

MBMBaM 585: One Year Closer to Salsa

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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, [laughs] Justin McElroy.

Griffin: [laughs]

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

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] This is baby brother, Griffin McElroy. I just learned what you all were talking about that we should do for the intro, and it's like I've fallen down a well. A delicious pizza well.

Justin: It's all great.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs] It's all great.

Travis: You guys remember this Papa John guy? [giggles]

Griffin: Okay, so let's start. Justin, why don't you start us off on a good foot?

Justin: I just... it is— it is weird— it is weird...

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: ...that *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, a comedy advice show, has like, a supervillain, you know what I mean?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It's weird that— it's weird that we have a Sinestro...

Griffin: Yeah, for sure.

Travis: Yeah. Yeah.

Justin: ...it's like, countering our energy with his own energy. Uh, Papa John Schnactor, who [laughs] probably still calls himself that.

Griffin: [laughs] I don't think it's Schnactor, but I do like the—

Justin: Schnatter. It's John Schnatter.

Griffin: Schnatter.

Justin: John Schnatter— Schnactor is when he's hungry. [laughs] Papa John Schnatter needs a Shnacktor.

Griffin: Papa John need a schnackt.

Justin: [laughs] He's still obsessed with Papa John's, because he's Papa John or was Papa John until they stripped him of his title. Papa John, the— the pizza chain that includes ratty old banana peppers, and garlic grease...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: ...in every pizza. [crosstalk] too nasty.

Travis: It has always seemed like they just spilled some banana peppers in the box, and were too lazy to clean it up.

Justin: Yeah, I can't get these out of here. I can't get these banana peppers out of here.

So this dude—[laughs] this dude did an interview with Bloomberg Business Week, and this is the— and credit to them, big ups to Devin Leonard and the whole team over there, because the very first quote of this piece is—if you don't know about Papa John, by the way, he was ousted from the company, Papa John's, that he founded, for being an absolute shitbird.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: End of story. "It was a crucifixion," says John Schnatter.

Griffin: [growing laughter]

Travis: Sure.

Griffin: He's—

Justin: "It was unethical. It was immoral. It was evil." Yes, folks, [yelling] they crucified Papa John!

Griffin: He calls it an "unethical" crucifixion, as opposed to, you know, all those ethical crucifixions going around.

Justin: All those chill crucifixions that you've read about in your fairytales.

Griffin: [laughs] Holy shit.

Travis: Let me say—

Justin: "Aggressive elite left wouldn't let me say the N word while I made pepperoni pizza, and it was a crucifixion!"

Griffin: I mean...

Travis: Here's the— okay. The one thing that struck me, as soon as I saw the title of the piece of "Papa John is still obsessed with Papa John's," that's the one thing about Papa John Schnacter that I thought, "Yeah! Yeah, I get that!"

If there was a restaurant out there that I started called Travis McElroy's...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...and then Travis McElroy's kicked me out, I'd still think of Travis McElroy's from time to time.

Griffin: From time to time, yes. Would you refer to yourself as unethically crucified?

Travis: No! No, probably not. I think maybe I might say, like, "I was justifiably crucified. I get it!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Yeah, absolutely!"

Griffin: He blames it on the upper elite left progressive. And I don't know about me being an upper elite, but I'm certainly a left progressive, and I have fucked around with Papa John's pizza and his garlic dippims from time to time in my youth, not so much these days. And even then, when I heard the news, big news about Papa John Schnacter saying the

bad word on the call and then getting immediately fired, my response was: "Pretty fucking cool!"

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Even though I'm— you don't have to be elite or progressive to look at this man and say, "I'm glad he got it."

Justin: I mean, the—[grunts] this whole thing— so like, here's the timeline on this dude: in December 2017, Papa John was complaining that their shareholders were being harmed by the NFL because they didn't punish black players for protesting racism enough.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And then immediately after that, he was like, "Okay, well, I have thought about it, and I've retired as the CEO." And you think that might be the end of it, but nope. [laughs] Just a year— just a year later— sorry, seven months, he— word leaked about the fact that he had used a racial slur, one of the real— I mean, they're all pretty bad, but it's the N word, he said on a conference call. Bad, bad job uh, there, John. And he had to leave as the CE of the— the chairman.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And this was on a call—[wheezes, laughs] this is w— their ad agency had been working with Papa John on a strategy to counter the perception that he's racist.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You know something that I've never had to do, and Steve Buscemi has never had to do, and Tom Hanks has never had to do, and Roman Mars has never had to do? And you know, I could name almost anybody that has never had to come up with a PR strategy to counter the perception that we're racist!

Travis: And then during said strategy session...

Justin: During said strategy session!

This is a quote afterwards: "I wish I hadn't said the word."

Travis: [laughs] Okay.

Griffin: Cool!

Justin: He had been attributing it to someone else during the call.

Griffin: Oh!

Justin: And they— and he says— he accuses the ad agency people of craftily provoking him into doing so. Mm, yes!

Travis: Mm, yeah!

Justin: “Their different machinations finally tricked me into saying the N word!”

Travis: Yes, the people that you were paying to make you look good— whose job it was to make you look good, and they were getting a lot of money from you to do so, wanted to make you look bad.

Griffin: He came after Colonel Sanders, saying like, “He was racist.”

Travis: He did!

Griffin: “Don’t put us in the same camp!”

And it’s like, I mean, probably. His grandkids say, “No, he wasn’t. He was great.” But you know, in the big fast food industry, who could tell?

But he was like, “So what Colonel Sanders did is worse. Coming back, baby! Papa John’s!”

Justin: You know, as long as we’re drawing parallels, here’s an interesting one from Jonathan Mayes, editor and chief of the trade magazine Restaurant Business, who said, “The crisis was comparable to the ones Subway faced in 2015.”

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: “Jared Fogle, as chief spokesperson, pleaded guilty for seeing and distributing child pornography and to the engaging in commercial sex with minors.” Yeah, there was a difference.

Griffin: There’s a slight difference with those two!

Justin: There’s a slight difference in this one!

Griffin: Um—

Justin: “When the Fogle thing came down, Subway could dismiss it.”

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: “And try to start fixing things.”

Travis: And, frankly, the name of the restaurant wasn't Jared's.

Griffin: The Fogle's Place.

Justin: Jared's. It's Jared's Place.

Griffin: Fogle's Great Subs. Yeah.

Justin: Jared's Kid Club. It's not.

Griffin: It's not that.

Justin: It's not that. It's not about Jared and Jared's different things.

Travis: Just a quick reminder too, regarding [laughs] Mr. Papa, is that during all of this and him talking about his uh, let me check, yes, “crucifixion,” he did also drop a TikTok video in which he took people on a tour of his giant mansion...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ...that involved what appears to be, like, a 12-foot stall statue of two eagles fucking in flight.

Justin: This is his brand now. His brand is opulence.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's his brand now, is the opulence of Papa John.

Griffin: Is he going to commission—

Justin: The Papulence. [laughs]

Travis: The Papulence, thank you.

Griffin: —commission an 18-foot-tall painting of him as the Christ upon the cross, with garlic dip dripping out of his—

Travis: As Shaq looks on.

Griffin: As Shaq looks on, shaking his head.

Travis: You did this to me, Shaq. You betra— you were my protégé Shaq, and now...

Justin: They— so they had to remove his face from Pizza boxes...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Remove his face.

Justin: Scrub all references to him from its website. Pictures of Schnatter on the walls of its Louisville Headquarters had to go, too.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Last September, Papa John's—[wheezing laughter] last September, Papa John's announced it was relocating many corporate functions to Atlanta, physically distancing itself from its namesake. [laughs] Do you know how wild things have to be for them to be like, "We have to move away from Papa John."

