Griffin: Oh, hey!

Justin: [imitates rock guitar]

Travis: Oh, boy!

Justin: I wanna munch!

Griffin: Squad!

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

Griffin: Squad!

Justin: [imitates rock guitar, turns into beeping noise] Breaking news at

this hour... another update for the frontlines.

Travis: Oh, no.

Justin: Welcome to Munch Squad Chicken Wars, where we bring you the latest and greatest in brand eating as it, uh, pertains to these heinous, never-ending chicken sandwiches wars that we're invited into by the fast food industry.

Griffin: Has anyone died yet in the chicken sandwich wars?

Justin: Not immediately, but you know. They certainly are shortening

lifespans...

Griffin: Right.

Justin: ... um, with these delicious sandwiches. Uh, I did try the new

McDonald's uh, chicken sandwich, and I have to give it a... [indifferent noise]

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Out of... whoa!

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: That's the highest possible rating.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Um, first, let's check in on Zaxby's. They have a signature sandwich that is preparing for a national launch, uh, all across its 909 locations in 17 different states. [sighs]

Griffin: Dazzle me!

Justin: It's coming, folks.

Griffin: Dazzle me, Zaxby's!

Justin: During a test that they launched in the test market, Zaxby's new signature chicken sandwich exceeded the performance of the existed handbreaded fillet...

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: Oh, my God.

Justin: ... by 600 percent.

Travis: Whoa!

Griffin: What the fu—what—does that—is the next sentence, "Yeah, so we

learned that our old sandwich sucks shit."

Justin: So fucking bad.

Griffin: It was fucking disgusting.

Justin: It was honestly just a flip flop with salt on it.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: We did not know.

Justin: It was so bad. "When it comes to portion-size, flavor, and quality

ingredients, Zaxby's is in it to win it," says Joel Bulger.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: CMO. "While we may not be the largest brand competing in the sandwich war, I'm confident we have the right ingredients to win on taste, and make chicken sandwich enthusiasts switch to Zaxby's."

Travis: "And we'll literally do whatever it takes. You ask it, and we'll—"

Justin: Whoever it takes.

Travis: "We will smooch everyone on Earth 'til Zaxby's is the most famous

chic—we will kill Colonel Sanders in all his forms."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "He can shape shift, but we'll get him."

Griffin: "We will hunt the Colonel Sanders' horcruxes that have kept him uh..." So how are we gonna know when the chicken sandwich wars are over?

Justin: We—when we're all dead.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs] When we're all dead, and there's no one left to chew.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: "Back on October 26th, the company fired off the tweet that reignited the chicken sandwich wars. Since then, numerous brands have entered the fray. Zaxby's is actively engaging in the battle of the brands on social media, and converting customers daily with the distinct taste and impressive size of its singular chicken sandwich."

Travis: Can I—can I ask you some—I want you to really think, this just popped into my head... what would be the real-world ramifications if Zaxby's, just one day, took to Twitter, and with full support of all of their, like, CEOs and leaders and stuff, just tweeted, "Wendy's sucks shit."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "Wendy's chicken sandwich sucks shit."

Justin: Wendy's has a pretty hyphy, uh, Twitter account. They could probably get away with it, honestly. It gets—let me finish this release, 'cause I've got another news in the front to give you. "Zaxby's commemorated the national rollout with a, quote, 'buns fired' tweet..."

Travis: Whoa.

Justin: "... and a, quote, 'basic training' TikTok video, showing employees gearing up for the big day."

Travis: Holy shit.

Justin: Can you imagine being so—sidebar. Can you imagine being so fucking out of it that you're reading a press release, and you're like, "Mm, a TikTok video. They're really committed to this thing."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "Prior activations include a military-themed code name generator for brand loyalists..."

Griffin: Awesome!

Justin: "... and chicken-flage uniforms for team members on the front line."

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: Get the fuck out.

Griffin: Let's have fun with the military industrial complex, baby!

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: As it pertains to chicken.

Griffin: Yummy.

Justin: Let's pivot over here. A&W? Are you—are you, uh—I know you're a root beer, but you're also a fast food chain. Are you up in the mix?

I just wanna read you this one quote, 'cause they're bringing back, uh, cod sliders for Lent. This is how far off the board...

Travis: Oh, they missed that. Oh, no.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: And I just wanted to mention it because of this absolutely... I— *inscrutable* quote from—from A&W. "With many of the country's full-service

restaurants closed, or facing dining restrictions, A&W is pleased to offer consumers a variety of popular seafood options," says CEO Kevin Bazner

Griffin: I'm fucking asleep.

Justin: "Whether—whe—" No, but like, what's the fucking... "Whether guests enjoy them in our dining rooms that are open, or take them home, A&W's seafood items are a tasty and affordable way to observe Lent."

Travis: It does kind of seem like, with many restaurants closed, we've been watching a lot of TV lately. "Okay, now here's the sandwich."

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: "What the fuck are you talking about?"

Griffin: Zaxby's is over here, like, "We taught our employees how to build improvised explosive devices!"

Travis: Yeah, right?

Justin: [laughs] And here's our—our last update from BurgerFi, a chain I am not familiar with.

Griffin: Then I—every time you do this, Justin, where you bring one that nobody's heard of before, it's usually the rowdiest imaginable thing.

Justin: It's pretty rowdy. "After having nation-wide success with the spicy fried chicken sandwich, BurgerFi international is launching a new type of sandwich war!"

Travis: What?!

Justin: "And this one has to do with burgers." [holding back laughter] That's what it says here.

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: [laughs] You can't—well, imagine if in the middle of World War II, someone was like, "We're starting World War III!" Like, no, let's finish this one first.

Griffin: Finish it, though.

Justin: BurgerFi is like, "December 7th is a day that will live in infamy, and it is about burgers."

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Um, so this one's about burgers.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "The BurgerFi menu is an array of chef-inspired selections and high-quality wagyu beef. It was only named—it was only natural for the premium fast casual concept to take it to the next level with a one-of-a-kind spicy burger sensation."

