

MBMBaM 658: Dom Jeans

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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.

Travis: Ooh?

Justin: I'm your oldest brother, Gree Blasto.

Travis: More like an advice show for a galaxy far, far away. I'm Jizz music fan, Travis McElroy!

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: And I'm Jizz, the friendly alien! I'm Jizz, the friendly, nine foot—

Travis: I already said Jizz!

Griffin: Yeah, I know! It's a common word in our wonderful galaxy, which is called Jizz 9. I'm Jizz 9, cyborg alien! And I came here to fuckin' party with you on May the Fourth be with you.

Justin: 1,000 years ago, we made a deal with a treacherous djinn.

Travis: Oh, go on?

Justin: That every May 4th, we would be forced to... even if it— no matter what...

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Talk about Star Wars.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And we made this deal for our very souls. And that's why if like we tanked a whole live show in front of thousands of people by talking about Star Wars, we just... we made the deal with a treacherous djinn.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And here's the thing, it was 1,000 years ago. So, at the time, the Djinn was like, "I'll give you guys eternal life, and you have to talk about Star Wars every May the 4th." And we were like, "We don't even know what fuckin' means, my dude."

Griffin: I don't know what a star is, man. Like, those things up in the sky is like gods or whatever.

Travis: Yeah, it's fine. And here's what I didn't realize, with eternal life comes talking about Star Wars on May the 4th.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Long past when like human records and any kind of like media will be expunged from existence, right?

Griffin: Sure!

Travis: So like, we'll be floating amongst the stars themselves, as the planet Earth has crumbled below us.

Griffin: Yeah...

Travis: And still have to talk about Star Wars once a year.

Justin: We can't— we will be doing two things. We will be talking about Kit Fisto and we will be begging to die!

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: That's it! That's every May 4th.

Travis: And that's the thing, that's how the Djinn get you, man! You never see that coming!

Justin: I think what sucks— what sucks is the sun will explode.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And then the days... the concept of days will take on no meaning. They'll start to expand and contract.

Griffin: Well, the concept of stars!

Justin: Stars. [chuckles] even after— even after the stars themselves!

Griffin: Even after— after the death of the universe, we are gonna be in the void, and we're gonna be learning some secrets about existence. Like, we're gonna go Truman show backstage of existence in a way that I am not like stoked about.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: But also, we're gonna be like floating in nothingness, just trying to make one more joke about Dash Rendar. And that's not something I'm looking forward to.

Justin: If time starts to bend enough...

Travis: Yeah, and it will.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: We will, all three of us, be Yoda Man.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: We will be Yoda Man. Like, we will have always been Yoda Man.

Travis: But we will also be not Yoda Man, you know what I mean? It'll be Yes and Noda Man, at the same time.

Griffin: Oh, sure! Yeah.

Travis: And can I tell you guys, my only glimmer of hope at this point is that the— all the matter—

Justin: Sorry, one second. I hit a button that made Abba's Money, Money, Money start playing in my headphones really loud.

Travis: Yeah, we've all been there. Is my—

Justin: I dropped my stress ball on my dang keyboard and now it's playing Abba!

Travis: Yeah, I get it, man. My only glimmer of hope is that when all the matter in the universe contracts back, right, and then—

Griffin: Yes! That's gonna be fuckin' great!

Justin: [laughs] That's gonna be—

Travis: And then we have the next Big Bang, right.

Griffin: Mm-hm?

Travis: That if we wait long enough, we will be able to intercede on Justin, Travis and Griffin, that version, make it—

Griffin: Correct, now, we're the treacherous djinn!

Travis: Yes.

Justin: What will be good is— what we could maybe do is, if it's just us there and all the matter is contracting, we can push for the big bazinga.

Travis: Ooh?!

Griffin: Oh, yes.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like, not the Big Bang. This time, it's the Big Bazinga. Let's give that a spin, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Yes!

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Let's see how that works out.

Travis: Let's try this one on for size, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Yes. And then, also, since we're back at the beginning of time, we can write the Star Wars movies, maybe have a bit of a better hit rate than three out of nine with those, and we can—

Travis: And listen, these three cis, white, het dudes, we've got some big ideas!

Griffin: We're the ones to figure this out! Let me hit you with this, Luke Skywalker? Done. His name is now Fump Cumpton, is his new name.

Travis: I love that!

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: I love that!

Justin: So, wait, I would like to talk more about Fump Cumpton.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, sure?

Justin: Where does he work?

Griffin: He works at... Babbage's video game store.

Justin: Okay? [chuckles]

Griffin: He's a gamer. Oh, oh, oops! I fixed another thing, Fump Cumpton's a gamer in this one.

Justin: Yeah. Yeah!

Griffin: He plays—

Travis: Is he pro, or just dreams of going pro?

Griffin: He's mid, and he is... he is... he uses gamer powers to like— that's the force now. And Fump Cumpton's the best at it.

Travis: And there was this game designer who built this super popular game, and he hid keys and puzzles within it.

Griffin: Cool, cool, cool, cool, cool, cool, cool, cool, cool!

Travis: And even though Cum Fumpton is— or Fump Cumpton?

Griffin: No, you can call him— if Cum Fumpton feels better to you—

Travis: He has a brother—

Griffin: Listen, guys, this is a three person... this is a three-headed operation. I don't want— I want you guys to challenge my ideas as we are recreating Star Wars from the beginning of the universe.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: If Cum Fumpton feels better to you than Fump Cumpton, that's like... run with that, I am not like in charge. Even though I am the only published—

Travis: Yeah. This is— this is empty sky solutioneering. Right?

Griffin: Sorry, if I could just finish? If I could just finish?

Travis: Oh, sorry, sorry.

Griffin: Even though I am the only published Star Wars author among the three of us. So, that's— but that doesn't mean much, really.

Justin: That's true.

Travis: But once all the matter in the universe has contracted, Griffin, those books will basically be one with us, and we'll be one with the books.

Griffin: Meaningless, sure. Yeah, sure.

Travis: So, at that point, it doesn't matter.

Griffin: Okay. Well, I think we have some promising stuff here, guys.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: This is good. And I think we legally...

Griffin: Are on the— we're doing good. Darth Vader can stay— I don't think he's his dad this time. That was too confusing to me.

Travis: Hey, can I throw this out? Darth Vapor.

Justin: Yeah, why did they make that like that?

Griffin: Darth Vapor is actually better, Travis, yeah.

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: So, that's not his dad, he's just the—

Travis: He's already huffing a lot on the suit.

Griffin: Yes, uh-huh?

Travis: What if then when he finished huffing, mad cotton.

Griffin: Mad, mad, mad, mad cotton. That would be cool. And in this universe.

Justin: Like it's all been one big inhale.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah! And since we're like sort of recreating the whole universe from scratch, maybe we could make it so that like vaping's cool this time.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Or healthier?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Oh, yeah!

Travis: And the lightsabers are their vape rigs, too.

Griffin: That's cool, too! Shit!

Travis: Yeah, is too late for us to make that in this reality, before the second one? Or the next one.

Griffin: It is, unfortunately.

Travis: Ah, fuck.

Griffin: It is, sadly. Yeah, no, this franchise has very little staying power.

Travis: How many times do you guys think we've looped through this? Like, gone through— this could be seven or eight, or it could be like the one billionth time we've gone through this loop of making a deal with a djinn, living forever and then seeing a new one.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: Oh my god, it's— ugh. Is this what—

Griffin: I would like to—

Travis: Is this what Interstellar's about?

Griffin: I think so. I didn't really watch that one super closely, though.

Travis: No. No... I like the robots.

Justin: The robots will be exactly the same, all of 'em. That's—

Travis: Yeah. Oh, in new Star Wars?

Justin: Yeah, in our version of— no, all of it.

Travis: Oh, okay?

