

MBMBaM 590: Keep Your Grades Up

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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, Big Dog, Woof Woof, Travis Woof Woof, McElroy Woof Woof.

Griffin: And I'm sweet, baby brother, Griffin McElroy.

Justin: And, uh thank you everybody for coming to our press conference. It's been a while since we had—

Travis: Please, sit down. Sit down. Sit down.

Justin: Sit down, please.

Travis: Yeah, you. Sit down. Hey! Where are you going?

Justin: Please.

Griffin: Why are you clapping? Why are you clapping?

Travis: Stop it.

Justin: Stop.

Travis: We have a limited time frame.

Justin: Yes, please, listen. Uh, I am so excited to announce... [sighs] Been so much work getting to this, this point. Um, I am so excited to

announce the *My Brother, My Brother & Me* series of non-fungible tokens. Or, in the parlance of the people... niftys.

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: Mmm.

Justin: Thank you.

Griffin: That's what we call them

Justin: We have a series— these exclusive... JPEGs.

Travis: Yip.

Justin: Uh, are, I mean.

Travis: Glossy.

Justin: Glossy and beautiful. Easily downloadable, but ownable by— only by you.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: There's— My favorite is, we've got a, um, Torsy the Torso Horse.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Oh, great.

Justin: Yeah, and it's an NFT. The bidding on that will start at 10... thousand dollars.

Travis: Yup.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: I feel like it's gonna be... a lot higher than that.

Griffin: [sighs] There sh— There's shirtle— There's Shirtless Jeans Griffin. Dot JPEG.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Which, I actually demanded there needed to be stats on it. Like strength.

Travis: Like a baseball card?

Griffin: Like strength sta— Or more Pokémon. Like, strength stats, how much energy it costs for me do my like flexing powers.

Travis: Oh, right right right.

Griffin: That makes the walls fall down. Um... and that—

Travis: Now, I've done one here—

Griffin: And that one— that one's— That one's, uh, like nine bucks.

Travis: I've done one here, uh, what I've done— So, you guys know the Mona Lisa, right?

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Yes.

Travis: So, I took a picture of that when I was at the Louvre.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then I Photoshopped in, uh, an engorged penis, instead of the face.

Griffin: Oh, cool.

Travis: And I call it "Boner Lisa". Um, and before you ask, yes—

Griffin: Hey, this isn't Work of Art. Hey, we're not in Work of Art right now.

Justin: We're not in Work of Art right now.

Travis: I understand that. I understand that.

Griffin: We're not into it.

Justin: But it is kind of a tribute to that.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Thank you.

Justin: With the NFT.

Travis: Yes, a little bit. Still kept the enigmatic smile.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: This is a boner with a secret. And, uh, that one the bidding actually started at \$50,000, but it's already been... more or less purchased, we're in final talks, uh Tom Hanks wants to buy it and option it and write a script about it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Uh, kind of— I think it's like a Da Vinci Code spin off or something.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So that's more or less spoken for, at this point.

Justin: Uh, so these are really exciting, and we're using... some of the usual channels to, um, sell these NFTs.

Travis: eBay.

Griffin: Books a million.

Justin: One of `em might be crypto... site.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: Open place. [wheezes]

Travis: cryptositeopenplace.gov

Justin: [chuckles] cryptositeopenplace.gov is where we're sellin' these, and um we're just excited. And yes, to answer your question, 3% of all profits will be, uh, given to charity.

Travis: Oh. That much?

Justin: I mean, I don't need to tell you that. That's— Well, it— Well, like one point five to thr— Well, there is a percentage deal.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: So, thank you so much.

Griffin: That said, we're also doing emp threes, which is what a lot of people are calling MP3s these days.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Um, this episode, every episode I'm saying right now, is just money, money— When I'm saying the words—

Justin: Money, money, money.

Griffin: Money, money, money, money, money. It's actually increasing the value of the, of the money.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And of course—

Travis: And I'm releasing my own, um, my own Fall Out Boy cover album. Um, that's just Fall In, Boy!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And there's like a comma and an exclamation point in there.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And that will be available, uh, directly through—

Justin: Through NFTs.

Travis: — cryptositeopenplace.govt

Griffin: Hey guys che— Hey guys, check this out. Bazinga!

Justin: [laughs stiffly]

Travis: That's one—

Griffin: So I'm gonna NFT that.

Travis: Just that.

Justin: Right.

Griffin: Just one, straight one and a half second sound bite.

Justin: Oh. Sorry, wait.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: Oh, they got another press conference startin' here.

Travis: Oh. During our—

Justin: So we gotta wrap up. Thank you s— Yeah, thank you so much for coming, and uh we'll turn it over to them right now.

[sighs] Hello everybody, thank you for... Thank you for coming today. Um... Oh gosh, where to begin.

Travis: Yeah. Uh, mistakes were made.

Justin: We are— But first, let me begin with an apology.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: We did not consider... our NFT program, uh, before we announced it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: To you, the, the listening public, and for that we are... I mean, so sorry. We're really, really sorry.

Travis: And I know what you're thinking, but then how did you schedule this press conference? This was going to be, uh, a bit of a victory lap press conference, 'cause we thought we'd done— We thought we'd figured out NFTs.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. Yeah.

Travis: And we thought we were gonna brag about how good we did, um...

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: But, um, you know. You make a plan and God laughs.

Justin: Apparently, uh, some of the things we've heard. One— If I could just run down some of the chief complaints that we've heard in the interim.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: One, stupid.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And like that's— Yeah.

Travis: That's kinda the biggest.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: I mean, that was the biggest one. Number two, killing the planet.

Travis: Yeah, that's one.

Justin: They're— Apparently these things, they're not so nifty for old Mother Earth.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Which is weird, it's just me saying "Bazinga", and then 1000 trees die.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Now, to be fair, uh, Boner Lisa is a lot of gigabytes.

Griffin: Yeah. It's uh—

Travis: It's, it's about 100GBs.

Griffin: It's uncompressed, all the way.

Travis: Yeah. It has layers.

Justin: If you tweeted when you were listening to the first part of this, about how mad you were.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: We hope you will now issue a retraction.

Travis: We heard you.

Griffin: We did see that. Yeah, we did see that.

Justin: We heard you, and if you could issue a retraction, like “Thank goodness, they’re doing the right thing”.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah yeah yeah.

Justin: “Boy, these guys always— They say, the McElroys, they usually get it right in the end”.

Travis: Right.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And this was probably our quickest turn around.

Griffin: I think so too.

Justin: That’s coming from three guys that announces some live shows and cancels them the next day.

Travis: Right.

Griffin: That’s true.

Justin: This is actually a new land speed— A new land shame record for us, which is huge.

Griffin: And I just wa—

Travis: And I do wanna— Tom Hanks, if you’re listening, I will not be returning the down payment on Boner Lisa. That is already spent. Um—

Griffin: You know what? That dude’s a real fuckin’ crypto geek.

Travis: Yeah. Well, he loves— He first got into it ‘cause he was like “Crypts?”

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "I love exploring those things!"

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And then somebody explained to him, but he had already invested millions of dollars.

Griffin: Right. And I did wanna say to Elon Musk, I think you stink.

Travis: Woah.

Griffin: But thank you for— Thank you for the seven and a half million dollars for Bazinga. Um, I noticed you've been putting it in all your tweets. You've been embedding the Bazinga sound bite in all your tweets, which I did not know was possible, um... And it is— It is funny. And um... I guess that's all.

Again, personally, on like a personal, moral level, I do think that you... are a shithead that belongs in the garbage, but I do... I'm gonna do so much good with that eight and a half million? I forgot what I said. It's a lot of money though.

Justin: Yeah. So thank you, and we're sorry. [pause] Let's get into the show.

Travis: But— But not to Tom Hanks.

Justin: I'm sorry to Tom Hanks.

Travis: About what?

Justin: That's just 'cause I— Because I haven't watched *Finch* yet.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: He's been kind of on me about it.

Travis: Oh, yeah? I keep getting those texts like "What'd you think?", and I'm like "It's next! It's next!"

Griffin: "Next on the list, buddy. Promise."

Travis: But I've been saying that for a while, and then *Witcher* came out.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And then I was like "Oh man, I gotta watch *Witcher* first." And he was like "I get it, I get it. I love Geralt, and all of his whacky shenanigans, but then you'll watch *Finch*, right?" And I was like "Well, it's not really— I don't know if it's a holiday appropriate—"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then he was like "Oh, I get that, I get that. But like January 2nd!" And I was like "You got it, buddy!" And I know I'm not going to.

