

MBMBaM 583: Soccertes

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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, Justin Tyler McElroy.

Travis: Uh, let me check my show notes here. Yes, I am your middlest brother, Travis "Big Dog Woof-woof" McElroy.

Griffin: And this is Griffin McElroy, on the cutting edge of... technology news...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: What's happening— what's the big headlines for technology news today? New computers?

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Yes. New—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: N— there's a new—

Travis: Have you seen computers these days? 'Cause it used to be they took up like a whole football field basement.

Justin: So...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Now, you can hold those dang things in the palm of your hand and eat 'em.

Griffin: And Sony's got a new Cyber Glove, but that's not what we're talking about today. We're talking about—

Travis: Cyber Glove for Cyber Love.

Griffin: Yeah, it's for jacking. But today we're talking about the biggest news of all, and that's freaking... y'all ever heard of a little website called Facebook?

Travis: Yeah, Nonny's on it.

Griffin: That you go to to see old pictures, and it's got Nonny—

Justin: That's the one that Nonny's on.

Griffin: It's got Nonny, and all those old high schoolers that you went to school with.

Justin: It's got eight— eight of our nonny's, 'cause she keeps getting hacked.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Oh, my God. Okay, step outside the bit for a second: she does get hacked a lot, though.

Justin: She gets hacked all the time.

Travis: She clicks everything.

Justin: Nonny's the number one— sorry.

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, she's gotta be—

Travis: Hey, if any of you are listening, please don't hack our nonny anymore.

Justin: [coughing laughter]

Griffin: We know she's got a lot of...

Travis: There can't be anything left there for you.

Justin: Just statistically speaking, most of you have hacked our nonny. At least one of you has. I also wanted to say something; I sound different this week 'cause I'm— I had a power outage at my home, and I'm here at my wife's clinic, recording the podcast. This is like the old days.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: The good old days.

Griffin: And he's doing— he's doing a little bit of medicine help for people who come in.

Justin: I'm doing a couple Band-Aids and what-have-you.

Griffin: Yeah. Um, so anyway, big tech news: exciting thing, this Facebook website that our nonny keeps getting hacked on 'cause she has so much fucking bitcoin... uh...

Justin: [laughs quietly]

Griffin: ...is that it's gonna— it's not gonna be Facebook anymore! And— 'cause it—

Travis: 'Cause that's been the problem.

Griffin: That's the problem!

Travis: The problem with Facebook is the name. Yeah.

Griffin: I know that there's been a lot of sort of reports about how they have fostered an environment that is good for hate speech, but um...

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: But that's all gonna be different now! 'Cause it's not gonna be "hate speech Facebook" anymore; it's gonna be something even cooler and safer and nicer.

Justin: You know how Google, uh, their company motto is like, "Don't be evil."

Griffin: Yeah. "Don't do bad stuff."

Justin: Facebook's is like, "Fuck it, let's get it wet."

Travis: Yes.

Justin: That's what Facebook's—

Griffin: "Whatever it takes," is their— is their motto.

Travis: Yeah. Facebook's motto is a rhetorical question that's just, "What are you gonna do?"

Justin: Google changed theirs— the company that owns Google and all the various Google paraphernalia, the—

Travis: Including teengoogle.com?

Griffin: Especially Teen Google.

Justin: No, teengoogle.com is fake. They changed to alphabet. And it'll be tough for Facebook to find something that sounds as sinister as "alphabet."

Travis: Right.

Griffin: Yeah. So—

Travis: What about "The Facebook"?

Griffin: That's strong.

Justin: Mm.

Griffin: That's strong.

Travis: 'Cause then that's definitive. Right? 'Cause it's been so wishy-washy. Like, "Oh, let's check Facebook."

And you're like, "Which one?" Right?

And if you were just like, "Oh, check *The Facebook*."

And you're like, "Ooh, okay!"

Griffin: That would be an issue—

Justin: No, no, no. Okay, we're not changing the name of Facebook. It's very important here that we're clear about this. Facebook will continue to operate in its own special way...

Travis: Okay.

Justin: ...that is so good for everybody, as Facebook. The company that owns Facebook and Oculus and Instagram and, you know, probably 35 different ad companies, uh, will change its name. The parent companies.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Oh, okay. So they just change it to Facebook Senior.

Griffin: Yeah, it's Facebook's dad.

Travis: Yeah, it's Facebook's dad, Facebook Senior. Mr. Facebook, so that way Facebook can say, "No, please call me Facebook; Mr. Facebook is my father."

Griffin: Good Facebook would be neat, 'cause then it's like, you don't have to sweat, like, the ethics of it. It lets you know right there on the tin. Of course, there would have to be some behavioral... changes there.

Justin: Not really. It's all branding.

Griffin: That's fair.

Travis: What about Mr. Zucker's Old-Time Internet Palace?

Griffin: Yeah, that's cool! That's got a real GeoCities vibe that I'm into.

Justin: Yeah. Retro. How about O'Callahan's Authentic Irish Pub and Family Fun Center?

Travis: Oh, I like that.

Griffin: That kicks ass.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: If it was— if— you are not gonna think there's anything weird about Facebook if it suddenly, one day, officially owned by O'Callahans Authentic Irish Pub and Family Fun Center.

Griffin: Yep!

Travis: That's true.

Griffin: That's good!

Justin: They should sell it to Jolly Pirate Donut.

Griffin: Yeah. [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] They should sell—

Travis: So... sell ownership.

Justin: Sell ownership of Facebook...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: The company, to Jolly Pirate Donut, and then operate as like, Jolly Pirate Donut is the company that owns Facebook and Instagram...

Travis: Facebook: A Jolly Pirate production.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: You'd be, like, a lot more down with it.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It'd be cool to work there and get, um, donut— like, free donuts.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And it would be nice for Nonny to know that on the 12th time she got hacked, the 13th one is free.

Justin: [bursts out laughing] A baker's— a baker's dozen hacks.

Travis: Uh-huh!

Griffin: Um, I mean... Zuck's Place could be fun.

Travis: Zuck's Place is good.

Griffin: That would be a better name for the plat— see, I feel like they're gonna find a new name for the company, and they're gonna be like, "Well, this is so good. We gotta change the website's name to Zuck's Place. A place for Zuck to come and hang out and let loose.

Justin: Maybe Footzuckers. [laughs]

Travis: Ooh! Footzuckers!

Justin: Fudzuckers!

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: F—

Griffin: Yeah, man! What's wrong with that?

Justin: [laughs] I'm trying to think of a joke here, and it's not a joke. Fudzuckers is really good.

Travis: What about Dave and Zucker's, while we're at it?

Griffin: That's fun!

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: Zuck E. Cheese!

Justin: Zuck E. Cheese is good.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Justin: [coughs, laughs]

Travis: These are all so good. We'll use it. Oculus will become Zuck E. Cheese...

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Facebook will be Fudzuckers, of course.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: And Instagram will be Dave and Zuckers.

Justin: Perfect.

Griffin: All— all of which are subsidiaries of Zuck's Place.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Exactly!

Justin: All of which are owned by O'Callahans Irish Pub and Family Fun Center.

Griffin: You open up Zuck's Place, and it's a— it's like an animated GIF of a map unscrolling, and it's like, "Which— which of Zuck's amazing experiences would you like to dive into today?" And it's like, oh—

Justin: "Do you wanna hack Clint McElroy's mom?"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "Good news!"

Griffin: And you click on it, and it's like a Club Penguin minigame!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: That's cool. That's awesome. I want all that shit; like, let's not just limit to Facebook and Oculus and other— and Instagram and all that. Like, let's get Neopets on there. But they're called uh, Zucky Beasts. And then you can trade them and have fun with them.

Travis: There you go!

Justin: Motherzuckers.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Now, you don't— what would Motherzuckers be, Justin?

Justin: The— the...the Neopets thing.

Travis: Oh, 'cause—

Justin: Li'l— Li'l Motherzuckers.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: Hey, could we do a Garbage Pail Kid Mark Zuckerberg thing? What would— if they bought Facebook... if— if O'Callahans Irish Pub and Family Fun Center buy... um... Garbage Pail Kids...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...what would be a fun joke to say?

