

MBMBaM 556: New Virtual Wing Concept

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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, "My Life (Is Better With You)!" by Montaigne plays]

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

Travis: I'm your middlest brother, Travis "Big Dog Woof-woof" McElroy.

Ron: And I'm also a new brother, and happy to be here, Ron Funches!

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: Ron Funches is our newest brother, that is true.

Justin: That's our new brother, Ron Funches. We had to get rid of Griffin. They say last in, first out, you know what I mean?

Travis: Yep.

Justin: He's the youngest one, and we needed some new, fresh blood on the show, so we brought our dear friend, Ron Funches.

Ron: Yeah, it's—some would call it a studio reboot.

Travis: Yep!

Ron: Of your family.

Justin: [laughs] Yeah. That's—we started with the family fir—like, Ron has been inserted into our family for, God, it's been a few months now, Ron. Where we brought you, uh, in to have dinner with us...

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: All the usual—

Ron: Lots of salads.

Justin: Yeah, Christmas gift exchanges, all the usual.

Travis: Lots of salads, yeah.

Justin: And now—only now that we've perfected at home those rhythms that it took us decades to perfect with Griffin, now we're ready for uh... to make a podcast together.

Ron: Yeah!

Justin: And that's so exciting.

Ron: Well, it's fine. It really didn't take that long with me. It's—

Justin: Yeah.

Ron: I mean, he must have been not as enjoyable to take decades to get that repertoire that only took us weeks.

Travis: Yeah! I wasn't gonna say it, Ron—

Justin: I'm glad you did, Ron.

Travis: —but that is accurate, you know what I mean? I feel like you're more our brother now than Griffin ever was.

Justin: Wow.

Travis: Y—yeah.

Ron: I mean, I didn't want—I mean, I *do* want to say it, because I felt it.

Justin: I wanna say it too. [laughs]

Ron: Yeah. Why not say things you feel?

Justin: Hey, can I get a chance saying it, Ron?

Ron: Say it!

Justin: You feel like more like our brother than Griffin has never has, or ever will.

Travis: Yep.

Ron: I agree. [bursts out laughing]

Justin: Uh, this is—uh, so this is very exciting, uh, because Ron also has a thrilling—I mean, you know Ron from everything. Most importantly, like us, he was a star of *Trolls* and *Trolls World Tour*. We were only in the second one, but uh, you know, Ron's done that with us. And Ron does a lot of—

Ron: They couldn't afford you for the first.

Justin: That's right. It was an indie project back then.

Travis: That's true.

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: Ron does stand up, Ron does uh, uh, a podcast, and—

Travis: Ron does streaming on Twitch!

Justin: Ron does streaming on Twitch. Ron does everything, but right now, I wanna talk about – I'm so excited – for *Chopped 420* on Discovery Plus,

launching I guess, as the crow flies, tomorrow, if you're listening to this launch day, and why wouldn't you?

Uh, can we just—can I just—can you just tell me what it's like? How is it, Ron?

Ron: It is as if, um, at some points I just have to go like, am I dead? Is this a thing where I'm just living in my brain, you know, like a *Matrix*-style thing of a future that I created that I would have wanted, where they feed me delicious foods of ducks and extravagant items, and then they're also infused with marijuana, and I get to host the show, and I have to sign a contract that said, "Are you okay with smoking marijuana on camera?"

Justin: [laughs]

Ron: Which most of my contracts say, "Please don't smoke marijuana..."

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Ron: "... When you get here." [laughs]

Justin: How do you, like, keep a balance? Like, how did you—did you—have you—like, at any point did you have to, like, pull aside a producer and be like, "Just a quick update: I'm getting too high to do television."

Travis: [laughs] "Am I too high? We're still making a TV show, right?"

Justin: [laughs]

Ron: [laughs] Um, I have a pretty good tolerance, so it never really came up. And also, I like to be professional. So uh, you know, I didn't—I—have to eat that much and I just had to smoke on occasions, so I just try to host and have fun, and then smoke after, smoke whenever was appropriate. But, you know, it never became an issue for me. I could've done more, personally.

Travis: Now, Ron, what's it like having a high tolerance with marijuana, because if I hear what somebody—just hearing you talk about it now is making me feel like my organs are moving around inside my body.

Ron: [laughs] Um, it's nice, and also there's pluses and negatives. I think that having a low tolerance is fun, because then it doesn't take much at all. And you're happy with anything.

Justin: Cheaper. Value.

Ron: Exactly. But then having a high tolerance is fun because you learn to appreciate the different flavors, the different notes of things. And it can be fun, like—people who—you know, people who love wine a lot are just alcoholics, but...

Travis: [laughs]

Ron: You get to still have fun with it, you know?

Justin: Ron, um, I'm really excited that we got you here, because this gives us a chance to sort of, um, shepherd the next generation of TV stars. Because as you know – as everyone knows – we had uh, a kind of a hit series called *My Brother, My Brother, and Me* uh, on the Seeso streaming network. Uh, and now I sort of—I'm so excited to pass on sort of, our expertise...

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: ...that we gained from those six episodes of television. Um...

Travis: The number one thing, if I may, Justin.

Justin: Yeah, please.

Travis: If you need to go potty during filming, you say 10-1, and it means you have to go pee. And 10-2 means you need to make a dookie. And you say those things, and it confuses the crew, so they can't judge you for releasing your bodily stuff. So that's just something you need to know.

Justin: I feel like that might be something our sound guy made up.

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: Especially the part where you have to delineate what you'll be doing in the bathroom. I can't imagine why the sound guy needs to do that.

Travis: I will say, the other day, when I was doing the livestream escape room, all of a sudden Neil Patrick Harris sprung up from his chair, and yelled "10-1" and ran off screen. [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] That's a livestream. There's no—

Ron: No, [crosstalk] real thing. It's a real thing.

Justin: There's no editing. Now, Ron, how many episodes are—can we expect in the first batch from uh—from *Chopped* 420?

Ron: Well, you can expect five episodes to drop on 4/20 on Discovery Plus. Gives you a chance to binge 'em all, gives us a chance to hopefully get people to rewatch them, and I would love to just get right back to making a new batch, because it's my favorite job I've ever had. [laughs] I'm really good at it, I think? So...

Travis: [laughs]

Ron: [laughs] I'd like to keep doing it, and it's just—I mean, the—it's so fun to me, because it's—it's like kind of a perfect mix of what I try to do. It's got the *Chopped* franchise, which is like a tent pole—

Justin: Ugh. Yeah.

Ron: —of the cooking community, it's in the background of everyone's home. And then you add marijuana, and me, and fun! It's gonna be so fun! I just want people to give it a chance!

Justin: You have the parts—normally, the hosts on these will, like, snatch a bite of the food—even though they’re not judging, they’ll like, get a bite, right? Is that the wa—I feel like that’d be so much pressure. Because I—I like most stuff that I eat. [laughs] You know what I mean?

Like, I like most things, so I feel like I would be the one who’s like, “I don’t know, seems good to me. Yeah, it seems good. It’s all warm all the way through and stuff, it’s got salt, I love it.”

And then the judges would be like, “You uncultured buffoon.”

Ron: Yeah, that’s pretty much what happened. Yeah.

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [through laughter] Okay, good. My anxieties are justified.

Ron: Yeah, no, you’re right! That’s what it was like to host it, but that’s—I felt okay with that, ‘cause—you know, I felt if people were already—‘cause, you know, you get the like—there’s been other like, pot cooking shows, and they’re all like really laid-back and stuff, and I think this one, you know, people were really going for that 10,000 dollars.

Justin: Sure.

