

MBMBaM 644: Which One is the Old Man

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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 modren era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy.

Travis: [spoofing pilot talking over airplane intercom] This is your middlest brother... Travis Mcelroy. I'm... so happy to be here. And you could've listened to... any podcast. And... you chose us. So, we're gonna get moving here. We got a nice tailwind on the podcast... So, we're hoping to end early, about 49 minutes. Just sit back and relax...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Hey. Hey there, frequent flyers. This is Griffin McElroy. And we hope you've got your tickets for the... for both the flight and for the theater. 'Cause it's time for a movie watch, special movie, for all of us, this holiday season. It's—

Travis: Valentine's Day. It's Valentine's Day.

Griffin: It's Valentine's Day.

Justin: It's Planentine's Day. [laughs]

Griffin: It's Planentine's Plane and it's Plane Watch!

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Plane watch, zoom!

Justin: Zoom!

Griffin: Gerald Butler has come to us from... the mount—he's come down from the mount—

Justin: [laughs] I have a new prof—

Griffin: He is—

Justin: It's the new prophecy for Gerard Butler. [laughs]

Griffin: Gerald Butler comes down from the mount with his tablets. And etched in a tablet is one word, and the word is 'Plane', and the other tablet is blank.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: He's says, "This one's gonna be Plane 2 or—"

Justin: It said—[laughs] One says 'Plane' and the other one says, "This tablet intentionally left blank."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: This is the only—And then next year, the tablet will change to a giant S.

Griffin: Yes?

Justin: And he'll just put that next to 'Plane' and he'll be like—

Travis: With a money sign.

Justin: With a money sign!

Griffin: With a money sign.

Justin: Just like Jim Cameron—

Griffin: It's Plane Watch.

Justin: ... Catching aliens.

Griffin: Travis has been sort of my boots on the ground, Plane street team for a while. He's been sending us lots of promotional images and—

Travis: My favorite—Last week—

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: Last week.

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: Plane?

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: The people behind Plane, the Plane producers were like, "Yeah, we're gonna leak some... some stills to some news—"

Griffin: Oh boy.

Travis: Those still, one, a bunch of people dramatically crossing their arm, leaning or sitting at a table.

Griffin: Great?

Travis: And looking at, I imagine, a screen where something more interesting is happening. And then another one where Gerard Butler is just kind of... like looking out a plane door. And it's a close up.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: We barely see any plane in it. And they're like—

Griffin: "No plane."

Travis: "This will get 'em horny for Plane."

Griffin: What's wild is it's kind of like *The Babadook*, because you don't actually see the plane until like...

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: An hour and a half into the film. And when it reveals the plane—Guys, when I saw it in theaters, when it finally shows the plane, people lost their asses. People went fucking ballistic.

Travis: I'm just saying... I'm just saying, M. Night Shyamalan's back. *Plane* is his best work so far.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: The twist that it ends up being P-L-A-I-N blew me away.

Griffin: Yes!

Travis: I had no idea. No idea that was coming.

Griffin: Yeah. Huge, huge. Yeah, I mean, it's from the makers of *Old* and *Mermaid* and *Hellevator*, come *Plane*. And I think that this is maybe... I think this is Jared's best work yet.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: For my money. I loved him in *300*. I loved him in...

Travis: *301*.

Griffin: 301 Dalmatians. I think he's a natural talent and I'll watch anything that he does. Any—

Travis: I loved Gamer! Loved him in Gamer!

Griffin: I *loved* Gamer!

Justin: Loved Gamer.

Griffin: Forget about it.

Travis: I love how many times in Gamer he was teabagging dudes.
[chuckles] It was just left and right.

Griffin: He kills a lot of men and puts his privates on them in Gamer a lot. He does it a few times in Plane. And every time he does it in Plane, he looks at you, like at the camera, like, "From Gamer?" He says that. "From Gamer? Remember?"

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "When I do this in Gamer?" I love how it's all sort of one connected Geraldverse.

Justin: I have a little game for you guys.

Travis: Ooh, a Plane game?

Griffin: Oh, okay?

Justin: Yeah. Yeah, this is a Plane game. The reviews are in.

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: And I'm going to read the Rotten Tomatoes snippets from these reviews.

Griffin: Great.

Justin: And your task—

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: If I may, is to tell me if it is a positive review.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: If it has been excerpted from a positive review or a negative review of the movie Plane.

Griffin: This seems—This seems like it shouldn't be too hard.

Travis: And Justin, I'm just gonna say, it'll be too easy if it contains the word 'soars' or 'crashes.' I will know exactly which one it is.

Griffin: Oh, yeah!

Justin: You may think so.

Griffin: Let's see.

Justin: Okay, here's the first one. "Reminded me of a picture of a beautifully drawn horse that turned into a stick figure by the end."

Griffin: That's... That's a negative one, I don't think they liked it.

Travis: Yeah, it gotta be negative.

Justin: Okay, that is negative, correct.

Griffin: Good. Okay, good game.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Good game so far.

Travis: That's also a specific like meme reference there. You can't be like, "It reminds me of..." Like, just say, "It's like that meme."

Justin: It's like that one meme. "Plane would—" Now, this is from James... Berardinelli.

Griffin: Okay. Oh, I love—

Justin: He says, "Plane would've been an adequate way to waste a couple of hours lounging on the couch and munching salty snacks. But as a multiplex draw? Not quite. Even if you bring the salty snacks along." I think Jim was hungry.

Griffin: Yeah, I think Jim might've been hungry. Maybe Jim also doesn't understand... at the theater, you can get the salty snacks. Like, they have the salty snacks. Everything you need sort of snack-wise, they do have it at the theater.

Justin: Yeah, it's all there. No problem.

Griffin: Just huge—

Travis: I'm gonna say it's a positive one, 'cause he said, "No quite." Which could've been worse.

Griffin: Yeah, I think he... I think he had an all right time. It sounds like honestly, it's his fault 'cause he watched it in the wrong place.

Travis: He watched it hungry.

Justin: 'Cause he didn't bring the salty snacks along that he loves.

Travis: Well, he went to like the 10:30AM showing and he was like, "I'll be fine." But then by the time the movie's done he's like, "Ah, it's past lunch. Oh no."

Griffin: Yeah. It sounds like... You can't be like, "I watched Plane in a spider filled room, and so I hated it. I think it's a bad movie." Whatever, man.

Justin: I think—It feels like—Also, salty snacks is so non-specific. It feels like he's a socialite trying to remember what the common folk eat in the movies.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Right, yeah. We love salt.

Justin: He's like, "Lover? Lover? Do they have—Remind me, do they eat Brie and watercress at the cinema? No, just salty snacks, is what I'll write." Okay, this is a tough one.

Griffin: Oh—

Justin: Plane, Melanie Fisher—

Travis: Wait, was it positive or negative?

Justin: Oh, it was negative. You were wrong.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: [chuckles] "Plane is an unattractive, but viscerally effective film. There is little here to admire for the eye, absolutely nothing for the brain, but plenty to appeal to the head."

Travis: Huh?

Griffin: Whoa, damn.

Travis: Wow.

Griffin: This is—I don't know who wrote this one, but they sound like they might be too smart for Plane.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah...

Griffin: That's... I'm gonna say that's positive. I think they actually did like it. I think—

Travis: I think it's positive too 'cause they're saying like, "Yeah, turn off your heart, turn off your brain."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs] "Close your heart. Close your soul."

Travis: "Turn on your guts."

Griffin: "Close your heart to Plane."

Travis: "Your guts are gonna love it."

Justin: [laughs] "Close your heart to Plane."

Travis: "Let Plane get up in your guts. You're gonna love it."

Griffin: What was that, Juice? Was that positive or negative?

Justin: That one was positive, yes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Colter counter balances all his brawny physicality with a grimy, utilitarian sense of humor. Moments of Gaspare skulking around corners with a sledgehammer, at least in my screening, draw bigger cheers than Butler's vein-popping cockpit performance."

