

MBMBaM 576: Several Iguanadons

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

[theme 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 oldest brother, [singing] Layla. [speaking] No, it's me, Justin. It's Justin.

Travis: Okay. I'm your middlest brother, Big Dog "[singing] Woof-woof" [speaking] Layla.

Griffin: Oh, my God! To go behi—this is Griffin. To go behind the bit, somebody was like, "Hey, let's do an intro about Eric Clapton," and I without knowing, like...

Justin: [wheezes softly]

Griffin: Like, okay, I guess the man's written quite a few songs, and—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I can figure out something to talk about here. I was like, "Yeah, sure, let's Clapton it up, baby." And then I—while my brothers were introducing themselves, I did google the gentleman's name, and I did find out that he has released, I would say, let's see, the Independent calls it a controversial new anti-lockdown anthem, "This Has Gotta Stop." That sounds fucking good!

Travis: Huh.

[music plays]

Speaker: [singing] This has gotta stop. Enough is enough. I can't take this BS any longer. It's gone far enough. You wanna claim my soul. You'll

have to come and break down this door. I knew that something was going on wrong when you started laying down the law. I can't move my hands, I break out in sweat, I wanna cry, I can't take it anymore.

[music stops]

Travis: Okay, cut. Cut, cut, cut.

Justin: It's the most sort of, like, "Listen, here's the thing. We don't know exactly what we're upset about, but we know we're upset about it.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: It's the—" [singing] I'm gonna break down in tears, 'cause I can't take off my mask. While the whole time I'm at the California Pizza Kitchen." [speaking] Your song sucks shit, dude.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Like, you're protesting that someone asked you to just, like, chill at home?

Justin: I'm mad because they won't come to all my great Eric Clapton concerts!

Travis: This is like if during like, the Blitzkrieg, someone in London had been like, "It's bullshit that they're making us stay inside!"

And like, hey, that's not the problem! You know that that—that is a solution to a bigger problem, right? You know that, right?

Justin: Oh, my God. He just s—he's so wild. He sucked for a long time. This is not new, by the way. Eric Clapton has sucked for quite, quite some time.

Griffin: The Jazz Man?

Justin: Yeah, he had, uh, uh, he's got a new song out, 'cause enough's enough with this COVID stuff. And you know what, on that front...

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: I'm with it. I think we can all get behind him on that thing. 'Cause if it had been, like, "Can we just..."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: “Can we just move—can we just get it together for long enough?”

Travis: If the song was like, “Hey, COVID sucks, and we need to do whatever we need to do to stop it.” But instead, it’s like, “COVID sucks, but also, [laughs] I miss breathing on people.”

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] I love that special Eric Clapton way I breathe on—

Travis: If I don’t breathe on people, I can’t feel alive. This is BS, you guys.

Justin: I love to breathe on people, and I [crosstalk].

Travis: And if I can’t—if I can’t huff other people’s breath, am I even Eric Clapton anymore?

Justin: My God, Eric Clapton. What a weird, like, “And one last thing...”

Travis and Griffin: [laugh]

Griffin: [imitates guitar] [loudly] Man, I love—I love all—I love 100 percent of Eric Clapton’s shit, without fail!

Justin: [laughs] “Thanks to everyone who’s enjoyed my whole thing over the many, many years. Now, just—if I could just say one quick thing.”

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] “I know. I know what you’re thinking. Is this gonna be a song about how I look like the guy who invented Atari, and everybody in my band looks like that guy too? And the answer is no. It’s gonna be a whole...”

Griffin: The answer is not about that.

Justin: “It’s gonna be a whole fucking anti-COVID protection thing.”

Griffin: We’re all anti-COVID, Eric!

Justin: We’re all anti-COVID, Eric!

Travis: We're all anti-COVID. I just hope that this leads to a bunch of, like, controversial but very—like maybe Billy Joel will release a song called "Remember When We Used to Smoke on Planes."

Griffin: Yes!

Travis: And it'll just be about how much Billy Joel hates—and he doesn't even smoke, but he thinks it's bullshit that other people can't, you know?

Griffin: This fucking dude last year, by which I mean Eric Clapton, did a track with Van Morrison that was called, uh, "Stand and Deliver," that was also about lockdown woes.

Justin: Yeah, yeah.

Griffin: And part of me wonders if they actually got together to collab on that track, or if these two fucking dinguses wrote two separate anti-COVID lockdown songs that they just realized, "Hey, if you play these at the same time, they fucking harmonize, 'cause we're both fucking smooth-brained jazz men idiots."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Eric Clapton's song should've been released, and the whole thing was just about like, "[singing] I wish I had some hobbies besides huffing other people's breath and standing on a stage. Does anyone know how to knit? Could you teach me about sourdough? 'Cause I'm bored as shit."

Justin: You guys wanna hear some of the comments?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, I would love to.

Justin: They say to always read the comments.

Griffin: Wait, on what platform are you reading these comments?

Travis: Good question.

Justin: YouTube.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: [crosstalk]

Justin: It's an official video. These people have wandered into the fucking, like...

Travis: You don't think they sought it out, Justin? You think they just stumbled into Eric Clapton's anti-lockdown song?

Justin: I mean, I found it somehow—this is not important. Here's the important thing.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Thanks, Eric. Great job."

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: "Excellent song and brave message. Nice energy and bounce to it!"
[blows raspberry]

Travis: [bursts out laughing]

Griffin: This one's gonna—this one's your fucking—this one *bounces*.

Justin: This one's got a bounce.

Travis: Oh, I could grind on the dance floor to this song, "Enough is Enough" about this COVID stuff. Also, *bold* message, is it?

Justin: It's just a bold message.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: "Congratulations on your attitude."

Travis: That sounds sarcastic.

Griffin: [laughs] Congratulations on your attitude?

Justin: Congratulations on your good attitude.

Travis: That sounds like something a 12-year-old says in the heat of the moment, when they can't think of a good retort. And it's just like, "Yeah, well—congratulations on your attitude."

Justin: Um, here's one. It says, "Yes! New Clapton!"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "Wow, this song was absolutely horrible and propagandist."
[wheezes]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: I don't know if they were timing that, like, as they were listening to it, like, "Yes! Yes! A new joint! A new joint from Eric Clapton!"

Okay, I just—these comments are so—"Hey, Pfizer, do you listen?"

Travis: What?

Justin: [laughs] "Hey, Pfizer, do you listen?" I guess to this song? To Eric Clapton?

Griffin: "Hi, my name's Jeremy Pfizer and oh shit, yeah, the Jazz Man's got a new track out! Let me just pipe right in—aw, shit. Hey, guys, you gotta come listen to this! Have we fucked up pretty bad?"

Travis: Now, here's the interesting—apparently – I have not watched the whole video for the song – the video also includes, like, imagery of a world on fire. And so it's like, anti-lockdown, but also pro, like, environmental reforms?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Mixed messages.

Griffin: Fuck yeah, let's get into this now! Fuck yeah! This is the gift that keeps on giving!

New Yorker did do a send-up, a little political cartoon by Bary Blitt called "Eric Clapton: Enough is Enough." And a subtitle says, "The listening party for Eric Clapton's new protest song," and it's an unflattering image of Mr. Clapton. And then you got, let's see... Jim Jordan and Louie Gohmert in

KISS make up. You got Daffy Duck, a brachiosaurus, Van Morrison, Goofy, Bozo, and several iguanodons.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: But—

Justin: Oh, got him again.