Justin: In our version of reality, that we're calling the Big Bazinga, the robot stuff is all— we got all that stuff pretty—

Travis: Yeah, nailed that one.

Griffin: That stuff kicks ass!

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Only getting better.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah. But people need work, right? We could do a lot with that, there's room. There's room.

Griffin: I mean, I would just make it so that everybody has all the money that they need.

Travis: I love that.

Griffin: But that's just like—

Justin: Whoa?!

Griffin: Again, like, creative differences. I like— I look around, Trav, at sort of the state of things and I'm like, "This isn't actually great. So, but if everyone had the money they needed, I think that would be pretty cool.

Travis: Hey, Griffin, why did you single me out there? Like, I don't want people to have the money they needed.

Griffin: Oh, well, it wasn't your— your first order of business, which I thought was fucked up, was to make Luke Skywalker a gamer. And mine was to make sure everybody had the money that they needed.

Travis: Yeah, you're right. You know what? In retrospect, that one was on me. I was very... I was way too focused on that!

Griffin: For me, I guess I've got my check list here. It says, number one, "Make sure everybody has the money that they need to get the stuff that they want."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: And then number two is change Luke Skywalker's name to Cum Fumpton.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: And then number three—

Justin: Is it Cump Fumpton?

Griffin: Number three, no more disease.

Justin: Wow!

Travis: Nice.

Griffin: It's right behind Cum Bumton... Cum Fumpton.

Justin: Cump Fumpton, Griffin!

Griffin: Cump Fumpton, Star Wars, check it out, in theaters. May the Fourth be with you.

Travis: And with his friend—

Justin: And also with you.

Travis: With his friend, Hump Yolo.

Griffin: I did say, "And also with you," to a cast member at Disney World, 'cause I thought in my head that is what you say in that moment. But then I realized that's probably a catholic... like, they started it.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: So—

Travis: Well, I—

Justin: I think it spilled over to... Jedi.

Travis: I think you just emphasize the 'you' harder. So, they say, "May the Force be with you."

Griffin: "May the Force be with *you!*"

Travis: And you're like, "May the Force be with *you!*" And then they know that you're—

Griffin: Yeah, I mean, it's still not fun. Like, I get why people don't like when we talk about Star Wars stuff.

Justin: Yeah, it's still not good. "I bought the Samuel Adams weather wetter— "

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: What?

Justin: Sorry. Sorry!

Griffin: It's okay.

Justin: Sweater wetter. [chuckles]

Travis: Sweater wetter!

Griffin: You made one mistake, Juice.

Travis: I hate when my sweater gets wetter.

Justin: "I bought the Samuel Adams sweaty weather— "

Griffin: It's okay. Power through, bud!

Justin: "I bought the Samuel Adams sweater weather variety pack— "

Travis: There it is.

Justin: "At Costco. The box had 24 beers, featuring Boston— "

Griffin: God dang, that's so many beers!

Justin: [chuckles] It's a lot of Sam Adams!

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: I'll say! [chuckles] "The box had 24 beers, featuring Boston Lager." Always a disappointment in a sandbox, I will say. For my two cents, if anybody wants it.

Travis: But not a surprise, right?

Griffin: No.

Justin: Not a surprise, they got loads of `em laying around.

Travis: You would hope so!

Justin: "The box had 24 beers, featuring Boston Lager, Fest Beer, October Fest, and Jack-o Pumpkin Ale."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: They really hit the spot on those cool fall days.

Travis: Yeah, they do.

Justin: “While most of the beers fit my style, the pumpkin ale is pretty sweet. More like a pumpkin spice latte sweetness, rather than a subtle pumpkiny flavor.”

Travis: Ah! Ah, you’re hitting— the problem— we’ll talk about it, we’ll talk about it.

Justin: Yeah, “Well, I still have three left from October and I don’t know what to do with them. I thought about leaving them in a little free library mailbox— ”

Griffin: You know not to do that, though, right?

Justin: You thought pretty quick about it, right? ‘Cause after this, you say, “I don’t want the kids in my neighborhood to get them.”

Travis: Yeah, that’s wat we call intrusive thoughts. And you did a good job.

Justin: Yeah, Travis, actually, thank you. Let’s touch on that for just real brief. You needed to— a lot of people say first thought, best thought.

Travis: Not at all!

Justin: But they don’t count on an intrusive thought being the first thought!
[chuckles]

Travis: Take it from me, the one with ADHD, first thought, best thought is patently untrue! [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Because sometimes that first thought is, “I wonder what it sounds like if I drop this on the ground.” Right? And it’s not good.

Justin: Yeah. It's not good.

Griffin: Yeah, oftentimes, my second thought is about how bad the first thought was.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: And that's the one—

Justin: So, yeah, you're four or five thoughts in before you're getting something workable! [chuckles]

Griffin: Before you hit something good, yeah.

Justin: "I thought about pouring them down the drain, but that feels rude. I've already attempted leaving them off at house parties, but now my friends call me out because I've tried so many times. Brothers, what do I do?" That's from Pumpkin Ale Ponderer in D.C.

Travis: Give them to Griffin, he's there!

Griffin: Yeah, man, I love that shit.

Travis: I will say this—

Griffin: I love slopping down a malty baby. Especially one that you think tastes bad, that's my favorite one, actually.

Travis: I don't know about your father-in-law, Griffin, but I do know this about mine and Justin's father-in-law, that they have like fridges, right, specially filled with beers. And those beers are almost exclusively, "Yeah, I had like two left of these." Right? It never seems like they went out and bought beer to stock this fridge.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It's just like, "Oh, yeah, I bought a six pack, I drank five of them, and then this one for some reason was put in time out, in this tiny fridge."

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And that's there for when you come over and you're like, "I guess I'll take this."

Griffin: Anyone who buys beer to drink at home is familiar with the experience of having the nasty crew.

Travis: Mm-hm?

Griffin: That kicks in your refrigerator for so long that it builds a little like Pee-wee's Playhouse society inside of it.

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: Because— and this is a— this is— this one thing that soda's got a leg up on beer, when you buy soda, you pretty much know whether or not it's gonna be good when you buy it. Most of the time. Sometimes, there's a stunt Coke. But most of the time, you sort of know what you're getting into. It would be wild if you were like, "Ooh! There's— let me try this Coke." And you brought it home and you were like, "Wow, this is the fuckin' grossest drink I've ever tasted!" But that'll happen with beer sometimes.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: And I've also noticed that in the variety packs, that very clearly, 24 beers, that they're like, "18 of these are really gonna draw you in. And then 6 of these, we needed to get some shelf space going."

Griffin: "We gotta get these rid of— "

Justin: Get rid of—

Travis: "So, you're taking those with you, my dude."

Justin: Here's what I want you to do, okay? I want you to get three cups of self-rising flour.

Travis: Ooh, yeah.

Justin: Fourth cup of sugar, mix it up. Dump in one of these beers!

Griffin: Interesting.

Travis: Perfect.

Griffin: Gross bread.

Justin: But it in a loaf pan that you greased up, and then toss in—put a stick of melted butter on top. Just dump a stick of melted butter on top.

Griffin: On top?

Travis: Love that.

Justin: Yeah. And then... then freaking bake it in a 335 degree oven.

Travis: Just freaking do it!

Justin: Just freaking do it!

Travis: And you know what? With a sweet beer like that, throw some chocolate chips in that bread.

Justin: Whoa!

Griffin: And now you can put it in the tiny library.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: I think.

Travis: Get drunk on bread! Kids, enjoy!

Griffin: Not sure if that is how it would work.

Travis: I have lots of leftover beer and I would say 90% of them aren't pumpkin flavored, in my fridge. Where I have bought them and I thought, "I will love these forever." Sometimes, in like a large— like a 12 pack. And then I'll drink three of 'em and be like, "Well, that was as much as I wanted." And then I think about like Travis in college.

