

## **MBMBaM 35: Teach Me How to Holi-Dougie**

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[music plays]

### **Griffin:**

Hello friends. This is Griffin, you're about to listen to My Brother, My Brother and Me's, uh, heretofore untitled, holiday special. Uh... as we promised, it is relatively free of cursing, if you want to listen to it with your family, except for... oh, I don't know, the first minute or so, uh, features a song that is full of quite a bit of cursing. So, just a heads up if you're watching this with mama and papa and little bro and big bro and sissy and Uncy Dan around the fireplace and you don't want to hear any curse words, you may want to skip forward by about a minute, starting... right... now.

[music plays]

### **Drew:**

[singing] Fuck you if you don't like Christmas and Kwanzaa, fuck you if you don't like Eid and Hanukah, fuck you if you don't like Thanksgiving, you got to be grateful. Fuck you if you don't like goodwill to men, fuck you if you don't like presents in the den and stockings hung by the mother fucking fireplace. With care.

Fuck you if you don't like working for a living, fuck you if you don't like the spirit of giving, fuck you if you don't like yams from a can, and fuck you if you don't like honey baked ham. Fuck you if you don't like egg nog. Fuck you if you don't like other kinds of nog, and fuck you if you don't like reindeer dogs.

Fuck you if you don't like Christmas. Fuck you if you don't like Christmas. Fuck you if you don't like Christmas. Fuck you if you don't like Christmas.

### **Justin:**

Ho, ho, ho.

### **Griffin:**

That's it?

### **Justin:**

You've waited.

**Griffin:**

That's what you're bringing?

**Justin:**

That's the... that's...

**Griffin:**

That's your super original...

**Justin:**

... that's my Christmas heat. Uh, is to say ho ho ho at the beginning.

**Travis:**

As true today as it was in Santa Clause's day.

**Justin:**

I, uh, my original thought had been to say ho ho holidays. [laughs]

**Travis:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

That makes it worse, Justin.

**Travis:**

Oh my god.

**Justin:**

It's pretty good, right?

**Griffin:**

Were you struck in the head with something recently? [laughs]

**Justin:**

Let me try—let me try again, I'll just start—let me start over. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Let's just fire off like, nine or ten different—

**Justin:**

Born unto us this day...

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Justin:**

... is a child named Wisdom.

**Travis:**

That's good.

**Justin:**

And he is a star of knowledge and enlightenment while, uh, three wise men named Justin, Travis and Griffin look on.

**Griffin:**

Okay, now that's a—that's a vein that we can tap into.

**Justin:**

Yeah, definitely.

**Griffin:**

Why don't you try again...

**Travis:**

Oh three wise men, I like that.

**Griffin:**

... but make it more... make the three wise men more of a focal point.

**Justin:**

The three wise men were the true center... [laughs] ... of the first Christmas. Uh, it was...

**Travis:**

Every 25th of December, we get together and celebrate three wise men appearing unto Jesus.

**Justin:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

So there's gold, there's frankincense and there's myrrh. Which one of us, like which—which gift would each of us have brought? Because I think I would've brought the frankincense.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Travis:**

I think I would've gotten myrrh. Because I'm on a budget.

**Griffin:**

But see, gold seems a little too gaudy for Justin.

**Justin:**

Me? Yeah, no, I would, my... no I was, back then, you know what I mean.

**Griffin:**

Could it be, could it be frankincense, myrrh, and Pokémon cards?

**Travis:**

Yeah. [laughs] Justin and I would probably both bring myrrh because we didn't talk about it before hand.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. [laughs]

**Travis:**

Oh shit.

**Justin:**

I would bring gold, because I would be super into my Joey Buttafuoco phase. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Yeah, no.

**Travis:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

So I'd just have chains and stuff. That was me back then, that was a long time, it was literally thousands of years ago.

**Griffin:**

Approximately 2,000 years ago.

**Justin:**

Not approximately Griffin, we know exactly how long ago it was. 2,009 years and 360 days [laughs] is how long ago. Um, so this is My Brother, My Brother and Me, Teach Me How to Holi-Dougie. Uh, this is an advice show for the modern era.

**Griffin:**

There has to... there has to be a better name for it than that.

**Justin:**

I don't think there is. [laughs]

**Travis:**

The only other one I could come up with was 'Teach Me How to Snuggie,' but I feel like that's right in that same vein.

**Justin:**

Griffin, you're talking to a man who's best intro was 'ho ho holidays.'

**Travis:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

I'm not gonna be able to come up with a better name. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

But that's... I don't know, I appreciate the candor of your terrible, your terrible holiday references. What about...

**Travis:**

So let's call the episode 'Christmas Time.'

**Griffin:**

What about...

**Justin:**

Christmas Time.

**Griffin:**

... Holiday Snow Down.

**Justin:**

Holiday Snow Down, sure. Uh, this is, like we said, an advice show for the modern era. We're three actual brothers. My name's Justin McElroy.

**Travis:**

I'm Travis McElroy.

**Griffin:**

And I'm Griffin McElroy.

**Justin:**

And we are trying our darnedest, and you'll know—you know it's true, 'cause I said 'darnedest,' to do a holiday show. A family holiday show appropriate for all ages, and so, this is gonna shake out one of two ways, if you're listening to this with family members. [laughs] Either you are gonna share a really nice 50 or so minutes, or you're gonna share a nice 25 minutes followed by 25 minutes of awkward silence.

**Griffin:**

[laughs] Now, we kind of, uh, we kind of screwed that up with our intro song but really I feel like it was so delightful and lighthearted that that profanity, uh, you know, it wasn't—it wasn't vulgar.

**Travis:**

No.

**Griffin:**

Using the, the, the FCC's, you know, regulations for vulgarity.

**Justin:**

Okay. Yeah, I'd forgotten about that, so, sorry already I guess. [laughs] That's our buddy Drew Toothpaste. Uh, or... no, his name is not Drew Toothpaste. His name is Drew, he makes ToothpasteForDinner.com, a delightful web comic. You should go buy his merch, and you should follow

him on Twitter. He's @DrewToothpaste, and maybe just like hey, thanks, thanks for the license, thanks for letting the brothers use your tune. I'm a big fan, fan for life. I'm your biggest fan now.

**Travis:**

Yeah, just turn Swim Fan on him.

**Griffin:**

Yeah that's good.

**Justin:**

Go full Swim Fan.

**Griffin:**

Just follow him around. Leave dead sparrows in front of his car.

**Justin:**

Yeah. Say, "I'm a big fan of your show," and, uh, he'll be like, "What show?" And then disappear like a ninja.

Hey, so let's get into the questions, let's dip in. "What's the best way to introduce your significant other to your drunken family at the family holiday dinner or party? Happy holidays," from Merry in Manhattan, and that's M-E-R-R-Y.

**Griffin:**

Love it.

**Justin:**

Love it. Um...

**Griffin:**

This seems ideal to me. This seems like it cuts down on a lot of the presh that, that you, you undergo...

**Justin:**

Sure, yeah.

**Griffin:**

... when, when introducing a significant other to a group of people.

**Justin:**

It's like presh free, because you... first off, they're only sorta gonna remember it.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Travis:**

Yeah, there's like a built in reset button.

**Justin:**

So you got... yeah.

**Griffin:**

That's a double edged sword, though, because your significant other, next time they see your family members, if your family members are like oh hey, uh... that could hurt her feelings, or his feelings.

**Justin:**

There's no greater gift than, uh, than the next social engagement you're at, you know you're gonna have a leg up, because the person won't remember you.

**Travis:**

Yeah, that's true.

**Justin:**

That puts them... puts them on the defensive.

**Griffin:**

Yeah that is—that's a priceless form of social currency. Sometimes when I introduce myself to people I say, "Oh hi, I'm [inaudible mumble]."

**Travis:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And then like, then I've got all the power, I hold all the cards in that situation.

**Justin:**

Um, and that's what—that's what, uh, the holidays are all about, uh, holding all the cards.



**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm. Yeah.

**Justin:**

Um, you know, just...

**Griffin:**

Especially if you're playing Skipbo.

**Justin:**

Skipbo.

**Griffin:**

Holiday Skipbo.

**Justin:**

[laughs] You got a whole family together, the cable is out, you got, uh, there's wassail.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

A big pot of wassail, and you—and you don't know what to do. Well, why not Skipbo? That's a freebee.

