

MBMBaM 638: Great?! Expectations

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

Travis: Oh, me? I'm your middlest brother, Travis McElroy.

Griffin: And I'm your sweet baby brother, I'm a grown up man. And I'm Griffin McElroy.

Justin: Now, why did you feel the need to specify that you're a grown man?

Griffin: I just feel like it's sort of my thing this year. And as I step into 2023, stepping into my adult power.

Travis: It is interesting, anytime I post a picture of us when we were younger—

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: ... People talk about how different I look and how much more mature Justin looks.

Justin: Isn't that—Don't you love that?

Travis: And people were like, "Griffin didn't even age!" And I'm like, "Guys, he has. Look at the bags around his eyes. Look at the deep sadness in there."

Griffin: Yeah, look at my grey hairs. The sadness wasn't there as a kid, yeah.

Justin: When we released they video—When they released the video for Montaigne, the video for... My Life Is Better With You—

Griffin: My Life Is Better With You, yeah.

Justin: ... And we were all in it. I don't read the comments on stuff, but that was somebody else's video, so I read the comments.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: 'Cause I was curious. And then the one that I read that stuck with me really bad is like, "They all look so old." [laughs]

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: [laughs] I love—

Justin: So mean! It was so mean. It's like, "Fuck you, you look old!"

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, I love when—

Travis: Look at me—

Justin: Let me see a picture of you!

Travis: Look at me right now. I don't know how my face has done this. It does look like I've dyed my like Van Dyke around my face.

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: But my cheeks are completely gray.

Griffin: That's age, that's age—

Travis: And it's just like, yeah, I look old as shit. I don't know what's happening.

Justin: Yeah...

Travis: People are like, "You look more and more like your dad." And I'm like, "Yeah, my dad's old and I come from his line."

Justin: My dad's old and I'm getting old.

Griffin: And I'm getting old, 'cause that's how time works. I love when people use us as a yard stick for how old they must be getting.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: When they're like, "Woah, if the McElroys are this old, I must be old." And it's like, that's a valuable service I can provide to you, I suppose.

Travis: You're welcome. Guys—

Justin: Yeah, BuzzFeed has made a cottage industry of that by showing you what Beans from Even Stevens looks like today.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Hey, let me save you a few 100 clicks—

Griffin: He looks good.

Justin: ... He looks like an adult Beans. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah, he looks like an adult Beans.

Griffin: He looks an adult—grown, adult Beans with big adult energy.

Travis: This weekend, boys, I went and saw The Glass Onion.

Griffin: Okay!

Justin: Ooh, tell us!

Travis: And listen, I don't wanna talk about that, 'cause there's so many spoilers. But it's very good. If you—

Griffin: Why did you fucking mention it then?

Justin: Yeah?

Travis: Because if you liked the first one, see it. There was 22 minutes of trailers. And within those trailers, boys, there was a trailer for a movie and it got me pumped.

Justin: Oh?

Travis: Now, don't look up—don't look up anything about this movie.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Done.

Travis: I will tell you.

Griffin: Tell me.

Travis: So, this is a Gerard Butler vehicle.

Justin: Okay?

Travis: And he is—

Griffin: Oh, yeah! He's in some badass flicks where like he has to get out of prison and kill the president.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: He punches so many things in movies.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Even when he's not supposed to.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And he is a commercial airline pilot. And they're about to take off and then some police show up. And they're like, "Hey, we—we're gonna do a prisoner extradition on your airplane." Which I don't—I didn't know that was a surprise thing that you could drop on somebody. Like, "Oh, by the way..."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And he's like, "What? I'm not wild about that." And they're like, "Too bad, Gerard Butler. It's not up to you." And he's like, "What's this dude's deal?" And he's like, "Ah, he murdered somebody 15 years ago or whatever." And he's like, "Ugh, okay." So then, they fly through an electrical storm.

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: Okay?

Travis: And they end up crash landing in a scary jungle part of a country. And oh, no! Like a cartel shows up or whatever and takes all the passengers hostage.

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: And then, it's up to Gerard Butler and the escaped convict guy, the two of 'em have to work together to rescue everybody. And they—

Griffin: This sounds fucking cool, Trav.

Travis: They play by their own rules!

Griffin: Yeah, of course they do.

Travis: And the name of the movie is... Plane.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: What?

Griffin: That's great, I like that!

Justin: That can't be right.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: It's called Plane?

Travis: Called Plane!

Griffin: I like that. It's like if they made—You described like Die Hard and then it's like, "This movie's called Feet."

Travis: Yeah! "This movie's Building."

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: "This one's called Bruce!"

Travis: I'm so excited about this as a new naming convention. 'Cause I think we've had it before, you know?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Sometimes you're like "Gladiator," right?

Griffin: Yeah. I mean, my man, M. Night Shyamalan, I would say crushed the movie titling game with his... I believe his most recent feature film. Which was just called, "Old."

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: And then this one—and that's, I guess, kind of, to tie it back into the intro of the podcast. Welcome to M. Night Shyamalan's Old 2: But It's Slower This Time.

Travis: Yeah, it's slow. We age one day for every day.

Griffin: Yeah. So, instead of a child walking on a beach turn into a grandpa, it's like a 22 year old becomes a 35 year old over the course of 12 years. Old!

Travis: I just remember when I worked at movie theater, I remember watching people come up. And these people, still to this day, befuddle me. People who come to the theater and then stand before the posters, and pick out which movie they're going to watch at that moment.

Griffin: Yeah. Fuck yeah.

Travis: And I remember people walking up to the Ewan McGregor film, The Island.

Griffin: Ooh?

Travis: And deciding, impulsively, knowing nothing about this film, that's what they were in the mood to watch that day.

Griffin: Yeah, "I like his face. I like the tropics. Fantastic."

Travis: "Oh, yeah, yeah. Okay. Can you escape? Sounds good. Let's do it. And now, I think if we can enter into an age of singular non-specific nouns.

Griffin: Yes!

Travis: That's just like, "What's this movie's whole deal? It's mostly about a plane."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Okay, I like planes! We could see Plane or we could see Boat, or Elevator. Which one do you wanna watch?"

Griffin: "Or Old?"

Travis: Or Old.

Griffin: "Or Feet's Back? Feet 4!"

Justin: [chuckles] Feet.

Travis: "Oh, Feet 4?!"

Griffin: "Feet 4, with Justin Long! Gotta get there for Feet 4."

Travis: Long Feet.

Griffin: Long Feet.

Travis: Justin Long Feet.

Justin: [in silly Terminator voice] "They thought they could break me. They didn't know I was Long Feet!"

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] And then he ties a bandana around his head and [crosstalk].

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: It's a short film.

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: I saw Justin Long one time.

Griffin: Yeah, I did too.

Justin: We were at that thing.

Griffin: We were at that thing.

Justin: At that Entertainment Weekly thing. And man, I wanted to go say hi to Justin Long so bad.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: But my connection to Justin Long is so tenuous, it is like... it's two Hodgmans removed. It's like PC Hodgman. I know current Hodgman and Hodgman of today, new PC Hodgman. And if you know that Hodgman, then that's Justin Long. When you were Mac Justin—

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: I did text Hodgman in the moment. I texted Hodgman and I said, "We're in the same room as Justin Long. And Justin wants to go introduce himself based solely on the fact that they're both named Justin." And he wrote back, "He should do it."

Griffin: [laughs] That's—You missed a window there, Juice.

Justin: [chuckles] Because John Hodgman doesn't give a shit!

Griffin: No.

Travis: No, man.

Justin: He doesn't care if I bomb like right there.

Griffin: Yeah...

Justin: In front of everybody.

Travis: Or for all you know, that's Justin Long favorite thing in the world, is to meet other Justins.

Griffin: Maybe he's never met another one?

Travis: Oh, yeah!

Griffin: He knows about Timberlake, he knows about Bieber, but they're phantoms.

Travis: Never met 'em.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And if you're wondering why I'm not better connected or more successful, I think you have a pretty succinct wrap up in that little anecdote.

Griffin: Mm-hmm!

Travis: I'm just saying, if Travis Barker was at the same place I was...

Griffin: Oh, would you now, Travis?

Travis: No!

Griffin: No, probably not.

Justin: No...

Travis: Maybe Travis Pastrana?

Griffin: We have no way of knowing which Travises are—

Travis: But those are the only three. Or the band Travis.

Griffin: Justin, take us to another segment. We're just scating. We're scating now.

