

## MBMBaM 586: How was Hell this Time?

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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 McElroy.

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

**Griffin:** See, you lost it last – this is Griffin McElroy – you lost it last week, Travis. I don't know that you're going to be able to get back on that log.

**Travis:** I did it bad. I did a bad job. But I'm about to do a good job.

**Griffin:** Oh.

**Justin:** Feel like it doesn't.

**Travis:** Hey, listen. Here's what I need you guys to do this one time...

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** ...just like...

**Griffin:** Get onboard?

**Travis:** Get onboard the game, 'cause it's a good game that I've invented.

**Griffin:** Okay. Just don't st— just start now.

**Travis:** Okay. So here's how it works. I started following this Twitter account that is "SNL hosts intro."

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** And it's SNL, like, you know, the performer guest introing the musical guest for the week.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Travis:** So, I'm gonna tell you guys the combination of the performer introing the musical guest, and I want you guys to take a guess at how good they are at selling that they're excited to be introing that musical guest.

**Justin:** Okay...

**Griffin:** Are you going to play the audio of it?

**Travis:** Yes. Justin, I am going to send you the links now for the various videos.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Up first: now, I want you to think, "What do I know about these two people?" right? And I think that this is gonna be an easy one to ease us in, right?

Courteney Cox... introducing Dave Matthews Band.

**Griffin:** This is important. Courteney Cox, or Courteney Cox-Arquette?

**Travis:** This is Courteney Cox.

**Griffin:** Okay, okay. The original.

**Justin:** Okay, I think she's gonna be like... this— I think we're guessing the tone, right?

**Travis:** Yes, yes, yes.

**Justin:** Like, "Excited for you at your bachelorette party."

**Griffin:** All I know is that she's going to absolutely scream the name "Dave Matthews Band."

**Justin:** Okay, see, I don't think that— here's what I'm predicting. I'm predicting like, "I'm exci— I got this for you as a bachelorette party present."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** “I know this is your favorite band. I’m not that excited to see them, but like, here they are. I got them. I booked them.”

**Griffin:** Right, okay. Let’s hear it.

**Travis:** Let’s listen.

**Courteney:** Ladies and gentlemen, Dave Matthews Band!

**Griffin:** Not even a little bit.

**Justin:** Not that level of excitement, not any level of excitement.

**Griffin:** It’s like she’s introducing the speaker for like an off, off, off, off, off-Broadway TED Talk. It’s nothing for her.

**Justin:** A different Dave Matthews Band...

**Travis:** Yes.

**Justin:** ...was originally gonna do it, and this bad new David Matthews band—

**Griffin:** Sh— she met Dave Matthews Band backstage, and did not care for them.

**Justin:** [laughs] They dropped a big jar of relish on her shirt, and she’s still thinking about it.

**Griffin:** This is shortly after they pooped on a boat, and so she’s like, “I don’t want to be associated with them necessarily.”

**Justin:** [laughs] Okay.

**Travis:** Okay. Up next: Ben Affleck introducing Nelly.

**Justin:** Okay. He ha— Ben Affleck knows how important it is that he be fully, fully enthused for announcing Nelly. He understands the optics. He’s going to be very excited, like he just watched into “the club” and saw Nelly performing.

**Griffin:** I think he’s going to have the energy of somebody introducing, like, the poet Laureate. Like, a seriousness, like, “It’s time for you all to experience Nelly.”

**Travis:** Let’s take a listen.

**Ben:** Ladies and gentlemen, Nelly, featuring Jaheim.

**Justin:** Oh, wow.

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's...

**Justin:** [laughs] I whiffed it.

**Ben:** Ladies and gentlemen, Nelly, featuring Jaheim.

**Justin:** [laughs] I whiffed completely. I whiffed it as bad as Ben Affleck whiffed it.

**Travis:** I think Griffin kind of nailed it, actually.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Like, "Brace yourselves. It's Nelly, featuring Jaheim."

**Griffin:** "It's time for the honored guest."

**Justin:** [laughs] Oh, Ben... [laughs] Ben.

**Griffin:** Justin, you want to take a swing at like, a good way to introduce Nelly?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Yeah. Is it Jaheim?

**Griffin:** Nelly featuring Jaheim.

**Travis:** Jaheim, yes.

**Justin:** Featuring Jaheim, obviously. [presenter voice] Ladies and gentlemen, give it up for Nelly, featuring Jaheim!

**Travis:** Ooh, that was good!

**Griffin:** That's pretty good. That's pretty good. I mean, you've legally have to say, "Ladies and gentlemen," even though folks don't necessarily rock like that anymore, but that's—[crosstalk] needs that.

**Justin:** Yeah, but the— yeah, I understand the difference, but this is...

**Griffin:** It's SNL, baby. It's a big show.

**Justin:** It's the old time. The old ways. [laughs]

**Griffin:** The old time. Good time show.

**Travis:** This one I'm excited to introduce to you, because of the combination of these three people. Paul Giamatti introducing Ludacris, featuring Sum 41.

**Justin:** Holy shit.

**Griffin:** Stoked out of his fucking mind.

**Justin:** Shit.

**Griffin:** Stoked out of his gourd.

**Justin:** If they had an orgy at the end of that, our podcast would be the baby.

**Griffin:** He's gonna be so excited that the energy might come off as aggressive.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Like, he's so angry and happy to be announcing these two.

**Justin:** This is my— this is my— okay, my prediction for this one – and I don't know why I feel this way – but I feel like Paul Giamatti is bringing, like, corporate gig energy. Like...

**Travis:** Oh.

**Justin:** He had, like... you know, "I used to be big into wine, but ever since I tried a Miller Light Seltzers Platinum..."

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** ...you know, that kind of deal.

**Travis:** Let's take a listen.

**Paul:** [excited] Ladies and gentlemen, Ludacris, featuring Sum 41!

**Griffin:** Yeah, man!

**Paul:** [excited] Ladies and gentlemen, Ludacris, featuring Sum 41!

**Griffin:** That's how you do it, actually.

**Justin:** Yeah, that's actually bringing it.

**Griffin:** That's actually the best tone. Yeah, that's good. I've— I suspected a bit of frenzy would slip into his voice, but that was just like, "Let's get this place fucking ro—"

**Travis:** Right.

**Griffin:** Like, he improved their performance by getting the crowd psyched and into it.

**Justin:** Like, maybe they weren't psyched to do it, but then it was sort of like, "You know what? We should give them the best show."

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** "We should try our absolute hardest."

**Griffin:** And then he went— and then he goes and stands in front of the stage, like a foot away from them, and just like, nods his head like, vigorously. Like, he's so—

**Travis:** And he's conducting a little bit—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And they're like, "Why is he conducting Ludacris, featuring Sum 41?"

**Griffin:** And he's like, "This isn't my usual thing, but these guys can really wail!"

**Justin:** [bursts out laughing]

**Griffin:** Like, bruise on it.

**Justin:** This— like the— this feels like before he went out, right? He was like, "I don't know who any of these people are." And they had him like, turn on some headphones, and listen, "This is good, actually. I could get down to this."

**Griffin:** [laughs loudly]

**Justin:** "I think I get it. Okay. I'm ready."

**Travis:** Up next. Bernie Mac introducing Good Charlotte.

**Griffin:** Huh. I think if this is close to the end of sh— this is actually important information. Is this the first music act or the second music act? I—

**Travis:** I don't believe any of these are second music.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Because none of them contained, like, "Once again," or "Welcome back," or any kind of reference to it.