Griffin: I'm really not going to.

Justin: I'd rather do a like a *Cowboy Bebop* rewatch— Well, it's sort of like a rewatch. They should have a name for a rewatch that you do the first time.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: But it's— It's like that. "From my desk at work."

Travis: "A note from Justin McElroy."

Justin: [chuckles] "Re: The NFT debacle."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs] "From the desk of Justin. Welp!"

Griffin: "Well!"

Justin: "Team McElroy, we let you down again, and gosh, it's a tough one."

"I have a door that opens into a common hallway." La-dee-da. He's got a door.

Travis: A door. Look at you.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "So everyone who goes past can see me, and I can overhear any conversations in the hall." [chuckles] "I control it all."

Travis: [laughs] "All from my little desk."

Justin: "I'm just watching the game. Controlling it."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "I just heard another co-worker telling someone that there's birthday cake downstairs, and that they should go as a group to get some. However, I don't know whose birthday it is, and that co-worker didn't explicitly invite me, even though she could see me at my desk. I really want free cake, but I'm afraid it's going to be awkward if I go down to this party? Alone and uninvited. Brothers, how can I invite myself down for some cake?" That's from Cake Conundrum in California.

Travis: I think—

Griffin: It's—

Travis: Listen.

Griffin: It's— Go, please, yeah.

Travis: I feel like this is a non-problem, right?

Justin: They're all non-problems, Trav, but we got a podcast.

Griffin: Yeah, we don't put— We don't include actual problems.

Travis: If the statement is made “There is birthday cake downstairs”— Now, what I am assuming here, because there are no other details given, that even though it is a separate floor, it is the same business? That this is not like a different business that you would be going to, because—

Griffin: Oh, interesting.

Travis: That’s a different thing. But so long as this is like the same business and just a different floor of the office, the cake’s there for everybody, whether you know who that person is or not. Right? Like.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: There has never been an office birthday cake in which you had to pass a test, of liking answering personal questions about the person. And chances are their name’s on the ding dang thing!

Griffin: It’s— Ugh, but no. I don’t think— I don’t think this is as risk-free as you’re making it out to be.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Because there’s gonna be a lot of people down there, and if you’re not the type of person who usually socializes, and you grab yourself a big honkin’ piece of cake. The one that actually has Deremy’s face on it.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Um, they’re not gonna— They’re not gonna just let that slide. Can I— I don’t wanna be a real fud— fuddy-duddy, and I know that’s—

Travis: A real Fuddrucker.

Griffin: I used to occupy the Fuddrucker sector on this show more times than I prefer, but um, most... birthday cakes, specifically store-bought birthday cake, is not, like, very good? Or at least not as— not so good that it merits this kind of like, what I would call bold sort of social interaction.

Justin: [skeptically] Hmm...

Travis: Oh, now—

Justin: Sounds like somebody has been living away from Kroger for too long.

Travis: And I'm not—

Justin: You've forgotten the face of your whippy.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Because Kroger whippy is worth it.

Travis: True.

Justin: Kroger whi— Hey folks, if you've never had a cake with Kroger whippy—

Travis: It's the best.

Justin: — you need to get yourself to a Kroger right away and get you some whippy.

Travis: Not only that, Griffin, but I know you.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I've known you for a long time. You've never had a traditional office job. So you do not know the joy—

Justin: Worked at TriData.

Griffin: I worked at TriData once.

Travis: I guess that's true.

Griffin: For one beautiful summer.

Travis: I don't know you, and you're a complete stranger to me. But maybe you've just forgotten in the intervening years, the joy of having

any kind of blip of difference in the day. Where like you go into work and you're like "This is a normal day", right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then all it takes is like you could have a surprise piece of cake, no matter what the quality. Well, that's different!

Griffin: Hmm...

Travis: Right, that feeling of— It's not about if the cake is good or not. It's that it's... different, than not cake.

Griffin: That's fair, but—

Justin: I—

Griffin: I've had so many crumbly ass birthday cakes. Hey, can I— Just a quick aside. I did tell Henry, like early this year, about how Tommy Smirl fired me.

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: From doing a very good job during my summer working at TriData, and to this day, he still leverages that, in any sort of example where he needs to take me down a peg or two.

Justin: Oh wow.

Griffin: Just a lot of like, "You better come to the blue room and play with me, or else I'm gonna call Tommy to have him fire you again".

Travis: Oh yeah.

Justin: Wow!

Griffin: Or—

Justin: Is this true?

Griffin: It is 100% true. The first time he did it was kinda sweet.

Justin: Ooph.

Griffin: 'Cause he was like "When we go to— When we go home for Christmas, I'm not— I'm gonna yell at Tommy because he fired you". I was like damn, that would be, one, fucking hysterical.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: But two, really sweet. But now he's decided that like it's good that Tommy fired me.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: You know, actually I didn't— I've been reviewing the logs. You were behind on your quotas.

Griffin: Yeah, fucking of course I was, dog.

Travis: You went to Bonnaroo. I know.

Griffin: No, I mean even when I was at that job, I was still— I was Buddy the Elf, making Etch A Sketches. I was as fuckin' idiot.

Justin: [chuckles quietly]

Griffin: Anyway. Can we talk to the Wizard for a sec?

Justin: Yeah, let's approach him.

Griffin: The Wizard's got a really wild one for us. A real wild one for us, and I would say thank you to the wizard. And also to Drew for sending this in. "How to stop a wedding!"

Travis: Ooo...

Griffin: “We’ve all seen the movies, where a person halts a wedding in progress in order to get the one they truly love. In reality, stopping a wedding is a much more serious undertaking.”

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: “Involves a lot of thought—” [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: “It involves a lot of thought and planning and taking an honest look at your motives and intentions. If you truly believe the couple shouldn’t be together, and you believe you’re justified in doing so, we have some suggestions for going about stopping a wedding with logic and legal action.”

Travis: Now, just real quick check in between me and my brothers here. When you go— How old were you guys before you had the realization that the, uh “If anybody doesn’t want them to get married, speak now” wasn’t actually like a normal part of a wedding.

Justin: Yeah, that— It doesn’t pop up as much as you—

Travis: When I was a kid, I thought that there was a tense moment in every wedding.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Just like a quick audience poll. Anybody? And if you like— “Well, only two people raised their hands, so we’re gonna keep going with it. I think. Everybody cool?” I mean, I get—

Justin: The thi— If I ever heard anybody do it, it’s been in like— Everybody’s— There’s a human in there, let’s be honest, it’s usually like a friend of the groom, who has a big problem, like, with silences.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like it starts to like get too real, and he's like "Yeah, Rick sucks!"

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Yeah, well. Okay."

Justin: "Here's my problem! I love you, Beth!"

Griffin: I would not wan— I don't think—

Travis: [laughs] "You could do better, Beth! I know Rick's my best friend, but—!"

Griffin: "He sucks shit!" Um, we didn't do this at mine and Rachel's wedding, but I kind of wish we did, because there's something about like putting your love through that crucible. Like making it vulnerable for a second, because you do expo— You lift up the armor to show your soft underbelly. 'Cause you're like if you really do wanna step to this, and tear apart this infinite love, thi— here's your chance.

Travis: Oh, see, I wish I'd done it just for entrapment.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Just like somebody who's like "Yeah, you know what?" And I'm like "Ha! Trick question! We're not gonna not get married, but now you! Get the fuck out of here!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "You don't get any cake later."

Griffin: Or they speak their mind, and then the officiant is like "Okay, noted."

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: "No-one gives a shit. Sit the fuck back down. That was rude, sit down." Uh, okay.

Travis: "Don't make this about you, Derek."

Griffin: Let's get into it, man. "Part one, approaching the couple. Consider your motivations. Why do you wanna stop the wedding?" Um... It doesn't say "because you're in love with the other person", but maybe we'll get to that point. Uh, "Don't ba— Don't base halting a wedding purely on emotions like jealousy or hatred. Those can be worked through with communication and therapy."

Travis: Okay. But it's not a bad place to start. You know?

Griffin: Yeah. Um, "Talk to the family members or other people involved in the wedding to find out if someone else feels similarly."
"Psst! Hey, Grandma. Hey, Butch's Grandma! Hey... this feels off, right? Something stinks, right?"

Travis: "Where are you at, hot or cold?"

Griffin: "Yeah. Hey, hey. Stacey's Dad. Kinda sucks, right? Am I right, or am I right?"

Travis: "Also, uh, when are you gonna divorce your wife, so I can date her?"

Griffin: Yeah. Um—

Travis: 'Cause it's Stacey's Mom.

