MBMBaM 575: Fluffy Like a Sandwich, Folded Like a Taco August 30, 2021 Listen here on themcelroy.family

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 to *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, an advice show for the modern era. I'm your old—boldest brother, Justin McElroy!

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

Griffin: [speaks gibberish].

[unintelligible speaker]

Justin: [laughs] Uh, this is uh, the show. This is *My Brother, My Brother and Me.* It's an advice show. And I have huge news—

Griffin: What the—what was that—what was that sound?

Travis: What was that?

Justin: It was me looking up—I was logging into the app of note today.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: You were jacking in.

Justin: I was lo—I was hacking in, jacking in, uh, uh—

Travis: Hugh Jacking it in.

Justin: So... I'm huge on TikTok now.

Griffin: Yes. Yes.

Justin: And I just wanna talk about it, because I'm like-

Griffin: Is it your character where you talk about cryptocurrency trends?

Justin: It is not—it's not Crypto Kid.

Griffin: Damn, that hasn't found purchase in the soil.

Justin: Crypto Kid did not catch on. Um-

Travis: Is it the one where you just kind of posted a video of some guys that vaguely look like a love child of our dad and Paul Sabourin singing a song together?

Justin: No, that was "Oh, No, You Didn't," the music from—[wheezes]

Griffin: That's—

Justin: Music for the Mercenaries app.

Griffin: It's—it would take far too long to—yeah.

Justin: This is um—I will t—I will tell you—I will play the audio, that's become such a big hit, and this is a touchstone of my childhood that I've been trying to get going again for years, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So let me just play this, and then we'll like, move on from there. Give me one second.

[recording plays]

Speaker: When I was a little lad, if I wanted berries and cream, Mommy made me do the little lad dance. Now Mommy's gone. But I still like to do the little lad dance, and you might too. You just... run in place! Nice form!

[recording ends]

Justin: So this is him, like, telling you how to do it, but here's the actual audio.

[recording plays]

Speaker: It looks a little something like this. [Footsteps]. You look wonderful! Now, sing the "berries and cream" song.

[singing] Berries and cream, berries and cream. I'm a little lad who loves berries and cream.

[spoken] Up the octave. Go for it!

[singing, high pitched] Berries and cream, berries and cream. I'm a little lad who loves berries and cream.

[recording ends]

Justin: So I've been trying to get this guy to make a comeback for a very long time. By the way, he's now a dance teacher in New York who does not like to talk about the little lad dance whatsoever.

Griffin: Oh, no! That's too bad.

Travis: I just [crosstalk] Jack Ferver, his genre-defying performances, which have been called so extreme that they sometimes look and feel like exorcisms.

Griffin: Fuck yeah!

Travis: Explore the tragic comedy of the human psyche!

Griffin: Fuck yes!

Justin: And also, he was the "berries and cream" boy.

Travis: Also, he fucking loves berries and cream.

Justin: Berries and cream. And please don't mention it, 'cause he don't like it. He don't like to talk about it.

Griffin: That's a shame, because I like it *so* much.

Justin: So here's the thing. I put this sound up, and I wrote—I just uploaded the sound as a—as a public service.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: To TikTok. And I just wrote on there, "Please make great art with this sound; it's what we all need."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And it sat dormant since January 5, and then at some point in August, all of the teens...

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: *All* of the teens decided they could do something really special with this sound. Uh, and so far, it—the v—the video itself, which is not even like a good predictor of... uh—okay. The sound has been used in [through laughter] 12,600 videos.

Travis: A normal amount.

Griffin: That's a lot.

Travis: Oh, it's a lot. A lot. A lot of videos.

Griffin: That's a lot of videos.

Justin: That's a *lot*. That's a lot. I don't kno—it's so big, and it went viral. And here's the thing about it, guys... I'm a creative professional.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: [through laughter] If I could—if I may be so bold...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I'm like—I'm an enter—an entertainer. I'm a creative professional, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah! Definitely, definitely, definitely.

Justin: It is almost, now, 100 percent assured that the biggest cultural impact I will have, speaking in a global sense, is the fact that I [through laughter] uploaded a clip of the berries and cream boy!

Griffin: Yeah. You-

Justin: Nothing I do after or before, in terms of scope, will reach as many people as the time I clipped "upload" on the berries and cream boy dance.

Travis: When we get to the 2024 election cycle, and MSNBC brings you on to get your thoughts, because I believe by that point you will be, I don't know, maybe a lawyer or political commentator, your caption at the bottom will say: "Justin McElroy: berries and cream amplifier."

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Yeah. Berries and cream influencer. [laughs]

Griffin: You are living the first line of your obituary right now. [crosstalk]

Justin: I'm in it. I'm in the mo—I'm in the moment.

Travis: Justin McElroy, primarily known for putting berries and cream sound on TikTok, died today when he was murdered by Jack Ferver.

Griffin: "Woah, Justin was the berries and cream guy?!"

"N—no."

Travis: No.

Justin: No...

Griffin: "He put the sound up on the TikTok app, and all the—"

Travis: "And then he—"

Justin: "And it's the biggest thing he's ever d—[bursts out laughing]"

Travis: "And then he was subsequently murdered by the berries and cream guy."

Griffin: By the berries and cream guy.

Justin: [strained] The fucking—[laughs] the truth of this is just occurring—I thought it would be fun to talk about, but the truth of it is crushing! [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, no, it's n-

Justin: The truth of it is crushing me! There's 12,600 videos.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: Millions upon millions of views of my greatest work, which is uploading the sound for the berries and cream boy dance!

Travis: Yeah. It's like when Michelangelo unveiled the roof of the Sistine Chapel, but then while doing it, he farted, and then that's all people would talk about for the rest of his life.

Griffin: It's not even that, Travis.

Justin: It's not even that, Trav. It's like if Michelangelo... [laughs] told everybody a dirty limerick that he heard when he was a kid, and that was the thing that everybody was like, "Oh, yeah, Michelangelo! He's the one that always used to recite that dirty limerick for everybody. I love that guy."

Travis: Hey, check out the ceiling of this beautiful building. It was painted by that guy who retold that dirty limerick.

Justin: Yeah, who recited a dirty limerick from memory. [laughs]

Except it's like, it's even worse than that, 'cause it's from a Starburst ad, you know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, it's not even a funny clip from a movie, or a song...

Justin: It would be like if Michelangelo's great claim to fame was he recited this McDonald's commercial from memory. And we all loved it so much, and it was better than his paintings, for sure.

Travis: That actually would be pretty amazing, if it was like, Michelangelo saying "[McDonald's tune] Ba-da-ba-ba-ba, I'm loving it," first...

Griffin: Shit, that would be good.

Travis: Because something had traveled back in time and influenced him to do that.

Justin: Like, we love—like, you guys know, like, sure, we love the nerd shit, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Dungeons and Dragons and...

Travis: Oh, totally. Yeah.

Justin: ...Munch Squad and all this garbage.

Travis: *Richard and Morty*.

Justin: Our dream is always... like, to be able to break free of it, you know what I mean?

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah!

Justin: And to be our own—like, to not—to just be a mainstream success.

Griffin: Fake—fake geek-boys, is what we are.

Justin: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I'm ready to shed that.

Justin: Look at an example. Who's somebody who's like—who's like... Oh man. I was trying to think of somebody who has done this and has not come crashing back down to earth like fucking problematic Icarus.

Travis: Whew! Um...

Justin: Give me a second... [laughs] No, I don't have anybody, but you get the—

Travis: It's definitely happened.

Griffin: Just sort of like conceptually, it might be possible.

Justin: Yeah. Uh-

Travis: It will definitely be us who will make this succeed.

Griffin: We will be the first ones.

Justin: But it's like, I finally found mainstream success! *And* the real double whammy is, it's not even a way I'll financially benefit from!

Travis: No!

Griffin: Not even a little bit.