**Griffin:**

How about Skipbo for the holidays. That's the new...

**Justin:**

The free one.

**Griffin:**

... that's the new one. That one's for you, Skipbo Company.

**Justin:**

Uh, thanks for the money suckers. I think that you, you know, you say, hey, this is Debra.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

Let her into your heart like you let Jesus into your heart 2,009 years and 360 days ago.

**Travis:**

Well, yeah, I would say, unless your family is like, belligerently drunk, then it's...

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Travis:**

... not any different than introducing them to them at any other time. Now if your family is belligerently drunk, might I suggest not?

**Griffin:**

Might—no, screw that noise. Might I suggest drinking contests with your new, like, prove—prove her or himself to them.

**Travis:**

Oh, I like that actually.

**Griffin:**

Or maybe just show up to the party with like a whole carton of three buck chuck. Like, hey guys, you're soused right now.

**Travis:**

[laughs] Let's do this.

**Griffin:**

I'm gonna take you to full on blackout town.

**Justin:**

[laughs] Let's go to blackout town for the holidays. And yeah, this is a good time to introduce new, uh, loves in your life because...

**Griffin:**

Is it?

**Justin:**

... it is, because strangers are almost like, to be expected.

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

It's the only time where I think that it wouldn't be weird. Um...

**Griffin:**

Yeah but there's, uh, I mean, ceremony.

**Justin:**

Especially that extended family, 'cause you don't know them that well.

**Griffin:**

Maybe that's why—I mean, the ceremony of the holidays, there's so much ceremony, and everybody's ceremonies are different. That's kind of what we're talking about today, is people's, you know, what they do for Christmas, what's their normal, uh, their normal style. Uh, and when you introduce new elements into that, I don't know, I think it can be weird for them. But it sounds like this person's tradition is drinking heavily, uh, which I think most people can get down with.

**Travis:**

The most important thing for you to do is to explain to your significant other what they should be prepared for. Because really, like, I think the concern here is not your family accepting them, so much as it is your family is drunk at a family holiday party, and you're bringing your significant other there, and they are getting introduced for the first time. So just make sure that they are prepped and ready to go for, you know, your drunk uncle, your druncle, hanging out on the table.

**Justin:**

[laughs] Yeah, you don't miss a trick, do you?

**Travis:**

Nope.

**Justin:**

You just can't help yourself. Uh...

**Travis:**

I love it, love it.

**Justin:**

... let's move on, let's move on. "What are some cheap gifts for Hanukah I can get for my friends without seeming cheap? I am in college and super poor. Any advice? Cara." Cara, sweetie, you done missed it.

**Travis:**

What about a Bible?

**Justin:**

You done fell off. Uh, that's, that's...

**Griffin:**

Travis, are you suggesting that she convert to Christianity, and that be her Christmas present to every—or her Hanukah present?

**Travis:**

No, I'm suggesting she convert other people. She'd be a force.

**Griffin:**

That's...

**Justin:**

She'd be a force to win souls to Jesus, is that what you're saying to me right now?

**Travis:**

No of course not. That's bigoted.

**Justin:**

Happy holidays! I'm changing your religion.

**Travis:**

[laughs] Um, no.

**Justin:**

Man, maybe as Hanukah is winding down you're like, boy, this has been fun but wouldn't it be great to celebrate again? That's—that's when you need to make the switch...

**Travis:**

Let's just keep it going. Keep it going.

**Justin:**

... folks, if you're gonna switch from Judaism to Christianity you have to do it...

**Griffin:**

You've got to do it like December 19th.

**Justin:**

Yeah, like right around there.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

And then, surprise! I think you should, whatever you get, you should go to your friends and say, I'm sorry I got you terrible Hanukah gifts, I asked three Baptists what I should get you.

**Travis:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

And they didn't—they said I should convert you to Christianity.

**Griffin:**

Did not come through.

**Justin:**

It did not play like how I thought it would. Um...

**Griffin:**

You know, I used to think that nobody could do this successfully, like the, the... I used to think like, if you do not have money around Christmas or Hanukah, you're just, you're just effed, like there's nothing you can do there. Uh, but, but lately, I mean, I don't know, I've seen some people actually make some really nice things, uh...

**Travis:**

And...

**Griffin:**

... for, for other people that, you know...

**Justin:**

Scarves. Knitted scarves.

**Griffin:**

... I would be down for receiving. Yeah a scarf, a nice scarf. A nice, a shawl.

**Travis:**

Never underestimate like making dinner for your friends. You know what I mean?

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Travis:**

It's a big, big group present. It'll cost you like, 20 bucks to cover everyone. And, you know, if they're, if they're poor too they'll probably appreciate the food more than they would appreciate, you know, a lighter or something, I don't know.

**Griffin:**

Sure.

**Travis:**

What do you get people on Hanukah?

**Griffin:**

No you're, that's, that's good. That's good, because I think college is an appropriate age where you don't have to worry so much about, um, like, killing it with actualm tangible gifts.

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Actual shows of affection are just as appreciated.

**Justin:**

I, you know that, you know that old saying, it's the thought that counts?

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

I like to, to extrapolate that to its logical conclusion and, and give people gifts that they won't let me give them to it. Uh, try this. When Christmas time rolls around, tell them you got them two months of maid service.

**Griffin:**

Ooh.

**Justin:**

And then they'll be like, wow, that sounds really nice. And then on the first day, show up in like an apron with a duster, and just look really sad and start cleaning their floor. There's no way they're gonna let you do it.

**Travis:**

Nice.

**Griffin:**

Now, let's dissect that. What thought went into that? Other than like, diabolical, like...

**Justin:**

The thought was, the thought was, I wanna get you two months of maid service and I'll do it myself, and the best gifts are the ones you make, right? That's a thought counts.

**Griffin:**

So turning yourself into an indentured—

**Travis:**

Also it's implying that your house is really dirty.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Turning yourself into an indentured service—servant is...

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... colorful.

**Justin:**

The thought I had is that you might like their house to be cleaner.

**Griffin:**

That's creepy. I don't like that. [laughs]

**Justin:**

It's not like I do anything. It's not like those dirty maids that you hear about.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

I'm not a dirty maid service. Like a regular maid service.

**Griffin:**

It's still—still upsetting.

**Justin:**

Oh, another great gift – dirty maid service. [laughs]

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

If that's available in your area. It's major metropolitan right now, but I think it's really—I read it in Reader's Digest, it's really spreading.

**Griffin:**

Reader's Digest, really? That's where that... that's where that...



**Justin:**

Yeah, that's where I read about that.

**Griffin:**

... where that particular... someone took an advert out...

**Justin:**

Ooh, uh, another great cheap gift, Reader's Digest! [laughs] They're like three, three bucks a pop.

**Travis:**

They're at every doctor's office.

**Justin:**

Just get them from a doctor's office for free, it's the thought that counts.

**Griffin:**

It's, it's the gift that says, hey, it looks like you can't handle a real magazine.

**Travis:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

Here's this—here's this little guy.

**Justin:**

The thought was, I was gonna read a bunch of magazines and cut out the best parts and tape them together for you, but instead, I let these people do it for you.

**Travis:**

Hmm.

**Justin:**

And I stole this from a doctor's office. "My crazy aunt has made a list of things she wants from her relatives for Christmas. She even made my grand mom, her mom, buy a pot she wants and told her to get the money for it from me for Christmas."

**Griffin:**

That a lot of stuff.

**Justin:**

“What do I do?” What?

**Travis:**

That's a lot...

**Justin:**

I don't, I'm not even sure I understand the... incept this for me, Ditto.

**Griffin:**

Her crazy aunt has a Christmas list, right? A list of things she wants for Christmas. She made her grandmother, by which the question asker's mom, buy a pot and told her to get the money. Okay. So the person asking the question gave her mom money to buy a pot for her aunt for Christmas. Not an ordeal. I don't see the ordeal here.

**Travis:**

I think the issue here is the specificity of the list, and like, to the point where it is less a—a list of suggestions, and more like, the aunt said, “That's the pot I want. Buy it now and then just get the money from her later.”

**Griffin:**

I think it goes deeper than that. I think she's saying, I want the question asker... let's just, can we just call her like...

**Justin:**

Debra.

**Travis:**

Debra.