Justin: I will. I'm happy to. I was trying to look—We're recording late. So, I'm trying to find—Oh, there he is. Thanks, Trav.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Thanks for these questions, buddy. I appreciate it.

Travis: Hey, you're welcome.

Griffin: Travis actually writes all the questions. We don't—We haven't gotten an email in our inbox—

Travis: That's true.

Griffin: ... In like two and a half years. Probably because we don't mention it anymore.

Travis: The hardest part is thinking of different cities and stuff that people can be from.

Griffin: Yeah, there's only so many cities. And if you use one twice, people are gonna be onto the gift.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Can I—Can I talk—Before we ask a question.

Travis: Yeah?

Griffin: I would love having a talk.

Justin: And I do wanna do this. I do wanna do the question.

Travis: Yeah, of course.

Justin: Can I—Can we talk about the Elf on the Shelf for a second?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It that like a way of saying like the elephant in the room?

Justin: No, no.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: That would be—[chuckles] That... TM, TM, TM! [wheeze-laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Can I, to set this—Can I say that we did a FaceTime so our kids could play Pokémon together over the weekend, which was delightful. And Henry had never seen Elf on the Shelf before. And when Charlie showed it to him, she was like, “Yeah, he’s pretty creepy.” So like, who’s it for, Justin?

Travis: Yeah, Bebe asked me if we could do Elf on the Shelf this year and I said, “No, Elf on the Shelf is just designed to horrify you into being good.” And she goes, “But Charlie has one.” And I was like, “Well, I can’t speak to Justin’s mind.”

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: I don’t know how it happened. I think Mary got one first and the kids loved it. So, then we got one. And the Elf on the Shelf, if you don’t know, the Elf on the Shelf is a toy that you buy. And you put him up on—or him—They got all kinds of different ones, him or her. Whatever kind of elf you got.

Travis: Oh, woke culture. Am I right? [chuckles]

Justin: Okay. So, you hide the elf on the shelf. And the elf watches the kids and then reports back to Santa every night.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: If the kids touch the elf—This is so important. If the kids touch the elf, it loses its magic...

Griffin: And dies.

Travis: And dies?

Griffin: Dies.

Justin: And... I mean...

Griffin: It goes from being a magical fairytale creature that can teleport all over your house and report on you to the government, definitely.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Or a lifeless... A corpse.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I mean, it is what it is.

Justin: A corpse.

Griffin: A body, an immobile body.

Justin: Just like in Toy Story, they die all the time when humans are around.

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: Yeah, or like—Yeah, sure.

Travis: Justin, would you say that Elf on the Shelf is the most commercially successful haunted doll on the market today?

Justin: Wow, that's... Wow, Trav.

Griffin: That's the big question.

Justin: That's... that's huge, actually. That's huge for our brand. But... And also, the other key thing about it is, after it reports back to Santa, it returns to a different spot in your house.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Mm-hmm, homework.

Justin: So, as a parent—right—or a guardian, you now are the one in—You have to.

Travis: Or home intruder.

Justin: Or home intruder, thank you.

Griffin: [gruff voice] "Let me just—I know the kids can't touch this. Let me just—" Zoop!

Justin: It's hard enough to keep the whole Santa thing going.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And that's like very ephemeral, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's like, you know, Santa. Everybody has a different example. This is like concrete evidence, proof of life. This is magic that's happening every day. And if you forget... What I'm saying is, I don't know why we had to increase the difficulty of Santa faith with this like hard, concrete, complex mythology. Because if the bottom falls out from the elf..

Griffin: What's next?

Justin: It's not a long walk to be like, okay, so, the Santa thing—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: ... Tooth Fairy, all of that stuff.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Is... Is... I don't understand why it had to be that way. Yesterday, the Elf on the Shelf, I had it hanging off a light fixture. And then, right in front of the kids —

Travis: You can't see, Justin. But it's so important to note, he's hanging by his hands.

Justin: He's hanging by his hands.

Travis: Important to note, he's hanging by his hands.

Justin: It's got Velcro on his hand—I put Velcro on this thing's hands so I could make it do all kinds of wild stuff.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: So, you do... You were complaining for the bit. But you love it, right?

Justin: When I remember it, it's good.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: When I don't remember—When it's 05: 30 in the morning and I sit up and I'm like, "Fuck!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Then it's bad.

Griffin: You just throw him in the washing machine.

Justin: Today, I jammed him behind the air fryer. It took the kids 15 minutes.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: But yesterday, this doll fuckin' falls right in front of the kids onto the ground. [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: So, now I'm looking at it like... well, fuck me. And they're like, "You can't touch it!" And I'm like, "I know I can't touch it."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: And then the cat instantly is like, "Hell yeah! I've been wanting to fuck you up for years!"

Travis: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "This is my day. I'm gonna own this idiot."

Travis: "This is judgement day, bud. It's coming."

Justin: The cat's like about to pounce. And I'm like, I think—[laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Get some—I start looking for rubber gloves 'cause I feel like I could maybe sell that.

Griffin: Yeah. [laughs]

Justin: But then Charlie's like, "Get the tongs!" Like okay, tongs! That's even better. So, I get tongs and I pick up this—[laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] Like a... like a bird that has been dragged into the house.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [through laughter] I pick up up the elf and I put it facedown on a serving tray, up on top of the fridge. And it's just lying there like, "We'll let her rest there."

It's fine, I'm sure she'll get her magic back. I'm sure the tongs were okay." Last night, as I mentioned, we forgot to move the elf 'cause it was very out of sight, out of mind.

It was lying on top of a serving tray and Sydnee texts me while I'm just out of the shower, she's like, "Quick, I've got Charlie distracted. You've gotta move the elf." I'm like, okay... uh, uh, um, Okay. So, I run. And then I had this really brief moment where I was like, I don't know what we're teaching our kids with the elf.

But this could be a teachable moment that gets me having to do the elf... forever. So, it's basically just like, that's a tough break, kids! But that's what life is like sometimes. Right? Like, that's like that sometimes.

Griffin: So, what did you do?

Travis: He air fried it.

Justin: I stuffed it behind the air fryer. [laughs]

Griffin: Okay...

Justin: I mean, I stuffed it behind the air fryer. Didn't use the tongs, used my bare hands.

Travis: Well, you broke the magic!

Griffin: Could you not have sold like, "The elf spirit is still in there. But if we scale the thing out, he had—she had like an eight story fall yesterday."

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Onto her skull—Onto her—

Travis: "She has a long road to recovery ahead of her."

Griffin: "She is gonna be laid up on the fridge for a while. Which, honestly kids, is a bad behavior pass for you, for as long as they are convalescing."

Justin: "You can do whatever you want and Clarisse can't report you." Well like, there's an animated series that's absolute horse shit.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: It's like a 22 minute movie of garbage.

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: And this one kid's like, "I don't believe this idiot." And he knocks it off a shelf. And they do even increase their mythology to now where he has to be flown by other elves, back to the North Pole and get bed rest. [laughs] He can come back—

Travis: To get resuscitated?

Griffin: Wow.

Justin: It's so heinous. Anyway—

Griffin: They got the dog 'cause I think somebody—some family member sent us the dog. Elf on a Shelf has a dog too. And it's a Saint Bernard with a little keg around its neck. But the keg contains Christmas cheer?

Travis: Sure.

Griffin: And on Christmas Eve, a beam of light shoots out of the dog's keg, that has a heart on it. And that goes to the North Pole, to make like Christmas happen. Christmas would die, Christmas would fade from the Earth if we stopped believing in it.

Travis: Uh-huh?

Griffin: Which is cool, because then on Christmas Eve, my son stays up to watch his stuffed animal dog that comes with the book. And is like, "That beam hasn't come out yet, I'm pretty worried that Christmas is not gonna come this year." And it's like, man, what's the game? Unless you have some sort of beam laser technology that you can put inside of your dog dolls, maybe don't—maybe don't build that into the mythos.

Travis: Dad tried to introduce—

Justin: But, Griffin, think about how much Hanukkah could get to shine that year.

Travis: Oh, that's true!

Griffin: Oh, wow.

Justin: The year that Christmas didn't come, Hanukkah would be in your house. It could finally get center stage.

Griffin: Hanukkah already kicks ass in our house.

Travis: Dad tried to introduce Elf on a Shelf into our home, by getting my kids each one, Bengals themed.

