

MBMBaM 669: Oomp, There It Is!

Published on July 17, 2023

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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. And if you lick the oldest brother, it tastes just like Justin McElroy.

Travis: And listen, I'm your middlest brother Travis McElroy and I just want to make chocolate!

Griffin: You stole fizzy lifting drink and my heart. You get everything. It's Griffin McElroy.

Justin: You get Boffo box office—[chuckles]

Griffin: Boffo office buckeroonies, baby!

Travis: We don't often do this. We may have done this once before. That's right, it's a watch part two, Wonka Watch.

Griffin: It's the watch—we've been so good, we can do a second Wonka Watch as a treat, for us.

Justin: [chuckles] You all have to understand, in our private lives, it's just about Wonka.

Griffin: That's it.

Travis: It's just Wonka!

Justin: If we were talking about something other than Wonka in this podcast that you're hearing, it is a courtesy. It is a gift, okay?

Griffin: For you.

Travis: And not just that, a lift. Do you know how hard it is for me to switch gears in my hyper-fixated brain? To talk about anything else?

Griffin: Everybody's over here talking about Barbie or Oppenheimer, Barbie or Oppenheimer. I would throw the master tapes of both these films into a furnace and set them on fire, never to be watched by human eyes again, for one more Wonka trailer. One more trailer showing me a little bit of Hugh Grant's Oompa Loompa. A little bit of Timothée Chalamet's inscrutable accent. I'm going to watch this movie in theaters 19 times.

Travis: [in silly Southern accent] I want to make chocolate.

Griffin: I wanna make chocolate.

Travis: [in silly Southern accent] I want to make chocolate.

Griffin: Juice, you got really distracted there for a second, please?

Justin: I just—I accidentally—it popped up in my—[chuckles] I was looking for the cast and the trailer automatically started playing and I was swept away.

Travis: 'Cause he just wants to make chocolate, but the chocolate cartel—

Justin: He just wants to make chocolate!

Travis: The chocolate cartel won't let him!

Griffin: These chocolate businessmen wanna—

Travis: That's right! This is a child's movie that invokes the idea of cartels. [chuckles]

Griffin: This evil chocolate family wants to kill Willy Wonka and take his candy away. I can't wait to see this fucking flick!

Justin: This thing's... this thing's unreal. Why did—I gotta say, I watched the trailer—and if you haven't watched the trailer yet—

Travis: There are some people who don't know this movie's even coming out, guys. I mentioned it on a stream—

Justin: I'm glad to help. I'm glad to help. Does it seem like—everything about it is wild, of course. Were you guys prepared for the heat that Chalamet is bringing to this particular role?

Griffin: Never.

Justin: It's a... it's quite a take. He seems—[chuckles] he seems to be—his to-be verb seems to be; to helping you find a T-shirt at Hot Topic when his shift ends in 10. That is the energy.

Griffin: That's very, very good, Justin. It is—

Travis: Ooh, yes!

Justin: That's the heat that he is bringing. I don't know—he—I know he saw the gene. He had to have seen the gene.

Griffin: He *had* to have seen the Depp.

Travis: Oh, yeah!

Griffin: The Depp is—

Travis: The Depp is running wild on this one!

Griffin: The gulf between these two performances, you have Depp over here just like; [in silly voice] "Hm, uh-hoo! Mm-hm! Ooh! Ooh-blblblbl." And

Chalamet's over here like, "I wanna make chocolate. I wanna make chocolate." That's... the gulf between—

Justin: The whole thing.

Griffin: It's so fuckin' mysterious!

Travis: Can I tell you, if he—I bet—picture this; Timothée Chalamet wiggles his way into the first read. And he looks at the director and he goes, "I'm going to be wilder than Wilder and deeper than Depp." And the director was like, "What does that mean?" And he's like, "You'll see."

Justin: [chuckles] "You heard me! Wilder than Wilder and deeper than Depp." And then it's like, "Okay, action." And Chalamet's like, "I'm Willy Wonka."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "I'm Willy Wonka and I'm gonna make chocolate."

Justin: "I'm Willy Wonka and I want to make chocolate, these guys won't let me."

Travis: "They won't let me make chocolate, I'm gonna stand on a box and I'm gonna put out some fuckin' Wizarding Wiley, whatever fucking candy that flies around."

Griffin: They had to have come—

Travis: "To tell kids in my way, I'll kill them." [chuckles]

Griffin: They had to have come to him, right? And been like, "We must have the Dune boy." Everyone loves the Dune boy and it would be—

Travis: "Give me angular rascal!"

Griffin: "Give me the angular Dune boy, please."

Justin: Can I say, I love Chalamet.

Griffin: Oh, yes!

Justin: Chalamet's great. Fucking great in Dune.

Griffin: And this performance is going to be good, actually. It's going to be good.

Justin: Actually, it will be good. Well, the movie will have to contort.

Griffin: Around him.

Justin: To Chalamet. Like, whatever it is, he'll refract—

Travis: The gravitational force!

Justin: [chuckles] Right, exactly. The Wonkatational pull of Chalamet's energy is going to bend the film to his will.

Griffin: I just—

Travis: Mr. Chalamet's Wonder Emporium is going to be an amazing movie and I can't wait to see it.

Griffin: It's so chill. It's such a chill vibe.

Travis: Such a chill movie.

Griffin: Love it.

Travis: So good. And Keegan-Michael Key's in there eating too much candy.

Justin: He's in there.

Travis: Rowan Atkinson's running away from a giraffe.

Griffin: So funny.

Justin: Okay, at what point is it targeted at us? Is what I'm saying, right. Because they got Chalamet to play Wonka and they call it Wonka. Then they put Hugh Grant as an Oompa Loompa in a—

Griffin: Very good.

Travis: Who bends over and is like flashing his covered ass at Tim.

Justin: Yeah, he's flashing his covered ass and you're gonna drop—you're gonna drop Rowan Atkinson on me?

Travis: How hot a movie is it that you only had to use Rowan Atkinson for three seconds of the trailer? You're like, "There's so much, we can actually only afford three seconds' worth of Rowan Atkinson because there's so much other stuff we got to show you."

Justin: Well, the problem is—the problem is he travels with all the bees now. He fell in love with all the bees and he married eight bees. [chuckles]

Griffin: He married. Not a lot of people know that.

Travis: Well, that's what happens, right? Enemies to lovers is classic. Classic storyline.

Justin: Every movie he's in now, like, [in silly voice], "I'd love to do it, but is there a place for the B? My wife, the bees."

Griffin: Yeah. Wow, that was really good, Juice. That really sounded a lot like Mr. Bean's Rowan Atkinson.

Justin: [chuckles] It's exactly like him.

Travis: I heard what they did was they glued a bunch of ping pong balls to the bees. And CGIed the giraffe around those bees.

Griffin: What you just said is the dumbest thing I've ever heard, ever. Yeah, no, it's what happened. You're right. It's just really stupid. It's like a dumb idea. But I celebrate it.

Justin: The IMDB lists Mr. Chalamet as young Willy Wonka and if I may be so bold, I think we should list Gene Wilder as old Willy Wonka. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: And—[chuckles] I'm sorry. There's Willy Wonka, *my* generation's Wonka, Timothée Chalamet.

Travis: Oh, whoa! Yeah, uh-huh?

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] And there's the old dad. Dad's like, "Back in my day—" Sorry, he's old Willy Wonka now. Gene Wilder's old Willy Wonka.

Travis: This is why I've taught my daughter to call Yoda old Grogu. For that exact reason!

Griffin: Yeah, exactly.

Travis: Yes, correct. That's geriatric Grogu.

Griffin: I feel deeply, deeply bad for the very, very narrow sliver, very narrow time window generation that have to—that have Johnny's Wonka. That are Johnny Wonka—the Johnny Wonka generation, that's a bad beat, because it's sandwiched between what are almost certainly going to be two massively superior performances.

