Sawbones 481: Home Alone 2

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Intro (Clint McElroy): Sawbones is a show about medical history, and nothing the hosts say should be taken as medical advice or opinion. It's for fun. Can't you just have fun for an hour, and not try to diagnose your mystery boil? We think you've earned it. Just sit back, relax, and enjoy a moment of distraction from that weird growth. You're worth it.

[theme music plays]

Justin: Hello, everybody and welcome to Sawbones, a Marital Tour of Misguided Medicine. I'm your co-host Justin McElroy.

Sydnee: And I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Justin: 'Tis the season, Syd.

Sydnee: 'Tis the season for what, Justin?

Justin: Well, to watch the Home Alone movies repeatedly. I'm not big on rewatching movies, but Home Alone 1, Home Alone 2, these are films that I will rewatch every year.

Sydnee: I— See, and that's why I'm always willing to watch them again with you, because I love to rewatch movies, and there are so few that you will agree to keep rewatching with me.

Justin: It's one of my favorite movies to think about. It's one of my favorite movies to watch. Both.

Sydnee: Which—?

Justin: I think they're...

Sydnee: Which is superior, in your opinion? Z

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: In your opinion.

Justin: Home Alone 1 is a better movie. The themes, the acting, the script, literally all of it is better. Home Alone 2 is funnier because those poor men.

Sydnee: Well, I agree that Home Alone 2 is funnier to an extent.

Justin: Oh, and Tim Curry, sorry. Tim Curry elevates the proceedings. He's a light Rob Schneider down point. So I'm not counting Tim Curry because he is undone by his proximity to Rob Schneider.

Sydnee: Now see though, if that's the kind of math you're gonna do with Home Alone 2, here's the problem.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: So here, it has Tim Curry, that's great. But as you said, has Rob Schneider also cameo by...

Justin: Donald Trump.

Sydnee: Donald Trump, so. Ugh.

Justin: Ugh. It's tricky. Many years ago, in 20-forever ago, we did a review of Home Alone, all the entries, just for you, you can dip back into the annals and check that out if you want to. But this year, this time, Home Alone 2.

Sydnee: That's right. Well, it's because one, it just seems appropriate, and two, the injury, like they ramp it up in Home Alone 2.

Justin: Yeah. Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, generally speaking, like, there are definitely, and if you go back and listen to the episode about Home Alone 1, there are definitely like fatal injuries...

Justin: They're already dead. They're already dead.

Sydnee: Yeah, from Home Alone 1.

Justin: Dead, dead, dead.

Sydnee: But overall, I mean, there are a lot of injuries that are like, yes, that's painful. I mean, stepping on glass ornaments would be incredibly painful, but it's not gonna kill you.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: And I would say like, the average fatality potential of the injuries in Home Alone 2 is higher. I'd also like to note that— So okay, just to briefly— In case you haven't seen Home Alone 2.

Justin: Yeah, that would be weird.

Sydnee: Home Alone 1, the kid's trapped in the house and the robbers are trying to break in and he creates a bunch of traps. But in Home Alone 2, he's trying to stop the Sticky Bandits now, they're no longer the Wet Bandits, from robbing a toy store. He does so by luring them to his uncle's house under renovation...

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: ... where he has already set up—

Justin: A man trap.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: A person trap.

Sydnee: But he lures them to the house.

Justin: Yes, he lures them there to the trap he has created to kill them.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: Yes, Jigsaw.

Sydnee: So I think that's more— [laughs]

Justin: Baby Jigsaw.

Sydnee: It is more sinister, is what I'm saying. Like not only are the injuries we're gonna discuss, like upping the...

Justin: He was under— It's also really important, no threat. They try to justify this, actually. There's an amazing scene in the movie where Kevin's like, "I'm just gonna dog pound it out of New York. I don't know what I'm doing here. This sucks. I'm just a little kid."

And then he hears about the Sticky Bandits plan to rob the toy store. And he sees in order to justify the things that he's gonna do, they have a wild scene where Kevin's like outside a hospital where there's a sick kid in the hospital that Kevin, like, makes eye contact with. And he's like, "... I gotta kill these guys."

Sydnee: Well, because, and he also has to learn, like, it's a whole thread because he's in the toy store, he meets the toy store owner, he's nice.

Justin: He's so nice.

Sydnee: He's so nice. He finds out later that all of the...

Justin: Takes a wild amount of time with the transaction with the boy, like, a 20 minute, it's like, a week before Christmas and this guy's like, "Let me tell you about turtle doves, they're beautiful." There's 50 people behind him like, "Please let me buy a Power Ranger, I wanna go, please."

Sydnee: So he has that interaction. He learns that the proceeds from the Christmas, like, specifically Christmas Eve, I don't know.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: Specifically Christmas Eve proceeds go to the children's hospital. So he learns that piece of information. Then he has the moment where he sees the child in the children's hospital. And that's when he's like, "I can't let this happen."

Justin: I-

Sydnee: "I will murder these men."

Justin: This is not going to be a popular opinion, but I will say that all signs point to the fact that the Sticky Bandits have chosen wisely, they can absorb the loss of this robbery. This is a business in the toy industry that is giving away its biggest night of profits. They're doing fine. They're doing just fine.

Sydnee: Well, but see, the thing is, like, what Kevin understands is that if the Sticky Bandits take that money, that's a great out for, what is it, Duncan's toys? Is that what it is?

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: Duncan's Toy Chest to just say, "Oh, we don't have any money for the children's hospital here. Sorry about that. They stole it all. We don't have extra. We don't have other money."

Justin: So anyway, they create this system, this wild system where basically by the transitive properties of film logic, the Sticky Bandits are breaking into a hospital full of sick kids and stealing all their money. And Kevin is...

Sydnee: And stealing their... toys?

Justin: It's their money they get from the toys. So it is—

Sydnee: I know, but they don't give the sick children money. They buy something for them with the money. So they're not stealing money.

Justin: Yes, but like medicine.

Sydnee: Like, yeah, that's what I'm saying...