Justin: It is in fact stolen content that I don't have the right to reproduce!

Griffin: Juice, I would go so far as to say, Juice, not only will you not financially benefit from it... you will not, brand-wise, benefit from it.

Travis: No!

Justin: No, doesn't brand—no.

Griffin: There will be no increase in your SEO because of it.

Travis: No.

Griffin: You will find literally no benefit for your great work.

Justin: The actual—the only actual repercussion might be actually that I find myself at the center of a tawdry legal threat from Starburst Incorporated.

Travis: Now, but that... that's something you could make into a drama.

Justin: [yelling] Even that would be beneficial!

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You're right! Even that would help!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Wouldn't it? At least that would be something!

Travis: 'Cause you can make a movie out of that, yeah.

Justin: "Oh, the guy that—the guy that got sued by Starburst. I love that guy. What a hero to the people."

It won't even be that!

Travis: "Please, you have to—you have to come testify!"

"No. I don't like talking about the berries and cream thing anymore."

"Jack, please! Please, Jack, you have to come testify!"

Justin: [yelling] This the biggest thing! Biggest thing I'll ever—me and Jack Ferver have a thing in common now.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: We don't wanna talk about the berries and cream thing anymore.

Griffin: You get it now. You get it!

Justin: We've done other stuff, you know?

Griffin: You understand why he is the way he is about the berries and cream ad, 'cause you also don't wanna be just that.

Travis: There is also a possibility here – and I don't wanna get too meta here – but this is such a specific reference, and such a weird thing that was created back in, like, 2000-whatever...

Griffin: Ohh

Travis: That it's possible that this is something Justin puts out, right? And some youth sees it now, who never saw the commercial. And then eventually, time travel is created. They go back in time, tell someone about it before the commercial is made, and inspires the commercial to be made. And it is that loop that allows our, like, universe to continue to exist.

Griffin: Interesting.

Justin: Here's how badly—

Travis: That also doesn't benefit Justin, though.

Griffin: No, [crosstalk].

Justin: Here is how badly I've bungled this.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Even if you were to go through to my TikTok page, here's what you would find. My username is @hoopsmcelroy.

Griffin: Not-

Justin: That is not my name.

Griffin: Not your name, okay.

Justin: Can't search that.

Travis: Nope. Nope, not useful.

Justin: My icon is a picture of four chicken nuggets with their labels on them. That's not helping me. And I have no bio.

Travis: Mm!

Justin: There's no way—I have made the perfect dead end for content. There is no way I could benefit from this.

Griffin: Yep, you fucked it up, but I guaran-damn-tee you, Juice, Super Bowl 2022...

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: He's coming—he's back in a big way. It's like how State Farm was like, "Hey, guys, remember Jake from State Farm? Now he's back in all the shit."

Starburst is gonna be like, "One more ride, Jack."

And he's gonna be like, "I can't. I've talked so much shit."

But they're like, "Check out this dope TikTok."

Justin: I could at least fix the bio.

Griffin: You could at least fix the bio.

Justin: Uploaded berries and cream sound.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Comma, yep, that's me.

Griffin: All rights reserved.

Justin: No rights reserved.

Travis: No rights. Absolutely no rights.

Griffin: Creative commons 3.0, attribution license berries and cream funny video TikTok.

Travis: Justin, could we attempt to parlay this into you becoming the next berries and cream spokesperson? Right? Now, there is brand association...

Justin: I can't overstate the extent to which... this c—this doesn't help me at all. [laughs]

Travis: No, not without a little elbow grease! You gotta-

Justin: It might as well be anonymous. Like, it might as well be anonymous.

Travis: You—you think Anonymous can help you?

Justin: Maybe Anonymous could change that sound to where it's like, [singing] "Justin McElroy, does different podcasts you can listen to and then donate to him."

Travis: Listen...

Justin: Maybe they could—Anonymous could figure out a way to do that.

Travis: If Anonymous is listening, first of all, [laughs] thank you, we're flattered. Second of all, any insight, any help you can offer here as to how, uh, I guess we can... *hack* the berries and cream sound.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Just let us know, please.

Griffin: And the biggest outcome it is would be is if Starburst brought back berries and cream flavor fruit chews.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: 'Cause those were pretty fucking good, I think we can all agree.

Travis: And Justin, if you could do something with Tastetations next, and see if you could...

Griffin: Oh, [crosstalk].

Justin: I'd love that.

Travis: Please bring back Tastetations.

Griffin: Alright. Let's get—let's do our show.

Justin: Yeah. So, I don't know why you would listen to us at this point.

Travis: No.

Justin: Like, seeing how badly I've bungled this.

Travis: Well, they were checking in to see if you would do more of that berries and cream content that they love, and hey, look at that! We did!

Griffin: Yeah. You did it.

Justin: Yeah, here I am. You probably found your way to the podcast because I'm so famous from when I uploaded berries and cream that one time.

Travis: Yeah, it's so weird to listen back to this, now that you're president in 2024.

Griffin: Yep.

Travis: You know? It's like, how did it get started?

Justin: I will not benefit from this at all. I've wasted it—I've wasted my big shot at—like, what—this happens to people, right? Like, green shirt guy, right? You know green shirt guy, who was in that one meme? Where he was laughing?

Griffin: Oh, Ken Bone.

Justin: No, that's red shirt. [wheezes, laughs] It doesn't matter for my joke, 'cause they're both on Cameo, and they're—green shirt guy who was laughing in that one meme is on Cameo, and he'll send a Cameo to your friends and family. But like—

Travis: Does he wear a green shirt?

Justin: He has to.

Travis: Alright.

Justin: He has to wear a green shirt in every video. Um, I hope he's—um, he's doing okay.

Travis: This week, I'll tell you guys, as I was putting together the question list, I think we can really help some people this week. Like, I think we got some real...

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: [crosstalk] A nice change of pace.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Actionable emails.

Justin: "I've been seeing my current partner for about two years, most of it being long distance due to COVID." Ooh, that's awkward timing. I know that's uncom—I know other people who've been in that similar scenario. It's gotta be tough.

Griffin: Alright!

Justin: "A friend of mine told me that my partner is planning a surprise 'dirty 30' party for me. The problem is, I'm turning 29 this year, not 30." Well, that's the dirtiest 30.

Travis: [simultaneously] Ah, the dirtiest 30.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [bursts out laughing] God, why do we even need three of us anymore?

Griffin: Yeah. I'm trying to actually—I actually have stuff to do? Is it cool if...?

Justin: [laughs] "I tried lying down some hints for him, but he seems to think I'm pulling his leg. Do I now need to spend the rest of my life pretending to be one year older than I am?" That's Too Young in Youngstown, Ohio. [sighs heavily]

Travis: Well, this is—okay, it's just occurred to me: I think a little bit of the wrinkle here is I think the pulling his leg is that, like, media, like, inspired joke of "Oh, I'm not 30, I'm turning 29 again," right?

Griffin: Right. Yes. Exactly.

Travis: That kind of shit, right? I think that's it. Right? 'Cause I was like, "Why would they think you're joking? It's not—oh, okay. Now I get it.

Griffin: Because, I think we can all agree, 30 is a *disgusting* number. And once you hit it, it's like *woof*, right?

Travis: I've said it—I've said it before, and I'll say it again: turning 30 is great, because you're the youngest old person.

Griffin: Yeah. That's true.

Travis: At 30, you can like, actively complain about feeling old, and nobody rolls their eyes anymore, but you're still young enough...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...that you can like, do fun shit.

Griffin: You could start playing tennis.

Travis: Right.

Justin: Shine's off that apple by 40.

Travis: Oh, yeah, but not at that point.

Griffin: But that's okay.

Justin: [descending whistle]

Travis: [crosstalk] Enjoy that shit.

Griffin: I think, and I think we can all get on board with this, is that when you're born, you're one. Because you're in the first... year.