Travis: About Facebook?

Justin: About, like, what kind of name could you get Zuck into Garbage Pail Kids.

Travis: Oh, you're saying, like, what's a dirty joke—

Justin: I don't have a— I don't have like a joke for it—

Griffin: And that's a wild thing, Justin!

Justin: I was hoping you guys would have like a funny—

Travis: You know, sometimes on the show, Justin, one of us does like a bump set spike kind of maneuver, and what you did is you set the ball in the middle of the floor, and said, “Wouldn’t it be cool if one of you spiked that?”

Griffin: Yeah. “Someone figure out how to—”

Justin: [laughing loudly]

Griffin: You throw it in the garbage can across the street, and you’re like, “Someone figure out how to spike that and get a point.”

Justin: It’s like I laid it in a toilet, and said, “Imagine if I had spiked that just now.”

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: “How cool would that be?” It’s like if there was no ball, and you said, “Imagine there was a ball in the air, and you could spike it.”

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [coughs]

Travis: This is a good— this is good times.

Griffin: This was a good one.

Justin: Hey, thank you to Mark Zuckerberg for encouraging us to do that bit. Um, I’m sorry about everything.

Travis: We’ll take your money, though, thank you.

Justin: [laughs] I don’t know why— I’m not sorry for...

Griffin: Sorry you fucked up *so bad* and made things so—

Travis: Sorry, Griffin— Griffin, Zucked up. It is legally—

Justin: Yeah, sorry, you Zucked up—

Griffin: I’m sorry, can I stop for a second? I feel like the “Zuck sounds like fuck” thing is so played. Like...

Travis: Oh! So should we go the other way and say, like, Mark Fuckerberg, right?

Griffin: No, guys, these are too obvious for us. We have—

Travis: Mark Duckberg.

Justin: What if he replaced himself with a cartoon duck named Mark Duckerberg. And I feel like—

Travis: Is his brain inside the duck?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: He's controlling it like *Alter Ego*, the new Alanis Morissette show...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: I feel like he's controlling it, and it's an animated duck that he controls, named Mark Duckerberg. I feel like if they do that, they don't need to change the name of the company, right?

Travis: No, that's gonna do a lot of PR work for them.

Justin: Yeah.

This is an advice show. I don't know if you've gotten that. Uh, we have a special guest this week; it's really exciting.

Travis: What?

Justin: Yeah, it's later though. Don't worry about it. Right now, we're going to help you. And we'll do other things too, but first the help.

"I recently started a job that, at certain points, involves driving a big truck that tows an even bigger trailer."

Griffin: Badass.

Travis: Nice.

Griffin: Let's take a second and just, *badass*. Bad ass, dude.

Travis: You know when you see a big truck, and you're like, "That's a big truck," and then you see the even bigger trailer, and you're like, "Woah."

Griffin: "Woah, shit."

Justin: Yeah, real nice. "I'm not the biggest fan of this job." Stupid. "So I was planning on—"

Travis: Wait, who's stupid? The question asker or us?

Justin: I just think it's stupid they don't like that job. It'd be, like, so cool.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh, I see. That's a bold stance to make.

Griffin: If you smash that truck into anything, it is *donezo*. Like, that's gotta be empowering.

Justin: Yeah. Uh, "So I was planning on only keeping this job until I found a new one. Unfortunately, my second week on the job, I was towing the trailer on the interstate and the trailer jack-knifed on me." Fuck. "The truck rolled twice and landed upside-down."

Griffin: "I got in a little fight and my mom got scared."

Justin: [laughs] "Nobody, including myself, was hurt."

Travis: Okay.

Justin: "But now I feel like I can't quit because I totaled the truck and the trailer..."

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: [laughs loudly]

Griffin: Oh, man.

Justin: Accurate! "Brothers, should I stick around a little bit longer, or should I just peace the hell out?" That's from Career Confusion in Colorado. That's a sticky wicket.

Travis: Now, hold on, 'cause I feel like... I thought— I have a different feeling, it seems, than my brothers do. Because Justin, it seems that you are of the mindset that it is now difficult to quit now after you jackknife and roll the truck and trailer. I, on the other hand, think that if you quit, your job will be like, "Oh, thank God they quit."

Griffin: Yeah, at this point, your boss would be like, "Oh, yeah, that makes sense. You d—"

Travis: "I actually didn't even know you still worked here after you rolled the truck and trailer on your second week."

Griffin: "You made a spectacular exploder on day 14, it says here in your file. So yeah, it makes sense that you wouldn't want to be [crosstalk] job."

Travis: "You did what we in the business call a 'truck whoopsie...'"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "And that usually was a fireable offense, and we actually just assumed you would quit already."

What was in the trailer? Was it something funny?

Griffin: Oh, God.

Travis: You know, like bouncy balls, or like...

Justin: Oh, boy. Yeah. This is good. This is good. Where are we going next?

Travis: Oh, a bunch of like, K-Y jelly.

Justin: [loudly] Ugh!

Griffin: And it spilt all over and, like, all the cars started slip-sliding around, and like... porking.

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: Um, I—

Justin: You lost it a little bit.

Griffin: I think you should— if you don't want to drive the big truck anymore because you crashed it pretty much instantly in the grand scheme of things, I feel like that's okay. I feel like you—

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: They aren't gonna keep you there, and say, "You have to stay here and do this." Um, because—

Justin: The only problem is you— that you— well, I guess you needed the job for a little bit longer, right? You weren't ready to quit then.

Griffin: Yeah...

Justin: You didn't want to quit. 'Cause I was gonna say, like, that's the moment. You jackknife it, nobody's gonna judge you for being like, "I'm done. That's it. I'm done."

Travis: "Never again."

Griffin: "It sucks to drive a car this big on the same road..."

Justin: "It's too big of a car."

Travis: "Can I deliver this in a Jetta, maybe? Is it like—"

Justin: "God's mistake, this giant truck. We went too far as a species."

Travis: "Time to take it back!"

Griffin: Um, yeah, you—

Travis: One time I got a job at PetSmart, and on my first day of training, halfway through the training session, I got a call letting me know that I actually was supposed to be somewhere to perform a play that they had not told me that was like, you know, a thing they send out for the touring thing, and—

Griffin: Ah, the life of an act-or.

Travis: I know. So I just, like, walked out of training, and my boss was like, "Where are you going?"

And I was like, "Sorry, I just got a call. I gotta be somewhere else. Be back tomorrow!" And when I came back the next day, they didn't fire me. So let that..

Griffin: Damn!

Travis: ...and this question be a combined sign to you, the listener. It's actually a lot harder to get fired from things than you would think.

Griffin: That's like the end of *Rent*, Trav.

Travis: I mean, I guess.

Griffin: If you think about it.

Justin: It's basically what *Rent's* about.

Griffin: Hey, do you wanna talk to the Wizard of the Cloud, call him up real quick?

Travis: You know what, how come he never calls us?

Justin: Good point. Good question.

Griffin: Um, I mean, 'cause he's the wizard? Alright, let's see what the Wizard's got for us today, that stinker. Um...

Travis: Alright.

Griffin: You know how it's a cool, these days, not to be like strong... sports-type? But like sp—

Travis: Wait, what?

Griffin: Yeah, a smart type.

Travis: Aw, man.

Griffin: Well, this is gonna help us sort of get there.

Justin: Sorry, Trav.

Griffin: Yeah, I'm sorry, buddy.

Travis: I just didn't know— I—[sighs] okay.

Griffin: Um, this one's gonna make you very popular with a lot of people, because it is how to live like Socrates.

Travis: Oh!

Justin: Hm!

Griffin: Yeah, 'cause— and here's the thing, here's what I'm excited about, is that it worked out so good for Socrates.

Travis: Yeah, everybody loved that guy.

Griffin: Being Socrates and being like how he is was really great for him.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Um, yeah. So let's— I mean, let's hop right into it. 'Cause I think that the— some of this stuff is just timeless, right?

