

MBMBaM 581: Boo-ty Ghouli-iani

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Travis: Hello. What you're about to hear is a podcast, and what that means is we're gonna talk into microphones, and then broadcast it on... on pods... in your iPods. You're gonna hear this on your iPod. And so just wanted to give you an intro in case you were confused as to what is happening.

Griffin: Sometimes we'll say pretty silly stuff.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: But it's not—we're not being wrong. We're doing a joke to make you laugh.

Travis: And it's so—

Justin: I wanted to say to my grandpa, Dan, who I asked to listen to this one: well, I'm glad that you figured—I knew you could do it.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: I knew you could do it, G-pa Dan. I knew you could listen to podcasts.

Travis: Downloaded it through Napster, and now you're listening to it.

Griffin: Listen folks—

Justin: Thank you for pirating our podcast, Grandpa Dan.

Travis: Just a little, uh, prologue, you're gonna hear us make some pretty obscure references, and you're gonna think, "Oh, I don't get this 'cause I'm not a regular listener." But the truth is, you don't get it because you're not one of the three of us, and sometimes not even then.

Griffin: Yeah. True. Sometimes the things we say just isn't funny.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Now listen, we'll be interrupting the show throughout to try to give you some context, but we think you're set up now. What you're gonna hear next is the introduction. Now, in *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, this is our show that we do.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: This is what we normally do, like, sort of a slice-of-life, skewed view...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: ... twisted perspective on current events.

Travis: Sometimes we talk about movies for like a really long time, and it's unclear even to us if we're actually excited about them or not.

Griffin: And sometimes when we struggle to think of something funny to say, we just cuss a lot. So please be prepared for that.

Justin: That's a—that's kind of throughout, though. That's not just an introduction thing.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: We're gonna—we're gonna begin now, okay? But don't—if you get scared at any point, please, *please* tell one of us.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And we will stop—

Travis: [crosstalk]?

Justin: It's an interactive experience. Okay. Are you ready?

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

Justin: Hello, everybody, and *welcome*—

Travis: Oh, no, Justin. Quieter.

Justin: No, why is it qui—they can like hot s—just 'cause they're new doesn't mean they don't like it fucking hot, you know what I mean?

Travis: Oh, that's true. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: Hello, everybody, and wel—wait, this is the music we always play.

[short ballad music clip]

Justin: Okay. [laughs] Hello, everybody—

Griffin: It was so short. [laughs]

Justin: [gruffly] Hey, everybody, and welcome to *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, an advice show for the modern era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy. I've always said modern like that.

Travis: And then, um, I'm gonna say "middlest," which isn't a real word as far as I know, but I am the most middle McElroy. And I'm—oh, I'm also gonna say Big Dog Woof-woof, and that's because every year we brand the year, and this is 20-big-dog-run. What does that mean, you ask? I don't know. And I'm your middlest brother, Travis "Big Dog Woof-woof" McElroy!

Griffin: What's up, shit stains!

Travis: Whoa.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Griffin has never brought this energy before.

Griffin: So that's kind of how I—

Travis: [crosstalk] rebrand—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: It's sort of how I come into the beginning of it; every episode is—

Justin: It's not! Don't lie to the people who don't know it's a joke!

Travis: That is never—you have never done that before.

Griffin: Is it the voice? Do you think it's the voice?

Travis: You called them shit stains, Griffin!

Griffin: Oh, let me try it—let me try again. What's up, skid marks?

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: I mean, better. So it's noticeably better.

Justin: It's better.

Travis: Not *quite*—

Justin: It feels more affectionate. It has—

Griffin: What's up—what's up, droopy drawers?

Travis: I think that's better?

Griffin: I'm the youngest one.

Travis: But Griffin, you're usually kind of the sweet one, and I'm kind of the bad boy of the group.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: And I need you to bring some more, like, sweet energy so people know that like, you're the safe one, and I don't think that's a bad—

Griffin: [high-pitched] *What's up, shit stains!*

Justin: Okay. Just to get some questions out of the way.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: For new listeners. This is the Max Fun Block Party, which is where—we're trying to onboard new people, so welcome in, inside. And this show actually doesn't lean on—people accuse us of doing a lot of in-jokes. I try to avoid that, actually, hilariously, I try to avoid that in this show. It just is a lot of non sequiturs a lot of times.

Travis: Yeah, yeah. It feels like in-jokes that you assume, like, "People who've listened before understand what they're talking about." But as I said earlier, no. [laughs]

Justin: No, no. But this—but we're trying to make—so here's the setup, right? We're actual-ass brothers.

Travis: Yeah, ass brothers. Yeah.

Justin: Like real brothers. Not a joke. We're the McElroys, we grew up together. Our dad's Clint, we do *The Adventure Zone* together. And we have done since 2010, April 2010, we've done an advice program that you are now listening to and enjoying, we hope. I mean, right now.

So we've been doing it for a long time. This is our 580th episode. And the show has evolved, but not as much as, like, you would think, right? It's not like *General Hospital*, where 11 years later, it would be unrecognizable. This is still basically the same.

Griffin: It's the same schtick, but we're just—we're a lot tireder, all the time.

Travis: That's true. We're older now, we've got kids, and God knows how many at this point. And uh, I also know—

Justin: We have six kids; two each. You can't do this.

Travis: Oh, right, you're right.

Justin: This is our first introduction, we have two kids.

Travis: We have two kids each, so six total.

Justin: We share two kids. [laughs]

Travis: We have two kids. It's a timeshare program. [laughs] We went in together to buy the kids. We each get four months. But I know what you're wondering: "I've been listening now to the show for a while, and they haven't given any advice yet." Get used to that.

Griffin: That doesn't happen.

Justin: It's not as much advice these days.

Travis: We're not qualified in any way, and we've also, at this point, as you said 581 episodes in, basically answered every problem the world has. There's nothing new under the sun.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: It's just no one listens, is the problem.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: You know what I mean? No one listens.

Travis: Well, it's 'cause Bob Ball back there in the beginning, is like, "Don't listen to the brothers."

Griffin: Tell people not to listen. Sure.

Travis: And it's like, God damn it, Bob Ball.

Griffin: So here—

Justin: So—

Griffin: So I know you're wondering, "Where's the—if this is a block party, where's the snacks?"

Travis: Where are the snacks?

Griffin: The answer is, you gotta download them.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Oh!

Griffin: We are uploading pictures of some amazing snacks, and—

Travis: I made a Jell-O mold.

Griffin: Yeah, Travis did a Jell-O mold. I got some pimento pasta salad.

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: And that's gonna be a beautiful JPEG, and you're gonna really taste the highlights and shadows and colors on that one. So enjoy that. We got some bands coming out. What's up, Blues Traveler...

Travis: Mm, not him.

Griffin: Coming out on Blues Stage at 7:00 PM.

Travis: Not gonna have—it's Blues Traveler, but without John Popper, 'cause he kind of sucks.

Griffin: Oh, okay. Well, then, it's a harmonica-free Blues Traveler experience. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah. It's just kind of an acoustic, non-harmonica Blues Traveler.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: Wouldn't it be rad if the Blues Traveler guy one time forgot his uh, harmonicas, like he left his harmonica vests in his trunk with all his guns, and when the concert started, that's when he realized, and he had to make harmonica noises with his mouth.

Travis: [makes harmonica noises with his mouth
]

Justin: And see if anybody notices.

Travis: "Does anybody have any wax paper I can put on a comb? Anybody?"

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "Damn it! I went to Julliard!" Um, so—

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Just to kind of start, I—

Justin: Do you know where Dracula's uh, sending music?

Griffin: Where?

Travis: Where?

Justin: Boolliard.

Travis: Oh, God. Why would it be Dracula, and not a ghost? Dracula doesn't say fuckin' boo!

Griffin: [crosstalk]. The past seven minutes of recording that we have been, not a joke, a pretty good cross section of the experience we provide here.

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: Well, I thought this would be a good opportunity for people at home to maybe get to know us on a deeper level, and Colin sent this in, and this is just a getting-to-know-you icebreaker question. The original question here, on some kind of web forum, was "What would be the worst torture to you?"

