

## **MBMBaM 568: Will A Sign Help?**

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**Intro (Bob Ball):** The McElroy brothers are not experts, and their advice should never be followed. Travis insists he's a sexpert, but if there's a degree on his wall, I haven't seen it. Also, this show isn't for kids, which I mention only so the babies out there will know how cool they are for listening. What's up, you cool baby?

[theme song plays]

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

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

**Griffin:** And I'm your sweet baby brother, Griffin McElroy.

**Travis:** You know, here at *My Brother, My Brother and Me* Industries...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** The word of the day, the word of the year, the word of the business is, of course, innovation.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Travis:** We're always looking for new ways to help you, the listener slash consumer. And—

**Griffin:** And for a while there, you said at the beginning of the year, it was skinnovation. And me and Juice—

**Travis:** Skinnovation, yes.

**Griffin:** Me and Juice were like "What's that?"

And you were like “Polyweave fibers, uh, nanofiber weave on your skin that makes you bullet proof and sword proof.”

And we were like “That’s... that’s not real, bud.”

**Travis:** Yeah, but then you guys just brought me a lot about nudity. Like, a *lot* about nudity.

**Griffin:** Oh. And new kinds of nudity! Internal nudity!

**Travis:** Yeah, you spelled it N-E-W-D, which I liked. Don’t get me wrong, I like that.

**Griffin:** Right, yeah.

**Travis:** This time, I figured out a new question...

**Griffin:** `Kay.

**Travis:** ...that I think will help us answer questions for advice and maybe help the people at home.

**Griffin:** Alright.

**Travis:** And it’s simple, and that question is this: “Would a sign help?” And I was going through the question list today, right?

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** I was making it, and I thought “How often that could be—” You know those like, flow charts of answers they have, where it’s just like, you know, “Is it this? If yes, then this. If no, then this.” Right? And I think that we could ask “Would a sign help?” And that would be a good starting place...

**Griffin:** Okay!

**Travis:** ...for a lot of questions.

**Griffin:** Like a si—like a Bill Engvall situation.

**Travis:** Or, I mean, listen. I don't want to limit what kind of sign. It could be a billboard, it could be a traffic sign...

**Griffin:** Okay. Okay.

**Travis:** ...could be just like a written poster-board thing, right? But if we can start from "Would a sign help?" we can build off of that.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Travis:** And give ourselves a bit more of a foundation—uh, a foundation of rock, if you will, instead of sand.

**Griffin:** Okay...

**Travis:** Is where I feel we've been in the past.

**Griffin:** It sounds like maybe you just watched that *Three Billboards Outside Bing Bong, Wisconsin*, and you are now all fired up...

**Justin:** [laughs] It can't be that. Certainly that's not the title of it.

**Travis:** I haven't watched *Two Billboards* yet, so I don't want to get to the third one because I don't want to be lost.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah, you wouldn't [crosstalk]—

**Justin:** [bursts out laughing] Damn, that would've been a good joke when that film was relevant a few years back, eh?

**Travis:** I know, right? Aw, man.

**Justin:** Where was that?

**Travis:** Ah, boy. Ah, boy.

**Griffin:** That's a short movie, too, 'cause it's just Frances McDormand, and she's already sweaty for putting up the first billboard.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And she puts it down, she's like "Damn, this... I'm still not satisfied." Roll credits.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** "I gotta get some more billboards."

**Travis:** I'm gonna need at least one more.

**Griffin:** This first one says "Fuck Woody Harrelson."

And the next one says "For real, though."

But I feel like I need a third one that says "For real, though!"

**Travis:** And then—what I'm waiting for *Four Billboards*, where the fourth one just says "You just missed those last three billboards!"

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And that way he's telling you to turn around and go back.

**Griffin:** Does Frances McDormand's awesome billboards slamming Woody Harrelson work? Just did. Say something like that?

**Justin:** [laughs] I—

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I wish I had more—I wish people did that to Woody Harrelson all the time for different reasons, all over the country.

**Griffin:** Oh, that's good.

**Justin:** I wish it wasn't just his character. I wish it was, like...

**Travis:** About him?

**Justin:** "Make another *Zombieland*, Woody."

**Griffin:** Yeah, Woody. Hey, Woody?

**Justin:** Hey, Woody, make a third *Zombieland*. I didn't watch the second one, 'cause I want to watch the trilogy all in one setting, you know what I mean?

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

**Justin:** [crosstalk]

**Travis:** When they show them back-to-back in movie theaters, you know?

**Justin:** Yeah, as was intended.

**Griffin:** "How's Matt—Matt McConaughey doing, bud?"

And then he put it right outside his house. Not Matt McConaughey's house, but Woody Harrelson.

**Justin:** Hey, Griffin?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Is Matt McConaughey gonna be your governor? [laughs]

**Griffin:** Matt McConaughey would be, I would say, a step up. Maybe not the ideal candidate for the job, but right now, the candidate for the job who has the job is a real stinker. So—

**Travis:** Real stinker.

**Justin:** A bucket of wet hamburgers pushed down a flight of stairs would be a better governor than you got right now.

**Griffin:** That's not a f—and unfair comparison. It's not an unfair thing to say. Um, but yeah, I mean, I—I—shit, man. If that's the—if that's the way we go—if that's the way we go with it...

**Justin:** But can we talk about how it directly affects this program...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Justin:** If Matt McConaughey becomes your... official governor. He's basically, it should be noted, already the governor of Huntington.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Because he made a movie about Marshall here, and he's basically all of our—

**Travis:** 12 years ago, I think?

**Justin:** Yeah, like 100 years ago, and he's now all of our dads.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** But like, if he becomes your... the governor over there, you know, like—

**Griffin:** Sure. Well, we wouldn't call him that.

**Justin:** Yeah. But like, what happens to this program, *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, if frequently there's something going on where [laughs] Matt McConaughey is your... governor.

**Griffin:** I mean...

**Travis:** I'm just worried that it's gonna eat up his time to make car commercials and stuff. Like, [crosstalk]. He'll get out there.

**Justin:** That Lincoln money.

**Griffin:** That Lincoln money spends. Austin's got beautiful rolling hills for—

**Travis:** Is that 'cause he was the Lincoln lawyer? That Lincoln was like "Oh, shit."

**Griffin:** Yeah, I think that's what it was.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** [crosstalk]. I think that's at least how it started.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** He thinks he's still filming the movie.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** He's like, "When that *Lincoln Lawyer* sequel arrive—arrive—[repeats]"

**Griffin:** And if you—when *Lincoln Lawyer 2* comes out, if you haven't watched all the Lincoln car commercials ARG?

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** You're gonna have missed out on a lot.

**Justin:** [laughs] Do you mean you're gonna—to follow the hunt of the car of the man behindthewheel.org/mattmconaugheyforgovvvv with four V's. The adventure beings—[laughs] The adventure begins there.

**Travis:** And at the end, you win a coupon for a scr—free scoop at Baskin-Robbins.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Which is nice. I hope he has your vote.

**Griffin:** Uh...

**Travis:** I don't know his— Can I be honest? I don't know [crosstalk].

**Griffin:** Don't know his platform.

**Justin:** Don't know his platform. Doesn't matter; he's Matthew McConaughey.

**Travis:** I can fill in the blanks a lot.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I bet he's part of the [close to microphone, muffled] Green Party.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** You know what I hope he's not a member of? All right, all right, all right, all right.

**Griffin:** [bursts out laughing] That's good, Trav.

**Justin:** [laughs loudly] Fuck. It took a while to get there, but...

**Griffin:** That's awesome.

**Travis:** See? A sign helped.



**Griffin:** Yep. You're right.

**Justin:** "I'm an artist. Lately, I've been studying architecture as a hobby."

**Griffin:** Cool.

**Justin:** "I live within biking distance." That's cool.

**Griffin:** Yeah, it is cool. Badass.

**Justin:** Doesn't that seem like that would be—that's more than I wish I could sit down for like an hour, and be able to point at buildings, and be like, "Hm, neoclassical."

**Griffin:** "Oh!"

**Travis:** Right, right, right.

**Justin:** Wouldn't that be cool?

**Travis:** Now, here's the thing, Justin. Can I tell you something? 99 percent of the time, you can do that.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** 'Cause the person you're talking to, chance that they know if you're right or wrong, very slim.