“So just start by reading some of Plato’s dialogs.” Actually, fuck that. That’s so boring. Skip that part.

Travis: No, that’s— no.

Justin: That’s a bad place to start.

Griffin: That’s a wicked bad place to start.

Justin: What about um... could you start with the movie?

Griffin: Yes. Yes.

Justin: The one that uh... the movie of—

Griffin: The Keanu Reeves bio-pic, is that right?

Justin: No, no, no, the movie about Socrates with Channing Tatum as Socrates.

Griffin: Right!

Justin: They made like a biopic, a biopic.

Travis: *Magic Socrates*, yeah.

Griffin: I think it was called *Magic Socrates*.

Justin: [wheezes, laughs]

Griffin: Um, I think it was called *Socrates*—

Justin: I love it— the end of the trailer, when he looks in the camera and lowers his sunglasses, and he’s like, “I guess you could say I’m pretty smart.”

Griffin: Yeah. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I like that, that—

Travis: And you look down, and it said, “Nothing platonic about this relationship.”

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then he had sex with everybody.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. That's a good flick. I wish I knew more about Socrates to—

Travis: I wish I knew more about Magic Mike.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, so yeah, you gotta read Plato's shit. I guess Plato was like a big Socrates fan. I'm gonna show my hand here; I don't know fuck all about this dude. Um...

Travis: Which one?

Justin: I thought about tossing them a quick google... [laughs]

Griffin: Quick google.

Travis: I believe that that would throw off the metadata that Google has on me, where it'll be like, "Huh!"

Griffin: [laughs loudly]

Travis: "Normally, Travis is looking up the voice actors of *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, and suddenly he's googling the teachings of Plato? Do we need to start worrying about Travis being too smart? Oh, no, no, no. He's back to googling voice actors of different cartoons."

Griffin: We're all good. Um, hey, here's the second one, and this is a good tip for like, any sort of thing you're trying to do with your life is: "Don't change your life immediately; do it gradually."

Travis: That's true.

Griffin: If you do it too fast, and you go, "I'm fucking Socrates now!" like, you're gonna burn out too fast. You gotta really step into it. Um...

Travis: Griffin, is there a heading in there of what to do when you wanna be, uh, kind of considered the Socrates of, say... and this is just top-of-my-head, but soccer, so you can be Soccertes, and you're like the Socrates, you know, like the Socrates of soccer.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Is there any instructions in there? 'Cause that's what I've always thought of myself as.

Griffin: The Socrates of soccer? Yeah. And I bet he was also pretty bad at soccer.

Travis: [laughs] Yeah, exactly.

Griffin: Uh, so just start with these plain, simple steps, okay? "Wear simpler clothes." Ooh, that's gonna be hard for me.

Travis: Oh, yeah, I don't know about that. I'm kind of a peacock.

Griffin: I'm sort of a real clothes peacock. "Eat plainer foods." That idea I could swing with. I could hang with that.

Justin: Yeah, that's good for advice for everybody.

Griffin: It'd probably be good for my belly. And then "Do not waste your money on material things." Well, I'm fucked. That's it. I'm done.

Travis: Well, does that include, like, food?

Griffin: Spicy foods, maybe. Foods that are not just very plain. Um, yeah, probably. Next tip is to follow Socratic principles and ideas. Again, that's a real snooze fest. Um...

Travis: Yeah, that feels like a lot of research involved. Can't you just tell me?

Griffin: Yeah, I'll sort of give you the CliffsNotes version of it. And this is really where the article starts to... maybe show how there are lots of people, especially on the internet, who follow Socratic principles and ideals, and then nobody likes them.

Travis: Oh, okay!

Griffin: Yeah, so just— here's how to argue using the Socratic method. "Question everything." Cool start. "Do not merely take something at face value or do something because someone says so, whether it is one person or 100."

Travis: Ooh...

Justin: What?

Griffin: Stop fucking being a reply guy, and just jump in, in there whenever anyone says anything, and be an asshole, and say, like, [wavering voice] "Are you sure?"

[normally] "But that's what Socrates does it! That's what Socrates does it!"

"Yeah, I think healthcare is a human right."

[wavering voice] "Is it, though?"

"Hey, Socrates!"

"I have to question it!"

Like, everybody's out here, saying, "It's cool to not die because you don't have enough money."

"But is it, though? It's me, Socrates!"

Um... "If you truly wish to live like Socrates, then you need to devote yourself entirely to philosophy and searching for truth."

Travis: And I bet that person's great, too.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: That person's really cool. If you have a WikiHow membership, you're already halfway there, baby! You're already there.

Travis: Can I just say right now— Socrates right now, what I've learned basically in the last five minutes, is he seems like the type of person now who would say like, "I don't watch TV."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And I wouldn't really wanna... talk to that person.

Griffin: Yeah. Um, I mean, back in the day, I get it, right? If back in the day, they're like, "Aw, man! We gotta kill 100 of our own people every year or else the sun will devour us!"

And it was probably pretty good for Socrates to step in there and be like, "Uh, can I..."

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: "...maybe suggest that we don't have to sacrifice our people? Because maybe the sun *won't* swallow us up?"

Justin: Yeah, it is— like— they— back then, we didn't know anything.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: So yeah, question all of it. But now, it's like... we got it.

Griffin: We go— we got it.

Travis: I'll take it one step further, and say back in Socrates' time, it was also probably really easy not to buy material goods or eat spicy foods, 'cause the stuff they had was bunk.

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah.

Travis: But now Socrates is like, "But did you see those fucking sneakers, dude? Like, I had to buy them! They were really cool! And I just heard that this new Indian place opened up down the street, and I gotta check that shit out!"

Griffin: "Make sure where you debate with others is in a public area, I think there are account like that."

Travis: Ooh. Ooh. Yeah.

Griffin: Man, there's a lot of people out there trying to be Socrates.

"Never be afraid to voice what you think or, more importantly, the truth."

Hey, it's cool to conflate those two things—

Travis: Hey, Socrates sucks!

Justin: Like, Socrates— I feel like those are two different ideas, the truth and the things you think.

Griffin: [laughs] No, no, no. I think it's important to be Socrates, to know, 100 percent, whatever you think is right.

Justin: [laughs] "Question everything, unless it's one of your stupid thoughts."

Travis: [laughs] "Question everything, except your own thoughts and ideas. Those? Solid."

Justin: "Those? Truth. Truth. Universal."

Griffin: Hey, here's a— this is a badass one, and maybe the most [wheezes] attainable one, and that is: "Number seven, never fear death!" [laughs]

Justin: [wheezes, laughs]

Travis: [bursts out laughing] "Maybe flip this switch, boom!"

Griffin: Maybe that's why Twitter reply guys are so cocksure all the time, it's because they don't spend an hour of their day just thinking about, you know, debt, and they're like—

Travis: I do wonder how they get so much done, you know?

Griffin: Yeah, they got time for other shit.

Justin: But they don't fear death. Like, that's— that's daredevil shit.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: Like, Socrates was wasting his time with all the philosophy and stuff. He should've been defending the innocent in Hell's Kitchen, or whatever...

Griffin: Right.

Justin: You know, they didn't have kitchens back then. Or hell.

Griffin: One thing I do know about Socrates is he got sentenced to death for all of his cool thoughts, and then the day before he got his— his just desserts, he got a bunch of buddies who swung by, and they were like, "Socrates, we're gonna get you out of here, buddy!"

And he was like, "Nah, they got me." And then he drank hemlock.

Justin: Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin: His buddies are like, "Come on, dude! We gotta go! Your brain is so special, and you gotta help—"

"Nah, they got me fair and square, guys."

Justin: [laughs] "I ain't scared."

Griffin: "I ain't scared. They did a trial, fair and square."

"Yeah, but the trial was like 100 extremely religious people who are like, 'No, he stinks.'

"They got me! Gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp. Bye!"

Travis: Also, I think it's a big assumption to assume that Socrates wasn't afraid of death just 'cause he never wrote down, like, "Fucking death has gotten me shitting myself, dude." Like—

Griffin: Yeah, maybe he was just so busy thinking all of his cool thoughts and so he guzzled down that sweet hemlock, and then he was like, "Wait a minute, this is—[fart noise] This is what death—"

Travis: Maybe he sucks so bad, his friends handed him hemlock, and they were like, "Hey, this is like a wheatgrass shot."

