

MBMBaM 619: Great Stuff You Can Do in the Bathroom

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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 plays]

Justin: Hello, everybody, and welcome to My Brother, My Brother and Me, an advice show for the modern era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

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

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

Travis: Let me just get ahead of it. Let me get ahead of it. I watched the first episode.

Justin: You watched the first episode of Man VS Bee.

Travis: It was harrowing, is the word I would use.

Griffin: I was made certain assurances that we would not need to talk about Man VS Bee.

Travis: No, but I also don't want people— now, what I've run into because of the blast on which I was put, that in my life, social media, in streaming, in everything I've done, if I mention—

Justin: In your bedroom. Your boudoir.

Travis: In my bedroom, my wife, my children, my dog, all of them—

Justin: Your confessional.

Travis: When I'm talking to my priest, my spiritual guidance, my Yogi, when I'm talking to my Yogi Bear, when I'm talking to them—

Justin: [as Yogi Bear] You got to watch the movie, Boo Boo!

Travis: And I say, "I did this today." They're like, "You should have been watching Man VS Bee." And I'm like, okay, I did it now. I did it now. Never again.

Griffin: So here's the issue, Travis. You're getting Man VS Bee 1.1, um, there were a lot of complaints registered toward Netflix with some of the gratuitous male and bee nudity in the original cut. And so as they are wont to do, what with this streaming era and the death of art, they went in and just took all that stuff out. So you know how the episodes are like, 20 minutes long?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: They used to be like 35, 40, and you were getting a good 15 to 20 minutes of man and bee nudity.

Travis: Well, Griffin, I actually anticipated that because I know of Netflix's rampant censorship. And so I actually watched it in 90 second chunks on Dailymotion.

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin: That is—

Travis: Yeah, I found a playlist, and I just watched it that way. Now, there were a couple of chunks missing, which, frankly, made it incoherent, but other than that...

Griffin: Obviously, I dipped into Dailymotion for those clips for my own purposes, and my net nanny was like, well, we'll let this one go. They were like, "It's Mr. Bean. There's no erotic value." It auto blurred out the bees,

huge ding-along, which is understandable, but they were like, "It's Mr. Bean's dick and his balls and butthole."

Travis: It's educational.

Griffin: And it's— it serves an educational purpose at that point.

Travis: Now, see that's what— I actually noticed, Griffin, that my net nanny was a little too lenient as well, which is why I hired a real-life nanny to stand over my shoulder while I looked at stuff.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Specifically Man VS Bee. I got a Mary Poppins-esque, like, "No, no! No Mr. Bean's dick today, Master Travis!" I was watching it too much, apparently, and it was affecting my relationship with my kids, so. She said, "You must go outside and get some vitamin D!" And I said, "I'm getting all the vitamin D I need right here." And she said, "No, no, Master Travis, you must sit outside!"

Griffin: I just want them to release the Snyder cut of Man VS Bee.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: And by that, I mean, Greg Snyder, who was the onset intimacy consultant for Man VS Bee.

Travis: Between the man and the bee?

Griffin: Anytime that there was exposure happening, like the scene where the bee climbs inside of his— Mr. Bean's penis?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I want to see— he worked hard on that. He had to coach both of them through that and it was probably pretty painful and humiliating.

Travis: And it's wild to me that they made such a progressive step to hire an intimacy coordinator, which everyone should do, but then also the rest of it exists and so that was difficult to me.

Justin: I watched the Snyder cut of Justice League.

Travis: Okay?

Justin: And my big thing there was—

Griffin: Oh, this is gonna be fucking funny.

Travis: Brace your asses everyone.

Justin: There is just so many scenes of people eating chips that it got to a point—

Travis: Oh, I get it, 'cause Snyders is a chip brand, which I think might only manufacture chips in Huntington, West Virginia.

Justin: It might be a regional thing. They use peanut oil. Nice.

Travis: Take that!

Justin: Enough said! [laughs] Enough said there. Appreciate that. Um, this is an advice show—

Travis: Obviously.

Justin: — here we take your questions and turn them, alchemy-like, into wisdom. I feel like it's been a 150 years since we've recorded one of these.

Travis: Well, we should also note that Griffin—

Justin: With travelling and the illness and what have you.

Travis: Griffin decided to move.

Griffin: Yeah, uh... like yesterday. Just real hair up my ass sort of stuff. Where I was like, I'm going to uproot my entire family and relocate to the beast coast.

Justin: Well, most of your family, you're having them compete to see who will be left behind to make a new life in Austin. You don't want to cede all that territory, is the problem.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So you want to leave a man in Kamchatka, as it were.

Travis: It is kind of our Southern HQ, Griffin, which I am— I feel like I covered the Midwest HQ for a while and now I feel like you're kind of encroaching a bit on my territory, which I'm not wild about.

Justin: I do—

Griffin: Alright well fight— fight me.

Justin: — appreciate that we can finally make it permanent, our absolute denial of other time zones.

Travis: Yes, thank you.

Justin: If you don't know about this little fact of ours, we have people on our team all throughout the country. And if any of them mentioned any time zones other than Eastern Standard Time, we refuse to acknowledge. Like, we can't process it.

It's like, ask me again in a real time zone, because if you talk about another one— and we've been doing this with Griffin, like, [laughs] Griffin has to have to pretend that he does not live outside the Eastern time zone.

Travis: Occasionally Griffin will be like, "Oh, we can start at eleven." And I'm like, "It's already eleven, Griffin."

Justin: "It's already eleven. What do you mean?"

Travis: "What are you talking about?"

Griffin: Yeah, we're like flat earthers, but for like a very specific sort of latitude range.

Travis: And I understand, like, daylight savings time, who's saving it, and give me some back. You know what I mean? I want some of those.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And that's some of Travis's whole deal.

Travis: That's my thing about time.

Griffin: Let's do questions because it's going to be a while before I do questions again, and I wanna scratch the itch—

Travis: We are about to do, like, three live shows in a row, but that's—

Griffin: Oh, you're right, we're about to be doing too many questions. But still my hunger must be sated.

Justin: "Whenever I go to someone else's house, even my best friends, I hate staying the night."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, it's not— yeah, your stuff is not there.

Travis: Yeah, your stuff's not there. It's not where your bed is, it's not the air you like.

Justin: "I'm not able to sleep, always in a cold sweat, and wake up feeling gross. I'm happy to be with my friends. So what can I do to enjoy waking up the next morning?" That's from *Anxiously Awake* in Alabama. And you can't.

Travis: You can go home and then come back before they wake up. And then you're like, whoa, right there. "Oh, I was here the whole time, too, guys!" There's that.

Griffin: Sleep over— the sort of, like, logistics of sleepovers that math changes once you are sort of independent and can drive, because I would much rather— I'll kick it with you until the wee hours. And then when it's time for sleeping in a bed, I have my own that I have been sort of nestling into fucking hard for a long time now. And that nook—

Justin: But it's dangerous! What about the dangers of driving in the evenings?

Travis: What time do you go to bed, Justin? Because I'm heading home at like 9 o'clock.

Griffin: Yeah, I mean, 9, 9:30.

Travis: During the summer it's not even dark yet.

Justin: Griffin said the wee hours, so I question that.

Griffin: I was— I meant 9 to 9:30.

Justin: 9 to 9:30. Between 9 and 9:30.

Griffin: That's when I come home and me and Rachel play Wii together.

[Justin and Travis laugh]

Griffin: We play very competitive Boomblocks till we work up a nice sweat and then we instantly go to sleep.