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's a good point, that's a good point. 'Cause the second one is always, always gonna be: "[flatly] Everyone, Good Charlotte." Like, they've left it all out on the court by that point.

Um, I'm— b— like, bemusement.

**Travis:** Mm.

**Griffin:** He believes that there— he says, "There are people who like this music. It's not my favorite music, but I recognize the—"

**Justin:** I actually completely agree with that energy. He's not, like, pumped about it, because he knows that you're gonna read that as phony.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** But he's, like— he's happy for you.

**Griffin:** He's pleased for you.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Let's take a listen.

**Bernie:** [rushed] Ladies and gentlemen, Good Charlotte.

**Griffin:** Nope.

**Justin:** [bursts out laughing]

**Bernie:** [rushed] Ladies and gentlemen, Good Charlotte.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Yeah, no, he's— he was eating a big meatball sub backstage, and you're like, "Hey, you have to go introduce Good Charlotte."

And he was like, "Okay."

**Justin:** "Okay."

**Griffin:** And he walked out there, and said, "It's Good Charlotte," and then walked back. And within 10 seconds, he had that sandwich right back in his mouth. God bless him.

**Travis:** Now, these next two, I would actually rather not guess beforehand. Let's just listen and discuss them afterwards.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** This is Phil Hartman introducing Bush.

**Griffin:** Wow.

**Justin:** Wow.

**Griffin:** Okay!

**Phil:** [flatly] Ladies and gentlemen, Bush.

**Justin:** [wheezing laughter]

**Griffin:** Woah.

**Phil:** [flatly] Bush.

**Justin:** Oh, man.

**Griffin:** It's like— it's like he thinks that the band is going to spray a neurotoxin into the stu— into the studio...

**Justin:** Yes.

**Travis:** Justin can also see the video that I have. Justin, can you describe the...

**Justin:** He's looking directly at you like he's a James Bond villain, and you're James Bond. And he's like— he's just found out that your secret weakness is Bush.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Isn't it, though?

**Justin:** And he's like, "Oh, you di—" You know, well... Yeah, it's a v— it's like, levels of intensity that I can't quite communicate to you.

**Griffin:** Do you have the year that Phil Hartman introduced Bush?



**Travis:** No, I don't know the dates.

**Griffin:** That was 1996.

**Travis:** Okay. Is that good?

**Justin:** Is that good, or bad? How do you feel about that?

**Griffin:** Things were not great for Phil Hartman in 1996, so he may have just been going through some stuff. He was going through a time.

**Travis:** Up next: Nathan Lane introducing Metallica. And just play it.

**Griffin:** No!

**Justin:** No, really?

**Travis:** Yup.

**Justin:** This happened?

**Travis:** Uh-huh!

**Nathan:** [enthusiastic] Ladies and gentlemen, Metallica!

**Justin:** That's what I'm talking about! That's it.

**Griffin:** Yeah, Nathan! Yeah, Nathan!

**Nathan:** [enthusiastic] Metallica!

**Justin:** Thank you for coming to the show, Nathan.

**Griffin:** Thank you, Nathan.

**Travis:** That is how it is done.

**Justin:** You fucking consummate performer.

**Travis:** Everyone, take notes.

**Justin:** Take notes from Nathan Lane.

**Travis:** I don't know if Nathan Lane has ever listened to a Metallica song in his life, but that is like, a dad like, introing his kid— like, I—

**Justin:** He's driving you, and he just picked up Brady, and then he opens the sliding door on the Odyssey, and he's like, "Brady, are you ready to go to Detroit to see Metallica?"

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Right?

**Griffin:** Listen, as long as we're sort of diving into the psyche of the hosts of this show, 1997 was when this episode came out, around the same time that Nate Lane was in a little film called *Mouse Hunt*!

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** He was rolling in the deep piles of *Mouse Hunt* money.

**Travis:** [crosstalk], too.

**Griffin:** Yeah, he could be—he could be introducing anybody. He could be, “Ladies and gentlemen, [forced, gravely] Alanis Morissette!” Like, he would still put that stink on it.

**Nathan:** Ladies and gentlemen, Metallica!

**Griffin:** Jesus.

**Travis:** I love it!

**Griffin:** If we— the next time we play in New York, could we pull strings to get Nathan Lane to introduce us in that exact...

**Travis:** Oh, my God.

**Griffin:** ...in that exact way.

**Justin:** God. I mean...

**Travis:** That would be incredible.

**Justin:** I don't think I have a connection there, but I— I hope so. Whatever. I just gotta say, what a pro.

**Travis:** What a pro. Okay, one last one.

**Justin:** [laughs] Oh, no.

**Travis:** This is the greatest one I've ever seen.

**Griffin:** It's not Adrien Brody, is it?

**Travis:** No. God, no.

**Justin:** Not allowed to play Adrien Brody, but like if you've never seen that one...

**Griffin:** It sucks the moon out of the sky.

**Travis:** Okay. Here it is. Daniel Craig introducing The Weeknd. And, now, don't play it yet. How do you think this one goes?

**Griffin:** Hm.

**Justin:** I messed up and loaded it, I can see the video portion of this. Um...

**Travis:** Okay, well then let Griffin guess first.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I think he is... overjoyed.

**Travis:** Okay. Okay. Justin, go ahead and play it.

**Daniel:** [formally] Ladies and gentlemen, The Weeknd.

**Justin:** [wheezes]

**Griffin:** [laughs loudly]

**Travis:** And once again, Justin can see the video.

**Daniel:** The Weeknd.

**Justin:** it's like he can't believe someone is named "The Weeknd."

**Travis:** Yes. My theory— and Griffin, now I'm gonna send it to you, 'cause you gotta see it.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** My theory is that, just before he went out, somebody told him the name...

**Justin:** [soft wheezing laughter]

**Travis:** ...and he believed that he was introducing the actual, like, concept of the weekend.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Travis:** That he was like, "The Weeknd." I don't know!

**Griffin:** There's a shrug that goes with it, and he shakes his head, like, "The Weeknd?"

**Travis:** The Weeknd.

**Griffin:** Maybe if he put a question mark in it, it would have been a lot more powerful.

**Justin:** This is worth— it's worth noting, this— this— a lot of the— the other ones have been from an account that's full of these sorts of things, like host introducing. This is an account that is called "Craig Weekend..."

**Griffin:** Mm-hm.

**Justin:** That has 517,000 followers, and they just tweet this every weekend.

**Travis:** Yup. 'Cause he introduces the weekend!

**Griffin:** [laughs] That's fun.

**Justin:** That is fun. That's a good game, Trav. Thanks, I enjoyed that trip down memory lane. I always love that juxtaposition of performer... and... host. Um, do you think there is any thought to how that will go?

**Travis:** No, not at all.

**Griffin:** After Adrien Brody, there probably is.

**Justin:** Yeah, probably is a little bit.

**Griffin:** A script that you read.

**Travis:** What's interesting to me is the top part of constructing that game was trying to find any video where the host seemed enthusiastic.

**Griffin:** Mm-hm.

**Travis:** And it was Nathan Lane [laughs] and that's it! Everybody else seems ranged between, like, "I don't know" and like, "I know it's weird that I'm saying it too!" Yes!

**Justin:** It was a pretty good bit one time where Harvey Keitel was the host, and Madonna was the musical act, and he said, like, "I was so excited when I got here, and I just had this realization that wow, I have a much more enthusiastic gay following than I realized."

