

## **MBMBaM 680: Wife Guy and Knife Guy**

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**Intro (Bob Ball):** The McElroy brothers are not experts, and their advice should never be followed. Travis insists he's a sexpert, but if there's a degree on his wall, I haven't seen it. Also, this show isn't for kids. Which I mention only so the babies out there will know how cool they are for listening. What's up, you cool baby?

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

**Justin:** Hello, everybody, and welcome to My Brother, My Brother and Me, an advice show for the modren era! I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy!

**Travis:** Wuddup Trav Nation, it's me your boy Travis McElroy, the middlest brother. Woof-woof!

**Griffin:** Wuddup Trav Nation, it's me, your sweet baby brother, Griffin McElroy.

**Justin:** Hi, Trav Nation. I got a question that I want to ask you guys.

**Griffin:** Ah, cool.

**Travis:** [sings] 'I've got a question, do you want to have a slumber party in my basement? Do I make your heart beat like an 808 drum? Is my love your drug?' Go on.

**Justin:** Do you guys keep your keys in your pocket?

**Griffin:** No.

**Justin:** Trav?

**Travis:** Keep my keys in my pocket?

**Justin:** [sings] Do you keep your keys in your pocket?

**Griffin:** Do you mean ADC, all-day carry? Or do you mean like when it's car time?

**Justin:** Here's what I'm saying—

**Travis:** There are times where my pocket is the conveyance method for my keys.

**Justin:** You're at your house or you're in your home, are your keys in your pocket?

**Travis:** No, god no. God no!

**Griffin:** No.

**Justin:** Well, bad news, guys. Me neither. But I've just discovered my keys are in my pocket.

**Griffin:** Oh my god.

**Justin:** And I do not know how to deal with this.

**Travis:** Do you think on some level you were like planning to flee in the middle of recording and you just needed—

**Griffin:** I think that's it, Juice. You gotta go drive, pal!

**Justin:** I almost always leave my keys in my car—

**Travis:** The roads are calling!

**Griffin:** That road's calling, pal!

**Justin:** You big, beautiful Buick is calling you. You gotta get out there.

**Justin:** I leave my keys in my car because I live in West Virginia and there's no crime allowed.

Travis: Yeah, nobody steals catalytic converters there.

**Griffin:** Or cars.

**Justin:** You don't need keys to get a catalytic converter, Trav.

**Travis:** No, but it helps. If you want to drive to the store and buy one.

**Griffin:** Justin, how do you pop a catalytic converter off? Go ahead and give us some steps, a play-by-play on how that works.

**Justin:** Well, I know it's on the outside, Griff. It's not on the inside.

**Travis:** Well, it's not on the *outside*.

**Justin:** [chuckles] It's not in the cab.

**Travis:** It's on the outside, it's not like the fusion converter recycler thing that they plugged onto the DeLorean to not have to worry about it. I'm saying, it's still—

**Griffin:** We have no way of knowing that.

**Travis:** That's fair.

**Justin:** Let's not lose sight of the fact that my keys are in my pocket—

**Griffin:** Oh, fuck, I forgot for a second, Juice. What a panic you've thrown me back into.

**Justin:** Give me... there's like, all options, all are bad. Give me any solution to this problem.

**Griffin:** Okay, you put—you take them out of your pocket and you put 'em on your desk, you will forget they are there when it is car time.

**Travis:** 100%. 100%. Yes.

**Justin:** 100%. 100%. That's 20 minutes. That's 20 minutes of this precious gift of life that I will spend running around my house, finding other things, but not my keys. So, that's out. 100% out.

**Travis:** Okay, okay... Here's—okay. All right. All right. What else do you have around you? Do you have like a smartwatch?

**Justin:** Yeah?

**Travis:** Okay, put your smartwatch—loop it, latch it through the key ring.

**Griffin:** Yes, a chain.

**Justin:** Lose both. Lose both, is what you're saying.

**Griffin:** You make it bigger. If you have a belt—Justin, do you have a belt on right now?

**Justin:** Griffin if I put my keys on my belt, I am no better off than I am right this second with the keys—

**Griffin:** Well, no, I'm taking—so, you take the belt off, loop it through the keys. You just need to make the keys bigger, so when you go looking for them, it's easier.

**Travis:** Unlosable.

**Justin:** Now, hold on a second. So, wait, you're saying...

**Griffin:** If you take your belt off, make it—

**Justin:** Okay. Now, I wear—now, listen. I wear—I don't know if this changes things, but I wear, I guess you'd call it a prescription belt. A prescription elastic belt. Because I was getting a lot of tiny holes in my T-shirt from big, bulky buckles.

**Griffin:** I hate that.

**Justin:** And so, I wear an elastic T-shirt with a flat—an elastic belt with a flat clip on the front—

**Griffin:** And the doctor—you're saying a doctor prescribed this to you?  
[chuckles]

**Travis:** Or was this self-prescribed?

**Justin:** [chuckles] It's like self-prescribed, they're—

**Travis:** Self-diagnosed. Yeah.

**Justin:** [chuckles] It's like a therapeutic belt.

**Griffin:** I'm just, I was imagining a conversation across the counter, at Rite Aid. Of you like, "Yeah, man. Doctor's orders."

**Justin:** There—okay—okay—

**Travis:** "Can't just sell you this belt, sir."

"No, no, no, no. I have a piece—this isn't an over-the-counter belt. No, no, no, I have a piece of paper signed by a medical physician."

**Justin:** This thing is so—the clip is—okay. I got the belt on the keys. What now?

**Travis:** Okay, can you wear it over your shoulder like a bandolier?

**Justin:** Okay. Okay. Okay. So, the pants are just gonna fall off and you're fine with that?

**Travis:** You're sitting down?!

**Justin:** Yeah, but I'm gonna have to leave the room, right? So, I'm gonna take this—what do I do with this in my hand now?

**Griffin:** Now, listen, take off your smartwatch and then loop that—

**Justin:** Wait, hold on, give me a second! Okay, smartwatch off.

**Travis:** You should have already been doing that.

**Griffin:** You should have already done that. Put that around the belt. Now—

**Justin:** Wait, around the belt? So, I need to close the belt.

**Griffin:** We need to make this whole—

**Travis:** Yeah, so you're making like a Christmas countdown ring.

**Justin:** Okay?

**Griffin:** We need to make this whole thing, this whole production as big and eye-catching as is possible. The benefit with the watch, now, Justin, you have Apple's incredible tracking technology working for you. If you're like, "Where are my keys?" You'd be like, "Well, the keys are with the belt. The belt is with my watch. The watch is... downstairs." You can put it wherever, you will never lose that fucking thing.

**Justin:** What about the phone? [chuckles] That's not in my pocket, either. That's on the table.

**Travis:** Whoa, your phone's not in your pocket?

**Justin:** No, I take it out. I took it—

**Griffin:** You should put your phone in your pocket, J-Dog.

**Travis:** To keep your balls warm!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Well, okay, but...

**Griffin:** My balls required constant MagSafe charging.

**Travis:** Yeah, my balls are Bluetooth-connected to my phone. But if they get too far apart, my balls are gonna shut down.

**Griffin:** Travis has a reverse crank... crank.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Can I say something, guys?

**Travis:** Gotta keep my balls calmed down.

**Griffin:** Go ahead.

**Justin:** I don't think—I've sent you a picture of where I'm at right now. I don't think... I sent it to Sydnee and Travis for some reason. Not Griffin, but Travis. That's weird.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I didn't get this JPEG, sadly.

**Justin:** Yeah, sorry. I don't know—

**Griffin:** It's okay. Travis, do you want to describe?

**Travis:** Yeah, so what we're looking at here, I would say it looks like a threat. Like Justin is letting me know that he has—for some reason, his Apple Watch and he's willing to hurt it. And so, I need to give him money.

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Travis:** Is what it seems like to me. This is definitely a proof-of-life photo here.

**Griffin:** I mean, don't get me wrong, this also seems like it'd be a pretty badass weapon. Like a nice flail.

**Travis:** Now, Justin did—hey, wait. Stop. Stop. Stop. Stop. Justin then—so, he sent that picture to me and Sydnee. And then Justin said, "Sorry, butt dial," to his wife and I.

**Justin:** [chuckles] I didn't want her to wonder what the picture was!

**Travis:** So, your explanation, I was holding up a belt with a watch and I butt dialed, took the picture, uploaded it and sent it to you.

