

## MBMBaM 588: Swamp Cats and Dorfs

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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 & Me*, an advice show for the modern era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

**Travis:** I'm your middlest brother, Travis— [in a robotic voice] Executing programme. Big dog. Woof woof. [normal] McElroy!

**Justin:** Huh.

**Griffin:** And hey, what's up? This is Griffin— Uh! Oh, sorry guys. My butt cheeks' servos just became desynchronized.

**Justin:** Ah.

**Travis:** Oh no.

**Griffin:** It's that time of year though, isn't it?

**Travis:** It is. Ugh.

**Justin:** Uh, well welcome to our podcast for Cyber Monday. [makes robotic noises] Sorry, I transformed my hand into a can opener.

**Griffin:** Oh, that's good.

**Justin:** Which, for Cyber Monday, I feel like I could've done— I should have spent more creds on my deck. [wheeze]

**Griffin:** Yeah, man.

**Justin:** Is what I'm saying. I'm regretting right now.

**Travis:** It also kinda sounded like you weren't in control of the transformation. Like, it kinda happened spontaneously?

**Griffin:** Yeah, you gotta get that looked at. Also, I thought you had a fuckin' thermo-blade on there?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** When did you get the can opener?

**Justin:** It's a combo.

**Travis:** Ah.

**Justin:** It's a thermo-blade combo can opener.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** So, it opens cans with a thermo blade, is what you're telling me?

**Justin:** It's basically a thermo-blade.

**Griffin:** [whispered] Aw, shit.

**Justin:** Which I learned I can open cans with. Yeah.

**Griffin:** I'm sorry, guys. It is just tough to get comfortable with my butt cheeks moving in opposite directions.

**Justin:** Why did you do that?

**Travis:** Well, 'cause he wanted to be able to clap 'em, uh, at will, without standing up.

**Griffin:** Yeah, so when I did my stand up— You guys remember? Back in 30... 31. And, you know, nobody really liked it, but then I was like "I could become the guys who could literally make his butt cheeks cla—" Ah, fuck!

**Justin:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Sorry, guys. Fuck! This sucks, I gotta go get these tuned up.

**Justin:** So, this is our Cyber Monday episode where we're talking about, uh, all the different ice that we're gonna be cracking through, and the different decks that we're using. Hey, Trav?

**Travis:** Yeah?

**Justin:** Tell me about your deck.

**Travis:** Oh, that's a very personal question, Justin. Uh...

**Justin:** No, don't. Come on, don't get sloppy. I just wanna know about your deck that you use to break through the ice.

**Travis:** My deck.

**Justin:** For Cyber Monday.

**Travis:** My deck that I use to break through the ice.

**Justin:** Yes!

**Travis:** I feel like this is a reference...

**Justin:** When you're chipping in.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** Okay?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And you're gonna do battle with the corpos.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** [chuckles] Just tell me about your deck! You fuckin' nasty borg, come on!

**Travis:** Oh, I see.

**Justin:** Yes.

**Travis:** This is about like a hacker thing.

**Justin:** It's Cyber Monday, baby. This is the day that we celebrate, uh, all of us deck-heads get together and celebrate just net-runner culture, you know?

**Travis:** Well, this is actually kind of embarrassing 'cause I'm actually one of the corpos. Um...

**Griffin:** Aw, shoot.

**Justin:** Aw, shit!

**Travis:** I kinda bought into the whole big business thing a while ago, um, and I've been selling microchips at a huge mark-up. We just started working on— I probably shouldn't share this, but we've just started working on macrochips, which are like microchips, but they're way bigger and, uh, they're more expensive to build, but they're a lot easier to work on. 'Cause you can like see the things.

**Griffin:** I like that.

**Travis:** So that's just a big— Hey, if you're interested, Griffin, I could get you a position here. At Chippy's Inc.

**Griffin:** Aw, man.

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

**Travis:** Get you a corner office?

**Griffin:** I'm starting to— Juice, I'm starting to think Travis maybe has never experienced the new wave. Or the next wave.

**Justin:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Dream wave? Or cyberpunk?

**Justin:** Any of the waves.

**Travis:** Well, I just, I appreciate the money.

**Justin:** I would say, I would rather be zeroed than become some sort of net-pig corpo.

**Griffin:** Yeah, for sure.

**Travis:** Well, I got a new car and it flies, which is pretty cool.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Do you guys have a flying car?

**Justin:** No. I traded in all my Kibble Cards for a few spare Eddies, so I could upgrade my, uh... my input.

**Travis:** Well, they just gave me a 402K, which is the newer one.

**Griffin:** That sounds pretty good though.

**Travis:** It is good.

**Griffin:** I would like some money to tune up my Wheelies.

**Travis:** Your butt.

**Griffin:** Which are Wheelies, but they come out of my feet.

**Travis:** Oh, nice nice nice.

**Griffin:** Like, my actual heels, yeah.

**Travis:** They actually— That's actually an included benefit at Chippy's Inc.

**Griffin:** Oh fuck.

**Travis:** Is that they just like give you— They tune up your Wheelies all the time.

**Griffin:** That's good, 'cause they keep— The Wheelies guy, when he installs them, right into my heels, he's like "Now remember, Griffin. I don't want to have to keep telling you this... but you can't use these on the beach". And I'm like "Yeah, dude. Whatever." As I smoke my cool future cigarette.

**Travis:** Oh, you don't have— I have the Wheelies with like the extra-wide tread so you can use them on the beach.

**Griffin:** I'm about to skunk you, corpo.

**Justin:** [wheezes]

**Travis:** I'm sorry, what? What does that mean, exactly? Is that a good thing?

**Griffin:** It means, corpo pig. Fuckin' leech. Tick.

**Travis:** No, I got that part, but the skunk— Are you gonna kill me?

**Griffin:** Nah, dude.

**Justin:** Why have we never done a futuristic *Adventure Zone*? We're so good at this.

**Griffin:** I know.

**Justin:** You know what I mean?

**Griffin:** Well, me and you are. I'm about to scuzz this corpo though.

**Justin:** Scuzz that fuckin' corpo, dude!

**Travis:** I'm sorry, why do you assume that a hacker, a criminal, would be the hero in the story? While I'm making microchips that people need, for business! Why am I the bad guy?

**Griffin:** Because, dude!

**Justin:** Because, dude!

**Griffin:** Dude, you used up all the fresh water and now we have to drink salt water. That's why.

**Travis:** That's not true! I didn't u— Not me! I'm trying— I'm making microchips, and macrochips, so that we can build new water processing units.

**Griffin:** I'm about to fuckin' skank this corp pig. Fuck.

**Justin:** [wheezes]

**Travis:** But.

**Justin:** Zero him! [laughs]

**Travis:** Chippy's provides 90% of the macrochips for water processing so we can get our clean water back! Why are you hacking us?

**Justin:** Scuzz that corpo!

**Griffin:** I'm gonna scuzz this moneybag fuck.

**Travis:** I don't think you guys are the good guys. I think I'm the good guy!

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Eat virus, scuzz-bag!

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** We give back in a lot of ways! We provide a lot of funds to the local foodbanks.

**Griffin:** Yeah, right.

**Travis:** No, we do!

**Griffin:** Makin' us all eat fuckin' algae for every meal so we—

**Travis:** Everybody eats algae, it's all we've got!

**Griffin:** Yeah and whose fault is that, 'cause you salinated all the water.

**Travis:** But that was 200 years ago! It's not my fault!

**Griffin:** I'm about to shrimp this fucking porkbag.

**Justin:** [laughs] Yeah, I'm all dorfed out right now. Do it, right now.

**Travis:** Hey, hey. I feel like— Can I just say, and I know that maybe I'm a corpo, but kinda feels like you guys are making up a lot of this slang as you go.

**Justin:** No! This is all, this is all—

**Travis:** Okay, well then just real quick. Hey—

**Justin:** We grew up in the— We're fuckin— We grew up in the streets!  
Travis!

**Travis:** I'm your brother and I know that's not true, and I—

**Justin:** We grew up in the metro!

**Travis:** I'm gonna count down three, two, one, go, and I want you and Griffin to at the same time tell me what "dorf" means. [chuckles] If you would.

**Griffin:** Yeah, sure.

**Travis:** In the con--

**Justin:** Sure.

**Travis:** Okay, three, two, one, go.

**Justin:** Synthetic endorphins.

**Griffin:** It was, yeah.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** Okay. Alright, fine.

**Griffin:** No, I agree. No, I agree with Justin. I knew Justin was gonna say that because we're cyber-linked. Through the Netwave.

