

MBMBaM 695: Snuffling for Gubbins

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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 [clap] My Brother, [clap] My Brother and [clap] Me, an advice show for the modren era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin McElroy. And that triple clap was to prove that the era of the clapper is no more. Funeral for a friend, episode 638. Goodbye to the clapper.

Travis: 694. 695?

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Griffin, do you wanna go—

Griffin: 634—637.

Travis: Griffin, do you wanna go—

Justin: 630-12.

Griffin: Justin, beat the clap.

Travis: Griffin, do you wanna—

Griffin: Yeah, that's right. I'm Griffin McElroy. I'll say greetings to Trav Nation. But this is just a—

Travis: You could intro me like a herald?

Griffin: Okay, sorry. Let me take that again.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: I'm your sweet baby brother, Griffin McElroy. And introducing—

Travis: Present. Sorry, presenting.

Griffin: [improvises silly intro tune]

Justin: It's not an introduction. They know him.

Travis: Yeah, they know me. So could you do like presenting?

Justin: That's what you do with like, "And introducing Haley Joel Steinfeld."

Griffin: Sure, sure, sure.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay, let me try one more time. And I'm your sweet baby brother, Griffin McElroy. [spoofs "Sandstorm" by Darude]

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: [sings] 'Darude Sandstorm.' This is not introducing you, this is like playing your music so you can run out on the court through a big picture of yourself.

Travis: Okay, yeah. Okay, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: So me and Justin are gonna hold up a big picture of you.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: You're back in the locker room, but you're fuckin' ready to rip.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: And introducing... Travis McElroy! [spoofs "Sandstorm" by Darude]

Travis: Hey! Wuddup, Trav Nation! It's me! Woof-woof! Big dog, Travis McElroy! It's winter in Trav Nation.

Griffin: More like Darude Snowstorm. [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] What?

Griffin: Because it snowed a lot. It snowed a lot this week. In a lot of places in the country.

Travis: What does that have to do with Jason Derulo?

Justin: Yeah, why is it Jason Derulo centric? Is this a Cats riff? I don't understand.

Travis: You said Derulo Snowstorm?

Griffin: Darude.

Travis: Oh.

Griffin: Darude. Darude made the song Sandstorm.

Travis: You're being Darude. [chuckles]

Griffin: Hold on, have you guys... you guys know about Darude?

Justin: [chuckles] Okay, Griffin. So your gag there was predicated that Travis and I would know the name of the song?

Griffin: Oh, you guys are—

Justin: Or artist?

Griffin: You guys are so in the wrong.

Travis: You were singing behind your hands. [chuckles]

Griffin: You guys are so in the wrong right now. You guys are—

Justin: Because we couldn't name that mouth fart?

Griffin: Me and every other one of our listeners is over here on this side of the yard and we're fucking partying and we're saying like, "Is this your favorite Darude song?" You two are on the corner like, "Meh, I don't know who Darude is and nobody does either." [mouths silly tune]

Justin: It's called Darude? [chuckles]

Griffin: Darude is the artist. The song is called Sandstorm.

Travis: Okay, so rusted da-root did sandstorm? Is that what you're saying?

Griffin: Rusted Darude did Sand me on My Way, is what they did.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [mouths silly tune]

Justin: Now...

Griffin: Where's that mashup?

Justin: So quest love...

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: Da-roots, right?

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Got it.

Griffin: Yes, there's something there.

Justin: There's something there.

Griffin: Yes, yes.

Justin: Listen, I want to tell you guys about this wild thing that my kids' school did. And a lot of the schools in the Tri-State region are doing this. And it is something that the local news station, WSAZ—we've talked about all its anchors. Specifically 'No Fear' Tim Irr, the newsman who says he has no fears, in an interview I read one time. 'No Fear' Tim Irr, friend of the show.

Griffin: Yes. Who got hit by a car. In a fun way.

Justin: [chuckles] That was our dad. That was our dad.

Griffin: Oh, there was also a woman who it happened to—

Justin: The woman got hit by a car—our dad did get hit by a car. Anyway—

Travis: Not recently, folks. Don't worry.

Griffin: He's fine.

Justin: So my kid gets in the car and she's like, "Hey, dad, this Friday we're doing—it's fired up Friday." I'm like, "It's fired up—sorry, what? It's fired up Friday?" I'm like, "Oh, cool." And she said, "It's cool, you just—we have to be at school at 5:30AM and every—"

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: No...

Justin: And she's nine, right? But she's pretty with it. And I was like, "Honey, I think you might have misunderstood whatever they were trying to tell you, sweetheart. That's not a time."

Griffin: That's not a time.

Justin: [chuckles] That's not a time.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: No, no, the world doesn't exist yet.

Justin: That's not a time. They actually canceled that after I stopped delivering papers.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: They got rid of 5:30AM. It doesn't exist anymore.

Griffin: That's right. It starts at 6:30.

Justin: No, no, we need to be at the school at 5:30. And I was like, "At... there? Like, it exists too at this time, this 5:30." That means that—

Travis: Unless the rest of that sentence is, "Because they have a bigger, more comfortable bed there."

Griffin: Yeah, that I'm gonna get my last—

Travis: That they then will transfer us to.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: So, yeah, and then that means that by my—by the transitive property, that means we have... we would have to get up at 4:30 in the morning. This is the plan. This is the school-wide plan, right? And the school is trying to get people on board with fired up Friday. They're giving out

community service hours and you can... you can earn homework credits so you don't have to do homework.

Travis: Wait, to what end, Justin?

Justin: Fuck!

Travis: Sorry, what's happening at 5:30? Is it just get there to see if they show up?

Justin: So here's what happens at 5:30 in the morning. At 6 in the news broadcast, that happens at 6 in the morning, which apparently they are also doing.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Without any consultation with me. The kids do like a skit and then they scream to show that they love sports.

Travis: Oh, wow.

Justin: And the coach usually does a skit, where one time I saw the coach pretended to be asleep and then everybody screamed so loud about basketball he woke up and got fired up I guess?

Griffin: That's good shit.

Justin: And in the—so there's like skat—there's sketches and skits and it's something for the news to cut to, it's 6 in the morning. And all the schools in the area are trying to get these frickin' kids as they can to just pack this place at 5:30 in the fucking morning.

Travis: Justin, I'm trying to follow this narrative.

Justin: It's tough, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: There's a dissonance.

Travis: Because here's what confuses me, Justin...

Justin: Mm-hm?

Travis: If this happens at six o'clock, the amount of time you've described that this takes in my mind is like, starts at 6, done by 6:30. School starts at like 7:30 or 8? What do they do with the kids for the next hour and a half?

Justin: So here's there—

Griffin: They'll just keep screaming.

Justin: Here's the plan; it's a party, they said. See, it's a part that goes 'til school starts. And it's also—

Griffin: Party don't stop 'til school starts.

Justin: Yes, exactly.

Griffin: The worst party.

Justin: The worst party. [chuckles] They got 'em all fired up on Tudor's Biscuits.

Travis: No, that doesn't fire you up?!

Griffin: No, Tudor's Biscuits is a—

Travis: No!

Justin: [chuckles] Get 'em all fired up on—

Griffin: Is a sedative.

Justin: Tudor's Biscuit World, which is like coming home, as the slogan says. So they get—

Travis: Is also like dumping a bucket of sand on a fire that is the energy for your day!

Justin: Yeah, but here's the thing, man, so they get these kids, my kid, my youngest kid, and they're asking all these kids—these kids five years old. And she's up at—

Travis: And already pretty cynical. I don't think Cooper gets fired up about things. [chuckles]

Justin: She, at 4:30 in the morning, these frickin' kids—so we get the kids at school 5:30. They scream for the news about how they love basketball. And then they're like, "Okay, we got a little time to kill. Let's get these kids a real fuckin' trucker breakfast." [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah.

Justin: "Let's just slather these frickin' kids up. And now it's time for a day of learning! Come on, let's do it!" But guess who the real victim in all of this is?

Griffin: Probably you?

Justin: It's me! It's me. It's me. Because I didn't get fired up about nothing.

Travis: No.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I gotta wake up with my kids and shovel three pocket coffees in my mouth and then drive 'em to school. And then just wonder—

Griffin: You didn't get to scream for the news.

Justin: I didn't get to scream for the news! I didn't get any Tudor's!

Griffin: Bullshit.

Travis: I also—

Justin: I didn't get homework credit! [chuckles]

Travis: At this point, Justin—

Justin: Nothing!

Travis: I know your children pretty well. I've spent a lot of time with them over the years. I would be amazed if, between the two of them combined, they give half a shit about basketball.

Justin: No!

Griffin: No.