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: And if I could tell Travis in college, yeah, there's beer just sitting in my fridge that I don't touch. And like it just sits— I have more beer than I could possibly need. And I think that college-age Travis would assume that I was... a replacement for him.

Griffin: Mm-hm, yeah!

Travis: 'Cause Travis was like, "I'm living beer box to beer box."

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: "I'm scraping together quarters to buy a 12 pack of Pig's Eye."

Griffin: Mm-hm.

Travis: And like, and now here I am, living the literal high life, not having to drink high life.

Griffin: If I could shout one message through the time tunnel, back to college Travis, I would I hope I would find a better use for that than to brag about how much beer you have now.

Travis: Well, it would've been past 9/11. So, you can't do that one.

Griffin: Damn it!

Travis: But anything else—

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: That was after. So, college was after 9/11. So, you can't focus on that.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: That was the last bad thing that happened, too.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: That was like the last big one that kind of caught us all by surprise. Since then, we've had our heads on a swivel, haven't we?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: We've been ready!

Griffin: We've been—

Justin: Won't get fooled again!

Griffin: We won't get fooled again! [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, no liquids on planes, man!

Griffin: No, sir!

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: No, sir!

Travis: We cut that out and now everything's good!

Griffin: Cut that out, we figured it— we cracked the case!

Travis: "Oh, is that a water bottle? Get out of here". [sings] American hero!

Griffin: "Get out of here." [chuckles and sings] We did it again!

Justin: "You have too much hand gel."

Travis: "That's too much hand gel, get out of here!"

Griffin: "Too much hand gel! Too much— "

Justin: "Too much hand gel! Why does this bottle say hand gel? What are you doing with it? You can't fool me."

Travis: "Are you trying to sneak one past me with hand gel? I saw that coming a mile away, get that out of here."

Justin: "I'm employed by the TSA!"

"What's that?"

Travis: "The TSA?"

Justin: "Oh, yeah. Okay, that's better than TSA, yeah. But you can't fool me with hand gel. Get out of here."

Griffin: Yeah. One time, I went through security in Huntington, and I had a bottle of water that I hadn't fully emptied out. And they were like making me go through again, and I was like, okay. And they were like, "Hey! You're lucky that I'm just dumping it out, I could just throw this away." And then I was like, "This is the price of freedom. I guess this is the price of freedom!" And if it's what it takes, I guess— who am I to say, right? Like, this is how we do it!

Travis: Yeah, man, freedom isn't free!

Griffin: [sings] This is how we keep America safe! Can I go to the Wizard?

Justin: Wait, wait, wait, before we go to the Wizard, can we— can I just tell a quick anecdote that I forgot to tell at our shows that I wish I had told?

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: I just don't want it to get lost in time, 'cause it was so good.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Trav was seated next to a really chatty guy on a plane. Now, it worked out that Travis and I were seated adjacent to each other. [chuckles] One row in front of each other. Never made any real effort to try to swap that up so we'd be next to each other.

Travis: No, no, no, no.

Justin: 'Cause we were both in the aisle, so, we were fine. We were just fine.

Travis: And I see you a lot, we talk. It's fine.

Justin: And Trav, would you describe— you had two great interactions. Can you describe the first interactions that you had with this cat? To kind of set the table.

Travis: Okay. So, my first one, this is before the plane has even taken off. And this gentleman, I would put like, hm, early to mid 50's. Business like professional looking guy, right. Like, if you saw him in a business setting running his own business, you'd be like, "Yes." Right? I've got my headphones on. I've got my iPhone on my lap playing a video that I'm watching. And I'm like writing in my notebook, preparing for the live show. And this guy taps me on the shoulder—

Justin: Travis, because he's on a plane, has restrained himself to only doing three things simultaneously. [chuckles]

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Correct, correct. He taps me on the shoulder, I like pull my AirPods out and I'm like, "Yeah, man?" And he's like, "Listen, if you get a chance, if you get a chance, you gotta check this out." And he's pointing to a screen on the back of the seat.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: And it's the Master Class episode on gardening.

Griffin: Ah, cool!

Travis: And now, listen, don't get me wrong, I enjoy gardening. But there's no way that this guy knew it. And he just had his life changed, I guess, at some point. And he was just like, "I gotta tell this stranger who's clearly busy." And so, he doesn't miss his chance—

Justin: The extent to which I would not pull someone out of the drift...

Griffin: Yes! [chuckles]

Justin: If they were in— like, I would sit there and like stare at them full-bore and poop my pants, like, before I would like wake someone out of that vegetative state. And this cat's like, "You gotta check this out."

Travis: "You gotta check out this Master Class episode on gardening." Not 5 to 10 minutes later, people are still boarding, this is still early, a person passes and they tell me that they are a big fan of our podcast. And if you're listening, hi, how's it going?

Justin: Hey.

Travis: They said like, "You know, I've downloaded some like— "

Justin: You set Travis up for the sickest burn I've ever heard.

Griffin: For the biggest L. [chuckles]

Justin: The biggest L anyone's ever taken!

Travis: And listen, you couldn't have possibly known that, if it wasn't for this Master Class perv on my right, right.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: But you said that you really enjoyed the show and that it was great, it was wonderful, thank you. Then you walked away. And then—

Justin: Can I be the guy? Can I do it, Trav? Can I do it, please?

Travis: Yes, you can.

Justin: It was so devastating to you that I feel like it's not even fair for you get to benefit from the anecdote. 'Cause y'all, I don't wanna oversell it, but this is the most calculated takedown I've ever seen. It's the most complex bit of verbal jiu-jitsu. Okay, listen, this cat— the guy walks away and this guy looks and Travis, and says, "Do my kids know who you are?"

Griffin: It's ice— it's like an ice-cold dagger.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: Between the shoulder blades.

Travis: Because it also—

Justin: Everything about it is so— it's like perfect. It's Hattori Hanzō steel.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: It's so brutal! [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] It's really nice.

Travis: Because not only that, if he had said, "Would my kids know who you are?" Or something like that, then I could formulate an answer." But, "Do my kids know who you are?" I have so little information present, my

response to him was, "Well, how old are your kids?" And he said, "I have several kids ranging from 17 to 30." And I responded—

Justin: We needed to speak on this too, very briefly. A range of kid ages—

Griffin: You should know—

Justin: ... Is not a family, that is an academy. Like, you do not—

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: You need to just tell me how old your kids are. Okay?

Travis: I think in that moment it's quite possible he had no idea. He just knew, "I can safely say 17 to 30." To which I responded, "Then probably at least one of them."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like, and suddenly, I felt such an urge to justify myself, my own existence to this guy who bothered me twice. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: To one, make me— just recommend this Master Class of gardening. And then also make me feel very small. So, if you're listening now, somehow, hello! Welcome.

Griffin: Were you wearing your dirty dungarees, Travis?

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Yes, I was dressed like a real fuck boy, Griffin. [chuckles]
Absolutely! No, I thought I was dressed very nicely.

Griffin: I meant like your gardening dungarees, I didn't mean like your...

Travis: Oh, not my like... my dom pants, with my dirty dungarees? No.

Griffin: Not your dom jeans, no.

Travis: Not my dom jeans, no.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Hey, okay, so, the Wizard— we're— we've been standing in front— we've been having this conversation in front of the Wizard the whole time. And he's actually been very patient. He knows our—

Justin: Yeah, I'm ready. I mean, I'm ready.

Travis: I really appreciate that.

Griffin: He knows our sort of shenanigans. Matthew sent it in. Thank you, Matthew. This one's

Travis: McConaughey?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Fuck, that's a good get!

Griffin: Fox.

Travis: Oh, Matthew McConaughey Fox?

Griffin: Matthew McConaughey Fox. They've been married. Congratulations!

Travis: They share a full name now.

Griffin: On the set of We Are Marshall, a love bloomed. Beautiful love. Great... what's the— now I need to look up the Jean-Claude Van Damme quote. Anyway, here's how to perform a money spell.