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: "The SWAG burger features double wagyu, and a biscuit burger—a biscuit-blend burger, charred jalapenos, candy ghost pepper bacon to pack the heat, sweet tomato relish to add a bit of sweet, habanero pepper jack cheese..."

Griffin: No.

Justin: "... and hot steak sauce."

Travis: Okay.

Justin: So I feel like we're in a lot of ingredient territory already, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It seems like they may be shooting the cannon into us a little bit.

Travis: To BurgerFi's credit, it does make a lot of sense. There's a couple restaurants out there who are so focused on the Chicken War.

Griffin: That's it. That's it.

Travis: They're not watching their home fronts, you know what I mean?

Justin: That's true. They're sneaking in the back of—

Travis: "We're gonna fuck you all up. You're all so busy wondering about chicken... we're here with that beef game."

Justin: "For the new product, BurgerFi initiated a consumer research study focused on the initial reaction to the product utilizing its savory description to test the appeal."

Griffin: Cool!

Justin: Do you understand what I just... said?

Griffin: "We asked people—"

Travis: They told people what's on the sandwich and said, "Does that sound good?"

Justin: Yes, exactly. We describe the sandwich [laughs] and people told us if they'd eat it or not.

Travis: "Would y'all like that? Was that good? What if we added one more thing to it?"

Griffin: It says here in the press release, "Do you like it? Huh? Do you?"

Justin: [laughs] "Yes or no."

Travis: "Here's my phone number."

Griffin: "This burger's hot as fuck and will melt a hole through the back of your skull. Do you want it?"

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "They conducted a concept test on the flavor, build, product name, and price." [laughs, shouting] I would love—I would do anything if they were like, "Okay, what if we call it 'Dave's Super Smash Burger'?"

That's great, Dave.

"What if instead of four pieces of bacon, you had three?"

I don't know, that seems less good.

"Okay. Noted. Thank you, Justin."

Travis: But Justin, that does kind of make sense as to why it's called the SWAG burger. Why it's called the SWAG burger.

Justin: Yeah, I'm not there yet. "Over 2,500 participants were part of the study, with approximately 500 people per concept tested." So what they said is they [through laughter] came up with five different...

Griffin: Five different rad burgers.

Justin: "The research proved invaluable in determining the selection of wagyu beef versus Angus beef in the burger." Wow, that's a long way of saying—

Griffin: Shit.

Justin: Let's check in with Paul Griffin, BurgerFi's Chief Culinary Officer, the CCO: "BurgerFi's foundation is burgers."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: "And because the spicy chicken wars have been part of a cultural conversation of—"

Griffin: Spicy chicken wars?

Justin: They're saying [laughs]—I think it's `cause that's the only one they

had.

Griffin: Sub-war.

Justin: They picked a little notch of the war that they can carve out for

themselves.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Well, it's a war of many fronts. You have the ground war, you have

the-

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: You got sea, you got the spicy...

Justin: The ground beef war.

Griffin: Spicy, the grilled war. Yeah.

Justin: "The chicken wars have been part of the cultural conversation over the past few years." Is that really—I mean, I know you guys talk about it a lot, but I haven't heard another human being alive reference it.

Travis: We—we've been talking about it a lot, Justin.

Justin: Well, in our little corner of culture, which is obviously a biased sample, but...

Griffin: Yeah, one where we talk about fast food all the time. The pr—this whole thing started as a way to find a new Chick-fil-A that everyone can eat without feeling like dogshit about it.

Justin: [laughs] Emotionally.

Griffin: It started out as something fun. It started with something virtuous, and everybody was just like, all hands on deck. But then it turned into, "Well, I think Popeye's is the best replacement." "Well, I think Zaxby's is the best replacement." And then Popeye's and Zaxby's was like, "It's a war, baby!"

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: We're having fun while thwarting fucking Chick-fil-A. Can we remember what it's all about? And now other people are talking about, like, "No, it's burgers war." "Now it's gonna be car war!" Fucking calm down.

Travis: I will say, Griffin, that there is still some virtue to it. I see a lot of young folks out there, they're—you know, they're recycling their scrap metal, they're turning in their nylons to support the troops out there...

Griffin: Sure...

Travis: Everybody's a part of this effort, Griffin. I won't sit here and let you besmirch the honor of our troops, you know what I mean? And um, Griffin, I think maybe if you had a little bit more um, patriotism, and cared a little bit more about the chicken wars...

Justin: Just let me wrap this up, please. Paul Griffin is not done. Paul Griffin could've stopped there, but instead Paul Griffin continued. "Once we had the idea of a spicy burger..."

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: "It was fun."

Griffin: [sputters]

Justin: "We started playing with ingredients and textures."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "It was the best day of my life."

Justin: It was so fun—this has been, actually, super fun. "The candied ghost pepper bacon is perfect for those guests that are more adventurous, and that mixed with the boldness of wagyu and the creaminess and the kick of habanero pepper jack cheese, it really rounds out the burger to make it one of the most flavorful menu items at BurgerFi."

And you can tell the person, like, dictating this was just, like, still nodding, and maybe Paul was like, "Um, should I say something else, or are we...? Okay, that seems like enough. That's good. Yeah, I should stop there."

Griffin: They were dictating this while sitting on the toilet they had been sitting on for the last hour and a half, trying to pass one of these through their system.

Justin: Um, then—but then Julio Ramirez, the BurgerFi CEO...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: He heard Paul fucking bombing it, so he throws up at the door, he's like, "Hold on. Let me take this one."

"The SWAG burger takes our unique wagyu beef offering featured in our CEO burger, and it kicks it up a notch with different textures and flavors that create a daring... spiciness with each bite."

Griffin: [laughs] Is there—is there anyone above the CEO who can kick in another door behind him?

Justin: [laughs] There's no one!

Travis: "Hey, it's me—"

Justin: Julio is the top!

Travis: "It's me, the owner of BurgerFi, Justin McElroy. I wanna tell *you* about this burger." And that's how we find out the truth.