Griffin: End of joke. What's Da—okay, Goofy is a fucking emblem of an idiot. Bozo, a clown, right? Van Morrison, we have covered my feelings about this gentleman. What the fuck did Daffy Duc—what the fuck is Daffy—is Daffy Duck notably anti-vax?

Travis: No! If anything, Daffy Duck is the one I appreciate the most in the Mickey Mouse universe, 'cause he's the one to say, like, "This is dumb."

Like, Goofy will throw up some dumb bullshit, and Donald's like, "No!"

Griffin: And I have sympathy for Goofy. 'Cause Goofy doesn't—Goofy doesn't know. And Goofy gets on the internet and he sees somebody saying like, "Bill gates wants a microphip."

And then you're like, "[Goofy impression] Okay! Well, I did read it!"

Travis: "[Goofy impression] Did you guys hear about this?"

"No, Goofy!" [crosstalk]

Griffin: But Daffy Duck doesn't—Daffy—Daffy doesn't need to subscribe to that.

Travis: No. And also, why bring the fucking brachiosauruses into this? What did they do?

Griffin: For real.

Justin: They've had a rough go of it. Let's let them—

Griffin: Several iguanodons!

Travis: I get that.

Justin: Yeah, that tracks.

Travis: Those sucks, ugh. Fuck iguanodons.

Justin: I feel like I should—this felt vent-y.

Travis: No! It's fine.

Justin: This feels vent-y. I feel like we're [crosstalk]

Travis: You feel like we're punching down at Eric Clapton? [laughs]

Justin: Well, no—I mean, no—I mean, no, it's like kind of sideways. I bet we're about—[wheezes]

Travis: [bursts out laughing] Finish it!

Justin: I mean, I'm the guy that uploaded berries and cream to TikTok. I think I'm about equal to Eric Clapton at this point.

Griffin: Yeah, sure, yeah.

Travis: 27,000 times that has been used.

Griffin: We're sitting next to them on the airplane, and, lik, violently fighting over the arm rest. Just very passive-aggressively. That's us and Eric Clapton for sure.

Travis: And we're masked and he's not, is important to note, so.

Griffin: The fucking gutless headlines of the people wri—except for the fucking *New Yorker* who came in and was like, "Look at this fucking doofus. He loves Daffy Duck."

All the other ones are like, um, let's see, this—it almost—Guitar Website, which is just called guitar.com, I guess. "Eric Clapton's new single "This Has Gotta Stop" *seemingly* voices his anti-vax sentiment."

Justin: No fucking kidding!

Travis: Does it?!

Griffin: Daily News: "Eric Clapton *appears* to criticize COVID restrictions in song." I don't want to put words in his mouth, but at the part where he's like, "AstraZeneca, don't trust ya!" It's like, I think he—

Justin: Let's talk about this for a second, Eric. Let's talk about your bad boy anthem here.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: How is—

Travis: Uh-huh. Your bold statement.

Justin: How is a bad boy anthem where the third line is, "I can't take this BS any longer."

Travis: Yup!

Justin: Aw, damn, dude! Fucking zinged 'em! Did you say BS?!

[clapping]

Travis: Got 'em!

Griffin: Fucking when Dylan was like, lighting shit up in the 60s, like, "[Bob Dylan impression] This BS from the government—"

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: "[Bob Dylan impression] These jerk-o-wads have done enough with my privacy!"

Travis: "[Bob Dylan impression] Real turds!

Griffin: "[Bob Dylan impression] I'm sick of all of this crap!"

Travis: And I'm like, "Not cool."

Justin: Everybody in the audience, if you're sick of this crap doo-doo, let me hear you. Put one hand into the air!

Travis: It's like when Rage Against the Machine was like, "Hey, F you. I won't do what you tell me." You know what I mean? It's like, woah, strong language, guys.

Griffin: "[Zack de la Rocha impression] Some of those that work forces... are real stinkers."

Travis: [laughs] Are real pills.

Justin: Like, Eric, what is happening to you? Like, 'cause if—just like—I live in West Virginia, and everything just seems to be progressing as normal here. I see no souls being claimed. Everybody's just kinda going Romper Room on it over here in West Virginia. I don't know, man. I don't know what it's like over there. I don't know who's trying to *steal* your *freedom*.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: 'Cause if you're talking about the freedom to, like, do concerts, well, on this one, Eric, I—I think it—you know, bud, it sucks. It sucks, don't it? It's pretty bad to keep wanting to do a show, and it's not safe to do the show. I wish Eric could just call me...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: ...to complain about it rather than having to do a song about it. 'Cause nobody's taking your freedom, Eric!

Travis: Do you think that the first, uh—the first draft of this song was like, "It sucks that I don't get to concerts, but I do understand..."

And then someone was like, "I don't think that's bold enough, Eric."

And he's like, "Ah, got it, got it, got it. Let me take another pass at it. [yelling] This is BS!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: He doesn't even have the guts to, like, say what the—what the—

Griffin: What the song is explici—

Justin: Just what the song's about.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like, it's like—[laughs] Yeah. And it's the most limp, like... "[gruff, indistinct voice] I just wish it—" It's like—it's the passive voice protest song.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: He was like, “[gruff, indistinct voice] It’d be nice if it stopped.”

Travis: “[gruff, indistinct voice] Yeah, I’m sick of it or whatever.”

Justin: “[gruff, indistinct voice] I’m not gonna agree with what you’re saying.”

Travis: It feels like something like *that* uncle would post on Facebook, but then not respond to any of the comments from people who were like, “What do—hey, what do you mean?”

He’s like [mumbles unintelligibly].

Griffin: It would be like if the song was titled “Cocaine,” if he had called it like, “Silly Stuff.”

Justin: [laughs] “[singing] It’s alright. It’s alright. It’s alright. Fun Dust.”

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Mr. Clapton, did you write a song about cocaine?

Justin: “[exaggerated British accent] No, right? It’s called ‘Fun Dust’. [wheezes] It’s different, innit?”

Griffin: “[exaggerated British accent] It could be anything.”

Justin: “[exaggerated British accent] It could be anything. Unspun cotton candy powder.”

Griffin: “It sounds like a cover of the song ‘Cocaine,’ which you did not write.”

“[exaggerated British accent] Yeah, no, I know, but I switched it with ‘Fun Dust,’ so it could mean anything.”

Justin: Can we—okay, I know—

Griffin: This is—ooh, it’s getting a little *War with Grandpa-y*, though, ‘cause we’re at 16 minutes.

Justin: Yeah, we gotta wrap it up, although ironically we *are* currently at war with Grandpa.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [claps]

Justin: To be fair. Is there a way that this song—okay. Is there a way that we can reclaim [laughs] the hit song “This Has Gotta Stop” to make it about something else? ‘Cause it’s so sort of empty and hollow. What are we— what is something that we can rage against with these uh, uh—

Travis: Let me look at the lyrics here.

Justin: Yeah, just imagine the most boring [laughs] boring, pointless sentiment you can.

Travis: Mm-hm. Mm-hm. Yeah, okay. Uh-huh. Okay, yeah. “This has— this has gotta stop, enough is enough.”