Justin: No!

Griffin: But I will also—

Justin: They're getting fired up!

Griffin: I will say that I do know your daughters to get fired up sometimes and yell.

Justin: They do get fired up.

Griffin: They do get fired up.

Justin: And I think... I think it sucks that the only thing I got out of it was basically the closest you can get to a coked up five year old.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Just like, just absolutely—

Griffin: Just psyched out of her mind on sports and sausage.

Justin: And screaming at the camera for basketball.

Travis: On a related question to this, I know, all goofs aside, people are awake early for different jobs or whatnot. Who's ready for news at six o'clock in the morning?

Justin: Somebody must be, Trav.

Travis: But who's like—with everything in the world today, we don't need to get into it—

Justin: People have real jobs.

Travis: But who's like, "You know what's going to start my day off right at 6AM? Hearing about everything that's going on in the world right now."

Justin: What would you program at 6AM? What is your target demo at 6AM?

Griffin: That's practice news. That's when they do the practice news.

Justin: Yes, that's how—if it's your first day doing—okay, if you want to get started as a reporter—and we need more great reporters that are willing to work for basically nothing.

Griffin: No money.

Justin: Here's how you get started; just show up at the new station at about five o'clock.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Five o'clock, they'll let anybody do it. That's first at five. Do you know why they call it first at five? Because it's your first time doing the news.

Travis: And first come, first serve, you know what I mean?

Justin: First come, first serve. Whoever gets there first gets to pick if they want to be the anchor or the reporter.

Travis: Yeah. Or the camera person.

Justin: And then they do the news. They don't have camera, it's all AI. That's all AI. [chuckles] That's all AI.

Travis: Oh, wow, really?

Justin: Yeah, that's all AI.

Griffin: Now hold on, if they have AI, could they not just generate, via AI, a clip of many children screaming? And not have to wake up the entire city it sounds like in order to get this B-roll.

Travis: Yeah, get wadda in here, come on!

Justin: Yes, yes. And yes, that is true. And if no one shows up to do the news, like they've got bad weather, they could just still have you know, fuckin' BonziBuddy do it. [chuckles] Just get AI BonziBuddy.

Griffin: It's all a strat. It's all a strat to go viral. You can't ignore this news TV that is on if you hear children screaming coming out of it. We are all sort of biologically attuned to hear that noise and go, "What the fuck?"

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: But with AI—and I'm not a supporter of AI in the creative fields, except they could—

Travis: Not the technology or the Haley Joel Osment movie. I didn't care for—I don't like either one of those.

Justin: That has grown on me. That has grown on me with—

Travis: Really?! It freaked me out.

Griffin: Yeah, it's worth a rewatch, Trav.

Justin: It's worth a rewatch.

Travis: Okay, okay.

Griffin: It's worth a rewatch.

Travis: I wasn't wild about the ending, but—

Griffin: I know, but it's a—there's important stuff that happens in it.

Travis: Ironically, I think you could use the technology via AI to make some changes to AI that would make me like it.

Griffin: Maybe. I'm just saying with artificial intelligence engines and algorithms, we could create a news clip of like 250,000 kids all screaming about local basketball. That's going to move some TV subscriptions.

Travis: You know what I would program at 6AM, Justin? You asked, and in the back of my head this process has been running. I would program another adult. Mirroring, they're in a kitchen, they're getting ready for the day too. And they just occasionally look at the camera and go, "I know, man. I know, right?"

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: That's not—Travis, that's not TV.

Travis: Hey, I'm proud of you for being—

Justin: That's not entertainment. That's not—that's nothing. You've basically described a—

Travis: You don't think that would be beneficial?

Justin: You described an adult mobile, is what you're saying. Just like something—

Griffin: No, Travis was talking—

Justin: No, that's Myth Busters.

Griffin: This is a loneliness aid.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That they put on the news sometimes when you're having a hard one. Like Friday—

Travis: And also, a little bit of affirmation too. Of just saying like, "Hey, yeah, sucks to be up this early, but we're gonna get shit done today."

Justin: Could they ask questions about my day? That doesn't happen in my life and I would love that.

Travis: Yeah, absolutely, they could!

Justin: That's cool.

Travis: Six AM, you need a friend.

Griffin: I don't even need that. I just need to see another moving human body.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Just to be—just to—that's like my seasonal affective disorder lamp, is just seeing a moving person and knowing that there's—it's not just me.

Travis: Adult. Okay, so what if—

Griffin: Adult friend.

Travis: Adult friend. And, hm, I don't like putting the word 'adult' in front of things because of the connotations of that.

Griffin: Grown friend.

Travis: Grown friend. Because when I used to get up for school for high school...

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: Mm-hm?

Travis: And I would watch every morning VH1.

Justin: Oh? That gets your day going. A little morning grind.

Travis: They would have pop-up video on there.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I would like a pop-up video of another human being getting ready for the day. But he just tells me a little secrets about the—little salacious secrets about it.

Griffin: I want to turn—I want to be able to turn that off. Maybe we put that—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't know if we should—

Justin: Yeah, I want an option where I never get Travis's channel. Even by accident.

Travis: Okay!

Griffin: No, I want the lonely—no, no, I want the loneliness aid. I want the grown friend. But I don't want the secrets. So this is a new role at a TV station now, is you have anchor, reporter, weather, sports, loneliness aid grown friend, who can be there for you. Then they'll slip them in there every, you know, 5 or 10 minutes. And then the screaming children. These are the six steps to running a successful TV news station.

Travis: I meant more like insights, where every so often a bubble will pop up and be like [spoofs pop up bubble sound] "This person dreamed of being a dancer but gave that up for the—" Just a little backstory.

Justin: Yeah, see, I don't need—I don't need that.

Griffin: I don't want that.

Travis: No? Okay.

Justin: I don't need that.

Griffin: I don't want that.

Justin: I don't need that. Against all odds, this is an advice show. And the way it works is you send us your questions at mbmbam@maximumfun.org and we turn them alchemy-like into wisdom. Here is our first question for this week. "So I've been stretching almost daily since last May and now I'm more flexible than the average Joe Schmo. In fact, my splits are getting impressive. I could brag to my friends, but that seems a bit gauche. How can I casually do the splits around people such that they acknowledge it, but don't stop everything to watch?" That's from Crotch to the Grindstone in New Paltz.

Travis: I think stretching every day—

Griffin: You gotta read the PS, it's incredibly important.

Justin: Oh? PS, "I'm talking about a front split. It isn't perfect, but maybe three inches off the ground at the highest point. I have five roommates and

a cat who has seen the splits already. I'm a college student who spends much of his time in an organic chemistry lab."

Griffin: I would have started with that.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: So sort of like... play the old rope-a-dope a little bit. Of like, "There's no fuckin' way this person does the splits." And then you hit me with a, "By the way, I can do the splits pretty good."

Justin: But they're not trying to impress you. They're trying to impress their friends and loved ones.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: I think someone who stretches every day is more impressive to me than someone who keeps up with flossing, frankly. At this age, at my age, at 40, I wish I had started stretching every day back at like 22.

Griffin: It's good.

Travis: It's too late now. So much of me is calcified.

Griffin: No it's not.

Justin: No, Griffin—

Griffin: It's good—I—it's good.

Justin: Griffin is very diligent on this. I will say, repeatedly, we've been mid conversation mid gift giving, mid funeral.

Travis: Recording.

Justin: And Griffin will be like, "I gotta roll it out. I gotta get my weird—my weird little bean and roll my body on it."

Griffin: It's a foam roller, not a bean. It's a foam roller. It's a foam roller. Foam rollers are rude. Are there any other things you guys want to show your asses on completely in this episode?

Travis: How do memes work, Griffin?

Justin: What is the foam roller for?

Griffin: What is the foam roller for?

Justin: What does it do? This is the only place I can talk to you about this stuff. Because you get so defensive when we're not recording. This is the only place you're vulnerable.

Travis: I've seen Justin ask, "What's the foam roller do?" And Griffin just immediately hangs up.

Griffin: Yeah, throw it at him. Oh, so you figured it out?

Justin: I have asked though before, haven't I, Travis?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I have asked. I never get an answer. I'm ready!

Travis: It's a very guarded, shadowy creature.

Justin: Very guarded.

Travis: Griffin doesn't reveal it.

Justin: We barely know Griffin. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, I mean, the way I upkeep my body, it doesn't have to be a part of our relationship.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: [laughs] See! This is what I'm talking about, Griffin!

Justin: See! This is—

Travis: I ask, "How are your kids?" And you're like, "They're here."