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** 'Cause Madonna's there. It's good.

Um, okay, so... this is an advice show.

**Travis:** Obviously.

**Justin:** Okay. Like, enough said, right? So what we do on this show is you send us your questions. I'm gonna set it up.

**Travis:** Ooh.

**Griffin:** Okay...

**Justin:** Here's the deal. Okay. When you send us your questions, mbmbam@maximumfun.org. And we will answer your questions. If you need advice, we will help you. Where there will be other skits...

**Travis:** Skits and bits, I would say.

**Justin:** There'll be skits— actually, there's no bits scheduled for this one.

**Travis:** I just did kind of a bit.

**Justin:** Okay, that's more of a skit.

**Travis:** Oh, did it? Okay, that's fair. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Justin:** Uh, but uh, let's get into it. Let's help people. I wanna try to help more people than we have been helping, because I feel like that's our real legacy.

**Griffin:** Well, spending 11 minutes talking about SNL introductions is a bad way to start.

**Travis:** Fair, fair, fair, fair, fair.

**Justin:** Hey, hey, it's been 17 minutes. "I told my boss that I have jury duty on Monday, which I normally have off. I gave the correct date, but the wrong day. It turns out my jury duty is on Tuesday, and I'll subsequently need that day off. A game that I'm openly a fan of is releasing on Tuesday. I don't want her to suspect that I'm trying to fake jury duty and actually taking off for video games. How do I break it to her that I got the day wrong without seeming suspicious?" That's from *Misremembered* in Missouri.

**Griffin:** Mm.

**Travis:** I think that this might be, like, a quantum mechanics problem, by which I mean—

**Justin:** You don't understand it.

**Travis:** That I don't understand it. No, the very fact that you have— I don't think your boss would have thought this, but now that you're worried about it, you have caused – through observation – this thing to change. Right?

**Griffin:** Mm.

**Travis:** Because now, whatever energy you're going to bring to like, "I got the day wrong, and it's Tuesday," will have an undercurrent of, "I hope they don't think this is about me playing a video game." And they'll be able to [whispers] smell it on you.

**Justin:** Okay, a couple of good options. What's the game, first off? We gotta—

**Griffin:** Yeah, I was looking through recent game releases.

**Justin:** I mean, is it COD?

**Griffin:** I don't know— it might be COD. They might need those—

**Travis:** Well, this is new question. Come on.

**Justin:** Gotta be a franchise, 'cause why would you be— I was about to say, "Why would you be a fan of a new game that hasn't released yet?" but people do that all the time, it seems, enough to yell at people on the internet about it, so...

**Travis:** Yeah! Let's see.

**Justin:** Uh, let's assume it's Call of Duty, 'cause I— I can't be bothered.

**Griffin:** And we all love it.

**Justin:** We all love— zero problems with it.

**Travis:** I love how serious it is and, like, not fun.

**Justin:** Well, it's really cool. So— okay, here's my options. One: loudly, like, start— get a video game magazine from the newsstand...

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** And just be like, [sighs heavily] "I can't believe this! This new Call of Duty stinks! They said you shouldn't even get it."

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** That's one way to try to decrease. But like, I wouldn't do that. Here's what I'd do.

**Griffin:** Why'd you even— why'd you even say it?

**Justin:** Because this next one's a little more treacherous.

**Travis:** But then— but Justin, why even introduce such a shitty idea?

**Justin:** Because this next one is treacherous.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Justin:** And I need to say that you should definitely do the first one before I mention that you should definitely do the second one.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** Hire someone to come in and intimidate you.

**Griffin:** Woah.

**Travis:** Wait, what?

**Justin:** At your place of business.

**Griffin:** Awesome!

**Justin:** Hire someone to come in and intimidate you. Be like, you know, "You know, I heard that you— you know, Paul Calcutta is a good guy, and I think you would never run a red light, don't you think, Mr. Guy who loves having all his teeth?"

**Travis:** Ooh.

**Justin:** And he cracks his knuckles like... [knuckle cracks] "That's what Paul Calcutta means to me. Wink."

**Travis:** What does Paul Calcutta mean to you? [laughs]

**Justin:** When you think— when you hear the name Paul Calcutta, what do you think? Do you think innocence? Me too.

**Travis:** Yeah, me too.

**Griffin:** Well, the—[sighs] the juror wouldn't know the name, I think, right? I've never had jury duty, so I don't know.

**Travis:** Well, he does now!

**Justin:** You're gonna have to fake it. A lot of—[laughs] a lot of it's gonna be staged.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** So they're not gonna have any way of checking up on Paul Calcutta, and his case, and if his name is Paul Calcutta, or any of that.

**Travis:** Okay, wait. One step further, Justin. And then—

**Justin:** One step further than that?! We're already in felony territory!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And then the intimidating person says, "So if I was you, I'd just say home and play your little video game—"

**Justin:** [bursts out laughing]

**Travis:** Wait, no, hear me out. Hear me out. And then question asker goes, "No!"

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** "As much as I love that video game, I love justice more. I will not be intimidated. Paul Calcutta's going down!"

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** That's awesome.

**Travis:** And then your boss is like—

**Justin:** "Call his dad!"

**Travis:** Yeah.



**Justin:** "Call Paul Calcutta's dad on the phone and let me tell him to say his goodbyes."

**Travis:** You know what, I'll call him.

**Justin:** I'll call him. Give me Paul Calcutta's dad's phone number.

**Travis:** "I just wanted to check to make sure that um, I prepaid for that video game so I could pick it up before jury duty. Okay, I'll talk to you. Thank you. [louder] Yeah, I told his dad what's up! I said, "Fuck you, Mr. Calcutta."

**Justin:** Now, here— here's another thing I will say. There is a way that, you know, porque no los dos.

**Travis:** Oh?

**Justin:** Like, if you go to jury duty Tuesday morning, and you're like, [laughs] "This man's guilty! Don't even let him open his mouth!"

**Griffin:** [growing laughter]

**Justin:** "Everybody, we can all see it, right? We know this man's guilty. Throw the proverbial book at him. Five years. Yeah, sounds good. Okay. Well, it's a good day, everybody. Good jurying. I gotta get— I gotta get home, the download's almost created, and I'm gonna crank it out."

**Travis:** "It's fine. I got Steam Link. It's totally cool."

**Griffin:** It's fine. Do it—

**Justin:** "Start over... trial— start over. [laughs] I got Steam Link."

**Griffin:** "Hey, anyone else think this guy's got big stabbing energy? I do!"

**Travis:** "He's covered in blood!"

"What are you talking about?"

"Oh, you can't see it?"

**Griffin:** "Judge, do a guilty. Do a guilty now, Judge. You can just say it; we can all go home, play Call of Duty."

"Oh, fuck yeah, is that out today?"

**Travis:** "Yeah, it's out today."

**Justin:** "It's out today."

"I hold myself in contempt!"

**Travis:** "We haven't star— what— we haven't started yet."

"What? You can't handle the truth! I'm leaving!"

"You can't leave. You can't go."

**Griffin:** "Someone fingerprint the Judge..."

**Travis:** [laughs] "He's got suspicious eyes."

**Griffin:** "He's got big stabber energy."

**Justin:** "If I don't touch the evidence, how do I know it's not hologram?"

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "Hey, could it have been the Riddler? I said 'riddle' and we all thought it, didn't we?"

**Travis:** "Hey, how do you know I'm not a judge, huh?"

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "Guilty! Prove I'm not."