And a woman named Laura answered, "You make me live in a cabin in the mountains on winter, and every Saturday I would have to host a garage sale. And you would not give me any frozen or fresh vegetables or fruits to eat." That is the worst...

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: ... torture... Laura can imagine. So I wanted to posit to us, what is the worst torture we can imagine?

Justin: I'm not gonna go with anything better than Laura Williams-May, who, by the way, put in her bio, "Laura Williams-May," comma, "I offer alternative explanations and viewpoints."

Travis: Indeed.

Justin: Which, good on you. Good on you.

Travis: And you can tell that, because Laura has offered almost 13,000 answers to questions on whatever website this is.

Justin: And they're almost all about how little she wants to be in a cabin in the mountains and winter and host a garage sale every Saturday.

Travis: Are these—do you think that these are three, like, stacking tortures, or is it like, "You have to live in a cabin."

"Well, I think I can get used to this."

Griffin: Sell your shit.

Travis: "This Saturday, you have to host a garage show."

"Aw man, well, it's—"

"Every Saturday."

"God damn it. Well, at least give me some fresh or frozen vegetables or fruits to eat while I'm hosting the garage sale. Wait, why are you laughing?"

Justin: I like that Laura has now—that's all the vegetables and fruits, Laura. Frozen or fresh, right? That's it.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I mean, I guess dried?

Travis: Canned.

Griffin: That's a different kind.

Justin: Canned? Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Pickled.

Griffin: Mushed...

Justin: She only likes them frozen or fresh.

Travis: Yeah, that's her deal. It's one of the two opposite ends of the spectrum.

Justin: Okay, so this—so here's what we do. We take questions from listeners, we answer them to the best of our ability. We're gonna try to get through more than usual, which is to say more than one, or maybe two.

Griffin: Let's see—let's do it.

Justin: "During lunch, I accidentally dropped a few black beans, and they roll—" By the way, I feel like we never say this, but if you have a question...

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Justin: You can send it to MBMBaM—I know what you're thinking: "Wow, a very bad nickname for a podcast."

Travis: Yep.

Justin: And yes, you are not wrong. mbmbam@maximumfun.org.

Hey, another thing real quick.

Travis: Oh!

Justin: Speaking of the bad name of our podcast, a listener pointed out on the YouTube comments, 'cause I was watching our theme song by Montaigne...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: ... 'cause my kids love it, and they pointed out that *My Brother, My Brother and Me* fits exactly with the cadence of the chorus.

Griffin: [singing] "My brother, my brother and me!"

Travis: [mumbling singing]

Griffin: Yeah, that's fun! That's good stuff.

Justin: It's fun! Anyway. Uh, okay, so. "I accidentally dropped a few black beans. They rolled under my cubicle into my coworker's that sits straight across from me." This is already a nightmare.

Travis: And just—oh, for listeners at home, you might have confused—this didn't happen to Justin.

Justin: Right. Thank you, Travis.

Travis: Justin is reading a question from a listener, and it's written in first person, but Justin is merely the conduit.

Justin: Yeah. Sometimes I'll just launch right into 'em and you think I'm talking about myself, and then at the end I'm like, "Doofus in Dakota", or whatever.

Travis: Because like, you know—you know Justin loves beans.

Griffin: Right. Long-time listeners will remember that Justin exclusively did eat beans for several years. So I could understand the confusion there.

Justin: I used to be a bean boy.

Travis: I know!

Justin: Now I'm not anymore.

Travis: No, now you're a bean man.

Justin: Two dense. [laughs] “I have never met them. I think they vacuum here on the weekends, but this happened on Monday, and by then they will be moldy and maybe smell. Should I go pick up the beans when they’re away and risk being caught in the act and haveing to explain? Should I just leave them be-an?”

Travis: Leave them bean.

Justin: There’s no way to make this joke land.

Griffin: In an audible sort of format, yeah.

Justin: And by the way, we’ll do the jokes around here, thanks. [laughs] That’s from Bean There Smelled That in Minnesota.

Travis: I love, by the way, that in this question, at no point is go over there while they’re there, and explain an option provided.

Justin: “Hey, brosefus, I dropped some bean-beans over here. Gonna clear you out one sec [crosstalk] beans.”

Travis: But here’s the thing—if you’re caught over here, and then you say, “I’m over here because I dropped some beans and they rolled under your cubicle”? That is the most fishy explanation I’ve ever heard.

Griffin: Yeah, that’s a weird one. That’s—they’re definitely gonna think you’ve accidentally dropped your stash, like in *Rent*, and now they are on the case. Here’s what I’m gonna say—

Travis: But if you say—if you go over there and say, like, “I dropped some beans and they rolled under; sorry about that.” That’s so wild that there’s no way they’re gonna think you’re lying, right?

Griffin: That’s a good point.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Um, I'm gonna say it's just a couple beans. It's just a couple beans...

Travis: That's what fucking Jack and the Beanstalk thought, Griffin! Just a couple beans, and then pretty soon a giant falls and levels half the city!

Griffin: But the be—Jack didn't roll the beans accidentally. Like, Jack's mom was like, "Get these fucking beans out of here. Yeet!"

And then a big beanstalk came out, and we all know the rest of that story. Um, everybody got squished and died from it. So—

Travis: But I would like a—just a side note, and I know this is some Monday morning-quarterbacking on the author of Jack and the Beanstalk? When the mysterious stranger said "Trade me your cow for these magic beans," wouldn't anybody – no matter what level of curiosity they have – anybody would say, "In what way are they magic?"

Griffin: Yeah, what kind of spell they... contain?

Travis: Like, it's not like magic bean is like a category of bean. Like, "These are some of those magic beans I've heard of?"

Because if the mysterious stranger was like, "Oh, it'll grow a giant beanstalk that you have to *climb...* "

Griffin: Yeah, no thanks.

Travis: "And then, like, hide from a man-eating giant. How did I get them, you ask? Don't worry about that. Give me your cow."

Griffin: "Give me that cow right now." Anyway...

Travis: It's not a good [crosstalk].

Griffin: If I was in the cubicle across from this person, and they come over and like, "Hey, a couple—couple bean-zos did roll under... "

... and I look down there, I would be like, "Oh, it's fine. It's just a couple beans." If it was 50 beans...

Travis: Mm.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: ... and I looked under my desk, and there was a small pile of beans under there, I'd be like...

Justin: That's amazing, isn't it.

Griffin: "Y—yeah, you should get those. You need to clean those up. This is where I—"

Justin: I think about that—I think about this a lot, right? Where—

Travis: You do?

Justin: Well, n—just this idea of, like... one is nothing.

Travis: Right.

Justin: And a million is a huge thing.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: So there's some number... there's a fixed number, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Like, if one bean is on the floor, you probably wouldn't even notice.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: If 100 beans are in a small pyramid, arranged perfectly...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ... like, sitting in your cubicle, that's a huge deal. That's a massive deal. So there's some number in between one and 100 beans where it becomes a topic, where becomes something that needs to be dealt with.

Griffin: I think I've got it. I think I know the number.

Travis: Oh, really?

Justin: I know the number.

Griffin: I absolutely know the number. I think it's five beans.

Justin: [laughs] Okay! Okay.

Travis: Now, what makes you think—

Griffin: [crosstalk] Shush, shush, shush. If I look under my desk...

Justin: Let's hear his thesis.

Griffin: If there's one bean under my desk, oh, that's fine. Two beans? Oh, there's a couple beans in here. Three beans? That's a few beans. Four beans is like, "Should I do something about this? Nah, it's just four beans." Five beans is *insane*. That's way too many beans to have under your desk!

Travis: I don't think it's a binary, right? Because I actually think a singular bean in the wild, if I saw just a black bean under my desk, how the fuck did one bean get there?

Justin: Yeah, but like, you wouldn't even—you wouldn't—okay. So there's a feature – not a bug, a feature of the human experience.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: Where it's like, if something's small, and you maybe don't necessarily want to think about it that much, you could filter out a bean.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Yeah, you could be like, "Eh, I don't g—I don't know—my awareness is not going to engage with that one bean. I can't deal with that."

