

MBMBaM 562: It Helps to Have a Cube

Published on June 1, 2021

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

Travis: Well, I'm your [slurring] middlest brother, Travis "Big Dog Woof-a Woof" McElroy.

Griffin: [wavering] And I'm your [slurring, quietly] best baby brother—[normal volume] baby brother Griffin [droning voice] Mm...

Justin: Someone's pulling Griffin's tape out.

Griffin: [droning] ...McElroy!

Travis: Oh, no. Oh, it's stuck—oh, it's stuck in the cassette—hold on. Let me—let me shove a pencil in Griffin and twist it.

Griffin: Oh, my!

Justin: Back up.

Griffin: That was the sound I make when you shove a pencil in me. Hey, everybody, it's me, Griffin.

Travis: Yeah, and it sharpened my pencil, which was weird.

Griffin: Yeah, it got blades in there. Um, so happy summer, everybody.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh, I should say, by the way, before we get started, uh, thank you to everybody who uh, supported us in the Max Fun Drive. I know I said it, but uh, I cured my bone fleas.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: They're all gone, so everyone can stop asking me about it on Twitch.

Justin: [crosstalk]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah. They a—

Justin: Do you get—would you say you get maybe a lot of questions about the pil—the sharp pill for your butt, or...?

Travis: Um, yeah, I have more than average. Whatever the average number is, more than that.

Justin: For sure. For sure.

Travis: So we've been doing this show for a while, and we've known each other for a while, and you know what I realized, guys? You can always get to know each other a little bit more, so I was just thinking maybe we can play, like, a little—

Griffin: Icebreaker?

Travis: Like, you know, like, "Would you—" Yeah, like icebreaker games.

Griffin: Yeah. [laughs]

Travis: Icebreaker games.

Griffin: This would be more like mantle breaker. The mantle of the Earth. We've already gotten very well past the ice, and now we're burrowing into the—into the center.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: But I was thinking maybe something like a... you know, what's a food that you think you can eat the most of in one sitting before you got sick of it?

Griffin: More than any human being on Earth?

Travis: No, no, no, no. Just like, what's a food that you, Griffin McElroy and Justin McElroy, could start eating in one sitting, and you think you can consecutively eat it the longest before you're like, "Ugh, another bite?"

Justin: Like a—like in a—you mean in like a sort of a Joseph Chestnut style.

Travis: Sort of, but I don't think—

Justin: Not like you're trying to hurt yourself, but just like, it's the food that for the longest amount of time you could be, "I'll have one more."

Travis: Yeah, right, right, right, right. Yes, yes, yes.

Griffin: Well, I would push back against the idea that Joey Chestnut... could eat a bunch of hotdogs now. Like, on—not on hotdog day. Do you know what I mean?

Travis: Well, there's no way he got into it originally, not liking hotdogs.

Justin: That's—that's—that's very good—a good point, Griffin, 'cause he may have had a big breakfast. [laughs]

Travis: That's true.

Griffin: He may have [crosstalk] of uh, 50,000 hamburgers.

Justin: [through laughter] You can't spring it on him.

Griffin: You can't spring it on him.

Travis: Yeah, he's gotta prepare!

Griffin: And a lot of people think Joseph—a lot of people think Joseph Chestnut, the way he does, is he trains really, really hard to eat hotdogs all day every day, all year `round.

Justin: [growing laughter]

Griffin: Like, his secret is that he just doesn't eat hotdogs all year, so that when hotdog eating day comes around...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: ...he's so fucking excited for it.

Justin: [laughs] Do you think that people have ever been out to lunch with Joseph Chestnut are like, "So, you wanna get hotdogs?"

And he's like, "Yeah, sure!" And then he goes to the hotdog counter...

Griffin: [laughing softly]

Justin: And he's like, "I think I'll have two hotdogs!"

And the—everyone is like, "Um..."

Travis: "Do you mean 200?"

Justin: "Do you mean 200?"

He's like, "No, just. I think just two for me today. I think I'll just enjoy two hotdogs." [laughs]

Travis: "Hey, Mr. Chestnut? It's me, Hot Dog Joe, owner of Hot Dog Joes. What's wrong with my hotdogs?"

Justin: "No, it's nothing. You know, I would love to eat 100 of them to 200, but right now I just want two of `em."

Travis: “Well, uh, I’m sorry, are—[sighs] I can bring you 100 hotdogs. You don’t think I can make 100 hotdogs?”

Justin: “I’ll get fries, too, if that’s the problem. I just really only want two—two hotdogs today.”

Griffin: I know it’s—

Justin: Okay, so—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Is there a—you want an answer to your question.

Travis: Yeah, I want an answer. What’s the food that you think you can eat the most of before you became sick of it.

Griffin: Mm...

Travis: In one sitting.

Justin: I make a, um... I make a caramel, uh, cereal snack mix that has, like, nuts in it, and it’s got spice, and uh... like, a hard and crunchy caramel exterior on all the pieces...

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: ...and a lot of—and a good amount of salt, too.

Griffin: Mm!

Travis: Oh!

Justin: So it’s a very well-balanced kind of thing. And I feel like, um—I feel like that’s the kind of thing where... I just—I just keep eating. I mean, like, I have scientific evidence to prove this. It’s like, it’s called Saturday. Um, I could just keep eating `em. And I don’t think—I don’t—I think I could get a really good clip going.

Travis: And you're not worried about, like, too much crunch hurting the old jaw?

Justin: Are you talking about a desire to continue to consume, or you could—be talking about a...

Griffin: Physical endurance... required...

Justin: Are you talking about an awareness of the impact of this on my human frame?

Travis: Well, I don't think [crosstalk]—

Justin: That's two different questions.

Travis: I don't think that—I have a hard time separating the two. 'Cause my first—

Justin: I make a lot of bad food choices, Trav, but yours [crosstalk] the worst one I could make.

Griffin: One time he ate beans, only beans, for five years.

Travis: No, I remember that. I remember that. We would call it the Wind Waker. Yeah.

Griffin: Mm-hm. [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] The Wind Waker was very good!

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: That's a very good joke.

Travis: I—see, 'cause I—my first kneejerk was peanut M&Ms.

Griffin: Oh.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: But after a while, I'd start to get lockjaw in there, you know what I mean? It hurts.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I think veggie straws would be my answer this—they're uh, they got enough flavor and salty to be delicious, but not so much that I think—

Justin: You're talking volume now, bud. Hey, bud, you're talking volume.

Griffin: You're talking sheer mass...

Justin: That's air-puffed.

Griffin: Yeah, that's bullshit.

Travis: Mm. Mm-hm, mm-hm. Yeah, yeah, yeah. What's yours, Griffin?

Griffin: [sighs] I don't know.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: Fucking... at this point, it's gotta have a lot of protein in it...

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: ...to keep me going... to keep me going and keep me strong. That's it, I guess. It needs to be a food that is... not gonna fill me up so much, but also has lots of protein to sustain the eating motion of it. And—but also vitamins, I guess? And um... so I would—I have to say ants on a log.

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Yeah, man. Celery, peanut butter, raisins...

Justin: Mm.

Griffin: ...just your sort of straight over-the-plate... no fuss, no muss, ants on a log. No tricks here.

Travis: Yeah! No zhooshing it up.

Griffin: No zhooshing it up. Don't fucking sprinkle paprika on it or anything like that.

Travis: No, no, no, no, no.

Griffin: I want a very basic, vanilla ants on a log. Without—

Travis: No almond butter, no cookie butter.

Griffin: No almond butter! No golden raisins.

Justin: Ah! You don't wanna starve!

Griffin: This is a—this was good stuff, Trav. This was a good idea.

Justin: Yeah, where did you think the comedy would come?

