

## **MBMBaM 567: Triumvirate of Butt Problems**

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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, 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, Big Dog Travis "Woof-woof" McElroy.

**Griffin:** Hello! This is your sweet baby brother, Griffin McElroy.

**Justin:** And even though a lot of people like to pretend it isn't the case, like my grandpa Dan, this is my job.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Okay. Alright.

**Justin:** This is my office. You're in my office now.

**Griffin:** This is my courtroom.

**Justin:** Did I record this show last Friday for an audience of our beloved friends? I did.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Did I record this show again on the following Monday? Yes.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** Yes, I did. Am I recording it now, again, on the Friday following that Monday, making our third performance in seven days? Yes. [gritting teeth] But this is my office. This is where I work!

**Travis:** I'm sorry to interrupt, but we also did do—

**Justin:** At work— Travis, you're interrupting me. At work.

**Travis:** I know, I'm interrupting you at work, but we did also do, I guess at our other job, *Adventure Zone* and *Sawbones* and *Shmanners* and *Wonderful!*? Are those separate jobs, or is it in the same office? I'm lost.

**Justin:** That's my office too. There's different offices.

**Griffin:** Different offices, different jobs, same coliseum!

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** It's just us versus all the other fucking podcasters.

**Justin:** [crosstalk] in the Battlearium.

**Travis:** So what about when we do business meetings and stuff?

**Griffin:** That's also in the Battlearium gymnasium.

**Travis:** And when we do phone calls?

**Griffin:** Gymnasium battle dome.

**Justin:** [mumbling] Gymnasium battle.

**Travis:** Wait, are we fighting or doing our job?

**Griffin:** [mumbling] Battle knives, but with comedy.

**Travis:** What? I'm confused.

**Justin:** [normally] This is my office. This is my office.

**Travis:** Well, is it an office where you do battle?

**Griffin:** It's an office. It's a studio, it's a gymnasium, it's an art... cube.

**Justin:** Thank you. It's an experience—it's a family, really.

**Griffin:** It's a fucking dream scene. It's a fucking surfboard.

**Travis:** Wait, what?

**Griffin:** It's a fucking Subway sandwich restaurant. It's a fucking pop-up tent. It's a fucking—

**Travis:** Man, my desk sucks compared to your guys.

**Griffin:** Yeah, it's a desk, it's my father, my mother, it's my—it's my desk.

**Travis:** What?

**Justin:** That's your desk?

**Griffin:** It's a coliseum! It's my studio space, my work zone!

**Justin:** You keep saying it's your desk.

**Griffin:** This is everything! This podcast is everything to me.

**Justin:** I just wanna reinforce that, like... we take— how seriously we take this. And I feel like a lot of people...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** ...don't— like, they'll just listen to it, and – this is just gonna beyond, but some people listen to this at a faster speed than we recorded it, and like, I don't want to be the person to tell you this, but I will be: it's not sustainable. 'Cause I can't do them faster, you know what I mean?

**Travis:** Oh, I see.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** You're gonna use 'em all up. That's not sustainable. I wanna reinforce a sustainable use of podcasts.

**Travis:** Yeah, when you—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And that is not sustainable usage.

**Travis:** When you harvest a podcast, you have to plant another podcast in its place, right?

**Justin:** Yes!

**Griffin:** Yes!

**Travis:** And you gotta cycle through podcasts, you know what I mean? Like, we've gotta...

**Griffin:** We've—we've stretched this taffy out as far as she'll go.

**Travis:** If we're not careful, we're gonna—we're gonna have a podcast dust bowl, people. I've been saying this for years now, but we gotta let some of the fields rest. They're gonna go to dust.

**Griffin:** Mm-hm.

**Travis:** They're going to whip it up, all the podcast cows are gonna get buried in podcast dirt, and it's gonna be a real problem down in Podcast, Oklahoma!

**Griffin:** And Travis is doing his best, by starting a bunch of podcasts, and then letting them die...

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** ...and burying their corpses in the grounds, to let their nutrients enrich the soil for the next podcast [crosstalk].

**Travis:** I killed Hal Lublin seven years ago.

**Justin:** The next podcaster, the mushrooms that grow on the corpse of Travis' abandoned podcast.

**Griffin:** Exactly!

**Travis:** Yeah. Yeah!

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Travis:** I'm doing my best.

**Justin:** He's trying.

**Travis:** I even started— I started streaming just to use up less podcast resources.

**Griffin:** I know.

**Travis:** You guys are welcome.

**Griffin:** Thank you for that. Your streams are the compost...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** ...of...

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** ... our...

**Justin:** Straight dookie.

**Griffin:** ... our television show.

**Travis:** This is what people don't know, is I started streaming, and I stopped creating podcasts, but I am still canceling podcasts at the same rate.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Travis:** So now I'm creating more— I've canceled other people's podcasts at this point.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** You know how your favorite podcast listener at home got canceled? I did that. You're welcome.

**Griffin:** Yeah. True. Well, we still gotta do this one, though, and I uh, think we've...

**Travis:** Do we?

**Justin:** Yes, we do, because this is our *office*.

**Travis:** Oh, right, yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:** This is our— yeah.

**Justin:** A firefighter doesn't go into the office and say "I put out three fires this week..."

**Griffin:** "I'm done."

**Justin:** "...I'm done with fires." People still need us.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** You know?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** But here's the thing – hey, you guys ever think about if a firefighter goes into work and doesn't do anything all day, that's a *good* day, right?

**Griffin:** Wow. Yeah.

**Travis:** Like, if you came home and you're just like, "I didn't do shit today."

People will be like, "Awesome. Congratulations."

**Griffin:** Awesome.

**Travis:** But when I do that, people are like, “Where’s the podcast, Travis?”

**Griffin:** Yeah. Yeah, the work you do is about on par with fire—firefighters, in terms of—

**Travis:** Well, I’m not allowed to take an easy day, like a firefighter who doesn’t get an alarm, you know what I mean?

**Griffin:** Right, yeah...

**Travis:** What’s he doing all day? [crosstalk]—

**Griffin:** You think they hit snooze sometimes?

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** On the fire?

**Griffin:** On the fire alarm that goes off. Boop! Ugh, five more minutes.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** It depends on how many alarms it is. If it’s a five-alarm fire, they gotta be there, right?

**Griffin:** They gotta get there.

**Travis:** But maybe a two or a one...

**Griffin:** A cute fir—a cute little fire.

**Travis:** A one is like somebody dropped like, a lit cigarette in a trash can, but it’s outside and the trash can’s made of metal. So it’s definitely a fire, and [crosstalk]—

**Griffin:** So it’ll figure itself out.

**Travis:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Eventually, the trash’ll all burn up. And then is that good? We don’t know.

**Griffin:** We don't know yet! But it's all stardust, isn't it?

**Travis:** Yeah. Star stuff, baby.

**Justin:** Wow.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Okay, this is an advice show. We help people here.

**Travis:** Believe it or not.

**Justin:** You're having fun.

**Travis:** [laughs] Just sit there and enjoy it!

**Justin:** Just sit here and [laughs] fucking guzzle it down!

**Travis:** This might be Grandpa's last podcast. Sit there and enjoy it, and we're gonna have a good time together as a family.

**Justin:** You can go, you know, watch a hollow cube on TikTok after this. Right now, you're gonna have media delivered to you the way God intended at 1.0x [laughs].

**Travis:** Or slower!

**Justin:** Or slower!

**Griffin:** Savor it.

**Justin:** Do your part. [laughs] Do your part to preserve our limited podcast resource.

**Travis:** Only you can preserve podcast resources.

**Justin:** Only you.

**Travis:** And you know what?



**Justin:** Stop listening! [laughs] That's enough.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [through laughter] If you didn't keep consuming them at this alarming rate.

**Travis:** Yeah! That's a—

**Justin:** We wouldn't have to keep making them.

**Griffin:** Laugh more! Pause every time you laugh, and [crosstalk] it out.

**Justin:** Roman Mars died eight years ago, and his brain is in a jar, they won't let him podcasting [crosstalk].

**Travis:** Won't let him die. You know? Listen to podcasts the way Sting would. That's what I say. You know what I mean?

**Justin:** Yes.

**Travis:** Five minutes listen, two hours off.

**Justin:** On a beach. [laughs] How would Sting listen to a podcast, do you guys think?

**Travis:** Probably in a really cool, oiled-up way.

**Justin:** And then you're doing a tangent thing, but like, he probably has a giant podcasting sweater he slips on when he's ready to enjoy one, and a huge mug that he uses for his podcasting kombucha.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Oh, see, I was thinking more he would be in some kind of like floating sensory deprivation chamber where the podcast is all around him, and he is in the podcast, and the podcast is him, and he fully experiences it with every, like, ounce of his body.