Travis: Aw, man, it must be nice not having ADHD, but go on.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Well, r—I'm sorry—

Travis: I see that bean, it's like, whole day...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: What the fuck is that bean doing here? I gotta—I'm on the hunt!

Griffin: So that's the bean que—that's one of our many bean questions we do. We like to open things up with a bean segment.

Travis: Um, and now, there's another segment here that I would say is much beloved, and everyone loves it when I do it, and I'm gonna pull you aside, folks. This next is gonna be a little bit loud, but [whimsical voice] Riddle Me Piss, boys!

Justin: Oh!

Griffin: And I would like to say aside real quick to say that we don't like this.

Travis: Well, there are some folks out there that do.

Griffin: Yeah, that's important context, but that we don't like it.

Travis: This is—I'll give you guys—new listeners a little explanation. So there are people who will submit riddles to the internet, and every time they put that riddle up, they think, "This is an absolute slam dunk." But actually, as you will see from this riddle, this is not the case. So this one's—

Griffin: You probably don't need to explain that.

Travis: That's fair.

Griffin: I think people are gonna get that the riddles aren't very good.

Travis: This one was submitted by Kayla. Thank you, Kayla. [whimsical voice] "If all wimbles are cringles, all borkins are crumblers..."

Griffin: I—I—I *already* don't want it!

Justin: Yeah, I don't want it.

Travis: "If all wimbles are cringles, all borkins are crumbl—" cwumblins, excuse me. "No harbles are borkins, and all criggles are borkins. Is it true that all borkins are criggles!"

Griffin: This sucks.

Justin: It sucks, Travis.

Travis: Do you want to hear it again?

Griffin: No, absolutely not. I just wanna hear the answer.

Travis: "If all wimbles are criggles, all borkins are cwumblins, no hoggles are borkins, and all criggles are borkins, is it true that all borkins are criggles?"

Justin: I can't—if I try—I actually, you know what's funny? I tried to make my brain engage with it at the time. And it could—it could—

Travis: It slides right off, doesn't it?

Justin: It just sli—it just bounced out. It couldn't do it.

Griffin: So what was—what was it—no, Juice, you say yes; I'll say no.

Justin: Okay. Yes.

Griffin: No.

Travis: Griffin's right! The answer – what they've actually written here is, "Nope!" So there we go, borkins aren't criggles!

Justin: That's what I'd say, is borkins aren't criggles.

Griffin: That's fantastic. Um...

Justin: Jesus.

Griffin: We used to do Yahoo Answers on this show, but then that website got suffocate—it suffocated, killed, got shut down and deleted off the internet, so we've—this is a nascent segment, I would say. Um, fresh, and it's very exciting, where we approach the Wizard of the Cloud and we look at questions on WikiHow instead, and we learn things instead of... with Yahoo Answers, it was just mystery atop of mystery. WikiHow was like a teacher. It's like a teacher that comes to teach you things. And today's WikiHow was sent in by—

Travis: Kind of like Nanny McPhee, when you think about it.

Griffin: It's basically Nanny McPhee.

Justin: What?

Travis: Yeah, it's like Nanny McPhee. It teaches you lessons that maybe you don't even realize you're learning.

Griffin: It's like Dr. Parnassus.

Travis: Just like Dr. Parnassus.

Griffin: [crosstalk].

Travis: And Mr. Magorium? Which I haven't seen it.

Griffin: A lot of them.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Uh, this is a subject that is near and dear to I think all our hearts, and it's how to mosh in a mosh pit.

Travis: Thank you!

Justin: Mm.

Griffin: I've always been curious about the level of violence that you are supposed to bring to that sort of encounter.

Travis: Yeah, I've always been worried I'd get in there, and fling myself at like a 10, and then they'll be like, "Woah, dude!"

Griffin: "Whoa, dude! Fucking stop!"

Travis: Well, or like a three...

Griffin: Fucking Slipknot on stage is like, "Stop—stop the rock music! That guy did a big hit! Get the *fuck* out of here!"

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "Hey! This is a shared experience!"

Griffin: Yeah. So—

Travis: "Mosh like that at home!"

Griffin: he first two things are prepereratory. Preperotory.

Travis: What? Preperatory?

Justin: Proprietary.

Griffin: Proprietary.

Justin: Proprietary. Griffin invented them just for this.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, step one.

Travis: These are patented.

Griffin: "Wear clothes you don't care about getting ruined. Wear old, worn clothes, or a cheap outfit you don't feel attached to, clothing can get easily ripped, or *stained* in a mosh pit."

Travis: Spelled how? Spelled how?

Justin: What if I wear my Staind t-shirt?

Travis: There you go.

Griffin: Yeah. That's a v—that's a risk that you can—[laughs] What's—

Justin: I bet it's a bummer—it must be a bummer to get—go to a Staind show from the band Staind...

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah.

Justin: ... and then later, you go to Wienerschnitzel, you're having yourself a nice hotdog, and then you layer it up with all your favorite toppings.

Travis: Your mus-tards, your kat-sups.

Justin: Everyone be quiet.

Travis: Okay. [laughs]

Justin: Fist bite—I got this. And your first bite, ketchup and mustard squirts out onto your shirt. And you now look down at your new Staind t-shirt that you bought at the concert earlier, and you think, “I can never express this to other people.”

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: “I’ll never be able to express this situation.”

Travis: “Hey, what happened to that new show shirt you got?”

Justin: “Our language hasn’t evolved enough. Yeah, it’s stained.”

Travis: “Yeah. I was with you.”

“No, no, no.”

Griffin: It also s—the very next step is actually, “Don’t bring big bottles of mustard into the mosh pit.”

Travis: That’s fair.

Hey, um, as someone who grew up, like, listening to music in the 90’s and stuff, is Staind one of those bands that was like, sounded like, really hardcore, but was actually secretly a Christian rock band?

Justin: Christian? I don’t know—

Travis: I think Puddle of Mudd is? I don’t know.

Justin: That feels right.

Griffin: Alright. "Wear contact lenses instead of glasses, obv... "

Travis: Yes. Yes.

Griffin: "... avoid wearing loose jewelry or accessories." Partially, I think, because they—you don't wanna get choked, but also because of... mosh bandits. And we—

Travis: [laughs] Mosh highwaymen.

Griffin: And I don't wanna point fingers, but I do remember one time Justin went to a rock concert, and came back with a beeper that wasn't his. You wanna talk about that?

Justin: Oh my God, what?

Griffin: Do you remember that?

Justin: I don't remember this? No, tell me more.

Griffin: You went to a concert, and you said you brought—maybe this is a lie you told your brother. Maybe you bought a beeper and you were embarrassed about it. But you said you found a beeper on the floor at a rock concert after a mosh pit. And you brought it on home. Which is fantastic.

Justin: I know that one time, I traded in enough Pepsi points to get a Mountain Dew beeper.

Travis: Yes, that's right, yeah. That happened.

Griffin: That wasn't it.

Justin: I did do that.

Griffin: That wasn't it.

Justin: I think this is a different situation, though, it sounds like.

Griffin: Okay. This seems like the kind of thing you'd—

Justin: I don't remember this. Oh my God.

Griffin: "Make sure your shoes are tied." Fantastic.

Travis: Oh, yes.

Griffin: Alright. "Wait for the m—" this is joining the mosh pit. This is where the fucking rubber hits the road. "Wait for the mosh pit to open up." Yeah.

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: You'll know it's getting to start—

Travis: Will there be a signal, or... ?

Griffin: Well, Travis, "You'll know it's getting ready to start when the performer announces it, or other concertgoers begin to make a clearing to stage." Probably not the first one.

"Okay, everyone! Okay, everyone!"

Travis: [laughs] "On three!"

Griffin: "It's me, Jeremy Slipknot, and I'm—I've got the red flag here! Wave, wave! Begin! Begin the shoving."

Travis: There is a flaw with the second one, though, which is if you're waiting for other people to start the moshing...