Griffin: Let's— uh, "Meet with the bride and groom privately to talk."

Travis: Ooo...

Griffin: [chuckles] That's a fun conversation.

Travis: That's gonna go great.

Griffin: "Hey, guys, what's up? Uh, we got beer in the fridge, and I don't think you should be in— I don't think you should be in love forever. Um,

and here's a PowerPoint presentation I— And I really want you to pay attention. I worked really hard on this PowerPoint of why— Can you not actually embrace right now?"

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "I need you guys to stay sort of further apart from one another."

Travis: "In fact, I have two separate presentations. Yours is going to be over there, in uh my kid's room. I've set it up. And yours is gonna be in here, um so if you guys could take a break. It's about 45 minutes, so like go to the bathroom first."

Griffin: Right.

Travis: "Uh, 'cause I don't wanna— I don't wanna pause them. They're kinda synchronized, and so I don't want it to get off. Where are you going?"

Griffin: "Address—" This is a long article. "Address your concerns one-on-one. This may be a good time to assess how they're feeling about the wedding and what their future looks like in their eyes, why they believe their significant other is the one for them, et cetera. That kind of discussion could bring up uncertainly— uncertainty that they may have about getting married, and you can use it to enable them to think a little more, and possibly call off the wedding."

Travis & Justin: [simultaneously] Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Wowzers, bowzers! That is, uh... That's pretty, I would say, toxic behavior from you, the friend who is concerned about both of them. And are in love with them.

Travis: "Oh, what's that? They snore. Huh! Huh! Something to think about! Mmm! You know, they're gonna snore all the time! Forever! Hmm! Something to think about, eh?"

Griffin: [mumbling covertly] "Have you smelled this guy's football farts?"

Justin: [wheezes, laughs]

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: "Have you been in the room with him during a football game? Oh, I know."

Travis: Oh, I thought it was like after they'd played football. Or in football.

Griffin: "After they played football, they come back to the locker room, and really stink up the joint."

Uh... "Convince the couple to wait a year."

"Come on, guys! Come on, guys! Listen to my points. Just take a year! Like, it's irresponsible to rush into this— You've been dating for 12 years? Oh, fuck..."

Travis: "You waited this long to have sex, just one more year."

Griffin: Little bit more. Uh, "Another excuse to hold off another year would be family events coming up, such as Grandpa's 80th or the birth of a new baby." Um...

Travis: Now, you could see if you could maybe double up Grandpa's 80th with the wedding, so that way people don't have to travel as much.

Justin: Thank you.

Griffin: Yeah. That'd be—

Justin: "Let's gather everyone around Grandpa."

Griffin: "Right now. Presently."

Justin: "Just having fun. Everyone, surround him. Press your bodies against—" [wheezes]

Travis: "Let's lay hands on Grandpa."

Justin: "Let's lay breath on Grandpa."

Travis: [laughs] "Everybody, give the breath of life to Grandpa, right in his nose!"

Justin: "Everybody, touch this man's— Touch this old man's face."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "We're gonna hold his eye open so you can [wheezes] just touch his eyeball."

Griffin: "How could you even think about getting married in the same year as Grandpa's final birthday?"

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [in an old, grandpa voice] "What did you just say? What?"

Justin: [in an old, grandpa voice] "Hold up. Why are we calling it that?"

Griffin: Um, this— Let me just say that the WikiHow art, it's always good. So far it's just been a couple listening to their friend, who looks more and more frantic, and the couple's faces look more and more like "What the fuck are you talking about?" In this— In this one, the woman in this couple is just piercing daggers right at the man as he... "Step five, suggest a fake wedding."

Travis: Wh—

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: "Suggest holding a wedding celebration but just without the minister and paperwork. No-one else has to know it's not legally binding and everyone can still enjoy themselves."

Travis: What?!

Justin: What would be the context for th— How would— How would that sales pitch go?

Travis: "Hey, guys! Guys, guys, guys! Have I got an idea for you!"

Justin: "Yes. Imagine, if you will, the cost and inconvenience of a wedding."

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: "But without any of the permanent effects."

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Travis: "And that way you guys can just bail whenever you want! Right, isn't that— No, that's the oppo— Oh, wait, you're telling me—"

Justin: "No. Okay, got it."

Travis: "That's the opposite, okay."

Griffin: It gets wilder. "Part two, taking other action. One, call out the lies. If you know the—"

Justin: Thank you.

Travis: Woah.

Griffin: "If you know the wedding is a fraud..."

Travis: What?!

Griffin: I guess if you succeeded in the pr— in the prior step. In convincing them to have a f—

Justin: If you have proof that this is not a legal—

Griffin: A phony, baloney, tech rehearsal wedding. Uh, "Or if there are legal reasons the wedding should not go over as planned, you have at least 28 days to take legal action."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "Uh, hey, what's up? I'm here to legally stop a wedding."
"Oh, I'm sorry to hear that, sir. Uh, wha— When was it scheduled for?"
"Oh, I don't know. Let me call and ask—" [chuckles] "I was—

Justin: "I wasn't invited at all to this thing."

Griffin: "I was actually uninvited. Let me call and double-check, uh..."

Travis: I love— Hey, wikiHow, just throwing out that there's a... "legal reason" that the wedding should not happen, and throwing that in there with "I don't know if you two are gonna get along forever". Um, that feels like that should be a separate article, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like—

Griffin: It's—

Justin: I ha— I— I'm thinking about something, as we talk about this. You know, a wedding— Obviously, weddings are kind of out of vogue with a lot of people, which I completely get. Everybody should do their own thing. But we did the wedding thing, all three of us here.

Travis: Not together.

Justin: And the— No, no no, that would have been— That would have been weird. Uh, we did the wedding separately thing. And um, the— You know, the stress of a wedding is li— It feels like, you know, this is your shot to get it right. You're just gonna get married one time and... it's a lot of expense, and like you have to come up with opinions about stuff.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That you may not necessarily care about. And if it doesn't go well, then it's like devastating, right? But what if... Every wedding had like a villain, right?

Griffin: Ooo...

Travis: Huh.

Justin: I feel like maybe, if you have the Phantom of the Wedding.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Where it's like— Your choices then don't become just a reflection of your... personalities and your love.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: But more like a defensive sort of like preparing for...

Travis: Oh, in defiance of.

Justin: Yeah, the different ways that the Phantom of the Wedding will like try to thwart you.

Griffin: That's good.

Justin: And your actions. So like it gives a— a slightly more competitive element, where it's like if it goes 80% good?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That's awesome.

Justin: That's huge, right?

Griffin: That's awesome.

Justin: 'Cause you've like thwarted the Phantom at a lot of different turns, with a lot of their different machinations—

Travis: Yeah yeah yeah.

Justin: — to try to keep your marriage from culminating.

Travis: Well, 'cause that's the thing to keep in mind, is that you and your partner, right, you've had a lot on your mind that has to go right. All the Phantom has to do is make things go wrong, and that's a lot easier. So if you get 80%, it's a huge victory.

Now, I will also add to this plan, Justin, another reason I like the introduction of a Phantom, is you can also create whatever the opposite of a safe word is with the Phantom.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Where if too much is going badly, you say that word, and the Phantom ends the wedding.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It's not your fault! It's the Phantom's fault.

Justin: No, yeah. He won. The Phantom won.

Travis: And you get a redo. You get to do the wedding again.

Griffin: You should be able to pick your villain, too.

Travis: Oh yeah.

Griffin: Like—

Travis: Like in *Dead by Dawn*.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: Or *Dead by Daylight*?

Griffin: Here comes Doctor Bones, the skeleton that always comes to try and stop our wedding.

Travis: Yes yes yes.

Griffin: Here's the problem, is that you—

Justin: There's no problem.

Griffin: Doctor Bones—

Travis: Oh! Oh no! It's the praying mantis!

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah.

Travis: That's been hunting me ever since I was a child!

Griffin: Doctor Bones... is... a contractor.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Who you are going to have to seek out and hire, so it's like... In hiring Doctor Bones, you are participating in the process that Doctor Bones is sworn to disrupt.

Justin: This is the best— This is the best man thing.

Travis: Well, you— you—

Justin: The best man hires.

Travis: Oh, yes yes yes yes.

Justin: So you actually don't know who it is. Can you imagine how much more thrilling it would be to plan a wedding if when you were talking to the DJ, you were like "And you promise you're not going to play R Kelly songs," and they're like "Oh yeah yeah yeah." And it's like—

Travis: "And you're not Doctor Bones, right?"