Justin: "Creating the spicy burger sensation is another example of how we're redefining the way the world eats burgers."

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Justin: "BurgerFi will *always* find ways to continue to grow, pioneer trends, and create iconic offerings as part of our mission to provide the best burger experience."

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Damn, I could go for a burger.

Griffin: No, yeah. I gue—I mean...

Justin: That's the one—that's the terrible part about um, this segment, is I always end up extremely hungry.

Griffin: Yeah, do you know what's gonna be the worst outcome for BurgerFi? Is that no one will rise... to their challenge. [laughs] No one will even acknowledge that they have attempted to start a burger war. And life's just gonna go on without BurgerFi sort of being a part of it. And that's em—that's gonna be embarrassing. They're gonna have to get more thirsty with these press releases.

Justin: Julio Ramirez was at Burger King for 26 years.

Griffin: Oh, then he knows what he's doing.

Justin: He knows what he's doing.

Travis: Oh, yeah, he stole—

Justin: I mean, like, I'd bet against him at your fucking peril.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: He came in in October 2020. Are you kidding me? Can you think of

a more challenging time to step into these waters?

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Julio doesn't give a shit.

Anyway, that's the—that's the update. Please let me know if you tried different chicken sandwiches. Um, you can just tweet those @BarackObama, and um... you know, maybe he would like to know about it. Or you can tweet them at me, if you want. I just always like to try to get people to tweet at Obama, 'cause I bet he's lonely right now, and I think—

Griffin: Yeah, he doesn't have president stuff to do anymore.

Travis: Yeah. Do you think he's ever, like, "Joe, do you need any help? I can go over there."

Griffin: "Joe, can I do president stuff today?"

Justin: "Hey, Joe, I don't wanna be uh... I don't wanna be a dickhead, Joe, but when I was president, I let you help me with stuff."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "Joe."

Justin: "So doesn't it seem like maybe I could come by?"

Travis: "I gave you an office. Maybe uh, give me yours."

Justin: "I let you—I let you hang out at home and do different stuff, so maybe you just got some stuff I can do."

Travis: "I mean, the kids are grown up now, Joe. I'm done with the—"

Griffin: "One time I did give you that big medal, Joe. Look at it."

Travis: "You remember?"

Justin: So uh, we're gonna take a quick break, uh, and right now, and then we'll come back with more great content.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: Until then, let's kick it over to the Money Zone!

[theme song plays]

Griffin: Stamps are great. Uh, you can put them on mail to make the mail go places, and you can collect them and uh, collect decks of stamps that you battle against other folks, uh, for pink slips.

Travis: And there's stamps that last forever.

Griffin: Sure, yeah. There are stamps that last forever, and there's holo—holofoil ones.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And there—there's Chase stamps, and those can be fun, but you know what's not fun? Is just going to the post office when you're not feeling like it.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Well, Stamps.com is gonna keep you from having to make such a dreary afternoon of it, because they let you print off postage right there, at your freaking computer. You can send letters or packages, and you can pay

a lot less with discounted rates from USPS, UPS, and more. So it cuts out a lot of the BS.

Travis: Right.

Griffin: *I* think. And—

Travis: Can I—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Do you think we'll ever do a Stamps.com ad so good that they'll put us on stamps?

Griffin: Aw, man! We could probably get them to put us on Stamps.com. Like, a picture of us, like, having a great time battling our stamps against each other, but I don't know if they would actually put us on the postage itself.

Travis: I wanna be on the postage. I wanna do that.

Griffin: [sighs]

Travis: That feels like a cool thing that not everybody gets to do.

Griffin: Right. Well, gotta be president or go to space, and make a big space discovery.

Travis: That's so much work, though. Can't I just do a really good ad read in the middle of my podcast?

Griffin: You gotta invent some medicine, or go to space and make a space discovery, or be the president, Trav.

Travis: Ugh. That's so much. Alright, fine. I will.

Griffin: They got discounts up to 40 percent off post office rates and up to 62 percent off UPS shipping rates. It's a wild deal, and if you ship a lot of

stuff, you should—I assume you're already using Stamps.com, but if not, correct that mistake.

Stop wasting time going to the office, and go to Stamps.com instead. There's no risk, and with our promo code "mybrother," all one word, you get a special offer that includes a four-week trial plus free postage, and they stopped doing the digital scale—just kidding. They still definitely do the digital scale.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: You fucking freaked me out, you prank master. God.

Griffin: I know. I thought I could really get one over on you.

Justin: Whoo!

Travis: Griffin, I shit myself when you said that.

Justin: Yeah, Travis shit himself.

Travis: I shit—and I'm in a small booth, Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Now this whole booth smells like shit!

Griffin: Well, go to Stamps.com and click on the microphone at the top of the home page and type in "mybrother," all one word. That's Stamps.com, promo code "mybrother," all one word. Stamps.com, go to the post office every day. That was another prank. They don't want you—

Travis: Please don't. Please don't.

Griffin: Please don't go to—oh, you know what? We never do that. Stamps.com. Go to Stamps.com, please.

Travis: Please.

Griffin: And use our promo code "mybrother." Please?

Travis: Please.

Speaking of sheeting yourself, I wanna tell you about Brooklinen.

Griffin: This is the fastest we've had to do a makegood.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: This is the fastest—

Justin: They're actually monitoring this recording, and they've just told us

to start over.

Griffin: I just actually went to speedrun.com, and it said...

Justin: [wheezing]

Griffin: "Fastest fucked ad fuck-up to require a makegood."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [continues wheezing and laughing] Sheet yourself today with

Brooklinen.com.

Griffin: Yeah. Cool.

Travis: They got the best sheet around.

Justin: You're not getting too old for this sheet! No! You're the perfect age!

Travis: This sheet is right up your alley.

Justin: [laughs] I started reading the copy, it says, "Please do not make any jokes about how 'sheets' kinda sounds like—[wheezes]"

Travis: Oh, I love my sheet. My sheet don't stink, you know what I mean?

Justin: 'Cause you wash 'em!

