

MBMBAM 623: GooMail Me

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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 song, "My Life Is Better With You" by Montaigne plays]

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

Travis: [in baby voice] I'm your middlest brother, Travis McElroy.

Griffin: [in high-pitched baby voice] He's got a pretty kitty? He's got a pretty kitty?

Justin: Yes, it's true. I have a pretty, new kitty. Her name is Olive, or Olivia. "Hello, I'm a pretty kitty."

Griffin: Oh, look at that special cat.

Travis: Is that her real name, Justin? 'Cause we were told a different name yesterday.

Justin: Well... She came home and her name was Olive. And then the girls decided Grizabella. You know, the glamour cat.

Travis: Of course, yes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: From Cats, the movie.

Travis: From the hit movie, Cats.

Justin: That we all love. That I love, you love, we all love.

Travis: Yeah, it's in our blood.

Justin: And then Sydnee and I decided we're gonna keep calling her Olive. 'Cause I don't like that name.

Griffin: That's protest. Which you usually don't do to your kids. You don't usually do a protest to your kids.

Justin: Well, it was gonna be an evening name.

Griffin: Ah, I see...

Justin: After the kids were asleep...

Travis: Ah, yeah.

Griffin: Oh, I thought you were saying the inverse. I thought you were saying in the evening time, when the Jellicle Cats historically do come out and prance, that is when she becomes Grizabella.

Travis: I think we can agree that the only confusing thing about Cats is, what is a Jellicle name, what's the human given name, what is their chosen name? Right, 'cause it's three different ones.

Griffin: What a pretty fucking kitty. Look at those little toe beans. Are you kidding me?

Travis: 'Cause you can't tell me that like Jennyanydots is the same as like Rumpleteazer. Those are two different worlds that those names exist in.

Griffin: Two different planets.

Justin: Yeah, they can't all be the same.

Travis: Look at that kitty. Is she changing color to match your shirt? Is she a chameleon kitty?

Justin: That would be wild, if I had a chameleon kitty.

Travis: She's so wittle.

Griffin: What a sweet kitty. My Christ.

Travis: She's so wittle.

Justin: People wouldn't wanna listen to just the audio of it, right? We record this show on video now, and that's what happens, is the cat comes and hangs out sometimes. I guess.

Griffin: It's sitting on your shoulder like a pretty little parrot. Like a sweet parrot—

Travis: And she likes you, which is nice.

Justin: She's a nice change of pace to my other cat that I haven't touched for a decade.

Griffin: Does she like me?

Justin: Does she like you, let's see.

Travis: Ask her.

Griffin: Hi, pretty kitty. Hi, pretty kitty.

Travis: Oh, she loves Griffin.

Justin: [imitating Olive] "I love you Griffin, you're my best friend."

Griffin: Yeah, I'm your best friend.

Justin: [imitating Olive] Beauty blog me, dad. Stop being focused! All right, you can go.

Griffin: Juice, you gotta beauty blog that kitty.

Justin: You're dismissed. Oh, she's just gonna stay here on my lap. Ah, guys. Guys! [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: The cat's on my lap and I'm like... [through laughter] Mr. Bigglesworth.

Griffin: Oh, yeah. Do some Dr. Evil jokes.

Travis: Yeah, like Dr. Evil.

Justin: No, Mr. Bigglesworth. Oh, man. I should've named... How many cats that were not well loved do you think were named Mr. Bigglesworth? After the great Austin Powers character.

Travis: All of them.

Griffin: Yeah, all of them.

Travis: You know, right until this moment when you said how many bad cats or whatever... And it made me think, what if like Mr. Bigglesworth or like that cat that Blofeld was hanging out with, what if they were really nice? What if those cats were like, "No, don't hurt them. Oh..."

Justin: "Come on..."

Griffin: A couple of beauty babies like—

Justin: "Rude..."

Griffin: Oh, gosh. Justin, it went away. The kitty went away.

Justin: Yes. It was distracting to everyone and we can't do our podcast.

Travis: I want the kitty on the show instead of Justin. There, I said it.

Justin: Whew...

Griffin: I want three kitties on the show instead of any of us.

Travis: Oh my god, are you kidding me? Ugh... That would be ideal.

Justin: "I used to not like My Brother, My Brother and Me. But now that it's silence with occasional purrs, it's good."

Griffin: "It's a good show."

Travis: Have you played that weird mod of Stray where it's just three brother kitties? And instead of exploring the city—

Griffin: And they love each other very much.

Travis: ... They're just recording a podcast? I love it.

Griffin: They don't reference Turbo Teen as much. But that's okay, 'cause it's three pretty kitty boys.

Travis: They talk about mice a lot more.

Griffin: Yeah... All right. Well, I feel like all the oxygen got sucked out of the room the moment the cat left.

Travis: Yeah, definitely. We should just call this episode.

Justin: This is actually perfect.

Travis: Oh?

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: This is actually a perfect like connection here. Because I am desperate to talk to you guys about a podcast called Hank the Cowdog.

Griffin: Oh, I don't know this?

Justin: Okay, good. That's perfect, actually. So, I was listening to Blank Check. They were talking about... I don't know how they got onto it. But they started talking about Hank the Cowdog. And they had just discovered its existence, and then I in turn discovered it through their discovery. And I just wanna tell you guys about Hank the Cowdog.

Griffin: Okay, cool. Is it funny, or is this like... are we getting really pop culture happy hour on it?

Justin: I wanna talk to you about the cast.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Okay?

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Does it include a dog?

Justin: It stars Matthew McConaughey as Hank the Cowdog.

Travis: Okay...

Griffin: Good start.

Justin: Good start, right? It's written and directed by Jeff Nichols. And executive produced by Jeff Nichols. It stars Matthew McConaughey as Hank who... Also, McConaughey served as executive producer.

Travis: Justin, I hate to stop you real quick. But I think there's been some confusion. You said podcast, but clearly this can't be a podcast because it has like one, a celebrity in it. And then two, you said it's written and directed.

Justin: Yeah, you're not actually supposed to write them.

Travis: I think you're talking about like a movie or maybe a TV show, or like a radio drama?

Griffin: Okay, so Jeff Nichols did direct Matthew McConaughey in Mud. The movie, Mud.

Travis: Correct, yes.

Justin: And now they're working together again. With Matthew McConaughy as Hank.

Travis: A spiritual successor to Mud. I haven't seen it, but dogs love Mud.

Justin: Jesse Plemons as Drover.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Kirsten Dunst as Sally May. John R. Erickson as Wallace the Buzzard. Michael Shannon as Sinister the Bobcat. Joel Edgerton as Rip and Snort. And then you got Leslie Jordan and Cynthia Erivo, bringing up the back of this incredible cast. This incredible cast have united for Hank the Cowdog. A five-episode event. Now, if you were to tell me when this series was released, I'd bet, with a little bit of thinking, you could carbon date it to almost a month.

Travis: Can I guess?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I'm going to say June 2020.

Justin: Wow!

Griffin: Wow.

Justin: Travis, wow. August of 2020.

Griffin: Ah, dang.

Justin: Just a little bit in post. They had a little bit of post work to do to make Michael Shannon really sound like Sinister.

Travis: Well, everyone was trying to—

Griffin: Hold on, wait. Stop. It does not take much work to make Michael—I met Michael Shannon for eight seconds at a restaurant—

Justin: Did you really?

Travis: Yeah, and Griffin pissed his pants.

Griffin: I pissed my pants right down.

Travis: And somehow, he pissed Michael Shannon's pants. It was amazing.

Griffin: I thought... He didn't have any food yet and so I was like, 'I bet he won't mind if I go say hey,' to Michael Shannon. So, I walked up and he looked up at me like, "We're eating!"

Justin: [laughs] Is that what he said?

Griffin: "What are you eating?" No, he didn't really say that.

Justin: "What a pleasure it is to meet you, Griffin."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "I'm Hollywood bigshot, Michael Shannon."

Travis: "Now, if you'll excuse me. I'm learning my lines for a bobcat role."

Justin: [through laughter] "I'm playing Sinister. It's the role of a lifetime. Nothing else is happening in all of Hollywood."

Travis: No, Justin, I'm sorry. This was years before he played Sinister. He was just preparing for a bobcat role, knowing it would come. He was manifesting.

Justin: "Someday, I'm gonna be a bobcat!"

Griffin: That's not really what he sounds like.

Justin: It's weird they didn't come back to this one, after the sort of pandemic restrictions were lifted for Hollywood types.