How about “I just bought a top...” uh—[laughs] “I just bought a top, uh, and it fits really great.” And it’s just about a good shopping trip that he had.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That would be a bolder stance, I think, than the one he’s taking here.

Justin: No, I don’t think it’s salvageable. And if we did reclaim it—

Travis: Oh, “I Can’t Take This IBS Anymore.”

Griffin: Okay!

Travis: And it’s about finding—“We have to find a cure for IBS.”

Justin: Is there a way to do it without changing the lyrics? Can we just decide it’s about something else?

Travis: Okay, wait. “I can’t take this BS any longer, it’s gone far enough, if you wanna claim my soul, you’ll have to come and break down this door.” Uh, yeah, okay, so this is about, um... your friends are like, “Hey, you’re watching too much NCIS.”

And you're like, "I'll never watch enough NCIS. You'll have to come and break down this door if you want to take away NCIS from me," and that would be a bolder statement than what he's saying here.

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: This is an advice show where we help people, um, and I fear that he may be beyond... beyond that point. Beyond our powers, our considerable advice-giving powers.

"Hello, brothers! Jacket hanging up at my work [crosstalk]—"

Travis: I feel like you guys didn't respond to that.

Griffin: Yeah, it's...

Justin: Yeah, but I'm reading [crosstalk]...

Griffin: It's a email.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: "Hello, brothers!"

Travis: Hello.

Justin: "There's a jacket hanging up in my work that, as far as anyone knows, is ownerless..." but is it odorless? "Someone must have left it there when they quit. Must've been like, eight months at this point? The thing is, it's a pretty cool jacket. It won't fit me, but it would fit my friend, and they would definitely like the style. I've asked my coworkers, and no one has claimed it as theirs. So it's just sort of in limbo, hanging on a shelf, untouched. Can I take this jacket, and how do I do it without being weird?" That's from the Sierra Nevada Jacket Snatcher.

Now, this is the kind of thing where... is there a picture?

Travis: No.

Griffin: Mm.

Justin: Did they include a picture?

Griffin: Probably not.

Travis: No, no picture included.

Griffin: The only reason that a picture would sort of put any English on this ball is if the jacket was like the fucking scorpion bomber jacket from *Drive*.

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: Like, some real, Ed Hardy trash, that somebody would see you wearing it, and be like, "Is that the f—is that the forgotten jacket? Is that the abandoned jacket?"

Travis: But they're not wearing it. They're taking it to give to a *friend*. It will be gone.

Justin: They'll never see it again. Never see it again.

Travis: Off the premises. To the point where I would say, Griffin, even if that were the case, people would be very excited once that jacket was gone.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: There would be like an inperceivable, like, freedom granted upon the office is everyone breathed a little easier now that the jacket was gone.

Griffin: I mean, shit, yeah. I mean, you can't tell your friend where you got it if you do this.

Travis: Unless it was the right kind of friend.

Justin: Yeah, the right kind of friend who knows how to party, who's looking for a come-up. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: I think that's what you're describing here is... you know, you're gonna pop some tags.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You see this and you just take it, you know what I mean?

Travis: Now, here would be—

Justin: You just say you want it. Here's one method you might try. I call it transient motive. What this means is if someone's around when you pick up the jacket, you create a motive for that moment. Do you understand?

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: So you're like, "Wait, is this dry clean only? That doesn't—" and you start talking like that as you're taking it and walking away. And in that person's head, they're like, "Why were they so interested if—oh, well. I'm moving on with my life."

Travis: Right.

Justin: And then at that point you're clear, right? And then it's not like "Why are they holding the jacket?" It's just sort of... accepted at this point.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You are holding the jacket.

Travis: You could also style yourself as like a hero in this moment, and loudly as you pick it up announce like, "Fine. *I'll* take care of it."

Justin: Yeah! That's good! Or like, "If no one else will do it, I'm taking it to lost and found."

Travis: Right!

Justin: And then you start walking away, and people are like [close to microphone] "Where is lost and found? Do we have a lost and—"

Travis: "Lost and found?" But that's the name of your friend, who's legally changed it to Lost And Found, so that you're not lying.

Griffin: "I'm taking this to the jacket kitchen, where you can donate... your used jackets... to be... eaten."

Travis: Fair. Now, I will say that the only pickup here is if this is a very seasonal jacket. Perhaps a green bay starter jacket from uh, 1998...

Justin: Or [[Lake Mary Arbor Day?]].

Travis: Sure. And this... it has been there for the eight months since the end of that season, right? And we're just about to come back to the season

at which it will be appropriate. Because then, the previous owner may, for the first time, realize they were without it. However...

Griffin: [hisses]

Travis: ...at that point, I would say if nine months or so passes... the reasonable, like, statement of "No one knows where your jacket is," [laughs] at this point makes complete sense

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: No, I don't think that the person who owns the jacket is coming back for it. It is this thing of like, that nobody wants to take the initiative. And I think that's where you could kind of... have a little wiggle room here. Like, you're just making some space.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You're just making a little space. It's one last thing for people have to wor—for people have to look at.

Travis: Absolutely. It's like if there was a car parked on your street for like eight months, and no one had moved it. So you just stole it, right? Because that's a parking space that someone else could have, right? Absolutely.

Justin: Oh, shit, I got it!

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: I got it!

Griffin: Go.

Justin: Every day, you come into a work...

Travis: You take a little bit of the jacket.

Justin: [laughs] No, every day you come to work, you take your jacket off. You put it on a hanger. Leave the jacket there. Eventually, you will arrive to work, and there will be no available hangers.

Travis: Uh-huh...

Justin: And you will say, "Hey, is this anybody's? Is it okay if I move this so I can hang up my jacket? One of my other jackets—[wheezes]"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Then everyone will be like, "Um, yeah, go for it." And *then* you take it down off the hanger, you can take it away, no one will question it.

Travis: Now, listen—

Justin: And then you hang *your* jacket up—now you have a problem. [laughs]

Travis: This is a brilliant idea, Justin.

Justin: It's a little bit of a frying pan, fire situation here, a little bit.

Travis: There's two issues here.

Justin: Now there's 20 jackets.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Well, but the problem is, is that they work at the Coathook Emporium, and so...

Justin: So they're always—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah, the number of jackets you're gonna have to invest in here... whew, it's gonna make for a heavy lift, but at the end of the day...

Griffin: I got to a wrinkle in this question. You know me, Mr. Wrinkle Tossler. I love to get into these questions and add a wrinkle.

Travis: *That's* why they call you that!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: "Hello, brothers, there's a jacket hanging up at my work that, as far as anyone knows, is ownerless." That—the phrase in there "As far as *anyone* knows..." Suggests that you have gone...

Travis: Oh.

Griffin: ...cubicle-to-cubicle, and said, "Do you know who owns this?" And every single person, without fail, has said, "No, I do not." There is no way that you have conducted such a canvassing. There has to be a layer of assumption here of "Well, I don't know who this belongs to, and a couple people I've talked to doesn't know who this belongs to. So... nobody here knows who this belongs to."

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: It got there... somehow—someone must have left it here when they quit. But you don't know wicked for sure, though.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Because what if there's a chance that that was somebody's, and then they died in, like, a horrible accident, and now the jacket is left there as a memorial.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: And it's been there for years and years and years...

Justin: Okay.