**Justin:** "We didn't vote on who the judge would be."

**Travis:** "Can I be the bailiff this time? I'm not sure what he does, but I always liked Bull on Night Court!"

**Griffin:** Uh-huh. Sometimes during your interview to see if you're a suitable juror, just stand up and produce a knife from your pocket and stab it into the table, like in *12 Angry Men*.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** And they're like, "That's nothing right now."

You're like, "Oh, sorry." And then you do it like five minutes later, like, "Shit, you gotta tell me when it's time for me to stab my little knife into the table."

**Travis:** Oh, and keep trying to introduce evidence to the case. [laughs]  
“I wanna introduce—”

“That’s a Subway coupon with like six punches out of it.”

“Exactly! I think we all know what this means; I only need four more punches until I get a free footlong. Interesting, isn’t it? What a coincidence.”

**Justin:** Uh, how about another question?

**Griffin:** Yeah, sure.

**Justin:** “I don’t have a dog, but I love dogs. When I see them out and about, I wave at them, only to get an uncomfortable wave from their owner. How can I wave from just the dog without getting weird looks from humans?” That’s from Incidental Dog Walker Stalker in Denver.

**Griffin:** [singing] You cannot! You can’t do this thing.

**Travis:** Yeah, you gotta wink.

**Griffin:** No, not that either, actually.

**Travis:** Well, ‘cause the wave is too big, but you can do like a “Hey, we’re in this together,” wink, you know, kind of little thing. It’s what I used to do when I worked at PetSmart, and I’d see a dog, and like, I didn’t want to talk to the owner, but I wanted the dog to know that I was glad they were there.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Little wink. Wink!

**Justin:** Did they pound it?

**Travis:** You can—

**Griffin:** They can go to the pound.

**Justin:** Oh, come on.

**Travis:** That’s prison for dogs. That’s prison.

**Griffin:** The thing about the wave or the wink – the wink is nothing, but the problem with the wave is that’s a human greeting.

**Travis:** Oh, fair, yeah.

**Griffin:** If you wanna smell— well, you can't smell the butt, unless you're like, *really* sneaky. Like, and I'm talking Sam Fisher, very ninja sneaky.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Um, can you smell the dog's butt from far away, and let the dog know it? You know what I mean?

**Travis:** Oh, like, just a sign of just like— like a wave is kind of like a long-distance high-five when you think about it, so you kind of sniff like it was a butt, and they're like, "Oh, I got it."

**Griffin:** That's— but the problem with that is it's very gross.

**Travis:** This is true.

**Justin:** Mm.

**Travis:** Maybe when you wave and the human waves back, say, "That wasn't for you!"

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** "It was for him."

**Griffin:** You know, it's kind of a power move to have a dog treat. And then you're like, "Oh, hey, I just happen to have this dog treat in my pocket. Can I give it to your dog?"

And at that point, the dog is like, "Hey, if you say no to this, I'll eat you in your sleep."

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And so then you're— I'm out. I will— I'm now this person's dog. it is that quick. It is that easy, Jeremy. Do you see?

**Travis:** This can happen like that, Jeremy. All these years spent together? Over!

**Justin:** Down the toilet.

**Griffin:** I forget what bacon strips taste like, Jeremy. So just think about that. Um...

**Travis:** I remember how you gave me some sort of pill this morning. They would never do that, Jeremy.

**Griffin:** They would never give you medicine.

**Travis:** They'd give me bacon strips.

**Griffin:** Um, alright. Asked and answered, I feel like.

**Justin:** Yeah, I hope that helped.

**Griffin:** Um...

**Travis:** Just throw `em a wink.

**Griffin:** Do you wanna do another question? I do have a phone line that connects me directly to the Clouds where the Wizard lives.

**Justin:** Um, yeah, let's do that before the Money Zone. Why not?

**Griffin:** A lot of people sent this one in. it's on WikiHow, and I guess nobody wrote it? It doesn't have anything. Um...

**Travis:** Did I write it?

**Griffin:** You may have written it.

**Travis:** I mean, if no one's gonna claim it, I'll claim it.

**Griffin:** This is how to get rid of a nickname. And it's awesome.

**Justin:** Ooh.

**Griffin:** Yeah, people develop nicknames—

**Travis:** How to get *rid* of a nickname?

**Griffin:** Yeah, I hate my nickname and I want a new one. Well, good news. This article's gonna tell you exactly that. Um, so we're gonna start with part one: challenging the nickname.

**Travis:** Woah.

**Griffin:** There's a picture here of a person walking, and they're wearing cargo shorts and a hip sort of, rugby shirt. And um, they look a lot like Zack Morris.

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Which is only notable because there's a gentleman in the foreground who's yelling, "Zack Attack!"

**Justin:** Oh, no.

**Travis:** Huh!

**Griffin:** The tip here is, "Don't answer to a nickname you don't like. If somebody started calling you by a mean nickname or something you don't like, the first step is to not respond." Okay. That's cool.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** If someone yells "Zack Attack!" And you don't even acknowledge them? They're probably gonna follow you for a while, going, "Zack Attack?"

**Travis:** Why wouldn't you like the nickname Zack Attack? That kind of rules.

**Griffin:** Let's not— listen. Everybody likes different shit.

**Travis:** Here's the problem, though. You're entering into a battle of wills, right, at that point. Because if the other person is deeply committed to that becoming your nickname, it's not gonna be a one-time thing, right? They're gonna try to, like, catch you off-guard, because if their name is Zack, and they were like, "Zack," and you start to turn, and then they go, "Attack!"

And you're like, "Ah, damn it! I looked."

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** This is gonna freak this person's bean, though. If they're like, "Zack Attack! Zack Attack! Zack Attack!" They're gonna go to someone and be like, "Either I'm a ghost, or Zack Attack is a ghost. And it's one of those two."

Okay, "Ask friends to stop using the nickname." That's the easy one. "Good friends will understand, and don't want to hurt your feelings. You could say, 'Guys, I know it's really funny to call me Zack Attack, but I really don't like that nickname. Just call me Zachary, okay?'"

**Justin:** [wheezes]

**Griffin:** Um, yeah, that's a good one. "Deal with a bully that is calling you a nickname. If they're calling you— if it's a bully, it'll be harder to confront them. Just ignore them, and let them see it hasn't got to you, right? And—"

**Justin:** Feels like it has, though, doesn't it?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** It takes their power away. No, not if you do pretend good enough. "If bullies call you a name, show them you're not intimidated or scared by looking them in the eyes, laughing, and just walking away without looking back. Or you could say something like, 'Here we go again, this is boring,' or 'Why are you talking to me?'"

**Travis:** Ooh!

**Griffin:** I like that last one a lot, actually, but then the next one is, "I don't know why you keep calling me that, but it's boring, and I don't care."

Methinks the Zack Attack do protest too much.

**Travis:** Yeah, that one might not have the power you were hoping for there...

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** ...of "This is boring? What do you— this isn't for *you*. Wait, hold on, Zack Attack. Did you think I was calling you Zack Attack for your entertainment? Because it's for *my* entertainment. Was that not clear how this transaction was playing out? Oh, let me explain, Zack Attack. I'm a bully."

**Griffin:** "I hate you."

**Justin:** [laughs] "Yeah."

**Griffin:** Right.

**Travis:** Yes. "Because I am a very small person in my heart, and so I need to feel big by making you feel bad, and now that you've engaged with me and said that it makes you feel bored, that's actually a negative thing, so I'm fine with that, actually. So..."