Ron: And a lot of these chefs hadn’t worked that much recently because of the pandemic, of course, you know? And so I was like, oh, I can kind of like —It’s other people’s jobs to tear apart their dishes or whatever. I think it’s my job to kind of just let everybody shine, you know, and kind of cheerlead for everybody, and support all the people, and I’m good at that, so um, that’s kind of what became my role in the whole show.

Travis: Now, was there—was there ever a moment—and I know you can’t give spoilers, Ron, but was ever a moment where somebody finished their dish, and realized they forgot to put marijuana in it, and just kind of sprinkled it on top?

Justin and Ron: [burst out laughing]

Ron: Yes! Yes.

Travis: I knew it. I knew it.

Ron: Yes, there was. [laughs] Yes, there was.

Travis: That's what I would do.

Justin: Yeah, for sure. Um, alright, let's get into—like, let's—I mean, I wanna *help* people.

Travis: Yeah, dude.

Justin: Especially since we have somebody who actually knows what they're talking about, for a change.

Um, let's go. "My friend and I have been talking a lot, and the past several conversations we have had, she has mentioned a hat that I knitted for her. She had thanked me many times for it, and made comments about how much she likes it. I have no memory of ever giving her a hat, but I do knit, so I assumed I gave it to her a long time ago, and it just slipped my mind. For this reason, I've mostly just given a vague 'You're welcome' any time. Recently, I was at her house, and she pointed out the very well-made hat to me. Brothers, I did not make this hat." Sh—"Brothers and Ron Funches, I did not make this hat."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "She has now asked me a couple times whether she can pay me to make another one like it. Do I agree to make her another hat under the guise of being the original hat's creator? Do I come clean and face questioning about why I pretended to remember making the hat?"

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: That's from Knitting Confusion in North Carolina. You should've told the truth the first time.

Travis: But that—what—

Justin: I don't know how many times we have to tell people this, but I feel like if you lie one time, that's kind of—you've made that decision. I don't know.

Travis: No, I—Justin...

Ron: You gotta commit to the lie now.

Justin: You gotta commit now. You made a prison of lies [laughs] and you live in it.

Travis: This feels like a different scenario, though. 'Cause they didn't lie. Someone said "Did you make that hat?"

And they thought, "I've made a lot of hats. I don't remember it, but probably—yeah, yeah, sure!" Like, I don't know. I think that that was just more of like, you know, you assumed you made the hat.

Justin: No, no. 'Cause you pointed the hat out. Do you remember the part from the story...

Travis: Now!

Justin: ...the friend pointed the hat to you at their house.

Travis: But that was after they had already said that they made it. That was after the assumption. But let's call it what it is: you're not wrong, the lie, but it was kind of an accidental lie.

Justin: No, no, no, no, no. [laughs]

Ron: Can I point out one thing?

Justin: Please.

Ron: And I'm not a judge; I'm very uh, sex positive at all times, but this person sounds like a bit of a hat floozy.

Travis: [gasps]

Justin: Okay. Yeah. I didn't wanna say it but...

Ron: They're just getting random hats from whoever, to the point that they don't know where they got the hat from.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: That's a good point.

Justin: How many hats is this person getting?!

Ron: Yeah! Again, get all the hats you want out there, but don't...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs]

Ron: Don't then turn around and then make other people feel bad about it.

Travis: Yeah.

Ron: I feel like maybe, yeah, you go ahead and say, "I will make you another hat, but it doesn't have to be like that hat, it's just gonna look—each one is a piece of art that I've made. That was the mood I was in for the previous hat, and now you get this other style hat." I bet you they don't—they won't say anything.

Travis: I'm not the me I was when I made that hat.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Ron: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: Right? And that's not a lie. Right? You're not. You're not the person who made that hat!

Justin: [simultaneously] I've grown as a person. I grew a lot.

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: That's actually pretty good.

Um, you know what, we said that once you lie one time, but Travis kind of inadvertently made a decent point in that um, you did have one off ramp. You had a chance. You had once chance, when you saw the hat, to be like, "Oh, okay, this is—I'm sorry, I was confused about a different hat. This is not my work; I think there was a miscommunication." But you didn't do that. And that was your last chance.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You didn't do that. And now you have to live with this. You cannot go back; it's too wild.

Travis: That is when the mistake was made.

Ron: That was your only—the only out now is to truly just, like, borrow that hat, like, "Well, I'm gonna need this hat to recreate it," and then you just have to spend your life... trying to recreate that hat perfectly.

Travis: Yep.

Justin: Yeah... I mean, I didn't wanna say it, but I think that's your only option. [laughs]

Travis: You could also just stop... talking to this person.

Ron: Oh, that's good. That's good.

Justin: Uh, cut 'em out of your life?

Ron: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Ron: That's always an option. I take that one so many times.

Travis: Uh, I ha—would you guys like a Yahoo Answer?

Justin: Oh, man. It's still a little fresh – the wound's still a little fresh, 'cause it is dying on, um—well, I mean, the last day to submit questions is tomorrow. But yeah, Trav. Yeah, I guess—I guess I—I guess so, yeah.

Travis: Okay. I'm filling in for Griffin here.

Justin: [exhales]

Travis: So it's weird. This is uncharted territory for me, but here we go.

Uh, this was sent in by Ben Kantt – I believe the Wizard Ben Kantt, if I remember correctly. Uh, it was asked by an anonymous Yahoo Answers user who I'm going to call Griffin McElroy. Griffin McElroy asks, "Do you think frogs even like eating bugs, or is it just their nature instinct?"

I like this question because it does posit the idea of, like, a frog eating a bug and being like "Ugh! I wish I could eat something else! Oh, gross!"

Justin: Yeah... I mean, I guess bugs are just—I think it is probably instinctual—well... Would you have to be taught where bugs—your parents probably have to teach you which ones are bugs, right?

Travis: Frog parents?

Justin: 'Cause otherwise they're gonna think apples are like, very large, stationary bugs, you know? Or cars are like gigantic metal bugs that you can eat. Like, your parents have to teach you bug from not-bug, I would assume.

Travis: Well, do you think that after a while—like, you eat bugs for a while, and then you see, like, a human being having a hamburger, and you're like, "Wait, hold on. What the fuck is that?"

Justin: No. No, I don't.

Travis: You don't think that happens?

Ron: I don't think so.

Justin: No, it's so big. You know? It wouldn't even occur to you.

Travis: You could make it tinier.

Ron: You're out there in the swamp, there's a lot of options. There's other things. There's tadpole—well, I guess you wouldn't eat a tadpole. That would be—that would be—

Travis: Oh, God, no!

Justin: [laughs] That'd be ghoulish. You'd get yourself kicked out.

Ron: Yeah.

Justin: Kicked out of your frog family.

Ron: I'd like to see what happens with that one, to tell you the truth. But I feel like you love the bugs. There's other options you could be having, and you're choosing the bugs. I mean, I like crab. Well, crab's bugs of the sea, you know? Who are we?

Travis: That's a good point.

Ron: Who are we?

Travis: Who are we to judge frogs?

Ron: No, I was just asking who we were.

Justin: Just generally speaking.

Travis: [laughs] Oh, just a—oh, ooh, Ron, um, we're the McElroy brothers.

Justin: Yeah, you—us three. [laughs]

Ron: Oh, yes! I forgot. [laughs loudly]

Justin: I mean, like, I feel like nature's part of it, but there's definitely some trial and error, right? I mean, you're definitely gonna eat something that's not a bug, and it turns out it was a pop cap and it's like, "Aw, man."

Ron: Yeah, I don't want that.

Justin: I don't want this.

Ron: And also I feel like they eat certain bugs, right? Not every bug passes the test. There's some type of palate involved.

Justin: [laughs] You gotta like some bugs more than other bugs, I guess.