Travis: Oh, so you're talking about centuries versus—like, 19th century is the 1800's on, right? Centuries versus hundreds.

Griffin: Right. Exactly. It's fucked up that we do that that way, but not our age... that way.

Travis: It is weird to say, like, "Oh, that baby's zero."

Griffin: "This-how many-how many years old is your baby?"

"Oh, my baby is five months old."

"I didn't ask that."

They're in their first year; they're one years old. So you are entering your 30th year. Congrats.

Travis: But they're not one years old, are they? They're in their first year.

Justin: But they're—what Griffin is arguing is, you're entering your 30th year.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Thus begins your 30th year.

Travis: Yeah, no, I can see that. That's for sure. That's definite.

Griffin: You don't say, "I have completed my 30th year."

Travis: No.

Griffin: "And now I-" right? Like, that's weird also.

Travis: "I'm beginning my 30th planetary cycle."

Justin: Maybe the partner could be like, "That's right. Oh, yes, I knew this. This information relayed to me. I was aware of this. It's a year-long party."

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: Oh, shit.

Justin: Yeah. You get it? It's like a year-long party.

Griffin: What's that mean, Juice?

Justin: Well, the party don't stop—[laughs] It's a celebration for you being 30 that's so monumental...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...it has to start, um—it has to start at your previous birthday.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: It's a year-long, multi-tiered, multidimensional celebration.

Griffin: Pitch me a version of this that isn't terrible, for—for me.

Justin: Okay, well—

Travis: No, for Griffin specific. [laughs]

Justin: Okay. So you—any time—imagine your partner is having a birthday... and it's a y—okay?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And it's like a year long, right?

Griffin: Yes?

Justin: So for one year, whenever there's conflict or anything approaching conflict in the relationship, you don't have to do the mental calculus of "Should I be supporting my partner's needs, or should I be looking after my own needs?" to find that delicate balance that's key to any relationship.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: For one year, you can just relax and really put yourself in the back seat. You know what I mean? There's no—nobody can give you guff about it, 'cause it's their birthday.

Griffin: It's their birth year, yeah.

Justin: It's their birthday celebration year.

Travis: It kind of feels a little bit like what you're saying, Justin, is like a year-long birthday party, but in the sense of like, birthday party, parentheses, observed, end parentheses. Where it doesn't sound like there's a lot of celebration occurring...

Justin: There are celebrations throughout.

Travis: Ah.

Justin: But they're surprises. You know what I mean?

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Oh, cool. What do you mean?

Justin: Anything that ha—

Griffin: Explain that.

Justin: Well, what's cool is like, for the whole year, you can do whatever shady things you want to, and [crosstalk]—

Griffin: Okay...

Travis: To what degree, Justin?

Justin: If what are you do—let me finish the thought. And your partner is like, "What are you—what are you even doing?" And you could just be like, "[clicks tongue] Coming up on the birthday, shouldn't be asking so many questions."

Travis: Oh, I see.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And it's like, "Why does your trunk smell like that?"

It's like, "Shh, shh, shh."

Griffin: Birthday boy!

Justin: Got a birthday! You got a b-day coming up.

Griffin: Mm-hmm. "Is that blood?"

"Shh! Birthday! Birthday blood!"

Travis: [crosstalk]—yeah, mm-hm, uh-huh?

Griffin: Birthday. Birthday blood.

Justin: No, it's promotional for *Dexter*'s back.

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] [crosstalk] grassroots.

Travis: It's a year-long birthday celebration and also...

Justin: [laughs] That actually—that one I will answer for you. I'm part of a *Dexter*'s back street team...

Travis: Mm-hm?

Justin: ...that is promoting, *Dexter*'s back.

Travis: So I'm leaving uh, just you know, just some slides with blood on them all over town. Uh, some bloody knives all over town. Just whatever bloody stuff I can find, I leave it all over town.

Griffin: "Hey, did you fucking kill John Lithgow on our couch?"

"Yeah, it's a Dexter's, uh... Laboratory promotional materials."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I haven't seen the show, but it's supposed to be really good and back, so *Dexter*'s back.

Griffin: Yeah, this stinker—he—he doesn't like murder. Which is fucked up, right? 'Cause it's like, you do it quite a bit, huh?

Travis: He's like Cathy, you know? Where he loves murder, but when he does it, he's like, "Ack!"

Griffin: "Ack," yeah, sure.

Justin: "Ack!" You know, they're bringing *Dexter*'s back. Um, when they do it, he's gonna be on CBS. So they've had to tone it down, so really what he does is, um, he punches people.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: But he can't let anybody know that he's—because his job is that he's not a punch man.

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: But he does, if he finds a serial killer or whatever. Which that guy, by the way, I know he's, like, technically [wheezes] works with police, but like, that guy meets so many more serial killers than I do.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Just per capita?

Travis: Well, he's looking for them, Justin, and I know you well enough to say that you are actively trying to stay away from serial killers.

Justin: It is one of my key...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: ...concepts for 2021, avoiding—

Travis: It's one of your top—[laughs] every year, you have the same New Year's resolution: avoid more serial killers.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. Can't beat 100 percent, that's where I've been so far, which is hu...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I mean, I assume, right? I mean, I assume...

Griffin: Yeah, I was about to say—I didn't wanna get too dark, but like, I don't know, you've probably met a seria—[wheezes] you've probably met a serial killer.

Justin: Hey, listener. Take a second and rewind your whole life and try to figure out, like, "Have I met at least one serial killer?"

Travis: That's why I have accepted that I can't avoid all serial killers, so I just try really hard to make myself not their type, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I'm just trying to be like, "Oh, no. No, not Travis, though."

Griffin: Just let him get *through* this thing.

Justin: I—okay, so in closing...

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: You could just say that you're nervous about turning 30 in a year. Oh, man, it actually—I just tried to bring it up in conversation, and it doesn't actually...

Griffin: It didn't work, yeah.

Justin: Theoretically, it's tough. [laughs]

Travis: Hey, partner? I heard that you were planning a surprise party for me. I just want to make it clear to you...

Justin: No, no, no, no, you've ruined it! You've ruined it. This is the problem with—

Travis: That's because surprise parties are fucking terrible!

Justin: Yeah, no kidding Travis, but we don't get to be the arbiter of that.

Griffin: Just let it—just do it. It'll be a fun story.

Travis: "Oh, look at that. My grandmother confused the months, and she sent me a birthday card earlier, and here—ah, but as she's written here, 'Happy 29th.' Thank you, Grandma."

Justin: Okay, actually I have a solution to this. Your friend ruined the surprise, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Your friend needs to fix this.

Travis: Yes!

Justin: If they ruin the surprise, your friend needs to go back to them and be like, "Hey, listen. This didn't occur to me before, when I—it definitely did occur to me, and I was just too scared to mention it. But like, they're turning 29. Like, there's no reality in which this should be a dirty 30 party. Fix it."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Make them fix it.

Travis: You are right, Justin, and you should say it.

Justin: I—I mean—

Griffin: He did just say it.

Travis: I—well, yeah. But I mean, like, that's a th—I think that's a thing that people say.

Griffin: Speaking of um, avoiding... getting murdered, can we approach the Wizard? Because I have more life saving... I feel like this segment has stopped being like a humor... column, and more like a *Slumdog—Slumdog Millionaire*, like, little seeds that I'm planting in the listener's mind, so that when they do face off against the charging ostrich, they like, know what to do, weirdly.

Justin: It's weirdly like our best chance to actually help.

Griffin: Yeah. In, like, a big—in, like, a really important way.

Travis: Also, our best chance to have somebody, like, owe us a life debt.

Griffin: Exactly.

Travis: And, like, write us into their will, or something like that, you know?

Griffin: Right. Like seven or eight people sent in this in. Thank you. How to survive an encounter with an ostrich.

Um, "They can be found in the wild, on safaris, or on ostrich farms."