**Justin:** But I'd know...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And that's gonna—that's not gonna boost my confidence.

**Griffin:** Well, you can just walk down the street and be like "Ooh, that's a big one."

**Travis:** Yeah. I like that one.

**Griffin:** "Ooh—ooh, [crosstalk] one."

**Travis:** [crosstalk].

**Justin:** It would be like—imagine the time I spent learning about Disneyworld was applied to the real world...

**Griffin:** Anything useful, yeah, sure.

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

**Justin:** Yeah, imagine if I the way I am, and we walk around Disney World, I'm like "You know, that's actually—the letters on that window advertise that fake business are actually a reference to one of the original lawyers of the Disney World team." Imagine if I was like that, but like, for...

**Griffin:** But like smart shit. Like, smart building shit.

**Travis:** But Justin, that's how an architect feels when they're walking around Disney with you, and they're like "Why did I waste all that time worry about architecture? I could've learned about Disney, like just because he's so cool."

**Griffin:** It'll be so cool, though.

**Justin:** It's got architecture in it too, is the problem.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** You know what I mean?

**Travis:** And very rarely does architecture have Disney in it.

**Griffin:** Just imagine walking around Chicago, and pointing at the big buildings, and being like "Mm, yeah, that's a mid-century David Hyde Pierce."

**Justin:** Man, remind me to tell you guys about the email we got about *Frasier's* theme song.

**Travis:** No, I know. I know.

**Justin:** "I live within biking distance of a couple of old slash architecturally interesting slash weird houses, and I would love to sit and draw them and take some notes on their architectural features. However, I don't think that this would endear me to the occupants very much. How can I complete my self-directed studies without coming off as a huge creep?" That's from Suspicious Student in Stony Brook.

Okay, can I ask a stupid question?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And it's very obvious, it must be like a stupid...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Like, why—what is the—I don't know—I don't do, like, this kind of art. I'm more of an audio artist.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** How does—why can't you just take a picture and then draw based on the picture?

**Travis:** Good question. So I actually, in college, as part of a scene design class, we had to go and, like, draw buildings on campus. And it's about, like, angles and getting the right perspective, so that you can compare lines...

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Travis:** ...compared to other things, and changing your point of view, and shit like that.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And with—

**Justin:** So you gotta kind of do it.

**Travis:** Well, with a photo, you don't always get the... depth uh, that [crosstalk].

**Griffin:** Yeah. Damn, there should be a way to, like, have photos that like, fucking move.

**Justin:** Move.

**Griffin:** Yeah, so you can get the...

**Justin:** Yeah. [crosstalk] photos.

**Travis:** But that's also not as fun, you know?

**Griffin:** That's—

**Justin:** Yeah, it's not as fun, but it's also not gonna get you put into artist jail.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Which is where we put people who do art [crosstalk].

**Travis:** Well, so here's the question.

**Justin:** Yeah?

**Travis:** Would a sign help?

**Griffin:** Mm. A sign that says—

**Travis:** If you just had a sign set up next to you...

**Justin:** Okay, wait a minute. Now, wait! This is a good question to start asking! If you put up a sign that said, basically, like [laughs] "Doing art..."

**Griffin:** "Building artist." Yeah.

**Justin:** "Building art—building artist, ask me anything..."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And then a little hat—'cause I think people are more comfortable if commerce is involved.

**Travis:** They understand, they get the motivation at that point.

**Justin:** [crosstalk].

**Travis:** "Wait, you're just doing this to make yourself happy?"

"No."

**Justin:** What about this? I will draw—okay, I got—I got—I got—I *got* it.

You sit down.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** You get your pad, your pen, a cup of joe, and you start drawing the houses, right?

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** And then you have a sign that says "I will draw this building for five dollars."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** And if someone comes over and they're like "Here's five dollars..."

You just be like "Choice, thanks."

**Travis:** "Here's the building."

**Justin:** "I'm on it. [laughs]"

**Griffin:** "Working on it."

**Justin:** "I'm on it. I'm working on it."

And they'll be like "Should I come back later for my drawing?"

"Like, you don't get the drawing, I just—I'm drawing. [laughs] You gave me five dollars, I'm drawing the building."

**Griffin:** You're not—[crosstalk].

**Travis:** "I'm not offering anything; I'm asking."

**Justin:** Yeah! And you don't get— it doesn't matter if anyone ever does it, because you never see a c— like, a caricature artist is always— you see them sometimes at Disneyworld. A caricature artist is always sketching something.

**Travis:** Yeah. Usually the Terminator.

**Justin:** They'll never show you, of course. But they don't just sit you and stare at you. Until like, "Hey, you got a great chin for caricature! Come on over!" Like, they're working on stuff. You're always interrupting a caricature artist.

**Griffin:** Are there caricature [crosstalk]—

**Travis:** Do you think that it's weird how many times a caricature—

**Justin:** Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait. Both of you are talking at once. Griffin, you had a question.

**Griffin:** Do you—d—

**Justin:** What's your question?

**Griffin:** Do you think that there are caricature-ature artists, and that's the ones that do house drawings, but we do 'em all exaggerated and silly, like the windows are wicked big.

**Justin:** I regret—I regret coming to you, Griffin. Now we're gonna hear what Travis says. [laughs]

**Griffin:** Excellent.

**Travis:** Do you think it's really frustrating when you're, like, Beyonce, and you sit down at a caricature artist, and the caricature artist finishes, and Beyonce's like "I'll take that, please."

And the caricature artist is like "No, this is really good. I'm gonna put it up to display my talent."

And Beyonce just has to walk away without her drawing.

**Griffin:** But I don't think that Beyonce usually does sit for those kinds of...

**Justin:** Yeah, but they always have one of Beyonce, don't they?

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** So at some point, she must have come by.

**Travis:** They've got Terminator, they got Beyonce...

**Justin:** Because as Travis has just explained to us in excruciating detail...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** ...you can't draw based on a picture of Beyonce.

**Travis:** Correct.

**Justin:** You gotta have...

**Griffin:** The angles...

**Justin:** ...Beyonce [crosstalk].

**Travis:** Maybe that's why they look like they do! They do it from a picture, and they're like "Oh, no, the perspective's all wrong! Her head is giant!"

**Griffin:** "Shit!"

**Justin:** Wouldn't it be so funny if Charlie Chaplin walked up and he was like "I'll take that one of me, please."

**Griffin:** That's really good.

**Travis:** "I'll be suing you. That's me, sir."

**Justin:** "I'll purchase this. Also, why did you draw me knowing this?"

**Griffin:** And then fucking Gilbert Gottfried walks by, and drops off a picture of himself that is just the same one picture that every caricature artist has. He's just walking around the country, dropping those off like Johnny Appleseed.

**Travis:** He drew them himself, and he's like, "You can display this as your work."

And they're like "I *guess*... okay."

**Griffin:** If you're outside somebody's house, drawing it, would a sign help, but the sign says like "Hey, I'm not jerking off out here."



**Travis:** Hm.

**Justin:** Hm.

**Griffin:** You can guarantee nothing—everything is above-board, I’m just sketching for a non-jerk-off application. Promise, promise, promise to the max. But damn it, somebody could wear that sign that—

**Travis:** And be jerking off?

**Griffin:** That does gonna plan on doing that shit.

**Travis:** Well, this is the—this is one of the intricacies of the question “Would a sign help?” because...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Like, if you just wrote “I’m drawing the house,” right...

**Griffin:** Yeah...

**Travis:** That’s not as bad as “I’m drawing the house, Stephen Johnson, who lives in it.”

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Now, now it’s weird. Now it’s a problem.

**Griffin:** No, it’s bad. We need to get these signs notarized.

**Justin:** Yeah.

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

**Griffin:** We need a sign that says “Hey, I’m not jerking off down here.” And then there’s like, two signatories on the bottom, and like a seal from the

mayor that's like "Yup, he's not jerking off out here; he's just drawing. I promise. Trust me, I'm the mayor."

**Justin:** How about another question?

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** I know this is unorthodox.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** But why not?