Griffin: Yeah...

Justin: Not a lot of return... I think they just made those five and then kind of...

Griffin: Did it. They did the damn thing.

Travis: Well, podcasting is hard, man. Not everybody can put out 600 and something episodes. You know what I mean? Like, a lot of quitters out there.

Justin: It's funny you say that, Trav. Apparently, according to an email we received, I said in episode like 12 or 13, that this would be the final episode of My Brother, My Brother and Me. [laughs]

Travis: This one?

Griffin: This one we're recording right now?

Justin: Yes, this one we're recording right now. 6... whatever. I mean, whatever at this point.

Travis: We should've prepared more.

Justin: I don't think of it as episodes anymore.

Travis: No.

Griffin: No.

Justin: It's a conversation.

Travis: Oh, okay. No, I just—

Justin: It's jazz, but we're talking.

Griffin: It's jazz. I regret to inform everyone, it's jazz.

Travis: It's jazz. You've been listening to jazz this whole time and you didn't know it.

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: You have been hearing jazz. And it's not the kind of jazz your—

Justin: Enjoying.

Griffin: ... Dad likes.

Justin: Oh, okay.

Griffin: Oh...

Justin: Sorry, yeah. I got ahead of the thing.

Griffin: Well, that happens sometimes when we're just jazzing.

Justin: Oh! She's just sitting behind my monitor. What a cute little kitty.

Griffin: What a stinker! I bet it's warm back there. Should we do advice?

Justin: Yeah, let's do advice. "I'm in the process of moving and I have no chairs to sit on, and I eat in place now." And eat...

Travis: No place to sit and eat.

Justin: Oh, I got... my clauses had weird emphasis.

Travis: Like kitty claw-ses?

Griffin: Oh, shit.

Justin: Oh, god. The little kitty claws. "I'm in the process of moving and I have no chairs to sit on and eat in my place..." Ah, okay. "I have no chairs to sit on and eat in my place now."

Travis: There we go.

Justin: "I order pizza for me and my roommates." That's nice. "And then they left to get drinks while I waited. Now, the delivery driver has given me the large 24 inch." Fuck, that's large.

Griffin: That's a big ol' `za.

Travis: That's big. You gotta turn that sideways to go through the door.

Justin: Hey bud, that's two feet of `za. That's one foot shy of a bigfoot.

Travis: Well, no. It's two feet diameter. But I'm sure if we could do a little bit of πr^2 calculation, we could figure out what the actually area of the pizza is. But, yes—

Justin: It's impossible, actually. You cannot figure out the area of a circle.

Travis: Oh, damn.

Griffin: People have tried.

Justin: People have tried... But that's not the important thing. The important thing is, "The only place to put it and eat is on the ground, in the living room."

Travis: You don't got kitchen counters?

Justin: What?

Travis: You don't got kitchen counters?

Justin: No. "The only place to put it and eat is on the ground, in the living room. The living room has a huge window, which he can clearly see me from."

Travis: The driver.

Justin: The driver. "And he has been sitting in his car for about three minutes. And I've just been standing with the pizza behind a column, so he won't see me sitting on the floor." [laughs]

Griffin: That's good. You're good at this.

Justin: Eating off the floor. [laughs]

Griffin: You're doing good!

Justin: Alone. [laughs]

Griffin: I think so far the job you're doing is exemplary.

Justin: "Is this ridiculous? Should I care this much, or just do it? I'm so very hungry. Again, this is a LARGE." And they have it all caps here. "A LARGE 24-inch pizza."

Travis: I do think that's important. That is important, that it's a large. Because if the driver rolls up, you're in what sounds like an empty apartment. Like empty, bare. And it's just you. And you ordered a large 24... There is, I'm just gonna say it, slightly disturbing imagery that I'm getting now.

Griffin: Yeah, for the driver. You need to set up a sort of Home Alone shadow play situation on the curtains and blinds. I mean, you don't have

furniture in your house, so I'm gonna assume you don't have a big, inflatable clown and a Talkboy.

Travis: Well, you know what happens when you assume.

Justin: Oh, yeah. Good point.

Griffin: I guess that's fair.

Justin: Really good point, Travis. Thank you.

Griffin: I wanna say 24 inch is pretty big. There was a Mediterranean place I got pizza from in Austin. And it's Arpeggio Grill, and they had what they called the Giant 30 Inch Pizza. That they had to slice so—I think we had some of that when you boys were in town for mine and Rachel's wedding.

Travis: Correct.

Griffin: And it's such a big pizza and—

Justin: It was a big pizza.

Griffin: ... They had to cut the slices really thin. And it looks like a clown's necktie.

Travis: And they had to slightly angle it to get it through your front door. If I remember correctly.

Griffin: They did, yeah. And in the trunk of my Toyota Matrix. Anyway... You boys can see behind me, I have nothing.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: The rules are suspended when you have just moved in a way that you would be... It would be a shame for you to waste that opportunity. This is the time where it's okay for you to sit on a floor and eat pizza. Some of

my most special memories in the last house that I lived in, was just sitting on the floor with my fam and my buds.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And just gobbling down some P. Terry's burgers on the ground.

Justin: On the ground.

Griffin: And it was special. 'Cause you're connected to the root of it. Where the burger came from. The Earth.

Justin: Think how much you'll appreciate having table and chair.

Griffin: Oh my god.

Justin: You know what I mean? "Remember when we used to sit on the floor," you would say.

Travis: I was a delivery driver for Jimmy John's for a while. Which I'm sure I've talked about.

Justin: Here he goes.

Travis: The driver does not care. Three minutes feels like a long time. But let me tell you a little secret. For him, that's three minutes where he's not at work. That's all he's thinking about, baby. Is that's three minutes—

Justin: Yeah, you disappeared from his awareness the moment that door shut.

Travis: Because there's no way that this is the first time a pizza delivery driver has delivered to someone moving in to an apartment. As Griffin has said, it's such a common connection of like, "Help me move. I order pizza."

Justin: I'll just say it too. Three minutes? Maybe that guy should roll on out. You know?

Griffin: That is a while...

Justin: Maybe he should roll on out.

Travis: I was gonna say, three minutes isn't that long.

Justin: Three minutes is a long... Imagine someone pulling up outside your house. And you notice it. "Honey, that car's been there for three minutes." That's a weird amount of time to idle outside someone's home.

Travis: Okay. Here's what I'll give you. You are correct.

Justin: I've never been a pizza delivery driver. Maybe he was like, noting it in his logbook or something.

Travis: Right. Depending on which side of the equation you're on, three minutes is a long time. If you're in the house, looking out, three minutes is a long time that they're sitting there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: If you're the driver and your friend sends you a great long-form TikTok, and you're like, "Ah, I'll watch this before I hit the road. I wanna be responsible and not watch TikToks while I drive, and they don't let me watch TikToks..." Then three minutes is nothing. Right?

Justin: Yeah, that's true.

Griffin: That's about how long it takes to pack a bowl of that green stuff. Which I bet...

Travis: Oh, I see.

Griffin: Not to... Uh, I had a dilemma yesterday. I wanna bounce it off the two of you. Speaking of cars being in places where they shouldn't be for a long time.

Travis: Lightning McQueen showed up and wanted to fight you?

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: He wanted to fight me for the love of my wife.

Travis: Whoa...

Griffin: And I was like, "Not again..." Someone left a car in our driveway, in the morning. And at first I was like, "Oh, that's weird. Someone parked in our driveway." Like, who does that? It's a one spot D.C. driveway. And we don't have permits to park on the street, it was very inconvenient. And so I was like, "Ah, I bet they'll move it." Couple hours later, it's still there. And I was like, "That's weird. Anyway, I'm gonna check the mail." Open up the mailbox. The keys to the car were in the mailbox.

Travis: What?

Griffin: Someone had delivered an automobile into my possession, incorrectly.

Travis: Huh...

Griffin: And there was no information on whose actual car it was.

Justin: Oh my god, Griffin.

Griffin: ... Where it belonged, how to do it... How to do the thing. I had to drive it.

Justin: Put it into neutral. Push it in the street.

Griffin: And just leave it?

Justin: Call the police. "Help! There's a car!"

Griffin: I had to move it so that I could park in our driveway, so we wouldn't get a ticket.

Justin: You got into this illicit vehicle...

Travis: You got your finger prints...

Justin: Let's call it what it is. Stole a car.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: I did do a grand theft auto for like 45 seconds.