Travis: 'Cause I wash 'em! My sheets—

Griffin: I'm just gonna start reading the ad copy underneath this, and try to get through real fast.

Justin: Start over. This is a new ad now.

Travis: Okay, that was the...

Griffin: This is the makegood.

Travis: Disconnected.

Justin: Now it's time for the makegood. I don't wanna do it; I just did Munch Squad.

Travis: Holy sheet! Brooklinen's great!

Justin: No, stop! [laughs] You fucked up already!

Travis: Some mornings, you wa—what's wrong? What's wrong?

Griffin: S-

Justin: I'll do it.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Everybody sleeps, if they're lucky, and sometimes you gotta, uh, up—upgrade your presentation in bed...

Travis: Huh?

Justin: [laughs] I wanna start over.

Griffin: No, you—no.

Justin: This is the third makegood.

Griffin: Keep it going. You gotta upgrade your presentation in bed...

Travis: We're almost out of tape, Justin. You just gotta go.

Justin: [laughs] Sometimes—if you—if you have ever woken up, that's a sign that [through laughter] your sheets are q—

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Oh, wow. Okay.

Griffin: [laughs] Brooklinen has sheets so comfortable that when you sleep in them, you'll die!

Travis: Have you ever woken up and not been able to move because some kind of sleep ghost is holding you down? That's because of bad sheets!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Brooklinen sheets aren't bad sheets.

Travis: No!

Justin: It's the first direct-to-consumer bedding company. They work directly with manufacturers to make luxury available directly to you without the luxury-level markups.

Travis: And they're guaranteed not haunted.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Brooklinen has a variety of sheets, colors, patterns and materials to fit your needs and tastes, even if that need is to cut two holes for eyes, and have a great easy Halloween costume.

Travis: But then that's fake haunted, let's be clear. That's not a real ghost.

Griffin: No, they will not move without human interaction, for sure.

Travis: These are not haunted, guar-an-teed.

Justin: Kidding aside, I love these—

Griffin: They're good sheets.

Travis: Oh, wait. Hold on, sorry. Let me switch gears. Okay. Kidding aside.

Justin: Jokes out of the room. I love these sheets.

Travis: They're really good.

Justin: I sleep great—and you know what's great? Every time I wash them... which is the normal amount...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: ... and frequency that everybody listening...

Travis: The normal, responsible – not too much, not too little.

Justin: If you're listening to this, think in your head of what the just about exact average normal amount is, and that's how much I do it.

Travis: Mm-hmm. Yep.

Justin: And they just get softer and softer!

Griffin: Once a—[laughs] for me, I think it was once a college.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] Uh, they got more than sheets, by the way. They got comforters, pillows, towels, even loungewear and more. Go to Brooklinen.com and use promo code "my brother" to get 25 dollars off when you spend 100 dollars or more. Plus free shipping! That's B-R-O-O-K-L-I-N-E-N dot com, and enter code "my brother" to get 25 dollars off when you spend 100 dollars or more, plus free shipping! Brooklinen.com, and use promo code "my brother" at checkout.

Travis: Brooklinen. That's the good sheet.

Justin: You—I—now we gotta st—I'm not starting over.

Griffin: No.

Justin: We'll get it in post.

Griffin: That was a different thing. That wasn't the commercial anymore.

[relaxed music plays in background]

James: Hey, folks! It's me, James Arthur M., host of *Minority Korner*, your home through these bewiled times for weekly doses of pop culture, history, news, nerdy stuff, and more, through a BIPOC queer and ally lens.

I already took you back in time through one time machine. We're going back even further! [makes beeping noises]

Speaker: Oh, God. Ooh, here we go! I'm holding on.

James: I know it seems scary, because now we're in the 1830s, I know. And we hold—continuing along on the white people's apology tour, Justin Timberlake...

Speaker: That is *Minority Korner*.

James: Having those difficult conversations, those necessary conversations.

Speaker: This is now the moment for white people to be rising up, and going, "This is our problem."

James: So join me and some of your new BFFs every Friday here on Maximum Fun to stay informed, empowered, and have some fun. *Minority Korner*, because together, we're the majority.

[music and advertisement end]

Justin: A uh, here's a... here's another question from our dear listeners. "I'm a college student, and decided to spontaneously bleach my hair at home. It's kind of a disaster. Flash forward to now, I want to get it cut, but I'm absolutely terrified that the hairdresser will somehow find a way to yell at me for bleaching my hair at home. What should I do if I get bombarded with guilt from a professional?" That's from Son of a Bleach in Ohio.

Um...

Griffin: There is no one in the contiguous United States of America that would know how to answer this question.

Justin: I'm just scrolling through my US contacts, I'm fucking coming up empty. Oh, [snaps fingers] you know who could help? Uh...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We could reach across the pond, and then down through the bigger pond, and then slightly—

Travis: And across the pond.

Griffin: Diagonal—a sort of diagonal vertex across many ponds.

Justin: Let's just call Australia. I think it's like—

Travis: It's like Friday there. What are you talking about?

Justin: Yeah, it's Friday, so you should be the answer. Montaigne.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Justin: We'll just call 'em Montaigne, who created the *My Brother, My*

Brother and Me theme song...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: ...that you heard earlier. So let's just call. Hold on.

Travis: Don't forget to dial the extra numbers. 'Cause—

Justin: Oh, thanks, now you're saying your great extra number thing.

Travis: Super long distance, yeah.

Justin: [makes musical beeping noise]

Griffin: Her phone number makes a song...

Travis: Halfway there.

Griffin: ...which is kind of amazing.

Justin: [continues musical beeping] [makes phone ringing noise]

Travis: No, you misdialed. I heard it in there.

Justin: I didn't. [makes phone ringing noise]

Montaigne: Hello?

Justin: Hey!

Montaigne: Hello, it's Montaigne.

Justin: Hi, Montaigne.

Griffin: Hi, Montaigne.

Justin: It's Justin McElroy. You probably saw that on the caller ID, though.

Montaigne: Um, ac—yeah, no, sorry, I don't have it saved. But um, good to know, thank you.