**Travis:** Okay. Do it, yeah.

**Griffin:** Well, I would actually—can I do this WikiHow article? Because let me tell you something about this fucking website, guys.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Let me tell you something about—

**Justin:** Why would you let me get so far in it?

**Griffin:** Well, no, but we need to—

**Justin:** That was so much wasted time now.

**Griffin:** I know, but listen, I gotta tell you something about this website. It uses more fucking RAM on my considerably beefy rig than Ableton, than the 90 Audacity windows I have open, than—I could be running fucking *Halo 9* on this PC—or—on my computer, and it would fucking not use as much RAM as WikiHow. My fan is screaming! 'Cause it's like "Look at all these poor images!"

So I want to finish this and close it, so that the audio will be better. Is that okay?

**Justin:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Okay, good. I found this one on WikiHow, and it's about cat behavior. Communicating with cats.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Which is a rich, rich vein on WikiHow. I think it's maybe just 'cause people like to draw kitties. And the title of the article is "How to apologize to a cat."

**Travis:** Thank you.

**Griffin:** "Apologize to a cat. Step one—"

**Travis:** I missed my cat's birthday, and I've been wondering.

**Griffin:** Oh, well, this is gonna be great for you. This is more about, like, I accidentally, you know, bumped into him in the middle of the night and pissed him off or whatever. I rub their fur the wrong way, 'cause I have never touched a cat before.

**Travis:** So more physical slighting, and not so much emotional?

**Griffin:** Exactly. "Determine the offense. What did you do to make a cat madder? Did you make fun of her?" Fucking stupid cat—

**Travis:** Oh, okay, wait.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Come back in.

**Griffin:** Yeah. "If you offend your cat by making fun of her, you'll probably have to offer some treats and praise." Yeah, your cat's definitely—understands English enough to say, like, "Your asshole stinks, Mr. Chis—Chiskers."

**Justin:** [wheezes] Sorry, what's the cat's name?

**Griffin:** Chiskers. And then—

**Justin:** Got it.

**Griffin:** "You gotta choose a good time to apologize. If the cat's angry, not now. Approaching too soon may—"

**Travis:** "If the cat's busy..."

**Griffin:** "If the cat's busy—not right now, Stephen. I'm on the phone."

**Travis:** [laughs] "This is an important call!"

**Griffin:** "Yeah."

**Travis:** "I to—now it's even worse!"

**Griffin:** "Listen, don't approach too soon, 'cause you might get scratched, but don't wait too *long*..."

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** "...to apologize. Because cats definitely will think about that stuff. You can approach a frightened cat, but do so with caution."

"I'm—I'm not busy right now, but I'm fucking terrified."

"Shh, shh, shh, shh. It's okay. I'm sorry I—"

**Travis:** "I was just listening to creepypasta. I don't have time. I can't."

**Griffin:** "I'm listening to creepypasta on the internet, Stephen. Please."

"Walk slowly to the cat. Don't rush up on—"

"[shouting] Sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry!"

"[normally] Don't do that. Don't do that. Soft, gentle. Talk to your cat. Tell her 'I'm sorry.' You may even use your cat's name. It will not understand either of those things, I bet, but try blinking slowly, 'cause cats love that shit."

**Travis:** [laughs] Wait, how slowly? Be—be clear!

**Griffin:** Slow as you can! Slow as you can. Jackson Galaxy taught that to the world, back in like 2007, and every—it's the only thing people remember about cats.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Stroke your cat gently in her favorite spots."

My cat's fucking terrified, and I ran up on it real fast, but I know exactly where to touch this little guy, so it's okay. Scratch behind the ear, behind the cheek, it's all good.

"Play with the cat." These are all good things. "Give the cat some attention, praise and compliment your cat. Give your cat what he or she wants, within reason."

**Travis:** Okay...

**Justin:** Mm.

**Griffin:** Now it's something.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Now we're getting—

**Travis:** My cat wants a car.

**Griffin:** My cat fucking hates the way I talked about his stinky butt, but I am gonna give it 100,000 dollars. I am gonna give it one night where it

rules the house, and it eats the food in the kitchen, and I have to shit in its bad box.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Um, there's—

**Travis:** Now, here's one thing I know about cats, is that levels are very important, it's why cat trees are a thing.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** So it's a way for cats to show, like, they're more important than other cats.

**Griffin:** "I'm in charge."

**Travis:** So when you're apologizing to your cat, lay down flat on your belly, with your arms at your side, and kind of inch forward a little bit...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** So your cat knows that you're putting it above you.

**Griffin:** So then we have four entire sort of paragraphs here where the WikiHow article artist was like—J. Jonah Jameson was like, "I need fucking—I need 18 column inches."

And they're like "Oh, shit. Well, here's four tips that are all variations on 'Give your cat a treat.'"

"Give a treat to your cat."

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Leave a cat treat surprise for your cat. Add treats to your cat's food! Treat your cat with some special food!" Good, good, good.

**Travis:** Now, hold on. I want to go back to number two.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Because the problem is, if you leave a surprise treat somewhere, it might not associate that treat with you!

**Griffin:** No.

"Awesome. I'm having a shit day. Stephen's been a real jagoff. Tried to run up on me. Blinked too fast. What's this?"

**Travis:** "Talked about my butthole."

**Griffin:** "Talked about my asshole, didn't even apologize. What's this, what's this, what's this? A special surprise unrelated to Stephen!"

"Offer some dry catnip." Uh, okay.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Hey, yeah, I'm not man enough to apologize to my sweet Mr. Chiskers, but I will get him fucking fucked up. And then maybe when he's in that state, he will be more amenable to apo—"Yeah, what'd you do, Stephen? You talked about my asshole?"

"I don't even remember, man. Forget it."

**Travis:** Now, hold on. You joke at that, but this is a thing humans do to other humans, like—"I wanna take you out to a drink to apologize."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** That is a thing humans do to other humans.

**Griffin:** And then, y'all, watch the *tail*. Oh, my God.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah.

**Griffin:** If the tail is pointed up, with the tip curled to the side, that cat's okay to come. Poofed up cat, the cat's frightened, which as we learned earlier in the article, not entirely a dealbreaker. If he's thumping it, though, no, no, no, no. Walk right away. Walk away.

**Travis:** What if his tail, uh, makes the perfect shape of a question mark?

**Griffin:** Yeah? Mm... that means he's got a puzzle for you. Follow—

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Griffin:** Follow the cat, and don't stop following it until you've reached the puzzle, 'cause it's somewhere.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** "Look at the face!" That's helpful.

"Are the whiskers pointed, teeth bared, and nose wrinkled? That's 101 angry cat stuff, so don't do that."

**Travis:** That's—anything's angry, if anything did that, I'm like "That's a problem."

**Griffin:** Yeah. Now, I wanna hop down to the community Q and A, 'cause someone asked "Is there a quick and easy way to apologize for little things?" Which is fucking awesome. You read this whole article, and you're like, "That's too much time. I can't approach a cat slowly; I'm a businessman on the go. I got stocks to trade and houses to close on. I can't walk up on my cat slow and then *blink slow!* I'm not made of time, or money."

"You could just say, 'Sorry, cat name,'" in sweet, apologetic voice, and pet them gently on the spot they like. So sort of a conde—that's the only two points on this list that really matter.

**Justin:** Do you think it's just generating—like, if you're still clicking through...



**Griffin:** Mm.

**Justin:** ...it'll just keep... [laughs]

**Griffin:** Making questions?

**Justin:** With like an A—there's like an AI that's generating answers, like "Do another one about treats!"

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** "They're still clicking! They're still looking!"

**Griffin:** [crosstalk]. "I just took my cat to the vet. They had to give him a shot, and now he's mad at me and scared of me, what do I do now?"

You fucking say to the cat, like "I'm sorry I don't want you to fucking get a heart disease, Mr. Chiskers. Yeah, you can be pissed off at me if you want, 'cause I gave you an expensive shot so you don't die from cats' diseases.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Of which, Mr. Chiskers, I will say there are thousands.