**Griffin:** You butt-dialed a picture. This is cool, Juice.

**Travis:** The photo which is clearly taken from your POV!

**Justin:** I don't want—I don't have time to explain. I'm recording a podcast.

**Griffin:** Juice, this is important. This is important. There's a quarter on the floor. I see it in the picture. You should get that quarter. That's 25 cents, my man.

**Travis:** Then take the picture again so we know you did it.

**Justin:** So, do I put the quarter in my pocket, and there it will stay for years to come?

**Travis:** No, loop the quarter through your watch.

**Griffin:** The quarter needs to join this incredible weapon. [chuckles]

**Justin:** [laughs] I can't get the quarter in!

**Griffin:** You're right.

**Travis:** Not with that attitude!

**Justin:** There's no place for the quarter. Okay?

**Griffin:** No, listen, Justin's right. Juice?



**Justin:** Yeah?

**Griffin:** I don't know if this has helped at all. But you've created a pretty kickass little cyberpunk accessory. That like, if I saw you coming down the street—if I saw a person coming down the street with a belt that had a watch and keys in it?

**Travis:** That's Batman.

**Griffin:** That's Batman. That's cyberpunk as hell.

**Travis:** That's a Batman to me.

**Griffin:** That's techno-borg, like...

**Justin:** What's going to surprise them is—what's going to surprise them about it is that I have a knife in my pocket. And they're not going to think about that.

**Griffin:** Now, that's wild to me, Juice, that the keys bother you, but you will rock with an actual all-day carry on your person.

**Justin:** Well, I'm an adult! I'm an adult! I have a knife.

**Travis:** Hey, Griffin, I'm sorry to interrupt you. It's an everyday carry because you don't sleep with a knife in your pocket. It's just that every day, you put it in there.

**Griffin:** So, it's not all-night carry?

**Travis:** It's not all-day carry.

**Griffin:** Okay, but listen—

**Travis:** It's not Drew Carey.

**Griffin:** Listen, it's wild that you think you need a knife all the time.  
[chuckles]

**Justin:** I'm an adult! I always have—

**Griffin:** No, no, no, shush. I know that's your knee-jerk response, is to make me feel small. But really, really hear me out here. If I'm in a situation where I need a knife, I can usually just get one. I don't need one—I reach situations where I need a knife and I need a spatula, an equal amount of times in my day-to-day life. But you do not see me carrying a spatula around in my pocket.

**Justin:** Everybody thinks that until the fuckin' Black Swan. You know what I mean? Until the Black Swan flies—

**Travis:** Now, I haven't seen that movie, Justin. Is that what happens in Black Swan?

**Justin:** No, the Black Swan—no, I'm saying, it's a—you gotta have a—

**Griffin:** That's a sharp knife.

**Justin:** Like, what do you do if you need a knife? [chuckles] Like, I don't understand. Like, I have a knife, screwdriver... you know, and some multi-tools. Small multi-tools. Like, what do you do when you need that?

**Griffin:** No, yeah, that's cool. I walk 15 feet to where my knife lives. I'm saying—you're... I also need a screwdriver, there's—

**Justin:** What if you're at the park?

**Griffin:** What?

**Justin:** What if you're at the park?

**Griffin:** If I'm at the park, why the fuck do I need a knife?

**Justin:** Okay, I mean, any number of—like you bought a toy for—like you bought a bank or like a—

**Griffin:** Oh, I bought a bank and I took it precisely and promptly to the park? What the fuck are you talking about?

**Justin:** [chuckles] You bought a doll for your kids at the park, and just—

**Travis:** Oh, yeah, a park doll! From the little park store!

**Griffin:** [in silly voice] 'Yes, I did climb out of the viaduct!'

**Justin:** Now, Travis that's a—now, Travis, that's a—is that in your pocket, Trav?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** That's a big knife, man.

**Travis:** Thank you.

**Griffin:** Travis, that's too—

**Travis:** I just wanted like an EE version of That's Not A Knife.

**Justin:** That's not a multi-tool. Like, that is a one-tool. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** That's a kukri! Why do you have that? What the fuck are you guys doing?

**Travis:** No, this is a karambit! This is a karambit, Griffin.

**Justin:** Do you have this in your pocket at all times?

**Travis:** Not at all times, but every day!

**Justin:** I went to—

**Griffin:** I can't—

**Justin:** Guys, I have to tell you about this. Guys, I have to tell you about this. [chuckles]

**Travis:** We need to start the show, though. So, whenever you're done, we should start.

**Justin:** Okay, I'll start the show soon. I went to go watch the Marshall game, right.

**Travis:** Yeah, you're a real football head.

**Justin:** Yeah, I love football. And I went to go watch the Marshall game. And I had my like—I had one of those little like shoulder—what would you call it, Trav? It's like a tiny backpack, you know what I mean? Like a sling bag, kind of?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** And I had it over my shoulder and I had loaded it up with all the things, all my essentials that I need for the for the game, all my different essentials.

**Travis:** Yeah?

**Justin:** And I get there and they look in the bag. And they're like, "Looks good. Go ahead in." And by the way, there's like a 30 minute wait to get in through the line. And I get through, and at the—when I go through the gate, they're like, "Hey, you can't bring a bag this big into the game. It has to be—"

**Griffin:** You could have another football in there that you throw on the field to confuse all the players.

**Justin:** It has to be a half sheet of paper or smaller, like to get—to carry the—

**Travis:** What?!

**Justin:** Yes. Think about a folded half sheet of paper, that is their metric. Which is wild, by the way. Nobody thinks that way/ [chuckles]

**Griffin:** That's a wild way to measure stuff.

**Justin:** It's a wild way to frame it. So they're like, "You can't bring it in." Like, okay, so I can't bring in the bag. And they're like, "You have to take it to your car." Like, honestly, I had to park 20 minutes away, the game has already started. There's a 30 minute line. I'm just gonna have to ditch this bag. It cost me like 10 bucks. I'm just gonna ditch this bag. So, I empty out everything from the bag in my pockets and then I tossed the bag in the garbage. And they're like, "Okay, great. Go ahead in."

**Travis:** Well, now...

**Justin:** We've now entered a situation where they have rushed me into the game with my pockets full of two knives and weed, and that's fine!

**Griffin:** [laughs] Wait a minute, Juice!

**Justin:** This, they're crazy about! This is good! Good! "What are your pockets full of?"  
"Knives and weed."  
"Go ahead in, sir. As long as you don't have a bag to contain them, it's fine."

**Griffin:** Juice, I gotta ask—

**Travis:** Why two?

**Griffin:** I gotta ask, fuckin' El Chapo, why you were smuggling two knives and weed into a football game?

**Justin:** One is why pocketknife and one is my bag knife. Like, I have a bag knife—

**Griffin:** I can't believe this is how I find out you guys are knife guys! Like, Travis, it doesn't surprise me—

**Justin:** It's not a knife guy, it's just like, just being ready. Like, being—

**Travis:** Hey, you've heard of wife guy. Now, we bring you knife guy!

**Justin:** [laughs] He's married to a knife!

**Griffin:** You had two—

**Travis:** I wouldn't be here without my knife. Oh, I'm so proud of my curvy knife. I love my big, curvy knife.

**Griffin:** If I bring two baseballs somewhere, and someone's like, "Hey, look, it's the baseball guy." I can't be like, "I'm not a baseball guy. I just carry two full baseballs with me."

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I'm now just pulling all the knives out of my desk drawer.

**Griffin:** Travis has sent another picture of a bigger, more virile knife than his first knife.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I've got seven, eight, nine...

**Griffin:** Justin's knife was at least kind of cute.

**Travis:** 10...

**Griffin:** These are big, powerful knives, Travis. This one is weathered away—

**Justin:** Griffin, how many knives can you reach right now?

**Griffin:** How many knives can I reach right now?

**Travis:** 12...

**Griffin:** Okay, I don't have a knife. I do have an amateur rotoscope for ear cleaning.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Okay, so just—

**Griffin:** I have a lockpick kit?

**Travis:** Real quick, I got 13 here.

**Justin:** Just 13 knives within reach.

**Griffin:** I'm sorry, Travis, I need a picture of your 13 these goddamn knives.

**Justin:** These are all—here's the difference—I want to make something clear. I am not—I do not have a knife for defense. There is literally no reality in which I would ever use a knife to defend myself. I know the statistics. Take it all. No problem.