Justin: Oh! Well, you can just do that now. I'll wait.

Montaigne: No, I'll do that. Give me a sec. [quietly makes beeping noise]

Griffin: I love our guest doing this. It's really very, very uncomfortable for me and Travis.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: If he asks you about LinkedIn, just hang up.

Griffin: Do not—yeah. Um... Thank you so much for answering this, I think, unsolvable paradox for us, and also for writing one real slappin' tune.

Travis: A "bop," I believe the kids say, is—

Griffin: A bop, a slap, a rip...

Justin: Can I say—the first thing I want to say is...

Travis: You gotta twist it.

Griffin: A jammer.

Justin: Now that I'm 40...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: There's literally no good way for me to refer to a piece of music. I mean, like...

Montaigne: [laughs]

Justin: There's no—there's nothing that isn't woefully sort of antiquated or, like, sweaty beyond all recognition.

Griffin: Yeah...

Travis: That's why I just lean into it at this point, and I just say, like, "This is a swingin' tune!"

Justin: But I have to hear you say—I have to hear you say that. Do you understand that? The cost, the human cost, the real human cost. Montaigne, do you have hair?

Montaigne: Uh, actually I have—[laughs] I have pretty little hair at the moment. I have a buzzcut, and it's bleached, currently.

Griffin: A swing and a miss! Ugh!

Justin: Damn it. [laughs]

Montaigne: Um, yeah. Sorry.

Justin: But you've me—you've messed around with your hair, probably, at different times?

Griffin: [laughs] Or other people that have hair.

Justin: You know others with hair. How do you deal with—okay, you're in a professional setting like this—

Travis: I—I—listen, I know—I just wanna say, I know that the conceit is that we needed Montaigne's help on this. I also have dyed hair, I'm just gonna say...

Griffin: No.

Justin: No, it's not the same. Montaigne, you're in a professional setting with people, how do—how do you deal—okay, I'll give you—I'll refigure it for, like, your experience. When you're talking to an, um... a nobody like ourselves about music, and you know so much about music...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Where are you at with that? Are you in like a judgmental place usually, are you in a place where you're, like, wanting to help? Where are you at?

Montaigne: Definitely not. Um, definitely not judgmental, that is.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Montaigne: Yeah, yeah, that—[laughs]

Um, music is for everyone, you know? No matter how much knowledge and wisdom is involved, it is um, you know, to be shared and loved in whatever way that each individual person uh, wants it to be shared and loved.

Um, and—I think—like, you guys are good with the love music, I think, so definitely no judgment there, um, at all.

Travis: That's very nice, I think that's very pleasant. If you go to a hairdresser with a bad home-bleach job, they're not going to be *angry* at you...

Griffin: No.

Travis: They are going to judge you and feel bad for you.

Montaigne: I know, yeah. [laughs]

Travis: It's gonna be—you're gonna hear a lot of, "Tsk, oh. Oh, oh."

Griffin: To carry the analogy, when—I'm sure when Montaigne heard my *Rugrats* theme song for the show...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Montaigne: [giggling]

Griffin: ... Montaigne didn't send me an email like, "You suck shit."

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin: "Don't do music anymore."

Montaigne: Hey, I genuinely loved—I genuinely loved the *Rugrats* cover,

quite frankly.

Travis: "Cover" is so nice. Instead of like, stolen.

Griffin: "Cover" is a really cool way of putting that.

Justin: Yeah. If you loved it so much Montaigne, we're gonna need that

huge novelty check back that we left on your back porch.

Griffin: [laughs]

Montaigne: No, I'm just throwing it over now.

Griffin: Just forward that to Klasky-Csupo.

Travis: Oh, it just hit me! Ow!

Griffin: Oh, no!

Montaigne: [laughs]

Justin: What's your approach to hair? Do you just feel like—you were talking about you keeping it very short right now. Is that just like, the look you like? Do you experiment a lot? Do you just say, like, "Hey, whatever just

sort of entertains me right now. That's where I'm going with." I've had the same haircut since I was six. That's the reason I'm asking.

Griffin: [laughs]

Montaigne: Um, my approach is feeling impulsive, I'd say. For the Eurovision stuff in particular, um, I had a particular aesthetic that I wanted, which was "have really short buzzcut hair that is like, ultra colorful." Um, so my hair, for Eurovision will be quite rainbow and buzzcut-ed.

But like, a year ago, my hair was just like, natural color, like, short, but not buzzcut. And the year before that was blue, it was quite long, and the year before that was pink.

So it's just like whatever I feel like, really.

Travis: Must be nice.

Griffin: Keepin' everybody's heads on a swivel.

Montaigne: Exactly.

Travis: I made the mistake of having my purple hair become part of our merchandise, and now Justin and Griffin won't let me change it.

Justin: [laughs] You know, you mentioned Eurovision. That's such a coincidence, because your—your Eurovision track—see, even track—like, track—

Travis: Whoa, whoa—

Montaigne: No, track is fine.

Justin: When it comes from my mouth, it turns to ash on my lips!

"Technicolour" is the name of the song. The video came out today, as we're recording this.

Travis: Gotta go! Bye!

Justin: Almost a week ago as you're listening to it. It's called "Technicolour," you can find it on YouTube. I think it's streaming on Spotify.

Uh, Eurovision. That's massive! Congratulations!

Montaigne: Thank you! It is big in a way that I find rather intimidating.

Travis: Really?

Montaigne: Yeah, oh my God! I'm like—

Travis: No, not really is it big; I know it's big.

Montaigne: [laughs] Yeah, no, no, no!

Travis: You seem so cool and confident.

Justin: Yeah!

Montaigne: I think I mostly am. I think every, like, other week my anxiety

will start to like, build up, though, a little bit?

Travis: Yeah.

Montaigne: Just because, like, there's a lot—I think the issue is that there's this enormous compression of like, time, and the number of... things that we can get done in a certain amount of time. And you want to do things well. When you don't have time, it's hard to do that in a way that is, like, foolproof. Um, so that's been a *bit* of stress.