Griffin: [laughs] "We can still smell him. His musk is in the air."

Justin: He still drives by every day.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: It's real slow and creepy, too. I hate it.

Griffin: He got half a billion dollars in stock when he cashed out. You could start another pizza chain, John. If you really wanna win us over... I mean, no, there is no way [wheezes]—

Travis: No. It, okay—

Griffin: Better pizza does not forgive your many trespasses, John.

Travis: [laughs] Better pizza, better ingredients, still racist...

Griffin: Still a little bit racist.

Travis: Papa John's 2.

Griffin: Oh, man.

Travis: Can we just talk, just for a minute, just for a minute, everyone.

Justin: Just for a minute.

Travis: Just for a minute. There's definitely been a conversation that went nowhere within Papa John's HQ where they were like, "Should we change our name?"

And they were like, “No, he should change his name.” And like, because this has been going on for a while, and Papa John’s the corporate entity, has definitely made the conscious decision at some point to continue to be Papa John’s. And fir— there’s one of two ways I feel about this. Either that’s like, “Why are you still—” or it’s really, really spiteful toward John Schnatter to be like, “We’re still Papa John’s.”

Justin: “We’re Papa John. You’re not Papa John.”

Uh, here’s a— here’s a— here’s a quote. Another one.

Griffin: God, we have so many quotes about this gentleman.

Justin: This guy, he just don’t stop. And this is actually— I think it’s actually very instructive.

In your life, you may feel like your goal is to have so much money that you never have to think about money again.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: It’s a very American idea, right? But John Schnatter is like, definitely proof that you can have as much money as you want, and you might still be mad that someone says you can’t be a pizza anymore.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Someone said he can’t be— here’s what he said to OANN. This is a bunch of— that’s one of the—

Griffin: Oh, that’s one American news network, Justin!

Justin: Yeah, that’s just the One America News Network. Um, “The woke—” [laughs]

Travis: What?

Griffin: Back up.

Travis: Bad start, bad start!

Justin: “The woke mob doesn’t want you to have children’s books—”

Travis: What?

Justin: “—as displayed by the cancellation of Dr. Seuss earlier this year.”

Travis: I don’t think that’s what that meant.

Justin: “Now, they’re apparently coming for your pizza.” [laughs]

Griffin: No, dog! There’s so much better pizza, my friend! And other ingredients!

Justin: [laughs] I would argue that Papa John’s came for your pizza, Mr. Schnatter.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I think we came for your pizza. You don’t have the pizza anymore. We still are over here and enjoying our Shaqaroni and cheese.

Travis: And no one’s out there on the fucking Ides of March, stabbing Little Caesars. Everybody’s like, “Yeah, the hot-n-ready sucks, but it’s five dollars. Go for it! It’s fine.”

Griffin: During your tenure, Jonathan, your shit got overtaken by fucking *Domino’s*.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: How does that feel, Jonathan? *Domino’s* got better than Papa John’s. You’ve lost your way, sir.

Travis: You have a statue of eagles! You don’t know what people want in pizza! When was the last time, John, you ate a pizza and didn’t do a racist, huh?

Griffin: I mean, he ate 800 of his own pizzas in, what, four months or something? That was famously— that was famously reported.

Travis: What?!

Griffin: Yeah, he—

Travis: That’s a lot of pizza!

Justin: This is really good. He’s ca— this article talks about how he’s cashed out half a billion in stock, and he’s like, just out here. It says he’s out there, jetting in his Dassault Falcon between homes in Kentucky, Fort, and Utah, posting highlights and motivational bro lines on TikTok. He’s

protecting his best life, except his best life is the one he no longer has: the one where he's still running Papa John's. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Wow.

Justin: Devastated.

Griffin: In his fucking black suits and his dyed jet-black hair like he's fucking Johnny Trash.

Travis: I just wanna point out, this motherfucker has 500 million dollars, and three homes, it sounds like, and a jet to take him betwixt them. And he's *still complaining...*

Griffin: It's about legacy, Travis. It's about legacy. You should know that most of all.

Justin: It's about legacy.

Travis: Wait, why should I know that most of all, Griffin?

Griffin: This show's our— this show's our legacy.

Travis: It is?! Aw, man.

Griffin: Yeah. We should start taking it a little bit more seriously.

Travis: Yeah, dude.

Griffin: What would be a good name for the Papa Jo— and we will move on eventually, folks, don't worry. This is not a War With Grandpa situation.

Justin: I don't know!

Griffin: If we did have to rename the Papa John's restaurant...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: My mind went to Papa Pizza.

Travis: Papa Pizza's pretty good.

Griffin: And then it went to Mama Mia, Papa Pizza, Come and Get this—

Justin: [coughs, laughs]

Griffin: Come And Get Some Diarrhea. Which is, um...

Travis: Uh, what about Pop-Pop John's?

Griffin: Pop-Pop... or just Pop-Pops!

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: How about Popperoni? And then you only serve pepperoni pizzas.

Travis: What about Pupperoni, pizza for dogs?

Griffin: Mm, we're getting too— that's like two, three.

Travis: Yeah, we got— you know what? I say lean into it, just call it Papa Shaq's. And make Shaq the new thing.

Griffin: Oh, holy shit!

Justin: Papa Shaq's would be so...

Griffin: Oh, good! I would eat there weekly.

Justin: Extremely powerful.

Travis: And also, the most powerful fart in the face one quick deliver to Papa John's would be to keep the Papa part and just change the John part.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: So it's like, "No, this is Papa Shaq. He's my new dad."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "This is my new pizza dad, Papa Shaq. I love him..."

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: "...he lets me do whatever I want, he makes me very happy, Papa Shaq."

Justin: This is uh— I'm just continuing to— he— originally, when people were reporting about him trivializing the protest of black players in the NFL, their PR firm at the time, Edelman, said that he needed to not acknowledge it, and to keep quiet and let it blow over.

"Y'all are in denial!" Schnatter replied. "I'm Papa John! This is not going to blow over!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [through laughter] Which I will say, to Papa John's enduring credit in this regard, he was correct.

Travis: A real Nostradamus, that guy.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: He was right about that. Correct!

Griffin: Good job, Papa.

Travis: Maybe not right in the way he thought he thought he was right? But...

Griffin: He was corre— his thoughts were wrong, but his truth in that matter was— was kind of on point. It did not blow over even for a little bit, as evidenced by the fact we've been talking about this gentleman for 15 minutes.

Travis: This real piece of shit.

Justin: [exhales]

Griffin: Alright, let's start—

Justin: I can— I could actually talk about Papa John all day, because I— it's just like—

Griffin: He's our nemesis.

Justin: The problem is – this is the real problem – is it's making me hungry for Papa John's.

Griffin: It sucks. I know.

Justin: It sucks. It's really infuriating. I would love one of those slices.

Griffin: Yeah, I want pizza right now.

Travis: Find a local— find a *local* place.

Justin: A local Papa John's.

Travis: No! [laughs] No, that's not what I meant. Although now that he's cashed out, he does mean nothing. You can go to Papa John's now with confidence.

Justin: My local Papa John's, the sign they have outside has not changed to update with specials for 18 months. It has said, "Independently owned." [laughs]

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: It just said that!

Griffin: That's the only thing I need to know.

Justin: Thanksgiving, two— give me a double Shaqaroni.

Griffin: Let's do it. Let's do it. Let's do the show, place.

Justin: I— I— yeah, we'll do the show. It's an advice show, folks!

Travis: What?

Justin: Folks, this is an advice show.

Travis: It is?

Griffin: And Justin doesn't have the question list.