Justin: "No, but you're really, really really, you understand?" He's like, "Oh yeah yeah yeah. I would never do that."

Travis: "No, I'm a friendly skeleton. My name's Doctor Tunes. I play the tunes, you see."

Justin: [laughs] "I play the Crankenstein tunes."

Travis: Mmm. [laughs] "No I— I'm Frankenstein's monster, but I'm... not here for that."

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: "In my off time, I'm a DJ. I promise you. I— listen—"

Justin: "I know why you would assume that I'm working for the Phantom."

Travis: Yes.

Justin: “And that’s like completely fair.”

Travis: “No no, I’m the DJing Mantis. I promise you. I’m going to bite the head off of boredom.”

Justin: That’s drama. I mean, that’s drama. That’s what you want from any event. I mean, I’m— Maybe this good for birthday parties too.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: When it’s like you have someone working against you.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: When you’re planning a party.

Travis: “How was the bridal shower?”

“Oh, it was great. It was really good crudité, and we defeated that evil sasquatch.”

Griffin: Um—

Travis: “Oh you had tha— Oh! Not the stinky sasquatch!”

“Yeah, he showed up. Um, he tried to take the cake, literally.”

Justin: It would be so fucking rad if you’re like trying to do a wedding, and you think that you’ve gotten away with it.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And you’ve defeated the Phantom, and then a werewolf ju—
[chuckles]

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Justin: — jumps through the door, and it’s like “Aw, fuck! Now we’ve gotta deal with this!”

Griffin: Uh, okay—

Travis: And what's that? Aw, the Phantom arrived. He's gonna help you fight the werewolf. Oh, enemies to friends! Everybody loves that shit.

Griffin: Let's keep ro— Let's keep rockin'. "Step two, involve others." That's great.

Travis: Like the— yeah.

Griffin: Get their best friends all in a big group, to really, really, forever scar these people, sort of emotionally. Um, it does say use this as a last resort, because it could be pretty traumatic, so at least they are sort of lookin' out.

Justin: That's nice, yeah.

Griffin: And step three is totally normal! "Follow the money."

Travis: Woah, what?

Griffin: "If the couple are rely— If the couple are relying on one or both of their parents to support the wedding, you may—"

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: "— wanna try and stop the money source, so the wedding will be called off."

Travis: So kill their parents. [chuckles]

Griffin: I don't think that's what it's suggesting...

Travis: Oh yeah, you're right, Griffin. 'Cause then they would still inherit it. Good point.

Griffin: They would inherit the money.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: So, seduce the parents.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then you're going to marry them, and then kill them.

Griffin: Or ident— You could—

Travis: So then you inherit the money.

Griffin: You could have Doctor Bones identity steal.

Travis: There you go.

Griffin: Both of them, at the same time.

Travis: I feel like getting— To jump back a second, group of friends to convince them out of it, bad. Group of enemies to just go on and on about what a good idea they think it is? That's the way to go, right.

Griffin: That's— That's— Now we're cookin' with gas. Uh-huh.

Travis: Because group of friends could go badly, right? Because then it's like "Well, we're still getting married, and now we also hate all of you." Right? But if they're like "Oh, oh I hate Debbie from work" and Debbie's like "Oh, I love that you guys are getting married", now it's like "Well fuck, if Debbie thinks it's a good idea... Hmm..."

Griffin: Um, the last section, real quick. "Waiting it out. Step one, void the marriage after the wedding."

Travis: Woah.

Griffin: "You can use an annulment to legally cancel marriages if it never happened."

Travis: Not second-hand, though.

Griffin: But probably not as a third party!

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Probably not that!

Travis: "Hey, Pope! It's me, Bob! Annul it!"

Griffin: "They didn't— They didn't fuck!" Beep! Deleted!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "Let me see your rings." [imitates swallowing them] "You're not married no more!"

Travis: "Annulled!"

Griffin: "You just got annulled. If you press the annulment button and eat the rings... It's done." Uh, "Step two, wait for the marriage to fail down the road."

Travis: Ho, boy.

Griffin: "If the couple are fairly young and it's their first marriage, there's a 40% chance the marriage will end in divo— in divorce." I'll— Those are good odds!

Travis: Wai— Wait for what? To what end?

Griffin: To wait for them to split up naturally.

Justin: Hmm...

Travis: Yeah, but then— So, but the reason to stop the marriage would be to stop something bad from happening, and then you're like—

Griffin: That's right.

Travis: "Hey, if that doesn't work out, just wait for something bad to happen!"

Griffin: There's no step here that's like "Rub it in their fucking faces."

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: “Do it— As they walk out of the, the town hall where they sign the annulment papers, you be there, outside, doing a quarterback dance. Just sort of yelling about how you called it.” Uh, step three is—

Travis: “And now you’re mad, ‘cause you ain’t a couple, but we’re just here to do the Superbowl Shuffle.” [imitates music]

Griffin & Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, last step is move on. But you can’t. You won’t.

Travis: That—

Justin: Keep your grades up.

Griffin: Keep your grades up.

Travis: [while laughing] Keep your grades up.

Justin: Keep your grades up. [laughs]

Travis: That should honestly be— Number one in every wikiHow should be “Just don’t”. Uh, okay.

Griffin: That’s what Justin said, I think, during the li— uh, in the live show.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: “Keep your grades up, and move on.”

Justin: And move on.

Travis: That should be— “Step one, move on. Step two, keep your grades up. Step three, alright fine. Here you go.”

Justin: More— More— I tell yah, I’ve read like a lot of... you know different how to’s in my life for different hobbies or whatever. So few of them end with like “Know when to pack it in.”

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Like, "You know when you're li— Maybe it's not for you. I don't know.

Travis: "Hey, look over— Look over at his jo— How is he doing on his? Oh it's way better than yours." [awkward noise] "You guys been doing it for the same amount of time, huh? Maybe you just don't have it."

Justin: Yeah, maybe it's not for you. Just know when to quit.

Travis: Yeah, move on. Dot org.

Justin: Uh, is there anything else, Griffin?

Griffin: I mean, there's some questions from some people, and a lot of people asking some very inappropriate questions, I would say.

Justin: Oh, wow.

Griffin: Someone asked "Is there a good way to stop my own wedding without making things awkward?"

Travis: Hire the Phantom.

Griffin: And I would say it would be— It would be a lot easier— Yeah, I think hiring a Doctor Bones. Or just asking one of your friends to start this... this mission, this quest, to tear the two of you apart.

Travis: Well, now, it can't be one of your friends. Just side note, you're gonna have to plan ahead. Six months before the wedding, hire— like find somebody, right? As a plant friend. And you're going to do a lot to talk about how close you've grown together and how important they are, and then they're going to ruin it. And then, if that doesn't work, you have to be ready to jettison that person, right?

Justin: Mmm.

Travis: So I think you can't just pick your best friend to do it. Especially if your parents are there, they're gonna be like "Hey, your best friend kinda

fucked this all up for you". You gotta be like "Yeah, I don't talk to him anymore".

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And it's because you like paid him an agreed upon amount.

Griffin: That's fool-proof.

Travis: Plus, then you're a jobs creator.

Justin: That's huge.

Griffin: Absolute— That's the best part.

Justin: That's a good thing.

Travis: In this economy?

Justin: In this economy? To keep this going? We got a labor shortage, so we don't want any more jobs. We need better jobs, better pay.

Travis: Better Phantoms.

Griffin: Better taste.

Justin: Great—

Griffin: Papa John's.

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: Papa John's.

Griffin: "What's up, guys? I know, we fucked up. But, check our— "

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "Hey, check our jobs out. What's that? They're pretty bad? Aw, fuck."

Travis: Fuck. Also, sign—

Griffin: “Four— \$14— \$14 is a lot of money, what’s wrong with you? \$14 is good!”

Travis: [chuckles] We need to figure out a way to pronounce Papa John’s with— and audibly remove the apostrophe, by the way. Wh— How do you pronounce it different out loud, so if you only hear it audibly, you know which one we’re talking about?

Griffin: Hmm...

Justin: Well, I mean, you turn to J’onn J’onzz, the *Martian Manhunter*, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Papa J’onzz, that may be one option.

Travis: There you go. Pa—

Justin: Or maybe just Papa Shaq’s.

Travis: Papa Shaq’s is much better.

Justin: Shaq is much closer to the brand now. I think we should just call it Papa Shaq’s.

Travis: It should actually just be Pizza Shaq, by the way.

Justin: Pizza Shaq is really good, Trav!

Travis: I know, I know. Thank you very much.

Justin: Although it’d be Pizza Shaq’s.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: So then it’d be like “Where do you wanna order from?”