Travis: Well, I bet this one comes out, right, it's gonna be huge again. Oh, who's that? It's gonna be a Burton and Depp, leapfrogging again to say, "Now, we're going to make another one. But this one, he's old and looking back and gone. I probably shouldn't have given it to Charlie. In retrospect, I'm gonna go back and find a new set of kids."

Griffin: He's a child. He knows no business.

Travis: Yeah, and Charlie was a child—I'm going to start interviewing potential adults to take over who have gone to like business school and know how to like do, you know, like payroll and insurance and shit.

Griffin: Oh, you're writing a spec script for Wonka, Travis. Just like sit back and—like just—

Travis: It's called Twonka. T-W-O, and that's big, right. So, it's like two, Wonka, but it's got to be Twonka.

Griffin: Twonka is really good.

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: Can we have a—can we have—can I—I'm obsessed with Twonka now. God damn it.

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: I really didn't want to be, but I really, really am. Can we get... I don't know what the plot of Oneka is going to be, which in now what I'm calling the first new Timothée Chalamet Wonka. But can we somehow get a sort of Crisis on Infinite Earths situation in Twonka, where we got Chalamet, Depp and Wilder, all back at it again. And maybe we introduce the fourth Wonka in there.

Justin: There's always a Wonka—

Travis: Well, Christopher Lee is going to come back as Wonka senior.

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: And Sally Hawkins is Wonka's mom.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Give us a Last Crusade kind of vibe. We can CGI, we'll get Harrison

Ford in there, as long as we're at it. And CGI Gene Wilder over him. He's got a lot of experience with that now from Dial of Destiny. It's gonna be perfect.

Justin: Sally Hawkins and Christopher Lee are going to be bringing some sexual heat.

Griffin: Not ready for it.

Justin: Off the charts.

Travis: Yeah, absolutely.

Justin: Yeah, that will be huge. You joke, but there's no way they make this movie if they're not considering a verse, right?

Griffin: Yeah, no, no.

Justin: There's gonna be a multiverse.

Travis: Oh, yeah, no, you gotta expand, baby.

Justin: For sure. I am dying for the kid's movie that is just called Oompa Loompas. And it's just 80 Hugh Grants.

Griffin: Yeah. Running around, banana!

Justin: Running around, banana!

Travis: Hey, catchphrase; oomp, there it is. That's the tagline.

Griffin: That's it.

Justin: Oomp, there it is, Hugh Grant.

Travis: Oomp, there it is.

Griffin: That's the Yoda man.

Justin: Hugh Grant's there, the whole gang. They have to fall in love, though.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: 'Cause there's no—there's—and this is what my—Hi. [chuckles] Hi, everybody. Let me turn my PowerPoint on. Hi. So... Hi. Thanks for seeing me, here. I love the opportunity to contribute to the Wonka-Verse.

Travis: Absolutely, yes. Thank you for coming.

Griffin: I've been looking for a new verse to become deeply invested in, so this is kismet.

Justin: My contribution is called Oompa Loompa. Tagline; oomp, there it is. [chuckles]

Travis: Oomp, there it is, obviously, yes.

Justin: [chuckles] As you've probably already seen. What my movie is about is this—

Griffin: Like the Willie—sorry, sorry, sorry, like the Willy Wonka—the little Willy Wonka monsters. Those guys?

Justin: Yeah, this is part of the Wonka.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: So, yeah, that would be wild if it wasn't that.

Griffin: I remember them. I remember them.

Justin: Okay, great. So, here's the thing; you remember the Oompa Loompas, but the question on my mind and the mind of every other viewer is where are the babes?

Travis: Oh? Okay.

Griffin: That's not—

Travis: The Oompa babes?

Griffin: That isn't... like, that's not what I originally sort of was thinking about, Oompa Loompas.

Justin: Right. That's why you brought me in. All due respect.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, he's right.

Justin: Okay? All due respect.

Travis: He's right, Griffin.

Griffin: I actually brought—you're our DoorDasher for the Chipotle that we all ordered for lunch. And then you started—

Justin: They have to be lady Oompa Loompas. Somewhere on the globe, they're dying off.

Travis: And Griffin—

Justin: They're older, they're dying. They need to—they need to procreate.

Travis: Sorry, Justin, was it? Justin? Griffin, I did put in the special delivery instructions; if you have any ideas for an extended Wonka-Verse movie, let us know when you come in. So, this is kind of on me.

Griffin: Yeah. I guess what I'm confused about is we are Lionsgate. We are not making the Willy Wonka movie.

Travis: That's true.

Griffin: I believe they have—the Dune boys in it. So like, we're not even making that movie. So, I'm not sure... We are not making Dune, but I'm not sure... I mean, if you—we might be able to get in touch with people over at—

Travis: I mean, we'll have an easier time doing it—

Griffin: The company.

Travis: Yeah, than Justin will—

Griffin: The company that makes Wonka.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You know. So, what do you think? Can I have... 100 mil?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Here's the thing, is that all the writers and actors are on strike. And so, I think, optically, the best thing we can do is pay our Chipotle delivery driver \$200 million to—

Travis: 200, he upped it. I was gonna do 100 million, but then Griffin decided let's double that.

Griffin: Well, it's gonna take a couple tries.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: It's gonna take—I know Hugh. It's gonna take Hugh a day at the booth. Okay, I find—and I find that Hugh—

Travis: And that's 100 million a day.

Griffin: 100 million a day.

Justin: That's 100 million a day. It's gonna take him a day—it's gonna take Hugh a day in the booth. Maybe two days in the booth, tops. And if I know Hugh, he will scab for a day.

Griffin: Ah, he won't, though. He is—but I—

Justin: He will scab for a day.

Griffin: We can't get Hugh Grant—he's not going to scab, he's got too much honor for that. But I can get you Huge Grant. Now, this is a new Hugh Grant that we've been working on here at Lions Gate.

Travis: I'm excited about this. How big?

Griffin: How big is Huge Grant?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Can they meet huge grant in Oompa Loompa? And it's Hugh Grant, the man. [chuckles] But they call him Huge Grant.

Griffin: Huge Grant.

Travis: Wait. So wait, is Huge Grant playing Hugh Grant? Or you're saying—

Justin: Yes!

Travis: Hugh Grant as himself?

Justin: No! That's circuit—that's Andy Serkis as Huge Gran.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Who is Hugh Grant, the actor.

Griffin: We are—

Justin: But circuit—we get Serkis. Hugh Grant's too busy. [chuckles] We can't get another day in the booth with Hugh—

Travis: Yeah, there's no way.

Justin: He's not gonna stay out for two days.

Griffin: The morning that we are recording this podcast, the SAG strike is about to be voted on by the time this episode comes out—

Travis: Oh, it's gone. It's done.

Griffin: Oh, it's done? Oh, okay.

Travis: It's done, we're striking.

Griffin: Fuck yeah, all right. So, listen—

Justin: He—

Griffin: Listen. No, you shut up and listen to me right now, 'cause I'm gonna fix—

Justin: I'm listening, I'm listening.

Griffin: I know there are a lot of people struggling because of this, like me, because all my great television programs—like, where are they, gang? But most importantly, I think if we pitch this Twonka-Verse Oompa Loompa film starring Huge Grant, to whatever company is making the Wonka film. Be it be it A24. Be it... you know, another movie company—

Travis: The Duplass Brothers.

Griffin: The Duplass Brothers.

Justin: By the time this comes out, it will probably be Amazon, Jeff Bezos presents—

Griffin: Wonka.

Justin: It'll be—

Griffin: But listen—

Justin: Dyson Vacuums present Willy Wonka.

Griffin: If we tell the industry about this film, I think that the shitty execs that don't want pay anybody for anything will be like, "God damn it. We have to make this movie. And we're gonna need to get the gang back together again to do it."

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Like, we're gonna—"We don't want to pay the writers like any money. But if that's what it takes to get Twonka out the door, if that's what it takes to get Huge Grant's incredible daily per diem to be in the Oompa Loompa animated feature film, maybe—

Travis: For the record, it's replacing the couch every day for him in his green room. That's probably—

Griffin: Yeah, every sit.