**Griffin:** Yeah, this fuckin' military-grade metal Damascus blade Travis has just sent is definitely for... I don't know, opening clamshell packages.

**Travis:** I use it for yard work. I use it for yard work.

**Griffin:** That seems like a bad knife to use for that, Trav.

**Justin:** There are so many blades in here, man.

**Travis:** Yeah, all different.

**Griffin:** Oh, man, this JPEG hasn't come through for me. [laughs] It's too many knives, bud!

**Justin:** It's so many knives.

**Travis:** I made... one, two... at least three of the ones sitting here.

**Justin:** Yeah, I'm just saying, Griff, you should probably have a knife or two. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Yeah, hey, Trav, can I borrow one of your 13—

**Travis:** Ooh, I need all—these are just 13 in arm's reach.

**Justin:** They're specialized knives.

**Travis:** I'll send you a picture specifically of the three I made.

**Justin:** I hope there's an equal number of people that are driven away and attracted by knife—I hope this a zero-sum discussion of knives. Because I remember how heavily the knives—knifey, the knife, figured into... The Worst Idea of All Time for a while. Tim's constant friend—

**Griffin:** Constant companion, until the airport, the mean airport took it away.

**Justin:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** All right, we've spent 14 minutes on this.

**Justin:** And time!

**Griffin:** But wait, I do have a follow up question.

**Travis:** Yeah?

**Griffin:** We've all moved a few times over the last decade or so. And Marie Kondo came and she did her best. But do you guys still have a sword in your home?

**Travis:** Yeah, I'm looking at them right now, I got one, two, three in this room.

**Griffin:** Travis... that's... that's three too many—Travis, the arm's reach accessibility of bladed tools you have is unacceptable.



**Justin:** I have—I keep an axe behind my nightstand.

**Travis:** There's also a lightsaber and a bow.

**Justin:** Okay, a lightsaber, that's not—

**Griffin:** That's not anything.

**Travis:** And a walking stick.

**Justin:** Hey, listen. That's enough. Listen, listen, this is an advice show. "And today, some kids in my apartment complex knocked on my door and asked if I had any snacks. I'm a firm believer that kids should eat when they're hungry. But I don't keep many snacks in my house because a broke college student. I gave 'em a sleeve of saltine crackers because I didn't know what else to do."

**Griffin:** Didn't we already—didn't we already—

**Travis:** No, we started this question and then it got munch—

**Justin:** We started this.

**Travis:** It got Girl, Munch Interrupted, and so—

**Griffin:** Oh, you're right.

**Justin:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** This is a make good. [chuckles]

**Justin:** This is a make good. Or a make bad, usually is what we do.

**Travis:** Let's see, yeah.

**Justin:** "A few hours later, they came back and asked if I had any more of quote, 'Any more of those crackers.' Brothers, what have I got myself into and how do I move forward?" G-Mam.

**Travis:** Here's what I love—can I tell you what I love about this?

**Griffin:** Please.

**Travis:** Can I tell you boys what I love about this?

**Justin:** Yeah, Trav.

**Travis:** In the year 2023, oh my god, when you go to the store and you're looking at candy and snacks for kids, everything's flavored-blasted and sour punch. It's gonna, oh, pucker you right up. And I love the idea of a child eating a simple saltine.

**Griffin:** A simple saltine in 2023.

**Justin:** They just needed a break, right? Their palate just needed a break.

**Travis:** "This really brought me back to center, this saltine did. Made me appreciate the simple flavor salt! I love it! Hey, more of this!"

**Griffin:** This generation has been ravaged by Hot Cheetos and Takis.

**Travis:** Yes!

**Justin:** That's true.

**Griffin:** It's hard to taste anything now because of this. A simple saltine, nothing on it. Don't dress it up. Don't put—I see people put cream cheese, chives, lox on there. Nope, just a simple saltine, please, for me.

**Travis:** Just a sample saltine!

**Griffin:** They're really good.

**Travis:** Maybe warmed by the sun. Nature's microwave.

**Griffin:** Yeah, some sun-dried saltines would be choice.

**Travis:** Mm-hm!

**Justin:** You... I don't think... man, I don't know. Man, you've just given them some saltines. I guess you'd have to be a pretty uptight parent—I don't think I'd love it, I feel like. I don't really want anybody sort of feeding the kids. But maybe these kids needed some food and you had saltines. I'm really torn about this. I don't know. I don't know.

**Travis:** No, Justin, hold on, let me—can we play this scenario out, because now I'm curious, right.

**Griffin:** Sure.

**Travis:** Charlie and Cooper, if they've been running around the neighborhood, getting into shenanigans and hijinks or whatever. They knock on a random neighbor's door, which already I think shows some...

**Griffin:** Some not great choices being made, yeah.

**Travis:** Yeah, bad choices. Saying, "Hey, can I have some food?" And they eat some saltines. They come back home and they're like, "Papa, a neighbor has gifted us with this wonderful, crunchy, salty deliciousness. Do we have any of these? Where can we get them from?" How do you react to this?

**Griffin:** Say, "I don't know. I have never seen those before in my life."

**Justin:** Yeah, I don't keep saltines in the house, man. We're strictly Ritz crackers over here.

**Travis:** Now, I did assume that maybe you would focus more on 'the neighbor gave us saltines,' like 'give us food' part of that reaction. And less about the saltines, huh.

**Justin:** I think it's—but that's beautiful, right? That's beautiful—

**Travis:** You had just said you didn't like it?!

**Justin:** Yeah, but it is beautiful. There are lots of beautiful things I don't like, like art. I mean, I—

**Travis:** [guffaws]

**Griffin:** Dance?

**Justin:** Dance.

**Travis:** Yeah, don't care for it!

**Justin:** Dance I don't care for.

**Travis:** Opera? Who has the time?

**Justin:** Opera, symphony. Ugh, god...

**Travis:** So, most artistic endeavors.

**Justin:** Do you guys know how much I wish I was the sort of person that was like, oh, tonight? I'll be sitting through a whole orchestra show. Like a whole—

**Griffin:** [chuckles] That's what they call 'em!

**Justin:** Oh, tonight? I think I'll be taking in... there's a Tarkovsky ensemble at the Metro that I would very much—I've heard great things about it and I'll be taking in that show. And it'll be very edifying. At the end of it, I'll feel... [chuckles] like, good or... you know what I mean? Tired, I guess. Relaxed? I don't know.

**Travis:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, "I'll have like human emotions."

**Justin:** Some sort of like thing that I'll feel as a result of it.

**Griffin:** I mean, I gotta do this just to stay like present here in, you know, art city, which is what we call D.C. Always, people are doing music with big groups of people and stuff. And I'm like, I basically live at the Kennedy Center. The Ted Kennedy Center. [chuckles]

**Justin:** [chuckles] Yeah. We also have a Kennedy Center in Huntington, and it's the YMCA pool. So, I was confused for a second.

**Griffin:** Oh, no, the Ted Kennedy Center Honors was great this year. I did get an invite. It was invite-only. They recognized Cherry Poppin' Daddies.

**Travis:** Yeah, that's nice. See, for me—

**Justin:** [chortles]

**Griffin:** Five for Fighting.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** [laughs] Crank Yankers got a special—

**Griffin:** Crank Yankers got a—

**Travis:** Crank Yankers was there!

**Griffin:** Got a nod at the Ted Kennedy Center Honors. [chuckles]

**Travis:** It was great.

**Justin:** They got the Koozie of Freedom, an award. A very sought-after award.

**Travis:** Presented by Jamie Kennedy. It was amazing is huge.

**Griffin:** It was huge.

**Travis:** Now see, I—for me, the Kennedy Center is what I call the bedroom.

**Justin:** Come on...

**Griffin:** I don't want to do that. You should give the children food. If the children come to your door and ask for the crackers, that's not ideal. But you should give them—you should probably give 'em crackers. Because that's a good way to... that's a good way to live, I think! You know?

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** And listen, it's saltines. It's not like they're like asking you for more beluga caviar. You know what I mean?

**Griffin:** That's true. But don't give 'em—you give a mouse a cookie, and the next day they want beluga caviar.

**Travis:** That does seem—you know what? For the first time, I've thought of maybe how giving a mouse a cookie is a little bit about, let's say, conservative politics.