Justin: The amount of props I need to sleep when I travel is truly, I mean, it's truly toddler level. It's, like, I need the log pillow. I need my wrist brace for my carpal tunnel syndrome. I need my special eye mask that has the headphones built into it so I can listen to—

Travis: Whoa, whoa, everyone back off. He's married. No, no, no—

Justin: Oh, no, right?

Griffin: I can't believe the fact that there is no, sort of, like, well known MBMBaM mythos about your log pillow, which is a, what, a bean filled...

Justin: It's a micro— Micro— what do you call that? Microfill? Like a—

Travis: It's like a bean bag bean filled with Justin's farts.

Griffin: And then he carries it, like, draped over usually a strap of his backpack, turning it into the brawniest nut sack that you have ever seen. And he walks through every airport like that and there's kids around and they seen it.

Justin: Yeah. I mean, yeah. What do you want me to say here? Um...

Griffin: I guess an apology.

Travis: You introduced this topic by the way. We didn't make you bring up the log pillow. You brought up the log pillow.

Justin: I'm just telling you I have prop— I'm just saying I have props and if I don't have them, I can't sleep. I've tried other things in hotel rooms. I've gotten desperate and wadded up towels into kind of a log shape.

Griffin: We've all been there. We've all been there.

Justin: Wadded up a hoodie to try to make it... No, nothing doing. It doesn't work.

Travis: It's not just bedroom props. When I'm away from my favorite toilet, my toilet buddy that I know, like, I know how he works. I know his whole deal.

Justin: I know how he likes to be—

Travis: I know where I like to look for the tough moments, you know what I mean? Like, I know the point on the wall that I'm making eye contact with when I'm struggling. Like, I know—

Justin: You know where you've etched your Vince Lombardi quotes?
[laughs] Up there—

Travis: Exactly, yes! For when times get tough, I know exactly— And I know where the tally marks are for every successful completion. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You know what I'm talking—

Griffin: Hey Trav by the way, I was at your house the other day, and there's only six.

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: Yeah, man. Why do you think I need so many motivational quotes? It's tough out there. I don't eat fiber!

Justin: You don't— You can't—

Travis: I just eat cheese!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You can't get a good night's sleep at someone else's house. You can't.

Griffin: It can't be done.

Travis: There is a certain point of, like, there's a reason why I think maybe...

Justin: Oh, I have a rectangle pillow.

Travis: Yes. Well, yeah.

Justin: It's a cube? A pillow cube?

Griffin: Wait, what?

Justin: It's a pillow cube. And I can't sleep without that either. It's a cube shaped pillow.

Griffin: Where does it go? Where does the cube go?

Justin: Well, supporting this beautiful thinker right here. [wheezes]

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Right underneath the old noggin.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I've searched high and low. Do you know how many pillows I've had to shove down on my garbage disposal because they didn't give my head the support it craved?

Travis: Like, as a punishment?

Justin: What?

Travis: Like as a punishment for them disappointing you?

Justin: I mean, it's a sacrifice.

Travis: Oh, I see. I see. But I think that I can't remember the last time— I think 24 was maybe the last time I slept at a friend's house because I was too drunk to drive, so I simply slept on his couch. But it was not like a planned thing where I looked at my friend Bradbury and said, "And I'll bring my jammies!" Like, I just don't— and I think the reason is not like, "Oh, it's

weird to sleep at a friend's house when you get older." It's like, "Oh, no, this isn't, like, fun to get away from my parents and my ho—" This is like, "Oh, no, everything I know is back there. That's where I'm truly me and I can take off this mask that I wear for others."

Griffin: Um, hey, can we approach the wizard?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. I'd like that. Thank you.

Travis: Don't get too close, he's bitey.

Griffin: The other wizard, Ben Cant sent this in. Thank you, Ben. This is one that's, again, very useful for me as a sort of, like, Gen Z, um...

Travis: Yeah. Here we go.

Griffin: Like, I live and die on, like, emojis and texts and stuff, so.

Travis: Not me. I'm a boomer. I don't get that stuff. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah. So me and my Gen Z friends are going to love this one. We're going to bust up super hard. It's 13—

Travis: Is that how you pronounce it? I thought it was just genz.

Griffin: Genz. Me and my fellow genz are going to love 13 Clever Ways to respond to wassup or what's up?

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: "Ah, that age old question. What's up?"

Travis: [snorts] It's not, though!

Griffin: "It is as old as time itself. Wassup?"

Justin: It's not.

Griffin: "Wassup? You might have heard it thrown around so often that it's hard to come up with a fresh and creative answer."

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: In 1999. "Don't worry, though. We've got you covered with tons of examples that show how to have some fun with this common question. Read on and try them out to respond to what's up in a way that will breathe new life into your conversation."

Travis: Wow.

Griffin: "Hey, have you talked to Mark lately?"

"Yeah, it's good to talk to him now. It feels revitalizing just the way that his mind works. It really excites me."

Travis: "His responses to my mundane, inane questions are a breath of fresh air in this otherwise empty landscape on which I live."

Griffin: So here's one way to respond to wassup of 13. "After seeing you? My mood!"

Travis: Hell, yeah.

Justin: Yes!

Griffin: "Compliment anyone who could use an extra boost of confidence. This is a great reply for everyone in your life, from a friend to an acquaintance. It's an especially effective answer if the person is shy or isn't used to the attention."

Travis: Fuck yeah.

Griffin: Here are some more examples in this vein. "Now that you're talking to me? My happiness."

Travis: Now, that's weirder, though, because now that's starting to trend into the way an alien would say it. After seeing you, my mood is up. After this conversation that we had with our mouths? My endorphins are— like, oh no, hold on.

Griffin: "With you in the room? My energy level! After learning you went to Spain? My curiosity!"

Travis: Whoa.

Griffin: ... is up. Another way. "If someone hits you with a what's up, you hit them with a, 'I don't have any complaints.' Stay upbeat if you want to charm a stranger with your optimism. If you want to build rapport with someone or leave them in a wonderful first impression, be really cheerful and smile. Other options? 'I'm a happy camper.' 'Life's been treating me really well.'"

Travis: That's a serial killer response.

Griffin: There's a darkness. There's a darkness behind those.

Justin: No complaints here.

Griffin: "Everything's looking up. I've made a lot of progress lately!"

"With what?"

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: What have you—

Travis: Hey, I think we live in a time— I won't go deep into it, folks. But if you have no complaints? No complaints?

Griffin: That's wild.

Travis: No? Zero?

Griffin: "Nothing but good news on my end. I'm very grateful." All right, asshole.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: There should be— there is objectively bad news out there, and you saying that it doesn't impact you at all is monstrous.

Travis: And I— hey, listen, there's enough bad news to go around. It doesn't matter what side of any issue you're on. Nobody's got it all good right now.

Griffin: How about this? What's up? "Hopefully not my rent. Get creative at a party and point out what you don't want to go up."

Travis: Hopefully not my dick while people are around. That would be inappropriate. Not the time for that.

Griffin: "It better not be my cholesterol levels. I've been eating healthy, dot-dot-dot. Not my student loans. I just have to keep making my payments. With any luck, not my grocery bill. I'm not buying main brands anymore."

Justin: I would turn heel and walk away.

Griffin: Just out of there.

Justin: And that person would be gone from my awareness.

Griffin: "In a perfect world, my salary. Make your bestie laugh with a sassy response."