Travis: I didn't think it would come. I just wanted us to get to know each other better. Sometimes, it's just heartwarming and nice, you know what I mean?

Justin: Huh!

Griffin: Yeah. Sometimes—

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: Huh. [laughs] Normally, we don't plan on... sort of an anti-comedy comedy.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It's not anti-comedy! I wasn't trying to make it *sad*.

Griffin: Let's—

Travis: I just thought we could get to know each other!

Griffin: Sure, sure, sure. But let's maybe balance it out, and do a nice comedy bookend by talking about what we do think Joey Chestnut's bathroom looks like. Because it's a funny—it's where you always go when you talk about how many hotdogs the man eats...

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: ...but like, for real, there is—

Travis: Everybody focuses on the goddamn hotdogs! It's the bun that's gonna give him bathroom troubles!

Griffin: Okay, I was speaking holistically... duh. I was speaking holistically about the whole—I'm not talking about eating just the wieners, Trav, no.

Travis: You can't do that, though, Griffin! You have a kid. You know that you cannot talk about hotdogs as a combination food, right? Because nine times out of ten, my kid doesn't want the bun.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: They just want the hotdog.

Griffin: Well, my kid likes the bun, so you're—you're really projecting a lot. But what do you—he's gotta have what, like—if I was him, big IMAX screen... in there.

Travis: Oh, to fill the time?

Griffin: To just fucking kick it.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I would have my Xbox in the bathroom, and that would be my own personal Xbox. I have a controller that I bring in there and I bring out of there, that nobody else should be allowed to interface with.

Travis: I think he probably also has one of those, like—you know, the chairs that you see in, like, first class in the airplane.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Where it can, like, recline to a full bed.

Griffin: Oh, cool, yeah!

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: It's probably something like that, right? And it also has, like, a console, and like, here's the headphones that hang here, and there's a button to call for help. [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: That he definitely needs.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: [crosstalk] definitely—he just walks around—he's got—Joey Chestnut's got Life Alert. For sure.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: He needs that button in any bathroom he ever goes in, 'cause he doesn't know when it's gonna happen.

Justin: I mean, it's in the shower. His toilet's in the shower.

Griffin: [snorts]

Justin: Right?

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: It just doesn't make any sense any other way.

Travis: Do you think that he hibernates—

Justin: [laughs] He's gotta—it's gotta be in the shower, 'cause otherwise he finishes up and what does he have, five loofas?

Travis: Nah.

Griffin: No way.

Justin: I don't think so. So it's gotta be in the shower.

Travis: It could be a car wash situation.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Right.

Griffin: [through laughter] It could just be a wet room that he goes into that has toilet, shower, refrigerator all in one sort of cube that he just—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: July 4th? [makes gurgling noise] July 5th, enters the cube. July 28th, leaves the cube.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Joey—

Travis: He just gets slapped by a bunch of wet, soapy nylon straps for a while. [laughs]

Griffin: For—for two straight weeks. "Joey, I like your beard."

"Thanks, I grew it in the cube."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "Were you asleep in the cube, or were you...?"

"Yes."

Griffin: "Yes."

Justin: And it's for him to explain, like, somebody comes to the door to get him to sign for a package. And they're like, "I got a package here for Joseph Chestnut."

And his daughter has to be like, "Currently my father is filth. And my father will be filth for several days..."

Travis: Yes.

Justin: "...until the cube has done its grim work."

Griffin: [laughs quietly]

Justin: "I don't—I—I find—sir, I find it better to think that I don't have a father now."

Travis: Yes.

Justin: "Because he's in a quantum state of both existing and being filth."

Travis: [wheezes]

Griffin: Sort of a LCL primordial soup in there, is...

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: He may or may not have [crosstalk].

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Technically—

Travis: “You know how no one’s quite sure how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly?”

Justin: [laughs] “Here’s one thing I could be sure, sir: the package—the Joseph Chestnut that that package was sent to will not be the Joseph Chestnut that emerges from the cube. He is a different father.” [laughs]

Travis: He’s sloughing off his inside and outsides. So... it’s gonna be a while.

Justin: It’s Whovian in a way, honestly. It—the manner and style of uh, Doctor Who.

Travis: I do love how every time when Joseph Chestnut exits the cube, he gets to have a fun, like, “What is *this* Joseph Chestnut dressed in?” you know, kind of montage where he goes through his large closet and picks out a whimsical scarf.

Griffin: Oh, man. Alright—

Justin: So it’s an advice show.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It’s advice. “My boss has been stressed lately, and to lighten the tension during lulls in meanings, I’ve started asking silly icebreaker questions.”

Griffin: Huh.

Travis: Oh, what a great idea!

Griffin: Yeah.

[pause]

Justin: “I cope with anxiety by using humor, so I didn’t consider the consequences. Along the way, my boss has dubbed me the ‘funny person,’ which is not something I’m known for anywhere else. As a result, during

meeting low points, she'll say, 'Got anything for us?'" [cries out] Oh! Oh, my God.

"Brothers, how do I quickly shed this 'Tell a joke' persona..."

Travis: Mm.

Justin: "...that's been assigned to me without having to directly address the issue?" That's from *Persona Problems in the Pacific Northwest*.

Now, we have, I know, dealt with similar issues where people become, like—people love to label, don't they?

Griffin: Oh!

Travis: They do.

Justin: Do love to put people into little boxes full of ticky-tack.

Travis: We love to organize everything.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Yes!

Justin: [crosstalk] organize everything, and this person the thing they—it's like, for me, I run into this all the time, when people in my neighborhood think me as the funny person, and not the sexy person.

Travis: Right.

Justin: You know what I mean?

Travis: It happens to me, yeah.

Justin: It happened—a sexual, powerful man, and not—

Travis: It happened to me. No, I told one icebreaker at the beginning of this episode, and people are already labeling me the funny one, you know what I mean?

Justin: You know, it's funny, actually, Travis. Everything yes, except the bad one.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Oh, right, right, right, right, right.

Justin: Like, that's all—yeah.

Travis: "Funny" in quotes.

Justin: Well, it's funny to me.

Travis: [crosstalk] "funny" about Travis.

Justin: You gotta—you gotta—okay, you gotta make someone else the funny person. You're not gonna change this habit of labeling, but you can start to set up, um, you know, Tabitha, when she's like—when—like, Tabitha with a good punchline.

Griffin: Oh.

Travis: Or even if it's not a good punchline. Tabitha says anything, you laugh your head off.

Griffin: Just laugh your [crosstalk].

Justin: Laugh nonstop.

Travis: "Oh, that's a good—oh, you got it!"

Griffin: "Tabitha's got me cracking over here. She's talking about—"

Justin: "You guys hearing this? I'm busting up!"

Griffin: "She's talking about her sick—"

Travis: "I just said I was watching *Masked Singer* last night."

“[forced laughter]”

Griffin: Yeah. It’s a big lie. ‘Cause they won’t say who it is.

Travis: And then it’s Kermit, for some reason. Let me help for a different possibility.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Because this—it seems like you are doing very little – asking a silly icebreaker – and being labeled the funny one. It seems like the threshold for “funny” is very low in this office.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: So this feels like you could buy perhaps a children’s joke book, and let it do the heavy lifting for you. And still continue to be the funny one, which, all things considered, is better than being, like, the industrious one.

Griffin: Okay, yeah.

Travis: The one who always undertakes projects, and finishes them on time.

Griffin: Right. You could also find a brand that is so, sort of, comprehensive that it overrides the funny one.

Travis: Mm!

Griffin: Like, if you start—if you, like, dye your hair, like, either jet black or jet white, and then you start—you wear, like, the clothes of, like, a haunted, like, circus ring leader, and you’re like, “I’m the—”

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: “I’m the—”

“Oh, that’s—that’s Tabitha. She’s the My Chemical Romance... person.”