Griffin: Oh, we got one of those—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Holy shit! We got one of these too!

Justin: Yeah, we got 'em too.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: And all I could think is like, it's already a complicated enough mythos without introducing—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yes.

Travis: ... "And also, they love football!" [chuckles]

Justin: "They love one team. They have a preference."

Griffin: Mine, the one that dad sent us, ended up being the Elf on the Shelf in aisle five of Goodwill. Because that's where he went, because no thank you, dad. I don't wanna have to explain that. Nope. No thank you.

Travis: I'm just saying, I really pray that there is no magic in the dolls because I never removed them from what must now be their coffins.

Griffin: Except for me, if the doll is alive, I've done the most kick ass job ever hiding it from *my* child.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: He'll never see it.

Justin: That's some other family's problem.

Griffin: No.

Justin: We're not gonna do one of those—

Griffin: They can touch him all he wants. I stuck a note on him that says, "This is my cross to bear. You touch this guy. Go nuts," I said.

Justin: "I just discovered a large spiderweb in my hotel room. It's too high to reach it by jumping. And also, I don't like killing spiders. Would it be crossing some social boundary to ask the front desk to send someone to kill it for me? I'm staying here for a whole month and I think it's moving closer. Help, brothers!"
Big, Bad Bug in Blythe.

Griffin: Listen...

Justin: I don't know how spiders run in Blythe.

Travis: Like this, [silly bug noises].

Griffin: [silly bug noises] Yeah, they do. They make a fun sound like that. You shouldn't kill spiders, is what I'm supposed to say.

Travis: Woah.

Griffin: But they're—they are—they can be poisonous and very, very scary. And we are so much bigger than they are. If... It seems like if you would goosh it, that stuff would come out—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: ... That's my usual boundary for, "Okay, you are big enough to deserve some sort of—"

Travis: Gooshing?

Griffin: ... "Primal dignity. And I will usher you outside in a solo cup." But if they don't goosh out when they explode, is that even really alive? Does it have feelings?

Travis: Griffin, I've both seen and read Charlotte's Web. They've got feelings.

Griffin: Well, but Charlotte is big enough—Charlotte's big enough that if you squished her, stuff would come out.

Travis: Yeah, that's true. That's a good point.

Griffin: So yes, that is a—that's—Yeah, that's a living creature right there and we have to respect that.

Travis: Can I ask you guys a judgement call?

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Which of these do you think is more acceptable: Calling the front desk and asking them to send someone up.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Or going down to the front desk and saying like, "Hey, there's a spider in my room. If someone could go take care of that?"

Griffin: Neither one of those is great.

Justin: Yeah...

Griffin: I think the best case scenario, and the one that sort of gets you off scot free, is you call the front desk and say, "Hello! It's me again. I know I've called about a lot of bugs today. But—" [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] "This one, I'm serious."

Griffin: "This one's—This one's a doozer. I have a spider in my room. And that is scary to me. What happens next—I'm your customer—"

Justin: "You tell me."

Griffin: "I'm scared of the spider in my room."

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: "Whatever happens—maybe you do something about it, maybe you don't. But I'm an active Yelp power user."

Justin: "I'm over here on Yelp, ready to..."

Griffin: "I am always ready to burn your shit down."

Travis: Oh, okay. I... Okay. I think it can't be the sole focus of the call. Like, if you said like—

Justin: Oh?

Griffin: That's cool.

Travis: ... "Oh, could I get an extra pillow and a couple of towels? And while they're in here, there's a big, scary spider in my room. Just if they have time. If they have time to kill it."

Justin: Just get it on a magazine and chuck it in the hallway. I don't kill spiders.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'm not gonna kill a spider. It's bad luck.

Travis: No, any one of 'em could create Spider-Man and I don't wanna take that away from the world.

Griffin: Hold on—

Justin: May I? You don't kill spiders. It's bad luck. I don't extend this courtesy to all living things, obviously. If I see a stink bug in my house, which I do every year for a couple months.

Griffin: The same one?

Justin: No. Oh, no. It's certainly not 'cause I'll smooch those dead. Dead!

Griffin: That makes the stink come out, Justin!

Justin: I love the stink. That means one less stink bug. I hate these guys, okay?

Griffin: Wait, hold on. That doesn't... The worst thing about the stink bug is the stink they make! You make the stink come out and you're like, "Ah, now it can't stink."

Travis: No, I'm actually with Justin on this one.

Justin: I let them know I'm not afraid. That's their one trick.

Travis: The worst part of the stink bug is their presence.

Justin: Yeah, it's the being a bug in the house. Now normally, I'll try to chuck 'em outside, 'cause the kids don't like it. But if I see one when the kids aren't around, their big, tough guardians, I will send them to hell. I wouldn't do that for a spider.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: A spider, that's—It's part of the fun of spiders.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You gotta get it on a napkin or a paper towel, or something and gotta get it outside.

Griffin: Before it get on your hand.

Justin: If this helps you—There's five or six other spiders in your room, guaranteed.

Travis: Yeah, not just one.

Justin: If this makes you feel any better, and it probably shouldn't. There are probably six or seven, or eight or nine, or a dozen spiders in your room.

Griffin: For sure.

Justin: That's... that's just the life that you live. The spider you *can* see, that's a good one.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Good. I got tabs on that one. Don't worry about that spider, he's out there. He's like, "Are we—Is this okay? I'm here, I know you can see me. This is fine, right?"

Griffin: That's polite.

Justin: That's polite. The other spiders? Oh, they're nasty dogs.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: They're everywhere. They're underneath your bed. They're everywhere. But the spider you can see, don't—you don't need to kill him. He's going about his business, he's fine.

Travis: And providing a service as well.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Ooh, yeah!

Travis: Listen, I don't like 'em. Famously, I do not care for spiders.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: However, we need them. They're good!

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: They're good, spiders.

Griffin: They kill the [crosstalk] mosquitoes.

Travis: So, just move rooms. That's the spider's room. You walked in, somebody was already in that room and it's the spider. You're in the wrong room.

Justin: Yeah, it's the spider—The spider has domain. I wouldn't call somebody 'cause they're not—they might not handle it ethically.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: They might kill—They would probably kill the spider. They're probably not gonna go through the work of scooping up the spider and then walking it to the elevator.

Travis: No.

Justin: That won't—[wheezes]

Travis: They won't apologize to the spider and say, "I know you were here first. I'm sorry about this."

Justin: What you've gotta hope for—the best you could hope for is that they have one of those old timey mail chutes.

Travis: Yeah! Yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Justin: 'Cause then it's like, "Have an incredible adventure, Jason Schwartzman-voiced spider."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "Have a wonderful adventure!"

Griffin: "Woah-oh-oh-oh-oh!"

Travis: Ah, he would do so good."

Griffin: "Looks like I've got mail! [laughs]"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And then Dunston just picks him up and fuckin' eats him.

Justin: [wheezes] And then the Baby's Day Out eats Dunston.

Griffin: What a perfect—What a perfect film.

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin: What an amazing—What an amazing idea.

Travis: And so culturally relevant. We can—

Griffin: It's not—It's not, but it's like, what if a monkey got lose in a hotel mailroom? Like... yeah!

Travis: Writes itself, baby.

Griffin: Sure, yeah. I'll watch 100 movies—

Travis: And also, Jason Alexander's there and he's befuddled.

Griffin: He is... he could not be more confused. Hey, can we go to the Wizard?

Justin: Yeah, I'd love that.

Travis: I wish we would.

Griffin: Let's bow our heads in prayer. This was sent in by Siobhan. Thank you, Siobhan. It's... It is written by a bunch of authors, it seems like. Wow, this one only has a 39% out of 100% of goodness. So, this may not be—

Travis: Not great.

Griffin: ... Some of the Wizard's best work. 38 co-authors. A few too many cooks in the kitchen on how to trash talk on Xbox Live. I suppose this would work for PlayStation Live, Nintendo Live...

Travis: No, Sony cronies respond to things differently.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Oh, is that true?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: They're built different.

Travis: They are built different.

Griffin: Yeah. They probably don't call themselves Sony cronies when they talk about how cool they are.

Travis: Well, no. We do.

Griffin: Oh, okay. You've taken that.

Justin: They prefer Sony bronies.

Travis: Yeah. Well, it depends on if we're into the Friendship Is Magic universe or not.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah. This is gonna flay the flesh off our bones. "Being good at a game is a sure way to own mad noobs."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "But if you didn't do so good or you just like to argue, then trash talking can make the match funnier."