Travis: Well, I mean, Timon and Pumbaa did teach us that, like, one: bugs are delicious, but two: there's gotta be bugs that frogs are like, "Oh, shit, yeah! That bug? That's the best bug. We love eating those bugs. Those bugs, though? Those are the bad tasting bugs. We don't like those bugs."

Justin: Probably. I mean, that tracks to me.

Ron: That's science—that sounds very scientific.

Travis: It's just science.

Justin: Uh, here's another question. "While in a car with my new coworkers, I was offered a piece of hard candy I have never tried before. I gratefully accepted it and was enjoying the candy when I realized it was chewable. Now, I'm sitting in the back seat, trying desperately to figure out

if this is supposed to be gum, or something to be eaten. I've been studying the way my coworkers are moving their jaws, and I still don't know what this candy is. What should I do? [holding back laughter] I really don't want to embarrass myself in front of my new friends." That's from Flummoxed in Florida.

Ron: Wow. Well, first of all, they've probably been holding onto this for a long time now.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [wheezes, laughs] Yeah, there's no way we've gotten to this person in time to help.

Ron: It's gotta be stale by now, or their mouth—they're just *really* chewing.

Justin: I enjoy that the person, this question asker did not tell us what candy this is.

Travis: They don't know!

Ron: They don't know. It's a new experience to them.

Justin: They don't even—okay. Okay, okay, okay—

Ron: Which is a thing that I liked about them, first of all, that they were open to new candies. I like that as a person. To me, that tells me—

Justin: [laughs]

Ron: —that—there—you already found friends that are gonna like you and enjoy you that you were open and willing to try a new candy experience you never had before.

Justin: I'm gonna—even if it's new to you, I refuse to believe you got a friend up in the front, and they're like, "Hey, do you want candy?"

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: "Do you want a candy?"

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "Hey, everybody, I'm gonna enjoy *a* candy. Would anyone like to enjoy *a* candy with me?"

Travis: No one would say it that way, you serial killer! They would say "A piece of candy."

Justin: That's so nondescript! I couldn't answer that! How do I know if—what if you got Good & Plentys up there? And I don't wanna subject myself to that. Come on.

Travis: Now, first of all, Good & Plentys are fine.

Ron: Oh, don't disrespect the—thank you so much. Brother, thank you, my brother.

Justin: Oh, God, I'm outnumbered! Get Griffin back. [laughs]

Ron: And I understand if you had—the most majority of Good & Plentys are stale and inedible bricks, but if you just happen to have a lucky day of finding a fresh batch of Good & Plentys, it'll change your opinion.

Justin: Really, Ron? I just can't—I can't get on board with it. Maybe it's like, I—you know what? It's been a long time since I've tried them. I'm older now, I've learned a lot about the world.

Ron: It is a grown person's candy. That's a—it's an adult candy.

Travis: You need a—a ma-ture palate to enjoy a Good & Plenty. I also—I think I have a soft spot in my heart for Good & Plenty because they're—basically, the name of them are like, "There's fine—they're fine, and there's a lot of them." Right?

Ron: [laughs]

Travis: Like, the claim to fame is, they're okay, and there's more than you would expect.

Ron: [laughs] Which is true, they fill it to the brim.

Travis: Yeah. They know what they are. You know, they're not called Excellent 'N Plenty. They're good. They're good!

Justin: Okay, but you have—okay. But what—[laughs] What you have said has a grain of truth – not the “good” part, but the “plenty” part is interesting, because most snack or junk-type foods market themselves on their craveability.

Travis: Yep.

Justin: Like, if you think about Pringles, like, “Once you pop, the fun don't stop. Lays potato chips, bet you can't eat just one.” Right?

Well, Good & Plenty has the guts to say that you will get to a point where you're like, “I've had plenty of these.”

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: “I think—I think I don't need any more right now.”

Ron: There's more than the one serving in here.

Travis: This is fine.

Ron: Yeah!

Travis: This is good. It's good—

Justin: I'm at a good level with these.

Ron: Yeah! Well, you just need something to chew on.

Travis: Yeah!

Ron: That's what Good & Plenty's there for.

Justin: Yeah. I mean, you're not wrong—it's a fair point. What was the question? Oh, I don't—just swallow it.

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: I mean, you're gonna swallow it one way or t'other, might as well swallow it right now. Just swallow it.

Ron: Yeah! And if it started off as a hard candy that got chewable, odds are it's a candy, not a gum. Like, I don't know many gums that start off that way, unless you're like the—even the hardest of the Icebreakers, you know, aren't like a hard candy. I think it's—

Justin: Yeah...

Ron: Be a candy with a gooey, chewy middle in the same family of a Good & Plenty, or M&M's.

Travis: I have been tricked by a Mentos before.

Ron: Mm!

Travis: 'Cause a Mentos—its original, right? Is—seems so much like gum, and is not, and then there's Mentos *gum*, which is almost exactly the same as Mentos, except it's gum. It's—it's—it's really fucking with me, guys.

Ron: I think you figured out what it was! I think it must be a Mentos.

Travis: It's gotta be, right?

Ron: It's gotta be a fruity Mentos.

Travis: It's confusing as shit!

Justin: I guess... I mean, I guess it's possible. Anything's possible in this world, but... I don't know.

Travis: You just gotta dream.

Justin: I guess you just swallow it. That's actually where I'm gonna come down. No matter what it is—and I think that you're—I think you can later be like, "That candy was great. What was that?"

Oh, maybe can you stash it? Can you kind of park it, like you're supposed to do with nicotine gum? Just like, park it behind your lower lip, and just be like, "Oh, that was great, I finished it. I've either spit it out or swallowed it."
[laughs]

Travis: This is—

Ron: "I finished mine."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "I'm done with my candy!"

Travis: "I'm done!"

Justin: "What was that again? I wanna buy more later, so I can either swallow more or spit out more pieces of it."

Travis: Yes.

Ron: "I finished first. I'm done."

Travis: [laughs] "My candy experience is complete!"

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: This is why cars should never have gotten rid of ashtrays in the door handles. 'Cause that's where you could've hidden this, but not now!

There's not a good receptacle for this in cars these days. Bring back car ashtrays. You guys remember those?

Ron: Yeah, I love those car ashtrays.

Justin: Yeah, that's great.

Ron: In the Lincoln Continental.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: Ooh! Fancy!

Ron: [laughs]

Travis: I didn't realize we were dealing with royalty.

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: Um, "I work in an engineering company, and my coworker Kyle has been acting strange lately with others and myself. He pins blame on other people, and outright avoids projects with problems, but he's fine with me for some reason. I have no quarrel with him, and relatively just chill with others. We're going out to a brewhouse tonight, everyone in the department invited. Should I invite Kyle?"

Travis: Mm?

Justin: That's from Antisocial Engineer in York. Oof! Kyle, on the outs! Poor Kyle.

Travis: Hm.

Ron: He seems like he's making this problem.

Travis: Here's the thing, though: Kyle seems fine with the question asker for some reason.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I don't know that I would want to throw that away. You don't wanna get on Kyle's bad side.

Ron: Mm. That's true, 'cause that way, if you can play both, you get the full scope of the office, right?

Travis: Yeah!

Ron: You get the anti-Kyle people telling you things, and then you can have the Kyle tell you his crazy side of it. [laughs]

Travis: Your little Kyle birds—your little Kyle birds telling you all your secrets.

Ron: Yeah.

Justin: I wanna keep a Kyle on my side.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: I don't—I don't think I wanna ostracize Kyle. Especially—you might be all that Kyle has, and that's gonna be hurtful. I think that's more important, to foster that relationship with Kyle, 'cause he really depends on you.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And I don't think you can just sort of toss him by the wayside, you know?

Travis: You might be able to bring Kyle back to the fold, you know what I mean? You might be able to reach out and help Kyle.

Ron: Exactly! 'Cause it says he's been acting strange "lately." Kyle wasn't always like this.