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: And he was like, "Okay, you guys gonna get me out of here?"

"Yeah, yeah, yeah, we got you. But take that wheatgrass shot first."

And then they walk down, like, "Wait, I thought you guys were gonna go help Socrates."

"Oh, we tried. We really tried."

Griffin: Yeah. Alternatively, his friends were like, "Dude, you cannot beef it. That is going to stink."

And he was like, "Well, I have to fucking question that. Damn it!"

Travis: "Damn it! I wasn't gonna— I didn't wanna beef it, but now... ugh!"

Griffin: "Now you're talking about how bad being dead is, and I was like, shit, I gotta question it, right? I'm a great philosopher!" Um...

Justin: Socrates. [pronounced So-crates]

Griffin: So-crates, yeah. Um, "Show humility." Yeah, those ideas don't really mishmash together very well.

Travis: "I don't trust anything you say, but hey, that's just me."

Griffin: "That's just me!"

Justin: "That's just me. My thing is that truth is knowable, and I've got it right in my pocket."

Griffin: The next one is so boring, I don't even wanna talk about it, but "Remember the Socratic paradoxes."

Travis: Yeah. Yeah, obviously, yeah.

Griffin: "Stick to your principles, even in the face of death, as described in *Phedo. Phaedo*." Which I suppose was a good book.

Travis: You all know me. I'm a pretty cool dude, right?

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Very cool.

Travis: If I'm facing death, I'm gonna do whatever it takes to get out of there, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah, sure, sure.

Travis: I'll sign anything. I will say anything. I will make fun of anybody.

And then later, be like, "I didn't. Nope. Not true. I totally didn't."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But anyways, I'm still eating this hamburger right here and loving it!

Griffin: [laughs] Uh, "Be sure to know thyself." That seems— if you're— that's easy.

Travis: Clearly don't, though, because you're like, "I know myself, but I'd rather know myself as Socrates."

Justin: Knowing thyself is a lot easier when no one else really wants you to know them.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: So it frees up a lot of the— "Hey, I don't actually wanna spend that much time letting you get to know me, so you should probably just know yourself. That's probably a better use of your time."

Griffin: Uh, and... "Meet distinguished or influential people." Yeah, that's easy enough.

Travis: Hm! Okay.

Griffin: "Is this Zach Braff? Come hear my cool thoughts! Zach Braff? You're gonna love them!"

Uh, and finally, "Remember that the truth is the most important thing ever, and you must do all you can to find it."

Travis: Well...

Griffin: That's a cool one, because I don't think about things that way even a little bit.

Travis: No. Truth: wildly subjective, and often incredibly hurtful.

Griffin: Well, I mean, it's good to not live in fantasy times where you think that, you know, vaccines don't make you jump as good or whatever...

Travis: True.

Griffin: But there's also so much other cool shit you can do in the world, like ride a roller coaster. Or—

Travis: Or a VR experience.

Griffin: A virtual reality experience.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, I can't dedicate all my time to cracking open the *Shelby Woo Mystery Files*. You know what I mean? I've got a lot on my plate right now.

Travis: Do you think because Socrates didn't eat food with any flavor and didn't own cool shit? That's why he wasn't afraid of death?

Griffin: Mm!

Travis: Because he was like, "What am I even doing?" You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like, "I'm filling my time with talking with you jags. I can't wait to get out of here."

Griffin: One of those stinkers who didn't like it was like, "You never had spices? Dude, you gotta try this one. It's called hemlock. It's got good umami—

Travis: [bursts out laughing]

Griffin: And you know Plato was waiting in the wings, and he was like, "Plato? Is this— you know more about flavors than I do. Is this cool?"

And Plato was like, "Definitely. Go for it, my dude."

Travis: "Yeah, it's delicious. Make way, old man."

"What'd you say?"

"Nothing!"

Griffin: "I've written about a— I've written a cool book about how cool you are even though you're dead, and I'm kind of in— it's in a holding pattern, for obvious reasons."

Travis: [laughs] "A lot of publishers interested, just waiting for the finish."

Griffin: "Waiting for..."

Travis: "For the... ending."

Justin: I would love to— we're gonna take a quick break right now. I wanna stop doing the hard part of this job...

Travis: Okay.

Justin: ...and do the easy part, which is selling. Which is my true passion.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Is products. So let's do this now, in a little segment we tend to call the Money Zone.

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

Travis: Wrap yourself in the dream. That's right; I'm telling you about Brooklinen. And here's what's great: is when you say Brooklinen, right? It kind of sounds like Brooklyn. You ever notice that?

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy, spokesperson and best friend of Brooklinen. They told me that they like me better than anyone else.

Griffin: Makes sense.

Travis: And it's because I sleep on their sheets. Not by force, like no one's making me do it; I *chose* to do it.

Griffin: That is what you would have to say, though.

Travis: No, Griffin, I promise you, of my own volition and free will, I sleep on Brooklinen sheets.

Griffin: Still things that you would say if being sort of...

Travis: No one is here making me. No one's standing right next to me, telling me what to say with an earpiece and like, some written notes that are scrawled in an angry hand, right? I am choosing to say, of my own experience, how *comfortable* and life-changing Brooklinen can be.

Justin: A lot of people think that their sheets don't stink.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: But maybe yours do, and you should check out Brooklinen.

Griffin: Yeah, that's good.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Hi, I'm Justin McElroy.

Griffin: Travis— Travis, take a backseat. Juice has got it from here, I think.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: We got a lot of ads to get through, and honestly, Travis is taking too long. These are great sheets— if you don't think so, you don't know fuck all about comfort. And Brooklinens are great to give as a gift. Once you experience it, it is an actual moral sin to not wanna share it with other people you love.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: I love every Brooklinen thing I've ever owned more than my next breath. I mean, it is—

Travis: More than Zach Braff.

Justin: More than Zach Braff. More than Braff Zachary. Uh, more than *Scrubs*. Uh...

Travis: What?!

Justin: I'm sorry, that's just the way I feel. Go— there's a gift guide, so you can find the perfect present from Brooklinen at any price point. You just go to brooklinen.com, use the promo code "my brother," and you get 20 dollars off with the minimum purchase of 100 dollars! That's brooklinen.com and enter promo code "my brother." Brooklinen.com, promo code "my brother!"

Travis: Justin, now that we're out of the ad, do you wanna take back what you said about *Scrubs*?

Justin: Uh, yeah, I actually— they're not paying me anymore, so *Scrubs* is the best, better than new sheets.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: I'm assuming they've already stopped listening, so...

Griffin: Clothes go on your body, and make you look cool. They make you look not like everybody else, who's wearing different clothes. Your clothes are gonna be better than theirs, though, 'cause you're getting them from Stitch Fix.

Stitch Fix is the best, because you don't have to go to a building where you're like, "Here's a million shirts! Most of them won't fit you good."

And you're like, "Fuck."

They do a quiz for you, but like a fun quiz, where they're like, "What do you like? What size is everything?" And you tell them, and then you get clothes specifically for your body, your style. They also have Stitch Fix freestyle where you can just pick stuff yourself from a range of over 1,000 brands personalized, though, to your size and fit. And there's no subscription required; they offer free shipping, returns, and exchanges. You gotta do it. You gotta do it.

I got a Stitch Fix box waiting for me downstairs I haven't cracked open yet. Stoked out of my gourd. Get started today by filling out your style quiz at stitchfix.com/mybrother. That's stitchfix.com/mybrother to try Stitch Fix freestyle. [Stitchfix.com/mybrother](http://stitchfix.com/mybrother).

Travis: Now, listen, we're gonna talk about ZipRecruiter here, um, and ZipRecruiter— listen. It's not fun looking for a job. We've all done it, and you know what, I'm gonna say it, it huffs farts, right?

Griffin: Yeah, big time.