**Justin:**

Christmas Debra.

**Griffin:**

I want Debra to get me a pot.

**Justin:**

Christmas Debra. Yes.

**Griffin:**

That seems almost like that—like, fetishist.

**Justin:**

Like, yeah. Make Debra buy me a pot.

**Griffin:**

My Christmas will be ruined unless Christmas Debra gets me that pot.

**Travis:**

Go ahead and get it now before it's sold out, get it now. Get it now. Get it today.

**Griffin:**

She has to buy it at 9:46.

**Justin:**

Now, I have had holidays ruined because people didn't bring me the pot they promised.

**Travis:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

That, that I can sympathize with, but...

**Griffin:**

But like, if she gets the pot from, from Debra's papa, like...

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... is she gonna freak out at that point? Like...

**Justin:**

If my dad gave me pot, I would freak out.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Absolutely.

**Travis:**

Well, this leads I think to a good discussion about lists. Um...

**Justin:**

Lists, such a holiday conundrum.

**Travis:**

Yeah. On the one hand, it's kind of... it's kind of like a kidnapper. You're making really specific demands, and like, you put things on there specifically so certain people will get them for you.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Travis:**

But then there's, without a list, it's a complete crap shoot.

**Griffin:**

Oh it's—yeah, it's rough.

**Justin:**

Accent on the crap.

**Travis:**

Yeah. That's the thing.

**Justin:**

I have so many things now.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

The sliver of things that I want, of like, material possessions that I would value, is so small.

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Like I'm a—I'm a white American in my early 30s. Like, I have—well, late 20s technically. It's like, very late 20s.

**Travis:**

Super late. Like, the latest 20s.

**Griffin:**

The twilight years.

**Justin:**

The twilight years of my 20s, uh, and, uh, I have most of the things that I would need.

**Travis:**

Including Twilight.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, all the Twilight books.

**Justin:**

... I have all the Twilight books.

**Travis:**

Um, here's the thing, though. Papa McElroy and I agree that Christmas time is a test. It's a time to like, prove how much you love someone by how well you know them by what gifts you can get them.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, that's it. It's not—it's not how much you get them it's, you're absolutely right, it's how well do you know me?

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Like if you guys get me cookware it's like... actually I could actually use some cookware. That's a bad example.

**Justin:**

I thought so, yeah.

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

It's a moving target that's the problem. Um...

**Griffin:**

I think I... this is, this is one area that I excel at. I don't, I don't wanna toot my own horn, but I think I'm, I'm pretty good at identifying what a person wants and needs, and filling that desire with my dollars.

**Justin:**

I'm pretty good with knowing what girls want and girls need.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Travis:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

But, but as far as just regular people, it's hard.

**Griffin:**

Whatever makes them happy sets them free.

**Justin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

You know?

**Justin:**

Absolutely. Absolutely.

**Griffin:**

I can't believe I knew the second verse, the second line.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I can't believe I didn't follow that up.

**Justin:**

Well, that's my Christmas gift to you is that knowledge. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

My realization.

**Justin:**

Um, remember that on Christmas day because you're not gonna get as much as everybody else is. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Shit.

**Justin:**

Uh, "I think this is a classic question. But what do I get my boyfriend's parents for Christmas? We've been together for almost two years now and I've actually spent more time at his parent's house in the last two years than at my own. I'm in grad school and he lives much closer. I wanna get them something that says thank you for letting me sleep in your son's bed without judging me too much, but not, hi, I'd like to be your new daughter. Thanks," confused at Christmas time.

**Griffin:**

Ooh, fine line. Gotta walk that line.

**Justin:**

Gotta walk it. Um...

**Griffin:**

Have you considered a card? Uh, like just a nice card. Maybe you can make it yourself that says thank you for letting me sleep in your son's bed without judging me too much?

**Justin:**

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. A little literal for my taste, but definitely...

**Griffin:**

Yeah, but I mean, it's Christmas time, cut out the middle man.

**Justin:**

Sure, cut out sentimentality.

**Travis:**

If you've been with this dude for two years, why are you afraid of a gift that says hi, I would like to be your new daughter?

**Justin:**

Don't you wanna be?

**Griffin:**

Uh-oh.

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Let's not bring it down. Let's not bring our Christmas show down by talking about how this person has commitment issues.

**Travis:**

But what I'm saying is—what I'm saying is, you sleep at their house, you've spent more time at their house than at your own... maybe it's time to accept the fact that you probably don't need to worry about what you get them for Christmas.

**Justin:**

Well, you should actually reverse of that, have to worry more and more.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

Each year.

**Griffin:**

It expounds.

**Justin:**

It expounds.



**Travis:**

Oh, really?

**Justin:**

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Travis:**

Oh man, I've missed the boat.

**Justin:**

Can I, can I... I think a lot of times people, um, you, you think too much about who you are relative to the gift you're getting. And I don't think that matters to people so much. I think if you think about them as...

**Griffin:**

People.

**Justin:**

... just as the person and what that person might like, um, then, then I don't think you send... like, the only time I think you send messages with a gift is if it's like a ring or a key or something. Like...

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

... I, I don't think people read into it that much. Maybe that's just me.

**Griffin:**

No, you're completely right.

**Travis:**

Don't do framed photos. Stay away from framed photos.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, that does the same thing. Hey, here's the thing. If you are having trouble, uh, identifying your, you know, potential, what is that... parents in law?

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Your parents in law, like your potential parents in law what they, what kind of people they are, what they might want, maybe that's a sign that, you know, maybe you should spend some more time with them and get to know them a little bit better.

**Travis:**

That's a great present.

**Griffin:**

That's a great present and... or, I mean it sets you up for, for ease of use for future, you know, gift buying things. Like you, you... ideally, you would know them as well as you know your own parents, and you would know what to get them.

**Travis:**

What I would suggest is, everybody has like that main thing that people think about when it comes to getting gifts for them. Like, oh, he really likes dogs, so I'll get him something dog-themed. You wanna go for the second level, that less people know, but they still really enjoy, and then get them something non-specific themed to that. So it's like, I know you well enough that I know you like this thing but, you know, it's... I don't wanna be your new daughter.

**Griffin:**

That can really bite you in the ass though if it's like, I know you like books so here's a, you know, here's a Barnes and Noble gift card.

**Justin:**

Ooh don't—I don't give gift cards away.

**Griffin:**

See for, for, for parents, potential parents in laws, I don't know. It seems a little...

**Travis:**

You can go, you can go more specific than that.

**Griffin:**

I bought you a Barnes and Noble.

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Yeah. [laughs] I brought you to Barnes and Noble to pick out whatever you want. Get in the car, it's Christmas. I'd like to let you guys in on a little, a little Justin McElroy jam. A little secret from me to you.

**Griffin:**

What's that?

**Justin:**

Uh, if you're spending a lot of time at their house, get them—get them something that they can keep at their house that's gonna make your life a little better.

**Travis:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

A couple of years back, I got my in laws a surround sound system. They like it, I love it.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

Because I'm there all the time watching movies, uh, uh, getting—getting a real sensory experience that I got them, and nothing says happy holidays like something that's gonna make you happy too. If you want more specific, for the dad, get the new Mark Twain autobiography, and for the mom, get a Snuggly. It's the gift everybody wants but nobody will buy themselves.

**Griffin:**

See, I was gonna say, rollerskates, rollerskates, rollerskating lessons.

**Justin:**

Okay. Good. Couples activity.

**Griffin:**

Couples activity.

**Travis:**

I like it.

**Griffin:**

Strengthen their marriage and embarrass them. Embarrass them on the street, 'cause let's be honest they're wearing rollerskates.

**Travis:**

Matching sweatsuits.

**Justin:**

[laughs] Matching tracksuits. I love it. That's a slam dunk. Hey guys... oh, uh, you know what, Griffin, do you have any, um, any Yahoo...

**Griffin:**

I do have a Yahoo.

**Justin:**

... questions?

**Griffin:**

... I only have a couple that are holiday themed, so I'm gonna save those for maybe a little bit later in the show. Um, let's do this one instead. This one was sent in by Bridgette. Thank you, Bridgette.

**Justin:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

It's by Yahoo Answers user Jessie who asks, "Why do I feel like I am a car?"

**Justin:**

What? [laughs]

**Griffin:**

"For some reason I have an obsession where I know I am a car."