**Justin:** Yes, thank you.

**Griffin:** And this is embarrassing, Travis. Like we did not wanna tell you this, because we knew that you would get jealous, but now that you're a scuzzy corpo pigfuck—

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** —We can't let you in on like our attacks that we're gonna do on your ice.

**Travis:** Oh, that's actually okay. I know, I get it.

**Justin:** You'll send the samurais after us.

**Griffin:** Yeah, we don't want these— any consult samurais trying to fuckin' scuzz us.

**Justin:** [wheezes]

**Travis:** How do you guys know about the samurais?

**Griffin:** Uhh...

**Justin:** Uhh... 'Cause we're not fuckin' net pig...

**Griffin:** Corpo.

**Justin:** Jerko dirtbags.

**Griffin:** Braindead shrimp i-idiots.

**Justin:** Vidiots. [pause] "My work has recently found—

**Griffin:** [cackles]

**Justin:** "—an alligator in our parking lot."

**Griffin:** [continued laughing]

**Justin:** "We named her Georgie. She's currently stuck in a clogged storm drain."

**Griffin:** You fuck.



**Justin:** You have dealt with this situation... poorly, already. Right? Like you should not be emailing us.

**Travis:** No, nature. Nature has dealt with it. I don't— It doesn't sound like anybody put Georgie in the clogged storm drain.

**Justin:** "Nobody puts Georgie in the storm drain!"

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs] "My boss, who is not a native Floridian, is determined to become the next Florida Man by sticking his hands into the grate to release the poor swamp cat." Is that a thing?

**Travis:** So, "Florida Man" is like, you know, when a news story is like "Florida man eats... case of Red Bull" or whatever, and then jumps... You know, I don't know, through a plate glass window to eat a donut. You know, stuff like that.

**Justin:** And a, a swamp cat is...

**Griffin:** A gator, I guess?

**Justin:** I guess... it's a gator?

**Griffin:** You can use context clues here.

**Justin:** Yeah, let's go with that.

**Travis:** Yeah, I doubt that there is a gator and a swamp cat in this storm drain together.

**Griffin:** An unrelated kitty, yeah.

**Travis:** [imitates swamp-dwelling person] "Well, that right there, that's gator and swamp cat! They's always getting' into scrapes."

**Justin:** "How do I respectfully tell him not to be a dumbass? Especially since he's the only one Georgie hisses at." And that's from Please Don't Pet Or Feed The Swamp Cats.

So apparently this Florida thing is like, is being osmosed? Is that the deal? Is it being, uh, it seeps in through the water of something? That turns people into Florida Man?

**Travis:** Well, yes, obviously that.

**Griffin:** Possible.

**Travis:** But I would say, at this point, when a human being says "I'm gonna reach in there and grab that alligator", I think that they have momentarily forfeited their right to respect.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And you can just say "Dooooon't!" Like I don't think you need to choose your words carefully at that point. I think that you can just say like "Hey, wait! Stop stop stop stop! That's dumb! Don't do that."

**Griffin:** And I hate to play this card, but there is something... like, extremely Darwinian about this. Where it's like if anybody ever has the thought that crosses their mind of "Yeah, I'm gonna reach in that storm drain that has a gator in it", I feel like there is a lesson...

Like you may talk them out of this one, but the next time, they're like "Oh that blimp is crashing? Well, I'll just fly over there in a big kite and try and stop it", and they will die in that accident instead. Like they need a little bit of encouragement to not do terrible ideas like this.

**Travis:** 'Cause there's like animal control? But I'm also betting, in Florida, like private businesses that handle this exact kind of thing?

**Griffin:** Yes. Yes yes yes.

**Travis:** And I doubt that this is very much like a "Well, listen. Here's the secret. Anybody can do it." [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Yeah. Why pay 90 bucks to gator getters, when you can just get the gator yourself?

**Travis:** Oh, here, okay. Ask your boss this: "Let's say you reach in there and you get the gator, then what?"

**Griffin:** Yeah, they're just gonna go right back in there. They found a hotdog that they've been savoring.

**Justin:** There's only one, there's only one thing that happens next, and that is you see your boss throw an alligator.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I mean you're gonna see a man throw an alligator. Is what's gonna happen.

**Travis:** I mean...

**Griffin:** That's best case scenario, Justin. You are assuming that they will be able to fetch this gator.

**Travis:** No, best case scenario. Best case scenario? Your boss fishes said gator out. They lock eyes. A forever bond is made.

**Griffin:** I love that.

**Justin:** Yeah, that's the best case scenario. It scurries up onto its shoulder.

**Travis:** Yeah, right.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** The boss's shoulder.

**Travis:** I mean, like a... Like Guapo in the new *Far Cry*. Now you got yourself a little gator companion. Uh, who's hanging out with you.

**Justin:** I told him about the branded content, Griffin. I told him about the branded content.

**Griffin:** Fuck... yeah.

**Travis:** I'm just sayin', like, they paid us to talk about them once a year and I just wanted to knock it out here at the end. You know what I mean?

**Justin:** I wish Sarah Davis was here. She would know what to do.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah, Sarah Davis? Our—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Sarah Davis is our social media manager. She's a native Floridian. I wonder what her hot take is.

**Travis:** Let me see if I can channel her!

**Justin:** I feel like—

**Travis:** "Don't!"

**Griffin:** "Don't do this."

**Justin:** Yeah, doesn't this feel like one that people who know more about Florida and alligators are going to be mad at us for? Like it has that vibe, doesn't it?

**Travis:** Right, where there's like a "Oh actually" step by step, every kid knows, like, "This is what, like, we're taught this in second grade. If you see a gator in the drain like this is what you do".

**Griffin:** Yup.

**Travis:** And we're like whiffing it so hard.

**Griffin:** I remember one trip to Florida when we were younger and we were staying with our Nonny and she lived right next to this big golf course. And just by like serendipity, earlier like in the trip, she was like "Yeah, don't fuck with gators, because they can run up to 35 miles an hour on land". And then like a few days later—

**Justin:** It looks crazy.

**Travis:** It does.

**Griffin:** It looks so fucking wild. And then...

**Travis:** It looks like a snake that has suddenly sprung legs out of its body and is—

**Justin:** [wheezes] "I'm outta here!"

**Travis:** — "I don't know how these work, but let's do this!"

**Griffin:** Yeah. He's excited and he like dipped his snoot in some trucker speed earlier.

**Justin:** [wheezes]

**Travis:** Yeah, and he's trying to get away from his own new scary legs.

**Griffin:** Yeah. But then, we were walking on the golf course later in the trip, and saw a gator, like, by a water hazard. And we were like a decent distance from it and then I was like "Oh right! Those things can run three times faster than I can. I am outta here". And I turned and walked away. Can you imagine if I had not received that warning from my Nonny? And I was like [in a happy voice] "Let's see how close we can get! I wonder what it feels like!"

**Travis:** Or if you hadn't looked up from your GameBoy Color that very second to see that alligator, you know what I mean?

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Do you ever think about, it's weird if Nonny was like "Griffin, what piece of advice have I given you in your life that's stuck with you the most? [wheezes] In your entire life, what has been the most useful bit of wisdom I've shared with you?"

**Griffin:** I mean, it was great when she taught me how to count cards. Um, but I would be dead if it weren't for the alligator warning. The big alligator warning.

**Travis:** And plus, counting cards has actually gotten you in a lot of trouble in ol' Vegas, you know what I mean?

**Griffin:** Yeah man, I mean, um... There are I mean a couple triad communities that I am not welcome to anymore.

**Travis:** Yeah, not even the quadrads want him at this point, you know.

**Griffin:** The quadrads don't want it. Um, but yeah, I mean I did rack up several million dollars.

**Justin:** Nonny one time, when she wasn't prepared for our arrival one morning, taught us about our tummies don't know what time it is. Which is when she gave us hotdogs for breakfast.

**Travis:** That's true.

**Justin:** Remember that?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I didn't even know you could have hotdogs for breakfast.

**Griffin:** Yeah, she opened our eyes to a lot of dope shit.

**Travis:** I remember one time she took us on a weird kind of like day trip around the area, and part of that involved going to Bob Evans Farms.

**Justin:** Bob Evans Farms, yeah.

**Travis:** Which was great, but another part was just going to look at some dams and locks.

**Griffin:** That was awesome.

**Travis:** With like no execution planned though, so it was just like “Here’s a dam and a lock”.

**Justin:** You wanted to see an execution?

**Travis:** [chuckles]

**Justin:** That would be a very dramatic setting for one, I agree.

**Griffin:** Yeah, fair.

**Justin:** Um, Sarah says “The hottest take is to let ‘em learn the hard way.”

**Griffin:** Thank you.

**Justin:** “If someone is determined to play with a gator then they go with God, but there are better ways to become the Florida Man for the day”. But this day has passed, and we— I actually, on this one, I desperately need a resolution on this.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Please send a follow-up email. I need to know how this one all shook out.