**Griffin:** One time, Sting was like “Yeah, I like to take my time before I nut.” And the rest of us lost our fucking minds...

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** ...and painted this picture— I bet you Sting— here’s my thing about Sting. I bet you he’s the most vanilla-ass boring dude in the whole world.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** It’s just one time he said “Yeah, I like to not nut immediately.”

And we’re all like, [sarcastically] “Wow, what a God.”

**Justin:** [through laughter] That is amazing. [unintelligible]—

**Griffin:** “Teach me.”

**Justin:** This man made a bunch of— [wheezing]

**Travis:** Uncorroborated claims, let’s just say.

**Griffin:** “Be my—be my Sherpa, Sting. Yeah, I just like to—when I’m having sex, I don’t like to jizz, like, instantly.”

“Wow! Look at this fucking hippie!”

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Hippie-dippy-doo-doo!

**Justin:** [through laughter] But it became—you’re right, that became the only thing we wanted to fucking talk about. His—like, his name is Gordon Sumner. No one ever mentioned it again, because he’s sitting—

**Griffin:** No, he wrote some hits...

**Justin:** —[crosstalk] a little bit before he nuts.

**Travis:** "I like to hold off! I just don't go full at it right away, 'cause I'm worried about, you know, jizzing too soon. So I take my time in these [sing-song] fields of gold."

**Justin:** The man can't even release new music, 'cause we were like "He certainly waited before he nutted on this one."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** This is—all we talk about is Sting anymore.

**Travis:** Also, is that something anyone can do, just like start publicly talking about how they like to wait before they nut, and get a reputation for like, tantric shit? 'Cause—

**Griffin:** Being really cool. Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah, is that just a thing? Like—'cause I don't feel like—I feel like Sting would be like "I'm really cool, and I wait before I nut."

And everyone went, "Okay! G—woah! What an awesome—"

**Griffin:** I don't think he can...

**Travis:** No one went "Fuck you, Sting."

**Griffin:** Prove it, yeah.

**Justin:** Prove it.

**Travis:** [laughs] Show me, right now.

**Griffin:** This is starting to feel like tantric advice at this point. Please, read the first question.

**Justin:** I just think—I just think it's a—you brought the point up! That the only thing we talk about anymore with Sting is that he likes to wait a bit [laughs] before he nuts.

**Travis:** What else does he do? [English accent] I've gone really into sourdough lately.

**Justin:** I mean, here's the thing. He's doing, like, duets with Shaggy, and no one wants to talk about it! Like, in 100 years, people will be like, "Some popular musical artists of the 1980s and '90s were Sting, a guy that [through laughter] likes to take a second before he nuts everywhere."

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "What kind of music does he do?"

"It's lost to time."

**Justin:** "It's lost to history!"

**Griffin:** "I honestly don't remember. It's—"

**Justin:** We—deal with it, we captured [holding back laughter] was that he liked to take a bit before he nuts.

**Travis:** It might just be a breath. Like, we don't know.

**Griffin:** Right. If they'd let him fi—if they had let him finish, which is already a challenge, he would've been like "Yeah, I like to take my time when I have sex. It takes me, like, seven minutes to do it."

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And we're like, "Oh."

**Justin:** "Oh."

**Griffin:** "Okay. Sounds—sounds like that's alright, Sting."

**Travis:** [crosstalk], that's fine.

**Justin:** [crosstalk]. It's not bad, Sting.

**Griffin:** So...

**Justin:** I'm sorry. IMDb said he wrote two episodes of *Lucifer*. That can't be right, can it?!

**Travis:** Get out!

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** That can't be right!

**Travis:** Wait, Sting *wrote* two episodes of *Lucifer*?!

**Justin:** It list—it lists him as a writer on two episodes of—of *Lucifer*, but that's gotta be wrong, right? [laughs]

**Travis:** That can't be true.

**Justin:** Oh, no, sorry. He wrote songs on the soundtrack...

**Travis:** Oh!

**Justin:** ...for the series *Lucifer*. He did not write two episodes [through laughter] of *Lucifer*.

**Travis:** I was about to say...

**Justin:** Okay. "My wonderful father-in-law has a trail camera." Do you guys know what a trail camera is?

**Travis:** It's a camera on a trail.

**Griffin:** I think it's like a a—a—

**Justin:** I guess it's like a—

**Griffin:** Automatic camera that takes pictures of things.

**Justin:** Oh, there's a—okay.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Trail ca—I should've waited for the context clues here. "Uh, then he uses, at his house in rural Virginia, to capture photos of the surrounding wildlife. Between one and four times a week, he will email us photos of deer, bears, turkeys, and coyotes from the camera. Although, mostly it's deer."

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Justin:** "I've run out of ways to respond to emailed photos of these woodland friends, and if we don't respond, he texts us, and says 'Did you see my photo?' What are some good ways to respond to email photos of deer?" [laughs] That's from Befuddled in Brooklyn.

**Travis:** [sighs]

**Griffin:** I—[sighs] I love... these beautiful animals.

**Justin:** Yeah!

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Um, but we have deer that come in our front yard literally every day...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** ...and gobble—gobble up the jasmine. And it doesn't bother me; it's like, I'm sure you guys are getting more out of this than I am.

**Justin:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** But I'm—I have become completely inoculated to deer. Unless—I saw one that had big antlers the other day?

**Travis:** Oh, yeah, that's the best!

**Griffin:** God damn! That's great.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I don't know why that's so awes—I don't know why—there's a natural thing when you see a deer that has big antlers where you're like "That's different and awesome!" And I don't know how that instinct turns into "And I'm gonna kill you because of it! Because of how many antlers you have, and how big they are, that's so awesome and different. You must die."

**Justin:** [laughs] "I'll have them, thank you."

**Travis:** There's another end of that spectrum, though, too, when I see a little youngling.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** A tiny deer who's maybe even a little wobbly-kneed.

**Griffin:** Oh, God.

**Travis:** And I'm like, "I'm gonna protect you with my everything."

**Griffin:** Right.

**Travis:** And then there's the between deer, where I'm just like "Fuck off!"

**Griffin:** "Get out of the fucking way! Grow antlers!"

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Deer come in—deer come in our yard all the time, and every time my dogs go absolutely bananas. But especially my little dog, Buttercup, who weighs, mm, about 30 pounds.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And I think, "What the fuck you gonna do? If I let you out there right now, you gonna take down that deer, Buttercup? Bullshit."

**Justin:** Sometimes, you get too hung on that you need to create a memorable response to something. You know? Sometimes—not every one has to be gold. Sometimes it could just be like, "Hey, nice sho."

**Travis:** Yeah. Cool deer.

**Justin:** Cool deer.

**Griffin:** Alright!

**Justin:** Love it.

**Griffin:** Love this.

**Justin:** Nice shot, alright.

**Travis:** I'm gonna take uh, a shot in the dark, and say your father-in-law might be retired, and it sounds like he enjoys this, and he maybe has not processed whether other people enjoy it, so he assumes other people enjoy it at the same level he enjoys it, and simply acknowledging the exchange. He feels like he's given you something; all you need to do is acknowledge it and say "Cool deer!" and that's it.

**Justin:** Help him—help him get onto the Gram.

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah!

**Travis:** Ooh! Now we're talking.

**Justin:** That way everybody can appreciate his great work.

**Travis:** And all you have to do is like it!

**Justin:** All you gotta do is one quick like, and then he knows you saw it, and that you liked it.

**Travis:** You don't gotta comment or nothing.

**Justin:** Then you can share with all your friends, and be like "Look at this great deer, this one. This one's a good one, everybody."

**Griffin:** Well, what's more likely is that he won't get a lot of engagement on his deer pics, and that's how he finds out. Like, "Oh, fuck, these are



act—oh, wait! These don't have the cool—they don't have a lot of antlers. That's boring.

**Travis:** But—

**Justin:** To be fair, Griffin, it doesn't sound like he's getting a lot of engagement now.

**Griffin:** Right, but why not have the internet break that to him?

**Justin:** [wheezes]

**Griffin:** Then have you have to do it?

**Travis:** Maybe you can find some really juggy deers, you know what I mean?

**Justin:** Oh! [laughs]

**Griffin:** Oh, sick, Trav!

**Justin:** You fucking dog!

**Travis:** He's gonna get some juggy deers, and then he's gonna get the—who got them [crosstalk]—

**Griffin:** What does that even—

**Travis:** You know, Griffin.

**Justin:** Think about it.

**Travis:** You know, Griffin.

**Justin:** Think about it.

**Travis:** The deer that can get it, you know what I mean?

**Justin:** Ones that humans like, you know what I mean?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** The juggy ones.