I feel like... if you are... if you get into this scenario, it's mostly on you. I don't typically find myself in places where ostriches... are. You know what I mean? They're not the mo—

Travis: Well...

Griffin: Well.

Travis: Here's the thing. I agree with you, Griffin, if you to go an ostrich farm and you get attacked. But what I'm saying is, with zoos and transports and such...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...the chances of an ostrich appearing in my backyard are very, very, very small, but not zero.

Griffin: Yeah. That's fair. I guess so.

Travis: You know what I mean? We got the Cincinnati Zoo right here.

Griffin: Yeah, one could escape.

Travis: One could escape. I'm not saying that it has – please don't freak out, everyone in the Cincinnati area. But I'm saying—

Griffin: Oh, oh, you'd—oh, you'd know.

Travis: Oh, yeah. Some monkeys got away here recently, and it was a huge news story.

Griffin: Is that true?

Travis: Yeah, absolutely true.

Griffin: There was another WikiHow article people sent in about how to survive a monkey attack.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Maybe we'll do that one—maybe we'll do that one next time. But I feel like the ostrich is scarier, because guess what? I'm gonna just start reading about method one: evading a charging ostrich. Look for cover, because these motherfuckers can run up to 43 miles an hour.

Travis: Mm.

Justin: Hachi machi.

Griffin: Hey, that's going fast!

Justin: It's so fast.

Griffin: That's quite fast! You gotta get—

Travis: And they've got those weird legs, so how do they do that?

Griffin: Yeah, it's—it's—I—yeah. I—don't even think about it. The ostrich's body is...

Travis: Does it spin like the Roadrunner's legs?

Griffin: Yes, exactly. They go—they windmill. Uh, you gotta get somewhere that they—is gonna just break their—break their stride. They're so much faster than you, and they'll kick you in the back, and then you're pretty much dead.

Hide. Yeah. Conceal yourself. Ostrich fast. Pretty stupid, so you've got that going for you, at least

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Another thing an ostrich can't do is fly, get up a tree, that's okay.

Travis: So if you fly away, you're fine.

Griffin: If you fly away, it's fine. Ostrich can stand up to seven to nine feel tall, so make it a big tree!

Travis: Jeez!

Griffin: It doesn't have teeth. That's a bonus. It can jab at you with its beak and upset your balance. And once you get into foot town, once you hit foot range of the ostrich, that's the ball game.

Here's a fun one. "Dive into a thornbush."

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: It sucks. It sucks. You know what else being—is sucks? Getting disemboweled by a ostrich.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Jump right in a thorn bush, and the ostrich would be like, "Uh, no. That's—mm, no thanks."

Travis: Just a quick remi—I think sometimes, we people who are not around ostriches routinely...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...kind of think of them as a little bit doofy. But as you've been describing the ostrich, I'm reminded that birds evolved from, you know, dinosaurs.

Griffin: Oh, for sure, for sure, for sure.

Justin: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: And the last thing to do, just if all else fails, you can't get up a tree or hide or whatever, just lay on the ground. And you think, like, "Oh, it's just gonna leave you alone."

No, it's gonna still beat the shit out of you, but it's gonna be apparently a little bit better. Because the force of an ostrich's kick is dramatically reduced when you lay down, right?

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: `Cause they kick forward, and then downward, so, you know, they —they are going to scratch your—it says "Lay on your stomach to protect your organs." I don't really know how to prioritize... them... when I'm doing that.

Travis: Well, if you're worried about disembowelment, that's gonna be tummy area.

Griffin: That's gonna be, I guess, Tummy Town. And also, hey, you're also not safe from the ostrich sitting on you, because these bad boys can weigh between 200 and 350 pounds.

Travis: Hoo boy.

Griffin: Fucking fuck. Wow. So that's how to an evade an ostrich.

Justin: They're so big.

Griffin: They're so big.

Travis: There's gotta be advice on how to calm 'em down, right?

Griffin: Well, no, actually, *before* that, Travis, step two is a section that is... it features some of the wildest illustrations that I've ever seen, uh, on—I was gonna say on WikiHow, but really in any sort of format. And it's how to fend off an ostrich attack.

Travis: How to battle.

Griffin: How to battle a ostrich.

Justin: Wait, in the avoiding damage section, does it mention that you should stop carrying around its giant egg like an old-timey football guy?

Griffin: Um-

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: 'Cause that, I feel like, gets you in trouble a lot.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Or the top of your head, like *Mario 2*.

Griffin: Yeah, they hate both of those, 'cause you seem like you are gonna drop it. I'm just uploading some cool pictures of people, uh...

Travis: Cool! Cool!

Justin: Cool pics!

Griffin: Hitting an ostrich with a big stick. Okay, so you find a long weapon.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: Not a close-quarters one, beause...

Travis: [laughs] Oh, boy. Out of context, this is terrible. [laughs]

Griffin: You gotta get a lo—no, there's nothing funny about hurting animals, unless it's a life-or-death situation. You gotta stay to the ostrich's side with your long weapon. In these images, a person is holding a long stick, like a kendo stick. Their form is... impeccable, to be honest. Um, and then it just has some—

Travis: This is like the scene in Signs where he just swings away, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: If—it's like his sister-in-law just kept saying, like, "Hey, when that ostrich comes around... [laughs] Billy or whatever, swing away."

Griffin: The WikiHow article here has literally... demonstrated the glowing weak points on the ostrich. There's neck. That's the weakest part of the

ostrich, clearly. I don't think you'd need a Wi—if you are in this situation, and you're like, "Okay, I have—fuck. I don't know what paths I followed to get me here, but I'm about to fight this ostrich with a big stick. Where am I gonna aim this thing?" If you don't jump to neck—if you don't jump to that long, beautiful, graceful, powerful, *but* somewhat fragile neck? Like, what else—what are you gonna do?

Travis: That could be a trick though, you know? Where you look at it and you're like, "I bet that's the weak point."

And it's like, "Haha, idiot!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "I've evolved to have, like, an iron neck!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Should've gone for my butt."

Griffin: There's more tips here, actually. The next thing in the order, it says here if the ostrich refuses to give up, despite your attacks to its neck, aim for its wings when given the opportunity.

If the ostrich refuses to give up after you've struck it in the neck with a big stick several times...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It deserves whatever [crosstalk] to you. Yeah.

Griffin: Give yourself to it. Feed yourself to it.

Travis: You've clearly done something that has like, done a *Kill Bill*-style life, like, swore an oath on you.

Griffin: Die with honor! This is the only thing you have left now, is you get to choose to die with honor to this ostrich.

Travis: [laughs loudly] Yes, allow the ostrich to five-finger death punch you or whatever, and then you slowly walk away into the sunset. [laughs]

Griffin: The ostrich will nod to you knowingly, one warrior to another, before it eviscerates you. But that's—

Travis: [crosstalk] straighten your tie before ripping your guts out.

Griffin: Isn't that better, though, than you, like, swinging this stupid stick after it after you've struck it in its beautiful, powerful neck, and it's not fazed by it, and you're like [crying noises]. And then you get murdered? No. Go for the legs. Anything after the neck attack is like, completely excessive. You are not gonna reach that point.

Justin: Do you guys agree that like, if I, Justin McElroy, at this point in my life, am the victim of an ostrich attack, it's a societal problem?

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: There's been a systemic...

Travis: Something has gone horribly wrong.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...infrastructure has failed me. It can't be *my* fault that I'm getting attacked by an ostrich, 'cause like, the people that have ostriches and the people that are charged with looking after my welfare should have collaborated to keep me from this situation.

Travis: Yes, there should be lines of defense betwixt you and ostrich.

Justin: Uh-huh.

Travis: And if those have fallen apart, there are larger issues at play here.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. [quickly] Yep, yep, yep, yep, yep, yep, yep.

Griffin: If I am killed by an ostrich, I want there to be like, an investigation... like, I want AOC to open up an investigation in Congress, like, "How did we fail our boy so bad? How could we let this happen to our boy?