Justin: That is sassy. Woo.

Travis: I'd say, that's sassy. Okay, you know what, actually?

Justin: There's some spice on that one.

Travis: If I walked up to my best friend, Hank Mardukas, and I said, "What's up?" And he said, "Hopefully my salary," I would high five him three times.

Griffin: For sure. That's sassy and fun.

Travis: It's a solid response.

Griffin: And this is the obligatory, "What's up? If life was fair, my grades."

Travis: Oh, keep your grades up.

Griffin: "My energy levels, if I had my way." A lot of concern about my energy, about my thetans.

Travis: I want to go back, though, because I like, if life was fair, my grades. Because that means it's, like, I'm putting in the fucking work, and Mr. fucking Johnson is being a real asshole because I did that assignment he knows I did, and yet he's still giving me a C. Life's not fair, man.

Griffin: "My atheist teacher gave me an F."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "It's because I love our troops so much."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "What's up? How much time do you have?" Do not do this one.

Justin: Nope.

Travis: No, no. Don't do that one.

Griffin: Can you stick ar— it does say play around with anyone easy to fool, like an unsuspecting relative. So it's like, punk them by hinting at some deep

trouble in your life that you do need assistance with. "Can you stick around for a bit? I'll need at least 20 minutes. How long is your attention span? I'm in the mood to overshare. Okay. Let me tell you my life story. Just joking."

Travis: Wow. Hey, any one of those, I actually would appreciate it because it would be shorthand for, like, okay, I don't want to know you.

Griffin: I don't want to talk to you.

Travis: "I'm going to overshare." Oh, thank you for the warning. I'll be over here at the Cheeto Bowl.

Justin: But what if it's someone know, like, I've asked you not to be like this. We encounter each other in social situations. I've asked you not to be like this, I think. I did ask you not to do this.

Travis: It's also not over sharing— I asked you how you are, and I guess it depends on if you're like, "What's up, man?" And he's like, "Oh, it's nothing man..." If you're just like, "Hey, what's up with you?" And he's like, "I want to overshare." I'm like, yeah, I did just ask, what is up with you.

Griffin: I would take literally any response other than this one. Number six on the list, "What's up? Our time on Earth. So let's make the most of it."

Justin: What?

Travis: Oh, no.

Griffin: "Shake things up and motivate whoever is talking to you. If they're on autopilot and asking a basic question, see if you can inspire them and tell them to live every moment like it's their last."

Travis: Don't.

Griffin: "What's up? Our chances to waste another moment. Let's go!"

Travis: Now, that one, though, is confusing verbiage. "What's up? Our chances to waste— " So we've run out of chances? Some of us are out here

barely coping with existential dread as it is. If I see you at a party and I say, "What's up?" And you're like, "Our time on Earth." I'm in a spiral now. Thank you, very much.

Justin: That's not actually true, either. It's, like, we're both here. What are you talking about?

Travis: What do you know that— what do you know?

Justin: Now if you're like Matt Damon in that Kevin Smith movie. And you're like, "Your time is up on Earth?"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And it's like, that's cool.

Travis: Yeah, I mean if you're an assassin—

Griffin: Every time Matt Damon gets a gun out, it's like, fuck, do you guys remember the bitcoin commercial where he was like, "Get bitcoins," and he pulled out two guns? And I was like, whoa. I was like, "Are you going to hurt me?" And he was like, "No, you can just look cool like me, Jason Bourne."

Travis: "These are my new bitcoins. They're guns."

Justin: I need to test something real quick. You guys got to let me know if this works, okay?

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Can you let me know if this works?

Griffin: Yeah.

["Whassup" clip plays]

Griffin: Yeah, I remember him. Yeah. I liked him from—

["Whassup" clip plays]

Justin: [cackles]

[Yo Quiero Taco Bell clip plays]

Travis: [overlapping] Now, Justin, you do have to comment on it in order it to be fair use.

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin: Hold on. Wait. Travis, you can't talk over that.

Travis: What was it?

Griffin: Go ahead, Juice.

[Yo Quiero Taco Bell clip plays]

Travis: Oh, yeah, that— what soundboard are you on? Is it just, like, classic commercials— ?

[Where's the Beef clip plays]

Griffin: Okay. Yeah, these are some of the most sort of, like, low quality, low bitrate.

Travis: Do you have "dude, you're getting a Dell?"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Do you have the Dell guy? He's funny.

Justin: What?

Griffin: Do you have the Dell guy?

Travis: It's got to be in there.

[Intel jingle plays]

Travis: No, that's Intel inside.

Justin: That's Intel?

Griffin: Yeah, that's not it. Okay, so there's a lot more of these. "What's up? Who paid you to ask me that?"

[Pizza Pizza clip plays]

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin: I feel like you're not dialed in anymore, Justin.

Justin: Already, now I'm dialed in. I'm back. I'm back. I'm back.

Griffin: "Pretend to be suspicious to put on a show for your friends. Have the secret agents found me? What have you told them? Hey, that's not cool of you to ask, you know I'm on the run. I'm not sure how to answer that. Do you have a wire on you?"

Travis: That's a good one.

Griffin: On a text message? On a text message...

Travis: If someone asks me at a party, "What's up?" And I say, "Why are you asking? Are you wearing a wire?" That is a good way to, like, kid on the square to gauge if your friend's a narc.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I just... as somebody who has trouble with social situations, especially, like, these sort of conversational things, I think it should be illegal for the Internet to publish a list of memorable responses to banal questions, because that's not... that's not right. Like, I know that is

memorizing answers that are supposed to be witty. That's not good. You don't want to do that. That one, no.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: This list should be one thing long, and it should be, "Not much, you?"

Justin: "Not much."

Griffin: Okay, I'll go ahead and spoil number 13 is, "Not much, you?" Which is, I think, the only acceptable way of...

Justin: That's it!

Travis: The only one it should be. "How's your day?"

"Great. You?"

"What's up?"

"Not much. You?"

"Hey. How was your weekend?"

"Pretty good."

It should, like, three words max. It should be your response to a thing. I don't want a monologue, I just— I'm a human being who's bad at small talk and I had to say something because we locked eyes and we're sharing a physical space.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And so I said, "Hey, what's up?" That's it man.

Griffin: Sorry guys. The conceit of this bit is that it's not— rarely the things that the wizard sends us are good things. You guys get that—

Travis: Yes. But now it gets into a thing where I'm imagining myself actually being in my physical meat body and someone saying one of these things to me and me having to, like, roll out of the room as quickly as possible like Sonic the Hedgehog.

Griffin: Okay, but what about this? Maybe you can— maybe this will be better for you guys. Not me, because like, I'm a cool, confident, popular guy. But if someone says, "what's up?" You could say, "When you ask that question, my anxiety levels."

Justin: Okay. Can I say— there is a delivery you can put on that where it would work. I think that one, that one I could maybe—

Travis: That one can stay.

Justin: Yeah, that could work.

Griffin: Yeah, don't—

Justin: "Now that you have asked me such a banal question, my anxiety currently is up."

Griffin: And then if you really wanted, I don't know that these three, they escalate it with each additional one under this suggestion with, "my blood pressure. What a loaded question. Moving on."

Travis: Nice.

Justin: Is it loaded?

Griffin: No, not at all. "Yikes. My discomfort. That's way too hard to answer."

Travis: "What's up?"
"Oh, I didn't expect a test."

Justin: Okay. What if someone said, "What's up?" And you just looked at them like, "Yikes." That would be a good way of answering.