Justin: This is what I'm saying—

Sydnee: Like medicine, toys.

Justin: This is what I'm saying. To justify what Kevin is about to do to these guys, the film has to say, "Look, these guys are basically like hurting sick

kids, basically if you think about it, by robbing this place. So Kevin has to kill them."

Sydnee: And they say it later, they even make a point, because spoilers, they do get caught and arrested by the police. They do survive. in order to get arrested. But they say, like, "We were just trying to steal all the toy store's charity money."

Justin: "We were just..."

Sydnee: "We know— We are— We know exactly what we're doing."

Justin: It was extra that they had already. It was extra.

Sydnee: Now there are some like, minor injuries, like, as soon as you, as soon as you realize, like, the Sticky Bandits have escaped from prison and are loose in New York, where it's also where Kevin accidentally ended up.

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: Um, they start like, getting into hijinks right away. Like Marv already has covered his hand in tape. We debated a long time. Is this duct tape, is it masking tape?

Justin: It's hard to say...

Sydnee: It really kind of looks like masking tape. And like is using it to steal things quickly because it's sticky. So these things stick to it. He steals lots of, mainly like winter outerwear accessories.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's the main thing he can steal well, are like, scarves, gloves, earmuffs, lots of hats.

Justin: He takes a lot of kids' mittens.

Sydnee: Lots of hats. Um, but like, there's some stuff with that, because he almost accidentally steals a woman's purse because the hand gets stuck to it

in a crowd, and then he gets slapped in the face. He falls while he's ice skating soon after. These are minor injuries.

Justin: Well, they'll be fine.

Sydnee: We're not worried about this. The first time that Kevin starts trying to murder them is when they first see each other. The three of them encounter and realize, "Oh my gosh, we're all here, this is wild." And they're instantly like, we're gonna kill this kid in the middle of this busy sidewalk. They walk right over to him like...

Justin: "We's gonna execute ya!"

Sydnee: Yeah, they're gonna murder him right there.

Justin: "Right here in broad daylight."

Sydnee: On this busy New York sidewalk, which it was— I guess it was a different time in New York City. This was—

Justin: Yeah. Only Trump can get away with that. They should know better.

Sydnee: [laughs] Um... So they chase him and Kevin stops to buy what is presumably some fake jewelry being sold at a table on the sidewalk, buys some giant strings of pearls. This is, it's just classic, right?

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Breaks the pearls off the string, they go all over the sidewalk...

Justin: Yeah, yeah, a little bit, yeah.

Sydnee: The thieves are chasing him and they slip.

Justin: The old crime alley special.

Sydnee: Yeah, and they fall on their backs, which is like, again, definitely survivable. I don't think there's anything to suggest— Like, they're, you know, they're getting older. Like, I don't know how good, since they've been

in prison, like, their diet's been in terms of like calcium intake and vitamin D. So like, I don't think these are bone breaking falls.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: Certainly in someone who was osteopenic, osteoporotic, I'd be more worried. But I think so far it's just like, I mean, if they hit their heads, that would have been bad, but they don't appear to.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: They're always very good at falling with their necks just flexed enough forward that the back of their heads never...

Justin: 'Cause they have well-trained stunt professionals doing those, not Mr. Pesci and Mr. Stern.

Sydnee: It is interesting that nobody else falls on the pearls though.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: It'd be very targeted giant pearl spill.

Justin: Because it's wild and no one would ever fall on them and they had to try really hard to fall on them.

Sydnee: I don't think you slip on pearls if you walk on them, but I've never tried.

Justin: Well, it's also weird because it's like gravel, so I think it's fine.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: Like, on a ballroom, I could see where this would start to be an issue, but I don't think on the gravel it's gonna be a problem.

Sydnee: Or was it— I thought it was, like... Okay.

Justin: But we can't get into the physics of whether or not these things

would happen in the movie because that's a whole other kettle of fish.

Sydnee: Okay, Kevin gets them both punched right after that. One point I wanna make about the movie in general, and Justin, you actually pointed this out initially. Early on when Harry and Marv realized they're gonna have to face off against Kevin again, Marv is like, "Who cares, it's just a kid, what's he gonna do, it's no big deal," which is wild.

Justin: Yeah, that is wild that he says that.

Sydnee: Yes, because—

Justin: Because he was killed previously in Home Alone 1 repeatedly by a child, a small boy.

Sydnee: Right, yes, and generally they, like, they just walk right into all the traps in Home Alone 2. They show very little hesitancy. There's like one moment that we'll get to where they try to actively avoid traps from the first movie, but the rest of the time, they seem to have no memory whatsoever of the previous, you know...

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: ... the capabilities of this murderous child. And I think that suggests that there was permanent damage perhaps from some of the injuries they sustained, especially all the head injuries they sustained in the first movie.

Justin: Yes, I—

Sydnee: Maybe some memory loss as a result.

Justin: There is no way anybody would say kids aren't dangerous. This man has been hurt by a child so badly. There's just no justification for it. [laughs]

Sydnee: No. And from the first jump, so they're breaking into the toy store, Kevin gets the cops there by throwing a brick through the window. And they chase him through the broken window. And when they come out of the toy store, already we got like, a seesaw set up. So they're like... Marv jumps on

one side and then Harry jumps— No, Marv— Anyway, Harry gets shot up in the air.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's what happens cause it's a seesaw, it's like a cartoon sort of thing. He flies up in the air, he lands on top of a car. The car is absolutely...

Justin: Demolished.

Sydnee: ... demolished by Harry's body, Joe Pesci, falling from the sky. I would say at this point in the film, there's a high likelihood that Harry is dead.

Justin: [laughs] Yeah.

Sydnee: If you think about the force that it would take to crush a car.

Justin: Right. But he has transferred the force to the car, you know? We're not a physics podcast.

Sydnee: Well, but yeah, there is also a force being applied on his human body...

Justin: Yes, by the ground and stuff.

Sydnee: ... as he strikes the car.

Justin: Yeah, that's true.

Sydnee: And that's, so now, is it enough force...