Travis: Now my worry is that if those lines have broken down, as Justin suggests, and I get killed as an ostrich, I might not even make the news.

Griffin: No.

Travis: Right? If—that is like, an et cetera of like, horrible stuff has happened, see page 10, flip flip, Travis McElroy was killed.

Justin: Terrible news tonight, as the brother of the guy that uploaded berries and cream was tragically killed.

Travis: [laughs loudly]

Griffin: Uh, the only things that are left is there's two different tips saying "Stay the fuck away from ostriches," and then there's one extra one that says, "Stay the fuck away from ostriches, especially during breeding season."

Justin: Oh, yeah, I know when that is.

Travis: Yep.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: If I knew when ostrich breeding season was, I'd have probably been smart enough to avoid putting myself in this scenario.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Well, if you see the ostrich, and they're like, [makes groaning sound], like, get out of there! Get out of there.

Travis: Oh, that's weird, I smell—I smell feathers and Axe body spray. Oh, no!

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: But nowhere in there, Griffin, is it how to calm down the ostrich?

Griffin: No, your options are... stay away—the order of this article is so fucking weird, because it's like, "[shakily] Hide. Run away! If that doesn't work..."

Justin: [singing softly] Stay alive...

Griffin: "If that doesn't work, fucking hit it with a stick in its glowing weak points. But for real, though, you should probably just stay away from these guys."

Travis: I like this idea that the ostrich is like a *Destiny 2*, like, boss fight, of like—

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: You gotta aim for the glowing spots!

Griffin: Yeah. They are really giving this ostrich the business.

Travis: [laughs] It's three different people in these pictures, too, which makes it look like it's three people ganging up, and like, "You take the neck; I'll take the wing!"

Griffin: It's like the printer scene in Office Space, but with a ostrich instead.

Travis: That's horrible. They should be arrested.

Griffin: They should. And the ostrich too, just for questioning, at least.

Travis: Yeah. Well, for its own protection, really. Though this world isn't built for an ostrich. It's not the ostrich's fault that it got out here and panicked. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Trav, it's the ostrich's world; we're all just living in it.

Travis: No, I agree with you, Griffin, if I run into the ostrich on its native, like, habitat. But if an ostrich gets out of the Cincinnati zoo, and finds itself, like, in OTR or whatever, and it freaks out...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Everyone has to accept that, like, fuck yeah, the ostrich freaked out. It doesn't understand any of this! Why—why—why is the parking so expensive? How come the restaurants are all so small? Why is there a 45 minute wait? Right? Like, that kind of shit.

Griffin: Yeah. It runs up on me in a Trader Joe's, and I'm like, "You're in my world now. Welcome to *my* world."

Travis: And you hit it with a baguette.

Griffin: And then I get him right with a baguette right in the face.

Travis: Get him with a baguette.

Justin: Griffin, I know you wanted to do another question, but uh, unfortunately, we gotta go to the Money Zone.

Griffin: No, I wanna go to the Money Zone.

Travis: I don't.

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

Travis: This podcast is sponsored by BetterHelp. Let me ask you guys a question. Is there something interfering with your happiness, or preventing you from achieving your goals?

Justin: Hmm. Well, yeah. How long do you have?

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: So much stuff, Travis, holy shit.

Travis: Okay, well, I don't have a lot of time, 'cause I have to get back to making the show, but if you guys need to talk with somebody, BetterHelp will assess your needs.

Griffin: I've been waiting for you to offer m—oh, you—oh. I thought you were—

Travis: No, this is an ad. Oh, this is an ad read, Griffin. But I-I-

Griffin: No, no, it's uncomfortable.

Travis: Okay. I meet with a professional therapist on a regular basis, and it has changed my life, and changed the way that I, uh, view the world and interact with friends and loved ones. So if that's something that you have been, uh, interested in getting started, why, there's no better time than now. Uh, start today.

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So one more time, that special offer for *MBMBaM* listeners, get 10 percent off your first month at betterhelp.com/mybrother.

Griffin: [singing] Come and knock on our door...

Travis and Justin: [singing indistinctly] Come and knock on our door...

Griffin: [singing] We got spaghetti for you...

Travis and Justin: [singing] Got spaghetti for you...

Griffin: [singing] Come eat these buffalo wings, and a little bit of... um, dairy free ice cream from the store...

[pause]

Justin: [wheezes] [singing] And a hairbrush.

Griffin: [singing] And a hairbrush, maybe, if they sell hairbrushes at the grocery store.

[spoken] Hey, DoorDash has... everything, basically, at this point. What do you need, dinner? Yes. Lunch? Yeah. Breakfast? Sure. Dessert time, sweets? Yes. Uh—

Travis: Deodorant?

Griffin: Deodorant is the other thing, yes. You can get grocery essentials...

Justin: [wheezes] They've got everything: food *and* deodorant.

Travis: Yep.

Griffin: The only things you need. The stuff that makes your body go, and the stuff that makes it so that people don't know the horrible stuff your body makes while it goes.

So you can get all that stuff within, like, just like 30 minutes, like *whatever*, with DoorDash. And DoorDash connects you with the restaurants you love right now, right to your door. You can get all the grocery essentials you need, drinks, snacks, other household items. Cleaning... fluids.

Travis: [snorts]

Griffin: Delivered in under an hour with the contactless delivery drop-off setting. For a limited time, our listeners can get 25 percent off and zero delivery fees on their first order of 15 bucks or more when you download the DoorDash app and enter code "MBMBaM." That's 25 percent off up to 10 value, and zero delivery fees on your first order when you download the DoorDash app in the app store, and you enter "MBMBaM" as the code. Don't forget, that's code "MBMBaM" for 25 percent off your first order with DoorDash. Subject to change; terms apply.

Travis: Uh, and just to be clear, "app" is short for application there, um...

Griffin: Hm. Not apple.

[orchestral music]

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[music and advertisement end]

Griffin: Okay...

Justin: [imitates guitar solo] [low voice] I wanna munch!

Travis: [low voice] Squad!

Justin: [exhales exaggeratedly] I wanna munch!

Travis: [low voice] Squad!

Griffin: [low voice] Squad!

Justin: [imitates guitar] Welcome to Munch Squad, the podcast within a podcast profiling the latest and greatest of brand eating. There is a—I mean, everyone decided to just, like, jack it back up. Like, the munch—my thing today I'm gonna say to you is the munch is back. 'Cause people are going wild, and I think—

Griffin: Do you think they're-

Justin: This could be where we started to see, like... remember when it seemed like COVID was going away, and we saw the push into, like, travel and some of those other sectors, and then it seemed like Delta was like, back, then it's like, "Mm, maybe the stay-at-home brands are where we wanna keep the bulk of our sort of interests"? Remember that?

Griffin: Yeah, sure, sure.

Travis: Sure, yeah.

Justin: I think this is kind of where we're at right now, where it's like, this is a flush of people thinking, like, "Time to get nasty again." You know what I mean? But—

Griffin: The chicken sandwich wars also sucked a lot of the oxygen out of the room.

Justin: Yeah, well guess who's trying to start 'em back up again?

Travis: No!

Griffin: You're fucking kidding me.

Justin: Taco Bell!

Travis: What?!

Justin: Taco Bell is unleashing... and it says "unleash," and they know. They know. They're *unleashing* the crispy chicken sandwich... taco.

Griffin: Have they not already done this?

Travis: No. No!

Justin: Nation-wide on September 2nd.

Travis: You can't just do that. Words mean something, Taco Bell!

Justin: "Beginning September 2nd, Taco Bell's long-awaited crispy chicken sandwich taco will be available nation-wide at participating locations, for a limited time. Not quite a sandwich, not quite a taco. It doesn't have to explain itself."

Travis: It does!

Justin: "After locally testing earlier this year in Nashville and Charlotte to much success, the test kitchen masterminds knew it was time to go nationwide."