**Travis:**

Uh-huh.

**Griffin:**

"Mostly a Mercedes Benz or a BMW. Like, I will be running and stop all of the sudden while doing my tire break sound effect, and act like I am slamming on my brakes on the interstate."

**Justin:**

[laughing]

**Travis:**

[laughing]

**Griffin:**

"I also like to make the BMW face while taking off really fast and doing the sound effects."

**Travis:**

Wh—wait, wait, what? What?

**Justin:**

[laughs] What? What is the BMW face?

**Griffin:**

"Is it normal that I feel like I am truly born a car? Like a BMW or a Mercedes?"

**Travis:**

Is it normal? No!

**Justin:**

Hell no it's not normal. What?

**Griffin:**

I think it's the opposite of normal.

**Justin:**

Here's a good, here's a good like normal test. If anyone ever has ever said anything like what you're saying, it's normal. But that, that is not your case. Like you're the only person.

**Travis:**

What is the BMW face?!

**Griffin:**

You don't know?

**Travis:**

No!

**Griffin:**

I'm making it right now. Let's see if you can tell like a difference in my, my vocality.

**Travis:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

[nasally] Yeah guys, I'm just making my BMW face now. Oh, it does! It kinda, it shifts my mouth a little bit.

**Justin:**

It sounds classier I think. Uh...

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Should I make it for the rest of the show?

**Travis:**

More streamlined.

**Justin:**

Would it... okay, I have a question for you, what would be less creepy? This person who says, I know I am a car.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

Or someone who wrote in saying, I like to pretend that I'm a car? Like, [laughs] I would almost prefer they had the commitment to being a car that, like, like this person does. I know I *am* a car.

**Griffin:**

I mean what, what could possibly we do... this is obviously some deep, deep delusion, uh, that he's been cultivating for years. What could possibly—what was the seed? What was the inception that really got in his noggin and planted this, this idea in his head? Is it...

**Justin:**

He wa—he watched Turbo Teen.

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

And he saw Turbo Teen eat something hot and change into a car.

**Griffin:**

Okay, you're gonna have to explain.

**Justin:**

He's like, that's me. Because that's like a...

**Griffin:**

`Cause that sounds like some obscure 1980s cartoon stuff that...

**Justin:**

Okay, then you already know.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Justin:**

[laughs] Turbo Teen. It sounds like you cracked this case already. He's Turbo Teen, he eats something hot and he turned into a car.

**Griffin:**

That sounds like the dumbest...

**Travis:**

Wait, did you say he'd something hot, like spicy?

**Justin:**

Yes. Or he'd get...

**Travis:**

And he turns into a car?

**Justin:**

... or he'd get hot. Like, he just got hot and he turned into a car. Turbo Teen.

**Travis:**

That's the crappiest superpower.

**Griffin:**

Yeah that's a, that's a bad one.

**Travis:**

It's not [inaudible 00:24:48].

**Griffin:**

Because what happens like if you're on a first date but you're at like a, uh, an Indian restaurant, and you eat some, you know, some chicken tandoori with a little um in it and like you...

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... you...

**Justin:**

What about when you get into, like, later on in the evening you get into that heavy petting and all of a sudden, she's got a handful of chrome?

**Travis:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

Turbo Teen!

**Griffin:**

And also, more importantly, she's crushed to death underneath your car that you are.



**Justin:**

Underneath your car body. The sauna is another weird one, 'cause you're just there with a bunch of naked guys and all of a sudden there's a car in a towel and you just crushed all of them. [laughs] Because it's not a big sauna. Um, so I hope that...

**Griffin:**

I have to know more about this question.

**Justin:**

The, I... are there answers?

**Griffin:**

There are, two. Let's...

**Justin:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

This one is by, uh, Yahoo Answers user Come On People who says, "It's completely normal."

**Justin:**

No.

**Griffin:**

"What's not normal is how you think that you're a Mercedes Benz or a BMW. Just face it – you're a Chevy like the rest of us." Bleh.

**Justin:**

Snap.

**Griffin:**

Uh, Yahoo Answers user, uh, Nightwish responded, "I'd rather eat worms than drive a Chevy. Be a man. Drive a Ford."

**Justin:**

And this is what it devolves into.

**Griffin:**

Yahoo Answers user...

**Travis:**

Meanwhile, we're veering away.

**Griffin:**

... Yahoo Answers user Mitch G. says, "You, sir, are a complete lunatic."  
[laughs]

**Justin:**

[laughs] There, thank you, we got back around to it.

**Griffin:**

Oh thank goodness.

**Travis:**

[laughs] I would like to think that that's a My Brother, My Brother and Me listener.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Travis:**

Who was combing through Yahoo Answers and found this question and answered, hey, you're crazy balls.

**Griffin:**

Oh man.

**Justin:**

Is there a more perfect symbol for the internet than when human being says 'I am a car' and another one says 'I like different cars.' [laughs] Like what, what are, didn't you hear the first thing, the thing that just happened?

**Griffin:**

If you guys were cars... uh, or you know, let's open it up. Any form of motorized locomotion. What would you, what do you think you'd go with?

**Justin:**

If I was a form of...

**Travis:**

Dune buggy.

**Griffin:**

Dune buggy Travis, really?

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I don't get that. You don't seem like you're a big fan to the dunes.

**Travis:**

No, I just wanna be a dune buggy. They're awesome.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Justin:**

[laughs]

**Travis:**

Oh is this—is this like a what would we be or what would we wanna be?

**Griffin:**

Yeah it's like a, it's like a psychological, like, association test like what, what are you? What, what attributes...

**Travis:**

I would be a derailed train.

**Griffin:**

Ooh, that's, that's pretty poetic Travis.

**Justin:**

That's deep.

**Griffin:**

Justin?

**Travis:**

Thank you.

**Griffin:**  
Anything?

**Justin:**  
Me?

**Griffin:**  
Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**  
Uh, I'd be a hearse that used to be a hearse but then, somebody turned it into a pizza wagon. [laughs]

**Griffin:**  
I like it.

**Justin:**  
Or maybe a Segway.

**Griffin:**  
I like it.

**Justin:**  
Maybe a Segway.

**Griffin:**  
No, that's good.

**Travis:**  
[laughs]

**Justin:**  
[laughs] What do you, what do you wanna order—[laughs] Where do you wanna order from? We can do Domino's, we can do Pizza Hut.

**Griffin:**  
Yeah, that would be really upsetting, because you get so excited for your pizza to show up, like, you know how like when you see the pizza wagon roll up, like it's the most exciting moment of your life?

**Justin:**

Why do you always order from Pizza Funeral?

**Griffin:**

Like it's in a hearse.

**Justin:**

That's my least favorite place. The pizza graveyard is my least—and you always gotta order from there.

**Griffin:**

Although their corpse crust is just really...

**Travis:**

So good.

**Griffin:**

... it's out of this world. Uh, I would of course be a G6. Or like a G6.

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

[laughs] Um...

**Griffin:**

I think I'm G6-like. The way that I like to fly so high.

**Justin:**

"Hey guys, my sister in law is pregnant. Not only does she wanna put one of her sonogram pictures on her Christmas cards, this year she wants to Photoshop a little Santa hat [laughs] on her unborn child." [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Yes.

**Justin:**

Yes, yes she does. Uh, "How do we politely explain to her that this is the worst idea ever?"

**Griffin:**

You don't do that.

**Justin:**

No.

**Griffin:**

You don't do a thing.

**Travis:**

In fact, I would suggest like, a series of these doing different things. Like a little cowboy hat. Or...

**Griffin:**

Maybe he's playing a little flute, a little pan flute in there.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. I like that.

**Travis:**

Ask her to make it, um, good for a bunch of different religions and Photoshop like a little yarmulke on him and put Happy Hanukah, 'cause that would be adorable.

**Griffin:**

I mean it depends on how far along he is, right? Like if he's still like just a little, wee little zygote, uh, I do not think that that particular form of human being is capable of doing mini things. Although, I don't think you can capture that in a sonogram. That might be a little—

**Justin:**

And if it is a zygote, um, an inappropriate response is to go, "Not too late." And then...

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Travis:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

... that's like no, don't do—don't do that. Like, uh, will, will Santa visit you in the womb?

**Griffin:**

Absolutely.

**Justin:**

Does Santa... will he...

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

How does he...