Travis: So only like, the oldest employees remember, but god damn it, they remember. And you haven't asked them, 'cause they're in upper management now, because they put the fucking time in, which you wouldn't understand, kids these days. But if you take that, they're gonna be like, "Who took Old Bill's jacket? No! That was Old Bill's old Ed Hardy Jacket! He loved Ed Hardy as much as he loved saving kids from car wrecks!"

Griffin: You could come in dressed up in a costume. Big, you know, leather vest, big bushy beard, a clown.. cap... on.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Fucking wellies on your feet, and fucking cool disco pants, and two different gloves, and you walk in and you pick up the jacket, and you say, “[silly voice] There it is!” And then you leave.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And then everybody else who’s there would be like, “Oh, I guess that’s—I guess that, like, really weird guy is who that jacket belonged to. Well, mystery solved. Can’t wait for fucking Tyler to get back, so he can tell—wait a minute.”

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Was that just—did that person—was that person roughly Tyler’s size, but dressed up in a bunch of wild garments that they’ve been stealing from all the jobs they ever worked? Damn. Almost got away with it, too.

I don’t know that we’re gonna be able to help with this one, but I think I do have—

Justin: I feel like we *tried*, though. That’s the important thing.

Griffin: We tried really hard. I do have one that we might be able to help with, and it’s—if we do approach the Wizard, uh, Taylor sent this in, thank you. And it’s a WikiHow called “How to choose a nickname for your car.”

Travis: Oh, thank fuck!

Griffin: Yeah. My—I’ve had so many fucking cars now, like...

Travis: Braggart.

Griffin: ... three. And, um, I don’t—I have not gotten nicknames for any of them.

Justin: Oof.

Griffin: At least none that, like, I would put out into the world. Maybe in my heart of hearts, um...

Travis: The problem for me has always been I didn't know their given name, right? So if I wanted to call him Johnny, right? But what if their real name isn't Johnathon, Right? And now it's just fucking weird.

Griffin: Right. And it's like, also that I don't drive that much. Like, I use my computer a lot more... and I didn't nickname my computer.

Travis: Oh, you didn't?

Griffin: No, it's—no, it's just a computer.

Travis: Mine's Jeremy Bits!

Griffin: Jeremy Bits, okay.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Yep. And—

Justin: That was also my stage name during my ill-fated stand up comedy career, Jeremy Bits.

Travis: Yeah, Jeremy Bits.

Griffin: I wouldn't call it ill-fated, Juice.

Justin: I had my moments.

Travis: You were pretty great.

Griffin: You were runner up season 3 of *Last Comic Standing* and I [crosstalk].

Travis: You got a *Comedy Central* 30-minute stand up special!

Justin: I did Leno, but it's when he was at 10:00 PM, so nobody saw it.

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: I thought it was fucked up, though, how Leno really made you censor a lot of your darker stuff. A lot of your more fucked up stuff.

Travis: Yeah, there was a lot. And it wasn't even like that the words you were saying were banned by anybody, it was just the concept...

Griffin: He didn't like the idea—he said, um, “[nasally] I don't like the ideas.”

Travis: “[nasally] He really made people think about their deaths!”

Griffin: “I don't like those ideas. Too different ideas.”

And it's like, “Jay... Jay, that's not really how—”

“Do some cars ones!”

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: So here's how to brainstorm—speaking of cars ones, here's some good ways to come up with car names. “Think of the name of a beautiful person.”

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: “One of the most common ways to name you car is to think of a celebrity or model you like and give it the same name.” Awesome.

Travis: Oh, Os-car Isaac! It's perfect!

Griffin: Travi—I'm worried, Juice, that Travis is gonna be freaky good at this.

Justin: [wheezes] Yeah, I don't like it already, the way it's going.

Griffin: “Some good names include: Claire, Stella, Brock, and Venus.”

Justin: Brock is good.

Travis: I don't know that you can just be like, “This is my car, Claire.”

Griffin: Yeah, well, then you—Trav, you may wanna just chill for like five minutes, because you cannot scrutinize this WikiHow in that way.

Travis: Okay. I'm just saying that that's not a nickname, though!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That's a name!

Griffin: Yeah. "Name the car after your favorite musician or cartoon character. If you're looking around for names that aren't commonly used for people, name—"

Travis: Car-los Santana.

Griffin: Fucking hell, Travis!

Justin: [laughs] Turn yourself off! Turn this power off.

Travis: And here's the thing: it doesn't matter what make or model it is. That works—

Griffin: It could be literally anything. "Car names that are based on musicians or artists include Sid, Beyonce, and Bow-no." But they—Bono? But here's the thing. In the picture, the horrible pictures that WikiHow has, they got like a blue corvette, and then there's a picture of Donald Duck just, like, hovering over it.

Travis: Fuck, man!

Griffin: This is my corvette. This is my corvette... Donald Duck! The duck from Mickey! "Add a prefix or adjective to the name. Adding a prefix like 'Miss' or 'Mister' will add some character to the car name that you choose." And there's a picture of a man, and he does have a goatee, and he's yelling, "Mr. Donald!"

Justin: What?

Griffin: "This is my corvette, Mr. Donald."

Travis: [laughs] "This is my corvette, Mr. D—"

"Hey, uh, excuse me, valet, could you come pick up Mr. Donald, please?"

Griffin: "Good adjectives for your name include colors like white, black, or silver."

Justin: "Mr. Blue Donald, [crosstalk]."

Travis: "Is there a Mr. Blue Donald here?"

Griffin: "Whose car is this? There's a bumper sticker on the back that says 'White Mr. Donald'?"

Travis: [laughs]

"Good starting adjectives for your car include things like 'super, baby, or old.'"

Hey, whose cars is this that says Super Baby White Mr. Donald on it?

Justin: [laughs] "Hi, I'm looking for my car. It's named Super White, Mr. Donald—"

Travis: "Wait, is there a comma in there?"

"Somewhere!"

Justin: Nope. [wheezes]

Griffin: This next one's awesome because it's coming at the very middle of this WikiHow article. "Search online for other popular car names."

"I don't fucking know, man. I got a Kia Sorvino. I tried calling it White Mr. Donald Duck, but people hated that name, so—"

Travis: Mia Sorvino.

Griffin: Fuck! Um, Did you mean Kia Sorvino?

Travis: That works too, yeah. Or m—

Justin: Take a cl—Trav? Travis, take it clean.

Griffin: [simultaneously] Trav, take it clean.

Travis: Take it clean, thank you. Uh, Kia Sorvino.

["Power" by Kanye West plays very briefly]

Griffin: So, use an online name generator is the next one. That's the same thing. "Matching the name with the style of the car. Base the name on the shape and size of the car. Look at the body of the car. If it's blocky, bulky, or powerful, the more masculine name!" [makes gorilla sounds]

"If it's slick, sexy, mysterious, a feminine name may be suited better." Got 'em, WikiHow! And so there's a picture of a big SU—

Travis: What—what's that car's ass do? [laughs]

Griffin: And here's a big, like, scary SUV, and it says, "Wolverine," and there's a check mark. And it says "Christine," and then there's an X. [loudly] Even though there's the most famous scary car ever is named Christine, from the John Carpenter film, *Christine*.

Travis: Those two also are not comparable. Like, no one has ever said, "Yeah, I'm having a baby. If it's a girl, Christine. And if it's a boy, Wolverine."

Griffin: Yeah. "Include the make or model in the name." This is just—you can make a c—like, a Camry... Cammy.