**Justin:** I don't think so.

**Travis:** You don't think the idea of like, oh, give 'em something and they'll never—they want more! Capitalism, baby! Make them mouse earn a cookie!

**Justin:** That's very challenging.

**Griffin:** Did you guys know that beluga caviar does not come from a baby beluga in the deep blue sea? It comes from a beluga sturgeon?

**Travis:** Oh?

**Griffin:** That's interesting, huh? But then again—

**Travis:** I think that's fucked up.

**Griffin:** Then again, whales don't lay a million little eggs, so that actually tracks.

**Travis:** Oh, good point! Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! Now, it tracks.

**Griffin:** [chuckles] Baby beluga caviar would probably be pretty upsetting, I think, to see and consume, and even really think about. Hey, can I approach the Wizard?

**Justin:** Whales are mammals.

**Griffin:** Thank you, Justin for that. Wow, what a brave position Justin's taken here. Listen to Dr. Justin, everyone!

**Justin:** [laughs] Right! In case some people were curious about the egg thing and they—I wanted to save everybody a quick google. Whales are mammals.

**Griffin:** Okay. Cool. Kickass! "Hey, Valentine's Day is coming up. You need 15 sweet and romantic stories to tell your girlfriend. You need 15 sweet and romantic stories to tell your girlfriend. Most girls love it when their partner tells them a story, but what tale could you tail?" "Yarn spinner, I love thee!" This—the ideal story—

Travis: Do you ever, with these wikiHow articles—Justin, Griffin, my brothers. Do you ever find that they posit in the intro, like an everyone knows kind of like, "It's common knowledge that—" And you're like, that's... I don't know. Like, you're telling me, like sit down and let me tell you a romantic story.

**Griffin:** "It's common knowledge that tinnitus is messages from angels. But how do you interpret—" Yeah, it's... it's very good. Sorry, there's an ad for Detective Pikachu Returns. I did not know that this was a game.

**Travis:** Get the fuck out!

**Griffin:** October 6<sup>th</sup> is right around the corner. Damn, Pikachu!

**Travis:** Get out!

**Justin:** Is it straight to video or—

**Griffin:** No, it's a game. Game. I wish they had the courage to make another movie. Fuckin'...

**Justin:** Oh, that was a good flick.

**Griffin:** Good flick.

**Travis:** It was really good!

**Griffin:** So, "The ideal story is romantic or cute and just short enough to make it perfect for bedtime. It should also make her feel swept away."

**Travis:** What?

**Griffin:** Yeah, that is wild. "To get you started, we've listed a handful of sweet stories you can tell, as well as a few well-known books or plays that you can use for inspiration." So, this is a romantic story that you tell your girlfriend.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Travis:** I don't know why, but this is really giving me those like—and this surfaces on my 'for you' page a lot. Of like the morality, tales of like, "This guy was really shitty to this guy in the restaurant. And turns out he's actually really rich and just bought the whole restaurant. And immediately, he gets his comeuppance and gets fired. Meanwhile, this person who was nice to him, even though he's only ordering water, gets a promotion to be CEO!"

**Griffin:** Yeah. My wife likes The Canterbury Tales told to her.

**Travis:** [laughs] That actually tracks. From what I know of Rachel, that tracks.



**Griffin:** Yeah, that actually does work. Hey, "Like or love. Let your girlfriend know how much you care about her with this quick story." Please let me get through the stories without interrupting and making jokes.

**Justin:** Okay!

**Griffin:** Oaky. "Once a girl asked her boyfriend if he liked how she looked. To her surprise, he said no. She asked if he liked her personality. And again, he said no. Finally, she asked, 'Do you even like me?' He replied, 'I don't like you.' As she began to cry, he pulled her into a hug and said, 'I don't like you. I love you. I love the way you look. Love your personality. And I'll love you the rest of my life.' Play up the tension in the story by describing the girlfriend's reaction. Flesh it out with more details like, 'The girl started to walk away into the rain when he rushed out to her.'"

**Travis:** So, this romantic story is about an emotionally manipulative boyfriend?

**Griffin:** This is... I guess yes, this is what that is. It's a risky gambit. It's a risky gambit, to be sure.

**Travis:** If I understand the concept of this question, tonight, as my wife and I, we put on our lawn caps, right. Our stocking caps and our long night gowns. We put out the candle and I say, "Honey, once, there was this girlfriend. And she asked her boyfriend..." And then at the end of this story, my wife is then going to react in such a way where she's like, "I've never loved you more."

**Griffin:** I like this. I love this. I love what you've told me.

**Justin:** But there's also the chance that she would be fast asleep.

**Travis:** Ah, that's a good point.

**Griffin:** That is absolutely true.

**Justin:** Lulled off to dreamland by this enchanting tale.

**Griffin:** This is a risky gambit, because it could go.... he said, "I don't like how you look and I don't like your personality."

"Do you even like me?"

"I don't like you. I don't like you. I—ugh!" Sudden heart attack, choking death. Some sort of sudden death. And then that, she takes that to the grave.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Gotta be careful with this stuff.

**Travis:** Also, this is a story where you have to remember the end when you start it. Because if you get to like—and he's like, "I don't like you. And then... ah, shit. What was it?"

**Griffin:** "What was it? Ah, man, never mind. Anyway, good night, sweetie!"  
"Do this one to show her you'll love her forever. A woman was surprised when her husband handed her a bouquet of a dozen roses. She quickly noticed that 11 of them were real and fragrant. While one lone flower was artificial. She asked her husband, 'Why did you give me one artificial rose?' He replied, 'I'll love you until all the flowers in your bouquet die. You can see that I'll never stop loving you.'

Change the flowers from roses to your girlfriend's favorite flower in order to personalize this story. And surprise your girlfriend with a bouquet of flowers after you finished telling her this tale. She'll be impressed that you planned such a thoughtful surprise." Yeah, if you do that without including one artificial flower in the set, that's a terrible message you've just sent. Unlike the person in the story, I will not love you until all the flowers in your bouquet die. In fact, these are accursed petunias. And when the last one dies, I'm going to leave you, Samantha.

**Justin:** And the portal will close.

**Griffin:** The portal will close!

**Travis:** Here in the west wing, you'll find a flower under glass. And if I don't find my true love by the time the last petal falls off the rose, I and all of my servants who have been turned into physical objects will die.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Where are you going? Aw...

**Griffin:** Where are you going? Come back.

**Travis:** Not again.

**Justin:** If he hadn't been so weird about that crusty-ass flower from the beginning, she never would have fucked with it. Like, no way!

**Griffin:** No!

**Justin:** No way. "Oh, that's boring. He's got a flower under glass. Wow, how weird. Everybody's got weird stuff at their house, I guess."

**Travis:** Yeah, pretty cool.

**Justin:** "Anyway, the fuckin' lamp is talking!"

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** Like, no one's gonna—she's not gonna notice some weird, old flower in a jar!

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Fuck!

**Griffin:** I just imagined if Travis was accursed, and then he had 13 talking knives that were bouncing around. [chuckles]

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "Let us kill, father! Father, please, we crave blood!"  
"No."

**Griffin:** "You're for carving and stuff!"  
"I don't think so, father! Look at the length of my blade, father!"

**Travis:** "No, we'll use you for weeds and shit."  
"No!"

**Griffin:** "No! Not me, papa! I'm nasty!"

**Travis:** "Give me to the jugular, papa!"

**Justin:** It is worth noting that the physical objects do not turn sentient in the legend of the Beauty and the Beast.

**Travis:** Now, Justin, I disagree.

**Griffin:** This is a good point. [chuckles]

**Travis:** Because there is silverware which has no face or voice.

**Justin:** Okay, but at the end of the show...

**Travis:** Uh-huh?

**Griffin:** [chuckles]

**Justin:** At the end of the show—

**Griffin:** Mrs. Potts doesn't just turn into a pot! [chuckles]

**Justin:** Yeah, at the end of the show the home is move-in-ready, is what he's saying. There's nothing there.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** There's nothing. The first thing Beauty and Beast are doing on Saturday morning is going to Target.