Justin: I'm just saying to crumple—

Sydnee: ... to shatter every bone? No, no.

Justin: The crumple might be good. Because I think the crumple is maybe padding him a little bit.

Sydnee: Like pound for pound, your bones are actually stronger than, like, stainless steel. So, like, your bones are really strong, but then there's also, like, density to consider. And the bones vary, and it depends on how you impact.

But one way or another, you're getting some broken bones, you're getting some serious contusions from this, you have to start worrying about, like, the condition of internal organs. Like, what— Did your spleen hit with enough impact to lacerate it?

Justin: Right, yeah. Could be going on... [crosstalk]

Sydnee: Are you gonna have some internal bleeding as a result of this? You don't walk away from something like this.

Justin: Period.

Sydnee: You don't just walk away.

Justin: Period the end.

Sydnee: The next part, so they make it to the three story house where Kevin's uncle's in Paris, so he's not there. It's under renovation. It is the wildest renovation, by the way.

Justin: Yeah, it is an absolute nightmare in terms of job site safety. They are all over the place.

Sydnee: They've just started in every room all at once.

Justin: Yeah, there's no system.

Sydnee: No, like they've torn out...

Justin: The demo you pointed out, the demo is happening pretty haphazardly, just people tearing big holes in walls and walking away from the job.

Sydnee: Yeah, and like that room just has a hole in the floor, that wall and

one exposed beam. And then this room has, like, the stairs are gone. Like you can't access the basement anymore.

Justin: Yeah. Are there any contractor podcasts? I'd love to hear their take on the job site.

Sydnee: Right? It feels, like, just the general way it's being gone— Like if I walked into it, I would be like, "Are we sure this is it? Are we sure? I don't know, not my area of expertise, but I feel like this is not how it works."

Justin: Yeah, we should start over.

Sydnee: So anyway, Kevin's up on the roof and he's throwing bricks. God, I feel like this is like the classic scene from Home Alone 2. I feel like it's the one you always think of. In Home Alone 1, for me, it's the paint cans.

Justin: Is it?

Sydnee: And in two, it's the bricks.

Justin: The bricks are what I, as a kid, I had the first instance of me passing out from laughing because I was laughing so hard. There's just nothing funnier than the fact that Daniel Stern gets hit with a brick and Joe Pesci keeps egging the child on and he keeps hucking bricks at Daniel Stern, who is turning in a stunner of a performance as a man who's been repeatedly hit by bricks.

Sydnee: There is something about the fact that the brick hits him on the forehead and he gets hit on the head by multiple bricks and he is knocked to the ground, certainly, and he does sort of the cartoony, you can imagine there are stars around his head kind of expression.

Justin: Yes. Yes, it's all very Looney Tunes-ish.

Sydnee: Exactly. But, like, there's something very disturbing to me about the fact that the only injury is the little L-shaped outline of the corner of the brick on his head and that's it.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Somehow that looks worse. Somehow I look at that...

Justin: It's like, you're worried all the bleeding is happening inside of him. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] It's like, that's worse than if it was just a big hole or something. I don't know, there's something about it that's, like, so sinister. So I, okay, physics was my weakest point of the big three sciences they make you take lots of to go to med school.

I'm not saying they're the most important. I'm just saying that to go to med school, you got to take a lot of biology, a lot of chemistry, a lot of physics. Physics was my weakest. So I had to do a lot of... researching to get the right calculations to try to figure out the force of this brick hitting this guy's head.

Justin: The effect of brick vis-à-vis skulls.

Sydnee: Yeah, like pounds of force and what would that do to a human skull? So if we estimate that it was about 30 feet, you told me that it was about 30 feet.

Justin: I was just going by the number of stories in the house. Generally, 10 feet per story is my calculation.

Sydnee: I have no spatial reasoning.

Justin: Rough back of the napkin math.

Sydnee: Yeah, I have no spatial reasoning, so this is not... I don't know. You could have said 100, you could have said five. [laughs] Five, I would have known was wrong. I would have known five was wrong. I'm taller than that.

Justin: That's good, because people couldn't get in there.

Sydnee: I'm taller than that. Okay.

Justin: Yeah. You know, you've noticed that you don't crouch all the time

forever.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: So you're thinking it's bigger than, like, 5'6".

Sydnee: [laughing] It's bigger than five feet.

Justin: And you have jumped. So that's gotta get us to 5'8", 5'9"?

Sydnee: I don't know how high I go when I jump.

Justin: And your dad exists.

Sydnee: [laughing] And my dad exists.

Justin: So he's like, that's six feet at least.

Sydnee: And he's 6'4".

Justin: 6'4".

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: Okay, so 6'4" is the one you could say for sure.

Sydnee: There are taller people in the basketball industry.

Justin: Babe, I gotta tell you, spatial reasoning is not hard. It's just doing this a thousand times until it's just like, just instinct. Could my dad fit in this room? Yes. That's spatial reasoning.

Sydnee: I can't. When I look at distance, when I look at height, when I try to estimate size of any kind, I don't know.

Justin: You just gotta be able to visualize your dad. That's what everybody's doing, pretty much.

Sydnee: Visualize your dad.

Justin: Yeah, visualize your dad.

Sydnee: I wanna meet that dad.

Justin: Yeah, just visualize your dad. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] Okay, so the brick I looked up, bricks are like between four and five pounds I don't know depending on the kind of brick and size of brick.

Justin: Good bricks, bad bricks.

Sydnee: Now, and we're assuming that it's, like, falling at the speed of gravity, right? Like he dropped it now, okay. I started with this...

Justin: 'Cause if he putted more mustard on it... [crosstalk]

Sydnee: It's different, then it's falling faster. So it's like about 54 pounds of force, 240 Newtons if you like that kind of thing. But I say 54 pounds because I know that in order to crush a human skull...

And by the way, a lot, a lot, I can't emphasize a lot enough of people have Googled or asked on various answer forums, ask and answer forums, how much, how many pounds of force does it take to crush a human skull? This is a common question and I am concerned. Although I also was trying to figure that out.