Travis: Wait.

Justin: Thank you.

Griffin: This one's cool because it's rare that we do one of these that's like... honestly, pretty easy.

Travis: Oh, okay? Cool, man!

Griffin: "Do you need some extra cash for bills or another particular purpose?"

Travis: Always.

Griffin: What if I said no to that. What does no to that look like?

Travis: Can I just say, it's great when they run out of steam that quickly. Like, "Bills or... Fuck, there's gotta be other things."

Griffin: Add something-something... "This is the spell for you— "

Travis: You know, something— other particular purposes?

Griffin: All right, you guys—

Travis: Have we talked yet about the effect that Chat GPT is gonna have on wikiHow articles?

Griffin: Travis...

Justin: Whoa... I can't get there with you, mentally. But yeah, that's wild.

Griffin: I don't wanna get there with you mentally. I'm sliding down a pit, like at the end of Toy Story 3, towards the flaming mouth of being there with you, and it's inescapable. I'd like to just get through the question, if I could. And by question, I mean wikiHow article.

Travis: Because just if I may, 'cause also the other day I said to you guys that NFTs were this generation's Beanie Babies. And you didn't respond to that text at all?

Justin: Yeah, that kind of— yeah, the group chat kind of wasn't sure what to make of that one.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah. It's true—

Griffin: 'Cause it wasn't preempted by literally anything. And you did bring it to us like wisdom from— like a tablet from god.

Travis: Well, it's just true, and I don't really use Twitter anymore. So, I thought I'd share it with my brothers, who I love. And then I thought they might be like, "Holy shit, dude. That's really... like a poignant observation." And instead, crickets.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I'm not even gonna share my thoughts on how it relates to the gold rush. But it's fine, whatever.

Griffin: Then that's great! "Get your supplies. A green candle." In parenthesis, "Anoint it." [chuckles]

Travis: Oh, yeah.

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

Travis: Yeah, yeah, what are you gonna use a non-anointed candle?

Griffin: Well, shit, I— if I have a green unanointed candle and a white anointed candle, which one— oh, I guess I can melt them together and make sort of a pale green, mostly anointed candle.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That'll probably get you there.

Travis: You could rub the white one all over the green one.

Griffin: Yeah. Hey, "A leaf. Please try to find a suitable one on the ground. Let's not tear up our trees for this!"

Travis: Oh, but what's a suitable one?

Griffin: One that was one the ground, not one that you had to tear up your trees for this.

Travis: No, I know that. But do want something that's like reminiscent of a coin or reminiscent of like a dollar bill? Or do you want one like with many, you know, offshoots on it, so it's like prosperous?

Griffin: If you perform a money spell and you wish for coins, get the fuck out of here. What are you doing?

Travis: Griffin, we've talked about this before. There are some fuckin' peenies that are worth like hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Griffin: We talked about this like a week ago.

Travis: I know!

Griffin: "A leaf, a suitable leaf, just one that you can write on with a sharpie, which is the next tool."

Travis: I'm actually looking, I have a money plant in my office that is thriving. It's got some big, honking leaves on it. I could use that, easy.

Griffin: Do you have a green candle? Anoint it.

Travis: Yeah, I do!

Griffin: Okay. Is it anointed?

Travis: Oh yeah.

Justin: Is it anointed?

Griffin: Okay, cool.

Travis: I have a guy.

Griffin: Okay, so step two, "Use your sharpie to write the exact dollar amount of money that you need on to the leaf." In the image here, they have written exactly \$10,000.

Justin: On the nose.

Griffin: Which is an exact amount of money that makes me think that you are like in deep with the mob or something. Like, that's... that's a really specific— if you— if it was a loan from a bank, that number would not be quite as round.

Justin: \$10,000 is the number they use in the movie, if your life is like... if you're a criminal whose life is cheap, but you need 10 Gs to like buy another week of life. You know what I mean? Like—

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Right, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: You know what I mean? Like, 10 Gs is like, "Ah, I'm working on my street contacts."

Griffin: Kickass amount of money. I would love to just like cast a spell and get 10 Gs.

Travis: Yeah, that's the thing, it's a large amount, but not a greedy amount, which I like. 'Cause if I wrote on that leaf like 10 million dollars? It'd be like, "Okay, you don't *need* 10 million dollars."

Griffin: It would need to be a pretty big leaf. It would have to be a pretty big leaf. Also—

Travis: Well, I could write like dollar sign, one, zero, million.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Travis, are you—

Justin: \$10,000 though, that can really get me out of some jams.

Travis: Yeah, man!

Griffin: Have you guys— have you guys— know about inflation?

Travis: Know what?

Griffin: I'm just saying if we go around writing 10 million dollar, you know, spells on our leaves, then pretty soon, we're gonna be in a whole heap of trouble at the pump.

Travis: Is that how that works? Is that what the problem has been?

Griffin: Big, big heap of trouble at the pump. This is number three, "Place the leaf under the candle. If you do it on top, it'll make a fire. That's not what we're going here for, people."

Travis: Yeah, that's a good point.

Justin: I'm not worried about the recession, 'cause we're in podcasting.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: Untouchable!

Justin: It's basically recession-proof.

Griffin: I think if COVID has shown us anything, it's that the number of people who listen to podcasts will never change.

Travis: Yeah. It's only up-side, baby!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: "So, focus your intent while you light the candle." Which is, I can't stress this enough, above the leaf. If you burn up the leaf, then—

Travis: That's really difficult for me. Do I have to focus only on that?

Griffin: Oh, yeah. This may be an issue, to focus your intent while you light— it's just—

Travis: 'Cause I'm gonna start focused on that, for sure.

Griffin: Yeah, right. But candles take so long to burn, and this sounds really boring.

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: So, you got your leaf that you wrote \$10,000 on, in the sharpie, and then you put the green candle that is anointed on top of it. You focus your intent while you light the candle. And then you meditate on your intentions with the candle for at least 10 minutes.

Travis: Oh my god. 10 minutes?!

Griffin: Yeah, that's— listen, if anyone could do it, then we'd all have \$10,000 right now and we'd be fuckin' partying.

Travis: Yeah but, man, fuck, in 10 minutes, I'm buying and trading crypto, I've already made \$10,001. You know what I mean?

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: Wow, that's true.

Travis: Yeah. Can you imagine—

Griffin: What's crypto, Trav? Travis, what's crypto?

Travis: It's the super dog that flies around with—

Griffin: "Let your candle burn down, or extinguish it with your fingers. Or a snuffer, please." Those are two different journeys.

Travis: That's true.

Griffin: Pretty different journeys, I would say, for me.

Travis: How hard are you trying to impress someone and make 'em think you're tough, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: 'Cause then, it's fingers, right. But if you're like me, a dainty Victorian lord, get your snuffer out.

Griffin: Okay, you get your snuffer out, yeah.

Justin: Let's talk about the snuffer, man. Who's still making these things?

Griffin: Cool!

Justin: Did they even need 'em back in the 1800s?

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Just put it out, guys. Just blow it out.

Griffin: Spit on it like a normal person does it.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Or use your fingers if you wanna be a cool... a cool operator, okay?

Griffin: That hurts, though.

Justin: Yeah, that's why it's cool!

Travis: Can you imagine if you did a spell for \$10,000 and then you rolled up to whatever store you were looking to spend that on, and they were like, "Okay, and with tax, it's like 10,000 and like 60 cents."

Justin: Oh, no!

Griffin: Oh, sucks!

Travis: And you're like, "Fuck, I'll be right back. I gotta go do another spell for 60 cents. Sorry, guys."

Griffin: So, then you gotta take that leaf outside and bury it. What you do with the candle, I suppose, is your business. That's between you and god, who is gonna grant you your spell.

Travis: What if my candle is too small? It goes after— like, before 10 minutes?