Griffin: Oh, yeah...

Travis: Then if everybody's waiting, you could be a mosh pioneer.

Griffin: Right. Yeah. Um—"Finish your drink. Don't bring a drink—" duh. "Enter the mosh pit once you're ready."

Travis: Yeah. Mm-hm.

Griffin: "Don't be surprised if people are pushing you and bumping you as you get to the edge of the circle. If you don't want to dive right into the mosh pit, stay at the edge of the pit for a little bit, and observe until you feel ready to enter."

What's the number of people... standing on the perimeter of the mosh pit, staring intently at the people moshing that makes the moshing feel uncomfortable—like, at what level do you—even though you're jumping and feeling the vibe of the music and hurting—and pushing, and shoving, and hurting other people, are you like, "I can't ignore the fact that there are just, like, a dozen people looking at me. Watching me."

Travis: Well, I think it's like a bean question. We can start if, if it's just two people moshing, that's a romantic or at least very intense emotional experience.

Justin: What is the sound of two people moshing?

Travis: That's—that's—that's like a wedding's first dance there, right?

Griffin: Right.

Travis: You don't wanna hear—when two people are moshing together, you don't want to interrupt what they've got going. Now, as soon as a third party enters, right now the energy I think is spread out as such as you need a fourth person to balance out unless, inevitably, two of the three are gonna start moshing together, while the third is excluded.

Griffin: Oh, God.

Travis: You need to share the load with uh, four.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: At which point then, it just is gonna escalate from there, right?

Griffin: That's gonna snowball, for sure.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: So yeah. "Start moshing. Jump up and down in place. Make a lap around the pit. Have both your hands open and your arms up at about chest level." That's a cool look that's probably not true. "Gently push people, or bump into them. It's okay to push people around. Everyone's in the pit expecting it, but remember, you're not there to hurt anyone. Avoid elbowing anyone in the chest, as for some people... that could be quite sensitive, if not painful." I would say most people.

Travis: Yeah, most—unless it's like fucking Colossus. Most people getting elbowed in the chest is gonna feel that.

Griffin: Not gonna feel, not gonna feel good.

"Keep with the pace of the music, and those around you. Cool off with a breather during slow songs."

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: One of Staind's slow songs.

Travis: One of their ballads.

Griffin: "Be prepared for everyone to start moshing harder when the music picks up again." Okay, cool.

This is—this is—I know what you're thinking—I'm definitely gonna hurt somebody. Like, somebody's gonna get hurt. Not if you follow mosh pit etiquette! The next segment: "One, stop and help anyone up, should they fall."

Travis: Yes. That's true in life, as it is in mosh.

Griffin: Yeah, if you see anyone fall down, and you're close to them? It's a good thing to do in general, regardless of whether or not s—sweaty uh, butt—butt rock fans [crosstalk].

Travis: I would say it doesn't become—it does become especially important when that is happening. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. "Pick up dropped items, and hold them above your head."

"Is this anyone's beeper? Nope? Bye!"

Travis: [laughs] "I don't know how to transfer service on a beeper, so I guess I'll be answering Doug's pages."

Griffin: That was the biggest mystery to me. "If you see anyone's shoe or cellphone on the ground, stop and pick it up." The imagine that WikiHow has provided, which, if you've never been to the website, is always good. It's someone very happily holding a shoe above their head. And I'd like to think, like, I'd get into the music, right? You all know me. I like to ride those vibes. But if my shoe comes off...

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: ... that's priority number one!

Travis: At the very least, it's gonna create a physical imbalance in your body that you don't even notice!

Griffin: Yes. "Don't throw things in the mosh pit."

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Thank you!

Travis: Yes. Or the sand pit.

Griffin: "Don't try to mosh with people who aren't in the pit."

“Get in here! Hey!”

Travis: Yeah, don’t try to start an ancillary mosh pit!

Justin: That is a weird sort of state of mind from the person who’s like, “I’m the edge of the mosh pit.”

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: “This mosh, no mosher.”

Griffin: Mm-hm. “I hate this mosh pit.”

Justin: “I hate this mosh pit. I’m standing guard of you. I won’t let this—I won’t let you pass.

Travis: See, I thought that this was saying, “Don’t try to start a secondary mosh pit at a different location in the audience.” Like, you’re like, “You know what? I don’t like that mosh pit anymore. They observed rules I don’t—I lost my shoe in there; no one held it above their head. Hey, you! You’re a beefy person! Come, mosh with me!”

Griffin: “You’re on my team!”

Travis: [laughs] “We’re a rival mosh.”

Griffin: “I just really wanna watch the show.”

“Begin jumping. You’re a team now. *Squid Game*, hurt them!”

Travis: [laughs] “Sic `em!”

Justin: “Skank ironically! Everyone, skank ironically.”

Griffin: Uh, “Don’t bother the venue staff in the pit.”

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: "Ah, man, you're shoving too hard."

"Okay. I'll stop."

Travis: That's what they're there for. They're to be, you know, in charge—they're the parent of the mosh pit. They're not doing it 'cause they're mad at you.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: They're doing it 'cause they care about you.

Griffin: Yeah, I gotta say, that's the last sort of tip here. If I'm like, in it... if I'm like, if I'm skanking it to Hoobastank, and really riding the vibe, and doing a lot of pushing, and someone tells me, "Hey, you need to stop"? I don't know that that's sort of like, you know, primitive just, in my soul instinct to mosh—it's going to be able to be contained at that point.

Travis: Oh, that's so interesting, Griffin, because if I was moshing at a concert, and someone told me, "You need to stop," I would assume it was my inner monologue...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ... saying, like, this is done now.

Griffin: This is not your thing, Travis.

Travis: "Hey, Travis? I think you and I can both agree, you're forcing this."

Griffin: That's—the venue staff should not be there to police the intensity of people's moshing. They should be there for folks like me, who they see me, like, very nervously, start walking in, and they just grab me by the scruff of my neck, like, "No, friend. No, friend, this is not for you."

Travis: "We actually have seating over here. Secret seating that we didn't tell anyone about, but it looks like your human body might need it."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Hey, why don't you go buy a t-shirt, huh? A nice t-shirt? And then maybe head on home?

Griffin: This is a funny joke that somebody's asking the questions to community Q&A, "What do I do if somebody starts doing the macarena while I was in the pit?" [scats briefly]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: The community answered: "Nobody would do the macarena in the mosh pit. Only moshing is done in a mosh it!"

Travis: What if the person does what I used to do in middle school dances, which is they're too awkward to dance, so they just sing along to the song in the middle of the dance floor?

Griffin: Yeah. What if they—what if someone tries to make a big, holding-hands circle in the mosh pit?

Travis: Yeah! Yeah, yeah, yeah. What if—oh, they try to do that, like, "And now we're gonna highlight individual moshers. We've created a mosh circle. Now you get in there and let us watch you mosh by yourself."

Griffin: Mosh train!

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yes! I'm into that. Anyway, now we all know how to do this, so let's all go to a rock concert together.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Man, that'd be fun.

Griffin: That would be fucking fun, dude.

Travis: What's stopping us?

Justin: Well.

Griffin: A lot of stuff.

Justin: Where to begin?

Travis: What do you mean?

Justin: Where to begin?

Griffin: Our bodies.

Justin: Oh, this should um—this is actually good to talk about. Uh, we... stop... in the mi—like, just when you're really starting to have fun...

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: And I know what you're thinking: "This is an advice show; they've done very little advice." Well, hang in there. There's a lot more.

Travis: Well...

Justin: Come in—uh, just around the bend. We—we take a break to do advertisements, and what is great is if you can like, frequent the businesses that we talk about.

Travis: And we make it funny! We're not like some of those other advisers.

Justin: Yeah, don't skip 'em. It's not a robot or something; it's really the guys that you love already.

Travis: And we're kind of like the Geico cavemen of podcasts where we're like, "Fuck, that's funny."

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: Okay. That's funny, yeah. Cool. Oh, I begin this, by—I say, "Let's all go to the Money Zone."