Travis: Wow.

Griffin: Whoa. I would love to ever do anything artistic in my life that people refer to as a vein-popping anything.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Like, "Griffin's vein-popping humor on this episode of MBMBaM..."

Travis: "Now, I enjoy Matt Mercer's voice work on Critical Role. But of course, it does not compare to Griffin's vein-popping DMery." [chuckles]

Griffin: Argh. I... I love... movies.

Justin: Positive or negative?

Griffin: Positive.

Travis: I'm gonna say positive too.

Griffin: I think, if this person—

Travis: I do like the idea of Gaspare skulking around corners with his sledged hammer.

Justin: It's negative. [chuckles] They didn't like it.

Travis: Ah, damn it.

Griffin: Fuck, okay.

Justin: All right, last one. And I just feel like this one really sums it up, 'cause Jordan Hoffman is—

Griffin: Great work.

Justin: ... Is a great critic. "If you buy a ticket for this one, just know there's no first-class option." [chuckles]

Travis: Nice!

Griffin: That's good.

Justin: "But with moderate expectations, you'll still get to your destination."
A review I think I would love to have leveled at our podcast. [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: "With moderate expectations, we'll get you there."

Griffin: With moderate expectations... everything's good.

Travis: I'm just saying that this is actually a very good summary of air travel experience as it exists.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Like on a very average basis. Which is just like, yeah, man. Listen. They got planes over in like Qatar that like you're sitting in a full blown like hotel room on the plane.

Griffin: Your swimming pool, right.

Travis: But like your average plane, you're just there to get where you're going.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: So, if you just need to kill, I'm gonna guess 95 minutes, you're gonna love Plane, in that when you sit down, you'll have 95 minutes to go until lunch time.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And when it's done, 95—you'll have reached lunchtime.

Griffin: If you have the endurance for it, you can finish Plane. That's my review of Plane.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I saw it in theaters and I had an amazing time, but at a very basic level. If you sit there... it has the whole movie in Plane.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Like, the whole movie's there.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: They don't—You're not gonna not finish Plane if you try really hard.

Travis: I'm gonna say that that's a positive, Justin.

Griffin: Yeah, positive, huge. Huge for Plane.

Justin: Yeah, positive. Jordan's right on the money with that one.

Travis: Justin, can I guess what the percentage on Rotten Tomatoes is for the critical?

Griffin: Ooh, that's fun.

Justin: I love that. I love that, tie breaker.

Travis: Critical, I'm gonna say like 58%.

Griffin: I was gonna say 40% crit.

Justin: Can you guys do it in terms of positive? 'Cause that's the way it all... Like, how much—What percentage positive? I don't understand what you're saying.

Travis: I'm saying 58% positive.

Griffin: The Rotten Tomatoes score, which is expressed in a percentage, always.

Justin: Of positive reviews...

Griffin: 40% positive.

Travis: 58% positive.

Justin: Hey, guys? Get ready for lift off, 'cause this one's at 75% positive.

Griffin: Let's go, baby.

Travis: Hell yeah, man.

Justin: Let's go!

Griffin: Let's fucking go.

Justin: Gerard, you're back, baby!

Griffin: You're back, baby.

Justin: Do you remember when you called me last night and we were like, "I don't think I'm back." But you are back, Gerard.

Travis: You're back now, bud.

Griffin: You're back. You're soaring, you're flying high, baby.

Justin: You're flying like—You're titular Plane, Plane 2, Planes!

Griffin: Train, truck, boat.

Justin: Hey, Trav, your hair looks good.

Travis: Hey, thanks, bud.

Griffin: I like your hair, Travis.

Justin: This is the first time I've seen it on camera, it looks nice.

Travis: Yeah, thank you. I said, "Give me the Sonic, baby." And they did it.

Griffin: Did you...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Did you... When picking the baffling for your little sound prison that you've made there—

Travis: Yeah, yeah?

Griffin: ... Did you make sure that it is the same color as your hair?

Travis: Yeah

Griffin: And it kind of does make you look like a Wooly Willy man who...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: A man with a sort of divot... yeah.

Travis: I just—I wanted people to be able to green screen it—or purple screen it easier. So, I opted with like a purple thing—

Griffin: Purple screen your hair out, okay.

Travis: Well, I'm... I've been trapped in this cube for a long time and I'm... so bored.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You are—With all the purple, it looks kind of like pick up artist camouflage.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Like you're trying to hide in mysteries—[laughs] Like you dress to blend into Mystery's curtains.

Travis: Well, the thing is, I made the decision that I got fish. And having a fish tank is basically saying, "And the sound quality in here will be terrible forever." So, I have to stay trapped in my little box here. But my fish get to live in their little box—Oh, no! Actually, [laughs] only now do I realize I've trapped us both in boxes. How metaphorically painful.

Griffin: Guys, I just Googled 'plane bloopers.'

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And it brought up... don't Google that. 'Cause it brought up some... what I would describe as... real life plane bloopers. And those aren't lighthearted fun—

Travis: Well, then they shouldn't call the bloopers? Bloopers inherently implies lighthearted fun. You're not like, "Ah, there was a plane blooper today. We lost 75 souls."

Griffin: Yeah, "75 souls—Did you recover the black box from the plane blooper? Someone—" [laughs]

Travis: [chuckles] Now, Griffin—

Griffin: "What a fucking bozo!"

Travis: [laughs] “And he’s survived by his wife and kids.”

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Fuckin’ Sully is like the only one who can say like, “Yeah, guys. I had a real plane blooper up there.”

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Every other tragic plane-based whoopsie cannot be called a blooper, except for Sully’s.

Justin: Well, the problem is that—the bar that Sully, the film, had to cross is that it had to be so good—

Griffin: Mm-hmm?

Justin: ... And well-acted, it made you forget how fuckin’ funny the whole thing is. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It’s hysterical. Birds flew in and he landed in the lake, and he quit. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, that’s not how it was supposed to be. So, that’s... that’s Plane. Get there, day one.

Justin: Get there.

Griffin: Get there day one, six days ago.

Justin: This is, though—This is not Plane.

Griffin: No.

Justin: This is an advice show. So, we're gonna help you, the people of the world. "I'm gonna see Cats the musical next month. I'm desperately trying to figure out what to wear. Is it weird to wear anything Cat themed? Is it weird not to wear anything Cat themed? Surely, I'm not supposed to go in costume, right?"

Travis: Well...

Justin: That's from Costuming conundrum in Chicago. And this is an excellent, excellent question.

Griffin: Really good.

Justin: Thank you. This is perfectly targeted. Right down the middle.

Travis: You can't say, "Not supposed to go in costume." Like, as long as your costume is, let's call it what it is, tastefully fitted, they'll let you in.

Griffin: Yeah. They'll let you in.

Travis: They won't turn you away.

Justin: I think there is—No.

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, if you think about the critically for more than a second...

Justin: Okay, I feel like I should stand. Okay, I'm gonna stand. So—

Travis: I can't. I've gone down that road before and I know what happens.

Griffin: Travis has to sit.

Justin: Okay, we're all sitting—[something crashes to the floor] Hachi machi!

Travis: See?

Justin: My globe fell over. My spaceship Earth fell over, with all my Crypto in it.

Travis: When we stand up, bad things happen.

Griffin: Justin's crypto has spilled all over the damn floor. Losing value as we speak. "I don't want this crypto. This crypto's dirty."

Travis: [chuckles] "What is this? An M&M stuck to it? Gross."

Justin: There is definitely a level of close approximation of Cat costume—

Griffin: Yes?

Justin: ... Where at which point the ushers will have to say, "This is confusing."

Griffin: "People are really weirded—People think for sure they are about to get swept up in interactive theater. And we work really hard—"

Justin: And the essential point for this, I've you've never seen Cats live—

Travis: Yes, good point.