Travis: Well, my—so, I have a Subaru that I call Ruby Sue.

Griffin: Yeah, that's good. I mean, that's a good one. "Choose the name based on the type of car that you drive." That's—you already fucking said that.

Travis: Yeah. The Slamborghini, by the way—if anybody—I don't know if anyone who listens to this show has a Lamborghini, but Slamborghini is just a great thing to call your car.

Griffin: It's a pretty good one. Uh, "For instance, you wouldn't want to name a slow truck with the name 'Supercharged' or 'Red Hot' because it doesn't represent the aesthetic of the car."

Travis: Bullshit!

Griffin: They have a picture of a truck here, and the word that they emblazoned over it is "Big rhino." And then—

Travis: That's pretty good, but I'm just saying that this person who has written this WikiHow article has very little concept of ironic nicknames, where you call, like, a big guy Tiny, because calling a very slow truck...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Calling it like, Hot Pepper or something, is baller. I love that.

Griffin: And then name it based on color. "Names include Nightcrawler, Cherry Bomb, Mr. Freeze, Cookie Monster, Frogger, Mean Green and Creamsicle." Hop into Creamsicle.

Justin: All wild. All wild. Have you guys ever tried to actually get—it's pretty hard to get a nickname going for your car. I've done it for myself a lot.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: Yeah. I know, Hoops.

Justin: Out of pity. Hoops. The kid. [shaky] Mista Jay.

Travis: Yeah, that one we need to talk about, by that way. That—

Justin: [normally] That one hasn't caught on as much. It's hard for your car, 'cause like, the only way to get it going is to like, sheepishly admit it to your wife that there's a nickname for it, and if she's gonna mention it it'd be nice, if she—okay, never mind, honey. I don't know why—I'm sorry. I don't know why I brought it up. Ignore me, it's stupid.

Travis: There's only one—

Justin: I don't know why I called my—I don't know why I called my Honda Pi—uh, Pilot, Sully. I thought it was funny 'cause of the pilot Sully, and he's a pilot, and—

Travis: Well, you didn't think it was *funny* funny, though, right?

Justin: I just thought it was, like... not funny, but kind of a like nodding acknowledgment [wheezes] kind of deal. You know what I mean?

Travis: There's a mystery amongst some of my friends where uh, our mutual friend Bobby uh, had this white car, and he went back home for a weekend, and when he came back, that white car had, across the windshield, "The gambler."

And now, Bobby claims that the white car died, and he bought a different white car that weekend, and that one happened to be the same make and model; it just said "The gambler" across; that was the only difference.

Justin: Unlikely. [laughs]

Travis: I have no idea, to this day, if that's true or not. But that's a good way to get a nickname going for your car. To just add it to the windshield.

Griffin: Yeah. Can I call my car... the Michael Dukakis 1988 Presidential Election campaign bus?

Justin: Well, why would you—

Travis: Yeah. I mean, yes.

Justin: I mean, if it is that.

Griffin: Oh, shit, I shouldn't—people might like, find me at live shows now.

Travis: Du-car-kis.

Griffin: Damn it, Travis!

Justin: [away from microphone] Fuck!

Griffin: Uh, the only other shit on here is like, "Really think about it!"

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "[crosstalk] ask your friends, and *really* think about it." Then there's a picture—there's a very *Ferris Bueller*-looking cartoon man laying on a pillow, and there's a thought balloon, and inside the thought balloon, and inside the thought balloon, it says, "Silver Surfer. Bio Silver. Chroma." That's a cool fucking thing to—I wish I could shut out the fucking demons—

Justin: Sorry, sorry, sorry. Did you say Bio Silver? [crosstalk]

Griffin: Bio Silver. I wish I could shut out the demons in my head for a minute and think about shit like bad car names.

Travis: Sometimes they just come to you unbidden. You don't *have* to think about them; it's just how your brain works.

Griffin: Yeah, you definitely have a di—like, a disease [crosstalk]—

Travis: Yeah, it's called ADD!

Griffin: [bursts out laughing] Oh, boy howdy.

Justin: Trav, car D—D—car—D-D—car—car—

Griffin: Juice, you don't have the touch—you don't have the glow.

Justin: A-D-Car-A-D.

Travis: No.

Griffin: So we're gonna—

Travis: A-W-D-D, 'cause it's like All Wheel Drive Deficit Disorder.

Griffin: [crosstalk] We gotta get the fuck out of here. We gotta go to the fucking Money Zone.

Justin: Go, go, go. Go, go!

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

Travis: I need to hire some people.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Oh. Perfect thing for that.

Travis: But here's the thing. It's hard to pick things. I have a hard time making a decision as to what shirt to wear in the morning,

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: A thing that has no impact on barely my life, let alone anyone else's...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So the idea of having to, like, pick a human being to hire for a thing is one of the most imposing, like, terrifying decisions. That's why I'm glad there are things like ZipRecruiter.

Griffin: Mm.

Travis: Right? Because ZipRecruiter is the adult who will help you hire somebody. Right?

Griffin: Right. They're the parent or teacher that can come in and make it better.

Travis: Yes! Because they're going to make sure all of the qualified candidates come right to you, and you can invite your top choices to apply for the job through ZipRecruiter.

Griffin: Get in here, Mark! Don't be shy! I know you're the man!

Justin: You're the one.

Griffin: You're the man, Mark.

Justin: Does ZipRecruiter have a feature that shows you the employee that you have dreamed of was inside you all along?

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: Is that an option? Where it's like, "Maybe it's me."

Travis: That's a premium service.

Justin: [laughs] Okay.

Travis: They also have one, uh, where a group of teenage girls ask you questions about like, "What house do you think you'll have when you get married?" and that helps you choose the right employee for you. But that's—that's—oof, that's an upcharge.

Griffin: It's like a billion dollars.

Travis: That's like a billion dollars for that. But you can sign up for—

Justin: Do they have a thing...

Travis: [snorts]

Justin: ...where they'll take an employee that already works there, and they'll take off their glasses, and they're like, "Maybe this is them." You know what I mean?

Travis: But extra for ponytail removal.

Justin: Yeah, right. [wheezes]

Travis: They have a feature on ZipRecruiter where you can pick an employee from a different company that you'd never hire, and then they take that employee away and make them really cool and beautiful and make them prom queen.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And you're like, "Aw, man, now I love them!" And you hire them.

Griffin: And then they also have a service where if you can't find a perfect candidate that has all the skills you need, they will find like, three or four different candidates that have some of the skills you need.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: And then they put them in a big tub full of proprietary fluid. And they don't tell you what the fluid is, and that's probably for the best. And then nine months later, out pops a single... amalgamated... um, business entity. It's not—it doesn't—the shape of it is not recognizably human, but it does do like 130 words per minute.

Travis: So that's pretty good!

Griffin: So that's—you can't beat that.

Travis: And you can sign up for not *that* service, but the other ones that we talked about early on in the ad, before we went some places. Uh, if you go to ziprecruiter.com/mybrother, you can try ZipRecruiter for free. That's ziprecruiter.com/mybrother. Please don't tell them about a lot of the stuff we said.

Griffin: Please don't tell any of our—oh my *God*, blanket statement: don't tattle on us to *any* of our advertisers. 'Cause then they—then the shit's gonna get boring. Then we're gonna have to be like, "[monotone] ZipRecruiter. That's a business one. If you get that, you get 10... ba-dollars." Snooze effect, right?