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

Travis: Stamps. Um, so for those of you at home, stamps are a thing that you have to like—

Justin: They know about stamps.

Griffin: They do know about stamps.

Travis: How do you know that?

Justin: Well, we have to assume a base level of competence.

Travis: Okay, fair, fair, fair. Um, so if you got a small business, And you know there's nothing more valuable than your time, then stop wasting on trips to the post office and start wasting it on listening to our podcast! Stamps.com makes it easy to mail and ship right from your computer. Stamps.com brings the service of the US postal service and UPS shipping right to your computer, and the band Postal Service right to your computer. They will, now!

Griffin: They will do it!

Travis: Now that I have committed them to it, they are working on a media player as we speak. So whether you're—

Griffin: They are trying to Tron Ben Gibbard today.

Travis: [laughs] That's our stamps.com guarantee to you!

Griffin: We are gonna blast Ben Gibbard with a Tron gun!

Travis: [laughs] Guys, stop it, I said I was—

Justin: If you've ever wanted your computer to describe your girlfriend dying, now the chance is here. It will happen.

Travis: Do you have an old mattress?

Justin: This disc? On your back? Yes, it's vinyl.

Travis: Whether you're an office sending invoices, a side-hustle Etsy shop, or a full-blown warehouse shipping our orders, stamps.com will make your life easier. All you need is a computer and standard printer. No special supplies or equipment, and you'll get exclusive discounts on postage and shipping from USPS and UPS. Save time and money with stamps.com. There's no risk, and with *my* promo code, "mybrother," all one word...

Justin: Our...

Travis: My promo code! I called stamps.com, I said, "Can I please have a promo code?"

And they said, "Yes, Travis, but don't let your brothers use it." M—

Justin: We should get—we should make an advertisements that's cool, generate us three promo codes, just so we could see—

Travis: Can see—oh, I like that!

"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. And I know you're wondering, 'cause sometimes that can be confusing: the digital scale means it has, like, a digital readout, not that it's like a computerized, like, 3D scale. I just wanted to make sure that it's clear. It's not made of lasers or something.

Griffin: Right, I think—yeah.

Travis: You don't know that! It confuses me! Just go to stamps.com, click on the microphone of the homepage, and type in "mybrother," all one word.

That's stamps.com, promo code "mybrother." Stamps.com, never go to the post office again... unless you work there.

Griffin: Unless you—yeah.

Travis: Oh, can you imagine if you worked at the post office, and the post office found out you had a stamps.com account? Oh, boy.

Griffin: Yeah, you'd—

Travis: I think it would go a little something like this: "Hey, Derek, you got a stamps.com account?"

"Uh, yeah."

"Oh, cool. Can you sort those packages, please?"

Griffin: He actually did the skit.

Justin: That was a good skit.

Let me talk about this next one.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: It's ZipRecruiter!

Travis: Oh, okay.

Justin: You know, I like to hand-select uh, things in my life.

Travis: Like what?

Justin: Like, every day, when I go into my um, toothpaste closet, and I pick the paste of the day.

Travis: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: And I'm—what am I feeling like? Baking soda, not baking soda, peroxide, whatever, I might use the whitening.

Travis: Do you like the ones with the stripes?

Justin: Yeah, I like the ones with the stripes sometimes, if I'm feeling a little saucy. But that's me, you know what I mean? I—I like to choose—it says, in the ad copy, it says I can choose my own, so I guess I did.

Griffin: Yeah, sure!

Justin: Yeah. Don't let me off the leash again. ZipRecruiter, that's what you get.

You could do the same thing I do for toothpaste, you can do it for hiring them.

Travis: Oh! So if I wanted to hire a toothpaste selector?

Justin: You wouldn't think that it's a big draw, right? "I could choose the people that, like, get the job—" no, no, no. That's not what ZipRecruiter means. You can invite people to *apply* for the job. It lets you pick your favorites from the best candidates. ZipRecruiter will send you qualified candidates, and you can easily invite your top choices to apply for the job. You can't beat it; it's so hard finding the best people for the job, and ZipRecruiter makes it easy!

See for yourself. Go to ziprecruiter.com/mybrother to try ZipRecruiter free. That's ziprecruiter.com/mybrother.

[upbeat music plays in background]

Lisa: I'm Lisa Hanawalt.

Emily: And I'm Emily Heller.

Lisa: Nine years ago, we started a podcast to try to learn something new every episode.

Emily: Things have gone a little off the rails since then.

Lisa: [laughs]

Emily: Tune in to hear about...

Lisa: ... low-stakes neighborhood drama...

Emily: ... gardening...

Lisa: ... the sordid, nasty underbelly of the horse girl lifestyle...

Emily: ... hot sauce...

Lisa: ... addiction to TV and sweaty takes on celebrity culture...

Emily: ... and the weirdest, grossest stuff you can find on Wikipedia.org.

Lisa: We'll read all of it, no matter how gross.

Emily: [laughs]

Lisa: There's something for everyone on our podcast, *Baby Geniuses!*

Emily: Hosted by us, two horny adult idiots.

Lisa: Hang out with us as we try and fail to retain any knowledge at all.

Emily: Every other week on Maximum Fun.

[music and advertisement end]

Justin: Hey, Griff, do you have another—do you wanna start—do you wanna start a bit?

Travis: Oh, no.

Griffin: This is a thing Justin likes to do, where he makes me start things, and then he really puts me in the toilet. Yeah, Juice, here comes a segment that I've prepared and worked really hard on.

Justin: [rock guitar impersonation] Okay, now, what you've heard there is the opening strings to the intro music of a bit within a bit that's called the Munch Squad, where I talk about—well, you'll see. [continues rock guitar] There's a call and response to this.

[continues rock guitar] [sings] I wanna munch!

Travis: Squad!

Griffin: Squad!

Justin: [continues rock guitar] I want to munch!

Travis: Squad!

Griffin: Squad!

[sound clip of band member shouting "Toronto!"]

Travis: Now, wait...

Justin: Welcome to Munch Squad, it's a podcast within a podcast where I profile the latest and greatest in brand eating. That means, like, fast food or... well, brand eating, I think, really covers it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: When you eat a brand.

Justin: You guys ever hear of Culver's?

Travis: Oh, yeah, we got Culver's here!

Justin: You got Culver's there?

Travis: Oh, yeah, I like Culver's.

Justin: I got big news for ya, bud.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: The curderburger—

Travis: What?

Justin: [laughs] Everyone say it once.

Travis: No—I don't know what you said.

Griffin: I can't—

Justin: Curderburger.

Travis: Curderburger?

Justin: Sorry, just say—just say "curderburger."

Travis: Curderburger?

Griffin: Curderburder?

Justin: It's [imitating Swedish Chef from the Muppets] curderburger. That was a very funny joke that Culver's did which is one of the most irritating things that anybody does, where it makes up a fake item to get social media to talk about it. They did it with the curderburger, and that is a... uh, it's a burger...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: The—it's the Culver's buderburgur...

Griffin: [laughs quietly]

Travis: Now, that sounds different¹

Justin: This Culver burderburger, the top—the top with golden-fried cheese or curds...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: It's a cheese-core curdburger, or curderburger.

Travis: Oh, I see.

Griffin: I got you now.

Justin: So they did this as a joke.

Travis: Ah.

Justin: It's a butterburger with curd on top.

Travis: Okay

Justin: The curderburger.

Griffin: I get it.

Justin: But for once, someone did the right thing.

Travis: Sued them.

Justin: And looked at the social media response, as we know, I'm sure, fucking uproarious to this April Fool's gag.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And the people were so incensed that the idea of curderburger had been created, but the physical manifestation of curderburger was denied them.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: That they realized—Culver’s realized it was a moral obligation to bring the menu item to life. On one day only, on national cheese curd day, which is, as we all know, say it together.

Griffin: [simultaneously] November... 17.

Justin: [simultaneously] October 15.

Travis: October 15, yeah. I said it. Sorry, there was a lag. October 15.

Justin: They’re launching the—they’re launching the curderburger. We got a delicious crown of golden-fried cheese.

Travis: Damn.