**Griffin:** And IKEA, yeah.

**Justin:** Like, "We don't have trash cans. We don't have lamps. The place is pitch black. There's not a bite to eat."

**Griffin:** [chuckles]

**Justin:** "I've had Papa John's three times—" No, they're fine now. Yeah, they're fine now.

**Travis:** So then, who decided who had to be like fuckin' spoons and forks and plates and shit?

**Griffin:** God.

**Travis:** And who got like a—oh! Okay.

**Griffin:** God did. God decided.

**Travis:** Oh, boy.

**Griffin:** Based on how much sin they had. That's why Chip was a fucked up cup. "One day, a girl asked her boyfriend what he loved about her. She expected him to start listing random things that he liked about her personality, appearance and so on. Instead, he said it was impossible to make a list. When she asked why, he said, 'Because I don't love you for a reason. I love you for who you are without explanation.'"

**Travis:** That doesn't mean shit.

**Griffin:** That doesn't mean anything.

**Justin:** Nonsensical! Utterly.

**Griffin:** That doesn't mean stuff.

**Travis:** "I don't love you for a reason, I love you because of who you are."  
"Okay, what about me? What about who I am?"

**Justin:** Just a general thing...

**Travis:** You could literally say anything, like I have a good sense of humor.  
Come on, bud! What a cop out.

**Justin:** Something.

**Travis:** I'm fine if you say it's because I'm rich. I am! I also love that about me.

**Griffin:** "Tell this cute story if you want to flatter your girlfriend. A couple was lying in bed one morning when the husband took a selfie with his wife. She had just woken up and complained, 'Why did you have to take a photo with me when I'm not ready? I'm a mess.' He answered that he took the photo so he'd always remember how naturally beautiful she was." Aw! Perfect! Everyone loves this!

**Travis:** Once again, how do I bring this up? How does this come up in conversation?

**Griffin:** You'd I guess just do it. This is less a story than it is a thing you could do that would be incredibly, just hugely gross. Hugely, hugely—"You don't have to do all that work for just me! Nom!"

**Justin:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** "Yeah, but you still took a picture of me while I was like half asleep? Like—"

**Griffin:** How about just don't take a picture of a person that doesn't want to—

**Travis:** How about you ask before you take a picture? Yeah, right? Like, how about consent?

**Griffin:** Yeah, it's no good. No good. Unconditional love, once there was a girl and boy and fell in—

**Travis:** Once.

**Griffin:** Once, [sings] 'there was a girl!'  
"And a boy who fell in love. The girl came from a rich family, while the boy had nothing."

**Travis:** Hell yeah. Hell yeah.

**Griffin:** "Their relationship thrived, even though they struggled at times. Eventually, the couple succeeded and could live comfortably. When someone asked the man how he'd accomplished so much, he explained that the woman's love motivated him to work hard and achieve his goals."

**Travis:** And having the money to back his like plans was probably pretty great, too.

**Griffin:** The end of story!

**Travis:** Well no, hold on! Wait, now hold on. "How were you able to build this business from scratch?"

"Well, my wife inspired me. And also financed my business. So..."

**Griffin:** Financed my small business.

**Travis:** "That was very helpful, if I'm being honest. I couldn't have done it without her support and bank roll."

**Griffin:** This organic, oil-based—

**Travis:** I love her un—I love my incredibly rich wife unconditionally.

**Griffin:** "Unconditionally, except for the one—this one condition. I need this oil-based body spray business. And my wife is very much a vector for that." Ah, man...

**Justin:** What's wrong, Griff?

**Griffin:** It's just a lot of these stories are kind of boring. "One evening, a man came on with a huge bouquet of flowers for his wife. She was surprised since it wasn't a holiday, her birthday or their anniversary."

**Justin:** Yikes!

**Griffin:** "When she asked—"

**Travis:** Oh, you're doing it bad, bud!

**Griffin:** "When she asked what the occasion was, her husband said, 'Every day with you is a reason to celebrate.'"

**Travis:** Apparently not!

**Griffin:** [chuckles] So, this is a story that you can tell your partner about a nice thing a fictional person did that you have not decided to replicate tonight.

**Travis:** This is a lie, because—and they're all lies. But if she's surprised, it means he's never done this before! And then he's like, "Every day is a day to celebrate." And she's like, "We've been married 16 years, bud. What the fuck? Why have you not done this before?"  
"I didn't want to celebrate those days."

**Griffin:** Submitted for the approval—

**Travis:** "I was still thinking about 9/11 and it's really bothering me! I didn't feel like celebrating yet and I had a big breakthrough today with my therapist about getting over 9/11, and I'm finally ready to celebrate."

**Griffin:** "So, here are flowers." Hey, submitted for the approval of the midnight society. A guy was meeting his girlfriend's parents for the first time. He was a little—



**Travis:** Wait, did you say beating? [chuckles]

**Justin:** Beating! I thought you said beating, too. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** I was beating my girlfriend's parents. [chuckles]

**Justin:** What an intro!

**Griffin:** Whipping their asses up and down the street.

**Justin:** Suddenly, the dining room window shatters, and through it leaps your boyfriend. He's wailing on your dad. Oh, no, he's wailing on your mom! No one can stop him!

**Travis:** But they weren't your real parents, they were evil alien clones. And that's how much he loved her. "Good night, baby!"

**Griffin:** His special sunglasses. "Good night, I love you! You had special sunglasses!"

"A guys was meeting his girlfriend's parents for the first time. He was a little nervous, but everyone had a nice time. When the boyfriend left, the girl's dad turned to her and told her that he could tell the boyfriend loved her. She asked her dad how he knew that and he said, 'Honey, he looks at you the same way I look at your mom.'" So dope, I love this one.

**Travis:** And he looks at your mom the same way I look at your mom!  
[chuckles]

**Griffin:** Which is... bad.

**Travis:** He looked at me the same way you look at that sandwich. And he looks at the dog the same way he looks at that lamp.

**Justin:** He looks at the cat the way the cat looks at the cat's own asshole. He's a great guy.

**Griffin:** "Hey, where is your boyfriend and my wife? I haven't seen them in a few minutes."

**Travis:** What a romantic fella!

**Justin:** "What was his last name again? Did you say MILF Hunter? That can't be right, can it?"

**Griffin:** "Oh, no! Disgusting!"

**Justin:** Richard MILF Hunter?

**Travis:** Wait, of the Concord MILF Hunters? They can't be trusted!

**Griffin:** Hey—

**Justin:** "Why the cameras?! I meant to ask!"

**Travis:** "I did—I did—well, he's got his own business, you say? That's lovely."

**Justin:** "He brought a ring light!"

**Travis:** "Oh, you funded his business? Now, honey..."

**Justin:** "Oh, you're funding—you want to encourage him to his dream of tracking down the hottest MILFs. Okay!"

**Travis:** "I understand!"

**Griffin:** "I get it!"

**Justin:** "Oh, I understand."

**Griffin:** "Hey, am I being cuckolded?"

**Travis:** "It's great, because in this context, mounting has two meanings!"

**Griffin:** "Hey, am I being cuckolded presently?"

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "I love this!"

**Griffin:** Hey, all right, so, time for—without any transition whatsoever, the next subject is called Outlander. "Once, a nurse from World War II was mysteriously transported back in time to 18th century Scotland. She met a headstrong warrior and was compelled to marry him. As she got to know him better, they fell in love and had a passionate relationship. Their love was truly destined."

**Justin:** Griffin?

**Griffin:** Yeah?

**Justin:** Is one story they suggest telling your girlfriend the plot of the TV series, Outlander?

**Griffin:** "The Time Traveler's Wife. Once, a girl fell in love with a man who appeared and disappeared throughout her life."

**Travis:** Get the fuck out.

**Griffin:** "He had a genetic disorder that caused him to time travel at different points within his life."

**Justin:** Is that legitimately what that is?

**Griffin:** I don't think that's what it is.

**Justin:** [laughs] That can't be right!

**Griffin:** It recessive!

**Travis:** "The story of Groundhog's Day. One day, a weather man was being shitty about stuff."

**Griffin:** "It's recessive. My great grandpa had it and I also have the genetic disposition to appear and disappear throughout your life."  
"Despite these challenges, they—"

**Travis:** "Honey, are we gonna have kids?"  
"Oh, I don't know the chance that we raise a time traveler..."

**Griffin:** The time traveler's husband.

**Justin:** "My great grandpa had it, and has it, and will have it!"

**Griffin and Travis:** [chuckles]

**Griffin:** "Despite these challenges, they fell in love and got married. Nothing could truly separate this couple who was destined to be together." Sounds like an exhausting movie.