Hey, you know what's exciting for me, though? My dreams. [crosstalk]

Travis: Oh, you have a good one?

Justin: Ooh!

Griffin: Oh, I have great dreams every night. Playing laser tag with Michael Dukakis. And—

Travis: A had a dream recently that was a crossover between *Full House* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

Griffin: Cool.

Travis: And I saved uncle Jesse from a vampire trap, and that was pretty good.

Griffin: Yeah, that's definitely who would save who if you two were in a vampire trap together.

Squarespace, though, helps to make your dreams a reality, except for the dream that Travis had, which I think we can all agree is total bullshit. They will...

Travis: Wow.

Griffin: ...help you build a website that can showcase your work, sell products and services of all kinds to promote your physical or online business, and more! And they do that with these beautiful customizable templates created by world-class designers. Everything's optimized for mobile right out of the box, so don't freak out about it.

Travis: Really?

Griffin: Yeah, sure! And if you wanna know if your website's sick, they got analytics for it. And they do free and secure hosting. So there's just nothing to really worry about except like, how you're gonna spend all of your website money that you're gonna get when the big bucks start rolling in.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: So go to squarespace.com/mybrother for a free trial, and when you're ready to launch, use the offer code "my brother" to save 10 percent off your first purchase of a website or domain!

[easygoing music in background]

Jesse: I'm Jesse Thorn. This week on *Bullseye*, David Byrne on the Talking Heads easing back into live performance, and the magic of do-wop.

David: You don't get it very much, people doing [scats]. You don't get a lot of that. [laughs]

Jesse: Listen to *Bullseye* from maximumfun.org and NPR.

[music and advertisement end]

Justin: [exhausted] Griffin, you got another Yahoo for us...?

Travis: Not for a while, now, Justin.

Griffin: Yeah, Juice. Let me reach into the fucking time... well. Hold on—

Justin: Just get a—get a—

Griffin: Oh, no, [shakily] I've fallen down into the time well! I'm an old—

Travis: Oh, no, he's an old man now, Justin.

Griffin: I'm an old man now!

Travis: Oh no, he went too far the other way and he's a baby!

Griffin: [imitates baby crying] Yahoo!

Justin: He's a baby! Oh, my God!

Travis: Yeah, let's see if we can catch him right in the middle. I'll grab him by the back of his collar and pull him out!

Griffin: Whatever, Dad, fuck you!

Travis: Nah, damn it. I got him when he was 45.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: I mean, it's...

Griffin: Do you not have a Munch Squad, my friend?

Justin: I have like, too many, and it's starting to feel like this predictable thi—it felt too predictable. It used to be a fun energy. You know what I mean? I'm now I'm having to, like, beg for it.

Griffin: I love it. I love the energy. Maybe—first of all, do the fucking song. Play the song, Eric Clapton.

Justin: Okay. [imitates guitar] [singing] Munch Squad! [continuing guitar] Munch Squad. [speaking] That's the new theme song.

Griffin: That's pretty good. Why don't you just give us some log lines and then like, let me and Travis be your navigators through this water, and if there's something that—that—

Justin: I don't fucking trust you guys to do that.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Justin: Honey Baked Ham has a new—okay, first off, I have a—just sort of an addendum.

Griffin: A correction.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: What'd you do?

Justin: A quick addendum—not a correction, addendum.

Travis: What'd you do?

Justin: No, nothing. Hodgman—

Travis: What'd you fuck up?

Justin: I did ask John Hodgman if the Taco Bell crispy chicken sandwich taco, where they're trying to get beef going. Hodgman has made basically his entire career is based around deciding a hot dog's a sandwich. So I asked him to, like, weigh in on this. And he said—and this is sort of, like official—uh, as you can hear on his podcast, *Judge John Hodgman*, he makes these sorts of rulings all the time, and they are binding. It's a taco inspired by a sandwich. That's what Hodgman told me.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: And that's—that's official.

Griffin: I like that.

Justin: He said it's like—you know, like the famous Ruben taco.

Travis: [laughs] Uh-huh.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: And then, like, an hour later, he texted me, "Or a tuna melt taco."

Griffin: We get the concept, I think.

Justin: We got—we got you, Hodgman.

Griffin: Do you know—how about that last one is Hodgman thought about a tuna melt taco, and he's like, "Fuck, that'd be delicious." And then he...

Justin: That's what he actually said. Like, "Now I'm thinking about this."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I think he made himself hungry. [crosstalk]

Griffin: I think so too, I think he practiced the Secret. I think he was visualizing.

Justin: Honey Baked Ham is doing pumpkin spice-glazed turkey breasts.

Griffin: That sucks.

Justin: That sucks, right?

Travis: Nah, that sounds great.

Justin: What's wild is like, in preparation for this limited time offering, Honey Baked did a survey. And they were like, "The results reinforce a demand for fall flavor starts now."

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: 69 percent agree fall has the best seasonal flavors. In fact, 70 percent of people agree pumpkin spice is an essential part of the fall season.

Travis: Okay, but those are two different things. Those are two different things. Because you're saying that a lot of people love fall flavors, *and* they acknowledge pumpkin spice is essential to fall, not that they love pumpkin spice.

Justin: 65 percent of people said pumpkin spice flavors should be available August through October.

Travis: That's true.

Justin: And 15 percent want the flavor to be available all year. So 65 percent—59 percent said spending time with family and friends for gatherings is a favorite fall activity. And 71 percent of respondents said they feel disappointed when they miss out on an experience.

Travis: Huh!

Griffin: What?!

Justin: Do you think—so there had to be a moment where you're like, "What did you ask?"

Travis: "I'm sorry, what was—one more time?"

Justin: "[crosstalk] I was just asking if you feel disappointed when you miss out on an experience."

Travis: "You mean a Honey Baked Ham-centered experience or just any experience?"

Justin: [laughs] "No sir. No sir, just any experience—[wheezes] Well, fuck. Was this fucking—shit is for ham?"

"Yeah, yeah, yeah."

Travis: Did you say 75 percent, Justin?

Justin: 71 percent of respondents said they feel disappointed when they, quote, I'm just reading, "Miss out on an experience."

Travis: I wanna meet that other 29 percent who are so comfortable with themselves they're like, "If I miss it, I didn't need to be there, I guess."

Justin: You're just like, "I would've just fucked it up. You know me."

Travis: [laughs loudly]

Griffin: And it's just—

Justin: "It probably wouldn't have even been nearly as good."

Griffin: An experience!

Travis: An experience.

Griffin: An experience! Aw, man.

Justin: An experience, not good or bad. Just 30 percent of people were like, "Ehh, I don't know." [laughs]

Travis: Yeah, man, I swear to God, the aliens landed, [gasps].

Griffin: I was not present at the Point Pleasant Silver Bridge collapse. Damn it!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Fuck!

Justin: Damn!

Griffin: Shit!

Travis: And I heard there was some really good ham there afterwards.

Justin: The pumpkin spice—they're doing pumpkin spice ham.

Travis: Okay, sure. Why the fuck not?

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: Yeah, why not? But that's not really—what I'm kind of—the thing I actually wanted to talk about—I just think that this was funny. They did—there's like—guys, there's, like, a whole thing about what would you do—

here's what pumpkin spice lovers are willing to do to make it a year-round thing, right?

