

MBMBaM 569: Planet of Valjeans

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

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

Justin: [muffled] Hello, everybody. Welcome to *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, an advice show for... the future era. [normally] Um, what an honor and a thrill it is to be presenting this show. I'm the oldest brother in the program. My name is Justin [makes walkie-talkie noise] McElroy [makes walkie-talkie noise].

Travis: [muffled] My name is uh, Travis McElroy. I'm your middlest big dog woof-woof brother out here, it is absolutely beautiful.

Griffin: [muffled] Hey, there, come on back, now! This is your baby brother, Griffin McElroy, space cowboy. Yeehee! Haw.

Justin: [muffled] We are doing the first—this is the first *My Brother, My Brother and Me* from our limited, uh, interstellar tourism business that we just started, Space Boyz with a Z, and uh, we're so exci—

Travis: Not what you think, by the way. The Z is where the C should be.

Justin: [laughs] Spaze Boys.

Griffin: Spaze Boyz. [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] No, there's just one S. It's Spaze Boys.

Travis: Boys.

Justin: Boys.

Griffin: Yeah...

Justin: Yeah, so we're up here. Hey, listen, pretend I didn't start it the usual way, 'cause if you go to space for the first time, you get to say some, like, cool shit. So can we all take, uh, a turn?

Griffin: [muffled] Yeah, let's take it agai—

Justin: Let me adjust the—let me adjust your audio calibration so we can—

Travis: Yeah, let's see if we can get that smoothed out.

Justin: Okay. Is that any better?

Travis: Is that—[crosstalk]?

Griffin: [crosstalk].

Justin: Okay, okay. So I was—you know, like, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for man—" That whole thing.

Travis: Doesn't make any sense, by the way. [crosstalk] bullshit.

Justin: Doesn't make any sense. Don't get it. What if we a—I was wondering if, for this inaugural launch, we're up here in this beautiful, you know, obsidian sky we call space...

Griffin: Right.

Justin: That big sky above the sky we call space.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: The super sky.

Griffin: The sky-sky.

Justin: The super sky.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Sky's dad.

Travis: Yeah. Sky dad.

Justin: [laughs] Space. No, this is sky's dad.

Travis: Sky's dad, Space.

Justin: The dad of the skies.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: I was wondering if we could all take a chance and take a turn at like, dropping our, like, space.

Travis: Oh, like what's the thing they're gonna, like, put on our, like, tombstone, what's the thing that's gonna be carved on the—

Justin: Not our tombstone, I wasn't going that direction at all.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: More than you like, when people watch video of this, you gotta pull one clip—if you're making the movie where the aliens are looking at all the cool shit humanity did and decided not to wipe us out, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: There's like a Nelson Mandela quote. There's, uh, probably Malala. And then there's us, doing this space thing.

Travis: Listen, I'm not—I don't know if Neil Armstrong is dead or not, but you don't think they'll put like, "One small step" on his tombstone?

Griffin: We have to go—we have to one-up that, is what we're saying.

Justin: Yeah, we're gonna do better than, um...

Travis: How about—okay, I got one. I got one, I got one.

Justin: Okay, okay, okay. 2012, by the way. Rest in peace, Neil Armstrong. Thank you for the moon stuff, for sure.

Travis: That's two small steps for man, two giant leaps for mankind.

Griffin: Okay. You doubled it essentially, is what you're saying. Okay, cool!

Travis: Yeah, 'cause it's more than.

Griffin: Yeah, no, it's awesome. I mean, I—you could say any number there. You could've been like "That's like 100 steps, and then, like, 500..."

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh, man, that's way bigger!

Griffin: "...big jumps, and then we hopped in like, a cool space car, and drove for a while."

Travis: Okay, how about this one: "When you nut, it does push you back."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, we can confirm that for sure.

Justin: That is built on—both of these are lacking sort of a ring of like, timelessness.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Because they are based on references to things of, so far, decreasing relevance.

Travis: Okay, okay, okay.

Griffin: Can I t—can I try one?

Justin: Yeah, please.

Griffin: And mine's more of just sort of an acknowledgment of like, our space accomplishments. So I was thinking like, "I am the first man to have eaten an entire watermelon aboard my rocket ship, but it made a big mess, and they made me come land it back on Earth early."

Justin: [laughs] Say it again. See, this is the thing. You have to—it has to have a ring of timelessness.

Griffin: "I'm the first man to have ever eaten a whole watermelon up in a space rocket ship, but ding damn it, made a big fricking—fucking mess and they made me land it early, 'cause of all the juice and seeds that got everywhere in the compartment."

Travis: Justin, that's a good point, because one of the main—probably, if I could get some notes on one small step for man...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: A lot of words. A lot of—what if we just shorten it to "Space: it's fucking cool out here"?

Griffin: Woah!

Justin: No, what if we shortened—what if we shortened one small step—that whole bit.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: You know what—like, what we need is a st—you know, Twitter didn't even have time for the E. You know, we have to shorten this.

How—what would you think about this, like, “Big Steppin.””

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: You know what I mean?

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: It's just like that's—you get the idea. Big steppin' up here in space.

Griffin: Step, for me? No, a jump.

Travis: Boom!

Griffin: That could be good.

Justin: That's good. That's even shorter and punchier.

Griffin: Uh-oh, watermelon mess? Coming home!

Justin: [laughs] See, that is—

Travis: That's better.

Justin: That is—yeah, that's not ba—what about like—

Travis: Well, I'll tell you what's even easier to remember. “Houston, we have a problem.”

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Right? Very short, very memorable. Maybe it's like, “Oopsie, I ate some melon!”

Justin: Do you think—do you think that when Tom Hanks—when that really happened, the real Tom Hanks?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: When they did *Apollo 13*? Do you think, when he was like, “Houston, we have a problem,” do you think anybody in Houston’s like, looks at each other like, “I know—I know we’re all worried about this...”

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: “But that was like—that was cool.”

Griffin: Pretty cool. That sounded really cool.

Travis: That was like, a cool moment. [crosstalk], but...

Justin: “He did that in such a—I love him, and we’re gonna get these fightin’ boys home safely, no problemo, but wasn’t it cool?” [laughs]

Travis: “Can we take like five se—hey, Johnson, write that down. ‘Houston, we have a problem.’”

Justin: “[crosstalk] write it down.”

Travis: Wait, sorry—hey, Tom Hanks, was there a comma in that between “Houston” and “we,” or was it a period, do you think? Just if you had to specify—we’re just trying to get—what’s that, you can’t breathe? Right, right, right, right. You need to find an egg crate or something.” I don’t remember that movie.

Griffin: I was just looking at Richard Branson’s Wikipedia, Sir Richard Branson’s Wikipedia page. And in his, like—his, I guess, resume that they have here, they have listed, you know, he has five billion dollars, and he’s a Knight, and apparently a virgin. [snorts] But anyway, it says...

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "Space career: Virgin galactic commercial astronaut. Time in space: one minute, 12 seconds."

That's a cool career, Sir Richard Bran—the trajectory of your shit was awesome, man.

Justin: Hey, what up? Yeah.

Griffin: Awesome, man. Good job. You did it, Rich!

"I'm an astronaut!"

For a minut—for 72 seconds, Dick Branson!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "I'm an astronaut like all the big boys!"

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Griffin: "You're a one-minute astronaut, partner."

Travis: "Hey, uh, Sir Richard Branson, could you possibly pay off, I don't know, like a thousand people's hospital bills?"

"No! I'm going to space for 72 seconds! [crosstalk]"

Griffin: And—and by 1,000 people's hospital bills, Travis means [loudly] *all hospital bills ever for everyone on the Earth* who has ever gotten sick or hurt. But it's space!

Travis: "But for 72 seconds, I can be closer to the moon!"

Griffin: You can't even eat a little bit—you can't even pierce the hide of a watermelon using the tools available to you on a spaceship in 72 seconds.