**Travis:** And sometimes they sound fucking made up by the vet who's just trying to sell you medicine.

**Griffin:** Sell you shots.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Sorry, Mr. Chiskers, that I love you so much, I don't want you to fucking die at age five, you ungrateful little shit. How does—here's a WikiHow article: how does my cat apologize to me for being a real shit after I gave it medicine so it doesn't die from a lung disease, of which there are thousands for cats.

**Travis:** "How to make my cat understand responsibility."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** You raise a actually pretty good point about vets. I'm kind of worried about that now. Because like, think about it. If the worst—it's kind of like when you go to the mechanic, and he's like "You need a new farburetor."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And it's like, I don't think I do...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I don't trust you, I'm going to drive away now, and see what happens. I roll the dice, and the check engine comes on in like a week, and you're like "Fuck, that's right."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** If that happens with your pet, then that's—that's no good. You don't like that. That's a good—cats don't have a check engine light, you know what I mean?

**Griffin:** No, they don't.

**Justin:** They just have shoeboxes. And so it's like, how do you trust your vet? 'Cause they understand it way better than you do.

**Griffin:** Yeah, this is awesome.

**Justin:** You just gotta do whatever they say, right?

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's awesome.

**Travis:** Man, if we're being honest, chances are—

**Justin:** For a change.

**Travis:** —my dogs are in cahoots with that vet. The dog coughs a little bit, I go in, and the vet's like "Oh, yeah, no, he's got a bad case of kibble cough, or whatever. That'll be 500 dollars." And then he slips my dog some treats.

**Justin:** Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. Your parakeet is getting its beak wet on this deal. Fear not.

**Griffin:** Absolutely.

**Travis:** I don't trust anybody involved!

**Griffin:** It's so cool that we can be on the ground floor of this, like, "Anti-vax, but for animals" movement. Like, it seems like not really—

**Justin:** Come on, okay. [crosstalk]—

**Griffin:** No, it doesn't seem [crosstalk].

**Travis:** [crosstalk] Alright, Griffin.

**Justin:** [crosstalk] We're just having fun, then you have to make it all...

**Travis:** Griffin's gotta get political.

**Justin:** God, Griffin's always getting political.

**Travis:** What's next, Griffin? You and the vets gonna team up to write us emails and talk about how kibble cough is real, and it's very bad, and it costs 500 dollars. Huh?

**Griffin:** [laughs] It's weird—

**Travis:** Wait, are you involved?!

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

**Travis:** Griffin's involved!

**Justin:** Oh, it goes all the way to the top of Big Podcast.

**Griffin:** [laughs] Listen. Listen, I know what I just said, but I do—and I I—I love our nation's vets, but only our nation's vets. And let me just say, though, it is weird how it's always 500 dollars.

**Travis:** That is weird. That's what I—

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** And there's always a special food.

**Griffin:** Uh-huh. They're like "Oh, no, he's got double butt-worms. That's 500 big ones."

And it's like shit, I just paid you 500 big ones.

**Justin:** Sometimes we get emails... and tweets that we don't deserve. And I make it very clear to people...

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** And to my dad and my therapist and my wife, and I say "I did not deserve this tweet. Do you agree?"

**Griffin:** [laughs loudly]

**Justin:** And they say "No, Justin, you did not deserve it. You did not deserve the tweet. You did not deserve the email. People, y—don't you boys—don't deserve it, you're trying our best."

I feel like this past five minutes is one of those. [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** It's one of those times when we're gonna get the tweets, and we're gonna get the emails, and we're gonna say "Yeah."

**Travis:** "Yeah."

**Justin:** "Yeah, this one..."

**Travis:** [laughs] "Yeah, I really beefed it."

**Justin:** "This one, yeah, we were just kinda—we knew, even as we were saying it, that wasn't good."

**Travis:** [laughs] Yeah.

**Justin:** "We knew it. We deserve the tweets." And I guess I would say, "Lord, I apologize."

**Griffin:** That's great.

**Justin:** Just like Larry the Cable Guy says—

**Griffin:** Wait, wait, shh, guys. [close to microphone, quietly] Maybe we can flip it in the end, 'cause I don't know that we said anything, like, fully—like, that identifies it when we said "vet," we weren't talking about veterans. So maybe we—

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

**Griffin:** Maybe we pin it on veterans, and say like, "Yeah, I don't know why veterans always—are charging 500 dollars to fix our pets and stuff."

**Justin:** [sighs] Okay. "Currently, I am—" Do you think there's any veterans who went on to be veterinarians? That's got to be confusing, right?

**Travis:** Definitely.

**Griffin:** That's funny.

**Justin:** Right?

**Griffin:** They probably did it for—

**Justin:** And then people—and then people want to check `em out to see if they're any good, so you vet the vet vet.

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Travis:** Yeah? Yeah? Keep go—one more!

**Justin:** Uh, and then—and then—okay, but no, no, wait. And then he's selling his Corvette, and you want to check out and see if it's any good, so you're vetting the vet vet's vette.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Oh, you did it! You got there!

**Travis:** I'm proud of you.

**Justin:** Thank you. And you named it Bette Midler. So you're vetting the vet vet's vette Bette—

**Travis:** Yeah?

**Griffin:** Alright.

**Justin:** You're vetting the vet vet vette's Bette.

**Griffin:** You should've stopped at four. There's not a comedy rule of fives.

**Justin:** It's when I started cheating.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** It's when I started cheating.

**Griffin:** You changed the letter.

**Justin:** Yeah, I changed the letter.

**Travis:** Changed the letter, it doesn't work.

**Justin:** "Currently, I'm sitting in the stretching area of my gym." That sounds disorienting.

**Griffin:** [bursts out laughing] "There's no earthly way! Welcome to stretching area!"

**Travis:** [laughs] "[wobbly voice] Woah! Woah!"

**Griffin:** "Why don't you touch the ceiling? Oh, you can't! There it goes! [creaking noise] Welcome to Taffy Town!"

**Justin:** [laughs] We've belabored this enough so that even our dullest listeners...

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** You get it!

**Justin:** I had a quarter— this is non-joke, "I had a quarter in my pocket, and I just looked over to see my quarter rolling across the floor, landing against the stretching mat of the girl closest to me, who was like five feet away. My quarter is leaning up against her mat, and she hasn't noticed. Brothers, do I cut my losses and leave my quarter, or do I ask her for it back and try to explain that my quarter rolled out of my pocket to her mat, even though that sounds like an absolute lie?" That's from Runaway Quarter in Ron... Ronkon—

**Griffin:** Ronkonkoma!

**Justin:** Ronkonkoma!

**Travis:** I mean, it's not a lie. The quarter's there.

**Justin:** Oopa, oop—

**Griffin:** What?

**Justin:** Did you just—I want... Before we get into the specifics of this, I would like to talk about quarters.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** Pennies...

**Travis:** Gross.

**Justin:** ...dimes, nickels, throw them all in the garbage.

**Griffin:** I'll fuck with a dime.

**Travis:** Now, a dime, I disagree.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** A dime is so little. It takes up so little effort to pick it up.

**Justin:** But a *quarter*...

**Griffin:** Oh, man.

**Justin:** Where I'm at in my life right now, you still will come across, like, um, a vending machine. You wanna get yourself some Trident. [laughs]

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Or maybe you wanna park a car, and you gotta put a quarter in there.

**Griffin:** Or [crosstalk].



**Travis:** [crosstalk].

**Justin:** [crosstalk] still need from—from time-to-time, and to me, I so rarely use cash that I never even really encounter quarters...

**Griffin:** Mm.

**Justin:** ...so the value of the quarter has actually exceeded...

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Justin:** ...the value of the quarter. Does that make sense?

**Travis:** Due to rarity. Yes, yes, yes.

**Justin:** Yes, due to rarity! How did I get a quarter? I c—there have been times in the past, like, literal month of my adult life where I've been like "Ooh, two quarters!"

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** [laughs] I get, like, a little excited in my pocket. What's that jingle-jangle? I don't remember getting these bad boys. Guess Daddy's getting some Trident!