**Travis:**

It's just a tight fit.

**Griffin:**

There's, there's some, uh, you don't read that Christmas story very frequent. It's pretty apocryphal, but yeah, they—I mean, he can get down in there.

**Justin:**

What's the chimney? Like, what... is he—does he turn it on you, like, it doesn't go the way you expect and like does the nose? Is that... or, or...

**Griffin:**

No it's, it's your butt.

**Justin:**

It's your butt? [laughs] Santa is a little kinda on the... it's a little literal.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

Santa just, he's not a creative man, he's busy.

**Griffin:**

That's why it's, that's not the most popular Christmas story ever. It's not the best story ever told.

**Justin:**

Yeah. It's not, it's the most upsetting story... listen, you're gonna have to be pretending that you, uh, really can't get enough of this kid for years to come. You might as well start now.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

You might as well just...

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

... keep it, keep it to yourself. "I watch Die Hard every Christmas Eve and have done so for the past decade or so. It's been a longstanding tradition after one year when it was the only remotely Christmas-related movie I had not watched by Christmas Eve." What? Okay. Uh, "Nothing gets me more pumped for the special day than watching Bruce Willis kill German thieves. Would you consider Die Hard a Christmas movie, and is this tradition as awesome as I think it is, or is it just plain weird?" Simply... sincerely, McClain at Merrymas.

**Griffin:**

Yes.

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Yes what?

**Griffin:**

Is awesome.



**Justin:**

It's awesome, right?

**Griffin:**

I do this too.

**Travis:**

And of course Die Hard is a Christmas movie.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Travis:**

It's the best Christmas movie.

**Griffin:**

I mean it's a, it's a Christmas movie in the same vein that, uh, Home Alone is a Christmas movie or, uh, Love Actually is a Christmas movie. They aren't, they aren't, uh, you know, mired in Christmas themes but they do take place at Christmas, and they give me a Christmasy feeling.

**Travis:**

Down deep.

**Griffin:**

Down deep in my gut.

**Justin:**

Where your heart used to be.

**Travis:**

Doesn't Bruce Willis at one point kill a dude and put a Santa hat on him?

**Griffin:**

Yeah, there it is.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

There's your link.

**Justin:**

Ho ho ho, I got a machine gun for Christmas.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Ho ho ho holidays is what he should say.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

Ho ho holidays, I have a machine gun. Hey, it's... Christmas traditions are by and large whatever you attach value to. Um, and if you have like, you know, if that gives you that traditional feeling, that Christmasy nostalgic feeling to watch Die Hard with your family, it's totally appropriate.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

And not weird at all.

**Griffin:**

Hey, uh, do you guys wanna try and guess my favorite line from Die Hard?

**Justin:**

Uh, tell me.

**Griffin:**

Oh my God, the quarterback is toast! [laughs]

**Justin:**

Is that your, is that your favorite one?

**Griffin:**

That's my absolute... that might be my favorite line in any—that might be my favorite sentence ever spoken.

**Justin:**

I like, I like the old classic. Uh, yippee ki yay, buddy.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm. You Christmas'd that one.

**Travis:**

We—weasel lover.

**Justin:**

Mother plucker. [laughs] "I feel..."

**Travis:**

Ice road trucker.

**Justin:**

"... uh, like around the holidays, people start crushing harder on others. My theory- theory is that the cold weather increases the like factor. Am I crazy for this holiday like theory or do you find it true as well, Griffin?"

**Griffin:**

[laughs] What?

**Travis:**

I imagine that sentence going like this. "Or do you find this true as well... Griffin?"

**Griffin:**

No I guess, no he has a point, I'm the only single person. I'm the only batch left on the show, right? So, I... God, I hope I'm the only one who is still crushing. Unless you guys crush on your, your wife and girlfriend respectively.

**Justin:**

Sure, yeah.

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Which is still very romantic.

**Travis:**

Um, we're required to.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Uh, it is... yeah, that's a thing.

**Justin:**

It is, right?

**Griffin:**

It is, it's because, it's because like you're so lonely, right? You're so—oh man how lonely is it today? Let me check the barometer. Super, super lonely. Uh, and like it's cold outside, which sucks, so you wanna be with someone in a cuddle position. Uh, and also like, it's Christmas, and like you don't have any presents, like none. You have zero presents. [laughs] Uh, yeah, yeah. That's a, totally a thing. It's not, it's not a like factor. It's a, I don't know, it's a quiet snowy desperation.

**Justin:**

Mm-hmm. That is my favorite Sufjan Stevens album, by the way. Quiet snowy desperation.

**Travis:**

The funny thing is, is you can put like, a time limit on these relationships and they'll go from about November 20th to February 15th.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, it's groundhog day. That's actually why groundhog day was invented. Because it gives you, it gives you an idea of how much longer this, this farce is gonna go on.

**Justin:**

Saw the shadow, baby.

**Griffin:**

See I usually push it back to, uh, spring training, as soon as spring training starts, uh, for... that's a baseball reference. Uh, then I usually, I know it's

about quitting, it's closing time. She doesn't have to go home, but she absolutely cannot stay here.

**Justin:**

It gets, it gets weird though, 'cause it's like, I've lived this day 20 times and I keep having to break up with you on it. [laughs] I really wish like, I don't know what to do here. I'm pretty sure I need to get out of the relationship, maybe I should learn to play piano.

**Griffin:**

That is the thing.

**Justin:**

Um, "Hey guys. Um, I'm driving with my best friend who is like my brother from NYC to Ohio for Christmas. Normally other people are there, so I just sit in the back and read with my iPod on. Since it will just be he and I, I'll have to interact. What are some fun things the brothers McElroy do on long car rides?" Road tripping Gmail. Good question.

**Griffin:**

I did this yesterday.

**Justin:**

Did you? But you're... yeah, with Evan, uh, our buddy Evan Minsker from the show.

**Griffin:**

Yeah. Can I, I... this, this is gonna sound like a joke, but this is why I, I... this year, I started listening to podcasts and, you know, it also happened to be the year that I started doing a podcast, but like seriously, it saved my life. 'Cause I used to live in, in this kind of crummy suburb of Cincinnati where there wasn't anything to do, and it was a 30 minute drive to do, to get to Cincinnati to do anything, and so I started listening to, to podcasts. And seriously, like, there is no better way. It has turned my, my driving experience, you know, into a, an absolute treat.

**Justin:**

And a good shared activity?

**Griffin:**

Yeah, absolutely.

**Travis:**

Yeah the best thing about podcasting is they take care of the talking for you.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Travis:**

So like, you know, you're gonna run out of things to talk about on like a 12 hour drive.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, even if it's with like...

**Travis:**

So you talk for the first hour, you pop on your podcast, you're good for like, another nine hours.

**Griffin:**

Even if it's with like your best, like Evan is my best friend, like, you know, it's, there's still a lot of conversation to, to do, um...

**Justin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Griffin:**

... so, so you take the burden off both people and listen to a, a funny podcast. Also...

**Travis:**

It's good to have... sorry, go on.

**Justin:**

... no it's good to have that in the back, like, absolutely as a, as a backup plan. Um, you should, you should have some in there to mix up your repertoire.

**Travis:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

When the conversation slows.

**Justin:**

I also really like standup comedy CDs.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Aziz Ansari is one of my favorite road trip CDs to listen to.

**Griffin:**

Sure. I mean that used to be my jam. I think that podcasts have replaced that, that need for me though.

**Justin:**

Uh-huh.

**Travis:**

Yeah most of my things revolve around that. Like books on tape, podcasts, standup comedy. It's all pretty much someone else doing the talking for me.

**Justin:**

Uh, some games. Uh, there's always—spot the car is fun.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

Uh, spot the letter. We like to do that one. Uh, we used to play a game called ghost which, uh, we do that.

**Griffin:**

God.

**Travis:**

Oh yeah.

**Justin:**

Yeah, we play ghost on the—

**Griffin:**

You guys want to play a quick round?

**Justin:**

No. [laughs]

**Travis:**

R. No, we're not—

**Justin:**

S?

**Griffin:**

There's—that's not a—you lost.

**Justin:**

[laughs] Ghost is a game where, uh, you take turns... God, this is like the nerdiest thing.

**Griffin:**

No, do it. This game is so fun. I actually miss it a lot.