Justin: I'm pulling it up. I get so many emails anymore. I feel like—

Travis: Yeah, but the show doesn't sneak up on you.

Justin: I feel like Google's in a lot of—

Griffin: Oh, dog.

Justin: Yeah, but I was busy rea— what?

Griffin: I'm getting the same thing. Very—

Justin: You're getting a lot of spam on Google, right?

Griffin: Yeah, it's wild.

Justin: It's wild! Come on, Google. "I was going through the drive thru of a fast food chain..."

Travis: Oh, my shit. Wait. Hey, Justin.

Justin: What?

Travis: Happy birthday.

Griffin: What? Oh my God, happy bir— we could've talked about that for the intro, but John stole that from us! Motherfucker!

Travis: John stole my birthday.

Justin: I think we can all agree, this is the worst thing he's ever done.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [quietly] I hate Papa John so much. [normally] I was just going— it's just nice to have one that you know— you know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: You're not gonna get the rug pulled out from under you...

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Like when you find out Guy Fieri is secretly a pretty good dude. I'm not gonna get the rug pulled out from under me...

Griffin: Right.

Justin: ...on this one.

Travis: We're not getting any tweets like, "I think you guys were kind of unfair."

Justin: "I think you're too hard on Papa John."

No, he sucks. Guy Fieri, I'd love to have you on this show.

Griffin: [desperate] Please read the question!

Travis: Please, if you're there. I'd love—

Justin: If you're there.

"I was just going through the drive thru of a fast food chain restaurant." Just say Shaq's Place.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: “Where I ordered and received an ice cream cone.” Okay, that’s not Shaq’s. “It is, to my delight, very tall and yummy. However, as I was pulling out of the drive thru, I got in a little fender-bender on another car. I need to get out of the car, call the police, and exchange insurance details. But I’m holding this ice cream cone.”

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: [wheezes, laughs]

Griffin: So fucking awesome.

Justin: Should I just keep licking my ice cream cone while I speak with the person I just rear-ended? Should I stay in my car until afterwards? [laughs]

Griffin: Even more good!

Justin: Or— I guess they don’t say this, but, presumably, “Should I write an email to you guys?”

Griffin: [laughs] Okay, I’m sure this already happened, and they wanna check to see if they did the right thing.

Justin: Right. “This is extremely awkward, but I don’t wanna miss out on my ice cream cone. It’s delicious. [through laughter] please help.”

Wait, hold on, that’s from Awkward Ice Cream in Atlanta. So maybe they’re— maybe they’re in varsity?

Griffin: Maybe.

Justin: I don’t know.

Griffin: What is amazing about this is there’s a secret third option, right? One and two is that you stay in your car, just fucking cold-staring at this person while you lick your ice cream.

Travis: And you keep giving him, “One minute! One minute.”

Griffin: “It’s creamy. It’s creamy and sweet, so I’ll be out in a minute.”

Or you hop out, and you’re like, “Oh my God, I’m so – [licking noise] – so sorry. Um—”

Justin: [coughing laughter]

Travis: Are you okay? [soft munching sound]

Griffin: “Oh, gosh. Yeah, I just actually got this [licking noise] repainted. Oh, God. Okay, I’m so—”

The third option is you step out of the car, really concerned, and you look at the damage to your car, and look at their car. And then they walk up, and like, “Hey, you okay?”

And you take your ice cream cone, and realizing that there’s no good way to eat it while talking. You throw it to the fucking ground and smash it, so it’s not in the way anymore? That might be the worst of the situations—

Justin: If you do that, though, you could be like, “Maybe we shouldn’t involve insurance on this, ‘cause we’ve both lost a lot.”

Travis: Oh, that’s good.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: “I feel like we’ve both suffered.”

Ooh— oh—

Griffin: “The back of your car’s fucked up, and the front of my car is fucked up, but I also got a ice cream cone in exchange, so who’s the real—”

Travis: Fourth option.

Griffin: Oh, wow.

Travis: They get out of the car. You, direct eye contact, eat the ice cream cone in, like, one big bite.

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah.

Travis: And keep a straight face. Maintain eye con— no brain-freeze face, nothing. This is an intimidation play you’ve engaged in.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: They’re going to watch you [munching noises], and like, you’re gonna Pac-Man that ice cream, and then say, “Do we really need to get insurance involved in this?”

Griffin: Just asterisk on that option, it is only possible for Travis, and Travis-like humans to pull that one off.

Travis: I've been training.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: All my life, for this moment. [laughs]

Griffin: Could you— oh, fifth option! Step out of the car, and be like, "Aw, shit. Aw, fuck. I really fucked up. Here you go." And you give them the ice cream cone.

Travis: [laughs] "And so we're fair?"

Griffin: "Yeah, we're good."

"Stop, stop, stop, stop. Stop, come back here!"

"No, no, no! I gave you the ice cream cone. We're good. Bye!"

Travis: "Did you not want the ice cream cone? 'Cause I'll take it back, but I do want it on the record that I was willing to give it to you."

Griffin: Sixth option – holy shit, there's so many – before they see you, after the big accident, smash that ice cream cone on your face.

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: And then you walk outside, and you gotta be crying to cover your creamy face. And you're like, "[blubbers] ice creams."

And they will not— they'll be like, "Don't— okay you're crying. Don't worry about it. Let's just drive home."

Justin: Fourth thing.

Travis: Seventh option, are we on seven?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Quickly, before they see you, scoot over into the passenger's seat, and put the ice cream cone in the driver's seat. And make it look like it's the ice cream's fault.

Griffin: [laughing]

Travis: "What? You didn't see him stop?"

Justin: "Come on, man!"

Travis: "I'm so sorry about this."

Griffin: Eighth option: do what Travis said, but instead of putting the ice cream cone in the driver's seat, smash it on the windshield in front of the driver's seat, and just start screaming inconsolably.

"Dad!"

Travis: [laughs] "He just got his learner's!"

Griffin: "Dad, no!"

"Is the ice cream cone your dad?"

"It was, in fact, my dad."

Travis: "He *was* my dad. I'm in one of those movies where my dad dies and then becomes an inanimate object, but is now animate, and it was that ice cream cone, and it was delicious!"

Justin: N— ninth option. Can you just slowly hand it to them, and say, "I'm really sorry. I got this for you. 'Cause I figured I would probably hit you, and I'm sorry. This is for you. Now we're square."

Griffin: "I wasn't gonna get anything at this Dairy Queen, but then I saw you in front of me, and I was like, 'I'm gonna ram that fucking idiot.' So I bought you the ice cream cone in advance."

Justin: [laughs] You're driving away—

Griffin: It's all you—

Travis: I'm just looking for a good conversation starter because I wanted a meet cute. And there it is, baby. I got us two spoons. Let's do this!

Griffin: "You hit me really hard!"

"Yeah... yeah. It's a new car."

Travis: "I was excited."

Griffin: "Getting used to it."

Justin: "Hey, are you feeling this?"

Griffin: "You feeling this vibe, though?"

Travis: "We're vibing, right?"

Justin: "We've vibing! This is a vibe."

Travis: "Now we're sharing an ice cream cone."

Justin: "Hey, officer, does it seem like we're vibing, the two of us, over here?"

Travis: "Could you loosen up these handcuffs so that I could hold their hand, please? Wait, no, just watch the ice cream, please!"

Justin: "You too! Please do not finish it until the police arrive."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "They have to see you gnawing on the ice cream so they know you're not intimidated."

Travis: Admittedly, that, if you're still eating ice cream when they arrive, that might remove any doubt of whose fault this was, right?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: One person is just like, [munching noise] "Sorry, I can't put this thing down."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "Sorry, I was very clearly driving one-handed, no question."