Justin: ... Is that it is an element in most productions that the cats will come into your fucking space you paid for, and try to cat about.

Travis: Yeah, they like come down the aisles and shit.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And what if the ushers are worried that you're just gonna like seamlessly blend in. And they're just like, "Yeah, I got an aisle seat?" And it's like, "Okay, but you're dressed like—" "Yeah, no, no, no, don't worry about it."

“Wait, that seat’s empty. Which one of `em is it? Ah!”

Justin: Literally nothing would be better, though. If someone did that, I... How long do you think you could make it before someone’s like, “That one’s not hitting right for me. Is that cat around?”

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, sure. “That cat’s licking—and by cat, I mean man... Furry man is licking their asshole right next to me. I don’t think that they’re a part of the touring production of Cats.”

Travis: Now, Justin, you have probably experienced this in your love of Disney. But could you perhaps do cats bounding?

Justin: Cats bounding is good.

Travis: Right?

Griffin: That’s good.

Justin: Like, you do buns that look like cat ears...

Griffin: That’s cool.

Travis: Yeah, you maybe have a print vest under—I mean, listen. You could do magical—

Justin: No, no, no, no, let’s finish the sentence.

Travis: Like a patterned vest underneath your tuxedo? But then I realized—

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Like jaguar, perhaps.

Travis: Right. But then I realized you could just do Magical Mr. Mistoffelees bounding so fuckin’ easily. He’s a tuxedo cat.

Griffin: Yeah, or—

Justin: Okay, you start in a regular tuxedo. And then as the production's going on, you add a few little twisted details that get you to full Mistoffelees.

Travis: Like face paint.

Griffin: Wait. So, you cat bound in the theater—Like, while everybody else is trying to enjoy the show, you are applying spirit gum—

Justin: Covertly! [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, interesting.

Justin: Tastefully.

Griffin: That would be probably the most fucked up, viscerally upsetting experience for the person sitting next to you. To just like look over every once in a while and be like, “Hey, Margaret? I swear to Christ, the guy sitting next to me is changing in response—”

Travis: “He’s more and more Old Deuteronomy every time I look over.”

Justin: “I can’t catch him doing it ‘cause he’s so discrete.”

Griffin: “He’s really fast and discrete at it.”

Travis: “Yes, I’m sorry, sir. We’re going to have to ask you to leave the theater.”

“Is it because my cellphone rang in act one?”

“No, it’s—” [laughs] “No, we were gonna let that one go. But then you added the whiskers.”

Griffin: “The problem, sir, is you are animorphing.”

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "And the smell—It's making a smell that people are upset about."

Justin: Do you think there's a... Do you think there's an animorph smell?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Well, Justin, 'cause there's a mass loss.

Justin: As the various glands are emptied. [chuckles]

Travis: If you turn from a human to a hawk, that mass has to go somewhere, Justin.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Otherwise, you have a hawk that weighs like 180 pounds and that thing's never gonna fly. So, that mass has to be released as a mass gas, if you will.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Now, when you turn back, your—

Justin: Is it gaseous or is it sort of a liquid goo that just—

Travis: A little bit of both. Little column A, little column B. It's ectoplasmic and orgasmic. And then, when you turn back, you have to absorb that mass from somewhere. This is just science, Justin.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I'm gonna hit you guys with an idea.

Justin: Okay?

Griffin: And this is my bold vision for the future of Cats. The cat, the house cat, or the street cat, is one of nature's most chaotic animals. You can't—You can't control what a kitty cat does, right. I think people should be allowed to go to productions of Cats, dressed up as—

Justin: I agree so far.

Griffin: ... Dressed up as cats. And they should—If they can get on the stage, they should be allowed to stay there and kind of just act like a kitty cat, while the rest of the play happens around them. And then if you and the audience are like, "I'm trying to enjoy the show, but there is a man dressed up as a cat. He doesn't look quite exactly like the rest of the cats, but he is crawling around and sniffing and meowing every once in a while." I think that sort of... only lends itself to the authenticity of the production. Because it's like, yeah, not... not hurting cats is like an idiom. You can't expect every cat on that stage to be doing the right thing.

Justin: Yeah. See how they're doing their own thing.

Travis: Now, Griffin, as a theater owner, I will agree to this proposal on one condition.

Griffin: Go ahead?

Travis: Allow me to have in theater security, dressed as dogs. And if they catch a cat approaching, they can like bark and the cat has to like hiss and screech and run away.

Griffin: Yeah. Or alternatively, the director of the show, who is going to become a character, sort of Our Town style, should be allowed to go on stage at any point with a spray bottle and just sort of spritz anyone who's wandered in from the crowd dressed up kind of like a kitty cat but not exactly like a kitty cat.

Travis: And if they're doing really good, they get a little collar with a bell on it. And that means you're invited to stay, you're part of the show now.

Griffin: Oh, that's good! How fuckin' cool would it be—How fuckin'—Okay! [laughs] Okay... How fucking cool would it be if every time you went to a production of *Cats*, you didn't know who was gonna get taken up to the heavy side layer.

Travis: Ah, shit!

Griffin: Because it could be *Grizabella*, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, right, right.

Griffin: It could be *Grizabella*. It's usually gonna be *Grizabella*.

Justin: Usually.

Griffin: Most of the time, I would 9 times out of 10, it's gonna be *Grizabella*. But if a kitty cat wanders in off the street, off the crowd, off the audience, and really captures the audience's hearts and minds, it should be like, you know, "And the heavy side layer winner of this contest is... Matt."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] Matt the cat.

Griffin: And Matt the cat gets to go up in the balloon and the rest of the cast is gonna be like, "[applauds]." And *Grizabella*'s gonna be like...

Travis: "Maybe tomorrow..."

Griffin: "What am I supposed—What do I do? What am I supposed to do?"

Travis: Now, *Grizabella* simply dies.

Griffin: *Grizabella* just kind of stands there and just kind of does like a... like the Ashlee Simpson dance. Like, I'm not sure what—I don't have blocking. I don't have blocking. My blocking is the balloon that goes up. I don't have

anything past that. So... But I—Are you kidding me? I don't like Cats. I would go see it every night if I knew there was a chance...

Justin: That you'd get to go to the heavy side layer?

Griffin: I mean—I could—I could never.

Travis: Okay. Now, Justin, that's a good point. Griffin, how many times would you have to see the show before you're like, "It's my time."

Griffin: I felt comfortable—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Here's the thing, though. I'm gonna go to it—

Justin: "Excuse me, I've earned it!"

Griffin: My first time that I tried to rush the stage, I'm gonna get sprayed, hard. Right?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Like, I'm not gonna have the kind of cat acumen required to succeed.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: You're out—You're out in the lobby on like your 20th viewing. And you see somebody else come in and you're like, "Oh, first time?" And your costume is just like soaked from all the sprayings that never dried?

Griffin: From all the spray, yeah.

Travis: They used like Vaseline spray or something.

Griffin: I'm not even gonna—I'm not even gonna hit the boards. I'm gonna approach the—I'm gonna approach the door that they make you walk

through, which I hope has a metal detector and security measures, just to keep the cast safe, the cats safe. But yeah, I think my first time I'm gonna show up just with kitty cat ears on and just like regular clothes. And they're just gonna shake the no-no can and I'll go back to my seat. But after a dozen times, two dozen times, five dozen times, I'm gonna make the stage. I'm gonna do what needs to be done to get up in that balloon.

Travis: Well, that's threatening, Griffin. You can't say—

Griffin: I'm going to do whatever it takes.

Justin: [in low, gravelly voice] Whatever it takes. Maybe... I was thinking like a follow spot just like swings around in the audience every night, and it lands on somebody. And then that person gets to die at Cats. [chuckles] Like, you get to come up and die at the show Cats.

Griffin: Whoa. Now, that's interesting, Justin. Because when I was thinking of an audience member being taken to the heavy side layer, I wasn't thinking that they would be...