Travis: Oh, that's—

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: 'Cause boys, they don't let you bring a knife to space.

Justin: No.

Griffin: They simply don't.

Travis: Tune in to this season of *Taskmaster*, featuring five rich assholes. And we say, "Hey, you have 72 seconds of space. How much watermelon can you eat?" Over and over. That's the only challenge. We just repeat it over and over.

Justin: Real quick, I do have—this is connected. Uh, Virgin Galactic, we're gonna be following this story pretty closely, 'cause it's just...

Travis: Well, they're competing with us, you know?

Justin: What?

Travis: There's only enough room in space, you know what I mean?

Justin: Yeah. For Spaze Boys [laughs] and Virgin Galactic.

I wanna break this breaking news story, uh, from Ashton Kutcher, if I can. Stand by.

Ashton Recording: [muffled] When I got married and had kids, my wife basically encouraged that it was not a smart family decision, uh, to be heading into space when we have young children. Um, so I ended up selling my ticket back to Virgin Galactic, and I was supposed to be on the next flight, but I will not be on the next flight, but at some point I'm going to space.

Justin: So, okay, here's the story. Here's the scoop. [laughs]

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Wait—

Justin: I got live here, you guys are listening there. Uh, obviously A plus K was gonna go to space, and then his [holding back laughter] wife said he wasn't allowed to go to space, and now he's pretty dejected about that. As you can imagine, he really wanted to go to space, it looks so cool up there.

But, uh, Kelso from *That 70s Show*...

Griffin: Kelso?!

Justin: ...will not be in space, everyone right now.

Griffin: Like, Kelso... does Ticketmaster have... a refund option for space?

Justin: I mean, Virgin Galactic is—is wanting—like, some other luminary can get that, right?

Travis: Yeah, he—he put it up on StubHub, Griffin. So like, it's a resell thing now, at this point.

Griffin: So A plus K is a space ticket scalper...

Travis: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: ...is what you're—essentially what you're saying. Okay, alright, alright!

Justin: Is it—is—I got a que—I got a question.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Got another question. They're gonna go to space again.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: Didn't learn their listen the first time.

Travis: They're going for 73 seconds this time.

Justin: Yeah, they're gonna go big again.

There's gonna be a conversation where Richard Branson's, like, employees are like, "So do you wanna go to space again?"

And he's gonna have to be like, "Nah, I think I got it." [laughs]

Griffin: "I did it already."

Justin: "I think I got it, the bit. Like, you just go up there, and uh, yeah, I get it."

Travis: I thought you were gonna say the opposite, Justin, which is like, "[British accent] Yeah! I can't wait to go to space again!"

And they're like, "Well, Richard, you've already been. Shouldn't someone else get to go?"

And he said, "Wha?! But—but—crikey. It's my rocket, innit?"

Justin: "[British accent] But I want to go again!"

Griffin: "[British accent] But I've got more money than anyone!"

Justin: [laughs] "I think I left my keys up there!"

Richard Branson, is that true?

Travis: I'm not entirely sure—

Justin: "[crosstalk] I did!"

Travis: —where Richard Branson is from. Maybe it's space! Maybe he's just trying to get home!

Justin: "Are you sure you left your keys up there, Richard Branson?"

"[British accent] Well, you haven't seen me drive recently, have you?"

"Well, no, that's true, Richard Branson. I haven't."

Travis: "I uh—I left me car up there too."

"What?"

"Yeah, like—you know how Elon put his car on the rocket there? I did that. Uh, bye!"

Oh, his rocket took off. He's gone.

Griffin: Damn it, he did it again.

Travis: He distracted us.

Griffin: Well, Spaze Boyz, uh, can't wait for our next big adventure.

Travis: We should say, our rocket, our whole program, was entirely free. We built it out of stuff we found we found in our dad's garage.

Griffin: Free.

Justin: Yeah, free.

Griffin: And guess what? Guess how many times it's exploded? None times!

Travis: None times.

Griffin: Every times I turn on the news, it's like, "Elon, done blowed up another one up in the ocean."

And I'm like, you fucking dummy! It's not that hard!

Travis: No. Spaze Boyz, we got a 100 percent success rate.

Griffin: Yes!

Travis: Out of stuff we found in our daddy's garage.

Justin: Can we land real quick?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Okay. Bringing her in.

Travis: Oh, that's smooth.

Justin: Yeah, thank you.

Griffin: That was real good, Juice.

Justin: Thank you, yeah. No big deal. Uh, no big deal.

So uh, this is an advice show also, which it seems weird. It seems kind of antiquated at this point.

Travis: Yeah, right?

Griffin: Well, we gotta keep getting the money—they're not gonna let us keep going to space and abandoning the many, many solvable problems of Earth, unless we keep getting the money, so...

Travis: Right. I'm not ready to give up on fixing all of Earth's problems. I just also want to fix the moon's problems.

Justin: So good of you, Trav.

Travis: Thank you. I'm a big man with a big heart and a big hunger.

Justin: Not anymore, 'cause you ate all the watermelon. I'm saying—

Griffin: I was the one who ate the—you guys—no, hold on. This is revisionist history.

Justin: Wait, go back up—

Griffin: You two—and I don't want to tear Spaze Boyz apart right when it starts, but the two of you—if we can actually play the tape back, 'cause you know they're recording that shit nonstop... uh, because it's a surveillance state in space, it was a lot like, "Mm." [makes thumping noise] That's the sound of me pulling the watermelon out of my bag.

And then you two were like, "Griffin, what the fuck? We told you not to bring that!"

And I was like...

Justin: [wheezing laughter]

Griffin: "Come o—come o—come on, guys, it's my birthday."

Travis: But Griffin, we had weighed everything very specifically.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Like, we had—and we did not account for one whole watermelon.

Griffin: And then it was a lot of [gnawing noises].

And then Justin was like, "Griffin, your teeth aren't strong enough to gnaw through the outside."

And I was like, "Well, they don't let you bring a knife to space."

And then Travis was like, "Griffin, what are you doing? Griffin, stop, stop, stop!"

'Cause you saw me lift it up over my head and smash it on the ground. And then just sort of scooping it—well, you know, catching it out of the air with a small net that I did manage to bring on board.

But there was a lot of—you two can't claim credit for eating the watermelon.

Justin: You're right. You're right. It was just you. Can I move on?

Griffin: Please.

Justin: Would that be alright?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Thank you.

"I'm staying at my family friend's house for a bit, while I start a new job. I brought some avocado with me for a healthy lunch. The prob—" Ooh.

Travis: Nice!

Justin: "The problem is, my avocados aren't ripe yet. My friends have an avocado that is ripe, but they're out of town right now. So should I just eat their avocado, and replace with one of my avocados without asking? Would it be even weirder if I asked?"

Travis: The perfect crime.

Justin: "Would that be stealing? Would they notice?" That's from Potential Avocado Bandit in SC, South Carolina.

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: Anybody who would notice that is not—is no friend of yours. Anyone who has—is keeping such close tabs on their avocado that they can tell when it's been Indiana Jones switched out with another avocado, is not someone anyone should be associating with.

Travis: Not only that, but when my avocados go ripe, the chance that the Venn diagram overlaps of, like, they're ready to eat, and I'm ready to eat them is not always perfect.

Griffin: No.

Travis: And so the idea of someone being like, "Hey, you weren't home when your avocado was ripe, so I bought you some time by consuming that already-ready avocado, and giving you—" Like, that's—you've done them a favor!

Griffin: [sighs] Yeah, you know I—

Justin: Yeah...

Griffin: I said what I said, but it was wrong, because Travis brings up a good point. If they—if they have been sitting on these emerald beauties f—until they stop being hard and disgusting, but before they get soft and brown and gross. But then you switch it out with one that is not in that sweet window, I would actually—the game would be afoot at that point.

Travis: I think it just—it depends on how long they're going to be gone.

Justin: Mm.

Travis: You know, if they're back the next day, no. But if they're gone for a couple days, that window's short, you know?