Travis: So, you fell for the bait car, you got your finger prints all over it.

Griffin: Yes...

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Griffin. My innocent boy. My young, naïve gentleman. Your assumption that someone incorrectly delivered that car, and not dropped like what could be a murder clue into your driveway, framing you.

Justin: Yeah, they were just joyriding and they were like, "This is Griffin's problem now."

Griffin: Yeah...

Travis: And?

Griffin: And?

Travis: Then what did you do?

Griffin: Oh. I moved it out into the street and I left it there for a while. And still nobody came to get it. So, I went door to door. And fortunately like on the third house I went to, it was the owner.

Travis: But those first two houses...

Justin: Promise me you didn't drive it, right?

Griffin: I did have to say, I was like, “[laughs] Yeah. So, it’s nice to meet you. Yeah, we’re just across the street. I drove your car. So, we’ll see you at the potluck.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: “No, it’s Christined! You can’t drive it, she’ll kill you!”

Griffin: “She’s imprinted!”

Justin: Christine, yeah.

Griffin: Hey, can I do a wizard?

Justin: Oh, I’d love that, Griff. I’d love that.

Travis: Yeah, do a wizard on us.

Justin: What do you think, Olivia? What do you think? She’s wants to do it.

Griffin: God damn... Stephan sent this in. It’s how to not get creeped out by a chain letter.

Travis: Oh, good, good.

Griffin: “You come home from school or work. You take off your shoes, turn on the TV and check your email. You look around and see a message. You read it and you realize it’s a piece of chainmail with a threat.”

Travis: Wait, hold on. Can I jump back real quick? The series of events there, turn on your TV and check your email. There’s a disconnect there. And then you look around and see a message. Like, where’s the information coming form in this scenario? The TV, the air around you?

Griffin: Yeah... Trav, I’m scared shitless right now. So, if we could just power through this.

Travis: Sorry, sorry.

Justin: Yeah, thank you.

Griffin: "If you don't forward it to 10 people, you'll get a frightening consequence. What do you do? What to do? This how to explains how to deal with this. Also works on comments such as sites as YouTube."

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Okay, yeah. Sometimes I am just trying to you know, ASMR myself into the sweet oblivion of sleep. And I'll be scrolling through and it's like, "If you don't like this comment 69 times, then your dad is gonna fall... Gravity will reverse for him and he'll fall up into space."

Justin: You all know. You've seen these letters. You've seen these going around.

Griffin: You've seen these YouTube comments.

Travis: I hate to spoil it, but I assume this comes up. This is why whenever I go to a place like Bed Bath & Beyond or like Yankee Candle and they're like, "Do you wanna sign up for our email newsletter?" I say yes, and then when they email me, I write down that email address. And I just keep 10 of those right next to me, ready to go. Shotgun style.

Griffin: Awesome. So, when you get that's like, "Gravity's gonna reverse on your dad, he'll fall up in to space if you don't send this to 10 people." You'd be like, what's up, Bed Bath & Beyond? What's up, Yankee Candle?

Travis: All I'm saying is, I heard Circuit City didn't forward it to 10 people. Look at `em now.

Griffin: Yeah...

Justin: When you're at the store and you're checking out, and they're like, "Um... Just need your email address and your phone number." Have you

guys ever made-up fake ones to avoid having to say, "I'd rather not give you my email address."

Griffin: Yes. Absolutely, I have.

Travis: No. Devon's not getting paid enough.

Griffin: You don't think Devon would like that too?

Travis: No. I'm the 8th person to type in stinkycheeks@goomail.biz that day.

Griffin: Stinkycheeks69. We could not secure stinkycheeks@goomail.biz, unfortunately.

Travis: Well, I had to put an underscore and--

Justin: Just quick, real quick.

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: You guys think goomail.biz is available, right? For sure, right?

Griffin: You would think so, yeah.

Travis: Hey, Justin...

Justin: Yeah?

Travis: That's gonna hurt our brand, I think. In the long run.

Justin: You think goomail.biz--

Griffin: Goomail.biz? I don't think so. Juice, snatch that up for me. I'll pay you back.

Justin: Sometimes the .biz can get a little pricey.

Griffin: It does.

Justin: Let's see how this one is doing... Goomail.biz is taken. [laughs]

Travis: I knew it.

Griffin: Damn it.

Justin: How could this be?!

Griffin: It's the fuckin' CIA. They're listening in.

Travis: Goomail.gov?

Justin: I mean, I could get goomail.me?

Travis: .meat?

Griffin: "GooMail me, bro."

Justin: "GooMail me, bud."

Travis: .me...

Griffin: "Shoot me a GooMail."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: We got goomail.fun?

Griffin: [laughs] Goomail.me was it. We found it, it's goomail.me.

Justin: Goomail.org? "Hello. We're GooMail, an org. We're a regular nonprofit."

Travis: We need to sell goomail.com, or just gift it to our favorite nonprofit. And be like, "This is for you now."

Griffin: "This is yours now." Okay, so, let's get into the article.

Justin: I'm not buying any GooMails. If I can't get goomail.biz it's like not... Now, what about all goomail.com? [laughs] Get goomail.com. [laughs]

Griffin: Get GooMail? Okay.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Think, what is the chainmail? Is it, "BBQ at my house. I won't like it if you don't come. If it is, you're fine. It's not really an alarming thing, just a friend who expects you to show up and might sore at you if you don't. If not, continue on." I would say that's an alarming thing.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: If someone sent me a message like, "Hey! Grilling up some sweet beefy boys at my house. I won't like it if you don't come."

Travis: Sorry article, that's not really a chain mail. That's called an invitation. If someone is chain mailing an invitation that says, "Invite 10 other people to this." That's wild.

Justin: Yeah, that's lazy, also.

Griffin: "Don't get drawn into reading it. Usually at the top, there is something such as, 'Don't read this,' or, 'Stop.' If there is, you should stop and delete it."

Travis: Good advice in general.

Griffin: "Chain letters often tell you to read or don't read as a ploy, playing on your initial curiosity so you read them. They'll eventually hit you with a bunch of baloney, designed to push your panic button. Or use any other emotion you have against you for one purpose only, to get you spreading it further." So, I guess if you get email and it's like, "Read this," or, "Don't read this," then delete that.

Justin: Just do the opposite?

Travis: But here's the problem. I get a lot of emails from my doctor with important like test results. I go like once a week just to get random tests, whatever they got.

Justin: [whistles] "Travis here. Any new tests today?"

Travis: "Yeah, we got three new ones. Which one do you want?"
"Surprise me!"

Justin: No, no, no. See, I was j—this is something I wanna talk about on My Brother, My Brother and Me. Characters welcome. If we're doing a scene... Okay, that was a scene, a vignette.

Griffin: That was a skit.

Justin: A skit. I want us to get better about skits, okay?

Travis: Oh, okay. Yeah, yeah, yeah, sorry.

Justin: 'Cause a lot of times we default to, "I'm gonna play everybody in my skit." And I feel like it would be good—

Griffin: That's not fair.

Justin: I've been meaning to talk to you guys about this when we're not recording. But like this seems to be a good time too.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, no. Do it here. Yeah, this is the right—

Justin: Don't double up on the skit. Let other people have fun with the skit, with you. Right?

Travis: Oh, okay. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: So, I'd like to try—

Travis: You wanna try it again? Okay.

Justin: [attempts to whistle] If I can whistle... [re-attempts to whistle] Sorry, honey. Daddy's trying to whistle. Sorry, your daddy's a bad whistler. [whistles] "Travis here. Any new tests today?"

Travis: "I've got a gun."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Whoa, holy shit.

Justin: I've got a s—I've got a [laughs]... "I've got a sword gun."

Travis: Damn it. Yeah, you win.

Griffin: I wanna be in this skit.

Justin: Oh. "Hey, who's that at your door?" [laughs]

Travis: "Oh, this is my little brother, Griffin. He's recording a podcast with me."

Griffin: "Hey. What's up?"

Justin: [laughs] "Hi, Griffin."

Griffin: "You like guns?"

Travis: "He's got a gun too."

Justin: "I have a sword gun."

Travis: "Yeah, look out. He's got a sword gun. And he loves tests."

Justin: [through laughter] "I'm instigating this."

Griffin: This is one of the worst skits we've ever done, if I may.

Justin: We should stick to one person per skit... [laughs] ... in the future.

Travis: Yeah, I think it's better.