Justin: Yeah, you're adding to the pile and you had pure intentions.

Sydnee: I know, I'm part of it too, but there are a lot of us out there going, "How much weight would it take to, could I do it with my hands?"

Justin: [laughs]

Sydnee: That's a common one.

Justin: So just know...

Sydnee: Could a human crush a skull with their bare hands? That is a

commonly Googled question.

Justin: So you're not alone. Sydnee's there with you too, friends, in this curiosity of yours, this dark curiosity.

Sydnee: And the answers vary wildly. Like I saw some journal, like, actual medical journals citing like... 520 pounds of force is what it takes to break a human skull.

And then I saw other people who were like, scientifically calculating like with strength and density and all this stuff of the bone and say no it's like 1100 pounds of force. And then it depends on the angle and then the part of the skull, like we're talking about like your frontal bone right there in the forehead...

Justin: Sure, right.

Sydnee: Like right there in the front of the skull is what we're talking about in this instance. And that's like a really thick heavy-duty bone.

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: You know, different parts of the skull, it might be different. Anyway, the point is it These individual bricks are probably not exerting enough pounds of force to crush his skull.

Now, depending on the angle and how it hits, could they like, get a tiny crack or a, you know, chip in the bone and cause damage, concussions, knock him out, all that stuff, absolutely that's gonna happen. Absolutely there's gonna be damage. Absolutely he's just not standing up and walking away after an injury like that.

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: And certainly bleeding and all of that would be a concern. Absolutely, like an epidural hematoma, you know. Blood crushing the brain and then he could die. All of that, but it actually probably wouldn't just smash his skull.

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Sydnee: I will note though, that if you watch the movie carefully Kevin doesn't just drop all those bricks.

Justin: He's hucking. He's hucking.

Sydnee: He's throwing the bricks.

Justin: Well, he's got to aim them. He's not a you know, well, math genius.

Sydnee: I'm just saying so that throws off all the maths...

Justin: Calculate the parabola of the brick. Yeah.

Sydnee: That throws off all the maths. Not the mass. The mass is the same. But the maths are different.

Justin: We— Well, it's bad. We can all agree. Science has to be unified in that it's bad.

Sydnee: So we have determined that before they've even entered the House of Horrors, they are dead. Probably. Or at least, like, mortally wounded, need to be in a hospital immediately, will not be able to survive whatever's coming next. But they're gonna get in the house, and I'm gonna tell you what happens inside the house. After we go to the billing department.

Justin: Ah, let's go!

[theme music plays]

[ad break]

Sydnee: Okay, so somehow they are gonna make it in the house despite the fact that, like, really Harry at this point has broken multiple bones and suffering internal injuries and, I mean, I don't know how he's walking. Marv is, I mean, has some severe brain damage, more than likely.

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: And perhaps some bleeding as well. He is gonna try to open the door by pulling on the doorknob which is attached to a string which eventually attaches to a staple gun and he gets stapled in the butt through the door.

Justin: Yes. Classic.

Sydnee: Now you noted that probably wouldn't happen.

Justin: I just think— Those staple guns, I mean, if it had been a nail gun, maybe. I just— the staple guns lose force so fast. Like they don't have the force to like, embed in something across the room or something. And he's got a pretty thick coat on. I just don't see it. I think it would've— It might have stung for a second, but I don't think it would've...

Sydnee: See, and if it's hitting him in the— Now the way that they make it, they make it look like it's right in the middle of his butt.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: So like, have we possibly penetrated, like, the rectum? Like, is the anus involved?

Justin: Yeah, I mean, we gotta talk about—

Sydnee: Which is a bigger deal, of course.

Justin: We gotta talk about what's depicted on screen, cause again, I don't know, physics-wise.

Sydnee: If it's just going into the cheek, I mean, that's gonna hurt, but you're gonna be okay.

Justin: Just a kiss on the cheek?

Sydnee: Just the cheek, yeah. [laughs]

Justin: Just a kiss on the cheek, that's no problem at all.

Sydnee: Now, and then he turns around and of course it is then, it hits his—

Justin: It's clear that Marv's anus is ruined.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Justin: Is that what you're about to say verbatim?

Sydnee: [laughing] No! I was gonna say...

Justin: "It's clear that Kevin has destroyed Marv's anus."

Sydnee: [laughing] He gets a staple in the crotch area. I don't know, in the jumble. He gets a staple to the jumble as our kids used to say. They know the right words now. They use the right words.

Justin: All the time.

Sydnee: Yes. I taught them all the right words. I'm sorry. It's the right thing to do, by the way.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: This is a little PSA. It's actually good to teach your kids accurate anatomical term terminology.

Justin: Yeah, just get used to hearing a lot.

Sydnee: That's healthy. That's safe.

Justin: A lot, a lot, a lot.

Sydnee: I know. I know it's different than maybe what you were raised with. Uh, but he gets—

Justin: What, me? Yeah, it's a lot different than I was raised with— Here's what I was raised with: worm and nothing! [laughs] That's what I had, those

were my— That's what my— Worm and that which shall not be named, that's what I grew up with.

Sydnee: I don't know if that's better or worse than mine, which was front butt and back butt. [laughs]

Justin: Both bad, differently bad, both bad.

Sydnee: Um, anyway, so he also gets a staple to the scrotum, testicle, penis, something in that area gets a staple. Again, I mean, I guess if you're talking about like, puncturing the scrotum or like actually a staple into the testicle...

Justin: I'm not gonna talk about that.

Sydnee: But if there's not enough force there, cause his pants are probably gonna stop that, right?

Justin: Yes. I don't think they name it— No.

Sydnee: He does take one in the nose there.

Justin: Bad, so bad, death could happen just like it shows because he's very close.

Sydnee: But I don't know if it would, I mean, like it goes in so deep that you think like, did it actually penetrate into the sinus cavity?

Justin: Yeah, yeah.

Sydnee: And that would be— My worry would be infection with a lot of these.