**Travis:**

Yeah, it's a good holiday game, too.

**Justin:**

Yeah. You take turns, uh, each person gives a letter in sequence. You go in order and each person gives a letter and the idea is to work towards spelling a word, um, but the first person to actually spell a word, uh, or, um, to use a letter that could not be, uh, used in a, in the word is, is, uh, out.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

Uh, or penalized. So let's, well actually, you know what...

**Griffin:**

Let's do it. Yeah.

**Justin:**

... it's the holidays, let's play a quick round.

**Griffin:**

All right we'll do it in order of age descending.



**Justin:**

Okay. Uh, S.

**Travis:**

T.

**Griffin:**

O.

[pause]

**Justin:**

C.

**Travis:**

Ooh. Uh...

**Justin:**

Yeah, so at this point, Travis has an option of saying K and spelling stock.

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Which will, we will, he will lose or trying to play it off like he knows another word that starts with S-T-O-C.

**Griffin:**

But see Travis is also sitting in front of his computer, [laughs] which adds a whole new level to ghost.

**Travis:**

No, I'm gonna say K. Let's end this.

**Griffin:**

Right, yeah.

**Justin:**

Game over.

**Travis:**

Yeah not, not necessarily the funniest bit we've ever done, but I feel like, uh...

**Justin:**

Not a classic MBMBaM moment, it's not gonna make the tape.

**Griffin:**

But, but...

**Justin:**

The mixed tape.

**Griffin:**

... we just gave everyone a present.

**Travis:**

Dad's gonna love it.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Because you can play that game at any time of day.

**Justin:**

There are probably nerds shouting at their radios right now, like, he should have said H.

**Griffin:**

H. Stoching.

**Justin:**

Stoching.

**Travis:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

You could also—there are other road games you could play. You could play hide the carrot.

**Justin:**

[laughs] Oh, that's fun.

**Griffin:**

Um, there's, uh...

**Travis:**

Will he notice?

**Griffin:**

... uh...

**Justin:**

Will he notice is a great game. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

Um, the badger's secret.

**Justin:**

The badger's secret [laughs] is always good.

**Griffin:**

Uh...

**Justin:**

That's an old Victorian parlor game.

**Travis:**

One of these is poisoned.

**Justin:**

Oh you start clap—everybody claps, and they say, the badger's secret is that I'm alone. And you just admit things.

**Griffin:**

Okay. Listen, I've gone to two Christmas parties over the past three days where I suggested that we play that game, I couldn't think of the name of it, like the game from the Albert Finney version of A Christmas Carol, and people looked at me like I was a madman. And it dawned on me that not everybody has seen the Albert Finney version of A Christmas Carol.

**Travis:**

To be fair Griffin, if you had said let's play The Minister's Cat, they still would've looked at you weird.

**Griffin:**

That is, hey, right, the minister's cat is a lonely cat, the minister's cat is a something cat.

**Justin:**

Hey Griffin? Downstairs, I got that, I got that DVD. As soon as we're done with this, let's just watch that, fire it up. Um...

**Griffin:**

If... I, it's just befuddling that, that some people haven't...

**Justin:**

Scr- Scrooge, track it down.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Uh, "My husband's family has a Christmas morning tradition of putting the baby Jesus into the crib in the nativity, and the whole family sings happy birthday to Jesus."

**Griffin:**

Uh-huh.

**Justin:**

Oh no. [laughs] "I think this is strange, but my husband grew up with this tradition, so he thinks it's normal. Could you guys, uh, clear things up and tell us, is it weird?"

**Travis:**

Uh...

**Griffin:**

Man, this is so... half and half.

**Justin:**

I think that... I almost feel like we've done this once, like, but like, as a goof, because who would do that?

**Griffin:**

Here's the thing, if you were singing to the actual baby Jesus in a crib... that's the thing, my hang up with this isn't that they're singing happy birthday to Jesus, it's that they're singing happy birthday to a tiny little baby Jesus statuette. I'm against singing to inanimate objects in any form.

**Justin:**

But aren't we supposed to imagine that he's like floating above them and like, approvingly clapping his hands along or nodding or maybe...

**Travis:**

Well then, they could like sing it to the heavens.

**Justin:**

... tapping his sandals.

**Travis:**

But to say it to a little clay figurine is weird.

**Griffin:**

Yeah that's, that's idolatry, dog. That's, that's sin number one.

**Travis:**

Oh, that is true!

**Justin:**

Here's what you do, Christmas, they start singing, you pick up the nativity and smash it on the ground. [laughs]

**Griffin:**

And you yell, "Idolaters!" And then you...

**Justin:**

No false gods!

**Griffin:**

You very, very, like, forcefully try and drag each of them to the oven and burn them. Fuckin' Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego style.

**Justin:**

[laughing] Keep it down Shadrach, I'm taking you to the oven. Um, that sounds...

**Griffin:**

This is a George Foreman grill. You cannot put me in this.

**Justin:**

I'm gonna do you very slowly. Put half of your hand in here. Um, "A friend of mine recently told me she's planning on getting gifts for me and a few of our friends for Christmas. I told her getting friends gifts wasn't a thing we usually did, and she said she just had some ideas in mind and rarely gets to shop for guys, and she isn't expecting or wanting something in return. Should I run out and get something and tell our friends what she's planning, or just let her give gifts as she pleases?" Stumped in suburbia. Ooh.

**Travis:**

Oh God, this is so tough.

**Justin:**

Wow.

**Griffin:**

This is tricky.

**Justin:**

[sighs]

**Travis:**

It's the unspoken contract of gift giving. You don't have to give someone a gift just because they gave you one, but you're gonna feel like a douche if you don't.

**Justin:**

This is why you should have... you've got to... this is a warning for everybody. You've gotta have some back up gifts.

**Travis:**

Oh yeah.

**Justin:**

Just some random wrapped, like a, like a Snuggly. Everybody wants one...

**Travis:**

Put like a bottle of wine in the back of your car in a nice bag.

**Justin:**

Oh, sure.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Travis:**

Cheese tray, something like that.

**Justin:**

Yeah, yeah. I've got your gift here.

**Griffin:**

But then you get—you get screwed up. What if like your five year, your five year old nephew gives you a gift? You can't be like, hey son, here's some...

**Justin:**

He gets the Snuggy.

**Griffin:**

... here's some... yeah, I guess. But I mean if all you have is wine.

**Justin:**

Oh yeah.

**Griffin:**

I was making like a...

**Travis:**

You get this grape juice.

**Justin:**

I like to have a tin of Dansk butter cookies. [laughs]

**Travis:**

Oh yeah.

**Justin:**

Here, eat these, baby.

**Griffin:**

But do you guys...

**Justin:**

Hopefully, hopefully you find...

**Griffin:**

... have you guys ever received one of those bonus presents and like, you know.

**Justin:**

You know, but you're on the spot.

**Travis:**

Of course you know.

**Justin:**

Uh, to answer your actual question, the impetus is not on you to fix this.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

Like, gifts are nice. It's nice to get gifts and, you know, if your friend is gonna do something that might make people uncomfortable, you are not gonna be able to fix the situation. Because then, think about this conversation you have to have. Like, hey, you should get Angela a gift. Like, it's bossy and nosy, and you have the—you have advance notice, though. You don't have an excuse, you have to get her a gift.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, yeah.

**Justin:**

Like, that's not an option for you. Um, you know what else is good? Scarfs, that's a good multipurpose...



**Griffin:**

I believes it's scarves.

**Justin:**

... gift.

**Griffin:**

With a...

**Justin:**

It's scarfs. No, scarfs.

**Griffin:**

Scarves.

**Justin:**

Like, like, uh, like Garfield does lasagna. Scarfs.

**Travis:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

Scarfs.

**Travis:**

Um, this is a good object lesson, uh, not for our listener Stumped in Suburbia, but for the type of people that he's talking about. Don't get random people presents. It's—it's really nice and everything like that, but you're gonna sideswipe them and come out of nowhere and...

**Griffin:**

And then you're not gonna get anything in exchange.

**Travis:**

Yeah. And I'm not saying that's the point, but it will make the other person feel uncomfortable because they don't have anything for you.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm. Unless you get them a Snuggly, and then they—they will feel comfortable for all of their days.

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

How about a Yahoo Answer?

**Justin:**

Tell me.