Griffin: Loaded much?

Travis: When I go shopping and I'm buying a bunch of groceries and the checkout person says, "Oh, planning a fun weekend?" Because maybe there's, like, two bottles of wine there, I think a good response now is like, "Well, not now! Now I'm going to be thinking about this moment for the rest of the weekend because I'm worried I bought too many, I don't know, hot dogs wrapped in pastry or whatever and now I feel guilty— "

Justin: It's the same way you overanalyze whenever you buy, like, I get my liquor at CVS.

Travis: Yeah. Like a classy gent, yeah.

Justin: I end up a lot of times getting, like, liquor and toilet paper or liquor and... hemorrhoid cream. It's like, yeah these two things, it is going to be a pretty wild weekend. Thank you.

Travis: It's going to get pretty silly, but then I'm going to bring it down and think about motivational quotes from Vince Lombardi.

Justin: I got this Gatorade all planned out because your boy is bad with moderation.

Travis: Yeah. "Where do you keep the Pedialyte, too?"

Justin: "I'm bad with moderation, good with preparation. So I went ahead and got me some... some Gatorade."

Travis: Preparation H.

Justin: Some ramen.

Griffin: Hey, can I make it sexy real quick?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Thanks. "What's up? My hopes, because you swiped right on me." Is right the good one or... which one is the good one?

Justin: I will never know with enough confidence to where I would be able to reference it.

Griffin: Okay. You could also— if you want to keep being really flirty and spark up a romance with a new crush, you can say, "My heart rate, now that you're giving me the time of day. My level of attraction, your IG hypnotized me." Um... "What's up? What's up?"

Justin: Imagine! Imagine! Imagine!

Griffin: I can't—

Justin: My attraction is up! Ah!

Travis: Ah, for you see, milady.

Justin: Like other humans, I want to say that my attraction is up to you.

Travis: I'm definitely not a lizard that has gained access to a keyboard.

Griffin: [laughs] "What's up? My pulse. Your pics and your bio are so spellbinding."

Justin: They're in front of you! Is that— I mean— is this online?

Griffin: These are texts. These are text messages.

Justin: We're texting now. We're texting.

Griffin: Yeah, we're texting now. We've been texting. And then there's some asshole responses. The next two subjects are all asshole. "What's up? The opposite of down."

Travis: Nice.

Griffin: "A two letter preposition. You're welcome for the grammar lesson."

Travis: Not that one. No, too wordy—

Justin: Fall in a well. Honestly go, just, fall in a well.

Griffin: "What's up? A super cute movie that made me cry. Check it out."

Travis: Is it cute?

Justin: Okay. That would be good.

Travis: I don't know that I would respond— I don't think I would call Up a cute movie.

Griffin: "What's up? Come on, you know that. The sky." Um...

Travis: What's that beginning part?

Griffin: "Birds, planes, and on a good day, UFOs." Is that a good day? When they finally do get tired of tolerating us and they come and they zap, you know, they zap us into dust with their big tripod ships? Probably not a great day.

Travis: I think you could do— There could be a sincere delivery of, "come on, you know this. You can do this. You got this. I believe in you, you know what's up."

Justin: C'mon! You're embarrassing yourself, Doug!

Travis: "We've gone over this!"

Griffin: Um, I'm not going to do the rest. But the last one is, "not much." Not much. That's the only correct answer to that question because that's all they're looking for. If they really wanted some detail about how you found their picks and bio spellbinding, they would have said like, "What do you think?"

Travis: What is it about me that's spell blinding?

Griffin: Yeah, exactly. Justin, can you play the beer joke again?

Justin: What? What beer joke?

Griffin: The joke the beers— the beer joke from the commercial.

Justin: Oh—

Griffin: It's too late now.

Justin: Oh, the moment has passed?

Griffin: Yeah.

Audio Clip: "Well, dad, you're my dad and I love you, man."

Justin: That one? That one?

Travis: Wow.

Griffin: No. What was that?

Travis: I love you man.

Justin: That was I Love You, Man. That one was not as big of a hit back in the day. I'm out in the bone yard a little bit. I'm out in the bone yard a little bit.

"I went to the bathroom at a local grocery store and I was about to leave my stall and someone came in crying and started to give themselves a pep talk in the mirror. I don't know if they know I'm in here..."

Travis: Was it me?

Justin: "But I would like to leave. Is it acceptable to go wash my hands next to them as they have their moment?" That was from Bathroom Boohoo Buddy.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Griffin: Are you an older person who can provide a sort of sagacious little bit, little monologue for them?

Travis: Yeah. Or an older person that could pretend you're them from the future who just came back to tell them that everything is going to work out just fine?

Griffin: Yeah, that one might be tough. Depending on, like, if you look nothing like them at all.

Travis: You don't know what the future holds, Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah. Maybe carry around like a cyber mask with you everywhere you go and... that's great. You're in the stall, you're in the bathroom, and you hear somebody crying out in the sink area, the hand washing zone. And you're like, "Okay, hold on." And you pull on the sort of, like, lycra suit and cyber mask, and then you walk out of the stall. Like, [makes robot noises].

Travis: It helps if you have some DJ equipment with you and you have a smoke machine and a light show.

Griffin: And you can be like, "Contain your moisture." [imitates scratching on a record] And they're like, "Whoa, what?" And you're like, "Yeah, I'm you from the future. I'm a robot cyber DJ." I guess if this is the case, you don't have to be an older person.

Travis: Yeah, anyone could do that.

Griffin: Anyone could be that. Because you could—

Travis: With a little forethought, anyone can do that.

Griffin: And you could say, like, I am you from the future. I do look younger than you. But that's because, uh, that's time dilation and that's— Einstein said that.

Justin: I feel like if I went out there when they're in the middle of their challenging episode, that might be a little too disorienting because, like, imagine if one of your favorite podcasters just appeared out of nowhere?

Griffin: And it's like—

Travis: Yeah, statistically...

Justin: "Uh, Justin McElroy is in this bathroom?" And I'd be like, guilty as charged.

Travis: Well, that's when you say, "Well, your friends paid for what we're calling a real life cameo. And so I'm here waiting for you to come in so I could tell you, 'Hey, man, everything's going to be okay.' And make sure to check out Trolls World Tour! I still get residuals. Bye!"

Griffin: The residuals on that one, baby. You guys would not believe...the amount of money—

Travis: Dude, buy that on— we're going to need you to buy a physical copy. I know that that's not cool these days, but they have them here at the store. I just saw a big display of them by the front.

Justin: Eh, real life sidebar. If I had known that when you do parts in a movie that keeps sending you money for no reason?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I would have tried to be in movies long ago.

Travis: Yeah, we should've made more podcasts.

Justin: Now don't get it twisted. We're not putting in a hot tub with this, with this B-drawer butt money. This is a very small bit of money, but it does come for no reason!

Travis: For no reason! And...

Justin: For no reason at all!

Travis: Just a little surprise letter from our friends at DreamWorks. "Hey, guys, here's \$20." Hey, thanks!

Justin: Wow, 20. I would love that. If I was getting \$20 checks from Trolls World Tour, I'd be a happy young guy.

Travis: It's like, if you went to babysit and on top of the money they were paying you to babysit, they said, here's some money to order a pizza if you want. And you're like, "Well, hey!"

Justin: And we'll keep sending you pizza money every few months for no reason for the rest of your life.