Justin: Mm.

Travis: Yeah! Or you could do half black and half white, and be the big *Cruella* fan.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: “Oh, that’s Tabitha. She saw *Cruella*, and it changed her.”

Griffin: “It changed her shit.”

Justin: You can lean into Disney shit enough to where you become the Disney person.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh, yeah, that’s not hard.

Justin: That’s not hard. I’ve done that. I did that accidentally. I just woke up one day, and I was Disney Boy, is what my neighborhood calls me.

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: The Incredible—they call me the Incredible Disney Boy.

Travis: The Incredible Funny Sexy Disney Boy.

Justin: The Incredible Hilarious Sexual...

Travis: So sexual.

Justin: And that’s in all caps.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Disney Boy.

Griffin: Did you all—

Travis: He does a lot of Disney Bounding, and then he struts around, just flexing them pecs.

Justin: Yeah, it's always Maui.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: It's always Maui!

Justin: It's always Maui.

Griffin: What Disney cosplay showcases the pecs?

Travis: Also Scar, if you do it right.

Griffin: Scar—

Justin: Oh, yeah, and even if you do it wrong, it's still gonna raise a few eyebrows, isn't it?

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!

Justin: Delicious.

Travis: Cause a few realizations.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: A few awakenings.

Griffin: I can get him out as Pumbaa still.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Really, any *Lion King* character is not gonna be—

Travis: Pumbaa's more about the butt, though.

Griffin: Really, and *Lion King* character is not gonna be wearing many clothes.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: That's true. There are very few—I mean, Triton? You could do Triton and get the pecs out.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Triton's—or Gaston. Gaston, maybe a beach Gaston.

Griffin: What other shirtless Disney character? Tarzan. Tarzan.

Travis: Uh, Hercules. There's a part of *Hercules* where his onesie is ripped.

Griffin: I'm gonna google "shirtless Disney characters." I misspelled all three words, so excited was I to make this. Oh, yeah!

Justin: Wow, that autocompleted way too quick on my Google.

Griffin: Wowzers. Wowzers.

Travis: You guys are gonna get some weird ads.

Griffin: You guys aren't gonna believe this, but a lot of these pictures I'm seeing aren't official... licensed Disney images from the films.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Really?

Justin: Huh.

Travis: Are they like, from the novels, or...?

Griffin: Yeah, they're from the novelizations of the movies, I guess.

I don't think this Aladdin's even wearing pants!

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Huh!

Travis: What a weird wish.

Justin: That wasn't—that wasn't your uh—your Boolean. That wasn't in your search query.

Griffin: That wasn't even in the heuristics. How strange.

Travis: Wait, is your safe search off, Griffin? You gotta turn it on.

Griffin: I—

Travis: You *gotta* turn it on.

Griffin: Uh, I—Rachel doesn't let me turn safe search off.

Travis: That's for the best.

Griffin: It's definitely—

Travis: Griffin, you could be ruined...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...by five minutes on Google.

Justin: Li Shang from *Mulan*. Forgot him.

Griffin: For sure, for sure, for sure.

Travis: Oh, yeah, that's a good one. That's a good one.

Justin: Let's get down to business? Don't mind if I do.

Griffin: [simultaneously] To defeat those—defeat those buns.

Travis: [simultaneously] To defeat these buns.

Griffin: Oh! We did it!

Travis: Damn it!

Griffin: Damn it. Um...

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: Hey, I've got a question from the internet, a little wisdom from the crowd, and it's coming from—

Justin: "Wisdom of the Crowd" is a good name for this segment.

Griffin: I got some Wisdom of the Crowd, and um, it's coming from a news source that uh, seems like it could be... I don't know. I'm excited about it, 'cause I didn't realize that there were questions on wikiHow. Uh, and Emily—

Travis: Oh, shit, Griffin!

Griffin: Uh, what, Trav?

Travis: I also pulled a wikiHow article. [laughs]

Griffin: Oh, r—for this episode?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: How wild. Is it "How to hide from a murderer"?

Travis: No!

Griffin: Oh, okay, well, that—that's the one I've chosen.

Travis: Do yours first.

Griffin: Don't—you have so many bits. Please, please leave me the crumbs and scraps of "How to hide from a murderer" on wikiHow. Thank you, Emily.

And wikiHow, if you've never been on it, it's got little charming little doodles and illustrations of how to do things that you probably shouldn't need a

guide on how to do it? I don't know, there's some helpful stuff in "How to hide from a murderer." Like, hiding effectively, you gotta use your barricades, stay quiet. Turn your phone on silent, people. This is not Get Murdered 101. Uh—

Travis: But that's like, the opposite from what I learned from *Home Alone*.

Griffin: Hm. Yeah, I guess he made himself known.

Travis: He yelled a lot!

Justin: Yeah, he announced his presence. That's sort of the—he get—he goes for, like, the scream at the bear...

Griffin: Right.

Justin: ...style of threat avoidance.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Punch the shark in the nose!

Griffin: There's—

Travis: Unless you think of Kevin McCallister as the killer, at which point...

Griffin: And you do, you should.

Travis: ...Harv and—and Marv, or whatever their names were...

Griffin: Harv and Marv.

Justin: Harv and Marv.

Travis: Didn't do—

Griffin: Uh, so—

Travis: Didn't do a good job.

Griffin: Uh, so they say choose a hiding place that can be barricaded, and then number three is "Obscure your location," and then number four is "Avoid hiding together," and then number five is "hide in, behind, or under something." So most of these tips so far are... "Hide... well." And—

Travis: How far down the list is, like, "Make the murderer fall in love with you"?

Griffin: It's—it's coming. Um, there is one that says "Hide in plain sight, if necessary." Which just means pretend to have already been murdered. So if the murderer is in your house and sees your body on the floor, and they'll be like "[disbelieving] Did I already murder them?"

Justin: [snorts]

Griffin: "Shit, I forgot. I got so excited with all the murdering, I lost count of how many murders I've done. Shit."

Travis: That really doesn't work if you live alone, though, does it?

Griffin: Yeah. Uh, "run away" is on there. "Head to safety." "Plan to fight if you must" is about halfway down. Um, and that means, you know, get an improvised weapon, take their knife and use the knife on them to make them die instead... [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh...

Travis: Now, here's the problem with that being so low down the list, then, Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah. I've already run away.

Travis: If I have—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: If I have just googled this because I need it in the moment...

Griffin: Right.

Travis: ...and I've barricaded myself into my hiding spot...

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: ...and I don't have the weapon with me... They should've put "Plan a fight if you need to" first...

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And then "But here's some other stuff you can do."

Griffin: Yeah, part three of this article is planning ahead. And it includes things like "Have a saferoom," and "Make sure you have important supplies..."

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: "...in your saferoom." Like, according to this image, two baseball bats and a shotgun. And no food. So that's great.

Now, here's why I wanted to bring the wikiHow...

Justin: Real briefly, I will say that um—I appreciate the "Plan ahead for getting murdered" is sort of, like, normalization of an anxiety disorder.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: Which I do enjoy that.

Griffin: Yeah, no, they—

Travis: Because some of us have been doing that since we were five.

Justin: Yeah, some of us have been planning ahead for everything...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: All the time.

Griffin: [laughs] Now, I wanted to bring wikiHow 'cause I didn't realize this until Emily sent this in... At the bottom every wikiHow article, there is a community Q and A. And um...

Travis: [gasps]

Griffin: There's some good stuff in there. The answers are provided by the community, the questions are asked by the community, and let's just go down... uh, I think they are ranked by how helpful they have been found for the community. So we could start at the top: "Are we allowed to randomly throw snake—steak knives at them?"