Travis: Mm!

Justin: Mm.

Travis: Something's happened to Kyle.

Ron: Something's going on with Kyle, and Kyle's—Kyle divided against himself cannot stand. You gotta help Kyle out.

Travis: That's true.

Ron: You gotta build Kyle up, not tear Kyle down!

Travis: Yes. Behind every powerful Kyle, there is a good friend.

Ron: [laughs]

Travis: You can be that friend.

Justin: It's maybe time to invent something that happened with Kyle that you can tell everybody else so that they'll be nicer to Kyle? Is that an—like, "Kyle's been going through a hard time lately."

"Well, what kind of hard time?"

"I actually can't tell you."

Travis: I—I think—you can say heartbreak, and then—

Justin: Heartbreak is so... versatile.

Travis: It really is. Because people might assume romance, but you can have your heart broken about a lot of things, you know?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Heartbreak can come from anywhere. [laughs] Welcome to our comedy podcast.

Ron: [laughs]

Travis: Well, anything can make you sad, my friend!

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: Ron, you've probably had pretend jobs for about as long as we've had pretend jobs.

Ron: Mm-hm?

Justin: Do you find it hard to reconnect to questions like this, and remember what it was like to... to have, like, coworkers that—that you needed to navigate on a daily basis instead of just sort of, like, transient relationships...

Ron: [growing laughter]

Justin: ...that come and go with the ebb and flow of the entertainment industry?

Ron: [laughs] I've never heard it put so well. Uh, [laughs] yeah, I can still rem—no, because I've always used it as motivation. I can still hear like, hear bank call center phone calls going off in the back of my head, so I can still remember it, but that's also what makes me feel like, yeah, this is a make-or-break deal, right? 'Cause Kyle's gonna find out about this party, no matter what.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: No w—no matter what. Ron makes a great point, it is 100 percent assured Kyle will find out about the party.

Travis: Especially if people don't like Kyle! They will tell Kyle! "Huh, I didn't see you there! Where were you, Kyle?" They will tell Kyle.

Ron: Mm-hm. I say bring Kyle. What's the worst that could happen with him just coming out? Oh, he blames other people and he avoids work. That sounds like a cool guy and regular life to me.

Travis: Yup.

Justin: Yeah.

Ron: You're outside company hours. You leave the company stuff at home. At 5 o'clock, you're like, let's go just hang as regular people, and what's going on at day work doesn't matter anymore. Unless it's your company, then that's—then it's a problem.

Travis: Hey, uh, Ron, that actually reminds me – I've been meaning to ask you – does the cast of *Trolls* ever get together and hang out? 'Cause we haven't been getting those invites, if that's the case.

Justin: Yeah, if that's been happening, we haven't been on that list.

Travis: Like, are you and Anna Kendrick hanging out a lot?

Ron: I didn't know—I mean, I thought you—I just thought you guys were busy.

Travis: Oh. Okay.

Justin: Huh.

Travis: Okay, so this is Sam Rockwell's doing?

Ron: That's what they told me every time, you know, at the cr—on the cruise, on—

Travis: There's a cruise?

Ron: On the *Trolls*—

Travis: In the last year?!

Ron: [crosstalk]—

Travis: Ron, that's a terrible idea! Wait, hold on!

Justin: [laughs] You know, Ron, we were supposed to... this is gonna be hard for you to hear, but we were supposed to go to the premier of the movie.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Now, they did explicitly tell us we couldn't bring anybody.

Ron: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: And they wouldn't—and they wouldn't pay for our flights.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: But—

Ron: [continues laughing]

Travis: But we were somewhat invited!

Justin: They would permit our fucking human meat... [laughs] into the space with the other people where we would be within, like... oh, probably not—we would probably be in the overflow party where you're seeing Justin Timberlake on a jumbotron...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: ...run through for five minutes. But um... and really, the greatest hulk of it, we—that got—that didn't happen, 'cause they didn't do that, so we didn't get to go to that. And that was probably like our one big... I feel like our one big shot.

Travis: That was our chance.

Ron: I was sad about that too, because my mom was sad 'cause she wanted to meet Mary J. Blige, and I wanted to meet George Clinton, so I also understand that. And if it makes you feel better, I'll let you know that I shot something just yesterday that uh, the assistant director wanted to let me know that while—because I was coming in at the time I did, I technically wasn't supposed to have lunch. If I wanted—if I was really hungry...

Justin: [laughing in background]

Ron: ...They'd find a way to get me something.

Justin: [laughs] That's the kind of glamour that awaits you. In the entertainment industry.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: What's great about that—

Justin: No, I have to know—stop, don't move forward. Ron, I have to know what your response was. Were you hungry enough where you were like, "See what you scrounge up, please?"

Travis: [laughs]

Ron: No, I was actually, at that point, very, very thankful that my wife had packed me a protein shake, so that I could just go "No, I'm fine."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] Oh, no.

Travis: "I don't need your pity BLT."

Ron: Yeah. "I don't need your—" yeah, exactly. "[mockingly] Oh, thank you!"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: It's wild that the str—the different, like, strata of that—you know, I'll tell you a wild thing. You've probably seen stuff like this, but we did our um... I don't know if you heard, but we did six episodes of a streaming TV show...

Ron: [laughs quietly]

Travis: It was on Seeso network.

Justin: Yeah, it was on the Seeso network when we shot it, and... Well, what the heck, Trav? Did we shoot that in 2016? Is that right?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Does that feel right?

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: So we shot that in 2016. Um, the crafts services table – which, if you don't know some of the lingo going in, is where they put, like, food and drinks – and we had a micro, micro budget for this show, so there wasn't really money for that. There was mainly like, old Styrofoam containers of people's food that they didn't take for lunch, and I think a few granola bars?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And then when they did the promo photos for it, they had a photographer fly in, and the photographer, in the photography area, had the most lavish spread of snacks and treats I've ever seen in my entire life.

Ron: [laughs]

Travis: For us! It was like a stepparent trying to impress the kids. Like, "Oh! Doug gave me a dog!"

Justin: Yeah, I want every day to be photo day. This is amazing. Look at this, guys. This is fantastic!

Ron: Oh, I've been on a couple Seeso shoots. I know the Trader Joe's crafty that they had there, but—uh, a couple protein bars, and some Crystal Geyser waters. That usually was about the gist of it.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: We w—see, we shot in Huntington, West Virginia. So we should—we would've murdered for Trader Joe's, are you kidding me?

Travis: Yeah, you kidding? Woof. Oof!

Justin: I've noticed that every—this is getting more specific, but I think why not; we're all here, we're all friends here. I've found that most—in the very few instances – and it has been, obviously, quite a while – in the very few instances I have been near a craft services table, one common mainstay is a big jug of trail mix.

Travis: Yup.

Justin: And I think that's very interesting, because that seems like a bad choice for the environment. 'Cause what they expect you to do is get a little Styrofoam bowl, I guess?

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: And just carry around [through laughter] a little bowl of trail mix?

Travis: And also, often there are spoons involved?

Justin: Yeah, like I'm gonna spoon out some trail mix for myself and just wander around with it.

Ron: Yeah, into your hand. Into your paw. In that way, it is very eco-friendly. But that's gone now, 'cause of COVID. They don't—the big jug of trail mix is... long dead.

Travis: Ugh, COVID!

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Takes everything from me!

Justin: How's it—how've you been uh—how've—so the past like, I don't know, what has it been? It's been almost exactly 13 months since things went sideways. How you been—how've you been handling that, Ron?

Ron: It's always ups and downs, ebbs and flows, you know? It was terrifying for the first couple months, not knowing—'cause standup was always, uh, not just my main source of income, but my—how I kind of define myself, so it kind of forced me to redefine myself as more of a full person? Which I think is probably for the best.