**Travis:** Oh, those tasty deer.

**Justin:** Anybody can like, like, a nice juggy deer.

**Travis:** People can be into deers. It's 2021.

**Justin:** I don't want to be—

**Griffin:** This was—this was acceptable, I think, for—

**Justin:** [crosstalk].

**Griffin:** No, no, no, no, no. Listen, listen, listen.

**Justin:** Okay, okay, okay.

**Griffin:** This was acceptable for, like, the first two times you guys were talking about it.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And then I think for a minute and a half was way too long to talk about it.

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Justin:** Well, I'm sorry we talked about it for seven minutes. I'm assuming that Rachel trimmed it a little bit. But we did about seven minutes of juggy deer material. Yeah, I got a—I got another suggestion. I got another suggestion for you guys.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** Um, you can—after your, um, father-in-law, say his name's Dave, after Dave sends you a picture of a deer, be like "This is great, Dave. You gotta have more pictures of deer."

And then he'll be like "Oh, yeah, no problem!"

And then when you get those pictures, you be like “Uh, these are very good, but you—I’ve gotta get some more... great pictures.” And you just keep asking for more and more and more pictures until he runs out. And he’s like “I—this is getting a little bit irritating. I don’t—I don’t really want to send you any anymore.”

**Travis:** Oh, so just—you’re just saying ruin the relationship.

**Justin:** No, I’m just saying like, if you get real thirsty for deer pics...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** ...eventually, he will run out of them.

**Travis:** “You got any pics of the deers’ feet, Dave?”

**Griffin:** [laughs] Dave. Cool—you gotta be more subtle with that, though. Like, “Aw, cool pic! I love how you got a good shot of the feet there.” And then sort of slowly guide him, like “Aw nice, man, feet looking bigger!” Uh, just over and over again.

Aw, man, there should be a name for deer feet.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** You can also ask him to just hold onto them until, like, maybe the last day of the month, and then just like let ‘em loose in a huge, bodacious wave.

**Travis:** Or just like—ooh! Ask him to save ‘em all up, and make a coffee table book for you for Christmas!

**Griffin:** Awesome.

**Justin:** Or a flipbook!

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** Put all of ‘em in one thing, and it’s a flipbook!

**Griffin:** Yeah, shitty, not like...

**Travis:** Nonlinear.

**Griffin:** Continual, linear flipbook. Where it's just like bear, turkey, bear, turkey, turkey, deer, deer, deer, deer, deer, turkey, bear, turkey—

**Travis:** If you flip it quick enough, it's a crime against God and nature!

**Griffin:** You know what sucks about this? If I get pics of turkeys, who cares? Deers, who cares? Coyotes, eh, who cares? But if I get pics of bears, I'm gonna be like, fucking cool.

**Travis:** Cool.

**Griffin:** Look at the size of—look at the size of that unit.

So you can't shut the hose off...

**Travis:** Nope!

**Griffin:** ...'cause that'll mean no more bear pics.

**Travis:** No, this is like a—this is a wildlife blind bag, and you have to buy it to see if you get a bear in there, you know what I mean?

**Griffin:** Bear—yeah. A Chase bear, yeah, for sure.

**Travis:** Might be a bear in there. Ooh, is this a shiny, holographic bear? I love it.

**Griffin:** Um... the—the—the summer months are upon us, and things are a little bit different this year, and I don't know about you all, but the place I've been most excited to get out to, now that we've really cracked this thing – by which I mean COVID, by which I mean it's still an issue – is the skatepark.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** And so I did—I recei—I talked to the Wizard of the Cloud via Maria, who sent this uh, WikiHow article in, and it's super important, 'cause—

**Travis:** Does Maria work for the wizard?

**Griffin:** Maria is a apprentice. Apprentice, yes.

**Justin:** Ah, apprentice. A—basically—so the answer is yes, but unpaid.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Oh! Maria, you're better than this.

**Griffin:** The Wizard of the Cloud has so much knowledge and power, but is just kind of shitty as a—like, ethically, as a person.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah.

**Griffin:** Or I guess an entity. I guess the Wizard isn't [crosstalk].

**Travis:** I'm pretty sure you don't get to be a wizard without being kind of shitty.

**Griffin:** Sure, yeah. So anyway, this is gonna teach us how to differentiate between a real skater and a poser skater.

**Travis:** Oh, thank God.

**Griffin:** Yeah. A lot of it is "Watch them skate."

**Travis:** Well, okay.

**Griffin:** Which then we're getting a little bit into "Let's test your—let's test your—" I guess this whole article is about "Let's test your cred out." But there's ways of doing it that's not gonna make you look like a huge creep, running up on them while they skate...

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** ...and say like, "Do a fucking trick. Do a fucking trick. Let's see it."

"One, test their knowledge in a conversation. Ask for ba—listen for basic skateboard terms and slang. Real skaters—"

**Travis:** Like trucks?

**Griffin:** "Real skaters are gonna ta—real skaters are gonna talk about frontside and backside tricks."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** "They're gonna use basic skateboard terms, like pop and kickflip. Listen for one of the most basic terms of all: ollie." Yeah, man, I—

**Justin:** They won't—they won't say things like "Uh, I ha—I ha—so I hauled a bunch of perps into the station this weekend."

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "It was a great weekend to be a cop."

**Griffin:** They won't say anything like "Who wants a pepperoni onto the pizza pie?" Because that's a pizza restaurant worker.

**Justin:** [laughing]

**Travis:** Now, Griffin—

**Griffin:** "Skater will typically talk about ollies and kickflips. They won't say things about your driveshaft, because that's a car person."

**Travis:** Now, Griffin, are you scared that, in doing this article publicly, what you're really doing is teaching people what other people are looking for out of real skaters?

**Griffin:** You're right.

**Travis:** And you're kind of—you're teaching people to pose more effectively.

**Griffin:** You're right. You could say one of these terms: s—[snorts] This first one's, I think, fake, and actually, Travis, has—the ouroboros is wrapped all the way around. And this article is, in fact, a test to see who is a real skater or not, because the first term they list here is "a slappy." And I don't know that's—

**Travis:** Huh.

**Griffin:** "Kickflip" I've heard of. "Vert"? Yes. "Tweak"? I guess. "Stall"? Sure. "Shifty"? Huh? "Kickturn"? No. And "mob"? Not real.

Some of those are not real. "Slappy" is definitely not real.

**Travis:** Slappy is when you mess up on a trick, and your board flips up in the air and smacks you in the face, and you cry a little bit.

**Griffin:** And you cry. I mean, that's what—that's—and you look shifty when you do it.

**Travis:** But it's a good way to ingratiate yourself to other skaters, because skaters are very caring and nurturing a lot.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** So when you slap yourself in the face and a single tear rolls down, they'll immediately want to make you feel better and take you out for ice cream and maybe eat some fries.

**Griffin:** [sighs] And isn't that a better result from this than trying to shame somebody for whether or not they like, actually know about skateboarding, hey, here's a little—uh, here's a—here's a test. Here's a fucking *Blade Runner* test for how to really catch him in your dragnet.

"You could try asking something like 'So, have you mastered a kickflip on a vert ramp yet?' or 'Have you seen Robert do kickflips? He has huge pop.'"

**Justin:** [bursts out laughing] What is this person—the article trying to do?

**Griffin:** Um, prove whether or not somebody's a real or uh, a phony.

**Travis:** Yeah. [crosstalk].

**Justin:** Fake. A fake. [crosstalk] fake.

**Griffin:** [crosstalk].

**Travis:** We're Voight-Kampff-ing some uh, some—

**Griffin:** Voight-Kampff-ing this fucking skater poser, yeah.

**Justin:** I mean, this article should say "Watch them skate for five seconds."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** "If they fall over and cry [laughs] for a half hour, and then had their dad come pick 'em up, they're probably faking it."

**Griffin:** See, they just—

**Travis:** But I mean, even that—even that assumes that if I, Travis McElroy, right down—I have never skateboarded in my life. If I went down to a store and bought one – I don't even know where I would do that – and went to a skate park and tried to skate, that people would be like "He's trying to pose as a real skater."