Travis: It's the closest I've come to that feeling of completing the paper from Book It to get a free personal pan pizza at Pizza Hut in my adult life. That's what residuals are to me.

Griffin: Wow, Trav.

Justin: What?

Griffin: I'm not sure I understood that reference. Which makes me think that none of our listeners...

Travis: Pizza Hut Book It?

Justin: You Pizza Hut Book It. You read enough books. Or get good grades or something, you get free pizza, free personal pan pizzas. I think it's a really nice moment for human connection. Some of the times I've had in my

life that I felt like, you know, the hand of any sort of like divine forces or whatever is when I've been there.

When somebody else is upset, that's great because it doesn't have to be about you for a little bit. You can chill on your own problems. Just be like, "Hey, let's talk through it if you feel like it. If not, I'm going to wash my hands and I'm going to leave. But right now I'm open book, baby, let's go through it. I'm a stranger, who better?"

Travis: Yeah. This is actually one of those rare times where pretending like it's not happening is what makes it awkward. Like if you just walk out and like, eyes forward, wash your hands and dry your hands, eyes forward and walk out silently. Now, whatever rough time that person is going through, they are both embarrassed and isolated where if you come out and like, "Hey, y'know, you got this," or, "It gets better," or whatever and then walk out? Made it.

Griffin: Or we all agree that being there for someone in their time of need is a very good feeling. So whatever they're giving you from out there in sink zone, you walk out of that stall and you take it you take it up a level, you escalate.

Travis: Oh, your life is worse.

Griffin: Well, you don't have to say that. Obviously, that's not the right thing to do. But if they're giving you like, [cries softly], you come at them with like [sobs]. Like and you're way more fucked up...

Justin: [laughs] Put it into perspective a little more.

Griffin: And then they look at you and they're like, "Wow, it could be a lot worse. What's going on with you?" And then you're going to have to lie and y'know, say, like, "I just watched Up on my phone on the toilet."

Travis: You could also just walk out covered in blood and say like, "Oh, no, not again." And now you've distracted them...

Justin: How would you do that on such short notice, though?

Travis: Well, with a little bit of preparation, it's right there in your bag, next to your DJ equipment and your cyber helmet. You're coming out. "Oh, what does this situation call for? What are they crying about? Oh they got fired? Is that a blood situation or I'm you from the future?"

Griffin: Or you could also rip a big one. And that's a bathroom joke that like, everyone really can get into—

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: That's— Griffin. I actually think that may be the best advice, is if you just like, simulate a gigantic beeper. There is no time that I've ever heard that in my life that I have not busted up 100%.

Griffin: Yeah. I was in the Bucky's restroom with Henry helping him do his thing when someone made a rude noise. Someone made a rude noise in an adjacent stall and Henry just started laughing. And I had to look at him and be like, "you can't do that. This is a special place. This is a special place where you can do that without judgment from five-year olds."

Travis: It's the closest the everyday person gets to diplomatic immunity.

Griffin: Yeah, please. But I think if you do it when someone's crying, they know it's like for their benefit. They'll be like, [cries] "thank you." So that should work too. Lot of great stuff you can do in the bathroom. It's a funny room.

Justin: It's a funny room. One of the funniest rooms.

Travis: Yeah, we don't talk about it enough. Why don't more people make bathroom jokes?

Griffin: I don't know.

Justin: Let's take a quick break and then we'll come back with lots more content.

Griffin: Through the Money Zone.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: I guess the Money Zone is content, right?

Justin: Yeah, it's all content, baby, it's all content.

Griffin: This is content.

Travis: Listen, they're paying by the minute. That's all I know.

[theme song plays]

[ad break]

Travis: What's to say about Squarespace that hasn't been said before? Huh? Does anyone know?

Griffin: I mean, nothing. But they are continuing to pay us to say the same things again. So let's respect that.

Travis: Did you guys know? You might not know this, but there are people out there who don't have websites.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Can you imagine?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Right? Okay. But I'm trying to make it, like, what, why would you? Because Squarespace helps you build your own website where you can showcase your work or sell things or like, blog, publish content, all that stuff. And some people don't do that.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: What are they afraid of, right? Are they afraid of cyber ghosts? Of course. Of course. We all are. But good news, and Squarespace doesn't want me to tell you this, but all their stuff is blessed by cyber priests. Cyber ghost free, 100% guaranteed. Or your money back. There, I said it. I said it.

Griffin: And are you going to say any of the other things that they want us to say in the ad copy?

Travis: No.

Griffin: Or are you just going to talk mostly about sort of cyber priests, uh...?

Travis: No, listen, everybody knows about all their cool stuff, right? Member areas where you can unlock a new revenue stream for your business and free up time in your schedule by selling access to gated content like video tutorials and online courses, or like sell your products. Or you could sell physical or digital, all that stuff. Right? But the main worry... cyber ghosts.

Griffin: I do think— I'm not 100% sure that ghosts are the main sort of prey for priests. I have always thought...

Travis: Cyber priests.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah, cyber priests. I think that— I feel like demons and imps are more their thing. But if you have a ghost in your house, typically you don't... that's not like priest territory.

Travis: Oh, my God, Griffin. You're showing your whole ass on this one. Of course, cyber ghost is a wide branching term.

Griffin: It's a umbrella, okay.

Travis: Right. It covers stuff like cyber demons and cyber imps and cyber devils...

Justin: Griffin, I've warned you multiple times about opening the door to allow Travis to enrich his own mythology.

Griffin: You're right. I fucked up.

Justin: You know what you've done.

Travis: And so it's just a shorthand to say cyber ghost. And you know what the fuck I'm talking about.

Griffin: The square in the space is a box they put the ghosts in to die.

Travis: Yes! Now don't open that cyber box. If you open that cyber box...

Griffin: Holy shit.

Travis: Listen, it's a big twinkie. We all know that, right? It's a big twinkie. Do not fucking open that cyber box or it's going to get all over the internet. And we're going to have to deal with that. We're going to have to deal with that. The three of us.

Griffin: So that's Squarespace.

Travis: I clicked away from the ad copy. So go to Squarespace.com.

Griffin: And you've been reading it so diligently so far.

Travis: [laughs] Go to Squarespace.com—

Justin: Your laser-like focus. It wavered for one second or it held.

Travis: The ghosts are getting to me! Go to Squarespace.com—

Justin: Let me see where it was. Cyber ghosts, cyber demons, cyber... okay.

Travis: [mumbles] ...whole thing. Don't open the box. Big twinkie. Have to deal with that, the three of us... here it is. Okay. Go to Squarespace.com/MyBrother for a free trial. When you're ready to launch,

use offer code mybrother, all one word, to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain. Squarespace, free of ghosts since 2019.

Griffin: Do you have werewolves problems?

Travis: Is that a problem with werewolves or a problem werewolves have?

Griffin: Every time you go out to eat with your family and kids, do werewolves come to try to eat your family and kids? Well, good news. DoorDash is here and they aren't scared of monsters and they will bring food right to your house. From the restaurants—

Justin: Now, w—

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: What precautions are they taking to make sure my food makes it to me, unmolested by werewolves.

Griffin: They have silver katanas.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Every DoorDash— every Dasher has a silver katana.

Travis: Are they trained?

Griffin: No.

Travis: [laughs] Oh, no.

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: They are not. But they—

Justin: We lose more drivers, actually, [wheezes] to self-inflicted katana wounds.

Travis: That's the thing that the katana industry doesn't want you to know. You're actually more likely to be killed by a katana in your home.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: That's what they don't tell you.