Travis: [low voice] Pull the trigger.

Justin: "Fluffy—fluffy like a san—"

Griffin: Okay, wait a minute. Wait a minute, sorry. We've talked about this before. In episode 550, we talked about this.

Justin: Yes, my friend. Yes. This is now nationwide. We have not talked about the fac—wait, *550*?

Griffin: Yeah, bud.

Justin: Yeah, this was the test. That was the test. It's—it's here.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: And it's not fluffy like a sandwich, but folded like a ta—it's fluffy like a sandwich, Griffin...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...but it's folded like a taco.

Travis: No!

Griffin: I stand by it, I think what my position back then, looking at a picture of these bad boys now, which is that I would fuck 'em up proper.

Justin: I'm looking at it again, I'm getting hungry all over again.

Griffin: I would fuck 'em up proper. I would ruin these bad boys.

Justin: [wheezes] "Whether the crispy chicken sandwich taco is a taco or a sandwich might just be the greatest debate of recent times!"

Travis: Oh, yeah. I can't think of anything.

Justin: It might just be, occurring to this press release, [close to microphone] "In 2021, whether this is a taco or a sandwich might just be the *greatest debate*..."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: "...of recent time. And that's why Taco Bell has enlisted some of the brightest minds in the country to help fans—" [laughs]

Travis: James Carville?

Justin: Now, now, listen-

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: [laughs] [nasally voice] "Hey, it's me, Ben Shapiro, I'd say that's a sandwich."

Griffin: [laughs loudly and distantly]

Travis: "[nasally] It's me!"

All: [overlapping Ben Shapiro impressions]

Griffin: "Look at me, I'm Ben Shapiro. It's a-"

Justin: [laughs] "It's a sandwich. Mm."

Griffin: "[unintelligible] taco have, uh, identity politics. Is it sandwich or taco? [unintelligible] Ben Shapiro!"

Justin: Except I would be [crosstalk]—

Travis: "Now, back to my toilet, where I live!"

Justin: [wheezes] Need to be some way of saying that it's a—I need to find someone to say it's a taco that reveals—like, is also the most brutal, self-demolishing own possible. `Cause that is his brand.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Is like, trying to chuck one—he like, tri—he does an airball, and then it bounces off the rim and gives him a concussion.

Um, so, on September 4th, Taco Bell-

Travis: "It's gotta be a taco, 'cause when I ate it, I got diarrhea for six hours. But that only happens when I eat tacos."

Justin: [laughs] Right. Uh, that's right. On September 4th, Taco Bell will use two real college debate teams from the University of Georgia and Clemson University to go head-to-head in the name of team "It's a sandwich," and team "It's a taco."

Travis: Oh, boy.

Justin: [laughs] And a third team, [crosstalk] pizza boy.

Travis: [crosstalk] pizza boy.

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: "The great crispy chicken sandwich taco debate will air Saturday, September 4th!"

Travis: Get out.

Justin: "During the Georgia versus Clemson prime time college football game on NBC."

Travis: Oh. Record numbers.

Griffin: It's—it's—what they have done here is they have wandered into the chicken sandwich wars.

Justin: That is what bothers me, yes.

Griffin: And while everybody else is like, "Ah, a new opponent, a new contender enters the battlefield."

But Taco Bell is like, "Hold up! Because we have our own drama that we need to, like, figure out first. Please don't—don't go on the attack. Nobody else is allowed to announce a chicken taco until we figure out this shit and do some real soul searching."

Justin: This is like—it's like, you can't decide if it's a taco or it's a—it's a sandwich. Okay, well, one of 'em will enter you into—will thrust you into an international conflict that has – I will reiterate for maybe the dozenth time – *claimed human lives!*

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Again, I feel like I'm losing it with this thing, but people have died, okay? It's not a joke! One of them enters you into that. The other one is like, "I don't know. It's another bad taco. We did it." Like, it'll still be good —I mean "bad" in the sense that, like, it's not a... it's not a taco, but it's—

Griffin: Stop. Please.

Travis: I just wanna—

Griffin: You just—no, no, no. Travis, it's important that we take a beat here, and appreciate what Justin just did, which is... throw—

Justin: Oh, I tried to, like-

Griffin: You threw your hat in the ring a little bit.

Justin: I threw my hat in the ring. I mean, but it ain't a sandwich either; ask Hodgman.

Griffin: That-

Justin: Somebody get Hodgman on the phone and ask him what this is.

Griffin: They want Hodgman, though. They want Hodgman for free, Juice. And we're not gonna—like... that...

Justin: I'm gonna g—I'm gonna text him.

Griffin: Don't-

Travis: I just don't know how I feel about the fact that—we've been doing Munch Squad now for a long time, and it's reached a point where... the fact that Taco Bell has enlisted human beings—and let's—human youths to debate whether a thing *they made* is a taco or a sandwich, on live television!

Griffin: They should know.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I don't know why you're asking me.

Travis: Right? It should bother me, but instead I'm just left empty inside, and thinking, like, "Well, yep. This is where we are."

Griffin: Where was this indecisiveness when they announced the naked chicken taco where the chicken was the—the shell, the tortilla?

Travis: Oh, they knew what they were doing with that, Griffin.

Griffin: They made that—they made that fucking monstrosity, and they were like, "This, ladies and gentlemen, this, folks, this is definitely a taco right here."

Justin: Whi—just while we're here, I just want to mention a couple of other things. And I don't wanna, like, outstay my welcome here with Munch Squad, but there's a lot going on, okay?

Griffin: Yeah, okay.

Justin: Uh, Sonic is doing a lineup of wine-inspired slushies. [laughs]

Griffin: Fuck yes! Excellent! New! Fantastic!

Travis: Love that!

Justin: Booze-free.

Travis: Well.

Justin: It's that thing of like, I wanna capture the feeling of drinking frozen wine that doesn't get me drunk.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I love that st—I love that stinky fruit flavor. Um—

Justin: They got Strawberry Frosé, Red Berry Sangria, and Peach Bellini.

Travis: That's not gonna get confusing at *all* when people see that.

Justin: Well, why would it be confusing? It's just—It's a peach bellini that doesn't have any alcohol in it! I mean, it's—

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah, I mean, yeah, definitely. It's a sangria, which I believe is *only* a term used for the alcoholic drink.

Justin: Right. Yes.

Travis: But not that.

Justin: It's not that one.

Travis: No.

Justin: And then I did wanna—I just have one other thing to talk to you guys about, and it's that [sing-song] pumpkin month. Pumpkin month

Travis: Hell yeah.

Justin: [normally] It's coming up. Starbucks just decided to pop it off August 24th, which I think is ridiculous.

Travis: Fuck you.

Justin: We are a month away from calendar fall, and a week away from Justin fall, and I—I don't think that this is the appropriate time.

Travis: It is. You're wrong.

Justin: I think you need to start—wait 'til the beginning of Justin fall or calendar fall.

Travis: You can do it as soon as August 15th, says Travis.

Justin: Incorrect. Fall, September 1st. Fall

Travis: Nope. August 15th.

Griffin: It is—doesn't matter.

Travis: That's back-to-school season.

Griffin: No one care—nobody cares what we think.

Justin: PS—PSL, hey, just for funsies.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: How many PSL's do you think Starbucks has sold since 2003?

Travis: Since 2003? One billion.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: I'll say, uh, 600 million.

Justin: Wow. 500 million. Excellent job, Griffin.

Griffin: Ooh, thank you. I still went over and lost.

Travis: Yeah, he was over by 20 percent, Justin. That's not that good!

Justin: La—last year, if you'll remember, Starbucks had a 1-800 number, do you guys remember this? Where you could call [crosstalk]—

Griffin: Oh, I remember. Yes, of course.

Justin: Pumpkin jokes, or something.

Travis: [crosstalk].