**Griffin:** Only if it’s not terrible, right?

**Travis:** Well. We won’t read it if it’s terrible.

**Justin:** Well.

**Travis:** Let’s say that.

**Griffin:** Well, if something happened to the gator, right?

**Travis:** Oh!

**Justin:** As long as something didn’t happen to the gator [chuckles], we’re all okay.

**Travis:** The gator’s fine. ‘Cause the gator’s just being the gator. And the gator—

**Griffin:** Right.

**Travis:** This is the scorpion here. Or... Yes, the gator's the scorpion and your boss is the frog, who's like "I'll swim you across the water. I'll fish you out of the drain is you promise not to bite me" and the gator's like "Yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah. You got it, you got it, you got it, you got it".

**Griffin:** Um, hey can we approach the wizard and, um...

**Travis:** Is the wizard a gator?

**Griffin:** Uh, let me check. Nah.

**Travis:** Not today.

**Griffin:** Nah, he's mostly human.

**Travis:** Ohhh...

**Griffin:** And he's a lot— He is actually— And when I say cloud, I am talking about the digital cloud, because his is like a daemon. A da-eemon.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:** That exists sort of in the cyber oasis.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** That we like to party at, and have like cool digi-raves and stuff.

**Travis:** I love those.

**Griffin:** Where we look at like JPEGs that, we look at animated GIFs that get you fucked up.

**Travis:** And everybody's just like "A/S/L? A/S/L? A/S/L?"

**Griffin:** They're all yelling "A/S/L A/S/L" but the wizard—

**Travis:** "Wanna cyber? Wanna Cyber Monday?"

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's the only day you're legally allowed to make digital love at the oasis.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** This one is sent in by Hannah, thank you Hannah. It is a wikiHow article that is titled "How to react to an ugly baby".

"Oh no! You've just seen a picture of your friend's new baby, and well... They aren't the cutest baby you've ever seen."

**Justin:** [breathes in sharply]

**Griffin:** Just say— Like, stand by your convictions. They are ugly— They are not a good-looking baby.

**Travis:** They're an ugly baby.

**Griffin:** "Now you have to figure out what to do and say to the new parents. Start by controlling your reaction and find something about the baby you can compliment." Okay.

**Travis:** You say "Oh, is that the new iPhone?" Oh boom, you're out of there, right?

**Griffin:** Yeah, sure.

**Travis:** Now you talk about the iPhone and all the megapixels.

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's a really good way to do the whole thing in one sort of jump, but I would love to get a little bit more granular. Uh, "One: don't say anything at all". Awesome.

**Justin:** Hmm...

**Griffin:** "What do you think of little Douglas?"

**Justin:** [singing "When You Say Nothing At All" by Ronan Keating] "You say it best, when you say nothing at— The smile on my baby's face ain't appealing."

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [continues singing] "But at least it's not his little heart that you're stealing. The truth is he has fourteen eyes—"

**Griffin:** [cackles]

**Justin:** "—and seventeen ears. You say it best..." That's it.

**Griffin:** Oh, okay.

**Justin:** That's right.

**Griffin:** It's a bold, it's a bold— Both the recommendation of the song and wikiHow are bold sort of sentiments.



**Justin:** [wheezes] Can you imagine if you're like "This is my new baby" and they're like "Mm-hm, mm-hm."

**Griffin:** [makes strained noises]

**Travis:** Now say nothing, Justin.

**Griffin:** "What do you think of little Douglas's beautiful face?" [pained sound of straining]

**Justin:** Yeah, I could say nothing, Travis, but it's not great for a podcast!

**Travis:** Okay, listen. "What do you think of my baby?" [silent pause]

**Griffin:** [makes a long strained noise]  
"Was that a groan of satisfaction?"

**Travis:** "Mm-hmm!"

**Justin and Griffin:** [deep groans]

**Travis:** [imitates Tim the Tool Man growl]

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs] Okay, next step. "Have small talk ready."  
"Hey, this is little Douglas. What do you think of his amazing face?"

**Justin:** [snorts]

**Griffin:** [loudly] "Did you guys see... Kevin Hart... last night... on... the television screen?"

[normal] "Yeah, but what do you think about little Douglas?"

[loudly] "He did a joke about..."

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Uh, his wild... kitty-cat."

[normal] "Um... what about, just focus on the parents." Awesome. "What do you think about little Douglas?"

"Wow, did you just get a haircut?"

"I mean what do you think about little Douglas?"

"That necklace is so chunky and beautiful."

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "I think you took a great photo." What about that? "Oh man, did you study photo composition in college?"

**Justin:** I love that.

**Griffin:** That's great.

**Travis:** "This is so good. Oh, rule of thirds, man. Nice, nice, nice."

**Justin:** A way you could go with this is like "So thoughtful."

**Travis:** Oh.

**Justin:** "Look at that. He's got a lot on his mind, this little guy."

**Travis:** "That's an old soul."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** "Yeah, that's an old soul in a—" [wheezes] You should not loudly announce it's so cool they're making another *Benjamin Button*, I think.

**Travis:** [laughs] "Hey, what do you think of this baby?"  
"That baby's seen some shit."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** "Look at, oh, haunted. That baby's haunted I love it. Aw, *No Country For Old Babies*, am I right?"

**Griffin:** Uh, "Put yourself in their shoes". Yeah, that's not fun.

**Travis:** No, I don't wanna do that.

**Justin:** Oh, no good.

**Griffin:** "Remember, not everyone has the same tastes." I mean... Yeah, some people, I guess, love some Gargamel-ass looking babies.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** There's probably a community for that out there.

**Travis:** What about this? What about an acknowledgement that sounds like a positive?

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Like this: "Check out little Douglas!"  
"Oh yeah, that's a baby right there. Oh yeah."

**Griffin:** "Oh, for sure. That's definitely not not a baby."

**Travis:** "Oh, baby, huh? Am I right?"

**Griffin:** "Baby." Uh, let's go onto method two which is "complimenting the baby".

**Justin:** Oh, good.

**Travis:** So, lying.

**Griffin:** No, listen.

**Justin:** No.

**Griffin:** "Compliment the baby's expression. One thing you can compliment is the expressions the baby makes. Maybe the baby is especially bubbly or they look very serious and thoughtful. Either way, use that information to compliment the baby."

**Justin:** Oh my god, I pre-pre [wheezes] I just pre-cogged a wikiHow!

**Griffin:** "Yeah, he looks— Wow, what a stern—"  
"What do you think of little Douglas?"  
"So stern."

**Travis:** Mmm.

**Griffin:** "Wow."

**Justin:** "Stern little— You got a little taskmaster on your hands."

**Travis:** "That's a commanding baby right there. Oh! [laughs] God pity the poor criminal that stands before Judge Baby, am I right?"

**Griffin:** "Wow." Um, "Pick something cute about the baby".  
"What do you think of little Douglas?"  
"Great diaper. What brand is that? It's so playful. Very playful diaper on Douglas."

**Justin:** Sydnee told me about this thing called "reaction formation", you guys know about this?

**Griffin:** No.

**Justin:** Reaction formation is, I'm gonna read you the scientific thing, is "fixation in consciousness of an idea where one's own rejected tendencies and reaction formation turn—" Okay, this is too complicated.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** But basically, a reaction formation is a defense mechanism where you have an emotion or impulse that is very anxiety-producing or unacceptable, and you deal with it in the instant by an exaggeration of a directly opposing tendency.

**Griffin:** Mmm!

**Justin:** By which I mean, you see the bad baby and you say "Aw! An extremely good! Best baby I've ever seen!"

**Travis:** Mmm.

**Justin:** And now I've become very paranoid about not doing that. And now if people are very positive about something that I have done, or a hair kind of thing that I'm doing, I will often wonder "Is this reaction formation? Because they're being very— they're praising me a lot. I wonder if this is a reaction formation."

**Travis:** Well you can't assume, Justin, that every other human being shares your anxiety, so it's possible that they do like the thing you're doing.

**Justin:** What are the odds?

**Griffin:** What are the odds though, Trav?

**Travis:** Yeah, that's fair.

**Justin:** What are the odds?

**Travis:** This is why— Is there a, like, slightly positive thing you could say where you like you see it and you're like "Oh, cool baby". And it's like "Well, if they were trying to sell me a line, they would've pushed it harder so they must mean it".

**Griffin:** But it sounds like that's the realest shit, right.

**Travis:** Yeah. "Hey, nice."

**Griffin:** 'Cause if someone's like "Hey, what do you think of my Douglas's little face?" and you go [with exaggerated enthusiasm] "Fuck yeah, Douglas!"