And then it just allowed me to start doing other things, like the Twitch and the uh, more voiceovers, and be home more with my family, which was a true blessing. You know, married and hanging around with my son, as he's getting ready to turn 18, before he, you know, doesn't want to hang out with me anymore.

Justin: [chuckles]

Ron: And then, you know, taking some opportunities I never—I might not have done before, like the *Chopped 420*, or, you know, I got a movie coming out called *Golden Arm* on the 30th, so... At the end of it I'm like, things are kind of okay! I'm all fine! And it makes me more grateful for when I can go back and do standup, uh, whenever I ca—well, I mean, I'm going out and doing some in May, so I'm trying...

Travis: Nice!

Ron: ...to just stay grateful and happy.

Justin: Did you pick up any hobbies? Any non-entertainment hobbies?

Ron: I started taking singing lessons.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: Nice!

Ron: But that—I mean, that sounds like—but it wasn't for, like, entertainment. It was just for me. So I just started taking some singing lessons, and do that um, every Tuesday, when I can.

Justin: That's nice, yeah.

Travis: I recently started taking blacksmith classes, but that is for entertainment purposes, because I would like to win *Forged in Fire*.

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: That's fair.

Have you found it—have you found it hard—we were kind of jokingly grouching about this last week. Have you found it hard to, like—or maybe two weeks, I don't know – have you found it hard to come up with new... uh, creative idea—have you been, like, creatively stymied at all by like, the lack of—of new inputs...

Ron: Mm-hm!

Justin: ...uh, from the outside world?

Ron: Oh, yeah. I haven't written a joke in probably a year, for sure. Uh...

Travis: I was gonna ask, is it like, "Hey, anyone ever notice how sometimes you come down for breakfast..."

Ron: [laughs]

Travis: "...and your favorite chair [laughs] is like, moved a little bit to the right."

Ron: [laughs]

Travis: “And you’re like, ‘Woah, who moved my chair?’ You know? You guys know what I’m talking about.”

Justin: Have you guys ever noticed that my wife, Sydnee McElroy, does this one thing?

Ron: [laughs] Yeah—yeah. I mean, pretty much, you got it. Lack of stimulus, you know, but I have been able to write—I did write a couple things, but I just would change it to other things, instead of—you know, I wrote a couple, um, just script ideas and treatments out, and try to do it that way, which isn’t as instantly gratifying as doing standup, but I felt like, you know, when you’re writing jokes, if you can’t practice them, if you can’t get in front of an audience, they just kinda get stale.

Justin: Yeah.

Ron: [sneezes] Pardon me! Oh no! [sighs] So, I just...

Travis: [laughs]

Ron: Was like—

Travis: Hey, Ron, that was a very cute sneeze process.

Justin: Yeah, adorable.

Ron: Thank you! [laughs] Yeah, th—I am who I am. [laughs]

Justin: Now that we’ve gotten that out of the way, all that personal—personal stuff, ‘cause I think it’s nice to check in, and we have – honestly, it’s kind of self-serving, because I have... not a lot of other adults to talk to.

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: So like, it is—I've kind of used this to my own ends, so I'm sorry to uh—to listeners for abusing your time that way. But hey, all these perspectives—I feel like the real downside of this is gonna be when people start writing a lot about it, and it's like, everyone's experiences are so similar, I feel like this is gonna be—like, it's gonna uh, uh, have this one peri—like, if you set a movie... in this time period... are you going to, like, do—I guess you just won't, right? [laughs] We're just all gonna pretend we didn't do this for a year.

Travis: Correct.

Ron: That's what I feel like. I feel like maybe one person gets to do a great one, and that's it.

Justin: Right.

Ron: And then other than that, like—I don't—I—that's what I've been noticing from going out and doing some standup, is that when people get on stage and they start like, being like, "Oh, I went through this and that..."

...and people are all like, "[flatly] Yeah?" [laughs]

Travis: [laughs] "Uh-huh?"

Ron: So yeah, we all did. And so—it's like—and I think um, what I truly enjoy is that people just want to be like, "Hey. I've been stressed out. Just be silly and make me happy."

And I'm like, that to me—that to me is um, was where I realized, like, oh, that's my—*that's* my job. That's my purpose right now, as things are super stressed out. Not to be like, "Woah—I—can you believe this is going on? And I'm poking a hole at this." It's like, let me try to relieve some stress, you know?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Uh, can I do a quick poll real quick for our listeners, and—

Justin: A poll?

Travis: A poll, yeah.

Justin: Sure.

Travis: Um, people listening – and, of course, my two brothers, Ron and Justin – um, when you picture a movie about COVID and like, starring someone and they're having the experience, does anybody else picture Steve Carell, or is that just me? It's just immediately—something about it makes me think Steve Carell is gonna be the star of the movie about someone's experience through COVID.

Justin: Um, I don't—I have not gotten that, uh, necessarily. I guess I kind of, uh, for some reason imagine Jason Segel.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: He just sort of ha—seems like, "Aw." Like, "Aw, no, something else happened to Jason Segel."

Travis: [laughs] Not again.

Justin: Since there's not a lot of stuff that's happening with him. Um, and I feel like Jason Segel would be the one to make one.

Ron: Or...

Justin: So tall.

Ron: ...it's Jason Statham, and he shrinks down.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: [laughs] Okay.

Travis: Yes?

Ron: And [crosstalk] COVID directly, and he...

Justin: Yes.

Travis: Fuck yes!

Justin: Takes the fight to COVID. Where's that *Osmosis Jones* sequel?

Travis: Yes!

Justin: You know, where they like...

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: There's a bad du—there's a real bad dude on the block now. Now we really gotta [laughs] get in there.

Travis: [laughs] It's all animated, except live action Jason Statham, who's been shrunk down, *Inner Space* style, to get in there and fight alongside *Osmosis Jones*, and I believe a Tylenol pill?

Justin: Well, it was not...

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: It was not real. Uh, it was Drix. Uh—uh—so it's not—Drixenol. So it's not a real Tylenol.

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

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And they were fighting anthrax, if I remember correctly.

Justin: His name was just Thrax, but yeah, that is the—that was the implication. [laughs] That it was anthrax they were fighting.

Travis: That one white blood cell and, I believe, a cold and flu pill...

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: ...were gonna take out anthrax.

Justin: What a wild movie.

Travis: And they were all inside uh, Bill Murray's body!

Justin: Um...

Ron: More movies should take place—this was where this one should take place.

Travis: Yeah.

Ron: I don't wanna give Bill Murray COVID, but if anyone could make something out of it, he can.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I hope he's been being safe.

Travis: I hope he's safe.

Ron: I hope so. Hope he's not crashing weddings.

Justin: I dunno. I—I would actually—I would love to ask just random people on the street, like, "Do you think Bill Murray's been safe for the past year?"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: 'Cause I feel like—it's 50/50 in my head. I have no idea—he's a bit of a recluse, so he could've just dialed that up a little bit and been like, super recluse, but he also seems to like appearing in places.

Travis: Mm.

Justin: Um, hey, we're gonna take a quick break, uh, from the—the—the hubbub of making a podcast to sell things to you—attempt to sell things to you, in a segment we call the Money Zone.

Ron: [deep voice] The Money Zone!

Justin: That's better, actually.

Ron: [normally] Thank you! I wanted to—I knew you had your own, but I want to, you know... as the littlest brother, I just want to do my part.

[theme song, "My Life (Is Better With You)!" by Montaigne plays]

Justin: Well, we sent Ron out of the room because honestly, he's a guest here, and he shouldn't be exposed to such crass commercialism.

Travis: He's also—he's afraid of—he's afraid of commercials, he said.

Justin: He's afraid of commercials. He said he'll nev—he's an artist.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Uh, but we're not. We're shills.