Griffin: Then you start over and you do the fuckin' spell again, Trav.

Travis: I only have the one candle! I'm broke, Griffin!

Justin: Griffin?

Griffin: Listen, let me tell you something, odds are you're not gonna do this spell right, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Like, if you think you're gonna crush a money spell your first ritual out the gate, I got news for you, you're not. So, you should plan on having several candles. You probably just need the one sharpie. Many leaves, but please, Christ off the ground, let's not destroy any trees for this magic spell, please.

Justin: I think what you gotta do with the— okay... The first candle, I feel like you should ask for enough money to buy several more candles.

Travis: Good call.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] Okay, because it is relying on this one—

Griffin: But it's the anointing that gets you! That's where the upcharge is, all the anointments.

Travis: Yeah, listen, yeah, it's gonna cast— it's gonna cost extra, but like, you get what you paid for, you know what I mean?

Griffin: So then, here's the last step in the article, the Prestige-like betrayal. [chuckles] Step eight, "Enjoy the satisfaction when the universe creates a way for you to have what you want." The end.

Travis: Oh!

Justin: Okay, well, now, hold on.

Griffin: The end. And the picture is a man holding two stacks of white paper, looking out over the mountains, as a flock of birds flies overhead. Is that your wish, you pervert? Do that for free, idiot!

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You don't have to make— you don't have to take god's attention away from like the big, bad stuff that's happening in the world so you can get \$10,000 to go look at birds!

Travis: It's probably bearer bonds, too. If it's just white paper, and I don't know how that works, but like...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It's probably bearer bonds, if it's white paper. Can I also just say, if I'm going through all the trouble of anointing a candle, burning it, focusing for 10 minutes, right? And then burying my leaf—

Justin: Ugh! Every time you say it!

Travis: I know. Then, I would like the money to just appear somewhere. The idea of like, okay, great, you did that. And now the universe has provided you like a job opportunity to work for \$10,000?

Griffin: It's as if you know nothing of the ways of magic, Travis.

Travis: Well, I know the old ways.

Griffin: All right. You're having a lot of fun here and I'm trying to help our audience.

Travis: No, I'm just saying like chaos magic, right? Where the money just appears in my pocket. But this kind of newfangled version of magic, where the universe provides opportunities or some shit? No, thank you. Give me that chaos magic where the price is significantly higher than what I get when the price is paid by somebody else, you know what I mean?

Griffin: Yeah, did you learn that from Gandalf? 'Cause you're talking about bullshit, and I'm over here trying to help our audience with practical magic.

Travis: I learned it from The Witcher, actually. But...

Griffin: Ah, cool, man.

Travis: Yeah, man, you seen that show?

Griffin: Yeah, man, you see that dick? [chuckles]

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: I haven't seen The Witcher, but I assume... [chuckles] I think he does—

Justin: [sings] Does he get his dong out?

Griffin: He does in the game, I think. So, it would be crazy if he didn't in the show.

Travis: Not yet, I think... I think, Griffin, I think if you were really honest with yourself, if Henry Cavil hung brain in The Witcher series, even if you'd never watched it, you'd know that.

Griffin: Yeah, sure. Yeah, no, I mean—

Travis: You would know about it.

Griffin: When Benjamin brought it out for Gone Girl, it sort of... I feel like someone did a— like a sky-riding over my house! [chuckles] Like, "Hey, Benjamin gets it out in Gone Girl!" And I was like, "Oh, damn, Batman?"

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: If Henry Cavil got his Warhammer out, then everybody would talk about it on like everything from like Twitter to Myspace, right. People would reopen their Friendster accounts to talk about it.

Griffin: Right, right. Yeah, yeah, sure. Okay.

Justin: [laughs] Wait a minute. I am currently searching— [chuckles] does Benjamin Affleck hang brain in Gone Girl?

Griffin: Yeah, pal!

Travis: Yeah, man!

Griffin: Yeah, pal, he does. And it's fun 'cause he in the shadows, he's taking a shower, it's towards the very, very end of the flick. And so, when the flick ended the group of people I had seen it with were walking out of the theater like, "Wow, crazy that Benjamin got his ding-a-ling out for this one." And then half the party was like, "What are you... what do you mean?" And it turned into a sort of—

Travis: Wouldn't wear a Yankees cap, but would get his dick out.

Griffin: Wouldn't wear a Yankees cap. But in a sort of quantum way, if Benjamin gets his out in Gone Girl and no one sees it, did Benjamin get his out?

Travis: Mm-hm, that's deep.

Griffin: I leave that for you to think about as we go to the Money Zone, maybe?

Justin: Yeah, let's do it!

[theme music plays]

Travis: Listen, if you want to share screenshots of the movie Gone Girl with people across the globe—

Justin: Any part of it.

Travis: Any part of it!

Justin: Any part of it.

Travis: Any part of it, we're not... getting specific here. But if you're like, "I found a high-resolution like perfect non-grainy photo from Gone Girl that I need to share with my friends right away who don't believe me," consider Aura Frames. It's the best digital photo frame by Wirecutter, the strategist, and selected as one of Oprah's favorite things. I don't think that's related to screenshots from Gone Girl, but it might be!

Griffin: Might be! She might have a slideshow on there that we don't know about, and needn't know about.

Justin: I use Aura in my day-to-day life. I have one and I've given one to Sydnee's mom and her grandfather. And both of Sydnee's siblings, actually. 'Cause once you start having more people with more frames, you can get kind of a network going. Where if I take a great picture of my kids, I'm blasting it out to all these frames.

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: And they're all excited, or at least they better be! Like, "Ooh, a new dispatch from the McElroy ranch. I gotta see what this great pic is."

Travis: Now, is it weird, Justin, when you're like looking at a slideshow of screen shots from Gone Girl, and also pictures of your kids pop up? Is that weird for them?

Justin: No, I don't do any Gone Girl stuff on it. Well, I have two different Aura accounts.

Travis: Ah, okay.

Griffin: Mm-hm!

Justin: I don't Aura Ben Affleck's dong on main! [laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Whoa! Nobody said anything about Ben Affleck's dong! Nobody said anything about Ben Affleck's dong.

Griffin: Could be anything, could've been Niel Patrick Harris' dong!

Justin: "Hi, this is Aura. Is this Max Fun?"

"Yes."

"I'd like, what I've decided to call, a super refund." [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "I don't know what it means, either, but you have to do something!"
[laughs]

Travis: I'm just saying, there's some wonderful cinematography in Gone Girl that maybe you're just like, I have to share this imagine because it's perfectly like rule of thirds.

Griffin: Sure, man.

Travis: And the lighting is on par and it's great. And maybe there's a dong in it, we can't be sure. So, we have to study it at length. Hypothetically, is all I'm saying.

Griffin: Hypothetically!

Travis: And listen, it only takes a few minutes to set it up using the Aura app, and you can add photos from anywhere, no memory card required. So, that's pretty good, right? Pretty good?

Griffin: Yeah. So, Aura frames...

Travis: We're sorry.

Griffin: We're really sorry. But right now, you don't have to be sorry that you missed out on this great deal for Mother's Day, from Aura. Listeners can

save on the perfect gift by visiting auraframes.com. That's auraframes.com. And if you use code My Brother, you're gonna get up to \$30 off, plus free shipping on their best-selling carver frames. This deal ends on May 14th, so don't wait. Terms and conditions apply!

[Shmanners theme music plays]

Travis: Hi, I'm Travis McElroy.

Teresa: And I'm Teresa McElroy.

Travis: And we're the hosts of Shmanners!

Teresa: We don't believe that etiquette should be used to judge other people.

Travis: No, on Shmanners, we see etiquette as a way to navigate social situations with confidence.

Teresa: So, if that sounds like something you're into...

Travis: Join us every Friday, on Maximum Fun, or wherever you get your podcasts.