**Griffin:**

This one was sent in by Matty B. Thank you Matty B. It's by Yahoo Answers user Raw who asks, "Would your parents explain sex if you put it in your Christmas wish list?"

[pause]

**Justin:**

Um, what? [laughs]

**Griffin:**

There's, there's additional details, but I feel like we need to address the first question first. Would your parents explain sex if you put it in your Christmas wish list? It sounds like he's asking... his parents never explained sex.

**Justin:**

Uh-huh.

**Griffin:**

He's requesting on his Christmas list that they do so.

**Travis:**

To learn about sex?

**Griffin:**

That they do the birds and the bees talks.

**Travis:**

See, this is another good reason not to have lists.

**Griffin:**

Because you can put some crazy, crazy stuff like that in it?

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I mean, that seems like a pretty important present. If they...

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

... if they skipped out on that, that... I don't know about you guys, but I received a series of lectures.

**Travis:**

Yeah. I think it's funny that he has to outsmart his parents about it. Like, oh, you got me, all right. I guess we gotta have the talk now, you did put it on your list. Good call.

**Justin:**

Uh, 'cause—is this question asker wanting this information? Like, are they in need of this? Like they know how to ask Yahoo...

**Griffin:**

Let me...

**Justin:**

... to ask their parents about sex?

**Griffin:**

... let me bust out the additional details.

**Justin:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

I'm 20 and still awful at it.

**Travis:**

[gasps] Oh no.

**Griffin:**

Now that, now, we just broke through...

**Justin:**

Whoa.

**Griffin:**

... the crust into the creepy, creepy mantle of this question.

**Justin:**

[laughing] Wow, uh, so you are wanting sex tips.

**Travis:**

[laughs] Oh no.

**Justin:**

You wanna, you want, you wanna go to your mom and dad and say, hey mom and dad, teach me how to dougie.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Travis:**

[laughing]

**Justin:**

Like, is that what you're saying?

**Griffin:**

I mean, he is saying something like that.

**Justin:**

I'm still terrible at it. I need mom and dad to teach me.

**Griffin:**

Hey daddy, um...

**Justin:**

Daddy, my daddy. I love you, happy Christmas.

**Griffin:**

Happy Christmas, uh...

**Justin:**

Papa.

**Griffin:**

... um, did, do you enjoy your bowling ball? Good. Uh, I'm trying to rearrange some guts and I could, I could use some pro tips, daddy. [gags]

**Justin:**

Yeah. [gags]

**Travis:**

[gags]

**Justin:**

Uh, happy birthday, uh, Jesus.

**Travis:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

And I know it's Jesus's birthday...

**Travis:**

Nothing says a family get together like sex tips.

**Griffin:**

... and everything, but... [sighs] I'm getting laughed at over here. Um, I'm getting some... I'm getting some coital giggles that I could really do without. So if you have like a strategy...

**Travis:**

Hey daddy?

**Griffin:**

... guide that I could crack the spine of...

**Justin:**

[laughing uncontrollably]

**Travis:**

Hey daddy, after Rudolph, could you jot me down some charts, and maybe some diagrams?

**Griffin:**

Just jot me out...

**Travis:**

Just anything.

**Griffin:**

... like a Venn diagram of what to do and where to do it.

**Justin:**

Yeah. How to do it. How you do. Hey, but, but listen – if your wife's pregnant, stay away from the butt, because that's Santa's town.

**Griffin:**

That's Santa town. [laughs] Get out of there!

**Justin:**

That's Santa's territory tonight.

**Griffin:**

You're blocking ho ho's exit, and like, he needs to... he's got places to be.

**Justin:**

He's got a lot of houses to hit. [laughs] He can't stay in your wife's uterus all night. Please. Please, let Santa out.

**Griffin:**

Oh man.

**Justin:**

Let Santa out. Uh...

**Griffin:**

We hope everyone had the foresight, who is listening to this with their family, to, to skip that q—to head that question off to the pass. [laughs]

**Justin:**

Yeah. Uh, let's just slow it on down.

**Griffin:**

Okay.

**Justin:**

Um, "I need an idea for a new holiday tradition for me and my husband. This is our first Christmas as a married couple. Also, we're really non-traditional, so go crazy brothers. We're looking—" [laughs] Uh, sorry, "So go crazy, brothers. We're looking for fun. Thanks," in need of holiday cheer, Gmail.

**Griffin:**

This is awesome. I've been doing this so, so much up in Chicago. 'Cause I don't know too many people up in there, except for my, my two roommates. Um, um, and we've had to make our own... we've had to make our own, you know, holiday experiences. Didn't follow through on a lot of them though, but we had some good ideas.

**Justin:**

Well, why don't you... don't keep us in suspense.

**Griffin:**

Uh, we almost—we almost went to the zoo.

**Justin:**

Okay. [laughs]

**Travis:**

Uh... [laughs]

**Griffin:**

That's...

**Justin:**

How was your Christmas? Ah, it was, it was...

**Griffin:**

It was good. We, uh, almost went to the zoo. [laughs]

**Justin:**

Pretty good. We, uh, our Christmas Eve tradition is uh, on Christmas Eve we, the three of us and our, our papa, uh, go on a walk, um, and we've been doing that for literally two decades. Every, every Christmas Eve we'll go, uh,

we'll take a walk. Uh, Travis isn't gonna be in this year. We think we're gonna have to have him on speakerphone.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, we'll Skype him.

**Justin:**

Yeah we'll Skype him in, but he can't, he has to promise he's walking in the cold. It's, uh, that's a pretty dumb tradition because, wow, it is cold.

**Travis:**

It's so cold all the time.

**Justin:**

But it's a nice—we talk about what happened during the year, and year-end review type thing. Um...

**Travis:**

That's—that's the nice thing about any holiday tradition or any tradition to begin with. It really can be anything. You just have to say like, let's do this every year. Your tradition could be to eat hotdogs and watch *Rambo* every year.

**Justin:**

Or Die Hard.

**Travis:**

Or Die Hard. Die Hard works too.

**Griffin:**

Oh, oh, another one. Uh, me and my roommate watched, uh... we were going to watch all of the extended *Lord of the Rings* movies, but we only made it through about one and a half.

**Justin:**

Huh, huh.

**Travis:**

So maybe your tradition is following through.

**Griffin:**

Yeah.



**Justin:**

[laughs] He beat me to it. Um...

**Travis:**

A-ha.

**Justin:**

... so there's that. What about, uh... I'll tell you, I... some of my favorite holiday traditions center around baking.

**Griffin:**

Baking, I was gonna say baking, yeah.

**Travis:**

That's good.

**Justin:**

That's always good. Let me give you a quick recipe, okay?

**Griffin:**

Hit it.

**Justin:**

Uh, third cup butter, 40 big marshmallows, heat them up on low until they're melted, teaspoon of green food coloring, then six cups of cornflakes.

**Griffin:**

Oh yeah.

**Justin:**

You mix that all together, and then you shape it into a wreath, put some, uh, some people like Red Hots for berries. Some people like, I, I use mint M&Ms, red mint M&Ms to make the berries. Put it, you know, on some wax paper, make a wreath shape. You got a holiday like delight there. That is good.

**Griffin:**

I wanna see some JPEGs of people who actually made that.

**Travis:**

Oh yeah, make that Christmas wreath.

**Justin:**

I may... and this is just, I made this last night.

**Griffin:**

And it was a delight.

**Travis:**

It's a McElroy family favorite.

**Justin:**

It is a delicious treat.

**Griffin:**

Yeah, I don't know any other people who do that. Um, and if there are...

**Travis:**

I brought it up the other day, and somebody looked like I was like explaining the miracles of birth to them. They were amazed.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm. Well it is flavor birth, practically.

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Justin:**

It's the birth of delicious.

**Griffin:**

It's chewy flavor birth.

**Justin:**

Uh, I wanna hear Griffin's...

**Griffin:**

Hey, hold on.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

I can tell you wanna end the show, but I have another Yahoo that really needs exploring.

**Travis:**

Okay.

**Griffin:**

Is that okay? I know we're going long, but it's Christmas.

**Justin:**

Sure.

**Travis:**

It is Christmas.

**Griffin:**

Uh, this is a Yahoo Answers question that I found by myself, which I haven't done in a long time.

**Travis:**

We're very proud of you.

**Justin:**

Hey, you followed through on something at least.