**Travis:** Yeah. "Once, this baby came from Krypton and landed on Earth. And then his parents adopted him, which was pretty cool. And then he met this reporter. And she died in a car accident, where the car got sucked into the Earth. And he flew around the Earth backwards and saved your life. Well, good night, honey!" [chuckles]

**Griffin:** "Good night. I love you!" All right, I'm not gonna tell you the—

**Travis:** "That's the plot of Superman! Enjoy! Superman 2!"

**Justin:** "Love you!"

"Okay, so—okay, let me just boil it down for you. So basically, Dennis Quaid is like this pilot, right. But then he has to get shrunk down to go into somebody else's body. And the—"

**Travis:** No, no, you're thinking of Randy Quaid—Dennis Quaid. Okay, let me start over—

**Justin:** Dennis Quaid. Yeah, Dennis Quaid. Yeah, he's not like... I mean, he's in a lot of Christian movies.

**Griffin:** Randy Quaid is actually a struck project right now, guys.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** "There once was a family—" I'm not gonna tell you the name of this one. "There once was a family with five daughters. The parents hoped to marry them off to rich men. One day, a wealthy man moved into the neighborhood, but the brightest daughter sparked an instant dislike to him. And the feeling was mutual. Many misunderstandings and declarations of love later, the two learned to appreciate each other and realized that their love was meant to be." This is... oh, this one's a wikiHow how to get rich for sure. You make—

**Travis:** Oh, yeah. No. No. No. That one we call a hubris and humility.

**Griffin:** [chuckles] Yes, exactly. "You may get bonus points from your girlfriend if you try to tell the story with a British accent." Now, that's great because it leaves room for you may not get bonus points from your girlfriend.

**Justin:** [laughs] You can only get—

**Travis:** So, you're telling me, if I launch into the plot of Pride and Prejudice in a British accent—

**Justin:** Is that what that was?

**Travis:** Yeah. Assumingly, completely unprompted, my girlfriend was just like, "Wow, bonus points."

**Griffin:** Yeah, bonus points.

**Justin:** Are you passing it off as your own?

**Griffin:** What's that?

**Justin:** Like your own tale? Your own authentic tale?

**Griffin:** No, this is Pride and Prejudice. And I think we own that.

**Justin:** Yeah, I know, but are you trying to sell it like, "Hey, this is something I just came up with. Will you tell me what you think about?"

**Griffin:** "Hey, babe, here's something just straight off the dome. You ready? [in a silly British voice] 'It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife!'" I think that's gonna get the job—

**Travis:** Anyways, the bedroom's over there. Quick! Quick! [chuckles]

**Griffin:** The bedroom's right there.

**Justin:** "Hey, babe. Hey, babe, you up? I just had an incredible thought of a beautiful, giant boat that is doomed. And the love that will live on forever inside the doomed boat. If you—are you up?"

**Travis:** "It's gonna be about 2 hours and 45 minutes, start to finish, for me to tell you."

**Justin:** "Yeah, get comfortable, get—please use the head now, if you're gonna. Because I don't want to have to stop."

**Travis:** And spoiler alert, Billy Zane's in it. [chuckles]

**Justin:** Second half is mainly me doing sound effects. I do have to warn you.

**Griffin:** "Once, an old man visited and old woman in order to tell her a story about a young couple that was in love. He recounts the decades that they love struggled and connected with each other. Every day, the old one would forget who the old man was. In the end, she realized for a brief moment that they're the couple in the story and that he still loves her."

**Travis:** 50 First Dates.

**Griffin:** 50 First Dates. Snow White eats a poison apple and falls into a sleeping death.

**Travis:** What?

**Griffin:** Good night.

**Justin:** What?

**Griffin:** "Now, it's time to fall into your own sleeping death, babe."

**Travis:** "Goodnight, babe! Here are some butterfly kisses!"

**Griffin:** And then Romeo and Juliet. So, those are some tips for you to spark things up in the bedroom. "Nicholas sparked things up in the bedroom by just explaining the plot of The Notebook." Please, to me now. Or do the one where Cobie—

**Travis:** Yup, and then saying, "Now, let's die next to each other."

**Griffin:** Do the one where Cobie Smulders is a ghost. Okay, so there's this—Cobie Smulders is in it. And I think she's a ghost, but she's the ghost of the husband. And she's like, "Go for it." Good night!

**Travis:** And she loves that he's like sleeping with someone else.

**Griffin:** She loves to watch and be—and she takes—she gets in the lamp and she flickers the lights in Morse code and says, "I love this." And it's Cobie Smulders from How I Met Your Mother and Marvel.

**Justin:** So anyway, then Han—no, he's alive at this point because it's in a different point in the chronology. Honey, please, wake—hey, hey, hey!

**Griffin:** Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey! Not yet!

**Justin:** Wake up!

**Travis:** Stay with me.

**Justin:** This isn't for my benefit!

**Griffin:** And then I think they both—

**Justin:** And certainly not for Han's.

**Griffin:** I think they both turned into birds? It's been a while since I've seen the movie. We should go—

**Travis:** Hey, baby, now could you tell me about Avatar?

**Justin:** [chuckles] Hey, babe, tell me about Avatar.

**Travis:** [chuckles] I still haven't seen it. Can you explain Avatar to me? No, no, not The Airbender, I've seen that one. The one with the blue people?

**Griffin:** I have genuine trouble falling asleep, I wouldn't say most nights. If my wife tried to recount to me the plot of Avatar, a film I have not—and at this point I feel like out of principle, will never see. I think that would get the job done.

**Justin:** Oh, come on, you don't mean that, right? Did you see Way of Water?

**Griffin:** No. Juice, I didn't see the first one. I don't know why—

**Travis:** What a wild thing, I—

**Justin:** [chuckles]

**Travis:** I also have not seen Avatar, but what you're suggesting, Justin, is the Griffin and I having not seen Avatar, but see the previews for Way of Water and be like, "Well..."

**Griffin:** Yum, yum!

**Travis:** Can't miss that one!

**Griffin:** Sounds good!

**Justin:** I wouldn't blame you, honestly. You're not... you'll be fine.

**Travis:** Hey, look over there. Guys! It's the Money Zone! Let's go to it!



[theme song plays]

**Travis:** Hey, are you guys Americans? I'm asking you, Justin. It's not—

**Justin:** Oh, yeah.

**Travis:** Like, yeah, okay.

**Justin:** Born a bread.

**Travis:** Okay. Did you know only 22% of Americans speak a language other than English at home?

**Griffin:** No, I don't know why I would know that.

**Travis:** Yeah, it would be wild if that was just like a fact you had ready to pull off the dome. But now, you know that. And this fall, you can start speaking a new language with Babbel. Why Babbel? Because it works, and they paid us to tell you it does. So, instead of paying hundreds of dollars—

**Griffin:** No, that's a weird—that's a weird track to take here, Trav.

**Travis:** Well, I just want to—

**Justin:** Very strange.

**Travis:** Why Babbel? Because no one else is telling—is paying us to tell you about them. You know what I mean?

**Griffin:** That's the honest truth. The other honest truth is I use Babbel, brushing up on my Spanish. Which I've learned for six years and then sadly forgot. And it really is very good and it's the only language app I feel like I've stuck with in any kind of way.

**Travis:** In my home, especially to my children, I have established myself as a goofy doofus, or goofus, if you will. And occasionally, when I actually do know something and I'm not making a joke, like, I also studied Spanish for many years in high school. And like one of my daughters will ask like how to

say something in Spanish, and I'll tell them. And they're like, "That's not it, silly dad." And I'm like, "What? Aw. Aw, no!"

**Griffin:** But Babbel is truth. And you can trust it, unlike Travis. Here's a special limited-time offer for our listeners to get you started right now. Get 55% off your Babbel subscription, only for our listeners, at [babbel.com/mybrother](http://babbel.com/mybrother). Get 55% off at [babble.com/mybrother](http://babble.com/mybrother). B-A-B-B-E-L.com/mybrother. Rules and restrictions may apply.

**Justin:** Hey, listen, do you have a special cat?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Do you have a special cat? Is your cat special?

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** Do you love your cat?

**Travis:** Yes.

**Justin:** Do you want to give your cat the best food available to them possible?

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** Well then, you need to check out Smalls. Honestly, my cats are pretty picky. Which is one of the more boring sentences I've ever said my entire life. But it is accurate. They went wild for this stuff. They felt—they've been—they were really nagging me to hook them up with some more. Because it is delicious and they—it is real, actual food. It doesn't stink like hell.