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [still exaggerated] "Yeah, Douglas! Looking good, baby! Yum yum!"

**Justin:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Um, "Compliment the baby's outfit". That's a, that one's a dead giveaway. "What do you think of my Douglas?"  
"Uh, his shorts—"

**Justin:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** "—get a seal of approval from me."

**Travis:** That's especially bad if they show you the picture and that's what you're prepared to do, and then the baby's just in a diaper, and you're like [chuckles] "Sick diaper, bro".

**Griffin:** Yeah. "Say something nice about the baby's temperament."  
"What do you think of my Douglas?"  
"He's so loud. It's great. You'll never lose him."

**Travis:** "Based off that picture, I can tell you he's, uh, really cool-headed. Great in a crisis."

**Griffin:** "Very even-keeled."

**Travis:** "That's definitely— That's the baby I want on my team when I go urban exploring."

**Griffin:** Yeah. "He looks like he's really working on himself. You know what I mean?"

**Travis:** [laughs] "Very introspective baby. You can see it. There's a lot going on behind the eyes."

**Griffin:** [in disbelief] "This is a baby?"

**Justin:** [wheezes]

**Griffin:** "This is a baby?"

**Justin:** "Is this your baby, or is this kind of like a sample?"

**Travis:** "Oh, is this one of those like 'what would they look like if you had a baby' that you and your partner did? And that's why it looks like... the

way it does? No, this is your ac— Oh, this is a baby.” Oh, what about  
“This is my Douglas.”  
“That’s *your* Douglas?!”

**Justin:** [laughs] “This isn’t some sort of famous Douglas that you downloaded?”

**Travis:** [laughs] “I thought that was the platonic ideal of Douglas!”

**Justin:** [cackles] [through laughter] “I thought this was some sort of fake, fake Douglas. Sort of a, uh...”

**Travis:** [laughs] “You fed all the Douglases into an AI and this what it produced!”

**Justin:** [laughs] “This is an algorithmically produced Douglas!”

**Travis:** “Surely!”

**Justin:** “Surely!”

**Travis:** “Surely this is just the perfect example of what a Douglas could be. Right?!”

**Justin:** “That there’s a Douglas!”

**Travis:** “Right? Oh, that’s definitely a Doug— Hey, you nailed it on the naming. I look at that.”

**Justin:** “God, you can just tell he’s a Douglas. Lookin’ at your kid here.”

**Travis:** “Oh, that’s a Douglas face right there, my friend.”

**Griffin:** “I want you to meet my son Douglas.”  
“Fuck yeah, dude! *Basic Instinct!* *Wall Street!*”

**Justin:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** [wheezes]

**Griffin:** “Get it, dude!”

**Justin:** “Yeah!”

**Griffin:** “Oh, sorry. This—

**Justin:** “*Wall Street 2: Money Never Sleeps?!!*”

**Griffin:** "Good shit!" Um...

**Justin:** "His wife's in *Zorro*?! Fuck!"

**Travis:** Yeah, dude.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Uh, some community Q&A here, this one's pretty wild. "What if the parents think the baby's ugly too?"

"You can laugh with the parents, but this behavior should stop as the child grows." [in a sarcastic, sing-song voice] Pretty cool parents, these. I love these parents.

**Travis:** What if, okay. Hey—

**Justin:** "We didn't get it quite right. What can you do?"

**Travis:** "Look at my baby." Oh, can you imagine? "Look at this baby." And you're ready for your friend to be like "Yeah, that's an uggo baby", and your friend's like "Aw, beautiful!" And now you're thinking "Oh god! I'm the worst!"

**Griffin:** "Oh god."

**Justin:** "Oh god. Is there something wrong with me?"

**Griffin:** "What if the child thinks I'm ugly?"

"That's okay, kids can be very loud and opinionated. Don't let it bother you. If the child's repeatedly making rude comments about your appearance, talk to the parents about it." That's pretty... that's delicious though, isn't it? If you're like "Little Douglas, I've seen better" and then in the future, they're like "You're— You're a fucked-up skunk face, my man. You stink and you suck."

**Travis:** Little Douglas is saying this to me?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I deserve it, probably, at that point.

**Griffin:** You definitely do.

**Travis:** If I said to Little Douglas like "You got real Douglas face" and then he's like "You got Douglas face", I'm like "Woah. Words hurt, man."

**Griffin:** "Woah, shit."

**Travis:** Oh, look at the baby and be like "I bet he has a great sense of humor."

**Griffin:** You could also just like make a joke and move on? They're like "This is my baby" and you're like [imitates Borat] "Very nice!"

**Justin:** [cackles]

**Travis:** [laughs] Nailed it.

**Justin:** [imitates Borat] "Great success!"

**Griffin:** Yeah. "Yeah, he's crawling now."  
"Mmm..."

**Justin:** [imitates Borat] "Mmm, oh wa wa wee wa!"

**Griffin:** [imitates Borat] "Wa wa, my wife?"

**Justin:** God, it's so—

**Griffin:** It's so fucking fu—

**Justin:** Why does only he get to be Borat? It's not [wheezes]

**Griffin:** It's not fair at all!

**Travis:** It doesn't seem like he does, Justin. It seems like everybody gets their 15 minutes of Borat.

**Justin:** [cackles] [through laughter] I know but I want more. It's... it's...

**Griffin:** Can I put on a one-man stage called "Borap", and—

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Griffin:** —it's a different guy, but he's pretty similar, and also...

**Travis:** He raps.

**Griffin:** He does some pretty cool raps.

**Travis:** Yeah [laughs] He's got some good raps.

**Griffin:** Um, that's it. We need to do something else now, 'cause we haven't done enough show yet.



**Justin:** Hmm. Okay. Well, how 'bout another question? I've put together some great ones this week.

**Griffin:** I'd love it.

**Justin:** I don't wanna brag.

**Griffin:** Okay, yip.

**Travis:** You clearly do.

**Justin:** "There's a person at my job who I see every day painting mini figurines." Or, in the parlance, mini figs. "His set up has the whole deal: a briefcase with the figures, paint, brushes, the whole nine yards, and I'm wildly intrigued." I gotta say, Question Asker, those are the components I would have guessed going in. Maybe not the briefcase, to be fair.

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

**Travis:** What? You're just gonna carry them in a tote bag?! Justin?

**Justin:** Just a loose— a loose Walmart bag. "I wanna ask him about it, however I don't know how. Most people we work with would just ask him in a judgey way. How do I ask him about his beautiful minis without sounding like I'm trying to shame him?" That's from Whatcha Playin' There in Wisconsin.

**Travis:** There's an aspect to the question, by the way, hearing it out loud, that I had not considered, which is... Is your coworker just like doing this at his desk in the middle of the workday? Just pulling out something, like—

**Justin:** That is kinda wild.

**Travis:** Yeah, isn't it! [wheezes] Like, the boss is gonna come by and want to say something, but it will be so mind-boggling that this isn't just like "Oh, I was playing Peggle on my phone" or whatever.

**Justin and Griffin:** [simultaneously] Yeah.

**Travis:** That it's just like "Oh, you have a whole thing set— uh... Okay..."

**Griffin:** It's fuckin' awesome though. I'm imagining this person, like the boss comes out and is like "Okay everybody, 30 minutes lunchbreak", and this guys just like horks down a chicken salad sandwich in like you know two bites, so he can pop off his briefcase and have 29 minutes to really do some paintin'. I like that. I like that lifestyle. That's good for me.

**Travis:** I think you can't ask questions. You have to just do a compliment, like "Oh, great detail work on the angel wings". I don't know what figures these are, but like—

**Griffin:** Yeah, I mean I imagine it's like, uh... You know, *D&D* or *Warhammer*.

**Justin:** *Warhammer*.

**Griffin:** You know, stuff like that.

**Travis:** I mean, it could be like little soldiers.

**Griffin:** It could be.

**Justin:** Yeah, I guess it could be little soldiers.

**Griffin:** Thank you, Travis. What other little things are there?

**Travis:** Little tiny angels.

**Griffin:** Okay, yeah. Little tiny angels.

**Justin:** Little tiny angels. True. You know I think that there's a misconception that like if you're— if you've made it to this point in your adult life, you've probably heard, I would say, all the things that people know to say about you painting tiny figures at your desk while you're supposed to be working. I think that you've probably made you peace with it, right? You're doing it 'cause you enjoy it, not because you think— Like, nobody is going to... like, shame you at this point. You are unshameable, right? You've got this far, I don't think you should be afraid of that. I think they probably would just like to maybe talk about the figures.