Travis: Sacrificed?

Griffin: Destroyed.

Justin: It's planned, though.

Griffin: Yeah, and that's fun because then every night, when I come home from Cats, my wife embraces me deeply.

Travis: [chuckles] So happy that you've made it back.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: This was something fun that I came up with and I feel like you guys have perverted it, in a way.

Justin: [laughs] Yeah.

Griffin: Like, I don't wanna go to Cats and be afraid that I could die but be 100% certain I will see an actual human death.

Justin: [chuckles] That's offstage, actually.

Travis: Yeah. You won't see it.

Griffin: It's offstage? It's offstage, okay.

Justin: "This sucks."

Griffin: "How was Cats?"

"It was great. The music was great. The production, excellent."

Travis: "The choreography is gonna stick with me."

Griffin: "There were a lot of people—A lot of people rushed the stage. The spray bottle was spritzing like mad. The implied cinecide was not my favorite part of the show."

Justin: You know... Do you think people ever say, "I've been thinking about getting into My Brother, My Brother and Me."

"Oh, cool."

"Do I—Should I listen to the previous episodes?" Like, no. You should watch Cats. If you haven't seen Cats—

Griffin: You need to.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You need to see Cats to get it, but... Let's—Do you guys want another question? Or...

Griffin: I mean, I do have a wizard. I have a wizard here with me.

Travis: Spit it out.

Griffin: It's not the usual—It's not the usual one.

Travis: Oh?

Justin: Well, this is all... you know. New year, new you. By renewal.

Griffin: His name Xan... Xandiborp.

Travis: Oh, I know him!

Griffin: And he's... He sucks. But he did bring a cool wikiHow here. Actually, Michelle brought it. Thanks Michelle. It's how to win a dance off! "Dance offs can be very stressful and tiring."

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: "But they're equally fun, too. A dance off is an informal competition between two dancers or groups who must progressively dance better than their opponent. Anyone can challenge you to a dance off at any point in time. But sometimes they pass for competitions." Don't know what that means. "Dance offs are just about showing attitude, improvising and grooving to the music." I can do that.

Travis: Now, that is—Okay... You can't say it's an informal event and then like in the next sentence say, "Sometimes they're like full blown competitions." Because I would argue a full-blown competition where dance teams perform for judges is not an informal event.

Griffin: That's not informal, no.

Justin: I mean, maybe nobody's wearing tuxedos?

Griffin: No, Justin is probably—

Travis: I guess—Well, you don't know that, J-man. Can you tell me that's true?

Justin: That's true, but if you're not required to, it's still not a formal event.

Travis: Okay...

Griffin: Justin has brought us to our first point here and that is being prepared. "Look decent and be ready at all times. Although you aren't—"

Travis: Even in bed?

Griffin: "Although you aren't expected to wear clothes saved for performances—" I don't know what that means. "It's best if you stay prepared and wear nice clothes, as you can be challenged in at any point in time." Gosh, that's gotta be exhausting, huh?

Travis: Well, Griffin, you chose to get into the dance life. So, if you get caught—

Griffin: Yeah, I'm not sure how I raised the PvP flag for dancing? To just let people know, like when I'm going on the metro. If someone sees me, they're like, "He—That guy's ready. That guy's ready to dance."

Travis: Well, you're always wearing tear away pants and jazz shoes.

Griffin: Yeah, I guess so.

Travis: So, that symbols—Like, everybody sees that and they're like, "He's fucking ready." And the first time you ever—Not a lot of people know this, the first time you do any dance move in your entire life, you've entered into potential competitive dance circuit.

Griffin: Right. That's right.

Travis: Right? Everyone can feel it ripple through the world of like, "Oh, Griffin just did like a jazz square. Let's get him."

Griffin: Right. You have to not dance for six months to lower the flag.

Justin: Wow.

Travis: That's what John Lithgow in Footloose was trying to do. He was trying to save his town.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Not save their souls. But they were getting challenged to dance battles left and right. And he was like, "We're losing so many dance battles, we've lowered the credit rating of our whole town. We're broke! Everybody, stop dancing."

Griffin: "Please."

Justin: Hey, can we—Griffin, I don't wanna interrupt your flow, but can we talk about John Lithgow for 10 minutes?

Travis: 10 minutes?

Griffin: No.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: That's a big ask, J-man.

Justin: No, it's fair.

Travis: That's one sixth of the show? [chuckles]

Justin: Five minutes?

Travis: Okay.

Justin: No, no, you can't agree. I need Griffin to say, "Justin, it's okay for you to interrupt my bit."

Griffin: I mean, right now, what we're doing is bargaining of how much Lithgow time I'm gonna permit you.

Justin: Yes, that's true.

Griffin: I really don't wanna do any more than like two minutes. Can you get it in two—Can you get it done in two minutes?

Justin: Yeah, okay—

Griffin: What you need to get done?

Justin: I can get it done in two—I can get it done in two minutes.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: I'm watching a show called The Old Man. It's about Jeff Bridges and John Lithgow. One is an ex-CIA agent and one's like a government operative. And they're squaring off against each other—

Griffin: The name of the show is The Old Man?

Justin: The Old Man.

Griffin: There's more—But there's a few of 'em?

Justin: Well, a lot of us are wondering—It's kind of like My Brother, My Brother and Me, where a lot of us are wondering who the old man is.

Griffin: Which one's the old man, okay.

Justin: Okay. But, in the show, there's flashback. And the actor, Christopher Redman, is in there playing young John Lithgow.

Travis: I gotta look it up.

Justin: And he's fucking... nailing it.

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: It's wild. Okay? It's a perfect John Lithgow—

Griffin: One minute has elapsed of your Lithgow time.

Justin: So, I was watching The Old Man with my broth and my chair. And I was watching The Old Man. [laughs] And then, I... I started thinking, man, I'd love to see this guy in like Harry and the Hendersons or one of the classic Lithgow roles. And then I was thinking like, if we could... we could reboot film franchises, right? Why can't we reboot acting careers?

Griffin: Human beings.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Why can't we have another John Lithgow, just doing it again?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So, Third Rock from the Sun...

Griffin: Right.

Justin: You don't have to reinvent the show.

Griffin: No.

Justin: 'Cause you've got a... you've rebooted Lithgow.

Griffin: But just, it's... it's a... Shot for shot—

Travis: So, like same—Yeah, shot for shot, same scripts, same sets.

Griffin: Different—But this time, we got—This time, we've got—

Justin: Same people.

Griffin: Oh, okay? See, I was gonna say 'cause we have an opportunity, we could get a—we could get Italian Stewart in there. We could get—

Justin: Sure, sure.

Griffin: I don't remember who else was in the program—who was in Third Rock.

Travis: I believe there was a Kristen.

Justin: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Griffin?

Griffin: Joseph Gordon-Levitt was there.

Travis: Wayne Knight.

Justin: Kristen Johnsten?

Travis: Kristen Johnsten.

Griffin: I just googled Third Rock from the Sun. The top asked question is, "How good was Third Rock from the Sun?"

Travis: So good.

Justin: [chuckles] It's a very good—

Griffin: So fucking good. So fucking good.

Justin: Excuse me, I think we forgot a little lady named Jane Curtain, a megawatt talent, lifting up Third Rock from the Sun.

Griffin: Yeah, shining star. Okay, so—

Justin: That's just one thing, though.

Griffin: That's just one of the projects—

Justin: That's just one of the projects that we can start again when there's a new Lithgow, just starting over.

Griffin: Right. The possibilities are endless. That was I think like two and a half minutes. And I'm... I'm okay with that. But I would like to get to the second point of this wikiHow article.

Travis: Yes, of course.

Justin: I'm ready.

Travis: Yes, yes.

Griffin: "Wear a few accessories to compliment your look. Do not go overboard. A small bracelet and earrings or a pendant, necklace and a ring will be good enough."