Griffin: So, if you get an email that says like, "Don't read this," or, "Stop." Then don't read it and do stop. "Stay rational and sensible. Often, the email or comment will be some story. Commonly about some monster or a fictional dead kid attacking people."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "Don't lose your head and get scared. There is no such thing as monsters, or dead kids attacking people. You've known that since you were small. No chain letter's gonna cause one to blip into existence to kill you or anyone else. You know dead people are dead and can't go around attacking you, pulling you down in to some nonexistent well, or do any of those things that these supposedly creepy chain letters claim."

Justin: What?! [laughs] This is so specific. "You know your dad's ex-boyfriend, Darryl. Is it going to come back to your house?"

Travis: I don't know shit about shit, first of all. I know that up till now that hasn't happened. But also up till now, I've always forwarded every chain letter I've ever gotten.

Justin: Correct.

Travis: So...

Justin: You've got a chain of chain letters. You don't wanna break that chain.

Travis: Yeah. Never break the chain.

Griffin: "Nice try, tiny Victorian skeleton boy. But you will never get me to go in that well 'cause you're not real. And I know that."

Justin: "You're not real and the well's not real either."

Griffin: "But if it is, I did forward the chain letter. So, I have nothing... I am double down safe."

Travis: I bet it's hard when you're a Victorian skeleton boy and you just have like a really cool rock collection inside a well. And you're like, "Come check out these rocks." And they're like, "No." And you're like, "I'm not... I just want to... Ugh."

Griffin: You can't have a house when you're a Victorian skeleton boy.

Travis: In this economy?

Griffin: In this economy, especially not. "The consequences of not following along with the chain communication do not exist. After you read the story, it will say something like, "If you do not send this to 10 people, you will die in two days." I assume through some sort of Victorian well boy dreaming experience.

Justin: Yeah, it's like a well-related—

Travis: Yeah, it's usually connected.

Griffin: "Think, will this happen to you? Will you actually die because you didn't the email? How is it even possible a made-up story in text and pixels, created by some anonymous hoaxer, can actually kill you?"

Travis: I don't know.

Griffin: I know. If I knew that, then I would be the one sending the scary murder emails.

Travis: You can't say, will it happen? Because the whole point is, I don't know. Right? I don't know the future.

Griffin: I don't understand what the author of the scary Victorian skeleton boy chain letter emails gets out of it. Unless they're like, "Send this to 10 people. And also, here's a link to my Bandcamp. And I've got a really hot, new sound I've been working on. Check that out. Oh, the hot, new sound

will also keep the scary Victorian skeleton well boy away from you. So, do both things.”

Travis: Yeah, so blast that.

Griffin: “Smash that like button. Forward it to 10 friends. Or the skeleton boy is gonna well you. Really hard.”

Justin: I wish I could be there when this person finds this article. Like, “Okay, Valerie. Calm down. It’s okay. It’s just a chain letter. We’re gonna get through this. Let’s just go to Yahoo, let’s Google it.”

Griffin: Now, this step just fucks me up. “Step five, don’t send it to anyone else. Doing this stops other people from getting it and passing it on and getting worse.” Okay, so you do want me to be drowned in a well?

Justin: So, which is it? Right?

Griffin: Which is it? Which of the two things is it? ‘Cause you’re telling me not to be scared of the chain email. And in my personal experience, that means giving in to the demands of the chain email.

Justin: Right.

Travis: Guys, I figured it out. I’m gonna solve this whole thing. I’m gonna fix chain letters for good. What it’s gonna take is 12 brave souls, right? It’s gonna be a full-time job. But every time you get a chain letter, you’re gonna forward it to these same 12 people, right? And then, they’re gonna forward it to each other. And just as chain letters come in, we’re just gonna keep sending it to these same 12 people. Until eventually, we’ve created like an echo chamber for every chain letter. Until it’s just these 12 people bouncing it back and forth to each other. It should be 13, I guess. ‘Cause you need 1 to send it to 12 others, right?

Justin: Right.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And we're just gonna bounce it around and contain the energy. Now, God forbid, when one of 'em kicks it. Oh boy... This is going to become like a Knights of the Round Table thing of like, we're gonna have to find somebody to take over.

Justin: You're gonna love this. You know what we call it?

Travis: What?

Justin: The Unbroken Chain.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: And it's a group of people that just keep passing it around, that protect all of us.

Griffin: Yes, it's like a chain letter toilet that you just flush down that endless spiral.

Travis: That is also the secret society from Adventure Zone: Graduation, but that's fine.

Justin: No, but that's how they got started.

Travis: Oh, okay. Right, right, right.

Justin: This is like the prequel. This is a prequel to our pretend podcast, which is different from this podcast.

Travis: Our very real podcast. [laughs]

Griffin: This one gets fun, "Keep the email. Even if it is absolutely creepy, keep the email and smash it. Write out all the things wrong with it and make yourself laugh at the utter ridiculousness of the story and the threat attached. Keeping the message is a good way of stopping a troublesome emailer. You tell someone, teacher, parents, friends—"

Travis: Don't tell someone.

Griffin: "... Tell someone, teacher, parent, friend, et cetera, you have proof of getting this unwanted email."

"Teacher, teacher. Check this out, please. I'm going to show this to you. I'm not going to forward it to you, so the curse will not be activated. But I need you to know that I have been threatened with a well boy. And... Do something about it, I guess."

Travis: We're getting into semantics though, right? 'Cause yeah, you're not mechanically forwarding it or electronically forwarding it. But you are like moving the information in their brain.

Griffin: No. The digital data is how the curse is transmitted. You can't just do it with eyes.

Travis: Oh, okay. See, I've never seen *The Ring*, for obvious reasons. But I do know that in stories like *The Ring*, there's always that moment of like, "Heh... You heard about this? Check this out. There's no way." Right? And like that idea of I like this thing of don't take it seriously. But don't not take it seriously. At least let the buck stop with you.

Griffin: So, that's how to not get creeped out by a chain letter. Um... "Confront the sender. If the person sends you three or more emails, tell someone else." You've already told the teacher, I guess get multiple... just sort of hands on the ball.

Travis: Yeah, tell someone else. First, you tell the teacher, and then the vice principal, and then the principal.

Griffin: That's the chain of command. It doesn't go any higher.

Travis: That's why it's called a chain letter.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You pass it on up the chain to your principal.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Or no, your vice principal. Don't take the... Don't... "Hey, get this off my desk. I'm the principal of a major middle school. I don't have time for chain letters. Take this to the associate vice principal."

Travis: "I'm gonna have to talk to the superintendent about this."

Justin: "He'll pass it up the chain. He passes the letters to me. And then I give them to president Joseph Biden."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "And he forwards them to our nation's greatest enemies. And then the well boy hunts down terrorists."

"New, from Amazon Prime, Well Boy." [laughs]

Justin: "Well, Well Boy, you're our last hope. I'm sending this to Kim Jong-Un." [laughs]

Griffin: Hmm... Jesus.

Justin: "You and Dennis Rodman are gonna work together on this one."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [in British accent] "I told you, I'm not working with Rodman no more. I can't trust him. Push him in the well."

Griffin: This is a fun... it's a fun skit.

Travis: "Get me Jack Reacher."

Justin: That was Dennis Rodman's voice. [laughs] I meant to tell you by the way, yeah.

Griffin: Oh...

Justin: [in deep voice] Well Boy sounds like this.

Travis: Yeah. Well boy has seen some shit. [laughs]

Justin: [in deep voice] Well Boy's been in a well or two, I guess you could say.

Travis: I don't think you get to be a Victorian well boy skeleton child, without being a little bit jaded.

Justin: [in deep voice] "Well, I've seen the inside of a lot of wells, pal. Once you've pushed non-forwarding strangers into a well or two, we'll talk about it."

Travis: "It changes you. It changes you, being down in a well for so long."

Griffin: Hey, can we try to do... Let's do the Money Zone?

Justin: "You see this? You hear about this, Jessica? It's a baby."

Griffin: Yeah, Well Boy. I'm sure you bring that one up a lot, Well Boy. There's not a lot of famous well characters, Well Boy.

Justin: [impersonating Well Boy] "I just need to finish the job, and it's my fault."

Griffin: Yeah, okay...

Travis: Oh, no.

Justin: [impersonating Well Boy] "She had sinned." [laughs]

Griffin: Oh Jesus, Well Boy.

Justin: [impersonating Well Boy] "Baby Jessica was a creature of sin and I was trying. Doing my best like that one part in The Leftovers."