And I'd be like "Clearly, I'm not."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Clearly, there's nothing about what I'm doing right now that implies that I think I'm doing a good job. I'm trying to learn. And people might yell "Poser," and I say no, I'm just beginning. This is a second phase of my lifestyle—

**Griffin:** No, it's different.

**Travis:** —and I'm just learning right now. What—



**Griffin:** It's different. A shitty skater is not a poser, no.

**Travis:** No, no, no. But if someone is just sitting on the sidelines, holding a board that they've clearly scratched up with a pocket knife or something, and they're going "That's a bad jumpbounce that you did!" Now that, my friends... that's a pose-er.

**Griffin:** God, how lazy is that person that they wouldn't even learn the word kickflip.

**Travis:** I know. Where are they gonna learn it, Griffin?

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's fair. Um, "You could try asking 'Do you hold your board by the trucks or deck? Do you think it matters?'" Now, that's—that one might actually catch me.

"Ask if they ride regular or goofy." Now, listen, a poser's gonna hear this and say "Well, I don't ride goofy."

**Travis:** Ugh.

**Griffin:** "I'm a fucking kickass skater."

**Justin:** "No. I'm a good skater. A real serious one."

**Griffin:** Do you—

**Travis:** What—

**Griffin:** Say—

**Travis:** What do you think Max Goof would say? Max Goof uh, especially...

**Griffin:** Nothing. He's not a real person.

**Travis:** ...in *The Extremely Goofy Movie*, do you think he would be like "I ride goofy," or even if he knew what he was talking about, was like, "I don't want to be like my dad, Goofy, AKA George Geef."

**Griffin:** We can all agree that Max from *Goofy Movie* is a fucking poser skater.

**Justin:** Oh, yeah.

**Travis:** Wow, hey, fuck off! Hey, Griffin? Fuck off!

**Justin:** Bart Simpson is a poser.

**Griffin:** Yeah, sure!

**Justin:** I mean, you see him, he skates once, and then he'll go two years without skating.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** That is true.

**Justin:** And then they'll see him skate again. It's like "Okay, so do you love it? Do you live for it?"

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** "Do you live for the grind, the daily grind?"

**Travis:** Well, he might also just be doing it when he's not on camera.

**Griffin:** That's possible, yeah. Um, "Ask them about their board. Ask what material it's made out of."

**Travis:** [snorts]

**Griffin:** "Do you tighten or loosen your trucks when you get on your board? What type of arch do you have on your deck?"

You know, real stumpers for a person who can't just look at their fucking skateboard and say "Oh, it's got a uh... let's see. Looks like some tribal art, and uh..."

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Some fire? Yeah, tribal art and fire, man!"

**Travis:** Put a funny Marvin the Martian on there, it's pretty good.

**Griffin:** Yeah. "Ask who their favorite skaters and skate brands are. They'll know more pro names than Tony Hawk, Bam, and Ryan Sheckler."

**Travis:** Damn it! I'm out.

**Griffin:** Damn it! I'm out of them.

Um, "They will know about a few named brands. Even if it's a negative opinion, it's still knowledge." Ooh, that's a pretty good way around it.

**Travis:** Is Stussy one? Is Stussy one?

**Justin:** Stussy, Birdhouse...

**Travis:** Um...

**Griffin:** Uh—

**Justin:** ...Girlfriend.

**Travis:** Uh, Journeys. Hot Topic.

**Griffin:** Lids.

**Travis:** Spencer's.

**Griffin:** Orange Julius.

**Justin:** [bursts out laughing]

**Travis:** Auntie Anne's.

**Justin:** [laughs] Wham-O.

**Griffin:** [laughs] Wham-O Slam-O.

**Justin:** Wham-O brand silly skateboards.

**Griffin:** Big kicks.

**Justin:** [wheezes]

**Griffin:** Skate b—skate boys.

**Travis:** Skate boys. Skate mens.

**Griffin:** Real boys.

**Justin:** You could go to the person, and just be like “Hey, get this Phony Hawk.”

**Griffin:** Mm.

**Justin:** And if they look at you like, “Aw, I’m busted,” then you got `em.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** But they’ll look at you like “God, that’s funny.” [laughs]

**Griffin:** Hey, “If they carry their board by the trucks, that’s call a mall grab, and it’s usually considered to be a poser red flag.” Let me continue, `cause the next point is “There’s a lot of controversy about whether or not the mall grab truly indicates you’re a poser, since a lot of skaters these days do hold their boards like that.

**Travis:** So inconclusive...

**Griffin:** So in conclusion, this is a bad article.

“Watch them—” And then there’s a whole section that’s like “Watch them state, study what they do, watch them, follow them...”

**Justin:** “Watch them skate,” I just feel like... should be one! Right? It should be number one.

**Travis:** No, Justin.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** 'Cause someone could be a bad skater, and not a poser, right?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And someone could be a very good skater and be a poser.

**Justin:** That's true...

**Griffin:** "Classic poser moves include just standing around, chatting, smoking cig-a-rettes..."

**Travis:** Oh, that's a big one.

**Griffin:** "...texting, and getting a—" and I'm gonna say "vapes" in there, too.

**Travis:** Oh, huh!

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Texting and—only a poser even has their vape rig on them at the skate park, because they could fall down on it and either break the glass on it or explode the battery.

**Justin:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Travis:** That's why I built mine into my board.

**Justin:** I got ohms everywhere. I got ohms all over my pants.

**Travis:** I do this thing where I go up in the air, I vert off the kickflip, and then I hold the board up in the air, and just rip a big rip off the end of the board. [laughs]

**Justin:** [wheezes]

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And then, when I come down, I let go of a big cloud, and I call it Puff the Magic Wagon.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah.

So these are getting more intrusive. You watch them, study them, ask them to do tricks. They'll say, like, "No, I can't right now. I'm sick."

And you say, "Oh, well here's some—"

**Travis:** [laughs] "Then why are you here? You should be at home."

**Griffin:** "I brought medicine for you. Take the medicine, and then fucking ollie."

But then the next one is "Inspect their appearance."

**Travis:** Huh.

**Griffin:** "Examine them for scrapes and bruises."

**Justin:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Griffin:** "If you skate, you're gonna fall off your board and get scraped off, even if you're good, when coming up with new tricks or—"

**Travis:** Fuck you, you will. I've been skating for years. I don't fall *ever*.

**Griffin:** I have never been scraped or scratched while doing my art on the board.

**Travis:** Sometimes when I'm skating, I will fall into the air.

**Griffin:** Mm-hm.

**Travis:** That's how good I am. I float.

**Griffin:** And look out for name-brand clothing, 'cause that means that they're a poser.

There's a lot of stuff in here—I'm sure there's good skaters who had j—"I just bought these shoes. That's why they're not scuffed up." Fuck off. Phony.

**Travis:** Ow—

**Griffin:** Phony Jabroni.

**Travis:** "No, I just got work at Orange Julius. That's why my shirt says it!"

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "Sure, sure, sure."

**Griffin:** "Sure, sure, sure."

**Justin:** Uh, let's take a quick break and head on into the Money Zone.

[theme song plays]

**Travis:** We're sponsored this week by Orange Julius, a company that I don't know has any brick and mortar stores anymore. You can only order them online. You're gonna get an Oragne Julius sent right to your house... uh—

**Justin:** Alright. Let me do the jingle, and then we'll wrap this one up.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** [singing] Orange Julius, when you gotta have a thick juice!

**Griffin:** [snorts, laughs softly]

**Justin:** Uh, we are actually sponsored by Squarespace, which is a *wonderful*—

**Griffin:** Boring! That's not funny like Orange Julius! Yawn!

**Justin:** If you wanna make a Orange Julius fan site, uh, maybe turn to Squarespace. It's already being used by people who produce food, like Orange Julius, maybe, I don't know for sure. Sports teams, uh, furniture – it says furniture, I think they probably mean people who sell it or make it or something. Not furniture itself making its own bespoke website. Gamers...

**Griffin:** Mm!

**Travis:** Yeah, buddy.

**Griffin:** The furniture of people!

**Justin:** Everybody's making websites, and now you can make your dreams—take the first step. This is an obtainable, concrete step you can take towards your goals. That's not—that's not kidding around. That's real.

**Travis:** Do something!

**Justin:** Do something. Take that first step, and build a beautiful website from Squarespace.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** You can showcase your work, you can promote your physical or online business, and you can do it all with beautiful customizable templates. Free and secure hosting, uh, a lot of really helpful analytics, and there's nothing to patch or upgrade *ever!*

Just go to [squarespace.com/mybrother](https://squarespace.com/mybrother) for a free trial. And when you're ready to launch, use the offer code "my brother" to save 10 percent off your first purchase of a website or domain.