Griffin: "Actually, uh, if you look down, you'll see my special necklace that holds the ice cream cone for me, so I could eat while driving."

Justin: [laughs] "It is prescription, so you cannot ask me about it."

Griffin: "It's a prescription necklace, thank you."

Hey, can I do a quick Wizard?

Justin: Yeah, thank you.

Griffin: Can we visit the Quick Wizard? He's the Wizard of the Cloud's brother, but he's much faster.

Justin: But not the quizzard. That sounds like something Travis would do.

Griffin: Yeah, of course.

Travis: Okay, fine.

Griffin: This one's coming in a little bit late, but it's good to learn this shit and remember it for one year, because this one's about how to avoid ticking off the actors in a haunted house.

Travis: I actually have insight on this. I've worked many haunted houses!

Griffin: And I don't wanna hear any of it, 'cause—

Travis: You don't wanna hear about when I fell asleep in a coffin?

Griffin: No, no, no. I only want to hear what the Wizard has to say. I love you, Travis, but you are not the Wizard or the Quick Wizard.

Travis: I got slapped by a child once.

Griffin: We know all the stories. You've told all the stories. It's time for the Wizard to share his insights.

This was sent in by Laura. Thank you, Laura. "Step one, going through the house: avoid pretending not to be afraid if you don't want to be targeted."

Justin: What?

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: That's a quintuple negative.

Griffin: I know. "Acting tough or saying you're not scared indicates to the actors that you actually are, which will likely try— they will likely try even harder to frighten you or—" and this is a phrase they use a lot in this article, "—pick on you."

Justin: [giggles]

Travis: Yeah. Now, what's great too is the opposite is true. If you go through the house, going like, "I'm so scared! I'm pissing myself!"

Then the actors are like, "Look at that brave."

Griffin: Right.

Travis: "So brave."

Griffin: You can't show strength or weakness. Some of— they— the quotes that they use here is "What not to say in a haunted house."

"Are even trying to make this scary? That blood is obviously fake."

If I worked at a haunted house, and I heard someone, "Are they even try to make this scary?" I would jump out at that person and be like, "I'm gonna fucking kill you, Greg!" Just to boost it up way too f— way too far.

Travis: Yeah. "I'm gonna kill you and everyone you love!"

Griffin: [laughs] Right, yeah.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "Walk in the middle of your group, so the friends get scared first." As a diagram, they show a five, like on a six-sided die, and pointed at the middle dot, and it says, "You." So that's good. If—

Travis: That's hard to— you need to practice that out in the parking lot first.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: 'Cause like, you can't start doing that once you're in the house.

Griffin: Yeah, kind of fucked up if you're like, "Oh, here comes a mummy with Dracula teeth, get him, Tommy!" And you push Tommy towards them.

Travis: If you have four big, brave friends, I get it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You know? You're kind of the Scooby Doo of the group.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I get it.

Griffin: They could be like, "Get away from Ralphie! He's really scared right now!"

Travis: "He's going through a rough time at his job! Try to cheer him up!"

Griffin: "Refrain from scaring other house-goers."

Justin: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: "Which frustrates the actors." That sucks.

"Boo, Tommy! Got you!"

And the chainsaw man's like, "You fucking stepped on my line. My line was 'Boo, Tommy, I got you!'"

Um, "Pretend not to see an impending scare, so you don't annoy the actors." That would be the worst.

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: That would be the worst. You're dressed up as a mummy with Dracula fangs, and someone points, like, "[flatly] Here comes the mummy with Dracula fangs." Fucking shit.

Justin: "I'm not even scared at all about this."

Travis: But you can, then, get some constructive criticism.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like, after everyone else had walked out, and be like, "Hey, mummy with the vampire fangs. I could see you ahead of time, so you might wanna take one quick step back. Oh, yeah, right there!"

Griffin: "That's great!" And maybe stop saying, with your regular voice, "Here comes a mummy with vampire fangs," because it really gives away the scare a little bit.

Travis: Let me recommend— let me recommend, "There's no mummy with vampire fangs over here," and that would lull them into a false sense of security.

Griffin: So the next one is "Move at a quick pace, so the actors have less time to prepare for a scare."

I love this. You're at the front door. The ticket-taker's like, "Prepare to enter the house of a million mummies with vampire fangs."

And you're like, "See you soon!" [rapid tapping noises]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Just fucking full-blown sprint.

"Wha— just slow down! Bleh!"

Travis: "Hey, careful man! There's steps!"

Griffin: "There's steps in here."

Um, "Interacting with the actors. Avoid asking the actors not to scare you."

"Don't scare me, mummy with vampire fangs, please!"

Justin: "Please!"

Griffin: "Please don't!"

Travis: Wait, why not?

Griffin: It says here in, like, a sub-note, which should be a main-note, "Keep in mind that usually, if an actor notices that someone is genuinely upset or frightened, they'll back off."

I don't know why they don't say that in like the first step of just like, "Act genuinely like, pretty fucked up. Like you're having a real episode right now, and they will not come near you."

Travis: Can I just say – from experience, Griffin, I know you don't want to hear this, but – it can often be just a little note from me, a former haunted house actor: just as scary if a terrifying scarecrow tries to comfort you. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Because the difference between scaring and comforting when you're in a scary scarecrow mask, it's a pretty thin line!

Griffin: "[gruff nonsense]" Like, cool.

Travis: "No need to be scared!"

Griffin: Yeah, that's great. Um—

Travis: "You need a hug! Not— it doesn't— just don't."

Griffin: Um, don't push them— yeah. Uh, don't try to scare the actors. I think, though, that if you are a vampire mummy and a house-goer comes up to you, and was like, "Boo! I'm the scary one!" and you get scared, you have to quit.

Travis: Yeah. You have to actually switch places. That's the only way to be free from working on a haunted house.

Griffin: Let's jump over to dressing appropriately.

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: So important.

Griffin: "Wear dark-colored clothes, so that you're harder to see."

Travis: Oh, that's annoying. Yeah, okay. Yes, don't do that.

Griffin: No, it says do do that. "Wear dark-colored clothes so that you're harder to see." That's awesome. I—

Justin: Are you hiding from the people that are trying to scare— why did you go?

Travis: Why did you go to this?

Justin: What? Stay home! Watch the *Simpsons* Tree House of Horror again. What are you doing?

Travis: Trying to look brave for a partner or potential partner. We've all been— you got a crush and you wanna scare the mummy vampire before it could scare you, so then your crush is like, "Damn. I want to engage in consensual goings on with this person."

Griffin: Okay. These next two tips are— I don't want to blow it out of proportion, but some real fucking all-timers.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: "Cover up with a long-sleeve shirt and pants to hide your goosebumps."

Travis: Yes! Yes!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "If you get goosebumps when you get scared, so those tiny dots all over your arms and legs are a dead giveaway to actors."

Travis: How brightly lit...

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: ...is this fucking haunted house?

Justin: “[gruffly] Excuse me, I don’t mean to be rude, but I can see your fear.”

Travis: “[gruffly] Are you okay? Do you need a glass of water?”

Griffin: I feel like if somebody’s like, “[gruffly] I see your goosebumps,” you should be allowed to like, light a flare in that room and call, “Time out, time out! This guy’s really fucking creepy in a real, non-haunted way.”

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Um, and then the next one, which is also very good: “Choose a large, puffy coat to look more intimidating.”

Travis: Hell yes! Get that starter jacket, my dude!

Griffin: “[Dracula vampire] Bleh, I’m going to get— oh, shit, you’re huge! Goodbye!”