Travis: And ZipRecruiter has encouraged us now to talk about things we'd rather do instead of looking for a job. And I would rather...

Justin: Here he goes. Get out of his way.

Travis: ...eat the Space Needle slowly, one bite at a time, over 10 years. Than look for a job. But now that I said that, I think eventually I could probably turn that into money or get arrested. I don't even know, you know?

Griffin: Right.

Travis: You know? Like... [sighs]

Griffin: Definitely. So quick— I'm gonna do a really fun game right here for our listeners. If you can tell me what this ad is about – like, what the company this ad is for – after the last minute of this show, and it hasn't just completely glazed over and lost your— like, exited your brain? I will send you— I will send you \$2.50. 'Cause there's no way— like, I'm part of the show, and *I* forget what the advertiser is.

Travis: It's about how to eat the Space Needle!

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah. But like, what's the company that gives us...

Justin: The ad, the person who wrote the check.

Travis: Oh, right, right, right, right, right. Well, it's ZipRecruiter, and, you know, it doesn't have to be boring to look for a job. They figured out how to make the job process better and a lot easier when you sign up for ziprecruiter.com/easy – it's right there – you can create a free profile and get matched to great jobs. Plus, ZipRecruiter will proactively pitch your profile to employers whose jobs match your experience. Which is amazing, right?

You don't have to do all the work; they're here, helping you. Unlike other job sites, if an actual person from the company really likes what they see, they can personally invite you to apply for their job. Plus, if you like the job, you could apply to it and many others with just one click. It's that easy. So what are you waiting for if you want an easy job search? Sign up for free on ziprecruiter.com/easy today, and put ZipRecruiter to work for you.

Justin: There's no better place to start. [Ziprecruiter.com/easy](https://www.ziprecruiter.com/easy) today.

[jazzy music plays in background]

Renee: Well, hello. I'm Renee Colvert.

Alexis: Hi, I'm Alexis Preston, and we're the hosts of *Can I Pet Your Dog?*

Renee: And we got breaking news: we got an expose. All the beans have been spilled via an Apple podcast review that said, "This show isn't well-researched!"

Alexis: [sarcastic gasp]

Renee: Well, yeah, no duh.

Of course, it's not just— not since the day we started has it been well-researched. Guessing and anthropomorphizing dogs is what we do.

Alexis: The *Can I Pet Your Dog?* promise is that we will never do more than 10 seconds of research before telling you excitedly about any dog we see.

Renee: I'm gonna come at you with top-10 enthusiasm, minimal facts.

Alexis: We're here for a good time, not an educated time.

Renee: So if you love dogs, and you don't love research, well, you know what, come on in! The *Can I Pet Your Dog?* podcast, every Tuesday on Maximum Fun network.

[music and advertisement end]

Justin: [softly] Hey, now that ZipRecruiter's gone, you remember when we said they told us we could talk about things we'd rather do other than look for a job.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: They included four examples, and the second one is: eat dry, salty crackers. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah. Do they know?

Griffin: Do they know about you and the stuff you're into?

Travis: Do they know about your dry sensibilities?

Justin: [holding back laughter] That's like somebody who's never struggled. [laughs] I feel like it's— this was written by someone who's never had an actual challenge in their life. 'Cause like, eating dry, salty crackers, that might not even be a negative.

Griffin: Yeah. Some people— some people like those.

Travis: I mean, they also included watching a documentary about sea slugs, which I would happily do. They're fascinating creatures.

Griffin: Yeah. And like, it also says to hear about my mother-in-law's bunion surgery, which like, sorry that I'm concerned? About—

Travis: Yeah, sorry that I love my mother so much and she's in pain and she had *surgery*.

Justin: Yeah, but [half-hearted, soft guitar noises]

Travis: What?

Justin: I said, uh, [makes rock guitar noises]. [howls] [continues guitar]. I wanna munch!

Travis: Squad!

Griffin: Squad!

Justin: [continues and ends guitar sounds] Welcome to Munch Squad. It's a podcast within a podcast profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating. It is no longer being sunset. It has been revived for season five, so I'm so excited to—

Travis: Now on Netflix. It's been picked up, it's now streaming. It wasn't right for broadcast television anymore, but thanks to all of you who sent in your old, uh, hamburger wrappers. They've picked it up on Quibi.

Justin: Arby's—I just wanted to—this is quick, just like, Arby's is gonna launch boneless wings for a limited time this week.

Griffin: Neat!

Justin: And I just wanna say, like, they've already got nuggets.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: So actually, fuck off.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like, they've actually— this kind of thing real—[strangled noises].

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: I think that was a—

Justin: [dramatic Dracula voice] Hey, boys! Hello, sorry, I had to take care of Justin...

Griffin: Two in a row!

Travis: Count Donut!

Justin: Well, he's a very regular.

Travis: And also, Griffin, a limited window where we get Count Donut on and it makes any kind of sense.

Griffin: That's fair.

[paper rustling noises]

Travis: Oh! Got—

Justin: Oh, boys, you're never going to— I've got a pa— this is breaking. It's for you. I'm very frustrated, and when I'm angry, I don't always sound like myself. So I'm going to bring the energy down, but know I'm holding back the rage with everything in my body.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Alright, what's— what—

Justin: I'm Count Donut.

Griffin: Yeah, we—

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: We know, yeah.

Justin: I'm called and summoned, if you will, when donut news is breaking in this segment. And last—

Travis: Is the killing of Justin part of that, or is that just for funsies?

Justin: I inhabit Justin's body...

Travis: Ah.

Justin: And I need it to function.

Travis: Huh!

Justin: Here's the thing—

Travis: That's a new wrinkle in the vampire kind of mythology, isn't it?

Justin: Le—[laughs] Well, it's Justin-centric. Me and Richard Stink...

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: ...share the vessel that we need.

Travis: Huh!

Justin: Last week, I actually bumped into Richard in here. It was awkward. We share a nice cup of tea. It was pleasant.

Travis: You know, people often ask, "Can I just start at the latest episode of *My Brother, My Brother and Me*?"

And I would say like, "Oh, you'll be so confused without all the backstory of the different things that inhabit Justin's body." But go on.

Justin: The mythology— so you must think I brought you the incredible story of all the different Halloween donuts...

Travis: Yeah, Krispy Skreme.

Justin: Krispy Skre—[shocked noises] You scared me with that!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I wasn't even ready for it, and you scared me. Well, I was ready to go back into my coffin and die for another year.

Travis: In Justin's body?

Justin: No, the spirit is in a coffin.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: It comes out.

Griffin: It's like you don't know fucking anything, Travis.

Travis: I'm just trying to catch it up for people at home, Griffin.

Justin: But then someone lays across my desk that I have, which is my coffin. [laughs]

Travis: Okay.

Justin: I'm in my coffin.

Griffin: I like that. Are you like, doing like a tiny house, and you just like, you're very sort of...

Justin: It's a coffin, which is a tiny house, yes.

Griffin: Oh, so it's just sort of all-in-one living... or un-living experience.

Justin: If you're trying to ask me if I poop in there, I'll never tell.

Griffin: It sounds like you do, though?

Justin: [wheezes, laughs]

Griffin: But you definitely— so okay.

Justin: This is killing me. Let me get this off my chest.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Tim Horton. Do you know this man?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah!

[papers rustle]

Justin: Canadian.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: [laughing softly]

Justin: I think he's a hockey player. They did the name after him.

They put out an announcement on October 19th that they have a Halloween sprinkle donut, and I am so furious at these guys.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] This Halloween sprinkled donut. So festive, yes? It's available October 27th.

Travis: Huh!

Justin: Begins October 27th, this Halloween, sprinkle donut.

Griffin: But you don't want—

Justin: Listen to this— listen to this!

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: For your Halloween spirit... "Tim Horton's US restaurants are celebrating Halloween this year with all treats and no tricks." I would say it's mean trick to wait until October 27!

"The Halloween sprinkle donut is a classic yeast-ring donut dipped in chocolate fondant and topped with festive... orange sprinkles." [dramatically, sarcastic] Oh, my! Chilling!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: What a festive thing you've done! It's chocolate *with orange sprinkles*?!