Travis: Hm.

Griffin: "If someone's trying to kill you, you can defend yourself, but throwing steak knives seems like a good way to arm your attacker, especially if you are not a skilled knife thrower."

Justin: Well, "random—randomly" certainly implies that, right?

Griffin: Right.

Justin: I mean, randomly throwing steak knives, no...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...if you're targeting...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: ...sort of some of the jellies of the body.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: "Can I calculatedly throw steak knives at the body?"

Justin: Right.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That's—and we do get into sort of—I believe it differs state-to-state on whether or not um, if you hurt the intruder, then is it okay. And that gets us into some weird territory. One of the questions is, straight up, “What should I do if I accidentally kill the murderer while fighting?”

Which I wanna be like, “[haughtily] Listen to this—somebody's [unintelligible through laughter].” [bursts out laughing]

Justin: Yeah, putting the cart before the murder horse, a little bit.

Griffin: If someone breaks into my house to murder *me*, and my mind jumps to, “Oh, I hope I don't murder them!”

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Griffin: Uh—

Travis: Now, I do like the use of the word, though, in the question of “allowed,” as though you would start throwing steak knives at the murderer, and the murderer would be like, “Hey, now!”

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: “That's dirty pool!” [laughs]

Griffin: So—now, another question is, “What if the murderer finds you in your hiding spot?”

And they say, “Fight back and aim for the head – especially the temple, neck, or eyes – with the weapon, or the eyes, neck, and nose with your hands, using tightly-closed fists.” Okay. Am I supposed to do that, or pretend to already be murdered? Like...

Travis: Well, the third—the third option is obviously they find you, and then you say, “Aw, you got me. Okay, now you hide, and I'll seek.”

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And seek—'cause 50/50, that's gonna work.

Griffin: Yeah. And now my man gets in there, I don't know who asked this, but it's me in another dimension, asks, "What if I need to use the bathroom while hiding?"

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: Absolutely great.

Griffin: My two concerns when a murderer breaks into my house is, one, I hope I don't murder them instead...

Justin: Right.

Griffin: ...and two, piss would be pretty choice right about now...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: ...and I don't know how long I'm gonna be able to...

Justin: You could do amne—you can do amnesty.

Griffin: Oh, time out!

Travis: Oh, like a time out?

Justin: "Time out! Amnesty! Time out, time out, time out, time out, time out, time out."

Travis: See, this is why it helps to have a cube, 'cause if you have a cube, that's your panic room and your bathroom all at once.

Griffin: Oh, that's good.

Justin: [laughs] Oh, man, can you imagine trying to kill Joey Chestnut in his filth—

Griffin: What would you do?

Travis: In the cube?

Griffin: You could open up the—the container, and see just the orange liquid floating inside...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs] Uh, immediately, it's aeros—some of Joey is aerosolized, and it is toxic to humans.

Travis: No, no! It's too soon!

Justin: [through laughter] When will I get more structure, please! You've already—

"I'm here to murder you, Joey Chestnut."

"You've already killed me!"

Travis: Man, this new M. Night movie is really weird, huh?

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Oh, Trav, are you talking about... *Old*... the new M. Night movie, *Old*?

Travis: *Old*. [laughs]

Griffin: Where people go to Old Beach and become *old* in Old. Catch *Old* this summer, with M. Night Shyamalan's *Old*!

Travis: Starring Joey Chestnut.

Griffin: With Joey Chestnut.

Justin: Well, I had a—I had a great—real briefly, I—my wife said to me, "Did you hear about the new M. Night movie?"

And I said, um, "No."

And she briefly told me about it, and she said, "It's supposed to be a return to form for M. Night."

And I'm like, "Mm, okay."

She said, "Although I heard that *The Visit* was supposed to be good, so maybe that was his return to form."

And I said, "Sweetheart, we watched *The Visit*. We saw this film."

And she said, "Well, I guess it probably wasn't a return to form, then."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "'Cause we did watch the film, and not maintain any of the memories of it."

Griffin: His form is something new now. His—he has a new form. I just wanna close this out with one of the last questions is, "What if I just gave up and let him take me, like if he won fair and square?"

And they answered... [laughs]

Travis: [laughs loudly]

Justin: [laughs] I respect them.

Travis: That's good sportsmanship. I like that.

Griffin: If he was a murderer, then he'd most likely kill you, so I don't recommend this course of action.

Yeah, but at a certain point, also like, if I don't have my weapons, and I'm laying on the floor, and the murderer says, "Hey, straight up, I don't think I murdered you yet, did I?"

And I rolled over, like, "Nah. There's nothing I can do now. Peace! Take me, you win. You did it! Congratulations. I was worried I was gonna murder you for a second, but it looks like that was an unfounded concern."

Travis: "Could I pee first?"

Justin: Yes, "May I pee?"

Griffin: "Could I please do it, so that my family members don't find me in a big, sticky mess?"

Justin: Uh, let's take a break.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: What do you think?

Griffin: Yeah, for sure.

Justin: Let's go to the Money Zone.

Travis: We've been working hard.

[theme song plays]

Travis: Hey, do you guys ever get home from the store...

Justin: No.

Travis: ...and you're like, "I—" Okay. "I went to the store to get batteries," and you come home, and you've got a watermelon, and you've got some shredded cheese, and you've got a Mylar balloon...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And what did you forget? Batteries.

Griffin: Shit.

Travis: You know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: What are you gonna do, go back out to the store? No. You're gonna get on DoorDash. That's right, DoorDash, it connects you to restaurants, and what's that? Stores.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Groceries and stuff.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You can get drinks and snacks and other household items delivered in under an hour with the contactless delivery drop-off setting. What's not to love?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So for a limited time, our listeners get 25 percent off, and zero delivery fees on their first order of 15 dollars or more when you download the DoorDash app and enter code "MBMBaM." That's 25 percent off, up to a 10 dollar value, and zero deliveries on your first order when you download the DoorDash app in the app store, and enter code "MBMBaM." Don't forget, that's call "MBMBaM" for 20 percent off your first order with DoorDash. Subject to change, terms apply.

Griffin: Stitch Fix sends you clothes in a box.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: And that's ideal, 'cause shopping for clothes is a terrible process that nobody actually enjoys, and the people who say they do are lying to you to be sounding, like, impressive. But...

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Stitch Fix doesn't care about that. Stitch Fix says, "Hey, tell us about you and your size and your style and your budget." And then they have—

Travis: And your heart.

Griffin: And your heart, and the size of your heart. And then they will have a stylist that just sends you clothes that you keep your favorite ones, and you send back the rest of `em, and it has free shipping with easy returns and exchanges, and then you send a little prepaid return envelope. So it's like, no sweat at all.

Speaking of no sweat, the latest box I got from Stitch Fix was filled exclusively with moisture-wicking fabric clothing.

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: And I saw this, and I said, "Stitch Fix, I don't know about this one. My body—I don't really push it to..."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "...the max. I don't really push it to the point where it creates generalized, sort of, body moisture." But you know what...

Travis: Griffin barely has enough of what he needs in his body at any given time without excreting any of it.

Justin: Yeah, he needs to reabsorb that moisture to function.

Griffin: Exactly, exactly. But guess what? I put some of these bad boys on, and while I did not use them in the sort of athletic way that they were maybe intended, they still covered my body and kept me cool and dry, and so...

Travis: Comfortable sleep clothes!

Griffin: Comfortable sleep clothes, absolutely they are.

Uh, it's great. There's no subscription or anything like that. You just set up—you can get one box, you can get automatic deliveries, and you pay just

a 20-dollar styling fee for each box, which gets credited towards any pieces of clothing that you keep, and there's no hidden fees ever.