Travis: Wave your arms in the air. “[mock screams] He’s so big.”

Griffin: “Yeah, I don’t know if you saw this guy when we were hiding and being spooky vampire mummies. This one dude came in, and I was like, ‘I’m gonna fucking get him.’ But then I saw the si— the size of this lad, this absolute unit, and I was like, I can’t. He might hurt me.”

Travis: “He should play football. I’m thinking about, like, managing him and trying to get him into the pro baller career.”

Griffin: “His head, hands, legs, and feet all look pretty small. But this dude’s core was gargantuan.”

Uh, and then finally, “Leave the masks at home.” It’s like Disneyworld rules.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You can’t show up being a, you know— being a chainsaw, you know, mummy, and then somebody comes in and is like, also a chainsaw mummy, that would be confusing.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Travis: I once scared the shit out of Jonah Hill. I just wanted to throw that out.

Griffin: That doesn't seem particularly difficult.

Justin: Yeah. From his films, it seems like.

Griffin: He's jumpy.

Justin: He could be a little skittish.

Griffin: Yeah. Uh, some Q and A: "What if I already did one of these things?"

Travis: Oh, you're going to jail!

Griffin: "Try to avoid doing it again. Honestly, the actors will probably understand if you slip up and do something silly."

"Bleh, push, punch, kick!"

"Oh, it's okay. This is your first time? First time?"

Travis: "I'm a pretty scary vampire mummy. I get why your instinct would be to hit me."

Griffin: "I get it. And honestly, I saw your goosebumps and got a little overeager, so um, it's— we both share the blame."

Travis: And here's another important haunted house fact: one out of every hundred vampire mummies is a real vampire mummy.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So like, I understa— it's not— wanting to push or hit someone who is attacking you, not a bad impulse in any other circumstance.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I'm sorry, guys, there's so many good Q and A's in there. "What do I do if you have medication, but no medicines or prescriptions are allowed in the house?"

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: "Welcome to the house of a billion murders! No medicine!"

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "Is that an inhaler? Put it in the bucket!"

Griffin: [laughs] "One of—"

Travis: "Can I get it back at the end?"

"No!"

Griffin: "One of our chainsaw mummies is very allergic to medicine."

Justin: [growing laughter]

Travis: "One of the scariest things I can think of is a disbelief in science. Leave your medicine at the door!"

Griffin: Leave your medicine at home. This is an awesome one: "Do the actors like to scare homosexual people?"

Travis: Huh!

Justin: [wheezes, laughs]

Griffin: Woah! Again, back room after a hard day of scaring, somebody's like, "Yeah, I saw his goosebumps. You know what that means!"

Travis: "How many— hey— hey, Bobby. How many did you get today?"

"At least 12!"

Griffin: At least 12 of them!

Travis: "Well, 12 and a half, 'cause one of them was bisexual, so..."

Griffin: Yeah. "One— what if an actor knows me and breaks character to stop and chat for a bit?"

"Bleh, vroom vroom vroom vroom! Ble— oh, shit, Darryl? What's up, bud?"

Travis: Think how cool that would look to your crush, if your crush is like, "Ah, Darryl knows a vampire mummy. Ooh la la, he's really connected."

Griffin: Another cool one. "What if someone scares me?"

Get the fuck out of the—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Don't go in the fucking building!

Justin: [laughs] I can't get over the medicine.

Griffin: [laughs] I know.

Justin: They—[laughs] "We feed all the pills we get to the creature of the black lagoon. Just gobbles up any pill he sees."

Griffin: Right. You slip into one of the zombies, but the zombies, for texture for their makeup, was using peanut butter.

"Where's my EpiPen?"

"[Dracula voice] You couldn't bring it in!"

"No, I'm dying!"

"I know, death, the ultimate spooky scare!"

Justin: [laughs] "Pretty scary, right? Admit you're scared!"

Travis: "We'll use your skeleton for the haunted house, thank you very much."

Justin: That's where skeletons come from.

Griffin: Exactly. Alright, that's—

Travis: Where else you supposed to get 'em?

Griffin: Just lock that in for one year, folks.

Justin: Yeah. Sorry that it's a week late.

Travis: [sneezes]

Griffin: Bless Travis. Everyone bless—

Justin: I'm sure you'll remember.

Griffin: Everyone at home bless Travis. Thank you.

Justin: Thank you. Thank you.

Griffin: And also with you.

Justin: [laughs] Let's take a quick break, and we'll head on over to the Money Zone!

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

Travis: Can I tell you guys, before we start the Money Zone, after last week's episode, I realized that I had to, at least for a while, leave the website I had built bad. Because if I fixed it after the episode Thursday, and then people went to look at it Monday...

Griffin: And it was really good, yeah.

Travis: And people would be like, "What are Justin and Griffin talking about? This website's great!" So you guys are welcome. I left it up, so that you guys wouldn't look like assholes.

Griffin: Yeah. Hey, can I talk about pretty much the only kind of socks I own?

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: That's a bad setup, 'cause that sounds like it's gonna be pretty boring. Like, if anybody else came up to you on the street, and was like, "Let me tell you about all the socks that I own."

Justin: Let me start. It's pretty much just socks from the uh, closed-down Trampoline Park.

Griffin: Um, yes.

Justin: That's pretty much all I wear.

Griffin: Yeah, sometimes I know, those trampolines, they stack them up, and they just shoot right in the air.

No, I wanna talk about Bombas. Because Bombas' mission is simple: make the most comfortable clothes ever, and match every item sold with an equal item donated this holiday. When you give Bombas to someone on your list, you're also giving to someone in need. It's a give/give.

Travis: I just want to throw out, hey Bombas, if you're listening, I think it's a great mission. It's a wonderful mission. And I feel like you've done a lot to achieve it, and now I think you should add, like, a second part to the mission.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Where it's like, "Do that, and also... uh, we're gonna find life on other planets," or something. Whatever you want it to be.

Griffin: Yeah, sure, sure. You got the first thing on lock; like, you know, dream bigger.

Bombas isn't just socks anymore, by the way, guys. It's shirts and underwear, too. And they designed all of it – socks, shirts, and underwear – to be the clothes you can't wait to put on every day. Everything they make is soft, seamless, tagless, and has a luxuriously cozy feel. I've been wearing these Bombas like, um... I forget the name of them. They've not like, no-show, they're just like, the step above that, because I'm not that brave.

Travis: Li'l show.

Griffin: Li'l show. And I— not a joke, pretty much all I wear is these Bombas socks. Uh, they are cozy, but mostly they fit so fucking right that it's— and I have that problem. Socks too big, doesn't feel good. Socks too small, I hate it.

Travis: No.

Griffin: Bombas' is just right. They make for great gifts... I have genuinely given Bombas as gifts before.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Because, you know, they're really good, and everybody really likes them. Um...

Travis: Hey, Bombas, another idea if you're listening, because it's starting to get a little chillier now, what about socks, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But for your hands.

Griffin: That's cool.

Travis: And they even have little places for like, your fingers to go.

Griffin: No, no, no, no, no. 'Cause that would make them just like everybody else. They're just socks that go right on your hands.

Travis: Socks for your hands?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: What about socks that already have the puppet faces on them?

Griffin: That's awesome, too.

So go to bombas.com/mybrother, and get 20 percent off any purchase during their big holiday sale. That's bombas.com/mybrother for 20 percent off. B-O-M-B-A-S, bombas.com/mybrother.

Travis: [sing-song] B-O-M-B-A—[normally] no, it's not there.

Griffin: No, not at all.

Justin, Brooklinen me!