Griffin: That's a little too much for me, even.

Justin: You're in the spirit now, oh boy. And you say it's available for three whole days. Oh, boy! Look at the— look at the Frankenstein over here, really getting into it.

"This festive donut will make the perfect sweet to serve at Halloween parties, or a delicious treat to enjoy while carving pumpkins and making costumes." [wheezes, laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: This person definitely forgot about Halloween.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's what they're saying. They *definitely* forgot. "Oh, yeah, we've got one, it's good. Wait until you hear about it; it's available in the week, and it's a chocolate donut with orange sprinkles!"

Travis: We've been working on this one for a *while*.

Justin: Yeah. "The R and D." The D stands for death. They really spook you out with this one. It's a real crazy, scary donut. You wouldn't believe it. They *definitely* forgot, Tim. Just say, put out and announcement that says, "Oops!"

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: "Oops, we didn't do Halloween this year. [wheezes] I hope you'll— in these challenging times, we forgot to do this Halloween donut. You don't— don't try." I'm furious. This is what I want to say. This is all.

It's a terrible donut, but the good news is it's not available for very long! So anyway, I'm back to the beyond! Goodbye, boys!

Griffin: I'm not— wait, okay.

Travis: B— bye!

Griffin: How does he bring Justin back—

Justin: Do you need me, or...?

Griffin: I just— I don't want to let them.

Justin: I— you know, I don't just do donut stuff. I have a lot of great— you guys want to talk about *Dune*? It's coming out this—

Griffin: Yeah, tell me your vampire talk about *Dune*.

Travis: Oh, you're a big *Dune* fan? Yeah.

Justin: I wanted to read the book, but who's got the time?

Griffin: Yeah, maybe you should go.

Justin: My joke was goo— I had the— it was because I'm immortal, you see, so...

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Oh, I didn't get it at first, but now I definitely do. Awesome!

Justin: More of a—that’s the kind of comedy I do. More thinkers. [makes screaming sounds]

Travis: I loved your standup sets— oh, okay.

Justin: [normal voice] He’s gone. Hey, I’m back. I’m getting used to it, being— you know what? Weirdly? Soccertes?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I get it!

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: It’s not too bad, honestly, being basically dead. It’s not bad.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Cool. Cool thing.

Justin: I no longer fear it!

Travis: How about another question?

Griffin: Can I read another question? I never get to read a question.

Justin: Yeah, I’d love that.

Travis: Hold on. Are you ready for this level of responsibility, Griffin?

Griffin: I mean, I’m... I read and make up bullshit questions throughout the show—

Travis: Well, that’s a different, isn’t it? `Cause now you’re using real people’s real words.

Griffin: Here it comes.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: “My cousin is getting on Halloween this year. Small family wedding, vaccine required, all chill.” Thank you for including that, `cause I was ready to... judge. “The invitation does not list any dress code, and I have no idea how much Halloween cheer I should bring to the event. The couple is very nerdy, into board games, D&D, video games, et cetera, but they’re not specifically Halloween nerdy. They chose Halloween because my cousin’s birthday is on April Fool’s day, so they thought it would be

cool if their anniversary was also on a pseudo-holiday. They're even getting married on a classy beach."

Travis: Oh.

Griffin: "Surely, I don't just wear a normal dress to a Halloween wedding, but a costume... also has to be out of the question, right? Can I get away with a fancy witch's hat, a cape, a broom?" From *Confounded in California*.

Justin: Uh, this a— this one was tough. I don't know— absolutely no idea.

Travis: Yeah. I don't know anything about weddings, or Halloween or clothes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I uh— oh, you know who I could call?

Travis: Who?

Justin: Mr. Halloween himself!

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: The king of horror, as I call him!

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: The king of podcasting horror.

Travis: The duke of doom!

Justin: The duke of doom, the [through laughter] sultan of scares.

Travis: Yeah. And SWAT.

Griffin: Five more. Five more of them, please.

Justin: No, I'm good. Joseph Fink, he's one of the *Night Vale* guys. There's a lot— they've got a— they got a whole writer's room over there, but he's one of them.

Hold on, I have a yellow book of fellow New York Times bestselling authors. Let me look through this.

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: Oh, no, that's Hank Green.

Justin: F...

[pages flipping]

Griffin: If you can't find it, let's just do Dan Brown?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: No, no, here he is. Here he is. I'll call him. [makes beeping noises]

Joseph: Hi, this is Mr. Halloween, the king of horror podcasting.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Hey, Joseph.

Justin: Hey, Joseph, it's uh— you don't— it's Justin McElroy. Uh, my brothers and I do... a different podcast, *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, I don't know if you've...

Travis: We were at PodCon together.

Joseph: Yeah, at PodCon.

Griffin: It's like a not-scary... uh—

Joseph: Oh, not— sure, not scary podcast.

Griffin: Yeah, not all podcasts are— are supposed to be scary ghostly tales.

Travis: Ours is— ours is for babies.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Exactly.

Justin: Uh, so you've been kind of the king of horror for years now. What would you... we have advice on our show, and we had someone ask us what they would wear to a Halloween wedding, and we were curious what would be an appropriately ghoulish ensemble for that kind of thing.

Joseph: Yeah, I mean, I— through the ether, I heard the question, and I—

Justin: That must be so distracting, you living your daily life hearing all podcast questions.

Griffin: The real Bruce Almighty, but for podcast bullshit.

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Joseph: I just wanna first address “pseudo-holiday.”

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: Yeah.

Joseph: “Pseudo-holiday!?”

Travis: Mm!

Griffin: Yeah.

Joseph: Like... like, it’s Halloween. This isn’t— this isn’t— I mean, April Fool’s Day I get, but... Hallow— like, respect Halloween.

Travis: I do understand, because as far as I know, not a federal holiday. You don’t get Halloween off from your job.

Justin: It’s—

Griffin: I mean, it’s one of the big three. It’s a huge holiday.

Joseph: I will tell you, as a Jew, that there are a lot of important holidays you do not get off.

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah.

Travis: That is fair. That’s an excellent point.

And, you know, I said that. You don’t technically get off work, but nothing gets done on Halloween in the workplace, right? Everybody’s...

Griffin: Oh, sure.

Travis: They’re eating candy and wearing costumes and doing fun games, I assume.

Justin: I mean, on a day when your sister can turn into a bat...

Travis: Right.

Justin: ...and gremlins can mess up all your cassettes, like, how are you supposed to get any work done?

Griffin: It's too scary, yeah.

Travis: Anything could happen.

Justin: Way too scary.

Joseph: Uh, to address the question, though, I feel like we need—

Justin: You don't actually have to do that.

Griffin: We rarely do.

Justin: But if you wanna take a swing at it for the novelty, please go ahead.

Griffin: [laughs]

Joseph: Well, they found the answer, I think, themselves, which is an elegant witch's hat. That's perfect for most occasions.

Travis: This is true.

Justin: What if you go indoors, though? What if there's an indoors portion of the wedding, and you have to take it off, and you just have matted witch-hat hair. And you don't—

Travis: Well, you have a smaller hat underneath.

Justin: Okay, okay.

Griffin: Or an owl.

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: No one's noticing your hair at that point.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And if they do, then blame it on the owl!

Griffin: Yeah. "Sorry about my hair, guys."

Joseph: Now I'm just picturing, like, the national anthem happens, and someone has to take off their elegant witch's hat, and hold—

Justin: You know Disney bounding, where people dress—

Travis: Yes!

Justin: Like, you're not allowed to wear costumes to the parks, so people will dress up in outfits inspired by characters that they...

Travis: You are reading my mind.

Justin: So like, for— for Winnie the Pooh, you would wear like, a red t-shirt, and like...

Travis: And no pants.

Griffin: No pants. [laughs] Your gennies are just hanging.

Justin: Yeah. So for this, I think you wanna do like... Halloween bounding.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Where it's like, doffing your cap to Frankenstein, you know what I mean? Like, an elegant bolt on your— two elegant bolts on your neck.