Uh, we've been doing Stitch Fix for God knows how long at this point. Uh, and, you know, we pay for it and everything now. We're—we're not just uh, spokespeople. We're also—we u—we do it and use it.

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

[upbeat, gentle music plays]

Kirk: Video games!

Jason: Video games!

Maddy: Video games! You like them?

Jason: Maybe you wish you had more time for them?

Kirk: Maybe you wanna know the best ones to play?

Jason: Maybe you wanna know what happens to Mario when he dies?

Kirk: [chuckles]

Maddy: In that case, you should check out *Triple Click*. It's a podcast about video games.

Jason: A podcast about video games? But I don't have time for that!

Kirk: Sure you do. Once a week, kick back as three video game experts give you everything from critical takes on the hottest new releases...

Jason: ...to scoops, interviews, and explanations about how video games work...

Maddy: ...to fascinating and sometimes weird stories about the games we love.

Kirk: *Triple Click* is hosted by me, Kirk Hamilton.

Jason: Me, Jason Schreier.

Maddy: And me, Maddy Myers.

Kirk: You can find *Triple Click* wherever you get your podcasts, and listen at maximumfun.org.

Maddy: Bye!

[music and advertisement end]

Justin: [imitates rock guitar, babbling]

Travis: Woah!

Griffin: Oh, shit.

Justin: [continues guitar]

Travis: Oh, God, Justin's drowning!

Justin: [continues guitar] This is trap.

Travis: Is it?

Justin: As I understand...

Griffin: It's not at all. That's not.

Justin: What I'm doing is trap. [continues babbling guitar]

Travis: No, it's—it kind of sounds like the lead singer of Korn trying to make his kids laugh.

Justin: [deep imitated guitar]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Oh, God!

Griffin: Where is the word—that's not what trap music is at all!

Justin: [continues guitar] I wanna munch!

Travis: Squad.

Griffin: Squad.

Justin: [continues guitar] I want to munch!

Travis: ...Squad.

Griffin: Squad. Wow.

Justin: [continues guitar]

Travis: Maybe it's time for, like, an acoustic, or...

Justin: [ends guitar impression]

Travis: Like, maybe more of a James Taylor vibe to the Munch Squad opening, a little less scary.

Justin: [singing softly] Oh, Munch Squad.

Travis: Thank you!

Justin: [singing softly] Crunch so sweet!

Travis: [singing] I've seen munch and I've seen squad...

Justin: Don't fucking play in my playground, baby.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Come off it.

Travis: Okay, I'm gonna go, then. I—

Justin: I have a Junior and then I have a full story. This first Junior is from Sonic, and it's just—like, the Chicken Sandwich Wars are expanding to new fronts. This is—

Travis: Cyber. Now they're doing some cyber warfare.

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: This is the cyber chicken sandwich for the war.

No, this one's popcorn chicken. Uh, from Sonic. And they introduced the new, limited-time-only popcorn chicken po'boy.

Travis: Huh.

Justin: A new sandwich introduced by the bold flavor of Louisiana cuisine.

Now, I did wanna, um... th—just the most word salad jumble of nonsense in this quote announcing this from uh, Scott, the VIP of product innovation and development for Sonic. Um, "Cajun delicacies are known for delicious blends of seasonings that culminate in excitement with every bite."

Travis: [snorts]

Griffin: Fuck yeah! Awesome!

Travis: [laughs] Okay—

Griffin: That's true—hey—

Justin: Good!

Griffin: That's true! Good!

Justin: Good food! Yes!

Travis: That's true of a lot of delicacies, [laughs] though.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "This delicacy, the flavors make people like it."

Justin: "People are looking for in food is flavor."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Okay. "With a smoky, southern-style mayo, the popcorn chicken po'boy spins a Sonic staple the guests know and love with subtle notes of thyme, oregano, red pepper, and paprika, which complement the juicy tenderness in the chicken, and bring out a harmony of flavors in a tasty, delicate spice level."

Griffin: [snorts]

Justin: [desperately] Can I please be done with my quote? Please, I can't.

Travis: Is that enough?

Justin: Please, let me go! I wanna go home and see my kids!

Griffin: Um—

Justin: [normally] That's the end of Scott's quote.

Griffin: That is uh—that's good! That sounds alright.

Justin: This looks like a good sandwich. It's on a hinge sliced roll, but you know. You know how we do it here on the Squad. We're not just gonna give you a new entry in the Chicken Sandwich Wars, 'cause that's honestly... it's a little sad. Broaster's in on it, by the way. Broaster, the popular manufacturer of gas station chicken... [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: ...chicken cooking equipment is like, "We got a chicken sandwich machine for you." I'm not gonna read you that story.

Chuck E. Cheese.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: Charles Entertainment Cheese. And Munch's Make Believe Band have announced their first ever concert tour. And, if I may just say—

Travis: Yeah, [crosstalk]!

Justin: What better time than now? "Chuck E. Cheese, Charles Entertainment Cheese, the number one family entertainment v—" Sorry. Chuck E. Cheese is the restaurant. Charles Entertainment Cheese is the gentleman.

Griffin: Is the mouse, yeah.

Travis: Yes, thank you.

Justin: "The number one family entertainment venue..." Chuck E. Cheese isn't even the most—the biggest entertainment mouse.

Griffin: No.

Justin: Like, he's maybe three. He's like a power three.

Okay, they have announced—Chuck E. Cheese and Munch's Make Believe Band dropped a new album.

Travis: What?

Justin: Summer of Fun. And the iconic group will be hitting the road for the first-ever concert tour.

Travis: Is Munch's Make Believe Band... Chuck E. Cheese's Rock-afire Explosion?

Justin: I... honestly, I'm—we grew up in, like—you know, we grew up in a Billy Bob house.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Yeah, like—

Justin: So I don't actually know too much...

Travis: We've only ever had Hydrox. I have never had Oreo before.

Griffin: [laughs] Right.

Justin: It's that kind of thing. It's that kind of thing. Um, I'm trying to figure out how to listen to this track.

Travis: I'm just saying, if you all have never seen a Billy—you put Billy Bob up against Chuck E. Cheese any day of the week... Billy Bob, he seems approachable.

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: Seems like the kind of bear you could have a beer with.

Griffin: He's a big, friendly bear!

Travis: With a bird in a can, and he plays the—but then Chuck E. Cheese scares the shit out of me. I don't like it.

Griffin: All the teens are afraid of *Five Nights at Freddy's*, but I just can't do it! 'Cause I'm—I grew up in the shadow of this big friendly hillbilly bear, and I love him so much! He would never hurt me.

Travis: I trust that boy with my life. Now, I don't trust that wolf over there, stage left. Or stage right.

Griffin: Not the wolf.

Travis: With the puppet?

Griffin: Yeah, not even—

Travis: Don't trust him, don't trust him.

Justin: Yeah, the wolf with the puppet—the wolf who is a puppet himself, who also has a puppet? Hard pass.

Travis: No, no, no, no, no, no, no.

Justin: No, thank you.

Travis: No, no, no, no, no.

Justin: Uh, good news, everybody. Don't worry, I did manage to secure some tracks.

Griffin: Nice!

Justin: Uh, from the new Chuck E. Cheese uh, joint, so let's just—let's just—I'm just gonna let it rip. Hold on.

[upbeat instrumental music plays]

Chuck E. Cheese: [singing] Feels like it's so long since we've been together.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Chuck E. Cheese: [singing] So come on out, it's such a perfect day!

Helen Henny: [singing] Feels like I've been cooped up inside forever. Just can't wait to get outside and play!

Travis: Justin, stop. Stop.

Chuck E. Cheese: [singing] Ooh, it's so good to feel the sun is shining down, down on the ground.