Justin: Uh, today, there is a—this year, we got a pumpkin love-o-meter! It's a quiz, and we're gonna find out where you guys fall. Who wants to take the quiz? Griffin, or Travis?

Travis: I do! Me, please. Me, me, me.

Justin: Oh, perfect. Here we go. Which would you get for a first tattoo, Trav? A heart-shaped pumpkin? [quietly] ...What?

Travis: Uh-huh. Okay.

Justin: A heart-shaped pumpkin—

Travis: Yeah, you know, pumpkin in the shape of a heart.

Justin: A PSL on your tongue, so you can always taste it?

Travis: Ew, gross.

Justin: A pumpkin cream cold brew goes here on your palm?

Travis: No.

Justin: Or a full flannel sleeve?

Travis: Ohh!

Justin: Please try to answer honestly.

Travis: Uh, I think of those four, full flannel sleeve.

Justin: Okay!

Travis: That would be, uh...

Justin: It seems like all of those would be something that a pumpkin fan would do. "What would you do if your significant other proposed with a pumpkin cream cold brew?"

Griffin: What the fuck?

Justin: "Would you—would you take the drink and run? Would you say yes immediately? 'Pumpkin *is* my significant other,' or post a photo in the leaf-rakers society ASAP?"

Travis: Huh.

Justin: [quietly] What? Why'd they say that?

Travis: I think I'd take the drink and run, would be my honest answer.

Justin: [quietly] Did a fucking AI make this?

Griffin: It seems like it.

Travis: I kind of thought this would be about like, "How much do you like pumpkin?"

Justin: Trav, what's the first thing you do after arriving at a pumpkin patch?

Travis: Oh, I take a shit.

Justin: [laughs] "Pumpkin patch photo shoot? Give them pumpkin to talk about—" [wheezes]

Griffin: Wait, what?

Travis: Is that a separate answer?

Griffin: [singing] I'll give 'em pumpkin to talk about.

Justin: "Pumpkin patch photo shoot;" semicolon, "[singing] Give 'em pumpkin to talk about!"

Travis: I was so worried that that was a separate answer. "Pumpkin patch photo shoot," comma, "give 'em pumpkin to talk about," comma—okay

Justin: It's a semicolon, actually. "Pumpkin patch ph—" Which I don't think is being appropriately used here, but whatever. It's a AI cloud-generated quiz. "Spend hours hunting for the perfect pumpkin. Hours huntin' for the perfect pumpkin."

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Um-

Travis: "Grab as many pumpkins as you can fit into your car, and then some." So I don't—you tell me what that fuckin' means, Starbucks.

Griffin: Break my car? Shatter my car's windows with the pressure—the internal pressure?

Travis: I'm gonna duct tape them to the top.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: And then this one's probably the wildest one of all. "Get your pumpkins and go."

Travis: Wow. Okay.

Griffin: Yeah, that's awesome.

Travis: Oh, so what is implying is a very mechanical, very austere pumpkin patch, yeah.

Justin: Yeah, dutifully get your pumpkins. [laughs]

Travis: "Yes, this is the pumpkin. No—no more chat. I'm leaving, not to return."

Griffin: I'll be honest, fellas, it's hard for me to move on from "Give 'em pumpkin to talk about."

Travis: I mean, that's the answer.

Justin: "Give them pumpkin to talk about" is really good, is all.

Griffin: It's really powerful.

Travis: That's the answer.

Justin: But Travis, it's your quiz. I want it to reflect you as a person.

Travis: If I get—the first thing I do when I get to a pumpkin patch, I'm taking some photos for the 'Gram, to get 'em pumpkin to talk about, of course.

Justin: That's actually probably true.

Griffin: "Something to Talk About" by Bonnie Raitt is a song about people... spreading rumors that you and somebody else is—is—are lovers.

Justin: Yeah. Yes.

Travis: So—Griffin, are you saying that this is implying that I am taking this photo shoot, and people are gonna say like, "Is Travis fucking that pumpkin?"

Griffin: I think-

Justin: It looks like in this picture, he's fucking the pumpkin.

Travis: Yeah, that's what I do.

Justin: You know that—you know that movie, *American Pumpkin*? I think Travis is trying to recreate it.

Travis: I think Travis put his dick in that pumpkin.

Justin: "Would you ever name your pet Pumpkin?"

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: "I—I already did. BRB, changing their name. My pet is a pumpkin." No fourth answer provided.

Griffin: Excellent.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Justin: So here's the op—[wheezes] Again, "Would you name your pet Pumpkin?"

"I already did. BRB, changing their name. My pet is a pumpkin." How are you supposed to judge your pumpkin love with these options?

Travis: Yeah, where's the fourth one, like, "Hypothetically, I would, if that name fit with that particular pet."

Justin: Yeah, if it seemed like a good name for-

Travis: I guess my answer would be, of those three... uh, "BRB, off to change their name"?

Justin: "Would you rather let a stranger hold your PSL, or hold your baby?"

Travis: Wow!

Griffin: Jesus Christ!

Justin: No third or fourth options provided!

Travis: Um, I guess the answer would be that I'd let them hold my PSL, because if they ran away with that, it's a lot easier to replace.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Wait, is PSL "penis leash"?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Wait, what?

Travis: What's the "S" for there, Justin?

Justin: ...Penisss—[laughs]

Travis: Penisss.

All: [extended laughter]

Justin: "Do you wanna let 'em—let 'em hold your PSL or your baby? Make your choice."

Travis: Oh, well, then definitely my PSL. If that's the case...

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: 'Cause why else have it? Why else would I have it?!

Justin: [laughs] You're not gonna hold your own penis leash. That's perverted!

Travis: No, why would I have that? It's for other people... to hold.

Justin: "POV. POV. You're lost in a corn maze."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "How are you getting out?" [laughs] Um, here's the two options.

Travis: Oh, this one's a—this one's an essay answer. [laughs]

Justin: This one's—yeah, right, plan your route. "I'm probably not getting out, TBH..."

Travis: Oh, no.

Justin: Or "Follow the smell of penis leash to the nearest Starbucks?"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Well, I'm not a defeatist, so I guess I'm gonna go with penis leash here. When the real answer or the third one would be, just start charging forward through the corn. Just corn.

Justin: Yeah, just cry for help. "What pumpkin item would we most likely find in your closet?" And then it says, "No judgment."

Travis: Oh. Wait. Okay.

Justin: Um... "A pair of shoes carved from actual pumpkins..."

Travis: Oh.

Justin: "Pumpkin fashion isn't my passion. A pumpkin onesie. Or a vintage pumpkin patchwork jacket."

Travis: Oh, it's the vintage pumpkin patchwork jacket.

Griffin: There—there needs to be more options in this quiz that's like, "I don't actually really like the pumpkin spice latte, thanks."

Travis: That's what the second one is! The second one's like, "You know what? On second thought, I know I made it pretty far through this quiz, but actually, fuck pumpkins. And not in a fun way."

Justin: Trav? This is the last one, okay, Trav? "You make your way to the pumpkin prom. What move are you busting out?"

"An organized fall flash mob. A series of perfect pumpkin pirouettes. Uh, the pop, lock, and pumpkin. Not my style; I'll be by the pumpkin punch bowl."

Travis: It's that one. Not my style; I'd be by the pumpkin punch bowl. Uh, because if I'm being honest, I was always a little nervous at dances, uh, but I did love punch!

Justin: The results are in. Travis...

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: You are a secret pumpkin admirer!

Travis: Okay.

Justin: This is the second to least you can like pumpkins. [wheezes]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: The second to least you can like pumpkins is "secret pumpkin admirer."

"Even though you don't fully embrace the pumpkin-loving lifestyle, it's hard to ignore that tingly feeling you get inside whenever you get your hands on one." Again, by that we mean a pumpkin.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Get your hands on a pumpkin, and you tingle. "Don't worry; we won't tell if you don't want us to. It can be our little... pumpkin-spiced-filled secret."