Justin: I think it's a great business to c—like, ri—okay, so I placed a grocery store order, and the grocery store just like, brought a bunch of avocados for free.

Griffin: Oh, yeah!

Justin: Sample. And it says on the back, like, "Sample avocado."

Griffin: Yeah, bonus boys, we know about this. We've been to the grocery store before.

Travis: Hey, Justin, you need to stop accidentally spreading these kinds of feelings about West Virginia, because that makes it sound like [laughs] like the grocery stores in West Virginia are like, “How do we get people to buy these avocados? They’re so scared of them. We must give them samples.”

Justin: Yeah. It’s pro—well, it is kind of a weird—like... I don’t feel—I feel like even if—anyway, avocado showed up in my house.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: [laughing quietly]

Justin: A bunch of free avocados. Except I haven’t structured any sort of avocado...

Griffin: Dish.

Justin: Avocadoopportunities, you know?

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: In my he—so there’s just—they’re just sitting on the counter and getting riper and riper, and I don’t have a plan for it. And don’t tweet at me.

Travis: No.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: I know I can make ice cream. I know about guacamole.

Travis: Guacamol-e!

Justin: I know about this. I know about avocado toast. I’m not allowed to eat it, ‘cause I’m 40, but I mean, I know about it.

Don't know what to do with these bad boys, so they're just sitting there. I would love a service where someone's like, comes to your house and they're like, "Do you have any produce you feel guilty about?"

And be like, "Yeah, actually. This asparagus looks like thick spaghetti, 'cause it's gone so limp and bad." And I—"Would you eat it?"

And they're like, "Yeah, absolutely. No problem. No problem at all. No guilt for you."

Travis: So the—for the—for the stuff where you're making your grocery order, and you're like, "I'm an adult! I should buy vegetables."

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And so you get some zucchini.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And then the zucchini comes, and you put it in the crisper drawer, where things go to die.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then it's like, two weeks later, and you're like, "Oh, yeah, I need to do something with that zucchini."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "What am I gonna do with that zucchini?"

Justin: I like the scam where you put a bunch of fresh produce in there, and then you start to feel guilty about it, and then you're like, "Wait, I left a onion in here a month ago! This rotten onion has ruined everything!"

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: "I need to start again. No more guilt for me."

Griffin: "One thing is sticky in here. You all gotta go."

Justin: "One thing's sticky in here." Man, every crisper door is the fucking grossest.

Griffin: You know, I—

Justin: You ever get in there, and it's like, "Time to clean this fucking stinky box out." Ugh.

Travis: The worst is when you pull the drawer out, and underneath there's just this reddish-brown film?

Justin: Yes, what is that?!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: What is it? What is it? Nothing's leaking. Nothing's leaking. You check everything.

Griffin: Yeah, it's the tears of the fruit and vegetables that know that they'll never be—they'll never live up to their purpose, yeah.

Justin: Consumed. Yeah, I don't know what to do with these avocados. I think in this case, though, like... it's a—it's wonderful, 'cause they're going to go overripe. They'll go bad.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It's perfect. It's perfect. It's a wonderful thing you're doing.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: This is great. I'm so proud of you.

Travis: Would a sign help?

Griffin: Would a sign help? Well, I—but we don't know the owner's feelings about the avocados.

Travis: Well, but if you're worried about being caught or whatever, just leave a little sign that says, "I switched out my unripe avocado for your ripe avocado. You're welcome."

Griffin: This is a—no, this is a victimless crime.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: This is wild. Ea—you could eat all their avocados. When they get home, they're not gonna say shit to you. Do not even sweat it.

Um, hey, can we—can we approach the Wizard's throne?

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: With deference?

Justin: Hang my head.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Okay...

Griffin: No, he actually hates that. You have to keep constant eye contact with the Wizard of the Cloud, or else he'll—

Travis: I can't hang my head and make eye contact and bend the knee at the same time.

Griffin: Aw, damn it, Trav, he turned you into a fucking pig.

Travis: Oh, that's what I wanted!

Griffin: Aw, good job! Alright, well—

Travis: Pigs are very smart.

Griffin: I know somebody who's got a birthday coming up...

Travis: Who?

Justin: Who?

Griffin: I guess Dad?

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: Yeah, Dad's is probably...

Griffin: His is a month from now. I know somebody who's got a birthday coming up, and actually this would be great for Dad. This is a—this is now us planning our dad's birthday party a good uh, almost a month in advance. And that's because – thanks Maria, who sent in this WikiHow article, titled: "How to throw a *Les Misérables* birthday party."

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: Hell yeah!

Griffin: It's perfect for our daddy, I think we can all agree. Uh, "*Les Mis* is a fantastic musical beloved by millions around the world. If you're a theater geek and want to proclaim your enthusiastic admiration of *Les Mis*, this guide will help you plan a fun party based on it." Yes! Yes!

Travis: Well, not—let's not limit it, because fans of French history will probably enjoy it as well.

Griffin: Do fans of French history actually like *Les Mis*, or does *Les Mis* take too many... Are there like, people who are like—

Justin: Liberties.

Griffin: Yeah, [chuckles awkwardly]. Yeah. Anyway, "Prepare invitations. Your invitations should look old-fashioned, maybe written on old aged parchment paper in a fancy font, and should quote some of the songs. Here's an example."

"Do you hear the people sing the birthday song?"

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: Sorry, I'll try to get those in there a little more discreetly. "Do you hear the people sing [close to microphone] the birthday song? [normally] The time is near. Eponine Thenardier is turning 12!" So you put that—if it's—if your peeps, if you're Clint McElroy, and you're turning...

Travis: He's turning 12.

Griffin: ...66 years old – I don't believe so – "Come meet at the ABC Café, Eponine's house. 12345 Thenardier Lane on October 2nd, 1815 to celebrate."

Justin: [quietly] None of this is anything so far.

Griffin: If I get this fucking invitation, I'm like, "Hon, we got invited to a 12-year-old's birthday party at the turn of the 19th century."

Justin: [laughing quietly]

Travis: [crosstalk] really say is—

Griffin: Bring your best singing voices!

Travis: "Hey, my daughter's having a fucking *Les Mis* themed birthday party. I know, I know, but please come. Please make your kids come, too. I know she's not cool. I know that Todd doesn't wanna come."

Griffin: Come—come—Travis. Come where?

Travis: To the ABC Café.

Griffin: Oh. Yeah, I guess so. The café that's inside of Eponine's house. Anyway, "Bring your best singing voices. *Les Mis*, French Revolu—" parentheses, "French Revolution, more specifically June Rebellion Era." Aw, fuck! My only clean French Revolution costume is from the fucking July party era, when they finished the rebellion and everybody was just, like, ripping it up. And a loaf of bread—

Travis: Please make your son come.

Griffin: "And a loaf of bread, smiley face. Don't steal it, though, winky face emoticon."

Justin: Um, let's get some lyrics going, if we could just—I'm sure everybody's been sort of cooking some in the back of their head. Here's the best one that I've got right now. "[singing] At the end of the year, you're another year older."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That's pretty good.

Justin: "Dun-da-dun-da, that's all you can say for the life of the poor." [spoken] And then you just keep going exactly the same lyrics.

Travis: Yes, that's pretty good.

Justin: Uh, how about this, "[singing] Drink with me, a Kool-Aid Zero Sugar Jammer!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [spoken] My kids love those.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: How about this? "[singing] Who am I? I'm Derek's dad!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: “[intensely] Please come to my home!”

Justin: [laughs] It’s a good way for Derek’s dad to enter.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: “[high-pitched singing] Here in my bouncy castle in the yard...”
That’s another one.

Justin: That’s not bad.

Travis: It’s pretty good!

Justin: It’s not bad.

Griffin: Yeah...

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Damn, you know, I was about to say we’re narrowcasting right now, but I think we’re pretty well in the wheelhouse of—

Justin: We’re in the demo, bud.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: We’re in the demo.