"Pizza Shaq's."

"Well, which one? You gotta choose."

Travis: Then it maybe could be maybe Pizza's Shaq.

Griffin: No, we— It wouldn't be Pizza Shaq's, that— That is a wild, Yoda-esque way.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: [imitating Yoda's voice] Mmm! The Pizza of Shaq! [normal] The Pizza of Shaq.

Travis: There's no— The Pizza of Shaq.

Griffin: The Pizza of Shaq.

Justin: No, but there's— No. Because "shack" is like "hut".

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You understand? Griffin, do you not get it? Like shack's like hut.

Travis: Shaq is like hut.

Griffin: Just call it— Just call it The Pizza of Shaq. I don't understand what the issue—

Travis: No, this is what I'm saying. Pizza's, uh possessive, Shaq. This is the Shaq the pizza owns, right? At this point, it is not Shaq's pizza, right? That means that he has control of this. At this point, the pizza has such control over Shaq, that—

Justin: [wheezes, cackles]

Travis: This is Pizza's Shaq.

Justin: Okay, wait a minute. How about we do Pi— You get a question mark in, so it's like—

Travis: Pizza Shaq?

Justin: Pizza? Shaq's. Like—

Travis: Oh, I thought it was asking Shaq if he wanted pizza. "Pizza, Shaq?"

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: And then Shaq's catchphrase would always be like "Yeah, sure. Sounds great."

Justin: "Sure, I'll have some pizza."

Travis: "I'd love to."

Justin: [laughs] Um, we're gonna take a quick break. From— uh, for some corporate sponsors, and then we're gonna go with you to the rest of the show. So come on. Come with us. To the Money Zone.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Justin.

Justin: Yeah, Trav.

Travis: How have stamps changed your life?

Justin: Um, I love, uh, all the different small pictures on them.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I don't know how they get the pictures so small.

Travis: Yip.

Justin: And I love that they can help me send packages all over the world. I don't love having to go to the post office—

Travis: Yeah, of course.

Justin: — to like get the stamps and to send the things. You know. All that stuff.

Travis: My guy. This is— What a coincidence, Justin.

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Because now I get to tell you about stamps.com, where you still get the little pictures, and you can still send them, but you don't have to go to the post office, and you can avoid all the hectic holiday shopping traffic. You can save time and money. Stamps.com. Stamps.com lets you compare rates, print labels, and access exclusive discounts on UPS/USPS services all year long, and with stamps.com, you can get discounts you can't get anywhere else. Like up to, get this number, it's very big, 40% of USPS rates, but this number's even bigger, Justin! 76% off UPS! That's a lot of percent!

Justin: Hachee-machee.

Travis: I know!

Justin: That's a lot of percent.

Travis: That's so much percent. And you know what's wild? They could've just made it 75.

Justin: But no.

Travis: No.

Justin: They had to push farther.

Travis: They had to take it one percent more. If you spend more than a few minutes a week dealing with mail and shipping, stamps.com is a lifesaver. So check it out. Save time and money this holiday season with stamps.com. Sign up with promo code "mybrother" 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", all one word.

Griffin: Oh, my style? It came out of the—

Travis: Woah.

Griffin: Oh, my style? Were you at—

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I was gone there for a bit. I assumed you guys were talking about my new style and, um... how awesome it makes me look, and young.

Travis: I— Yeah. In a way, yeah.

Justin: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: I could see that. I could see how you could phrase it that way.

Griffin: Well, it's because the shirt, I asked for it to like... s— come up just above my belly button. And it's—

Travis: But you also got giant shorts.

Griffin: Yeah, and we— I asked for the most diaper-like shorts. And then on my— And then on the shorts, it says "Pasghetti" on it.

Justin: Woah.

Travis: Yeah, I did notice that. Yeah.

Griffin: It's fucking cool, and it came from Stitch Fix.

Travis: But tiny shoes.

Griffin: Listen, style isn't one size fits all.

Justin: [laughs quietly]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Sometimes the shirt's too small, and the diaper's too big, and the shoes are too small, but it's about what suits your body and right now, this is what I need, and I want you guys to fucking respect it.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: I do, Griff. I'm really sorry, bud.

Griffin: It's okay. I'm a wi— I'm— I'm a wittle baby, and why not shop at a store that's personalized to your size and style? Here I am—

Travis: No matter how much they try to talk you out of it.

Griffin: [chuckles] Uh-huh. I'm talkin' about Stitch Fix Freestyle. It's a shop built just for you, from the ground up. It's a trusted style destination where you can discover and instantly buy curated items based on your style, likes, and lifestyle. Whether you're looking for a brand you love, or you wanna try a new one, at Stitch Fix Freestyle you can shop a range of over 1,000 brands. I didn't even know there were that many brands.

Justin: That's a lot of brands.

Griffin: I— You know, I buy... big tuck-in shirts.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: And, um...

Travis: I love big tuck-in stuff, by the way.

Griffin: And sti— Buy Stinko jeans. Uh...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Um, that's about it. It's those— And I— And I get Puma socks, from Costco. Um, anyway.

Travis: Now, one of those things is true.

Griffin: Listen, you can shop a range of over 1,000 brands.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: And those brands are gonna be personalized to your style and fit. There's no subscription, they offer free shipping, returns and exchanges. Just do it! Get started today by filling out your style quiz at stitchfix.com/mybrother. That's stitchfix.com/mybrother to try Stitch Fix Freestyle. [Stitchfix.com/mybrother](https://stitchfix.com/mybrother).

Danielle Radford: This week on *Tights and Fights*, Austin Creed, better known as WWE superstar Xavier Woods, on balancing his many passions.

Austin Creed: This dude actually wants these ridiculous things. He wants to wear a crown, he wants to be a G4, he wants to have a yacht rock band. Like, he wants to DJ at a— at a festival one day.

Danielle Radford: WWE and G4's Austin Creed, on *Tights and Fights*. Find it on Maximum Fun, or wherever you get your podcasts.

Justin: I feel like we did a really good job with that, guys.

Griffin: Cool!

Travis: Yeah, no.

Justin: I'm proud of us.

Travis: We're— We're definitely not gonna hear anything about how we made it sound like Stitch Fix dressed our little brother in a big diaper and tiny shirt and tiny shoes.

Griffin: Okay, that was a joke, Stitch Fix.

Travis: What?

Griffin: [in exaggerated frustration] Goooooolly!

Justin: God...

Travis: We need a way— We should just say up front, this is what my daughter does. Bebe will say like "I'm gonna tell you something funny", and then she'll tell a joke. As a way to like prep me to make sure I know

that I'm supposed to laugh when she's done talking. We should do that more on this show, be like "Hey, this thing I'm about to say, it's not real. This is a joke", and then tell it.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Because it can get confusing to me.

Justin: Yeah, more setup.

Travis: I don't even know—

Justin: Okay, this ne— This is not a joke.

Travis: Okay, thank you.

Justin: [imitates rock guitar]

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: [plays jingle bells] [imitates rock guitar] [plays jingle bells]
[imitates rock guitar] [plays jingle bells] I wanna munch!

Griffin: Squad!

Travis: Bells! Oh.

Justin: [plays jingle bells] [imitates rock guitar] I want to munch!

Travis & Griffin: [simultaneously] Squad!

Griffin: It feels like you don't need us for this, if you have bells.

Travis: Yeah, a little.

Justin: Yeah, I kinda replaced you guys with bells, and I'm really sorry.

Griffin: That's okay.

Travis: That's okay, I get it.

Justin: You guys wanna talk about Mariah Carey?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Every day.

Justin: Uh, well, good news, guys. 'Cause Mariah is taking the holidays up an octave with the 12 days of McDonald's deals.

Griffin: Cool.

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Each day, from December 13th to December 24th, so we got... got, you know. Got a little bit left.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: All this McDonald's wants this holiday season is for you... to join Mariah Carey for 12 days of deals.

Travis: Wow, that's a sweaty one, isn't it?

Justin: Because when, uh— Yeah, it's super sweaty.

Travis: "All I want for Christmas is you."

"Oh yeah, I get it."

"Well, change half of those words."

Justin: [chuckles] "And insert a preposition, because we don't have the guts to just abandon it—"

"'Cause when a fan of the golden arches is a fan of the holiday season, it's only right to celebrate by giving customers an entire menu full of free—" [whispers] Asterisk...

Griffin: Uh-oh.

Justin: "— goodies. From Mariah's own favorite..." [pause] Anyone?

Travis: Oh... Like, her favorite thi— I'm gonna say.