**Travis:** I'll tell you the mistake I made about two years ago. Just went to the bank, handed him a 10-dollar bill, said "Give me a roll of quarters," and then I just emptied it into the center console of my car, so I would always have a quarter if I needed it. But then—

**Justin:** And that's why that high-speed collision was in fact—[laughs] [crosstalk].

**Travis:** Very bad. It was basically a dirty bomb at that point. But...

**Justin:** [laughs loudly]

**Travis:** Then I started to take for granted that the quarter would always be there.

**Griffin:** Oh.

**Justin:** Oh, okay.

**Travis:** And then one day, I pull up to Aldi, and I need to get my Aldi card out by putting a quarter into the cart – no quarter. And I’m the asshole running around with two dimes and a nickel, like “Hey, can I—will anybody trade—”

**Griffin:** Yeah... shit. “You trade—who’s doing coin trades?” [laughs]

**Justin:** “[sing-song] Who will buy my nickel and dimes?” Um—

**Griffin:** I’ll tell you a mistake I made. Emptied out my 401K for—and I got it all in quarters, and I went to Dave and Buster’s, and I was like “I’m gonna have the best weekend ever.”

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And then they were like “We do digital cards. We don’t do coins anymore.”

**Travis:** Aw, man.

**Justin:** Ugh.

**Travis:** Oh, boy.

**Griffin:** Fuck!

**Travis:** I’ll tell you who fucking loves quarters—four-year-olds!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I hand Bebe three quarters, and she's a king!

**Griffin:** [crosstalk].

**Justin:** [crosstalk].

**Travis:** No, she's four, guys.

**Griffin:** Like Tic Tacs.

**Travis:** She doesn't eat quarters! That's my 18-month-old.

**Justin:** Great Wolf Lodge Arcade does the digital cards, and I tell you guys, when you start hitting the slots really hard trying to get the—you don't really feel that money leaving so much when it's on a card.

**Griffin:** You don't.

**Justin:** You're trying to get that, like, Squidward you need to complete your *Spongebob* [crosstalk]—

**Travis:** I mean, Gary—Gary is the hard-to-get-one.

**Justin:** Gary's the chase one for sure, yeah.

**Travis:** Just like the Toto in the *Wizard of the Oz* one. That's the chase.

**Justin:** Oh, man, this sucks because she's stretching!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah.

**Justin:** So you can't—you can't—you—listen, you *can't* go over there.

**Griffin:** No.

**Travis:** You cannot approach. So here's the question: would a sign help?

**Griffin:** I mean, damn it. You could still maybe even use the "I'm not jerking off out here" sign to like, walk over and grab the coin. And—

**Justin:** Even the presence of that feels like harassment.

**Griffin:** Yeah, it's [crosstalk].

**Travis:** Yeah, so I think in this circumstance, the answer is no.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Because the amount of effort one would need to put into making a sign to explain that your quarter rolled over there, that's too much effort.

**Justin:** We haven't established the value of quarters, though. This is what I'm struggling with, is like, what do you have later in the day that you needed that quarter for? You know what I mean?

**Travis:** It's got to be important, 'cause you got dressed for the gym, and you thought "Well, I'm taking this quarter with me."

**Justin:** "Gotta put this quarter in my waistband, where it can..."

**Griffin:** [laughs] The only thing that makes sense is that they found the quarter earlier, in which case... easy come, easy go.

**Travis:** Then you gotta let it go.

**Griffin:** You gotta let it—

**Travis:** Yeah, now it's on its journey, right?

**Griffin:** It's continuing on.

**Travis:** You are but a waypoint on this quarter's journey.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** But if it's your quarter and your big plans, and this is the one gym in the world that sells big bottle of Powerade for a quarter...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** ...and you were gonna slam that sweet blue stuff after your workout, yeah, you gotta get that quarter back.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Travis:** And here's the thing: I think that this is—listen, this is not a perfect solution, but you could quickly walk over, murmur "I dropped my quarter," and pick it up and get back. They will judge you.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Travis:** The person will judge you. But you're in and you're out fast enough that your hope is you're not memorable.

**Justin:** It's not a remarkable incident.

**Travis:** Right!

**Justin:** But you can't—again, you can't go over there. You can't!

**Griffin:** You need a—ah, damn it, I was gonna say big magnet! But that doesn't work on quarters, does it?

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

**Justin:** Doesn't work on quarters. They're probably zinc or something.

**Travis:** You could train an animal to get it for you, but that's kind of a long... thing.

**Justin:** You have to just hope that they don't pick up the quarter. And they will.

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. You gotta wait it out.

**Justin:** 'Cause if I see a big, beautiful quarter [laughs] with no one nearby...

**Travis:** Especially just leaning there, on my mat, calling to me? It's my quarter.

**Justin:** Oof.

**Travis:** Now, here's—you do need to be careful. You need—okay. While they're still stretching on the mat, you need to forget that quarter exists, and keep doing whatever you're doing. Because if there's even a whiff of you staring over there and checking, they're not gonna assume you're looking at a quarter, right?

**Griffin:** It's—it's—I don't—I've never really been a gym guy. And...

**Travis:** Really?

**Justin:** [sarcastically] What? Huh?

**Travis:** No!

**Griffin:** I don't know...

**Travis:** But Griffin, you're so beefy and strong!

**Griffin:** Well, I do it at home, with all the big flour bags of flour that I carry around.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah, you do more of the *Rocky*, like, found stuff, just like—

**Griffin:** No, it's mostly just big bags of flour I got at Costco.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Um, and I don't know what the sort of status quo is vis a vis talking to or looking at other people who are exercising. 'Cause I'll say this: when I exercise in my office, I shut—I draw the blinds.

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** I shut the doors.

**Justin:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** No one should have to see that, and I don't want anyone to see that, and I don't want to see other people doing it. And so I don't—I don't—this is unacceptable. I think if you go get the quarter, there's a good chance you may be removed from the premises. Permasis. Permeses.

**Justin:** Premises.

**Travis:** Is there a way that you could play it like "Oh, wait, hold on. Sorry, real quick. Oh! Oh, that was close," when you pick up the quarter. And so—

**Griffin:** If it's still rolling. If it's—ooh, that's it. You fucked up already.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** If you do this instinctively, the quarter goes "Bye! You stretched too hard! Bye!" And starts to roll away, if you jump at it then and like...

**Justin:** At then, yeah.

**Griffin:** Grab it while it's doing its little [makes whooshing noises] little spinny thing...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And you like, slap your hand down on it, and the other person's so scared. And you're like, "Look," and you show 'em it's a quarter.

And they'll be like, "Hoo! Glad you got it!" That's it.

**Travis:** And also because—

**Justin:** [crosstalk].

**Travis:** You—your body will naturally make a noise that's like "[goofy voice] Woah!"

**Griffin:** "Woah! Boy!"

**Travis:** When you get it, that'll make it clear, like, "Yeah, I'm not trying to connect with you or impress you in any way..."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** "This is 100 percent about the quarter. Because if it were not, my body would not have made that noise in front of you, another human being."

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** What about—what about "Hey, you dropped your quarter"?

**Griffin:** Oh.

**Travis:** Well...

**Justin:** If they say "That's not my quarter..."

...you say "Congratulations. You've passed."

**Travis:** But what if they say "That is my quarter"?

**Justin:** Then you know something terrible about them and you can fucking...



**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** There is no—there is no length that person will not go to, to cover up the fact that they just lied.

**Griffin:** [laughing quietly]

**Travis:** Yeah, it's time to ruin their life, you know what I mean?

**Justin:** Yeah, it's time to ruin them. Put it—do an announcement on the gym announcer. "Hey, everyone."

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "We have a real stinker." [wheezes]

**Travis:** "Everybody join me."

**Justin:** "Don't drop a quarter near Laura! Announcement, don't drop a quarter near Laura. She'll just gobble it right up, like Pac-Man."

**Travis:** "Also, could someone spot me for a Powerade after my workout?"

**Griffin:** "I'm so fucking thirsty."

**Justin:** "Yes. Also, I need a quarter." [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Shit."

**Justin:** Um—

**Griffin:** You could also look over and say "P—penny for your thoughts."

And they'll say "That is a quarter."

And you run away. You run away laughing.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Let's take a break and go to the Money Zone.

[theme song plays]

**Travis:** I'll tell you guys, there's two things I love.

**Justin:** Wai—wait. I wanna do it.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** I wanna do it.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** [singing] Welcome to my perfect sight!