**Griffin:** Right? Yeah.

**Justin:** Like, that seems like an open invitation, right? If they were ashamed of it, they probably wouldn't be like doing it while they're supposed to be flying the plane, or whatever, you know, it is.

**Travis:** Heart surgery. [laughs]

**Justin:** Yeah, right.

**Travis:** Now, I will say, there is also the possibility, though, that this person's like "Oh, thank god. A chance to work on my figurines." And you're like "Tell me about it!"

**Justin:** [in a curious voice] "Sooo?"

**Travis:** And they're like "I have 45 minutes to finish, please! Don't ask me questions about my figurine. This is why I hid in the supply closet. Why do you come in here every day too?"

**Griffin:** Fuck.

**Justin:** [whispers] Can I tell you what I think? [indiscernible quiet muttering]

**Travis:** What?

**Justin:** [whispers] Can I tell you guys what I think?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I think... Now, I might be projecting. I might be off, but I'm gonna guess on something here. I think that this question asker's hesitancy, if you were to like dig down deep.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** 'Cause I feel this way too, and tell me if I'm wrong once I say this. But I feel like their hesitancy has less to do with the fact that they are worried that this person doesn't want to talk about their figs, and I think it's because maybe this person doesn't know a lot about—

**Griffin:** The figs, yeah.

**Travis:** Mmm.

**Justin:** The figs. And they're afraid of seeming kind of stupid about it. 'Cause like that would be me, is like I would see— Like, that is definitely within the Venn diagram, right?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** That's in the atmosphere of things that I would like and I would be curious about, but I wouldn't wanna say, like, some stupid shit.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Like “Do you use Sharpies?” or whatever. I don’t even know what a dumb question is.

**Griffin:** “Is them from Monopoly?”

**Travis:** There’s a 90% chance that no matter how much you practice in your head and think that you’re gonna walk up and you’re gonna open your mouth and the phrase “So, paintin’ figs?” is gonna come out, and you’re like “Goddamnit!”

**Griffin:** Yeah, you could write a whole monologue and still accidentally deliver that one.

**Justin:** It’s a thing where like I think some people misread sometimes, or are afraid that ignorance will be misread as judgment.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Justin:** Like, “If I valued this, I probably would have learned about it by now.”

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** “By this point—”

**Travis:** Ahh, yes.

**Justin:** “—I would’ve taken some time to educate myself.”

**Travis:** At best, you might come across as like condescending small talk.

**Griffin:** Yeah...

**Travis:** You’re like “Oh! So figurines, huh?”

**Griffin:** So, you have to— you’ve gotta ameliorate yourself with this individual. I tell yah what I would do.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Is I would go into the bathroom with a change of clothes. I would throw on biiiiiiig baggy denim overalls, and let one of the straps hang down.

**Justin:** Okay...

**Griffin:** And I would walk up there with like a old matted up paintbrush and just be like “You need any help?”

**Travis:** [laughs] "Hey, hey Tom. You need help paintin' that fence?"

**Justin:** "Listen. Hey look, listen, I don't like working here either. Can I help?"

**Griffin:** "Can I please help?"

**Justin:** "You have a perfect scam here and I don't know how you're pulling it off, but I want in. I want a cut."

**Travis:** Oh! Get on the phone. Right? Or you can probably fake this phone call. And just be like "Yeah sis. Yeah, no. I do want to get into painting figurines! You know I've talked about this for years, but I don't even know where to start!" like really loudly, but not so loudly that it seems like a bit.

**Justin:** That's— No. It is a bit though. It's just a bit. We know it's a bit.

**Griffin:** [sighs]

**Travis:** I know. Listen. But why have you been taking those acting classes for years if not for this moment, Question Asker?

**Justin:** I'm tired. I'm tired of you supplicating yourself to this stranger.

**Travis:** Oh?

**Justin:** Listen. I need you to take bigger figs [chuckles] into the office with you.

**Griffin:** Oh, awesome.

**Justin:** Start painting bigger figs.

**Travis:** Like Barbie?

**Justin:** Like big fig— Yeah, like Barbie. Like an Action Man.

**Griffin:** Like thick figs, you know.

**Travis:** Like big figs.

**Justin:** Just big figs. Like Centurions.

**Travis:** Big figs for big boys.

**Justin:** Centurions, or like Descendants, or like... Big figs.

**Travis:** Get a six-foot statue. A marble statue.

**Justin:** Get a marble statue and go in there and paint a big fig and be like "Oh, nice little figs you got."

**Griffin:** [wheezes]

**Travis:** [laughs] "Oh, I see."

**Justin:** "Oh they're kinda cute."

**Travis:** "I see you're still at the starting point with the little ones. You'll work your way up to the big ones some day!"

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "I remember when I used to paint little figs when I was a little boy."

**Justin:** "When I was a little person, I painted little figs, but now I'm a big person and I paint big figs."

**Travis:** "And I put such frivolous things away, and now it's only big figs and big work for me, 'cause I got biiiig responsibilities."

**Griffin:** Would it be helpful to bring—

**Travis:** "People rely on me! I don't have time for individual little figs! I gotta get these big figs done so I can pay taxes and feed my family."

**Griffin:** Would it be helpful if you brought some of the heat off of this person? And whenever they were painting their figs, you went over to your cubicle and put on a big puffy white hat and started to throw pizza dough in the air?

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Just going like [imitates Italian pizzeria music]. And the boss would be like "Uh, what are you doing?" And you'd be like "My... passion? My passion and my hobby?"

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "I thought this was my time. Break time is my time is what you said."

**Griffin:** Yeah. And they'll be like "You don't have any pizza sauce? A cooking surface?" And you're like "No, it's just the chu— It's the dough."  
[imitates Italian pizzeria music louder]

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And then the boss—

**Travis:** "You want me to start with the sauce? And then what would I put it on, genius?"

**Griffin:** Right. And if the boss is like "You're gonna be written up for this. Uh, I'm gonna go eat now." And you stand up and look at the figs guy and just nod your head knowingly. And then you're in, baby.

**Justin:** One— one—

**Travis:** And then maybe you give him some pizza dough.

**Justin:** Along the same lines, you could just go to their desk and be like "Listen Peterson. If you don't have all my figs painted by the end of the day, it's your job!"

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I don't know if you have the ability to fire this person or not.

**Griffin:** Or you could just be like "Come on, Jefferson! The client is waiting on those figs!"

**Justin:** [laughs] Um... Man— Okay, this one's really funny. You ready? Okay. Go over to him—

**Travis:** Wait! I wasn't ready! Hold on.

**Justin:** Okay, get ready.

**Travis:** Okay. [exhales slowly]

**Justin:** Go over to him and be like "Hey. That's... seems cool. I don't know anything about it. Would you mind telling me about it?"

**Travis:** [exaggerated laughter] I wasn't ready! Oh! Ow!

**Justin:** I know. And if you could do that, maybe you could be...

**Travis:** Oh god.

**Justin:** I know.

**Travis:** Oh. [makes pained noises]

**Justin:** Like, that would work on me.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** You know? If I was like doing a wood thing at work. Maybe like carving one of my famous Lil' Fellaz. You ever see Justin McElroys' Lil' Fellaz on Etsy?

**Griffin:** Yeah. They're great.

**Travis:** [in disbelief] That's you?!

**Justin:** That's me, I'm the Justin McElroy from Justin McElroys' Lil' Fellaz.

**Travis:** Fuck, man. Those rule!

**Griffin:** I thought it was the Canadian Justin McElroy that was really into Little Fellas.

**Justin:** No, CBC Justin McElroy is not the guy who— He paints the Lil' Fellaz for me.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** That's why, if you ever look at the apostrophe after Justin McElroys' Lil' Fellaz, the apostrophe is actually after the "s".

**Griffin:** Right.

**Travis:** McElroys's. Okay, got it.

**Justin:** Because it's plural. Justin McElroys's Lil' Fellaz.

**Travis:** Got it, got it. Makes a lot more sense.

**Justin:** And it's L-I-L apostrophe F-A— uh, F-E-L-L-A-Z. Justin McElroys' Lil' Fellaz.

**Griffin:** Right. And they are just little people toys, but they're just the boy ones, and the other Justin McElroy paints over them, but you buy 'em. In the first place.

**Travis:** Yeah.



**Justin:** No, I car— No, I whittle them.

**Griffin:** Oh, okay.

**Justin:** I whittle them from wood, that's the wood part that I'm doing.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** And then Canadian Justin McElroy, or Justin McElr-eh? Uh, he paints the Lil' Fellaz.

**Travis:** Now, I have been meaning to ask you Justin, now that I know that that's you, why do you make them all look like Griffin?