Travis: Listen, I'm just gonna say two words that you could Halloween bound. Sanderson Sisters. Right there, a little *Hocus Pocus* action? Those dresses could easily, *easily* translate to an elegant... now, it is a beach wedding, so maybe not an elegant ball gown, which is what I was gonna say...

Griffin: This is what fucks me up, is it— that's the least terrifying environment, unless you are afraid of sea creatures as I am, but I doubt that there's gonna be a swimming portion of the wedding, right? So like, it's not gonna be— it's tonally strange.

Travis: Yes. Could you— could you— could you Halloween bound, like, a mermaid or a shark or a shark victim...

Joseph: The creature of the black lagoon.

Justin: Yes, possible. Good idea.

Travis: Something very aquatic.

Uh, dis— maybe just dress as a shell, and you're laying on the beach the whole time. They're like, "I can't believe that Sandy didn't make it."

And then boom—

Justin: I'm sorry, wait, wait, wait.

Travis: Yeah, I know. Yes, I know.

Justin: Is it Sandy because you were thinking beach, so Sandy's the name you got to?

Travis: Yeah... yeah, it is, Justin.

Justin: Nothing wrong with that.

Travis: Thank you. Okay. And then the Shell pops up to you too— I could've said Shelly. Damn it!

Griffin: If you have a wedding on Halloween, I feel like you have to address that...

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: ...in the invitations. You have been set up to fail here. You should've mentioned invitations— look, we know what day this is. Do not show up dressed up like a big Pikachu.

Travis: That's fucked up. I think it is morally indefensible to have a wedding on a day that is most well-known here in the US as a day that one dresses in costume, and to say, "I expect you be there and not in costume."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like, that feel— that feel— then why did you do it— unless you just decided to get married two weeks ago, right? And then, otherwise, you knew... you planned it on Halloween. Just do it on Thanksgiving or something. Like...

Griffin: No, it's a weird thing, yeah, that's sort of the premise of... the show.

Travis: Oh, right, right.

Joseph: Here's where I'm at. It's like... fellas, we've all been married.

Travis: Yeah.

Joseph: It's a day of joy, it's a very happy day.

Justin: Yeah.

Joseph: So like, you know, someone shows up dressed up as a giant Pikachu, I'm fine with that! That's an expression of joy. Like, what, am I gonna be upset about someone doing something they love on this joyful day?

Travis: Well, I guess the real question, Joseph, is would you let them into the pictures?

Justin: That is a fucking actually fantastic question.

Griffin: My friend Eric came to our wedding, and this was during a period where he had, I would say, the most perverted mustache...

All: [burst out laughing]

Griffin: ...any human being has ever grown on his face. And this was for— he had this mustache for two months? So it was not like, iconic Eric pervert mustache, it was like, something he grew on a dare, and then is in every single one of the, like, crowd shots of the wedding photos.

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Griffin: And it's like, it's hard not to— when you look at, "Ah, there's my Nonny, and she's talking to our friends, that's so—" Ah, fuck.

Justin: There he is.

Griffin: Look at— there he is. He's gonna steal my grandma with that mustache.

Travis: This is especially— this occurs to me now— especially, question asker, if you decide to go with a very topical costume, and you're like, "Get it? I'm from *Squid Game!*" Or whatever. And then, like, 20 years from now...

Griffin: Oh, my God, yes.

Travis: ...this person's kids are like, looking at the photos, and like, "This is so beautif— what is that?"

And you're like, "Oh, it was from— oh, what was that? Uh..."

Justin: Joseph, what's your favorite character from your own podcast to cosplay as?

Travis: Good question.

Joseph: Uh, I like, uh, Cecil, because no one knows what he looks like, so I am always cosplaying as Cecil at all times.

Griffin: Oh. It's possible that all of us are.

Joseph: Yeah.

Justin: Woah!

Travis: Woah!

Justin: I got it. I got it. I got it!

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: Mamoru Chiba, Tuxedo Mask!

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: Tuxedo Mask, of *Sailor Moon* fame. You go as Tuxedo Mask. You arrive, elegant cape. Tuxedo.

Travis: Nice. Yes.

Justin: Everyone's loving it.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: White mask— in your pocket?

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: And then you get there and you check the vibe. You have the rose in the back pocket.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: You are ready to dress out, if the situation is one where Tuxedo Mask would be appropriate. If not, you leave the mask in your pocket, and you're just someone in a very elegant tuxedo.

Griffin: Right, sure. What I like about that is it addresses my concern, which is the inverse sort of fear, which is that you show up in your, you know, Sunday best, but then you show up and *everybody's* Squid Game and Pikachu.

Travis: Yup.

Griffin: And you're like, "Shit, I didn't realize we were having fun with this one, 'cause it's a wedding."

Travis: Oh, okay, wait. This isn't an answer for the question asker, but if you are a wedding thrower, and you are ever in this exact situation, instead of one side for one participant and one side for another, you have a side of the audience for costumes, and a side of the audience for squares.

Griffin: That's good!

Travis: And then you get two photographers, one angling from the square side...

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: Oh, and you? Oh, the two participants? You're wearing half-costume, half-wedding clothes, so that when they take pictures from this side, it's all wedding, baby. And then pictures from this side, all spooky Halloween fun.

Justin: Hey, Joseph, do you got a new book coming out?

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: This person— we had this person. You have a new book coming out?

Joseph: That's a good question. I do, uh—

Travis: You often do.

Justin: Thank you. That answers my question. Thank you, Joseph, and thanks for coming on.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: So glad that you could—

Travis: No, wait, I need to know the title of it so that I can sleep tonight.

Justin: Yeah, that makes sense.

Joseph: Ah, it's called *The Halloween Moon*, coincidentally...

Travis: [gasps]

Joseph: And it's a middle-grade novel about Halloween and the experience of trick-or-treating and then also the experience of when Halloween night never ends, and just keeps going and going, and time gets stuck, and you have to uh, save the day because you're stuck in Halloween forever. Uh, it's out now. It's a great time to read it. It's for ages 10 and up, but I think adult fans who like the spooky and maybe like *Welcome to Night Vale* will enjoy it too.

Travis: Who read the audio?

Joseph: Oh, Kevin R. Free, who plays Kevin in *Welcome to Night Vale* is just a truly wonderful performer.

Travis: Oh, excellent. That sounds very good.

Griffin: Is this a follow-up to *Mr. Blew-up Bone Clowns Scarifying Adventure*, your last...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: ...your last book?

Joseph: I think of it more as a spiritual sequel.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [through laughter] So you're saying there's ghosts in it.

Griffin: 'Cause the Mr. Bone Clown series, like, usually you get his name... in the end title, so I was confused about this one.

Justin: [laughing very loudly]

Joseph: Really, I felt like trying something new.

Travis: Joseph, are you getting ready to pull 'em all together with the references from one book appearing in the other series, until eventually

you, the author, appear in one, and like, reveal it's all been connected and springing forth from your mind?

Joseph: Uh, yes. It's uh— it's the shared Finkaverse.

Travis: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: Joseph, you wrote— if I can— let me check my...

[papers rustling]

Justin: Yeah, this is— 37 *Scare Gobblers* books for kids, and you're finally departing from the *Scare Gobblers* series. Why is this— I guess, why is the Halloween moon available now not in the *Scare Gobblers* franchise?

Joseph: Uh, in answer to your question. I'm just gonna tell you my favorite anecdote I ever heard from the *Goosebumps* guy. I was listening to an interview with R.L. Stine, in which he was talking about a fan letter he got after having written I think over 200 books? And the fan letter said, "I've read all of your books, and they're all terrible."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [bursts out laughing]

Travis: That's commitment to the bit, isn't it?

Justin: You think R.L. Stine's one guy?

Griffin: Woah.

Justin: Oh, you think of it like a Shakespeare thing?

Joseph: That Shakespeare wrote them?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That Shakespeare wrote—

Travis: Shakespeare wrote *Goosebumps*.