**Travis:** I wanna tell you guys about Stitch Fix, 'cause I just got a pair of really...

**Griffin:** What'd you get?

**Justin:** What'd you get? [sighs]

**Travis:** ...beautiful boots!



**Griffin:** Beautiful boots, huh?

**Travis:** Like, black, like, thick-soled. And they tie in the front, but they zip on the side. And that's a winning combo for yours truly, 'cause once I find that perfect fit, I don't want to have to keep untying it and retying it.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Travis:** These are beautiful boots, and I got a cool jacket that I'm looking forward to wearing when the weather gets chilly.

And you could get into the Stitch Fix lifestyle as well, 'cause it's great, and you never uh, have to worry about if things don't fit, or if it's not your style, because Stitch Fix offers clothing hand-selected by expert stylists that's your unique size, style, and budget. You try on pieces at home before you buy, keep your favorites, send back the rest. Stitch Fix has free shipping, easy returns and exchanges, and a prepaid return envelope is included.

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**Teresa:** *Shmanners*: noun. Definition...

[light classical music plays]

**Teresa:** Rules of etiquette designed not to judge others, but rather to guide ourselves through everyday social situations.

**Travis:** Hello, internet. I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

**Teresa:** And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

**Travis:** Every week on *Shmanners*, we take a look at a topic that has to do with society or manners. We talk about the history of it, we take a look at how it applies to everyday life, and we take some of your questions. And

sometimes, we do a biography about a really cool person that had an impact on how we view etiquette.

So join us every Friday, and listen to *Shmanners* on [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org), or wherever podcasts are found.

**Teresa:** Manners, *Shmanners*. Get it?

[music and advertisement end]

**Justin:** So what now?

**Travis:** Well, now's the time, Justin, where we take a deep, dark look into our souls, and see how we're doing on this episode. How do you think it's going so far, guys?

**Justin:** Uh, overall, very, very good, I would say.

**Travis:** Yeah?

**Justin:** Yeah. Very good.

**Travis:** I would say that this is the best episode we've ever done.

**Justin:** One of the top episodes we've ever done. I have a quick, um—I wanna—this is like, a new version of Munch Squad.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** Where it's just for vegans and vegetarians.

**Travis:** Oh!

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** So it's like Munch Squad, but like the combination of vowels is maybe a little bit different?

**Justin:** Yeah. Like, m—what would be a good name for, like... "light" Munch Squad? Like a—you know, like a meat-free...

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Justin:** ...fake Munch Squad. You know—like, with a K, probably?

**Travis:** Or like moonch.

**Justin:** Moonch Squad? Munch Skuad with a K, kind of? Anyway.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** [sings fanfare]

**Griffin:** Why does the—no, wait, hold on. Why does any of it have to be different?

**Justin:** [sings guitar impersonation] I wanna munch!

**Travis:** Squid!

**Griffin:** Squad.

**Justin:** Squa-d! [sings guitar impersonation] I wanna munch!

**Travis:** Squad!

**Griffin:** Squad!

**Justin:** Squad. [ends impersonation]

This is gonna freak you guys out. You guys know that Naked Chicken Chalupa?

**Griffin:** Yeah, sure.

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Justin:** Right? Listen to this.

**Travis:** Oh?

**Justin:** They're doing—[laughs]

**Travis:** Oh, this—

**Justin:** They're doing a meatless version of the [through laughter] Naked—of the Naked Chicken Chalupa.

**Griffin:** It's so meaty!

**Justin:** Because vegetarians are just like us, and they wanna be dirtbags [laughs] too sometimes. And this is gonna let them simulate being absolute dirtbags. Uh—

**Griffin:** It's really the main thing they miss out on...

**Justin:** Yeah. Is getting to live like straight-up dirtbags.

**Griffin:** They have ways of getting protein, and all the strong beef power that I get when I eat a big hamburger, but what they don't usually get is that I feel like shit after I eat most meals.

**Travis:** Yeah. Listen, when vegans get drunk, they wanna make food mistakes too, you know what I mean?

**Griffin:** Yes, exactly!

**Travis:** When they're real hung over, they wanna get a rumbly-tumbly that gives them the vegan shits later too, you know what I mean? So let's do this thing...

**Griffin:** Let's help them!

**Travis:** Give everybody an equal opportunity to make bad life choices.

**Justin:** The Naked Chalupa—this is actually the naked chalupa with a crispy plant-based shell.

**Griffin:** Awesome name. Really awesome name.

**Justin:** That's the actual name, just describes—

**Travis:** [crosstalk].

**Justin:** It's a new menu innovation that gives vegetarian and veggie-curious... Oh.

**Griffin:** [sarcastic haughty noises]

**Justin:** Fans have—"I've been looking for a way to get into vegetables, and this is just the gateway drug I require."

"A new menu innovation that gives vegetarian and veggie-curious fans everywhere reasons to... *shellebrate*."

**Travis:** [groans loudly]!

**Griffin:** Now, hold on, wait. Is that spelled "S-H-E-L-L-ebrate"? Or did it say "Do a Cher impression while you say this next part"?

**Justin:** Shellebrate.

**Griffin:** Okay

**Justin:** Yeah. Shellebrate. So it's um—you want one? No problem! 'Cause they're everywhere!

**Travis:** Oh!

**Justin:** In the kitchen of the Taco Bell at 2222 Barranca Parkway...

**Griffin:** [growing laughter]

**Travis:** Damn!

**Justin:** ...in Irvine, California.

**Travis:** Damn it, you got me again, Justin!

**Justin:** "From now until June 27th—" fucking Marty McFly. Go get you one!

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Go get you one! They're everywhere, and here for good. [laughs]  
As long as you can get back in time and make it to Irvine.

Um, so that is happening there. Wendy's uh—

**Griffin:** Wait, what's—what is it constituted—what is it?

**Justin:** This is the most sinister thing about it, is they don't say what it is.  
[laughs] It's just—you don't need—you probably shouldn't worry about it.

**Griffin:** No, I'm worried about it!

**Justin:** Is what it—

**Griffin:** I know what—I know about, like, the Impossible Burger and seitan  
and tofu, and all that jazz, but...

**Justin:** Yeah, they'll never mention this f—this [crosstalk].

**Travis:** Yeah, don't worry about it. Don't—don't worry.

**Justin:** They're doing it—they're still working with Beyond Meat to make  
fake Taco Bell meat, so this is—you don't need to sweat this, this is never  
going to be a growing concern.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** You'll never hear about this thing again, you'll never see it again...

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** Wendy's, on the other hand, wants to get into the mix with uh—in  
the plant-based category with uh, a spicy black bean burger.

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Justin:** Right?

**Travis:** Now I'm in!

**Justin:** Sounds pretty good.

**Griffin:** But...

**Justin:** So uh, Eryn Bennett is the manager of culinary production innovation, and uh, her team uh, helped create this, uh, spicy new product "meant for flexitarians."

**Travis:** Huh!

**Justin:** I don't know if you guys know about this. [laughs] This term. But flexitarians. Uh, according to John Li, the vice president of culinary innovation, who describes it as "Not your parents' or your grandparents' black bean burger."

So I—Mr. Li, I do agree that neither my parents, nor my nonnie, or my grandmother Barbara Allen would have enjoyed a black bean burger [laughs] just like this.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I ge—

**Justin:** We're in agreement.

**Travis:** Hey, can we not blow past the flexitarian thing? Is that somebody who sometimes eats vegetables and sometimes eats meat? 'Cause there's another name for that.

**Griffin:** There's a—definitely another name for that.

**Travis:** It's omnivore!

**Justin:** It's uh—yeah, it's uh—it's something that—it centers on plat—plant foods, but every once in a while, you're like, "Well, I'll have a bit of meat, please!"

**Travis:** That's nothing!

**Justin:** Uh, I don't know. [laughs] I don't know what you—I don't know what you want from me. I'm just here to tell you about the spicy black bean burger.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** Uh—um, they explored 70 to 80 different options during the process.

**Travis:** Wow!

**Justin:** And this is what they came to. "We have a—" This is—I tell ya, man, fucking John Li – who I don't know that we've featured on the show before, on Munch Squad – uh, which is—I should've mentioned earlier. It's a podcast within a podcast that profiles the latest and greatest in brand eating.

Um, John Li is bringing it. He says "We have a lot of equity, and a lot of strength, and a lot of understanding in terms of what our customers want."