Griffin: But they, you know, the hit rate is pretty good. But hey, summer is in full swing and the celebration begins during the summer of Dash Pass By DoorDash, with weekly members only offers and new items released every week. You can shine bright and feel cool all season long as skate grinders grind the virtual rails right to your door, katana in hand. And also a bag of medicine from CVS.

Justin: I think they were listening into the first half of that ad, wondering how you're going to seamlessly tie the Dash Pass content...

Griffin: They got zero delivery fees, exclusive items and more than 25,000 members-only offers nationwide. Dash Pass By DoorDash has everything you need to make your summer memorable.

Travis: Griffin, I have a quick question.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah, I was about to sort of, like, give a personal testimony—

Travis: But what happens—

Griffin: No, you're right, Travis. Whatever you're about to say is more important than the personal testimony I was about to deliver for the company that has paid us money to deliver such a personal testimony on our podcast.

Travis: What happens—

Griffin: Go ahead, Travis, with your question.

Travis: What happens if the Doordasher fails to fend off the werewolf? The werewolf kills the Door-sher and then appears at my home, pretending to be the Doordasher. What do I do then?

Griffin: Well, let me say, first of all, the stuff still gets to my house.

Travis: That's true.

Griffin: DoorDash, they will always deliver, even if they have been horrifically mauled by a werewolf.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Um...

Travis: Personally, if I might give a personal testimony, it's why I like the leave it at the door option so that even if it is a werewolf, I'm like, "Okay, just leave it there. Okay, I'll get it when you drive away or leap over the fence and run off howling into the night," and he's like, "Are you sure?" And I'm like, "Yeah, just leave it there, please. I got dogs, and I don't want to open the door and Covid is still a concern."

Griffin: Okay, so my testimony, it's good. It's good. DoorDash is good. And I use it all of the time. For all of my kitchen is packed up now. DoorDash has been bringing me to delicious Austin treats basically every night for the past few nights, and I do appreciate it.

Get 50% off your first order, up to a \$15 value. Use promo code MBMBaM at checkout when you spend \$12 or more. That's 50% off your first order, up to a \$15 value, when you sign up for DoorDash during summer of Dash Pass, using promo code MBMBaM. Again, that's code MBMBaM for 50% off your first order. Dash Pass benefits only on eligible orders that meet the minimum subtotal, terms apply.

Travis: DoorDash. Where food? There food.

Griffin: I don't think that's gonna make it in the ad—

Travis: What about, "Where food? Here food."

Griffin: I don't think that's going to make it in the episode.

Travis: Oh, damn it.

[Max Fun ad]

Speaker 1: In the briefest time I feel like we got to know each other.

Speaker 2: Bro, I appreciate you so much for that.

Speaker 3: Do you read minds or what? It's really a very sacred space you've created here.

Speaker 4: Bullseye! You've hit the bullseye, baby.

Speaker 5: Bullseye. Interviews with creators you love and creators you need to know from MaximumFun.org and NPR.

[Max Fun ad]

Speaker 6: Hey, did grad school ruin your reading habits?

Speaker 7: Oh, my God. All those books you had to read for grad school.

Speaker 6: Did becoming a parent destroy your ability to focus on a book? Did the pandemic tank the number of novels you can get through in a year?

Speaker 7: Ugh. That happened to everyone. And we're Reading Glasses, and we're here to help.

Speaker 6: We'll get you out of a book slump, dismantle all that weird reader guilt.

Speaker 7: Which we know you have a lot of, but most importantly, we'll help you fall back in love with reading. Reading Glasses, every Thursday on Maximum Fun.

[ad break ends]

Justin: [imitates rock guitar]

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: [imitates guitar]

Travis: Not like a fart.

Justin: I want to munch!

Travis and **Griffin:** Squad!

Justin: [imitates guitar] I want to munch!

Travis and **Griffin:** Squad!

Justin: Welcome to Munch Squad, it's a podcast within a podcast profiling the latest, greatest brand eating, KFC released finger sporks and I'm not going to talk about it.

Griffin: Please, will you please? At least to tell me what it is?

Justin: It's a spork that goes on your finger to encourage you to make all their food finger licking good. Now you can eat your corn with a finger spork.

Griffin: Does the spork—

Travis: I don't want to talk about it anymore.

Griffin: No, but I do want to talk about it. So does the spoon come up from the finger or do you, like, scoop like this or...

Justin: You wear it on your finger.

Griffin: Right, but are you talking—

Travis: You could wear it either way, Griffin, it's not— I can't imagine that it's like an intricate mounting process.

Griffin: Can I put on five finger sporks and then just pick up my taters like that and just go blop-blop-blop-blop-blop?

Justin: Yep.

Griffin: Okay, cool.

Justin: It's all good stuff. It's all good. It's like, just like, finger licking...

Griffin: It's just if you didn't want to talk about it, I don't know why you would...

Justin: I'm just telling you that because I'm tired of people trying to bait me with these, like... Anybody could do a hilarious run about that. You know what I mean? Like anybody.

Travis: We just did, like, three of them.

Justin: We just did great. And I'm really torn, though, between these two stories because one's wilder, but okay, we're going to talk about Subway. Subway has launched its most significant menu change in 57 years.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: It's the Subway series.

Travis: Okay. Doesn't sound that significant yet.

Justin: Okay, so here's what they've done.

Griffin: Have they made their shops not stink? Like the worst stink you've ever stinked?

Travis: Are they done ruining combination gas stations and Subways?

Justin: It's the biggest menu update in the entire history of the franchise. It tested hundreds of recipes to come up with the Subway series. Twelve new signature sandwiches that can be ordered by name or by number.

Griffin: Wow.

Justin: It's a whole new way to Subway.

Travis: Yeah, they're stealing it from Jimmy John's ten years ago.

Justin: Listen, listen, this is going to absolutely freak you out, but you can now walk into a Subway and say the name of a sandwich and they'll just give it to you, no problem.

Griffin: Wow. How did it work before?

Justin: Before you had to be like, "Okay, so take some yeast and sugar and flour and mix it up and then wait? I don't know!" But now you know how it's always you've left a Subway feeling like you just did, like, long form algebra. You're like, "Why was that so tough? Why did they make it so hard?"

Travis: "Why did I have to make eye contact with the person as their hand hovered over the vegetables? And I said, no, no."

Justin: Now you can just say, like, "Give me— give me the boss."

Griffin: Yeah, I can just throw myself through the front window of the Subway and tuck and roll and just yell, "Eight!"

Justin: Give me the great garlic. They say here, "the series lineup isn't a swap in ordering options. Customers can still walk the line and customize their own choices."

Travis: Hell, yeah.

Justin: So in case you were worried that they would say, "no, you have to have lettuce or you'll go to jail." Don't worry, you still can get it without

lettuce. In tests, the brand found the series to be easier for guests and employees.

Travis: No!

Justin: This is a quote. "In fact, in Fort Myers, after just a few weeks, the franchisee reported guests were coming in and ordering the Subway series by number or asking the great garlic by name." Imagine, after just a few weeks, people religioned to this new Subway system and said, "fine, I'll just have a great garlic, and I won't try to make it my way."

Travis: I just want to say, as I worked at a Jimmy John's, where this is the system, you have the numbers and you have the names. What you are now doing is requiring, let's just say underpaid— everybody in this country is underpaid at this point. Underpaid sandwich makers, like, having to—

Justin: Artists.