Travis: "You can fuck that pumpkin until the cows come home, and we're gonna keep it quiet, here at Starbucks, TM."

Justin: That is, until you share this with your followers, then it just says you can share it.

Travis: Now, uh, what is the *least* you can like pumpkin there?

Justin: Well, Trav, it's a scientific quiz. I can't just move the needle to where it points it.

Travis: Yeah, I would just love it if the least option is just like, "Well, you fucking got us."

Justin: "Well. Hey, we got caramel macchiatos to deliver."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "You hate this shit. Come in for a plain black coffee, okay?"

Justin: Um, so anyway, that's the Munch Squad.

Griffin: Do we wanna do one other question real quick?

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: "I was recently able to order one of the new Xbox's."

Travis: Nice.

Justin: Nice.

Travis: Nice, nice, nice.

Justin: "During checkout, the estimated arrival was sometime in the middle of next week. Great! I recently got an email that shipping had been expedited, and it would now be arriving this Saturday. Also great, right? Wrong, 'cause Saturday is my fiancee's birthday."

Travis: Mm.

Justin: "How can I avoid explaining to my fiancée that I bought *myself* a new present for her birthday? Some additional context: something similar happened last year, when I ended up buying myself a new bicycle on her birthday."

Travis: Oh.

Justin: "I don't know how this keeps happening."

Travis: Well, hm!

Justin: Conflicted About Cortana in Kentucky.

Travis: Well!

Griffin: I mean, you can hide and lie, and that's not a bad—that's not a terrible one to do, I feel like.

Travis: To lie to your significant other?

Griffin: On the spectrum of—of fibs is, you know, is hiding away— squirreling away your Xbox for a couple days to make it seem like it arrived

when it was supposed to arrive? Oh, that's a victimless crime. But if you don't wanna do that...

Travis: Hm.

Griffin: I do think you gotta just get a better present than the Xbox that you got yourself.

Travis: Like a Playstation 5.

Griffin: And good fucking luck, because, I mean... Master Chief. *Blinx: The Time Sweeper*. *Banjo-Kazooie*. It's like, how are you gonna beat—you can't beat—that's the dream team right there. You can't beat that.

Travis: At this point, pretty soon you're gonna be married, right? At which point 50 percent of your stuff will be theirs anyways, legally. Just give 'em the Xbox! Like, "I got you this Xbox."

Griffin: [crosstalk]

Justin: That seems bad, though. It's like, "I know you won't like this as much as me, but here it is. It's a gift for you."

Travis: Mm. Mm-hm. Now, here's the pro—here's the problem, questionasker, is that a year ago, you preemptively fucked this up by getting yourself a bike on their birthday. That you could have *easily* not done. Now, *this* is happening. You're gonna have to give that Xbox away, to me, as punishment.

Griffin: Damn.

Justin: Well, here's the other thing I'm gonna say, question-asker, and I don't wanna be sort of a downer, but maybe just cancel shipment, 'cause there ain't no games.

Griffin: No, damn. Damn, Juice.

Justin: Guys, there ain't—I hate to bring it like this, to be kind of a Sony crony right now.

Griffin: Yeah. There ain't no games.

Justin: But there ain't no games. There's no games, though, for it. There's no games.

Griffin: At Sony—at Sony, we got 'em all. Uh, Cra—Crash—

Justin: Sony's got 'em all. For Xbox, there are eight—eight video games.

Griffin: They don't have *Crash*—no *Crash Bambdakoot*, or *Gex*.

Travis: Is the term "Sony crony"? 'Cause I've always used like, "I'm a bro for Sony," and just said, like, I'm a brony. Is that not...?

Justin: [laughs] No, that's not the one. You could be a Sony crony, or a Sony pr—Sony uh—what's the one you always—Sony pony.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That may be just what Griffin says. [crosstalk]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: See, that's so weird. 'Cause I've actually combined it and always said I'm a brony pony. Is that bad?

Griffin: No, that's good. That's a good thing.

Justin: No, it's good. It's a good name. Uh, this just—

Travis: And I'm someone who loves Xbox, so I've also just said I'm a Sexbox.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Maybe you could try to do, like... "Aw, man, I won the contest!" **Griffin:** Yes!

Justin: Maybe like, "Oh, I won the contest I entered! For Xbox!"

Travis: There is a way. This is gonna sound manipulative.

Justin: I just said it. Of course there's a way. I said it.

Griffin: I think we spend some time on this contest victory. It's good stuff.

Justin: There's just—I'm just saying you won a contest. For it.

Griffin: "Yeah. I did Hands on a Hardbody."

"When?"

"Um... over-overnight."

Travis: Yeah, other people did a bad job.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "I thought it would take way longer."

Griffin: "I thought—"

Travis: "Remember the other day when I was gone for 20 minutes? That was it."

Griffin: "It was a *Hands on a Hardbody*, it lasted 20 minutes, they filled the fucking room with scorpions! And you know me; I think they're cute. I think they're neat. So, uh, easy Xbox." God, *Gex* is so cool.

Justin: [wheezes] You can't just drop that on me.

Griffin: Sorry.

Justin: Thanks for listening to our podcast. We hope you've enjoyed yourself. We certainly appreciated you, uh, hanging out with us, and we love to have you around. I'll say that.

Travis: That's very nice, Justin!

Justin: We love having you here. [crosstalk]

Travis: Um, I want everyone to know, if you're listening to this on Monday, you got two more days to grab our pin of the month, which is "work of fart," benefiting One Tree Planted. We've also got some pixel art stickers of us on there, which are available individually or as a set. The stickers will still be there come the new month, but that pin will be gone.

And just a little sneak preview, starting on Wednesday, there's some really, really good stuff in there! So go check that out on mcelroymerch.com.

And of course, we want to thank Montaigne for the use of our theme song, "My Life (Is Better With You)!" if you haven't checked out that, I would say, super fun music video for that song, it's available on our YouTube channel; just search "McElroy family" on YouTube, and it's all there.

Thanks to Max Fun, our podcast home. Check out all the other McElroy shows at mcelroy.family...

Justin: Griffin, do you have a final Yahoo for us?

Griffin: Yeah, um, this final Yahoo—thanks everybody, for listening. This final Yahoo was sent in by, uh, Rod.

Travis: Excu—Rond?

Griffin: And it's ask—Rond, and it's asked by Yahoo Answers User... Jeffy...

Travis: [sputters]

Griffin: ...from Family Circus, who asks... who asks...

Travis: Mm-hm. Yeah.

[pause]

Justin: Oh, you having some digital static?

Travis: Oh, on the website?

Griffin: I'm having a lot of technical static online.

Travis: Oh, I hate that. Try adjusting, uh, the—the knobs.

Justin: Try to adjust them.

Griffin: Let me—yeah, adjust the contrast.

Justin: [shuffling noises]

Travis: Try the vertical and the horizontal?

Griffin: Yea—oh, I got it now. Uh, so this is Jeffy from *Family Circus*, who asks...

[pause]

Travis: No, check the antenna.

Griffin: [crosstalk] got it... hold on. Sorry, guys.

Justin: Try rebooting it real quick? Do a quick reboot.

Travis: Put some foil on the top?

Griffin: Oh, okay. Jeffy from Family Circus asks, um... "I found a gun."

Travis and Justin: [burst out laughing]

Griffin: "Uh-oh?"

Justin: [laughs] I don't think—I don't think so. I don't think that's what it says.

Travis: I don't think that's what the question was. Can you try that again, Griffin?

Griffin: It's-

Justin: Can you look at it again?

Griffin: It says—Jeffy from Family Circus says, "I found a gun. Uh-oh!"

Justin: No, it's not that. Do a refresh.

Griffin: "Do I give it to my mom and dad, or my ghost grandparents?" That's from Jeffy of *Family Circus*. Kid, you gotta give it to somebody. Dangerous.

Justin: [strained 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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