Griffin: Okay, “Decorate. Obviously, you *got* to build a barricade.”

Hey, hon?

Justin: Wait, wait, nobody did “Javert’s Suicide.”

Griffin: Oh, that's fine.

Travis: I'm trying to think, man. I got "Stars", it's right there.

Griffin: Um...

Travis: Oh, what about "Confrontation"? Come on.

Griffin: "Celebration."

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: That's easy. Decorate.

Travis: Oh, yeah, perfect.

Griffin: "Obviously, you got to build a barricade."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "Hon, um, did you smash up all of our dining room chairs?"

"I did do that, because it's my fucking birthday, Dad. Get the—get the net!"

"Or you could go all the way out and build a ginormous one in your backyard with old junk. You could even ask your guests to build old junk that they have, and you could assemble it to build the building of the barricade at the party! Or pile up bits of furniture in the corners at home."

"So let me get this straight. You want me to bring some of my old wooden furniture to your house? What are you planning to do with it?"

"[mischievous voice] You'll see!"

Justin: "It'll be good and on-brand!"

Griffin: [panting] "Are we gonna get to, like, eat pizza or something at some poi—"

"No. Keep building the barricade!"

Travis: "But it's just the middle of your yard. What are you barricading against?"

"The French proletariat, or something. I don't know."

Griffin: "I don't know. I haven't seen the show."

"[bewildered] You haven't seen the show?!"

Travis: "Nah, I just love the posters."

Griffin: "Try to avoid balloons, streamers, or typical party stuff."

Justin: Of course.

Griffin: "But if you absolutely *need* a birthday banner, then try having it be a neutral color with the *Les Mis* font on it."

Travis: No, what the—fuck you!

Justin: You know, the classic *Les Mis* font. How about—why can't we use just like, big... if you're gonna do streamers and shit, just do red, white, and blue!

Travis: No, it's red and black!

Justin: Red and black is even better!

Travis: [singing] Red...

Justin: [crosstalk] you could do!

Travis: [singing] ...the color of the cake!

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [singing] Black, the color of the cake! Both colors are on the cake!
The cake is mostly red!

Griffin: [singing] Okay, it's a Spider-Man cake! It's all the store had!

Travis and Justin: [laugh]

Justin: [singing] Oh, my. Am I the man the spider that they say I am?

Travis: [crying laughter]

Justin: [singing] Am I the Peter Parker?

Travis: "How to throw a *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark* birthday party?"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "Alright, everybody. You see the barricade we built last year for the *Les Mis* party. We're all gonna take turns *jumping off of the top of it.*"

"Are you sure?"

"Yes."

Justin: [laughs] And I'm sorry, I'm sorry Vicky, I guess I should say now at this point, a year out, you're right, I did not clean it up. You are correct.

Griffin: You are correct. Never got around to that.

Travis: I did not have an after plan for the barricade.

Griffin: Um...

Travis: I just assumed it would... wash away?

Griffin: We got themed food, "Get miniature sausages or hotdogs to stick toothpicks in them. Put papers on the toothpicks, labeling them 'kidney of a horse' and 'liver of a cat.'" Okay.

Travis: That's not very good.

Justin: Fun.

Travis: Fun, fun. "Loaves of freshy-baked bread."

"You stole a loaf of bread!"

"And various French food."

Justin: Wouldn't it suck if somebody from the Jimmy Dean company showed up, and they were like, "How did you know?"

Travis: [laughs] "Oh, no!"

Griffin: "Oh, no."

Travis: Get some, uh, red Kool-Aid, and call it the blood of angry men.

Griffin: Um, and then there's a cake, and you can make the cake look like h—you can either "Have cakes look like they did in that era. Frost some kind of *Les Mis* design on it – barricade, et cetera – or use some other kind of French dessert instead of a cake." The clues are starting to point to this person genuinely not having... any idea what it—what the show is.

Travis: Nope. Well, at the very least, you should have to make your guests decide whether they want to have their cake or eat it, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: They shouldn't get to have—

Griffin: They cannot get to do both. That's an excellent point, Travis.

"Welcome the guests! Okay, you're all ready for your party, decked up in your best Eponine costume, and the guests begin to arrive. Make sure the guests know that they must come dressed up to the party, and there'll be no talking; only singing. And some yelling, when the battle comes. If they break that rule, send them to Javert."

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: "Have someone dress up as Javert, and tie them to a tree for five minutes or so."

Travis: What?!

Griffin: *Excusez-moi?!*

Travis: [laughs] "*Zut alors!*" Can you imagine anyone, just like, popping their head over the fence, and seeing this, and there's like a 13-year-old kid tied to a tree?

Justin: I love—I love this party. I love everything that we've done. I love all the plans. What I'm thinking about is the moment when I've got it all set, and then I realize that it's the child's birthday, and I do have to invite Grandpa Dan.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Because Grandpa Dan is gonna have to come and see all this happen. He's gonna try to talk and we're gonna have to be like, "Ah-bah-bah-bah."

Griffin: "Ah-bah-bah-bah. Nope, you gotta sing—"

Travis: "Gotta go to Javert, Grandpa. Grandpa Dan." [laughs]

Griffin: "Gotta go to Javert. He's gonna tie you to the tree. Remember next time, sing or scream. Those are the two options, Dan!"

Travis: Here's—what I love, too, is just listening to this, you get such a great... like, there's this scale of like, age plus this party equals fun, question mark? And like, there's a [unintelligible]. Because at like, 19, right, in theater school, you throw this party, it's a rager. Right?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Like, this is amazing. Right? 12 years old, you go this party...

Griffin: There's a narrow window.

Travis: No one comes. Right?

Justin: No one comes.

Travis: Now, here's my question.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Is there an age past, let's say, 30, where this really hits?

Griffin: Mm... no.

Justin: I mean, 40 is what I am, and I would be very into somebody putting this kind of work into a party.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Yeah. But—

Justin: It doesn't even really matter. I would just love a theme, you know? At this point?

Travis: Yeah, right? I miss it.

Griffin: This is still a part of "Welcome the guests."

“Play a *Les Mis* soundtrack throughout the party, but don’t watch the movie adaptation from 2011. Some guests may not consider it appropriate, even if you fast-forward through ‘Lovely Ladies,’” which I guess is a very sexual song from the movie. “The 10th anniversary—”

Travis: [singing] “Happy birthday!”

[spoken] “Okay.”

Griffin: “The 10th anniversary concert from 1998 is less visually explicit, so —[crosstalk]

Justin: Oh, if we could talk about that fucking show.

Travis: Oh, Colm Wilkinson. Fucking—

Justin: Colm Wilkinson, are you kidding me? “[singing breathily] God on high, hear my prayer. Who am I? Who am I?”

Travis: “[singing breathily] Can I condemn this man to slavery.”

Justin: “Slavery.” Um, fucking Colm Wilkinson, and then what is the best is at the end, they have all the Jean Valjeans ever from all across the planet! And they all come in and sing their own *Les Mis*-es. They just come in and sing their own “Who Am I?” Are you kidding me with this?

Travis: It’s incredible.

Justin: It’s incredible, this version of it!

Travis: I want this party now!

Griffin: I’ve just sent Travis—

Justin: Hold on, wait. Just be quiet, everybody. Shut up.

[“Can You Hear the People Sing” from the 10th Anniversary Concert plays, with each singer singing in a different language]

Justin: Here it comes. Wait.

[song plays and ends]

Griffin: Fuck yeah.

Justin: It's the best! It's the best!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Can you imagine—that's what you play! Open and close, with the planet of Valjeans.

Griffin: Yeah. [laughs] I just sent Justin and Travis some key art from this WikiHow article that I know this visual humor doesn't play at home, but it's just two boys with their arms around each other, standing in front of a door with a small welcome banner on it...

Travis: [laughs] Oh, boy...

Justin: Oh, my God.