Griffin: No, no, no, I'll talk about my kids all day long. But you want to talk about how my upkeep, my maintenance—the foam roller, it just feels good to lean backwards on. You know how sometimes you lean back on a chair to get a good stretch? Imagine that but the chair moves with you and—

Justin: Do you lie on the floor?

Griffin: No, I mean, you lie on the foam roller, which is on the floor.

Justin: That's so vulnerable.

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: You're so valuable in that position.

Travis: You gotta close and lock the door, no—

Justin: If I come upon you in that position and I have ill intent, you're dead. You're dead. You're not coming back from that.

Griffin: Yeah, no, for sure.

Travis: I would say that's actually so vulnerable, if I came upon you in that position, if I did not have ill intent before—

Justin: You might develop it.

Travis: I would then develop ill intent of like, well, I gotta.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I gotta hurt him now. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, yeah. I'm a crab on his back when I'm doing it. But then I stand up, I'm an inch and a half taller. And I feel great about my day.

Justin: Okay. I want to say that I think you shouldn't force this. I think that you will know when it is time to do a split.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And it has to be organic, because otherwise you are showing off. But if you wait for the moment, the perfect moment—I could think of three times just in the past year where if I could have busted out like a devastating split, it would have absolutely seized the day, ended the conversation. I mean, it would have been monumental.

Travis: You work in a chemistry lab. There will come a day—

Justin: I don't. I am a podcaster.

Travis: There will come a day, question asker, where someone will—whoa! Right? A beaker of something goes flying.

Justin: A beaker of science, gel.

Griffin: Yeah, juice.

Travis: Yeah. You go into a full-blown Rockford Peaches, fuckin' league of their own split. You catch it. Boom!

Griffin: Great.

Travis: Everybody applauds. They take a picture. They put it on the front page of the paper.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then when people were like, "Whoa, that's amazing!" You say, "I didn't even know I could do that."

Justin: No.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: No. I don't like that.

Griffin: I drink a special potion I made—I drink a special science juice that I mixed up in the lab and it made me super-bendy and rubbery.

Justin: How much better would it be—

Travis: I'm Elastic Man now, the most powerful in the Justice League.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: How much more inspiration would it be if the person looks in the microscope and says, "Thank you. I practice them every day. But it's just for me."

Griffin: Oh, that's cool. "I didn't want you to see this. What I do—"

Travis: I can't—I'm so—

Justin: You were never supposed to see this side of me.

Griffin: The way I upkeep my body is a secret, yeah.

Travis: Ugh, I—yeah. No, please, don't applaud. This is just for me.

Justin: Isn't it nicer, question asker, isn't it nicer to have a little secret? Isn't it nicer to hear a conversation in the room where people are like, "Nobody's ever done the splits." And you're like, "[chuckles]" A little chuckle yourself, you know, because you know you do the splits.

Travis: Let's ask Griffin. Griffin, is it nice to have secrets?

Griffin: Yeah! It's amazing.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah?

Griffin: It's great.

Travis: I mean, I'm an open book.

Griffin: That's true. That's true.

Justin: Too open, sometimes you're trying to shed it. You're—

Travis: Too open, yeah. My spine is broke, my book can't close.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: It hurts so bad. [chuckles]

Griffin: I posit that most people can do splits. It's just a question of how long it takes you to assume the position. And if you can get up from it and go about your day.

Travis: And recovery time, I would say it would be the third aspect of that.

Griffin: The recovery time is also—I think I could do a split. I think it would take me about 20 minutes to get gown—

Justin: Well, guys, I think there's only one way for me to find this out. I gotta do a little bit of—I got a moving arm here. I'm gonna—

Griffin: Should we all do this splits real quick and see how...

Justin: [chuckles] Oh, no, no—

Travis: I mean, don't get me wrong, I've already had a vasectomy. But I

think I'll leave it there, as far as trauma to my testicles, thank you very much.

Griffin: Okay, Travis, you get to be the judge of the splits.

Travis: Perfect. You're gonna have to angle your cameras down or I'll just see your horrified faces.

Griffin: No, you don't get to see that part. That's a secret.

Justin: Yeah, we're not gonna show—

Travis: Ah, man.

Justin: It's gotta be honor system. It's gotta be honor system.

Griffin: Front slits or side splits?

Justin: I don't know the difference.

Travis: Well front splits is what they're talking about. I think side splits is harder. How far down can you get?

Justin: Front splits is like the foot goes in front of you and behind you, right? The other one is the John Claude Van Damme.

Griffin: [shudders] Ah!

Travis: Yeah, yeah, you're doing front and back.

Justin: Okay, I'm—

Griffin: Oh, fuck!

Travis: I don't wanna see any bended knees.

Justin: I'm going down.

Travis: We're not proposing here.

Griffin: No, I know.

Justin: [groans] Ah! No, okay—

Griffin: This is what I'm saying, it sucks so bad—

Justin: Oh my god!

Travis: How far off the ground would you say you are? I can't see your leg. If you had to measure in inches?

Justin: Like this! I'm like—I'm like—ah!

Travis: Oh, god? I think I heard some like tear from Justin?

Justin: I think it was probably about 10 inches off the ground. That was my—that was my estimate. I think I got to about 10 inches.

Griffin: I think I got to a foot. I'm like a foot.

Travis: A foot off the ground?

Griffin: A good foot. I'm a good foot. But give me 20 minutes!

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: And I'm down there, baby!

Travis: You're just letting gravity do its job? Okay, still waiting for Griffin to—

Justin: I sort of stalled—

Travis: Still waiting for Griffin to get back up!

Justin: There was—there was—here's what I will say; I could have gone deeper, but there was definitely a moment it was like a very clear like point of no return. Like you can split further than this, but you may never unsplit. [chuckles]

Travis: So there might be a moment, you know when, oh, like they talk about you know the strength of like, oh, a baby trapped under a car and you lift it. So there might be an emergency situation, Justin, where you're filled with adrenaline and you're able to do a split, right? But then that's maybe your next six weeks.

Justin: Yeah, exactly. Like you could do—it's like a great trick, I can only do it once kind of deal.

Travis: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: My grundle—

Justin: So just wait for the moment. Just wait for that perfect—

Griffin: My grundle—[chuckles] My grundle is—

Justin: My, I wanna do jokes, but—

Travis: Justin! Let Griffin update his grundle!

Griffin: My grundle is... in a crisis.

Travis: Like emotionally, physically?

Griffin: My grundle is in a crisis. I don't want to tell you that. Diana sent in a wikiHow—

Travis: [chuckles] See! This is what I'm talking about, Griffin! Own up!

Griffin: The Wizard—we're going to the wizard's house. And Diana is leading us there. Diana got us the invite. Thank you, Diana.

Travis: Is this wikHow how to sew up your taint? [chuckles]

Griffin: This is—

Travis: How to sew your taint back together.

Griffin: This is how to find treasure! Treasure is everywhere—

Justin: I literally feel like my body is a ship and they called an emergency in my crotch, and everyone had to go. Like my brain is on a skeleton crew right now with the amount of discomfort I'm experiencing down there. [chuckles]

Griffin: "Treasure is everywhere! You can find treasure in exotic locations; at the flea market in your town or even in your backyard. You never know when you might find a hidden gem, buried fortune or ancient relic." I'm gonna say that treasure is not at a flea market. You can find some pretty good pickups there. But you can't find treasure at a store. You know what I mean?

Travis: I've watched a lot of—

Justin: Okay, that's interesting.

Travis: I've watched a lot of Antiques Roadshow, Griffin, I think you can find treasure at a flea market in terms of like—

Griffin: You can buy treasure at a flea mark.

Travis: Okay, okay, I see what you're saying. Yes, good point, you cannot—

Justin: He's saying that if you can buy it at a store, it's not treasure.

Travis: Yeah, so—

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: You've bought treasure.

Griffin: I could cash out all of my savings and go buy a diamond or something. And that's not—

Justin: Trav, what is it that Richard E. Grant called it?

Travis: Ah, what was—

Justin: Snuffling out some gubbins?

Travis: Snuffling for gubbins, yes. Snuffling for gubbins.

Justin: Snuffling for gubbins. Snuffling for gubbins.

Griffin: What is snuffling for gubbins?

Justin: It's Rich E. Grant—

Travis: Richard E. Grant is a great actor and amazing Instagram realist.
[chuckles]

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: Who makes these incredible Instagram reels where it's just a closeup of his huge smile and he's like, "Ah." And it's like real close up. And there was one of him like walking through an outdoor like fleamarket thing and he's like, "Ah, just out here on a lovely Sunday, snuffling for gubbins."
[chuckles]

Griffin: I do like that a lot.

Travis: It's wonderful.