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's a weird thing, man.

**Justin:** When I think "fisherman", which all the Lil' Fellaz are fishermen.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** When I think "fishermen", I think Griffin.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Oh, okay. Yeah, I get that.

**Griffin:** You do make a lot where a big fish is jumping up and like trying to pull down the back of my pants so my little heinie shows.

**Travis:** Yeah yeah yeah.

**Justin:** [chuckles] Yeah.

**Travis:** And different poses too!

**Justin:** Those sell.

**Griffin:** Like 75% of 'em.

**Justin:** I made one of those for a special promotion for the March of Dimes, and they sold so well that they actually became like sort of the default Lil' Fellaz.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Oh, they became the look? Griffin's heinie?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** That became the quintessential— If you ever see `em pop up on, um, *Antique's Roadshow*, you'll see those referred to as like "Retro Lil' Fellaz", if they don't have the fish jumping up and pulling down Griffin's pants [wheezes] so you can see his tiny wooden heinie.

**Travis:** Now, Justin, just one more thing there, because like I think—

**Justin:** I wish Justin, other Justin, would paint the butts.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Because they're just perfect alabaster butts. He says it's a sin to paint them.

**Griffin:** That'd be sacrilegious. [laughs]

**Travis:** To be fair, that does match Griffin's heinie, but I also, I think... Yeah no, I like the fact that you didn't give Griffin like a cutesy facial expression or anything like that. It's abject horror at a fish—

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Yeah, and it's like "Not again".

**Travis:** Right, right, right. That this has— That each individual figurine is a separate occasion of this happening.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** That Griffin has had to live through.

**Griffin:** And it's fucked up also that you used sort of a photo realistic rendition of my... gnarled, eroded, 34-year-old face on all of them?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Uh, it is, uh— I mean, it's incredible work and detail that you do, but it does sort of make the pose a little bit—

**Travis:** I thought it was 3D printed, frankly.

**Griffin:** Yeah. People say that a lot.

**Justin:** This is actually gonna... kinda mess up my, um, my rep, but I'm actually not making enough off the Lil' Fellaz to support my burgeoning family.

**Travis:** Well, it's a labor of love.

**Justin:** Yeah, it's more of a labor of love.

**Travis:** The Lil' Fellaz are a loss leader for the big fellas.

**Justin:** And, if I can say, it's my ministry.

**Travis:** [cackles]

**Justin:** Really, but so, as a result, I would like you guys to follow me to the Money Zone.

**Griffin:** Okay.

[music plays]

**Travis:** Stamps. I love `em.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** You love `em.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Fuck yeah.

**Travis:** They're stickers that carry your words and things to places. Think about that, for just one second!

**Griffin:** You're getting pretty hype about these stamps, Trav.

**Travis:** I just— If you really think about a stamp, Griffin, it's bonkers.

**Griffin:** It's fucked up, yeah. It's fucked up that these stickers, like the stickers I collect that have cool... dolphins and shit on `em.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Um, they transmit my thoughts around the fucking globe. And that's messed up.

**Travis:** Think about that for like two seconds, you guys! And then think about being able to do that without having to go anywhere.

**Griffin:** Well, I'm not God, so I don't think I can create—

**Travis:** Oh, but you know who is God? Stamps.com is God.

**Griffin:** Oh, alright. [sings] "Our stamps are some awesome stamps. They're stickers but not having dolphins." That's my song I wrote about stamps.

**Travis:** Love it.

**Griffin:** 'Cause, as far as I know, there is no dolphin-shaped stamps.

**Travis:** Not yet.

**Griffin:** Not yet.

**Travis:** Hey stamps.com, if you're listening. So, get onboard the stamps.com train and avoid all of that hectic holiday shopping traffic. Save time and money, whether you're selling online or running an office or side-hustle, stamps.com can save you so much time, money, and stress during the holidays, and get discounts you can't find anywhere else, like up to 40% off USPS rates and 76% off UPS. If you spend more than a few minutes a week dealing with mail and shipping, stamps.com is a live-saver.

So, save time and money this holiday season with stamps.com. Sign up with promo code "mybrother", all one word, for a special offer that includes a four-week trial, free postage, and a digital scale. No long-term commitments or contracts. Just go to stamps.com, click the microphone at the top of the page, and enter code "mybrother".

**Griffin:** Hey, you remember that commercial for Orbit gum?

**Travis:** Oh yeah.

**Griffin:** Where the people are arguing, and the woman's like [speaks with a stronger accent] "Who are you calling a cootie queen, you lint-licker?"

**Travis:** Griffin. I just rewatched that on YouTube, like three days ago.

**Griffin:** That's wild. And it's like "Dirty mouth?" So, I guess anyway, do you have a dirty mouth?

**Travis:** Me?

**Griffin:** That's a fu— Man, outside of the context of us doing a Quip commercial, if I ever genuinely asked anybody "Hey, do you have a [intimidating voice] dirty mouth?" [normal] They would get— I would be removed from the premises of whatever building I was in.

**Travis:** You also just kind of like name-dropped a different gum brand in there too.

**Griffin:** I'm pretty sure, they're dead and gone. I'm pretty sure.

**Travis:** Orbits?

**Griffin:** Yeah, the gum? Hold on, let me Google, 'cause you're right, that would get us in trouble. "The brand was discontinued after the war ended." What the fuck? Where am I?

**Travis:** [laughs] What?

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "Orbit was launched in 18—" [yells] Orbit was launched in 189—?! [normal] Sorry, Quip, we're gonna start your commercial over here in just a second. [yells] Orbit was started in 1899?! Okay, yeah, I guess Orbit's still out there. Anyway, that's the end of the free Orbit commercial.

Hey, Quip is excellent. They have the better gum that cleans your teeth. It's better in every way. And that's just me saying that, that is not in the copy for— oh fuck, I'm sweating now.

**Travis:** [cackles]

**Griffin:** Listen, it's the holidays and your mouth is putting in work now, isn't it? Eating, eating, uh, drinking up eggnog. That stuff gets on your teeth and lives there for a while. Don't worry about that though 'cause you got better oral care with Quip, the company with the best gum. They have this built in two-minute timer that pulses every 30 seconds. In the toothbrush, not in the gum! 'Cause that would be pretty fucked up, if your gum started to pulsate. And it helps you clean your mouth the right way.

They have a cover that your toothbrush like lives in, and then you can sort of pop it off and put it right on top of the toothbrush and it turns it into a little protective armor, so you can pack up your Quip on the go. And they also can deliver fresh floss, toothpaste, mouthwash, and the best fucking gum in the business every three months, from up to five dollars.

Shipping is free so you can save money and dealing with the hustle and bustle of shopping in store during the holidays, and in the New Year. Or for the rest of your life! 'Cause it just comes to you and right in your hour of need. So go to [getquip.com/mybrother](http://getquip.com/mybrother) right now and on top of their holidays savings you'll get your first refill for free! That's your first refill free and up to 40% off of bundles at [getquip.com/mybrother](http://getquip.com/mybrother). Spelled G-

E-T-Q-U-I-P dot com, slash "mybrother". Quip, the good habits company. Please do not tell on me for this commercial.

[music plays]

**Pee-wee Herman:** Hello! I'm Pee-wee Herman. You might know me from TV, but I really wanna be a DJ! It took some convincing, but KCRW finally agreed to give me an hour on the radio to play you some music with my friends! [chuckles]

Anyway, tune in for one hour of the bestest, most funnest time you'll ever have on the *Pee-wee Herman Radio Hour*! I am personally inviting you to tune you transistor radio in to hear me, or go to [kcrw.com](http://kcrw.com). Duh! [chuckles] It'll be available for the whole week, from November 26<sup>th</sup> to December 3<sup>rd</sup>, so you can listen to it again and again and again and again and again! [laughs]

The *Pee-wee Herman Radio Hour* was produced by MaximumFun, and can be streamed on [KCRW.com](http://KCRW.com) until December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Justin:** [imitates rock guitar]

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** [imitates a wolf howl]

**Travis:** Wait.

**Justin:** [imitates rock guitar] [pause] [imitates rock guitar]

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** That was a bat.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** [sings] "I wanna munch!"

**Travis:** Squad?

**Griffin:** How is it possible?!

**Justin:** [imitates spooky rock guitar] [imitates Dracula] "I vant to munch!"

**Travis:** Okay, squad.

**Griffin:** Squad.

**Justin:** [imitates spooky rock guitar]

**Griffin:** It is almost December!

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] Hello.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] I am here whenever there are donuts to discuss.

**Travis:** I— okay.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] This is not— I am not a Halloween creation, and I am not who you think I am.