Griffin: ...and then a—what appears to be a 15-foot-tall man dressed up as Javert, I believe? Uh...

Justin: They're either three feet tall, or he is 10 feet tall.

Griffin: Yeah, it's pretty excellent.

Justin: Oh, God, we gotta put that—we'll put that up somewhere.

Griffin: The final tip is just to play games, but tweak the names and rules, so that they're *Les Mis* themed. Pin the tail on the donkey could be "pin the bread on Valjean." Okay...

Travis: What? No, pin the crime on someone else—

Justin: Yeah, but the crime is amorphous. They've done that with the bread.

Griffin: Right, right.

Travis: That—no, this is what I'm saying. That's what "Who Am I?" is. It's pitting the crime on another man.

Justin: I know, but a crime you can't fucking—you still have to play it! You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah, it's a game, Trav.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: S—now, you could pin the silver candlestick on Valjean.

Travis: There you go.

Justin: And he's got the one, and you take on the role—okay, in this pin-the-tail game...

Travis: Uh-huh?

Justin: You'll be inhabiting the role of the priest, the kindly priest...

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: ...that looks after Valjean.

Griffin: Monseigneur Bienvenue. That's his name. I only know—

Justin: Isn't it weird how with some things, like *Les Mis*, I can't think of a time in my life where if you were to ask me, like, "Are you fucking deep in the paint with *Les Mis*?"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: I would've been like, "Yeah, absolutely, I'm very deep in the paint with *Les Mis*." And just like, at some point, it's like apparently I've absorbed all this.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'm extremely deep in the paint with *Les Mis*.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. What do you wanna know? What do you wanna know?

Justin: Yeah. Yeah. If you—all the songs and the lyrics. Apparently I did—like, I did this intentionally with *Rent*, but with *Les Mis*, I just sort of, "I don't know! I don't know how it got in there."

Travis: Yeah, I can't remember shit from the botany class I took in college, but do you wanna hear all the lyrics to "Master of the House"? Let's do this.

Justin: Set it tune of fucking "Stars," and we'll talk!

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Quick break, and then we'll come right back to talking about *Les Miserables*. [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

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

Travis: You wanna make a *Les Miserables* fansite? The good news, [crosstalk].

Griffin: [crosstalk] You'll be the first to do it.

Travis: You can call it uh, Les Miser—Les Happyrables, 'cause it makes you happy, right?

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: And your name is Rob, and you're stoked.

Travis: Yeah, and your name is Rob!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And we're sponsored by Squarespace, and Squarespace can help you do it! Because they can help you showcase your work. Like, if you've written, I don't know, a lot of *Les Mis* fanfiction, uh, a sequel to *Les Mis*...

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: ...which, come on guys, where's that at? If you want to sell products and services of all kind, if you wanna cosplay and go to children's parties dressed as Javert, and you can promote your physical and online business and more. They have beautiful, optimizable, customizable templates created by world-class designers. Everything, right there out of the box. It's gonna work for mobile, analytics that help you grow in real time, free and secure hosting, and nothing to patch or upgrade ever.

Just go to squarespace.com/mybrother for a free trial. 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.

Justin: Uh, we've been using Stitch Fix for a long time to get our fashion right, and now that, uh, some parts of the globe are beginning to, in some ways, reopen in ways that are both scary and not, uh, you gotta get your fashion going! And uh, it's time to get back out there, and it can be a little challenging. But Stitch Fix is gonna do all the hard work for you of helping you find the right look. Now, you know this—did you know that Stitch Fix also does kid stuff? Uh, we uh, got a box for our daughter, Charlie...

Travis: I know her!

Justin: ...uh, from Stitch Fix. Yes, you've met her before! Uh, we told them, uh, the sort of vibe she likes, her size, how much we wanna spend on

clothes, you know what I mean? 'Cause like, we don't spend a lot on the kids' clothes, 'cause they grow out of 'em so freaking fast.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: So it's like, "Hey, listen, I don't want to—"

Travis: Yeah, what are they we feeding these kids, you know?

Justin: Hey, come—'ey!

Travis: 'Ey!

Justin: They send you a big box of stuff, and uh, there's a prepaid return envelope included, so you can put the stuff that you don't wanna keep into that, and you keep the stuff that you like.

We liked every single thing they sent. Like, they crushed it, her stylist, with the first box she ever did. And you can keep the same stylist throughout. So like, the next time you get a box, you can get the same stylist, and they'll help you to like, uh, evolve, and they'll get to know you a little bit better.

You can try it once, or set up automatic deliveries, or just a subscription. You just pay a 20-dollar styling fee for each box, which gets credited toward the pieces that you keep. There's no hidden fees ever, so...

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

[dramatic music plays]

Narrator (Freddie): Since the dawn of time, screenwriters have taken months to craft their stories, but now, three Hollywood professionals shall attempt the impossible: break a story in one hour.

Freddie: That's right. Here on *Story Break*, I, Freddie Wong...

Matt: Matt Arnold.

Will: And Will Campos.

Freddie: The creators behind award-winning shows like *Video Game High School*.

Matt: Have one hour to turn a humble idea into an awesome movie.

Will: Now, an awesome movie starts with an awesome title.

Matt: I chose *The Billionaire's Marriage Valley*.

Freddie: Mine was *Christmas Pregnant Paradise*. [laughs]

Matt: Okay, next we need a protagonist.

Will: So I've heard Wario best described as libertarian Mario.

Matt: [laughs]

Freddie: And of course, every great movie needs a *stellar pitch*.

Will: In order to get to heaven, sometimes you gotta raise a little hell.

Matt: [laughs] That's the tagline!

Freddie: Check out *Story Break* every week on maximumfun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts!

[advertisement and music end]

Travis: Yeah, hey, Dave, this party sounds great, where's it at?

"[singing] At my home!"

Griffin: [laughs] Okay.

Travis: [singing] At my home! [spoken] That's the last one—that's all I got.

Justin: That's the last one, but you did run a real risk of pivoting us right back into it. Which I thought was—

Travis: I know.

Justin: —if I could say, it was reckless. I mean, I don't wanna—

Travis: I was reckless about it, but you know what, that's me. I'm kind of the bad boy of the *Les Mis* scene.

Justin: You know what's sad? I was just looking for like—when you mentioned "*Les Mis* fansite," I thought, "Oh, that would be fun. I'm gonna find one of those."

You can't find fucking fansites anymore. It's all been commoditized through the wikis.

Travis: Ugh.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: You know what I mean? You can't just get into, like, a dirty... GeoCities web ring and just surf for a little bit.

Travis: Now, Justin, you said a mumble there, and it sounded like "JizzCities," and it was very offputting.

Justin: JizzCities! Hold on one second, jizzcities.com, everyone be patient. Be patient, everybody!

Griffin: God. Travis, you know that we can't say URLs on this show.

Justin: He didn't even say a URL this time, I just kind of thought, "Wait, jizzcities.com?" Find your domain? Okay, let's—let me check this registrar company.

Travis: Please be taken. Please be taken.

Justin: It's not taken! I can get it! Wait, I typed—okay, wait. Little brain fart here. [laughs] I did type jizzdomain.com.

Griffin: Huh!

Justin: That is also available!

Griffin: That's also cool.

Justin: So I might have to get both jizzcities and jizzdomain. [wheezes] Jizzcities is available! I'm leaving jizzdomain, you can have it, friends, whoever it gets to at first. Uh, it's right there for you. Anyway.

Griffin: If you just—could someone please make jizzdomain redirect to jizzcities? That would be [crosstalk]—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Thank you.

Justin: Uh, but I'm gonna make jizzcities redirect to jizzdomain, so it's kind of a—

Griffin: [crosstalk].

Travis: It'll explode the internet!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Well, that'll teach them to search for something so naughty.

Travis: Aw, dang it. Done melted my damn computer down. Why'd I search for jizzcities?

Griffin: "What were you doing on my computer? It—it imploded. It sucked in on itself like a black hole!"