[Shmanners theme music concludes]

[Depresh Mode with John Moe theme music plays]

John: Hey, it's John Moe, inviting you to listen to Depresh Mode with John Moe, where I talk about mental health and the lives we live with all kinds of people. Famous writers. David Sedaris, welcome to Depresh Mode.

David: Thanks so much for having me.

John: Movie stars. Jamie Lee Curtis, welcome to Depresh Mode.

Jamie: I am happy to be here.

John: Musicians. I am in Saint Paul, Minnesota. I'm talking to Aimee Mann.

Aimee: Great to talk to you.

John: And song exploders. Hrishikesh Hirway, welcome to Depresh Mode!

Hrishikesh: Thanks so much for having me!

John: Everyone's opening up on Depresh Mode. On Maximum Fun.

[Depresh Mode with John Mode theme music concludes]

Travis: Hey, everybody, it's Travis, and I am interrupting my own show to let you know about some very exciting news. A while back, I filmed this thing and it's called Foul Play. And it is a series of fully improvised murder mystery episodes. My episode is all fantasy-themed, and it comes out this week. And what makes it especially special is that you can move between rooms at will. So, if you want to see where people are going and follow specific characters, or if you wanna follow specific storylines, or if you just wanna stay in the same room, you totally can. It's super fun and it was one of the funniest things I remember being a part of in a long time. So, if you wanna check it out, you can head to foulplay.live and get all the details there. There's a bunch of other episodes as well. Don't wait, it comes out this week. Go check it out, foulplay.live.

Justin: Enough commercialism.

Travis: Thank you!

Justin: It breaks my heart every time.

Travis: Every time. But you know what? Bills, man. If this leaf spell thing would work, I'd be out so quick.

Griffin: It does, you just haven't tried it.

Travis: I know, I keep fucking it up!

Justin: I do like the frame, though.

Griffin: It's a good frame, I mean it's no magic leaf spell...

Travis: It's a good frame! I just wish they would let me talk about it for free! Without all this dirty money!

Justin: They sullied it! I would be doing it for free every episode!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "About 30 feet from my apartment building is a little league baseball field. Sometimes my girlfriends work late." Sorry, I added a plural there. Just— [laughs]

Travis: You swapped-yeah—

Griffin: That's a wildly— that's a different journey you've just sent us on.

Justin: I moved the S from 'works' over to girlfriend! And so, I made this sentence, "Sometimes, my girlfriends work late."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And that's not what it says!

Griffin: No.

Travis: Nope.

Justin: Okay? It's different. I don't care if that if that was this person's situation, but it's not. "Sometimes, my girlfriend works late, and trying to figure out dinner can be a problem— "

Griffin: I mean, there's eight of 'em, so, I can imagine figuring out any meal is an issue!

Justin: [chuckles] Yeah, you're gonna have to get a crystal crate and a bunch of little hamburgers.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Maybe two crystal crates for your hungry names. I mean, come on! [chuckles] "Would it be weird, if I, a 25 year old man— "

Griffin: With no kids and eight girlfriends! [laughs]

Justin: I'm gonna stop messing up.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Ever?

Justin: That's my commitment for 2024.

Travis: Well, we got a lot left in 2023, Justin!

Griffin: Oh, yeah, there's gonna be a lot of mess-ups for the next seven months.

Justin: I've already messed up the— this—

Travis: That's fair. We can talk about— maybe our fiscal year begins in like June.

Griffin: Yeah, sure! [chuckles]

Justin: Yeah. "Would it be weird if I, a 25 year old man with no kids walked over to the little league field and got a burger and fries from the concession stand and watched some baseball? I'm worried people will think it's creepy that some strange guy has ordered food and sat down to watch some kids he's never met play baseball. Should I just get the food and go back home?" That's from Stranger Danger in Dallas.

Travis: I love that for you, Stranger Danger in Dallas, those are your only two options.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Griffin: You gotta get the boigers! Gotta get a big bag of boigers.

Travis: Gotta get those little league field concession stand burgers.

Griffin: Hey, there is nothing better— there is no better burger, in my mind, than when I am at a little league game and I'm like, "God, I got a powerful might that could only be satisfied by a hamburger." Any port in a storm at that point is gonna be the most delicious hamburger I've ever had in my entire life. I bet these are dope. I bet these are great.

Travis: Can we agree that it is weirder and creepier to walk over, grab the burger, and then walk back to your apartment building?

Griffin: And leave, yeah.

Justin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: 'Cause it's a baseball game, man!

Justin: Yeah, yeah, yeah!

Travis: Do you wanna sit and watch some baseball and eat a burger? That's what everyone else is there for, right? Like... I think—

Griffin: Yeah... There's just one— there is just one different thing between you and everybody else there on the risers, I would say. Just one other issue, and that's that you are not sort of genetically or parentally invested in this one. Although, you know what? That's making a lot of assumptions on my part.

Justin: Yes, that's true. I'm more concerned about the quality, because I find that this sort of like short order concession stand, hamburger, fries thing is one of the bigger ranges in quality that you can have in food service. Like, I feel like some of the best and worst— especially fries, I feel like some

of the best and worst fries I've ever had have come from a situation like this. Like, the distance between— I don't know, it's like a half microwaved—

Griffin: Or I'd— a crinkle cut steak fry, yeah.

Justin: Yeah, yeah. Or it's like actually deep fried—

Travis: Yeah, someone living their dream, right?

Justin: Yeah, someone like going for it. Like, too expensive for— like restaurants wouldn't do it.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It's too expensive to do it like this, but I'll dump like high quality peanut oil in here, get rid of all these trans-fats for you.

Griffin: The Bear, season two... is probably what that's about.

Travis: Maybe you can do it enough that you build a relationship with the people at the concession stand!

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: And they're like, "Ah, you're like a regular!" You know? They love it.

Griffin: Okay, let's try to provide some roadmap here. If you do— I think it could be fun to just like eat a burger and watch little league baseball if you don't really have anything else to do. I imagine those scamps have a lot of unforced errors that can be hysterical to watch. And then you get into the drama of the game. You know... Dillon, you know, gets hit by a pitch, chips a tooth, but then scores a fuckin' home dinger on the next at-bat? Fuck yeah, I'm on my feet, I'm losing it! Right?

Justin: Yeah, if you start thinking that it's weird for you to watch a bunch of kids play little league baseball, if you pick at that scab too much, you're gonna start to realize how weird it is that you watch any sports at all.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: That is the end of the— okay?

Griffin: What do I do— this is your private—

Justin: “I’m not any of these kids’ dads!” Well, yeah, think about the Bingles, remember? You’re not any of the Bingles’ dads either, right?

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah, I would say if there was some kind of buffer where you had to claim to be one of the children's dads to watch the game? Problem.

Griffin: Watch any game of any sport!

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: On Earth, yeah. Sure.

Travis: Man, if I could remember a single football player’s name right now... ooh, I—

Justin: William ‘Refrigerator’ Perry.

Griffin: Chad Ochocinco.

Justin: Yeah! [chuckles]

Travis: I don’t think either one of them are still playing, guys!

Justin: I know William ‘Refrigerator’ Perry isn’t, but they did make a G.I. Joe out of him!

Travis: That is true! And he had a football-shaped mace!

Justin: Yeah, that was cool, man.

Travis: That was fucking cool, dude.

Justin: I wonder if eBay's got any of those lying around—

Griffin: Football Tom!

Justin: What are your— what's your guys— like, do you guys have any— my best like little league ball field concession stand memory is, one, just fund it, fund it, fund it—

Griffin: Fund it ball day.

Travis: Yes, yes, yes.

Justin: Fund it, fund it, fund it, fund it. And then the one time I like— in the— as close as you get to throwing caution to the wind when you're 11. Like, I don't care if a chick-o-stick does look like old man candy, I'm gonna buy one, they're only 50 cents, let's see what this is about. And then you find out it basically butter finger guts?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Oh, yeah!