Justin: Uh, you know where— I have lots of sheets at my— in my home. Yeah, I don't wanna brag, but like, I have lots of sheets in my home. And yesterday, I had that moment— you guys know this adult moment where you're like, "When's the last time I washed these sheets?" You know this thought, and you have the thought, you can't immediately picture a timeframe, and that's when you're like, "I gotta wash these sheets."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: When I washed the sheets, though, you know what I did? Did I get a different pair of sheets from the closet?

Travis: No!

Justin: Nope, sure didn't! I washed my Brooklinen sheets, and then put them back on the bed afterwards. Because these—

Travis: Nothing weird about that.

Justin: —are the only— it isn't! They're the only sheets I use. Should I buy a second pair? Probably.

Travis: That's what I do when I want a favorite outfit. I just take it off, and then I stand, nude, in front of the washer until that's done. And then I stand nude in front of the dryer.

Griffin: How do you know when it's do— oh, when the washer's done. Okay. I thought it was just you had to feel it.

Justin: They got uh, weighted blankets...

Travis: What?

Justin: ...cozy robe. I know! Brooklinen's got options for everybody on your list. Got eye masks, candles, accessories. They wanna make beautiful, high-quality home essentials that don't cost an arm and a leg like some people have started charging.

Travis: Hey, Brooklinen, if you're listening: what about weightless blankets? Blankets that like, float in the air, huh? Everybody's doing weighted blankets.

Justin: Weightless...

Travis: Weightless blankets.

Griffin: That's awesome.

Justin: Right now, you can check the gift guide to find the perfect price at every price point. Go to Brooklinen.com and use the promo code "my brother" to get 20 dollars off of the minimum purchase of 100 dollars. That's brooklinen.com, and enter promo code "my brother." That's brooklinen.com, promo code "my brother."

Travis: I feel like I gave away all my best ideas for free.

Griffin: You certainly gave some ideas for free.

Dave: Hi, it's me, Dave Hill, from before, here to tell you about my brand-new show on Maximum Fun, *Dave Hill Goodtime Hour*, which combines my old Maximum Fun show, *Dave Hill's Podcasting Incident*, with my old radio show, *The Goddamn Dave Hill Show*, and one new futuristic program from the future.

If you like delightful conversation with incredible guests, technical difficulties, and actual phone calls from real-life listeners, you've just hit a street called easy.

I'm also joined by my incredible cohost, the boy criminal Chris Gersbeck. Say hi, Chris.

Chris: Hey, Dave. It's really great to—

Dave: That's enough, Chris. And New Jersey chicken rancher, Dez. Say hi, Dez!

Dez: Hey, Dave!

[chicken clucks]

Dave: *The Dave Hill Goodtime Hour*. Brand new episodes every Friday on Maximum Fun.

Chris: Plus, the show's not even an hour. It's 90 minutes.

Dez: Take that, stupid rules.

Dave: We nailed it!

[drum sound]

Justin: [imitates rock guitar] [blows raspberry] [imitates rock guitar] [blows raspberry] [imitates rock guitar] [softly] I want to munch.

Travis: [softly] Squad!

Griffin: Squad.

Justin: [imitates soft guitar] I want to munch.

Travis: [singing] Squad!

Griffin: Squad.

Justin: [ends rock guitar] I have a very special Munch Squad for you today.

Travis: Clearly!

Justin: It is a um— so Taco Bell...

Travis: Oh, that's a good start. Always a good start.

Justin: ...was worried about people getting enough rest. Um, so they're trying to make it so that you remember they have breakfast, which is— I mean, if you've ever... woke up disliking yourself, rather than waiting until 2:00 AM to dislike yourself like a sane person, you can go straight to Taco Bell to get the breakfast that you crave.

It's just Taco Bell food, but it's breakfast now. They put eggs in it.

Uh, you can get— they're doing a lot of stuff to help remind people about it. They've got uh... on October 21st— this has passed, but they offered a, um, a wakeup call.

Travis: Oh!

Justin: By texting “wake up” to 1-866-WAKEUP-3, fans can sign up to receive a prerecorded wakeup call from Taco Bell to kickstart their morning, with the reminder that free toasted free toasted breakfast burrito awaits them. That’s right, there was a free... breakfast burrito. A free toasted breakfast burrito.

They also have a sleepwear collection: “Wake me up, Taco Bell.” And then they have some Taco Bell slippers, to help you get some sleep so you wake up early enough to get to Taco Bell. Do you understand now?

Griffin: Yeah, I get it.

Travis: Yeah. Who do you think recorded that me— was it just like, the CEO of Taco Bell? Did they get a name to do it?

Justin: Probably. Couldn’t matter less.

Travis: It couldn’t Justin. If you’re telling me if Benedict Cumberbatch could call you and be like, “Justin, like just—”

Griffin: “Taco time, baby.”

Travis: “[soft, whimsical voice] I remind you that your free toasted burrito is ready for you!”

Justin: Uh, the most important thing that they did, and the thing that brings us here today, and the reason I wanted to bring the tone down a little bit, is that they also released a um... a bedtime story for adults...

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Oh, shit!

Justin: ...to help you go to sleep.

Travis: Was it sexy?

Justin: Yeah, isn’t that nice?

Travis: Like a grownup—

Griffin: Wait, Travis has a good point. Is it a sexy...

Justin: It’s not a sexy.

Griffin: ...bedtime one...?

Justin: Uh, but I am gonna read the entire thing for you here.

Travis: What makes it adult?

Justin: Well, it's— it's not for kid— I mean, I don't know.

Travis: Oh, it's NSFW?

Justin: It's called "Sleep Tight, Get That Bite."

Griffin: Oh, good!

Justin: No—

Travis: It sounds kinda sexy!

Justin: "Sleep Tight, Get That Bite," no author credited.

"Some nights, you just can't close your eyes, but a restless night means waking up past sunrise. See, waking up after breakfast means you've gotten up too late. You can miss your hot and toasty breakfast burrito date..."

Travis: See?

Justin: "...which we'd hate. Staying up late is always rad, but getting shuteye? That's the new fad."

Travis: Huh.

Justin: "So if you want to snag a toasty breakfast burrito, follow these simple sleepy secrets, amigo."

Griffin: Oh, good.

Justin: "Before you venture deep into breakfast burrito land, where Baja Blasts are always in hand, your first spicy secret to a good night's sleep? Winding down with a Baja bedtime nightcap. Forget the sheep."

Travis: Wait—

Justin: Sorry, I just need to clarify something real quick. [laughs]

Travis: Uh-huh?

Justin: Taco Bell, do you think it's a good idea to slam a Baja Blast before bed?

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Hey, let me check: Mountain Dew Baja Blast? A very caffeinated...

Justin: A highly-caffeinated Mountain Dew Baja Blast? "The sweetness didn't make you crash? Don't fret! The next spicy secret will put you down in bed. It's a tip that's been staring you right in the eyes, and it'll keep you warm and toasty straight through sunrise. Roll yourself up into a burrito, like so. Melt into a cheesy state of mind. [whispers] Let go. [normally] Start off by wiggling your toes, then finish off by scrunching your little nose."

Griffin: Okay. Your little nose?

Travis: Hm!

Justin: Your little nose.

Travis: Your little nosey!

Justin: Hm! "Still staring off into that existential abyss?"

Travis: What? What?!

Justin: "Don't worry! Let's try out some auditory bliss."

Travis: No, wait! Go back to the part where Taco Bell knows I think about death every night.

Justin: "Imagine sizzling bacon while you close your eyes. Breakfast salsa awaits on the other side."

Griffin: Wait, what!?

Travis: And that's all! That's— wait—[laughs]

Justin: You heard me! "Still here? Okay, well—" by which we mean *alive*? "Once last chance: time to count some burritos while they dance. Repeat after me like you're back in grade school. Get it because you're acting like a child, lol."