Griffin: Okay, "Get a metal detector to help you find metal objects. When you get to your destination, turn on your metal detector and adjust your settings," blah-blah-blah. "When your metal detector finds something, it'll light up or make a sound. Use a shovel or garden spade to dig where your detector finds treasure." Put that earlier. I'm already at the beach with my metal detector and no shovel like a ding-dong.

Travis: Gotta steal one from a child.

Griffin: Take a child's shovel. You never hear from Elon or Bezos, or other rich guys, and you're like, "How'd you get your start?" They're never like, "Well, I got this metal detector."

Travis: Uh-huh?

Griffin: "Went to the beach, dug up Captain Jack Sparrow's sacred chest. It had 100,000 million dollars in it." And that's sort of—

Justin: So you... you are not familiar with the work of professional treasure hunter, Gary Drayton, right? Because Gary Drayton, the hero of Curse of Oak Island, regularly—I have seen the man discover doubloons.

Travis: Yup.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I've seem him discover—

Griffin: He discovered da balloons?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Darudes! Da balloons!

Travis: He's like, "Darude! Look at these doubloons!"

Griffin: Da balloons of Darude.

Justin: He found a lot of—he calls 'em Bobby dazzlers—

Travis: This week on Legends of the Hidden Temple! Doubloons of Darude!

Griffin: [chuckles] Da bagoons of da-boode!

Justin: [chuckles] He found an old chunk of metal that may be a spike from an old, old ship. There's all kinds of stuff you can dig up.

Griffin: Okay, but he is not a famously wealthy man, Justin, as evidenced by the fact that I have already forgotten his name that you said fuckin' a minute ago. So—

Travis: Here's a little metal detector lifehack; if you discover it with a metal detectors—you're—so you can just walk around the beach and walk up to peoples' like bags and pockets and stuff, and swipe it up their bag and be like, "Beep, beep, beep, I found treasure." And someone's like, "That's my wallet." And you're like, "You lost it and I found it." And like, "I didn't lose it. It was in my backpack." And you're like, "Ah, but my metal detected it."

Griffin: I have never—I don't know that I've ever seen a TikTok of a person doing metal detecting or magnet fishing and they're like, "Oh, fuck yeah! A safe full of American money." It's always like, "Oh, fuck, a bomb." Or, "Ah, man, a corpse somehow. Shit." And then you have to wait for the cops to show up. And that's your whole day. And also, you have to interact with cops. So that's the opposite of treasure.

Travis: How come cops are always so mad about magnet fishing? You would think—

Griffin: They are all—

Travis: They're always so mad!

Griffin: Yeah. "What are you doing with this bomb? Why do you have this?" I probably shouldn't—is it okay to say that word on podcast?

Justin: Which one?

Travis: Are you afraid TSA is gonna shut us down? [chuckles]

Griffin: I don't know, or FCC—

Travis: "You can't take this podcast into an airport!" [chuckles]

Griffin: I guess that's true. I mean, I do call stuff 'da bomb' a lot.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Like Darudes. [chuckles]

Justin: Like Darude. [chuckles]

Griffin: Like Darude. Okay, "Investigate the strip of land between roads and sidewalks." That's I guess where people drop their stuff the most?

Justin: Like you get off a road—okay—[chuckles] they're saying there's a road, right? And then you see a sign—you get out of your car and then there's a sidewalk nearby. And you walk to that sidewalk. And along the way you're just like—[chuckles] golden coins just shuffling out of your pockets.

Travis: I can say from personal experience, there was a time where I was picking my kid up from school. And it was a very hectic, very stressful school pickup. And I left my keys sitting on top of the car and drove away from the school. And made it onto the highway on ramp, at which point my keys flew off of the top of my car.

Now luckily, it was remote start. So my car stayed on with my kids inside. I pulled over the shoulder, left my kid—left the car on, started looking around for my keys. And people honked at me so angrily. And I just kept yelling back, "Yes, I also don't want to be out here. Yeah, I also—do see how I'm bent as the waist looking at the ground? I also don't want to be here."

Justin: Hey, bud, just 'cause you're sorry to—just because you're sorry, doesn't mean you're not gonna get in trouble. Okay, I—

Travis: That's true.

Justin: You know, I've told that to my kids, I'm telling it to you. People are still gonna get mad at you. [chuckles] And I'm sorry.

Travis: Yeah. Never found those keys, by the way.

Justin: That's what helps you remember.

Travis: Got home and I was like, "I lost my keys." And my wife was like, "How'd you get home?" And I was like, "Well I started the car when the keys were on top."

Griffin: [chuckles] So did you get home, keys somewhere on the highway and then say, "Well, car, we've had a good run. But when I turn you off now, you're dead forever. I can never—"

Travis: We're out of extra lives, bud. This is it, game over. [chuckles]

Griffin: "I can never turn the car off." Just real quick, if the road is old, you may find items from previous centuries like an artillery uniform button from the war of 1812." That's pretty specific.

Justin: Very specific, yeah.

Griffin: "Search long old public parks or picnic playgrounds. Find some old—find an old, empty goldfish wrapper." I don't think so?

Travis: This says you have to sound like treasure.

Griffin: Okay, let's get into the good stuff. "Look around vacant lots where buildings used to be." Ah, don't—maybe—

Justin: What? No. That sounds so dangerous.

Griffin: Well, do that at your local library. Visit your local—this is—

Travis: And boring.

Griffin: This is good. "Visit your local library and ask the librarian for an old map of your area."

Justin: Okay, good.

Griffin: This is a great starting point for any treasure hunter. Your local librarian—

Justin: You should probably not say treasure map though, right? Like I would say, "Do you have any treasure maps of Huntington?" Probably not.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I mean, who—

Travis: I'm looking for a guide to undiscovered riches. No, shit...

Griffin: What profession would you approach, before a librarian, asking for clues for local treasures?

Travis: Old prospector.

Justin: 100%, antique pawn shops. Those are the two I would go to.

Griffin: They're not gonna fuckin' tell—they're not gonna fuckin' tell—"Yeah, sure, go take *our* treasures before we get to 'em." No way.

Justin: Pawn shops don't look for the treasures, you take the treasures to the pawn shop and exchange them for arrowheads or scraps of leather, or whatever you need to—

Travis: You need to you need a retired treasure hunter that you're gonna go to and they're gonna be like, "I'll tell you the one I never found."

Griffin: Sort of a Sully situation?

Travis: Yeah, right?

Griffin: Yeah, all right.

Travis: And they're gonna be like, "I'll tell ya, I searched all over. Here's the book. Here's the volume of secrets I—but I never got there! And now, I'm just—I'm too bored. I don't want to do it anymore. I'm 43 and my mom says I need to get a job. So, now you take over."

Griffin: These are all too hard. Let's skip ahead.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Okay?

Griffin: "Method two, searching around your house. Look in the basement, attic and garage of your home. If you recently moved into an old home or inherited a space from a relative, check in storage locations to see what you may find." Downstairs, in our basement area, there is a little cabinet. We open it up and there's some child's rain boots in there. Which fit our son great in the snow. So... that's—

Travis: Ooh... that's haunted.

Griffin: Child's rain boots in the base—child's basement rain boots?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Griffin: Shit...

Travis: Yeah, man. Sorry, bud.

Justin: Pretty obvious.

Griffin: That's pretty haunt—that's one of the more haunted things you could find, I think.

Travis: Yeah! Yeah. You said it out loud, you heard it, right?

Justin: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah. Only thing worse is one.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That's the only—

Travis: Child's rain boots. Never worn. [chuckles]

Justin: One single child's rain boot. That's... so bad. That's wicked bad.

Griffin: Can I say, children's feets grow so quickly that I definitely have bought children's rain boots that were never worn.

Travis: That is—yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Because the feet outgrew them before they were necessary. So that particular short poem doesn't have the sort of emotional payload as baby shoes.

Travis: Children's rain boots, never worn. \$25, OBO. [chuckles]

Griffin: OBO. [chuckles]

Justin: OBO. [laughs]

Griffin: Hit me up. No delivery.

Travis: No delivery, pickup only.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Kid's feet got too big. Waste of money.

Justin: [chuckles] The idea like—

Travis: [chuckles] They never say, "Baby shoes, never worn, kid had fat feet."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles] Did not fit, big feet, yuck.

Travis: [chuckles] That's the third line in the story.

Justin: The idea—okay, here—I just want a T-shirt, and it looks like a Craigslist listing. That the headline, "Kids shoes, never worn." And underneath it says, "Do not waste my time with any fake offers."

[group chuckle]

Justin: "I will not drive to meet you at second location. Shoes are off offered *as is*. Do not insult me, I have been burned before."