Travis: He actually does it—he's like, "I'll perform for free, if every time I stand up, before I sit down again, new couch."

Griffin: New couch, yeah. Because he rips 'em, man.

Travis: [chuckles] He fills it with farts. You're right, Griffin.

Justin: I want to go out on a limb. And I don't want to kind of put you guys in a moral, weird quandary or whatever. But I, with—in light of the strike now being in effect, I would like to go ahead and just step up and say, for me—this is just for me. But for me, I will refuse to appear in any television or film projects until this strike is ended. I stand with labor and I'm stepping away from my many, many, many, many opportunities.

Griffin: Sure, sure, sure.

Justin: To just say, for me, I'm not gonna perform on your TV shows or your movies. I'm sorry, I'm off the market. I stand with labor.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Wow.

Griffin: You're my fuckin' hero, Juice.

Travis: You're my hero, Justin. I know what that means. I know exactly what that means for you.

Justin: I lot of 'em were close. A lot of 'em were—

Griffin: Real close—

Travis: I will say—can I just say, boys, I do regret not sending in that voiceover audition yesterday, that I was supposed to do.

Justin: [chortles]

Travis: Because I had until today to do it. And in retrospect, I should have done it yesterday, if I had paid attention. But that's okay, I stand with labor. Yeah, I'm not gonna do that voiceover audition!

Griffin: All right.

Justin: You're not going to do any TV shows or movies, especially movies. Listen, no movies for me. Thank you.

Griffin: No.

Travis: Yeah, they asked me to be in Wonka. They said that they would do reshoots before release day.

Griffin: But boy, gang—

Travis: They would cut me in, but I said no. And they—he's the weird thing, guys. Can I tell you, the sides that they sent me, when they're like, "Please be in this," was just a bunch of reaction shots back to me and me saying 'sweet,' in different—

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Like, "Ah, sweet. Sweet."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] Ah, sweet.

Travis: Sweet! And it was just like 18 of them.

Griffin: Yeah, that sounds good.

Travis: And some of them—

Justin: Sweet!

Travis: Some of them, it just said like in parentheses, romantically, right? Or like horrified. And I was like, I don't know how to do that.

Justin: I do have to say, one thing that is tough, is if they were going to do a last minute change of heart on Trolls 3, and just be like, "Oh fuck, we forgot."

Griffin: "We forgot the boys."

Justin: Like, I'm sorry, guys. The window's closed. You could've had us.

Griffin: You could have had us but it's gone now.

Justin: But that's like off the table now. I'm sorry.

Travis: I think the good news is, Justin, just looking at the like pecking order thing, I doubt we would be the ones holding up Trolls 3 production. I doubt it would be, "But we gotta get the McElroy brothers in there."

Griffin: That's interesting.

Justin: I assume, though, Trav, that all the... the real glittery stars, you know, they've already done theirs. I think they're done. I'm just saying, if they were like gonna come to us at some point, I kind of thought—you know?

Travis: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: We did host the Twitter premiere of Trolls World Tour.

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: Yeah, I—yeah.

Justin: With the director of the film.

Griffin: And let's just—

Justin: I thought we had kind of—

Griffin: And now we gotta wait until this frickin' strike is over. But once it is, the amount of acting I'm going to have backed up...

Travis: Oh, yeah, man.

Griffin: And just ready to... ready to blast. It's gonna—

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: The amount of acting I'm going to do as soon as, you know, V-Day in the Streets War is over—the amount of acting I'm going to do is going to be... it's going to be terrible and profound. It's going to be... life changing for everyone who is present.

Travis: As soon as we smash up all the computers, which, I think is what the writers want.

Griffin: Yes?

Travis: And then we only make Stranger Things style shows.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: 38 episodes a season.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Is what the actors want, if I remember correctly. So, as soon as we do those two things, we're back in it, guys.

Griffin: I hate how these things are writing shit like they're people. They're not people. They're...

Travis: They're Robits.

Griffin: They're robots, they're machines and nuts and bolts and electricity—

Travis: This is fucking Mitchell's vs. The Machines right here. Except it's writers versus machines. Am I right?

Griffin: Yeah, and all three of us are in it, and not just me.

Travis: Yeah, not just Griffin.

Griffin: Is the other big difference between those.

Justin: [chuckles] Don't miss Griffin in the background for one shot.

Griffin: I hate how these things are writing like humans. I hate how they are getting better at running obstacle courses and doing parkour and going up stairs and stuff.

Travis: Yes, yes.

Griffin: They have to be stopped and I'm willing to stop acting until we get this thing figured out. But as soon as we're back—

Justin: Thank you, Griffin. Thank you.

Griffin: As soon as we're back—

Travis: I just can't believe they replaced Harrison Ford in the new Indiana Jones with a robot. Because that's not him!

Griffin: No, it's not.

Travis: I know what he looks like!

Griffin: I've seen that old man. [chuckles]

Travis: That's not him!

Griffin: I've seen that old man like eat hot wings and shit. I know what he looks like, thank you very much

Travis: I've seen him react to David Blaine magic tricks. That's not him.

Griffin: That's not him, I don't think.

Travis: That's not Harrison Ford.

Griffin: Anyway.

Travis: You know what I mean?

Justin: Anyway, this is an advice show. I can't believe Wonka's a real movie.

Travis: I know!

Justin: I still—

Griffin: I'm so glad—

Justin: The delight it brings me—Hey, if you guys had to sit down and watch all Man vs. Bee or watch Wonka right now, what would you choose?

Griffin: Wonka.

Travis: Two screens.

Justin: Okay. Two screens, okay, yeah. [chuckles] No, audio from one, video from the other.

Travis: Yeah, they sync up. I've been doing it all morning! [chuckles]

Justin: Hey, did you guys know that Man vs. Bee riffs Wonka? It's just a riff track of it. It's crazy!

Travis: It all lines up! It all lines up! See what they did, Justin, is they said, "You know what we don't have? Any Wonka movies." See a need, fill a need.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: It's so wild that no one has made a Wonka movie yet!

Griffin: There's this great guy and no one's making about him. Hey, let's—

Justin: He's huge.

Griffin: Let's fuckin' party, please—

Travis: But what if it's a Wonka story that no one's familiar with it all?

Griffin: Good!

Travis: And we're making it up?!

Griffin: Better.

Justin: Is this made up or is this based on one of—

Travis: A true story?

Justin: Beloved anti-Semite, Roald Dahl—

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [chuckles] America, nay, the globe's favorite anti-Semite, Roald Dahl.

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] No one—and no one wants—

Travis: Wait, before I die, there are two more things I want you to know!

Justin: [chuckles] Even Griffin! Even Griffin is not willing to touch this fucking radioactive fact, because he's worried that I'll have to direct a community theater version of James and the Giant Peach someday, and he'll be called out on his hypocrisy.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: [chortles]

Griffin: I've said a lot of shit about the BFG that I can't walk back now.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: It's too late.

Justin: People level that stuff at Walt Disney and I get it, but Roald Dahl, he was out there. [chuckles]

Griffin: He was—yeah.

Justin: He was out there—

Griffin: A pioneer.

Travis: Whoa! Whoa! Roald Dahl, Whoa! [chuckles]

Griffin: Whoa, Roald!

Travis: Whoa, hey!

Justin: If he—if that—yeah, this is based on a real book. I think the line in there is, "Wonka was up against the chocolate cartel, if you know what I mean."

Travis: [laughs] No!

Griffin: [chuckles] Oh, no.

Justin: Get it?

Travis: Now, someday they'll be able to finish my work if they can get some kind of huge man in here. [chuckles] A Huge Grant if you will! I love big things!

Griffin: I am going to begin reading the first question if you do not take the initiative, Justin.