**Griffin:** Jesus.

**Justin:** "Part of it is flavor."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** "In the world of pant—plant-based protein, there are a lot of—"

**Travis:** Hey, just, just—I wanna stop you real quick, Justin. Is there a press release here in which a human person said that "We had to study to make sure our customers, at a food place, wanted to be able to taste the food."

**Justin:** Want good food.

**Travis:** Okay, good.

**Griffin:** Yeah.



**Justin:** Listen to John Li, he's bringing some fucking heat to you now. "Part of it is flavor. In the world of plant-based protein, there are a lot of products out there that are just substitutes."

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Justin:** "And they end up getting built in sandwiches that I call okay."

**Travis:** Oh, snap!

**Griffin:** That's amazing, so good.

**Justin:** "They're not flavorful."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** They're bullshit!

**Justin:** The way Eryn built this, it really is craveable. I don't miss eating meat, but—

**Griffin:** I fucking—I swear to God, on my dad's grave...

**Justin:** [laughs] I swear on the grave of my father, John Li Senior. This burger is craveable!

**Griffin:** May Christ strike me down!

**Justin:** [coughs, laughs]

**Griffin:** With his righteous fury!

**Travis:** I'll bleed if I'm wrong! You get—you take this knife. You hold it in your hand. In your other hand, taste this burger. If I'm wrong, I want you to stab me directly in the heart.

**Justin:** May COVID-19 be supplanted by a far more vicious COVID-2022 that wipes humanity from the face of the Earth! But God damn it, this is craveable! I love this fucking burger.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** And I don't—I don't miss eating meat when I eat that spicy black bean burger, says John Li.

**Travis:** I don't miss anything, not even my ex-wife! I love this burger.

**Justin:** Hold on a second. I don't miss a fucking second of it. "It's not just a black bean," says John Li.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** "It's all the components together that give it the right texture, the right flavor, nutritional profile that we felt good about. Now we're focused on taste first. Make no note about it. Big T, little N, is what I call it."

**Griffin:** Why?

**Travis:** Wait, what?

**Justin:** I don't—guys, I don't know what he means.

**Travis:** Big T...

**Griffin:** No, say that again, 'cause that was wild. That was a w—

**Justin:** "Now we're focused on taste first. Make no doubt about it. Big T, little N, is what I call it."

**Travis:** Big—

**Justin:** "Get the taste right, make sure it looks fantastic. Nutrition comes second." Oh, okay.

**Travis:** Okay. [relieved] Okay. Okay.

Big taste... little nutrition.

**Justin:** Little nutrition. [bursts out laughing]

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [through laughter] That should be the tagline of the spicy black bean burger. "Big taste [high-pitched] and a little nutrition."

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "Hey, um, Li, I think you're pushing the wrong thing here."

"No, no, no, I let them know that it tastes great and it's bad for you."

"Yeah, that's the—ugh."

**Griffin:** Yeah, you don't have to say that part.

**Travis:** That's what we want you to skip over next time, buddy.

**Justin:** So all these ingredient—okay, beyond the patty... [laughs] This is like, the longest interview – it's an interview on QSR. The longest interview I've ever seen about a sandwich. Um—

**Travis:** What are the odds that they called him to just get, like, a quick quote, and he would not let them off the phone?

**Griffin:** Guys, I tell you. I fucking hate vegetables. Fucking hate them.

**Travis:** Hate `em!

**Griffin:** But this is—when I eat these, it doesn't make me wanna barf, like every other time I eat vegetables.

**Travis:** I've never filmed anything before. I held my own baby in my arms, I looked at his face, and I felt nothing. I took one bite of this burger... I cried, for the first time in my life, out of happiness.

**Justin:** "Beyond the patty, we wanted to foc—" This is Eryn Bennett again. "Beyond the patty, we wanted to really focus on having some texture and flavor contrast. As I mentioned, not wanting to have that mushy, boring experience that we see in so many other places. So we added a lot of really nice crisp, fresh produce."

**Travis:** Hell yeah.

**Justin:** “Like onions and tomatoes and Romain lettuce.”

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Justin:** “Then we have this really cool new ingredient: crispy chipotle jalapeno.”

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Justin:** “They’re actually jalapenos that are seas—” [laughs] Which is, like, so weird that you have to specify that, Eryn.

**Griffin:** Wait... yeah.

**Justin:** “Oh, these things? These jalapenos? They’re actually jalapenos... that are seasoned with a chipotle seasoning that perfectly complements the spicy—the spicy black bean patty itself. And we top it with chipotle sauce. And then they really come together in addition to nice creamy, cool pepper jack cheese.”

**Travis:** Hell yeah!

**Justin:** Hell yeah. It’s not bland.

**Travis:** Wait a minute!

**Justin:** It’s not boring. It’s spicy.

**Travis:** Is it vegan pepper jack cheese?

**Justin:** [laughs] No, it’s—guys, listen. “It’s not bland. It’s not boring. It’s spicy. But I like to think of it as an approachable spice.”

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Justin:** Where you bite into it and you’re like, okay, I can eat this.  
[wheezes]

**Travis:** You know, like when you're at the bar, and you see an attractive person, but they're not *too* attractive...

**Justin:** Okay—

**Travis:** ...and you're comfortable walking up and talking to them, but then also, if they reject you, you're not too sad, 'cause they weren't *that* super attractive to begin with? You get it.

**Justin:** You get it. You look at a person, you're like "Okay, I could eat them."

**Travis:** You get it.

**Griffin:** Was there a PR rep hovering over his shoulder, and he was like "It's so spicy, it'll burn your asshole right off."

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And they're like "No, no, no. Walk that back. Walk that back."

**Travis:** "No, no, no. No, no, no, no."

**Griffin:** "Okay, it's a—it's an approachable spice?"

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah. Perfect, perfect, perfect.

**Justin:** Dave Thomas rose from his grave and tried to choke me and my family to death. This thing's so spicy, he said "This isn't my Wendy's anymore. You have to change the name. Change it to Hell Hut, 'cause that's what you've done to my beloved brand."

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [holding back laughter] "This fucking shit is spicy and craveable."

**Travis:** Walk it back, walk it back just a little bit.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** [crosstalk].

**Travis:** Is it approachable?

**Justin:** [laughs] No! That's what happened! It must be told, Dave Thomas rose from his grave and [crosstalk]—

**Griffin:** [muffled noises]

**Travis:** What he meant to say was, it's an approachable spice.

**Justin:** Dave Thomas actually... rose from his grave to say "This is a great addition to our menu, and it would pair great with a Frosty."

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "You would really have to cool down your palate. Just 99 cents."

**Griffin:** He busted out, he said it's great for vegetarians, and uh, God love our troops.

**Justin:** [laughs, coughs] So that—

**Griffin:** "It's so spicy it made me hate our troops!"

Oh, fuck...

**Justin:** [wheezing cough] [crosstalk].

**Griffin:** No. [crosstalk].

**Travis:** "I have a clear shot."

"Take it."

**Justin:** [coughing laughter, wheezing] Take him out!

**Griffin:** "Guys, damn—this sandwich killed him!"

No. No, no, no, no, no.

**Travis:** [laughs loudly]

**Justin:** [laughing]

**Travis:** "I've seen the end! It was so hot, I could see through time to the very collapse of the universe! This is all meaningless! Nothing matters!"

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "Everything you do is pointless! We're all in a trajectory that was planned long before the invention of time! But do enjoy the Frosty. You can dip your fries in it, and it's delicious."

**Justin:** "He's right, it's craveable. The craveability is inarguable. We can all agree on that." [holding back laughter] The sniper's nodding his head.

**Griffin:** [laughs] "Yes, we can."

**Justin:** [laughs] A single tear rolling down his face.

**Travis:** "You were my best friend."

**Justin:** [coughs, laughs] "I have to take the shot. And I have to put you in the ground, but this burger is flavorful and craveable."

**Travis:** "But I'll marry your wife, just like I promised—"

**Justin:** [laughs] "I will—and I'll raise your son, just like you would've wanted, with lots of spicy foods."

**Travis:** But not too spicy.

**Griffin:** "I'm sorry, I have to stop the interview. Sir, did you just Morse code tap on the table that your butt got turned into a volcano by this hot, hot, spicy—"

**Justin:** [coughs, laughs]

**Griffin:** "No"?

**Travis:** “No”?

“These are actual jalapenos. Wink!”

**Justin:** This is the perfect... triumvirate of butt problems, where it’s incredibly spicy, with several new kinds of jalapenos that are actually jalapenos, and mainly black beans and also made at Wendy’s, so it’s gonna have a real—a real kind of ribald bathroom, uh, afterparty you should check out.