Like, that's the— they got that, and they were like, "It's done. [laughs] Put it in book."

"One burrito, two burrito, three burrito, four. Melty cheese and crunchy potatoes are in store. Five burrito, six burrito, seven burrito more. Now dream of that breakfast you're gonna score."

Griffin: Oh—

Travis: That's still—

Justin: "When you rise, wipe that sleep from your eyes. Hear your stomach rumbling? It's ready for a surprise! Taco Bell burritos await! Don't you fret – breakfast is served 7:00 to 11:00 AM. Get ready to jet."

Travis: "Now kiss me passionately, hard on my taco lips." That's right; the narrator has been a taco this whole time, and now we're gonna *bang*.

Griffin: I really wish uh, I really wish—

Justin: You hadn't heard that story?

Griffin: No, I'm glad I heard the story, 'cause it was like cool, and... a good poem.

Travis: It was hard, 'cause I fell asleep.

Justin: Yeah, it's so restful.

Griffin: Rachel is, like, a good poet, and knows a lot about poetry. I wish I could, you know, just sort of bounce that off of her, and see if it would do good in a school of poetry.

Justin: She'll probably tweet about it.

Griffin: Um, that was a— that was a— that was a absolute trip. It went into the deep, dark corners of my psyche, and where there were voids that my sort of mortal mind couldn't possibly fill, they filled it up with salsa and cheese and rice.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It's better now, actually.

Griffin: It's better in my—

Justin: I feel, like, calmer now.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: The one thing that still kind of— the one thing that's kind of freaking my bean is I can't decide if an endless, uh, just like salsa-filled plane is supposed to be heaven or hell or purgatory.

Justin: It's all. It's—

Travis: It's all of it. Okay.

Justin: All people. Yeah, it's beautiful.

Travis: Am I like, a chunk in it, or am I still Travis?

Justin: Oh, isn't that the question? I mean, we can all aspire to that, can't we?

Travis: Well, now it's replaced my other existential dread with now just literally burning questions.

Griffin: A salsa— a picante existential dread. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, which is fine.

Griffin: Which is good.

Travis: I would rather think about salsa, frankly.

Griffin: Sure, sure!

Justin: Yeah, let's ask another que— no, no, no. I mean, let's ask and answer questions here, so we'll do both in one. And yes, I did lose the questions again.

Griffin: Excellent.

Justin: Okay, here we go: "I recently moved to a new city with only the contents of my car, and in the course of making friends here, I made some *friends*." You know...

Griffin: I do not.

Justin: ...wink, [wheezes] wink. Actually, I'm 40 and I don't anymore.

Travis: A little— you're 41 now, Justin.

Justin: Oh, fuck you. Thank you, in the context of the conversation we just had. Love to be reminded.

Griffin: [laughs loudly]

Justin: I'm forty-one!

Griffin: One year closer to salsa!

Travis: [laughs loudly]

Griffin: Man.

Justin: "One of those *friends* told me that they're shopping for a new mattress."

Travis: That part's not in quotes. That's not a euphemism

Justin: "Would it be weird to ask them if they would sell me their—" I'm just having—

Griffin: You've made it very confusing.

Justin: "Would it be weird to ask them if they would sell me their old mattress? It was very comfortable." That's from *Sleepless in Chicopee*. Where's Chicopee?

Griffin: Why would they know how... their mattress feels?

Travis: 'Cause they're oh— oh, 'cause they're winky-winky friends.

Justin: Friends like, you know.

Travis: 'Cause they boomed!

Justin: You know, like at— you know, like they do it in Minnesota, which is where Chicopee is.

Travis: They engaged in consensual coitus.

Griffin: Gets col— gets cold up there.

Justin: Yeah, so... [sighs] would it... be...

Griffin: Oh, sorry, sorry. Now that I understand what "friends" in quotes means, I have a very clear answer, which is, yes, it's fucking weird!

Justin: Why is it weird?

Griffin: If you go to Pork City, and you're like, "Damn, this bed is— is that memory foam? How much?" That's not strange?

Travis: I don't think that's what's happening, Griffin.

Justin: You're not buying mid— mid explosion.

Travis: "That was a great test drive; I'll take it."

This is when they're like, "Oh, yeah, I'm gonna buy a new mattress."

There is nothing weird about saying, like, "What are you doing with the old one? I need a mattress. Can I buy it?" That...

Justin: That's w—

Travis: That make— like—

Justin: Oh, man, it hits w—

Travis: Why?

Griffin: Uh-huh. Thank you, Justin.

Justin: I gotta clarify— hold on. Okay, do you know what it is?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I might be wrong, but I'm trying to figure out in myself why it hits weird. I think... that on some level, maybe it could... feel like... "I was very happy in that bed, and that's a treasured time in my life..."

Griffin: Exactly.

Justin: "...and I would love to keep that bed as a memento of the time when I went to Adult City."

Travis: Well, yeah, no, hey. Definitely don't say it that way.

Justin: No one would say it that way. I said it that way for emphasis on a comedy show, but— you don't neces— I mean... oh, man, it hits weird.

Travis: I don't think it does. I think that this is one of those things where... it, like—

Justin: You know how much skin— do you know how much skin is in a bed? It's mostly skin. And maybe that's the problem.

Travis: Oh, no, hey, listen. Listen, listen, listen. I'm not saying I'm wild about the idea, but if this is your option, as far as like, affordability goes, and it's a comfortable bed, like, what— the other thing they're gonna do is throw it away, right? Like...

Okay, let me ask this. Let me get your gut check on this.

Justin: Why— what is the— it also— but— okay, wait, wait, wait. Let me ask you this, Travis.

Travis: But I was gonna ask you, als—

Justin: Let me ask *you*...

Travis: Okay?

Justin: ...doesn't it kind of feel like, "Well, why are you getting rid of it?" Like, you didn't even stop to ask that, you know what I mean? That would be like, "Oh, I'm sorry to hear you broke up with your boyfriend. I need a boyfriend; I'll date him."

Travis: That is different, and you know that is different!

Justin: It's not different. It's not different! I don't think it's that different.

Travis: Now, here's what I was going to ask: does it hit different— how do you feel of "Can I buy it?" versus "Can I have it?"

Griffin: Much worse for the "Can I have it?" part.

Travis: Really? Really?

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. 'Cause then it sounds like a "I've taken you, and now I will take this as a trophy."

Travis: That's not what it sounds like at all!

Justin: Yeah. One thing that I think is bad, if you're having just sort of a fun sex time, is at the end of it, being like, "Can I have this as a trophy?"

Travis: [laughs] That is not what's happening!

Justin: Travis— I don't know why Travis is endorsing that, folks.

Griffin: I don't know, either.

Justin: You shouldn't listen to my brother. You shouldn't claim beds as trophies of conquest.

Travis: You two are so socially awkward that “Can I buy your old mattress?” has transitioned [through laughter] in your minds to...

Justin: No!

Travis: “I shall take this to remember the time when we porked.”

Justin: “Can I buy this se— can I buy our pork-zone?”

Travis: That’s not what it is!

Justin: “Can I buy our sex area?”

Travis: That— that’s so wild!

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: To you— to you...

Justin: On some level, this person realized it too, or they wouldn’t have asked the question.

Griffin: Thank you.

Justin: If you have to ask, it is weird, it probably could get weird. Because it has already hit you a little bit weird, so yes, 100 percent, you’re running the risk that the other person will think it’s weird.

Travis: Okay... yes, but...

Griffin: But...

Travis: How comfortable is the mattress? Is it worth a little bit of weird...