Justin: Okay. [chortles] If you didn't want this to be—if you wanted this to be an advice show you, shouldn't have let them make Wonka. "I'm a frequent visitor to my local natural swimming spot, which is Barton Springs in Austin." Griff, did you ever hit that spot?

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah, very cold. Very reedy. Love it.

Justin: [chuckles] "Last week, I was swimming in the springs. And when I stopped to take a break on the wall, a big fish swam up and bit my toe hard." Whew... That's always the nightmare, isn't it? "I saw the fish through the water as I frantically swam away. It was quite big, at least a foot long. And it didn't—and it—and didn't look scared of me at all." I would like to know what that would look like.

Travis: Hoah! [chuckles]

Justin: Oh, uh-huh?

Travis: Glub-glub! Blub?

Justin: "I haven't been back since. My question is this, brothers, what defense tactics can I take to conquer my newfound fear of toe biting fish and return to my beloved Barton Springs with confidence?" That's from Aquatic Anxiety in Austin.

Griffin: They make swimming pools now. Get this, guys. They make swimming pools now that, one, aren't like perpetually 62 degrees year-round, too cold to get into, jump into, splash into, activate your fuckin' fight or flight response.

Travis: Right?

Griffin: Reduce your heart rate down to 15 beeps. And then also, these new swimming pools, they don't have just like fuckin' seaweed and mud and shit at the bottom of it. They make it out of floor stuff that you would see in like a house or a bathtub.

Travis: Oh, yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: They kill all the—

Travis: Oh, no, yeah! I've seen these videos, Griffin. Where like the two dudes, they dig in the dirt.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: And then they go to the river.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And they just like set up some bamboo, I guess. And that fills the pool in minutes.

Griffin: Yeah, they make a cement mixing truck out of a bunch of coconuts. I'm just saying, they make swimming pools where they have killed all the fish for you ahead of time.

Justin: Yeah, I was actually gonna suggest chlorination as another option here, for Barton Springs. I don't know how much you'd need.

Griffin: A lot.

Justin: It would probably be a lot. It would take about—

Griffin: Well, you would need to chlorinate the source of the springs, which I don't—I think that's like deep, deep—

Justin: Earth?

Travis: Earth, yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, chlorinate the world.

Justin: That could be bad. That could actually go bad if you tried to chlorinate all the water.

Griffin: And I think it's probably not weird. Like, Austin loves to keep it weird and I think chlorinating an entire planet's worth of liquid isn't that—is like a little—

Justin: It would be weird—

Travis: If you mix in like lemonade or something, like lemonade mix, that's pretty weird. Sweet tea.

Griffin: That's true.

Justin: Listen, you have just confirmed my number one thing about—we are all, when we—at least I speak for myself. When we are in the ocean or a natural body of water, I am constantly thinking about like, it's like 1,000 steps to a whale, probably.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Like, you know? Like, if I went far enough that way—

Griffin: You'd hit a whale.

Justin: I hit—

Travis: Whale.

Justin: Squids. Whales. Squids. Orca.

Travis: Yup.

Justin: You know, you name it, right. They're out there. And I'm trying really hard to not think about... fish.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And sometimes, the little guy—you know, the little guy pies that will come up and they'll be like—

Griffin: I like those guys. Those guys are fun.

Justin: I pretend they're weeds. I can't think about fish right now.

Travis: Okay, now, Justin—

Justin: Okay, I'm trying—

Travis: You've hit on something that—this question struck me, right. We can talk about how you're gonna get back in the water all day. What I want to talk about is how you recover from it. Because you're not swimming at Barton Springs alone. That's a popular swim hole.

Griffin: It's incredibly crowded.

Travis: There are other people there. They just saw you flip shit, right? Because you didn't handle this calmly. Now, here's my question—

Justin: "This fish doesn't even look scared, guys!"

Travis: Doesn't look scared. What saves more face; "I was chased by a fish that bit my toe," or, "Something rubbed against my leg and I freaked out."

Griffin: I don't—you guys seem to not really grasp how gross this water is. It's just like, there's—it's like you're swimming in a big, big salad that somebody poured a bunch of water in. People are yelling inside of Barton Springs all the time because something's always touching them. Or it is so heart-stoppingly cold that they actually blackout in the waterfall for a bit. I don't think this is that uncommon.

Travis: It almost seems like perhaps man was not meant to dwell in these waters.

Griffin: Yeah! And certainly not for more than 30 seconds at a time, because—

Travis: Because that fish isn't coming up on the shore of Barton Springs and biting your toe.

Griffin: It's not.

Travis: It's almost as if Mother Gaia herself is giving you every indication possible to say, "Hey, could you stay the fuck out of here?" [chuckles]

Justin: This fish? This fish has been trained now to have no fear of humans.

Travis: And a taste of human flesh.

Justin: He probably went—he probably—I guarantee, five minutes before that, he went to one of his friends and he was like, "I'm just going to eat one. I'm just going to eat one and I'll see what happens. Worst case scenario, I come away hungry. But it can't be worse than this right now. I'm just going to try to eat one."

Travis: "Guys, I got the toe. It was delicious. You all have to get in here."

Justin: "It's fucking open season on these big, naked fish. We are going to—"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: "The land fish keep coming in here. No more!"

Griffin: I will say, I have been to Barton Springs before where I did not get in the water. Because it's a neat place, it's just it really is quite cold and gross. But one time I was there and I saw the best thing I've ever seen in my entire life, which is somebody was flying a drone there.

Which you're not supposed to do, because there's some people that like, topless sunbathe at Barton Springs, which I guess is okay there. And people were like yelling and pointing at it. And I saw some fucking very crunchy, just incredible sort of bodie type take a Frisbee and fuckin' fling it at this drone and explode it in the air, and the crowd literally went wild.

Travis: I love that so fuckin' much.

Griffin: It was the coolest thing I've—it's the coolest thing I've ever seen anyone do, because there are so many ways that could have been bad, like he could have missed or pieces of—

Justin: If you miss, you have to leave, right?

Griffin: You have to leave and you can never throw a Frisbee again. So confident, though, this this man had just come back from froth. He smashed his drone up good and was a hero for the day. It was amazing.

Travis: Was his first Frisbee okay?

Justin: And you can't even be the person who like storms out and like, "Hey, that's my drone!" Because everybody's mad at you.

Griffin: Yeah, for being a pervo.

Justin: You just have to be like—like, come out like, "Oh, man, I feel bad for whoever's drone that is."

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: As you surreptitiously put the remote control down.

Travis: "Guys! I just found—I just found this remote control. It could have been anyone!"

Justin: "It's got blood on it."

Griffin: Yeah, or if you're the mom who's like, "Drone shrapnel has just fallen on my children and hurt them very badly." But that was—but listen, bro, fuckin' sick toss, man. Like, huge fling.

Justin: Yeah, absolutely. That was the ultimate Frisbee.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: Right there,

Travis: Oh, no! Everything's downhill after that one. Oh, that was the ultimate one!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That was the ultimate.

Travis: Ah, man.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: We'll never frisbee like that again.

Griffin: Do we wanna go to the money—

Travis: I mean, we have to, legally.

Justin: Let's take a break. I can't believe we only got through one question. Why did we spend so much time on...? Anyway, let's take a break and we'll go to the Money Zone. [chuckles]

[theme song plays]

Travis: Have you ever wanted to start your own movie studio? Now is the time! And you can start a website for that new movie studio. Maybe even publish your own videos on your own website. Now's the time to get into making things. That's right! Squarespace. Build it, beautiful. I'm talking to you.

Justin: Me?

Travis: Yes!

Justin: Okay, cool.

Travis: Justin, did you know that Squarespace is the all in one platform for building your brand and growing your business online?

Justin: Yeah, this is like my millionth ad for them.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Did you know that you can stand out with a beautiful website? You can engage your audience and sell anything?

Justin: Okay, I had missed that part. So, that is hugely exciting.

Travis: Now, Justin, here's what I wanted to get to; you can create pro-level videos, like Twonka, effortlessly.