Justin: It's just the proximity—

Sydnee: Like, not so much the immediate injury as like you're introducing something that is not sterile, something that is dirty. I mean, that staple is not clean. Who knows what bacteria is on it? And you have just penetrated like, the sinus cavity.

That's a big deal. So infection would be a big worry. Once they get inside, Harry falls off of a— Oh no, this is before he gets inside. He falls off, gosh, there's so many ladder related injuries. Before he gets inside, he jumps to try to reach the ladder that Kevin has put the slippery stuff on, and he grabs ahold of it and then immediately falls down.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: It's too high, again, of a fall to not sustain some kind of damage from that. I mean, like they fall and land on their back on very hard surfaces a lot and you can fall and land on your back and be okay. I'm not saying that, like, you can't walk away from that, especially like if your butt hits first and absorbs a lot of that, the energy of that fall.

Justin: Obviously you can walk away; they did. See? It's possible.

Sydnee: No, well, that's not, this is not the point of reference. But like, certainly you can, but if you're land— It depends on how you're landing, cause if you're landing right on your vertebra, you can easily sustain some fractures in your back.

Justin: But we, but see, this is what I'm saying. We have to go by what the film shows us, and as far as we know, [laughing] there were no vertebrates shattered.

Sydnee: Well, you don't see it. Sometimes you don't see like, when he hits the ground, you hear the thump and then you see him laying on the ground.

Justin: You do hear some cracks, some foley of cracks.

Sydnee: Oh, there's lots of cracks. Yeah, there's lots of, yeah. Um, Marv opens the front door and falls 10 feet through a hole face first. Again, like, he appears to land, like smash his face into the ground, which is unlikely.

Like when you're falling, your instinct is to put your hands out in front of you. So you're much more likely to break your wrists or sustain some sort of fractures in your arms.

That would be my bigger worry because it would be very unlikely that you would fall with your arms flat to your side and just like smash your face on the ground.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: You know? Like you have a protective instinct that'll stop that, but you definitely get some bruisings and abrasions. And at this point, somebody's gotta have broken something, especially a wrist fracture.

The tool bag that unzips and falls on Harry's head as he finally makes it into the house, I am assuming that the collective weight of all those tools would be a problem.

Again, not enough maybe to like, fracture, not to crush his skull, but to cause some damage, definitely a concussion, definitely, I mean like knocking him out would not be a shock. And the last one appears to fall after he has hit the ground. So then you gotta worry, did it fall on his face?

Justin: Mm.

Sydnee: And a facial fracture could definitely happen from any of these things. Like that's, it's a little easier to break the bones in the face than it is, especially some of the smaller bones than it is to break a skull bone. So, you know, I'd be really worried about that.

Marv falls in the basement next. And this is, so, okay. Kevin has covered the basement floor with slippery stuff. What is this stuff? I thought it was supposed to be sticky, but it's just slippery.

Justin: No, it's, uh...

Sydnee: It's like slime?

Justin: It's a green slime ooze that they— 'Cause they show it in the toy

store.

Sydnee: Ohh.

Justin: It's something he buys at the toy store, is that green... Or maybe he takes it after he keeps it from getting robbed.

Sydnee: That's right, that's right.

Justin: But it's like green, a green slime type product.

Sydnee: So these were, like, the early days of slime.

Justin: Yeah. Absolutely.

Sydnee: These were...

Justin: I don't know if it...

Sydnee: Was this pre-Gak?

Justin: I don't think it was a real product. Monster Sap, Monster Sap is what it is branded as. Um, it is made by the production team. It is not a real... not a real thing.

Sydnee: But it is now. Did they know that in the future all children love slime and all children make slime?

Justin: Oh, yeah. I'm sure you can buy a big jar of Monster Sap.

Sydnee: This is the one, by the way, coating surfaces with slime so that they're slippery. That is one thing that I do feel like Charlie and Cooper would be capable and maybe would even think, like, on their own to do were they in a situation where they needed to set traps for people.

Justin: Um...

Sydnee: I can see them making slime, I mean they know how to make slime on their own and I can see them coating surfaces in slime in self-defense.

Justin: Mm. Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, can't you see that?

Justin: Yeah. Absolutely.

Sydnee: I can see them doing that.

Justin: Yeah, to try it. They do some haphazard, like, attempts like, on the fly that never works out.

Sydnee: No, Charlie would want to come up with some of those fanciful things.

Justin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Sydnee: Cooper would just go straight for, like, the scissors.

Justin: She would just have scissors. Yeah. I was thinking scissors. It would be scissors.

Sydnee: It would be scissors. Well, yeah, she wouldn't think to get a knife. She's five but, like, she is allowed to use scissors under certain circumstances.

Justin: Who, Cooper?

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: Not currently.

Sydnee: With— Under certain circumstances with our supervision so that she doesn't cut her hair...

Together: ... again.

Justin: But in this instance, they are home alone. Cooper has absolutely got the scissors. Even before the robbing occurred, she already has got the scissors the moment we stepped out of the house, I assume.

Sydnee: She also knows about your secret axe and where it's hidden. We

need to-

Justin: Well, don't tell—

Sydnee: I didn't tell her. She told me.

Justin: Don't tell the internet.

Sydnee: Well, I didn't tell the internet.

Justin: They'll try to disarm me. What if they go there first?

Sydnee: Did you see what I just— I almost said it and then I didn't say it because I'm trying to keep your secret. But she knows where it's hidden.

Justin: I've probably said the location of my secret axe before on a podcast, but...

Sydnee: Yeah, we should— Well, I'm saying this right now. We're going to move it. We're going to move it because it just occurred to me our five-year-old knows where it is.

Justin: Do you think "I've probably said the location of my secret axe before on this podcast" was a direct quote from the Joe Rogan show? [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs] Yeah. We finally found the one thing you can cross reference our two shows with. Well, that and vaccine content of different nature.

Justin: A variety!

Sydnee: Of a variety of...

Justin: Cornucopia!

Sydnee: ... truths and mistruths and untruths and...