Justin: Alright, let's hear the chorus.

Chuck E. Cheese: [singing] And ooh, it's so good to see all my friends are coming 'round. I'm so excited now!

Band: [singing] So turn up the radio, play my favorite song! I don't need any other, gonna sing the song of summer so let's dance to the stereo, we can sing along! I don't want any other, so sing the song of summer with me.

[electronic instrumentals play]

Band: [singing] Hey!

[music stops]

Travis: Okay.

Justin: So you get the idea.

Travis: Well, right off the bat, can I acknowledge two things?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It slaps. It's a slap—[wheezes]

Griffin: It slaps and rips and trips and bops and fucking hits, and it hits so hard.

Travis: You know, it kind of feels like this song is about the end of COVID.

Griffin: Oh, holy—

Justin: I think it doesn't kinda feel like it, Trav.

Travis: It is that.

Justin: It is 100 percent...

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: ...Charles Entertainment Cheese's tacit acknowledgement of the existence of COVID, and how glad he is that it has passed.

By the way, fucking Charles, if I can speak to you over here for a minute...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: I saw your ads in fucking, like, May of 2020, dude!

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Where you're showing people cleaning tables, and you're like, "We keep it clean so Mom will be happy too!"

Griffin: [continues laughing]

Travis: "Open for business!"

Justin: You've been partying nonstop, my friend. No question. No questions on this. You've not been stopping for anybody. You've been partying all year.

Travis: But I also want to acknowledge that this song falls into my favorite subgenre of music, which is songs about other songs. When you have a song that's talking about, like, their favorite song on the radio, or like...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Hey, DJ, turn that music up!" Or like—

Justin: It's not the greatest song in the world, it's just a tribute.

Griffin: Right, exactly.

Travis: "Songs about other songs that are not the song that we're singing" is my favorite subgenre of music, and I can't believe Chuck E. Cheese just added a new track to that genre.

Justin: Another hit.

Griffin: I feel like, after hearing this, I have an image of how Charles Entertainment Cheese conducts himself on social media. And I'm not saying that he is, like... full-blown antivaxxer?

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: But I definitely think he's the type to just like, be like, "I'm just asking the questions."

Travis: Oh, 100 percent. 100 percent.

Griffin: "Nothing wrong with this; I'm just asking questions."

Travis: "Oh, I just retweeted it to see what *you guys* thought about it."

Griffin: "To see if *you guys* were inflamed to uh, discussion."

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Can I just—real quick, I'm gonna—this fucking album... This is like—I thought it would be kind of a goof. This album is 12 songs long.

Griffin: Hey.

Justin: There's 12 different tracks on here. I'm gonna read you all the tracks, and you guys get to tell me which one you wanna hear 30 seconds of. "Song of Summer" we just uh, uh, heard. It was extremely good. "Beach Party Bash," "Dog Days of Summer," "Let's Be Friends..."

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: "I Dare You Not to Laugh." That sounds like kind of a... you know, how like a lot of rap albums have, like, improv tracks?

Griffin: Oh, yes!

Justin: It sounds kinda like that, you know what I mean? "I Dare You Not to Laugh." "Stay Positive," which I'm assuming is a cover of the Hold Steady song. Uh, "Lend a Helping Hand," "El Rey Guitarrista..."

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Fantastic.

Justin: "Game On," "Crochet All Day..."

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: "Crochet All Day"?

Justin: "Disco Dancing Dinosaur Party."

Griffin: Fuck.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: "Chuck—" And then the last song is called "Chuck E. Cheese is All About Fun, by Chuck E. Cheese."

Griffin: Damn it, Justin, we can only pick *one*?!

Justin: I know!

Travis: Fuck! I—

Justin: We'll do—we'll do a bit on some of these. We'll let you check out—pick one—you each get to pick one. I'll let you each pick one.

Travis: Justin, I would like to hear "Crochet All Day." I think that that's what everyone [crosstalk].

Griffin: "Crochet All Day" is bonkers.

[relaxed, bouncy music plays]

Chuck E. Cheese: [singing] Recently, I've been spending a little more time at home, like a lot of people these days, hanging out on my own.

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: [stifled laughter]

Justin: [wheezes]

Chuck E. Cheese: [singing] Filling my time with fun things is really not that tough! But finding that one new passion is proving to be rough! I've done puzzles, tried juggling, coloring, magic too.

Justin: [crosstalk] Truly.

Chuck E. Cheese: [singing] Video chat is fun, especially when it's with you!

Gaming, binge-watching, I even tried croquet! But nothing has been quite as fun as my new hobby called crochet!

Crochet...

[background singing]

Chuck E. Cheese: [singing] All day.

Background Singers: [singing] Crochet all day...

Chuck E. Cheese: [singing] Your worries all melt away...

Justin: Fuck.

Griffin: Woah!

Chuck E. Cheese: [singing] It's better when you crochet, crochet all day.

Justin: That is bracing. That is *bracing*.

[music ends]

Griffin: Okay, the song's not great, but that surprise sort of, key shift at there, that didn't...

Justin: Yeah, I did not see that guy—[crosstalk] Okay.

[music playing softly under conversation]

Justin: Uh, Griff.

Griffin: Yeah. Oh, God, what was the one about making you laugh?

Justin: "I Dare You Not to Laugh"?

Griffin: I mean, this is a comedy program!

Chuck E. Cheese: Hey, Helen! Wanna play a game?

Helen Henny: Do you even have to ask? Of course I wanna play a game!

Chuck E. Cheese: [laughs] Okay. This game is called "I Dare You Not to Laugh," and the point of the game is to try to think of funny things to make the other person laugh!

[playback halts]

Justin: Hi, it's me, Justin McElroy...

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: ...I don't know what Charles is about to drop on us. It has been, by his admission, a long fucking year.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yep.

Justin: So—

Griffin: And he may not—

Chuck E. Cheese: If you're able to keep a straight face without laughing, then you win!

Helen Henny: Oh, this sounds fun!

[upbeat music plays in background]

Chuck E. Cheese: Alright! I'll go first. Let's see if you can withstand the silliness.

[singing] I dare you not to laugh! I challenge you not to giggle! Do you think you could be serious? No smiling, not even a little! I dare you not to chuckle. Ho ho, hee hee, ha ha.

Chuck E. Cheese: [singing] Look at this funny giraffe! I dare you not to laugh!

Travis: What?

[rowdy music starts]

Helen Henny: Oh, you'll never get me to laugh, Chucky! I'm complete—

[playback halts]

Griffin: Start—when does the funny shit start, Charles?

Travis: Oh, you didn't hear, Griffin?

Helen Henny: —ly serious—

[playback halts]

Justin: He said there was a picture of a funny giraffe in the song somewhere.

Travis: There was a funny giraffe, Griffin.

Chuck E. Cheese: Oh, yeah? How about [singing] a platypus wearing a tutu? This pickle high-fiving a horse? An elephant riding a surfboard? This bumblebee eating smores? A kitty-cat getting a haircut? This painting in a bath? A monkey doing a cartwheel? I dare you not to laugh!

Helen Henny: [chuckles]

[playback halts]

Griffin: Okay, so—

Travis: Okay, it seems—okay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: There's a few things there.

Travis: Kind of seems... [sighs]

Griffin: Cats sometimes need to groomed. So...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: ...that one was... that one was outta—that one was out of sight. I—a platypus wearing a tutu is fucking universally, like, very funny, and I won't—

Justin: It's very funny, very funny.

Travis: I liked the pickle high-fiving a horse, frankly. I was not expecting that. It also didn't fit the mold. Everything else was an animal doing something, and this was something doing something to an animal, which I—

Griffin: To an animal. Yeah, it's a diversion of expectations. Yeah.