**Griffin:**

It took me a long time. I don't know how people keep doing this, because it's really difficult. Thank you so much for sending in your questions. Um, it's by Yahoo Answers user Balls W. who asks... oh man... "How can I tell my nine year old son I am not going to like his Christmas present?" [laughs]

**Justin:**

[laughs]

**Travis:**

[laughs]

**Griffin:**

"I found my Christmas present in his room when I was snooping. How can I tell him that I don't really want a mug?"

**Justin:**

[laughing]

**Travis:**

Bitch, I don't drink coffee.

**Justin:**

I don't like My Brother, My Brother and Me. Why did you get me [laughs] this mug?

**Griffin:**

Uh, that's gonna be a really rough conversation Balls W., because it seems pretty contrary to the spirit of the holidays. Hey, um...

**Travis:**

[laughs] Stop crying, stop crying champ.

**Griffin:**

... um, Henry, let's, uh... let's have a chat. I don't wanna act surprised on Christmas or delighted, but I know about the mug... uh, you goofed.

**Justin:**

You're goofed. [laughs] You did a bad job.

**Travis:**

You done effed up.

**Griffin:**

Um, do I look like man who has a lack of things to, uh, bev out with? Because I have plenty of... I have a wide array of Tervis tumblers, uh... of cups, handled cups, uh, I'm all set on that front.

**Travis:**

You know Henry, it's gifts like this that made your mother and I get divorced, so good job. Good job.

**Justin:**

Henry, am I on the naughty list? What have I done to get on your personal naughty list? What did I do? Where did I go wrong?

**Griffin:**

You know what you should do? You should flip it right on its ear and give him presents that he doesn't want.

**Travis:**

Just give him mugs.

**Griffin:**

Like hey, here's Turbo Tax 2009 Edition. [laughs] You're gonna love it.

**Justin:**

Guess you just learned a lesson, a thing or two. I guess you really taught him.

**Travis:**

Now no one is happy. Merry Christmas.

**Justin:**

I think if you don't like a mug, you gotta wait until you open it, and smash it against a wall. [laughs] Because then it would be such a visual image and he will live with—he's not, he's, he's... I tell you, if you—if you give your dad— [laughs] If you take your nine year old son's Christmas gift, it's a mug, you take it, you look at it, [laughs] you make a face like you're retching inside, like, ugh. And then you smash it against the wall, that kid's... I don't know if he's gonna grow up angry or degenerate, but he's gonna grow up special. He's gonna be a special person.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

A light, a special person in this world.

**Griffin:**

He will be unique. Unique.

**Travis:**

Henry, why are you acting like a car? Oh well, you see, when I was nine, my dad didn't like my Christmas gift.

**Justin:**

So now I make my BMW face. And, uh... [makes a car noise] Beep beep, please move.

**Griffin:**

Uh, listen. Bad news Balls W. Nobody under the age of, let's say, 15, has ever bought a Christmas present for anybody that they wanted.

**Justin:**

No, no.

**Griffin:**

You don't learn how to do that. You don't learn how to divine people's, you know, desires until at least age 15, I think.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

And even that's pretty ahead of the curve. I have...

**Travis:**

What—what kind of budget is your nine year old working with?

**Griffin:**

Yeah!

**Justin:**

Yeah, right? I, my, uh, I have a sister in law, she's, and she's a youngster, she's just now turning 10, and I wish I had a museum of the Christmas presents that I've gotten from her. [laughs] 'Cause they are awesome. And, and, uh, your, uh... and if you don't like a little kid's present that they got you, you're probably a monster.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

And I would like for you to die.

**Griffin:**

Hey, can we curse?

**Justin:**

Um, what?

**Griffin:**

I really wanna curse this guy out, 'cause he sounds like a real...

**Justin:**

No, it's the holidays. It's the holidays.

**Travis:**

Okay. Parents, earmuffs.

**Griffin:**

Earmuffs, parents.

**Justin:**

Earmuffs, parents.

**Griffin:**

[jingling sound] —you, Balls W.

**Justin:**

Good, well worth it.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

Uh, I wanna hear Griffin's last question. Uh, but thank you for tuning in to our show that we almost made it through without cursing. Uh, this is My Brother, My Brother and Me. It's an advice show for the modern era. Uh, if you're a new person, uh, we... you can find us at MBMBaM.com and subscribe there. You can ask us questions there. Um, you can talk about us on Twitter. Uh, we love to see, uh, holiday quotes.

Um, if you wanna get us something for Christmas, uh, spread the link to the show around on your Twitter feed, and your Facebook, and, uh, pretty much everywhere. Share it with somebody you love. Burn it on a CD, burn some episodes on a CD, and say hey, check this show out, I got it for you. Merry Christmas. It's the Christmas gift that says, uh, it's a, it's a... it's a file that I burned.

Um, uh, even email us if you need us. MBMBAM@Gmail.com. Uh, the day has passed for orders on the store, but maybe if you wanna get somebody a

nice after Christmas present, or a New Year's present, you can buy them a T-shirt.

**Travis:**

Or you can print them off a photo of something.

**Griffin:**

Mm-hmm.

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Good call back.

**Justin:**

Yeah. It's a... that's a nice one. Uh, and I think that's it. Thank you, uh, this will be our, probably our... we'll probably have one next week, but, um... thank you guys so much for this year of support and attention and, uh, and listenership and everything that you've given to us. It really means more than, than we could say.

**Griffin:**

Absolutely.

**Justin:**

And...

**Griffin:**

This has been... this has been the best thing that has happened to me this year, is this podcast. So...

**Justin:**

Oh God, well good.

**Travis:**

Wow.

**Griffin:**

No, I mean that sincerely. Thank you, thank you everybody.

**Travis:**



That's awkward.

**Justin:**

An awkward finish. [laughs] So...

**Griffin:**

I mean, let's—I mean, I don't have a lot going for me.

**Justin:**

Okay. [laughs]

**Travis:**

Ooh. [gags]

**Justin:**

[audibly cringes]

**Griffin:**

I mean, I know, listen times have been, times have been tough. Maybe.

**Travis:**

Okay. Hey. Let's throw it off to Ludacris.

**Justin:**

I would rather—I would actually rather listen to dad teach me how to have sex than... [laughs] ... than listen to you do the sad sack business again. So why don't give, give me that last Yahoo. [laughs]

**Travis:**

Are—are we gonna mention after the show, there's a special treat?

**Justin:**

Oh, oh, oh yeah. Uh, not after the show but in—if you get MBMBAM the app-perience, which is also, we haven't talked about this, it's on the Android store.

**Travis:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Oh.

**Justin:**

You can get MBMBAM the app-sperience in the Android store and get all the bonuses and, and crap, um, that we release. Uh, and we'll probably re-release some of the older ones, just so you Android guys can check them out.

**Griffin:**

Am I the only one who thinks that the Android store isn't nearly as cool as it sounds?

**Justin:**

It sounds way cooler, yeah, you're right. Um, but we got a song from our boy Jay Phonic. It's—it's That Christmas Creep, he turned it into a full, full song. You'll really enjoy it. Um. So check that out, and, uh, remember, you can gift someone the app-sperience, if you want, because that's a gift that says I tried. Uh, and that's it. Griffin, hit me.

**Griffin:**

Hey, everybody?

**Justin:**

Yeah.

**Griffin:**

Happy holidays.

**Justin:**

Happy holidays.

**Travis:**

Happy holidays.

**Justin:**

Absolutely.

**Travis:**

Travel safe.

**Justin:**

Travel safely. I, yeah, and, uh, we love you.

**Griffin:**

This one was sent in by Dante, thanks Dante. It's by Yahoo Answers user Shane Fargo who asks, "My veins spell out 'king,' is this common? Any significance?" [laughs]

**Justin:**

[laughs] I'm Justin McElroy.

**Travis:**

[laughs] 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 music plays]

**Griffin:**

"Hi, I know this sounds kinda awkward or crazy, but on my left wrist, my veins spell out the letters K-I, and on my right wrist my veins spell out N-G. My middle name is, in fact, King. I've noticed this for the last two years and it will never go away it seems like. I know my family is related to royalty. I just wanna know if this is common or if I'm just a king without his crown." What a douche.

**Travis:**

[laughs]

**Justin:**

Happy birthday, Jesus.