Travis: You don't want anything that's gonna whip around and hit you in your own face. That's important.

Griffin: Unless that's like—Unless that's like... part of it. Like when I do a dance of any style, I like to wear a big pendant that I can kind of like swing around.

Justin: You just swing around, yeah.

Griffin: And then like, it looks cool, it... weapon... "Wear makeup. Makeup makes you look and feel good. Getting challenged for a—"

Justin: But do I do this before I leave the house?

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Or is it like, "I'm ready to battle you." And I'm like, "Give me 20 minutes."

Griffin: If you stay ready for a dance battle, you don't have to get ready.

Travis: "I need to put on my cat costume." [chuckles]

Griffin: "I need to get... feline and fancy free."

"Focusing towards winning. One, learn to improvise. This is the first step of learning to win. Improvising in dance is to move to the music without doing any choreographed steps." Yes, good.

Justin: Yes.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You might—"Remember, you might not have a choice of music. This means that any generic music will be played, and you have to put your moves out there."

Travis: It could be Jingle Bells.

Griffin: It could be Jingle Bells.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: You could have to—You may have to do some—

Justin: It could be that We Love the Subs, Quizno's jingle.

Griffin: It could be the Quizno's song that you have to b-boy to.

Travis: Yeah. It could be a funeral dirge.

Griffin: Step two—It could be a funeral dirge.

Travis: [chuckles] I'm saying the best—I'm just gonna put it out there. The best dance accessory you can have, Jamiroquai hat—

[scat singing from Korn's "Freak On a Leash" plays]

Griffin: Could be Korn.

Justin: Could be this.

Travis: I'll stop for this.

Justin: Now, here's what I've discovered—

Travis: No, sorry, let me finish my point. Reinforced Jamiroquai hat that you can do a full headstand on and it doesn't collapse.

Griffin: That's huge.

Travis: Okay. Now, Justin, go on.

Justin: I messed up the sliders on my board, so I couldn't hear the colorful buttons. And then when I fixed the sliders—Griffin was The Besties yesterday when I did this. That song was already—That sound was already playing, 'cause it's on loop.

Griffin: It was playing non—It had been playing non-stop for 10 hours, yeah.

Justin: Not 10 hours, for weeks!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: My soundboard has been like, "Okay, J-man. Okay... Just, please."

Travis: It's been—It's been crying out from a locked prison, deep in the silence.

Justin: [chuckles] "Just please... You can't hear it? Okay. I'll just keep playing it over and over again."

Travis: [spoofs Korn scat singing] Free me from this hell.

Griffin: Okay, step one, learn to improvise. Step two, learn to dance.
[chuckles]

Justin: [laughs] No, wait—

Travis: Now, I would've flipped those, myself.

Justin: No, wait... [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. "Before you participate in any battles or dance offs, you must know how to dance. If you don't know how to, read How to Dance. This is—"

Justin: [laughs] A book. Is that real?

Griffin: This is not linked anywhere. So, I don't know what How to Dance is... I'm assuming it's a wikiHow article of how to dance.

Justin: Is it capitalized?

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Okay...

Travis: Justin, do not Google 'how to dance.'

Justin: No, I'm searching for a book called How to Dance.

Griffin: Okay...

Justin: It's all very specific styles, like how to dance Pechanga.

Griffin: Right. Okay, step three is practice. Now, let's move on to part three of the article, being positive. "Being positive is necessary and it keeps you healthy, as well as strong-minded."

Travis: Important.

Griffin: Step one, meditate. Bet you didn't see that coming.

Travis: I did not. Keep your grades up. [chuckles]

Griffin: Keep your grades up! [chuckles] "Step two, keep your chakras up. Step three, smile. You don't know when those nerves can make you frown or

even give you panic attacks.” Smiling, in my experience, when panicked about some sort of uncomfortable situation, smiling is usually not medicine for the panic attack that I’m having. Whenever I’m sort of deep in a panic, I can’t just be like, “This will fix it. Eeh!”

Justin: “Ah!”

Travis: I would say, if you made that face, though? You’re really gonna get in the head of your opponent.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: That’s true.

Justin: True, intimidation-wise.

Griffin: Yeah. And then step three, also impossible, “Avoid thinking of what could go wrong.” Yeah!

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: Sure, wikiHow! This is—This is what I’ve been waiting on, to fix my—to get my mind right, is to prepare to dance off.

Travis: At this point, though, if you’re meditating—

Justin: Yeah. And life, by the way.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And life. Psychiatrists hate this one trick, where you just don’t think about the bad things that could happen.

Griffin: Just don’t think about it.

Travis: If you’re in touch with the dance force like this, right, you’re improvising, you’re learning to dance, you’re meditating, you’re staying

positive, that thing of like, "Don't think what's gonna wrong," you won't be able to. 'Cause you're so present in the dance force moving forward—

Griffin: Right.

Travis: ... That you're not thinking about the past, you're not thinking about the future.

Griffin: You're not—

Travis: You're purely in the dance.

Griffin: You are the dance.

Travis: Right.

Justin: What if I learned to improvise so well that I don't need to learn to dance? [chuckles]

Travis: Well...

Griffin: Oh?

Travis: That's why that's step one.

Justin: You know what I mean? What if it's all vamping? It's just all... [chuckles] I don't know how to—

Travis: "Where did you learn that?" They'll say. And you'll say, "It was just the way my body wanted to move." And they'll be like, "Holy shit."

Justin: "I followed my body."

Griffin: Yeah. Here's the last part, and it's an important one 'cause it is dancing during the battle. Part one—

Justin: Don't.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Don't dance.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Just stand there.

Travis: Listen—

Justin: Look at them, make them—

Travis: Stillness. Find it—Stillness—That would be terrifying.

Justin: Whoever dances first loses. [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, "Step one, put out your best moves. If you have tricks, flips, or anything unique such as tutting, even during a ballet battle, these can help you win." Ballet battles, are those real? I have not seen Black Swan. Display—

Travis: Now, is this right off the bat? You're just using it—Like you're coming out the gate using all your utilities? Like—

Griffin: Yeah, but that's not enough, Travis. Because step two, and this is what it says, "Make facial expressions."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: It doesn't say like 'cool facial expressions' or 'cool dancing facial expressions.'

Justin: Just any—

Griffin: It's just like, ah! Like, hey! Just any sort of facial expression's gonna get you there. "Making facial expressions is obligatory if you are set to win. They express more than your moves."

Travis: And to be human. [chuckles]

Griffin: And to be human. Your face is gonna be doing... something.

Travis: It does stuff. Your face, occasionally, even if it's just stubbing your toe, you're gonna make a face.

Griffin: Yeah. "Look your opponent in the eye." And this is why this is the first step in Cha Cha Slide. Is they do say—They do say like before, "Hey, everybody. It's me, the creator of the Cha Cha Slide. Before you get into this—"

Travis: Johnny Cha Cha.

Griffin: "It's me, Johnny Cha Cha. Stare into your opponent's soul and prepare—be ready to take their life."

Travis: Now, that's a great point, Griffin. Too rarely do we address—A lot of people say 'dance partner.'

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But I see, even when you're dancing with someone, as a battle. Right?

Griffin: It's always—

Travis: Who's leading? Well, who's winning? You know what I mean?

Griffin: So, this step is my favorite step in the whole article. "Step four, add in a few moves that include your opponent. You can—"

Justin: Mm-hmm!

Griffin: "You can... " You... You two, "Can do a split in between their legs. Flip over their back and take them by surprise."

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Oh, yeah! Sure.

Griffin: Fuckin' cool. "Do cartwheels around them." I... I will, thanks. "Use the entire floor for doing a few tricks, leaving them no space to dance. Catch the audience's attention." That's great, they're like getting ready to do something, but you're already there, just...

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: And then they're like, "Okay. Well, I guess I'll get on the ground." But you're on the ground underneath them like—

Travis: You're already there!