Justin: What's Mariah's favorite?

Travis: I'm gonna say... a— uh, a McFlurry?

Justin: Okay. Griffin?

Griffin: Uh... just the hashbrowns.

Justin: Classic cheeseburger. "To soft—"

Travis: Oh, no. There's no fucking way!

Justin: I'm sorry, Travis. That's what she told McDonald's. "To soft-baked de—" Don't call Mariah a liar. Um. She's not—

Travis: I'm actually— You know what?!

Justin: She's not Ma-liah Carey, she's Mariah Carey.

Travis: I'm calling McDonald's a liar! I don't think they spoke to Mariah Carey before they started this whole thing.

Griffin: I don't think so either.

Justin: "The Mariah Menu will back its debut in the US on December 13th, featuring a different free item—" [whispers] Double asterisk...

Griffin: Oh, shit.

Justin: "— each day, with a one dollar minimum purchase on the McDonalds app. 'Some of my favorite memories with my kids are our family trips to McDonald's.'"

Travis: [skeptical] Uh-huh. Sure.

Justin: "So I'm Mariah Carey and I take my kids to McDonald's. Ba-da-ba-ba-bah. Because they're loving it."

Travis: "Just me and my kids. To McDonal— We drive. We go to McDonald's, and I always get a classic cheeseburger! This is definitely me, Mariah Carey."

Justin: "This is me, Mariah Carey."

Griffin: "I can only use the bathroom at McDonald's!"

Justin: [laughs] Mine is—

Travis: "The only place I've ever felt truly like a success/alive is McDonald's, when I'm eating a classic cheeseburger!"

Justin: [giggles] "Each of us has our go-to order. Mine is the cheese burger."

Travis: No.

Justin: "And I get it with extra pickles." [laughs]

Travis: "I'm Mariah Carey, I love extra pickles, 'cause damnit, I'm worth it. I know it costs a little extra, but fuck it, I'm Mariah Carey, and I love pickles."

Justin: Imagine a fucking reality in which somebody's at the register at McDonald's. And the person in front of you is like "Hello. I am Mariah Carey. I would like [wheezes] one cheeseburger. No drink for me today, thanks."

Travis: "One cheeseburger."

Justin: "I'd like a single cheeseburger with extra pickles. I'll wait. Just put it in my hands, I don't need a wrapper."

Griffin: "Would you like a combo meal, with fries and a—" "No!"

Travis: "No."

Griffin: "What a fucking idiot question! No!"

Justin: "Ma— Mariah goes with the holidays like ketchup and fries."

Travis: Yup.

Justin: “So we couldn’t think of a better partner to help us celebrate the upcoming season.” Said someone at McDonald’s. “Just like McDonald’s brings people around the table with their favorite orders, Mariah’s music connects us, all during this time of year. So we’re excited to team up to bring even more holiday cheer to our fans.”

Travis: [quietly] Hey, hey. I’m gonna float something, you guys. ‘Cause this has just occurred to me.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Listen, we have lots of wonderful fans, and all— they’re great. But I don’t think we’re big enough. I think that we could say “We’ve partnered with Mariah Carey. In like one epi— in each episode, she’s gonna bring you one segment, projects that Mariah Carey pick”, and I don’t think we’re big enough that it would ever actually get back to Mariah Carey.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I think we could totally do it, and just get away with it.

Justin: Ho— Can I make this sort of just vision board announcement? If you are a restaurant... a real restaurant, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: And you wanna get at us— With multiple locations, it has to be more than one location. It could be a two-restaurant chain.

Travis: Sure.

Justin: And you wanna do a McElroy Family Meal, please get at us.

Travis: It wo— It’s gonna be buckwild!

Justin: Please. We’ll work it for you, I promise it’d be really good.

Griffin: It’ll be weird.

Travis: 'Cause I'll tell you this, if I get my chance, it ain't gonna be a classic cheeseburger. It's gonna be... like a McFlurry dumped over fries with chopped up pickles on it.

Griffin: It's gonna be some high school—

Travis: And you're gonna be like "Do you really wanna eat it?", and I'm gonna be like "Yeah, dance! Eat it! Eat it now!"

Griffin: Some high school lunchroom dare bullshit.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: It's gonna get weird.

Justin: It's gonna be all school pizza. "The Mariah menu items will be served in fun, festive packages—"

Travis: I— If McDonalds wants to reach out, we're bringin' back the McPizza, and you can't stop us.

Justin: Yeah. "We worked with Mariah to create a design we know that will land Billy, and McDonald's fans will love. You'll know the bags when you see them, just like you know her famed holiday jingle from the song's first notes." Oo...

Travis: Hey, listeners— Hey, I want you guys to just picture, for a second, Mariah Carey like sitting over like an artist's easel and like trying to design this bag and she just can't get it right, 'cause that's definitely what— It might also have been like big fancy iPad with like a thing, but definitely this is something Mariah Carey definitely, directly worked on.

Griffin: While using the Wi-fi at McDonald's.

Justin: Super—

Travis: Using the wi-fi at McDonald's.

Justin: Hey, good news, guys. I wanna talk about Mariah Carey. Mariah Carey has released the Holiday Hits Cookie Trio.

Travis: Wait.

Justin: “Just in time for the holidays! ‘Mariah’s Cookies’, a virtual bakery by iconic superstar, Mariah Carey—”

Griffin: [chuckles gleefully]

Travis: They’re virtual cookies?

Justin: [chuckles] No, they’re real— Yes, they’re virtual cookies. You get to them by— uh from any website. Uh, installed on your computer. It’s the holidays.

Travis: I’ll accept these cookies. They sound delicious.

Griffin: “Holiday Hits Cookies”?

Justin: “Holiday Hits Cookie Trio, available for the most wonderful time of the year.” I don’t know.

Griffin: Because she wrote holiday hits?

Justin: Yeah, so she’s got a— From her virtual bakery at Mariah’s Cookies, you can get this virtual— Now they say that this deal is for the holidays, I have to imagine Mariah’s Cookies is for the holidays, right? You’re not in July like “Goddamn! I should go for some of Mariah’s Cookies right now!”

Travis: It depends on how good they are! They’re that good! This is— This is what’s called a “soft rollout” in the bizz.

Griffin: I can’t get over that they’re just called “Holiday Hits”. It would be like—

Justin: They’re the “Holiday Hits Cookie Trio”.

Griffin: It would be like if “These are Pete Townshend’s Sick Riff McFlurries! And this is— this is Bob Dylan’s—”

Travis: I don’t think this is still at McDonald’s, right? This is not at McDonald’s?

Justin: No. No, this is at a different— This is at Mariah’s Cookies, a real restaurant that is not real.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: We—

Travis: Something that exists only in *Tron*.

Justin: Yeah. “This year’s release of holiday flavors are the ideal treat to enjoy while snuggled up with your loved ones, watch your favorite holiday specials and movies.”

Travis: “Enjoy this classic cheeseburger flavored cookie.”

Griffin: [giggles]

Justin: “We forgot to lea—” This is a quote. ““We forgot to leave cookies out for Santa last year.””

Travis: Fuck!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: ““And were ter— And were terrified we’d wind up on the Naughty List,” says Mariah Carey.”

Travis: Wow.

Justin: To no-one in particular.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: And Mariah, you’ve just lived with this shame and guilt for a year?

Justin: “So—” This is where it really, guys— ““So, we FaceTimed him over the summer.””

Travis: What?

Justin: “To ensure we got his top three flavors.”

Travis: [panicked] “Santa, please! Please, you gotta forgive us!
[wheezes] I’m so sorry!”

Justin: “In case you were wondering! Here they are.’ The Holiday Hits Cookie Trio 2021, available for a limited time only.” [whispers] No shit. ‘Cause it is called the Holiday Hits Trio.

Travis: Well, that could be anything, Justin.

Justin: “It includes three, special edition flavors. Gingerbread, cinnamon sugar, and chocolate raspberry truffle, which come packaged—”

Travis: “Special edition. You’ll never find gingerbread anywhere else.”

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: It’s got a festive box, too.

Griffin: ‘Kay.

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: So, I’m sorry, it was gingerbread, cinnamon sugar, and what was the third one?

Justin: Yeah, chocolate raspberry truffle.

Griffin: That’s actually pretty wild.

Travis: I like that one.

Justin: That’s what— Hey, it’s not— That’s just Santa’s favorites, guys.

Travis: There’s no way that you asked Santa’s favorite cookie, and he’s like “Fuckin’ gingerbread, my dude.”

Justin: Well.

Travis: "I love that— Can't get enough of that wonderful stuff."