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: ... whatevers. Um... anyway. So Marv slips on the ooze, he slides across the floor, and an entire shelf of paint cans fall on him. Okay, so You estimated the paint cans probably weigh... a full paint can, about ten pounds.

Justin: Yeah

Sydnee: We looked it up between seven and twelve, so that was a good

guess.

Justin: Oh, thank you.

Sydnee: It was a good guess. And I say that they're full because we see later that he's covered in paint and there's paint all over the floor. So they must have, at least some of them had to have been full of paint.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: There was a lot of paint in these cans.

Justin: I gotta say, for also for a renovation job, they did not buy these size cans. There is no way that they bought these tiny, super expensive one gallon cans. These guys are absolutely the worst contractors in the business.

Sydnee: They were also like, there were some cans of white paint, which certainly like, white paint. But the other colors were like all primary, like bright yellow, bright blue, bright green. I mean, like...

Justin: It's important to note, this place barely has walls.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: And it doesn't have floors. And they're like, "Listen, this job site's a mess. We gotta get all the paint in here, stat! We got a good four months before there's even walls in this place."

Sydnee: We're gonna put it in the basement, which has no access currently. We cannot get into the basement at this time.

Justin: How did they get it down there? [laughs]

Sydnee: They just chucked it down there.

Justin: "I've worked on a complicated lever and pulley system."

Sydnee: So...

Justin: "It's really important! It's really cheap right now!"

Sydnee: The shelf with all the cans of paint fall on him and cover him in paint. He is absolutely drenched in paint and the paint cans hit him. And what I would really worry about is like, you know, you have a rib cage that can sustain a good amount of force.

That's why it's there, right? Like it creates a cage around your heart and lungs because those are important and we, your body is... your body protects them. But there is a limit to how much— Like, ribs can certainly break, we know that.

And my worry would be the crushing force that hits his chest and abdominal cavity, his abdomen, everything within his trunk would possibly fracture some ribs, create some crush injuries there, like when you damage tissue enough that you start to get a lot of swelling and you start to, like, kill nerves and close off blood vessels. You could rupture a spleen very easily, which could cause you to bleed to death.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, I'm really worried that like, we're dealing with some punctured lungs and some damaged viscera...

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: ... like organs, from all of the weight of these paint cans hitting him in that midsection. I mean, and they do hit his face too. So like there again, like, we've got his cheekbones are probably fractured, maybe some clavicle fractures, his nose is already broken.

It's gonna get broken so many times. But something else where he's not gonna stand up and walk away. He does stand up and walk away, where he walks over to the sink, which has been rigged to... what is the device? Because I thought it was, I mean, it looked like jumper cables hooked up to a battery.

Justin: It's an arc welder. It's an arc welder.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: Yeah. And it's not even like, he's using the arc welder. I think from what I was able to discern, it looks like he is back-feeding the charge from the arc welder into, he's like, rerouted the electricity from the arc welder into the sink, like, the washing machine sink.

Sydnee: And it looks like two jumper cables, which one is clamped on each knob. And so when he reaches and turns both knobs at the same time, which is key, right?

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: Because he's completed the circuit...

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: ... and he is shocked. He is not electrocuted.

Justin: Right. Oh, explain the difference, if you don't mind.

Sydnee: Uh, if he was electrocuted, he would be dead. He was shocked because he does survive. He is momentarily a skeleton.

Justin: That is probably the most challenging part of the movie. I think that is where we say goodbye to literalism, which a lot of the movie trucks in. It's a heightened literalism, but it is basically literal what you're seeing, right?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: And it's weird, because in this movie, there's just one part...

Sydnee: Where he turns into a skeleton.

Justin: ... in the whole movie, where the man becomes a skeleton.

Sydnee: And then he turns back into Marv, except it's like the... when you get shocked on TV, your hair goes straight up and maybe you get like scorch marks all over your body.

Justin: My theory is that part was really annoying to shoot and that's why they left it in. They're like, we don't want that work to be for nothing because it doesn't, it's wildly out of context.

Sydnee: I mean, it doesn't kill him. Certainly he was at high risk for that voltage passing through his heart, which I mean, basically at that point, what you're saying is you're gonna throw off the electrical conductivity in your heart and your heart can stop and you die.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: That's what you're concerned about happening when you get shocked or electrocuted if you actually die of it. And that, I mean, definitely that could have happened. It's possible that you survived that.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: It's possible.

Justin: Maybe.

Sydnee: Maybe. But especially with both hands at the same time, it's highly

likely that his heart would stop.

Justin: Which hand should he have used?

Sydnee: Uh, his right hand.

Justin: Oh, okay.

Sydnee: If you're gonna— Now, I mean, neither is the best answer. Don't

get shocked, please, if you can avoid it. But if you're gonna get shocked, it's better if you get shocked with your right hand because the conductivity is actually slightly less likely to hit your heart than it is from your left just positioning from your left hand. Definitely either way you could stop your heart and die.

Justin: Yeah, but...

Sydnee: But there you go. I don't know—

Justin: If you have to touch...

Sydnee: Either way, be careful around electricity. Where's that lightning

bug?

Justin: [singing] "Got to play it safe around electricity, got to play it safe..."

Sydnee: There you go, there you go! Okay, Harry gets his head set on fire soon after this, similar...

Justin: Hey wait, just to make... just to be real clear. Don't touch anything electrical. That's our official stance as a podcast. We know we just said there's a safer and a less safe way, but the more I think about it, I'm just gonna just concretely say don't touch electricity.

Sydnee: Yeah, no, don't.

Justin: I don't wanna leave any wiggle room here.

Sydnee: I don't wanna... Don't touch anything— Return to the days of kerosene lamps. No, don't mess with electricity. I don't know anything about electricity, so you know what, I don't mess with it. If the light switch isn't working, I don't try to figure it out. I call someone who knows how.

Justin: Me.

Sydnee: [skeptical] Mm...

Justin: I fixed— I can fix—

Sydnee: You can do some things. You can do some things, that's true. I am not ever gonna advocate for people who are not professionals.