**Travis:** You could eat it!

**Justin:** You could eat it. I mean, you probably don't want to. But you can. And they've—and here's what's cool, they just kicked off a partnership with the Humane Society. Donated over a million dollars' worth of food to help

cats through the Humane Society. And they even give you a chance to donate at checkout—

**Griffin:** I bet you Garfield cleaned up like half of that.

**Justin:** Yeah, absolutely.

**Travis:** Hey, Griffin? Garfield's not staying with the Humane Society? He lives with John?

**Griffin:** That's what you think. John died, man.

**Travis:** Oh, no!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Yeah, yeah.

**Travis:** Ah! And there was no one there to take care of Gar? He ended up at a shelter?

**Griffin:** Well, they didn't know he died.

**Justin:** Smalls—

**Travis:** Oh, and Garfield ate his face off, huh?

**Griffin:** No! [Pack on Abu Dhabi??]. Garfield had to break out.

**Travis:** Wait. So wait, you're saying—hold on. You're saying John died, and Garfield, afraid of like being incriminated, shipped John's corpse to Abu Dhabi?

**Griffin:** No, it was a prank that Garfield was doing. He'd found so much success with Nermal's—

**Justin:** Why don't you guys want the money for this advertisement?

**Travis:** No, no, no, let Griffin finish explaining. So, John was alive?

**Griffin:** They're still gonna pay it for us. Yeah, he was alive when they put him in the crate, but somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean, he did pass away.

**Travis:** Oh, man.

**Justin:** So, if you want to try a better cat food—

**Travis:** How's Odie doing?

**Griffin:** He's hanging in there.

**Justin:** You could—for your picky kitty, reach for Smalls. But like, they'll bring it to your house. You don't even have to reach for it. It'll just be on your porch. You just—

**Travis:** They'll ship it to you like Garfield shipped to John to Abu Dahbi!

**Griffin:** [chuckles]

**Justin:** [chuckles] [Smalls.com/mybrother](https://smalls.com/mybrother), and use promo code My Brother at checkout for 50% off your first order, plus free shipping! That's the best offer you'll find, but you have to use our code, My Brother, for 50% off your first order. One last time promo code My Brother, for 50% off your first order, plus free shipping!

[Depresh Mode theme music plays]

**John Moe:** The human mind can be tricky. Your mental health can be complex. Your emotional life can be complicated. So, it helps to talk about it. I'm John Moe. Join me each week on my show, Depresh Mode with John Moe. It's in-depth conversations about mental health with writers, musicians, comedians, doctors and experts. Folks like Noah Khan, Sasheer Zamata and Surgeon General Vivek Murthy.

We talk about depression, anxiety, trauma, impostor syndrome and perfectionism. We have the kind of conversations that a lot of folks are hesitant to have themselves. Listen, and you won't feel as alone. And you'll

have some laughs, too. Depresh Mode for Maximum Fun. At [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org) or wherever you get your podcasts.

[Depresh Mode theme music concludes]

[Max Fun theme music plays]

**K.T. Wiegman:** Hey, this is K.T. Wiegman, operations specialist. I'm here with—

**Christian Dueñas:** Christian Dueñas, producer. And we're both worker/owners here at Maximum Fun.

**K.T.:** October is National co-op month. So, we're celebrating our brand new co-op and some others with an event called Co-Optober.

**Christian:** We've got special events all month long, starting with a live Q&A on YouTube, where Max Fun worker/owners will answer your questions on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. And much more to come.

**K.T.:** We also want to tell you about some incredible limited-edition merch, exclusively available to Max Fun members throughout the month of October.

**Christian:** If you're already a member of Max Fun, you've shown that you care about our shows and what we do.

**K.T.:** If you also want to help launch us into this new, cooperative era and show off your support, go ahead and get yourself a hat, a pen, a shirt. We worked with some of our favorite artists to make them really special.

**Christian:** For details on merch, all of our upcoming events, like meetup day and more, visit [maximumfun.org/cooptober](http://maximumfun.org/cooptober).

**K.T.:** That's C-O-O-P-T-O-B-E-R.

**Christian:** Happy Co-Optober!

[Max Fun theme music concludes]

**Justin:** "I regularly walk by a house that has a very large bell suspended in the front yard. I really want to ring the bell. It looks loud. And it's very pretty. But it's not near the sidewalk. It's about 50 feet into their yard. Very close to the front of their house, which has a lot of windows. And their lights are always on. My first instinct was to sneak up and ring it at night, when I could run away in the dark. But that seems like a rude time to ring a big bell." Correct. Good. Good instinct.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Chase that! Follow that!

**Justin:** "Is this bell for everyone? What's the best way for me to experience this big bell? I don't know much longer I can resist. I would guess the bell is around 18 inches in diameter and hangs at about shoulder height. There is no fence or hedges around their yard. It's just a big lawn." Thank you, Beller High Water in Snoqualmie, Washington. Beautiful part of the country.

**Travis:** Snoqualmie beautiful. Beautiful Ah, lovely.

**Justin:** Ah, beautiful. Gorgeous.

**Griffin:** Beautiful. God's country.

**Travis:** I love it.

**Justin:** I—I—the—

**Travis:** Now, listen—

**Justin:** Ate at this place there once called Salish. It was where they filmed the intro for Twin Peaks, in the fall. Beautiful, beautiful.

**Griffin:** Gorgeous.

**Travis:** Gorgeous. Good people. Good people.

**Justin:** I think you can just walk up and hit the bell.

**Travis:** Huh? That's not what I thought you were gonna say!

**Justin:** No, I do, I—here's what I think. They put a bell up.

**Travis:** Yeah, that's a good point.

**Griffin:** A big fuckin' bell.

**Justin:** They didn't put it in their own home.

**Griffin:** No,.

**Justin:** They put it way out there. That's somebody who is fine with you swinging by and ringing the bell. What are they going to—like, imagine the conversation—if they don't approve the action, imagine the conversation it'll cause. "Hey, did you ring my bell?"  
"Yeah."

**Travis:** Cool!

**Justin:** It's a big bell and you left it outside.

**Griffin:** It's a big bell. It's an outside bell.

**Justin:** Like, what did you want to happen? "That's only for me to ring like some kind of maniac! And any—like no—there's no... there are no legal grounds! You can walk right up there and ring it. No problem.

**Travis:** Now, here's my concern. If you're new to the neighborhood, right, maybe this bell has a specific purpose.

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Travis:** This happened one time. I don't know how I got this in my hand. I went to Trader Joe's. I was fairly new to going to Trader Joe's. They have that bell there. And for some reason I connected it to something else I'd seen somewhere else and thought ringing this bell as a way to let everyone know I just had some great customer service at this station.

**Justin:** Oh, no. Travis?

**Travis:** And I rang that bell. I rang that bell.

**Justin:** That's a private bell.

**Travis:** And they were like, "Oh, no, no, that's about to say we need help. Like we need assistance for something." And I was like, "Oh no."

**Justin:** Travis, that is one of—is that a true story?

**Travis:** That is a true story.

**Justin:** Because if so, it is one of the most wild things I've ever heard you say.

**Griffin:** It's chilling.

**Travis:** I know.

**Justin:** I've heard you recount a lot of rough tales. That is among the rougher.

**Travis:** Listen, impulse control can be a real bitch. So—

**Justin:** This is the problem with walking around with four knives, is you stop fearing god. Society means nothing to you. You can ring whatever fuckin' bell you want! You're the blade master!

**Travis:** I know it's chaos. This is my bell, back off. I know, I threw my knife across the room to ring the bell, it was amazing. Everybody loved it and clapped because they were afraid. But my worry is that you would ring this bell—and much like if you just came upon a random bell, like on a mountaintop in like a Dark Souls game, it will summon something. Where they will be like, "Oh, this is—there's an emergency. This is a—we use this to let everyone know there's like a fire in the neighborhood and we need like a bucket brigade." And now you've created an embarrassing situation.



**Griffin:** Yeah, you don't want to open up the big gate to Sen's Fortress. All the snakes come out and they're gonna hurt you and your family. So, that's one thing to worry about. The other thing, I think there's a good answer for this. And the answer is the opportunity you have to ring this big, public bell is when you get a text from the National Weather Service alerting you of anything. It could be there's hail in a neighboring county. You are running to that bell, you ring it. "What are you doing?"