Griffin: "Email me for more pics. Text me at this number at night, but not this number while I'm at work. Gotta get these baby shoes out of here."

Travis: [laughs] "Need room for more baby shoes."

Griffin: "Check around your home for any hidden doors or compartments."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: When we moved to DC, that was step one. And we found one. And it's the President's secret club house. Under our house is a trapdoor that goes down to the President's secret clubhouse.

Justin: No kidding?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Is it cool?

Griffin: Is Joe Biden cool?

Travis: No.

Justin: No...

Griffin: [chuckles] Not really, not particularly. But he lets me use his clubhouse and I do appreciate that. Normal one, "Inspect garbage and recycling bins to search for discarded treasure."

Travis: No!

Griffin: Bleh...

Justin: Yeah?

Griffin: As they say, one man's trash is another man's treasure. But this is suggesting that one man's discarded treasure—

Travis: Is another man's identity theft.

Griffin: Is still treasure. Yeah, don't do identity theft.

Travis: No.

Justin: No, Griffin, I don't think it's a twist. I think it's just a literal depiction of the old adage that one person's trash is another person's treasure. They're saying go through the trash see if it's actually treasure to you.

Griffin: But that suggests that the person had no need for—I guess—who's out here throwing away treasure, guys? It's 2023. 2024.

Travis: Are any of these steps, Griffin, befriend an eccentric billionaire on the edge of death? Because that I think is—because then you're gonna get embroiled in a dangerous game of clues and hints. À la the Hawthorns or the Weston game.

Griffin: Yes, I do think this is what Saltburn is about, but I'm not going to watch it because I've heard that is scary—that is has scary parts in it.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "Be sure to use a disinfecting cleaner to—"

Justin: There's adult content.

Travis: Ah, no, never mind.

Griffin: There's a few adult content moments.

Travis: I'm just gonna watch Incredibles 2 again.

Griffin: That's probably a good bet.

Travis: That's the only movie I watch, man. It's safe. I haven't seen the first one yet, so there's a lot of backstory I haven't caught up on. No spoilers.

Griffin: There's a little too much kissing in the first book of Incredibles for my taste.

Travis: I only read the novelization of the Incredibles.

Griffin: Real quick though—

Justin: Incredibles 2 isn't a kid's movie the way I watch it. If you know what I mean.

Travis: How do you watch it?

Justin: Mrs. Incredible, shout out. From me, J-Man.

Travis: To Mrs. Incredible?

Justin: Shout out to Mrs. Incredible.

Griffin: You're just saying that—you're just stopping the show to tell everyone—

Justin: Time to drop the zero and get with the hero.

Griffin: There's a—okay—

Travis: No, he's the hero, Justin.

Justin: No, he's the zero, compared to me.

Travis: He's a superhero?

Justin: Yeah, and that's means had a had everything handed to him.

Travis: You're both married?

Justin: I work for it.

Travis: With children!

Justin: I work for it.

Travis: You have children and a wife!

Justin: I work for it. Mr. Incredible, it's—everything handed to him! I work for it.

Griffin: True.

Justin: Everything.

Griffin: Justin doesn't have powers. Justin's weak, he can't do—

Justin: I don't have powers!

Griffin: Justin's weak, he can't do a split. It's harder for him.

Justin: I'm a super-taster. So what?

Travis: I bet Mrs. Incredible is not impressed by splits whatsoever.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Mr. Incredible is a superhero. If the ragweed is bad, apples hurt my mouth. Like you—

Travis: Yeah, bud.

Justin: I've had to work for it is all I'm saying.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Your whole life.

Justin: Thank you. Thank you.

Griffin: Travis, is there a cartoon character that you would like to proposition in the middle of our show for some reason?

Travis: Hm... [chuckles] Let me think, hm...

Griffin: I actually don't want an answer for that fucking question.

Travis: There's some water people in Elemental. [chuckles]

Griffin: Guys...

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs] Hey, real quick, "While you're looking at the garbage cans, you could discover an old violin that is worth up to \$50,000."

Justin: That is a wild sentence. Words were not meant to be used that way.

Griffin: Yeah, no, it—yeah, it's great.

Justin: But you could—but... but don't rush to grab it. Because underneath it, there may be a violin worth \$100,000!

Griffin: [chuckles] No way. Do you take—

Travis: And a man can only carry so many violins.

Justin: But inside that violin is a small diamond worth 200,000!

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: It may happen!

Griffin: Yeah. Oh, this is cool; "Investigate barns and sheds to see what might have been left behind. You could find a storage building full of random antiques, tools or appliances for instance. In addition, keep an eye out for scrap metal to sell or items to repurpose." Maybe this is what happened when dad got all of his comic books stolen out of his storage unit, is someone found the storage unit and was like, "All right."

Justin: Treasure.

Griffin: "Treasure in this abandoned storage unit. God, this door is hard to open. Man, this door is really—"

Justin: "It must be rusted shut!"

Griffin: "It's really stuck!"

Travis: To be fair, if I dug up a treasure chest that had a lock on it, I'd be like, "Well, cutting that right off there."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Oh, wow, Travis, that's a great—okay, listen, that's a great point, right? If you see a chest out in the open and you're like, "I'm gonna smash that lock off and take what's in it," you're a—like you're a criminal.

Travis: Yes, correct.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: But if you dig it out of the ground—

Griffin: Even a little bit.

Justin: Even a bit, right? And then you do it, you are a hero?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah. This is a good—this is actually—this is a good money laundering scheme for like pickpockets. You steal all the stuff that you want and then you know, the inspector... Lupin is after you or whatever.

Travis: Oh, he's turned to—

Griffin: Gonna bust your ass and—

Travis: He's become a cop now?

Griffin: Yeah, he's a cop in my—

Justin: Lupin is with the... les authorities? [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. And you take it to the—

Travis: Sorry, the gentlemen thief?

Justin: Mon dieu! Griffin Lupin?! Arsène Lupin?!

Griffin: Arsène Lupin.

Justin: Arsène Lupin?! The gentlemen thief?!

Griffin: It's his brother, Jeremy Lupin. And he's pick—he's—

Travis: Those two are always at odds!

Griffin: He's chasing you—this is a good idea for thieves and I've given so much to this community throughout my time on this show.

Justin: [chortles]

Travis: [guffaws]

Justin: Griffin has been—[chuckles]

Travis: He's been a crime supporter for years! Vocally!

Griffin: I'm doing my best out here for all of these urban foragers.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm telling you, you steal—

Travis: What a great euphemism for thieves!

Griffin: When you've stolen a bunch of stuff, take it to the park, dig a hole, bury it. Wait a minute, dig it out of the hole. Someone's like, "Where the fuck did you find all that?" You say, "Eh, excuse me, I think this is buried treasure? And findsies these keepsies. Thank you so much."

Travis: You know where there's a lot of buried treasure?

Griffin: Where's that?

Travis: Graveyards.

Griffin: That's a... that's a good point.

Travis: Yeah, it's all buried treasure, locked in boxes. You can find rings, necklaces.

Griffin: Sure, Trav. Yeah.

Travis: Gold teeth.

Justin: Yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Sure! Yeah, man.

Justin: All the stuff, yeah. You got it.

Griffin: Yeah. Davie Jones—

Travis: Completely legal!

Griffin: "Search online to find information about famous buried treasure. For example, read up on Davy Jones' Locker if you want to find grand fortune. A Spanish ship sank in 1511 and onboard was nearly 600 tons of gold and 200 chests of diamonds, rubies and emeralds. The ship has never been found and it presumably is somewhere in the Strait of Malacca between Sumatra and Malaysia."

Travis: Okay, so we've escalated just from get a metal detector and shovel to, hey, maybe try deep sea recovery. With like I guess some kind of freighter? And like deep sea divers. If I can do that, I'd have treasure already!

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Learn how to decipher clues and riddles.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. That's a good—that should be, honestly, right after keep your grades up, on all these.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: If you can decipher clues and riddles, you're five steps ahead.

Griffin: This is—

Travis: They need to add that to the end of every standardized test in school. Start leading weeding out potential like master detectives, right? And be like, "Yeah, listen, he—I only got like 80% on the standardized testing portion, but he's scoring quaro plus in the thing."

Griffin: On riddles.

Travis: We gotta rush this guy straight to the strait of whatever Griffin said where the treasurer is.

Justin: In high school, I had been told that if you do good enough on the SAT that you could be recruited by the CIA. [chuckles]

Travis: Is that what people who do well on the SAT want?

Justin: I don't know.

Travis: Like if you score a perfect score on the SAT and they're like, "You could come work for the CIA." I think my response would be like—

Griffin: That's the dream!

Travis: No, thank you!