Justin: Makes this burger a one-of-a-kind. The cheese crown, which is...

Griffin: Which is a good thing. [laughs]

Justin: One of the names you could choose.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: They chose that one. The cheese crown!

Travis: What was what um, our lord and savior Chesus Christ had to wear on the cross. [laughs]

Griffin: Travis!

Justin: I think you mean Cheesy Crust.

Travis: Cheesy Crust. I'm sorry, Cheesy Crust.

Justin: "We're incredibly proud of our—" This is an answer. If you hear me talking in the voice of uh, a creative type, this is Quinn Adkins, uh, Culver's director of menu development, Quinn Adkins. "The delicious crown of golden fried cheese is what makes this burger one-of-a-kind. The cheese crown is made up of a blend of yellow and white cheddar cheese curds, all surrounded by crispy, seasoned breadcrumbs. We're incredibly proud of our Wisconsin cheese curds—" which is why they've [laughs] slapped them into a butter burger—"—and our relationship with Wisconsin dairy. So the curderburger is just another way to showcase our trademark quality and Wisconsin roots.

"Beyond the burger itself, the way the curderburger came into existence is a story worth telling. It all began April fool's day..."

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: "Where the prank was posted on social media. But when guests made it clear that they wanted it to be a real menu item, which was such a surprise..." "

Travis: Is it?

Justin: I think, to them. They in no way were backdoor announcing a new menu item to see what the response would be.

Griffin: For sure not. Who would do that?

Justin: It completely caught them by surprise.

Travis: Justin, could I ask you a question, legitimately? I'm trying to find a picture of this thing. What's the joke? What was the joke?

Justin: It's so funny that they would put cheese—I know. This is what—everyone's doing things that are exponentially nastier than this.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: The whole world is nastier than this. It's almost sort of quaint.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's elegant, like, that they are coming out with the curderburger and expecting us to be like, "You did what?!"

Travis: "You're wild! You—what?"

Justin: I gotta give—you know, I'm always dunking on people who answer the questions for QSR, which is sort of my hookup for this information, but on this one, I do have to call QSR itself out...

Griffin: Uh-oh.

Justin: ... on the question they've decided to ask here. Which, to be fair, coming up with questions to ask about the curderburger can't be easy.

QSR asks, "Why does it work, from a flavor perspective?"

Fucking—what do you think, motherfucker!?

Travis: It's cheese on a burger!

Justin: It's a fried cheese on a burger, dipshit!

Travis: It's not like a complex—fried cheese on burg! It's cheese and meat, but fried!

Justin: "From a flavor perspective, the curderburger i—" which, by the way, it fails in almost every other—like, it is not pleasant to look upon, or talk about it.

Travis: Or say.

Justin: Just from a flavor perspective. "The curderburger is an evolution of our classic butterburger..."

Travis: [snorts quietly]

Justin: "... but adds an additional savory component with our signature blend of herbs and spices. A textural contrast with the fried crown and a tremendous visual dynamic." So from a flavor perspective, it has a [laughs] tremendous visual dynamic.

I know what you're wondering, guys, 'cause it's the same question I had. What was the R and D process like?

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: How many attempts did it take to get fried cheese on a hamburger?

"This," says Quinn, "was a personal project of love."

Travis: Was it?

Justin: "It developed in three months, starting in late May after the menu team saw all the attention the April Fool's message received."

So just to be clear, it took you [laughs] two months to read your mentions? I mean, s—I get it, there's probably not a lot of like, Culver discussion on there, but it seems like a long time to realize, like, "Hey, people really want this burger."

"The extraordinary development speed was made possible by the talent and dedication of our team, along with the strength of our relationships with our manufacturing and supplier network without our strategic—"

Travis: "Oh, you got—you want more cheese? Okay."

Griffin: "Alright. Yeah, sure, sure."

Justin: And the logistics of that, in this economy? Really?

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: "How much should it cost?"

"100 dollars?"

"That's too much."

"Five dollars?"

Travis: Sounds good!

Justin: "Guests have hi—for this item in particular, we wanted to wow our guests. So we designed a burger that went above and beyond." And this is where Quinn—like, people are always using team language. I've never seen anyone do this in one of these press releases. Quinn then says, "When executing my vision for the curderburger... "

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Fuck!

Justin: "I created a list of must-haves, including functionality of design that reflected what we deliver with our current cheese curds, so both the yellow and white curds were evident. Optimizing the eating experience of the burger, so the cheese crown not only is visually appealing, but also holds together after taking a bite.

"Three, perfecting the size and weight of the crown, so it can be consistently prepared to the highest quality in-restaurant."

Travis: "And a high ceiling in the garage, so that I—oh, no, wait. Sorry. That's for my must haves for the new house I'm going to buy after—after the curderburger comes out. Sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry."

Justin: "Sorry, sorry, sorry."

But here's the wild thing: all this work, all of it, for the curderburger, which is available for one day. Can you imagine?

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: This is like a corpseflower.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Right?

Travis: Yeah. It's like a *Corpse Bride*.

Justin: All this work! Culminating in one day? Who cares if it's consistent? It's one day!

Griffin: One day.

Justin: Buy it or don't! You know what I mean? [crosstalk]

Travis: I'll tell you what, Justin, you've really ruined me on this after talking about the absolute R and D mad lad that worked at Wendy's that, like, worked on a new fry recipe for two and a half years, and it's hard for me now to take anybody's R and D seriously when they're like, "Three months we've put into—" I'm like, that's nothing!

Griffin: That's nothing.

Travis: You're a child! Talk to me when you've spent two and a half years figuring out how to make French fries!

Justin: It's all I think about.

Griffin: I want this R and D to submerge you into a pool of madness.

Travis: Yes. From which you might never return. I want this to be your *Mr. Holland's Opus*.

Griffin: It tastes better to me when you don't return from the madness pool.

Justin: Speaking of Wendy's fries, if I could just pivot briefly...

Griffin: Please do.

Justin: This week, Carl Loreda, the CMO at Wendy's, posted a picture of him and his family enjoying some new Wendy's fries, and the text of this photo is, "The whole family loves Wendy's new hot and crispy fries." Really, Carl?! What a shock!

Travis: "Except for Doug, not pictured."

Griffin: "My shithead son, Doug, hates my fries."

Travis: "He's out!"

Justin: "The company that puts food on your table put food on your table, and you enjoyed it?"

Travis: I'll tell you what, though, those fries—those fries are fucking good. And they survived the drive home in a very—

Justin: Listen, I know—I noticed too, Trav. I didn't even realize we were getting them, and then Sydnee and I both ate some fries, and we were like, "Damn. What's up?"

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "What's up, these fries, they're good. Okay, Carl, you're right."

Griffin: Yeah, Carl.

Justin: I don't think you and your family are lying, Carl. They're good fries.

Travis: They're good fries.

Justin: I would never say that. Not about Doris. Not about... Rebethany.

Travis: I'd say it about Doug. Doug's a piece of shit.

Justin: I don't know Carl's children's names, but I'm just gonna guess it's Rebethany and Doug.

[laughs] Doug—Doug Jr.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [holding back laughter] This is Carl Loredó's son, Doug Jr. He's a [??] twisted mind.

Griffin: He's the junior of a different Doug. Just a Doug that Carl knows.

Justin: [laughs] "This is named after my barber, Doug."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: He reminds me of my road dog, Doug.

Travis: He's a great barber. I don't go there anymore, but...

Justin: "My name's Carl Loredó. This is my son, Dave Thomas Jr.

Travis: [laughs] We don't cut corners here in my family.

Justin: Um...

Travis: Does Wendy's still make square patties? They don't, do they.

Justin: Trav? Can I charge you with getting a curgerburger? If you got Culver's around you, will you get a curgerburger, and `gram it? Just `gram it.

Travis: Yeah, I'll put it on the `gram.

Justin: Yeah, how incensed would you be if you went into a non-participating Culver's.

Griffin: On this one day.

Justin: October 15th. It's slipping—they're like, "Uh, I don't know. Let me look in the back." I could be eating it now. This is the one chance I have.