Justin: So yeah, these are Mariah's Cookies, and y— I don't know—

Travis: Do you think she makes each one?

Justin: I don't know if you can get Mariah's Cookies— Okay, I can't get them.

Travis: Can I?

Justin: Yeah, looks like you could.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: If you got onto a delivery app, you could probably get some of Mariah's Cookies to you quickly.

Travis: 'Cause I live in a big city?

Justin: Yeah, if you wouldn't mind just ordering those to you, Trav, and just letting me know how it goes.

Travis: Oh, they taste exactly like gingerbread cookies, Justin.

Justin: And I want you to really order 'em, Trav, for me, for the holidays. Thanks. We'll talk about it next episode.

Travis: Through any delivery service, you say?

Justin: On Grubhub, DoorDash, Postmates, Uber Eats, and Seamless.

Travis: Okay— Oh, I use— I'll—

Justin: All of the biggies.

Travis: I'll order one from each of those. So I don't show favorites.

Justin: Uh, okay. Um, do you guys mind if I mention real quick a quick Mariah Carey story?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: She just launched her first holiday collection today, announcing the news of the commercial across all of Carey's social accounts. It's available at Target and Walmart, and it's inspired by, you'll never guess this, her record-breaking classic "All I Want For Christmas Is You". It's got animated versions of Mariah and her beloved dog Cha-Cha incorporated throughout.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "The collection is personal to Mariah, you see. She has designed products that her and her family love to use and enjoy during the holidays." [wheezes]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: This is— This is— "This is a special, jewel-encrusted purse I use to carry my cheeseburger with extra pickles." [wheezes]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "I love it. It's my favorite."

Justin: "There is the cheeseburger sleeve so I don't have to touch it with my hands." [cackles]

"I'm not sure if you're aware, but c—" This is a quote. "I'm not sure if you're aware, but Christmas is kinda my thing, ha ha!"

Travis: What?

Justin: "Putting together this line was so much fun because I added my own festive spin on the traditional holiday merchandise. I worked on it all year long! Now it's finally time to share my holiday collection with you all. Merry Christmas."

Now, hey, listen Mariah. I know you didn't work on it all year long, or else you didn't work very hard on your cookies and hamburgers.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Well, she didn't have to work on the hamburger, Justin. That's her reward.

Justin: [laughs] That's her treat to herself for a great day of making goods at Walmart.

Travis: That's her thing, just for her.

Griffin: She needs that cheeseburger energy to make cool bags.

Justin: "The holiday collection of Christmas collectibles ranges—" That's the sentence they went with. "The holiday collection of Christmas collectibles ranges from cozy, including blankets, throw pillows, socks, and slippers, to festive, with adorable pet outfits, stockings—" "Oh, it— Oh, this? It's by Mariah. This chihuahua outfit? It's by Mariah."

Travis: "Oh, this chihuahua outfit?"

Justin: They got a plush Mariah and Cha-Cha.

Travis: Hell yeah.

Justin: "Sure to delight any child on your Christmas list. It's all... [sighs] It's all available for you at Target or Walmart. You can pre-order now."

Travis: I— Justin, I ordered the cookies.

Justin: Oh, good boy.

Travis: And I look forward to having them as a special treat, just for me.

Griffin: And I— I bought the dog shirt.

Justin: That's cool.

Travis: And I bought her dog.

Justin: Um... Real quick— Okay, before we wrap up, could I do one more quick story?

Travis: Is it about Mariah Carey?

Justin: It is!

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Mariah Carey has launched her own Irish Cream brand, Black Irish!

Travis: What?!

Griffin: Yes!

Justin: [laughs] And just so you know I'm not cherry-picking guys. This is all this ye— I mean, these are this year. This all happened this year.

Travis: Yeah, she's hustling!

Justin: She's not fucking around.

Travis: She has to earn money to buy more classic cheeseburgers!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: She can't sit back!

Justin: "In 20—"

Travis: And let those cheeseburgers just sit there, lonely at the McDonald's. She has to eat them!

Justin: Um, "Celebrity-owned—" This is not a press release. This is a story from *Food & Wine*. "Celebrity-owned brand—"

Travis: This is not a press release, this was a direct email Justin received, from Mariah Carey.

Justin: Um, "In 2018, George Clooney was named *Forbes* highest paid actor, not due to any onscreen roles."

Travis: Huh.

Justin: “But instead, thanks to the near billion-dollar sale of his tequila brand, Casamigos.”

Travis: That shouldn’t count. Ju— I— In case anyone was wondering, that shouldn’t count towards the total.

Griffin: Agreed.

Justin: That shouldn’t count, right?

Travis: That doesn’t seem fair. That’s—

Justin: Ryan Reynolds’ Aviation, it sold for about 610 million, and now Mariah Carey is there. “Yesterday she turned to Twitter to make a big announcement with limited details. ‘Introducing Black Irish’, she tweeted. ‘Two years in the making. Truly a cause for celebration.’” The picture is just Mariah on a beach with a bottle of her Black Irish.

Travis: ‘Cause where else— Where do you want a cream liqueur more than the beach?

Griffin: Yeah, I know, God almighty.

Travis: Mmm!

Justin: “An original—”

Travis: A nice cool glass of Irish Cream liqueur!

Justin: “It comes in original, white chocolate, and salted caramel, all of which are 17% ABV. The brand states that these Irish Creams are crafted and produced in Ireland.”

Travis: Mmm.

Justin: “In a certified sustainable facility.”

Travis: Mmm.

Justin: “With 50% renewable energy.”

Travis: [pleasantly surprised] Mmm!

Justin: Now y’all, the other— the other 50%, that was the dirtiest fuckin’ energy you could find.

Griffin: Rot— They’re rolling coal inside this cream.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: It’s just— It’s still whole dinosaur bones. It’s going right in and burning.

Justin: “It celebrates exceptional quality, with a blend of aged Irish whiskey—”

Travis: Mmm.

Justin: “And superior deli— er, dairy—” [laughs] Deli.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: The finest deli meats.

Justin: [laughs] Has it got some fuckin’ corned beef in there? No. “The superior dairy, sourced from Irish farms. Black Irish white chocolate uses the finest Belgian chocolate, for a rich and smooth taste.”

Travis: Okay.

Justin: “The name Carey chose, Black Irish, is a playful nod to her Black and Irish heritage! Her father was of Black and Venezuelan descent, and her mother has an Irish background. The fact that the liqueur itself, Irish Cream, feels a bit like a chicken and the egg situation as far as which came first, the brand or the product, but the brand states that Carey is, quote—” [laughs] “Is quote, ‘a fan of Irish Creams’.”

Griffin: Alright!

Travis: Love that stuff.

Justin: “And points to how well Irish Cream pairs with her huge holiday hit, ‘All I Want For Christmas Is You.’”

Travis: Yes. Yes. Yes. I just wanna say, by the way, uh story, that the phrase “has an Irish background” sounds like something you would put on a resume about like “Oh actually, I know you’re looking for someone Irish. I have an Irish background. I’ve worked in Irish before. Thank you for asking.”

Justin: “I ha—” Quote. Here’s a quote. ‘Cause you knew it was coming. “I have been putting my heart into this project for almost two years.”

Travis: Hell yeah. That’s— Hey, can I just say? That’s the first one of those of these four that I believe.

Justin: Now, but— Yeah, but— We also— I mean, Mariah, which is it, bud?

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Because either— either you’ve been really focused on your creams or really focused on your dog shirts, lady. It can’t be both. Anyway, “I’ve been putting my heart into this project for almost two years, and I am so excited to finally share this news with you all. I wanted to create something that embodies the holidays and gives everyone a reason to celebrate year-round, and I really think that we have done that with Black Irish.”

Travis: Hey—

Justin: “Why are you celebrating today, Justin?”
“Uh, well, I’m celebrating because Mariah Carey has her own [wheezes] Irish Cream brand.”

Travis: Finally. She deserves it.

Justin: “That’s my reason to celebrate.”

Travis: “Hey, Mariah. Do these pair well with cookies?”

"With my what? Wait, what's that? Oh, yeah! Uh... Remember my cookies..."

Justin: "Oh yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah."

Griffin: "The cookies that they pay me in cheeseburgers for."

Travis: Yes.

Justin: "My favorite meal to sit down to... is a big glass of Irish Cream—"

Travis: "Served out of a purse."

Justin: "— and a cheese— With a cheeseburger with extra pickles, and a big stack of cookies."

Travis: "And I dr— I—"

Justin: "And all Santa's favorite flavors."