Travis: Well, I don't know about funnier.

Griffin: Step one... Well, step zero. Keep your grades up.

Travis: Keep your grades up.

Griffin: If your grades go too bad, your parents will cancel your Xbox Live account. And then you can kiss Master Chief, on his helmet mouth, goodbye. He's never coming back. Justin, did you put glasses on? I was looking at another window in Chrome and then when I looked back, you had glasses on.

Travis: I think they've always been there.

Justin: I think I've always had glasses. No, these are my blue blockers. I'm starting to feel a little bit of eye strain set in. I'm... old.

Griffin: Okay. I'm starting to feel a little bit of like co-opting the glasses brand—

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: ... And the beard brand. You know that for a while I was the glasses one and Travis was the beards one. And you were the nothing. You had nothing on your face.

Justin: [chuckles] Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: You were the nothing.

Griffin: But now you have—

Travis: You consumed all of Never Ending Story.

Griffin: But now, you have both of them. So, now it's glasses beards guy, glasses beards guy, glasses—not scruffed—

Travis: Scruffed—

Justin: Maybe the bad guy is you for not...

Griffin: Having a beard? Having a beard? [pause] Having a beard? Okay, well... It looks weird and bad when I do it. So, I guess I didn't get those genes. But anyway, just something to think about. "Step one, be brave." [wheezes] "Who cares that you came in last place?"

Yeah, trash taking after owning everyone in the room gives you a clear advantage. But so what? Brag about your kill/death ratio or point out someone for camping the whole time. Cool."

Travis: Yeah! There you go.

Griffin: "Good work, you fucking scrubs!"

Justin: No one's ever said "kill/death ratio." And it's not—You're not allowed to say that. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, you're not allowed to spell the whole thing out. "Nice work capturing the flag, you fucking idiots!"

"Yeah, you died 100 times. You lost 15 points."

Like, "Yeah, I know. But you... But... tch! You died—You died a couple times too, idiot!"

Travis: Well, in the history of video games, the best trash talking comes from a place of whining. Right? Of like, "Well, my controller's glitched. You were using the turbo button. I said no odd job." That kind of thing.

Griffin: Yeah, "My parents were yelling like so loud. So loud I couldn't hear the sound of the gun going bang-bang-bang."

Travis: "The Ratatouille that was piloting me wasn't very good at this match."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: A lot of things.

Griffin: I mean, I think this article also cements that most good online trash talking comes from a place of real courage. Be brave. Who cares?

Travis: [chuckles] Yeah.

Griffin: "Don't be too loud."

Justin: Okay?

Griffin: "Just because you wanna tell someone how much they suck, doesn't mean you have to hog the sound waves. Let—" That's a really powerful term for people in our profession.

Justin: What? Is this—A alien did this?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: What... Who wrote this?

Griffin: There's only so many soundwaves that the human ear can detect at any time. That's the secret of like music, mixing, mastering, production, all that stuff.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, don't use too much.

Griffin: So, you don't wanna use too many of them, just by being like, "You died twice! [imitates buzzer?]" And then making that long, sustained sort of signal noise.

Justin: You ever wonder why we stopped at eight track?

Griffin: Yeah, that's too many.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That's it. That's all you got.

Travis: That's all the tracks we got. I would go one step further and say if you really wanna fuck with someone, trash talk in ASMR. I think that would really fuck —

Griffin: Oh, that's good!

Travis: "[close to the mic] Hey, I just wanna let you know, pss-pss-pss-pss, that... you're kind of a fuckin' noob and..."

Justin: "[close to the mic] I shot your d-d-d-dick-dick-dick. Shot your dick."

Griffin: "[close to the mic] [stammering]."

Justin: "[close to the mic] I shot your dick. Pew-pew."

Travis: "[close to the mic] I'm just gonna squat on your face. And squat and squat and squat and squat."

Griffin: [stammers] "A-a-and I-I-I've—I-I fucked your dad." And this is—

Justin: Griffin I don't think has ever watched an AMSR video. He thinks it's Jimmy Stewart insulting people. [chuckles]

Griffin: [spoofing Jimmy Stewart] "Oh, well, wow. I..."

Travis: [spoofing Jimmy Stewart] "Well, I—I fucked your dad."

Griffin: [spoofing Jimmy Stewart] "I'm gonna cut your hair on this side." That's the worst, that's a terrible—

Travis: [spoofing Jimmy Stewart] "Master Chief is my best friend."

Griffin: Who... That was... That was among the worst Jimmy Stewart impressions that have been done. "Don't hog the soundwaves. Let other people make their lame comebacks so you can spike it at them, showing your true ownage." [chuckles] Yeah, man!

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: Fuck yeah! "Point out someone. If someone sat around and camped the whole time, say something. Most people, other people—Most likely, other other people are going to back you up if they were really doing something wrong." So, this is an interesting form of trash talk.

Justin: [chuckles] You're trying to like, "Hey, I know you're tempted to trash talk me. But let's talk about Dylan." [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, "You're a scrub and an idiot. And I fucked your dad. But I'm gonna take a sort of moral position here..."

Travis: "Mom?!" [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] ... "And say that—say that Charthur was kicking it behind this bush this whole time. So, who's the—"

Travis: "He stayed in one place for like big portions of the game."

"It's capture the flag?"

"Yeah, but he was... I don't know what you mean?"

"Well, he was just in the zones. He had to capture the zones and then defend the zones."

"Yeah, but he wasn't like running around like I was."

"You died 700 times!"

Griffin: So, do it for the laughs.

Justin: You could invent other jobs that you were doing, while they were doing the fighting.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: Because a military is not just about shooting people.

Griffin: That's interesting.

Justin: You know what I mean? You could be like, "I had KP, I had to peel potatoes. I couldn't help you today."

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: Yeah. I was—

Travis: "My KP ratio is off the charts!"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: If the commercials for army and navy and marines recruitment have taught me anything, the jobs in military are shooting ones, drones ones...

Travis: Yeah?

Griffin: Which they make seem like flying like a cool hobby plane. Which I appreciate. And then the other one is you can build bridges. 'Cause they need bridges for industry and for us to get those cool, big drones up somewhere, to a takeoff pad.

Travis: I think there's also a job where like four people look at a radar and then point at a bigger radar.

Griffin: Point at the radar, yeah.

Justin: "That dot's us, that dot's us. Don't get confused."

Griffin: "That dot's still us."

Travis: "That one's there. Oh, now look, it's up there now. I moved it up to the big screen. Pretty cool, huh?"

Griffin: "Where's our dot finder?"

"Right here, sir. This is us, right here."

Travis: "That's us. I'm gonna put a little arrow there so we don't forget."

Griffin: "Okay. Blow up every other dot." [chuckles]

“Oh, no!”

“Do it for the laughs. As much as you wanna dominate someone, make it funny. Because everyone likes that one hilarious kid in the lobby.” That’s true!

Justin: That is true.

Griffin: Everyone really likes when a bunch of ones are fighting for that incredible honor, is the best part. ‘Cause then it’s like... it’s like I’m on Last Comic Standing.

Travis: Yup.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Every day, every time I play COD and Halo with my best friends.

“Don’t be agnoxious [sic]. Don’t be—”

Justin: Sorry?

Griffin: Don’t be—

Travis: Don’t be agnostic.

Griffin: Don’t be agnostic. Christ is gonna get you there.

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: *Or...* he won’t.

Travis: He won’t, but—

Griffin: But don’t fall in the middle. Make a fucking choice.

Travis: You gotta decide.

Griffin: You gotta decide. If you're alone—

Travis: If there's one thing game lobbies love, it's strong religious beliefs. One way or the other.

Justin: One way or the other.

Griffin: One way or the other. Either God's gonna help you get the battle royale and take the crown in this big Fortnite match. Or we're all alone and it's you!

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: And it all comes down to you. And one of those two extremes is the way you gotta go. "Avoid being obnoxious. Don't whine and be annoying. Because chances are, you're the one that's gonna get dominated." This article's all over the fucking place, man.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: This is what happens when you have like 28 different authors. 'Cause one author is like, "Be obnoxious!" Is like, "All right... No, don't... Hey, don't listen to what he said."

Griffin: "Don't actually listen to that one."

"Make friends. You don't have to friend request them. But making some lobby friends is always good. Especially if a lobby fight breaks out, you want them to have your back."

"Lobby fight!"