"[nervously] No—nothing!"

Justin: "What were *you* doing on it?"

Travis: "Well, I was searching for jizzdomain!"

Justin: Okay. [laughs]

Griffin: "It looked like you were trying to go to a website when the computer sort of dissolved."

"It's Club Penguin!"

"Club Penguin's been closed for many years."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] There's a guy—[laughs] there's a guy—listen, so there's a Canadian version of *Dragon's Den*, and there's a guy on there who came on a couple seasons ago, whose name is currently escaping me. I'll find it in just a second. But he's the dude behind Club Penguin. And no matter who's—Lane Merrifield is his name. And no matter who comes out there, every time this man opens his mouth, practically, he's like, "You know, when I created Club Penguin..." [wheezes]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: He's of course, like, incredibly rich, because everything that you think is uncool has made a billion dollars.

Travis: Right.

Justin: Okay. [breathes in, out] I'm gonna bring it in, because I feel like things are getting a little...

Griffin: Out of hand, a bit.

Justin: Got a little out of hand. "I walk quietly, and as a result I always startle people when I just appear out of nowhere. I'm about to move in with five new roommates. I mentioned this to them, and they all said it would freak them out for sure. So how do I stop jump-scaring people, slash seeming like a magician?" That's from Christopher Walking.

Griffin: Uh, they've also added, "PS, no tap shoes on floor. Hard—hard wood flooring." Which is uh—uh, that's an excuse.

Justin: Yeah, that is an excuse. You could do it.

Griffin: You could.

Justin: Traction becomes an issue.

Travis: Now, this is—this is where I really think, if I may, a sign might help.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Because much like you are driving down the road, right, and there's like, "Watch out for deer" signs. And I might not see a deer, but I'm ready to see a deer.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Maybe you just have, like, "Watch out for Dave!"

Griffin: Or d—or don't. Here's—here's my thinking on this one.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: This is—this is a *them* problem. It's not even a them problem. It's a them opportunity. Because you are giving them an intensive training protocol for situational awareness.

"You want to stop being afraid by me when I appear when you weren't expecting me? Then know where I am at all times. Train your mind to have complete perception of the world around you."

Justin: Yes!

Griffin: That's an incredible skill that you're giving them. And then—you're gonna scare them so bad a few times, and they're gonna spill a big bowl of soup on their body, and it's gonna hurt a lot. But pain is weakness leaving the body.

Travis: I think that the problem is you run the risk of surprising them, and them hurting you. You know?

Griffin: Yeah, sometimes you're gonna get a little soup on you, but your pain is their weakness entering your body.

Travis: Yeah, that's what they say. Maybe you could announce yourself. Or – ooh! Even better, you're gonna need a herald, my friend.

Justin: A herald?

Travis: Yeah! Someone who announces *you*! Someone who goes before you.

Justin: Oh, not an H-A-R...

Travis: No, no, no...

Justin: Okay.

Travis: They blow a little trumpet, and say, "Presenting Steve!"

Justin: What if you're just going to the shitter?

Travis: Doesn't matter! [makes fanfare noise] Steve's going to shit!

Justin: What if you're just passing through the veranda?

Travis: [makes fanfare] Avert your eyes! Steve approaches!

Justin: I don't need to be announced every time I'm going back to get more bagel chips, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: [makes fanfare] Someone can't say no to bagel chips!

Justin: Did we already say a bell?

Griffin: I don't know, 'cause it's a person.

Justin: It is a person, but it's not cool that we do it to anybody. You know cows are like, "Ugh."

Griffin: "Ugh, this sucks."

Justin: "This fucking bell."

Griffin: Um...

Travis: Get all of your roommates heat-vision goggles.

Justin: Mm...

Travis: Ooh, turn off all the lights! Now everybody's mysterious. Level the playing field.

Griffin: That's cool. That's cool.

Hey, guess what? If you live with five other people, you do not—it is wild to ever be surprised by seeing someone. D—

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Do you know what I mean? Like, I don't know how big the space is that you're living in, but when you cohabitate with that many people, just assume around every corner there is a—there is a human soul. And I don't know why you would do any differently.

Justin: [wheezes softly]

Griffin: "What the fuck's a person doing here?"

"There's five of us."

Justin: What about Hot Wheels?

Griffin: What do you mean?

Travis: What?

Justin: Hot Wheels, all over the floor.

Travis: Oh!

Justin: Can't hop—yeowch! Legos, I guess, would serve this same purpose. If you're constantly walking up and down the hall, going "Yeowch!"

Travis: Well, you can just do that with Ruffles potato chips, too. Less painful, but very loud. Scatter some dried leaves around, a lot of twigs.

Justin: Dry leaves and twigs would be good.

Travis: Yeah. And it's good for the environment, 'cause that's gonna naturally compost, and you're gonna get a lovely forest floor in your apartment!

Justin: Yeah. Uh, [makes rhythmic tune]

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: [imitates guitar]

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Oh, good!

Justin: [imitates guitar] I wanna munch!

Travis: Squad?

Justin: [imitates guitar] I want to munch!

Griffin: Squad?

Justin: [makes extended tune] In Munch Squad!

Griffin: [laughs quietly]

Justin: Um, this—I have a Munch Squad Mini and then a full Munch Squad investigation.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: So we're going to begin with this. Uh, because this is kind of a special episode for us. Um, I don't know if you guys realize, but this is our Shark Week episode.

Griffin: Oh, good!

Justin: We're recording—you know, not releasing during Shark Week, obviously, but like, recording during Shark Week. So if we seem a little—

Travis: It's—it's Shark Week observed.

Justin: Yes. If we seem a little, you know, sharked up.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: And we're not the only ones taking advantage, 'cause Sonic drive-in is uh – also, did you know, by the way, that they're putting a Sonic in next to the Walmart where the Bojangles used to be?

Griffin: No.

Travis: Get out! What a coup.

Justin: Yeah, it's a big—it's a *big* glow up.

Uh, so Sonic drive-in introduced the new Shark Week slush.

Now, there's many different ways that this could've gone, but it ended up going the weirdest possible way. "The limited-time slush is—" if I told you guys that this was not a cheap cash-in, but rather an opportunity, an attempt, rather, to capture the grace and beauty of sharks with a slushy drink...

Travis: Mm-hm?

Justin: ...you would not believe me, but that is exactly what has transpired here. "The limited-time-only slush is a diorama of refreshing tropical flavor to delight the senses while diving into one of the Discovery's most anticipated programs of the summer, Shark Week."

Griffin: How is it a diorama?

Justin: Well, bud, "The eye-catching Shark Week slush has layers of fun with real strawberries and two shark gummies..."

Travis: Oh!

Justin: ...atop an ice-cold blue coconut slush, creating a feeding frenzy for shark aficionados for \$2.99, which I think we will all agree is a steal.

Uh, I've linked you a picture so you can see. Basically, you got a blue slush. You got a big, big mound of cherry, and then uh...

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: ...the two gummy sharks on top. It's wild.

Griffin: Awesome. Yeah, no, it definitely looks like just...

Travis: For \$2.99?

Griffin: ...sort of stagnant gore...

Justin: Yeah, blood.

Griffin: ...nestled atop some antifreeze.

Justin: Blood.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. "We're excited to capture the beauty of Shark Week—"

Travis: Well, let's also call it what it is. It looks like a lot of work for an underpaid employee.

Justin: Yeah, no one's—they're never gonna look like this, though. Enjoy this picture. You'll never see one like this in the wild.

"We're excited to capture the beauty of Shark Week and the awe-inspiring ocean life the program showcases in an exhilarating treat with a trifecta of flavors."

It's worth knowing, those trifecta flavors are blood, coconut, and shark gummy. [laughs] So we've really captured the spirit of the thing. Says Scott, the vice president of product innovation and development for Sonic.

“The beachy cool blue coconut slush lays a bright aquatic blue base down for shark gummy candies and juicy strawberries...”

Griffin: Mm!