**Griffin:** [laughs] Yeah, sure.

**Travis:** Hey, listen, if anyone from Wendy’s is listening, I’m actually a big fan of Wendy’s. I love what you guys are doing over there. I love `em. Love `em.

**Justin:** Love Wendy’s. Love Wendy’s.

**Travis:** I don’t know why Justin said that you guys make people’s butts hurt. I have never had that experience.

**Griffin:** No, they—they don’t.

**Travis:** A junior bacon cheeseburger is like, my favorite thing. I don’t know—I don’t know why Justin says that—

**Justin:** I’m conflating the time that I had diarrhea and had to drive quickly to Wendy’s to throw away my underwear with [crosstalk].

**Travis:** But Wendy’s was there for you in that moment, Justin!

**Griffin:** Yeah, Justin.

**Justin:** It was. I shouldn’t be dragging them down.

**Griffin:** You’re punishing Wendy’s.

**Travis:** For your mistakes.



**Justin:** Especially when they're churning out some of the most craveable menu options.

Uh, "I'm a vegan [laughs] and have a full-time job. So my brother called me—"

**Griffin:** "I'm looking for a burger that will fucking shatter my reality."

**Justin:** [laughs] "I'm a vegan and I have a full-time job, so when my brother called me and offered to make me hand-made vegan spaghetti, I accepted. It's now sitting in front of me, and it's gross. The problem is, he spent two and a half hours making it, and he's sitting right behind me. Brothers, how do I dispose of this spaghetti he made specifically without uh, him seeing? Follow-up, how do I get more food later without getting caught?"

**Griffin:** Mm.

**Justin:** That's from Stealthily Disposing of Spaghetti in Spokane.

**Travis:** You can't just put it in the garbage.

**Griffin:** It's tough. Yeah. It's g—

**Travis:** Too visible. He's gonna open that garbage later—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** God, and there's not a lot of, like, outside animals that eat spaghetti that you could, like, chuck it to.

**Travis:** Well, you would have to make it to a window at that point, too.

I think your best bet is maybe a two-part disposal, where you're gonna put it in, like, a drawer that's rarely used – right? Dump it in that drawer. And then you're gonna recover that in an hour or so when the heat's off. Right?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And then... you're gonna need... [sighs]

**Griffin:** This is a two-person operation.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. You need a friend.

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Griffin:** A collaborator. Um...

**Travis:** You could do an accidental dump on the floor. Right?

**Griffin:** Oh, that's so mean, though.

**Travis:** Where like, you turn too quickly...

**Justin:** Yeah, that's really mean. That's gonna hurt a lot.

You—you know, spaghetti is a really good food for...

**Griffin:** Everybody! Everybody.

**Justin:** ...scooting it into mounds, and then acting like "Ugh!"

**Griffin:** "I couldn't possibly—"

**Justin:** "I'm stuffed!"

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** "I've eaten so much of it."

**Travis:** Could you put it on your head, and pretend it's your hair?

**Griffin:** Oh. There's something there.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Is there?

**Travis:** Well, I mean, you're gonna have to style it.

**Griffin:** No, there's something there for sure.

**Travis:** It's a kind of permanent solution, though, at that point. 'Cause if it starts to fall off... hm. Hm.

**Griffin:** You could say—you could ask, "What's in this?" And then have them go down the list of ingredients. And at some point in there, be like "Oh, did you say capers? This ain't vegan."

**Travis:** [gasps]

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Oh, yeah!

**Griffin:** Yeah, capers. You wouldn't think it, but there's—they're just little snail eyes.

**Justin:** [snorts]

**Griffin:** "Oh, are you sure? I thought they were, like, little weird olives."

"Nah, man. Fucking snail feet. Sucks. You worked real hard on this."

**Travis:** "Sucks, man, I was..."

**Griffin:** "Sucks that you undid all that good, hard work just because you weren't paying attention to the ingredients."

**Travis:** "How about I order us some steaks, huh? I'll get on DoorDash..."

**Griffin:** "Let's get some—" [laughs]

**Travis:** "Get some steaks, get some pork rinds..."

**Griffin:** [laughs]

I don't know what you—make Jeffy eat it. I don't know what you want me to say to this question! I know—I need full situational awareness to do a cheat like this.

**Justin:** You didn't even, like—you didn't even give us, like, exits. Like, of—

**Griffin:** What—

**Justin:** You know? We have no information here.

**Griffin:** How big are your pockets?

**Travis:** Yeah. Are you wearing loose pants, like a JNCO jean?

**Justin:** Are they lined with spaghetti-proof plastics?

**Travis:** Do you have a dog in the house?

**Griffin:** And it's still important.

**Travis:** 'Cause that's easy.

**Griffin:** Make sure that the plastic is rated for spaghetti.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Don't just use Ziploc. It's not rated for spaghetti.

**Travis:** How big is the kitchen counter? 'Cause you could potentially spread, like, one strand here, one strand there, like some sort of Easter egg hunt where, even if they saw individual strands, it would not seem like enough to make up an entire plate of spaghetti. And you could just—

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Travis:** Like, "Oh, it was so delicious. I just tore into it, like the Tasmanian devil, and launched those little bastards all over the kitchen."

**Griffin:** Yeah. "I tore it up all crazy, like a wild wolverine."

**Travis:** "I just—I spun into it..." [laughs] "I turned into a tornado, and I spun into the middle of it, and spaghetti was everywhere. I am so, so sorry."

**Griffin:** Oh, that's good. I mean, you could do it for real, though, right in front of him. And just, like...

**Travis:** [gobbling noises].

**Griffin:** Get—yeah! Like, smash your face into it like the Cookie Monster, and only—you're only gonna have to eat a couple bites, but the rest of it is just gonna go...

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** ...hither and yon.

**Justin:** Yeah. If you Cookie Monster it, uh, it'll look like maximum impact with, like, minimum...

**Griffin:** Very little work.

**Travis:** Oh, you could also do that thing where you turn, like, profile to him, and you open your mouth up, and you turn your head facing upward, and you hold up one strand at a time, just go "Aah!" But actually, you're dropping it beside your face, on the opposite side of him. Uh, and you're gonna do that a lot. It's gonna take a long time to get through this—just "[swallowing noises]," and it's gonna look like it's disappearing into your mouth. But you're not really eating it; it's a magic trick.

**Griffin:** Mm...

**Travis:** Could you turn it into a braided bracelet?

**Griffin:** That's cool. Give it right back.

**Justin:** Oh!

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** Pasketti bracelet!

**Travis:** Pasketti bracelet, for brothers.

**Griffin:** Uh, how do you fuck up spaghetti that bad? Especially once you work on it for two hours?

**Justin:** Spaghetti squash. This is what I've—I've been thinking about the entire time I've been sitting here.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Spaghetti squash that you've just done wrong, right?

Squash has—we can all agree, has a limited, uh, a limited window of viability.

**Griffin:** Yeah...

**Travis:** Well, here's what I will say. As a parent... it says it's "sitting in front of you," and it's gross. Which makes me think maybe you haven't tried it.

So maybe it doesn't *look* appetizing...

**Griffin:** Oh!

**Travis:** Maybe it doesn't look like your thing...

**Griffin:** Open it up! Open it up, let's see!

**Travis:** But maybe take a bite and see if you like it. How about a three-bite rule, just like Pete the Cat says. Try three bites, and you see if you like it! Huh?

**Griffin:** 'Cause it might be good. It might be good, little baby.

**Travis:** So open the hanger, and here comes the airplane.

**Griffin:** Vroom, vroom, here we come.

**Travis:** [makes vrooming noise] Oh, no, we've been shot! Gotta aim—you gotta—we're coming in for a hot landing! Oh, it's the Sopwith Camel being chased by the Red Baron.

"You're not opening your mouth. What's wrong? Eat it."

**Griffin:** Oh, no. Then it never crashes into the hangar, does it?

**Travis:** No... no.

**Griffin:** I wish my—I wish—I'm glad my son doesn't know that, that if he just doesn't open his mouth... I'm not gonna, like, smash the spaghetti into his closed mouth.

**Justin:** [wheezes softly]

**Griffin:** It's a little lifehack for you four-year-olds.

**Justin:** Before we wrap up, can I talk about my life real quick.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I guess so!

**Travis:** Sure.

**Justin:** Um, I—this weird thing happened with Minions where the groups that were posting lots of different memes...

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** ...went private, and then these groups were only Minions. It's really weird, guys. Like, if you look for these groups, you can't find them anymore. It was really hard to find the last batch.