Travis: I like the—but it kind of feels like—

[rock guitar in background]

Chuck E. Cheese: [singing] I've been so busy—

[playback halts]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: It feels like Charles' entire definition of comedy is—

[guitar resumes]

Chuck E. Cheese: [singing] Been so busy, if you think—

[playback halts]

Travis: Okay, something doing something.

Griffin: To an animal, yes.

[guitar resumes]

Chuck E. Cheese: [singing] Been so busy, if you think I'm straying for a breather, so long I've been waiting. And all the fun that I'm anticipating—

[playback halts]

Justin: Hey, sorry, Charles, are you very busy, or are you crocheting all the time?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Can you get your story straight, please?

Travis: Well, one could be busy—

[guitar resumes]

Chuck E. Cheese: [singing] I can't take it anymore; fun is just inside the door!

Working hard, I need a thought break! Need some fun, 'cause fun is good, and good is great. Great is awesome, there's no need to hesitate. I just like to shout it out; Chuck E. Cheese is all about fun! Chuck E. Cheese is all about fun. Chuck E. Cheese is all about fun! Chuck E. Cheese is all about fun!

[spoken] Hey, Helen, what are you doing?

Travis: What?

Helen Henny: I'm playing video games!

Chuck E. Cheese: Well, are you having fun?

Helen Henny: This is my favorite game! I'm having the most fun ever!

Chuck E. Cheese: Awesome!

[drumroll]

Travis: "You get to live another day!"

Griffin: [laughs]

[music stops]

Justin: This is like—sorry, Trav, say again?

Travis: "You get to live another day!"

Justin: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: I just—I hate to just really monopolize the show like this, but I do wanna know what "Dinosaur Disco Dance Party" is.

[dance music plays]

Justin: It's all about fun.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: I love this!

Band: [singing] Disco dancing dinosaur party! Disco dancing—

Justin: That's what it says on the tin!

Griffin: Alright.

Band: [singing, upbeat] Disco dancing dinosaur party. Disco dancing dinosaur party!

Justin: Oh.

Griffin: Alright.

Travis: Yes!

Band: [singing] Disco dancing dinosaur party. Disco dancing dinosaur party. Disco dancing dinosaur party.

Griffin: Holy shit.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Uh-huh!

Band: [singing] Disco dancing dinosaur party. Disco dancing dinosaur party. Disco dancing dinosaur party.

Helen Henry: [singing] There is a dino girl. She survived extinction.

Travis: Yes.

Helen Henry: [singing] She adapted with the times and gained distinction. She wrote a novel.

Travis: Ooh!

Helen Henry: [singing] Yeah, she's a smartie. Now, this Jurassic girl is gonna party!

Travis: Okay.

Band: [singing] Disco dancing dinosaur party.

Griffin: Alright.

All: [singing] Disco dancing—

[music stops]

Justin: So—okay.

Travis: This rules!

Justin: So—okay. It says she escaped extinction?

Griffin: Yeah, she escaped extinction.

Travis: She escaped extinction...

Griffin: And—

Justin: Wrote a novel.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: “Achieved distinction.”

Griffin: Alright, that’s a highlight. I like that one quite a bit. That was a good track.

Travis: It kind of feels like they’ve built a whole album around one single.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. Um, so he’s gonna be hitting the road.

Griffin: They coming to—

Justin: To return to our actual story...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It is a celebration at all US Chuck E. Cheese locations, that begins May 31st. That’s today, as the crow flies. Uh, the new summer fun pa—I’m not gonna read the promotion. It doesn’t matter.

Quote, "We know our guests have missed seeing Chuck E. in our stores." That's the other thing that's worth noting, is like, they got rid of *all* Chuck E. Cheese in all stores.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: 'Cause they were like—kids hate this now.

Griffin: They hate this rat.

Justin: But maybe he'll—they'll come to his tour.

Uh, "He's been hard at work, writing music and recording a new album that's sure to delight fans of all ages," said someone there.

Griffin: [snorts]

Justin: "We're thrilled that Chuck E. and the band are hitting the road to rock fans with our iconic, fun tracks, and signature sounds at beaches and parks across the country. And we're making it easy and affordable for families to keep the summer fun going," you know, at Chuck E. Cheese.

Here's the schedule: June 5th, Pier 60 Park at popular scientology hub Clearwater Florida...

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Huh.

Justin: ...showtimes 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, 3:00 PM.

Griffin: Damn, three shows a day? That's—that's—

Justin: Three shows, enjoy your costume! Their performers, it's gonna be a rough one.

Then they're taking the whole production, giving themselves a nice comfortable week to get on over to Cumberland Park, Nashville Tennessee, with three shows there. They're going to Philly—

Travis: Music City.

Justin: Music City. Uh, they're going to Philly, and then Atlanta, and then Texas, and there's nothing really funny—

Griffin: Austin, Te—

Travis: Wait, where in Texas?

Griffin: I need to know which city in Texas, Justin, 'cause do remember I—

Justin: It's in Dallas, bud.

Griffin: Dallas? I'll fucking drive that drive for Chuck.

Justin: Yeah. You'll get there for Chuck. Um, so yeah, he is—he is—officially, Chuck E. Cheese is going on tour long before we are. [laughs] He is getting out there, and playing those outdoor venues, and uh, having the time of his life, so... I'm really excited about that.

Griffin: God, that's good stuff.

Justin: Get out there and see Chuck. I'm sure he'd love to see you. He's been, as he's apparently just telling everybody, really cooped up.

Travis: Really cooped up.

Justin: Ready to fuck I guess.

Travis: But trying a lot of new things, it sounds like.

Justin: Yeah, he's trying a *lot* of new things.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Pretty much, he said he's open to anything.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: He has another song that didn't make the album called "Char—" um... [laughs] called "Dr. Fauci Wouldn't Let Me Have My Fun Break." Uh...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: They had to cut that one for very obvious reasons. There's another one called "Dr. Fauci, Enemy of Fun."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "Dr. Fauci Hates Pizza" is another one that's on the album.

Justin: [wheezes] "Dr. Fauci Won't Admit He's My Dad."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Despite Having a Lot of Paperwork."

Uh, this is still an advice show.

Griffin: Yeah, you wanna do one more question, maybe?

Justin: I wanna help. "You always see in movies and stuff that putting a ring of salt in the ground is supposed to protect you from ghosts."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: "But how high up from the off the ground can you get before the protection is no longer effective? If I put a big ring of salt down, and then fly up in a helicopter, are the ghosts gonna get me, or does the salt produce a sort of anti-ghost cylinder that extends all the way up to the stratosphere?" That's from Ruminating about Revenants in Richmond.

Travis: Hm. Now—

Griffin: I mean, you're thinking purely terrestrially. Like, once you get out into space, like, up and down don't mean anything anymore. So like, how can you even know that you're still... in the c—in the circle, so to speak?

Travis: W—and I would also say, you're only thinking in the up direction. You have to think, if you put the ring of salt on *this* side of the planet...

Griffin: Mm...

Travis: ...on the other side of the planet...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...will that stop a gho—like, it's a being.

Justin: Why is it less able to stop ghosts through sediment?

Travis: Right.

Justin: And molten core, than it is air?

Griffin: Is it maybe just that the ghosts don't like the smell of the salt, and so it's not even the shape? Like, if you just pour some salt on the ground, a ghost comes near it, and they're like, "Mm, no, I'm trying to watch my sodium." And then they leave.

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: I don't think it's the circle. 'Cause this makes no sense.

Travis: The blood pressure thing.

Griffin: Yeah, it's a blood pressure thing.

Justin: I think it's so *stupid*...

Travis: Okay.