Travis: She ended up okay though, right? I don't wanna talk about it.

Justin: [impersonating Well Boy] "She's fine."

Travis: Okay.

Justin: [impersonating Well Boy] "She was adorable and evil. She'll forward every fucking letter she receives. This kid forwards Menards flyers that she gets, just to be extra careful. She's not going back to the well. That's what I live for. That's why I'm in this business, brother."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [impersonating Well Boy] "I'll be damned if I'm gonna give up wells for you or anybody."

Travis: [impersonating Well Boy] "I might try a cistern or two, just to see how it goes."

Justin: I watched a video of Macho Man Randy Savage on Arsenio Hall. And Arsenio Hall's like, "Does the Macho Man every cry?" And he's like, "Oh yeah, brother. The Macho Man experiences the entire range of emotions." [laughs]

Travis: [laughs] Yes! Yes!

Justin: That's macho as fuck, man!

Travis: Fuck yeah, dude.

Griffin: Let's do the Money Zone, but in chain letter format. So we get the most sort of impressions we've ever gotten in our lives.

Travis: Okay, yeah, yeah, yeah. Got it. Let's go to the Money Zone.

[them song plays]

Griffin: Squarespace is the all-in-one platform for building your brand and growing your business online. Stand out with a beautiful website, engage

with your audience, and sell anything. Your products, content you create and even your time.

Justin: Your soul.

Griffin: And tell ev—what?

Justin: And your soul. Sell your soul for the chain letter. Your soul.

Griffin: I don't think... Anyway, tell everyone you know about Squarespace and share this episode of the podcast with them. Or else you will have a bad time with it. Next time that you are at the... bus... building.

Travis: Mm-hmm, yeah.

Griffin: Whenever you're... Do you like having all your... How do you feel about your bones? Squarespace is an all-in-one platform for building your brand. Maybe that's it, maybe we just sort of... It's power of suggestion.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Every Squarespace website and online store comes with a suite of integrated features and useful guides that maximize prominence among search results. And you stay healthy and strong. Ooh! Maybe we chain it like that.

Travis: Oh, make it a positive chain letter.

Griffin: Yes!

Travis: Yeah, like if you wanna... Do you wanna get like cooler and bigger and be able to eat more chicken wings in one sitting?

Griffin: Yes. Do you want God to build up your finances?

Travis: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Great news. My friend, Stason, had a real bad finances problem.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: And told everyone that she knew about Squarespace. And then God sent her like a grip of cash.

Travis: My smallest friend, Dwayne, was feeling real puny. And he used Squarespace, and now he's The Rock.

Justin: Whoa.

Griffin: He turned into The Rock.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. Overnight.

Justin: Whoa.

Travis: Nobody talks about how Dwayne The Rock Johnson got bigged. Right? But like, you never see Teen Rock. It's always, there's young boy Rock, and then big man Rock.

Griffin: Yeah. There wasn't a teen Rock because he forwarded on this incredible chain advertisement for Squarespace. And he got huge. And God gave him all the finances he needed. Sell your products on an online store. Whether you sell physical or digital products, Squarespace has the tools you need to start selling online and getting huge and rich.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Create pro level video effortlessly. The Squarespace Video Studio app helps you make and share engaging videos to tell your story, grow your audience and drive sales. Here's the story I wanna tell. I used Squarespace once, my dingle donger got huge and I got \$100.

Travis: Woah.

Griffin: In the mail. From who? I don't know. I don't know, it was an envelope with nothing on it. Just \$100.

Travis: That was actually from me. I wanted you to invest that.

Griffin: I got a letter from the Census Bureau that was like, "Hey. We're doing this on a national survey of children's health. Will you fill it out?" And I was like, "Uh... I guess so." And I looked further in the letter and there was a \$5 bill inside of it. Did you know they were doing that? Thanks, Census. Buy myself a Three Musketeers... What were we doing? Advertisement.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Go to [Squarespace.com/mybrother](https://www.squarespace.com/mybrother) for a free trial. And when you're ready to launch, use offer code My Brother to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain. And we probably should say here, we're having a really fun time.

Justin: Yeah, absolutely.

Travis: Clearly.

Griffin: But these are jokes. And Squarespace I think would be pretty PO'd if we didn't say that like when we said that all of your bones would revolt and leave your body if you don't tell everyone you know about this episode of the podcast and Squarespace, then something bad will happen to your bones or God will make your business rich. That probably won't happen. Legally, we have to say that here at the end.

Travis: Yeah. But it definitely will.

Griffin: But... wink.

[Comfort Creatures theme music starts]

Ella: Hello everyone. I'm Ella McLeod.

Alexis: And I'm Alexis B. Preston.

Ella: And we host a show called Comfort Creatures. The show for every animal lover. Be it a creature of scales, six legs, fur, feathers or fiction. Comfort Creatures is a show for people who prefer their friends to have paws instead of hands.

Alexis: Unless they are raccoon hands. That is okay.

Ella: That is absolutely okay, yeah.

Alexis: Yes. Every Thursday, we'll be talking to guests about their pets, learning about pets in history, art and even fiction. Plus, we'll discover differences between pet ownership across the pond. It's gonna be a hoot. On Maximum Fun.

[Comfort Creatures theme concludes]

[Sawbones theme music starts]

Justin: Hi everybody. My name is Justin McElroy.

Sydnee: And I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Justin: Dr. Sydnee McElroy.

Sydnee: That is true.

Justin: It's important in this context because we host a medical history podcast called Sawbones.

Sydnee: Sawbones.

Justin: Oh, I thought we were gonna... We should've coordinated that.

Sydnee: Sawbones.

Justin: Sawbones isn't afraid to ask the hard-hitting questions. Like are vaccines as safe and reliable as the want us to believe?

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: Do I have to get a flu shot?

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: Oh, okay. Is science a miracle?

Sydnee: No?

Justin: We have a lot of great history for you, and a lot of laughs. And sometimes the history is so bad that there's no laughs. But...

Sydnee: You'll learn something. You'll feel something.

Justin: And it's always Sawbones.

Sydnee: That's right.

Justin: [through laughter] Every week on maximumfun.org.

[Sawbones theme music concludes]

Arsenio: Okay. Your middle name is Macho. But I'm wondering if you ever cry. Has Macho Man ever cried?

Randy: Oh yeah.

Arsenio: Really?

Randy: Uh-huh! It's okay for macho men to show every emotion available, right there you know. Because I've cried 1,000 times and I'm gonna cry some more. But I've soared with the eagles and I've slithered with the snakes, and I've been everywhere in between. And I'm gonna tell you something right now. There's one guarantee in life, that there are no guarantees, yeah. And understand this.

Arsenio: [laughs]

Randy: Nobody likes a quitter. Nobody said life was easy. So, if you get knocked down, take the standing eight count, get back up and fight again! Then you're a Macho Maniac. Dig it.

Justin: There it is, guys.

Travis: Fuck yeah.

Justin: There it is, from the Macho Man himself.

Travis: Do you remember when Macho Man body slammed toxic masculinity?

Griffin: Yeah, thank you Macho Man.

Travis: Fuck yeah, dude.

Justin: Remember when all Hulk Hogan ever body slammed was fuckin' Richard Belzer?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Don't tell--

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Fuck him.

Travis: All I'm saying is, Macho Man—

Justin: And press freedom. Those two things were body slammed by Hulk Hogan.

Travis: We've never fully discussed this as a society, I think. Macho Man Randy Savage's ability to use the two words phrase, "Oh yeah," in so many different ways. Just how like, "Have you ever cried?"

[impersonates Randy Savage] "Oh yeah."

Justin: It's a conjunction. It's an interjection. It's an interrogative.

[impersonates Randy Savage] "Oh yeah."

Travis: It was fuckin' poetry when he said it. I love the, [impersonates Randy Savage] "Oh yeah. Macho Man's cried." Yeah. Fuck yeah, dude.

Justin: And it can even be more passive than that. "Macho Man, do you want some blackberry cobbler?"
"Oh... Yeah!"

Travis: [impersonates Randy Savage] "Yeah."

Griffin: "Yeah!"

Justin: "Yeah! Oh... Yeah! Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah."

Griffin: I heard that when Macho Man cries, the tears don't drip down his face. They like come out.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: They like gleek. They gleek out of his eyes.

Justin: "Brother, I'm gonna blast you with my tear Juice." That's very Macho. "I train and teach at a local Krav Maga gym."

Travis: Ah. The beautiful dance.