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: And then they lose and they go home, and they go to climb in bed with their wife to tell about what a horrible day—and you're already there!

Griffin: You're in bed with their wife! And you're just...

Travis: [chuckles] And you're in the mirror! Dancing back at them, wherever they go.

Griffin: They're like, "I have to poop so—I have had to poop since our dance battle."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "You can't, I'm on your toilet. I'm on every toilet. You'll never be—" "Do arm or body waves around their body. A few competitions may not let the dancer touch the other dancer, even slightly. If this is the case, do not go too near, but mock them with stronger dance moves." I can't... I can't even participate in dance battles where you're not allowed to touch and fully hit-hit.

Justin: And flip over.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Flip over and kick and attack and hurt your opponent.

Travis: I'm actually not... like, legally not allowed to participate in dance battles anymore. Because my signature move used to be this thing where I would do a bunch of like flips towards the person, and then I'd stop with like my hand like a half an inch away from their nose.

Griffin: Oh, cool.

Travis: And one time I was planning it and I did all my math homework to get the geometry right.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And the person leaned forward a little bit and I smashed their whole face in. [chuckles] And I killed—

Griffin: Oh, no?

Travis: I killed them on the spot. And—

Griffin: But did you—But... But you... won?

Travis: I mean, I won.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I won. But at what cost? The cost of immortal soul.

Justin: Thank you.

Travis: And I spent 25 years in Folsom Prison.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Wow, Trav?

Travis: And I wrote a—I wrote a famous song about it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Wow?

Travis: But I was—

Justin: And I'm just now hearing about all this?

Travis: Yeah. Well, I'm not proud of it. But I wrote a song about it. But I'm not proud of it. But I'm—

Griffin: But listen. This is the last step, "Don't be disheartened if you don't win. Winning isn't everything, trying your best is. It's a new experience." You killed a guy? It was your first one.

Travis: Yeah, it was your first kill.

Griffin: "It's a new experience. And sometimes, you will be given critiques to work on." Hey, next time, don't kill that guy. Well, you can't kill that guy... again. They're gone.

Travis: Yeah. Don't kill his twin brother.

Griffin: Don't kill his twin brother. They're gone.

Travis: And it's gonna be hard 'cause his twin brother's gonna be coming for you.

Griffin: "You always have space to do better. Just don't lose hope." You can always—The sun will come out tomorrow, and you killed a guy. The sun will come out tomorrow. Dance better next time.

Justin: At least you got your grades.

Travis: Yeah, and you got grades up.

Justin: And your grades.

Griffin: Your grades are doing great. Your parents... are there.

Justin: This is why you need the grades to stay up, 'cause you need something to cling to.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Really—

Justin: If it doesn't work out the way you want, you need something on the burner.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And you can always do grades.

Travis: Yeah. And while I was in prison, I got my law degree. So that I could help people who didn't kill people in dace battles, but were framed for it.

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: I helped them get out of prison.

Griffin: Not like you. You did it.

Travis: No, I—[laughs] I did it.

Griffin: And that's what you tell your clients.

Travis: "I did it."

Griffin: "I know how to help you 'cause I've been there. Not exactly there, 'cause I killed my guy." [laughs]

Travis: "I killed my guy 100%. It was open and shut."

Griffin: My guy—

Justin: Travis, you are hovering treacherously close to pitching a Freevee drama series, starring Simon Baker as the dance criminal.

Travis: Yes. Hey, please?

Griffin: Please.

Travis: Please, Simon Baker should work more, as far as I'm concerned. However much he's working isn't enough.

Justin: Straight to Freevee.

Travis: I wanna watch it.

Justin: You know, I love Freevee, but you know what's not free?

Griffin: What?

Travis: Money.

Justin: I was gonna say this podcast, but it...

Griffin: It is definitely, yeah.

Justin: It absolutely, demonstrably is. But we do have ads. Let's go the Billy—That's the Sawbones one.

Griffin: Let's go to the Billy.

Justin: Let's go to the Billy Bob's. [chuckles]

Griffin: Take it, Billy.

Justin: Let's go to Billy Bob's Wonderland!

Griffin: [in silly voice] Hey, guys. It's me, Billy. Do you brush your teeth?
[laughs] I... I don't.

Travis: [chuckles] You should, you fuckin' gross-o!

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Anyways, the Money Zone.

[theme song plays]

Travis: We here love Stitch Fix. We've talked about it many, many times. But I wanna tell you, as much as I like getting clothes through Stitch Fix, which I do, I lovely signed Bebe up for it, and Bebe gets clothes through Stitch Fix. And they're some of the cutest shit I've ever seen. She got this pair of pants that had hearts, like sequent hearts. Those—you know, on the knees.

Justin: Cute.

Travis: And when you swipe it up one way, it's white hearts, and swipe it down the other way, rainbow hearts!

Justin: Cute.

Travis: I love it! It's so great. She is on a kick of like getting the sequent stuff that like you swipe your hand across it and it changes colors, and Stitch Fix is nailing it on all fronts. So, if you already have your game right and you wanna get it for somebody you know or like somebody in your house, or you don't have fit game right, then get it through Stitch Fix. 'Cause they'll get you all set up. And it's easy to get clothes that fit you because you're gonna tell them what you like, where you wanna wear it, what your price range is, all that stuff.

And then with those choices in mind, they'll send you like the perfect fit, handpicked just for you. And anything that doesn't fit or that you don't like,

you don't have to pay for it. You only pay for what you keep. And it's incredible. It taught me about good jeans. Getting pants, jeans, that are comfy and fit well. And that just get softer and better with each wash. I love them. And right now, Stitch Fix is offering my listeners \$20 off their first fix, at stitchfix.com/mybrother. That's stitchfix.com/mybrother for \$20 off today. [Stitchfix.com/mybrother](https://stitchfix.com/mybrother).

Justin: You gotta keep your house clean. If you're me—

Travis: I'm trying!

Justin: No, but if you're me it like really infringes on your mood. But I don't like to clean, I just like having a place that is clean. But Blue Land makes it a little easier and it makes it something I feel a little bit better about. This is a company that is on a mission to eliminate single use plastic by reinventing cleaning essentials to be better for you and the planet. What does that mean? Well, you get the container from Blue Land, and then you get refills for the container that aren't gonna like clutter up a landfill with a bunch of empty bottles.

And the containers are really nice, they look nice on your countertop. They look sturdy and something that you will be proud to have visible in your home, if that's the way you wanna do it. And they don't ship a lot of water. You know, most of their—A lot of their products, not all, are in tablet form. And you put them into water and then it creates the cleaning liquid or what have you.

Travis: Ooh la la?

Justin: Yeah, I know. The refills start at just \$2.25. And you can have a subscription or buy in bulk, if you want that to be even cheaper. So, give it a try. They also work great, if I could say that as well. I think that's important, you know. Just—

Griffin: I'm sure they want you to say—I bet they are stoked that you said that.

Travis: Yeah, I bet they love that.

Justin: It's just a little change, but it's a little step you can take towards sustainability, and have a beautiful, beautiful cleaning experience.

Travis: Ooh?

Justin: Get 15% off your first order. Go to blueland.com/mybrother. That's 15% off your first order, right now, when you go to blueland.com/mybrother. That's blueland.com/mybrother.

[Reading Glasses theme music plays]

Mallory: "Dear Reading Glasses, it's been years since I have been able to read. I missed it so much that I had no idea where to start. I felt so overwhelmed. But thanks to your show, now I'm back to enjoying books again and feeling like a reader. Love, Sarah."

Brea: Yeah, that's an email that we actually answered. Okay, maybe not that email specifically. But one just like it. Because most of our listeners are named Sarah. [laughs]

Mallory: We're Reading Glasses and we're here to solve all your reader problems. We give advice, help you find books you love and discuss reading without making you feel pressured.

Brea: No matter what you read or how you read it, we'll help you do it better. Reading Glasses, every week on Maximum Fun.