Travis: "I'd murder!" [laughs quietly]

Justin: 28—28 percent of people would shave their head bald.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: 27 percent of people would go a month without internet access.

Travis: No, you would not.

Justin: 27 percent of people would give up their smartphone [loudly] for a *year!*

Travis: Bullshit!

Justin: [low, angry voice] Just learn where to buy pumpkin spice. Just buy it at the store.

Travis: It's a combination of flavor—you can do it yourself.

Justin: [through gritted teeth] It's, like, just nutmeg and cinnamon! [crosstalk] spice.

Travis: They sell it—you can get bottles of it in the spice aisle, like everything else!

Justin: Anyway, Wendy's unveils hot and crispy French fry innovation. This is what I'm talking about. I'm gonna stand up.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: This is what I do Munch Squad for. Because this is actual news, okay? It's been fucking 11 years. Okay? For the first time, the chain is updating its number-one selling product, which is, of course, the French fry.

Travis: The frenched fry.

Justin: The Wendy's French fry. Now, it's been 11 years since we've touched this recipe. And now we're going back to the drawing—we're gonna change it. The tag that they're using, they're sort of like—in the drive by—

you see a lot of drive by fast food coverage and it's just like, "We just need a quote, so what do you think?"

And they're like, "Uh, yeah, it's like, a lot of places do it bad, and we're gonna do it good."

They say, the fast food chain developed its new fry offering to put a, quote, "end to the disappointing, inconsistent fry experiences that other places still serve." You see what they're doing here?

Griffin: They're putting their fuck up on everyone else's—

Justin: [laughs] They're not changing it— right. Not 'cause we fuck it up, but like... other places do. [laughs] Now. 'Cause we do it right now.

Travis: Yeah. We carry even more of the weight than we have already.

Justin: So the ball's in—the ball's in their court. *QSR Magazine*, which is sort of my secret source—my number-one source for like—when I wanna go behind the headlines...

Travis: Yeah. It's your secret sauce source.

Justin: Yeah. So, um, this has an interview with John Li, the Wendy's vice president of culinary innovation, who is probably a genius at his job but probably is one of the wilder interview subjects. I've seen a lot of John Li's work, and it gets pretty wild every single time. Here's an example.

"It's basically one of those things where there were good—"

Travis: [laughs] That's already a great start.

Justin: "It's basically one of those things where there were good fries out there, but there are not great fries out there, and we collectively got, uh, together, and we told ourselves two-and-a-half years ago that good is definitely not good enough."

Now, earlier in this interview he says that they've been working on this recipe for months, so I guess there was like two years where they were like "We gotta do something about the fries, guys."

"Yeah, yeah, we know, we know."

Travis: [crosstalk] Where do you even start? Ugh!

Justin: We're gonna go full court press and figure out what's the best way to have our customer's backs? If fries are the most ordered menu item, we're gonna create the best possible fry.

So they—they asked John Li how—"Tell me how your team has been approaching reinventing the fry and to land this new hot-and-crispy gamechanger."

So, hi, my name is Justin McElroy. I'm gonna do—my dramatic monologue is John Li's answer to this question, and I'd like to read it for you now.

Travis: And do you—I'm sorry, do you have a headshot that we could peruse?

Justin: Yeah. Uh, here.

Travis: Okay, thank you.

Griffin: And do you—I'm so sorry to—I don't want to break your flow; do you have a butt shot?

Justin: [wheezes quietly] No. uh, no. You can—it's on my Instagram. It's just all butt shots.

Griffin: Okay. Can you show me your butt?

Justin: [laughs] Is this what you want? You gotta get—you gotta get—

Travis: Now make it, make it—make it clap. Hey, make it clap?

Justin: "You gotta get the right potato. Once you get the right potato, you gotta make sure you're applying the right process! And we have a signature proprietary process that allows us to get the fry."

Travis: Oh, yeah!

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: That's the way he puts it! [laughs] "You gotta do it in a way that our customers want it."

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: [laughs breathlessly]

Justin: So there's a whole bunch of forms...

Travis: What?

Justin: "We've done a lot of research. There's a whole bunch of shapes."

Travis: What?!

Justin: "And there's a lot different routes we could have taken to create new news."

Travis: Aw, man, sliding doors.

Justin: "The problem is, to stay true to our heritage and the roots and what Dave Thomson expected in terms of the perfect French fry, and then based on the research of what consumers *really* want, which is a fry that is hot and crispy, we actually landed on what we have today."

So it looks like your standard French fry... it is *not* your standard French fry.

Travis: Oh!

Justin: The reality is, sometimes they got it right the first time out in regards to shape.

"There's specifics around how we cut our fry. It was then right the first time around; so we don't have to do much to fix that. But applying a proprietary process and being really careful about the partners we choose..."

Travis: What?!

Justin: And having the right *raw materials* coming in from a [holding back laughter] potato perspective..."

Travis: Oh, my God!

Justin: "...gets us at where we're at today."

Travis: Okay, now—

Justin: "And then, obviously, we have our ops partnerships too. They do a fantastic job. We are trained properly. We've got that—we've got certified

people working those fryers, and they care and are as passionate as we are about making sure that the guest experience is awesome every time they bite into a French fry.

Griffin: Why am I standing up and saluting—like, I’m saluting with my hand over my heart, and I don’t know, like, how I got to this position.

Travis: Hey, listeners? I want you to rewind back to the beginning of Justin doing it, and then listen again. And this time, I want you to picture Justin standing in front of several, like, cork boards with like, string wrapped around, like, thumbtacks that went from thing to thing as he points out, and just imagine that John Li has been awake for four weeks prior to this interviewer.

Justin: I’m a—I’m a ketchup-eater.

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: And I’m not afraid to admit it!

Justin: “I’m a ketchup-eater. I like to take our pouch, and I like to squeeze on a little squiggly drizzle on each fry.”

Travis: Jesus, Li.

Justin: And soggy fries don’t make for a very good eating experience when you try to do that. Using fries that they created are perfect for this. So if you include the delivery expectation of 20 minutes—typically 20 to 30 minutes, they’re still crispy, which is *mind boggling*. [laughs] It’s m—the mind.

Griffin: The mind cannot conceive of the crispiness.

Justin: The mind cannot conceive of it!

Griffin: Hey, can I say something? It is a—it is a razor-thin margin between pleasantly floppy and way too crunchy for fast food French fries. The way this man is speaking makes me think that these are going to *shatter my jaw bones*.

Travis: Oh yeah, baby!

Justin: So fucking crispy.

Travis: And they're heated internally, I guess? Like those handwarmers that you crunch up and then put in your gloves. There's some kind of chemical activation from inside of them that 25 minutes later they're still warm?!

Griffin: Can you—I don't want you to go back, 'cause [crosstalk]—

Justin: Hey, guys? No, guys. You have to keep pressing forward. This is a question. You had a freight—I really, guys, I really don't know—please don't ask me for context. I don't know what is happening in this specific part, okay?

"You had a phrase around the coding that was great that included the word 'Whisper,' and that you didn't want it to have a barrier to the potato, can you tell us just a little bit about that philosophy here?"

Griffin: [stifled laughter]

Justin: "The reason why the Whisper came out..."

Travis: [bursts out laughing] Yes. thank you so much for asking. I was hoping you would bring up the Whisper.