Justin: [chuckles] No, I'm just saying that is what I had been informed, is that part of the SAT is if you do really, really good at it, then you get into the CIA.

Griffin: They sneak a question at the end that's like, "Do you like destabilization? What is your feeling—"

Justin: Just different stuff.

Griffin: How do you feel about—it says here-

Travis: Where do you want intelligence? Do you want it—

Justin: How do you feel about disguises?

Travis: On the outside edge of things? Or perhaps in the center? [chuckles]

Griffin: "To find the treasure, some form of code must be broken."

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "For instance, research Thomas J. Beale's gold and silver deposit, which is said to be buried somewhere in the Blue Ridge Mountains." Fuck, we were just there.

Travis: Wait a minute.

Griffin: Damn it.

Travis: You could also read *The Secret*, a treasure hunt, by Byron Preiss.

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: Which is a book full of poems and illustrations leading you to gems buried throughout the world. And I think only five of them have been solved?

Griffin: Oh, fuck yeah.

Travis: Something like that. It came out before the other *The Secret*. So it was like—

Justin: Yeah, you could read—I was gonna say, you could also read *The Secret*.

Travis: *The Secret*.

Justin: And learn the law of attraction and—

Travis: So it's like he wrote *The Secret*, a treasure hunt, and the author of *The Secret* was like, "Too much work!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: No, just tell yourself you love—have gems! Just act like somebody with gems!

Griffin: Consider—

Travis: I've put a bunch of pictures of gems on a board! And then I got gems!

Griffin: Consider going diving to find the items deep in the sea—

Travis: Nope. Scary.

Griffin: Consider going diving.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Scary, yes. Scary and expensive, I think to get accredited. So I would need to find... Well, I think deep sea treasure diving has lost a little bit—a little bit of the shine came off that ol' apple, I would say.

Justin: Why? You lost me.

Griffin: Because of what happened last year.

Justin: A lot of things happened last year.

Travis: Yeah, you're gonna have to narrow it down.

Justin: Yeah, you gonna narrow it down? Because like I don't—I'm sorry, I don't—I do not know what you're referencing. Can you drill down on it a little bit?

Griffin: The SUB?

Travis: The soob?

Justin: [chuckles] An SUV?

Griffin: The SUB...

Justin: Subway?

Griffin: That went...

Travis: A soup...

Griffin: That went—

Travis: Subaru?

Griffin: It got real small, real quick, didn't it?

Travis: Yeah?

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: So... we don't make a lot of—

Travis: Ooh! Oh, right, right. Right, right, right.

Justin: Griffin, that was in poor taste. Oh, Griffin.

Travis: Griffin, how could you?

Justin: Oh, Griffin.

Griffin: Okay? You guys asked and—

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: I was trying to find a way of saying it but—

Justin: There's something about laying it out in public though like that. The way you laid it out made it seem so crass. How you spelled it out just then made it seem so crass.

Griffin: Just saying, maybe your listeners don't know about the SUB. And so when I spell it, they don't know what it is we're talking about.

Travis: Do you know where we could find treasure?

Griffin: Where's that, Trav?

Travis: The money zone!

Griffin: Probably not anymore.

[theme music plays]

Justin: I'll tell you, Griff, I'll tell you my biggest problem with trying to like eat a more nutritious... food consumption plan.

Griffin: Yeah, and we should point out Travis got flushed away.

Justin: Oh? [chuckles] Sorry.

Griffin: Travis was using the potty earlier and he fell in and then flushed it. He got flushed away like the movie.

Justin: I let myself get so hungry, and then when I'm so hungry, everything that is good for me and what honestly tastes good is too hard, takes too long. So I have a Dorito. My five Doritos. Or 50 Doritos.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: However many Doritos it is. Factor is going to step in to change all that though because you—we're gonna skip the prep. Skip the grocery store! Skip the cooking, all of it. And just skip right to delicious nutrition. All right? Factor has everything you need for a week of flavorful, nutritious eats. They've got ready-to-eat meals. But it's not just the meals, Griffin. Cold-pressed juices, shmoothies. They have shmoothies. [chuckles] Energy bites, extra protein, veggies, whatever you need to keep your body fueled and ready to go.

Griffin: That's good for me. I do a lot of high-octane stuff. And the idea of having a sort of bandolier of energy bites on my person at all times that I can sort of typewriter up into my—in my mouth—

Justin: Maybe a sort of a gigantic Pez dispenser. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like just pop one open and blast yourself with the proteins you crave.

Griffin: That sounds really nice to me, actually.

Justin: And this is—how long to make when these meals? Well, Griffin, how about two minutes? How's two minute grab you? Hm?

Griffin: That's—

Justin: Restaurant quality in two minutes.

Griffin: That's almost—

Justin: Delivered right to your door? Come on.

Griffin: That's almost the lowest number of minutes you can have.

Justin: Right now, you're gonna head on over to factormeals.com/brother50 and use code Brother 50 to get 50% off. We've never had a 50 in a code before.

Griffin: That's huge. That's huge.

Justin: This is huge. This is huge. Normally it's just words, but this time there's a 50 to help you remember you're gonna get 50% off. That's code Brother 50 at factormeals.com/brother50 to get 50% off.

Griffin: The code is—Brother50 is a 5 and a 0. Don't try and spell out the words. Because then you get—then the government finds out.

Justin: Yes, factormeals.com, and that code is Brother 50.

[The Adventure Zone theme music plays]

Griffin: From the twisted minds that brought you The Adventure Zone: Balance and Amnesty and Graduation and Ether Sea, and Steeplechase and Outre Space and all the other ones, the McElroy brothers and dad are proud to reveal a bold vision for the future of actual play podcasting. It's called The Adventure Zone versus Dracula?

Justin: Yeah, we're gonna kill Dracula's—[crow caws]

Travis: Well we're gonna attempt. We haven't recorded all of it yet. We will attempt to kill Dracula's—[crow caws]

Justin: The Adventure Zone versus Dracula.

Griffin: Yes, a season I will be running using the D&D Fifth Edition rule set. And there's two episodes out for you to listen to right now. We hope you will join us, same bat time, same bat channel.

Clint: Oh, bats, I see what you did there.

[The Adventure Zone theme music concludes]

[Just the Zoo of Us theme music plays]

Ellen: People say not to judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree.

Christian: Which is why here on Just the Zoo of Us, we judge them by so much more.

Ellen: We rate animals out of 10 in the categories of effectiveness, ingenuity and aesthetics, taking into consideration each animal's true strengths. Like a pigeon's ability to tell a Monet from a Picasso, or a polar bear's ability to play basketball.

Christian: Guest experts like biologists, ecologists and more join us to share their unique insight into the animal's world.

Ellen: Listen with friends and family of all ages on maximumfun.org, or wherever you get podcasts.

[Just the Zoo of Us theme music concludes]

Justin: [mouths Munch Squad riff] Here it goes. [continues riffing and sings] I wanna munch!

Travis: Squad!

Griffin: Squad!

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

Griffin: Squad!

Justin: [concludes riffing] Welcome to Munch Squad, it's a podcast within a podcast, profiling the latest and greatest in brand eating. Guys, it is 20-Fun-Galore. We're getting deep in it. And I know what everybody is wondering; how are the brands celebrating this New Year? Today, I have for you the top five wildest ways that our food brands have decided that they will mark the beginning of new year. Me, I like to just take a minute to refresh and restart, I don't—I'm not big on resolutions. But it doesn't matter what us, the people, are doing. What I care about is the brands.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Shake Shack.

Travis: Brands are people.

Justin: Shake Shack is starting 2024 with a sweet and spicy menu.

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: Shake Shack is bringing its flavor A game to 2024 with new menu items featuring swicy.

Griffin: Swicy!

Travis: Hm, no.

Justin: Which is sweet/spicy, and umami flavors and tastes.

Travis: It's better than speet.

Griffin: Couldn't get umami in there, huh?

Justin: So...

Griffin: Couldn't squish those three words together.

Travis: Soisami! [chuckles]

Justin: Swoiswami! So that's—thank you Shake Shack. Whataburger is launching Whatawings to kick off 2024. "Whataburger is kicking off the new year—

Griffin: Whatawings!

Justin: In a big way with all new boneless Whatawings. Made with juice— with nine juicy 100% white meat chicken bites, tossed in one of our four famously bold sauces."

Travis: I would say at this point, anno domini 20-Fun-Galore, adding boneless wings to a menu isn't anything. It may be one of the easiest things. That's the thing that Teresa and I are like, "I don't feel like making dinner for the kids. We'll just throw some nuggets in the air fryer."

Justin: They're nuggets. They're nuggets.