Justin: Okay?

Travis: Because the Squarespace video studio app helps you make and share engaging videos to tell your story about the Oompa Loompas, and grow your audience and drive sales. Not of chocolate, because that's controlled by the cartel, and we all know that. With Fluid Engine, a next generation website design system—this ain't your granddaddy's website design system!

Griffin: Whoa?

Justin: Wow. This is new.

Travis: This is next gen.

Justin: Okay, this is big. This is big. I've never talked about this before.

Travis: Yes! It's never been easier to unlock—and this is capitalized so you know it's fuckin' real, unbreakable creativity.

Justin: Whoa? That's intense.

Travis: Yeah, man. This creativity, fuckin' stands united. Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt over here. So, start with website template, customize with design detail and a reimagined drag and drop technology. With a member's area, you can unlock a new revenue stream for your business and free up time in your schedule by selling access to gated content or videos, online courses or newsletter. That's right, they done changed the game again!

Justin: Amazing.

Travis: So, head to—

Justin: This is amazing.

Travis: Head to, go to check out squarespace.com/mybrother for a free trial. And when you're ready to launch, use the offer code MyBrother, all one word, to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain. Squarespace, build it Twonka.

Justin: [chuckles]

[Sawbones theme music plays]

Justin: Hey, Sydnee, you're a physician and the co-host of Sawbones, a marital tour of misguided medicine, right?

Sydnee: That's true, Justin.

Justin: Is it true that our medical history podcast is just as good as a visit to your primary care physician?

Sydnee: No, Justin, that is absolutely not true. However, our podcast is funny and interesting and a great way to learn about the medical misdeeds of the past, as well as some current, not so legit health care fads.

Justin: So, you're saying that by listening to our podcast, people will feel better?

Sydnee: Sure.

Justin: And isn't that the same reason that you go to the doctor?

Sydnee: Well, you could say that, but—

Justin: And our podcast is free.

Sydnee: Yes, it is free.

Justin: You heard it here first, folks. Sawbones, a marital tour of misguided medicine, right here on Maximum Fun. Just as good as going to the doctor.

Sydnee: No, no, no, still not just as good as going to the doctor, but...

Justin: It's up there.

Sydnee: But pretty good.

Justin: It's up there.

[Sawbones theme music concludes]

[Secretly Incredibly Fascinating theme music plays]

Alex: Hi, I'm ketchup.

Katie: And I'm socks.

Alex: And I'm ball bearings.

Katie: And I'm pigeons.

Alex: And I'm water towers.

Katie: And I'm cardboard?

Alex: Surprise! We're actually humans.

Katie: Humans making a podcast about those kinds of topics.

Alex: Because those are real episode topics on the podcast Secretly Incredibly Fascinating. That's a podcast where we take ordinary seeming things, like ketchup and socks and cardboard, and bring you the little-known history and science and stories that make those things secretly incredibly fascinating.

Katie: Secretly Incredibly Fascinating!

Alex: The title of the podcast! Hear the back catalogue anytime, and hear new, amazing episodes every Monday at maximumfun.org.

[Secretly Incredibly Fascinating theme music concludes]

Griffin: I'm so fuckin' afraid of Slender Man!

Travis: [laughs] Griffin, I'm so proud of you for finally admitting it.

Justin: Thank you.

Travis: Years of therapy paying off!

Griffin: That's the first step.

Justin: This show is a place for healing.

Griffin: That's the first step is to admit that Slender Man is real and it's okay to be afraid of him.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Luckily, I also have—

Travis: And natural, I would say.

Griffin: Yes. I have this wisdom from the Wizard. Jace sent it in, thank you so much. And it's a wikiHow article of how to get over your fear of Slender Man. "The monsters on your bed and in your closet are long gone. Now, your nightmares are packed with visions of this faceless skinny man with abnormally long arms in a really nice, well-pressed suit. You're practically pining—"

Travis: Ooh! Ooh-la-la!

Griffin: "You're practically pining for the days of the bogeyman. Never fear, wikiHow is here."

Travis: Pff, of the bodie man.

Griffin: Of the bodie man and his terrible Frisbees. "Never fear, wikiHow is here. To get over a fear of Slender Man, read on. When you are done, heck, he'll be the one fearing you."

Travis: Whoa! Who wrote this?

Justin: That would be wild.

Travis: Who wrote this?

Griffin: wikiHow. Oh, sorry, William Schroeder, MA, LPC, NCC. So, I believe that is a licensed professional—

Justin: Slender Man hunter? Paranormal—

Griffin: Paranormal... Charles. "It's me, paranormal Charles."

"Didn't you just say your name was William?"

"I'm a licensed paranormal Charles. Thank you."

"Using your logic, one, know that you could take him. Sure, maybe he's seven feet tall."

Travis: Based on what, Charles? [chuckles]

Griffin: "He's seven feet tall. But he's a stick. You know his name, Slender Man, because he's skinny, very skinny. And he was probably a geek in high school, which is why he's acting like a scary masked man."

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: What?

Griffin: "You could totally kick his flat butt if he came at you." So, I guess the first step is to really—

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Does it say flat butt, Griffin?

Griffin: Yeah. So, the first step is to really, really body shame Slender Man.

Justin: Yeah, that is—

Griffin: The first thing.

Travis: And also, let's see, experience and embrace hubris, I guess? Which has always been successful in any story. You know, any story where somebody looks at Slender Man and goes, "That scrawny geek? What threat could he be?"

Justin: Think about every like horror movie you've ever seen and imagine one of the main characters like, [chuckles] "Slender Man? If I see him, I'll kick his skinny bitch ass."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: "I'll kick that dude's flat butt!"
"What, Todd?"

Justin: "That guy's dead first. That guy's dead first."

Griffin: First, definitely.

Travis: "I'll kick his flat butt."
"What are you—wait, Todd, what?"
"I'm just saying, I've seen that guy's butt, man. He don't got a juicy donk or nothing." [chuckles]

Justin: "He's got a flat butt and I could fuckin' kick it." You could park right next to that guy and you would not be murdered.

Griffin: No.

Justin: Slender Man would bypass you and come right for him.

Griffin: "I miss the Bogeyman's fat ass!"

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "This guy's flat butt does nothing for me!"
"Whoa? It's going weird places here, Brian."

Griffin: Think of—

Justin: It follows—you know, it follows him. And that's a flat butt, that's what I think. That's what follows—

Griffin: "Think about his background. Let's take what we know—"

Justin: I don't see anything this background! I'm looking for it and I don't see anything there. This back is flat, that's what we're saying, it's not round at all, it's flat!

Griffin: "Let's take what we know about this guy, which, admittedly, is very little. He wears a suit every day. What kind of person wears a suit every day? Either he's incredibly educated and has a well-paying job or he's Barney Stinson." Who I think, if memory serves from that show—

Travis: Was incredibly educated and—

Griffin: Has a well-paying job.

Travis: Has a well-paying job, yeah.

Griffin: Let's consider—

Justin: If you ask him what he did, he would say, "Please..." So, you don't know his job. It's kind of a fun thing.

Griffin: So—

Travis: Oh, it's not like a bit they do?

Griffin: Yeah, he doesn't say his job.

Justin: Yeah, it's kind of a bit from the hit show, How I Met Your Mother.

Griffin: Yeah, and then in the finale—

Travis: I'll have to check that out. No spoilers.

Griffin: In the finale, it reveals that he's a human trafficker. [chuckles] Which is fucking wild, man. You made me root for this dude? That sucks, man!

Justin: [chuckles] Unbelievable.

Griffin: And he's trafficking—that sucks, dude.

Justin: That actually sounds like a better last episode for How I Met Your Mother than what they actually did.

Griffin: Slender Man—let's consider both theories. "Slender Man is wealthy and educated. If this is the case, he's probably open to reason. Odds are, he prefers the aisle seat on an airplane, doesn't eat very much junk food, watches very little television and listens to audiobooks on his commute to work." I now know exactly the type of podcast that Slender Man listens to. It's not this one.