Travis: Hey, thanks for wasting time on our song, then. [laughs]

Justin: Yeah, really. Actually, really appreciated.

Montaigne: Absolutely not! Honest-to-God, literally a dream come true.

Justin: We're gonna talk about that in just one second. I wanna talk about "Technicolour" for one more second, because it is *so fucking good*.

Montaigne: [laughs]

Justin: And if you go listen to it, you're gonna listen to it on repeat. Everybody on our staff has been listening to it literally, constantly, sharing the video around. We are in love with it. I want to ask you—I was watching the performance video today. Um, the—did you wish at any point, while you have been recording this and por—do you ever wish you put fewer notes in it?

Travis: Oh, good.

Justin: Because man, you gotta sing a lot of notes. Is there a moment you're in front of like, a bajillion people on a massive stage where you were like, "God, I put a lot of notes in this motherfucker."

Travis: "Should've been five notes!"

Justin: "Not five, but certainly not this many! It's a lot!"

Montaigne: Honestly, there is very little time to breathe in this song, which is quite difficult because we have organized choreography for it as well. I think like...

Griffin: Mm...

Montaigne: I think, like, all of it is manageable if I stand still.

Justin: Okay, yeah!

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Montaigne: But I've opted not to, so... [laughs]

Justin: Yeah. [laughs]

Travis: I know.

Which country are you most gunning for?

Justin: Yeah. Who do you wanna take down?

Griffin: Yeah.

Montaigne: I don't know if you guys paid any attention to Eurovision last

year, but Iceland put forward the most ripping, fun, like...

Justin: Absolutely fantastic. God, it makes me mad so good it is.

Montaigne: [laughs]

Justin: Do you know how many times I've listened to this fucking song?

Montaigne: It's amazing. And the video and the conceit, like, hit—it's about his unborn or, like, too-little-to-have-any-consciousness kid, who's wondering about the thoughts of—and it's just like so sweet, and the video is so funny. It's just—he's amazing. I'm actually a huge fan of his.

Travis: So you're gonna crush him, right?

Montaigne: [laughs loudly]

Justin: You guys heard this song, right?

Griffin: Uh...

Justin: Here, I wanna play you five seconds of the song.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Justin: I'm allowed to, 'cause it's Eurovision.

Griffin: Shit.

Justin: I don't care! Just be quiet for a second.

[more than five-second clip of "Think About Things" by Daði and Gagnamagnið plays]

Griffin: Fair—fair use. That's the end of fair use. That was two minutes. We didn't fair use it.

Justin: Alright, it's unbelievable. Unbelievable. But you're gonna beat their asses. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs]

Montaigne: Maybe, we'll see.

Justin: Beat 'em all the way back to Iceland.

Um, hey, let's talk about uh, uh, the *My Brother, My Brother and Me* theme song. Which it—I don't—I guess is not gonna be called—[wheezes, speaking through laughter] that would be a wild thing to see on the CD. Back of a CD. Um...

Montaigne: I've—I titled it in the file I spent to you, "My Life," and then in brackets, "(Is Better With You)!" Um...

Travis: "Theme from My Brother, My Brother and Me."

Justin: [laughs] Yeah, a love theme.

Montaigne: Yes, exactly. Exactly.

Griffin: We can work on that. We can Sufjan it up a bit and just be like...

Montaigne: [laughs]

Griffin: ... and then, in brackets, just be like, "(A Fateful Occurrence on the Shores of the—on the Great Wide Mississippi Something-or-Other.)

Montaigne: Exactly.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: What is amazing about your song is we had a very—I mean, it couldn't have been a more abstract brief that we slid across your proverbial desk.

Montaigne: I didn't find it abstract at all, actually. I thought it was really clear.

Justin: Oh, well, good.

Travis: What?

Justin: That's good to hear.

Montaigne: [laughs]

Justin: Um, but you really—I mean, we told you sort of, kind of what we were in the market for, and it's like you reached into our brains, and found a song that somehow fulfilled all of it without us being able to like, actually articulate any of that.

Um, so how did you do that, I guess, is my question? Which—

Montaigne: I mean, I am your demo. Like, [laughs] I was already a listener of the show for like, a few years, and um... like, I'm into comedy and sound—and my partner writes funny things, and I—I don't know, yeah, like I guess like that's already a genre and a type of music that I'm familiar with and amenable to and enjoy making a lot. And also, like, there's a bit of a 2000s revival happening, right, and like...

Justin: What?

Montaigne: Based on the brief, what I imagined was a kind of um, like, high school coming-of-age, like, comedy film.

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: Mm.

Montaigne: Where it's like, incredibly corny and—but very like, instead of being about awful boys who do terrible things in high school...

Griffin: Yeah.

Montaigne: ... it was gonna be about, like, these two friends who like, meet each other, and they just generally—oh, hello. My cat, Captain Poodles, has just walked into my room, meowing at me.

Griffin: Such a good-ass name.

Montaigne: [laughs] Yeah, it was just gonna be about, like, two wholesome friends who like, meet each other, enjoy each other's company, and then realize, like, "Oh, this is really great, and my life is nice!" And I thought that was—that fit the vibe of the show.

Travis: Oh, yeah. It's great.

Griffin: Who's the frien—who's the friends? And I guess, like—

Montaigne: Oh, just... two misc. I mean, if you want, I can sort of—

Griffin: Name names.

Justin: Ah.

Travis: No, no, no. Because I want this to be like the "Who's the 'me' in *My Brother, My Brother and Me?"* We need more—

Montaigne: [laughs]

Travis: We need more mystique around our show at this point.

Montaigne: Yeah. Yeah.

Travis: We've given so much away. And we need to take a little back.

Justin: It makes me—you know, the first time I thought about it—and listen to the song. And this is so—I don't know, this is perhaps overly maudlin, but um, it—it really exemplifies the way that—not how I think about my brothers, really, at all, but...

Travis: Okay.