Justin: Uh, hey, *The Halloween Moon* is good. I love all of your books, Joseph. You know that after I read one of your books, I like to tell you that I liked it, and this, I'm sure, will be no exception for all of our listeners. They're gonna love it. You know what I love? Joseph wrote a book called *The First Ten Years* with uh, his wife, Meg Bashwiner in it. That's a very good book as well. It's uh, both of them recalling their

relationship independently, and how those stories overlap. It's very touching and lovely, and I love that book too. So if you— if you read *The Halloween Moon* and you want something exactly like it, um...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Check out that book as well.

Joseph: Thank you so much, guys.

Justin: And *Night Vale*. You guys still doing that? I feel like—

Joseph: Yeah!

Travis: [laughs]

Joseph: We're about to hit our 10-year anniversary.

Justin: Yeah, we're in that club where it's like, we very justifiably, if people hear about either of our podcasts. I think "Are you guys still doing that?" is a completely legitimate response to *My Brother, My Brother and Me* and *Night Vale*.

Joseph: A tweet I get literally weekly, if not daily, is, "Wait, *Night Vale* is still happening?"

Griffin: It's better than ever. Now's the best time to hop on board, wouldn't you agree?

Justin: What do you tell people if they're like, "Where do I start—" 'Cause you don't wanna go back— I mean, you'd have to go back to the beginning? Do y'all ever do that? Do you ever do like Marvel does, and do like a universe reset?

Joseph: Our argument is always you can start wherever, because yes, it's confusing if you start at episode 170, but it's also confusing if you start at episode 1. You'll get it eventually. Just start where you want.

Travis: I like to start in the middle, and listen out. So like, listen to one next, and one before. And keep going like that.

Justin: Oh, that's nice.

Travis: And then back in until the universe collapses in on itself.

Justin: That's cool.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Joseph, this has always— is always being a treat. Listen to Joseph's work, and read Joseph's work, and support him, 'cause he's a real solid person.

Travis: Joseph, can I tell you something I've never told you before, and we've known each other for years now?

Joseph: Yeah.

Travis: I didn't want to miss this opportunity to tell you. When I started listening to *Night Vale*, I thought for a long, long time, I thought Joseph Fink was a character that you created to play at the beginning of every episode introducing it. I did not realize you were a real person for many years.

Joseph: A lot of people did, because we did this— we did this fun joking thing, where we had multiple pretend to be— be like, "Hi, I'm Joseph Fink." And I just thought it would be a fun way to get people to listen to the ads. And then it turned into... yeah, people...

Griffin: That's actually— Joseph Fink is his SAG name, um, because there already was a Joey Funk, which is...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Which is his real name. Um, yeah.

Justin: And then Joey Funk changed to Bruno Mars, which is very frustrating.

Griffin: It's very upsetting.

Justin: 'Cause you could've just stayed Joey Funk.

Travis: And the original Joseph Fink had to change his name to Finkasaurus Rex, but all of his albums are available on Spotify now, so...

Justin: Yeah, get there. Hey, Joseph, thanks for— for everything. Thanks for being here. Thanks for the help.

Joseph: Thank you so much for having me. This was fun.

Justin: Boy, can you take "This was fun" just one more time, but really put a little bit—

All: [burst out laughing]

Justin: I can feel— if you could just give me, like, one more punch-up of that.

Joseph: Thank you so much for having me. [yelling] This was fun!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Much better.

Justin: Much better. Maniacal.

Joseph: [laughing quietly]

Justin: Thank you so much to Joseph Fink. His new book, *The Halloween Moon* is available now, along with all of his other books. And if you don't listen to *Welcome to Night Vale*, you really actually should.

Travis: What are you even doing? It's good and funny and good. Uh, we have an *Adventure Zone* live show. It's live and virtual, November 5th. So make sure you get your tickets to that, 'cause it's gonna be an absolute blast. November 5th, 9:00 PM Eastern Time. Tickets are only 10 dollars. It is the third installment of *Adventure Zone: Hootenanny*, with your favorite space-age country band. Um, tickets are available at bit.ly/tazvirtual, and even if you can't make it to that November 5th 9:00 PM Eastern Time show, video on demand will be available for two weeks after the show.

Speaking of tickets, get your tickets for our Emerald City Comic Con show. They go on sale Thursday, October 28th, at noon Pacific Time. That is some shows in Seattle at the Emerald City Comic Con convention. *My Brother, My Brother and Me* December 2nd, and *TAZ* on December 3rd. Both shows will be general attendance, so no assigned seating, but there will be ADA seating available. You don't need an Emerald City Comic Con badge to buy tickets to these shows, and it's also important to note, Emerald City Comic Con safety protocols require full proof of vaccination or recent negative COVID test to attend. Full safety protocols are available. If you want to see what all of those are, at bit.ly/ecccsafety. That's E, followed by three C's, and the word "safety." In addition, masks are required while on the premises, and capacity will be reduced. For more info including all full health and safety protocols, as well as ticket links, you can go to bit.ly/mcelroytour.

Justin: Oh, we got a pin of the month. It's Hell Raven, which is Del Kraven, benefiting the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice, which builds Latina and Latinx power to fight for the fundamental human right to reproductive health, dignity, and justice.

We got TAZ notebooks.

Travis: Yup.

Justin: We got Candles wrapping paper.

Travis: Yup.

Justin: I mean, it's like... just go to mcelroymerch.com, and rub your wallet on the screen, and get ready.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah. We got some... [laughs] some stuff coming, too, that I'm really excited about.

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, don't save your—

Justin: Don't save your money.

Griffin: [sarcastically] Thanks Travis.

Travis: Don't save your money!

Justin: Just make more money.

Travis: Just give that to us.

Griffin: Hey, thank you, Montaigne, for the use of our theme song. It's called "My Life (Is Better With You)!" You can find that in— in any sort of music bi— like, through that you go to, to get the music that you get. Um, and while you're out there, you gotta check out this new track from Montaigne.

Justin: Now in space.

Griffin: Now in space. The music video is on YouTube, and it's so fucking good. It's—

Travis: It feels like Montaigne made the music video for the three of us to enjoy.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: It feels like a DM music video, and it's so fucking good. It's been stuck in my head all day. It's a top-bop. Um, and that's it. Y'all want the final?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh, real quick.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: If you are listening to this, and you enjoy *Great British Bake On*, Teresa and I have been doing a watch and kind of discussion podcast of *Great British Bake On*. This is season two—

Griffin: It's called *Great British Bake*— you're so deep in it.

Travis: Off! Oh, yeah, it's called *Great British Bake Off*, but the name of the show is *Bake On*, uh, and you know, we're covering the new season. If you wanna check that out, just search for *Bake On* in your podcatcher, and enjoy!

Griffin: Um, okay, y'all want the final?

Travis: Yes, please.

Justin: Oh, yeah!

Griffin: This one was sent in by ALF. [laughs]

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: I want you guys to know that sometimes I just start— I say like, a phonetic sound, and just try to build it in real time, and ALF—

Travis: I was surprised by that revelation, Griff.

Griffin: Oh, okay. Cool, cool, cool. And by that, I mean I—

Travis: You can hear— you can actually hear your loading screen in your brain as you do it. [laughs]

Griffin: So yeah, so ALF sent this in. Thanks, ALF. It's asked by Yahoo Answer Den... t? Dennet? Dennis?

Travis: Den-es!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Den-es!

Griffin: Den-es Quaid. Um...

Justin: [laughs loudly]

Griffin: It's wild that— it like, specifically says here to say Den-es Quaid.

Travis: So we've all been saying it wrong all these years!

Griffin: We've all been wrong, and Den-es Quaid says, um— Den-es Quaid asks...

Travis: Yeah?

Griffin: I'm having trouble reading, 'cause it— I'm translating it from Sanskrit.

Travis: Oh, really?

Griffin: Yeah, I didn't even know Yahoo allowed you do to Sanskrit. Den-es Quaid asks, um, "Are there— does anyone have tickets for sale for the big... New Years Eve Hoobastank concert? I'm trying to get out there, but I don't have as much sway as I used to."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Thank you. Thanks for your support.

Justin: [laughs] This has been *My Brother, My*—

Griffin: Love Dennis Quaid.

Justin: My name's 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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