**Griffin:** [concerned] Okay.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] Who do you believe me to be?

**Griffin:** [sighs] I mean. It feels like a trick question 'cause I really believe in my heart and soul that you are Count Donut.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] [laughs] Ah, yes! I get that a lot!

**Travis:** Okay...

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] I am Count Donut Jr.

**Travis:** What?

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] But please, call me Rick.

**Travis:** Rick Donut?

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] Yes.

**Griffin:** This show does not—

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] Count Donut is my dad.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] He covers donuts. Me? I cover donut holes.  
[wheezes]

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** [chuckles] We do not need more characters or Count Donut lore on this show.

**Justin:** [laughs] [Dracula voice] You said characters welcome.

**Travis:** No, we didn't.

**Griffin:** [sighs] Okay, so you're here with— You're here with some cool holes for us, Rick.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] Yes.

**Griffin:** Can we call you— can we all you Rick Holes instead?

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] I'd prefer you didn't. I'd prefer you didn't call me Rick—

**Griffin:** Alright. [chuckles] Rick Holes is good, though.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] [wheezes] Mr Donut Junior will be fine.

**Griffin:** Okay, fine.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] So, I sound like my father, I realize this, but try to—

**Travis:** That's okay. We sound like Dad, it's fine.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] I think you've told the difference very quickly.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Dudes.

**Travis:** Ohhh!

**Griffin:** Awesome. Oh, fuck yeah. Now I'm on board, dude.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] Yes, come with me. Why don't you dap on over to this story here that I have for you. "Tim Hortons has teamed up with Justin Bieber."

**Griffin:** [in awe] Awesome.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] Yes, it is awesome, Griffin. Thank you. He's teamed up with Justin Bieber to make—



**Griffin:** [quickly] Bieber Bites. Please.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] No, this is a good guess. Travis? What do you think?

**Travis:** Uh... Uh... Oo, oo, uh... Bieb Holes?

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] Come on.

**Travis:** Bieb Holes.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] Come on, sweetheart. You can get one out. Come on.

**Travis:** Bieb Holes?

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] Sorry. You think it might be Bieb Holes?

**Travis:** [wheezes] Not now! Not now that I've said it.

**Justin:** [laughs] [Dracula voice] Oh yes, my tone gave it away. No, no, they're Timbiebs. [holds in laughter]

**Travis:** Oh...

**Griffin:** [laughs from a distance]

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] So you know that the Timbit is the tiny version of Tim Hortons donut. A sweet, [whispers] succulent nut from the middle of the dough.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] The true nut of the donut, ironically.

**Griffin:** Right, yeah.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] So that's what they call the "Timbit". But now, make way for "Timbiebs".

**Griffin:** [laughs quietly]

**Justin:** "At Tim Hortons—"

**Griffin:** I don't have to move, I don't actually have to move that far to make way for Timbiebs. It's like a little nudge to the left.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] No, it's like an inch and a half.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] Or, you know, in Canada [hold in laughter] 15 centimeters or something. I don't know.

**Griffin:** I do not think that that conversion— [laughs]

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] That doesn't feel right. [wheezes]

**Griffin:** I don't think that's right at all!

**Justin:** [laughs] [Dracula voice] It doesn't feel right to say!

**Griffin:** Let's see, 15 cm to inches is almost six inches, so. [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs loudly] [Dracula voice] Well, that would be one hell of a Timbieb! Yes, this is the thing about Timbiebs is [laughs] they're gigantic.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] He was compensating. He was tired of "Baby, baby, baby", now it's "Big donut, big donut, big donut."

**Griffin:** Right.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] No, it's Timbiebs. It's small.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] "Tim Hortons has teamed up with pop superstar Justin Bieber—" This was sent to us by Daniel and the story was on CBC.

**Griffin:** Alright.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] Home of *Dragon's Den*.

**Travis:** And other Justin McElroy, I think.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] And other Justin McElroy, yes. If only this had been written by my friend, Justin McElroy.

**Travis:** [surprised] Oh, you guys are close?

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] I would never kill him.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] Not in the way that I killed this Justin regularly. Listen! This is my first time in this body, I've forgot my rich fiction.

**Travis:** It's "Rick fiction".

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] "Tim Hortons teamed up with Timbiebs for co-branded merchandise. The celebrity endorsement deal marks a departure from the coffee and donut chain's usual line up..."

**Travis:** Hmm!

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] "...of professional hockey players."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] "A marketing strategy that could help attract a different demographic." Yes, CBC. I think that there is not a ton of overlap between Bieb-heads and hockey fans.

**Travis:** Hey! How do you know that, Count Donut Jr?

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

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] This is my thing, I make snap judgments about subcultures I don't understand.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] That's Rick.

**Travis:** That's Rick, baby!

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] "The partnership—" [wheezes] That's Rick, baby! "The partnership aligns with the Canadian singer's frequent social media posts about the restaurant, which have ranged from snapshots of a holiday-themed Tim's cup, to complaints about the new lid."

**Travis:** Oh. Okay. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Alright.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] "'Doing a Tim Hortons—'" Hold on, let me do my Bieb voice. [in a squeaky American accent] "'Doing a Tim Hortons collab has always been a dream of mine.'" [Dracula voice] Bieber said in a statement. [squeaky American accent] "'I grew up on Tim Hortons, and it's always been something close to my heart.'" [Dracula voice] Hope Bagozzi, Chief Marketing Officer said 'Bieber's genuine lifelong love of the brand made the collaboration authentic.' Indeed, this Stratford, Ontario-

raised performer has shared posts as far back as a decade ago about missing Tim Hortons while travelling outside of Canada.”

“Justin is... so fervent about how much he loves Tim’s because he said in an interview ‘That is the perfect recipe for a collaboration. It’s not forced.’”

**Travis:** Oh.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] Hope Bagozzi assures you, it’s not forced! “‘While hockey,’ Hope says, ‘will always be part of our DNA.’ She said the celebrity partnership with Bieber will help reach new customers. ‘It opens us up to a different audience and a different conversation beyond... just hockey.’”

**Griffin:** It sounds like they’re doing a bunch of damage control because Justin Bieber’s last album was called “Fuck Hockey, And Everyone Who Likes It”.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] “Justin has wide appeal, but definitely does appeal to younger guests. Nabbing Bieber is a major coup for the chain. The genesis of the collaboration can be traced back to 2019, when the superstar waded into a heated debate about Tim Hortons lid redesign by launching a poll on his Instagram account.”

Now I’m going to read you [chuckles] this verbatim. This is— Justin Bieber took some time out of his day to write this text. [back to normal voice] “I know they could leak, but it was easier to drink out of. The coffee would come out better. These new lids are uncomfortable on the mouth, and you get—”

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs] You guys remember when Justin Bieber let fucking Larry David take over his Insta for a day?

**Griffin:** Take over his life? Yeah sure.

**Justin:** “You get very little liquid each drink. It’s a damn outrage! And it needs to be changed back!”

**Travis:** “It’s a damn outrage”?!

**Justin:** “TBH. TBH, it shouldn’t be plastic. Find a way to be recyclable. Let’s change the world, one lid at a time.”

**Travis:** Woah, Bieber. Love you.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] “That was the start of the conversation because he said he was quite keen to do something with us. So it’s been almost two years in the making.”

**Travis:** To do donut holes.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] “Given Timbits are one of his favorite menu items, the idea of coming up with new flavors was a natural fit. He was super excited, because that’s his go-to item,’ Bagozzi said. ‘We probably started out with about 100 possibilities. We would send him samples to try and he was very specific on what he liked and didn’t like. [loudly] It was months in the making—”

**Travis:** Woah!

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] “— to land on these three flavors.” I feel like I’m sensing a bit of frustration from Hope Bagozzi! They look, I will say... delicious.

**Travis:** What are the flavors, Count Jr?

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] Here it comes, are you ready?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] You know what, I’m going to play the advertisement.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** [Dracula voice] ‘Cause I don’t know if it’s good or not, but I will play it. And if it’s bad, we’ll cut it out. Does this seem fair?

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Travis:** Sure.