Justin: I've never had the whole of my being just summarily dismissed as in, "You can do some things."

Sydnee: No, I mean, I'm not gonna encourage people who are, like, amateur electricians to go for it.

Justin: I don't know any in this room except for you. And then there's just me here.

Sydnee: You're not a professional electrician. You have no certification. You've never taken any classes or tests.

Justin: Uh, Sydnee... Uh, Sydnee, I put in a dimmer switch. Still here to tell you that. I put in a few hue bulbs.

Sydnee: Please don't take any electrical advice from Justin. This podcast dispenses no medical advice and no electrical advice.

Justin: I was just thinking about swapping out some of these candle lights here down here. Funny you mentioned that.

Sydnee: You gotta play it safe around electricity.

Justin: I have a different special electricity that most people don't even have in their house called 220. That's how into it I am. I have the special bad electricity that I probably shouldn't have.

Sydnee: I read that Joe Pesci actually did like burn his scalp a little bit in the scene where his head gets set on fire this time. Cause his head gets set on fire in both Home Alone movies.

Justin: Yeah. It's a classic gag.

Sydnee: Yeah, but like his head's on fire and the only place to put it out is the toilet and Kevin has filled the toilet with kerosene.

Justin: That's my favorite lyric in Ironic. [laughs] [singing] The head's on fire, but the only thing around is a toilet.

Sydnee: So he sticks his head in it and there's an explosion. I mean, he would have some really serious burns. I don't think I need to make that... I mean, like his head's on fire, like the top of his head's on fire...

Justin: His head's on fire.

Sydnee: His hat has burned, his scalp at that point has burned. I mean, he has some serious deep head wounds and then his head exploded after that. Which just kind of makes him look like a chimney sweep from Mary Poppins.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: Like that's again very cartoonish.

Justin: A great look, we can all agree.

Sydnee: But he would definitely, aside from, like, the injuries to the skin and the flesh wounds that he would sustain, like a concussive injury from the explosion, he'd be knocked out.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Like for sure. From all of this. And then meanwhile, Marv is down in the basement, he accidentally pulls a hundred pound bag of something, I don't know what it is, but it definitely has a hundred pounds written on it. So, you know, a hundred pound bag falls on him while he is looking directly up at it. So his neck is fully extended back.

Justin: Unbelievable.

Sydnee: I think that would hit with so much force that it would, I mean, definitely break his neck. I was wondering if it could decapitate you with that force. Probably not.

It would probably just knock you backwards. Like completely backwards, break your neck, knock you backwards, you're gone. But this is a, you know,

comedy podcast. So like I wanted to theorize, could it decapitate you? Probably not.

Justin: A hundred pounds is so many pounds by the way.

Sydnee: I know. I know.

Justin: That's a lot of pounds.

Sydnee: Harry falls, he's on a ladder and he falls forward. He might break some fingers, but probably not a big deal. They re-enact the paint can, except now Harry and Marv have learned, they're on the stairs, he's gonna swing paint cans down in our face, we're gonna avoid them.

But then after they miss the first two and they think they're free and clear, he swings like a giant iron pipe. which smashes them in the face. I mean, I'm talking like, face fully smashed is what should have happened.

Justin: They take it dead on.

Sydnee: I mean, they just, they take it and they fly back and fall through a hole 10 feet to the basement below.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: I mean, their faces are shattered. The pipe then falls on them and completely crushes their chest. So like, they are crushed and smashed and...

Justin: They're dead...

Sydnee: I mean, yes, at this point. But they do not appear to sustain any injuries whatsoever. Right after that, Kevin lets a giant tool chest, like on wheels, like a, how many feet tall is it? Four? Five? Six? Six feet tall, tool chest, rolls down an entire flight of stairs, smashes through a door, and smashes Marv and Harry against a wall.

Justin: Yes, and breaks their noses.

Sydnee: It does break their noses. The door would redistribute the force a

little bit across their entire bodies, which would help from like, targeted, but like they definitely would, again, some crush injury from that.

'Cause you gotta think about injury to the tissue too. It's not just broken bones. Like you can't just smash a hand or a foot or an arm or a leg or whatever, and not sustain damage to the tissues, the blood vessels, the nerves inside. Like, other injuries are happening.

Compartment syndrome could develop where you get so much swelling and inflammation inside that space that it begins crushing all of the structures inside and you can lose blood flow to an extremity. You can lose the extremity.

Justin: We got to get these guys to the hospital and then the prison.

Sydnee: Yeah, I mean you got to think about that too. So um the final injury within the house is when Kevin has scaled down the side on a rope they try to follow him. He sets the rope on fire... [laughs] And they fall ,like, almost the 30— almost the full 30 feet...

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: ... down to the pavement below.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: Actually, maybe even further because they fall through, like...

Justin: I think about 30 because they were on the, if we have to assume, if we're using the number 30 as the height of the brick fall, then the height of the other fall can't be higher than that.

Sydnee: It almost looks like they fall under the sidewalk though. Like they fall down to the...

Justin: Like some sort of...

Sydnee: ... basement, like to the—

Justin: Maybe, yeah.

Sydnee: I don't know, either way, the point is, they land on their backs, and they definitely would have multiple broken bones from this. None, they don't have any. Also, all of the cans of varnish then fall on them, and they are just absolutely covered in varnish. They're inhaling fumes from the varnish.

Justin: That's so bad.

Sydnee: I mean, they could get...

Justin: It looks like they get some in their mouth, which like...

Sydnee: They've ingested the varnish.

Justin: This scene actually made me catch my breath. As somebody who's like, spent a lot of time avoiding huffing varnish or getting anywhere, like, to see these people just like coated in it, it's really rough.

Sydnee: They've had a toxic exposure at this point.

Justin: 100%.

Sydnee: So, aside from the fact that they should have broken their backs.

Justin: What they need is milk.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Justin: They need to get some milk to neutralize.