Justin: It's not this one—

Travis: Oh, thank god!

Griffin: It is once—

Travis: If he listened to this, he would know our strategies.

Griffin: It's ones that yell at you for not having a million dollars by the time you're age 23, because you're just not—you must not be working at all, huh? "Or Slender Man is a misunderstood Barney Stinson. If this is the case, it's possible." Okay, there's nothing that's going to be funny in this section. "Let's think about his mortality, though. Think about the other part of his name; *Slender Man*."

Justin: Man.

Griffin: He's a man. He has—

Justin: It's nestled under god.

Griffin: He has hopes—

Travis: That's true!

Griffin: "He has hopes, dreams, fears, insecurities and desires. Loads of which are probably unfulfilled, just like the rest of us. Hell, he's wandering around the woods with no one to talk to, how terrible a fate. He probably prays for death every day, but it never comes.

Travis: What?! Wait, hold on, big jump there.

Griffin: Well, get ready for this very next sentence. "Slender Man will die. That is—"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "That is, if you believe he's alive. More on that later. He has not been alive since the height of the Egyptian empire, and he cannot haunt you forever. In fact, he probably gets a cold a few times a year. He's just like the rest of us, mere mortal."

Travis: Hey, okay, okay, can I just say, we're all parents here.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Our children have experienced some sort of fear at this point, I assume. Imagine this is how you addressed that.

Griffin: So wild, yeah.

Justin: It's really wild.

Travis: That you didn't start with what I think this article just hinted we'll discuss later, which is that he's not real. [chuckles]

Griffin: Well, he's—no. No, no, no. That he's not really alive. He could be a ghost man, he could be unalive. It could be any amalgamation of that.

Travis: Sure. Sure, I didn't think about that.

Griffin: But I am brought peace—if my child came to me and was like, "Daddy, daddy, I'm so afraid of Slender Man." Then I could definitely come to him with a very like tender, gentle parenting response of like, "Well, someday, Slender Man will die. And probably before you or I."

Travis: "We just have to hold out."

Griffin: "We just have to keep hanging in there." And that's true—

Travis: Then, after that, we don't have to lock the doors anymore, we can put up the bunting. It'll be fine. We'll have a big party in the streets. We'll all bring our favorite, you know, Jell-O molds and shit. It's gonna be great. But until then—

Justin: I do this with my kids about Trump, so—

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: [chortles]

Justin: I think that makes sense. I think they'll be used to it already.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I still feel kind of scared of him. [chuckles]

Griffin: Well, visualizes his hugs. "Do you know how many people Slender Man could hug at once? How amazing would it feel to be in a group of half a dozen people, all sharing the same hug at the same time? Think of the bonding."

Travis: I came around on this one, because at first, thinking of his hugs was scary to me. But when the idea of every hug with Slender Man is a group hug? Pretty nice, actually.

Griffin: That's cool. "Next time you dream about Slender Man, think about hugging him." I'm already doing that in my dreams. Thank you so much for the suggestion.

Travis: [sings] I'm already there!

Justin: [sings] Hugging Slender Man!

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: Heck, he'll probably start blubbering like—

Travis: [sings] Me and 10 of my friends!

Griffin: "He'll probably start blubbering like a baby and talking to you about how he was called octopus boy a child." Now, all of a sudden, I'm like actually being asked to do a lot of sort of emotional heavy lifting for the Slender Man.

Travis: Yeah, that actually will be kind of—now, I'm afraid for a different reason.

Griffin: Yeah. No, yeah, I'm afraid for the same reason I'm afraid to be hugged by people in real life that I don't know very well. Which is all of a sudden, I'm gonna be responsible for some of your sort of emotional load.

And I really don't know how to handle that. "This guy has no eyes, nose, mouth or ears. He cannot see you, smell you, breathe on you or hear you. Like—" [chuckles] it says this; "Like, for real now..."

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: "Yeah, okay, he probably has a sixth sense of some sort. Maybe he sees dead people. So, yeah, he can teleport. That's awesome. More on that in a bit."

Travis: Wait, what? Hold on. Once again, yeah, maybe he's got a sixth sense. Yeah, he could teleport. That's not what sixth sense—like, you know that, right? Like—

Griffin: Okay, so now, we're getting into the sort of psychosexual part of every wikiHow article, where it does say picture—

Travis: Keep your grades up. [chuckles]

Griffin: Keep your grades up and then picture him as calamari. "Those tentacle arms that pop out of his back will be delicious. Not to go all cannibalistic on you, but if you were to eat Slender Man, think battered and deep fried—" Yum. "wikiHow can help you here with articles on cooking calamari and frying calamari." So, I guess that's one sort of really wild way to go about facing it. It's like a new kind of aversion therapy where you think about eating the thing you're very scared of.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: So, at the beginning of this article, when it said, "By the end of this article, Slender Man will be afraid of you." This is what I was talking about, right?

Justin: Yeah, because you're the Slender Man eater. You consume Slender Man for fuel.

Travis: Yeah, yeah. I'm the full man!

Justin: [chuckles] I'm the hungry man!

Griffin: "Do your research. He's not real. So, what is the point of being afraid?" That's not funny.

Travis: Start with that! First of all—

Justin: Wait, why don't you lead with that?

Travis: He's not real. So, don't worry about it. But if he is... [chuckles] that's how you do it.

Griffin: This is awesome. "Do the math. There are about 7.5 billion people in the world, and just as many places. In fact, many more where he could be if he were real. What are the odds he's coming after you? What makes you so special that Slender Man would show up on your doorstep? Unless you're leaving him milk and cookies, he probably won't." I'm having a hard time following if I'm supposed to be taking this article seriously or not. Because they throwing in little jokes in there.

Justin: Yeah, I'm worried, too.

Travis: Also, frankly, if I leave milk and cookies on my doorstep, I'm more worried about wild animals than anything else, really.

Griffin: Yeah, you know who probably has a really hard time having the thought of like, "Who am I so special that Slender Man would show up on my door to kill me?" The person whose door Slender Man has just showed up on to kill them. They probably are the only people having the thought of like, "Oh, wow... oh, wow, it is me today, huh? Ah, shit."

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: "Well joke's on you. Nom-nom-nom-nom."

Travis: [chuckle] "Get in this fryer!"

Griffin: Normal stuff next, "Use him as a port key. If you think about it, Slender Man would be a pretty cool superhero. He can just pop up in places randomly. How sweet would that be? All you have to do is get close to him, latch onto him and wait for him to teleport like a port key in Harry Potter." Fuckin' cool, all right! Very next step, "Use him as a TARDIS." So, that kind of kind of seems like same—

Justin: Come on. [chuckles]

Griffin: It kind of seems like you just wanted to sort of write about some other sort of fiction...

Justin: You're trying to set up a Slender-Man-Verse, and I appreciate it. The Slender-Verse sounds cool.

Griffin: That actually—

Travis: Use him like a Wonkavator!

Griffin: I would... Damn it, this is a new pitch for Slender Man 2, because I think they did make a Slender Man movie. It probably wasn't very good. But what about a zany one? Where we get...

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: Let me think... Okay, I don't know if I want Timothée Chalamet to be Slender Man or the boy.

Travis: Both!

Justin: He's both!

Griffin: He's both, okay. And he's just very rude to Slender Man and we'll jump on him and teleport to go on like zany adventures all over time and space, using like a TARDIS or a—

Travis: Slender Boy, it's his son.

Griffin: Slender Boy.

Travis: Slender Man and Slender Boy.

Justin: [chuckles] My neighbor, Slender Man.

Griffin: Slender Boy.

Justin: Just hops on his—

Travis: "I have to go to work!"
"No! Take me to King's Island! Fuck!"

Griffin: And then—

Justin: [sings] Slender Man, Slender Man.