"Oh, shit. Why is your collar bone broken?"

"Yeah, man. Lob... You know how it is, lobby fight."

Justin: Lobby fight.

Travis: Lobby fight.

Griffin: Not friends on there. I don't friend people. That's serendipity. I let 'em go. [blows a kiss] I blow—I say, "Thanks for the teamwork." [kiss sound] Send 'em back into the breeze. If our paths cross again, it was meant to be.

Travis: What about—Hey, guys? What about instead of trash talk—

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: ... We focus on some treasure talk? And just say like, "Hey—"

Justin: Oh?

Griffin: That's good.

Travis: ... "Everybody did really good this match and I appreciated—"

Justin: Hey, really—I've never gotten a compliment while playing an online video game. That would be huge for me. If someone's like, "Nice kill!"

Travis: Yes, I have also experienced that, Justin, as well!

Justin: "Nice. Nice kill, J-man." You wanna hear the most effect—I've only been affected by trash talk once in my entire illustrious gaming career.

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: I was playing Gears of War Online. And in Gears of War, to finish—This is gross...

Griffin: This is yucky stuff, guys.

Justin: In Gears of War, that iteration of it, you had to stomp on an enemy's head—

Travis: Oh?

Justin: ... To finish the fight. They'd be down. But then it's like in Fortnite, you know if somebody gets downed, like this. Except you run over to 'em and you have to smash their head. But whoever smashes the head gets credit for the kill. So, this guy next to me, he shoots someone, really dead.

But he doesn't run over as fast as I do, 'cause I was close to the body. So, I run over, [silly running sounds], and I squish his head. And this guy says to me, in the most like disappointed parent voice possible... "You have to get your own kills, man."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [gasps] Oh, no! Devastating!

Justin: And I—And, man... I did feel like trash. That was some good trash talk.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: I remember it 10 years later.

Griffin: Yeah, man.

Justin: 'Cause I felt like trash. [chuckles]

Griffin: Wow.

Justin: It was... it was—

Griffin: Did you leave—Did you just turn—Did you turn the Xbox off immediately? I don't think I could've hung in the rest of the match.

Justin: I don't think I kept playing. I was so emb—I think I probably shut it off. But I remember that exact—That's trash talk. I mean, that's like...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That works on a—That's deep. That's going deep for trash talk, that I will still recount 10 years later.

Griffin: [chuckles] "Know when it's appropriate. If no one is talking when you enter a lobby, it's probably not a good idea to trash talk." Okay, I... It's—My experience has been—

Justin: Yeah... By yourself?

Travis: Someone's gotta start it.

Griffin: Yeah. "Be careful what you say. There are people who report trash talkers if you use overly swear filled language. So, trash talk all you want, just lay off the F-bombs."

Travis: Yeah, use like really archaic—

Justin: I'm not sure that's true?

Griffin: I don't think that's—I don't think that's—

Justin: I don't think that's accurate. I don't think they're policing that. I don't.

Griffin: I do not believe that fuckin' Master Chief is like listening in. Like, "He said fuck... once. That one is okay. It's PG-13 rules."

Travis: "That's PG-13 rules. They can show a boob." [chuckles]

Griffin: "Be funny. You don't have to trash on other people."

Travis: Didn't they already say be funny?

Griffin: "In most cases, you will find that the subject matter is far away from video games. In general, just don't talk about racist or controversial subjects—"

Travis: Oh?

Griffin: ... [in surprised tone] "Unless you are in that sort of company"?!"

Travis: Wow!

Justin: Wow!

Travis: Hey, WikiHow!

Griffin: WikiHow?!

Travis: WikiHow?

Griffin: Holy shit, guys!

Justin: "Read the room for bigotry. And then, dive right in, adult swim! I mean, everybody—"

Travis: "Listen, man. If everyone's being racist, go for it!"

Griffin: "If everyone's having a racist old time?"

Travis: "You don't wanna stand out as the not racist in the room?!" [laughs]

Griffin: Holy shit!

Travis: WikiHow?!

Griffin: WikiHow...

Justin: They will single you out for your unwillingness to participate in the bigotry.

Griffin: Do you think that this article or this subsection of the article will still be active by the next time we record? Or will one of the 38 original authors be like, "I do not want my username on this one. Boop!"

Justin: Boop.

Travis: Oh, boy...

Griffin: One Q&A, "Why is my friend acting like she does not wanna be my friend anymore?" That is not germane to the subject. What you did certainly had nothing to do with this article. You fucked up IRL.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: These are clinically proven ways to just have a funny time on a Xbox Live platform.

Justin: And what's wrong with that?

Griffin: A lot!

Justin: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

Travis: Hey, do you have an exciting idea for a website? An idea that you wanna share with your brothers, but then they make you wait on that idea until after the break?

Justin: Yeah?

Griffin: Hm.

Travis: And you're so excited to share it, and then they're like, "Well, we gotta go make money first. So, you have to wait." But you don't have to—

Justin: Trav, I'd love to hear your idea. 'Cause I did promise that I'd listen to it. But first, can I take just one more second, just to tell you about Squarespace first?

Travis: Oh, I was—

Justin: Completely unrelated note, Squarespace is a website creation tool that... And it's so much more than that. But really, you can use Squarespace and all their incredible resources to make a website, even if you don't know anything about making a website.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And you know, like Travis for example, he's got this great idea he's gonna share with us soon. But—

Travis: Not an idea, so much as it's just like a reinvigoration of our brand, maybe?

Griffin: And we'll get there, we'll get there. For sure.

Justin: We'll get there, we'll get there, we'll get there. But you know, it's not gonna take long to make this website, Travis. So, you don't need to worry about

it 'cause they've got all these incredible templates. They're created by best designers in the biz. You pull these in and—

Travis: Do they get—Wait. They got Jerry Website?

Justin: They got Jerry Website, the man for whom—

Griffin: They got Jerry Website, this dude definitely knows how to cyber.

Justin: Yeah, and you can sell products—

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] Okay. You can—You can sell products with a Squarespace website. And they've got vlogging tools, you can share your photos, videos, recommendations. Like, it is a very powerful tool. I've used it to make websites and now you can too. Even if you, like me, haven't edited since the WYSIWYG days.

Travis: Can I use it to share my Grinch fan art?

Justin: Is that your website idea?

Griffin: It actually says—I'm looking at the Squarespace terms of conditions. And it says here, that's forbidden. Only from Travis.

Travis: But it's only implied erotica.

Griffin: Yeah, no. They said they hate it. They said they hate it in the terms of conditions.

Travis: They want explicit?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh... I don't know if I could do that to my hero, the Grinch.

Justin: [chuckles] Check out 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.

Griffin: Sometimes we cross the finish line of an advertisement and one of us is just sort of dragging the like sort of hole-riddled sack of the ad copy behind us.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: As it sort of just tumbles out the back.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Well, it's just like, imagine if you were watching like a relay race.

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: And between like racer three and four, instead of a baton, they just handed 'em a dildo. And then they're were like, "Oh, ugh. Okay." [laughs]

Griffin: "Oh, okay. Well, now what do I do?"

Travis: And they just had to carry that across the finish line. Like, "This is what they gave me, man. I don't know."

Justin: The grocery bags have torn and I'm just picking cans of peas up from the parking lot and putting them in my coat pockets.

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, and Justin's like, "Don't worry, guys. I got it." And me and Travis are just leg wrestling in the grass.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

[Just the Zoo of Us theme music plays]

Ellen: You probably already have a favorite animal. Maybe it's a powerful apex predator, like the tiger. Or a cute and cuddly panda. And those are great! But have you considered something a little more unconventional?

Christian: Could I perhaps interest you in the Greenland Shark? Which can live for nearly 400 years? Or maybe the jewel wasp, who performs brain surgery on cockroaches to control their minds?

Ellen: On Just the Zoo of Us, we review animals by giving them ratings out of 10, in the categories of effectiveness, ingenuity and aesthetics. Listen with friends and family of all ages to find your new favorite animal with Just the Zoo of Us, on maximumfun.org or wherever you get podcasts.

[Just the Zoo of Us theme music concludes]

[Shmanners theme music plays]

Travis: [in silly voice] Hello, I'm a stuffy Dowager Countess.

Teresa: Travis?

Travis: [in silly voice] I'm judging everybody's manners.

Teresa: Oh, no...