Sydnee: Well, they need to — Mm. They need to call poison control and get to the hospital. They also may have developed, like, fluid in their lungs, pulmonary edema from inhaling that amount of varnish...

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: ... let alone, like, it gets in their mouth, it's absorbed through their mucus membranes, and I don't know how long you can be covered in

varnish, how much of that you absorb slowly through your skin before you start to become poisoned by all the substances in the varnish.

They're still able to chase him to the park. Where he enlists the help of the pigeon lady who covers them in birdseed and then calls upon her pigeons to eat them to death?

Justin: No, well, I mean I think they just sort of like, they just sort of like hassle them, you know what I mean?

Sydnee: They peck all over them and I guess at that point we've done it—We did a whole—Was it just one episode on birds? Or we did like, a three-part series.

Justin: Yeah, birds are no joke.

Sydnee: On bird illnesses.

Justin: We don't mess around birds in this house.

Sydnee: So aside from like we all saw the movie Birds and I... Yeah, I think birds can peck you to death, like, enough of them, like, pulling at your flesh and your eyes and your lips and all your, I mean like, yikes, yikes.

But aside from that, avian flu, psittacosis, cryptococcus, histoplasmosis, salmonella, chlamydiosis, avian tuberculosis, the list goes on and on of the bird related, the avian illnesses that the Sticky Bandits are taking with them to prison as they are carted off.

Justin: What did you? I call Brenda Fricker, her character?

Sydnee: The pigeon lady?

Justin: Ah, well, yes. That is 100% what her character is named.

Sydnee: I thought that's what she was named.

Justin: Tim Curry as concierge. Brenda Fricker as pigeon lady. Dana Ivy as desk clerk. Rob Schneider as bellman. There's almost no one, there's almost

no named officer.

Sydnee: Named—

Justin: The guy, the cop that she talks to in Times Square, Cop in Times Square. That's how unimportant these other human beings are. It's like, don't even look at them. They're just big bags of flour. Come look at this kid kill these men.

Sydnee: You know what, though? That's kind of seen from the perspective of a child. Like, we have a child alone who is like our... That is our vehicle for the plot of the story. And so we're seeing the world through this child's eyes. And through a child's eyes, people are sort of like put into con— Like, that's how we understand the world...

Justin: Through a child's eyes, people are really just dummies.

Sydnee: ... concrete heuristics of, like, policeman. robber, pigeon lady.

Justin: Two murder victims that I will claim because they tried to rob a toy store. So I'll kill them forever to death.

Sydnee: I'm just saying that's a very concrete stream of logic that a child would have...

Justin: This is not a child.

Sydnee: ... and it makes internal sense in the film again.

Justin: This is not a child, he's a catastrophe.

Sydnee: I mean, he lures them to the house and, were the usual medical laws to apply...

Justin: Jigsaws them.

Sydnee: ... they would die. But they don't they, survived to be jailed and I assume— Did they return in the other films? I know that Macaulay Culkin does not.

Justin: Okay, so the films that are in continuity are one two four and six. Four is Kevin McAllister and Marv is in it with his wife, but they're all different actors. French Stewart plays Marv in four. Six is more like brief cameo from Buzz that ties the universes together.

Sydnee: Okay. But we never see the Sticky Bandits just break out of jail and go at it again.

Justin: They actually have— The best thing in the sixth one, which was on Disney+ in like 2021, is they have Buzz in there as a cop. And they establish in there that every Christmas Eve, to rag on Buzz, people make false reports to the police about kids being left home alone because this story is so well known. So when this kid is actually left home alone, they write it off as a prank because people do this to Buzz every Christmas Eve. That's funny.

Sydnee: That is funny.

Justin: It's good.

Sydnee: It is good storytelling. It is weird that story was that widely well known that like twice this family abandoned this one child at different times.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: And there, I guess there was no concern.

Justin: If I'm the family second time around, I'm begging everybody to keep it crispy. I'm gonna be nice to that concierge. Like, listen, it's just between you and me, right?

We all made some mistakes here. You let a kid check into a hotel and then try to chase him. And then you thought you came into the... hotel room while I was showering naked, but it was really just my kid pretending to be my brother showering naked.

Sydnee: Well, and also like they lost their kid in the airport, and the reason they didn't know where their kid was is because they sat in first class and left their kids to wander around back in coach.

Justin: [laughs] Twice!

Sydnee: And so I think that there's, I'm just gonna be completely honest, there's a little bit of Karen energy coming out with their confrontation with Tim Curry there. Like, come on, come on guys, this is on you. You lost your child.

Justin: Do you know in the fourth movie that the parents have split up and he's defending the house of his dad and his soon to be new wife?

Sydnee: No.

Justin: True. It's true.

Sydnee: No, that's so— What?

Justin: That's true.

Sydnee: Why? Okay.

Justin: Thank you so much for listening. We hope you've had a happy holiday season or happy having one, if that's your thing. If you wanna watch Candlenights, that is our virtual video, fundraising spectacular. You can still watch the VOD until January 1st.

It's five bucks and if you pledge more, all that money is going to Harmony House. All of it, I mean, more or all the money we raise is going to Harmony House, which is a shelter for people experiencing homelessness in our area. The city is very involved with it. It's a great cause. I think you'll agree.

Sydnee: It's a wonderful organization. We're the hub for anybody experiencing homelessness or in need of that sort of assistance, housing assistance, we provide obviously like a shelter, a warming space, clothing.

I provide medical care, we provide food, we provide hygiene items, a place to take a shower, and then the services to hopefully get people housed and back on their feet, and your donations really help us do that.

Justin: Bit.ly/Candlenights2023 is the address. Also 10% of all merch sales

this month go to Harmony House as well. So if you go to mcelroymerch.com, get some of our new stuff, or some of our old stuff, all the stuff, then you're gonna help raise money for Harmony House as well.

Thanks to the Taxpayers for use of their song, Medicines, as the intro and outro of our program, and thanks to you for listening. That's gonna do it for us. Until next time, my name is Justin McElroy.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Justin: And as always, don't drill a hole in your head.

[theme music plays]

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