[Reading Glasses theme music concludes]

[Let's Learn Everything theme music starts]

Caroline: Are elephants right-handed?

Tom: What's the middlest size in the universe?

Caroline: What is the history of fan fiction?

Tom: Let's find out together on our show, Let's Learn Everything. Where we learn anything and everything interesting.

Caroline: My name's Caroline and I studied biodiversity and conservation.

Tom: My name's Tom and I studied computer science and cognitive—
[mumbles].

Caroline: Hm, did you?

Tom: [laughs]

Ella: And my name's Ella, and I studied stem cells and regenerative medicine.

Tom: On our show, we do as much research as you would for a class, but we don't get in trouble for making each other laugh.

Caroline: And we get to say fuck.

Ella: [laughs]

Travis: Maybe not in the trailer? [laughs]

Caroline: Subscribe to Let's Learn Everything. Every other Thursday on Maximum Fun.

[Let's Learn Everything theme music concludes]

Justin: Another—

Travis: Justin, how about another question?

Justin: I'd love that, Trav. "I was scrolling through my Instagram messages to see that my landlord had sent me a clip from Ted 2 on Instagram."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "Specifically, the one where they almost run over the Star Wars cosplayers." Ah, yes! One of my favorite scenes from the film, Ted 2.

Griffin: My favorite—

Travis: Man, I gotta watch Ted 2.

Griffin: I have a list of my favorite funny parts from Ted 2 and my favorite sad parts from Ted 2. And I keep it in a Google spread sheet that is publicly available. If you want to—It's got time codes and everything. This is—This one's on the funny side and the sad side.

Travis: Now, I—

Justin: Griffin has arranged—Griffin, at every Christmas will have us gather around and watch his fan edit. Which is just the re-ordered scenes of Ted 2 in a way that he thinks has a little more—

Travis: From best to worst, which is weird.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: From best—Well, is it?

Griffin: I have—

Justin: For emotional impact this year, Griffin? Or best to worst, what are you thinking?

Griffin: Well, if you go to my website where I have arranged all of the movies, with moments in them—

Justin: I meant to tell you actually, you didn't pay for hosting. And it is being squatted on.

Griffin: No, I do have—I do have this website, if you could let me finish my incredible joke, that I have all the tie codes from all of my favorite funny

jokes in Ted and Ted 2 and A Million Ways to Die in the West, is called Mr. Grin.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: 'Cause these moments from these films will make you smile. That's a guarantee, put a smile on your face.

Justin: I also have a website I have uploaded all of my favorite Ted 2 clips on. And I called it YouTube. But after I put all those clips on, I was like, "It's still feeling a little empty out here. So, I'm gonna open the floodgates to other Ted 2 fans."

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: And it kind of got out of hand, a little bit.

Griffin: I would say so.

Travis: Yeah. Now, what I've done is I've gone on TikTok and uploaded the entirety of Ted 2, in 30 second clips.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So, you can just watch—just swipe through those, in order. You have to get the timing right so it flows. But you can work through all of Ted 2, 30 seconds at a time.

Griffin: Yeah, it's the best way, it's the only to watch it. Let's finish the question, though.

Justin: "I don't really know what to say to this, as it would be the second message he sent me after, 'Would you be interested in renting a room here?' 1.5 years ago." That's from Confused Student in Long Beach.

Travis: Well, Ted 2 transcends intention or me—Like, he saw this and probably just sent it to everyone in his contact list. Like, I don't think that was specific to you.

Justin: Do you think he pushed a—Do you think Instagram lets you push a button—

Travis: For Ted 2?

Justin: ... And send the clip of Ted 2 to everyone you know? That's too much power.

Travis: I mean, when it's... when it's funny.

Justin: That's too much power.

Griffin: We don't usually do this on the podcast, but I'm gonna watch a brief clip from Ted—from Ted 2.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: Now, I don't know if it's for—

Justin: Just by yourself or what's the plan?

Griffin: He's really just doing the Peter Griffin voice.

Justin: Uh-huh, yeah?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That's weird, that—I've never really thought about it before. And the many times—So, it looks like they almost hit the Star Wars cosplayers.

Justin: It's different. There's a lot of nuance.

Travis: Yeah, I feel like Griffin's not encapsulating the fact that it's a talking teddy bear and how inherently funny that is.

Justin: We had a meeting once with... the people—the Family Guy—Seth's people or at Family Guy Productions.

Travis: They were very nice.

Justin: They're very nice and I was really scared, 'cause I don't remember everything I've said about different. You know, I feel like if Seth can razz people, we could maybe do a little razzing ourselves? You know, we all have a lot of fun here.

Griffin: This clip from Ted 2 is not very funny.

Justin: [chuckles] Okay?

Griffin: But... And I'm not saying the film's not. I'm just saying that this clip is a strange one for anyone to say, "I bet I know someone who would love this."

Travis: Do you do cosplay? Do you do like Star Wars—Do you have Star Wars stuff?

Griffin: Star Wars cosplay? I have to imagine that a detailed that essential and germane would be included in the—

Justin: I mean, you'd hope, but they also didn't send along a link to the clip?

Travis: Okay, second question. Do you have a fairly common name or username?

Griffin: Ted.

Travis: Like—

Justin: [chuckles] Ted 2 Fan XXX.

Griffin: [laughs] "My name is Ted 2—"

Travis: Ted 2 Fan XL 420 69. But if your username is like—

Justin: "Ted 2 and foot guy."

Travis: Yeah. [laughs] If your username is such that like it would easily be confused with someone else he knows named like Jake or something?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And maybe Jake is a huge fuckin' Ted 2 fan.

Griffin: That's possible.

Travis: And you just click the wrong one.

Griffin: Maybe.

Justin: Possible.

Griffin: Anything's possible online.

Travis: But now what you can't do? Ah, it could crush your landlord's heart if you said like, "Did you mean to send this to me or is this for someone else?" And there's your landlord like, "I was just trying to... I was trying to open the gates and..."

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: "Yeah, it was a mistake. Yeah, I didn't think—It wasn't for you."

Griffin: I mean... I mean, maybe you hit him back with some of your favorite film clips? From—And they don't always have to be... Like, maybe you start with some lighthearted—Like, some clips from Ted 1, to just like make your landlord feel comfortable. And then like after a while you send him a clip from like Kramer vs. Kramer and be like, "This is what—This... This one's not funny. But it makes—Here's clip from Boy in the Striped Pajamas. It's not funny."

Justin: "It's not funny."

Griffin: "But I thought you would like it 'cause it... like, as a film buff."

Travis: Or just work your way back until eventually you get to like, "Here's a clip and it's like a train coming straight at the screen, don't freak out. It's not real."

Griffin: Yeah, "Not real."

Travis: "It's not a real train. Don't scream. But there you go. What do you think? That's all the clips from all the movies, ever."

Griffin: "That's every movie. My name... is Jeremy Criterion."

Justin: [laughs] "And that's all the movies."

Griffin: "And now, now you have experienced my collection in the way it was meant to be experienced."

Travis: "Now it's your collection."

Griffin: "Now it's your collection."

Travis: "You must take care of it so that I may die. You're the giver now."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] Man, I'd love that version of The Giver. If instead of forbidden memories it was like... You gotta see—"Dude, you gotta see this clip from Shrek Forever After. They don't let you watch this one in school. And for good reason."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [mouths Munch Squad riff]

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: [continues riffing]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay.

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

Griffin: Squad.

Travis: Squad. Now, this is coming in-

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

Travis: Squad.

Griffin: Squad.

Travis: It is 52 minutes and 40 seconds recording time, so...

Griffin: It's okay. We can do those late.

Justin: I know, that's why I wanted—This one isn't very big.

Travis: Oh, good.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I just wanted to quickly alert you two, 'cause—

Travis: Oh, is it a Plane tie in meal? Is somebody doing like airplane food?