Travis: Memorize! Artists, thank you. Memorize— and hey, thank you, artists. And you know what you're doing? You're making it sandwich by number. You're taking away the artistry.

Griffin: Thank you.

Justin: Thank you. Thank you for saying it.

Travis: And you're saying you have to fucking memorize the name so that when I say, like, "give me, I don't know, the Big Meaty Boy." And they're like, "Oh, what's on that?"

Justin: The boss is what you meant to say.

Travis: Sure. Give me the boss.

Justin: I don't think I'm going to go into Subway and order the Mexicali. I don't think I will. I don't think I'll do that. I think I'll just order whatever I feel like, and then if you want to put a label on it, you go for it. You call it the Justin if you need to.

Travis: Well, I just know if I commission something from an artist, I just say, like, I want a landscape, and I let them do it. I'm not going to say, like, "hey, this is what I want it to look like exactly." Right? Then that's not art.

Justin: That's not art.

Griffin: Yeah. I'm not the artist. You are. As long as it looks like a car just drove over it, then it's the Subway sandwich that I know and love.

Travis: Here's a revolution, here's what you do, Subway. I'm going to fill out a questionnaire that has nothing to do with sandwich toppings. Then the artist is going to read through that and get a vibe for me personally of, like, "Oh, Travis likes a cool fall day. I know exactly what kind of sandwich he wants." Surprise me! Like a mixologist. Surprise me.

Justin: A simple 100 question questionnaire that I answer it, and then you give me the sandwich of my dreams.

Travis: Filled out days in advance. And I'm going to come in Thursday, so I'm going to fill up this questionnaire on Monday to give you some time.

Griffin: An incredibly inappropriately intrusive, 100 question questionnaire.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: It's very—

Griffin: Why do you need to know my sexual history in order to make me a roast beef?

Justin: I'm actually sorry, but I do need to— it's been too long since I've done a munch squad and I need to tell you about this other one, too. It's Hardee's. And it is maybe— this may be the worst laziest terrible promotion I've ever heard of in my life. "Hardee's is partnering with NASCAR legend Richard Petty to promote chicken platform."

Travis: What?

Griffin: To promote chicken platform?

Justin: To promote chicken platform. "Hardee's is collaborating with one of the hottest drivers in history." Okay. Fucking sexy ass Richard Petty!

Travis: Sexy as fuck.

Griffin: Let me see that, let me check out old Dick Petty.

Justin: "One of his most popular menu offerings, the hand breaded chicken platform."

Travis: That can't be the name of it.

Justin: "This month NASCAR Hall of Famer, seven-time NASCAR champion," come on, say it with me, guys. You know it. "Seven-time Daytona 500 winner and devoted Hardee's fan, Richard Petty, will be in his home state of North Carolina to give consumers the Bird..."

Travis: Oh, boy.

Justin: "Surprising restaurant goes with hand breaded chicken sandwiches."

Griffin: What is chicken platform?

Justin: Oh. Its a chicken platform— you know, hand breaded chicken platform. No, but it's the idea of hand breaded chicken sandwiches, I think?

Travis: So a platform like a political platform or like some planks of wood?

Justin: Mm, it's actually closer to that than you would think, Trav, yeah. I think— Hardee— where's my Dick Petty— "Hardee's has always had a special place in my heart because it feels like a bite of home."

Travis: Vroom, vroom.

Justin: This seems like an apropos moment to reveal I live in a Hardee's now.

[Travis and Griffin laugh]

Travis: "I live in a giant chicken, like that James fellow, except instead of a peach, you see..."

Justin: "I live in an assisted living Hardee's..."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Vroom, vroom!

Justin: "They help me with my dressings and some of my various household tasks and keep me absolutely slathered in hand breaded chicken platform."

Griffin: I'm pretty sure that Hardee's could be more accurately qualified as a sort of hospice facility.

Justin: Hos-spice!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "I have been a true fan of Hardee's," not like some of these fake Hardee's girls you'll hear about.

Travis: [cackles] Oh, you like Hardee's, huh? Name—

Justin: Name four Hardee's members of the chicken platform! "Teaming up to celebrate this delicious hand breaded chicken sandwich is a real treat for me. Plus, I'm looking forward to joining Hardee's in giving the bird a whole new meaning and surprising some deserving fans here in North Carolina this summer."

Travis: "Plus, they said I could have a free sandwich."

Justin: "Petty is popping up at a Hardy's location in the Charlotte, North Carolina area," there can't be more than 30, "to give eligible guests a surprise hand delivery when they—" What makes you ineligible to get Richard Petty to hand deliver you a sandwich?

Travis: "Oh, I don't eat chicken."

"Oh, fuck."

Justin: "Oh, fuck! Okay, my bad."

"The hand breaded chicken platform, launched last summer in the midst of the chicken wars and featured—" Which, the fact that they're using the past tense means that there was an armistice declared that I am not familiar with. As far as I know, these wars are still a-raging out there. "This summer. These three craveable builds are back in the spotlight and are the ultimate cluck bait." Nope.

Griffin: The ultimate what?

Justin: The ultimate cluck bait. Cluck bait. To grab consumers' attention—

Travis: Like click bait?

Justin: No, it's like cuck bait.

Griffin: Oh—

Travis: I don't think that's it, Justin.

Griffin: I think Travis might actually be right on this one.

Justin: Each big, juicy, and crispy piece of 100 premium white meat chicken is hand breaded on site, and now it comes with a very small percentage chance that Richard Petty will give it to you, I guess. It's just, "Richard Petty has been a fan favorite for years and has always brought that extra flavor to the track like no one else can. Just like our hand breaded chicken."

Griffin: What?

Travis: You know.

Justin: "It brings extra flavor to the track!" I've lost my way.

Travis: "Listen, I know I kind of rambled on there at the end, but you basically get what I was going for."

Justin: "We really value the authenticity of this partnership because Petty is an organic fan."

Travis: Yeah. Not like some Biebers.

Justin: It's just— what they're saying to you now is this announcement is that if you order the chicken sandwich platform through the app or the drive through, maybe Richard Petty will give it to you.

Travis: Oh, guys—

Justin: Which is not a chance that I'd allowed for yet, but I guess I do always kind of assume that maybe Richard Petty will hand my food to me.

Travis: Wouldn't that be an amazing turn, though, if this time Richard Petty is helping the person in the vehicle, he's your chicken pit crew. This time— he's never been on that side before. He's always been the one in, because I assume now part of the pit crew duties for Richard Petty was handing him a chicken sandwich from Hardee's every time he stopped in every race.

I think that Hardee's is trying to throw shade at the KFC Jack Harlow collab by saying, "Oh, it's not real shit. Like what us and Dick have is real. This? Is real."

Griffin: He's real American. I feel like this is a bad campaign because the very last thing that I want is to be at a chicken platform restaurant and order some food.

And then a celebrity, that I do not know who it is, hands it to me and gives me a knowing smile like, "Vroom, vroom. Order up." And I'll be like, "thank you, mustached gentlemen."

Justin: Thank you, 85-year-old Hardee's employee. Very much appreciate it.

Travis: I like your hat. I didn't know that that was—

Justin: I like your hat too! What's your name, let me check out your name tag as I always do because I'm a father of two. Richard, thank you very much, Richard. I appreciate you.

Travis: Because my brain would honest to god kick into, "he's looking at me pretty hard. Does he listen to My Brother, My Brother and Me?"