Travis: I remember— I wrestled in middle school, and this isn't quite little league. But wrestled in middle school. And going to the meets, I abhorred it, I was bad, I hated it. But the concession area, man, you could get fuckin' all kinds of Little Debbie treats for like a quarter.

Griffin: Yes. For a quarter—

Travis: They were— like, they'd buy just like a box of cosmic brownies. And then you'd give 'em like a quarter and you'd get a cosmic brownie. And I just kept thinking like, "I am really pulling one over on these people, they have no idea what this worth."

Griffin: Definitely illegal. Like, I don't think you can just buy a box of cosmic brownies and—

Travis: Oh, no, they're not packaged for individual sale. [chuckles]

Griffin: No, not even a little bit. I— yeah— it— man, the burger and fries might not be good, but I can't think of another restaurant where you can get Sour Punch Straws like in a combo meal.

Travis: Yeah, that's true. Or those little like bubblegum like baseball things that have like the stitching printed on them, and it's chewing gum. Those are great, I love those.

Justin: Ah, that's fun! Love that. You guys mess with Pop Rocks?

Travis: You could also— you could just DoorDash a meal.

Justin: You guys mess with Pop Rocks?

Travis: Not anymore. Are you kidding? At my age? Oh, the risk!

Griffin: No, it feels bad—

Justin: It really knocks kids' socks off the first time. They love it.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Pop Rocks are mainly cool for giving to the elderly who've never had them before.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And they play that on TikTok. That's good.

Travis: Yeah, that's true. Yeah, and reacting to it.

Justin: Yeah, like, kids react to old person eating pop rocks. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "While walking with my children, I found the perfect stick. It was just the right height, shape and texture for me to use as a walking stick. However, my nine year old claims that he had already found the stick earlier this morning while walking to the bus, and it belongs to him."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: "We're now engaged in a custody battle over the stick. Which of us has the true claim?" Let me take— oh, boy, I just took my first gander at this stick, and it is something else.

Travis: Yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Let me see this bad boy.

Travis: Oh, it has like some natural pattern.

Griffin: Holy shit... oh my god!

Justin: Oh, man...

Travis: That is a good stick.

Griffin: Marbled! Marbled bark. Yes.

Travis: And a good interesting— it's got this like— what would that be? Like a 20 degree angle, you know, something like that?

Griffin: It's got a recurve in it like a long bow? It's—

Travis: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: This is the kind of stick that you expect Grindelwald to kick open the door and be like, "You found it. My incredible— "

Travis: I don't know which one is that. Which one is that

Justin: "My incredible staff." No, Travis, I was actually trying to make up the dumbest wizard— this is—

Griffin: This is— I know that's what just happened! That's amazing, Justin!

Justin: I was trying to make up the dumbest wizard name I could.

Travis: Mm-hm?

Justin: And what my brain supplied for me was just Grindelwald.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: There's nothing dumber than that.

Justin: Like, the dumbest— there's nothing dumber than Grindelwald! Would you like to say that? No, I don't think I would. Well, too bad, you're talking!

Griffin: Juice's mouth, I got two options for you. Grindelwald or Brumbleborf.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: It's up to you which— one of these is wrong!

Justin: Oh, you thought about it too long and you said Grindelwald! [chuckles] And then the other part of my brain's like, "I don't think we're doing Harry Potter any more— whoa!"

Griffin: Whoa! Right when my brain's like, "Shut up, it's happening! Listen, the mouth is doing it already! Ha-ha! Got 'em again!"

Travis: It's a great stick.

Justin: It's a great stick.

Griffin: Great stick. So, I guess age nine... or nine years into the parenting experience is when I'm going to start like caring about myself and my needs again, and just sort of having any kind of claim to any sort of inherent dignity. Because the number of things that I have just sort of let go, like a boat down— like a leaf down the river. Because my son was like, "Actually, that's mine." Is, let me check, everything. Most of the things.

Travis: Even a stick this good, you would do that for Henry.

Griffin: Yeah, for a stick this— yeah, Travis. For a stick— we're having a lot of fun here. Gorgeous stick does look like a prop from Grindelwald, like Justin said, definitely.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: I do— it is a stick, though, and that is gonna go right down the ladder, if it means that you know, we're just gonna kind of keep going on with the day in a direction that is not— you know, it would be advantageous for all parties involved in the long run.

Travis: Yeah, I guess I'm thinking of it now, that if my six-year-old was like, "I would like to bring this stick inside, that is apparently five feet long, and wave it around a bunch?" I would say, "You know what? Maybe no one needs this stick. Maybe this is gonna remain out of doors, rather than break everything in my house that I actually care about."

Griffin: That's great!

Travis: That might be where I'm at with it, the more I think about it. Because here is the thing, if I'm being honest with myself, 100% chance my six-year-old breaks something with it. 95% chance I break something with it, right? It's not that much better.

Griffin: You will take it and say, "We gotta get rid of this thing." And as you are walking outside with it, you're gonna try and twirl it once like a bo staff.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You're gonna hit the urn. There go the ashes.

Travis: Oh.

Griffin: Oof!

Travis: Those are Grindelwald's ashes and he's back now, oh no!

Griffin: Those are Grindelwald's ashes and now he came out, that jar—

Travis: And he wants his stick back. And he's an evil wizard.

Griffin: God dang, that's the only thing. Yeah, you got—

Travis: I wish there were other wizard names.

Griffin: Yeah, me too. Just give 'em the stick.

Justin: Don't give 'em the stick!

Griffin: Don't give 'em the stick!

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Threaten to cut the stick in half.

Griffin: Ooh!

Justin: Yes, that's always a classic.

Travis: Always works.

Griffin: Ooh, or say, "Okay, we will settle this in the morning." While they sleep, you go outside, you gather up as many sticks as you can. When they wake up, they are all around the room. You are wearing a chainmail coif and old-man makeup. And you say, "One of these is the true stick and if you truly loved it, and you truly deserved it"—

Travis: Fuck yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's good.

Griffin: "You would know the right stick to choose."

Travis: Okay, get some fishing line. Tie it to one end of the stick and the other one to your finger. Lay the stick between the two of you and say, "We'll both call the stick and whichever the stick loves most, that's how we'll decide."

Griffin: That's great.

Travis: Right?

Justin: Let the stick decide. It's the stick's choice. Yes!

Travis: Yeah. But you're an adult and they still have a child's brain. So, you've— you're using that fishing line, right? So, no matter how hard the stick pulls to go to the boy, you're gonna tug it back with the fishing line.

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: It is cool, Griffin. You're right!

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: Most nine-year-olds are gonna fall right for that.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, man, because they still trust you, and that's their mistake.

Griffin: This is the last time, though, for that.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That phenomenon.

Travis: Oh, they can never find out.

Griffin: Never again.

Travis: They can never find out. "When did you start having issues with your parents?"

"Well, I'll never forget the day I realized that they conned me out of the perfect stick."

Griffin: "That really good stick."

Travis: "And I've just never trusted them since then."

Justin: "I work for my local 4-H program. In our office, we happen to have several Shrek toys just hanging around the office."

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: "They've been there since I was a child at 4-H, almost 20 years. At this point, no one on staff knows where they came from or why. We got a new boss in December and things have become really tense. How can I employ these Shreks to bring some love with me back to the office? If it helps, I'm usually the first one in the office and have access to *all* the keys."

Travis: Uh-huh, yeah.

Justin: That's from Stressed in Upstate.

Travis: Down here at the bottom, we also have a picture of a couple of the Shreks.

Justin: Yeah. There's two Shreks of different size. One about—

Travis: And different pants! Interestingly.

Justin: And different pants, really. The one's about two and a half feet tall, it seems like a pretty good Shrek. I'd give this one a six out of eight.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: And then there's a smaller Shrek—

Travis: Mm-hm, classic Shrek gauge.