[advertisement audio begins playing]

**Hope Bagozzi:** As you can see, we have some coffee for you...

**Justin Bieber:** Mm-hmm.

**Hope Bagozzi:** And I'm just gonna take you through it. Justin, we know you've always loved Tim's.

**Justin Bieber:** Obsessed.

**Hope Bagozzi:** Which is why we're so excited to partner with you to create brand new Timbit flavors.

**Justin Bieber:** Let's go!

**Hope Bagozzi:** Let's go.

**Justin Bieber:** Brainstorming, brainstorming.

**Justin:** He's juggling Timbits.

**Justin Bieber:** Could you imagine if we did a birthday cake waffle Timbit?

**Hope Bagozzi:** Oh my— yes. Yes. I can't even read my writing, it's so good.

**Justin Bieber:** Think, think. Apple banana.

**Hope Bagozzi:** Apple. No?

**Justin Bieber:** Hmm... Hmm... Thinking cap, put on the thinking cap.

**Hope Bagozzi:** Yes.

**Justin Bieber:** Apricot lattes.

**Hope Bagozzi:** Yes.

**Justin Bieber:** No, that's weird.

**Hope Bagozzi:** Sorry.

**Justin:** [quiet laughter]

**Justin Bieber:** Think, Justin! Think!

**Hope Bagozzi:** Yeah, get it out.

**Justin:** [quiet laughter]

**Justin Bieber:** Sour cream chocolate chip!

**Hope Bagozzi:** Yes! Yes! Yes!

**Justin Bieber:** What if we do a chocolate white fudge?

**Hope Bagozzi:** There it is.

**Justin Bieber:** Mm-hmm.

**Hope Bagozzi:** Now all we need is a name.

**Justin Bieber:** Hmm...

**Hope Bagozzi:** "Timbits by Justin Bieber".

**Justin Bieber:** Hmm...

**Hope Bagozzi:** No?

**Justin Bieber:** No.

**Hope Bagozzi:** "Justin Bieber's Timbits"

**Justin Bieber:** I got it! Timbiebs!

[silent pause]

**Hope Bagozzi:** [whispered] It's perfect.

[drum roll]

**Justin Bieber:** Introducing my new Timbiebs: birthday cake waffle, sour cream chocolate chip, and chocolate white fudge. Only at Tim's.

[advertisement audio ends]

**Travis:** "Eat my balls!"

**Justin:** That's good, isn't it.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs] "Eat my balls! I'm Timbiebs! I changed my name!"

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** "These are better than me, so I'm changing my name to Timbiebs."

**Travis:** "This is my new legacy."

**Justin:** That was a great commercial. I'm so excited about these three flavors.

**Travis:** I'm excited to have my brother back.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I'm excited that Count Donut walked into the sunlight.

**Justin:** It brought me back! It revived me! He left and the last thing he said was [Dracula voice] "I've got to go play Fortnite" [normal] and then he flew out the window.

**Griffin:** Awesome.

**Travis:** Oh, what a cool youth.

**Griffin:** God, what a fucking cool dude.

**Justin:** He's cool, yeah.

**Travis:** I miss him, frankly. Wish our brother was still dead.

**Justin:** It's exclusively in Canada and in the United States on November 29<sup>th</sup>. So like... I think I gotta get to Tim's, right? Like, I feel like I'm gonna have to get to Tim's.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** They got Tim's in Seattle? They got Tim's up there?

**Travis:** Surely.

**Justin:** Surely, right? [whispered] It's not all Starbucks.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I would like that.

**Justin:** Hey, thanks so much for listening to our podcast!

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** We had such a fun time! I'm sorry that I used the whole second half of the show...

**Griffin:** It was a good one. Yeah, it was a fun one.

**Justin:** It's fun. It's exciting. And I'm so— Guys, if you could see these motherfuckers, I'm so hungry...



**Griffin:** They do sound good. I love—

**Justin:** [whispered] Hungry...

**Travis:** I mean, they're donut holes— I don't know that I've ever heard a donut hole described and thought like "That sounds like shit".

**Justin:** Timbits or any donut holes are like the perfect amount of donut, right? It's like, "Oh, just a little bit of donut for me. Thank you."

**Travis:** Well, it's hard to throw a regular-sized donut up in the air and catch it in your mouth.

I can't believe we haven't talked about this before! But, we're doing another virtual Candlesnights special. Did one last year, loved it so much. Doing one this year. December 18<sup>th</sup>. 9pm Eastern Time. It's a pre-taped video spectacular that benefits Harmony House in our hometown of Huntington, West Virginia. Tickets are on sale now, for five dollars, with an option to give more if you wish. [Bit.ly/candlesnights2021](https://bit.ly/candlesnights2021), that's the numbers 2-0-2-1, and video on demand will be available through January 2<sup>nd</sup>. We're gonna have segments from *My Brother, My Brother & Me*, *Sawbones*, *Schmammers*, *Wonderfull!*, *Still Buffering*, and *Neat*, as well as some amazing guests and I don't know... if I should spoil any of 'em, but they're really, really good. Trust me. We've outdone ourselves by having cool friends. So, check that out.

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's a good way of saying "The friends we had last year weren't—"

**Travis:** No, they were lame ducks compared to these cool friends. [Bit.ly/candlesnights2021](https://bit.ly/candlesnights2021).

The full series of *Zone of Adventure: Imbalance* is available on our YouTube now. You can see all three episodes of the *TAZ* mini-series, DMed by Aabria Iyengar, who is @quiddie on Twitter. Also, go to [mcelroymerch.com](https://mcelroymerch.com)! Check out all the good merch there! Oh, we got the 'Til Death Do Us Blart shirt there, designed by Tyler Reed, which benefits First Nations Development Institute. Uh, you get the Pin of the Month, The Wizard of the Cloud, which was designed by Dana Wagner, which benefits Native Women Lead. Uh, the Candlesnights ornament, designed by Cait May, which benefits Harmony House. The Candlesnights mug, the *TAZ* dice designed by Evewynn, which is created in partnership with Die Hard Dice, uh, which also comes with the Bureau of Balance logo! So, a lot of cool stuff there.

Uh, if you are interested in finding out more about *My Brother, My Brother & Me* and our collection of McElroy shows, go to [mcelroy.family](https://mcelroy.family)! And check out [maximumfun.org](https://maximumfun.org) for all of the other MaxFun shows there.

Uh, and also, if you missed it, there's a new episode of *'Til Death Do Us Blart* up right now, so go check that out.

**Justin:** Yes. Uh, I think I will Travis.

**Travis:** Oh, well no, not you. We still have to finish the show, Justin. So... Like, don't do that.

**Justin:** Oh.

**Travis:** But we do wanna thank Montaigne for our intro and outro music, "My Life Is Better With You", which is available now wherever good music is found. Uh, if you haven't watched the music video for that, it's on our YouTube too, and I think it's very cute. I think it's a real cutie patootie of a music video. If you will.

**Justin:** Um, now Trav, Griffin had to step away for what I can only imagine is a bathroom emergency.

**Travis:** Oh yeah.

**Justin:** But he did send me the text for his final Yahoo, so I'll just forward this to you.

**Travis:** Oh, thank you.

**Justin:** Here you are. [whisper] You should it—

**Travis:** Oh. Huh. Why is it— That's weird. It's like in... a Google Doc, right? But like the handwriting is smudged, somehow.

**Justin:** Yeah, that's weird. You can't make it out?

**Travis:** Umm...

**Justin:** Alright, here.

**Travis:** Let me see, let me see if I can... Okay, let me see... [mutters quietly] Okay.

**Justin:** Just read it, just read the— I mean, it's still very legible on mine.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Justin:** Maybe your screen that's smudged?

**Travis:** Might be... Okay, this is sent to us by Punxsutawney Phil.

**Justin:** The... Sorry, the groundhog?

**Travis:** It doesn't say.

**Justin:** Okay, so it could be any Phil from Punxsutawney.

**Travis:** It could be any— yeah. Um... I mean I think we're lead to believe, but it could be any— It's sent to us by Punxsutawney Phil, but it's written... Uh, it's written by...

**Justin:** Go on.

**Travis:** Um... It's written by Michelangelo.

**Justin:** Sorry, art or turtle?

**Travis:** Uh, it's written by Michelangelo here. Um...

**Justin:** Art or turtle?

**Travis:** I don't, I don't see a difference between those two, frankly.

**Justin:** [chuckles] Okay.

**Travis:** 'Cause it— Martial arts is an art when you think about it, Justin.

**Justin:** Fair, yes.

**Travis:** Uh, and it says here "Aw ding dang it."

**Justin:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** "I done went and got pizza inside my shell again."

**Justin:** [laughs quietly] Okay.

**Travis:** "And that's gonna make it hard for me to paint the Sistine Chapel. So, if anybody knows how to clean pizza out of a turtle shell, and paintbrushes, please let me know."

**Justin:** [laughs quietly]

**Travis:** "Totally tubular. Arrivederci. Michelangelo."

**Justin:** [laughs] My name is Justin McElroy.

**Travis:** I'm Travis McElroy! [in a higher voice] "And I'm Griffin McElroy."

**Justin:** There it is. This has been *My Brother, My Brother & Me*. Kiss your dad square on the lips!

[outro music plays]

[ukulele chord]

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