Travis: "I slosh it around in my purse."

Griffin: I bet it's good.

Justin: "And I eat it."

Travis: "And then I eat it all."

Griffin: I bet— I bet that all of this is very good.

Justin: Mariah Carey is, like... You gotta respect her.

Travis: I do!

Justin: So much. Like, I— if we had one song that was like one tenth— Like, you would never hear the end—

Travis: No.

Justin: We would do this with everybody, honestly.

Travis: Are you— If we had a novelty hit, like the fuckin' Chipmunks, you wouldn't be able to talk to me in public.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Sure. Yeah. Um... [sighs] What do we have time for? Do we have time for another question?

Travis: I think we have time to write a hit holiday song, Justin, but—

Justin: Okay. [imitates the beginning notes of 'All I Want For Christmas Is You'] [sings quietly] "All I want for Christmas— "

Travis: No. Wait.

Griffin: They already did that one.

Justin: [still singing] "Is..."

Travis: Cheese.

Justin: "Juice." Cheese.

Griffin: [sings] "Take me up to Santa's house, here we go—" I— I think it should be like an old-timey...

Justin: Let's— Let's do it. We gotta quick—

Griffin: Let's— Let's— Let's—

Justin: We gotta bang out—

Griffin: Let's go back to like old-timey ones—

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: — where it's like "Hey, it's snowing outside. Here's a whole fuckin' song about it."

Justin: Well start— Lo— Just start that. I won't interrupt, but like start— start it there, and we'll just go—

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And we'll riff.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh-huh. [sings] "I'm puttin' on my Christmas boots to step—"

Justin: No, that's not what you— how you started just now. It's like...

Travis: Oh.

Justin: Do the thing about how you—

Griffin: [sings] "Let's go on up to Santa's house. It's snowing in the neighborhood."

Justin: You've jumped to the chorus. Like, I would have spoken—

Travis: Yeah, you've gotta start with the—

Griffin: Okay. I'm sorry.

Travis: Start with—! Goddamnit!

Justin: A little boozy. A little boozy. The kids are asleep.

Griffin: [sings in a deeper voice] "Oh, it's snowing outside, and it—"

Justin: No, it's spoken word.

Travis: It's talking.

Justin: You just fucking—

Travis: You just say "it's snowing out here".

Griffin: "Well, it looks like—"

Justin: Yeah! Just like you did it the first time!

Griffin: "Well, it looks like a snowy day outside. Slosly, sloppy, and wet. And today it's Christmas Eve, and it's special. I— Isn't that right, Jacob?"

Travis: [in a high, child-like voice] "Yeah!"

Griffin: "That's my friend, Jacob." [chuckles] [sings] "Goin' up to Santa's house."

Travis: "Santa's house!"

Griffin: [sings] "Drivin' up in my Chevrolet. I got snow chains on my tires, and I think that that's okay."

Justin: [sings] "I found the perfect gift for Saint Nick. It's a real nice-fittin' pair of slacks. And a briefcase, so he can go to a job that's a different job from the one he has."

Travis: "And I'm Jacob! And now the rap." [raps in the high-pitched voice] "I love Christmas and I'm here to say, I love giving presents in a major way. I unwrap `em, I open `em, and I eat some food. And everything here is really good."

Griffin: "Fresh stuff, Jacob." [wheezes]

Justin: [cackles loudly, from a distance]

Griffin: "I—"

Travis: [laughs] "Thanks! I've been training for months!"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [sings] "Oh no, here come the turbo bots. They hate Santa Claus and hate us too. Jacob's got—"

Travis: [laughs] [sings] "They hate our freedom!"

Griffin: [sings] "Jacob, take this gun. There's bullets in the—"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [sings] “In the red— in the box, and I think Jacob knows what to do.”

Justin: [sings] “Hey, everybody, it’s me, Mariah Carey! These are the bots that I created. I’m so proud of my killer robots. They’re gonna destroy every living thing.”

Travis: [sings] “So, if I go down, I want you to [serious talking] find my wife and tell her where the money’s buried. You promise me, Jacob. You promise me! Okay, let’s get out there.”

Griffin: [sings] “Damn this snow is really fuckin’ slushy. Drivin’ all around and whippin’ all around.”

[sings in a robotic voice] “We are the Turbobots. We hate Santa Claus.”

[pause] That’s all I got.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [sings] “The Turbobots have got some slushy snow trapped inside their gears. Looks like we are safe at home! Cozy for another year.” But stay wary, ‘cause the bots will return, everybody.

Griffin: Yeah, they’ll come back.

Travis: They’ll come back, worse than ever.

Griffin: And that’s good.

Justin: That’s good. Hey, thanks for listening to our podcast, *My Brother, My Brother & Me*, and Happy Holidays, *Candlenights*, to you and yours. We hope you’re having a pleasant holiday season.

Travis: Hey, speaking of which, the video on demand is still up of our *Candlenights* show.

Justin: Yes, please, if you didn’t get it, it’s so fun. It’s over two hours of great festive holiday entertainment. Uh, it will be live for another— I don’t— It’s hard for me to do the math. It’s like a week and a half or so as you’re listening to this, I think. So, um, please just go pony up some money for it and help— It’s a great cause, *Harmony House*, they do so

much for people who are uh currently unsheltered in our community, and it's a wonderful cause, and if you would just go to bit.ly/candlenights2021. Everybody who watched it, I can say, to a person, had a wonderful time, and now you could count yourself amongst their number if you will go and uh get that and— and watch it. We'd really appreciate it.

Griffin: And speaking of shows, we're doin' a virtual livestream for *Wonderful!*, the show me and Rachel do, on January 7th at 9:30pm Eastern time. Uh, same thing as Candlenights. Tickets are five bucks, with an option to give more. Uh, it's bit.ly/wonderfulabc2021, and ticket sales for that go to benefit Austin Batcave, which is a non-profit here in town that offers writing programs for young authors aged six to eighteen. It's a really, really cool program, and we're happy to be supporting them with a show, so buy tickets so the money can go to them. Thanks!

Travis: Also, just a heads up, uh to let everybody know, we will be taking next week off, uh for the holidays, so we will be back in the new year. Uh, with new episodes, so uh—

Griffin: Oh, we gotta name 2022, don't we?

Travis: Yeah, we'll figure that out.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: But there will be no new episodes next week. Ah, but before the month runs out, make sure you go over to mcelroymerch.com, get that Pin of the Month, which is uh Steely Van from uh *The Adventure Zone*. Uh, benefits the Asian Pacific Environmental Network. Um, we have the "My Brother, My Brother, & the man who ruined my For You page" sticker, and we've got the *Zone of Adventure* enamel pin, uh so go check those out. We've got a bunch of other stuff over there too. [Mcelroymerch.com](https://mcelroymerch.com)

Griffin: Uh, you di— Oh, and thanks, thank you— And just an enormous thank you to Montaigne. I don't know what happened to me just there. That was kinda strange.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: You were j— You were awash with emotion.

Griffin: I guess so. Uh, it's an amazing song. We appreciate it so much. Uh, and this final Yahoo was sent in by, uh, Terren— Terrence.

Justin: Hmm.

Griffin: Howard...

Travis: Woah!

Justin: Wow! Huge get.

Griffin: Yeah, we're getting' a lot—

Justin: The same— The one from movies?

Griffin: Yeah yeah yeah.

Travis: Like, the original, the original War Machine?

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: Yeah, Terrence Howard sent this one in, thank you Terrence. It's asked by Yahoo Answers user Fredrick... Serkis.

Travis: Oh.

Griffin: Fredrick— Fredrick Serkis asks...

Justin: Oh, okay.

Griffin: "Will you marry me, Sheila?"

Travis: That's it?

Griffin: That's all it says, yeah.

Travis: No details given?

Griffin: It's a Yahoo Answers proposal, I guess it's not that funny.

Travis: Are there any answers?

Griffin: Uh... Sheila did respond, she said "Not yet".

Travis: Ooo!

Justin: [chuckles] How spicy, I can't wait to see what happens.

Travis: What's that? We'll circle back next week to figure out how this all plays out.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I can't believe we're ge— Can I just say real quick, before we say our names, I can't believe there's a *Matrix* movie coming out next week.

Griffin: I'm so stoked. Let's get out of here.

Justin: Are we gonna— And we're not doing an episode that week. I'm so mad. Anyway.

Travis: I mean, we could still talk about it, just the three of us.

Griffin: Gross.

Justin: Bleugh! Gross! My name's Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm your middlest brother, Travis McElroy.

Griffin: And I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

[outro music plays]

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[animal roar]