Travis: Shmanners isn't judgy. It's about teaching you to be your best self. And be a little more confident when you enter social situations that you don't understand. And maybe also teach you a little bit about history you didn't know, or give you interesting things to talk about at parties.

Teresa: Yeah, like the secret life of Emily Post.

Travis: Or like why wristwatches are the way that they are.

Teresa: We can talk about table manners from the Victorian era.

Travis: Sure. Or what it's like to attend a Regency ball.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: You can find all that and more if you listen to Shmanners, on Maximum Fun, or wherever your podcasts come from, I guess.

Teresa: Manners, Shmanners. Get it?

[Shmanners theme music concludes]

Justin: Now, Travis, I believe that before we were so rudely interrupted by this capitalist hellscape in which we are imprisoned, that you were about to play along at home.

Travis: I was about to play along at home! But what I've done... And I worked really hard on it. I took some time away from my family during the holiday season—

Griffin: Have you polished up this bit? I love a lot of your bits, I can admit now because of lots of therapy.

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: But this one, I still don't know if it's there yet.

Travis: I have—

Justin: I think what's so energizing about this show—

Travis: I have two sets of questions—

Justin: ... Is that we're able to workshop things as we do them.

Travis: I have two sets of questions.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: One set of questions is about Disney Land or Disney theme parks.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Okay?

Travis: One set of questions is about Pokémon.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: We've done—

Travis: Griffin—

Griffin: I think we've done this exact—

Travis: Yes, I know. But I—This time, I've carefully balanced it.

Griffin: [sighs]

Travis: I've gone through, I focus tested these to make sure they were balanced.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Griffin, I'll be asking you the Disney questions. Justin, I'll be asking you the Pokémon questions. Are you—

Justin: We should call this the Chuckle Lab.

Travis: Okay, you ready?

Justin: So, if Trav—When Travis has a bit, we'll call it the Chuckle Lab.

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: And it's an experiment. And we're all in it. You're in it, if you're listening. We're all in it.

Travis: Okay, we're all in it.

Justin: We're all in the experiment.

Griffin: We're all scientists.

Travis: Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: In 2006, Disney regained the rights to Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, by trading NBC what?

Griffin: Uh... [sighs] One of the Huey, Dewey, Louie duck nephews.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: No, I'm sorry.

Justin: It used to be Huey, Dewey and Greg.

Travis: Yeah, got rid of him. Checked him out 'cause he didn't rhyme. It was the services of sports commentator, Al Michaels.

Griffin: Okay? That's wild!

Justin: [chuckles] That greatest—

Griffin: That's really cool, that they were able to do that.

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Who is that good for? Whose ego does that boost? I have to know. 'Cause like, on the one hand, it seems like, wow... To trade a whole IP just for this one guy? But then from Al Michaels' perspective it's like, "I'm who?"

Travis: "I'm equal to what now?" Apparently, Bob Iger—

Justin: "I'm moving my beautiful family." [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "I'm moving my beautiful wife and three children to Santa Clara, California, across the country, so you can have Oswald the Lucky Rabbit and put him in Epic Mickey? Come on!"

Travis: Apparently the dude from ESPN, when they wanted Al Michael, called and was like, "Hey, it's me from ABC. We would like Al Michael, his contract's [unintelligible]."

And Bob Iger was like, "Cool, you got it. But we want Oswald the Lucky Rabbit."

And the dude from ESPN was like, "Who is that?"

And Bob Iger said, "Time for you to do some research!"

Justin: [wheezes loudly]

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: They could—They probably could've just done it and no one would've been like, "Hey, do we own that?"

Travis: Justin.

Justin: Yeah?

Travis: In the original Pokémon game, the three starter—

Justin: Can I do the other ones?

Travis: ... The three starters to choose from were Charmander, Bulbasaur and what squirting turtle?

Griffin: Are you—Fuck off, Travis!

Justin: Squirtle!

Travis: Okay, that's one for Justin.

Griffin: That's dog shit!

Justin: Nice. Oof.

Travis: Okay, Griffin. Disney parks have been home to a lot of famous rides. These rides include Space Mountain, Haunted Mansion and a swash buckling dark ride. What was the name of the miniature railroad in Walt Disney's backyard?

Griffin: The Zephyr.

Travis: No, I'm sorry. It was Carolwood Pacific Railroad.

Justin: He had a miniature railroad in his backyard?

Travis: Okay.

Justin: You think we're gonna get—be able to ride the train at Disney World again soon? It feels like it's coming up. They finished the tunnel through Tron.

Travis: I love that. Justin, in the animated series, Pokémon trainer, Ash Ketchum, was accompanied by his buddy, Pikachu. What was Pikachu's catch phrase on the show?

Justin: Pika-pee?

Travis: I will accept that. It was Pikachu. But we'll take it.

Justin: Yeah, okay.

Griffin: I think that this sucks. I think it sucks for a lot of reasons. Is it time yet? I'll wait until the end of the bit.

Travis: Griffin, arguably the most creative Disney imagineer, visionary Tony Baxter, was born on what day?

Griffin: Christmas.

Travis: No, I'm sorry, he was—

Griffin: Easter.

Travis: February 1st, 1947.

Justin: [laughs loudly]

Travis: He had a hand in the creation of Star Tours, Big Thunder Mountain—

Justin: Really, Griffin?

Travis: ... The Journey into Imagination and many others, including what would've been a Jules Vern themed land called Discovery Land. Or Discovery Bay.

Griffin: That's interesting. That's interesting. Great.

Travis: Justin, name a Pokémon.

Justin: God...

[pause]

Travis: You can do this.

Justin: Mr. Mime?

Travis: We'll accept that, yes! Mr. Mime.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: That's three for three! Justin, you kicked Griffin's ass.

Justin: Thank you. Whoo!

Griffin: You don't have any more for me? 'Cause I feel like now I'm—

Travis: Justin, you sure know a lot about Pokémon.

Justin: I feel like I'm kind of a renaissance dude.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Like, I know Pokémon and Disney. You know what I mean?

Travis: Griffin, you don't know shit.

Griffin: It's like...

Justin: What? That's like unnecessarily cruel though, I will say that.

Travis: Well, I was trying to trash talk...

Justin: Ohh! Okay.

Griffin: Here's the thing—Here's the thing—Here's the thing what sucks.

Travis: Uh-huh?

Griffin: That Justin's questions were a lot easier than mine.

Travis: No, I balanced. I worked very carefully to balance them out.

Griffin: No, listen. They were objectively much easier. And last time we did it, I feel like my questions were easier and Justin's was harder. And I'm wondering if maybe there's a... maybe we need a fourth party who can step in and do a little game balance, before the next time we do the segment.

Travis: Hmm... Well, we don't have a fourth brother. So, I don't know how that would work...

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: No, but dad did just text us.

Justin: Just this second!

Griffin: Literally, this exact moment, "Does anybody wanna learn Euchre?"

Travis: I already fucking know Euchre!

Griffin: We all already know Euchre, but regardless, I think dad's our fourth brother. Just from the text messages.

Travis: Sometimes we get texts from dad and it feels like we haven't spoken to him in six years.

Justin: Now, okay. He is referencing the fact that we were chatting about Marvel Snap. It was a good goof—

Travis: Oaky.

Griffin: Oh, yeah. That is a great goof.

Justin: ... The fact that we were talking about Marvel Snap in the chat.

Griffin: Okay, that's good.

Travis: I'm actually quite good at Euchre already, father.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Dad plays a lot of Marvel Snap, y'all. Travis plays a lot-lot. Dad plays a lot. I play just a regular amount. [chuckles] Just normal.

Griffin: And I... And I go on car dates with babes. [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Woah, that's a big thing to admit! That you're philandering and like you're cheating on your wife.

Justin: Wow!

Griffin: [chuckles] I'm sorry—

Justin: "Noted wife guy, Griffin McElroy, revealed!" [laughs]

Griffin: Oh, babe, I'm—Babe, I'm so sorry! I'm so sorry! No, not me!

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Hey, wait. Griffin, turn off—

Griffin: They're gonna find out about my babe-based car dates!

Justin: Griffin, turn off your—Griffin, turn off your camera.

Griffin: Okay, okay. [whines]

Justin: And be quiet. Hey, guys. It's Justin and Travis from the McElroy Brothers. God, I never thought we'd have to do this one.

Travis: So hard. It's...

Justin: As you know, noted wife guy, Griffin McElroy and our former brother has been... Trav, how would you say it? I mean...