Justin: [hisses air through teeth]

Travis: ...that you’re gonna get a discount comfortable mattress, and all you had was the stuff in your car. I don’t know what you’re sleeping on right now, right? But it might be a little weird. But maybe it’s a lot comfortable!

Justin: I like the— I like this idea of somebody who has just moved to a new place, and rather than buy a mattress, they just decide to make love to different people who already have mattresses.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Mm!

Justin: This is their— I— “You can say I’ve been *sleeping around*...”

“Wait, you didn’t wink.”

“Yeah, no, I didn’t...”

Travis: No, yeah, no.

Justin: “I meant literally...”

Travis: And if any of— and listen, hey. I’m doing it for the right reasons, but also, an additional right reason that uh, the bed’s comfortable. I’m tired. I’m sleepy.

Griffin: I’m sleepy.

Travis: So I wanna sleep on the mattress. Everybody’s enjoying it.

Justin: “Hey, I’d love to make love to you tonight, but what about some of that afternoon delight?”

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Justin: “Tomorrow, after a nice long rest [laughs] in this great, comfortable bed? Also, once we’re done, can I have it as a trophy for my conquest?”

Travis: No! Ah, damn it, I wasn’t supposed to say that part out loud.

Justin: Tra— “One of my favorite podcasters, Travis McElroy, says that you should try to claim trophies from people you make love to.

Griffin: [laughs loudly]

Travis: That is not what I mean, and is not what I’m advocating!

Griffin: Have any of you ever sold a mattress before? A used mattress that you have used?

Travis: No.

Griffin: I— I did when I moved to Austin... I brought a mattress with me for some reason from Chicago, and then I slept on it a little bit, and I was like, “This is not gonna do anymore. This is a bad bed.” So I was— got on Craigslist, like, “Anybody want to buy my mattress for cheap?”

And a woman came, and explained that she was going through a divorce, and needed a mattress for that, and I was like, "Oh, okay."

And she was like, "Can I take the price off a little bit?"

And I was like, "Yeah, of course, you can have it for a little bit less than I asked."

She was like, "Thanks."

And as she walked it out of the house, I was like, "Enjoy, dummy! I've been riding that bed and putting it down wet for fucking *15 years*, dog, are you kidding me?!"

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: "There is so much of me in that bed that you can stick a knife in it, and my voice would say 'Ow,' from the bed."

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin: "So uh, yeah, 100 dollars well spent. Enjoy!"

Justin: [coughing laughter]

Griffin: "Are you sure? Are you *sure*?"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "I was a teen in that bed! Are you *sure*?!"

Travis: [laughs] There are things that mattress has seen that only God knows about.

Griffin: And God said, "Bad! No, bad! But good luck."

Justin: That bed— that bed has seen *Showgirls* more than Elizabeth Berkley.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: We're done. You don't want it. I'll pay you 100 dollars...

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ...to never mention this again.

Hey, thanks so much for listening to *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, an advice show that we make for you every week. As always, a lot of exciting happenings over here in the McElroy family house that we all share together, metaphorically speaking. Uh, go for it, Travis. Let it fly.

Travis: First, very exciting, we've got—

Justin: We call him Mr. Promotions.

Travis: Okay. We've got *Zone of Adventure: Imbalance*. Uh, so you can go see the trailer now for this on [youtube.com/themcelroyfamily](https://www.youtube.com/themcelroyfamily). It's an *Adventure Zone* miniseries DMed by Aabria Iyengar, @quiddie on Twitter. And we're returning to *Balance*! And there's three episodes. Episode 1 drops Wednesday. It's very exciting and very fun.

Thank you to everybody who joined us for *The Adventure Zone: Hootenanny* live and virtual show.

Justin: I don't recognize you when you do this.

Travis: What?

Justin: I just don't—

Griffin: You get so business.

Justin: You get so business.

Travis: Well, it's 'cause I'm trying to enunciate, because I have speech problems.

Justin: I know, but it feels like you're trying to— trying to sell me a mattress that you—

Griffin: Like, be yourself.

Travis: Alright. [exaggerated yelling] Video on demand is available for the virtual show—

Griffin: Yeah, that's the Travis I know!

Justin: That's the one.

Travis: I just wanted to loosen up. Uh, video on demand is still available for that show for 10 dollars for the next two weeks. You can get that at bit.ly/tazvirtual. Check out the new merch at mcelroymerch.com. There's a "Til Death Do Us Blart" shirt designed by Tyler Reed, which benefits the First Nations Development

Institute. There's the "Wizard of the Cloud" pin of the month designed by Dana Wagner, and that benefits Native Women Lead, which revolutionizes systems and inspires innovation by investing in native women in business.

You can also get the Candelights ornament which is designed Cait May, which benefits Harmony House, and there's also a Candelights mug there, so check that out.

Griffin: Can I do this next part?

Travis: Sure.

Griffin: Tickets are on sale for our shows, *MBMBaM* and *TAZ* at the E-triple-C, baby! That's Emerald City Comic Con. They're on sale right now. *MBMBaM's* on December 2nd, *TAZ* is on December 3rd. I will say this: we're recording this on the Thursday before you're hearing it, and tickets are selling pretty fast, because there is limited seating, one of many sort of COVID precautions that they are taking. You require proof of full vaccination or a recent negative COVID test to attend. There's no assigned seating, but ADA seating will be available. You do not need an Emerald City Comic Con badge to buy tickets to buy those.

Um, if you want more about the full health and safety protocols that are gonna be in place, or if you want tickets – 'cause you will need those – they are available at bit.ly/mcelroytour.

Travis: Also, there's a new podcast, uh, out that I executive produce. Uh, it's hosted by Tybee Diskin. It's called *Chasing Immortality*, and it's all about the true stories of people throughout history who have tried to cheat death in a myriad of—

Justin: Cheat the salsa.

Travis: Yeah, cheat the salsa. The first episode is about a guy who believed that you could become immortal, uh, by simply not believing in death, so he attempted to raise a baby to be immortal. And the second episode is about cryonics, and FM-2030, who is currently, I believe, frozen somewhere in Texas.

Justin: Wow.

Travis: You can check that out by searching "Chasing Immortality" in— in, you know, your podcatcher, or you can go to bit.ly/chasingimmortality.

Griffin: Hey, thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song. It's called "My Life (Is Better With You)!" and it's a jammer and a slammer, a real blaster.

Travis: And thank you to Rachel, our editor, for helping us make this show.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: And cutting out all the dumb shit we said.

Griffin: They— that’s a weird thing to say, ‘cause it’s like—

Travis: Yeah, and I don’t know why I said it so angry!

Griffin: Yeah. And the listeners will be like, “Not *all* the dumb shit.”

Yeah, so this is a final Yahoo. This one was sent in by Rupert... Grint.

Travis: Oh. Woah!

Justin: Wow. Woah. Huge get.

Griffin: Big get. Uh, Rupert Grint sent this in. Thank you. But it is not asked by him: it is asked by... [laughs]

It’s asked by fucking... “Y’all hear about Chris Pratt’s gonna voice Garfield?”

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Griffin, that’s like—you can’t just—

Griffin: Rupert Grint also asked—

Travis: And— and Mario? And Mario?!

Griffin: “He’s Mario and Garfield? What the fuck? Where’s all the jobs for Rupie, baby? I got a good voice!”

Justin: [wheezing laughter] “This is what I, Rupert Grint, truly s—” My name is Justin McElroy.

Griffin: Here’s my Garfield impression: “Mondays fuck!”

Travis: [laughs] “Fucking Mondays! Fucking love lasagna!”

Justin: [louder] 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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