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** Hey, everybody, it's Justin McElroy. Welcome to my talk show, *My Perfect Sight*, where we talk about my incredible 20/20 vision. We talked to a guest who wants to get my abilities through artificial augmentation. Today, we have a pair of podcasting brothers, Travis and Griffin [awkward enunciation] Mc-Ell-roy, and they wanna get a little bit of my perfect sight.

**Griffin:** It's uh—

**Justin:** Boys, what are you trying to get this incredible 20/20 vision that you crave?

**Griffin:** It's pronounced [awkward enunciation] McLeharoy, please.

**Justin:** McLeharoy, my mistake.

**Griffin:** And um, we use—we go to Warby Parker. They have affordable glasses, including prescri—with prescription lenses. Sunglasses, progressives—they've got—they're a very progressive company. They have

blue light lenses, and um... This show feels weird. I don't know that I love this show.

**Travis:** Yeah, it feels very judgmental.

**Justin:** What's the—what's the aesth—what's the aesthetic?

**Travis:** I mean, it's cool. It's vintage-inspired with a contemporary twist. I mean, every pair is custom-fit with, you know, really cool lenses and shit. I own a lot of Warby Parker already, and when I—

**Justin:** Wow!

**Travis:** When I wear glasses, it makes me feel kind of like a cyborg, 'cause I'm enhancing, you know, my vision through artificial means.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Now, boys, I have a question. The glasses sound beautiful. I am looking at you two, and you look great. And the deals sound great. My big question for you – and I think a lot of our home audience is wondering this as well.

**Travis:** Yep.

**Justin:** Why not just look at things with your perfect eyes?

**Griffin:** Okay, so you got—yeah, if we took a quiz...

**Justin:** [laughing quietly]

**Griffin:** You take a quiz, but a fun one, not like a school one...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** ...and then they send you a home try-on kit with a bun—

**Justin:** How do you see it?!

**Travis:** Oh, boy.

**Griffin:** With my glasses that I'm wearing, and... you get it—

**Justin:** Your bad, shameful glasses [laughs] that you're trying to replace.

**Griffin:** You d—you try `em on, they send five—five different, like, frames, and you try `em on, and you see what looks good, and you pick `em, and later they send you the glasses, and it looks good on your face.

**Travis:** And it's very important for people like Griffin and I, who have very large heads.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And uh, things that fit normal human beings don't always fit us, so we used to promote try-on kits.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Just to make sure it doesn't look like a novelty thing.

**Justin:** I—this is one thing I could actually sympathize with you. If you—if we were us, and you ever lose or break your sunglasses, and people were like, "Just go get another pair! Over there, they got a whole rack of them!"

**Travis:** Nope.

**Griffin:** Yeah, no.

**Justin:** Nope! No! We need a special store, for us.

**Travis:** Because sometimes it looks like the anime character where they draw them with like, really tiny circle characters on their giant head.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** That's us [laughs] in real life.

**Griffin:** Oh, regular glasses look like Mr. Potato Head glasses on us, is what we're saying.

**Travis:** Yes!

**Justin:** This got real personal [crosstalk] Warby Parker.

**Griffin:** It did. And also, Justin brings up a great point where that me and Travis have to wear glasses because of our prescription, but Justin wears goggles for fun. So...

**Justin:** [laughs] I call 'em goggles.

**Griffin:** You can try on Warby Parker for free with the home try-on program. You order five pairs of glasses to try on at home for free, for five days, and there's no obligation to buy. It ships for free, and it includes a prepaid return shipping label. Try five pairs of glasses at home for free at [warbyparker.com/mybrother](http://warbyparker.com/mybrother).

**Travis:** Welcome to my perfect Stamps! This is the show where Griffin and I have perfect stamps, 'cause we use stamps.com. And our brother Justin...

**Griffin:** Justin's got dirty stamps.

**Travis:** And our brother Justin—yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah, he use—Justin buys *used* stamps. Which is stamps—

**Travis:** He buys used, old stamps, and he puts 'em in a book. He doesn't even use them to send letters or anything. He just gets them and then he looks at him, and he's still going to the post office, wasting that time like a real goober.

**Griffin:** It doesn't make sense. I don't get it.

**Travis:** You know 'cause—you know why? You know what I heard, Griffin?

**Griffin:** What did you hear?

**Travis:** He doesn't have anything better to do except for go to the post office.

**Griffin:** Yeah. For sure, for sure. Um...

**Travis:** And he doesn't like saving on postage. He likes wasting his money on old, dirty stamps that people have already licked, or postage that comes from the post office, and he doesn't wanna spend time with his family.  
[snorts]

**Justin:** [laughs quietly]

**Griffin:** That's the worst part for me, if you ask me.

**Travis:** Yeah. That's the worst part for me, is he says "Going to the post office gives me an excuse to not have to see the smiling faces of my children."

**Griffin:** And he said it—"My only friends are at the post office." And I was like, that's fucked up.

**Justin:** [laughing quietly]

**Travis:** Yeah. Yeah, every day, I go and buy more stamps, just so I can see Postman Steve's smiling face, because I love him more than my own children.

**Justin:** [laughs] Oh, my God.

**Griffin:** That's weird, 'cause Postman Steve doesn't, like, know who Justin is. But Justin—

**Travis:** No, but Justin keeps giving him gifts.

**Griffin:** Gives him gifts every time he goes to see them.

**Justin:** I've been keeping a tally and so far you guys are up to three 100-percent-accurate statements that you have made, and I...

**Griffin:** [laughs] Stamps.com brings the same US postal and UPS shipping services right to your computer. They print official US postage and shipping labels— Well, you print `em. 24/7 without having to leave your desk or buy any fancy equipment. All you need is your computer and a standard printer, and they offer deals you can't get anywhere else, like 40 percent off USPS and up to 66 percent off UPS shipping rates. Can't beat that.

**Travis:** And if you have really good peripheral vision, you can click and print those stamps while staring at your children's smiling faces. Or your cats, or your dogs, or houseplants, or like a puzzle you completed and then, like, lacquered and put up on the wall. Whatever you wanna look at that you like more than going outside. Which I totally get, you can do that.

**Griffin:** Yeah. So don't waste any more time looking at your... your kids. Go to the—and don't go to the post office! Go to stamps.com instead. There's no risk and with our promo code "mybrother," all one word, you get a special offer that includes a four-week trial, plus free postage and a digital scale. No long-term commitments or contracts. Just go to stamps.com, click on the microphone at the top of the homepage, and type in "mybrother." That's stamps.com, promo code "mybrother." Stamps.com, never go to the post office again.

[upbeat music plays in music]

**Raleigh:** Hello, I'm Raleigh Smirl.

**Sydnee:** I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Taylor:** And I'm Taylor Smirl.

**Raleigh:** And we host *Still Buffering*, a cross-generational guide to the culture that made us.

**Sydnee:** Every week, we share media that made us who we are. Things like *Archie Comics*!

**Taylor:** *Sailor Moon*!

**Raleigh:** And lots of Taylor Swift.

**Taylor:** And now that Raleigh's an adult, it comes with 100 percent more butts.

**Raleigh:** And now I am totally comfortable with it.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] So check out new episodes of *Still Buffering*, every Thursday on [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org).

**Taylor:** Butts, butts, butts. Join in, Raleigh. Butts, butts, butts, butts...

**Raleigh:** Butts, butts, butts, butts. Butts, butts, butts, butts.

**Taylor:** [simultaneously] Butts, butts, butts, butts, butts, butts, butts.

**Raleigh:** [laughs]

[music and advertisement end]

**Justin:** [imitates rock guitar] Evolution.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [continues guitar] Step two. [laughs]

**Travis:** Huh?

**Justin:** [laughs] [continues guitar] Evolved.

I wanna munch! Two.

**Griffin:** [laughs]



**Travis:** Squad?

**Justin:** [continues guitar] I want to munch! Four.

**Griffin:** Squa—

**Travis:** Oh—

**Justin:** [imitates various rock sounds]

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Welcome to Munch Squad Evolved. This is an evolution of—

**Travis:** What?

**Justin:** —Munch Squad, a podcast within a podcast where we profile the latest and greatest of brand eating.

**Travis:** J—

**Justin:** I cannot—I can no longer rely on the um, the quick service restaurants and their press departments to give me what I crave, so I've decided to help—help Munch Squad along a little bit with an evolved—sort of a—this is called—I call it People's Choice. This is Munch Squad: People's Choice. And here's the deal...