Travis: Could I get 30 of them? And 29 of them are frozen? Is that possible?

Justin: [singing] All the wasted time, all them curderburgers—[normally] Okay, listen.

Travis: [singing] If you only had time... [laughs] Oh, sorry, go ahead.

Justin: Here's a question. Here's another question. We're gonna help two people this week.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: "I live in a duplex, and I've only interacted with my neighbor once, back when we moved in. The other day, I could hear him singing a song from *Les Misérables*."

Travis: Oh!

Justin: "Through the wall. Here's the thing: I also love to sing showtunes. How do I approach him about our shared interests without letting him know I can hear his private singing moments?" That's from *Perplexed in a Duplex*.

Travis: Why not let him know?

Justin: This is very strange to me.

Travis: Why.

Justin: It's very strange.

Travis: Why is that?

Justin: Because this is a new bit that I've invented for the show where I say, "I don't know," and I let my brothers help me. 'Cause I have one version of—a different version of this exact same problem. Yesterday—or, no, it's been a few days now. I was driving up to my home, and I passed a neighbor – he's an old gentlemen, who I since learned is a widower, living there on his own, and I passed him, and his cars are always in the driveway, right? I passed him, I looked in his garage, and he had this fucking *sick* woodworking shop.

Griffin: Oh, shit.

Justin: Like, *sick*. Like real, real choice stuff, right? Um, and I'm like, aw, damn, that's guy's deep in the paint on woodworking. And then I start thinking, like, it would be cool to have someone who lives, like, a couple houses away, be like...

Griffin: Work wood with. Yeah, sure.

Justin: A fellow woodworker! Like, if I get some scraps, I kick them his way, he comes in, he's like, "Justin, I need a number eight 3-inch deck screw." I can help him out, you know what I mean?

But I can't, for the life of me, think of a way... [laughs] I don't know him, at all, so I can't for the life of me think of a way to elegantly be like...

Travis: Agh!

Justin: And I've expressed this concern to my wife. She can't think of anything. Smartest person I know. Can't think of anything. I don't know how to elegantly knock on the door, and be like, "Listen, I looked in your garage, and it was bright in there, and I looked in there, and I saw that you love wood, and I love wood too. And I just wanted to let you know I'm here for you."

And we could be like, frie—not friends in the traditional sense, but you know, woodworking—

Travis: We could share a connection. We could be wood buddies. Here's—

Justin: So what would you—what do you guys think?

Travis: Your problem is, Justin, you're hung up on the elegant part. There's a—

Justin: Hold on, I'm getting some water. You can just keep talking.

Travis: Can you hear me?

[loud thudding noises]

Griffin: Why would he ask for your advice, and then go get water?

Travis: He asked me for advice, and then he was like, "I'm fucking leaving."

Justin: Hey, I'm back.

Travis: The problem is, Justin, you're caught up on the elegant. There isn't an elegant—

Justin: Well, I don't want it to be weird!

Travis: But here's the thing, man. We get asked all the time, "How do I make friends as an adult?" And that's because we're worried about that weird moment. You know who doesn't fucking worry about that? Five-year-olds. You know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You're just gonna have to roll up and say, "Hey, I noticed you have woodworking stuff. I also am interested in woodworking!"

Justin: Okay, imagine it—like, really start to break it down to its basic components, though. Do I—do—is he in the shop when I do this?

Travis: I don't know!

Griffin: Mm.

Travis: But—

Justin: Exactly. I—

Travis: Ye—Justin—

Justin: I mean, do I knock on his front door?

Travis: Yes!

Justin: In the middle of dinner, Travis?

Travis: No! What—I didn't say that!

Griffin: He was praying, Travis.

Travis: No, I [crosstalk]! Okay.

Justin: He got out of the bath... [crosstalk]

Griffin: [crosstalk]

Travis: 4 o'clock, Justin. 4:00 PM is a safe—

Justin: For the husky neighbor boy that's always carrying terrible wood scraps out to his trash?

Griffin: And Justin saw everything, Travis. How can their relationship possibly recover from this?

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin: Great idea, Travis! Great idea, Travis, pervert!

Travis: Okay, well, I was trying to—okay. I was trying to actually help our brother Justin, and then you guys call me—

Justin: I'm serious, we—do I knock on his door? Is there someone at the door?

Travis: [scoffs]

Justin: And then imagine it ha—whatever you tell—I'm gonna move the mic. Whatever you tell me, imagine it happening to you, Travis!

“Hey, I heard you podcast! I'm a stranger!”

Travis: Yeah! No, there is risk involved, Justin! Don't get me wrong, there is risk involved, but the reward of having your own wood buddy...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ... is the reward! Like, you think you're just gonna get that for free? You're waiting for the universe to give you, like, an excuse to talk to this wood friend?

Justin: Do I—now, I'll ask you this. Here's some alternate plans. If I'm not—if I don't have the bravery of what you said, 'cause he's d—in dinner. Do I send a note? Do I send a letter?

Travis: No.

Justin: “I like wood. Do you like me? Check yes or no. What's up with that?”

Travis: No, Justin.

Justin: And if so, would I mail it? 'Cause that's weird, right?

Travis: Now, if you carve a plaque that says that, and you deliver a hand-carved wooden...

Justin: You're saying... that's the introduction, to just be like, "Here's where my skills are at."

Griffin: Oh, I thought you were saying, leave it at his doorstep, like, "This is from your secret woodmimir."

Travis: Well, I did mean that.

Griffin: Okay. Good.

Travis: But it's a carved wooden plaque. So he's gonna see... like, this is weird, but there's something here. I see—also, I know that this is Justin, 'cause he's still walking away—I can see him—right, and he rang the doorbell, and I answered it, and I see him walking away at a leisurely pace, frankly.

Justin: And he's watching me very closely to check my reactions to what he—to—

Travis: Hey, uh, Justin? Yeah. I—yeah, this is good. I have some notes.

Griffin: I think people who are experienced in a craft or hobby are always looking for an opportunity to flex that on other people.

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: So you need to supplicate yourself to him. And maybe, like, you go up with a shitty birdhouse that is glued to the side of your head, and you be like, "Um, hi. I'm your neighbor. Uh, I couldn't help but notice that you have some wood stuff, and I am also into it, but I did this, and do you have any kind of solvent or something that won't be bad for my skin? 'Cause I have really goofed up over here." That person would be so excited for the opportunity to... Help.

Justin: Yeah, that's probably true. That's probably true.

Griffin: Ah, but then they're gonna know, the next time you make a nice stool, they're gonna say, "You fucking rope-a-doped me!"

Travis: And then you say, “No, I couldn’t have done it without your tutelage.”

Griffin: Yeah. “When you—”

Travis: “You’ve inspired me.”

Griffin: “When you pried that birdhouse off my face, that was—”

Travis: “It must have released something in my brain.”

Griffin: Right.

Travis: “By which I mean a new max staple that I think I accidentally—

Griffin: It’s somewhere in there. From what I know about rotary saws, is they like to just fly on off the handle, and just go zip-zapping wherever they wanna go, so maybe you could embed one of those in the side of his house, and then knock on his door, and just be like, “Hey, this happened, and as a fellow woodsman, I’m sure you know all about these stinkers.”

Justin: I think there’s a nonzero chance that he would take my tools away.

Griffin: Oh!

Travis: You’re saying that you introduced yourself as a fellow woodworker, he’d be like, “No, not you.”

Justin: “You’re not grown up enough for this.”

Travis: He would confiscate them from you, a 40-year-old parent of two.

Justin: He might confiscate my saws, all my beautiful saws. And what if— maybe he just takes the screws until I’ve learned my lesson.

Travis: But then isn’t that what we all want, Justin? You’re looking for a wood father figure.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Well, the problem i—like—just this past week, I made a footstool for my daughter, and I couldn't get it balanced. Like, you know how you build something—it's always a crapshoot when you make something that's supposed to stand on the ground on multiple legs.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And I said it was like, wobbly. So I cut it down, and it was still wobbly, but the wrong way. And I kept cutting it until eventually it was [laughs] offering a negligible height differential from the ground, and then I got so frustrated that I threw it on the ground, and smashed it with a big hammer.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: And I think that he should—I think maybe he should take my tools away.