Justin: It's so fucking stupid that, in the—in literature and stuff, it's like, "Make a ring of salt to protect you from ghosts." Hey, I have things to do.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: How about this? How about I make a ring of salt around this ghost, and go live my fucking life?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh, that's good.

Justin: How about he stays there, and I put up a sign that's like, "Warning! Dickhead ghosts. Stay away. Don't fuck with. Do not mess with salt. Avoid if rains. If rains, run."

Griffin: [wheezes]

Justin: "Please trap ghost again."

Travis: [laughs] "Find salt in cabinet next to the peanut butter. No, the—on the other side. That's sugar. Don't use sugar!"

Griffin: "Don't use it."

Justin: "Don't use sugar. They'll just lap it up."

Travis: "And that will bring ants."

Griffin: "And also, hey, slugs, just look out! Slugs?"

Travis: "Look out!"

Griffin: "This sign's for you too, slugs!"

Justin: Look out, slugs are good for your garden. You don't wanna kill the slugs.

Travis: "Don't kill the slug. Just trap the ghost. If it's a ghost slug, uh..."

Justin: "Trap the ghost! Spare the slugs!"

Oh, man, what if—what if you drop some salt, and it kills a slug, and then the slug's ghost comes out, and he's like, "Well, fuck!"

Griffin: [laughs] Oh, no.

Justin: [laughs] "I don't like this at all!"

Travis: Okay. Hey, Shark Tank? I've got a million-dollar idea.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Okay. [sings dramatic tune]

Travis: Salted belts. You can wear 'em...

Griffin: Salt belts.

Travis: Always got a ring of salt with you.

Griffin: Loving this, loving this.

Travis: And it's just that your belt is soaked in salt.

Griffin: That's good. And if you're eating some flavorless popcorn, you take the little guy out, and you [blows rapidly], just a quick swipe across the belt.

Justin: Not too much, though! Not too much, 'cause eventually ghosts will get through there.

Travis: Yeah, you'll wear down your belt!

Justin: Now, wait a minute, Travis. This protects—this definitely is gonna protect my thorax from ghosts.

Travis: Correct.

Justin: And my legs and feet, I love that. Um, but what about my appendages?

Travis: Mm. Salted bracelets.

Griffin: Salt bracelets. Salt rings, salt—

Justin: Okay, you're starting to play fast and loose with geometry.

Travis: Okay, fine! A salted suit. The whole suit is jerky.

Griffin: Salt suit. But is it circular? Is it circular...ooh, jerky's a—ooh, this raises an interesting question. If a ghost comes into my house and tries to murder me, and all of my techniques that I learned in this episode are proving ineffective, if I run to the kitchen, can't find the salt, but I do grab a bag of Chex Mix, and I do a circle of that.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Does the—does the latent salt on the Chex Mix provide the necessary chemistry to make the ghost go away?

Travis: Well, here's the good news, Griffin. I think it does, but even if it doesn't, it's going to start a conversation between you and the ghost.

Griffin: It is, yeah.

Travis: And if the ghost is also a vampire, it's gonna slow that vampire down, 'cause if you spill a bag of something in front of a vampire, they have to count it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So they have to stop and count, if it's like rice or grain or whatever, which I think Chex Mix... pretty grainy.

Griffin: Pretty grainy, yeah.

Travis: I think that's gonna work.

Griffin: Sure!

Travis: So that's gonna stop, uh, Joey Chestnut, and a ghost, and a vampire.

Griffin: [laughs] And those are my three biggest fears! So...

Justin: [laughs] Yep!

Griffin: I'm afraid a ghost come, come haunt me, make me do things I don't want to do. Afraid a vampire come, eat me and my family's body. And I'm afraid Joey Chestnut come eat all the hotdogs out of my refrigerator.

Travis: Mm-hm!

Griffin: 'Cause I'm gonna save those for lunch!

Travis: Yeah. I need those for the big cookout!

Justin: I'm so glad that we're getting back into our core competencies and talking about ghosts and competitive eating.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yup.

Justin: Um, this really feels like a return to form.

Travis: How many ghosts do you think you can eat, Justin?

Justin: Um, I dunno. I'm not Pac-Man.

Thank you so much for enjoying this podcast, assuming you did. Thanks at least for listening. You know? I should reign in my scope. Thanks for listening to this podcast; we're so uh, uh, happy you joined us. Um, do we have, uh...

Travis: Yeah, we have a big announcement!

Justin: Oh, okay!

Travis: Uh, we have a virtual *My Brother, My Brother and Me* coming up!

Justin: Woah!

Travis: And tickets are on sale now!

Justin: What?!

Travis: And those tickets are at bit.ly/mbmbamvirtual. The show is June 25th at 9:00 PM Eastern Time. Uh, tickets are only 10 dollars, and video on demand will be available for two weeks after the show ends, so even if you are not available on the 25th at 9:00 PM Eastern Time, you can still watch the show for two weeks afterwards.

Justin: This—my thing says that they're on sale tomorrow, Tuesday.

Travis: Well, yeah, but that's when this will come out.

Justin: Is this Tuesday?

Travis: This is Tuesday when people hear this, Justin.

Griffin: The—this day is Tuesday, the sound—the day they hear the sound.

Justin: Okay, got it. This is so confusing.

Travis: The show doesn't go out live, Justin. You know that, right?

[pause]

Justin: So confusing.

Travis: Okay. Also, we've got new merch over at mcelroymerch.com. Our pin of the month is "I also want a sword," which you might recognize from the *My Brother, My Brother, and Me* hit TV show, benefitting the Trevor Project, which provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ+ young people under 25.

Uh, we've also got uh, "You hear that, babe? We're legends" shirt. Uh, I believe that's from *The Adventure Zone*, a well-loved podcast that some really handsome fellas make. And a portion of the proceeds from that also go to the Trevor Project.

Speaking of *The Adventure Zone*, you can preorder *The Adventure Zone: Crystal Kingdom* graphic noveble—what?

Griffin: Noveble?

Travis: I was just reading—I was looking at the word “available,” and...

Justin: Noveble.

Travis: Graphic noveble became—but it’s a noveble now.

Griffin: [laughs quietly]

Travis: Uh, you can preorder it order at theadventurezonecomic.com. That comes out July 13th, 2021. And as a preorder gift from First Second, our publisher, you also get a Kravitz lenticular laptop sticker. You submit your receipts for your preorder gift at bit.ly/tazforpreorder!

Griffin: Hey, thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, “My Life (Is Better With You)!” Uh, gonna drop that track, ‘cause it’s gotta be dropping—that’s gonna be the bop of the summer, I bet. Where the fa—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: When it come—when it fully releases probably this summer, I bet. But it is gonna have some stiff competition from Chuck E. Cheese! And I don’t even know if Montaigne knows about that, so we should probably shoot her an email real quick, and just say...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: ...you should probably bump this to, like, 2023, just to be safe.

Travis: I do a Twitch...

Griffin: Travis does a Twitch. He does games.

Travis: Twitch.tv/thetravismcelroy. It’s over there, if you wanna come hang out.

Griffin: He's playing *Resident Evil 8* right now, and I heard he cries and screams at it like a baby, because it's so scary.

Travis: I do not—mostly, I spent the first playthrough critiquing Ethan's terrible parenting.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: He puts fucking pillows in with a six-month-old, and there's toys all over the goddamn floor!

Griffin: Yeah, it's not good stuff, yeah.

Justin: Unbelievable.

Griffin: Anyway, um, you want a final—this final Yahoo was—I found it myself, and it is from Yahoo Answers User Tim, asks, "How did your dad..."

Justin: [snorts]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "How did your dad find his way into... your life?"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "And how did you know—how did you know?"

Justin: [laughs] 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 and ends]

[chord plays]

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