Justin: It's a good Shrek. He's smaller, but he has a white shirt. It's a very white shirt, it's too white for Shrek.

Travis: And it seems like leathery vest where the other one is clearly fabric.

Griffin: And ska pants. Yeah, he's—

Travis: Ska pants.

Justin: Ska pants. I'm gonna give him a four out of seven. I don't know why he stole his pants from a sexy '90s goth girl.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: But I would prefer that she have them instead of this Shrek.

Travis: He appears to have— that Shrek appears to have homemade clothes. Clearly, the one on the left, store bought. The one on the right feels like a labor of love.

Justin: Okay, so, these are the kind of Shreks we're dealing with. Oh, one of 'em has the horny ears and one of 'em has the sloping down ears, if that's anything.

Travis: The sad ears.

Justin: The sad ears.

Travis: Could you start positioning the Shreks in the boss' office? With signs that say like, "I'm the boss now. Signed Shrek."

Griffin: Oh, that could be cool, get out— or, Travis, just put, more simply, "Get out... Get out of my swamp." It would have to say.

Travis: Yeah. "Get out of my swamp, Donkey."

Justin: You have to be careful because everyone knows you're in the office first. And everyone knows that the Shreks are around. You don't wanna do something—

Travis: Everyone knows that the Shreks are around, be careful, folks.

Justin: [chuckles] You don't wanna do something so—

Travis: Keep your head on a swivel, the Shreks are around!

Justin: I don't think you wanna do something so low stakes that your boss, let's call him Gwendolyn. Your boss, Gwendolyn, says, "Hey, did you just put these Shreks in my office?" [chuckles]

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: Like, there's really no... and there's no doubt about it. And you have to come up with— and it's not enough, you haven't gone far enough for it to be self-evident as to why you would do it. You know what I mean?
[chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It just seems kind of like a perverse little Shrekisode.

Griffin: You do need to— Justin is right, this gaslighting procedure that you're— this Shrek-based gaslighting you are attempting here, it does need to be a bit of a—

Travis: Swamp gaslighting.

Griffin: The swamp gaslighting you're trying to do here does need to be a bit longer road, a little bit longer runway on it, maybe move a stapler around an inch.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Little by little, before you start introducing, you know, new characters into the sabotage. Like, Shrek from Shrek.

Travis: I would also— oh! Oh! So, maybe you move the stapler around and you leave like a green fingerprint on it. You start to build some mystique and some mystery.

Griffin: Oh, yes!

Travis: Right?

Griffin: Yeah. I don't know why you would leave a green fingerprint behind...

Travis: And eventually— what?

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: I mean, a muddy—

Justin: Why would Shrek leave— shut up. Why would Shrek— [laughs] why would Shrek leave a green fingerprint?

Travis: Okay, thank you for asking. So, Shreks are not naturally green, right. Underneath, they're grey. But they ooze like a green, sweat-like— it's a lot like an arrow frog, right, where there's like a green kind of jelly that oozes from every pore. Don't lick a Shrek— ooh, don't lick a Shrek.

Griffin: No.

Justin: Don't lick a Shrek.

Travis: You're gonna trip out. But that's oozing from his every pore, right. So, that green material is left behind whenever he's up to his dark machinations.

Griffin: Now, I was online yesterday and I saw a website where people were talking about licking the Shrek ooze.

Travis: No, don't— listen, it's so much fun for the 10 hours that it lasts. But when that high ends—

Justin: [chuckles] It's a cheap, clean, legal high.

Travis: But when it ends, ah! Now, here's what you can do, you start with licking the Shrek and you alternate with licking Donkey. And that's gonna keep it pretty even. It's gonna be a nice, even trip. If the Donkey starts to talk, you've gone too far. Get the fuck out of there, you know what I mean?

Griffin: You gotta be careful when mixing ogres and donkers, though. Because they— it's a dangerous game you're playing.

Travis: And don't eat the gumdrop buttons!

Griffin: [chuckles] That's fuckin' funny, too! Hey, Juice, say a Shrek joke! You haven't done enough of `em this time.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I did a lot of `em, actually. I said Shrekisode.

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: I was talking about the green fingerprints. I did lots of `em.

Travis: Now, I— now, Justin—

Justin: Now, here— before— here is the Donkey. You gotta make sure— [chuckles]

Travis: You have all the donkeys!

Justin: You have— you get all the donkeys... Thank you so much for listening to our podcast.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: What just happened?

Travis: Oh, no, we've done it! We used up all the Shrek references we know!

Griffin: That's crazy, I've never heard 'em run out mid-sentence! I've never heard us run out of joke mid-sentence before, that was crazy!

Justin: I was trying to make it sound like a bad edit. Sometimes, I do that joke to Rachel. [chuckles]

Griffin: Wait—

Justin: Sometimes I do a joke on our editor, Rachel.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: Where I stop mid-bit to make it sound like Rachel edited it badly. [chuckles]

Griffin: Oh, cool! And I bet she loves— she really appreciates— that's a cool look! Cool thing to do, Juice!

Travis: Everyone loves it, it's a good bit!

Justin: Cool thing to do. I didn't realize I was doing it until— no, listen. It's toxic behavior and I didn't realize I was doing it until just then. So, I do wanna own it and claim it, okay?

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: I wanna own it and claim it.

Griffin: All right!

Travis: You know what I wanna own and claim?

Justin: What?

Travis: The housekeeping! Coming up! Next week!

Justin: Next week, Jesus.

Travis: Next week!

Griffin: That can't be right...

Travis: We're gonna be doing My Brother, My Brother and Me and May 19th, in Columbus.

Justin: Not next week, Trav!

Travis: When this airs, yeah, man!

Justin: Fuck!

Travis: May 20th, we're going to be doing TAZ in Columbus, Ohio. On May 21st, we're going to be doing My Brother, My Brother and Me in Milwaukee. You can get info and tickets at bit.ly/mcelroytours. Also, just to throw it out there, if you haven't checked out this month's merch yet, go to mcelroymerch.com and check it out!

Justin: I didn't mean to sound upset because we were going back out on the road. I think Rachel might have added me saying 'fuck' right there. [chuckles] Like, to make it sound like I was very tired, but I'm not! I love to get out there.

Travis: We love it!

Justin: I love to get out there and see everybody!

Griffin: We're gonna tear Columbus apart, man.

Justin: We're gonna— you know where I'm gonna go? To the Center of Science and Industry!

Griffin: Ooh, I love that.

Justin: Yeah, man!

Travis: Might hit that North Market. You guys been to the North Market? Ooh.

Griffin: Mm-mm.

Justin: Ah!

Griffin: Milwaukee, you're good, too. You don't need... you don't need us.

Justin: You got a Henry Winkler statue you got a spy-themed restaurant, come on!

Travis: I'm wildly excited to be in Milwaukee when it's not like February.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, sure, me too.

Travis: I'm very excited.

Justin: Yeah. So, those are gonna be fun, actually. I'm excited now.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Anything else?

Griffin: And thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, My Life Is Better With You. It's a boppin' tune. We got merch for the month of May over at mcelroymerch.com. Beautiful nalgene, you should go scope those out.

Travis: And we don't mention it a ton, but like we're on TikTok now, McElroy Family. And you can also find McElroy Family on YouTube. We're putting out some stuff there, I think you're really gonna like it.

Justin: If you just help us with the algorithm, however you can.

Travis: Oh, the algorithm! Oh, if you could help.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Do your part.

Griffin: Do your part. Feed the algorithm some beans.

Justin: Trav, bring us home!

Travis: "She barely understands her dreams of bellybutton rings and other kind of things, symbolic of change. But the thing that is strange is that the changes occur and now she's just a part of the herd." Jack Johnson.

Griffin: I don't like that one, Jack!

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy! Belly button rings!

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

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

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

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