**Justin:** Yeah. "Any sort of thing that I can do to sort of steal your shine."

**Travis:** Yeah, that would be amazing.

**Justin:** "I'm a hater!"

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "What don't you get, bud? I'm a hater! I drink Haterade! I love it! I live for it!"

**Travis:** "I'm gonna kick you in the butt. And I don't care if you like that either, Zack! Oh, sorry, wait. That felt good. Wait, Zack?"

**Griffin:** "Zack? Kicking me in the butt? So boring. Why don't you leave?"

**Travis:** "Why are you kicking me in the butt?"

**Griffin:** "Why don't you go away from me, stinker?"

"Introduce yourself at the start. Just introduce yourself casually, by saying, 'Hey, everyone, I'm Jill.'" I don't know that I've introduced myself in a while. Not because I'm big shit, but also that I don't, um...

**Justin:** Meet people.

**Griffin:** Meet people, and so when I—

**Travis:** Well, that's why— yeah.

**Griffin:** When I do, I r— I, like, require a hype person. Not even a hype person. Somebody who can literally jus— a hype person to the extent that Bernie Mac is a hype person...

**Travis:** Was.

**Griffin:** ...for Good Charlotte.

**Travis:** Oh, I see.

**Griffin:** Was a good person for— so just somebody say, "Everybody in this room, Griffin."

**Justin:** An expectation setter.

**Griffin:** Yes, exactly.

**Travis:** So that's interesting, 'cause I was going to suggest a Harold, which I think I've suggested quite often on this show.



**Griffin:** A few times.

**Travis:** But it would be nice to just have somebody, like, as like a no— like a human autocorrect. That when someone's like—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** "Hey, Bobby!"

And they just go, "It's Bob."

**Griffin:** That's good! Maybe you could get a Cameo from Paul Giamatti just saying, "Hey, everyone, here's Griffin!"

And then you can, like, you know, hack into the speaker system of any party you're at, and just play that as you walk in. that's good.

**Travis:** Ooh, get a Cameo from Nathan Lane that's like, "He's only going by Griffin!"

And then, like, you can play that any time someone's like, "What's up, Griffy?"

And you're like, "Mm, hold on. Let me pull out this Cameo."

**Griffin:** "Mm, hold on, wait a second. I have a very important Cameo from Nathan Lane I have to show you."

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Uh, an also, last thing, "Remember that nicknames don't last forever."

**Travis:** Well...

**Griffin:** And there's a picture of a woman saying, "Little Zacky!" to a little boy, and then as a grown-up, she's like, "Zachary." It's all she says, is "Zachary," and then there's a period. And she looks pretty serious. So like— but Zachary is smiling, so it looks like his older mother is saying, "Zachary, I need to talk to you." It was something along those lines.

**Justin:** "I'm Zachary, I'm happy to present, Bush."

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "I'm Zachary, here is Bush."

**Travis:** Can we just say that saying, “Nicknames don’t last forever” is, uh, a complete lie? ‘Cause there are many, like, people throughout history, it’s like— Stonewall Jackson! I got no idea what that dude’s first name is!

**Griffin:** I know. I know.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yep. You could— there’s so many— there’s war heroes out there that you walk around, and they were like in World War I or whatever, and it’s like, “Tell me the story, Grandpa, about your friend.”

“Oh, you mean Big Boner Joe?” Like, ‘cause that’s what they called them out there. It was rough in the trenches.

**Travis:** That could be worse, though. That could be worse.

**Griffin:** It could be worse, I guess. “You mean Little— Little Boner Bobby?”

**Travis:** How were none of these suggestions in this, like, “Try to come up with a different, better nickname?”

**Griffin:** Well, I think they just— who— if your name is Zachary, that’s all I would wanna be called. Fuck yeah, Zachary.

**Travis:** It’s a good one.

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Travis:** Especially if your last name is Levi, and you could be Zachary Levi, star of *Shazam!* Why wouldn’t you be Zachary Levi, star of *Shazam!*?

**Griffin:** if your name was Zachary Snackary...

**Travis:** Oh, yeah!

**Griffin:** “Here comes— here comes Zack Attack!”

And I would be like, “Fucking— do you guys know my last name?”

**Travis:** “Just call me Zack Snack if nothing else, like... but don’t do that! Please call me by my full [laughs] Christian name.”

**Griffin:** Holy shit. If your name is Zachary out there, by the way, I just gave you a pretty good nickname of Snackary.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** That one works at pretty much every age, so...

**Travis:** And they could call you Sackary, so like, is Zack Attack that bad?

**Griffin:** Yeah, it's pretty rough.

**Justin:** Any more, Griff?

**Griffin:** Of Zachary nicknames? Um, lemme think. Shack— Shackery?

**Travis:** Oh, that's very good. John Zachary. What if you got— went with a Cameo idea, right? But it was like a live-action cameo, and you paid, like, let's say John Stamos, right, to like walk by you and say, like, "Oh, hey, man. You've got a really cool vibe. What's your name?"

And you say, "Zachary."

And John Stamos goes, "Zachary. What an amazing name! Why would anyone call you anything other than Zachary?"

**Griffin:** This fake conversation's going on so long!

**Justin:** It's so long.

**Griffin:** It's so long!

**Justin:** I'm gonna— no, listen. I can get us out. We're going to the Money Zone, come on!

**Travis:** I'm gonna stay here with John Stamos.

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

**Justin:** Brooklinen...

**Travis:** Oh, no, I was gonna do it!

**Justin:** Sorry, tough mittens.

**Travis:** But Brooklinen makes great sheets, and I love them!

**Justin:** No, see, you don't even know what you're talking about. Brooklinen actually makes great sheets, and everybody loves them, but it's— beyond sheets, they got something for everybody on your

gift list. You want a weighted blanket? A nice, cozy robe? They did a fun thing where they can let you pick somebody to send a gift to.

**Travis:** That's fun!

**Justin:** And I sent— I know! I sent a t-shirt to my wife, Sydnee, and she was very weirded out, 'cause what did I do this for?

**Travis:** Yeah, you could've sent it to me!

**Justin:** I said, "Open the box, and you'll see, it is a very comfortable black t-shirt."

And she put it on right there in the kitchen. You know what she said? "Best t-shirt I ever wore."

**Griffin:** Wow.

**Justin:** "Best black t-shirt I ever wore," I think she said. So there you go.

**Travis:** It's so nice that romance is still alive after all these years.

**Justin:** Still alive.

**Travis:** 'Cause, you know, sometimes it's easy to remember to buy plain black t-shirts for your loved ones early on in the relationship, but it's so easy to let that kind of flame die out, and it's so good to hear you are still delivering the heat after all these years.

**Justin:** And it's a great place to find a gift. And uh—

**Griffin:** It's not just linens, either. They got candles, eye masks, and accessories. Everything— everything that you need to cosplay as Candleboy, the Nighttime Friend.

**Travis:** [laughs quietly]

**Justin:** [laughs] So go check out the gift guide to find the perfect present at every price point. Go to [brooklinen.com](https://www.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](https://www.brooklinen.com) and enter promo code "my brother." [Brooklinen.com](https://www.brooklinen.com), promo code "my brother."

**Travis:** Can I tell—

**Griffin:** No.

**Travis:** No?

**Griffin:** I open— I just wanted to say, I opened a Stitch Fix box earlier this week, and it was a fiver. I kept all five pieces.