That's not what I wanted to talk about, though. I got into one that was like, invite-only.

**Griffin:** Oh, okay.

**Justin:** Right? Where you had to answer questions like—I mean, I think the questions were like, “Do you love Minions?”

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** And yeah...

**Travis:** That’s a tough one.

**Justin:** It’s a tough one, but the—yeah, I came down with “yes.”

Um, but now that I’m in the groups, I’m afraid to leave. ‘Cause what if I need ‘em, you know what I mean?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Like, they would get suspicious if like, I left, and then—I just want to tell you guys some stuff that’s happening in the groups.

Um, they’ve gone so that they’re not really talking about Minions as much as you would think...

**Travis:** Huh.

**Justin:** ...they would be talking about Minions. Um...

**Griffin:** I would think they would be speaking about the Minions quite a... quite a bit.

**Justin:** Quite a bit. I mean, there’s a good amount of Minions material, but here’s a poll um, that someone put up, that said “*The Munsters* or *The Addams Family*: which one was the best show?”

**Griffin:** Oh, fuck.

**Travis:** It’s very nuanced. I don’t know that there’s a clear answer to that, [crosstalk].



**Justin:** So I'm gonna read you guys—without any names, I'm gonna read you guys without skipping anything, that answer. Okay? The answers that this post received.

By the way, people go absolutely buck nuts for these. There's 283 respondents.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Jeez.

**Justin:** Where wanted to—rushing, rushing to give you their two cents. You ready?

**Griffin:** Yep.

**Justin:** "Both shows are better than most reality shows they have now."

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** That wasn't... part of it.

**Justin:** So wait—wait, hold on. Do you think... can we—did you think those were reality television programs? [laughs]

**Travis:** Huh!

**Justin:** Anyway... Uh, so it both shows—okay. "Both. Both. Tammy, 'Both.' Amber, 'I like both of them.' Beth, 'Toss-up.'"

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "Cassie, 'Love 'em both.' Gordon, 'Love them both.'"

**Griffin:** [continues laughing]

**Justin:** "Roma, 'Both funny.' Stephanie, 'I love both.' Donna, 'I love them both equally.' Donna, 'I love 'em both. Can't pick.' Cheri, 'Both.' Hermalina, 'Love 'em both!'"

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Huh!

**Justin:** "Scott, 'Love 'em both!' Elene, 'I hate making choices. Crap! I loved watching both as a kid! Crap!'"

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "Lisa says, 'I like both.'"

**Travis:** We're not getting anywhere!

**Justin:** "Jan said, 'I—both, but if forced to pick, I'd go for *Addams Family*.' Claire, 'Both were awesome. I grew up watching both.'"

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Justin:** "Blaine, 'Can't choose. Love 'em both!' Angela, '*Adam's Family*,'" spelled A-D-A-M apostrophe S. "Hi, I'm Adam. This is my family."

**Griffin:** "Welcome to my—my wild, mixed-up family!"

**Justin:** "Deborah, 'Both.' Lynn, 'Picture of a flossing skeleton.'"

**Griffin:** Okay! Okay.

**Justin:** "Frank, '[shouting] Both!'"

**Griffin:** Oh, boy.

**Travis:** Which one would you guys pick?

**Justin:** Don't make me choose. But probably *Addams Family*.

**Travis:** Wrong.

**Griffin:** Yeah, *Addams Family*, definitely.

**Justin:** But that *1313 Mockingbird Lane*, an unaired pilot that um, uh, Brian uh, Fuller made. There was an adaptation starring Jerry O'Connell as Herman Munster.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And Eddie Izzard as Grandpa, I think?

**Travis:** What?

**Justin:** Fucking slapped. Yeah, it was very—just extremely good.

**Travis:** The answer was both, is what I was looking for.

**Justin:** Oh, both.

Hey, thanks for listening to our podcast. Uh, we hope you have enjoyed yourself, and had uh, a lot of fun, and made some new friends!

**Travis:** And learned something!

**Justin:** Along the way. Learned something about yourself.

**Travis:** Um, our video on demand of the Summer Boy-B-Q is still available for just a little bit longer, if you go to [bit.ly/mbmbamvirtual](https://bit.ly/mbmbamvirtual). So go check that out.

Oh, *TAZ: Crystal Kingdom*, our newest *Adventure Zone* graphic novel, comes out next week, July 13th, 2021! Go ahead and get that preorder, what are you waiting for? [Bit.ly/adventurezonecomic.com](https://bit.ly/adventurezonecomic.com).

But, even more exciting, we're doing a live and virtual event to celebrate the graphic novel coming out on July 13th. We've got special guests coming, and I'm not gonna tell you who they are now, but we've all got them lined up, and it's gonna be wild. Wild, and silly, and you're gonna have a great time. Go to [bit.ly/tazgnlive2021](https://bit.ly/tazgnlive2021). That's [tazgnlive2021](https://bit.ly/tazgnlive2021) for more info. It's got event-exclusive signed bookplates are available from our partner bookstores. More info can be found at that link.

And we have a non-event-exclusive preorder gift from First Second, which is a Kravitz lenticular laptop sticker. You can submit your preorder receipts at [bit.ly/taz4preorder](http://bit.ly/taz4preorder). Lot of bit.ly's in there, but it's all worth it.

**Griffin:** A lot of bitlys.

**Travis:** All worth it. Tell me about that merch, Griffin.

**Griffin:** Yeah, we got lots of merch, uh, at our [mcelroymerch](http://mcelroymerch) page, including uh, a new pin of the month for the gooshie wolves, uh, which if you've listened to the *Ethersea* setup episodes, you know of course is the mascot for the, I guess, only school in that entire world. We love the gooshie wolves.

And uh, the sales for that are gonna benefit the Innocence Project, which exonerates the wrongly convicted through DNA testing, and reforms the criminal justice system to prevent future injustice.

There's other stuff on there, too – there's a "It's trash" sticker from the *MBMBaM* TV show. There's a beautiful green stoneware mug with the uh, TAZ logo on it. And uh, even *The Besties* is getting in on the game with the—a video game book club shirt, and it's very—it's very stylish, and you'll get lots of compliments on it.

Uh, and hey, you know what? Thank you to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, and that theme song is called "My Life (Is Better With You)!" And when it drops... and—we—we know when.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** We know when it drop—we basically have our fingers on the switch, that when we flip it then the song goes live on iTunes...

**Justin:** Yeah, it's up to us and we're withholding it, and that's the—

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** That's the important thing, is that you make sure you know that it's fully us, and we're the ones that—iTunes, like, calls us every day, and is like "Can we have the song now?"

**Travis:** "Please!"

**Griffin:** And we're like, "Oh, sorry, we're so busy."

Um...

**Travis:** Did you guys know that Montaigne streams on Twitch?

**Griffin:** I did not know that, but it tracks.

**Travis:** You can—yeah, actualmontaigne on Twitch. I just watched Montaigne do uh, a *Sims 4* stream the other day. It was absolutely wonderful. Uh, if you are on Twitch, you can also check out my Twitch channel, it is thetravismcelroy. I've been getting into *Overwatch*, if you can believe it, trying to get good at it.

**Griffin:** 'Cause it's 1998.

**Travis:** Yep! Yep, that and *MBA Jam*. [laughs] The two new games I'm checking out.

**Griffin:** Um, here's a final Yahoo. This one was sent in by Breckin Meyer.

**Travis:** Woah!

**Griffin:** Yeah, pretty badass. And it's asked by Shreckin Preyer...

**Travis:** Huh.

**Griffin:** Who—

**Justin:** Sorry, "Shreckin Preyer"?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** It's Richard Preyer's grandson.

**Justin:** Got it.

**Griffin:** His Shrek-based grandson.

**Travis:** Uh-huh. Shrek-inspired.

**Griffin:** Shrek-inspired asks... [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs] It's weird, it just says "Donkey!" with like, five exclamation points, and like four question marks.

**Travis:** [laughs] Mm-hm!

**Griffin:** I don't even know how this one got past the filters on Yahoo. Usually, I think it has to be two words. But it's just says—it just says "donkey" on it.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Is there a question?

**Griffin:** That was it. "Donkey."

**Justin:** That was the whole—

**Griffin:** Yeah, that was the whole thing.

**Justin:** My name is Justin McElroy.

**Travis:** I'm Travis McElroy.

**Griffin:** Maybe it didn't load? Let me refresh the browser.

**Justin:** [laughs] Finish it!

**Griffin:** No, it's—this is Griffin McElroy. It's the full page.

**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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