Justin: ... that's kind of a zero-sum, but uh, how I think about our—our listeners. Like, the people who listen to the show. Like, it really captures my—the exuberance I have for, like, making stuff for them. And because of the pandemic, like, the extent to which I have missed seeing people, like, seeing people that, like, listen to our stuff, and meeting our listeners, who are kind of like an extended family for us, like...

Montaigne: Mm.

Justin: It really captured that—that sense I had of like, uh—not—kind of—a little bit of the bittersweet part of, like, missing seeing them and missing seeing them in person and doing shows for them, but also like, how much they have improved our life just by listening to our stuff.

Montaigne: Absolutely, yeah. And that's what I wanted to capture, yeah.

Travis: I didn't get that at all.

Justin: Cool. That's alright.

Montaigne: [laughs]

Justin: That's music for you, though, huh?

Travis: It just made—it made me miss going to the movies, you know what I mean? Like...

Griffin: But why'd you have to cut out my rap verse?!

Justin: Yeah. Let's talk about the third and fourth and fifth verses that we wrote for this song that you did not include.

Travis: You know what, Griffin, we'll include it now, Griffin, if you just wanna do it.

Montaigne: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. Well, the problem is—and the note that I got back from Montaigne – and I thought it was fair, and I didn't have an answer to it, and she said, "This is mostly numbers."

Justin: [laughs]

Montaigne: [bursts out laughing]

Griffin: And I said, "You're right." I said, "That's—I guess you have a good point there I haven't thought about, is that this—this verse is most—it's more numbers than words, and it is basically a math equation."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: And you di—you said, "That doesn't match the vibe."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Um, and I took that per—I took that very personally.

Montaigne: Yeah. Um, I'm sorry, but... sometimes the truth hurts, and you just gotta live with it, and grow strong and move on. You know?

Justin: Do you think it's weird, Montaigne, that your song "Technicolour" includes the line, "Yeah, I promise you; yes, all you nasty dudes," and that's not in our song?

Montaigne: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: 'Cause it seems weird that that one's not in our song. It seems impossible that you wrote that lyric, but it's not part of [wheezes, laughs] our theme song.

Montaigne: [laughs]

Um, again, it didn't feel like it fit the vibe of the song, but again, if we do a remix, then I'm happy to splice the two, and make a Technicolour/MBMBaM-themed mash up.

Justin: I want to do a remix of the song, and it's just this song exactly as it is, but it includes clips from the show interspersed like they do on, like, *Batman*. The three—

Travis: Uh-huh. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: Have Michael Keaton come in, like, "I've got to go to work."

Griffin: [laughs loudly]

Travis: When was the last time you all watched the "Kiss from a Rose" music video? Because it's just shots from the movie interspersed with Seal, like, sitting next to like a floodlight.

Justin: And it's all lit the same as the movie clips.

Travis: Yeah. Yeah.

Justin: Like, so it's like—Seal is on an—"[singing] I'm on an adjacent rooftop, I'm watching *Batman*. And Nicole Kidman..."

Um, Montaigne, what's next for you? Obviously, you're very focused on Eurovision. That's gonna be this spring.

Montaigne: Yes.

Justin: And then what's—what's after that?

Montaigne: Um, maybe album three, I guess? Last year, I made a lot of music with the same guy who did the theme song and who did the Eurovision song. Um, and I think it's probably—it's probably adding up to a third album, which I'm excited about.

Justin: Who was that? Who was that did—

Montaigne: Um, his name's Dave Hammer. Um...

Justin: Dave Hammer?

Montaigne: Yeah! He's a—

Justin: Sorry, his name is Dave Hammer, and you waited 'til now to

mention it?

Montaigne: [laughs]

Justin: Hello?

Montaigne: His name is Dave Hammer – well, his real name is David Haddad, but his—his, like, uh, performer official sort of name is Dave Hammer.

Justin: They're both great names.

Griffin: [laughs] His real name is Dr. Smashenstein.

Travis: [laughs]

Montaigne: [laughs]

But yes, so just like, a lot of Hammer-based, um, music production studio—uh, that's not true. No, he's a really awesome, lovely person who listens to all my crazy ideas, and um... yeah, just so easy to work with. And we've made really, really cool stuff. Like, over the last year, which I'm really excited about, and hopefully could do more of um, this coming year!

Justin: Well, I'm—I'm—we're so thrilled to have you as part of our sort of extended—extended—extended family. Uh, and I stuttered there. I didn't mean to say "extended" seven times, 'cause it really imbued it with an distance—an arm's reach that I did not mean to.

Montaigne: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Montaigne: Well, I mean, like, I do—I do live very far away, so...

Justin: That is true! Physically extended, certainly.

Montaigne: Across all those ponds.

Justin: But oh my God, Montaigne, when we do get down there to uh... or

over there?

Griffin: Wow.

Justin: It's kind of down—it's basically down. It's—perspective, isn't it? But when we can get down there, we'll do a show—you could—we'll do a show together, and it's gonna be great. It'll be a blast.

Montaigne: Oh, that would be amazing. I'm just gonna say really quickly as well, I recently did an interview for Ma—like, the Mardi Gras event with Courtney Act, who's this amazing drag queen...

Griffin: Oh, yeah!

Montaigne: And the interview was done on top of the Harbour Bridge. And what was so funny to me was like, entering the facility where they like, host the Harbour Bridge climbs and stuff like that, they have all these pictures of, like, all these celebrities who've done the bridge climb, and I forgot, like, how much of a staple of, like, tourism and like, celebrities visiting Australia that was, like doing the bridge climb.

'Cause like, everyone—*The Village People* had a photo there, and like, Daniel Radcliffe when he was 11, and, like, all these people. It was very funny. Anyway, you guys can do the bridge climb, is what I wanna say.

Travis: Can—can *I* climb a bridge?

Griffin: Sure.

Montaigne: Yeah, absolutely.

Travis: Okay!

Justin: We got a bridge here that—Montaigne, uh...

Travis: Alright, brag. We've all got bridges.

Justin: It's over the New River. It's in West Virginia. It's over the New River, uh, Gorge, which is just a massive thing. Uh, very deep hole. [laughs] Like many gorges...