Griffin: In Thronka, we can do a crossover where maybe like Chalamet Wonka is like making stretchy saltwater taffy that turns into Slender Man, and then Timothée Chalamet is in the movie three times?

Justin: And then they all turn into hard battle and trucks, and you got Tonka. And that's the fourth one, and that's gonna be—

Travis: Love this!

Justin: Hey, can we—is that all that you have, Griffin? Or do you have more advice?

Griffin: I mean, there's a lot of just sort of like, empower yourself...

Justin: Yeah, it started—it felt like it was deteriorating into fan fiction, so I didn't know—[chuckles]

Travis: Oh, deteriorating? It didn't start that way, J-man? Didn't start that way?

Justin: That's fair, that's fair. No, that's fair. Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: It actually started as a thing that I would call like bully fiction. It was a quite a fan of it, so much as like, "Let me tell you all the things I hate about that nerdy, flat butt."

Justin: "Here's how I wished I'd handled my bully."

Griffin: I just want to read this last thing in this second section. I'm not going to go any further than this. But act like he's your BFF. And then, in quotes, "Hey, Slender Man. What's up, my man?" Imagine that if you—

Travis: "I heard what you said about my flat butt!"

Griffin: Shh, no, no, no.

Travis: Oh, fuck—

Griffin: Travis, he's our BFF now. "Imagine that if he's there, you're gonna have a Slim D party. Do the wave and eat some Doritos. If nothing else, he'll initially be freaked out by your warmth and gumption. No one else has the cajones to be so friendly and inviting." So, that kicks ass, man. Yeah, I'm—

Justin: Yeah, that's fantastic.

Griffin: I love when I'm hanging out with friends and it's like, "Well, we're having a party. So, let's do the wave and eat some Doritos. Let's do a small self-contained wave, here in this party with eight people at it, while we eat some Doritos together. I love you, Slender Man. I want to be your best friend and I want you to be my time machine and my dinner. You're everything to me."

Travis: You're everything to me.

Griffin: You're everything I need.

Justin: Here's a question, "Back in 2018, my friends and I found a small, dark, unfinished crawlspace under the stairs of our college dorm building. We decided to hide a pack of Pepsi in there and made a deal that we would go back to the dorm's crawlspace when we graduated in December of 2020,

and we'll drink the Pepsi as a final farewell. However, because of COVID, we were unable to go back and complete this mission. It has now been almost five years and we have not claimed those Pepsi cans. We're going back to my college town in August for a wedding and we really want to get the Pepsis back. However, none of us go to that school anymore, let alone live in the dorm building."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "And we really want the Pepsi. How should we proceed? What if some other group has stolen our sacred Pepsi?" And that's from Pepsi in Purgatory.

Travis: Man, as time goes on, we just find out more and more stuff that COVID ruined, am I right?

Griffin: Yeah, and this is—

Justin: Yeah, right?

Travis: I'm starting to think COVID was a bad thing.

Griffin: It was a bad idea, Fauci. I wouldn't have done it that way. I am just envisioning a quiet afternoon in the library. And then we just hear squeaky boots on the marble floors. And then the sound of a sledgehammer, as someone starts smashing up the marble floors of the library. And someone comes over like, "What are you doing?" And it's like, "I have to get... I have to get the sacred Pepsi. If you look, it's noon right now. The sun is shining through that circle of stained glass right here on the ground. So, this is where I have to smash it up to get my Pepsi back."

Travis: It's Kylie Jenner and she's like, "There's a protest going on outside and if I don't—"

Griffin: [chuckles] "If I don't get this—"

Travis: "Things could break real bad out there! I gotta get this Pepsi to calm everybody down!"

Griffin: "Everyone's got swords and chains. If I don't get this Pepsi, everyone is a goner."

Travis: "If I don't get this Pepsi out there to these cops, it's gonna break bad! I gotta fix shit!"

Griffin: "It's gonna be so fucking bad, this is the only way."

Justin: I have some good news for you. In my experience, in your original plan, as outlined, by the time you graduated in 2020, the Pepsi would be undrinkable trash.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah.

Justin: Absolutely poisonous. You know that, right? Like it would be poisonous. And so, what you're really talking about is you couldn't go get your trash during COVID, which you would like to come back and tidy up after yourself, now.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And that, I think is a pitch you could get past the authorities. If you're like, "I accidentally left, well, trash, now, here. And I'd like to get my trash."

Travis: "But I do need those Pepsi points because there was a bag I was saving up for it. And if I don't get those Pepsi points, oh, they're just kind of wasted, and that's on you."

Justin: Oh, when you should prepare yourself. These have leaked. These have leaked. The sweaty, sticky soda all over the ground. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] You have created like a whale fall. You have created a Pepsi fall ecosystem underneath this dorm. You're going to pull and pry back the bricks under, leading into this crawl space and see some like crab with a human face like, "Papa? Papa?" You have made Pepsi men. This is who they

are. They're not fun, silver-suited refreshment deliverers. They are little crab monsters.

Justin: This is their fantasy world. This is like—this is what ants have been waiting for. This is Atlantis.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: They heard about it, six Pepsi cans just lying there. You can go drink your fill. No problem.

Griffin: I think even ants, this three year old, or perhaps up to seven year old soda is going to be too gnarr for a bug to drink. I think—

Travis: Now, they use it to power their society. This has become—at first, ants were eating. They didn't know any better. But now, this is their fossil fuel kind of thing.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Where it's just like, "We use the Pepsi to power the thing." And now that there are little ants who are like, "But we can't replenish this! There's no more! Once we're through these six cans, there'll be no more! We need to start using alternative fuels." And they're like, "Ah, get out of here." And it's like, "And the smoke from the Pepsi juice, it's ruining the crawlspace." But they're like, "Listen, Justin—"

Griffin: "That's our kids' problem. We'll not worry about that today."

Justin: [mouths Munch Squad riff]

Griffin: Fuck, wow!

Justin: [continues riffing] Late one.

Griffin: Yeah!

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

Travis: Squad.

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

Griffin: Squad!

Travis: Squad!

Justin: [concludes riffing] Welcome to Munch Squad, it's a podcast within a podcast, profiling the latest and greatest and brand eating. Do you guys remember Chippy?

Travis: No?

Justin: Chippy was the robot that made chips that Chipotle.

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Sure.

Justin: Do you remember this? We spoke on this a while ago. He was a robot that made chips at Chipotle.

Travis: Yeah, of course.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Yeah, and then the writers had to go on strike.

Justin: Let me see, I'll give you just a quick—I'll give you a reminder video here, that I have. We don't need to hear it. But basically, you cut up the limes—

Travis: And that's a person, Justin.

Justin: Yeah, the person cuts up the limes, and then Chippy the chip robot fries the chips, and perfectly limes and salts them. He can't figure out how

to do some of it. So, the human does have to cut the limes. You'd think the robot could cut the limes.

Travis: Yeah, he can't be trusted with a knife is what it is, yeah.

Justin: That's true, they don't want to equip Chippy with a knife. Well, good news, guys. Chippy has got a friend. And it's an avocado robot. [chuckles] It can cut, core and peel avocados. And it is called Autocado.

Griffin: Autocado?

Travis: Ooh!

Justin: It's called Autocado.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: I like that.

Griffin: Do we have a video of Autocado? Because I'm having a hard time thinking—my human hands are incredibly graceful and skilled, and even I struggle with the intricacies, the curvature of an avocado.

Justin: "With Autocado, Vebu, the company behind it, worked with certified training managers at Chipotle locations." Gave 'em fuckin' all our secrets.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: All the human secrets. "To analyze preparation processes and identify time-consuming tasks, as well as those employees didn't—[chuckles] as well as those that employees didn't rate highly."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Oh, boy.

Justin: [chuckles] This is like, "Here's the—oh, the jobs that we fuckin' hate? Here's number one. The robots can have it! Cutting avocados? Give it to the bots. Absolutely."