Griffin: You wanna impress me, Whataburger? Bone wings.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I would—there's restaurant—if McDonald's started to sell—

Travis: Wingless bones. [chuckles]

Griffin: Can you guys imagine if McDonald's started selling food with bones in it?

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Can you fucking imagine if—

Justin: Rally's Checkers does it and it always feels a little bit sketch. Like it's rough. If you're gonna get a beak, that's where it's gonna happen.

Griffin: It's bones.

Justin: Bojangles unveils a chicken rice bowl for the New Year. "Bojangles is kicking off the new year with its latest culinary masterpiece, the chicken rice bowl." So they—the rolls over—the old calendar flips. Bojangles has a rice bowl.

Travis: So you're saying—wait, Justin, they've combined a chicken and rice in a bowl? Masterpiece!

Justin: Yeah. You used to only be able—

Travis: It rivals the greatest works of Van Gogh!

Justin: They used to only have chicken and rice in like a sandwich baggie, and you had to eat it—

Travis: Uh-huh?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles] Eat it with like your hand—

Griffin: You had to cut the bottom of the bag open and then just—

Justin: Like an astronaut. [chuckles]

Travis: Now—

Griffin: Like an astronaut.

Travis: Now they hand you a bowl—

Griffin: And now—

Travis: And a segment of the Mona Lisa to wipe your mouth with! So, so crazy is this rice bowl, it trumps any work.

Griffin: Who is this character?

Justin: Yeah, I don't know this person.

Travis: Oh, it is an art critic, but he's really excited about the Bojangles chicken and rice bowl.

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: And he also—hey, he doesn't have a lot else going on for him.

Griffin: It didn't seem like. [chuckles]

Travis: His partner just left him.

Griffin: Shit.

Travis: And his dog just left him for a better owner and—

Griffin: Whoa, I didn't even know they could do that?

Travis: Yeah, no, the dog was like, "You know what, I'm gonna... I'm gonna take off. I'm moving up."

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And Griffin, they closed the Bojangles closest to his house, now he has to drive 15 miles.

Griffin: Oh, man. Bojangles left him. I'm sorry, art critic man—

Travis: Yeah, Bojangles left him but he's not giving up. And so—

Griffin: It's not me, it's you.

Justin: Taco—

Travis: If you would not? If you would not criticize him.

Griffin: Sorry, sorry.

Travis: He can criticize artworks and Bojangles—

Griffin: But we can't criticize him, okay.

Travis: But you can't crit—he's into—he's just in a very delicate place right now.

Griffin: Okay, tell me about Taco Bell.

Justin: Hey, y'all, Taco John's. Taco Bell isn't—

Griffin: My apologies.

Justin: Taco John—

Travis: Taco Bell is my father.

Justin: Taco Bell is not noticing. They are not recognizing. They're going to kick in 2023. "Taco John's knows that the best way to celebrate the New Year and watch all the big games is, naturally, with tacos. And a value-driven bundle of tacos can help people save money without sacrificing great flavor."

Travis: A value-driven...

Justin: Value-driven.

Griffin: Not flavor-driven!

Justin: Who's hungry? [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Yum!

Travis: There's something about that that gives me like 1984 doublespeak. [chuckles] Like no, what I'm saying is these are cheap, old tacos.

Justin: Okay, guys, "Now available at all Taco John's locations, fans can save \$2 off the six pack and a pound bundle. Which includes six soft shell or crispy tacos loaded with seasoned American beef, mild sauce, all-natural cheddar cheese and shredded lettuce. Plus a pound of Taco John's signature crispy Potato Olés."

Travis: I have to go.

Griffin: What's that?

Justin: Yeah, they're probably hash browns. "With all the big games coming up this time of year, there's no better way to feed your team!" Says Taco John's Chief Marketing Officer, Barry Westrum. "Saving money on our flavor-packed tacos and signature Potato Olés means you can add some sides of nacho cheese, super nachos, a meat and potato burrito combo meal or a churro."

Griffin: Meat and potato burrito! Meat and potato burrito combo meal!

Justin: Meat and potato combo churro!

Griffin: Take the meat and put it in a potato burrito!

Justin: "Whoever you're rooting for, Taco John's have you covered."

Griffin: All right.

Travis: Whoever you're rooting for, enjoy that hour-long bathroom break after the game. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, I'm actually—I'm rooting for myself. And that is incompatible with this flavor-driven Taco John's experience.

Justin: And lastly, the wildest way to ring in the new year comes to us from Fazoli's. "Fazoli's welcomes new year with new stuffed shells entrees."

Travis: Ah?

Justin: Fazoli's is... "Fazoli's is bringing fans cheesy comfort as the New Year kicks off with three new stuffed shells entrees."

Griffin: Hm?

Travis: Sometimes I forget that Fazoli's is a chain and not just the one place in our—

Griffin: In Huntington?

Travis: I believed it was a chain at one point and then I started to suspect that there was just one Fazoli's in Huntington and the rest was gone.

Griffin: When I found out—

Justin: There's the—

Griffin: When I found out Fazoli's was a chain, I was shocked. I can't believe that the things they do in that building, they do in many other buildings across the country.

Justin: Okay, you guys know that that's not true because there's the Fazoli's on Fifth but there's also the Fazoli's next to the HIMG that used to be a Walmart that used to be a drive in.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That wasn't there I think when I lived there.

Justin: Yeah, it was because Tommy worked at that one. So it definitely was there. Okay—

Griffin: Thomas Merle got his start—

Justin: Tommy Red. "The four cheese stuffed shells—" I'm not gonna tell you about all these.

Travis: That's too many cheeses.

Justin: There's like a lot of cheeses and they're gonna put them in a lot of shells. And there's—it says—

Griffin: What shells? What kind of shells?

Justin: Like sea food shell, like crabs.

Travis: Crab shell, sea shell.

Justin: Actually, Trav, if you're in the mood for seafood, good to hear it. It says here, "For a seafood kick, guests can order the garlic shrimp stuffed shells. Which includes 12 shrimp simmered in a roasted garlic marinara sauce."

Travis: Yeah, take me on a trip.

Justin: Now, diving further into its Italian roots—

Travis: Fazoli's has Italian roots?!

Justin: It's a really, really, really wild way to start a sentence about Fazoli's. And it just... it just keeps getting wilder. "Diving further into its Italian roots, Fazoli's has whipped up but another mouthwatering dessert with its longtime partner... The Cheesecake Factory bakery." [chuckles]

Travis: I didn't know they were dating!

Justin: It's Italian cream cake. They're getting into their Italian roots by buying an Italian cream cake from Cheesecake Factory.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: That's how—I feel like there's a lot of people that are just kind of, you know, on the fence there. Trying to get into their Italian roots by buying an Italian cream cake from the Cheesecake Factory.

Travis: I wouldn't be surprised to find out that how this works is they dry—like five o'clock, everything opens. Somebody from Fazoli's drives over to Cheesecake Factory, buys a cheesecake at like market value. Brings it back and then sells it for like 25 cents more a slice. And they're just like marking it up. There's no partnership here.

Justin: Yeah, there's a partnership. What they're saying is Cheesecake Factory agreed to not rip us off so we could rip you off instead.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Thank you, enjoy the cake. At Fazoli's—

Travis: What would Cheesecake Factory be getting from Fazoli's, besides money? Like Fazoli's goes and like, "And you let us sell your cheesecake and we'll let you sell whatever you want."
"We're good."

Griffin: It's probably just money though, isn't it?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay. [chuckles] You know that most of the time when something like this happens, it's not like NFL draft where they're like, oh, from Cheesecake Factory, we get cream sweets! And Cheesecake Factory gets baked ziti!

Justin: [chuckles] Okay.

Travis: Yeah, but if I went to McDonald's and bought a hamburger, I wouldn't say I'm in a partnership with McDonald's! [chuckles]

Justin: Okay, I wanna to say something—

Griffin: If you then sold that hamburger to someone else, I would say you are absolutely in a business partnership with McDonald's!

Justin: No, I want to talk about this partnership for a second because something has just occurred to me that has made me—okay, hold on, wait. First let me finish this quote and I'm gonna come back. This is from Tisha Bartlett, the vice president of marketing at Fazoli's.

"At Fazoli's, our passion is for hardy, value-packed dishes that will leave you wanting seconds." I've eaten at Fazoli's many times and never has the thought occurred to me after I finished eating Fazoli's, boy, you know what would go down right now? Real smooth. More food from Fazoli's. No, this is the one—the point I wanted to make about Fazoli's and Cheesecake Factory.

Fazoli's is like, "We've got this special partnership, we're buying Italian cream cake from Cheesecake Factory. And then you can buy that here." Cool. Guarantee, Cheesecake Factory does not have a reciprocal item on their menu.