**Travis:** Ooh, yeah!

**Justin:** Woah!

**Griffin:** I usually keep a majority of them, but a fiver, you gotta talk about.

**Travis:** This is the time, for me, when Stitch Fix really shines. And that is, my friends, sweater weather. Because I don't know how they do it, but every sweater Stitch Fix has ever sent me is a keeper. It's that chunky sweater, like— they know me so well at this point. They sent me a sweater one time that just putting it on – and I can't explain it – makes me feel like one of the assassins from *Assassin's Creed*.

**Griffin:** Woah.

**Travis:** It's a hooded sweater, I think—

**Griffin:** Does it have knives in it?

**Travis:** I don't know, Griffin, but there's something about it that makes me want to skulk.

**Griffin:** Yeah!

**Travis:** And listen, that's because my size, my style, is all my own. It's about what suits me, and what suits the moment. And that's the thing, man. You go to a store, and you're like, "None of these clothes are for me. This is not my sto— what am I doing here? This is not my beautiful life." And that's why Stitch Fix is great, because they get to know you. They ask you questions, you answer them, you pick stuff you like, and they start to tailor their choices based on what *you* want, and your lifestyle and all that stuff!

So whether you're looking for a brand you love, or you wanna try something new, you can try Stitch Fix Freestyle. It's a style destination where you can—

**Griffin:** [rapping] Well, my name is Stitch Fix, and I'm here to say...

**Justin:** Oh.

**Griffin:** ...that I love giving clothes in a major way!

**Travis:** Sure.

**Griffin:** Don't look at me when I change my pants, but you can drop this beat and you can do that dance.

**Travis:** There you go.

**Griffin:** My name is Stitch Fix, and I like to do lots of stuff, like even shoes. Or socks or belts or neckties, too. Come on, my friend – I got some clothes for you.

**Travis:** That was really good, Griffin.

**Griffin:** [normally] Thanks, yeah. Yeah.

**Justin:** Really good.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I actually— they, um... they paid me for that. They were like, "Hey, didn't you used to do songs for the ads?"

And I was like, "Fuck yeah. Give me 50 bucks."

**Travis:** Okay. Yeah.

**Griffin:** They sent me a 50-dollar Stitch Fix uh, gift card. Which I was like, "Good enough."

**Travis:** So, with Stitch Fix Freestyle, you get to pick your items and buy them specially curated to your style, and so you still get the box – that's great, love the box – and then you can also buy items that match your style, likes, and lifestyle. There's no subscription required, and they offer free shipping, returns and exchanges. So get started today by filling out your style quiz at [stitchfix.com/mybrother](https://stitchfix.com/mybrother). That's [stitchfix.com/mybrother](https://stitchfix.com/mybrother) to try Stitch Fix Freestyle. [Stitchfix.com/mybrother](https://stitchfix.com/mybrother).

[upbeat acoustics playing]

**John:** Look, it's a rough world out there, especially lately, I get it. So let's take care of our minds as best we can. I'm John Moe, host of *Depresh Mode with John Moe*. Every week, I talk with comedians, actors, writers, musicians, doctors, therapists, and everyday folks about the obstacles that the world and our brains throw in front of us. Depression, anxiety, traumatic stress. All those mental health challenges that are way more common and more treatable than you might think.

**Speaker 2:** The first time I went to therapy, I was so ashamed, and I was like, “I can’t believe I got to therapy.” Like, “I thought I could be a man, and Humphrey Bogart was never in therapy.”

Then my dad said, “Yeah, but he smoked a carton of cigarettes a *day*.”

**John:** Give your mind a break, give yourself a break, and join me for *Depresh Mode with John Moe*.

[music and advertisement end]

**Justin:** [inhales]

**Travis:** I heard the breath, Justin.

**Griffin:** I heard the—

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** I heard the Munch Squad breath.

**Justin:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Travis:** You took the breath, you took the breath and realized—

**Justin:** Yeah, yeah, [imitates rock guitar].

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** [hums melody] I want to munch!

**Travis:** Squad!

**Griffin:** Squad!

**Justin:** [imitates rock guitar] [vampire voice] I want to munch!

**Griffin:** But it’s not October anymore!

**Justin:** [ends rock guitar] Welcome to Munch Squad, it’s a podcast within a podcast profiling the latest and greatest in— we’ve— here’s the first thing I’ll say to you people.

**Travis:** [laughs] Yes?

**Justin:** Everyone tweeted me about Arby’s making vodka. Listen, folks, this is Munch Squad. It’s not the Thirsty Zone, okay? They’re thirsty for it.

**Travis:** No, we save that for *Sawbones*.

**Justin:** Yes. It's the Thirsty Zone, okay? Arby's drops limited-edition curly fry and crinkle fry vodka. Is vodka based on their fries, okay? This is Munch Squad; we have standards.

**Travis:** We do?!

**Justin:** Okay?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I'm gonna try to get some of it, okay? [laughs] I'm trying— I'm trying to get some of it. I'm trying to get some of it, okay?

**Griffin:** Alright.

**Travis:** I'm gonna need you to do, by the way, like, a tasting video of that, with Sydnee. Because you'll lie and say it's good to seem cool, and Sydnee will be honest.

**Justin:** Yeah, but here's the thing, right? Like, this is what I'm trying to get across. On Munch Squad, I try to make a difference – and if there's an exception, I'll mention it – but I don't like these companies just doing things to get the headlines for Munch Squad.

**Travis:** I see. I see.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** They're just wanting the attention for Munch Squad. Arby's doesn't think one good thing for Arby's would be vodka. You know what I mean? Like, they don't think they're doing the right thing with it.

**Travis:** So when you say "Thirsty Zone," it's not just about drinks, right? They're acting thirsty, right?

**Justin:** They're acting thirsty.

**Travis:** Yeah, I see!

**Justin:** Yeah, no, I should've been more clear about that from the beginning. I see that now!

**Griffin:** What do you—

**Justin:** [vampire voice] I see it too!



**Travis:** Oh, what?

**Justin:** I saw it from a million miles away...

**Griffin:** I thought I fucking...

**Justin:** ...with my incredible reach.

**Griffin:** I thought I heard you sneaking in.

**Travis:** Wait, does Count Donut have super vision?

**Justin:** Well, in my bat form, I have echolocation—

**Griffin:** Wait a minute, if you killed Justin to do this bit, it was completely silent and outrageously fast.

**Travis:** I think it's more of a—

**Justin:** I used incredibly fast-acting poison. I used curare.

**Travis:** Ah!

**Justin:** An incredible fast-acting poison.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** The modern bee sting!

**Travis:** The modern bee sting.

**Justin:** The modern bee sting!

**Travis:** Here's the problem: I'm getting confused by the Count Donut lore, because I can't tell if he dies in you, like a Jekyll and Hyde thing, or if you're—

**Justin:** His body dies temporarily, by which I mean his soul is sent to hell.

**Travis:** Uh-huh. Woah, wait, what?

**Justin:** I control his body—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Spoiler and then control his body to uh, bring you the latest donut news...

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** And then I evacuating back into the night, or in this case the 11:15 AM.

**Travis:** But I really like— listen, Count Donut, I enjoy your presence, but I did not realize it came with the cost of my older brother being temporarily in hell.