Justin: Oh, thank you. Actually, that's so astute of you. Yeah. "The reason why the Whisper came out is because a lot of our competitors and options that we could've looked at that had heavier battering, but the beauty of our research was that it told us something very clearly, that consumers really know their French fries.

I love the French fry, for the fact that its natural sort of potato texture they want with a very light contrasting texture. Crispy on the outside, fluffy baked potato in the middle, is how we always talk about it in our kitchens. You cannot do that if you start applying a whole bunch of batter. Which may make it more crispy..."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "But you end up changing the actual overall eating experience of the French fry."

Travis: Yes.

Justin: "I know this gets deep into French fry!"

Travis: Does it, John?!

Justin: “[emphatically] But this is what we do!

We talk about French fries like this. If you bite into a heavily battered product, I guarantee—I guaran-fucking-tee,” it says.

Griffin: [laughing softly]

Justin: “I guaran-*fucking*-tee they start to get gummy, and they lose that baked potato fluffy texture in the center. Our research tells us most consumers that is not good!”

Griffin: [snorts]

Travis: “John, honey, please come to bed. You’ve been up for days! [laughs] John, please, the children miss you. Come home!”

Justin: “But Mr. Li, why should they not be married?”

Travis: [bursts out laughing]

“Oh, sorry. Uh, yeah, no, no, no. Uh, I love her. Is that—”

Griffin: “I love her, or something. Um...”

Travis: “Anyways, potatoes to all. [laughs] I’ve gotta be off.”

Justin: [laughs] “The change is in regards to the actual battering process that we use and finding the right level batter, which sounds like it’s easy.”

Travis: No.

Justin: “Try doing millions and millions of pounds of French fries! There’s a lot of science involved! And a lot of—”

Travis: Please, Mr. Li, calm down! Please, put the knife away!

Justin: “There’s a lot of engineering, so we had to get it just right.”

Travis: “You think *you* could do it?” [sighs] Oh, John.

Justin: “It—this is truly the combination of our own science on a product that seems so simple when you compare it to something that looks more

complex. It's actually probably the most complex project that I've worked on in my entire career."

Griffin: It fucking sounds like it.

Justin: It sounds like it, John, and I love—John, can I say, we've been having a lot of fun here on our comedy podcast, but I love the passion.

Travis: I love it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I love the passion, you ketchup—you fucking ketchup-eater.

Travis: The only thing that makes me sad about this now that I think about it is how much passion and love John Li has put into these French fries and how most fucking plebs are gonna take a bite of it and go, "[indifferently] Eh, it's pretty good." They're not gonna appreciate—

Griffin: No, no, no.

Justin: They're not gonna appreciate the batter. You know what else tickles me, is that this recipe is being rolled out and should be in all Wendy's by mid-October. I think you should in the future not denigrate your current product while you still have apparently so much of it.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: I feel like people should just show up—'cause, like, now? You think I'm gonna go to a Wendy's before this new, incredible fry is available? You say people go for two-to-one to McDonald's. I'm not gonna waste a trip to Wendy's right now when you're still selling that garbage fry.

Travis: This is your last chance to stock up.

Griffin: Let me get a Baconator combo meal, but just keep the French fries. Because I wouldn't eat that fucking shit with my worst enemy's mouth.

Travis: Could I get an IOU for the French fries that I can turn in in like, mid-October?

Justin: Yeah. Actually, just take the French fries and pull out your waistband like a silly clown, and dump them down your pants, 'cause you're a clown.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah. And dance and say “I’m a bad fry clown boy, thank you.”

Griffin: Thank you!

Justin: Perfect.

Travis: Oh, is it too late to order a small Frosty?

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I bet they are gonna be pretty good, though.

Travis: Oh, yeah, it sounds great.

Justin: No, they’re going to be great! They know what they—they’re professionals.

Thank you so much for listening to our podcast. We hope you’ve enjoyed yourself. We hope you’re gonna rush out and get some of those Wendy’s fries. They did not pay us to say that, [crosstalk] actually care.

Travis: Start waiting now. You got about...

Justin: Start waiting now. Don’t get any fries.

Travis: 45 days, yes. Don’t...

Justin: You know, fall is just around the corner, so... you know, if you have any questions for Richard Stink, he’s gonna be—there’s gonna be—you know, he’ll...

Griffin: Fuck.

Justin: The new—a new season means a new visit from Richard Stink, so if you’ve got questions about fragrance, you know, please be sure to pass those along.

Travis: Hey, we have some really exciting news. We’re doing a *My Brother, My Brother and Me* live and virtual September 24th!

Justin: Take that, Eric Clapton.

Travis: Yeah! It's gonna start at 9:00 PM Eastern Time with *Sawbones* opening, which is very exciting. Tickets are on sale now for 10 dollars at bit.ly/mbmbamvirtual, and there will be video on demand available for that for two weeks after the show, so even if you can't make that time, go check it out. [Bit.ly/mbmbamvirtual](http://bit.ly/mbmbamvirtual). Also, we got new merch over at mcelroymerch.com. Our pin of the month is Dr. Shaq from *Adventure Zone: Ethersea*...

Justin: [snorts]

Travis: ...which benefits the World Central Kitchen, which uses the power of food to nourish communities and strengthen economies through times of crisis and beyond. We've got a Phantom Sea Coast Co. pin, excuse me, and some *Adventure Zone* temporary tattoo flash sheets designed by Lin Doyle. It benefits the Asian Prisoner Support Committee, which provides direct support to Asian and Pacific Islander prisoners and to raise awareness about the growing number of APIs being imprisoned, detained, and deported.

Griffin: Hey, thank you to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, "My Life (Is Better With You)!" It's a jam, a bop, uh, a slap, it rips completely and fully...

Travis: It's a wiggler.

Griffin: You can listen to the *whole* version of it now. Watch the music video that we participated in on the McElroy Family YouTube channel. And thank you, Montaigne. It brings me such joy. Um... is that it, though? Is that it for the show?

Travis: I mean, you need to do your final Yahoo.

Griffin: Yeah, no, I mean other than that.

Justin: You can do a final Yahoo.

Griffin: Yeah, sure. This one was sent in by Paul... McCartney.

Travis: Woah!

Justin: Woah!

Griffin: Yeah, he listens. And he is really plugged into—he's a very active Yahoo user. He has 100,000 Yahoo points. Thank you, Paul. Sir Paul. It's asked by Yahoo Answers User Tranten...tur...kens... Tramderkins...son.

Travis: Tramderkins, okay!

Griffin: Uh, and Tramkemkinson asks: "I'm thinking about starting... a new —I'm thinking about starting... a new... Hello."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "I'm thinking about starting a—a new—a—[chokes]"

Justin: [laughs] Just do it! Just read it!

Travis: Just read it, why are you—

Justin: Off your screen!

Griffin: Sorry guys, it's gotta—I gotta—the wire—

Travis: You gotta scroll down.

Griffin: The fucking wire came loose. Hold on. Okay, here, it's loading now.

Justin: [laughs] Okay, good.

Griffin: "Uh, hello. Where do I start a new—oh, never mind. I have a different question. Where can I download the all-nude episode of *According to Jim*?"

Travis: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: [cough-laughs] [through laughter] My name is Justin—

Travis: I'm Travis—

Justin: 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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