Travis: Revealed?

Justin: Revealed...

Travis: Has been unveiled—

Justin: Unmasked?

Travis: Unmasked! Unmasked.

Justin: Unmasked, god...

Travis: As a real piece of shit. [chuckles quietly]

Justin: [choked up] He's been going on car dates with babes.

Travis: With babes! Multiple babes!

Justin: Multiple babes.

Travis: Multiple car dates. Probably multiple cars!

Griffin: Vroom! Vroom-vroom!

Travis: Oh, he's on one right now!

Justin: [laughs] He's on one.

Griffin: Hey, guys. I just got—Hold on, guys.

Justin: [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: I just drove my car into my third story window and parked it. Were you talking something about me? I'm just doing normal shit. Grocery store shit.

Travis: Griffin...

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: Griffin, you still have a whole car date with babe vibe around you.

Justin: Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin: I'm not on a car date with six babes right now. Stop it!

Travis: Wait, it's multiple babes at the same time, Griffin?

Justin: Ah, Griffin!

Griffin: Even—

Justin: That's not even fair to the babes! [chuckles]

Travis: Do they know about each other?

Griffin: Even this bit...

Justin: [strained] Feels bad.

Griffin: ... Makes me hugely... *deeply* uncomfortable. *Hugely*.

Justin: [laughs] Take the glasses off, please.

Travis: Yeah, you did a costume change for this bit.

Justin: [laughs] You did a costume change!

Griffin: I mean, it's a great—Don't get me wrong, man.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't regret the bit 'cause it's—I think it's—

Justin: You like looking like Blue Beetle from DC comics. [chuckles]

Griffin: I think it's pretty funny. I thought it was a pretty—Post game, I thought it was a pretty funny bit.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: It made me feel deeply uncomfortable while doing it.

Justin: You're still wearing the sunglasses.

Griffin: They're prescription, so they're fine.

Justin: [laughs] It's fine... It's fine... [mouths Munch Squad riff]

Griffin: Hey!

Justin: [continues riffing and sings] I wanna munch!

Travis: Squad!

Griffin: Squad!

Justin: [continues riffing and sings] I want to munch!

Travis: Squad!

Griffin: Squad!

Justin: [concludes riffing] Welcome to Munch Squad. It's a podcast within a podcast. Profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating. I have two-two-two-two scoops of news for you today. One is, KFC is giving the gift of \$5 Famous Bowls and limited-edition Holiday Buckets!

Griffin: Yummy!

Justin: Sorry, Starbucks. But the Colonel has his own thing.

Travis: It's chicken.

Justin: "Just in time for the holiday season, KFC's—" Debu-debu-debuting?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I always get confused about—Debuting?

Travis: Debuting.

Justin: Debuting.

Travis: Debutting.

Justin: ... "New bargains and buckets to make it easier to enjoy all of your celebrations. Whether you're looking to sneak away for a quick bite to fuel your holiday shopping—"

Griffin: Hell yeah!

Travis: Sneak away from your family? Is that what you mean? [chuckles]

Griffin: Sneak a whole bucket of KFC.

Justin: Sneak away. They say sneak away!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: From your family...

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: For a bucket of chicken!

Justin: ... To go eat KFC—To eat a bucket of chicken by yourself, in private.

Griffin: Yeah, in the—

Justin: Just silent nodding to the other patrons like, "Yeah! Me too, buddy."

Griffin: Yeah, just—

Travis: Yeah, “I think that there was another box of decorations in the garage and I missed it. I gotta go look.”

“What are you talking about? It’s December 22nd!”

“I gotta just... I’ll be back in about 15 minutes.” [munching sounds]

Griffin: “Hey, when I drove the kids to school this morning, it smelled like... and there was a big, empty bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Did you maybe eat a whole one of those while sitting idling in the car, in the Target parking lot yesterday?”

Travis: “Ah... Raccoon must’ve gotten in the car again.”

Griffin: “Raccoons, damn. They bring chicken into cars and eat it, and leave it.”

Justin: “Three-time Grammy nominated rap superstar, Jack Harlow, teams up with acclaimed comedian and entrepreneur, Drewski, to promote the \$5 deal.”

Griffin: ‘Kay.

Justin: “Based on a childhood memory of being in his dad’s truck and picking up a KFC in the drive-thru.” The press release says, “Picking up a KFC in the drive-thru.”

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: So, I don’t... He’s got some serious towing capacity. That’s gotta be a RAM 1500 or something. [crosstalk]

Griffin: That one’s got a Hemi, for sure.

Justin: It’s got a Hemi. This one’s got a Hemi.

Justin: ... “Picking up a KFC in the drive-thru, Harlow’s nostalgia for the Famous Bowl transports him to an animated world of memories of enjoying the iconic bowl.”

Griffin: Woah.

Travis: Wait, how old is Jack Harlow?

Justin: Is this the—this is what I'm—Like, this kind of threw me, right? 'Cause has the Famous Bowl been a goof for long enough that it went around?

Travis: Okay, Jack Harlow is only 24 years old. So, I can believe that he has nostalgia. But how do you have nostalgia for a thing that still exists? I'm confused about that.

Griffin: And is gross. [chuckles]

Travis: Also that.

Griffin: Is the bigger question.

Travis: I just wanna point out, Young Gravy is older than Jack Harlow. So, a little bit of mislabeling. More like Old Gravy.

Griffin: My favorite part of the Famous Bowl is the thick and gelatinous layer of young gravy that they sprinkle atop it.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Let's see if there's anything... They have a new sharing is caring themed holiday bucket. Here's the quote, "The holidays and KFC go hand in hand. There's no better way to satisfy a craving for comfort and connection than by sharing a bucket of KFC with family and friends." There's *no* better way.

Griffin: That's it. Pinnacle.

Justin: "Our holiday bucket with free cookies and \$5 Famous Bowls are two gifts that are sure to feed the joyful moments that surround this season." The other thing I wanted to mention to you guys, as long as I have you here.

If I could borrow one more moment of your time, is Panera Bakery Shakes. And I'm gonna hold off on showing you the picture of these because the picture's really important here. And maybe we'll upload it somewhere, certainly or... but...

Travis: Or we won't.

Justin: They could see a national roll out in 2023. And the chain began testing them in Texas. They're leverage— "Panera is leveraging core bakery items and transforming its existing offerings to capture younger audiences, drive visitation, and strengthen attachment across dayparts."

Griffin: Yeah, for sure.

Justin: Says the robot currently running Panera Bread.

Griffin: [laughs] Dayparts?

Justin: "On November 16, Panera launched a test in the Texas market of its first Bakery Shakes." Then it says in parenthetical, "(Think frozen blended shakes)."

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: I was.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Justin: Yeah, like a... a shake? [pause] Like a shake.

Travis: Would shakery be a better name? Bakery shakes...

Justin: "Panera may roll out this beverage item nationwide during the warmer months of 2023. This new frozen blended beverage platform is the latest example of Panera expanding into new menu offerings, after launching grain bowls in 2019 and flatbread pizzas in 2020."

And then I guess taking three years off to pat themselves on the back for how good things are going at Panera. Now, this is the actual—the actual reason I wanted to draw your attention here. Now, let me see if I can... Yeah, here we go. I'm gonna zoom this in a little bit, so you have a better view. So...

Travis: Hu.h

Justin: So, look at this for a second, guys.

Travis: Oh, it's a bit!

Justin: What you see—No, it's not a—

Travis: Well, but I mean, it's a bit. Like, when you go... Like, you remember that time when we went to Junior's Cheesecake place in New York and it was like, "This is a New York style... milkshake." And it had, much like the one on the right there, a whole hunk of cheesecake on top.

Justin: But-but-but... you're... Yeah, but... So, if you're not looking at these right now, it's a chocolate milkshake. Like, a blended cookie milkshake and a strawberry milkshake. Then stacked on top of the chocolate one is two brownies—

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: ... With whipped cream. And then, there's another one that's two cookies with pretzels in between them, with whipped cream. And then, there's a third one that's strawberry... But these are created—

Travis: And cheesecake. Strawberry and cheesecake.

Justin: Strawberry cheesecake. These are entirely created in photoshop. Look at the strawberry one.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: There is a strawberry balancing on top of another strawberry.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: They've never done this.

Griffin: They've never constructed one of these, ever.

Justin: They've never done this.

Travis: Now, Justin...

Justin: They have not made these.

Griffin: Never.