Justin: The art, sweet science. "Recently, we had a 78-year-old man join our gym. And started attending classes and he beat everyone to death." No, sorry.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: I misread. I misread, he's just old. "He came to one of my classes but ended up leaving after about 20 minutes. Gotten all he needed to, I

guess. Just wanted to learn how to punch his mailman in the face, and now he's ready to go." No, I don't think that's it. "The next day, at another instructor's class, he came up to me and said, 'I wrote a poem about your class yesterday. Do you wanna see?' I said, 'Okay.' Then he went out to his car. But instead of getting the poem, he drove away." [laughs]

"We have seen one another multiple times since then. But neither of us have mentioned this poem. Brothers, how can I unlock the old man Krav Maga poem?" That's from Troubled in Tennessee. This can't be real, right? I mean, this can't be real.

Travis: So, I build the question list. And in picking this question, not until this moment did the possibility occur to me that perhaps in poem form... It's like a performance art thing.

Justin: It's a performance poem.

Griffin: Wow...

Travis: The performance he wrote is the leaving. Where he was like, just wasn't mean to you.

Justin: Like, "I did a performance art piece about Krav Maga. And here it is. I'd like to do it for you right now."

Travis: Also, let me just say, it has also occurred to me. If you are ever in the old man's position here and you start taking a class. And you're like, "Oh, I don't really wanna do this class anymore." Instead of just walking out, loudly announce like, "Oh, wait. I already know this." [laughs] And then walk out.

Griffin: "I know this. Punching and kicking? I can do that already."

Justin: "Oh, this is Krav Maga. Okay, I'm sorry."

Travis: "I've called it something else, sorry. Yeah, yeah, yeah, no, I know this."

Justin: "I got it confused with quilting." Do you think there's a possibility that this old man thought he was going to a class for people that crave MAGA?

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [through laughter] Is it possible?

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: This man is like, "Hell yeah."

Travis: Well now, Justin, if that's the case, he made it 20 minutes. [laughs] So, there's like... It's coming. It's c—yeah. Okay.

Justin: At first, he's trying to hang in there like, "Yeah, this too. I guess. Yeah, also this. All right, yeah."

Travis: "I don't think they're gonna get to it."

Justin: "Maybe that's the second class. They don't give it away for free if you're really craving the MAGA."

Travis: "Sorry, I misread it. I was craving manga. Sorry, I gotta go."

Griffin: [laughs] "Do you guys have any rare One Piece issues? I like how you read 'em backwards." If anyone ever comes up to you and says, "I have written a poem." And then the active verb that they use in the next sentence is, "Do you wanna see it?" That feels weird to me instead of, "Do you wanna read it," or, "Do you want me to read it to you?" If they go, "I wrote a poem, do you wanna see it?" And then they try to take you to a second location where the poem lives?

Travis: Oh. Do you think that's what's happening, Griffin? Like, the old man went out to his car and then was surprised like, "Well, he didn't follow me? Huh... I just assumed they'd come with. The poem's at home."

Griffin: "I scratched it into the dashboard."

Justin: The poem's at home is interesting. Like, if he thought it was in the car and he's like, "I'm gonna go get that fuckin' poem." And then he goes out and he's like, "Poem's not here..." And then he's like, "I should go back in and tell 'em. Ah, but I'm so embarrassed."

Travis: That's happened to me with my wallet, at a store.

Justin: "I can't go back in there empty handed... I'll just go in and recite as much as I remember."

"No, David. God damn it. That's so embarrassing."

Travis: That has happened to me at like a grocery store, where like I've brought all the groceries up to the front. And realized I didn't have my wallet, and I said I must've left it out in the car. I go out to the car, the wallet's not there. And then there's the question of like... Well, I'm not gonna go back in. Should I drive home? Do I get my wallet? Do I just say like, "Well, let's scrap it for the day." Right?

Justin: Had a good run. Didn't quite get there. It happens.

Griffin: This is, for me, a non-issue.

Travis: Oh?

Griffin: Because if someone ever came up to me and said, "I have a poem I wrote about something you did. And now I'm gonna do it to you, right now. Oh, it's in the car." And then they leave and don't come back? I have just avoided a social interaction that would have shaved years off of my life.

Justin: Yeah, that would be a tricky needed to thread. For sure.

Travis: Unless it's really good.

Justin: Unless...

Griffin: You think this 20-minute observed Krav Maga poem is on some real Robert Frost shit?

Travis: What I'm saying is that perhaps the reason that he left your class early is because inspiration struck him so hard that he had to grasp the reigns and hold on tight. And it was not up to him when he pursued the muse. But rather, the muse perused him. And he had to like follow and write it. And like, it just moved him so much that he had to go write this poem.

Griffin: But he did say he had already written it.

Justin: Yes, he had already written it.

Travis: Well, this was the following day. But then he went home and he was like, "They're not ready for this. If I give them this poem, it will change the way that they think about Krav Maga. And they're not ready for that."

Griffin: This is a bank error in your favor, done very well. You have broken this... you've somehow bugged out this NPC interaction that was going to make you very uncomfortable.

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: And that's dope. I would love the sweet cheat codes that you are rocking, my friend. So that I can avoid any other stranger poem sort of moments that may happen to me in my lifetime. I don't know when that would be. Perhaps when I'm strolling the streets of Paris at night time with my lady love. And some Bohemian type comes up to me at the riverside and was like, "Give me \$5."

Justin: You know how they do.

Griffin: How they do it.

Justin: You know how the Bohemian types are always doing that.

Griffin: For \$5, in Paris, where they want US currency.

Travis: This is a fundamental difference betwixt Griffin and I. Of in Cincinnati, a gentleman has approached me and said, "For \$5, I'll do a poem

on you." No lie, I said yes of course. I handed him \$5. Now, I do not remember the poem. But I remember enjoying it thoroughly and saying thank you very much, and tipping him an extra \$5 because it was such a wonderful poem. And I went on about my day feeling inspired.

Griffin: Well, I mean on the day where I told the poem man that I didn't want the poem, I went on to do a bunch of other really good stuff.

Travis: Oh. Like what?

Griffin: Well, you know... I bought some apples for the school.

Travis: Like, computers?

Griffin: What?

Travis: Apple computers?

Griffin: No. Um... Just like the eatin' kind.

Travis: Enough for everybody?

Griffin: Yeah, enough for the whole school. I bought apples for `em all.

Travis: Well, that's a lot of apples, dude.

Griffin: It cost me so much money. And then I went to the hospital and helped fix a couple people.

Travis: Well, you know what I heard, Griffin. A lot of those people ended up in the hospital because someone had bought all the apples. And they were having apple deficiencies. And it made `em really sick, so they had to go to the hospital.

Griffin: You know, you do something nice for someone and... [sighs]

Travis: Yeah. And also, I heard, Griffin, that the people you did fix were serial killers.

Justin: What?

Griffin: Oh...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay. But I did other good stuff that day too.

Travis: Like what?

Griffin: The day where I said no to the poem man.

Travis: Yeah, like what?

Griffin: And fixed the serial killers and stole all the apples from the rest of the world and gave it to one school.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Which honestly, now that I'm thinking back about it, was probably good on apples. But I was just feeling really guilty about the poem guy.

Travis: Yeah. What else did you do that day, Griffin?

Griffin: Oh, I bought season three of Lost.

Travis: Oh, that was really kind of you.

Griffin: ... And I gave it to the library.

Travis: Oh. Like a digital copy?

Griffin: I gave all my Lost CDs to the library. And I was like, "Give these out to kids who wanna go on this mysterious adventure with everyone."

Travis: Now, was that the season three box set that was discontinued because it spontaneously would combust and like catch fire to whatever building it was in?

Griffin: How is a DVD gonna combust? That doesn't make any sense, Trav.

Travis: It was haunted.

Justin: Yeah, you gotta focus up there, Trav.

Griffin: The other stuff we've been saying has been like funny, but like real. Like, make you think. Like it's been funny and real, but it made you think.

Justin: That's what I like, when you kind of, "Hmmm?" You know?

Griffin: Yeah. Like when I was like, "A bought all the apples." And you were like, "But then there's no apples for other people." That's real and that made you think. But when you're like, "The Lost DVDs burn up and burn your house down," that does not make me think.

Justin: [laughs] How do DVD even do that, Travis?

Griffin: How do DVD do that?

Travis: Uh... It caught the light and refracted it in such a way that the house burned down.

Griffin: That's never happened, ever.