Griffin: Oh, Justin...

Justin: I think someone should be parenting me.

Travis: Maybe you need to approach him in that way, then, and be like, "Will you—can I apprentice with you?"

Justin: "Can I trust you t—to stop me?"

Travis: Because that's what I did, man. I found myself a blacksmith teacher. I apprenticed with him. It makes him really uncomfortable when I refer to myself as his apprentice, but here we are, you know?

Justin: Makes me uncomfortable, and I'm not even a part of the—

Travis: I'll often say like, "Am I a journeyman yet?"

And he's like, "What the fuck are you talking about, Travis?"

I'm like, "Ah, thank you. That's wise."

Griffin: Juice, next time you fuck up a project like that, hold on to it. And— or at least hold onto the scraps of when you smash it because of your insatiable rage. Um, and then look at, like, the 10-day forecast. See when the next big rainstorm's coming, and then show up at his door, soaked to the bone...

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: ... maybe even, if you want to go to this route, your t-shirt sticking to your body a little bit. And you show up—

Travis: Not in a sexual way, but in a sensual way, for sure.

Griffin: Well, or just, you know, however kind of way you wanna frame it, but with the scraps in your hands, and then you can make yourself cry. And just be like, "I don't—" Just say, like, "I don't know!"

And then have him just, "Sh, sh, sh, sh. Come on in." And I think he's gonna be into it.

Travis: I'm gonna give you this one for free, Justin. *Wood* you help me with this?

Griffin: That's funny, and he's gonna know that you're a real-deal guy when you come at him with genuine good wood humor like that.

Travis: Now, what's gonna be confusing is when he says "I think knot." And you're not gonna be sure if that's a no, or if that's another pun.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: That's gonna be hard to parse, I understand that, but that's the test.

Justin: What if I start misinterp—like, “I saw you walking towards my house, so I called the cops.”

And I’m like, “Oh, saw! I get it, funny!”

Griffin: Good stuff!

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah! “I heard you hammering on my door, screaming ‘Please, please, let me in!’”

Justin: “I wish you’d *cut* it out!”

Yeah, [crosstalk] cut! It’s funny! Like, wood, right?

Uh, thank you so much for listening to our podcast. If this is your first time, we hope you’ve enjoyed yourself. We release a new one of these almost every Monday. We used to miss a lot, but we barely ever do that anymore.

Travis: Sometimes it’s just a little late, ‘cause of life.

Justin: Yeah, or a little bad! You never know! Come hell or high water, though, there’ll be something there for you.

Travis: Statistically, there are about 300 good episodes in here somewhere, so...

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: Yeah, run the numbers.

Travis: Oh, speaking of, if you are a new listener, just start at like 150 or 200 and work forward from there.

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Or start at the newest one, but not the last one. Skip the last one.

Griffin: The last episode was fantastic. I won't take this slander.

Justin: Okay. Good. Yeah, listen to whatever songs you—

Travis: And as you're working backwards, if you hit a point and you're like, "This seems weird—" stop. Stop there.

Griffin: Stop, stop, stop. Oh, God.

Justin: Yeah. If the mics get bad...

Griffin: The content will follow.

Justin: That's everything. Yeah.

Griffin: The thoughts—the thoughts will also be bad.

Justin: Um...

Travis: And you know what? This is also a good time, if you are uh, if you've been a listener of *My Brother, My Brother and Me* for a while, why not check out other Max Fun shows? During this period, they're gonna doing other intro shows like this to welcome in a new audience. We've got some crossover stuff that we did that's gonna be in a new feed. We did a crossover with Maximum Film, where we talked about good and bad advice that we learned for the—

Griffin: Oh, that was [a fun record.

Justin: that was fun.

Travis: Teresa and I did a *Shmanners* crossover with *Tights and Fights* where we talked about the etiquette of pro wrestling and some famous rivalries, and some locker room etiquette, it was an absolute blast. So check that out; you can find out more at maximumfun.org/blockparty. It's going until October 22nd.

And it's not just shows and stuff on the network. There's gonna be volunteer events and limited edition posters and games. I'm doing a Jackbox game stream on this Thursday, at 9:00 PM Eastern time with Janet Varney, and Carrie Poppy, and uh, James Arthur, and it's gonna be an absolute blast.

Justin, you and Sydnee are doing a stream too, right?

Justin: Yeah. On the—I think it's Friday night after that. We're watching *F9*, finally, and livestreaming that.

Travis: There you go. So make sure you check that out; more info at maximumfun.org/blockparty. We've also got an *Adventure Zone* live and virtual show coming out November 5th. Tickets are on sale now; that's November 5th at 9:00 PM Eastern time. Tickets are only 10 dollars, and if you're able to make it on the 5th, video on demand will be available for two weeks after the show.

We're doing another *Hootenanny* episode, which is our Lasers and Feelings RPG where we play a space, like, country band, traveling the stars, playing country music. You can get tickets for that at bit.ly/tazvirtual.

Griffin: Our theme song is "My Life (Is Better With You)!" by Montaigne. It's a great track, and the music video is very fun. It's got us and Montaigne in it. Go listen to all of Montaigne's music, if you've never made that dive. She's incredible, and her tunes—her tunes really slap, man.

Travis: Yeah, they really slap.

We also have new merch over at mcelroymerch.com, including our pin of the month, which is from *TAZ: Just Us*, Griffin's character Hell Raven, AKA Del Kraven. Sales of that pin of the month benefit the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice, which builds Latina and Latinx power to fight for the fundamental human right to reproductive health, dignity and justice. There's other stuff there too; go check it out. Mcelroymerch.com.

Griffin: And... yeah.

Justin: And this is where we come to a bit of an awkward moment for new listeners.

Griffin: Not for me!

Justin: Because there's no way for you to know that we used to use the Yahoo Answers service a lot for—as our source of questions, but we don't do that as much anymore...

Griffin: 'Cause it died.

Justin: 'Cause it died, so now we're kind of lost on that front.

Griffin: Except for all the ones that I stockpiled.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Okay, Griffin, pretend.

Griffin: All the ones I've stockpiled before we get going. So this one was sent in by Jim...

Travis: From *The Office*?

Griffin: Davis.

Travis: Oh!

Justin: [laughs] Oh! From the *Garfield*.

Griffin: Yes. And—

Justin: From the *Garfield* office, where they make *Garfield*.

Griffin: And it's asked by Rooooody... Rudy Ghouliani, the scary Rudy Giuliani.

Justin: That's just scarier.

Travis: Yeah, I was gonna say.

Griffin: It's from Booty Ghouliani, who says...

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Oh, no, you're making me like that character now.

Griffin: Oh, don't get me wrong; Booty Ghouliani is fantastic.

Booty Ghouliani asks... [pauses]

Travis: Yeah? What?

Justin: Yeah? What?

Travis: Just read it, Griffin.

Griffin: Uh, Booty Ghouliani asks, "Does anyone want to join me... in... f—in filing a class action lawsuit against Dick's Last Resort? They made me feel very small."

Justin and Travis: [burst out laughing]

Travis: Oh, this is the one that kills me. This one killed me. Oh, God bless.

Justin: That—you know what's funny? That would be the fifth most embarrassing thing he's done in his life. I mean, it wouldn't even top the charts.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

Justin: This has been [through laughter] *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]

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Speaker 1: A man goes to the doctor and says that he's depress, and that life seems cruel. The doctor says, "Ah, the treatment is simple: the great clown Pagliacci is in town tonight. Go and see him, and you will surely feel better."

The man bursts into tears, and says, "But Doctor, I am Pagliacci."

"Ah, okay," says the doctor. "In which case, try listening to *The Beef and Dairy Network* podcast."

[air hone blares]

Speaker 1: *The Beef and Dairy Network* podcast is a multi-award-winning comedy podcast, and you can find it at maximumfun.org or wherever you get your podcasts.