Travis: Do you think a big part of the training and programming was just convincing robots that avocados are a thing that humans should eat?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like handing it to a robot and the robot's like, "No fuckin' way."

Griffin: Are you—this is pretty wild looking. Are you—

Travis: Look at that, there's no way.

Justin: "Presently, Chipotle dedicates specific crew members to cutting, coring and scooping avocados. On average, it takes about 50 minutes to make a batch of guacamole," the company said. And now, I will premiere—I'm going to premiere this guy here. I want you to meet Autocado. Can you describe the process?

Griffin: We're dumping so many avocados into a tray, and then it looks like they're being sort of gooshed with many blades. So many blades.

Travis: I don't know what's happening but...

Griffin: And then someone pulls out a drawer where many halved avocados have been stored.

Travis: And there's no way that—but then a human being is still mashing it.

Griffin: A man to mush it! A man to mush it.

Justin: This is what I'm saying! This is where it falls apart for me, okay? The man mush—the man has to come afterwards and be like, "I'll take it from here." Mush, mush, mush, mush. [chuckles] You couldn't teach the robot to mush?!

Travis: No, Justin, here's what happened; they rolled out Autocado. Autocado roll out. And then they were like, "Okay, but Dan's kind of our guacamole guy. And like, he's tenured. We can't fire Dan." [chuckles] And

they're like, "Okay, we'll turn off the mushing part, and Dan could do that part." And they're like, "Hey, thanks. That's means a lot—"

Griffin: But there's gotta be an engineer there who's like, "Ah, man, the mushing part it's so good at, because it's a—"

Travis: "That's the best part!"

Griffin: "I don't know if you guys know this, it's a machine made out of gears and servos and electricity. Mushing is what machines do best."

Travis: "It's the easiest part of it. In fact, we had to figure out how to peel it, keep the avocado halves whole—"

Griffin: As an engineer who designs human-facing products, I find that most of my time is spent reducing the mushing capacity of the machines I build.

Travis: When you look with these avocado halves, the peel is off, the—

Griffin: It's flawless.

Travis: The core, which is the pit, is out. They are perfectly shaped, cored, halved.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: And then the robot has to watch as you hand it over to a human who takes a big mallet and just smashes it up!

Justin: Mush, mush, mush, mush!

Travis: "What, but I... I was so careful!"

Griffin: "Papa, no!"

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: "Why did you make go through all the—" [chuckles]

Justin: We're making them insane! They definitely could have mushed it in the machine!

Travis: I was so careful! "What's that, you're putting it in your mouth and mushing it further?"

Griffin: [chuckles] What?

Travis: "Why are you doing this?!"

Griffin: "You turned it into what?! With your body?"

Travis: "My heart!"

Justin: [chuckles] They're gonna have to start calling it—

Travis: "I could've been a surgical robot! Did you see what I did with avocados significantly softer than human beings?! This is what you've made me do?"

Justin: I gotta quibble with the robot thing, honestly. You made a machine that peels avocados. I don't call my countertop toaster oven, I don't call it a pop tart robot, you know? It's just a toaster. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You just made a machine that peels avocados. Good on you, man.

Griffin: It's tough. I don't know how you did it.

Justin: I hear it takes like 50 minutes to make a batch. So, that's like...

Travis: Most of the program—Justin, most of the programming, though, to be fair, went into making the robot hate doing it. [chuckles] That was—that's where the robot part comes in. It's easy to build a machine that will do it. The real jig is having a robot be like, "Fucking Dan. You could've done this."

Griffin: Obviously, avocado is not—is a big nothing burger. Do you guys think—because this is my current working theory, that the whole reason for avocados existence is the engineers kept coming in to do their weekly Chippy checkups and they'd be like, "Well Chippy, how's it going?" And then every single time, Chippy just answers, "Chippy horny." And they'd be like, "Chippy, buddy I don't know how many times I have to tell you this, you're a chip—you're a tortilla, chip-making robot."

Travis: "Why papa make Chippy horny?"

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: "Why papa make Chippy horny and alone?" I mean, Chippy—

Travis: "You made choice! Make choice, make Chippy horny. Why you program Chippy get horny?"

Griffin: "Chippy, I've designed you to cook and zest up tortilla chips. I did not think that being horny was gonna be—I'll tell you what, pal—"

Travis: "But then, when we tried to remove that part of your programming, you couldn't do salt anymore. So, it turned out, they were connected somehow. Sorry about that, bud."

Griffin: "Please, connect Chippy to internet."

"Chippy, I don't want to connect you to the internet, buddy. Because that's not going to be a good—"

Travis: "We tried that back at HQ and you remember what happened? FBI watch list."

Justin: Autocado is air gapped, no question.

Griffin: [chuckles] Mm-hmm!

Justin: Kurt Garner, the chief customer and Technology Officer at Chipotle—yeah, I guess he's the officer of both customers and technology. That's fine.

Griffin: [chuckles] Great.

Justin: "We're committed to exploring collaborative robotics to drive efficiencies and ease pain points for our employees. The intensive labor of cutting, coring and scooping avocados could be relieved with Autocado, but we still maintain the essential culinary experience of hand mashing and hand preparing the guacamole to our exacting standards."

Griffin: Great. Sure.

Travis: "Just like we promised Dan."

Griffin: Boy, I love it.

Justin: Yeah, so that is—

Griffin: How do I get one of these in my house? When are they going to deploy these for—

Travis: Keep your children away from Autocado, for the love of god, Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It will not stop until it removes what it perceives as the pit.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, sure.

Justin: Whatever it thinks the pit of the kid is—

Travis: It cannot—it does not discern, whatever you put into Autocado, it cannot discern—

Griffin: But you also—

Justin: And also, if you don't hand mash whatever it cores at the end, it gets very angry.

Travis: Yeah. That's what they don't tell you about Autocado. Once you turn it on, one, no off switch and you have to keep feeding it avocados.

Justin: That's the worst part. It's avocado powered. They weren't even thinking. Thank you so much for listening to our podcast. We hope you've enjoyed yourself. We got shows, live shows, you can come see us. San Diego, this week, we are coming for you with special guest GM, which is game mom in this context, Brennan Lee Mulligan. That is going to be a massive, fantastic TAZ show.

We're also doing My Brother My Brother and Me. If you have a question that you want to be read at that My Brother and Me show, email it to mbmbam@maximumfun.org and put your city in the subject line! We'll also be doing a panel and signing at San Diego Comic Con.

Griffin: Great!

Justin: Later on, we're going to be in Seattle, at the end of August. New York Comic Con, October 12th and 13th. It's all—all the info is at bit.ly/mcelroytours.

Griffin: We got merch over at McElroy Merch that you're just gonna love. Some candles.

Travis: [in silly voice] And let's say thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song!

Griffin: Yeah, no, I was going to do that. I don't know why you're shrieking it in such a weird, pained voice.

Travis: Well, because Justin took the part that I normally do where I say like the dates—

Griffin: Oh, so you were doing a Griffin voice? Is that what that was?

Travis: I was just trying to be dominant.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: For once in my life.

Griffin: Thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song. Montaigne has caused a terrible fight here. So, this feels—

Justin: I hope they're appropriately ashamed because this is—

Griffin: Good. It's called My Life Is Better With You. It's a great track, thank you, Montaigne. And now, our own song, in a way. Not really rhythmic or melodic in a way, but it's a sound that feels good. Here we go.

Travis: Here we go.

Griffin: Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh—

Travis: Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh—

Justin: Ssw-ssw-ssw-ssw-ssw-ssw—

Griffin: Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh—

Travis: Ooh-aah-aah-aah-ooh-ooh—

Justin: Ssw-ssw-ssw-ssw-ssw-ssw—

Griffin: Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh—

Travis: Doo-ooh-ooh-ba-di-do-ooh—

Justin: Ssw-ssw-ssw-ssw-ssw-ssw!

Griffin: Too long. We got to sync up on the ending because—or else—

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy!

Griffin: If we don't dime stop, people are gonna get pissed. It's 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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