Justin: “...creating a vivid ocean scene... within a slush... for guests to celebrate both the magnificent creatures and the delicious fun of summer.”

So you’ll really celebrate—celebrate sharks, their very existence, with this slushie. So that’s—it’s just yet another way to honor sharks, and that’s wonderful, but the thing about this slush that I wanna be really clear about, is it contains no shark.

Travis: That is important.

Justin: Not even a bit of shark.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: No shark DNA is present in this drink.

Griffin: Well, I mean, we’re all stardust, aren’t we?

Travis: We’re all star stuff, man!

Justin: Yeah, but you could say that this is a place where you *wouldn’t* expect to find fish. One place you might expect to find fish is in a Subway tuna sandwich.

Griffin: Oh, yeah, for sure!

Travis: Oh, no. This ongoing?

Justin: This is ongoing, folks! [laughs] This story will not die. To catch you up, it’s [through laughter] the *New York Times* did a test on Subway tuna, and said there is no tuna at all, not even the trace amounts of tuna that you’d expect to find in any one of us. There’s no tuna... in it at all.

This happened, and everyone kind of looked at each other, like, "So what do we do now?"

Griffin: [laughs] "What do you want me to do with this information, *New York Times*?"

Justin: "What do we do with this information?"

Travis: And if I remember correctly, the like, head of Subway or someone said like—stood by their guns, and said, "No, it's tuna."

And they're like, "It's not!"

Justin: Subway—yeah, Subway says it's 100—it's *absolutely* tuna. No question.

This story is ongoing. This lawsuit uh, started rec—like, in January. Um, the —Subway—Subway CEO—[wheezes, laughs] Subway CEO said – and this is a direct quote – he *absolutely* eats Subway's tuna sandwiches.

Travis: Oh, he doesn't, then.

Griffin: No, he's never had any of them.

Justin: He—no, no, no. He *absolutely, definitely* eats Subway sandwiches. He says, "It's one of my two favorite sandwiches." [laughs]

Travis: **Not—**

Griffin: What's the other one?

Justin: [through laughter] Just say it's your second favorite sandwich!

He said it's definitely tuna, he says he absolutely eats them. He says "It's one of my—"

Travis: This is just—hey, listen. This is just 101. If you're ever trying to get away with a crime, and you're brought in for questioning, don't start off with "I *definitely* didn't kill him..."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "...and I am absolutely not a murderer."

Justin: So it's—so they're saying it's tuna. How far are they willing to go? They've launched a website...

Griffin: Yes!

Justin: ...called—and the website is, let me get the URL for you so you could—

Travis: Jizzdomain.com.

Justin: It's jizzdomain—no, subwaytunafacts.com. So if you go to subwaytunafacts, you're gonna see a huge banner, and it says – I'll just read it to you, even though I'm probably, um, this is probably propaganda, arguably – "Subway tuna is *real* tuna. That's right. The truth is, Subway uses wild-caught skipjack tuna regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. A favorite among sub lovers, our tuna is and always has been high quality, premium, and 100 percent real."

"Now, we know there's been a lot of talk on this topic, including misinformation generated in the media, so we created this [through laughter] page to set forth the facts and help clarify any misunderstandings."

"Myth: *The New York Times* reported Subway's premium, fan-favorite tuna wasn't actually tuna."

Griffin: [laughs] "The *New York Times* said our kickass tuna isn't tuna."

Justin: [laughs] And I would actually argue, what you stated is a truth. That is—that did happen. That's not a myth.

“Myth: *The New York Times* reported Subway’s premium, fan-favorite tuna wasn’t actually tuna.”

“Truth: Not true! [laughs] What actually happened is that the *New York Times* commissioned a test that couldn’t detect tuna DNA in their sample.”

Griffin: Okay...

Justin: “But according to scientific experts, this is not unusual when testing cooked tuna, and it absolutely doesn’t mean the sample that was tested contains zero tuna.” Do you understand?

Travis: Oh, boy, I’m getting kind of swayed.

Griffin: Yeah...

Justin: “*USA Today* did an independent factcheck of the *New York Times* conclusion, which found it lacked important context about the limitations of DNA testing in denatured proteins, which you would expect in a cooked-down tuna product.”

Griffin: I see.

Travis: Okay...

Griffin: So by cooking the tuna, all that important tuna DNA...

Travis: They cooked the DNA right out of it.

Griffin: You reduce it to create that strong tuna flavor.

Justin: Now, they’ve got a chart here that shows sort of the flow of it. And it says at the top of the chart, “Subway tuna is real tuna.”

Griffin: Okay!

Justin: [laughs] They're just really banging that drum extremely hard. One thing that would be—I feel like you s—the problem is, is that we're getting into this like, "We've always been at war with Eurasia" territory, where *The New York Times*, our most respected publication, says, "This is not tuna."

And then Subway says, "I believe you are mistaken! This *is* tuna! In fact, it's all tuna, baby!" Like, there's no middle ground in this. One s—one person just says, "This is absolutely not tuna," and Subway says, "Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, it's tuna."

What they lack in this entire webpage is one picture of a man or woman catching a tuna, and saying, "This is going straight to Subway." [laughs]

Griffin: "This is going right—" [laughs]

Justin: "I'm shipping this to Subway! You can watch!" I need to, at this point, fucking GoPro a tuna throughout the processing until it's in someone's mouth.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's what I need. I need that level.

Griffin: Does anybody read this... on the planet Earth...

Justin: [coughing laughter]

Griffin: Does any sapient being on the planet Earth read this website, and go, "You know what I could fucking go for right now?"

Justin: [laughs loudly]

Griffin: "You know what I would crush right about now?"

Travis: I tell you, it's kind of convincing!

Griffin: You're—Travis...

Justin: Now—

Travis: Now, listen.

Justin: Now.

Travis: Now, listen, now listen, now listen. Am I saying I believe it's 100 percent tuna? No. Of course not. Am I saying I believe it's 100 percent digestible? Yeah, sure!

Justin: Now, listen, guys. Here's where the plot fucking gets really ribald. Here's where the plot gets really thick.

[chimes]

Justin: The day... and I'm looking at the timestamps here, this story from Grace Dean in *Business Insider* about Subway launching the Tuna website is from July 14th. The day before, July 13th, in the *QSR Magazine*, which is my sort of go-to for quick service restaurants—I would trust them over anybody.

Griffin: More than the *New York Ti*—they are the paper of record.

Justin: No, they're the *New York Times* of burger... boys.

"Subway launches unprecedented campaign to support menu updates."

Travis: Okay.

Justin: "It's called the 'eat fresh, refresh,' which features more than 20 changes to core items. It will be supported with multiplatform content from Steph Curry, Serena Williams, uh, Tom Brady is in there."

Travis: Wait, are they all making sandwiches?

Justin: "It's an extraordinary group of athletes that reinforce the scope of these tremendous changes, and embody the idea that to be fresh, you need to refresh."

Travis: “Hey, I’m Tom Brady, and this is my sandwich. It’s two pieces of bread, and then there’s a Sealy Serta mattress between them, and I just eat it. I eat all of it.”

Justin: Just so you guys don’t think I’m making this up, I have one of these ads for you right here. It’s six seconds long. Here we go.

[clip plays]

Speaker: There’s so much new at Subway, it won’t fit in one ad. So they’re sandwiching the sandwich ads between other ads.

[clip ends]

Justin: [laughs] That’s a real one.

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: That’s a real ad. A real six-second ad that Subway’s doing.

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: Uh, with Charles Barkley as the new voice of... of Subway.

Griffin: Love that.

Travis: He’s made it.

Justin: It—it says here, “Will lend his humor and familiar tone as the new voice of Subway.”

Griffin: I love that dude.

Travis: Yeah. I like his familiar tone.

Justin: Uh, so it’s a hu—I mean, there’s all kinds of big changes. Like, they improved their turkey, ham, steak, and bacon.

Griffin: Pretty low-bar.