Travis: No! [laughs] No.

Justin: And first off in the shill station – [laughs] which is what we're gonna start calling this segment – uh, is Honey.

Now, this one is— isn't that hard for me to shill, because I actually use and uh, really like Honey a lot. It c—

Travis: Well, yeah! You eat smackerels of it all the time.

Justin: No, Travis, that was in my younger... uh, more Pooh-centric days. These days, for me, it's all digital Honey, baby. That's uh—it's a shop—

Travis: It's a what?

Justin: It's a shopping friend, a shopping companion that lives in your browser. When you're about to check out, Honey's like, "Woah, woah, woah, woah, wait. You're gonna pay full price? Give me a second." And then it goes and looks at *the whole internet*... to see if it can save you some money with uh, coupon codes or whatever. I bought some headphones not too long ago, and they were like, supposed to be 100-and-some bucks. And —

Travis: What?

Justin: Honey saved me, like, 10 dollars. It was amazing.

Um, and every time you check out, Honey does that. Like, "Hold on, let me see if I can get you a cheaper price." And it's free! Free to use. Uh, it's—it's fan—it's fantastic. Uh, and it says if you don't already have Honey, you could be missing out on free savings. And I'm gonna take out that "could..."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And I'm gonna say you probably are, my friend.

Travis: But you still—Justin, you still said "probably." Just say you are.

Justin: You—you are. [laughs] It's free, it installs in seconds, and by getting it, you'll be doing yourself a solid and supporting this podcast. Get Honey for free at joinhoney.com/brother. That's joinhoney.com/brother. Go check it out right now, and I promise you're gonna save a little dough-re-mi.

Travis: It's so fun—Justin, it's so funny that you feel connected to Honey, because I feel very connected to stamps.

Justin: Mm.

Travis: Love the things, I've used them, I've had them used on me – by which I mean people have sent things to me using stamps, not that people put stamps on me and shipped me like I was Flat Stanley.

Justin: Sure, I understand.

Travis: Yeah, you get me! And so that's why I love Stamps.com, because I love stamps, but I don't necessarily like going anywhere other than where I already currently am at any given moment. You know what I mean?

Justin: Mm-hm.

Travis: I don't wanna take trips to the post office; I wanna just be able to send things from my home, so Stamps.com allows me to mail and ship anywhere, right from where you are, right from your computer, right? So whether you're a small office sending out invoices, an online seller shipping out letters, or even a *giant warehouse*... it's important, I think, to include the warehouse part. Or even a giant, sending thousands of packages a day?

Stamps.com can handle all of that with ease. With Stamps.com, you get uh, discounts of up to 40 percent off post office rates, and up to 62 percent off UPS shipping rates. So stop wasting time going to the post office!

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: And go to Stamps.com instead. There's no risk, and with *my* promo code, "mybrother," you get a special offer that includes a four-week trial, plus free postage and a digital scale, no long-term commitments or contracts. What are you waiting for? Do it, just go to Stamps.com, 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." Stamps.com: never go to the post office again.

[soft, upbeat music plays]

Speaker: Max Fun Drive 2021 is coming. It'll be May 3rd to May 14th. To get in the spirit, we asked folks like you to let us know what Maximum Fun and our shows mean to them.

[phone beep]

Listener 1: You know, the Maximum Fun network is really important to me because it is not just a collection of podcasts, but it is a lifestyle, and a value system.

[phone beep]

Listener 2: The podcasts frequently and deftly float between meaningful and irreverent, in one moment drawing attention to social issues, and in another making dick jokes about Klingons. It shouldn't work, but it does. And I have to believe it's because Max Fun's podcasts are, at their core, thoughtful and kind and human, during a time that has often felt cold and isolated.

[phone beep]

Listener 3: So keep being great and doing what you do!

Speaker 2: Max Fun Drive will be May 3rd to May 14th, 2021, and you won't wanna miss it. Brilliant eps, drive-exclusive gifts, and maybe some surprises! Wanna directly support the hosts of the show we just jumped into? Come back May 3rd for Max Fun Drive.

[music and advertisement end]

Travis: Okay, do you guys wanna hear another Yahoo Answers question?

Justin: Yes. Yeah.

Travis: Uh, okay. This was sent in, uh, by Michelle Smith. Uh, and the question here, this was asked by Bush. "Which celebrity could eat the most hot dogs, if given the time and motivation to do so?"

Justin: Hoo.

Travis: And let me be clear here: I think the answer to this could literally be anybody, right? But—

Justin: Yeah, I don't think it has anything to do, like, with sort of their—the physical body.

Travis: Correct.

Justin: I think it's more about, like, the spirit.

Travis: Correct.

Justin: 'Cause if you look at some of the competitive eaters, they're not people who you feel like have been eating, like, a wi—like, they—they're surprising. It's a surprising thing.

Travis: And the best part about this question to me, is one word, and that is "motivation." Given the motivation to eat—

Justin: The motivation, right? They have to save... their village or something.

Ron: Mm.

Travis: Right.

Justin: I don't know, whatever the motivation may be.

Travis: Or like if they switched up some of the, like, qualifications to win an Oscar this year. You know what I mean?

Justin: Right.

Travis: And it's like, whoever can eat the most hot dogs, right?

Ron: I have two answers.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Okay.

Ron: The first answer, I think, is probably the most logical answer, as this person, I think, can eat a lot. We've seen it on their Instagram, that they can eat quite a bit when given the motivation. They also work out a bunch. And I think—

Justin: Okay. Yes.

Ron: They are the perfect specimen.

Justin: Yeah.

Ron: They are the Beyoncé for boys.

Justin: Yeah.

Ron: The only person that could be both president *and* a competitive eater...

Justin: Yeah.

Ron: ...that is Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

Justin: I mean, it's a perfect answer. I mean, it's—it's—it's indisputable. Um...

Travis: And he seems like a highly motivated man, right?

Justin: Highly motivated to put it away. Highly motivated.

Travis: Like, he seem—the Rock seems like if he put his mind to *anything*, he would do it. Right?

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Ron: My second answer is Helen Mirren. 'Cause...

Travis: Huh!

Justin: Okay.

Ron: She commits. She commits to everything.

Travis: She does commit.

See, I think Clooney could put `em away. I think Clooney, I could see him being suave and looking cool while he does it, but just kind of quietly consuming an absurd amount of hot dogs.

Ron: Yeah. Ben Affleck, Ben Affleck could eat a bunch of—

Travis: Ben Affleck could. Oh, if they ch—I would like to see the three, uh, *Oceans Eleven* leads, of course...

Ron: [laughs]

Travis: The three of them, Brad Pitt, Ben Affleck—no, wait. [laughs] Matt Damon. I always get those two confused. Matt Damon, uh, Brad Pitt, and Clooney sit down and just have a hot dog eating contest. I'd pay to see that, you know what I mean?

Ron: That feels like one of the pranks they would've had. They love pranks. [crosstalk]

Travis: They love them!

Justin: They love their pranks. They do love their pranks; that's a good point.

Travis: You guys know about the time that uh—that Clooney shit in a cat box?

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: Travis...

Travis: That's real! It was a prank!

Justin: It sounds apocryphal to me, but I don't know...

Travis: No, this was a prank. He was staying—I'm trying to remember who he was staying with. It was something weird, like maybe Danny DeVito or somebody, who was staying with him, and every morning, uh, Clooney would clean the person's cat box before they woke up, and so for like a week the person thought that the cat wasn't going to the bathroom.

And so then, one morning, Clooney took a dump in the cat box, and left it there for the person to find. And the person was like, "Holy shit. My cat just made a big, human-sized dookie."