Justin: [imitates guitar riff]

Griffin: Yes!

Justin: [squishy noise] [continues riffing] [sings] I wanna munch!

Travis: Squad.

Griffin: Squad.

Justin: Wow, guys. Can you give me a little bit fucking more than that please?

Travis: You made a squishy noise in the middle Justin.

Griffin: Juice, that sounded so bad.

Justin: Just a little bit more than that, please.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: I don't wanna scare the kitty.

Justin: Hey, she's still there. You don't have to worry about here.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: [imitates guitar riff] [sings] I wanna munch!

Travis: [sings] Squad!

Griffin: I'm loving the beer, but I feel like when you start to bust out butt-rock riffs on it, it turns on me just a little bit. I don't know why.

Justin: I understand that.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: I'm a challenging man now. I'm aesthetically more challenging than I was before. It takes a refined pallet. But those that are into it, they get it. You know what I mean? They get it.

Griffin: They know, yeah. For sure.

Justin: Ray J... [laughs]

Griffin: What did he do?

Justin: Ray J is helping out Krystal getting back to late night.

Travis: Oh, thank you. Finally.

Justin: Krystal is the original slider of the South. It's the South's version of White Castle, if you don't understand.

Griffin: I've literally never heard of this, once in my life.

Justin: Real quick, to spotlight all things fun after dark, Krystal is partnering with American actor, singer and TV personality, Ray J, for a series of commercials. "More of our restaurants are staying open later, striving to meet the Krystal crave, as our guests are getting out and enjoying the nightlife."

"Are you guys having a fun time at the clubs with the nightlife and everything? Do you wanna go get some hamburgers from Ray J?" [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] They make you feel super big. And that's fun.

Justin: "I got the next hot spot for us. Small hamburgers from Ray J."

Travis: It's weird that you would need to do a commercial to advertise keeping your restaurant open late because of high demand.

Justin: This is an excellent point Travis. [laughs] "The \$1.99 Krystal snack is a new option there. It's valid at participating restaurants." Which they always clarify. But I feel like if a restaurant is not participating, that's a pretty good sign that you're not gonna walk away with that particular delicacy.

Travis: And not only that, Krystal. You're in charge, make 'em participate. Why are you giving your restaurants like... "I don't wanna do that deal."

Griffin: Also, I don't think you can have an item on the menu that is name of restaurant snack. I think if I ever went to McDonald's and they were like, "Do you want McDonald's snack?" I would be like...

Justin: [laughs] No, that sounds a little sinister, actually.

Griffin: Can you be way more specific?

Travis: Especially when the name of the restaurant is another noun. Like, "Do you want a Krystal snack?" What?

Justin: It's sounds like something a rock golem would eat.

Travis: Right, yes. Absolutely. With a side of pebbles? What are you talking about?

Justin: Real quick, I just wanna mention that Ray J... This is a quote, "Ray J actually reached out to us through our head of creative marketing." You guys know the head of creative marketing for Krystal, right? 2 Chainz. [laughs] It's 2 Chainz. And he wanted to get involved and spread the word about Krystal. They're building like an MCU of sponsors. He's like, "Hi, it's Ray J. I'd like to help get the word out about Krystal." [laughs]

Travis: And not a lot of people know this, but 2 Chainz got his name 'cause he owns two different uh... things in the restaurant chain, Krystals.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: He has two different restaurants.

Griffin: Oh, man. That's gotta be a—

Travis: "2 Chainz! One on I-64 and the other one on I-75. Stop on by any time you want to. Be happy to see you."

Griffin: That's gotta take a little bit of the wind out of 2 Chainz's sails where he's like, "I cannot get this across the finish line on my own, 2 Chainz... I must assemble the team."

Travis: "I don't have the self-confidence to become 3 Chainz."

Griffin: No.

Travis: “That point in the beach where there was only two chains, that’s when I was carrying you. I’m Ray J.” [laughs]

Justin: I don’t wanna say—

Travis: Not a lot of people know this. It’s short for Ray Jesus. [laughs]

Griffin: [through laughs] Travis...

Justin: Don’t think so. I wanna check in real quick on Carl Loreda, one of my favorite hype men in the biz.

Griffin: I’m worried about Carl.

Justin: Wendy’s is adding sweet twists to its breakfast menu. That’s right, Homestyle French Toast Sticks. It’s happening. It’s a sweet, new taste at Wendy’s. But how did they settle on this? Well, Carl said, “Our Homestyle French Toast Sticks strike a perfect note of nostalgia, and bring even more morning flavor to our menu. This time, with something sweet. From day one, we launched our breakfast offering to save fans from the boring and bland morning options that exists at some of our competitors.”

Travis: Yup.

Justin: “And we’ve done just that.” I love it when QSR does this. They did an interview and they were like, “Carl, how in the fuck, man? How did you do this?” And he said, “We have a couple of options, and we really honed in on French toast as a platform.”

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I love when he uses that word.

Justin: “The reason being is that there’s only certain foods at breakfast time that consumers love. But are really difficult to actually put together.”

Travis: Yes.

Justin: "But also carry a lot of emotional benefits."

Travis: Oh, fuck yeah.

Justin: "So, we started this program of focusing on nostalgia. We could've done waffles. But you know, unfortunately, waffles, there're so many that are out there. And they're really bad." [through laughter] Carl... "And it harkens back to mom or dad pulling out waffles from the freezer. And there's always freezer burn."

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Is this all real?

Justin: Bud, I'm just reading it.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]. Carl is a fucking artist. He's like the Jean Shepherd of our time.

Griffin: He's a visionary.

Travis: The story he's creating, I am sucked into this.

Justin: "So, it harkens back to mom or dad pulling waffles out the freezer. There's always freezer burn. It wasn't really all that special. Pancakes, which are honestly just like dry mix. And you mix water, and then you throw it in a pan."

Travis: Take that, fucking pancakes. You're on blast. Carl Loredó's coming for you.

Griffin: International House of Bullshit.

Justin: Yeah, fuck that place. Anyway, "... Thrown in a pan, and lacked a little bit of the extra love that's needed. French toast? French toast is interesting."

Griffin: Now I'm interested.

Justin: "So, with our research, we discovered French toast is one of those things that was super special."

"Hi, I'm a researcher, Carl. And I've got the report in. And it turns out French toast is super special. You were right. Our hypothesis was right."

Griffin: He just swirls a beaker around and the fluid turns from blue to purple and he's like, "It's special!"

Justin: "Can't you tell, Carl? It's super special!"

Travis: "I watched the French toast molecule collide with the syrup molecule. And we did it! The god particle!"

Justin: "It's extremely special, Carl!"

Griffin: "Smell this beaker."

"Oh, what is that?"

"Waffles."

"That's not special."

Travis: "No, this is conjuring images of freezer burn... And just mother and father taking them out of the freezer!"

Griffin: "It's like my mother and father, who I hate! Now, this?" [sniffing sounds]

Justin: Real quick. "What's the key differentiating factor of your French toast sticks from the others?" Carl says, "It took us a year. It took us a year. We went through 18 different..." Whenever they say that, I always wonder,

is that like six of the same people rolling up to the office every morning and they're like, "Well, time to make some more fucking French toast."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: This is Carl Loreda, French fry visionary. So, yes, Justin. I'm going to say that this was Carl, and maybe a team of five that had to rotate out.

Justin: Carl's CMO, he's just a hype man. He's not out there. He's not like Chef Mike, out there like developing recipes.

Travis: Perhaps you don't remember the fucking poetry that Carl Loreda laid down about Wendy's new crispy fries?

Justin: No, I know he spits words. But he doesn't like, fry fries himself.

Travis: You assume.

Justin: "It took us a year. We went through 18 different iterations to get this right." So, if I could just do a little bit of math. Real quick, if everyone could just be patient. I'm just pulling up my calculator real quick. No, that's my calendar.

Griffin: Are you dividing 365 by 18?

Justin: So, real quick, if I divide 365 by 18, I get 20. So, they would make it for 20 days. [laughs]. Every 20 days they're like, "No! No! I quit! Do it again."

Travis: "Get me a new batch."
"Of French toast?"
"Of chefs."

Justin: "Of chefs! You're out. We have to make the French toast just like your mom. Grandma. Your dad. Whoever it was that made it in your household."

Travis: "The talking dog. The robot butler. Whatever it is."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "The big, French ghost."

Travis: [laughs] "The magic oven, whatever."

Justin: "The well boy."