Justin: Well, and the rotisserie chicken. And they ele—that's a lot of proteins.

Griffin: That's all of it, guys!

Justin: Hey—no, Griffin, it's not all of it! Can you—just—can— [stammering] is there one protein conspicuously absent from that list?

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Oh, the tuna!? [through gritted teeth] It's perfect!

Travis: Can't be improved.

Justin: It's perfect and real, and we can't evolve it. 'Cause it's so real that it's 100 percent tuna, where—you know what, in fact, now that we think about it, it's great that you brought up how much we fucking love our tuna, 'cause we need to fix our chicken and bacon and everything else but tuna. So we'll live up to the standards than our 100 percent actual tuna is setting!

Travis: We asked Branson. We said, "Hey, while you're up there, keep your eyes out for space tuna, 'cause that's the only way it's getting better, my man!"

Justin: [laughs] Something has got to help top this—"Our other meats are —" if they had come—you know what, honestly, now that I think about it, folks, if they had come for any of our other meats, the bacon? That's old belts.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "100 percent, it's old belts."

Griffin: [laughing quietly]

Justin: "You got us. We've been doing plant-based chicken for 30 years, okay? It's all fake bullshit. But the tuna?!"

Travis: Perfect.

Justin: "It's perfect and real, and it's real tuna!"

Griffin: What's a shame is that Branso could have found space tuna, and come back and been like, "Good news, Subway! Space tuna! It tastes 100 percent better and fresher! So go ahead and toss that on the menu."

And then Dr. Subway was like, "Fuck, we can't! 'Cause everybody will think it's a *New York Times* switcharoo swaperooni. Damn it! Fuck, why did the *New York Times* have to write that article, so we can't put kickass space tuna in our sandwiches?"

Travis: Ugh.

Griffin: The optics, Branso, are so bad!

Travis: [crosstalk] blew it again.

Griffin: You blew it.

Justin: Oh my God, this is a quote from the CEO of Subway. "We've been working on this refresh for 15 to 16 months, and if you've noticed, the one thing we did not touch is our tuna." [laughs] "People love our tuna. We're very proud of our tuna." So I think that's really the end of the story. Guys, that's his quote. [laughs]

Travis: They're like, quintupling down.

Justin: And that comes, by the way, at the end of the story. [laughs] *Business Insider* is the CEO, like, "Oh, so the last thing I wanted to say is that the tuna is real, and we're all agreed on that, and you could just put a period right there, and that's the end of it. And I feel like the one thing we can all agree on is that our bacon has always been bad, and hopefully now it's better, and that our tuna is real." And that's it! That's the whole bit.

Travis: "I love you, bye."

Justin: "Oh, we're sorry about Jared, by the way."

Travis: [laughs] Yeah.

Justin: "We should've said, still sorry about Jared."

Travis: Still fucked up on that one. But the tuna? Perfect.

Justin: Tuna? Oh, baby.

Griffin: And um, I would say, at this point, with absolute certainty that *The New York Times'* two biggest whoopsies was, in this order: number two, their full-throated endorsement of the war in Iraq. And then number one, when they fucking lied about Subway's tuna for some reason.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I don't get it!

Justin: I don't get it. Thanks to you so much for listening to our podcast, which is this one.

Travis: Yup.

Justin: *My Brother, My Brother, and Me*. It was a delight to have you with us, as always. Uh, thank you if you preordered *The Adventure Zone: Crystal Kingdom*, which is a graphic novel we wrote with our daddy, based on our *Adventure Zone* podcast. If you haven't gotten it yet, you can go to theadventurezonecomic.com, and buy a copy! And that would just be the best.

Travis: We've also got a lot of new merch over at mcelroymerch.com. We've got a pin of the month "gooshie wolves" from the *Ethersea* setup episodes. Uh, proceeds from that benefit the Innocence Project, which exonerates the wrongly convicted through DNA testing, and reforms the

criminal justice system to prevent future injustice. We've got a really cute, I'm just gonna say, "It's trash" sticker from the *My Brother, My Brother, and Me* TV show.

Justin: So cute.

Travis: A really cool green stoneware mug with the TAZ logo on it, and a *Besties* video game club shirt, which I will be getting, as a big fan.

Justin: I brought a bunch of the—I bought like 30 of those Justin McElroy "It's trash" stickers to put on, uh, my daughter's homework when it doesn't...

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: ...cut the mustard.

Travis: Pretty good.

Griffin: It's weird that you did that. I wouldn't...

Justin: I'm not a good person. I don't know what to tell you.

Travis: Griffin, tell us about the game!

Griffin: Oh, you're talking about the *Adventure Zone: Bureau of Balance* game that you can play with friends?

Travis: Yeah, that one!

Justin: That's the one!

Griffin: Well, Twogether Studios is the creator on that one, and they are celebrating a safe return to the game table this summer with local retailer events giving away some livestreams of the *Bureau of Balance* game, which is you haven't played it, is a hoot-and-a-half.

Uh, they're gonna have gameplay streams every Tuesday evening at 8:00 PM Eastern Time at [twitch.tv/twogetherstudios](https://www.twitch.tv/twogetherstudios), and that's T-W-O-gether Studios. Uh, and you can follow Together Studio on Twitter for weekly giveaways of swag from them and First Second, the publisher of our recently released graphic novel! Which, please, please get.

Travis: Along those same lines, I stream on Twitch. If you ever want to check that out, [twitch.tv/thetravismcelroy](https://www.twitch.tv/thetravismcelroy). I've been getting good at *Overwatch*!

Griffin: I love to see that. Haha.

Travis: I'm almost ready to do competition level!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Are you?

Travis: Yeah, I'm almost at 25!

Justin: God help us when Travis puts that, like, laser focus onto a game that has, like, competitive layers to it. I feel like you could go pro, bud.

Travis: Yeah. Well, this is what I'm saying. At this point, boys, I'm getting paid to play video games in front of people. I'm a pro gamer!

Griffin: Yep.

Justin: I mean, you're basically a pro gamer.

Griffin: Put it on your card. Hey, thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, "My Life (Is Better With You)!" Uh, I mean, we can't—we're behind the scenes on this one, folks.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: We have the scoop.

Justin: Yeah. It's so rare that we're the one—that you pull back the curtain, and we're also there.

Griffin: Yeah. Um, but it's coming. Hey, do you want the final Yahoo?

Travis: Yes, please.

Griffin: This one was sent in by... Ner... this one was sent in by Nermal from the *Garfield* comics.

Justin: Nermal?

Griffin: Yeah! And, uh... thank you, Nermal. It's not asked by Nermal, though. It's asked by, um, Jame...

Justin: Not Nermal.

Griffin: Yeah, it's asked by James. Um, who asks, "How many times have you... been to—how many times have you gone to the movie store? How many times have you been to the movie store, and they didn't have a copy of your favorite movie, which was *A Walk to Remember* with Mandy Moore? It's your favorite movie. Thanks! Love, James."

Justin: [through laughter] 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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[upbeat music plays]

Jordan: Hey, I'm Jordan Morris, creator of the Max Fun scripted sci-fi comedy podcast, *Bubble*. We just released a special episode of *Bubble* to celebrate the launch of our new graphic novel. At SF Sketch Fest in 2019, we recorded a live show with Alison Becker, Eliza Skinner, Mike Mitchell, Cristela Alonzo, and special guests Jean Grae, Jonathan Coulton, Jesse Thorn, Nick Wiger, and a bunch of other cool folks.

Speaker 2: We suspect he'll show signs of mutation when in a state of excitement. Now, Annie matched with him on Tinder, so she's gonna act as the honey pot.

Annie: I do enjoy being called a honey pot.

Speaker 3: Hey, you know what's better than honey? Gravy.

Annie: [gasps] Ooh, yeah, can I be the gravy sack?

Jordan: Out now on maximumfun.org and wherever you get podcasts. And pick up the graphic novel at your local bookstore today.