"Did you see the news?" Now they—now, you have an excuse. You're a public servant. You're a town crier. You're a John Cryer, you're doing important work out there.

**Travis:** Yeah. And let me also just—a fun thing I've been doing in the last like three seconds is looking back over this question and replacing the word bell with trampoline. And it's real fun. It's real fun. Talking about trampoline that's about 50 feet into their yard, very close to the front of the house.

**Griffin:** 18 inches in diameter. A really small trampoline.

**Travis:** What's the best way for me to experience this big trampoline? I could just go up and just on the trampoline at night? Is this trampoline for everyone?

**Justin:** I don't even think they noticed the bell anymore. Right? Like, "Ah, somebody's having fun out there with our bell." Like, I'm not gonna go out and investigate. To what? To what end?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** They're trapped. They're trapped. If I have a bell in my yard and I hear the bell ring, I gotta hide. Because I don't want to go make eye contact with that person. Because I'd be worried that they think I'm mad at them.

**Travis:** Yeah. Maybe ringing the bell will turn all their lights off, and nobody has done it for them. And their lights are just on all the time because they're like—they forgot like, "How do we turn the lights off? We've never been able to figure it out." And you ring the bell, lights go off. Ah, boom! Amazing!

What if you ring the bell and like an old lady comes out and she's like, "No one's rung that bell since my father died. It's so good to hear it again. Thank you. Now, here's your fortune." I love you. Good night, honey.

**Griffin:** That's a good story, too. Once, there was a bell.

**Justin:** Warm my cockles.

**Travis:** Once there was a bell, and then I married an old lady.

**Griffin:** A big bell.

**Travis:** And she financed my crypto scheme.

**Griffin:** 50 feet into the yard suggests this is a big yard.

**Travis:** I mean, it says there's no fences or hedges around the yard. It's just a big lawn.

**Griffin:** A big lawn. So, I think if you rang it, you could say you thought it was a bell museum, or something along those—"sorry, your yard is just so big."

**Travis:** I thought this was the bell's house.

**Griffin:** I thought this was a famous—I thought this was Liberty Bell.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Can you get one of your friends to dress up like a British soldier?

**Travis:** Ooh?

**Justin:** And then when the neighbor comes out like, "How dare you?" You point at your friend like, "Look! It's on! Again. We're doing it again! It's time!"

**Travis:** They sailed around the other side. They're coming at us from the other direction.

**Justin:** They're coming at us from the other side. They're coming at us through Washington. Very clever.

**Travis:** Yeah! They got confused about which Washington it was. Let's get 'em.

**Griffin:** Can you—

**Travis:** You can me, house owner. Let's kill this red coat. [chuckles]

**Griffin:** Let's kill these guys.

**Travis:** Here's a bayonet. I brought an extra one.

**Griffin:** Can you... and I'm just spitballing here. This may not be anything. But can you put a big bell in your yard? And then invite them over to ring your big bell? And say like, "I just figured we could have like a... like a share—"

**Travis:** A bell-off.

**Griffin:** No. Well, no, it's not a competition. We're not—

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Griffin:** It's not Christmas with the Kranks over here. It's you come ring my big bell. And maybe sometimes I'll come over and ring—ah, forget it. This is stupid.

**Travis:** No. No wait! Hold on! Hold on! Hold on! Hold on, Griffin. Don't give up on it yet.

**Justin:** There's a way—there is some social engineering we could do here. What if you show up in blue overalls with a big, fake mustache and you say, "Ah, hi ma'am. I just wanted to—real quick, I'm doing the bell repair in the neighborhood. And we just need to do a quick inspection of your bell, just to test to make sure it's safe."

**Griffin:** That's good.

**Justin:** "Very safe."

**Travis:** What have you set up next to it, 11 bells in descending size from the big bell. And you get in there and you're gonna play Carol of the Bells.

**Griffin:** That's cool.

**Travis:** And like no one's gonna be fuckin' mad about that, right. That's an awesome song. Oh, and what's that? It's your friend, dressed like a red coat, shredding on electric guitar along with it. Incredible. It's Christmas all the time.

**Griffin:** Lay your bike down in the yard next to the bell. Ring the bell... ring the bell, lay down. Don't move. Don't move a fucking muscle. "What happened? Did I ring your bell? Yeah, I guess I must have done it. With my head. This thing is a death trap. Who puts a bell in the middle of a big, open awesome yard for BMX biking? I don't know, but let me call my insurance. Let's bring insurance into this. Oh, you don't want me to? Then I need a permission slip to ring this bell whenever I want to, please."

**Travis:** Yeah, "In fact, I'm gonna take the bell."

**Griffin:** "I'm gonna take just the clapper."

**Travis:** "Just the clapper, so I'm the only one who can use it."

**Justin:** Thank you so much for listening to our podcast—

**Travis:** You're welcome!

**Justin:** We hope you—not you.

**Griffin:** You barely listened. [chuckles]

**Justin:** Yeah, I can tell. You had checked out.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** Yeah... you were—

**Travis:** I was playing with my 13 knives, I'm not gonna lie!

**Justin:** You waited patiently for your turn to talk repeatedly.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** Hey, what about this, I hear we got some live shows coming up. Are you guys hearing about this?

**Travis:** Yeah, I've heard about this, on the dark web. And the dark web's saying that we're going to be in Philadelphia on October 11<sup>th</sup>, doing My Brother, My Brother and Me. And then October 12<sup>th</sup>, we're at New York Comic Con doing a TAZ Hootenanny show. And then October 13<sup>th</sup>, well, we're back at New York Comic Con again, doing a My Brother, My Brother and Me, with Sawbones opening.

And here's the wild thing the dark web is telling me, that New York Comic Con has decided that they no longer require a badge to attend the shows. So, whether you are attending New York Comic Con or not, you can still buy tickets to come see the show. And if you have a badge and a ticket, then you can attend either show and receive a free show poster as well as the option for priority seating at the show if you choose to redeem that. And there will be tickets available to watch a video on demand of the show online.

Get all that information and tickets and whatnot at [bit.ly/mcelroytours](http://bit.ly/mcelroytours)!

**Griffin:** Man, that's super helpful of the dark web to help us spread the word.

**Travis:** Yeah, it's a really nice place! It's really—I love being there. I've never been scared of it.

**Griffin:** Thank you to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, My Life Is Better With You. Montaigne's got some stuff coming down the pipeline that's going to annihilate you, dear friends listening at home, and brothers. Just to warn you, heads up, you'll be destroyed by the power of this incredible music, so...

**Travis:** We've also got some—we've got some brand-new merch. And listen, we've got some good stuff in there already, but this shit? Off the fucking chain! Trav Nation. We've got a glow in the dark 'I found more questions in Kepler, West Virginia' pin that's very cute.

**Griffin:** So dope.

**Travis:** Very good. Amnesty lodge candle with a sense of peppercorn, ginger, spice, tobacco leaf, teak wood, sandalwood, amber and dark Elon Musk. Oh, sorry, just dark musk. Elon's not involved. Candle lights wrapping paper's back. You can order it soon to get it in time for the holidays, designed by Justin Gray. AKA @Burntobuild on Instagram. And 10% of all merch proceeds this month go to NARAL Pro-Choice America, which fights for access to abortion care, birth control, paid parental leave and protections from pregnancy discrimination. All that at mcelroymerch.com.

**Griffin:** Can we harmonize on this one? Like make an effort to—

**Justin:** Aah!

**Griffin:** Wait! Wait! Wait! Wait! Wait! Just an effort to make it sound nice and not silly.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Griffin:** It defeats the purpose of the sound bath if it hurts.

**Travis:** Okay, you start.

**Griffin:** Okay. Oh-aah-aah-aah-aah-aah-aah—

**Travis:** Aah-aah-aah-aah-aah-aah-aah—

**Justin:** Aah-aah-aah-aah-aah-aah-aah—

**Griffin:** Okay. Oh-aah-aah-aah-aah-aah-aah—

**Travis:** Aah-aah-aah-aah-aah-aah-aah—

**Justin:** Aah-aah-aah-aah-aah-aah-aah—

**Griffin:** That wasn't very good. You guys did the same note.

**Justin:** Maybe next time. My name is Justin McElroy.

**Travis:** I'm Travis McElroy!

**Griffin:** I'm Griffin McElroy.

**Travis:** Woof-woof, Trav Nation!

**Justin:** [laughs] 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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