Justin: That's such a wild—can I say something? That's such a wild way to balance out the karma of cleaning out the person's litter box. [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Like, someone would be like, "Was George Clooney a good houseguest?" And you'd just sit there in silence for ten minutes.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Like, "Well, shit. Um... well, I don't know. I do hate cleaning the litter box."

Ron: Also—can we also ima—like, they're usually enclosed, so...

Justin: Right. He had to climb in there.

Travis: [bursts out laughing] But this is what I'm saying: he was motivated, and he did it. He figured it out.

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: He wasn't gonna get shown up by that contortionist from the—from the uh, *Oceans* movies.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: George Clooney can do that too. I can do that.

Travis: That's true.

Justin: For sure. Give me a half hour to get in this cat box real quick.

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: I was in *Tomorrowland*. Come on, give me a break.

Travis: It was Richard Kind! [laughs] It was Ri—I looked it up, but—

Justin: Sorry, he was staying at Richard Kind's house?

Travis: Yup!

Justin: God, that's a house party I'd love to get invited to.

Ron: Don't you dare do that to Richard Kind!

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] It's very ter—it's terrible! Don't do that to Richard Kind.

Ron: He seem—yeah! He seems like he's balancing as it is. If you poop—oh, that would send him off. I don't want that for him. He's such a nice...

Travis: [laughs quietly]

Ron: "Kind" is in his name! You don't do that to Richard Kind.

Justin: Yeah. "When did I turn into Richard Mean? Well, it's quite a story."

Travis: [laughs]

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: "Let me indulge you. Do you know—have you ever heard of the show *ER*? Well, sit down, my friend. I've got a tale to tell."

Ron: [laughs] "Do you remember a guy from the first two seasons of *Roseanne*?"

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: It's weird that George Clooney was also on a sitcom called *ER*. Isn't that weird? Do you guys ever think about that? It's weird. He got—eventually, he was also on a drama called *ER*.

Travis: That's weird.

Justin: I guess if somebody tries to make a show with "ER" in it, he's just gonna show up, like, "Let me in there."

Ron: Gotta get him.

Justin: "I got a E and an R in my name, no problem."

[imitates rock guitar]

Travis: Oh!

Justin: [continues guitar]

Travis: Uh, Ron, here in a second, we're gonna yell "squad."

Justin: [continues guitar]

Travis: You'll get it. You'll see when it happens.

Justin: [continues guitar] I wanna munch!

Travis: Squad!

Ron: [laughs]

Travis: That's our cue.

Justin: I want to munch!

Travis and Ron: Squad!

Travis: There it is.

Justin: Welcome to Munch Squad, it's a podcast within a podcast profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating, and we've got a lot of great news to you. Uh—uh, Fazoli's—this is not a joke one. A lot of times they're funny. I just wanted to give everybody a heads-up that Fazoli's is rolling out their wings system-wide. This is breaking news.

Travis: Oh!

Justin: Finally, um, in—there's—they've been having wings at some locations since September. One of the gifts of COVID is that I get to say the phrase "New virtual wing concept."

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: "Wingville," from Fazoli's. They've been sneakily rolling these out to you via DoorDash and Grubhub, but now the time has come for uh—for all Fazoli's to have these wings.

"Menu *innovation* continues to be a key ingredient in Fazoli's recipe for success," says Fazoli's chief marketing officer, Jodie Conrad. "Delivery and drive-thru have both seemed unprecedented in sales growth for some time now." I mean, I have a theory about that, Jodie. If you wanna take a seat,

I have some hard news for you to hear. Uh, it's been impossible to eat in restaurants [laughs] for 13 months, but hey.

"We knew how innovating our menu with an easily-transportable product, like wings, will be the perfect solution to leverage this shift in ordering channels." Oof!

Travis: Wow.

Justin: "Wings have been a big contributor to our impressive achievements over the past seven months, so we look forward to seeing this trend continue as we start serving them nationwide."

Now, have you guys ever been at a Fazoli's, and they give you a piece of pizza, and you're like, "What the fuck am I supposed to do with this? How can I get this home? This isn't transportable at all!"

Ron: Hm. [crosstalk]

Travis: No?

Justin: No. Exactly. But that's not our—that's not our big story.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Our big story was sent to us by Jesse – thank you, Jesse. It's slightly out of our pur—our typical purview... and I do mean purr-view.

Travis: Okay...

Justin: Because Fancy Feast...

Travis: [gasps]

Justin: ...has released *Petites Feast Cookbook*, a recipe guide for humans, inspired by their new single-serving entrees for cats.

Travis: W—wait. Wait.

Ron: Mm?

Justin: [makes shushing sounds]

Travis: Wait, I'm—I'm—

Justin: Don't get ahead of me now.

Travis: No, Justin, I just want you to know, just a quick status update, we haven't even – pardon the pun – scratched the surface...

Justin: Don't get ahead of me now.

Travis: ...and I'm—have *no* idea what's happening.

Justin: Yeah, then just take a seat, friend. 'Cause I'm here to tell you, straight from the beautiful city St. Louis, Fancy Feast, the most popular brand of gourmet wet cat food in the US, is celebrating the launch of Petites, their premier line of single-serve entrees, by releasing a companion cookbook for humans.

Travis: Okay...

Justin: With the new Fancy Feast *Petites Feast Cookbook*, cat owners and fans of the brand... [laughs loudly] Hold on. Explain to me why you need to delineate between cat owners and—

Ron: You don't have to—

Justin: —fans of Fancy Feast.

Ron: You don't have to own a cat to like Fancy Feast!

Justin: [laughs] You can just support the brand!

Ron: Yeah!

Travis: I just like what they're doing over there!

Justin: I just think they're doing good work!

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "Fans of the brand can now cook meals inspired by their cats' favorite dishes..."

Travis: Oh, boy.

Justin: "...but made for you."

Travis: Okay.

Justin: "Available for download at—" shows a lack of conviction, I think.

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: Print this motherfucker, let's go. Get it on eBay.

"Careful—caref—this single-serve cookbook features 12 delectable human recipes inspired by your cats' new favorite Petites entrees." Now, this is a weird little... weird little cul-de-sac they've included here, is that the recipes... are also single-serve?

Travis: Uh-huh?

Justin: Which I think is kind of...

Ron: Well, they'd have to be!

Justin: They're kind of just—it's a little judgmental, I feel like.

Ron: No, no, that's just knowing in the audience of a person who would buy a Fancy Feast cookbook. You are cooking for one, and also your c—but maybe for 12 cats, but one person.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Fair.

Justin: You should actually take the time to dine with each of your cats. And if that means you have to eat 12 single-serving meals, so be it. Uh, you have to give each of them the attention they deserve.

Now, these were carefully crafted by Fancy Feast's in-house chef...

Travis: Hm.

Justin: ...Amanda Hassner, along with guest additions from James Beard award nominee Jerrelle Guy.

Ron: I wouldn't want my name associated with this.

Justin: Yeah. Uh, James Beard award nominee Jerrelle Guy, and actor-turned-baker Josh Snyder. "The *Petites Feast Cookbook*—"

Travis: Oh, and Chrissy Teigen? Wow!

Justin: Did you just—you're just making stuff up.

Travis: That's such a get!

Justin: "The *Petites Feet Cookbook* allows cat owners to take part in the dining experience with their cats. [pauses] From chicken and ramen with tomato honey butter sauce to white fish and asparagus with beurre blanc. The cookbook features recipes that are elevated, but easy enough to whip up on a weeknight."

Now, I'm gonna stop you right there, Fancy Feast in-house chef Amanda Hassner. That does not seem easy enough to whip up on a weeknight, but please go on!

"Each dish was inspired by the small-plate restaurant trend," and cat food, also cat food.

Travis: [sputters]

Justin: You can't forget that cat food. "The recipes are for humans..."