[*Seinfeld* guitar sting]

**Justin:** Okay. So welcome to Munch Squad Evolved...

**Travis:** No!

**Justin:** People's Choice.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** This is what our—here's the thing. I am a member of several different groups on Facebook devoted to restaurants in my area.

**Travis:** Really?

**Justin:** And I wanted to see what the people are saying, you know what I mean? 'Cause you could listen to the press releases and what they say about the restaurants, but what are the *people* saying about the restaurants? That's what I want.

**Griffin:** Okay, okay.

**Justin:** Okay. So this is f—I'm not even gonna say what groups they're from, because honestly, I don't want people to join them and make things weird for everybody. 'Cause this is just for, kind of, like us West Virginians, to get in there and dish on the dishes, as we say...

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** ...in the groups. But mainly it's for views. That's what people want [crosstalk].

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** So you can kind of get a sense of the good Taco Bell... you know what I mean?

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Okay. "I hadn't been to Steak Escape in Kanawha City for quite a while, and thought I would drive through and bring it home for dinner." So this—what this person's provided is a justification for why they have decided to go to a restaurant and purchase food. It's so important, because a lot of restaurant reviews will leave out the fact that they wanted food.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** "While I was waiting in line, I saw a guy in front of M&M Mart, sitting on the curb and shouting out to people who ignored him."

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Justin:** "Seemed to be under some kind of influence."

**Travis:** Mm.

**Justin:** "Suddenly, he was knocking on my window, and told me that the food at this Steak Escape was bad."

**Griffin:** Oh!

**Travis:** Oh, no.

**Justin:** "And he said the last time he ate there, he was sick for a week." So—[laughs] okay. Let me tell you the—what this person has just described is a situation where they go to Steak Escape...

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** ...they see someone yelling at people [laughs] who won't believe them. They're ignoring them, and then they [through laughter] say, "Don't eat at this Steak Escape. It's bad." It's very relevant to this person's life.

**Travis:** What's wonderful about this, is it's a real-world like, example of why, if somebody busted in to wherever you are right now, and said "I'm you from the future, don't do what you're about to do."

**Justin:** Right.

**Travis:** You'd be like "Okay, whatever. They're under the influence of something."

This person is doing the Lord's work, trying to keep...

**Justin:** Yeah, they're saying, like, "Listen."

**Travis:** [crosstalk] Steak Escape.

**Justin:** I don't know how to catch people before they go in, so I'm just waiting outside to tell people that it's like, "Don't eat at this one, okay? It made me really sick."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** [laughs] I appreciate that.

**Justin:** Yeah, except this person – this review writer – says "I thought he was just a little nutty, and continued to pay for my food."

**Travis:** What?!

**Justin:** "And take it home." Wha—"I continued to pay for my food and take it home. I had COVID in January, and smell and taste are still not quite back."

**Travis:** Oh, boy.

**Justin:** "At home, I opened the sandwich wrapper, and my Grand Escape *looked* fine. I took a bite, and as I did, I got a whiff of the sandwich."

**Griffin:** Woah. That's the order that it took—I guess it—

**Justin:** [through laughter] There's like 20 comments on this review. Where people are like "Please explain to me the mechanics."

"I bit into the sandwich, and then later on—"

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Well, Justin, taste and smell are very [crosstalk].

**Justin:** They're not quite back, right? "I took a bite, and as I did, I got a whiff of the sandwich. I smelled it, and then asked my granddaughter [through laughter] to see if it smelled okay to her." [coughing laughter]

**Griffin:** Hey, can you—get over here.

**Travis:** Yup.

**Justin:** "Hey, get over here and smell Mama's stinky sandwich!"

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah, that's—

**Justin:** "Hey, Mee-Maw, [crosstalk]—"

**Griffin:** "That smells fucking rancid, Grandma. You should not eat that."

"I already did! Fuck!"

**Justin:** I—[coughing laughter]

**Travis:** "If only I could've smelled it before I ate it!"

**Griffin:** "Damn it."

**Justin:** "Ugh."

**Griffin:** "It tastes fine!"

**Justin:** "I s—I smelled it, and then asked my granddaughter to see if it smelled okay to her." It says, in parenthesis, "She knew nothing about the guy."

**Travis:** That's important.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** That is important. I was going to ask. I'm so glad that—

**Griffin:** You [crosstalk].

**Justin:** Yeah, she's not biased.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Although, I don't know how cool your life is. If that happened to me, as soon as I walked in the door, I would be telling my wife this incredible story.

**Griffin:** "I met an angel today."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Except you're the villain in that story, aren't you? 'Cause someone was waiting outside to tell you "Don't eat here."

**Travis:** Well, that's a th—

**Justin:** And then you still did.

**Travis:** And then you went home – and I'm not just saying this specifically about Sydnee – but if you went home and told your wife this story, and whoever you're telling the story to was not there to see it, their first thing is gonna be "And you still did it?" Like, because—

**Justin:** Yeah. It's impossible.

**Travis:** That's how I feel, person writing this comment.

**Justin:** "I smelled it, and then asked my granddaughter to see if it smelled okay to her, she knew nothing about the guy. She said 'It smells like poop.'"

**Travis:** Well.

**Justin:** "That's exactly what I thought when I smelled it. Or, in other words, bad meat."

**Griffin:** Damn it.

**Justin:** "The guy wasn't crazy after all."

**Griffin:** No.

**Justin:** "It *was* bad."

**Travis:** I think that's a great example of a sign would've helped.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** 'Cause that—if that gentleman had had a well-constructed sign that he had clearly spent some time working on...

**Justin:** An official-looking sign.

**Travis:** Yes, thank you. Maybe even framed, right? And you see that, and you're like "Well, this isn't a spur-of-the-moment thing. This is clearly a real issue that this person's concerned about."

**Justin:** Now, here's a problem I ha—here's a problem, though. If this person had decided to solve this problem with a sign...

**Travis:** Yes.

**Justin:** ...we then ha—then it starts to raise an issue of if the sign's *too* good...

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** ...at what point are you like "I don't actually need to be a part of this equation"?

**Travis:** Oh.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And that bums you out, 'cause it's like, that's what I was planning on doing today, but instead I've ma—you know, it's like a John Henry situation where like, I've made myself...

**Travis:** You could just put the sign there...

**Justin:** Just put the sign there, right?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And you don't need to even be there. And that's—

**Griffin:** Well—

**Travis:** Well, then the chance is—the chance is someone being sent out of that weird side door that all fast-food places have, to remove the sign...

**Griffin:** Yeah. You need a defender uh, as a steward there.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I mean, if the sign is too good, you could just start to think that it is sort of corporate warfare.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Like, somebody from Beef Journey, like, trying to di—div—

**Justin:** Sorry, Bee—Beef Journey?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's the main competitor for Steak Escape.

**Justin:** Oh, okay, I got it, I got it, I got it.



**Griffin:** I'm looking at the Steak Escape menu. I've eaten at this restaurant before. We used to stop off there on our way to church and get a big sandwich on the way there to help us get lots of calories to praise the Lord. And I don't remember them completely fucking going over the deep end, but they have— they have so many different fry disasters. They have an item called "feisty amigo fries."

**Travis:** Huh.

**Justin:** [laughs] I don't think that's right.

**Griffin:** It's called feisty amigo fries, and it's got grilled steak, jalapenos, cheddar cheese, and Mexican seasoning. And pico de gallo—

**Travis:** On the fries?

**Griffin:** ...and pico e gallo and sour cream, and somewhere in there is fries. Somewhere in there's fries, I bet.

**Travis:** That's [crosstalk]. You can't just take the contents of an entirely different dish, and put it on fries, and say "Is this anything?"

**Griffin:** Yeah. Mm, oh boy, they also got something called a teriyaki crunch bowl. I bet that's good.

**Travis:** Also—

**Justin:** I bet that's really good.

**Travis:** Hey, if we're trying to make that fry kind of thing a thing, here's what nachos are for: they're firm, you can lift up the whole thing. A fry is a soggy boy, he can't pick up the whole thing. Let's keep it poutine for fries, right?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Fine with that.