Justin: This is a joke. They have not made them.

Travis: Is it clear in the press release whether or not the drinks actually come balanced with these things on top? Or is this just a representation—

Justin: This is what's so confusing to me, Trav. If it's a representation, then this art is like hugely misleading. I mean—

Travis: Yes.

Justin: ...The art is not meant to say, "It's like this." It's meant to say, "This will come on top of it."

Griffin: Yeah, for sure.

Travis: But it is also some clumsy and precarious—

Justin: Yes.

Travis: ... That this can't be it.

Justin: Also, photoshopped on here—

Griffin: All the labels.

Justin: The Panera Bread labels on the cup.

Griffin: Yeah, I was about to point that out.

Justin: You guys didn't have *those* handy?

Griffin: Yeah. I am scared to think of what any of these would look like in real—
What—What is going to slide across the counter to me when I order one of these for me and each of my children, uh, is—

Justin: "So, do you want me to moosh the cookies right in there?"

Griffin: "Careful, here's your drinks. Ope, all six cookies fell down." Like, yeah, man. For sure.

Justin: "Sometimes when we moosh `em in there, the drinks tends to just shlorp right on to the counter. The whole drink shlorps out and it's just messy cookies. And then I got fired."

Griffin: [chuckles] "It's easier this way. Take the milkshake in this hand and hold out the other hand. I'm just gonna put the whole slice of cheesecake right in there, pal. Have fun!"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "Squish `em together at the table like you're making a guacamole."

Justin: [chuckles] "It'll be \$13, thank you." This is good, though. Thanks, Panera. You're always keeping—[chuckles] keeping it real. As they say in the ads.

Travis: Keeping it real.

Justin: We got time for another question or what's up?

Travis: Yeah, let's do it.

Justin: All right. "My friend just became a high school theater teacher and we just went to the play she directed with her students. It was good and I told her I liked it. But I feel like she was looking for more feedback. But I still don't really know what the director does, [through laughter] even after she's explained it multiple times!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "I know some of it is managing the kids. So, the best compliment I could come up with was, 'It seems like everyone's doing what they were supposed to be doing.'"

Griffin: Great.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: “What does a high school play director do and how do I compliment them?”

Travis: Okay, so... hearing it—

Justin: You’re not—Can I say, as somebody who has directed multiple plays with kids in it, you’re not entirely wrong.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You’re very close, actually.

Travis: Have we all directed plays with children in them?

Griffin: No. Why would I ever? Why would I ever?

Travis: Oh, that’s right, I forgot. Griffin hates the theater. I would say that there’s an equal chance that they want a compliment, sure. But also, a chance to complain about the entire process with another adult.

Justin: Yeah.

Justin: And justify! They wanna justify the failings and blame them on the children.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Yeah. I think you would actually be better served if you could pick out who was the real stinker up there.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: And just be like, “But can we talk about newsie number three, or whatever? ‘Cause that kid was fuckin’ phoning it in!”

Justin: Guaranteed they’ll be like, “Thank you!”

Travis: “Yes, thank you!”

Justin: “The worst! The worst kid.”

Griffin: Yeah. [laughs]

Justin: “A bad adult even, I will go that far. They will be a bad adult when they get older. They’re the worst.”

Travis: Ugh... That, I think is like, “Hey, it seems like everyone was doing what they were supposed to be doing. Kids were having fun up there. The story made sense. That’s a triumph when you have children delivering lines.” All good. But a chance to be like, “Did you see her pirouette in the second act? That was the best I could get out of her. I know.” Like...

Griffin: Well, why would a director be in charge of that?

Travis: Because it’s a high school production, Griffin. And not fuckin’ Broadway.

Griffin: You don’t think they have a choreographer?

Travis: Well, it might end up being like our high school productions, where there was like five different adults, all claiming to be equal parts in charge.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: [sarcastic] Which made for some real, solid continuity to the entire show.

Griffin: Hell yeah. Man, our—Every children’s theater show we ever did felt pretty strict in terms of you can’t just make shit up and change the play whenever you want. But all the high school shows we did were like, have fuckin’ fun, man. I was just thinking about it the other day, our high school put on a production of Great Expectations.

Travis: Mm-hmm?

Griffin: And the director, who I will not name... The director of the show thought it would be a badass idea if the main character of Great Expectations, after the

show ends—And I think there's like a fire, and maybe the old lady dies, Ms. Havisham? I don't know.

But thought it would be badass if before the main character walked off the stage before curtains drew, looked at the audience and went, "Great?! Expectations..." Just like, tossed that shit right there on the end.

Justin: No! What?

Griffin: In that way, "Great?! Expectations..." Just like they do it in the book, though.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Have you read the book? When the character in the—

Travis: Well, 'cause at first, the expectations, they're great.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then your expectations, they go down.

Griffin: Realize in the middle of saying the title of the play that you are now sad because of the events that unfolded. That's a kickass note, thanks director!

Travis: And that's double cool because that director had that idea—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ... And then stuck to it. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And it's like, they heard the kid say it that way and went, "Yes! Ctrl+S, save!"

Griffin: To his credit, the guy who was playing that role, didn't deliver that—did deliver the line, more in a mumbly way and every night got the same note of like,

"Hey, you're doing great. And it's a heavy load that you carry up there. But do remember at the end, that line is supposed to be delivered, 'Great?! Expectations...'"

Justin: Thank you so much for listening to our podcast, My Brother, My Brother and Me. We hope you've enjoyed yourself. Trav, what's all the stuff you gotta to tell people? 'Cause I know there's always a boat load.

Travis: Oh, thank you so much for asking, Justin. Well, first and foremost, we've got our Candelights live show. It's virtual once more this year. So, you're gonna wanna get tickets for that. What are you waiting for? It's December 17th, at 9: 00 PM, Eastern Time.

Tickets go on sale—they're on sale now. [Bit.ly/candelights2022](https://bit.ly/candelights2022), Candelights 2022. We've got a lot of great guests and all proceeds from that show go to benefit Harmony House, a shelter in our hometown of Huntington, West Virginia, helping people experiencing homelessness.

We've got our shrimp angel ornament, our Bureau of Balance medal ornaments and the CandleKnights, with a K, ornament, designed by Bree Paulsen. Proceeds from that ornament also go to Harmony House. And 10% of all merch proceeds from December go to Harmony House. So, make sure you check all that out at mcelroymerch.com.

Griffin: We also have some tour dates coming up in April for the shows we had to reschedule in San José and Denver. April 27th, we're gonna be in San José doing TAZ, with Aabria Iyengar. The day after, we're gonna stay in San José and do MBMBaM.

And then, April 29th, we're gonna be in Denver doing MBMBaM. All existing tickets will be honored for the new dates. But you can still go get tickets at bit.ly/mcelroytours?

[pause]

Travis: Correct.

Griffin: That felt good. It felt right. Mask and proof of full vaccination or negative COVID test within 72 hours of event start will be required. Did I already say that?

I don't remember. But it's... But now I've done and said it twice, if so. Thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, My Life Is Better With You.

It's a jammer and a slammer and you should get the album, Making It, 'cause it's one of my favorites of the whole dang year. And also, The Adventure Zone graphic novel, Eleventh Hour, comes out February 21st, 2023. Go to theadventurezonecomic.com to preorder.

Justin: Phew.

Griffin: Listen...

Justin: Yeah?

Griffin: That was a lot of stuff.

Travis: It is a lot of stuff.

Griffin: I think... Who is it gonna be this time?

Justin: We gotta come up with something.

Travis: Yeah, I think Justin... It feels like Justin has something important to say to the audience?

Griffin: It felt like it.

Justin: No, no, that was my—that was mine.

Griffin: Oh?

Travis: We gotta come up with something?

Justin: We gotta come up with something.

Griffin: What, is that a sort of general... like for everyone?

Justin: Yeah, yeah. Just like, just everybody, like... We gotta come up with something. [chuckles]

Travis: So, just like a general blue-sky opportunity for humanity to come up with *something*.

Justin: We gotta come up with something.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: What does that mean to you? That's the power of it, right? It can mean anything.

Griffin: It means probably one of two things. I don't think there's that many interpretations of what you just said.

Justin: Yeah, okay. Agree to disagree. My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: My name is Travis McElroy.

Griffin: My name is Griffin McElroy.

Justin: This has been My Brother, My Brother and Me. And we gotta come up... with something.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Then kiss your dad square on the lips.

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

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