Justin: I wish. Bojangles. Bojangles. You guys know Bojangles?

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: I know of them.

Justin: It's a chicken restaurant that when it opened in Huntington, they had to shut down part of Route 60 because [chuckles] everyone needed to get there. And then they built a second one and nobody went to either, and they both closed. [sings] That's the story of Bojangles in Huntington. So, they've launched an alcoholic sweet tea, with Appalachian Mountain Brewery. Some things just go—

Travis: Served in store?

Justin: "Some things just go together. That's why Bojangles and Appalachian Mountain Brewery have partnered to brew the tasty beverage we didn't know we've been waiting for, Bojangles Hard Sweet Tea."

Travis: Okay?

Justin: "The two Carolina-born brands joined forces to carefully concoct 2023's newest and best drink [chuckles] combining Bojangles' knowledge of expertly steeped sweet tea and AMB's award-winning brewing innovation. The result is an easy-drinking, refreshing hard tea, sure to delight fans of both brands, ages 21 and older."

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Which of these companies do you think is most likely to betray the other one? Because if they're coming into the—I've watch a lot of Succession.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Right, they're coming in, one of `ems bringing the knowledge of sweet tea, one of `ems bringing the knowledge of where to buy alcohol. And you mix those together, right. So, one of `em is gonna have to either try to take over the other company or steal their secrets, or something. And frankly, I think Bojangles has the cutthroat heart of a killer.

Griffin: I think so too. I was just thinking that.

Justin: “The collaboration represents a promising new food licensing deal for Bojangles. With millions of loyal fans garnered over its 45-year history, the brand hopes to ‘tap’ into a hard tea—” Sorry, sorry, “Tap—” Got distracted. Into... God.

Travis: Yeah, the joke was so funny.

Justin: Here we go, “Tap into fans’ love of all things Bojangles with this new beverage. “This collaboration is something sweet,” said Jackie Woodward, chief brand and marketing officer for Bojangles. “Partnering with AMB to craft our Legendary Iced Tea into a hard tea for fans of legal drinking age was a natural fit, [chuckles] and the team poured passion into the entire process. We can’t wait for fans to try it!” This is the second time in the press release they have felt the need to clarify that this hard alcoholic sweet tea is not for children.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Oh, and their representative goes on to say, “And we love how naïve they are over at AMB Brewing. We’re really looking forward to them sharing their secrets with us, and us taking their secrets from them. Those absolute sheep.”

Justin: [chuckles] “Bojangles sweet tea is a staple across the South,” says Nathan Kelischek, the AMB Founder and Brewmaster.

Travis: “And we trust them without fail. They would never hurt us.”

Justin: [chuckles] “They would never go behind us and steal all our—” “We’re excited to continue to share our craft in innovative, new ways.” “Bojangles Hard Sweet Tea will be perfect for entertaining in the spring, vacationing in the summer, tailgating in the fall, and any occasion when you want to bring the fun.”

Travis: “Don’t fuckin’ drink it in the winter! Don’t!”

Justin: “Don’t fucking—”

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "I know it's winter now, don't you fucking touch it."

Travis: It actually, "If it goes below 32 degrees, it becomes poisonous for human consumption. Please don't drink it in the winter."

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Here's how it closes, "It's always been Bo Time, and now it's also Brew Time!" I would argue—

Griffin: It's always been—

Justin: It's been Brew Time—

Travis: Longer.

Justin: Since the times of Ancient Egypt.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And it's been Bo Time for 45 years.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's a huge difference. They have messed that up so completely. It has not always been Bo Time?

Griffin: Well, we don't know that they didn't have Bojangles in Ancient Egypt. They may have called it something else?

Travis: Yeah, at the Library of Alexandria, they might have had it there and then lost it.

Griffin: And then lost it, tragically.

Travis: And it's only been recovered.

Justin: It might, for the Ancient Egyptians, it might—Bojanlges might have been a series of characters that depict a language with iconography.

Travis: Yeah. Bird?

Justin: And they called it hieroglyphics.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: But it was still Bojangles.

Griffin: But it was Bojangles to them.

Travis: It was—

Justin: To them, it was Bojangles.

Travis: It was 'bird + sun = crispy.' And they just had the sign for crispy drawn there.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: You get it.

Justin: Thank you so much for listening to our podcast. We hope you have enjoyed yourself. Hope January's been treating you well. It's cold here.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: That's a weird thing to say, Juice.

Travis: Yeah, we don't do that ever?

Griffin: We never say like, "Hope this period of time is good."

Justin: But not doing it has brought us to here.

Travis: That's true. Let's get better.

Griffin: That's true.

Justin: We have to try something.

Travis: Coming out in about a month at this point, the TAZ Eleventh Hour graphic novel. It's coming out February 21st. You can preorder it, don't wait now 'cause there's preorder special editions and special things to get. Go to theadventurezonecomic.com. We have special editions with Barnes & Noble and Indigo and Books-A-Million.

And you can submit your receipt at bit.ly/eleventh—all spelled out—eleventhhourpreorder to get a lenticular sticker, featuring art from the book. Make sure you check out our merch store, where we've got the Amnesty Flamebright dice. We've got the Cornhole For You Soul sticker. We've got a There's a Rudeness enamel pin. And 10% of all merch proceeds this month go to Raices, which promotes justice by providing free and low-cost legal services to underserved immigrant children, families and refugees. All that at mcelroymerch.com.

And don't forget, we got one more—like a little special 20 Rendezvous Fancy Takes Flight Tour here in 20 Sun and Sea. April 27th, we're gonna be in San José doing TAZ. April 28th, San José doing My Brother, My Brother and Me. April 29th, Denver doing My Brother, My Brother and Me. All existing tickets will be honored, but there are tickets still available. And mask and proof of full vaccination or negative COVID test within 72 hours of event start is required.

Griffin: Hey, thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, My Life Is Better With You. That's a great—That's a really, really good song.

Travis: It's a good one.

Griffin: And I'm really happy that we are able to use it.

Travis: It's a really good one.

Griffin: Speaking of music, I just put out all the music from the first season of TAZ: Ethersea on my Bandcamp. And all album sales from all of Adventure Zone for the month of January is gonna be donated to Earth Justice, which is really great non-profit. So, you should og check that out also. Is that it?

Justin: We came up with some way ot end the show last week. But I didn't listen back, so I don't remember.

Travis: It's people who are in the Wild West, Code of the West, Boys of Moo Mesa.

Justin: That was—Okay.

Griffin: That couldn't be—That couldn't be it.

Justin: [chuckles] Couldn't be it.

Travis: That was it!

Justin: Okay. Travis, who are we featuring this week?

Travis: Okay, hold on.

Griffin: You pulled this up really fast.

Travis: Yeah. I was excited about it. I mean, it should be—it should be stated. Because I did mention the character but then did not mention the actor. That a recurring role on here was Tim Curry as Jacques La Beef.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: 25 episodes Mr. Curry appeared in.

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: Wow.

Travis: That might've been the entire run. I actually think that was the entire run.

Justin: If you have Tim, you're gonna use him every episode.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So, that was Jim Cummings, AKA Winnie the Pooh, alongside Tim Curry.

Justin: He played both—

Griffin: All—

Justin: Sorry. They both played a role?

Travis: Yeah. Jim Cummings, Dakota Dude. Tim Curry, Jacques La Beef.

Griffin: Eeh, this is feeling like nothing, guys...

Justin: Yeah, it feels like nothing. We need a different way to end the show.

Travis: All right, you guys do something. Come on?

Justin: No, the new thing is we feature a new Tim Curry role in every episode. So, now we're already on track. Griffin, bring it home.

Griffin: Thanks for listening, the end.

Justin: [laughs] There, we've earned that!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: We've earned that. That's our closer now. Thanks for listening, the end. My name's Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Sorry, I was looking up facts about Gargoyles.

Griffin: I know you fuckin' were. I know that's—

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

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