**Griffin:** That's okay.

**Travis:** Everything else on nachos.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Uh, one of the comments on this post, um... "I got food here like three weeks ago, after waiting in line an hour. Ended up throwing it away. It was horrible."

**Griffin:** Damn!

**Justin:** Billy? Did you say an hour?

**Travis:** An *hour* at Steak Escape?

**Justin:** Hey, Billy, come back! Are you telling me there was a moment where you've been waiting a half hour, and you were like "I could do this again, for Steak Escape."

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "For Steak Escape? Absolutely."

**Travis:** I'm trying to decide now which one's worse: if you were in the drive-thru, or if you were inside in line.

**Justin:** Both are bad.

**Travis:** Both are bad!

**Justin:** Both are bad.

**Griffin:** Damn, they got a sandwich called the feisty amigo too. It's the same toppings as the French fries. That's awesome.

**Travis:** You gotta get 'em together, right? Those are the amigos.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Gotta have the clutch that matches the—the dress.

**Justin:** All the ones around here uh, closed. The one on 5th Avenue turned into a restaurant called Sabatino's. But now it's just called [crosstalk].

**Travis:** Sorry, Justin, I just heard from Corporate. Uh, the verbiage we're using is they escaped.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** They escaped. Well, the one at the mall transmogrified into a Charley's Cheesesteaks, which [crosstalk].

**Griffin:** That was easy. That's an easy twist.

**Justin:** Lateral—lateral move. Worse fries; better [crosstalk].

**Travis:** They kept all the same employees, 'cause they already knew...

**Justin:** They already knew how to—their way around it.

**Griffin:** Do you remember at Steak Escape that there was a big thing there where they just had a big pile of potatoes, and then they had the crusher that would turn them into steak fries. And you would be like "Exciting chef's table!" And then you're like "Let me get some spicy, zany amigo fries, please!"

And they're like "Okay!"

And you're like "Mm, let's see how this sausage gets made." And then you watch them shove the potato in there, and then they're like [straining noises], trying to crush it.

And you're like "Fuck, I made them do this—this hard potato work."

**Justin:** "Hey, I—hey, my name is Daniel. I work at Steak Escape. And I hate when people order the fries."

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** “The worst part of my job? When people order the fries.”

**Griffin:** [laughs] [crosstalk] your feisty amigo fries.

**Justin:** [crosstalk].

**Travis:** [crosstalk] when they order anything else.

**Griffin:** Anything else. When they bring you the feisty amigo fries just covered in flop sweat, and you’re like “I’m so fucking—if I’d have known... [labored breath] No, it’s o—it’s okay. They make us crush the potatoes. I don’t know why the potatoes aren’t pre-crushed. That’s how they do it everywhere else. That seems like a better way of doing it.”

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** They come sliced everywhere—

**Griffin:** [heaving, out of breath] “Everywhere else, they come sliced or frozen. They make us crush— Potatoes are so firm. Fuck!”

**Justin:** I also remember Steak Escape had a gigantic container of seasoned salt out there for their fries.

**Griffin:** Awesome.

**Justin:** As if to say “We don’t know what we’re doing here.”

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** “You have some idea. [laughs] We don’t know, go for it.” What a wild restaurant.

And what a wild podcast it has been.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Justin:** Okay. Here on *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, we hope you have enjoyed yourself. We sure enjoyed, uh, spending a little time with you. Hope your summer's going good.

**Travis:** Oh, yeah! Yeah, buddy! I hope you're having a great time out there, slipping and sliding, I assume.

[unintelligible record plays]

**Justin:** You know how you—wait, why are you—oh my God, why are you—my wa—my watch just keeps trying to talk, I'm gonna throw it across the fucking room.

**Griffin:** Justin, are we getting Steak Escape today?

**Travis:** Justin, I went ahead and ordered Steak Escape on DoorDash.

**Recording:** Is there something else I can help you with?

**Griffin:** Order 500 sandwiches from Steak Escape.

**Justin:** Stop! Stop!

**Travis:** Watch! Watch!

**Recording:** I'm not sure I understand.

**Travis:** Start a tab at Steak Escape!

**Justin:** If you're looking for a way to pass the summertime afternoon in a very pleasurable fashion, might I suggest the uh, *Adventure Zone: Crystal Kingdom*, a graphic novel which we wrote, and Carey Pietsch illustrated. And it is fucking good.

**Travis:** So good.

**Justin:** It's coming out July 13th.

I'm not just saying that, either.

**Griffin:** No. It's a good—

**Travis:** And not just that, not only is it coming out on July 13th – which is tomorrow, if you're listening to this on Monday – we are also doing a live and virtual event. We've got special guests, and trust me when I say they're very special. You're going to really enjoy it. It's an absolute blast. And you can find out all the information at [bit.ly/tazgnlive2021](https://bit.ly/tazgnlive2021). Get all the info there.

And we have event-exclusive signed bookplates, which are available from our partnered bookstores. More info can also be found at that bit link, and you can submit your preorder receipt to get the preorder gift from First Second, our publisher. It's a Kravitz lenticular laptop sticker.

**Justin:** I will say this: if you don't know much about the book publishing world, uh, uh, here's what I will say to you, to keep in mind. If you like this series, and you want us to be able to continue to make them, uh, the thing that most publishers look at – and kind of the whole publishing world is built this way – is the first week of uh, uh, book sales. So if you could buy it, like, first week, that would just—or preorder it, that works too—that would just be the coolest thing you could do.

**Travis:** Yeah. You're so cool.

**Justin:** That'd be so cool.

**Griffin:** We got new merch over at [mcelroymerch.com](https://mcelroymerch.com), including a new pin of the month for the gooshy wolves, which is a—a fantastic—just a fantastic joke from the *Ethersea* prologue series. And sales for that benefit the Innocence Project, which works to exonerate 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 an "it's trash" sticker from the *MBMBaM* TV show. There's a beautiful green stoneware mug with the *TAZ*

logo on it. There's uh, finally some *Besties* merch on there, a t-shirt, if you're one of our many listeners of *The Besties*. So check all that out.

**Travis:** And speaking of *Adventure Zone*, the first uh, episode of the new season, *Ethersea*, is out now. We've been doing the prologue, but now this is the first episode of the regular season. Uh, that's up now.

Um, I do some streaming on Twitch. [Twitch.tv/thetravismcelroy](https://www.twitch.tv/thetravismcelroy), if you wanna check that out. We got a YouTube channel, McElroy Family. Lot of fun stuff on there. Uh, and this is just a personal plug from me to you, check out *The Besties*. It's one of my favorite podcasts, I listen every week, I learn a lot about video games, it's my brothers, as well as Russ Frushtick and Chris Plante. Uh, it is one of my favorite podcasts. Go check it out.

**Griffin:** Thanks, Trav. And thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, "My Life (Is Better With You)!" If you follow Montaigne on Twitter, you've probably gotten some tips and hints about some movement—let's just say some—some movement in uh, the music publishing vis a vis this song and you hearing it and seeing a music video for it. So that's all great. Thank you, Montaigne!

And thank Max Fun for having us on the Network. Go to [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org), check out all the great shit that they have there. I'm sorry I called it shit. It's not shit; it's good podcasts.

**Justin:** Let's hear it, Griffin. Let's hear that final Yahoo.

**Griffin:** Final Yahoo! This one was sent in by Daven, and Daven sent it in, and it was sent in today.

**Travis:** Ooh, hot!

**Griffin:** Sent in today, this morning. Uh, it's a Yahoo Answers from—and this one was asked by Batman.

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Justin:** Hm!

**Griffin:** Asks...

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Batman asks...

**Justin:** [wheezing laughter]

**Griffin:** “Does anyone know where to... Does anyone do any repairs—does anyone know where to get repairs done on my... dad? Does anyone know where to get Da—does anyone know a good dad repair shop in Houston, Texas?”

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs] My name is Justin McElroy.

**Travis:** I’m Travis McElroy.

**Griffin:** I’m Griffin McElroy.

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

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

[chord plays]

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