Travis: This is what I'm saying.

Justin: There is no way that Cheesecake Factory—

Travis: This is what I'm saying.

Justin: I just think it's sad. It's a one way—it's a one way thing.

Travis: And every time they come pick up a cake, they just leave a basket of breadsticks on the counter. If you want one, they're free. If you want one—

Justin: They're free, guys.

Travis: No—yeah—

Justin: They're free.

Travis: We get that.

Justin: Yeah, you can use it to stir your coffee, just get 'em out of here. I don't care.

Travis: Please?

Justin: It's so embarrassing.

Griffin: This—they are—

Travis: We're getting a lot of Ratatouilles in here. If you would take the breadsticks with you, please?

Griffin: You guys are talking about business deals like they are a hostage exchange that is taking place between Fazoli's and the Cheesecake Factory.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: No, I'm saying it's sad that Fazoli's has to get in touch with Italian roots by buying cake from Cake Factory. [chuckles] And Cheesecake Factory can't even give 'em the fucking dignity of saying like, "Our baked ziti is made—the wizards—you know, our piesanos over at Fazoli's made us this special you know Italian thing and it's direct from their recipe that you—" There's no way! It's sad, it makes me sad.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Cheesecake Factory is the big brother beating the bosses for Fazoli's playing a video game. And the Fazoli's is gonna be like, "And we beat it together!" [chuckles]

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] It's just so sad.

Travis: It's so sad!

Justin: That Fazoli's—Fazoli's to get you to come there has to say, "We—don't worry! We got food from a better restaurant." [chuckles]

Travis: We didn't make it! We didn't make it. Don't worry.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: It's not us!

Travis: We didn't make it!

Justin: It's not a—we didn't make it! [chuckles] We went to a better place that isn't around here!

Travis: So if you don't know where to get Cheesecake Factory—[chuckles]

Justin: You know how this market is too small to support a Cheesecake Factory? [chuckles] Well, good news!

Travis: We're half a mile closer to you than Cheesecake Factory is. Save yourself some time.

Justin: Guys, there's no Cheesecake Factory in Huntington. This is my shot at the bigtime! Like don't ruin this for me, okay? [chuckles]

Travis: [laughs] Where are they getting it? Hold on!

Justin: I want to be able to just sit and pretend for a second that I'm in a Cheesecake Factory! [chuckles]

Travis: This is where we set up just one Cheesecake Factory booth in the back corner of Fazoli's.

Griffin: It's Justin's special—

Travis: We'll close the door!

Griffin: "The usual table, Mr. McElroy?"
"Yes."

Justin: I go in before and I give 'em \$100 to say I'm not going to Cheesecake Factory when I come in.

Griffin: Yeah, you've printed out name tags that say Cheesecake Factory and they have to reverse whenever they come to you.

Justin: And I'll usually go through a few menu items like, "I'll have the... the steak Alfredo." They're like, "We don't have that today, sir. It's sold out."

Travis: Oh, you're out?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Maybe I'll just have the...

Griffin: Southwest egg rolls?

Justin: Half a salad and egg rolls? No? Maybe a half bowl of dry spaghetti and a cold slice of pizza? Please. And of course...

Griffin: My beloved.

Justin: The world-famous cheesecake.

Travis: The usual?

Justin: The usual. This is sad. I'm just saying, Cheesecake Factory, if you're listening—

Travis: Sad.

Griffin: Do 'em a favor.

Justin: Do 'em a favor.

Griffin: Do Fazoli's a favor and sell their food.

Travis: Do you want me to make your cheesecakes for you, cheesecake—like I could—Fazoli's, I'll come teach you how to make a cheesecake if you want?

Justin: They've just... what sucks is that there's a place called the Macaroni Grill. There's a place called Carrabba's. Either one of these would have—honestly, if they had said they got it from Olive Garden, any three of those would have trucked more weight with me in terms of getting in touch with their Italian roots.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: Like Fazoli's obviously isn't Italian. But I think it's about right that Fazoli's is like, "No, but we know some Italian restaurants. Like we do know—we know of them, like we—"

Travis: They're like Cousin in The Bear. You know, he hangs out with a lot of Italians, it's fine.

Justin: Right, yes, exactly!

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Fazoli's is the cousin—

Travis: Yeah, his cousin. Don't worry about it.

Justin: He's the cousin, Richie, of Italian dining.

Travis: Yeah. No, Fazoli's is the fack. But! But... [chuckles]

Justin: Yes, but!

Griffin: [chuckles] Yes.

Travis: But.

Justin: Thanks so much for hanging out with us today. We hope you have enjoyed yourselves. My kids are snowed in and I very much have enjoyed this opportunity—

Travis: They're Edward Snowden?

Justin: What?

Griffin: Oh, shit.

Travis: Your kids are Edward Snowden—

Justin: Yeah, I left 'em in the car. I gotta go dig 'em—I gotta go take 'em out of there soon.

Griffin: Oh, no, Travis was making an Edward Snowden joke.

Justin: Oh. My kids are Shnowden.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Listen, big news. The Suffering Game graphic novel is now available for preorder!

Griffin: Fuck yes.

Travis: Yeah. Reed.macmillan.com/theadventurezone. We'll have a better... we'll have a better link than that. But we'll I'm sure post it on Instagram, so make sure you're following McElroy family on Instagram. We'll have the link there. I also want you to know, not too long now, I'm going to be at Sketch Fest. Sunday, February 4th, seven PM. Doing a show featuring Eugene Cordero, Erica Ishii, Aaron Keith, Danny Fernandez, Connor Ratliff. And unfortunately, Ron Funches isn't able to make it. But Griffin Newman is now going to play with us.

Justin: Oh, wow.

Travis: It's gonna be a really wacky—

Justin: It's gonna be a good show!

Griffin: It's gonna be a fun one.

Travis: Yeah, it's gonna be a wild and wonderful show. 7PM on February 4th. You can get your tickets at the Sketch Fest website. And make sure if you haven't already, go check out mcelroymerch.com for all the cool merch!

Griffin: All the cool merch. You heard it here first. Thanks to Montaigne for the use of our theme song, My Life Is Better With You. I keep Montaigne on my Nickelodeon spin, in that wax 24/7. And I would encourage you—

Travis: I keep Montaigne on my emergency contact list.

Griffin: Oh, wow?

Travis: Yeah, just they're there for me when I need them.

Griffin: I'm sure they appreciate that.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Wow!

Travis: I have this idea by the way for live shows. There should be a moment where we have Fungalore come out and just let the audience scream their wishes at him.

Griffin: Oh, that's cool.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That's good. But right now, instead of that, how about we just do like a silent wish to Fungalore?

Travis: I think that's a great idea.

Griffin: Okay. Begin. End. If your wish was longer than that, you need to really evaluate like your greediness—

Justin: Hone—zero in.

Travis: How slow you think.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh.

Griffin: Your greediness level.

Justin: He's a busy guy, my—or busy being... I don't know... busy...

Griffin: We don't know—but we don't know what Fungalore's got happening?

Justin: I just meant like in his body, is he of his—of our—I don't want to like say he's a human being. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: Or you know, any—

Travis: No, he's definitely not a human being, Justin?

Griffin: No, no, no.

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy!

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

Justin: This has been My Brother, My Brother and Me! Guys, hold on... this feels so weird. We gotta—I don't know—

Travis: It only feels weird to you because you're a weird person. It feels normal to us.

Griffin: Juice, let me tell you, I've been listening to a lot of podcasts lately. And there's a lot of them that just leave empty silences and call it content in the show.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Justin: You're sure?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, a lot of these—a lot of the big ones are doing it.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: They edit it in sometimes in the middle of a—

Justin: Well, I'm sorry that gave me the yips and I chickened out on it. So can we—

Griffin: Yeah, that's okay.

Justin: We'll try it again and just like—okay. And finally, everyone, please make your wishes to Fungalore... Now if you really did it, that was two wishes. And you fell for one of the oldest tricks in the book.

Griffin: I can't fuckin' believe—

Justin: I can't believe you did it twice. That's sick. My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: To be fair, the tagline is 'he heard your wish.' Singular.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: He did not hear your wishes.

Griffin: So you have to pick now. You—we're gonna—tell you what, we'll give you a third chance here. Tell Fungalore which of the two wishes you want actually. Here's the silence.

Travis: Okay, you ready?

Griffin: Ready? Go.

Travis: Kill your darlings.

Griffin: You didn't actually say anything, did you? You can't bother Fungalore three times in one podcast. Are you fucking kidding me?

Travis: What is wrong with you?

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy!

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy, I guess.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy!

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

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

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