**Griffin:** Yeah, hell sucks, dude.

**Justin:** But when he comes back, he appreciates things so much more.

**Travis:** Oh, okay, that's worth it. Okay.

**Griffin:** I guess so.

**Justin:** You guys know, like, *Fight Club*?

**Travis:** Oh, love *Flight Club*! Completely unironic.

**Justin:** You know the scene? You know this one scene where they pull the gun on the man, and then they say, "He will love breakfast tomorrow"?

**Travis:** And it's supposed to be a good thing that, like, you learn, like, "Aw, nice, dude."

**Justin:** Yes. In the educational documentary *Fight Club...*

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** [laughs] Anyway, I'm here to talk about donuts, not [gibberish].

**Travis:** What?

**Justin:** [gurgling gibberish]

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** [bursts out laughing]

**Justin:** [laughs] Krispy Kreme has announced it: Halloween is over, and on Justin's birthday—

**Travis:** Also Travis's.

**Justin:** November— a very special day to Justin.

**Travis:** It's also mine.

**Justin:** Krispy Kreme announced their Thanksgiving donut collection.

**Travis:** What?

**Justin:** "Krispy Kreme is encouraging Americans to share gobbles of gratitude... [laughs]"

**Travis:** [makes disgusted noises]

**Justin:** "With no donuts this Thanksgiving season as—" boy, this is quite— Sorry, I need to get my composure. "As 80 percent of respondents in a national survey say celebrating Thanksgiving is more important than in previous years."

**Travis:** Oh, boy.

**Griffin:** W— why?

**Justin:** "And nearly half are planning to attend more Thanksgiving celebrations than they did before the COVID-19 pandemic."

**Travis:** What?!

**Justin:** Yes! Good! Hooray, says Krispy Kreme! People are doing a worse job than they did before! They're giving even more nasty than they did before COVID was a thing. Just pack them in like sardines and cranberry sauce their nuts off. Fantastic, I love this. I love suffering.

**Travis:** You do?

**Justin:** "Thanksgiving is more important than previous years—" here's a quote from Dave Skinner, the Chief Marketing Office for Krispy Kreme. Listen: "We missed out on so much last year."

**Travis:** Mm-hm.

**Griffin:** Aw!

**Justin:** "Including Thanksgiving celebrations. This Thanksgiving, people have a desire and need to be together more often, and moreso than any other Thanksgiving."

**Travis:** Nastier.

**Justin:** And nastier and rubbing... more.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** More rubbing.

**Travis:** A lot more dry-humping this year.

**Justin:** Sneeze right on me, Nonnee. "So we're creating—"

**Griffin:** [bursts out laughing]

**Justin:** "—a way to share your gratitude with others in the most delicious way possible, because nothing says 'Thank you for having me to Thanksgiving' like a box of donuts you bought the day before Thanksgiving." 'Cause there's no way they're open!

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "According to a new survey, even during this cooking and baking-filled holiday..."

**Travis:** Uh-huh?

**Justin:** "56 percent of consumers plan to spend less traditional time in the kitchen..."

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** "...in order to spend overdue time with missed family and friends."

**Griffin:** That is a wild sentiment.

**Justin:** That's a wild stat, isn't it? I wish Justin was here to talk about this, because that's a truly wild stat— I don't know how I'm supposed to gain— literally, I feel like I understand everything less than I did before I read that statistic. No insight has been important to me.

**Travis:** I love that the insight Krispy Kreme took away, though, is like, "Okay, spend less time in the kitchen... so you spend more time with your family... so they want to buy donuts from Krispy Kreme to include in Thanksgiving!"

**Griffin:** The idea that lunchtime comes around, and everybody sits at the table, and they're like, "Alright, guys, time to eat!" And then everybody just kind of looks at one another, like, "Who, um... who cooked uh... who cooked food for us?"

Like, "Oh, no. No, none of us spent any time in the kitchen."

**Justin:** "But we enjoy your presence!"

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** So Krispy Kreme, a Kreme...

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** I love that the brand feels it needs science to justify the fact they made a fucking cranberry donut. [laughs]

**Griffin:** I've never heard you cuss before, Count Donut.

**Justin:** "The science said it was wise for us to do this. Our top scientists... We didn't want to, but sci— we followed the science."

**Travis:** "We took this survey so we could prove to you that we don't need to make Thanksgiving donuts, and you all were like, 'Nah, give me the fucking nasty donuts.'"

**Justin:** This is the problem. Krispy Kreme started giving out donuts to vaccinated people, but once you start following science, you cannot stop.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** No one warns you that you're giving away everything at the altar of science. So here's the donuts, right? Pecan pie.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Justin:** What do they say about this one? "Pecan pie lovers will rejoice over this iconic, original-glazed donut dipped in delicious butter tart filling, then sprinkled with candy pecans and pie crust crumbles."

**Travis:** Glad.

**Griffin:** Alright.

**Travis:** So glad.

**Justin:** So the audience for that one is people who like pumpkin pie.

**Griffin:** Pumpkin?

**Travis:** But it's nice for them to finally have something to be happy over, because there hasn't been a lot of new innovation for pecan pie lovers over the last, like, forever. Like, they got the pumpkin pie, and they were like, "This is great! I can't wait to see what comes next!" And then no one really ever did anything with it, and finally something for them. You know what I mean?

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** "Krispy Kreme guests can also express gratitude to loved ones, friends, and others by packaging their Thanksgiving collection donuts in Krispy Kreme's custom gratitude box."

**Travis:** Huh.

**Justin:** "While supplies last. Which features a space to share gobbles of gratitude..."

**Travis:** Oh, boy.

**Justin:** "...with someone special, via a note on—" So I can't— you can't see this, of course, what it is, is a box from Krispy Kreme that has a white part at the top that says, "Grateful for you because," and then a blank space. So Krispy Kreme says, "Congratulations, we've done this for you. We've made it easier than ever to share your gratitude."

**Travis:** "Uh, son..."

**Justin:** Just get a sharpie and go to town.

**Travis:** "Son, I just wanna know, I... I know I've never said it before, I just never had the words, but now that I have this box, I can finally tell you— well, just read it."

"Okay, Dad. It says, uh... 'I'm grateful for you because... I love you?'"

"Yeah, that's right. But I did eat half the donuts on my way over here out of nervousness, so I am sorry about that."

**Justin:** I was so nervous to admi— so anyway, that's the donut news! Goodbye.

**Griffin:** Goodbye, Count Donut.

**Justin:** Sleep tight.

**Travis:** Wait, what?

**Griffin:** Hold on, now we gotta cut out the 12 minutes of screaming that Justin does whenever he gets brought back from hell.

**Travis:** Yeah.

[pause]

**Griffin:** Okay, Juice, are you done?

**Justin:** [softly] Hey, sorry, guys.

**Griffin:** Yeah, no, I know. You lose yourself in that—

**Travis:** How was hell this time?

**Griffin:** Yeah, did you see anyone cool?

**Justin:** It was all cold and frozen, so the Eagles must have a new album.

**Travis:** Oh, hey, topical and cool.

**Griffin:** Wow, Christ almighty.

**Justin:** Eagles.

**Travis:** Are we still in hell?

**Justin:** I wanna start again.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Yeah, okay.

**Justin:** I wanna do that—let me do that joke again.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Take another run up at it.

**Justin:** [gasps]

**Travis:** Hey, Justin.

**Griffin:** Hey, Juice, how was hell this time, bud?

**Justin:** Yeah, it was fine.

**Griffin:** Did you see anyone cool?

**Justin:** No. [wheezes, laughs]

**Travis:** Okay!

**Griffin:** Alright. Okay.

**Justin:** I don't like this bit. I can't come up with a good joke above it.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Tell me what's inside of hell.