Montaigne: [laughs]

Justin: Like many gorges, it's a deep hole, and it's weird—the weirdest thing about it, is there's a thing called "Bridge Day," where for one—[laughs] and this is gonna sound not real—for one day, it's legal to jump off the bridge. Like—

Griffin: It's like the Purge, but very localized.

Justin: It's—it's this—

Travis: To be clear: jump off the bridge, like, with a parachute and bungee jump and stuff, yeah.

Justin: Yeah, with a parachute or base jump, or whatever your flavor is.

Montaigne: Oh, dang. [laughs]

Justin: But it's just—I don't know how—I just wish I had been there when it started. [laughs] So it was like, "Okay, everybody. I have announcement to make as sheriff. Everyone can jump off the bridge today! No problem!"

Travis: "Now stop asking!"

Montaigne: That's really funny. That's great.

Justin: Thank you so much for being with us, and thanks for the help, and thanks for writing our song. Where can people find more, uh, Montaigne?

Montaigne: Oh, man, so many places since, obviously, like you said, like, my music streams on Spotify, but also on Apple Music, and you should go to all that stuff.

I also Twitch stream, and I like making music live on my Twitch, um, often. I haven't streamed for a while just 'cause I've been so tanked with like, Eurovision stuff, but me and my partner also sometimes just play games, and I also have a Discord, if anyone wants to join the Discord. It's a really wholesome, lovely place. We've mostly just sent each other pictures of, like, our animals.

Gosh, what else? I think that's kind of it. Like, if you live in Australia in Sidney, you'll probably see me around on the street, because I've got the brightest head visible from all kinds of kilometers away.

Travis: Nice.

Justin: Alright, thank you so much. Enjoy the rest of your... morning? Night? Afternoon? I don't know.

Montaigne: Uh, afternoon. Afternoon.

Justin: Afternoon! Fantastic.

Montaigne: Nice one. Third time's the charm. Um, no, thank you guys for

having me so much! [laughs]

Justin: Thank you so much—

Travis: Real quick before we wrap up, I just shared a link in the Slack, and I want you guys to look at this tweet, because just real quick, I want you to think about what the implications of this are. I've never watched *The Masked Singer* before, but apparently it was revealed that the giant snail contained—well, you see in the video, a celebrity, and it was just a really weird reveal.

And then the celebrity in the giant snail—when you guys see it, just say it out loud.

Griffin: Hey!

Justin: Are you kidding me with this? This is so unfair. Spoilers for *The*

Masked Singer, but the giant snail was Kermit the Frog.

Travis: What does that mean?

Justin: What does that mean? Hey, how is anybody supposed to fucking

guess that?

Travis: How—what is the—what—what does that mean?

Griffin: But who's—who's Kermit?

Travis: Kermit the Frog, known—yes, thank you. But it wasn't Ker—it was

the p—it was—that's not...

Justin: That's nothing. I'm so fucking furious. But hey, you got us talking, didn't you, Hollyweird?

Griffin: Fuck. He got us again.

Justin: Thank you so much for listening to our program. We hope you have enjoyed yourself. Uh, we know that we've enjoyed doing a show for you, and uh... I just wanted to say, we have a book about podcasting called *Everybody Has a Podcast (Except You)*, uh, if you wanna learn how to podcast, or if you just wanna read a funny book by some brothers.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Then uh—then go for it.

Also, I wanna say that my brother, Travis McElroy, has a Twitch channel. I streamed on—an FMV game with him uh, last week, as you're listening to this. I'm sure we'll do it again. It's a really fun channel, and he's got a good energy.

Travis: Thank you. It's twitch.tv/thetravismcelroy.

Griffin: I can't go on. I can't go on. I got banned from Twitch for playing a whole Beyoncé record.

Travis: Yeah. Well, I'll sneak you on.

Griffin: Okay. Um...

Travis: Just don't do it again!

Griffin: I'll try not to. Hey, we got a new graphic novel coming out, uh...

Travis: What?!

Griffin: ... in July called *The Adventure Zone: Crystal Kingdom*. It's the fourth adaptation of our uh, D&D podcast goof show. And uh, you can preorder it right now at TheAdventureZoneComic.com. It would be real cool if you did that.

Justin: Well, there's also, we've—as we've repeatedly said, uh, the pandemic will be completely over...

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: ... by the time that book comes out, and you'll be able to read it in large gatherings.

Travis: Shoulder-to-shoulder with your friends.

Justin: Shoulder-to-shoulder, no—mask in the trash. It will have fixed COVID by the time it is released, so that's huge.

Griffin: So excited about that.

Justin: Something to look forward to.

Travis: We have some cool merch over at McElroyMerch.com. Pin of the month, "It's sausage to me," benefitting Feeding Texas. Uh, we got the *Empty Bowl* pin, which was designed by Samuel Rardin. We got the 20-Big-Dog-Run pin designed by Mel Westfall. Uh, all that over there and more, McElroyMerch.com. Thank you to Maximum Fun, our podcast home. Thank you to all of you for listening and supporting our show.

Griffin: For sure. [sing-song] And thank you to Montaigne for the new theme song!

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: It's, uh, a real bopper, and thank you also, Montaigne, for being on the show. That's two—two thankses for Montaigne. Go listen to all of Montaigne's music right now. If you—if you've enjoyed the theme song, you've never really dove into Montaigne's catalog, you are a f—you are a fucking lucky duck, my friend.

Travis: Yeah. You are in for a treat!

Griffin: 'Cause there is a lot of good stuff waiting for ya.

Um, hey, do you want the final?

Travis: Yes, please.

Griffin: Okay. This final Yahoo was sent in by Graham Roebuck. Thank you,

Graham. It's um, asked by Yahoo Answers user Sprimbles...

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: ... Jackhammer...

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: ... who asks, "How many hot dogs is too many to eat before mouth

surgery?"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

Justin: This has been My Brother, My Brother and Me. Kiss your dad square

on the lips!

[theme song plays]

[chord plays]

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