Griffin: "Whatever made your French toast. Well Boy."

Travis: "Sometimes you just wake up and the French toast is there. And you live alone, and you're not sure what happened."

Justin: "Your talking candelabra. Your 3D printer."

Travis: "It doesn't matter. The French toast tree you grew outside, that everyone said would never work. But look where you got."

Griffin: "The void gate in the ceiling. Wherever you get it from."

Justin: "It doesn't matter."

"So, we went through..." Okay, so they... [laughs] "So, we start with Texas toast. It goes through an actual egg and dairy and vanilla sugar mix. It's a royale, it's a custard." I'm just reading, by the way. If I editorialize—

Griffin: Jesus, wow. Okay.

Justin: Yeah. "It's a royale, it's a custard. We make sure it sits in this royale for the right amount of time." Notice, he's not saying the right amount of time. That's like... it took him a year.

Travis: No, he's not gonna give that away.

Griffin: That's trade secret.

Justin: "It's gotta absorb and then actually go through a griddle process. 'Cause you actually wanna get all the caramelization around the French toast

to get that caramelization color. And more importantly, the flavor. Then, when we get it to a restaurant, there's just a quick flash fry. To get it crispy on the outside and you maintain the custard interior. That's what we wanna land on. It took us this long 'cause we didn't wanna launch until we got it right." Hey, if I could just say, Carl. Fucking great instincts, man.

Travis: Yeah, you don't wanna do a soft open on this one, on some shitty toast.

Griffin: No way.

Justin: "This one's in beta. So, just try it. And if you don't like it, it's fine. We weren't gonna stick with it anyway. It's fine."

Griffin: I do wanna say, it sounds like he did describe how to make French toast. Which...

Justin: Yes. Which I should mention, is not hard to do, my friends.

Griffin: No, it's not.

Justin: It's really not. If that's the goal, it's like, "My mom won't make me French toast anymore. I'm going to Wendy's!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "Sorry, dad! I don't have time for this." Anyway, you know how your caregiver always cut your French toast into sticks, and then parted it in a cardboard sleeve, and charged you \$5 for it?

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Well, yeah.

Justin: The magic is back. But unfortunately, the magic has also ended.

Griffin: Damn, I bet you putting them in a frosty... I bet that goes down real smooth.

Travis: Oh, fuck yeah.

Justin: The magic, I mean, of podcasting. We've made podcast. We've had a great time, enjoyed each other's company. Enjoyed your company, while you were kind enough to be here with us. But this show has come to an end. Not that it is a show. It is a conversation.

Travis: And not that it's come to an end, because now we have important details we need to share with you.

Justin: Correct, Travis. It's a conversation.

Travis: Well, we have an ad survey running right now over at maximumfun.org/survey. It's an annual--

Griffin: That sounds like business stuff.

Travis: Okay. It's an annual survey that helps to make sure our advertisers are well matched with our audience. So, thank you very much. We're gonna be at Dragon Con, September 1st through the 5th. Details are coming soon, we're gonna update bit.ly/mcelroytours as soon as we have more info. And folks, we are so excited. We have brand new tour dates.

If you are in our around or wanna get to San Jose, California or Denver. We're going to be in San Jose with an Adventure Zone show, September 29th. San Jose again on September 30th with My Brother, My Brother and Me. And we're gonna be in Denver October 1st with My Brother, My Brother and Me. Those tickets are gonna go on sale this Friday the 19th at noon, local to those shows.

So, one more time. September 29th, San Jose, TAZ. September 30th, San Jose, My Brother, My Brother and me. And October 1st, Denver, MBMBaM. That's this Friday, tickets go on sale noon, local time. You can get those tickets at bit.ly/mcelroytours. Exciting stuff.

Speaking of, you can head there, bit.ly/mcelroytours, to get tickets for Washington, D.C., Detroit, Michigan and Cincinnati, Ohio in the following

November. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative COVID test within 72 hours of event start is required. We got a whole bunch of great merch over at mcelroymerch.com, including a Garyl plushy that is so cute.

Griffin: So good!

Travis: And, 'If god's not dead, how do you explain these gains?' T-shirt by Lucas Hesperheide.

Justin: Speaking of explaining things, I tried to explain that shirt to Sydnee. And it didn't go great.

Travis: No, it's un-explainable. Inexplicable. 10% of all proceeds this month from merch sales go to the Center for Reproductive Rights. So, check all that stuff out at mcelroymerch.com. Preorders for The 11th Hour, our fifth graphic novel in The Adventure Zone series, the preorders are open now. If you go to theadventurezonecomic.com, it's gonna come out February 21st 2023. Get that preorder now.

Griffin: Thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, My Life Is Better With You. It's a dope track. Montaigne actually has some new tracks out that are... They make... They'll make your... booty pop. Like pop to the music, to the rhythm and the beat.

Travis: In a good way?

Griffin: In a great way.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: It feels great. I was doing that yesterday and it felt soothing. It was good for my back.

Travis: Oh, okay?

Griffin: And the music was great too. So, check those out. And thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. Thanks Maximum Fun.

Travis: "You're welcome."

Griffin: ... For having us on the network. Whoa, Jesse! Where'd you come from?

Travis: [in deep voice] "It's me, Jesse. I've descended from the heavens."

Griffin: Whoa, cool.

Travis: "Yup."

Griffin: Um... So, that's it for the show.

Travis: [in deep voice] "I love you, Griffin."

Griffin: I love you too, Jesse.

Justin: Do you know how long it's been since we've sat down to record one of these?

Griffin: To record a MBMBaM? It's been forever, forever. Yeah.

Justin: How do we end?

Griffin: And in fact, maybe this is a good time for us to do like a quick reboot, a refresh of how we end the show. And maybe, and this is just something I've been kicking around for a while. It's not always contingent on me saying a funny thing at the end of it.

Travis: Well, it's that Justin and I do so much work...

Justin: We have gotten this far, though, with that.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. For sure, for sure. And that's great. But if we could find a way to have some of the pressure be taken off of me and put on you all for a while. I think that would be cool.

Justin: Griffin's right. Griffin's right. So, at the end of every episode I would like Griffin to start suggesting a bit that Travis and I can try next time. And then we'll see how it goes.

Griffin: But this still does feel like a lot of pressure on me to generate the... Like, you're asking me to write a skit...

Justin: Just this one time.

Griffin: Just this one time I'm gonna write a skit? That you guys will perform next time?

Justin: And next time we'll talk about it in between, see if it works. And if that's the one, no more work from you required. If it's not the one, you just come up with another one. And certainly, that will be the one.

Griffin: Okay. So, we're at a Jamba Juice.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: And you both work there. You both work at the Jamba Juice. Only one of you is like an Among Us imposter. And you're trying to do bad things to the juice.

Travis: Oh, great. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: But it's up to the audience to try and figure out which one of you is trying to hurt the juice. But we won't tell them. So, let's actually play that out right now.

Justin: Oh, we'll try that next week. My name's Justin McElroy.

Griffin: Go ahead right now. Travis and Justin are both--

Justin: My name's Justin McElroy.

Griffin: ... Jamba Juice employees and one of them is up to no good.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy. "What do you want in your juice?"

Griffin: Can you solve the mystery, Justin? Respond to that.

Travis: "What do you want in your juice?" Hey!

Justin: I try to do something different, Griffin. And you see what happened. It fucking collapsed around us like a house of cards.

Travis: "What do you want in your juice?"

Griffin: "I would like some strawberries and okra."

Justin: Are you in the scene?

Griffin: Yeah, I'm the customer.

Justin: I thought you didn't wanna participate?

Griffin: I'm the customer, you two are employees of the Jamba Juice.

Travis: "I'm gonna piss in your juice."

Justin: Okay, you're the customer. And Travis, you—

Griffin: Start over. Travis, don't make it that obvious.

Travis: "I'm pissing in your juice like we always do."

Justin: Start over.

Griffin: We can't say that about Jamba Juice.

Travis: Okay. "I might piss in your juice."

Griffin: "Hello. Could I have an okra-strawberries?"

Travis: "No."

Justin: [in silly voice] "Hello. I'm Juice!"

Griffin: Oh, Jesus Christ...

Justin: "I'm a glass of juice, oh no!"

Travis: "Yeah, and I'm gonna put okra in him."

Justin: "Oh, bye!"

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy...

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Justin: I'm Juice! This has been My Brother, My Brother and Me. Kiss your dad square on the lips.

[theme song plays]

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