**Travis:** You literally could have said anyone's name, and that would've been fine. "Who did you see down there?"

"Anyone." And it's—

**Griffin:** Anyone. Any bad—

**Justin:** Alright, I'm gonna do a real joke. [gasps]

**Griffin:** Hey, Juice, how was hell? Did you see anyone cool down there?

**Justin:** Cryptkeeper.

**Travis:** See? Good!

**Griffin:** Cryptkeeper was in hell! That's interesting. 'Cause he's done stories for us... here on Earth.

**Travis:** Is he inherently bad? I never thought of him as, like, the antagonist.

**Justin:** You look at him, you know he's bad! He's died and gone to hell!

**Travis:** Excuse me, what? You look at him and you know he's bad, Justin?

**Justin:** Canonically. Canonically, yes.

**Travis:** Mm.

**Justin:** Why does he know all these scary stories? You don't tell stories like that to good people. You tell them to evil people that are going to real Christian hell.

**Travis:** One of them's from his mee-maw.

**Justin:** Mee-maw's in hell, too.



**Travis:** What?!

**Justin:** Hey, thanks for listening to—

**Travis:** No, not Judith Keeper!

**Justin:** [bursts out laughing] She was so active at the DAR at her church!

**Travis:** She did so much for the community!

**Justin:** [through laughter] Thanks for listening—

**Travis:** What was her secret advice, Justin?

**Justin:** What?

**Griffin:** Last time you were in hell, you said you saw Limbaugh, but I was like, "You were only in hell for a minute, dude. There's no way, of all the people down there, that you saw a big— a big one like that. Statistically, there's no way."

**Travis:** And now you're telling me you saw Crypt and Judith Keeper? Were they together?

**Justin:** Yeah. No, that's the worst thing about it.

**Travis:** Oh, no!

**Justin:** They didn't know each other were down there, because they couldn't recognize each other down there.

**Griffin:** Aw, man.

**Travis:** Don't they look the same?

**Justin:** So the five people you meet in hell are, so far, Rush Limbaugh...

**Griffin:** If you're lu— if you're lucky!

**Justin:** Cryptkeeper and Judith Keeper.

**Griffin:** Right. But you know that they can earn their way back to heaven if they love each other hard enough.

**Travis:** That is true. I've—

**Griffin:** Yeah, exactly.

**Justin:** Hey, thanks for listening to our podcast. We very much appreciate it. We've had a good time, and we hope that you've enjoyed yourself as well!

**Travis:** We helped two whole people.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** A great job. A great job.

**Travis:** Hey, we have a lot of very special announcements that I wanna share with you. I'm gonna move through them quickly, alright? New merch! Mcelroymerch.com. We just put out a set of *Adventure Zone* dice, designed by Aron Jean, uh, who is also known as Ewewynn. It comes with a bag with the Bureau of Balance logo on it; they're awesome.

Also out is the 'Til Death Do Us Blart t-shirt designed by Tyler Reed, which benefits First Nations Development Institute. We also have the Wizard of the Cloud pin of the month, designed by Dana Wagner, which benefits Native Women Lead. We have the Candlenights ornament designed by Cait May which benefits the Harmony House, and of course there's all the other merch on there, including a mug for Candlenights! So check that out.

Tickets for our shows at Emerald City Comic Con are on sale now. *My Brother, My Brother and Me* on December 2nd, and *TAZ* on December 3rd. Both shows are general attendance, so 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 these shows. ECCC safety protocols require proof of full vaccination or recent negative COVID tests to attend. In addition, masks are required while on premises, and capacity will be reduced. More info and ticket links available at [bit.ly/mcelroytour](https://bit.ly/mcelroytour), and the full safety protocols are available at [bit.ly/ecccsafety](https://bit.ly/ecccsafety).

And we've started the *Zone of Adventure: Imbalance* series. It's out on our YouTube now. Episode two will be out on Wednesday. It's an *Adventure Zone* miniseries DMed by Aabria Iyengar, who is @quiddie on Twitter. And we're returning to *Balance*. Three episodes, one per week. Just check out YouTube, uh, search for "McElroy family," or go to [youtube.com/themcelroyfamily](https://youtube.com/themcelroyfamily).

**Griffin:** Thank you. Thank you for listening...

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** And thank you to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, “My Life (Is Better With You)!” a powerful track that’s changing the world, I would say. Changing people’s hearts and minds and ears. And brains.

**Travis:** That’s very true. Also, thank you to Rachel, our editor...

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Travis:** ...uh, who helps us make this show not sound like dump.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I’m gonna say put in some fucking *work* on this one. Like, really did a lot.

**Justin:** If you had heard the original of this one, your stomachs would turn.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Um, and uh, yeah, that’s it. Thanks for listening.

**Justin:** Choice.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Well, bye.

**Travis:** Okay, bye! Walk, walk, walk, walk, walk. Door slam.

**Justin:** [mock confusion] Wait a minute, the— the final Yahoo! We forgot!

**Griffin:** Yeah. Yeah!

**Travis:** Door open. Walk, walk, walk, walk, walk. Wait, guys, we forgot to do the final Yahoo!

**Griffin:** Yeah, oh yeah, man. I got it right here. Hold up. I printed it out.

**Travis:** Alright, let’s hear it.

**Justin:** You’re really walking into it like backwards, sort of.

[paper shuffling noises]

**Griffin:** Here’s the paper that it’s written on. And I’ll send you guys a picture of it later, so you know it’s real.

Uh, this one’s sent in by Danielle um, Fish— Fish—

**Travis:** Fishel.

**Griffin:** Fishel. Fishel.

**Travis:** Yeah. TV's Topanga.

**Griffin:** Um, she doesn't like that, when you call her that.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Like, she knows that she played a character named Topanga, but like, she's her own...

**Travis:** Twice! On *Boy Meets World* and *Girl Meets World*.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Yeah, she just doesn't like it.

**Griffin:** She just doesn't like it when you call her that.

**Travis:** Okay!

**Griffin:** Anyway, this one's asked by Funky David.

**Justin:** [coughing laughter] Sorry. Funky David?

**Griffin:** Yeah, Funky David asks, "Anyone got any *funky* soup recipes?"

**Justin:** [bursts out laughing]

**Travis:** He's on brand.

**Justin:** Oh, man. I just clicked through to his profile. It's so weird. They're all kind of like that, though, like, "Any funky tips for planning your own funeral?"

**Griffin:** Yeah, it's cool shit like that, yeah.

**Travis:** "I feel like my funky wife and I have grown a-funky-part."

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** [laughs] Uh, 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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**Jordan:** You're in the theater. The lights go down. You're allowed to get swept up by the characters and all their little details and interpersonal dramas. You look at them and think, "That person is so obviously in love with their best friend. Wait, am *I* in love with my best friend? That character's mom is so overbearing, why doesn't she stand up to her? Oh, God, do I have to stand up to my own mother?"

We never know when we'll see ourselves in a movie, but that search for recognition is exactly what we're going to talk about on the podcast *Feeling Seen* with me, Jordan Crucchiola. Each episode, we'll bring in a guest to talk about the films that they see themselves in, and also the ways that movies have fallen short. So join me every Thursday for the *Feeling Seen* podcast here on Maximum Fun, or wherever you find your podcasts.

[upbeat music plays and ends]