Justin: This is the— this is the— when they say eligible guests, I think they are talking about like checking the date on your driver's license. Because Richard Petty has, I looked it up real quick. He is an 85-year-old man that is not driven professionally for 30 years. His last ride, it was in 1992, professionally.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: The Wikipedia says he was in his twilight years as of 1980!

Travis: Huh.

Justin: Like, you have to— as they're coming through— "And one other question, no reason, but do you know who Richard Petty is on sight?"

Travis: "Okay, go on in. Go on in."

Justin: Go on— "On sight, though, do you know Richard Petty?"

Travis: "If you saw this man, would you recognize him?" And they hold him a picture, like a headshot.

Griffin: He's standing back in the kitchen just holding the bag, just like looking like, "Is it— is it— do they know me? No? Okay."

Justin: Listen this is—

Travis: "Hey, Richard, while you wait, if you could sweep up back there, that would be great."

Griffin: That'd be great.

Justin: Our pop culture is increasingly stratified. We have no monoculture to hold us together anymore. I have the narrowest possible sliver of celebrity. More people would know me as the guy who uploaded the berries and cream sound than for my entire professional career.

You would have to, like, bring in the people that it would be exciting for. There's like 30 people that would be excited at a Hardee's to have me behind the drive through.

Griffin: Yeah. Uh...

Travis: I'm not against that, though. If somebody wants to fly some people out to be excited by the three of us handing them a sandwich, yeah, I'd do it.

Griffin: Party Hardee's with the McElroy brothers. And you can have that, Hardee's. You can use that.

Justin: For free.

Griffin: It will, I mean—

Travis: No, I want to get paid.

Griffin: More like six figures, but yeah, sure, the idea is free. The execution will be quite expensive.

Travis: Hey, Justin, will you read the third question real quick? Because I think that we can nail it down really fast.

Justin: Oh, okay, sure. "I collect VHS tapes. Not too long ago, I acquired a Big Bad Beetleborgs VHS tape that did not have a case. Needless to say, I rushed home to watch the tape. But when it started, it had a message that ran across the top of the screen saying it was a preview copy. And if I purchased this tape, I need to call the number on the screen to report it to Fox Video. My question is, am I good? Do I need to report this? Has too much time passed? If I do report it, will they take this tape from me?" That's from Mystified in Mississippi. [laughs]

Travis: You can't report it.

Griffin: No. Don't report it.

Travis: In fact, you should— you need to hide it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, that's contraband.

Griffin: They won't take the tape from you. They will take you from your home and you will not be seen again.

Travis: You know too much. You know the uncorrected Big Bad Beetleborgs episodes, like, before they edited out all the racy stuff. Like, you can't be allowed to—

Griffin: By racy, you mean racist? Because the genie character was way more explicitly problematic and challenging in the original cut.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And also, can I just say now you've implicated us in this. You put us at risk, and now we're going to have to go—

Justin: And our listeners. Yeah, I mean...

Travis: We're going to have to go on tour just to— until the heat dies down at this point.

Justin: Where should we go, Trav?

Travis: That's such a good question. I was thinking maybe like Salt Lake City. They'll never look for us there. Then to Portland and then we can blend in with people—

Justin: I'm as surprised to find us there as anybody?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I'm as surprised to find us there as anyone.

Travis: San Diego Comic Con will be a good place to blend in. We'll do some Deadpool cosplay. No one will ever find us. Well, unless you buy tickets at TheMcElroy.family or you go to Bit.ly/McElroyTours. Then you might be able to find us at those places. And only then.

Griffin: Salt Lake City is, like, I guess, the only place they could really nab us, because that's the only show that's not sold out. Thank you, Portland and San Diego—

Justin: We're back, baby!

Griffin: We're back, yay! November, we're also going to be in my new hometown of Washington DC, Detroit, and Cincinnati.

Travis: My hometown! Justin, you got to move to Detroit real quick. You can move back. If you have questions—

Justin: They won't have me there.

Travis: Oh, yeah, not after the Star Wars thing. Email us questions at mbmbam@maximumfun.org with the city of the tour stop in the subject line so we can build up those question lists.

Griffin: You got to wear a mask and have proof of full vaccination or a negative Covid test within 72 hours of the event start if you want, if you want to ride with me at these shows.

Travis: Yeah. No scrubs. And reminder, with Griffin moving, we're going to have a couple of live episodes in a row there while he gets settled in and can set up equipment and all that stuff.

Justin: Please understand.

Travis: Yeah—

Griffin: Please. Your understanding is needed. Please.

Travis: Over at the merch store, we got the approach the wizard shirt designed by Dana Wagner and 10% of all merch proceeds this month go to the Trans Youth Equality Foundation. You can find all that stuff McElroyMerch.com and preorders for TAZ Eleventh Hour are now open. It comes out February 21, 2023. Go to TheAdventureZoneComic.com to preorder.

Griffin: Thank you to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, *My Life is Better With You*. It's a track that will get that booty slapping.

Travis: Yeah, that's what I've heard. It's also worth noting we're going to be doing some panels and stuff as well at San Diego Comic Con. I know dad and I are doing one Sunday morning at 10 AM all about influencing the next generation of nerds. And it's going to be with Aabria Iyengar and B. Dave Walters and Johnny Stanton. It's going to be super fun and very, I don't know, good. And you'll like it or else. We'll tweet out those lo—

Griffin: Fun and good.

Travis: Yeah, fun and good. We'll tweet out those locations and post the schedule and everything so you can find us at all those because we're doing a TAZ panel, too. It's going to be great. We'll see you there.

Justin: Oh, my gosh.

Griffin: Um...

Travis: I've been working on my James Spader impression and I would love to try it out if I could.

Griffin: I mean, we can go Amp VS Amp, Spader VS Spader, and Justin can be, Justin can be...

Travis: Oh, that would be great. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: One issue is I don't know who that is.

Travis: Oh, James Spader?

Griffin: Yeah. So my impression will be based largely off of whatever you do, Travis.

Travis: Okay, let me zone in.

Justin: Wait. You don't know who James Spader is?

Griffin: I know the name. Is that, uh...? Is that Cyclops?

Travis: It's the Boston Legal—

Justin: No. Boston Legal?

Travis: No. James— okay. You're thinking of James Marsden.

Justin: Okay. This does get confusing. Let's talk about it real quick.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: James Marsters. Foot guy. James Marsden, Sonic's friend.

Travis: And maybe potential foot guy. We cannot confirm or deny.

Justin: [wheezes] James Harden, famously bearded basketball player.

Travis: Correct.

Justin: It gets confusing.

Travis: James Spader, none of those threee.

Justin: None of those.

Griffin: Okay, this gives me a lot to go on.

Travis: He was weird boss on the Office. He was—

Griffin: Don't tell me who it is!

Travis: Okay. [as James Spader] "Uh, that's the deal. Either you take it or you leave it."

Griffin: Then let me try it now.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: "I said I'm the weird boss on this show. I don't know which one. You're gonna listen— you're going to listen to me now, James Spader."

Travis: Now tell him, "I'm going to put you on my blacklist."

Griffin: "I'm going to put you—" oh, is that who it is?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Oh, okay. God, I love Blacklist.

Justin: [laughs] Clearly.

Travis: "Now I'm going to put you on my blacklist."

Justin: You've got it, you're like, you have careened into Goldblum.

Griffin: You're in there. You're in hot...

Travis: It's surprisingly close.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Is it surprisingly close?

Travis: There's a thin barrier between Spader and Goldblum.

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

[theme music plays]

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