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Not normally something you have to clarify [laughs] in a recipe scenario, but the recipes are for humans. "...but were created in honor of the dishes you will be serving your cat."

Now, um, there's m—there's more to the press release, but I do wanna stop for a second. *Fancy Feast Petites*... are single-serving, uh, cat foods that you peel and dump in a bowl.

Travis: Yep.

Justin: Do you feel like a cat would watch you whip up some uh—uh, white fish and asparagus with beurre blanc for like, an hour and a half, and the cat would be like, "Listen, I appreciate the effort so much, but how is it that you're just gonna, like, open up a package and dump it into a dirty bowl for me, but you're gonna spend this kind of time on a product for you? I feel like there's still an imbalance here. I feel like we haven't rectified what's different between the two of us."

Travis: I also do like the implication here that, like, you would do this and sit down to eat, and the cat would think, "Ah, finally! You're joining me in this!"

Justin: Yeah, your cat is not gonna enjoy this. You could try to get your cat to eat with you; I don't think your cat is gonna indulge you.

Travis: "How was your day? Wait, where are you going?"

Ron: You can try—what's wrong—if you know—for too long, dogs have had just a stranglehold of sitting and eating with their owner. They've had *Lady and the Tramp*...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Ron: And I feel like that's what cat owners want here. They wanna be able to just share a meal and sit down with their cat, pull out a little magical cloche, and just open it up, and one dish for you, one dish for the cat. And —and this is just something to really just go, "This is who I am, and I've gone this far, and I'm aware of who I am." And that's fine.

Travis: [laughs] "I'm comfortable with myself, and I like it."

Justin: I love the i—I love the idea! I just don't think a cat—I don't feel like your cat is gonna indulge you. I don't feel like you're gonna say to your cat, "Well, it's time to eat together now."

Ron: That would be—

Justin: "Please stay here."

Ron: —the funniest thing, though, is if you do this all, then your cat ghosts you on dinner.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: Oh, 100 percent, that would be the—I know cats. I've had cats. That would be the outcome.

Travis: You're gonna get stood up by something that lives in your house.

Justin: You're gonna—here's what's gonna happen. You will uh, sit until your food gets cold, and then you'll dump your food and your cat's food in the trash. You will go to bed, and your cat will be like, "Fucking finally!" and climb up into the trash and eat all the food.

Travis: Yep.

Justin: That's cats! That's cats in a nutshell.

Travis: Now, I will say, though, that this is reminding me very much of the commercials that played when I was a kid, where – I think it was cat food – they put that little puck of cat food onto, like, a crystal bowl...

Justin: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: With like a little leaf on it, and I do remember thinking as a kid, like, "That looks good!" And I think it's all presentation, but... I was interested.

Justin: These retail for \$1.07, so come on. You're—come on, just make two servings of beurre blanc! I don't know if cats can have beurre blanc. Just between you, me, and the Lord Jesus Christ, guys, I don't even know what beurre blanc is exactly.

Travis: It's something white, Justin! It's Beurre-white!

Ron: It's definitely a sauce of—yeah, some type of sauce.

Justin: Um—

Ron: Honestly, I don't even feel like petite cats is the style of meal that I would trust to be like, "Oh, that's—" you know, I want what a husky cat would want. I want a husky cat dinner.

Justin and Travis: [burst out laughing]

Justin: They already make those; they're just called Hungry-Man meals. And you just rip 'em up in a microwave, no problem.

Travis: No, if your cat saw you doing that, they would think "Ah, equal playing ground. Okay, cool."

Justin: Let me hit you with this idea where, rather than trying harder for—to eat with your cat, you should be able to try less for everybody. So what I'm suggesting now to you guys, is an instant microwave meal – like a TV dinner, they used to call them – an instant microwave meal where one of the things in it is cat food.

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: So you got [laughs]—you got your ch—

Ron: [laughs loudly]

Justin: [laughs] You got your chicken nuggets, you got your brownie, you got your corn that some of the brownie leaked into...

Travis: That's the best corn.

Justin: And then you got your cat food, right there! Hey, everybody, soup's on, for all of us! We're all eating together!

Ron: Family-style.

Travis: And you know what, it should be uh—

Justin: Family-style, [laughs] exactly.

Travis: You can tear it away to be a little separate bowl for the cat. Or not, you know what I mean? If the cat wants to just hop up there next to you, and every—

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: And you guys just kind of lean your heads down, and both eat it out of the bowl? Yeah! It's fine!

Justin: Yeah. Good.

Ron: That's the experience that you're really looking for, right? Of eating out of the bowl together with your cat. That's what [crosstalk] cat owner—

Travis: Yeah!

Ron: That's what you want, if you are a cat owner or a fan of Fancy Feast. Either one.

Justin: Now, I'm thinking through this now. We are gonna have to be real explicit with the labeling on this.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: 'Cause I have eaten some chocolate puddings in uh, Kid Cuisines that are *indistinguishable* from uh—from—from cat food, so that—that would be a [crosstalk].

Travis: It won't *kill* you.

Justin: It'll be—you'll be fine.

Ron: It'd be almost like, you know, they do those mystery candies, or the mystery things that are like—

Travis: Yes!

Ron: "Which one's cat food?"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] That's our—guys, that's our tagline! You'll never guess which one's cat food!

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] You guess which one's cat food, we'll send you a coupon for another one.

Ron: [laughs]

Justin: Double or—and then it's double or nothing. [laughs] We'll send you two, the next time you get it.

Hey, uh, Ron, thank you so much for joining us, uh, for *My Brother, My Brother and Me*. Um, where can people find more of your—of your great work?

Ron: Oh, well, I'm going back on tour, on the road. I've been going to Salt Lake City and Austin, Texas, and a couple other places. Phoenix, Arizona. So go to ronfunches.com for those dates, and then just follow me at most places at [ronfunches](https://www.instagram.com/ronfunches) or [ronfunch](https://www.instagram.com/ronfunch) on Instagram. Please check out *Chopped 420* on Discovery Plus on 4/20, and then I have a *Golden Arm* movie coming out April 30th, so please!

Justin: Travis, what about you?

Travis: Oh, I'm—I'm on Twitch too, [thetravismcelroy](https://www.twitch.tv/thetravismcelroy) on Twitch. It's fun; that's a thing I like doing. But mostly I'm here, Justin, with you.

Justin: Yeah. That's true. Just wanted to give you a chance to plug, you know, if you got anything cooking.

Um, uh, we've uh, probably got some new merch. No, I don't think so. No new merch in the store. Uh, thanks for hanging in there with us through this weird time.

Oh, the finale of *The Adventure Zone: Graduation* is live now. If you've been waiting until it ended to start it, this is your moment to go back and uh, listen to the entire thing. We have a graphic novel coming out July 13th. It's *The Adventure Zone: Crystal Kingdom*. And then we got a podcasting book called *Everybody Has a Podcast (Except You)* available—and that's out now. You don't have to wait for that one.

Ron: I have it.

Justin: It's available wherever you find—what?

Ron: I have that book!

Justin: Wow, thanks, Ron! That's really nice. Wow, what a lift. Didn't say you read it, but it is nice that he has it.

Ron: I don't read many books, no.

Justin: I hear you. Yeah, you could've lied. I wouldn't quiz you. Thanks so much to Ron Funches. [wheezy laughter]

Travis—Travis, do you have uh, a final Yahoo for us?

Travis: I do, actually!

Justin: Fantastic.

Travis: Okay. Yeah, this one is sent in by the Prospector, Merit Palmer. Uh, and it is asked by... uh, anonymous, and the question is, "What animal is Donald Duck?"

Justin: [wheezy laughter] My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy!

Ron: I'm Ron Funches!

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

[theme song, "My Life (Is Better With You)!" by Montaigne plays and ends]

[chord plays]

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